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RECEIVED
2014 APR -7 PM 12: 12
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

March 31, 2014

Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Chief, U.S. Forest Service
201 14th Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20250

RE: 60 Day Notice of Intent to Sue under the Endangered Species Act

You are hereby notified that Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Native Ecosystems Council (collectively Alliance) intend to sue pursuant to the citizen suit provision of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g) for violations of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. §§1531 et seq. Alliance will sue after the 60 day period has run unless the violations described in this notice are remedied.

The names, addresses, and phone numbers of the organizations giving notice of intent to sue are as follows:

Michael Garrity, Executive Director
Alliance for the Wild Rockies
P.O. Box 505
Helena, Montana 59624
Tel: (406) 459-5936

Dr. Sara Jane Johnson, Executive Director
Native Ecosystems Council
P.O. Box 125
Willow Creek, MT 59760
Tel: (406) 285-3611

The names, addresses, and phone numbers of counsel for the notifier are as follows:

Rebecca K. Smith, Attorney at Law
Public Interest Defense Center, P.C.
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STATEMENT OF GENERAL FACTS

On July 2, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a species list for the Helena National Forest. According to the list, both the Canada lynx, which is a threatened species, and the wolverine, which is a proposed species, may be present on the Helena National Forest east of Interstate 15. On November 15, 2013, the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) issued a biological assessment for the Cabin Gulch logging project on the Helena National Forest. The project involves 1,970 acres of commercial logging, including 417 acres of clearcutting, and construction of 6.7 miles of new temporary roads. The project area is approximately 15,600 acres and is located about 15 miles east/northeast of Townsend, Montana. The Mount Baldy Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is to the north of the project area. The area includes habitat for the threatened Canada lynx and the proposed wolverine. Logging, road construction, road use, and other activities will render areas of lynx and wolverine habitat unsuitable and cause other harm to lynx and wolverine such as displacement and disruption of normal behavioral activities. In the biological assessment, the Forest Service concluded that the Cabin Gulch logging project is not likely to adversely affect lynx. In the biological assessment, the Forest Service did not analyze wolverine at all. USFWS issued a letter of concurrence with the Forest Service's conclusion as to lynx. USFWS did not address wolverine.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

1. THE AGENCIES MUST ADDRESS WOLVERINES IN THE BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND LETTER OF CONCURRENCE.

The ESA requires that "[e]ach Federal agency shall confer with the Secretary on any agency action which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any species proposed to be listed . . . ." 16 U.S.C. §1536 (a)(4). The first step is for the action agency to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action." 16 U.S.C. §1536(c)(1). If "such species may be present, [the action] agency shall conduct a biological assessment for the purpose of identifying any endangered species or threatened species which is likely to be affected by such action." Id. "[I]f both proposed and listed species are present, a biological assessment is required and must address both proposed and listed species." ESA Section 7 Handbook at 3-11. "A biological assessment shall evaluate the potential effects of the action on . . . proposed species . . . and is used in determining whether . . . conference is necessary." 50 C.F.R. §402.12(a), (k). "The Federal agency shall submit the completed biological assessment to the Director for review." 50 C.F.R. §402.12(j). "If the biological assessment indicates that the action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of proposed species . . . and the Director concurs, then a conference is not required." 50 C.F.R. §402.12(k); see also 16 U.S.C. §1536(a)(4).

Due to the fact that wolverines -- a proposed species -- may be present in the Project area, the Forest Service must include the wolverine in the Biological Assessment for the Project. 16 U.S.C. §1536(c)(1); 50 C.F.R. §402.12(a),(k). In the Biological Assessment, the Forest Service must make a conclusion as to whether the Project will jeopardize the wolverine, and it must receive concurrence on this conclusion by FWS. 50 C.F.R. §§402.12 (j),(k). The Forest Service's failure to analyze the wolverine in the Biological Assessment for the Project, and failure to receive

concurrence from FWS, violates the ESA. 16 U.S.C. §1536(c)(1); 50 C.F.R. §§402.12 (j),(k).

2. THE AGENCIES' CONCLUSION FOR LYNX IS ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS AND IGNORES AVAILABLE INFORMATION/BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.

The Canada lynx is listed as a threatened species under the ESA. There is one current designated Lynx Analysis Unit, one former Lynx Analysis Unit, and a designated lynx linkage area in the project area. The agencies admit that lynx may be present in the area. The agencies' own prior documents state that lynx is a species of concern in this area, that this watershed is one of the top priority watersheds for wildlife (including lynx) conservation in the southern Big Belt mountains, that there are concerns with habitat connectivity for lynx in the area, and that logging may cause adverse effects and take of lynx in "secondary, unoccupied" habitat. The agencies' conclusion that lynx will not be adversely affected by the project is arbitrary and capricious and ignores available information in the record/best available science, including but not limited to, contrary conclusions in the Biological Opinion/Incidental Take Statement for the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction, the South Belts Ecosystem Watershed Analysis, the memorandum eliminating the second Lynx Analysis Unit from the area, and the Lynx Recovery Outline. The agencies' conclusion also ignores the definition of adverse effect from the Section 7 Handbook, which requires a "likely to adversely affect" conclusion if there is any negative effect that is not extremely unlikely and can be meaningfully measured or detected or evaluated. The agencies use habitat as a surrogate to measure the impacts of logging on lynx. The agencies have measured the amount of lynx habitat that will be degraded/eliminated by the project in Lynx Analysis Unit BB-05, thus there is an adverse effect per the FWS definition of that term.

3. THE PROJECT VIOLATES SECTION 9 BECAUSE IT ALLOWS UNPERMITTED TAKE.

The agencies have failed to demonstrate that the project complies with the Biological Opinion/Incidental Take Statement for the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction. In fact, the Biological Assessment does not even mention that BiOp/ITS. The conclusions in that BiOp/ITS permitting potential take in "secondary, unoccupied" habitat are conditioned upon the Forest Service's compliance with survey requirements. The Forest Service has not complied with those requirements. Without such compliance, the take from the project is not permitted and violates Section 9.

CONCLUSION

The agencies have ignored their duties under the ESA, 16 U.S.C. §§1531 et seq., to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize threatened and endangered species, that their actions do not result in unauthorized take of these species of wildlife, and that their actions promote conservation and recovery of these species. The agencies' actions in this matter represent an unlawful departure from their legally binding mandate to protect and recover imperiled species and their habitats.

If the violations of law described above are not cured within 60 days, the Alliance intends sue for declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as attorney and expert witness fees and costs.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rebecca K.Smith

Rebecca K. Smith, Counsel for Notifier

cc: Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

RECEIVED
2014 AUG -5 PM 4:22

July 31, 2014

646082

Sally Jewell, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Washington, DC 20240
exsec@ios.doi.gov

Dan Ashe, Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3256
MailStop 3238 MIB
Washington, DC 20240-0001
Dan_ashe@fws.gov

Dear Secretary Jewell and Director Ashe,

As wildlife ecologists and conservation biologists, we are writing to express concern about the Endangered Species Act listing process for the American wolverine (*Gulo gulo*).

In February 2013, Fish and Wildlife Service scientists proposed that the wolverine be designated as a threatened species in the lower 48 states based on threats from loss of snowpack due to climate change, combined with stresses from small population size and trapping. The listing proposal was based on the best available scientific information, including numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrating the wolverine's dependence on snowpack, and studies projecting the continued and extensive loss of snowpack across the wolverine's range due to climate change.

This scientific determination was supported by five of seven peer reviewers and received strong support from a nine-person independent science panel convened in April to review the science underlying the proposal. On May 17th, the assistant regional director of the Mountain-Prairie Region issued a memo recommending finalization of the threatened listing.

Despite the strong scientific support for the listing proposal as written, it has come to our attention that the Service's regional director has ordered the scientists responsible for reviewing the status of the wolverine to withdraw the proposed listing. In a memo issued on May 30th, the regional director acknowledged that her decision was based on no new scientific information, but rather on her opinion regarding uncertainties in the modeling studies used in the listing determination.

Endangered Species Act listing decisions must be based on the best available science. This standard does not require absolute scientific certainty prior to taking action and gives the benefit of the doubt to the species. In contrast, the regional director's decision to overturn the listing determination because climate model uncertainty prevents "definitive conclusions" about "the amount and persistence of snowfall at the scale of specific wolverine den sites" stands in conflict with Act's best available science standard.

The regional director's decision to overturn a scientifically well-vetted and well-supported listing determination sets a bad precedent by allowing an administrator to overrule the expert judgment of the Service's scientists as well as independent peer reviewers. Using "uncertainty" as an excuse to dismiss the best available science sets an equally dangerous precedent given that so many rare and imperiled species are very difficult to study and assess.

We urge the Fish and Wildlife Service to uphold the integrity of the Act's science-based listing process and follow the recommendations of the Service's scientists.

Signed,

Anne C. Axel, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Marshall University

Christopher R. Ayers, Ph.D.
Ecologist

Terrence Bell, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow
Montreal Biodiversity Centre

James Bess, M.S.
Ph.D. Candidate
Michigan Technological University

Monica Bond, M.S.
Principal Scientist
Wild Nature Institute

Mikael Russell Cejtin
Master of Environmental Science Candidate
Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Kate Cleary, M.S.
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Jeff Copeland, M.S.
Wildlife Ecologist
USDA Forest Service, Retired

Tara Cornelisse, Ph.D.
American Museum of Natural History

Tierra Curry, M.S.
Senior Scientist
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Kristin Davis, B.S.
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University of Victoria

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Ph.D. Candidate
University of Vienna

Priya M. Ganguli, Ph.D.
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Rachel E. Golden, M.S.
Conservation Biologist

Healy Hamilton, Ph.D.
Chief Scientist & Vice President for Conservation Science
NatureServe

Christine Hass, Ph.D.
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Paul J. Haverkamp, Ph.D.
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Climate Science Director
Center for Biological Diversity

George Wuerthner
Senior Scientist
Foundation for Deep Ecology

Northwest
Rocky Mountains
Southwest
Defending the West

Western Environmental Law Center

August 13, 2014

SENT (WITH ATTACHMENTS) VIA U.S. MAIL (RETURN RECEIPT) AND E-MAIL

64642

Sally Jewell
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
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Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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dan_ashe@fws.gov

RECEIVED
2014 AUG 19 PM 2:20

Re: Sixty-day notice of intent to sue for violating Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act in deciding not to list a distinct population segment of the North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo lucus*) occurring in the contiguous United States.

Dear Secretary Jewell and Director Ashe:

The Western Environmental Law Center (WELC) hereby provides this sixty-day notice of intent to sue for violations of Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. §1533, in deciding not to list a distinct population segment (DPS) of North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo lucus*) occurring in the contiguous United States (hereinafter "wolverine").

This notice is provided by WELC on behalf of the following organizations and individuals, all of which have a significant, concrete interest in ensuring the long-term survival and recovery of wolverine in the contiguous United States and ensuring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) utilizes the best available science when making listing decisions: *WildEarth Guardians, Friends of the*

Bitterroot, Friends of the Wild Swan, the Swan View Coalition, Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wildlands, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the Cottonwood Environmental Law Center, George Wuerthner, the Kootenai Environmental Alliance, Footloose Montana, Native Ecosystems Council, and *the Helena Hunters and Anglers Association.*

On August 13, 2014, the Service published a notice in the Federal Register (Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2012-0107) announcing its decision to withdraw the proposed rule to list wolverine as a threatened species under the ESA (78 Fed. Reg. 7864 (February 4, 2013)) and finding that wolverine are not warranted for listing as an endangered or threatened species (hereinafter "listing decision" or "decision").

According to the Service, listing wolverines is not warranted because it believes: (1) the wolverine's range may be "expanding" in the contiguous United States and suitable habitat is and will remain available (even under conditions of future reduced snowpack from climate change); (2) non-climate related threats to wolverine, including an already small population size (actual and effective), timber management, winter recreation, land development, transportation corridors, natural mortality, trapping (incidental and intentional), and travel management – by themselves or in the aggregate – pose no threat to wolverine; and (3) there is insufficient evidence to reasonably conclude that climate change poses a threat to wolverine or its habitat in the foreseeable future.

Regarding climate change, the Service maintains information on an obligate relationship between wolverines and the need for persistent snow at the home range or DPS level is lacking (the Service admits such a relationship exists for denning) and that it cannot reliably predict – at the appropriate scale – how the loss of snow from climate change will impact denning sites. According to the Service, McKelvey et al. (2011) does not provide, and it does not have, the fine scale resolution of climate change models (or certainty in those models) which it maintains is necessary to make a listing determination. The Service also maintains there is too much uncertainty over whether den sites for wolverines will become a limiting factor in the foreseeable future or whether habitat connectivity for wolverine will no longer be maintained to warrant listing. The Service is wrong.

In deciding not to list wolverine, the Service failed to see the proverbial forest for the trees. The Service focused so much on the fine details and lack of "certain predictions," "fine scale" data, "precise mechanisms," and "definitive" conclusions on how climate change will impact wolverines – data that is both impractical and nearly impossible to obtain – in order justify not listing (likely in response to political pressure from Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming) that it failed to see the big picture and the larger cause and effect principles at play, i.e. , that a warming climate

will most likely result in a detrimental impact on wolverine. There is general agreement amongst the scientific community that wolverine are a cold-climate dependent species that rely on snow (for denning and likely other benefits) and that the amount of snow within the range of wolverine will continue to decrease in the foreseeable future in response to a warming climate.

While some uncertainties exist and will always exist – indeed, there are many things we may never know about wolverines – the "best available science" – including the findings and recommendations of the Service's own biologists, the peer-reviewed papers on wolverines and the likely impacts of climate change referenced in the Service's proposed rule, two peer-reviewed panels (February, 2013 and April, 2014), the Society of Conservation Biologists North American Section (SCB), the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM), and fifty-six scientists (*see* Attachments)– reveals that the wolverine warrants protective status under the ESA's "best available science" standard because they are a snow-dependent species threatened by climate change.

As detailed below, the Service wholly failed to grasp and apply the ESA's "best available science" standard – as directed by Congress – and issued a decision not to list wolverines that is arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with law.

Best available science

Pursuant to Section 4(b)(1)(A), 16 U. S.C. § 1533 (b)(1)(A), the Service's implementing regulations, and the Service's 2011 policy on scientific integrity, the Service must make all listing determinations "solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available." The Service failed to do so when deciding not to list wolverine.

The standard – often referred to as the "best available science" standard – does not require scientific certainty (assuming it even exists) or prohibit the Service from making listing decisions in the face of uncertainty or even scientific disagreement. On the contrary, reliance upon the best available science, as opposed to requiring absolute scientific certainty, "is in keeping with congressional intent" that an agency "take preventive measures before a species is 'conclusively' headed for extinction." *Defenders of Wildlife v. Babbitt,* 958 F. Supp. 670, 679–80 (D.D.C.1997) (emphasis in original); *see also American Wildlands v. Norton,* 193 F.Supp.2d 244, 251 (D.D.C.2002) (same). As such, contrary to the Service's listing decision, "definitive conclusions" are not required.

As explained by the Service when listing Canada lynx: "We agree that additional studies of lynx are necessary to better understand the dynamics and requirements of lynx populations in the contiguous United States . . . However, the [ESA] does not allow us to defer a listing decision based on the need for more research. Most scientists would agree that there is always a need for more research, but listing decisions cannot be postponed based on this premise when known threats to the species are present that may result in a species' trend toward extinction." 65 Fed. Reg. 16052, 16064 (March 24, 2000); *see also* 55 Fed. Reg. 26114, 26128 (June 26, 1990)(Northern spotted owl) (because the Service used "the best data available . . . [it was] not obligated to have data on all aspects of a species' biology prior to reaching a determination on listing."); 61 Fed. Reg. 25813, 24817 (May 23, 1996) (California red-legged frog) (deciding to list species even though many aspects of the species' status were "not completely understood"). A similar approach should have been (but was not) applied with respect to wolverine.

Indeed, instead of recognizing that some degree of speculation and uncertainty will always exist – especially when dealing with a rare and elusive creature like wolverine and imprecise climate change models – the Service insisted on "fine scale" data and proof of the "precise mechanism(s)" demonstrating how climate change will negatively impact wolverine habitat, including denning. This is an impracticable and impossible approach that conflicts with the ESA's "best available science" standard.

Specifically, in deciding not to list wolverine, the Service failed to utilize the ESA's best available science standard in a number of respects.

First, the Service inappropriately manipulated its decision by relying on certain, select sources of information and "cloner" comments from certain individuals and states like Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming (not made available for public review and comment) to the exclusion of other, more reliable sources including, but not limited to, the peer-reviewed studies cited and referenced in the proposed listing rule and in comments submitted by WELC and other organizations, the findings of the Service's own biologists, the findings of two peer-review panels (February, 2013 and April, 2014), and the findings of the SCB, ASM, and fifty-six scientists, *see* Attachments. This is not allowed. *See Southwest Center for Biological Diversity v. Norton*, 2002 WL 1733618. *8 (D. D.C. 2002).

For example, the Service's listing decision relied heavily on the State of Idaho's comments and data (not subjected to peer review) on the issue of whether snow decline equates to year round habitat decline for wolverine while disregarding the findings of Copeland et al. (2010), on this very subject. The Service also places

too much emphasis on single, isolated dispersal events (single wolverine traveling to Colorado, for example) to support its finding that the population is expanding and that increased fragmentation from smaller and more isolated pockets of wolverine habitat is not a problem even though: (1) no regional studies or surveys on expansion have been undertaken and no evidence of reproduction in these "new" areas exists; and (2) McKelevy et al. (2011) says increased fragmentation is a problem. A wolverine's ability and capacity to travel through areas of unsuitable habitat does not undermine McKelevy et al. (2011)'s findings regarding anticipated loss of connectivity. These are just a few examples.

Second, and discussed throughout this notice and in WELC's and others' comments on the proposed rule, the Service disregarded scientifically superior evidence on wolverine (including evidence on the wolverine's historic and current status and range and threats to the species and its habitat). The Service's unexplained disregard of scientifically superior, peer reviewed papers while relying on non-peer reviewed and politically motivated comments and concerns from Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming and others conflicts with the ESA's best available science standard. *Id.*

For example, in electing not to list wolverine, the Service discounted and failed to utilize the best available science on how various threats to the species, including an already low total and effective population size in the contiguous United States, climate change, winter recreation (*see* Heinemeyer et al.'s on-going research in Idaho), lack of protective areas (recent research from Canada reveals wolverines do better in wilderness and protected parks with less human disturbance), travel planning, transportation corridors, development, trapping (incidental and intentional) and timber management may – individually and in the aggregate – threaten wolverine, wolverine habitat and range, and the ability of wolverine to move between sub-populations within the contiguous United States and between wolverine in the contiguous United States and wolverine in Canada (connectivity). The Service also failed to analyze these threats across all or a "significant portion" of the wolverine's historic range and failed to account for and consider the amount of historic wolverine habitat already lost.

Notably, in the listing decision, the Service focused mainly on the impacts of climate change and, in so doing, failed to utilize the best available science on these and other non-climate stressors. The best available science – including peer-reviewed papers cited in the proposed rule and papers submitted and cited in comments on the proposed rule (including those from WELC) – reveal wolverines – whose total numbers range from 250-300 individuals in the contiguous United

States (with a much smaller effective population) – qualify for threatened or endangered status in the absence of the threats from climate change.

The Service also disregarded (without citing any new studies) scientifically superior evidence on climate change and how it may impact wolverine, including but not limited to research from the Rocky Mountain Research Station and the peer-reviewed papers cited in the proposed rule, including McKelvey et al. (2011) and the papers it relies on. The Service even disregarded the recommendations of its own biologists, including the Field Supervisor of the Montana Ecological Services Office's May, 2014, recommendation to list wolverine in light of the foreseeable threats from climate change and the findings of the February, 2013, and April, 2014, peer review panels, the SCB, and ASM. As mentioned above, the Service also failed to cite any new peer-reviewed paper published since McKelvey et al. (2011) that supports its findings or would otherwise warrant an about face on listing.

The majority of scientists believe McKelvey et al. (2011) and the other scientific, peer-reviewed papers analyzed by the Service in developing the proposed rule represent the best available science on wolverine. The majority of scientists also believe there is no legitimate scientific dispute that: (1) wolverines are dependent on cold and snowy conditions and habitat that is covered by snow until late spring for denning (and likely foraging); and (2) that climate change models predict a loss of snowpack within wolverine habitat in the DPS.

Third, as mentioned above, the Service failed to recognize that under the ESA's best available science standard, relatively minor flaws in scientific data or the absence of "precise mechanisms" do not render that information unreliable. The criticisms of Copeland et al. (2010) and McKelevy et al. (2011), for example, focus on small mechanisms of the snow model used, but do not undermine or disprove the model itself. As the Service's own biologist explains, the "precise mechanism" behind the relationship between wolverines and deep snow is "less important" than the fact that deep snow appears to be an obligate habitat feature for this species."

The Service's listing decision admits that McKelvey et al. (2011) and the studies it relies on are considered the "best available science" on wolverine. As outlined above, any uncertainty that may exist (due to the scale used) over how climate change and other threats may impact wolverines is inherently part of the listing determination and consistent with the best available science standard. Such uncertainty, therefore, cannot and should not be used (as it was in the wolverine decision) to deprive a species of protective measures under the ESA. The ESA "contains no requirement that the evidence be conclusive in order for a species to be

listed. Application of such a stringent standard violates the plain terms of the statute." *Defenders of Wildlife v. Babbitt*, 958 F. Supp. 670, 679 (D.D.C. 1997).

Fourth, and related to the discussion above, the Service's listing decision – as discussed above – mistakenly requires the "best data possible" on climate change and how it may impact wolverine when the standard under the ESA only requires the best data "available."

Fifth, the Service's listing decision mistakenly insists on having "conclusive" data or the ability to draw "definitive conclusions" on how climate change will affect wolverine when, as mentioned above, this is not required or expected by Section 4 of the ESA. Nor is the Service required to conduct or obtain new, independent research to improve the pool of existing, available data. The ESA anticipates and expects that in certain situations, like those circumstances presented for wolverine, the Service must and should rely on even inconclusive or uncertain information if that is the "best available science" at the time the decision is made. "Definitive conclusions" and "precise mechanisms" are not required, likely possible, or expected in the ESA.

Sixth, under the "best available science" standard and in accordance with the precautionary principle and Congress' intent in the ESA to be proactive, any ambiguity or uncertainty should weigh in favor of listing. In other words, the "benefit of the doubt" should go to providing protective ESA status to wolverine while additional studies and research is obtained.

Based on the best available science, the Service should adopt a precautionary approach, provide wolverine protective ESA status, and then seek to better understand wolverine, the species' habitat needs and relationship to cold, snow-dependent environments, and how climate change and other threats will impact the species. Once this information is obtained, the Service could then decide to maintain the wolverine's listing status, upgrade the species' status, or de-list the species in response to the information and data obtained. In the meantime, however, wolverine would be protected in the face of scientific "uncertainty" (assuming it even exits) about the degree of threats.

Finally, under the ESA's "best available science" standard, the Service must manage and consider all the evidence and data submitted to the Agency in an open and transparent manner. This did not occur. The public was never given the opportunity to review and comment on the "key" decision documents that prompted the Service to reverse course on its earlier, proposed rule to list wolverines (a single leaked memo does not suffice). Nor did the Service subject its

final listing decision, which reverses its earlier findings, to peer review in direct contravention of the Service's own policy, *see* 59 Fed. Reg. 34270 (July 1, 1994).

In sum, listing wolverine is warranted because the best available science reveals the current population is dangerously low, there are known and documented threats to wolverine, and that these threats may result in a trend towards extinction.

Misapplication of the ESA's standards

As mentioned above, the Service's listing decision is premised on a misapplication of the term "best available science." The Service's listing decision is also premised on a misapplication of the term "threatened" and "endangered" as used and applied in the ESA.

Pursuant to the ESA, a species is "threatened" if it is "likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range." 16 U.S.C. § 1532(20). A species is "endangered" if it is "in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." 16 U.S.C. § 1532(6). Construction of this language must be based on the best available science. *See Trout Unlimited v. Lohn*, 645 F.Supp. 2d 929, 947, 948 (D. Or. 2007); *Western Watersheds Project v. Foss*, 2005 WL 2002473, *15-17 (D. Id. 2005).

"Likely to become endangered" means "likely" to be "in danger of extinction." *Lohn*, 645 F.Supp. 2d at 948. "'[L]ikely' clearly means something less than 100% certain, but how much less is not as clear." *Id.* at 945. A reasonable construction of "likely" is at least a 50% chance (more likely than not). *Id.* at 949. In any case, the level of certainty relied upon by the Service must be based on consideration of the relevant statutory factors using the best available science. *Id.* at 947.

Likewise, "in danger of extinction" is not a fixed term, but its construction must be grounded in the best available science. *See id.* at 948. Certainly, "in danger of extinction" does not mean a "high risk of extinction." *Western Watersheds Project*, 2005 WL 2002473, *17 (D. Id. 2005). "Instead, the required danger level for extinction necessarily depends on the applicable scientific viability assessments for the particular species." *Lohn*, 645 F.Supp. at 948. For example, 1-5% risk of extinction in 100 years can create a discernible risk of extinction. *Foss*, 2005 WL 2002473, *15 (citing *Center for Biological Diversity v. Lohn*, 296 F.Supp.2d 1223, 1232 (W.D.Wash.2003)).

The term "foreseeable future" must also be defined by reference to the best available science. *See Foss*, 2005 WL 2002473, *15-17. As the Service recognized in a 2009 Solicitor Memorandum, "[t]he Secretary's analysis of what constitutes the foreseeable future for a particular listing determination must be rooted in the best available data that allow predictions into the future, and the foreseeable future extends only so far as those predictions are reliable. 'Reliable' does not mean 'certain'; it means sufficient to provide a reasonable degree of confidence in the prediction, in light of the conservation purposes of the Act." M-Opinion 37021 at 13. What must be avoided is "speculation." *Id.* at 8.

The corollary is that the Service may not dismiss a risk of extinction that may be reasonably forecasted by science. *See Foss*, 2005 WL 2002473, *15-17. It "defies common sense" to define "foreseeable future" to exclude the timeframe in which [the best available science] predict[s] extinction. *Id.* at 15. Prediction of the future is necessarily grounded in the "data and logic" of today. M-Opinion 37021 at 8. As one court reasoned, if a species will be endangered in the future if current circumstances continue, "it is clearly threatened today." *Biodiversity Legal Found. v. Babbitt*, 943 F. Supp. 23, 25 n.5 (D.D.C. 1996).

With respect to wolverine, the Service failed to properly apply the ESA's standards for "threatened" and "endangered" and the terms included therein when deciding not to list, requiring instead "certain predictions," "fine scale" data, "precise mechanisms," and "definitive" conclusions to support listing.

As explained by the SCB and ASM, the Service's own policy (M-Opinion 37021) "does not preclude use of predictive modeling approaches that are well-supported in the scientific literature, such as those used to project future effects of climate change on snow cover, and the of loss of habitat components such as snow cover on species dependent on or limited by these factors." *See* Attachments. But in the case of wolverine, the Service mistakenly interprets its own policy guidance "to require data – specifically 'experimental evidence' – that in all likelihood would be impractical or impossible to obtain for a rare free-living mammal." *Id.* The Service's decision, therefore, "represents an arbitrarily narrow interpretation of the M-Opinion that, if generally applied, would substantially limit the ability of science to inform listing determinations." *Id.*

The Service also failed to properly define and apply the phrase "significant portion of its range" when: (1) deciding not to list wolverine; and (2) defining the phrase in its Final Policy on Interpretation of the Phrase "Significant Portion of Its Range," 79 Fed. Reg. 37577 (July 1, 2014).

Under the ESA, the Service must consider a species' status – in this case the DPS of wolverine in the entire contiguous United States – across a "significant portion of its range" in making listing determinations. *Defenders of Wildlife v. Norton*, 258 F.3d 1136 (9th Cir. 2001). The phrase "significant portion of its range" can mean, among other things, a "major geographical area[] in which [the species] is no longer viable but once was. Those areas need not coincide with national or state political boundaries, although they can." *Defenders of Wildlife,* 258 F. 3d at 1145-46. The phrase *does not* mean that threats in the "significant portion" must render the entire species at risk of extinction. *Id.* at 1141. On the contrary, legislative history demonstrates that the phrase was intended to allow for protection in one area even if a species is abundant or overabundant in another area. *Id.* at 1144. Nor is there any bright-line percentage of habitat that must be affected in order for an area to be "significant." *Id.* at 1143. For a species with a small historical range, even a very small percentage loss of habitat may be "significant." *Id.*

Notably, the Service cannot interpret the phrase in a way that excludes analysis of the wolverine's historic range. *Tucson Herpetological Soc. v. Salazar*, 566 F.3d 870, 876 (9th Cir. 2009). Rather, the task of defining the phrase includes quantification of the wolverine's historic range and an evaluation of whether the lost habitat amounts to a "significant portion" of that range. *Id.* Nor may the Service look only to the health of the wolverine population in certain areas while turning a blind eye to threats in areas where the population is either extirpated or home to only a few individuals. "It is insufficient, under *Defenders of Wildlife,* to point to one area or class of areas where [a species'] populations persist to support a finding that threats to the species elsewhere are not significant . . . ." *Tucson Herpetological Soc.*, 566 F.3d at 877. The ESA requires more. *Id.*

Here, the Service never engaged in a proper "significant portion of its range" analysis with respect to wolverine. The Service, for example, failed to quantify and explain whether the loss of the DPS's historic range in the contiguous United States amounts to a "significant portion" and inappropriately supported its finding of non-significance by looking only to the health of wolverine populations in certain areas (including populations outside the DPS). The Service failed to analyze and explain whether the wolverine's lost, historic habitat in the contiguous United States, which includes, but is not limited to, large portions of the Sierras in California, the entire Southern Rockies (from north-central New Mexico, throughout Colorado, and south-central Wyoming), Oregon's and large portions of Washington's Cascade Mountains, portions of Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Nevada (as well as portions of Michigan and Wisconsin) qualifies a "significant portion of its range" for listing purposes.

In sum, in electing not to list the DPS of wolverine in the contiguous United States, the Service never examined whether the DPS is endangered or threatened "across a significant portion of its range" as that phrase is to be defined under the ESA. Nor does the Service's new, July 1, 2014, policy defining the phrase (assuming it was applied), see 79 Fed. Reg. 37577, remedy the violation.

The Service's new policy demands that a high threshold be reached before a species can be considered endangered or threatened throughout a "significant portion of its range." Specifically, the policy (1) excludes lost historical range, and (2) requires that the existence of members in the "significant portion" of a species' range be essential to ensuring that the species is not "endangered" or "threatened" across its entire range. 79 Fed. Reg. at 37609. This is not what Congress intended.

As described above and outlined in *Defenders of Wildlife,* the ESA requires the Service to analyze where lost historical range qualifies as a "significant portion." 258 F. 3d at 1145. *Defenders of Wildlife* also holds that a species may be endangered or threatened across one portion of its range even if, in another part of its range, the species is so abundant that the animals are overrunning the human population. *Id.* at 1144. As *Defenders of Wildlife* pointed out, the ESA's text seems to be premised on the following maxim: "There seems to be a tacit assumption that if grizzlies survive in Canada and Alaska, that is good enough. It is not good enough for me.... Relegating grizzlies to Alaska is about like relegating happiness to heaven; one may never get there." *Id.* at 1145 n. 11 (quoting Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac 277 (1966)).

With respect to wolverine, it is not "good enough" under the ESA to relegate wolverines to Alaska and Canada – or even to small portions of the contiguous United States (Montana) – while turning a blind eye to the species' lost and shrinking habitats throughout its historic range in the contiguous United States. Nor can the Service rely on "healthy" wolverine populations in Canada or Alaska (populations outside the DPS) to deprive wolverine in the contiguous United States – the DPS – protective status. When evaluating "significant portion of a species range" the Service must limit the analysis to the species' range; in this case the "species" is the contiguous United States DPS of wolverine.

The Service also places inappropriate weight on its finding that threats to the wolverine are not "geographically concentrated." However, this is not the test. Significant portions of the wolverine's range may be disappearing even though the culprit is widespread climate change, not more pinpoint threats.

The Service's interpretation of the phrase "significant portion of its range," therefore, as applied to the wolverine listing decision and as outlined in its new policy, 79 Fed. Reg. 37577, is inconsistent with the ESA. And, if the Service did rely on the new policy, doing so violated the notice and comment requirements because the policy was in draft form for over two years and was not cited or relied on in the proposed rule.

Insufficient data to support decision in the record

Pursuant to the ESA and APA, the Service's listing decision must be supported by reliable and meaningful data and evidence and there must be a rational connection between the facts found in the record and the ultimate choice made. *See Defenders of Wildlife v. Babbitt*, 958 F. Supp. 670 (D.D.C. 1997).

Here, the Service's listing decision fails to provide biological support and data for its findings that the wolverine population in the United States is "growing and expanding." There is some evidence of a small recovery in Washington's North Cascades but beyond that there is no meaningful evidence or data demonstrating wolverine are expanding their range within the contiguous United States. No state or regional surveys at the necessary scale have been conducted. A single individual wolverine walking to Colorado or the Sierras does not equate to growth and expansion. Nor does documenting a few individual wolverines in northeastern Oregon or a single wolverine in Utah. These events are likely nothing "new" (anecdotal reports of wolverine sightings in these states have always existed) and certainly are not evidence of a population increase or expansion. Indeed, no evidence exists suggesting that these events have resulted in colonization of an area with successful breeding.

The Service's listing decision also fails to provide sufficient biological support and data for its finding: (1) that the total habitat capacity for wolverine in the entire contiguous United States is only 644 wolverines (well below the habitat capacity in western Canada) and that the "current population size is approximately half of capacity"; (2) that the current population level (actual and effective) of wolverine in the contiguous United States – assuming it is approximately 300 total with an unknown effective population – is stable and not a threat to the species or reason (by itself) to list (irrespective of the Service's climate change findings); (3) that effective population size would never reach a 100 wolverine, even at full habitat capacity and that demographic stochasticity and loss of genetic diversity due to small effective population sizes is not a threat to wolverine; (4) that there is no evidence or data to suggest the impacts to wolverine habitat from climate change are "currently occurring" (see WELC's May 5, 2014, comments and the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC's) Fifth Assessment Report (March 31, 2014)); (5) that more information and data, including "precise mechanisms," are needed in order to predict that climate change will adversely impact wolverine habitat and range in the foreseeable future and that an analysis of the impacts of climate change on wolverine must be at a scale fine enough to deal with the site specific characteristics of den sites; (6) that wolverine den sites are currently not scarce or lacking or otherwise limiting wolverine reproduction and population abundance (the Service does not mention or discuss the fact that the vast majority of den sites – including all in Colorado – are likely unoccupied by wolverine due to low numbers); (7) that insufficient information exists demonstrating that climate change will negatively impact wolverine dens, den success, or other habitat; (8) that a projected loss of 31% and 63% of areas with snow cover persisting until mid-May does not represent the equivalent loss or an approximate loss of wolverine habitat; (9) that insufficient information exists demonstrating that climate change will result in reduced connectivity and genetic exchange between sub-populations of wolverine in the foreseeable future; (10) that the Service can only predict a decline of wolverine habitat from climate change if wolverine have an obligate relationship "with snow for all stages."; (11) that "secondary threats" to wolverine identified in the proposed rule, as well as other anthropogenic threats to wolverine (e.g., winter recreation, transportation corridors) do not individually or in the aggregate pose a threat to wolverine or that the best available science does not substantiate that such activities, including dispersed recreation, pose a threat to wolverine; (12) that legal wolverine trapping in Montana is not a threat to the population, that reduced harvest levels in Montana over the years are not due to reduced numbers of wolverines (just shorter seasons), and that known and future rates of incidental trapping in Montana and other states is not a threat to the species; (13) that the primary concern about the future of wolverines is associated with the availability of den sites; (14) that the available evidence does not indicate listing is warranted; (15) that wolverines "coexist with some level of human disturbance and habitat modification"; (16) that "even under future conditions of projected habitat loss" there would be sufficient habitat available in the contiguous U.S. to "potentially continue supporting wolverine populations at roughly the same level of abundance as at present"; and (17) that climate change, by itself or in conjunction with other threats (trapping, small population, winter recreation, development, etc...) does not pose a threat to wolverine or its habitat in the foreseeable future such that wolverines warrant listing under the ESA.

Having such biological support and data is especially important in this case, where the Service's finding that wolverine do not warrant listing under the ESA contradicts the Service's earlier findings in the proposed rule, the extensive comments submitted by WELC and other organizations and agencies (which the

Service neglected to properly respond to) and even the recommendations from the Service's biologists, two peer reviewed panels, and the SCB, ASM, and fifty-six scientists. *See* Attachments. The Service can "draw conclusions based on less than conclusive scientific evidence, [but] it cannot base its conclusions on no evidence." *National Assoc. of Home Builders v Norton*, 340 F.3d 835, 847 (9th Cir. 2003).

Reliance on conservation efforts

Pursuant to Section 4(b)(1)(A), 16 U. S.C. § 1533 (b)(1)(A), and the Service's implementing regulations, the Service must make listing determinations after "conducting a review of the status of the species and after taking into account those efforts, if any, being made by any State" to protect such species.

Under the ESA, the Service can rely on conservation efforts, including state-initiated efforts, so long as they are binding and current, not voluntary or future, and have a proven track record of success. *See Save Our Springs v. Babbitt*, 27 F. Supp. 2d 739, 748 (W.D. Tex. 1997); *Oregon Natural Res. Council v. Daley*, 6 F. Supp. 2d 1139, 1153 (D. Or. 1998); *Fed'n of Fly Fishers v. Daley*, 131 F. Supp. 2d 1158, 1165 (N.D. Cal. 2000); *Ctr. For Biological Diversity v. Morgenweck*, 351 F. Supp. 2d 1137, 1141 (D. Colo. 2004). A sufficient track record of success is two years. *Save Our Springs*, 27 F.Supp. 2d at 748. Any conservation effort relied upon by the Service must also have been submitted for public notice and comment. *Id.*; *see also Morgenweck*, 351 F. Supp. 2d at 1141.

In the listing decision, the Service inappropriately relies on non-binding state efforts such as, but not limited to, Idaho's, Wyoming's, and other states' bans on wolverine trapping and Montana's restrictions on wolverine trapping (including the current injunction prohibiting wolverine trapping). These state regulations are insufficient because they may be withdrawn or amended at any time and deal only with a small portion of the species' range and habitat.

Reliance on state efforts, such as trapping restrictions, is particularly inappropriate where the state requirements are less stringent than the requirements of the ESA. The ESA was intended to establish a federal floor for wildlife protection. Thus, in Section 4(b)(1)(A), Congress's aim was to prevent disruption of a state conservation program that would be *more* protective of a species than required under the ESA. *See* H.R. Rep. No. 93-412, p. 14 (1973) ("the State powers to regulate in a more restrictive fashion or to include additional species remain unimpaired."). If the wolverine were listed, it would be protected from all forms of "take," including "harvest" that is "sustainable" or spread "equitably" throughout a state.

Five listing factors

The Service's listing decision also violates Section 4(a)(1) of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1533(a)(1).

Pursuant to Section 4(a)(1) of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1533(a)(1), and the Service's implementing regulations, the Service is required to determine whether a species is threatened or endangered because of any of the following factors: (A) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of the species' range; (B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (C) disease or predation; (D) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and (E) other man-made factors affecting the species' continued existence. *Tucson Herpetological Soc'y v. Salazar*, 566 F.3d 870, 873 (9th Cir. 2009) (citing 16 U.S.C. § 1533(a)(1); 50 C.F.R. § 424.11(c)). These factors are listed in the disjunctive so any one or combination of them can be sufficient for a finding that a species qualifies as threatened or endangered.

In deciding not to list wolverine, the Service failed to carefully consider and adequately apply Section 4(a)(1)'s listing factors in accordance with the ESA and the Service's implementing regulations.

Specifically, the Service failed to support its findings with sufficient and reliable evidence, including, as mentioned above, the best available, peer-reviewed science on wolverine and threats to wolverine. The Service also relied on unproven and unreliable methods to support its findings and failed to properly define the wolverine's range (both historic and present) and habitat within the contiguous United States. In addition, the Service failed to adequately consider historic population numbers (actual and trend) and current population numbers (actual and trend).

In applying the ESA's five listing factors, the Service also failed to consider and analyze how climate change is already and will continue to directly, indirectly, and cumulatively impact wolverine and a "significant portion" of the wolverine's range and habitat (both denning and foraging and core and secondary) in the contiguous United States.

Likewise, the Service erroneously discounted and did not adequately analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of winter recreation, timber management, an already small total and effective population size, transportation corridors, climate change, travel planning, development, and trapping (for both

other species in occupied wolverine habitat and intentional trapping of wolverines in Montana) on wolverines. This includes how such threats may individually or in the aggregate affect individual wolverines, wolverine range and habitat (denning and foraging), and wolverine movement and connectivity between sub-populations in the contiguous United States and between wolverine in Canada and the contiguous United States. The Service also failed to assess the threats to wolverine across a significant portion of its range.

In applying the ESA's five listing factors, the Service also erroneously discounted and did not adequately consider how the lack of existing regulatory mechanisms for wolverines, specifically the lack of guidance in state wildlife and resource management plans, National Forest Plans, National Park Service management plans, and BLM resource management plans and the lack of any binding international, national, or state level regulatory mechanisms to address greenhouse gas emissions may directly, indirectly, or cumulatively affect wolverines.

In sum, the data and studies cited in the proposed rule and submitted by members of the public on the proposed rule, and the findings of the February, 2013, and April, 2014, peer-review panels, as well as the Service's own biologists, and the comments from the SCB, ASM, and fifty-six scientists (see Attachments), conclusively show – in accordance with the ESA's "best available science standard" – that the wolverine population is already dangerously small and currently faces serious and significant threats under several of the listing factors and, as such, merits listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA

Wherefore, this sixty day notice letter serves to put the Service on notice of its liability for violating the ESA and inform the Agency of our intent to file a citizen suit under the ESA seeking the appropriate relief.

This notice is provided pursuant to, and in accordance with, Section 11 (g)(2) of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g)(2).

Sincerely,

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EARTHJUSTICE

ALASKA CALIFORNIA FLORIDA MID-PACIFIC NORTHEAST NORTHERN ROCKIES
NORTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WASHINGTON, D.C. INTERNATIONAL

August 13, 2014

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VIA E-MAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL

RE: Sixty-Day Notice of Intent to Sue to Remedy Violations of the Endangered Species Act in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Withdrawal of the Proposed Rule to List the Distinct Population Segment of the North American Wolverine Occurring in the Contiguous United States as Threatened, 79 Fed. Reg. 47,522

Dear Secretary Jewell and Director Ashe,

On behalf of Center for Biological Diversity, Conservation Northwest, Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Clearwater, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Idaho Conservation League, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, and Rocky Mountain Wild, in accordance with the citizen suit provision of the Endangered Species Act ("ESA" or "Act"), 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g), I hereby provide notice that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS" or "Service") is in violation of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1533, and its implementing regulations, 50 C.F.R. § 402 et seq., with regard to the Service's August 13, 2014 withdrawal of the proposed rule to list the distinct population segment ("DPS") of the North American wolverine occurring in the contiguous United States as threatened under the ESA. See 79 Fed. Reg. 47,522 (Aug. 13, 2014) ("Rule Withdrawal"). In light of the imperiled status of the wolverine, including both present and future threats to the species' survival, the Service's decision to withdraw its proposed rule violates section 4 of the ESA. 16 U.S.C. § 1533.

In its proposed rule issued on February 4, 2013, FWS proposed to list the wolverine DPS within the contiguous United States as threatened. 78 Fed. Reg. 7864 (Feb. 4, 2013) ("Proposed Rule"). This proposed listing was based on the Service's determination that climate change posed a significant threat to the snow-dependent wolverine, and that small population size and the effects of trapping also threatened the genetic diversity and survival of the species when combined with the detrimental effects of climate change. 78 Fed. Reg. at 7886. In its

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withdrawal of that proposed rule, FWS examined the exact same science and reached the opposite conclusion, purporting to find that neither climate change nor other threats will pose a significant risk to the wolverine. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,544-45. Contrary to FWS's withdrawal decision, the best available science demonstrates significant current and future threats to the North American wolverine. The Service's decision to withdraw the proposed rule contravenes its own earlier conclusions, the conclusions of scientific panel members convened to explore this issue, and the recommendations of the agency's own scientists. See 78 Fed. Reg. at 7880; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., Wolverine Science Panel Workshop Report (April 3-4, 2014) ("Science Panel Report"); Memorandum from Theresa Rabot, Assistant Reg'l Dir. for Ecological Servs., U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., to Noreen Walsh, Reg'l Dir., Region 6, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv. (May 2014) ("Rabot Memorandum").

Pursuant to the citizen suit provision of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g)(2), this letter provides you notice that, unless within 60 days of receipt of this letter FWS promulgates a final rule listing the North American wolverine as threatened within the contiguous United States, we intend to challenge in federal district court the Service's withdrawal of the proposed rule to list the North American wolverine DPS as threatened.

I. The Wolverine

The wolverine (Gulo gulo) is the largest terrestrial member of the weasel family. It combines the weasel's ferocity and energy with a larger and stronger body that has frequently been described as bear-like in its appearance. Adult wolverines normally weigh 20 to 40 pounds and are three to four feet long. Wolverines typically exhibit a thick, glossy, dark-brown coat of fur, often with a pale buff stripe running laterally from the shoulders along the animal's side and crossing the rump just above a long, bushy tail. The elusive wolverine has long been a subject of folklore. Native American mythology describes the wolverine as a trickster-hero, and a link to the spirit world.

Wolverines once ranged across the northernmost tier of the United States from Maine to Washington, and south into the Adirondacks of New York, the Rocky Mountains as far south as Arizona and New Mexico, and the Sierra Nevada-Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains as far south as California. The wolverine has been eliminated from all but a fragment of this historic range by the destruction of its wilderness habitat and trapping by European settlers. Wolverines were extirpated from the upper Midwest states by the early 1900s, and from the Northeast shortly thereafter. Although one wolverine each has recently traveled to California and Colorado, wolverine populations are known to exist in the contiguous United States only in the Rocky Mountain regions of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, in the Cascade Mountains of Washington, and in eastern Oregon. The entire population in the contiguous United States is estimated at just 300 wolverines or fewer.

Wolverines are adapted to live in high-altitude and high-latitude ecosystems characterized by deep snow and cold temperatures. Deep snow is particularly important for wolverine reproduction: females create dens by tunneling deep into the snowpack, where they give birth in protected den cavities at ground level. Wolverines of both sexes also rely on these same cold, snowy areas year-round, perhaps because snow helps provide "refrigeration" for the

carcasses that wolverines feed on, and perhaps also because there is less competition for food in these cold, harsh regions. Wolverines primarily rely on scavenging ungulates killed by other predators or by natural causes such as disease, injury, or weather. Wolverines also prey on rodents and other small mammals, and are capable of taking even large ungulates such as deer, elk, and moose as live prey when the opportunity arises.

Individual wolverines require large home ranges to access sufficient food to sustain themselves throughout the year, with the size of those ranges varying by habitat and food conditions, age, and gender. Home ranges of studied wolverines in Idaho averaged approximately 1,522 square kilometers for adult males and 384 square kilometers for adult females. In northwest Montana, adult males had home ranges of 422 square kilometers, while females occupied ranges averaging 288 square kilometers.

Wolverines have a low reproductive rate. Female wolverines attain sexual maturity at about 15 months, but fewer than half of potentially reproducing females actually produce young, known as kits, in any given year. Wolverine litter size averages two to three kits in the years when a female does give birth. On average, an Idaho study found that wolverines reproduced at a rate of less than one kit per female per year.

In sum, the remaining wolverines in the contiguous United States exist in low numbers, require large home ranges in cold and snowy areas, and have low reproductive rates. These characteristics leave the wolverine vulnerable to localized or even range-wide extinctions due to escalating threats from climate change, human disturbance, and trapping.

II. The Endangered Species Act

Congress enacted the Endangered Species Act in 1973 with the goal of protecting and recovering species that are in danger of extinction or are likely to become so within the foreseeable future. In the words of the Act, its purpose is "to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved," and "to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species." 16 U.S.C. § 1531(b). In the seminal case on the purpose of the Endangered Species Act, Tennessee Valley Authority v. Hill, the Supreme Court confirmed that it is "beyond doubt that Congress intended endangered species to be afforded the highest of priorities." 437 U.S. 153, 174 (1978). FWS highlighted this goal in its proposed rule to list the wolverine as threatened, stating that the "primary purpose of the Act is the conservation of endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems on which they depend." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7886.

To achieve the goal of conserving threatened and endangered species, section 4 of the Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to determine whether a species is threatened or endangered, 16 U.S.C. § 1533(a)(1), designate critical habitat for the species, id. § 1533(a)(3), and promulgate and implement a recovery plan for the species, id. § 1533(f). Under the Act, a species is "endangered" if it is "in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range," id. § 1532(6), and it is "threatened" if it is "likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range," id. § 1532(20). The Act requires the Secretary to determine a species' status based on five statutory factors:

(A) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
(B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
(C) disease or predation;
(D) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
(E) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

Id. § 1533(a)(1). The Act mandates that the Secretary evaluate these factors "solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available to [her] after conducting a review of the status of the species." Id. § 1533(b)(1)(A) (emphasis added). See also Nw. Ecosystem Alliance v. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., 475 F.3d 1136, 1147 (9th Cir. 2007) ("The ESA instructs the Service to make its determinations 'solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available ... .'") (quoting 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(1)(A)).

Courts interpreting these statutory provisions have repeatedly held that "failure by the agency to utilize the best available science is arbitrary and capricious." Consol. Delta Smelt Cases, 717 F. Supp. 2d 1021, 1060 (E.D. Cal. 2010). An agency's failure to draw rational conclusions from the evidence before it also constitutes arbitrary and capricious action. Motor Vehicle Mfrs. Ass'n of U.S., Inc. v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co., 463 U.S. 29, 43 (1983). FWS's listing and delisting actions have frequently been held arbitrary and capricious on these specific grounds. A recent case on grizzly bear delisting, for instance, vacated the Service's delisting rule because "[t]he Rule did not articulate a rational connection between the data before it and its conclusion." Greater Yellowstone Coal., Inc. v. Servheen, 665 F.3d 1015, 1030 (9th Cir. 2011). See also Trout Unlimited v. Lohn, 645 F. Supp. 2d 929, 944 (D. Or. 2007) (agency "violated the ESA by not relying on the best available science"). The requirement to use the best available science—and the necessity of overturning agency action that fails to do so—is therefore clear in the language of the Act and is also well established in ESA case law.

III. History of Wolverine Listing Efforts

Despite significant and escalating threats, FWS has repeatedly refused to apply the ESA's protections to the North American wolverine. The Service's withdrawal of the proposed listing rule is the latest move in a 14-year saga in which the public's repeated attempts to secure protections for this imperiled species have met with continuous resistance from FWS, frequently requiring judicial intervention to compel FWS to take the actions required by the ESA.

On July 14, 2000, conservation groups submitted a petition to list the wolverine within the contiguous United States as a threatened or endangered species and to designate critical habitat for the species. After initial delay that required court action to resolve, the Service published a negative 90-day petition finding in the Federal Register on October 21, 2003. 68 Fed. Reg. 60,112 (Oct. 21, 2003). On June 8, 2005, a coalition of conservation organizations filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana challenging the Service's negative finding. On September 29, 2006, the Montana court ruled that the 90-day petition finding was arbitrary and capricious and violated the ESA. Defenders of Wildlife v.

Kempthorne, CV 05-99-M-DWM, slip op. at 18-19 (D. Mont. 2006). According to the court, the "petition ... included enough information to allow the Secretary to conclude the distribution of the species is substantially diminished and the wolverine's existence is threatened." Id. at 20. The court ordered the Service to prepare a 12-month finding on the wolverine listing petition, see id. at 21, and then later granted the Service's motion to extend the status review and 12-month finding deadline by five months, to February 28, 2008.

FWS published its first 12-month finding, denying ESA protections for the wolverine, on March 11, 2008. 73 Fed. Reg. 12,929 (Mar. 11, 2008). The basis of this negative finding was FWS's determination that "the contiguous United States population of the North American wolverine does not constitute a distinct population segment (DPS) under the Act," and that the population "is not a significant portion of the range of the North American subspecies and does not warrant further consideration under the Act." Id. at 12,941. Conservation groups again brought suit to challenge this finding, and on March 6, 2009, the Service agreed to settle that case by voluntarily retracting the challenged 12-month finding and issuing a new finding by December 1, 2010. See 78 Fed. Reg. 7866. On December 14, 2010, the Service finally published this second 12-month finding, which determined that the wolverine within the contiguous United States constituted a distinct population segment that warranted listing under the Act due to the predicted impacts of climate change and other threats. 75 Fed. Reg. 78,030 (Dec. 14, 2010). In its finding, the Service estimated that wolverines were "likely to lose 63 percent of their current habitat area over the next century," and that "by 2045, maintenance of the contiguous U.S. wolverine population in the currently occupied area will require human intervention to facilitate genetic exchange." Id. at 78,054. Yet the Service still refused to extend ESA protections to the wolverine, finding that an actual listing decision was "precluded by higher priority listing actions." Id.

The Service did not even set a timetable for issuing a listing decision on the wolverine until it was required to do so by a court settlement addressing FWS's chronic backlog of listing determinations. Endangered Species Act Section 4 Deadline Litig., Misc. Action No. 10-377 (EGS), MDL Docket No. 2165 (D.D.C. Sept. 9, 2011). As part of this settlement, the Service agreed to issue a proposed listing rule for the wolverine, or withdraw the "warranted" 12-month finding, by the end of the 2013 Fiscal Year. Id.; see also 78 Fed. Reg. at 7866. On February 4, 2013, FWS finally issued a proposed rule, which proposed to list the distinct population segment of the North American wolverine occurring within the contiguous United States as threatened. 78 Fed. Reg. at 7864. The proposed rule, discussed in detail below, found that climate change posed a primary threat to the wolverine's survival, and that trapping and small population size also posed threats when acting in concert with climate change. Id. at 7885-86.

After publishing a proposed rule, the ESA requires the Service to publish a final rule or withdraw the proposed rule within one year, 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(6)(A), except that the Secretary may extend the period for 6 months for the purpose of "soliciting additional data," id. § 1533(b)(6)(B)(i). In this case, the Service took the 6-month extension, during which time it consulted further with state wildlife agencies and an ad-hoc "science panel." See Science Panel Report at 1-13, 15-16. Just months before the final rule was due, agency documents indicate that FWS abruptly changed course from its previous finding, rejecting the science it had previously relied on and the results of the Science Panel Workshop, and unexpectedly determined that

neither climate change nor other risks posed significant threats to the survival of the wolverine. Compare Rabot Memorandum at 1 (recommending finalization of the proposed rule with minimal changes) with Memorandum from Noreen Walsh, Reg'l Dir., Region 6, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv. to Theresa Rabot, Assistant Reg'l Dir. for Ecological Servs., Region 1, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., 17 (May 30, 2014) ("Walsh Memorandum") (ordering staff to "prepare a withdrawal of the proposed rule"). The Service ultimately issued a withdrawal of its proposed listing on August 13, 2014, once again denying ESA protections to the wolverine. 79 Fed. Reg. 47,522.

IV. Threats to the North American Wolverine

Notwithstanding FWS's abrupt about-face on the wolverine listing determination, the best available scientific information demonstrates that the North American wolverine faces numerous current and future threats that are likely to lead to its extinction within the foreseeable future if the species does not receive protection under the ESA. These threats include habitat loss due to climate change and human disturbance, direct mortality from intentional and incidental trapping, and loss of genetic diversity due to small population size and habitat fragmentation. While all of these threats are significant, climate change—acting alone and in concert with these other threats—will likely have the largest impact on wolverine survival in the foreseeable future. The Service acknowledged these threats in its proposed rule, published on February 4, 2013, which found that the best available science demonstrated significant primary threats due to climate change, and secondary threats due to trapping and small population size working synergistically with climate change. 78 Fed. Reg. at 7886. Accordingly, the draft rule proposed to list the DPS of the North American wolverine occurring within the contiguous United States as threatened. Id.[1]

A. Habitat Loss Due To Climate Change

Wolverines depend on areas with deep and persistent spring snow both for year-round habitat and for the snow-tunneled dens where females give birth and wean their young. The best available science shows that this snowy habitat is predicted to shrink dramatically as climate change progresses, with significant detrimental impacts on the wolverine. The proposed rule accordingly concluded that "[w]olverine habitat is projected to decrease in area and become more fragmented in the future as a result of climate changes." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7877. These habitat changes, in turn, "are expected to have direct and indirect effects to wolverine

[1] The Service also proposed a special rule under section 4(d) of the ESA, prohibiting both intentional and unintentional trapping and hunting of wolverines, but permitting development and a variety of other activities in wolverine habitat that would otherwise be considered "take" under the ESA. Id. at 7888. At the same time, the Service also issued a proposed rule under section 10(j) of the ESA, creating a "nonessential experimental population" of wolverines in Colorado, southern Wyoming, and New Mexico, which would be subject to less strict protection than the DPS in the Northern Rockies. 78 Fed. Reg. 7890 (Feb. 4, 2013). These associated proposed rules were also withdrawn by the Rule Withdrawal. 79 Fed. Reg. 47,522.

populations in the contiguous United States," posing a significant threat to the continued survival of the wolverine DPS. Id.

The habitat analysis in the proposed rule began with an explanation of wolverines' life history that highlights the snow-obligate nature of the species. The Service explained, for instance, that wolverines "select areas that are cold and receive enough winter precipitation to reliably maintain deep persistent snow late into the warm season." Id. at 7867 (citing Copeland et al. (2010)). It recognized that this relationship with snow is particularly important for female denning, noting that "snow cover during the denning period [February through May] is essential for successful wolverine reproduction range-wide." Id. at 7872. Although the precise reasons why female wolverines choose den sites in deep snow are not known, scientists hypothesize that a den dug deep below the surface of the snow provides protection from extreme cold in the early spring and also protects young kits from predators. Id. Regardless of the mechanism, it is clear that the correlation between spring snow and female reproductive dens is extremely tight: the most recent study found that every one of the 562 verified den sites in North America and Scandinavia occurred in snow. Copeland et al. (2010).

The Service explained, furthermore, that the correlation with snow extends beyond denning season. The proposed rule cited Copeland et al. (2010) to emphasize that "[w]olverine year-round habitat use also takes place almost entirely within the area defined by deep persistent snow." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7868. Indeed, 95 percent of worldwide summer wolverine observations and 89 percent of year-round observations fell within the area that tended to have persistent spring snowpack.[2] Copeland et al. (2010), at 239. Accordingly, FWS concluded that "[d]eep, persistent, and reliable spring snow cover (April 15 to May 14) is the best overall predictor of wolverine occurrence in the contiguous United States." Id. at 7872 (citing Aubry et al. 2007; Copeland et al. 2010). The Service therefore adopted the snow-dependent model of wolverine habitat developed by Copeland et al. (2010), combined with a closely aligned model developed by Inman et al. (2012),[3] to define a baseline wolverine habitat model that is highly correlated with spring snowpack. 78 Fed. Reg. at 7874.

The most authoritative study of how this range might shift with a changing climate was done by McKelvey et al. (2011). That study uses a combination of scientifically accepted global climate models (GCMs) to project the impacts of changing temperature and precipitation on the wolverine habitat defined by Copeland et al. (2010). Based on this sophisticated analysis, the Service's proposed rule concluded that "McKelvey et al. (2011, entire) represents the best

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[2] The most recently developed model of wolverine habitat, using a different method, coincides more than 96 percent with this snow-driven model. See Inman et al. (2013), at 283.

[3] The proposed rule attributes this model to "Inman et al. (2012)" but neither of the papers by Inman et al. (2012) listed under "Wolverine Proposed Listing Literature Cited" contain any habitat modeling. It seems more likely that the Service is working from an advance copy of the paper ultimately published as Inman et al. (2013), which models suitable wolverine habitat across the Western United States, and which is cited in the Rule Withdrawal. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,526, 47,534, 47,536. 47,542. Inman et al. (2013) is listed under "Scientific Literature Cited" at the end of this letter.

scientific information available regarding the impacts of climate change to wolverine habitat." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7874. FWS found McKelvey et al.'s analysis to be the best available science for four principal reasons: (1) their habitat projections are based on global models that are recognized as "the most reliable predictors of future climate available," (2) they downscaled their analysis to infer climate impacts "at a scale relevant to wolverine habitat," (3) their hydrologic model predicts snow cover during the spring denning period, which is "the strongest correlate with wolverine reproductive success," and (4) they used the Copeland et al. (2010) habitat model "to relate projected climate changes to wolverine habitat." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7876-77. FWS noted that other studies analyzing the impacts of climate change on wolverine habitat "have been superseded by a more sophisticated analysis provided by McKelvey et al. (2011, entire)," 78 Fed. Reg. at 7876, but these other studies nonetheless "all support the conclusion that climate changes caused by warming are likely to negatively affect wolverine habitat," id. at 7877.

The McKelvey et al. model, as adopted by FWS in the proposed rule, predicts that "31 percent of current wolverine habitat in the contiguous United States will be lost due to climate warming by ... 2045" and that "[t]hat loss expands to 63 percent of wolverine habitat by ... 2085."[4] 78 Fed. Reg. 7876 (citing McKelvey et al. (2011)). Because FWS found that "deep snow maintained through the denning period is required for wolverines to successfully live and reproduce," 78 Fed. Reg. 7874-75, this severe decline in spring snow is predicted to have a significant detrimental impact on the reproduction and survival of the species. Moreover, FWS found that these severe habitat declines would have the effect of "reducing the number of wolverines that can be supported by available habitat and reducing the ability of wolverines to travel between patches of suitable habitat, with negative consequences for gene flow and genetic viability." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7877.

Wolverines within the contiguous United States currently exist as a "metapopulation," or "a network of semi-isolated subpopulations" that "require some level of regular or intermittent migration and gene flow" in order to maintain genetic viability. Id. at 7867. As climate change shrinks the patches of suitable habitat occupied by these subpopulations and enlarges the distance between them, scientists predict that the difficulty of dispersal will increase. Thus, there will be even less gene flow between these subpopulations. McKelvey et al. (2011), at 2891-92. If this breakdown of metapopulation dynamics occurs, FWS concluded, "the entire metapopulation may be jeopardized." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7867. Therefore, as severe as the projected habitat declines are, the proposed rule found that "gross loss of habitat area is likely to result in a loss of wolverine numbers that is greater than the overall loss of habitat area." Id. at 7876 (emphasis added).

Based on its review of "the best scientific and commercial information available," therefore, the Service properly concluded in its proposed rule that "the projected decrease and

[4] FWS notes, however, that the model predicts the mountains of Colorado will be "slightly less sensitive to climate changes," 78 Fed. Reg. at 7876, which is part of the reason why establishing a 10(j) population in the Southern Rocky Mountains may be an important protective measure for North American wolverines.

fragmentation of wolverine habitat or range due to future climate change is a threat to the species now and in the future." Id. at 7880.

B. Other Threats to Wolverines

Wolverines in the contiguous United States are also threatened by non-climate factors, including human disturbance due to recreation and infrastructure, low genetic diversity due to small population size, and both intentional and incidental trapping. Each of these threats works alone and in concert with other threats—particularly climate change—to threaten the North American wolverine DPS.

Wolverine habitat in the contiguous United States is threatened by human disturbance in the form of recreational use, development, infrastructure, and roads. In particular, escalating motorized winter recreation, such as snowmobiling and helicopter-accessed skiing, poses a threat to wolverines' successful denning and reproduction. Denning females are extremely sensitive to human disturbance. See Copeland (1996); Magoun and Copeland (1998). Such disturbance frequently results in den abandonment, often forcing the female to move to a less suitable site. Banci (1994). Denning females have been observed to abandon their dens even upon discovering human snowshoe tracks in the area. Copeland (1996); see also Magoun and Copeland (1998); Inman et al. (2007a) (discussing wolverine movement away from a maternal den after slight disturbance by researchers and light amount of recreational snowmobile activity). Despite the steep terrain that characterizes typical den sites, recent advances in snowmobile technology have enabled snowmobilers to reach previously inaccessible areas of suitable wolverine denning habitat. Heinemeyer et al. (2001). Further, an expanding helicopter skiing industry is impacting otherwise remote and inaccessible wolverine denning habitat in some areas with the noise and disturbance associated with numerous helicopter flights and landings throughout the winter months. See id.; see also Krebs et al. (2007), at 2188-89 ("Helicopter skiing and backcountry skiing were negatively associated with Columbia Mountain females' use in winter."); Ruggerio et al. (2007) at 2146 ("[r]esearchers in British Columbia found a consistent negative association between wolverine occurrence and areas where helicopter and backcountry skiing occur."). A study of suitable wolverine denning habitat in the southwestern portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem concluded that "[w]inter recreational use, particularly snowmobile and heli-skiing, may be having potentially severe localized habitat impacts on wolverines." Heinemeyer et al. (2001). This evidence suggests that wolverine habitat may be negatively impacted by recreational use, particularly as motorized winter recreation continues to increase in the Western mountain states.

Roads and other human infrastructure also threaten wolverine populations by causing direct mortality and limiting dispersal. Both of these impacts reduce population viability by reducing gene flow and thus threatening the critical metapopulation dynamics. Inman et al. (2007b), for instance, documented 3 verified incidents of road-kill mortality during their study period. Inman et al. (2007b), at 89. This was not an isolated result. See Preston et al. (2006) (documenting wolverine mortality in Kootenay National Park from a road); Krebs et al. (2004). Roads may also have indirect impacts on wolverine habitat and on individuals' movements, as wolverines appear to avoid roads, especially when they are more heavily trafficked. Packila et al. (2007), at 105; Dawson et al. (2010), at 142 ("Our results also suggest that road densities may

affect selection of home ranges by Wolverines, in accordance with the broader distribution patterns of this species in the area"); Squires et al. (2006), at 2 ("The wolverines' large spatial requirements and high mobility makes the species susceptible to direct road mortality as well as the barrier effects of roads on their movements."); Austin (1998), at 30 ("wolverines avoid areas near the highway," act agitated near highways, and are affected by the volume of traffic).

For a metapopulation in which linkage and active dispersal are required for continued genetic viability, the impact of roads on potential dispersers is particularly significant. Packila et al. (2007) also noted that roads and other human development also tend to be "relatively permanent," id. at 109, so the dangers they pose are cumulative, long-term threats to the wolverine population.

The proposed rule briefly analyzed these threats from human disturbance but did not find them to be significant. Despite acknowledging that recreational use is heavy in some areas of wolverine habitat, id. at 7878, and that infrastructure development is increasing, id., FWS concluded that there was not sufficient evidence to indicate that recreation, development, roads, or land management posed a significant threat to the North American wolverine DPS, id. at 7878-80. In fact, however, the best available science shows that human disturbance from both recreation and infrastructure may threaten the wolverine population, particularly as connectivity between subpopulations becomes increasingly difficult with escalating climate change and other threats.

The wolverine DPS is also threatened by its own small population size, because it severely limits genetic diversity. The estimated population of 250 to 300 wolverines in the contiguous United States has an "effective population"—i.e., the component of the population that engages in reproduction and thus passes on its genetic material to future generations—of just 35 breeding individuals. Id. at 7884 (citing Schwartz et al. (2009), at 3226), 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,542. The DPS's effective population size is thus far below the threshold of 500 breeding animals that scientists believe is necessary to maintain long-term genetic diversity. Id. This makes wolverines vulnerable to inbreeding and genetic decline. The best available science thus shows that this incredibly low population size alone poses a threat to the population's continued genetic viability. Although the proposed rule did not conclude that small population size poses a threat on its own, it did find that small population size and low genetic diversity pose a threat to wolverines when operating in concert with climate-driven habitat loss and fragmentation. The Service found that the metapopulation structure requiring genetic exchange to maintain viability—becoming more difficult as climate change increases habitat fragmentation—further amplifies this risk. Id. Indeed, the Service found that climate-driven isolation of certain populations "would result in a high likelihood of reduced genetic diversity due to inbreeding within a few generations." Id. at 7876 (citing Cegelski et al. (2006), at 209). The Service therefore concluded that "the risk factor of small population size … is a threat to the North American wolverine DPS when considered cumulatively with habitat loss resulting from climate change." Id. at 7885.

Wolverine subpopulations—and thus, metapopulation dynamics—are also threatened by intentional and unintentional trapping. Wolverine trapping is still legal in Montana, the state that contains the majority of the remaining wolverines. 78 Fed. Reg. at 7881. From 2008 to 2012, an

average of 3.25 wolverines were legally trapped each year, in addition to an unknown level of incidental or "non-target" trapping (wolverines getting caught in traps set for other species). Id. Within a metapopulation structure, small subpopulations can be severely impacted by the loss of even a few individuals. Indeed, a 2007 study in Montana's Pioneer, Beaverhead, Anaconda-Pintler, and Flint Creek Mountain Ranges observed a 30 percent population decline over the four-year study period due to trapping, with 6 of 8 known wolverine mortalities in these ranges caused by trapping. Squires et al. (2007). Given that "[m]etapopulations require ... migration and gene flow among subpopulations" to avoid inbreeding and local extirpations, 78 Fed. Reg. at 7867, such excessive localized trapping mortality, particularly in these "island" mountain ranges located between larger areas of suitable wolverine habitat such as the Crown of the Continent and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, presents a significant threat to the species' viability. In its proposed rule, the Service acknowledged that even small numbers of mortalities "are possibly locally significant for wolverines" in areas where wolverines exist in small, isolated populations. Id. at 7881.

Wolverine trapping in Montana has been suspended since late 2012, but the suspension is not permanent. Montana's 2012-2013 trapping season was suspended by a court order in a lawsuit brought by a coalition of environmental groups. Helena Hunters & Anglers Ass'n v. Maurier, BDV-2012-868 (Mont. Dist. Ct. Nov. 30, 2012). Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks ("FWP") then suspended the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 seasons in response to the Service's proposed listing rule. See Press Release, Mont. Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Feds Seek To List Wolverine As Threatened Species (Feb. 1, 2013), available at http://fwp.mt.gov/news/newsReleases/headlines/nr_4064.html; see also Mont. Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Furbearers: 2014 Montana Hunting and Trapping Regulations, available at http://fwp.mt.gov/eBook/hunting/regulations/2014/2014furbearers/index.html. However, these temporary suspensions do not offer permanent protection. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission votes on wolverine quotas each year, and FWP could easily choose to re-open the wolverine season if the Service fails to list the wolverine under the ESA.

Incidental trapping also poses a significant threat to the species. For example, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has documented at least 7 incidents in which wolverines were incidentally trapped since 2006. Letter from Nathan Fisher, Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv. (May 17, 2010). FWS has also documented incidental take of wolverines in Montana and Wyoming. Unreported incidents of incidental trapping likely increase the toll even further beyond the number of verified incidents. Moreover, the legal wolf trapping recently instituted in Idaho and Montana could put even greater pressure on the wolverine population through incidental trapping. Wolf trapping in these two states will cover the range of the majority of the remaining wolverine population. The Service has admitted that "it is unknown whether or not increased trapping of wolves associated with wolf trapping regulations recently approved by the states of Idaho and Montana would be likely to result in increased incidental trapping of wolverines." Id. at 7882. Thus the threat of incidental trapping is already significant and is likely to intensify as wolf trapping expands in Idaho and Montana.[5]

[5] Poaching has also been a significant threat to wolverine populations in other jurisdictions. See, e.g., Persson et al. (2009). The Service has not discussed the risk to wolverines from poaching or attempted to quantify this risk.

Although the proposed rule concludes that neither intentional nor incidental trapping is a threat on its own, in fact each of these two threats—and certainly the combination of both intentional and incidental trapping—has the potential to threaten wolverine populations. Moreover, the impact of both intentional and incidental trapping will only increase as climate change further fragments habitat and threatens metapopulation dynamics. Id. at 7885. The proposed rule acknowledged this risk and found that "human-caused mortality due to harvest is likely to become more significant to the wolverine population as connectivity needs increase and connectivity simultaneously becomes more difficult." Id. The Service, thus, correctly concluded that "harvest and incidental trapping, when considered cumulatively with habitat loss resulting from climate change, are likely to become threats to the DPS." Id. at 7886.

After "carefully assess[ing] the best scientific and commercial information available" under each of these statutory listing factors, the Service's proposed rule ultimately concluded that the North American wolverine was threatened in the contiguous United States. Id. at 7886. The Service's proposed determination stated:

> We find that the contiguous United States wolverine DPS presently meets the definition of a threatened species due to the likelihood of habitat loss caused by climate change resulting in population decline leading to breakdown of metapopulation dynamics. Breakdown in metapopulation dynamics would make the DPS vulnerable to further loss of genetic diversity through inbreeding, and likely vulnerable to demographic endangerment as small subpopulations could no longer rely on demographic rescue from nearby populations. At that point wolverine populations would meet the definition of an endangered species under the Act.

Id.

The Service stated that it intended to seek review of the proposed rule by "independent specialists," per its policy on peer review, id. at 7889, but did not indicate any lack of confidence in the science on which the proposed rule relied. At the time the proposed rule was issued, the Service's interpretation of the best available science was clear: wolverines are threatened throughout their range in the contiguous United States.

C. Listing Recommendation of FWS Scientists

In a memorandum from May 2014, the Service's own scientific experts stated their support for finalizing the proposed rule and reiterated that the science used in the proposed rule represented the best available science on climate-change impacts to wolverines. Rabot Memorandum at 1. This memorandum was written by the Assistant Regional Director ("ARD") for Ecological Services in FWS's Pacific Region, summarizing the conclusions of the scientists in FWS's Montana Field Office who had worked on the listing determination. Id. The memorandum based its conclusions on a review of the proposed rule, the peer reviews of the proposed rule, and the outcome of the "science panel workshop" hosted by FWS in April 2014. Based on this information, the memorandum from the ARD stated:

> The Montana Field Office recommends that: 1) the wolverine listing be finalized as threatened under the Act, 2) that the 4(d) rule be finalized as well [with minor modifications] and, 3) that the experimental/nonessential 10(j) rule in the southern Rocky Mountains be finalized, facilitating a reintroduction effort there to proceed should the State of Colorado decide to pursue it.

Id. at 10. The ARD added, unwaveringly, "I support these recommendations." Id.

The memorandum reiterated the threat findings laid out in the proposed rule, highlighting the severity of projected climate impacts. Id. at 5-6. The memorandum also explained that the conclusions in the proposed rule (and recommended for inclusion in the final rule) were generally supported by both the peer review and the science panel workshop conducted by FWS. It noted, for instance, that "[p]eer reviews were generally supportive of the way the proposed rule presented and interpreted science." Id. at 8. However, the memorandum also noted that two of the seven peer reviewers questioned the use of the habitat model developed by Copeland et al. (2010) and thus also questioned the validity of the climate impacts predicted by McKelvey et al. (2011) because that study relied on the Copeland model. Id. at 8-9. Based on this perceived uncertainty, state wildlife directors pushed to extend the listing deadline by six months and re-evaluate the scientific information that formed the basis for the finding. Id. at 9. FWS therefore organized a science panel workshop with biologists and climate scientists, to evaluate these scientists' confidence in the results reached by the two studies at issue. Id. State wildlife officials helped organize and were present at this workshop. Id.; Science Panel Report at 16.

Despite somewhat varying views, perhaps in part because just one of the nine panelists was a recognized wolverine expert, the science panel generally confirmed the key findings on which the proposed rule was based. In evaluating Copeland et al. (2010), the ARD's memorandum stated that "[p]anelists agreed strongly that wolverines were obligate snow denners," and that "panelist scores indicated their beliefs that wolverines tended toward having an obligate relationship with contiguous snow at the home range and species[] range scales," despite somewhat wider variation on this second point. Rabot Memorandum at 9. Similarly, the ARD said that "[p]anelists indicated strong support for McKelvey et al. (2011) as an analysis of the impact of climate change to snow cover[,] indicating relatively high certainty that climate changes would reduce snow cover similarly or more severely than depicted in that paper." Id. at 10. Ultimately, the panelists supported the central conclusion of the proposed rule: "[e]ach of the panelists agreed … that by the end of the century, wolverine populations would likely be significantly affected by habitat loss due to climate changes." Id. (emphasis added).

Importantly, the Rabot Memorandum highlighted that the recommendation of threatened status is supported by the best available science on wolverines. Based on the peer reviews and "the general validation of our approach to interpreting climate science by the wolverine science panel," the ARD stated, in no uncertain terms, "we conclude that relying on Copeland et al. (2010) and McKelvey et al. (2011) as the best available scientific information regarding the effects of climate changes on wolverine habitat remains scientifically justified." Id. at 10. The ARD went on to say:

> In our review we have been unable to obtain or evaluate any other peer reviewed literature or other bodies of evidence that would lead us to a different conclusion. While we recognize there is uncertainty associated with when population effects may manifest themselves, any conclusion that there will not be population effects appears to be based on opinion and speculation. In our opinion that would not represent the best available scientific or commercial data available.

Id.

The Rabot Memorandum also provided additional information about the factors FWS took into account in determining the timing and extent of wolverine response to climate changes. It noted that the proposed rule did not explicitly define the "foreseeable future" but explained that FWS had chosen end-of-century projections based on IPCC climate models that were deemed reliable to that point. The scientists had rationally concluded that "analyses of effects to wolverine habitat based on those models would also be reliable." Id. at 11. The ARD explained that this method was similar to the method that has been used to determine the foreseeable future for listing determinations on other species. Id. at 5, 11. Despite the fact that climate models diverge toward the end of the century under different emissions scenarios, these models have tended to underestimate climate change impacts. Id. at 11. Therefore, "long-range projections are actually more likely to reflect the magnitude of impacts or be an underestimate of impacts," and thus the 2085 projections were reliable for the listing process. Id. (emphasis in original).

The ARD also rebutted the suggestion that possible ongoing expansion of the wolverine population—i.e., lone dispersers to California and Colorado—indicates that the effects of habitat loss will be minimal. To begin with, the ARD explains, "[t]he hypothesis that wolverines are still expanding" is highly uncertain. Id. at 12. Moreover, "whether or not there is still expansion potential in the southern portion of the currently occupied range … , there is not likely to be enough room to accommodate a loss of 31% [of current habitat], much less the 64% losses projected for 2085." Id.

The Rabot Memorandum made it clear, therefore, that FWS scientists continued to have confidence in the projected impact of climate change on wolverines, both on its own and in concert with other factors. The Service's own scientists thus firmly believed that the proposed rule represented the best available science and that the Service should finalize its proposed determination of threatened status for the North American wolverine within the contiguous United States.

V. The Service's Failure to Rely on the Best Available Science in Withdrawing the Proposed Listing

On August 13, 2014, FWS issued a withdrawal of its proposed listing determination for the wolverine. 79 Fed. Reg. 47,522. This withdrawal suddenly reversed course from the Service's previous determination, disregarding the best available science and the recommendations of its own scientists, and instead concluded that the wolverine faces no significant threats that make it likely that it will become endangered within the foreseeable future within all or a significant portion of its range. Id. at 47,543. The Rule Withdrawal explained

that the Service no longer believes impacts from climate change pose a risk of extinction to the wolverine DPS, despite its earlier findings to the contrary. Id.

In its Rule Withdrawal, the Service violated the ESA by failing to rely on the best available science in determining that the North American wolverine should not be listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(1)(A)(i)(IV). The Service also acted arbitrarily and capriciously in violation of the ESA by failing to draw rational conclusions from the information before it and failing to consider important aspects of the issue in making its determination. See 5 U.S.C. §§ 551 et seq.

Under the ESA, the Service may withdraw a listing proposal, but it must also publish "the finding on which such withdrawal is based." 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(6)(A). And any listing determination under the ESA—including a determination not to list a species—must be made "solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available." 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(1)(A); see also Nw. Ecosystem Alliance, 475 F.3d at 1137. Congress specifically provided that "[t]he finding on which a withdrawal is based shall be subject to judicial review." 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(6)(B)(ii).

Here, the Service failed to rely on the best available science when it erroneously determined:

A. That massive predicted losses of spring snow cover will not affect wolverine denning and reproduction in the foreseeable future, 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,543-44;
B. That wolverines do not have an obligate relationship with snow at the scale of home range and species range, and that climate-driven impacts on wolverine habitat can be reliably predicted only if wolverines are snow-obligate at all life stages, id. at 47,544;
C. That small population size, trapping, and human disturbance are insignificant threats to wolverine survival, id. at 47,541, 47,543; and
D. That the wolverine population in the contiguous United States is currently expanding, id. at 47,543, 47,536.

As set forth below, the Service violated the ESA by relying on speculation to disregard the best available science on each of these points, providing no affirmative data or information to support its contrary conclusions. The Service also failed to adequately consider whether wolverines are threatened within a significant portion of their range based on the significant contraction of their range from area they historically occupied and on the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms to ensure a viable, self-sustaining wolverine population, among other factors.

A. Best Available Science Predicts Huge Reductions in Spring Snow, Equating to Loss of Denning Habitat, at Finest Modeling Scale Possible

The best available science unequivocally shows that wolverines depend on deep spring snow for denning and reproduction, see 78 Fed. Reg. at 7866, and the best available climate modeling shows that areas with deep spring snow are likely to shrink dramatically as the climate warms, with a commensurate impact on denning habitat, McKelvey et al. (2011). FWS failed to

accept the best available science and draw rational conclusions when it claimed that this massive decline in spring snowpack—the one feature scientists know is essential for wolverine denning and reproduction—will have no foreseeable impact on wolverines' reproductive success. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,536.

The Service has admitted that the best available science clearly shows that female wolverines need persistent spring snow for denning and reproduction. Id. The evidence for this obligate relationship is overwhelming: the most recent study found that, of 562 verified natal (birthing) dens in North America and Scandinavia, every single one occurred in snow. Copeland et al. (2010), at 239. None of the peer reviewers questioned this conclusion. At the science panel workshop organized by FWS and state wildlife agencies, all panelists "agreed strongly that wolverines were obligate snow denners." Rabot Memorandum at 9; see also Science Panel Report at 32.

Nevertheless, FWS has attempted to create uncertainty about the importance of spring snow for wolverine denning by focusing on the specific date used by Copeland et al. (2010) to define persistent spring snow cover. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks first raised this issue in its comments on the proposed rule, and the Service incorporated many of these concerns into its rationale for the Rule Withdrawal. See Mont. Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Comments in Response to the Proposed Rule to List Wolverine as Threatened in the Contiguous United States 3-11 (May 6, 2013). In the Rule Withdrawal, the Service emphasized that not all dens fall within the habitat area described by May 15th snow cover (though 98 percent of dens do fall within this area), and further noted that Copeland's May 15th snow model includes areas that contained snow on that date "in as few as 1 in 7 years." 78 Fed. Reg. 47,527. But this analysis misinterprets the data presented in Copeland et al. (2010). In fact, though some sites within the model did not contain snow on May 15th of every single year, wolverines used those sites only during years when they did in fact contain deep spring snow. Copeland et al. (2010), at 239. Further, most dens (69 percent) in North America were located in areas that were snow-covered for 6 to 7 out of the 7 years studied. Id. In sum, Copeland et al. (2010) found that 100 percent of dens were located in spring snow, and 98 percent of those dens occurred in locations where the snow persisted through at least May 15th in the year they were used.[6] Id. The Service's withdrawal decision attempted to ignore this 98 percent correlation and instead drew speculative conclusions from the 2 percent of outliers. However, with such incredibly strong correspondence between female reproductive dens and deep spring snow, any assertion that wolverines do not depend on snow for denning is unjustified by the best available scientific information.

Even in those portions of its discussion where it reluctantly accepted the importance of snow for wolverine denning, the Service nonetheless claimed it cannot conclude that shrinking spring snowpack will have a foreseeable effect on wolverine denning habitat. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,534. The Service acknowledged that McKelvey et al. (2011), predicting 31 percent habitat loss by 2045 and 63 percent loss by 2085, represents "the most sophisticated analysis of impacts of climate change at a scale specific to the range of the wolverine." 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,533 Yet the Service rejected McKelvey et al. (2011) both because of its reliance on the habitat model

[6] The 2 percent (12 dens) that fell outside the May 15th snow layer were individually investigated and were determined to be snow dens.

defined by Copeland et al. (2010), as discussed above, and because McKelvey's climate modeling purportedly fails to predict habitat changes at a sufficiently precise scale for projecting impacts on individual den sites. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,533-34. Like its unfounded rejection of Copeland's habitat estimate, the Service's rejection of McKelvey's modeling scale is similarly unjustified. To begin with, by claiming that McKelvey et al.'s analysis at the 500-meter scale is insufficient, the Service is effectively contending that wolverines make their denning decisions at a scale of less than 500 meters, with no supporting evidence. Furthermore, downscaling complex global climate models is simply not possible beyond a certain point. McKelvey et al. (2011) downscaled their modeling to a degree that is consistent with the best available climate science. McKelvey et al. (2011), at 2883-84. The courts have stressed that FWS must rely on "best scientific ... data available" and "may not ignore evidence simply because it falls short of absolute scientific certainty." Nw. Ecosystem Alliance, 475 F.3d at 1147 (emphasis in original). See also Defenders of Wildlife v. Babbitt, 958 F. Supp. 670, 680 (D.D.C. 1997) ("The 'best available data' requires the agency to consider the scientific information presently available."). The Service may not, therefore, ignore a peer-reviewed scientific study that is admittedly "the best analysis to date."

Moreover, by rejecting the best state-of-the-art modeling projections, FWS is essentially saying that it cannot make any conclusions until there is evidence of den sites actually being lost due to climate change. This position violates the precautionary principle, inherent in "the ESA's 'policy of institutionalized caution,'" which applies in section 4 and throughout the Act. GYC v. Servheen, 665 F.3d at 1030 (quoting Ariz. Cattle Growers' Ass'n v. Salazar, 606 F.3d 1160, 1167 (9th Cir. 2010)). The Service's dismissal of McKelvey et al. (2011) also contradicts the recommendation of its own scientists, who found that "relying on ... McKelvey et al. (2011) as the best available scientific information regarding the effects of climate change on wolverine habitat remains scientifically justified." Rabot Memorandum at 10.

Based on its assertion that McKelvey et al. (2011) does not project impacts at a small enough scale to predict changes at specific den sites—despite the fact that this would be scientifically impossible—the Service went on to speculate that specific den sites may not actually lose spring snow cover at the same rate as the overall projected snow loss. Without predictions at the scale of individual den sites, the Service argued, the loss of persistent spring snow cover projected by McKelvey et al. (2011) does not necessarily "represent an equivalent loss of habitat." 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,535. In essence, the Service is speculating that—despite the 100 percent correlation between den sites and snow, and despite the massive acknowledged snow loss—there might be still be some den sites that remain viable, and these sites might be enough to sustain the wolverine population. FWS is also engaging in speculation when it asserts that "it is possible that wolverines may be more adaptable [to earlier snowmelt (by denning earlier)] than currently available scientific information would suggest," despite acknowledging that earlier denning has never been reported for wolverines. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,532. In making these assertions, FWS offered no affirmative data or information to support its position. Indeed, its own scientists stated that they had "been unable to attain or evaluate any other peer reviewed literature or other bodies of evidence that would lead ... to a different conclusion" about the impacts of climate change on wolverines. Rabot Memorandum at 10. Instead, the Rule Withdrawal impermissibly substituted speculation for the best available scientific information, in violation of FWS's statutory mandate. 16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(1)(A).

ESA case law makes it clear that "[t]he Service may not base its listings on speculation or surmise." Bldg. Indus. Ass'n of Superior Cal. v. Norton, 247 F.3d 1241, 1246-47 (D.C. Cir. 2001). See also Selkirk Conservation Alliance v. Forsgren, 336 F.3d 944, 954 (9th Cir. 2003). Similarly, "[i]t is not enough for the Service to simply invoke 'scientific uncertainty' to justify its action" under section 4 of the ESA. GYC v. Servheen, 665 F.3d at 1028. Indeed, the best available data standard "does not require the agency to rely on indisputable or unequivocal evidence." Cabinet Res. Grp. v. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., 465 F. Supp. 2d 1067, 1083 (D. Mont. 2006). Rather, "[e]ven if the available scientific and commercial data were quite inconclusive, [the Secretary] may—indeed must—still rely on it at that stage." Sw. Ctr. for Biological Diversity v. Babbitt, 215 F.3d 58, 60 (D.C. Cir. 2000) (quoting City of Las Vegas v. Lujan, 891 F.2d 927, 933 (D.C.Cir.1989)). Thus the Service may not rely on the uncertainty inherent in downscaled climate modeling as a reason for disregarding the best available science. Moreover, the Service must take a precautionary approach—not its current dismissive approach—in dealing with the uncertainty that does exist.

Finally, the Service speculated that even if individual den sites did lose spring snow cover, this loss might not negatively impact wolverine populations. As the Service explained, "[w]e do not appear to know at this point with any reliability what the causal relationship is between the feature of deep persistent spring snow and wolverine dens; that is, we do not understand why wolverines appear to require deep persistent spring snow for denning". 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,534. In this regard, the Service attempted to heighten the importance of understanding the causal mechanism relating snow cover to reproductive success. Id. Here again, the Service has impermissibly speculated regarding scientific uncertainties and has ignored the best available science showing a 100 percent correlation between wolverine dens and spring snowpack. Copeland et al. (2010), at 239. The Service went on to claim that, even if some den sites become unsuitable with the loss of spring snow, there is "no evidence that den sites are currently scarce or lacking, or that they currently limit wolverine reproduction" or to predict "at what level of reduced spring snow coverage den sites would become limiting." 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,534. However, even if wolverines' exact sensitivity to snow decline is not known, the Service's scientists have explained that "there is not likely to be enough room to accommodate a [habitat] loss of 31%, much less the 64% losses projected for 2085" without impacting population numbers. Rabot Memorandum at 12.

The Service also has attempted to use a recent study by Inman et al. (2013), which estimates available habitat capacity at 644 wolverines, as evidence that habitat is not currently a limiting factor for the wolverine population. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,534 (citing Inman et al. (2013)). In fact, however, that study estimated habitat capacity across the entire Western United States, including vast swaths of potential habitat in areas such as Colorado and the Sierra Nevadas where it noted that viable wolverine populations would likely only be reestablished through a reintroduction program. Inman et al. (2013), at 282-84. The study actually used current wolverine densities within occupied habitat as its baseline for determining overall carrying capacity across the Western United States, id. at 282, which suggests that the authors believed current density to be a good indicator of habitat capacity. Thus the study did not predict that there was room for significant population expansion within currently occupied wolverine habitat or areas to which wolverines could naturally expand. The study even found that "[m]aternal sites

occurred in areas of higher quality habitat," id. at 283, suggesting that den sites may actually be more susceptible to the impacts of climate change than wolverine habitat in general, rather than less (as the Service suggests). The Service's attempted use of this study to suggest that occupied habitat is not inhabited at maximum density—and thus that habitat is not a limiting factor for the wolverine population—is therefore incorrect.[7]

In sum, the Service failed to use the best available science in its attempts to discredit McKelvey et al. (2011) and to dismiss the significance of massive spring snow loss for wolverine reproduction and survival. As the Service's own scientists have said, "any conclusion that there will not be population effects appears to be based on opinion and speculation" and "would not represent the best available scientific or commercial data available." Rabot Memorandum at 10. That statement aptly characterizes the Service's ultimate determination here.

B. Best Available Science Shows That Range-Wide Habitat Is Strongly Correlated with Spring Snow

Even beyond denning season, the best available science is also clear in demonstrating that wolverines depend year-round on areas that maintain persistent spring snowpack. The model developed by Copeland et al. (2010), the best available model of current wolverine habitat, makes it clear that wolverine habitat at all scales is defined by the area maintaining persistent spring snow. Copeland et al. (2010), at 239, 242. However, the Service unjustifiably rejected Copeland et al. (2010) as the best available estimate of overall wolverine habitat because, according to the Service, this snow-driven model may not represent wolverines' year-round habitat needs at the species scale. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,533. This analysis ignores the plain conclusions of Copeland et al. (2010). That study found that 89 percent of year-round wolverine observations, including 95 percent of summer observations and 86 percent of summer locations, occurred in the area defined by persistent spring snow cover. Copeland et al. (2010), at 239. The Service's proposed rule noted this correlation and cited Copeland (2010) to support the statement that wolverines "select areas that ... reliably maintain deep persistent snow late into the warm season." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7867. But the Rule Withdrawal inexplicably ignored this earlier scientific conclusion.

The Service has attempted to support its position by citing uncertainty among the panelists at the April 2014 science panel workshop. It claimed the panelists expressed uncertainty regarding whether wolverines need persistent spring snow at the scale of the species range, or just at the scale of den sites. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,533. But in fact, the weight of the panelists' scores indicated a general belief that wolverines do have an obligate relationship with snow at the species range. Science Panel Report at 32; see also Rabot Memorandum at 9. In

[7] The Service conducted its own calculations to determine that, under the McKelvey et al. (2010) predictions with respect to habitat remaining after 2085, remaining habitat could support 344 wolverines. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,535. No available science supports this rough calculation, and it is based on "average home range sizes" of wolverines, despite the fact that home range size varies immensely across the wolverine's range and is influenced by a variety of factors. See id. at 47,534 (size of wolverine home ranges, and therefore wolverine densities, varies widely and is dependent on habitat quality).

concluding otherwise, the Service once again has chosen to speculate based on the outliers in the data, rather than making decisions based on the weight of the available evidence. Indeed, based on a review of the proposed rule, the peer reviews of the rule, and the science panel results, the Service's scientists in the Montana Field Office concluded that "relying on Copeland et al. (2010) ... as the best available scientific information ... remains scientifically justified." Rabot Memorandum at 10. The Service's sudden rejection of Copeland et al. (2010) in the Rule Withdrawal, contradicting this recommendation and the weight of the scientific evidence, thus constitutes a failure to use the best available science.

The Service also criticized Copeland et al. (2010) for its use of the May 15th date, again, because it does not represent the exact time period when kits emerge from their dens. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,527. In reality, Copeland et al. (2010) chose the May 15th date not as a representation of den emergence but as a proxy to define the area that reflects current wolverine habitat use—and indeed it correlates very well with actual habitat use, as discussed above.[8] Copeland et al. (2010), at 235. The Service also suggests that other factors besides snow might also influence habitat suitability, and that therefore a more complex habitat model such as the one developed by Inman et al. (2013) would be a more accurate approximation of overall wolverine habitat. 79 Fed. Reg. at 57,534. The Service fails to note, however, that the Inman et al. (2013) model agrees with the Copeland et al. (2010) model over 96 percent of the Western United States. Inman et al. (2013), at 283, demonstrating that adding variables to the habitat modeling did not yield different results.[9] The Service simply ignores this strong corroborating evidence in claiming that the lack of habitat factors in addition to snow results in "uncertainties" in the Copeland et al. (2010) model. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,527. These criticisms of the Copeland model are unfounded, and they fail to justify the Service's rejection of Copeland et al. (2010) as the best available scientific estimate of year-round wolverine habitat.

The Service further attempted to discount the correlation between spring snow and year-round habitat use by emphasizing that the precise mechanism or reason for this correlation is not well understood. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,534. The Service tried to use this uncertainty to confound its "foreseeable future" analysis, based on an unreasonably narrow reading of the Interior Solicitor's memorandum defining that term. See Memorandum M-37021 from Solicitor, U.S. Dep't of Interior, to Acting Dir., U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv. (Jan. 16, 2009). Because scientists do not fully understand the mechanism behind wolverines' snow-dependency, the Service asserted, changes in snow cover will not necessarily result in foreseeable impacts to the wolverine. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,534. The idea that a species is not at risk unless it is threatened at all life stages has no basis in science or in the ESA. Indeed, the ESA protects many species based on significant threats at a single life stage, recognizing that a population cannot be

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[8] The May 15th date is also consistent with Aubry et al. (2007), the authoritative scientific paper on historical wolverine distribution, which used that date to correlate historical wolverine observations with spring snow cover. Indeed, Aubry et al. found that "[s]pring snow cover was the only habitat layer that fully accounted for the distribution of historical wolverine records in the western mountains." Aubry et al. (2007), at 2153.

[9] The Rule Withdrawal incorrectly portrays the fact that Inman et al. (2013) used snow depth as of April 1, not snow cover until May 15, as a point of disagreement between the two models. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,534.

sustained if, for example, its members cannot survive and reproduce. See, e.g., Threatened Status for Central California Coast Coho Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), 61 Fed. Reg. 56,138, 56,141 (Oct. 31, 1996) ("Of particular concern is the increased sediment input into spawning and rearing areas … .").

Moreover, the Service's own scientists have explained that "[t]he precise mechanism(s) behind the relationship between wolverines and deep snow is less important than the fact that deep snow appears to be an obligate habitat feature for this species." Rabot Memorandum at 5. Therefore, the scientists conclude, the "remarkable concordance between wolverine habitat use and persistent spring snow," id. at 5, means that "climate change impacts to wolverine habitat constitute a threat" to the species, id. at 6. By ignoring the scientific evidence documenting this tight, obligate relationship between wolverines and snow—at the scale of den sites, home ranges, and species range—the Service again has failed to use the best scientific information available.

C. Best Available Science Shows that Small Population Size, Trapping, and Human Disturbance Are Significant Threats Both By Themselves and When Combined with Climate Change

The Service similarly failed to rely on the best available science when it concluded that small population size, trapping, and human disturbance did not pose significant threats to the survival of wolverines in the contiguous United States. The Service also "entirely failed to consider an important aspect of the problem," State Farm, 463 U.S. at 43, when it dismissed non-climate threats to wolverines without analyzing their potential impacts in concert with the effects of climate change. In fact, the best available science shows that both trapping and small population size are almost certainly threats to the wolverine population when working in concert with climate change, and also pose threats on their own. Human disturbance, including motorized human recreation and infrastructure development, may also pose a threat to the survival of wolverines in the contiguous United States, both on its own and in combination with the impacts of climate change.

In the proposed rule FWS concluded, based on the best available science, that "the risk factor of small population size, including measures of effective population size … , is a threat to the North American wolverine DPS when considered cumulatively with habitat loss resulting from climate change." Id. at 7885. Even without the effects of climate change, the small population size is a significant threat to the DPS. The best available science shows that an effective population size of 500 breeding animals is necessary to preserve long-term genetic diversity and viability. Id. at 7884. The best available estimate of the wolverine population in the contiguous United States is approximately 300 wolverines or fewer, with an effective population of breeding animals that is estimated to be just 35 individuals. Id.; see also Inman et al. (2013). FWS has admitted, accordingly, that the effective population size of the largest remaining population in the contiguous United States, is "below what is thought necessary for short-term maintenance of genetic diversity." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7884. The current population size is therefore insufficient to maintain the species' genetic viability, but the Service unjustifiably concluded that this small population size does not pose a threat to the North American wolverine DPS, in large part relying on an unfounded assumption that continued population growth is likely

to ameliorate the effects of small effective population size. 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,532, 47,543. The Service failed to use the best available scientific information when it made this determination.

Similarly, as the Service concluded in its proposed rule, "harvest and incidental trapping, when considered cumulatively with habitat loss resulting from climate change, are likely to become threats to the DPS." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7886. The best available science shows that trapping may also be a significant threat on its own. Montana, the state containing the most habitat and the greatest number of wolverines within the DPS, still allows wolverine trapping. Id. at 7881. Recent suspensions of the wolverine trapping season are not permanent, and trapping would likely be reinstated if FWS failed to list the wolverine under the ESA. Although the number of wolverines intentionally trapped each year has tended to be relatively small, FWS has found that even small numbers of trapping mortalities in vulnerable subpopulations "are possibly locally significant" due to the structure of the wolverine metapopulation. Id. Moreover, recently approved wolf trapping in Montana and Idaho—two states containing the vast majority of the remaining wolverine population—may "be likely to result in increased incidental trapping of wolverines." Id. at 7882. Finally, the Service's claim that "human-caused mortality has never been demonstrated to be additive or compensatory" in the DPS is incorrect – multiple scientific studies demonstrate that human-caused mortality is additive within the DPS. E.g., Krebs et al. (2007); Squires et al. (2007). The Service therefore failed to consider the best available science, and draw rational conclusions from that science, when it concluded that trapping is not and will not become a threat to wolverines, either on its own or in concert with climate change and/or small population size.

FWS also failed to consider sufficiently the threats posed by human recreation, infrastructure, and road development. Science shows that human recreation, particularly motorized recreation, may have a significant impact on wolverines. Studies have shown that denning females are extremely sensitive to human disturbance. See Copeland (1996); Magoun and Copeland (1998). Such disturbance can result in den abandonment, Banci (1994), with possible impacts on reproductive success. These impacts are likely only to increase with advances in snowmobile technology and increases in helicopter skiing, which bring motorized recreation ever farther into what was once remote wolverine habitat. FWS failed to adequately evaluate the best available science when it concluded that these impacts from human recreation pose no threat to wolverines. See 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,524.

Moreover, although the Service has repeatedly stressed the importance of connectivity for metapopulation function, e.g., 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,542, it inexplicably concluded that roads and developed infrastructure bisecting important dispersal corridors will have no effect on wolverine population dynamics, id. at 47,538. Science shows that wolverines tend to avoid areas of human infrastructure and roads. E.g., Packila et al. (2007), at 105. Scientists have also documented direct wolverine mortalities associated with roads. Inman et al. (2007b), at 89. As the Service acknowledged in the context of trapping, even these few mortalities "are possibly locally significant." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7881. Mortalities in connective areas between islands of suitable habitat are particularly significant because metapopulation dynamics may break down—which could mean "the entire metapopulation may jeopardized"—if individuals cannot disperse between subpopulations. 78 Fed. Reg. at 7867. Indeed, several peer reviewers of the proposed rule suggested that threats to connectivity due to increasing human development may be even

more significant than threats due to climate change. Inman Peer Review at 22; Magoun Peer Review at 35, 39. Whatever the merit of this comparative assertion, the Service has failed to rely on the best available scientific information when it concluded that these threats to connectivity are insignificant.

D. Assertions of Current Population Expansion Are Based on Speculation

Lastly, the Service's Rule Withdrawal speculated that the wolverine population in the contiguous United States is expanding, and claimed this expansion indicates that climate impacts will not be as severe as predicted by McKelvey et al. (2011). See, e.g., 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,543. In speculating about population expansion, the Service fails to rely on the best available science showing that significant expansion of reproducing populations is unlikely. The Service cited recent instances of individual wolverines dispersing to Colorado and the Sierra Nevadas as evidence that the population is expanding its range. Id. at 47,535. But individual male dispersers do not provide evidence that wolverines would be capable of establishing new reproducing populations in these currently uninhabited areas. Indeed, the best available science shows that females tend to disperse less frequently and over shorter distances than males. E.g., Inman et al. (2013), at 281-82; 79 Fed. Reg. at 47,535. Moreover, rather than indicating population expansion, male dispersal could just as easily indicate that currently occupied habitat is already degrading due to climate change or other factors. These two individual anecdotes of male dispersal therefore do not support the Service's bold assertion that the wolverine population is expanding. In nevertheless choosing to construe these data as demonstrating population expansion, the Service has engaged in nothing more than a coin flip.

E. Wolverines are Threatened in a Significant Portion of their Range

In addition to these threats within currently occupied wolverine habitat, wolverine populations are also threatened in a significant portion of their overall range due to the substantial contraction of the species' historical range. Aubry et al. (2007), which compiled a variety of types of historical data to estimate historical range, is recognized as "the best available summary of wolverine occurrence records in the contiguous United States." 78 Fed. Reg. at 7869. That study found that wolverines' historical range extended far beyond their current range to include Colorado, California, Utah, and New Mexico in the western mountain states, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan in the Upper Great Lakes region, and even included sparse but detectable presence in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, and Pennsylvania in the Northeast. Aubry et al. (2007), at 2150. None of these areas currently contain wolverine populations. 78 Fed. Reg. at 7871-72.

The loss of wolverine populations in these historically occupied areas constitutes a dramatic contraction of the wolverine's range. Inman et al. (2013), for example, indicates that wolverines no longer exist in nearly half of their suitable range in the western United States. Inman et al. (2013), at 282. Indeed, Inman et al. found that the Southern Rockies alone contain 21 percent of suitable habitat in the western United States, id. at 284, yet no breeding populations have existed there for at least 50 years, Aubry et al. (2007), at 2150. The ESA defines a threatened species as one that is likely to become endangered "throughout all or a significant portion of its range." 16 U.S.C. § 1532(20). The total extirpation of wolverine populations from

these vast expanses of habitat warrants a finding that wolverines are threatened throughout a significant portion of the species' range.

VI. Conclusion

As set forth in this letter, FWS violated the ESA in its determination that the North American wolverine distinct population segment in the contiguous United States is not threatened or endangered. The Service failed to rely on the best available scientific information in determining that climate change and other threats will not significantly impact the North American wolverine in the foreseeable future. The Service also failed to draw rational conclusions from the scientific information before it. If the Service does not retract its Rule Withdrawal and issue a final rule listing the North American wolverine as threatened within the contiguous United States within 60 days of the receipt of this letter, the parties to this notice letter will institute a legal action to challenge the Service's determination in federal district court.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Preso
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Western Environmental Law Center

Sent via U.S. Mail (Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested) and e-mail

August 15, 2014

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Re: **Additional notifier – Sixty-day notice of intent to sue for violating Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act in deciding not to list a distinct population segment of the North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo lucus*) occurring in the contiguous United States.**

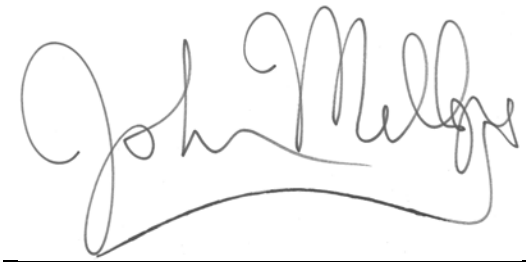
On August 13, 2014, the Western Environmental Law Center submitted written notice of the intent of a number of organizations to sue the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for violations of Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) related to its decision to not list a distinct population segment (DPS) of wolverine occurring in the contiguous United States as a threatened species under the ESA.

This letter is submitted on behalf of Wildlands Network and serves as notice that they intend to sue the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for violations of Section 4 of the ESA in its decision to not list the wolverine under the ESA. Wildlands Network submits an identical notice letter to that already submitted, however including their organization as a signatory. This notice does not supercede or

otherwise alter the previous notice already submitted on behalf of other conservation organizations.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



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August 15, 2014

SENT VIA U.S. MAIL (RETURN RECEIPT) AND E-MAIL

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Re: Sixty-day notice of intent to sue for violating Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act in deciding not to list a distinct population segment of the North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo lucus*) occurring in the contiguous United States.

Dear Secretary Jewell and Director Ashe:

The Western Environmental Law Center (WELC) hereby provides this sixty-day notice of intent to sue for violations of Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. §1533, in deciding not to list a distinct population segment (DPS) of North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo lucus*) occurring in the contiguous United States (hereinafter "wolverine").

This notice is provided by WELC on behalf of the following organizations and individuals, all of which have a significant, concrete interest in ensuring the long-term survival and recovery of wolverine in the contiguous United States and ensuring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) utilizes the best available science when making listing decisions: *WildEarth Guardians, Friends of the*

Bitterroot, Friends of the Wild Swan, the Swan View Coalition, Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wildlands, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the Cottonwood Environmental Law Center, George Wuerthner, the Kootenai Environmental Alliance, Footloose Montana, Native Ecosystems Council, and *the Helena Hunters and Anglers Association.*

On August 13, 2014, the Service published a notice in the Federal Register (Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2012-0107) announcing its decision to withdraw the proposed rule to list wolverine as a threatened species under the ESA (78 Fed. Reg. 7864 (February 4, 2013)) and finding that wolverine are not warranted for listing as an endangered or threatened species (hereinafter "listing decision" or "decision").

According to the Service, listing wolverines is not warranted because it believes: (1) the wolverine's range may be "expanding" in the contiguous United States and suitable habitat is and will remain available (even under conditions of future reduced snowpack from climate change); (2) non-climate related threats to wolverine, including an already small population size (actual and effective), timber management, winter recreation, land development, transportation corridors, natural mortality, trapping (incidental and intentional), and travel management – by themselves or in the aggregate – pose <u>no threat</u> to wolverine; and (3) there is insufficient evidence to reasonably conclude that climate change poses a threat to wolverine or its habitat in the foreseeable future.

Regarding climate change, the Service maintains information on an obligate relationship between wolverines and the need for persistent snow at the home range or DPS level is lacking (the Service admits such a relationship exists for denning) and that it cannot reliably predict – at the appropriate scale – how the loss of snow from climate change will impact denning sites. According to the Service, McKelvey et al. (2011) does not provide, and it does not have, the fine scale resolution of climate change models (or certainty in those models) which it maintains is necessary to make a listing determination. The Service also maintains there is too much uncertainty over whether den sites for wolverines will become a limiting factor in the foreseeable future or whether habitat connectivity for wolverine will no longer be maintained to warrant listing. The Service is wrong.

In deciding not to list wolverine, the Service failed to see the proverbial forest for the trees. The Service focused so much on the fine details and lack of "certain predictions," "fine scale" data, "precise mechanisms," and "definitive" conclusions on how climate change will impact wolverines – data that is both impractical and nearly impossible to obtain – in order justify not listing (likely in response to political pressure from Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming) that it failed to see the big picture and the larger cause and effect principles at play, i.e. , that a warming climate

will most likely result in a detrimental impact on wolverine. There is general agreement amongst the scientific community that wolverine are a cold-climate dependent species that rely on snow (for denning and likely other benefits) and that the amount of snow within the range of wolverine will continue to decrease in the foreseeable future in response to a warming climate.

While some uncertainties exist and will always exist – indeed, there are many things we may never know about wolverines – the "best available science" – including the findings and recommendations of the Service's own biologists, the peer-reviewed papers on wolverines and the likely impacts of climate change referenced in the Service's proposed rule, two peer-reviewed panels (February, 2013 and April, 2014), the Society of Conservation Biologists North American Section (SCB), the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM), and fifty-six scientists (*see* Attachments)– reveals that the wolverine warrants protective status under the ESA's "best available science" standard because they are a snow-dependent species threatened by climate change.

As detailed below, the Service wholly failed to grasp and apply the ESA's "best available science" standard – as directed by Congress – and issued a decision not to list wolverines that is arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with law.

Best available science

Pursuant to Section 4(b)(1)(A), 16 U. S.C. § 1533 (b)(1)(A), the Service's implementing regulations, and the Service's 2011 policy on scientific integrity, the Service must make all listing determinations "solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available." The Service failed to do so when deciding not to list wolverine.

The standard – often referred to as the "best available science" standard – does not require scientific certainty (assuming it even exists) or prohibit the Service from making listing decisions in the face of uncertainty or even scientific disagreement. On the contrary, reliance upon the best available science, as opposed to requiring absolute scientific certainty, "is in keeping with congressional intent" that an agency "take preventive measures before a species is 'conclusively' headed for extinction." *Defenders of Wildlife v. Babbitt,* 958 F. Supp. 670, 679–80 (D.D.C.1997) (emphasis in original); *see also American Wildlands v. Norton,* 193 F.Supp.2d 244, 251 (D.D.C.2002) (same). As such, contrary to the Service's listing decision, "definitive conclusions" are not required.

As explained by the Service when listing Canada lynx: "We agree that additional studies of lynx are necessary to better understand the dynamics and requirements of lynx populations in the contiguous United States . . . However, the [ESA] does not allow us to defer a listing decision based on the need for more research. Most scientists would agree that there is always a need for more research, but listing decisions cannot be postponed based on this premise when known threats to the species are present that may result in a species' trend toward extinction." 65 Fed. Reg. 16052, 16064 (March 24, 2000); *see also* 55 Fed. Reg. 26114, 26128 (June 26, 1990)(Northern spotted owl) (because the Service used "the best data available . . . [it was] not obligated to have data on all aspects of a species' biology prior to reaching a determination on listing."); 61 Fed. Reg. 25813, 24817 (May 23, 1996) (California red-legged frog) (deciding to list species even though many aspects of the species' status were "not completely understood"). A similar approach should have been (but was not) applied with respect to wolverine.

Indeed, instead of recognizing that some degree of speculation and uncertainty will always exist – especially when dealing with a rare and elusive creature like wolverine and imprecise climate change models – the Service insisted on "fine scale" data and proof of the "precise mechanism(s)" demonstrating how climate change will negatively impact wolverine habitat, including denning. This is an impracticable and impossible approach that conflicts with the ESA's "best available science" standard.

Specifically, in deciding not to list wolverine, the Service failed to utilize the ESA's best available science standard in a number of respects.

First, the Service inappropriately manipulated its decision by relying on certain, select sources of information and "cloner" comments from certain individuals and states like Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming (not made available for public review and comment) to the exclusion of other, more reliable sources including, but not limited to, the peer-reviewed studies cited and referenced in the proposed listing rule and in comments submitted by WELC and other organizations, the findings of the Service's own biologists, the findings of two peer-review panels (February, 2013 and April, 2014), and the findings of the SCB, ASM, and fifty-six scientists, *see* Attachments. This is not allowed. *See Southwest Center for Biological Diversity v. Norton,* 2002 WL 1733618. *8 (D. D.C. 2002).

For example, the Service's listing decision relied heavily on the State of Idaho's comments and data (not subjected to peer review) on the issue of whether snow decline equates to year round habitat decline for wolverine while disregarding the findings of Copeland et al. (2010), on this very subject. The Service also places

too much emphasis on single, isolated dispersal events (single wolverine traveling to Colorado, for example) to support its finding that the population is expanding and that increased fragmentation from smaller and more isolated pockets of wolverine habitat is not a problem even though: (1) no regional studies or surveys on expansion have been undertaken and no evidence of reproduction in these "new" areas exists; and (2) McKelevy et al. (2011) says increased fragmentation is a problem. A wolverine's ability and capacity to travel through areas of unsuitable habitat does not undermine McKelevy et al. (2011)'s findings regarding anticipated loss of connectivity. These are just a few examples.

Second, and discussed throughout this notice and in WELC's and others' comments on the proposed rule, the Service disregarded scientifically superior evidence on wolverine (including evidence on the wolverine's historic and current status and range and threats to the species and its habitat). The Service's unexplained disregard of scientifically superior, peer reviewed papers while relying on non-peer reviewed and politically motivated comments and concerns from Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming and others conflicts with the ESA's best available science standard. *Id*.

For example, in electing not to list wolverine, the Service discounted and failed to utilize the best available science on how various threats to the species, including an already low total and effective population size in the contiguous United States, climate change, winter recreation (*see* Heinemeyer et al.'s on-going research in Idaho), lack of protective areas (recent research from Canada reveals wolverines do better in wilderness and protected parks with less human disturbance), travel planning, transportation corridors, development, trapping (incidental and intentional) and timber management may – individually and in the aggregate – threaten wolverine, wolverine habitat and range, and the ability of wolverine to move between sub-populations within the contiguous United States and between wolverine in the contiguous United States and wolverine in Canada (connectivity). The Service also failed to analyze these threats across all or a "significant portion" of the wolverine's historic range and failed to account for and consider the amount of historic wolverine habitat already lost.

Notably, in the listing decision, the Service focused mainly on the impacts of climate change and, in so doing, failed to utilize the best available science on these and other non-climate stressors. The best available science – including peer-reviewed papers cited in the proposed rule and papers submitted and cited in comments on the proposed rule (including those from WELC) – reveal wolverines – whose total numbers range from 250-300 individuals in the contiguous United

States (with a much smaller effective population) – qualify for threatened or endangered status in the absence of the threats from climate change.

The Service also disregarded (without citing any new studies) scientifically superior evidence on climate change and how it may impact wolverine, including but not limited to research from the Rocky Mountain Research Station and the peer-reviewed papers cited in the proposed rule, including McKelvey et al. (2011) and the papers it relies on. The Service even disregarded the recommendations of its own biologists, including the Field Supervisor of the Montana Ecological Services Office's May, 2014, recommendation to list wolverine in light of the foreseeable threats from climate change and the findings of the February, 2013, and April, 2014, peer review panels, the SCB, and ASM. As mentioned above, the Service also failed to cite any new peer-reviewed paper published since McKelvey et al. (2011) that supports its findings or would otherwise warrant an about face on listing.

The majority of scientists believe McKelvey et al. (2011) and the other scientific, peer-reviewed papers analyzed by the Service in developing the proposed rule represent the best available science on wolverine. The majority of scientists also believe there is no legitimate scientific dispute that: (1) wolverines are dependent on cold and snowy conditions and habitat that is covered by snow until late spring for denning (and likely foraging); and (2) that climate change models predict a loss of snowpack within wolverine habitat in the DPS.

Third, as mentioned above, the Service failed to recognize that under the ESA's best available science standard, relatively minor flaws in scientific data or the absence of "precise mechanisms" do not render that information unreliable. The criticisms of Copeland et al. (2010) and McKelevy et al. (2011), for example, focus on small mechanisms of the snow model used, but do not undermine or disprove the model itself. As the Service's own biologist explains, the "precise mechanism" behind the relationship between wolverines and deep snow is "less important" than the fact that deep snow appears to be an obligate habitat feature for this species."

The Service's listing decision admits that McKelvey et al. (2011) and the studies it relies on are considered the "best available science" on wolverine. As outlined above, any uncertainty that may exist (due to the scale used) over how climate change and other threats may impact wolverines is inherently part of the listing determination and consistent with the best available science standard. Such uncertainty, therefore, cannot and should not be used (as it was in the wolverine decision) to deprive a species of protective measures under the ESA. The ESA "contains no requirement that the evidence be conclusive in order for a species to be

listed. Application of such a stringent standard violates the plain terms of the statute." *Defenders of Wildlife v. Babbitt*, 958 F. Supp. 670, 679 (D.D.C. 1997).

Fourth, and related to the discussion above, the Service's listing decision – as discussed above – mistakenly requires the "best data possible" on climate change and how it may impact wolverine when the standard under the ESA only requires the best data "available."

Fifth, the Service's listing decision mistakenly insists on having "conclusive" data or the ability to draw "definitive conclusions" on how climate change will affect wolverine when, as mentioned above, this is not required or expected by Section 4 of the ESA. Nor is the Service required to conduct or obtain new, independent research to improve the pool of existing, available data. The ESA anticipates and expects that in certain situations, like those circumstances presented for wolverine, the Service must and should rely on even inconclusive or uncertain information if that is the "best available science" at the time the decision is made. "Definitive conclusions" and "precise mechanisms" are not required, likely possible, or expected in the ESA.

Sixth, under the "best available science" standard and in accordance with the precautionary principle and Congress' intent in the ESA to be proactive, any ambiguity or uncertainty should weigh in favor of listing. In other words, the "benefit of the doubt" should go to providing protective ESA status to wolverine while additional studies and research is obtained.

Based on the best available science, the Service should adopt a precautionary approach, provide wolverine protective ESA status, and then seek to better understand wolverine, the species' habitat needs and relationship to cold, snow-dependent environments, and how climate change and other threats will impact the species. Once this information is obtained, the Service could then decide to maintain the wolverine's listing status, upgrade the species' status, or de-list the species in response to the information and data obtained. In the meantime, however, wolverine would be protected in the face of scientific "uncertainty" (assuming it even exits) about the degree of threats.

Finally, under the ESA's "best available science" standard, the Service must manage and consider all the evidence and data submitted to the Agency in an open and transparent manner. This did not occur. The public was never given the opportunity to review and comment on the "key" decision documents that prompted the Service to reverse course on its earlier, proposed rule to list wolverines (a single leaked memo does not suffice). Nor did the Service subject its

final listing decision, which reverses its earlier findings, to peer review in direct contravention of the Service's own policy, *see* 59 Fed. Reg. 34270 (July 1, 1994).

In sum, listing wolverine is warranted because the best available science reveals the current population is dangerously low, there are known and documented threats to wolverine, and that these threats may result in a trend towards extinction.

Misapplication of the ESA's standards

As mentioned above, the Service's listing decision is premised on a misapplication of the term "best available science." The Service's listing decision is also premised on a misapplication of the term "threatened" and "endangered" as used and applied in the ESA.

Pursuant to the ESA, a species is "threatened" if it is "likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range." 16 U.S.C. § 1532(20). A species is "endangered" if it is "in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." 16 U.S.C. § 1532(6). Construction of this language must be based on the best available science. *See Trout Unlimited v. Lohn*, 645 F.Supp. 2d 929, 947, 948 (D. Or. 2007); *Western Watersheds Project v. Foss*, 2005 WL 2002473, *15-17 (D. Id. 2005).

"Likely to become endangered" means "likely" to be "in danger of extinction." *Lohn*, 645 F.Supp. 2d at 948. "'[L]ikely' clearly means something less than 100% certain, but how much less is not as clear." *Id.* at 945. A reasonable construction of "likely" is at least a 50% chance (more likely than not). *Id.* at 949. In any case, the level of certainty relied upon by the Service must be based on consideration of the relevant statutory factors using the best available science. *Id.* at 947.

Likewise, "in danger of extinction" is not a fixed term, but its construction must be grounded in the best available science. *See id.* at 948. Certainly, "in danger of extinction" does not mean a "high risk of extinction." *Western Watersheds Project*, 2005 WL 2002473, *17 (D. Id. 2005). "Instead, the required danger level for extinction necessarily depends on the applicable scientific viability assessments for the particular species." *Lohn*, 645 F.Supp. at 948. For example, 1-5% risk of extinction in 100 years can create a discernible risk of extinction. *Foss*, 2005 WL 2002473, *15 (citing *Center for Biological Diversity v. Lohn*, 296 F.Supp.2d 1223, 1232 (W.D.Wash.2003)).

The term "foreseeable future" must also be defined by reference to the best available science. *See Foss*, 2005 WL 2002473, *15-17. As the Service recognized in a 2009 Solicitor Memorandum, "[t]he Secretary's analysis of what constitutes the foreseeable future for a particular listing determination must be rooted in the best available data that allow predictions into the future, and the foreseeable future extends only so far as those predictions are reliable. 'Reliable' does not mean 'certain'; it means sufficient to provide a reasonable degree of confidence in the prediction, in light of the conservation purposes of the Act." M-Opinion 37021 at 13. What must be avoided is "speculation." *Id.* at 8.

The corollary is that the Service may not dismiss a risk of extinction that may be reasonably forecasted by science. *See Foss*, 2005 WL 2002473, *15-17. It "defies common sense" to define "foreseeable future" to exclude the timeframe in which [the best available science] predict[s] extinction. *Id.* at 15. Prediction of the future is necessarily grounded in the "data and logic" of today. M-Opinion 37021 at 8. As one court reasoned, if a species will be endangered in the future if current circumstances continue, "it is clearly threatened today." *Biodiversity Legal Found. v. Babbitt*, 943 F. Supp. 23, 25 n.5 (D.D.C. 1996).

With respect to wolverine, the Service failed to properly apply the ESA's standards for "threatened" and "endangered" and the terms included therein when deciding not to list, requiring instead "certain predictions," "fine scale" data, "precise mechanisms," and "definitive" conclusions to support listing.

As explained by the SCB and ASM, the Service's own policy (M-Opinion 37021) "does not preclude use of predictive modeling approaches that are well-supported in the scientific literature, such as those used to project future effects of climate change on snow cover, and the of loss of habitat components such as snow cover on species dependent on or limited by these factors." *See* Attachments. But in the case of wolverine, the Service mistakenly interprets its own policy guidance "to require data – specifically 'experimental evidence' – that in all likelihood would be impractical or impossible to obtain for a rare free-living mammal." *Id.* The Service's decision, therefore, "represents an arbitrarily narrow interpretation of the M-Opinion that, if generally applied, would substantially limit the ability of science to inform listing determinations." *Id*.

The Service also failed to properly define and apply the phrase "significant portion of its range" when: (1) deciding not to list wolverine; and (2) defining the phrase in its Final Policy on Interpretation of the Phrase "Significant Portion of Its Range," 79 Fed. Reg. 37577 (July 1, 2014).

Under the ESA, the Service must consider a species' status – in this case the DPS of wolverine in the entire contiguous United States – across a "significant portion of its range" in making listing determinations. *Defenders of Wildlife v. Norton*, 258 F.3d 1136 (9th Cir. 2001). The phrase "significant portion of its range" can mean, among other things, a "major geographical area[] in which [the species] is no longer viable but once was. Those areas need not coincide with national or state political boundaries, although they can." *Defenders of Wildlife,* 258 F. 3d at 1145-46. The phrase *does not* mean that threats in the "significant portion" must render the entire species at risk of extinction. *Id.* at 1141. On the contrary, legislative history demonstrates that the phrase was intended to allow for protection in one area even if a species is abundant or overabundant in another area. *Id*. at 1144. Nor is there any bright-line percentage of habitat that must be affected in order for an area to be "significant." *Id*. at 1143. For a species with a small historical range, even a very small percentage loss of habitat may be "significant." *Id.*

Notably, the Service cannot interpret the phrase in a way that excludes analysis of the wolverine's historic range. *Tucson Herpetological Soc. v. Salazar*, 566 F.3d 870, 876 (9th Cir. 2009). Rather, the task of defining the phrase includes quantification of the wolverine's historic range and an evaluation of whether the lost habitat amounts to a "significant portion" of that range. *Id.* Nor may the Service look only to the health of the wolverine population in certain areas while turning a blind eye to threats in areas where the population is either extirpated or home to only a few individuals. "It is insufficient, under *Defenders of Wildlife*, to point to one area or class of areas where [a species'] populations persist to support a finding that threats to the species elsewhere are not significant . . . ." *Tucson Herpetological Soc.*, 566 F.3d at 877. The ESA requires more. *Id.*

Here, the Service never engaged in a proper "significant portion of its range" analysis with respect to wolverine. The Service, for example, failed to quantify and explain whether the loss of the DPS's historic range in the contiguous United States amounts to a "significant portion" and inappropriately supported its finding of non-significance by looking only to the health of wolverine populations in certain areas (including populations outside the DPS). The Service failed to analyze and explain whether the wolverine's lost, historic habitat in the contiguous United States, which includes, but is not limited to, large portions of the Sierras in California, the entire Southern Rockies (from north-central New Mexico, throughout Colorado, and south-central Wyoming), Oregon's and large portions of Washington's Cascade Mountains, portions of Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Nevada (as well as portions of Michigan and Wisconsin) qualifies a "significant portion of its range" for listing purposes.

In sum, in electing not to list the DPS of wolverine in the contiguous United States, the Service never examined whether the DPS is endangered or threatened "across a significant portion of its range" as that phrase is to be defined under the ESA. Nor does the Service's new, July 1, 2014, policy defining the phrase (assuming it was applied), see 79 Fed. Reg. 37577, remedy the violation.

The Service's new policy demands that a high threshold be reached before a species can be considered endangered or threatened throughout a "significant portion of its range." Specifically, the policy (1) excludes lost historical range, and (2) requires that the existence of members in the "significant portion" of a species' range be essential to ensuring that the species is not "endangered" or "threatened" across its entire range. 79 Fed. Reg. at 37609. This is not what Congress intended.

As described above and outlined in *Defenders of Wildlife,* the ESA requires the Service to analyze where lost historical range qualifies as a "significant portion." 258 F. 3d at 1145. *Defenders of Wildlife* also holds that a species may be endangered or threatened across one portion of its range even if, in another part of its range, the species is so abundant that the animals are overrunning the human population. *Id.* at 1144. As *Defenders of Wildlife* pointed out, the ESA's text seems to be premised on the following maxim: "There seems to be a tacit assumption that if grizzlies survive in Canada and Alaska, that is good enough. It is not good enough for me. . . . Relegating grizzlies to Alaska is about like relegating happiness to heaven; one may never get there." *Id.* at 1145 n. 11 (quoting Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac 277 (1966)).

With respect to wolverine, it is not "good enough" under the ESA to relegate wolverines to Alaska and Canada – or even to small portions of the contiguous United States (Montana) – while turning a blind eye to the species' lost and shrinking habitats throughout its historic range in the contiguous United States. Nor can the Service rely on "healthy" wolverine populations in Canada or Alaska (populations outside the DPS) to deprive wolverine in the contiguous United States – the DPS – protective status. When evaluating "significant portion of a species range" the Service must limit the analysis to the species' range; in this case the "species" is the contiguous United States DPS of wolverine.

The Service also places inappropriate weight on its finding that threats to the wolverine are not "geographically concentrated." However, this is not the test. Significant portions of the wolverine's range may be disappearing even though the culprit is widespread climate change, not more pinpoint threats.

The Service's interpretation of the phrase "significant portion of its range," therefore, as applied to the wolverine listing decision and as outlined in its new policy, 79 Fed. Reg. 37577, is inconsistent with the ESA. And, if the Service did rely on the new policy, doing so violated the notice and comment requirements because the policy was in draft form for over two years and was not cited or relied on in the proposed rule.

Insufficient data to support decision in the record

Pursuant to the ESA and APA, the Service's listing decision must be supported by reliable and meaningful data and evidence and there must be a rational connection between the facts found in the record and the ultimate choice made. *See Defenders of Wildlife v. Babbitt*, 958 F. Supp. 670 (D.D.C. 1997).

Here, the Service's listing decision fails to provide biological support and data for its findings that the wolverine population in the United States is "growing and expanding." There is some evidence of a small recovery in Washington's North Cascades but beyond that there is no meaningful evidence or data demonstrating wolverine are expanding their range within the contiguous United States. No state or regional surveys at the necessary scale have been conducted. A single individual wolverine walking to Colorado or the Sierras does not equate to growth and expansion. Nor does documenting a few individual wolverines in northeastern Oregon or a single wolverine in Utah. These events are likely nothing "new" (anecdotal reports of wolverine sightings in these states have always existed) and certainly are not evidence of a population increase or expansion. Indeed, no evidence exists suggesting that these events have resulted in colonization of an area with successful breeding.

The Service's listing decision also fails to provide sufficient biological support and data for its finding: (1) that the total habitat capacity for wolverine in the entire contiguous United States is only 644 wolverines (well below the habitat capacity in western Canada) and that the "current population size is approximately half of capacity"; (2) that the current population level (actual and effective) of wolverine in the contiguous United States – assuming it is approximately 300 total with an unknown effective population – is stable and not a threat to the species or reason (by itself) to list (irrespective of the Service's climate change findings); (3) that effective population size would never reach a 100 wolverine, even at full habitat capacity and that demographic stochasticity and loss of genetic diversity due to small effective population sizes is not a threat to wolverine; (4) that there is no evidence or data to suggest the impacts to wolverine habitat from climate change are "currently occurring" (see WELC's May 5, 2014, comments and the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC's) Fifth Assessment Report (March 31, 2014)); (5) that more information and data, including "precise mechanisms," are needed in order to predict that climate change will adversely impact wolverine habitat and range in the foreseeable future and that an analysis of the impacts of climate change on wolverine must be at a scale fine enough to deal with the site specific characteristics of den sites; (6) that wolverine den sites are currently not scarce or lacking or otherwise limiting wolverine reproduction and population abundance (the Service does not mention or discuss the fact that the vast majority of den sites – including all in Colorado – are likely unoccupied by wolverine due to low numbers); (7) that insufficient information exists demonstrating that climate change will negatively impact wolverine dens, den success, or other habitat; (8) that a projected loss of 31% and 63% of areas with snow cover persisting until mid-May does not represent the equivalent loss or an approximate loss of wolverine habitat; (9) that insufficient information exists demonstrating that climate change will result in reduced connectivity and genetic exchange between sub-populations of wolverine in the foreseeable future; (10) that the Service can only predict a decline of wolverine habitat from climate change if wolverine have an obligate relationship "with snow for all stages."; (11) that "secondary threats" to wolverine identified in the proposed rule, as well as other anthropogenic threats to wolverine (e.g., winter recreation, transportation corridors) do not individually or in the aggregate pose a threat to wolverine or that the best available science does not substantiate that such activities, including dispersed recreation, pose a threat to wolverine; (12) that legal wolverine trapping in Montana is not a threat to the population, that reduced harvest levels in Montana over the years are not due to reduced numbers of wolverines (just shorter seasons), and that known and future rates of incidental trapping in Montana and other states is not a threat to the species; (13) that the primary concern about the future of wolverines is associated with the availability of den sites; (14) that the available evidence does not indicate listing is warranted; (15) that wolverines "coexist with some level of human disturbance and habitat modification"; (16) that "even under future conditions of projected habitat loss" there would be sufficient habitat available in the contiguous U.S. to "potentially continue supporting wolverine populations at roughly the same level of abundance as at present"; and (17) that climate change, by itself or in conjunction with other threats (trapping, small population, winter recreation, development, etc…) does not pose a threat to wolverine or its habitat in the foreseeable future such that wolverines warrant listing under the ESA.

Having such biological support and data is especially important in this case, where the Service's finding that wolverine do not warrant listing under the ESA contradicts the Service's earlier findings in the proposed rule, the extensive comments submitted by WELC and other organizations and agencies (which the

Service neglected to properly respond to) and even the recommendations from the Service's biologists, two peer reviewed panels, and the SCB, ASM, and fifty-six scientists. *See* Attachments. The Service can "draw conclusions based on less than conclusive scientific evidence, [but] it cannot base its conclusions on no evidence." *National Assoc. of Home Builders v Norton*, 340 F.3d 835, 847 (9th Cir. 2003).

Reliance on conservation efforts

Pursuant to Section 4(b)(1)(A), 16 U. S.C. § 1533 (b)(1)(A), and the Service's implementing regulations, the Service must make listing determinations after "conducting a review of the status of the species and after taking into account those efforts, if any, being made by any State" to protect such species.

Under the ESA, the Service can rely on conservation efforts, including state-initiated efforts, so long as they are binding and current, not voluntary or future, and have a proven track record of success. *See Save Our Springs v. Babbitt*, 27 F. Supp. 2d 739, 748 (W.D. Tex. 1997); *Oregon Natural Res. Council v. Daley*, 6 F. Supp. 2d 1139, 1153 (D. Or. 1998); *Fed'n of Fly Fishers v. Daley*, 131 F. Supp. 2d 1158, 1165 (N.D. Cal. 2000); *Ctr. For Biological Diversity v. Morgenweck*, 351 F. Supp. 2d 1137, 1141 (D. Colo. 2004). A sufficient track record of success is two years. *Save Our Springs*, 27 F.Supp. 2d at 748. Any conservation effort relied upon by the Service must also have been submitted for public notice and comment. *Id*.; *see also Morgenweck*, 351 F. Supp. 2d at 1141.

In the listing decision, the Service inappropriately relies on non-binding state efforts such as, but not limited to, Idaho's, Wyoming's, and other states' bans on wolverine trapping and Montana's restrictions on wolverine trapping (including the current injunction prohibiting wolverine trapping). These state regulations are insufficient because they may be withdrawn or amended at any time and deal only with a small portion of the species' range and habitat.

Reliance on state efforts, such as trapping restrictions, is particularly inappropriate where the state requirements are less stringent than the requirements of the ESA. The ESA was intended to establish a federal floor for wildlife protection. Thus, in Section 4(b)(1)(A), Congress's aim was to prevent disruption of a state conservation program that would be *more* protective of a species than required under the ESA. *See* H.R. Rep. No. 93-412, p. 14 (1973) ("the State powers to regulate in a more restrictive fashion or to include additional species remain unimpaired."). If the wolverine were listed, it would be protected from all forms of "take," including "harvest" that is "sustainable" or spread "equitably" throughout a state.

Five listing factors

The Service's listing decision also violates Section 4(a)(1) of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1533(a)(1).

Pursuant to Section 4(a)(1) of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1533(a)(1), and the Service's implementing regulations, the Service is required to determine whether a species is threatened or endangered because of any of the following factors: (A) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of the species' range; (B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (C) disease or predation; (D) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and (E) other man-made factors affecting the species' continued existence. *Tucson Herpetological Soc'y v. Salazar*, 566 F.3d 870, 873 (9th Cir. 2009) (citing 16 U.S.C. § 1533(a)(1); 50 C.F.R. § 424.11(c)). These factors are listed in the disjunctive so any one or combination of them can be sufficient for a finding that a species qualifies as threatened or endangered.

In deciding not to list wolverine, the Service failed to carefully consider and adequately apply Section 4(a)(1)'s listing factors in accordance with the ESA and the Service's implementing regulations.

Specifically, the Service failed to support its findings with sufficient and reliable evidence, including, as mentioned above, the best available, peer-reviewed science on wolverine and threats to wolverine. The Service also relied on unproven and unreliable methods to support its findings and failed to properly define the wolverine's range (both historic and present) and habitat within the contiguous United States. In addition, the Service failed to adequately consider historic population numbers (actual and trend) and current population numbers (actual and trend).

In applying the ESA's five listing factors, the Service also failed to consider and analyze how climate change is already and will continue to directly, indirectly, and cumulatively impact wolverine and a "significant portion" of the wolverine's range and habitat (both denning and foraging and core and secondary) in the contiguous United States.

Likewise, the Service erroneously discounted and did not adequately analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of winter recreation, timber management, an already small total and effective population size, transportation corridors, climate change, travel planning, development, and trapping (for both

other species in occupied wolverine habitat and intentional trapping of wolverines in Montana) on wolverines. This includes how such threats may individually or in the aggregate affect individual wolverines, wolverine range and habitat (denning and foraging), and wolverine movement and connectivity between sub-populations in the contiguous United States and between wolverine in Canada and the contiguous United States. The Service also failed to assess the threats to wolverine across a significant portion of its range.

In applying the ESA's five listing factors, the Service also erroneously discounted and did not adequately consider how the lack of existing regulatory mechanisms for wolverines, specifically the lack of guidance in state wildlife and resource management plans, National Forest Plans, National Park Service management plans, and BLM resource management plans and the lack of any binding international, national, or state level regulatory mechanisms to address greenhouse gas emissions may directly, indirectly, or cumulatively affect wolverines.

In sum, the data and studies cited in the proposed rule and submitted by members of the public on the proposed rule, and the findings of the February, 2013, and April, 2014, peer-review panels, as well as the Service's own biologists, and the comments from the SCB, ASM, and fifty-six scientists (see Attachments), conclusively show – in accordance with the ESA's "best available science standard" – that the wolverine population is already dangerously small and currently faces serious and significant threats under several of the listing factors and, as such, merits listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA

Wherefore, this sixty day notice letter serves to put the Service on notice of its liability for violating the ESA and inform the Agency of our intent to file a citizen suit under the ESA seeking the appropriate relief.

This notice is provided pursuant to, and in accordance with, Section 11 (g)(2) of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g)(2).

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew Bishop
Matthew Bishop
Western Environmental Law Center
103 Reeder's Alley
Helena, MT 59601

(406) 324-8011 (tel.)
(406) 443-6305 (fax)
bishop@westernlaw.org



John R. Mellgren
Western Environmental Law Center
1216 Lincoln Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401
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Ph: (541) 359-0990

On *behalf* of:

(b)(6)

August 15, 2014

646508

RECEIVED
2014 AUG 21 PM 5:08
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARIAT

Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I am writing regarding the recent decision by the USFWS to abandon plans to protect wolverines. I do not understand how the USFWS can disregard the recommendation of its own scientists and withdraw an earlier proposal to protect American wolverines under the Endangered Species Act.

There are approximately 250 to 300 wolverines left in the lower 48 states, primarily in the Northern Rockies. Global warming in the next 75 years is expected to wipe out 63 percent of the snowy habitat they need to survive, and this will put the wolverine on the path toward extinction.

The USFWS has once again caved in due to pressure from western and mountain states like Montana and Idaho, instead of doing the job the agency is charged with, and that is protecting ***fish and wildlife of the United States.***

Patti Packer
(b)(6)

CC: Dan Ashe- Director, USFWS
1849 C Street, NW
ROOM 3331
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Secretary Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW 646546
Washington DC 20240

RECEIVED
2014 AUG 25 AM 11:56
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I just found out that you took no action on placing Wolverines on the Endangered Species list even though only 300 of them exist in the lower 48 states.

I have a feeling you are a person of great integrity and values to have been appointed to this position by our President. However I feel so frustrated with people in power who don't protect those creatures that need protection. We can't have all these species disappearing from our earth! I also read that service field Biologists believe that due to climate change the Woverines will be gone sooner than later due to lost of habitat and low numbers of possible mating pairs.

I often write in support of wolves who everyone loves except those who hate their guts. Wolverines don't have such a thrilling brand but my heart goes out to all of us if we let them drop off our world.
I think we are suppose to be stewards of this earth and I hope you re-think your lack of support.

Best Wishes on the good work that you do.

Kim Hogan

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OAT

RE

2012 FEB -9 PM 1:07

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear EPA,
I had an idea
to help protect wolverines
I think you should
have reserved land for
wolverines. They would be safe
from predators and have
it be quiet and have
unstable rocks be fenced
off.

P.S. from Michael
I'd pay Edward
for some Foley
of it.

flip over

DOC HASTINGS, WA
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JON RUNYAN, NJ
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DOUG LAMALFA, CA
JASON SMITH, MO
VANCE McALLISTER, LA
BRADLEY BYRNE, AL

TODD YOUNG
CHIEF OF STAFF

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

May 30, 2014

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PENNY DODGE
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

644333

RECEIVED
2014 MAY -2 PM 1:17
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Daniel M. Ashe
Director
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell and Director Ashe:

This letter follows up on a letter sent March 7, 2013 to the Department of the Interior ("Department") and the Fish and Wildlife Service ("Service") asking for detailed information about the Department's response to 2011 litigation settlement that set a deadline for making a listing decision on the Greater Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). Despite significant efforts from several states and other entities to work with the Service to develop and implement conservation plans for the lesser prairie chicken, the Service nevertheless decided last month to list the prairie chicken as threatened under the ESA. In light of this recent listing, additional concerns have been raised regarding the Department's willingness to allow greater flexibility with settlement listing deadlines and work with states and local stakeholders to create conservation plans that will allow a sage-grouse listing to be avoided.

As the March 2013 letter discussed, significant concerns exist with the implementation and planned enforcement of the National Technical Team Report, A Report on National Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Measures, ("NTT Report"). In the last year, more questions have been raised about the validity of the science used in both the NTT report and in the Warranted But Precluded ("WBP") determination. Specifically, there have been allegations that the NTT Report and the WBP determination both suffer from lack of independent authorship and peer review, contain substantial technical errors, and contain mischaracterization of past research.

Unfortunately, the Department's responses to this request for documents and information have done little to alleviate these concerns.

While the Department has provided 2,700 pages of documents to the Committee related to Sage Grouse, only 500 of these were documents not already made available to the public under Freedom of Information Act requests. It has been nine months since the Department last provided documents to the Committee on this subject matter and nearly one-half of the items from the original request remain unanswered. In one particularly disappointing example, the Department's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs responded to specific questions by suggesting a visit to the Bureau of Land Management's sage grouse website for information related to the scientific adequacy of the Department's NTT Report.[1] It appears this website has not been updated since March 2013.

The Department has failed to provide any information to the Committee regarding the adequacy of the science the Department relied on to change the listing status of the sage-grouse under ESA between 2005 and 2010, and failed to provide any information regarding whether the Department has conducted any analysis of the socio-economic impacts that will result from the Department's listing decision. Many Members representing affected by the potential listing have requested this information.

If the Department does decide to list this species, 160 million acres of land throughout 11 Western states will face restrictions in grazing, farming, mining, and energy production. In light of the significant Department resources tied up in making this decision, it is vital that the American people have a full understanding of the total cost of this decision, and have faith that the Department is using sound, reliable, peer-reviewed science to inform this process. Through this letter, it is again requested that the Department produce the information and documents requested more than a year ago in the March 7, 2013 letter.

Sincerely,

Doc Hastings
Chairman

[1] May 8, 2013 letter to Chairman Hastings from Acting Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.

Howarth, Robert <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Letter from Chairman Hastings

1 message

Uriarte, Carlos <carlos_uriarte@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Jun 2, 2014 at 12:46 PM
To: Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Carlos Felipe Uriarte
Senior Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
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05.30.14 Hastings Ltr to Sec Jewell_Dir Ashe.pdf
812K

Biodiversity Conservation Alliance * Wild Earth Guardians
American Bird Conservancy * Center for Biological Diversity
Western Wildlife Conservancy * Western Watersheds Project
Great Old Broads for Wilderness * Rock Mountain Recreation Initiative
San Juan Citizens' Alliance * Wild Utah Project

September 7, 2011

504980

RECEIVED
2011 SEP 13 AM 9:56
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary on Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Director Daniel Ashe
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Director Robert Abbey
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Recommendations for a Rangewide Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy

Dear Secretary Salazar, Assistant Director Ashe, and Director Abbey:

We are pleased that the Department of Interior is embarking on a new rangewide conservation strategy for the greater sage grouse. We encourage the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other federal land management agencies to embark upon a new direction based on multiple use on the public lands, under which industrial activities are managed in a way that renders them compatible with sage-grouse conservation. Because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the arbiter of existing regulatory mechanisms in the context of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing decisions, and will determine whether the new sage grouse policies of the BLM and other federal agencies is sufficient to obviate the need for Threatened or Endangered Species listing, we encourage you to weigh in with specific, science-based recommendations for sage grouse conservation standards and guidelines to be implemented as part of Interior's new strategy. On behalf of the above-captioned groups, we would like to offer our perspective based on more than a decade of experience in sage-grouse and habitat conservation.

The greater sage-grouse has long been described by researchers as a 'landscape-scale' species, requiring large tracts of undisturbed, high-quality sagebrush habitat to survive and thrive. With this in mind, the most appropriate approach for sage grouse conservation on federal lands (which make up more than fifty percent of the remaining sage grouse habitat in the nation) is a rangewide approach, in the form of Instruction Memoranda and a rangewide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that will amend Resource Management Plans on BLM-managed lands, National Forests, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and lands managed by the Department of Defense throughout the range of the sage-grouse and apply strong protection

measures that allow sage-grouse populations not only to survive, but to rebound to levels where the survival of the species is no longer in doubt in any significant portion of its range, and to provide a surplus for game hunting.

It is important to bear in mind that the present depressed population numbers for sage-grouse have led to the bird to its current predicament, teetering on the edge of Endangered Species listing. It is not sufficient merely to maintain sage grouse populations at their present low levels, or (worse yet) to allow additional population decreases resulting from agency-permitted projects or activities. Instead, the goal should be to recover sage-grouse populations to levels where populations are secure rangewide, and expanding populations and suitable habitats in regions of the nation where current populations are at risk.

All stakeholders throughout the West, whether their goal is sage-grouse recovery or merely avoidance of additional regulations, should be able to agree that sage-grouse recovery is an outcome that best provides certainty for both sage-grouse persistence and for industries that do business and communities who live within its range. At the same time, a strong sage-grouse conservation plan, founded in establishing core habitats where land uses are made compatible with maintaining healthy habitat, is the cornerstone for protecting not only the grouse itself but also a broad diversity of other sagebrush-dependent wildlife. Many of these species are also declining and may soon become candidates for ESA listing in the absence of a comprehensive conservation strategy.

Sound science should drive the new conservation strategy

When the State of Wyoming embarked upon its groundbreaking sage-grouse Core Area policy, it started with the right idea, identifying core habitats that supported the most abundant populations of sage grouse, and prioritizing these areas for protection. However, because a consensus-based collaborative group (the Sage-Grouse Implementation Team or "Team") was appointed by Governor Freudenthal to identify Core Areas and prescribe the conservation measures that applied there, representatives from the oil industry appointed to the Team were able to extract inappropriate concessions, both in terms of removing key habitats from Core Areas and in creating loopholes and lowering protection levels that apply both within and outside the Core Areas.

As a result, the Core Areas designated in the Powder River Basin likely are inadequate to prevent the extirpation of the species in this key linkage between populations in Montana and the Dakotas and the heart of the sage-grouse range. Populations elsewhere within Core Areas are likely to decline or even disappear if industrial development proceeds there under current guidelines. These crippling weaknesses in the Wyoming plan render it unlikely to survive judicial scrutiny as an adequate conservation measure. The federal government can and should do better for federal lands.

In his original 2008 Executive Order, Governor Freudenthal got it right: "New development or land uses within Core Population Areas should be authorized or conducted only when it can be demonstrated by the state agency that the activity will not cause declines in Greater Sage-Grouse populations."[1] This provision essentially required that the best available science be consulted, and if levels of proposed development exceeded science-based thresholds at which sage-grouse declines begin to occur, the development would not be allowable. This provision was removed in Governor Freudenthal's 2010 Executive Order, and was not reinstated by Governor Mead in his own 2011 Sage Grouse Executive Order. The Interior Department has the opportunity to redress

[1] State of Wyoming Executive Order 2008-2, ¶ 3.

this reversal of policy by ensuring that this commitment is included in the rangewide sage-grouse policy, and therefore protections reflecting the biological needs of the species (rather than the interests of developers) will apply in Core Areas on BLM lands.

The need for a fresh start in delineating Core Areas

For the purposes of the new federal policy on sage-grouse, we recommend starting from a clean slate and designating core habitat areas that include all of the most populous leks in each state. In Wyoming, Core Area delineation started from this point, but lands proposed for oil and gas projects or existing development were subtracted. Later, additional lands were removed from protection at the behest of industrial interests wishing to pursue projects incompatible with sage-grouse conservation inside designated Core Areas. This debacle illustrates the need for consistent, rigorous standards across all states in the sage grouse's range.

Science-based standards for oil and gas development

Oil and gas development poses perhaps the greatest single threat to sage-grouse persistence across the eastern half of its range. Walker et al. (2007) found that sage-grouse habitat within 4 miles of a lek site was important to the persistence of the lek. Conversely, Walker et al. (2007) concluded that leks heavily impacted by oil and gas development "typically became inactive within 3-4 years." Harju et al. (2008) found a time lag of 2-10 years post-development, at which point negative effects became evident. The same is true for winter habitats. Indeed, Naugle et al. (2006) found that a model using habitat variables and coalbed methane development provided a near perfect fit for grouse distribution data. In the Powder River Basin, CBM well density within a 4 km^2 area provided the best fit for modeling sage-grouse habitat use (Doherty et al. 2008). Holloran (2005) found that well densities greater than one well per 699 acres were correlated with lek declines. Doherty et al. (2010) did a statewide analysis in Wyoming and found that well densities greater than 1 well per square mile were correlated with sage-grouse declines.

Walker et al. (2007) found that coalbed methane development within 2 miles of a sage- grouse lek had a negative effect on lek attendance. Holloran (2005) found that active drilling within 3.1 miles of a lek reduced breeding populations, while wells already constructed and drilled within 1.9 miles of the lek reduced breeding populations. In Canada, Carpenter et al. (2010) found that sage-grouse strongly avoided oil and gas infrastructure to a distance of 1.9 km, and avoided two-track vehicle trails more weakly to a distance of 1.5 km; the closest that a grouse was located to a coalbed methane well in this study was 1,293m. Harju et al (2008) found that negative impacts of development on lek populations extended 4.8 km (3 miles) from the development. Both Holloran (2005) and Walker et al. (2007) documented the extirpation of breeding populations at active leks as a result of oil and gas development in the Upper Green River Valley and Powder River Basin, respectively. Rowland et al. (2006: A4-3 through A4-7) provide a useful literature review of the distance that impacts spread beyond the edge of disturbed areas into adjacent habitats. Males use shrubs <1 km (0.6 mi) from a lek for foraging, loafing, and shelter (Rothenmaier 1979, Emmons and Braun 1984, Autenrieth 1981). In Wyoming, State and BLM policies erroneously use this as a basis for an 0.6-mile No Surface Occupancy buffer around leks. However, there is no science to indicate that preventing wells within 0.6 mile of a lek will eliminate negative population impacts on sage grouse. In fact, the 1.9-mile buffer is the minimum amount found to be needed to avoid negative impacts to breeding grouse by Holloran (2005), and indeed, to protect the nesting hens that site their nests within 5 miles of a lek, an even larger buffer may be needed.

Road construction related to energy development is a primary impact on sage-grouse habitat from habitat fragmentation and direct disturbance perspectives. Rowland et al. (2006) modeled sage-grouse distribution, and reached the following conclusions:

> "The secondary road network is a highly significant factor influencing processes in this landscape and is being developed and expanded rapidly across much of the WBEA (Thomson et al. 2005). Secondary roads are being built as part of the infrastructure to support non-renewable energy extraction (Chapters 2, 4). For example, within the Jonah Field in the Upper Green River Valley, >95% of the area had road densities >2 mi/mi^2 (Thomson et al. 2005)."

p. 5-10. Furthermore,

> "The dominant feature affecting output of the sage-grouse disturbance model was secondary roads, which occupy nearly 8% of the study area (Table 5.2) and are presumed to negatively influence an even larger extent."

Pp. 6-15 through 16. Holloran (2005) found significant impacts of road traffic on sage-grouse habitat use, concluding that habitat effectiveness declined in areas adjacent to roads with increasing vehicle traffic, documenting the secondary effect referenced by Rowland et al.

A number of researchers have noted a time lag between initiation of mineral development and sage-grouse population declines. Holloran et al. (2010) noted that yearling males avoided lekking near oil and gas infrastructure, and that yearling females avoided nesting within 950m of oil and gas infrastructure. Thus, the time lag in populations appears to be driven by the exodus of yearlings from affected areas, while older birds persist close to development until they die off. These researchers stated, "Our results…suggest to land managers that current stipulations on development may not provide management solutions."

As a rule, breeding and nesting activity are concentrated in the habitats surrounding the lek site. In a Montana study, Wallestad and Schladweiler (1974) found that no male sage grouse traveled farther than 1.8 km from a lek during the breeding season. But following breeding, males may make long migrations to distant summer ranges (Connelly et al. 1988). Hulet et al. (1986) found that 10 of 13 hens nested within 1.9 miles of the lek site during the first year of their southern Idaho study, with an average distance of 1.7 miles from the lek site; 100% of hens nested within 2 miles of the lek site during the second year of this study, with an average distance from lek of 0.5 mile. In Montana, Wallestad and Pyrah (1974) found that 73% of nests were built within 2 miles of the lek, but only one nest occurred within 0.5 mile of the lek site. But in Bates Hole, Wyoming, Holloran (1999) found that average nesting distance from lek site was 3.25 km for adults and 5.27 km for yearlings. Wakkinen et al. (1992) cautioned that leks were poor predictors of sage-grouse nest sites; although 92% of sage-grouse nested within 3.2 km of a lek in this study, sage-grouse did not necessarily nest near the same lek where breeding took place.

Lyon (2000) pointed out that quarter-mile lek buffers were insufficient to maintain the viability of grouse populations. Several years ago, a multi-state group of fish and game biologists evaluated the standard BLM mitigation measures for grouse, and found them wholly inadequate (Christiansen and Bohne 2007). Connelly et al. (2000) recommended that sage-grouse habitat should be protected within 3.2 km of lek sites under ideal habitat conditions, within 5 km when habitat conditions are not ideal, and within 18 km where sage grouse populations are migratory. Furthermore, these researchers stated that in areas where 40% or more of the original breeding habitat has been lost, all remaining habitat should be protected. Holloran (2005) provided a critical test of BLM's lek buffers' effectiveness in the Jonah and Pinedale Anticline fields, and found that in the face of full-field gas development, finding that extirpation was expected for sage-grouse in both fields within 19 years if conditions remained the same (and, of course, conditions have become much worse for grouse under the continued intensification of drilling and road construction in these two fields).

Under current state and BLM Core Area standards in Wyoming, disturbance thresholds are set at five percent of the land area, beyond which additional surface disturbance is not permitted. However, the five percent disturbance threshold corresponds with oil and gas well densities that are far beyond the point where sage-grouse declines occur. For example, under the Continental Divide-Wamsutter Project, 3,000 wells were initially proposed with 22,400 acres of new surface disturbance, representing 2.1 percent of the planning area with an average well density of 4 wellsites per square mile (BLM 2000); today, sage-grouse are virtually extirpated in this field, although more than 50 leks existed prior to the project. In the Atlantic Rim coalbed methane field, 2,000 wells were permitted at a density of eight wells per square mile, far above the threshold known to cause sage grouse declines. The projected surface disturbance for this project is 15,800 acres, or 5.85% of the project area (BLM 2005). Clearly, a threshold of five percent is too high to sustain sage-grouse. Assuming a 10-acre multi-well wellpad and 0.75 miles of road per square mile – a generous figure (at 9.85 acres per mile of road), the estimated surface disturbance for a wellfield at one well per square mile would be 2.7 percent. Thus, a one- to three-percent disturbance threshold is more reasonable.

Sage-grouse standards for wind and transmission lines

Wind power generation represents a clean, renewable alternative to fossil fuels, but construction of wind farms in key habitats is likely to lead to unacceptable levels of impact. Although there is little published science directly addressing the impact of wind turbines or transmission lines on sage-grouse, there is a broad consensus among biologists that sage-grouse avoid tall structures (such as wind turbines and transmission towers) and abandon adjacent habitats. One unpublished study found that sage-grouse habitat use increased with distance (up to 600 meters) from transmission lines. Molvar (2008) compiled BLM data from a wind power project on Cotterel Mountain, Idaho and was able to determine that the erection of seven meteorological towers led to drastic declines in sage -rouse populations across nine sage-grouse leks, while populations in the surrounding area remained stable. There has been abundant scientific information that other types of energy development, particularly oil and gas, has a major impact on sage-grouse populations, and oil and gas development has some similar features such as habitat fragmentation and tall structures (in the form of drilling rigs).[2]

The USFWS (no date) conducted a literature review through 2010 and found that recommended buffer distances for sage grouse were generally 3.1 to 4 miles and beyond. We endorse the recommendations of USFWS (2003) and Mannville (2004) that wind power facilities be sited at least five miles from active sage grouse leks. Similarly, lands identified as sage grouse winter habitat should similarly be avoided by a distance of not less than three miles.

The State of Wyoming is pursuing a sound policy with regard to wind power development in sage-grouse habitat, that of excluding wind power development from designated Core Areas (although for several wind projects, Core Area boundaries have been shifted to exclude lands desired by the wind industry). Excluding wind power development from core habitats makes sense; in Wyoming, more than four million acres commercially viable for wind energy development are outside of Core Areas and have no other identified environmental conflicts (Molvar 2008), which represents approximately four times the maximum acreage needed for the high benchmark for wind development through 2030 (estimated at 10,000 turbines by the wind power industry). We recommend that wind power facilities be sited outside identified core habitat areas.

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[2] USFWS 2010. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 12-Month Findings for Petitions to List the Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) as Threatened or Endangered. 75 Fed. Reg 13951

Sage-grouse standards for livestock grazing

Livestock grazing is considered the single most important influence on sagebrush habitats and fire regimes throughout the Intermountain West in the past 140 years (Knick et al. 2005: 68). Grazing is the most widespread use of sagebrush steppe and almost all sagebrush habitat is managed for grazing (Connelly et al. 2004; Knick et al. 2003; Knick et al. 2011).[3] Livestock grazing disturbs the soil, removes native vegetation, and spreads invasive species in sagebrush steppe (Knick et al. 2005). Cattle or sheep grazing in sage-grouse nesting and brood-rearing habitat can negatively affect habitat quality; nutrition for gravid hens; clutch size; nesting success; and/or chick survival (Connelly and Braun 1997; Beck and Mitchell 2000; Barnett and Crawford 1994; Coggins 1998; Aldridge and Brigham 2003). Livestock may directly compete with sage-grouse for grasses, forbs and shrub species; trample vegetation and sage-grouse nests; disturb individual birds and cause nest abandonment (Vallentine 1990; Pederson et al. 2003; Call and Maser 1985; Holloran and Anderson 2003; Coates 2007).

The potential conflict between livestock grazing and sage-grouse intensifies near water sources due to the importance of these areas to sage-grouse, particularly during early brood rearing. Heavy cattle grazing near springs, seeps, and riparian areas can remove grasses used for cover by grouse (Klebenow 1982). According to Call and Maser (1985:17), "rapid removal of forbs by livestock on spring or summer ranges may have a substantial adverse impact on young grouse, especially where forbs are already scarce."

Grazing infrastructure, such as water developments and fences, fragment and degrade sage-grouse habitat (Connelly et al. 2004; Braun 1998; Call and Maser 1985; Knick et al. 2003). Fatal collisions with fences were "relatively common and widespread" in sage-grouse breeding habitat in southern Idaho (Stevens 2011), corroborating other evidence that fences may pose a significant risk to low flying sage-grouse (*e.g.*, Danvir 2002, unpublished report). Fence densities exceed 2 km/km^2 in many areas occupied by sage grouse (Knick et al. 2011).

Native vegetation communities in sagebrush steppe did not evolve with grazing pressure (Mack and Thompson 1982). Excessive livestock grazing by domestic livestock during the late 1800s and early 1900s had significant impacts on sagebrush steppe and those effects persist today (Knick et al. 2003). Grazing (in addition to other factors) is implicated in the encroachment of conifers in sagebrush steppe, including western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) (Kerr and Salvo 2007). Decades of livestock grazing have altered plant communities and soil and reduced productivity in sagebrush steppe (Knick et al 2003). Cattle grazed at "conservative" levels in sagebrush steppe in the northern Great Basin initially selected bunchgrasses in interspaces between sagebrush plants (France et al. 2008). The removal of native species from interspaces by cattle, in conjunction with other factors, appears to facilitate invasion by cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) into these areas (Reisner 2010). The spread of cheatgrass and other invasive plants into degraded rangelands has accelerated the natural fire cycle and threatens to convert enormous areas of sagebrush habitat into annual grasslands (Wisdom et al. 2005; Miller et al. 2011).

Grazing management was identified as a threat to sage-grouse by three expert panels and in recent reviews (Connelly et al. 2011, Table 1). Federal scientists have suggested that "livestock grazing across the public lands of western landscapes has impacted and will continue to impact

[3] One expert contended that the "livestock industry has had [a] more negative impact on sage-grouse than any other single factor" and "[i]t's rare to find any place that hasn't been grazed." Hudak, M. 2007. WESTERN TURF WARS: THE POLITICS OF PUBLIC LANDS RANCHING. Biome Books. Binghamton, NY: 28-29.

the quality of those habitats and their ability to support source populations of sagebrush bird species" (Rich et al. 2005: 592). The Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that grazing "can seriously degrade sage-grouse habitat" locally and that, "given the widespread nature of grazing, the potential for population-level impacts cannot be ignored" (75 Fed. Reg. 13942-13943). In their study on sage-grouse in eastern Oregon, Call and Maser (1985: 3) made the following basic assumption: "Where there are conflicts between sage grouse and livestock on public lands, it may be essential to give priority to sage-grouse if they are to continue to exist on these areas."

Sage grouse standards for invasive plants

Baker (2006) reviewed the fire history of sagebrush ecosystems and found natural fire to be a rare and infrequent event, suggesting a fire rotation 325-450 years in length. However, overgrazing across many of the Great Basin states has led to the invasion of cheatgrass, a highly flammable noxious weed that accelerates the fire cycle to less than five years destroying the sagebrush upon which sage-grouse rely for food and cover. Approximately 36 percent of the Greater Sage-Grouse range is invaded by cheatgrass (Lebbin et al. 2010). Because sagebrush requires at least 15 years (and up to 50) to reoccupy burned sites, restoring invades areas is a difficult and slow process. Preventing further spread into intact sagebrush should be prioritized.

Biological invasions, especially invasion by exotic annual grasses such as cheatgrass, are consistently cited as among the most important challenges to maintenance of healthy sagebrush communities (Miller et al. 2011; Wisdom et al. 2005; Suring et al. 2005). At least 46 exotic plants occur in sagebrush steppe (Pyke 2000). Estimates of the rapid spread of weeds in the West include 2,300 acres per day on BLM lands and 4,600 acres per day on all western public lands (*See* 65 Fed. Reg. 54544).

Cheatgrass, an invasive annual grass, is now the dominant species on 100 million acres (158,000 square miles) in the Intermountain West (Rosentreter 1994: 170, *citing* Mack 1981). It was estimated in 1999 that 25 percent of the original sagebrush ecosystem has been converted to cheatgrass/medusa-head rye (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) annual grassland, and an additional 25 percent of sagebrush steppe has only cheatgrass as understory vegetation (West 2000). Cheatgrass is estimated to spread at a rate of 14 percent annually in the United States (Duncan et al. 2004: 1412, table 1). The conversion of sagebrush steppe to exotic annual grassland has been described as "massive" (Allen 2003) and is expected to continue (Miller et al. 2011; Hemstrom et al. 2002).[4]

Cheatgrass thrives in disturbed, and especially burned, areas. It can increase fire frequency, favoring itself and potentially inhibiting perennial seedling establishment (Miller et al. 2011). Cheatgrass incursion into sagebrush habitat can lead to an eventual conversion of sagebrush/grass (perennial) community to sagebrush/grass (annual) or annual grass rangeland. In some cases, cheatgrass invasion encourages other exotic species such as medusa-head rye, knapweed and thistle. It was observed in 1979 that annual-dominated communities in sagebrush steppe appears to have crossed a threshold and created its own new equilibrium (Hanley 1979) from which restoration to functional sagebrush steppe would be very costly and difficult (if not impossible) to achieve (Billings 1990).

Sage-grouse do not use cheatgrass. Invasive species was identified as a threat to sage-grouse by three expert panels and in recent reviews (Connelly et al. 2011, Table 1). One panel listed cheatgrass as the most important threat to sage-grouse in the western portion of its range (70 Fed.

[4] A BLM ecologist and program coordinator has warned that "[c]heatgrass is changing the West." Miller, J. (AP). "Alien invader clings to socks, stokes West's wildfires." *Daily Herald* (Provo, UT) (Aug. 8, 2007).

Reg. 2267), where it has invaded much of the lower elevation, xeric sagebrush habitat (Miller et al. 2011). Land uses such as livestock grazing (Reisner 2010), off-road vehicle use, and coalbed methane development (Bergquist et al. 2007), can facilitate cheatgrass incursion in sagebrush steppe.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on these scientific findings, we offer the following recommendations for science-based conservation measures for sage-grouse, suitable for application in a rangewide conservation strategy:

Include the Entire Range in the Conservation Plan

We do not believe the government will be able to demonstrate that adequate regulatory mechanisms are in place unless the entire range of the species is considered, not just the lands managed by BLM, and included in the management regime outlined in the plan.

Standards for Sage-Grouse Conservation

Core Areas

- Core habitats should be identified to encompass a 5-mile buffer around the most populous leks in each state.
- Boundaries of core areas should not be altered to accommodate nonconforming uses.

Sage-Grouse Reserves

In addition to designating Core Areas, a system of sage-grouse reserves should be designated where no harm to the species would be allowed. This could include restrictions on road construction, grazing, and off-road vehicle use, and which are withdrawn from future oil and gas leasing and other mineral entry. We recommend the establishment of several sage-grouse Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) in each Field Office where sage-grouse occur to serve this purpose. In addition, a sage-grouse Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) area should be established to serve as a research and reference area for scientific study.

Oil and Gas

Inside Core Areas

- Maximum density of 1 well per square mile in core habitats
- For future leasing, either no future leasing in core habitats or No Surface Occupancy leases with no opportunity for exceptions or waivers.
- For existing leases, no surface occupancy within 2 miles of the lek or winter habitat and no drilling within 3 miles of the lek or winter habitats during the season of use.
- Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry: no surface mining or in situ uranium recovery allowed.
- Total surface disturbance not to exceed 1 to 3 percent of surface area.

Outside Core Areas

- Year-round No Surface Occupancy within 2 miles of the lek or winter habitat, and no drilling within 3 miles of the lek or winter habitat during the season of use.

Wind and Transmission

Inside Core Areas

- No wind energy development
- Transmission lines limited to existing electrical transmission corridors of ¼ mile maximum width

Outside Core Areas

- Wind farms and transmission lines sited at least 5 miles from active sage-grouse leks and at least 3 miles from identified winter habitats.
- Transmission lines allowed along existing electrical transmission corridors of ¼ mile maximum width.

Livestock Grazing

- During spring and summer, do not permit grazing in key sage-grouse habitats until after June 20 and remove livestock by August 1 with a goal of leaving at least 70 percent of the herbaceous production each year to form residual cover to benefit sage-grouse nesting the following spring.
- Prohibit twice-over grazing systems, where livestock pass through an area twice in a grazing season.
- Encourage winter grazing, which is generally less negative for herbaceous vegetation and sage-grouse than grazing during the growing season.
- Water and salt should be placed near fences or fence corners, as livestock tend to congregate in these areas. The goal should be to reduce livestock impacts in the centers of pastures or allotments.
- Avoid constructing new fences; remove unnecessary fences; and visually mark remaining fences to reduce sage-grouse collisions with fences.
- Facilitate permanent, voluntary grazing permit/lease retirement.

(*see* Braun 2006).

Invasive Plants

- Restrict activities on public land that facilitate the spread of invasive plants.
- Rapidly restore burned or disturbed sagebrush steppe to prevent incursion of invasive plants.
- Develop and implement methods for prioritizing and recovering sagebrush steppe invaded by nonnative plants.

CONCLUSIONS

We applaud the Interior Department's leadership to initiate a rangewide conservation strategy for sage-grouse, and to base the provisions of that strategy in sound science. Conserving large core habitats for sage-grouse can lead to many benefits, not just in terms or sage-grouse recovery itself, but also in terms of conservation of a variety of sagebrush-dependent wildlife, from the pygmy rabbit to the pronghorn antelope.

For many years, heavy industrial use as well as unsustainable levels of grazing have had heavy impacts on sagebrush habitats in many parts of the West, resulting in the decline of the sage-

grouse and many other species. Protecting the sage-grouse will help to lead the BLM and other agencies toward a better balance between resource extraction and land and wildlife conservation.

As you craft this strategy and the policies to implement it, we urge you to stand firm behind strong conservation measures that reflect the biological requirements of the bird as elucidated in the science. This strategy should establish core habitats where science-based protection measures are applied, ensure that protection measures are sufficiently rigorous to prevent grouse declines and encourage grouse recovery, and close the loopholes in the Wyoming core area strategy in all cases where the federal government has habitat management authority.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please let us know how we can be of further assistance.

Respectfully yours,

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Jewell, Sally (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

Briefing Materials for Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting - 12/12

1 message

Olson, Elizabeth <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Dec 4, 2013 at 7:11 PM
To: Sally Jewell - (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached, please find briefing materials for next Thursday's Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting. This memo has been uploaded to Google Drive, and is located in the folder marked "NM and NV Trip December 2013."

Thank you,

--
Elizabeth
208-2977

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EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING

DATE: December 12, 2013
LOCATION: Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Oriental Ballroom, Las Vegas, NV
TIME: 10:10AM – 11:45AM PST
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, Sr. Advisor (202)208-6726; Terri Johnson, Acting Director, OIEA (202)208-7513

I. PURPOSE

You will attend the WGA Winter Meeting on December 12 in Las Vegas, NV. You will be one of two Keynote Speakers kicking off the Combating Western Wildfires Plenary Session and YOU will also participate in the Governors' Luncheon sage grouse discussion (a separate Luncheon Briefing Memo is prepared for you). You will also participate in the Closing Press Conference / Public Launch of Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool. Approximately 220 people are attending this year's winter conference.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- YOU
- Governors Attending the Conference:
  - John Hickenlooper (CO) – WGA Chair
  - Butch Otter (ID)
  - Steve Bullock (MT)
  - Brian Sandoval (NV)
  - Matt Mead (WY)
  - Gary Herbert (UT)
  - Jan Brewer (AZ)
  - Eruviel Avila, Governor of the State of Mexico

- DOI
  - Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary, Office of Water and Science
  - Lori Carmanian, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Water and Science
  - Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management
  - Dan Ashe, US Fish and Wildlife Service Director
  - Michael Bean, Senior Advisor, Fish and Wildlife and Parks
  - Mike Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
  - Sarah Greenberg, Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary
  - Jim Douglas, Director, Office of Wildlife Fire, DOI
- USG Attendees:
  - Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary of Agriculture, USDA
  - Jennifer Yezak, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, USDA
- Other Attendees Representing DOI Interests

- Energy (solar, wind, natural gas, copper, petroleum, coal, and transmission interests typically attend.)
- Conservation - (Theodore Roosevelt conservation Partnership, National Wildlife Federation, National Association of Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, Environmental Defense Fund, and the Western States Water Council)

III. TALKING POINTS

Talking Points will be forthcoming from O/S Communications.

IV. BACKGROUND

The Western Governors' Association was established in 1984 and is an independent, nonprofit organization representing the Governors of 19 states and three US-Flag Pacific islands. Through their Association, the Governors identify and address key policy and governance issues that include natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, intergovernmental relations and international relations. The current chairman of is Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, who was elected in June 2013.

Current initiatives of the Association are energy generation; regional transmission expansion; weather and climate risk; water: supply, transfers, and drought; forest health; outdoor recreation and tourism; and wildlife corridors and crucial habitat.

V. ATTACHMENTS

- Profiles of Attending Governors (*below*)
- Information Memo regarding WGA Issues of Interest
- Information Memo regarding Sequester Impacts on Payments to WGA States

PROFILES OF ATTENDING GOVERNORS WGA



Governor John Hickenlooper (D-CO): WGA CHAIR - Governor Hickenlooper describes himself as a "recovering geologist now on loan to public service." Elected in 2010, his priorities include making Colorado the model for energy policy by promoting an "all-the-above" energy policy that develops Colorado's traditional and renewable resources in a balanced way, and with the highest ethical and public safety standards and making Colorado the healthiest state. Governor Hickenlooper serves in leadership positions with the National Governors Association and the Western Governors' Association. He also serves as the Vice Chair of the Democratic Governors Association.



Governor Jan Brewer (R-AZ) – Ms. Brewer became governor in January 2009 following the resignation of Governor Janet Napolitano and reelected in 2010. She previously served as Secretary of State of Arizona from 2003 to 2009 and also served in the Arizona House of Representatives and State Senate from 1987 to 1996 including a four year period as Majority Whip. Arizona ranks as the nation's second-largest solar market. In 2012 Arizona installed more utility-scale solar last year than any other state. Arizona now has edged out New Jersey for the number two slot, and trails only California in solar production.



Governor Butch Otter (R-ID) - Governor Otter has been Governor of Idaho since January 2007. He previously served three terms in Congress representing Idaho's 1st District from 2001 through 2006. Otter was the longest serving Lieutenant Governor of Idaho, holding office from 1987–2001. He is the first Idahoan since statehood to win elections as both a United States Representative and as governor.



Governor Steve Bullock (D - MT) - Steve Bullock, Montana's former attorney general, was elected governor in 2012. Since becoming Governor, Bullock has approved a request from Yellowstone National Park to move bison from a holding facility in the park, to an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service facility for research and quarantine. He also supported the creation of the "Native Language Preservation Program," a partnership between the State of Montana and tribal governments to preserve the languages of Montana's Indian tribes and enhance the educational opportunities students have on Montana's reservations, while protecting American Indians' cultural heritage.



Governor Matt Mead (R-WY) - Governor Mead took office January 2011. He serves on the Council of Governors, a group of 10 governors chosen by the President to advise top federal officials on matters related to the National Guard and civil support missions. He also serves on the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory Council. In the National Governors Association, he is a member of the Natural Resources Committee. He is co-chair of the State and Federal Sage Grouse Task Force, which brings together federal officials and representatives of 11 western states for a regional conservation effort.



Governor Brian Sandoval (R-NV) - Brian Sandoval took office January 2011. He is a member of the Western Governors Association, National Governors Association, Republican Governors Association and the Hispanic Leadership Network. Governor Sandoval also serves as Vice-Chair of the NGA Health and Homeland Security Committee. He was recently appointed Chair-elect of the Education Commission of the States. Prior to becoming Governor, he served as a federal judge, and as the Nevada Attorney General. Sandoval was also the first Hispanic candidate elected to statewide office in Nevada.



Governor Gary Herbert (R-UT): WGA CHAIR - Gary Herbert became Utah's Governor in 2009. Before assuming the governor's office, he served as Utah's sixteenth Lieutenant Governor. Governor Herbert's priorities are education, energy, jobs and self-determination. The Governor currently serves as the Chair of the WGA and is a leading voice on energy issues in the West. He has made it a priority for the WGA to advocate for increased energy development on public lands.



Governor Eruviel Avila Villagas – State of Mexico - Governor Villegas is a member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party. He was Mayor of Ecatepec de Morelos twice, from 2003 to 2006 and from 2009 to 2012 and deputy of the State of Mexico's Congress from 997 to 2000 in the LIII Legislature and from 2006 to 2009. He has been a teacher at UNITEC. He is author of the book *"The Creation of the Constitutional Court in the State of Mexico"* published in 2003, a joint publication of the Legislative Investigations Institute.

Robert Bonnie –Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment - Robert Bonnie was confirmed as Under Secretary in August, 2013. He previously served as a senior policy adviser for Secretary Vilsack. Bonnie worked for the Environmental Defense Fund from 1995 to 2008, holding a number of positions including vice-president of land conservation and wildlife and managing director of the Center for Conservation Incentives. He served on the board of visitors at the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, and was a member of the board of directors for the Piedmont Environmental Council and Scenic America.



INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: December 4, 2013
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, OS, (202)208-6726; Terri Johnson, OIEA; Michael Bean, AS-FWP office; Gary Frazer, FWS; Pam Haze, AS-PMB; Amy Holley, PMB; Neil Kornze, BLM; Liz Klein, OS; Janet Lin, BLM; Maureen Foster, NPS
SUBJECT: Western Governors Association (WGA) Issues of Interest

WOLVERINE

In January, FWS proposed protections for the wolverine throughout the continental U.S. It opened a comment period that's set to end on December 10. Wildlife officials for Western states are asking for a 6-month extension of the listing deadline. FWS's position is that the available scientific evidence indicates that significant reduction of wolverine habitat is likely within 30 years.

Q: *Is FWS considering a 6-month extension on the deadline for a final listing rule?*
A: Yes. The Service is evaluating new comments received where we specifically requested comments on the issue of whether the climate models represent the best available science from which we can reasonably predict future effects. They will be making a decision shortly on whether a 6-month extension is warranted.

Q: Is the Service going to consider convening a panel of experts to look at the climate science and wolverine biology pursuant to the states concerns, as was requested by WY Governor Mead?
A: FWS is strongly leaning towards convening an expert panel to look at the climate science and wolverine biology unless information provided during the comment period makes this unnecessary.

Q: If wolverines are currently more numerous than they have been in the past 100 years, why were they proposed for listing?
A: Although wolverine populations have rebounded significantly since 1930, projections of future habitat under moderate climate change scenarios indicate that it is likely to be reduced by about 31% by 2045 and 63% by 2085. This projected loss would significantly affect the wolverines' ability to maintain populations in its current range and was the primary reason for our proposal.

Q: What is the status of any reintroduction or range expansion efforts?
A: Currently, the only reintroduction effort that is being considered is by the State of Colorado. It is very early and will require legislative approval along with a significant planning effort. The State has informed FWS that they are not interested in any reintroduction effort unless the wolverine is listed under the ESA, with a 10(j) rule to provide regulatory certainty and flexibility.

BLM ALASKA

<u>North Slope/National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A)</u>

Q: What's being done to implement the NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan ROD?
A: BLM-Alaska is forming the NPR-A Working Group. The Working Group is a key component of the ROD for the NPR-A's Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) signed in February. The Working Group will provide a forum for ongoing, meaningful input

regarding the implementation of the NPR-A IAP/EIS, including oil and gas leasing, land use conflicts, and infrastructure projects supporting onshore and offshore oil and gas development, such as production facilities and pipelines. The working group will consist of representatives of North Slope local governments, tribal entities, and Alaska Native corporations, to include the North Slope Borough, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and other similar local entities as appropriate. The state of Alaska will participate.

Q: Is there any oil and gas development in the NPR-A?
A: On July 22, an application package was filed by ConocoPhillips, Alaska, Inc. for the first production well on BLM-managed public lands in the NPR-A. BLM-Alaska will prepare a supplement to the 2004 Alpine Satellite Environmental Impact Statement for this proposed development in the Greater Mooses Tooth Unit 1.

BLM ARIZONA

Renewable Energy

Q: What renewable energy and transmission projects are moving through the DOI pipeline?
A:

(1) The Hyder Valley Solar Energy Project has a draft EIS scheduled for late-2014. The project would generate up to 325 MW using concentrated solar thermal technology and include storage capability.
(2) The Maricopa Solar Park Project has begun the scoping process—this photovoltaic project would generate 300 MW.
(3) The Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Project final EIS was issued in July 2013, and the ROD is pending resolution of 2 protests. The line is proposed to run for 38 miles, with about 8 of those miles on BLM land.
(4) Two major lines – SunZia and Southline – are proposed to originate in New Mexico and cross into Arizona. BLM New Mexico is the lead for both projects. The record of decision for SunZia is pending protest resolution. The draft EIS for Southline is anticipated in late 2013 or early 2014.

Q: What is BLM Arizona doing to implement the Solar Programmatic EIS and the Restoration Design Energy Project (RDEP)?
A: BLM Arizona is following the national lead in implementing the Solar PEIS. The first stage of that is the Regional Mitigation Strategy which will create regional mitigation plans for each solar energy zone. The proposed Maricopa Solar Park project site is outside a Solar PEIS-designated solar energy zone (SEZ) and thus required a variance—the first nationally to get variance approval. The Maricopa Solar Park is also interesting because it is proposed to be built in a renewable energy development area (REDA) established under Arizona's RDEP. RDEP classifies 192,000 acres of BLM-managed land as REDAs. Land in REDAs are considered to be suitable for solar or wind energy development, based on preliminary studies. The designated REDAs are outside SEZs.

BLM COLORADO

Q: How is the BLM responding to the potential Gunnison sage grouse listing?

A: The BLM Gunnison Field Office is working to implement the Candidate Conservation agreement for Gunnison sage grouse within the Gunnison Basin. The BLM is also reviewing and providing comments for the FWS's listing package. In November, the FWS conducted public hearings on the listing of the species.

Q: What is the status of Thompson Divide and White River National Forest Oil and Gas leasing?
A: The Thompson Divide is 221,500 acres of primarily National Forest land west of Carbondale, Colo (Northwest District). Two companies – SG Interests and Ursa Resources – have submitted separate development proposals in this area. In April, the BLM approved the companies' request to suspend the leases, which were set to expire May 31. In granting the request, the BLM has identified the need to remedy a defect when the leases were issued – the lack of a BLM NEPA analysis – and has decided to undertake additional NEPA analysis to determine whether the leases should be reaffirmed or subject to additional mitigation measures for site-specific development proposals or voided. The Notice of Intent is anticipated to publish in December or early 2014, initiating a public scoping process anticipated to be very controversial.

BLM IDAHO

Q: What is the Gateway West Project and what is the status of the project?
A: The Gateway West project would construct nearly 990 miles of high-voltage transmission lines across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho to add 1,500 to 3,000 MW of capacity. In response to the Final EIS, Idaho Governor Otter noted concerns about land use plan amendments and sage grouse management, all of which were rejected by the both the BLM Idaho State Director and, on appeal, the Director of the BLM.

Q: What is the timeline for the sub-regional Sage-grouse conservation DEIS, and what is the preferred alternative?
A: In a joint effort with the Forest Service to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat across 10 Western states, BLM issued a draft land use plan amendment and EIS on November 1. It is now open for a 90-day comment period. The Draft Idaho and Southwest Montana Sub-Regional Greater Sage-Grouse LUP Amendment/EIS would amend 21 BLM resource management plans and 8 Forest Service land management plans covering BLM and National Forest lands in Idaho and Southwestern Montana. In 2011, the BLM and the Forest Service joined forces to develop, analyze, and incorporate coordinated, long-term conservation measures and actions for the Greater Sage-Grouse in their land use plans. These planning measures must be incorporated into land use plans by the end of 2014, to give the FWS time to evaluate them before making a court-ordered, final listing decision in 2015. The BLM and the Forest Service have identified Alternatives D (Idaho and Southwest Montana sub-regional alternative) and E (Idaho Governor's Alternative) as co-Preferred Alternatives; they and all alternatives will undergo public comment and review.

BLM MONTANA

<u>Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation</u>

Q: What's the status of planning initiatives for the Greater Sage-Grouse in MT, ND, and SD? Is the BLM participating in Governor Bullock's Greater Sage-Grouse Advisory Council activities?

A: Habitat conservation for the Greater Sage-Grouse is being addressed in the BLM-Montana/Dakotas in four Resource Management Plan (RMP) revisions and three RMP amendments. BLM staff attended Council meetings in Helena as the group developed its draft Recommendations. The public comment period closed December 4. The BLM will make every effort to consider the state's final strategy during its selection of a proposed alternative for each of our Montana/Dakotas plans, as a way to strive for similar management actions across ownership boundaries, but Montana's strategy is not intended to provide direction for management of BLM-managed lands, just as our plans do not direct management of state or private lands.

Q: What is the BLM doing to improve the Section 368 energy transmission corridors plan?
A: Upgrading our nation's electrical grid is an important component of the President's Climate Action Plan and a major priority of the Administration. The President has identified seven high-priority transmission lines for expedited permitting, and DOI is leading on 5of those. Already, DOI has approved the Susquehanna-Roseland transmission line in PA and NJ, and last month the BLM signed a ROD for the Eastern portion of the Gateway West transmission line that will allow the project to move forward while the BLM takes additional time to resolve siting concerns in Southwestern Idaho. The BLM continues to work on 3 additional Presidential priority lines, as well as a dozen or so other major projects across the West.

The Administration has also taken a more systematic look at how we permit these long, multi-jurisdictional projects with an understanding of the landscape. Under the leadership of CEQ, we are moving forward on developing an Integrated Interagency Pre-application process that will make this sort of coordination and cooperation the regular way of doing business.

The Administration is also working to improve the West Wide Energy Corridors completed by the BLM in 2009 and authorized by Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This upfront landscape-level planning is smart for land managers, communities, and developers alike, but it must be done in a collaborative way that considers the interests of states, communities, and stakeholders. A Federal interagency team is working to assess the utility of existing designated energy corridors and complete regional assessments that will examine the need for additions, deletions, and revisions to the existing energy corridors. In 2014, the BLM will look to a few key locations to focus on doing this cooperatively and collaboratively, with additional regional assessments following based on appropriations. I look forward to working closely with the western Governors to ensure that we can develop meaningful plans that avoid conflict in the first place.

BLM NEVADA

Q: What is the BLM Nevada doing to protect sage-grouse habitat?
A: BLM NV is undertaking a sub-regional environmental impact statement (EIS) to address Greater sage-grouse conservation. This analysis will guide management decisions to protect and improve existing habitat. The draft Nevada-Northeastern California Sub-region EIS for Greater-Sage grouse was released to the public in October 2013 and comments are due to BLM by January 29. A series of public workshops are being held across the area to raise awareness of the issue and to provide an understanding of the types of management actions that could be used to protect the sage-grouse. The BLM and Forest Service manage approximately 17.7 million acres of sage grouse habitat within the Nevada-Northeastern California Sub-region.

BLM NEW MEXICO

SunZia Southwest Transmission Line Project

Q: What is the status of the SunZia Transmission Line Project?
A: SunZia has proposed to construct, operate, and maintain two parallel overhead 500 KV transmission lines to tap into a high-potential wind energy area in central New Mexico. If built, the project would enable the development of currently stranded energy resources, including wind and solar, by creating access to the interstate power grid and adding 3,000 to 4,500 megawatts of electric capacity to the West. The BLM is the lead Federal agency for the development of the EIS/RMPA for the proposed Project. The ROD was expected during the fall of 2013. However, Senator Heinrich requested that the DoD fund a study by M.I.T. Lincoln Laboratory to look at concerns raised by White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and examine potential changes to test protocols that would allow the DoD to continue its missions in the presence of the new transmission line. The results of this report are expected in January or February 2014. The report will determine if BLM issues the ROD based on its previous analysis or reopens the public process to consider new routes for analysis. The proponent has maintained the position that continued delays, as would be required for new route analysis, would kill the project.

Wolves on Public Lands in New Mexico

Q: How will the expanded area for direct initial release of Mexican Grey Wolves (MGW), one of the 2013 revisions to the 1998 final rule, impact public land in NM?
A: Expanding the direct initial release area will increase the potential for release of MGWs that could disperse onto BLM grazing allotments on the Socorro and Las Cruces Field Offices. Permittees are anticipated to have concerns about: Livestock depredation; Physiological impacts on livestock (stress); Changes in forage use; Need for additional ranch labor and supplies; Potential for negative wolf-human interactions; and Potential for negative wolf-dog interactions

BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON

Q: What is BLM Oregon doing to help conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse?
A: Maintaining and restoring sagebrush landscapes on public lands is the BLM's primary means of conserving sage-grouse populations and one of its most important current programs. BLM Oregon is working to restore sagebrush habitat in the area of the 2012 Miller Homestead fire which burned more than 160,000 acres in southeast Oregon, including 147,000 acres of BLM lands.

BLM Oregon has also been working with FWS and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association on a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) as part of ongoing sage-grouse conservation efforts. The umbrella agreement, signed in May of 2013, highlights the commitment of the BLM and our partners to work together in finding ways to balance economic and conservation priorities. Individual permittees can now enter into CCAs under the umbrella agreement to implement voluntary conservation measures for Greater sage-grouse.

BLM UTAH

November 2013 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Q: What is the economic impact of the sale and development of O&G leases on UT public lands?
A: In FY 2012, the State of Utah received more than $164 million from royalties, rentals and bonus bid payments for federal minerals and energy development, including oil and gas. The BLM-Utah State Office currently administers almost 4 million acres of public mineral estate that is leased for oil and gas development. The extraction of oil and gas resources and their introduction into the market generated more than $5.5 billion in direct economic benefits and more than $8.3 billion in total economic impacts in FY2012. In fact, since FY2010, the extraction and development of oil and gas from BLM-administered mineral estate in Utah has generated $15.1 billion in direct economic benefits and $22.7 billion in total economic impacts.

Q: How did the BLM Utah determine that 44,021 acres of public lands in Utah were appropriate for oil and gas leasing and responsible development for the Nov 19 oil and gas lease sale?
A: Nearly 1.1 million acres in the Green River District were nominated by industry for oil and gas leasing. However, after evaluating these lands for occupied Greater sage-grouse habitat and areas included in proposed Master Leasing Plans and to ensure statutory availability for leasing, the preliminary lands list sent for further analysis contained 664,756 acres. In keeping with leasing reform standards and considering field office workloads, the Green River District Office subsequently deferred 521,339 acres of the lands contained in the preliminary list. After completing the environmental analysis required by the May 2010 oil and gas leasing reform, BLM Utah posted a Notice of Competitive Lease Sale in August that contained the proposed final parcel list for the November 2013 oil and gas lease sale. The posted final parcel list included 82 parcels covering 143,981 acres in the Price and Vernal Field Offices.

Posting the notice initiated a 30-day public protest period that closed in September. The BLM Utah received 431 timely filed protests, including those from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council and Rocky Mountain Wild. Protests stated concerns with air quality, climate change, sensitive species, lands with wilderness characteristics, visual resources, and the Nine Mile Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

After further consideration, BLM Utah deferred an additional 99,960 acres from the sale for a range of reasons, including but not limited to:

- concerns with cultural resources;
- potential impacts to the Old Spanish Trail;
- potential impacts to the Graham's and White River penstemon; and
- non-Wilderness Study Area lands that have been inventoried and determined to contain wilderness characteristics but are not managed for their wilderness values.

The BLM sold 29 of the offered parcels, receiving $3,340,266 in bonus bids. The sale also brought in $54,724 in rental fees and $4,495 in administrative fees, grossing $3,399,486 in total receipts.

Q: Why did the BLM-Utah Nov. 19 oil and gas lease sale receive so much public/media attention?
A: The sale received heavy media attention due to: 1) activist groups and citizen concerns that 51 proposed parcels intersected with citizen-proposed wilderness included in proposed Red Rocks Wilderness legislation or were located in the vicinity of Utah's San Rafael Swell; and 2) industry and county government concerns that the BLM had deferred too many parcels from the 1.1 million acres initially nominated by industry.

BLM WYOMING

BLM fracking rule

Q: Has the State of Wyoming taken a position on the BLM's fracking rule?
A: Governor Mead may ask that Wyoming's fracking rule be deemed in compliance with the proposed Federal rule because he feels Wyoming's fracking rule already meets or exceeds the standards in the proposed Federal rule.

Q: Will the BLM determine that Wyoming's fracking rule is in compliance with the proposed Federal rule?
A: It's really too soon to say since the rule is not final, but we appreciate Wyoming's willingness to work with the BLM in the formation, implementation, and execution of the BLM's rule regarding hydraulic fracturing. While Wyoming's regulations meet or exceed the standards in the proposed Federal rule on certain provisions, there are some differences to reconcile before we can reach any conclusions

Oil and gas issues

Q: How have budget issues affected the oil and gas program in WY?
A: The BLM Wyoming is consolidating staffing levels by eliminating or not filling vacant positions, and has reduced funding support for the inspection and enforcement program since Energy Policy Act funding for energy pilot offices is due to expire in 2015. Budget funding impacts have also caused the elimination of four assistance agreements with State agencies designed as cooperative efforts to accelerate oil/gas drilling permit processing. As a result, oil/gas drilling permit processing will take longer in Wyoming. BLM is reviewing possible alternatives to replace the shortfall in oil/gas funding with the future elimination of receipts (i.e. extend 9141 funding by legislation, increase oil/gas program revenues, or reduce expenses/cost savings). Because of other budget issues, such as a reduction in MLR funding due to the sequester, BLM Wyoming is following the national priorities: 1) inspection and enforcement, 2) processing applications for permits to drill (APDs), and 3) oil and gas leasing. Total funding reductions in the BLM Wyoming oil and gas program since 2010 total about $5.2 million for an overall reduction of 15%.

Wild horses

Q: Why is the BLM Wyoming conducting a wild horse gather?
A: The BLM must remove wild horses that have strayed onto Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA) private lands under an April 3, 2013, consent decree approved by a U.S. District Court Judge. The consent decree resolves *Rock Springs Grazing Assoc. v. Salazar*, requiring removal of wild horses from private lands. The BLM must gather and remove horses in Salt Wells Creek/Adobe Town (AT/SW) in 2013, Great Divide Basin in 2014 and White Mountain in 2015. The AT/SW gather commenced on November 22, 2013.

BLM FIRE AND AVIATION TOPICS

DOI's primary goal each fire season is to ensure safety for firefighters and the public. Unfortunately, 34 firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty in 2013, the most since 1994. The number of fires this year stands at about 44,000, which is about 65% of the ten-year average. Much the same is true of acres burned (about 4.1 million), roughly 58% of the decadal average. It's worth noting that the reason for the lower figures is the very slow fire seasons in the Southeast and Southwest. In other areas, fire season was within the bounds of a normal season. As of late November 2013, DOI has spent about $394 million on fire suppression in 2013.

Q: Did the budget sequester harm firefighting efforts in 2013?
A: We were fortunate in one respect: that the national fire season was lighter than expected in some areas. However, in August, we did reach the highest of what we call "preparedness levels" for the first time in 5 years, so there was a time when fire activity was intense. The Forest Service estimates that it employed about 500 fewer firefighters this year because of budget cuts directly related to the sequester. The four DOI agencies with fire programs estimate the number to be about 230. When the western fire season peaked the third week of August, would it have been good to have another 730 or so firefighters available? Yes. We give great credit to firefighters and fire managers at all levels for the work they did with the resources they had. But a better, more suitable funding means for wildfire management needs to be adopted. Across-the-board mandatory budget cuts are not the best way to protect life, property, and natural and cultural resources from wildfire.

Q: The DOI budget for reducing fuels dropped substantially in 2013 and is scheduled for even greater cuts in the President's 2014 budget. You've been quoted as saying the nation cannot afford to allow fuels to build up again and thereby increase the danger from wildfires. How do you reconcile those two apparently contrasting points-of-view?
A: Our nation is in a difficult budget situation and tough choices need to be made, and fire management is not exempt from those discussions. But when it comes to fire management, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. And we have the data now to demonstrate that fuels reduction work is effective at slowing the growth of wildfires. We need to figure out ways to efficiently manage fuel loads and thereby reduce the risk from wildfire to communities and natural resources. We are working with our partners and within the Administration to come up with a better approach to address the problem.

RECLAMATION ISSUES

Colorado River Basin Hydrology

Despite dry conditions, Reclamation was able to make the required delivery commitments, including environmental releases, in the Upper Basin in water year 2013 and anticipates meeting those commitments in 2014. In accordance with the 2007 Interim Guidelines for the coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, the annual release from Lake Powell will be 7.48 million acre-feet (maf) in water year 2014. This is the first time since the filling of Lake Powell that its annual release will be less than 8.23 maf. Reclamation met all delivery obligations to U.S. water users in the Lower Basin and to Mexico in 2013 and all delivery obligations in the Lower Basin will be met in 2014. Throughout history, there has never been a shortage condition determined in the Lower Basin; however, over the next 5 years, the potential for shortage exists, with probabilities ranging from less than 1% in 2015, to 44% in 2016 and 54% in 2017 and 2018.

Quagga Mussel Infestation and Control on the Lower Colorado River

Three major Reclamation facilities on the lower Colorado River – Hoover, Davis, and Parker dams – are currently impacted with heavy infestations. This mussel colonization has increased operations and maintenance activities and associated costs. Action plans to address the presence of these mussels are in place for all three facilities and the annual budget for mussel control ranges between $700 thousand to $1.2 million. Current mussel control efforts are focused on testing and development of a variety facility protection technologies and strategies that are environmentally safe. To date, restrictions or interruptions of water and power deliveries have not been required at these facilities due to mussel infestation.

NOTE: *You may be asked by Gov. Butch Otter of Idaho about Reclamation's quagga mussel control efforts at Lake Mead. The concern is infected boats trailered from Lake Mead to Idaho waters.*
A: Quagga mussels have not been found in Idaho waters to date, and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture has established a watercraft inspection station program to inspect boats from impacted states. The technology to control invasive mussels in large open water bodies such as Lake Mead has not been developed; therefore, Reclamation's focus is on facility protection.

Great Plains Rural Water Supply Program (MT, ND, SD, MN, IA)

Since 1980, Congress has directed Reclamation to construct 13 individual rural water supply projects at a combined cost of more than $2.3 billion. Projects have been authorized with varying local cost shares ranging between 0 and 25 percent. Federal law directs Reclamation to provide O&M funding on two projects authorized to benefit Tribes; including Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota and Mni Wiconi ("mini witch-OH-nee") Rural Water System in South Dakota. Indian O&M costs rise as new project features are constructed – consuming an increasing share of Reclamation's overall budget allocated to rural water projects.

Rural Water Supply Program Draft Criteria

In 2012, Reclamation received comments from proponents of each of the currently authorized projects on a draft criteria prioritization process to rank authorized rural water projects. The final criteria will be issued as part of Reclamation's Rural Water Assessment Report to Congress, which is currently under review by the Commissioner. BOR staff met with sponsors to describe the changes made in response to comments.

Q: Why is BOR using the ability of a non-Federal sponsor to contribute funds in excess of the authorized non-Federal cost share as a criterion for prioritizing funds?
A: Reclamation currently supports seven active Rural Water construction projects with a backlog of over $1.3 billion. In times of constrained Federal budgets, non-Federal funding in excess of the minimum contributions originally contemplated in project authorizations helps to complete projects and provide water and other benefits more quickly.

Red River Valley Water Supply Project (ND)

In 2007, BOR and the State of North Dakota completed the Red River Valley Water Supply Project Final EIS. The preferred alternative would import water from the Missouri River basin for release into the Red River via the Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU) Principal Supply Works. Because the Project was determined to be inconsistent with the policies and programs of the President by OMB, an ROD has not been signed. The Dakota Water Resources Act requires that if a Missouri River import option is selected, the project must be expressly authorized by the Congress. In 2011, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (District) and former Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) asked Reclamation what new Federal authorities would be needed, if any, in order for the State to construct the preferred alternative that could use the GDU Principal Supply Works or any other Federal facilities. In 2012, the District began planning on a State alternative that would deliver a water supply to the valley without the use of GDU Principal Supply Works or federal funding assistance. You visited with Governor Dalrymple earlier this year. The Governor followed up with Commissioner Connor on October 28 and it was a good conversation, with the Governor planning to look further into legislative alternatives with the ND delegation requiring less of a Federal role and possibly taking advantage of existing unused water and facilities.

Columbia River Treaty (WA)

After leading a multi-year stakeholder review of the Columbia River Treaty, the U.S. Entity (Bonneville Power Administration and Army Corps of Engineers) plans to present a regional recommendation to pursue modernization of the Treaty to the Department of State in December 2013. DOI recognizes the significant benefit to the region of a modernized Treaty that includes additional purposes like ecosystem function; addresses additional regional needs like water supply, navigation, and recreation; ensures acceptable levels of flood risk; adapts to climate change impacts, and fairly values and compensates the actions that one country takes on behalf of the other. A successful treaty modernization effort will balance the trade-offs necessary to optimize Columbia River flows among the new or expanded purposes and interests proposed. Interior appreciates the tremendous effort put forth by the U.S. Entity and the Sovereign Review Team members during the review process. Interior supports continued sovereign and stakeholder involvement in the treaty modernization process moving forward into 2014.

Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (WA)

Governor Inslee is expected to seek DOI's commitment to provide financial support for implementing the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IP). The IP, which is a basin-wide restoration plan, calls for the balanced implementation of a broad-range of activities organized around seven elements: reservoir fish passage; structural and operational changes to existing facilities; surface water storage; groundwater storage, habitat/watershed protection and enhancement enhanced water conservation, and market reallocation. The total cost for implementing all elements of the IP is estimated to be between $3 and $5 billion (plus annual operation and maintenance costs estimated at $10 million). Implementation is expected to take place over a 30-year period. The Washington State Legislature recently passed a policy bill supporting the IP which calls for a 50/50 cost-share with Federal, local, and private organizations for the entire IP project and a 2013-2015 state budget that includes $132 million for the IP. The State is providing $26M to Reclamation to continue exploration and refinement of infrastructure projects. Reclamation seeks a balanced approach to advancing Integrated Plan projects and proposes that for the near term FY2014 through FY2017 that we continue to support existing

conservation and tributary habitat projects and focus on advancing Kachess Pumping Plant to meet drought year irrigation supply and continue in our long term commitment to Cle Elum Fish Passage Facilities to benefit Yakima River fisheries. To date, the Department has provided about $5M for IP activities. Reclamation's FY2014 budget request includes $7.5M.

A: I am committed to continuing the cooperative relationship with the State of Washington to collaboratively further the goals of the IP, including due consideration to funding activities in the Yakima Basin as part of the FY2015 President's budget request.

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: December 4, 2013
FROM: Rhea Suh, AS-PMB, (202) 208-1927
SUBJECT: Sequester Impacts on Payments to States and WGA

YOU will be asked by governors at the WGA meeting about the status of funds that were sequestered in 2013 from payments to states and if they will become available in 2014.

BACKGROUND

The Budget Control Act of 2011, which was amended by the American Taxpayers Relief Act of 2012, set statutory limits for spending for ten years beginning in FY 2013. If spending levels exceed the limits, automatic spending reductions are triggered and discretionary and mandatory accounts are sequestered.

- Current spending levels in FY 2014, dictated by the continuing resolution that is in place through January 15, sustain the 2013 sequester to discretionary spending.

- Additional reductions are expected if Congress does not take action to find alternative reductions to achieve spending limitations.

- The spending limits established for 2014 by the Budget Control Act would reduce spending in mandatory accounts that are the source for most of the payments to states.

- If there is a sequester, under the normal operation of this process, the Office of Management and Budget would determine if spending has exceeded the applicable limits 15 days after Congress adjourns to end a session or about the middle of January. If spending exceeds the limits, sequester would be ordered and implemented.

- DOI is acting prudently to prepare for a sequester and is holding back 8% of the estimated 2014 amounts from mandatory spending allocations.

EXEMPT VS. NON-EXEMPT

The Balanced Budget Enforcement and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA), as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011 is the basis for sequester implementation.

- The BBEDCA specifies the exemption of accounts from sequester. It exempts from sequester trust funds that receive revenues from excise taxes. It does not exempt the spending accounts from which funding allocations to states are made.

- For example, the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund that receives revenues from motorboat fuels taxes and fees on sport fishing tackle are exempt from sequester.

- The Sport Fish Account that funds payments to states is not exempt from sequester.

2013 SPENDING IMPACTS

For 2013, the sequester reductions resulted in cuts of 5.1 percent to DOI mandatory accounts.

- The 2013 sequester included reductions to mandatory funds including Mineral Leasing Act payments, Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) payments, and Sport Fish and Federal Aid accounts, and many others. The reductions to Sport Fish and Federal Aid was as follows:
    - Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration $29.1 million
    - Sport Fish Restoration $23.6 million

- Except for the Mineral Leasing Act payments we do not have a final legal determination as to whether the amounts sequestered in 2013 from these accounts will become available in 2014. We are working on this matter and hope to have an answer soon.

- The community (States and the Council) is aware that the funds were made available in the year following sequester in 1986 and 1989 (during earlier sequester events). They presume based on precedent that funds sequestered in 2013 would become available in 2014. We have developed a very robust case to support this position.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

As a part of the agreement brokered to end the government shutdown and pass the continuing resolution, the House and Senate agreed to convene a Budget Conference Committee to be led by Senate Budget Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Washington and House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin.

- A Budget Conference Report is due December 13, 2013 that will serve as the template for spending allocations for FY 2014 full year appropriations.

- Changes in taxes and mandatory programs are anticipated to achieve the savings required by the Budget Control Act. In the absence of a plan that can achieve the mandated savings, sequestration will be triggered in January 2014.

TAKE AWAY MESSAGE

- YOU are following progress closely on the House and Senate negotiations on the budget situation for FY 2014.

- We need to act prudently and prepare for sequester, holding back 8% of the 2014 funds. If there is no sequester these funds would be allocated.

- We are working through the process to get a final determination about whether the funds that were sequestered in 2013 will become available in 2014.

- We will keep the governors informed as we learn more.

BISON CONNECT

Jewell, Sally (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

Re: Suggestions on SENR document

1 message

Salotti, Christopher <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Jun 3, 2013 at 9:11 AM
To: Sally Jewell(b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Walls Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, dailybriefingbinder OS <dailybriefingbinder@ios.doi.gov>

Sorry, the iPad formatting doesn't seem to agree with Word so much.

This is how I edited the paragraph:

(b)(5)

I've attached a clean version that shows this paragraph.

(b)(5)

Chris

On Sun, Jun 2, 2013 at 10:25 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Chris -

Thanks for the further work on this. My questions on (b)(5) - (b)(5) I have read through this on my iPad and it looks good overall - I'd just like to button up that issue. I will review on my desktop tomorrow when I can see the track changes and let you know if I have further input.

Thanks,

Sally

Sent from my iPad

On May 31, 2013, at 4:26 PM, "Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Secretary Jewell –

I've incorporated your edits into this draft. I thought they were great. I've attached a redline version that will show your edits as regular text and my subsequent edits in redline.

Regarding your comment on few references to (b)(5)

(b)(5) [redacted]

I talked to both Tommy Beaudreau (the paragraph came from his testimony presented last week in front of House Government Reform) and BLM and have edited the paragraph to make it tighter:

(b)(5) [redacted]

Chris

On Thu, May 30, 2013 at 5:44 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Dear Chris -

Thanks for your continued hard work on my committee testimony. I don't have access to Track Changes on my iPad, so I'm hoping you can see the suggested edits I made when you open these on your desktop. I

(b)(5) [redacted]

(b)(5) [redacted]

(b)(5) Your call on this, but I certainly noticed it, especially when put into the same few sentences.

(b)(5) [redacted] I will endeavor to give you a quick turnaround once you have digested these and put them into your format.

Thanks,

Sally

--

Christopher P. Salotti

Legislative Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

<proposed SENR statement 5_31 2 pm version.docx>

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Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

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proposed SJ SENR statement clean.docx
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STATEMENT OF SALLY JEWELL
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

June 6, 2013

Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Murkowski, thank you for inviting me to appear before your Committee to discuss the programs and activities of the Department of the Interior. I am happy to be here today.

When I appeared before you at my confirmation hearing in March I talked about the scale of the duties of the position and the incredible diversity in the Department's mission. Every day Departmental employees are working to preserve our nation's great heritage and history, manage our federal lands, waters, and other resources, ensure the delivery of water for diverse users, empower insular communities, and support Native American communities. Since that time I have come to see and truly appreciate the astonishing breadth of the issues and responsibilities located within this one Department, many of which fall under the jurisdiction of this Committee. The Department's complex mission affects the lives of all Americans; nearly every American lives within an hour's drive of lands or waters managed by the Department.

During the past 5 weeks my duties have taken me from south Florida and the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park, where I saw, firsthand, Everglades restoration projects underway; to Boise, Idaho, where I met with a group of smokejumpers – some really tough firefighters – at the National Interagency Fire Center and learned how our federal firefighters are deployed when a wildfire is reported; to the Gulf of Mexico where I viewed an offshore drilling rig and a production platform with an inspector from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; and to Portland, Oregon, where I signed an agreement with the States of Oregon and Washington to expedite the review and permitting of energy generation, transmission, and other infrastructure development.

The Department's bureaus serve as stewards of the nation's parks, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, seashores, and national monuments and recreation areas, and as the keeper of the history of this country. We share responsibilities to protect and advance the role of public lands

and Indian lands. The lands and resources we manage are also a huge economic engine, powering our economy through energy development, tourism and recreation, logging, grazing and other uses. The Department oversees the responsible development of 23 percent of U.S. energy supplies, is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western states, maintains relationships with 566 federally recognized tribes, and provides services to more than 1.7 million American Indian and Alaska Native peoples.

In 2012, there were almost 500 million visits to lands managed by the Department. Recreational visits to our lands contributed an estimated $49 billion in economic benefits to local communities in 2011. We collect nearly $13 billion annually through mineral extraction and other activities, and share nearly $5 billion of these revenues annually with states, tribes, counties, and other entities. An additional $2 billion of our budget is used in local communities across the nation through contracts for goods and services. In many of your states, the revenues we share from energy production and other activities are a critical component of the local economy. Overall, the Department estimates the exploration and production of oil, gas, coal, hydropower, and minerals on federal lands contributed nearly $275 billion to the U.S. economy in 2011.

It is with this fitting introduction to the Department's significant responsibilities that I come before you again to discuss the major programs and highlight some of the activities at the Department and my goal to ensure that it continues in its role as a resources manager, a job creator, and a partner to tribes and state and local governments.

Strengthening Our Energy Future

As I noted back in March, I believe that rapidly advancing technologies, smart policies, and a commitment to the President's "all of the above" energy strategy will allow us to continue with the safe and environmentally responsible expansion and diversification of our nation's energy production, further cutting our reliance on foreign oil, and protecting our land and water at the same time. We have been pushing forward with that goal.

Onshore Energy Development

Onshore, the Bureau of Land Management held 31 oil and gas sales last year and is scheduled to hold more than 30 this year. Oil production from federal onshore lands is at its highest level in

over a decade. The amount of producing acreage continues to increase, and was up by about 200,000 acres between 2011-2012. And the onshore leasing reforms put in place in 2010 resulted in the lowest number of protests in ten years - fewer than 18 percent of parcels offered in FY 2012 were protested, reducing costs and further speeding development.

The Administration is making more coal available as well, with the number of producing acres rising 4 percent from FY 2009 to FY 2012. The amount of coal the agency leased last fiscal year is the highest since FY 2003. And through the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, we are working to ensure that communities impacted by coal mining and the environment are protected during mining. We are also pursuing the reclamation of priority abandoned mine sites, with a goal of reducing the number of remaining dangerous abandoned mine sites nationwide.

I have heard from a number of members about the need for better onshore permit processing. Secretary Salazar instituted reforms to the BLM's programs, including transitioning to an electronic system that will automate and streamline the application process and significantly reduce the time for approval of new projects. From FY 2006 to FY 2012, the amount of time it took for all BLM field offices to process and approve complete drilling applications fell by 40 percent and the number of inspections completed by all BLM offices rose 73 percent. We are headed in the right direction and will continue to look at procedures, processes, and the regulatory framework to identify areas for further reform.

The Department also published several weeks ago an updated proposed rule on hydraulic fracturing on public and Indian lands. These are common sense updates to 30-year old regulations that will increase safety in oil and gas production on public lands while, at the same time, provide flexibility and fostering coordination with states and tribes. This is an important step in ensuring that the public has full confidence that the right safety and environmental protections are in place.

Alaska is an important component of our nation's energy strategy. The Arctic holds substantial oil and gas potential, but also presents unique environmental and operational challenges. The BLM recently finalized a new comprehensive plan – the first ever – for the 23-million acre National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. This balanced plan provides access to over 70 percent of

that area's estimated oil potential and provides for an important east-west corridor that could be needed for pipeline infrastructure to eventually carry Chukchi Sea oil to the Trans-Alaska pipeline. At the same time, it will protect the vital subsistence resources of Alaska Natives and the habitat of world-class wildlife populations.

I recently appeared before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and noted at that hearing that the Department is committed to assisting Indian tribes in expanding renewable, reliable, and secure energy supplies on Indian lands and safe and responsible oil and gas development. Including Indian Country in the "all of the above" energy strategy will help increase domestic energy supplies and improve the economies of many Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages.

Offshore Energy Development

We also are moving forward with oversight of the safe and responsible development of our offshore oil and gas resources, (b) (5) [redacted]. The first two sales of the 2012-2017 Five Year Program were held in the Gulf of Mexico in November 2012 and March 2013, and resulted in over $1.3 billion dollars in industry investment and government revenue through bidding on 436 tracts. At the end of April we announced the Proposed Notice of Sale for Lease Sale 233, scheduled for this August, making available 21 million acres offshore Texas. With this sale, all unleased acreage in the Western Gulf of Mexico will be available for leasing.

Over the past several years, since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Department has reformed the way development on the Outer Continental Shelf takes place. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has implemented safety and environmental management system regulations; issued a new drilling safety rule to refine safety reforms and strengthen requirements; taken steps to hold contractors accountable for their actions offshore; conducted two full-scale capping stack deployment exercises to respond to potential future well blowout scenarios; and provided new guidance on oil spill response plans.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has also significantly reduced the time for review of exploration and development plans for deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, with time from submission to approval down almost 35 percent from the period between October 2010 and October 2011.

BSEE has achieved similar, significant improvements in the processing of deepwater permits, with the average time for review reduced by about 37 percent between 2011 and 2012. This has contributed to the approval by BSEE of 112 new deepwater well permits, higher than in either of the two years preceding the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. There are more floating deepwater drilling rigs working in the Gulf of Mexico today than prior to the Deepwater Horizon spill, and we expect drilling activity to steadily increase over the coming year. And both BOEM and BSEE are working to modernize and streamline their data systems and the processes for the submission and review of plans and permits. When completed, this investment will achieve significant gains for both the rigor of analysis and the efficiency of review, saving time and money and enhancing accountability.

Science continues to drive decision-making for the OCS leasing program. BOEM conducts rigorous scientific and environmental analysis to support all stages of the OCS program, partnering with academic institutions and other federal agencies to produce top-tier applied research to support decision making. BOEM also conducts thorough assessment of resource potential to identify areas of the OCS that are most promising for exploration and development. Last year BOEM began a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to support permitting decisions for geological and geophysical surveys that will be used for assessing energy resource potential off the coast of the Mid and South Atlantic. The Department also uses the results of exploratory drilling to improve its knowledge of the resource potential. As part of this process, the Department oversaw the first new exploratory activity in the Alaskan arctic in a decade, with Shell Oil Company beginning limited preparatory drilling activities in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas under strict safety and environmental oversight.

A priority for the Administration is implementation of the Agreement between the United States and Mexico concerning Transboundary Hydrocarbon Reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico. Implementation of the Agreement will make nearly 1.5 million acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, currently subject to a moratorium under the Western Gap Treaty, immediately available for leasing and will make the entire transboundary region, which is currently subject to legal uncertainty in the absence of an agreement, more attractive to U.S.-qualified operators. BOEM estimates that the transboundary area contains as much as 172 million barrels of oil and 304

billion cubic feet of natural gas. We look forward to working you on legislation to implement this Agreement.

Renewable Energy Development

The Department has a critical role to play in fulfilling the President's goal to double renewable electricity generation again by the year 2020 by facilitating renewable development on public lands. I will continue to build on the Department's successes and work to make sure we are accomplishing this in the right way and in the right places.

Securing clean sources of energy not only is good for the environment, it creates American jobs, and promotes innovation. In 2009, there were no commercial solar energy projects on or under development on the public lands. From that time, the Department authorized 42 renewable energy projects on or through the public lands which, if constructed, will have the potential to produce enough electricity to power more than 4.2 million homes. The Department also plays a key role in efforts to strengthen the nation's electric transmission grid, approving permits enabling several hundred miles of transmission lines in seven states across federal lands in 2012.

BLM has focused on an accelerated, but environmentally responsible, permitting process for the development of renewable energy on public lands that ensures the protection of signature landscapes, wildlife habitats, and cultural resources.

Since 2009, BLM has authorized more than 12,000 megawatts of energy on public lands and waters, established a road map for responsible solar development in the West by designating energy zones, and flipped the switch on the first solar energy project to deliver power to the grid. BLM also released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed 750 megawatt facility in Riverside County that would be one of the largest solar energy projects on public lands in the California desert. BLM is also moving forward on wind energy, with a proposed complex in Wyoming that would generate up to 3,000 megawatts of power, making it the largest wind farm facility in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. BLM also expects to propose rules that would establish a competitive process for issuing rights-of-way leases for solar and wind energy development on public lands.

Significant progress has been made to advance offshore wind energy. BOEM issued the second non-competitive commercial wind lease off the coast of Delaware in 2012. Earlier this week I announced the first ever competitive lease sale, to be held in July, for a wind energy area offshore Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and BOEM will hold another competitive lease sale offshore Virginia this year. These sales involve nearly 278,000 acres proposed for development of wind generation to produce electricity to power as many as 1.9 million homes. We expect additional competitive lease sales to follow for wind energy areas offshore Maryland, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, and we continue to make progress on potential projects in areas offshore New York, North Carolina, and Maine.

BOEM has established renewable energy task forces with a total of 12 coastal states, including recent task forces in the States of Hawaii and South Carolina, and is overseeing progress in the planning of a potential Mid-Atlantic wind energy transmission line, which would enable up to 6,000 MW of wind turbine capacity to be delivered to the electric grid along the East Coast.

And the Bureau of Reclamation's 58 hydroelectric power plants generate more than 40 billion kilowatt hours of electricity to meet the needs of over 3.5 million households and generate over $1 billion in gross revenues for the federal government.

Management of Our Lands and Waters

I will also work hard to build on the progress this Administration has made in the management of the federal lands and waters that make this "America the Beautiful."

America's Great Outdoors

With the National Park Service's centennial anniversary approaching in 2016, we have the opportunity to both celebrate and confirm the NPS's stewardship of our cultural and natural treasures and its role in building enduring connections and enriching experiences with its visitors, including the nation's youth. I recently had the opportunity to meet students from Stonewall Middle School at Prince William Forest Park in Virginia to celebrate National Park Week and highlight the importance of outdoor recreation and education, especially to young people.

One of the major goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative is to better connect youth and families to nature and outdoor recreation. Engaging with American's youth through the great outdoors helps lay the foundation for the next generation of our nation's stewards, scientists, business leaders, teachers, and others who will understand the key role that national parks and public lands play in conservation and preservation of our nation's treasures and the significance they have for local communities, drawing visitors and boosting the economy.

I have had an opportunity in these first weeks on the job to work alongside young people in Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and in a city park in Portland, Oregon, where high school and college-aged young people were restoring habitat and engaging other youth in environmental education and stewardship - all great examples of our commitment to a 21st Century Civilian Service Corps. In an effort to learn from the Civilian Conservation Corps of the last century, this provides a tangible way to boost youth employment and job training, supporting our public lands infrastructure in a cost-effective way while giving youth a lifetime connection to public lands close to home and far away. It also provides great opportunities for public/private partnerships with businesses and non-profit organizations.

We will continue through AGO to expand opportunities for recreation and conservation, through partnerships with states and others, and the promotion of America's parks, refuges, and public lands. The innovative partnerships developed through this important initiative have helped expand access to rivers and trails, created wildlife corridors, and promoted conservation while working to protect historic uses of the land including ranching, farming, and forestry.

An example of the great work done under this program is the Swan Valley Conservation Area, established as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System by the Department in 2012, which is situated between the Canadian Rockies and the central Rockies of Idaho and Wyoming, in partnership with landowners who voluntarily entered their lands into easements. The new Area will protect one of the last low elevation, coniferous forest ecosystems in western Montana that remains undeveloped and provides habitat for species such as grizzly bears, gray wolves, wolverines, and Canada lynx.

And we are continuing our commitment to America's Great Outdoors through our request this year, for the first time ever, of mandatory dedicated funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund programs, with full funding at $900 million annually beginning in 2015. Enactment of a mandatory LWCF program would ensure continued funding for this program designed to make investments in conservation and recreation as compensation to the American people for the development of oil and gas resources.

Our nation's public lands, managed by BLM for multiple uses, include rangelands, forests, deserts, and mountains. They support a variety of resources and opportunities important to Americans such as forage for livestock, water storage and filtration, carbon sequestration, habitat for an abundance of wildlife, scenic beauty and many forms of outdoor recreation.

The National Landscape Conservation System, which includes 19 national monuments, 21 national conservation (and similarly designated) areas, and 221 wilderness areas designated by Congress offer a different conservation model where many traditional uses are allowed. These spectacular lands provide a multitude of benefits including scientific and historical resources, critical habitat for a variety of species, and diverse recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, and hiking that generate millions of dollars for local communities.

The conservation and sustainable use of our rangelands is important to those who make their living on these landscapes—including public rangeland permittees, whose operations are important to the economic well-being and cultural identity of the West and to rural western communities. While significant workload and resource challenges exist, BLM is committed to reducing the backlog of grazing permit renewals and to issuing permits in the year they expire.

BLM manages the timber on its Oregon and California (O&C) Grant Lands according to the principle of sustained yield. We are increasing support in 2014 for resource management on the O&C lands to implement the Western Oregon Strategy, including increased timber volumes offered for sale while at the same time increasing surveys of species under the Northwest Forest Plan and facilitating recovery of the northern spotted owl, as well as increased support for the BLM to continue its comprehensive effort to prepare new Resource Management Plans covering six BLM Districts in western Oregon.

Wildland Fire

You heard several days ago from the Department on the outlook and planning for the coming fire season. Just a few weeks ago I had the opportunity to join with Secretary Vilsack at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise to see this well-coordinated operation firsthand and discuss the efforts the federal government is making to protect citizens and property from wildfire.

After a decade of drought and the continued proliferation of non-native plant species and accumulation of hazardous fuels in our forests and rangelands, the 2012 fire season was one of the worst on record for BLM rangelands and woodlands in the lower 48 states. The 2012 season also impacted the other 3 bureaus with resource responsibilities, and with the outlook for the 2013 season to be as severe throughout much of the West, there may be record fires this year. To be prepared we are working together with other federal agencies, tribes, and local governments to ensure that we're doing everything we can with the resources that we have.

Let me add that the complexity and intensity of fires over the past ten years present enormous budgetary challenges for the federal government. While the latest projection for fire costs for the 2013 season indicate that we have sufficient funding, because of sequestration we absorbed an overall $41 million cut to the Department's fire program that resulted in a reduction of approximately 7 percent of the Department's firefighter seasonal workforce, with reduced lengths of employment for those hired. This reduces our capability and significantly constrains our work in preventing fires through hazardous fuels removal and remediating land after fire damage.

Water Resources

The Bureau of Reclamation is the largest wholesaler and manager of water in the 17 western states and the nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power. Its projects and programs are critical to driving and maintaining economic growth in the western states. Reclamation manages water for agricultural, municipal and industrial use, and provides flood control and recreation for millions of people. Reclamation activities, including recreation, have an economic contribution of $46 billion, and support nearly 312,000 jobs. As a result, Reclamation facilities eliminate the production of over 27 million tons of carbon dioxide that would have been produced by fossil fuel power plants.

Reclamation has a long-standing commitment to support the Secretary's goal to strengthen tribal nations, including through ecosystem restoration, rural water infrastructure, and the implementation of water rights settlements.

Population growth, development, and a changing climate are creating growing challenges to the nation's water supplies. In many areas of the Country, including the arid West, dwindling water supplies, lengthening droughts, and rising demand for water are forcing communities, stakeholders, and governments to explore new ideas and find new solutions to ensure stable, secure water supplies for the future. The Department is tackling America's water challenges by providing leadership and assistance to states, tribes, and local communities to address competing demands for water by helping improve conservation and increase water availability, restore watersheds, and resolve long standing water conflicts. Today, many of Reclamation's activities address drought through the use of enhanced water management that helps guard against and, to a certain extent, mitigate the devastating effects of drought. Water conservation by agricultural, residential and commercial users is a prime example.

Through our national water conservation initiative, WaterSMART, we are finding better ways to stretch existing supplies and helping partners plan to meet future water demands. In 2012 the U.S. Geological Survey, a key partner in the WaterSMART initiative, began a three year study of three focus areas in the Delaware River Basin, the Apalachicola–Chattahoochee–Flint River Basin, and the Colorado River Basin that will focus on water availability, investigating the components of a regional water budget to understand the amount entering and leaving each basin.

This work also contributed to the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, the first of its kind, released by the Department in December 2012, which projects an average imbalance in future water supply and demand greater than 3.2 million acre-feet by 2060. The study projects the largest increase in demand will come from municipal and industrial users, owing to population growth, and estimates the number of people that rely on Colorado River Basin water could double to nearly 76 million people by 2060 under a rapid growth scenario. Based on this study, the Department, along with representatives from the seven Colorado River Basin states, the Ten Tribes Partnership, and conservation organizations, last week outlined the next steps to address these projected imbalances.

I am committed to continuing to work with our stakeholders to assess the implications of water shortages, develop flexible operational plans that account for expected periods of drought, and support projects that conserve water and improve the efficiency of water delivery infrastructure.

Addressing Challenges with Science

The Department's mission requires a careful balance between development and conservation, achieved by working closely with our diverse stakeholders and partners to ensure our actions provide the greatest benefit to the American people. The development and use of scientific information to inform decision making is a central component.

Science at the Department promotes economic growth and innovation. At the Department, we use science to address critical challenges in energy and mineral production, ecosystem management, invasive species, oil spill restoration, climate adaptation, and Earth observation - such as satellite and airborne land imaging, and water and wildlife monitoring.

Scientific monitoring, research, and development play a vital role in supporting Interior's missions and Interior maintains a robust science capability in the natural sciences, primarily in the U.S. Geological Survey. An example of how this expertise is applied is USGS's work as part of an interagency collaboration on hydraulic fracturing, which is aimed at researching and producing decision-ready information and tools on the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on the environment, health, and safety, including water quality and inducement of seismic activity. The USGS is also a leader in resource assessments, and just recently published an updated assessment of the Bakken and Three Forks Formations, finding greater resource potential there than previously thought.

The President has also made clear that climate change is an important issue for the nation, especially as we face more frequent droughts, wildfires, and floods. Here at the Department, we are using the science expertise in our bureaus to assist our land managers to effectively prepare for and respond to the effects of climate change on the natural and cultural resources that we manage.

While USGS provides exceptional support to Interior bureaus, other Departmental bureaus work collaboratively to bridge gaps in knowledge, leveraging the complementary skills and capacity to

advance the use of science to support management decision making, ensure independent review of key decisions and science integrity, and adaptively use data to assist states, tribes, and communities throughout the nation.

Impacts of Sequestration

Finally, I want to mention the impact sequestration and uncertainty about the future has had on the Department and its programs. The budget cuts that we have seen push us back to funding levels last seen in 2006, and reverse much of the progress made by Secretary Salazar, who worked in partnership with the Members of this Committee to advance the President's all-of-the above energy strategy; conserve our federal lands, waters and wildlife; advance youth engagement in the outdoors; and honor commitments to Native Americans. The process put in place by the sequestration undermines the work we need to do on many fronts, and we will continue to see impacts across the country in all of our bureaus during the coming months.

We will survive these cuts this year by freezing hiring, eliminating seasonal positions, and cutting back on our programs and services, but these steps are not sustainable, as these actions which are eroding our workforce, shrinking our summer field season, and deferring important work cannot be continued in future years without further severe consequences to our mission.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murkowski, and Members of the Committee, thank you again for inviting me to appear before your Committee. Achieving success in all of these important responsibilities on behalf of the American people is the Department's primary focus. I look forward to working with you as we advance these important issues.

Jewell, Sally (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Q and A

1 message

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Mon, May 6, 2013 at 5:51 AM
To: Sally Jewell - (b)(6)

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>
Date: May 4, 2013, 9:27:52 PM EDT
To: [redacted]@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fw: Q and A

Sally, at long last, the Q and A. Clearly there is no expectation you'll have done much w/ these b/f 1 tomorrow. We'll go through them then. Sarah

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From: Haze, Pam [mailto:pam_haze@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2013 05:36 PM
To: Rhea Suh <Rhea_Suh@ios.doi.gov>; Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>; Sarah D Greenberger <Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>; Amy Holley <Amy_Holley@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Q and A

Here are the complete Q and A for the Senate hearing. Let me know if you need me to send to anyone else.

Only Mikulski is missing - likely she won't be there
Begich is not here but he is definitely not coming we are told.

Senate Appropriations Hearings May 7 QandA.docx
85K

CHAIRMAN JACK REED (D-RI)

Energy

Question: What is the timeline for development of wind energy offshore Rhode Island?

Response:

- This is a key component of our All of the Above Energy Strategy.
- We are completing work on the NEPA analysis and the mitigation measures to be included as terms of the leases.
- When that work is complete, we will issue a Final Notice of Sale that will set the date for the auction.

Question: Do we expect leases to be finalized by the end of the year?

Response:

- Yes, we expect that this year we will hold the first-ever competitive lease sales for wind energy areas offshore Rhode Island/Massachusetts and Virginia.

Question: In 2012 the Subcommittee provided special pay authority to allow higher pay rates for certain positions in BOEM and BSEE. Has that helped you to recruit and retain staff in these specialized areas?

Response:

- Yes ,we appreciate your help with this.
- This it has helped us to recruit and retain staff in critical disciplines including geophysicists, geologists, and petroleum engineers.
- Hiring for these disciplines is key to our reforms and the market for these skills is very competitive since industry is able to pay higher salary rates.

Question: What is the status of hiring for BOEM and BSEE?

Response:

- BOEM staffing is at 89% of their hiring goal for this year. With 553 staff including 141 using the special salary rate authority.
- BSEE staffing is at 94% of their hiring goal for this year. With staff of 667 including 53 using the special salary rate authority.

Response:

- BSEE will hire an additional 50 engineers and inspectors this year.

Question: Are the funding increases in the BSEE for staffing? Can you explain?

Response:

- The budget includes increases of $24.8 million for BSEE. The increases will fund additional 148 staff for ongoing improvements in the offshore program. Funding will be used for staffing and support to:
    - Hire, train, equip, and support for personnel to conduct inspections and safety and audits;
    - Improve capacity for oil spill response, technical support, and safety management;
    - Develop our new National Offshore Training program for inspectors and engineers;
    - Expand capacity in Alaska to support exploration, development, and production operations;
    - Conduct research and development of safety systems and operations;
    - Evaluation well integrity; and
    - Begin our electronic inspection initiative to modernize offshore inspection.

Question: In 2012 we gave you authority to collect inspection fees. How is that program working?

Response:

- The inspection fee has worked out very well.
- It provided adequate resources in 2012 in order to significant expand the capacity of the inspection program.
- BSEE enhanced risk-based inspection protocols that guide actions taken to ensure compliance with safety and environmental requirements.
- Inspectors review many aspects of operational, facility and production including general safety, drilling, well completions, workovers, operations, production measurement, safety, and decommissioning.

Question: How much did you collect in 2012?

Response:

- In 2012, BSEE collected nearly $59 million in rental revenue and $3 million was provided in general revenue to fund the program.

Question: Why was there a shortfall in the amount you expected to collect?

Response:

- The shortfall in collections in 2012 was due to a lag at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- The authority was not available until the 2012 appropriations act was enacted in December 2011, providing the authority for the new fees.
- Once we had the authority we were able establish the program and mechanism to make the funds available to BSEE. We expect to collect $65 million in 2013 and 2014.

Question: Your 2014 budget proposes to impose an on-shore inspection fee for oil and gas inspections. What will this allow you to do?

Response:

- The 2014 budget, like the 2013 budget, proposes to impose an inspection fee for oil and gas programs managed by the Bureau of Land Management.
- The fee charges industry for the costs we incur to inspect their facilities, operations and production.
- The estimated collections generated from the fee program is $48 million. Beyond placing the costs for these programs that are totally dedicated to oversight of oil and gas production, this will allow us to reduce our request for appropriations.
- We will also be able to increase our efforts to ensure safe and environmentally compliant leasing on public lands and also ensure fair returns of revenues to the American taxpayers.

Question: How do you determine the fee?

Response:

- The fee schedule is based on the number of oil and gas wells per facility:
    - $700 for each lease or agreement with surface use, disturbance or reclamation;
    - $1,450 for each lease or agreement with 1 to 10 wells;
    - $3,500 for each lease or agreement with 11 to 50 wells; and
    - $6,800 for each lease or agreement with more than 50 wells.

Question: What is the return on investment for the oil and gas programs? Is the American public getting a fair return on the use of public lands?

Response:

- We think the American public is getting a fair return for the use of the public lands. We've done some analysis of the collections contrasted with the amounts we spend.

- For FY 2012, Interior collected approximately $11.5 billion in oil, gas and coal revenues. Collecting those revenues and carrying out monitoring, enforcement, and environmental protection activities cost Interior about $500 million.
- For each dollar Interior spent, we collected about $21. In addition, the public also receives some non-monetary returns in the form of environmental protection, and increased workplace safety.

Question: You have experience working in the oil and gas area. What is your philosophy on oil and gas reforms?

Response:

- I believe the Department is pursuing conventional energy development opportunities quite vigorously as part of a diverse All-of-the-Above approach. These efforts are important for our energy security.
- The key aspect of these efforts is to ensure expansion takes place through responsible management, ensuring safe and environmentally responsible operations.

Question: Are the reforms effective?

Response:

- I believe we are going in the right direction with our reforms.
- Besides improving the management and operations, we are reforming our procedures, processes and regulatory framework to streamline and improve effectiveness and timeliness.
- For example, onshore we have significantly reduced the time it takes to approve a complete drilling permit. In FY 2006, it took an average of 127 days to approve an application, whereas in FY 2012, it took almost half the time - 77 days.

Question: What is the timeline for the hydraulic fracturing regulations?

Response:

- In response to comments from stakeholders and the public on the 2012 draft fracking rule, the BLM is revising the rule in order to maximize flexibility, facilitate coordination with state practices, and ensure that operators engaging in hydraulic fracturing on public lands apply proven cost-effective safety measures that meet environmental protection standards.
- The revised rule is currently under review by the Office of Management and Budget. We hope to have it out soon.

Science

Question: Your 2013 budget includes significant investments in science programs, an infusion of $144 million. The majority of the funds are allocated to the U.S. Geological Survey, $88 million. However, you have additional funds allocated to other bureaus including the Fish and Wildlife Service. Are you duplicating scientific infrastructure by creating science programs in multiple bureaus? Why does FWS require science funding?

Response:

- Science underpins all of Interior's efforts and provides the basis for informed resource management decisions.
- USGS remains the leader in basic research. USGS is not a regulatory agency and is able to produce independent scientific information that supports Interior's needs as well as the public's needs for protection from hazards, water availability and use, geological and energy inventories, and research and analysis use in resource management.
- USGS houses our science advisor and we have recently put in place a very strong science integrity policy to ensure that the sound scientific information is the basis for our decisions is accurate.
- USGS alone cannot provide for all of Interior's science needs. Interior agencies work collaboratively to bridge gaps in knowledge.
- Science funding at the bureau and office level is used for tactical science. Bureaus use their funds to purchase studies, models and expertise from universities, USGS, and others to interpret and apply the vast body of knowledge generated by USGS and other scientific institutions.
- Bureau and office science support helps answer imminent and important natural resource management questions and provides near-term solutions to address urgent and emerging issues such as the white-nose syndrome in bats.

Question: What is the role of USGS in fracking?

Response:

- Natural gas has and will continue to play a crucial role in America's energy economy and independence.
- The 2014 USGS budget requests an increase of $13.0 million from the 2012 funding level to expand collaborative, interagency research and development efforts and answer critical research questions posed in a multi-agency research plan currently being developed by DOI, DOE, and EPA.

Question: Your budget request seeks significant increases for fracking research – how is this being coordinated with other agencies conducting research (e.g. EPA and DOE)?

- The three agencies build upon current work and collaboratively identify and prioritize new research and development activities that support sound management and policy decisions by Federal, State, tribal, and local entities.
- Each agency conducts complementary and non-duplicative work.
- The role of the U.S. Geological Survey in hydraulic fracturing is to apply and build upon its research strengths with focused studies on resource characterization and assessments, water quality and availability, ecological effects, effects on people and their communities, and induced seismicity.

Youth

Question: You have publicly advocated the book Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder. Can you give us your views on youth and the importance of the outdoors?

Response:

- Children significantly benefit from a physical and mental health perspective from time spent in the outdoors.
- Engagement in conservation equips them with skills for a life-long journey that improves their participation in stewardship of our resources.
- The employment and engagement of youth also creates a pipeline of skilled and energetic employees.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Question: Your budget includes a proposal to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund beginning in 2014 and make it a mandatory appropriation beginning in 2014. Why put this proposal forward?

Response:

- The commitment for LWCF, first established in 1965 by John F. Kennedy, is to use a portion of the proceeds from the development of public lands and waters for investments in conservation and recreation.
- Permanent authorization and mandatory funding would provide certainty for planning and accomplishing our priority conservation efforts. They should be coordinated with our partners at the State, tribal and local level.
- The ability to plan and operate a multi-year program, would allow us to maximize our efforts to create areas for children and others to get outside, engage in conservation, and improve the quality of life for communities with greenspace.

Question: Why put this proposal forward now in a time of constrained budgets?

Response:

- The budget reduced by the sequester, provides the stark contrast for why full funding and mandatory funding is important for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- 2013 levels are significantly below the levels we had planned in the budget and we will have to pare back our plans and turn back many willing sellers who want to sell their lands and may have to sell to developers.
- Full and mandatory funding would provide a more reliable source of funding for these efforts.

Question: What role do you envision that the Congress and appropriators would have in the oversight and decision making process?

Response:

- We want to work with you on the legislative proposal to ensure there is a continuing role for the Congress and appropriators.
- We have examined several models, such as the creation of an advisory body that would have input on the overall program direction and the prioritization of program components.

Question: Your budget prioritizes collaborative landscape conservation. What are your thoughts on this approach to land acquisition?

Response:

- The Collaborative Landscape projects accelerate our efforts to protect ecosystems before collapse, recognize community-based work to protect green space and improve access to the outdoors.
- These projects are based on extensive work with partners, leverage resources, and conserve working landscapes.
- They have broad benefits since they are fueled by efforts at the local level for conservation and allow Federal funds to be leveraged by others.

Question: How acquisition in Rhode Island fit in here?

Response:

- The refuges within Rhode Island are a priority acquisition for FWS and funding for this is identified in the 2014 budget.
- The budget identifies $900,000 for John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge acquisition.

- The collaborative landscape efforts have so far focused on a small number of landscapes where multiple agencies leverage efforts and build on community-based efforts. As we mature the program Rhode Island could be an area for leveraged efforts.

Heritage Areas

Question: You were on the National Parks Second Century Commission and advocated the need for heritage areas – both in terms of authorization and funding support. Do you agree that the heritage areas need support?

Response:

- Yes. Heritage areas are an important mechanism for communities to leverage private and public funds for locally-based efforts to protect and preserve natural and cultural resources.
- Heritage areas can bring recognition and energy to community revitalization and bring investments to bear on historic preservation.

Question: Why does your budget reduce heritage areas?

Response:

- The budget has many tough choices and this is one.
- The budget continues $9 million for the program to continue ongoing support that will be focused on assisting the newer areas that have not yet developed their network of support.
- At this funding level we will need to phase out support for the more established areas.

Question: Blackstone National Heritage Area is authorized through the end of Fiscal Year 2013 and your budget seeks extension through 2014. What are your views about the creation of Blackstone National Historical Park?

Response:

- We support the establishment of Blackstone National Historical Park.
- I look forward to working with you on this project and look forward to visiting Rhode Island.

Hurricane Sandy

Question: What is the status of the emergency supplemental funds appropriated for Hurricane Sandy?

Response:

- We will announce today the release of $475 million for 217 projects to rebuild and reopen facilities at parks, refuges and other Interior locations.
- The funds will also support research and be used to identify and make available sand and gravel for beach replenishment.
- A total of 41.5 million is allocated for refuge rebuilding in Rhode Island.
- We will allocate $3 million in grants to the State of Rhode Island to be used for historic preservation.

Carcieri

Question: The U.S. Supreme Court in Carcieri v. Salazar held the Secretary may only place lands in trust under section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act for Tribes "under Federal jurisdiction" in 1934. What is included in the budget relating to the Carcieri decision?

Response:

- The FY 2014 Budget proposes language to fix the issues raised in the Supreme Court's Carcieri v. Salazar decision.
- Similar language was Included in the FY 2013 budget and would allow federally recognized Tribes to submit fee-to-trust applications to the Secretary of the Interior regardless of when the Tribe was acknowledged.
- The Supreme Court decision led to confusion about the scope of the Secretary's authority to acquire land in trust for all federally recognized tribes – including those tribes that were federally recognized or restored after the enactment of the Indian Reorganization Act.
- Without enactment of the Department's proposed fix in the FY 2014 Budget, both the Department and Indian tribes will continue to face a very burdensome process.

RANKING MINORITY SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI (R-AK)

National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska

Question: In December, the Bureau of Land Management announced a final plan for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. I am concerned the plan allows for oil and gas development on only 11.8 million of the reserve's 23 million acres.

Response:

- The plan announced in December is a comprehensive blueprint that will allow for access to oil and gas.
- The February 2013 NPR-A Record of Decision made approximately 11 million acres, or nearly half, of the NPR-A available for oil and gas leasing.
- Areas made unavailable for leasing encompass critical wildlife habitat and other important surface values, thereby protecting critical areas for sensitive bird populations and caribou found in the Teshekpuk Lake and Western Arctic Caribou Herds – herds important for subsistence users in over forty villages in northwest Alaska.

Question: What is assumed in the 2014 budget in terms of leasing, production and revenue sharing?

Response:

- The 2014 budget estimates a total of $467.9 million in NPRA bonuses, rents, and royalties over the 10-year period 2014 - 2023, of which 50 percent, or $233.9 million, would be distributed to the State of Alaska.
- I commit to working with you on the critical role Alaska plays in domestic energy resource development within the NPR-A and elsewhere.

Question: Your budget proposes to redirect NPR-A revenues for Alaska conveyance and to clean up legacy wells. This is doubly offensive - how can you propose to shift Federal responsibilities to dedicated State funding and shift the burden for work that should already been completed?

Response:

- Our budget highlights the importance of these two programs and the need to fulfill the Federal requirements for Alaska conveyance and to clean up legacy wells.
- We want to work with you and the Committee to resolve the funding issue – the challenges of constrained budgets is impacting our ability to address these two programs.

- BLM's Alaska Region has significantly accelerated the completion of Alaska conveyances and is working on approaches to streamline and expedite conveyances.
- To date 96% of the conveyances have been accomplished through patents, interim conveyance, and tentative approval.
- The largest component of work remains in completing surveys, which can be done through contract and accelerated if additional funds are available.
- BLM has completed a comprehensive inventory of legacy wells and is working with the State and others on a strategy to address mitigation.
- BLM expects to release soon a long-term plan to addressing the abandoned legacy wells.
- To date, BLM has allocated $60 million to plug and remediate wells.

Question: For the last several years, the BLM has proposed a budget that includes nearly a 50% cut to the Alaska Land Conveyance program. How can the Department justify this request?

Response:

- I appreciate the importance of meeting the BLM's obligations to Alaska Natives.
- This was a difficult budget choice and we reduced it with great reluctance but based on the need to fund other critical needs like Arctic oil and gas development.
- The BLM has recently has carefully evaluated the remaining work to complete the conveyances.
- BLM had developed some proposals to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and speed up conveyance.
- This will help to minimize the impacts of the proposed reduction in funding

Question: The non-wilderness coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) has an estimated 10.4 billion barrels of oil and 8.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Advances in directional development technologies make it possible today to access and develop oil and natural gas resources with no surface occupancy of the land above the resources being developed. Could you explain why you do not propose opening of the coastal plain of ANWR for exploration and development in the 2014 budget?

Response:

- I recognize the important contribution Federal resources in Alaska make towards meeting our national domestic energy production goals.
- The Arctic Refuge itself is America's finest example of an intact, naturally functioning community of arctic and subarctic ecosystems, with significant resources that could be impacted by development.

- We do not believe that energy development should take place on these lands with their fragile ecosystems and habitat, and unique natural life.

Arctic Development

Question: During its 2012 attempt to drill in the Arctic, Shell encountered problems. Based on the findings of the 60-day report your Department completed, how do you intend to ensure energy development in the Arctic does not jeopardize the health of those pristine waters, as well as the lifestyles of the indigenous people and the wildlife upon which they depend?

Response:

- The Interior Department's review of Shell's 2012 Arctic drilling program reinforced the unique challenges that Arctic exploration presents.
- The extreme and unpredictable weather conditions, remote geography, lack of pre-existing infrastructure, and the importance of respecting environmental considerations and the needs of local communities, including subsistence hunting place a premium on our efforts to work closely with industry to develop strong, Arctic-specific safety and environmental approaches.
- David Hayes and Tommy Beaudreau are leading our efforts to work with other agencies, companies, the state of Alaska, and the communities of the North Slope to ensure that exploration activities are pursued safely and in an environmentally responsible manner.

Question: How will you work with the State and companies to ensure development proceeds without overwhelming regulations? What are your plans for issuing regulations?

Response:

- We have shared the results of our review with the industry and we are working with them to develop comprehensive and integrated operating plans to ensure we can work effectively to develop in the fragile Arctic environment.
- The 2014 Budget includes targeted increases for BOEM and BSEE of $4.4 million to support an anticipated increase Alaska workload over the coming years.

Izembek

Question: The recent decision to deny a land exchange that would allow for a one-lane gravel road from Cold Bay to the King Cove airport for medical emergencies, ignores the threats to the Native residents' lives. More than a dozen people have died

over the past three decades from accidents with airplanes flying into or out of King Cove. Please tell me how you plan to resolve this serious issue?

Response:

- I understand the importance of this long-standing issue.
- In resolving this issue, we need to balance our obligations to Alaska Natives with wildlife conservation responsibilities.
- I directed Kevin Washburn, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, to hold consultations with the Tribe, Tribal Councils, Aleutions East Borough, Native Corporations, and the city of King Cove.
- He plans to tour the area to view the evacuation issues and to consult with the Indian Health Service. He will issue a report to me.
- I plan to hold an official meeting in King Cove to listen to testimony about medication evacuation benefits of the road.
- We will consider all this information along with the FEIS to make a determination.

Contract Support Costs

Question: The recent Supreme Court decision Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter ending over 22 years of litigation. The Supreme Court advised the need for full contract support funding. Your budget does not do that and imposes a limit on contract support. This will seriously impede tribal self determination and make it impossible for Tribes to contract services. Can you explain?

Response:

- The budget includes $231 million for contact support for services the Tribes deliver on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This is an increase of nearly $10 million.
- The budget also proposes to indicate the amount of contract support Interior will fund for each contract.
- The Court provided this as an option if Tribes do not receive full Contract Support Cost funding.
- Clearly we need a resolution of this issue to make the process and setting of rates more transparent and less burdensome.
- Our long term strategy is to consult with Tribes and develop a collaborative solution.
- We would like to work with you and the Committee on this.

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER (R-TN)

Wind Energy

Question: The Administration has put an emphasis on renewable energy development and wind energy is a piece of this. I'm quite concerned with the impacts of wind, particularly as it relates to the mortality associated with birds. What are you doing to respond to this?

Response:

- Let me first say that I am committed to the President's "all-of-the-above" energy strategy to increase domestic production and reduce dependence on foreign oil.
- This includes exploring new frontiers and innovative technologies to develop both conventional and unconventional sources of energy, including renewables.
- I think most of us would not want any development—whether it is renewable or conventional to have a significantly adverse impact on any species.
- The 2014 budget contains an $5.3 million, an increase of $2 million for USGS to fund work on impacts to golden eagles, bats, condors, and tortoise from wind and solar energy.
- In the meantime, FWS has draft guidance for the wind industry to avoid or minimize impacts to bald and golden eagles.
- The budget includes an increase of $1.4 million for FWS to ensure energy corridors avoid threatened and endangered species and inform eagle protection.

FWS Mitigation Hatchery Funding

Question: What is the status of the Mitigation Hatchery Funding in the FY 2014 budget request?

Response:

- The 2014 budget proposes that mitigation fish hatcheries be funded by the organizations that operate the projects for which mitigation is needed. FWS will continue to partner with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bonneville Power Administration on this program.
- And thanks to your leadership and assistance, the Tennessee Valley Authority has committed funds to produce mitigation fish for stocking in southern streams.
- I understand FWS will execute a reimbursable agreement with TVA for nearly $1 million annually for the next three years that will fund the operations of the National Fish Hatcheries, including Dale Hollow NFH and the Erwin NFH.

Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition

Question: In 2010, the State of Tennessee filed with OSM a Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition. Submitted under Section 522 (c) of SMCRA, the petition requested that OSM find ridgelines on land managed for public uses in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. Where in the process is OSM with the petition?

Response:

- I've been made aware that OSM is making headway on this petition.
- The bureau recently finished drafting the alternatives, and it is sharing those alternatives with the agencies cooperating on the preparation of the EIS, developing a new work schedule, assessing the need for additional contract services, and necessary funding.
- Once these steps have been completed, OSM will proceed with the analysis and preparation of the petition evaluation document and the draft EIS.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Funding

Question: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the most visited parks in the country. The visitation far exceeds those of other parks in the system, but the budget for the Great Smoky's is much lower than that of say, Grand Canyon or Yellowstone. Shouldn't the funding be commensurate with the level of visitation, given the demands that this places on the park?

Response:

- The Great Smoky Mountains is indeed one of the crown jewels of our national park system.
- In 2014, we included $19.1 million for the park which is level with 2012 enacted.
- While visitation is a factor that drives park funding, it is not the only one. Both Grand Canyon and Yellowstone, for example, have a greater number of acres under park management and a greater percentage of visitors include overnight stays at those parks.
- A key to disparity in funding for the Great Smoky Mountains is the inability of the park to collect and retain entrance fees because this is now allowed by the authorizing legislation.
- That does create challenges for the park that has many meritorious projects.
- I look forward to working with you on ensuring that all of the important parks throughout the country have the resources they need.

National Parks Centennial

Question: As we approach the centennial of our national park system, what are your thoughts for mitigating the shortfall of funding needed to address the most critical issues in the park system? What does the 2014 budget include to prepare for the centennial?

Response:

- Thank you for your interest in this upcoming milestone. The 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 marks a defining moment in history.
- The 2014 budget proposes increases that support Director Jarvis' A Call to Action, a recommitment to the exemplary stewardship and public enjoyment of these places.
- The 2014 budget includes a $238.6 million increase relative to the 2013 full-year continuing resolution after sequestration reductions.
- These increases are proposed in the areas of natural resource stewardship, visitor access and enjoyment, protection of our nation's wilderness and icons, and other areas that allow the NPS to move toward a shared vision for its second century.
- If the 2014 budget is passed as proposed, it will go a long way in beginning to provide the needed funding to address critical needs and concerns within the NPS.

SENATOR ROY BLUNT (R-MO)

Jefferson Expansion Memorial (St. Louis Arch)

Question: What is the status of the effort to re-establish a long term agreement between the NPS and the Bi-State Development Agency (Illinois and Missouri)?

Response:

- I understand that we have had a great partnership for many years with the Development Agency and I think it has resulted in one of the best urban parks in our country.
- It is my understanding that the NPS hopes to finalize the agreement as soon as possible.

Blueways

Question: Secretary Salazar initiated the blueways program. It has raised concerns about increased regulation of rivers and associated waterways. Can you explain how the $3.3 million increase in the FWS budget for Blueways will be used?

Response:

- Thank you for your interest in this program. As you know, in May, 2012, my predecessor, Secretary Salazar, established the National Blueways System to recognize and support locally-led efforts to sustain the economic, recreational, and natural values of rivers and watersheds of national significance.
- The designation does not establish a new protective status or regulation, nor does it affect private property or water rights.
- The 2014 budget proposes $3.6 million Department-wide, a continuation of $250,000 in Reclamation and an increase of $3.3 million in the Fish and Wildlife Service to expand this program.
- The $3.3 million increase requested in the Fish and Wildlife Service budget will be used to provide candidate and designated National Blueways partnerships with financial assistance to support partnership coordination and watershed projects through grants and cooperative agreements.

Question: What is the cost associated with implementing this initiative, and from which accounts is the department drawing funds to support these efforts? What offices and bureaus of the Interior Department will have staff activities focused on these efforts?

Response:

- The National Blueways System's focus on watershed protection and restoration is fully consistent with Interior's core mission objectives.
- It is not a redirection of existing effort but a complementary approach to ongoing efforts in landscape protection and restoration.
- Many of Interior's bureaus and offices have responsibilities for river, estuarine and wetland protection and restoration; water sustainability; fisheries management; and river and trail resource protection; and outdoor recreation and education.
- The resources that support the National Blueways System initiative are derived from participating Interior bureau and office appropriated funds.
- Since the National Blueways System works to align existing activities and programs in support of blueways and associated resource benefits, there is not a dedicated stream of funding.

Question: The White River National Blueway in Missouri and Arkansas was established in January of this year. What Missouri constituencies supported the establishment of this National Blueway?

Response:

- Letters of support were received from the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and The Nature Conservancy—Missouri.

Question: Can private landowners opt out of a National Blueway designation on private property?

Response:

- The National Blueway program is entirely voluntary and private landowners are free to choose to not participate in any assistance programs or initiatives undertaken by the stakeholder partnership.
- A National Blueway is a designation that encompasses a river and its watershed, but is not specific to any parcel of land.

SENATOR THAD COCHRAN (R-MISS)

Historic Preservation Funding

Question: Historic Preservation is of huge importance to me and to many people not only in my state but in every state in this country. What is the status of the Historic Preservation Fund in the FY 2014 request?

Response:

- The 2014 budget requests $58.9 million for Historic Preservation fund grants. This is a $3 million increase from 2012 enacted.
- Of this total, $46.9 million is for grants-in-aid to States and Territories, and $9.0 million is for grants-in-aid to Tribes.
- The $3 million increase is requested to provide competitive grants targeted toward communities that are currently underrepresented on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Within the fund, we expect that Mississippi will receive approximately the same level of funding that they did in 2012, which was around $745,000.

Migratory Birds/North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Note: Senator Cochran is a member of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The Commission, chaired by the Secretary of the Interior, was established in 1929. It is responsible for considering and approving purchases of migratory bird habitat with revenue primarily from the sale of duck stamps and from appropriated funds authorized by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).

Question: What is the status of the NAWCA funding in the 2014 budget request?

Response:

- The 2014 budget requests a $3.9 million increase for NAWCA acquisitions from 2012 enacted.
- It is my understanding that NAWCA expired at the end of FY 2012 and I would like to make it clear that reauthorization is a priority for the Department.

SENATOR MIKE JOHANNS (R-Neb)

Keystone XL Pipeline

Question: Do you support the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline?

Response:

- Thank you for the question, Senator.
- I am committed to the President's all-of-the-above approach to the safe and responsible development of our country's abundant energy resources.
- The decision on the Keystone pipeline application will be made by the Department of State.
- A number of Interior Department bureaus are also cooperating agencies in the environmental review of that proposed project.
- I will ensure that the review Interior conducts on the pipeline project is conducted in an efficient manner, while taking into account all relevant

SENATOR JON TESTER (D-Mont)

ESA

Question: Stakeholders are very willing to participate in voluntary conservation agreements for oil and gas activities to help protect lesser prairie chicken and sage grouse habitat, and promote smart conservation practices. How does your 2014 budget promote the use of voluntary conservation agreements and other creative solutions that are reasonable alternatives to more ESA regulatory impediments?

Response:

- Senator, thank you for raising this issue. Recovery of listed or candidate species would be severely hampered were it not for these important conservation agreements.
- The 2014 budget request funds the Fish and Wildlife Service's Candidate Conservation Program at $11.5 million, which is among the Department's most successful tools for promoting conservation of a species at risk before it needs to be listed under the ESA.
- Candidate Conservation Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances provide certainty to landowners about actions that they can take immediately to address or minimize threats to a species at risk.
- If the species does become listed, these voluntary conservation agreements provide certainty to the participating landowner that they will not have to undertake any additional conservation actions.
- By working closely with landowners, the Service finds reasonable alternatives to meet the objectives of the ESA while continuing to support the needs of our partners to use their land and resources to meet their objectives.

Question: The FWS agreed to a work plan as part of a massive settlement for status and critical habitat reviews for 250 species. This could set in motion regulations that will prohibit many beneficial uses of private property. What are your views on how we should implement the settlement?

Response:

- In September 2010, FWS began negotiations with the Center for Biological Diversity) and Wild Earth Guardians in an attempt to settle the multiple lawsuits filed over missed statutory deadlines and preclude additional filings under the ESA.
- The Service developed a six year work-plan to resolve those lawsuits that enables the Service to evaluate each of the 251 species on the 2010

Candidate List and species recently added to the candidate list (North American wolverine and Pacific walrus), and make petition findings for a number of other species that have been the subject of recent petitions.

- The work plan allows the Service to focus efforts on species most in need of protection. These agreements have reduced deadline-related litigation-driven workloads by over 90 percent.
- This work plan also provides landowners with a clearer understanding of our timeline for determining the listing status of candidate species so that they can enter into voluntary conservation agreements now to balance their use of their lands with conservation of these highly imperiled species.
- Candidate Conservation Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances provide certainty to landowners about actions that they can take immediately to address or minimize threats to a species at risk.
- If the species does become listed, these voluntary conservation agreements provide certainty to the participating landowner that they will not have to undertake any additional conservation actions.
- By working closely with landowners, we are able to find reasonable alternatives to meet the objectives of the ESA while continuing to support the needs of our partners to use their land and resources to meet their objectives.

Wolf Management Funding

Question: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not planning to implement a program that Congress has directed to reimburse ranchers for wolf losses. Can you provide the basis for this decision? How do you expect to ensure our ranchers are not irreparably harmed by wolf depredation?

Response:

- I recognize the importance of this issue to western States and appreciate your questions.
- State wildlife managers and the Fish and Wildlife Service's Northern Rocky Mountains wolf recovery team continue to work closely with ranchers to minimize wolf interactions and depredation of livestock in the Northern Rocky Mountains.
- As you know, the Department removed the Western Gray wolves from the Endangered and Threatened Species List beginning in 2011, returning management authority to the States such as Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.
- The responsibility for management of population monitoring, hunting, and depredation programs belongs to States with approved management plans.

- FWS is executing the wolf depredation program using fiscal year 2012 funding as directed by Congress and will be allocating grants in the coming months.
- Given budget reductions to FWS and the sequester reductions of 5%, FWS will redirect 2013 funding to critical needs to address the recovery of listed species.
- FWS does not request funding for the wolf depredation program in 2014.

Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement

Question: I, as you may know, have legislation that proposes to settle water claims for the Blackfeet Nation. I am interested in your thoughts on this issue and in your commitment to supporting the legislation.

Response:

- I understand that our team has been working with your office closely on this issue and I greatly appreciate your leadership in trying to resolve these outstanding claims.
- To that end, I support the effort to settle conflicts, which I understand have existed for well over a century.
- I know we will send a representative to your upcoming hearing and we will be glad to offer you more detailed comments at that time.

Limited Liability Rule (OSM)

Question: OSM currently interprets SMCRA to mean that certified states and tribes cannot use coal Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding for non-coal projects and enjoy limited liability. For years, I pressed OSM to revise its regulations to allow states and Indian tribes that have certified correction of all known coal AML problems within their jurisdiction to receive limited liability protection for certain non-coal reclamation activities. In February, the bureau proposed just such a rule change. What is the status of this rulemaking?

Response:

- The public comment period for this rule closed last month. I understand that OSM plans to issue a final rule by October 1, 2013.
- The proposed rule would allow eligible states and tribes to reclaim non-coal mine sites without incurring certain civil liabilities.
- The rule change deals with the use of Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding by states and tribes that have certified to the Federal government

that they have completed reclamation of all known coal-related AML sites within their borders.

- *Background: To date, four states (Louisiana, Montana, Texas, and Wyoming) and three tribes (the Hopi and Crow Tribes and Navajo Nation) have been certified. Some of these states and tribes, however, have non-coal abandoned mines that threaten human health, safety, or the environment.*

Tribal Recognition: Little Shell Tribe of Montana

Question: What resources are included in your budget for tribal recognition? What are you plans to expedite this process?

Response:

- I am deeply interested in supporting the aspirations of tribes along the entire continuum of sovereignty.
- We do have a Office of Federal Acknowledgement in Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn's purview.
- Kevin has made it clear that one of his goals as Assistant Secretary is to make adjustments in the regulated process to improve timeliness, transparency, flexibility, due process, and accuracy.
- I will make Kevin aware of your interest on this important matter and ask him to follow up with you and your staff to have a fuller conversation.

Cobell

Question: Now that the Cobell case has been settled and the Court has given you approval to proceed – what is the status of implementation?

Response:

- Implementation efforts are underway and progress is being made.
- Interior established the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, and published an Initial Implementation Plan in December 2012.
- The Buy-Back Program is working to address the comments and input received from tribes and others on that Plan during three general tribal consultation sessions and through a public comment period that closed in March 2013. This June Interior is planning to release an update to the.
- The Plan is intended to be flexible and will be subject to change based on continuing consultation.

- As the Buy-Back Program is implemented, the Department expects to update its plans to reflect lessons learned, best practices, and tribal feedback and involvement.

Question: How will you ensure the land consolidation plan contemplated by the Cobell settlement will be carried out effectively and efficiently?

Response:

- Tribal leadership and involvement are crucial to the success of the Program, and we are seeking to leverage tribal experience and knowledge.
- The Department hopes to enter into cooperative, government-to-government agreements with many tribes and take advantage of tribes' ability to minimize administrative costs and improve overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Buy-Back Program.
- In addition, Interior is utilizing the extensive expertise, services, and systems within the Department, primarily in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.
- Interior will gain significant efficiencies by automating and centralizing the land acquisition processes which involve the offer/deed printing, mailing, processing, and approval.
- To ensure that fractional interests are valued fairly, an independent-third party review of the planned appraisal methods is currently underway.
- Moreover, we are adding key staff to focus, for example, on program performance, evaluation, and improvement. In addition, the Program is seeking to proactively identify and manage risks.

Question: How many individuals and acres of land are involved in the settlement?

Response:

- There are approximately 150 reservations with fractioned tracts (tracts with two or more owners).
- There are over 92,000 fractionated tracts at these locations that are owned by more than 219,000 individuals. The acres associated with these tracts exceed 10 million.
- Approximately 90% of the purchasable fractional interests are located in 40 of the 150 reservations. Many of the fractional interests are located in reservations within the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain areas.

Indian School Construction

Question: Your budget zeros out funding for construction of new schools. What is the impact of that? How do you anticipate Indian children will be able to learn when facilities are in disrepair?

Response:

- Our responsibilities to Native American children are some of the most profound we have at the Department.
- I am personally committed to trying to increase the quality of educational opportunities we provide through the Bureau of Indian Education.
- Our budget contains $652 million to support BIE elementary and secondary schools. The Department of Education provides an additional $200 million.
- From 2002 through 2013, $2 billion, including $300 million of funding made available in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, has been provided for construction, improvement, and repair projects that have reduced the number of schools in "poor condition" from more than 120 of the 183 schools to 63 today.
- This includes 42 complete school replacements and 62 major renovations, which are either completed, funded or under-construction.
- While the 2014 budget request does not include funding to fully replace existing schools, the budget includes $48. 5 million for major facilities improvement and repair projects at education facilities.
- Projects are prioritized to address the most critical health and safety issues. This strategy recognizes the importance of a quality school environment to best meet the learning needs of Indian students while working in a period of fiscal restraint.

Rural Water Project Funding

Question: The current funding level for currently authorized rural water projects will result in unacceptable delays. Rural water projects are critical to get potable water supplies to communities including Indian communities. The program takes a disproportionate reduction in the President's 2014 budget. Why? What solutions are there to fix this situation and advance completion of rural water projects?

Response:

- The Department supports the goals of encouraging vibrant rural economies and ensuring safe, reliable sources of drinking water for rural residents.
- There are currently seven congressionally authorized rural water projects under construction that help build strong, secure rural communities and are important to our non-federal sponsors.

- The President's FY 2014 Budget includes $40 million for rural water projects. The reduction from FY 2013 reflects the completion of funding for construction of the Mini Wiconi Project in South Dakota.
- The Department also believes Federal investments in such projects must recognize the current fiscal constraints and the need to make tough choices in prioritizing those investments.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Question: The 2014 budget calls for an approach to full funding for the LWCF, which I am in favor of. It also calls for the funding to move over to the mandatory side. Can you provide me with more information about your request?

Response:

- The budget request is truly historic in that it marks only the second time since LWCF was enacted in 1965 that we are requesting full-funding.
- The full-funding and the mandatory request is actually achieved over a two year period of time. In FY 2014, we request $600 million which is split $400 million in discretionary funds and $200 in mandatory funds.
- One of the signature pieces of our LWCF package is the work we have been engaged in over the last several years to create a competitive and collaborative component within the federal side.
- Working across jurisdictional boundaries enables us to leverage funding and to seize larger opportunities, like the one in the Crown of the Continent.

Hunting and Fishing Access

Question: I know you are a great outdoors enthusiast. Many people in my state also love the outdoors and I've worked hard to both increase and ensure access for hunters and anglers to these great places. I want to know what your budget does to support this access?

Response:

- The land acquisition projects contained within our budget make significant investments in improved access.
    - All of BLM's 22 projects have access benefits, which include providing opportunities for recreational activities.
    - More than 50 percent of the FWS acquisition projects will expand refuges that offer hunting and fishing opportunities.

Grazing

Question: Why is the BLM proposing to add a fee for livestock grazing permit applicants?

Response:

- Thank you for the question, Senator. The BLM maintains about 18,000 grazing permits and leases, each typically issued for 10 years. Under our budget proposal, the BLM would charge an administrative fee of $1 per Animal Unit Month (AUM), which would be collected along with current grazing fees.
- The goal of the proposed administrative fee of $1.00 per AUM is to recover some of the costs (approximately 25%) of administering the permits and leases of the grazing program from the parties (permittees) who benefit from their use of public lands and resources. Requiring permittees of public lands and resources to support the programs under which they benefit is common.
- The oil and gas industry is a prime example in which the users of the public lands

SENATOR TOM UDALL (D-NM)

Fire – Hazardous Materials

Question: The buildup of hazardous fuels on public lands in the West is a major concern – high-density, unhealthy forests pose risks to public safety and private property, not to mention endangered species and historical sites. I am concerned about the safety of Western communities and the cutbacks in your hazardous fuels program, which will reduce fuels projects. Can you explain why your budget fails to adequately fund hazardous fuels management and cuts support for community assistance?

Response:

- Thank you for the question, Senator. I appreciate your concern over the wildland fire threat posed by the buildup of hazardous fuels.
- As a Westerner, I have seen my share of fires and I understand the importance of the program.
- It is important to note that the overall budget contains a $200 million increase for wildland fire.
- There is a reduction of 48% to the fuels budget – one of the difficult choices.
- I will say that the complexity and intensity of fires over the last ten years present enormous budgetary challenges for the federal government. I would be very interested in working with you to try to come up with a more rational system to ensure we have adequate resources for both our hazardous fuels management and our suppression activities.

Question: What is your forecast for the 2013 fire season? Does your 2013 budget include adequate funds?

Response:

- While I have not received an in-depth briefing on the forecast for the fire season, I do know that it has already started in earnest in Southern California and overall it is expected be a normal to slightly above normal.
- Specifically, my staff informs me that the National Interagency Fire Center Predictive Services organization is currently predicting significant fire potential, above normal, for south central Oregon, the interior mountains and foothills of southern California and the Sacramento Valley and adjacent lower foothills, southeastern Arizona, much of western New Mexico. Fire potential will be below normal for most of the southeastern U.S., Puerto Rico and the southern half of Alaska. This forecast is

updated monthly and information provided above is from the May 2013 forecast.

- If I could also add that it is important to understand that because we are operating under sequestration, we absorbed a reduction in over $41 million to our fire program. These are not ideal circumstances for us to begin our fire season with.
- Our budget assumed a ten-year average need of $369 million for firefighting, which is within the amount, $370 million, we have including our carryover.

Oil & Gas

Question: I understand the Department is looking at changes to the regulations regarding commingling, which is critical for allowing small producers throughout the West to produce otherwise uneconomical amounts of oil and gas from low-volume wells. If the Department eliminates the ability to commingle in these situations, these wells would have to be shut down, costing jobs, hurting local economies, and decreasing domestic production. I understand this would be done in the name of collecting more royalties, but if wells have to shut down, we don't get any royalties at all. Wouldn't it make more sense to continue to allow the long-standing practice of commingling?

Response:

- Senator, I appreciate your concern and understand the critical role that low-volume wells and small producers play for our economic and energy well-being.
- The Department is committed to ensuring the American people get a fair return for the production of their oil and gas resources, and that requires accurate production volume measurements.
- I understand that the Bureau of Land Management has begun the process of updating their measurement rules in order to ensure that fair return, and to address numerous external recommendations that found the BLM's existing regulations to be outdated.
- I will work with you to make sure that improved accuracy in measurement does not come at the expense of shutting down low-volume wells. We welcome the input of industry as we revise our regulations, and that is why we held a public forum last month in which we discussed the proposed changes to our Onshore Orders.

SENATOR JOHN HOEVEN (R-ND)

Energy Development

Question: Given that domestic oil and gas production has been one of the only bright spots in our otherwise struggling economy, are you concerned that the Federal government is losing massive potential revenues by actually decreasing production of oil and gas on federal lands and in federal waters at a time where growth has been substantially increasing on state and private lands?

Response:

- I am committed to the President's "all-of-the-above" energy strategy to increase domestic production and reduce dependence on foreign oil.
- This includes exploring new frontiers and innovative technologies to develop both conventional and unconventional sources of energy, including renewables.
- Onshore Federal oil production increased 14% in FY 2012 compared to 2011.
- Oil production from OCS decreased in 2012 as compared to 2011 by 8% reflecting the impacts of Deepwater Horizon. However efforts are underway to reverse that trend.
    - At the end of 2012, more rigs were operating in the Gulf than in the previous 2 ½ years. In January 2010 there were 41 rigs in the Gulf and in December 2012 there were 48.
    - In 2012 we approved 520 deepwater permits as compared to 274 approved in 2011.

Bakken Shale

Question: The U.S. Geological Survey recently released an assessment, that shows a 25-fold increase in the amount of oil that can be recovered compared to the agency's 1995 estimate of 151 million barrels of oil.in the Bakken Formation. How is the USGS research on fracking impacting access to these resources?

Response:

- We are making information available through the USGS about the resources of the Bakken Formation.
- USGS research on fracking is assisting public land managers, tribes and others by addressing concerns include water resource availability, water quality degradation, disposal of produced waters, air quality, habitat degradation, and induced seismicity.

- USGS expertise is being brought to bear to look at potential earthquake hazards to inform energy-related decisionmaking.
- The USGS is developing a methodology that evaluates the water needs related to developing the Bakken Formation, an unconventional oil field.

LWCF State Grants

Question: What is in the 2014 budget for State recreation grants?

Response:

- The 2014 budget requests $40 million for LWCF State grants. An additional $20 million in mandatory funding is requested in a 2014 LWCF legislative proposal.
- In 2012, North Dakota received $378,000 from this program.
- In 2014 the allocation of discretionary funds would be about the same amount.
- If Congress enacts the request for mandatory LWCF, the allocation to North Dakota would increase an estimated $500,000.

Trailers on Reclamation Land at the Heart Butte Reservoir

Question: What is in the status of the Heart Butte recreation area trailer removal?

Response:

- I am not familiar with the details but I are told that Reclamation began managing the recreation area in Dec 2009.
- As a result of concerns identified in the wake of a 2009 flood event and through a public process, Reclamation modified the terms of the permits for the trailers to ensure the safety and security of project facilities.
- I understand that the permittees are expressing concerns to their congressional delegation to convince Reclamation to modify the new permits terms (allowing more time) and/or allow the relocation of trailers to other Reclamation lands around the Reservoir.
- You are asking Mike Connor to look into this situation and advise you about options.

BLM Permit Pilot Offices

Question: What is the status of the BLM pilot offices?

Response:

- The Energy Policy Act of 2005 established Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project Offices for oil and gas activities in seven field offices in five States.
    - Grand Junction/Glenwood Springs Field Office in Colorado; Miles City in Montana, Farmington Field Office and Carlsbad Field Office in New Mexico, Vernal Field Office in Utah; and Rawlins Field Office and Buffalo Field Office in Wyoming.
- The project has resulted in improved interagency coordination, permit processing improvements, improved reliability for processing timelines, and enhanced environmental stewardship.
- When first established, these seven field offices accounted for a very large percentage of the workload and demand for oil and gas applications for permits to drill (APDs).
- Since that time, shifts in oil and gas activity and APD workload and demand has grown in other BLM field offices as well; e.g. field offices with jurisdiction over Bakken Shale development.
- As part of the 2014 President's Budget, the Administration proposes to extend and revamp the Section 365 pilot office authority to give BLM flexibility to relocate pilot offices as needed based on changing permitting demands over time.

SENATOR FEINSTEIN (D-CA)

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Question: Are you any closer to full implementation of the BDCP? Why is it taking so long, and is the Department fully committed to fulfilling its promise to resolve water conflicts and rights in the Bay Delta?

Response:

- The BDCP has been in the works for seven years to resolve decades of conflict over Delta water supplies.
- The project would divert a portion of the Sacramento River and route water to existing State and Federal water diversion canals in the south Delta.
- Diligent planning and collaboration from all stakeholders is needed to move forward with practical solutions and a sustainable water future.
- All stakeholders are engaged – we are working closely with CA Department of Water Resources, BOR, FWS, NOAA, EPA, and U.S. Corps of Engineers.
- David is the Department's lead and can provide more details.

Delta Smelt

Question: The uncertainty around the Delta Smelt Biological Opinion is causing significant hardship for farms and cities south of the Delta. What are you doing to resolve this situation?

Response:

- The Delta Smelt species declined as a result of water pumping operations from Central Valley State water projects, and remains in a precarious state, with 2012 abundance near the species' all-time low abundance.
- Water exports south of Delta farms and cities have been significantly cut back this year due to the drought and the need to protect the smelt and salmon.
- Not all the cutbacks are due to smelt and salmon; some restrictions have been imposed under the State water permit, and the drought itself has been a critical factor.
- The biological opinion was recently invalidated by a Federal court and the old opinion remains in place as the only existing authority at this time.
- Interior, the Department of Commerce, and the California Department of Water Resources have filed a joint motion for a three-year extension of the current Court-ordered deadlines.
- I would like David, who is our lead for this project, to talk about the details.
- FWS is continuing to work with the water contractors on all matters relating to implementation of the biological opinion.

- The Department is working with contractors to develop a collaborative Bay Delta science plan that will include Delta smelt.

Drakes Bay Decision

Question: What is the status of the permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company to remain in operation at Drakes Bay? Why is the Department continuing to rely on faulty science and questionable facts to make decisions about this?

Response:

- On November 30, 2012, Secretary Salazar directed the NPS Director to allow the Reservation of Use and permits for a commercial oyster operation using property in Drakes Estero in the Point Reyes National Seashore to expire, as anticipated by Congress when it designated the area as "potential wilderness" in 1976.
- The company sought a preliminary injunction; the trial court ruled in favor of DOI and an appellate court hearing is scheduled for mid-May.
- The Department is committed to preserving the integrity of the scientific activities and will not tolerate misconduct in the performance of scientific activities or in the application of the products of scientific activity in decision making.
- Interior issued a scientific code of ethics and scrupulously manages scientific performance.

San Joaquin River Restoration

Question: What is the Administration requesting for the San Joaquin River Restoration in FY 2014? What is the status of the restoration project?

Response:

- The 2014 budget includes $26 million in discretionary funding in the San Joaquin River Restoration Fund, a component of the San Joaquin Settlement.
- Total funding for the San Joaquin project in 2014 is $47.3 million including mandatory and other sources.
- The Settlement restores flows and fisheries in the River, while providing greater certainty for water supplies to farmers and municipalities.
- We are continuing to work with all parties to implement the Settlement and have made great progress in balancing the need to restore the River's natural flows while assuring adequate water supplies for the users.

Klamath

Question: What is the Administration doing to resolve the conflicts in the Klamath River Basin? Are there additional funds to develop and implement a basin-wide recovery program?

Response:

- The Department remains committed to Klamath River Basin restoration and recovery goals.
- The 2014 budget includes $63.4 million for activities in the Klamath River Basin, an increase of $11.2 million from 2012.
- This includes work by BLM, BOR, FWS, USGS, NPS and BIA to continue operation of irrigation projects, fisheries management, Klamath Refuge operations, and wetland restoration.
- BOR is leading the collaborative effort among Federal, State, Tribes, and the public to develop a Basin-wide recovery plan to resolve water supply and fisheries issues.
- Interior has not signed the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA), which seeks to restore the Basin and establish water agreements for lake levels, river flows, and irrigation. The Department needs Congressional authorization to become a party to KBRA.
- The activities conducted by Interior bureaus are being performed under current law.

Quagga and Zebra Mussels in Lake Tahoe

Question: What is the status of Quagga and Zebra Mussel control in Lake Tahoe? What amount of funding is dedicated to this effort currently, and what is the projected for FY 2014?

Response:

- The impacts caused by these invasive species to our economic and natural resources is immense and it is important to take steps to rapidly identify and control infestations.
- Lake Tahoe has one of the most extensive and stringent Aquatic Invasive Species prevention programs in the country, and fortunately, we do not have positive detections of quagga or zebra mussels in Lake Tahoe at this time.
- We are continuing to prioritize funding for prevention projects such as watercraft inspection.

Renewable Energy

Question: Encouraging renewable energy development on the public lands has been a high priority of the President and his Administration. I am aware that since 2009, the BLM has approved 34 renewable energy projects. I also was pleased to see that, in October 2012, the BLM completed its Western Solar Plan. Will you continue to prioritize renewable energy development while mitigating the unavoidable adverse impacts associated with developing and operating utility-scale power generation facilities on public lands? What is included in the 2014 budget for this?

Response:

- I strongly support the President's vision for increasing the generation of clean energy through responsible development of renewable energy on the public lands, and I understand the importance of mitigating adverse impacts associated with renewable energy development.
- The Department will continue to promote the environmentally-sound development of renewable energy on public lands.
- The 2014 budget for BLM's Renewable Energy Management program is $29.1 million.

Question: How will you emphasize the use of existing disturbed lands for energy development instead of using undisturbed lands?

Response:

- We are focused on the use of lands already developed and avoiding expansion of development in fragile ecosystems.
    - DOI has created a roadmap for smart solar development – the Western Solar Energy Plan covering six States and 17 energy zones.
    - We have signed an MOU with DOD to encourage development on withdrawn lands.

Indian Recognition/Gaming

Question: What are your views about Indian Tribes acquiring land in trust far from their reservations and building casinos on the land, also called "reservation shopping" or "off-reservation gaming"?

Response:

- I believe any effort to open an off-reservation gaming facility should be carefully scrutinized, and comply with the law, and should, where appropriate, allow all stakeholders to be heard.

- The Department carefully reviews these applications and applies the requirements of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
- Approval of the Governor is required.
- If you want to discuss specifics I would ask David to provide additional details.

SENATOR LEAHY (D-VT)

White Nose Syndrome in Bats

Question: What is Interior doing about the white nose syndrome in bats?

Response:

- We are very concerned about the impact of white-nose syndrome in bat populations and we are actively involved with finding a solution to the spread of the disease.
- The 2014 budget includes $11.5 million for programs intended to address this serious problem, an increase of $5 million above 2012 levels.
- FWS and NPS will increase prevention and containment while USGS will enhance surveillance, diagnostic detection, and develop management tools and a vaccine.
- White nose syndrome is caused by a species of fungus Geomyces destructans that thrives in places of low temperature and high humidity, such as caves where bats hibernate.
- White nose syndrome is responsible for high levels of mortality in at least six species of bats.
- Mortality at many sites reaches 95 percent.
- Bats are important species ecologically and economically. They consume large quantities of insects, thereby protecting crops and contributing to agricultural production.

Lake Champlain Streamgages

Question: How will you ensure that Lake Champlain streamgages will continue to be funded?

Response:

- Lake Champlain streamgage costs have been covered for the past two years through a combination of USGS Cooperative Water program funds and funds provided by the States of Vermont and New York.
- The sequester has not impacted any of these streamgages to date, but no determination has yet been made on which streamgages will be funded in 2014.
- Cooperator funding for 2014 is unknown at this time.

Silvio O. Conte NWR LWCF Land Acquisition Funding

Question: How much are you asking for Silvio Conte Land Acquisition?

Response:

- The 2014 budget includes $4.6 million for the acquisition of 3,600 acres at the Silvio. O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge.
- These parcels would add to the 35,530 acres acquired through the end of FY 2012.

Sea Lamprey Control In The Great Lakes

Question: What are you doing to control the invasive sea lamprey in the Great Lakes? Its presence is having a devastating effect on the lakes and their many users.

Response:

- The Department remains a strong partner in efforts to control sea lamprey in the Great Lakes.
- The 2014 budget maintains FWS funding at the 2012 level of $1.0 million.
- FWS supports sea lamprey control efforts from the Marquette and Ludington field stations in Michigan and the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Resources Office in Vermont.
- In addition, funding for sea lamprey control is provided to the Department by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. In 2012, the Commission funded $9.75 million. In 2013, funding is reduced to $8.7 million.
- 2014 funding has not been determined, but is estimated to be in the range of $8.4 million.
- The 2014 USGS budget includes $175,842 for sea lamprey control efforts, a decrease of $338,912 from the 2012 enacted level.
- At present, the USGS provides ongoing scientific and technical support to the sea lamprey control efforts of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in three primary areas:

Question: Along with my colleagues from the four states encompassing the Connecticut River's 7.8 million acre watershed, named as America's first National Blueway last May, I encourage the Administration to support effective collaboration between stakeholder partnerships in these nationally significant watersheds and the Federal agencies with land and water management responsibilities. How will the Department of the Interior provide support?

Response:

- A National Blueways Committee has been established to oversee the development and implementation of the System, which includes representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation, as well as representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Army (Civil Works).
- At the field level, representatives of these same federal agencies are developing inter-agency agreements to communicate, coordinate and collaborate in support of stakeholder partnerships that have received recognition for their river and watershed as a National Blueway.

SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY (D-OR)

Renewable Energy

Question: What are you proposing for renewable energy in this budget?

Response:

- The 2014 budget includes $100 million for renewable energy – an increase of $26 million from 2012.
- Interior's approach to renewable energy balances development with conservation of treasured landscapes for future generations and protection of natural and cultural resources.
- Onshore and offshore – efforts are closely coordinated with States and stakeholders.
- In 2009, there were no commercial solar energy projects on or under development on Federal lands. There are now 37 renewable energy projects authorized on public lands that would provide 11,500MW – enough to power 3.8 million homes.

Western Oregon Forestry

Question: The volume of timber from sales in the O&C remains very low and will not support the remaining mills in the Pacific Northwest. Does BLM plan to meet its targets for 2013? What are the targets for 2014? What actions are you taking to promote sustainable forestry?

Response:

- The BLM is working to maintain and potentially increase the harvest level while complying with statutory and regulatory requirements, and has been meeting budgetary performance volume targets since FY 2010.
- BLM is pursuing short-and long-term strategies to maintain and potentially increase the harvest level while complying with statutory and regulatory requirements.
- BLM is evaluating the recommendations developed by a cooperative working group convened by Oregon Gov. Kitzhaber with the goal of achieving compromise between environmental and timber industry concerns in developing recommendations to Congress.
- BLM expects to be able to meet the FY 2013 Volume Target.
- The sequester and impacts on staffing and surveys are expected to affect the BLM's ability to meet its FY 2014 Volume Target as well as future year levels since much of the field work needs to be done 1-2 years in advance of offering sales.

Question: What is the status of BLM's Western Oregon planning efforts?

Response:

- BLM has initiated a process to revise six Resource Management Plans and implement a landscape-level strategy for sustainable timber harvest consistent with final critical habitat designation for the Northern Spotted Owl.
- The 2014 BLM budget includes an increase to support preparation of the six new RMPs in western Oregon.
- The new plans are expected to be completed in the summer of 2015

Secure Rural Schools/PILT

Question: Payments made by the BLM to counties within my State under the Secure Rural Schools were reduced by 10% in anticipation of the "sequestration" mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2012. When will the balance of payments be issued?

Response:

- We are working diligently to provide the balance of funds due to the Counties as quickly as possible.
- We held back 10% and allocated 90% or $40 million.
- We plan to allocate an additional set of payments this month of approximately $2 million.

Question: The Secure Rural Schools authorization expired in 2012. What does the 2014 budget propose related to the need for continued support for communities that received payments under this program through 2013? What happens if SRS is not reauthorized – how much will the counties receive?

Response:

- The 2014 President's Budget includes a five-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act with funding through USDA's Forest Service.
- In this proposal, appropriations start with payments for 2013 that will be made in 2014.
- If SRS is not reauthorized, the payments would revert back to payments under the 1937 O&C Act and subsequent amendments.
- It is difficult to know accurately what the payments would be, but we can estimate.
- In 2012, Secure Rural School payments would have totaled $40.1 million, without the sequester. If SRS had not been reauthorized, western Oregon counties would have been paid $10.8 million, or approximately one-quarter of the amount available through Secure Rural Schools.

Question: The authorization for mandatory funding for the Secure Rural Schools and Payments in Lieu of Taxes program expire with the payments made in 2013. What is the 2014 budget proposal relating to these two programs? What options does the Administration have to offset the cost of reauthorizing SRS and PILT?

Response:

- The 2014 budget includes a proposal for ongoing payments to Oregon Counties under a Secure Rural School proposal that is included in the USDA Forest Service budget.
- The 2014 President's Budget includes a five-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act with funding through USDA's Forest Service.
- In this proposal, appropriations start with payments for 2013 that will be made in 2014.
- For Payments in Lieu of Taxes, the 2014 budget includes a one year extension for mandatory funding.
- If enacted by Congress, this would allow us to make a payment in 2014.
- The budget also recommends that we work with you to develop a longer-term solution for PILT.
- PILT pays over 1,800 counties each year as they are not able to tax Federal lands. PILT payments are provided in lieu of taxes and fund important services like emergency response, roads, and schools.

Crooked River Collaborative Water Supply

Question: Will the Administration support my legislation for the Crooked River Wild and Scenic River?

Response:

- Reclamation testified in general support of legislation before both the Senate and the House, and believes that certain identified concerns can be addressed through revisions to current language.
- Reclamation staff met with proponents of the legislation on January 29, 2013, to answer questions and clarify Reclamation's testimony and comments on previously introduced legislation, as well as its contracting processes and procedures.
- We want to work with you on a legislative solution.

Coal Export

Question:I am concerned about the impacts of proposals to increase coal export through ports in the Pacific Northwest. What are you doing to understand these impacts and how will you mitigate them?

Response:

- No dedicated export terminal for Power River Basin coal exists on the West Coast.
- BLM does not currently have any proposals to evaluate the impacts.
- BLM is continuing to monitor for information about the development of export markets for Federal coal.
- We would be happy to evaluate a proposal we receive.

Coal Valuation

Question: What are you doing to close the loopholes in existing coal valuations that allow companies to pay lower royalties than they should?

Response:

- Interior is taking steps to ensure that Federal and Tribal coal lessees are reporting the proper value when selling to an affiliate.
- The Department is auditing coal leases to ensure the U.S. is receiving every dollar due.

SENATOR TIM JOHNSON (D-SD)

Indian School Operations

Question: What is your 2014 budget request for Indian School Operations?

Response:

- The 2014 budget includes $803 million for Bureau of Indian Education programs.
- This is an increase of $7.3 million from 2012 to advance Indian education.
- The budget includes $526.4 million for Elementary and Secondary School programs including $377.5 million for ISEP formula funds.
- The 2014 budget includes an increase of $15 million for an Education Turnaround program.
    - The Turnaround program is modeled on the Department of Education programs to improve the performance of students.
    - Grants will be awarded to schools that demonstrate the strongest commitment for using funds to raise student achievement.
- The budget includes $65 million for post-secondary programs including an increase of 6.2 million to meet the growing enrollment at BIA funded tribal colleges, for fellowships and training for post-graduate study in science fields, and for other higher education scholarships and adult education.
- The budget includes $2 million for an independent evaluation of BIE programs to consider future needs and structure of the system.

Question: What is the status of the Director of Indian Education?

- We are searching for a new Director of BIE – there is an advertisement out now.
- Dr. Charles Roessel is our acting Director. He is from the Navajo Schools.

Landsat

Question: What is your 2014 budget request for Landsat?

Response:

- The 2014 budget includes $53.3 million, level with 2012.
- This funding continues the USGS role in current and future Landsat missions. Funds would be used for operation of Landsats 7 and 8 and to analyze future requirements for successor missions.

- USGS is working closely with NASA, NOAA and OSTP on the examination of alternatives for ensuring the availability of continuous land remote sensing data.
- The USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, processes Landsat data.

BISON CONNECT

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 7, 2013

1 message

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Tue, May 7, 2013 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO DEFEND BUDGET BEFORE CONGRESS. The EnergyWire (5/6, Taylor, Subscription Publication) reports, "Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will make her first appearance before Congress tomorrow to defend her agency's $11.7 billion budget, a proposal that envisions a significant boost in conservation cash and new fees on the oil and gas industry." According to the article, "Jewell, along with outgoing Deputy Secretary David Hayes; Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget Rhea Suh; and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition Pam Haze, will testify before the Senate Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee." Also, "at the same time this week, Bureau of Land Management Principal Deputy Director Neil Kornze will defend his agency's budget to a House panel."

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (5/7, Colman, Geman, 21K) reports, "The 10:30 a.m. hearing will provide lawmakers a chance to ask about several hot-button topics within Interior's jurisdiction." According to the article, "they include upcoming, controversial rules to regulate the oil-and-gas development method hydraulic fracturing when it

occurs on public lands."

Also reporting on the story are Politico (5/7, Guillen, 25K), the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (5/7, Colman, 21K) and the "On The Money" blog of The Hill (5/6, Needham, 21K).

STATE GOVERNORS, OFFICIALS URGE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW MORE OFFSHORE ACCESS. Several media outlets on Monday reported that six US governors spoke during an industry conference, urging the Federal government to allow greater access to coastal waters for offshore exploration and production.

The AP (5/7) reports that the governors of Alaska, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Texas, and North Carolina spoke out on Monday during the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, as did officials from Virginia and Louisiana. The states all spoke urging the Federal government to allow increased access for offshore exploration and production. They argued that the moratorium placed on offshore drilling following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill has "made it difficult" for companies to produce in the area, despite the lifting of the ban. The officials urged increased drilling, saying it "would create jobs, strengthen the nation's economy and lower gas prices."

FuelFix (5/6) notes that all six Governors who spoke on Monday are Republicans. The article says Gov. Pat McCrory (R-NC) argued, "We want to create jobs." McCrory urged President Obama "to join us," making "government a partner with us - not an adversary." He pleaded, "Let the states unleash these natural resources to create jobs and (help) the economy." Gov. Rick Perry (R-TX) in comments touched upon new safety measures implemented since the Deepwater Horizon disaster, saying, "Today's energy exploration in the Gulf is safer than ever, for our operators (and) for the environment." FuelFix notes that although the Interior Department's current offshore drilling lease plan, which runs through June 2017, includes auctions for offshore areas near Alaska and in the Gulf of Mexico, no "mid-Atlantic states" are included in the auctions.

Dow Jones Newswires (5/7, Sider) provides similar coverage on the comments of Gov. Rick Perry (R-TX) and others during the Offshore Technology Conference on Monday. Governors from states that already have offshore drilling said Interior Department officials should relax regulations on the industry to help increase production in offshore areas.

The Friendswood (TX) Journal (5/7) reports, "Gov. Rick Perry today renewed his call for more offshore energy development and consistent federal regulations in order to help our nation reach its goal of energy independence." Perry "spoke at the 2013 Offshore Technology Conference as part of a panel of coastal governors." He said, "Today, energy exploration in the Gulf is safer for our operators and our environment than ever before. Technological and procedural advances have opened up huge sources of energy, giving us the capability to reach vast stores of energy reserves previously thought untouchable. With every step forward, we move closer to the day when our nation can reach true energy independence and end our crippling dependence upon foreign regimes to meet our needs."

The Charlotte (NC) Observer (5/6, 148K) reports, "Gov. Pat McCrory is visiting an offshore energy trade conference in Texas to try to help build momentum for drilling off the coast of North Carolina and other states." He "recently joined a coalition of governors in Outer-Continental Shelf states that want President Barack Obama's administration to open more coastal waters to natural gas and oil exploration."

Also reporting on the story are the Winston-Salem (NC) Journal (5/7, 55K), the Triangle Business Journal (5/7, Weisbecker, Subscription Publication) and WFMY-TV Greensboro, NC (5/7).

Industry Group Notes Offshore Producers Like Clarity On Industry Regulations. FuelFix (5/6) reports that offshore policies at the Federal level will likely be a hot topic at this week's Offshore Technology Conference. The industry hopes Washington will "clarify the standards that will govern a new era of Arctic drilling and approve a new generation of seismic research that could help pinpoint oil." Additionally, the industry has its eyes on new mandates for blowout preventers that are set to be implemented by the Interior Department.

FuelFix (5/6, Weber) reports that on Monday during the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Schlumberger senior engineer Praful Desai said "technology and collaboration between contractors will be key to plugging and abandoning" wells as drilling increases due to the US oil and gas boom. Desai discussed the

difficulties faced with well plugging in the Gulf of Mexico and North Sea, "key areas" for offshore exploration that pose "greater risks and costs" as producers drill deeper. He said field partners need to collaborate to lower costs, and that "a number of new technologies will be implemented, focused mainly on cost reduction and safety."

Federal Policies Urged To Support Innovation In Oil, Gas Exploration. In an op-ed for the Houston Chronicle (5/7, 434K), David Holt, President of the Consumer Energy Alliance, writes that "federal policies" must support the "expansion of oil and gas drilling technologies." He argue sthat "while remarkable advances in onshore technology have opened up vast fields of oil and natural gas once thought to be unreachable, the future of American energy production lies offshore, not just on land." Holt also notes at this week's Offshore Technology Conference, "a group of eight coastal governors, including Gov. Rick Perry, called for an improved dialogue with the federal government to allow expanded access to US waters."

Editorial: Move Forward With Fracking But Learn From North Dakota's Experience. The Fayetteville (NC) Observer (5/7, 47K) editorializes on offshore drilling, noting that Gov. Pat McCrory recently said it "could bring 140,000 new jobs to the Atlantic coastal region. And he cited North Dakota, with its 3.3 percent unemployment rate and booming economy as an example of what petroleum exploration can do." The Observer argued, "What the governor didn't mention was the problems North Dakota is facing," such as "spills of oil or fracking fluids," and "the rise of shantytowns." The piece concludes, "Yes, it is time to find out what's out there. ... Let's move ahead, but let's learn from North Dakota's experience too."

AGENCIES ASKING FOR MORE WILDLIFE DRONE MISSIONS. The New York Times (5/7, Farrell, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports, "Drone technology, which has become a staple of military operations, is now drawing scientists with its ability to provide increasingly cheaper, safer and more accurate and detailed assessments of the natural world." According to the article, "designed to monitor enemy positions from afar, the early Ravens, from about 2005, which cost $250,000 per system, were slated for destruction when an Army colonel thought they might be better used for scientific research and were donated to the Geological Survey." Now, "every week brings more requests from...Interior Department agencies" seeking to use the drone.

INTERIOR'S INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE RECOGNIZED FOR TELEWORK PROGRAM. Government Computer News (5/7, Crowe) reports, "The Mobile Work Exchange, which promotes sharing about innovations in setting up telework systems and programs between government and commercial organizations, recently announced the recipients of the group's 2013 'Tele-Vision' Awards." The article notes that "'The Largest Leap In Telework/Mobility' award went to the Telework Program of the Department of the Interior Inspector General's Office." According to the article, "in three years, from 2009 to 2012, the agency's IG office went from near-zero participation in telework to 98 percent," which "might have made an impact on the employee satisfaction and productivity at the office."

DEPUTY SECRETARY HAYES TO LEAVE INTERIOR. KCET (5/7, Clarke) reports, "Deputy Interior Secretary David Hayes, who's generally credited with drafting the US Interior Department's massive expansion of renewable energy development on public lands since 2009, will be leaving his post for a job at Stanford University." According to the article, "as second-in-command at Interior, Hayes oversaw the implementation of Interior's development of programs such as the Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and its fast-tracking of wind energy developments on public lands." the article notes that "in addition to his work to promote industrial renewables on public lands, Hayes also oversaw Interior Department involvement on a number of Native issues and on Arctic energy exploration and development."

REPORT CALLS FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IN ARCTIC. The Alaska Native News (5/7, Bauman) reports, "A federal interagency working group led by the Interior Department says an integrated management strategy is called for in the rapidly changing Arctic." The article notes that "the report released April 4 by Interior Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes highlights the need for a coordinated approach using best available science to integrate cultural, environmental and economic factors in decision-making about development and conservation." Hayes said that "the interagency report chronicles how Arctic residents are dealing with rapid, climate change-induced impacts on their resources and traditional ways of life at the same time that new economic activity and opportunities are emerging."

EFFORT TO RECOGNIZE FEDERAL WORKERS TOUTED. The Washington Post (5/6, Davidson, 489K) reports

that Max Stier, president of the Partnership for Public Service, believes that the "antidote" to "bashing" of Federal workers is through the implementation of Public Service Recognition Week. The even is being organized by the Public Employees Roundtable. Stier says, "Seriously, we will never get the government we want if all we do is tear it down. Amazing things are going on by public servants and we need to recognize them if we want them to be replicated by other public servants."

PAPER URGES COMMITMENT TO OFFSHORE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (5/7, 80K) editorializes, "While there has been much attention paid to the development of shale oil and gas on land, the first visit of the new secretary of the US Department of the Interior to the oil patch is a reminder that immense natural wealth remains to be tapped offshore." On her visit to a drilling rig, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told employees, "Maintaining the public's trust in the safety and environmental performance of oil and gas production is critically important as we continue to tap into the Gulf's abundant resource potential." The paper concludes that "potential sources of oil and gas should be part of, in Jewell's words, 'powering our nation and strengthening our economy.'"

VETERAN ARGUES CONSERVATION IS PATRIOTIC DUTY. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (5/7, Starr), Mark Starr, Program Director, Vet Voice Foundation, writes, "Protection of our nation's lands such as the California desert is clearly a patriotic duty." He notes, "first, as veterans we clearly understand the importance of renewable energy development and how it relates to our national security." Also, "by protecting these lands through the new designation of two new national monuments, wilderness areas, and wild and scenic rivers...we will undoubtedly see more tourism and dollars injected into the area."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

ACADIA'S CADILLAC MOUNTAIN ROAD TO OPEN EARLIER THAN PLANNED. The Boston Globe (5/6, 250K) reports, "The National Park Service has worked with local Maine merchants to come up with a plan to open the Cadillac Mountain road earlier than planned." According to park officials, "the portion of the Park Loop Road that provides access to the mountain will open for the season on Saturday, while other parts of the loop road remain closed until May 17 because of the federal budget cuts."

Also reporting on the story is the Bangor (ME) Daily News (5/6, Trotter, 45K).

FLOODING HITS CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK. The State (SC) (5/6, Holleman, 71K) reports, "The combination of a wet spring and drenching weekend rains has pushed several rivers to flood levels, including the Broad, Congaree, Enoree, Saluda and Santee." According to the article, "if the National Weather Service forecast is accurate, flood waters at Congaree National Park will reach heights they haven't hit since 1988." The article notes that "the park's buildings will remain above the flood waters, but much of the boardwalk trail and all but the highest parts of the bluff trail will be under water."

Also reporting on the story is the Greenville (SC) News (5/7, Holleman, 56K).

VOLCANO HOUSE HOTEL TO REOPEN AT HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK. The Hawaii Business Magazine (5/7, Stickler) reports, "After standing empty for three years, the Volcano House Hotel is gradually reopening on the rim of the still-active Kilauea Caldera at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park." The NPS "closed the lava-stone and ohia-wood structure on Jan. 1, 2010, as its past glory faded below national-park standards," and "in August 2012, the newly formed Hawaii Volcanoes Lodge Co. picked up the lease and guaranteed to bring it up to 21st-century specifications." According to project manager Ercel Dunsmore, "a $3 million renovation began in January and should be completed by June."

ART EXHIBIT TO FEATURE CELEBRATION OF STATUE OF LIBERTY. The Jersey Journal (NJ) (5/7, Stein, 17K) reports, "The opening reception for the NJCU art student exhibit 'Posters & Logos of the 125th Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty' will take place tonight at 6 p.m. in the lobby outside the Mildred H. Hunke Auditorium of the Five Corners Branch Library, 678 Newark Ave., Jersey City." According to the article, "the exhibit will feature posters and logos from contestants who designed the works to celebrate the Statue of Liberty's 125th

anniversary in 2011." The article notes that "the winning logo used for the year-long celebration was designed by Joseph Domalewski and was selected by the public through an online competition by the National Park Service."

RESCUERS SEARCH FOR MISSING HIKER IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/7, Smith, 335K) reports, "Searchers are looking for a 73-year-old Edina man who didn't return Sunday afternoon from a solo day hike to Vernal Fall in Yosemite National Park." According to the article, "about 30 people and a dog team scoured the area Sunday evening and Monday in search of Kenneth Stensby, an experienced hiker, and found only his dark colored day pack near the railing at the top of Vernal Fall." Park Ranger Scott Gediman said that "officials likely will add a helicopter and additional dog teams."

The Fresno (CA) Bee (5/6, 113K) reports, "Yosemite National Park officials are asking the public's help to locate a hiker who went missing on a hike to the top of Vernal Fall." Also, "the park service asked hikers to check their photos for images of Stensby or his pack."

Also reporting on the story are the Los Angeles Times (5/6, Mather, 692K), the Modesto (CA) Bee (5/6, Guerra, 59K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/6, 202K) and the St. Paul Pioneer-Press (5/7, 201K).

INJURED HIKER RESCUED FROM YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (5/7) reports on the rescue of Fernando Celis, who was injured while hiking in Yosemite National Park.

MISSING HIKER AT CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK FOUND. WLTX-TV Columbia, SC (5/7, Wirtzberger) reports, "Columbia Fire Department and several other agencies spent part of Sunday evening searching for a missing female hiker." According to Brick Lewis with the Columbia Fire Department, "crews have found the missing hiker at Congaree National Park."

BODY RECOVERED FROM DELAWARE RIVER. The Lehigh Valley (PA) Express Times (5/7, 44K) reports, "Authorities say they've recovered a body spotted floating in the middle of the Delaware River on the Pennsylvania-New York border." According to the article, "state police in Sullivan County, N.Y., say today that the body was found by a group of canoeists Saturday afternoon near the border of the towns of Tusten and Highland, 85 miles northwest of New York City." The article notes that "New York State Police, the National Park Service and local emergency crews responded."

Also reporting on the story are the Pocono (PA) Record (5/7, 14K), the Lewistown (PA) Sentinel (5/7), and the Mid-Hudson News (5/6).

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK BONES TO BE IDENTIFIED THIS WEEK. KTVQ-TV Billings, MT (5/7) reports on the "bones that were found in Glacier National Park last week." According to Flathead County Sheriff Chuck Curry, "the bones are being looked at by a medical examiner in Billings to determine whether they're from a human or an animal." Curry "says they should know more answers by the end of the week."

Also reporting on the story is KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (5/7).

NPS OFFICIALS PREPARING FOR PRESCRIBED BURN AT DEVILS TOWER NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Rapid City Journal (5/7, 24K) reports, "As National Park Service officials prepare for a prescribed burn at Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming next week, they can't help thinking about the one that got away from them." The article notes that "the April 3 prescribed burn on the Grand River National Grasslands near Hettinger, N.D. and Lemmon escaped containment and burned thousands of acres, including private land." The fire is "a reminder to Devils Tower officials of what can go wrong and should be guarded against."

FIRE BURNS ABOUT 59 ACRES NEAR LAKE MEREDITH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The Amarillo (TX) Globe News (5/6, Bryant, 31K) reports, "A fire in the Lake Meredith National Recreation Area burned about 59 acres, Chief Ranger Paul Jones said." The NPS "responded about 5:45 p.m. Saturday to the fire at Harbor Bay, with the Fritch Volunteer Fire Department, the Stinnett Fire Department, Potter County Fire Department and Borger Fire Department assisting, Jones said." He "said the fire was caused by people and remains under investigation."

PROPOSED 9/11 MUSEUM FEE CRITICIZED. In his column for the NorthJersey.com (5/7, Kelly), Mike Kelly

writes, "The announcement that visitors to the 9/11 Museum at Ground Zero will pay an entry fee as high as $25 per person to view underground exhibits and a vault containing the remains of unidentified victims has renewed a roiling debate over what should be done with that hallowed ground – and who's in charge of it." According to Kelly, "the proposed fee would effectively exclude low- and moderate-income families who were as affected as anyone by the 9/11 attacks." However, he notes that "not many other options are available," since "when asked last year if it would consider taking over the management of the museum and finances, the National Park Service responded with an emphatic no."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM BEGINS TAKING COMMENTS ON GATEWAY WEST PROJECT. The Boise (ID) Weekly (5/6, 35K) reports, "Beginning today, the public will have the opportunity to weigh in on the latest version of the Gateway West power project - a proposed transmission line that would, if approved, run from Wyoming across southern Idaho." The BLM "is holding a series of public comment meetings around Idaho beginning this afternoon at 4 p.m. at the Boise Hotel and Conference Center on Vista Avenue," and "later this week, the BLM will take the issue to similar meetings in Kuna, Murphy and Melba."

The Northwest Cable News (Seattle, WA) (5/7, Grey) reports, "The Gateway West Transmission project is a high priority project for the Obama administration and Idaho's Republican senators and representatives are calling on you to make your voice heard with 'strong public input.'" The article notes that "some people are concerned about the transmission lines being near the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area." Meanwhile, "others, including Idaho's congressional delegation, are concerned about the BLM creating new preferred lines after people most affected by the project had already worked with Idaho Power on a route."

Also reporting on the story is KTVB-TV Boise, ID (5/7, Grey).

BLM HOLDS MEETINGS ON HI-LINE PLAN. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (5/6, Puckett, 25K) reports, "Five informational meetings on a proposed management plan that will direct energy development, conservation of wildlife habitat, recreation and livestock grazing on 2.4 million acres of public lands in northern Montana kick off this week." According to Stanley Jaynes, the field manager for the Bureau of Land Management's Havre field office, "agency officials already are hearing from the public about the plans to protect unbroken prairie contained in the Hi-Line Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement." The article notes that "key issues in the plan involve sage grouse protections, identifying lands with wilderness characteristics and documenting what lands will be available for oil and gas development."

NEBRASKA RANCHER FACES 149 ANIMAL CRUELTY COUNTS. The High Plains Journal (5/7) reports, "Morrill County Attorney Jean Rhodes has filed an amended complaint against a western Nebraska rancher, charging him with 149 felony counts of abandonment and cruel animal neglect resulting in injury or death." According to the article, "authorities last month found many of the 200 horses and several burros on the 3-Strikes Ranch emaciated and suffering from overgrown hooves and other ailments. Nearly 75 dead horses and burros have been documented." The article notes that "the ranch had been a sanctuary for wild horses adopted by the Bureau of Land Management."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF CASTLE ROCKS. Additional coverage of the potential closure of Castle Rocks was provided by the Washington Post (5/6, 489K), Yahoo! (5/7, Furfaro) , and Yahoo! News Canada (5/7).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WOLVERINE PROPOSAL GENERATES STATES' OPPOSITION. The San Jose Mercury News (5/7, Brown, 539K) reports, "State officials in the Northern Rockies on Monday lined up against a federal proposal to give new protections to the carnivorous wolverine, as climate change threatens to melt the species' snowy mountain strongholds." According to the article, "Montana, Idaho and Wyoming officials insist federal protections aren't necessary for the estimated 250-300 wolverines that live across the West." But "biologists say warming temperatures could shrink the wolverine's mountain habitat in the Lower 48 by as much as 60 percent over the next 80 years."

Also reporting on the story is the Denver Post (5/7, Brown, 443K).

FWS SEEKS INPUT ON WHITE RIVER REFUGE EXPANSION. The Stuttgart (AR) Daily Leader (5/6, Morris, 2K) reports, "The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is gathering input to increase the White River National Wildlife Refuge's acquisition boundary." According to Keith Weaver, the refuge's project leader, "the proposal would provide increased opportunities for willing sellers as well as conserve the 'southern end of the Big Woods of Arkansas for future generations, restore and enhance wildlife habitats for a diversity of migratory and resident species, improve water quality, and provide additional public access and wildlife-dependent recreation such as hunting, fishing and wildlife observation and photography.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GRIZZLY BEARS PROPOSAL. Additional coverage of the FWS grizzly bear management proposal was provided by Yahoo! (5/7, Ross).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WYOMING'S HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL EXPLORED AS CONGRESS CONSIDERS BILLS. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (5/7, Voge, 22K) reports that the Idaho National Laboratory estimates Wyoming can be tapped for more than 500 megawatts of hydropower, while "another study, by the Bureau of Reclamation, and related to government-controlled properties only, adds another 23 megawatts to the picture." The paper says members of Wyoming's congressional delegation are pushing for the development of alternative energy sources in the state. A bill to "streamline the process needed to permit small hydropower generators in the West" was passed in the House in March. It was introduced in the Senate in April, and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "is scheduled to vote on the measure Wednesday."

WIND ENERGY GROUP EYES PLAN TO PRESENT TO CONGRESSIONAL PANELS. The Hill (5/7, Colman, 21K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that a "top wind trade group said Monday that it's crafting a long-term policy plan that it plans to take to tax-writing committees in the House and the Senate." Incoming American Wind Energy Association CEO Tom Kiernan said AWEA officials will go "on a road show of sorts to get input from industry stakeholders before finalizing a proposal."

Bloomberg News (5/7, Martin) reports the US wind-power industry "is expecting" a major challenge in Congress in its efforts for "another extension of a federal tax credit that received a one-year renewal at the last minute in January." Bloomberg quotes Kiernan as saying, "The political climate in Washington is getting tougher."

Onshore Energy Development:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP ASKS BLM TO RECONSIDER LEASE SUSPENSION FOR THOMPSON DIVIDE DRILLERS. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (5/7, Webb, 23K) reports, "A Carbondale-based conservation group asked Monday that the Colorado director of the Bureau of Land Management reconsider the agency's decision to prolong the duration of 25 oil and gas leases in the Thompson Divide area." According to the article, "the Wilderness Workshop appealed the lease suspension decision with the help of Earthjustice attorney Mike Freeman, who also led litigation resulting in the BLM reconsidering its leasing of some 55,000 acres for oil and gas development in the Roan Plateau area west of Rifle." The groups "are asking Helen Hankins, director of the Colorado state office of the BLM, to reverse a recent decision by Steve Bennett, director of the agency's Colorado River Valley Field Office in Silt."

BLM SEEKS FEEDBACK ON EXPANSION TO HORSESHOE BASIN OIL, GAS PROJECT. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (5/7, 22K) reports, "The federal Bureau of Land Management is seeking public input on a proposed oil and gas project that could include 20 wells." The agency "announced Monday that it is taking feedback on an expansion to the Horseshoe Basin oil and gas project, a Devon Energy proposal which would include two new wells drilled per year for a decade."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN DIVIDES CALIFORNIA. In an editorial, the Pasadena (CA) Star-News (5/7) argues that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan will "protect what little of this important ecological resource is left." Rather than a "simple 'water grab' that would allow the spigot to be thrown open and more water transferred from north to south," the paper claims that "the delta plan is about is stabilizing water deliveries in the face of an uncertain climate when both snowpack and rainwater sources have become incredibly volatile." It concludes that "this huge, complex project has a multi-billion dollar cost, but it's an investment that should prove worthwhile - for all Californians."

In an editorial, the Los Angeles Daily News (5/7, 86K) notes that there is a divide in opinion on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan between northern California newspapers and southern California newspapers. It notes that southern California newspaper have "said the entire state needs the delta project and that the mendacious 'us vs. them' rhetoric used by opponents 'is destructive, obstructive and belies how desperately we need this.'" Meanwhile, the northern California papers "were opining that the 'Delta water plan deserves to go down the drain.'"

CHIPPEWA CREE BUSINESS COMMITTEE REFUTES CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (5/6, Murray, 25K) reports, "The Chippewa Cree Business Committee, the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation's highest representative body, issued a news release Monday refuting recent allegations that millions of federal dollars intended for a regional water development project are unaccounted for." The tribe's acting Chairman, Rick Morsette, said, "The numbers reported by the local newspapers don't match the facts. We spoke to representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation office who agreed that what they read in the paper was inaccurate. Extensive reviews have actually revealed that the Chippewa Cree Construction Corp. may have some outstanding reimbursements coming from the Bureau of Reclamation."

WATER RIGHTS EXPECTED TO SPARK CONFLICT BETWEEN KLAMATH RIVER FARMERS, TRIBES. The Los Angeles Times (5/7, Barboza, 692K) reports, "New water rights have given a group of Oregon Indian tribes an upper hand just as the region plunges into a severe drought." According to the article, "farmers and wildlife refuges could be soon cut off by the Klamath Tribes, which in March were granted the Upper Klamath Basin's oldest water rights to the lake and tributaries that feed the mighty river flowing from arid southern Oregon to the foggy redwoods of the Northern California coast." The article notes that "within weeks, the 3,700-member tribes are poised to make use of their new rights to maintain water levels for endangered Lost River and Shortnose suckers, fish they traditionally harvested for food," and "under the 'first in time, first in right' water doctrine that governs the West, the Klamath Tribes can cut off other water users when the river runs low."

FULL SUPPLY EXPECTED FOR ALL YAKIMA BASIN IRRIGATORS. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (5/7, 28K) reports, "A wet April provided a further boost to the summer water supply outlook for farmers and fish in the Yakima River Basin, the Bureau of Reclamation said this morning." The article notes that "all water users will have a full supply of water."

Also reporting on the story are the Ellensburg (WA) Daily Record (5/7, Johnston, 5K) and KNDO-TV Yakima, WA (5/7).

DEAL REACHED TO KEEP LAKE BERRYESSA'S MARKLEY COVE OPEN THROUGH 2014. The Napa Valley Register (5/7) reports, "The US Bureau of Reclamation has inked an interim contract to keep the Markley Cove Resort on the south end of Lake Berryessa open through December 2014." The agreement "is with the resort's current managers, John and Linda Frazier, and begins May 27." David Murillo, the regional director for Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region, said in a news release, "Reclamation has enjoyed a positive and successful relationship with the Fraziers for many years, and we are pleased that this relationship will continue for this interim period."

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR FINAL PHASE OF WORK ON FOLSOM DAM SPILLWAY. The Sacramento (CA) Business Journal (5/6, Meer, Subscription Publication) reports, "The US Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento office has awarded a $255.1 million contract for the last phase of work on a spillway at Folsom Dam." According to the corps, "Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. of Fairfield won the contract, which will allow work to begin July 1 and be finished by 2017." The article notes that "in addition to the corps, the US Bureau of Reclamation, Central

Valley Flood Protection Board and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency are involved in the overall project."

Empowering Native American Communities:

NEW YORK TIMES STORY ON KEEPSEAGLE SETTLEMENT DISPUTED. The Indian Country Today Media Network (5/6, Capriccioso) reports, "The most respected newspaper in the country has pointed out the sour political undercurrent in the 2011 Keepseagle settlement that awarded $760 million to Native American farmers for discriminatory practices they faced." However, "lawyers for those Indians say The New York Times is wrong." Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, which holds "the remaining $460 million" of the settlement has "issued a background paper, offering a clarification and claiming that the firm was fighting the good fight."

CHEROKEES MAY WAIT UP TO 10 YEARS FOR COBELL LAND PURCHASES. The Cherokee (OK) Phoenix (5/7, Jackson) reports, "Cherokee Nation citizens who signed up for the Land Buy-Back Program under the $3.4 billion Cobell Settlement may be waiting up to 10 years before selling their fractionated lands." According to the article, "within the CN, there are only 135 fractionated tracts containing purchasable interests and no highly fractionated tracts."

Top National News:

"WHISTLEBLOWERS" EXPECTED TO CONTRADICT OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF BENGHAZI ATTACK. Ahead of Wednesday's House Oversight Committee hearing on allegations from so-called "whistleblowers" regarding the Administration's handling of the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, media coverage of the surrounding controversy has increased substantially. NBC Nightly News (5/6, story 3, 2:40, Williams, 7.86M) devoted a full segment to Benghazi, and the CBS Evening News (5/6, story 5, 0:35, Pelley, 5.58M) briefly previewed Wednesday's hearing. However, the Benghazi narrative continues to be driven by conservative news outlets, particularly Fox News and the Weekly Standard, and, consequently, defenses of the State Department's actions are greatly outweighed by allegations of "politicization" from Congressional Republicans.

In a nod to that dynamic, Dana Bash, on CNN's Erin Burnett OutFront (5/6), reported that on Wednesday she anticipates "a lot of pushback from Democrats that were not really hearing from the State Department yet."

In an illustration of the partisan divide ahead of Wednesday's House hearing, Benghazi was the lead story on Fox News' Special Report (5/6), Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (5/6) and Fox News' Hannity (5/6). On the other hand, the terror attack was not a topic of discussion on MSNBC's Hardball, MSNBC's Politics Nation with Al Sharpton, MSNBC's All In, MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show or MSNBC's The Last Word. Also, the New York Times does not have an article on Benghazi in this morning's paper.

Preview coverage of Wednesday's hearing on Benghazi was the lead story on CNN's Erin Burnett OutFront (5/6), which devoted nearly 10 minutes of air time to the story.

Representative of Fox's Benghazi coverage Monday was Sean Hannity's allegation, at the opening of Fox News' Hannity (5/6), that "evidence is mounting to prove what we have been saying...for months," which is, according to Hannity, that the White House "engaged in a widespread cover-up in the immediate aftermath of the Benghazi terror attack and they did it simply to win the election." Hannity added, "Remember, Watergate was about lying and covering-up."

Notably, Brian Stelter, in an article for Monday's New York Times (5/5, Stelter, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) on Jonathan Alter's new book, "The Center Holds: Obama and His Enemies," noted that Alter writes that between September 11 of last year and the presidential election, Fox News President Roger Ailes "covered the Benghazi story as if it were Watergate just before Nixon's resignation, with almost wall-to-wall coverage."

On NBC Nightly News (5/6, story 3, 2:40, Williams, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that at Wednesday's hearing, Republicans, who have, "for months...charged cover-up," plan to "undercut Hillary Clinton's explanation of what went wrong," and claim to have "State Department witnesses who can prove Clinton covered up." House Oversight Committee chairman Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) was shown saying, "Clinton is no longer Secretary of State, but there are many people still at State Department who were involved in this at the highest levels who

continue to keep their jobs." Mitchell added that "there is an obvious political undercurrent" since House Republicans are "taking direct aim at Hillary Clinton, the country's most popular Democrat and a possible presidential contender."

Monday evening, Wolf Blitzer, on CNN's The Situation Room (5/6), reported that "another whistleblower who now says the Benghazi consulate attack seemed like a terrorist attack from the get go." CNN's Dana Bash went on to suggest that "whistleblowers" will contradict statements made about Benghazi by Clinton in testimony before a Senate panel in January, testimony that generated nearly universally positive coverage at the time.

Politico (5/6, Cirilli, 25K) reports that in an appearance on Fox News' Fox And Friends (5/6) on Monday, Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) alleged that former Secretary of State Clinton "put politics above security," and is quoted as saying, "What boggles my mind is 4½ months after the fact, Secretary Clinton still had the gall to come here and perpetuate things that we know...are simply not true." Appearing on Fox News' Hannity (5/6), Chaffetz called the alleged decision not to send military assistance to Benghazi on September 11 "as sickening and depressing and disgusting as anything I have seen."

In a brief, 35-second item for the CBS Evening News (5/6, story 5, 0:35, Pelley, 5.58M), Scott Pelley reported that "career diplomat" Greg Hicks is "raising new questions about a possible cover-up" following the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi. Pelley added that Hicks "has already told congressional investigators" that he "repeatedly asked if the Pentagon could scramble jets to scare the attackers away," but was "told that that wouldn't be possible."

According to the AP (5/6, Cassata), Hicks, identified as a "former top diplomat in Libya," has said that a "team of U.S. special forces" was prepared to try to save the Americans under attack in Benghazi on September 11, but they were "told to stand down." Bloomberg News (5/7, Rowley) also reported that Hicks will testify that he "sought in vain for fighter jets to fly over Benghazi to scare off the terrorist attackers who killed the ambassador and three other Americans."

The Washington Post (5/7, A1, Londoño, 489K), in an article titled, "Special Ops Halted From Responding To Benghazi Attacks, US Diplomat Says," reports that Congressional Republicans are alleging that the Administration "could have saved lives with a nimbler, more assertive response." The Post goes on to give a paraphrase of the Administration's account of the attack and its aftermath, but does not reference any specific State Department officials until 13 paragraphs in, when it reports that State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell asserted Monday that "the Republican-led inquiry appears to be politicized," and reiterated that the State Department is "not seeking to suppress the accounts of whistleblowers." Ventrell is quoted as saying, "We have always encouraged any State Department employee who wants to share their story and tell the truth."

USA Today (5/7, Dorell, 1.71M) reports that Wednesday's House Oversight Committee hearing "will explore why the State Department never activated its Foreign Emergency Support Team," which "specialize[s] in responding to crises." USA Today adds that Chaffetz, a member of the panel, "believes the reason is that activating the team...would have labeled the attack 'a terrorist activity,'" which, according to Chaffetz, the State Department "did not want to do." However, USA Today also reported that in a statement released by the State Department, Daniel Benjamin, "who ran the State counterterrorism bureau that headed the Foreign Emergency Support Team at the time of the attack," said, "I can say now with certainty...that this charge is simply untrue."

The Washington Times (5/7, Crabtree, 76K) reports that when asked about the new allegations Monday, White House press secretary Jay Carney "repeatedly touted the credentials" of retired Ambassador Thomas Pickering and Admiral Michael Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who led the State Department's Accountability Review Board. Carney is quoted as saying, "There was an accountability review board led by two men of unimpeachable expertise and credibility, who oversaw a process that was rigorous and unsparing, that was highly critical in some areas and that produced a series of recommendations that have all been acted on by the State Department, as the president insisted be the case."

At the opening of Fox News' Special Report (5/6), Brett Baier said the House hearing on Benghazi on Wednesday is "shaping up as a direct assault on the Obama Administration's handling of the crisis." Correspondent James Rosen went on to report that a "State Department whistleblower" - later identified as Mark Thompson, a "former Marine and long-time senior officer in State's counter-terrorism bureau" - will testify that

immediately after the Benghazi attack, Secretary Clinton and Patrick Kennedy, the State Department's Under Secretary of State for Management, "tried to cut the department's own counter-terrorism bureau out of the chain of reporting and decision-making." Chairman Issa was shown saying, "If you wanted it to seem like it wasn't terrorism, keeping them out of room allows to you play with this false truth that somehow it was a 'video'...which, of course, from the get-go, everyone knew just wasn't true." Rosen reported that State Department spokesman Ventrell "agreed" with Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) that Issa's "motivations appear 'political.'"

Marc Thiessen, in his column for the Washington Post (5/7, 489K), says Thompson "will testify that the circumstances" of the Benghazi attack "have been 'purposefully misrepresented' by the administration and that 'all their public statements...were false, and they knew it.'" Thiessen also claims that last week, Ventrell "dismissed the whistleblowers, declaring there has already been a thorough investigation into the attack 'that should be enough.'"

Conservatives Liken Benghazi "Scandal" To Watergate. The Washington Times (5/6, McLaughlin, 76K) reported that in a radio interview Monday, Sen. Lindsey Graham predicted that on Wednesday, witnesses will describe "political manipulation seven weeks before an election," as well as "people asleep at the switch when it comes to the State Department, including Hillary Clinton." Graham went on to say that the Benghazi "cover-up" is "every bit as damaging as Watergate."

On Fox News' Special Report (5/6), Brit Hume claimed that it is now "clear that the State Department, CIA and White House deliberately concocted a Benghazi cover story that was false in every nearly every particular." However, according to Hume, if Benghazi is to "become the scandal it surely deserves to be," there will have to be "relentless news coverage of the kind the media typically avoid when the subject is someone, or some cause, they favor."

In an indication of the expansiveness of the claims being made about the aftermath of the Benghazi attack by conservative critics of the Administration, Victor Davis Hanson highlighted new developments in a post for National Review (5/7, Hanson, 193K) under the headline: "Is Benghazi Becoming A Watergate, Or Iran-Contra, Or Both?"

Politico (5/6, Weinger, 25K) reported that on his radio show Monday, Mike Huckabee "predicted" that President Obama "won't finish out his second term in light of the 'cover-up'" of the circumstances surrounding the attack in Benghazi, and "called the affair 'more serious than Watergate.'"

The Weekly Standard's Stephen Hayes, also appearing on Fox News' Special Report (5/6), cautioned "Republicans" not to "race ahead of the evidence in front of you" regarding Benghazi, and listed some instances where he thought Republicans had made unsubstantiated allegations against the Administration.

Much of the Benghazi coverage from right-leaning outlets is based on reporting from Hayes in a piece for the May 13 issue of the Weekly Standard (5/6, 83K) titled, "The Benghazi Talking Points." Hayes claims that "top Obama administration officials" were aware that the US consulate in Benghazi was "likely being attacked by al Qaeda-affiliated terrorists" while the "fighting was taking place" on September 11, and on September 12, a cable sent by "the CIA station chief in Libya" reported that "eyewitnesses confirmed the participation of Islamic militants" in the "terrorist attack." Hayes goes on to report that "talking points" regarding the attack that mentioned "Islamic extremists with ties to al Qaeda" were subsequently modified after State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland expressed concern that "members of Congress would use the talking points to criticize the State Department for 'not paying attention to Agency warnings.'" Hayes also discusses his Benghazi reporting in a Weekly Standard podcast (5/7, 83K) released late Monday afternoon.

BIDEN SAYS GUN CONTROL WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR IMMIGRATION. Politico (5/7, Epstein, 25K) reports that Vice President Joe Biden told a meeting of about 20 representatives from faith-based organizations at the White House on Monday that gun control will now have to take a back seat to efforts to pass immigration reform. Biden told the leaders that "gun control won't happen until after the Senate completes an immigration reform package." Politico notes that this is the first time the White House "has revealed such a timeline" and adds that Biden's comments "echo the sentiment from the major gun control groups and Senate aides working closely on the issue."

Senate Democrats Have More Votes For Expanded Background Checks. The Huffington Post (5/6, Stein) reports that in the wake of the "political backlash" from constituents faced by members who opposed expanding background checks for gun buyers, Senate Democrats believe "they have several new votes in favor" of the measure. However, the new votes would still leave the measure short of the 60 it needs for passage, and "tellingly, no one boasting of growing support would reveal the names of those lawmakers ready to flip." Nonetheless, the "bullish talk from Democrats" is "yet another indication that the party feels good about the fallout from the failed gun vote and is increasingly eager to try again." The Post notes that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "prompted the latest round of legislative speculation," when he told The Las Vegas Review Journal that bill sponsor Sen. Joe Manchin "thinks he has a couple more votes" and, "I may be able to get another Democrat or two. That would get us up to 57."

Despite Recent Victories, NRA Allies Worry About Long-Term Challenges. The Washington Post (5/6, Hamburger, 489K) reports that while the NRA celebrated the defeat of the White House-backed package of gun control bills at its convention in Houston last weekend, and while the "group seems stronger than ever," some of its allies "are uneasy, saying publicly and privately that the organization is facing long-term - and even short-term - challenges that on a scale it has not faced before." Among them: the growing willingness "of gun state lawmakers, particularly Democrats, to buck the NRA; and the rise of an organized and well-funded gun-control movement." The Post notes a "continued debate over whether the NRA and gun rights advocates made a mistake by pugnaciously opposing all of this year's major gun-control proposals."

Inhofe: Administration Buying Ammunition So People Can't. The Daily Caller (5/6) reports that Sen. James Inhofe said in a radio interview his weekend that the Obama Administration is buying up ammunition in an effort "to bypass the Second Amendment so gun-owners 'can't even buy ammunition because government is purchasing so much.'" Speaking on Aaron Klein's weekend show on New York City's WABC radio, Inhofe said that the President "has been doing everything he could to stop the private ownership of guns in America," adding, "And so my feeling is that he's doing this to buy up [ammunition] so that we can't buy: Honest, law-abiding citizens here in the United States, like my son, can't even buy ammunition because government is purchasing so much." Inhofe said he is planning to introduce the Ammunition Management for More Obtainability (AMMO) bill to "limit 'non-defense, armed federal agencies to pre-Obama levels of ammunition.'"

Newtown Educators Posthumously Awarded The Citizen Honors Medal. NBC Nightly News (5/6, story 6, 0:45, Williams, 7.86M) reported that in a ceremony in Newtown, Connecticut on Monday, the six educators who were killed in the Sandy Hook shootings were posthumously awarded the Citizen Honors Medal, which is "the highest civilian honor for valor given out" by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

ECONOMISTS EXPECT GDP GROWTH TO SLOW THIS YEAR. In a sharply negative story on the economy, USA Today (5/7, Mullaney, Hansen, Today, 1.71M) reports that last Friday's "upbeat" employment report "changed few experts' minds about the likelihood of an economic slowdown in mid-2013," according to a USA Today survey of economists. In the survey, only four of 37 economists said the report "reduced their fears that growth will suffer a sharp slowdown" in the second and third quarters of this year. In addition, "More than half say that hadn't been a concern of theirs before the report." The piece quotes a number of economists, who generally expect the economy to slow from its 2.5% Q1 GDP growth rate later in the year.

Fed Survey Finds Banks Easing Business Lending Standards. Bloomberg News (5/6, Zumbrun) reports that according to a new Fed survey, US banks "eased standards and terms on loans to businesses as commercial lending led a credit thaw." In its quarterly survey of top loan officers released on Monday, the Fed said, "Domestic banks, on balance, reported having eased their lending standards and having experienced stronger demand in several loan categories over the past three months." Bloomberg says that the portion of banks easing lending standards was "relatively large."

Analysis: Employment At Start-Ups Down Sharply. In an op-ed in USA Today (5/6, Reynolds, 1.71M), Glenn Harlan Reynolds, a professor and blogger, writes that the "latest data" show that new business start-ups are becoming "rarer," not "more common" as they did during the "dreaded Jimmy Carter era." Reynolds says that a new report from JPMorgan economists Mike Feroli says that employment at start-ups is "plunging." He adds that new jobs "tend to come from new businesses," but there are fewer of them, which "doesn't bode well" and suggests that the US is starting to look more like Europe.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Corruption in Albany."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (5/7, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says that the multiple indictments of top New York political officials raises questions about how to reform the political system. The Times suggests the public funding of campaigns "in order to provide competition for those entrenched in state office." The paper also encourages prosecutors to "keep probing."

"Mr. Watt, Fannie Mae, And Freddie Mac." An editorial in the New York Times (5/7, Times, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) supports the nomination of Rep Mel Watt to serve as director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, noting that he has "long been a champion of homeownership and credit availability," and is "aware of the needs and demands of banks." The Times argues that Watt "has what it takes to explain and carry out policies to help revive credit and provide long overdue assistance to homeowners - if only the Senate will give him the chance."

"A Carbon Trading System Worth Saving." An editorial in the New York Times (5/7, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) praises the EU's cap-and-trade system, but notes concern from analysts that "technical mistakes, Europe's prolonged recession and the failure of policy makers to strengthen the system is undermining its effectiveness." The Times says Europe "has made real progress in dealing with climate change," and calls on the EU to put its cap-and-trade system "on a sounder footing to make sure it doesn't undo the real progress it has made."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Concocting A Cure."*** The Washington Post (5/7, 489K) praises the efforts of members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee who are moving to "fix the government's oversight of the obscure world of compounding pharmacies." The Post suggests some refinements to the bill's language and calls on the Senate to "pass some version of this bill" and the House to "get to work" on a measure.

"Immigration Distortion." The Washington Post (5/7, 489K), in an editorial, claims a Heritage Foundation study on the Senate immigration bill is "chock-full of assumptions that most economists dispute," and describes it as a "blatant attempt to twist the immigration debate."

"Give New Education Law A Chance."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Non-Intervention War."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/7, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) argues for US intervention in Syria. the Journal says the President should go against his political character and make a case to the American people for intervention and then commit himself to removing Assad from power and helping to shape what follows. Failure to intervene, the Journal argues, will make a wider war more likely.

"Florida Flips Back." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/7, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) praises Republican lawmakers in Florida for opposing Gov. Rick Scott's effort to expand the state's Medicaid program.

"Backroom Internet Tax Ambush." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/7, A16, Journal, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) takes issue with a claim from the Senate online tax bill, Sen. Mike Enzi's (R) that only a single tax collector per state will be allowed to audit an online retailer. However, the Journal says that due to backroom maneuvering pushed by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, the definition of "state" was expanded to include US territories and possessions, along with "any tribal organization," potentially allowing hundred of separate jurisdictions to audit online retailers. The Journal says it asked Enzi's office how many auditors there could be, but he didn't know.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Justices Back Ban On Pot Dispensaries

Accent On The Saying Power
Record Fine Urged In San Bruno Explosion
Marco Rubio Faces A Tough Sell
Klamath Water Wars Threaten To Flare Anew

Wall Street Journal:
Harrisburg Hit By SEC Fraud Charges
Hezbollah Steps Up In Syria; Israel Eases Tone
Housing Agencies Push To Impose Time Limits, Work Requirements

New York Times:
US Workers Sue As Big Farms Rely On Immigrants
White House Sticks To Cautious Path On Syria
New Worries For Democrats On Health Law
China's Military Is Accused By US In Cyberattacks
Candidate With A Store Chain Around His Neck
Google Glass Picks Up Early Signal: Keep Out

Washington Post:
General's Decision In Sex Case Is Scrutinized
Israel Tries To End Syria Tensions
Official Sought Help For Benghazi
Political Intelligence, Straight From Capitol Hill
Iron Man Yields To China
Two Dozen Words May Predate Modern Languages

Financial Times:
Microsoft Prepares U-Turn On Windows 8
China Seeks To Alter World Bank Report
Brussels Trains Its Sights On Slovenia
Facebook Set To Introduce Video Ads
Protests Mount On Use Of BP Gulf Spill Funds
US Regulators Eye Bitcoin Supervision

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Air Force Sexual Assault Chief Arrested, Domestic Terror Arrest, Syria-Israeli Strikes, Suspected Auschwitz Guard Arrested, California-Wildfire, Colbert-Busch-Sanford Election, Made In America-Mexico, California-Limo Fire, NASA-Smart Phones, Health-Grocery Shopping
CBS: CBS: Boston-Investigation, Minnesota-Terror Plot, Air Force Sexual Assault Chief Arrested, Syria-Israeli Strikes, Benghazi Hearing, South Korea President Interview, Obama-Golf With Senators, California-Limo Fire, California-Gas Pipeline Fine, Online Sales Tax, Vietnam Combat Photographer
NBC: NBC: California-Limo Fire, Syria-Israeli Strike, Benghazi Hearing, Air Force Sexual Assault Chief Arrested, Boston-Investigation, Newtown Victims Honored, Bee Population, Pfizer-Viagra Direct Sales, Health-Pacifier Cleaning, Clinton-Led Zeppelin Reunion Attempt, Obama-Golf With Senators

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Ohio-Missing Women Found, Air Force Sexual Assault Chief Arrested, California-Limo Fire, Syria-Chemical Weapons
CBS: Ohio-Missing Women Found, Air Force Sexual Assault Chief Arrested, Internet Sales Taxes, California-Wildfires
NPR: Ohio-Missing Women Found, Boston Bombing Suspect's Body, Immigration Costs, Internet Sales Taxes, Tanning Radiation Limits, Maine-Arson Cases, Philippines-Volcano Eruption

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA -Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing with the Vice President, Oval Office, closed press; holds a bilateral meeting with President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea with the Vice President, Oval Office, pool spray at the top; hosts President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea for lunch, the Vice President also attends, Cabinet Room, closed press; holds a joint press conference with President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea, East Room, open press; meets with senior advisors, Oval Office, closed press; meets with the Vice President and Secretary Hagel, Oval Office, closed press; attends a DNC event, St. Regis Hotel, Washington, DC, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN -Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; attends the President's meeting with President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea, Oval Office, pool spray at the top; attends the President's lunch with President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea, Cabinet Room, closed press; attends President's meeting with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press; delivers remarks at the 2013 Annual Gala Dinner of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Mandarin Oriental, open press.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA - Signs copies of her book 'American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America', Politics & Prose bookstore.
US Senate: 10:45 a.m. EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FAMILY ACT - Press conference held by the lead House and Senate sponsors of the Every Child Deserves a Family Act, which would preclude Federal funding for foster care or adoption programs that discriminate against potential foster and adoptive families due to marital status, gender identity, and sexual orientation, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the adoptive child. Participants include: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). Reps. John Lewis (D-GA), and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL); Mary Keane and daughter (New York, NY). Location: S 120 , The Hugh Scott Room, U.S. Capitol.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. - The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. At 11:00 a.m., Senators will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of David Medine to be Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. Thereafter, the Senate begins consideration of S.601, the Water Resources Development Act.

9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Legislative Branch Subcommittee FY 2014 Budget Request for the Library of Congress and the Open World Leadership Center. Witnesses: James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, The Library of Congress; Ambassador John O'Keefe, Executive Director, Open World Leadership Center, The Library of Congress. Location: 138 Dirksen.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES - Hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley; General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Location: 216 Hart.

9:30 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES - privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers. Location: 366 Dirksen.

9:30 a.m. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE - Hearing on Immigration Reform - Immigration and Its Contribution to Our Economic Strength. Panel one: Grover Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform; Dr. Adriana Kugler, Professor, Georgetown Public Policy Institute, Georgetown University. Panel two: Madeline Zavodny, Professor of Economics, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA; Dr. Steven A. Camarota, Director of Research, Center for Immigration Studies. Location: 562 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS - The Full Committee will consider the nomination of Fred P. Hochberg to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS - Nominations hearing. Hearings to examine the nominations of James Knight, of Alabama, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chad, and Deborah Kay Jones, of New Mexico, to be Ambassador to Libya, both of the Department of State. Location: 419 Dirksen.

10:15 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee hearing on Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request for the United States Agency for International Development with Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development. Location: 192 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Interior, Environment Subcommittee hearing on Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior. Witnesses: Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior; David Hayes, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior; Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior; Pam K. Haze, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition, Department of the Interior. Location: 124 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - Hearing on Border Security: Examining Provisions in the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744). Witnesses: DHS Assistant Secretary for Policy David Heyman, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Acting Deputy Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, CBP Border Patrol Chief Michael Fisher, ICE Deputy Director Dan Ragsdale and DHS Assistant Inspector General Anne Richards. Location: 342 Dirksen.

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION - The Committee will stream a NASA briefing direct from the International Space Station (ISS). Via a live downlink, NASA Astronaut Tom Marshburn will discuss the opportunities provided by the station's unique microgravity environment. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/

2 p.m. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE - Hearing on Immigration and Its Contribution to Our Economic Strength Part two: Dr. Madeline Zavodny , Professor of Economics, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA; Dr. Steven A. Camarota, Director of Research, Center for Immigration Studies. Location: 216 Hart.

2:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES - The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces will receive testimony on National Nuclear Security Administration management of its National Security Laboratories in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program. Location: 222 Russell.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION - Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance Hearing, Credit Reports: What Accuracy and Errors Mean For Consumers. Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE - Closed Hearing: Intelligence Matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. PUBLIC SKIN CANCER SCREENINGS - CAPITOL HILL - In an effort to increase skin cancer awareness and commemorate Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month(r), the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) will hold a skin cancer screening for legislators, their staff and the general public. Briefing at 10 followed by screenings until 1:30 p.m. Speakers include: Brett Coldiron, MD - President-Elect, American Academy of Dermatology Association; Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) - sponsors of the Tanning Bed Cancer Control Act; Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) - skin cancer prevention advocate; Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) - skin cancer survivor; RADM Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH - Deputy Surgeon General and a dermatologist; Alyson Fuller, Ph.D. - former indoor tanner and melanoma skin cancer survivor; Johnny Bench - Baseball Hall of Famer and skin cancer survivor. Location: 345 Cannon Caucus Room on Capitol Hill.

10 a.m. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT - Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Representative Martha Roby (R-AL). Location: RNC Lobby.

11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD - House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing in his U.S. Capitol office (H-144).

2 p.m. CHC - PEREZ CONFRIMATION - Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) Chairman Ruben Hinojosa (TX-15), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus Xavier Becerra (CA-34), and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus will hold a press conference with community leaders from the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), to urge the Senate confirmation of Thomas Perez as Secretary of Labor. Location: 234 Cannon.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. - The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies hearing on Bureau of Land Management. Location: B-308 Rayburn.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Subcommittee on Defense hearing on Navy and Marine Corps. Witnesses: Ray Mabus, Secretary, United States Navy; Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief, Naval Operations; General James F. Amos, Commandant, Marine Corps. Location: H-140 Capitol.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Subcommittee on Health hearing on Chairman Brady Announces Hearing on Developing a Viable Medicare Physician Payment Policy. Location: 1100 Longworth.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE - Raising the Bar: Exploring State and Local Efforts to Improve Accountability. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY & COMMERCE - Subcommittee on Energy and Power hearing entitled U.S. Energy Abundance: Exports and the Changing Global Energy Landscape. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES - Markup pending bipartisan legislation related to Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act and the JOBS Act. The Subcommittee on Capital Markets & Government Sponsored Enterprises held a hearing on these bipartisan proposals last month. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS - Hearing on Local and Private Sector Initiatives to Combat International Human Trafficking. Witnesses: Don Knabe, Supervisor, Fourth District, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors; Bradley Myles, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Polaris Project; Shawn MacDonald, Ph.D., Director of Programs and Research, Veriti. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY - Markup: Resolution, To Create an Over-Criminalization Task Force; H.R. 180, and H.Res. ___, Supporting the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the right to counsel. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES - Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation Oversight Hearing on Impediments to Public Recreation on Public Lands. Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM / JUDICIARY - Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice and Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs hold joint hearing on DOJ's Quid Pro Quo with St. Paul: A Whistleblower's Perspective. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY - Joint subcommittee hearing Subcommittee on Energy and Subcommittee on Environment hearing: Keystone XL Pipeline: Examination of Scientific and Environmental Issues. Witnesses: Lynn Helms, Director, Department of Mineral Resources, North Dakota Industrial Commission; Brigham A. McCown, Principal and Managing Director, United Transportation Advisors LLC; Paul Chip Knappenberger, Assistant Director, Center for the Study of Science, Cato Institute; Anthony Swift, Attorney, International Program, Natural Resources Defense Council. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS - Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing examining options for repealing the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and reforming the Medicare physician payment system to reward quality and value. Witnesses: V David Hoyt, MD, Executive Director, American College of Surgeons; Kim Allan Williams, MD, Past President, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology; Charles Cutler, MD, Chair, Board of Regents, American College of Physicians; Frank G. Opelka, MD, Vice-Chair, Consensus Standards Approval Committee, National Quality Forum; Patrick Courneya, MD, Medical Director, HealthPartners Health Plan. Location: 1100 Longworth.

10:30 a.m. ENERGY & COMMERCE - Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade hearing entitled

Vacation Nation: How Tourism Benefits Our Economy. Witnesses include: Roger Dow, President & CEO, U.S. Travel Association; Kathleen Matthews, Executive Vice President and Chief Global Communications and Public Affairs Officer, Marriott International, Inc.; others. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Financial Services and General Government hearing on Securities Exchange Commission. Witness: Mary Jo White, Chairman, Securities Exchange Commission. Location: 2359 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS - Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing on Increasing American Jobs through Greater Exports to Africa - Exporting U.S. goods to Africa. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES - Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation will hold an oversight hearing on Impediments to Public Recreation on Public Lands. Location: 1334 Longworth.

2 p.m. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS - Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations hearing on VA Construction Policy: Failed Plans Result In Plans That Fail. Location: 334 Cannon.

3 p.m. RULES - Meets on H.R. 807, the Full Faith and Credit Act. Location: H-313.

4 p.m. ENERGY & COMMERCE - Subcommittee on Health Markup of H.R. 1407 and a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain (Opening Statements Only).Location: 2123 Rayburn.
Other: SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE Highlights: South Korean President Park Geun-hye is scheduled to meet with President Barack Obama.

UMD - DALAI LAMA - The 14th Dalai Lama will be visiting the University of Maryland for two separate events: delivery of the prestigious Sadat Lecture and a dialogue with scholars of Sufism, a mystical Islamic tradition. Highlights: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. In the morning, the Dalai Lama will join world leaders to deliver the Sadat Lecture, Peace Through Compassion: Connecting a Multi-Faith World. Before an audience of 15,000 at Comcast Center, the Dalai Lama will speak in English for about 45 minutes, answering questions submitted by the audience. 1:45 p.m. - 3 p.m. The Dalai Lama will meet in a smaller venue for dialogue on two religious traditions: Islam's Sufi tradition and Tibetan Buddhism. UMD's Roshan Institute of Persian Studies organized the event. Note: Media space is more limited at this venue. Location: Both events will take place on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

PEDIATRIC ACADEMIC SOCIETIES - Holds its annual meeting. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW.

HUMANS TO MARS SUMMIT -The George Washington University Space Policy Institute and Explore Mars present The Humans to Mars Summit, which will address the major technical, scientific, and policy-related challenges that need to be overcome to send humans to Mars by 2030. Astronaut Buzz Aldrin will deliver a keynote address on the final day of the conference. Location: The George Washington University, Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St., NW.

IDB - ROAD SAFETY - Road Safety events as part of a this Months IDB-Supported Road Safety Events. Highlights: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Road safety reception. Locaiotn: Inter-American Development Bank Headquarters, 1300 New York Ave. NW.

PETERSON FOUNDATIONS ANNUAL FISCAL SUMMIT - CLINTON - GATES - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Peterson Foundation hosts their fourth annual Fiscal Summite - Facing the Future. Participants include former President Bill Clinton and Bill Gates. Location: Mellon Auditorium, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW.

CAP - EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION - 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The Center for American Progress hosts discussion on Honoring Our Nations Mothers and Children through Investments in Early Childhood Education. Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

ITIF - COMPETES ACT - 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation will host a

panel of experts for a Capitol Hill briefing on the past, present and future of the America COMPETES Act. Location: 253 Russell.

BROOKINGS - PREPARING DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE - 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. A Future of Children event: Is There a Better Way to Prepare Disadvantaged Students for College? Location: The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW.

TACKLING THE COST CONUNDRUM - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Health Affairs briefing on the slowing growth of health care expenditures of late and examines whether it is a temporary or lasting phenomenon; and will examine major cost drivers and proposals for putting Medicare on a more sustainable path. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

NPC - ASHTON CARTER - 10 a.m. Deputy Secretary of Defense Dr. Ashton B. Carter on Managing the Pentagon in an Era of Fiscal Uncertainty. Location: National Press Club, Clubs First Amendment Lounge, 529 14th Street NW.

YOUNG ADULTS - MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES - 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. SAMHSA presents National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day 2013 press briefing. Remarks by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius; singer, songwriter and actress Demi Lovato. Location: The University of the District of Columbia, Community College Auditorium, 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Building 46.

AEI - AMERICAS NATURAL GAS - 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Americas natural gas: Should exports be restricted? Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

TRUCK CRASH VICTIMS - 11 a.m. Families of truck crash victims and survivors join with members of Congress to address the disconnect between unacceptable increases in truck crash deaths and injuries and the industry-backed solutions promoted by Congress and DOT (Department of Transportation). Presented by the Truck Safety Coalition, this press conference caps a four-day conference, Sorrow to Strength, which itself is closed to press. Location: 253 Russell.

'SAVE VANISHING SPECIES' STAMP - 12 p.m. Representatives from Major League Baseball's Detroit Tigers will join U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe and Members of Congress to celebrate the success of the Save Vanishing Species semipostal stamp. Participants include: Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe; Dave Dombrowski, CEO, President and GM, Detroit Tigers; Max Scherzer, pitcher, Detroit Tigers; Erica May (fiancee of Scherzer), Pennies for Paws spokesperson. Location: B-369 Rayburn.

ACADEMIC MEDICINE AND TRAUMA CARE - 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Triumph Over Tragedy: Academic Medicine's Vital Role in Providing and Advancing Trauma Care. The Association of American Medical Colleges hosts a congressional briefing exploring the irreplaceable role academic medical centers play in providing and advancing trauma care. Location: B-340 Rayburn.

WILSON CENTER - CLIMATE CHANGE - FARMER'S - 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. The Farmers Dilemma: Climate Change, Food Security, and Human Mobility. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 5th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

API - GASOLINE REGULATIONS - 2:45 p.m. The American Petroleum Institute holds a press conference call previewing comments being submitted to EPA on the agency's new Tier 3 regulations for gasoline, which API contends would be extremely costly and would not provide measurable ozone air quality benefits. With Patrick Kelly, downstream senior policy advisor.

SAIS - INTERNATIONAL ENERGY FORUM - 4:30 p.m. International Energy Forum: Achievements and Prospects with Aldo Flores-Quiroga, secretary general for the International Energy Forum, and David Jhirad, director of the SAIS Energy, Resources and Environment Program. Location: Rome Building Auditorium, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Mexico's economy has been on the upswing the last couple of years. It's unbelievable. They're getting investors from companies all over the world. In fact, Mexico is now home to 11 million undocumented Americans. Did you know that?"

Jay Leno: "Over the weekend, President Obama gave the commencement speech at Ohio State University. He said, 'I dare you to do better.' That's what he told the students. 'I dare you to do better.' To which the students yelled back, 'No, we dare you to do better.'"

Jay Leno: "Well, according to the US Geological Survey, there are 7.4 billion barrels of recoverable oil in North Dakota. And today, Dick Cheney said if we had known how much oil they had, we would have invaded North Dakota years ago."

Conan O'Brien: "President Obama has changed his mind. He decided to support the morning after pill being available over the counter. Yeah. Yep. President Obama finally saw an episode of 'Teen Mom.'"

Conan O'Brien: "PETA is in the news. PETA is really upset at Chris Christie for killing a spider in front of a group of school children. Yeah. Governor Christie said, 'If PETA's upset by that they do not want to know what I had for lunch today.' Apparently Orb is missing."

Conan O'Brien: "George W. Bush's nephew George P. Bush is running for office in Texas. Yeah, he says the 'P' stands for 'Pretend you've never heard the name George W. Bush.'"

Conan O'Brien: "A company is coming out with a beer drone. A beer drone to deliver beer to attendees at music festivals. Yeah. And in a related story, everyone's now fine with drones."

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, President Obama spoke at Ohio State's graduation and told their students that it's their responsibility to make the world a better place. Which got awkward when they were like, 'Wait, isn't that literally your responsibility?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Some experts are saying that the 2016 Democratic presidential primary could come down to Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. Biden is calling her 'a worthy opponent,' and Hillary's calling him 'practice.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Joe Biden could be running against Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination. Even though the election is a few years off, we thought it would be helpful to show a side by side comparison to see some of their differences. Take a look. Hillary wants to bridge the gap between Democratic and Republican leaders. Biden wants to bridge the gap between Marvel and DC superheroes. Hillary has had to fight against a sexist political system. Biden has had to fight against the safety cap on his Flintstones vitamins. They're very tricky. You gotta push down and turn. Push down and turn. Forget it. Hillary has already imagined what it would be like to sit in the President's chair. Biden has already spent hours sitting in it and spinning around. Here's the last one. Hillary believes her greatest asset is her experience at dealing with complicated international issues. Biden just laughed at the word 'asset.'"

Stephen Colbert: "I hope you had a great weekend. I did. I spent it at the big annual NRA meeting in Houston, Texas. Not to be confused with the daily NRA meeting that is Houston, Texas. And this year's theme was accessories. Like pink assault rifles and bra holsters. Now, fellows can brag about getting to Second Amendment."

Stephen Colbert: "One thing I heard repeatedly down there this weekend is that Obama is coming for our guns. Now I'm not one to believe in far out conspiracy theories probably because the government implanted a chip in my brain that controls my thoughts. But, folks, I've had my eyes opened to some disturbing truths that raise troubling questions like, what did they know? When did they know it? And what am I talking about? Which brings me to my new segment exposing vast government conspiracies, 'Stephen Colbert's Bat[bleep] Serious.' Now, folks, I've wanted to do this segment for a long time. But I haven't. Why not? We'll look into that next time. But tonight's topic: Are they coming after our guns? No. They're coming after our bullets. ... Nation, follow me down

the rabbit hole. If it even is a rabbit and not a groundhog in a costume. The Federal government's suspicious ammo hoarding was first noticed by vigilant online conspiracy forums before it was picked up by conservative radio hosts and then eventually made its way out to the farthest fringe elements of our society - Congress."

Stephen Colbert: "Leading the congressional charge is Senator James Inhofe, if this is James Inhofe and not a groundhog in a costume. Senator Ground-hofe here recently introduced a bill that would ban Federal agencies from buying more ammunition if it currently possesses more than its monthly averages during the Bush Administration. Yes, not including the ammo that ended up in the faces of the friends of Dick Cheney."

Stephen Colbert: "Now, folks, a lot of news outlets including Fox News say that they have debunked the bullet conspiracy theory, but I say it's already started. Because out of fear of government hoarding, ammo sales have skyrocketed making it harder to find ammo which can only mean that the government is hoarding it which means we have to buy more ammo before the government gets it all but there's none left because we bought it. Oh, my God. It's too late. The feds already have us outgunned. Well, they're not going to take me alive. [bleep] I'm out of ammo. ... Well, that's it for tonight's 'Bat[bleep] Serious.' Join me next time when I ask the question, 'Did Big Foot help Lee Harvey Oswald build Stonehenge?'"

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Jewell, Sally (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Draft of Your Proposed Statement for Next Thursday ...

1 message

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Thu, May 30, 2013 at 3:07 PM
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

Here is the draft statement for your Senate Energy and Natural Resources hearing next week. This has also been uploaded to Google Drive in the June 3 folder. Please send any changes back to Chris Salotti.

Thanks,
Erin

Secretary Jewell –

I hope you're having a great trip.

I'm attaching the current version of your draft statement for next Thursday's SENR oversight hearing.

We want to make sure you're comfortable with it before it goes out of the building to OMB for clearance.

It is based on the major "buckets" that were in your Senate Appropriations hearing statement, but most of the budget information has been replaced by additional programmatic detail. That additional information came mostly out recent testimonies that senior folks have given on bureau budgets or energy issues. I've also added a new introduction for this Committee.

David H has reviewed, as have staff in the bureaus.

Once you've had a chance to review and let me know any changes you want to make, I'll send to OMB for clearance. We should be in good shape if we can get to OMB by early Friday (they are furloughed Monday!).

At that point we'll also work up a draft oral statement and get it to you, though we may have to make a few changes to that depending on OMB/WH comments/edits/etc.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Chris

–
Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

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STATEMENT OF SALLY JEWELL
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

June 6, 2013

Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Murkowski, thank you for inviting me to appear before your Committee to discuss the programs and activities of the Department of the Interior. I am happy to be here today.

When I appeared before you at my confirmation hearing in March I talked about the scale of the duties of the position and the incredible diversity in the Department's mission. Every day Departmental employees are working to preserve our nation's great heritage and history, manage our federal lands, waters, and other resources, ensure the delivery of water for diverse users, empower insular communities, and support Native American communities. Since that time I have come to see and truly appreciate the astonishing breadth of the issues and responsibilities located within this one Department, many of which fall under the jurisdiction of this Committee. The Department's complex mission affects the lives of all Americans; nearly every American lives within an hour's drive of lands or waters managed by the Department.

During the past 5 weeks my duties have taken me from south Florida and the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park, where I saw, firsthand, Everglades restoration projects underway; to Boise, Idaho, where I met with a group of smokejumpers – some really tough firefighters – at the National Interagency Fire Center and learned how our federal firefighters are deployed when a wildfire is reported; to the Gulf of Mexico where I viewed an offshore drilling rig and a production platform with an inspector from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; and to Portland, Oregon, where I signed an agreement with the States of Oregon and Washington to expedite the review and permitting of energy generation, transmission, and other infrastructure development.

The Department's bureaus serve as stewards of the nation's parks, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, seashores, and national monuments and recreation areas, and as the keeper of the history of this country. We share responsibilities to protect and advance the role of public lands

and Indian lands. The lands and resources we manage are also a huge economic engine, powering our economy through energy development, tourism and recreation, logging, grazing and other uses. The Department oversees the responsible development of 23 percent of U.S. energy supplies, is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western states, maintains relationships with 566 federally recognized tribes, and provides services to more than 1.7 million American Indian and Alaska Native peoples.

In 2012, there were almost 500 million visits to lands managed by the Department. Recreational visits to our lands contributed an estimated $49 billion in economic benefits to local communities in 2011. We collect nearly $13 billion annually through mineral extraction and other activities, and share nearly $5 billion of these revenues annually with states, tribes, counties, and other entities. An additional $2 billion of our budget is used in local communities across the nation through contracts for goods and services. In many of your states, the revenues we share from energy production and other activities are a critical component of the local economy. Overall, the Department estimates the exploration and production of oil, gas, coal, hydropower, and minerals on federal lands contributed nearly $275 billion to the U.S. economy in 2011.

It is with this fitting introduction to the Department's significant responsibilities that I come before you again to discuss the major programs and highlight some of the activities at the Department and my goal to ensure that it continues in its role as a resources manager, a job creator, and a partner to tribes and state and local governments.

Strengthening Our Energy Future

As I noted back in March, I believe that rapidly advancing technologies, smart policies, and a commitment to the President's "all of the above" energy strategy will allow us to continue with the safe and environmentally responsible expansion and diversification of our nation's energy production, further cutting our reliance on foreign oil, and protecting our land and water at the same time. We have been pushing forward with that goal.

Onshore Energy Development

Onshore, the Bureau of Land Management held 31 oil and gas sales last year and, although we planned to conduct 35 sales in 2013, we anticipate that the impacts of the sequester will result in

fewer and smaller lease sales. The amount of producing acreage has increased by about 200,000 acres since 2011. Over 3,000 new oil and gas wells were started in 2012 and oil production from federal onshore lands is up 18 percent since 2008 –its highest level in over a decade. Moreover, the percentage of parcels of land during 2012 that received bids increased by 30 percent over 2009. And the onshore leasing reforms put in place in 2010 resulted in the lowest number of protests since FY 2003 - fewer than 18 percent of parcels offered in FY 2012 were protested, reducing costs and further speeding development.

The Administration is making more coal available as well, with the number of producing acres rising 4 percent from FY 2009 to FY 2012. The amount of coal the agency leased last fiscal year is the highest since FY 2003. And through the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, we are working to ensure that communities impacted by coal mining and the environment are protected during mining. We are also pursuing the reclamation of priority abandoned mine sites, with a goal of reducing the number of remaining dangerous abandoned mine sites nationwide.

I have heard from a number of members about the need for better onshore permit processing. Secretary Salazar instituted reforms to the BLM's programs, including transitioning to an electronic system that will automate and streamline the application process and significantly reduce the time for approval of new projects. From FY 2006 to FY 2012, the amount of time it took for all BLM field offices to process and approve complete drilling applications fell by 40 percent and the number of inspections completed by all BLM offices rose 73 percent. We are headed in the right direction and will continue to look at procedures, processes, and the regulatory framework to identify areas for further reform.

The Department also published several weeks ago an updated proposed rule on hydraulic fracturing on public and Indian lands. These are common sense updates to 30-year old regulations that will increase safety in oil and gas production on public lands while, at the same time, provide flexibility and fostering coordination with states and tribes. This is an important step in ensuring that the public has full confidence that the right safety and environmental protections are in place.

Alaska is an important component of our nation's energy strategy. The Arctic holds substantial oil and gas potential, but also presents unique environmental and operational challenges. The BLM recently finalized a new comprehensive plan – the first ever – for the 23-million acre National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. This balanced plan provides access to over 70 percent of that area's estimated oil potential and provides for an important east-west corridor that could be needed for pipeline infrastructure to eventually carry Chukchi Sea oil to the Trans-Alaska pipeline. At the same time, it will protect the vital subsistence resources of Alaska Natives and the habitat of world-class wildlife populations.

I recently appeared before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and noted at that hearing that the Department is committed to assisting Indian tribes in expanding renewable, reliable, and secure energy supplies on Indian lands and safe and responsible oil and gas development. Including Indian Country in the "all of the above" energy strategy will help increase domestic energy supplies and improve the economies of many Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages.

Offshore Energy Development

We also are moving forward with oversight of the safe and responsible development of our offshore oil and gas resources, (b) (5) [redacted]. The first two sales of the 2012-2017 Five Year Program were held in the Gulf of Mexico in November 2012 and March 2013, and resulted in over $1.3 billion dollars in industry investment and government revenue through bidding on 436 tracts. At the end of April we announced the Proposed Notice of Sale for Lease Sale 233, scheduled for this August, making available 21 million acres offshore Texas. With this sale, all unleased acreage in the Western Gulf of Mexico will be available for leasing.

Over the past several years, since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Department has reformed the way development on the Outer Continental Shelf takes place. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has implemented safety and environmental management system regulations; issued a new drilling safety rule to refine safety reforms and strengthen requirements; taken steps to hold contractors accountable for their actions offshore; conducted two full-scale capping stack deployment exercises to respond to potential future well blowout scenarios; and provided new guidance on oil spill response plans.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has also significantly reduced the time for review of exploration and development plans for deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, with time from submission to approval down almost 35 percent from the period between October 2010 and October 2011.

BSEE has achieved similar, significant improvements in the processing of deepwater permits, with the average time for review reduced by about 37 percent between 2011 and 2012. This has contributed to the approval by BSEE of 112 new deepwater well permits, higher than in either of the two years preceding the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. There are more floating deepwater drilling rigs working in the Gulf of Mexico today than prior to the Deepwater Horizon spill, and we expect drilling activity to steadily increase over the coming year. And both BOEM and BSEE are working to modernize and streamline their data systems and the processes for the submission and review of plans and permits. When completed, this investment will achieve significant gains for both the rigor of analysis and the efficiency of review, saving time and money and enhancing accountability.

Science continues to drive decision-making for the OCS leasing program. BOEM conducts rigorous scientific and environmental analysis to support all stages of the OCS program, partnering with academic institutions and other federal agencies to produce top-tier applied research to support decision making. BOEM also conducts thorough assessment of resource potential to identify areas of the OCS that are most promising for exploration and development. Last year BOEM began a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to support permitting decisions for geological and geophysical surveys that will be used for assessing energy resource potential off the coast of the Mid and South Atlantic. The Department also uses the results of exploratory drilling to improve its knowledge of the resource potential. As part of this process, the Department oversaw the first new exploratory activity in the Alaskan arctic in a decade, with Shell Oil Company beginning limited preparatory drilling activities in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas under strict safety and environmental oversight.

A priority for the Administration is implementation of the Agreement between the United States and Mexico concerning Transboundary Hydrocarbon Reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico. Implementation of the Agreement will make nearly 1.5 million acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, currently subject to a moratorium under the Western Gap Treaty, immediately available

for leasing and will make the entire transboundary region, which is currently subject to legal uncertainty in the absence of an agreement, more attractive to U.S.-qualified operators. BOEM estimates that the transboundary area contains as much as 172 million barrels of oil and 304 billion cubic feet of natural gas. We look forward to working you on legislation to implement this Agreement.

Renewable Energy Development

The Department has a critical role to play in fulfilling the President's goal to double renewable electricity generation again by the year 2020 by facilitating renewable development on public lands. I will continue to build on the Department's successes and work to make sure we are accomplishing this in the right way and in the right places.

Securing clean sources of energy not only is good for the environment, it creates American jobs, and promotes innovation. In 2009, there were no commercial solar energy projects on or under development on the public lands. From that time, the Department authorized 42 renewable energy projects on or through the public lands which, if constructed, will have the potential to produce enough electricity to power more than 4.2 million homes. The Department also plays a key role in efforts to strengthen the nation's electric transmission grid, approving permits enabling several hundred miles of transmission lines in seven states across federal lands in 2012.

BLM has focused on an accelerated, but environmentally responsible, permitting process for the development of renewable energy on public lands that ensures the protection of signature landscapes, wildlife habitats, and cultural resources.

Since 2009, BLM has authorized more than 12,000 megawatts of energy on public lands and waters, established a road map for responsible solar development in the West by designating energy zones, and flipped the switch on the first solar energy project to deliver power to the grid. BLM also released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed 750 megawatt facility in Riverside County that would be one of the largest solar energy projects on public lands in the California desert. BLM is also moving forward on wind energy, with a proposed complex in Wyoming that would generate up to 3,000 megawatts of power, making it the largest wind farm facility in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. BLM also expects to propose rules

that would establish a competitive process for issuing rights-of-way leases for solar and wind energy development on public lands.

Significant progress has been made to advance offshore wind energy. BOEM issued the second non-competitive commercial wind lease off the coast of Delaware in 2012. Earlier this week I announced the first ever competitive lease sale, to be held in July, for a wind energy area offshore Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and BOEM will hold another competitive lease sale offshore Virginia this year. These sales involve nearly 278,000 acres proposed for development of wind generation to produce electricity to power as many as 1.9 million homes. We expect additional competitive lease sales to follow for wind energy areas offshore Maryland, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, and we continue to make progress on potential projects in areas offshore New York, North Carolina, and Maine.

BOEM has established renewable energy task forces with a total of 12 coastal states, including recent task forces in the States of Hawaii and South Carolina, and is overseeing progress in the planning of a potential Mid-Atlantic wind energy transmission line, which would enable up to 6,000 MW of wind turbine capacity to be delivered to the electric grid along the East Coast.

And the Bureau of Reclamation's 58 hydroelectric power plants generate more than 40 billion kilowatt hours of electricity to meet the needs of over 3.5 million households and generate over $1 billion in gross revenues for the federal government.

Management of Our Lands and Waters

I will also work hard to build on the progress this Administration has made in the management of the federal lands and waters that make this "America the Beautiful."

America's Great Outdoors

With the National Park Service's centennial anniversary approaching in 2016, we have the opportunity to both celebrate and confirm the NPS's stewardship of our cultural and natural treasures and its role in building enduring connections and enriching experiences with its visitors, including the nation's youth. I recently had the opportunity to meet students from Stonewall Middle School at Prince William Forest Park in Virginia to celebrate National Park

Week and highlight the importance of outdoor recreation and education, especially to young people.

One of the major goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative is to better connect youth and families to nature and outdoor recreation. Engaging with American's youth through the great outdoors helps lay the foundation for the next generation of our nation's stewards, scientists, business leaders, teachers, and others who will understand the key role that national parks and public lands play in conservation and preservation of our nation's treasures and the significance they have for local communities, drawing visitors and boosting the economy.

We will also continue through AGO to expand opportunities for recreation and conservation, through partnerships with states and others, and the promotion of America's parks, refuges, and public lands. The innovative partnerships developed through this important initiative have helped expand access to rivers and trails, created wildlife corridors, and promoted conservation while working to protect historic uses of the land including ranching, farming, and forestry.

An example of the great work done under this program is the Swan Valley Conservation Area, established as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System by the Department in 2012, which is situated between the Canadian Rockies and the central Rockies of Idaho and Wyoming, in partnership with landowners who voluntarily entered their lands into easements. The new Area will protect one of the last low elevation, coniferous forest ecosystems in western Montana that remains undeveloped and provides habitat for species such as grizzly bears, gray wolves, wolverines, and Canada lynx.

And we are continuing our commitment to America's Great Outdoors through our request, for the first time ever, of mandatory dedicated funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund programs, with full funding at $900 million annually beginning in 2015. Enactment of a mandatory LWCF program would ensure continued funding for this program designed to make investments in conservation and recreation as compensation to the American people for the development of oil and gas resources.

Our nation's public lands, managed by BLM, include rangelands, forests, deserts, and mountains. Managed by BLM for multiple uses, they provide and support a variety of resources and

opportunities important to Americans. They provide a valuable source of forage for livestock, store and filter water, sequester carbon, provide habitat for an abundance of wildlife, offer scenic beauty and support many forms of outdoor recreation.

The National Landscape Conservation System includes 19 national monuments, 21 national conservation (and similarly designated) areas, and 221 wilderness areas designated by Congress offer a different conservation model where many traditional uses are allowed. These spectacular lands provide a multitude of benefits including scientific and historical resources, critical habitat for a variety of species, and diverse recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, and hiking that generate millions of dollars for local communities.

The conservation and sustainable use of our rangelands is important to those who make their living on these landscapes—including public rangeland permittees, whose operations are important to the economic well-being and cultural identity of the West and to rural western communities. While significant workload and resource challenges exist, BLM is committed to reducing the backlog of grazing permit renewals and to issuing permits in the year they expire.

BLM manages the timber on its Oregon and California (O&C) Grant Lands according to the principle of sustained yield. We are increasing support in 2014 for resource management on the O&C lands to implement the Western Oregon Strategy, including increased timber volumes offered for sale while at the same time increasing surveys of species under the Northwest Forest Plan and facilitating recovery of the northern spotted owl, as well as increased support for the BLM to continue its comprehensive effort to prepare new Resource Management Plans covering six BLM Districts in western Oregon.

Wildland Fire

You heard several days ago from the Department on the outlook and planning for the coming fire season. Just a few weeks ago I had the opportunity to join with Secretary Vilsack at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise to see firsthand and discuss the efforts the federal government is making to protect citizens and property from wildfire.

After a decade of drought and the continued proliferation of non-native plant species and accumulation of hazardous fuels in our forests and rangelands, the 2012 fire season was one of

the worst on record for BLM rangelands and woodlands in the lower 48 states. The 2012 season also impacted the other 3 bureaus with resource responsibilities, and with the outlook for the 2013 season to be as severe throughout much of the West, there may be record fires this year. To be prepared we are working together with other federal agencies, tribes, and local governments, to ensure that we're doing everything we can with the resources that we have.

Let me add that the complexity and intensity of fires over the past ten years present enormous budgetary challenges for the federal government. While the latest projection for fire costs for the 2013 season indicate that we have sufficient funding, because of sequestration we absorbed an overall $41 million cut to the Department's fire program and resulted in a reduction of approximately 7 percent of the Department's firefighter seasonal workforce, with reduced lengths of employment for those hired. This reduces our capability.

Water Resources

The Bureau of Reclamation is the largest wholesaler and manager of water in the 17 western states and the nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power. Its projects and programs are critical to driving and maintaining economic growth in the western states. Reclamation manages water for agricultural, municipal and industrial use, and provides flood control and recreation for millions of people. Reclamation activities, including recreation, have an economic contribution of $46 billion, and support nearly 312,000 jobs. As a result, Reclamation facilities eliminate the production of over 27 million tons of carbon dioxide that would have been produced by fossil fuel power plants.

Reclamation has a long-standing commitment to support the Secretary's goal to strengthen tribal nations, including through ecosystem restoration, rural water infrastructure, and the implementation of water rights settlements.

Population growth, development, and a changing climate are creating growing challenges to the nation's water supplies. In many areas of the Country, including the arid West, dwindling water supplies, lengthening droughts, and rising demand for water are forcing communities, stakeholders, and governments to explore new ideas and find new solutions to ensure stable, secure water supplies for the future. The Department is tackling America's water challenges by providing leadership and assistance to states, tribes, and local communities to address competing

demands for water by helping improve conservation and increase water availability, restore watersheds, and resolve long standing water conflicts. Today, many of Reclamation's activities address drought through the use of enhanced water management that helps guard against and to a certain extent mitigate the devastating effects of drought, for example, through conservation.

Through our national water conservation initiative, WaterSMART, we are finding better ways to stretch existing supplies and helping partners plan to meet future water demands. In 2012 the U.S. Geological Survey, a key partner in the WaterSMART initiative, began a three year study of three focus areas in the Delaware River Basin, the Apalachicola–Chattahoochee–Flint River Basin, and the Colorado River Basin that will focus on water availability, investigating the components of a regional water budget to understand the amount entering and leaving each basin.

This work also contributed to the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, the first of its kind, released by the Department in December 2012, which projects an average imbalance in future water supply and demand greater than 3.2 million acre-feet by 2060. The study projects the largest increase in demand will come from municipal and industrial users, owing to population growth, and estimates the number of people that rely on Colorado River Basin water could double to nearly 76 million people by 2060 under a rapid growth scenario. Based on this study, the Department, along with representatives from the seven Colorado River Basin states, the Ten Tribes Partnership, and conservation organizations, last week outlined the next steps to address these projected imbalances.

I am committed to continuing to work with our stakeholders to assess the implications of water shortages, develop flexible operational plans that account for expected periods of drought, and support projects that conserve water and improve the efficiency of water delivery infrastructure.

Addressing Challenges with Science

The Department's mission requires a careful balance between development and conservation, achieved by working closely with our diverse stakeholders and partners to ensure our actions provide the greatest benefit to the American people. The development and use of scientific information to inform decision making is a central component.

Science at the Department promotes economic growth and innovation. At the Department, we use science to address critical challenges in energy and mineral production, ecosystem management, invasive species, oil spill restoration, climate adaptation, and Earth observation - such as satellite and airborne land imaging and water and wildlife monitoring.

Scientific monitoring, research, and development play a vital role in supporting Interior's missions and Interior maintains a robust science capability in the natural sciences, primarily in the U.S. Geological Survey. An example of how this expertise is applied is USGS's work as part of an interagency collaboration on hydraulic fracturing, which is aimed at researching and producing decision-ready information and tools on the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on the environment, health, and safety, including water quality and inducement of seismic activity. The USGS is also a leader in resource assessments, and just recently published an updated assessment of the Bakken and Three Forks Formations, finding greater resource potential there than previously thought.

The President has also made clear that climate change is an important issue for the nation, especially as we face more frequent droughts, wildfires, and floods, and responding to the management challenges presented is a priority. We are using the science expertise in our bureaus to better understand and prepare for challenges that our cities, coasts, river basins and – ultimately – our economies face.

While USGS provides exceptional support to Interior bureaus, other Departmental bureaus work collaboratively to bridge gaps in knowledge, leveraging the complementary skills and capacity to advance the use of science to support management decision making, ensure independent review of key decisions and science integrity, and adaptively use data to assist states, tribes, and communities throughout the nation.

Impacts of Sequestration

Finally, I want to mention the impact sequestration and uncertainty about the future has had on the Department and its programs. The budget cuts that we have seen push us back to funding levels last seen in 2006, and reverse much of the progress made by Secretary Salazar, who worked in partnership with the Members of this Committee to advance the President's all-of-the above energy strategy; conserve our federal lands, waters and wildlife; advance youth

engagement in the outdoors; and honor commitments to Native Americans. The process put in place by the sequestration undermines the work we need to do on many fronts, and we will continue to see impacts across the country in all of our bureaus during the coming months.

We will survive these cuts this year by freezing hiring, eliminating seasonal positions, and cutting back on our programs and services, but these steps are not sustainable, as these actions which are eroding our workforce, shrinking our summer field season, and deferring important work cannot be continued in future years without further severe consequences to our mission.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murkowski, and Members of the Committee, thank you again for inviting me to appear before your Committee. Achieving success in all of these important responsibilities on behalf of the American people is the Department's primary focus. I look forward to working with you as we advance these important issues.

BISON CONNECT

Jewell, Sally (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

Suggestions on SENR document

1 message

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Thu, May 30, 2013 at 5:44 PM
To: Salotti Christopher <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Walls Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>

Dear Chris -

Thanks for your continued hard work on my committee testimony. I don't have access to Track Changes on my iPad, so I'm hoping you can see the suggested edits I made when you open these on your desktop. I

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) Your call on this, but I certainly noticed it, especially when put into the same few sentences.

(b)(5)

(b)(5) I will endeavor to give you a quick turnaround once you have digested these and put them into your format.

Thanks,

Sally

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STATEMENT OF SALLY JEWELL
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

June 6, 2013

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It is with this fitting introduction to the Department's significant responsibilities that I come before you again to discuss the major programs and highlight some of the activities at the Department and my goal to ensure that it continues in its role as a resources manager, a job creator, and a partner to tribes and state and local governments.

Strengthening Our Energy Future

As I noted back in March, I believe that rapidly advancing technologies, smart policies, and a commitment to the President's "all of the above" energy strategy will allow us to continue with the safe and environmentally responsible expansion and diversification of our nation's energy production, further cutting our reliance on foreign oil, and protecting our land and water at the same time. We have been pushing forward with that goal.

Onshore Energy Development

Onshore, the Bureau of Land Management held 31 oil and gas sales last year and, although we planned to conduct 35 sales in 2013, we anticipate that the impacts of the sequester will result in

fewer and smaller lease sales. The amount of producing acreage has increased by about 200,000 acres since 2011. Over 3,000 new oil and gas wells were started in 2012 and oil production from federal onshore lands is up 18 percent since 2008 –its highest level in over a decade. Moreover, the percentage of parcels of land during 2012 that received bids increased by 30 percent over 2009. And the onshore leasing reforms put in place in 2010 resulted in the lowest number of protests since FY 2003 - fewer than 18 percent of parcels offered in FY 2012 were protested, reducing costs and further speeding development.

The Administration is making more coal available as well, with the number of producing acres rising 4 percent from FY 2009 to FY 2012. The amount of coal the agency leased last fiscal year is the highest since FY 2003. And through the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, we are working to ensure that communities impacted by coal mining and the environment are protected during mining. We are also pursuing the reclamation of priority abandoned mine sites, with a goal of reducing the number of remaining dangerous abandoned mine sites nationwide.

I have heard from a number of members about the need for better onshore permit processing. Secretary Salazar instituted reforms to the BLM's programs, including transitioning to an electronic system that will automate and streamline the application process and significantly reduce the time for approval of new projects. From FY 2006 to FY 2012, the amount of time it took for all BLM field offices to process and approve complete drilling applications fell by 40 percent and the number of inspections completed by all BLM offices rose 73 percent. We are headed in the right direction and will continue to look at procedures, processes, and the regulatory framework to identify areas for further reform.

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Alaska is an important component of our nation's energy strategy. The Arctic holds substantial oil and gas potential, but also presents unique environmental and operational challenges. The BLM recently finalized a new comprehensive plan – the first ever – for the 23-million acre National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. This balanced plan provides access to over 70 percent of that area's estimated oil potential and provides for an important east-west corridor that could be needed for pipeline infrastructure to eventually carry Chukchi Sea oil to the Trans-Alaska pipeline. At the same time, it will protect the vital subsistence resources of Alaska Natives and the habitat of world-class wildlife populations.

I recently appeared before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and noted at that hearing that the Department is committed to assisting Indian tribes in expanding renewable, reliable, and secure energy supplies on Indian lands and safe and responsible oil and gas development. Including Indian Country in the "all of the above" energy strategy will help increase domestic energy supplies and improve the economies of many Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages.

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Securing clean sources of energy not only is good for the environment, it creates American jobs, and promotes innovation. In 2009, there were no commercial solar energy projects on or under development on the public lands. From that time, the Department authorized 42 renewable energy projects on or through the public lands which, if constructed, will have the potential to produce enough electricity to power more than 4.2 million homes. The Department also plays a key role in efforts to strengthen the nation's electric transmission grid, approving permits enabling several hundred miles of transmission lines in seven states across federal lands in 2012.

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Since 2009, BLM has authorized more than 12,000 megawatts of energy on public lands and waters, established a road map for responsible solar development in the West by designating energy zones, and flipped the switch on the first solar energy project to deliver power to the grid. BLM also released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed 750 megawatt facility in Riverside County that would be one of the largest solar energy projects on public lands in the California desert. BLM is also moving forward on wind energy, with a proposed complex in Wyoming that would generate up to 3,000 megawatts of power, making it the largest wind farm facility in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. BLM also expects to propose rules

that would establish a competitive process for issuing rights-of-way leases for solar and wind energy development on public lands.

Significant progress has been made to advance offshore wind energy. BOEM issued the second non-competitive commercial wind lease off the coast of Delaware in 2012. Earlier this week I announced the first ever competitive lease sale, to be held in July, for a wind energy area offshore Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and BOEM will hold another competitive lease sale offshore Virginia this year. These sales involve nearly 278,000 acres proposed for development of wind generation to produce electricity to power as many as 1.9 million homes. We expect additional competitive lease sales to follow for wind energy areas offshore Maryland, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, and we continue to make progress on potential projects in areas offshore New York, North Carolina, and Maine.

BOEM has established renewable energy task forces with a total of 12 coastal states, including recent task forces in the States of Hawaii and South Carolina, and is overseeing progress in the planning of a potential Mid-Atlantic wind energy transmission line, which would enable up to 6,000 MW of wind turbine capacity to be delivered to the electric grid along the East Coast.

And the Bureau of Reclamation's 58 hydroelectric power plants generate more than 40 billion kilowatt hours of electricity to meet the needs of over 3.5 million households and generate over $1 billion in gross revenues for the federal government.

Management of Our Lands and Waters

I will also work hard to build on the progress this Administration has made in the management of the federal lands and waters that make this "America the Beautiful."

America's Great Outdoors

With the National Park Service's centennial anniversary approaching in 2016, we have the opportunity to both celebrate and confirm the NPS's stewardship of our cultural and natural treasures and its role in building enduring connections and enriching experiences with its visitors, including the nation's youth. I recently had the opportunity to meet students from Stonewall Middle School at Prince William Forest Park in Virginia to celebrate National Park

Week and highlight the importance of outdoor recreation and education, especially to young people.

One of the major goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative is to better connect youth and families to nature and outdoor recreation. Engaging with American's youth through the great outdoors helps lay the foundation for the next generation of our nation's stewards, scientists, business leaders, teachers, and others who will understand the key role that national parks and public lands play in conservation and preservation of our nation's treasures and the significance they have for local communities, drawing visitors and boosting the economy. I have had an opportunity in these first weeks on the job to work alongside young people in Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and in a city park in Portland, Oregon where high school and college-aged young people were restoring habitat and engaging other youth in environmental education and stewardship - all great examples of our commitment to a 21st Century Civilian Service Corps. In an effort to learn from the Civilian Conservation Corps of the last century, this provides a tangible way to boost youth employment and job training, supporting our public lands infrastructure in a cost-effective way while giving youth a lifetime connection to public lands close to home and far away. It also provides great opportunities for public/private partnerships with businesses and non-profit organizations.

We will continue through AGO to expand opportunities for recreation and conservation, through partnerships with states and others, and the promotion of America's parks, refuges, and public lands. The innovative partnerships developed through this important initiative have helped expand access to rivers and trails, created wildlife corridors, and promoted conservation while working to protect historic uses of the land including ranching, farming, and forestry.

An example of the great work done under this program is the Swan Valley Conservation Area, established as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System by the Department in 2012, which is situated between the Canadian Rockies and the central Rockies of Idaho and Wyoming, in partnership with landowners who voluntarily entered their lands into easements. The new Area will protect one of the last low elevation, coniferous forest ecosystems in western Montana that remains undeveloped and provides habitat for species such as grizzly bears, gray wolves, wolverines, and Canada lynx.

And we are continuing our commitment to America's Great Outdoors through our request, for the first time ever, of mandatory dedicated funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund programs, with full funding at $900 million annually beginning in 2015. Enactment of a mandatory LWCF program would ensure continued funding for this program designed to make investments in conservation and recreation as compensation to the American people for the development of oil and gas resources.

Our nation's public lands, managed by BLM for multiple uses, include rangelands, forests, deserts, and mountains. They support a variety of resources and opportunities important to Americans such as forage for livestock, water storage and filtration, carbon sequestration, habitat for an abundance of wildlife, scenic beauty and many forms of outdoor recreation.

The National Landscape Conservation System which includes 19 national monuments, 21 national conservation (and similarly designated) areas, and 221 wilderness areas designated by Congress offer a different conservation model where many traditional uses are allowed. These spectacular lands provide a multitude of benefits including scientific and historical resources, critical habitat for a variety of species, and diverse recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, and hiking that generate millions of dollars for local communities.

The conservation and sustainable use of our rangelands is important to those who make their living on these landscapes—including public rangeland permittees, whose operations are important to the economic well-being and cultural identity of the West and to rural western communities. While significant workload and resource challenges exist, BLM is committed to reducing the backlog of grazing permit renewals and to issuing permits in the year they expire.

BLM manages the timber on its Oregon and California (O&C) Grant Lands according to the principle of sustained yield. We are increasing support in 2014 for resource management on the O&C lands to implement the Western Oregon Strategy, including increased timber volumes offered for sale while at the same time increasing surveys of species under the Northwest Forest Plan and facilitating recovery of the northern spotted owl, as well as increased support for the BLM to continue its comprehensive effort to prepare new Resource Management Plans covering six BLM Districts in western Oregon.

Wildland Fire

You heard several days ago from the Department on the outlook and planning for the coming fire season. Just a few weeks ago I had the opportunity to join with Secretary Vilsack at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise to see this well-coordinated operation firsthand and discuss the efforts the federal government is making to protect citizens and property from wildfire.

After a decade of drought and the continued proliferation of non-native plant species and accumulation of hazardous fuels in our forests and rangelands, the 2012 fire season was one of the worst on record for BLM rangelands and woodlands in the lower 48 states. The 2012 season also impacted the other 3 bureaus with resource responsibilities, and with the outlook for the 2013 season to be as severe throughout much of the West, there may be record fires this year. To be prepared we are working together with other federal agencies, tribes, and local governments to ensure that we're doing everything we can with the resources that we have.

Let me add that the complexity and intensity of fires over the past ten years present enormous budgetary challenges for the federal government. While the latest projection for fire costs for the 2013 season indicate that we have sufficient funding, because of sequestration we absorbed an overall $41 million cut to the Department's fire program that resulted in a reduction of approximately 7 percent of the Department's firefighter seasonal workforce, with reduced lengths of employment for those hired. This reduces our capability and significantly constrains our work in preventing fires through hazardous fuels removal and remediating land after fire damage.

Water Resources

The Bureau of Reclamation is the largest wholesaler and manager of water in the 17 western states and the nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power. Its projects and programs are critical to driving and maintaining economic growth in the western states. Reclamation manages water for agricultural, municipal and industrial use, and provides flood control and recreation for millions of people. Reclamation activities, including recreation, have an economic contribution of $46 billion, and support nearly 312,000 jobs. As a result, Reclamation facilities eliminate the production of over 27 million tons of carbon dioxide that would have been produced by fossil fuel power plants.

Reclamation has a long-standing commitment to support the Secretary's goal to strengthen tribal nations, including through ecosystem restoration, rural water infrastructure, and the implementation of water rights settlements.

Population growth, development, and a changing climate are creating growing challenges to the nation's water supplies. In many areas of the Country, including the arid West, dwindling water supplies, lengthening droughts, and rising demand for water are forcing communities, stakeholders, and governments to explore new ideas and find new solutions to ensure stable, secure water supplies for the future. The Department is tackling America's water challenges by providing leadership and assistance to states, tribes, and local communities to address competing demands for water by helping improve conservation and increase water availability, restore watersheds, and resolve long standing water conflicts. Today, many of Reclamation's activities address drought through the use of enhanced water management that helps guard against and, to a certain extent, mitigate the devastating effects of drought. Water conservation by agricultural, residential and commercial users is a prime example.

Through our national water conservation initiative, WaterSMART, we are finding better ways to stretch existing supplies and helping partners plan to meet future water demands. In 2012 the U.S. Geological Survey, a key partner in the WaterSMART initiative, began a three year study of three focus areas in the Delaware River Basin, the Apalachicola–Chattahoochee–Flint River Basin, and the Colorado River Basin that will focus on water availability, investigating the components of a regional water budget to understand the amount entering and leaving each basin.

This work also contributed to the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, the first of its kind, released by the Department in December 2012, which projects an average imbalance in future water supply and demand greater than 3.2 million acre-feet by 2060. The study projects the largest increase in demand will come from municipal and industrial users, owing to population growth, and estimates the number of people that rely on Colorado River Basin water could double to nearly 76 million people by 2060 under a rapid growth scenario. Based on this study, the Department, along with representatives from the seven Colorado River Basin states, the Ten Tribes Partnership, and conservation organizations, last week outlined the next steps to address these projected imbalances.

I am committed to continuing to work with our stakeholders to assess the implications of water shortages, develop flexible operational plans that account for expected periods of drought, and support projects that conserve water and improve the efficiency of water delivery infrastructure.

Addressing Challenges with Science

The Department's mission requires a careful balance between development and conservation, achieved by working closely with our diverse stakeholders and partners to ensure our actions provide the greatest benefit to the American people. The development and use of scientific information to inform decision making is a central component.

Science at the Department promotes economic growth and innovation. At the Department, we use science to address critical challenges in energy and mineral production, ecosystem management, invasive species, oil spill restoration, climate adaptation, and Earth observation - such as satellite and airborne land imaging, and water and wildlife monitoring.

Scientific monitoring, research, and development play a vital role in supporting Interior's missions and Interior maintains a robust science capability in the natural sciences, primarily in the U.S. Geological Survey. An example of how this expertise is applied is USGS's work as part of an interagency collaboration on hydraulic fracturing, which is aimed at researching and producing decision-ready information and tools on the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on the environment, health, and safety, including water quality and inducement of seismic activity. The USGS is also a leader in resource assessments, and just recently published an updated assessment of the Bakken and Three Forks Formations, finding greater resource potential there than previously thought.

The President has also made clear that climate change is an important issue for the nation, especially as we face more frequent droughts, wildfires, and floods, (b) (5)

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While USGS provides exceptional support to Interior bureaus, other Departmental bureaus work collaboratively to bridge gaps in knowledge, leveraging the complementary skills and capacity to advance the use of science to support management decision making, ensure independent review of key decisions and science integrity, and adaptively use data to assist states, tribes, and communities throughout the nation.

Impacts of Sequestration

Finally, I want to mention the impact sequestration and uncertainty about the future has had on the Department and its programs. The budget cuts that we have seen push us back to funding levels last seen in 2006, and reverse much of the progress made by Secretary Salazar, who worked in partnership with the Members of this Committee to advance the President's all-of-the above energy strategy; conserve our federal lands, waters and wildlife; advance youth engagement in the outdoors; and honor commitments to Native Americans. The process put in place by the sequestration undermines the work we need to do on many fronts, and we will continue to see impacts across the country in all of our bureaus during the coming months.

We will survive these cuts this year by freezing hiring, eliminating seasonal positions, and cutting back on our programs and services, but these steps are not sustainable, as these actions which are eroding our workforce, shrinking our summer field season, and deferring important work cannot be continued in future years without further severe consequences to our mission.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murkowski, and Members of the Committee, thank you again for inviting me to appear before your Committee. Achieving success in all of these important responsibilities on behalf of the American people is the Department's primary focus. I look forward to working with you as we advance these important issues.

BISON CONNECT

jewell, Sally (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

Briefing Materials for June 2-3

1 message

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Fri, May 31, 2013 at 5:54 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Jennifer Sisk <jennifer_sisk@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Here are your briefing materials for June 2-3. Let me know if you have any questions.

Erin

10 attachments Attachments 1-7, 9, and 10 are unavailable.

- **6.2.13_615pm_ Fords Theatre Honoree Bill Russell Bio.docx** 80K
- **6.2.13_615pm_Fords Theatre Event Information on Rex Tillerson.docx** 15K
- **6.2.13_615pm_Fords Theatre Event Run of Show Information.pdf** 358K
- **6.2.13_615pm_Fords Theatre Gala Memo.docx** 21K
- **6.2.13_615pm_Fords Theatre Honoree Condoleezza Rice Bio.docx** 48K
- **6.2.13_915am_Washington Monument Visit Memo.doc** 5106K
- **6.3.13_330 pm_Opening Day of America's Great Outdoors Month Memo and Talking Points.docx** 28K
- **6.3.13_430pm_Proposed Senate Energy and Natural Resources statement.docx** 46K
- **6.3.13_430pm_Senate Energy and Natural Resources Member Profiles.doc** 1009K
- **6.3.13_945am_Kickoff National Fish and Boating Week memo.docx** 32K

STATEMENT OF SALLY JEWELL
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

June 6, 2013

Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Murkowski, thank you for inviting me to appear before your Committee to discuss the programs and activities of the Department of the Interior. I am happy to be here today.

When I appeared before you at my confirmation hearing in March I talked about the scale of the duties of the position and the incredible diversity in the Department's mission. Every day Departmental employees are working to preserve our nation's great heritage and history, manage our federal lands, waters, and other resources, ensure the delivery of water for diverse users, empower insular communities, and support Native American communities. Since that time I have come to see and truly appreciate the astonishing breadth of the issues and responsibilities located within this one Department, many of which fall under the jurisdiction of this Committee. The Department's complex mission affects the lives of all Americans; nearly every American lives within an hour's drive of lands or waters managed by the Department.

During the past 5 weeks my duties have taken me from south Florida and the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park, where I saw, firsthand, Everglades restoration projects underway; to Boise, Idaho, where I met with a group of smokejumpers – some really tough firefighters – at the National Interagency Fire Center and learned how our federal firefighters are deployed when a wildfire is reported; to the Gulf of Mexico where I viewed an offshore drilling rig and a production platform with an inspector from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; and to Portland, Oregon, where I signed an agreement with the States of Oregon and Washington to expedite the review and permitting of energy generation, transmission, and other infrastructure development.

The Department's bureaus serve as stewards of the nation's parks, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, seashores, and national monuments and recreation areas, and as the keeper of the history of this country. We share responsibilities to protect and advance the role of public lands

and Indian lands. The lands and resources we manage are also a huge economic engine, powering our economy through energy development, tourism and recreation, logging, grazing and other uses. The Department oversees the responsible development of 23 percent of U.S. energy supplies, is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western states, maintains relationships with 566 federally recognized tribes, and provides services to more than 1.7 million American Indian and Alaska Native peoples.

In 2012, there were almost 500 million visits to lands managed by the Department. Recreational visits to our lands contributed an estimated $49 billion in economic benefits to local communities in 2011. We collect nearly $13 billion annually through mineral extraction and other activities, and share nearly $5 billion of these revenues annually with states, tribes, counties, and other entities. An additional $2 billion of our budget is used in local communities across the nation through contracts for goods and services. In many of your states, the revenues we share from energy production and other activities are a critical component of the local economy. Overall, the Department estimates the exploration and production of oil, gas, coal, hydropower, and minerals on federal lands contributed nearly $275 billion to the U.S. economy in 2011.

It is with this fitting introduction to the Department's significant responsibilities that I come before you again to discuss the major programs and highlight some of the activities at the Department and my goal to ensure that it continues in its role as a resources manager, a job creator, and a partner to tribes and state and local governments.

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BLM has focused on an accelerated, but environmentally responsible, permitting process for the development of renewable energy on public lands that ensures the protection of signature landscapes, wildlife habitats, and cultural resources.

Since 2009, BLM has authorized more than 12,000 megawatts of energy on public lands and waters, established a road map for responsible solar development in the West by designating energy zones, and flipped the switch on the first solar energy project to deliver power to the grid. BLM also released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed 750 megawatt facility in Riverside County that would be one of the largest solar energy projects on public lands

in the California desert. BLM is also moving forward on wind energy, with a proposed complex in Wyoming that would generate up to 3,000 megawatts of power, making it the largest wind farm facility in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. BLM also expects to propose rules that would establish a competitive process for issuing rights-of-way leases for solar and wind energy development on public lands.

Significant progress has been made to advance offshore wind energy. BOEM issued the second non-competitive commercial wind lease off the coast of Delaware in 2012. Earlier this week I announced the first ever competitive lease sale, to be held in July, for a wind energy area offshore Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and BOEM will hold another competitive lease sale offshore Virginia this year. These sales involve nearly 278,000 acres proposed for development of wind generation to produce electricity to power as many as 1.9 million homes. We expect additional competitive lease sales to follow for wind energy areas offshore Maryland, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, and we continue to make progress on potential projects in areas offshore New York, North Carolina, and Maine.

BOEM has established renewable energy task forces with a total of 12 coastal states, including recent task forces in the States of Hawaii and South Carolina, and is overseeing progress in the planning of a potential Mid-Atlantic wind energy transmission line, which would enable up to 6,000 MW of wind turbine capacity to be delivered to the electric grid along the East Coast.

And the Bureau of Reclamation's 58 hydroelectric power plants generate more than 40 billion kilowatt hours of electricity to meet the needs of over 3.5 million households and generate over $1 billion in gross revenues for the federal government.

Management of Our Lands and Waters

I will also work hard to build on the progress this Administration has made in the management of the federal lands and waters that make this "America the Beautiful."

America's Great Outdoors

With the National Park Service's centennial anniversary approaching in 2016, we have the opportunity to both celebrate and confirm the NPS's stewardship of our cultural and natural treasures and its role in building enduring connections and enriching experiences with its

visitors, including the nation's youth. I recently had the opportunity to meet students from Stonewall Middle School at Prince William Forest Park in Virginia to celebrate National Park Week and highlight the importance of outdoor recreation and education, especially to young people.

One of the major goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative is to better connect youth and families to nature and outdoor recreation. Engaging with American's youth through the great outdoors helps lay the foundation for the next generation of our nation's stewards, scientists, business leaders, teachers, and others who will understand the key role that national parks and public lands play in conservation and preservation of our nation's treasures and the significance they have for local communities, drawing visitors and boosting the economy.

I have had an opportunity in these first weeks on the job to work alongside young people in Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and in a city park in Portland, Oregon, where high school and college-aged young people were restoring habitat and engaging other youth in environmental education and stewardship - all great examples of our commitment to a 21st Century Civilian Service Corps. In an effort to learn from the Civilian Conservation Corps of the last century, this provides a tangible way to boost youth employment and job training, supporting our public lands infrastructure in a cost-effective way while giving youth a lifetime connection to public lands close to home and far away. It also provides great opportunities for public/private partnerships with businesses and non-profit organizations.

We will continue through AGO to expand opportunities for recreation and conservation, through partnerships with states and others, and the promotion of America's parks, refuges, and public lands. The innovative partnerships developed through this important initiative have helped expand access to rivers and trails, created wildlife corridors, and promoted conservation while working to protect historic uses of the land including ranching, farming, and forestry.

An example of the great work done under this program is the Swan Valley Conservation Area, established as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System by the Department in 2012, which is situated between the Canadian Rockies and the central Rockies of Idaho and Wyoming, in partnership with landowners who voluntarily entered their lands into easements. The new Area

will protect one of the last low elevation, coniferous forest ecosystems in western Montana that remains undeveloped and provides habitat for species such as grizzly bears, gray wolves, wolverines, and Canada lynx.

And we are continuing our commitment to America's Great Outdoors through our request this year, for the first time ever, of mandatory dedicated funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund programs, with full funding at $900 million annually beginning in 2015. Enactment of a mandatory LWCF program would ensure continued funding for this program designed to make investments in conservation and recreation as compensation to the American people for the development of oil and gas resources.

Our nation's public lands, managed by BLM for multiple uses, include rangelands, forests, deserts, and mountains. They support a variety of resources and opportunities important to Americans such as forage for livestock, water storage and filtration, carbon sequestration, habitat for an abundance of wildlife, scenic beauty and many forms of outdoor recreation.

The National Landscape Conservation System, which includes 19 national monuments, 21 national conservation (and similarly designated) areas, and 221 wilderness areas designated by Congress offer a different conservation model where many traditional uses are allowed. These spectacular lands provide a multitude of benefits including scientific and historical resources, critical habitat for a variety of species, and diverse recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, and hiking that generate millions of dollars for local communities.

The conservation and sustainable use of our rangelands is important to those who make their living on these landscapes—including public rangeland permittees, whose operations are important to the economic well-being and cultural identity of the West and to rural western communities. While significant workload and resource challenges exist, BLM is committed to reducing the backlog of grazing permit renewals and to issuing permits in the year they expire.

BLM manages the timber on its Oregon and California (O&C) Grant Lands according to the principle of sustained yield. We are increasing support in 2014 for resource management on the O&C lands to implement the Western Oregon Strategy, including increased timber volumes offered for sale while at the same time increasing surveys of species under the Northwest Forest Plan and facilitating recovery of the northern spotted owl, as well as increased support for the

BLM to continue its comprehensive effort to prepare new Resource Management Plans covering six BLM Districts in western Oregon.

Wildland Fire

You heard several days ago from the Department on the outlook and planning for the coming fire season. Just a few weeks ago I had the opportunity to join with Secretary Vilsack at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise to see this well-coordinated operation firsthand and discuss the efforts the federal government is making to protect citizens and property from wildfire.

After a decade of drought and the continued proliferation of non-native plant species and accumulation of hazardous fuels in our forests and rangelands, the 2012 fire season was one of the worst on record for BLM rangelands and woodlands in the lower 48 states. The 2012 season also impacted the other 3 bureaus with resource responsibilities, and with the outlook for the 2013 season to be as severe throughout much of the West, there may be record fires this year. To be prepared we are working together with other federal agencies, tribes, and local governments to ensure that we're doing everything we can with the resources that we have.

Let me add that the complexity and intensity of fires over the past ten years present enormous budgetary challenges for the federal government. While the latest projection for fire costs for the 2013 season indicate that we have sufficient funding, because of sequestration we absorbed an overall $41 million cut to the Department's fire program that resulted in a reduction of approximately 7 percent of the Department's firefighter seasonal workforce, with reduced lengths of employment for those hired. This reduces our capability and significantly constrains our work in preventing fires through hazardous fuels removal and remediating land after fire damage.

Water Resources

The Bureau of Reclamation is the largest wholesaler and manager of water in the 17 western states and the nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power. Its projects and programs are critical to driving and maintaining economic growth in the western states. Reclamation manages water for agricultural, municipal and industrial use, and provides flood control and recreation for millions of people. Reclamation activities, including recreation, have an economic

contribution of $46 billion, and support nearly 312,000 jobs. As a result, Reclamation facilities eliminate the production of over 27 million tons of carbon dioxide that would have been produced by fossil fuel power plants.

Reclamation has a long-standing commitment to support the Secretary's goal to strengthen tribal nations, including through ecosystem restoration, rural water infrastructure, and the implementation of water rights settlements.

Population growth, development, and a changing climate are creating growing challenges to the nation's water supplies. In many areas of the Country, including the arid West, dwindling water supplies, lengthening droughts, and rising demand for water are forcing communities, stakeholders, and governments to explore new ideas and find new solutions to ensure stable, secure water supplies for the future. The Department is tackling America's water challenges by providing leadership and assistance to states, tribes, and local communities to address competing demands for water by helping improve conservation and increase water availability, restore watersheds, and resolve long standing water conflicts. Today, many of Reclamation's activities address drought through the use of enhanced water management that helps guard against and, to a certain extent, mitigate the devastating effects of drought. Water conservation by agricultural, residential and commercial users is a prime example.

Through our national water conservation initiative, WaterSMART, we are finding better ways to stretch existing supplies and helping partners plan to meet future water demands. In 2012 the U.S. Geological Survey, a key partner in the WaterSMART initiative, began a three year study of three focus areas in the Delaware River Basin, the Apalachicola–Chattahoochee–Flint River Basin, and the Colorado River Basin that will focus on water availability, investigating the components of a regional water budget to understand the amount entering and leaving each basin.

This work also contributed to the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, the first of its kind, released by the Department in December 2012, which projects an average imbalance in future water supply and demand greater than 3.2 million acre-feet by 2060. The study projects the largest increase in demand will come from municipal and industrial users, owing to population growth, and estimates the number of people that rely on Colorado River

Basin water could double to nearly 76 million people by 2060 under a rapid growth scenario. Based on this study, the Department, along with representatives from the seven Colorado River Basin states, the Ten Tribes Partnership, and conservation organizations, last week outlined the next steps to address these projected imbalances.

I am committed to continuing to work with our stakeholders to assess the implications of water shortages, develop flexible operational plans that account for expected periods of drought, and support projects that conserve water and improve the efficiency of water delivery infrastructure.

Addressing Challenges with Science

The Department's mission requires a careful balance between development and conservation, achieved by working closely with our diverse stakeholders and partners to ensure our actions provide the greatest benefit to the American people. The development and use of scientific information to inform decision making is a central component.

Science at the Department promotes economic growth and innovation. At the Department, we use science to address critical challenges in energy and mineral production, ecosystem management, invasive species, oil spill restoration, climate adaptation, and Earth observation - such as satellite and airborne land imaging, and water and wildlife monitoring.

Scientific monitoring, research, and development play a vital role in supporting Interior's missions and Interior maintains a robust science capability in the natural sciences, primarily in the U.S. Geological Survey. An example of how this expertise is applied is USGS's work as part of an interagency collaboration on hydraulic fracturing, which is aimed at researching and producing decision-ready information and tools on the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on the environment, health, and safety, including water quality and inducement of seismic activity. The USGS is also a leader in resource assessments, and just recently published an updated assessment of the Bakken and Three Forks Formations, finding greater resource potential there than previously thought.

The President has also made clear that climate change is an important issue for the nation, especially as we face more frequent droughts, wildfires, and floods. (b) (5)

(b)(5)

[redacted]

While USGS provides exceptional support to Interior bureaus, other Departmental bureaus work collaboratively to bridge gaps in knowledge, leveraging the complementary skills and capacity to advance the use of science to support management decision making, ensure independent review of key decisions and science integrity, and adaptively use data to assist states, tribes, and communities throughout the nation.

Impacts of Sequestration

Finally, I want to mention the impact sequestration and uncertainty about the future has had on the Department and its programs. The budget cuts that we have seen push us back to funding levels last seen in 2006, and reverse much of the progress made by Secretary Salazar, who worked in partnership with the Members of this Committee to advance the President's all-of-the above energy strategy; conserve our federal lands, waters and wildlife; advance youth engagement in the outdoors; and honor commitments to Native Americans. The process put in place by the sequestration undermines the work we need to do on many fronts, and we will continue to see impacts across the country in all of our bureaus during the coming months.

We will survive these cuts this year by freezing hiring, eliminating seasonal positions, and cutting back on our programs and services, but these steps are not sustainable, as these actions which are eroding our workforce, shrinking our summer field season, and deferring important work cannot be continued in future years without further severe consequences to our mission.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murkowski, and Members of the Committee, thank you again for inviting me to appear before your Committee. Achieving success in all of these important responsibilities on behalf of the American people is the Department's primary focus. I look forward to working with you as we advance these important issues.



Jewell, Sally (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 5, 2013

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Nov 5, 2013 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO TOUT CONSERVATION DURING MINNESOTA VISIT. The Minneapolis Star Tribune

(11/5, Mitchell, 1.14M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "visit Minnesota on Tuesday to promote her conservation initiatives." She will "release a new national report on the economic contributions of the nation's 561 national wildlife refuges while visiting the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington." Jewell will also tour the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls.

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB SPEECH. For the Denver Post (11/5, Caldwell, 949K), editorial writer Alicia Caldwell writes that in her speech at the National Press Club last Thursday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell laid out her conservation strategy and warned Congress that if it doesn't protect wild lands, President Obama will use his authority to do so. Caldwell argues that the warning was justified, since public lands bills have languished in Congress for years.

Secretary Jewell Urged To Listen To Scientists On Wild Horses. For the Atlantic (11/5, Cohen, 7.51M), Andrew Cohen writes that last Thursday, speaking at the National Press Club, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "addressed in detail a question about the nation's beleaguered wild horses." Cohen criticizes Jewell's response and claims that her statement was "unsupported by key facts revealed in June in a report by the National Academy of Sciences that was sharply critical of Bureau of Land Management's practices and policies toward the horses." Cohen writes that Jewell's stance "suggests that the Interior Department, under Secretary Jewell, is more concerned with papering over faulty BLM practices than it is with fixing those practices to bring them into line with accepted scientific methods."

Also criticizing Jewell for her position on wild horses is the Desert Independent (11/5).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of Jewell's speech was provided by the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/5, 343K), the Fly Rod & Reel (11/5, 146K) and KSJR-FM Collegeville, MN (11/4, 34K).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CRITICIZE BLM'S LATEST PROPOSALS TO SAVE SAGE GROUSE. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that a coalition of conservation groups found "mostly fault" with the BLM's "proposed plans to protect millions of acres of greater sage grouse habitat in five Western states, concluding that overall, they fail to protect the imperiled bird from energy development and other activity that could drive the grouse to extinction." However, the groups, led by WildEarth Guardians, gave BLM "high marks for its proposed grouse management plan in Nevada and eastern California, finding that it adequately addresses impacts from oil and natural gas drilling and livestock grazing."

In an editorial, the Las Vegas Review-Journal (11/5, 437K) says that the environmentalists' cause is less about saving the sage grouse or increasing its population, and more about gaining the land use restrictions that bar development of open spaces. The paper claims that for these activists, the sage grouse is a but pawn in the campaign to block the projects that lead to increased use of natural resources, improved standards of living and increased energy consumption.

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE CREATED. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports on the creation of the State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. The team, "made up of eight governors, 16 local officials and two tribal leaders, has a year to recommend ways that the federal government can hasten investments in resilience to communities that are vulnerable to climate change." The group is also tasked with helping the government identify "useful climate preparedness tools" for towns and states.

Creation Of Council On Climate Preparedness Angers Republicans. The National Journal (11/5, Foran, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that Republicans are enraged by President Obama's executive order setting up the inter-agency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience and subsequent appointments that make the 24-member task force primarily Democrat. Several Republican Representatives spoke out on the issue, criticizing Obama's use of executive orders to avoid involvement with Congress. Several Democrat representatives have spoken out to defend the order, saying that the Republican-controlled Congress would not have passed legislation to address climate change and that Obama's executive order was necessary to "help better prepare communities to withstand the impact of climate changes."

SENATE PANEL TO TACKLE WILDFIRE PREVENTION. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that a Senate panel will "explore pre-emptive measures to reduce the spiraling cost of wildfires across the West." The Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry and Natural Resources will "discuss how reduced budgets and forest

management affect the risk of catastrophic wildfires." Members will "hear from the Forest Service's top wildfire deputy, a logging industry official, a conservationist, county leader and the CEO of a Colorado ski area that operates on agency lands."

DRAKES BAY OYSTER FARM DRAWS SUPPORT IN COURT BATTLE. The Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (11/4, 156K) reports on eight "friend of the court" briefs filed in "the last three weeks in support of oyster company owner Kevin Lunny's request for a rehearing by the 9th Circuit US Court of Appeals in San Francisco." According to the article, "the briefs, totalling 150 pages, are intended to convince the appeals court to reconsider its 2-1 decision in September rejecting Lunny's bid to continue harvesting oysters from the 2,500-acre estero in Marin County's Point Reyes Peninsula."

Also reporting on the story is the Petaluma (CA) Argus Courier (11/4, 1K).

INTERIOR AGREES TO FUND MUDDY CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT. The Cape Cod (MA) Day (11/5) reports that the Interior Department has "agreed to fund the Muddy Creek Restoration Bridge project, to the tune of $3.3 million, and now the design and permitting processes can move full-speed ahead." The article notes that the Muddy Creek bridge is "one of 45 Atlantic Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Projects selected to receive federal money from a competitive pool of projects along the Eastern Seaboard."

NEVADA COUNTY TO HEAR ON PRESENTATION ON FEDERAL CONTROL OF PUBLIC LANDS. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (11/5, 22K) reports that "the county will hear a presentation Wednesday by Pam Borda, Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority executive director, that will address how a transfer of public land from federal to state control could affect economic development." The article notes that Borda presented "in September to the Nevada Land Management Task Force — the state board meets monthly to study a possible land transfer." Borda "told the task force that federal control of public land costs businesses millions of dollars in regulatory expenses."

FEDERAL WORKERS FILE SUIT AGAINST GOVERNMENT OVER SHUTDOWN. The Huffington Post (11/4, Jamieson, 11.54M) reports that "hundreds" of Federal employees who worked through the shutdown "have now filed paperwork to join a lawsuit against the government over having their paychecks withheld last month, according to the lawyers handling their case." The suit argues that the Federal government broke the Fair Labor Standards Act by delaying pay for those working during the shutdown. The employees argue that they delayed paychecks played havoc with their personal finances.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: WYOMING LAWMAKERS PURSUE STUDY ON TAKING OVER FEDERAL LAND. Additional coverage of the study pursued by Wyoming lawmakers on taking control of federal land was provided by the Casper (WY) Journal (11/5, 80K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO ATTEND GETTYSBURG EVENT. In an editorial, the Pottstown (PA) Mercury (11/5, 76K) urges President Obama to attend the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address instead of sending Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in his place.

SHULTZ, SMITH: US HAS POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (11/5, Shultz, Smith, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), George P. Shultz and Frederick W. Smith write that protecting domestic energy security is vital to defending the national interest, and the energy revolution of the last decade has given the US the means of doing so. They argue that the combination of rising US production and a drop in consumption due to new technologies, such as alternatively fueled vehicles, could see the US as essentially energy independent. However, the pair cautions that continuing this trend will require a national effort, and they suggest that the US establish oil displacement as a metric to measure success.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS HIRES CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS' PUBLIC LANDS DIRECTOR. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that the director of the Center for American Progress' public lands program is now the deputy director for

congressional and external relations at the NPS. Christy Goldfuss, "a former Democratic public lands aide in the House who has led CAP's public lands efforts for more than two years, will serve as the Park Service's liaison to Congress and will lead the Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs and the Office of International Affairs." In a statement, NPS Director Jon Jarvis said, "Christy's solid experience in the public and private sectors, understanding of public lands and preservation issues, and energy and commitment to bring people together to reach common goals make her a natural addition to my executive leadership team. As we ready the National Park Service for its second century of stewardship, we rely on close working relationships with many partners."

Also reporting on the story are the Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/5, 749K) and the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (11/4, 126K).

FORMER DISCOVERY CHANNEL EXECUTIVE HIRED AS PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that the National Parks Conservation Association has announced it has hired former Discovery Channel executive Clark Bunting as its new president. Bunting will replace former NPCA President Tom Kiernan, who left the group in April to lead the American Wind Energy Association. He will begin Nov. 11.

OFFICIALS MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANS TO RESTORE YOSEMITE SEQUOIA GROVE. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that the NPS "last week released an environmental impact statement for a $24 million, three-year project to restore the largest grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park." Officials are seeking "to restore wetlands, remove parking lots, reduce noise and add a shuttle service for visitors to get to the trees in the south end of the park." The plan is "to break ground by the park's 150th anniversary next year."

Also reporting on the story is the Los Angeles Times (11/4, Boxall, 3.07M) and the Chicago Tribune (11/4, Boxall, 2.32M).

NPS ASKED TO PURCHASE WRIGHT BROTHERS BUILDINGS. The Dayton (OH) Daily News (11/5, 88K) reports that Rep. Mike Turner is asking the NPS to purchase the historic Wright Company Factory in Dayton. The request is "part of an effort to keep the building from being demolished."

Also reporting on the story is WDTN-TV Dayton, OH (11/5, 27K).

WASHINGTON MONUMENT SCAFFOLDING REMOVED. The Washington Post (11/4, 4.28M) reports that "gone Monday was the once-brilliant illumination of the screen around the Washington Monument." The NPS said "Sunday was the last night of the decorative lights on the monument."

IN RIM FIRE'S AFTERMATH, A NEW WORRY EMERGES OVER WATER. The Los Angeles Times (11/4, Barboza, 3.07M) reports that "as autumn turns to winter and rain falls over the charred landscape left behind by the Rim fire, forest rangers and emergency planners have a new worry: water." According to the article, "over 90% of the blaze burned in the Tuolumne River watershed, where more than 2,600 miles of streams cut through steep, now-burned slopes of the Sierra Nevada." The article notes that "trails and roads are at risk of washing away, cutting off access to world-class white-water rapids," and "burned trees and debris will almost certainly be flushed downstream, fouling irrigation water supplies."

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL 2014 TO BE HELD MARCH 20 THROUGH APRIL 13. WJLA-TV Washington (11/5, 118K) reports that the annual Cherry Blossom Festival will take place from March 20 through April 13 of 2014, organizers announced Monday.

NPS ARCHAEOLOGISTS PARTICIPATE IN ANCIENT SPEAR TIP STUDY. The Houston Chronicle (11/5, Christian, 2.26M) reports that "two Texas universities studying ancient spear tips found in northwest Alaska have raised intriguing questions about how people spread throughout the Americas." A research team led by Texas A&M University Professor Ted Goebel has been analyzing "fluted" stone spear points "discovered in 2005 at Bering Land Bridge Preserve on the Seward Peninsula." Archaeologists with the NPS, "who are also participating in the study, found a fluted spear tip fragment in an area called Serpentine Hot Springs, according to an A&M news release."

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY DEPOT ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC

PLACES. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (11/5, 798K) reports that the Chicago and North Western Railway Depot has joined the National Register of Historic Places.

EDITORIAL: NPS DECISION ON HELICOPTERS AND HOVERCRAFTS DESERVES APPEAL. The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (11/4, 198K) reprints an editorial by the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner arguing that the decision by the NPS on helicopters and hovercrafts deserves appeal. According to the paper, "the decision greatly limits the utility of a central provision that authors of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act added to protect the ability of the state and private landowners to use their lands within the vast federal parks, refuges and other units created when Congress passed the law in 1980."

Bureau of Land Management:

JUDGE OVERTURNS BLM MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR RANGELANDS OF CENTRAL UTAH. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/5, 80K) reports that "a judge on Monday overturned a Bush-era management plan that opened more than 4,200 miles of dirt paths to motorized vehicles on public rangelands across a wide region of Utah." US District Judge Dale Kimball held that the BLM "failed to consider how vehicles were accelerating soil erosion and threatening archaeological sites." The decision "sent the Richfield district plan back" to the BLM, and "the paths will stay open until a final decision is made later."

The Deseret (UT) News (11/5, 274K) reports that "a coalition of conservation groups is hailing" the decision. Stephen Bloch, legal director for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, said, "This landmark decision is a resounding rejection of the BLM's mismanagement of Utah's stunning public lands." He added, "The Richfield (Resource Management Plan) wrongly prioritized ORV use over all other uses of the public lands and neglected streams and special places worthy of protection. The court didn't mince words in its ruling that this violated federal environmental and historic laws."

BLM IDENTIFIES SUSPECT IN POMPEYS PILLAR VANDALISM. The Billings (MT) Gazette (11/5, 206K) reports that the BLM has identified Cole Randall as "the man suspected of carving his name and date at Pompeys Pillar National Monument last month." According to a press release from the BLM, Randall "owned up to having committed the act of vandalism." In an email sent to a Billings Gazette reporter, a person who identified himself as Randall said "I humbly apologize to the people of Montana and to every American who was affected by my foolishness."

Also reporting on the story is the Minneapolis Star Tribune (11/5, Brown, 1.14M).

COURT'S RULING OPENS DOOR FOR DOMESTIC HORSE SLAUGHTER. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that "US horse slaughterhouses can start operating following a ruling from a federal judge last week." District Judge Christina Armijo in Albuquerque, N.M., has "dismissed a lawsuit from animal advocacy groups, including the Humane Society of the United States, that argued the Department of Agriculture did not conduct appropriate environmental studies before issuing permits to two horse slaughter plants." The Humane Society, joined by the state of New Mexico, has filed an appeal with the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver.

SENATE TO TAKE UP MARINE BASE EXPANSION CONTROVERSY. The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (11/4, 465K) reports that a long-running battle "over the military's planned expansion of the Twentynine Palms Marine base into the off-roading mecca of Johnson Valley could be settled as early as this month when the issue comes before the US Senate." The article notes that Reps. Paul Cook, R-Yucca Valley, and Buck McKeon, R-Santa Clarita, "stepped in this summer with a compromise proposal." Their legislation "would keep the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area under control" of the BLM and "require the Marines to obtain a permit for their training exercises two months of the year." According to the article, "the House passed the compromise in June as part of the National Defense Authorization Act," and "the Senate will consider its own bill in the next two months, then both Houses will negotiate a final version."

BLM'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR NORTHWEST COLORADO MEETING ON DECEMBER 5. The Hill (11/5, 194K) reports in its "Regwatch" blog that the BLM's advisory council for Northwest Colorado is meeting on Dec. 5 in the town of Silt.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPORT SHOWS LAGGING HISPANIC PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION. The Huffington Post (11/4, 11.54M) reports that "while Hispanics make up more than 17% of the nation's population, a 2013 outdoor recreation report shows that only 7% of those who participate in outdoor recreation are Hispanic." Meanwhile, members of the FWS "acknowledge that while Hispanics are affected by the issues USFWS addresses just as much as their neighbors, neither the government nor outdoor industries have reached out to this rapidly growing US population segment." According to Noemi Pérez of the USFWS Office of Partner Liaison, "while initiatives to increase diversity in the USFWS's 10,000-member workforce within the Department of Interior is a continuing process, no bureau within the department had specifically addressed diversity in consumer and participant involvement, until six months ago."

TOTOABA FISH BLADDER HIGHLY PRIZED IN BLACK MARKET. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that the bladder of the endangered totoaba fish is "highly prized in China, leading to the smuggling of the commodity from the United States." Currently, "a single dried bladder can fetch between $5,000 and $10,000 on the black market." The article notes that "just this year, seven people have been charged with smuggling about 700 pounds of fish bladders."

PRIME HOOK WILDLIFE REFUGE TO HOST PUBLIC MEETING NOVEMBER 13. The Dover (DE) Post (11/4, 79K) reports that the FWS will host a public meeting on "its proposed planning for a dune/marsh restoration project in Units II and III at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge on Nov. 13." The meeting will "focus on environmental survey results, project overviews, conceptual designs, and potential sites to secure material to build up the dunes and beaches at Prime Hook to complete the initial phase of marsh restoration, and plans to restore the marsh complex within Units II and III."

Also reporting on the story are WBOC-TV Salisbury, MD (11/5, 30K) and WBOC-TV Salisbury, MD (11/5, 30K).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS PLEASED BY DECISION TO REMOVE CALIFORNIA TOWHEE FROM PROTECTION. The Bradenton (FL) Herald (11/4, 143K) reports that on Monday, the FWS "published the formal proposal to remove the Inyo California towhee from the list of 'threatened' species." Environmentalists are "pleased" with the decision. The towhee's revival, they claim, shows the Endangered Species Act can still work. Tierra Curry, a biologist at the Center for Biological Diversity, said, "The recovery of the towhee and its spring habitats is cause for celebration and provides yet another example of the success of our most important law for saving wildlife."

Also reporting on the story is the Chicago Tribune (11/4, Doyle, 2.32M).

FWS DECISION CLOSES STATE-APPROVED SKILAK LOOP HUNT. The Alaska Native News (11/5, 245) reports that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game learned Friday that FWS will "implement additional hunting closures on the Kenai Peninsula." In a news release Friday, the FWS has "promulgated a closure of state-authorized wolf, lynx and coyote hunting within the Skilak Loop Management Area." The article notes that "the closure is scheduled to go into effect on November 10, 2013."

GRIZZLY DEATHS DECLINED BY HALF IN YELLOWSTONE AREA. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/5, 90K) reports that "the number of grizzly bear deaths declined by more than 50 percent this year in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, according to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team." According to the article, "the numbers are particularly notable because trees produced fewer than normal whitebark pine cones, an important grizzly bear food." The article notes that "grizzly bears' reaction to declines in whitebark pine cones will help determine if the bear is removed from the endangered species list."

MANATEES LOITERING IN SOUTH CAROLINA. The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (11/4, 284K) reports that biologists are alarmed by manatee sightings in South Carolina. Jennifer Koches of the FWS said, "Providing manatees with food and water is not only a violation of federal law, but it also creates significant problems for the manatees, as they will easily acclimate to hand-outs of food and fresh water."

FWS EXTENDS WOLVERINE COMMENT PERIOD. The Bonners Ferry (ID) Herald (11/5, 10K) reports that the FWS is "reopening the comment period for the proposed listing of the North American wolverine to broaden the

discussion to the entire public and to ensure that all available information is adequately considered in the process." The reopened comment period will close on December 2, 2013.

PROTECTION URGED FOR WOLVES. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/5, Chu, 11.54M), Dan Chu, Director, Sierra Club "Our Wild America" campaign, writes that last June, the FWS "proposed no longer protecting gray wolves as an endangered species in the vast majority of the country, threatening any chance of wolves returning to much of their former range." Chu argues that "putting the fate of wolves back into the hands of the western state politicians will not keep them on the road to recovery, but send them down a path to destruction." He concludes that "we must allow the recovery of wolves to continue under the Endangered Species Act; the job is far from done."

US Geological Survey:

USGS CONCLUDES QUARRY BLAST SPARKS TREMORS IN CHICAGO SUBURBS. NPR (11/5, Peralta, 465K) reports that residents in Chicago's western suburbs assumed that the shaking they felt was an earthquake and the USGS reported it as a 3.7 magnitude quake. But "interestingly, after the USGS looked at their data, they came to the conclusion that the tremor was actually caused by a quarry blast."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND POWER TAX CREDIT EXPECTED TO EXPIRE. Politico (11/5, Restuccia, 467K) reports, "It's looking increasingly likely that the production tax credit, a key wind industry lifeline," will expire soon after the end of the year, which "could hurt the wind industry." Uncertainty over the PTC this year caused new wind projects construction to "grind to a virtual halt." A Senate aide said tax writers "aren't even talking about a year-end extenders package," which is traditionally how credits like the PTC are continued. It then would have to be revived "as part of broader tax reform, which isn't expected to move until next year, if at all." Meanwhile, various companies are "lobbying hard to kill the tax credit." For instance, Exelon, says "that wind power threatens its nuclear power operations."

SENATE DEMOCRATS PUSHING RENEWABLES. The Daily Caller (11/5, Bastasch, 422K) reports Senate Democrats "have begun a renewable energy blitz," introducing a pair of bills "mandating an increase in renewable use through 2025." Sens. Tom Udall and Mark Udall introduced a bill last week that would call for 25% of the nation's energy to come from renewable sources by 2025. A similar bill was introduced by Sen. Ed Markey.

Onshore Energy Development:

STUDY LINKS CO2 INJECTIONS INTO WELLS WITH EARTHQUAKES. Reuters (11/5, Gebrekidan) reports a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences linked injecting carbon dioxide into oil and gas wells to minor earthquakes in Texas. This would be the first study to link earthquakes of magnitude 3 and above with carbon dioxide injections in the Cogdell oil field.

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE ISSUES REPORT ON NOVEMBER 2012 GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE RIG EXPLOSION. The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Gilbert, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on Monday, the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement issued a report on the November 2012 explosion at an offshore platform in the Gulf of Mexico being operated by Talos Energy for Black Elk. BSEE director Brian Salerno said, "Collectively, the industry must do more to protect workers."

The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations LLC and its contractors "ignored hazards and failed to encourage workers to raise safety concerns before a fatal explosion and fire aboard a Gulf of Mexico production platform last fall, according to a scathing new report by federal investigators." Black Elk also "conducted welding work without taking required safety precautions, failed to isolate hydrocarbons inside an

oil tank and promoted ineffective communication among contractors," according to the 54-page report by the BSEE and the Coast Guard. The BSEE said "it plans to issue incidents of noncompliance to Black Elk and its contractors, which could include civil penalties of up to $40,000 per incident per day." BSEE Director Brian Salerno said, "These failures reflect a disregard for the safety of workers on the platform and are the antithesis of the type of safety culture that should guide decisionmaking in all offshore oil and gas operations. BSEE safety regulations were not followed, and accordingly BSEE will proceed with appropriate enforcement actions."

Also reporting on the story are the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/5, 194K), the New Orleans Times-Picayune (11/5, 700K), the FuelFix (11/4, 7K), the San Antonio Express-News (11/5, 746K), the MarketWatch (11/4, 967K), the Law 360 (11/5, 18K), KHOU-TV Houston (11/5, 125K), KPLC-TV Lake Charles, LA (11/5, 10K), KALB-TV Alexandria, LA (11/5, 1K), WXVT-TV Greenwood, MS (11/5, 98), and WWL-TV New Orleans (11/5, 107K).

INDUSTRY EXPRESSES WISH FOR EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF GULF OF MEXICO TRANSBOUNDARY TREATY. The Oil and Gas Journal (11/5, 1K) reminds readers that versions of bills approving the Gulf of Mexico transboundary treaty between the US and Mexico differ in the House and Senate, with the House including "a provision that waived a Dodd-Frank law" requirement for US companies to conduct foreign payment disclosure, and the Senate leaving such a provision out. This makes "a conference likely" and might harm "the treaty's timely ratification." The article then recalls that a US District Court for the District of Columbia ruling on July 2 barred implementation of that Dodd-Frank mandated provision by the SEC, "after the American Petroleum Institute and other business groups sued over what they considered an anticompetitive requirement." On October 28, "an API spokesman" said to the Journal, "Since the SEC's original rule has been thrown out and the SEC is working with all stakeholders on a new rule, we'd like to see the House and Senate work together to expedite approval of the transboundary agreement."

APPEALS COURT BEGINS REVIEW OF BP SETTLEMENT. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that an appeals court was scheduled "to hear objections to the multibillion-dollar settlement meant to compensate victims of the 2010 Gulf spill." BP has contended that "the settlement it agreed to a year ago has been misinterpreted by the judge and the court-appointed claims administrator overseeing the payouts." The company "argues a decision that the claims administrator, Patrick Juneau, announced earlier this year has allowed businesses to manipulate comparisons of revenues and expenses from before and after the spill."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

HIGH-FLOW RELEASES FROM GLEN CANYON DAM SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK. The Arizona Daily Sun (11/5, 33K) reports that "next week, Glen Canyon Dam will start pumping an Olympic-sized swimming pool worth of water into the Colorado River every other minute." According to the article, "the experiment is an attempt to replicate the high-flow conditions that would naturally be seen in the Grand Canyon before the dam, where sediment rich water creates beaches and critical wildlife habitat."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional Coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Huffington Post (11/4, 11.54M), the Bay Area (CA) Indymedia (11/4, 2K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (11/5, 206), and KXTV-TV Sacramento, CA (11/5, 25K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

ALASKA TRIBES CALL ON OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO SETTLE CONTRACT COST CLAIMS. The Juneau (AK) Empire (11/5, 21K) reports that "sixty tribes and tribally affiliated organizations from across the country have signed a letter to President Barack Obama asking his administration to settle outstanding Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs contract costs claims." According to the article, "the letter — which includes signatures from leaders of the Tlingit-Haida Central Council, the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Southcentral Foundation and the Arctic Slope Native Association, among others — was sent to the president as representatives from tribes and tribal organizations from around the country prepare to attend a Nov. 13 White House Tribal Nations Conference."

NEW YORK TOWNS PIN HOPES ON REFERENDUM ON CASINOS. The New York Times (11/3, Mckinley, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that towns in New York are "betting on the success of Proposal 1, a

statewide referendum to be decided on Tuesday that would authorize up to seven full-scale casinos around the state." The article notes that "supporters, including Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, have been selling it as an economic development measure, describing the potential for 'Las Vegas style' resorts with investments in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and the potential for 10,000 new jobs." However, "the reality may be far more restrained." According to the article, "some of the possible locations for the new gambling operations are distant from major population centers, and the experience of some remote American Indian casinos suggests that luring customers from big cities could be a challenge."

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES PROSECUTING MORE INDIAN COUNTRY CRIMES. The Tulsa (OK) World (11/5, 271K) reports that "federal authorities have been ramping up their efforts to prosecute crimes in what they call 'Indian Country,' and statistics show those efforts have not been in vain." The US Department of Justice reports "a 54 percent increase in Indian Country criminal prosecutions since fiscal year 2009." The article notes that "in June 2009, Attorney General Eric Holder announced a Justice Department initiative to enhance public safety in Indian Country, a wide-ranging effort that has included increased prosecution, training and outreach efforts."

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE PUSHBACK FAILS TO SHIFT ACA ROLLOUT MEDIA NARRATIVE. On Monday evening, after several days of coverage spotlighting Americans who are losing their health insurance or are facing thousands of dollars in increased premiums and deductibles as a result of the Affordable Care Act – including a front-page article in Monday's Washington Post on Americans who "are angrily complaining about 'sticker shock," and a viral Wall Street Journal op-ed by a cancer patient who may lose access to the specialists she credits for saving her life – President Obama offered what media reports are casting as a slightly modified case for the law in remarks at an Organizing For Action event.

Despite the President's attempt to reframe the national conversation about the ACA, he and his Administration continue to be the subject of a great deal of negative media coverage. And while much of it is focused on the problems associated with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, some of the critiques are broader in scope. For instance, under the headline, "For Obama, A Sudden Struggle With Personal Appeal," the AP (11/5, Pace, Agiesta) reports that "Americans increasingly view the president unfavorably," and notes that "an NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll released last week that found positive views of Obama at the lowest point of his presidency."

On NBC Nightly News (11/4, story 2, 2:45, Williams, 7.86M), Peter Alexander reported that in regards to HealthCare.gov, "even [the President's] Democratic allies are even calling for a time-out." Former Democratic Congressman Harold Ford was shown saying, "This program will crumble if you don't find ways to deal with the challenge right now. ... Shutting the program down for 60, 90, 120 days – I would rather see that and the political fallout than a program that limps along over the next several months."

On ABC World News (11/4, story 6, 2:45, Sawyer, 7.43M), Diane Sawyer said there is "new trouble for the President and Obamacare; it's about what the President said and what he knew and when." ABC's Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl, who engaged in a widely noted verbal sparring match with Jay Carney during Monday's White House press briefing, went on to report that "as the healthcare website melted down, The President repeatedly told people there were other options working just fine." President Obama was shown saying, "You can bypass the website and apply by phone or in person." However, according to Karl, "ten days before the President said those words his own healthcare team knew that all applications were having the same problems."

The Huffington Post says the "heated exchange" between Carney and Karl came after Karl asked about "internal documents that show Obamacare applications submitted by phone or paper go through the same pipeline and system as the website, and do not take less time, as officials have previously said."

At the opening of CNN's The Situation Room, Wolf Blitzer reported that there is "panic in the Obamacare war room," and that "we now have some proof of White House fears that Americans will be disappointed even after the website is fixed." Blitzer went on to report that "notes from inside the Administration...reveal deep fears about the healthcare program and the political backlash."

The perception that the "mainstream media" is growing increasingly skeptical of the Administration's narrative regarding the HealthCare.gov problems and the controversy over the Americans who are losing their current health insurance as a result of the ACA was a recurring theme during Fox News' primetime lineup Monday night. On Fox News' Special Report (11/5, 6.72M), which also showed a lengthy clip of ABC's Karl peppering Carney with questions Monday, Brit Hume drew attention to criticism of the Administration from Obama allies such as former White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs on MSNBC's Morning Joe Monday. Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (11/5, Munro, 422K), also notes negative coverage of the ACA's implementation "from some of the media outlets that championed" the law previously.

Reporting on the President's remarks at the OFA event, the Washington Post (11/5, Nakamura, 4.28M) says he "defended himself against Republican criticism that he misled the public...telling supporters that his administration could not in good faith allow people with inferior insurance plans to keep them." The President is quoted as saying, "The bottom line is we are making the insurance marketplace better for everybody."

Reid Epstein, in a piece for Politico (11/5, Epstein, 467K) titled "Obama Adds Explainer To 'You Can Keep It' Mantra," noted that on Monday, the President said, "Now if you had one of these plans before the Affordable Care Act came into law and you really liked that plan, what we said was you can keep it if it hasn't changed since the law passed." According to Epstein, the last "extra clause represents a slight change from the 'if you like your plan, you can keep it' mantra of the 2012 campaign."

Likewise, Jackie Calmes, in the New York Times (11/5, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says the President "has been widely criticized for having promised...that Americans could keep their current coverage," and so "on Monday he modified his language in the face of reports, long anticipated, that some companies had canceled individual policies because they did not meet minimum coverage standards set by the Affordable Care Act." Calmes notes that the President emphasized that as a result of the ACA's passage "nobody can be dropped all together," while also acknowledging that "some Americans with higher incomes will pay more up front, for better insurance with better benefits and better protections that could eventually help them a lot."

The AP (11/4) says that the President "express[ed] sympathy for Americans who are getting kicked off their health insurance plans," but also contended that "they were often getting 'a very bad deal'" before losing coverage, and that "virtually every insurer is offering newer, better plans."

According to USA Today (11/4, Madhani, 5.82M), the President was trying to "reframe the public conversation over the Affordable Care Act" as "millions of Americans...receiv[e] cancellation notices" sent by their insurers "despite Obama's frequently repeated pledge that no one would lose the coverage they already had."

The Washington Times (11/5, Wolfgang, 417K) quotes the President as saying, "If we had allowed these old plans to be downgraded or sold to new enrollees once the law had already passed then we would have broken an even more important promise: making sure that Americans gain access to health care that doesn't leave them one illness away from financial ruin."

Bloomberg News (11/5, Lerer, 1.91M) reported that later in the week, the President will be in Dallas "to meet with volunteers working on enrollment," while HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and Secretary of Labor Tom Perez "are also being dispatched to the 10 cities with the highest rates of uninsured residents to promote the insurance plans." Bloomberg also reports that OFA "has started to promote the law with an initiative urging parents to use holiday visits to encourage their older offspring to sign up for coverage."

The Washington Post (11/5, Nakamura, 4.28M) notes that David Plouffe and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick (D) "also addressed the crowd, sharply attacking Republican lawmakers who have opposed Obamacare." Politico (11/5, Epstein, 467K) notes that Plouffe predicted that ACA "enrollment will go smoothly 'as long as the website is completed and works error-free and delay-free by the end of the month.'"

The Daily Caller (11/5, Howley, 422K) reports that in response to an op-ed in Monday's Wall Street Journal by a California woman who suffered from stage-4 gallbladder cancer and is losing her health insurance because of ACA rules, White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer "tweeted out the message 'The Real Reason That The Cancer Patient Writing In Today's Wall Street Journal Lost Her Health Insurance,' along with a link to a ThinkProgress (11/5, Volsky, 117K) article that blames the woman's insurance company United Healthcare for

dropping her."

Senate Democrats Want To Delay ACA-Mandated Coverage Cancellations. The AP (11/5, Espo) reports that "after millions of consumers received health care cancellation notices, lawmakers in both parties are pushing legislation to redeem" Obama's "pledge that anyone liking their coverage will be allowed to keep it under the nation's controversial new law." Congressional Democrats "said top administration aides got a close-up view of the cancellation controversy last week, when Sen. Joe Donnelly said at a closed-door meeting...that his son had received notice his coverage was being terminated." The AP goes on to report that Rep. Fred Upton has introduced legislation that "permits insurers to sell existing coverage plans that would otherwise be banned," and that Sen. Mary Landrieu wants to "go one step further by requiring" insurance companies "to continue offering existing paying customers continued coverage under any plans in effect at the end of 2013." Landrieu is quoted as saying, "A promise was made that if you like your health plan, you can keep it."

The Hill (11/5, Easley, 194K) reports that on Monday, Sen. Marco Rubio said, "This week we learned that... people are, in fact, losing their health plans, and that President Obama's administration has known this fact for over three years." Rubio added, "In essence, ObamaCare's passage was built on a foundation of lies and promises that simply can't be delivered."

Marc Thiessen, in his column for the Washington Post (11/5, Thiessen, 4.28M), notes reports that White House officials objected to the President's "you can keep your plan" phrasing, but that it "stayed in the speech" anyways, which, according to Thiessen, is evidence of "a willful intent to deceive."

ACA Enrollees Are Reportedly Older Than Anticipated. Under the front-page headline, "Young Avoid New Health Plans: Early Buyers of Coverage Are Older Than Expected, Raising Expense Concerns," the Wall Street Journal (11/5, A1, Weaver, Martin, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that according to insurance executives and state officials, the first cohort of Americans who have gotten healthcare coverage since the ACA marketplaces' rollout on October 1 are, on average, older than anticipated, which could undermine some of the Administration's financing projections. The Journal suggests that the well-documented problems affecting HealthCare.gov are contributing to the demographic trend because the younger, healthier uninsured are not as eager to get coverage as those who are older or have pre-existing conditions.

HealthCare.gov Security Concerns Draw Attention Amid Continuing Outages. Scott Pelley, on the CBS Evening News (11/4, story 3, 2:50, Pelley, 5.58M), reported that on Monday, HealthCare.gov "went down again for about hour and a half," and "no one is sure why." Pelley went on to say that "it turns out that even when the website works it may not be secure enough to protect privacy," and Sharyl Attkisson reported that "the final required top-to-bottom security tests never got done." Attkisson noted that the House Oversight Committee has "released an Obama Administration memo that shows four days before the launch...it granted itself a waiver to launch the website with a level of uncertainty deemed as a 'high security risk.'" Georgetown law professor Lawrence Gostin, identified as a "big supporter of the Affordable Care Act," was shown saying, "You could have somebody hack into the system, get your Social Security number, get your financial information."

On NBC Nightly News (11/4, story 2, 2:45, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that while the White House "says they have made a lot of progress over this past weekend fixing the Obamacare website...the sign-up page which has been plagued with problems from the start will go offline now every day from 1:00 to 5:00 in the morning...while that so-called tech surge team works to get it right." Williams added that it is "also...becoming clear the problems with the website cannot be avoided by applying on the phone or in person as the President has been suggesting." Peter Alexander went on to report that "internal Obama Administration memos showed that won't solve the problem" because "the same portal is used to determine eligibility no matter how the application is submitted – paper or online."

Reuters (11/5, Rampton, Holland) notes that in remarks at an Organizing for Action event Monday, President Obama said, "There are a whole range of things that we're going to need to do once we get this fixed to talk about federal procurement when it comes to IT and how that's organized."

Politico (11/5, Kenen, 467K) reported that in testimony prepared for a Senate hearing on Tuesday, CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner says, "We are seeing improvements each week and by the end of November the experience on the site will be smooth for the vast majority of users." Politico (11/5, Millman, 467K) also covered

CMS's response to media inquiries about the outages.

Cutler Warned Summers In 2010 That Administration Officials Were Incapable Of Implementing ACA. On Monday morning, CBS News (11/5, 3.87M) reported that in 2010, Harvard economics professor David Cutler, who "worked on the Obama 2008 campaign and was a valued outside health care consultant" for the White House, wrote to then-NEC director Larry Summers: "I do not believe the relevant members of the administration understand the president's vision or have the capability to carry it out." According to CBS, Cutler warned that "no one was in charge who had any experience in complex business start-ups," and "also worried basic regulations, technology and policy coordination would fail."

Yale Law School Peter Schuck, author of "Why Government Fails So Often, and How It Can Do Better," has an op-ed in this morning's Wall Street Journal (11/5, Schuck, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) titled, "The ObamaCare Website Failure Was Inevitable."

ADMINISTRATION LAWYERS CONCERNED ABOUT MEASURE RESTRICTING SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS. The Wall Street Journal (11/4, Favole, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that top Administration intelligence lawyers criticized a bipartisan measure to restrict US surveillance programs saying the measure goes too far. According to the lawyers, who testified at a hearing of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, the proposal is likely to prevent the collection of key telephone information and limit the ability of the government to investigate individuals.

Reuters (11/5, Selyukh) reports that the attorneys said the US government is open to changes to the phone and Internet surveillance programs provided that those changes do not undercut the effectiveness of the programs. After the hearing, Board Chairman David Medine said, "I think we've learned a lot about some potential reforms that the government was amenable to." The Washington Times (11/5, Waterman, 417K) also reports on the hearing.

Officials: Metadata Collection Must Continue As Administration Mulls Spying Changes. The New York Times (11/5, Sanger, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that while the Obama Administration has said it is "considering reining in a variety of National Security Agency practices overseas," for now, the President and his top advisers "have concluded that there is no workable alternative to the bulk collection of huge quantities of 'metadata,' including records of all telephone calls made inside the United States." The Administration has suggested that it "may hold that information for only three years instead of five while it seeks new technologies that would permit it to search the records of telephone and Internet companies, rather than collect the data in bulk in government computers," but NSA Director Gen. Keith Alexander "has told industry officials that developing the new technology would take at least three years."

ADMINISTRATION TO RECONSIDER CARBON-COST ESTIMATES. Bloomberg News (11/5, Drajem, 1.91M) reports the Administration on Monday said it would "revise and open for public comment its estimate of the social cost of carbon," which is used by agencies to "calculate the benefits of regulations to address climate change." The move comes after "complaints from industry lobbyists" that the estimate, last revised in May, "exaggerated the potential costs of rising seas and droughts from climate change to justify regulations that would impose a high up-front cost for manufacturers and the energy sector."

Senate GOP Questioning Administration Input Into IPCC Report. The Daily Caller (11/5, Bastasch, 422K) reports that Senate Republicans "question" the Administration after reports that US officials "tried to suppress the 15-year global warming hiatus" in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. The AP, the Caller says, reported back in September that the Administration joined with several European nations to lobby the IPCC to "omit or downplay data showing that global warming stopped in 1998." GOP senators have sent a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, "questioning her knowledge of these international lobbying efforts."

Senate Democrats Pushing Renewables. The Daily Caller (11/5, Bastasch, 422K) reports Senate Democrats "have begun a renewable energy blitz," introducing a pair of bills "mandating an increase in renewable use through 2025." Sens. Tom Udall and Mark Udall introduced a bill last week that would call for 25% of the nation's energy to come from renewable sources by 2025. A similar bill was introduced by Sen. Ed Markey.

Four Colorado Towns To Vote Tuesday On Banning Fracking. The Wall Street Journal (11/4, Gold, Bryson,

Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that four towns in Colorado will hold votes on Tuesday to decide whether to ban fracking withing their borders in "what many here say could be a precursor to a statewide referendum on fracking next year." While Vermont and New York have already moved to block fracking, Colorado "would be a bigger test of whether the oil and gas industry and its supporters can surmount growing opposition from some communities and national environmental groups."

More Commentary. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (11/5, Shultz, Smith, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), George P. Shultz and Frederick W. Smith write that protecting domestic energy security is vital to defending the national interest, and the energy revolution of the last decade has given the US the means of doing so. They argue that the combination of rising US production and a drop in consumption due to new technologies, such as alternatively fueled vehicles, could see the US as essentially energy independent. However, the pair cautions that continuing this trend will require a national effort, and they suggest that the US establish oil displacement as a metric to measure success.

In his column for the Wall Street Journal (11/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Bret Stephens says that leaks show a new IPCC report projects a consistent drop in crop yields in coming decades due to global warming, along with a rising demand for food. Combined, the report says, these events could put food supplies in jeopardy. Stephens says that similar predictions were made in the 1960s and 1970s, but the opposite turned out to be true – food output is up massively since then. Stephens says that despite the predictions, it is unlikely that the world will grow hungrier in the coming decades.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Toward Ending Workplace Discrimination."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (11/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) calls ENDA an "overdue measure" and says that the Republicans who voted in favor of it "put to shame colleagues in their party who are still mired in intolerant thinking and too scared of Tea Party reactionaries to do the right thing."

"Mr. Kerry Fumbles In Egypt." An editorial in the New York Times (11/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues that Secretary of State Kerry's visit to Egypt "served only to add to the confusion over the Obama administration's policy toward this critically important Arab nation." The Times argues that it is important for the US and Egypt "to keep trying to work together," but both nations must "be clear about their differences, especially on what the word democracy means." Kerry, says the Times, "has muddied the waters."

"Arming The T.S.A. Is Not A Solution." An editorial in the New York Times (11/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) opposes calls to arm TSA screeners, arguing that the move "seems both overly reactive to the Los Angeles shooting and impractical." Noting that the TSA "doesn't train its agents to use firearms or recruit employees who would know how to handle themselves in a shootout," the Times says it would be "extremely costly for the agency to reimagine itself as an airport terminal police force."

"Election Day Choices."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Red Blood On A Blue Shirt."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/5, 4.28M) praises the efforts of TSA officers, arguing that last week's shootings should "encourage Americans to appreciate those who do the thankless work of running the airline security system Congress set up." The Post calls the officers "conspicuous symbols of a security system that, though necessary to make terrorist attacks and hijackings more difficult, some Americans detest," and says that "Americans should appreciate, not disrespect" them.

"Kerry's Diplomatic Games." In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/5, 4.28M) argues that Secretary of State Kerry's assertion that Egypt's military government is implementing the "road map" and moving toward democracy ignores "the fact that its last elected leader and thousands of his supporters are now political prisoners," overlooks "the reality that opposition media have been shut down," and "skips over the rigging of the constitution by the military and that leading secular liberal politicians...have been driven out of the country." The Post says it is clear that the Obama Administration "will accept and do business with the new autocracy that Gen. Sissi is constructing," and argues that they should "be honest about it," because "Kerry's embrace of the regime's empty

promises of democracy only makes him appear foolish — or, perhaps, as cynical as the generals."

"The Post's Va. Endorsements."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"A Federalism Watershed."*** The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that the Supreme Court need to establish clear limits on treaty interpretation so that Federal officials are not able to use treaties with foreign nations to usurp state powers. Without limits, the Wall Street Journal fears that the treaty power will destroy Federalism.

"It's Only Money." The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that although SAC Capital will pay record penalties and has agreed to plead guilty to criminal insider-trading charges, it is unlikely that any individuals will plead guilty to any criminal wrongdoing. The Wall Street Journal criticizes that Justice Department's statement that no institution is too big to jail, saying that institutions don't go to jail–people do. While the SEC has brought a civil case against CEO Steven A. Cohen for failure to supervise, the end result is that Cohen is free to continue with his life after agreeing to the $1.8 billion settlement, after which he will remain a multibillionaire.

"North Korean Horror Show." The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that a UN commission has finally begun to investigate human rights violations in North Korea, recounting testimony delivered in Washington by a young woman from North Korea who fled to China after most of her family died of starvation, was caught by Chinese authorities, and repatriated to North Korea where she was placed in a detention center. The young woman asked the commission not to send humanitarian aid to North Korea, as the aid goes to the rulers rather than the people who need it. The commission said that it would consider her testimony and will report its findings in March.

"China's Desperate 'Terrorists.'" The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that an Uighur family burned themselves to death near Beijing's Tiananmen to protest against Chinese rule, casting doubt on claims from Chinese authorities that the incident was a terrorist attack. Chinese authorities have blamed the Turkestan Islamic Movement for the incident and used it called for a renewed crackdown on Islamic extremism. The Wall Street Journal states that while Beijing's repressive policies have driven some Uighurs to acts of terrorism, there is little evidence of organization behind the attacks and that the Uighurs' anger is not based on radical ideologies, and that it stems from practical concerns, cultural injustices, and human rights abuses under Chinese rule.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
German Recluse Kept Nazi Art Trove
Union Urges Armed TSA Agents
Astrodome In Extra Innings
He's In The Hear And Now
Where's Obama The Manager?

Wall Street Journal:
Blackberry Abandons Sale Process
Young Avoid New Health Plans
Valuable Cache Of Nazi-Seized Art Discovered
China's Central Banker Leads Push To Overhaul Economy

New York Times:
For Uninsured, Clearing A Way To Enrollment
$1.2 Billion Fine For Hedge Fund In Insider Case
Big Money Flows In Bid To Thwart Christie Agenda
Egypt's Ex-President Is Defiant At Murder Trial

Far-Off Planets Like The Earth Dot The Galaxy
In Bullying Case, Questions On NFL Culture
Report Of Nazi-Looted Trove Puts Art World In An Uproar

Washington Post:
In Syria, Using The Dead To Reel In The Living
Gay Rights Bill Spotlights A Shift
Other Potential Earths? Try 25 Billion Of Them
Buddies Now Bitterly Playing For Keeps
For Mayor, Detroit Seeks A 'Mr. Fix-It'

Financial Times:
Twitter Sharply Increases IPO Valuation
BlackBerry Abandons Sale
Food Prices Face Sting From Decline In Humble Bee
SAC To Pay Biggest Insider Fine Of $1.8bn
Believe Nothing Of 'Everything Store', Says Bezos Wife
High-Tech Cars Spark Fears Of Auto Patent Wars
Trickle-Down Monetary Policy Fails To Spread Riches

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: NFL Bullying, LAX Shooting, Connecticut-Campus Lockdown, Weather-Cold Snap, Economy-Heating Costs, ACA Website Issues, Black Lung Program Scandal, Health-Egg Donors
CBS: LAX Shooting, LAX Shooting-Analysis, Healthcare Website Problems, SAC Capital-Settlement, Economy-Dow Up, Egypt-Morsi Trial, NASA-Earthlike Planets, Politics-Virginia Governor Race, Germany-Nazi Art, WWII-Switzerland POWs.
NBC: LAX Shooting, ACA-Website Issues, Politics-Gubernatorial Races, Egypt-Morsi Trial, Gas Prices, Wisconsin-Midair Crash, Cleveland Kidnap Survivor Interview, Germany-Nazi Art, Economy-Holiday Retail

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: New Jersey-Mall Shooting, New Jersey-Gubernatorial Election, Virginia-Gubernatorial Election, Johnson & Johnson Settlement, Oregon-Reserve Officer Shot
CBS: New Jersey-Mall Shooting, ACA Website Issues, Johnson & Johnson Settlement, SAC Insider Fine, NFL-Bullying,
NPR: Senate-Gay Rights Bill, New Jersey-Mall Shooting, LAX Shooting Review, Holder Opposes Airline Merger, Economy-Asian Markets, California-Shooting Lawsuit, UK-Phone Hacking, Egypt-Morsi Trial

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing with the Vice President, Oval Office, closed press; meet with business leaders with the Vice President, The Roosevelt Room, pool spray at the top; meets with the Vice President for lunch, Private Dining Room, closed press; departs the White House en route Bethesda, Maryland, South Lawn, open press; arrives Bethesda, Maryland, in-town travel pool; visits the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, closed press; visits Fisher House, Bethesda, Maryland, closed press; departs Bethesda, Maryland en route the White House, in-town travel pool; arrives at the White House, South Lawn, open press

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN —Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with top business leaders, Roosevelt Room, closed press; meets with the President for lunch, Private Dining Room, closed press; hosts a reception with Dr. Jill Biden commemorating Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Naval Observatory, remarks at the top of the event are pooled press.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA – Delivers remarks at the White House Diwali, open press.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: The House will be in recess for a Constituent Work Period until 2 p.m., on Tuesday, November 12th.
Other: AICPA NATIONAL TAX CONFERENCE – WERFEL — 7 a.m. Top IRS officials – including the Acting IRS Commissioner, one of the IRS operating division heads, the head of the Office of Professional Responsibility, and the IRS Taxpayer Advocate – will offer insights about preparations for the 2014 tax filing season, including guidance on the net investment income tax, DOMA, and tangible property regulations at the American Institute of CPAs premier tax conference. Also, hear discussions about taxpayer identity theft, reporting under FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act) when bank reporting and individual reporting requirements become effective in 2014 and the legislative outlook. Highlights: 8:15 a.m. Danny Werfel, Acting Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service. 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Faris Fink, Commissioner, Small Business/Self-Employed Division, IRS. 10:55 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. Sunita Lough, Director, Pre-filing and Technical Guidance, Large Business & International Priorities, IRS. 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. David Alito, Deputy Commissioner, Wage and Investment Division, IRS. 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Nina Olson, National Taxpayer Advocate, IRS. 3:40 p.m. – 4:40 p.m. Karen L. Hawkins, Director, Office of Professional Responsibility, IRS. Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Md.

2013 CIPAC PLENARY — National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Acting Under Secretary Suzanne Spaulding will deliver remarks (8:35a) on the Departments efforts and priorities related to critical infrastructure at the 2013 Critical Infrastructure Protection Advisory Council (CIPAC) Plenary. NPPD National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Director Larry Zelvin will participate in a panel discussion entitled Response & Recovery (2:00p). Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Pl., NW.

CSIS – GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM 2013 — 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. The 2013 Global Security Forum. Highlights: 8:15 a.m. Keynote by Charles T. Chuck Hagel United States Secretary of Defense. 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Remarks by: Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy Distinguished Scholar, Wilson Center, and former U.S. Ambassador to China; Charles W. Freeman III , Vice President, Rock Creek Global Advisors LLC. 1:15 p.m. Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes Daniel Glaser Participation in Panel Discussion on What Role Should Financial Power Play in National Security? Location: CSIS headquarters located at 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

HEALTH CARE INNOVATION CONFERENCE – HAMBURG — 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Bloomberg Governments first health care summit, Mind the Gap: Connecting Health Care Policy with Next Century Innovation. Speakers include: Margaret Peggy Hamburg, Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (11:40 a); John Sculley, CEO, Sculley Brothers LLC; Keith Dunleavy, President, CEO and Chairman, Inovalon; Elli Kaplan, CEO, Neurotrack; Doug Ulman, CEO, LIVESTRONG; Steve Downs, CTO, RWJF; Matthew Douglass, Co-Founder/VP Platform at Practice Fusion. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, The Pavilion, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

WASHPOST – DIGITIAL DIVIDE – SPERLING, CLYBURN — 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Gene Sperling, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Richard Culatta and Rep. Doris Matsui among speakers addressing why the gap and access matter and what can be done about it . Speakers include: Richard Culatta, director, Office of Educational Technology, U.S. Department of Education. Location: The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street NW.

Contacts: Jennifer Lee 202-334-5207 desk (301-503-7787 cell)

NTSB – TEXAS PARADE FLOAT ACCIDENT — 9:30 a.m. The National Transportation Safety Board will meet to determine the probable cause of the November 2012 fatal grade-crossing accident involving a parade float in Texas. Background: At about 4:35 p.m. CT, on November 15, 2012, a truck-tractor combination unit being used as a Hunt for Heroes parade float was struck by a Union Pacific freight at a grade crossing in Midland, Texas. As a result of the accident, four parade float passengers were killed, and five float passengers were seriously injured. Additionally, eight float passengers and a deputy sheriff received minor injuries. The two train crewmembers, the combination unit driver, and seven other float passengers were not injured. Location: NTSB Board Room and Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza, SW.

FRANCHISE INDUSTRY – HIRING VETERANS EVENT — 10 a.m. National event including the International Franchise Association (IFA), Small Business Administration, White House Joining Forces Initiative, Military Officers Association of America, (MOAA) and the UPS Store will take place at U.S. Navy veteran Wade Franklins the UPS Store. Location: The UPS Store at 3033 Wilson Blvd. Suite E, Arlington, VA 2220.

DOD – HAGEL – BELGIUM — 11:30 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome Belgium's Minister of Defense Pieter de Crem to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance. Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Parking Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the cordon.

CDC TELEBRIEFING – COLORECTAL CANCER — 12 p.m. Colorectal cancer screening (CRC) saves lives, but only if people get tested. A new Vital Signs report shows about 23 million adults have never been tested, as recommended. DIAL IN: Media: 888-795-0855. Non-Media: 800-369-1605. INTERNATIONAL: 1-630-395-0331. PASSCODE: CDC Media

PETERSON – CYCLICAL UNEMPLOYMENT — 12:30 p.m. The Peterson Institute will host a luncheon discussion on Keeping Cyclical Unemployment from Becoming Structural Inequality. While measured unemployment is slowly declining in the US and much of the advanced world, both long-term and youth unemployment remain a particular concern, with huge implications for already unprecedented levels of income and wealth inequality. Location: Bergsten Conference Center at the Institute at 1750 Massachusetts Avenue.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "You all turn your clocks back an hour over the weekend? You know, it is easier to remember spring ahead, fall back. It's like trying to log onto Obamacare. You spring ahead, make a little progress, then you fall back."

Jay Leno: "And NASA's next Mars mission is set to launch from Cape Canaveral on November 18th. It will be manned by a group of NASA scientists who obviously don't want to see their relatives on Thanksgiving."

Jay Leno: "Well, authorities in Columbus, Ohio, say they may have encountered their first case of the flesh eating drug krocodil. Have you heard about this drug? Krocodil? It's made by mixing codeine with oil and gasoline, and it rots your skin. It's a flesh eating drug. I guess this is for people who feel crystal meth's too hoity-toity."

Conan O'Brien: "The Obamacare website is still having problems. They just announced it will not be accessible at night due to maintenance. Also it will not be accessible during the day due to it sucking."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama gave his weekly address on Saturday and of course he talked about the economy. In fact, he said he'll do anything to increase job growth which got weird when he looked directly into the camera and he said, 'And I mean anything.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of Obama, it turns out that Obamacare is surprisingly popular with prostitutes. Which is true. Because it's much cheaper than traditional insurance plans. I guess that explains its new name, 'Ho'bamacare. Just leave your co-pay on the dresser."

Jimmy Fallon: "Pretty important week for our pal, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. We love Governor Christie. Well he's hoping to win re-election tomorrow and polls show he's winning by a 19-point margin. Christie was really excited to hear that, but only because he thought someone said margarine."

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, nation, the big news continues to be the slow motion train wreck that is the rollout of the President's signature legislation the Affordable Care Act ... Everyone is getting screwed by the website but the true victim of this healthcare disaster are America's most vulnerable, the men. When it comes to medical care men always get the short end of the long end of the scope. You see, folks, up until now health insurance in America has always struck a delicate balance. Women paid higher premiums then men and in return men paid less. The system worked. But now folks, all that's changing. Obamacare will have men and women paying the same amount for healthcare but since women live longer, and have babies shouldn't they pay more? Under Obamacare men will pay the same amount as women and yet we still don't get to pass cantaloupe with toenails through our genitals."

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Jewell, Sally (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, July 7, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Jul 7, 2014 at 6:53 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 7, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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BIG PICTURE:
+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:
+ Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

JEWELL PROFILED. In an over 3,400-word article, Bloomberg BusinessWeek (7/3, Wieners, 4.91M) profiles Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. While "the agencies that comprise Interior are almost comically at odds with one another" due to competing interests, Jewell "seems uniquely qualified to balance these contradictions." She said, ""I just think we need to open our eyes and understand that these things have tradeoffs." Two great challenges for Jewell are dealing "with gridlocked Washington" and "protecting natural resources already stressed from climate change" when her budget approval rests with "legislators who are skeptical about global warming or deny it altogether." The article added, "Jewell is likely to make her greatest impact" in reforming Federal land energy development. Jewell says the US needs "faster permit processing in exchange for fees from industry for safety analysis.

LAWSUITS: DOI NEEDS TO REDO MINING PLAN APPROVALS. The AP (7/7, Brown) reports that lawsuits in Colorado, New Mexico, and Montana have environmentalist group WildEarth Guardians arguing "Department of Interior approved mining plans without enough public involvement, and gave little heed to the pollution caused by digging, shipping and burning coal." The group wants mining halted until the plans are redone. The government denies the claims, but a National Mining Association attorney says that if the government loses, "mines across the U.S. would be threatened."

Sources running this article include the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (7/6, Brown, 90K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/7, Brown, 1.48M), and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/6, Brown, 687K).

SENATE CONFIRMS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INSULAR AREAS. The Northwest Asian Weekly (7/4, Kia'aina) reported Esther Puakela Kia'aina was confirmed by the Senate as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said, "Esther will bring considerable expertise to the issues facing the U.S. territories and the freely associated states, and I am pleased the Senate has voted to confirm her to this important leadership post at the Interior Department."

America's Great Outdoors:

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPORT: TEN PLACES SUITABLE FOR BISON. The AP (7/3, Brown) reported, "A long-awaited Department of Interior report" identified "20 parcels of public lands in 10 states that could be suitable for" Yellowstone National Park bison. Concerns about brucellosis and competition for grazing space complicate efforts to deal with the herds' population pressures. Still, if a program to quarantine bison and ensure they're disease free is restarted, Jorge Silva-Banuelos, a U.S. Interior Department official, said, "If we were to do this, where would you place these bison? This report gives us a head-start on that question." While the National Wildlife Federation says the plan needs more collaboration with American Indian tribes, Silva-Banuelos "said Monday's report would be a 'foundation for future collaboration and consultation' with tribes."

The Jamestown (ND) Sun (7/5, Hricik, 3K) reported, "Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in the report that her department is committed to restoring the bison to its former ecological and cultural place."

The Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (7/6, 506) also covers this story.

ZIMBABWE OFFICIAL: ELEPHANT NUMBERS RISING. E&E Daily (7/3, Brown) reported that, in "jarring" testimony before a House committee, Itai Hilary Tendaupenyu, principal ecologist for the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, "coolly announced that African elephant populations in his country were growing." He appeared "at the behest of House Republicans and hunting groups enraged by" the Fish and Wildlife move to suspend elephant trophies imports from Zimbabwe and neighboring Tanzania. FWS spokesman Gavin Shire said in a phone interview, "Anecdotally, we can be told the elephant population is fine and this, that and the other, but without the specific information we require, we can't make a determination." Shire added that "the agency repeatedly requested that Zimbabwe provide information required under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Endangered Species Act" and postponed the suspension so trophies hunted before the ban could enter the US. Shire also explained the suspension is separate from the anti-poaching push.

FWS CONSIDERING DOWNLISTING MANATEE. E&E Daily (7/3) reported the Fish and Wildlife announced an endangered species status review for the West Indian manatee. While boating groups seek to have the animal's status reduced to threatened, conservationists argue the "record deaths...in Florida last year" and habitat loss means the status should remain endangered.

AUDUBON SOCIETY CONCERNED ABOUT WOOD STORK DOWNLISTING. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (7/3, Spear, 850K) reported that, with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's move to downgrade safeguards for wood storks, the National Audubon Society is worried that the birds' recovery "never happened." Audubon biologist Jason Lauritsen said that more needs to be done to restore and protect Florida's wetlands "to fundamentally improve conditions for wood storks." Interior Secretary Sally Jewel said, "The down-listing of the wood stork from endangered to threatened demonstrates how the Endangered Species Act can be an effective tool to protect and recover imperiled wildlife from the brink of extinction." However, Lauritsen argues the current population size is the product of "a few years of unusually ideal weather."

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFICIAL ORDERS CHANGE TO RECOMMENDATION ON LISTING WOLVERINE. The Los Angeles Times (7/6, Sahagun, 3.46M) reported Noreen Walsh, a biologist and Fish and Wildlife director for the region that includes Wyoming and Montana, "ordered federal biologists to withdraw their conclusion that the last 300 wolverines in the continental United States deserve threatened species status." While Walsh at first praised the recommendation, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho officials "vigorously objected" to

the move, citing economic effects and arguing the effects of climate change on the animals are unknown. Critics have "accused Walsh of injecting politics into a scientific process."

DEBATE OVER LISTING "OBSCURE" BIRD AS ENDANGERED COULD HELP DECIDE SENATE RACES. The AP (7/6, Riccardi) reports a legislative debate over whether to list the greater sage grouse "as an endangered species next year" could "help determine whether Democrats or Republicans control" the Senate following midterm elections. Listing the "obscure, chicken-sized bird" as endangered "could limit development, energy exploration, hunting and ranching" on 165 million acres across 11 Western states, according to the AP. Republican Congressman Steve Daines and Cory Gardner, who are running for Senate seats in Montana and Colorado, respectively, "are co-sponsoring legislation that would prevent the federal government from listing the bird for a decade as long as states try to protect it."

NORTH AMERICAN DUCK POPULATION UP. The Houston Chronicle (7/5, Tompkins, 2.23M) reported the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service's Spring Waterfowl Breeding Populations and Habitat Survey estimated a duck breeding population of 49.2 million birds, "numbers unprecedented in more than half a century." The increase is attributed to "an unmatched, almost-two-decade stretch of beneficial habitat conditions on northern nesting grounds that resulted in several years of high duck production."

Also covering this story are the Chicago Sun-Times (7/3, Bowman, 1.1M), the Grand Forks (ND) Herald (7/7, 87K), and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (7/4, Smith, 893K).

RECONNECTING GRIZZLY POPULATIONS URGED. Jeff Burrell, Northern Rockies program coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society, writes in an op-ed in the Los Angeles Times (7/7, Burrell, 3.46M) that, "from my examination of the best available science, the criteria" for delisting Yellowstone's grizzly bears have been met, but the park's grizzlies "will remain a borderline viable population" until they are no longer isolated from grizzly populations. Burrell calls for reconnecting the isolated populations by keeping "open and connected what's already open and connected," keeping "habitats intact and healthy," and making sure "people have the information and support needed to coexist with bears."

HORSE ENDANGERED SPECIES PETITION RAISES QUESTIONS. Karin Klein wrote in a column in the Los Angeles Times (7/3, Klein, 3.46M) that wild horse fans "are petitioning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the animals as an endangered species because open rangeland is reduced and also less fit to graze." However, ranchers "see the horses as pests" and want their land for cattle grazing, while many environmentalists consider them an invasive species. The horse proponents argue that, as horses originated in North America, Europeans reintroduced a native species. The Bureau of Land Management "has never bought" the argument, but "the groups hope for a better reception from Fish and Wildlife." This raises the question of what can be considered a native species, as well as the observation that "'native' isn't necessarily the same as 'good for the environment.'"

National Park Service:

POACHERS THREATENING REDWOODS. NBC Nightly News (7/6, story 8, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M) reported poachers are threatening "the iconic redwood trees in northern California." National Park Ranger Marshall Neek was shown saying, "It's the burrel part itself that they're looking for." Almaguer continued. "The knobby protrusions are crucial to the survival of the tree." Over 20 thefts have been reported and "rangers are closing down roads, trying to limit access for the poachers," but they have only 12 rangers, meaning "roughly one ranger for every 11,000 acres. The thieves have too much space and too much time to work in."

STUDY: CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTING NATIONAL PARKS. E&E Daily (7/3, Dehnert) reported a new National Park Service report published in the scientific journal PLOS ONE found that "many of the country's national parks are in the tight grip of climate change, which continues to negatively affect surrounding habitats and local plant and animal species." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell recently said, "All you have to do is open your eyes and look around you to see that climate change is real." Jewell also said in a statement, "Through sound science and collaboration, we need to examine how we can help cultural and natural resources adapt to climate change and become more resilient to its impacts." Study co-author National Park Service scientist William Monahan said that tools to manage national parks in the face of climate change include vulnerability assessments, scenario planning, shared management with neighboring landowners, and new ecological base lines.

Bloomberg BusinessWeek (7/3, Wieners, 4.91M) reported, "The report is not alarmist but matter-of-fact" in that "steps will need to be taken—and soon—to better protect" national parks and historic sites. National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis said, "Studies like this are critical to inform national park managers and visitors alike about their local climate impacts so they can take proactive steps to address climate change."

DEVELOPMENT THREATENS GRAND CANYON. The Los Angeles Times (7/6, Cart, 3.46M) reported development proposals near the Grand Canyon "have set off alarms at the National Park Service, which sees them as the most serious threat the park has faced in its 95-year history." Park Supt. Dave Uberuaga said, "They are serious threats to the future of the park." Plans for restaurants, hotels, and shops on a Navajo Indian reservation mesa, along with a gondola to the canyon floor, "would alter the natural beauty of the canyon and encroach on its borders." While the Navajo argue they have rights to property above the high-water mark, the park says "Federal jurisdiction extends a quarter-mile on either side of the Colorado." Meanwhile, nearby Tusayan "approved plans for a development that would increase the town's demand for water fourfold," but "the park service says there isn't enough water to sustain both wildlife and the new development."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM, SHERIFF: RANCHER SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR STANDOFF. The AP (7/7, Griffith) reports US Bureau of Land Management officials agree with Clark County, Nevada Sheriff Doug Gillespie that rancher Cliven Bundy "crossed the line when he allowed states' rights supporters, including self-proclaimed militia members, onto his property to aim guns at police" and that he needs to be held accountable. In a statement, Bureau spokeswoman Celia Boddington "said the agency continues to pursue the matter 'aggressively'" and that "we are working diligently to ensure that those who broke the law are held accountable through the legal system." While "Gillespie blamed the bureau for escalating the conflict," Boddington said, "The sheriff encouraged the operation and promised to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us as we enforced two recent federal court orders," adding, "It is unfortunate that the sheriff is now attempting to rewrite the details of what occurred, including his claims that the BLM did not share accurate information."

Sources running the AP article include the Washington Post (7/7, Press, 4.22M), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/7, Griffith, 1.48M), the Huffington Post (7/6, Griffith, 11.54M), Fox News (7/6, Press, 6.72M), and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/5, Griffith, 687K).

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/3, Blasky, 437K) reported that Gillespie told the paper the Bureau of Land Management needs to change its methods of dealing with the rancher.

SOLOMON: WILDERNESS ACT STEWARDSHIP MUST SHIFT TO INTERVENTION. New York Times (7/6, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) columnist Christopher Solomon writes about how the "Wilderness Act is facing a midlife crisis," noting that some "respected scientists" now call for Americans "to toss out the 'hands-off' philosophy that has guided our stewardship for 50 years" and help these wild areas "adapt and thrive in the diminished future we've thrust upon them." Claiming that "we need to accept our role as reluctant gardeners," Solomon details the "many forms" that intervention could take.

US Geological Survey:

PLAN FOR BACTERIA CONTROL OF ZEBRA MUSSELS DROPPED. E&E Daily (7/3) reported Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources and the US Geological Survey withdrew an application to use the Zequanox bacteria to control zebra mussels in Keyes Lake after local officials and residents raised safety concerns.

USGS STUDY: MINING POLLUTION REDUCE STREAMS' FISH POPULATIONS. Bloomberg News (7/3, Raupe, 2.76M) reports new US Geological Survey research published online June 30 in the journal Freshwater Science found streams in the Guyandotte River basin of West Virginia with elevated selenium and electrical conductivity levels from mountaintop mining runoff "have less than half as many fish species" and "about one-third as many fish as non-impacted streams." Further, lead author and USGS research fish biologist Nathaniel Hitt "said there is no evidence that fish communities recover over time from water quality degradation caused by mountaintop mining runoff."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM RAISED OVER $5.8 MILLION IN SOLAR PROJECT AUCTION. The SNL Financial (7/3, Copley, 21K) reported, "A U.S. Bureau of Land Management auction raised more than $5.8 million in high bids for the right to submit development plans for utility-scale solar projects on 3,083 acres of public land in the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone in Clark County, Nev." BLM Director Neil Kornze said in a release that the bureau's renewable energy program has permitted 52 projects during Obama's presidency, which he said "show that business is ready to come to the table in support of a clean energy future."

DOE'S MASSACHUSETTS AGREEMENT PART OF ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORT TO BOOST WIND PROJECTS. As part of the Obama Administration effort "to develop offshore wind power projects," the Christian Science Monitor (7/3, Gilmour, 566K) reported that the Energy Department "announced Tuesday a conditional agreement to guarantee a $150 million loan for Cape Wind" in Massachusetts. Likewise, "on Wednesday, the Department of the Interior announced that nearly 80,000 acres off the coast of Maryland will be auctioned for wind development in August."

Around 80,000 Acres Off Maryland Coast To Be Auctioned For Wind Development. In continuing coverage, SNL Financial (7/3, Copley, 21K) reported on the Federal government on July 2 "said approximately 80,000 acres off the Maryland coast will be auctioned off in August for commercial wind development," with the Department of the Interior saying in a news release that "the entire area could support between 850 MW and 1,450 MW of offshore wind generation." According to SNL, "sixteen companies were identified as legally, technically and financially qualified to hold commercial wind leases offshore Maryland." Three of the companies, Cape Wind Associates, Fishermen's Energy and Dominion Resources, "are connected to efforts to develop offshore wind projects elsewhere."

Onshore Energy Development:

RESEARCHERS LINK OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES TO FRACKING. The Los Angeles Times (7/5, Branson-Potts, 3.46M) reported that, according to a study published Thursday in the journal Science, "a large swarm of earthquakes in central Oklahoma was probably caused by" fracking.

USA Today (7/3, Bui, 5.82M) reported that "the research merged seismic data from 2008 to 2013 with the locations of disposal wells in the state using the database from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission."

The Washington Post (7/5, Fears, 4.22M) reported that "the study says hydraulic fracturing for gas cannot be directly linked to increased seismic activity."

According to lead author Cornell University seismologist Katie Keranen, "the study shows the likely way in which the pressure can trigger fault lines," the AP (7/3, Borenstein, 645K) reported. However, Keranen indicated that "researchers need more detail on the liquid injections themselves to absolutely prove the case."

US News & World Report (7/3, Neuhauser, 645K) noted that the study found that just four disposal wells "may have triggered as many as 20 percent" of the recent earthquakes.

Bloomberg News (7/3, Shauk, 2.76M) reported that so far in 2014, Oklahoma has had 238 earthquakes of at least a magnitude 3.0 through June, more than twice as many as California, which typically is second only to Alaska in number of annual tremors.

Reuters (7/3, Gillam) noted that the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association said that due to the prevalence of oil and gas activity in the state, where there are 4,597 disposal wells, seismic activity likely will happen near industry operations. However the group insists that this doesn't prove a link between drilling and seismic activity.

BBC News (7/7, Mcgrath, 1.17M), CNBC (7/3, David, 1.75M), the Denver (CO) Post (7/4, Simpson, 940K), Scientific American (7/3, Schultz, 2.77M), PBS (7/3, Marder, 1.22M), the International Business Times (7/4, Bora, 697K), The Guardian (UK) (7/3, Goldenberg, 1.96M), and the Boulder (CO) Daily Camera (7/3, Kuta, 112K) also covered the Oklahoma research.

Scientists Also Investigating Possible Fracking, Quake Link In Kansas. McClatchy (7/4, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that in addition to the investigation in Oklahoma, scientists are looking into "a major escalation in earthquakes" in Kansas, which saw 56 quakes from October 2013 to April 2014. In February Gov. Sam Brownback (R-KS) "appointed a task force" to study the issue along with the US Geological Survey. However the "USGS is lacking information on the area's oil and gas activity" and the commission's work "is moving slowly." Justin Rubinstein, a geophysicist with the US Geological Survey, noted the state collects wastewater injection data once a year, saying, "Unless we get the data sooner it will be very difficult to say anything about whether there is any connection from wastewater wells to the earthquakes until next March."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CRITICIZE BLM PLAN FOR BUFFALO AREA. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (7/5, Storrow, 90K) reports, "A coalition of environmentalists and landowners is calling on the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to rewrite its proposed management plan for federal lands around Buffalo, arguing that the current draft would roll back protections aimed at preventing oil and gas development on areas unsuitable for drilling." the draft Buffalo Resource Management Plan "would allow companies to drill in those areas provided they produce site-specific plans saying how they intend to mitigate environmental concerns." Industry welcomed the changes, and "BLM officials said their proposal actually increases environmental protections, adding stipulations to conserve reptiles, bats, fish and sage grouse, while providing more consistency in their oil and gas leasing rules."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA CITIES URGING RESIDENTS TO "TATTLE" ON NEIGHBORS' WATER CONSUMPTION. The New York Times (7/5, Lovett, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports despite "doomsday proclamations" about California's "historic drought," state residents have done "not much" to save water. According to the Times, since the "drought emergency was declared" five months ago, Californians "have cut their water consumption only 5 percent compared with recent years," according to state officials. With cities now urging residents "to tattle on their neighbors for wasting water," people have "responded in droves."

BATTLE LOOMING OVER THE EEL RIVER. In a column in the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/6, Sward, 687K), Susan Sward says in about three years, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will "begin reviewing an application by Pacific Gas & Electric to re-license its Potter Valley Project," which "includes a mile-long tunnel that began diverting Eel water to the Russian River more than a hundred years ago." This license review "follows more than a century of harm – including extensive timber harvesting, the Potter Valley Project dams and destruction of an estuary that functioned as a nursery for juvenile salmon." The author hopes the Federal re-licensing process and 2022 decision "can be a catalyst for a compromise that would result in improved fish habitat and an approach acceptable to all sides."

NO FEDERAL WATER FOR MOST CENTRAL VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICTS. The Los Angeles Times (7/4, Marcum, 3.46M) reported, "For the first time in the more than half a century that the federal government had been diverting Sierra Nevada water to farmers, there would be no deliveries to most Central Valley irrigation districts." The article profiled the plight of farmer Fred Lujan.

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBES, DOI COMMITTED TO BUFFALO RESTORATION. The Indian Country Today Media Network (7/3, 45K) reported, "The Department of the Interior has reaffirmed its commitment to restore bison to 'appropriate and well-managed levels on public and tribal lands' by working with states, tribes and other partners." Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said in a statement, "We will continue to pursue the ecological and cultural restoration of the species on behalf of the American public and American Indian tribes who have a special connection to this iconic animal." The DOI Bison Report: Looking Forward "outlines plans to work with tribes, states, landowners, conservation groups, commercial bison producers and agricultural interests to restore the bison population to a 'proper ecological and cultural role on appropriate landscapes within its historical range.'"

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULE ON PUTTING ALASKA LAND IN TRUST. The Indian Country Today Media Network (7/5, 45K) reports Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn announced the comment deadline on the proposed rule to accept applications to place land into trust in Alaska has been extended through July 31, 2014.

$2.9 MILLION TRANSFERRED INTO COBELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND. In continuing coverage, the Native News Online (7/1) reported, "The Department of the Interior Tuesday announced that $2.9 million has been transferred to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund."

LAND BU-BACK PROGRAM SENT $50 MILLION IN OFFERS ON ROSEBUD SIOUX RESERVATION. The Nation Sun News (6/27) reported, "The Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations has sent out $50 million in offers on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota." Anthony Rodman, with the Department of the Interior's Buy-Back Program, "says the effort aims to piece back together trust land that was split up over generations."

Native American News (7/7) also covers this story.

DECISION ALLOWS ARIZONA TRIBE'S CASINO PLAN TO MOVE FORWARD. The Arizona Republic (7/4, Corbett, 1.45M) reports the Kevin Washburn, Bureau of Indian Affairs assistant secretary, issued a decision reaffirming the agency's decision that the Southern Arizona's Tohono O'odham tribe's land at 95th and Northern avenues is not within Glendale's city boundaries, bringing the tribe "a step closer to winning its contested bid to build a casino" there. This "clears the way for a final ruling from the 9th Circuit Court on the compacts governing Indian gaming and the issue of additional casinos in metro Phoenix."

The Sierra Vista (AZ) Herald (7/5, 3K) reported the move "gave the Tohono O'odham Nation final permission to make land it owns near Glendale part of the reservation."

The AP (7/3) reported, "Opponents have argued a 2002 voter-backed compact barred more casinos from opening in metro Phoenix."

CONGRESSMEN URGE APPROVAL OF CATAWBA INDIAN NATION'S TRUST APPLICATION. The Indian Country Today Media Network (7/4, Toensing, 45K) reported Congressman Jim Moran (D-Virginia), Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.) and former Democratic Congressman and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson "urged the Interior Department to approve the Catawba Indian Nation's trust application for land in North Carolina where it plans to build a casino, arguing that justice will be served by doing so." Meanwhile, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which own and operate a casino 130 from the proposed site, oppose the propose.

Top National News:

JOHNSON DECLINES TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY OF THOSE IN THE US ILLEGALLY WILL BE DEPORTED. Homeland Security Secretary Johnson's appearance on NBC's Meet the Press (7/6, Gregory, 3.08M) generated a great deal of coverage, including the lead story on NBC Nightly News (7/6, lead story, 1:30, Holt, 7.86M), that portrayed the Administration's immigration enforcement policies in a negative light, as well as analysis suggesting that President Obama seems to lack a clear plan to stop the wave of illegal immigrants from Central America. The AP (7/7, Babington) is reporting that on Sunday, both Republicans and Democrats "said the administration has reacted too slowly and cautiously to the crisis." According to the AP, the President wants to "allow millions of other people already living in the U.S. illegally to stay" even as "word of seemingly successful border crossings reaches [migrants'] home countries, encouraging others to try."

Much of the coverage of Johnson's appearance on NBC focuses on his apparent unwillingness to predict how many of the children arriving in the US illegally will ever be deported, even though analysts say that it is unlikely that the surge in illegal immigration will slow so long as it is the perception in Central America that children who make it as far as the US border are allowed by the Federal government to stay here.

On NBC Nightly News (7/6, story 2, 3:45, Holt, 7.86M), Kristen Welker reported that Johnson said the

Administration is "working to 'stem the tide,'" but "was not so certain when questioned specifically what will happen to children." Johnson was shown repeatedly not answering David Gregory directly when asked if "most" of the children in the US illegally will be deported. CNBC's John Harwood said the Administration is "ducking this question right now" because "they flat don't know what to do," but, according to Harwood, the President "can't afford the perception that his policies encouraged an uncontrolled flow of young people across the border." On the CBS Evening News (7/6, story 4, 2:00, Glor, 5.08M), correspondent Mark Albert reported that on NBC's Meet the Press (7/6, Gregory, 3.08M), Johnson "would not say if they would be deported."

The Los Angeles Times (7/7, Puzzanghera, 3.46M) also reports that Johnson "would not say Sunday whether most of the Central American minors would end up staying in the U.S. or be deported." Mark Sappenfield of the Christian Science Monitor (7/7, Sappenfield, 566K) covers Johnson's appearance under the headline, "What Will Happen To Immigrant Kids In Border Crisis? Obama Official Evasive." Likewise, the New York Daily News (7/7, Edelman, 4.36M) says Johnson "promised to help...implement Obama's forthcoming, but vague, executive actions...but was repeatedly unable to offer specific details on how the actions will help curtail the ongoing humanitarian crisis at the border."

Under the headline, "Jeh Johnson Noncommittal On Child Migrants," the Wall Street Journal (7/7, Costa, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Johnson told NBC's David Gregory: "We are looking at ways to create additional options for dealing with the children in particular consistent with our laws and our values."

At the opening of NBC Nightly News (7/6, lead story, 1:30, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt said that as the Administration "struggles to stem the surge of Central American migrants crossing into the United States, it is the children, many making the journey without their families, who are presenting the biggest practical and political challenge." Correspondent Stephanie Gosk went on to report from the Honduras-Guatemala border on the children preparing to enter the US illegally.

On the CBS Evening News (7/6, story 4, 2:00, Glor, 5.08M), Jeff Glor said Johnson is scheduled to go to Guatemala this week "as the US tries to convince central American parents not send their children" to the US border. Glor noted that "more than 52,000 unaccompanied minors have been taken into custody during the current fiscal year," which is "almost double the number during the entire preceding fiscal year." Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX) was shown saying, "With all due respect to the administration, they're one step behind – they should have seen this coming a long time ago." Albert added that Texas Gov. Rick Perry "said the solution is better border security to keep immigrants from crossing over in the first place."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of the authors of the comprehensive immigration reform package that passed the Senate last year, said on CBS' Face The Nation (7/6, Schieffer, 2.64M), "We have to send [the unaccompanied minors] back, otherwise it incentivizes people to keep sending their children to the US." On CBS' Face The Nation (7/6, Schieffer, 2.64M), Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin likewise said it is the "compassionate responsibility of the United States to process these kids and send them back to where they came from" because "they have no legal status here in the United States."

The Los Angeles Times (7/7, Puzzanghera, 3.46M) reports that, according to Johnson, "Immigration officials have cut the turnaround time for processing deportation of adult immigrant detainees from about 33 days to four, and are working to add detention capacity for children and teens who arrive on their own." The Times goes on to report that Administration officials "say a 2008 law...has made it nearly impossible to deport unaccompanied minors to Central America unless they first appear before an immigration judge," and the "growing backlog in the immigration courts has meant that most are sent to live with family members in the U.S."

According to the Washington Times (7/7, Howell, 455K), on Sunday, Johnson "acknowledged the number of illegal immigrants is rising and it will be difficult to turn the situation around, particularly as violence and poverty roils central America." The Times notes that on NBC's Meet the Press (7/6, Gregory, 3.08M), Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID), a supporter of comprehensive immigration reform, said "the flow of immigrants to the border will only increase, despite what Mr. Johnson said about stemming the tide, because criminal cartels are advertising their services based on deferred deportations for existing child migrants in the U.S."

The Daily Caller (7/6, Greer, 408K) reported that Labrador made the case that "the best, safest message we can send to Central America is – if you want Central American families to know that they shouldn't be bringing their

children to the United States – is by sending these children back in a humanitarian way."

According to The Hill (7/6, Lillis, 237K), "Republicans have blamed Obama for the crisis, pointing specifically to his Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which allows some undocumented immigrants brought to the country as children to remain...without fear of deportation." Politico (7/6, Eischen, 637K) reported that Johnson nevertheless said on Sunday: "Our message to those who come here illegally: Our border is not open to illegal migration." AFP (7/7, 16K) notes that Johnson added, "There are no free passes once you get here." The Daily Caller (7/6, Ross, 408K) reported that on Sunday, Johnson "denied that the Obama administration's policies, such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, have contributed to the influx."

But USA Today (7/7, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that "other guests on Sunday shows blamed the Obama administration for the surge of immigrants." USA Today notes that on Friday, the President "spent part of his Fourth of July at the White House welcoming new U.S. citizens and calling for changes to the U.S. immigration system." Reuters (7/7, 11.54M) reports that on Sunday, Johnson said, "There are a number of things the president and I, within the confines of existing law, can do to fix the broken immigration system. If Congress doesn't act, we will."

Obama Will Travel To Texas This Week, But Is Not Expected To Visit Border. On the CBS Evening News (7/6, story 4, 2:00, Glor, 5.08M), correspondent Mark Albert reported that President Obama "will be in Texas this week but, as of now, that trip will not include a visit to the border." NBC Nightly News (7/6, story 2, 3:45, Holt, 7.86M), Kristen Welker said "there is a lot of speculation that" the President "will have to directly address the crisis in some way while he's down" in Texas this week. The Washington Times (7/7, Chasmar, 455K) reports that on CNN's State of the Union (7/6, Crowley), Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX) said, "It would be nice of him to come down to the border."

Perry: Obama's Policies Have Encouraged Illegal Immigration. The Washington Times (7/7, Howell, 455K) reports that on ABC's This Week (7/6, Raddatz, 2.73M), Texas Gov. Rick Perry claimed that he "warned the administration for years about the incoming tide of young illegal immigrants and begged for additional resources to deal with it, only to be rebuffed and left with a crisis along his state's southern border." According to the Times, Perry says he "warned about the influx of unaccompanied youths in a letter to the administration in 2012," and before that, in 2010, he "asked for a thousand National Guard troops." Perry is quoted as saying, "The president has sent powerful messages...that it is OK to come to the United States and you can come across and you'll be accepted in open arms."

The Huffington Post (7/6, Reilly, 11.54M) said Perry "is not backing away from a conspiracy theory he recently floated about the Obama administration somehow coordinating the surge of immigrants."

Murrieta Mayor Says Residents Have "Legitimate Concerns" About Housing Illegal Immigrants. The Los Angeles Times (7/7, Staff, 3.46M) reports that in an appearance on CNN's State of the Union (7/6, Crowley), Mayor Alan Long of Murrieta, California, "which has seen protests in recent days that prevented federal officials from housing some immigrant detainees at a facility there, defended his town's response to the issue." Long is quoted as saying, "We're a very small town...and all the sudden we have a national problem at our doorstep. ... We didn't have a lot of answers early on, and there were some legitimate concerns, health concerns and humane concerns." Politico (7/6, Eischen, 637K) reported that Long said "one of the greatest concerns Murrieta citizens discussed was whether the facility could safely and humanely accommodate the large number of undocumented immigrants."

"Sanctuary City" Policy Benefits Accused Rapist In Philadelphia. The Washington Times (7/7, Boyer, 455K) reports on a 28-year-old Honduran who "could become the Willie Horton of the immigration crisis" after being charged with rape, kidnapping and robbery while living illegally in Philadelphia, which has been declared a "sanctuary city" by Mayor Michael Nutter. According to the Times, Philadelphia's "official policy" is "to defy federal authorities seeking to deport illegal immigrants unless the person sought by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency has been convicted of a violent felony." The Times says ICE "has...request[ed] that local police notify federal immigration authorities before he would be released," but the Philadelphia police "won't honor that request" before the accused rapist is convicted.

Border Patrol Takes Heat Over Fatal Incidents. Joe Davidson, in his Federal Diary column for the Washington Post (7/7, 4.22M), says the Border Patrol is "trying to overcome a trigger-happy reputation" in the wake of "a string of reports about abusive, sometimes fatal, actions by its employees." According to Davidson, the ACLU estimates that "at least 29 people have died since January 2010 as a result of encounters with CBP," but Shawn Moran, vice president of the National Border Patrol Council, says agents should not "hesitate to defend themselves when under attack due to concern of a civil suit, thus leaving them vulnerable to serious injury or death."

Immigration Official Accused Of Accessing Databases To Help Smugglers. According to the Washington Times (7/7, Mcelhatton, 455K), "At least a half-dozen federal immigration agents have come under investigation since 2012 for snooping into law enforcement databases," including at least one who "tried to use the databases to warn drug smugglers if they were under investigation." According to the Times, "Investigators were tipped off about an official...using his or her position to 'conduct queries for friends and relatives engaged in criminal activity.'"

NYTimes A1: Anti-Money Laundering Rules Make It More Expensive For Immigrants To Send Money From The US. In a front-page article, the New York Times (7/7, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "as government regulators crack down on the financing of terrorists and drug traffickers, many big banks are abandoning the business of transferring money from the United States to other countries," which could "reverse years of declines in the cost of immigrants sending money home to their families." According to the Times, JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America "have scrapped low-cost services that allowed Mexican immigrants to send money to their families across the border," and, "in perhaps the deepest retrenchment by a bank, Citigroup's Banamex USA unit has now...stopped most remittances to Mexico as it faces a federal investigation related to money laundering controls." The Times adds that "while Mexico may be most affected...the banks' broad retreat over the last year is affecting other countries in Latin America and parts of Africa as well."

DCCC Ad Blames House Republicans For Inaction On Immigration Reform. The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the DCCC is running ads targeting Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) over House's inaction on comprehensive immigration reform even though he was among those Republicans who supported the ENLIST Act, which would have allowed illegal immigrants to gain citizenship by joining the military. Regarding Republicans like Coffman, DCCC Chair Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) says, "We have very specific vehicles to advance immigration that they have refused to support because they're toeing the party line."

GERMANY CALLS ON US TO RESPOND TO NEW SPYING ALLEGATIONS. The New York Times (7/7, Smale, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that amid reports that a German intelligence service employee spied for the US, "German officials and commentators on Sunday angrily demanded a response from Washington, warning that an already troubled relationship was at risk of deteriorating to a new low." However, the demands for a statement from the US "were nevertheless couched in cautious terms, suggesting that the scandal...might not be as bad as initially feared." Nonetheless, "the anger was palpable." President Joachim Gauck "told German television that if it turned out that the United States had been spying on Germany, 'then that is really a gamble with friendship, with a close alliance.'" While German Chancellor Angela Merkel "kept silent on the matter," reporters "cited unidentified people in her circle as saying she was 'surprised' and 'disappointed' at the suggestion that an American intelligence agency had recruited a German agent."

The AP (7/7, Moulson) reports that the case presents a "new test" for US-German relations, nothing that the case "threatens to strain German-U.S. relations again after earlier reports that the National Security Agency spied on Germans, including on Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone." The CIA and NSA "have declined to comment."

In a German-language analysis under the headline, "Frustration Over The Stubborn Ally," the center-left Süddeutsche Zeitung (DEU) (7/7, 1.29M) writes that Gauck's call was "very direct" for a German President. His "clear words" soon transformed from those of a moderating chief of state to a "disappointed friend of America." Near the end, the analysis says that from the perspective of Berlin, a spy case would only increase the impression that President Obama is either "unable" or "absolutely unwilling" to tame the US intelligence services.

Europe's largest circulation tabloid, the German-language Bild Zeitung (DEU) (7/7, 8K) carries reaction from

Germany's Minister of the Interior, Thomas de Maizière, who said the charges were "very serious." He added, "I expect everyone to cooperate promptly to clear up these allegations–with quick and clear comments from the United States as well." Bild also said that the German intelligence agency was considering expanding its surveillance to get a "360-degree picture" and did not rule out gathering intelligence on allies such as the US, UK or France, according to sources.

In a commentary for the center-right Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Germany) (7/7, 1.07M), Marcus Wehner takes a nuanced stance, but ends by saying that although the US remains a partner that Germany relies on, it is becoming "increasingly difficult" to say that "out loud" and to "convincingly defend the view."

Meanwhile, the influential magazine Der Spiegel (DEU) (7/7, 3.08M) reports it its current issue that 57% of Germans said that their country should become "more independent" from the US, while 69% said that their trust in the US had diminished recently, according to a poll it commissioned.

NRDC FOLLOWED API STRATEGY IN CRAFTING EMISSIONS BLUE PRINT. The New York Times (7/7, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in November 2010, attorneys David Doniger and David Hawkins, and scientist, Daniel Lashof, along with a team of experts began work on a "110-page proposal, widely viewed as innovative and audacious, that was aimed at slashing planet-warming carbon pollution from the nation's coal-fired power plants." When the President proposed a new EPA rule on power plant emissions on June 2, it "used as its blueprint the work of the three men and their team." The Times says this was "a remarkable victory for the Natural Resources Defense Council, the longtime home of Mr. Doniger and Mr. Hawkins and, until recently, of Mr. Lashof," and notes that in crafting the proposal, the group "followed the strategy used by the American Petroleum Institute, the lobbying arm of the oil industry, to write an energy policy for Vice President Dick Cheney during the Bush administration."

Truck Owners "Rolling Coal" In Anti-Environmentalist Protest. The Huffington Post (7/6, Grenoble, 11.54M) reported that anti-environmentalist truck owners have found a new form of political protest, "intentionally producing copious amounts of diesel exhaust, spewing black smoke into the air," in a practice known as "rolling coal." According to a report by Vocativ, "'coal rollers' can spend thousands of dollars altering their rides to produce ever greater amounts of smoke."

Environmentalists: New York Fracking Ruling A "Watershed Moment." The Hill (7/6, Cama, 237K) reports that opponents of fracking "are feeling emboldened by a ruling in New York's highest court that found towns can outlaw the controversial drilling practice." Environmentalists "are cheering the decision against hydraulic fracturing as a major step toward more local control over the natural gas production," but industry groups "fear the ruling could results in a patchwork of local rules that slow development of the booming energy source. 'I think it's a really watershed moment for the movement,' said Deborah Goldberg, an attorney with Earthjustice who argued the New York case for one of the towns involved. 'People all over the country have been watching what's been going on in New York, and what this says to them is that if you work with your neighbors and you educate yourself and you organize and you work with local government, you can stand up to industry and win.'"

WPost Blasts Congressional Inaction On Climate Change. The Washington Post (7/7, 4.22M), in an editorial, criticizes Congress for failing to address climate change concerns. According to the Post, some in Congress are "hoping that the scientists are dramatically wrong — or at least that the country can deal with the problem later." The Post concludes by saying that "if Congress were the board of a large company, ignoring such a serious risk would give shareholders ample reason to fire" them, and, according to the Post, "voters might want to contemplate the analogy this November."

NYTimes Criticizes North Carolina's Approach To Addressing Climate Change. An editorial in the New York Times (7/7, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) contrasts the "politics of climate change" occurring in North Carolina and Virginia, noting that in North Carolina "foolhardy denial about the severity of rising seas is underway," where the Republican Legislature "ordered a state commission of experts to soften its estimate that coastal waters could rise 39 inches by the end of the century," while in Virginia "a bipartisan group of political leaders is forthrightly talking about the problem." The Times criticizes North Carolina's approach, arguing that while the "anxiety of commercial interests and homeowners along threatened coastal areas is understandable," those interests "are not helped by pandering politicians who choose to see no further than the span of their own careers — and are shirking the challenge of climate change."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Risks Of Hospital Mergers."*** The New York Times (7/7, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that in hindsight, "it looks as if Massachusetts made a serious mistake in 1994 when it let its two most prestigious (and costly) hospitals – Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, both affiliated with Harvard – merge into a single system known as Partners HealthCare." The Times notes that investigations by the Massachusetts attorney general's office "have documented that the merger gave the hospitals enormous market leverage to drive up health care costs in the Boston area by demanding high reimbursements from insurers that were unrelated to the quality or complexity of care delivered." The Times concludes that the "lesson for other states confronting the wave of hospital mergers is to look much more carefully at possible consequences than Massachusetts did 20 years ago," noting that mergers "are hard to undo after the fact."

"Reining In The Drones." An editorial in the New York Times (7/7, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that "grave moral and legal questions" about "the government's use of armed drones to kill people considered terrorist threats" are going unanswered. The Times cites a report from "a bipartisan panel of military and intelligence veterans" which warns that "without adequate controls and public accountability, the United States could be on a 'slippery slope' into a form of perpetual warfare that invites other nations to follow suit and never explain themselves." The Times says the Obama Administration should make "regular reports to the public about the rationale for the use of drones and the numbers of militants and civilians killed," and endorses the report's proposal "that drones be run by the Pentagon alone, without sharing that authority with the Central Intelligence Agency." In addition, it backs the report's call "for the creation of a nonpartisan, independent commission of specialists to review drone policy."

"Two Approaches To Tidal Politics." An editorial in the New York Times (7/7, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) contrasts the "politics of climate change" occurring in North Carolina and Virginia, noting that in North Carolina "foolhardy denial about the severity of rising seas is underway," where the Republican Legislature "ordered a state commission of experts to soften its estimate that coastal waters could rise 39 inches by the end of the century," while in Virginia "a bipartisan group of political leaders is forthrightly talking about the problem." The Times criticizes North Carolina's approach, arguing that while the "anxiety of commercial interests and homeowners along threatened coastal areas is understandable," those interests "are not helped by pandering politicians who choose to see no further than the span of their own careers — and are shirking the challenge of climate change."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A Roadblock To Reform."*** The Washington Post (7/7, 4.22M), in an editorial, says the "the D.C. school system's experiment with a longer school day has produced encouraging results" as "students with an extended day posted gains on achievement tests that far outstripped those in schools with traditional hours." However, according to the Post, "None of that, though, seems to matter to the Washington Teachers' Union," which "for reasons that are impossible to fathom...is resisting – unfortunately, with some success – plans to expand this initiative." The Post says "the union that is supposed to represent the interest of teachers won't allow a vote in which teachers would decide for themselves...if they want a longer school day that would benefit students and for which they would be paid."

"Climate Inaction." The Washington Post (7/7, 4.22M), in an editorial, criticizes Congress for failing to address climate change concerns. According to the Post, some in Congress are "hoping that the scientists are dramatically wrong — or at least that the country can deal with the problem later." The Post concludes by saying that "if Congress were the board of a large company, ignoring such a serious risk would give shareholders ample reason to fire" them, and, according to the Post, "voters might want to contemplate the analogy this November."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Wheaton Overreaction."*** The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that Justice Sonia Sotomayor's dissent in the last week's Wheaton College order, which granted a temporary exemption to the college from the ACA's contraceptive mandate while its challenge is litigated, was an overreaction that could make the Supreme Court a political target in upcoming elections.

"Obama's Letters To Corinthian." The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Journal, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an

editorial, criticizes the Administration for cracking down on for-profit colleges, including Corinthian Colleges, which was forced to sell its campuses after the Federal Education Department stopped allowing it to access financial aid due to concerns about its marketing practices. The Journal points out that traditional colleges don't even have to disclose their graduates' job placement data, although it is those numbers that are often cited by critics of the for-profit post-secondary industry within the Federal government.

"Japan's Corporate Tax Cut Opportunity." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/7, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues in favor of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's proposal to cut corporate tax rates, noting that low rates encourage investment and growth.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Pro-Russia Rebels Prepare Last Stand In East Ukraine
Clinton Begins To Move Away From Obama
Political Battle Over Export Bank Heats Up
Inside The FBI's Operation Pennypincher

New York Times:
6 Israelis Held Over The Killing Of Palestinian
Ukraine Military Finds Its Footing Against Pro-Russian Rebels
Testing Ground For A New Detroit
US Banks Curtail International Money Transfers
Staten Island's Tough-Guy Congressman Faces Somebody His Own Size
World Cup Players Are Using Hands More Than Ever (To Tweet)

Washington Post:
Hurdles To Change In Burma
A Jungle Struggle Heats Up In Mexico
Less Paper, More Tumblr: White House's Tech Makeover
In NC, This Libertarian Pizza Guy May Deliver A Senate Seat
Shock In Israel After Arrests

Financial Times:
France Hits Out At Dollar's Dominance
Goldman Muscles In On Private Banks
Mandarins And Ministers Clash On Reform
Rosneft Switches Focus To New Projects
Appetite For Buyout Listings Wanes
Aldi And Lidl UK Sales Surge
US Banks Braced For Weak Second Quarter

Washington Times:
Illegal charged With Rape In Sanctuary
ISIL Shows Increasing Strength, Structure
Democrats Microtarget Blacks In South In Effort To Keep Senate
New 'Guntry Clubs' Make Shooters Feel Welcome
ICE Agents Accused Of Snooping Databases
Phone Snoop Ruling Sets Precedent On Technology

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: International Travel Security; Spain-Airplane Landing; Israel-Citizen Attacks; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Chicago Gun Violence.
CBS: Israel-Citizen Attacks; Iraq-ISIS; TSA-International Security; Children Immigration; Amazon-Pricing;

Amazon-Pricing; Dubai Mall.
NBC: Children Immigrants; Immigration-White House; Israel Citizen Attacks; TSA-International Security; Severe Weather; Detroit-Human Rights Violations; Philippines-Typhoon; California Redwood Trees-Poaching.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: TSA-International Travel Security; Pope Francis-Sexual Assault Victim Meeting; California Wildfires; Netanyahu-Teen Murders.
CBS: TSA-International Travel Security; Israel-Teen Murders Suspects; Israel-Gaza Attacks; California-Wildfires; Hurricane Arthur Effects; California-Lifeguard Drowned.
NPR: Israel-Teen Murders Suspects; Afghanistan-Election Results; California-Wildfires; TSA-International Travel Security; Wimbledon Results; Hurricane Arthur;
FOX: TSA-International Travel Security; Iraq-ISIS Leader Sighting; Boston Marathon Bombing-Trial; Harrison Ford-Broken Leg.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Hosts a group of teachers at the White House for lunch to discuss the Administrations efforts to ensure that every student is taught by an effective educator.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: July 7 – 9. SECRETARY JOHNSON — Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson will travel to Florida and Guatemala. On July 7-8, Secretary Johnson will travel to Miami where he will visit the National Hurricane Center to discuss hurricane season, meet with U.S. Coast Guard District Seven leadership, and meet with the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) leadership. From July 8-9, Secretary Johnson and USSOUTHCOM Commander General John Kelly will travel to Guatemala where they will participate in meetings with the Government of Guatemala to discuss issues of mutual concern, including ongoing government-wide response to the influx of adults, families, and unaccompanied children across the southwest border. Contact: DHS Press Office, (202) 282-8010

NOVA CIVIL RIGHTS ARCHIVE — 10 a.m. Press event for Congressman Gerry Connollys year-long project to create the "Northern Virginia Civil Rights Archive: Personal Histories of Struggle and Achievement in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act." Speakers include: include Rep. Connolly, Northern Virginians who volunteered personal testimonials of their struggles and triumphs during the civil rights movement, and staff members from GMU and Connollys office who worked on the project. Contact: George Burke – 202-225-1492/ 202-503-7756 Location: Third floor, Grand Tier III, George Mason University Center of the Performing Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

CARDIN – HEALTH CARE – WOMEN — 1:30 p.m. Senator Cardin Tour and Roundtable on Womens Access to Health Care After the Hobby Lobby Supreme Court Decision. Location: Greater Baden Medical Servicesm, 7450 Albert Road, Brandywine, MD 20613.

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION – NSA — 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. "National Insecurity Agency: How the NSA's Surveillance Programs Undermine Internet Security." Introductions: Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA); Rep. Alan Grayson (D-FL). Featured speakers: Joe Hall, Chief Technologist, Center for Democracy & Technology; Danielle Kehl, Policy Analyst, New America's Open Technology Institute; David Lieber, Privacy Policy Counsel, Google; Bruce Schneier, Security Technologist and Author; Amie Stepanovich, Senior Policy Counsel, Access. Location: 1899 L Street NW, Suite 400

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All late-night talk shows were in re-run.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, July 8, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Jul 8, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Tribe Receives Reservation Status On Proposed Casino Land.
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TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
+ White House: "Most" Children Entering US Illegally Will Be Deported.
+ Tighter Security Measures Take Effect At Overseas Airports.
+ Obama, Duncan Launch Teacher Equity Initiative Amid Tension With The NEA.

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL LEADS PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION FUNDING. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that the Obama Administration is "going on the offensive this week to promote the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the need for Congress to fully fund the program that helps preserve historic sites, expand hunting and fishing locations, and protect water resources." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Monday announced "a weeklong series of events designed to raise public awareness of the LWCF – the government's main vehicle for acquiring new lands, protecting private lands and funding urban recreation." Jewell said, "There's a pretty good chance that if you're enjoying a bike trail or a fishing pier or a park in your neighborhood, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped pay for it. If you have access to hunting areas, if you've ever visited a Civil War battlefield, if you've enjoyed the sight of wildlife in a protected area near your home, the Land and Water Conservation Fund may have helped make it possible."

The Hill (7/7, Cama, 237K) reports that "Jewell's travels this week will bring her to events in Fort Worth, Texas, Birmingham, Ala., and Richmond, Va." Also, "Deputy Interior Secretary Michael Connor, Fish and Wildlife Service

Director Dan Ashe and Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze will travel to Oregon, Florida and Alaska."

The AP (7/8) reports that Jewell is "scheduled to join Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price and Ralph Duggins, vice chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, at a Tuesday morning news conference at Fort Worth's Gateway Park."

Coverage by the AP was picked up by the Washington Times (7/8, 455K), WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (7/8, 117K), and KWES-TV Odessa, TX (7/8, 5K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF MEETINGS ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT. Covering the meetings to discuss a recognized native Hawaiian government, KGMB-TV Honolulu (7/8, 95K) discussed the issue with Trisha Watson, "a native Hawaiian expert and activist, community leader, Ph.D. and teacher." Watson described the situation as "a very unfortunate sequence of events" and "feels as though the meetings came at a bad time, with very short notice."

KGMB-TV Honolulu (7/8, 95K) also discussed the issue with President and CEO of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement Michelle Kauhane.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS TO EXPLORE BORDER CONCERNS LINKED TO NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that House lawmakers will "raise questions at a hearing Thursday about President Obama's designation of a national monument in the Southwest and its potential effects on border security." Republicans call New Mexico's Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument "a prime example of executive overreach." They claim that the designation will "impede the US Border Patrol's work along the Mexican border."

FEDERAL FIREFIGHTING SPENDING RISES. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that the Forest Service "now allocates half its budget to fighting wildfires, which are burning at an alarming rate in Western regions and are at least in part fueled by climate change." Meanwhile, "spending to combat fires continues to seep into other agencies and state governments, leaving taxpayers with multibillion-dollar burdens that continue to increase every year." The article notes that the Forest Service and the Interior Department have "spent an average of $1.54 billion per year to suppress fires in the past decade, and federal spending on fire suppression has not dipped under $1 billion since 2005."

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the AP (7/8), the AP (7/8), the AP (7/8, Kruesi), the AP (7/8), and ABC News (7/8, 3.58M).

DEAL REACHED BETWEEN ATV RIDERS, CONSERVATION GROUPS IN COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "forest officials have reached a compromise with conservationists and ATV riders who use a national forest in northeastern Washington." Colville National Forest officials "finalized a plan last month to open more trails to ATV users while closing off some loops that have been damaged by off-road vehicles." The article notes that "the project will cost $750,000 over 15 years and is backed by conservation groups and ATV riders alike."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. APPEARS READY TO WIND DOWN OPERATIONS. The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (7/8, 88K) reports that "after 19 months of legal fights the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. appears ready to give up its battle to remain open." In federal court Monday in Oakland, a lawyer "representing the oyster operation said he was negotiating a settlement with the federal government." The article notes that "the discussions likely revolve around how operations would cease, but exact details were not revealed in court."

The San Francisco Chronicle (7/8, Fagan, 3.33M) reports that "however, while those talks go on, the Drakes Bay attorneys are still scraping for ways to adjust their lawsuit seeking to keep the farm open." According to

Lawrence Bazel, attorney for the company, "if they can find new claims to make, they may be able to file new appeals – and possibly win a new reprieve for the operation."

Meanwhile, the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (7/7, 148K) reports that "a federal judge Monday gave lawyers for Drakes Bay Oyster Company and the Interior Department another month to negotiate the oyster farm's departure from Marin County's Point Reyes National Seashore."

The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (7/8, 88K) editorializes that that "the US Supreme Court's refusal to hear the Drakes Bay Oyster Co.'s attempt to overturn federal orders to close the longstanding Marin business puts the oyster farm a big step closer to being shut down." According to the paper, the ruling "may close the door on this chapter of the park's history, but it does not lessen the park's need to rebuild bridges and trust with the community."

Also reporting on the story is KQED-FM San Francisco (7/7, 15K).

COLORADO MONUMENT PARK DESIGNATION WON'T MOVE FORWARD. The AP (7/8) reports that Colorado National Monument in Mesa County is "not going to be designated a national park." Rep. Scott Tipton and Sen. Mark Udall said Monday that "more dialogue is needed before the Monument should become the state's fifth national park." Tipton said that "the likelihood for national park legislation passing the House and Senate without impacting the local community is 'minuscule.'"

VOLKSWAGEN GROUP OF AMERICA HELPS CLEAN NATIONAL MALL AFTER INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS. Roll Call (7/8, 76K) reports that Volkswagen Group of America Inc. "volunteered 250 hours of service to help clean up the National Mall in the wake of Independence Day celebrations." Michael Horn, president and CEO of Volkswagen Group of America, said, "There's 60 or 70 employees, and they do service. They clean up the leftovers from the Fourth of July. They paint the fences."

GRAND CANYON TO MARK 1956 CRASH SITE. The AP (7/8, Fonseca) recalls changes in air travel and its regulation – including the formation of what would become the FAA – in the aftermath of the June 30, 1956 crash of a United Airlines Douglas DC-7 and a TWA Lockheed Super Constellation over the Grand Canyon, killing all 128 people aboard in what at the time was "the deadliest aviation disaster" ever. The tragedy reinforced for the public that much of US air space "was uncontrolled at that time," former NTSB managing director Peter Goelz said. On Tuesday, the AP reports, Grand Canyon National Park will officially designate the crash site as a National Historic Landmark in a ceremony overlooking the gorge on the east end, where 58 years ago wreckage was scattered over 1.5 square miles.

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK CLOSES BACKCOUNTRY. The AP (7/8) reports that Voyageurs National Park has "closed its backcountry for about two weeks for flood damage assessment and repairs." Park officials have "set a target date of July 21 for reopening the backcountry."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM, LOCAL LAWMAN DISPUTE ACTIONS IN CLIVEN BUNDY CASE. The Los Angeles Times (7/8, Glionna, 3.46M) reports that "the tense face-off over a Nevada rancher's right to graze his cattle on federal land has spilled over into a public squabble after the Bureau of Land Management and Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie issued conflicting statements over their lack of cooperation in an armed federal raid in April at Bundy's high-desert ranch." In a statement released Monday to the Los Angeles Times, the BLM "expressed its dismay that Gillespie had declined at the 11th hour to support federal agents as they moved in to round up hundreds of cattle officials say Bundy had grazed on federal land for decades without paying the required fees." The article notes that "last week, Gillespie said federal officials escalated an already tense standoff by ignoring his advice to delay the roundup." However, "both agencies agree on one thing: that Bundy and his family overstepped their legal rights by hosting the armed militia on that Saturday in April and should be held accountable."

Also covering the story are the Raw Story (7/6, 71K) and the Mail Online (UK) (7/8, 2.97M).

CONSERVATION GROUPS PRAISE SAGE GROUSE PLAN FOR NEVADA FORESTS. The E&E Daily (7/7)

reports that "conservation groups that have been highly critical of federal efforts to protect the imperiled greater sage grouse offered faint praise for a new Forest Service proposal to protect a subpopulation in and around the largest national forest in the continental United States." The article notes that "at issue is the draft environmental impact statement(EIS) released last week by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada that proposes amending the forest's land use plan to incorporate policies to protect the unique population of sage grouse, commonly referred to as the 'bi-state' or Mono Basin population." The BLM is also "exploring amending the resource management plans (RMPs) at two field offices as a result of the draft EIS."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SENATE VOTES ON BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S BILL. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "a package of bills to expand hunting, fishing and shooting opportunities on public lands will have a key test vote this evening in the Senate, offering another chance for a gridlocked upper chamber to pass popular legislation affecting the environment." According to the article, "while S. 2363, the 'Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act,' carries 45 co-sponsors and is backed by a bevy of sportsmen's and conservation groups spanning the political spectrum, many fear it could fall victim to the same partisan fights over amendments that have derailed bipartisan bills this year to boost energy efficiency and extend energy tax breaks." Moreover, "as the 2014 midterm election inches closer, proponents of the sportsmen's bill say the window of opportunity for Senate passage is quickly closing."

In its "Floor Action" blog, The Hill (7/7, Cox, 237K) reports that "the Senate voted to move forward on Monday with legislation aimed at preserving federal lands for hunting and fishing, despite objections from Democrats who wanted the measure to incluce gun control language."

Also covering the story is the New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/8, 678K).

SAGE GROUSE COULD AFFECT CONTROL OF SENATE. The Arizona Republic (7/7, 1.45M) reports that the greater sage grouse "could help determine whether Democrats or Republicans control the US Senate in the November elections." The federal government is considering listing the bird as an endangered species next year. According to the article, "doing so could limit development, energy exploration, hunting and ranching on the 165 million acres (67 million hectares) of the bird's habitat across 11 Western states." The article notes that "apart from the potential economic disruption, the specter of the bird's listing is reviving America's centuries-old debates about local vs. federal control and whether to develop or conserve the region's vast expanses of land," and "it has become a key issue in Senate races that are being closely watched because Republicans need to gain six seats in November to capture majority control of the Senate."

Efforts To Save Sage Grouse Criticized. For the "Congress" blog of The Hill (7/8, Graham, Seasholes, 237K), Carl Graham, director of the Sutherland Coalition for Self-Government in the West, and Brian Seasholes, director of the Endangered Species Project at the Reason Foundation, write that "the sage grouse, a large ground-dwelling bird that inhabits 165 million acres in nine Western states, appears headed for listing under the Act, much to the detriment of both the grouse and those with the greatest stake in preserving it." They claim that "over its 40-year history, the Endangered Species Act has often caused significant harm to the very species it is supposed to protect by unnecessarily creating adversaries of landowners harboring these species and pre-empting state conservation efforts." The authors argue that "for the sake of the sage grouse, and all imperiled species, this country needs a new approach to conserving endangered species that is based on rewarding — not punishing — landowners, and letting state experts take the lead." They conclude that "we need to head in a new, more promising direction so that landowners and resource users will willingly conserve, monitor and actively contribute to the successful conservation of endangered species."

HOUSE SUBPANEL EYES BIPARTISAN BILL TARGETING INVASIVE SPECIES ON PUBLIC LANDS. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that a House Natural Resources subpanel this week will "take up bipartisan legislation aimed at reducing invasive species on federal lands." H.R. 3994, the "Federal Lands Invasive Species Control, Prevention and Management Act," would "direct the secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture departments to carry out programs that would reduce invasive species on public lands by 5 percent every year." Also, the bill would "require that the departments would use no less than 75 percent of their budgets dedicated to invasives for on-the-ground control and management."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, INDUSTRY SPAR OVER PRAIRIE BIRDS. USA Today (7/7, 5.82M) reports that "a battle is brewing in the western USA over federal protections for four species of chickenlike birds with declining populations, setting up one of the most contentious fights over threatened species since environmentalists and business interests sparred over the northern spotted owl in the 1990s." The clash "intensified last month after three environmental groups sued the US Fish and Wildlife Service to try to force the agency to more aggressively protect the lesser prairie chicken — a bird the service placed on the threatened species list earlier this year." And "before the environmentalists' lawsuit, state, local and federal lawmakers decried the threatened species designation as overreach by the federal government that will hamper the energy and agriculture industries." The article notes that "Kansas and Oklahoma filed suit over the prairie chicken designation, and four New Mexico counties joined a suit by the Permian Basin Petroleum Association in Texas."

FWS ORDERS REVERSAL OF RECOMMENDATION TO LIST WOLVERINES AS THREATENED. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that the FWS has "reversed its stance on listing the wolverine as a threatened species, asking federal biologists to withdraw their conclusion that the estimated 300 animals left in the Lower 48 states deserve protections." According to agency documents, the decision was "based on uncertainties 'about the degree to which we can reliably predict impacts to wolverine populations from climate change.'"

The AP (7/8, Brown) reports that "a top federal wildlife official said there's too much uncertainty about climate change to prove it threatens the snow-loving wolverine – overruling agency scientists who warned of impending habitat loss for the 'mountain devil.'"

There's no doubt the high-elevation range of wolverines is getting warmer, US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Noreen Walsh said. But any assumption about how that will change snowfall patterns is "speculation," she said.

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (7/8, 4.22M), Yahoo! (7/8, Brown, 17.91M) , the US News & World Report (7/7, 645K), TIME (7/8, 24.1M), ABC News (7/8, 3.58M) , the Boston Herald (7/8, 783K) , the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (7/8, 85K) , the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (7/8, 90K) , the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/7, 687K) , the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (7/7, 210K), The Oregonian (7/8, 992K), and the Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/8, Brown, 1.48M).

FWS PROPOSES PAYING RANCHERS TO HELP FLORIDA PANTHER. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "federal wildlife officials are looking at paying ranchers, typically the sworn enemies of the Florida panther, to save the endangered cat." The FWS has "proposed paying landowners $22 an acre to dissuade them from selling increasingly scarce panther habitat to developers." Kevin Godsea, manager for the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, said, "It's really about buying us some time. We are never going to be able to purchase all the land that we are going to need to recover the species."

Also reporting on the story is The Hill (7/8, Cama, 237K).

FWS FINALIZES PROTECTIONS FOR TWO GARTER SNAKES. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that the FWS "this week will finalize protections for two garter snake species found in the southwestern United States." A final rule scheduled to be published in the Federal Register will "list as threatened the northern Mexican garter snake (Thamnophis eques megalops) and the narrow-headed garter (T. rufipunctatus)."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (7/8) and the Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (7/8, 1K).

WILDLIFE ADVOCATE CALLS FOR EXPANSION OF SNAKE BAN. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (7/7, 850K) reports that two years ago, the FWS "banned the import and sale of Burmese pythons and three other species of non-native snakes that have disrupted sensitive ecosystems, especially Florida's Everglades." Now the service is "considering banning five more snakes, including boa constrictors, for the same reason." In an email interview, the CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, Wayne Pacelle, "argued it's essential to expand the ban to protect the environment, the public — and the snakes themselves."

ANTIQUES HOLDERS HIRE FORMER AIDE TO SEN. REID IN IVORY BAN FIGHT. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "antiques holders have hired a former senior aide to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) for the lobbying battle over the Obama administration's ivory ban." Families Conserving Antiques, "an informal coalition of

the Gerstenfeld, Van Auken and Bruehl families, has brought on Martina Bradford of Bockorny Group Inc. to lobby on 'issues related to the administration's proposed update of regulations relative to the import and export of African elephant ivory antiques,' according to disclosure records released by the Senate last week."

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY: TIGHTER CONTROLS HAVE HELPED LOWER ACIDITY LEVELS IN RIVERS. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "new federal research concludes that acidity levels in some of the nation's largest rivers have steadily declined over the past six decades, and it credits tighter regulations of industrial and agricultural wastewater discharges and air pollution as a major factor." A study led by researchers with the USGS and "published in the journal Science for the Total Environment reviewed water quality data in 23 rivers between 1945 and 2010 from Connecticut to California and found that acidity levels in most have been decreasing for years." according to the USGS, "reduced acidity levels were most commonly found in rivers in the Northeast, such as the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers; the Midwest, such as the Illinois and Ohio rivers; and the Missouri River in the Great Plains."

CRITICS QUESTION ETHICS BEHIND USGS AUTHOR'S MOUNTAINTOP-REMOVAL STUDY. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "advocates associated with the coal industry are questioning the ethics surrounding a recent US Geological Survey study on the potential impacts of mountaintop-removal mining because of the lead author's wife." The study, "published in the peer-reviewed journal Freshwater Science, found a correlation between pollution related to coal mining and reduced fish populations." However, "for years coal industry advocates have questioned lead author Nathaniel Hitt's involvement in such research," because "the fish biologist is married to Mary Anne Hitt, director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR IG REPORT: BACKLOG IN DRILLING REQUESTS HURTS ENERGY INDUSTRY. The AP (7/8, 313K) reports that according to a report from the Interior Department Inspector General, backlogs in drilling permits at the Bureau of Land Management are "handicapping development across the US." Currently the BLM's Vernal, UT office is handling 50% of the annual Federal workload, the report found. The report found that applications for mining and drilling on public lands aren't a high priority at the agency. Furthermore, "supervisors don't track progress on the applications."

OKLAHOMA EXPERIENCES UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF EARTHQUAKES. Bloomberg News (7/8, Shauk, 2.76M) reports that Oklahoma is now the most seismically active state in the continental US with twice as many earthquakes as California this year alone. Although research connecting earthquakes to fracking is not conclusive, most seismologists are convinced that wastewater injected back into the ground is the cause. Austin Holland, Oklahoma's seismology chief, has said "if my research takes me to the point where we determine the safest thing to do is to shut down injection – and consequently production – in large portions of the state, then that's what we have to do." Oil companies, on the other hand, argue that "science isn't far enough along and that correlation... does not amount to proof."

EDITORIAL ARGUES COAL NOT GOING AWAY. In a Bloomberg News (7/8, Roston, 2.76M) editorial, Eric Roston argues that the current economics and politics of coal in the US will keep it relevant as a generation source through 2040, despite the "war" against it, unless there is a price on carbon emissions. He uses EIA models to predict that cheaper renewables "wouldn't make too much of a dent" in coal generation, but that a $25/ton carbon price would "basically shuts down U.S. coal production."

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE HEAD: INDUSTRY COOPERATION ON OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFETY NECESSARY. On Platts (7/8, 2K), BSEE Director Brian Salerno was interviewed about how the Gulf of Mexico is "rebounding from 2010's disastrous blowout of the BP Deepwater Horizon drilling rig."

The Hill (7/7, Barron-lopez, 237K) reports that Salerno said cooperation between the oil industry, contractors, and regulators is "critical" to safe offshore drilling. In an interview with Platts Energy Week Salerno said, "In the offshore industry have operators, multiple contractors, and subcontractors. So the challenge really is to get all of them to work together seamlessly and safely."

Also reporting on the story are the FuelFix (7/7, 7K) and KROI-FM Houston (7/8, 725).

SEN. LANDRIEU HOLDS FIELD HEARING IN LOUISIANA. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Mary Landrieu "continues her election-year push" on Monday "for more offshore energy production in her home state with a field hearing in Lafayette, La., on drilling on the outer continental shelf." According to the article, "along with industry witnesses, including a representative from Royal Dutch Shell PLC's US arm, the Louisiana Democrat will highlight the opportunities for more oil and gas production offshore and the jobs that could be created through increased production." Landrieu also "intends to examine permitting hurdles and the possibility of removing regulations viewed as costly and unnecessary."

Also covering the story are Roll Call (7/8, 76K), the Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (7/8, Gunn, 22K), the Lafayette (LA) Daily Advertiser (7/7, 111K), KATC-TV Lafayette, LA (7/8, 16K), and KLFY-TV Lafayette, LA (7/8, 6K).

BSEE TESTING STATIONARY SKIMMER SYSTEMS' EFFECTIVENESS. The Environmental Protection (7/7, 293) reports that the BSEE "recently began testing the effectiveness of stationary skimmer systems that remove oil from the surface of the water." According to he article, "the tests are being done at Ohmsett, the bureau's National Oil Spill Response Research and Renewable Energy Test Facility."

BOEM TO HOLD TWO MEETINGS ON PROPOSED GULF OIL LEASE SALES. The Panama City (FL) News Herald (7/8, 98K) reports that the BOEM will "hold two public meetings in Panama City Tuesday to discuss two proposed oil and natural gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Florida, Alabama and Louisiana." The bureau is "in the process of preparing a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed new lease areas, which will provide an analysis of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of oil and natural gas leasing, exploration, development and production in the Gulf."

OVERSEAS INVESTORS SUE BP FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON DAMAGES. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/7, Larino, 678K) reports that according to The Guardian, a group of foreign investors is suing BP for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill. The suits follow recent US Federal court rulings enabling "overseas shareholders to bring cases against BP in the US."

BP CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR RESPONDS TO COMPANY'S CRITICISM. The Baton Rouge (LA) Business Report (7/7, 625) reports that BP claims administrator Patrick Juneau is responding to criticism by BP over his handling of the claims process. In a recent interview, Juneau countered, "BP's CEO Bob Dudley said I was willfully misinterpreting the settlement; that's a lie and, yes, it is actionable. BP agreed to the settlement and its terms and it had the advice of some of the best attorneys in the world. The federal courts have upheld the settlement process as valid – repeatedly." In response, BP senior vice president Geoff Morrell said in an email, "BP has for some time expressed its concerns about what we believe to be the mismanagement of the claims facility and the misinterpretation of the settlement agreement."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA'S NEW RIVER COULD BE POISED FOR COMEBACK. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "California's long-polluted New River – accidentally created more than a century ago when the Colorado River overran its levees – could be poised for a comeback." US and Mexican agencies are "spending at least another $100 million to install a trash screen and build a disinfection facility as part of what's expected to be at least a decade long effort to bring the river's water quality to US environmental standards." The article notes that "with California in the midst of a crippling drought, if the New River is properly restored, it could play a role in helping the state cope with the water shortage, officials say."

CALIFORNIA OIL FIELD SELLING WATER TO DROUGHT STRICKEN COMMUNITIES. The New York Times

(7/8, Onishi, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in addition to the 70,000 barrels of oil it yields each day, California's Kern River oil field "produces 10 times more of something that, at least during California's continuing drought, has become more valuable to many locals and has experienced the kind of price spike more familiar to oil: water." Chevron, which owns the field, "sells millions of gallons every day to a local water district that distributes it to farmers growing almonds, pistachios, citrus fruits and other crops." The Times notes that while the oil industry has been criticized "for its use of water, especially in the process known as fracking," it is "focusing on efforts to conserve and recycle water — or, in this case, to increase the available supply for irrigation." Critics, however, "dismiss the water conservation measures as political ploys."

BOR CRITICIZED FOR CUTTING OFF WATER TO MARIJUANA GROWERS. In an op-ed for USA Today (7/8, 5.82M), Jonathan Turley, the Shapiro Professor of Public Interest Law at George Washington University, writes that although the Obama Administration has "pledged to respect state laws, it is quietly going in the opposite direction by cutting off water" to marijuana growers. BOR spokesman Dan DuBray insists that the agency "is obligated to adhere to federal law." However, Turley argues that "that position is inconsistent with the actions of the Obama administration in other areas."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA REJECTS APPLICATION FOR PARK CITY TRIBAL CASINO. The AP (7/8, Hegeman) reports that "the federal government has refused to accept a tract of suburban Wichita land into trust so an Indian tribe can build a casino there, the Kansas Attorney General's Office said Monday." According to the article, "a July 3 letter from the Interior Department shows the agency rejected the request from the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma to take the land into trust." The tribe said "it was disappointed in the decision," but Attorney General Derek Schmidt "lauded the decision, saying in a written statement that the Interior Department reached the correct legal conclusion in disallowing the application."

Also reporting on the story are the Joplin (MO) Globe (7/8, 64K), the Wichita (KS) Eagle (7/8, Mann, Lowry, 313K), the Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (7/7, 177K), KWCH-TV Wichita, KS (7/8, 44K), and KSNW-TV Wichita, KS (7/7, 26K).

TRIBE RECEIVES RESERVATION STATUS ON PROPOSED CASINO LAND. The Glendale (AZ) Star (7/8, 20K) reports that BIA chief Kevin Washburn "issued his decision July 3 in favor of the Nation regarding its reservation trust status on property it owns at 95th and Northern avenues, 135 acres of unincorporated land completely surrounded by the City of Glendale." Ned Norris Jr., chairman of the Nation, said, "Today's ruling by the Department of the Interior allows the Nation to move another step closer to benefiting from the United States' promise to the Nation that we would be able to replace our destroyed reservation lands. The nation is eager to move forward to use our replacement land to create thousands of new jobs in the West Valley."

CONGRESSMEN SUPPORT CATAWBA IN CASINO PLANS. The Shelby (NC) Star (7/8, 43K) reports that "three longtime congressmen have urged the Interior Department to approve the Catawba Indian Nation's trust application for land in Kings Mountain, where it plans to build a casino, arguing that justice will be served by doing so." In recent letters to the Interior Department, Congressman Jim Moran, Congressman George Miller, and former Democratic Congressman and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said "now is the time for the federal government to fulfill its trust responsibility and the promises made in the 1993 Catawba Indian Land Claims Settlement Act." However, "the Nation still faces fierce opposition from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians–a tribe that wants to lock out all gaming competition in the state."

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE: "MOST" CHILDREN ENTERING US ILLEGALLY WILL BE DEPORTED. The ongoing crisis along the US border with Mexico continues to get a great deal of national media attention, including a front-page article in this morning's the New York Times (7/8, A1, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 9.65M). However, the coverage on the network newscasts has diminished to the point where only NBC Nightly News (7/7, story 7, 2:35, Williams, 7.86M) had a full segment on the immigration debate on Monday evening. On the other hand, the surge in illegal immigration from Central America was the lead story on every prime-time Fox News program on Monday, and was the dominant topic of discussion throughout the night. For instance, at the opening of Fox

News' On The Record (7/7, 1.65M), Greta Van Susteren said, "This is a Fox News alert: the crisis at our border is getting worse" with "another plane full of Central American immigrants, mostly children traveling alone, landing in San Diego."

In a brief item for the CBS Evening News (7/7, story 6, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that on Monday, "more illegal immigrants were flown from Texas to San Diego." According to Pelley, "52,000 unaccompanied children have been caught at the border since October," and the White House maintains that "the law requires the US to send most of the children home." On NBC Nightly News (7/7, story 7, 2:35, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams also reported that on Monday, "the White House said...most of the children coming across the border will be deported back their home countries."

The AP (7/8, Babington, 11.54M) also reports that on Monday, in a "pointed warning," White House press secretary Josh Earnest said "most unaccompanied children arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border are unlikely to qualify for humanitarian relief that would prevent them from being sent back from their home countries." But the AP notes that "the administration will allow the immigration review process to take place," and "it's unclear how quickly that process will unfold." According to the AP, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson "acknowledged Sunday that such proceedings might be long delayed." The Washington Post (7/8, Zezima, 4.22M) says Earnest's "pointed response comes a day after...Johnson danced around questions over whether the children would be allowed to stay in the United States."

The AP (7/8, Werner, Kuhnhenn) reports that according to unidentified "congressional aide," President Obama "is holding off for now on seeking new legal authority to send unaccompanied migrant kids back home faster," but will nevertheless "ask Congress on Tuesday for more than $2 billion in emergency spending to deal with the children who've been arriving by the thousands from Central America." The New York Times (7/8, A1, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein says the President already has "flexibility to accelerate the judicial process in times of crisis." Feinstein says the administration "should use that flexibility to speed up the system."

Politico (7/7, Kim, 637K) notes that the President had "signaled last week that" he would "request...expanded legal authority to respond to the influx of minors." However, according to Politico, "immigrant-rights groups were furious" after learning that the President wanted to curtail illegal immigration, so "when the White House sends its funding request on Tuesday, it won't include major policy changes, such as the broader legal authority that would effectively make it easier to send these migrant children home."

In the lead story for Fox News' Special Report (7/7, 2.15M), Sen. Lindsey Graham was shown claiming that the President "has sent out a message – whether he knows it or not – 'if you get to America you can stay.'" According to White House correspondent Ed Henry, "That message was reinforced on Sunday when Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson dodged questions whether the children will be deported to Central America." Henry went on to report that "while the administration has seemed surprised by the crisis," there are "signs they knew it was coming." Henry noted that in January, the Department of Homeland Security "began shopping for contractors to move kids around the United States saying, 'there will be approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children in total."

Also on Fox News' Special Report (7/7, 2.15M), the Weekly Standard's Steve Hayes noted that Administration officials, including former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, have repeatedly insisted that "the borders are secure." Hayes continued, "That was the key argument of the pro-reform crowd," but "now you have these same people saying in effect, 'we can't really do anything about this surge.'" Likewise, on Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (7/8, 2.53M), Ed Henry said "the ultimate debacle...for the President is that for years now, he has been saying...'we can have comprehensive immigration reform because the border is secure,'" which has "blown up on him."

Obama's Decision To Bypass Border While In Texas For Fundraisers Draws Scrutiny. The Hill (7/7, Sink, 237K) notes that the President is "set to travel to Texas, the center of a growing firestorm over the nation's inability to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the country." According to The Hill, the President will appear at fundraisers in Dallas and Austin, but "has no plans to visit the border" despite having "come under criticism from members of both parties over the wave of immigrants." The Hill also notes that on MSNBC on Monday, Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), the co-chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said "the borderlands deserve a

presidential visit."

The Washington Post (7/8, Zezima, 4.22M) reports that on Monday, White House press secretary Josh Earnest "said the administration is 'not worried about those optics' of the president fundraising while what the administration has called an 'urgent humanitarian situation' is happening hundreds of miles away."

The Washington Times (7/8, Chasmar, 455K) reported that on MSNBC's The Daily Rundown on Monday, "panelists...seemed puzzled by the president's refusal to visit the U.S.-Mexico border while he fundraises in Texas, with USA Today reporter Susan Page calling the decision Mr. Obama's 'Katrina moment.'" Page asked rhetorically, "And you're going to a fundraiser and not going to the border where there's this crisis?" The Daily Caller (7/7, Hoefer, 408K) notes that on the same program, Chuck Todd "suggested that Democrats are avoiding talking about immigration reform," and the Washington Post's Dan Balz "agreed" that the Administration's "unpopular stance on immigration reform could motivate Republican voters."

Asked, on Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (7/8, 2.53M), if he thinks it is "a mistake" for the President to travel to Texas for fundraisers but not take a first-hand look at the border crisis, Fox's Ed Henry said, "I think it could blow up in the President's face because it is not just Republicans like Rick Perry demanding that he go to the border, now you have a Democrat, [Rep.] Henry Cuellar...saying not only should the President go to the border, but that he has been slow to react."

In his opening monologue for Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (7/7, 2.53M), Bill O'Reilly said it is "very strange" that the President is "traveling to Texas this week but is not going to the border." O'Reilly went on to say that the President "has made a few statements about the border meltdown, but not many – perhaps because the stats are so grim."

First Lady Will Speak To The League of United Latin American Citizens On Thursday. The AP (7/8, Superville) reports that First Lady Michelle Obama "is scheduled Thursday to address the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, during its meeting in New York City."

NYTimes A1 Analysis: Bush-Signed Trafficking Law "At The Root" Of Border Crisis. In a front-page article titled, "Immigrant Surge Rooted In Law To Curb Child Trafficking," the New York Times (7/8, A1, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "one of the final pieces of legislation signed into law by President George W. Bush," the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, "is at the root of the potentially calamitous flow of unaccompanied minors to the nation's southern border." The Times says that while the law "gave substantial new protections to children entering the country alone who were not from Mexico or Canada by prohibiting them from being quickly sent back to their country of origin." The Times goes on to report that the law "required" that children entering the US illegally "be given an opportunity to appear at an immigration hearing and consult with an advocate."

Surge Of Illegal Immigration Partly Attributed To Widespread Central American Gang Violence. According to McClatchy (7/7, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 23K), analysts warn that in El Salvador, "as the gangs deepen connections with regional organized-crime groups involved in drug, weapons and human trafficking, they present a direct challenge to state control over the tiny Central American nation." McClatchy says "the chaos...provides an incentive for Salvadorans to try to flee north for the safety of the United States." McClatchy adds that those "trying to explain the huge increase in children and teens who've arrived in the United States say anecdotal evidence points at least in part to the hold that criminal gangs have in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala."

On NBC Nightly News (7/7, story 7, 2:35, Williams, 7.86M), Stephanie Gosk reported from Honduras that when she asked "teenagers who live in San Paola Sula – what many call the 'murder capital of the world'" – if they "want go to the US, every hand went up." Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (7/7, Munro, 408K), says "most of the border-crossing migrant youths are arriving from...Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador," which have "an estimated population 12 million children."

Illegal Immigrants Have Not Been Sent To Murrieta Since Bus Convoy Was Repelled On July 1. According to the Los Angeles Times (7/8, Hansen, 3.46M), "Dozens of protesters gathered Monday in Murrieta to challenge the expected arrival of buses carrying detained immigrants to a Border Patrol station." However, according to the

Times, the protesters "waited in vain as the buses they thought would head their way instead traveled to a Border Patrol facility in San Ysidro, in San Diego County."

Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (7/7, Munro, 408K), makes the case that the Administration is "trying to minimize the public's opposition" to the Administration's policy of ferrying of illegal immigrants to communities within the US. Munro notes that since protesters in Murrieta "blocked a July 1 federal transfer of roughly 140 border-crossing adults and their children into their community," the Administration "hasn't supplied another convoy of Central American migrants to ignite a TV-ready clash."

Goodlatte: Central Americans In US Illegally Are Paying To Have Their Children Brought Here. Appearing on Fox News' On The Record (7/7, 1.65M), House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), who represented immigrants seeking citizenship as an attorney before coming to Congress, said that in a recent visit to the border region, border patrol agents "said that overwhelmingly what" the unaccompanied minors "say they want is to be reunified with their parents who are already illegally in the United States." Goodlatte continued, "Many of them are just...turning themselves in very willfully, knowing that after they are held for a few hours they are going to be released into the interior of the United States – adults with work authorization, children oftentimes sent to their parents who are already illegally here."

McCain, Graham: US Should Withhold Aid From Central American Countries. Roll Call (7/7, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 76K) reports that Sen. John McCain, on of the authors of the comprehensive immigration reform plan that was approved by the Senate last year, "is calling for at least threatening to cut aid to Central American countries that don't take steps to stop the flow of unaccompanied migrant children to the United States." In a radio interview, McCain said, "We should tell these countries in Central America that no more aid, no more assistance, no nothing until they stop this from happening."

On Fox News' Special Report (7/7, 2.15M), Sen. Lindsey Graham, another prominent Republican supporter of comprehensive immigration reform, was shown saying, "I would put on the table cutting off any foreign assistance to these countries until they embrace solving this problem."

Pentagon Reportedly Planning To House More Illegal Immigrants On Military Bases. According to the Washington Times (7/8, Ybarra, 455K), the Pentagon "is considering extending its parameters for harboring illegal immigrant children on military bases," and "is also in talks with the U.S. Department of Health and Human services to extend the number of days that the children can stay on government property."

Arizona Must Give Drivers Licenses To Illegal Immigrants Covered By Obama's Deferred Action. The AP (7/8, Billeaud, 11.54M) reports that the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has "sided with advocates for young immigrants who argued that Arizona's policy of denying them driver's licenses even though they had work permits under an Obama administration policy violated their equal protection rights." The AP notes that in June 2012, President Obama blocked any deportations of those living in the US illegally if they first arrived "before they turned 16" and had "been in the country for at least five continuous years," and declared that they "were allowed to apply for a two-year renewable work permit." According to the AP, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer then "direct[ed] state agencies to deny driver's licenses...to young immigrants who get work authorization under the program."

The Washington Times (7/8, Dinan, 455K) reports that on Monday, Brewer said, "The ruling is especially disturbing given the current influx of illegal aliens, a crisis President Obama created and escalated." The New York Times (7/8, Santos, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) notes that "in a separate opinion, one of the judges...also said that the plaintiffs had 'persuasively argued' that Arizona's driver's license policy creates 'a new type of alien status,' therefore usurping the federal government's role in determining immigration policy." The Times notes that Nebraska is "the only other state to deny driver's licenses to immigrants in the deferred-deportation program."

LA Mayor: LAPD Will No Longer Keep "Deportable Inmates" In Jail Without A Judge's Order. The Los Angeles Times (7/8, Hansen, 3.46M) reports that on Monday, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti "announced that Los Angeles would become one of several major U.S. cities that will no longer keep deportable inmates in prison past their jail term without a judge's orders – a seeming rebuke to federal immigration officials." Another Los Angeles Times (7/8, Reyes, 3.46M) article notes that Garcetti made his announcement on Monday "alongside a cheering crowd of immigrant advocates." An editorial in the Los Angeles Times (7/8, Board, 3.46M) praises

Garcetti's decision, saying it, "and similar dominoes-like responses by local governments, are proper, and affirm a basic civil liberty: the right to due process."

Wickham: Unaccompanied Minors Should Be Flown To Guantanamo Bay. In his column for USA Today (7/8, 5.82M), DeWayne Wickham suggests that unaccompanied minors trying to enter the US illegally should be flown to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which he notes was "used in the 1990s as a detention camp for Haitians escaping bloodshed." Wickham notes that the Guantanamo Bay Navy base "boasts movie theaters, American fast-food restaurants and excellent recreational facilities."

TIGHTER SECURITY MEASURES TAKE EFFECT AT OVERSEAS AIRPORTS. The increased security measures at overseas airports for US-bound passengers led two of the three network news broadcasts Monday evening. The reports were all similar, noting that while US officials are concerned that terrorist groups including AQAP are developing explosive devices that are capable of making it through airport security undetected, there is currently no specific threat. ABC World News (7/7, story 3, 2:35, Ross) reported that US officials "say they fear a threat to US-bound aircraft from Jihadists with Western passports now in Syria and Iraq, carrying bombs designed by a master al Qaeda bomb maker." According to US intelligence reports, "the bombs could be carried in electronics. So, that's why travelers on select flights into the US from overseas are being told they must turn on their electronic devices at security checkpoints before boarding flights. The enhanced security steps were put in place over the weekend across the Middle East and Europe, including today at London's Heathrow Airport."

The CBS Evening News (7/7, lead story, 2:35, Orr, 5.08M) reported in its lead story that as security on overseas flights bound for the US is tightened, "al Qaeda's most dangerous wing is out with a propaganda tape celebrating the attempted underwear bombing of 2009." While the attack was not successful, it "demonstrated al Qaeda's ability to reach the US with a hidden bomb. And officials fear terrorists will try again. ... To reduce the risk, US-bound passengers at 20 foreign airports are being required to turn on their electronics to demonstrate the devices are actually phones and laptops and not bombs." Orr added that there is no intelligence that "that terrorists are targeting any domestic flights, so for now, there are no security changes planned at airports inside the US."

In its lead story, NBC Nightly News (7/7, lead story, 3:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported that "air security is ramping up around the world and many are wondering is domestic travel where we will see the next round of changes?" Tom Costello added, "Travelers in Europe flying to America could be facing big delays with those beefed-up restrictions turning airports like Heathrow, one of the world's busiest, into centers of mass confusion." Costello added that that according to security sources, while there is "no specific immediate threat, this is a general ongoing concern they have. The challenge for foreign airports is to balance the security procedures with a busy beginning of the summer tourist season."

Pamela Brown reported on CNN's Situation Room (7/7, 554K) that the increased security comes "as new intelligence warns terrorist groups including al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula are intent on developing new bombs capable of fooling airport security measures. The TSA is now asking airports in the Middle East, Europe and Africa to watch passengers turn their devices on before boarding US direct flights. And if those devices don't power up, they won't be permitted on board the aircraft."

The New York Times (7/8, Nixon, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the TSA would not say how long the new security procedures "would remain in place, nor would it specify the countries or airports that would be affected."

OBAMA, DUNCAN LAUNCH TEACHER EQUITY INITIATIVE AMID TENSION WITH THE NEA. The AP (7/8, Hefling) reports that the National Education Association "adopted a business item July 4 at its annual convention in Denver that called for...[the] resignation" of Education Secretary Arne Duncan, which, according to the AP, "underscores the long-standing tension between the Obama administration and teachers' unions – historically a steadfast Democratic ally." The AP says that the "tipping point for some members was Duncan's statement last month in support of a California judge's ruling that struck down tenure and other job protections for...public school teachers." The AP reports that on Monday, Duncan declined to comment on the NEA's call for his resignation, saying, "I always try to stay out of local union politics. I think most teachers do too,."

According to Politico (7/7, Simon, Emma, 637K), President Obama's "video address at the opening of' the NEA convention last week "got tepid applause — nothing like the cheers and screams that greeted union leaders when

they took the stage." Politico also notes that on Monday, Duncan pointed out that "the president of the other major teachers union, the American Federation of Teachers, was joining him Monday for the rollout of [a] teacher equity proposal."

The Washington Times (7/8, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that on Monday at the White House, President Obama "sat down for lunch with educators and rolled out a new initiative to support quality educators in low-income areas across the country." The Times says Duncan "told reporters the new plan calls on states to develop their own methods for ensuring the best teachers aren't clustered in affluent, suburban districts, where student achievement scores typically are higher." The Times adds that Duncan emphasized that "the initiative will be supported with $4.2 million in federal money and requires no action from Congress."

The Wall Street Journal (7/8, Sparshott, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that on Monday, Duncan said, "Of particular concern is the fact that typically the least experienced teachers...often end up in the poorest schools." The Hill (7/7, Shabad, 237K) reported that "as part of the initiative, the Department of Education will ask states to...create 'equity plans' to guarantee all students have effective educators."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Four Horrific Killings."*** The New York Times (7/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that the spiral of teenager deaths "should cause" the Jewish and Palestinian "communities to think again about the need for a permanent peace, but the loss of four young men may not be motivation enough."

"Germany And The Minimum Wage." In an editorial, the New York Times (7/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) praises Germany's expected passage this week of a measure "to set a nationwide minimum wage of 8.50 euros an hour, about $11.60, effective in 2015," noting that "a solid wage floor ensures that economic growth is broadly shared even by those who fall outside the collectively bargained framework." The Times argues that the move "offers the United States important lessons, if only lawmakers in Washington would learn."

"The Long Wait To See A Doctor." The New York Times (7/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, notes a "new survey...conducted by Merritt Hawkins," which found while "Americans are already experiencing long waits to get doctor's appointments...the delays are bound to get worse when millions of previously uninsured Americans get health coverage under the Affordable Care Act." According to the Times, there are "ways to reduce wait times, like increasing primary care doctors, allowing nurses and physicians' assistants to provide more care and opening more primary care clinics."

"New York's Mapmaking Scandal." The New York Times (7/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, criticizes Gov. Andrew Cuomo for having "signed onto a set of legislative maps in 2012 that were carefully designed to keep legislators safely in their jobs." The Times goes on to says that since then Cuomo and the New York legislators "came up with a counterfeit reform, a constitutional amendment on November's ballot that would only make matters worse and make it harder to clean up the whole inbred process for years to come."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Vetting vs. Abetting."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (7/8, 4.22M) says that the President's request that Congress appropriate $5 billion for a Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund "raises some disturbing questions" including what to do about "foreign units that receive U.S. training and funding," and "commit human rights abuses." The Post argues that while a provision like the Leahy amendment which "prohibits aid to units and individuals thought to be involved in gross human rights violations," should be built into the new program, the Administration "is seeking to neuter the Leahy amendment by giving the defense secretary the authority to disregard it by asserting that 'it is in the national security interest to do so.'" The Post calls on Congress to reject the exemption, arguing that "allowing aid to flow to foreign military units that commit major human rights crimes cannot be in the U.S. interest in any circumstances."

"Shevardnadze's Legacy." In an editorial this morning, the Washington Post (7/8, 4.22M) criticizes Eduard Sheveardnadze's "misrule as president of independent Georgia," calling it "lamentable," but says he "must be remembered, first and foremost, for those fleeting but inspiring years of glasnost and new thinking at the side of Mr. Gorbachev."

"A Challenge, Not A Catastrophe." An editorial in the Washington Post (7/8, 4.22M) says that despite the "overblown" conclusions reached by ACA critics, judging from "reports that the Obama administration found nearly 3 million discrepancies between what enrollees reported when they signed up for Affordable Care Act insurance and what federal records show about them," there is "more reason for encouragement from recent news about the act than there is to decry its problems." The Post argues that the "right response is to get better at catching and resolving errors faster, not to condemn the system," adding that the Administration "faces another Affordable Care Act management challenge, not a policy disaster."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"West Chester USA."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) examines the efforts of Westchester County, NY Executive Rob Astorino, who is the Republican candidate for governor of New York, to comply with a 2009 housing settlement with the Federal government. The Journal decries accusations that Astorino has violated anti-discrimination laws, and notes that between 2000 and 2010, the number of minorities living in the county increased by 56 percent. The Journal argues that Federal officials are pressuring the county to toughen its zoning ordinances, and it lauds Astorino for standing up to this pressure.

"Where's Jim Comey?" The Wall Street Journal (7/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, says the revelations about the missing emails from Lois Lerner to the White House, as well as other IRS officials' emails, are leading some in Congress to question whether or not the FBI is actually investigating the improper targeting of Administration critics as FBI Director James Comey claims it is. According to the Journal, Comey never told Congress that the emails were unaccounted for even though that would have been immediately apparent to the FBI once it began to look into Lerner's correspondence.

"Germany's Fracking Follies." The Wall Street Journal (7/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) in an editorial criticizes Germany for proposing a fracking ban during a time when the crisis in Ukraine makes it apparent that Europe needs to diversify its gas supplies. The Journal argue that such a ban would leave Germany vulnerable to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Some Still Lack Coverage Under Health Law
Ukraine Advances, Putin Stays Silent
Wal-Mart Shrinks The Big Box
Banks' Cuts Fall Short As Growth Stays Tepid

New York Times:
Welcome To The Everything Boom (Or Bubble?)
Immigrant Surge Rooted In Law To Curb Child Trafficking
Wall Street Offers Clinton A Thorny Embrace
Ukraine Rebels Are Retreating For Last Stand
Jihadis Tug At Edges Of A Staunch American Ally
Not Over Till Overtime's Due? Met Labor Strife Bares Secrets

Washington Post:
World Record*: Biggest Flying Bird (*Wind-Aided)
Before He Took His First Breath
Obama Hardens Tone On Border
Evidence Said To Tie Smear Plot To Cuba
US-China Relations Sour As Tensions Spiral In Asia

Financial Times:
ECB Under Pressure To Rein In 'Crazy' Euro
Celebrity Investors Face Tax Crackdown

Gotham City Vows To Continue Its Crusade
EU Banks To Sell €100bn Loans
Petsmart Under Growing Pressure For Sale
HSBC Modifies Hong Kong Report
French Bemoan Dollar In A League Of Its Own

Washington Times:
Harry's Rules: Reid Dominates Crippled Congress
Tennessee Long Shot Is Tea Party's Best Hope
The Art Of The Autograph
Arizona Dreamers Can Now Get Licenses
Leader's Emergence Sign Of ISIL Bravado
Ukrainian Rebels: Putin Abandoned Us

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Japan-Typhoon; Chicago Gun Violence; Iraq-Terrorist; Israel-Turmoil; Vatican-Sex Abuse Victim Meeting; Real Money-Phone Repair; Washington-Recreational Marijuana Sale; Military-Dog Rescue.
CBS: Iraq Terrorist-Security; Iraq-Government Turmoil; Iraq-Terrorist Destruction; German Intelligence-Spying Allegations; Israel-Palestine Turmoil; Children Immigrants; Runway Close Calls; Tour De France.
NBC: International Airport Security; Chicago Violence; NFL-Injury Lawsuit; Israel Turmoil; Vatican-Sexual Abuse; Japan-Typhoon; Children Immigration; Medical-Ovarian Cancer Detection; Al Baghdadi Appearance.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Roller coaster Derailment; Israel-Gaza Attacks; Japan-Typhoon; Obama-Immigration Funding Request.
CBS: Children Immigration; Obama-Afghanistan Election Results; Kerry-Afghanistan Statement; Palestinian-US Teen Beaten; Israel-Gaza Attacks; NFL-Head Injury Lawsuit; Dow Down.
NPR: Israel-Palestine Turmoil; Washington-Recreational Marijuana Sale; Roller Coaster Derailment; West Coast Shipping Lines-Truckers Strike; Children Immigration; Philadelphia-Firefighter Controversy; California Wildfire.
FOX: Israel-Palestine Turmoil; Obama-Border Funding Request; Gun Control Debate; Six Flags-Rollercoaster Derailed; Washington-Recreational Marijuana Sale.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Welcomes NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen to the White House, in which he looks forward to discussing with the Secretary General the crisis in Ukraine and related reassurance measures for our NATO allies, improving allied defense investment, further work on bolstering NATOs network of partners, and NATOs post-2014 non-combat mission in Afghanistan; travels to Denver, CO area where he will remain overnight.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Participates in a roundtable discussion with students who have overcome substantial personal challenges to graduate from high school.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Closed meeting to receive testimony on the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Witnesses: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel; Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-07-08-situations-in-iraq-and-afghanistan
Location: SVC-217, The Office of Senate Security in the Capitol Visitor Center.

10 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Combating Forced Labor and Modern-Day Slavery in East Asia And The Pacific. Witnesses: Panel One: Scot Marciel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary For East Asian And Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-At-Large For The Office To Monitor And Combat, Trafficking In Persons, U.S. Department of State. Panel Two: Neha Misra, Senior Specialist, Migration & Human Trafficking, Solidarity Center; Jesse Eaves, Senior Policy Advisor For Child Protection, World Vision. Location:

419 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Subcommittee on Children and Families hearings to examine the challenges of prevention and identification in child trafficking and private re-homing. Panel: JooYeun Chang , Associate Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services Childrens Bureau, Washington, DC; Abigail English , Director, Center for Adolescent Health & the Law, Chapel Hill, NC; Jenee' Littrell , Assistant Principal, Grossmont Union High School District, San Diego County, CA ; Megan Twohey , Investigative Reporter, Thomson Reuters, New York, NY. Location: 430 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Subcommittee on European Affairs hearing on Renewed Focus on European Energy Security. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/renewed-focus-on-european-energy-07-08-14p Location: 419 Dirksen.
US House: 2 p.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: H-144 in the U.S. Capitol.

12 p.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules: 1) H.R. 1528 – Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act (Sponsored by Rep. Kurt Schrader / Energy and Commerce Committee); 2) H.R. 4653 – To reauthorize the United States Commissions on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Frank Wolf / Foreign Affairs Committee); 3) H.Res. 588 – Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Collin Peterson / Foreign Affairs Committee); 4) H.R. 3488 – The Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014 (Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Meehan / Homeland Security Committee); 5) H.R. 4007 – The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Meehan / Homeland Security Committee); 6) H.R. 4263 – The Social Media Working Group Act of 2014 (Sponsored by Rep. Susan Brooks / Homeland Security Committee); 7) H.R. 4812 – The Honor Flight Act (Sponsored by Rep. Cedric Richmond / Homeland Security Committee); 8) H.R. 4289 – The Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act (Sponsored by Rep. Donald Payne / Homeland Security Committee).

7:30 p.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS — Full Committee holds hearing on "Whistleblowers: Exposing Inadequate Service Provided to Veterans and Ensuring Appropriate Accountability. http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/va-whistleblowers-exposing-inadequate-service-provided-to-veterans-and-ensuring-appropriate Location: 334 Cannon.
Other: July 7 – 9. SECRETARY JOHNSON — Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson will travel to Florida and Guatemala. On July 7-8, Secretary Johnson will travel to Miami where he will visit the National Hurricane Center to discuss hurricane season, meet with U.S. Coast Guard District Seven leadership, and meet with the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) leadership. From July 8-9, Secretary Johnson and USSOUTHCOM Commander General John Kelly will travel to Guatemala where they will participate in meetings with the Government of Guatemala to discuss issues of mutual concern, including ongoing government-wide response to the influx of adults, families, and unaccompanied children across the southwest border. Contact: DHS Press Office, (202) 282-8010

July 8 – 11. U.S. BLACK CHAMBERS CONFERENCE — USBC 2014 School of Chamber and Business Management (SCBM) conference. Speakers include Rev. Jesse Jackson and an advocacy day. http://usblackchamber.chambermaster.com/events/details/2014-usbc-school-of-chamber-business-management-111 Location: Marriott Marquis, 901 Massachusetts Ave NW.

CAP – SENATOR BROWN — 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Welcoming remarks: Neera Tanden, Counselor, Center for American Progress Action Fund Keynote speaker: Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Chairman, Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy Subcommittee on the Senate Finance Committee Additional speakers: Melissa Boteach, Vice President, Half in Ten and Poverty and Prosperity Program, Center for American Progress Action Fund Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration; Virginia Reno, Vice President for Income Security, National Academy of Social Insurance; T.J. Sutcliffe, Director of Income and Housing Policy, The Arc of the United States; Eva Dominguez, Legislative Representative, Alliance for Retired Americans and Latinos for a Secure Retirement. Moderated by: Rebecca Vallas, Associate Director, Poverty to Prosperity Program, Center for American Progress Action Fund. Contact Katie Peters at kpeters@americanprogressaction.org or

202.741.6285. http://www.americanprogressaction.org/events/2014/06/30/92886/social-security-disability-insurance-what-does-it-mean-to-american-workers-and-their-families/?evlcrsvp Location: Center for American Progress Action Fund, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

CATO – OPERATION CHOKE POINT — 12 p.m. Discussion on DOJs "Operation Choke Point: Illegally Choking Off Legitimate Businesses?. Speakers: Congressman Darrell Issa (CA-49), Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Moderated by Mark Calabria, Director, Financial Regulation Studies, Cato Institute. http://www.cato.org/events/dojs-operation-choke-point-illegally-choking-legitimate-businesses?utm_sourceCato+Institute+Emails&utm_campaign3e887a9b20-events&utm_mediumemail&utm_term0_395878584c-3e887a9b20-141569086&mc_cid3e887a9b20&mc_eid20513483bd Location: Cato Institute, 1 Hayek Auditorium, 000 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

CATO – DIGITAL PRIVACY REFORM — 4 p.m. Youre Gonna Need a Warrant for That: The Path to Digital Privacy Reform. Speakers: Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX); Greg Nojeim, Senior Counsel and Director, Center for Democracy & Technology, Project on Freedom, Security and Technology; Katie McAuliffe, Executive Director for Digital Liberty, Americans for Tax Reform; David Lieber, Privacy Counsel, Google; and Eric Wenger, Policy Counsel, Microsoft. Moderated by Julian Sanchez, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute. http://www.cato.org To register: events@cato.org, fax (202) 371-0841, or call (202) 789-5229 by 4:00PM on Monday, July 7th. Location: Cato Institute, Hayek Auditorium, 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I've got to tell you congratulations to Joey Chestnut. On Friday, he won the big Fourth of July Nathan's hot dog eating contest. He ate 61 hot dogs in 10 minutes. Another guy was like, 'But I ate a hundred.' And the judges said, 'Well, you have to wait until we say go, Governor Christie.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "House Speaker John Boehner is threatening to sue President Obama for using executive actions to create laws instead of going through Congress first. And then Obama just shrugged and made a new law that said you can't sue the President."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, July 16, 2014

1 message

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To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Group Promotes Conservation As Key Issue With Western Voters.

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DOI in the News:

HOUSE PANEL SENDS INTERIOR-EPA SPENDING BILL TO THE FLOOR. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday "approved a fiscal 2015 spending plan for the Interior Department and US EPA after voting down several attempts by Democrats to eliminate policy riders blocking environmental regulations." The panel "voted 29-19 along party lines to send the $30.22 billion spending bill to the

House floor after 3½ hours of debate." The article notes that "the committee rejected all amendments to overturn what Democrats called 24 'problem' riders and shift wildfire funding."

SENATORS CALL FOR BETTER WAY TO FUND FIGHTING WILDFIRES. USA Today (7/16, Chebium, 5.82M) reports that a bipartisan group of senators called for finding "a better way to pay to fight wildfires," citing limitations on preventive work caused by rising costs. US Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell told Congress that while "the government has the money to pay to combat about 99% of the wildfires," a stable funding source is needed "to pay for the biggest blazes because they consume 30% of his agency's budget." Democrats back a bill they say would prevent the Forest Service and the Interior Department from raiding other parts of their budgets each year by "making wildfires eligible for assistance from a special disaster relief fund." In contrast, some GOP senators favor a bill requiring a focus on thinning Federal land and giving "the timber industry a greater role in the process."

Also covering the story is the Durango (CO) Herald (7/15, 28K).

HOUSE PANEL TO MARK UP BILLS ON SNAKE SPECIES, MAPPING OF FEDERAL LANDS. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee is set to "mark up a variety of measures, including legislation that would allow for the export of certain snake species and another bill aimed at mapping federal land." Among the measures to be voted on is H.R. 2158, which "would remove a ban on the export of five non-native constrictor snake species." The committee will also mark up H.R. 916, which "would direct the Interior Department to develop an inventory of all federal real estate holdings and to create a report identifying duplicative older inventories and potential cost savings."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF MEETINGS ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT. Covering the meetings to discuss a recognized native Hawaiian government, KGMB-TV Honolulu (7/16, 95K) discussed the issue with Dr. Keli'i Akina, president and CEO of Grassroot Institute of Hawaii.

PRESIDENT OBAMA SET TO ANNOUNCE HELP FOR CLIMATE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that President Obama will "personally roll out a series of new climate change adaptation actions... when he meets with members of his State, Local and Tribal Leaders Climate Task Force on Preparedness and Resilience." According to a White House official, "the announcement will focus on ways the administration can 'support state, local, and tribal leaders in preparing their communities, including electricity systems and infrastructure, for the impacts of climate change.'" The article notes that "the 24-member task force includes the governors of seven states and Guam and 18 officials from local and tribal governments."

The Hill (7/15, Barron-lopez, Cama, 237K) reports President Obama will "meet with the White House Climate Change Task Force on Preparedness and Resilience Wednesday to talk about new actions he plans to take through executive authority on climate change." The article notes that "the initiatives are expected to help state, local and tribal leaders better prepare electricity systems and infrastructure in their communities for climate change impacts."

Climate Change Skeptic Profiled. The New York Times (7/16, Wines, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) profiles University of Alabama professor of atmospheric science John Christy, who "argues that predictions of future warming have been greatly overstated" and that, instead of controlling carbon emissions people should be "adapting to what he says will be moderately warmer temperatures."

FORMER INTERIOR CHIEF OPPOSES PEBBLE MINING PROJECT. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has "expressed opposition to the Pebble copper and gold mining project in Alaska and is defending US EPA's potential veto of key permits." In a Seattle Times op-ed, Babbitt wrote, "This is a nation accustomed to making tough choices between the development and protection of our natural resources." He said, "When I served as US secretary of the Interior, the country weighed the merits and risks of offshore oil drilling and made decisions that were both difficult and controversial. But the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska is not a tough choice." The article notes that "Babbitt has been outspoken about contemporary controversial environmental issues, including opposing the proposed Izembek road in Alaska."

GROUP PROMOTES CONSERVATION AS KEY ISSUE WITH WESTERN VOTERS. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that Center for Western Priorities', a Denver-based conservation group, announced on Tuesday "it's

launching a campaign designed to 'educate' politicians and candidates about the importance Western voters place on conservation issues heading into the midterm elections." The group's "new campaign, titled 'Winning the West,' features online advertisements and a website that will include ongoing research and testimonials from Western voters." The article notes that "the campaign, which includes a $250,000 budget to buy space for the online ads, comes as land management and conservation funding, as well as related issues like oil and natural gas development on public lands, are expected to be major issues in many midterm elections, including Colorado Sen. Mark Udall's (D) tight race for re-election against Rep. Cory Gardner (R)."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

BILL TO DESIGNATE MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY AS HERITAGE AREA INTRODUCED. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer (7/15, 857K) reports that "a bipartisan proposal to designate the Mountains to Sound Greenway as a National Heritage Area, stalled in the House of Representative, was introduced Tuesday in the US Senate by Sens. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, D-Wash." Cantwell said that the National Heritage Area designation would "build on nearly two decades of efforts to preserve our state's natural landscape for future generations." The article notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was "a major player in Mountains to Sound Greenway when she served as CEO of Recreational Equipment, Inc."

BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST NPS OVER WATERFRONT ACCESS. The Boston Business Journal (7/16, Subscription Publication, 64K) reports that "despite a Superior Court ruling last year that voided a license to convert a Long Wharf pavilion on Boston's waterfront into a 220-seat restaurant, the Boston Redevelopment Authority has filed suit in federal court to overturn the decision." The BRA is suing the NPS, "alleging that the federal agency arbitrarily expanded the boundaries of protected park space on Long Wharf and prevented construction of a restaurant on the city-owned waterfront parcel." The lawsuit claims that "the space reserved for the restaurant is not restricted open space, alleging the protected land is on the adjacent plaza."

Also covering the story is the Boston North End Waterfront (7/16).

HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO RENAME YOSEMITE'S MAMMOTH PEAK. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that the House has "voted in favor of renaming a mountain in Yosemite after the woman credited with helping protect the area." Rep. Tom McClintock's H.R. 1192, which "would redesignate Mammoth Peak as Mount Jessie Benton Fremont, passed by voice vote." An NPS official "at a hearing earlier this year objected to the bill, saying there was not a strong enough connection between Benton Fremont and the mountain to justify renaming it," but "that prompted GOP lawmakers to say the agency should be 'ashamed' of some of the 'dumbest testimony' they'd ever heard."

HIKERS IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK GROW CAUTIOUS AFTER DEADLY LIGHTNING STRIKES. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that "hikers in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park are taking precautions after two visitors were killed by lightning strikes in recent days." The article notes that "a lightning bolt Friday killed 42-year-old Rebecca Teilhet of Yellow Springs, Ohio, as she hiked on the Ute Crossing Trail with her husband and a friend," and "on Saturday, Gregory Cardwell, 52, of Scottsbluff, Neb., was killed by a lightning strike on another trail in the park."

Also covering the story is KUSA-TV Denver (7/15, 226K).

STUDY: VISITORS SHOULDN'T BE DETERRED BY BURMESE PYTHONS IN EVERGLADES. The Washington Post (7/16, Fears, 4.22M) reports that a federal study says "visitors shouldn't avoid Everglades National Park, south of Miami, because some 150,000 Burmese pythons have made a home there." According to the study by NPS and USGS researchers, "pythons, among the world's largest snakes, tend not to bite... humans." The study notes that "more than a million people visit the park every year...and not one bite has been reported."

GRAND CANYON LOOKS TO INCREASE FOOD SERVED FROM SUSTAINABLE SOURCES. The Arizona Republic (7/15, 1.33M) reports that Grand Canyon National Park is looking to increase the amount of "the food

and drink served" at the park from sustainable sources to 45 percent by the end of the year. The article notes that "although the canyon is somewhat remote, it tries to get its food from within a 500-mile radius, with a preference to organic produce, grass-fed cattle and bison, and cage-free chickens." The park "hopes to have 50 percent of its food come from sustainable sources by the end of 2015."

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK TARGETS NON-NATIVE PLANTS. The AP (7/16) reports that Saguaro National Park officials say "they'll take advantage of increased moisture from monsoon rains to resume work to restore native vegetation in the park on Tucson's outskirts." According to the article, "crews will apply herbicide on buffelgrass, a non-native grass that competes with saguaro cactuses, palo verde trees and other plants native to the Sonoran Desert." Park officials say "buffelgrass continues to spread in the park and poses a serious threat to biological conservation efforts."

EFFORT SEEKS TO KEEP HISTORIC SHIP AFLOAT. The New York Times (7/16, Hurdle, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports on the efforts to keep the steamship United States afloat. The ocean liner is "the focus of what its financially struggling owner, the SS United States Conservancy, says is a final effort to save it from the scrap yard." According to the article, "saying the ship could be only months away from being broken up, the conservancy is in talks with three developers about its potential to become a hotel, museum, shopping and restaurant mall, entertainment complex, conference center, educational facility, or some combination of all options for reuse." Susan L. Gibbs, executive director of the conservancy and granddaughter of the ship's designer, William Francis Gibbs "likened the ship to national icons like the Liberty Bell or the Chrysler Building, but said it had somehow failed to seize the public imagination, despite its presence on the National Register of Historic Places."

FISH LAKE GUARD STATION ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Albany (OR) Democrat-Herald (7/16, 42K) reports that the Fish Lake Guard Station near McKenzie Bridge in Oregon has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YELLOWSTONE ROAD MELTED BY HEAT. Additional coverage that "extreme heat from thermal features at Yellowstone National Park, created by the active volcano below the park, caused oil to bubble on a road surface on July 9 and damage it" was provided by CNN (7/16, Hetter, 12.15M).

NPS HELPING TO DEVELOP PLAN FOR KENTUCKY'S TRAILS NETWORK. In his column for the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (7/15, 395K), Tom Eblen writes that "Scott County leaders have worked for three years with the regional visioning group Bluegrass Tomorrow" and the NPS "to develop an ambitious plan for" the Legacy Trail, "Kentucky's most extensive trails network." According to Eblen, "plans call for 200 miles of biking, hiking, horseback riding and waterway trails throughout Scott County."

NPS LAUDED FOR CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE. For WSTM-TV Syracuse, NY (7/16, 13K), Matt Mulcahy congratulates "all involved in the siting and design process" at Cape Cod National Seashore. He writes that "those looking to spend a day on a National Seashore beach would now be wise to utilize the near empty parking lot of this exemplary facility." Mulcahy concludes that "the National Park system would also be smart to take this design and adapt it to Race Point, Marconi, Nauset Light and Coast Guard."

Bureau of Land Management:

POINT ARENA-STORNETTA CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT TO BE CELEBRATED. The Ukiah (CA) Daily Journal (7/16, 17K) reports that "during the year leading up to" President Obama's "executive proclamation on March 11th of 2014, adding the Pt. Arena-Stornetta Public Lands, the Mendocino Land Trust led a coalition of people in a campaign to make it a reality." The article notes that "they received a grant from The Land and Water Conservation Fund supporting Bureau of Land Management in its efforts to create more conservation lands across the country." Jonna Hildenbrand, planning coordinator for Ukiah's BLM office, said "that Discover the Coast Celebration to be held on Saturday, July 19th, is a community celebration exposing this part of the Mendocino Coast to the world."

The story also appears in the Willits (CA) News (7/16, 10K).

REP. TIPTON'S BILLS AIM TO PROTECT LANDOWNERS. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that Rep. Scott Tipton on Monday announced "the introduction of two bills designed to protect private landowners adjacent to federal lands." Tipton's H.R. 5075 would "offer legal protection to landowners if a Bureau of Land Management survey finds that lands once thought to be privately owned actually belong to the federal government." Also, Tipton's H.R. 5074 "seeks to improve the oversight and transparency of land exchanges involving BLM or Forest Service lands adjacent to private lands."

BLM OFFERS REWARD AFTER NAIL-SPIKED BOARDS FOUND ON COLORADO BIKING TRAIL. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that the BLM is "offering a $1,000 reward to anyone who can provide information that leads to the arrest and conviction of whoever placed nail-spiked wooden boards on a popular hiking and mountain bike trail in northwest Colorado." BLM Colorado River Valley Field Manager Steve Bennett said in a statement, "We simply do not tolerate this behavior and will seek convictions against the responsible parties. We are hoping someone has some information that will lead us to those responsible."

Also providing coverage are the Denver Post (7/16, Sahling, 940K) and KUSA-TV Denver (7/15, 226K).

SCIENTISTS URGE BLM TO CONSERVE INTACT PUBLIC LANDS. The Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (7/16, 381K) reports that "more than 200 professional fish and wildlife scientists, including 12 former state fish and game agency directors and several former high-ranking federal agency officials," urged the Interior Department and BLM to "act promptly and meaningfully to conserve intact and unfragmented BLM-administered public lands across the West." The scientists wrote in their letter, "We recognize the critical importance of habitat provided by 245 million acres of Bureau of Land Management-administered public lands...and we are concerned about mounting pressures that could result in the development and fragmentation of these lands. Barring responsive action by the BLM, many large landscapes could cease to support abundant fish and wildlife populations that have been restored and maintained over the past century."

BLM CLOSES CAMPGROUND, REPAIRS ROAD IN LANE COUNTY, OREGON. The Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (7/16, Wihtol, 172K) reports that the US Bureau of Land Management has closed the Whittaker Creek Campground in Lane County, Oregon while crews work on installing a new bridge that will provide walking access in the campground. Additionally, the article notes BLM is repairing sections of Siuslaw River Road, which "were damaged during a flood in 2012." The road work, "totaling about $230,000," will be paid by an FHWA fund "dedicated for federally owned roads."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE DEFENDS DECISIONS ON WOLVERINES, WOLVES AT UM CONFERENCE. The Missoulian (MT) (7/16, 122K) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe "defended his agency's commitment to strong science Monday in light of recent controversies over wolverine and wolf protection." Ashe, a keynote speaker at the North American Congress for Conservation Biology in Missoula, "strongly defended" Rocky Mountain Regional Director Noreen Walsh and his staff Monday. He said, "It's not common for a regional director to reverse, but neither is it unusual for that to happen. This is a thing we all should be proud of, to explain to the field people the basis of that disagreement. (Walsh) explained in writing to our field biologists why she had reached different conclusions that was respectful of their initial recommendation. That's exactly how you want scientists to behave – transparent, logical and understandable."

Also providing coverage is the Billings (MT) Gazette (7/16, 174K).

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR BLUE BUTTERFLIES. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that the FWS has proposed the designation "of thousands of acres as critical habitat for a rare Nevada butterfly." The rule proposal published in the Federal Register would "designate 5,561 acres for the Mount Charleston blue butterfly."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (7/16).

JUDGE SETS DEADLINE FOR DECISION ON LEONA'S LITTLE BLUE BUTTERFLY. The Daily Astorian (OR) (7/16, 23K) reports that a federal judge has given the FWS "until the end of June 2015 to decide whether to extend Endangered Species Act protection to the Leona's little blue butterfly, a rare species found only in

Oregon." US District Judge Michael Mosman has "given the agency more time than was requested by environmental groups, but he said it would be a hard deadline." Mosman said, "I don't expect to see any requests for extensions. I expect the agency to pay adequate attention to this case, which has been languishing."

The story also appears in the Wallowa County (OR) Chieftain (7/16, 9K).

JUDGE APPROVES WATER TRANSFERS THROUGH THE DELTA. The Stockton (CA) Record (7/14, 123K) reports that "a federal judge has approved water transfers through the Delta to drought-stricken portions of California, overruling environmentalists who warned of possible harm to threatened fish." US District Court Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill "found that the case amounted to disagreements between fishery experts, and said the court must defer to the opinion of the US Fish and Wildlife Service over the environmentalists." The FWS says that "while smelt may indeed be in the Delta while the water transfers occur this summer, the smelt are most often far away from the giant export pumps near Tracy and are unlikely to be killed by those pumps."

APPEALS COURT REJECTS GREAT LAKES STATES' BID TO SPUR FASTER ACTION ON ASIAN CARP. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that a federal appeals court on Monday "rejected an effort by Great Lakes states to compel the Army Corps of Engineers to take more immediate action to prevent invasive Asian carp from reaching Lake Michigan." The 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals "unanimously ruled that Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pennsylvania failed to state a legal claim and present facts that the corps and Chicago's water district were failing to address the problem." Chief Judge Diane Wood wrote, "The Corps and the District in particular are engaged in intensive efforts to prevent the carp from reaching the Great Lakes, and there is a great deal of evidence that indicates they have succeeded thus far in doing so."

WILDLIFE WORKERS RESCUE THREE ENTANGLED OSPREYS. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (7/13, 115K) reports that "an adult and two osprey chicks along the Snake River have been rescued by local wildlife workers after the adult became tangled in fishing netting last week." Dan Haas, a biologist with the Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex noted that "it's the fifth time in three years that US Fish and Wildlife has rescued osprey that would have died after becoming tangled in trash, usually discarded fishing line or netting."

NEW JERSEY QUESTIONS PLAN TO ROUTE POWER LINE THROUGH WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Philly (7/16, 834K) reports that New Jersey is "expressing concerns over a route for a new transmission line under consideration by the operator of the regional power grid, saying it may impact sensitive environmental areas and be subject to delays because of opposition." In a letter from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to PJM Interconnection, "the agency questioned why its staff recommended a preferred route cutting through a national wildlife refuge and state-run wildlife management areas." The article notes that "the proposed route, one of nine projects under consideration, may affect the Supawana Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Pennsville, the Alloway Creek Watershed Wetland Restoration site, the Abbots Meadow Wildlife Management Area in Elsinboro, and the Mad Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area in Salem, according to the BPU letter mailed in early June."

GIANT AFRICAN SNAILS SEIZED AT L.A. AIRPORT. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that US customs officials "seized 67 giant African snails in two picnic baskets at Los Angeles International Airport, officials said." According to the article, "the live snails weighed more than 35 pounds – apparently the largest snail seizure at LAX – and appeared to be meant for human consumption."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS TO ELIMINATE BEE-KILLING PESTICIDES FROM PROTECTED LANDS. Additional coverage that the FWS "plans to eliminate the use of bee-harming pesticides on wildlife refuges in the Pacific region by 2016" was provided by the Ashland (OR) Jefferson Public Radio (7/16) and the Oregon Public Broadcasting (7/16, 4K).

US Geological Survey:

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES FUNDS FOR EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. The Southern California Public Radio (7/15, 85K) reports that the House Appropriations Committee has approved "a down payment on an earthquake early warning system." The article notes that "the full cost is an estimated $38-million to build and $16-million a year to operate." The committee "voted to include $5 million of that in the budget" for the USGS, which is "enough to purchase and install additional sensors and hire new staff members."

Also covering the story is the Everett (WA) Herald (7/15, 152K).

STUDY: PRECIPITATION MAY AFFECT LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF BIRD SPECIES UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that "in a climate-changed world, wetness or dryness could be a matter of life or death for some bird species, according to a recent study published in the journal Global Change Biology." Funded by the National Science Foundation with support from the USGS and others, "the analysis found that precipitation is more likely than temperature to influence the long-term population trends of birds." The article notes that "while there have been past studies that found rising temperatures can push birds – such as the white-winged robin in Papua New Guinea – into higher elevations and latitudes, this is the first large-scale study to look at the link between precipitation and the future survival of bird species under climate change."

US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY'S TRIGA RESEARCH REACTOR PROFILED. The Denver Post (7/16, Briggs, 940K) reports on the US Geological Survey's TRIGA nuclear research reactor, which has operated for the last forty-five years at the Federal Center in Lakewood, and has processed almost 500,000 samples. The Post notes that one of the more common experiments performed by the TRIGA neutron generator involves changing the nuclear composition of rocks to determine their age and mineral composition. According to reactor manager Tim DeBey, the TRIGA reactor at 45-years of operation is "one of the newer ones in the country," which "kind of tells you the fleet is old."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SOUTH CAROLINA EYES OFFSHORE WIND POWER. The Greenville (SC) News (7/15, 204K) reports that "experts have identified the best locations for offshore wind power, and maps show the wind is the strongest off the coast of Myrtle Beach." According to experts, "if South Carolina chooses to pursue wind power – a move being studied now – the coastal waters would likely be the best resource." The state has "established a task force to study offshore wind energy, and the Legislature passed a resolution recently to recognize the state's offshore wind resource."

Onshore Energy Development:

USGS REPORTS TWO MORE MINOR OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES. The AP (7/16, Eaton, 645K) reports that the USGS again reported minor earthquakes in Oklahoma. The agency reported two early Tuesday morning quakes, one that "caused minor damage at local businesses." A 3.8 magnitude quake hit 3 miles outside of Harrah, OK, while another quake of magnitude 3.9 struck five miles from the town.

Earthquakes Said To Put Onus On Oil, Gas Industry To Explain Fracking's Benefits. In the "Innovations" blog in the Washington Post (7/15, Basulto, 4.22M), Dominic Basulto writes about the current debate over whether fracking is prompting Oklahoma's rise in earthquakes. He argues that this is "a warning lesson: every innovation comes with tradeoffs." In this example, he suggests that "the reward of cheaper, more bountiful energy promised by hydraulic fracturing appears to be offset by the risk of increased seismic activity." He notes that viewing maps of seismic activity compounds the "strangeness" of Oklahoma's situation because it would seem earthquakes would be "in regions near fault lines or plate lines," which Oklahoma doesn't have. He concludes that in "the court of public opinion" it is now up to "the oil and gas industry to show us that the tradeoffs involved in fracking are worth it."

BLM BEGINS PROCESS TO LEASE OIL, GAS RIGHTS IN IDAHO. The Idaho Statesman (7/15, 222K) reports that the BLM is "beginning the process to consider leasing 5,355 acres of mineral lands in Payette County." The BLM's Four Rivers will be "hosting a public scoping meeting on Thursday, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Payette County Courthouse." BLM Assistant District Field Manager Matt McCoy said, "The lease sale would allow for the orderly development of the federal oil and gas resource and the payment of royalties to the United States."

Offshore Energy Development:

COLUMN: FEDERAL SENTENCES FOR FRAUDULENT DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL CLAIMS TOUGH. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/15, Larino, 678K) reports that according to a Forbes (7/15, 11.38M) article by contributor Walter Pavlo, sentences for some accused of "making false claims for damages in the BP oil spill" are "tougher than they should be." The article highlights Luom Van Ngo, a Vietnamese immigrant who falsified a claim, received $18,000 in funds from the Gulf Coast Claims Facility, and received 3 years in Federal prison after pleading guilty to charges of wire fraud.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT CAUSING ECONOMIC DAMAGE. The CBS Evening News (7/15, story 2, 1:55, Pelley, 5.08M) reported California farmers have had "to idle hundreds of thousands of acres this year" due to "the severe drought," costing the state economy over two billion dollars. CBS (Evans) added the reduced crop production has the US Department of Agriculture predicting produce prices will increase "up to five percent this year, adding $500 to the average American family's grocery bill."

McClatchy (7/16, Doyle, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports a study by the University of California, Davis Center for Watershed Sciences found that the "drought will cost the state's economy $2.2 billion and an estimated 17,100 jobs, "including "$810 million in lost crop revenues and $203 million in lost livestock and dairy values" as an estimated 428,000 acres of irrigated cropland has been fallowed. The move tends to affect feed and other annual crops, as they have a lower profit margin. Richard Howitt, an emeritus professor of agricultural economics at UC Davis warned that the economic impact isn't distributed evenly in the state, and, "in certain parts of the Central Valley, it's extremely bad." The report also said that groundwater "management needs to be improved," as with increased pumping in the drought, "failure to replenish groundwater in future years will hit hard, the analysts say."

The Wall Street Journal (7/16, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the researchers said that consumer prices will see little change as market demand has more effect on them than the drought. USA Today (7/16, Rice, 5.82M) also covers this story.

California Considering Water Restrictions Over Drought. ABC World News (7/15, story 3, 0:20, Muir) reported, "We have also learned tonight that the drought is forcing possible water restrictions in California" as, despite the governor "begging residents to conserve water," usage continues to increase. In a segment initially on the drought's effect on food prices, Carter Evans said on the CBS Evening News (7/15, story 2, 1:55, Pelley, 5.08M) there could be "bans on excess lawn watering, washing cars without a hose shutoff nozzle and spraying down sidewalks," with a $500 fine for violators.

USA Today (7/16, Winter, 5.82M) reports the California State Water Resources Control Board "approved fines for washing cars, watering lawns or hosing down sidewalks." While Gov. Jerry Brown called for a voluntary 20% reduction in water use, updated monthly survey figures found consumption "increased 1% in May compared with a year ago." Board Chairwoman Felicia Marcus warned that if the move didn't solve the problem, "other steps could include even tighter rules for landscaping and possibly higher rates for wasteful consumers."

BOR BROKERING WATER TRANSFER DEAL BETWEEN WESTLANDS AND PLACER COUNTY. The Hanford (CA) Sentinel (7/16, 25K) reports that the BOR is brokering a proposed deal to transfer 35,000 acre-feet water "from Placer County Water Agency to thirsty Westlands Water District." The agency has "given Westlands a zero percent allocation this year due to drought and regulatory demands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River delta," which "means that Westlands, like other districts with permanent crops that face an imminent threat from drought, is out on the open market trying to find more of the precious wet stuff."

ARIZONA BATTLES DROUGHT WITH TREE-KILLING BEETLE. The E&E Daily (7/15) reports that Arizona is "counting on a beetle to kill trees that use too much water." The tamarisk beetle targets "tamarisk trees growing along the Colorado River that can consume up to 200 gallons of water a day." According to officials, "the centimeter-long beetle – which was released in Arizona a decade ago – could help maintain water levels in the river as the state struggles with a yearslong drought."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA ORDERS KAMIAH TO VACATE LAND OWNED BY NEZ PERCE TRIBE. The AP (7/16) reports that the BIA has "ordered the northern Idaho city of Kamiah to vacate a 4.6-acre section of land the bureau says is owned by the Nez Perce Tribe." According to the article, "the land is currently occupied by the city dog pound and a concrete production plant that has a lease from the city."

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TO MEET WITH INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS TRIBE RECOGNITION PROCEDURE. The Taunton (MA) Gazette (7/16, Larocque, 36K) reports that "two meetings will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag headquarters to allow the Department of the Interior to discuss proposed regulations to reform its federal acknowledgment process for Native American tribes." Cedric Cromwell, Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council, said, "We are both pleased and honored to host the BIA and tribes from around the country to discuss President Obama's plans for reforming the federal acknowledgment process. It is fitting that these talks take place in Mashpee since our tribe has experienced, first hand, the flaws in the federal recognition process. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Mashpee and to a very spirited discussion."

Top National News:

HOUSE PASSES SHORT-TERM TRANSPORTATION SPENDING BILL ENDORSED BY OBAMA. President Obama's speech in northern Virginia on Tuesday regarding the necessity of infrastructure upgrades did not generate a great deal of national media coverage. Of the three network newscasts, only NBC Nightly News (7/15, story 12, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M), mentioned the President's appearance, and that was a very brief item about a simulator that the President tried out. Reports this morning note that the President reluctantly endorsed the short-term transportation spending plan that the House passed overwhelmingly on Tuesday, but chastised members of Congress for failing to agree on a longer term solution to the nation's infrastructure deficiencies.

On NBC Nightly News (7/15, story 12, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams said that "because of their personal security, presidents are no longer able to drive...but they can still pretend," which is what President Obama did on Tuesday "in a crash avoidance simulator." According to Williams, "It didn't move an inch, but he got to remember what it felt like to hug the steering wheel."

According to Bloomberg News (7/15, Keane, Runningen, 2.76M), the President was "championing spending on transportation projects" as he "highlighted government-backed research on technology being developed by companies including Ford Motor Co. and Toyota Motor Corp. to allow cars to communicate with each other." Bloomberg notes that at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center in McLean, Virginia, the President said, "First-class infrastructure attracts first-class jobs."

AP (7/16) reports, that in Virginia on Tuesday, the President maintained that "better roads and bridges will help boost the economy by keeping construction workers on the job and by ultimately saving time and money for businesses and commuters." The AP notes that the President "pushed his own $302 billion, four-year transportation spending plan, one partly paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes."

On NBC Nightly News (7/15, story 11, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M), Williams said the Federal Highway Trust Fund "is about to become insolvent, and while you think even Congress could agree on the need for roads...instead...Congress is about to approve the equivalent of blacktop on a pothole, a temporary funding bill." According to Williams, "No one in Congress wants to vote for a tax increase on something like gasoline." The Washington Post (7/16, Halsey, Eilperin, 4.22M) notes that the "stop-gap fix to avert a crisis imperiling up to 700,000 construction jobs won endorsement from the White House."

The New York Times (7/16, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the President "spoke hours before the House approved [the] short-term highway plan that would keep construction crews working through next May." The Times says the President "expressed support for that temporary fix but scorned Republicans for not agreeing to a multiyear program." The President is quoted as saying, "Congress shouldn't pat itself on the back for averting disaster for a few months, kicking the can down the road for a few months, careening from crisis to crisis." According to the Times, the President "linked the issue to his broader indictment of Congress for

blocking measures on all sorts of issues, including immigration."

Using the same metaphor that Williams employed, the AP (7/16, Lowy) reports that on Tuesday, the House "voted...to temporarily patch over a multi-billion dollar pothole in federal highway and transit programs while ducking the issue of how to put them on a sound financial footing for the long term." According to the AP, the House "cobble[d] together $10.8 billion by using pension tax changes, customs fees and money from a fund to repair leaking underground fuel storage tanks to keep the federal Highway Trust Fund...solvent through May 2015." The AP notes that the short-term spending bill was approved on a 367 to 55 vote.

The Washington Post (7/16, Halsey, Eilperin, 4.22M) reports that the Senate has been "moving toward its own short-term fix," but "may amend the House bill to its liking" instead, "and send it to the White House." Bloomberg News (7/15, Litvan, 2.76M) reported that on Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said the Senate "will vote on the House bill this month, alongside a competing version that doesn't have as much support." Bloomberg News adds that the "biggest difference between the two chambers is the Senate plan's inclusion of two tax-compliance changes projected to generate $3.4 billion over the next decade." Bloomberg News says while "many Republicans in both chambers are objecting to including those," Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden "continued to defend their importance this week."

According to Politico (7/16, Snider, 637K), Reid "is seeking to set up votes for three separate proposals: the House-passed bill," Wyden's "Senate Finance Committee alternative that is similar to the House bill" and "a plan from Sen. Barbara Boxer...to extend current policy only through December in order to force Congress to act on a long-term bill in the lame-duck session." Politico notes that Wyden has said the "December patch backed by fellow Democrats Boxer and Sen. Tom Carper had been his preferred option but that his bill was a compromise that sets the stage for negotiations on a longer-term measure."

Roll Call (7/16, Newhauser, 76K) reported that on Tuesday, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said Democrats "would have a preferred a longer-term deal that shored up the highway trust fund's solvency for years to come, or an extension that did not last as long," but "he and many Democrats accepted the deal because there were no other viable options in the short term."

The Hill (7/15, Marcos, 237K) reported that the House bill offsets its spending "with about $6.4 billion in revenue from pension smoothing, another $3.5 billion from customs user fees and a final $1 billion from an account set up to deal with leaking underground storage tanks." The Wall Street Journal (7/16, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) quipped that "this gimmick of pension smoothing is about creating a pothole in the pension system in order to fix a pothole on the highway." Likewise, Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) commented, "We will be no better off next May to resolve this question. In fact we will be worse off because we'll be in the middle of a presidential campaign, with a new Congress."

According to the New York Times (7/16, Weisman, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), the House's "overwhelming passage" of the infrastructure spending bill "was another in a series of defeats for conservative groups like Club for Growth and Heritage Action, the political arm of the Heritage Foundation, both of which had said they would score lawmakers negatively for voting for it." The Wall Street Journal (7/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, says the passage of the House bill on a 367-55 vote is evidence that bipartisanship can often be costly for taxpayers. On the other hand, an editorial from the New York Times (7/16, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) makes the case that "the enormous cost to society of poor infrastructure grows every year, and most of the blame can be placed directly on a Congress that refuses to collect and spend enough money to fix it."

DEMOCRATS PAN HOUSE PROPOSAL FOR DEALING WITH THE BORDER CRISIS. On the CBS Evening News (7/15, story 7, 1:05, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that Sen. John Cornyn and Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX) have "introduced a bill aimed at stopping Central Americans from sending their children to the US border." Nancy Cordes went on to report that the bill "would call for unaccompanied minors who come from Central America to be treated more like minors who come here alone from Mexico," meaning "they could see a judge within seven days and if the judge determines they don't have a legal case to be here...then they would be sent home right away." According to Cordes, "so far," the plan "is getting support from the right," while "many Democrats argue that seven days really isn't enough time for these children to make the case they belong here when they don't speak the language and often don't have legal representation." Cordes noted that Senate

Majority Leader Harry Reid says he opposes the bipartisan legislation.

The AP (7/16, Werner) reports that on Tuesday, House Republicans announced that they "will recommend dispatching the National Guard to South Texas and speeding Central American youths back home," which "will set up a clash with leading Democrats who oppose changing U.S. law to eliminate automatic immigration hearings for Central American kids." The AP notes that Republicans are "also working to significantly pare down" the President's" $3.7 billion emergency spending request for the border, hoping to act quickly on a smaller spending bill."

Politico (7/16, Kim, Sherman, 637K) reports that Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy "and a group of top lawmakers working on the border crisis are set to file a bill that very closely mirrors the legislation crafted by" Cornyn and Cuellar. According to Politico, that bill "will come with additional funding for the Obama administration somewhere between $1 billion and $2 billion," and "also would aim to give" the President "'more tools' to deal with the crisis, such as policy changes to speed up deportations of unaccompanied minors."

However, The Hill (7/16, Schroeder, Marcos, 237K) reported that on Tuesday, Congressional Democrats said they "would oppose any changes to a 2008 human trafficking law Republicans have blamed for the wave of child immigrants crossing the border," which "raises serious doubts about whether Congress will be able to act before its summer recess." According to the Hill, Democrats "said the Obama administration never should have signaled a willingness to change the law." Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) is quoted as saying, "The White House shouldn't have opened the door at all on that discussion."

Reuters (7/16) notes that on Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said the children entering the US illegally form Central America are "entitled to due process but they will not be welcome to this country with open arms."

Politico (7/16, Everett, 637K) reported that Senate Majority Leader Reid "told reporters that he will oppose [the] proposal...to treat unaccompanied minors from Central America the same as those from Mexico and expedite immigration hearings for children with asylum claims." Politico says Reid "seemed unwilling to lay out a precise blueprint for how the chamber will move forward on the border crisis until senators speak to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and other top administration officials." The Hill (7/16, Bolton, 237K) notes that on Tuesday, Reid also asserted that "the border is secure."

Under the headline, "Senate Democrats Push Back Against Speedy Deportations," the Wall Street Journal (7/16, Crittenden, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Sen. Ben Cardin said, "They shouldn't be brought to our borders to start with, and that's not going to change just because we expedite their return to their host country or protective services." According to USA Today (7/16, Davis, Today, 5.82M), Cuellar has "incensed many of his Democratic colleagues, who view the migration surge as a humanitarian crisis because many children are fleeing violence at home."

Roll Call (7/16, Dumain, Hallerman, 76K) reports that Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX), who chairs the "special GOP working group convened by" Boehner "to make policy recommendations on the child migrant border surge, told reporters Tuesday her group is focused on increasing border security funding, adding National Guard troops on the border and having more immigration judges to preside over deportation hearings and asylum requests."

WPost-ABC Poll: 58% Disapprove Of Obama's Handling Of The Border Crisis. The Washington Post (7/16, Nakamura, Clement, 4.22M) reports that a new Washington Post/ABC News poll has found "widespread public disapproval of the way President Obama and Republicans in Congress are handling the influx of unaccompanied foreign children at the southern border." The Post notes that 58% say they "are not happy with Obama's performance in dealing with the tens of thousands of minors who have arrived from Central America." The Post adds that "congressional Republicans fare even worse in the court of public opinion, with 66 percent disapproving of the job GOP lawmakers have done to address the crisis."

In a piece titled, "Obama Is Struggling On Immigration — Big Time. But Latinos Aren't About To Vote Republican," Aaron Blake of the Washington Post (7/16, Blake, 4.22M) notes that the Washington Post-ABC News poll "shows just 40 percent of Hispanics approve of Obama's handling of the crisis on the Southern border, while 54 percent disapprove." But Blake adds, "When it comes to Republicans, just 23 percent of Latinos approve

of their efforts, and 68 percent disapprove."

O'Malley Claimed Migrants Face "Certain Death" In Central America, Warned White House About Maryland Residents. Politico (7/16, Dovere, 637K) reported that Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley "says that deporting the children detained at the border would be sending them to 'certain death' — but he also urged the White House not to send them to a facility in his own state." According to Politico, after O'Malley "became the most prominent Democrat to criticize the White House on the issue, Domestic Policy Director Cecilia Muñoz called O'Malley to complain," and "before they hung up, O'Malley told Muñoz not to send any of the children to the facility in Westminster, Md., that the White House was looking at" because "it's a conservative part of the state," and "the children were at risk of getting harassed, or worse."

Perry: Obama Has The Power To Secure The Border. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (7/16, Perry, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) titled, "What Obama Missed On The Border," Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R) says he warned the Administration in 2012 that US policy regarding unaccompanied minors entering the US illegally had created an incentive for Central Americans to send their children through Mexico into the US. Perry says President Obama has the power to secure the border, but contends that the $3.7 billion request from the President in response to the current crisis is inadequate because only a small portion of the money would be used for border security.

School Districts Dealing With Surge Of Children In The US Illegally. The AP (7/16, Hefling, Lozano) reports US public schools "are one of the few government institutions where the children and teens coming unaccompanied across the border are guaranteed services," and "districts in metropolitan areas such as Washington, Houston and Miami have seen an uptick in the number of these students and anticipate more could enroll this fall." The AP says the children in the US illegally "frequently require special resources like English language and mental health services that already are strained because of budget cuts." The AP also notes that in May, Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Attorney General Holder "remind[ed] districts that a 1982 Supreme Court ruling gives all children the right to enroll in school, regardless of immigration status."

Arizona Sheriff Coordinates Protests Over Housing Illegal Immigrants. The AP (7/16, Galvan) reports from Oracle, Arizona that on Tuesday, "protesters...faced off with immigrant rights activists...after a sheriff said a bus filled with Central American children was on its way." According to the AP, "Anger has been spreading in the town of Oracle since Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu warned residents last week that immigrant children from Central America caught crossing the border illegally would be" sent to Oracle, and the protesters are "hoping to mirror demonstrations in Murrieta, California, when immigrants were taken there recently." The AP says Babeu "is credited with stirring up the anti-immigrant protesters via social media postings...and by leaking information about the migrants' arrival to a local activist."

In a brief item for the CBS Evening News (7/15, story 6, 0:15, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that "the Federal government intends to house 40 immigrant children are to be housed" in Oracle.

Mexico Appoints "Czar" To Deal With Migration From Central America. The Los Angeles Times (7/15, Wilkinson, 3.46M) reports that the Mexican government has "appointed a czar to take charge of largely unimpeded migration from Central America, which sees tens of thousands of people each year enter southern Mexico and cross the country en route to the United States."

Pope Says Immigrant Children Should Be Welcomed And Protected. NBC Nightly News (7/15, story 7, 0:25, Williams, 7.86M) that Pope Francis "waded into the immigration debate and the humanitarian crisis on our southern border with Mexico," calling for "urgent intervention, as he put it, to welcome and protect unaccompanied minors traveling from Central and South America to the US." The Pope "called for an information campaign to warn of the dangers of the journey, something President Obama has included as part of his plan."

Immigration Activist, Journalist Arrested At Border. NBC Nightly News (7/15, story 8, 0:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported that Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and immigration activist Jose Antonio Vargas, who is an undocumented immigrant, "was detained and taken into custody, while making his way through security" at the airport in McAllen, Texas. Vargas "was there in McAllen as part of a vigil to highlight the plight of these unaccompanied children."

The CBS Evening News (7/15, story 8, 0:55, Cordes, 5.08M), Nancy Cordes also reported on Vargas' arrest, noting, "McAllen is so close to the border that all of the roads and airports out of the city have customs checkpoints and Vargas, who was brought to the US from the Philippines when he was 12, says he wasn't aware of that when he went there. Critics are calling it a publicity stunt."

The AP (7/16, Sherman) reports that Ryan Eller, campaign director for Vargas' advocacy group Define American, "said that Vargas was unaware he would have to pass through such immigration checks in order to leave the city." Eller "confirmed the only identification Vargas carried was his Philippines passport."

USA Today (7/16, Bacon, Winter, 5.82M) reported that Eller said that the President and DHS Secretary Johnson were "asked to intervene to free Vargas. White House press secretary Josh Earnest would not comment, the Associated Press said."

The Washington Post (7/16, Lac, 4.22M) reports that Vargas, who "was held for about eight hours until his early-evening release," received "a notice to appear before an immigration judge." DHS spokeswoman Marsha Catron "said in a statement that federal agents who encountered Vargas at the airport "apprehended him after he stated that he was in the country illegally.'"

The Wall Street Journal (7/16, Campoy, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that although he was released, Vargas faces a deportation hearing.

The New York Times (7/16, Preston, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Vargas' "apprehension highlighted the dilemmas facing the Obama administration at a time when the border situation has made all decisions about immigration high profile and politically fraught."

In an op-ed for USA Today (7/16, Reyes, 5.82M), attorney Raul Reyes writes that while Vargas "has been an outstanding voice for undocumented immigrants," inserting himself "into the child migrant crisis might not be the ideal way to help the thousands of children languishing in Department of Homeland Security detention — or to pursue his broader goal of promoting immigration reform." Reyes adds that the "distraction was the last thing the administration needed as President Obama prepares to roll out his executive action on immigration in August."

WHITE HOUSE: SIMAS WILL DEFY HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SUBPOENA. The AP (7/16, Pickler) reports that the White House is "defying a congressional subpoena by keeping" David Simas, "a top political aide...from testifying at a hearing Wednesday." According to the AP, the White House claims that Simas is "immune from the 'extraordinary demand' of being forced to testify before the House Oversight Committee as part of its investigation into the White House Office of Political Strategy and Outreach, which he directs."

The New York Times (7/16, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in a letter to Rep. Darrell Issa, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, Neil Eggleston, "the president's top lawyer said that as a member of the executive branch," Simas "had immunity from being compelled to testify before Congress."

The Hill (7/16, Sink, 237K) reports that Issa has "said a federal court...'already rejected' the notion senior presidential advisers were exempt from congressional subpoena," and "pointed to a 2008 ruling in which a federal court ruled that Bush advisers Harriet Miers and Josh Bolton must obey congressional subpoenas."

USA Today (7/16, Korte, 5.82M) reports that Issa wants Simas "to testify about what the White House was doing to ensure it complied with civil service laws forbidding executive employees from engaging in political activity." According to Bloomberg News (7/16, Lerer, 2.76M), Issa's "latest probe is focused on whether the political office complies with the Hatch Act, which limits the political activities of federal employees." Bloomberg News reports that on Tuesday, "White House political aides spent more than an hour today briefing Issa's aides on their operations and answering questions." Roll Call (7/16, Dennis, 76K) reports that according to Democratic sources, "nine Issa staffers attended the briefing from White House staffers."

Politico (7/16, Epstein, French, 637K) notes that the White House "reopened its political office in January, after shuttering its operations ahead of the launch of the president's re-election campaign and as an investigation into the Bush administration's mixing of official and political business heated up in 2011."

In his column for the Washington Post (7/16, Milbank, 4.22M), Dana Milbank says Issa's "careless use of the subpoena...has discredited [his] chairmanship by politicizing his probes from the start."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Highways Need A Higher Gas Tax."*** An editorial from the New York Times (7/16, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) makes the case that "the enormous cost to society of poor infrastructure grows every year, and most of the blame can be placed directly on a Congress that refuses to collect and spend enough money to fix it."

"Lapses In The C.D.C.'s Labs." In an editorial, the New York Times (7/16, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) blasts the CDC's "appallingly careless" handling of dangerous pathogens. To restore public confidence, the paper calls for an independent Federal agency over seeing "the most dangerous research," reducing the number of both laboratories and researchers working with highly dangerous pathogens, controlling dual-use experiments, and "inculcat[ing] a culture of continued vigilance toward safety." Times concludes that CDC safety procedures should have prevented the Antrhax incident, but researchers "were poorly trained or...had grown complacent."

"A Sensible Marijuana Policy In Brooklyn." The New York Times (7/16, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson "served both justice and common sense this week when he announced that he would no longer prosecute most cases in which people are arrested or ticketed for small amounts of marijuana." The Times notes that such cases "are usually dismissed. But by keeping thousands of them from going to court at all, Mr. Thompson will have more resources to devote to fighting serious crime." The new policy "will also prevent the young minority men who are most of those arrested from getting criminal records that deny them jobs, housing or entry into armed services." The Times urges other district attorneys in the city to follow Thompson's lead.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Hamas's Misfire."*** The Washington Post (7/16, 4.22M) editorializes that Hamas' "military campaign against Israel has been a dismal failure," but the group rejected the latest cease-fire effort for the "stomach-turning" reason that it "calculates that it can win the concessions" it wants "by perpetuating the killing of its own people in Israeli counterattacks." The Post urges the international community "not to surrender to Hamas's despicable tactics."

"The D.C. General Scandal."

"A Badge, A Gun And Impunity."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Senate That Taxed The Internet."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says state and local tax collectors are urging Senate Democrats to hold a House-passed bill to make permanent a moratorium preventing state and local government from imposing taxes on access to the Internet hostage to ensure that a provision permitting states to collect online sales tax from out-of-state merchants is included. Noting that the current ban on taxing Internet access expires Nov. 1, the Journal questions whether senators seeking reelection want to defend new taxes on the campaign trail, and calls on them to urge Senate Majority Leader Reid to schedule a vote on the measure.

"Washington's Highway Dodge." The Wall Street Journal (7/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, says the passage of the House short-term transportation spending bill on a 367-55 vote is evidence that bipartisanship can often be costly for taxpayers.

"Harry Reid Gets His Man." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that Senate Majority Leader Reid and the White House have used FERC as a political operation to promote liberal causes including green energy, and decries Reid's personal influence over FERC decisions.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Lowell Fire Tied To An Electrical Failure
Colleagues Say Speaker, System Branded Unfairly
Probation Trial Displays Favoritism To The Extreme
Congress Near Another Stopgap Fix, This Time On Road Funds
Allegiance To Ousted Leader Of Market Basket Carries A Risk
New BSO Music Director's Exuberance Resonates

Boston Herald:
Lawyers Leave Jurors To Weigh: Bribery Or Business As Usual?

Wall Street Journal:
Fed's Yellen Hedges Her View On Rates
Israel Warns Gazans Of Attack
In China, A Fight Over Capacity
Bank Profits Surprise As Trading Picks Up

New York Times:
Brief Lull Ends In Gaza Crisis; Strikes Resume
Christie To Test Presidential Hopes In Iowa Trip
A Push To Give Steadier Shifts To Part-Timers
Documents Show GM Kept Silent On Fatal Crashes
Qatari Soccer Empire Buys A Foothold In Europe
At Hospital, Its Ex-CEO Finds Lucrative Work

Washington Post:
The Neighborhood That Could Be No More
Wider Gaza War Feared As Bid For Truce Is Rejected
Desperate Hondurans See US As Their Only Hope
Israel's Vow To Continue Fight Puts US In Tough Position
Marines' 'Lion Of Fallujah' Died While Working For CIA

Financial Times:
Goldman And JPMorgan Beat Trading Fears
Apple Teams With IBM For Corporate Market
German Sausage Makers Face €338m Fine
Reynolds Buys Lorillard For $27bn
China's Xiaomi Takes On Samsung In India
BofA Looks To Ease Strain On Junior Staff
Puzzling Omnipotence Of Fed Chair's View

Washington Times:
Tom Steyer's Uses Of Tax Shelters Draws Romney Comparisons
The Prison That Dared To Pray: Angola Used Faith, Family To Stem Violence
Harry Reid's Name Surfaces In Utah Bribery Case Against Two Ex-Attorneys General
Obama's Legacy May Be A Total Lack Of Cooperation
Harry Reid Declares Border 'Secure'

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; California-Wildfire; California-Water Restrictions; Moscow-Subway Train Derailment; Israel-Palestine Conflict; Afghanistan-Suicide Bombing; Child Heat Strokes; Washington-Horseshow Lake Health Scare; FBI-Art Scam Conspiracy; Henry Kissinger Undergoes Heart Surgery; Hollywood Stalker Arrested.
CBS: Severe Weather; California-Drought; Weather Forecast; Congress-VA Hearing; University Of Texas-Admissions Ruling; Immigration Crisis-Protests; Immigration Crisis-Congress; Immigration Crisis-Journalist Detained; Israel-Palestine Conflict; Moscow-Subway Train Derailment; Google Eye Technology; New Jersey-Trump Casino.
NBC: Israel-Palestine Conflict; Moscow-Subway Train Derailment; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; TSA Fee

Increase; Immigration Crisis-Pope Francis; Immigration Crisis-Journalist Detained; Health-Child Medicine Dosages; Pregnant Worker Guidelines; Congress-Infrastructure Repairs; Obama-Crash Avoidance Simulator.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Israel-Palestine Conflict; Afghanistan-Suicide Bombing; California-Water Restrictions; Congress-SCOTUS's Hobby Lobby Ruling.
CBS: California-Water Restrictions; Congress-Highway Trust Fund Bill; Missouri-Execution Stayed; Israel-Palestine Conflict; Philippines-Typhoon Hits; Sports-MLB All Star Game.
FOX: California-Water Restrictions; Israel-Palestine Conflict; Missouri-Execution Stayed; TSA Fees Increase; Henry Kissinger Undergoes Heart Surgery; Wall Street; Oscar Pistorius Involved In Bar Dispute; Casey Kasem Controversy.
NPR: Israel-Palestine Conflict; Congress-Highway Trust Fund Bill; House-Immigration Funds Request; White House-Congressional Subpoena; New European Commission President; Sports-MLB All Star Game.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets with his State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Climate Task Force on Preparedness and Resilience, State Dining Room, pool spray at the top; the President and the Vice President meet with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, closed press; the President and the Vice President meet with House Democrats, the State Floor, closed press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President will deliver remarks at Generation Progresss 2014 Make Progress National Summit in Washington, DC. The Vice President's remarks will be open press.

MICHELLE OBAMA — As part of the Joining Forces initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama will deliver the keynote address at the Unite for Veterans Summit, an event organized by United Way of Greater Los Angeles, the Federal Reserve Bank, and the University of Southern California. This event is open press. First Lady Michelle Obama will deliver remarks at the GRAMMY Museums Jane Ortner Education Award Luncheon. The Grammy Museum has created numerous music education programs, including an annual three-day experience for nearly 1,000 students at the White House, as part of the In Performance at the White House series. The Jane Ortner Education Award celebrates educators who find new and transformative ways to engage students by incorporating music into their classrooms and syllabi. This year's event will honor Southern California-based educator Sunshine Cavalluzzi and Grammy-nominated recording artist Janelle Monae. This event is open press.
US Senate: PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS – MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID — The National Council for Behavioral Health will hold briefings for House and Senate staff in conjunction with the launch of a new training initiative, Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety Officers. Senators Kelly Ayotte (NH) and Mark Begich (AK) will host the briefing for Senate staff and Representatives Lynn Jenkins (KS) and Ron Barber (AZ) will host the briefing for House staff. The congressional hosts are also the lead co-sponsors of Mental Health First Aid Act of 2013 (S. 153/H.R. 274) and they will be joined by leaders from law enforcement, corrections and academic organizations in addition to mental health leaders. Participants include: Sen. Kelly Ayotte (NH); Sen. Mark Begich (AK); Rep. Ron Barber (AZ); Rep. Lynn Jenkins (KS); Lieutenant Joseph Coffey, Warwick, R.I. Police Department; Michael Dooley, Dir. of Training Services, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections; David Johnson, CEO, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in Lawrence, Kan.; Sargent James Kirk, Tucson, Ariz. Police Department, Retired; Nancy Nowell, VP for Clinical Services, West Central Behavioral Health in Lebanon, N.H.; Jill Ramsey, Training Coordinator, University of Alaska. Media Contact: Kirk Monroe – kmonroe@prismpublicaffairs.com or 202-207-3646. Highlights: 12 p.m. Senate briefing in 188 Russell. 2 p.m. House briefing in B318 Rayburn. On the Net: www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY — 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Faith leaders and Members of Congress will hold a press conference in opposition to the Murray and Udall Senate bill (S.2578) "to reduce religious liberty" and amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). With Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN); Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT); Nathan Diament, Executive Director for Public Policy, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; Helen

Gonzalez, VP and COO, National Association of Evangelicals; Cynthia Colin, Media Spokeswoman, World Vision; Melissa Swearingen, Associate Director of Government Relations, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Location: Senate Swamp (located on the brick pad on the grass across the drive from the east Senate steps). Contacts: Mike Rudin, mrudin@sbpublicaffairs.com, 703-739-5920

SENATORS – GM RECALLS – CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY BILL — 11:15 a.m. Press conference at which US Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Bob Casey (D-Pa.) will introduce the Hide No Harm Act of 2014, a bill that would make it a crime for a corporate officer to knowingly conceal the fact that a corporate action or product poses a danger of death or serious physical injury to consumers and workers. Speakers: US Sen. Richard Blumenthal; US Sen. Bob Casey; Robert Weissman, president of Public Citizen and co-chair of the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards; Katherine McFate, president of the Center for Effective Government and co-chair of the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards. Contact: Josh Zembik (202) 224-6452 Josh_Zembik@blumenthal.senate.gov John Rizzo (202) 228-6367 John_Rizzo@casey.senate.gov. Location: SVC-202, Capitol Visitors Center, First St. SE.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION AND ARMED SERVICES — 9:30 a.m. Joint committee hearing with Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces hearing on Options for Assuring Domestic Space Access. Witness Panel 1: Alan F. Estevez, Principle Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, General William L. Shelton, USAF, Commander, Air Force Space Command; Robert M. Lightfoot Jr., Associate Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Witness Panel 2: Major General Howard J. Mitchell, USAF (Ret.), Vice President, Program Assessments, The Aerospace Corporation; Daniel L. Dumbacher, Professor of Practice, Department of Aeronautics and Aerospace Engineering, Purdue University; Dr. Yool Kim, Senior Engineer, RAND Corporation; Cristina Chaplain, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, US Government Accountability Office. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=e20eebef-b3d2-42df-9477-4cb909a2e6f4&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a. Location: 216 Hart.

BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection hearing on What makes a bank systemically important? Witnesses: Dr. Richard Herring, Jacob Safra Professor of International Banking, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. James Thomson, Professor and Finance Chair, University of Akron; Dr. Robert DeYoung, Capitol Federal Professor in Financial Markets and Institutions, University of Kansas School of Business; and Dr. Paul Kupiec, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=7d743184-d3e5-4ee7-8d41-ab4d846f7457. Location: 538 Dirksen.

FINANCE — 10 a.m. Hearing to Consider the Nominations of Robert W. Holleyman II and Cary Douglas Pugh http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=25b33bd9-5056-a032-52b2-be03e2838313. Location: 215 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 10 a.m. Business meeting. Agenda. TREATIES: 1. Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income (Treaty Doc. 113-4). 2. Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland For the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income (Treaty Doc. 113-5). LEGISLATION; 3. H.R. 4028, To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom; 4. S.J.Res _____, To require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to $5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014. NOMINATIONS: 5. The Honorable Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. 6. Ms. Marcia Denise Occomy, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years; more. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/071614a. Location: Capitol 116.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Challenges at the Border: Examining and Addressing the Root Causes Behind the Rise in Apprehensions at the Southern Border. Witnesses: Michael

Shifter, President, Inter-American Dialogue; Eric L. Olson, Associate Director, Latin American Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Eric Farnsworth, Vice President, Americas Society/Council of the Americas; Richard Jones, Deputy Regional Director for Global Solidarity and Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean, Catholic Relief Services; Bryan Roberts, Senior Economist, Econometrica, Inc. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/challenges-at-the-border-examining-and-addressing-the-root-causes-behind-the-rise-in-apprehensions-at-the-southern-border. Location: 342 Dirksen.

VETERANS AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. The State of VA Health Care. Witnesses: Sloan D. Gibson, Acting Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs. Accompanied by: Philip Matkowsky, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health Administrative Operations, Veterans Health Adminisration. http://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/the-state-of-va-health-care07162014. Location: G50 Dirksen.

AGING — 1:30 p.m. Hearings to examine phone scams, focusing on progress and potential solutions. http://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/-hanging-up-on-phone-scams-progress-and-potential-solutions-to-this-scourge. Location: 562 Dirksen. Notes: Changes time from 2:15 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife. Hearings to examine S.571, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a deadline for restricting sewage dumping into the Great Lakes and to fund programs and activities for improving wastewater discharges into the Great Lakes, S.1153, to establish an improved regulatory process for injurious wildlife to prevent the introduction and establishment in the United States of nonnative wildlife and wild animal pathogens and parasites that are likely to cause harm, S.1175, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program to provide loans and loan guarantees to enable eligible public entities to acquire interests in real property that are in compliance with habitat conservation plans approved by the Secretary of the Interior under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, S.1202, to establish an integrated Federal program to respond to ongoing and expected impacts of extreme weather and climate change by protecting, restoring, and conserving the natural resources of the United States, and to maximize government efficiency and reduce costs, in cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments and other entities, S.1232, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to protect and restore the Great Lakes, H.R.1300, to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer programs and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, S.1381, to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, S.1650, to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to exempt certain Alaska Native articles from prohibitions against sale of items containing nonedible migratory bird parts, S.2225, to provide for a smart water resource management pilot program, S.2530, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or exportation of mussels of certain genus, and S.2560, to authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to seek compensation for injuries to trust resources and use those funds to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources. Location: 406 Dirksen.

APPROPRIATIONS — 2:30 p.m. Department of Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on Strengthening Trade Enforcement to Protect American Enterprise and Grow American Jobs. Panel I: Rick Blume, General Manager, Commercial Nucor Corporation; Edward T. Hayes, Partner, Leake & Andersson, LLP; Joe Sanroma, Executive Committee Member, American Honey Producers Association; John C. Steinberger, Of Counsel, Adduci, Mastriani & Schaumberg, L.L.P. Panel II: John Wagner, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, US Customs and Border Protection; Richard DiNucci, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of International Trade, US Customs and Border Protection; Lev Kubiak, Assistant Director of International Affairs, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/dhs-hearing-strengthening-trade-enforcement-protect-american-enterprise-and-grow-american-jobs. Location: 138 Dirksen.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — 2:30 p.m. At a Tipping Point: Consumer Choice, Consolidation and the Future Video Marketplace. Witnesses: Witness Panel 1: David L. Cohen, Executive Vice President, Comcast Corporation; John Stankey, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, AT&T Inc.; Gene Kimmelman, President & CEO, Public Knowledge; Shawn Ryan, Member, Writers Guild of America, West; Jeffrey Blum, Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Dish Network; Justin (Gus) Hurwitz, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Nebraska College of Law. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=b6ff2efd-1203-4b0e-87d5-87edccb63e4d&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a. Location: 216 Hart. Notes: Room changed from 253 Russell.

INDIAN AFFAIRS — 2:30 p.m. An oversight hearing to examine the Department of the Interior's land buy-back program. Witnesses: Michael Connor, Deputy Secretary-US Department of the Interior. Panel 1: Carole Lankford, Vice-Chair-Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation; Ernest L. Stensgar, Vice-Chairman-Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and Chair, Trust Reform Committee, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; Susan Waukon, Representative-Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature; Jennifer Keough, Executive VP & Chief Operating Officer-The Garden City Group, Inc. http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/oversight-hearing-improving-trust-system-continuing-oversight-department-interiors-land-buy. Location: 628 Dirksen.

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — 3 p.m. Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife legislative hearing to examine several bills related to water and wildlife. Panel I: Mike Shapiro, Principle Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, US Environmental Protection Agency; Mr. Steve Guertin, Deputy Director for Policy, US Fish and Wildlife Service. Panel II: Dr. Bruce A. Stein, PhD, Director, Climate Change Adaptation, National Wildlife Federation; Chad W. Lord, Policy Director, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, and Senior Director, Water Policy, National Parks Conservation Association; Tony Wasley, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=23ec7871-c558-3294-be00-00a619c4d57e. Location: 406 Dirksen. Contacts: Mary Kerr (mary_kerr@epw.senate.gov), 202-224-8832. Notes: Webcast will be available at http://www.epw.senate.gov starting at 3:00 PM ET

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 3 p.m. Indispensable Partners – Reenergizing US-India Ties. Witnesses Panel One: Nisha D. Biswal, Assistant Secretary For South And Central Asian Affairs, US Department of State; Kelly Magsamen, Acting Assistant Secretary Of Defense For Asian And Pacific Security Affairs, US Department of Defense. Panel Two: Frank G. Wisner, Foreign Affairs Advisor, Squire Patton Boggs; Richard M. Rossow, Wadhwani Chair In US-India Policy Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/indispensable-partners_-reenergizing-us-india-ties-7-16-14. Location: 419 Dirksen.
US House: 12 p.m. — The House will meet for legislative business. The House is expected to complete consideration of H.R. 5016 – Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2015 (Rep. Crenshaw – Appropriations). The House is also expected to begin consideration of H.R. 4719 – Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2014 (Rep. Reed – Ways and Means) (Subject to a Rule).

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS – MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID — The National Council for Behavioral Health will hold briefings for House and Senate staff in conjunction with the launch of a new training initiative, Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety Officers. Senators Kelly Ayotte (NH) and Mark Begich (AK) will host the briefing for Senate staff and Representatives Lynn Jenkins (KS) and Ron Barber (AZ) will host the briefing for House staff. The congressional hosts are also the lead co-sponsors of Mental Health First Aid Act of 2013 (S. 153/H.R. 274) and they will be joined by leaders from law enforcement, corrections and academic organizations in addition to mental health leaders. Participants include: Sen. Kelly Ayotte (NH); Sen. Mark Begich (AK); Rep. Ron Barber (AZ); Rep. Lynn Jenkins (KS); Lieutenant Joseph Coffey, Warwick, R.I. Police Department; Michael Dooley, Dir. of Training Services, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections; David Johnson, CEO, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in Lawrence, Kan.; Sargent James Kirk, Tucson, Ariz. Police Department, Retired; Nancy Nowell, VP for Clinical Services, West Central Behavioral Health in Lebanon, N.H.; Jill Ramsey, Training Coordinator, University of Alaska. Media Contact: Kirk Monroe – kmonroe@prismpublicaffairs.com or 202-207-3646. Highlights: 12 p.m. Senate briefing in 188 Russell. 2 p.m. House briefing in B318 Rayburn. On the Net: www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org

DEMOCRATS – ECONOMIC AGENDA — 9:30 a.m. House Democrats will gather on the steps of the Capitol to announce a "bold new agenda" to jumpstart the middle class. Location: House East Front Steps. Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616. Notes: Cameras MUST be set by 8:30 a.m. for a security sweep.

PEACE CORPS OPPORTUNITIES — 9:30 a.m. Peace Corps' new Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet and all five current members of Congress who have served in the Peace Corps will talk with Capitol Hill staff and interns about how their service impacted their lives and careers, and "why there is no better time to apply to join the Peace Corps." With Reps. Sam Farr (D-CA); John Garamendi (D-CA); Mike Honda (D-CA); Joseph Kennedy (D-MA); Tom Petri (R-WI). Location: 1310 Longworth. Notes: To cover this event, please RSVP to pressoffice@peacecorps.gov

EGYPTIAN CAUCUS — 11:45 a.m. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-CA, and Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-CA will announce the formation of a congressional Egypt Caucus. Other members are expected to participate. Location: House Triangle.

DEFENSE BUDGETS – FORBES — 12 p.m. Rep. Randy Forbes, Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces and Todd Harrison, Senior Fellow and Director of Defense Budget Studies at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA) congressional luncheon on Sustaining Strong Defense Posture in the Era of Austere Budgets. Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA) Board Chairman Nelson Ford will moderate the discussion. http://www.csbaonline.org/2014/06/26/sustaining-strong-defense-posture-in-the-era-of-austere-budgets-2/. Location: RSVP for exact location.

WITNESS WEDNESDAY — 12:30 p.m. The Center for Effective Government, National Employment Law Project, the Coalition on Human Needs, and the National Women's Law Center are organizing a series of nonpartisan public events called "Witness Wednesdays" to stand in solidarity with millions of unemployed Americans. Members of Congress and faith, labor, and nonprofit leaders will give voice to the pain of the unemployed by reading their stories. This week, House Democratic Leader Steny Hoyer will speak. Location: House Triangle. Contacts: Mariel Saez, 202-225-3130. Notes: Media interested in attending must contact Mitchell Rivard at mitchell.rivard@mail.house.gov or 202-595-4885 to RSVP.

MENTAL HEALTH OVERHAUL — 1:15 p.m. Conference call about the need to fix the nation's mental health system through passage of the bipartisan Helping Families In Mental Health Crisis Act 1/8H.R. 37173/8 introduced by Rep. Tim Murphy, PhD and sponsored by Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick. Members of the media are invited to listen in on the discussion. Time will be available to ask questions of all participants. Also with Diane Marseglia, Bucks Co. Commissioner, Bucks County Suicide Task Force. Contacts: n/a, 202-225-2301. Notes: RSVP for dial-in information.

CHILD MIGRATION CRISIS — 2 p.m. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40) and members of the Congressional Women's Working Group on Immigration Reform will hold a press conference to discuss the recent surge in unaccompanied children crossing the southwest border. Location: 2226 Rayburn. Contacts: Ben Soskin, 202-225-1766.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FINANCIAL SERVICES — 9:45 a.m. Monetary Policy and Trade subcommittee hearing entitled "A Legislative Proposal Entitled the 'Bank Account Seizure of Terrorist Assets (BASTA) Act'." http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=387459. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES — 10 a.m. Full committee markup of H. Res. 649 – Directing the Secretary of Defense to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/markups. Location: 2118 Rayburn.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET — 10 a.m. The Long-Term Budget Outlook with Douglas W. Elmendorf, Director, Congressional Budget Office. http://budget.house.gov/hearingschedule2014/hearing7162014.htm. Location: 210 Cannon.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on Review of CDC Anthrax Lab Incident. Witnesses: Panel I: Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Accompanied by Joseph Henderson, Deputy Director, Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Jere Dick, D.V.M., Associate Deputy Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, US Department of Agriculture; Nancy Kingsbury, Ph.D., Managing Director, Applied Research & Methods, Government Accountability Office. Panel II: Sean G. Kaufman, M.P.H., President and Founding Partner, Behavioral-Based Improvement Solutions, LLC, Woodstock, Georgia; Richard Ebright, Ph.D., Rutgers University, Board of Governors Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology.

http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/review-cdc-anthrax-lab-incident. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL SERVICES — 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on Hearing entitled "Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy." Witness: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen on the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=387226. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Hearing on Irans' Destabilizing Role in the Middle East. Witnesses: Scott Modell, Senior Associate, Burke Chair in Strategy, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Natan B. Sachs, Ph.D., Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, The Brookings Institution; Ray Takeyh, Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies, Middle East Program, Council on Foreign Relations. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102496. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

HOMELAND SECURITY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security hearingon Port of Entry Infrastructure: How Does the Federal Government Prioritize Investments? Witnesses: John Wagner, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, Customs and Border Protection, US Department of Homeland Security; Michael Gelber, Deputy Commissioner, Public Buildings Service, US General Services Administration; Oscar Leeser, Mayor, City of El Paso, Texas. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-port-entry-infrastructure-how-does-federal-government-prioritize. Location: 311 Cannon.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 10 a.m. Markup on H.R. 277, H.R. 916, H.R. 1810, H.R. 2158, H.R. 3572, H.R. 3806, H.R. 4751 and H.R. ___. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=387616. Location: 1324 Longworth.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on White House Office of Political Affairs: Is Supporting Candidates and Campaign Fund-Raising an Appropriate Use of a Government Office? http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/white-house-office-political-affairs-supporting-candidates-campaign-fund-raising-appropriate-use-government-office/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

RULES — 10 a.m. Business Meeting: Legislative hearing on a Committee Discussion Draft of H. Res. ___ providing for authority to initiate litigation for actions by the President inconsistent with his duties under the Constitution of the United States. http://rules.house.gov/bill/113/h-res-PIH-President-Litigation. Location: H-313 The Capitol.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — 10 a.m. Full committee markup: H.R. 5078 – Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014 H.R. 4854 – Regulatory Certainty Act H.R. 5077 – Coal Jobs Protection Act of 2014 H. Con. Res. 103 – Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run H.R. 3044 – To approve the transfer of Yellow Creek Port properties in Iuka, Mississippi. Location: 2167 Rayburn. Contacts: Jim Billimoria (2022259446). Notes: http://transport.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=387580

VETERANS' AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on "Creating Efficiency through Comparison: An Evaluation of Private Sector Best Practices and the VA Health Care System." http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/creating-efficiency-through-comparison-an-evaluation-of-private-sector-best-practices-and. Location: 334 Cannon.

WAYS AND MEANS — 10 a.m. Subcommittee hearing on the US trade agenda and the World Trade Organization with Deputy US Trade Representative Michael Punke. Location: 1100 Longworth.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10:15 a.m. Subcommittee on Health hearing on Failure to Verify: Concerns Regarding PPACA's Eligibility System. Witnesses: Kay Daly, Assistant Inspector General, Office of Audit Services, Office of Inspector General HHS; Joyce Greenleaf, Regional Inspector General, Office of Evaluation and Inspections, Office of Inspector General HHS. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/failure-verify-concerns-regarding-ppaca%E2%80%99s-eligibility-system. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY — 10:15 a.m. Markup: H. Res. 646 Directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department of Justice that were transmitted to or

from the email accounts of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011; and H.R. 744 the STOP Identity Theft Act of 2013. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings? ID=8778E999-DF4F-4071-A604-4209D24621E5. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES — 10:30 a.m. Full committee hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 OCO Budget Request. Witnesses: Michael J. McCord, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Department of Defense; Admiral James A. "Sandy" Winnefeld, Jr., USN, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense; Robert O. Work, Deputy Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_id0E84CAFF-E801-4AB6-A0C5-CD63383C67CE. Location: 2118 Rayburn.

SMALL BUSINESS — 1 p.m. Barriers to Entrepreneurship: Examining the Anti-Trust Implications of Occupational Licensing. Witness: Andrew Gavil, Director, Office of Policy Planning, Federal Trade Commission. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=384426. Location: 2360 Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces hearing on Unmanned Carrier-Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike (UCLASS) Requirements Assessment. Witnesses: Panel 1: Shawn Brimley, Executive Vice President and Director of Studies, Center for a New American Security; Robert Martinage, Senior Fellow, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments; Ronald ORourke, Specialist in Naval Affairs, Defense Policy and Arms Control Section, Congressional Research Service; Bryan McGrath, Managing Director, FerryBridge Group LLC. Panel 2: Mark Andress, Assistant Deputy Chief of Operations for Information Dominance, Department of Defense; Vice Admiral Paul A. Grosklags, US Navy, Principal Military Deputy, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisitions, Department of Defense; Brigadier General Joseph T. Guastella, US Air Force, Director, Joint Requirements Oversight Council, Department of Defense. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_id130F9D60-4763-4446-966B-2981719E114B. Location: 2212 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing on The Growing Crisis of Africa's Orphans. Witnesses: Robert P. Jackson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, US Department of State; Nancy Lindborg, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, US Agency for International Development (USAID); Kelly Dempsey, General Counsel and Director of Advocacy and Outreach, Both Ends Burning; Shimwaayi Muntemba, Ph.D., Founder, Zambia Orphans of AIDS; Jovana Jones, Adoptive mother of a Congolese child; Muluemebet Chekol Hunegnaw, Senior Director, International Programs, Save the Children. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-growing-crisis-africas-orphans. Location: 2172 Rayburn. Notes: Room changed from 2200 Rayburn.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Oversight Status of Reforms to EPA's Integrated Risk Information System. Witnesses: Dr. David Dorman, Member, Committee to Review EPAs IRIS Process, National Research Council. Dr. Kenneth Olden, Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment, US Environmental Protection Agency; Rena Steinzor, Professor of Law, University of Maryland; President, Center for Progressive Reform; Michael P. Walls, Vice President of Regulatory and Technical Affairs, American Chemistry Council. http://science.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-oversight-and-subcommittee-environment-joint-hearing-status-reforms-epa-s. Location: 2318 Rayburn.
Other: MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTION — July 15 – 18. Georgetown University's National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health hosts a conference on suicide prevention, crisis intervention, and mental health first aid for youth. Location: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland. Contacts: Todd Post (tpost@vancomm.com), 202-248-5250

CATO CONFERENCE – AFTER DODD-FRANK — July 16 – 17. After Dodd-Frank: The Future of Financial Markets. Speakers: Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman, House Financial Services Committee; Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC), Member, House Financial Services Committee; Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; Richard Kovacevich, Chairman Emeritus, Wells Fargo & Company; Tyler Cowen, General Director, Mercatus Center at George Mason University; Sharon Brown-Hruska, Vice President, National Economic Research Associates and Visiting Professor of Finance, Tulane University; John Coates, Professor of Law and Economics, Harvard Law School; Daniel M. Gallagher, Commissioner, US Securities and Exchange Commission; Josh Rosner, Author, Reckless Endangerment, Graham Fisher & Co.; others. Cato Media

Relations at 202-789-5200 or email pr@cato.org. Location: The Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. On the Net: http://www.cato.org

INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM USA 2014 — 8:45 a.m. The Internet Governance Forum USA 2014 (IGF-USA), a daylong conference at the George Washington University with leaders from across the Internet community to highlight and engage in discussions about key issues that will drive the future of the Internet. Panelists: Scott Busby, deputy assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, US Department of State; Tom Malinowski, assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, US Department of State; Chris Painter, coordinator for cyber issues, US Department of State; Jonathan Sallet, general counsel, US Federal Communications Commission; Danny Sepulveda, US coordinator for international communications and information policy, US Department of State; Larry Strickling, assistant secretary for communications and information and administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, US Department of Commerce; Greg Walden, chairman, House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, US House of Representatives. Experts from the government, nonprofit and private sectors, including the US Department of Commerce, the US Federal Trade Commission, the Center for Democracy and Technology Cisco, Google, ICANN and Verizon. Media contact: Jason Shevrin at jshevrin@gwu.edu or 202-994-5631. Location: The George Washington University, Cloyd Heck Marvin Center, Grand Ballroom (third floor), 800 21st St., NW. Notes: Also webcast at: http://www.isoc-dc.org/isoc-dc-tv/

GENERATION PROGRESS SUMMIT — 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Generation Progress will host its annual Make Progress National Summit. The summit brings together hundreds of progressive leaders and young people from around the country to discuss ways our generation can make a difference now in moving our communities and the country forward. Vice President of the United States Joe Biden, Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Chris Murphy (D-CT) will also speak at the summit. PRESS REGISTRATION: http://genprogress.org/about/splash/ Location: The Grand Ballroom at the J.W. Marriott; 1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW. Media Entrance: On 14th Street, NW at the corner of 14th St., NW & Pennsylvania Ave., NW. Media Check-in: Meeting Room Level. Notes: Press Arrival Time: Press may arrive as early as 8:00AM EST if interested in covering the Make Progress National Summits morning activities before the Vice Presidents remarks. If only covering the Vice Presidents remarks, media may arrive anytime between 8:00AM EST – 12:00PM EST. Final Media Access Time for the Vice Presidents Remarks:

URBIN INSTITUTE – SENATOR CORKER – IMPROVING GOVERNMENT — 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Senator Corker and David Eichenthal to discuss the challenges in creating more effective government oversight. Speakers include: Bob Corker, US Senator, Tennessee; David R. Eichenthal, executive director, National Resource Network, and coauthor, The Art of the Watchdog: Fighting Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Corruption in Government. Daniel L. Feldman, associate professor of public management, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and coauthor, The Art of the Watchdog: Fighting Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Corruption in Government. Panel Discussion: Moderator: Erika Poethig, Institute Fellow and director of urban policy initiatives, Urban Institute; Danielle Brian, executive director, Project on Government Oversight; Orice Williams Brown, managing director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office; Mark Funkhouser, director, Governing Institute, former mayor of Kansas City and city auditor. Location: 2100 M Street, NW, 5th floor. Contacts: events@urban.org

NED – HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The National Endowment for Democracy host a discussion on "Fostering Democracy, Good Governance, and Human Rights in Africa Through Security Sector Assistance." Speakers: Christopher Holshek, Colonel, US Army Civil Affairs (ret.), Senior Fellow, Alliance for Peacebuilding; Lesley Anne Warner, Research Analyst, CAN Analysis & Solutions; Daniel Hampton, Colonel, US Army, Senior Military Advisor, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University. Moderated by Teresa Crawford, Partners for Democratic Change. http://www.ned.org/events/fostering-democracy-good-governance-and-human-rights-in-africa-through-security-sector-assist. Location: 1025 F Street, N.W., Suite 800. Contacts: 202-378-9675

GEOPOLITICAL FLASHPOINTS – OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES — 12:15 p.m. The Foreign Policy Initiative hosts discussion on Geopolitical Flashpoints in Oil Producing Countries: Implications for US National and Energy Security. Member Remarks: Congressman Cory Gardner (R-CO), Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Expert Panel: Admiral Michael Mullen, US Navy (Ret.), Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff;

John Hannah, Former National Security Advisor to the Vice President. Moderator: Steve Mufson, The Washington Post. http://www.foreignpolicyi.org/content/geopolitical-flashpoints-oil-producing-countries-implications-us-national-and-energy-security. Location: 2203 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL FRAUD – TONY WEST — 12:30 p.m. Associate Attorney General Tony West will deliver remarks on financial fraud at the Exchequer Club. Media inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Laura Main at lmain@buckleysandler.com. Location: St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th St., N.W.

NASA TV – SPACE STATION CREW BRIEFING — 2 p.m. The next crew to launch to the International Space Station (ISS), including NASA astronaut Barry "Butch" Wilmore, will participate in a NASA Television news conference and media interviews at the agency's Johnson Space Center in Houston. http://www.nasa.gov/press/2014/july/next-space-station-crew-to-participate-in-nasa-tv-briefing-media-interviews/.U8VJHfldVXE.

REP. SHUSTER – 1776 – FACEBOOK — 2:30 p.m. Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) will meet with transportation startups at tech incubator 1776's Washington, DC campus to discuss innovation, technology, and the future of transportation. Immediately following the meeting, Shuster and 1776 cofounder Evan Burfield will start accepting questions about technology and transportation via Facebook. Contacts: Jim Billimoria, Justin Harcler, 202-225-9446. Notes: https://www.facebook.com/transport

GOP COMMITTEES – JOINT PRESS BRIEFING — 3 p.m. NRCC, NRSC, RGA, RNC, and RSLC Joint Press Briefing on why the GOP is in a winning position just over 100 days before the 2014 midterm elections. Participants: Liesl Hickey, NRCC Executive Director; Rob Collins, NRSC Executive Director; Phil Cox, RGA Executive Director; Mike Shields, RNC Chief of Staff; Matt Walter, RSLC President. Location: Capitol Hill Club, Eisenhower Room, 300 First Street SE. Contacts: Anna Epstein aepstein@gop.com (202-863-8614)

INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE – YOUNG MIGRANTS — 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Roundtable discussion about the rising numbers of unaccompanied children seeking entry to the United States. Speakers: former Commissioner of the US Immigration and Naturalization Service, Doris Meissner, who founded and is now a senior fellow at the Institute for Migration Policy and the Ambassador of El Salvador to the UN and former Ambassador to the US, Rubin Zamora. Both Ms. Meissner and Amb. Zamora will be briefing members of the US Congress earlier in the day on the issues surrounding the young migrants. Location: 1211 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 510. Contacts: 202-822-9002

SPYING ON YOUR ALLIES — 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. World Affairs Council hosts a discussion on "Spying on your Allies – Good Practice or Bad Policy?" Panelists: Ambassador Richard Kauzlarich, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, Center on the United States and Europe, Brookings; Director, Center for Energy Science and Policy, School of Public Policy, George Mason University; Second panelists TBA. Moderator: Ambassador Bill Courtney, former ambassador to Kazakhstan and Georgia. https://www.worldaffairsdc.org/EventDetails.aspx?enc=ZKttWtOqDC6qzOjqwbgIB3209qDlYYolWbpcRCaO470. Location: University of California Washington Center, 1608 Rhode Island Avenue NW.

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL — 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Panel discussion: Spying on your Allies – Good Practice or Bad Policy? Guest: Ambassador Richard Kauzlarich, Director, Center for Energy Science and Policy, School of Public Policy, George Mason University. Location: 1200 18th Street NW Suite 902, Washington, DC. Contacts: n/a, 202-293-1051. Notes: A wine and cheese reception will follow the program.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to news President Obama is going on vacation next month and last month's European trip] "Nation, it's clear what's going on here. The President has senioritis. He's in the last two semesters of his presidency and he's totally checked out. Tossing back beers, late night bull sessions with friends, traveling across Europe, and it's a huge mistake, sir. It may seem like fun to take some time off and find yourself abroad, but, trust me, it never works out the way you hope it will. … So, Mr. President, just turn in the Eurail pass, come home, buckle down and hit the books before graduation, because you only got two years left

and you're looking at an F in ECON."

Jimmy Fallon: "I just saw that former President George W. Bush is recovering after having a partial knee replacement over the weekend. When asked how he hurt his knee, he said, 'There was a rock under my Slip 'N Slide. Slippin' accomplished.'"

Seth Meyers: "Yesterday, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said that President Obama has brought tranquility to the global community. And that's good, Josh. You should always open with a joke."

Seth Meyers: "The border crisis continues and a new poll shows the majority of Americans disapprove of how President Obama's dealing with immigration. Of course, those numbers could change if he lets more people into America."

Conan O'Brien: "Germany won [the World Cup], but they're still mad at us for spying on them. Did you hear the story? Germany is mad that we spied on them, so they're considering going back to using typewriters to avoid being spied on now. Using typewriters, yeah. It's never good news when Germany says, 'We're going to go back to our old ways.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, August 1, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

DEAL ANNOUNCED FOR COLORADO RIVER BASIN CONSERVATION. The AP (8/1) reports that the Interior Department and four municipal water providers in the West are investing $11 million to fund projects seeking to conserve water in the Colorado River basin. Interior officials said Thursday that "local water providers in Arizona, California, Nevada and Colorado will participate in a pilot program aimed at reducing water demand by cities, farmers and industry." Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor called the agreement "a critically important first step" in addressing water shortages in the basin.

The AP (7/31) reports that the deal seeks "to create several small pilot programs in 2015 and 2016 that would provide incentives and compensation for conservation by cities, farmers and industry." The project's partners include the Central Arizona Project, Denver Water, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Southern Nevada Water Authority and the BOR.

Also reporting on the story is the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (7/31, 506).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (7/31, 4.06M), ABC News (8/1, 3.58M), ABC News (8/1, 3.58M), Yahoo! (8/1, 10.35M) , the Austin (TX) American Statesman (8/1, 424K) , the Austin (TX) American Statesman (8/1, 424K) , the Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/1, 1.32M) , the Columbus (IN) Republic (8/1, 81K) , the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (8/1, 85K) , the Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (8/1, 31K) , the Las Vegas Sun (7/31, 148K), and KUSA-TV Denver (7/31, 226K).

WESTERN GOVERNORS, ENVIRONMENTAL EXPRESS OBJECTIONS TO OFFSHORE DRILLING. The AP (8/1) reports that in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell yesterday "the governors of California, Oregon and Washington" stressed "that they don't want the possibility of drilling off of the West Coast." The Department of Interior "is developing an updated plan for its Outer Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, and the governors formally stated their opposition to the inclusion of any oil or gas lease sales off the coast as part of any new plan." The governors "wrote that their three states 'represent the fifth-largest economy in the world' and their ocean-dependent industries contribute billions of dollars to the region each year." The wrote, "While new technology reduces the risk of a catastrophic event such as the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, a sizeable spill anywhere along our shared coast would have a devastating impact on our population, recreation, natural resources, and our ocean and coastal dependent economies."

The Hill (8/1, Barron-Lopez, 237K) reports that environmental groups also sent a letter to Secretary Jewell objecting to offshore drilling.

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Bloomberg BusinessWeek (7/31, 4.91M), The San Francisco Chronicle (8/1, 2.87M), The Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/31, 582K), Yahoo! (8/1, 10.35M) , and KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (8/1, 1K).

Also reporting on the story are the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (7/31, 857K), The Seattle Times (7/31, 1.11M), and KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (8/1, 1K).

HOUSE REPUBLICANS DASH HOPES FOR ADDITIONAL WILDFIRE FUNDS. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that "the wildfire money President Obama sought as part of an emergency spending bill never had much chance of making it through the House." However, "Republican leaders' sudden decision" on Thursday "to abandon consideration of a supplemental appropriations measure extinguishes any hope of securing the wildfire money and related policy shifts until at least September." According to the article, "the decision to cancel a vote on the bill, announced just before the week's final vote series" Thursday afternoon, "indicates that Republicans were unable to persuade enough of their members to back the legislation, which was expected to be opposed by almost all Democrats."

Washington Gov. Inslee Pushes For Emergency Funds To Fight Wildfires. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that "as major wildfires continue to burn across the Northwest," Washington Gov. Jay Inslee on Wednesday "sent a letter to the state's congressional delegation urging approval of President Obama's request for an additional $615 million to help fight the blazes." Also, on Sunday, Inslee joined California Gov. Jerry Brown and Oregon Gov. John

Kitzhaber "in writing a different letter to the states' congressional delegations supporting other legislative efforts on Capitol Hill to fund fighting wildfires using disaster funding."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the Los Angeles Times (8/1, Rocha, 3.42M), the Los Angeles Times (8/1, Forgione, 3.42M), the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (7/31, 116K), the Ashland (OR) Jefferson Public Radio (8/1), and the Corvallis (OR) Gazette-Times (8/1, 31K).

SECRETARY JEWELL SAYS OUT OF CABINET, SAYS SHE'D MOST LIKE TO SPEND TIME WITH BURWELL. The "In The Loop" blog of the Washington Post (7/31, Itkowitz, Kamen, 4.06M) interviewed Interior Secretary Sally Jewell about "her hopes and dreams (other than climate change legislation), and, the really important questions, like her favorite foods." Asked which Cabinet secretary she would like to spend time with, Jewell said, "Sylvia Burwell. Besides being multifaceted (really... Office of Management and Budget and now Health and Human Services), we share a common connection to Seattle, an appreciation for good, wild salmon, and a commitment to connecting children to nature and the great outdoors." Jewell said that her "favorite non-work-related Web site/blog/app/magazine is "National Geographic," and that she cuts 'jigsaw puzzles as a hobby." Among other things, the Post also explores Jewell's favorite food and her motivation for entering public service.

CRUISE TO ARCTIC OFFERS VIEWING OF CLIMATE CHANGE CONSEQUENCES. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that "an American luxury cruise company is selling tickets for a 'Northwest Passage' trip to view the environmental effects warming climate conditions have had on the Arctic from the decks of the Crystal Serenity – a voyage described by Popular Science as 'environmental disaster tourism.'" The article notes that "the ship weighs 68,000 tons, has 13 decks and has a carbon footprint three times larger than that of a 747 flight," and "neither the frequently-asked-questions page nor the trip's summary website mentions the term 'carbon footprint' or even uses the word carbon." According to the article, "paying passengers, up to 1,070, will be able to view seals, walruses and other Arctic wildlife from the cruise liner with their tickets, which cost $20,000 to $44,000."

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO INVOLVE UTAHNS IN NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS. In light of news that "14 senators support the creation of a new national monument in southeastern Utah," Natalie Gochnour, an associate dean in the David Eccles School of Business at the University of Utah and chief economist for the Salt Lake Chamber, urges President Obama in an op-ed for the Deseret (UT) News (8/1, 538K) to involve Utahns in national monument designations. She argues that "the public deserves to be a part of the discussion" because "land designations affect real people and their voices matter," and "when presidents circumvent a public process, they cause other problems."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

BILL WOULD SHIFT CONSERVATION DOLLARS TO MAINTENANCE WORK. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that Rep. Sam Graves "this week introduced a bill to require that federal conservation dollars be used for maintenance rather than federal land acquisition." The "No More Land Act" would "shift money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to pay for maintenance on federal lands." Graves said, "Over the years, we've seen these agencies buying up more and more private property. My bill goes a long way in setting new priorities for these federal agencies and stopping the blatant power grab we have seen from them for too long now."

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. SHUTS DOWN RETAIL OPERATIONS. The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (8/1, 82K) reports that Drakes Bay Oyster Co. "shut down its retail operations Thursday in a goodbye ceremony attended by hundreds who raised the salty delicacies in a final toast on the sand spit by the water." The article notes that "while the retail operations have shut down, the company will be able to keep harvesting oysters for at least another 30 days in the wake of an agreement reached with the National Park Service last week."

Also covering the story are the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (8/1, 164K) and KQED-FM San Francisco (7/31, 15K).

MORE THAN 100 PROTESTERS ARRESTED IN DEMONSTRATION OVER DEPORTATIONS AT WHITE

HOUSE. ABC News (8/1, 3.58M) reports that "more than a hundred demonstrators intentionally had themselves arrested outside the White House today in protest against the Obama administration's response to the sudden surge of undocumented immigrants across the border with Mexico." According to the article, "the act of civil disobedience was organized mostly by religious groups, including the Catholic Sisters of Mercy and the United Methodist Church." The article notes that "several hundred additional supporters looked on as the activists staged a sit-in on the sidewalk outside the White House grounds, prompting National Park Service police to remove and arrest them for obstructing foot traffic in a highly choreographed, but peaceful, demonstration."

Also reporting on the story is WJLA-TV Washington (8/1, 125K).

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SEEKS INPUT ON QUARANTINE PROGRAM FOR BISON. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that Yellowstone National Park on Wednesday "announced plans to consider relocating its genetically pure bison to public and tribal lands across the West, a move conservationists have hailed as an important step toward restoring the massive herbivores to their native grasslands." The park is "considering establishing one or more long-term quarantine facilities in the park, tribal lands or elsewhere."

Also providing coverage by the AP is the Wichita (KS) Eagle (7/30, 313K).

MESA VERDE URGED TO PROVIDE WATER TO WILD HORSES. The AP (8/1) reports that "wild horse advocates want Mesa Verde National Park to start giving water to its herds following the deaths of six horses." Park wildlife biologist Neal Perry says "the watering ban is standard on all federal public lands." Instead, officials are "looking at rounding up some of the park's 100 wild horses and either selling them or treating them with birth control."

Also reporting on the story is the Denver Post (8/1, Lofholm, 923K).

EROSION CAUSES PARTIAL CLOSURE OF DUNES AT PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE. The AP (8/1) reports that "a portion of the Grand Sable Dunes in Grand Marais is now closed to the public because of hazardous erosion." Park officials announced Tuesday that "the northeast section of the dunes at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore had been closed by the National Park Service." Officials said "the dunes in that area are rapidly eroding into Sable Creek and Lake Superior."

WOMAN RECORDS HER TALES FOR NPS. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (8/1, 323K) reports on the work by the NPS to record Ida Mae Garrison's "memories of her upbringing and education for use at Devils Tower National Monument." Amy Bracewell, "site manager of a park in the Shenandoah Valley, who formerly worked at Mount Rushmore, traveled to Roanoke last month to interview Garrison, who spent much of her adult life in Washington and Northern Virginia, where she met her husband, Carl."

MUDSNAILS FOUND IN WYOMING LAKE. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that "the Game and Fish Department in Wyoming found fast-cloning invasive mudsnails in Lake Cameahwait in Wyoming." According to the state agency, "the mudsnails, native to New Zealand, can alter water chemistry and are used to tight living conditions with more than 275,000 snails sometimes living in a single square yard." The article notes that "the mudsnails have previously been found in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and in rivers like the Bighorn, Shoshone and Snake."

REPORT URGES OVERHAUL OF CALIFORNIA'S STATE PARKS . The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that "California's state parks system is in dire need of a financial overhaul, a new report shows." The state "must revamp the way it funds and maintains its 280 state parks, according to a preliminary report issued by a state commission reviewing the system." The panel "recommended a stable year-to-year state funding model and rules changes that would make it easier for the parks system to accept private donations."

Bureau of Land Management:

REPORT: BLM'S BUNDY RETREAT WILL "EMBOLDEN" EXTREMIST MILITIA. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that the BLM's "retreat from an armed confrontation with protesters during its roundup of cows in Bunkerville, Nev., will inspire more anti-government violence in the coming year, according to a new intelligence report from

the Department of Homeland Security." The July 22 report from DHS's Office of Intelligence and Analysis also "found the United States has experienced a spike in anti-government violence or plots over the past several months compared with previous years, fueled, in part, by the perception that armed militia were victorious at Cliven Bundy's Nevada ranch, the assessment warned." The article notes that "the assessment highlighted three incidents since April that appear to be connected to the events in Bunkerville, including the gunning down of two Las Vegas police officers, a threat that Texas militiamen will 'exterminate' federal officials who attempt a 'land grab,' and discussions by a Missouri-based militia movement about attacking federal convoys or helicopters it believed could be used to raid Bundy's ranch."

TWO WILD HORSES DIE DURING ROUNDUP IN UTAH. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/1, 470K) reports that "an agitated young wild horse alone in a corral apparently charged into a side panel and broke her neck after being rounded up on Utah's west desert," according to BLM spokeswoman Lisa Reid. Reid said that "the yearling filly died instantly and the BLM also had to euthanize a 7-year-old mare with a severely deformed leg from a previous fracture." The article notes that "both deaths — unusual during Utah's wild horse roundups — occurred Wednesday, the third day of the BLM's Blawn Wash gather in the Wah Wah Mountains of Beaver County, about 35 miles southwest of Milford." The bureau "finished the roundup Thursday with 143 horses removed from Blawn Wash, Reid said."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE DISCUSSES AGENCY'S USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA. FWS Director Dan Ashe described "how his agency has harnessed Facebook, Twitter, and other social media sites to keep national wildlife refuge visitors informed" with Curtis Franklin Jr. of Information Week (8/1, 1.3M). According to Franklin, in "a wide-ranging conversation in which we talked about why the agency has turned to social networks, what the agency's social network 'followers' get from their interaction with the agency, and what Dan has learned from his very active presence on Twitter." They also "had a chance to talk about how the agency manages its social media presence – no small issue for a geographically diverse organization that encompasses functions ranging from biology to bureaucracy."

BIOLOGISTS CRITICIZE FWS FOR LETTING OFFICIAL OVERRULE AGENCY SCIENTISTS ON WOLVERINE LISTING. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that the FWS "set a 'dangerous precedent' when it allowed a regional director to overrule the agency's scientists and reverse a proposal to list the American wolverine as a threatened species, according to a letter signed by more than 50 wildlife biologists." The article notes that "the letter – spearheaded by the Center for Biological Diversity – stops short of accusing the agency of political meddling or scientific misconduct." However, "it asserts that the FWS official ignored the best available science when she ordered scientists to withdraw their recommendation to list the wolverine under the Endangered Species Act."

Also reporting on the story is the Los Angeles Times (8/1, Sahagun, 3.42M).

ANIMAL ACTIVISTS CRITICIZE REPUBLICANS FOR "BETRAYING MASCOT" ELEPHANT. The Hill (8/1, Devaney, 237K) reports that "GOP lawmakers are 'betraying the party's mascot' with legislation that would roll back protections for endangered African elephants, animal rights activists say." The article notes that "more than 75,000 people have signed a petition protesting the Republican-backed Lawful Ivory Protection Act, which the animal rights activists say would encourage elephant poaching by establishing a market for ivory trade in the US" The petition says, "For years, the GOP has proudly held up the elephant as a mascot for their party — but when it comes to protecting these gentle giants, it seems Republican lawmakers are willing to betray this majestic animal."

BILL SEEKS TO PROTECT PRODUCERS FROM CONSEQUENCES OF LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKENS LISTING. The Hays (KS) Post (7/31) reports that Sen. Jerry Moran "recently introduced legislation, S.2623, to protect producers from the consequences of the lesser prairie chicken listing as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act." The measure would "prohibit the US Department of Agriculture and US Department of the Interior from altering any land management practices based on the lesser prairie chicken listing."

Also providing coverage is the Hays (KS) Daily News. (8/1, 36K)

FWS FINALIZES PROTECTIONS FOR THREE FLOWERS. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that the FWS will "finalize protections for three species of flower around the country." According to a notice scheduled to be published in Friday's Federal Register., "the Short's bladderpod (Physaria globosa), whorled sunflower (Helianthus verticillatus) and fleshy-fruit gladecress (Leavenworthia crassa) will all be listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act."

STUDY BLAMES LOST CALVES ON PANTHERS. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that "the recovery of Florida's panther population has brought unpleasant consequences for some ranchers, as a new study has linked the death of calves in the southwest part of the state with the feline predators." The article notes that the University of Florida research is "the first step in a potential program the US Fish and Wildlife Service is considering." The FWS is "looking into the possibility of paying ranchers to set aside panther habitat rather than compensate them for individual kills, which can be difficult to verify."

Also reporting on the story are the Los Angeles Times (8/1, Srikrishnan, 3.42M) and the Christian Science Monitor (7/31, 566K).

FWS RELEASING BALLVILLE DAM STUDY. The Fremont (OH) News-Messenger (7/31, 24K) reports that the FWS "should release the final Ballville Dam environmental impact statement today, an agency official said Thursday, a move that will help better determine costs associated with repair or removal of the structure." The article notes that "Fremont City Council members have been waiting on the release of the study, as well as a recommendation on whether to remove or repair the dam from engineering firm MWH, to aid them in making a final decision on the dam's fate before the end of 2014."

REFORM OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT WELCOMED. For Forbes (7/31, 11.38M), David Blackmon writes that "the US House of Representatives should be applauded this week for passage of HR 4315, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act." According to Blackmon, "the reforms proposed in the bill would become the first changes to this archaic and much-abused federal statute in 26 long years, during which time radical groups like the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians have made the law into a cottage industry for lawsuit abuse."

US Geological Survey:

USGS ANNOUNCES PLANS TO CONDUCT A THREE YEAR GROUNDWATER STUDY IN MOAB. The Moab (UT) Times-Independent (8/1) reports that the USGS "intends to sponsor and conduct a new comprehensive groundwater study of the Moab area, officials said this week." David Susong, supervisory hydrologist at the USGS Utah Water Science Center, and Victor Heilweil, a research hydrologist at the Utah Water Science Center, discussed "the proposed three-year study during a 90-minute public presentation and discussion held Tuesday, July 29 at the Grand Water and Sewer Service Agency (GWSSA) offices in Spanish Valley."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF STUDY THAT PREDICTS SOUTHEAST CITIES WILL GROW TO HARM HABITAT, ECOSYSTEMS. Additional coverage of the study the US Department of Interior's Southeast Climate Science Center and North Carolina State University was provided by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (8/1, 1.16M), the Atlanta Business Chronicle (8/1, Subscription Publication, 175K) and WXIA-TV Atlanta (7/31, 42K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

COUNTY RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED WIND-ENERGY PROJECT'S IMPACT ON FISHERY. The Newport (OR) News-Times (8/1) reports that "citing potential damage to a cherished Pacific whiting fishery and the coastal economy, Lincoln County's Board of Commissioners oppose a proposed deep-water wind energy project located about 16 nautical miles off Coos Bay." Board Chair Terry Thompson initiated the action Wednesday after sending a letter to the BOEM "asking for 'a restart' of the site selection process for Principle Power's request to place a demonstration project on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)."

PMSS TO ADVISE ON OFFSHORE CABLING. The Windpower Monthly (8/1) reports that PMSS America Inc.

"will work with UK-based marine consultants Red Penguin Associates to draw up guidelines for the installation of offshore cables" for the Interior Department and BSEE.

Onshore Energy Development:

JUSTICE MINES HAVE 266 PENDING VIOLATIONS IN FIVE STATES. The AP (8/1) reports that "a West Virginia coal billionaire has more than 250 pending violations at mining operations in Kentucky and four other states." The Courier-Journal "cited data from the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement in reporting that almost half of the citations against mines owned by Jim Justice are located in Kentucky, where enforcement officials have set an Aug. 11 deadline to take corrective action." The article notes that "other violations are pending at operations in West Virginia, Tennessee, Virginia and Alabama."

The Charleston (WV) Gazette (7/31, 44K) editorializes that "Justice is truly beloved in West Virginia, and deservedly so. He's a blessing to this state. It's a shame that an albatross hangs around his neck, as part of the plight of Appalachian mining."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (7/31, 4.06M), the Columbus (IN) Republic (8/1, 81K), the Charleston (WV) Gazette (7/31, 44K), the Bristol (TN/VA) Herald Courier (8/1, 81K), the Beckley (WV) Register-Herald (8/1, 63K), WDBJ-TV Roanoke, VA (8/1, 81K), and WSAZ-TV Huntington, WV (8/1, 51K).

Also reporting on the story is WCAV-TV Charlottesville, VA (8/1, 1K).

BLM LEASES COLORADO TRACT FOR $2.9 MILLION. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that the BLM on Wednesday "accepted Bowie Resource Partners LLC's $2.9 million bid for the right to access more than 8 million tons of coal in Colorado." Bowie "bid on the 1,790-acre tract to extend the life of its existing mine in Delta County, Colo., which BLM says produces more than 3 million tons of coal per year."

Politico (7/31, Guillén, 637K) reports that "Greenpeace is not happy with the price."

SENATE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PASSES FOUR RESOURCES BILLS. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that the Senate Indian Affairs Committee "passed four land-management bills yesterday, including legislation that would promote tribal coal development." The article notes that "among the measures approved by voice vote was S. 2442, from Montana Democrats John Walsh and Jon Tester, which would correct a century-old surveying error depriving the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of mineral resources." The measure would "give the tribes about 5,000 acres of subsurface coal rights within the reservation," and "in return, the current owner would receive roughly 10,000 acres of federal coal reserves outside of the tribe's lands."

AFRICAN LEADERS LOOKS FOR ENERGY PARTNERSHIPS AHEAD OF WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that "dozens of African business and government leaders will be networking with the energy business community here over the next couple of days, part of a lead-up to a major White House summit with African governments in Washington, D.C., next week." According to the article, "government ministers and officials from Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique and elsewhere will have a chance to explain to private companies interested in investing what their countries' future energy needs and plans are, and how they hope to reach their targets." The US government is "acting as the go-between during a series of events starting" Thursday, "hoping that the US private sector can help African governments further build out their energy infrastructure to be powered by natural gas and renewable sources."

LINK BETWEEN WASTEWATER WELLS AND EARTHQUAKES REMAINS CONTROVERSIAL. NPR (7/31, Wertheimer, 519K) reports in an interview with Joe Wertz, an energy reporter, that there remains controversy on whether there is a definitive link between wastewater wells and earthquakes. Despite insistence from many gas companies and state regulators that there is no scientific evidence to prove a link, some states have become "more aggressive with regulation" and are no longer "rubberstamping disposal well permits in earthquake-prone areas" as a precaution. Wertz says that the issue is unique in Oklahoma, where many of the people who are affected by the earthquakes also work in the oil and gas industry.

COLORADO COURT REJECTS FRACKING BAN, BUT LEAVES DOOR OPEN FOR MORATORIUMS. The Fort

Collins (CO) Coloradoan (7/31, Handy, 59K) reports that Colorado's "long-established legal precedent" that places power to regulate the oil and gas industry with the state is preventing cities like Longmont, Fort Collins, and Boulder from enacting fracking bans. According to Jan Laitos, a University of Denver environmental law professor, the only way Colorado cities will be able to implement a fracking ban is if there is a constitutional change. Despite the legal constraints facing an outright ban, other communities have maintained that a temporary moratorium is still within the authority of local governments to enact.

COURTS URGED TO STRIKE DOWN ANTI-FRACKING EFFORTS. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/1, Matthews, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), Merrill Matthews, a resident scholar with the Institute for Policy Innovation in Dallas, writes that efforts by state and local government to curb "fracking," which may end up being reviewed by the Supreme Court, are unconstitutional attempts to limit the ability of property owners to profit from their mineral rights and should be struck down by courts.

LATIMES: CALIFORNIA MUST FOLLOW THROUGH ON EFFORTS TO CREATE REGULATIONS FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA. The Los Angeles Times (8/1, 3.42M) editorializes that state legislature efforts to pass "the first comprehensive statewide regulations" for medical marijuana are "long past due" and "state leaders should not let another year go by without fixing...the mess." The Times notes while the current bill is "a work in progress...with some tweaks it would be a huge improvement over the current situation."

Offshore Energy Development:

SHELL RECONSIDERS ARCTIC DRILLING. The Hill (8/1, Barron-Lopez, 237K) reports that Shell CEO Ben van Beurdan has announced that the company is "leaving Arctic drilling operations on the table for 2015." The announcement appears to be a slight shift from previous policy, as Shell cancelled plans for Arctic exploration earlier this year, and Van Beurden had previously indicated that "exploration in the Arctic may not fit well with Shell's fiscal policies." Van Beurden did not commit to a starting date for resuming drilling, but the company has said it will "push for permits."

Also reporting on the story is the FuelFix (7/31, 7K).

BOEM SEEK LEASE NOMINATIONS FOR 2017 BEAUFORT SEA SALE. The Alaska Journal of Commerce (8/1, 14K) reports that "Shell has not yet been allowed to drill on its existing leases in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea but the federal government is now requesting proposals from industry on areas to be offered for lease there, according to a notice published July 29 in the Federal Register." The BOEM is "calling for lease nominations for OCS Sale 242 planned for 2017, according to the notice." In a statement, BOEM acting director Walter Cruickshank said, "There is significant oil and gas potential in the Beaufort Sea, but this part of the Arctic Ocean is also a unique and sensitive environment that is crucially important to the subsistence needs of Alaska Native communities on the North Slope."

BOEM SEEKS TO RELEASE NEW CHUKCHI REPORT BY OCTOBER. The Alaska Journal of Commerce (8/1, 14K) reports that the BOEM has "developed a revised exploration and development scenario for Chukchi Sea oil and gas development that will be part of a new draft supplemental environmental impact statement, or SEIS, to be issued this fall." According to the article, "the scenario is confidential for now while being reviewed by other federal agencies, the State of Alaska and the North Slope Borough, the regional municipal government, the BOEM said in an update submitted to the US Alaska District Court in Anchorage." The bureau is "now working on revised oil spill scenarios using the draft exploration and development plan."

OIL COMPANIES CEDE BEAUFORT DRILLING RIGHTS. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that "oil companies have ceded drilling rights on nearly half of their Beaufort Sea territory since 2003, according to an analysis of government data by the conservation group Oceana." The article notes that "even as the Obama administration plans to auction off more of the Beaufort Sea, it's not clear whether oil companies are interested in expanding operations there." According to the article, "about 584,000 acres of territory has been ceded by the companies since it was first acquired, and all but 7 acres is now held by Shell Oil Co."

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT: BP CAN'T DISMISS LAWSUITS BY BLAMING DRILLING MORATORIUM. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that "BP PLC can't avoid paying oil field services firms to compensate them for losses linked

to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill by blaming the federal government's subsequent drilling moratorium, federal prosecutors said." The Justice Department said "in court filings late Tuesday that BP can't use the defense, known as a supervening cause defense, because it isn't allowed under the Oil Pollution Act." US attorneys told US District Judge Carl Barbier, "Those defenses aim to litigate the conduct of the United States, even though the conduct of BP in causing the Macondo blowout and its aftermath is the only relevant subject."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS URGE FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF GULF OF MEXICO RIGS-TO-REEFS PROGRAM. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that "a group of environmentalists, scientists and fishermen is calling on the Interior Department for 'strong and consistent implementation' of its idle iron policy in order to restore the Gulf of Mexico." The group contends in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that "oil and gas companies are using Interior's 'rigs to reefs' program to avoid the costs of decommissioning oil platforms in the Gulf under the guise of creating aquatic habitat." They wrote in the letter, "The permanent seabed placement of obsolete oil and gas extraction infrastructure invites more ecosystem damage rather than restoring it as originally envisioned. The proposed additional discard of uncounted tons of deteriorating scrap metal into sensitive Gulf habitats will result in significant cumulative environmental degradation."

SHELL REACHES DEAL WITH ALASKA NATIVES TO SHARE IN OFFSHORE PROFITS. The AP (8/1, D'oro) reports that "an Alaska Native regional corporation and six Native Village corporations signed an agreement with a Shell Oil subsidiary Thursday that aims to share the profits from offshore drilling off Alaska's northwest coast." Shell and the Arctic Slope Regional Corp. announced "the formation of a new company called Arctic Inupiat Offshore LLC." The article notes that "the agreement with the Shell subsidiary, Shell Gulf of Mexico Inc., gives the Alaska Native company the option of acquiring an overriding royalty interest from Shell's drilling on leases in the Chukchi Sea."

Also reporting on the story are the Alaska Journal of Commerce (8/1, 14K) and KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK (8/1).

VIRGINIA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SUPPORTS COASTAL ENERGY EXPLORATION. In an op-ed for the Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (8/1, 405K), Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine; and Rep. Randy Forbes, Rob Wittman and Scott Rigell, write to "to provide a more optimistic case for coastal energy exploration." They claim that "the benefits of advancing energy production are significant: It would diversify Hampton Roads' economy, provide revenue for our schools and roads, and lessen our dependence on foreign energy." Moreover, they "are convinced it can be done in a manner that meets our shared obligation to protect our waters and shoreline."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT GETS WORSE. Bloomberg News (8/1, Randall, 2.76M) reports that in the course of the last week, "California's three-year drought...went from bad to dreadful." the article note that "the water reserves in California's topsoil and subsoil are nearly depleted, and 70 percent of the state's pastures are now rated 'very poor to poor,' according to the USDA." Also, "reservoir levels are dropping, and groundwater is being drained from the state as farms and cities pull from difficult-to-replenish underground caches."

Meanwhile, Bloomberg News (8/1, Vekshin, Marois, 2.76M) reports that "well drilling has doubled and tripled in two Central Valley counties that are at the core of the nation's most productive agricultural region after federal and state regulators cut the water they provide to farms as supplies ran low in the drought." The article notes that "if the shortage continues, there is a risk that farmers will deplete the groundwater reserves they are using as a lifeline to survive the dry spell."

EPA GREEN LIGHTS NAVAJO GENERATING STATION. The Indian Country Today Media Network (7/31, 45K) reports that the EPA has "green lighted the Navajo Generating Station in northern Arizona to operate until 2030 on the condition that its owners – the Bureau of Reclamation, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Arizona Public Service, NV Energy, Tucson Electric Power and Salt River Project – shut down one of the plant's three 750-MW generators or cut output at the plant by that amount by 2020." The article notes that "no other emissions controls will be required at the coal-fired power plant, one of the country's biggest emitters of nitrogen oxides, until 2030." According to the article, "with the pollution controls installed, the plant would be able to operate until 2044."

BOR SIGNS OFF ON MERCED COUNTY GROUNDWATER SALE. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/31, 582K) reports that the BOR has "signed off on the first step of a controversial proposal to sell groundwater out of Merced County by approving the project's environmental report." The bureau issued a "Finding of No Significant Impact." Rain Emerson, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist for BOR's South-Central California office, said, "Based on how the project was scaled back and the analysis of how the (groundwater) pumping on the ranches won't change from what's been done already, there weren't any significant impacts identified to neighboring wells or adjacent land owners."

The story also appears at the Fresno (CA) Bee (7/31, 322K) and the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (7/31, 99K).

BOR RELEASES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR HYDROPOWER PLAN ON SOUTH CANAL. The Delta County (CO) Independent (8/1, 22K) reports that the BOR has "released a draft environmental assessment for a proposed hydropower project at Drop 4 of the South Canal, part of the Uncompahgre Project in Montrose." The article notes that "the project, proposed by the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, would be located at existing Reclamation facilities on the South Canal."

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN DEFENDED. In an op-ed for the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/1, 582K), Mark W. Cowin, the director of the California Department of Water Resources., writes that "the California Department of Water Resources and its federal and state partners on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan have a legal responsibility to protect threatened species and supply water to millions of Californians." He claims that "with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, DWR and its partners have moved beyond decades of incremental, species-by-species compliance with the state and federal endangered species acts that have failed to recover Chinook salmon, Delta smelt and other species." He concludes that "the status quo in the Delta does not work for California's natural heritage or its economy, and we bear the responsibility to change that."

Empowering Native American Communities:

LAWMAKERS INTRODUCE BILL TO STREAMLINE DISTRIBUTION OF COBELL CHECKS. The Nation Sun News (8/1) reports that Sen. John Walsh and Rep. Peter DeFazio "introduced a bill last week that would streamline the Cobell Land Buy-Back program and the payment of the second and long awaited Cobell settlement payments to plaintiffs." Congressional members have "recently begun speaking out about their displeasure with the continued delays preventing tens of thousands of Native Americans from receiving their share of the Cobell settlement funds." The proposed measure would "amend the Claims Resettlement Act of 2010 that both approved payment of funds to individual Native American plaintiffs and also ordered the Department of the Interior to use $1.5 billion of the $3.4 billion awarded to distribute money to Settlement class members."

Top National News:

HOUSE LEADERS POSTPONE RECESS, SCRAMBLE TO SALVAGE BORDER BILL AS TIME RUNS OUT. Media reports note prospects for House passage of a border bill remain in flux, after House GOP leaders failed to bring it to a vote on Thursday. Stories also note there is virtually no chance a House bill – were one to pass the lower chamber – could be reconciled with a Senate version and sent to the President before Congress goes on recess. As USA Today (7/31, Davis, 5.76M) puts it, for the House GOP "the exercise is largely political because whatever Republicans ultimately pass will face Senate opposition and a White House veto threat." The CBS Evening News (7/31, story 6, 1:25, Cordes, 5.08M) was the only network newscast to report on the immigration debate, describing a Congress "in a state of disarray" and noting that "Senate Democrats don't have enough votes for their bill either."

The AP (7/31, Werner) notes House GOP leaders had to "abruptly" abandon their bill yesterday due to lack of conservative backing, though "an hour later, they called an urgent meeting to plot their next moves" in what amounted to "an embarrassing setback for Speaker John Boehner and his leadership team as a small group of tea party lawmakers once again upset their plans." The issue for conservatives, "goaded by firebrand" Sen. Ted Cruz, is their reluctance to "give money to Obama without taking steps to rein in his executive authority on immigration." Democrats, adds the AP, "openly mocked the apparent influence of Cruz over the House GOP, referring to him as Speaker Cruz." Cruz, says the Los Angeles Times (8/1, Mascaro, 3.42M), "has been working

behind the scenes to stir up conservative opposition" to the House plan, and "it worked," leading "House GOP leaders" to bristle "at the senator's interference on their turf." Rep. Peter T. King is quoted as saying that the Texas senator "had 'hijacked'" the GOP.

In a front-page story highlighting Cruz's role in the bill's failure, the Washington Post (7/31, A1, Costa, 4.06M) says the "beginning of the collapse...came Wednesday evening, when...Cruz gathered more than a dozen House Republicans at his office in the Dirksen building on Capitol Hill." Present were "longtime Cruz confidants, such as Rep. Michele Bachmann (Minn.), and more recent ones, such as Reps. Todd Rokita (Ind.) and Marsha Blackburn (Tenn.)." Yesterday, Politico (8/1, Raju, 637K) reports, "an unapologetic...Cruz dismissed GOP criticism Thursday that he helped sink an emergency aid package for the Southwest border, arguing any bill Congress passes must end 'amnesty' for undocumented immigrants."

The Washington Post (8/1, A1, Kane, O'Keefe, 4.06M) similarly calls "the bill's retraction...an embarrassing failure in the first real test of the new leadership team that takes office Thursday after Virginia Rep. Eric Cantor's resignation as majority leader." House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers "said he was 'disappointed' as he conceded that support quickly eroded Thursday."

At any rate, Roll Call (7/31, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported, House GOP leaders "plan to try" to pass their bill "again Friday before jetting out of town for the August recess." Oversight and Government Reform chairman Darrell Issa told reporters, "We will stay until we vote." Roll Call described the atmosphere surrounding the GOP caucus' debate as "chaos." Reuters (7/31, Cowan) also casts the situation as a serious embarrassment for Boehner's leadership team, while Politico (7/31, Bresnahan, Palmer, Sherman, 637K) refers to a "meltdown," noting that to turn the situation "into a victory," GOP leaders "are going to have to pick up a lot of votes in a short period of time," with "GOP sources" saying "they would need to close a double-digit gap."

More optimistic was Rep. Spencer Bachus, who according to Bloomberg News (8/1, Wallbank, Wasson, Bender, 2.76M) said as he left a meeting yesterday afternoon, "We'll have the votes tomorrow," while The Hill (8/1, Marcos, 237K) notes Rep. Tom Cole "said the opponents are now 'a relatively small group.'" Another story in The Hill (8/1, Lillis, 237K), however, reports that "Tea Party conservative" John Fleming of Louisiana called "Republican opposition to" the bill "insurmountable," and warned "there are no changes GOP leaders could make to their $659 million package that would win the support of 218 Republicans." Under the headline "Boehner Blinks: GOP Leaders Delay Border Bill, Leave Obama In Control," the Washington Times (8/1, Dinan, 465K) says that "at root, the conservatives said no matter what they passed, they didn't trust Mr. Obama to follow through."

The New York Times (8/1, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) also reports GOP leaders "are expected to hold another meeting with their members on Friday morning to decide how to move forward," facing the prospect of heading "home for the recess with nothing to show for their efforts – something many Republicans fear will be an enormous political liability." Like USA Today, the Times notes "the blow to...Boehner and his new team...makes it unlikely that any legislation to address what both Democrats and Republicans call an urgent humanitarian crisis will reach President Obama's desk before the August break." Moreover, "the Senate was also unlikely to pass its own border bill on Thursday."

The Huffington Post (7/31, Foley, 11.54M) briefly noted the developments in the House, while Roll Call (7/31, Dennis, 76K) reported that the White House issued a statement in which it called the House's failure to pass a bill "extraordinary," adding that "by failing to act on an immigration reform bill that requires that people who are here illegally pay taxes, undergo background checks and get on the right side of the law, the House is instead driving an approach that is about rounding up and deporting 11 million people, separating families, and undermining DHS' ability to secure the border."

The Hill (8/1, Shabad, 237K) reports on its website that Texas Gov. Rick Perry yesterday said "Congress should not leave Washington for its five-week recess until the 'job is completed' on the border crisis." Said Perry, "While Texas has taken what steps it can to mitigate the damage caused by a porous border, Congress and the President have a duty to address our border security issues without further delay. Congress should not go into recess until the job is completed."

In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/1, 4.06M) accuses House Republicans of "opting for the preposterous when summoned to do the practical," and says "Senate Democrats did not look much more determined to deal

with the immediate problem." The Post concludes calling for "resources to handle the influx at the border and accelerate the adjudication of...cases," and adds that "Congress's failure to provide them would be nothing short of shameful."

Under the headline "Republicans Deliver Another Self-inflicted Wound," Dan Balz writes in the Washington Post (8/1, 4.06M) that Republicans this week "have shown a remarkable capacity to complicate their path to victory" in November, because "the tea party gives the" GOP "energy, but...continues to push the party further to the right than some strategists believe is safe ground." The latest immigration dust-up "offered a fresh example of the conundrum for Republicans."

Senate Bill Blocked On Procedural Vote. Politico (8/1, Kim, Everett, 637K) reports that the Senate also failed to move its bill last night. The measure "died on a procedural vote, 50-44." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said after the vote, "It's very regretful that we're not able to move forward on it."

Amid DC Paralysis, Obama Awaiting Recommendations For Executive Action On Border. In the final paragraphs of a story about House GOP leaders' failure to pass a border bill, the New York Times (8/1, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) notes the White House "has said the president expects to receive recommendations from" DOJ and DHS "by the end of the summer about how Mr. Obama could use his executive authority to make immigration enforcement more humane." But the situation is politically dicey for the President, who is "coming under pressure on both sides" – with Republicans "asserting that they do not trust him to enforce the existing immigration laws" and Democrats "facing tough re-election fights...urging the administration not to take further executive actions on immigration, warning that it could hurt them back home with voters."

The Washington Post (8/1, A1, Kane, O'Keefe, 4.06M), meanwhile, reports Rep. Rogers "encouraged Obama to act on his own and rescind his 2012 executive order directing immigration officials to use broad discretion in deciding whether to deport undocumented children here in the United States." Referring to the standoff in the House, Rogers said, "I think this will put a lot more pressure on the president to act."

Boehner: "No More Unilateral Action By The President." Reuters (7/31, Felsenthal) reports that Boehner yesterday once more urged the President not to take unilateral action on immigration. Said Boehner, "No more unilateral action by the president. ... If the president takes these actions, he'll be sealing the deal on his legacy of lawlessness. ... He'll be violating the solemn oath he made to the American people on the day of his inauguration."

DHS: Diseases Spreading At Facilities Holding Children. The Daily Caller (7/31, Greer, 408K) noted that a DHS report "on the facilities housing the recent flood of 'unaccompanied alien children' (UAC) from Central America describes conditions where diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) and scabies are spreading, and staff are being exposed to human waste."

112 Arrested As Activists Protest Deportations Before White House. The AP (7/31, Lugo) reports "activists and religious leaders massed outside the White House on Thursday to protest against US policies on deporting migrants in the country illegally, and police arrested 112 demonstrators for blocking traffic." The protesters "urged...Obama to immediately halt all deportations," and "called on him to extend relief for migrants by decree and to protect Central American children crossing into the US unaccompanied by adults." Reuters (7/31, Chiacu, McGinnis) runs a similar report.

Amid Debate About Use Of National Guard At Border, "Masked Militias" Arrive In South Texas. USA Today (7/31, Jervis, 5.76M) reports the Texas governor's "impending deployment – no date has been announced – of up to 1,000 National Guards troops to help deal with the border crisis...has been met with mixed response throughout Texas and the USA," with critics calling the "move political theater by Perry, who is considering running for president in 2016," and warning that "the troops, ill-trained to handle immigrants, could do more harm than good."

The Los Angeles Times (8/1, Hennessy-Fiske, 3.42M), meanwhile, reports that "masked militias have arrived in South Texas with semiautomatic rifles and tactical gear, causing a stir not only in border communities, but among state officials." The Times notes that "outraged, members of the Texas Democratic congressional delegation wrote a letter to the state's attorney general demanding he denounce the militias and define what they

can legally do," but Greg Abbott, "a Republican campaigning to replace Perry as governor, dismissed the letter through a spokeswoman," calling it a "partisan political stunt."

DHS IG Dismisses 78 Out Of 116 ACLU Complaints Against Immigration Agents. The Washington Times (8/1, Dinan, 465K) notes that the DHS IG office issued a report yesterday dismissing "most complaints of civil rights violations against immigration agents handling the surge of illegal immigrant children on the border." The report says that "of the 116 complaints the ACLU filed, the IG has dismissed 78 of them," while "the other 38 are still under review."

Salvadorian Official Says Not All Children Are Fleeing To US Because Of Violence. James Brown reported on the CBS Evening News (7/31, story 7, 2:40, Brown, 5.08M), "Many of the children coming here from Central America are fleeing violence in their homeland." Reporting from El Salvador, Manuel Bojorquez added that while "gangs have merged with cartels moving drugs north," and corruption "reaches into the ranks of police, government, even schools," El Salvador's child protection agency director, Zaira Navas, "does not believe violence is driving out all those who have fled. She says most want to reunite with family in the US."

In an analysis piece, meanwhile, the Washington Post (8/1, Henneberger, 4.06M) reports that "advocates for immigrants do say that many of the young women and girls coming here from Central America are making the trip to escape sexual violence in their home countries," and "yet, incredibly, Republicans and...Obama have been arguing that a return trip to hell is the only way to keep many more Central American victims of violence from coming here."

DESPITE PREVIOUS BRENNAN DENIALS, IG SAYS CIA IMPROPERLY ACCESSED SENATE COMPUTERS. A report from the CIA's inspector general, which says that agency employees improperly accessed the computers used by the Senate Intelligence Committee, was covered by two of the three network news broadcasts Thursday evening, and receives a great deal of print coverage this morning. Most reports note that the IG's finding, which contradicts repeated denials by CIA Director Brennan that no such spying had occurred, has prompted calls that Brennan be held accountable.

NBC Nightly News (7/31, story 3, 1:50, Williams, 7.86M) that the CIA has "admitted...to spying, not on a foreign government, but on our own Congress, improperly finding their way into US Senate computers during an investigation into the CIA's interrogation techniques after 9/11." NBC (Mitchell) added that while the CIA has denied "spying on Senate investigators looking into alleged CIA torture of prisoners after 9/11," on Thursday, the CIA's inspector general said that five agency employees, "including two attorneys, improperly accessed the computers launching a keyword search of all and a review of some of the emails of Democratic staff members." Some senators "are demanding that the CIA director, John Brennan, one of the President's closest advisers, be fired."

The CBS Evening News (7/31, story 4, 1:35, Brown, 5.08M) that Brennan "apologized today after an internal investigation determined the agency had spied on staff members of the United States Senate. Something Brennan had long denied."

Reuters (7/31, Hosenball) note that CIA spokesman Dean Boyd said that Brennan had informed Senate Intelligence Committee Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein and senior Republican Saxby Chambliss of the IG's finding and apologized.

The New York Times (8/1, Mazzetti, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) calls the IG report a "vindication" for Feinstein, "who excoriated the C.I.A. in March when the matter became public." The Times adds that a CIA spokesman said that Brennan "would set up an internal accountability board to review the issue." According to the spokesman, the board, which will be led by former Sen. Evan Bayh, "could recommend 'potential disciplinary measures' and 'steps to address systemic issues.'"

The AP (7/31, Dilanian) calls the IG report "stark" and notes that with its release, the CIA's "insistence that it did not spy on its Senate overseers collapsed." The AP notes that the findings "were shared with the Justice Department, which has so far declined to pursue criminal charges, officials said."

McClatchy (7/31, Landay, Watkins, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that the IG report contradicts "denials

of such intrusions" by Brennan, and notes that Feinstein called his "apology and his decision to submit the CIA IG findings to the accountability board 'positive first steps.'"

The Washington Times (8/1, Dinan, Ernst, 465K) says the admission is a retreat from Brennan's "vehement denials" that has further damaged the CIA's "credibility with Congress." The Times notes that senators "demanded accountability for Mr. Brennan's now-discredited denials." Sen. Ron Wyden said, "The CIA conducted an unauthorized search of Senate files, and attempted to have Senate staff prosecuted for doing their jobs. ... Director Brennan's claims to the contrary were simply not true."

The Huffington Post (7/31, Bobic, 11.54M) reported that Sen. Mark Udall "on Thursday called for the resignation of John Brennan as CIA director," saying in a statement, "After being briefed on the CIA Inspector General report today, I have no choice but to call for the resignation of CIA Director John Brennan. ... The CIA unconstitutionally spied on Congress by hacking into Senate Intelligence Committee computers. This grave misconduct not only is illegal, but it violates the U.S. Constitution's requirement of separation of powers. These offenses, along with other errors in judgment by some at the CIA, demonstrate a tremendous failure of leadership, and there must be consequences."

The Wall Street Journal (8/1, Gorman, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) notes that the IG report did not look into the CIA's claim that Senate aides had improperly gained access to an internal CIA document. Committee aides' actions are still under investigation by the Senate sergeant at arms.

An editorial in USA Today (8/1, 5.76M) argues that the CIA "appears to have directly violated the separation of powers doctrine," and says that Brennan either "knew what was going on and didn't tell the truth, or he didn't know what was happening in his own agency and looks dangerously uninformed." USA Today notes that Brennan's credibility "seems badly damaged," and if more senators echo Udall's call for his resignation he "would become a serious liability for President Obama."

NYTimes: CIA Culture Needs A "Thorough Overhaul." A New York Times (8/1, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorial argues that with its "shocking action," the CIA has offended "all of Congress and, by extension, the American public, which is paying for an intelligence agency that does not seem to understand the most fundamental concept of separation of powers." Arguing that the CIA is in need of "more than a few quiet personnel changes," the Times says the agency's "very core, and basic culture, needs a thorough overhaul."

OBAMA EXECUTIVE ORDER REQUIRES FEDERAL CONTRACTORS TO DISCLOSE LABOR VIOLATIONS. Reuters (7/31, Becker) reports President Obama yesterday signed an executive order requiring that prospective Federal government contractors disclose any labor law violations. The Fair Play and Safe Workplaces Executive order also provides screening help to the Federal agencies hiring the contractors.

McClatchy (7/31, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that "White House officials said the act isn't aimed at rooting at companies with a single offense, but rather those who have displayed a pattern of violations or 'particularly egregious' conduct." McClatchy notes "workers' groups hailed the move."

The Washington Times (8/1, Wolfgang, 465K) reports that before he signed the order, Obama "said that if there were fewer limits on his power, he could've accomplished the bulk of his agenda – immigration reform, a hike in the minimum wage and a variety of other items – in just 24 months." Said Obama, "If I could do all that, I would have gotten everything done in my first two years. Because these policies make sense. ... I'm confident when we look back, we'll see that these kinds of executive actions build some of the momentum and give people the confidence and hope that ultimately leads to broad-based changes."

Politico (7/31, Gerstein, 637K) reports that discussing the latest order yesterday, "administration officials" said "the House's vote to sue...Obama for allegedly abusing his executive authority won't dissuade him from keeping up his executive action drive." In fact, "aides made clear the step is also intended to send a message to the Republican House that the president isn't backing down in the face of the litigation threat." The Christian Science Monitor (7/31, Feldmann, 566K), meanwhile, reported that according to "political analysts," impeachment "chatter isn't serious," but "the lawsuit is – and cannot be dismissed lightly by the White House, even if its chances of success are low."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The CIA's Reckless Breach Of Trust."*** A New York Times (8/1, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorial blasts the CIA over revelations that agency employees improperly accessed Senate computers, arguing that with its "shocking action," the CIA has offended "all of Congress and, by extension, the American public, which is paying for an intelligence agency that does not seem to understand the most fundamental concept of separation of powers." Arguing that the CIA is in need of "more than a few quiet personnel changes," the Times says the agency's "very core, and basic culture, needs a thorough overhaul."

"Holding McDonald's Accountable." The New York Times (8/1, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that the NLRB ruling that McDonald's "is jointly responsible or the treatment of workers" is a "well-deserved burst of momentum" for efforts by fast-food workers to increase their pay. The Times says while McDonald's is fighting for the idea that "the well-being of the workers is not its responsibility...true corporate leaders would find a workable compromise."

"China Harasses US Tech Companies." An editorial in the New York Times (8/1, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) says China's antitrust investigations into US technology companies are "politically motivated" and warns that foreign companies operating there "could be in for more intense harassment than ever before." The Times says that for US companies "doing business in China, while potentially lucrative, is bound to be difficult and fraught," adding that China "is ruled by an authoritarian government that has scant concern for the rule of law when it comes to its own people," and there is "no guarantee that it will treat foreigners any better."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Shame On Congress."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/1, 4.06M) accuses House Republicans of "opting for the preposterous when summoned to do the practical," and says "Senate Democrats did not look much more determined to deal with the immediate problem." The Post concludes calling for "resources to handle the influx at the border and accelerate the adjudication of...cases," and adds that "Congress's failure to provide them would be nothing short of shameful."

"Argentina vs. The 'Vultures.'" An editorial in the Washington Post (8/1, 4.06M) says the question emerging from the Argentina debt situation is "what precedent this case might establish for other indebted sovereigns and those who lend them money." The Post says the outcome of the case "may actually encourage lenders to provide funds and debtors to use it wisely — rendering debt restructurings less necessary in the first place."

"An Irresponsible School Board."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Obama's Big Mac Attack."*** The Wall Street Journal (8/1, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorializes that by declaring McDonald's a joint-employer this week, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is holding the company responsible for decisions of its approximately 3,000 franchisees, which make up about 90 percent of its operations. The Journal notes this also impacts thousands of franchisers and franchisees.

"The Ginsburg Mystique." The Wall Street Journal (8/1, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorializes that Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's recent remarks on the effect her colleagues' gender might have had on their votes in the recently decided Hobby Lobby case are an example of identity politics that should have no place in court decision-making.

"Argentina: Solo Deadbeat." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/1, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) decries efforts by the IMF to use Argentina's default to resurrect calls for a global bankruptcy court.

"The Global Religion Crisis." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/1, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) says the State Department's release this week of its annual report on international religious freedom draws needed attention to the violent oppression of religious believers around the world, which the Journal says is subverting global peace and stability.

"The 'Illiberal' Idea Rises." A Wall Street Journal (8/1, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorial says that as a result of the lack of US leadership in the world, nations that have recently moved toward democracy are backsliding. The Journal cites comments by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who said that Hungary's EU

membership does not mean it cannot create "an illiberal new state based on national foundations," and cited Russia, Turkey and China as nations to emulate.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Liquor License, Opioid Bills Pass Legislature
Red Sox Tear Apart Roster That Won World Series
Report Accuses Ex-Westfield State President Of Lavish Spending, Dishonesty
Moscow's Cold War Site Evokes The Unthinkable
Congress Keeps Road Funds Going

Boston Herald:
Marty Walsh: 336 Unsolved Boston Homicides 'Alarming'

Wall Street Journal:
Dow's 317-Point Tumble Erases Year's Gains
Israel, Hamas Agree To 3-Day Cease-Fire
Flight 370 Mystery Leads To Uncharted Waters
Investigation Finds CIA Improperly Accessed Senate Computers

New York Times:
A 72-Hour Pause In Gaza Conflict As Talks Are Set
Cuomo's Back-Room Style Draws A Potent Critic
Africa Presses Effort To Curb Ebola's Spread
Inquiry By CIA Affirms It Spied On Senate Panel
Perils Of City Driver's Ed: Pigeons, Taxis And Litigious Pedestrians
Popular Prepaid Money Card Opens Path To Fraud Schemes

Washington Post:
3-Day Truce for Israel, Hamas
Revolt Within GOP Quashes Border Vote
Photo Shows McDonnell With Watch
W. Africa Outbreak Of Ebola Worsens
Senator Cracks Conservative Whip To Stop The Speaker
CIA Director Apologizes For Search Of Hill Computers

Financial Times:
European Groups Warn On Russia Sanctions
Iliad Bids For Control Of T-Mobile US
US And UN Secure 72-Hour Gaza Ceasefire
European Banks Feel Backlash Of Clean-Up
Hedge Funds Bet On Argentine Recovery
Facebook To Offer Free Internet In Zambia
Argentina Bondholders Are Sanguine

Washington Times:
Obama Military Downsizing Leaves Us Too Weak To Counter Global Threats, Panel Finds
CIA Admits Improperly Hacking Senate Computers
Feds Accept Boredom, Lack Of Work As Excuses For Surfing Porn On Clock
Law Enforcement Agency Seeks Review Of Virginia Drone-Use Moratorium
Congress Leaves Obama Holding The Burden Of Border Children

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Ebola Outbreak; Mideast Conflict-Cease Fire; Wall Street-Stocks Fall; Small Plane Crashes; Delivery Theft.
CBS: Wall Street-Stocks Fall; Ebola Outbreak; CIA-Senate Spying Scandal; Mideast Conflict; Congress-Immigration Reform; Immigration Crisis; Small Plane Crashes; Ukraine-Malaysia Flight Crash.
NBC: Ebola Outbreak; Mideast Crisis; CIA-Senate Spying Scandal; Edward Snowden; Wall Street-Stocks Fall; California-Drought; Virginia-McDonnells Scandal; Bill Clinton-2001 Bin Laden Comments; Summer Weather-Great Lakes; GW Bush-Derek Jeter Meeting.

Network TV At A Glance:
Ebola Outbreak – 11 minutes, 55 seconds (00:11:55)
Mideast Conflict – 6 minutes, 45 seconds (00:06:45)
CIA-Senate Spying Scandal – 3 minutes, 25 seconds (00:03:25)
Wall Street-Stocks Fall – 3 minutes, 20 seconds (00:03:20)
Small Plane Crashes – 3 minutes, 30 seconds (00:03:30)

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Mideast Conflict-Cease Fire; Ebola Outbreak; California-Drought; Congress-Immigration Reform.
CBS: Mideast Conflict-Cease Fire; Economy-Jobs Report; Wall Street-Stocks Fall; Congress-Immigration Reform; Wisconsin-Collective Bargaining Ruling; Ebola Outbreak.
FOX: Mideast Conflict-Cease Fire; Economy-Jobs Report; Wall Street-Stocks Fall; Tropical Storm Bertha; Congress-VA Reform Bill; California Wildfires-Yosemite; New England-Unburied Remains; Muhammad Ali Memorabilia Sold.
NPR: Mideast Conflict-Cease Fire; Congress-VA Reform Bill; Ebola Outbreak; Wall Street-Stocks Fall; CIA-Senate Spying Scandal; Congress-Transportation Funding Bill.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President will attend meetings at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: Votes are now possible throughout the day.
Other: ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH REFORM -HEALTH CARE BEHIND BARS — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. "Health Care Behind Bars: A Key to Population Health?" This briefing will explore innovations and challenges in delivering health care to a growing population of inmates. The event is sponsored by the nonpartisan Alliance for Health Reform and the Centene Corporation. Location: 325 Russell. Contacts: Marilyn Serafini, mserafini@allhealth.org, 202-789-2300

NPC – PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF CONGO — 12:30 p.m. President of the Republic of Congo Denis Sassou-Nguesso will discuss peace, security and stability of the central Africa region and oil investments in his country at a National Press Club luncheon. This is a ticketed event. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Marc Sames, msames@worldaffairsdc.org, 202-293-1051, reservations@press.org, 202-662-7501

SMALL BUSINESS FEDERAL PROCUREMENT SCORECARD — 1 p.m. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, will join Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet and NASA Administrator Charles Bolden at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt to announce the results of the 2013 Small Business Federal Procurement Scorecard. Speakers: Senator Ben Cardin, D-MD; SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet; NASA Administrator Charles Bolden. Location: NASAs Goddard Space Flight Center, Visitor Center, 8800 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20771 (The Goddard Visitor Center is located off ICESat Road. Once on ICESat Road, turn left into the Visitor Center prior to the security checkpoint.). Contacts: Tim Zink 410-962-4436. Sue Walitsky (202-224-4524)

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Washington, D.C., today – after a very productive last few months, Congress is about to head off on their August recess, which seems appropriate. You know, adults go on vacation, children go on recess. And they take the whole month of August off. From what, exactly, I don't know."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Congress is a lot like nipples on men. They're there. They're displayed prominently. But they don't do anything. And now, they're leaving to go do nothing at home."

David Letterman: "There's a new study out that says that Republicans are more religious than Democrats. Yeah. But I don't think that includes President Obama praying every day for his term to end."

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, you know, if you've been watching this show for the past five years, and I hope you have been, it's no secret that Barack Obama is ruining our economy. Ask yourself this question. Under his leadership, are you as rich as you'd like to be? I know I could imagine me having more money."

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, the House of Representatives voted 225 to 201 to sue President Obama for abusing his executive powers. Experts are calling this a meaningless political stunt that's a huge waste of taxpayer money, while Congress is saying, 'Yep, that's what we do.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The House voted 225 to 201 to sue President Obama. That's the bad news. The good news is Congress actually passed something."

Seth Meyers: "You guys, today marks the last day before Congress' summer recess. They're taking five weeks off. Five weeks. I hope they can get used to doing nothing. What are you going to do for the recess? 'My kids want to go to the water park, but I'm going to try and block it.'"

Seth Meyers: "Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg told reporters that despite her age, she does not plan on retiring and is likely to remain on the court for a while. After which, she was immediately traded to the New York Knicks."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, August 13, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Aug 13, 2014 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS REDDING AND DISCUSSES WILDFIRE PREVENTION. The Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight (8/13, 92K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "visited Redding on Tuesday and touted a new way to pay for fire prevention, which she said annually is looted to pay for fire suppression." Jewell "met with firefighters battling the thousands of acres burning across the North State and toured facilities at the Northern California Geographic Area Coordination Center in Redding." During her tour, Jewell said "federal officials

are caught in a downward spiral of taking money from fire prevention and using it for fire suppression." According to Jewell, "two bills in Congress, which the Obama administration supports, would change how firefighting is funded and prevent taking money from prevention."

Also covering the story is KFBK-AM Sacramento, CA (8/13).

Lightning Sparks Dozens Of New Fires In Northwest. The AP (8/13) reports that "lightning has started dozens of new wildfires in the Northwest, forcing incident commanders to juggle crews and equipment Tuesday as a new round of storms approached." President Barack Obama "signed a disaster declaration Monday for Washington state, where hundreds of homes have burned in wildfires in the past month." It "orders federal aid to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in Okanogan County and the Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation, and says federal funding also is available for hazard mitigation."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Bellingham (WA) Herald (8/12, 143K), the Clark County (WA) Columbian (8/12, 109K), and the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (8/12, 18K). Additional coverage was provided by the Washington Post (8/13, 4.06M), the Denver Post (8/13, 923K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/13, 582K), and Fox News (8/13, 6.72M).

Man Pleads Not Guilty To 2013 Wildfire. The AP (8/12) reports that "a Northern California man accused of starting one of the state's largest wildfires when he lost control of his campfire last year can leave jail while the criminal case plays out in court, a federal judge said Tuesday." US District Magistrate Judge Gary Austin said Keith Matthew Emerald, 32, "can post a $60,000 property bond if he wants to go free." Austin also "set a list of conditions, including one that prohibits Emerald from lighting any campfires."

Also reporting on the story is the Los Angeles Times (8/13, Rocha, Mather, 3.42M).

SECRETARY JEWELL AGREES TO MEET WITH KLAMATH SALMON ADVOCATES. The AP (8/13) reports that Jewell "agreed to an impromptu meeting with salmon advocates demanding more water for salmon in Northern California's Klamath and Trinity rivers." After the Tuesday meeting in Redding, California, salmon advocate Regina Chichizola said Jewell "agreed to send someone to assess the situation, but made no promises." The article notes that "members of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and others have been pressing the Obama administration to release more water from Lewiston Dam on the Trinity."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/12, 582K), The Oregonian (8/13, 827K), KFMB-TV San Diego (8/13, 15K), KTVN-TV Reno, NV (8/13, 1K), and KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (8/13, 1K).

Also reporting on the story are the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (8/13, 76K) and KIEM-TV Eureka, CA (8/13, 428).

Secretary Jewell Urged To Consider Releasing Water From Trinity Lake. The Willits (CA) News (8/13, 10K) reports that "the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors took further action on the ongoing statewide drought during its Tuesday meeting by extending the local state of emergency and sending a letter to the federal government asking it to approve fish-kill preventative releases on the Klamath and Trinity rivers." The letter to the Jewell "urges her to consider releasing water from Trinity Lake into the Trinity and Klamath rivers to address low flows and warm temperatures that could lead to a potential fish kill."

The story also appears at the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (8/13, 76K).

SECRETARIES JEWELL, MONIZ DISCUSS ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "the Southwest needs a lot of work before it can overcome the challenges of exporting energy to markets, according to two officials in the Obama administration." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz met with dozens of tribal and state authorities on Monday "in Santa Fe, N.M., in an effort to develop recommendations on transmitting, storing and distributing energy." The two officials said "one of the biggest problems in tapping the region's great traditional and renewable energy potential was working across state lines and Native American jurisdictions to build pipeline and transmission projects."

Additional coverage was provided by the AP (8/13). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Worcester

(MA) Telegram & Gazette (8/11, 208K) and KOB-TV Albuquerque, NM (8/13, 59K).

Tribes Discuss Concerns At Energy Review Meeting. The Nation Sun News (8/13) reports that "tribal leaders took part in a day-long meeting hosted by the Department of Energy on Monday." Tribal officials "discussed jurisdictional issues at two panels during the meeting." They also offered comments to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC VEHICLES PUSHED DURING DREAM CRUISE WEEK. The Detroit News (8/13, Abdel-Razzaq, 495K) reports that the National Historic Vehicle Register Act of 2014 was "introduced at the end of July by U.S. Rep. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, and U.S. Rep. John Campbell, R-Calif." The measure would allow the Interior Department "to work with the Historic Vehicle Association, the world's largest historic vehicle owners group, to document and preserve the most significant automobiles around today." The article notes that "the announcement comes during the week of the Woodward Dream Cruise, which regularly draws tens of thousands of classic cars and hot rods to Metro Detroit."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR DESIGNATES PARCELS OFF NORTH CAROLINA COAST FOR WIND DEVELOPMENT. Additional coverage that the BOEM has designated three areas off the coast of North Carolina for the potential development of offshore wind power was provided by the AP (8/13).

Coverage by the AP as also picked up by the Columbus (IN) Republic (8/13, 81K), the Washington Times (8/12, 465K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (8/13, 857K), the Lakeland (FL) Ledger (8/12, 140K), WCTI-TV Greenville, NC (8/13, 52K), WHNS-TV Greenville, SC (8/13, 106K), and WITN-TV Washington, NC (8/13, 52K).

Also reporting on the story are the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (8/11, 456K), the Burlington (NC) Times-News (8/13, 57K), the Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (8/13, 405K), the North American Windpower (8/13, 43K), the Fierce Energy (8/13), the Clean Energy (8/12), and WUNC-FM Chapel Hill, NC (8/13, 15K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN RELATIONS. Additional coverage of Native Hawaiian relations was provided by the Government Executive (8/13, 28K).

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION URGED TO GIVE UP ON WEST DAVIS CORRIDOR. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/13, 470K) editorializes that the Utah Department of Transportation has "made a wise decision by delaying, again, moves toward building the planned West Davis Corridor freeway." But, according to the editorial, "it would be wiser still for UDOT to just come out and admit that the plan has so many deserved enemies, and so many serious flaws, that it should be shelved altogether, once and for all." The paper notes that "the official reason for yet another delay in the planning process, announced Monday, is that the state needs more time to fully examine an alternative, promoted by environmental groups, the US Interior Department and Corps of Engineers and some local elected officials, including those who run the city of Farmington."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NEW ROAD TO GRAND CANYON SKYWALK CELEBRATED. The AP (8/12) reports that "officials from the Hualapai Tribe gathered Tuesday for a ceremonial grand opening of a road that had been a major headache for tourists headed to the Grand Canyon Skywalk." According to the article, "crews recently paved the final 9-mile stretch of dirt and gravel road that had tour operators complaining of broken windows, flat tires, missing hubcaps and dust."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by Fox Business (8/12, 333K), Yahoo! (8/13, Fonseca, 10.35M) , the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/12, 582K) , the Kansas City (MO) Star (8/13, 1.39M), and the Durango (CO) Herald (8/12, 28K).

THREE BODIES FOUND ON MOUNT RAINIER NEAR WHERE CLIMBERS VANISHED. The Los Angeles Times (8/13, Queally, 3.42M) reports that "bodies of three people who may have been among six climbers killed in a fall on Mt. Rainier in late May were discovered last week, officials with the National Park Service said Tuesday." Patti

Wold, a spokeswoman for the NPS, said that "the three bodies were found last week during an aerial search of Carbon Glacier." According to the article, "though rescue crews were unable to identify the gender or ages of the victims, Wold said their bodies came to rest in the area where parks officials had been searching for the missing climbers." She said, "We're trying to figure out if there's a safe way to get in there so we can remove the remains and try to give their family some closure."

Also reporting on the story is Reuters (8/13, Cavaliere).

NUDISTS FIGHT NUDE BEACH BAN ON FIRE ISLAND. The New York Post (8/13, 2.52M) reports that "after Hurricane Sandy destroyed a large part of Fire Island's considerable dunes — essentially the curtain separating the lighthouse from the beach — park officials unceremoniously announced a ban on the clothing-optional section that comprised two 500-foot stretches." That has sparked a "grassroots movement against the ban on naked discrimination called 'Save Lighthouse Beach,' which is backed by the Naturist Action Committee, a national organization." The article notes that "last Saturday, hundreds of nudists turned out on the shore — some in semi-private camps partitioned off by makeshift curtains, others completely nude or in barely-there bottoms."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK CONSIDERS CLOSING CRATER TRAIL. The Sky-Hi Daily News (CO) (8/13, 728) reports that "due to excessive erosion and damage to sensitive natural and cultural resources, the Crater Trail, a short trail located on the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park, will remain closed to use for the remainder of this year, according to the National Park Service." Moreover, "park staff are considering closing the Crater Trail permanently." Park personnel say "the trail is not sustainable in its current location and is subject to erosion, which is damaging cultural and natural resources, including alpine tundra," and "improving the trail in its current location is not desirable because the cost of long term maintenance would be excessive, according to park officials."

GREENS BAYOU COALITION WORKS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS. The Houston Chronicle (8/13, Meeks, 2.02M) reports that "since 2007, the Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition has been working to make improvements along the way." The article notes that "most recently, it completed a strategic plan for a 27.5-mile bayou paddle trail, the creation of the Ida Gaye Park for seniors in north Houston and a master plan that outlines parks and trail projects for the entire span of the bayou." The coalition developed its master plan in partnership with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

WOMAN ACCUSED OF STEALING $42,000 FROM YOSEMITE CHILD CARE CENTER. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/12, 582K) reports that "a 40-year-old Sonora woman is accused of embezzling more than $42,000 from the Yosemite National Park Child Care Center, US Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced Tuesday." Charity Brocchini was "served a summons to appear Tuesday in the case, according to a press release from Wagner's office." According to the article, "a federal grand jury in Fresno on Thursday returned with an indictment, charging her with two counts of wire fraud and one count of embezzlement concerning a program receiving federal funds."

NEW SUPERVISOR OF FOUR NPS SITES ANNOUNCED. The Rock Hill (SC) Herald (8/12, 112K) reports that John Slaughter, "a 13-year veteran of the National Park Service and supervisor of two US parks in South Carolina, has been named supervisor of a newly formed federal park group." Slaughter will "supervise Kings Mountain National Military Park, Cowpens National Battlefield, Ninety Six National Historic Site and the Overmountain Victory National Historical Trail." Slaughter said, "These four National Park sites play a significant role in preserving and making relevant the history of a fledgling nation, especially that of American Revolutionary War battles in the Southern states."

Also reporting on the story is the Charlotte (NC) Observer (8/12, 544K).

NPS URGED TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO DEAL WITH GROWING DENALI NATIONAL PARK CROWDS. For the Anchorage (AK) Dispatch News (8/12, 251K), John Schandelmeier writes that as visitors to Denali National Park grows, the NPS "may need to consider some changes." According to Schandelmeier, "wildlife viewing opportunities remain excellent, especially for grizzlies and caribou," but, "the quality of the experience is steadily declining due to crowds of people everywhere." He concludes that "now is the time to solve the congestion that is beginning to defeat the basic premise of the park."

Bureau of Land Management:

NEW BLM CHIEF FOR COLORADO VISITS DURANGO. The Durango (CO) Herald (8/12, 28K) reports that "the new director of the Bureau of Land Management for Colorado arrived in Durango on Tuesday for a four-day orientation tour of Southwest Colorado." Ruth Welch will "visit Silverton; the ghost town of Animas Forks; BLM holdings around Durango, including the Perins Peak State Wildlife Area and Grandview; the Tres Rios field office in Dolores; and the Spring Creek area." Welch said, "A major goal will be to balance development and conservation. I have the collaborative skills to bring diverse elements to the table."

BLM DELAYS WYOMING WILD HORSE ROUNDUP. The County 10 (8/12) reports that the BLM has "agreed to delay the proposed roundup of more than 800 wild horses in Wyoming to allow the court time to rule on a motion for a temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction filed late Friday by the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign (AWHPC), The Cloud Foundation, Return to Freedom, and wild horse photographers Carol Walker, Wild Horse Freedom Federation Board Member, and Kimerlee Curyl." The bureau has "agreed to postpone the roundup until at least September 1, in order to give the court time to rule on the motion."

Film Aims To Save Wild Horses. The Chicago Sun-Times (8/12, 1.03M) reports that "Jennifer Gage, a South Barrington resident who's been involved in animal rescue efforts for most of her adult life, is hosting a special screening" of "American Mustang" at "the AMC South Barrington 30 on Aug. 20, in an effort to promote an awareness of the troubling circumstances the US Bureau of Land Management has imposed on the American mustang."

BLM PLANS TO SELL 40 PARCELS OF PUBLIC LAND IN CLARK COUNTY. KSNV-TV Las Vegas (8/13, 12K) reports that the BLM "plans to sell 40 parcels of public land in Clark County totaling 516.8 acres, the agency announced Monday." The article notes that "the funds from the sale of the land will be used throughout Nevada for projects including the development of parks, trails and natural areas, capital improvements on federal lands, acquisition of environmentally sensitive land and landscape restoration projects."

Also reporting on the story is the Las Vegas Review-Journal (8/13, 386K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS WITHDRAWS PROPOSED PROTECTIONS FOR WOLVERINES. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that the FWS announced Tuesday that "it would not list the American wolverine as a threatened species, against the advice of its own biologists." The article notes that "the decision is sure to spark outrage among environmentalists who say climate change will drastically reduce the wolverine's snowy habitat in the next few decades." However, "predicting the effect of global warming on a specific species is difficult, and states have argued that such predictions are premature." In a statement, FWS Director Dan Ashe "emphasized that while climate change has real consequences, its effect on wolverines is uncertain."

The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that Ashe said that "he was 'proud' of his agency's decision to not list the American wolverine as a threatened species, even as environmental groups announced their plans to challenge it in court." Environmental groups said that the FWS was "ignoring the 'best available science' on climate change as well as other threats to wolverines, such as their low numbers and limited genetic diversity." A coalition of nine groups said "they would sue FWS for refusal to protect wolverines under the Endangered Species Act."

The AP (8/13) notes that "the decision carries potential ramifications for other species affected by climate change — including Alaska's bearded seals, the Pacific walrus and dozens of species of corals — as scientists and regulators grapple with limits on computer climate models."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/12, 582K), the San Francisco Chronicle (8/13, 2.87M), the St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (8/13, 558K), the Fort Wayne (IN) Journal-Gazette (8/13, 172K), the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (8/13, 90K), the US News & World Report (8/12, 645K), Yahoo! (8/13, Brown, 10.35M) , and WJBK-TV Detroit (8/13, 216K). Earlier coverage by the AP was provided by the Washington Times (8/12, 465K), the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (8/12, 170K), the Guardian (UK) (8/12, 1.96M), Yahoo! (8/13, Brown, 10.35M), NWCN-TV Seattle (8/13, 48K) , and KING-TV Seattle (8/13, 191K).

Also reporting on the story are The Hill (8/13, Cama, 237K), Reuters (8/13, Zuckerman), the Los Angeles Times (8/13, Sahagun, 3.42M), the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/13, 470K), the Denver Post (8/13, Finley, 923K), the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (8/12, 506), the Idaho Statesman (8/12, 222K), the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (8/12, 353K), the Prairie (MT) Star (8/13), the Boise State (ID) Public Radio (8/13), the Oregon Public Broadcasting (8/13, 4K), NBC News (8/13, 7.5M), KCSG-TV St. George, UT (8/13, 43), KWYB-TV Butte, MT (8/13), KCET-TV Los Angeles (8/13, 15K), KECI-TV Missoula, MT (8/13, 2K), and KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (8/13, 1K).

FWS WANTS BLM, STATES TO SHOW LOCAL SAGE GROUSE EFFORTS ARE WORKING. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "if state land-management programs and partnerships are as successful in protecting the greater sage grouse as Western leaders argue they are, the Fish and Wildlife Service wants to see the proof." The agency has "alerted state governors, local leaders and private groups, as well as the Bureau of Land Management and American Indian tribes, that it wants information on these efforts as part of its ongoing review of the sage grouse and whether the bird should be proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act by a September 2015 deadline." Specifically, the FWS "wants detailed data on the regulations, plans and projects that have been implemented, or that are expected to be implemented, to protect the greater sage grouse and its dwindling sagebrush steppe habitat."

Also covering the story are the Deseret (UT) News (8/13, 538K) and KXLO-FM Lewiston, MT (8/13).

FWS DECIDES NOT TO ISSUE NEW PROTECTIONS FOR WARTON'S CAVE MESH WEAVER. The Hill (8/13, Devaney, 237K) reports that the FWS "announced Tuesday it will not issue new protections for a small species of spiders without eyes, known as Warton's cave mesh weaver or Cicurina wartoni." According to the article, "animal conservation groups had petitioned the FWS to add the eyeless spider to the Endangered Species List, but the agency determined it is not distinct enough from other types of spiders to warrant its own protections."

WILD HORSES ON OUTER BANKS FACE THREATS. McClatchy (8/13, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that the wild horses on North Carolina's Outer Banks "now face serious threats, say those who manage the herd: a boom in McMansion-style vacation homes on this once-pristine stretch of coast and federal policies that are leaving the mustangs severely inbred and starting to suffer from genetic deformities." The government has "described the herd, some of the last remaining wild horses in the Eastern United States, as pests that compete for resources with federally protected birds." Rep. Walter Jones "unanimously passed his bill in 2012 and 2013 to allow the herd to grow to 130 horses and to let the Corolla Wild Horse Fund bring a few horses from the Shackleford Banks, on another island at the far southern tip of the Outer Banks, in order to infuse some fresh genes into the herd." However, "the bill has been opposed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and it goes nowhere in the Senate."

NEW YORK PASSES LAW AGAINST IVORY TRADE. The New York Times (8/12, 9.79M) reports that "New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday signed one of the toughest laws in the nation banning the sale of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns as a 'stand against a dangerous and cruel industry.'" New York will "not allow trade in anything but 100-year-old antiques with small amounts of ivory (and documented proof of provenance), musical instruments made before 1975, pieces used for education or scientific purposes such as museums and items handed down through estates." According to the article, "if it works as intended, the flow of ivory into New York — often ranked the number one importer of ivory in the United States — should soon slow to virtually nothing."

Additional coverage of ivory regulations was provided by the International Business Times (8/13, 697K).

OHIO AIRPORT PLANTS TALL GRASS TO AVOID BIRD-PLANE COLLISIONS. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "one Ohio airport is experimenting with a natural remedy to prevent bird-plane collisions, which cost the aviation industry an estimated $950 million a year and countless birds their lives." Dayton International Airport, "a small 56-commercial-flight-a-day airport, saw 218 wildlife strikes between 2001 and 2013, but instead of shooting or poisoning the birds as other airports have, officials teamed up with the nearby Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm to convert 300 acres of buffer zones around runways to tall prairie grass." Officials "hope the grass will ward off birds that like to land in the open areas surrounding airports."

MAN SENTENCED FOR TRAFFICKING IN LOBSTERS. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that a Florida man on

Monday "pleaded guilty and was sentenced for trafficking spiny lobsters." US District Judge James Lawrence King sentenced Eric Burman, "60, to three years of probation and a $250,000 fine."

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE: NO PLANS TO BRING GRIZZLIES BACK TO CALIFORNIA. In a letter to the Los Angeles Times (8/12, 3.42M), FWS Director Dan Ashe asserts that the FWS has "absolutely no intention of reintroducing grizzlies" to California.

US Geological Survey:

USGS MONITORING LANDSLIDE RISK IN COLORADO. KUSA-TV Denver (8/12, 226K) reports that the USGS have "been keeping an eye on Colorado" for landslides and mudslides. The USGS "recently completed a study of landslides that occurred during the September 2013 floods."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND INDUSTRY FACES UNCERTAIN POLITICAL LANDSCAPE. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "the wind industry is touting increased construction activity and power purchases from some of the country's largest companies to argue for an extension of its key federal incentive – amid an uncertain political landscape that could be heavily influenced by the outcome of November's election for control of the Senate." The article notes that "gridlock on Capitol Hill has so far prevented a renewal of the production tax credit, which expired last year alongside dozens of ostensibly temporary 'tax extenders.'" According to the article, "while the credit enjoys bipartisan backing, Democrats are more unified in support of the PTC and other clean energy incentives, while resistance has grown among Republicans, fueled partly by critiques leveled from outside conservative groups." The article notes that "the industry has been working to boost its allies in both parties, but an analysis of Senate contributions from the American Wind Energy Association's political action committee and some of its leading companies shows an emphasis on giving to Democrats up for re-election and far less to Republicans in tough races, according to an analysis of contributions that have been reported so far this cycle."

BLM ADVANCING CHOKECHERRY AND SIERRA MADRE WIND ENERGY PROJECT TOWARD CONSTRUCTION PHASE. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that the Obama Administration "continues to move a massive wind farm project that proposes to string together 1,000 turbines across nearly 220,000 acres of public and private lands in southeast Wyoming closer to construction." The BLM this week "issued a preliminary environmental assessment (EA) of some of the infrastructure projects needed to build the massive Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project, which would have the capacity to produce up to 3,000 megawatts of electricity, making it the biggest power-producing wind farm in North America." In addition to the EA, the bureau "this week also released a draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) concluding that the project would not cause any significant additional impacts beyond what was analyzed in the final EIS and ROD nearly two years ago."

MEETINGS ON OFFSHORE WIND POSTPONED. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (8/12, 97K) reports that "a series of meetings planned by the federal agency for permitting offshore wind energy projects to show what turbines in areas off Martha's Vineyard and Rhode Island might look like and to answer questions have been postponed." According to a notice from the BOEM, "the meetings, including a session on Nantucket originally scheduled for later today, were postponed due to 'unforeseen scheduling conflicts.'" Officials "hope to reschedule the meetings, which were planned for Nantucket, Vineyard Haven, Block Island in Rhode Island and at the University of Rhode Island over the next two weeks, next year."

Onshore Energy Development:

SETTLEMENT OBVIATES YEARS OF LITIGATION OVER COLORADO DRILLING. The AP (8/12, 582K) reports that a settlement between the Federal and local governments in Colorado will end "several years of litigation" over drilling on the Roan Plateau. Under the settlement, Bill Barrett Corp. will be reimbursed $28 million to relinquish Federal oil and gas leases in controversial areas of the plateau, but will be allowed to drill in less

disputed areas.

The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (8/13, 27K) reports that "the Hickenlooper administration believes a settlement that allows some energy development to proceed while protecting other areas of the Roan Plateau is in the interest of all parties," according to Henry Sobanet, director of Hickenlooper's Office of State Planning and Budgeting. The proposed settlement has been lauded by Barrett Corp., environmental groups, and the Federal government as a "win-win," although some local governments have expressed uncertainty.

TRIBES URGED TO BAN FRACKING ON RESERVATIONS. The Nation Sun News (8/13) reports that "Last Real Indians (LRI) and Honor the Earth are among Native American organizations calling for pressure on tribal councils to approve anti-fracking resolutions, as efforts increase to drill for fossil fuel in treaty territory." LRI's Matt Remle said, "This relatively new form of extracting oil and natural gas is generating serious environmental impacts, depletion of aquifers and negatively impacting human health." Honor the Earth "contends that wastewater produced 'is polluted with hazardous fracking chemicals, oil and hydrocarbons, radioactive radon, and biocides, and there is no process or technique for treating this water.'"

TEXAS' DRILLING INDUSTRY MAKES PROGRESS ON WASTEWATER RECYCLING. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "under pressure during a drought, Texas' drilling industry is making progress in wastewater recycling." According to Marcus Gay, a former water analyst at HIS, "in Texas' Eagle Ford and Permian Basin, 10 to 20 percent of water used in hydraulic fracturing comes from recycling now, and that figure will double in the next 10 years." However, "despite growing pressure, wastewater recycling remains a costly process that not all companies can afford, making buying fresh water the go-to option even as the state's aquifers drain."

TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION PROPOSES NEW RULES TO ADDRESS INCREASED SEISMIC ACTIVITY. The Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (8/12, Baker, 550K) reports that the Texas Railroad Commission proposed new rules today in an attempt to address the increase in earthquakes. The new rules would require drillers to provide additional information before drilling in areas where there has been seismic activity and would allow the commission to suspend or terminate a permit if a problem with the injection well does occur. The commission had faced criticism "for not acting more quickly to determine if wastewater injections wells" are linked to the increase in seismic activity.

FRACKING OCCURS AT SHALLOWER DEPTHS THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT, NEW RESEARCH SHOWS. The Los Angeles Times (8/13, Banerjee, 3.42M) reports that new research shows that fracking is occurring at far shallow depths than was previously thought. The industry "has long held that it does not hydraulically fracture into underground sources of drinking water" because oil and gas deposits sit far deeper than aquifers, however, the study shows drilling occurring at 700 to 750 feet. The study's authors say that "any fracking within a thousand feet of the surface should be more clearly documented and face greater scrutiny" because the effects on groundwater resources at this level are not known.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM FUNDS PROJECT TO CATALOG GEORGIA'S SAND. The Savannah (GA) Morning News (8/12, 226K) reports that "as Tybee Island prepares for its latest beach renourishment, scheduled to begin in November, a Skidaway researcher is cataloging Georgia's sand resources." UGA Skidaway Institute professor Clark Alexander is "heading up the effort to describe what's known about the sand off the Peach State and identify where data gaps exist." According to the article, "the $200,000 project, funded by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, focuses on the area 3-8 miles offshore, but Alexander will catalog inshore areas as well."

OYSTER HARVESTS DECLINE AFTER GULF SPILL. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "oyster harvests in the Gulf of Mexico have dramatically declined in the four years since BP PLC's Deepwater Horizon oil spill, raising concerns among fishermen." According to the article, "oyster beds where oil once washed ashore are producing less than a third of their pre-spill harvest." Meanwhile, "BP contends it is not to blame for the oyster downturn."

The AP (8/12) reports that BP senior vice president Geoff Morrell argues that "data from government studies have indicated it is likely due to other condition." Regardless of the cause, "the harvest is way down, and prices are way up as a result."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INVESTIGATION URGES NEW OFFSHORE WELL BOLT STANDARDS. Additional coverage of the review of "bolting/connector performance in subsea marine applications" was provided by the Rigzone (8/13, 8K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

DROPPING LAKE MEAD WATER LEVELS RAISES CONCERNS. The AP (8/13, Ritter) reports that "the receding shoreline" at Lake Mead, "one of the main reservoirs in the vast Colorado River water system is raising concerns about the future of a network serving a perennially parched region home to 40 million people and 4 million acres of farmland." According to the article, "marina operators, water managers and farmers who for decades have chased every drop of water across the booming Southwest and part of Mexico are closely tracking the reservoir water level already at its lowest point since it was first filled in the 1930s." the article notes that "last week, officials announced an $11 million pilot program involving the federal government and water agencies in Denver, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Phoenix to pay farmers, cities and industries to reduce river water use." This week, an update from the BOR will "help set the course for water deliveries for the next two years."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (8/12, 4.06M), the Arizona Republic (8/12, 1.26M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/12, 582K), the US News & World Report (8/12, 645K), and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (8/13, 1.07M).

Also providing coverage is the Gant (PA) Daily (8/12, 3K).

RECYCLED WATER PIPELINE TO COOMBSVILLE CELEBRATED. The Napa Valley (CA) Register (8/13, 50K) reports that "after 15 years of planning and fundraising, crews are preparing to break ground on a pipeline that will deliver 700 acre feet of recycled water annually from Napa Sanitation District to the groundwater-deficient area that drains Milliken, Sarco and Tulocay creeks east of the city Napa." According to the article, "with that major milestone looming, elected officials from the city of Napa and Napa County were in a mood to celebrate Tuesday afternoon at the Napa Valley Country Club, the eventual destination of the 5-mile pipeline and a major source of funding for the $13.3 million project." The article notes that "a series of kudos were directed Tuesday at a citizens group that pushed for the pipeline in 1999, Napa County Supervisor Keith Caldwell, who helped give the project momentum after being elected in 2008, and the US Bureau of Reclamation, which provided grants that cover 25 percent of the cost."

Empowering Native American Communities:

PROPOSED RULES COULD LEAD TO MORE RECOGNIZED TRIBES, MORE CASINOS. McClatchy (8/12, Hotakainen, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that new rules proposed by the Obama Administration "would give more tribes a faster track at joining the ranks of the recognized by making it easier for them to prove their legitimacy." This recognition "recognition makes a tribe eligible for more federal benefits and is a prerequisite to apply for the biggest prize of all: the right to run a casino." The rules "have won backing from large tribal groups," but are "generating lots of controversy." The Bureau of Indian Affairs has set a September 30 deadline for public comment and "will then decide whether to adopt the rules." Opponents of gambling argue that the proposed rules are too lenient and should be abandoned, while some smaller tribes contend that the rules "are too onerous, fearing they'll still be denied the recognition they've sought for decades."

TRIBES PRAY FOR RETURN OF SALMON TO COLUMBIA RIVER. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "from the mouth of the Columbia River near Portland, Ore., to its Canadian headwaters, American Indian tribes, Canadian First Nations, religious leaders and local residents have been praying for the return of salmon to the river's upper reaches." The article notes that "their 16 days of vigils, which will wrap up this weekend in remote British Columbia, come as the United States and Canada are preparing to renegotiate a treaty that could alter the future of the largest North American river to empty into the Pacific Ocean." The article notes that "the salmon issue has divided both the US and Canadian regional bodies charged with advising their respective federal governments about the river's management, but their reports indicate neither country is ready to end the treaty relationship that regulates the Columbia River for flood protection and power generation."

Top National News:

VIOLENT PROTESTS CONTINUE IN MISSOURI AS OBAMA PLEADS FOR "REFLECTION AND UNDERSTANDING." Last night and this morning, the violence sparked by the fatal shooting over the weekend in Ferguson, Missouri continued to generate a great deal of media coverage – although less so than a day earlier when all three network newscasts led with reports on the shooting and the subsequent violent protests. On Tuesday, all three networks mentioned that President Obama had released a statement offering condolences to the victim's family and urging restraint on the part of those angered by the circumstances of the shooting. However, the President's statement is not the focus of much of the print and online reporting on the ongoing controversy.

The three Tuesday evening network newscasts devoted about six and a half minutes combined to the ongoing controversy in Ferguson, which was slightly less air time than they gave to reports on floods and the situation in Iraq – and all three of those topics combined only barely beat out the nearly 20 minutes the networks gave to remembrances of Robin Williams.

On NBC Nightly News (8/12, story 3, 2:05, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that on Monday night, "suburban St. Louis...looked like a police state" as "police...once again had to put down and head off violence in the streets." John Yang went on to report that President Obama has "issued a statement from his Martha's Vineyard vacation saying, 'we should comfort each other and talk with one another in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds.'"

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (8/13, 938K) reported on Tuesday afternoon that the President had "just issued a statement calling for 'reflection and understanding' in the wake of the police shooting death of Michael Brown on Saturday."

The Chicago Tribune (8/13, 2.19M) notes that Tuesday's statement was the President's "first comment on the death of...Brown," which "touched off clashes between demonstrators and police in the racially divided city." The Washington Times (8/13, Boyer, 465K) describes Ferguson as "predominantly black," while USA Today (8/13, Alcindor, Piper, Bacon, 5.76M) reports that Ferguson is "nearly 70% black." According to the Wall Street Journal (8/13, Kesling, Peters, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), just three of Ferguson's 53 police officers are African-American.

On ABC World News (8/12, story 5, 2:05, Muir, 5.84M), Steve Osunsami reported that on Monday night, "young people on the streets clashed with police who used tear gas and rubber bullets." On the CBS Evening News (8/12, story 10, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley briefly noted the President's statement, and then correspondent Dean Reynolds reported that on Monday night, "young people" in Ferguson "threw rocks" at the police, who "responded with rubber bullets and tear gas." Reynolds went on to interview a Ferguson resident who said that in addition to throwing rocks, some protesters were firing guns.

USA Today (8/13, Alcindor, Piper, Bacon, 5.76M) reports that Ferguson Police Chief Thomas Jackson "said protesters Monday night threw rocks at police, and that gunfire came from the crowd, so officers used tear gas and shot 'beanbag rounds' meant to stun them." The Los Angeles Times (8/13, Pearce, 3.42M) reports that "St. Louis' predominantly black northern quarter has teetered toward chaos the last four days" as "stores have been looted" and "teens have hurled rocks at cops."

The Washington Post (8/13, Lowery, Zezima, Berman, 4.06M) reports that the President said his Administration will "continue to direct resources to the case as needed," and that Attorney General Holder "has said the Department of Justice is investigating the shooting." The Post also notes that "not long after Obama's statement, the Federal Aviation Administration said that it had banned flights from operating below 3,000 feet over Ferguson, at the request of the St. Louis County Police Department, which had a helicopter "shot at 'multiple times on Sunday night,'" according to a police spokesman.

According to the Washington Times (8/13, Boyer, 465K), on Monday night, Ferguson's police officers "fired tear gas into a crowd of protesters...after a second day of unrest that included looting, arson, vandalized vehicles and people throwing rocks at police." Politico (8/12, Mccalmont, 637K) reported that in the statement he released on

Tuesday, the President "acknowledged" the continuing violence in Ferguson when he wrote: "I know the events of the past few days have prompted strong passions."

The Huffington Post (8/12, Terkel, 11.54M) reported that the Ferguson Police Department says Brown "assaulted the officer" who subsequently shot him in self defense, but "eyewitnesses...have disputed that claim and said Brown was killed while attempting to surrender or flee." The Huffington Post also reported that in the ensuing protests, "at least four people have been injured and 47 people have been arrested so far," as "looting and vandalism have been reported in the area." The New York Times (8/13, Storey, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reported that "most of the protesters" in Ferguson on Monday night "[do] not live in the area."

CBC Seeks DOJ Investigation Of Ferguson Police. The Hill (8/12, Swanson, Sink, 237K) reported that the Congressional Black Caucus is urging the Justice Department to probe "any pattern or practice of police misconduct by the Ferguson Police Department." Roll Call (8/12, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that CBC chair Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) "co-signed a letter Monday evening addressed to" Attorney General Holder, along with Reps. John Conyers (D-MI) and William Lacy Clay (D-MO), "who represents the Ferguson area."

According to the New York Times (8/13, Vega, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), "The speed with which the shooting...has resonated on social media has helped propel and transform a local shooting into a national cause, as African-American commenters draw attention to continued incidents of blacks being shot by police and the media portrayals of young black men."

The Belleville (IL) News-Democrat (8/13, 152K) reports that Tracy Martin, the mother of Trayvon Martin, who was "was fatally shot by...George Zimmerman, on Feb. 26, 2012," has "called for peaceful protests in the wake of" Brown's death.

The Daily Caller (8/12, Ross, 408K) reported that MSNBC's Al Sharpton "traveled to Ferguson on Tuesday" and "urged local citizens to avoid violence while calling for the federal government to take over the investigation into Brown's death." Author Joseph Epstein, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/13, Epstein, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), cites the aftermath of the shooting as evidence that the African-American community lacks leaders of the stature of those who led the fight for civil rights in the 1950s and '60s.

DOJ Is Already Conducting National Review Of Some Police Tactics. According to USA Today (8/13, Johnson, 5.76M), the Justice Department is already "leading a broad review of police tactics, including the kind of deadly force that prompted recent protests in Missouri and New York." USA Today adds that "in addition to deadly force, the review is expected to examine law enforcement's increasing encounters with the mentally ill, the application of emerging technologies such as body cameras, and police agencies' expanding role in homeland security efforts since 9/11."

Ferguson Police Decline To Identify Officer Who Shot Brown. The Huffington Post (8/13, Cadet, 11.54M) reported that on Tuesday, the Ferguson police department announced that it "will not release the name of the officer involved in the fatal shooting," which was "an apparent shift after Chief Thomas Jackson initially said that the name would be released by 12 p.m. on Tuesday." According to the Huffington Post, the Ferguson police "reportedly chose to delay releasing the name out of fear for the officer's safety." The New York Times (8/13, Bosman, Williams, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that Chief Thomas Jackson said on Tuesday that "the value of releasing the name is far outweighed by the risk of harm to the officer and his family."

NYTimes: "White Power Structure Dominates" Ferguson's Government And Police Dept. The New York Times (8/13, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), in an editorial, contends that a "history of racial segregation, economic inequality and overbearing law enforcement...produced so much of the tension now evident on the streets." According to the Times, St. Louis "has long been one of the nation's most segregated metropolitan areas," which the Times says has a "white power structure that dominates City Councils and police departments like the ones in Ferguson."

OMB NOW ALLOWS LOBBYISTS TO SERVE ON GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BOARDS. USA Today (8/13, Schouten, 5.76M) reports that the Administration has "dropped its blanket ban on federal lobbyists serving on advisory panels after losing a court battle on the issue earlier this year." According to USA Today, "Under the

new rules, the ban no longer applies when federal lobbyists represent trade associations, unions, companies, state or local governments and other groups," including "environmental organizations." USA Today adds that OMB says "federal lobbyists still cannot serve on commissions solely as private citizens."

The New York Times (8/13, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) says the announcement is "the latest example of the limits of the president's effort to rein in the influence of special interests in government." The Times notes that the President "signed an order on his first day in office in 2009 prohibiting" lobbyists "from serving in his administration," but has since "made a number of exceptions to that rule and has hired lobbyists for several important jobs." The Times also notes that "critics argue that the president's position has led to unintended consequences, prompting some operatives to refrain from registering as lobbyists merely to preserve the option of working with the administration," although "they are essentially doing the same thing as a lobbyist."

Bloomberg News (8/13, Talev, 2.76M) reported that OMB communications director Melanie Roussell says "the purpose of the prohibition is 'to restrict the undue influence of lobbyists on the federal government' and was 'not designed to prevent lobbyists or others from petitioning their government.'" However, The Hill (8/12, Wilson, 237K) reported that "the policy change...chips away at one of the main firewalls that President Obama had erected between K Street and government." Reuters (8/13, Felsenthal) covered the announcement from OMB in article titled, "White House Loosens Restrictions On Lobbyists."

Politico Analysis: Obama Administration Has Hired "About 70" Lobbyists. In an article published early Tuesday morning, Politico (8/12, Tau, 637K) reported that the Administration "has hired about 70 previously registered corporate, trade association and for-hire lobbyists," including "well-known Democratic lobbyist" Broderick Johnson, "a top aide to Obama as a liaison between federal agencies and the White House," who was employed as a "consultant" for Microsoft, Pearson, Globalstar, Comcast and FedEx "right up until he started to work at the White House." According to Politico, "Johnson's trip from registered lobbyist to...White House staffer violates the spirit of Obama's pledge to keep special interests out of his White House."

CLINTON CALLS OBAMA IN WAKE OF CONTROVERSIAL FOREIGN POLICY COMMENTS. Media coverage on Hillary Clinton's call to President Obama highlights both camps' efforts to minimize any talk of serious discrepancies between the President and his erstwhile secretary of state. Virtually all print accounts include language from a statement put out by a Clinton spokesman which stated that Clinton "looks forward to hugging it out" with Obama when they meet. Coverage of the call also overshadowed Obama adviser David Axelrod's comments earlier Tuesday, in which he had responded to Clinton's criticism of Obama. The story was not covered by the network newscasts, but was mentioned on some cable news shows.

Wolf Blitzer reported on CNN's Situation Room (8/12, 554K) that Hillary Clinton placed a call to the President "in the aftermath of an interview she did in which she seemed to suggest she was distancing herself from him on a key foreign policy issue." Brianna Keilar added that the White House is "really trying to downplay the differences here after...Clinton called the President to smooth things over." A Clinton spokesman said in a statement that she called the President to "make sure that he knows nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership." However, Clinton's "hawkish comments here really getting not under the skin of the Obama camp, but a lot of liberal activists, who are very upset with her."

The AP (8/13, Pickler) notes "the call came on the eve of a party on Martha's Vineyard that Clinton and Obama planned to attend." Clinton "is on the Massachusetts island for a memoir-signing session at a bookstore, while Obama is in the midst of a two-week vacation." Reuters (8/13, Mason) reports that White House spokesman Eric Schultz said, "The president and first lady have accepted an offer to attend a social gathering at the home of Vernon Jordan on Wednesday evening. ... (They) are very much looking forward to the occasion and seeing former Secretary Clinton."

USA Today (8/13, Jackson, 5.76M) quotes Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill as saying, "Secretary Clinton was proud to serve with President Obama. ... She was proud to be his partner in the project of restoring American leadership and advancing America's interests and values in a fast changing world. ... Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out when she they see each other tomorrow night."

Bloomberg News (8/13, Allen, 2.76M) reports that Clinton's "efforts to distance herself from Obama could hurt her

with Democratic primary voters should she run for president," while helping her "with independents and national security-minded Republicans in a general election." The AP adds that "the anti-war base of the Democratic Party has long distrusted Clinton's support for a muscular foreign policy." Iya Sheyman, executive director of the political action arm of MoveOn, said in a statement, "Secretary Clinton, and any other person thinking about seeking the Democratic nomination in 2016, should think long and hard before embracing the same policies advocated by right-wing war hawks that got America into Iraq in the first place and helped set the stage for Iraq's troubles today."

Under the headline "Hillary Clinton To Barack Obama: Let's Hug It Out," Politico (8/12, Haberman, 637K) reports that "several Clinton supporters have stressed that she is entitled to her own views, and that she is in a bind – either criticized as overly calculating if she stays silent or faulted for being candid about what she thinks." But "one of the criticisms about her interview relates to its timing: It comes as Obama is attempting to get his arms around a number of overseas crises, from Ukraine to Gaza to Syria." The Daily Caller (8/12, Stoltzfoos, 408K) headlined its story on Clinton's call "Hillary Kisses The Ring, Begs Obama For Forgiveness."

Politico (8/12, Haberman, Brown, 637K) says "a split between...Clinton and...Obama was inevitable. Now that they've made peace, keeping it will be the challenge." While "Obama aides and some Clinton allies downplayed the 72-hour episode with dismissive complaints about a voracious media...the maneuvering nonetheless demonstrated how the Obama-Clinton alliance, long viewed as mutually beneficial, will be tested repeatedly." Politico notes that asked to comment, "longtime Clinton ally James Carville, normally a chatty political observer, dodged by cheerfully saying, 'There's a town in Texas called El Paso. And I'm gonna El Paso' on this one."

The Washington Times (8/13, Boyer, 465K) reports Republicans "have noted that Mrs. Clinton was in charge of foreign policy until she quit her post in early 2013," and "many observers believe her interview was calculated to separate herself from Mr. Obama's policies in preparation for a presidential bid in 2016."

In an analysis piece, Juliet Eilperin writes in the Washington Post (8/13, Eilperin, 4.06M) that the controversy has "highlighted a little-noticed aspect of the president's tenure: He has devoted almost no effort to grooming a successor." That fact "has left an opening for Clinton, who has stepped firmly into the vacuum this summer, asserting herself as the next Democrat in line to lead the country."

Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes on Fox News' Special Report (8/12, 2.15M) said that the President and Clinton "are in broad agreement on so many of the issues around the world and has been a great partner. On this particular question, this is something she's written about in her book. She did support providing military assistance earlier than the President moved forward with that plan, but the reason that the President was deliberate in his decision making there is, one, we wanted to make sure we're providing assistance to people who we knew so it wouldn't fall into the wrong hands. Two, we didn't see a plan to decisively tip the balance against [Syrian President Bashar] Assad."

In an analysis for the Washington Times (8/13, 465K), Ben Wolfgang writes that Clinton's comment this week that the President's failure to contain ISIL in Syria enabled the group to spread "its brand of violence and Islamic law into Iraq," underscores "the heated criticism of the president's policy in regard to Iraq and Syria" from "Republicans, many foreign policy analysts and other critics." Wolfgang notes that the President "has indicated that the U.S. will not make a broader commitment to take out the Islamic State," which means that the responsibility to defeat ISIL "apparently will lie primarily with the new Iraqi government and the Kurdish regional authority, which the U.S. and Britain are now arming directly."

Axelrod Responds To Clinton Interview. Largely absent from the coverage of Clinton's call to the President is Axelrod's criticism of the former secretary of state earlier Tuesday. Reports did not speculate about a cause-and-effect chronology between Axelrod's tweets and Clinton's subsequent call.

Politico (8/12, Haberman, 637K) reported that Axelrod had "taken to Twitter to slam...Clinton in the wake of her comments rejecting the core of the Obama administration's self-described foreign policy principle." After Clinton told The Atlantic that "the White House doctrine of 'Don't do stupid stuff' is 'not an organizing principle,'" Axelrod retorted, "Just to clarify: 'Don't do stupid stuff' means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision." Clinton, notes Politico, "voted to authorize the use of force in Iraq," and that "Clinton aides would not immediately respond to emails for comment Tuesday."

The New York Daily News (8/13, Friedman, 4.15M) reported on its website, "They're fighting like it's 2008." Axelrod "no longer works in the White House," but "he remains close to his former boss and colleagues," and "his shot at Clinton suggests Obama allies are simmering at" her comments.

On its website, TIME (8/13, Miller, 24.1M) also referred to "a flashback to 2008 campaign."

In the last sentence of its account of Clinton's call to Obama, the New York Times (8/13, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) notes Axelrod "was quick to defend the president this week, in a flashback to the 2008 campaign."

Dowd: "Cheap Shot" Was Typical Of The Clintons. In a column titled "It's The Loyalty, Stupid," Maureen Dowd writes in the New York Times (8/13, Dowd, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) that Clinton's "cheap shot" at Obama in The Atlantic was "a calculated attempt to be tough and show that, as a Democratic woman, she's not afraid to use power." Adds Dowd, "As one Democrat noted, citing the callous Clintonian principle that unpopular things make foolish investments: 'If Obama was at 63 instead of 36, she'd be happy to be Robin to his Batman.'" Dowd concludes that "after buoying Hillary, Obama is learning the truth of another unofficial slogan in politics: 'The Clintons will be there when they need you.'"

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Death Of Michael Brown."*** The New York Times (8/13, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), in an editorial, contends that a "history of racial segregation, economic inequality and overbearing law enforcement...produced so much of the tension now evident on the streets." According to the Times, St. Louis "has long been one of the nation's most segregated metropolitan areas," which the Times says has a "white power structure that dominates City Councils and police departments like the ones in Ferguson."

"Making The Case For High-Speed Rail." The New York Times (8/13, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), in an editorial, says, "High-speed rail can play an important role in the nation's transportation system by reducing congestion," and "can also provide a big economic boost." The Times notes that President Obama "gave it an important place in the 2009 stimulus bill," and "since then, the federal government has spent about $11 billion on high-speed rail, with only a few visible improvements in American passenger rail service."

"Battle On The Brooklyn Waterfront."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Cairo's Crimes Against Humanity"*** The Washington Post (8/13, 4.06M) editorializes that while the President and Secretary of State Kerry have highlighted Egypt's crucial role in US diplomacy, "the reality check provided by Human Rights Watch this week is particularly worthy of attention." According to the group's report, "more people died on Aug. 14 in Rabaa Square than in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989 or in any mass killing of protesters since then." Yet the Administration "treats" Sissi, "the architect of the slaughter," as "a valued partner rather than the pariah he should be."

"The Auto-Loan Bubble." In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/13, 4.06M) says there is "increasing evidence suggest[ing] that the Federal Reserve's ultra-low interest rate policy is goosing car sales, both new and used, beyond the level that economic fundamentals can sustain," although, according to the Post, "the systemic risks to the U.S. economy from an overheated car-loan market are...modest." The Post adds that while "a subprime auto-lending bubble probably can't and won't cripple the U.S. economy," it "would be better...to tap the brakes now than to risk a crash later on."

"Tax Holiday's Aren't Worth It." The Washington Post (8/13, 4.06M), in an editorial, criticizes those states, "including Maryland and Virginia" that "offer sales tax holidays during the August back-to-school shopping season." The Post says the holidays are "policy gimmicks...popular among consumers and a certain set of retailers," but "aren't in the public interest."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Medtronic's Tax Lesson."*** The Wall Street Journal (8/13, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, points out that following an inversion, formerly US-domiciled corporations have an incentive

to invest in the US because repatriating their foreign profits no longer triggers a tax bill as it did when they were based in the US.

"Government+." The Wall Street Journal (8/13, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, dismisses Monday's announcement that former Google engineer Mikey Dickerson has been appointed to lead a task force dedicated to improving the Federal government's IT infrastructure. The Journal notes that Dickerson was credited for improving HealthCare.gov after its initial failures, and suggests that the Administration seems intent on treating the symptoms rather than the underlying problems associated with government initiatives like the Affordable Care Act.

"Turkey's New Sultan." The Wall Street Journal (8/13, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorializes on Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's election win, casting him as an enemy of democracy. The Journal adds the US and EU cannot be blamed for Erdogan's ascent to power, but urges both to call on the Turkish leader to curb his assault on basic democratic freedoms.

"Google On The Run." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/13, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) decries a ruling by Hong Kong's High Court, which said that tycoon Albert Yeung, who was convicted of illegal bookmaking and obstruction of justice in the 1980s, can sue Google for defamation because when users type in his name, it offers terms related to Hong Kong organized crime, arguing that the ruling is a blow to free speech.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Weighs Mission To Save Yazidi Refugees
Syrian Forces Advance On Aleppo
Behind The Collapse Of Espirito Santo
Banks Retreat From Market That Keeps Cash Flowing

New York Times:
Maliki's Bid To Keep Power In Iraq Seems To Collapse
Shooting Spurs Hashtag Effort On Stereotypes
Opting Against Ebola Drug For Ill African Doctor
Brooklyn Bridge's White Flags: Art, It Seems, Not A Surrender
In A Bygone Hollywood, She Purred Every Word
Busy Working, Robin Williams Fought Demons

Washington Post:
Standoff In Iraq Eases As Maliki's Support Crumbles
In Turkey, A Late About-Face On Islamic State's Fighters
A Warrior For A Teachers Union That's Under Attack
Days Before Death, A Hard-Won Prize: A Diploma
Some Could Lose Health Coverage, Hhs Warns
Sultry Movie Legend Had 'The Look,' Bogie's Heart

Financial Times:
Kiev Vows To Halt Russian Aid Convoy
Income Gap Fuels US Housing Weakness
WHO Backs Experimental Ebola Drugs
Ocwen Results Restated On Asset Values
PRU Chief Laments Missed AIA Opportunity
Yo Adds Features To Compete With Twitter
Markets Not Ready For Hawkish Fed Jolt

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Robin Williams-Depression; Robin Williams-Rehab; Robin Williams-Suicide Hotline; Severe Flooding; Missouri Teen Shot-Riots; Iraq-US Personnel; Iraq-Helicopter Crash; Ebola Outbreak; Hand Sanitizer-Health.
CBS: Robin Williams-Depression; Robin Williams-Suicide Hotline; Severe Flooding; Iraq-Prime Minister; Iraq-US Personnel; Iraq-Helicopter Crash; Iraq-Refugees; Iraq-Government; Ebola Outbreak; Missouri Teen Shot-Riots; Chile-Robbery; LA Clippers-Former Microsoft CEO; Brooklyn Bridge Flag Replacement-German Citizens.
NBC: Robin Williams-Death; Major Flooding; Missouri Teen Shot-Riots; Iraq-US Personnel; Brooklyn Bridge-German Citizens; Robin Williams-Depression; LA Clippers-Former Microsoft CEO; Atlantic City-Casino Closed; Robin Williams-Comic Relief.

Network TV At A Glance:
Robin Williams-Death – 19 minutes, 25 seconds
Iraq-US Involvements – 7 minutes, 20 seconds
Missouri Teen Shot – 6 minutes, 35 seconds
Severe Flooding – 6 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Missouri Teen Shot-Church Rally; Missouri Teen Shot-Riots; Baltimore-Flooding; Iraq-US Personnel; Lauren Bacall Dies; Suicide Hotline Calls Spike.
CBS: Lauren Bacall Dies; Robin Williams-Coroner Report; Missouri Teen Shot-Riots; Iraq-US Personnel; LA Clippers-Former Microsoft CEO; Atlantic City-Casino Closed.
FOX: Lauren Bacall Dies; Robin Williams-Coroner Report; Minnesota-Primary Results; Japanese Economy Shrinks; Ecuador-Earthquake; Ebola Outbreak; Wall Street; Pittsburgh-Fracking; New York-Bridge Flag Mystery Solved.
NPR: Iraq-US Personnel; Ebola Outbreak; Lauren Bacall Dies; Robin Williams-Coroner Report; Pope Francis-South Korea Trip; Mount Rainier-Three Bodies Found; Perseid Meteor Shower.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Vacations in Martha's Vineyard.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.
US Senate: 10 a.m. AGING – FIELD HEARING — Montana Field Hearing. Location: Billings, MT.
US House: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — The House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "Recess."
Other: MERITALK – FEDERAL FORUM — "How can agencies change the network conversation? The 2014 Federal Forum examines new network architectures, new financial approaches, and new technologies." http://www.federalforum2014.com/ 9 a.m. Richard McKinney, Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation, delivers the morning keynote. 1 p.m. Acting Department of Defense Chief Information Officer Terry A. Halvorsen delivers the keynote luncheon address. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

NHTSA – DRIVE SOBER EVENT — 10:30 a.m. National Highway Traffic Safety Acting Administrator David Friedman joins law enforcement officers to kick-off the annual national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement crackdown. The campaign includes more than 10,000 police departments and law enforcement agencies across the country. Location: U.S. Department of Transportation Headquarters, Courtyard (Intersection of 3rd and M Streets SE).

UNITED NATIONS – DISCRIMINATION – PRESS CALL — 1:30 p.m. Civil and human rights advocates host a press call from Geneva during the United Nations review of the United States progress on its obligations to reduce racial discrimination and disparities under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The call will take place immediately following the first half of the U.S. governments presentation to the U.N. committee. The second half of the governments presentation will conclude on Thursday.

INSA LEADERSHIP DINNER – ADMIRAL ROGERS — 6 p.m. The Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) Leadership Dinner with Admiral Michael S. Rogers: Director, National Security Agency; Commander, U.S. Cyber Command; Chief, Central Security Service. http://www.insaonline.org/AdmiralRogers

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, here's what people are talking about. I saw that President Obama went to the beach yesterday while he's vacationing on Martha's Vineyard. Which got weird when he took out his metal detector to search for $16 trillion in quarters."

Jimmy Fallon: "A lot of people are upset that President Obama went to the beach yesterday with everything that's going on in the world. You know times are tough for Obama, because even the sharks were like, 'I'm not going near that guy.' I mean, it's just bad."

Jimmy Fallon: "Also, during a fundraiser last night, President Obama suggested that one or more Supreme Court justices may retire soon. Which got awkward when Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, 'You can have this gavel when you pry it out of my even colder, deader fingers. Why would you say that?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "And finally, we have 'Personal Motto.' Hillary's is, '2016 can't get here fast enough.' Obama's is, 'Ditto.' So, I guess that maybe they're not that different after all. They're kind of the same."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, August 14, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Aug 14, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SAN DIEGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX AWARDED $1 MILLION TO ENGAGE URBAN COMMUNITIES. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex will "receive $1 million in funding to engage youth and urban communities in outdoor recreation and conservation," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced Wednesday. The article notes that "the complex's proposal to create the 'SoCal Urban Wildlife Refuge Project' is the first to win funding through a national competition launched earlier this year" by FWS Director Dan Ashe. According to the article, "the proposal focuses on outdoor learning, service and stewardship at natural habitats throughout San Diego, as well as at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex and in Los Angeles through the Los Angeles Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership and Friends of the Los Angeles River."

The Times of San Diego (8/13) reports that Jewell said, "From teaching urban youth about the magnificence of the California condor to unlocking opportunities to explore nature along the Los Angeles River, the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex is a model of how we can leverage innovative partnerships to connect new and diverse audiences to the great outdoors. This dedicated funding will help engage the next generation of conservationists while also strengthening connections between the community and these public lands that belong to all Americans."

Also reporting on the story are KUSI-TV San Diego (8/14, 859) XETV-TV San Diego (8/14, 836), and KPBS-TV San Diego (8/13, 16K).

SECRETARY JEWELL SENDS LETTER DENYING KING COVE ROAD DENIAL APPEAL. The Anchorage (AK) Dispatch News (8/13, 251K) reports that the Obama Administration on Wednesday "doubled down on its decision to not allow a gravel road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Southwest Alaska." In letters to Gov. Sean Parnell, Sen. Lisa Murkowski and the village of King Cove, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said the department "won't reconsider the decision made in December to deny the road." Jewell said "she is concerned about the community's public safety issues and wants to work with the village, population 934, to improve transportation from King Cove to the community of Cold Bay, where a large all-weather airport awaits."

The Alaska Business Monthly (8/14) reports that the letter was met with disappointment by King Cove tribal and community leaders. Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the Agdaagux Tribe and the King Cove Corporation, said, "We are truly saddened by the Secretary's decision. We're not surprised, but it's certainly a big blow for the people of King Cove." Trumble added, "It's quite clear to us that Secretary Jewell does not have a thorough understanding of this issue. Otherwise, she would know from the information we provided several months ago that neither of those options would be reliable or feasible. These alternatives, among others, have already been analyzed and rejected."

Also covering the story are KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (8/14, 4K) and KTVA-TV Anchorage, AK (8/14, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL MEETS GIRL WHO VISITED 50 PHOENIX PARKS. The Arizona Republic (8/12, 1.26M) reports that "Mykayla Pack and her soon-to-be stepdad, Timothy Collins, visited 50 Phoenix parks this summer." When Phoenix officials learned that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "planned to visit two Phoenix parks on Aug. 9 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, they invited Mykayla and her family to join them." When Jewell met Mykayla, she "gave the 7-year-old Phoenix girl a message." Jewell said, "I hope you inspire other kids to use the parks."

Also covering the story is KSAZ-TV Phoenix (8/11, 108K).

Additional Coverage Of LWCF. The Boston Globe (8/13, 1.58M) reports that parks advocates say public spaces on Boston are "in dire need of funding to maintain and keep them attractive to visitors." However, "in recent months, their hopes of receiving federal grants for improvements have been stymied, as congressional leaders have moved to reduce budget allotments to the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund." Activists "plan to gather Thursday on Boston Common to present a petition calling for full and permanent funding to the Land and Water Conservation fund."

Also providing coverage of the issue is the Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times (8/13, 58K).

INTERIOR NAMES NEW CIO. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that the Interior Department announced Wednesday that Sylvia Burns will "become its chief information officer, directing the agency's overhaul of its information technology system." Burns "takes the helm from Bernard Mazer, who retired in March." She will "oversee Interior's 'IT Transformation,' a sweeping plan to consolidate a technology infrastructure that has long been fractured across the agency's bureaus." Interior Assistant Secretary Rhea Suh said, "Sylvia is a tremendous asset to the Department and she will excel in this new role. As the Department continues to move forward on critical initiatives like data center consolidation, Sylvia's leadership and collaborative style will help ensure our success in improving our IT services, while reducing our IT costs."

Also reporting on the story are the Federal Times (8/13, 132K), the Federal Computer Week (8/14, 263K), and the ExecutiveGov (8/14, 548).

MAN PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO 2013 WILDFIRE. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that "a federal judge is allowing a man accused of setting one of California's largest fires to go free while the criminal trial continues." According to the article, "Keith Matthew Emerald, 32, can post a $60,000 property bail bond after pleading not guilty to charges of starting the 400-square-mile wildfire, but US District Magistrate Judge Gary Austin said Emerald would be prohibited from lighting any campfires." Emerald "pleaded not guilty to charges that he caused the massive wildfire that torched parts of Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest in 2013 despite an earlier admission that a campfire he started while deer hunting got out of control."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the AP (8/13), the Denver Post (8/14, 923K), the AP (8/14, Barnard), and the Peninsula (WA) Daily News (8/13, 41K).

$10 MILLION IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANTS TO AMERICAN SAMOA ANNOUNCED. The Pacific News Center (8/14) reports that Office of Insular Affairs Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Esther Kia'aina, on Wednesday "announced more than $10 million in grant assistance to the American Samoa Government through the Office of Insular Affairs's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Program." According to the article, "funds will support a number of critical infrastructure projects in the territory, improving its transportation, health and educational services." Kia'aina said, "These grants represent our commitment to the people of American Samoa and we are pleased to be supporting the efforts of Governor Lolo Moliga in his efforts to improve the quality and standard of living in the territory."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN RELATIONS. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (8/14, 379K) reports that on Wedneday, US Secretary of State John Kerry gave a speech at the East-West Center in Manoa. According to the article, "outside the event, about 80 to 100 protestors were waiting for Kerry's arrival to share their views on several issues including US support of Israel and federal recognition for Native Hawaiians." Last month, Interior Department officials "came to Hawaii for public hearings on how the US government should proceed on recognition." The article notes that "many speakers at the hearings insisted that the State Department and Kerry, not Interior officials, should be talking to the Hawaiians on a nation-to-nation basis."

Additional coverage of the issue was provided by the Honolulu Civil Beat (8/14, 41).

ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT "CORRECTION" ACT CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (8/14, 41K), Stevie Hansen criticizes Rep. Steve Pearce's recently introduced Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument "Correction" Act. According to Hansen, the measure "appears to be an attempt to roll back important public lands protections within our nation's newest national monument, negating the will of a vast majority of his constituents." Hansen finds the "proposal to be more about him taking a swipe at the newly created national monument and furthering a different agenda" and argues that "it is not about real security concerns." He concludes that "that is not the foundation for the creation of good public policy."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS HELPS OTHER COUNTRIES IMPROVE THEIR NATIONAL PARKS.

The E&E Daily (8/13) reports on the meetings that the NPS holds to "help foreign countries with their parks" in an effort to aid in "soft diplomacy." According to the article, "it's all arranged by the little-recognized Office of International Affairs, a six-person operation at NPS headquarters that works with the State Department to provide expertise to other countries looking to improve their national parks." The article focuses on a recent trip by a group of South Koreans to Harpers Ferry Center.

NPS ESTIMATES YELLOWSTONE BISON POPULATION AT 4,900. The AP (8/14) reports that NPS officials say "aerial surveys have found the estimated bison population in Yellowstone National Park is 4,900 animals." The agency said in a statement Wednesday "those numbers are similar to last year's summer estimate, and just 100 shy of 2005's peak population of 5,000 bison." The article notes that "the bison observed from the air in June include 740 calves born this year."

USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL WALL IN HAWAII UNDER RENOVATION. The Arizona Republic (8/13, 1.26M) reports that "the USS Arizona Memorial wall, dedicated to the 1,177 sailors, marines and officers killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor, will be replaced over the next three months." Paul DePrey, superintendent for the National Park Service WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, said, "When you are in the forever business like the park service, you have to take time out to take care to make sure it will last forever."

ICONIC MUNICIPAL PIER AT AQUATIC PARK PIER FALLING APART. The San Francisco Chronicle (8/14, Ho, 2.87M) reports that "the old Municipal Pier in the northwest corner of San Francisco's Aquatic Park is falling apart." The NPS has been "waiting for funding to come through for years, as the pier deteriorates and the costs increase." The article notes that "the current estimate for fixing the pier is $70 million."

OFFICIALS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FISH POPULATION ON OLYMPIC PENINSULA. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/13, 582K) reports that "once locally extinct, fishers are bounding all over the Olympic Peninsula in Washington." The NPS "with other partners began a relocation effort in 2008, in an effort to bring the animals back." According to the article, "the population today isn't known, and the question remains as to whether births are keeping pace with losses, building a population that is self-sustaining over the long term." However, "the indications from a monitoring effort by federal, state and tribal biologists so far are promising."

OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY. The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (8/13, 57K) reports that "on Aug. 27, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the act establishing Ozark National Scenic Riverways — which includes the Current and Jacks Fork rivers — as a unit of the National Park Service." ONSR Superintendent Bill Black said, "Over the last 50 years, there has been a world of change in our lives. But one thing has stayed the same. People are still enjoying the Current and Jacks Fork rivers as was envisioned by those who set aside the land and water for all." The article notes that "a free event recognizing the 50th anniversary of the act creating the park will be at 6 p.m. Aug. 23 at the Depression Era Cabin at Big Spring."

FIVE TENNESSEE SITES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Chattanoogan (8/14, 12K) reports that the Tennessee Historical Commission has announced five Tennessee sites have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The sites include the Happy Holler Historic District, the C.C. Card Auto Company Building, the Picardy Place Historic District, the Miller Farmstead, and the Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District.

PORTIONS OF NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS TO BE ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. KALB-TV Alexandria, LA (8/14, 1K) reports that "portions of Northwestern State University's campus will soon be included in the National Register of Historic Places."

CREWS CONTINUE SEARCH FOR MAN WHO DISAPPEARED AFTER BEING SWEPT DOWN YELLOWSTONE RIVER. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that "rescue crews in Yellowstone National Park continue to look for a Georgia man who disappeared Monday on the Yellowstone River." According to the article, "Darien Latty, 22, was reportedly illegally floating on the Lamar River using inner tubes with two fellow concession employees."

UTAH SYMPHONY TO PLAY NEAR FIVE NATIONAL PARKS. The Wall Street Journal (8/14, Mermelstein, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that the Utah Symphony will perform four concerts in close proximity to Utah's five national parks this week.

Bureau of Land Management:

TEXAS AG ABBOTT DEMANDS ANSWERS FROM BLM ABOUT RED RIVER PROPERTY. The Houston Guidry News Service (8/14) reports that Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on Wednesday, "again, urged the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to drop its claims to private property along the Red River." In a letter, Abbott "seeks specific answers about the exact property the BLM now claims belongs to the federal government, asks the BLM to further explain the legal basis for its claim to private property, and highlights the economic harm that the BLM's actions are imposing on Texas landowners."

Also covering the story are the Western Journalism (8/14, 100K) and the Breitbart (8/13, 356K).

FIGHT BREWING OVER PLACITAS HORSES. The AP (8/14) reports that free-ranging horses in Placitas are "now drawing the ire of some residents who say their growing numbers are hurting the delicate desert landscape because they eat what little vegetation there is amid an ongoing drought." However, "horse advocates say the drought is to blame for damaging landscape and state officials have blocked their attempts to administer a female contraceptive to help control the horse population." John Brenna, active field manager for the BLM, said "despite advocates' claims, federal and state courts have ruled that the horses aren't wild and federal officials consider the animals 'unauthorized excessive livestock.'" The BLM "recently posted a notice at the Placitas Post Office notifying residents that the agency plans to remove around 48 horses on BLM land sometime between now to Dec. 31."

BLM BANS CAMPFIRES ON ITS EASTERN WASHINGTON LANDS. The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (8/13, 170K) reports that "extreme fire danger has prompted the US Bureau of Land Management to join Washington state agencies in prohibiting campfires in Eastern Washington, including in developed recreation areas." The bureau's "fire managers enacted initial fire restrictions in mid-July." On Wednesday, "they updated the restrictions to prohibit the building, maintaining, attending or using a fire of any type, including charcoal briquette fires on lands administered by the BLM's Spokane District."

BLM PINEDALE OFFICE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON PRONGHORN, MULE DEER. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (8/14, 90K) reports that the BLM's Pinedale office is "seeking public comment on pronghorn and mule deer for its annual report on both species." The bureau is also "accepting comments for this year's supplement on the mule deer migration."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION GROUPS TO SUE FWS OVER DECISION ON WOLVERINE PROTECTIONS. The AP (8/14) reports that "two coalitions of advocacy groups have filed notices that they intend to sue the US Fish and Wildlife Service over its withdrawal of proposed protections for the wolverine." The service "reversed course Tuesday and said it does not consider climate change a threat to the long-term survival of the members of the weasel family." According to the article, "the notices filed Wednesday by Earthjustice and the Western Environmental Law Center give officials 60 days to reconsider." Earthjustice attorney Adrienne Maxwell says "the government is ignoring evidence that warmer temperatures will reduce wolverine habitat."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (8/13), the Denver Post (8/14, 923K), the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (8/13, 170K), the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (8/14, 31K), the Helena (MT) Independent Record (8/14, 45K), the Missoulian (MT) (8/14, 122K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/14, 1.32M), Yahoo! (8/14, 10.35M) , and KING-TV Seattle (8/14, 191K).

Also reporting on the story is Reuters (8/14, Zuckerman).

FWS DECIDES NOT TO ISSUE NEW PROTECTIONS FOR WARTON'S CAVE MESH WEAVER. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that the FWS on Wednesday "announced it won't consider listing a Texas spider under the Endangered Species Act." The service "determined the Warton's cave meshweaver (Cicurina wartoni) is not a distinct species, so it can't be listed, according to a notice in today's Federal Register." According to the article, "based on scientific analysis from both outside sources and the agency, the arachnid should be reclassified as

being the same as two other spider species, C. travisae and C. reddelli."

FWS CONCERNED OVER BAT POPULATION. The AP (8/14) reports that "federal wildlife officials are hosting a series of information sessions about a proposal to list a type of bat as endangered after a disease found in Georgia wiped out part of the species." Officials say "they're looking to list the long-eared bat as an endangered species because of white-nose syndrome." The FWS says "it's planning to host information sessions on Aug. 19-21."

HUNTERS SET TO CONVERGE ON LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR ALLIGATOR HUNT. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/13, 582K) reports that "after two years of arguments, protests and environmental analysis, hunters will arrive Friday, Aug. 15 at the Loxahatchee (Fla.) National Wildlife Refuge to start killing alligators." According to the article, "eleven hunters have won a lottery in which 1,203 people applied for permits to take two alligators each in the refuge." But "when the hunters arrive Friday – and many may not, since the hunt runs through October – they will be greeted by protesters from the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida, one of several groups that had written letters in opposition to the hunt."

SOUTH AFRICA TO EVACUATE 500 WHITE RHINOS FROM NATIONAL PARK TO THWART POACHERS. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that South Africa is "planning to deport up to 500 rhinos from Kruger National Park to Zambia and Botswana in an effort to defend them from a poaching epidemic that has led to the deaths of more than 403 of the animals in the park so far this year." According to the article, "the evacuation will mean tracking down the animals in remote sections of bush and shooting them from helicopters with tranquilizers." The article notes that "the operation is expected to cost $1,500 or more per rhino."

FWS URGED NOT TO RELY ON SINGLE STUDY ON CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER. The Los Angeles Times (8/14, 3.42M) editorializes that "Southern California developers are petitioning federal authorities to kick the California gnatcatcher off the list of threatened species, where it's been since 1993." It notes that "they're backed by a scientific study, which they helped fund, showing a lack of DNA evidence for classifying the nondescript local songbird as a genetically unique subspecies." But the paper argues that "though the study raises interesting questions worth following up, the US Fish and Wildlife Service should not be changing wildlife policy based on a single study funded in part by the industry that stands to gain from it."

US Geological Survey:

USGS HELPS MONITOR HAWAII QUAKES, ERUPTIONS. The AP (8/13) reports that USGS "outposts in other states are helping monitor Hawaii's volcanoes and earthquakes while work is done to repair Tropical Storm Iselle's damage to the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory." Officials say "complete restoration of the station perched on the rim of Kilauea Caldera at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is expected this week." Meanwhile, the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado, is "tracking Hawaii's larger earthquakes, while USGS volcanologists in Alaska and Virginia are keeping watch via satellite imagery."

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS SEQUOIAS. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that "extended droughts and raging forest fires, made worse by climate change, could have dire consequences in the coming decades for the survival of some of the world's largest and most ancient trees, the giant sequoias." The article notes that "sequoias' growth and death are not well understood, making it harder for scientists trying to predict how changing conditions could affect the trees' survival." But "decreasing snowmelt and increasing frequency of forest fires at higher elevations are factors that are likely to prevent new sequoia saplings from taking root and thriving." Nathan Stephenson, an ecologist with the USGS, said, "If there's long-term drought, within 25 years, we could see seedlings in trouble."

ALASKAN WOMAN CHASES POLAR BEAR FROM TENT. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that "an Alaskan woman chased a polar bear from her tent in the latest of several encounters between the bears and humans on the state's North Slope." Marie Rexford "ran out with a rifle and warned the bear off." Biologists for the USGS and FWS have "said the melting of Arctic ice is pushing more bears south to the mainland in their quest for food."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM STUDYING SOLAR DEVELOPMENT IMPACT. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (8/14, 79K) reports that the BLM is "looking to reduce uncertainty regarding how impacts from solar development in the San Luis Valley's public lands might be mitigated." According to the article, "while there are no pending proposals for the 20,000 acres the agency has designated specifically for solar development, the agency initiated the study in February and hopes to complete it by early summer 2015." BLM spokesman Kyle Sullivan said "the study also has the potential to reduce the costs, complexity and timeline associated with off-site mitigation activities and project approvals."

Onshore Energy Development:

COMPANIES ERASED FRACKING DISCLOSURES FROM WEBSITE, GROUP SAYS. Bloomberg News (8/13, Drajem, 2.76M) reports that drilling operators are "putting at risk drinking water supplies near wells" by using diesel in hydraulic fracturing without a permit, according to an environmental watchdog group. The Environmental Integrity Project used data from the industry-backed website FracFocus to find that 351 wells that were fracked with diesel. In 143 of such cases, the operator later erased the disclosure from the site, prompting criticisms for more transparency about the toxic chemicals used in fracking. According to Lee Fuller, vice president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, "Drillers probably erased the diesel classification as they corrected data-entry mistakes."

The International Business Times (8/13, Gallucci, 697K) reports that none of the companies found to have used diesel in their fracking operators applied for or received a diesel permit. The Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees fracking when diesel is included, has not yet responded about how they might use the report's findings. Mary Greene, one of the report's authors, said the EIP is considering "what kind of citizen suit enforcement opportunities might exist."

NPR (8/13, Phillips, 519K) notes that diesel is an exception to "the so-called Halliburton Loophole" which exempts chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing from Federal oversight and that Congress requires "extensive oversight if diesel is present."

The Los Angeles Times (8/14, Banerjee, 3.42M) reports that a spokesman for the industry-backed group Energy in Depth contends that the integrity project "has systematically and deliberately abused the data to suggest 'diesel fracking' is occurring where it is not."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS LAUD SEN. WARREN FOR OPPOSING MASSACHUSETTS NATURAL GAS PROJECT. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that "environmentalists fighting the Keystone XL oil sands crude pipeline from Canada today hailed Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) for declaring her opposition to pipeline titan Kinder Morgan Inc.'s plans for a 180-mile natural gas link that would cross her home state." According to the article, Warren "couched her opposition to the proposed natural gas pipeline in a broader principle for climate action by calling for an emphasis on upgrading existing pipelines that could alleviate the need for large new fossil fuel projects." Jamie Henn, communications director for the anti-KXL green group 350.org, praised Warren's stance as "good news for pipeline fighters in Massachusetts and across the country."

TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION LOOKS FOR COMPROMISE ON FRACKING-EARTHQUAKE RULES. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that the Texas oil and gas industry on Tuesday "signaled its openness to proposed state rules that would allow disposal wells to be shut down if they're suspected of causing earthquakes." The article notes that "reviews from environmental groups and were mixed, but they applauded the Texas Railroad Commission for taking action on the issue of quakes linked to drilling." The commission "approved a draft of the rules" on Tuesday "after months of questioning scientific studies that show a link between earthquakes and oil and gas operations."

PLANS ANNOUNCED FOR PIPELINE TO MOVE MARCELLUS GAS FROM PENNSYLVANIA TO NEW JERSEY. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that "UGI Corp., a Reading, Pa.-based natural gas and electricity supplier, and its partners announced plans" on Tuesday "for a 100-mile pipeline from Pennsylvania to New Jersey, providing a new outlet in both states for the expanding Marcellus Shale gas production." If approved by regulators, "the nearly $1 billion PennEast Pipeline Company LLC project would run from Luzerne County in northeastern

Pennsylvania to the Trenton-Woodbury interconnection on the Transco pipeline in New Jersey."

FRACKING BANS SAID TO DEPRIVE THE MIDDLE CLASS OF INCOME. In an op-ed in the Denver Post (8/13, 923K) Michelle Smith, president of the National Association of Royalty Owners, describes court decisions to strike down bans on hydraulic fracturing as "victories for families in Colorado and beyond." According to Smith, bans on energy "cause waste" by preventing obstructing families from "a source of income that is rightfully theirs." She acknowledges that state oversight is necessary for "a predictable and effective regulatory environment" for the oil and gas industry, but concludes that "the fundamental concept of property rights, affirmed in the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution, cannot be lost in this debate."

MORNING NEWS URGES TEXAS LAWMAKERS TO ENCOURAGE FRACKING WASTEWATER RECYCLING. In an editorial in the Dallas Morning News (8/14, 1.11M) the paper calls on Texas lawmakers to do more to encourage fracking wastewater recycling, such as a fee on fresh water use, enacting tougher restrictions on wastewater injection well or establishing a timetable for drillers to adopt recycling technology. The Morning News writes that the amount of wastewater recycling is estimated to double in the next decade, but that lawmakers should push to expedite the transition before the economy is negatively effected by water-scarcity.

Offshore Energy Development:

INDUSTRY URGES INTERIOR TO ADD NEW OFFSHORE ACREAGE TO NEXT AUCTION SCHEDULE. FuelFix (8/13, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that Wednesday the American Petroleum Institute renewed its pleas for added "offshore drilling options in comments filed with the Interior Department." The API wants offshore East and West coast acreage to be included in the BOEM's scheduled auctions from 2017 to 2022. API senior policy adviser Andy Radford said of current drilling auctions, "You have a notable gap there on the East Coast of the United States. We think there are probably some trends that extend down the East Coast from what we see in Canada, but we won't know until we look."

The Oil and Gas Journal (8/13, Snow, 1K) reports that the American Petroleum Institute joined 10 other oil and gas trade associations in submitting public comments to the Interior Department on Wednesday over the 2017-22 offshore auction plan.

Also reporting on the story is SNL Financial (8/14, 21K).

Group Raises Concerns About Possibility Of Atlantic Offshore Drilling. WABE-FM Atlanta (8/14, 805) reports that "a Georgia environmental organization is concerned about including the Atlantic ocean from Florida through Delaware in a federal lease program for oil and natural gas." Alice Keyes, associate director of 100 miles, said, "Our concerns really focus around the impact to marine wildlife and our local coastal community." Keyes says "it's also worried about the effect noise from seismic surveys would have on marine life."

Georgia Chamber Supports Including Atlantic For Offshore Drilling. WABE-FM Atlanta (8/14, 805) reports that "the Georgia Chamber is in favor of including the Atlantic Continental Shelf in the US Interior Department's five-year lease plan for oil and natural gas between 2017 and 2022." Georgia Chamber President and CEO Chris Clark advocated for the inclusion in a July letter to the BOEM.

BSEE HEAD URGES NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING DATABASE. Platts (8/13, 2K) reports that in comments at an industry forum in Houston this week, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Brian Salerno urged offshore drillers to craft "a comprehensive public database to help improve safety and prevent spills in federal waters." He said, "Currently individual operators are collecting a lot of the data we need to properly assess risk, but that information isn't being shared. Everyone is working in their own silo, collecting and using information for their own operations." He said drillers and regulators are lacking "big picture data."

BOEM, MAINE SIGN AGREEMENT TO EVALUATE SAND RESOURCES. The Dredging Today (8/13) reports that the BOEM and Maine have "signed a two-year cooperative agreement totaling $195,000 to evaluate sand resources for coastal resilience and restoration planning." Under this deal, the Maine Coastal Program and Maine Geological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will "develop an assessment to estimate the resource needs and evaluate the potential for Outer Continental Shelf sand and gravel resources."

BOEM Acting Director Walter Cruickshank said, "This agreement demonstrates BOEM's commitment to work with Maine to help coastal communities recover from storms like Hurricane Sandy and enhance resilience efforts for the future. We are committed to continuing to work in a collaborative manner to help local communities withstand damage from future storms."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS ATTACK SHELL'S ARCTIC SPILL RESPONSE PLANS . The Law 360 (8/14, 18K) reports that "environmental groups on Wednesday urged the Ninth Circuit to revoke the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's approval of two Royal Dutch Shell PLC units' spill response plans for exploratory oil drilling in the Arctic Ocean, saying approval was granted arbitrarily."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

LAKE MEAD TO GET MORE WATER. The AP (8/13) reports that Lake Mead will get more water this year, but not enough to halt its decline, according to new BOR projections. The BOR announced Wednesday that "it will release 10 percent more water from Lake Powell near the Arizona-Utah border into Lake Mead than it did the past year, thanks to near-normal runoff." Federal officials said "they'll send 8.23 million acre feet to Lake Mead, up from 7.48 million acre feet when Lake Powell was at its lowest level ever." But "despite the additional water, Lake Mead is projected to remain near record lows at 1,083 feet in January — three feet higher than it was Wednesday," because "more water will be delivered to cities, farms, American Indian communities and Mexico than Lake Mead will get from Lake Powell."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by Fox News (8/13, 6.72M), the US News & World Report (8/13, 645K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (8/14, 857K), the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (8/14, 85K), KTVK-TV Phoenix (8/14, 23K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (8/14, 216K).

Also reporting on the story are the Las Vegas Review-Journal (8/14, 386K) and the Las Vegas Sun (8/13, 148K).

CALIFORNIA LEADERS AGREE ON $7 BILLION REPLACEMENT WATER BOND LANGUAGE. The E&E Daily (8/13) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown and Democratic leaders are "nearing agreement on a $7 billion spending package for water that would replace an $11.1 billion one now on the November ballot in the drought-plagued state." Brown on Monday "signed a measure extending the deadline to place a new water bond on the upcoming ballot and to give it a new proposition number." Lawmakers now have until the end of Wednesday "to approve its inclusion on the ballot."

KXJZ-FM Sacramento, CA (8/13, 1K) reports that "Gov. Jerry Brown and California lawmakers have signed off on a new water bond for the November ballot." The measure "approved Wednesday night removes the existing $11 billion bond and replaces it with a $7.5 billion measure."

WATER FROM ST. CHARLES MESA WATER DISTRICT TO BE USED FOR GROWING POT. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (8/14, 79K) reports that "water from the St. Charles Mesa Water District can be used for marijuana growing operations, a reversal of a policy adopted in March." David Simpson, general manager of the district, said, "We never received a letter from the federal government directly answering our questions."

AMERICAN RIVER WATER FLOWS CUT IN HALF DUE TO WORK AT NIMBUS FISH HATCHERY. KCRA-TV Sacramento, CA (8/14, 122K) reports that "users of the lower American River will notice a significant drop in the water flow over the next few days as workers at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery complete annual work on the fish weir." On Wednesday, "hatchery workers began installing metal pipes that block fish from proceeding any further up river from the hatchery." The BOR "hoped to restore water flows back to 1,500 cubic feet per second by Wednesday afternoon barring any complications with the hatchery work."

SOUTH FORK OF THE BOISE RIVER FLOWS TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY. The Boise (ID) Weekly (8/13, 108K) reports that "in an attempt to restore fish habitat, water managers plan to greatly increase flows in the South Fork of the Boise River next week." The BOR will "increase river volume from Anderson Ranch Reservoir by 400 cubic feet per second (cfs) on Aug. 18 and 300 more cfs on Aug. 19."

FEDERAL OFFICIALS URGED TO RELEASE PREVENTATIVE FLOWS INTO TRINITY RIVER TO SAVE

SALMON. For the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (8/14, 76K), Kenny Priest writes that while the BOR is "holding firm on their stance to not release water until the salmon begin to show signs of disease," there have been "no big numbers of sick fish…reported as of yet, but it remains a real possibility." Priest urges the public to speak out to support the "release preventative flows into the Trinity River to save the fall salmon run from river conditions that are even more severe than those that caused the country's largest fish kill in 2002."

Empowering Native American Communities:

DAVID GIPP FROM UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE JOINS COBELL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES. The Nation Sun News (8/14) reports that "David Gipp, the president of the United Tribes Technical College in North Dakota, has been named to the board of trustees for the Cobell scholarship fund." Gipp is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. He will represent the American Indian College Fund, which administers the Cobell scholarships, on the five-member board.

BIA URGED TO EXTEND COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO RIGHT-OF-WAY RULES. For the Indian Country Today Media Network (8/13, 45K), Jay Daniels writes that the BIA is "accepting comments on proposed changes to the Code of Federal Regulations that 'would comprehensively update and streamline the process for obtaining BIA grants of rights-of-way on Indian land,' until August 18, 2014." Jemez Mountain Electrical Cooperative officials and some of their customers are "speaking out against proposed federal rule changes they believe could lead to higher utility costs." Daniels urges the BIA to extend "the comment period to ensure that everything has been flushed out."

Top National News:

US AIR CAMPAIGN MAY HAVE RENDERED USE OF US GROUND FORCES IN MOUNT SINJAIR UNNECESSARY. Developments late last night drastically changed the tenor of the coverage of a potential US mission to rescue Iraqi refugees trapped in Iraq's Mount Sinjar. On TV broadcasts, and in early online versions of newspaper and wire accounts, much of the coverage touched on questions of whether the mission would violate the President's promise not to send US troops back into combat in Iraq. While the Administration was drawing a distinction between combat and rescue operations, an undercurrent of skepticism ran through much of the reporting. Then, as news broke that US ground forces may not be needed after all, the focus of the coverage moved to quotes from enthusiastic US officials who credit the effects of the recent US air campaign for the favorable outcome.

McClatchy (8/14, Youssef, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 23K), for example, notes that Brett McGurk, the State Department's deputy assistant secretary for Near East Affairs, "declared via Twitter that the US actions had 'broken the siege,' a sentiment repeated by State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf: 'President said we're going to break the siege of this mountain, and we broke that siege.'" The Washington Post (8/14, A1, Deyoung, Whitlock, 4.06M), in a front-page report, attributes that last quote to McGurk.

On its front page, the New York Times (8/14, A1, Cooper, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that DOD "officials said late Wednesday that United States airstrikes and Kurdish fighters had broken the siege." The AP (8/14, Pace, Burns) reports Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel termed a rescue operation "far less likely now," and "said six days of US airstrikes against militant targets in the region gave many people an opportunity to get off the mountain."

USA Today (8/14, Jackson, Michaels, Bacon, 5.76M) reports Rear Adm. John Kirby, a DOD spokesman, said last night a "team of fewer than 20 US troops 'has assessed that there are far fewer Yazidis on Mount Sinjar than previously feared, in part because of the success of humanitarian airdrops, airstrikes on (Islamic State) targets, the efforts of the peshmerga (Kurdish fighters) and the ability of thousands of Yazidis to evacuate from the mountain each night over the last several days.'" Added Kirby, "Based on this assessment the interagency has determined that an evacuation mission is far less likely." The Washington Times (8/14, Ybarra, 465K) quotes Kirby as saying, "The Yazidis who remain are in better condition than previously believed and continue to have access to the food and water that we have dropped." The Los Angeles Times (8/14, Cloud, Hennessey, 3.42M), Reuters (8/14, Mohammed, Mason), Politico (8/14, Ewing, 637K), TIME (8/14, 24.1M) and Voice of America (8/14, 21K), among other news outlets, also highlight Kirby's comments in their reports.

Iraq received 12 minutes and 30 seconds in combined coverage from the network newscasts – one of which led with the story – while CNN once again extended its prime-time newscast by 30 minutes to cover the US mission and the negotiations between Israel and Hamas. At the time of the broadcasts, the tone of the coverage was markedly different: David Martin reported on the CBS Evening News (8/13, story 3, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M) that while the US has "relied on nightly airdrops of food and water to keep the refugees alive," that effort "will soon be replaced by a rescue operation that will put American troops in harm's way." Martin noted that while the President "has promised not to send American troops back into combat in Iraq...one of his top advisers said" yesterday "this would be a rescue operation, and that makes it different."

In the lead story for NBC Nightly News (8/13, lead story, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M), Jim Miklaszewski also noted the debate over whether the special forces' mission was a violation of the President's vow "not to put US boots on the ground," adding that the Deputy National Security Adviser "said the mission is humanitarian, not combat." Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Adviser, was shown saying, "I think the principle holds that we're not putting ground forces in combat role in Iraq." Rhodes comments were highlighted in early reports from the AP (8/13, Pace), Wall Street Journal (8/13, Sparshott, Nissenbaum, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), Christian Science Monitor (8/13, LaFranchi, 566K), AFP (8/13), Huffington Post (8/13, Lavender, 11.54M), The Hill (8/13, Sink, 237K) and Washington Times (8/14, Boyer, 465K), among other news outlets, all of which noted the debate on whether the President was about to violate his pledge.

Muhammad Lila reported on ABC World News (8/13, story 4, 2:00, Muir, 5.84M) that the US is "preparing a rescue mission," with the White House "saying it hasn't ruled out deploying troops to help" the refugees "get down to safety." In a separate story on ABC World News (8/13, story 5, 0:50, Muir, 5.84M), Martha Raddatz reported that "in order to rescue thousands of people, you would almost certainly need boots on the ground," and "while the White House has insisted over and over that US troops would not be put back into a combat role in Iraq, this rescue mission would put them in enemy territory and they certainly could be sucked into combat if they came under fire."

Barbara Starr reported on CNN's Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer (8/13, 554K) that "two options remain on the table. Basically, there are only two ways out of there, either by ground over transport vehicles or by air. Some officials are saying the air option may look better at this point."

Jennifer Griffin reported on Fox News' Special Report (8/13, 2.15M) that according to "defense officials," 129 "armed Marines and US special operations troops arrived in Erbil assessing if its possible to airlift the thousands of Yazidis trapped...on Mount Sinjar." Harf was shown saying, "The President has been very clear that we will not be sending troops back in combat roles. That's the key phrase. They are assessing. They are not there in combat roles." Griffin noted that "there are 864 military personnel now on the ground in Iraq." Harf said on CNN's Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer (8/13, 554K), "We have unique capabilities we can bring to bear. ... We're going to help here."

Ivan Watson reported on CNN's Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer (8/13, 554K) that US forces "would presumably have to coordinate on that mountain with" Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) "fighters that" the US government "considers terrorists." The troops "may have to waive that, considering how many thousands of people the PKK have saved off that mountain over the course of the last nine desperate days."

An front-page analysis piece in the Washington Post (8/14, A1, Jaffe, Miller, 4.06M), meanwhile, contrasts statements from "senior US officials" who "describe the threat posed by the Islamic State in chilling terms, but have mounted a decidedly modest military campaign to check its advance through northern Iraq." The Post sees a "disconnect between the unnerving assessments of the Islamic State and the apparent lack of urgency in confronting."

George F. Will writes in the Washington Post (8/14, Will, 4.06M) that even if protecting Kurds and Yazidis is in the US' national interest, the key question is: "Is it wise to support the use of force by this president? He is properly cautious about today's awful dilemma, which is not primarily of his making. But caution can be reckless. ... Are F-18s going to be used for a foreign policy of rightminded gestures — remember #BringBackOurGirls? — the success of which is in making the gesturers feel virtuous?"

US Drone Destroys ISIL Truck In Sinjar. The AP (8/13) reports the US military said yesterday "a drone aircraft attacked and destroyed an armed truck operated by Islamic militants west of the village of Sinjar in northern Iraq."

France To Supply Arms To Kurds; Canada And Australia Offer To Play Role In Helping Refugees. The AP (8/14, Keller) reports that "calling the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan 'catastrophic,' France said Wednesday it would start supplying arms to the Kurdish forces fighting Sunni extremists from the Islamic State group." President Francois Hollande's office said yesterday the French leader had spoken with British Prime Minister David Cameron last night, "and agreed on the need for an 'extremely rapid response.'" The French statement, however, "didn't clarify whether Britain outright consented to furnish weapons to the Kurds, who are trying to push back radicals of the IS group." The Washington Times (8/14, Taylor, 465K) notes "Mr. Hollande's office said France had communicated with Iraq's central government in Baghdad before making the move to ship weapons to the Kurds."

Citing comments by Rhodes, meanwhile, the Toronto (CAN) Star (8/13, Campion-Smith, 113K) reports the US "announced Wednesday that it was talking to several countries including Canada about helping Yazidis, Iraqi Christians, and other people who have become displaced by the advance of Islamist fighters." Said Rhodes, "We have offers of support from a number of allies like France, Australia, Canada."

The AP (8/13, Salama, Yacoub) reports the UN yesterday "called its highest level of emergency for the humanitarian crisis in Iraq," and goes on to note that the EU's "28 foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting Friday on Iraq to coordinate their stance on military support for the Kurds and on providing humanitarian assistance for those fleeing the fighting, the EU said Wednesday."

Another AP (8/13, Hadid) dispatch, meanwhile, reports that "after Washington's promises to arm them, the Kurds say they badly need heavier weapons from the United States to stem the expansion of the Islamic State group."

Militant Commander Says ISIL Holding More Than 100 Yazidi Women And Children. Wolf Blitzer reported on CNN's Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer (8/13, 554K) that a top ISIL commander says that "his forces are holding more than 100 Yazidi women and children who were taken after many of their men of their town were simply massacred."

Harf said on CNN's Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer (8/13, 554K), "We are looking at this situation, but this is the latest in a long line of a nihilistic actions this group has taken. Not only are they trying to take territory with heavy weapons, which we've been pushing back on but they are really terrorizing whole populations in Iraq, not just Christians, not just Yazidis, but Kurds, Shia, moderate Sunnis. So in addition to what we have been doing recently with the humanitarian aid, the strikes around Erbil, we are working with the Iraqis on a long-term counterterrorism strategy to take out their leadership, to cut off their funding, to take away their operational capabilities so they can't terrorize Iraqis."

Former Army College Commandant: US Air Campaign Puts ISIL On Course To Claim Victory. Robert H. Scales, a retired Army major general and former commandant of the US Army War College, writes in the Washington Post (8/13, Scales, 4.06M) that "US airstrikes of the past week have mostly succeeded," but ISIL will adapt and they will cease to be effective. In fact, "recent history suggests there will be strategic consequences from seeking to blunt the Islamic State advance through airpower alone." That will leave "two unattractive alternatives: Escalate until tragedy occurs or accept battlefield stasis." And then, "when we fly away with the Islamic State still dominant on the battlefield, the terrorists will proclaim to the world that the United States is a cowardly country that has been beaten again."

Some Lawmakers Say Obama Needs Congressional Approval. The Wall Street Journal (8/14, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that a series of US lawmakers, including Sens. Tim Kaine and Rand Paul and Rep. John Garamendi, are calling for the President to ask for Congress' authorization for the current military mission in Iraq. No congressional leader has joined their ranks as of this moment.

Roll Call (8/13, Lesniewski, 76K) reported on its website that Paul said yesterday on Twitter that "constitutionally," Obama "should come forward with a plan to Congress and we vote for it or against it. It's the same way with, you know, bombing Libya, war with Libya or bombing Iraq."

Obama's Vacationing, Brief Return To DC Noted. In a story headlined "Obama Keeps Up Presidential Appearances Amid Golf Outings," Bloomberg News (8/14, Keane, Dorning, 2.76M) reports that Obama, "on pace to log 40 hours on the golf course during his two-week vacation on Martha's Vineyard, is making sure to show people that he's still at work," and to do so, he has "stepped before the microphones to talk about the upheaval in Iraq, and made six calls to world leaders about that and other global crises." Bloomberg notes that "each call merited a press release, and he's also issued a statement on the death of actor Robin Williams and another urging calm in Ferguson." Bloomberg also says "the flurry of activity is as much a part of any president's vacation as is the inevitable criticism from political opponents, no matter which party is in control of the White House."

The Daily Caller (8/13, Munro, 408K) titled its report "Obama Golfs, Lets Biden Do Foreign Policy" and said Obama is "letting Vice President Joe Biden play at foreign-policy president this week," citing the VP's efforts in Iraq "while Obama was golfing in Martha's Vineyard."

In a post for The Hill (8/13, Sink, 237K), meanwhile, Justin Sink reported that the White House said yesterday that Obama "won't make any major announcements on immigration reform during his secretive mid-vacation trip back to Washington next week." According to Sink, "speculation has circled around whether Obama might make an announcement of executive actions he's taking on immigration reform, or a surprise visit from a foreign leader." But spokesman Eric Schultz said yesterday the White House is "not anticipating a major announcement on immigration when the president is in Washington," and "adding more mystery to the topic," added that the Administration did not "anticipate any major significant news developments out of Washington those few days."

OBAMA AND CLINTON MEET AMID TENSION OVER HER CRITIQUE OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY. All thee network newscasts aired segments on the continuing contretemps between allies of President Obama and those close to former Secretary of State Clinton. The news that the President and Clinton were set to be at the same event at Martha's Vineyard on Wednesday was widely noted, as was Clinton's spokesman's prediction that the two would be "hugging it out."

Notable in the coverage is the repetition of the suggestion that Clinton feels that she must distance herself from the President due to his relatively weak recent poll numbers. For instance, Bloomberg News (8/13, Allen, Keane, 2.76M), says the President's "poor poll ratings" give Clinton incentive to criticize him ahead of her anticipated presidential campaign, and Politico (8/13, Glueck, Fandos, 637K) reports that Clinton's recent remarks were "seen by some as an attempt to create space from an unpopular White House."

A front-page article in the New York Times (8/14, Martin, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) making the case that Clinton represents the future of the Democratic Part, while the President "is fast becoming the past," says that in November, "Democrats face difficult races...in states where the president is especially unpopular." And Todd Purdum, in a piece for Politico (8/13, Purdum, 637K), refers to the President as "increasingly unpopular."

On ABC World News (8/13, story 7, 1:20, Muir, 5.84M), David Muir said the President and Clinton "forged a partnership in the White House, but are there signs it's cracking as she prepares for a possible run for president?" Jonathan Karl went on to report that the President and Clinton were scheduled to "see...each other" last night at an event on Martha's Vineyard "right after" Clinton "offered her most pointed criticism yet of President Obama's foreign policy." Karl added that Clinton has subsequently "tried to smooth things over," and showed her saying, "We have disagreements, as any partners and friends, as we are, might very well have, but I'm proud that I served with him and for him."

On the CBS Evening News (8/13, story 5, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M), Bob Schieffer said, "Regardless of how many more times Mrs. Clinton says she was not criticizing president...she really did zing him when she said, 'Great nations need organizing principles and "don't do stupid stuff" is not an organizing principle,'" because "'Don't do stupid stuff,' is the President's own description of his foreign policy." According to Schieffer, "It's going to take more than a party hug...to make the President forget that criticism." Schieffer went on to say that Clinton "favors a more muscular foreign policy than the President," but is also "walking a very fine line" because she "does not want to turn off the hardcore liberal left."

On NBC Nightly News (8/13, story 9, 1:55, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt said Clinton is "hoping to hug it out after some critical comments about the President's foreign policy." Correspondent Chris Jansing reported from

Martha's Vineyard that "the last few days have felt kind of like a flashback to 2008 when the two were locked in that pitched battle for president." Jansing noted that former Obama senior adviser David Axelrod "attack[ed Clinton's] Iraq war vote" when he tweeted earlier this week: "Just to clarify: 'Don't do stupid stuff' means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place.'"

On Wednesday evening, the AP (8/13, Pickler) reported that the President and Clinton "did their best to shrug off their differences Wednesday as they gathered on Martha's Vineyard following a foreign policy split." According to the AP, deputy White House press secretary Eric Schultz "declined to say whether the president was upset over her critique of his performance."

The Washington Post (8/13, Zezima, 4.06M) reports that "the frenzy over Clinton's comments, and anticipated embrace, reached fever pitch at the White House news briefing Wednesday, where reporters pressed...Schultz on the state of the Obama-Clinton relationship — and pushed for access to the pair's rapprochement." The Post says Schultz "did concede that Obama and Clinton have disagreed on several fronts, including whether and when to arm Syrian rebels." Reuters (8/13, Mason) quoted Schultz as saying, "They continue to agree on a broad majority of issues confronting our country, even if they have the occasional policy difference."

Politico (8/13, Glueck, Fandos, 637K) noted that Wednesday night's "meeting comes just days after Clinton dinged elements of Obama's foreign policy in an interview with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, complete with dissing as a 'failure' the early decision not to assist some Syrian rebels." Politico says Clinton's remarks were "seen by some as an attempt to create space from an unpopular White House," but also notes that Clinton "already called Obama to assure him that her remarks weren't meant as an attack."

According to Bloomberg News (8/13, Allen, Keane, 2.76M), "From the time of their shotgun wedding after the 2008 campaign," the President and Clinton have "kept the partnership of the two most powerful brands in Democratic politics from tearing asunder," but "that will increasingly be a challenge...as Obama works to burnish his legacy while Clinton lays the groundwork for her political future." Bloomberg News goes on to make the case that "the genesis of the...conflict is twofold: his poor poll ratings and her interest in the presidency." Bloomberg News notes that "in surveys taken from Aug. 9 through Aug. 11," the President "rated a 41 percent approval level, with 55 percent disapproving of his handling of the presidency."

Todd Purdum, in a piece for Politico (8/13, Purdum, 637K), says Clinton's "dilemma" is "how to distance herself from the increasingly unpopular president she served, yet might like to succeed." McClatchy (8/13, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) notes that as of 2016, it will have been 160 years since a former secretary of state was elected president.

NYTimes A1: With Obama "Especially Unpopular" In Some States, Top Democrats Turn To The Clintons. In a front-page article, the New York Times (8/14, Martin, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports from Martha's Vineyard that "after six years, energy here and elsewhere appears to be shifting from Mr. Obama toward Mrs. Clinton, as the former secretary of state moves away from the president's orbit toward her own political future, generating tensions that are spilling out in unusual ways." According to the Times, the President "is fast becoming the past, not the future, for donors, activists and Democratic strategists," who are "increasingly turning toward Mrs. Clinton and her husband...as Democrats face difficult races this fall in states where the president is especially unpopular." The Times says Clinton's "aides" are "making plain that she has no intention of running for 'Obama's third term.'"

More Commentary On The Dynamics Of The Obama-Clinton Relationship. In a column for the Wall Street Journal (8/14, Rove, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) titled, "Hillary's Risky Hawkish Makeover: Mrs. Clinton is doing her best to distance herself from Obama. But that may prove impossible," Karl Rove offers the conjecture that Clinton is uneasy about her ties to President Obama's foreign policy – after having served as his chief diplomat – in light of recent polls showing strong public disapproval of the President's handling of world affairs. But Rove says Clinton will find distancing herself to be difficult because voters will ask why she didn't bring up her differences of opinion while she was secretary of state.

Gail Collins, in her column for the New York Times (8/14, Collins, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), contends that in her remarks critical of the President's foreign policy, Clinton "was probably being neither politically calculating nor blundering, but simply saying what she believes."

The Daily Caller (8/13, Bordelon, 408K) reported that on CNN's The Situation Room on Wednesday night, political analyst Gloria Borger said of Clinton, "I think she's well aware she stepped in it." Borger added, "She had, in her book, said that there were differences with the president on Syria. But what she did was she took a policy difference and she made it personal."

The Daily Caller (8/13, Bordelon, 408K) also reported that in an appearance on MSNBC, the Washington Post's Chris Cillizza said, "I get that she's trying to distance herself — particularly on some of the things that she did have legitimate disagreements with the president on." But Cillizza added, "Don't do it and then try to undo it by putting out a statement saying you weren't trying to do it! Of course she was trying to do it."

In an op-ed for USA Today (8/13, Rabin-Havt, 5.76M), Ari Rabin-Havt, host of The Agenda on SiriusXM, says President Obama "clearly preferred a more aggressive approach in Syria after a chemical weapons attack on civilians last summer," but the "military action most thought was inevitable was scrapped after public pressure led a bipartisan coalition in the House of Representatives to make direct intervention in that country's civil war a political...impossibility." Rabin-Havt says "the message from public and Congressional reaction to potential military intervention in Syria was clear: there is a far tighter leash on the president when it comes to the use of force."

Shadee Ashtari of the Huffington Post (8/13, Ashtari, 11.54M) takes Clinton to task for having failed to condemn Israel for having bombed "a U.N. school at the Jabalia refugee camp" in Gaza last month, "killing more than 15 people, mostly women and children." According to Ashtari, "In an interview with The Atlantic...Clinton argued that the 'fog of war' made accountability over the Israeli attacks impossible to determine."

OFFICER WAS ASSAULTED BEFORE FERGUSON SHOOTING THAT SPARKED VIOLENT PROTESTS. The Washington Post (8/13, Berman, Lowery, 4.06M) reported that Ferguson, Missouri police chief Thomas Jackson revealed on Wednesday that "the officer who shot and killed Michael Brown 'was hit' in the face during the encounter on Saturday" and the "side of his face was swollen." The Post also notes that the St. Louis County Police Department says the officer "was 'physically assaulted' and that there was a struggle over the officer's weapon." However, the Post also reports that "at least one eyewitness offered a different account, saying that the officer initiated a confrontation and ultimately shot Brown as he was attempting to surrender." On ABC World News (8/13, story 6, 1:55, Muir, 5.84M), Jackson was shown saying, the unidentified officer's "was swollen, so he'd obviously had been hit or punched or something like that."

The New York Times (8/13, Bosman, Williams, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that Jackson "has not released the name of the officer, citing fears for his safety and that of his family," but the Times adds that "the selective release of information about the shooting, especially the anonymity granted the officer, has stoked frustrations in...largely African-American" Ferguson. According to the Christian Science Monitor (8/13, Jonsson, 566K), "Police are concerned about making a fellow officer and his family vulnerable to death threats made on social media," but "residents have credible claims in demanding to know information that would be available if the shooter weren't a lawman."

On the CBS Evening News (8/13, story 6, 2:35, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that Jackson says the Ferguson police are "working with community relations experts from the Justice Department to address racial tension in the St. Louis suburb." Mark Strassman went on to report that a gun store owner near Ferguson has seen a spike in the number of handguns sold since the outbreak of violent protests, looting and rioting in Ferguson.

USA Today (8/13, Alcindor, Bello, Fazal, 5.76M) notes that "African Americans are two-thirds of [Ferguson's] population," and "account for nine out of 10 stops by police," but "the 53-member police force includes" only three African American officers. The Wall Street Journal (8/14, Peters, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) provides background on the community's history under the headline, "Ferguson Has Long Been Challenged By Racial Tensions."

David Mastio and Kelsey Rupp of USA Today (8/13, Mastio, Rupp, 5.76M) report that in November, the Defense Logistics Agency supplied the Ferguson police with "two vehicles, a trailer and a generator." Charles Blow, in his column for the New York Times (8/14, Blow, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), offers his take on the controversy

following last weekend's shooting in Ferguson.

Police Face Off Against "Armed Masked Men" And Rioters Throwing Molotov Cocktails. On NBC Nightly News (8/13, story 5, 1:40, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported that the Ferguson Police Department was "bracing...for what may be another night of violence," and correspondent Ron Allen went on to report that the police are encountering "armed masked men." According to Allen, "Police say they shot and critically wounded a 19-year-old who pointed a gun at them" late Tuesday night.

The AP (8/13, Suhr, Salter) reports that on Wednesday night in Ferguson, Missouri, there were "people lobbing Molotov cocktails at police who responded with smoke bombs and tear gas to disperse the crowd."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (8/14, 938K) reports that "after giving people several verbal warnings to leave the area or face arrest, somebody hurled a bottle at the police line," and then "police inched closer and closer to the crowd until they dispersed into side streets."

Two Reporters Held Briefly By Ferguson Police Following Confrontation. Politico (8/14, Byer, Gold, 637K) reported that on Wednesday night in Ferguson, Wesley Lowery of the Washington Post and Ryan Reilly of the Huffington Post "were arrested in a McDonalds shortly before 8 p.m." after "police entered the restaurant and told patrons there to leave." Politico says the reporters claim that they were "arrested...because they weren't packing their bags fast enough."

Los Angeles Police Kill Man Who Lunged For Officer's Gun. The Los Angeles Times (8/13, Winton, Vives, Mather, 3.42M) reported that on Wednesday, the Los Angeles Police Department "defended an officer-involved shooting that left a 25-year-old man dead, saying he tackled one of two officers, forcing him to use a backup gun." But the Times notes that the LAPD's "account differs from what family members of the man" have said. The Times says they maintain that he was "complying with police orders and was on the ground when he was shot."

The New York Times (8/13, Medina, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reported that "family members told a local television station...that the man was Ezell Ford, a 24-year-old whose 'mental problems' they said were well known to the police." According to the Times, an LAPD spokesman "said that while he knew that the man had some kind of arrest record, it was unclear what the arrests had been for or whether the police had any evidence of mental illness." The Huffington Post (8/13, Ferner, 11.54M) also covers the Los Angeles shooting.

House Democrats Want DOJ To Probe NYPD Tactics. The New York Times (8/14, Goldstein, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that six House Democrats are urging Attorney General Holder "to open a federal investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of a Staten Island man in police custody, and to extend the inquiry into other possible civil-rights violations committed by the Police Department through its 'broken windows' approach to fighting crime."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The O'Bannon Ruling: College Athletes Win."*** The New York Times (8/14, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes about the "two important consequences of a long-awaited ruling last week" by US District Judge Claudia Wilken "in the so-called O'Bannon case." According to the Times, college athletes "will almost certainly be better off financially" because of the ruling, and "the notion that these athletes are pure amateurs" will "be impossible to sustain." Judge Wilken "issued an injunction against a ban on payments to players for the commercial use of their names, images and likenesses, which she said violated antitrust law," and she also ruled that the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) "may not prohibit universities from offering cost-of-living stipends in addition to scholarships." The Times concludes that the NCAA and its member institutions "built a lucrative commercial enterprise that depended in large part on unpaid labor," and now "they have to move forward without exploiting the very students they have always purported to protect."

"The O'Bannon Ruling: 'Student Athlete' Is History." In an editorial, the New York Times (8/14, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) examines the "myth of the pure 'student-athlete'" that Judge Wilken "has now demolished." In the early 1950s, according to the Times, the NCAA was "worried that state industrial commissions and the courts could classify certain players, particularly football players, as employees, exposing

universities to workers' compensation claims and hefty settlements," so its leaders invented the phrase "student-athlete" to "persuade the public and courts that college players were not professionals entitled to benefits." The Times notes that there "is a difference between a quarterback at a Division I program and a pre-med student at the same university – the difference being that the former risks his physical well-being for that university," and also notes that there is "a difference between a Division I quarterback and a Division III swimmer," as the swimmer "probably considers himself a student first, an athlete second; for the quarterback those priorities are reversed."

"President Obama: No Internet Fast Lanes." In an editorial, the New York Times (8/14, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) argues that a proposal under consideration by the FCC to allow telecommunications companies "to strike deals with powerful firms like Netflix and Amazon for faster delivery of videos and other data to consumers," would make it impossible for small, new businesses "to compete against established companies" since they would "have to pay fees to telephone and cable companies to get content to users in a timely manner." The Times notes that as a candidate, the President "rightly opposed letting telecommunications companies charge 'different rates to different websites,'" but his FCC Chairman, Tom Wheeler, "has proposed troubling rules that would allow cable and phone firms to enter into specials with companies," and "effectively allow telecoms to divide the Internet into fast and slow lanes."

"Justice Denied For Abused Children." The New York Times (8/14, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that New York Governor Andrew Cuomo "signed a bill last week that adds compensated public school coaches to the list of professionals, including teachers, required to report to authorities suspected cases of child sex abuse and other maltreatment." The Times argues that the bill "leaves uncovered some (but not all) private and parochial school coaches, volunteer coaches and college-level coaches," and it "does nothing to elevate New York's low ranking when it comes to providing justice to the victims of child sex abuse," which the Times says is "directly related to the state's failure to extend its severely short statute of limitations in child-sex-abuse cases." The Times notes that an effort to "give child-sex-abuse victims more time to file both civil and criminal complaints and provide a one-year window for filing expired claims" will "continue to languish" in the state legislature until Cuomo, "confronts intense lobbying by leaders of the Roman Catholic Church and other opponents of reform."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Abuse In Azerbaijan."*** The Washington Post (8/14, 4.06M) editorializes about despotic actions by Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, who is seeking to "emulate President Vladimir Putin of Russia, gradually turning the screws on critics through arrests and repressive legislation that narrowed the space for civil society to survive." Adds the Post, "It is beyond comprehension how Mr. Aliyev can carry out such repression at a time when Azerbaijan is chair of the committee of ministers of the Council of Europe, the continent's leading human rights organization." Aliyev, who "craves respect abroad," deserves "condemnation."

"Clarity On Export-Import Bank." An editorial in the Washington Post (8/14, 4.06M) argues that while advocates of the Export-Import Bank tout the number of jobs the bank's "loan guarantees and other financing for U.S. sales abroad" support, a May 2013 study by the GAO found that the bank "must speak vaguely of 'jobs supported,' rather than concretely of jobs created, since its methodology cannot really distinguish between new employment and retained employment." While GAO "found nothing fraudulent about any of this," it urged the bank to be "more transparent" about "the rather crucial assumptions and limitations embedded in Ex-Im's methodology."

"A Redskins Fumble." In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/13, Board, 4.06M) criticizes Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe for refusing to join the President, former Secretary of State Clinton, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, and 50 members of the Senate in asking Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder to change the name of the team. Noting that McAuliffe "condemned the planting of a Confederate flag on private land," 10 months ago but now "insists that he cannot tell a private business to remove an offensive word emblazoned on its uniforms," the Post argues that the only difference between the two situations is "politics: two-thirds of Virginians support keeping the Redskins' name, while cultural and demographic evolutions have made criticizing Confederate flags politically safe."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Advocate's Devil."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/14, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) praises a letter by Judge John Bates, director of the Administrative Office of the US Courts, which criticizes the NSA overhaul legislation being advocated by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick

Leahy. In particular, the Journal notes Bates's opposition to the idea of a "special advocate" who would be responsible for opposing executive-branch lawyers in front of the FISC, and expresses hope that Bates's opposition will prompt Congress to abandon the idea.

"Iran's War On Journalism." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/11, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) notes Iran's arrest of Washington Post correspondent Jason Rezaian and his wife, among other journalists, and says such actions show president Hasan Rouhani is no moderate, as had been hoped when he took office.

"Japan Takes Consumption Tax Dive." A Wall Street Journal (8/14, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorial blames the second quarter decline in Japan's GDP to an increase in the consumption tax and expresses concern that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's decision to raise the tax will harm his economic program. Noting that Abe must soon decided whether to raise the tax again in 2015, the Journal urges him to resist calls from the Ministry of Finance to do so.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US, Iran Rush To Aid Kurds
US Sway Over Israel On Gaza At A Low
Facing A Pension Shortfall, San Diego Dials Up The Risk
Low-Salt Diets Shown To Pose Health Risks

New York Times:
Bloomberg Era Brought A Rise In Jail Violence
Pentagon Says Militants' Siege In Iraq Is Over
In Middle Tier, College Sports Tries To Adjust
As Shifts Vary, Family's Only Constant Is Chaos
Is This Island Big Enough For Clinton And Obama?
Anonymity In Police Shooting Fuels Frustration

Washington Post:
N. Iraq Rescue Mission Less Likely
Militant Threat Gets Modest Response
In Ferguson, Racial Questions Have Long Hung Over Police Force
Senate Race Becomes An Unpopularity Contest In N.C.
'I Want To Come Back, But I'm Afraid'

Financial Times:
Abenomics Rattled By Japan Dip In Growth
Daimler In Drive To End Holiday Email Traffic
Cisco To Cut 8% Of Staff During Rebuild
Amazon Joins Credit Card Reader Battle
Lookout Funding Boosted By Amazon's Bezos
Bank Of England Interprets Data Its Way

Washington Times:
US Yazidis Wary Of Arming Kurdish Fighters In Northern Iraq
Pope Francis Taking Message Of Peace, Reconciliation To South Korea
US Public Relations, Consulting Firms Find Political Gold In Nigeria
Fellow Democrats Keep Their Distance From Lonely Fundraiser In Chief

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Analysis; Washington-Dust Storm; Iraq-Yazidis Rescue Operation; Iraq-Yazidis Rescue Operation-Analysis; Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Obama-Hilary Clinton Comments; Worker's

Compensation Fraud; New York-Bridge Mystery Solved.
CBS: Severe Weather; Iraq-Yazidis Rescue Operation; Iraq-Yazidi Refugees; Obama-Hillary Clinton Comments; Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Texas-Immigration Crisis; Fields Medal Recipient; Washington-Dust Storm; Perseid Shower.
NBC: Iraq-Yazidi Rescue Operation; Iraq-Yazidi Refugees; Mideast Conflict; East Coast Flooding; Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Robin Williams-Suicide Dialogue; Job Openings; Ebola Outbreak; Obama-Hillary Clinton Comments.

Network TV At A Glance:
Iraq – 12 minutes, 30 seconds (00:12:30)
Severe Weather – 10 minutes, 20 seconds (00:10:20)
Missouri-Shooting Backlash – 6 minutes, 10 seconds (00:06:10)
Obama-Hillary Clinton Comments – 5 minutes, 5 seconds (00:05:05)
Washington-Dust Storm – 40 seconds (00:00:40)

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Hagel-Yazidi Rescue Operation; Mideast Conflict-Cease Fire Extended; Pope Francis-South Korea.
CBS: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Iraq-Yazidi Rescue Operation; Mideast Conflict-Cease Fire Extended; Severe Weather; Pennsylvania Governor-Amish Mafia TV Show; Wall Street.
FOX: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Iraq-Yazidi Rescue Operation; Mideast Conflict-Cease Fire Extended; Ebola Outbreak; Montana Senate Race.
NPR: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Oregon Wildfires; Commerce Department-Retail Sales Report; Wall Street; Hagel-Yazidi Rescue Operation; Dempsey-Vietnam Visit; Health-Sodium Consumption Survey.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Obama is vacationing on Martha's Vineyard. There are no public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The vice president and Dr. Jill Biden visit Long Island, New York. There are no public events scheduled.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — The House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "Recess."

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS – FIELD HEARING — 10 a.m. Full Committee hearing on "Challenges in Rural America: Infrastructure Needs and Access to Care". Location: Mueller Civic Center, 801 South 6th Street, Hot Springs, SD 57747.
Other: KOREAN CULTURE — Aug. 11 – 15. 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Korean Cultural Center, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and the King Sejong Institute host Korean cultural immersion for students ages 13-19. Location: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. Contacts: Adam Wojciechowicz AWOJ@koreaembassy.org (202-587-6168). On the Net: http://www.koreaCultureDC.org

WIPP – SUMMIT FOR SUCCESS — 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. OPEN for Government Contracts Presents: "Summit for Success." Held by Women Impacting Foreign Policy. http://www.wipp.org/events/event_details.asp?id=480376. Highlights: 11:10 a.m. TSA Office of Security Operations Improvement Branch Program Analyst Kristin Best will participate in a panel discussion entitled "Doing Business With: The United States Department of Homeland Security." Location: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

NEW AMERICA – IRAQ CRISIS — 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. The New America Foundations International Security Program hosts a discussion about the current crisis in Iraq and its impact on the greater Middle Eastern region. Participants: Col. Derek Harvey (Ret.), professor, University of South Florida, former senior analyst for Iraq for General David H. Petraeus; Denise Natali, senior research fellow, Institute for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, author, The Kurdish Quasi-State: Development and Dependency in Post-Gulf War Iraq; Steve Levine, future Tense Fellow, New America Foundation, author, The Oil and the Glory, The Pursuit of Empire and Fortune on the Caspian Sea. Moderated by Douglas A. Ollivant, ASU Future of War Senior Fellow, International Security Program, New America Foundation, former NSC director for Iraq. Location: New America Foundation, 1899 L St. NW, Suite 400. Contacts: Jenny Lu Mallamo (mallamo@newamerica.net), 202-596-3368

ARLINGTON CEMETERY – ACTIVE DUTY BURIAL — 3:30 p.m. Burial service for U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom when he was killed in Afghanistan. Location: Arlington National Cemetery. Contacts: Melissa Bohan (arlingtoncemetery.pao@mail.mil), 877-907-8585. Notes: Meet on Memorial Avenue by 3:30 p.m. Please dress appropriately for the service. All media must register by 5 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 13. For credentials, e-mail arlingtoncemetery.pao@mail.mil with the following information: name, media organization, e-mail address, and primary/secondary phone numbers.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Here's what people are talking about. I heard that both the Obamas and the Clintons attended the same party in Martha's Vineyard tonight. Although, it got awkward when Bill was like, 'Where's the bowl with all the keys? I saw it first. Is Carly Simon here?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "There's actually been a little tension between President Obama and Hillary Clinton this week. In fact, Hillary called Obama yesterday to say that she wasn't trying to attack him when she called his foreign policy too weak. And then she was like, 'Like you were going to do anything about it.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Hillary also told the President that she was looking forward to hugging it out the next time they saw each other. So, you know it's going to be one of those awkward shoulders in, butt out hugs."

Jimmy Fallon: "Rick Perry is fueling speculation that he'll run in 2016 by visiting the Iowa State Fair. Unfortunately, he hurt his chances by holding a two-hour conversation with that butter sculpture of Kevin Costner."

Seth Meyers: "I couldn't believe this. Yesterday, Fox News' medical expert, Dr. Keith Ablow, told viewers that Michelle Obama needs 'to drop a few.' So I think there's a good chance Michelle Obama is going to drop Dr. Keith Ablow."

Seth Meyers: "Governor Chris Christie dumped a bucket of ice water on his head as part of an ALS ice bucket challenge fundraiser. Although, he's claiming his advisers dumped it on his head and he didn't know anything about it."

Conan O'Brien: "After attacking President Obama's foreign policy, Hillary Clinton now says she wants to hug it out. When he heard this, Bill Clinton told the President, 'Take it from me. You're not going to get any more than that.'"

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or called at (703) 483-6100.

Jewell, Sally (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

Briefing Materials for ME, MN, MT - August 14-20, 2014

1 message

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Aug 14, 2014 at 12:25 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Attached are your materials for your upcoming swing to Maine, Minnesota, and Montana. These are also uploaded to Google Drive.

Safe travels,

Zaina

25 attachments Attachments 1-24 are unavailable.

- **Maine 07.30.14 (1).doc** 93K
- **ME (1).pdf** 396K
- **ME National Atlas (1).pdf** 540K
- **8 15 14_1015am_Meeting with NPS Staff.docx** 38K
- **8 15 14_830am_Taping for This Week with George Stephanopoulos.doc** 112K
- **8 15 14_830am_ATTACHMENT Taping for This Week with George Stephanopoulos.xlsx** 14K
- **8 15 14_1pm_Acadia National Park Events and Tour.docx** 566K
- **8 15 14_3pm_REMARKS at Schoodic Institute.docx** 25K
- **8 15 14_ATTACHMENT Acadia National Park Events and Tour.pdf** 8106K
- **'Racism Is Central' to Tribal Conflict with Maine, Says Report ATtachment B (full article).pdf** 392K
- **Passamaquoddy Lands Map Attachment A.pdf** 305K
- **8 18 14_155pm_Visit to Beatrice Rafferty School.docx** 66K

8 18 14_930am_VERSION 2 Visit to Passamaquoddy Tribes Indian Township Reservation.doc
91K

MN.pdf
645K

MN National Atlas.pdf
1155K

Minnesota 07.30.14.doc
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8 19 14_3pm_Tour and Visit to Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School.docx
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8 19 14_3pm_ATTACHMENT 4 Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Testimony of Crystal Redgrave.pdf
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8 19 14_3pm_ATTACHMENT 3 Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School.pdf
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EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

VISIT TO CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES OF THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION

DATE: August 20, 2014
LOCATION: Flathead Reservation, Pablo, Montana
TIME: 11:00AM – 6:00PM MDT
FROM: Kevin Washburn, A/S-IA, (202)208-7163; Sarah Harris, COS, BIA (202)208-6682

I. PURPOSE

You will be touring the Flathead Reservation, including tribal facilities and Kerr Dam, and meeting with tribal leaders to introduce them to the new Special Trustee, Vince Logan.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Ronald Trahan, Chairman
- Tribal Council Members:
  - Carole Lankford, Vice-Chair (District: Ronan)
  - James "Bing" Matt, Secretary (District: Arlee)
  - Len TwoTeeth, Treasurer (District: Elmo)
  - Lloyd Irvine, Tribal Council Member (District: Pablo)
  - Terry L. Pitts, Tribal Council Member (District: Dixon)
  - Leonard Gray, Tribal Council Member (District: Hot Springs)
  - Vernon Finley, Tribal Council Member (District: Polson)
  - Patty Stevens, Tribal Council Member (District: St. Ignatius)
  - Shelly Fyant, Tribal Council Member (District: Arlee)
- Senator Jon Tester
- Anthony Walters, Deputy Chief Counsel for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
- DOI Staff: Vince Logan, Special Trustee; Mike Black, D-BIA

III. AGENDA

11:00 am **Arrive at Flathead Reservation**
You will be greeted by Ron Trahan and tribal council members, and will address the Tribal Council. Vince Logan, Mike Black, Senator Tester, and Ron Trahan will also speak.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Welcome and Introductions – Ron Trahan, Chairman**

11:10 am **Opening Remarks: Secretary Jewell, Senator Tester**
11:30am **Drive to Kerr Dam**

You will ride in a motor coach with tribal officials, DOI staff, and Senator Tester to visit Kerr Dam. During that time you will discuss informally the Tribe's concerns and successes, including the Dam hydroelectric project.

11:45 am **Tour of Kerr Dam**
You will view the facility and discuss the Tribe's planned purchase of the Dam in 2015.

Background
Kerr Dam hydroelectric project was built in the 1930s on the Flathead reservation. The Corps of Engineers proposed more than one dam; the Tribe opposed building any of the dams. This hydroelectric project has the capacity to generate 194 megawatts of electricity from three turbines that supplies enough power to meet the needs of approximately 100,000 homes. When the lease was renewed with PPL Montana in 1985 the Tribe negotiated an option to purchase the Dam in 2015. The Tribe is planning to exercise this option for the purchase price of $18,000,000. Current lease trust income from the Dam is around $19,532,288. Upon purchase of the Dam the Tribe will operate it under the Energy Keepers Inc., which is a section 17 IRA Corporation owned by the Tribe. When this purchase is completed the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes will be the first Tribe in the nation to operate a major hydropower facility.

12:15 pm **Return from Kerr Dam**
While riding back to tribal headquarters, you will continue to discuss issues that are important to the Tribe, including economic development (e.g. land buy back) and funding for justice services.

12:30 pm **Working lunch with members of the Tribal Council and Senator Tester**

2:00 pm **Press Availability**

2:45 pm **Walking Tour of Flathead Reservation**
You will view the reservation with Ron Trahan, Vince Logan, Mike Black and Senator Tester

4:00 pm **Formal Meeting/Round Table with Tribal Council [tentative]**

5:00 pm **Depart Flathead Reservation**

IV. BACKGROUND

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CKST)

- **Enrollment:** 7,943 enrolled members; approximately 5,000 live on the reservation.

- **Acreage:** 1.3 million acres total, over half owned by the Tribe
- **Reservation Tribal Composition:** Bitterroot Salish, the Upper Pend d'Oreille and the Kootenai tribes.
- **Governing Body:** Tribal Council consisting of ten people elected for staggered four year terms from 8 districts: Arlee (2), St. Ignatius (2), Ronan, Pablo, Polson, Hot Springs, Dixon, and Elmo.
    - Council Members: Ron Trahan (St. Ignatius), Chairman for 2014; Carole Lankford (Ronan), Vice-Chair; James "Bing" Matt (Arlee), Secretary; Len TwoTeeth, (Elmo), Treasurer; Lloyd Irving (Ronan); Terry Pitts (Dixon); Leonard Gray, (Hot Springs); Veron Finley, Polson; Patty Stevens, (St. Ignatius; and Shelly Fyant, (Arlee).

The three main tribes moved to the Flathead Reservation were the Bitteroot Salish, the Pend d'Oreille, and the Kootenai. The Bitterroot Salish and the Pend d'Oreille tribes spoke dialects of the same Salish language.

The Salish (Flatheads) lived between the Cascade Mountains and Rocky Mountains. They initially lived entirely east of the Continental Divide but established their headquarters near the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. Occasionally, hunting parties went west of the Continental Divide but not west of the Bitterroot Range. They were called the Flathead Indians by the first Europeans who came to the area. The Flatheads call themselves Salish, meaning "the people". The Flatheads never practiced head flattening, but the Columbia River tribes who shaped the front of the head to create a pointed appearance spoke of their neighbors, the Salish, as "flatheads" in contrast.

The Kootenai people lived along the Kootenai River in Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia. They were hunter-gatherers, and salmon was an important staple to their diets. They have permanent winter villages of cone-shaped houses made from wooden poles and rush mats.

The tribes met with the Lewis and Clark Expedition on September 5, 1805.

By 1850 the Salish remained mostly in the fertile and relatively temperate Bitterroot Valley in Montana. However, under the terms spelled out in the Hellgate Treaty, the tribes ceded the Valley and other lands to the United States, totaling more than twenty million acres (81,000 km²). The treaty reserved from cession only about 1.3 million acres (5300 km²), thus forming the Jocko or Flathead Indian Reservation. The tribes were likely tricked into ceding the Bitterroot Valley or were assured that they would not be forced to leave. Indeed, after the Hellgate Treaty was ratified, the Salish remained in the Valley for over 30 years.

However, after the 1864 gold rush in the newly established Montana Territory, pressure upon the Salish intensified from both illegal non-Indian squatters and government officials. In 1871 President Ulysses S. Grant declared that the Jocko (Flathead) Reservation was better suited to the needs of the Salish. On the basis of Grant's executive order, Congress sent a delegation, led by future president James Garfield, to make arrangements with the Tribe for their removal. The chief, Charlot, refused to sign any agreement to leave. It is reported that U.S. officials then

forged Charlot's mark onto the official copy of the agreement that was sent to the Senate for ratification.

Conditions became intolerable for the Salish by the late 1880s, after the Missoula and Bitter Root Valley Railroad was constructed directly through the tribe's lands, with neither permission from the native owners nor payment to them. Charlot finally signed an agreement to leave the Bitterroot Valley in November 1889. Inaction by Congress, however, delayed the removal for another two years, and according to some observers, the tribe's desperation reached a level of outright starvation. In October 1891, a contingent of troops from Fort Missoula forced Charlot and the Salish out of the Bitterroot and roughly marched the small band sixty miles to the Flathead Reservation.

Organizational Structure
The Hell Gate Treaty of 1855 established the current Flathead Reservation. CSKT is an Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) Tribe with a constitution approved by the Secretary on September 25, 1935 and adopted by majority vote of tribal members on October 4, 1935. Theirs was the first constitution approved under the IRA for a tribe. The constitution provides for no tribal taxation authority without membership approval. The Tribe exercises civil regulatory authority for fees.

Self-Governance
CSKT is one of the few tribes that has compacted all of the functions possible from the BIA and the Office of the Special Trustee (OST). The Tribe entered into the agreement to compact programs from BIA in 1995. When the trust accounting performed by BIA was transferred to OST those functions were then compacted with OST. Currently OST has two MOUs with the Tribe. One is for operating the Beneficiary Process Program (referred to as IIM) and the other is to perform appraisals. The only BIA staff assigned to Flathead is a Superintendent (Bud Moran) and an administrative assistant. The OST FTO (Gus Kerndt) for Flathead is located at Fort Hall, ID.

State/Tribal Cooperative Agreements for fishing, bird hunting, and recreation require permits for non-CSKT members. CSKT also has agreements and self-governance contracts with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Land Resources
The Flathead Indian Reservation is 1.3 million acres. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) have worked since 1935 to reacquire land lost during the 1910-1935 allotment homesteading era. Current ownership is around 64 percent including surface area of Flathead Lake. This is a P.L. 280 reservation with the municipalities of Polson and Ronan with working city governments and law enforcement agencies. The majority of the population is non-Indian with about 30 percent being Native American.

Economic Development
The CSKT government is the largest employer in Lake County with 1,200 employees. The Tribal government infuses $80 million annually into the area economy through a $35 million payroll and $45 million on vendor good and services. A recent report funded by the State of Montana showed that the Tribes contribute $317 million to the Montana economy every year.

Kerr Dam:
On September 5, 2015, the CSKT will acquire and manage the Kerr Dam, a major hydroelectric generation facility, under its wholly-owned and federally-chartered Energy Keepers, Inc. Currently the tribe rents Kerr Dam. Approximately $19,532,288 in 2014 was paid to the Tribe. Historically, forestry was the Tribe's main source of revenue and currently is approximately $2-3 million per year.

Salish and Kootenai Gaming
The CSKT formed S & K Gaming, LLC (S & K Gaming) with two casinos: KwaTaqNuk Resort Casino and Gray Wolf Peak Casino. As of August 4, 2014, S & K Gaming employs 173 people, including a support staff of 147 associated with KwaTaqNuk; the Gray Wolf Peak Casino employs 26. Half of the workforce is enrolled CSKT tribal members. Tribal members receive $400 per capita payments from net revenue three times a year. Annual total per capita payout is approximately $9,500,000.

Salish and Kootenai Electronics is a contract manufacturer specializing in Electronic and Electro-mechanical assemblies.

S&K Technologies, Inc. is a federally-chartered corporation of professional and technology services owned by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Tax Exemption during Fee-To-Trust Process
The CSKT sponsored state legislation that would benefit all seven Montana tribes by creating a tax exemption for property in the fee-to-trust process.

Natural Resources

The CSKT are the first tribes in the United States to establish a 90,000 acre Tribally-designated wilderness, known as the Mission Mountain Tribal Wilderness Area.

The CSKT prides itself on being good stewards of natural resources through its excellent Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation Program management and by maintaining professional staffing, monitoring resources, coordinating with Federal, State, and local agencies, and implementing management plans and regulations, and educating users in the wise and ethical use of the resources.

Threatened and Candidate Terrestrial Species on the Flathead Indian Reservation: This project deals with three species, the Grizzly bear, Canada lynx and Wolverine. BIA Funded **$99,000.**

Suppression of Non-Native Lake Trout in Flathead Lake: Increase native bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout in the interconnected Flathead system. Suppress abundance of non-native lake trout (Age 8+) by up to 75%. BIA funded **$251,000**.

Mission Valley Power - P.L. 93-638 Innovation: Tribally-owned Mission Valley Power serves the Mission Valley and Flathead Indian Reservation. The CSKT operates Mission Valley Power under a P.L. 93-638 contract.

Water Rights Compact: The CSKT negotiated a Water Rights Compact with the United States and the State of Montana, to be reintroduced in the 2015 Montana legislature.

V. HOT TOPICS

Natural Resource Management
The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have placed the preservation, conservation, and management of their natural resources as their ultimate tribal priority.

Water Rights Compact
The Tribe has been negotiating water rights compact with the State of Montana and the United States to quantify the Tribe's reserved water rights. The State Legislature refused to ratify the negotiated water compact with the Tribe in the 2013 legislature. Tribe is prepared to file claims to adjudicate their water rights in state court if a compact is not ratified.

Bison Range
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) operate the National Bison Range and Ninepipes Reservoir which is located within the external boundaries of the Flathead Reservation. It was established in 1908 and has a 350-500 head carrying capacity. The Tribe had previously compacted certain functions with the FWS, but the compact was abruptly rescinded in 2010 by FWS. A draft Environmental Assessment for a Draft Annual Funding Agreement was issued in August 2014.

Flathead Lake
After extensive litigation, a federal court found that pursuant to the Hellgate Treaty, the Tribe owns the bed and banks of the south half of Flathead Lake held in trust by the federal government, which is the largest fresh water lake west of the Mississippi River. The surface area is 191.5 square miles. The Tribe's casino and Best Western hotel is located on the shores of the Lake in Polson, MT. Gray Wolf casino is located on the southern end of the Reservation near Evaro. Tribe is currently negotiating with the State of Montana to remove non- indigenous fish species (i.e., Lake Trout) from the lake which is a very unpopular proposal among the local sport fishermen. The Tribe wants to promote restoration of native bull trout.

Instream Flows: To protect fish and their habitat the CSKT requested the BIA to evaluate the 1996 interim instream flows.

Climate Change: The CSKT has aggressively collaborated with Federal, State and local agencies to assess current and probable climate change impacts.

Water Resources Management: A Tribal priority including monitoring water usage, monitoring water quality and generating the information necessary to support a Tribal Water Compact that values historical Tribal rights and Tribal land.

Diversified Land Base: To work positively to achieve the DOI BIA funding is necessary to manage a diverse land base with sufficient resources to promote sustainability of the tribal resources.

Land Buy Back

- Date of Award 1/30/2014
- Total Agreement Amount $440,900
- Agreement Duration 11 months

Vice- Chair Carole Lankford provided testimony to the SCIA on July 16, 2014 and complained about the appraisal process as it was applied to the CSKT reservation. Office of Appraisal Services (OAS) believes all appraisal reports submitted by CSKT appraisers were deficient. The OAS review appraisers following the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) requested revisions to meet standards. In the interest of approving as many appraisals as possible, OAS/LBBP took an extra step by travelling to CSKT to assist the contracted fee appraisers in resolving the deficiencies in their appraisal reports. OST appraisals are now complete. Pursuant to the requirements of the Secretarial Implementation Plan for the LBBP, there are legal description discrepancies that BLM is correcting.

LBBP has summarized the following information to assist with determining how the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation (CSKT) are progressing toward full expenditure of the tribes' flexible purchase ceiling based on work conducted so far:

Amount	Tract Summary
538 tracts (75% of all purchasable tracts)	Number of tracts that are purchasable, including no mapping discrepancies
184 tracts (25% of purchasable tracts)	Number of tracts that are not purchasable due to mapping discrepancies

Amount	Value Summary
$7.3 million	Purchase ceiling
$41.9 million (nearly 6 times the purchase ceiling)	Value of appraisals received (not reviewed or approved)
$19.1 million (approximately 2.6 times the purchase ceiling)	Total value of appraised properties completed, reviewed and approved

Based on the Program policy of honoring all accepted offers and the anticipated response rate, the Program does not intend to send more than approximately $18 million in land purchase offers to CSKT landowners, an amount that is approximately 2.5 times the purchase ceiling. The amount of appraisals reviewed and approved has already reached the total amount of offers that the Program can send. LBBP requested CSKT to focus on identifying the handful of tracts without discrepancies so that OAS can quickly review the appraisals for those tracts and we can

reach the goal of sending approximately $18 million in purchase offers.

VI. TALKING POINTS

Acknowledgments

Chairman Ronald Trahan

Introduction

- With deep humility, one of the most sacred duties is uphold our solemn trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives
  - Familiarity with the First Americans developed through 19 years in
  - Indian tribes in the Northwest, lead banker for NANA commercial banking

Big Picture

- President Obama committed to working with Indian Country to promote **strong, prosperous and resilient** communities
  - North star is **self-determination** and **self-governance**
  - Strong leadership: **Jodi Gillette, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Kevin Washburn and Hilary Tompkins – the highest ranking Native American appointee in the Obama Administration who serves as Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.**

- As chair of the **White House Council on Native American Affairs**, I'm working to improve interagency coordination and efficiency
  - Education, Energy, Economic Development, Environment

Topline Points

- **2014 Budget**
  The FY 2014 Indian Affairs Operating Plan provides $2.5 billion, an increase of $142.2 million above the 2013 Final sequester operating plan.
  1. Increases of $22.4 million for Public Safety and Justice Programs
  2. The 2014 enacted budget includes increases of over $24 million from 2013 for natural resource management projects, which includes energy program enhancements.
  3. The budget provides a net program increase of $24.6 for elementary and secondary school education activities funded by BIE.

- **2015 Budget**
  With many Departments facing cuts, the budget request for Indian Affairs is $2.6 billion, an increase of $34 million or 1.3%. The 2015 budget focuses on highest priorities as identified by the Tribes including full contract support and the Tiwahe Family Initiative.
  - Interior's overall FY 2015 budget includes $612 million for programs in other bureaus in support of Native Americans and Tribes.

- **Advancing Indian Education**
  - Of paramount concern to tribal leaders and this Administration
  - Continue to look for ways to partner with Tribes as we reform Indian Education system in BIE

- **Continuing Efforts to Strengthen Tribal Economies**
  - Through White House Council we are working to identify the best ways to support tribal economies (issues: access to capital, business capacity, regulations on infrastructure development)

- **Water Settlements** – continued commitment to critical infrastructure in tribal communities
  - Permanent access to a clean and reliable water supply is fundamental to economic security and stability

- **Protecting Natural Resources in the Face of Climate Change** –
  - Climate change is increasingly evident for American Indian and Alaska Native communities
  - Tribal leaders voice growing concerns about effects on coasts, water supplies and wildlife - Tribes hit hardest; we have a moral obligation to act
  - Renewable energy, conserving natural landscapes, strengthening data/science

- **Energy Development on Indian Lands**

  - The Obama Administration proudly supports an "all of the above" energy strategy
  - Through the White House Council we are working to identify more opportunities for energy development on tribal land and to streamline permitting

VII. BIOGRAPHY



Trahan and his wife Vi, a 35-year veteran of the CSKT accounting office, are the parents of five children, and grandparents to 12. He broke his neck riding rodeo as a young man.

During the Vietnam War, Trahan was in the U.S. Army from 1967-69. He was deployed to South Korea to help guard missile sites during the USS Pueblo incident, when North Korea captured the U.S. Naval ship and its officers and crew. He worked as a logger, spent eight years installing septic systems and wells for the Indian Health Service, then spent a winter working at Kicking Horse Job Corps. He worked for the Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority for 15 years, then ran for Tribal Council.

VIII. ATTACHMENTS

- Information memo on the Flathead Irrigation Project *[below]*

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: Mike Black, Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs

SUBJECT: Flathead Indian Irrigation Project - Montana

I. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) are seeking to resolve contentious water rights and water resource issues on the Flathead Indian Reservation (Reservation). The United States, CSKT and Governor of Montana are in negotiations to finalize an Indian water rights settlement. If outstanding settlement issues cannot be resolved, BIA and CSKT will file extensive water rights claims, which are expected to be in conflict with non-tribal water interests.

Also, BIA was recently forced to reassume the operation and management (O&M) of the federal Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP or Project), which serves approximately 120,000 acres of irrigated lands on the Reservation. O&M had been transferred to local interests in 2010, but some irrigation districts' objection to the CSKT's role in Project management lead to the dissolution of the local entity created to operate and manage FIIP.

II. BACKGROUND

The Flathead Indian Reservation was established in 1855, and was partially opened by Congress to non-Indian settlement in 1904. In 1908, Congress authorized BIA to construct FIIP to irrigate tribal and non-tribal lands on the Reservation, and directed the future transfer of FIIP O&M to the owners of the lands irrigated by FIIP "under such form of organization and under such rules and regulations as may be acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior." In 1926, Congress authorized the construction of a power plant at the site known today as Kerr Dam. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's 1985 license for Kerr Dam provided that CSKT can acquire the dam from the current licensee as early as 2015. A conveyance price has been established, and CSKT has identified September 5, 2015 as the date for conveyance of ownership.

In the 1980s, federal courts confirmed an on-reservation reserved water right for fishery instream flows. Because of limited water resources on the Reservation, these fishery flows conflict with current FIIP irrigation diversions. BIA is currently reviewing the interim instream flows that were established in 1985 to ascertain whether an increase in these flows is warranted.

Also in the 1980s, Montana initiated court proceedings to adjudicate all water rights, including those held in trust for CSKT on and near the Reservation. The United States and CSKT must resolve these water right claims through either negotiations or litigation. Claims are currently due to the water court by July 1, 2015.

III. POSITION of INTERESTED PARTIES

United States/BIA:

- FIIP Operations – although it became necessary for BIA to reassume O&M earlier this year, BIA remains committed to resolving issues related to FIIP operations and once again transferring O&M to the local level. Recently, however, local irrigation districts have challenged in court BIA's approach to Project transfer.

- FIIP and CSKT Water Rights – the Interior Department supports a negotiated resolution of the Tribes' water claims. The federal negotiating team is actively working with CSKT and Montana to reach a settlement of all tribal water claims, including for FIIP. BIA, the Solicitor's Office and the Justice Department are also preparing water right claims to file in court in 2015 if negotiations fail.

CSKT:

- FIIP Operations – CSKT and the United States share the view that CSKT should have an integral role (such as equal representation with non-Indian irrigators) in any future local management arrangement.
- FIIP and CSKT Water Rights – in the water negotiations, CSKT has agreed to protect existing FIIP water uses, but has insisted that its instream flow claims also be resolved. CSKT has also filed a suit in federal court asking that the federal court, and not state courts, determine the water rights of FIIP.

Irrigation Districts Served by FIIP:

Local irrigation districts originally agreed to the 2010 local operations agreement, and comprised half of the local entity established to manage FIIP. More recently, however, the districts have been adamant that CSKT should have little to no role in FIIP management. They have sued BIA in federal court requesting that the court order BIA to transfer management to an entity comprised almost exclusively of representatives of the non-Indian irrigation districts.

Montana:

A proposed settlement supported by the United States, CSKT and Governor Steve Bullock failed to pass the 2013 Montana Legislature, but the Governor has committed to work with CSKT and other parties to obtain the Legislature's approval in the 2015 session. Active negotiations were restarted in July 2014.



Jewell, Sally (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, August 15, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Aug 15, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL SENDS LETTER DENYING KING COVE ROAD DENIAL APPEAL. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has told Alaska's lawmakers and the leaders of an Alaskan village that she will not revisit her decision of last year denying the construction of a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge that locals say is needed to improve public safety. Jewell on Wednesday sent three letters to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Gov. Sean Parnell and the city of King Cove and surrounding borough, "stating in each that while she has heard 'passionate and forceful advocacy for approval of a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge,' the Interior Department 'stands by the decision' to reject the road and 'will not reopen the Record of Decision.'" Jewell added, "I continue to be interested in discussing with you potential transportation alternatives to a road." However, she wrote in the three letters that a federal lawsuit filed in June by the city of King Cove and Alaska Natives challenging Interior's decision on the road "complicates efforts to find a workable solution that can be endorsed by all sides."

The Hill (8/15, Cama, 237K) reports that in response, Murkowski said she's "appalled" at the Interior Department's "continued refusal to permit the road." Murkowski said, "Secretary Jewell promised to help the people of King Cove last December, then went silent for months. As of yesterday, we know that she and her team have done almost nothing to protect the health and safety of King Cove families, yet remain unwilling to reconsider what is by far the best solution — a road."

The Alaska Business Monthly (8/15) reports that Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the Agdaagux Tribe and the King Cove Corporation said, "Once again Secretary Jewell is brushing us off. We wholeheartedly agree with Senator Murkowski's assessment. It's truly shocking that after months of waiting to hear from the Secretary, all we get is a disingenuous response completely lacking in substance."

Also covering the story are Politico (8/15, Guillén, 637K), the Ketchikan (AK) SitNews (8/15), and KDLG-AM Dillingham, AK (8/15).

FORMER SECRETARY SALAZAR LEADS EFFORT TO OPPOSE STATES' ATTEMPTS TO ACQUIRE FEDERAL LAND. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is "helping lead an effort with dozens of conservation groups and business leaders to beat back recent attempts by Western states to acquire millions of acres of federal land." Salazar said Thursday in a statement that "public lands should remain public, and that contrary to the suggestions of some lawmakers, they are huge economic drivers in local communities across the West." He said, "The nation's public lands are the birthright and priceless heritage of all Americans. Our policymakers and elected leaders should be working to preserve and enhance these multiple use economic engines."

Also reporting on the story are the Deseret (UT) News (8/15, 538K) and the Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (8/15, 73K).

PITTSBURGH BOTANIC GARDEN AT SETTLERS CABIN PARK OPENS FOR TOURS. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (8/15, Podurgiel, 590K) reports that the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden at Settlers Cabin Park "opened for tours with a grand opening celebration Aug. 1 that included a visit from US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who called the garden a great example of public-private cooperation." According to the article, "eventually, the botanic garden will encompass 460 acres in the park, which straddles North Fayette, Collier and Robinson."

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR TO PARTICIPATE IN WATER CONFERENCE. The Idaho Statesman (8/14, 222K) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor, will provide "perspective of the current administration on water management issues" during a "conference marking the end of the 27-year Snake River Basin Adjudication sponsored by the Idaho Supreme Court, the Kempthorne Institute and the University of Idaho College of Law" on August 25 and 26.

CONSERVATIONISTS SEEK MONUMENT STATUS FOR BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS. The Idaho Mountain Express (8/15, 36K) reports that "though establishment of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in 1972 provided permanent protection against most types of development in the White Cloud Mountains, some conservationists contend that the job is not yet finished." According to the article, "with continued stagnation in Congress of Rep. Mike Simpson's proposed CIEDRA wilderness bill, creation of a national monument through presidential proclamation is being viewed as the next best alternative." But "debate over the issue has indicated that many people are baffled by the claim that legal protection is needed for an area already protected."

CONGRESS URGED TO ACT ON WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING ACT. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/15, 470K) editorializes that "the US Forest Service and the Department of the Interior have been spending ever larger portions of their ever-tightening budgets on fighting fires that occur in the forests and range lands they are responsible for." However, "the firefighting budget not kept up with the need, and for the past couple of decades those agencies have had to borrow from — and never repay — accounts that were supposed to pay for all kinds of other operations and projects — just to keep everything from burning up." Congress is criticized for not acting on the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014, "a bipartisan bill that would have created for firefighting the same kind of emergency fund that exists to cover the costs of other natural disasters, such as earthquakes and hurricanes."

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/14, 582K) and Fox News (8/13,

6.72M).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DEVELOPMENT HINDERING CALIFORNIA'S COUGAR POPULATION. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "human development is hindering the genetic diversity of mountain lions." A new study shows that "a population of the large cats hemmed into the Santa Monica Mountains near Los Angeles by surrounding highways is seeing inbreeding and a high mortality rate among young mountain lion males." Seth Riley, a biologist at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the lead author of the study, released today in Current Biology, said, "We still do have mountain lions in Los Angeles, which is amazing." However, Riley, who also works for the NPS, said that "the population in the Santa Monica Mountains has a very low genetic diversity – the lowest in the United States among mountain lions after Florida panthers."

Also covering the story are the Los Angeles Times (8/15, Cart, 3.42M), the Southern California Public Radio (8/14, 85K), and the Southern California Public Radio (8/14, 85K).

ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET IN OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK TO BE RELOCATED IN SEPTEMBER. The Oregonian (8/15, 827K) reports that "a contract to temporarily relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet has been awarded to Monroe House Moving, Inc. of Sequim, Wash." the article notes that "the award amount is $124,000." The relocation is "tentatively set to occur during the first two weeks of September, as long as weather, visibility and trail conditions allow."

SCIENTISTS STUDYING MOUNT BALDY FIND ANOTHER HOLE. WRTV-TV Indianapolis (8/15, 209K) reports that "scientists are still confounded 13 months after a then-6-year-old boy was nearly buried alive in a popular sand dune in northwest Indiana, saying they found a sixth hole this week as they moved high tech gear into place to try to conduct further testing on what is causing the holes." Bruce Rowe, spokesman for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, said Mount Baldy will remain closed until more is known. Rowe said, "We want to let the science do the talking before we do any management decisions as to whether to open Mount Baldy. We have a great desire to reopen it. It's one of the most popular areas in the lakeshore. But we want to make sure we understand what's going on from a geological standpoint so we can make the proper decisions."

NPS SEEKS COMMENTS ON EXPANSION OF FORT FREDERICA NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Florida Times-Union (8/14, 435K) reports that the NPS is "conducting a study on adding 173 acres to Fort Frederica National Monument." The article notes that "the expansion includes land and marsh fronting the Frederica River to the north and south of the existing park boundaries and would protect 'important cultural and natural resources,'" the NPS said in a release. The 30-day comment period is underway and ends Sept. 9.

NPS TO TEST GOATS AT POINT REYES SEASHORE TO COMBAT INVASIVE SPECIES. The Point Reyes (CA) Light (8/15) reports that the NPS will "experiment with a possible remedy for invasive plant species in the seashore by introducing goats onto a small section of the historic D Ranch that is overgrown with wild radish, poison hemlock and a variety of thistles to the detriment of 'historic structures and the cultural landscape,' a statement to potential bidders said." The agency "posted a solicitation for quotes from contractors last Thursday and will hold a site visit at the 16-acre section of land this morning."

Bureau of Land Management:

VANDALS PAINT SHOOTING TARGETS BY ANCIENT NATIVE AMERICAN ROCK ART IN UTAH. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/15, 470K) reports that the BLM is "offering a reward of up to $500 to help catch the vandals who spray-painted shooting targets onto rocks near ancient Native American art in Utah County." The BLM's Salt Lake Field Office "received a report July 31 that someone had spray-painted at least a dozen targets onto rocks in the Lake Mountains area, west of Utah Lake." According to the article, "evidence found at the scene indicated the targets were shot with large-caliber weapons, the BLM said in a news release."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (8/15, 116K), the Deseret (UT) News (8/15, 538K), the Provo (UT) Daily

Herald (8/15, 116K), and KSTU-TV Salt Lake City (8/14, 78K).

FIGHT BREWING OVER PLACITAS HORSES. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "a notice of 48 horse roundups this year posted in a New Mexico post office has the Bureau of Land Management and advocates for wild horses worried about the potential for another standoff like the one between federal officials and Cliven Bundy in southeastern Nevada earlier this year." John Brenna, active field manager for BLM, said, "We're not saying when we will go out there because we want to prevent a Bundy-type situation." The bureau's decision "follows state officials' announcement of their own roundup of around 125 animals as dusty conditions around the mountain village of Placitas, north of Albuquerque, have been attributed to free-ranging horses that have roamed the area for decades."

GROUP SEEKS PERMIT FROM BLM FOR ANNUAL HUNTING CONTEST. Reuters (8/15, Zuckerman) reports that a group called Idaho for Wildlife is seeking a special recreation permit from the BLM to hold contests each January for five years that would see as many as 500 hunters targeting wildlife. Steve Alder, executive director of Idaho for Wildlife, said, "We're not going to stand by and allow the feds and environmentalists to try to take away our legal rights."

AFTER BUNDY STANDOFF, RANCHERS CONTINUE TO DEFY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (8/15, Bruner, 11.54M), Travis Bruner, Executive Director of Western Watersheds Project, writes that while the BLM is "required by federal law to protect wildlife habitat on our public lands, the agency has been woefully lax in addressing the combined impacts of livestock grazing and drought on habitat essential to sage-grouse, antelope, mule deer and countless other species." He notes that "this February, one local Nevada office of the Bureau of Land Management finally took a small step to address this issue, and recommended closing an area of priority sage-grouse habitat to grazing in order to protect the remaining habitat." But "then the Cliven Bundy debacle unfolded, and public lands ranchers saw that those who refuse to follow the rule of law face, well, no consequence," and "the ranchers who graze the Argenta allotment for less than 10 percent of fair market value refused to rest the land."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PROPOSES CRITICAL HABITAT DESIGNATION FOR CUCKOOS. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that the FWS is "proposing designating 546,335 acres of land across nine states as critical habitat for the Western yellow-billed cuckoo." The article notes that "the designation would include 80 separate areas in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Wyoming." Jennifer Norris, field supervisor for FWS's Sacramento office, said, "The designation of critical habitat is an important step in recovering the western yellow-billed cuckoo. Critical habitat identifies areas with essential nesting and fledgling sites where conservation actions are needed to protect and recover this imperiled songbird."

Also reporting on the story are The Hill (8/15, Devaney, 237K) and the Prairie (MT) Star (8/15).

FWS OFFERS ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS ON PROPOSAL TO LIST NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT. The Chattanoogan (8/15, 12K) reports that the FWS will "hold three public information webcasts in August to provide information and answer questions about our proposal to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act."

Additional coverage was provided by WFXP-TV Erie, PA (8/15).

ENDANGERED MINNOW REBOUNDING IN NEVADA. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "a tiny endangered fish is making a comeback as populations of the Moapa dace are increasing in thermal Nevada waterways 60 miles north of Las Vegas." The article notes that "the head count taken in a survey conducted this month showed a count of 2,248 dace – an increase of 521 fish compared with last year and almost double the number counted from August 2012."

EPA FINALIZES AGREEMENT SETTING "BUFFER ZONES" AROUND SALMON STREAMS. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that the EPA finalized a settlement Wednesday that "prohibits the use of five pesticides in 'buffer zones' around endangered salmon habitat in a win for environmental groups that had sued the agency." The

settlement "stipulates buffers for five insecticides: diazinon, chlorpyrifos, malathion, carbaryl and methomyl." The article notes that "for aerial spraying, the chemicals will be prohibited within 300 feet of salmon habitat; for ground-based applications, buffers will shrink to 60 feet."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HUNTERS SET TO CONVERGE ON LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR ALLIGATOR HUNT. Additional coverage of the alligator hunt at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge was provided by Reuters (8/15, Fagenson).

FWS DECISION ON WOLVERINES PRAISED. For the Port Huron (MI) Times Herald (8/14, 75K), Michael Eckert supports the decision by the FWS to withdraw its proposal to list the wolverine as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. According to Eckert, "the decision was a victory both for science and for flat-earth anti-science." He writes that "it wasn't wrong about climate change. It just didn't have any evidence to back up its proposal."

Additional coverage of the decision was provided by The Hill (8/15, Barron-Lopez, 237K), the Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (8/15, 31K), the Durango (CO) Herald (8/13, 28K), the Ashland (OR) Jefferson Public Radio (8/15), and the AllGov (8/15, 1K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CALL FOR END TO WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT. The "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (8/15, Cox, 237K) reports Rep. Mike Pompeo is "calling on House GOP leadership to end the Wind Production Tax Credit (PTC)." He "and 54 other House members wrote to Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) on Wednesday calling on them to let the 'crony' tax subsidy for energy companies to expire." The letter said, "We offer our full support of the current process undertaken by the House Committee on Ways and Means that will allow the most anti-competitive and economically harmful tax provisions, specifically the wind energy production tax credit (PTC), to expire."

GUAM PLANS TO TAP WIND ENERGY. The Marianas Variety (8/15) reports that the Guam Power Authority is "anticipating a mid-July 2015 completion date for its wind turbine pilot project." The article notes that "the $1.65 million project is being funded by US Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs grants amounting to $1.5 million plus an additional $200,000 budgeted by the power authority under its capital improvement funds."

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS ON BOEM'S PROPOSED OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALE NEARS. The Surf City (NJ) Sandpaper (8/15) reports that "there are 37 days left to comment on the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management proposed sale of leases for offshore wind farms that includes nearly 344,000 acres offshore New Jersey, with some lots just four nautical miles from Ship Bottom and continuing south along Long Beach Island and 45 miles to Avalon, Cape May County."

Onshore Energy Development:

SECOND LAWSUIT FILED TO BLOCK MONTANA COAL MINE EXPANSION. The AP (8/14) reports that "two environmental groups are suing to block expansion of the Spring Creek coal mine in Montana." Northern Plains Resource Council and the Western Organization of Resource Councils "filed the lawsuit Thursday in federal court, naming Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the US Office of Surface Mining as defendants." The groups claim the Interior Department "did not seek public input through an environmental review before approving the expansion."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Missoulian (MT) (8/15, 122K) and the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (8/14, 90K).

Also reporting on the story is KTVQ-TV Billings, MT (8/15, 2K).

JUDGE SIDES WITH BLM IN NEVADA MINE APPROVAL. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "a federal judge is backing" the BLM's decision "in 2012 to approve a large molybdenum open pit mine in central Nevada." Great

Basin Resource Watch and the Western Shoshone Defense Project, "a group affiliated with the Western Shoshone tribes, sued BLM last year, seeking to overturn the agency's approval of Colorado-based General Moly Inc.'s Mount Hope project near Eureka, Nev." But Nevada US District Court Judge Robert Jones "last month found the groups' grievances 'without merit.'"

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SAYS DIESEL STILL USED IN FRACK FLUID. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "oil and gas companies have 'fracked' wells with fluids including diesel fuel at least 351 times in 12 states since 2010," according to a study released Wednesday by an environmental group. Mary Greene, managing attorney of the Environmental Integrity Project and author of the report, said, "We thought this problem was a thing of the past. Companies that inject diesel without permits should be fined for ignoring the law." Greene added that "many companies changed the reports they had made to the FracFocus disclosure website, in some cases after US EPA stepped up its scrutiny of diesel."

Offshore Energy Development:

JUDGE APPROVES BP'S SUBPOENA OF FEDERAL DOCUMENTS. The FuelFix (8/14, 7K) reports that "a federal judge is allowing BP to negotiate the scope of a massive subpoena aimed at gathering government documents related to the temporary moratorium on deep-water drilling that followed the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill." According to the article, "the order this week by US Magistrate Judge Sally Shushan sets aside a legal bout over BP's right to blame the government for other companies' financial losses in the wake of the spill that resulted from the blowout of a BP well." Shushan is "keeping BP's subpoena alive while parties negotiate the range of dates, search terms and other restrictions on its request."

Also providing coverage is the Law 360 (8/15, 18K).

CAROLINAS TO RECEIVE $400,000 TO GAUGE OFFSHORE SAND. The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (8/15, 405K) reports that "in the wake of superstorm Sandy, the Carolinas are getting $400,000 to evaluate offshore sand deposits that could be used to routinely rebuild beaches or help the coast recover if another severe storm hits." The funds from the BOEM are "part of $13.6 million Congress allocated to the agency after the destructive October 2012 storm smashed into New Jersey." According to Connie Gillette, a spokeswoman for the federal agency, "similar projects to gauge sand resources in federal waters 3 nautical miles and farther offshore are planned along the entire Eastern Seaboard."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INDUSTRY URGES INTERIOR TO ADD NEW OFFSHORE ACREAGE TO NEXT AUCTION SCHEDULE. Additional coverage was provided by the National Journal (8/14, Subscription Publication, 561K) and the Natural Gas Intelligence (8/14).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

LAKE MEAD TO GET MORE WATER. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that federal officials on Wednesday said Lake Mead will "get extra water this year from upriver storage as the reservoir behind Hoover Dam already sits at its lowest level since being filled in the 1930s." The BOR will "release 8.23 million acre-feet of water from Lake Powell, 10 percent more than last year, to try to keep Lake Mead from dropping below levels that would trigger cuts in water deliveries to Arizona and Nevada." However, "despite the added water that comes thanks to near-normal runoff in Lake Powell, demand will continue to outstrip supply, keeping Lake Mead hovering around the record low logged in January."

Additional coverage was picked up by the Durango (CO) Herald (8/13, 28K), WHLT-TV Hattiesburg, MS (8/15, 137), KVVU-TV Las Vegas (8/15, 66K), and KXNT-AM Las Vegas (8/14, 44K).

In an op-ed for the Pagosa (CO) Daily Post (8/15), Aaron Citron writes that "with the recent news that Lake Mead is at its lowest level in history, it's impossible to ignore the trajectory of America's hardest-working river." He notes that "in the Colorado River Basin, we are already using more water annually than is being supplied by snowpack and other precipitation." Citron asserts that "it has become clear that, over time, our water uses are going to have to change." He argues that "in thinking about where — in what sectors — this change should take place, we must also consider the environmental, cultural and economic services that each sector provides."

Citron concludes that "as we consider all of our options to address the growing water supply and demand gap in the Colorado River Basin, cities must remain at the leading edge of water conservation and reuse practices so that we can avoid large-scale, permanent reductions in irrigated acreage, stream flows, and the economic impacts these will create."

BOR MEETS WITH HOOPA TRIBAL OFFICIALS TO TOUR TRINITY RIVER. KIEM-TV Eureka, CA (8/15, 428) reports that on Thursday, officials from the BOR "met with Hoopa Tribal officials to tour the conditions along the Trinity River." The BOR said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "sent staff members to asses the conditions of the river in person." The article notes that "tribal members hope this will force the Bureau to release additional water into the Trinity."

Also providing coverage are the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (8/15, 76K) and the Willits (CA) News (8/15, 10K).

BOR FUNDING TO AID LAKE CACHUMA. The Santa Barbara (CA) Edhat (8/15, 961) reports that Rep. Lois Capps announced Thursday that the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board received $300,000 from the BOR for an emergency drought relief project. The Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board will "use the funding to support its effort to pump water from Lake Cachuma into the North Portal Intake Structure and maintain water flow to the South Coast communities of Santa Barbara County." Capps said, "This drought crisis is the most urgent problem facing our state and the Central Coast, and it requires a collaborative effort by many. I am glad to hear that Lake Cachuma received this federal support, and I will continue to work with federal agencies to ensure farmers, businesses, consumers, and municipalities have the resources they need to get through these difficult times."

BOR TO HOST CAST FOR KIDS FISHING EVENT. The Red Bluff (CA) Daily News (8/15, 20K) reports that the BOR, Central California Area Office, "in partnership with the CAST — Catch a Special Thrill — for Kids Foundation and Pleasure Cove Marina, will host a CAST for Kids fishing event at Lake Berryessa on Saturday, Sept. 13." The bureau is "seeking boaters and anglers who wish to volunteer their time and use of their boat."

SALT RIVER PROJECT TO CONTINUE DROPPING WATER LEVELS IN BLUE RIDGE RESERVOIR. The Payson (AZ) Roundup (8/14, 21K) reports that the Salt River project will "continue to lower water levels in the Blue Ridge Reservoir to undertake a series of projects, including work on intake tunnels normally underwater."

RESEARCHERS SUGGEST DUST COULD BE IMPACTING CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "new research presented in San Francisco" on Wednesday suggests that "dusty air blown across the Pacific Ocean from Asia and Africa could be influencing precipitation" in California. In a presentation at a national meeting of the American Chemical Society, Kim Prather from the University of California, San Diego, "described research she is leading into the dust swept westward by the jet stream." According to Prather, "the dust – and the tiny bacteria and molecules it carries with it across the Pacific Ocean – is then mixing with other airborne particles like sea spray and smoke to have distinct and variable impacts on clouds and precipitation."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CALIFORNIA LEADERS AGREE ON $7 BILLION REPLACEMENT WATER BOND LANGUAGE. Additional coverage that "a ballot measure that will ask voters in November to approve $7.5 billion in borrowing for water projects sailed through the Legislature on Wednesday" was provided by the Los Angeles Times (8/14, Mason, 3.42M), the San Francisco Chronicle (8/14, Gutierrez, 2.87M), the Fresno (CA) Bee (8/13, 322K), the Bakersfield Californian (8/15, 127K), the Antioch (CA) Herald (8/15, 81K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (8/15, 206), the AllGov (8/15, 1K), KCRA-TV Sacramento, CA (8/15, 122K), and KQED-FM San Francisco (8/14, 15K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

PAYMENTS FROM INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT COMING SOON. The Native American Times (8/15, 337) reports that "payments for the Trust Administration Class in the Indian Trust Settlement are expected to be mailed in the early Fall, the Settlement Administrator," according to The Garden City Group, Inc. GCG will "hold two meetings in Montana for Class Members, their families and heirs to answer questions, take updates for address and contact information, and to obtain probate documents for estate distributions."

INTERIOR, COURTS URGED TO UPHOLD LIMITS ON INDIAN CASINOS. In an editorial, the Detroit News (8/15, 495K) argues that "unchecked expansion of tribal gaming houses would exacerbate saturation of gambling market." It notes that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians wants to build two new casinos in southeast Michigan and the Bay Mills Indian Tribe wants to "reopen its closed facility near Vanderbilt in northern Michigan's Otsego County and establish new casinos near Flint and Port Huron." It concludes that "the Department of the Interior and the courts should see the inherent dangers and reject the efforts to build these off-reservation casinos."

Top National News:

OBAMA CALLS ON FERGUSON PROTESTERS TO BE PEACEFUL, POLICE TO SHOW RESTRAINT. The already heavy coverage of the protests following the police shooting in Ferguson, Missouri last weekend increased remarkably from Wednesday to Thursday. The three network newscasts devoted more than 20 minutes, or about a third of their combined airtime, to various aspects of the Ferguson story, which was three times what they gave any of the rest of the day's news, including the situation in Iraq.

The spike in media attention was sparked by photos, video, and first-hand accounts of what was perceived as an unduly militaristic response to the sometimes violent behavior of crowds on the streets of Ferguson. President Obama's Thursday remarks on the protests were widely noted and generally cast as a successful effort on the part of the White House to be evenhanded – even as the President acknowledged the growing concern about the Ferguson police tactics. Notably, the Wall Street Journal (8/15, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, praises the President's remarks, including his request for "peace and calm on the streets."

The Washington Post (8/14, Markon, Branigan, 4.06M) says that on Thursday, "in a sudden burst of interest fueled by images of heavily armed police...politicians from both sides of the aisle rushed...to condemn the tactics of the nearly all-white police force in the predominantly African American town." According to the Post, "The reactions were remarkably similar from political opposites across the spectrum," as Sen. Claire McCaskill "called for authorities to 'de-militarize this situation,'" and Sen. Rand Paul "condemned 'the militarization of our law enforcement' in a Time (8/15, Paul, 24.1M) magazine essay."

At the opening of NBC Nightly News (8/14, lead story, 3:45, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt said, "Last night's jarring images of police clad in military gear and firing tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters on the streets of an American suburb has reverberated across this country, including to the Obamas' vacation residence where the President called for peace and calm and lashed out at both violence against police and excessive force by police." McCaskill was shown saying, "I think that it's very important that we demilitarize the response to what have been, by and large, very peaceful protests."

In the first segment for the CBS Evening News (8/14, lead story, 1:05, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that "after four nights of violence in Ferguson...and with no end in sight, the President and the governor today took action." Pelley said Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon "put state police in charge of security in the St. Louis suburb," while the President "interrupted his vacation to call for calm," and "said there is blame for the violence on both sides." Lester Holt, on NBC Nightly News (8/14, story 3, 0:35, Holt, 7.86M), said the President was "asking everyone involved to take a step back."

In the lead story for ABC World News (8/14, lead story, 3:25, Muir, 5.84M), David Muir said the President had issued "an urgent plea to both sides – the police and the protesters." ABC's Steve Osunsami went on to report from Ferguson that the President "condemn[ed] the looting and thieving that took place earlier this week, but call[ed] for an end to the police state." According to Osunsami: on Thursday, "there was a clear turn in the reaction to Michael Brown's killing." Also on ABC World News (8/14, story 2, 2:05, Muir, 5.84M), correspondent Ryan Smith paraphrased the President as saying, "There is never an excuse for violence against the police and no excuse for police to use excessive force against peaceful protests."

In a front-page article, the New York Times (8/14, A1, Bosman, Shear, Williams, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that the President "called for an end to the violence here, denouncing actions both by the police and by protesters," but, according to the Times, "to many," Obama "seemed less emotional and personal than he had been two years ago, when he called for 'soul searching' after the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin." The Times

says the President spoke as "alarm had been rising across the country at images of a mostly white police force, in a predominantly African-American community, aiming military-style weapons at protesters and firing tear gas and rubber bullets."

The Los Angeles Times (8/14, Hennessey, 3.42M) reported that on Thursday, the President made a "brief statement from Martha's Vineyard, where he is on vacation," as he "sought to calm the increasingly tense situation in Ferguson...saying there was 'no excuse' for 'excessive force' by police or for looting or violence aimed at law enforcement." The Times says the President said the police "have a responsibility to be 'open and transparent' about the events that led up to the shooting," and "criticized police for their tactics" in the aftermath of the shooting.

Under the headline, "Obama: No Excuse For Violence, Excessive Force In Missouri," the Wall Street Journal (8/14, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that on Thursday, the President said, "There are going to be different accounts of how this tragedy occurred. ... Now's the time for an open and transparent process to see that justice is done." Reuters (8/14, Mason, Lovering) quotes the President as saying, "When something like this happens, the local authorities, including the police, have a responsibility to be open and transparent about how they are investigating that death and how they are protecting the people in their communities."

The Huffington Post (8/14, Bendery, 11.54M) noted that in addition to criticizing the Ferguson police for employing "excessive force against peaceful protests," the President also said, "There is never an excuse for violence against police or for those who would use this tragedy as a cover for vandalism and looting." Likewise, the Washington Times (8/14, Boyer, 465K) reported that the President "said protesters should not attack police officers."

Politico (8/14, Brown, 637K) reported that while the President "did not specifically mention the arrests of two reporters" in Ferguson, he "did speak to the aggressive law enforcement tactics" when he said, "Here in the United States of America, police should not be bullying or arresting journalists who are just trying to do their jobs and report to the American people on what they are seeing on the ground."

Holder "Concerned" That Police Use Of "Military Equipment" Sends A "Conflicting Message." The CBS Evening News (8/14, story 3, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that on Thursday, Attorney General Holder said he is "concerned about the message that police send when they use military equipment to deal with protesters." Correspondent Jan Crawford went on to report that "law enforcement in St. Louis County have gotten more than half a million dollars' worth of military equipment from the Pentagon, including seven Humvees and a dozen M-16s."

The Washington Post (8/14, Markon, Branigan, 4.06M) notes that just after the President said he is "'deeply disturbed' by images of clashes between police and protesters," Holder "issued a statement saying he was 'deeply concerned' about 'the deployment of military equipment and vehicles' to combat protesters in Ferguson."

The AP (8/14) reported that on Thursday, Holder said he is "concerned that the use of military equipment by police in Ferguson...is sending a 'conflicting message,'" and "said the response by law enforcement...'must seek to reduce tensions, not heighten them.'"

Politico (8/14, Mccalmont, 637K) quoted Holder as saying, "I am deeply concerned that the deployment of military equipment and vehicles sends a conflicting message." Politico also noted that Holder added that "while the vast majority of protests have been peaceful, acts of violence by members of the public cannot be condoned."

The Christian Science Monitor (8/14, Jonsson, 566K) also notes that "critics say that the scenes in recent days from Ferguson are offering Americans an unvarnished look at one consequence of federal programs that supply even tiny towns and small cities with heavy military equipment." According to the Washington Post (8/15, Gibbons-Neff, 4.06M), some US combat veterans contend that "the police response has appeared to be not only heavy-handed but out of step with the most effective ways for both law enforcement and military personnel to respond to demonstrations."

The Washington Times (8/14, Chasmar, 465K) reported that Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA) "plans to introduce legislation that would 'end the free transfers' of military equipment to local law enforcement agencies." Johnson is

quoted as saying, "Unfortunately, due to a Department of Defense (DOD) Program that transfers surplus DOD equipment to state and local law enforcement, our local police are quickly beginning to resemble paramilitary forces." Politico (8/14, Palmer, Sherman, 637K) reported that other Democrats, "including Judiciary Ranking Member John Conyers of Michigan, called for a hearing into the controversial police tactics in the St. Louis suburbs."

In an op-ed for the New York Times (8/15, Beavers, Shank, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) titled, "Ferguson Shows The Risks Of Militarized Policing," Elizabeth Beavers and Michael Shank of the Friends Committee on National Legislation notes that the Pentagon "provides military-grade weapons and equipment to local law enforcement agencies through the 1033 program, enacted by Congress in 1997 to expand the practice of dispensing extra military gear." According to Beavers and Shank, "Due to the defense industry's bloated contracts, there is a huge surplus," and so the Pentagon "has donated military equipment worth more than $4 billion to local law enforcement agencies."

AP Analysis: Obama More Reticent Since Having To Retract Criticism Of Cambridge Police In 2009. The AP (8/14, Pace) notes that the President "avoided mentioning race in his statement, and he called on people to 'remember that we're all part of one American family.'" The AP also says that the President's statement "stood in contrast to his initial handling of the 2009 arrest of his friend Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates" when he "declared...that a white police officer had acted 'stupidly' in arresting Gates." The AP says that the President "conceded days later that his own remarks had inflamed the situation and that Gates had probably overreacted in the moment, contributing to his arrest."

In a piece titled, "How Race Undermines Obama's Bully Pulpit On Ferguson" for the New York Times' (8/14, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) TheUpshot blog, Dartmouth's Brendan Nyhan says the President's statement on Thursday "seemed intended instead to alleviate concerns that he was not taking what had happened seriously enough." But Nyhan adds that "many who have called on" the President to "speak up may not realize that it could be counterproductive for him to be visibly involved in the debate." According to Nyhan, "The Ferguson controversy may end up being as divisive as the Trayvon Martin case and the arrest of...Gates – two racially charged controversies that became...arguably more polarized after Mr. Obama addressed them."

Roll Call (8/14, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 76K) notes that Debo P. Adegbile, President Obama's nominee to be assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division, "was rejected by a group of Senate Democrats who viewed him as insufficiently pro-law enforcement." Roll Call suggests that in the wake of the violence in Ferguson, the President "could make a personal push for Adegbile's confirmation," but Roll Call adds that "there's no reason to believe that the Democratic senators who voted against advancing the nomination would reverse themselves."

Eugene Robinson, in his column for the Washington Post (8/14, Robinson, 4.06M), notes that in 2012, according to the FBI statistics, "2,614 whites were killed by white offenders and 2,412 blacks were killed by black offenders — similar numbers" – although the "white population is almost five times as large as the African American population, meaning the homicide rate in black communities is staggeringly higher."

Missouri Highway Patrol Takes Responsibility For Ferguson Security. USA Today (8/14, Alcindor, Madhani, Stanglin, 5.76M) reports that on Thursday, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon "announced...that the Missouri Highway Patrol will take control of security in Ferguson and that the unit in the embattled town would be overseen by a native son, Capt. Ron Johnson." According to the AP (8/14), Johnson, "who is black, said he grew up in the community and 'it means a lot to me personally that we break this cycle of violence.'" The Los Angeles Times (8/14, Pearce, Raab, Srikrishnan, 3.42M) reports that on Thursday, Nixon pledged to "change the tone in the St. Louis suburb," and "assured [a] crowd gathered at a community meeting that 'you will see a much better and much different tone' in the city."

The Los Angeles Times (8/15, Pearce, Hennessy-Fiske, 3.42M) reports that on Thursday Ferguson was "under the lower-key supervision of police in standard uniforms," meaning that "there were no assault rifles, riot gear or armored personnel vehicles that had inflamed tensions over the last week." According to the Times, "Shortly before 8 p.m., protesters outside a burned convenience store approached police cars and began yelling," but "several representatives of the Black Panthers stepped in and urged the crowd to move back — and Johnson emerged to mingle with the crowd."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (8/15, 938K) reports that St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch "blasted" Nixon's "decision...to replace St. Louis County Police control of the Ferguson situation with the Missouri State Highway Patrol." McCulloch is quoted as saying, "It's shameful what he did today, he had no legal authority to do that." McCulloch added, "I hope I'm wrong, but I think what Nixon did may put a lot of people in danger."

The Politico (8/15, Glueck, 637K) notes that Nixon "waited five days...to visit" Ferguson, and "by then, protesters had been marching for days, police had rolled in military-grade equipment, the president was calling for calm and the national media were all over the story." According to Politico, "Some observers, including fellow Democrats, said Nixon had dealt a significant blow to his career." In a profile of Nixon, the New York Times (8/15, Blinder, Eligon, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) says the "Democrat in a solidly Republican state" has "constantly sought a middle ground."

The New York Times (8/15, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), in an editorial, says Nixon, "after keeping a low profile for too long," was right to give "an order that should have been given over the weekend: Let protesters who are angry about the shooting protest peacefully, without aggressive demands to disperse, as is their constitutional right."

McCaskill: Police "Response...Has Become The Problem Instead Of The Solution." The Washington Times (8/14, Klimas, 465K) reported that on Thursday, Sen. Claire McCaskill released a statement saying, "This kind of response by the police has become the problem instead of the solution." McCaskill added, "My constituents are allowed to have peaceful protests, and the police need to respect that right and protect that right." The Wall Street Journal (8/14, Peters, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that on Thursday, McCaskill tweeted: "Continuing to work the phones to de escalate the tense and unacceptable situation in Ferguson."

Lewis: Obama Should "Federalize The Missouri National Guard To Protect" Protestors. The Daily Caller (8/14, Stoltzfoos, 408K) reported that in an appearance on MSNBC on Thursday, Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) said, "President Obama should use the authority of his office to declare martial law," and "federalize the Missouri National Guard to protect people as they protest." The Huffington Post (8/14, Lazar, 11.54M) also notes Lewis's recommendations for the President.

Ferguson Police Chief: "We Have To Respond To Deadly Force." In a segment for ABC World News (8/14, story 2, 2:05, Muir, 5.84M) on how "peaceful protests in the afternoon suddenly turned into a violent clash at night," Ferguson Police Department Chief Thomas Jackson was shown saying, "If fire bombs are getting thrown, property is getting destroyed, people are being shot at, we have to respond to deadly force."

On NBC Nightly News (8/14, lead story, 3:45, Holt, 7.86M), correspondent Ron Allen said he was "with the marchers" on Wednesday night and "things were calm, winding down," until "the police seemed to run out of patience and tried to clear the streets." Allen added that the police say they used tear gas "because bottles and Molotov cocktails rained down on them." On the CBS Evening News (8/14, story 2, 3:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Mark Strassman reported from Ferguson that "most of the protesters are outsiders, not from Ferguson, and more are showing up every day."

Chief Jackson, in an op-ed for USA Today (8/14, Jackson, 5.76M), says that as for the investigation of the shooting of Mike Brown, "there's lots of physical evidence, there's lots of witness testimony and there's a lot of information that can be pulled together." According to Jackson, "There are so many witnesses that are coming forward and we're trying to get them to come in and be interviewed," which is "really what is holding things up."

Michael Gerson, in his column for the Washington Post (8/14, 4.06M), writes, "When an unarmed man is killed by a police officer, it is the police who have the burden to demonstrate that" the officer's actions were "somehow justified." USA Today (8/14, 5.76M), in an editorial, says Ferguson police department's "heavy handed, unprofessional tactics since the shooting raise grave doubts about both its competence and its credibility." According to USA Today, the Ferguson police "certainly cannot be trusted to investigate itself or, for that matter, to protect the community." The Washington Post (8/14, Board, 4.06M) editorializes that "nothing justifies looting or assaulting police," but the Ferguson police "did not need to respond to mostly peaceful protests by deploying armored vehicles, pointing sniper rifles at civilians and tossing tear gas and shooting rubber bullets liberally into

crowds."

FOP Executive Director: Obama's Criticism Of Police "Is Not Helpful." USA Today (8/14, Jackson, 5.76M) reported that Jim Pasco, the executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, "criticiz[ed] President Obama for some of his comments Thursday about the protests over the police shooting in Ferguson, Mo." Pasco is quoted as saying, "I would contend that discussing police tactics from Martha's Vineyard is not helpful to ultimately calming the situation." The Hill (8/14, Trujillo, 237K) first reported Pasco's critique of the President's response to the shooting. The Hill reported that Pasco said, "Right now, I haven't seen anything from afar — and maybe the president has — that would lead me to believe the police are doing anything except to restore order."

Paul Decries "Racial Disparities In Our Criminal Justice System," "Rising Militarization Of Law Enforcement." McClatchy (8/14, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that in an essay for Time (8/15, Paul, 24.1M). Sen. Rand Paul "call[s] for demilitarization of America's local police forces." McClatchy notes that Paul "has been reaching out to minorities as he explores a run for president in 2016," and notes that in the wake of the shooting of Mike Brown, Paul has written: "Given the racial disparities in our criminal justice system, it is impossible for African-Americans not to feel like their government is particularly targeting them."

Dan Balz, in a front-page analysis for the Washington Post (8/14, A1, Balz, 4.06M) titled, "Libertarians Make Their Voices Heard On Police In Ferguson, Mo.," describes the "rare and surprisingly unified response across the ideological spectrum" to the situation in Ferguson, "with Republicans and Democrats joining to decry the tactics of the city's police force in the face of escalating protests." According to Balz, "the changing reaction on the right is clear evidence of a rising and more vocal libertarian wing within the Republican Party," and there was "no better sign of that" than Paul's essay for Time. Balz goes on to say that "in Ferguson," Paul "has found circumstances almost tailor-made to advance his worldview," and, "in doing so, he continues to set himself apart from others in the Republican Party with the hope of expanding the party's coalition."

Mark Barabak of the Los Angeles Times (8/15, Barabak, 3.42M) says "what was striking was the angry tone and underlying sympathies of Paul's essay, a condemnation of the 'rising militarization of law enforcement' in the country and assertion that equal justice under law is more a pleasing bromide than reality on the streets of 2014 America." According to Barabak, "Paul's rhetoric is not just a break with others in the embryonic Republican presidential field; it challenges GOP political orthodoxy going back several decades."

Politico (8/14, Everett, 637K) also notes Paul's op-ed, as well as "more measured" remarks from Sen. Ted Cruz, who wrote: "Police officers risk their lives every day to keep us safe, and any time a young man loses his life in a confrontation with law enforcement, it is tragic."

The New York Times (8/15, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that "many conservatives were unsettled by the militaristic response from law enforcement officials in Ferguson." According to the Times, Red State's Erik Erickson says "many" on the right "see an increasingly disproportionate response to crime as a sign of a larger problem that should rattle the consciences of conservatives who are wary of centralized authority."

Scarborough: Reporters Ought To Have Followed Ferguson Police's Directions. In a post for Politico (8/14, Gold, 637K), Hadas Gold reported that on Thursday, MSNBC's Joe Scarborough said the Washington Post's Wesley Lowery and Huffington Post's Ryan Reilly "should have more closely followed police instructions" before they were briefly detained by police in Ferguson Wednesday night. On Thursday's Morning Joe, Scarborough said, "I've been in places where police officers said, 'all right you know what, this is cordoned off, you guys need to move along.' You know what I do? I go, 'yes, sir, or yes, ma'am.' I don't sit there and have a debate and film the police officer unless I want to get on TV and have people talk about me the next day."

Obama's Daily Golf Rounds Continue To Draw Scrutiny. The last sentence of the Los Angeles Times' (8/14, Hennessey, 3.42M) report on the President's remarks regarding the situation in Ferguson is: "Immediately after the brief statement, he continued his vacation and headed to the golf course."

Under the headline, "Obama Calls For Calm, Then Golfs," The Hill (8/14, Kurtz, 237K) reported that "shortly after making remarks on the situation in northern Iraq and the escalating tensions in Ferguson," the President "headed to the Vineyard Golf Club." The Hill notes that the President "has hit the links nearly every day since arriving in the ritzy enclave on Saturday."

Under the headline "Obama's 'Vacation From Hell,'" Politico (8/14, Brown, 637K) reports Obama "really wanted to take a vacation. But then the world intervened." However, according to Politico, the President is "managing to squeeze in quite a bit of leisure time." Politico says that on Thursday, the President "went from the podium where he delivered the statement on Ferguson to the Vineyard Golf Club faster than a ball driven by a 3-wood."

SENATE DEMOCRATS HESITANT TO PUSH OBAMA ON IMMIGRATION AHEAD OF MIDTERMS. Politico (8/14, Raju, Kim, 637K) reported that Democratic leaders in the Senate are weighing "how far to push" President Obama "on immigration before the crucial midterm elections." There is "palpable fear that Obama could cause trouble for the Senate's most vulnerable Democrats if he decides to circumvent Congress before the elections to make immigration changes through executive action." As a result, Democratic leaders are "in a jam." While Majority Leader Reid, Majority Whip Durbin and others have "called for executive action to halt deportations," they are now "coy," and representatives for each "refused to say this week whether their bosses want the president to move before November or wait until after the elections."

Texas Deploys National Guard Troops Along Mexican Border. The Chicago Tribune (8/14, 2.19M) reports that according to law enforcement officials, Texas has begun deploying National Guard troops along the US-Mexico border. A deputy with the Hidalgo County Sheriff's office said Thursday that border sheriffs "have been informed about the deployment and the first Texas National Guard troops have taken positions in places such as towers used for monitoring."

Immigrant Children Said To Get "First-Class Treatment" From Federal Government. Under the headline, "Illegal Immigrant Children Get First-class Treatment At Taxpayers' Expense," the Washington Times (8/14, 465K) reports that "the organizations the federal government is paying to house and care for the children who have surged across the border illegally are taking pains to make sure they are as comfortable as possible," providing, among other things Spanish-language life skills classes, intensive English training, and dietitians, who "scrutinize the menus each day to make sure they include enough whole grains but not whole milk." The Times notes that the effort to house and care for the children "is eating up an ever-larger portion of the Health and Human Services Department's budget, jumping from $305.9 million last year to $671.3 million so far in fiscal year 2014."

Administration Implements Accelerated Court Process To Deal With Immigrant Children. The New York Times (8/15, Semple, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that a "cornerstone of the Obama Administration strategy to deal with the surge of unaccompanied minors from Central America," is "a new accelerated court process," under which the Justice Department "is moving children who recently arrived to the head of the line to see immigration judges, possibly leading to deportation within months rather than years."

Eleven-Year-Old US Citizen Held In Immigration Detention Facility For More Than A Month. The Los Angeles Times (8/15, Carcamo, 3.42M) reports on the case of an 11-year-old boy who was released from an immigration detention facility this week "after it was discovered that he is a U.S. citizen." After spending "more than a month at the detention center in Artesia, N.M.," an immigration attorney "who happened to be visiting the facility discovered his status last week." The boy, "whose father is a U.S. citizen, had migrated from Central America with his mother before both were detained."

CLINTON, OBAMA DANCE AT PARTY DAYS AFTER HER CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT. The New York Times (8/14, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that the White House on Thursday "declined to say whether President Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton actually hugged at a party the night before on Martha's Vineyard. But they did dance." The Times quotes an unnamed "person who attended the party" as saying, "It was huge smiles and total abandon on the dance floor. You'd never know there was any discord." The Times notes that Clinton on Tuesday phoned the President "to assure him that critical remarks she had made about his foreign policy in an interview with The Atlantic were not intended 'to attack him, his policies or his leadership.'"

Progressives Unhappy With Clinton's "Harsh Critique" Of Obama's Foreign Policy. The Washington Times (8/14, Wolfgang, 465K) reports that in the wake of the "harsh critique of Mr. Obama's foreign policy" by Clinton, "disenchanted liberals" worry that the Democrats' "2016 front-runner is acting more like a thinly veiled neoconservative." Roger Hickey, founder of the "liberal" group Campaign for America's Future, is quoted as saying, "I thought the Democratic party was fairly unified on foreign policy these days. But when she goes

insulting Obama for his foreign policy weaknesses, suddenly people realize there needs to be a debate about foreign policy as well."

Clintons Said To Be Forging Relationship With Julián Castro, A Potential 2016 Running Mate. The Washington Post (8/14, O'Keefe, Rucker, 4.06M) reports that as the former secretary of state mulls a potential 2016 White House run, Hillary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton "have been cultivating an important ally who some believe could become her vice presidential running mate": ex-San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro, who President Obama has tapped to serve as his next HUD secretary. The Post says, for example, that Bill Clinton "invited" the 39-year old Castro "to the Clintons' home in Washington last week for a private dinner that friends described as" an opportunity for them "to become better acquainted." The Post also says that Castro joined Hillary Clinton last month at an event at "the Bronx Children's Museum."

Krauthammer: Clinton "Right" In Her Assessment Of Obama's Foreign Policy. In his Washington Post (8/14, 4.06M), Charles Krauthammer quotes Hillary Clinton as saying of President Obama's foreign policy in her recent interview with The Atlantic, "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle." Krauthammer adds that in that interview, Clinton "acknowledge[d] the fatal flaw of" Obama's "foreign policy: a total absence of strategic thinking." Krauthammer adds that while Clinton's remarks come as she's "positioning" herself for a 2016 presidential run, "it doesn't matter. She's right."

Zakaria: Clinton's Strategic Talk Relating To Middle East Moderates A "Naive Fantasy." In his Washington Post (8/15, 4.06M) column, Fareed Zakaria writes that in her interview with The Atlantic, Clinton expressed "what has become Washington's new conventional wisdom," implying "that 'moderates' might have prevented the rise of the Islamic State" in the Middle East. However, writes Zakaria, the US "has provided massive and sustained aid to the moderates in the region" for some time, with little positive effect. Zakaria says, "The problem is that there are actually very few" moderates in countries such as "Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Libya and the Palestinian territories." Zakaria adds, "Asserting that the moderates in Syria could win is not tough foreign policy talk, it is a naive fantasy with dangerous consequences."

Poll Shows Clinton's Lead Over Potential 2016 GOP Foes Narrowing. McClatchy (8/14, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that a new McClatchy-Marist poll shows that Hillary Clinton's "lead over" potential GOP presidential rivals in hypothetical 2016 match-ups "has narrowed and her support has slipped below 50 percent" amid "recent gaffes by the former secretary of state." In the poll, Clinton leads Gov. Chris Christie 47%-41%, down from a 53%-42% lead she held in a similar poll taken in April and a 58%-37% edge in February. In the new poll, Clinton leads Jeb Bush 48%-41%, down from a 55%-39% lead in April. And the new poll shows Clinton leading Sen. Rand Paul 48%-42%, down from a 54%-40% edge in April. The report does not say when the new poll was in the field or how many voters were surveyed.

Noonan: After Criticizing Obama, Clinton Likely To Face Tough 2016 Challenge From The Left. In her Wall Street Journal (8/15, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) column, Peggy Noonan writes that with her criticism of Obama's foreign policy in the interview with The Atlantic, Hillary Clinton – if she runs for president – likely increased the odds that she will face a serious challenge from the left in the Democratic presidential primary. Noonan adds that though Sen. Elizabeth Warren has said she won't run for president, the Massachusetts Democrat, should she change her mind, would likely pose the biggest threat to Clinton winning the Democratic nomination.

Clinton Ally Brock Takes Over Formerly Non-Partisan Watchdog Group CREW. Politico (8/14, Vogel, 637K) reported that "in a major power play that aligns liberal muscle more fully behind the Democratic Party — and Hillary Clinton," Media Matters' David Brock "is taking over a leading watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington" after proposing "a multifaceted expansion intended to turn the group into a more muscular — and likely partisan — attack dog." According to Politico, "The reconfigured CREW...will add a more politically oriented arm, expand its focus into state politics and donor targeting and will operate in close coordination with Brock's growing fleet of aggressive Democrat-backing nonprofits and super PACs." Politico notes that while CREW was established by liberal Democrats, under executive director Melanie Sloan it "went out of its way to demonstrate that it would not pull punches when it came to Democratic corruption."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Search For Calm In Missouri."*** The New York Times (8/15, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), in an editorial, says Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, "after keeping a low profile for too long," was right to give "an order that should have been given over the weekend: Let protesters who are angry about the shooting protest peacefully, without aggressive demands to disperse, as is their constitutional right."

"Maliki And The Futility Of Regime Change." The New York Times (8/15, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that "there should be no illusion that" Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's "successor...will quickly end Iraq's crises," and that Obama "is right to be very cautious about plunging into foreign adventures." However, "he should be equally clear that there is often no choice, and that the most tempting action is hardly ever the best."

"Elmo's World." The New York Times (8/15, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that the "forces of civic order that drove the pimps, hustlers and drug dealers from Times Square never anticipated the Elmos." In "the tourist-choked, franchise-cheesy, pedestrian-mall version of the Crossroads of the World, adults in character costumes – a lot of Elmos, but also Cookie Monsters, Mickey and Minnie Mice, SpongeBobs, Batmen, Statues of Liberty and others – are a fixture, practically an emblem." They are "fee-for-service entrepreneurs" that "deliver smiles for cheap" and are "thus appreciated by out-of-towners in a way no squeegee man ever was." New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and members of the City Council "have said the Elmos are a problem that needs solving, through licensing or some other regulatory arrangement," but the Times argues that they "should be careful" in "a city that values eccentric expression and an entrepreneurial street life, to avoid cures that are worse than the disease."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Ferguson's Fumbled Response."*** The Washington Post (8/14, Board, 4.06M) editorializes that "nothing justifies looting or assaulting police," but the Ferguson police "did not need to respond to mostly peaceful protests by deploying armored vehicles, pointing sniper rifles at civilians and tossing tear gas and shooting rubber bullets liberally into crowds."

"Defeating Extremists" The Washington Post (8/15, 4.06M) editorializes that "the limits Mr. Obama has placed on US action make little sense in the context of" ISIL's "extremist entity and the interconnected conflicts across the region." The President "lacks an integrated policy for Iraq and Syria, though the Islamic State cannot be defeated unless it is attacked in both countries. ... The idea that Iraqis will somehow solve these problems independently of Syria and with minimal U.S. support is a convenient but dangerous illusion."

"The GOP's War On Voters." In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/14, Board, 4.06M) criticizes Virginia Republicans for enacting voter ID laws and argues that a push "to tighten voter ID rules has accelerated for several years under GOP auspices, mainly in Southern states." The effort, the Post notes, "calls attention to the party's increasing identification with and reliance on older and whiter portions of the nation's electorate, which are shrinking." The Post argues that in their attempt "to negate the electoral effects of demographic change, Republicans are digging themselves deeper into a hole of their own making."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Ferguson Exception."*** The Wall Street Journal (8/15, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, praises the President's remarks on Thursday, and notes that he sought "peace and calm on the streets."

"No Maliki, No More US Excuses." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/15, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) hails Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's decision to give way to his successor, and expresses hope that the President will now craft a policy to stem ISIL's advance – something the Journal blames on Obama's lack of action in Syria and on his decisions to withdraw US forces from Iraq.

"Beijing vs. Foreign Capitalist Roaders." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/15, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) criticizes Chinese President Xi Jinping's increased regulatory actions against foreign businesses including Microsoft and GM, among others, arguing that Xi is trying to create world-leading Chinese companies by crippling their competitors.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
About 400,000 In Mass Must Seek New Health Plan
'Whitey' Bulger Appeals, Calling Conviction Unfair
Market Basket Meetings The Stage For Family Strife
Mo Teen's Killing Reverberates In Boston
Obama Vacation Punctured By International, Domestic Strife

Boston Herald:
Gelzinis: Brave Fighter Rallies Family

Wall Street Journal:
Missouri Police Change Tactics
Iraq's Maliki Steps Down Amid Pressure
How Agents Hunt For Fraud In Medicare Data
Euro Zone's Economy Fails To Grow

New York Times:
Traders Profit As Power Grid Is Overworked
Premier Of Iraq Accedes To Calls To Give Up Power
New Tack On Unrest Eases Tension In Missouri
Troopers Move In As President Seeks Calm
Mini Golf As Career? She Gets Past The Obstacles
A Ukraine City Under Siege, 'Just Terrified Of The Bombing'

Washington Post:
Officials Seek To Calm Missouri Unrest
Eyes On 2016, Clintons Groom Rising Hispanic Star
Furor In Ferguson Brings Out GOP's Growing Libertarian Wing
Tokens Of Luxury Wrap Up McDonnell Prosecution
A Federal Terrorism Sting Goes Awry

Financial Times:
Maliki Steps Down As Iraqi PM
Eurozone Economy Shudders To Halt
Rosneft Asks Moscow For $42bn
Buffett's $200,000 Shares Priced For Elite
Goldman Invites Wall St To Chat For $5m
Coke Gets A Taste For Rival Monster
Japanese Lesson For Bond Buyers

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; Parkinson's Disease-Depression Link; Severe Weather; Iraq-Prime Minister Resigns; Iraq-US Air Strikes; New York-Amish Girls Abducted; Pope Francis-South Korea Trip; Major General Greene's Funeral; Tennessee-Gas Tanker Explodes.
CBS: Obama-Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Missouri-Shooting Backlash-Police Tactics; Iraq-Prime Minister Resigns; Iraq-Humanitarian Crisis; Iraq-Yazidi Refugees; Ukraine Blocks Russian Aid Convoy; Pope Francis-South Korea Trip; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; Missouri-Shooting Backlash-Social Media; Major General Greene's Funeral.
NBC: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Obama-Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; Iraq-Humanitarian Crisis; Pope Francis-Planned US Trip; Major General Greene's Funeral.

Network TV At A Glance:
Missouri-Shooting Backlash – 20 minutes, 20 seconds (00:20:20)
Iraq – 6 minutes, 40 seconds (00:06:40)

Pope Francis-South Korea Trip – 1 minute, 10 seconds (00:01:10)
Major General Greene's Funeral – 1 minute, 15 seconds (00:01:15)
Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease – 6 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Pope Francis-South Korea Trip; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; Ebola Outbreak.
CBS: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; New York-Amish Girls Found Safe; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; New MLB Commissioner; Kevin Ward Jr.'s Funeral; GE Selling Appliances Unit.
FOX: Obama-Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Iraq-Prime Minister Resigns; Iraq-Humanitarian Crisis; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; Immigration Reform-FOX News Poll; Texas-Border Security; US-Israel Tensions; UN-Nuclear Weapons Warning;
NPR: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Obama-Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Severe Weather; Iraq-Prime Minister Resigns; New MLB Commissioner; Ask.com Buys Ask.fm; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Obama is vacationing on Martha's Vineyard. No public events are scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The vice president and Dr. Jill Biden visit Long Island, New York. There are no public events scheduled.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — The House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "Recess."
Other: BULLYING PREVENTION SUMMIT — 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. US Department of Education hosts fourth Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Summit, with opening remarks by Deputy Assistant to the President Roberto Rodrmguez and U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary Deb Delisle. Location: Barnard Auditorium, US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW. Contacts: Press Office (press@ed.gov), 202-401-1576.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "And during all of this [referring to a host of current national and international events], President Obama has decided to go on vacation, of course. And he's gotten a lot of criticism for that. And now, Obama is facing criticism for coming back to work for a couple days, because they say it wastes taxpayer money. Or as Obama put it, '28 more months, two weeks, four days and 16 hours. Get through this. We can't win. Just get through this.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, the White House says that President Obama won't make any major announcements during his brief trip back to D.C. this weekend. The reporters were like, 'Well, isn't that an announcement?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The White House says that Obama won't make any major announcements during his trip back to D.C., but the White House did say that Obama would be making some minor announcements, like, 'Just mixed a bowl of Fruity Pebbles with Cocoa Pebbles, 'cause I'm the President and I can do whatever I want.'"

Seth Meyers: "I'm glad you're doing well, because some bad news for the President. President Obama's approval rating this week reached an all-time low. An all-time low. Apparently, it's all the way down to 'some of the people, some of the time.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Everyone's talking about a possible feud between President Obama and Hillary Clinton. ... At a

book signing, Hillary Clinton denied any friction with President Obama. Bill Clinton heard this and said, 'That's not the first time she's denied friction with the President.'"

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BISON CONNECT

Jewell, Sally (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Clips this morning

1 message

Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Aug 19, 2014 at 6:49 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Beyer, Emily** <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Mon, Aug 18, 2014 at 8:11 AM
Subject: Clips this morning
To:

Good morning,

Apologies - there was a problem receiving the clips this morning. Please find the briefing below.

Thank you!

Emily

DOI in the News

Secretary Jewell, Secretary Duncan To Visit Passamaquoddy School In Maine. The Portland (ME) Press Herald (8/15, 352K) reports that Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will visit the Beatrice Rafferty School in Perry, Maine, on Monday "to discuss education reform efforts for schools on tribal lands." According to the article, Jewell and Duncan will tour the school to "see first-hand the need for additional funding for replacement school construction and will meet with school officials, teachers and students to better understand the shared challenges in delivering educational services." The article notes that "among those expected to join Jewell and Duncan on Monday are: Monty Roessel, director of the Bureau of Indian Education; Reuben Clayton Cleaves, chief of the Passamaquoddy tribe at Pleasant Point; and Mike Chadwick, principal of the Beatrice Rafferty School."

Also reporting on the story are the Bangor (ME) Daily News (8/18, 166K), the Nation Sun News (8/18), the Pechanga (8/18), and WABI-TV Bangor, ME (8/15, 5K).

Also covering the story is the AP (8/18). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Danbury (CT) News Times (8/18, 137K).

Sen. Murkowski Decries Secretary Jewell's Stance On Izembek Road. The E&E Daily (8/15) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski says "she is 'appalled' that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell continues to oppose the construction of a gravel road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge that Murkowski and local residents say is badly needed to improve public safety." Murkowski, "in a scathing statement issued through the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where she is the ranking member, said she was disappointed in Jewell's letter to her this week stating that the Interior Department 'stands by the decision' to reject the road and 'will not reopen the Record of Decision.'" Murkowski also said "she 'cannot believe' that nearly eight months after the

December decision to reject the road proposal Jewell's letter contains 'zero solutions' to resolve the dispute."

Also providing coverage are Politico (8/18, Guillén, 637K) and KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK (8/18).

US Forest Service Chief Discusses Wildfires, Funding. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (8/17, 116K) printed excerpts of an interview with Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell on wildfires and funding issues. The story also appears in the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (8/16, 166K).

Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Visits South Mountain Park. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to Phoenix and South Mountain Park was provided by the Ahwatukee Foothills (AZ) News (8/18, 82K).

Additional Coverage: Former Secretary Salazar Leads Effort To Oppose States' Attempts To Acquire Federal Land. Additional coverage of former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar push for "conserving America's public lands and against attempts to sell or get rid of the lands that sustain fish and wildlife populations as well as hunting, fishing and the country's multi-billion-dollar outdoor recreation industry" was provided by the Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (8/18, 339K) and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (8/18, 1.07M).

Secretary Jewell Urged To Lift Moratorium On Tribal Water Codes. In an open letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell published in the Rapid City (SD) Journal (8/18, 141K), attorney David Ganje notes that "since the 1970s the Department of the Interior and your predecessors at Interior have prohibited certain Indian tribes and reservations from creating tribal water codes." Ganje urges Jewell "to change this 'moratorium' on the approval of tribal water codes." Ganje argues that "such a change would clean up old and very bad Department of Interior policy."

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

NPS Awards First Arch Grounds Renovation Contract. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (8/18, 938K) reports that the NPS has "awarded a $13.5 million contract to two local firms to renovate the first section of the Gateway Arch grounds, project officials announced Friday." According to the article, "a joint venture between McCarthy Building Companies and Castle Contracting won the contract for renovations of the southern 26 acres of the Arch grounds." Construction is expected to begin in mid- to late-September.

Olympic National Park's Roosevelt Elk Census Begins. The AP (8/17) reports that "biologists are beginning their annual count of Roosevelt elk in Olympic National Park." The NPS says staff from the park and from the USGS are "beginning the four-day count Sunday." Olympic National Park Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum says "they're part of the park's efforts to monitor and understand its resources and ecosystems." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Everett (WA) Herald (8/17, 131K).

Also reporting on the story is the Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (8/15, 267K).

Alaska Gov. Parnell Signs Resolution Opposing Beringia Park. The AP (8/15) reports that Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell has "signed a legislative resolution protesting the development of an international park that some in Alaska feel could limit development of remote northwest Alaska." The article notes that "the federal project, envisioned as a joint US-Russian research park in the Bering Strait, is already on hold because of Russia's intervention in Ukraine." According to the article, "Senate Joint Resolution 15 urges the federal government to stop pursuing the creation of a park that would reach from Alaska into Russia." State Sen. Cathy Giessel "does not want international bodies dictating how Alaskans use their land, she said." Also, Giessel "noted the federal government has

blocked a road through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, a migratory birds wetlands, even though locals want the road to improve access between the village of King Cove and an airport at Cold Bay." The NPS "in February sent a letter noting what it called factual errors and mistaken assumptions in Giessel's resolution."

Meeting To Be Held On Possible Designation For Pullman. The Times of Northwest Indiana(8/18, 283K) reports that "an upcoming Illinois Historic Preservation Agency meeting will explore possible options for including Chicago's Pullman neighborhood in the National Park System." The article notes that "the meeting of the preservation agency will take place Aug. 21 at the Pullman Factory Complex in Chicago." According to agency officials, "representatives from Sen. Dick Durbin's office and the National Park Service will discuss efforts to include the site and the surrounding neighborhood as a unit of the national parks."

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site Studying Threats To Historic Indian Villages. The AP (8/17) reports that "the head of the only national site in the United States that preserves the homelands of the Northern Plains Indians says it's time to deal with nature-made threats to the site's archaeology." Wendy Ross, superintendent of the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, said "erosion, flooding, burrowing rodents and trees with invasive roots are damaging the site." Ross has "begun a management plan in an effort to fully detail those treats and how to deal with them."

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Could Have Truck Stop Nearby. The AP (8/18) reports that Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park "faces having a large truck stop close to an entrance." According to the article, "a Utah-based company got the go-ahead for rezoning from a planning and zoning commission in Brownsville." Now, "the proposal from United Fuel Supply in Salt Lake City to change the zoning will be the topic of a public hearing Tuesday."

Minneapolis Lags On Black History Listings. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/15, Brandt, 1.32M) reports that "the recent addition of the Arthur and Edith Lee house to the National Register of Historic Places highlights the paucity of black-oriented Minneapolis sites on the prestigious federal list." The article notes that "St. Paul boasts five of the state's nine national register sites associated with black history," and "the Lee home at 4600 Columbus Av. S. represents only the second such black-oriented listing for Minneapolis on the national list."

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Reopens Areas. The West Hawaii Today (8/18, 30K) reports that "the popular forested trail at Kipukapuaulu, Namakanipaio campground, and Mauna Loa summit and backcountry within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park are now open." Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando said, "We're delighted to report that most of the places visitors typically visit within the national park are now open. Our park crews mobilized quickly, safely, and efficiently to reopen as much of the park as possible following Hurricane Iselle."

New Superintendent Of Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area Named. The Lovell (WY) Chronicle (8/18) reports that "John Bundy, a 36-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), has been named superintendent of Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area in Montana and Wyoming." Bundy will assume his new post on August 24. Intermountain Regional Director Sue Masica said, "John's many decades of experience with the National Park Service and his proven ability to manage complex issues makes me confident he'll be an effective leader at Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area."

Glacier Park Sees Record Number Of Visitors In July. The AP (8/15) reports that NPS officials say "this July was the busiest that Glacier National Park has ever seen." According to the park service's statistics office, "nearly 700,000 people visited the northwestern Montana park last month."

Additional Coverage: NPS Working On LGBT Heritage Initiative. Additional coverage of the NPS' LGBT heritage initiative was provided by the South Florida Gay News (8/18, 6), the EDGE Boston (8/18, 1K) and the EDGE on the Net (8/18).

Bureau of Land Management

BLM Investigating Wild Horse Deaths. The Hutchinson (KS) News (8/18, 2K) reports that "fifty-seven wild horses recently transferred to a corral in Scott City died, prompting an investigation by the Bureau of Land Management in the US Department of Interior." According to the article, "preliminary findings from a US Department of Agriculture veterinarian indicated the animals died as a result of their age combined with stress from the recent relocation, the shift from pasture to corral environment, and the change from pasture feed to processed hay feed." The BLM said that "there is no indication of infectious or contagious diseases being the cause."

Also providing coverage are the Garden City (KS) Telegram (8/18, 24K) and KTMJ-TV Topeka, KS (8/15).

Rep. Amodei Concerned Grazing Dispute Could Lead To Widespread Closure Decisions. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (8/18, 22K) reports that "a dispute that on the surface appeared to have pitted a few Lander County ranchers against a lone BLM district manager could balloon into policy detrimental to grazing," according to Rep. Mark Amodei. Amodei was "in Elko on Thursday and, while in town, met with local representatives from the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service to discuss public land management issues." On his way to Elko, he "met with Battle Mountain District Manager Doug Furtado, who has come under fire this year from ranchers after the Argenta allotment was closed due to ongoing drought."

The story also appears in the Prairie (MT) Star (8/18).

Wyoming To Intervene In Wild Horse Lawsuit. The AP (8/15) reports that "the state of Wyoming is moving to intervene in a lawsuit filed by wild horse preservation groups opposing the federal government's plan to remove about 800 horses from areas in the southern part of the state." Gov. Matt Mead announced Friday that "Wyoming has asked a federal judge in Cheyenne to allow the state to participate in the lawsuit." Wild horse preservation groups are challenging the BLM's "plans to start removing horses from lands within the Great Divide Basin, Adobe Town and Salt Wells Creek herd management areas starting Sept. 1."

Also providing coverage is the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (8/18, 90K).

BLM, Partners Plan Cleanup Of Coal Mountain Road. The Casper (WY) Journal (8/18, 80K) reports that the BLM, "Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Office of State Lands, the City of Casper, Natrona County Road and Bridge, private landowners, sportsmen, and local citizens and businesses will join together to clean up Coal Mountain Road on Aug. 16."

Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS Director Ashe Participates In Discussion On Forest Management. The Clark County (WA) Columbian (8/15, 109K) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe participated in roundtable discussion hosted by Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler "on how to increase federal timber harvest and improve the health of the forests." The article notes that "the conversation was framed around the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan." Ashe said "agencies and interested parties have a choice: 'Swing the pendulum one way or build alignment.'" He said, "Let's define this thing we're calling healthy forests and then let's walk in that direction."

FWS Proposes Critical Habitat For Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The AP (8/15) reports that "the federal government has announced a proposal to designate an area near a proposed mine south of

Tucson as a critical habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo." The FWS has "now proposed that a large area in the upper Cienega Creek be designated a critical habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo." Conservationists say "the creek is home to dozens of species that would be adversely affected" by the planned Rosemont Copper mine.

Also reporting on the story is the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/15, 582K).

FWS Mulling Status Of Manatees. The Los Angeles Times (8/15, Sahagun, 3.42M) reports that "about 2,500 manatees have perished in Florida over the last four years, heightening tension between conservationists and property owners as federal officials prepare to decide whether to down-list the creature to threatened status." Conservationists say "the deaths are evidence of the vulnerability of the walrus-like mammals, which were included on the endangered species list in 1967 because of boat collisions and destruction of sea grasses in the shallow coastal inlets they inhabit." However, "owners of waterfront property and businesses filed a lawsuit in April in federal court accusing the US Fish and Wildlife Service of failing to adhere to its own 2007 recommendation that down-listing is warranted because there are now more manatees than ever."

FWS Officials Search For Wisconsin Osprey, Owl Shooter. The AP (8/15) reports that FWS officials are "searching for the person who shot federally protected birds in Wisconsin". According to Marge Gibson, the executive director of the Raptor Education Group in Antigo, "at least one osprey and one barred owl were shot in Bayfield County in recent weeks. Both species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act." Tina Shaw, spokeswoman for the FWS' Midwest Region, said the service "hopes the public will help identify the culprits."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/15, 1.32M) and the St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (8/18, 558K). Also reporting on the story is WSAW-TV Wausau, WI (8/18, 18K).

FWS Drafts Plan For Lake Freeman Water Releases. The AP (8/15) reports that "federal officials are proposing a water-monitoring plan for a popular northwestern Indiana reservoir where water releases required to safeguard endangered mussels have dropped the lake's water levels significantly this summer." According to the article, "the operator of Lake Freeman's dam, Northern Indiana Public Service Co., is under a federal agency's order to release water to protect riverbeds with several water-starved mussel species." The article notes that "the lake was 15 inches down Thursday when members from the three congressmen's offices and two state lawmakers joined US Fish and Wildlife Service and NIPSCO representatives to outline the water mitigation plan, which is intended to reduce the economic impact of the water releases."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by WRTV-TV Indianapolis (8/18, 209K).

Animal Rights Advocates Protest Gator Hunting In Loxahatchee Refuge. The AP (8/16) reports that "some animal rights advocates are protesting the allowing of alligator hunting in a South Florida wildlife refuge." The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is "opening its first-ever alligator hunting season to control the reptile's population." The article notes that "eleven hunters, randomly selected from more than 1,000 applicants, are being allowed to take two alligators each from the roughly 150,000-acre swamp and forest."

FWS Sets West Virginia's Migratory Bird Seasons. The Charleston (WV) Gazette (8/16, 44K) reports that FWS officials have "set West Virginia's seasons for mourning doves, woodcocks, snipes and rails." According to the article, "under this year's regulations, hunting for doves, snipes and rails will begin Sept. 1." Woodcock season will begin on Oct. 18.

Climate Change Altering Approach To Species Preservation. The E&E Daily (8/15) reports that "climate change is altering the way some scientists are trying to save endangered plant and animal species from extinction." According to the article, "for nearly 100 years, conservationists have focused preservation efforts on maintaining species' historical ranges and reintroducing captive-bred

species to boost dwindling populations." But "now, some scientists are experimenting with a new approach," called "conservation translocation." According to the article, "scientists move endangered species that are unable to shift their habitats on their own into new locations."

Additional Coverage: FWS Withdraws Proposed Protections For Wolverines. Additional coverage of the FWS' decision on wolverines was provided by the Flathead (MT) Beacon (8/17, 15K), theCoeur d'Alene (ID) Press (8/18, 63K), the Methow Valley (WA) News Online (8/15, 971), KCET-TV Los Angeles (8/18, 15K), and KGVO-FM Missoula, MT (8/18).

US Geological Survey

USGS Report Indicates Greater Quake Hazard In Greater Yellowstone Than Previously Thought. The AP (8/18) reports that a new USGS report "indicates a slightly greater earthquake hazard in the Greater Yellowstone region of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho than previously thought, a geophysicist says." University of Utah geophysicist Bob Smith said, "The new maps show how Yellowstone has had a relative increase in the hazard. It's not a lot – it's like 5 to 10 percent of peak acceleration." The map of seismic hazards also "shows that the region is as seismically hazardous as anywhere in the United States."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (8/17, 465K), the Idaho Statesman(8/17, 222K), and the Missoulian (MT) (8/18, 122K).

USGS Report: Climate Change Reflected In Altered Missouri River Flow. The Los Angeles Times (8/18, Srikrishnan, 3.42M) reports that "the Missouri River's stream flow has changed significantly over the last 50 years, leading to serious water shortages in Montana and Wyoming and flooding in the Dakotas," according to a USGS report released last month. The report says that "climate shifts may be causing the disparate changes in the Missouri River Basin." The scientists noted that "higher stream flow in the Dakotas had occurred even as water use increased," and "in addition, they said, lower stream flow in some areas could be related in part to groundwater pumping."

Securing America's Energy Future

Renewable Energy

BOEM Considers Offshore Wind's On Fishing Grounds. The New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times(8/17, 54K) reports that city and state politicians are trying "to convince industry leaders and the public that New Bedford should be America's offshore wind hub." However, "while landlubbers may see offshore wind as simply a promising new industry that could bring new jobs, the fishermen who will have to work along these turbines often see" another "layer of federal rules and regulations to navigate." And "in addition to worrying about how many days they can go out to sea, they say they now have to worry about giant steel structures getting in their way and impeding their catch." The article notes that "concerns about offshore wind farms encroaching on prime fishing grounds have not been overlooked by the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management that designates which federal areas are eligible for offshore wind energy development."

BLM Approves Permit For Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Farm. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette(8/18, Storrow, 590K) reports that "the 1,000-turbine Chokecherry and Sierra Madre wind farm will have no significant impact on the human environment, according to a preliminary assessment released this week by the US Bureau of Land Management." The article notes that "the study is one of two site-specific environmental analyses to be done by the BLM." The assessments will "likely be finalized sometime this year, leaving only an environmental study of a transmission line serving the wind farm and an eagle take permit for the first 500 turbines to be completed."

Numerous Birds Deaths At Ivanpah Solar Plant Raise Concerns. The AP (8/18, 4.06M) reports that Federal wildlife investigators, who visited the BrightSource Energy solar plant in Ivanpah Dry Lake last year and watched as birds burned and fell at an average of one every two minutes, "are urging California officials to halt the operator's application to build a still-bigger version." The California Energy Commission is "now considering the application from BrightSource to build a mirror field and a 75-story power tower that would reach above the sand dunes and creek washes between Joshua Tree National Park and the California-Arizona border." The proposed area "is richer in avian life than the Ivanpah plant, with protected golden eagles and peregrine falcons and more than 100 other species of birds recorded there," according to experts. The commission's staff "estimates the proposed new tower would be almost four times as dangerous to birds as the Ivanpah plant" and "is expected to decide this autumn on the proposal."

Bat Deaths Prompt Change At Spring Valley Wind Energy Project. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (8/18, 386K) reports that the Spring Valley Wind Energy project has been forced to change operations after its massive turbines killed triple the number of bats allowed under an agreement with federal regulators. The windfarm killed an estimated 566 bats in 2013, so its operator agreed to change when the windmills kick on in hopes of reducing the number of deaths. In June, the wind farm's 66 turbines were adjusted on nights with high bat activity so they would only start turning when sustained winds reach about 11 mph instead of the usual speed of about 7 mph.

Onshore Energy Development

Theodore Roosevelt Park Fights To Keep Oil Boom Out. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/17, Louwagie, 1.32M) profiles Theodore Roosevelt National Park superintendent Valerie Naylor. The park, is located around the Bakken oil field, and Naylor "is on a mission to keep its natural sounds, fresh air and breathtaking views free from the effects of" the oil boom.

BLM Decides Against Drilling In Wayne National Forrest. The Athens (OH) News (8/18, 54K) reports that the Interior Department has "dismissed a protest against oil and gas drilling in the Wayne National Forrest but also has decided against allowing any such drilling." A letter from the BLM dated July 21, 2014 and noted as received by the city of Athens on Aug. 1 "explains that the protest of the leasing of these parcels has been dismissed as moot because the parcels in question were deleted from the sale."

Study Finds Drilling Thompson Divide Could Degrade Water Quality. The E&E Daily (8/15) reports that "a study designed to establish base-line water quality in west-central Colorado's pristine Thompson Divide in the event of future oil and gas drilling has found that surface waters and springs in the area are indeed clean and support a large volume of aquatic life that one of the study's authors says could be placed at risk by development." The Thompson Divide Coalition, "a group of ranchers and business owners that commissioned the study, says the results bolster their long-standing position that oil and gas development has no place in the environmentally sensitive area of White River National Forest." The study, "conducted for the coalition by Golden, Colo.-based Michael-Moran Associates LLC and the Basalt, Colo.-based Roaring Fork Conservancy, is designed to 'define baseline water quality and flow conditions' prior to any drilling activity in the Fourmile Creek and Thompson Creek watersheds."

BLM Posts Proposed Parcel List, Oil, Gas Lease Sales. The St. George (UT) News (8/17, 3K) reports that the BLM-Utah "posted Friday the list of parcels proposed for auction at the quarterly competitive oil and gas lease sale Nov. 18 in Salt Lake City." The article notes that "the list includes 69 proposed parcels covering 72,236 acres in the Vernal, Price and Richfield Field Office areas."

BLM Schedules Next Oil, Gas Lease Sale In Colorado For November. The Denver Business Journal (8/18, Subscription Publication, 71K) reports that BLM will "offer leases on 24

parcels of land totaling 6,797 acres during its quarterly oil and gas lease sale in November." According to the article, "the sale is scheduled for Nov. 13 at 9 a.m. at the agency's Colorado office, at 2850 Youngfield St. in Lakewood." The article notes that "about 481 acres that are included in the lease sale are located on BLM-managed land."

Nationwide Communities Debate Fracking. CBS News (8/17, Kennedy, 5.21M) reports that while "fracking has had amazing results," it remains a contentious issue in many communities that worry about the long-term environmental and economic threats associated with the process. Pro- and anti-fracking measures in California and Colorado are examples of the contention between jobs and risk "that appears to be keeping a lot of people on the fence" when it comes to fracking. According to Ken Carlson, professor of environmental and civil engineering, the key to compromise is finding a middle ground "that has practices, that has regulations, that has rules acceptable to all the stakeholders."

Coal Imports Increase. The E&E Daily (8/15) reports that "weakened prices have led to an increase in coal imports to the United States, much of which is coming from Colombia." According to Global Trade Information Services Inc., "while mines shutter in central Appalachia, where mature coal seams make for costlier mining, the US imported 44 percent more coal in the first half of this year than last year – 5.4 million metric tons."

Breitling Energy CEO Criticizes Denton, TX, Fracking Ban Proposal. In the Wall Street Journal(8/16, Faulkner, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), Breitling Energy Corp. CEO Chris Faulkner criticized the proposed fracking ban in Denton, TX. Faulkner claimed that the entire industry shouldn't be punished for the misdeeds of a few irresponsible energy companies. Further, the proposed ban could cost Denton more than $251 million in economic activity.

Offshore Energy Development

BOEM Requests Industry Input For New Rules For Offshore Oil, Gas Sites. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (8/17, Larino, 527K) reports that the BOEM is asking the oil and gas industry for input on new rules regulating the removal of aging pipelines and platforms from the Gulf of Mexico. The agency is looking to "update rules to better reflect the 'realities of aging offshore infrastructure'" and change existing bonding requirements for companies working offshore. As a result, oil and gas companies are "likely to see the cost of doing business," although it could also mean more work for local businesses in the Gulf that specialize in cleaning up old offshore sites.

FuelFix (8/15, 7K) reported that on Friday "an American Petroleum Institute spokesman said the group was reviewing" the BOEM's notice that it wants "public input on how to modernize the bureau's risk management program and the bonding regulations governing oil and gas companies working offshore." The agency is rewriting "20-year-old bonding requirements" at a time when "some of the oldest deep-water wells in the Gulf of Mexico reach the end of their lives and companies look to tear down the operations."

Also reporting on the story is the Law 360 (8/18, 18K).

BOEM Receives Feedback On Offshore Drilling. The Columbia (SC) State (8/15, 303K) reports that "South Carolinians are sharing strong and sharply different opinions with the federal government about the prospect of oil derricks going up off the state's coast." According to the article, "dozens of residents have commented as the federal Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management begins the process of deciding where to issue new oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf should between 2017 and 2022." The article notes that "those in favor say coastal energy will bring jobs and tax revenues," but "opponents worry about the environments, including spills that could damage the state's beaches, which are the heart of South Carolina's $18 billion tourism industry."

The Carteret County (NC) News-Times (8/18, 28K) reports that "the Southern Environmental

Law Center – a regional nonprofit dedicated to using the law to protect the health and environment of the southeast US – submitted comments to BOEM against opening up the mid- and south Atlantic coast to offshore drilling on behalf of 27 citizens groups." The article notes that "these groups include the N.C. Coastal Federation (based in Carteret County) the N.C. Conservation Network, The N.C. Wildlife Federation and Environment North Carolina."

NPR (8/15, Brady, 519K) reported on Friday's deadline for public comments for the Interior Department's 2017-2022 offshore lease plan. The American Petroleum Institute's Erik Milito said of the proposal, "We haven't had the ability to really look at the Atlantic or the Pacific in about 30 years now. So what we'd like to do is have an opportunity to get out there and just see what's there – see if we have oil and natural gas." Milito also touted the Obama Administration's decision earlier this year allowing Atlantic coast seismic surveys. Milito argued increased offshore oil and gas production "has been good for the economy," and that "from 2007 to 2012, any exploration and production side – jobs actually increased at a 40 percent rate, while the rest of the economy saw jobs at really a flat rate."

The Greenville (SC) News (8/16, 155K) editorializes that "the recent announcement that energy companies will be allowed to use seismic testing off the Atlantic Coast to search for potential oil and gas deposits beneath the ocean floor could open the door to significant economic development opportunities in South Carolina." It claims that "the shift in policy is a major step forward for companies that want to harvest the natural resources from a coastal area that has been closed to drilling." The paper also argues that "if reasonable steps are taken by the government and the oil and gas industry, the natural resources that are valuable to the tourism industry can be protected while the natural resources that are valuable to the energy industry are harvested."

Also reporting on the story are the Augusta (VA) Free Press (8/18, 1K) and WSAV-TV Savannah, GA (8/18, 19K).

Louisiana Coalition Calls For More Offshore Drilling Areas. The New Orleans Times-Picayune(8/18, 527K) reports that "a coalition of Louisiana businesses and elected officials is calling on the Obama administration to open more of the Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas exploration." According to the article, "a group of 30 businesses and elected officials from across on Friday (Aug. 15) sent a letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management asking the agency to allow the oil and gas industry continue and expanded access to all areas Gulf of Mexico." The letter said, "Continued and expanded access to all areas of the Gulf of Mexico will increase these economic gains for Gulf Coast residents and ensure that the Gulf Coast continues to supply American consumers across the country with reliable crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas."

Obama Administration Studies Arctic Requirements. The FuelFix (8/17, 7K) reports that "the Obama administration is closer than ever to imposing the first minimum standards for oil and gas activity in U.S. Arctic waters, as Shell pursues permits that could allow it to resume drilling in the region next year." The Interior Department "sent a draft of those Arctic regulations to the Office of Management and Budget on Friday, marking the launch of an interagency review process that typically spans months."

South Carolina Awarded Grant For Offshore Sand Inventory. The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (8/17, 317K) reports that "the S.C. Department of Natural Resources just won a $200,000 'Hurricane Sandy' grant to look for potential beach renourishment sand in federal waters more than three miles offshore." The federal government "wants to inventory the supply off 13 Atlantic coast states." Renee Orr, BOEM chief of strategic resources, said, "It's very clear that sand restoration projects are very important. Knowing where the sand is is critical to making decisions whether, where and how to provide it (for projects)."

Judge Approves BP's Subpoena Of Federal Documents. The E&E Daily (8/15) reports that "a federal judge has allowed BP PLC to negotiate the terms of a proposed subpoena of government documents related to the moratorium on deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater

Horizon oil spill in 2010." The order by US Magistrate Judge Sally Shushan of the District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana "declined to quash the BP subpoena, as US attorneys had requested." BP also "won a legal victory in the Canadian justice system this week." The Ontario Court of Appeal held that "shareholders in the province who purchased BP stock on the New York Stock Exchange cannot sue the oil company over the 2010 spill."

Attorneys: BP Has No Right To Repayment On Deepwater Spill Payouts. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (8/17, Larino, 527K) reported that on Friday attorneys for plaintiffs suing BP say the company "has no right to demand repayment of claims the company says were improperly overpaid under the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill settlement." The argument comes after BP in late June requested that US District Court Judge Carl Barbier order repayment plus interest of "inflated or unwarranted" claims.

API-Sponsored Poll Shows PA Voters Support Oil, Gas Production. In the "Energy" blog thePittsburgh Business Times (8/17, Subscription Publication, 25K) reported that a new American Petroleum Institute-sponsored poll issued Thursday found that a majority of Pennsylvania supporters support additional oil and gas production. Of the 608 registered state voters surveyed by Harris Poll, 72% were supportive "to one degree or another more development of the domestic oil and natural gas resources." Additionally, 70% of respondents, and a majority of both Democrats and Republicans, indicated "they'd be more inclined to support a candidate who supports" increased production. Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania executive director Stephanie Catarino Wissman said, "Pennsylvania voters, regardless of party affiliation, want more American-made energy. Voters are more likely to support candidates who encourage smart energy policy that will increase investments in the commonwealth and increase energy and job security for Pennsylvanians in the future."

Tackling America's Water Challenges

BOR To Reconsider Trinity-Klamath Releases For Salmon. The AP (8/15) reports that the BOR said Friday "it is taking another look at releasing water in Northern California's Klamath Basin to prevent the spread of disease among salmon returning to spawn in drought conditions." According to BOR spokeswoman Janet Sierztutowski, "a decision is likely next week following discussions with fisheries biologists and others."

The Fort Bragg (CA) Advocate-News (8/18, 16K) reports that Yurok Tribe Fisheries Program Manager Dave Hillemeier called the announcement "good news." He said, "We met with the Bureau of Reclamation last week and presented our rationale why they should provide some preventative flow releases to minimize the risk of another fish kill. They told us that they would consider that information, and I'm glad that they are. It sounds like they are gathering more information. Hopefully, some more knowledge on the conditions — as they are right now — is going to get them to do the right thing."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Examiner (8/18, 335K), the Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald (8/15, 140K), the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (8/18, 31K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/15, 582K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (8/18, 857K), The Oregonian (8/18, 827K), the Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (8/18, 172K), the Columbus (IN) Republic (8/18, 81K), and KPIX-TV San Francisco (8/15, 51K).

Also reporting on the story is the Willits (CA) News (8/18, 10K).

California Gov. Jerry Brown Defends Delta Tunnel Plan. The Inside Bay Area (CA) (8/16, Richmon, Calefati, 20K) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown said "he plans to proceed with his twin-tunnel plan for the Delta whether or not the public votes on it." According to the article, "although Brown conceded his plan to construct tunnels beneath the San Joaquin River Delta to siphon water south will likely end up on the ballot eventually, he said he's not going to put it there voluntarily

because the plan seeks to address a problem – deteriorating levees and saltwater intrusion – that can't wait." He said, "I'm doing this because it's a problem that's presented to me. People think I'm talking about my legacy. No. I do things that show up that I can't avoid, and this is one that I've got to do."

Additional coverage of the tunnel plan was provided by the Fresno (CA) Bee (8/17, 322K) and theEnergy Collective (8/18).

"Alarm" On The Rise Amid Unremitting Drought In Western US. On its front page, theWashington Post (8/18, A1, Warrick, 4.06M) reports that "across California's vital agricultural belt, nervousness over the state's epic drought has given way to alarm," with "aquifers...being pumped away at rates that scientists say are both historic and unsustainable." The area affected by the drought "now spans a dozen states and nearly 600 counties, from southern Texas to the northern Rockies, and includes fields and grazing land that produce a third of the country's beef cattle and half of its fruit, vegetables and winter wheat." The Post adds that "environmentalists and many scientists argue that any long-term solution would have to balance competing interests, including the need for clean water for growing cities as well as thriving habitats for fish and wildlife."

Arkansas Valley Conduit Receives More Funding. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (8/18, 79K) reports that the Arkansas Valley Conduit has "received $2 million for the current fiscal year through reprogramming of funds within the Bureau of Reclamation," according to Sens. Michael Bennet and Mark Udall. Bennet said, "Folks in Southeast Colorado have been waiting a long time for the federal government to fulfill its promise to build the Arkansas Valley Conduit. Making these resources available for the conduit is crucial to completing this phase of the project and moving it one step closer to completion."

BOR Working To Resolve Lake Nighthorse Issues. The Durango (CO) Herald (8/16, 28K) reports that "opening Lake Nighthorse for recreation has been as tough a sell as getting the construction of its home – a 1,500-surface acre reservoir in Ridges Basin – approved and built in the first place." The article notes that "holding up the ability of boaters and bathers today to get onto and into the frigid water of the lake – three years after it was filled to the brim – are issues related to operating the park." Ed Warner, area director of the BOR in Western Colorado, said Friday the bureau is "working with all parties."

BOR Seeks Comments On Site Specific Visitor Surveys. The Examiner (8/18, 1.54M) reports that the BOR is "taking public comments on its visitor experience surveys."

Additional Coverage Of Colorado River System Conservation Program. Additional coverage of the Colorado River System Conservation Program was provided by the Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (8/18, 27K).

Empowering Native American Communities

Push For Access To Rattlesnake Mountain Puts Tribes, Locals At Odds. The E&E Daily (8/15) reports on the "debate over public access to eastern Washington state's Rattlesnake Mountain." The article notes that "the vista is a sacred one for the Yakama, Umatilla and other tribes of the Columbia River Basin." According to the article, "since the mountaintop became part of the 200,000-acre security buffer zone around the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in 1943, few people have been back to the top." And "the tribes, which were allowed to return to the summit as it was deemed 'traditional cultural property' by the Department of Energy in 2007, want to keep it that way."

Top National News

Violence Escalates In Ferguson Amid Reports Of Gunfire, Firebombs From

Protesters. The situation in Ferguson, Missouri continued to dominate news cycles over the weekend, and on Sunday, all three network newscasts led with reports from Ferguson. The three networks combined devoted more than 16 minutes of air time to various aspects of the story – about twice the time they gave to the US airstrikes in Iraq, and far more that any other topic.

The New York Times (8/18, A12, Blinder, Vega, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports from Ferguson that "the most chaotic violence in a week of unrest broke out here Sunday evening, with law enforcement officers...responding to reports of gunfire and fire bombs." According to USA Today (8/18, Alcindor, Piper, 5.76M), St. Louis County police reported that "that protesters were throwing 'Molotov cocktails' at police." Likewise, the Los Angeles Times (8/18, Hennessy-Fiske, Lee, 3.42M) reports that "another round of unrest erupted in the streets of Ferguson...on Sunday night as volleys of tear gas, flash grenades and Molotov cocktails split the darkness."

USA Today (8/18, Alcindor, Piper, 5.76M) notes that earlier on Sunday, Benjamin Crump, "the civil rights attorney who represented the family of Trayvon Martin...told a crowd that police are trying to assassinate Brown's character." Crump was referring to the release of video showing Michael Brown rob a store and assault a clerk shortly before his fatal confrontation with Officer Darren Wilson. USA Today notes that also on Sunday, MSNBC's Al Sharpton "told the crowd that protests would continue."

The networks aired their broadcasts before violence one again flared in Ferguson on Sunday night ahead of the midnight curfew, so much of their reporting concerned the police's return to military tactics on Saturday night under the command of Missouri State Highway Patrol Captain Ron Johnson. On NBC Nightly News (8/17, lead story, 3:20, Holt, 7.86M), NBC's Ron Allen reported from Ferguson that law enforcement there on Saturday night "faced a threatening situation, including armed men on the roof top and in the street." On the CBS Evening News (8/17, lead story, 3:20, Glor, 5.08M), Vladimir Duthiers reported that on Saturday, the Ferguson police "received a report of armed men...spotted a man with a handgun and received a report of a gunshot victim." And on ABC World News (8/17, lead story, 3:15, Harris, 5.84M) Dan Harris reported that in Ferguson on Saturday night, "the situation was anything but peaceful" as "one person [was] shot by another protester."

In the lead story for NBC Nightly News (8/17, lead story, 3:20, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported that on Saturday night in Ferguson, "a midnight curfew failed to clear the streets triggering a heavy police response, including smoke and tear gas." According to Holt, "The delicate and fast moving situation in the streets continues to out pace the investigation into the police shooting death of' Michael Brown, but "a probe is now working on multiple levels with the US Justice Department stepping forward today to order it's own autopsy on Brown." NBC's Ron Allen also reported that "many blame" the Ferguson police department's "decision to release...video surveillance tape showing Brown allegedly robbing a store before he was killed...for igniting an outburst of violence" over the weekend.

On the CBS Evening News (8/17, lead story, 3:20, Glor, 5.08M), Vladimir Duthiers reported that Captain Johnson had "promised the curfew would not be enforced with military-style tactics, but in an extraordinary 3 AM news conference, Johnson said, in this case, the use of force was justified." Johnson: "I tell you, we had a shooting victim in critical condition that may lose their life; we had someone standing in the middle of the road with a handgun; we had a police car shot at tonight."

On ABC World News (8/17, lead story, 3:15, Harris, 5.84M), Alex Perez reported that on Saturday, "a small army of police officers...in full riot gear confront[ed] a crowd of protesters out in defiance of that midnight curfew." Perez said the "critical point" was "when police learned that some in the crowd were armed and one person shot."

The AP (8/18) reports that "after several tumultuous nights, police tried to change their tactics" as Johnson "took command of security from local authorities and walked the streets side-by-side with the protesters," but "the festive atmosphere lasted only one night, and protests again turned violent during the weekend." Reuters (8/18, Wulfhorst) covers the events of Saturday night under the

headline, "Seven Arrests In Ferguson, Missouri, On First Night Of Curfew."

Private Autopsy Finds Brown Was Shot "At Least Six Times." In a front-page article, the New York Times (8/18, A1, Robles, Bosman, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that "a preliminary private autopsy performed on Sunday found" that Michael Brown "was shot at least six times, including twice in the head." The Times says Dr. Michael Baden, "the former chief medical examiner for the City of New York, who flew to Missouri on Sunday at the family's request to conduct the separate autopsy," concluded that "one of the bullets entered the top of Mr. Brown's skull, suggesting his head was bent forward when it struck him and caused a fatal injury." The Times notes that Attorney General Holder has said that the Justice Department "would conduct its own autopsy, in addition to the one performed by local officials and this private one."

On NBC Nightly News (8/17, story 2, 2:00, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported that "with so many questions surrounding exactly what happened in that fatal encounter between Michael Brown and that police officer, there are new calls for police officers to be equipped with body cameras."

Obama And Holder Reportedly Pushed For Changes In Police Tactics Last Week. On the CBS Evening News (8/17, story 2, 0:55, Glor, 5.08M), Major Garrett reported that during his vacation, President Obama has been "able to confer all the time he has been here in Martha's Vineyard face to face with the two most important administration officials dealing with the unrest in Missouri," Attorney General Holder and senior adviser Valerie Jarrett, who "has been conferring with civil rights leaders and Governor Nixon to have a less aggressive response" to the violence in the streets of Ferguson.

The Hill (8/17, Wong, 237K) reported that on CBS' Face The Nation, NAACP President Cornell William Brooks said that in regards to the situation in Ferguson, "The Attorney General has been very engaged, the president has been engaged." Brooks added, "I've received calls from the White House late at night, early in the morning."

Patrik Jonsson of the Christian Science Monitor (8/17, 566K) says Missouri Highway Patrol Captain Ron Johnson took command of security in Ferguson last Thursday "after President Obama complained to Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon about the local police's military approach." Jonsson adds that "two days of largely peaceful protests ended Friday night when looters...ransacked several stores" as "riot police were stationed far away," and "police officers on the scene did little to quell the looting."

In a front-page article titled, "Federal Authorities Wade Deeper Into Teen's Death," the Wall Street Journal (8/18, A1, Barrett, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that on Thursday, Attorney General Holder demanded that the police in Ferguson change their tactics. Holder is quoted as saying, "Tell them to remove the damn tanks."

The Washington Times (8/18, 465K) reported that on ABC's This Week, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon (D) maintained that "turning over control to the highway patrol – which has attempted to maintain order without resorting to military tactics – was the right decision." The Wall Street Journal (8/18, Kesling, Dolan, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that on CNN's State Of The Union, Nixon said, "We are trying to use the least amount of force to provide people the ability to speak while also protecting the property of the people of Ferguson."

The Huffington Post (8/17, 11.54M) reported that on Saturday, Rep. William Lacy Clay (D-MO), who represents Ferguson, said, "I have absolutely no confidence in the Ferguson police, the county prosecutor. We know we won't get a fair shake there." The Hill (8/17, Sullivan, 237K) reported that on NBC's Meet the Press, Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) said, "It is a shame and a disgrace that in a city that is almost 70 percent African-American, to have only 3 African-American police officers."

Former Missouri state senator Jeff Smith, in an op-ed for the New York Times (8/18, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) notes that as recently as 1990, Ferguson was "74 percent white and 25 percent black," but "by 2010, 67 percent black and 29 percent white." Smith also notes that in Ferguson in 2013, "86 percent of stops, 92 percent of searches and 93 percent of arrests were of black people."

Chris Cillizza of the Washington Post (8/18, Cillizza, 4.06M) says, "on one level," President

Obama's "decision to watch and wait on high-profile incidents in which race seemed to play a role makes perfect sense," but, "at the same time," the President "is caught between a genuine — and much-expressed — desire to use his unique experiences to move the country beyond its divisive racial past."

Nixon Decries Decision To Release Video Of Brown Robbing Store, Assaulting Clerk. TheHuffington Post (8/17, Siddiqui, 11.54M) reported that on ABC's This Week, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon (D) "criticized the Ferguson police for releasing a video allegedly showing Michael Brown robbing a convenience store" after "reportedly ignoring a request from the Justice Department not to." Nixon said, "We certainly were not happy with that being released, especially in the way that it was. It appeared to cast aspersions on a young man that was gunned down in the street. It made emotions raw."

Charles Blow, in his column for the New York Times (8/18, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), notes that the Ferguson police released the video of Brown robbing the store and assaulting the clerk at the same time that they released Officer's Wilson's name. According to Blow, "It's impossible to truly know the chief's motives for his decision to release the robbery information at the same time as the officer's name, but the effect was clear:...a fragile peace was shattered" and "there was more looting."

Highway Patrol Captain In Charge Of Ferguson Security Speaks At Rally. The Los Angeles Times (8/18, Serrano, Hennessy-Fiske, Hansen, 3.42M) reports that on Sunday, "at a rally in Ferguson, speakers including the Rev. Al Sharpton and Martin Luther King III sounded calls for the nation to respond constructively to the situation by addressing what Sharpton called the militarization of police." The Times notes that Missouri State Highway Patrol Captain Ronald Johnson "said at the rally that he met Saturday with some of Brown's relatives," who he said "brought tears to my eyes and shame to my heart."

Officer Who Shot Brown Is The Target Of Death Threats. ABC World News (8/17, story 2, 3:15, Harris, 5.84M) profiled Officer Darren Wilson, who says he shot Michael Brown last weekend after Brown assaulted him and tried to take his gun. Steve Osunsami reported that Wilson "is just 28-years-old," but "in February accept[ed] an award for 'extraordinary effort in the line of duty.'" Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson was shown saying Wilson "has been an excellent officer." Osunsami noted that the Ferguson Police are "still getting death threats daily from around the country, but now they're also getting calls of support and concern for" Wilson.

The Washington Post (8/18, Wax-Thibodeaux, Brown, 4.06M) reports that in addition to the rally for Brown in Ferguson, there was a church service on Sunday for those wishing to show support for Officer Darren Wilson. According to the Post, Wilson's supporters "said they had empathy for the family of the teenager the officer killed," but "also said they feared that they might be attacked by rioters at their church, because Southminster Presbyterian sits right behind the suburban home of Wilson."

NYTimes A1: Bipartisan Workforce Investment Act "Leaves Many Jobless And In Debt." In a front-page article titled, "Seeking New Start, Finding Steep Cost: Workforce Investment Act Leaves Many Jobless And In Debt," the New York Times (8/18, A1, Williams, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that "millions of unemployed Americans...have trained for new careers as part of the Workforce Investment Act, a $3.1 billion federal program that, in an unusual act of bipartisanship, was reauthorized by Congress last month with little public discussion about its effectiveness." However, according to the Times, "Many graduates wind up significantly worse off than when they started — mired in unemployment and debt from training for positions that do not exist, and they end up working elsewhere for minimum wage." The Times reports that in order to "avoid any appearance of favoritism, federal job counselors are not allowed to recommend schools to job seekers," which "leav[es] many of the unemployed to unwittingly select institutions that are expensive, have a history of legal trouble or are academically substandard."

Perez Touts Reports Showing Hiring Gains In Higher-Wage Sectors. According to a front-

page story in the Washington Post (8/18, A1, Mui, 4.06M), "The recovery in America's job market is finally spreading to industries with good pay after years of being concentrated in fields with low wages." The Post notes that "hiring has picked up steam in areas such as construction, manufacturing and professional services...sectors with a median hourly wage of at least $20," and "nearly 40 percent of the jobs created over the past six months have been in high-wage industries, compared with just a quarter during the last half of 2013." Labor Secretary Perez is quoted as saying, "I often hear that the recovery is only in low-wage jobs. That is categorically inaccurate. ... This recovery is creating a lot of good jobs."

Labor Department's Weil Criticizes US Corporations' Reliance On Contractors. USA Today(8/18, Guynn, 5.76M) reports on "a new and growing underclass who work at some of the world's wealthiest companies." USA Today says "US companies under growing pressure from Wall Street to deliver higher returns have outsourced jobs such as janitors and security officers to drive down labor costs." David Weil of the US Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division says "that nationwide trend has led to falling wages, eroding health and safety conditions and a lower standard of living for these workers."

WSJournal A1: Small-Business Lending Has Yet To Recover From Recession. Under the front-page headline, "Small-Business Lending Is Slow To Recover: Lending Remains Far Below Pre-Recession Levels; Things 'Aren't What They Used to Be,'" the Wall Street Journal (8/18, A1, Simon, Loten, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that according to the FDIC, total small-business lending is still 18% less than what it was in 2008 before the financial crisis, although commercial lending in general is up 9% in that same time.

Yellen Doesn't See Urgent Need To Raise Interest Rates. The Wall Street Journal (8/18, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that a number of economists fear the economy is growing prone to overheating, and want the Federal Reserve to hike interest rates sooner rather than later. The Journal indicates some Fed officials back that view, but most (including Chairwoman Janet Yellen) believe economic data (including wages and prices) do not presage inflation is an immediate concern.

Editorial Wrap-Up

Wall Street Journal. ***"Texas Chainsaw Prosecution."*** The Wall Street Journal (8/18, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, says the decision to indict Perry for threatening to veto legislation is a clear case of prosecutorial overreach.

"Spies Like Us." The Wall Street Journal (8/18, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, notes that it has been reported that the German government tapped phone calls made by US officials, including Secretary of State Kerry, and his predecessor, Hillary Clinton. The Journal says the revelation undermines the widespread outrage expressed by Germans after it became known, via Edward Snowden's leaks, that the NSA had spied on Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"Hacking Victims Become Federal Targets." The Wall Street Journal (8/18, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorializes about a claim by the Federal Trade Commission that a data security breach at Wyndham Hotels provided the agency with the authority to oversee the company's IT operations. The Journal points to this as another effort by the Obama Administration to use loosely written laws in ways unintended by Congress. The Journal notes that the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals is considering Wyndham's challenge to the FTC, and urges the court to rule in favor of the company.

Washington Post. ***"Democrat? Republican? There's An App For That."*** In an editorial, theWashington Post (8/17, 4.06M) notes the new smartphone app BuyPartisan, which "accesses campaign finance data and offers a breakdown of" a product "manufacturer's political giving." The app "would take the nation's ideological sorting to a new level," and the Post hopes it "fails."

"A Damaging Waiver." The Washington Post (8/18, 4.06M) writes in an editorial the "the 'coup clause,' which mandates foreign aid suspension to countries after a military takeover, has long been

among the strongest foreign affairs legislation passed by Congress precisely because no such waiver exists for it." However, "the House Appropriations Committee passed a bill that would allow aid resumption if the 'provision of assistance is vital to the national security interests of the United States"' – as defined by the Executive Branch. Congress, concludes the Post, "should reject this waiver and insist on maintaining discipline over the United States' foreign policy."

"The Real Ebola Threat." The Washington Post (8/18, 4.06M) editorializes that "some of the reactions" to the Ebola outbreak "have been tinged with hysteria," and "it is time to get sober, fast," because controlling the epidemic is "very much in the hand of humans" and "the inadequacy of current efforts to stop the disease is becoming increasingly clear. ... Either the world mobilizes now, or the next fight against the disease will be even more frightening."

New York Times. ***"Europe's Recurring Malaise."*** The New York Times (8/18, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that the EU's disappearing economic growth "is an entirely predictable outcome of the misguided policies that European leaders stubbornly insist on pursuing, despite all evidence that they are exactly the wrong medicine." Namely, the Times criticizes the EU's, "insistence, led by Germany, that governments reduce their deficits by cutting spending and raising taxes," and the European Central Bank's "slow and timid" efforts to lower interest rates and buy bonds.

"A Critical New Role For The World Bank." The New York Times (8/18, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that a Federal trial in Brooklyn "is focusing anew on illicit money flows," and notes that up to now, Federal probes "have targeted European banks that laundered dirty money into dollars for drug cartels," The Brooklyn case "involves a bank headquartered in Jordan, called Arab Bank, which plaintiffs say handled transactions for people or organizations it knew were linked to terrorist attacks from 2001 to 2004," and the case "is already reverberating through the banking industry – and not in ways that would make the world a better place." Bank attorneys "say that developments in the case could reinforce an unfortunate trend: the departure of several banks from the business of arranging remittances for immigrant workers, on the ground that the legal risk of inadvertently handling dirty money has become too high." The Times argues that the World Bank "can broadly transform remittances," and "should do so quickly."

"The Verdict On A Troublesome Carcinogen." In an editorial, the New York Times (8/18, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) notes that "formaldehyde, a substance widely used in consumer products and industrial processes, has been authoritatively judged a carcinogen despite the best efforts of the chemical industry to confuse the issue." In fact, "the chemical is still found in nail polish, shampoo, soap, fabric softeners, hair straighteners, carpets and other consumer products," even as "many" companies "are yielding to consumer demands that carcinogens and other toxic chemicals be taken out."

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Los Angeles Times:
Bombs Give Kurds Boost At Dam
UC Is Flush With Out-Of-Staters
"High Intensity" Fight
Ban On Donating Blood Riles Gays
Designing Healing Spaces

Wall Street Journal:
Autopsy Finds 6 Shots Killed Teen
Kurds, With US Aid, Push To Take Mosul Dam

Small-Business Lending Is Slow To Recover
Big Investors Snap Up Junk Bonds

New York Times:
Autopsy Shows Michael Brown Was Struck At Least 6 Times
Violence Flares In Ferguson After Appeals For Harmony
Treatment In Us Is Rare Chance To Study Ebola
Workforce Investment Act Leaves Many Jobless And In Debt
War Leaves Another Crisis For Displaced Gazans
For Jumper, Renewed Debate Over Athletic Versus Prosthetic

Washington Post:
West's Historic Drought Stokes Fears Of Water Crisis
With US Help, Iraqis Are Close To Retaking Dam
Justice Dept Steps Up Role In Ferguson
Food Additives On The Rise As FDA Scrutiny Wanes
Beaten Down By Recession, Jobs With Better Pay Stage Comeback

Financial Times:
Fed Blow To Banks Over 'Living Wills'
Americans Cling To Dream Of Equality
Ukraine Claims Breakthrough In East

Washington Times:
Added Intrigue Clouds Battle Of Perry And Texas Prosecutor
Terror In Iraq Tests Obama's War Promises
Pope Francis Reaches Out To China, North Korea
No Longer Outgunned, Police Undertrained
Bush Critics And Foreign Policy Not So Simple

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Missouri Teen Shooting; Missouri Teen Shooting-Shooter Profile; Iraq-US Airstrikes; New York-Kidnapped Amish Girls Returned; Severe Weather; Rick Perry-Indictment; Gas Thieves; President Obama-Emmy.
CBS: Missouri Teen Shooting-Protests; President Obama-Ferguson Meetings; Iraq-Prime Minister Resigns; Iraq-US Air Strikes; Ebola Outbreak-Liberia Quarantine; Pope Francis-Asia Trip; Plane Stowaway Released; Hikers-Emergency Rescues; ALS-Ice Challenge.
NBC: Missouri Teen Shooting-Protests; Missouri Teen Shooting-Police Body Cameras; Iraq-US Air Strikes; Iraq-US Involvement; Middle East Cease Fire; NCAA-Notre Dame Cheating Scandal; Veterans-Poverty; Pope Francis-Asia Trip.

Network TV At A Glance:
Missouri Teen Shot-Backlash – 16 minutes, 15 seconds
Iraq-US Air Strikes – 8 minutes, 25 seconds
Pope-Asia Trip – 4 minutes, 00 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
CBS: Missouri Teen Shot-Protests; Michael Brown-Autopsy; California Wildfire; Ebola Outbreak-Liberia Looting; Iraq-US Involvement; Ukraine-Russian Presence.
NPR: Missouri Teen Shot-Protests; Iraq-US Involvement; Ebola Outbreak-Liberia; UN-Afghan

Children Malnutrition; Union Pacific Train Fire; Boone Allen Light Station-Government Sale.
FOX: Missouri Teen Shot-Protests; Michael Brown-Autopsy; Ebola Outbreak-Liberia; Obama-Crisis Meetings.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No scheduled events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.

US Senate: The Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8.

US House: The House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "Recess."

Other: Aug. 17 – 19. ALCOHOL INTERLOCK SYMPOSIUM — The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) hosts the 14th Alcohol Interlock Symposium. The theme of this year's event is Alcohol Interlocks: Managing Risk and Behavior Change. Sessions will involve a mixture of panel presentations and discussion groups. Attendees include practitioners and vendors from North America, the European Union, South Africa, the Philippines and Japan. 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Opening remarks by David Friedman, acting administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and Dr. Doug Marlowe, chief of science, policy and law, National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). 11:35 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. Debbie Weir, CEO, Mothers Against Drunk Driving talks about MADD's past and present initiatives. Location: Dupont Circle Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Ave. NW.

REAKFAST FOR LEARNING – CONFERENCE CALL — 1 p.m. The Breakfast for Education Alliance hosts a conference call with USDA Under Secretary Kevin Concannon and others to talk about efforts to increase the number of children eating school breakfast.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, the President is still on vacation. A lot of people were very unhappy about this, given everything that's going on right now. But a new report shows that George W. Bush went on vacation 349 days during the same period of his presidency, while Obama has only gone on vacation 129 days. While most Americans are like, 'Yeah, yeah, that's still way too much vacation.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Tue, Apr 16, 2013 at 7:03 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SALLY JEWELL BEGINS WORK AS INTERIOR SECRETARY. The E&P Magazine (4/16) reports, "Sally Jewell, the 51st secretary of the US Department of Interior, spent her first full day meeting employees and holding meetings issues before the department, including energy development, conservation, Indian affairs, and youth engagement, a news release stated."

For the "Goat" blog of the High Country (CO) News (4/16, Peterson, 25K), Jodi Peterson writes that "longer-term," Jewell's "got a lot on her plate already: the BLM's new proposal for tightening regulations on fracking and horizontal drilling on public lands has been met with accusations of industry pandering." Also, "she's gotten letters from green groups asking her to push through a conservation plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and to put a moratorium on coal mining in Wyoming's Powder River Basin." And "the final decision about building a road through Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge will be hers to make (Alaskan Sen. Lisa Murkowski wants the road and is the top Republican on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee that funds Jewell's agency)." Finally, "she'll be overseeing the controversial decision to possibly list the sage grouse as endangered (which, of course, could have major impacts on energy development in the West)."

Jewell Tweets Enthusiasm For Job. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (4/16, Geman, 21K) reports, "New Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is tweeting about her enthusiasm for the job during her first full day at work." According to

the article, "Jewell said Monday on the social media site Twitter that she's 'honored & humbled' and 'ready to get to work on behalf of all Americans.'" The article notes that "in contrast, her predecessor Ken Salazar didn't tweet as secretary until late into his four-year tenure, which ended Friday."

Politico (4/16, Slack, 25K) reprints Jewell's tweets.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SEEK HALT TO NEW POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL MINING. The AP (4/16) reports, "Environmental groups are calling for a moratorium on coal leasing in the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming until the federal government reviews the program." The article notes that "representatives of 21 groups including Greenpeace and the Sierra Club requested the moratorium Monday in a letter to newly-confirmed Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." According to the article, "as companies seek to ramp up coal exports, the environmentalists say the government needs to make sure companies are paying proper royalties," and "they also want more attention given to the climate change impacts of greenhouse gasses emitted when coal is burned."

The Billings (MT) Gazette (4/16, 39K) reports, "An Interior official confirmed that the department had received and was reviewing the letter Monday, but declined to comment." Meanwhile, "a representative of the Powder River Basin Resource Council said Monday that her group has for years backed the slowing of coal leasing to ensure better reclamation of mine sites." On the other hand, "the director of the mining industry trade group in Wyoming called the letter 'disappointing' and said a moratorium would be damaging to a major Wyoming industry." Also reporting on the story are the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (4/16, 22K), The Missoulian (4/16, 26K), the Ravalli (MT) Republic (4/16, 5K), the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (4/16, 16K), The Oregonian (4/16, 237K), the St. Louis Business Journal (4/16, Weiderman, Subscription Publication), Yahoo! (4/16) , and the Climate Progress (4/15, Koronowski).

MEETINGS BETWEEN WHITE HOUSE, INDUSTRY ON FRACKING REGULATIONS CONCERN ENVIRONMENTALISTS. Politico (4/16, Buford, 25K) reports on meetings between the White House and the oil and gas industry that have some environmentalists concerned Federal fracking guidelines may be too lax. Politico notes that the Interior Department has yet to release new official draft regulations, and as of Friday was declining "to comment on the environmental groups' complaints." However, Politico notes that since January when the first draft was released, there have been 10 meetings at the White House Office of Budget and Management. Of those, three have included environmental groups, two Native American tribes, and five oil and gas industry representatives "from trade groups such as the American Petroleum Institute, America's Natural Gas Alliance and the Independent Petroleum Association of America, as well as companies like ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, Devon Energy, Shell, BP, Halliburton and Anadarko Petroleum Corp."

SALAZAR CALLS COLORADO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION HIS KEYSTONE WATER ACHIEVEMENT. The National Geographic (4/15, 4.49M) reports, "Departing Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar shared a few thoughts at his exit ceremony about the keystone accomplishments of his four years and three months in office, and called out restoration of the Colorado River Delta as his signature achievement in water management." Sakazar said: "The fourth keystone I spoke to the President about [in Chicago when he asked me to join his cabinet] was working on water issues. I won't spend a lot of time on that other than to say that on the Colorado River between the nation of Mexico and the United States we were able to put together what essentially is the most important agreement that has ever been put together between the United States and Mexico on water in the Colorado River. You will see a restoration of the Colorado River on the Mexican side of the border. You will also see water sharing arrangements and a whole host of other things. And for that I give [Commissioner of Reclamation] Mike Connor great recognition and [Assistant Secretary for Science and Water] Anne Castle because they have led that effort on behalf of the United States of America."

FWS SUPPORTS IDAHO'S SAGE GROUSE STRATEGY. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (4/16, Dumas, 38K) reports, "With prompting from Sen. Jim Risch, the US Fish and Wildlife Service sent a letter of concurrence last week to Idaho Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter in support of the state's greater sage grouse conservation strategy." The article notes that "Risch, R-Idaho, had put a hold on the nomination of Sally Jewel to become secretary of the Interior until that letter was received, said Brad Hoaglun, Risch's director of communications and senior policy adviser." According to Risch, "his hold on Jewell's nomination was to get a commitment from the Department of the Interior to follow the best science available and support the collaborative effort that has been taking place to protect sage grouse in Idaho."

REP. BISHOP SEEKS COMMON GROUND ON PUBLIC LANDS. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (4/16, Burr, 107K) reports, "Tired of the gridlock over how to manage federal lands, Rep. Rob Bishop is attempting to bring together all sides of the issue to find common ground to either preserve or drill." Bishop "is one of Congress' top cheerleaders for oil and gas development and a dogged critic of environmentalists - but he says it's time to tone down the rhetoric and seize on a change at the Interior Department to get beyond the bitter feud in the public-lands debate." He "has invited energy companies, green groups, local officials and other interested parties to submit their plans for what they want to get done and hopes to craft legislation to bring up later this year."

NATIVE LEADERS CRITICAL OF OBAMA'S PROPOSED BUDGET. The Indian Country Today Media Network (4/15, Capriccioso) reports, "Concerned Indian country leaders are saying that President Barack Obama, in his proposed budget for 2014, is not doing as strong a job at upholding the nation's trust responsibility to American Indians as he has promised," as the budget would "dramatically shrink his support for Indian programs in some key areas, including reductions in contract support services, education and school construction cuts, and spending on low-income housing." Meanwhile, "the White House has been hesitant to single out Indian programs for protection in its budget process and in the current budget sequester."

Writer Praises President's Budget. In an op-ed on the Indian Country Today Media Network (4/15), writer Mark Trahant, a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, wrote that the proposed budget "would significantly shift resources, adding money to important programs, and protecting much of Indian country from government contraction." He cited the increased budget request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, "law enforcement, police, courts, and expanded domestic violence services," along with trust management, and real estate. While Trahand believes education and healthcare for natives need more money than requested, he notes that the amounts are greater than last year's.

Continuing Coverage Of Budget Proposal. Additional coverage of President Obama's budget proposal was provided by the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (4/15, Berwyn) and the Sierra (CA) Sun Times (4/16).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF SEQUESTER. The DCist (4/16) reports, "The National Park Service is considering cutting late-night ranger and bathroom hours, reports WTOP, though the proposed cuts are unrelated to sequestration: Currently, ranger stations and nearby restrooms are open until almost 11:30 p.m. or midnight." The NPS "is contemplating closing those facilities at 10 p.m." Also reporting on the story is WTOP-FM Washington (4/16, Augenstein).

Yellowstone National Park. The West Yellowstone (MT) News (4/16, Tumbleson, 1K) reports, "Roads from Yellowstone's West Entrance in West Yellowstone and Mammoth Hot Springs to Old Faithful will open as originally scheduled this Friday, April 19." Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash said, "We were able to open the roads, We started later than normal on clearing the road segments from Mammoth to Old Faithful. We were able to take advantage of some of the better weather conditions and we had a somewhat lighter snowpack to chew through."

Shenandoah National Park. WHSV-TV Harrisonburg-Shenandoah, VA (4/16), "Shenandoah National Park leaders are pushing back opening dates for some seasonal activities." According to the article, "a spokeswoman from Shenandoah National Park said pushing back starting dates on spring activities will delay paying seasonal employees, utilities involved in running facilities and even paying sanitation to clean up at the park."

Hyatt Lake. The Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (4/15, Miller, 35K) reports, "Federal budget uncertainties will keep the campground and docks at Hyatt Lake closed until mid-May, officials from the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management said today."

Minute Man National Historical Park. WBUR-FM Boston (4/15, Gellerman) reports on the sequester's impact on Minute Man National Historical Park.

Timber Payments. FOX News (4/15, Springer) reports on the sequester's impact on timber payments.

CONSERVATION TOUTED AS BOOSTING TOURISM. For the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (4/16, White, Stanton-masten, Amelia, Beteta, 21K), Al White, director of the Colorado Tourism Office, Louise Stanton-

Masten, executive director of the Washington Tourism Alliance, Margot Amelia, executive director of the Maryland Office of Tourism Development, and Caroline Beteta, president and CEO of Visit California and deputy secretary of Tourism, write that the new national monuments will boost tourism. They note that "research shows that protected public lands like national parks, monuments, and wilderness areas provide a quality of life that lures entrepreneurs and skilled talent to our communities." The yclaims that "when policy-makers put conservation on equal ground with development and tourism marketing investments, our communities and our economies benefit."

In an op-ed for the Philly.com (4/16, Fitzpatrick, Garber, Marshall), U.S. Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Adam Garber, the field director for PennEnvironment, and Jeff Marshall, president of the Heritage Conservancy, write, "Without the help of one national program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, many of these places would have been polluted or lost to development." They note that "since that first year, however, in good budget times and bad, Congress has raided the fund for nonconservation programs," which "has caused us to miss out on opportunities to protect our parks and open spaces from new threats." They write that "we can change this by stopping the raids on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and ensuring that it is used to protect our precious assets."

CONGRESSMAN URGES REVIEW OF ENERGY POLICY. In an op-ed for the Morristown (NJ) Daily Record (4/14, Frelinghuysen, 23K), Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen writes, "We need a new direction in energy policy that increases the supply, security and diversity of American energy and puts real alternative and renewable fuels in the hands of consumers at lower cost." For instance, he claims that "we have domestic reserves, but far too many are placed 'off-limits' by the regulatory policies of our own EPA and Interior Department." Frelinghuysen argues that "bureaucrats need to 'get out of the way' and allow development of new American-produced oil, natural gas and a modernized energy infrastructure such as construction of the Keystone XL pipeline." He also argues that "renewables, such as solar and wind, need encouragement without the government picking 'winners' and 'losers.'"

US ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROJECTIONS SIGNIFICANTLY VARY WITH ASSUMPTIONS. Emily Pickrell writes on FuelFix (4/15) that while "experts unanimously agree that the United States' ability to supply its own energy needs is growing," the degree to which is will be self-sufficient is in question. The US Energy Information Administration's supplements to its Energy Outlook 2013, issued on Monday, "show how assumptions on such as the growth of labor, the amount of capital invested and availability of tax credits could shape supply and demand for different forms of energy decades down the road." Jonathan Cogan, an analyst at the US Energy Information Administration, said, "If you change assumptions about key factors, it can have a very significant impact on the long term projections." Experts unanimously agree that the United States' ability to supply its own energy needs is growing, but how self-sufficient it will be in the next decade or two is still up for debate.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

JUDGE AGREES WITH PSYCHOLOGISTS THAT OHIO BOMB PLOT SUSPECT IS FIT FOR TRIAL. The AP (4/15) reports from Akron, OH, "The last of five bridge bomb-plotting suspects is mentally competent to stand trial, a judge ruled Monday after hearing testimony on the man's two-decade history of mental health issues." US District Court Judge David Dowd "ruled that 23-year-old Joshua Stafford of Cleveland is able to assist in his defense," and he "set a Thursday hearing on trial arrangements." Judge Dowd "ruled after hearing from psychologists who said Stafford is suicidal, depressed and wary of a dangerous world but able to assist in his defense."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM ALLOWS DISCOVERY CHANNEL'S "MYTHBUSTERS" TO FILM IN MOAB. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (4/16, 23K) reports, "The US Bureau of Land Management has given the science- and thrill-based television show 'Mythbusters' permission to film an upcoming episode in Utah's Desolation Canyon." The article notes that "officials for the popular show on the Discovery Channel won't discuss the 'myth' they are out to prove or bust." However, the Deseret News reports "that BLM documents indicate the project will involve duct tape and

bubble wrap."

Also reporting on the story are the Deseret (UT) News (4/16, O'Donoghue, 105K), the Provo (UT) Daily Herald (4/16, 25K), and the Ogden (UT) Standard Examiner (4/15, 63K).

AGREEMENT ALLOWS BETTER COOPERATION FOR HIGHWAY PROJECTS. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (4/16, 22K) reports, "One state agency and two federal agencies announced Monday a new agreement that should open the door for better cooperation in roads projects." According to a news release, "a memorandum of understanding was signed Monday to resolve 'longstanding problems concerning the transfer of federal lands and mineral interest for Federal Aid Highway Projects.'" The article notes that "these problems stemmed from inconsistencies between various US Bureau of Land Management districts and field offices in processing federal land-transfer requests, in addition to inconsistencies with federal regulations, according to a New Mexico Department of Transportation news release."

BLM INCREASES FEES ALONG UPPER COLORADO RIVER. The Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (4/16, Berwyn) reports, "Boaters, hikers and anglers will pay just a bit more to use Bureau of Land Management day use areas along the upper Colorado River between Pumphouse and Dotsero." The article notes that "the daily fee is jumping from $3 to $5 and season passes are climbing from $15 to $20 in the first fee increase since 1998 for the popular area, used by about 60,000 people annually."

BALANCED SOLUTION SOUGHT FOR OREGON'S FORESTS. In an op-ed for the Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (4/16, Montgomery, 52K), David Montgomery, president of Montgomery Timber Management, writes, "Oregonians can't afford another 20 years of gridlock and extremism in our federal forests." Montogomery says that "it's time for our leaders at all levels to travel down the middle road and achieve a balanced solution."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE TO APPEAR ON "ANTIQUES ROADSHOW". The AllAfrica.com (4/16) reports, "The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is taking to the airwaves to educate Americans about the ongoing rhino crisis and the need to be vigilant in ensuring that they not buy products containing parts from endangered wildlife." According to the article, "for the April 15 broadcast of the popular Public Broadcasting Service program Antiques Roadshow, there will be a segment that features the series host Mark L. Walberg, appraiser Lark Mason, and USFWS Director Dan Ashe on a visit to the Cincinnati Zoo to discuss the history of the rhino crisis and how it relates to the antiques trade." Ashe said, "We want to get the message out about protections for wildlife. People don't always think about this issue in terms of the antiques and collectibles that they own, buy, or sell. Anything that creates a demand for products made from endangered species can be bad news for survival of the animal in the wild."

UNWANTED ANIMALS LEFT AT WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Oklahoman (4/16, 127K) reports, "It's tough enough for US Fish & Wildlife Service to manage the animals they have at" Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. However, "additional animals dumped on the refuge by those who do not want them makes the task more difficult." According to refuge officials, "unwanted animals - six horses and two donkeys - have been left on refuge land in three separate incidents."

PASSPORT SYSTEM FOR INSTRUMENTS PROPOSED. For the miPRO (4/16), Gary Cooper writes, "Musicians traveling with instruments made from allegedly endangered materials, including rosewood, ebony, ivory and abalone, will need to obtain separate 'passports' for each instrument, following a recent decision at the UN-organized CITES convention, held in Bangkok, Thailand." He notes that "the passport proposal, initiated by US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, seeks to replace the existing system with a single internationally recognized passport." Cooper discusses how the proposed passports for instruments system "could effect the industry."

US Geological Survey:

HEALTH OF EASTERN SNAKE AQUIFER TO BE ANALYZED. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (4/16, Ellis, 38K) reports, "US Geological Survey and Idaho Department of Water Resources officials are asking for landowners'

cooperation as they measure groundwater levels in more than 1,300 private and public wells throughout the eastern Snake River Plain in southern Idaho." The article notes that "the data will be used in a variety of ways, including to measure water levels in different areas, determine flow directions and to continue improving the IDWR's computer model of the aquifer."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ONLINE PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD ON BRIGHTSOURCE ENERGY'S PALEN SOLAR PROJECT. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (4/15, Kaufmann, 33K) reports, "The California Energy Commission will hold an online public meeting on BrightSource Energy's Palen solar project at 10 a.m. Wednesday." The article notes that "BrightSource bought the project last year from bankrupt Solar Trust of America, which had originally planned to use a different type of solar thermal technology - parabolic troughs - that concentrate sunlight and heat liquid running through tubes in the troughs." According to the article, "the project had won approval from the Energy Commission, but the change in technology has meant the original approval must be amended." The BLM "must also approve the project, which it had not done before the Solar Trust bankruptcy."

IRS COMPLETES RULES THAT DEFINE HOW WIND FARMS CAN QUALIFY FOR TAX BREAKS. Bloomberg News (4/16, Rubin, Martin) reports the IRS "completed rules today that define how wind-farm developers can qualify for tax breaks." The article says that under "a law signed by President Barack Obama in January, wind projects must begin construction by Dec. 31 to qualify for the production tax credit." Amy Grace, an industry analyst at Bloomberg New Energy Finance in New York, says "the ruling sets the stage for a rebound in wind energy in the second half of this year as developers rush to meet the new requirements."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM REVEALS NORTH FORK VALLEY LEASE NOMINATOR NAMES. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (4/16, Webb, 23K) reports, "The Bureau of Land Management today revealed the names of companies that nominated oil and gas leases in the North Fork Valley after deciding not to appeal a judge's order." The article notes that "the groups behind the lawsuit say the BLM's decision not to appeal is a big victory for transparency, while the Western Energy Alliance industry group expressed disappointment in it, and in US District Court Senior Judge Richard Matsch's decision last week to not let it intervene in the lawsuit in hopes of challenging his ruling." But "the nominator of most of the 30,000 acres turned out to be a Denver company that acquires leases on behalf of others rather than developing them itself," which "means activists have fallen short in their goal of determining who ultimately may have an interest in developing those leases."

Also reporting on the story is the Ventura County (CA) Star (4/15, 56K) and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (4/16, 114K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BP MANAGER TESTIFIES ABOUT FRUSTRATIONS AT LAST-MINUTE PROJECT CHANGES DURING DEEPWATER HORIZON TRIAL. The AP (4/16, Kunzelman) reports that on Monday during the ongoing Deepwater Horizon spill trial in New Orleans, the BP wells team leader for the Deepwater Horizon project John Guide testified. He said "he was frustrated by last-minute changes to the drilling project, but didn't have any safety concerns before the deadly blast." Guide was the supervisor of "two rig managers who have been indicted on manslaughter charges in the deaths of 11 workers" during the rig explosion. In an email sent three days prior to the blowout of the Macondo well, "Guide complained about last-minute changes and warned his boss, David Sims, that the operation wouldn't succeed if it continued 'in this manner.'" The email described operations as "flying by the seat of our pants." Despite plaintiffs' attorneys argument the email demonstrates "BP sacrificed safety" in the project, Monday guide said the concerns he'd been expressing in that email weren't related to safety.

Bloomberg News (4/16, Johnson, Feeley, Calkins) notes that in additional comments during his testimony

Monday, Guide told US District Judge Carl Barbier, "I don't think I did anything to cause the blowout." He also maintained, "I don't think I could have done anything different." The New Orleans Times-Picayune (4/16, Thompson, 130K) also covers the story.

OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION IN CUBAN WATERS IN DOUBT. The South Florida Business Journal (4/16, Subscription Publication) reports that in recent months speculation has grown over whether the quest for offshore exploration off Cuba's coast has ended. In a Monday report in the Sun Sentinel, the paper suggested "major companies have abandoned their search." Meanwhile, last November a National Geographic report indicated there were "continuing possibilities of oil exploration." In both instances, a "lack of foreign investment" is described as severely hampering any potential offshore exploration that may occur.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

FEDERAL WILDLIFE AGENCIES CONCERNED ABOUT WATER DIVERSION TUNNELS PLAN. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (4/15, Weiser, 202K) reported, "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service praised Gov. Jerry Brown's administration for making progress on many concerns" about the two giant water diversion tunnels proposed in the Delta, but they added that "the Bay Delta Conservation Plan still presents a number of major concerns, some of which they labeled 'critical.'" Areas of concern include the potential for the tunnels to "cause extinction of winter-run chinook salmon, an endangered species in the Sacramento River." Additionally, the "water diversions may leave insuffient flow in the Sacramento River, under some conditions, to facilitate fish migration - and may even cause river flow to reverse in some situations."

Columnist Calls For Brown To Work On Water Bonds. George Skelton, in a column in the Los Angeles Times (4/16, Skelton, 692K), criticizes California Gov. Jerry Brown's "thumb-twiddling and navel-staring over" on water bonds needed for his "ambitious re-plumbing of the delta that would complete and modernize the California Water Project." The bonds will be "dead without a substantial pork paring," and people are "waiting for the governor to decide how he wants to reshape the bond." Meanwhile, San Luis didn't get as much water over the winter because the pumps hurt fish, and farmers argue that the trucks hauling the soil from the proposed tunnels for the water project will ruin their area. Selton calls for Brown to "engage legislators and shrink the bond - maybe the proposed tunnels too. Fix the pumps so they're fish-friendly. And move at Mach speed."

Official Lauds Water Diversion Plan. In an op-ed in the Sacramento (CA) Bee (4/14, 202K), deputy secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency Jerry Meral wrote that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan will make the state's "water supplies safer and more secure," avoid the "devastating economic impacts of a natural disaster," restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's ecology, "and enhance Delta communities." He argued that the project will not hurt the water rights of others or take up water meant to help fish species. Meral added that the state will continue to maintain local levees but added that the levees protecting the Delta islands will inevitably fail and so additional money shouldn't be spent on them.

California Called To Ease Distrust Of Plan. In an op-ed in the Sacramento (CA) Bee (4/14, 202K), professor Gregory S. Weber of the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law wrote that a "critical" part "missing from the efforts to 'fix' the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta" is addressing "one of the Delta's most fundamental problems: gut-level mistrust among key stakeholders." This distrust causes "huge costs" through greater uncertainty, litigation, and blocked solutions. The distrust could be overcome by "a transparent and inclusive process that attempted to develop constitutional-level assurances." If, given the short time that cannot be done, "then solutions need to be found that do not depend upon trust, but focus on legally binding assurances on" how the diversion will operate during dry years "and what levels of diversion will otherwise be permitted."

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO REHABILITATE GENERATORS AT GRAND COULEE DAM. The Renewable Energy World (4/16, Vick) reports, "The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, plant owner and operator, has spent several years planning" the needed "significant rehabilitation" of the six units of the Grand Coulee Dam's Third Power Plant. "Work on the overhaul of three of the six units will commence in March 2013 and is scheduled to be complete in September 2017," while the other three will be worked on starting "in January 2018 and be completed in December 2022."

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBES SEEK TO MINIMIZE LEGAL CONFLICT WHILE SEEKING RECLAMATION OF LANDS. The Coos Bay (OR) World (4/16, Moriarty, 11K) reports the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, "hope to minimize legal conflict and maximize utility in lands sought for reclamation from the federal government." At the first of three meetings "scheduled by the tribes to discuss proposed legislation that would return more than 14,000 acres of the much larger area taken from the tribes in the 1800s," Howard Crombie, natural resources director for the Confederated Tribes, said that they "had tried to identify federal lands that fell outside marbled murrelet and spotted owl habitat." Additionally, "Tribal Chairman Bob Garcia said the tribes are merely seeking compensation for lands lost to the U.S. government under an 1855 treaty."

MINNESOTA COURT REVIVES DULUTH SUIT AGAINST TRIBE. The Duluth (MN) News Tribune (4/16, 43K) reports the Minnesota Court of Appeals "has steeled the Duluth city administration's resolve to block the growth of Indian lands in its downtown, at least temporarily." The court revived the city's suit against "the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, claiming a breach of contract when the tribe took its first steps to expand the physical size of a downtown reservation that's also home to the Fond-Du-Luth Casino." However, "Tribal Chairwoman Karen Diver has maintained that the band has no immediate plans for the property" the tribe bought next to its reservation.

DISPUTE OVER SPIRIT LAKE SIOUX CHAIRMANSHIP. The Grand Forks (ND) Herald (4/16, Haga, 27K) reports elders and others opposed to Spirit Lake Sioux Chairman Roger Yankton Sr. held a ceremony swearing in Leander (Russ) McDonald as chairman, but Darren Walking Eagle, the tribe's chief administrative officer and second in command to the chairman, "said Yankton remained in charge and the attempted takeover was illegal." An emergency general assembly meeting on Sunday voted "to seek Yankton's removal as chairman," 114-3 and elected Yankton in his place. However, Walking Eagle said "that the tribe's constitution provides that members may remove a tribal official only by petitioning for a vote." Meanwhile, "Clarice Brownshield, a Tribal Council member recently suspended by Yankton, on Wednesday accused him of corruption and said she had turned over documents to the FBI. "

WPOST, NYTIMES URGE HIGH COURT TO WEIGH IN ON NATIVE AMERICAN CUSTODY CASE. The Washington Post (4/16, 489K) editorializes about a "wrenching" custody case that the Supreme Court will hear today between a South Carolina couple who adopted a girl, and the girl's father, who is part Native American and gained custody of the girl under the Indian Child Welfare Act, which restricts adoptions of Native American children. The Post argues that in restricting adoptions under the act, Congress intended "to prevent the forcible breakup of Native American families, a shameful past practice," but adds that lawmakers "surely did not mean to protect the rights of Native American biological parents to the point that a child's unwed, absent father can undo an adoption that her biological mother and legal custodian determined to be in her best interests, merely because she has a drop of Native American blood in her," and urges Congress to amend the law should the court rule in the father's favor.

The New York Times (4/16, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) editorializes that under the laws of both Oklahoma, "where the biological mother lives," and South Carolina, where the adoptive couple lives, "a biological father is not allowed to intervene in an adoption once he has given up his parental rights." The Times argues that in cases like this, "it makes little sense to allow a biological father who was not in the picture from surfacing belatedly and vetoing an adoption that would be in the best interests of the child."

Top National News:

OBAMA VOWS TO FIND PERPETRATOR OF BOSTON MARATHON ATTACK. The detonation of two bombs at the Boston Marathon, which killed at least three people and injured more than 140, dominated the news cycle after the news broke Monday afternoon. All three networks, for example, devoted extended broadcasts to coverage of the attack. Lacking specific information on the perpetrator or motivation for the attack, the great majority of both TV and print coverage emphasizes the aftermath of the bombing and the treatment of victims.

President Obama's avoidance of the terms "terrorist" or "terrorism" in his remarks to the nation about the attack sparked a great deal of commentary, although many outlets are reporting that White House officials privately acknowledge that the bombing has all the hallmarks of a terrorist attack, and that the President chose his words

merely out of an abundance of caution.

USA Today (4/16, Madhani, Singer, 1.71M) reports that in his address, the President "vowed...to get to the bottom of who is behind" the attack in Boston earlier Monday, "but warned Americans not jump to any conclusions." However, the Wall Street Journal (4/16, Levitz, Helliker, Germano, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), after noting that the President had declined to identify the attackers as terrorists, reports that just afterward, an unidentified White House official said the attack was almost certainly terrorism and that it was being investigated by Federal authorities as such.

As of approximately 2 AM this morning, FOX News (4/16), in an online article titled, "Death Toll At 3 In Boston Marathon Bombing Seen By White House As Terrorism," is reporting that a "senior Administration official" said Monday evening, "When multiple devices go off, that's an act of terrorism." Fox is also reporting that "five total explosive devices were found in the Boston area, including the two that exploded."

Brian Williams, at the opening of NBC Nightly News (4/15, lead story, 1:45, Williams, 7.86M), described the bombing as "another apparent act of terrorism within our shores." A few minutes later on NBC Nightly News (4/15, story 6, 1:20, Williams, 7.86M), Chuck Todd reported that when the President spoke, he "did not call this 'terrorism,'" because "the decision was made not to have the President use that specific word." Todd went on to report that at the White House on Monday evening, there was "a little bit of a frustration of how little they do know at this point in time, which is why the President was clearly being very careful with the language he chose to use."

Jon Karl, on ABC World News (4/15, story 7, 2:00, Sawyer, 7.43M), reported that while the President "referred to the bombing as, quote, 'the events in Boston,'" the White House is "treating this as a terrorist attack." Karl went on to reiterate that the incident is "obviously being treated as a terrorist attack, although the President did not use that word."

Likewise, on the CBS Evening News (4/15, story 8, 2:00, Pelley, 5.58M), Major Garrett noted that the President "did not call the act in Boston an act of terrorism," but added that a "top White House aide" said the President "does consider it an act of terrorism." Garrett went on to report that the "the big unresolved question" is, was "this an act of domestic or foreign terrorism."

Politico (4/16, Glueck, 25K) also notes that the President did not refer to the bombing as "a terrorist attack," although Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee, "called the bombing a terrorist event." Politico also reports that Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King released a statement that said the bombing "bear[s] the hallmarks of a terrorist attack."

The AP (4/15, Frommer) reports that Attorney General Holder "directed the full resources of the Justice Department be deployed to investigate the bombs that exploded at the Boston Marathon," and Carmen Ortiz, the US attorney for Massachusetts, is "coordinating the department's response with the FBI and other federal, state and local law enforcement authorities."

The AP (4/16, Jakes) also reports that an unnamed "senior US intelligence official" has confirmed that "two more explosive devices have been found near the scene of the Boston marathon where two bombs detonated earlier."

According to the Boston Globe (4/16, Abel, 250K), "Dozens of victims lay in the street...including some whose limbs had been torn off by the blast." The Globe reports that according to" two law enforcement sources," an 8-year-old boy was one of those killed. The Globe adds that when asked if the attack was the work of terrorists, Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis said, "We're not being definitive on this right now, but you can reach your own conclusions based on what happened." The Globe says the President "vowed that whoever planted the explosives would be found and brought to justice."

The Boston Herald (4/16, Graham, Zaremba, Cassidy, 91K) reports that the President had called Gov. Deval Patrick and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, and in his statement to the public, insisted: "We will get to the bottom of this. We will find out who did this and we will find out why." The Herald is also reporting that Boston police have "discovered at least two other devices and had a controlled detonation on at least one object."

USA Today (4/15, Winter, 1.71M) reports that the FBI is "overseeing the investigation, which Special Agent Rick Deslauriers said involved possible terrorism," but the President told the public "not [to] speculate over who was responsible."

According to McClatchy (4/15), the President was briefed about the attack at about 3 PM by homeland security adviser Lisa Monaco and "other members of his senior White House staff."

The Washington Times (4/16, Howell, 76K) reports that FBI Director Robert Mueller and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano also "briefed" the President "on the investigation and response to the explosions, including coordination among federal agencies and state and local officials."

The New York Times (4/16, A1, Belson, Pilon, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that an unidentified "senior United States government official" says there were "no reports in recent days about a threatened attack on the marathon and that there was no warning on Monday." The Washington Post (4/16, Branigin, 489K) reports that "authorities in New York and Washington tightened security precautions in the wake of the blasts."

The Washington Times (4/15, Crabtree, Boyer, 76K) reported that the Secret Service "pushed back members of the public across the street from the White House into Lafayette Park," and "shut down Pennsylvania Avenue during the peak of spring tourism season..."

USA Today (4/16, A1, Hampson, Raasch, 1.71M), in an article titled, "That Post-9/11 Quiet? It's Over," says that since 9/11, "events like the Boston Marathon...had been successfully policed and secured, along with Super Bowl after Super Bowl, World Series after World Series," and "aside from the pre-9/11 bombing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, you had to look to fiction - notably the Super Bowl plot in Black Sunday - for a such a nightmare."

"Saudi National" Injured Monday Is Reportedly In Custody. At 9 PM EST Monday night, the New York Post (4/16, 498K), in an article titled, "Authorities ID Person Of Interest As Saudi National In Marathon Bombings, Under Guard At Boston Hospital," reported that a 20-year-old "Saudi Arabian national" is "under guard at an undisclosed Boston hospital." The Post adds that Fox News reported that "the suspect suffered severe burns." FOX News (4/16), meanwhile, is reporting this morning that "police are searching an apartment in the nearby Boston suburb of Revere as part of the investigation into the explosions."

On the CBS Evening News (4/15, story 2, 2:00, Pelley, 5.58M), correspondent John Miller, who formerly served assistant director of the FBI, similarly reported that a "Saudi national who was near the scene of the blast" is "in custody." Miller reported that just as the bombs exploded, the suspect in custody "began to run," but a "civilian, who thought this individual was acting suspiciously, chased him down and tackled him and then turned him over to Boston police."

On NBC Nightly News (4/15, story 5, 2:15, Williams, 7.86M), Michael Leiter, a national security analyst at NBC News who served as director of the National Counterterrorism Center, commented that it is "potentially the sign of a more sophisticated attack" that the attack in Boston Monday "us[ed] two explosive devices, the first charge which attracts to some extent the first responders...and then to have a second charge go off that is potentially targeting those responders." Leiter said that type of attack is evidence that "a terrorist organization" is "trying to kill people."

CBS News (4/15) reported on its website last night that "two bombs were inside trash cans near the viewing area close to the finish line" and "two unexploded devices has been recovered intact." CBS also reported that video has been recovered that "shows a man with what looked to be two backpacks near the scene just moments before the blast."

The Washington Times (4/16, Chasmar, 76K) reports that Mohammad al-Chalabi, who was "convicted in an al-Qaeda-linked plot to attack US missions in Jordan in 2003," responded to news of the attack by saying, "Let the Americans feel the pain we endured by their armies occupying Iraq and Afghanistan and killing our people there."

Commentators Tie Attack To Tax Day; Kristof Takes Shot At GOP. The Daily Caller (4/15) reports that on MSNBC's Hardball Monday, Chris Matthews and Rep. William Keating (D-MA) "speculated" that the attack

"could be related to Tax Day." Keating is quoted as saying, "We also have Tax Day, April 15, so we don't know if that's the kind of symbol a domestic terrorist might use as well." According to the Daily Caller, Matthews added, "It's filing day for the federal income tax, which does cause some emotions around the country, sometimes in the wrong parts of the brain."

In a post for Politico (4/16, Byers, 25K), Dylan Byers notes that on Monday afternoon, the New York Times' Nicholas Kristof "[E]xplosion is a reminder that ATF needs a director. Shame on Senate Republicans for blocking apptment." Byers noted that Senate Republicans have blocked the confirmation of B. Todd Jones, who "currently serves as acting-director of the ATF." The Daily Caller (4/15) noted that later Monday, Kristof "recanted his comment, calling it a 'low blow.'"

More Commentary. David Callaway is editor in chief of USA Today (4/15, 1.71M), writes, "No one knows whether the origins of this attack were foreign or domestic," and says that following the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, "people rushed to blame Muslims."

The Washington Post (4/16, 489K), in an editorial, also welcomes the "general understanding of the danger of jumping to conclusions," and says the US has "seen its share of foreign terrorism and homegrown terrorism attacks alike (the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta come to mind)." And the New York Times (4/16, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) editorializes that it "could be a while before officials determine which malevolent ideology" is to blame.

On the other hand, the Wall Street Journal (4/16, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial, says Monday's attack was clearly terrorism, and says it should be a reminder that the threat from extremists has not abated despite the damage the US had done to international terrorist organizations.

USA Today (4/15, 1.71M), in its editorial on the Boston bombing, notes that the Heritage Foundation "has counted more than 50 terrorist plots - 42 of them homegrown - since 9/11."

"Syrian Electronic Army" Hacks NPR Article On Obama's Response To Boston Attack. For a brief period Monday night, NPR's (4/16) website featured a story linked to from the headline: "Obama: 'All Americans Stand With The People Of Boston,'" but the article was replaced with the words: "Syrian Electronic Army Was Here."

SENATE BACKGROUND CHECKS BILL SHORT ON NEEDED VOTES. Media reports indicate the bipartisan compromise bill to require background checks for gun sales is still short of the 60 votes it needs for passage in the Senate. Print reports this morning indicate that President Obama and Vice President Biden have been calling lawmakers seeking support for the measure.

The AP (4/15, Fram) reports that both sides of the issue are seeking "support for a nail-biting showdown vote expected this week." Noting that 16 Republicans voted last week to reject a conservative effort to block debate on gun control measures, the AP reports that Democrats are hoping to tap that group for support for the background check amendment. Seven Republicans have already said they will oppose the plan, and according to the AP, another is leaning against it.

Politico (4/15, Bresnahan, Sherman, 25K) reports that Sen. Pat Toomey, who along with Sen. Joe Manchin authored the background check compromise, "acknowledged they don't yet have the votes," saying, "I'm cautiously optimistic. We're not there at the moment but were working on it." Manchin also said they were short of the votes they needed but added that "he remained hopeful that it would pass." A cloture vote on the measure could occur on Thursday.

In its report on the efforts to line up support for the measure, the Wall Street Journal (4/15, Jones, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) notes that opponents question whether expanded background checks will prevent gun violence or would have prevented recent shootings like the Sandy Hook massacre.

Reid: "Unreasonable Extremists" May Try To Prevent Gun Vote. The Washington Times (4/16, Sherfinski, 76K) reports that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid opened Monday's Senate session with a call to give the victims of the Sandy Hook shootings a vote on gun legislation and a warning that "unreasonable extremists" may attempt to delay or derail the effort. Reid said, "This compromise legislation shouldn't be controversial," and

added that he hopes "'there aren't going to be a few unreasonable extremists' that will try to prevent a vote."

Democrats Concerned About Potential Lautenberg Absence. The New York Times (4/15, Hernandez, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that as Democrats work to line up the votes they need to pass gun control measures, lawmakers have become concerned about the whereabouts of Sen. Frank Lautenberg, who has been absent for weeks due to complications stemming partly from cancer treatments. The Times notes that Lautenberg's presence during the gun votes "is shaping up to be critically important" and his aides say that he "will try to get to Washington once the voting begins on the assortment of gun-safety measures."

Senate Gun Owners Divided. USA Today (4/15, Singer, Korte, 1.71M) reports that in last week's Senate vote to proceed on the gun measure, gun-owning Senators "were divided on the bill, but senators who say they do not own guns were mostly unified in favor of debate." Twenty-eight GOP senators and 18 Democrats have indicated to USA Today that they own guns. In last week's 68-31 vote, "26 gun owners (including 10 Republicans) voted to proceed, while 20 gun owners voted against." Of the 30 senators who said they do not own guns, "only three voted not to advance the bill." USA Today adds that 11 senators did not respond to the question and 13 said they did not want to disclose whether they were gun owners. Of those, "four in each group – all Republicans – voted to block the gun bill."

Kerry: Foreign Students Scared To Come To US Due To Guns. The Washington Times (4/16, Chumley, 76K) reports that Secretary of State Kerry told CNN that foreign students considering studying abroad avoid the US because they are scared of guns. Kerry made the comments "in reference to statistics that show the number of Japanese students coming to America fell by 14 percent between 2010 and 2011." Kerry said, "We had an interesting discussion about why fewer students are coming to - particularly from Japan - to study in the United States, and one of the responses I got from our officials from conversations with parents here is that they're actually scared. ... They think they're not safe in the United States, and so they don't come."

More Commentary. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (4/16, Rivkin, Grossman, 489K), David B. Rivkin Jr., who served in the Justice Department and the White House Counsel's Office in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations, and Andrew M. Grossman, both of whom who practice law in the Washington office of BakerHostetler, argue that there is a risk that the move to quickly pass gun control measures in the wake of the Sandy Hook shootings "will result in bad laws, with unintended and lasting consequences." They write that the President and his allies "have understated the difficult legal questions posed by extending the background-check system to cover more sales and transfers." They argue that while those issues could be addressed with time, "artificial deadlines and an undue sense of urgency guarantee worse results and continued mistrust on both sides of this debate."

In his column for the Washington Post (4/16, Cohen, 489K), Richard Cohen criticizes the gun control under consideration by the Senate, arguing that it would have done nothing to prevent the Sandy Hook shootings or the Aurora, Colorado movie theater shootings. Cohen argues that the Newtown and aurora shootings, while tragic, are "anomalies," and the real threat is "day-in-day-out gun violence." Cohen cites a 1959 Gallup survey which found that "60 percent of Americans favored a total handgun ban," and notes that nine years later, former Johns Hopkins University President Milton Eisenhower "proposed the confiscation of nearly all handguns." Noting that today, "only 24 percent of Americans would support such a ban," Cohen argues that those who would advocate handgun confiscation "read the polls and go quiet or cheer the mere consideration of a bill that would do very little."

SENATORS TO UNVEIL IMMIGRATION PLAN ON WEDNESDAY. Due to the Boston Marathon bombing, coverage of the progress of the bipartisan immigration reform talks in the Senate is relatively light this morning. However, details about the plan, now scheduled to be unveiled to the public Wednesday, are beginning to be confirmed by news organizations with access to summaries of the legislation.

The Washington Post (4/15, Nakamura, 489K) reports that Senate's "Gang of Eight" has planned to "unveil its proposal at a high-profile Tuesday news conference, but that event was canceled" after the Boston Marathon bombing. According to the Post, Sens. Schumer and McCain will be at the White House today to "discuss the bill." The Post also reports that the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold hearings on the bill this Friday and next Monday. Sen. Jeff Sessions is quoted as saying, "Having a hearing Friday and Monday when most members of the Senate aren't even here is proof that they desire no real public airing on the issues. That's very

unacceptable."

USA Today (4/16, Gomez, 1.71M) reports that the Senate plan calls for "pump[ing] an additional $7 billion into securing" the US-Mexico border, allowing "11 million unauthorized immigrants" to "become US citizens in 13 years or less," while also "dramatically chang[ing] the way US grants visas and green cards in the future." According to USA Today, as it is now, "only about 16% of immigrants are granted green cards based on their skills or their possible contributions to the economy," but under the Senate plan "close to 50% of future immigrants could be granted access based on their skills." USA Today reports that the eight Senators now intend to introduce their legislation to the public on Wednesday.

Bloomberg News (4/15, Tiron) reported that the four Republicans and four Democrats working on a House version of the Senate's immigration reform plan are "considering a 15-year path to citizenship," which would include a "probationary period of two to five years." According to Bloomberg, after that "probationary period" the illegal immigrants will receive "work permits" and then "after roughly 10 years they would be able to get green card." However, Bloomberg adds that the House members crafting the plan want to "make it much easier to achieve citizenship for children brought to the US by their parents," which Bloomberg says is a "goal also shared by" House Majority Leader Eric Cantor.

Sens. McCain and Schumer, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (4/16, McCain, Schumer, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) titled, "A Bipartisan Path To Immigration Reform," describe what they consider the merits of their approach to immigration reform. McCain and Schumer emphasize aspects of the Senate deal meant to appeal to conservatives skeptical about the impact of granting "amnesty" to illegal immigrants currently in the US. The Senators note the lengthiness of the "path to citizenship" they have proposed and insist that border security will be improved as a result of the passage of comprehensive reform legislation.

Carney: Senate Immigration Plan Is "Consistent With The President's Position." Politico (4/15, Slack, 25K) reported that on Monday, White House press secretary Jay Carney said the "plan for a 10- to 13-year path to citizenship for illegal immigrants" envisioned by the Senate's "Gang of Eight" is "consistent with the president's position." Politico noted that Carney also said President Obama "favors enhanced border security and employer verification, as well as 'a number of very specific steps' along the path to citizenship, including paying taxes and a potential fine, learning English and going to the back of the line of immigrants seeking citizenship."

Conservatives Dismiss Rubio's Immigration Reform Defense. Coverage of the bipartisan campaign for immigration reform was brought to a halt by the Boston Marathon attack Monday afternoon, but prior to that, Sen. Marco Rubio's Sunday arguments for the Senate deal he helped craft were being met with a notably skeptical reception from conservative outlets.

One focus of conservative opposition to the Senate immigration reform plan continues to be the Drudge Report. Although a revolving series of big news stories - including the North Korea crisis, the gun control debate, and, on Monday, the Boston attack - have occupied Drudge's banner space for the most part over the past few weeks, there has also been a substantial stream of headlines critical of the bipartisan Senate agreement. As of 6 PM Monday, for example, the Drudge Report featured six headlines on immigration: "DANGER: Senate hearing on immigration delayed for more review of bill... "; "Secret draft lays out plan to select who stays... "; "RUBIO CLAIMS LAW NOT 'AMNESTY'... "; "Status quo 'horrible'... "; "Would boost 'legal' arrivals by 50%... "; and "Business groups peel off as details leak..."

The Wall Street Journal (4/15, Murray, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) offers a recap of Rubio's remarks from Sunday, including his contention, made on NBC's Meet The Press, that he is not proposing "blanket amnesty," because he wants illegal immigrants to "pay serious consequences for having violated the law," as well as his claim, on ABC's This Week, that "it will actually be cheaper if they went back home, waited 10 years and applied for a green card."

Mickey Kaus, whose blog for the Daily Caller (4/15, Kaus) is currently devoted to the immigration debate, posted an item Monday morning titled, "Three (3) Quick Rubio Cons," which scrutinizes Rubio's appearances on the Sunday morning news shows. Kaus's assessments of Rubio's performances range from "defensive and jargon-addled on ABC's This Week" to "slick and effective on NBC and CNN." Kaus contends that, despite Rubio's assertions, illegal immigrants currently in the US will have no incentive to return to their home countries if the

Senate plan becomes law and suggests that the border security "trigger" envisioned by Rubio will be essentially meaningless after the threat of deportation is lifted. Kaus notes that on Fox News Sunday, Rubio said, "It's a trigger because, basically, homeland security will have five years to meet that goal," and, "if after five years, Homeland Security has not met that number [90% apprehension rate], it will trigger the Border Commission who will then take over this issue for them." Kaus says Rubio was acknowledging that "all that's triggered is a commission, not any holdup in the march to green cards."

In a post for the National Review (4/16, Krikorian, 193K) titled, "Rubio's Amnesty Pitch: From The Predictable To The Ridiculous," Mark Krikorian accuses Rubio of outright "lying" when he insists the Senate bill does not offer "amnesty." Krikorian maintains that unless Rubio is an "idiot, which I do not think to be the case, he's trying to fool voters, not persuade them."

Also on Monday morning, Byron York, in a column for the Washington Examiner (4/15, York, 93K), said that few, if any, Republicans in Congress have signaled that they are persuadable regarding the necessity of immigration reform, which has led proponents to describe - in a "final, mostly whispered, argument" - a "nightmare scenario" which is, according to York, that if the Senate bill is defeated, President Obama "might unilaterally legalize the millions of illegal immigrants in the country today in an adult version of his Dream Act decree," which "would be impossible for a future president to reverse."

Regarding that particular argument, Conn Carroll, in another post for the Washington Examiner (4/16, Carroll, 93K), says Rubio's "threat" of "unilateral Obama amnesty" only "reminds conservatives exactly why they can't trust Democrats on immigration to begin with," while Republican support for a reform bill out of resignation regarding "an inevitable Obama amnesty would only demoralize conservative voters more." On the other hand, The Weekly Standard's (4/16, Graham, 83K) blog has not had a post on immigration since Friday morning. Both the Weekly Standard and the Washington Examiner are owned by Philip Anschutz's Clarity Media Group.

McCarthy: House Will Follow "Regular Order" On Immigration Reform. In a Monday evening post for National Review Online (4/16, Costa, 193K) Robert Costa reported House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy has announced that if the Senate approves an immigration reform bill, the House "will follow 'regular order'...regardless of public pressure or a push by the Senate to quickly consider the Gang of Eight's legislation." McCarthy is quoted as saying, "I don't want people to get into the mindset that if the Senate passes something, somehow that comes to the [House] floor, just like that. Regular order means we pass something, the Senate passes something, and then we go to conference."

In another piece for the National Review (4/16, Barone, 193K), conservative columnist Michael Barone, an advocate of the kind of comprehensive immigration reform championed by Rubio, says the Senate should be given adequate time to debate the legislation because, according to Barone, while it is "certainly true that opponents of legislation will try to stretch the process out until it is too late to act," it is also the case that "rubber-stamping the first draft of a bill hundreds of pages long can produce a law rife with unintended and unhappy consequences..."

Lane Questions Effectiveness Of US "Visa-For-Dollars Program." Charles Lane, in a column for the Washington Post (4/16, Lane, 489K), describes as "dubious policy" and a "real scandal" the Federal government's "EB-5 visa-for-dollars program." According to Lane, there are 10,000 "permanent-residency slots for EB-5 each year," and "U.S. officials tout the $6.8 billion invested and 50,000 jobs created since the program's start" in 1990, which Lane says "sounds impressive - until you realize that foreign investment in the United States totals $2.5 trillion and that the program's fuzzy job-creation count includes jobs 'indirectly' attributable to the investment."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Bombs At The Marathon."*** The New York Times (4/16, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) editorializes that it "could be a while before officials determine which malevolent ideology" is to blame for the bombings in Boston.

"A Wrenching Adoption Case." The New York Times (4/16, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) editorializes

about a custody case that the Supreme Court will hear today between a South Carolina couple who adopted a girl, and the girl's father, who is part Native American and gained custody of the girl under the Indian Child Welfare Act, which restricts adoptions of Native American children, noting that under the laws of both Oklahoma, "where the biological mother lives," and South Carolina, where the adoptive couple lives, "a biological father is not allowed to intervene in an adoption once he has given up his parental rights." The Times argues that in cases like this, "it makes little sense to allow a biological father who was not in the picture from surfacing belatedly and vetoing an adoption that would be in the best interests of the child."

"West Chester Loses Again On Fair Housing." The New York Times (4/16, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) editorializes about a consent decree signed by Westchester County, NY, more than three years ago to settle a fair-housing lawsuit. According to the Times, county officials have spent that time "shirking their obligations, challenging the deal in court, and losing," most recently on April 5, when the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals "upheld a district judge's ruling that the county was in violation of terms of the court order." County Executive Rob Astorino, who was elected in 2009, "set the county on its defiant path" by arguing "that the county had met its obligation to promote the law," but the Times adds that these "theatrics may play well on talk radio, but they could cost Westchester dearly - not just in dollars lost for housing and services for the poor, plus additional fines."

"An Ethical Breakdown."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Shock Wave In Boston."*** The Washington Post (4/16, 489K), in an editorial, welcomes the "general understanding of the danger of jumping to conclusions," about the Boston bombings and says the US has "seen its share of foreign terrorism and homegrown terrorism attacks alike (the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta come to mind)."

"Whose Child Is Baby Veronica?" The Washington Post (4/16, 489K) editorializes about a "wrenching" custody case that the Supreme Court will hear today between a South Carolina couple who adopted a girl, and the girl's father, who is part Native American and gained custody of the girl under the Indian Child Welfare Act, which restricts adoptions of Native American children. The Post argues that in restricting adoptions under the act, Congress intended "to prevent the forcible breakup of Native American families, a shameful past practice," but adds that lawmakers "surely did not mean to protect the rights of Native American biological parents to the point that a child's unwed, absent father can undo an adoption that her biological mother and legal custodian determined to be in her best interests, merely because she has a drop of Native American blood in her," and urges Congress to amend the law should the court rule in the father's favor.

"Questions For Terry McAuliffe." An editorial in the Washington Post (4/16, 489K) says that some of the questions surrounding Virginia gubematorial candidate Terry McAuliffe's involvement with the electric car company GreenTech Automotive are "specious, some not." The Post argues that if GreenTech was merely a "magnet for cheap foreign capital, without realistic prospects of producing cars, jobs or profit," it would "produce a stench." However, the "skepticism of Virginia officials and the participation of foreign investors under a legitimate federal program do not, by themselves, constitute a scandal."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Terror In Boston."*** The Wall Street Journal (4/16, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial, says Monday's attack was clearly terrorism, and says it should be a reminder that the threat from extremists has not abated despite the damage the US had done to international terrorist organizations.

"Death Tax Made More Deadly." The Wall Street Journal (4/16, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial notes that in his FY'14 budget plan, President Obama proposes raising the Federal estate tax to 45% from 40% and decreasing the exemption level to $3.5 million from $5 million. The Journal notes that the existing rates were agreed to by the President just three and a half months ago, and suggests that his proposal, which it says is extremely unlikely to become law, is an effort to revive his popular appeal for more revenue from the wealthiest Americans.

"Putin's Got A List." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/16, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) notes that after the US government published a list of Russians banned from travel to the US under the Magnitsky Act, the Russian government issued two lists of US officials who are banned from traveling to Russia. One list consists of individuals Moscow says were involved in torture and indefinite detention at Gitmo. The other includes Americans

who are said to have violated the human rights of Russian citizens abroad. The Journal dismisses both lists and argues that while these officials are banned from travel to Russia, no US judges, prosecutors, or Members of Congress should accept invitations to visit the country.

"The Mess In Caracas." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/16, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) calls the close results of Venezuela's presidential election a rejection of Hugo Chavez's legacy, and argues that challenger Henrique Capriles is right in his demand for a recount and his refusal to concede. The Journal cites popular uprisings in the Philippines and Ukraine and argues that the only way for Venezuelans to resist the regime is to do the same.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Two Explosions At Boston Marathon
Slower China Growth Signals Days Of Miracles Are Waning
Gold Plummets To Two-Year Low

New York Times:
Boston Marathon Blasts Kill 3
War Zone At Mile 26: 'So Many People Without Legs'
For 3 Years After Killing, Evidence Fades As A Suspect Sits In Jail
US Practiced Torture After 9/11, Nonpartisan Review Concludes

Washington Post:
An 'Act Of Terror' In Boston
A Nation On Guard Can't Stop Every Plot
Attack Jolts City On A Day Of Civic Pride
Senators To Unveil Path To Citizenship
Lawmakers Ready To Weigh Entitlements
German Factory Yields An Iran Mystery
Post Critic Kennicott Wins Pulitzer

Financial Times:
Obama Vows Justice As Boston Toll Rises
Gold Hit By Sharpest Tumble In 30 Years
China Enters Era Of Slower Growth
Ergen Trumps SoftBank With $25bn Sprint Bid
Charterhouse Sales Face Collapse
Citigroup Earnings Rise Under New Chief
Economic Fundamentals Treated Differently

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Boston Marathon Explosions; Boston Marathon Explosions-Victims; Boston Marathon Explosions-Eyewitness Accounts; Boston Marathon Explosions-ER Doctor Interview; Boston Marathon Explosions-Nationwide, Worldwide Security; Boston Marathon Explosions-White House; Public Event Security.
CBS: Boston Marathon Explosions; Boston Marathon Explosions-Victims; Boston Marathon Explosions-NYPD Commissioner Kelly; Boston Marathon Explosions-Eyewitness Accounts.
NBC: Boston Marathon Explosions; Boston Marathon Explosions-White House; Boston Marathon Explosions-Eyewitness Account; Boston Marathon Explosions-Victims; Boston Marathon Explosions-Bill Bratton; Boston Marathon Explosions-Mike Lupica; North Korea Threat; Venezuela-Election Day Results; FAA-Boeing 737s.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Boston Marathon Explosions; Boston Marathon Explosions-Victims; Boston Marathon Explosions Investigation; Boston Marathon Explosions-Nationwide Security; North Korea-US Helicopter Crash.

CBS: Boston Marathon Explosions; Boston Marathon Explosions Investigation; Politics-Immigration Reform; American Airlines-US Airways Merger; Economy-Wall Street.
NPR: Boston Marathon Explosions; Boston Marathon Explosions-Obama; Military-William Millay Sentenced; Politics-Immigration Reform; Mississippi-Abortion Debate; Pope Francis-American Nuns.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA - President Obama will welcome Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates to the White House; President Obama will welcome Brad Keselowski to the White House to honor his NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN - Vice President will deliver remarks at the opening ceremony of the John and Frances Angelos Law Center at the University of Baltimore. The Vice President's remarks will be pooled for television and open to correspondents and still photographers.
US Senate: 10 a.m. - The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. Thereafter, resume consideration of S.649, the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013.

MORAN, BLUMENTHAL - FAA - 10:30 a.m. News Conference with Senators Moran and Blumenthal on FAA control. Location: Senate studio.

REID, MCCONNELL - PRESIDENT OF ICELAND - 3:30 p.m. Photo Opportunity with Senators Reid & McConnell w/President of Iceland. stage in OCC @ 3:15pm photo op at 3:30 PM. Location: S-219.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARMED SERVICES - 9:30 a.m. Meets to receive testimony on the situation in Afghanistan. Witness: General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC, Commander, International Security Assistance Force/Commander, United States Forces - Afghanistan. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/event.cfm?eventidba10ba159d2a0810a5a8892890a56ab7. Location: 216 Hart.

FOREIGN RELATIONS - 9:45 a.m. Subcommittee on African Affairs hearings to examine ongoing conflict in Eastern Congo. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/examining-ongoing-conflict-in-eastern-congo/ Location: 419 Dirksen.

FINANCE - 10 a.m. Hearings to examine tax fraud and tax identity theft, focusing on moving forward with solutions. Witnesses: Steven T. Miller, Acting Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service; Nina E. Olson, National Taxpayer Advocate, Internal Revenue Service; Jeffrey A. Porter, Chair of the Tax Executive Committee, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and Founder, Porter & Associates, Huntington, WV; Marianna LaCanfora, Deputy Commissioner, Retirement and Disability Policy, Social Security Administration. http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=62739085-5056-a032-5281-4500bf4d4fb3. Location: 215 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS - 10 a.m. Hearings to examine college affordability. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=58f4674b-5056-a032-5244-d855725503e9. Location: 430 Dirksen.

RESCHEDULED

JUDICIARY - 10 a.m. Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights Hearing, "Drone Wars: The Constitutional and Counterterrorism Implications of Targeted Killing." http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=b01a319ecae60e7cbb832de271030205. Location: 226 Dirksen. Notes: Postponed until April 23.

BISON CONNECT

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Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Apr 29, 2013 at 10:32 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Androff, Blake J" <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, laura davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/30/us/politics/interior-secretary-sally-jewell-savors-a-steep-learning-curve.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

New Interior Chief Savors a Steep Learning Curve

By JOHN M. BRODER

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"Trust your feet," she said.

That mountaineer's mantra has carried Ms. Jewell through a lifetime of challenging ascents and a varied career as petroleum engineer, banker and retail executive. On April 12, she was sworn in as the 51st secretary of the interior.

Ms. Jewell, 57, who has climbed Mount Rainier seven times along with some of the world's highest peaks, said that she is happiest on the steepest part of the learning curve. A woman of untamed energy, competitiveness and confidence in the boardroom and on a mountain trail, she is undertaking perhaps the greatest challenge of her life as she assumes command of a huge bureaucracy in a city that festers barely above sea level.

Until President Obama tapped her as interior secretary to succeed Ken Salazar, a former Democratic senator from Colorado, Ms. Jewell was chief executive of Recreational Equipment Inc. in Kent, Wash., a suburb of Seattle. She has never held elective office, though she has served as member of the board of trustees of the University of Washington and at a variety of nonprofits. She has spent little time in what residents of the Pacific Northwest call "the other Washington."

Like many successful corporate titans who have come to Washington before her, she will learn that running a business or a university board is not necessarily adequate training for a top government post. She noted during a five-hour round-trip hike of Old Rag, for example, that no rational business executive would cut an operating budget across the board, as the federal budget process known as the sequester requires. And she said that no matter how determined she is to spend her time promoting outdoor recreation or increasing renewable energy production, events can rudely intrude.

"You never know what's going to hit you in a job like this," she said. "For Secretary Salazar, very unfortunate, but the Deepwater Horizon spill happened relatively early in his term and it took an enormous amount of time and energy that one has to deal with. Things happen. Earthquakes happen. Natural disasters happen. The American West is a tinderbox right now."

Ms. Jewell underwent weeks of grueling briefings for what turned out to be a relatively mild Senate confirmation hearing. The toughest questions from Republicans concerned her role on the board of the National Parks Conservation Association, a mainly volunteer group that advocates for parks and park employees and that has sometimes sued the federal government. Senators largely glossed over the major missions of the Interior Department, including supervising oil drilling on public lands and waters, protecting endangered species, managing millions of acres of public lands, coping with climate change and coordinating federal relations with hundreds of American Indian tribes.

Before taking office, she spent scores of hours with senior political and career employees in a small conference room at the department headquarters in Foggy Bottom, learning the physics of oil spill containment gear, the habitat of the Gunnison sage-grouse and the politics of an obscure road-building project through the Izembek Wilderness of Alaska. She likened the experience to drinking from a fire hose.

She professed not to be overawed by taking charge of an agency with an $11 billion budget, 70,000 employees and stewardship of 20 percent of the territory of the United States.

"Well, I'm not scared of it," she said in an interview at the peak of the 3,291-foot Old Rag, one of the most popular hiking spots near Washington, after she scampered up a trail that rose 2,500 feet over roughly three miles. Ms. Jewell was slowed only by a party that included two park officers, a press aide, a bodyguard, a reporter and a photographer, none of them as fit and agile as she.

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In 2011, she joined an expedition to Antarctica to climb Mount Vinson, at 16,050 feet the highest point on that continent. Stranded there for 11 days by an airline strike in Chile, she killed time by climbing the remaining peaks of the glacial Vinson Massif.

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"The Interior Department," Ms. Jewell replied.

"What's your position there?" the clerk asked.

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Sent from my iPad

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http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/30/us/politics/interior-secretary-sally-jewell-savors-a-steep-learning-curve.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

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To: Warren Jewell, (b)(6)

FYI. S

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kelly, Katherine" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>
Date: April 29, 2013, 10:32:48 PM EDT
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Subject: Broder story is up and will be in tomorrow's paper - the link will take you to the video

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/30/us/politics/interior-secretary-sally-jewell-savors-a-steep-learning-curve.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

New Interior Chief Savors a Steep Learning Curve

By JOHN M. BRODER

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, Va. — Sally Jewell bounded up a granite boulder near the peak of Old Rag Mountain and turned back to her hiking companion, who was staring up at the smooth rock that offered no obvious hand- or footholds.

"Trust your feet," she said.

That mountaineer's mantra has carried Ms. Jewell through a lifetime of challenging ascents and a varied career as petroleum engineer, banker and retail executive. On April 12, she was sworn in as the 51st secretary of the interior.

Ms. Jewell, 57, who has climbed Mount Rainier seven times along with some of the world's highest peaks, said that she is happiest on the steepest part of the learning

curve. A woman of untamed energy, competitiveness and confidence in the boardroom and on a mountain trail, she is undertaking perhaps the greatest challenge of her life as she assumes command of a huge bureaucracy in a city that festers barely above sea level.

Until President Obama tapped her as interior secretary to succeed Ken Salazar, a former Democratic senator from Colorado, Ms. Jewell was chief executive of Recreational Equipment Inc. in Kent, Wash., a suburb of Seattle. She has never held elective office, though she has served as member of the board of trustees of the University of Washington and at a variety of nonprofits. She has spent little time in what residents of the Pacific Northwest call "the other Washington."

Like many successful corporate titans who have come to Washington before her, she will learn that running a business or a university board is not necessarily adequate training for a top government post. She noted during a five-hour round-trip hike of Old Rag, for example, that no rational business executive would cut an operating budget across the board, as the federal budget process known as the sequester requires. And she said that no matter how determined she is to spend her time promoting outdoor recreation or increasing renewable energy production, events can rudely intrude.

"You never know what's going to hit you in a job like this," she said. "For Secretary Salazar, very unfortunate, but the Deepwater Horizon spill happened relatively early in his term and it took an enormous amount of time and energy that one has to deal with. Things happen. Earthquakes happen. Natural disasters happen. The American West is a tinderbox right now."

Ms. Jewell underwent weeks of grueling briefings for what turned out to be a relatively mild Senate confirmation hearing. The toughest questions from Republicans concerned her role on the board of the National Parks Conservation Association, a mainly volunteer group that advocates for parks and park employees and that has sometimes sued the federal government. Senators largely glossed over the major missions of the Interior Department, including supervising oil drilling on public lands and waters, protecting endangered species, managing millions of acres of public lands, coping with climate change and coordinating federal relations with hundreds of American Indian tribes.

Before taking office, she spent scores of hours with senior political and career employees in a small conference room at the department headquarters in Foggy

Bottom, learning the physics of oil spill containment gear, the habitat of the Gunnison sage-grouse and the politics of an obscure road-building project through the Izembek Wilderness of Alaska. She likened the experience to drinking from a fire hose.

She professed not to be overawed by taking charge of an agency with an $11 billion budget, 70,000 employees and stewardship of 20 percent of the territory of the United States.

"Well, I'm not scared of it," she said in an interview at the peak of the 3,291-foot Old Rag, one of the most popular hiking spots near Washington, after she scampered up a trail that rose 2,500 feet over roughly three miles. Ms. Jewell was slowed only by a party that included two park officers, a press aide, a bodyguard, a reporter and a photographer, none of them as fit and agile as she.

"You can't possibly come into a job like this and expect to know what you're doing right out of the gate," she said. "You have to listen to very, very smart people who know what they're doing and who can help you prioritize."

Ms. Jewell was born in England and came to the United States at the age of 3. She said her father, Peter Roffey, an anesthesiologist, had moved the family because he was uncomfortable with England's ossified class system. He died in 2003. Her mother, Anne, who died in 2011, was a nurse practitioner who specialized in women's health.

Ms. Jewell met her future husband, Warren, a computer consultant, at the University of Washington, where both were studying engineering. They have two children, Peter, 29, a pediatric intensive care nurse and Anne, 27, a revenue agent with the federal government. Both live in Seattle.

Ms. Jewell is an accomplished mountaineer, which made her a natural for the top job at R.E.I., founded as a cooperative by a group of Northwest climbers in the 1930s. She first attempted Mount Rainier at age 15, was turned back by snow, but summited the following year. She climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with Peter for his 16th birthday. She took Anne to Switzerland on her 16th birthday to climb Mont Blanc, but her daughter demurred. Ms. Jewell hired a guide and climbed the mountain, the highest point in Western Europe, on her own.

In 2011, she joined an expedition to Antarctica to climb Mount Vinson, at 16,050 feet the highest point on that continent. Stranded there for 11 days by an airline

strike in Chile, she killed time by climbing the remaining peaks of the glacial Vinson Massif.

Senator Maria Cantwell, Democrat of Washington, has known and hiked with Ms. Jewell for more than 20 years. She said that the capital is very different from the outdoor and corporate worlds Ms. Jewell has conquered, one where humility, even if feigned, is an essential tool.

"She has seen success in several industries — oil and gas, banking and then shifted to R.E.I. and made it all the way up the food chain there," Ms. Cantwell said. "But this is a different animal. My advice was, 'If a member calls you, call back the same day.' The way it works here, if you show respect, you'll get respect back."

Why would the chief executive of a popular outdoor gear company earning an annual salary of $2 million take on a temporary job in an unfamiliar town paying less than $200,000 a year?

"My work at R.E.I. was incredibly fulfilling and rewarding, especially the stewardship elements of it, the ability to connect young people to public lands close to home," said Ms. Jewell, a sinewy 5-foot-7 with short salt-and-pepper hair. But, she said, "There are very few roles I would say on this planet compared to the one that I've been asked to serve in that has an opportunity to make a difference."

Ms. Jewell, who is something of a celebrity in Seattle, has already had a taste of how humbling Washington can be to newcomers. Of the two dozen or so other hikers whom she passed on the Old Rag trail, none recognized her or bothered to ask why such a large entourage followed her.

And when she went to open an account at a local bank branch near her new home in the Dupont Circle area of Washington, the clerk asked where she was employed.

"The Interior Department," Ms. Jewell replied.

"What's your position there?" the clerk asked.

"Secretary," Ms. Jewell answered. The clerk just nodded.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Tue, May 7, 2013 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO DEFEND BUDGET BEFORE CONGRESS. The EnergyWire (5/6, Taylor, Subscription Publication) reports, "Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will make her first appearance before Congress tomorrow to defend her agency's $11.7 billion budget, a proposal that envisions a significant boost in conservation cash and new fees on the oil and gas industry." According to the article, "Jewell, along with outgoing Deputy Secretary David Hayes; Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget Rhea Suh; and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition Pam Haze, will testify before the Senate Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee." Also, "at the same time this week, Bureau of Land Management Principal Deputy Director Neil Kornze will defend his agency's budget to a House panel."

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (5/7, Colman, Geman, 21K) reports, "The 10:30 a.m. hearing will provide lawmakers a chance to ask about several hot-button topics within Interior's jurisdiction." According to the article, "they include upcoming, controversial rules to regulate the oil-and-gas development method hydraulic fracturing when it

occurs on public lands."

Also reporting on the story are Politico (5/7, Guillen, 25K), the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (5/7, Colman, 21K) and the "On The Money" blog of The Hill (5/6, Needham, 21K).

STATE GOVERNORS, OFFICIALS URGE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW MORE OFFSHORE ACCESS. Several media outlets on Monday reported that six US governors spoke during an industry conference, urging the Federal government to allow greater access to coastal waters for offshore exploration and production.

The AP (5/7) reports that the governors of Alaska, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Texas, and North Carolina spoke out on Monday during the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, as did officials from Virginia and Louisiana. The states all spoke urging the Federal government to allow increased access for offshore exploration and production. They argued that the moratorium placed on offshore drilling following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill has "made it difficult" for companies to produce in the area, despite the lifting of the ban. The officials urged increased drilling, saying it "would create jobs, strengthen the nation's economy and lower gas prices."

FuelFix (5/6) notes that all six Governors who spoke on Monday are Republicans. The article says Gov. Pat McCrory (R-NC) argued, "We want to create jobs." McCrory urged President Obama "to join us," making "government a partner with us - not an adversary." He pleaded, "Let the states unleash these natural resources to create jobs and (help) the economy." Gov. Rick Perry (R-TX) in comments touched upon new safety measures implemented since the Deepwater Horizon disaster, saying, "Today's energy exploration in the Gulf is safer than ever, for our operators (and) for the environment." FuelFix notes that although the Interior Department's current offshore drilling lease plan, which runs through June 2017, includes auctions for offshore areas near Alaska and in the Gulf of Mexico, no "mid-Atlantic states" are included in the auctions.

Dow Jones Newswires (5/7, Sider) provides similar coverage on the comments of Gov. Rick Perry (R-TX) and others during the Offshore Technology Conference on Monday. Governors from states that already have offshore drilling said Interior Department officials should relax regulations on the industry to help increase production in offshore areas.

The Friendswood (TX) Journal (5/7) reports, "Gov. Rick Perry today renewed his call for more offshore energy development and consistent federal regulations in order to help our nation reach its goal of energy independence." Perry "spoke at the 2013 Offshore Technology Conference as part of a panel of coastal governors." He said, "Today, energy exploration in the Gulf is safer for our operators and our environment than ever before. Technological and procedural advances have opened up huge sources of energy, giving us the capability to reach vast stores of energy reserves previously thought untouchable. With every step forward, we move closer to the day when our nation can reach true energy independence and end our crippling dependence upon foreign regimes to meet our needs."

The Charlotte (NC) Observer (5/6, 148K) reports, "Gov. Pat McCrory is visiting an offshore energy trade conference in Texas to try to help build momentum for drilling off the coast of North Carolina and other states." He "recently joined a coalition of governors in Outer-Continental Shelf states that want President Barack Obama's administration to open more coastal waters to natural gas and oil exploration."

Also reporting on the story are the Winston-Salem (NC) Journal (5/7, 55K), the Triangle Business Journal (5/7, Weisbecker, Subscription Publication) and WFMY-TV Greensboro, NC (5/7).

Industry Group Notes Offshore Producers Like Clarity On Industry Regulations. FuelFix (5/6) reports that offshore policies at the Federal level will likely be a hot topic at this week's Offshore Technology Conference. The industry hopes Washington will "clarify the standards that will govern a new era of Arctic drilling and approve a new generation of seismic research that could help pinpoint oil." Additionally, the industry has its eyes on new mandates for blowout preventers that are set to be implemented by the Interior Department.

FuelFix (5/6, Weber) reports that on Monday during the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Schlumberger senior engineer Praful Desai said "technology and collaboration between contractors will be key to plugging and abandoning" wells as drilling increases due to the US oil and gas boom. Desai discussed the

difficulties faced with well plugging in the Gulf of Mexico and North Sea, "key areas" for offshore exploration that pose "greater risks and costs" as producers drill deeper. He said field partners need to collaborate to lower costs, and that "a number of new technologies will be implemented, focused mainly on cost reduction and safety."

Federal Policies Urged To Support Innovation In Oil, Gas Exploration. In an op-ed for the Houston Chronicle (5/7, 434K), David Holt, President of the Consumer Energy Alliance, writes that "federal policies" must support the "expansion of oil and gas drilling technologies." He argue sthat "while remarkable advances in onshore technology have opened up vast fields of oil and natural gas once thought to be unreachable, the future of American energy production lies offshore, not just on land." Holt also notes at this week's Offshore Technology Conference, "a group of eight coastal governors, including Gov. Rick Perry, called for an improved dialogue with the federal government to allow expanded access to US waters."

Editorial: Move Forward With Fracking But Learn From North Dakota's Experience. The Fayetteville (NC) Observer (5/7, 47K) editorializes on offshore drilling, noting that Gov. Pat McCrory recently said it "could bring 140,000 new jobs to the Atlantic coastal region. And he cited North Dakota, with its 3.3 percent unemployment rate and booming economy as an example of what petroleum exploration can do." The Observer argued, "What the governor didn't mention was the problems North Dakota is facing," such as "spills of oil or fracking fluids," and "the rise of shantytowns." The piece concludes, "Yes, it is time to find out what's out there. ... Let's move ahead, but let's learn from North Dakota's experience too."

AGENCIES ASKING FOR MORE WILDLIFE DRONE MISSIONS. The New York Times (5/7, Farrell, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports, "Drone technology, which has become a staple of military operations, is now drawing scientists with its ability to provide increasingly cheaper, safer and more accurate and detailed assessments of the natural world." According to the article, "designed to monitor enemy positions from afar, the early Ravens, from about 2005, which cost $250,000 per system, were slated for destruction when an Army colonel thought they might be better used for scientific research and were donated to the Geological Survey." Now, "every week brings more requests from...Interior Department agencies" seeking to use the drone.

INTERIOR'S INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE RECOGNIZED FOR TELEWORK PROGRAM. Government Computer News (5/7, Crowe) reports, "The Mobile Work Exchange, which promotes sharing about innovations in setting up telework systems and programs between government and commercial organizations, recently announced the recipients of the group's 2013 'Tele-Vision' Awards." The article notes that "'The Largest Leap In Telework/Mobility' award went to the Telework Program of the Department of the Interior Inspector General's Office." According to the article, "in three years, from 2009 to 2012, the agency's IG office went from near-zero participation in telework to 98 percent," which "might have made an impact on the employee satisfaction and productivity at the office."

DEPUTY SECRETARY HAYES TO LEAVE INTERIOR. KCET (5/7, Clarke) reports, "Deputy Interior Secretary David Hayes, who's generally credited with drafting the US Interior Department's massive expansion of renewable energy development on public lands since 2009, will be leaving his post for a job at Stanford University." According to the article, "as second-in-command at Interior, Hayes oversaw the implementation of Interior's development of programs such as the Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and its fast-tracking of wind energy developments on public lands." the article notes that "in addition to his work to promote industrial renewables on public lands, Hayes also oversaw Interior Department involvement on a number of Native issues and on Arctic energy exploration and development."

REPORT CALLS FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IN ARCTIC. The Alaska Native News (5/7, Bauman) reports, "A federal interagency working group led by the Interior Department says an integrated management strategy is called for in the rapidly changing Arctic." The article notes that "the report released April 4 by Interior Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes highlights the need for a coordinated approach using best available science to integrate cultural, environmental and economic factors in decision-making about development and conservation." Hayes said that "the interagency report chronicles how Arctic residents are dealing with rapid, climate change-induced impacts on their resources and traditional ways of life at the same time that new economic activity and opportunities are emerging."

EFFORT TO RECOGNIZE FEDERAL WORKERS TOUTED. The Washington Post (5/6, Davidson, 489K) reports

that Max Stier, president of the Partnership for Public Service, believes that the "antidote" to "bashing" of Federal workers is through the implementation of Public Service Recognition Week. The even is being organized by the Public Employees Roundtable. Stier says, "Seriously, we will never get the government we want if all we do is tear it down. Amazing things are going on by public servants and we need to recognize them if we want them to be replicated by other public servants."

PAPER URGES COMMITMENT TO OFFSHORE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (5/7, 80K) editorializes, "While there has been much attention paid to the development of shale oil and gas on land, the first visit of the new secretary of the US Department of the Interior to the oil patch is a reminder that immense natural wealth remains to be tapped offshore." On her visit to a drilling rig, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told employees, "Maintaining the public's trust in the safety and environmental performance of oil and gas production is critically important as we continue to tap into the Gulf's abundant resource potential." The paper concludes that "potential sources of oil and gas should be part of, in Jewell's words, 'powering our nation and strengthening our economy.'"

VETERAN ARGUES CONSERVATION IS PATRIOTIC DUTY. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (5/7, Starr), Mark Starr, Program Director, Vet Voice Foundation, writes, "Protection of our nation's lands such as the California desert is clearly a patriotic duty." He notes, "first, as veterans we clearly understand the importance of renewable energy development and how it relates to our national security." Also, "by protecting these lands through the new designation of two new national monuments, wilderness areas, and wild and scenic rivers...we will undoubtedly see more tourism and dollars injected into the area."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

ACADIA'S CADILLAC MOUNTAIN ROAD TO OPEN EARLIER THAN PLANNED. The Boston Globe (5/6, 250K) reports, "The National Park Service has worked with local Maine merchants to come up with a plan to open the Cadillac Mountain road earlier than planned." According to park officials, "the portion of the Park Loop Road that provides access to the mountain will open for the season on Saturday, while other parts of the loop road remain closed until May 17 because of the federal budget cuts."

Also reporting on the story is the Bangor (ME) Daily News (5/6, Trotter, 45K).

FLOODING HITS CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK. The State (SC) (5/6, Holleman, 71K) reports, "The combination of a wet spring and drenching weekend rains has pushed several rivers to flood levels, including the Broad, Congaree, Enoree, Saluda and Santee." According to the article, "if the National Weather Service forecast is accurate, flood waters at Congaree National Park will reach heights they haven't hit since 1988." The article notes that "the park's buildings will remain above the flood waters, but much of the boardwalk trail and all but the highest parts of the bluff trail will be under water."

Also reporting on the story is the Greenville (SC) News (5/7, Holleman, 56K).

VOLCANO HOUSE HOTEL TO REOPEN AT HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK. The Hawaii Business Magazine (5/7, Stickler) reports, "After standing empty for three years, the Volcano House Hotel is gradually reopening on the rim of the still-active Kilauea Caldera at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park." The NPS "closed the lava-stone and ohia-wood structure on Jan. 1, 2010, as its past glory faded below national-park standards," and "in August 2012, the newly formed Hawaii Volcanoes Lodge Co. picked up the lease and guaranteed to bring it up to 21st-century specifications." According to project manager Ercel Dunsmore, "a $3 million renovation began in January and should be completed by June."

ART EXHIBIT TO FEATURE CELEBRATION OF STATUE OF LIBERTY. The Jersey Journal (NJ) (5/7, Stein, 17K) reports, "The opening reception for the NJCU art student exhibit 'Posters & Logos of the 125th Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty' will take place tonight at 6 p.m. in the lobby outside the Mildred H. Hunke Auditorium of the Five Comers Branch Library, 678 Newark Ave., Jersey City." According to the article, "the exhibit will feature posters and logos from contestants who designed the works to celebrate the Statue of Liberty's 125th

anniversary in 2011." The article notes that "the winning logo used for the year-long celebration was designed by Joseph Domalewski and was selected by the public through an online competition by the National Park Service."

RESCUERS SEARCH FOR MISSING HIKER IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/7, Smith, 335K) reports, "Searchers are looking for a 73-year-old Edina man who didn't return Sunday afternoon from a solo day hike to Vernal Fall in Yosemite National Park." According to the article, "about 30 people and a dog team scoured the area Sunday evening and Monday in search of Kenneth Stensby, an experienced hiker, and found only his dark colored day pack near the railing at the top of Vernal Fall." Park Ranger Scott Gediman said that "officials likely will add a helicopter and additional dog teams."

The Fresno (CA) Bee (5/6, 113K) reports, "Yosemite National Park officials are asking the public's help to locate a hiker who went missing on a hike to the top of Vernal Fall." Also, "the park service asked hikers to check their photos for images of Stensby or his pack."

Also reporting on the story are the Los Angeles Times (5/6, Mather, 692K), the Modesto (CA) Bee (5/6, Guerra, 59K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/6, 202K) and the St. Paul Pioneer-Press (5/7, 201K).

INJURED HIKER RESCUED FROM YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (5/7) reports on the rescue of Fernando Celis, who was injured while hiking in Yosemite National Park.

MISSING HIKER AT CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK FOUND. WLTX-TV Columbia, SC (5/7, Wirtzberger) reports, "Columbia Fire Department and several other agencies spent part of Sunday evening searching for a missing female hiker." According to Brick Lewis with the Columbia Fire Department, "crews have found the missing hiker at Congaree National Park."

BODY RECOVERED FROM DELAWARE RIVER. The Lehigh Valley (PA) Express Times (5/7, 44K) reports, "Authorities say they've recovered a body spotted floating in the middle of the Delaware River on the Pennsylvania-New York border." According to the article, "state police in Sullivan County, N.Y., say today that the body was found by a group of canoeists Saturday afternoon near the border of the towns of Tusten and Highland, 85 miles northwest of New York City." The article notes that "New York State Police, the National Park Service and local emergency crews responded."

Also reporting on the story are the Pocono (PA) Record (5/7, 14K), the Lewistown (PA) Sentinel (5/7), and the Mid-Hudson News (5/6).

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK BONES TO BE IDENTIFIED THIS WEEK. KTVQ-TV Billings, MT (5/7) reports on the "bones that were found in Glacier National Park last week." According to Flathead County Sheriff Chuck Curry, "the bones are being looked at by a medical examiner in Billings to determine whether they're from a human or an animal." Curry "says they should know more answers by the end of the week."

Also reporting on the story is KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (5/7).

NPS OFFICIALS PREPARING FOR PRESCRIBED BURN AT DEVILS TOWER NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Rapid City Journal (5/7, 24K) reports, "As National Park Service officials prepare for a prescribed burn at Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming next week, they can't help thinking about the one that got away from them." The article notes that "the April 3 prescribed burn on the Grand River National Grasslands near Hettinger, N.D. and Lemmon escaped containment and burned thousands of acres, including private land." The fire is "a reminder to Devils Tower officials of what can go wrong and should be guarded against."

FIRE BURNS ABOUT 59 ACRES NEAR LAKE MEREDITH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The Amarillo (TX) Globe News (5/6, Bryant, 31K) reports, "A fire in the Lake Meredith National Recreation Area burned about 59 acres, Chief Ranger Paul Jones said." The NPS "responded about 5:45 p.m. Saturday to the fire at Harbor Bay, with the Fritch Volunteer Fire Department, the Stinnett Fire Department, Potter County Fire Department and Borger Fire Department assisting, Jones said." He "said the fire was caused by people and remains under investigation."

PROPOSED 9/11 MUSEUM FEE CRITICIZED. In his column for the NorthJersey.com (5/7, Kelly), Mike Kelly

writes, "The announcement that visitors to the 9/11 Museum at Ground Zero will pay an entry fee as high as $25 per person to view underground exhibits and a vault containing the remains of unidentified victims has renewed a roiling debate over what should be done with that hallowed ground – and who's in charge of it." According to Kelly, "the proposed fee would effectively exclude low- and moderate-income families who were as affected as anyone by the 9/11 attacks." However, he notes that "not many other options are available," since "when asked last year if it would consider taking over the management of the museum and finances, the National Park Service responded with an emphatic no."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM BEGINS TAKING COMMENTS ON GATEWAY WEST PROJECT. The Boise (ID) Weekly (5/6, 35K) reports, "Beginning today, the public will have the opportunity to weigh in on the latest version of the Gateway West power project - a proposed transmission line that would, if approved, run from Wyoming across southern Idaho." The BLM "is holding a series of public comment meetings around Idaho beginning this afternoon at 4 p.m. at the Boise Hotel and Conference Center on Vista Avenue," and "later this week, the BLM will take the issue to similar meetings in Kuna, Murphy and Melba."

The Northwest Cable News (Seattle, WA) (5/7, Grey) reports, "The Gateway West Transmission project is a high priority project for the Obama administration and Idaho's Republican senators and representatives are calling on you to make your voice heard with 'strong public input.'" The article notes that "some people are concerned about the transmission lines being near the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area." Meanwhile, "others, including Idaho's congressional delegation, are concerned about the BLM creating new preferred lines after people most affected by the project had already worked with Idaho Power on a route."

Also reporting on the story is KTVB-TV Boise, ID (5/7, Grey).

BLM HOLDS MEETINGS ON HI-LINE PLAN. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (5/6, Puckett, 25K) reports, "Five informational meetings on a proposed management plan that will direct energy development, conservation of wildlife habitat, recreation and livestock grazing on 2.4 million acres of public lands in northern Montana kick off this week." According to Stanley Jaynes, the field manager for the Bureau of Land Management's Havre field office, "agency officials already are hearing from the public about the plans to protect unbroken prairie contained in the Hi-Line Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement." The article notes that "key issues in the plan involve sage grouse protections, identifying lands with wilderness characteristics and documenting what lands will be available for oil and gas development."

NEBRASKA RANCHER FACES 149 ANIMAL CRUELTY COUNTS. The High Plains Journal (5/7) reports, "Morrill County Attorney Jean Rhodes has filed an amended complaint against a western Nebraska rancher, charging him with 149 felony counts of abandonment and cruel animal neglect resulting in injury or death." According to the article, "authorities last month found many of the 200 horses and several burros on the 3-Strikes Ranch emaciated and suffering from overgrown hooves and other ailments. Nearly 75 dead horses and burros have been documented." The article notes that "the ranch had been a sanctuary for wild horses adopted by the Bureau of Land Management."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF CASTLE ROCKS. Additional coverage of the potential closure of Castle Rocks was provided by the Washington Post (5/6, 489K), Yahoo! (5/7, Furfaro) , and Yahoo! News Canada (5/7).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WOLVERINE PROPOSAL GENERATES STATES' OPPOSITION. The San Jose Mercury News (5/7, Brown, 539K) reports, "State officials in the Northern Rockies on Monday lined up against a federal proposal to give new protections to the carnivorous wolverine, as climate change threatens to melt the species' snowy mountain strongholds." According to the article, "Montana, Idaho and Wyoming officials insist federal protections aren't necessary for the estimated 250-300 wolverines that live across the West." But "biologists say warming temperatures could shrink the wolverine's mountain habitat in the Lower 48 by as much as 60 percent over the next 80 years."

Also reporting on the story is the Denver Post (5/7, Brown, 443K).

FWS SEEKS INPUT ON WHITE RIVER REFUGE EXPANSION. The Stuttgart (AR) Daily Leader (5/6, Morris, 2K) reports, "The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is gathering input to increase the White River National Wildlife Refuge's acquisition boundary." According to Keith Weaver, the refuge's project leader, "the proposal would provide increased opportunities for willing sellers as well as conserve the 'southern end of the Big Woods of Arkansas for future generations, restore and enhance wildlife habitats for a diversity of migratory and resident species, improve water quality, and provide additional public access and wildlife-dependent recreation such as hunting, fishing and wildlife observation and photography.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GRIZZLY BEARS PROPOSAL. Additional coverage of the FWS grizzly bear management proposal was provided by Yahoo! (5/7, Ross).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WYOMING'S HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL EXPLORED AS CONGRESS CONSIDERS BILLS. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (5/7, Voge, 22K) reports that the Idaho National Laboratory estimates Wyoming can be tapped for more than 500 megawatts of hydropower, while "another study, by the Bureau of Reclamation, and related to government-controlled properties only, adds another 23 megawatts to the picture." The paper says members of Wyoming's congressional delegation are pushing for the development of alternative energy sources in the state. A bill to "streamline the process needed to permit small hydropower generators in the West" was passed in the House in March. It was introduced in the Senate in April, and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "is scheduled to vote on the measure Wednesday."

WIND ENERGY GROUP EYES PLAN TO PRESENT TO CONGRESSIONAL PANELS. The Hill (5/7, Colman, 21K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that a "top wind trade group said Monday that it's crafting a long-term policy plan that it plans to take to tax-writing committees in the House and the Senate." Incoming American Wind Energy Association CEO Tom Kiernan said AWEA officials will go "on a road show of sorts to get input from industry stakeholders before finalizing a proposal."

Bloomberg News (5/7, Martin) reports the US wind-power industry "is expecting" a major challenge in Congress in its efforts for "another extension of a federal tax credit that received a one-year renewal at the last minute in January." Bloomberg quotes Kiernan as saying, "The political climate in Washington is getting tougher."

Onshore Energy Development:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP ASKS BLM TO RECONSIDER LEASE SUSPENSION FOR THOMPSON DIVIDE DRILLERS. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (5/7, Webb, 23K) reports, "A Carbondale-based conservation group asked Monday that the Colorado director of the Bureau of Land Management reconsider the agency's decision to prolong the duration of 25 oil and gas leases in the Thompson Divide area." According to the article, "the Wilderness Workshop appealed the lease suspension decision with the help of Earthjustice attorney Mike Freeman, who also led litigation resulting in the BLM reconsidering its leasing of some 55,000 acres for oil and gas development in the Roan Plateau area west of Rifle." The groups "are asking Helen Hankins, director of the Colorado state office of the BLM, to reverse a recent decision by Steve Bennett, director of the agency's Colorado River Valley Field Office in Silt."

BLM SEEKS FEEDBACK ON EXPANSION TO HORSESHOE BASIN OIL, GAS PROJECT. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (5/7, 22K) reports, "The federal Bureau of Land Management is seeking public input on a proposed oil and gas project that could include 20 wells." The agency "announced Monday that it is taking feedback on an expansion to the Horseshoe Basin oil and gas project, a Devon Energy proposal which would include two new wells drilled per year for a decade."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN DIVIDES CALIFORNIA. In an editorial, the Pasadena (CA) Star-News (5/7) argues that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan will "protect what little of this important ecological resource is left." Rather than a "simple 'water grab' that would allow the spigot to be thrown open and more water transferred from north to south," the paper claims that "the delta plan is about is stabilizing water deliveries in the face of an uncertain climate when both snowpack and rainwater sources have become incredibly volatile." It concludes that "this huge, complex project has a multi-billion dollar cost, but it's an investment that should prove worthwhile - for all Californians."

In an editorial, the Los Angeles Daily News (5/7, 86K) notes that there is a divide in opinion on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan between northern California newspapers and southern California newspapers. It notes that southern California newspaper have "said the entire state needs the delta project and that the mendacious 'us vs. them' rhetoric used by opponents 'is destructive, obstructive and belies how desperately we need this.'" Meanwhile, the northern California papers "were opining that the 'Delta water plan deserves to go down the drain.'"

CHIPPEWA CREE BUSINESS COMMITTEE REFUTES CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (5/6, Murray, 25K) reports, "The Chippewa Cree Business Committee, the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation's highest representative body, issued a news release Monday refuting recent allegations that millions of federal dollars intended for a regional water development project are unaccounted for." The tribe's acting Chairman, Rick Morsette, said, "The numbers reported by the local newspapers don't match the facts. We spoke to representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation office who agreed that what they read in the paper was inaccurate. Extensive reviews have actually revealed that the Chippewa Cree Construction Corp. may have some outstanding reimbursements coming from the Bureau of Reclamation."

WATER RIGHTS EXPECTED TO SPARK CONFLICT BETWEEN KLAMATH RIVER FARMERS, TRIBES. The Los Angeles Times (5/7, Barboza, 692K) reports, "New water rights have given a group of Oregon Indian tribes an upper hand just as the region plunges into a severe drought." According to the article, "farmers and wildlife refuges could be soon cut off by the Klamath Tribes, which in March were granted the Upper Klamath Basin's oldest water rights to the lake and tributaries that feed the mighty river flowing from arid southern Oregon to the foggy redwoods of the Northern California coast." The article notes that "within weeks, the 3,700-member tribes are poised to make use of their new rights to maintain water levels for endangered Lost River and Shortnose suckers, fish they traditionally harvested for food," and "under the 'first in time, first in right' water doctrine that govems the West, the Klamath Tribes can cut off other water users when the river runs low."

FULL SUPPLY EXPECTED FOR ALL YAKIMA BASIN IRRIGATORS. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (5/7, 28K) reports, "A wet April provided a further boost to the summer water supply outlook for farmers and fish in the Yakima River Basin, the Bureau of Reclamation said this morning." The article notes that "all water users will have a full supply of water."

Also reporting on the story are the Ellensburg (WA) Daily Record (5/7, Johnston, 5K) and KNDO-TV Yakima, WA (5/7).

DEAL REACHED TO KEEP LAKE BERRYESSA'S MARKLEY COVE OPEN THROUGH 2014. The Napa Valley Register (5/7) reports, "The US Bureau of Reclamation has inked an interim contract to keep the Markley Cove Resort on the south end of Lake Berryessa open through December 2014." The agreement "is with the resort's current managers, John and Linda Frazier, and begins May 27." David Murillo, the regional director for Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region, said in a news release, "Reclamation has enjoyed a positive and successful relationship with the Fraziers for many years, and we are pleased that this relationship will continue for this interim period."

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR FINAL PHASE OF WORK ON FOLSOM DAM SPILLWAY. The Sacramento (CA) Business Journal (5/6, Meer, Subscription Publication) reports, "The US Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento office has awarded a $255.1 million contract for the last phase of work on a spillway at Folsom Dam." According to the corps, "Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. of Fairfield won the contract, which will allow work to begin July 1 and be finished by 2017." The article notes that "in addition to the corps, the US Bureau of Reclamation, Central

Valley Flood Protection Board and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency are involved in the overall project."

Empowering Native American Communities:

NEW YORK TIMES STORY ON KEEPSEAGLE SETTLEMENT DISPUTED. The Indian Country Today Media Network (5/6, Capriccioso) reports, "The most respected newspaper in the country has pointed out the sour political undercurrent in the 2011 Keepseagle settlement that awarded $760 million to Native American farmers for discriminatory practices they faced." However, "lawyers for those Indians say The New York Times is wrong." Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, which holds "the remaining $460 million" of the settlement has "issued a background paper, offering a clarification and claiming that the firm was fighting the good fight."

CHEROKEES MAY WAIT UP TO 10 YEARS FOR COBELL LAND PURCHASES. The Cherokee (OK) Phoenix (5/7, Jackson) reports, "Cherokee Nation citizens who signed up for the Land Buy-Back Program under the $3.4 billion Cobell Settlement may be waiting up to 10 years before selling their fractionated lands." According to the article, "within the CN, there are only 135 fractionated tracts containing purchasable interests and no highly fractionated tracts."

Top National News:

"WHISTLEBLOWERS" EXPECTED TO CONTRADICT OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF BENGHAZI ATTACK. Ahead of Wednesday's House Oversight Committee hearing on allegations from so-called "whistleblowers" regarding the Administration's handling of the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, media coverage of the surrounding controversy has increased substantially. NBC Nightly News (5/6, story 3, 2:40, Williams, 7.86M) devoted a full segment to Benghazi, and the CBS Evening News (5/6, story 5, 0:35, Pelley, 5.58M) briefly previewed Wednesday's hearing. However, the Benghazi narrative continues to be driven by conservative news outlets, particularly Fox News and the Weekly Standard, and, consequently, defenses of the State Department's actions are greatly outweighed by allegations of "politicization" from Congressional Republicans.

In a nod to that dynamic, Dana Bash, on CNN's Erin Burnett OutFront (5/6), reported that on Wednesday she anticipates "a lot of pushback from Democrats that were not really hearing from the State Department yet."

In an illustration of the partisan divide ahead of Wednesday's House hearing, Benghazi was the lead story on Fox News' Special Report (5/6), Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (5/6) and Fox News' Hannity (5/6). On the other hand, the terror attack was not a topic of discussion on MSNBC's Hardball, MSNBC's Politics Nation with Al Sharpton, MSNBC's All In, MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show or MSNBC's The Last Word. Also, the New York Times does not have an article on Benghazi in this morning's paper.

Preview coverage of Wednesday's hearing on Benghazi was the lead story on CNN's Erin Burnett OutFront (5/6), which devoted nearly 10 minutes of air time to the story.

Representative of Fox's Benghazi coverage Monday was Sean Hannity's allegation, at the opening of Fox News' Hannity (5/6), that "evidence is mounting to prove what we have been saying...for months," which is, according to Hannity, that the White House "engaged in a widespread cover-up in the immediate aftermath of the Benghazi terror attack and they did it simply to win the election." Hannity added, "Remember, Watergate was about lying and covering-up."

Notably, Brian Stelter, in an article for Monday's New York Times (5/5, Stelter, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) on Jonathan Alter's new book, "The Center Holds: Obama and His Enemies," noted that Alter writes that between September 11 of last year and the presidential election, Fox News President Roger Ailes "covered the Benghazi story as if it were Watergate just before Nixon's resignation, with almost wall-to-wall coverage."

On NBC Nightly News (5/6, story 3, 2:40, Williams, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that at Wednesday's hearing, Republicans, who have, "for months...charged cover-up," plan to "undercut Hillary Clinton's explanation of what went wrong," and claim to have "State Department witnesses who can prove Clinton covered up." House Oversight Committee chairman Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) was shown saying, "Clinton is no longer Secretary of State, but there are many people still at State Department who were involved in this at the highest levels who

continue to keep their jobs." Mitchell added that "there is an obvious political undercurrent" since House Republicans are "taking direct aim at Hillary Clinton, the country's most popular Democrat and a possible presidential contender."

Monday evening, Wolf Blitzer, on CNN's The Situation Room (5/6), reported that "another whistleblower who now says the Benghazi consulate attack seemed like a terrorist attack from the get go." CNN's Dana Bash went on to suggest that "whistleblowers" will contradict statements made about Benghazi by Clinton in testimony before a Senate panel in January, testimony that generated nearly universally positive coverage at the time.

Politico (5/6, Cirilli, 25K) reports that in an appearance on Fox News' Fox And Friends (5/6) on Monday, Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) alleged that former Secretary of State Clinton "put politics above security," and is quoted as saying, "What boggles my mind is 4½ months after the fact, Secretary Clinton still had the gall to come here and perpetuate things that we know...are simply not true." Appearing on Fox News' Hannity (5/6), Chaffetz called the alleged decision not to send military assistance to Benghazi on September 11 "as sickening and depressing and disgusting as anything I have seen."

In a brief, 35-second item for the CBS Evening News (5/6, story 5, 0:35, Pelley, 5.58M), Scott Pelley reported that "career diplomat" Greg Hicks is "raising new questions about a possible cover-up" following the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi. Pelley added that Hicks "has already told congressional investigators" that he "repeatedly asked if the Pentagon could scramble jets to scare the attackers away," but was "told that that wouldn't be possible."

According to the AP (5/6, Cassata), Hicks, identified as a "former top diplomat in Libya," has said that a "team of U.S. special forces" was prepared to try to save the Americans under attack in Benghazi on September 11, but they were "told to stand down." Bloomberg News (5/7, Rowley) also reported that Hicks will testify that he "sought in vain for fighter jets to fly over Benghazi to scare off the terrorist attackers who killed the ambassador and three other Americans."

The Washington Post (5/7, A1, Londoño, 489K), in an article titled, "Special Ops Halted From Responding To Benghazi Attacks, US Diplomat Says," reports that Congressional Republicans are alleging that the Administration "could have saved lives with a nimbler, more assertive response." The Post goes on to give a paraphrase of the Administration's account of the attack and its aftermath, but does not reference any specific State Department officials until 13 paragraphs in, when it reports that State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell asserted Monday that "the Republican-led inquiry appears to be politicized," and reiterated that the State Department is "not seeking to suppress the accounts of whistleblowers." Ventrell is quoted as saying, "We have always encouraged any State Department employee who wants to share their story and tell the truth."

USA Today (5/7, Dorell, 1.71M) reports that Wednesday's House Oversight Committee hearing "will explore why the State Department never activated its Foreign Emergency Support Team," which "specialize[s] in responding to crises." USA Today adds that Chaffetz, a member of the panel, "believes the reason is that activating the team...would have labeled the attack 'a terrorist activity,'" which, according to Chaffetz, the State Department "did not want to do." However, USA Today also reported that in a statement released by the State Department, Daniel Benjamin, "who ran the State counterterrorism bureau that headed the Foreign Emergency Support Team at the time of the attack," said, "I can say now with certainty...that this charge is simply untrue."

The Washington Times (5/7, Crabtree, 76K) reports that when asked about the new allegations Monday, White House press secretary Jay Carney "repeatedly touted the credentials" of retired Ambassador Thomas Pickering and Admiral Michael Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who led the State Department's Accountability Review Board. Carney is quoted as saying, "There was an accountability review board led by two men of unimpeachable expertise and credibility, who oversaw a process that was rigorous and unsparing, that was highly critical in some areas and that produced a series of recommendations that have all been acted on by the State Department, as the president insisted be the case."

At the opening of Fox News' Special Report (5/6), Brett Baier said the House hearing on Benghazi on Wednesday is "shaping up as a direct assault on the Obama Administration's handling of the crisis." Correspondent James Rosen went on to report that a "State Department whistleblower" - later identified as Mark Thompson, a "former Marine and long-time senior officer in State's counter-terrorism bureau" - will testify that

immediately after the Benghazi attack, Secretary Clinton and Patrick Kennedy, the State Department's Under Secretary of State for Management, "tried to cut the department's own counter-terrorism bureau out of the chain of reporting and decision-making." Chairman Issa was shown saying, "If you wanted it to seem like it wasn't terrorism, keeping them out of room allows to you play with this false truth that somehow it was a 'video'...which, of course, from the get-go, everyone knew just wasn't true." Rosen reported that State Department spokesman Ventrell "agreed" with Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) that Issa's "motivations appear 'political.'"

Marc Thiessen, in his column for the Washington Post (5/7, 489K), says Thompson "will testify that the circumstances" of the Benghazi attack "have been 'purposefully misrepresented' by the administration and that 'all their public statements...were false, and they knew it.'" Thiessen also claims that last week, Ventrell "dismissed the whistleblowers, declaring there has already been a thorough investigation into the attack 'that should be enough.'"

Conservatives Liken Benghazi "Scandal" To Watergate. The Washington Times (5/6, McLaughlin, 76K) reported that in a radio interview Monday, Sen. Lindsey Graham predicted that on Wednesday, witnesses will describe "political manipulation seven weeks before an election," as well as "people asleep at the switch when it comes to the State Department, including Hillary Clinton." Graham went on to say that the Benghazi "cover-up" is "every bit as damaging as Watergate."

On Fox News' Special Report (5/6), Brit Hume claimed that it is now "clear that the State Department, CIA and White House deliberately concocted a Benghazi cover story that was false in every nearly every particular." However, according to Hume, if Benghazi is to "become the scandal it surely deserves to be," there will have to be "relentless news coverage of the kind the media typically avoid when the subject is someone, or some cause, they favor."

In an indication of the expansiveness of the claims being made about the aftermath of the Benghazi attack by conservative critics of the Administration, Victor Davis Hanson highlighted new developments in a post for National Review (5/7, Hanson, 193K) under the headline: "Is Benghazi Becoming A Watergate, Or Iran-Contra, Or Both?"

Politico (5/6, Weinger, 25K) reported that on his radio show Monday, Mike Huckabee "predicted" that President Obama "won't finish out his second term in light of the 'cover-up'" of the circumstances surrounding the attack in Benghazi, and "called the affair 'more serious than Watergate.'"

The Weekly Standard's Stephen Hayes, also appearing on Fox News' Special Report (5/6), cautioned "Republicans" not to "race ahead of the evidence in front of you" regarding Benghazi, and listed some instances where he thought Republicans had made unsubstantiated allegations against the Administration.

Much of the Benghazi coverage from right-leaning outlets is based on reporting from Hayes in a piece for the May 13 issue of the Weekly Standard (5/6, 83K) titled, "The Benghazi Talking Points." Hayes claims that "top Obama administration officials" were aware that the US consulate in Benghazi was "likely being attacked by al Qaeda-affiliated terrorists" while the "fighting was taking place" on September 11, and on September 12, a cable sent by "the CIA station chief in Libya" reported that "eyewitnesses confirmed the participation of Islamic militants" in the "terrorist attack." Hayes goes on to report that "talking points" regarding the attack that mentioned "Islamic extremists with ties to al Qaeda" were subsequently modified after State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland expressed concern that "members of Congress would use the talking points to criticize the State Department for 'not paying attention to Agency warnings.'" Hayes also discusses his Benghazi reporting in a Weekly Standard podcast (5/7, 83K) released late Monday afternoon.

BIDEN SAYS GUN CONTROL WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR IMMIGRATION. Politico (5/7, Epstein, 25K) reports that Vice President Joe Biden told a meeting of about 20 representatives from faith-based organizations at the White House on Monday that gun control will now have to take a back seat to efforts to pass immigration reform. Biden told the leaders that "gun control won't happen until after the Senate completes an immigration reform package." Politico notes that this is the first time the White House "has revealed such a timeline" and adds that Biden's comments "echo the sentiment from the major gun control groups and Senate aides working closely on the issue."

Senate Democrats Have More Votes For Expanded Background Checks. The Huffington Post (5/6, Stein) reports that in the wake of the "political backlash" from constituents faced by members who opposed expanding background checks for gun buyers, Senate Democrats believe "they have several new votes in favor" of the measure. However, the new votes would still leave the measure short of the 60 it needs for passage, and "tellingly, no one boasting of growing support would reveal the names of those lawmakers ready to flip." Nonetheless, the "bullish talk from Democrats" is "yet another indication that the party feels good about the fallout from the failed gun vote and is increasingly eager to try again." The Post notes that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "prompted the latest round of legislative speculation," when he told The Las Vegas Review Journal that bill sponsor Sen. Joe Manchin "thinks he has a couple more votes" and, "I may be able to get another Democrat or two. That would get us up to 57."

Despite Recent Victories, NRA Allies Worry About Long-Term Challenges. The Washington Post (5/6, Hamburger, 489K) reports that while the NRA celebrated the defeat of the White House-backed package of gun control bills at its convention in Houston last weekend, and while the "group seems stronger than ever," some of its allies "are uneasy, saying publicly and privately that the organization is facing long-term - and even short-term - challenges that on a scale it has not faced before." Among them: the growing willingness "of gun state lawmakers, particularly Democrats, to buck the NRA; and the rise of an organized and well-funded gun-control movement." The Post notes a "continued debate over whether the NRA and gun rights advocates made a mistake by pugnaciously opposing all of this year's major gun-control proposals."

Inhofe: Administration Buying Ammunition So People Can't. The Daily Caller (5/6) reports that Sen. James Inhofe said in a radio interview his weekend that the Obama Administration is buying up ammunition in an effort "to bypass the Second Amendment so gun-owners 'can't even buy ammunition because government is purchasing so much.'" Speaking on Aaron Klein's weekend show on New York City's WABC radio, Inhofe said that the President "has been doing everything he could to stop the private ownership of guns in America," adding, "And so my feeling is that he's doing this to buy up [ammunition] so that we can't buy: Honest, law-abiding citizens here in the United States, like my son, can't even buy ammunition because government is purchasing so much." Inhofe said he is planning to introduce the Ammunition Management for More Obtainability (AMMO) bill to "limit 'non-defense, armed federal agencies to pre-Obama levels of ammunition.'"

Newtown Educators Posthumously Awarded The Citizen Honors Medal. NBC Nightly News (5/6, story 6, 0:45, Williams, 7.86M) reported that in a ceremony in Newtown, Connecticut on Monday, the six educators who were killed in the Sandy Hook shootings were posthumously awarded the Citizen Honors Medal, which is "the highest civilian honor for valor given out" by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

ECONOMISTS EXPECT GDP GROWTH TO SLOW THIS YEAR. In a sharply negative story on the economy, USA Today (5/7, Mullaney, Hansen, Today, 1.71M) reports that last Friday's "upbeat" employment report "changed few experts' minds about the likelihood of an economic slowdown in mid-2013," according to a USA Today survey of economists. In the survey, only four of 37 economists said the report "reduced their fears that growth will suffer a sharp slowdown" in the second and third quarters of this year. In addition, "More than half say that hadn't been a concern of theirs before the report." The piece quotes a number of economists, who generally expect the economy to slow from its 2.5% Q1 GDP growth rate later in the year.

Fed Survey Finds Banks Easing Business Lending Standards. Bloomberg News (5/6, Zumbrun) reports that according to a new Fed survey, US banks "eased standards and terms on loans to businesses as commercial lending led a credit thaw." In its quarterly survey of top loan officers released on Monday, the Fed said, "Domestic banks, on balance, reported having eased their lending standards and having experienced stronger demand in several loan categories over the past three months." Bloomberg says that the portion of banks easing lending standards was "relatively large."

Analysis: Employment At Start-Ups Down Sharply. In an op-ed in USA Today (5/6, Reynolds, 1.71M), Glenn Harlan Reynolds, a professor and blogger, writes that the "latest data" show that new business start-ups are becoming "rarer," not "more common" as they did during the "dreaded Jimmy Carter era." Reynolds says that a new report from JPMorgan economists Mike Feroli says that employment at start-ups is "plunging." He adds that new jobs "tend to come from new businesses," but there are fewer of them, which "doesn't bode well" and suggests that the US is starting to look more like Europe.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Corruption In Albany."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (5/7, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says that the multiple indictments of top New York political officials raises questions about how to reform the political system. The Times suggests the public funding of campaigns "in order to provide competition for those entrenched in state office." The paper also encourages prosecutors to "keep probing."

"Mr. Watt, Fannie Mae, And Freddie Mac." An editorial in the New York Times (5/7, Times, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) supports the nomination of Rep Mel Watt to serve as director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, noting that he has "long been a champion of homeownership and credit availability," and is "aware of the needs and demands of banks." The Times argues that Watt "has what it takes to explain and carry out policies to help revive credit and provide long overdue assistance to homeowners - if only the Senate will give him the chance."

"A Carbon Trading System Worth Saving." An editorial in the New York Times (5/7, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) praises the EU's cap-and-trade system, but notes concern from analysts that "technical mistakes, Europe's prolonged recession and the failure of policy makers to strengthen the system is undermining its effectiveness." The Times says Europe "has made real progress in dealing with climate change," and calls on the EU to put its cap-and-trade system "on a sounder footing to make sure it doesn't undo the real progress it has made."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Concocting A Cure."*** The Washington Post (5/7, 489K) praises the efforts of members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee who are moving to "fix the government's oversight of the obscure world of compounding pharmacies." The Post suggests some refinements to the bill's language and calls on the Senate to "pass some version of this bill" and the House to "get to work" on a measure.

"Immigration Distortion." The Washington Post (5/7, 489K), in an editorial, claims a Heritage Foundation study on the Senate immigration bill is "chock-full of assumptions that most economists dispute," and describes it as a "blatant attempt to twist the immigration debate."

"Give New Education Law A Chance."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Non-Intervention War."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/7, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) argues for US intervention in Syria. the Journal says the President should go against his political character and make a case to the American people for intervention and then commit himself to removing Assad from power and helping to shape what follows. Failure to intervene, the Journal argues, will make a wider war more likely.

"Florida Flips Back." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/7, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) praises Republican lawmakers in Florida for opposing Gov. Rick Scott's effort to expand the state's Medicaid program.

"Backroom Internet Tax Ambush." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/7, A16, Journal, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) takes issue with a claim from the Senate online tax bill, Sen. Mike Enzi's (R) that only a single tax collector per state will be allowed to audit an online retailer. However, the Journal says that due to backroom maneuvering pushed by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, the definition of "state" was expanded to include US territories and possessions, along with "any tribal organization," potentially allowing hundred of separate jurisdictions to audit online retailers. The Journal says it asked Enzi's office how many auditors there could be, but he didn't know.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Justices Back Ban On Pot Dispensaries

Accent On The Saying Power
Record Fine Urged In San Bruno Explosion
Marco Rubio Faces A Tough Sell
Klamath Water Wars Threaten To Flare Anew

Wall Street Journal:
Harrisburg Hit By SEC Fraud Charges
Hezbollah Steps Up In Syria; Israel Eases Tone
Housing Agencies Push To Impose Time Limits, Work Requirements

New York Times:
US Workers Sue As Big Farms Rely On Immigrants
White House Sticks To Cautious Path On Syria
New Worries For Democrats On Health Law
China's Military Is Accused By US In Cyberattacks
Candidate With A Store Chain Around His Neck
Google Glass Picks Up Early Signal: Keep Out

Washington Post:
General's Decision In Sex Case Is Scrutinized
Israel Tries To End Syria Tensions
Official Sought Help For Benghazi
Political Intelligence, Straight From Capitol Hill
Iron Man Yields To China
Two Dozen Words May Predate Modem Languages

Financial Times:
Microsoft Prepares U-Turn On Windows 8
China Seeks To Alter World Bank Report
Brussels Trains Its Sights On Slovenia
Facebook Set To Introduce Video Ads
Protests Mount On Use Of BP Gulf Spill Funds
US Regulators Eye Bitcoin Supervision

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Air Force Sexual Assault Chief Arrested, Domestic Terror Arrest, Syria-Israeli Strikes, Suspected Auschwitz Guard Arrested, California-Wildfire, Colbert-Busch-Sanford Election, Made In America-Mexico, California-Limo Fire, NASA-Smart Phones, Health-Grocery Shopping
CBS: CBS: Boston-Investigation, Minnesota-Terror Plot, Air Force Sexual Assault Chief Arrested, Syria-Israeli Strikes, Benghazi Hearing, South Korea President Interview, Obama-Golf With Senators, California-Limo Fire, California-Gas Pipeline Fine, Online Sales Tax, Vietnam Combat Photographer
NBC: NBC: California-Limo Fire, Syria-Israeli Strike, Benghazi Hearing, Air Force Sexual Assault Chief Arrested, Boston-Investigation, Newtown Victims Honored, Bee Population, Pfizer-Viagra Direct Sales, Health-Pacifier Cleaning, Clinton-Led Zeppelin Reunion Attempt, Obama-Golf With Senators

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Ohio-Missing Women Found, Air Force Sexual Assault Chief Arrested, California-Limo Fire, Syria-Chemical Weapons
CBS: Ohio-Missing Women Found, Air Force Sexual Assault Chief Arrested, Internet Sales Taxes, California-Wildfires
NPR: Ohio-Missing Women Found, Boston Bombing Suspect's Body, Immigration Costs, Internet Sales Taxes, Tanning Radiation Limits, Maine-Arson Cases, Philippines-Volcano Eruption

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA -Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing with the Vice President, Oval Office, closed press; holds a bilateral meeting with President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea with the Vice President, Oval Office, pool spray at the top; hosts President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea for lunch, the Vice President also attends, Cabinet Room, closed press; holds a joint press conference with President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea, East Room, open press; meets with senior advisors, Oval Office, closed press; meets with the Vice President and Secretary Hagel, Oval Office, closed press; attends a DNC event, St. Regis Hotel, Washington, DC, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN -Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; attends the President's meeting with President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea, Oval Office, pool spray at the top; attends the President's lunch with President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea, Cabinet Room, closed press; attends President's meeting with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press; delivers remarks at the 2013 Annual Gala Dinner of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Mandarin Oriental, open press.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA - Signs copies of her book 'American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America', Politics & Prose bookstore.
US Senate: 10:45 a.m. EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FAMILY ACT - Press conference held by the lead House and Senate sponsors of the Every Child Deserves a Family Act, which would preclude Federal funding for foster care or adoption programs that discriminate against potential foster and adoptive families due to marital status, gender identity, and sexual orientation, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the adoptive child. Participants include: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). Reps. John Lewis (D-GA), and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL); Mary Keane and daughter (New York, NY). Location: S 120 , The Hugh Scott Room, U.S. Capitol.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. - The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. At 11:00 a.m., Senators will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of David Medine to be Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. Thereafter, the Senate begins consideration of S.601, the Water Resources Development Act.

9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Legislative Branch Subcommittee FY 2014 Budget Request for the Library of Congress and the Open World Leadership Center. Witnesses: James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, The Library of Congress; Ambassador John O'Keefe, Executive Director, Open World Leadership Center, The Library of Congress. Location: 138 Dirksen.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES - Hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley; General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Location: 216 Hart.

9:30 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES - privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers. Location: 366 Dirksen.

9:30 a.m. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE - Hearing on Immigration Reform - Immigration and Its Contribution to Our Economic Strength. Panel one: Grover Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform; Dr. Adriana Kugler, Professor, Georgetown Public Policy Institute, Georgetown University. Panel two: Madeline Zavodny, Professor of Economics, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA; Dr. Steven A. Camarota, Director of Research, Center for Immigration Studies. Location: 562 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS - The Full Committee will consider the nomination of Fred P. Hochberg to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS - Nominations hearing. Hearings to examine the nominations of James Knight, of Alabama, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chad, and Deborah Kay Jones, of New Mexico, to be Ambassador to Libya, both of the Department of State. Location: 419 Dirksen.

10:15 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee hearing on Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request for the United States Agency for International Development with Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development. Location: 192 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Interior, Environment Subcommittee hearing on Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior. Witnesses: Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior; David Hayes, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior; Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior; Pam K. Haze, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition, Department of the Interior. Location: 124 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - Hearing on Border Security: Examining Provisions in the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744). Witnesses: DHS Assistant Secretary for Policy David Heyman, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Acting Deputy Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, CBP Border Patrol Chief Michael Fisher, ICE Deputy Director Dan Ragsdale and DHS Assistant Inspector General Anne Richards. Location: 342 Dirksen.

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION - The Committee will stream a NASA briefing direct from the International Space Station (ISS). Via a live downlink, NASA Astronaut Tom Marshburn will discuss the opportunities provided by the station's unique microgravity environment. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/

2 p.m. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE - Hearing on Immigration and Its Contribution to Our Economic Strength Part two: Dr. Madeline Zavodny , Professor of Economics, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA; Dr. Steven A. Camarota, Director of Research, Center for Immigration Studies. Location: 216 Hart.

2:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES - The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces will receive testimony on National Nuclear Security Administration management of its National Security Laboratories in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program. Location: 222 Russell.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION - Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance Hearing, Credit Reports: What Accuracy and Errors Mean For Consumers. Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE - Closed Hearing: Intelligence Matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. PUBLIC SKIN CANCER SCREENINGS - CAPITOL HILL - In an effort to increase skin cancer awareness and commemorate Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month(r), the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) will hold a skin cancer screening for legislators, their staff and the general public. Briefing at 10 followed by screenings until 1:30 p.m. Speakers include: Brett Coldiron, MD - President-Elect, American Academy of Dermatology Association; Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) - sponsors of the Tanning Bed Cancer Control Act; Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) - skin cancer prevention advocate; Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) - skin cancer survivor; RADM Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH - Deputy Surgeon General and a dermatologist; Alyson Fuller, Ph.D. - former indoor tanner and melanoma skin cancer survivor; Johnny Bench - Baseball Hall of Famer and skin cancer survivor. Location: 345 Cannon Caucus Room on Capitol Hill.

10 a.m. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT - Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Representative Martha Roby (R-AL). Location: RNC Lobby.

11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD - House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing in his U.S. Capitol office (H-144).

2 p.m. CHC - PEREZ CONFRIMATION - Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) Chairman Ruben Hinojosa (TX-15), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus Xavier Becerra (CA-34), and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus will hold a press conference with community leaders from the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), to urge the Senate confirmation of Thomas Perez as Secretary of Labor. Location: 234 Cannon.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. - The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies hearing on Bureau of Land Management. Location: B-308 Rayburn.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Subcommittee on Defense hearing on Navy and Marine Corps. Witnesses: Ray Mabus, Secretary, United States Navy; Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief, Naval Operations; General James F. Amos, Commandant, Marine Corps. Location: H-140 Capitol.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Subcommittee on Health hearing on Chairman Brady Announces Hearing on Developing a Viable Medicare Physician Payment Policy. Location: 1100 Longworth.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE - Raising the Bar: Exploring State and Local Efforts to Improve Accountability. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY & COMMERCE - Subcommittee on Energy and Power hearing entitled U.S. Energy Abundance: Exports and the Changing Global Energy Landscape. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES - Markup pending bipartisan legislation related to Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act and the JOBS Act. The Subcommittee on Capital Markets & Government Sponsored Enterprises held a hearing on these bipartisan proposals last month. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS - Hearing on Local and Private Sector Initiatives to Combat International Human Trafficking. Witnesses: Don Knabe, Supervisor, Fourth District, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors; Bradley Myles, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Polaris Project; Shawn MacDonald, Ph.D., Director of Programs and Research, Veriti. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY - Markup: Resolution, To Create an Over-Criminalization Task Force; H.R. 180, and H.Res. ___, Supporting the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the right to counsel. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES - Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation Oversight Hearing on Impediments to Public Recreation on Public Lands. Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM / JUDICIARY - Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice and Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs hold joint hearing on DOJ's Quid Pro Quo with St. Paul: A Whistleblower's Perspective. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY - Joint subcommittee hearing Subcommittee on Energy and Subcommittee on Environment hearing: Keystone XL Pipeline: Examination of Scientific and Environmental Issues. Witnesses: Lynn Helms, Director, Department of Mineral Resources, North Dakota Industrial Commission; Brigham A. McCown, Principal and Managing Director, United Transportation Advisors LLC; Paul Chip Knappenberger, Assistant Director, Center for the Study of Science, Cato Institute; Anthony Swift, Attorney, International Program, Natural Resources Defense Council. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS - Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing examining options for repealing the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and reforming the Medicare physician payment system to reward quality and value. Witnesses: V David Hoyt, MD, Executive Director, American College of Surgeons; Kim Allan Williams, MD, Past President, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology; Charles Cutler, MD, Chair, Board of Regents, American College of Physicians; Frank G. Opelka, MD, Vice-Chair, Consensus Standards Approval Committee, National Quality Forum; Patrick Courneya, MD, Medical Director, HealthPartners Health Plan. Location: 1100 Longworth.

10:30 a.m. ENERGY & COMMERCE - Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade hearing entitled

Vacation Nation: How Tourism Benefits Our Economy. Witnesses include: Roger Dow, President & CEO, U.S. Travel Association; Kathleen Matthews, Executive Vice President and Chief Global Communications and Public Affairs Officer, Marriott International, Inc.; others. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS - Financial Services and General Government hearing on Securities Exchange Commission. Witness: Mary Jo White, Chairman, Securities Exchange Commission. Location: 2359 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS - Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing on Increasing American Jobs through Greater Exports to Africa - Exporting U.S. goods to Africa. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES - Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation will hold an oversight hearing on Impediments to Public Recreation on Public Lands. Location: 1334 Longworth.

2 p.m. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS - Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations hearing on VA Construction Policy: Failed Plans Result In Plans That Fail. Location: 334 Cannon.

3 p.m. RULES - Meets on H.R. 807, the Full Faith and Credit Act. Location: H-313.

4 p.m. ENERGY & COMMERCE - Subcommittee on Health Markup of H.R. 1407 and a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain (Opening Statements Only).Location: 2123 Rayburn.
Other: SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE Highlights: South Korean President Park Geun-hye is scheduled to meet with President Barack Obama.

UMD - DALAI LAMA - The 14th Dalai Lama will be visiting the University of Maryland for two separate events: delivery of the prestigious Sadat Lecture and a dialogue with scholars of Sufism, a mystical Islamic tradition. Highlights: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. In the morning, the Dalai Lama will join world leaders to deliver the Sadat Lecture, Peace Through Compassion: Connecting a Multi-Faith World. Before an audience of 15,000 at Comcast Center, the Dalai Lama will speak in English for about 45 minutes, answering questions submitted by the audience. 1:45 p.m. - 3 p.m. The Dalai Lama will meet in a smaller venue for dialogue on two religious traditions: Islam's Sufi tradition and Tibetan Buddhism. UMD's Roshan Institute of Persian Studies organized the event. Note: Media space is more limited at this venue. Location: Both events will take place on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

PEDIATRIC ACADEMIC SOCIETIES - Holds its annual meeting. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW.

HUMANS TO MARS SUMMIT -The George Washington University Space Policy Institute and Explore Mars present The Humans to Mars Summit, which will address the major technical, scientific, and policy-related challenges that need to be overcome to send humans to Mars by 2030. Astronaut Buzz Aldrin will deliver a keynote address on the final day of the conference. Location: The George Washington University, Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St., NW.

IDB - ROAD SAFETY - Road Safety events as part of a this Months IDB-Supported Road Safety Events. Highlights: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Road safety reception. Locaiotn: Inter-American Development Bank Headquarters, 1300 New York Ave. NW.

PETERSON FOUNDATIONS ANNUAL FISCAL SUMMIT - CLINTON - GATES - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Peterson Foundation hosts their fourth annual Fiscal Summite - Facing the Future. Participants include former President Bill Clinton and Bill Gates. Location: Mellon Auditorium, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW.

CAP - EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION - 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The Center for American Progress hosts discussion on Honoring Our Nations Mothers and Children through Investments in Early Childhood Education. Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

ITIF - COMPETES ACT - 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation will host a

panel of experts for a Capitol Hill briefing on the past, present and future of the America COMPETES Act. Location: 253 Russell.

BROOKINGS - PREPARING DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE - 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. A Future of Children event: Is There a Better Way to Prepare Disadvantaged Students for College? Location: The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW.

TACKLING THE COST CONUNDRUM - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Health Affairs briefing on the slowing growth of health care expenditures of late and examines whether it is a temporary or lasting phenomenon; and will examine major cost drivers and proposals for putting Medicare on a more sustainable path. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

NPC - ASHTON CARTER - 10 a.m. Deputy Secretary of Defense Dr. Ashton B. Carter on Managing the Pentagon in an Era of Fiscal Uncertainty. Location: National Press Club, Clubs First Amendment Lounge, 529 14th Street NW.

YOUNG ADULTS - MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES - 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. SAMHSA presents National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day 2013 press briefing. Remarks by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius; singer, songwriter and actress Demi Lovato. Location: The University of the District of Columbia, Community College Auditorium, 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Building 46.

AEI - AMERICAS NATURAL GAS - 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Americas natural gas: Should exports be restricted? Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

TRUCK CRASH VICTIMS - 11 a.m. Families of truck crash victims and survivors join with members of Congress to address the disconnect between unacceptable increases in truck crash deaths and injuries and the industry-backed solutions promoted by Congress and DOT (Department of Transportation). Presented by the Truck Safety Coalition, this press conference caps a four-day conference, Sorrow to Strength, which itself is closed to press. Location: 253 Russell.

'SAVE VANISHING SPECIES' STAMP - 12 p.m. Representatives from Major League Baseball's Detroit Tigers will join U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe and Members of Congress to celebrate the success of the Save Vanishing Species semipostal stamp. Participants include: Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe; Dave Dombrowski, CEO, President and GM, Detroit Tigers; Max Scherzer, pitcher, Detroit Tigers; Erica May (fiancee of Scherzer), Pennies for Paws spokesperson. Location: B-369 Raybum.

ACADEMIC MEDICINE AND TRAUMA CARE - 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Triumph Over Tragedy: Academic Medicine's Vital Role in Providing and Advancing Trauma Care. The Association of American Medical Colleges hosts a congressional briefing exploring the irreplaceable role academic medical centers play in providing and advancing trauma care. Location: B-340 Raybum.

WILSON CENTER - CLIMATE CHANGE - FARMER'S - 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. The Farmers Dilemma: Climate Change, Food Security, and Human Mobility. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 5th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

API - GASOLINE REGULATIONS - 2:45 p.m. The American Petroleum Institute holds a press conference call previewing comments being submitted to EPA on the agency's new Tier 3 regulations for gasoline, which API contends would be extremely costly and would not provide measurable ozone air quality benefits. With Patrick Kelly, downstream senior policy advisor.

SAIS - INTERNATIONAL ENERGY FORUM - 4:30 p.m. International Energy Forum: Achievements and Prospects with Aldo Flores-Quiroga, secretary general for the International Energy Forum, and David Jhirad, director of the SAIS Energy, Resources and Environment Program. Location: Rome Building Auditorium, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Mexico's economy has been on the upswing the last couple of years. It's unbelievable. They're getting investors from companies all over the world. In fact, Mexico is now home to 11 million undocumented Americans. Did you know that?"

Jay Leno: "Over the weekend, President Obama gave the commencement speech at Ohio State University. He said, 'I dare you to do better.' That's what he told the students. 'I dare you to do better.' To which the students yelled back, 'No, we dare you to do better.'"

Jay Leno: "Well, according to the US Geological Survey, there are 7.4 billion barrels of recoverable oil in North Dakota. And today, Dick Cheney said if we had known how much oil they had, we would have invaded North Dakota years ago."

Conan O'Brien: "President Obama has changed his mind. He decided to support the morning after pill being available over the counter. Yeah. Yep. President Obama finally saw an episode of 'Teen Mom.'"

Conan O'Brien: "PETA is in the news. PETA is really upset at Chris Christie for killing a spider in front of a group of school children. Yeah. Governor Christie said, 'If PETA's upset by that they do not want to know what I had for lunch today.' Apparently Orb is missing."

Conan O'Brien: "George W. Bush's nephew George P. Bush is running for office in Texas. Yeah, he says the 'P' stands for 'Pretend you've never heard the name George W. Bush.'"

Conan O'Brien: "A company is coming out with a beer drone. A beer drone to deliver beer to attendees at music festivals. Yeah. And in a related story, everyone's now fine with drones."

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, President Obama spoke at Ohio State's graduation and told their students that it's their responsibility to make the world a better place. Which got awkward when they were like, 'Wait, isn't that literally your responsibility?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Some experts are saying that the 2016 Democratic presidential primary could come down to Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. Biden is calling her 'a worthy opponent,' and Hillary's calling him 'practice.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Joe Biden could be running against Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination. Even though the election is a few years off, we thought it would be helpful to show a side by side comparison to see some of their differences. Take a look. Hillary wants to bridge the gap between Democratic and Republican leaders. Biden wants to bridge the gap between Marvel and DC superheroes. Hillary has had to fight against a sexist political system. Biden has had to fight against the safety cap on his Flintstones vitamins. They're very tricky. You gotta push down and turn. Push down and turn. Forget it. Hillary has already imagined what it would be like to sit in the President's chair. Biden has already spent hours sitting in it and spinning around. Here's the last one. Hillary believes her greatest asset is her experience at dealing with complicated international issues. Biden just laughed at the word 'asset.'"

Stephen Colbert: "I hope you had a great weekend. I did. I spent it at the big annual NRA meeting in Houston, Texas. Not to be confused with the daily NRA meeting that is Houston, Texas. And this year's theme was accessories. Like pink assault rifles and bra holsters. Now, fellows can brag about getting to Second Amendment."

Stephen Colbert: "One thing I heard repeatedly down there this weekend is that Obama is coming for our guns. Now I'm not one to believe in far out conspiracy theories probably because the government implanted a chip in my brain that controls my thoughts. But, folks, I've had my eyes opened to some disturbing truths that raise troubling questions like, what did they know? When did they know it? And what am I talking about? Which brings me to my new segment exposing vast government conspiracies, 'Stephen Colbert's Bat[bleep] Serious.' Now, folks, I've wanted to do this segment for a long time. But I haven't. Why not? We'll look into that next time. But tonight's topic: Are they coming after our guns? No. They're coming after our bullets. ... Nation, follow me down

the rabbit hole. If it even is a rabbit and not a groundhog in a costume. The Federal government's suspicious ammo hoarding was first noticed by vigilant online conspiracy forums before it was picked up by conservative radio hosts and then eventually made its way out to the farthest fringe elements of our society - Congress."

Stephen Colbert: "Leading the congressional charge is Senator James Inhofe, if this is James Inhofe and not a groundhog in a costume. Senator Ground-hofe here recently introduced a bill that would ban Federal agencies from buying more ammunition if it currently possesses more than its monthly averages during the Bush Administration. Yes, not including the ammo that ended up in the faces of the friends of Dick Cheney."

Stephen Colbert: "Now, folks, a lot of news outlets including Fox News say that they have debunked the bullet conspiracy theory, but I say it's already started. Because out of fear of government hoarding, ammo sales have skyrocketed making it harder to find ammo which can only mean that the government is hoarding it which means we have to buy more ammo before the government gets it all but there's none left because we bought it. Oh, my God. It's too late. The feds already have us outgunned. Well, they're not going to take me alive. [bleep] I'm out of ammo. ... Well, that's it for tonight's 'Bat[bleep] Serious.' Join me next time when I ask the question, 'Did Big Foot help Lee Harvey Oswald build Stonehenge?'"

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BISON CONNECT

Secretary Vilsack Meeting

Shafroth, William <will_shafroth@ios.doi.gov> Sat, May 11, 2013 at 1:13 PM
To: [redacted]@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

In anticipation of your dinner with Secretary Vilsack tomorrow night, I am sending this email to give you some background on the ways that DOI has worked with USDA on AGO and other conservation initiatives and what I believe the Secretary cares about.

(b)(5) [redacted]

Here are a few examples of programs/policies that will be useful for you to be aware of going into your conversation with him.

1) Regulatory Certainty: One of the concerns that the agricultural community expresses is the need for certainty in the regulatory process. Two specific ways that farmers, ranchers and foresters can help advance public conservation/environmental goals where there regulatory requirements are water quality and endangered species. In our AGO meeting yesterday, we discussed the Working Lands for Wildlife program that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has worked closely with the FWS to achieve the goals of conserving a species and keeping that species off of the Endangered Species list. What NRCS has done, particularly in critical habitat for the sage grouse and lesser prairie chicken, is to provide landowners with financial incentives for conserving and restoring habitat, In exchange for these investments and commitment to maintain the habitat, landowners receive assurance that if the sage grouse or lesser prairie chicken is later listed as threatened or endangered, they will be given relief from the regulations associated with the ESA. This partnership serves both agencies' interests and the substantial financial resources that NRCS brings to these efforts is the difference maker for them to have broad reach.

Another example relates to water quality. In places like the Chesapeake Bay, the future health of the Bay is very much dependent on reducing runoff of both soil and fertilizers from farms in the Bay watershed. Again, NRCS is working closely with landowners to minimize runoff from their fields which will go a long way towards meeting state and federal water quality goals for the Bay (these goals were set in the context of President Obama's 5/2009 Executive Order). By doing so, they receive some relief from water quality regulations from EPA and state regulators. DOI, especially FWS, benefits from this work as water quality is very connected to fish and wildlife health in the Chesapeake and other major water/bay systems.

2) Landscape Conservation: USDA has very much embraced the notion of landscape scale conservation and has been a very good partner to DOI (FWS and BLM) on many other large-scale conservation efforts around the country. The Forest Service has been a partner on the LWCF Collaborative Landscape Projects in both the Crown of the Continent and Long-leaf pine regions. In addition, USDA is a full partner with DOI on the AGO 5 demonstration landscapes that Tom Fry described yesterday in the Crown of the Continent, long leaf pine, southwest deserts, Dakota Grasslands, and northeastern forests projects. (b)(5) [redacted]

(b)(5) [redacted]

(b)(5) [redacted]

Specific places where we've worked together include:

Northern Everglades: Using the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) NRCS has committed to investing >$50 million to purchase conservation easements in this area that drains into Everglades National Park and has significant wildlife values. It is also the location of the recently established Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge is a part of a new generation of refuges where some of the land within the refuge boundary is targeted for fee title acquisition and other areas will be protected through conservation easements.

Dakota Grasslands: This so-called "duck factory of the western hemisphere" is home to where most of the migratory waterfowl breed and have their young and therefore represents a very critical part of the hemispheric ecosystem. It's also a place where the land is being converted by landowners from natural wetlands to cropland because prices for corn, wheat and soybeans are high enough to make it more profitable to grow these crops than keep their land in natural habitat. The hunting and broader conservation communities agree that this region is a top priority for conservation and groups like Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy are putting large sums of money and effort into conservation of wetlands. The role of NRCS has been to target investment of additional farm bill program dollars to keep lands in this region in conservation use - ultimately about 1 million acres of land. Simultaneously, FWS, through the Migratory Bird Commission and the Duck Stamp Program, has dedicated about 70% of all of these funds into the Dakota Grasslands region. That amounts to about $33 million per year.

3) Recreation: While the Forest Service provides significant recreation opportunities throughout the forests and grasslands it manages, most of what I've heard Secretary Vilsack resonate with relates to hunting and fishing. There are a number of voluntary access programs for hunters and anglers including "Open Fields" which gives landowners a financial payment for allowing the public to access their land during a hunting season. Groups like Pheasants Forever and Wild Turkey Federation are strong supporters of this program. Because of the FWS's role in wildlife management, it also supports these programs. Other Farm Bill programs like Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program and Grasslands Reserve Program pay private landowners to revert their land to native habitat for a certain number of years. The result is an improvement in wildlife habitat and populations and more opportunities for hunters to do what they like to do.

4) Urban: USDA has a number of programs that focus in urban areas. They support the establishment of urban gardens and farmers markets as a way to connect people with their food and the farmers who grow it. They also are doing a number of projects in and around cities related to urban forestry and have taken on an increasingly larger role in the Federal Urban Waters Partnership that is led by EPA. They have been an important partner to DOI in a number of projects in urban areas, including Denver and Los Angeles.

Feel free to call me if you want to discuss any of this.

Have a great trip.

Will

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BISON CONNECT

Re: Secretary Vilsack Meeting

Sally Jewell (b) (6)@ios.doi.gov> Sat, May 11, 2013 at 5:09 PM
To: "Shafroth, William" <will_shafroth@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks Will - very helpful. SJ

On May 11, 2013, at 1:14 PM, "Shafroth, William" <will_shafroth@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Sally,

In anticipation of your dinner with Secretary Vilsack tomorrow night, I am sending this email to give you some background on the ways that DOI has worked with USDA on AGO and other conservation initiatives and what I believe the Secretary cares about.

(b)(5)

Here are a few examples of programs/policies that will be useful for you to be aware of going into your conversation with him.

1) Regulatory Certainty: One of the concerns that the agricultural community expresses is the need for certainty in the regulatory process. Two specific ways that farmers, ranchers and foresters can help advance public conservation/environmental goals where there regulatory requirements are water quality and endangered species. In our AGO meeting yesterday, we discussed the Working Lands for Wildlife program that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has worked closely with the FWS to achieve the goals of conserving a species and keeping that species off of the Endangered Species list. What NRCS has done, particularly in critical habitat for the sage grouse and lesser prairie chicken, is to provide landowners with financial incentives for conserving and restoring habitat. In exchange for these investments and commitment to maintain the habitat, landowners receive assurance that if the sage grouse or lesser prairie chicken is later listed as threatened or endangered, they will be given relief from the regulations associated with the ESA. This partnership serves both agencies' interests and the substantial financial resources that NRCS brings to these efforts is the difference maker for them to have broad reach.

Another example relates to water quality. In places like the Chesapeake Bay, the future health of the Bay is very much dependent on reducing runoff of both soil and fertilizers from farms in the Bay watershed. Again, NRCS is working closely with landowners to minimize runoff from their fields which will go a long way towards meeting state and federal water quality goals for the Bay (these goals were set in the context of President Obama's 5/2009 Executive Order). By doing so, they receive some relief from water quality regulations from EPA and state regulators. DOI, especially FWS, benefits from this work as water quality is very connected to fish and wildlife health in the Chesapeake and other major water/bay systems.

2) Landscape Conservation: USDA has very much embraced the notion of landscape scale

conservation and has been a very good partner to DOI (FWS and BLM) on many other large-scale conservation efforts around the country. The Forest Service has been a partner on the LWCF Collaborative Landscape Projects in both the Crown of the Continent and Long-leaf pine regions. In addition, USDA is a full partner with DOI on the AGO 5 demonstration landscapes that Tom Fry described yesterday in the Crown of the Continent, long leaf pine, southwest deserts, Dakota Grasslands, and northeastern forests projects. (b)(5) [redacted]

Specific places where we've worked together include:

Northern Everglades: Using the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) NRCS has committed to investing >$50 million to purchase conservation easements in this area that drains into Everglades National Park and has significant wildlife values. It is also the location of the recently established Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge is a part of a new generation of refuges where some of the land within the refuge boundary is targeted for fee title acquisition and other areas will be protected through conservation easements.

Dakota Grasslands: This so-called "duck factory of the western hemisphere" is home to where most of the migratory waterfowl breed and have their young and therefore represents a very critical part of the hemispheric ecosystem. It's also a place where the land is being converted by landowners from natural wetlands to cropland because prices for corn, wheat and soybeans are high enough to make it more profitable to grow these crops than keep their land in natural habitat. The hunting and broader conservation communities agree that this region is a top priority for conservation and groups like Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy are putting large sums of money and effort into conservation of wetlands. The role of NRCS has been to target investment of additional farm bill program dollars to keep lands in this region in conservation use - ultimately about 1 million acres of land. Simultaneously, FWS, through the Migratory Bird Commission and the Duck Stamp Program, has dedicated about 70% of all of these funds into the Dakota Grasslands region. That amounts to about $33 million per year.

3) Recreation: While the Forest Service provides significant recreation opportunities throughout the forests and grasslands it manages, most of what I've heard Secretary Vilsack resonate with relates to hunting and fishing. There are a number of voluntary access programs for hunters and anglers including "Open Fields" which gives landowners a financial payment for allowing the public to access their land during a hunting season. Groups like Pheasants Forever and Wild Turkey Federation are strong supporters of this program. Because of the FWS's role in wildlife management, it also supports these programs. Other Farm Bill programs like Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program and Grasslands Reserve Program pay private landowners to revert their land to native habitat for a certain number of years. The result is an improvement in wildlife habitat and populations and more opportunities for hunters to do what they like to do.

4) Urban: USDA has a number of programs that focus in urban areas. They support the establishment of urban gardens and farmers markets as a way to connect people with their food and the farmers who grow it. They also are doing a number of projects in and around cities related to urban forestry and have taken on an increasingly larger role in the Federal Urban Waters Partnership that is led by EPA. They have been an important partner to DOI in a number of projects in urban areas, including Denver and Los Angeles.

Feel free to call me if you want to discuss any of this.

Have a great trip.

Will

Will Shafroth
Counselor to the Secretary
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202-208-4969

BISON CONNECT

Re: Idaho Statesman curtain-raiser on today's visit (the reporter, Rocky Barker, will be at today's event)

Sally Jewell (b) (6)@ios.doi.gov> Mon, May 13, 2013 at 7:05 AM
To: "Kelly, Katherine" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, neil komze <nkomze@blm.gov>, laura davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, "Androff, Blake J" <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Kate -

This article is accurate - he does a good job of really nailing the issues that folks have shared with me. (b) (5) (b)(5)

Thanks for sending it over early.

Sally

On May 13, 2013, at 4:59 AM, "Kelly, Katherine" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Rocky Barker: Fire story is different in forests and on range

Published: May 13, 2013

Brand-new Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will make her first trip to the National Interagency Fire Center, joining Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on a visit to the Boise agency Monday.

The two landlords for most of the public lands in the U.S. will meet with reporters to talk about the upcoming fire season. I expect them to tell us to expect another long, hot fire season in the American West.

It's already started in California, and Idaho has had several fires start from lightning in the Boise National Forest, along with a few range fires. Last year, 9.3 million acres of private, state and federal land, and more than 4,400 structures, burned in wildfires in the U.S.

That was the third-highest number of acres burned since at least 1960.

In 2012, 1.7 million acres of Idaho burned, costing the state and federal governments $214 million. The biggest loss in the state, though, came in the death of 20-year-old Forest Service firefighter Anne Veseth.

If you would believe some critics, all of those burned acres represented a failure by the (mostly) federal land mangers who oversee them. Remember, the interagency firefighting teams that are coordinated from Boise put out 98 percent of all fires that start.

A centurylong policy of suppression contributed to a buildup of forest fuels that gave us more than two decades of large fires in Idaho forests.

Shifting the balance back to even more suppression may lead to less safety and more deaths.

Add to the forest fuels the hotter, drier and longer fire seasons we have today because of the changing climate, and we have conditions across the West ripe for disaster. The Boise National Forest offers a model for the rest of the region in how to get through this.

When Lowman burned in 1989 and the huge Foothills fire burned in 1992, foresters feared for the health of the Boise National Forest and other southern Idaho forests. In 1995, the Forest Service put in place a policy where national forests developed fire plans to help managers decide which areas they could let burn safely.

Boise National Forest staff aggressively thinned and logged forests around communities like Idaho City and Garden Valley. These mechanical measures were followed with controlled burns on thousands of acres.

Between wildfire and intentional burns, more than 1 million acres of the 2.6 million-acre Boise Forest have burned at least once since 1989. Last year, the 148,000-acre Trinity Ridge Fire burned from August through October. It threatened Featherville and burned a few cabins. But it was largely controlled, because it burned in forests where previous fires had consumed built-up fuels.

The Trinity Ridge Fire filled in the gap left by earlier fires over the past 20 years. Like fires across the West in the past two decades, the Trinity Ridge Fire did not destroy the forest. More than 50 percent of the forest within the perimeter was either unburned or burned with low severity. Another 34 percent was only moderately burned.

Essentially, the Boise National Forest and most of the forests of southern Idaho are more resilient today than in 1985. Unfortunately, the story is very different in southern Idaho's sagebrush steppe desert lands.

"Megafires" like the 630,000-acre Murphy Hot Springs Fire have been destroying native bunchgrass and shrub habitat over the same two decades.

Last year alone, 7.5 percent of the state's sage grouse habitat burned. Far more of it burned in Oregon and Nevada.

Meanwhile, invasive plants like cheatgrass have moved in and changed the fire cycle. Instead of fires burning every 20 years, fires fueled by the hot-burning cheatgrass now come back to the same land every seven to 10 years, experts say.

It takes 20 to 30 years for the sagebrush landscape to mature to a point where it has the kind of resilience the Boise National Forest's forests has reached.

There are no easy answers to this fire challenge.

As agriculture secretary since 2009, Vilsack has been tested by several of the toughest fire seasons any Cabinet member has faced. You can bet Jewell will get her own test soon. I expect she'll soon be back to Boise to talk about fires again, too.

--

Kate Kelly
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BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials - Wednesday, May 22

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Tue, May 21, 2013 at 5:33 PM
To: [redacted]@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Jennifer Sisk <jennifer_sisk@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Here are your briefing materials for Wednesday, May 22. These are also on Google drive. Let me know if you have any questions.

Erin

9 attachments Attachments 1-2 and 4-9 are unavailable.

- **ANGA Meeting memo.doc** 30K
- **CNMI memo.docx** 19K
- **ESA memo.docx** 19K
- **Gershwin Prize Event Memo.docx** 27K
- **Interview Schedule.doc** 22K
- **McUsic Resume.docx** 26K
- **Suh resume.pdf** 150K
- **Vets Mem Day Cleanup Memo.docx** 93K
- **Zichal Resume.pdf** 109K

May 22, 2013

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: Michael Bean, Counselor to the Asst. Sec. for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

CC: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, FWP; Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

SUBJECT: Endangered Species Act Overview

BACKGROUND:

For the past forty years, the Endangered Species Act has been one of the key statutes administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. It has helped bring many species back from the brink of extinction, including the American alligator, whooping crane, California condor, and the nation's symbol, the bald eagle. At the same time, however, it has also frequently been the subject of intense controversy, as its requirements have forced significant changes in the management of public and private lands, the allocation of scarce water supplies, and the use of other resources.

There are several high profile ESA actions on the horizon. This memo outlines a briefing that is intended to give you a context for those actions through a broad overview of the ESA and how it works. In addition, the briefing will include a more focused look at those particular parts of the law that are at issue in some of the current major controversies arising under the ESA.

AGENDA: We plan to cover the following key issues:

1. An overview of the ESA, including its history, accomplishments, and principal agency responsibilities
2. The listing (and de-listing) process and the role of outside parties in affecting that process (including a discussion of the "MDL settlement agreements" and pending decisions regarding lesser prairie chickens, sage grouse, and wolves)
3. Critical habitat and the vast gulf in perceptions of what it means (illustrated by a discussion of the recent northern spotted owl critical habitat designation)
4. The special duties of federal agencies to avoid jeopardy to species and adverse modification of critical habitat
5. How the ESA affects private landowners: the taking prohibition and the role of habitat conservation plans, safe harbor agreements, and candidate conservation agreements with assurances
6. Modernizing procedures and incentivizing conservation efforts (focusing on proposals to improve clarity and efficiency, and to encourage voluntary conservation efforts)

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Tue, May 28, 2013 at 6:55 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

FEDERAL OFFICIALS CALL "MOVING FORWARD" MEETING ON COLORADO RIVER. The Los Angeles Times (5/28, Perry, 692K) reports on a drought that is impacting the Colorado River, prompting "water agency officials, environmentalists, farmers and Indian tribal leaders from the seven states that depend on the river for survival...to gather Tuesday for a 'moving forward' meeting called by federal officials." Michael Connor, commissioner of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, commented, "Hydrologically, we're not going in the right direction." Meanwhile, the Times cites an Interior report released in December, "warning that

drought, climate change and population growth are fast outstripping the water supply from the Colorado River." Anne Castle, assistant Interior secretary for water and science, said that "the December report and its 'call to action' cannot become 'a study that just sits on a shelf.'"

The AP (5/27, Press) quotes the Bureau of Reclamation's Connor, who said, "We're looking at a very significant chance of declaring a shortage in the Colorado River basin in 2016. We really need to get to specifics, technical liabilities and the political feasibility of projects." Interior's Castle "called Tuesday's conference at a U.S. Geological Survey office near San Diego International Airport the start of a 'next steps' process."

Also reporting this story are KSL-TV Salt Lake City (5/27, O'Donoghue) and the Yuma (AZ) Sun (5/27, Lobeck, 23K).

SENATOR, POLICE COMMISSIONER CRITICIZE NPS SECURITY PLAN FOR STATUE OF LIBERTY. The New York Times (5/28, A15, Feuer, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that on Monday, Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) urged the National Park Service "to scrap what he called a dangerous new security plan for the Statue of Liberty, saying that it could leave visitors to the tourist attraction vulnerable to a terrorist attack." Police commissioner Raymond W. Kelly "said that he had written a personal letter to Sally Jewell, the secretary of the interior," and "that his department and the Park Service...had been discussing the new proposal for weeks but had been unable to reconcile their differences." Meanwhile, "Michael Litterst, a spokesman for the Park Service, said, 'Safety has been and will continue to be our No. 1 priority, and we are committed to implementing a plan that does not compromise the safety of our visitors or the security of these landmarks.'"

CNN (5/27, Gonzalez) quotes Schumer, who said, "It's sort of ridiculous. It's sort of saying we are going to screen people at airports after they get on the plane. They've made a serious mistake here, and we are asking them to rethink it, to change it and simply go back to the old procedure."

Also reporting this story are the New York Post (5/28, Mcnulty, 498K), Newsday (5/28, Kossov, 402K), and the New York Daily News (5/27, Tracy, 543K).

FURLOUGHS TO END JUNE 1 FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. The AP (5/27, Cassata) reported on "furlough Friday," which impacted the Interior Department, who furloughed about 13,000 people, including all 767 US Park Police employees. The National Park Service said that "the furloughs had been expected to continue through the summer tourist season but will now end June 1, because the agency was able to find other savings to offset mandatory cuts." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that the cuts "are not sustainable, as these actions which are eroding our workforce, shrinking our summer field season and deferring important work cannot be continued in future years without further severe consequences to our mission."

The Washington Post (5/27, Rein, 489K) reported on building pressure "on Park Service Director Jon Jarvis to cut the unpaid days," which "came largely from the police officers themselves, who waged a scrappy public relations war against their boss to force his hand."

A separate Washington Post (5/25, Rein, 489K) story reported that in a statement, Ian Glick, president of the U.S. Park Police Fraternal Order of Police, said, "While this is encouraging news . . . the agency is still understaffed, poorly funded and lacks financial control of its own operations."

INTERIOR OFFICIALS OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED FRACKING RULES. Gannett News Service (5/25, Berry) reported, "Administration officials began taking public comments Friday on proposed regulations for hydraulic fracturing on public lands," and "the agency expects to receive even more comments this year, said Richard McNeer, a senior attorney with the Interior Department's Division of Mineral Resources." Meanwhile, "Interior Secretary Sally Jewell called the revised rules 'common-sense updates.'"

BLM TO REMOVE WILD HORSES FROM NEVADA RANGE. The AP (5/27) reported from Reno, Nevada, that the Bureau of Land Management has said "the drought is prompting plans to remove an unspecified number of wild horses from a large swath of the range in northeastern Nevada," which is "two years after they removed some 1,400 mustangs from the same area." BLM spokeswoman Lesli Ellis said, "Our goal is just to leave the appropriate amount of horses on the range that can be sustained." Meanwhile, the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, who opposes the plan, "is collecting signatures for an open letter to new Interior

Secretary Sally Jewell," although "Jewell has said she won't act until after a National Academy of Science report on the issue comes out in June."

ST. AUGUSTINE 450TH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION HOPEFUL FOR GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP. The Florida Times-Union (5/26, 100K) reported that the St. Augustine 450th Commemoration Commission "will probably never see a penny of the $500,000 a year it was initially promised," although commission members said "that they haven't given up on getting the money or on making the 450th both a national and international event." Mayor Joe Boles "said the federal money was 'authorized but not appropriated' by the Department of the Interior." Boles commented, "Government sponsorship is not available until we hear from the secretary of the interior. Obviously, with no funding, we cannot initiate the context we've identified as important." But, the piece notes that "Boles remains positive and optimistic and says the federal commission will keep moving forward."

STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE STIPENDS TO SIX CREWS IN CALIFORNIA. The Eureka (CA) Times Standard (5/27, 18K) reports, "The U.S. Department of the Interior announced this week that the Student Conservation Association, Inc. will provide stipends to six conservation crews working throughout the state to improve wildlife habitat in California." Field staff from the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and SCA will mentor the crews.

JEWELL ENCOURAGED TO VISIT ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS REGION IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO. In the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/27, 83K), Rafael Gomez, Jr., a member of the Pueblo of Ysleta del Sur, and Joseph Suina, a Cochiti Tribal Council member, wrote that "when President Barack Obama designated Rio Grande del Norte as a national monument, it marked a historically significant and exciting moment for Native Americans living in New Mexico," although "we realize that work still needs to be done to protect additional public lands in New Mexico that highlight the long and storied contributions of Native Americans to the Land of Enchantment." Gomez and Suina note a recent trip to Washington, DC, where they invited Interior Secretary Sally Jewel "to visit southern New Mexico and see for herself why the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region is so special. We know that Jewell has a strong record in protecting public lands and is committed to strengthening the United States' relationship with Indian tribes. Showing her this sacred and diverse place in person is a great way to put it at the forefront of the conversation."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NATIONAL, STATE PARKS FEEL SEQUESTRATION EFFECTS. The AP (5/28) reports on how sequestration and budget cuts will impact national and state parks. The National Park Service "has instituted a hiring freeze that will leave 900 vacancies unfilled," and "the smaller workforce will result in less frequent mowing, sand-covered bike paths, messier restrooms and fewer interpretive programs." The AP notes that "after multiple years of budget cuts, National Park Service officials worry about greater impacts next year. 'Something will give. That is not a recipe for a healthy Park Service into the next century,' Park Service spokesman Jeffrey Olson said, referring to the park system's centennial in 2016."

NPS REVIEWS REPORT ON FOUNDATION LED BY BROWN V. BOARD LEAD PLAINTIFF. The AP (5/27, Hollingsworth) reported from Kansas City, Missouri, that the National Park Service is reviewing a report conducted by the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General "that could lead to penalties being levied against a foundation led by the daughter of the lead plaintiff in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education school desegregation case." On Friday, David Smith, superintendent of the Brown site, said "that the National Park Service was given the report April 29 and has been given 90 days to finish its review and determine what action it will take," while "options include everything from doing nothing to seeking reimbursement from the Brown foundation and its leader, Cheryl Brown Henderson."

NPS ACCEPTING PROPOSALS TO OPERATE GOLF COURSE WITHIN DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The New Jersey Herald (5/26, Scruton, 17K) reported, "The National Park Service is accepting proposals to operate the nine-hole Cliff Park Golf Course within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area with an eye toward reopening the course for public play this summer." Park Superintendent John Donahue said, "This amazing course is a jewel within Pike County. Its rolling hills

surrounded by lush upland forests make it a great place to play a round of golf while enjoying the beautiful scenery in an historic setting."

NPS PREPARES FOR BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG ANNIVERSARY. The AP (5/27, Press) reported on the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, noting that "the National Park Service and a cadre of community organizers are busily putting the finishing touches on preparations," as "tens of thousands of visitors are expected for a 10-day schedule of events that begin June 29."

NPS APPROVES HOUSTON HISTORIC DISTRICT. WTVA-TV Columbus, MS (5/27) reports, "A section of the city of Houston has been designated as a historic district. The National Park Service announced Friday they had approved the Houston Historic District during a meeting on May 14."

GARBAGE COLLECTION AGENCY DROPS PLANS TO BUILD LANDFILL NEAR JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The AP (5/24) reported that "a regional garbage collection agency has tossed out plans to build a mega-landfill for Los Angeles' trash less than two miles from Joshua Tree National Park in the remote Southern California desert." The piece notes that "opponents argued the landfill and associated train and truck traffic around the dump would wreak havoc on the delicate desert ecosystem and attract scavengers like ravens, which snack on the hatchlings of desert tortoises, a federally threatened species."

HANDRAILS INSTALLED FOR HALF DOME HIKERS IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The AP (5/24, Press) reported, "A summer rite of passage is underway at Yosemite National Park, where the handrails on Half Dome are in place and hikers began scaling the granite monolith Friday morning." Meanwhile, "park officials want to limit numbers to increase safety on Half Dome, where changing weather conditions can be challenging."

Bureau of Land Management:

"SPRING INTO YELLOWSTONE" EVENT DUBBED A SUCCESS. The AP (5/27, Mathers) reported that "the first 'Spring into Yellowstone: Cody Birding and Wildlife Festival' was so successful that the second annual event already is scheduled for next year." Mike Stewart, Cody field manager for the Bureau of Land Management, commented, "The Spring into Yellowstone event is a prime example of the public and non-governmental organizations working collaboratively with local, state and federal agencies to showcase this unique and important part of Wyoming and the Greater Yellowstone Area."

PROPOSED ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE COULD IMPACT NEWLY DESIGNATED NATIONAL MONUMENT IN NEW MEXICO. The AP (5/27) reports that "a Colorado utility has reached out to leaders in northern New Mexico about the possibility of running an electric transmission line from a substation north of Alamosa, Colo., to a site somewhere west of Taos," although "the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's study area for the project overlies the newly designated Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, alarming those still celebrating its hard-won status." Sam DesGeorges, field manager for the BLM's Taos field office, said that "'the national monument is an additional screen that we would use' in weighing whether to authorize the line. It is still a discretionary action, and by policy, our preference would be to avoid monument land."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

BLM, FWS GRANT CONDOR EXCEPTION TO TERRA-GEN WIND PROJECT. The Los Angeles Times (5/24, Sahagun, 692K) reports on Terra-Gen Power's 2,300-acre Alta Windpower Development project, which "will include equipment to detect incoming condors soon enough to switch off the company's massive wind turbines before they slice into one of the birds." This and other efforts that the company plans to take "is the chief reason that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has granted the company a unique exception to the Endangered Species Act," where, "for the first time, a company will not be prosecuted if it accidentally kills a condor." Steve Henry, Fish and Wildlife deputy field supervisor in Ventura, explained that Terra-Gen "sets a new standard for wind energy facilities."

The New York Times (5/26, A17, Barringer, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that BLM spokeswoman Amy Krause "said there had been no recorded instances of condor mortality associated with wind turbines."

Krause and FWS spokesman Paul McKim "said the wind farm's developers had planned multiple lines of defense — including electronic sensors and day-in, day-out sky monitoring by a biologist — to further reduce the slim chance of a condor striking a turbine."

EnergyWire (5/28, Subscription Publication) quotes Ren Lohoefener, regional director of the Fish and Wildlife's Pacific Southwest Region, who "said he's confident the wind farm will have no major impact on the ongoing recovery of the California condors." In a statement, he said, "This is a positive step as we continue to support the conservation and recovery of condors. This project provides a basis for future consultations and an opportunity to engage other renewable energy companies and stakeholders with best practices that support condor recovery." BLM California State Director Jim Kenna added, "Not only does this project create good jobs and generate clean and reliable power, but we've also worked closely with the company and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure the protection of eagles and California Condors."

FWS HAS PAID NEARLY $17 MILLION TO STUDY, RESTORE MEXICAN WOLVES. The Arizona Republic (5/26, Loomis, 308K) reports on Mexican gray wolves, "a rare native species that is struggling to regain a footing in the Southwest." The piece notes that "as of 2011, the federal, state and tribal agencies involved estimated they had spent about $26 million studying, breeding and restoring Mexican wolves over about 20 years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service paid the biggest share, nearly $17 million. The Arizona Game and Fish Department paid $2.5 million and used another $3 million in federal funds."

EASTERN SHORE WILDLIFE REFUGE NOW HOME TO WWII GUN BARREL. The AP (5/25, Press) reports that the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge "is now home to a historic World War II gun barrel from the USS Missouri. ... The barrel adds more military history to the refuge that was transferred from the Air Force to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1984."

US Geological Survey:

USGS: SMALL EARTHQUAKES CONTINUE TO OCCUR NEAR MORRILTON. The AP (5/27) reports, "The US Geological Survey says small earthquakes continue to occur in an area near Morrilton, about 50 miles west of Little Rock."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SENATORS UNVEIL BILL FOR ENERGY-STORAGE TAX INCENTIVES TO HOMEOWNERS. Bloomberg News (5/24, Doom) reports four US Senators unveiled "legislation offering tax incentives to homeowners and companies that install energy-storage systems in an effort to boost investment in renewable power." The bill would "provide a 30 percent tax credit," with an upper limit of $1 million per project, "to homeowners and businesses that use power-storage equipment," according to a statement from lawmakers including Sen. Ron Wyden, chairman of the energy and natural resources committee.

EU TO IMPOSE TARIFFS ON CHINESE SOLAR PANEL EQUIPMENT. The Wall Street Journal (5/28, Dalton, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports that EU trade authorities indicated Monday that they will move forward with plans to impose tariffs of up to 67.9% on Chinese-made solar panel equipment. This, despite intense lobbying by the Chinese government which appeared to be eroding support for the tariffs among EU member governments.

MINNESOTA LAW FORCES UTILITIES TO GENERATE MORE SOLAR POWER. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/28, Shaffer, 335K) reports large solar arrays could soon become the norm in Minnesota "after lawmakers required Xcel and other big utilities to get 1.5% of their power from the sun by 2020." The paper says the state's new solar standard, "signed into law Thursday by Gov. Mark Dayton, will force four investor-owned electric utilities to generate 30 times more solar power than they do today." The Tribune says "power companies had opposed the mandate, and remain wary of solar's cost, which they say can't compete with low-cost wind and natural gas-fired generation."

KANSAS CITY MAKES BIG SOLAR PUSH. The Kansas City (MO) Star (5/27, Everly, 197K) reports a deal has been signed by Kansas City "to install solar panels and equipment on 80 city buildings to meet part of their demand for electricity." Kansas City Power & Light and local solar installer Brightergy "will team up on the project" which is "expected to be completed by the end of the year." The city's chief environmental officer Dennis Murphey said, "Kansas City will very likely be one of the leading cities in the country in the number of buildings with solar electricity."

GROUPS CRITICIZE EFFORTS BY UTILITY TO REPEAL OHIO'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY LAWS. The AP (5/28) reports small business and consumer groups "say a utility is trying to eliminate Ohio's energy efficiency laws they say benefit everyone." Groups including the Small Business Majority are urging an end to "what they say are a FirstEnergy subsidiary's efforts to repeal Ohio's energy efficiency laws."

CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS EYE ALTERNATIVE TO GOV. BROWN'S CLEAN ENERGY PLAN. The Los Angeles Times (5/23, Megerian, 692K) reports California lawmakers "are pushing an alternative to Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to use new revenue generated by Proposition 39, which changed the corporate tax code when voters approved it in November." The paper says Brown and Democrats in the Legislature "are at odds over how to distribute $450 million to schools and community colleges for energy efficiency projects." The paper says the governor has said he is interested in allocating "the money based on student population, but that hasn't satisfied lawmakers who fear the funding won't get to where it's most needed."

BILL AIMED AT LOWERING ENERGY BILLS FOR MAINE RESIDENTS WINS BACKING OF PANEL. The AP (5/25) reports "a bill that seeks to lower Mainers' bills for electricity and heating has won a 12-1 vote of support in a legislative committee, enhancing its chances of passage by the House and Senate."

GREAT LAKES REGION GETS READY FOR MAKEOVER, NEW MISSION. The AP (5/28, Flesher) reports the Great Lakes region is getting "a makeover and a new mission." The AP says the region "will reopen this summer as a hive of business experimentation swarming with scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs." The AP says they "share a lab where new technologies can be tested". Office suites will host startup companies, including one devising a system "for cultivating algae as biofuel." The article says the center is a part of a broader plan to develop blue economy, which a network of "industries that develop products and services related to water, from pump and valve manufacturers to resorts offering vacations along redeveloped lakeshores."

WIND STORAGE COULD WORK IN NORTHWEST STUDY FINDS. In an article about the surplus power the Pacific Northwest has in the springtime due to its hydropower dams and wind power, the Seattle Times (5/28, Doughton, 236K) reports a new study determined "it should be technically feasible to capture surplus wind power and store it underground until it's needed." According to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's Pete McGrail "enough energy to power 85,000 homes for a month could be locked up in porous basalt at one site on the Columbia Plateau." The next analyses will focus on the costs of such a facility. The Times notes, however, that "the approach itself, in which excess energy is used to pump air under pressure into a subterranean reservoir, has been used for decades at two facilities" in Germany and Alabama. Bonneville Power Administration's Steven Knudsen, who co-authored the study, said that "the technology hasn't been widely adopted because, until recently, there hasn't been much incentive to build such costly facilities."

WTIMES CRITICIZES WIND ENERGY POLICY OF GOVERNMENT. In an editorial, the Washington Times (5/24, 76K) criticizes the wind energy policies of the US government that has failed to protect wildlife, saying neither the Obama Administration nor the George W. Bush Administration "have prosecuted a single case against Big Wind." The paper writes, "Hundreds of America's greatest birds, many of them protected as endangered species, fall lifeless to the ground after slamming into cruel windmill blades powered by taxpayer dollars." On the other hand, providers of conventional energy sources have had to face the wrath of the government. Over the past few years, "the Justice Department extracted a $600,000 settlement and $3 million in compliance costs from Exxon-Mobil after 85 birds supposedly died from 'exposure to hydrocarbons,'" the paper reports.

Onshore Energy Development:

OIL AND GAS COMPANIES, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SAYS NEW PROPOSAL WILL MAKE FRACKING SAFER. The Chicago Tribune (5/24, Wernau, 450K) reports that "oil and gas companies and environmental

groups have hashed out legislation they say would make Illinois a national leader in protecting public health and the environment from fracking." The Tribune reports that "the proposal... would empower the state Department of Natural Resources to handle drilling permits, monitor waterways, and require companies to disclose chemicals used along with massive amounts of water to extract oil and gas trapped in shale rock beneath farms and forests." However the Tribune points out that the proposed "health and environmental protections do little to address the impact an oil boom would have on residents' quality of life," due to the fact that unincorporated areas where fracking would most likely take place doesn't have zoning laws to protect them, which would allow companies to use those lands for drilling, regardless of what landowners have to say about it.

TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION APPROVES NEW OIL, GAS WELL RULES. The Houston Chronicle (5/24, Kever, 434K) reported that on Friday, the Texas Railroad Commission "adopted long-awaited changes to its rules for the construction of oil and gas wells," after months of discussion on ways to amend "a section of the state's regulations known as Rule 13." Changes include requiring operators of fracked wells to "pressure test well casings to the maximum pressure expected and to notify the commission of a failed test," mandating a suspension in operations "if monitoring indicates a potential down-hole casing leak," and updating requirements "for well control and blowout preventers."

GE INVESTING IN FRACKING AS IT MOVES INTO OIL, GAS SECTOR. The AP (5/27) reported that General Electric has decided to invest billions in fracking. The company will open a lab in Oklahoma and purchase fracking-related companies. Senior vice president Mark Little said, "We like the oil and gas base because we see the need for resources for a long time to come." He said the company 10 years ago had "almost nothing" invested in the sector, but in the past few years has spent "more than $15 billion." Though the company "doesn't drill wells or produce oil or gas," Little said the fracking boom fits well with GE's "strengths."

NEW INTEREST IN ARCTIC EXPLORATION, DRILLING NOTED. Platts (5/28, Gentile) reports on the growing interest in Arctic drilling, noting that 10 years ago, "it seemed no one wanted to talk about a coordinated, multinational approach to managing the Arctic." However, "global warming" has led to greater interest in the region, with nations now sending their first ships "through the newly opened central route, linking Asia with markets in Europe, the US and beyond," and with companies including Shell, Rosneft, BP, and Exxon getting involved in operations there.

UTAH CONGRESSMAN URGES GREATER ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS FOR OIL, GAS. In an op-ed in Politico (5/28, Chaffetz, 25K) Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) wrote about his state's experiences with government land leases, as two-thirds of the state is owned by the Federal government. He said that currently only 12% of the Federal land in the state is used for drilling and exploration, and though "some lands should be protected," he argued that "wilderness and energy development can peacefully co-exist," and that local, state, and Federal governments can collaborate to create guidelines about "which lands are most suitable for which uses." However, he warned, "that won't happen if we rely on one-size-fits-all directives from Washington." He noted an effort by himself and Rep. Bishop "to proactively bring together conservation groups, the tourism industry, local governments and other stakeholders to come to an agreement about the designation of public lands," and urged others in Congress "to support this locally driven process and resist the urge to impose burdensome top-down designations on communities that may not make sense at the local level."

NYTIMES WANTS OBAMA TO CONTINUE RESISTING PRESSURE FROM "OIL EXTREMISTS." In an editorial, the New York Times (5/25, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says a group of House Republicans, which it calls "oil extremists" ignores good news on energy use such as tapping of previously inaccessible deposits of oil and gas and a steady decline in gas consumption and instead sticks to scare tactics. The paper says last week one of the subcommittees of Doc Hastings, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, "held hearings on several bills that would destroy much of the balance between resource preservation and extraction that President Obama and Ken Salazar, former interior secretary, sought to achieve." The editorial wants President Obama to continue to resist such pressure.

Offshore Energy Development:

SEN. KAINE REMAINS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HIS OFFSHORE DRILLING BILL. The Hill (5/24, Colman, 21K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) said that he's not "expecting that there will be a

challenge in the White House" to "his bill to authorize oil and gas drilling off Virginia's coast," even though "the White has given little impression that it intended to allow drilling in the Atlantic Ocean." The Hill adds that the challenge will be "getting Senate Democratic leadership to go along with such efforts, which is unlikely." However, Kaine said that if this "bill can get around that obstacle and make it to Obama's desk," it may be able to "push the President to reconsider his offshore leasing plan."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

LAWMAKERS SEEK TO END RESTRICTIONS ON HYDRO-POWER GENERATION. The Missoulian (5/28, 26K) reports Federal lawmakers "are seeking to lift restrictions on hydropower development so more local irrigation districts could use water flowing through government-sponsored agricultural canals and pipelines to generate electricity." Bureau of Reclamation senior adviser Robert Quint "said during recent testimony before the House Natural Resources Committee that the agency wants to make sure it can review potential environmental impacts if warranted for any hydropower project proposed." Supporters of the measure say hundreds of irrigation systems, many of them in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains, will be able to develop small power projects if the restrictions are lifted.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO HELP FINANCE WATER PIPELINE TO COOMBSVILLE. The Napa Valley Register (5/27) reports the Federal government "will pump $3.7 million into water-supply construction projects in Napa County, and partly fund a recycled water pipeline to the Coombsville area." The fund "will help pay for the Napa Sanitation District and Napa County to construct the approximately five-mile pipeline." The Bureau of Reclamation's "WaterSMART program is the source of funding," the Register notes.

LAND BUYERS SEEK ANSWERS ABOUT SELLING WATER. The Yuma (AZ) Sun (5/27, Davis, 23K) reports more longtime landowners are selling their land in the Yuma region. "Some buyers ask what the process is like to move and sell water, in essence saying that 'the water's pretty valuable, how do we maximize our investment using the water,'" said Elston Grubaugh, general manager of the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District. WMIDD is part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Gila Project, "which permits diversion of Colorado River water to satisfy beneficial consumptive use of 300,000 acre-feet of water in each of two divisions."

AUTHOR SAYS FINDING SOLUTIONS TO ARIZONA WATER PROBLEM REMAINS CHALLENGING. In an opinion piece in the Arizona Republic (5/24, Glennon, 308K) Robert Glennon, a regents' professor at the University of Arizona, writes on the looming water problems in Arizona. Glennon, author of "Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What To Do About It," says in 2012, the US Bureau of Reclamation released a study of the river "that factored in climate change under various scenarios. By midcentury, the bureau expects annual demand to exceed supply by an average of 3.2 million acre-feet" in Arizona. The writer says "finding solutions to the imbalance between supply and demand is a daunting challenge. Some advocates remain committed to 'augmentation,' a euphemism for importing more water from someplace else."

Empowering Native American Communities:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEEKS CHANGES TO LAND TRANSFER PROCESS. The AP (5/28) says the Federal government "is proposing changes to the process used to transfer land into trust for American Indian tribes." The AP reports officials say "the proposal will provide greater notice of land-into-trust decisions ... depending on whether the land is taken into trust by the assistant secretary for Indian Affairs or an official with the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

AMERICAN INDIANS SEEK RECOGNITION FOR SERVICES TO NATION. The AP (5/27, Bryan) reports on the lack of any monument for the American Indians in the National Mall in Washington, though "tens of thousands of American Indians have enlisted in the armed forces to serve their country." The AP says a "grass-roots effort is brewing among tribes across the country to change that," and Sen. Brian Schatz, Hawaii Democrat, "has introduced legislation that would clear the way for the National Museum of the American Indian to begin raising private funds for a memorial." John Garcia, deputy assistant secretary at the US Department of Veterans Affairs, "said he's been meeting with American Indian leaders and believes that a memorial 'is a real possibility,' if certain conditions are met.

SOME EDUCATORS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS. The Arizona Republic (5/21, Butrymowicz, 308K) reports schools in 45 states and the District of Columbia "are rolling out the Common Core State Standards, which will bring changes to how teachers teach and how students are tested on their knowledge and skills." The paper says educators of Native American "students are waiting to see whether the changes will narrow the achievement gap between their students and White children." The article notes that "some educators have expressed fear" that teachers' focus on "standardized testing may ramp up with the launch of the Common Core," and may neglect regular "teaching culture."

MILITARY SERVICE OF AMERICAN INDIANS RECALLED ON MEMORIAL DAY. The Fresno (CA) Bee (5/26, Carlson, 113K) reports that on Sunday, American Indians' military service "was honored at the Memorial Day ceremony at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery." The Bee says Allen B. Clark, a former assistant secretary of veteran affairs, "made his return to the national cemetery in western Merced County to deliver the keynote speech." Clark said American Indians "have served admirably in the major conflicts," including the "Navajo code talkers of World War II."

Top National News:

OBAMA CALLS ON AMERICANS "TO BE WORTHY OF" FALLEN SOLDIERS' SACRIFICES. Coverage of President Obama's remarks at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday focused on his observation that, unlike previous generations, "most Americans are not directly touched by war," and his reminder that US forces are still fighting a war in Afghanistan. A few outlets, including the New York Times (5/28, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), tied the President's sentiments to his speech last Thursday on US counterterrorism strategy, but those were exceptions to what was generally straightforward nonpolitical coverage.

On the CBS Evening News (5/27, story 3, 2:15, Glor, 5.58M), Bob Orr said the President "reminded all Americans Memorial Day is not just a day off" and that "America is still at war in Afghanistan." Likewise, in the lead story for NBC Nightly News (5/27, lead story, 2:35, Morales, 7.86M), Natalie Morales said the President "urged all Americans not to forget our nation is still at war." Morales added that "while troop withdrawal is under way in Afghanistan...60,000 service members remain there still, risking their lives." On ABC World News (5/27, story 7, 2:10, Muir, 7.43M), the President was shown saying, "And we are tasked, every single one of us, to honor the strength, and the resolve, and the love these brave Americans felt for each other and for our country."

The AP (5/28, Superville) reports that the President "reflect[ed] on the personal toll of war," and urged Americans "to be worthy of the sacrifice" made by US soldiers killed in war. According to the AP , the President suggested that those currently in the military "aren't being fully appreciated in an era in which 'most Americans are not directly touched by war.'"

USA Today (5/27, Jackson, 1.71M) notes that the President added, "as a consequence, not all Americans may always see or fully grasp the depth of sacrifice, the profound costs that are made in our name – right now, as we speak, every day." USA Today goes on to report that the President also referenced the "winding down of the war in Afghanistan" when he said, "this time next year, we will mark the final Memorial Day of our war in Afghanistan." USA Today also reports that the President and the First Lady "spent a half-hour in a section of the cemetery where troops who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan are buried."

The New York Times (5/28, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) notes that the President was speaking just days after giving a speech last Thursday "on counterterrorism policy, in which he said he hoped to move the nation off a war footing." According to the New York Times, on Monday, the President "made [a] glancing reference" to that speech "in what seemed to be an effort to tamp down...criticism" from Republicans who said he "had declared a premature end to the war on terrorism." The President is quoted as saying, "As I said last week, America stands at a crossroads. But even as we turn a page on a decade of conflict, even as we look forward, let us never forget as we gather here today that our nation is still at war."

Shannon Bream, at the opening of Fox News' Special Report (5/27), described the President's remarks as a "mix of both tradition and a departure from it." Correspondent Wendell Goler went on to say that the President's "critics" claim "it is he who has forgotten the nature of the war we are still fighting." Sen. Lindsay Graham was shown saying, "I've never been more worried about our national security than I am right now." Nevertheless, Niall

Stanage, in a piece for The Hill (5/28, Stanage, 21K), said, "as is customary," the President "steered away from contentious subject matter in his Arlington speech."

The Washington Post (5/28, George, 489K) reports that the President "recalled several recent deaths" of US soldiers in Afghanistan as well as "a mother's recent plea that those serving not fade from the public mind." Brad Knickerbocker, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (5/27, Knickerbocker, 47K), says that the President's "implied message" was that, "for better or for worse," in a democracy, "'their mission' is really 'our mission.'"

The Los Angeles Times (5/27, Pearce, 692K) reports that on Memorial Day last year, the President "focused on service members who died in Iraq," but, on Monday, he "praised and spoke briefly about Army Capt. Sara Cullen, Army Staff Sgt. Frankie Phillips and Marine Staff Sgt. Eric Christian, all of whom died in Afghanistan." Reuters (5/28, Mason) reports that the President said, "As we gather here today, at this very moment, more than 60,000 of our fellow Americans still serve far from home in Afghanistan."

According to Politico (5/28, Robillard, 25K), the President "contrasted the relative isolation of today's military families to his family's experience in World War II" when "service and sacrifice were spread throughout the American public." The Washington Times (5/28, Boyer, 76K) reports that earlier on Monday, the President "hosted a breakfast at the White House with 'Gold Star' families of service members who have been killed."

The CBS Evening News (5/27, story 13, 2:25, Glor, 5.58M) profiled a woman in Pennsylvania who organizes care packages for US troops in Afghanistan. And NBC Nightly News (5/27, story 8, 3:10, Morales, 7.86M) had a segment on the Honor Flight Network, which annually "send[s] more than 10,000 older veterans to the Washington memorials honoring their service and their sacrifice."

DeWayne Wickham, in his column for USA Today (5/27, Wickham, 1.71M), notes that the draft was ended "two years after Memorial Day became a national holiday in 1971." Wickham argues that the draft "made the defense of this nation the obligation of a broad cross section of Americans," and that its end "narrowed the population base from which this nation's military is drawn – and made military service a less democratic ideal."

VA PTSD Disability Claims Have Increased More Than 700% Since 2006. On Fox News' Special Report (5/28), correspondent Jennifer Griffin described the Department of Veterans' Affairs' disability claims backlog as "arguably the biggest scandal the Obama Administration is facing." According to Griffin, "the number of veterans waiting for their disability benefits has doubled in the last four years." Griffin featured several critics of VA Secretary Shinseki, but also added that, "in some cases, there are good reasons for some of the backlogs." Griffin noted that in 2009, Shinseki "removed obstacles for veterans to receive disability benefits for post-traumatic stress," and that "caused a surge in claims...from 27,000 to 196,000 from 2006 to 2012."

Former POWs Gather To Remember White House Event Hosted By Nixon. The CBS Evening News (5/27, story 12, 2:15, Glor, 5.58M) reported that over the weekend, "nearly 200 former prisoners of war gathered" at the Nixon Presidential Library to "mark...40 years since their release from North Vietnamese prisons and the heroes' welcome they received at the White House." Ben Tracy reported that President Nixon "held a dinner for all of the POWs on the South Lawn of the White House" that "remains the largest dinner ever held there." Nixon was shown saying: "Never has the White House been more proud than it is tonight because of the guests we have tonight."

Clinton And Cuomo March In The Same Small-Town Memorial Day Parade. The New York Daily News (5/28, Edelman, 543K) reports that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton were both in the Westchester County town of New Castle on Monday for a Memorial Day parade that "could end up being a sneak peak at the candidates for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination."

Obama To Survey Post-Sandy Rebuilding Effort In New Jersey Today. Bloomberg News (5/27, Goldman) reports that on Tuesday, the President will be in New Jersey "to survey the rebuilding and recovery efforts after Hurricane Sandy."

OBAMA TO VISIT JERSEY SHORE TODAY. The CBS Evening News (5/27, story 11, 0:15, Glor, 5.58M) reported that seven months after superstorm Sandy, the President "is heading back to the Jersey Shore tomorrow." While in New Jersey, the President will discuss recovery efforts with Gov. Chris Christie.

NBC Nightly News (5/27, story 2, 2:50, Gosk, 7.86M) reported on the recovery effort, noting that "22 of 23 boardwalks are open." NBC noted that the state has made "restoring boardwalks and businesses in time for the summer" its top priority.

BOEHNER: GOP WILL FOCUS ON JOBS EVEN WHILE PROBING RECENT SCANDALS. Politico (5/28, Allen, 25K) reports that House Speaker Boehner said Thursday that House Republicans will push "jobs as their public message" even as they "'get to the bottom' of an array of White House controversies." Boehner said in an interview, "The Congress has the responsibility to get to the truth. ... Whether it's Benghazi, the IRS scandal, the whole situation with the Associated Press, our committees are going to do their job to get to the bottom," adding, "But having said that...our No. 1 priority is jobs, and it's the issue Americans are most concerned about. ... We're going to continue to stay focused on jobs. It's the issue."

Analysis: Boehner's Power Seems To Be Diminishing. Politico (5/28, Vandehei, Allen, 25K) reports that Boehner's power seems to be diminishing. Boehner has "little ability to work his will with fellow House Republicans." He has abandoned "his solo efforts to craft a grand bargain on taxes and spending." And he has not initiated "a substantive conversation with President Barack Obama in this calendar year." In an interview, Boehner took a different view, noting, "I don't need to be out there beating the drum every day. My job as the leader is to build my team, encourage my members, help provide leadership to my members and committee chairs and let the institution work. It doesn't need the heavy hand of the speaker all over everything." So while Boehner "is a relatively weak speaker right now," it is not clear that "a more bullying or forceful leader would fare much better with this gang of Republicans or in this dysfunctional Congress."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Border Injustice."*** An editorial in the New York Times (5/28, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) argues that immigration enforcement must be "recalibrated to spare noncriminal migrants the harshest consequences." The Times notes that while the Senate immigration bill would "improve the system in many ways," is also "makes some things worse," including the expansion of Operation Streamline, which the Times argues "should be abolished."

"Caution And The Common Core." An editorial in the New York Times (5/28, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) praises the "rigorous" Common Core learning standards, saying they "represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity" for the US to improve public schools "nationally, bringing math, science and literacy education up to levels achieved by high-performing nations abroad." The Education Department has "rightly pushed the states to jettison outmoded systems in exchange for a challenging, writing-intensive approach," but it will need to "give the states some flexibility so that teachers — who themselves are under pressure to meet evaluation standards — can adjust to the new curriculum."

"Keep The Clunkers Away From The Polls." In an editorial, the New York Times (5/28, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says that the New York City Board of Elections has "complained for weeks" that the city's electronic voting machines can't handle the city's "tight primary elections schedule," prompting the board and the state legislature to consider "scrapping them" and replacing them with "the old metal clunkers." The Times says the "retreat is not necessary, and lawmakers in Albany should not let it happen."

"An Addiction To Zealotry." In an editorial, the New York Times (5/28, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) is highly critical of E.W. Jackson as the Virginia GOP's lieutenant gubernatorial candidate. The Times says that the GOP candidates in the race will be well financed, but Republicans "can't seem to resist a beguiling extremist who must face mainstream reality."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Iran's Power Play."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (5/28, 489K) criticizes the Iranian regime for "barring two potentially serious but hardly radical candidates, former president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and [President Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad's aide Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei from running in the June 14 presidential election," leaving only eight candidates "notable mainly for their fealty to [Ayatollah Ali] Khamenei." The Post notes that the President has responded to the failure of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program with "a wait-and-see approach pending the June 14 election," and adds that since "victory for Mr.

Khamenei seems predetermined, it's time to start planning for the next phase."

"Seeds Of A Solution." An editorial in the Washington Post (5/28, 489K) focuses on the impact the immigration bill would have on US agriculture, noting that no one is served by saddling farmers and ranchers "with an unstable workforce and labor shortages that threaten the supply of domestically grown crops." the Post argues that the provisions of the bill dealing with agriculture "would go a good distance toward fixing that," and as a result, could "generate support for the bill from some rural lawmakers who would otherwise oppose it."

"Cleaning Up Maryland's Jails." In an editorial, the Washington Post (5/28, Board, 489K) says that Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley's (D) response to the Baltimore jailhouse scandal has so far been "mixed." The Post says that O'Malley has failed to move strongly against the "code of workplace protections for corrections officers that the FBI says shielded crooked officers from being disciplined, transferred or fired at the Baltimore jail." He has also failed to order state police to replace corrections officers at the entrance to the Baltimore jail. The Post is also critical that few heads have "rolled" since the scandal broke.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Regulator For The World."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/28, Journal, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) is critical of CFTC Chairman Gary Gensler's assertion that, as the paper characterizes it, US banking law should apply in whatever nation a US bank does business in. The Journal says that despite widespread international opposition, the US media is praising the move. The Journal contrasts this with the negative reception to SEC Chairwoman Mary Jo White's argument that foreign regulators should be responsible for what happens within their own borders.

"Obama's Media Culpa." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/28, A14, Journal, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) argues that Administration officials believe the government can determine what constitute legal reporting practices, a situation which would mean the end of the First Amendment because the reporters who are likely to face accusations of illegally soliciting leaks are the ones who are critical of Administration policy.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Hard To Keep An Eye On Border's Exits
The Bomb Whisperer
Church Files Unlocked
Argentine Debt Spurs US Legal Drama
Students Inspired Her 'Miracle' LA School Board Win

Wall Street Journal:
US Oil Boom Divides OPEC
States Raise College Budgets After Years Of Deep Cuts
Europe's Green-Fuel Search Turns To America's Forests

New York Times:
In Terror Shift, Obama Took A Long Path
Obama Plans 3 Nominations For Key Court
Affirmative Action Ruling Near, Blacks' Progress Remains Slow
Gun Makers Saw No Role In Curbing Improper Sales
The Peace Bridge (What Else?) Sets Off A Cuomo-Canada War
Something Happened on Way To Bountiful: Everyone Sang Along

Washington Post:
Grappling To Control Prisons In Maryland
Key US Weapon Designs Hacked
Budget Cuts Clip Fighter Squadron's Wings
EU Drops Arms Ban For Syrian Opposition

How New Is Too New To The Old Dominion?
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Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Kansas-Tornadoes, EU-Syria Weapons Ban Lifted, Cruise Ship Fire, Airline Passenger Incident
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Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Departs the White House, South Lawn, open press; departs Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool; arrives New Jersey, Joint Base McGuire-Dix, open press; delivers remarks, Asbury Park Convention Hall, Asbury Park, New Jersey, open to pre-credentialed media; departs New Jersey, Joint Base McGuire-Dix, open press; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool; arrives at the White House, South Lawn, open press; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press; delivers remarks, the East Room, pooled press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Meets with President Anthony Carmona and Mrs. Reema Harrysingh-Carmona with Dr. Jill Biden, President's Residence, Trinadad, pool spray at the top; travels to the Diplomatic Center, open press; meets with Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, pool spray at the top; meets with Presidents , Prime Ministers and other senior ministry officials from the Caribbean region. The meeting will focus on energy, economic integration, and citizen security, pool spray with welcoming remarks at the top of this meeting; attends lunch with Caribbean leaders, closed press; delivers statements with Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar, and President Martelly of Haiti on behalf of CARICOM, open press; departs Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago with Dr. Jill Biden en route Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; arrives in Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro-Galeão International Airport, open press.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA – Joins school children from across the country to harvest the summer crop from the White House Kitchen Garden.

DR. JILL BIDEN – Visits Cocobel, a woman-owned chocolatier in Trinidad and Tobago, meets with the owner and founder as well as several women entrepreneurs who are developing gourmet exports. These women are working

to revive Trinidad and Tobago's cocoa industry; open press.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events
US House: 10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FIELD HEARING — The Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, chaired by U.S. Representative Jeff Denham (R-CA), will examine the status of the California High Speed Rail project during an oversight field hearing in Madera, California next week. Location: Auditorium Room AM120, Madera Community College Center, Madera, CA.
Other: 2013 SOCIAL SECURITY TRUSTEES REPORT – FORUM — 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget hosts "Challenges Facing Social Security: A Discussion of the 2013 Trustees Report". Location: Hyatt Regency, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW.

ANNUAL PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT CONFERENCE – SEBELIUS — 9 a.m. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is scheduled to deliver remarks at IMPACT 2013, the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) 41st Annual Physician Assistant Conference, to spotlight strategies for meeting the needs of millions of new patients entering the system under healthcare reform. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Hall D 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW.

AMERICAN AIRLINE MECHANICS — 10 a.m. American Airlines mechanics from across the country will hold a press conference to make a "major announcement" concerning their ongoing organizing campaign to become Teamsters. Participants: American Airlines mechanics and related from Tulsa, Los Angeles, Fort Worth, Chicago and New York US Airways Mechanic; Capt. David Boume, Director, Teamsters Airline Division; Chris Moore, Chair of the Teamsters Aviation Mechanics Coalition. Also available as a teleconference: CALL-IN: (800) 230-1096 Code: 294507 Location: International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 25 Louisiana Ave., NW.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY – HOLDER — 11 a.m. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Alejandro Mayorkas will administer the Oath of Allegiance and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver keynote remarks to 70 new citizens Tuesday during a special naturalization ceremony in the Department of Justices (DOJ) Great Hall. Location: The Department of Justice, Great Hall, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

DOD – CARTER – TUNISIA HONOR CORDON — 11:15 a.m. The Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter will host an honor cordon and meeting in honor of the Minister of Defense of Tunisia, His Excellency Rachid Sabbagh to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance.

NATIONAL GREATER SAGE-GROUSE — 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Discussion on the Obama Administration initiation of a major land use planning process to conserve greater sage-grouse on more than 60 million acres of public lands. Location: Defenders of Wildlife main conference room, 1130 17th Street, NW.

INNOVATION IN EDUCATION SUMMIT — 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Education leaders from across the country gather to discuss innovation in education at the Reimagining Education: Empowering Learners in a Connected World summit, co-hosted by the U.S. Department of Education and the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Highlights: 1 p.m. Opening Remarks by Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement Jim Shelton. 2:15 p.m. Discussion led by Education Secretary Arne Duncan and NBA All-Star and education advocate Chris Paul. 2:45 p.m. Secretary Duncan will participate in a one-on-one interview with NBC News Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent Andrea Mitchell to discuss the Departments work to support technology in education, personalized learning and 21st century classrooms. Location: Knight Conference Center at the Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

NASA – SOYUZ LAUNCH — 4:31 p.m. NASA Television will provide extensive coverage of the launch and docking of the next crew members who will fly to the International Space Station.

SAIS – SOCIAL JUSTICE — 6 p.m. Social Justice in Sustainable Development with Mary David, a U.S. Department of State representative. Location: Rome Building Auditorium, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

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BulletinNews.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 31, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Fri, May 31, 2013 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES GRANTS TO SUPPORT PUBLIC LANDS PROJECTS FOR YOUTH. The Mesquite (NV) Citizen Journal (5/31) reports, "In response to President Obama's challenge to expand employment opportunities for youth, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced $4.2 million in grants to support conservation employment and mentoring opportunities for more than 600 young people ages 15-25 on public lands across the country." According to the article, "the grants, which support the Obama Administration's efforts to develop a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC), include $1.27 million from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), which helped leverage $2.65 million from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and $275,000 from Wells Fargo." Jewell said, "This initiative is a model of how public-private partnerships can both conserve our land and provide opportunities for our young people to obtain jobs skills and broaden their horizons by connecting with the great outdoors. Through the 21CSC, we hope to expand these partnerships that foster economic opportunities and create a connection with nature for young people that lasts a lifetime."

Meanwhile, the Portland (OR) Monthly (5/31, Andersen) reports that "Jewell visited Portland May 23 to announce programs to get Portland's low-income, at-risk 16- to 19-year-olds to work." The article notes that "the five-week government- and privately-funded summer programs will employ 40 teens and young adults to work in forestry, preservation, and wildlife jobs."

NASA TRANSFERS OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF LANDSAT 8 SATELLITE TO USGS. The TMCNet (5/30) reports, "NASA transferred operational control Thursday of the Landsat 8 satellite (http://landsat.usgs.gov/about_ldcm.php) to the US Geological Survey (USGS) in a ceremony in Sioux Falls, S.D." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "We are very pleased to work with NASA for the good of science and the American people. The Landsat program allows us all to have a common, easily accessible view of our planet. We are especially proud that Landsat images have not only been the starting points for some of the world's best commercial innovations in earth imagery, but also are available free of charge."

The Spaceflight Now (5/31, Ray) reports, "The satellite, built by Orbital Sciences, will collect at least 400 scenes every day from around the world to be processed and archived at the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science Center in Sioux Falls."

Also reporting on the story is the Directions Magazine (5/31, Campbell, 28K).

SIX CONGRESSMEN OPPOSE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION. The Washington Post (5/31, 489K) reports, "A half-dozen congressmen from the Carolinas and Virginia are urging Interior Secretary Sally Jewel to use 'extreme caution' when considering any proposals for oil and gas exploration in Atlantic waters." According to the article, "the letter is intended to counter appeals from Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and the governors from North Carolina and South Carolina." The article notes that "the congressmen are Virginia's Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Jim Moran and Gerald E. Connolly; South Carolina's James E. Clyburn; and North Carolina's David Price and Melvin L. Watt."

INTERIOR CONSOLIDATES EMAIL SYSTEM. The Federal Computer Week (5/30, Konkel, 90K) reports that as part of the Interior Department's "IT transformation initiative" the agency has consolidated "14 separate email systems" to "a single cloud-based email application called Bison Connect." According to "Bernie Mazer, one of several panelists to discuss cloud use cases in government at the Federal Cloud Computing Summit in Washington, D.C., on May 30," Bison, "powered by Google Apps for Government, allowed DOI to deploy cloud-based email, calendar services, chat, document creation and web development applications within 150 days." Mazer said, "We can now send out all-employee emails, which we couldn't do in the past. Cloud gave us the opportunity to maximize value of what we have. We want to eliminate wasteful IT spending and shift IT investments to more cloud-based IT investments and platforms."

INTERIOR PRESSED ON OIA PLANS. The Saipan Tribune (5/31) reports, "Former Federal Labor Ombudsman James J. Benedetto asked US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and key US Congress members to keep the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office in the CNMI open for another five years-'or at least until several important

issues are resolved' concerning alien workers in the CNMI." In addition, "besides an online petition launched by Florida-based human rights advocate and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal to keep the ombudsman's office open, there have been individual letters calling on US officials to reverse its decision, given the continued need to help foreign workers in the CNMI." The article notes that "David Cohen, former Interior deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, was one of those who signed the online petition."

FOUNDERS DAY VISITORS OF DR. BOB'S HOME TO SEE NEW HISTORICAL MARKER. The West Side (OH) Leader (5/31, Folkerth, 47K) reports, "When hundreds of people visit Dr. Bob's Home during Founders' Day weekend June 7-9, they will get to see the latest honor bestowed on the property." The residence "at 855 Ardmore Ave. in Highland Square, where Alcoholics Anonymous co-founder Dr. Bob Smith lived, was designated a National Historic Landmark this past October by Secretary of the US Department of the Interior Ken Salazar." And "a plaque noting the designation was dedicated May 12, Mother's Day, in a special ceremony at the home, which is a museum."

UTAH SEEKS "GRAND BARGAIN" ON MANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL LANDS. The Outdoor Life Magazine (5/31, Haughey) reports, "For more than a quarter century, the Utah State Legislature has been in a contentious debate with the US Department of the Interior and its maze of subsidiary land-management agencies over how to preserve wilderness and other environmentally sensitive areas while opening up other federal lands to oil and gas drilling." The issue, "according to Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) is these public lands are tax-exempt, leaving the state and local governments struggling 'to fund education and county services on limited revenues' while being forced by proximity to inadvertently subsidize management of federal lands." according to the article, "one way to address this burden on state and local governments in Utah – as well as many other western states – is to open more public land for energy development, while setting aside more land for preservation in what Bishop calls 'the grand bargain.'"

DIRECTOR OF INTERIOR'S CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE CHOSEN. Politico (5/31, Guillen, 25K) reports, "The Interior Department has hired Sarah Neimeyer, a former senior aide to Sen. Dick Durbin, as director of its Department of Congressional and Legislative Affairs."

GOVERNMENT URGED TO BOLSTER FIREFIGHTING EFFORTS. In an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/31, Sullivan, 83K), Terry Sullivan, State Director of the Nature Conservancy in New Mexico, writes that "warmer weather and the ongoing severe drought have every level of government bracing for another big fire season." But "unfortunately, this forecast comes as Washington is proposing to severely cut 2014 programs that proactively reduce the risk of megafires, through thinning and controlled burns." Sullivan argues that "instead of passively waiting for fires to dictate the terms to us, we need to ask Washington now to invest in safer and cheaper proactive forest treatments through the Hazardous Fuels program."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

BABY BOOMERS CONTINUE TO BE DEPENDABLE CONSTITUENCY OF NATIONAL PARKS. The New York Times (5/31, Nagourney, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports, "When it comes to supporting the national parks, few have been as reliable as baby boomers." The article notes that "the percentage of visitors to the parks who are boomer age (48 to 66) is up around 8 percent over about two decades ago, though park officials say this also reflects a decline of 5 percent in visits by people who are 16 to 30." However, "if boomers are a critical constituency for the National Park Service, they are also a graying one," and "with the Memorial Day weekend signaling the unofficial start of another summer, park officials are well aware that sooner or later, boomers are not going to be turning up in great numbers at the entrances of national parks and monuments," so "the question is: will younger people come in similar numbers?"

NPS SAYS POLICE FURLOUGHS NO LONGER NEEDED. The Baltimore Sun (5/30, 184K) reports, "The National Park Service has announced that it no longer needs to furlough US Park Police." The article notes that "the announcement came after Park Police officers — who patrol the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and several sites in Maryland — had served three of 14 planned furlough days." The NPS "said savings from those three unpaid days off, combined with other cost-cutting measures and a thorough review of the budget, have

'significantly improved' the agency's financial situation and made it possible to end the furloughs for the rest of the fiscal year." NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "As a result of cost-cutting measures implemented earlier this year, and now armed with seven months of actual costs — versus projections — we are able to reduce the furlough to the three days already taken. This is good news for our employees, good news for our visitors ... and good news for the security of our nation's icons."

Also reporting on the story is the Fierce Government (5/31, McDermott).

In an op-ed for the Christian Science Monitor (5/30, Heitman, 47K), Danny Heitman, an adjunct professor at LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication, writes, "Economic necessity sometimes requires citizens to make difficult decisions about federal budget priorities, and in such a climate of austerity, even good programs might have to make do with less." However, "the sequester, which has placed fiscal stewardship on autopilot, doesn't seem like the best vehicle for debating what national missions most urgently require our attention." He argue sthat "such a discussion – when and if it happens – should acknowledge that America's wild places aren't just a decoration, but the core of our national character."

GETTYSBURG PREPARES FOR 150TH ANNIVERSARY. The Lansdale (PA) Reporter (5/30, 8K) reports, "Authorities are urging the public to trust their instincts and report any suspicious activity during celebrations commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg." The NPS "and others are finalizing preparations for the commemoration of the pivotal battle of the American Civil War." The article notes that "tens of thousands of visitors are expected for 10 days of events, beginning June 29."

The East Valley (AZ) Tribune (5/31, 53K) reports that in a recent interview, Bob Kirby, superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park, said, "I think we're ready. We're ready for what the world would like to see."

Also providing coverage were the San Jose Mercury News (5/31, Stansbury, 539K), the Frederick (MD) News-Post (5/31, Stoneback, 30K) and the PhillyBurbs.com (5/31).

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY TO BE CELEBRATED. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (5/31, Gomy, 315K) reports, "In honor of National Trails Day on June 1, the National Park Service and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park are looking for volunteers to participate in a trail sweep and other projects between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the national park."

Also, the Tennessean (5/31, 120K) reports, "National Trails Day is Saturday, and lots of our local nature centers and almost every state park has free programs — hikes, cleanups, interpretive walks, nature classes and even a few history lessons."

NPS SAYS $66M LAND DEAL WASN'T PAYOFF. The Pocono (PA) Record (5/31, Pierce, 14K) reports, "The National Park Service never agreed to accept financial compensation to buy additional property as a part of a quid pro quo for approval of a high-voltage power line upgrade across three national park units near Bushkill, government lawyers say." Instead, "the Park Service negotiated $66 million in 'mitigation' from PPL Electric Utilities and PSE&G separately from evaluating the environmental and cultural impacts of crossing the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Delaware River and Appalachian Trail, they said in a legal filing." The NPS claims that "it was only after determining the utilities had legal rights to place taller towers and more powerful electric lines along a right of way predating the park, and imposing several conditions to protect wetlands, wildlife and the natural view, that park officials finalized financial compensation for the unavoidable impacts."

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER BILL FOR HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. The Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard (5/31, Weiner, 82K) reports, "The effort to establish a Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn took a big step forward today when a House committee agreed to hold a hearing on the legislation next week." According to the article, "the House Committee on Natural Resources will hear testimony Thursday (June 6) from Central New York supporters of the bill introduced by Rep. Dan Maffei, D-DeWitt, in February."

SITE WHERE BRITISH GENERAL SURRENDERED DONATED TO NPS. The AP (5/31) reports, "The spot where a British general surrendered his sword after the Battles of Saratoga is being donated to the National Park Service." According to the article, "the Revolutionary War site is the newest section of Saratoga National

Historical Park," and "a memorial sculpture will officially be unveiled during a ceremony Saturday morning."

PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION INCREASES VISITOR COUNT. USA Today (5/30, Clark, 1.71M) reports, "In January, Pinnacles National Monument, an otherworldly enclave of towering monoliths, twisted spires and massive boulder caves east of central California's verdant Salinas Valley, became Pinnacles National Park." According to the article, "since the name change, locals have detected an increase in traffic winding along narrow Highway 25 skirting the park's eastern edge."

CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT MOVING ON TO LARGER ROLE. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (5/31, O'Malley, 315K) reports, "Stan Austin, superintendent of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park for the last three years, is leaving his position to take on a bigger role in the national park system." According to the article, "Austin, 54, of Shaker Heights, has been promoted to director of the National Park Service Southeast Region, overseeing 68 park sites from the Virgin Islands to the Florida Keys to the Great Smokey Mountains." He "begins his new job, based in Atlanta, in mid-July."

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING THEFT OF ROCKS. The Los Angeles Times (5/30, Sahagun, 692K) reports, "Death Valley National Park officials are investigating the theft of several of the rocks that mysteriously roam across a remote ancient lake bed known as the Racetrack Playa." Death Valley spokesman Terry Baldino said, "We've had more instances of folks taking the rocks. They don't seem to understand that outside of the Racetrack, these marvelous rocks have no value."

NEW PHILADELPHIA SITE ADDED TO NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM. The Springfield (IL) State Journal Register (5/31, 41K) reports, "The National Park Service has added Illinois' New Philadelphia Town Site to its National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom."

Also reporting on the story is the Jacksonville (IL) Journal Courier (5/31, 12K).

MORE PORTIONS OF SANTA FE TRAIL ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Wichita (KS) Eagle (5/30, Tanner, 68K) reports, "Six more Kansas properties along the Santa Fe Trail have been added to the National Register of Historic Places." According to the article, "the sites in Marion and Morton counties are the newest listings in an effort by both the National Trails System of the National Park Service and the Kansas Historical Society to document historic sites along the Santa Fe Trail."

GRAND CANYON PARK RANGER CRITICIZED FOR ENCOUNTER WITH HIKER. In an op-ed for the St. George (UT) News (5/30, Hyde), Bryan Hyde, a news commentator, criticizes a park ranger at Grand Canyon National Park for an encounter with a hiker. According to Hyde, Dennis Mitchell "and his group of fellow hikers had just completed a 24-mile hike and were driving back to their other vehicle when a park ranger pulled them over," and Mitchell was arrested after to opened the door to "stretch his legs." Hyde writes that Mitchell's "failure to submit and obey the commands of an indifferent park ranger ended up with him being treated like a criminal threat," and "his medical condition took a very distant second place to the ranger's desire for control."

Bureau of Land Management:

SUSPECTED DRUNKEN DRIVER ARRESTED AFTER RUNNING OVER BLM RANGER'S LEG. The Washington Post (5/30, 489K) reports, "A suspected drunken driver is facing charges after authorities say he ran over a federal officer's leg while trying to avoid arrest in Farmington, N.M." According to the article, "21-year-old Charles Palmer was arrested this week on suspicion of driving while intoxicated follow the encounter with a US Bureau of Land Management ranger." The BLM "hasn't decided if it will file federal charges against Palmer."

Also reporting on the story are the Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/31, 335K), the San Francisco Chronicle (5/31, 220K), and the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/30, 83K).

FEDERAL AGENCIES, OREGON RANCHERS SIGN SAGE GROUSE AGREEMENT. KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (5/31) reports, "The Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association signed a Candidate Conservation Agreement Thursday as part of ongoing efforts toward Greater Sage-Grouse conservation." According to the article, "these voluntary 'step down' agreements, to be signed in the

future by the BLM, the Service and participating livestock grazing permittees, will identify specific measures to be taken based on existing conditions of a particular allotment." Jerome E. Perez, BLM state director for Oregon and Washington, said, "Sage-grouse conservation is a top priority for the agency. This agreement highlights our commitment, and our partners' commitment to a collaborative approach to multiple use management. This is a win-win, allowing for continued commercial activity important to rural Oregon while providing additional voluntary conservation measures for an at-risk species."

Meanwhile, in an op-ed for the Havre (MT) Daily News (5/30, Kavulla, 3K), Travis Kavulla, a commissioner on the Montana Public Service Commission, asks, "When did the sage grouse become a national priority surpassing energy independence, and does this fowl really require millions of acres of energy-rich land to survive?" According Kavulla, the BLM's recent 812-page Resource Management Plan for the Hi-Line "is a good example of the unfortunate trend toward declaring Montana off-limits to development."

BLM PROMOTES WILD HORSE ADOPTION. The Deseret (UT) News (5/31, McKellar, 105K) reports, "Mustangs pulled from the wild could gain a better chance at a stable life than the one it left behind when a two-day auction gets underway Friday to place formerly wild horses with new owners." According to the article, "trainers plan to showcase the potential of the adoptable animals in the Wild Horse and Burro Festival's Trainers Challenge on Friday and Saturday, one of several events the BLM has organized to facilitate its primary means of managing wild horses and burros crowding holding facilities: adoption." However, "Paula King, director of communications for the Cloud Foundation — an organization devoted to the preservation of wild horses on public lands," argues "horses should not be taken from public lands in the first place to be kept in holding corrals," and "instead, reversible infertility drugs could be administered to the animals and protection of their wild predators like mountain lions could reduce the hose populations on public lands."

BLM PLANS TO REMOVE WILD HORSES IN NEVADA. KRNV-TV Reno, NV (5/31) reports, "Federal land managers say the drought is prompting plans to remove an unspecified number of wild horses from a large swath of the range in northeastern Nevada — two years after they removed some 1,400 mustangs from the same area." The BLM "has released the final environmental assessment for its plans cull the herd around the Triple B, Maverick and Antelope Valley herd management areas in Elko and White Pine counties." According to the article, "while they haven't said how many horses they plan to remove, BLM officials say the 1.8-million acre area they're targeting is home to roughly 1,500 wild horses but it can only sustain 548 to 1,015 mustangs."

COURT SIDES WITH RANCH FAMILY ON CATTLE TRESPASSING LAWSUIT. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (5/31, 7K) reports, "A federal district judge has ruled that federal employees 'entered into a literal, intentional conspiracy' in a decision related to a cattle trespassing lawsuit." According to the article, "in 2007, the US government filed a civil suit for trespass damages against the estate of the late Nevada rancher E. Wayne Hage," which "claimed the Hage family allowed cattle to trespass on Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service land in the Battle Mountain District and Tonopah Ranger District, respectively." However, US District Judge Robert C. Jones "reprimanded those who perpetually battled with the Hages, and accused them of conspiring against the ranchers."

BLM REVISES PLAN FOR LOGGING, SPOTTED OWLS. The Coos Bay (OR) World (5/31, Thornton, 11K) reports, "Spotted owls are once again changing how Coos County harvests its timber." According to the article, "the federal government reduced total critical habitat for the spotted owl by 4.2 million acres in Washington, Oregon and California." However, "local BLM lands saw an increase in habitat for the species, said Megan Harper, public affairs specialist with the Bureau of Land Management's Coos Bay office."

BLM PROPOSES EXPANSION OF BLANCA WETLANDS. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (5/31, Hildner, 45K) reports, "The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to expand the boundaries of the Blanca Wetlands in the hope of qualifying for federal conservation dollars." According to the article, "the proposal would expand the area, which is managed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, from 9,714 acres to 122,762 acres." However, "the boundary expansion would not give the agency control over either land or water rights in the area that now sit in private hands."

SEQUESTRATION SHORTENS HOURS AT BLM CAMPGROUNDS. The Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (5/31, Woolington, 52K) reports, "The US Bureau of Land Management Eugene district campgrounds are now open for extended weekends — but only for weekends — because of decreased staffing tied to projected federal budget

cuts known as sequestration." BLM Eugene district spokesman Michael Mascari said, "We've had to shorten the hours to manage."

NEW RULES IMPLEMENTED IN PREY NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA. The Emmett (ID) Messenger-Index (5/31, 7K) reports, "New rules designed to protect habitats for raptors and enhance public safety are now in effect in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) southwest of Boise." The BLM "has issued final supplementary rules that enable full enforcement of a number of prohibited activities identified in the 2008 resource management plan (RMP) for the NCA."

MESQUITE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES LEASE OPTION. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (5/30, Worthington, 15K) reports, "The Mesquite City Council Tuesday unanimously voted to pursue a lease with the Bureau of Land Management of some 83 acres at the end of Mesquite Boulevard that would include a right-of-way lease and a flood berm built during the flooding of 2010."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE TO ATTEND PRAIRIE SUMMIT. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/31, Anderson, 335K) reports, "Almost faster than the losses can be documented, the nation's most important grasslands are disappearing, a sad fact that will bring scores of conservationists and important national policymakers to Bismarck, N.D., next week for a prairie 'summit' and a hunting heritage meeting." According to the article, "organized by Ducks Unlimited (DU), and co-sponsored by other wildlife groups, this gathering will be attended by about 80 conservationists, including high-level decisionmakers such as US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe."

US HELPS DEPLOY DRONES TO CATCH RHINO POACHERS. The Bend (OR) Bulletin (5/30, Bolstad, 31K) reports, "Helping African governments catch poachers also is a big deal to US authorities, who awarded $10 million in grants from 2011 to 2012 to support such efforts across the continent." The article notes that "some of the grant money from the United States comes from seizing the assets of people who've been caught buying and selling rhino horns in the US" according to FWS Director Dan Ashe, "the forfeited assets include $800,000 in cash, gold, jewelry and precious stones that will be turned over to the Multinational Species Conservation Fund."

US MAY CUT FLOWS ON RIO GRANDE DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS. The AP (5/31) reports Federal officials may cut "flows on the Rio Grande in central New Mexico earlier than normal because of drought conditions." The AP says the Albuquerque Journal reported Fish and Wildlife officials "are reviewing a plan by the federal Bureau of Reclamation to reduce flows through Socorro County as early as this weekend."

Drought Threatens Rio Grande's Silvery Minnow. For the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/30, Fleck, 83K), John Fleck writes, "I've written for some time that when drought gets real on the Middle Rio Grande, the place where the crisis will show up first is a lack of water for legally mandated environmental flows – specifically, for the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow." Now, "that moment seems to be upon us." He notes that "Jen Pelz of the Santa Fe-based environmental group WildEarth Guardians charged that the reduced flows mean extinction of minnows in the wild is 'a clear possibility this summer.'"

FWS TO PAY $40,267 FOR UNWANTED TORTOISE DROP-OFF. The CNS News (5/31, Hunter) reports, "The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is planning to spend $40,267 in taxpayer funds to provide the public with a centralized drop off location for pet tortoises and tortoises found in developed or urban areas and provide for their temporary care." Ted Cook, Nevada state supervisor for the agency, said, "We have a unique circumstance where we have a species that's protected under the Endangered Species Act but can also be kept as a pet domestically." He added, "After 20 years or more of this, we find every year there's hundreds of unwanted pet tortoises and folks looking for an opportunity to do something with them – give them away, get rid of them – and so The Animal Foundation has agreed to receive them and then try to adopt them back out again."

SCIENTISTS INVESTIGATING RAT POISON FOUND IN SPOTTED OWLS. KBOI-TV Boise, ID (5/31, Barnard) reports, "In the West Coast marijuana-growing region known as the Emerald Triangle, scientists want to know whether the rat poison spread around illegal pot plantations is killing northern spotted owls, a threatened species." According to Mourad Gabriel, a doctoral candidate at the University of California at Davis Veterinary

Genetics Laboratory, "they are testing 84 barred owls from Northern California killed in the course of research on whether removing them allows spotted owls to reclaim lost territories." The article notes that "the research is funded primarily by the US Fish and Wildlife Service."

US Geological Survey:

DROUGHT AFFECTS AQUIFERS. The EnergyWire (5/31, Massey, Subscription Publication) reports, "The recent drought that has gripped much of the Southwest for almost three years has thrown the issue into stark relief." The article notes that "a number of states and the US Geological Survey have issued reports in recent weeks highlighting sharp drops in regional water levels due to increased groundwater pumping." Also, "a recent study by USGS found that its rate of depletion accelerated sharply over the past decade with declines from 2001 to 2008 accounting for 32 percent of the cumulative depletion over the course of the entire 20th century."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

NYTIMES FACES CRITICISM FOR ALLEGEDLY MINIMIZING POTENTIAL RISK TO CONDOR DUE TO WIND PROJECT. KCET (5/31, Clarke) criticizes the New York Times coverage this week of the US Fish and Wildlife Service decision "to allow a Mojave wind facility to kill a condor, and among other problems the story contained a howler of a misstatement about wind development in the Mojave Desert." KCET argues the piece by reporter Felicity Barringeron May 25 seeks to minimize the threat to wildlife from the wind energy project. "Misrepresentation like this ought to concern even die-hard advocates of wind power development. If we don't honestly account for the potential risk to wildlife of our energy development strategies, we will find ourselves facing serious regret over the choices we make today," notes the article.

INVESTIGATION INTO OCOTILLO WIND FARM TURBINE BREAK NEARLY DONE. U-T San Diego (5/30, Lee, 242K) updates the situation at the Ocotillo wind plant, which went offline after a Siemens wind turbine blade fell two weeks ago. The plant was still offline on Thursday, but a spokesman for the wind farm said the investigation into the incident was almost completed. From photographic evidence of the broken turbine, officials believe "the blade separated from where it attached to the rotor," and joints are one potential weak spot in turbines. However, the article notes that such an incident is rare among wind turbines. According to National Wind Technology Center director Ford Felker, "Thirty years ago having a blade separate from a turbine was not that uncommon, but there has just been tremendous improvements in the development process for wind turbines, both from our ability to analyze how the structures would behave using computer modeling, and in terms of the types of testing that's required now."

Onshore Energy Development:

FWS WARNS KEYSTONE XL PUTS ENDANGERED BEETLE AT RISK. Bloomberg News (5/31, Snyder) reports, "The US Fish & Wildlife Service this month said that Keystone's proposed route across Nebraska put the endangered American burying beetle at risk." The service "said the black and orange-spotted insect could be spared, and the project move forward, if proper procedure is followed." According to the article, "that means pipeline builder TransCanada Corp. (TRP) will have to trap and relocate the one-inch beetles, using frozen rats that have thawed for at least three days for maximum pungency, according to detailed protocols US authorities have drawn up to protect the burrowing bug."

INDUSTRY INSIDERS WORRY ABOUT BLM'S PROPOSED RULE COVERING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING. The Moab (UT) Times-Independent (5/31, Kadelstaff) reports the Bureau of Land Management's "revised proposed rule covering hydraulic fracturing is raising concerns among industry representatives." One of the BLM proposal's key issues "centers on identifying chemicals used in the fracking process." The paper says the Western Energy Alliance "called the proposed rule an unnecessary layer of federal regulation." The alliance warns curbs on fracking "could hurt job creation and prevent productive resources from being developed for energy."

GROUP URGES BLM TO DISCLOSE TO PUBLIC NAMES OF ADDITIONAL GAS LEASE NOMINATORS.

KVNO-FM Omaha, NE (5/31, Durlin) reports that last week the Paonia-based Citizens for a Healthy Community and several other organizations "wrote to the Bureau of Land Management, requesting that the agency comply with a recent legal ruling and release the names of all lease parcel nominators to the public." CHC's Jim Ramey said BLM had provided the names of those who nominate parcels for lease to drill for oil and gas on public lands. However, the agency continues to withhold this information when requested from other groups or journalists. "So we've joined with this coalition of groups to say, hey BLM, follow the law, adjust your policy and provide this information to the public," CHC said in the report.

AUTHOR URGES BLM TO EXPAND DRILLING ON FEDERAL LANDS. In an opinion piece in the Wenatchee (WA) World (5/30, Bradley, 19K) Robert Bradley Jr., CEO of the Institute for Energy Research and author of energy books, says the US has massive reserves of oil that could last scores of years. He urges opening up more Federal lands for drilling, saying the move will generate "$36 billion in annual new revenue (not to mention a $127 billion boost to GDP) over the next seven years." The article says Sally Jewell was recently nominated to lead the Interior, "but in her new job, the question is whether she'll grow America's untapped energy resources."

SOME SAY FRACKING COULD HURT WATER SUPPLY. In an opinion piece in the Modesto (CA) Bee (5/30, 59K), Ed Bearden, a retired county social worker and current real estate agent who formerly served on the Empire school board, writes 12th District Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen has "trumpeted the exploitation of shale trapped oil found in large deposits from Kern County to the west side of Stanislaus." The Obama Administration, through the Bureau of Land Management, "has approved the lease of 2,700 acres in Fresno and Monterey counties to oil and gas drillers." The Bee highlights the dangers of the fracking process, which includes pumping water and toxic fluids like ethylene glycol and boric acid. The paper says once injected into the ground they can seep into ground water and poison drinking water.

COLUMNIST SAYS THERE ARE SIGNS OBAMA WON'T TAKE STRONG ACTION TO CURB FRACKING. In his column in the Washington Examiner (5/31, Carney, 93K), Timothy P. Carney says there are signs that the Obama Administration won't take any strong action to curb fracking. Carney says General Electric and the Administration have strong ties and GE "is investing billions of dollars" in fracking. The fact that GE is going long suggests that the Administration won't curb fracking, writes Carney.

Offshore Energy Development:

HASTINGS PROPOSES OFFSHORE DRILLING BILL. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (5/31, Colman, 21K) reports a senior House Republican proposed legislation that would "extend offshore drilling to Atlantic and Pacific coastal regions President Obama excluded from his five-year oil and gas leasing plan." The bill from House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA) "is similar to the one that passed the House last year, largely with Republican votes." The blog posting says that in addition to expanding drilling, the bill "would reshuffle the Interior Department's offshore energy agencies and award federal offshore drilling royalties to all coastal states."

COAST GUARD HEARING ON SHELL'S ANTARCTIC DRILLING PROBLEMS CONTINUES. The Anchorage Daily News (5/30, Demer, 42K) reports that on Thursday, Shell offshore marine manager Jonathan Wilson testified in the Coast Guard hearing over the grounding of Shell's Kulluk rig off Alaska's coast last winter. Wilson expressed surprise about prior testimony from "a Shell contractor, warranty surveyor Anthony Flynn of GL Noble Denton, an oil and gas technical consultant that was hired to verify the tow setup for insurance purposes." Wilson expressed surprise "to hear the scope of work didn't include the evaluation of operations and planning against Noble Denton guidelines." The Alaska Journal of Commerce (5/31, Bradner, 5K) also covers the story.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN CRITICIZED. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (5/31) reports, "Members of Congress from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta region say Gov. Jerry Brown's vaunted Bay Delta Conservation Plan will actually destroy the Delta it's supposed to save." Critics "say it ignores the concerns repeatedly raised by stakeholders in the Bay-Delta region."

The Lake County (CA) News (5/31) reports, "Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-5) said the proposed plan is not a

workable solution." Also, "Rep. John Garamendi (CA-3) said California's water system is under enormous stress from a growing population and climate change." In addition, "Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-6) said the state of California, in partnership with the federal government, is on the verge of recommending a plan for California's water future that does nothing to solve California's water problems and is a disaster for Northern California."

Additional coverage was provided by the Sierra (CA) Sun Times (5/31), the Fresno (CA) Bee (5/29, 113K), and the City Journal (5/31, Greenhut, 10K).

BOR ANNOUNCES WATERSMART GRANTS FOR YAKIMA VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICTS. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (5/31, 28K) reports, "Two Yakima Valley irrigation districts will receive federal grants for projects to conserve water and energy." The BOR "announced the grants under the agency's WaterSMART program, a 3-year-old program to develop a sustainable water supply." According to the article, "the Roza Irrigation District will receive a $300,000 grant to pipe more than seven miles of open ditches known as laterals in the Zillah area and install flow meters to better monitor water deliveries," and "the Kennewick Irrigation District will receive a $1.5 million grant to line 14.6 miles of canal to conserve water and reduce power usage."

FLAMING GORGE DAM RELEASING MORE WATER TO SAVE ENDANGERED FISH. KSL-TV Salt Lake City (5/31, Liesik) reports that "Malcolm Wilson from the US Bureau of Reclamation says they have raised the water releases coming out of the Flaming Gorge Dam" in order to help the endangered razorback sucker. Wilson said, "(We started) beginning yesterday morning at about five or so, in several steps, pushing it up about 1,000 CFS yesterday morning and then another 2,000 CFS in several steps this morning."

INTERIOR TO SPEND NEARLY $500,000 TO TEACH FISH SURVIVAL SKILLS. The Washington Free Beacon (5/31) reports a Department of Interior "grant will allocate $472,150 to teach bonytails and sucker fish survival techniques, CNS News reports." The article says the "proposal builds upon the 2012 Bureau of Reclamation assistance agreement with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) tasked with investigating the potential for training" the fish "to recognize and avoid predators." The article says "the $400,000 grant to train fish is hardly the only recent example of questionable tax dollar use by the federal government."

CALIFORNIA FARMERS TURN TO DRIP IRRIGATION DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS. The Los Angeles Times (5/30, Green, 692K) reports drip tape is now used to irrigate "about a third of California's 9.4 million acres of irrigated crop land, holds the promise of growing more crops with less water." The paper says years of water rationing due to drought "have left farmers frustrated with unreliable allotments of scarce water resources each year, threatening the state's $43.5-billion agricultural industry." The Times says that each year, the US Bureau of Reclamation "dictates how much water growers in each district will get for crops. Last year, for instance, growers in the Central Valley Project received 40% of the water they had requested, a sizable drop from the previous year's 80%."

Empowering Native American Communities:

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVES DEAL OFFERED BY STATE, ONEIDA NATION. The Oneida (NY) Dispatch (5/30, Cleaver, 6K) reports, "The Madison County board of supervisors met Thursday to consider a deal announced less than two weeks ago that is intended to settle disputes on a number of issues between New York, the Oneida Nation and Madison and Oneida counties." According to the article, "after a meeting that lasted a little over an hour and a half, the Board of Supervisors, approved the resolution to accept the proposal."

Also, the Oneida (NY) Dispatch (5/30, 6K) reports, "On the heels of a Tuesday night, four-hour special meeting to consider a proposed settlement deal among Oneida and Madison counties, New York State and the Oneida Indian Nation, the Oneida County Board of Legislators accepted the agreement by a 16-13 margin."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORT ON INDIAN COUNTRY CASES. Additional coverage of the Justice Department's report on Indian Country cases was provided by the Washington Post (5/31, Kolpack, 489K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/31, Fonseca, Kolpack), the Albany (OR) Tribune (5/31), the Kansas City (MO) Star (5/30, 197K), and the Mitchell (SD) Daily Republic (5/31, 12K).

NEWLY PROPOSED FEDERAL RULES COULD SPEED UP MASHPEE TRIBE'S CASINO PROJECT. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (5/30, Brennan) reports the Mashpee Wampanaog Tribe "hopes a proposed rule change by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs will speed up the process of land trust applications and limit the threat of lawsuits." The paper says that on May 24, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washbum "filed the proposed change with the Federal Register, triggering a 30-day public comment period." Washbum said in a statement the rule change requires "that opponents exhaust remedies within the Department of the Interior ... before seeking judicial review."

Top National News:

AUTHORITIES INTERCEPT LETTER TO OBAMA WITH SIMILARITIES TO RICIN-LACED LETTERS SENT TO BLOOMBERG. The news that a suspicious letter similar to ricin-laced letters sent to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg was sent to President Obama at the White House led two broadcast network newscasts and was carried by all three, but receives only some print coverage. The CBS Evening News (5/30, lead story, 2:20, Dubois, 5.58M) reported that while the letters "never got anywhere near" the President or Bloomberg, the threat is being taken "seriously." CBS focused its report on the search for the suspect, with Bob Orr saying the FBI "is doing forensic testing looking for clues that might identify who sent them." At the top of NBC Nightly News (5/30, lead story, 3:05, 7.86M), Brian Williams said the "first scare of its kind took place in those nervous and shaky days after 9/11," back when "very few of us ever dreamed someone would send any kind of substance through the mail designed to harm and threaten people. Now it's happened again." NBC's Pete Williams stated that "the President and the Mayor were never in any danger because their mail is routinely screened for hazards like this."

On ABC World News (5/30, story 2, 2:40, Sawyer, 7.43M), Brian Ross said that according to the Secret Service, the letter "was intercepted at a screening facility far from the White House. Officials said the threatening language was similar to that sent in the suspected ricin letters to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the gun control lobby group in Washington that he started. ... A copy of the letter obtained by ABC News shows it was postmarked in Shreveport, Louisiana, on May 20 and the text includes this statement: 'What's in this letter is nothing compared to what I've got planned for you.'"

The New York Times (5/31, Goldstein, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports an "official with knowledge of the investigation" said the letter addressed to the White House "raised suspicions...because the postmark, the handwriting and the positioning of the handwriting on the envelope appeared similar to that of the ricin-laced letter that had been addressed to Mr. Bloomberg." The Wall Street Journal (5/31, Barrett, El-Ghobashy, Saul, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says the letters to Bloomberg and Mark Glaze of the Bloomberg-founded Mayors Against Illegal Guns contained references to the push for gun control legislation.

The AP (5/30, Superville, Long) reports New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said all three letters "apparently came from the same machine or computer and may be identical but referred specific questions to the FBI," which said in a statement "that field tests on the letters were consistent with the presence of a biological agent."

McClatchy (5/31, Gordon, Kumar) notes that these three letters "were the latest in a rash of letters mailed to politicians and government figures since April," including those sent to the President, Sen. Roger Wicker, and a Mississippi judge, and more recently to a Federal judge in Washington State. The Washington Times (5/31, Lengell, 76K) and Politico (5/31, Gerstein, 25K) also have reports.

HOLDER SAYS HE IS SEEKING TO BALANCE NATIONAL SECURITY, PRESS FREEDOM. Attorney General Holder's meeting Thursday evening with representatives from major media outlets generated a great deal of print and online coverage, but was not mentioned by any of the three network newscasts Thursday evening. Indeed, none of the so-called "scandal trifecta" controversies were covered by networks Thursday. On the other hand, either DOJ's handling of national security leaks or the IRS scandal were the lead story on every one of Fox News' prime-time programs Thursday night.

Due to the "off-the-record" nature of the meeting with Holder, this morning's papers lack much in the way of details regarding what was discussed, but several of the participants are quoted as saying that Holder is eager to strike a workable balance that respects the press's role while ensuring that national security is not compromised

by leaks. Earlier in the day, online coverage preceding the meeting focused on tallying which news organizations had accepted Holder's invitation and which declined due to the stipulation that the conversation would be off the record.

Arguably the most notable bit of commentary on the subject Thursday came from MSNBC's Chris Hayes, who appeared on MSNBC's Now with Alex Wagner (5/30) and predicted that "the other shoe to drop...is the Stuxnet leak" which generated a "big front-page story in the New York Times about this triumphant thing that the Administration did...this incredible virus that took out the [Iranian] nuclear program." According to Hayes, "It is very clear that information was classified, and it is very, very clear from the article that it was leaked by senior Administration officials – there's just no way it wasn't." Hayes continued, "So...if you're going to go after some low-lying guy in the State Department for leaking something, then you should be going after whoever those senior administration officials are."

Notably, Hayes did not mention the controversy over DOJ's prosecution of leaks on his own MSNBC program, MSNBC's All In with Chris Hayes (5/30), later Thursday. In fact, neither the leaks controversy, nor Holder's Thursday night meeting with journalists to ameliorate the situation was discussed on any of MSNBC's prime-time or early prime-time programs Thursday night.

Tucker Carlson, appearing on Fox News' Special Report (5/30), said the journalists at Thursday's meeting with Holder ought to have asked him: "Why was the New York Times not targeted as Fox and the AP were" even though the Times "leaked all kinds of details about Obama, all of which made him look good?" The Daily Beast's Kirsten Powers added sarcastically, "Not to be too cynical, but I think the stories that painted Obama in a positive light probably were sanctioned leaks. ... I'm just going to go out on a limb there."

Dylan Byers, in an article for Politico (5/30, 25K) that was published at 8:30 Thursday night titled "Eric Holder To Media: I Get It," provides some details of the off-the-record meeting Holder and Deputy Attorney General James Cole held Thursday evening with Politico's John Harris, the Washington Post's Martin Baron, the Wall Street Journal's Gerald Seib, the New Yorker's Jane Mayer and the New York Daily news' Jim Warren. Byers says that "according to those who were present," Holder "expressed concern...about how" DOJ "has handled recent media investigations" and "expressed a willingness to revise the guidelines for such investigations," but "stopped short of offering any concrete changes." Harris is quoted as saying that Holder and Cole "said they are reaching out to...strike what they called 'the balance' between protecting the flow of information and journalists' ability to do our jobs and what they described as national security damage."

According to the Washington Post (5/31, Horwitz, 489K), the journalists who met with Holder "reached an agreement with the Justice Department under which they could describe what occurred during the meeting in general terms." The Post's Baron is quoted as saying that Holder "completely endorsed the president's statement that reporters should not be at legal risk for doing their job," and "acknowledged...the need to have a more rigorous internal review."

The New York Times (5/31, Savage, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that "several" of the participants" told the [DOJ] officials that leak investigations have had a chilling effect on both reporters and government officials." The journalists reportedly also "urged more rigorous procedures for internal review of subpoena requests, including the scope of any records sought and whether to provide advance notice."

Controversy surrounding the meeting with Holder was the lead story on Fox News' Special Report (5/30). Anchor Bret Baier described the decisions by various media outlets not to attend as a "boycott, of sorts." Correspondent Shannon Bream went on to report that "the clock is ticking toward the Wednesday deadline for Holder to reply to an extensive set of questions from Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee, who believe he may have misled them on during his testimony on May 15th" when he denied ever considering prosecuting journalists for revealing national security leaks. Bream added that "many on the left and right believe it's time for President Obama to ask for Holder's resignation."

Kim Strassel, in her column for the Wall Street Journal (5/31, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), makes the case that Holder is reaching out to the press because the White House believes the controversy over DOJ's prosecutions of leakers could potentially turn the White House press corps, and even some Congressional Democrats, against the Administration.

More News Organizations Decline Off-The-Record Meetings With Holder. Earlier Thursday, Politico (5/30, Weinger, 25K) reported "several news organizations" – including the New York Times, the AP, CNN, Fox News, CBS News, Reuters, NBC News, The Huffington Post and McClatchy – declined to attend "off the record meetings" with Holder regarding the Justice Department's prosecution of leak cases. Among those who accepted invitations are Politico, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, ABC News, Bloomberg News and USA Today. Politico editor in chief John Harris is quoted as saying, "I feel anyone – whether an official or ordinary reader – should be able to have an unguarded conversation with someone in a position of accountability for a news organization when there is good reason." According to Politico, the meetings were initiated after President Obama "announced [a] review of the department's existing guidelines governing investigations involving reporters."

USA Today (5/31, Moore, 1.71M) reports that Deputy White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest "defended the decision to make the meeting private, saying that Holder wants to have a 'constructive' discussion with news organizations." However, Jim Asher, McClatchy's Washington bureau chief, said, "This seems to be something of a PR campaign to make nice with the press," but "the Justice Department-slash-White House is saying, 'Do it our way or don't do it at all.'" The Huffington Post's Ryan Grim adds, "A conversation specifically about the freedom of the press should be an open one. We have a responsibility not to betray that." Anita Kumar, in a post for McClatchy (5/30, Kumar), quotes earnest as saying, "We are hopeful that media organizations will take advantage of the opportunity to constructively contribute to this process."

According to The Hill (5/31, Easley, Yager, 21K), the "rejected invitations are the latest setback for the embattled" Holder, who is "under fire from the left and the right." The Hill notes that on MSNBC Thursday, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) said she "has confidence in Holder," but added that DOJ "needs to address its internal leak investigation processes with the public in addition to having conversations with members of the media." Maloney is quoted as saying, "Let's put all of the issues out on the table, not only in front of the press who's going to these meetings, but the American people."

The Huffington Post (5/30, Fung) reports that on Thursday, former NBC anchor Tom Brokaw, in a HuffPost Live appearance, said, "No news executive should go in there on an off-the-record session. ... It should be on the record." Dylan Byers, in a post for Politico (5/30, Byers, 25K), noted that when Brokaw made that comment, NBC was "the last major news organization deliberating over whether or not to attend" the meeting with Holder, but later in the day, NBC News announced it has "declined to participate in the off-the-record meeting."

The Washington Times (5/31, Lengell, 76K) reports that its executive editor said the Times "would not attend any such [off-the-record] meetings if it were invited."

Pincus Dismisses Criticism Of DOJ From "Self-Involved" Washington Press. Dylan Byers, in a piece for Politico (5/30, Byers, 25K), says the Washington Post's Walter Pincus is critical of "what he believes is the Washington press corps' overheated and sanctimonious response to the Justice Department's subpoenas of Associated Press reporters' phone records." Pincus argues that the DOJ's tactics are "nothing new" and "not even close to Nixon." Pincus adds that the "knee-jerk reaction" only "shows how self-involved the press has become."

MARKETS, MEDIA SHRUG OFF NEGATIVE ECONOMIC REPORTS. Despite a slight downward revision, the media's take on the new GDP estimates is at worst neutral. In general, reports attribute the drop to the decline in government spending, but expect that impact to be short-lived. The media similarly appears to be shrugging off reports of an increase in the weekly reading of first-time jobless claims.

Reuters (5/30) reports that the Department of Commerce issued its second look at first-quarter 2013 GDP on Thursday, estimating that it rose at a 2.4% annual rate during the period. That's down slightly from the 2.5% rate estimated in Commerce's first look at the data a month ago. Economists surveyed by Reuters had expected the initial reading to be unchanged.

Bloomberg News (5/30, Chandra) says the downward revision was due to "slower inventory building and cutbacks in government spending" which "overshadowed the biggest gain in consumer purchases since the end of 2010." Bloomberg says that "resilient" consumer spending, additional improvements in the housing market, and an upward-trending job market will "help the expansion strengthen in the second half of the year as the fallout from

federal budget cuts dissipates."

The Wall Street Journal (5/31, Morath, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) runs a similar report, noting the impact of the drop in government spending, but says that consumer resiliency is keeping the economy on a growth path.

Jobless Claims Up 10,000 Last Week. The AP (5/31) reports that jobless claims rose 10,000 last week to 354,000, according to data released Thursday by the Department of Labor. The four-week moving average, a "less volatile" measure, rose 6,750 to 347,250. Still, the AP says, "the level of applications is consistent with steady hiring and remains near a five-year low."

Bloomberg News (5/31, Kowalski) says the data was difficult to assess, as "holiday closures prevented five states from completing a full count." Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expected claims to come in at 340,000.

Reuters (5/31, Mutikani), in its report, similar says that economists it surveyed expected claims to come in at 340,000. Reuters also said that the rise is not enough to indicate that the recent improvements in the job market are on the wane.

Job Prospects For Grads Better, But Not Great. The CBS Evening News (5/30, story 9, 2:00, Dubois, 5.58M) reported on the jobless claim numbers, and CBS (Reid) then examines the job prospects for the collegiate class of 2013. CBS (Reid) reports that a recent survey of employers "found they only planed to hire only two percent more of college graduates this is year than in 2012," which is "down from a predicted is 13% increase at the beginning of the school year."

Consumer Confidence Steady Last Week. Bloomberg News (5/30, Woellert) reports that consumer sentiment last week "hovered near a five-year high as more Americans said the economy was improving and their finances were mending." The Bloomberg Consumer Comfort Index stood at minus 29.7 for the period ending May 26, down slightly from 29.4 a week earlier. Bloomberg says that views on the state of the economy "matched a mid-April reading as the strongest since January 2008."

Mortgage Rates Rise To Highest In Year. Bloomberg News (5/31, Gopal) reports that mortgage rates "rose to their highest levels in a year" as reports "showed the housing market and economy strengthening," which signaled to bond investors that the Fed "may reduce efforts to push down borrowing costs." The average rate for a 30-year fixed mortgage rose to 3.81 percent this week from 3.59 percent the prior week, according to Freddie Mac. The average rate on a 15-year rate rose to 2.98 percent from 2.77 percent the prior week.

Stocks Rebound As Confidence In Fed Easy-Money Continuance Increases. Bloomberg News (5/31, Hwang) reports that stocks were up Thursday despite the jobless report and the GDP numbers being "weaker-than-expected," because the data "boosted speculation the Federal Reserve will maintain stimulus." The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 21.73 points to 15,324.53, while the S&P 500 rose 0.4 percent to 1,654.41.

Reuters (5/31, Moon) similarly says that the rebound from Wednesday's losses was due to new confidence that Fed will continue its easy-money policy. Reuters also reports that the NASDAQ Composite Index rose 23.78 points to 3,491.30.

Americans Still Struggling To Regain Wealth Lost In Recession. In contrast to the stories noting consumer resilience, the Washington Post (5/30, Mui, 489K) reports that US households have "have rebuilt less than half of the wealth lost during the recession," which is "leaving them without the spending power to fuel a robust economic recovery," according to a new analysis from the Federal Reserve. In addition, the study showed that the majority of the improvement was "due to gains in the stock market, which primarily benefit wealthy families. That means the recovery for other households has been even weaker."

In a short piece, the CBS Evening News (5/30, story 8, 0:25, Dubois, 5.58M) reported, "A couple of months ago the Federal Reserve reported we've reached a milestone in the recovery from the recession. American households had, on average, recovered more than 90% of the wealth they'd lost. But today the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis said not so fast. Adjusted for inflation and other factors, wealth recovery is only 45%, so we do have a long way to go."

More Commentary On The Economy. In his column in the Wall Street Journal (5/31, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), David Wessel writes that bond prices are down lately, pushing the yields on 10-year Treasury Bills to above 2.1%, the highest level since April 2012. Wessel says there are a pair of narratives explaining the change, a good one and a bad one. The bad one says that the markets are addicted to the Fed's easy-money policy, and that when it ends, Treasury yields will jump sharply. The good one says that the US economy is now finally gaining momentum. Overall, Wessel says that other economic indicators suggest that the good narrative is more likely to be accurate.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (5/31, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), David Malpass, a former Treasury official and president of Encima Global, writes that the Fed's easy-money policy is a drag on the economy. Malpass says that the Fed's bond-buying policies probably helped during the 2008 financial crisis, but the economy after that would have been stronger without them.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"No Replacement For Corporate Taxes."*** The New York Times (5/31, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) editorializes, "Eliminating the corporate tax would not fix the broken tax system." It "would be a huge tax cut for the wealthy, which would ultimately result in even heavier burdens on everyone else or a government that is far too small to meet the nation's needs. The corporate income tax – which is projected to raise $4.8 trillion in the next 10 years even with all the avoidance that is going on – falls most heavily on corporate shareholders, who tend to be wealthy."

"Attacks On Muslims In Myanmar." The New York Times (5/31, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says in an editorial that "terrifying anti-Muslim violence" in Burma has exposed "deep ethnic and religious tensions that are undermining efforts to stabilize the country and move forward with political and economic reforms. ... All too often, police and security officials have been accused of failing to prevent attacks on minorities or being complicit in them." The Times says the US and other nations supporting Burma's transition, "as well as international companies eager to do business there" must urge the government to "control the deadly sectarianism gaining strength there."

"Hate Speech On Facebook."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Grim Signals From Syria."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (5/31, 489K) reports that the Administration has "gotten some grim signals" in response to its efforts to convince Syria's Bashar al-Assad to reconsider his determination to stay in power. Assad "said there had been 'a shift in the balance of power' in the country's civil war 'in favor of the armed forces' and that he had 'absolute confidence in our victory.'" The Post says that the "only hope for an acceptable political settlement in Syria lies in an intervention that would decisively shift the balance of Syria's war – through arms supplies to the rebels and airstrikes to eliminate the regime's air power."

"Restoration Of Rights." The Washington Post (5/31, 489K) editorializes that Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell "nudged" the state "into the 21st century" on Wednesday by authorizing a new system to automatically restore voting rights to nonviolent felons who have served their time or paid their fine. Calling McDonnell's act "courageous and consequential," the Post notes that it "should enfranchise tens of thousands of ex-convicts." The Post notes that it would have preferred McDonnell to go farther by restoring voting rights to "those convicted of some drug crimes," but points out that McDonnell "is doing what's politically possible for now" and that he "deserves Virginians' admiration for that."

"Why Did The FBI Kill This Man?" The Washington Post (5/31, 489K) editorializes about the "tangle of conflicting reports from law enforcement sources about what happened" to Ibragim Todashev, and argues that "the last thing the U.S. government needs to do is fuel wild conspiracy theories by releasing too little information or investigating too slowly." The Post urges the Administration to "move heaven and earth to get to the bottom of what happened and make it public – quickly."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Obama's Student-Loan Props."*** The Wall Street Journal (5/31, Journal, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says in an editorial that President Obama is ginning up an artificial fight with

congressional Republicans over the upcoming doubling of student loan interest rates, saying the President will today host students at the White House for a campaign-style event urging Congress to opt for his rate increase fix plan over one offered by House Education Chairman John Kline, even though the differences are small. The Journal says Obama would do better to work with Republicans on an agreement rather than making a political push.

"A Tax-Exempt IRS Primer." The Wall Street Journal (5/31, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial, notes that while Democrats have been urging the IRS to scrutinize conservative 501(c)(4) groups' expenditures, they have not sought similar treatment for labor unions, who, according to the Journal, have spent $4.4 billion on campaign since 2005. The Journal notes that while conservative groups like Crossroads GPS rely on donations, unions are spending their members' dues on political activities they may, or may not, agree with.

"Sacramento's Nonprofit Shakedown." The Wall Street Journal (5/31, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial, criticizes the California legislature for voting to suspend the statute of limitations for child abuse cases after having previously approved a similar one-year suspension in 2003 that ended up costing the Catholic Church $1.2 billion in damages. The Journal notes that in some cases, plaintiff attorneys got more than half of the settlements and suggests that the same attorneys are lobbying for another opportunity to share in a huge payout. The Journal also objects to the legislature's decision to maintain the statute of limitations for abuse that happened at the hands of a public employee, as well as for the individuals who are actually alleged to have committed the crimes. Only nonprofits would be held liable.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Swoon In Bonds Puts Eye On Fed
Dispute Flares Inside FDA Over Safety Of Popular Blood-Pressure Drugs
Japanese Romance Sours For Cerberus Capital

New York Times:
Business Leaders Pushing Election Of Council Allies
Colleges Show Uneven Effort To Enroll Poor
The Questions Keep Coming For Rutgers
Grim Task Of Identifying Factories' Dead Overwhelms Bangladeshi Lab
A New Step In Wrestling With The Bra
Is 'No Fun' Sign Next? California Beach Bonfires May Be Doused
Priest, Author, Scholar, Scold

Washington Post:
Obama's Ex-Aides Profit From Experience
Unapproved Modified Crops Found In Oregon Field
A New Battle For Tea Party
The Town That Pork Built Tries To Digest Smithfield Sale
St. Mary's Trustees Plan To Evaluate College's Leader

Financial Times:
Consumer Groups Turn Screw On Agencies
God's New Banker Brings Teutonic Rigour
Merkel Party Allies Accuse Hollande Of Shaking EU
Agnelli Family Aims To Stay On Top Of Fiat
Asia Growth Boosts Number Of 'Super Rich'
Smiths Group In Talks To Sell Medical Unit For £2bn-Plus

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Ricin Letters, Syria-American Killed; Baltimore-Train Crash; Education-Philadelphia's

Strawberry Mansion High School; UK-Queen's Portrait; Health-McDonald's CEO; Alcohol Addiction.
CBS: Ricin Letters; Ricin Letters-Analysis; FBI-James Comey; Chicago-Public School Closings; Severe Weather; Syria-American Killed; Syrian Civil War; Economic Recovery Update; Jobs-College Grads; Baltimore-Train Crash; Health-Valley Fever; Texas-Severe Weather.
NBC: Ricin Letters; FBI-Ibragim Todashev Shooting; FBI-James Comey; Severe Weather Forecasts; Oklahoma-Severe Weather; Syrian Civil War; Retirees-Adoptions; NCAA-Ohio State University President's Comments; Catholic Church-Andrew Greeley Obit.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Mexico-Arizona Woman Freed; Ricin Letters; Severe Weather; Hagel-Chinese Delegation Meeting.
CBS: Ricin Letters; Syria-American Killed; California-Wildfires; Severe Weather; Arizona-Deadly Highway Crash; Wall Street.
NPR: Oklahoma-Severe Weather; Alaska-Flooding; Genetically Modified Wheat; Ricin Letters; Chicago-Backpack Bomber Sentenced; Sports-2004 Olympics; California-Wildfires.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; the President delivers remarks on student loans, the Rose Garden, open press; the President meets with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the Oval Office, pool spray at the bottom. Notes: Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest, 12:30 p.m.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — In the morning, the Vice President will meet with President Dilma Rousseff. There will be a pool spray at the top of this meeting. Later in the morning, the Vice President will travel to the Ministry of External Relations. The Vice President's arrival to the Ministry of External Relations is open press. Vice President Biden will meet with Vice President Michel Temer. There will be a pool spray at the top of this meeting. Vice President Biden will meet with Vice President Michel Temer. There will be a pool spray at the top of this meeting. In the afternoon, the Vice President and Dr. Biden will depart Brasmlia, Brazil, en route Washington, DC.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: REP. MILLER – BANGLADESH TRIP — 11:30 a.m. Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), the senior Democratic member of the Committee on Education & the Workforce, will hold a conference call on his recent trip to Bangladesh.
Other: NCHV ANNUAL CONFERENCE — May 29 – 31. The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Conference. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Eric K. Shinseki and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan will share keynote speaker honors during the opening session. http://www.nchv.org/. Location: Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H St. NW.

LASA 2013 — May 29 – June 1. XXXI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association. Theme: "Towards a New Social Contract?" http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/congress/. Highlights: 8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Three panels involving the participation of the OAS will be held: a panel featuring OAS representatives on elections in the region, in the Marriott Ballroom Lincoln Room 3; a panel entitled "Constellations: Past, Present, and Future Directions at the Art Museum of the Americas, Organization of American States," in the Marriott Ballroom Salon 1; and a panel on teaching and learning OAS processes through the Model OAS program, in the Marriott Ballroom Congressional Room. 1 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. A Presidential Panel on United States-Latin American relations, jointly organized by the LASA Congress Program Committee and the Latin American Program of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, will feature the former President of Uruguay Tabare Vazquez; the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Roberta Jacobson; and the OAS Secretary for Political Affairs, Kevin Casas-Zamora. Marriott Ballroom Salon 2. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. NW (except where otherwise noted).

CUBAN FIVE MEETINGS — May 30 – June 5. Angela Davis, Danny Glover, Dolores Huerta, Ignacio Ramonet, Mighty Gabby and many others to join "5 Days for the Cuban 5 in Washington DC". Organized by the

International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5. Various locations: http://www.thecuban5.org/wordpress/2013/01/04/save-the-dates-5-days-for-the-cuban-5-in-dc/. Highlights: 3 p.m. 3:00pm: Meeting of Cuban nationals and Cuban Americans who live in the US to plan new strategies among other issues, about the US campaign to free the Cuban 5 (by invitation only).

UNCONVENTIONAL SHALE GAS DEVELOPMENT — May 30 – 31. 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The National Research Council will hold a two-day public workshop to discuss the risks related to unconventional shale gas development and management. Academics and field experts will speak about the operational risks of shale gas development as well as its potential effects on water, air, communities, ecosystems, climate change, and public health. MEDIA RSVP: 202-334-2138 or email news@nas.edu. For more information: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/DBASSE/BECS/CurrentProjects/DBASSE_069201. UaTHhUC1E0M. Location: Room 100 of the National Academies' Keck Center, 500 Fifth St., N.W.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – ARMS TRADE TREATY — 9 a.m. Amnesty International USA, Arms Control Association, Oxfam America, and the Stimson Center will host a press breakfast to discuss why the United States "must be one of the first signatories" of the Arms Trade Treaty. Location: Old Ebbitt Grill (Cabinet Room), 675 15th Street NW.

PHILANTHROPY – PODESTA, WYSS — 9 a.m. On Philanthropy: A Conversation with Hansjvrg Wyss and John Podesta. http://press.org/events/philanthropy-conversation-hansj%C3%B6rg-wyss-and-john-podesta

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORTS — 11 a.m. Treasury Secretary and Managing Trustee Jacob J. Lew will be joined by members of the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees – Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Acting Labor Secretary Seth D. Harris, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Marilyn Tavenner, Acting Social Security Commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin, and Public Trustees Charles Blahous and Robert Reischauer – for a press briefing to discuss the release of the annual Trustees Reports. Location: Department of the Treasury Media Room (4121), 1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Notes: Copies of report available at briefing. Live webcast at this link: www.treasury.gov/press-center/Video-Audio-Webcasts/Pages/Webcasts.aspx. Background briefing by senior officials following statements – pen and pad only – no cameras or recording devices. Media must RSVP by 4 p.m. May 30th to Ronda Buckmon, Ronda.Buckmon@treasury.gov. Press with camera equipment use Alexander Hamilton entrance (15th Street and Alexander Hamilton Avenue), proceed to the Moat entrance by 9:30 a.m.

HUDSON – FCC — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Former Commissioner and new Hudson Visiting Fellow Robert McDowell will discuss the past and future of the FCC with Hudson Institute Senior Fellow and Center Director Harold Furchtgott-Roth. Location: Betsy and Walter Stern Conference Center, Hudson Institute, 1015 15th St. NW, 6th Floor.

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH CARE BRIEFING — 12:15 p.m. – 2 p.m. Worker Wellness Programs: Do They Work? Starting in 2014, employers will be allowed to charge their workers up to 30 percent more for health insurance premiums if they dont meet certain health goals, under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). An Alliance for Health Reform briefing, "Worker Wellness Programs: Do They Work?" will explain the provisions in the law, and examine employer efforts to improve worker wellness, along with evidence about savings. Location: Columbus Club, Union Station.

CONGRESSWOMAN NORTON – SAME-SEX WEDDING — 4 p.m. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) will officiate a wedding between Dr. Stephen Johnson and Danis Kovanda, who have been together as a gay couple for 28 years. (Both men are currently Federal employees, Johnson at the Department of Defense, Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, and Kovanda at the National Institutes of Health.) Location: Ulysses S. Grant Memorial on 1st St. NW, between Pennsylvania Ave. NW and Maryland Ave. SW.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Tue, Jun 4, 2013 at 6:58 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Community Leaders Warn Budget Cuts Will Hurt Local Economy.
+ North Carolina Lawmakers Urged To Reject Bill Affecting Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Bureau of Land Management:
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+ BLM To Study New Route For Pomona-Vantage Power Line.

Fish and Wildlife Service:
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+ Inland Water Agencies Sue Over Santa Ana Sucker.
+ FWS Proposes Designating Critical Habitat For Endangered Tiger Beetle.
+ FWS Proposes Protection For Kentucky Glade Cress.
+ Groups File Lawsuit Over "McKittrick Policy".

US Geological Survey:
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+ Duncan Says Supports Offshore Drilling Agreement With Mexico.

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+ California Eases Payments By Red Hawk Casino.
+ Illinois Lawmaker Says Won't Pursue Gambling Expansion Plan.
+ Gaming Almanac Tallies New Mexico's Share Of Market.
+ Thunder Valley Casino Resort Names New General Manager.
+ Northern Arizona University Hosts Meeting To Improve Native American Indian Education.

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+ Obama Will Nominate Three For DC Federal Appeals Court Today.

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR UNVEILS PLANS FOR THREE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS,. The Washington Post (6/3, 489K) reports, "The Interior Department has approved three renewable energy projects in Nevada and Arizona that officials say will generate enough electricity to power nearly 200,000 homes." The article notes that "the projects will deliver a combined 520 megawatts to the electricity grid through solar plants in Nevada and Arizona and a geothermal plant in Nevada."

Bloomberg News (6/4, Herndon) reports, "Closely held SolarReserve LLC's 100-megawatt Quartzsite Solar Project is planned for a site in La Paz County, Arizona, and will use mirrors to focus sunlight on a boiler and generate steam to drive a turbine." Also, "closely held Terra-Gen Power LLC received approval for its 70-megawatt New York Canyon Geothermal Project planned for a site in Pershing County, Nevada, that will tap into underground heat to produce electricity." The Interior Department "also approved transmission facilities on federal lands as part of a solar project planned for private lands near Boulder City, Nevada." According to the article, "the

350-megawatt Midland project, proposed by a unit of Korea Electric Power Corp. (015760), will use conventional photovoltaic panels to produce power."

Platts (6/4, Scheid) reports, "Jewell, who was sworn into office in April, said she would continue the push by Ken Salazar, her predecessor, to develop solar, wind and other renewable projects and stressed that the federal government would not be a 'roadblock' to these developments." During a conference call, Jewell said, "In aggregate, these projects are helping to power our nation, strengthen our economy and diversify our energy portfolio. This is one of the most important things we can do at Interior as we work toward a clean energy future, a low carbon economy and addressing the risks of climate change."

The Wyoming Public Media (6/4, Zhorov) reports that "Jewell emphasized her commitment to President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy and said one of her top priorities was to continue the work started by her predecessor, Ken Salazar, to expand the nation's renewable energy portfolio." She said, "Interior has now approved a total of 45 renewable energy projects, including 25 utility scale solar facilities, 9 wind farms, and 11 geothermal plants, including associated transmission corridors and infrastructure to connect to established power grids. In aggregate, these projects are helping power our nation, strengthen our economy, and diversify our energy portfolio."

The Arizona Republic (6/3, Randazzo, 308K) reports that BLM Principal Deputy Director Neil Komze said, "BLM is thrilled to see these projects moving forward."

The Cronkite News (6/4, Bell) reports, "Environmental advocates in Arizona have some concerns about the Quartzsite plant but, 'Overall, we're glad to see more energy come from renewable energy resources,' said Sandy Bahr, a spokeswoman for the Grand Canyon chapter of the Sierra Club." Bahr "said the project will be put on land that is not disturbed, such as old agricultural or previously developed land."

Also reporting on the story are the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/4, 335K), the Oklahoman (6/4, 127K), the Modesto (CA) Bee (6/3, 59K), the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (6/4, 42K), the Federal News Radio (6/4),the Phoenix Business Journal (6/4, Subscription Publication), Yahoo! (6/4), the Global Times (6/4, 1.04M), the Energy Central (6/4), the Energy Matters (6/4), and the Greentech Media (6/3, Trabish).

INTERIOR TO UNVEIL DETAILS FOR OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALE. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (6/4, Colman, 21K) reports, "The Interior Department will release details for the first federal offshore wind lease sale Tuesday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced in a Monday media call." The secretary "said the lease sale would be for a plot off the Atlantic coast, and said it could serve as a litmus test of industry demand for offshore wind." Jewell said, "If there is good interest in this one, then I think you will have this happening on a consistent basis."

Also, in its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (6/4, Colman, 21K) reports, "Jewell told reporters in a Monday call that 'the demand is there' for offshore wind." Jewell "framed the upcoming auction as a bellwether for industry interest."

SECRETARY JEWELL CELEBRATES NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/3, Graff, 202K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell marked National Fishing and Boating Week on Monday by "going fishing with more than 200 students from the surrounding metro area on Washington's Anacostia River." Jewell noted that while the popularity of fishing is growing in the US, "many youths haven't experienced much time in nature." Jewell said, "If you talk to a lot of these kids, they've been introduced by a parent if they've been in the outdoors before. For kids who don't have adults in their life to introduce them to these activities, a day like this makes all the difference. They'll remember this forever."

Also reporting on the story are the Miami Herald (6/4, Graff, 139K), the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (6/3, Graff, 12K), the Bradenton (FL) Herald (6/3, Graff, 28K), the Fresno (CA) Bee (6/3, Graff, 113K), and the Boating World Magazine (6/4).

OFFICIALS SCRAP PLANS TO MOVE SCREENING FOR STATUE OF LIBERTY. WCBS-TV New York (6/3) reports, "Plans to change the security screening procedures for visitors to the Statue of Liberty have been scrapped." According to the article, "in a statement announced late Monday afternoon. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) said that the federal government will not go forward with plans to screen visitors once they arrive at Liberty

and Ellis islands," and instead, the government will "screen them in Battery Park before they board the ferry." In a statement, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "I believe that establishing a temporary screening facility at Battery Park, including screening of passengers and bags with magnetometers and X-ray scanners, can address issues raised while we undertake an additional thorough review of the security procedures."

The New York Times (6/4, Mcgeehan, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports, "On Monday, Sally Jewell, the secretary of the interior, notified Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of the decision." Jewell "said the Park Service would erect a temporary screening center containing X-ray machines and magnetometers in Battery Park, but might have to leave it there for several years before a permanent solution could be devised." Also, "in a letter on Monday, Secretary Jewell asked Mr. Bloomberg to provide a letter rescinding a 2010 request he made to the Park Service to vacate Battery Park," and "Mr. Bloomberg agreed."

The New York Post (6/4, Earle, 498K) reports that Bloomberg said, "It's the right decision, and an example of government agencies working together to achieve practical solutions." He added, "We will do everything we can to assist in getting the screening procedures in place in time for the July 4th holiday and we look forward to continuing our work with the National Park Service to protect Lady Liberty and the millions of Americans who will visit her in the years to come." Also, in a statement, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) said, "This solution wisely avoids any trade-off between speed-of-opening and optimum security procedures. The Statue of Liberty is vital to maintaining our pre-eminence as the tourist capital of America, and with these procedures in place, it can continue to safely draw people from around the world." He "went out of his way to thank the recently confirmed Jewel, the former R.E.I. exec, for her 'consideration and quick work.'"

CNN (6/3, Gonzalez) reports, "In response to Jewell's letter announcing the change, Schumer thanked the Interior Department for its quick decision in time for the July holiday weekend."

The New York Daily News (6/4, 543K) editorializes that "Jewell has brought the National Park Service to its senses on security for the ferries to Liberty and Ellis Islands."

Also reporting on the story are Politico (6/4, 25K), the USA Today (6/3, 1.71M), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/4, 335K), the New York Daily News (6/4, Straw, Beekman, 543K), the Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (6/3, 77K), and the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (6/4, 9K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ATTEND 2013 COLORADO CAPITAL CONFERENCE. The Pagosa (CO) Daily Post (6/4) reports, "Senator Mark Udall, Colorado Mesa University President Tim Foster and University of Colorado Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano announced yesterday that the 2013 Colorado Capital Conference — a three-day event in Washington, D.C., aimed at connecting Coloradans with national leaders and influential public figures — will feature a bipartisan and diverse slate of distinguished speakers." The article notes that "the conference, which 100 Coloradans from across the state will attend between June 5 and June 7, will feature Interior Secretary Sally Jewell; Treasury Secretary Jack Lew; Navy Secretary Ray Mabus; Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz; and many other federal agency heads, plus Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, along with Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska); and Former Sen. Timothy E. Wirth (D-Colo.)"

INTERIOR OFFICIALS ATTEND ANNUAL FORD'S THEATRE GALA. The Washingtonian (6/3, Joynt, 124K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis were among the attendants of the annual Ford's Theatre gala.

AGENCIES SLOW TO REVEAL EMAIL ADDRESSES OF POLITICAL APPOINTEES. In an AP story about secret government email accounts pick up by the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/4, Gillum, 335K), the AP notes that "most US agencies have failed to turn over lists of political appointees' email addresses, which the AP sought under the Freedom of Information Act more than three months ago." Notably, "the Interior Department gave the AP a list of about 100 government email addresses for political appointees who work there but none for the interior secretary at the time, Ken Salazar, who has since resigned." The article notes that "spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said Salazar maintained only one email address while serving as secretary but she would not disclose it." Kershaw "said the AP should ask for it under the Freedom of Information Act, which would take months longer."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM. Additional coverage of the new additions to the National Trails System was provided by the Washington Post (6/3, 489K), the Wilkes Barre (PA) Times-Leader (6/4, 33K), the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (6/4, 14K), the Alabama Live (6/4, Doyle) , the Alabama Live (6/4, Gray), Yahoo! (6/4) , and Yahoo! News Canada (6/4).

NONPROFIT CRITICIZES PROPOSED FRACKING RULES. Writing in the "Congress Blog" for The Hill (6/4, 21K), Martin Hayden, vice president of policy and legislation at Earthjustice, criticizes the Obama Administration's proposed fracking rules on public lands, which he says "put the nation's water supply at risk of contamination with cancer-causing chemicals." Hayden says the Bureau of Land Management is "accepting public comment right now on proposed rules for fracking on public lands that are even weaker than a draft issued a year ago." One of the criticisms of the fracking rules is that the government won't "require fracking companies to disclose the chemicals they are using before pumping them into the ground." Earthjustice is a nonprofit public interest law organization.

CONTROL OVER PUBLIC LANDS URGED TO BE TURNED OVER TO COLORADO. In an op-ed for the Cortez (CO) Journal (6/3, Gill), Dexter Gill, a retired tribal and private forester, argues that the Federal government should "own up to its promises and comply with the Constitution and transfer title to all federal lands in Colorado back to the state, except for those legally authorized such as military bases and post offices, and federal office buildings authorized by the state Legislature." He writes that "the various counties, as entities of the state, can then exercise control and ensure proper resource management over those lands for the benefit of the people of the counties and the state as a whole."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

HOUSE APPROVES EXPANSION OF SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL. The San Antonio Express-News (6/4, Martin, 165K) reports, "A bill to expand the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park by 137 acres was approved on a voice vote by the full House of Representatives on Monday." The bill "passed with bipartisan support in the House, and San Antonio officials applauded the city's congressional delegation for spearheading the expansion to the missions park, one of the city's largest tourist attractions." The article notes that the NPS "has endorsed the expansion."

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARING ON HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARKS ACT. The Auburn (NY) Citizen (6/4, 9K) reports, "The House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a hearing next week on the Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act — legislation introduced by US Rep. Dan Maffei, D-DeWitt, that would create two national historical parks honoring the abolitionist, including one in Auburn." Maffei "said this is a major milestone for the legislation." He said, "It's huge. We've never gotten to a hearing before. It's an absolute necessity in terms of getting a bill through the House. We think we can do this the right way. The House and Senate bill and get them to come to an easy agreement on something that should have been done a long time ago."

BILL WOULD CREATE URBAN GREEN SPACE. The North Andover (MA) Eagle Tribune (6/4, 33K) reports, "Congresswoman Niki Tsongas yesterday announced new legislation to help urban communities turn blighted environments into public parks or other usable green spaces." According to the article, "the Groundwork USA Trust Act was developed in consultation with the non-profit group Groundwork Lawrence and would create a dedicated federal funding stream to ensure support for the 20 existing Groundwork programs nationwide, enabling other cities to launch similar initiatives." The article notes that "the current Groundworks USA system does not have a dedicated source of funding and is split between National Park Service (NPS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), limiting existing trusts from effective planning and preventing expansion into other communities," but "Tsongas' bill would provide stability by centralizing administration in the NPS and authorizing $15 million for each fiscal year through 2017."

HISTORIC SITE MAY STAND IN WAY OF NEW LAUNCH SITE. The Daytona Beach (FL) News-Journal (6/3, Pulver, 65K) reports, "Opponents to the location Space Florida has chosen for a spaceport – south of Oak Hill near the Volusia/Brevard county line – hope a federal law designed to protect the nation's historic and

environmental resources will prevent construction in the proposed location." The News-Journal notes that "called the 4(f), it states agencies 'cannot approve the use of land from publicly owned parks, recreational areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or public and private historical sites' unless there are no feasible or prudent alternatives and the action includes all possible planning to minimize harm." Meanwhile, "Space Florida officials say they are working with the seashore to avoid historic sites as they hone in on a specific location, but the list of historical resources on the NASA land is lengthy."

HUMPBACK CHUB DISCOVERED SPAWNING AT GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK. The Los Angeles Times (6/3, Cart, 692K) reports, "National Park Service biologists discovered good news in their efforts to recover the endangered humpback chub — for the first time the translocated fish were found spawning in Havasu Creek at Grand Canyon National Park." The article notes that "it marks the first time signs of humpback chub reproduction have been found in Havasu Creek, where scientist have attempted to establish the first chub population outside of the Little Colorado River in the park." According to the NPS, "indications of spawning activity were found on a fisheries monitoring trip two weeks ago."

SEARCH FOR YOSEMITE WATERFALL VICTIM SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY. CNN (6/3, Smith, Almasy) reports, "Park rangers suspended their search Monday afternoon for a teenage swimmer who was swept over a nearly 600-foot waterfall in California's Yosemite National Park over the weekend." Park spokeswoman Kari Cobb said, "We believe it's impossible to survive a fall like that."

The San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (6/3, 32K) reports that "Cobb said Monday that rangers on regular patrol continue to keep an eye on the stretch of river below the base of the 594-foot fall." However, "they will not be walking the banks."

Also covering the story are the Idaho Statesman (6/2, 49K) and the Washington Times (6/4, Chumley, 76K).

CLIMBER FROM LONDON HIT BY ROCK, DIES WHILE SCALING THE ICONIC EL CAPITAN IN YOSEMITE. The Columbus (IN) Republic (6/4, 21K) reports, "A 28-year-old climber from London has died after being hit by a falling rock on El Capitan, a signature attraction in Yosemite National Park." The NPS "says Felix Joseph Kieman was climbing on the East Buttress of the granite monolith about 600 feet above the Yosemite Valley floor when a rock dislodged and struck him Sunday afternoon."

Also reporting on the story are the Los Angeles Times (6/4, Mather, 692K) and the BBC News (6/4).

MAN DIES AFTER BLUFF LEAP INTO BUFFALO RIVER. The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (6/3, Hocklander) reports that Stephen A. Carney's "body was recovered approximately one mile downstream from the Erbie Access." The article notes that "the weekend search operation was a joint effort between several agencies that also included Newton County Search and Rescue, the National Park Service, Newton County Sheriff's Office, Tri-County Search and Rescue, and BUFFSAR."

WALL BEING CONSTRUCTED TO PROTECT MALL FROM FLOODING. In an op-ed for Politico (6/4, Anderson, 25K), attorney Fred Anderson writes, "Taxpayers are paying for the construction of a new wall on the National Mall" to protect it from climate change. Anderson wonders why "the new wall on the Mall excited almost no comment" and suggests that "the planners and agencies involved, the Park Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, are too political themselves to state outright that they had to act on what they clearly believe is a credible climate-related threat to the capital."

COMMUNITY LEADERS WARN BUDGET CUTS WILL HURT LOCAL ECONOMY. In an op-ed for the Inland Valley (CA) Daily Bulletin (6/4, Soltes, Collins, Lowe, 52K), Eva Soltes, president of the Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce, Jennifer Collins, president of the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Karen Lowe, president of the Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce, write, "In 2010, 1.4 million visitors to the Joshua Tree National Park contributed $58 million to its gateway communities and we are greatly concerned about the impact that the National Park Service budget cuts, associated with the sequester, will have across the country as well as locally in Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley National Park and the Mojave National Preserve." They claim that "these cuts will prove devastating not only to the parks themselves, but to the economies of their gateway communities." They conclude, "In the coming years our president and Congress should fight to preserve national park funding, not only to protect the fragile ecosystems and unique history, but also to protect the strength of our

national and local economies."

NORTH CAROLINA LAWMAKERS URGED TO REJECT BILL AFFECTING CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE. In an op-ed for the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (6/3, Bennett, 130K), Betsy Bennett, the former director of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, writes that "to help successfully manage the seashore, one of the nation's most exceptional natural areas, the National Park Service developed a carefully balanced rule that allows responsible off-road vehicle use while protecting the needs of families, pedestrians and beach-nesting wildlife" at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. But "unfortunately, a new bill in the Senate (S486), due to be considered in committee this month, rescinds this carefully balanced plan." She argues that "it ignores science, law, the will of the majority of the voting public and the increase in local tourism."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SEEKS NEW ROUTES OF ACCESS TO RÍO GRANDE DEL NORTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Taos (NM) News (6/4, Van Buren, 10K) reports, "The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is developing new routes into the Río Grande del Norte National Monument after procuring an adjacent acreage." The article notes that "according to information from the Trust for Public Land, that organization bought 78 acres at the end of County Road 110 from the First National Bank of New Mexico and sold it to the BLM." New Mexico State BLM Director Jesse Juen said, "We are thrilled with this latest acquisition, which adds a key parcel to one of our most cherished landscapes, the 'Taos Valley Overlook.' The parcel will also provide the public a future trailhead and wonderful access into a portion of the newly designated (National Monument)."

BLM TO STUDY NEW ROUTE FOR POMONA-VANTAGE POWER LINE. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (6/4, 28K) reports, "A new alternate route for a proposed Pacific Power transmission line from Pomona near Selah to Vantage will be studied over the next several months, the federal Bureau of Land Management said Monday." Janet Hutchison, a BLM realty specialist, said, "Some of the reasons we are doing this besides the rules changing are the comments we received during the scoping period and open houses. We are trying to look for another route that works for everyone."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO PRAIRIE SUMMIT. The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (6/4) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe "gave the keynote address to" a "Prairie Summit" in Bismarck Monday "that will conclude today with a bus tour to western North Dakota." According to the article, "the summit is looking at factors driving land use and value – from agricultural markets to oils and gas markets – to wetland drainage, grassland loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat." Ashe said that "North Dakota and the changes occurring now are a good example of what is happening on a global scale."

FWS SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR WOLF-LIVESTOCK DEMONSTRATION GRANTS. The AmmoLand.com (6/4) reports, "The US Fish and Wildlife Service invites submission of grant proposals from eligible states and Native American tribes for demonstration projects intended to reduce and address the impact of wolves on livestock operations." The service "will award approximately $850,000 in two categories: Prevention Grants that assist livestock producers in undertaking proactive, non-lethal activities to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to predation by wolves, and Compensation Grants that reimburse livestock producers for livestock losses caused by wolves." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "The Wolf-Livestock Demonstration Project Grants Program is a tool for coordinating with state and tribal governments to reduce conflicts where gray wolves and livestock operations overlap. This program is an example of the kind of out-of-the-box thinking and strong, practical approach that has helped us conserve a host of imperiled species. It ensures that the livestock-rearing community is adequately equipped to prevent financial losses and compensated where losses are unavoidable."

INLAND WATER AGENCIES SUE OVER SANTA ANA SUCKER. The San Bernardino (CA) Sun (6/4, Scauzillo, 53K) reports, "Twelve Inland Empire water agencies Monday asked the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to reverse a federal court decision and throw out a plan by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to add extensive protections for the Santa Ana sucker, a six-inch long federally threatened fish that inhabits portions of the 96-mile Santa Ana River." According to the article, "the agencies contend that the previous ruling limits water they take from the river, which runs through San Bernardino and western Riverside counties, as well as Orange County." And "if

forced to comply, the cost could exceed $4 billion over several years mostly from the purchase of costly imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River that would be needed to make up the difference for more than five million customers."

The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (6/3, Zimmerman, 130K) reports, "The agencies are asking the appeals court to order the Fish and Wildlife Service to consider the impact of its decision on the human environment, to re-evaluate the needs of the fish using the best available science, and to cooperate and collaborate with state and local agencies on that evaluation." They "also have asked the appeals court to reconsider a previous opinion involving application of the National Environmental Policy Act to decisions made in regards to endangered species."

FWS PROPOSES DESIGNATING CRITICAL HABITAT FOR ENDANGERED TIGER BEETLE. The Omaha World-Herald (6/4, Hendee, 135K) reports, "The US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed Monday to designate 1,110 acres of critical habitat for the endangered Salt Creek tiger beetle in Lancaster and Saunders Counties." The article notes that "the federal decision contrasts with a 2005 recommendation by scientists that 36,000 acres of habitat needed to be protected to ensure the recovery of the beetle, according to environmental organizations." The FWS "is accepting public comments on its proposal for 60 days."

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTION FOR KENTUCKY GLADE CRESS. For the "Watchdog Earth" blog of the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (6/4, Bruggers, 150K), James Bruggers writes, "The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed the rare Kentucky Glade Cress for listing and protection under the Endangered Species Act."

GROUPS FILE LAWSUIT OVER "MCKITTRICK POLICY". The Courthouse News (6/3) reports, "An unpublished, illegal federal policy prevents prosecution of people who kill endangered species unless the government can prove the people knew what species they were killing, environmentalists claim in court." In a lawsuit filed against the US Department of Justice, WildEarth Guardians and the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance "claim the US Fish and Wildlife Service's ability to enforce the Endangered Species Act's 'prohibition on illegal killing of Mexican gray wolves – and other ESA-listed species – through criminal penalties has been hindered by a 1998 policy of the United States Department of Justice ('DOJ') which DOJ calls the 'McKittrick Policy."

US Geological Survey:

USGS RELEASE REPORT ON SAGE GROUSE. The Billings (MT) Gazette (6/4, 39K) reports, "The US Geological Survey has released its extensive report on the greater sage grouse, a document that will provide a consistent set of information about the bird to help guide the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service in their joint efforts to conserve the species." Suzette Kimball, acting director of the USGS, said, "This report summarizes several decades of work on sage-grouse populations and sagebrush habitat. It will serve as a useful tool for land and wildlife managers and provides a needed range-wide perspective."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Offshore Energy Development:

HOUSE PANEL TO DISCUSS OFFSHORE DRILLING BILL. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (6/4, Colman, 21K) reports, "Members of the House Natural Resources Committee will meet on Thursday to discuss a draft bill that that would open parts of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to offshore drilling." According to the article, "the draft bill from committee Chairman Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) would permit drilling off the coasts of South Carolina, Virginia and Southern California while reshuffling the Interior Department's offshore drilling branch." The legislation "will likely clear the House but is unlikely to see the light of day in the Senate."

DUNCAN SAYS SUPPORTS OFFSHORE DRILLING AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO. The Greenville (SC) News (6/2, Troyan, 56K) reports "that about 1.5 million acres along the U.S.-Mexico maritime border would open to oil and gas drilling under an agreement negotiated by the administration and championed by a conservative Republican from South Carolina." The paper says the US House "is expected to vote next month on legislation by Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-Laurens, that would implement the 2012 deal to allow offshore drilling in an area of the Gulf

of Mexico believed to hold up to 172 million barrels of oil and 304 billion cubic feet of natural gas." The US-Mexico Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreement "would give congressional approval to the agreement signed in February 2012 by then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and then-Mexican Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa." The Interior Department supports the agreement.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

FEDERAL AGENCIES ISSUE BIOLOGICAL OPINION FOR KLAMATH OPERATIONS. The Houston Chronicle (6/4, Bamard, 434K) reports, "A new plan for balancing scarce water in the Klamath Basin between fish and farms won't harm salmon or other fish protected by the Endangered Species Act, federal scientists said Monday." According to the article, "the NOAA Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service issued what is called a biological opinion for operations on the Klamath Project, a federal irrigation project straddling the Oregon-California border." Laurie Sada, field supervisor for the Klamath office of Fish and Wildlife said that "the evaluation represents a 'landmark' level of coordination between the federal agencies, as well as integration of the needs of the different fish species, with an eye toward trying to keep the irrigation project supplied with water."

Also reporting on the story are The Oregonian (6/4, 237K), the Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (6/4, 52K), and the Columbus (IN) Republic (6/4, Bamard, 21K).

FISH FROM SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA HAVE HIGHEST MERCURY LEVELS. The AP (6/4) reports "sport fish from rivers and streams in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta have higher levels of mercury in their systems than fish taken from anywhere else in California," citing a new survey. Researchers for the State Water Resources Control Board "in 2011 surveyed 16 species from 63 locations." The study lists "Sacramento pikeminnow, smallmouth, largemouth and striped bass from the Delta watershed" as having the "highest concentrations of mercury."

Empowering Native American Communities:

MANY NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES AWAIT OFFICIAL RECOGNITION FROM US. The Pasadena (CA) Star-News (6/4) reports "the Native American culture of Andy Salas' ancestors dominated the San Gabriel Valley long before Junipero Serra set foot in California, but to the U.S. government, Salas' tribe, the Gabrieleno, doesn't exist." Salas "has spent years gathering the necessary documents and criteria" for official recognition from the Federal government for his Kizh Nation of the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians. The paper says "and Salas is far from alone in his quest; the Kizh-Gabrieleno are among 79 tribal groups that have submitted petitions to the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Federal Acknowledgment – and most of them are still waiting."

CALIFORNIA CITY LOOKING TO BLOCK TRIBE'S GAMING CASINO. The Petaluma (CA) Argus Courier (6/3, Wetzstein) reports local officials "are not ready to gamble on a 277-acre parcel of land just south of town owned by the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians" and looking for "ways to prevent the tribe from building a gaming casino." The paper says that in 2005, the Dry Creek Tribe "applied to move its Kastania Road property along Highway 101 into federal trust in an attempt to build a class-three gaming facility on the land." The Bureau of Indian Affairs, which handles Federal trust applications, says the Dry Creek tribe "does not have any current applications on file to place the land into federal trust." But David Rabbitt, Petaluma's representative on the board of supervisors, said Tribe Chairman Harvey Hopkins has said the tribe is close to completing the application for filing with the BIA.

CALIFORNIA EASES PAYMENTS BY RED HAWK CASINO. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/31, Kasler, 202K) reports, "Red Hawk Casino, underperforming since the day it opened and struggling to pay its bills, moved a step closer Thursday toward gaining financial relief." According to the article, "Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law a new gambling compact that reduces the revenue the state will collect from Red Hawk and its owner, the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians." But "despite the governor's signature, the Shingle Springs casino isn't out of financial trouble yet," because "the tribe has to restructure $500 million in debt owed to private creditors before the new state compact takes effect."

ILLINOIS LAWMAKER SAYS WON'T PURSUE GAMBLING EXPANSION PLAN. The Janesville (WI) Gazette (6/1, 18K) reports "the sponsor of a bill that would have added five new casinos in Illinois will no longer be

pursuing the proposal. That decision essentially kills gambling expansion for now." The paper says Illinois State Rep. Robert Rita is the bill's sponsor. "His spokesman Ryan Keith told The Associated Press Friday that too many issues remain and a deal could not be negotiated," the paper notes. The article notes that "approval of a bill with the governor's signature" would have allowed Rockford, IL, "to begin development of a casino while the Ho-Chunk Nation awaits" approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for "its proposed casino in Beloit."

GAMING ALMANAC TALLIES NEW MEXICO'S SHARE OF MARKET. The New Mexico Business Weekly (5/31, Fogarty, Subscription Publication) reports, "A new global gaming almanac contains some recent numbers showing New Mexico's share of the United States gambling sector, and some of them are higher than might be expected given the small number of gaming locations in the state." According to the article, "the 2013 Casino City's Global Gaming Almanac, with numbers tabulated as of April, showed New Mexico with 0.2 percent of the gaming locations in the United States but with shares of some gaming activities ranging as high as 2.7 percent."

THUNDER VALLEY CASINO RESORT NAMES NEW GENERAL MANAGER. The Casino City Times (5/31) reports, "Thunder Valley Casino Resort announced today the appointment of Dawn Clayton as General Manager."

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY HOSTS MEETING TO IMPROVE NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION. The AP (6/3) reports educators and language activists "are meeting in Flagstaff for a conference aimed at better serving American Indian students." The event is being organized by the Northern Arizona University.

Top National News:

WERFEL PLEDGES TO RESTORE PUBLIC'S TRUST IN THE IRS. Danny Werfel's first appearance before Congress as acting IRS commissioner generated a substantial amount of coverage, including the lead stories on the CBS Evening News (6/3, lead story, 3:20, Pelley, 5.58M) and Fox News' Special Report (6/4).

While most nonpartisan reports on the IRS scandal last night and this morning focus on Werfel's commitment to address the targeting of conservatives and the new revelations about inappropriate IRS conference spending, partisan outlets are now taking very different approaches to the story. For example, in his opening monologue for Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (6/4), Bill O'Reilly asked rhetorically if the IRS scandal is "like Watergate." O'Reilly went on to say that so far, "there is no evidence" that the President was "involved" in the targeting of conservatives, but "there is evidence that his deputies are involved." Later (6/4), Karl Rove said, "We can't and will probably not find any evidence that President Obama picked up the telephone and called [former IRS commissioner Douglas] Shulman and said, 'go do this,' or called Lois Lerner, but I do hold the President responsible for setting the tone" by calling the Tea Party a "threat to democracy."

Meanwhile, The Huffington Post's Howard Fineman, appearing on MSNBC's Hardball (6/4) with David Axelrod, said, "David's brethren and sisters in the White House" will "use the jujitsu of spin and campaigning to make it about Darrell Issa, and not about what happened at the IRS." A laughing Chris Matthews interjected, "That's what I'm doing. I think it is about Darrell Issa." Issa, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, has been accused of "overreach" in his probe of the IRS scandal by commentators from across the political spectrum, including the National Journal's (6/4, Subscription Publication, 12K) Ron Fournier.

Scott Pelley, in the lead story for the CBS Evening News (6/3, lead story, 3:20, Pelley, 5.58M), said Werfel "has one of the toughest jobs in America," and Nancy Cordes went on to report that on Monday, Werfel "assured Congress...that his first priority is to clear out the backlog of applications from Tea Party groups for tax-exempt status," which have been "held up for more than a year." Werfel was shown saying, "My primary mission is to restore that trust. But I think it has to start with a recognition that the trust has been violated and it has to start with a recognition that we have to get all the facts out." Cordes went to detail the recent allegations about improper IRS spending on conferences, including a 2010 event in Anaheim, California for which "some IRS managers stayed in lavish rooms" that cost "$1,500 a night."

Brian Williams, on NBC Nightly News (6/3, story 6, 1:05, Williams, 7.86M), said that on Monday, Werfel "told Congress...what a lot of Americans might have been thinking already – that taxpayers no longer trust" the IRS "after a series of disclosures about IRS spending and the targeting of conservative political groups." Kelly

O'Donnell went on to report that Congress "has been unable to find out who ordered the targeting of conservatives for special scrutiny before the last presidential election." O'Donnell also briefly noted the IRS conference spending that "some call excessive."

USA Today (6/3, Korte, 1.71M) reports that in an appearance before the House Appropriations subcommittee on financial services and general government, Werfel "promised 'absolute transparency'" as he reviews the alleged improper targeting of conservatives, and said he has "already come to...[the] 'inescapable' conclusion" that "there was a 'fundamental failure' by IRS management." USA Today noted that J. Russell George, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration who released an audit regarding the IRS scandal last month, also testified Monday. Asked to identify "who ordered the targeting and what motivated it," George answered, "During our audit, we did pose that question, and no one would acknowledge who gave that direction."

The Washington Post (6/3, Hicks, 489K) says that on Monday, Werfel's "presence changed the tenor of the questioning compared with previous rounds of inquiry, during which lawmakers...suggested" that Werfel's predecessors "had misled Congress." The Post goes on to report that on Monday, George "said again that his audit did not definitively determine whether the IRS's inappropriate behavior was politically motivated."

Under the headline, "New IRS Head Says Taxpayers No Longer Trust Agency," the AP (6/4, Ohlemacher) reports that Werfel "declared he was 'committed to restoring...trust,'" and is "conducting a thorough review of what went wrong and how to fix it." The AP goes on to report that Werfel "went to Capitol Hill to ask for a big budget increase" in order to fund the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, but, according to the AP, House Republicans "are not eager to increase funding for an agency that will play a central role in enforcing [ACA] compliance."

Lauren French, in a piece for Politico (6/4, French, 25K), noted that on Monday, Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, "said he was 'beginning to like' Werfel" because he said he "wouldn't immediately ask the committee for funding beyond levels requested by the Obama administration." French goes on to say that Werfel is promising "big changes," and has already "created an entirely new high-level position to rein in the agency's risks." French adds that Werfel has "even demonstrated some press savvy – a trait rarely associated with the IRS – by releasing a contrite statement last week" after news broke about questionable spending on IRS conferences.

Despite his praise for Werfel, Bloomberg News (6/4, Rubin) reports that Rogers indicated that Congress "may further restrict the IRS's funding with fresh constraints," and "questioned thousands of dollars of bonuses paid to IRS managers, including" Lois Lerner, the director of exempt organizations who has been accused of being involved in the targeting of conservatives. The Wall Street Journal (6/3, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) quotes Rogers as saying, "We may want to consider putting conditions on your funding that allow us to monitor your agency's compliance with proper practices."

According to The Hill (6/4, Becker, Schroeder, 21K), on Monday, House Democrats "offered little cover to the IRS," but "sought to broaden the scope of the inquiry to reach beyond the years of the Obama administration." The Hill notes that Rep. Jose Serrano (D-NY) argued that "any probe of the IRS targeting should extend back into the administration of President George W. Bush," and contended that "complaints Tea Party groups are raising...echo those raised by groups that were opposed to the war in Iraq." The Daily Caller (6/3, Coglianese) covered Werfel's appearance in a post titled, "Acting IRS Head: The IRS Has 'Betrayed The Trust Of The American People.'"

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (6/4, Milbank, 489K), notes that before Monday's hearing, Rogers told a reporter: "Of course, the enemy's list out of the White House that IRS was engaged in shutting down or trying to shut down the conservative political viewpoint across the country – an enemy's list that rivals that of another president some time ago." Milbank adds that Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-FL), who chaired Monday hearing, alleged earlier Monday that "instructions on who to target and how to target were coming from Washington without any debate."

Obama "Concerned By" IRS's "Excessive Spending" On Conferences. The Washington Times (6/4, Dinan, 76K) notes that Werfel "also said he has asked his agency for a review of lavish conference spending by IRS employees, which an audit this week is expected to detail." The AP (6/4) reports that White House press

secretary Jay Carney said Monday that President Barack Obama is "concerned by [the IRS's] excessive spending...on conferences and travel," and noted that the President "has taken already taken action to reduce spending." According to the AP, on Tuesday, an IG report will be released that "is expected to say the IRS spent about $50 million to hold at least 220 conferences for employees between 2010 and 2012."

The Washington Times (6/4, Boyer, 76K) quotes Carney as saying the President is "concerned by – and has been – excessive spending by the IRS and other agencies when it comes to conferences and travel, and has taken action accordingly." Carney added, "The federal government's spending on travel, which includes conference activity, was reduced by more than $1 billion in fiscal year 2012 as compared to fiscal year 2010."

Making a point about the potential impact of the revelations about the IRS conference spending, the New York Times' Jonathan Weisman, appearing on MSNBC's Hardball (6/4), said, "Remember...the Obama Administration has been saying the IRS needs more money, needs more money, needs more money. ... But it's very hard to ask for more money when these things happen."

Carney Declines To Respond To Issa's "Paid Liar" Jab. Politico (6/4, Epstein, 25K) reported that also on Monday, Carney was asked to respond to Rep. Darrell Issa's characterization of him as "paid liar." According to Politico, Carney answered "sarcastically" that he "hadn't heard that," before adding, "I'm not going to get into a back-and-forth with Chairman Issa." Politico added that Carney "declined to say whether he had spoken to President Obama about Issa's comments." In a very similar report, the Washington Times (6/4, Boyer, 76K) says Carney replied "sardonically" to the question about Issa.

Politico (6/4, Glueck, 25K) noted that on MSNBC's Morning Joe Monday, former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Issa "should call Jay Carney and apologize this morning." And the Huffington Post (6/3, Siddiqui) reported that in a radio interview Monday, Sen. Lindsey Graham "became the latest Republican to reject" Issa's characterization of Carney when he said, "You can go too far. ... Let's not make it personal. Jay Carney is not the issue here."

Fournier Blasts Issa's "Repugnant" Appearance On CNN Sunday. Ron Fournier, who has drawn a great deal of attention recently due to his harsh criticism of the Administration's treatment of the press, writes in his column for the National Journal (6/4, Subscription Publication, 12K) that "in one brief and repugnant interview," Issa "cherry-picked evidence, overstated his case, and violated the sacred American principle of presumed innocence." Fournier was referring to Issa's Sunday appearance on CNN's State of the Union (6/2, Crowley, 862K). Fournier goes on to make the case that the "demagogic" Issa has become "the best friend of a controversy-plagued Democratic White House."

Analysis: Camp Hopes IRS Scandal Will Prompt Tax Reform Push. Jonathan Weisman, in a piece for the New York Times (6/4, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) titled, "Some Republicans See I.R.S. Troubles As Means To A Big Goal: Tax Overhaul," says that while most Republicans "see the cloud around the I.R.S. in the light of raw politic," Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, has said that "spotlighting the tax-collecting agency — and stoking voter antipathy for it — are ways to build momentum for his plan to rewrite and simplify the entire tax code." Weisman goes on to say that "the first major overhaul of the tax code since 1986 has been a goal nurtured" by Camp "for years, but it may be slipping away." Weisman notes that Camp is unlikely to retain his chairmanship after 2014, and Sen. Max Baucus, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee "and his partner in the venture," is not running for reelection next year.

USA Today: Big Donors To 501(c)(4)s Should Be Publicly Disclosed. USA Today (6/3, 1.71M), in an editorial, proposes that all 501(c)(4)s be "require[d]" to "publicly report donations of $5,000 or more, the amount the IRS already requires them to report confidentially." However, in an accompanying op-ed for USA Today (6/3, Aviv, 1.71M), Diana Aviv, president and CEO of Independent Sector, contends that "we must not confuse the public's right to know who is funding partisan political activity with requiring disclosure of donors to charitable organizations." Aviv adds that the "right of individuals to anonymously support such efforts has long been protected by our legal system."

DOJ OFFICIAL CLAIMS HOLDER NEVER ACTUALLY CONSIDERED PROSECUTING ROSEN. Coverage of the continuing controversy of Attorney General Holder's role in leak prosecutions involving journalists was relatively light last night and this morning, and was not mentioned during any of the three network newscasts Monday

evening.

USA Today (6/3, Johnson, 1.71M) reports that on Monday, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Peter Kadzik, in a letter to the House Judiciary Committee, "reasserted" that DOJ "never sought to prosecute" Fox News' James Rosen and that Attorney General Holder "testified truthfully about the matter" on May 15 when he denied having been ever "involved in" or "heard of" a prosecution of a journalist for being the recipient of leaks. It was revealed days later that Holder had personally approved of the decision to tell judges that Rosen was a "co-conspirator" in a State Department leak case and flight risk. Regarding that decision by Holder, Kadzik wrote: "Probable cause sufficient to justify a search warrant for evidence of a crime is far different from a decision to bring charges for that crime."

The New York Times (6/4, Peters, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that Kadzik "noted that while a grand jury did charge a government employee with the unauthorized disclosure of classified information," Rosen "has not been charged with anything." According to Reuters (6/4, Holland, Ingram), Kadzik wrote: "At no time during the pendency of this matter – before or after seeking the search warrant – have prosecutors sought approval to bring criminal charges against the reporter."

The Hill (6/3, Yager, 21K) reports that Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and its former chairman, Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), "slammed the DOJ's response...as grossly inadequate" and said they are "still expecting a response from Holder himself by Wednesday." Goodlatte wrote: "By having a subordinate send this response rather than Attorney General Holder himself, this response begs the question of whether Holder has something to hide. ... He can't outsource the responsibility for his actions to lower level staff – the buck stops with him."

Josh Gerstein, in a piece for Politico (6/4, Gerstein, 25K), says Kadzik's "new defense" of Holder "doesn't add much to the sum total of knowledge about why prosecutors named...Rosen as a co-conspirator in order to get a search warrant for his email."

Politico (6/4, Kopan, 25K) reported that Rep. Peter King (R-NY) "has joined the chorus calling for...Holder to explain recent congressional testimony, saying if he were Holder, he'd resign." In an appearance on Fox News, King said Holder "has an absolute obligation to Congress and the American people to explain what he said when he basically said that he was not involved in any criminal prosecution, when clearly James Rosen's name was put into an affidavit, he was basically called a co-conspirator in a criminal enterprise." Kind added, "If I were Eric Holder, I would resign. ... I don't see how he remains in office, though, very much longer, since he's lost so much credibility with Congress and the American people."

Goldberg: Media-Shield Law Would Benefit Journalists, Undermine First Amendment. National Review's Jonah Goldberg, in an op-ed for USA Today (6/3, Goldberg, 1.71M), says that "when James Madison wrote the First Amendment, he undoubtedly had in mind not just journalists but also the countless private, often anonymous, pamphleteers who often went after those in power." According to Goldberg, "Journalism isn't a priestly caste or professional guild with special rights" and so it is a mistake to give journalists more protections than ordinary Americans via a media-shield law.

OBAMA WILL NOMINATE THREE FOR DC FEDERAL APPEALS COURT TODAY. The AP (6/3, Pickler) reports that on Tuesday, President Obama will nominate Patricia Ann Millett, Cornelia Pillard and Robert Leon Wilkins "to fill all three vacancies on the federal appeals court in Washington," which, according to the AP, will spark a "battle with Republicans who say the influential court doesn't need more judges." The AP reports that Pillard is "a Georgetown University law professor," while Millet is "an appeals lawyer" and Wilkins serves as a "judge on the U.S. District Court in Washington." The AP also notes that Millet "worked in the George W. Bush administration," and Wilkins "was confirmed unanimously in Obama's first term."

USA Today (6/3, Jackson, 1.71M) notes that last week, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell accused the President of trying to "to pack the D.C. Circuit with appointees."

Likewise, the Washington Post (6/4, 489K) reports that Sen. Charles Grassley "made it clear Monday that Obama's nominees will face serious resistance" when he released a statement reading: "It's hard to imagine the rationale for nominating three judges at once for this court given the many vacant emergency seats across the

country, unless your goal is to pack the court to advance a certain policy agenda." The Post covers the news of the pending nominations in an article titled, "Obama To Name Two Female Lawyers And An African American Federal Judge To U.S. Appeals Court In District Of Columbia."

According to the New York Times (6/3, Shear, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), "By announcing his choices in a group," the White House is "hoping to put more pressure on Republicans to confirm them." The Washington Times (6/4, Boyer, 76K) notes that the D.C. Circuit court "has six 'senior' judges, five of whom are Republican appointees, and the court has rejected some of the president's agenda," including the EPA's effort "to regulate air pollution across state lines."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"An Unnecessary Military Expense."*** The New York Times (6/4, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), in an editorial, criticizes those in Congress, including Rep. Buck McKeon, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, "pushing for a new missile defense site, possibly on the East Coast, that could eventually cost at least $3.6 billion." According to the Times, the proposed base "could actually harm America's national security by denying resources to other more urgently needed and more effective defense programs."

"A Smart Change In Iran Policy." In an editorial, the New York Times (6/4, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that the Administration has "made a useful modification" to its Iran policy by "lifting sanctions on companies that want to sell cellphones, laptops, encryption software and other similar technology to ordinary Iranians." The Times says that the move should "improve the ability of Iranians to circumvent their government's unrelenting crackdown on dissenting opinion and communicate with each other and the outside world without reprisal."

"DNA And Suspicionless Searches." In an editorial, the New York Times (6/4, Board, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) argues that "the main reason law enforcement seeks DNA sampling is not to get an accurate name. It is to connect the suspect to other cases, unrelated to the arrest, by matching the DNA found at other, older crime scenes, when there is no reasonable suspicion to do so." The Times adds that the Supreme Court ruling on DNA collection "severely undermines fundamental Fourth Amendment principles that protect individuals against unjustified searches and incursions on privacy by law enforcement."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Turkey's Authoritarianism."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (6/4, 489K) says Turkey's response to the protests "underlined that the country no longer has the robust free press found in Western nations." The Post says the Obama Administration should offer more than an expression of concern about "'the excessive use of force' and supporting the right of free assembly." The Administration should tell Erdogan "that democracy consists of more than elections — and that he is offering unfortunate proof that it is possible to be both elected and authoritarian."

"Rohrabacher Misfires In Moscow." In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/4, 489K) criticizes Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, saying he "seems to have lost his way in Moscow after talks with Russian security officials about fighting terrorism." The Post notes Rohrabacher's claim that President Vladimir Putin Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov "deserve more understanding and that 'we shouldn't be describing them as if they are Adolf Hitler or they're back to the old communism days,'" arguing he "displayed ignorance and naivete." The Post says the lessons of "the rise of fascism or communism of the 20th century," is "not to look the other way when human rights and democracy are trampled."

"D.C. Defends Jim Graham."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"ObamaCare Bait And Switch."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (6/4, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) notes that despite claims from liberals that the spike in insurance premiums under the ACA were figments of Republican and insurance company imaginations, in reality premiums will go up under the act. The Journal notes that liberals are now acknowledging that fact, but they say it is unfair to compare the current market with the market under the ACA because the Act provides more generous benefits.

"Discriminating Against Partnerships." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/4, Subscription Publication,

2.29M) is highly critical of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Chicago office for its efforts to force PricewaterhouseCoopers to eliminate its mandatory retirement age of 60 for partners and principals. The Journal says that the law is clearly on PwC's side. The Journal says that the national office of the EEOC will now decide the case, and if they decide to sue, it would be a reflection of the Administration's anti-business attitude.

"Turkey Erupts." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (6/4, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says that Turkey's Prime Minister believes he is indispensable to Turkey's progress and argues that the should conclude form the protests that Turkey's middle class wants the checks and balances of a democracy.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Justices Let Cops Swab DNA At Arrest
Twisting Path Tests Firefighters
Immigrants' Anchor
Final Deadline For Nikki Finke
Turkish Protesters Focus On Premier

Wall Street Journal:
Weak Signs For US Output
Justices Let Police Take DNA In Arrests
Latest Urban Trend: Less Elbow Room

New York Times:
Elite In China Molded In Part By Tiananmen
When Billionaire Sets Rules, It's Exclusive Race
Death Of Senator Places Christie In Difficult Spot
As Turks Challenge Their Leader's Power, He Tries To Expand It
Wall Street Buyers Behind The Rise In Home Prices
Justices Allow DNA Collection After An Arrest

Washington Post:
Justices Uphold Maryland Law On DNA
Why The Sharp Rise In Suicides By Boomers
For Hezbollah, A Risky Engagement In Syria
House GOP Still Skirting The Cliff
Sexual-Assault Bill Goes Too Far, Military Chiefs Say

Financial Times:
US Funds Left Bruised By Heavy Bond Losses
ECB Shuns 'Big Bazooka' To Boost Lending
China Plans Multimillion Ethiopia Investment
Apple Denies Charges Over Ebook Prices
Lonmin Mine Shootings Raise Tensions
US Rental Apartment Deal To Create $8.6bn Trust
A Tale Of A Two-Speed Economy
Erdogan Blames Extremists As Stocks Fall

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather, Storm Chasers Killed, Florida-School Bomb Threat, SCOTUS-DNA Ruling, Turkey-Unrest, Economy-Auto Sales, Made In America-RV Sales, Senator Lautenberg Dies, Health-Testosterone Supplements
CBS: IRS Hearing, Senator Lautenberg Dies, Oklahoma-Tornadoes, California-Wildfires, SCOTUS-DNA Ruling, Turkey-Unrest, Syria-Rice Interview, Manning Trial, Obama-Mental Health Conference, Solar Airplane, Boston-Bombing Survivors

NBC: SCOTUS-DNA Ruling, Oklahoma-Tornadoes, California-Wildfire, Turkey-Unrest, Manning-Trial, IRS Hearing, Senator Lautenberg Dies, Storm Chasers Killed, Airline Fees, Boston Bombing Survivor

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: California-Wildfire, Missouri-Flooding, IRS Hearing, Texas-Killer Bee Attack
CBS: California-Wildfire, Bradley Manning Trial, Football Hall of Famer Dies
NPR: California-Wildfire, Economy-Auto Sales, New York-Care Credit, Russia Blocking UN Resolution Against Syria, Asian Markets, Turkey-Unrest, Oklahoma-18 Killed In Latest Tornadoes, Hawaii-Trade Winds Diminishing

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing with the Vice President, Oval Office, closed press; delivers a statement, The Rose Garden, open press; holds a bilateral meeting with Chilean President Sebastián Piñera; the Vice President also attends, Oval Office, pool spray at the bottom; meets with the Vice President for lunch, Private Dining Room, closed press; departs the White House en route Bethesda, Maryland, South Lawn, open press; arrives Bethesda, Maryland, in-town travel pool; visits the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, closed press; departs Bethesda, Maryland en route the White House, in-town travel pool; arrives at the White House, South Lawn, open press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN —Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; attends the President's bilateral meeting with President Sebastián Piñera of Chile, Oval Office, pool spray at the bottom; meets the President for lunch, Private Dining Room, closed press; delivers remarks to the American-Turkish Council's 32nd Annual Conference, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, open press.
US Senate: 11:30 a.m. POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER — Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and other members of the Appropriations Committee will meet with the Foreign Minister of Poland, Radek Sikorski. There will be a brief photo opportunity at the top of their meeting. Location: S-128.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. — The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. Thereafter, Senators resume consideration of S.954, the Farm Bill.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — To receive testimony on pending legislation regarding sexual assaults in the military. Witnesses: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey; Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; General James F. Amos, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps; General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force; Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., USCG, Commandant of the Coast Guard; Lieutenant General Dana K. Chipman, JAGC, USA, Judge Advocate General of the United States Army; Vice Admiral Nanette M. DeRenzi, JAGC, USN, Judge Advocate General of the United States Navy; Lieutenant General Richard C. Harding, JAGC, USAF, Judge Advocate General of the United States Air Force; Major General Vaughn A. Ary, USMC, Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps; Rear Admiral Frederick J. Kenney, Jr., USCG; Judge Advocate General of the United States Coast Guard; Brigadier General Richard C. Gross, USA, Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Panel II: Colonel Donna W. Martin, USA, Commander, 202nd Military Police Group; Captain Stephen J. Coughlin, USN, Commodore, Destroyer Squadron TWO; Colonel Tracy W. King, USMC, Commander, Combat Logistics Regiment 15; Colonel Jeannie M. Leavitt, USAF, Commander, 4th Fighter Wing. Panel III: Nancy Parrish, President, Protect Our Defenders; Anu Bhagwati, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Service Women's Action Network; Major General John D. Altenburg, Jr., USA (Ret.), Chairman, American Bar Association Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law; Colonel Lawrence J. Morris, USA (Ret.), General Counsel, Catholic University. Location: 216 Hart.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Speakers: David Cohen Hearing on Iran Sanctions: Ensuring Robust Enforcement, and Assessing Next Steps. Witnesses: Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, U.S. Department of the Treasury; Wendy Sherman, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Eric Hirschhorn, Under Secretary for Industry and Security, U.S. Department of

Commerce. Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — Full committee hearing to explore ways to improve Federal wild land fire management. Location: 366 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. BUDGET — Hearing on the Fiscal and Economic Effects of Austerity on the economy, jobs, and long-term growth. Witnesses: Larry Summers, PhD, Charles W. Eliot University Professor at Harvard University; Simon Johnson, PhD, Ronald A Kurtz (1954) Professor of Entrepreneurship at MIT Sloan School of Management, and Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Location: 608 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee hearing on an overview of the Federal Housing Administration; Carol Galante, Commissioner, Federal Housing Administration; David A. Montoya, Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development. Location: 138 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet Hearing on State of Wireless Communications. Witnesses: Steve Largent, President and CEO, CTIA; Doug Webster, Vice President, Service Provider Routing, Mobility and Video Marketing, Cisco Systems; Steven K. Berry, President and CEO, Competitive Carriers Association; Delara Derakhshani, Policy Counsel, Consumers Union; Thomas Nagel, Senior Vice President, Business Development and Strategy, Communication and Data Services, Comcast Corporation; George Ford, Chief Economist, Phoenix Center. Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed Hearing on Intelligence Matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. WORLD WITHOUT NAZISM CONFERENCE — The International Revival of Nazism, will discuss the rise of ultra-nationalist and Nazi movements at home and abroad, and best practices to stop that rise. Speakers include: U.S. Congressmen Eliot Engel (D-NY), Michael Grimm (R-NY), and Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY); Leonid Kravchuk, First President of The Republic of Ukraine; Former NYS Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, Senior Fellow at Demos; Alexander Pochinok, Former Russian Federation Secretary of Labor, Former Russian Federation Senator, First Vice-President, World Without Nazism; Vitaly Klichko, Professional boxer, reigning WBC heavyweight champion, and member of the Ukrainian Parliament; Tatjana Zdanoka, Latvia, Member of the European Parliament; Mikhail Ostrovsky, President of Human Rights Organization, Russia Without Nazism;. Irina Tsvetkova, Latvia, Member of Parliament; Yana Toom, Estonia, Member of Parliament; Elisa Garoya, Member of the Helsinki Group of Greece. Location: Raybum office building – room TBA.

10 a.m. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Representative Todd Rokita (R-IN). Location: HC-8.

11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing Tuesday. Location: H-144 in the U.S. Capitol.

11:30 a.m. VIETNAMESE AMERICAN MEETUP — House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) will host a Vietnamese American Meetup. The event will welcome over 800 Vietnamese American community leaders from across the country for an open discussion with House Republicans. Location: House Triangle.

12 p.m. PATENT TROLL ABUSE — The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) will host House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) for a discussion about the growing need for legislative action that addresses abusive patent litigation. Chairman Goodlatte will discuss his new discussion draft patent reform legislation along with his perspective on the problem of patent trolls and their impact on the U.S. economy. Location: 2226 Rayburn.

4 p.m. CONGRESSIONAL NUCLEAR CLEANUP CAUCUS — Subject: Idaho National Laboratory. Location: 1334 Longworth.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 p.m. — The House for legislative business, then at noon is expected to consider H.R. 2216 – Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014; H.R. 671 –

Ruth Moore Act of 2013 under suspension of the Rules.

9 a.m. SELECT INTELLIGENCE — Hearing: CLOSED: Ongoing Intelligence Activities. Location: HVC304 Capitol.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE — Reviewing the Presidents Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Proposal for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Location: 2175 Raybum.

10 a.m. ENERGY & COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Hearing, Our Nation of Builders: Home Economics. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications hearing on Emergency MGMT 2.0: How SocialMedia and New Tech are Transforming Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Disasters Part1 Private sector. Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations The Department of Justice's Handling of Known or Suspected Terrorists Admitted into the Federal Witness Security Program. Witnesses: Michael Horowitz, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice; David Harlow, Assistant Director, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Department of Justice; Paul OBrien, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Full Committee oversight hearing entitled Defining Species Conservation Success: Tribal, State and Local Stewardship vs. Federal Courtroom Battles and Sue-and-Settle Practices. Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Hearing featuring organizations targeted by the Internal Revenue Service based on their personal beliefs. Witnesses: John Eastman, Chairman, National Organization for Marriage; Diane Belsom, Laurens County Tea Party; Becky Gerritson, Wetumpka Tea Party; Karen Kenny, San Fernando Valley Patriots; Kevin Kookogey, Founder and President, Linchpins of Liberty; Sue Martinek, Coalition for Life of Iowa. Location: 1100 Longworth.

11 a.m. HOUSE ADMINISTRATION — Full committee markup on pending legislative business Location: 1310 Longworth.

1 p.m. JUDICIARY — Markup of: H.R. 1797, the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act; and, H.R. 1944, the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2013. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

2 p.m. SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — Full Committee Hearing, STEM Education: The Administration's Proposed Re-Organization. Witnesses: John Holdren, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Executive Office of the President; Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Assistant Director, Directorate for Education and Human Resources, National Science Foundation (NSF); Leland D. Melvin, Associate Administrator for Education, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Location: 2318 Raybum.

2:30 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing on Continuing Repression by the Vietnamese Government. Witnesses: Anh Joseph Cao, (Former Member of Congress); Nguyen Dinh Thang, Ph.D., Executive Director, Boat People SOS; Father Anthony Tam Pham, Director, Interfaith Dialogue of the Catholic Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; Holly Ngo, Victim of property confiscation. Location: 2172 Raybum.

2:30 p.m. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations hearing on How Secure is Veterans Private Information? Location: 334 Cannon.
Other: CAPACD CONVENTION — The National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD) 13th Annual Convention – Building Equity, Building Power: Redefining Community Development. Speakers include Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; Congressman Keith Ellison (MN-5); Congresswoman Grace Meng (NY-6); Rinku Sen, President and Executive

Director of the Applied Research Center (ARC) and Publisher of Colorlines.com; and Kimberly Latimer-Nelligan, COO & Executive VP for Community Investments & Programs at the Low Income Investment Fund. Highlights: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Congressional Reception as we honor Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus! Location: 902 Hart Senate Office Building. Location: Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle NW.

NATIONAL CHILDRENS' ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE — Hosted by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. Location: Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel – Marriott.

HEALTH DATAPALOOZA IV — June 3 – 4. Health Data Consortium. Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. NW.

OECD INTERNATIONAL TAX CONFERENCE — June 3 – 4. The OECD, USCIB and BIAC, in cooperation with IFA-USA, ITPF, NFTC, OFII, TCPI, TEI and Tax Foundation, will host a conference on the OECDs new international taxation initiatives. Panels will address current OECD tax projects and will include speakers from business, the OECD, and U.S. government. Location: Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

USIP – LAND, PROPERTY AND CONFLICT — June 3 – 7. IOM, World Bank, USAID, and the US Institute of Peace Land, Property and Conflict Course. This is actually a course that is being offered but we mention in case there is interest on the story itself.

ENHANCING CHILD SURVIVAL – MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES — 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Evidence Summit on Enhancing Child Survival and Development in Lower-and Middle-Income Countries by Achieving Population-Level Behavior Change with Dr. Raj Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development Geeta Rao Gupta, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF. Location: FHI 360 Conference Center, 1825 Connecticut Avenue NW, 8th Floor.

MILITARY RAPE SURVIVOR – CAPITOL HILL — Military rape survivor delivers petition signatures to Congress calling for revisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice to move the decision to prosecute sexual assault out of the chain of command. Trina McDonald will be delivering 113,000 signatures that she gathered on MoveOn.org, as well as 85,000 additional signatures collected by Rep. Jackie Speier and Courage Campaign.

NOAA – SPACE WEATHER FORUM — 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Experts to discuss impacts of space weather at June 4 Space Weather Forum. Participants: Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D., acting NOAA administrator; Charles Bolden, administrator, NASA; U.S. Rep. Steven Palazzo; Louis Uccellini, Ph.D., director, NOAA's National Weather Service; Daniel Baker, Ph.D., director, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, University of Colorado-Boulder; Thomas Bogdan, Ph.D., president, University Cooperation for Atmospheric Research. Agenda: Location: NOAA Auditorium and Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

ROOSEVELT INSTITUTE – THE JOBS EMERGENCY — 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. A Bold Approach to the Jobs Emergency: Setting the Political Agenda for 2014 and 2016, a daylong conference. Keynotes by: Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Alan Blinder before Panel on: Getting to Full Employment (9a.m.); Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) before a Panel on: Creating Momentum for More Good Jobs (3p.mp) Highlights: 12:30 p.m. Remarks by Fed Governor Sarah Bloom Raskin on Trends in Job Creation. Location: 20 F Street NW Conference Center.

GRADE LEVEL READING — 9 a.m. Washington Post Live will host Reading Milestones, a discussion featuring governors and school superintendents from nine states on the importance of reading proficiently by the third grade.. Governors speaking are Susana Martinez (R-New Mexico), Phil Bryant (R-Miss.) and Jack Markell (D-Delaware). School superintendents in charge of education in these states will also participate: Ohio, Georgia, South Carolina, Washington, Maryland and Virginia. Location: The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street NW.

C2ES – NATURAL GAS REPORT — 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) releases new report, Leveraging Natural Gas to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and hold a panel discussion. Speakers: C2ES President Eileen Claussen will lead a conversation with Tom Farrell, CEO of Dominion Resources; Dave McCurdy, president of American Gas Association; and Darryl Banks, vice president of energy policy at the Center for American Progress. University of Texas professor Michael Webber. Location: 101 Constitution Ave. NW, 9th Floor Rotunda.

2013 INTERNATIONAL ROADCHECK PRESSER — 10 a.m. News conference and Safety Inspections to kick off the 2013 International Roadcheck (June 4-6) to spotlight the critical role of comprehensive driver, truck and bus inspections to prevent roadway tragedies. The 26th annual Roadcheck will emphasize commercial motor vehicle compliance with all safety regulations, with emphasis on cargo securement on trucks and safe operation and maintenance of buses and motorcoaches. Location: FedEx Field Parking Lot G2, 1600 FedEx Way, Landover, MD 20785 Maryland State Police will be pulling commercial motor vehicles off the inner loop of I-95 (Capital Beltway) for safety screenings or inspections.

CAP – LGBT – BROKEN BARGAIN – MERKLEY — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sen. Jeff Merkley to Discuss Americas Broken Bargain with LGBT Workers. Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

2013 G8 SUMMIT DISCUSSION — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Backgrounder in advance of 2013 G8 Summit June 17-18 in Northern Ireland. ActionAid USA, Oxfam America and Save the Children host briefing with UK Embassy on the G8s role in the Fight Against Global Hunger. Speakers include: Philip Barton, UK Deputy Ambassador; Emiliana Aligaesha, Tanzanian farmer; Nora OConnell, Associate Vice President of Save the Children; Ian Gary, Senior Policy Manager for Extractive Industries from Oxfam America; Geeta Sethi (invited), the Director of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). Location: Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

U.S. FOOD WASTE CHALLENGE — 11 a.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and EPA Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe will launch the U.S. Food Waste Challenge. Location: U..S. Department of Agriculture- Whitten Patio, 14th & Jefferson Ave SW.

NASA BRIEFING – SOLAR MISSION — 1 p.m. NASA will host a news briefing about the upcoming launch of the Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph (IRIS) mission. (IRIS is scheduled to launch June 26 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.) Location: NASA headquarters, 300 E Street, SW.

GREEN RIBBON HONOREES — 2 p.m. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Rural Outreach John White will meet with representatives from rural schools and districts that have been awarded the Department's Green Ribbon School or District Sustainability Award. Location: U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 1W103.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES – LAHOOD — 2:30 p.m. Secretary Ray LaHood, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R.-Pa.) and Ranking Member Nick J. Rahall (D-W.Va.) will address over 400 transportation construction industry leading executives to discuss the future of the Highway Trust Fund, implementation of MAP-21 and offer a preview of their future transportation policy agendas. Speakers: Transportation Construction Industry Executives. Chairman Bill Shuster (3 p.m.); Secretary Ray LaHood (3:30 p.m.); Rep. Nick Rahall (4 p.m.); Sen. Jim Inhofe (4:30 p.m.). Location: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Regency Ballroom, 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "This latest California wildfire is getting pretty scary. You see all the smoke in the ash and the air here? It's very frightening. But Governor Jerry Brown, God bless him, he's got it under control. He said what he's going to do he's going to tax and regulate the fire until it gets fed up and moves to another state."

Jay Leno: "President Obama says he's renewing his efforts to close Guantanamo Bay. Guantanamo Bay? How about closing the IRS? Why don't we do that? In fact, how about shipping the IRS to Guantanamo Bay?"

Jay Leno: "Well, more problems with the IRS. A new report has found that they spent $50 million on employee conferences and retreats in just two years. They would have investigated sooner, but it turns out, you know, they don't belong to any conservative groups so nobody really knows."

Jay Leno: "And two members of Congress have sent letters to the owner of the Washington Redskins asking them to change the name of the team because it's offensive. You really want to make it less offensive? Take out the word 'Washington.'"

Jay Leno: "You know actor Steven Seagal? He is now in Russia, meeting with Vladimir Putin. Is this what American foreign policy has come down to now? Dennis Rodman's in North Korea, Steven Seagal is in Russia. What is next? Are we air dropping Gary Busey into Syria? Maybe Snooki goes to Iraq?"

Jay Leno: "The Democratic Party suffered a real setback this past week when one of their leading vote getters decided to call it quits, but enough about Michele Bachmann."

Jay Leno: "You've probably heard Michele Bachmann has decided not to run for re-election in 2014. Well, with Sarah Palin and Michele Bachmann both gone, Republican leaders have no idea who's gonna drive their party off a cliff in the next election. This is going to be a big problem."

David Letterman: "Well, let's see, we got scandals going on and the IRS – now, the IRS apparently spent a lot of our tax dollars on lavish vacations and parties. Bunch of accountants going crazy. I don't have a problem with that. That's fine with me. There's a little box on your return there, you check the box if you want to spend a dollar so idiots can go dancing."

Conan O'Brien: "This week President Obama is going to be engaged in high-level talks with the President of China. That's big. Yes, President Obama's message to China is going to be, 'I swear we'll have the money for you by Tuesday.'"

Conan O'Brien: "It's being rumored that Scarlett Johansson is going to play a young Hillary Clinton in a movie about Hillary Clinton's life. Yeah. And as a result, the part of the young Bill Clinton will be played by Bill Clinton. He volunteered."

Conan O'Brien: "A new report says that Donald Trump has spent $1 million trying to figure out if he should run for President in 2016. Yeah, $1 million. Experts are already calling it the most expensive 'no.'"

Conan O'Brien: "A new study just came out. Found that KFC sells 25 pieces of fried chicken a second. Yes. It was 50 pieces a second, but then Chris Christie had his stomach stapled, so that's how it worked out."

Jimmy Fallon: "Some political news. During his trip to Brazil on Friday, Joe Biden said that he was having such a good time that he didn't want to go home. And that was just while he was riding on the baggage carousel at the airport."

Jimmy Fallon: "Many Republicans want President Obama to fire Attorney General Eric Holder after he seemed to contradict himself under oath. When asked if he was worried, Holder said, 'Yes. I mean, no.'"

Jon Stewart: "One beleaguered government bureau, the IRS, spent the week further mired in a scandal that stems from accusations that its agents particularly targeted right wing groups for scrutiny. Oh, no! Poor babies. The IRS facing scrutiny. People getting all up in their business, checking their books just because one small area of their business raised a couple of red flags. Now, everybody at the IRS has to stop their lives and prove their innocence. Excellent. Or perhaps we can put that in terms the IRS might understand themselves. It's our new segment, 'Where's Your Receipts, [bleep]hole?'"

Jon Stewart: "Sucks to get audited, doesn't it? Suddenly, actions that seem harmless can be painted in a nefarious light. Well, why don't we get started? ... Having the President to tell you to use the power of the IRS to destroy his political enemies on the right should really only take about one meeting, two tops. The first meeting will be like, 'Hey, why don't you target my political enemies?' then the next 156 you're like, 'Did you take care of that thing?'"

Jon Stewart: "Can't a government agency sit around the table picking names of seniors out of a hat to see who needs to die so that it can save enough money to give elementary school children their birth control, without everyone getting all 'What's going on in there?' Yeah, welcome to Audit World, IRS. By the way, Kevin Costner's

second worst movie. It is a time on earth. Man lives in a city of forms. It's a world drowning in paperwork. See, that's the problem with auditing IRS. You may have perfectly reasonable explanations for every action that you took. That doesn't mean we don't need you to go back home and dig through another couple of shoe boxes until we get one document that we really need to see before we can be okay. Why? [Bleep] you. That's why."

Stephen Colbert: "Nation, if you watch this show, you know that I will defend our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms from all who would attack it and that includes guns. For too long they have demanded that in order for to use them, you have to know how to use them. Get this. Aim and pull the trigger at the same time? How is my hand supposed to know what my eye is seeing? It's tyranny. That's why I am as pumped as a 12 gauge about a breakthrough in skill-free killing. It's called the tracking point rifle, and it's got its own video. Wow! It's like you're a fighter pilot taking out Osama Bin Antelope."

Craig Ferguson: "A man in California received 11 pounds of marijuana in the mail by mistake. At least he did the right thing. He called the police and told them someone accidentally mailed him five pounds of marijuana."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 17, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Mon, Jun 17, 2013 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA DISCUSSES BLACK FOREST FIRE WITH HICKENLOOPER. The AP (6/15, Elliott) reports President Obama "has reinforced his commitment to help Colorado as it battles the most destructive wildfire in state history." The President called Gov. John Hickenlooper "to get an update on conditions" and "gave his condolences to families who have lost relatives."

ABC World News (6/15, story 4, 1:40, Muir, 7.43M) says the Black Forest Fire is "the most destructive in Colorado's history. Tonight, at least two people are dead and a record 475 homes are now gone." On the CBS Evening News (6/15, lead story, 2:40, Axelrod, 5.58M), Manuel Bojorquez reported, "More than 300 firefighters were added to the front lines this weekend. For the first time this week, the fire did not assume more land or homes." The AP (6/15, Banda) says "crews gained the upper hand" on the wildfire Saturday. Incident commander Rich Harvey said Saturday evening that containment was up to 55% from 45% earlier in the day.

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the Wall Street Journal (6/17, Bryson, Campoy, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), the Rio Grande (NM) Sun (6/15, 11K), the Denver Post (6/17, Bunch, 443K), the Denver Post (6/17, Bunch, 443K), and the Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (6/17, Severance, 45K).

Sequester Reduces Forest Service Fire Response. On the CBS Evening News (6/15, story 2, 1:45, Axelrod, 5.58M), Carter Evans reported, "Fire season has exploded across the country. So far this year, more than 19,000 wildfires have scorched the equivalent of 700 square miles, forcing thousands out of their homes. Five firefighters have already died. ... But Federal firefighters are facing another challenge: a cut of $50 million mandated by the budget sequester. That forced the Forest Service to cut 500 firefighters and 50 engines, just when they're needed most."

Sequester's Affect On Firefighting Efforts Examined. In an editorial, the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (6/15, 69K) examines whether the sequester will affect firefighting efforts. The paper argues that battling blazes, "like treating disease, often indicates a failure to take prevention measures." It puts forth that the US must engage "forward thinking; not the kind that created the sequester."

OBAMA SAID TO FACE BALANCING ACT ON CLIMATE POLICY. The Washington Post (6/15, Eilperin, 489K) reports that President Obama is planning "to unveil a slate of major initiatives on global warming in late June or in July." According to sources, "the White House has asked agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Interior Department and the Energy Department to draft plans on how to curb greenhouse gas emissions while also helping communities adapt to the impact of global warming."

NATIONAL INITIATIVE ON WATERWAYS DRAWING CRITICISM. The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (6/17, Shesgreen) reports that the National Blueways initiative "has taken an unexpected turn – becoming a flashpoint for controversy, conservative opposition and congressional uproar." At the center of the controversy "is Secretarial Order Number 3321," which was issued "last May" by "then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar." The program is now being scrutinized "amid a barrage of criticism from some local conservative activists who fear the designation" of the White River "could lead to increased regulation and property-rights infringements."

BLM BEGINS PROCESSING MONEY FOR OREGON TIMBER COUNTIES. KMTR-TV Eugene, OR (6/17) reports that the BLM began "processing the $1.9 million in payments to the so-called O&C counties on Thursday," according to Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw. Kershaw "said earlier word that the payments would not be processed until the end of June had been a mistake."

REPORT FINDS INCREASE IN ASSAULTS AND THREATS AGAINST PUBLIC LAND WORKERS. The AP (6/16, Daly) reports that park rangers and wildlife refuge workers "experienced more assaults and threats from visitors last year than in 2011, according to a group that represents federal resource workers." The group says that "a total of 591 incidents were reported by six land and water agencies in 2012, up 38 percent from the previous year." According to the report by the advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, "more than one-quarter of the incidents involved some sort of violence against the employee or officer."

REP. HASTING PRESSES FOR ANSWERS ON MILAM-BLM LAND DEAL. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (6/17, Snel, 228K) reports that Rep. Doc Hastings is seeking "answers about former BLM chief Bob Abbey's role in the Chris Milam-BLM land deal in the city of Henderson – and expressed disappointment this week that he's

not getting any response from the Department of the Interior, which oversees the BLM." The "chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, wrote Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Wednesday saying his panel has not received any answers about Abbey since the congressional panel first requested information in March." On Thursday, Hastings said, "Public officials must be held to the highest of standards. There are serious questions and the American people should be assured that administration officials are complying with federal ethics laws and not improperly benefiting for their position. It's unfortunate that the Interior Department has thus far not cooperated with our request for documents, but we will continue to seek answers."

INTERIOR OFFICIALS ATTEND MEETING ON WATER SCARCITY. The Imperial (CA) Valley Press (6/16, 13K) reports that Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle and BOR Commissioner Michael L. Connor "met late last month in San Diego" to discuss water scarcity. The talks, "considered phase I of what some officials have called the 'moving forward' event, resulted in the creation of three workgroups: the healthy flows committee, the municipal and industrial conservation/reuse committee and the agricultural conservation/transfers committee."

POLICE POWERS ON PUBLIC LANDS AT CENTER OF DISPUTE BETWEEN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, UTAH. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/17, 107K) reports that federal lawyers argue "in written arguments filed Friday that a new Utah law is unconstitutional because it attempts to stop federal officials from enforcing federal rules — which may happen to mirror state laws such as speed limits — on federal lands." However, Utah, "and allies from local counties and sheriffs, argue in briefs that HB155 stays within court precedents that assume 'the historic police powers of the states were not to be superseded' by federal law unless Congress clearly acts to invoke federal supremacy." The article notes that "a temporary resting order blocking the law from taking effect" has already been signed by a judge, "but attorneys from all sides have been filing arguments about whether he should issue a more permanent preliminary injunction as the case moves forward."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PILT PAYMENTS. Additional coverage of PILT payments was provided by the Columbus (IN) Republic (6/17, 21K), the Charleston (WV) Gazette (6/17, 34K), the Beckley (WV) Register-Herald (6/17, 20K), the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (6/17, 22K), the Billings (MT) Gazette (6/17, 39K), the Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide (6/17, Koshmrl), the Logan (UT) Herald Journal (6/17, 16K), the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (6/17, Gross, 14K), the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (6/17, Boetel, 14K), the Gardnerville (NV) Record Courier (6/17, 6K), the Lake Stevens (WA) Journal (6/17, 16K), the Traverse City (MI) Record-Eagle (6/17, Walton, 22K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV (6/17), KECI-TV Missoula, MT (6/17), WPBN-TV Traverse City, MI (6/17), and KGAB-AM Cheyenne, WY (6/17).

ENERGY PRODUCTION ON FEDERAL LANDS URGED. In an editorial, the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (6/16, 22K) argues for opening up more federal lands for energy production. By doing so, the paper argues that the US could "be nearly energy self-sufficient" by 2035.

Meanwhile, in an op-ed for the Washington Times (6/14, Hanson, 76K), Victor Davis Hanson, a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, criticizes the Obama Administration's energy policy. He argues that the government "has frozen almost all new gas and oil leasing on America's vast public lands," so Hanson argues, that "despite, not because of," Obama's "efforts, production rose owing to a long history of protecting private property rights and ownership of subterranean resources."

ENVIRONMENTALIST URGES FOR COMPLETION OF INTERNATIONAL PARK PROJECT COMPLETION. In an op-ed for the El Paso (TX) Times (6/17, LoBello, 71K), environmentalist Rick LoBello urges for the completion of an "international park project that was first proposed in 1935." Finishing the Big Bend Rio Bravo International Park, argues LoBello, would help "ecotourism development."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

BIPARTISAN LETTER URGES PROTECTION OF NATIONAL PARK BUDGET. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (6/17, 22K) reports that Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) "has signed a bipartisan letter urging the Obama administration to revitalize National Park Service plans in time for the agency's 100th anniversary in 2016."

According to the article, 51 "senators and 171 representatives signed the letter and sent it to President Barack Obama on Tuesday." The letter said, "Past presidents and congresses have worked together at key times to repair, improve and enhance parks and facilities, to develop creative ways of connecting the American people with our national treasures and to better preserve our parks for future generations. The national park centennial provides an opportunity to reinvigorate the national parks for their second century of service. We look forward to working with you and your staff to build on momentum from the 100th anniversary of the National Parks System to find a sustainable path forward for our national parks."

HIGH-TECH METHODS USED TO CONSERVE CIVIL WAR GUNS. The AP (6/16) reports that preservationists are utilizing "high-tech methods to protect massive iron Civil War guns at a fort in South Carolina that fired on Fort Sumter to open the war in April 1861." According to the AP, "the sensors and modern rust-fighting epoxy coatings are being used to preserve historic siege and garrison guns, some of which were used to lob shells at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor when the war erupted." The AP notes that "ten massive guns from Fort Moultrie on Sullivans Island, which is part of the Fort Sumter National Monument, were recently conserved as part of an ongoing program to protect the historic pieces from the salty, humid air."

NPS TO USE MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM'S SEAFOOD GUIDE. The Salinas Californian (6/14, 8K) reports that he NPS "will use the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program to guide purchasing decisions for more than 250 culinary operations in 75 national parks nationwide, the aquarium announced Friday." The "guidelines were released last week at a tasting event on the National Mall in Washington as part of a 'Healthy Parks, Healthy People' initiative that requires food service operators to begin offering healthy food options and to incorporate more sustainably-sourced ingredients from land and sea."

LAWSUIT CONTENDS NPS IGNORED FINDINGS FOR DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The Pocono (PA) Record (6/16, Pierce, 14K) reports that the NPS "ignored its own findings that construction of a massive power line across federal lands near Bushkill would cause serious adverse environmental impacts, so that it could accept $66 million in 'mitigation,' an environmental coalition says in a federal lawsuit." Lawyers "for the groups — including the Sierra Club — point to internal meeting minutes they say show clearly that the National Park Service originally designated a 'no build' alternative and an alternate route around the park as preferred actions."

NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK REPORTED AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The Oregonian (6/17, 237K) reports that "an outbreak of norovirus" has been reported "in the Mammoth area of Yellowstone National Park this week." according to Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash, "the bug is thought to have been brought in by visitors on a couple of tour buses who were ill when they entered the park. Mammoth is on the northern end of Yellowstone near the Montana border."

NEW MEXICO OPPOSES LEGISLATION THAT WOULD TRANSFER VALLES CALDERA TO NPS. The Columbus (IN) Republic (6/17, 21K) reports that "the head of the New Mexico Game and Fish Department and members of the state Game Commission" oppose "the idea of turning over management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve to the National Park Service." The officials "met with representatives from US Sen. Tom Udall's office on Friday to discuss pending federal legislation concerning the 89,000-acre preserve in northern New Mexico." Jim Lane, director of the Game and Fish Department, said, "This was a positive step toward addressing the concerns of our agency and the sportsmen and women who care about wildlife, fishing and hunting on one of New Mexico's most precious pieces of public land. We are optimistic that Senator Udall will work with us to find a better plan for the preserve."

MAN RESCUED AFTER BEING FOUND FACEDOWN IN LITTLE RIVER. The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (6/14, 83K) reports that a man "is being treated at the University of Tennessee Medical Center after he was pulled from the Little River earlier this afternoon, officials said." Joseph Florek "was tubing with his family at about 3 p.m. when someone in a kayak found him floating facedown in the water and pulled him to the river bank to help him, according to Great Smoky Mountains National park spokeswoman Molly Schroer."

Also reporting on the story is the Maryville (TN) Daily Times (6/17, 21K).

HIKER RESCUED IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/14, 335K) reports that a hiker "who was struck by a falling tree during a storm and has multiple injuries" was rescued by rangers in the

Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Also reporting on the story is The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (6/14, Coleman, 83K).

STORM DAMAGE SHUTS SMOKIES TRAILS. The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (6/14, Ince, 83K) reports tha some "trails in the Cosby and Big Creek areas of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park remained closed Friday due to wind and rain damage that occurred during a storm the day before." According to the article, "Gabes Mountain Trail and Snake Den Trail in Cosby and Baxter Creek Trail and Big Creek Trail in Big Creek were closed."

LAKE POWELL DIVERS TURN UP 235 MUSSELS. The Arizona Daily Sun (6/17, Glasenapp, 11K) reports that the National Park Service says 235 quagga mussels were removed from Lake Powell in an effort that had participation from 11 agencies. The 36 divers found no colonies, proving that the lake is not infested and leaving officials hopeful that the effort eliminated the possibility of a reproducing population.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK TO CONDUCT COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS THIS SUMMER. The Columbus (IN) Republic (6/17, 21K) reports that "safety evaluations of commercial vehicles and operators again this summer" at Yellowstone National Park. The program is "designed to ensure the safe operation and mechanical soundness of commercial buses and trucks on Yellowstone's roads."

YELLOWSTONE WINTER PLAN COMMENT DEADLINE APPROACHES. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (6/17, 22K) reports that "Monday is the deadline for people to comment on the" NPS' "latest proposal on the use of snowmachines in Yellowstone National Park." The agency's "winter management plan is based on limiting the collective noise and pollution of snowmobiles and snow coaches." It "would allow no more than 480 snowmobiles plus 60 multi-passenger snow coaches in a single day in Yellowstone."

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INPUT. The Deseret (UT) News (6/17, 105K) reports that the NPS "has announced that its Climbing and Canyoneering Management Plan for Arches National Park is available for public review and comment."

AREA AROUND MCDONOUGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER. KHQA-TV Quincy, IL (6/17) reports that the area around the McDonough County Courthouse has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

THOMAS ROBERTS, WHO LED BATTLE TO SAVE FIRE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE, DIES AT 75. The New York Times (6/15, Vitello, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that "Thomas Roberts, a banker whose efforts to save the black-and-white-striped Fire Island Lighthouse in the early 1980s became a model for scores of lighthouse preservation campaigns around the country and yielded a popular tourist destination, died on Monday at his home in Bay Shore, NY."

DECISION NOT TO PRESS CHARGES AGAINST DENALI MOOSE SHOOTER SUPPORTED. In an editorial, the Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (6/17, 12K) supports the NPS' decision to not press chargers against a shooter who killed a moose in Denali National Park.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FUNDING FROM NPS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION. Additional coverage of the historic preservation grants to Native American tribes was provided by the Columbus (IN) Republic (6/17, 21K) and the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (6/17, Kane, 14K).

Bureau of Land Management:

COURT HOLDS BLM DOES NOT HAVE TO PROTECT MONUMENTS. The Arizona Daily Sun (6/17, 11K) reports that a federal appeals court has turned down "a bid by environmental groups to force the Bureau of Land Management to do more to protect two national monuments in Arizona." The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals held that "there was nothing inherently wrong or illegal with BLM permitting 'moderate to minor damage' to some objects in the Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs national monuments." The court wrote, "BLM interpreted the proclamations to permit balancing the protection of monument objects with other uses, rather than

require absolute protection of each individual object. Giving the deference we owe to BLM's interpretation, we conclude that is a reasonable one."

WILD HORSES RELOCATED TO MONTANA RANCH. The AP (6/17) reports that "a herd of 710 wild horses relocated to" Montana's Spanish Q Ranch "is settling into its new quarters as workers erect new fences meant to reassure neighbors that their wandering days are over." BLM "officials monitoring the herd's new home say that the sterilized male horses were skittish at first about straying too far from the winter pasture where they'd been held since March." According to Pat Fosse, a BLM specialist, "the two-year-olds among the group had never been free, having been born in captivity, so they had to get accustomed to life on the open range."

COURT REJECTS BID TO TEMPORARILY BLOCK PAVING OF ROAD TO SKYWALK. The Columbus (IN) Republic (6/17, 21K) reports that US District Court Judge Neil Wake "has rejected a dude rancher's request to temporarily halt paving the road to the Grand Canyon Skywalk." But Wake held that "the US Department of Interior must demonstrate that it's complying with a settlement reached with Turner in 2007 over the paving project."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE ATTENDS PRAIRIE SUMMIT. The Grand Forks (ND) Herald (6/17, Dokken, 27K) reports on the "two-day Prairie Summit that Ducks Unlimited hosted last week in Bismarck." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "The reality that's facing us here is we are asking a lot of that landscape. It's pretty clear that it can't provide everything to everybody. It provides food and fiber, now energy for the United States and continues to provide the bounty of waterfowl and wildlife that it has provided for thousands of years. If that's going to continue, we're going to have to make responsible choices."

EXTENSION OF LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN DECISION SOUGHT. The Portales (NM) News-Tribune (6/16, 2K) reports, Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) is "leading a bipartisan call to extend a decision on whether to list the lesser prairie chicken as threatened under the Endangered Species Act." According to the article, "Udall and senators from the five states affected by a possible listing sent a letter to" FWS Director Dan Ashe, "requesting an additional six months in the listing decision process, as allowed by the Endangered Species Act."

Also reporting on the story is the Clovis News Journal (6/16, 7K).

COLORADO LAND MANAGERS WARY OF SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT. The Boulder (CO) Daily Camera (6/17, Krizansky, 40K) reports that should the FWS "rule later this year to designate approximately 1.7 million acres of critical habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act, as proposed on Jan. 11, federal, state and private land managers will have to prioritize the bird and the lands it calls or could call home." As a result, "the impending Gunnison sage-grouse endangered species listing is bringing attention to the small bird."

Also reporting on the story is the Denver Post (6/17, Krizansky, 443K).

SCIENTISTS TO HUNT FOR RABBIT HABITAT WITH DRONES. FOX News (6/16) reports that "scientists in Idaho will be flying military-style drone aircraft over the state's sagebrush sea" in order "to help locate the best habitat for one of West's smallest mammals, the pygmy rabbit." According to thearticle, "the flights, overseen by University of Idaho, Boise State University and University of Florida scientists, are meant to help determine whether aerial shots from small, unmanned planes can effectively locate the best areas to reintroduce captive-bred pygmy rabbits into the wild." The article notes that "so far, a pygmy rabbit population in Washington state has been declared endangered under federal law, though some groups have sought broader protections elsewhere across the West through lawsuits."

OFFICIALS DECIDE AGAINST LATEST ATTEMPT TO REINTRODUCE MEXICAN WOLVES TO THE WILD. The Los Angeles Times (6/14, Cart, 692K) reports that "a pair of Mexican wolves that had been waiting for their final release into the wild in Arizona are heading back to captivity after" FWS "officials determined that the alpha male of an existing pack behaved aggressively toward them." Authorities with the FWS "had pre-positioned the male and female in a temporary pen since they were removed in April from the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico." They "were waiting to be released but wildlife officials noticed another wolf pair acting

aggressively toward the penned wolves, indicating that they would defend their territory against the interlopers."

LATIMES SUPPORTS FWS DECISION TO PROTECT CHIMPS. In an editorial, the Los Angeles Times (6/16, 692K) supports the decision by the FWS to protect chimpanzees. The decision is called "a smart move, one that has been urged for years by respected wildlife advocates and experts, including the noted chimpanzee researcher Jane Goodall." It concludes that the proposal "should be applauded and adopted."

PAPER ARGUES SHILOH IS WRONG PLACE FOR SPACEPORT. In an editorial, the Daytona Beach (FL) News-Journal (6/16, 65K) argues "that Shiloh is the wrong place for Spaceport Florida."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

JUDGE SIDES WITH FEDS IN MONTANA OIL LEASE DISPUTE. The AP (6/17, Brown) reports that a US District Judge Sam Haddon dismissed a lawsuit from environmental groups who tried to block nearly 80,000 acres of oil and gas leases in Montana in a bid to force companies to reduce methane emissions. Haddon ruled that the emissions from future drilling would be only a fraction of 1 percent of total emissions within the state and thus not significant enough to warrant denial of the leases being sold by the Bureau of Land Management to oil companies. The American Petroleum Institute and Western Energy Alliance intervened in the case and were pleased with the ruling.

SALAZAR MAKES THE CASE FOR CONTROVERSIAL FRACKING. The Colorado Statesman (6/17, Marcus, 6K) reports former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar spoke favorably of hydraulic fracturing, suggesting that its use has lead to less foreign oil imports and attested to the practice being "very much a part of our world." Salazar also called for transparency within the industry, with debates ongoing in Colorado as the technology moves to more densely populated areas. Salazar said "the future of renewable energy is bright," lauding accomplishments in the past four years.

FRACKING LEGISLATION BOOMING. The Houston Chronicle (6/17, Pickrell, 434K) reports that a Colorado State University study says state legislatures, mostly from the East Coast, have introduced around 50 bills targeting hydraulic fracturing for new regulations including bans, moratoriums and increased disclosure requirements in communities in which the industry has just arrived. The Obama Administration introduced a new proposal to tighten standards for drilling on Federal land under the Interior Department's control.

COAL INDUSTRY HOPES EXPORTS CAN RESCUE IT FROM SHRINKING US MARKET. The New York Times (6/14, Krauss, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that "the nation's coal industry, hobbled by plummeting demand as Americans turn to cleaner natural gas," is hoping that expanding "what it sends to Asia and Europe" will save them. The Times reports that "cheap, abundant and cleaner natural gas produced in new shale fields has replaced much of the coal that American power plants once burned, and regulatory pressures are mounting to curb greenhouse gas emissions from coal combustion. That has left exports as the only sure growth engine for the declining American coal industry." However, "the $40 billion industry is running into fierce opposition from environmental groups, who say pollution caused by burning coal should not be exported."

PROCEED WITH CAUTION ON FRACKING. The Huffington Post (6/14, Seligman) features a column by Naomi Seligman, president of Seligman Consulting, in "The Blog" saying that caution needs to be exercised as fracking is embraced in California. Full disclosure of chemicals and practices is necessary as fracking spreads of urban areas, potentially threatening drinking water. Federal vigilance is crucial too but unfortunately the Department of the Interior's proposed rules are insufficient given the myriad of health and environmental concerns around fracking. Nobody in California is currently monitoring, regulating or issuing permits for fracking– and that needs to change, now.

Offshore Energy Development:

COMPANIES AWAIT PERMITS FOR ALASKA ARCTIC SEISMIC EXPLORATION. The Alaska Dispatch (6/16) reports that "several major energy companies," including "Shell Oil, Norwegian geoscience company TGS, and

SAExploration have all submitted requests to the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management to conduct seismic exploration projects this summer." The companies "awaiting permits from BOEM and approval from other federal organizations like U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration." According to the article, while the decisions are still pending, "all of these projects are slated to start in July should the permits be granted."

PROTECTING FUNDS FOR ARTIFICIAL REEFS WILL GO TO VOTERS, THANKS TO ALLAIN. The Daily Iberian (6/17, Shoopman, 13K) reports that Louisiana, state Sen. Bret Allain successfully amended the Louisiana Constitution to include the Artificial Reef Development Fund providing artificial reefs in the Gulf of Mexico in the form of sunken decommissioned iron rigs. The Rigs-to-Reef program, or Senate Bill 128, will be funded by oil companies paying $2.5 million to the program sink their rings once they have been decommissioned. The issue will be voted on statewide November 14.

GULF COAST ENVIRONMENTALISTS QUESTION COAST GUARD DECISION TO END BP OIL CLEANING CREWS. The AP (6/17, Reeves) highlights concerns from Gulf Coast residents and environmental advocates about the Coast Guard's decision this month to end BP crew patrols on area beaches. While the government and BP say discoveries of tar balls on Alabama, Florida and Mississippi beaches due to the BP-related oil spill three years ago aren't "common enough to keep sending out the crews," the AP cites reports which "show that patches of tar balls are still being reported almost daily in or near popular spots." The AP notes that while the patrols have ended, the Coast Guard will revert back to the typical system for monitoring and responding to public reports of pollution through its National Response Center. The AP cites Coast Guard Lt. Cmder. Natalie Murphy, who indicated only "minute amounts" of oil are being reported now compared to three years ago, justifying the end of the patrols.

Florida Town Settles Suit Against BP. WMBB-TV Panama City, FL (6/17) reported that officials with Panama City Beach, FL have settled "out of court" with BP. The city will receive $11.2 million from BP in total. In 2011, it received $1.2 million as compensation for "lost business tax revenue." The city will now get additional funds as compensation "for past and future losses" from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill.

BP SHAREHOLDERS SEEKING CLASS ACTION STATUS FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON SUIT. Bloomberg News (6/15, Calkins, Fisk) reported that some US investors in BP, led by Ohio and New York state's pension funds, have asked a Federal court to allow them to have their suit against the oil giant granted class action status. The investors have sued BP, claiming the company misled them following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill, and that BP "artificially inflated" its stocks due to misinformation about the spill.

EDITORIAL: SHAKING UP THE GULF DRILL DEBATE. The Northwest Florida Daily News (6/17, 39K) in, an editorial, reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is to develop an environmental impact statement to assess the effects of seismic surveying in the Gulf. Susan Forsyth of the environmental group Surfrider Foundation said that seismic surveying is a precursor to offshore drilling and Florida Petroleum Councilman said the data obtained are important for drilling. More area residents should be worried about the plans and the potential for another oil spill like that of 2010.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

KLAMATH RULES HAVE CHANGED. The AP (6/17, Barnard) reports that because Klamath Tribes' water rights were formally recognized by the state Water Resources Department as the oldest, ranchers in the surrounding area cannot continue to irrigate pastureland during the drought but must stop to protect endangered fish the tribes hold sacred, forcing the relocation of cattle. Don Gentry, chairman of the Klamath Tribes, acknowledged the inconvenience but maintained that the tribes resources and water rights are protected.

PacifiCorp Proposes Water Sharing In Upper Klamath Basin To Help Farmers. The Oregonian (6/17, 237K) reports that PacifiCorp told the Bureau of Reclamation offering to make adjustments to provide an extra 20,000 acre-feet of water, as up to 400 ranchers and farmers see their irrigation cut off. The offering would supply a season's worth of water for roughly 80 farms.

Oregon Judge Won't Stop Klamath Irrigation Shut-off. The AP (6/15) reports that Klamath County Circuit

Judge Cameron Wogan has denied motions filed by upper basin ranchers to temporarily stop the state from enforcing Klamath Tribes' water rights. State lawyers argued that the law states that junior water rights must yield to senior water rights when water is in short supply, and that there is no provision for a judge to grant a temporary stay. Some ranchers seek to overturn the tribes' rights while others favor a negotiated settlement with the tribes.

KLAMATH PROJECT OPERATIONS PLAN RELEASED. The Red Bluff (CA) Daily News (6/17, 6K) reports that Bureau of Reclamation announced the release of the 2013 Operations Plan for the Klamath Project which will provide estimates on the water supply to be released and reserved in the region. Project irrigation supply from Upper Klamath Lake for the 2013 irrigation season is expected to be 289,125 acre-feet and demand reduction measures are currently in place to minimize involuntary water shortages for Project irrigators.

RECLAMATION TO HOST PUBLIC MEETINGS SEEKING GOOSE BAY MODERNIZATION INPUT . The Helena (MT) Independent Record (6/17, 12K) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation is hosting three open-house format public meetings on current progress with the Goose Bay Modernization Plan and to gather comments on proposed concession and recreation opportunities within the Goose Bay Planning Area.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Lodi (CA) News-Sentinel (6/17, 15K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (6/17), the Modesto (CA) Bee (6/15, Leavenworth, 59K), the Modesto (CA) Bee (6/15, Nelson, 59K), and the Modesto (CA) Bee (6/15, Knell, 59K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

CHUKCHANSI TRIBE LEADERS' STYLES FUEL DISPUTE. The Fresno (CA) Bee (6/15, Lopez, 113K) reports that three leaders vying for control of the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians and the $9 million profits from its Madera county Highway 99 casino has led to charges of embezzlement which will bankrupt the casino within a year if not resolved. Because the tribe is a sovereign nation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been reluctant to intervene in a tribal election.

Top National News:

NSA PROBED JUST 300 PHONE CALLS LAST YEAR. On the Sunday morning news shows, bipartisan support for the NSA's surveillance programs heavily outweighed criticism of the newly disclosed data-monitoring activities. Moreover, both of Sunday evening's two network newscasts featured new disclosures from the DNI about the scope of the NSA's activities, indicating that reports of extraordinarily widespread eavesdropping were greatly exaggerated. This morning's coverage is also notable for the absence of defenses of Edward Snowden, who was described by Bob Schieffer, on CBS's Face The Nation (6/16), as a "narcissistic young man" and "no hero." Also on Sunday, former Vice President Dick Cheney, appearing on Fox News Sunday (6/16), labeled Snowden "a traitor."

Chip Reid, on the CBS Evening News (6/16, story 4, 1:50, Glor, 5.58M), reported that as "part of an effort by the Obama Administration to alleviate fears about the NSA surveillance programs," the NSA has revealed that although it "collects records on tens of millions of Americans...fewer than 300 people were identified through the program last year, and all of them were suspected of having ties to foreign terrorist organizations." CBS then played clips of White House chief of staff Denis McDonough defending the NSA's activities and noted that McDonough emphasized that "the NSA surveillance programs were supported by bipartisan majorities in Congress."

David Muir, on ABC World News (6/16, story 3, 1:45, Muir, 7.43M), also reported that the NSA says that "of the millions of phone numbers they have access to, they looked at just 300 numbers in the last year." ABC's Bob Woodruff added that the NSA claims that its "intelligence gathering prevented potential attacks in more than 20 countries."

The AP (6/17, Dozier) reports that apart from the approximate figure of "fewer than 300 phone numbers," the NSA did not release any "other new details about the plots or the countries involved," but officials are "working to

declassify the dozens of plots that" NSA director Gen. Keith Alexander has said "were disrupted."

The Hill (6/17, Mali, 21K) reported that the NSA also specifically denied claims in a CNET (6/15, McCullagh) article in which Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) says he "was told in a classified briefing that NSA analysts were allowed to listen to domestic phone calls without a prior warrant." On Sunday, the office of the DNI released a statement reading: "The statement that a single analyst can eavesdrop on domestic communications without proper legal authorization is incorrect. ... Members have been briefed on the implementation of Section 702, that it targets foreigners located overseas for a valid foreign intelligence purpose, and that it cannot be used to target Americans anywhere in the world."

The Hill (6/17, Geman, 21K) also reports that Nadler said Sunday that he is "pleased" by the DNI's explanation, adding, "I have always believed" that the NSA "cannot listen to the content of Americans' phone calls without a specific warrant."

According to the New York Post (6/17, Miller, 498K), McDonough, on Sunday, "stressed that the president 'does not' think NSA's gathering of vast amount of e-mail and phone data violates the privacy of Americans." Asked on CBS's Face The Nation (6/16) about the perception that President Obama is continuing the Bush Administration's surveillance policies, McDonough noted that James Comey, who was critical of some of the post-9/11 antiterrorism data-monitoring when served as deputy attorney general, is being "considered, among many other people, for a lead job by President Obama...potentially as FBI director." McDonough added, "It's precisely because of his views on things like surveillance that I think he's come to the President's attention." McDonough went on to say that upon taking office, the President "was pretty skeptical about the importance of these programs, so he took a very hard look at them, and, as a result, we changed many things about how we oversee those programs."

The Huffington Post (6/16, Bendery) noted that McDonough said that the President himself "will defend" the scope of the NSA's surveillance "in the coming days" although he has not "publicly discussed revelations of the NSA's activities since" Edward Snowden identified himself as the source of the NSA leaks. The Hill (6/17, Geman, 21K) quotes McDonough as saying, "I think you will hear the president talk about this in the days ahead. ... The president welcomes a public debate on these questions because he does say, and he will say again in the days ahead, that we have to find the right balance."

The Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial titled, "Absent Commander-In-Chief," criticizes the President's failure to address the NSA controversy in public last week, and argues that he needs to personally defend his Administration's antiterrorism activities or risk them being undermined by privacy advocates in Congress.

Politico (6/17, Epstein, 25K) reported that McDonough "suggested he has some doubts about some of the claims Snowden made, including that he would have been able to access the president's personal accounts," and "without getting into specifics," McDonough "said it's 'surely my view that [Snowden] did' overstate what he was capable of doing."

On ABC World News (6/16, story 3, 1:45, Muir, 7.43M), Sen. Mark Udall was shown saying, "I don't think collecting millions and millions of Americans' phone calls is making us any safer, and I think it's perhaps a violation of the Fourth Amendment." On NBC's Meet The Press (6/16), Udall said that in regards to the "215 business records program for the NSA," he does not "think collecting millions and millions of Americans' phone calls...is making us any safer, and I think it's ultimately, perhaps, a violation of the 4th Amendment." Udall added, "I'm going to introduce a bill this week to narrow the reach of 215 to those who have a link to terrorism." According to Udall, "a similar amendment passed in 2005" and it "had support from people like Sen. Hagel, Sen. Durbin and Sen. Barack Obama." Reuters (6/17, Allen) quotes Udall as saying, "We owe it to the American people to have a fulsome debate in the open about the extent of these programs."

The AP (6/16, Braun) portrays Udall as aligned against many "current and former top U.S. officials," who on Sunday "defended the government's collection of phone and Internet data...saying the operations were essential in disrupting terrorist plots and did not infringe on Americans' civil liberties." The AP notes that former NSA and CIA director Michael Hayden said he is "worried that news reports about the programs have often provided erroneous information, 'much to the harm of a rational national debate.'"

On CNN's State of the Union (6/16), Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI), who chairs the House Intelligence Committee, disputed Udall's contention that there is no evidence that the NSA's surveillance programs have helped thwart terrorist plots. Rogers added, "I can't tell you how strong we need to make this clear: the NSA is not listening to Americans' phone calls, and it is not monitoring their e-mails. If it did, it's illegal."

Politico (6/17, Kopan, 25K) quoted Rogers as saying, "As people get a better feeling that this is a lockbox with only phone numbers, no names, no addresses in it, we've used it sparingly, it is absolutely overseen by the legislature, the judicial branch and the executive branch, has lots of protections built in, if you can see just the number of cases where we've actually stopped the plot, I think Americans will come to a different conclusion than all the misleading rhetoric I've heard over the last few weeks."

Bloomberg News (6/16, Bykowicz) reported that on Fox News Sunday (6/16), former Vice President Cheney "defended the NSA programs, which began" during the Bush years, and added that he is "unaware of what, if anything," Obama "did to alter the surveillance techniques." Cheney is quoted as saying, "The program obviously from what's now been released, is still in operation. I think it's good. I think it has saved lives and kept us free from other attacks."

Calvin Woodward, in an analysis for the AP (6/16, Woodward), notes that Cheney "predicted at the dawn of Obama's presidency that the relentless campaign criticism of shadowed government would not come to much." Cheney is quoted as having said, "My guess is, once they get here and they're faced with the same problems we deal with every day, that they will appreciate some of the things we've put in place."

Snowden Docs: UK Spied On 2009 G20 Summit Participants. The Guardian (UK) (6/16, Macaskill, Davies, Hopkins, Borger, Ball, 286K) reported that documents provided by Edward Snowden suggest that "foreign politicians and officials who took part in two G20 summit meetings in London in 2009 had their computers monitored and their phone calls intercepted on the instructions of their British government hosts," and "some delegates were tricked into using internet cafes which had been set up by British intelligence agencies to read their email traffic." The Guardian noted that "the revelation comes as Britain prepares to host another summit on Monday – for the G8 nations, all of whom attended the 2009 meetings which were the object of the systematic spying."

The New York Times (6/17, A7, Shane, Somaiya, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) notes that the Guardian is reporting that Government Communications Headquarters, "the British eavesdropping agency...works closely with the N.S.A."

The Los Angeles Times (6/17, Lee, 692K) reports that this week's G8 summit in Northern Ireland "seem[s] set to provide the first test of how much" President Obama's "international agenda has been complicated by revelations of U.S. surveillance of telephone use and the Internet." The Times adds that on Friday, deputy national security advisor Ben Rhodes "acknowledged that the Europeans will have questions on American surveillance, given their interests in privacy and civil liberties," but added, "All of these countries at the G-8 are important counter-terrorism partners, and together, we've worked with them on an intelligence and security relationship to foil terrorist attacks in the United States and in Europe." The Times does not mention the Guardian's revelations about the 2009 G20 summit.

Snowden's Motive For Fleeing To Hong Kong Questioned. The Washington Times (6/17, Eldridge, Devaney, 76K) reports that in regards to Snowden, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI), the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said, "It goes beyond the bounds of him trying to claim that he's a whistleblower, which he is not. A whistleblower comes to the appropriate authorities...so that we can investigate any possible claim. He didn't do that. He grabbed up information, he made preparations to go to China, and then he collected it up, bolted to China." Rogers was speaking during an appearance on CNN's State of the Union (6/16). The Times adds that on Fox News Sunday (6/16), former Vice President Dick Cheney suggested that Snowden might have "had an ulterior motive in picking Hong Kong," saying, "I'm suspicious, of course. It's not a place where you would normally go if you are interested in freedom of speech." USA Today (6/17, Page, 1.71M) also covers Cheney's condemnation of Snowden.

The Christian Science Monitor (6/16, Ford, 47K) reports that a poll from an unidentified source using unspecified

methodology found that "49.9 percent of people" in Hong Kong said Snowden "should not be surrendered," while "another 17.6 percent said he should be turned over" and "a third of respondents had not made up their minds."

Schieffer: "Narcissistic" Snowden Is "No Hero." Bob Schieffer, on CBS's Face The Nation (6/16), said, "I don't know yet if the government has over-reached since 9/11 to reinforce our defenses, and we need to find out. What I do know, though, is that these procedures were put in place, and are being overseen by, officials we elected and we should hold them accountable. I think what we have in Edward Snowden is just a narcissistic young man who has decided he is smarter than the rest of us. I don't know what he is beyond that, but he is no hero." Asked, on Fox News Sunday (6/16), "what do you think of Edward Snowden," former Vice President Cheney , said, "I think he is a traitor. I think he has committed crimes."

More Commentary. In his column for the Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), L. Gordon Crovitz defends the use of technology in counterterrorism efforts, noting that technology, arguing that that while collecting data does not kill anyone, failing to do so and connect the dots that data provides, has already resulted in deaths.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), Seth Lipsky, editor of www.nysun.com, considers the high standard set forth by the founding fathers for the crime of treason. Lipsky writes that the high standard enables Americans to criticize our government during war without being deemed a traitor. Lipsky notes that he is not offering an opinion on whether anyone involved in the Snowden case is guilty of treason, but only that since the US is at war with al Qaeda, treason is possible during this time.

In his column for the New York Times (6/17, A17, Keller, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), Bill Keller argues that the real danger from the NSA's data-mining program "is the absence of rigorous, independent regulation and vigilant oversight to keep potential abuses of power from becoming a real menace to our freedom."

An editorial in the Washington Post (6/17, 489K) notes that President Policy Directive 20, which the President signed last October, "is still classified as top secret but was among the papers spilled into public view" by Snowden. According to the editorial, the directive makes clear that cyberconflicts are "a matter of 'national-level strategic objectives' to be decided by the president." As such, cyber-operations which "might result in 'significant consequences,' which include loss of life, serious levels of retaliation, damage to property, adverse foreign policy consequences or economic impact on the country," require presidential approval. The Post portrays the directive as a positive and notes that while the leak "must have pained the White House," it is "a good sign that the imponderables of fighting a cyberwar are being examined and clarified."

CONSERVATIVES TRY TO USE ACA TO DERAIL IMMIGRATION OVERHAUL. In a move the Washington Post (6/17, A1, Nakamura, Somashekhar, 489K) says "threatens to split open the emerging bipartisan coalitions that are crucial" to passing an immigration bill, conservatives in both chambers of Congress are attempting to use the ACA to derail the legislation. According to the Post, conservatives "are insisting on measures that would expand the denial of public health benefits to the nation's 11 million illegal immigrants beyond limits set in a comprehensive reform bill pending in the Senate." House Republicans "are considering proposals that would deny publicly subsidized emergency care to undocumented immigrants and force them to purchase private health insurance plans, without access to federal subsidies, as a requirement for earning permanent legal residency." Meanwhile, in the Senate, Sen. Marco Rubio has endorsed an amendment "that would deny health benefits to immigrants for five years after they become legal residents."

Rubio Emphasizes His Support For Tighter Border Security. Asked by Jonathan Karl, on ABC's This Week (6/16), "Do you support your own [immigration reform] bill?" Rubio replied, "Obviously, I think it's an excellent starting point, and I think 95, 96 percent of the bill is in perfect shape and ready to go." However, Rubio added that he acknowledged that "there are elements that need to be improved," including "the border security element," because, according to Rubio, the "vast majority of Americans" will "support immigration reform...only if we can ensure that we're not going to have another wave of illegal immigration in the future."

An analysis piece in Politico (6/17, Burns, Haberman, 25K) reports that Rubio advisers are concerned that the senator, who is "neck deep in the muck of immigration reform talks," risks being labeled a Washington insider. Politico notes that "at a moment when the Republican Party's most ambitious leaders in Washington have largely eschewed the challenges of negotiation and compromise, Rubio made a starkly different choice – and the

consequences are starting to show." Rubio's advisers "said they're confident that a victory on immigration will ultimately vindicate all these messy efforts." If the measure fails, "they say Rubio went in with open eyes about the political and legislative dangers of trying to be a genuine leader for the GOP, rather than a merely a camera-ready symbol of Republican diversity."

A second analysis piece in Politico (6/17, Raju, Brown, 25K) notes that Rubio has not appeared in public with the Gang of Eight since late April, "nixing requests for press conferences after the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the immigration bill, according to Democrats, and most recently, for a joint interview on Univision." Politico reports that Rubio's "public absences from his partners show the difficult line he is walking on immigration — trying to woo conservative activists wary of the bill while keeping the Gang of Eight bill moving." As with the previous analysis piece, Politico notes that the success or failure of the immigration bill "will largely determine whether his efforts are seen as the shrewd mechanisms of a kingmaker or the political naiveté of a third-year senator."

Graham Predicts "Overwhelming" Senate Passage. Sen. Lindsey Graham on Sunday "predicted overwhelming congressional passage" of the immigration bill, The Hill (6/17, Wasson, 21K) reports.

The AP (6/16, Elliott) reports that Graham also said the Republican Party is "in a demographic death spiral" and "will fail in their effort to win the presidency if the party blocks an immigration overhaul." Graham "said conservatives who are trying to block the measure will doom the party and all but guarantee a Democrat will remain in the White House after 2016's election."

On NBC's Meet The Press (6/16), Graham said, "I think we're going to have a political breakthrough, that Congress is going to pass immigration reform. I think we're going to get plus 70 votes. I've never been more optimistic about it." Graham added, "If we don't pass immigration reform, if we don't get it off the table in a reasonable, practical way, it doesn't matter who [the GOP] run in 2016."

Senate Bill "Peppered With Benefits" For Specific Industries, Groups. USA Today (6/16, Schouten, 1.71M) reports that the Senate immigration bill is "peppered with benefits" for "specific industries and immigrant groups." USA Today notes that even before the measure reached the Senate floor, it "included provisions long the focus of intense lobbying by an array of interests groups." Among them: more visas for engineers, programmers and other high-skilled workers, which were sought by the tech industry, a provision "granting foreign retirees 55 and older a three-year, renewable visas if they invest $500,000 in U.S. real estate," and a measure to allow "older Canadians to remain in the United States for up to eight months each year," among others.

Sessions Blasts Senate Immigration Bill. The Daily Caller (6/16, Stafford) reports that in an exclusive interview to be broadcast on its website Monday, Sen. Jeff Sessions "savages the comprehensive immigration bill currently being debated by Congress," arguing that he is not "against immigrants or against immigration, but rather that he is against this bill on its merits." Sessions says, "People want to vote for a bill that fixes immigration," Sessions told TheDC. "They want so desperately to have that to happen. ... The error was that a group of Senators basically turned this over to secret meetings and special interest groups and they didn't understand the bill fully either."

Fight Against Illegal Border Crossings Shifts From Arizona To Texas. The New York Times (6/17, A1, Lipton, Preston, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports in a front-page story that for the first time in more than a decade, the "battle against illegal crossings from Mexico" has shifted "away from Arizona to the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas." The Rio Grande Valley "has displaced the Tucson enforcement zone as the hot spot, with makeshift rafts crossing the river in increasing numbers, high-speed car chases occurring along rural roads and a growing number of dead bodies turning up on ranchers' land, according to local officials." The upswing in Texas comes as the Obama Administration "says it has achieved unprecedented control over the border with Mexico."

Goodlatte: "Sizable" House GOP Majority Needed To Pass Immigration Bill. USA Today (6/15, Page, 1.71M) reports that House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte said in an interview with "Capital Download," the paper's weekly video newsmaker series, that any immigration bill in the House "would have to win a 'sizable majority' of Republican votes — not rely on solid Democratic support with just enough GOP backers to pass it." Goodlatte said relying solely on Democratic support "would be a very bad idea," adding, "I'm very much a believer

in following regular order and in following the principle that the majority party should have a sizable majority of its members supporting major legislative initiatives going through the Congress, and immigration is the most major legislative initiative we've had in several years."

The Wall Street Journal (6/17, Hook, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports that Goodlatte opposes the Senate immigration bill and intends to move a series of narrowly focused measures instead. Goodlatte's committee will meet Tuesday to begin work on the measures. On Tuesday, the panel will hold votes on a tough enforcement measure which the Journal says will move the debate to the right. The Journal notes that critics have expressed concern that Goodlatte's approach could bury the immigration debate; however, Goodlatte defends the approach, saying it will allow for more careful legislating on the complicated issue.

IRS OFFICIAL: LIBERAL GROUPS WERE ALSO TARGETED IN "TEA PARTY" PROBES. USA Today (6/16, Korte, 1.71M) reports that in testimony given to House Oversight Committee investigators on May 21, Holly Paz, identified as the "highest-ranking IRS official with knowledge of the targeting to thus far cooperate with the congressional investigation," claimed that "when front-line tax agents in Cincinnati used the term 'tea party,' they didn't just mean conservative groups." Paz testified: "I was aware of...other cases at that time that were working their way through the D.C. office that involved proposed denials of exemption to liberal organizations that supported the Democratic Party. So I had no indication that we were not being balanced in what we were doing." USA Today goes on to report that, based on its own analysis, "dozens of liberal groups received tax-exempt approval in the 27 months that Tea Party groups sat in limbo, even though the liberal groups were engaging in similar kids of activity."

According to the AP (6/16, Ohlemacher), Paz acknowledged being "personally involved in scrutinizing some of the earliest applications from tea party groups seeking tax-exempt status," which "contradicts initial claims by the agency that a small group of agents working in an office in Cincinnati were solely responsible for mishandling the applications."

The Wall Street Journal (6/17, Mckinnon, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an article titled, "IRS Inquiry Finds Problems, Puzzles," reports that, so far, the objective facts unearthed by investigators indicate that the targeting of Administration critics was not limited to an IRS office in Cincinnati, as IRS officials initially claimed. However, according to the Journal, there is also no evidence that the targeting can be tied to any Administration officials. The Journal also notes that Paz donated $4000 to the 2008 Obama campaign.

Politico (6/17, Bade, 25K) reports that Republicans believe Paz's testimony "plays right into what they've been arguing all along: that Washington orchestrated the conservative group targeting." On the other hand, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), the ranking Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, released a statement reading: "Another week, another leak from Chairman [Darrell] Issa of cherry-picked excerpts that show no White House involvement whatsoever in the identification and screening of these cases."

The New York Times (6/17, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), in an editorial that does not mention Paz's testimony, contends that "there isn't the slightest bit of public evidence that the White House or the leadership of the I.R.S. ordered low-level Cincinnati employees to make life difficult for Tea Party groups." The Times adds, "In fact, there is growing evidence that they didn't."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Forgotten 50,000."*** An editorial in the New York Times (6/17, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) notes that New York City has more homeless people now than when Mayor Michael Bloomberg took office in 2002 and argues that the "next mayor will have to do better by them than Mr. Bloomberg." The Times argues that the Bloomberg Administration "is meeting its legal obligation by filling the city's shelters to bursting" but has "failed to keep its promises to significantly shrink the shelter population by giving people the means to live independently and enough paths to permanent housing."

"Release The Facts About The I.R.S. Scandal." The New York Times (6/17, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), in an editorial , contends that "there isn't the slightest bit of public evidence that the White House or the leadership of the I.R.S. ordered low-level Cincinnati employees to make life difficult for Tea Party groups." The

Times adds, "In fact, there is growing evidence that they didn't."

"The Extra Hurdle At The Airport." An editorial in the New York Times (6/17, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) notes that a report from DHS's' inspector general questions whether the Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques program "is objective or worth the $878 million spent so far." The Times notes that TSA Officials have defended the program and said that since the IG's inspection, it has "carried out needed improvements, like using clearer performance measurements." The Times argues that while extra scrutiny "can have security value, provided it is professional and thorough," screening that is "erratic and subjective" is a waste of "time and money" and can be "a pretext for illegal profiling."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Getting Ready For Cyberwar."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (6/17, 489K) notes that President Policy Directive 20, which the President signed last October, "is still classified as top secret but was among the papers spilled into public view" by Edward Snowden. According to the editorial, the directive makes clear that cyberconflicts are "a matter of 'national-level strategic objectives' to be decided by the president." As such, cyber-operations which "might result in 'significant consequences,' which include loss of life, serious levels of retaliation, damage to property, adverse foreign policy consequences or economic impact on the country," require presidential approval. The Post portrays the directive as a positive and notes that while the leak "must have pained the White House," it is "a good sign that the imponderables of fighting a cyberwar are being examined and clarified."

"What To Do About Climate Change." In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/17, 489K) notes that IEA's announcement last week that "global carbon dioxide emissions in 2012 were the highest ever." According to the Post, the IEA "had some useful, if modest, suggestions" that world leaders could implement to keep their commitment "to limiting warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius" over the next hundred years. The Post calls on policymakers in Washington to follow through on their efforts to address climate change and to "pressure other nations to follow."

"Above The Law?" The Washington Post (6/17, 489K) editorializes about DC Councilman Marion Barry, who "accepted nearly $7,000 in gifts from two city contractors, with some of the money going to pay for personal expenses," in apparent violation of DC ethics standards. The Post contends that Barry "thinks he can act with impunity; after all, he has retained office, influence and popularity despite his serial scrapes with the law and previous ethical transgressions."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Absent Commander In Chief."*** The Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial, criticizes the President's failure to address the NSA controversy in public last week, and argues that he needs to personally defend his Administration's antiterrorism activities or risk them being undermined by privacy advocates in Congress.

"An Iranian Unicorn." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says that the search for a moderate Iranian leader, which has been the goal of every US president since the 1979 revolution, appears to be staring anew with reports that Hassan Rohani has been elected Iran's next president. The Journal argues, however, that Iranian policy is not likely to change much under Rohani, and predicts that while the new leader is likely to go along with talks aimed at reaching a deal on Iran's nuclear program, he will do so only to lighten Western sanctions and to buy more time for the nuclear program.

"Motown's Best Hope." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) calls Detroit emergency manager Kevyn Orr's debt restructuring plan the city's best hope at revival and notes that if Orr cannot get unions to accept the plan, bankruptcy is Detroit's only other remedy.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.
Wall Street Journal:
West To Press Iran On Nukes
Tough Place To Fill Job Openings: U.S. Senate
For One Asbestos Victim, Justice Is A Moving Target

New York Times:
Turkey Expands Violent Reaction To Street Unrest
Bloomberg Plan Aims To Require Food Composting
From Inner Circle Of Iran, A Pragmatic Victor
Choice Of Health Plans To Vary Sharply From State To State
As US Plugs Border In Arizona, Crossings Shift To South Texas
Death Be Not Decaffeinated: Over Cup, Groups Face Taboo
Washington Post:
GOP Uses Health-Law Politics In New Fight
Photo-ID Databases Become Troves For Police
Obama Visits A Worried Europe
In Tunisia, A Sense Of Drift Amid Struggle Over Islam
Rose Wins US Open
College-Bound DC Grads Pack Hopes And Fears
Financial Times:
G8 Dispute Breaks Out On Syria Arms
Osborne To Hint At Sale Of Lloyds By 2015
Bid To Relaunch Synthetic CDO Unravels
Aerospace Trio Pushes For European Drone
Senior Bank Debt Issues Slump To Decade Low
Biggest UK Investors Plan Joint Move On Excess
Brazil Hanging On For Record IPO Boom
Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Turkey-Unrest; NSA Leak; Domestic Violence; MLB-Head Trama; Hospital Care CEO Bonuses; Putin-Super Bowl Ring
CBS: Turkey-Unrest; Colorado-Wildfires; Missouri-Flooding; NSA Leaks; Syria-Putin; North Korea Talks; Iran-Election; South Africa-Mandela; Sequestration-Head Start; Military Sexual Assault-Interview; Air Egypt Flight-UK Asylum; Energy-Oil Prices Jump; Energy-Keystone XL
Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: G8 Summit; Colorado-Wildfires; Utah-Church Shooting Arrest; Daytime Emmy Awards-Days Of Our Lives, Best Drama; Ms. Connecticut Wins Miss USA Pageant
CBS: Colorado-Wildfires; Turkey-Unrest; North Korea Talks; Iran-Election; G8 Conference; NSA Leaker; Sports-NBA Finals
NPR: Colorado-Wildfires; Sen. Graham (R-SC)-GOP 2016 Failure Pending Immigration Reform; Sports-NBA Finals; North Korea Talks; South Africa-Mandela Health; Box Office-Man Of Steel, $113M

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Arrives in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Aldergrove International Airport, Belfast, Northern Ireland, travel pool; delivers remarks, Belfast Waterfront, Belfast, Northern Ireland, open press; meets with Prime Minister David Cameron ahead of the G8 Summit, County Fermanagh, travel pool; meets with EU Leaders on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, G-8 Summit Site, Lough Erne, Northern Ireland, restricted pool spray at the top; delivers a statement to the media, G8 Summit Site, Lough Erne, Northern Ireland, travel pool; receives greetings from Prime Minister Cameron as a part of the official leader arrivals, G-8 Summit Site, Lough Erne, Northern Ireland, travel pool; attends the first plenary session, G-8 Summit Site, Lough Erne, Northern Ireland, closed press; holds a bilateral meeting with President Vladimir Putin of Russia, G-8 Summit Site, Lough Erne, Northern Ireland, pool spray at the bottom; attends a leaders-only working dinner, G-8 Summit Site, Lough Erne, Northern Ireland, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Public Events Scheduled.
US Senate: FLOOR SCHEDULE 2 p.m. — The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business.

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP — Business meeting to continue consideration of S.511, to

amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to enhance the Small Business Investment Company Program, S.289, to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration, S.537, to require the Small Business Administration to make information relating to lenders making covered loans publicly available, and S.415, to clarify the collateral requirement for certain loans under section 7(d) of the Small Business Act, to address assistance to out-of-State small business concerns. Location: S-216.
US House: FLOOR SCHEDULE 12 p.m. — The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

5 p.m. RULES — Emergency meeting on the following measures: H.R. 1947 – Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013 (General Debate ONLY); H.R. 1797 – District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. Location: H-313.
Other: AAEI ANNUAL CONFERENCE — AAEi 92nd Annual Conference and Expo on Globalization: Policy and Practice. Highlights: Monday afternoon keynote: William P. Doyle , Federal Maritime Commissioner. 12:30 p.m. Monday lunch: Thomas S. Winkowski , Deputy Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Performing the duties of the Commissioner of CBP. Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. NW.

NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY ASSOCIATION — Roll on Capitol Hill, where United Spinal Association and advocates from its membership division, National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA) meet to express to legislators the need for greater access to health care, employment opportunities, community services; disability benefits and civil rights protections – all of which are vital issues to the disability community. Highlights: United Spinal has invited various federal agency officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Social Security Administration and other disability advocates to speak to ROCH attendees. 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Washington Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Road NW. Location: Room HC-5, the Capitol.

2013 EIA ENERGY CONFERENCE — The U.S. Energy Information Administration conference. Keynote speakers include: Dr. Ernest Moniz, U.S. Secretary of Energy; Senator Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; Thomas Fanning, Chairman, President and CEO, Southern Company; Aldo Flores-Quiroga, Secretary General, International Energy Forum; Hans Rosling, Professor, Karolinska Institute and Chairman, Gapminder Foundation. Highlights: 8:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Welcome: Adam Sieminski, Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration. Keynote Address: Thomas Fanning, Chairman, President and CEO, Southern Company. Location: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave, NW.

NTSB – ROTORCRAFT ACCIDENT TRAINING — The National Transportation Safety Board is offering a training course on rotorcraft accident investigations at its Training Center in Ashburn, Va. Location: NTSB Training Center 45065 Riverside Parkway Ashburn, Virginia 20147

WAR ON DRUGS PROTEST — Contingents of Drum Majors for Justice plan a Day of Direct Action to mark the 42nd Anniversary of the War on Drugs. Mobilized by the Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW). Highlights: 10 a.m. Pre-Rally, Historic Metropolitan AME Church, 1518 M Street, NW. 11 a.m. March to Lafayette Park. 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Rally at Lafayette Park.

AIR FORCE BREAKFAST – WELSH — 7 a.m. – 9 a.m. The Air Force Association hosts General Mark A. Welsh, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, as the guest speaker for the June AFA Air Force Breakfast Location: Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

TAX REFORM, INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMPETITIVENESS — 8 a.m. EconomyInCrisis.org hosts discussion on Smart Tax Reform & International Trade Competitiveness. Location: National Press Club, First Amendment Room, 529 14th Street NW.

CSIS – NATIONAL GUARD – GRASS — 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Military Strategy Forum: General Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, B1C Conference Room, 1800 K St. NW.

BPC – HOUSING FINANCE REFORM — 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Bipartisan Policy Center Forum – Housing Finance Reform: Is Inertia Gaining Momentum? Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 I Street NW, 10th floor.

9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. AMBASSADOR MIRPURI – ASIA-PACIFIC-U.S. — The East-West Center in Washington invites you to an Asia Pacific Security Seminar: Where Worlds Meet: Singapore's View of the Asia Pacific Region and US Engagement with Ambassador Ashok Kumar Mirpuri, Singapore's Ambassador to the United States of America. RSVP by the 14th – space is limited. Location: East-West Center in Washington, 1819 L Street NW, Sixth Floor Conference Room.

NPC – LESSONS LEARNED – HURRICANE SANDY — 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Unrelenting Resilience: An Evaluation of the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy with Christopher Baldwin, Senior Vice President, Retail and Energy Markets, Hess Corporation; Jason Grumet, moderator, President, Bipartisan Policy Center; Thomas B. King, Executive Director and President, National Grid U.S. Location: The National Press Club, Holeman Lounge, 529 14th St. NW.

GUN LEGISLATION RALLY — 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Concerned group of citizens hold vigil on gun safety legislation. Location: Lafayette Park.

CAMBIO TELECONFERENCE — 12 p.m. The Campaign for an Accountable, Moral, and Balanced Immigration Overhaul will hold a phone briefing for media to preview Rep. Trey Gowdys (R-SC) SAFE Act legislation, which may be marked up by the House Judiciary Committee. With Clarissa Martinez de Castro, director, immigration & civic engagement, National Council of La Raza; Lorella Praeli, director of advocacy and policy, United We Dream; Neema Singh Guliani, legislative counsel, American Civil Liberties Union; Marielena Hincapie, executive director, the National Immigration Law Center. Notes: CALL-IN: (866) 952-7532 and use conference ID: CAMBIO.

CATO – 'OBAMACARE' — 12 p.m. Policy Forum, Halbig v. Sebelius: All of ObamaCare Hangs on the Outcome. Location: 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

CFA – POOR CHILDREN'S RISKS — 12 p.m. The Consumer Federation of America will hold a press teleconference to release a new report on the unique product and food safety risks facing children of low income families. Speakers: Rachel Weintraub, Legislative Director and Product Safety Expert, CFA; Chris Waldrop, Director, Food Policy Institute, CFA; Gus Schaefer, Senior Vice President and Public Safety Officer, UL. Notes: Call 888-604-4211 ask for CFA Press Conference (Alt 201-604-0409).

FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS – PROGRESSIVES — 12 p.m. Americans led by Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) and allies lobby day on Emergency Actions and Educate Congress re: Pending Cuts to Nutrition Programs. Location: Capitol Hill and District offices of Senators and Representatives across the USA.

SOLAR IMPULSE PRESS CONFERENCE — 12 p.m. Roundtable and news conference on the Solar Impulse, billed as the world's most advanced solar-powered airplane, following its arrival at Washington Dulles Airport. With U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA). SEIA President Rhone Resch, Director of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Gen. J.R. Jack Dailey, Dan Reicher will moderate the event and MWAA Vice President and Dulles Airport Manager Christopher U. Browne will also attend. Location: Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, Chantilly, Va.

CELL PHONE UNLOCKING – FCC COMMISSIONER — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. What Should Congress Do About Cell Phone Unlocking? with keynote by FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai. Location: The Methodist Building (TechFreedoms new offices), 101 Maryland Ave NE (facing the Capitol and Supreme Court).

ITIF – INTERNATIONAL BROADBAND QUALITY — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation holds discussion on International Broadband Quality: How's that Policy Working? Location: ITIF, 1101 K ST NW, Suite 610A.

MIDWIVES' IMPACT — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Congressional briefing, Leveraging Midwives' Impact on Matemal & Child Survival Globally & At Home. Hosted by the Frontline Health Workers Coalition, IntraHealth International, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), Jhpiego, the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood and AMREF USA. Location: 122 Cannon.

STUDENT LOAN 'FIRST RESPONDERS' — 2 p.m. Attorneys who are the first responders dealing every day with Americans in financial distress will tell Congress that student loans are a national crisis that demands swift

action by federal lawmakers. Daniel Press, a Virginia bankruptcy attorney and a director of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA) will participate in a briefing before the U.S. House of Representatives entitled The Crushing Burden of Private Student Loan Debt. Location: 2226 Rayburn.

CWA – NLRB NOMINEES — 2:30 p.m. Press call with CWA President Larry Cohen, former JPL scientist Robert M. Nelson, CWA activist Robert England to to discuss the importance of the NLRB and why the Senate must confirm all five nominees to the board. DIAL IN: 1-866-952-1906, Passcode: NLRB

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "And yesterday, President Obama spoke at an LGBT pride month celebration at the White House. He promised that as long as he is president, all Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation, will be spied on equally. I think that's good to see."

Jay Leno: "And Edward Snowden, he's the 29-year-old guy behind this NSA spy scandal. He said in a new interview that he is not in hiding. Which would have carried a lot more weight if he hadn't made the announcement from an undisclosed secret location."

Jay Leno: "And today, Sarah Palin said there should be a full investigation of both the San Antonio Spurs and the Miami Heat. And then, somebody told her, 'No, it's the NSA. Not the NBA.' So she got a little confused."

Jay Leno: "And I think this is a good idea. Instead of having the government looking into terrorists, why don't we hire the paparazzi? Think about this. If the paparazzi stalked terrorists the way they stalk the Kardashians, we'd catch them all by the time Spago closes. You realize that?"

Jay Leno: "And the Taliban is now recruiting women to become suicide bombers. And it's not easy to qualify. The women must be able to push a car loaded with explosives because, as you know, they're not allowed to drive over there."

Jimmy Fallon: "Here's what people are talking about. President Obama is traveling to Africa later this month, and people are upset. People are mad. People are upset because the trip is expected to cost taxpayers more than $60 million. To go to Africa, yeah. Mostly for security, hotel accommodations and Biden wants a giraffe."

Jimmy Fallon: "More political news. Yesterday, Hillary Clinton said that she will spend the next few years focusing on economic issues. When asked what she planned on doing after that, Clinton was like, 'Come on.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Check this out. Ever since the government's spying scandal was exposed, sales of the novel '1984,' have jumped 6,000% on Amazon. Yeah. '1984' shows how scary it would be if a society tracked everything you did. And if you want to read it, you just buy it on a website that tracks everything you do."

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BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials - Thursday, June 20

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jun 19, 2013 at 6:12 PM
To: [redacted]@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Jennifer Sisk <jennifer_sisk@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Here are your briefing materials for Thursday, June 20. These are also on Google drive. We are still waiting for the briefing paper for your 5:15 pm Youth meeting and will send it as soon as it is ready.

Thanks,
Erin

8 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1-2, & 4-8)

06 20 13_950am_Photo-Op with Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools Fellows.docx
22K

6 20 13_400pm_Briefing from DOI Law Enforcement and Security.docx
24K

6 20 13_1200pm_Phone Call with Governor Brian Sandoval NV.docx
26K

6 20 13_1230pm_Briefing on Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.docx
27K

6 20 13_Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Alternatives Table.docx
40K

6 20 13_Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan One Pager.pdf
1700K

6 20 13_Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Powerpoint.pptx
2251K

6.20.13_1200pm_Phone Call with Gov Brian Sandoval WGA Agenda.pdf
193K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

GOVERNOR BRIAN SANDOVAL (NV) CONFERENCE CALL

DATE: June 20, 2013
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary, Governor Sandoval will call YOU
TIME: 12:00 – 12:15 EST
FROM: Gail Adams, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

I. Purpose of the meeting

YOU will participate on a conference call with Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval. The purpose of the call is a brief introduction to the Governor in advance of your participation at WGA on June 28th.

II. Participants

- YOU
- Governor Brian Sandoval (no staff will be on the call)

III. Hot Topics

Governor Sandoval does not plan to address any specific issues on the call. However, the following issues are important to him, and he may raise them at WGA. Briefing papers are being prepared on these issues for the WGA conference:

- Sage grouse
- Wildfire funding/response/restoration
- Wild horses
- Mining permits

IV. Talking Points

- I look forward to seeing you at WGA next week, Governor. I know we have a packed agenda but I hope we are able to say 'hello' during the conference. (See attached agenda)
- *If he asks for a separate meeting at WGA to discuss specific topics:* Unfortunately my schedule is packed with events and travel, however, when you are in DC next time, I'd be happy to tell my staff to find a time that is amenable to both of our schedules, or we can arrange .
- I know you had a very good working relationship with former Secretary Salazar; I can assure you that I am committed to partnering with you to address issues such as sage grouse, energy, wild horses, and wildfires.
- You and Governor Herbert can be great allies.
- I also want to mention that I will be in Reno next week for the NCAI Conference.

V. Background

Governor Sandoval met YOU in Cle Elum, WA prior to your confirmation as Secretary of the Interior. He has no major agenda, but would like to have substantive conversations at WGA if needed. The Governor is looking forward to working with YOU, and the Department on several issues (e.g., sage grouse, wildfire, wild horses, etc.).

Biography of Governor Brian Sandoval (R-NV)
Brian Sandoval was elected Governor of Nevada on November 2, 2010. A member of the National Governors Association and the Western Governors Association, Sandoval serves as Vice-Chair of the NGA Health and Homeland Security Committee. Sandoval is a member of the Republican Governors Association and the Hispanic Leadership Network.

Prior to becoming Governor, he was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Nevada by President George W. Bush in 2005, becoming the state's first Hispanic federal judge. He was elected Attorney General of Nevada in 2002. Prior to his election as Attorney General, Sandoval served as a member and chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission. Sandoval served two terms in the Nevada.

BISON CONNECT

DRECP attachment

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jun 26, 2013 at 9:22 PM
To: Walls Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>

Erin -

The DRECP attachment in my briefings is a repeat of the Sage Grouse PDF, not the desert plan. If you could re-send, I would appreciate it.

Thanks,

Sally

Sent from my iPad

BISON CONNECT

Re: DRECP attachment

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jun 27, 2013 at 9:56 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

I switched it out. The correct document is in the WGA folder in Google drive for you

On Wed, Jun 26, 2013 at 9:22 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Erin -

The DRECP attachment in my briefings is a repeat of the Sage Grouse PDF, not the desert plan. If you could re-send, I would appreciate it.

Thanks,

Sally

Sent from my iPad

–
Erin Walls
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-6087
erin_walls@ios.doi.gov

BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials - Friday, June 28

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jun 27, 2013 at 5:38 PM
To: [redacted]@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Jennifer Sisk <jennifer_sisk@ios.doi.gov>

Here are your briefing materials for Friday, June 28. These are also in Google drive. Let me know if you have any questions.

13 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1-4, 6, 8, 10 & 13)

- **06 28 13_1130am_ Meeting with Representative Rob Bishop.docx** 30K
- **6 20 13_Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan One Pager (3).pdf** 1700K
- **6 28 13_230pm_Meeting with Basin States Representatives final.docx** 1097K
- **6 28 13_730am_Business Leaders Roundtable - Immigration Reform.docx** 51K
- **6 28 13_930am_Informal Discussion with Western Governors Final.docx** 405K
- **6 28 13_1130am_ Meeting with Representative Rob Bishop Attachment.pdf** 197K
- **6 28 13_1200pm_Lunch with the Western Governors - Sage Grouse SOL.doc** 61K
- **6 28 13_Basin States Attachment - Drought PPT (1).pdf** 810K
- **Draft Schedule_Utah (2).docx** 163K
- **WGA Agenda as of 6-19-13.pdf** 193K
- **WGA General Meeting Memo for Sec Jewell FINAL.docx** 397K
- **WGA Issues Memorandum - V2 as of 6-27-13.docx** 870K
- **6 28 13_ 1200pm Lunch with the Western Governors SageGrouseAttachment.pdf** 2433K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH WESTERN GOVERNORS

DATE: Friday, June 28, 2013
LOCATION: Montage Deer Valley, Grand Terrace
TIME: 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
FROM: Gail Adams, Director of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

I. Purpose of the Meeting

YOU are participating in an informal discussion with Governors on their respective state issues. Dan Ashe and Neil Kornze will be in attendance to assist with responses. Sage grouse issues are addressed at your luncheon and water issues at the Basin States meeting later in the day (See the briefing memos on both of these topics). You may also refer to the Issues briefing papers for more detailed information the issues in this memo.

II. Participants

- YOU
- Dan Ashe
- Neil Kornze
- Nikki Buffa
- Kate Kelly
- Francisco Carrillo
- Gary Herbert (UT) – WGA Chairman
- John Hickenlooper (CO) – WGA Vice Chairman
- Butch Otter (ID)
- Steve Bullock (MT)
- Brian Sandoval (NV)
- Dennis Daugaard (SD)
- Lolo Moliga (America Samoa)
- Alison Redford, Premier of Alberta
- Gregory Selinger, Premier of Manitoba

III. Agenda/Sequence of Events

- Governor Herbert will start the meeting with comments and introduce you to make brief remarks
- YOU will make brief remarks: This is also an excellent opportunity for YOU to outline your priorities and express your commitment to having successful working relationships with each state in in working through their issues. You may also want to talk about some of your recent western states visits and activities such as your visit to the National Fire Training Center, Nevada for energy development, and Oregon to establish the Pacific Northwest Regional Infrastructure Team, etc. You should also reference your very successful in-person meeting with Governor Herbert and your call with Governor

Sandoval. You will hand the meeting back over to Governor Herbert to begin the discussion.

- Governor Herbert will go around the table and allow each of the Governors to talk about their issues. You will then have the opportunity to respond.
- Wrap-up and Next Steps: Governor Herbert and YOU

IV. Background

On February 24, 2013, the Department hosted the Western Governors' Association Breakfast Meeting. Secretaries Salazar, Vilsack and Chair Sutley participated in the breakfast. Several key issues raised by the Governors included: seeking a more robust partnership with states with regard to endangered species using the model underway for sage grouse and other species to prevent listing, land exchanges, energy transmission, renewables, fire, drought, water issues, and wild horses and burros.

V. Top Issues by State

1. Gary Herbert (UT) – WGA Chairman: Gov. Herbert is in his first term (ending January 2017). He is very concerned about public land management (specifically related to wild fires) and land exchanges as he expressed in your in-person meeting. He looks forward to discussing permitting for energy development and fracking.
2. John Hickenlooper (CO) – WGA Vice Chairman: Gov. Hickenlooper will become the WGA Chairman at the end of this year's meeting. His concerns are fire and forest health – developing a comprehensive package to promote forest management to reduce fire threats, identification of lands for exchange and developing a federal legislative package of a grand swap of state trust land inholdings in federal public lands, and water issues.
3. Butch Otter (ID) - Gov. Otter is in his second term. His priority issues are energy development and sage grouse listing prevention. He created the Office of Energy Resources in 2007 to address development, transmission and innovation. Other issues of concern are management of species under ESA. Gov. Otter followed Gov. Mead's example and developed a draft state plan to protect sage grouse in Idaho. As an FYI, in partnership with the BOR and others (featured on the BOR website), Gov. Otter is the host of a series of canal and water safety public service announcements airing during Idaho's 2013 irrigation season.
4. Steve Bullock (MT) – Gov. Bullock is in his first term. He is interested in having states more involved in ESA listing decisions. He is also concerned about the amount of time it takes for land exchanges, particularly when "there is not opposition."
5. Brian Sandoval (NV) – Gov. Sandoval is in first term which expires in 2014. Sage grouse is one of his top priorities. The state recent allocated nearly $2M in funding to develop an updated map of critical habitat in Nevada, forming the basis for assessing potential impacts and the state's to approach impacts and improvement efforts in a science-based manner. Other concerns are wildfire response and restoration, energy development/transmission and wild horses. He would also like to mining permits. Mining jobs employ highly skilled workers at high wages and serve as an important economic driver in many parts of the state.
6. Dennis Daugaard (SD) – Gov. Daugaard is serving his first term. Drought and wildfires are of major concern to the Governor and create a Drought Task Force last year.

Environment and the health and well-being of the state's children are among the Governor's priorities. He recently wrote an article about the state's ability to enjoy business and industry while reducing air pollution and promoting "a healthy, clean environment for all." He is also interested in outdoor heritage preservation, saying, "We invest in the outdoors and create assets that will be passed on to future generations."

7. Lolo Moliga (America Samoa) – Gov. Moliga is in his first term. Economic development, essential air service and cabotage, and education are his top three priorities. (See talking points below).
8. Alison Redford, Premier of Alberta – Premier Redford is Cross-border cooperation on issues such as energy
9. Gregory Selinger, Premier of Manitoba – Cross-border cooperation on the Red River Watershed, climate change and energy.

VI. Attachments

- Governors' Profiles
- American Samoa Talking Points

ATTACHMENT: Governor Moliga (AS) Issues Talking Points

Economic Development

- The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) supports the goal of promoting economic development within American Samoa. OIA will review any proposals for technical assistance submitted by the American Samoa Government (ASG). To date, OIA has not received any proposals.

Essential Air Service (EAS) and Cabotage

- The main response of USDOT and the FAA, which have jurisdiction on these issues, has been that this is a market driven reality. While there is only one airline servicing the territory to Hawaii, there is no existing law stopping other domestic airlines from competing for the same route.
- The issue with cabotage is allowing foreign airlines to compete on the same route, though 30 day exemptions to this policy have been permitted in emergency circumstances, such as in March of this year to allow Inter Island Airways to conduct flights between Tutuila and Manu'a for emergency medical transportation. OIA has funded the American Samoa Department of Commerce to conduct an air transport market study.

Education

- The Department eagerly looks forward to the product of an education summit that ASG may hold.
- State of Chuuk, in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM): DOI is working to help improve its Education system. OIA has conducted high level meetings where we have reached out to President Mori of the FSM, Governor Elimo of Chuuk, its legislative leaders, regional education folks and the department itself to focus on realistic reforms.

ATTACHMENT: PROFILES OF ATTENDING GOVERNORS WGA

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga (I-AS)



Prior to being elected in 2012, Governor Moliga was appointed as President of the Development Bank of American Samoa. He served in the House of Representatives for four terms. He later became a Senator within the American Samoa Senate, where he served as the body's Senate President. Lolo is a High Talking Chief from the village of Sili, Manu'a.

Governor John Hickenlooper (D-CO): WGA VICE-CHAIR



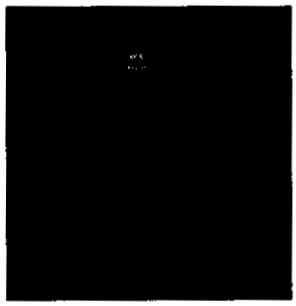
Governor Hickenlooper describes himself as a "recovering geologist now on loan to public service." Elected in 2010, his priorities include making Colorado the model for energy policy by promoting an "all-the-above" energy policy that develops Colorado's traditional and renewable resources in a balanced way, and with the highest ethical and public safety standards and making Colorado the healthiest state. Governor Hickenlooper serves in leadership positions with the National Governors Association and the Western Governors' Association. He also serves as the Vice Chair of the Democratic Governors Association.

Governor Butch Otter (R-ID)



Governor Otter has been Governor of Idaho since January 2007. He previously served three terms in Congress representing Idaho's 1st District from 2001 through 2006. Otter was the longest serving Lieutenant Governor of Idaho, holding office from 1987–2001. He is the first Idahoan since statehood to win elections as both a United States Representative and as governor.

Governor Steve Bullock (D - MT)



Steve Bullock, Montana's former attorney general, was elected governor in 2012. Since becoming Governor, Bullock has approved a request from Yellowstone National Park to move bison from a holding facility in the park, to an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service facility for research and quarantine. He also supported the creation of the "Native Language Preservation Program," a partnership between the State of Montana and tribal governments to preserve the languages of Montana's Indian tribes and enhance the educational opportunities students have on Montana's reservations, while protecting American Indians' cultural heritage.

Governor Dennis Daugaard (R-SD)



(pronounced DEW-guard)

Governor Daugaard took office January 2011. As Governor, he emphasizes job creation, sound fiscal management, and efficient government operation. Before becoming Governor, he served as Lieutenant Governor, a position he held from 2003 to 2011. He promotes South Dakota as a great place to expand existing businesses and to locate new businesses.

Governor Matt Mead (R-WY)



Governor Mead took office January 2011. He serves on the Council of Governors, a group of 10 governors chosen by the President to advise top federal officials on matters related to the National Guard and civil support missions. He also serves on the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory Council. In the National Governors Association, he is a member of the Natural Resources Committee. He is co-chair of the State and Federal Sage Grouse Task Force, which brings together federal officials and representatives of 11 western states for a regional conservation effort.

Governor Brian Sandoval (R-NV)



Brian Sandoval took office January 201. He is a member of the Western Governors Association, National Governors Association, Republican Governors Association and the Hispanic Leadership Network. Governor Sandoval also serves as Vice-Chair of the NGA Health and Homeland Security Committee. He was recently appointed Chair-elect of the Education Commission of the States. Prior to becoming Governor, he served as a federal judge, and as the Nevada Attorney General. Sandoval was also the first Hispanic candidate elected to statewide office in Nevada.

Governor Gary Herbert (R-UT): WGA CHAIR



Gary Herbert became Utah's Governor in 2009. Before assuming the governor's office, he served as Utah's sixteenth Lieutenant Governor. Governor Herbert's priorities are education, energy, jobs and self-determination. The Governor currently serves as the Chair of the WGA and is a leading voice on energy issues in the West. He has made it a priority for the WGA to advocate for increased energy development on public lands.

Premier Gregory Selinger (New Democratic Party – Manitoba)



Premier Selinger was elected to head the New Democratic Party of Manitoba in 2009. Manitoba is one of four Canadian providences that are partners with seven US states in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) which commits them to engage in cooperative action to address climate change and implement a joint strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the WCI the Manitoba Department of Conservation is currently seeking input on how to implement a regional cap-and-trade regime to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

Premier Alison Redford (progressive Conservative Party - Alberta)



Alison Redford was elected leader of the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party in 2011. She is the first female premier in the province's history and the eighth woman to serve as a premier in the history of Canada. Alberta Premier Alison Redford says the United States and Canada share political and environmental values and must work together to become energy independent of those who do not. Redford, speaking to the Foreign Policy Association on June 19th in New York, said until recently North American energy independence was wishful thinking.

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

LUNCH DISCUSSION WITH GOVERNORS ON SAGE GROUSE

DATE: June 28, 2013
LOCATION: Montage Deer Valley
TIME: 12:00 PM
FROM: Michael J. Bean, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Cc: Rachel Jacobson, Neil Kornze, & Dan Ashe

I. Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to affirm your commitment to work with the states to conserve the greater sage-grouse, encourage and engage Governors to get the Sage Grouse rules in place to mitigate listing, and to listen to the Governors' concerns.

II. Participants

- SRJ
- Governors:
  - Gov. John Hickenlooper (CO)
  - Gov. Butch Otter (ID)
  - Gov. Gary Herbert (UT)
  - Gov. Brian Sandoval (NV)
  - Gov. Dennis Daugaard (SD)
  - Gov. Steve Bullock (MT)
  - Gov. Lolo Moliga (American Samoa)
  - Alison Redford (Premier of Albert)
  - Greg Selinger (Premier of Manitoba)

III. Talking Points

- As one who has lived for many years in the Pacific Northwest, I understand the consequences for local economies and local communities if leaders do not provide the support and vision for sustainable economic growth.
- Because of that background, I understand very clearly that the range-wide decline of the greater sage-grouse is a harbinger of looming problems for the economies and communities of the eleven Western states where this bird lives. As leaders, we must recognize and face this challenge
- I am fully committed to the efforts begun by Secretary Salazar to work with the States and others to put in place conservation measures that will minimize the likelihood of an Endangered Species Act listing.
- The deadline for deciding whether to propose to list the greater sage-grouse is September 2015, only two years away.
- We will only reach our goal if we work together constructively, through the Sage-grouse Task Force, to complete our planning and put in place meaningful, science-based conservation. That means getting past the disagreements that unavoidably arise when doing such difficult and unprecedented work.

- Concerning the Sage-grouse Task Force, I want to express my thanks to Governors Mead and Hickenlooper for their leadership as Task Force co-chairs.

IV. Background

Putting the greater sage-grouse listing decision in context.

There are three separate sage-grouse listing decisions in the offing, but by far the most consequential of these is the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision due in 2015 whether to propose the greater sage-grouse for listing as an endangered or threatened species throughout its eleven state range. That decision is described below. However, there are two more immediate sage-grouse decisions that Western states may regard as precursors of the 2015 decision.

The first of these concerns the Gunnison sage-grouse, a separate species that occurs only in southwestern Colorado and eastern Utah. It was proposed for listing as endangered, with critical habitat, last December. A final decision is due September 30, although FWS has sought court approval for a six-month extension. The second imminent decision concerns whether to propose for listing the "bi-state population" of greater sage-grouse that straddles the Nevada-California border. Because this population constitutes a "distinct population segment," it may be separately listed under the ESA. The decision whether to propose it for listing must be made by September 30, and is likely to be announced in August.

A final related decision that is being closely watched for its implications for the greater sage-grouse is the pending proposal to list the lesser-prairie chicken as a threatened species throughout its five-state range (CO, KS, NM, OK, and TX). That proposal was published in December and a final decision is due by September 30 (although FWS plans to announce that the deadline will be extended by six months).

Developing a Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy

In 2010, the FWS determined that a proposal to list the greater sage-grouse was warranted, but precluded by higher priority listing determinations. Subsequently, the Multi-District Litigation settlement agreement set a deadline of September 30, 2015, either to propose to list the species or to determine that it no longer warrants a listing proposal. If the greater sage-grouse is listed, a wide range of economic activities, including oil and gas development, wind energy development, transmission, mining, and others, may be subject to ESA consultation or permit requirements. For that reason, the states are highly motivated to implement conservation actions that would preclude the need to list the species.

Wyoming, which has more sage-grouse than any other state, was particularly motivated. Its response to the prospect of a federal listing was to develop a "core area" strategy that identified and provided special protection to those parts of the state that were most important to the well-being of the sage-grouse. Secretary Salazar sought to encourage other states to take responsible actions as well. To that end, he and Governor Mead convened a meeting of all the sage-grouse states in Cheyenne in December 2011. From that meeting came the establishment of a "Sage-grouse Task Force" co-chaired by the Governors of Wyoming and Colorado and the Director of BLM. The Task Force, with representatives of eleven states and four federal agencies, meets regularly and serves as a forum for discussing the progress of efforts to develop and implement a conservation strategy for the sage-grouse.

To provide as much clarity as possible as to what was likely to be needed in order to avoid a listing of the sage-grouse, the Fish and Wildlife Service established a "Conservation Objectives Team" (COT). The COT issued a peer-reviewed report in early 2013 that identified "Primary Areas for Conservation" (PACs) based largely on state assessments of core areas and similar designations. The COT report also identifies the principal threats in the various PACs and describes the extent to which those threats need to be alleviated to achieve a secure future for the greater sage-grouse. The COT report was responsive to the clearly expressed desire of the states to clarify the objectives to be attained without prescribing the means by which those objectives must be attained.

More than half of the remaining sage grouse habitat is on BLM land. Thus, how land uses are managed on BLM lands will have a major impact on the success or failure of efforts to avoid the need to list the grouse. When FWS determined in 2010 that the sage-grouse warranted a proposed listing, that determination was based in large part on the inadequacy of regulatory measures to address the threats to the species. To provide those needed regulatory measures, BLM is undertaking to revise or amend 68 resource management plans. The U.S. Forest Service (FS), who manages about 9% of the remaining sage grouse habitat, has also joined BLM in undertaking the amendment of applicable forest plans.

As part of its Greater sage-grouse conservation efforts, the BLM convened a National Technical Team (NTT). The NTT was comprised of scientists from four federal agencies and five state fish and game agencies (CO, ID, NV, OR, and UT) who were charged with producing a report containing range-wide conservation objectives to guide the planning, based on best available science. BLM has directed that those measures be included in at least one of the alternatives considered in that planning process. The report and its associated conservation measures are not intended to create a standard for Greater sage-grouse management. Rather, the goal of the report is to provide a resource for BLM and Forest Service field personnel to use, as appropriate, in addressing on-the-ground conditions through the planning process.

Finally, mention should be made of the singular efforts of a sister agency at USDA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Through its Sage-grouse Initiative, NRCS has invested over $140 million in conservation easements and cost-sharing assistance to implement conservation practices beneficial to sage-grouse. This Initiative has focused on a number of practical, on-the-ground measures such as removal of encroaching junipers, which significantly degrade sage-grouse habitat, and the removal or marking of fences in sensitive areas to reduce grouse mortality from collisions with fences.

V. Hot Topics

BLM Interim Management v. State Plans

- Pending completion of that planning process, BLM and FS are applying certain interim measures to minimize loss of priority habitat. In lieu of these interim measures, BLM written policy allows them to instead implement alternative state-developed regulatory measures in which FWS has concurred.
- FWS has been pressed by some of the states, especially Idaho, to approve state-developed plans so that their regulatory measures can take the place of BLM's interim measures. In turn, the States would like BLM to adopt these same state-developed plans through its resource planning process. FWS has reviewed state plans when asked to do so and, in

appropriate circumstances, has been willing to concur with elements of those plans for purposes of interim management. However, FWS is not able to make any definitive determination now as to the adequacy of state plans for purposes of the listing decision that must be made in 2015. Similarly, certain elements of state plans may be adopted by BLM as interim guidance, but BLM is unable to commit to the outcome of its resource planning process at this time.

- *If asked whether you will live up to Secretary Salazar's (perceived) commitment that if state's developed plans like WY, the Department would accept them and it would be enough to avoid listing:*
    - I commit that the our people will continue to be at the table with your people ensuring that we develop the best plans, using the best science, that will conserve the Greater sage grouse. If we do that, it will increase the likelihood that the FWS can make a defensible decision a listing is not necessary. And if you become aware of problems or road blocks, pick up the phone and call me and I'll address it.

National Technical Team Report

- Governors have expressed concern that the BLM's Technical Team Report recommended interim management measures are too strict and overstep BLM's authority and intrude into FWS's sphere. Idaho also has the concern that while the FWS has approved parts of its plan, the BLM has not accepted those parts as interim management guidelines. Governor Otter has raised this concern in correspondence with YOU and Senator Risch made this an issue in your confirmation.
- *If asked whether the FWS or the BLM will make the determination whether state conservation standards are sufficient to protect the greater sage-grouse:*
    - The FWS will make the determination whether there are enough conservation and regulatory protections in place to address the threats facing the species and support a decision that a listing is not necessary. But when evaluating state plans, each agency has a role. The FWS determines whether they are sufficient for sage grouse conservation given the latest science, but it is up to the BLM to evaluate whether those plans meet the BLM's statutory obligations and can be practically implemented before approving them as management standards.

Postponing the 2015 Deadline

- Although still more than two years away, the September 2015 deadline for deciding whether to propose the sage-grouse for listing leaves little room to spare for completing scores of BLM plans and putting in place the other measures that may be needed. As a result, some of the states would like to secure an extension of the 2015 deadline, which would take either relief from the court or congressional action.
- *If asked whether you are willing to seek an extension of the 2015 deadline:*
    - I do not support any extension. I know that much remains to be done in the two-plus years that remain. I believe that all of our energies should be devoted to continuing the cooperative work that is now underway. I think we should continue to focus on the goal we have set and not divert any of our energy from that goal. I think we can get there. My belief is buttressed by the fact that FWS was able to put in place commitments that precluded the need to list the dunes

sagebrush lizard last year, even after FWS had proposed it for listing as an endangered species.

Fire

- Part of any strategy to conserve sage grouse is dealing with rangeland fire. Particularly in the more westerly areas, a major threat to sage-grouse habitat is the alteration of the fire cycle as a result of non-native cheat grass. While fire is natural in sagebrush habitats, what is unnatural is the combination of repeated fire followed by the invasion of cheat grass, which operate together to convert vast areas of high quality sage-grouse habitat into inhospitable monocultures of cheat grass. Breaking this cycle is critically important to the success of sage-grouse conservation efforts. As a result, the Sage-grouse Task Force is devoting considerable attention to fire policy matters.
- *If asked whether FWS will hold the states harmless in its listing decision if otherwise sound conservation programs are undercut by fires:*
    - The Service and the Department will continue to work with the states to responsibly address all the threats to sage grouse, including fire. Although fire is inherently more difficult to address than other types of threats over which we have more control, fire is a threat that must be addressed in order to minimize the likelihood of a listing. I know that the Sage Grouse Task Force is devoting considerable attention to the threat of fire and the policy initiatives that could reduce that threat. That is as it should be, as the Service will have to take all threats into account in its listing decision.

The ESA Generally

- There are many other ESA-issues that are of concern to Western Governors, such as the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan in California, Oregon forest management issues, the Klamath controversy, endangered fish in the Rio Grande, and others. A general concern, however, may focus on the Multi-district litigation settlement agreement, and the possibility that it will lead to the listing of hundreds of additional species in the next few years.
- *If asked whether you will agree not to settle new listing-related lawsuits in the future without engaging the states:*
    - No, you cannot agree to that, but you can stress that we are committed to state engagement in listing decisions. The multidistrict settlement agreement only committed the FWS to a timetable for making certain listing determinations. When making a decision whether to list any species for protection under the ESA, the FWS will actively engage the affected states and will base its decisions, as the law requires it to do, on the basis of the best scientific information available.

VI. Attachments

- Map of EIS planning boundaries and sage-grouse preliminary priority and preliminary general habitats.

THE TRIP OF THE SECRETARY

TO

Utah

June 27 -29, 2013

TRIP SUMMARY
THE TRIP OF THE SECRETARY TO
Salt Lake City and Park City, UT

June 27-29, 2013

Attire:

Salt Lake City, UT	Business Casual // Casual

Weather:

Salt Lake City, UT	Hot and Sunny

Time Zone:

Salt Lake City, UT	Mountain Daylight Time

Advance:

		Cell Phone:
Advance	Francis Iacobucci	(202) 208-5723
Security	Sgt. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Traveling Delegation:

Ride-Along	Sgt. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Deputy Chief of Staff	Nikki Buffa	(202) 412-4317
Director of Communications	Kate Kelly	(202) 208-2409
A/S for Water & Science	Anne Castle	(202) 590-7776
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation	Michael Connor	(202) 306-9065
Deputy A/S, Water & Science	Lori Caramanian	(202) 302-7799
Solicitors Office	Bob Snow	(702) 528-1051
Director, FSW	Dan Ashe	(202) 421-8228
Acting Director, BLM	Neil Kornze	(202) 660-2562
Deputy Director, OIEA	Francisco Carrillo	(202) 412-8846
Deputy Solicitor	Ted Boling	(202) 510-4271

Thursday, June 27th 2013
Reno, NV → Salt Lake City, UT

12:07pm PST: **Wheels-Up Reno-Tahoe Airport en route Salt Lake City, UT**

Flight:	DL 2419
Flight Time:	1 hour 20 minutes
SRJ Seat:	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Manifest:	SRJ Nikki Buffa Kate Kelly
Ride Along:	Sgt. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

2:27pm MDT: **Wheels-Down Salt Lake City, UT Airport**

Location:	776 North Terminal Dr Salt Lake City, UT 84116

2:45pm MDT: **Depart Salt Lake City Airport en route BLM State Office**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

Drive time:	8.1 miles; 13 minutes (to downtown)
Note:	Snacks will be provided in vehicle

3:00pm MDT: **Arrive BLM State Office**

Location:	440 West 200 South Salt Lake City, UT
Advance POC:	Juan Palma, BLM State Director (801) 440-5411 (cell)
Notes:	SRJ's vehicle will arrive on level P2 underground; group will take elevator to 5th floor SRJ will be greeted by Juan Palma, Susan Palma (wife), and Acting State Fire Management Officer Todd Richardson

3:00pm MDT: **Meeting with Regional DOI Leadership**

Location:	BLM State Director's Conference Room
Participants:	**SRJ** **Juan Palma,** BLM State Director **Larry Waikoviak,** BOR Regional Director **John Hiscock,** NPS Acting State Coordinator **Larry Crist,** FWS State Field Supervisor
Staff:	Nikki Buffa, Kate Kelly, Kelly Rigby (Photographer)
Advance:	Francis Iacobucci
Press:	Closed
Set-up:	Square table with seats surrounding
Format:	

- Juan Palma will introduce SRJ to other DOI Leadership for a meet and greet setting
- SRJ and Juan will move down the hallway to the Monument Conference Room

3:20pm MDT **All-Hands Employee Meeting**

Location:	Monument Conference Room
Participants:	**SRJ** **Juan Palma**, BLM State Director
Staff:	Nikki Buffa, Kate Kelly, Kelly Rigby (Photographer)
Advance:	Francis Iacobucci
Press:	Closed
Attendees:	200 + DOI State Employees
Set-up:	Podium with microphone facing rows of seated attendees; flags behind podium; wireless microphones will be available for questions from the audience

Format:

- Juan Palma will give welcoming remarks and introduce SRJ
- SRJ will make remarks to the employees and take questions
- Juan Palma will then ask one BLM employee, Vic Dunn, with over 40 years of Federal service to come to the podium for a picture with the Secretary
- Juan Palma will then recognize the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development for their work in restoring one million acres of lands through the Watershed Restoration Initiative (BLM will provide briefing material). SRJ will present the Partners with an award
- Juan Palma will thank the Secretary and SRJ will depart

4:25pm MDT: **Depart BLM Office en route Salt Lake Tribune (Walking)**

Walk Time:	3-4 minutes

4:27pm MDT: **Arrive Salt Lake Tribune**

Location:	900 S 400 W Salt Lake City, UT
Advance POC:	Vern Anderson (801) 673-0074
Note:	Vern Anderson will greet the Secretary upon arrival and escort to the 6th Floor Conference Room

4:30pm MDT: **Salt Lake Tribune Editorial Board Meet and Greet**

Location:	Conference Room
Participants:	**SRJ** **Vern Anderson,** Editorial and Opinion Editor **George Pyle,** Editorial Writer **Marilyn McKinnon,** Editorial Writer
Staff:	Nikki Buffa, Kate Kelly
Advance:	Francis Iacobucci

Press: Open
Set-up: Round Conference Table
Format:

- SRJ will meet with members of the Salt Lake Tribune Editorial Board

5:00pm MDT: **Depart Salt Lake Tribune en route Depository (Walking)**
Walk time: 3-4 minute

5:05pm MDT: **Tour of Vault of Recovered Artifacts**
Location: Artifact Storage Facility
Participants: **SRJ**
Juan Palma, BLM State Director
Shelly Smith, Deputy State Director for Resources
Dan Love, BLM Law Enforcement
Staff: Nikki Buffa, Kate Kelly, Kelly Rigby (Photographer)
Advance: Francis Iacobucci
Press: Closed
Set-up: Walking Tour of stored artifacts

6:00pm MDT: **Depart Storage Facility en route RON**
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)
Drive time: 1 miles; 5 minutes
Note: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

6:05pm MDT: **Arrive RON // Downtime**

6:50pm MDT: **Depart RON en route Red Iguana Restaurant**
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)
Drive time: 2 miles; 10 minutes
Note: Bob and Lori will meet rest of party at Restaurant; Mike will taxi from airport

7:00pm MDT: **Dinner with Anne Castle, Mike Connor, Lori Caramanian and Bob Snow**
Location: Red Iguana
736 W North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT

8:30pm MDT: **Depart Red Iguana en route RON**
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

	Drive time:	2 miles; 10 minutes
8:45pm MDT:	**RON**	
	Location:	DoubleTree Suites 110 West 600 South Salt Lake City, UT
	Manifest:	SRJ Sgt. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sgt. [redacted] Mike Connor Anne Castle Lori Caramanian Bob Snow Neil Kornze Ted Boling Nikki Buffa Kate Kelly Francis Iacobucci

INDEPENDENT STAFF MOVEMENT

8:44pm MDT:	*Dan Ashe Wheels Down Salt Lake City, UT*
9:30pm MDT:	*Dan Ashe RON's at the Silver Baron Lodge in Park City*
11:20pm MDT:	*Neil Kornze and Ted Boling Wheels down Salt Lake City, UT*
11:45pm MDT:	*Neil Kornze and Ted Boling RON's at DoubleTree Suites, Salt Lake City, UT*

Friday, June 28th 2013

Salt Lake City, UT → Park City, UT → Salt Lake City, UT

6:30am MDT:	**Breakfast Meeting with Staff**	
	Location:	Downstairs in the hotel restaurant area – there is a breakfast buffet starting at 6:00am
	Note:	This meeting is to quickly go over the day's events
	Participants:	SRJ, Nikki Buffa, Kate Kelly, Francis Iacobucci, Anne Castle, Mike Connor, Neil Kornze, Bob Snow and Lori Caramanian, Ted Boling
7:10am MDT:	**Depart RON en route Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce**	
	[redacted] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b)(7)(E)	
	Drive time:	1.3 miles; 5 minutes

7:20am MDT: **Arrive Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce**

Location: 175 E 400 S Suite #600
Salt Lake City, UT

Advance POC: Marty
(b)(6) (cell)

7:20am MDT: **Courtesy Meeting with Mayor Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City**

Location: Hold Room next to Main Conference Room
Participants: **SRJ**
Mayor Becker
Staff: Nikki Buffa, Francisco Carrillo, Chad Douglas (Photographer)
Advance: Francis Iacobucci
Set-up: Small table

Format:

- Informal introductory meet and greet with Mayor Becker

7:30am MDT: **Economic Case for Immigration Reform – Business Leaders Roundtable**

Location: Main Conference Room
Participants: **SRJ**
Mayor Ralph Becker
Clark Ivory, Executive Board Member, Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce
Attendees: Approximately 35 members of the Salt Lake business community (please see briefing for details attendees list)
Staff: Nikki Buffa, Francisco Carrillo, Kate Kelly, Chad Douglas (Photographer)
Advance: Francis Iacobucci
Press: Closed
Set-up: Horse shoe shaped tables that seat close to 30-40 people; microphone will be available if needed

Format:

- Clark Ivory will welcome and introduce the Mayor
- Mayor Becker will give brief opening remarks
- Clark Ivory will then introduce SRJ
- SRJ will make remarks
- Clark Ivory will then open the floor for discussion
- Last question will be at 8:25am

8:30am MDT: **Interview with the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce**

Location: Studio (just down the hall from the main conference room)
Participants: **SRJ**
Marty Carpenter, Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce
Staff: Nikki Buffa, Kate Kelly

Format:

- SRJ will record a brief video for the Chamber of Commerce

	INDEPENDENT STAFF MOVEMENT
8:00am MDT:	*Anne Castle, Mike Connor, Lori Caramanian, and Bob Snow will depart RON en route Montage Deer Valley, Park City*

8:35am MDT: **Depart Salt Lake City of Commerce en route Montage Deer Valley**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

Drive Time: 36 miles; 40 minutes

9:15am MDT: **Arrive Montage Deer Valley**

Location: 9100 Marsac Ave
Park City, UT

Advance POC: Sarah Olson, Meeting Planner
(b)(6) (Cell)

9:15am MDT: **Informal Discussion with Western Governors**

Location: Gallery Ballroom I

Participants: **SRJ**
Governor Gary Herbert, Utah
Governor Butch Otter, Idaho
Governor Brian Sandavol, Nevada
Governor Steve Bullock, Montana
Governor Lolo Letalu Matalasi Moliga, America Samoa
Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba

Staff: Francisco Carrillo, Dan Ashe, Neil Kornze, Anne Castle, Mike Connor, Chad Douglas (photographer) – Please note that all staff will be behind the principals; ONLY the Secretary and Governor's will sit at the main table

Advance: Francis Iacobucci

Press: Closed

Set-up: Horse shoe table – staff seated behind

Format:

- Governor Herbert will welcome SRJ
- SRJ will have an opportunity to give brief opening remarks
- Governor Herbert will then allow each Governor to speak briefly and open the floor for discussion

10:00am MDT: **Down Time // Briefing Time**

Location: Room 660

11:30am MDT: **Meeting with Congressman Rob Bishop**

Location:	Room 660
Staff:	Neil Kornze, Nikki Buffa
Press:	Closed
Advance POC:	Pete Jenkins (b)(6) (cell)

12:00pm MDT: **Private Lunch with Governors**

Location:	Apex Restaurant
Staff:	Dan Ashe, Neil Kornze, Nikki Buffa
Press:	Closed
Participants:	**SRJ** **Governor Gary Herbert**, Utah **Governor John Hickenlooper**, Colorado **Governor Butch Otter**, Idaho **Governor Brian Sandavol**, Nevada **Governor Steve Bullock**, Montana **Governor Lolo Letalu Matalasi Moliga**, America Samoa **Greg Selinger**, Premier of Manitoba
Set-up:	Buffet style lunch; One large conference style table to seat 20-25 attendees; There will be a projector and screen for a powerpoint Governor Herbert would like to show the Secretary

Format:

- The Secretary will have an opportunity to give brief remarks, providing her an opportunity to lay out her stance on Sage Grouse
- Governor Herbert will thank the Secretary for her comments, and open the floor for discussion on the issue

Notes: The Governor's and Premier's will be allowed to have one staff in the room with them for this conversation

1:15pm MDT: **Down Time**

Location: Room 660

1:45pm MDT: **Keynote Address at the WGA's Roundtable on Public Lands**

Location:	Grand Ballroom I
Staff:	Francisco Carrillo, Kate Kelly, Nikki Buffa, Dan Ashe, Chad Douglas (photographer)
Press:	Open
Advance:	Francis Iacobucci
Panel Participants:	**Neil Kornze**, BLM Acting Director **Congressman Rob Bishop** **Jamie Williams**, President, The Wilderness Society **Ronald W. Jibson**, Chairman, President & CEO, Questar Corporation

Attendees: 320+
Set up: Risen stage with tables lined across (head table); SRJ will speak from a podium with presidential blue pipe and drape, and American flags behind her; table microphones will be placed in front of Governors; the audience and media will be facing the head table in lined rows of chairs

Format:

- Governor Herbert will welcome and introduce the Secretary
- SRJ will then give the keynote address prior to the panel discussion
- Following the address, the Secretary will take 2-3 questions from the audience
- The Secretary will then depart and not stay for the panel discussion; Neil Kornze will represent the Department for the remainder of the panel discussion

2:15pm MDT: **Press Availability**

Location: Montage Terrance – directly across from the Grand Ballroom I (outside)
Staff: Kate Kelly, Chad Douglas (photographer)

2:30pm MDT: **Meeting with the Basin States Representatives**

Location: Gallery Ballroom I
Staff: Anne Castle, Mike Connor, Lori Caramanian, Bob Snow, Nikki Buffa, Larry Walkoviak, Terry Fulp
Press: Closed
Advance: Francis Iacobucci
Participants: **SRJ**
Sandy Fabritz-Whitney, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources
Bart Fisher, Jr. , Chairman, Colorado River Board of California
Tanya Trujillo, Executive Director, Colorado River Board of California
John McClow, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Jim Lochhead, CEO/Manager, Denver Water
Jayne Harkins, Executive Director, Colorado River Commission of Nevada
Pat Mulroy, General Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority
Dennis Strong, Director, Utah Division of Water Resources, Utah Interstate Stream Commissioner
Robert King, Utah Division of Water Resources
Patrick Tyrrell, State Engineer, State of Wyoming
Don Ostler, Executive Director, Upper Colorado River Commission

Format:

- Anne Castle will welcome and introduce the Secretary
- The Secretary will give brief remarks and ask each representative to introduce themselves
- Following introductions, the Basin States will give an overview of their work
- The conversation will open to general discussion

INDEPENDENT STAFF MOVEMENT

3:30pm MDT: *Parker Wicks and Chad Douglas will depart Montage en route Salt Lake City (they are done for the day*

4:30pm MDT: *Anne Castle, Mike Connor, Bob Snow, Lori Caramanian will depart Montage en route RON*

3:30pm MDT: **Downtime // Explore Park City**

6:00pm MDT: **Get-together with Danielle Gray**

Location: High West Distillery and Saloon
703 Park Ave
Park City, UT

7:00pm MDT: **Depart Basin States Meeting en route RON**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

Drive time: 40 minutes

7:45pm MDT: **Arrive RON**

Saturday, June 29th 2-13

Salt Lake City, UT → Las Vegas, NV

INDEPENDENT STAFF MOVEMENT

5:55am MDT: *Booch will depart RON en route Trailhead – he will wait for caravan to arrive and hop in one off road vehicle*

6:15am MDT: **Depart RON en route Pass Canyon Trailhead**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

Drive time: 45 minutes

Note: The group will be traveling in off road SUVs
Note: It's going to be hot; wear long pants and lots of sunscreen and bring a lot of water (water will also be provided along the hike)
Note: Booch will provide fruit and power bars for breakfast as the hotel restaurant does not open until 7:00am on Saturdays

7:00am MDT: **Hike up Barney's Peak (BLM land)**

Participants:
SRJ
Mike Connor
Juan Palma, BLM State Director
Todd Richardson, BLM
Jenna Whitlock, BLM
Roxanne Tea, BLM
Kevin Oliver, BLM
Mike Nelson, BLM
LJ Brown, BLM
Kate Kelly
Nikki Buffa (will need to depart early for airport)
Booch (will need to depart early for airport)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Brian Maffly from the Salt Lake Tribune
Photographer from Salt Lake Tribune

INDEPENDENT STAFF MOVEMENT

11:00am MDT: *Nikki Buffa and Booch will depart early en route RON*
12:30pm MDT: *Nikki Buff and Booch depart RON en route Airport*

11:30am MDT: **Depart Pass Canyon Trailhead en route RON**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

Drive time: 45 minutes

12:15pm MDT: **Downtime // Opportunity to Clean up prior to Wheels up**

1:00pm MDT: **Depart RON en route Salt Lake City Airport**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

	Drive time:	15 minutes
1:55pm MDT:	**Wheels-Up Salt Lake City Airport en route Las Vegas, NV**	
	Flight:	Southwest Airlines 864
	Flight Time:	1 hour 20 minutes
	SRJ Seat:	Seat assigned at Airport
	Manifest:	SRJ Nikki Buffa Kate Kelly
	Ride Along:	Lt. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
2:15pm PST:	**Wheels-Down Las Vegas International Airport**	
	Location:	5757 Wayne Newton Blvd Las Vegas, NV 89119

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY
GENERAL WGA MEETING INFORMATION

DATE: June 28, 2013
LOCATION: Montage Deer Valley - Park City, Utah
TIME: Secretary Jewell's First Event is June 28th at 1:45 PM
FROM: Gail Adams, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

I. Purpose of the meeting

YOU will attend the WGA Annual Meeting on June 28th in Park City, Utah. YOU will participate in the Governors' Luncheon sage grouse discussion (a separate Luncheon Briefing Memo is prepared for you) and be the Keynote Speaker kicking off the Public Lands Roundtable. You will also participate in an informal morning discussion with Governors on their respective issues (briefing papers have been prepared for those issues as well). Approximately 320 people are attending this year's conference.

II. Participants

- YOU
- Governors Attending the Conference
  - Lolo Moliga (AS)
  - John Hickenlooper (CO)
  - Butch Otter (ID) – arriving on Sunday
  - Steve Bullock (MT)
  - Brian Sandoval (NV)
  - Dennis Daugaard (SD)
  - Matt Mead (WY)
  - Gary Herbert (UT)
  - Alison Redford, Premier of Alberta
  - Gregory Selinger, Premier of Manitoba
- DOI
  - Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary, Office of Water and Science
  - Lori Carmanian, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Water and Science
  - Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management
  - Dan Ashe, US Fish and Wildlife Service Director
  - Mike Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
- USG Attendees:
  - Bob Perciasepe, Acting Administrator, US EPA
  - Samuel Rauch, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
  - Shaun McGrath, Regional Administrator, US EPA, Region 8
- Other Attendees Representing DOI Interests
  - Energy (solar, wind, natural gas, copper, petroleum, coal, and transmission interests typically attend.)
  - Conservation - (Theodore Roosevelt conservation Partnership, The Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation, National Association of

Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, North American Grouse Partnership, and the Western States Water Council)

III. **WGA Agenda for June 28th** (all of the meetings below will take place in TBD rooms at the Montage Deer Valley)

9:30am – 10:30am	Informal Discussion with Governors (See briefing memo for more detail)
11:30am – 12:00pm	Meeting with Congressman Rob Bishop (See briefing memo for more detail)
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Governor's Lunch and Sage Grouse Discussion (See briefing memo for more detail)
1:45pm - 2:00pm	Keynote Speech to kick off the Public Lands Roundtable (See briefing memo for more detail)
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Basin States Briefing (See briefing memo for more detail)
7:00pm – 9:00pm	WGA Dinner

IV. Background

The Western Governors' Association was established in 1984 and is an independent, nonprofit organization representing the Governors of 19 states and three US-Flag Pacific islands. Through their Association, the Governors identify and address key policy and governance issues that include natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, intergovernmental relations and international relations. The current chairman of the Western Governors' Association is Utah Governor Gary Herbert, who was elected in June of 2012.

Current initiatives of the Association are energy generation; regional transmission expansion; weather and climate risk; water: supply, transfers, and drought; forest health; outdoor recreation and tourism; and wildlife corridors and crucial habitat.

Governor Herbert has expressed his excitement that you and so many of your high-level staff are participating in this year's conference.

V. Attachments

- Profiles of Attending Governors (below)
-WGA Public Agenda
- Memo describing various issues that may be brought up at WGA

ATTACHMENT: PROFILES OF ATTENDING GOVERNORS WGA

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga (I-AS)



Prior to being elected in 2012, Governor Moliga was appointed as President of the Development Bank of American Samoa. He served in the House of Representatives for four terms. He later became a Senator within the American Samoa Senate, where he served as the body's Senate President. Lolo is a High Talking Chief from the village of Sili, Manu'a.

Governor John Hickenlooper (D-CO): WGA VICE-CHAIR



Governor Hickenlooper describes himself as a "recovering geologist now on loan to public service." Elected in 2010, his priorities include making Colorado the model for energy policy by promoting an "all-the-above" energy policy that develops Colorado's traditional and renewable resources in a balanced way, and with the highest ethical and public safety standards and making Colorado the healthiest state. Governor Hickenlooper serves in leadership positions with the National Governors Association and the Western Governors' Association. He also serves as the Vice Chair of the Democratic Governors Association.

Governor Butch Otter (R-ID)



Governor Otter has been Governor of Idaho since January 2007. He previously served three terms in Congress representing Idaho's 1st District from 2001 through 2006. Otter was the longest serving Lieutenant Governor of Idaho, holding office from 1987–2001. He is the first Idahoan since statehood to win elections as both a United States Representative and as governor.

Governor Steve Bullock (D - MT)



Steve Bullock, Montana's former attorney general, was elected governor in 2012. Since becoming Governor, Bullock has approved a request from Yellowstone National Park to move bison from a holding facility in the park, to an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service facility for research and quarantine. He also supported the creation of the "Native Language Preservation Program," a partnership between the State of Montana and tribal governments to preserve the languages of Montana's Indian tribes and enhance the educational opportunities students have on Montana's reservations, while protecting American Indians' cultural heritage.

Governor Dennis Daugaard (R-SD)

(pronounced DEW-guard)



Governor Daugaard took office January 2011. As Governor, he emphasizes job creation, sound fiscal management, and efficient government operation. Before becoming Governor, he served as Lieutenant Governor, a position he held from 2003 to 2011. He

promotes South Dakota as a great place to expand existing businesses and to locate new businesses.



Governor Matt Mead (R-WY)

Governor Mead took office January 2011. He serves on the Council of Governors, a group of 10 governors chosen by the President to advise top federal officials on matters related to the National Guard and civil support missions. He also serves on the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory Council. In the National Governors Association, he is a member of the Natural Resources Committee. He is co-chair of the State and Federal Sage Grouse Task Force, which brings together federal officials and representatives of 11 western states for a regional conservation effort.



Governor Brian Sandoval (R-NV)

Brian Sandoval took office January 201. He is a member of the Western Governors Association, National Governors Association, Republican Governors Association and the Hispanic Leadership Network. Governor Sandoval also serves as Vice-Chair of the NGA Health and Homeland Security Committee. He was recently appointed Chair-elect of the Education Commission of the States. Prior to becoming Governor, he served as a federal judge, and as the Nevada Attorney General. Sandoval was also the first Hispanic candidate elected to statewide office in Nevada.



Governor Gary Herbert (R-UT): WGA CHAIR

Gary Herbert became Utah's Governor in 2009. Before assuming the governor's office, he served as Utah's sixteenth Lieutenant Governor. Governor Herbert's priorities are education, energy, jobs and self-determination. The Governor currently serves as the Chair of the WGA and is a leading voice on energy issues in the West. He has made it a priority for the WGA to advocate for increased energy development on public lands.



Premier Gregory Selinger (New Democratic Party – Manitoba)

Premier Selinger was elected to head the New Democratic Party of Manitoba in 2009. Manitoba is one of four Canadian providences that are partners with seven US states in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) which commits them to engage in cooperative action to address climate change and implement a joint strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the WCI the Manitoba Department of Conservation is currently seeking input on how to implement a regional cap-and-trade regime to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.



Premier Alison Redford (progressive Conservative Party - Alberta)

Alison Redford was elected leader of the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party in 2011. She is the first female premier in the province's history and the eighth woman to serve as a premier in the history of Canada. Alberta Premier Alison Redford says the United States and Canada share political and environmental values and must work together to become energy independent of those who do not. Redford, speaking to the Foreign Policy Association on June 19th in New York, said until recently North American energy independence was wishful thinking.

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION ISSUES OF INTEREST

DATE: June 28, 2013

FROM: Gail Adams, OIEA; Michael Bean, AS-FWP office; Gary Frazer, FWS; Pam Haze, AS-PMB; Betsy Hildebrandt, FWS; Amy Holley, PMB; Neil Kornze, BLM; Liz Klein, OS; Janet Lin, BLM; Isra Pananon, OS; Ruchi Sadhir, OS; Rhea Suh, AS-PMB, Sarah Greenberger, Senior Advisor

CC: Hilary C. Tompkins, Solicitor

ADDITIONS & REVISIONS:
-MINERAL ROYALTIES – Addition
-ESA REFORM - Revisions
-MDL SETTLEMENT – Edits
-LAND EXCHANGES: Utah Recreational Land Exchange – Addition
-DROUGHT: New Mexico – Addition
-CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACT (CUPCA) PROGRAM CONSOLIDATION & FUNDING CUTS – Addition
-TRANSMISSON (Gateway West) – Addition

I. TRANSMISSION PERMITTING AND SITING PROCESS

Background:

- Since 2009, the BLM has approved more than 75 high voltage transmission projects (100 kV and greater) totaling 2,300 miles (1,300 miles on BLM managed lands).
- Currently, the BLM has 25 pending applications with routes that span over 4,900 miles, affecting 58 BLM field offices in 11 western states.
- BLM was the lead agency for four of the seven **Rapid Response Transmission Team (RRTT)** priority pilot projects, now BLM is the lead for all four of the remaining pilot projects: (1) Boardman to Hemingway (Idaho Power Company) in Oregon and Idaho; (2) Gateway West (Rocky Mountain Power & Idaho Power Company joint project) in Wyoming and Idaho; (3) Transwest Express (Transwest Express LLC) in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, & Nevada; and (4) SunZia (SunZia LLC) in New Mexico and Arizona.
- Although the siting and permitting of transmission lines are generally in the purview of states, Federal agencies become heavily involved transmission siting and permitting in the West because of the vast amount of public land that may need to be crossed or National Parks and sensitive species habitat that is largely avoided. BLM prefers to site major linear infrastructure projects within energy corridors such as those designated pursuant to FLPMA or established through Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act.
    - The corridors established by BLM, Forest Service, and Department of Energy in 2009 were subsequently litigated and settled last year. The settlement agreement requires those three agencies to consider "corridors of concern" (due to species habitat and cultural resource sensitivities) and develop a plan and study to add, delete, or revise the corridors periodically with necessary outreach to Tribes, states, and NGOs.

- The President signed a **Presidential Memorandum – "Transforming our Nation's Electric Grid Through Improved Siting, Permitting, and Review"** on June 7, 2013, that directed all heads of agencies, including the Department of the Interior, to:
    - Establish energy corridors through robust collaboration with State, local, and Tribal governments regarding segments of corridors on non-Federal lands so that corridors can connect effectively between Federal lands
    - Develop an integrated, interagency pre-application process for significant electric transmission projects requiring federal approvals to provide more regulatory certainty by identifying potential conflicts earlier in the process.
- **Executive Order 13604** (March 2012) on infrastructure siting and permitting specifically includes the President's order to agency heads, including DOI, to collaborate with states and ensure timely permit reviews for transmission and renewable energy (among other sectors).
- YOU signed an agreement with Governor Kitzhaber (OR) and Governor Inslee (WA) to create the **Pacific Northwest Regional Infrastructure Team** in May 2013 to ensure: (1) forward progress on the siting and permitting of priority infrastructure projects, (2) pro-active, cross-agency, and cross-jurisdictional solutions to help remove perceived or real barriers to infrastructure development, and (3) realizing ecologically effective mitigation opportunities.

Policy Issues – Early Coordination & Permitting Timeframes:

- State and local governments want early and effective engagement during the pre-application process as well as effective coordination throughout the permitting process.
- State governments want to maintain authority over siting within their states, and local governments prefer siting on public lands versus private lands.
- DOI and BLM have taken great strides in developing partnerships with states to address issues related to early and effective engagement and coordination:
    - DOI's partnership with CA since 2009 in the **Renewable Energy Policy Group** includes transmission projects needed for renewable energy generation.
    - BLM has an MOU with NV to coordinate renewable energy and transmission projects.
    - DOI is applying these effective principles of robust coordination across agencies and with states in the Pacific Northwest through the **pilot Pacific Northwest Regional Infrastructure Team**, with a charge that includes timely forward progress on transmission projects that are identified as a priority to the states.
- Governor Otter (ID) may be interested in joining this team to help spur forward movement on important transmission and energy development in Idaho, such as the Gateway West transmission line project in WY and ID, proposed by PacifiCorps/Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power Company. It would be helpful for you to encourage Idaho's participation and reiterate an invitation to Governor Otter to join the regional team.

II. RENEWABLE ENERGY

Background:

- **Secretarial Order 3285**, issued March 11, 2009, established the development of environmentally responsible renewable energy as a priority for the Department.

- BLM met and exceeded its goal of 10,000 megawatts (MWs) by the end of 2012, by approving 12,862 MWs [Note: 2005 Energy Policy Act established a goal of 10,000 MWs by 2015]
- Today, permits for over 13,000 MWs have been approved, which could provide power for more than 4.4 million homes if built.

Policy Issues – Revenue Share with States:

- State and local governments want to share in revenues from wind and solar authorizations on the public lands, which currently go to the Treasury.
- Congressional action would be required to share in this revenue since there is no authority under FLPMA for wind and solar revenue sharing. [Note: geothermal leasing is conducted under the authority of the Geothermal Steam Act, which directs that are shared 50 percent to State, 25 percent to county, and 25 percent to Treasury.]
- Encourage states to set more robust renewable portfolio standards (RPS). DOI has seen the effects of robust renewable portfolio standards with an increase of renewable energy project permit applications, leading to development and job creation.

III. GOVERNOR HERBERT'S WGA 10 YEAR ENERGY VISION

Background

- Recognizing that the energy industry in Utah is the second largest component of state gross domestic product and revenue from energy development is the backbone of Utah's economy, Gov. Gary Herbert and the State of Utah released an ambitious 10-year strategic energy plan in 2011. The plan was developed by a task force appointed by the governor and with the help of subcommittees and input from numerous private and public individuals, officials, and organizations.
- The plan aims to provide a framework for responsibly developing traditional, alternative, and renewable energy resources to create jobs and foster economic development in conjunction with the preservation of the natural beauty and quality of life that draws people to live and recreate in Utah.
- The plan outlines a number of strategies designed to support development of all energy resources in the state. One strategy speaks directly to energy development on public lands in Utah: by working collaboratively with Federal agencies to navigate the balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability, the plan recommends coordinating with local governments, agencies and interest groups to identify potential issues and work toward solutions, as well as leveraging regional support with other western states for land rights.
- The BLM strives to facilitate responsible energy development in Utah by providing efficient access to the state's valuable mineral resources. As you may know, the BLM-Utah Vernal Field Office continues to be the Bureau's busiest oil and gas office in terms of Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs)—both received and approved. [Thus far in FY2013, the Vernal Field Office has received 796 APDs, 24% of the national total, and approved 961 APDs, 31% of the national total.]

IV. FRACKING

- Current regulations related to fracking are more than 30-years old.
- BLM issued a proposed rule for fracking on public lands in May 2012. A year later, in May 2013, BLM issued a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to revise its draft proposal to reflect input received from 177,000 public comments on the previous proposal. Both the BLM's originally proposed rule and the revised proposed rule require BLM approval of all new hydraulic fracturing activities on federal and Indian lands, and address three substantive topics:
    - (1) disclosure to the public of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing on public and Indian lands;
    - (2) confirmation that wells used in fracturing operations meet appropriate construction standards (such as encasement); and
    - (3) a requirement that well operators put in place appropriate plans for managing "flowback" water that returns to the surface.
- In some circumstances, the revised proposed rule would allow well operators to seek a variance to follow state or tribal regulations in lieu of federal regulations.
- The BLM has extended the comment period until August 23, 2013.

Positions of Key Interest Groups:

- Industry groups continue their opposition to the rule, asserting that the States are the appropriate regulators of hydraulic fracturing and that Federal regulation is unnecessary.
- Environmental groups argue that the BLM is not doing enough to protect sensitive areas, require pre-disclosure of all chemicals, and mandate all flowback fluids be recovered in closed tanks, among other topics.
- States and Tribes continue to believe that the rule is not necessary, and that they have the standards and measures in place to assure sound operations. Tribes are especially concerned about losing future leasing and development of their minerals.

V. SEQUESTER/MINERAL ROYALTIES

- Your team is working on a response to a letter received from Utah Governor Gary Herbert, in his role as the Chairman of the Western Governors' Association. His letter requested an explanation for the legal basis for sequestration of mineral royalties and asked if sequester reductions were applied equitably.

  A response with the following answers will go to the Governor this week ahead of Friday's meeting.

- "What is the precise legal basis justifying the DOI's action in sequestering FY 2012 state mineral royalties?"
  Answer: The Balanced Budget Enforcement and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA), as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 are the basis for sequester implementation. Sections 255 and 256 of BBEDCA are the determinants of the accounts that are exempt or not exempt from sequester. The BBEDCA defines sequestration as "the cancellation of budgetary resources provided by discretionary appropriations or direct spending law" and thus allows sequester of accounts that are direct spending including the Mineral Leasing Act authorized revenue payments to States.

- "Is this sequestration of state mineral royalties being applied with equal force to all States receiving mineral royalties? If not, why not?"
  Answer: Sequester reductions are being applied in the same manner to all States.

- "If the DOI is determined to go through with such a questionable action, why does it not apply its action equitably? Should not the federal share of royalties be reduced by a like margin? What is the legal justification for treating states different than the federal government treats itself?"
  Answer: The payments to States from the Mineral Leasing and Associated Payments account are considered direct spending and thus subject to sequester . The deposits into the Treasury from the collection of mineral leasing activities represent the corpus of revenues from which payments to States are made. No payments are made with the Federal revenues that are retained in the Treasury of the United States. Payments out of the Treasury to States based on the Mineral Leasing Act are considered direct spending and therefore are subject to sequester.

- "Will the amounts sequestered in 2013 be available in 2014?"
  Answer: Yes, the Mineral Leasing Act revenues will become available in 2014. [Note on background: (b) (5) [redacted]

  This answer will be NEWS. (b) (5) [redacted]
  (b) (5) [redacted]

Background

- In April 2013, the Office of Management and Budget issued new guidance in calculating sequester reductions. The new method of calculation results in modified sequester amounts for some accounts. We will be notifying States of modifications to revenue distributions beginning with the Mineral Leasing Act revenues on June 27.
- Mineral Leasing Revenues: On June 27, the Office of Natural Resource Revenue will issue monthly allocations of energy and mineral revenues to States reflecting, for the first time, the change in the method of calculation. Included in the payments will be adjusted amounts of Mineral Leasing Act revenues.
- The changes to the revenue calculations will impact each State differently, with most States seeing less withheld under the new guidance. The States are acclimated to seeing adjustments in their monthly payments because of changes in prior reporting periods, adjudication of challenges to transportation and processing deductions, and for other reasons.
- However, given strong frustration that these revenues are sequestered in the first place, there will likely be a high level of scrutiny and questions about the adjustments.
- The payments made on June 27 will be preceded by a letter to recipients regarding the adjustments and process going forward. DOI will also ensure that affected congressional delegations are notified and OMB is kept informed.
- Interior received a letter from WGA Chairman Herbert and OMB Director Burwell received two letters on this matter, one from 21 Senators and Members of Congress and one from three State legislators. In addition to raising their concerns about the sequester, they ask if

the mineral revenues sequestered in 2013 would become available in 2014. The Solicitor has helped DOI to determine, and OMB has concurred, that the Mineral Leasing Act payment amounts that are sequestered and withheld from States in FY 2013 are available for distribution to States in FY 2014.

VI. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) REFORM

Background: ESA Reform Drivers

- In response to Executive Order 13563 on "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review," the Department of the Interior prepared a Plan for Retrospective Regulatory Review in 2011. As part of that Plan, the Department (in cooperation with NOAA) committed to "revise and update ... ESA implementing regulations and policies to improve conservation effectiveness, reduce administrative burden, enhance clarity and consistency ... and encourage partnerships, innovation, and cooperation." Several specific regulatory improvement proposals are, or will very soon be, ready for publication.
- A subsequent set of regulatory improvement proposals, focused on expanding or refining voluntary landowner tools, is expected to be ready for public review and comment this summer.

Completed ESA Reform Action in Interior's EO 13563 Plan

- Of the several ESA regulatory improvement proposals identified in the Department's Plan for Retrospective Regulatory Review, only one has been completed to date. On May 1, 2012, the Service and NOAA jointly published a final rule that minimizes requirements for written descriptions of critical habitat boundaries in favor of map- and internet-based descriptions, which are clearer, more accessible, and less costly. This regulatory improvement was non-controversial and elicited few public comments.
- In addition to the foregoing, on August 24, 2012, the Service and NOAA jointly published a proposed rule to require that economic analyses of proposed critical habitat designations be made available concurrently with the proposed designation. This proposal was in response to the President's memorandum of February 28, 2012. At the request of several states and Members of Congress, the public comment period was extended through February 6, 2013. The final rule is expected to clear OMB and be sent to the Federal Register for publication in early July.

Status of Remaining ESA Reform Actions in Interior's EO 13563 Plan (Not public information yet):

- *Clarifying the scope and content of incidental take statements (permitting "take" when it's incidental to the purpose of the action), particularly with regard to programmatic actions or other actions where direct measurement is difficult.* The proposed rule is expected to clear OMB and be sent to the Federal Register for publication in early July.
- *Designing a more efficient, defensible and consistent process for designating critical habitat.* The proposal makes minor edits clarifying the scope and purpose of critical habitat, adds needed definitions, and clarifies the criteria for designating critical habitat. We hope to send it to the Federal Register for publication by mid-July.
- *Revising the definition of "destruction or adverse modification" of critical habitat.* Section 7 of the ESA requires federal agencies to ensure that their actions are not likely to result in

the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The existing regulatory definition has been found by several appellate courts to be deficient because it only gave weight to survival of the species but not recovery (a higher bar) of the species. We hope to send it to the Federal Register for publication by mid-July.

- *Clarifying policy with respect to the exclusion of particular areas from critical habitat.* We hope to send it to the Federal Register for publication by mid-July.

Recent ESA Reform Efforts

- On March 15, 2012, the Service published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking soliciting suggestions for regulatory changes to incentivize conservation efforts by landowners and others for candidate species (i.e., species not currently listed as endangered or threatened, but that may become so in the future). In response, the Service received strongly supportive comments from environmental, economic, and governmental interests. Specific proposals to expand or refine voluntary landowner tools are expected to be ready for publication later in 2013.
- The Services are working with state agency representatives of the State/Federal Joint Task Force on ESA Policy to screen the comments and identify those that most clearly warrant further consideration. Based on our initial review, we expect that, at a minimum, we will be exploring ways to:
    - streamline our Habitat Conservation Planning and other permitting processes,
    - give credit to pre-listing mitigation efforts if a candidate species is ultimately listed, and
    - refine and update our conservation banking policy.

Positions of Stakeholders

- With respect to all the matters described above, environmental interests can be expected to argue for changes that will make the ESA more effective in conserving species, while regulated interests can be expected to argue for changes that will make it less onerous for those subject to the ESA.
- Due to the high level of stakeholder interest anticipated regarding the proposed actions, the Service will be engaging in enhanced public engagement efforts, including forums, webinars, and online engagement opportunities aimed at key stakeholders and the interested public. The goal of the Service is to move forward a set of regulatory improvements that accomplish both objectives and stake out a defensible middle ground.

Talking Points: ESA Reform and Cooperation with States

***General Messages on ESA and States*:**

- Partnership with States is key to successful **conservation across the nation.**
- We are actively **looking for ways to strengthen and expand that partnership.**
- Our priority is to work with states to address threats to **species before they require ESA protection.**
- We're dedicated to recovering species on the list and **returning management control to state agencies.**

- I'm proud that we are now in a position to return management of the gray wolf to state agencies across its range.

What do you think the role of states is under the ESA?

- States have **primary management authority over most of the imperiled species in this country**.
- You have the presence and capacity to deliver conservation in more places than we can.
- State wildlife agencies are **trusted and valued partners**, and I support FWS service efforts to **increase collaboration** to protect species and preserve working landscapes.
- We can't recover listed species – or prevent species from being listed – without the support of states, private landowners and industry.
- States have consistently been a **positive force for innovation and change,** helping us to improve the flexibility of the ESA and provide real solutions for landowners.

What changes to the ESA would you like to see that would better enhance that state/federal partnership? What action needs to be taken to make these changes?

- The Department is **pursuing regulatory changes to improve the flexibility of the ESA, increase state and stakeholder involvement, and provide expanded incentives** for private lands conservation.
- We're seeking regulatory changes that require ESA petitioners **to include the views of state wildlife agencies** in the information they provide to us – giving us more scientific information and **providing states a stronger voice early in the process**.

<u>MDL Settlement</u>

The Department entered into two long-term settlements in 2011 that resolved approximately 20 consolidated cases filed by environmental groups. The settlements set forth a schedule for FWS to make determinations whether to list species or designate critical habitat for approximately 251 species no later than September 2016. One court of appeals has rejected an attack on the settlements by Safari Club and another brought by Nat'l Homebuilders Association remains pending.

Significant deadlines include the Gunnison Sage Grouse in Sept 2013 (we are seeking a 6-mos. extension from the court until March, 2014); Lesser Prairie Chicken due Sept 2013 (FWS will announce this Wed the issuance of a 6 month extension as permitted by statute until March, 2014. Western Senators have asked us to modify the settlements to extend the deadline even further until June 11, 2014); and Greater Sage Grouse in Sept, 2015.

- *If asked whether you will agree not to settle new listing-related lawsuits in the future without engaging the states:*
  No, you cannot agree to that, but you can stress that we are committed to state engagement in listing decisions. The multidistrict settlement agreement only committed the FWS to a timetable for making certain listing determinations. When making a decision whether to list any species for protection under the ESA, the FWS will actively engage the affected states and will base its decisions, as the law requires it to do, on the basis of the best scientific information available.

VII. LAND EXCHANGES

- Draft Appraisal Report for Utah Recreational Land Exchange: The Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-53) directs the equal value exchange of State of Utah lands and BLM lands in eastern Utah. In addition to consolidating Federal and state ownership patterns, the exchange would provide the Federal government with valuable recreation and conservation lands and the state with lands that have a high potential for energy development. Due to moderate media attention, the public has been made aware of preliminary appraisal numbers for the proposed Utah Recreational Land Exchange between the BLM and State of Utah. The draft appraisal report, which is undergoing final review and approval by the Office of Valuation Services, indicates a $14 million value gap that could require the removal of some state acreage from the exchange. The proposed exchange currently includes 46,000 acres of state lands and 36,000 acres of BLM lands in Uintah, Grand, and San Juan Counties. The exchange legislation sunsets on Aug. 18, 2014, but the BLM Utah is on track to finalize the exchange by the end of the calendar year; however, discussions with the state regarding how to equalize land values could complicate the process and result in delays.
  RESPONSE: We're driving hard finalize the exchange by December, and we'll be working with the state to make the best possible exchange that stays within the appraised values.
- The Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act (P.L. 108-32; June 17, 2003) authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 1,406 acres of State of Wyoming lands within Grand Teton National Park by donation, purchase or the equal value exchange of Federal lands in the State of Wyoming. In October 2010, the Department and the State of Wyoming entered into an agreement that described the terms and conditions under which the NPS intends to purchase the inholdings using appropriated funds.
    - The four parcels included in the agreement total 1,406 acres with a total appraised value of $107 million and the agreement specifies the order in which the parcels are to be acquired and timeframes for the acquisition of each parcel. NPS has been able to acquire the first two parcels and two parcels remain. The cost for the remaining purchases is $91 million with deadlines for purchase of January 5, 2014 and January 5, 2015.
- If the NPS fails to meet the timeframe for the looming January 5, 2014 parcel, the State may terminate the agreement and proceed to sell the remaining two parcels at public auction. The sums required to make the remaining payments to the state would constitute a large portion of NPS's LWCF budget (the FY14 President's Budget requested $90 million for NPS acquisition). Dedicating the required sums out of the Service's LWCF budget would preclude the service from completing many other critical acquisitions in FY14 and FY15.
- NPS therefore is seeking alternatives to complete the acquisitions. In a 2006 Report to Congress pursuant to the 2003 Act, several options were identified by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), including the transfer of federal royalties from coal. Congressional action would be needed to authorize such alternative methods. According to the terms of the 2003 Act, Congressional action would also be needed to approve an equal-value land exchange involving any lands not identified for disposal as of the date of enactment.
  The State of Wyoming, working closely with NPS, has put forward a proposal for a land exchange that would divest BLM of lands that are producing or have potential for oil and gas production in exchange for the Grand Teton NP inholdings and a 640 acre parcel located within the Fortification Creek Wilderness Study Area identified for oil and gas development

and a set of parcels (totaling approximately 2,800 acres) adjacent to the Lander Slope ACEC and the Red Canyon ACEC identified for phosphate development.

- Discussions are underway among NPS, BLM and PMB about how to resource the project and a memorandum seeking Secretarial input has been sent forward.

VIII. DROUGHT

Background

- Reclamation addresses drought as part of its core mission – it was established at the turn of the last century to provide water to the arid West and its network of dams and reservoirs were built as a bulwark against hydrologic volatility and drought. Droughts and dry weather are not new. Dealing with drought conditions was then and continues to be a significant part of Reclamation's mission.
- Today, Reclamation has refined and supplemented its operations to better address drought through the use of enhanced water management that helps guard against, and to a limited extent, mitigate the devastating effects of drought, for example, through water conservation.
- The wise use of water enables water users to optimize their finite supplies in every year. The Department's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) program provides the foundation for Reclamation's efforts, in partnership with water users, to achieve a more sustainable water supply for this country. WaterSMART includes funding locally cost-shared water management improvements that today are saving significant amounts of water. And, WaterSMART Basin Studies are critical to addressing water supply and demand imbalances in the western United States, including consideration of the impacts of climate change, record droughts, and population increases. Since 2009, when the Basin Study Program was initiated, Reclamation has provided cost-shared funding on a competitive basis for 17 Basin Studies in western states.
- All but one of the seventeen western states are currently experiencing at least a moderate level of drought, with eleven experiencing extreme or exceptional drought. Looking ahead, warmer and drier conditions are expected in parts of the west, with significant increases in temperatures in Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. This will intensify fire and range concerns in those states, parts of which are currently under red flag fire warnings. More intense drought conditions are also creeping westward into Nevada and Idaho.
- Colorado: Colorado is experiencing a persistent and prolonged drought. In western Colorado, the worst conditions on record are being experienced on the Dolores River. All of southwestern Colorado, including Mesa County, is under a red flag warning for dangerous fire conditions due to high temperatures, dry fuels, and windy conditions. Precipitation has been below normal and current reservoir storage below normal with no sign of improvement from the national drought map in the near future.
- Idaho: In southern Idaho, spring runoff and precipitation were below to well below average resulting in earlier drafting of reservoirs which means some projects will be very low by the end of the summer, even as irrigation districts are conserving water to stretch their supplies for a full growing season.
- Montana: Montana showed overall above average precipitation, with the exception of the southwestern part of the state which is experiencing abnormally dry to extreme drought conditions. Expansion of drought in south central and in southern portions west of the

continental divide is possible over next few months based on current drought outlook projections.

- Nevada: Southern Nevada (Las Vegas metropolitan area) receives approx. 90% of its water from Lake Mead. The current drought has significantly impacted Lake Mead water levels, reducing storage by nearly half since 1999. If the drought persists, Lake Mead will continue to decline triggering reductions to southern Nevada water users as early as 2015.
- South Dakota: Above-average precipitation fell across the majority of South Dakota last month. The continuation of cooler and wetter conditions has brought some improvement to the dry to severe drought areas along the Missouri River corridor including southeastern South Dakota.
- Utah: The Upper Colorado Region (which includes Utah) has been experiencing extreme drought this year. Residential water users in Utah are being restricted and some water users have the lowest allotments in 75 years.
- New Mexico: Amid the worst drought on record and low carryover storage, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) anticipates running out of water by early July 2013. The only stored water left in the system will be Reclamation water held for ESA purposes and a small supply for the Middle Rio Grande Pueblos. Reclamation leased 66,000 acre feet of water to supplement the Rio Grande flows but it was not enough to meet flow requirements set by the 2003 ESA Biological Opinion. Reclamation began a controlled recession of water flows on June 3, yielding estimated water savings of up to 12,600 acre feet. Additional water savings are expected later in the summer. Implementation of this plan required more transparency and daily coordination among all of the water managers, including the Pueblos, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. It also required increased monitoring of the hydrology and biology as Reclamation tries alternative options for keeping certain reaches of the river wet.
- Elsewhere, in the California Central Valley Project (CVP), January through May 2013 was the driest on record. Reclamation is working with the State and other parties to take a number of actions within the CVP to supplement low contract water allocations in certain areas of the project. These actions include rescheduling available storage, acquiring supplies from willing sellers, diversifying supplies to wildlife refuges, and constructing a new inter-tie between the CVP and the State Water Project that has provided tens of thousands of acre-feet of additional water supply to the project.
- Manitoba transboundary issue: The Northwest Area Water Supply Project is a municipal and rural water project. When complete, the project would deliver water from the Missouri River to communities and rural water systems in North Dakota located in the Hudson Bay Basin. This transboundary diversion is opposed by the province of Manitoba due to risks of a project-related transfer of non-native species from the Missouri River Basin into the Hudson Bay Basin. A supplemental EIS on impacts of the project is expected in the Fall of 2013 pursuant to requirements established in litigation. Manitoba has the same concerns about the proposed Red River Valley Water Project, which would import water from the Missouri River basin for release into the Red River in North Dakota, which drains into Canada.

IX. WILDFIRE RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

Season Outlook

- Continued drought and other conditions will make this a challenging season.
- Nationally we started out slow, with wet, cool conditions in the South and East. But, as you know, things are picking up in the West and Alaska
- Our Predictive Services outlooks focus on the west coast as the areas of highest probability and risk for above normal conditions – but as we have seen in Colorado in the past couple of weeks major fires can occur whenever and wherever we get hot, dry, windy conditions

Readiness for the Fire Season

- The Department of the Interior, along with our colleagues in the Forest Service, are well prepared with the firefighting assets we have. We have skilled and well trained personnel; we have equipment; we have information about where fires are likely to occur; and we have a national system to move resources and assets quickly to the areas that need them.
- Like all agencies, we have been affected by the Sequester and related budget reductions. We estimate we have around 250 fewer personnel, including 100 seasonal employees, this year. We have managed our hiring, reduced our travel and training, and taken other actions to ensure we focus on highest risk areas in 2013.
- I continue to have concerns that our short-term reductions in personnel, training, and so on will have long term consequences for the health of our fire management program – a well-equipped, staffed, and trained workforce – and am working with my fire management leadership to develop strategies for the future.
- The Administration (DOI, FS, OMB) is currently looking at a number of ways we can strengthen and improve our fire budgeting process to ensure we have adequate funding for our programs.

Hazardous Fuels

- One of the programs that has been most affected by the federal budget situation is hazardous fuels. All of us are concerned about the long term consequences of reducing our investment in actions that will reduce risks to communities, improve the health of our forests and watersheds, and reduce the likelihood and consequences of catastrophic fire.
- I am a strong advocate for the fuels program, but I recognize we have not been completely successful in telling our stories and measuring our progress. We need better ways to measure effectiveness and focus on highest priority objectives.
- Another area that the Administration is actively working on is reviewing our overall approach to fuels programs to come up with a more holistic, integrated, and effective approach.

Post-Fire

- Many fires create significant problems for us after the fires are out: silting of reservoirs, invasive species, loss of important habitat, lost economic value. As part of our review of fire budgets and programs we are paying attention to how we can better manage post-fire activities.

- Sage grouse in the Great Basin is of particular concern; not only do we need to take good pro-active measures through fuels treatments and appropriate, timely response, we need to look at what we can do after the fires to begin to restore lost habitat.
- Partnerships
- The cornerstone of fire management is partnerships, within the federal government and with the states, tribes, and local governments.
- Traditionally these partnerships have focused on fire readiness and fire response. Through the National Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy we are building partnerships to address fire resilient communities and fire adapted landscapes as well. The WGA is a strong partner in the Cohesive Strategy. We are fully committed to completing the planning work and implementing it in the coming months and years. We look forward to a long and lasting partnership with the WGA.

X. WILD HORSES AND BURROS MANAGEMENT

- National Academy of Sciences (NAS) issued its report June 5. The BLM is reviewing the findings and recommendations for improved estimates of wild horse and burro populations and increased fertility control. The BLM is currently prioritizing gathers for the upcoming summer/fall season.
    - 37,300 horses and burros on the range (2012)
    - 49,272 animals in short- and long- term holding facilities (total capacity 53,000)
    - Holding costs accounted for nearly 60 percent of the BLM's $75 million budget for Fiscal Year 2012.

XI. SAGE GROUSE

See Sage Grouse Lunch Meeting Memo.

XII. CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACT (CUPCA) PROGRAM CONSOLIDATION & FUNDING CUTS

Issue:
Governor Gary Herbert (UT) sent a letter on May 29 to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittees requesting that construction funding for the Central Utah Project (CUP) be reinstated. Similarly, Congressman Jim Matheson (D-UT 4th) sent a letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on May 14, 2013, requesting restoration of a minimum of $16 million to continue construction of the CUP. The FY 2014 President's Budget proposed $3.5 million for CUPCA for administration and conservation, but eliminated all funding for further construction of the CUP facilities.

Background:
The CUP was originally authorized in 1956 as a participating project of the Colorado River Storage Project. CUPCA was passed in 1992 and authorized the Central Utah Water Conservancy District to construct the remaining features of the CUP. CUPCA also removed the CUP from Reclamation's control, putting it directly under the Secretary of the Interior.

The Utah Lake System is the final component of the CUP, and when complete, will deliver 60,000 acre-feet of Municipal and Industrial water to Salt Lake and Utah Counties. CUPCA also established the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission to implement mitigation and conservation activities authorized by CUPCA. CUPCA anticipates that construction, mitigation and conservation projects must make coordinated progress. CUPCA also included provisions intended to support a final settlement of the reserved water rights claims of the Ute Tribe.

The FY 2013 President's Budget proposed a substantial cut to CUP construction funding, and FY 2014 eliminates construction funding altogether. The proposed elimination of construction funding is based largely on the difficult choices made necessary by reduced overall funding levels for the Department. Secretary Salazar also expressed some concern, however, that the remaining components of the CUP, serving municipal and industrial water needs, should not be subsidized by the Federal government to the extent of a 65% cost share, even though that funding would ultimately be repaid. It is unclear whether the Central Utah Water Conservancy District will be able to continue the construction program without Federal funds; the District has already advanced more than its required 35 percent cost share for current construction. As of September 2012, the work authorized by CUPCA is 72 percent complete; the Utah Lake System is 50.2 percent complete

The FY 2014 budget includes $1.3 million to carry out program administration and related Interior responsibilities; $1.2 million for endangered species recovery and fish and wildlife conservation programs; and $1.0 million for the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.

In FY 2013 and again in the FY 2014 President's Budget, Interior also proposed to consolidate the CUPCA program into the Bureau of Reclamation to implement "good government" solutions, ensure consistent treatment of federal water projects, consolidate activities, and reduce duplication. This proposal greatly irritated the Utah delegation. The House and Senate markups for FY 2013 did not incorporate consolidation of the CUPCA Program into Reclamation as proposed in the President's Budget.

XIII. TRANSMISSION

Background

The proposed Gateway West Transmission project *(see map on page 17)* involves the construction of nearly 990 miles of high-voltage transmission lines across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho to add 1,500-3,000 megawatts of capacity. The project includes 10 transmission line segments, crossing approximately 500 miles of BLM public lands, including 300 miles in Idaho and 200 miles in Wyoming. The BLM's preferred alternative route contains certain segments that would cross private land and three areas of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) and lie adjacent to, but outside of, preliminary priority habitat for the Greater Sage Grouse. As alternatives for the project were being considered, several Idaho counties and other stakeholders formed a task force with the intent of agreeing upon alternatives for certain controversial segments. The task force identified routes that had substantial crossings of the NCA.

The BLM's preferred alternative in the final EIS for segments 8 and 9 was selected to minimize impacts to Greater Sage Grouse habitat on public lands, minimize mileage on private lands, and conform to the enabling legislation for the NCA (Public Law 103-64, 1993), which requires any authorized use in the NCA to benefit and enhance the values for which it was designated (raptor populations, cultural resources, educational opportunities, *etc.*). The legislation established the NCA to conserve, protect, and enhance raptor populations and habitats, the natural and environmental resources associated with them. The legislation directs the Secretary to allow only such uses of the NCA as the Secretary determines will further the purposes for which the NCA was established. The BLM determined that the three crossings of the NCA in the preferred alternatives, if packaged with effective off-site mitigation actions, would conform to Public Law 103-64; however other route alternatives, including the task force routes, were determined to be not be in conformance with the enabling legislation, even with off-site mitigation actions. Additionally, the BLM recently issued policy to avoid granting rights-of-way in National Conservation Areas (BLM Manual Section 6220 §1.6(E).

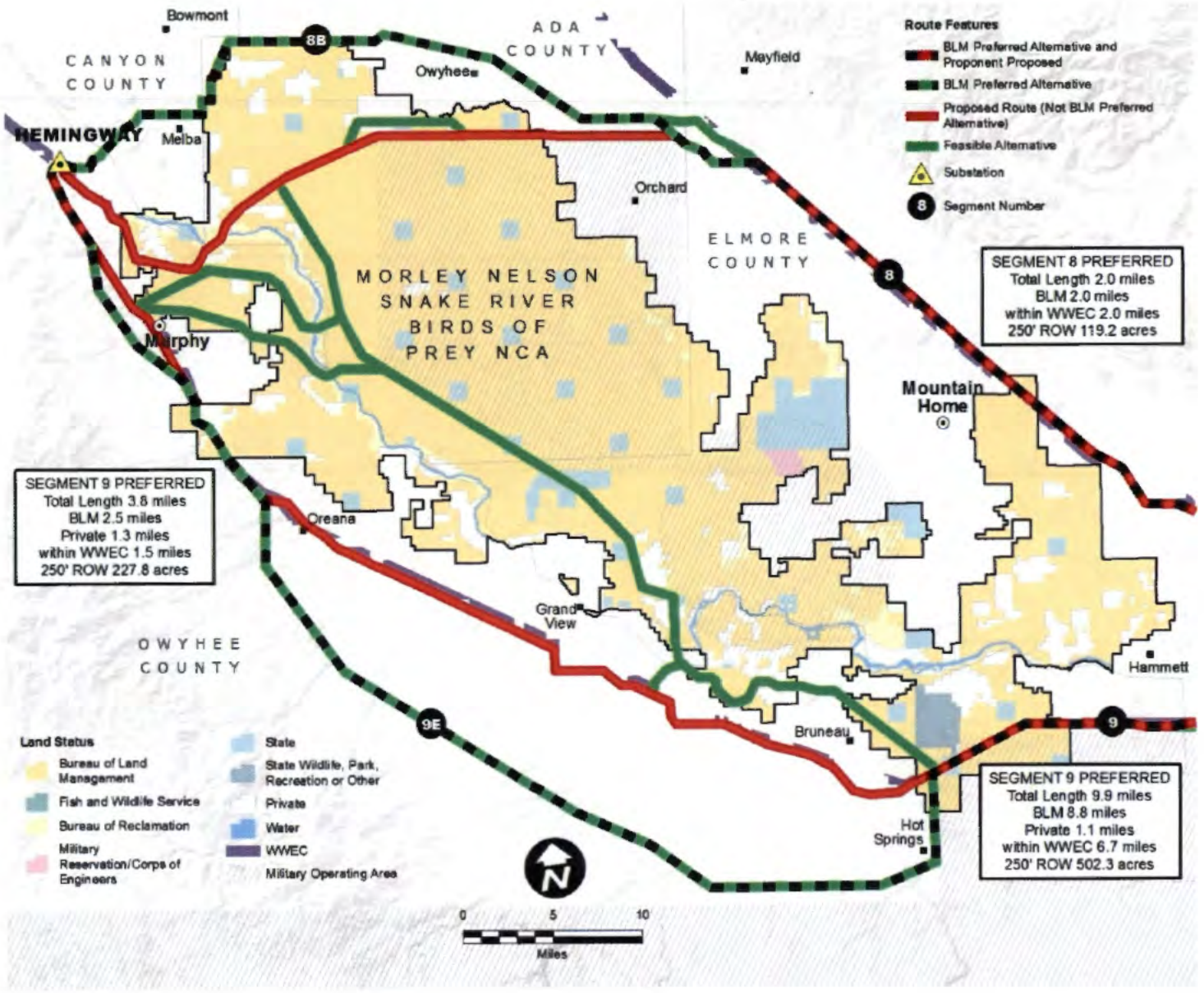
In addition to conforming to the enabling legislation and BLM policy on rights-of-way in NCAs, the rational for selecting the preferred alternative for segment 9 including minimizing impacts to Greater Sage Grouse habitat on public lands and minimizing mileage on private lands.. The preferred alternatives for segments 8 and 9 are controversial locally because they cross additional private land and do not incorporate the routes through the NCA that were identified by the line sighting task force during collaborative meetings.

In an October 10, 2012, letter from Governor Otter to Secretary Ken Salazar, Governor Otter expressed concerns about the preferred alternatives for segments 8 and 9 that were included in the draft EIS. Additional letters were sent by Idaho Congressional Representative Raul Labrador, the Owyhee County Commissioners, the City of Kuna, Idaho, and the BLM Boise District RAC, all expressing concern about the preferred alternative. Public comment on the final EIS closes June 28, 2013. In February 2013, then BLM Acting Director Mike Pool and then Senior Counselor to the Secretary Steve Black met with Governor Otter in Idaho to discuss the issue and to determine a path forward to a final decision.

Suggested Message

- The BLM looks forward to continuing to work with the State of Idaho, the proponent, and other stakeholders in moving forward with the Gateway Transmission project, the development of the resource management plan (RMP) amendment for the conservation of Greater sage grouse and habitat within Idaho.
- The BLM has worked closely with the State of Idaho regarding Gateway West siting issues. As a result of the February meeting between BLM and DOI officials and Governor Otter, the BLM agreed to include, as part of its potential decision on the ROW application, the possibility of approving non-controversial segments of the transmission line in Wyoming and Idaho that have independent utility while seeking further public comment on the remaining segments.
- The final EIS explains that the BLM is considering a phased decision for the project – approving certain segments while deferring a decision on others to give agencies and stakeholders additional time to collaborate further on final siting for deferred segments.

- A phased decision means that the BLM could issue ROW grants for certain segments of the project while providing an opportunity for various Federal, State and local permitting agencies to collaborate on final siting for one or more other segments. Segments 8 and 9 are the most controversial segments that the BLM might withhold from issuing a decision on the first phase.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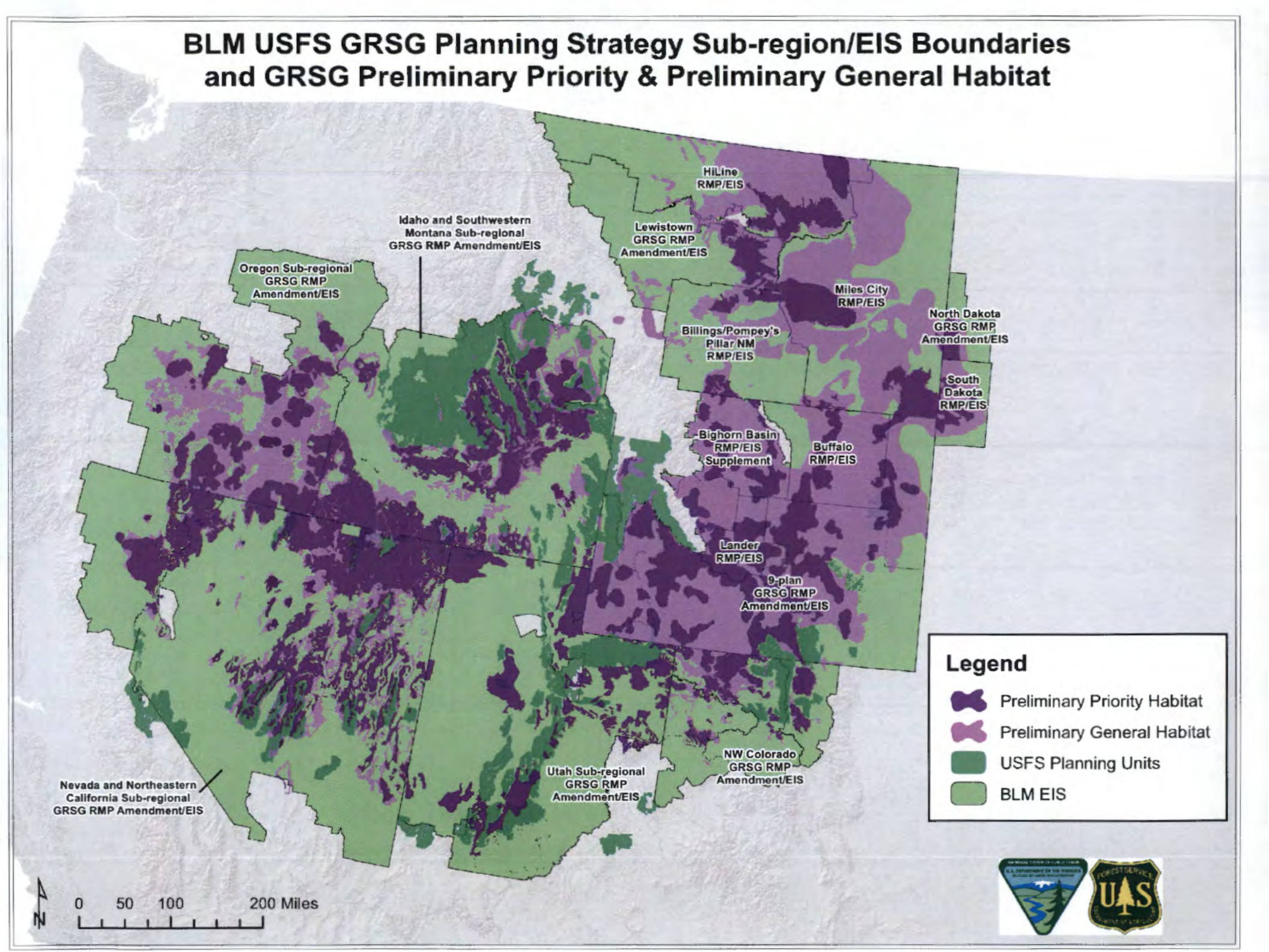
Melba
Orchard
ELMORE COUNTY
MORLEY NELSON SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NCA
Murphy
Mountain Home
Oreana
Grand View
OWYHEE COUNTY
Hammett
Bruneau
Hot Springs
8B
8
9E
9
Route Features
BLM Preferred Alternative and Proponent Proposed
BLM Preferred Alternative
Proposed Route (Not BLM Preferred Alternative)
Feasible Alternative
Substation
Segment Number
SEGMENT 8 PREFERRED
Total Length 2.0 miles
BLM 2.0 miles
within WWEC 2.0 miles
250' ROW 119.2 acres
SEGMENT 9 PREFERRED
Total Length 3.8 miles
BLM 2.5 miles
Private 1.3 miles
within WWEC 1.5 miles
250' ROW 227.8 acres
SEGMENT 9 PREFERRED
Total Length 9.9 miles
BLM 8.8 miles
Private 1.1 miles
within WWEC 6.7 miles
250' ROW 502.3 acres
Land Status
Bureau of Land Management
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Military Reservation/Corps of Engineers
State
State Wildlife, Park, Recreation or Other
Private
Water
WWEC
Military Operating Area
N
0
5
10
Miles

BLM USFS GRSG Planning Strategy Sub-region/EIS Boundaries and GRSG Preliminary Priority & Preliminary General Habitat



BISON CONNECT

Re: Briefing Materials - Friday, June 28

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jun 27, 2013 at 5:42 PM
To: "Walls, Erin" <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Jennifer Sisk <jennifer_sisk@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks, all.

On Jun 27, 2013, at 3:38 PM, "Walls, Erin" <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Here are your briefing materials for Friday, June 28. These are also in
> Google drive. Let me know if you have any questions.
> <06 28 13_1130am_ Meeting with Representative Rob Bishop.docx>
> <6 20 13_Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan One Pager (3).pdf>
> <6 28 13_230pm_Meeting with Basin States Representatives final.docx>
> <6 28 13_730am_Business Leaders Roundtable - Immigration Reform.docx>
> <6 28 13_930am_Informal Discussion with Western Governors Final.docx>
> <6 28 13_1130am_ Meeting with Representative Rob Bishop Attachment.pdf>
> <6 28 13_1200pm_Lunch with the Western Governors - Sage Grouse SOL.doc>
> <6 28 13_Basin States Attachment - Drought PPT (1).pdf>
> <Draft Schedule_Utah (2).docx>
> <WGA Agenda as of 6-19-13.pdf>
> <WGA General Meeting Memo for Sec Jewell FINAL.docx>
> <WGA Issues Memorandum - V2 as of 6-27-13.docx>
> <6 28 13_ 1200pm Lunch with the Western Governors SageGrouseAttachment.pdf>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, July 1, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Mon, Jul 1, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 1, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL SPEAKS BEFORE GATHERING OF WESTERN GOVERNORS. The Columbus (IN) Republic (6/28, Foy, 21K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell spoke before "a gathering of Western governors who complained about federal control of public lands that make up much of the West and Alaska" on Friday. She "devoted much of her prepared remarks to the importance of outdoor recreation as a major economic driver, even as many of the governors put their priority on energy development." Also, according to Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, "Jewell pledged to collaborate with Western governors on every major federal decision affecting public lands."

The Deseret (UT) News (7/1, 105K) reports that Jewell "told the Western Governors Association on Friday there's a need to get away from seeing federally managed lands as bad and state control over resources as good." She "called for a balanced approach to using public lands in the West, pledging the federal government will be a partner in identifying what local communities 'want from a grass-roots level,' whether that's preserving or developing the land."

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (7/1, 107K) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert asked, "How do you define balance? Seventy percent of the land in Utah is owned by the federal government. To some people that's balanced. ... But balance is in the eye of the beholder." Jewell answered, "Defining balance begins by understanding each other." But, according to the article, "balance, in Jewell's opinion, apparently does not include complying with Utah's demands to hand over title to federal lands in the state."

Also reporting on the story are the Cache Valley (UT) Daily (7/1), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (7/1, 16K), the Provo (UT) Daily Herald (7/1, 25K), the Fort Mill (SC) Times (6/28, 18K), and the San Antonio Express-News (7/1, 165K).

Poneman Addresses Western Governors Association Meeting. In an article about the Western Governors Association meeting over the weekend in Utah, the Deseret (UT) News (7/1, Roche, 105K) reports that the annual meeting explored "the future of the region's role as a leader in providing both traditional and new sources of energy to the rest of the nation." Daniel Poneman, deputy security of energy, said at the event that President Barack Obama "has already met past goals to double renewable energy production using the federal government's loan guarantee authority and expects a similar increase by 2020."

Judge Blocks Utah Law Limiting Federal Authority On Public Lands. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (7/1, 107K) reports that on Friday, a federal judge "blocked Utah's latest anti-federal law, saying HB155 appears to impose the state's will on federal land management and 'creates irreparable harm to the constitutional order.'" US District Judge David Nuffer "issued a preliminary injunction pending a final ruling at trial." He said, "There is a strong public interest in the enforcement of law on public lands. We do not want to leave federal lands without clear boundaries of law enforcement. Nothing in my ruling will prevent Utah from enforcing state law on federal land."

Also reporting on the story are the Houston Chronicle (6/28, 434K) and the Deseret (UT) News (7/1, 105K).

Utah Preparing For Legal Battle Over Roads. The Deseret (UT) News (7/1, 105K) reports that "a legal team from Utah is traveling to remote areas throughout the state, recording testimony from aging witnesses and filming panoramic views of roads that snake through canyons or cross sagebrush-peppered lands" to prepare for the "state's legal fight against the federal government in which it filed 22 lawsuits in 2012 that have since been consolidated into one case." Negotiations with the Interior Department "over title to the roads have lingered for years, finally propelling contentious legal battles in which Utah has alternately been victorious and suffered defeat."

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF WIND ENERGY PROJECT IN ARIZONA. The Columbus (IN) Republic (6/29, 21K) reports that "the approval of a wind energy project in northwestern Arizona" was announced by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

The Cronkite News (7/1, Chen) reports that the project "calls for 243 wind turbines that could ultimately generate up to 500 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about 175,000 homes, according to the Interior Department." It "was scaled back from previous plans because to address concerns about neighbors and wildlife in the area."

Also reporting on the story are the Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (7/1, 8K), the Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/1,

228K), the Havasu (AZ) News-Herald (7/1, 9K), and the Penn Energy (7/1).

SUPPORT FOR WHITE RIVER'S BLUEWAY DESIGNATION DWINDLES AMID BACKLASH. The Columbus (IN) Republic (7/1, 21K) reports that in the face of "a public backlash, several conservation groups and state agencies no longer want the White River to be part of a new federal program that recognizes conservation and recreation efforts along waterways." They claims that "concerns that the National Blueway designation...could lead to new regulations are unfounded, but still plan to send letters this coming week to the Interior Department asking that it be taken away." In an email, Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said "that the agency was aware that the agencies and groups that nominated the White River intend to ask that the Blueway designation be stripped." She wrote, "If that request is received, Interior will act expeditiously upon it."

Also reporting on the story are the San Antonio Express-News (7/1, 165K), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (7/1, 16K), the Jefferson City News Tribune (6/30, 16K), the Arkansas Business (7/1), the Baxter (AR) Bulletin (6/28, 8K), the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (7/1, 196K), the Wayne County (MO) Journal-Banner (7/1, 3K), the Ozark County (MO) Times (7/1), and the Springfield (MO) News-Leader (6/28).

OBAMA URGES SUPPORTERS TO LINK CLIMATE CHANGE TO FUTURE VOTES. The AP (6/29, Lederman) reports President Obama "is trying to frame climate change as a make-or-break political issue, urging Americans to vote only for those who will protect the country from environmental harm." In his weekly address, recorded before he departed for Africa, the President said, "If you agree with me, I'll need you to act. Remind everyone who represents you, at every level of government, that there is no contradiction between a sound environment and a strong economy – and that sheltering future generations against the ravages of climate change is a prerequisite for your vote."

CNN (6/29) reports on its website that opponents have criticized "his sweeping proposals, arguing the new regulations on carbon-fueled power plants...will cause a surge in costs and burn holes in Americans' pockets." The Hill (6/29, Geman, 21K) says "while the White House plan doesn't rely on Congress, Obama's Saturday's address underscores administration efforts to win public buy-in as Republicans allege the plan will hurt the economy."

The CBS News (6/29) and Voice of America (6/29) websites also report on the President's remarks.

In the Detroit Free Press (6/30, Op-ed for the Detroit (MI), Press, 280K), President Obama writes that on Tuesday, he "unveiled a new national plan to confront climate change" that will, if implemented, accomplish three things: "reduce carbon pollution to prevent the worst effects of climate change, prepare our country for the effects we can't stop and lead the world in combating the growing threat of a changing climate." Throughout his op-ed, Obama encourages businesses to improve through the use of clean energy and asks citizens to educate themselves and others about climate change and take an active approach to it.

Scientists Debate Irrigating Giant Sequoias. The AP (6/29, Cone) reported that at the core of the climate change debate is whether, if they are causing global warming, do humans have an obligation "under the laws of the National Park Service to try to counteract those effects?" asked Nate Stephenson, a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. Stephenson presented this question in light of the debate raging over whether to irrigate the 65 groves of giant sequoias growing in the southern Sierra Nevada region, which are dying out at twice their historic rate in part because of a warmer and dryer climate and also due to what some scientists believe are the fact that the trees are having a harder time taking root. Nevertheless, because the trees are dying in record numbers and exist only in a very small region, many wonder how much longer the trees will be able to survive a climate that is warming at a rapid rate.

More Analysis Of Obama's Climate Change Plan. In a separate article, the AP (6/29, 41K) tries to answer some of the questions surrounding Obama's climate change plan, including one about the reactions the plan is getting from industry officials and another about how the Keystone XL pipeline relates to the plan. According to two industry officials that the AP interviewed, many in the industry are looking forward to working with the Obama Administration on the plan and they have no problem improving their businesses with more environmental-friendly upgrades, as long as they have time to do so. As far as the Keystone XL pipeline is concerned, "the White House has insisted that the State Department is making the decision independently, but Obama said Tuesday he's instructing the department to approve it only if the project won't increase overall net emissions of greenhouse

gases."

Aside from the general analysis that Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/30, Editorial by the Minneapolis (MN), Tribune, 335K) provided in its article on Obama's climate change proposal, the paper also provided localized analysis on how the plan is related to what Minnesota, as a state, is already doing. The Star Tribune writes that "Obama's course of action...builds upon the farsighted work done already in Minnesota, which put in place renewable energy standards in 2007 and augmented them this year with a new state solar energy standard."

Meanwhile, in an op-ed for the Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/1, Blomstrom, 335K), Keith Blomstrom, vice chair of the Minnesota Conservation Federation, writes that climate change is "altering and destroying habitats that migratory birds have spent thousands of years developing."

Detroit Free Press: Obama Is Taking A "Bold" Step Forward On Climate Change. In an editorial the Detroit Free Press (6/30, 280K) describes Obama's climate change plan as "a bold proposal" that "is sure to impact the way Americans live — or at least the way we pay bills." The Free Press writes that "it won't be easy to turn the nation from habits we've indulged for decades" and for that reason, as well as some who still don't believe in the scientific aspect climate change to begin with, "the President is unlikely to find support in the US Congress for the path we believe he must pursue." This is why, according to the Free Press, "Obama's willingness to circumnavigate Congress is a regrettable necessity."

SENATORS URGE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION NOT TO CUT WILDFIRE PREVENTION FUNDS. The Washington Post (6/28, 489K) reports that on Friday, "a bipartisan group of Western US senators" called on "the Obama administration to focus more on preventing wildfires rather than taking money from programs that clear potentially hazardous dead trees and brush to fund efforts to fight the increasingly destructive blazes." It "is proposing a 31 percent cut in funding for the government's central fire prevention program one year after record blazes burned 9.3 million acres." Sens. Ron Wyden, Mark Udall, Lisa Murkowski, and James Risch (R-Idaho) sent "a letter to Obama's budget director and the secretaries of agriculture and the Interior," in which they "contended that approach is 'nonsensical and further increases wildfire costs.'"

Also reporting on the story is the Huffington Post (6/28).

INTERIOR "HAS TOTALLY FIGURED OUT" INSTAGRAM. The Mashable (6/29) reports that the Interior Department has "has totally figured out Instagram." Director of Digital Strategy Tim Fullerton said, "We launched our Instagram just basically to show the public all of the amazing lands that we have across the country." He added "If we've seen some really striking amazing images, we've emailed asking for permission. We're always sure to give full credit on Instagram."

TIMBER POINT DESIGNATED AS PART OF NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM. The York County (ME) Journal-Tribune (6/29, Mendros, 8K) reports that the Timber Point Trail in the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge is part of the National Trails System.

REMOVAL OF VEAZIE DAM TO BEGIN JULY 22. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (6/30, 45K) reports that the removal of the Veazie Dam has been "set for July 22." The "project is a joint effort of the Penobscot Indian Nation, the Penobscot River Restoration Trust, six other nongovernmental organizations, the state of Maine, the US Department of the Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and hydropower companies."

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS SOUGHT FOR CESAR CHAVEZ SITE IN SAN JOSE. The San Jose Mercury News (7/1, Seipel, 539K) reports that a National Historic Landmark designation is being sought for "McDonnell Hall, a humble wood-frame building in East San Jose closely associated with the life of civil rights leader Cesar Chavez."

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS SOUGHT FOR MAITLAND'S ART CENTER. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (6/30, Dickinson, 181K) reports that Maitland "is seeking National Historic Landmark status for the Art Center, and to that end," and supporters are putting the "finishing touches on a nomination that will be presented to reviewers at the National Park Service and the Department of Interior later this year."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S PLEDGE TO NATIVE AMERICANS. Additional

coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's pledge "to help right past wrongs against Native Americans" was provided by the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (6/27, 42K), the Mitchell (SD) Daily Republic (7/1, 12K), the Tulsa (OK) World (7/1, 101K), and the Marin (CA) Independent Journal (7/1, 27K),

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW COUNCIL FOR NATIVE AMERICANS. Additional coverage of the establishment of a White House Council on Native American Affairs was provided by the Hanover (PA) Evening Sun (7/1, 19K) and WBOY-TV Clarksburg, WV (7/1).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT ON PARK POLICE FIREARMS. Additioanl coverage of a Inspector General report that found that "US Park Police couldn't account for hundreds of weapons in its inventory" was provided by the New York Times (6/28, 1.68M), Politico (7/1, Kopan, 25K), the Washington Examiner (7/1, Cohen, 93K), FOX News (7/1), the DCist (7/1), the US News & World Report (6/28, Bidwell, 1.13M), the Atlantic Wire (7/1), CBS News (7/1), CBS (6/28), and the Washington Times (6/28, Chumley, 76K),

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF STUDY ON GULF COAST FOR CARBON SEQUESTRATION. Additional coverage of the study on carbon sequestration was provided by the Midland (TX) Reporter-Telegram (7/1, 14K),

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DRAKES BAY OYSTER FARM. Additional coverage of the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. was provided by FOX News (7/1).

INTERIOR OVERSIGHT OF DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS SUPPORTED. In an editorial, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser (7/1, 112K) supports the Interior Department's oversight of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC LANDS URGED TO HELP VETERANS. In an op-ed for the U-T San Diego (6/28, Roney, 242K), Scott Roney, a behavioral health provider at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, writes about "the value of public lands" for veterans. He argues that "there is a deep healing influence that spending time in a beautiful, tranquil and soothing natural setting can have."

POLICY ANALYSTS: ENSURE CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE THROUGH MORE DRILLING. In an Op-Ed posted on The Hill (7/1, 21K) in its "Congress Blog" blog, Matthew Stepp, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation senior policy analyst, and Megan Nicholson, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation policy analyst, said that Washington's "underfunded support for clean energy, perpetual bickering over drilling policy, and rising concentrations of greenhouse gases" has resulted in an energy policy that "is at odds with reality." Although they cited both President Obama's and Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) efforts to support clean energy as "a good start," they cited the need to go farther and proposed an across-the-aisle compromise through which Republicans would agree to raise revenue to fully fund the DOE's ARPA-E budget each year in exchange Democrats' agreeing to opening Federal lands to exploration, so long as such exploration included provisions for state-buy ins and environmental safety. They said their proposal will "guarantee consistent investment in the nation's energy future and is a clear-cut way for Congress to proceed beyond the status quo."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

ANALYSIS: ADMINISTRATION EXAGGERATED SEQUESTER CUTS' IMPACT. The Washington Post (7/1, Fahrenthold, Rein, 489K), in an article titled, "They Said The Sequester Would Be Scary. Mostly, They Were Wrong," reports that the Administration's "alarming" and "specific" claims about the likely impact of the sequestered budget cuts implemented on March 1 turned out to be inaccurate, and the "widespread breakdowns in crucial government services" that Administration officials "predicted" has not happened. The Post reports that Administration officials insist that they "didn't exaggerate sequestration's effects on purpose," and quotes one anonymous "administration official" as saying, "Subsequent to those estimates, Congress took action that changed a number of things." Nevertheless, the Post adds that the Administration "still gives credence to estimates that sequestration might cost the country up to 750,000 jobs."

GETTYSBURG CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY. CNN (6/28, Gast) reports that beginning this past

weekend "and through July 7, between 200,000 and 300,000 visitors – more than the number of combatants – will flock to the town and fields of Gettysburg National Military Park to mark the 150th anniversary of the three-day clash, which cost an incredible 51,000 casualties." According to officials, "the 150th commemoration of the battle will tell a wider story than previous observances." Carl Whitehill, media relations manager for the Gettysburg Convention & Visitors Bureau, said, "For decades, people came here for military and black powder. Now they want to know about the civilians and what they endured during and after the battle."

Also reporting on Gettysburg are the Washington Post (6/30, 489K), the Washington Post (6/28, 489K), the Washington Post (6/30, Ruane, 489K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/1, Armas, 335K), ABC News (7/1), the Los Angeles Times (6/28, Kelly, 692K), the Rochester (MN) Post-Bulletin (7/1, 40K), the New York Daily News (7/1, Edelman, 543K), the York (PA) Daily Record (7/1, 63K), and the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (7/1, 194K).

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ADAPT TO BUDGET CUTS . The Washington Post (7/1, Fahrenthold, Rein, 489K) reports that the sequester "has caused real reductions in many federal programs that people depend on," but "it has not produced what the Obama administration predicted: widespread breakdowns in crucial government services." Notably, "US Park Police officers were supposed to have 12 days of furloughs," but "they took three." and the NPS "found $4 million in savings in its budget."

WEBSITE INFORMS VISITORS OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK'S ANNIVERSARY. The Washington Post (6/28, 489K) reports that Yosemite National Park officials "are getting a head start on next year's 150th anniversary with a new website that will contain information about celebrations, events and projects." The website "allows visitors to share their Yosemite stories and read about the park's rich history," and "it will guide visitors to celebrations in the park and in surrounding communities."

Also reporting on the story is the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (6/29, 12K).

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY. The Everett (WA) Herald (6/28, 46K) reports Olympic National Park celebrated is 75th anniversary on Saturday.

CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK WARNS OF RISE IN TICK POPULATION. The Willoughby (OH) News-Herald (6/30, 36K) reports that with "Ohio's tick population...reportedly on the rise," Cuyahoga Valley National Park "has posted warnings about what park officials say is the worst level of the blood-sucking pests there in years."

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK OFFICIALS IDENTIFY MAN WHO DIED IN FALL ON CLOSED TRAIL. The AP (7/1) reports that Glacier National Park officials "have released the name of a Washington state man who died in a fall on a closed trail." According to park spokeswoman Denise Germann, "64-year-old Charles Fred Huseman of Packwood, Wash., died Wednesday afternoon from trauma suffered in a fall from the Highline Trail, which is closed due to snow."

STATUE OF LIBERTY TO REOPEN JULY 4. The New York Daily News (7/1, Brown, 543K) reports that the Statue of Liberty will reopen on Independence Day.

JOSEPH HENRY MOSER BARN AND PETER & BERTHA SODERBERG HOUSE ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER. The Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (6/28, 35K) reports that the Joseph Henry Moser Barn and the Peter & Bertha Soderberg House have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Bureau of Land Management:

APPEALS BOARD UPHOLDS BLM'S PERMIT FOR CHRISTO'S OVER THE RIVER PROJECT. The Washington Post (6/28, Tsai, 489K) reports that "an appeals board is upholding" the BLM's "decision to grant the artist Christo a permit for his Over the River project." On Friday, the Interior Board of Land Appeals "rejected arguments that the BLM didn't fully consider impacts of Over the River before granting the permit." Meanwhile, the article notes, "two lawsuits challenging Over the River in state and federal courts are still pending."

Also reporting on the story are the Denver Post (7/1, 443K) and the Huffington Post (6/28, Tsai).

BLM STUDYING TIMBER RULING. The Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (6/28, Fattig, 21K) reports the BLM "continues to pore over a federal court decision that the timber industry believes will more than double the harvest on the agency's Medford District." District spokesman Jim Whittington said, "We are working with our partner agencies in analyzing the impacts of this ruling."

BLM WORKING ON WESTERN OREGON PLAN REVISION. The Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (6/30, 35K) reports that the BLM is "working on a kinder and gentler approach" after the Western Oregon Plan Revision was "withdrawn by the Obama administration in 2009." According to the article, "in a preliminary planning document released this month, the BLM's state director, Jerome E. Perez, said the new approach will be based on what the public wants, science, the law and on the goals of healthy forests, not board feet of timber." He wrote, "These 2.5 million acres have an important role to the social, economic and ecological wellbeing of Western Oregon, as well as to the greater American public. In an effort to try to change the dialogue, besides changing how we engage the public, I want to focus our discussions around outcomes, not outputs."

SEN. BARRASSO ENDORSES HELIUM STEWARDSHIP ACT OF 2013. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (7/1, 22K) reports that Sen. John Barrasso is supporting the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, which "would require the Bureau of Land Management to sell off nearly all of its Amarillo, Texas-based helium reserves during the next 10 years, rather than by its current deadline of January 2015." According to Barrasso, "the deadline extension would keep the world's helium supply stable." The article notes that "BLM officials testified in support of both the Senate and House versions of the helium legislation recently."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PUSHES BACK DECISION ON LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. The Midland (TX) Reporter-Telegram (7/1, 14K) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe "wrote to several senators, including John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, of Texas; Tom Udall, of New Mexico; Jim Inhofe and Tom Coburn, of Oklahoma; and Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran, of Kansas, announcing a delay on a decision" to list the lesser prairie chicken "until March 30, 2014." Ashe said the extra time "would give the service time to fully consider the comments received, along with implementation of the conservation plan being crafted by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which includes the agencies from the five states." According to FWS spokeswoman Charna Lefton, "the extension came in part because 'several of the comments said we may not have the most recent science available.'"

Also reporting on the story is the Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (6/27, 33K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GRANTS TO FIGHT BAT DISEASE. Additional coverage of the grants awarded by the FWS to fight white-nose syndrome was provided by the Columbus (IN) Republic (7/1, 21K), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (7/1, 16K), the Hendersonville (NC) Times-News (6/28, 12K), the Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (6/29, Simmons, 83K), the Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette (6/27, 47K), and the Mississippi Business Journal (6/28).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF STUDY ON SAGE GROUSE. Additional coverage of the study conducted by The Nature Conservancy on sage grouse habitat in Wyoming was provided by the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (6/28, Puckett, 25K).

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SUPPORTED. In his column for the Lincoln (NE) Journal Star (7/1, 49K), Buffalo Bruce McIntosh writes about the Endangered Species Act's "remarkable record of preventing extinction and helping plant and animal species recover." McIntosh claims that "the plight of the Salt Creek tiger beetle here in Lancaster County is a stark reminder that the success of the act over the next four decades, and beyond, is limited to our willingness to follow the best available science rather than the most expedient politics." He argues that "it's clear only with the help of citizens can the Endangered Species Act continue its unequaled record of success: In its first four decades, the law has prevented the extinction of 99 percent of the more than 1,400 plants and animals it protects."

US Geological Survey:

USGS SHUTS DOWN STREAMGAUGES DUE TO SEQUESTRATION. The Picayune (MS) Item (7/1, 6K)

reports that the USGS "has shut down 375 streamgauges nationwide, including the streamgauge on the Jourdan River at Kiln in Hancock County." The action "is due to sequestration that went into effect in April."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

PAPER: BLM MUST RECONSIDER SUNZIA LINE. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (6/30, 83K) editorializes that SunZia's proposed $1 billion high-voltage transmission line from wind and solar farms in Lincoln County to southeastern Arizona is "looking more like a pipe dream." In addition to opposition from the DOD, which charges that the transmission line may interfere with the mission of the Northern Extension of the White Sands Missile Range if it were to cross that area, environmental groups, "which tend to favor renewable energy, question how much green energy the line is likely to transmit and worry about the project's impact on the delicate ecosystem of Arizona's San Pedro River Valley." Critics are also alleging that "the promise of jobs is overstated and the marketability of the power exaggerated." The editorial board demands that the BLM not run the risk of foregoing the economic contributions that White Sands makes to the state's economy in favor of "what is looking like a questionable green energy boondoggle."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM PLANS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH MESA VERDE LEASE SALE. The EnergyWire (6/28, Streater, Subscription Publication) reported that despite environmental concerns expressed by area residents as well as the NPS, the BLM is moving ahead with its plans to offer eight parcels near southwest Colorado's Mesa Verde National Park for an oil and natural gas lease sale in November. The parcels are eight of the 12 that were initially offered for lease sale in February, a sale that was later deferred after similar environmental concerns were voiced at that time. Although the BLM said it and the NPS "have resolved most of the Park Service's concerns over air quality and natural resource impacts, as well as potential noise and aesthetic impacts to the park" and thus is confident about the sale moving forward, NPS officials said they were not quite "ready to say that allowing drilling near the park is a good idea."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON FREMONT COUNTY WELL PROPOSAL. The Riverton (WY) Ranger (6/30) reports that the BLM is asking for public comments on International Petroleum Exploration Operating Company's application for a permit to drill the International Petroleum Green Mountain Federal No. 1 Gas Well in Fremont County. The project is anticipated to last nearly 20 years and will be located in the existing Found Soldier Unit, which has been operating since 2004.

BLM APPROVES EXPLORATORY COAL WELLS IN COLORADO. The Denver Business Journal (6/28, Proctor, Subscription Publication) reported in its "Earth To Power" blog that the BLM has approved the Sunset Trail Area Coal Exploration Plan, which calls for drilling 10 exploratory wells during 2013 and 2014 in western Colorado by subsidiaries of Arch Coal, Inc., the second-largest US coal miner. While the operation will take place nearly 11 miles from Arch's West Elk Mine, which contains coal reserves that the BLM forecasts will last up to 11 years, environmental groups have ripped the project as a threat to the forest as well as elk and black bear habitats in the area. Meanwhile, the BLM pointed to the fact that "coal production on Federally owned lands overseen by the BLM generated $918.1 million to the economy, including $57.7 million in royalties, and 5,719 jobs."

Offshore Energy Development:

HOUSE PASSES OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS ACT. The Hill (6/28, Kasperowicz, 21K) reports in its "Floor Action" blog in a 235-186 vote, the House passed the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act, which will "require the Obama administration to develop a new five-year plan allowing offshore oil-and-gas leases in coastal waters with the most promise for energy development." The Hill reports that this "bill is similar to GOP legislation passed by the House last year, and responds to a five-year oil and gas lease sales plan that Republicans say shuts out potentially productive areas off the Atlantic and Pacific coastline." The Hill adds that "Obama has warned he would veto the bill and the Democratic Senate is not expected to touch it."

The Los Angeles Times (6/29, Simon, 692K) adds that, according to Republicans, "the new bill would help lower fuel prices, create jobs, generate $1.5 billion over 10 years for the US Treasury and enhance the nation's energy security." The "measure also would offer states 37.5% of the revenues from energy production off their coasts. That provision drew opposition from taxpayer watchdogs that said it would siphon off money the federal government needs."

Also reporting on the story are the Wall Street Journal (6/28, Tracy, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), Bloomberg News (6/29, Garner), FuelFix (6/28), and the Houston Chronicle (7/1, 434K).

BOEM REMAINS OPTIMISTIC OVER PROSPECTS OF ALASKAN DRILLING. Reuters (6/28, Rosen) reported that although Royal Dutch Shell spent a tumultuous 2012 in the Gulf of Alaska due to the forced cessation of its operations on a drillship, its receipt of safety and environmental citations on a separate rig, and equipment failures, along with a self-imposed moratorium on drilling there by ConocoPhillips, the BOEM remains optimistic that oil exploration will continue across north Alaskan waters. The agency has pointed to numerous exploratory efforts that are expected to take place there, the applications for many of which remain pending with the BOEM, as evidence that the companies plan to continue drilling once conditions are conducive to doing so.

US GOVERNMENT, BP REPORTS DIFFER ON TOTAL OIL BARRELS SPILLED DURING DEEPWATER HORIZON DISASTER. Forbes (6/28, Helman, 928K) reported on the disparity between the estimate of how much oil was spilled in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident that the US government has reported and that which BP has stated. The government believes 4.9 million barrels of oil were spilled in the explosion. However, a study done by a British engineer hired by BP suggested that 3.3 million barrels of oil were spilled. The actual tally of total barrels spilled is set to be "a huge factor" in determining how much BP will actually owe for Clean Water Act penalties in its ongoing trial in US District Court. BP may be paying $17.6 billion if the government's tally is accurate, but if the engineer's estimate is right, that amount could be closer to $9 billion.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD BEGINS FOR SHASTA LAKE PROJECT. The Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (6/30, 30K) reports that the 90-day public review period for the draft environmental impact statement concerning the Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation has begun. The BOR says that the purpose of "the project is to increase fish populations, increase water supply and water reliability."

PROPRIETORS: CONGRESS MUST ACT TO PRESERVE 'LIFEBLOOD OF THE SOUTHWEST'. In an op-ed in the Arizona Republic (6/28, Thevenin, 308K) Alex and Fred Thevenin, owners of Arizona Raft Adventures, which is a member of Protect the Flows, a business coalition that supports the Colorado River, called on Congress and Federal agencies to take their lead from the BOR's Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study and "build a future that includes healthy rivers, state-of-the-art water conservation for cities and agriculture, and water reuse and sharing mechanisms that allow communities to grow, prosper and adapt to water demands and availability." Because the river "supplies drinking water for 36 million people, irrigates 4 million acres and 15 percent of our nation's crops, and drives nearly a quarter million sustainable, American jobs...effective programs like the BOR's WaterSMART and Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse programs" must continue. There is too much at stake not to take measures to preserve the "lifeblood of the southwest."

Empowering Native American Communities:

WASHBURN'S DRAFT PROPOSAL LAUDED BY INDIAN GROUPS. The Indian Country Today Media Network (6/28, Toensing) reported that DOI Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn's draft of proposed changes to the department's process for Federally recognizing Indian groups "is being hailed as the best thing to happen in decades to a system that's been described as 'broken, long, expensive, burdensome, intrusive, unfair, arbitrary and capricious, less than transparent, unpredictable, and subject to undue political influence and manipulation.'" Although those who have seen the draft admit that there is much work to be done, it is being lauded as a measure that "provides hope to the many tribes...whose Federal acknowledgments were undone by political influence, presidential and congressional shifts and simple neglect by uncaring administrations."

Also reporting on the story are the Juneau (AK) Empire (6/28, 4K), the New London (CT) Day (6/30, 28K), and the

Westerly (RI) Sun (7/1, 9K).

WASHBURN TO TOUR PROPOSED ROAD SITE IN KING COVE. The Dutch Harbor (AK) Fisherman (6/28, Restino, 1K) reported that following efforts by King Cove residents to convince former DOI Secretary Ken Salazar and Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Mark Begich (D-AK) of the need for a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, DOI Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn will visit King Cove to tour the area first-hand. While criticism of the project has centered around the threat of damage to the refuge and wildlife in the area, along with the estimated $33 million it will cost taxpayers, the community said the trip will offer Washburn a chance "to fully appreciate the challenges its residents face because of the lack of road." "It is crucial that the Department of the Interior take the human factor into consideration, which it has not done up until now," said Della Trumble, spokesperson for the Agdaagux Tribal Council and the King Cove (Native) Corporation.

STUDY PRESENTS MAIN INFLUENCES ON INDIAN EDUCATION. The Indian Country Today Media Network (6/28) reported that a new study conducted by Hollie J. Mackey, University of Oklahoma assistant professor of education, and Linda Sue Warner, special assistant to the president on Indian affairs at Northeastern A&M College in Miami, Oklahoma has identified which "organizations, universities and people influence American Indian/Alaska Native education the most." The study found that The Kennedy Report of 1968 and the Merriam Report of 1928 continue to be the most influential aspects of Indian education, which appears to suggest "that similar problems remain identified and unsolved." Moreover, the study said that it was "interesting to note that neither the Department of Education's Office of Indian Education Programs or the Bureau of Indian Education...were included in participants' responses as influential organizations."

OMDAHL: CHANGES MUST BE MADE TO ICWA. In an op-ed posted in Bismarck (ND) Tribune (6/30, Omdahl), former North Dakota Lieutenant Governor Lloyd Omdahl criticizes the effects that the enforcement of the Indian Child Welfare Act has had on Native American children of the Spirit Lake Reservation. Although the BIA controls the tribe's child protection program, Omdahl notes that "tragic incidents continue to unfold, most recently the deaths of several children." Moreover, while the law was designed to prevent "cultural genocide" by keeping Indian children in Native American homes, the ICWA "was improperly named because it was not a law for children's welfare at all" as children are being placed in "unsuitable homes" and in some instances are being used as "cash cows" where financial incentives to adopting the child are involved. Omdahl demands that changes be made to the law "so that the emphasis of care can be shifted back to the children," even if that means placement outside of Native American homes.

Top National News:

OBAMA: US AID TO AFRICA IS EVOLVING INTO A "PARTNERSHIP." President Obama's trip to Africa was covered by all three network newscasts Sunday, but, in general, the trip has not been generating a great deal of coverage. Last night and this morning, many reports focus on the First Family's trip to Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was held captive, rather than the subsequent speech delivered by the President at the University of Cape Town in which he described a shift in US assistance to African nations from traditional "foreign aid" to public/private partnerships. This morning's Washington Post (7/1, Raghavan, Nakamura, 489K), meanwhile, has an article in which it is reported that "many Africans wish Obama was more like" president George W. Bush "in his social and health policies, particularly in the fight against HIV/AIDS."

On ABC World News (6/30, story 4, 2:40, Muir, 7.43M), David Muir reported that the President "paid an emotional visit to Robben Island, the prison where Nelson Mandela spent most of his 27 years behind bars," and "spent a few moments alone in that tiny prison cell." Muir noted that the President said he is "humbled by those who 'faced down injustice and refused to yield.'" Correspondent Jonathan Karl went on to report that as Mandela "clings to life," the President "has spoken of him at every stop." President Obama: "Nelson Mandela showed us that one man's courage can move the world. And he calls on us to make choices that reflect not our fears, but our hopes." Karl added that the President "receive[d] a warm welcome from" Bishop Desmond Tutu, "another aging hero of the anti-apartheid movement." The AP (7/1) notes that the President visited Tutu at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Youth Centre.

NBC Nightly News (6/30, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M), in its segment on the President in South Africa, also emphasized the visit to Robben Island, but briefly mentioned the President's speech at the University of

Capetown, and showed him echoing Robert Kennedy's 1966 speech in the same location, saying, "Each time a man stands up for an idea or acts to improve the thought of others or strikes out against injustice." Chuck Todd also reported that on Monday in Tanzania, the President and First Lady are expected to appear with former president George W. Bush and Laura Bush, who will be there "to open up a women's clinic on Tuesday."

White House correspondent Major Garrett, on the CBS Evening News (6/30, story 4, 2:00, Glor, 5.58M), said that in 1966, the US "mostly sent cash and food to Africa," but the President is "under pressure to counter investments from China, Brazil and India – and, as such, announced a $16 billion program to bring electricity to 80% of the continent." USA Today (7/1, Cassim, Today, 1.71M) reports that the President has "outlined a U.S. policy toward Africa that focuses on increasing the region's ability to support itself."

The New York Times (7/1, A4, Shear, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), in a piece focused on the President's visit to Robben Island, says that afterwards, at the University of Cape Town, the President described Mandela as "the ultimate testament to the process of peaceful change." The Times notes that the President also "announced" that the Administration is "creating American programs to help" African nations "develop more sustainable food programs, better health care networks and more reliable power grids." In particular, according to the Times, the President said the US will "invest $9 billion to help double the access to reliable electricity in sub-Saharan Africa."

The Hill (7/1, Geman, 21K) reports that on Sunday, the President said, "America has been involved in Africa for decades, but we are moving beyond the simple provision of assistance – foreign aid – to a new model of partnership between America and Africa, a partnership of equals that focuses on your capacity to solve problems and your capacity to grow."

McClatchy (7/1, Kumar), under the headline, "Obama To Africa: You Need To Do More," reports that the President "cautioned" that in Africa, "much needs to be done to eradicate poverty, shed corruption and eliminate conflict." McClatchy says the President went on to say that the US "would do its part, not by offering a handout, but by partnering with African governments and private companies." According to McClatchy, the partnership "come[s] in the form of a new $7 billion program to double access to electricity" as well as "continu[e] efforts to produce new food technologies and reduce illnesses including AIDS and HIV." The President is quoted as saying, "We are moving beyond the simple provision of assistance, foreign aid, to a new model of partnership." McClatchy says the $7 billion will be provided by USAID, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Export-Import Bank. According to The Hill (7/1, Geman, 21K), $5 billion of the $7 billion will come from the Ex-Im Bank.

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Nelson, Vogt, Hinshaw, Senegal, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an article titled, "Obama Promises Africa A New Partnership," reports that the partnership envisioned by the President, Power Africa, will be funded with $9 billion from unspecified private sector entities as well as the $7 billion from the US government. The Journal quotes deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes as saying, "If we're going to get investment from international development banks, from private sector partners, they need to have the predictability that comes with the rule of law and governance." For his part, in his speech on Sunday, the President said, "I'm calling for America to up our game when it comes to Africa." According to the AP (6/30, Pickler, Pace), General Electric and Symbion Power are among those corporations partnering with Power Africa. The AP also notes that the commitments announced by the White House "fall well short of the $300 billion" that the IEA has said "would be required to achieve universal electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030."

Mike Pflanz, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (6/30, Pflanz, 47K), said the President intended to "signal a shift in US policy that would leave the world's poorest continent less 'a dependent' or 'a charity case' and more 'a partner.'" Pflanz adds that "in these times of austerity," the President's "new approach to foreign aid – 'the least popular part of the federal budget,' Obama concedes – is also cheaper." Pflanz adds that on Monday in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, "at a round-table for local CEOs," the President "will talk trade, and add details of the new electricity access initiative at a visit to a power station."

The Washington Times (7/1, Boyer, 76K) reports that throughout his trip to Africa, the President has also "been warning Africans not to automatically trust foreign powers offering help, including the U.S." In Johannesburg, the President said, "When we look at what other countries are doing in Africa, I think our only advice is make sure it's a good deal for Africa. ... Don't just assume that folks come here and they're automatically benefiting Africans

– and that includes the United States." On the other hand, the AP (6/30, Pickler, Pace) reports that the President "dismissed the notion that the U.S. sought to meddle in Africa's affairs."

Aislinn Laing, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (6/30, Laing, 47K), says the President "was unable to make the trip to Africa earlier in his term when his star was at its highest," and while "he is welcome still...for many Africans the realities of his time in high office has taken the shine off." According to Laing, "some commentators" contend that the President "has done far less for Africa than" former president Clinton, "who won friends all over the continent by scrapping trade tariffs for its goods."

Obama Takes Aim At Political Corruption. AFP (7/1) calls the President's Cape Town speech a "strident call for democratic change and good governance," and notes that "in a line that drew loud and prolonged cheers from his audience," the President said, "History shows us that progress is only possible where governments exist to serve their people and not the other way around." AFP says "judging by the rousing reception," the President's message "spoke to the frustrations felt by many in the room" about the "largess" of the administration of South African president Jacob Zuma, which range from "expensive security upgrade to his private home to irregularities in the granting of deals to do business with the state." AFP also reports that the President "condemned" Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe, whose "promise of liberation gave way to the corruption of power and the collapse of the economy," according to the President.

The AP (7/1) reports that on Sunday at the University of Cape Town, the President, "citing Muslim nations like Mali and Somalia," warned that "too often terrorism perverts the meaning of Islam," and maintained that the US "military presence in Africa is focused on putting muscle behind African efforts."

However, Reuters (7/1, Mason, Felsenthal) reports that the President's foreign policy has drawn criticism while he has been in Africa, and outside his Speech Sunday, protesters held signs saying, "Obama mass killer" and "End drone wars now."

"Many Africans," Activists Critical Of Obama's Handling Of PEPFAR. The Washington Post (7/1, Raghavan, Nakamura, 489K), in an article titled, "Bush AIDS Policies Shadow Obama In Africa," reports from Cape Town that "many Africans wish Obama was more like" president George W. Bush "in the fight against HIV/AIDS." Bush "poured billions of dollars into" a campaign against HIV/AIDS in Africa, and "for Obama, the success of Bush's program has proved a tad awkward," as "AIDS advocates" claim that "Obama administration budget cuts...threaten to turn back years of progress." Since 2010, PEPFAR funding "has fallen 12 percent" and is now "at its lowest funding level since 2007." The Post goes on to report that on Sunday, the President "hinted at [his] frustration" regarding the comparisons to Bush, saying, "Given the budget constraints, for us to try to get the kind of money that President Bush was able to get out of the Republican House for massively scaled new foreign aid program is very difficult."

Mandela Heirs In Dispute Over His Burial Place. The Los Angeles Times (6/30, Dixon, 692K) reports that Nelson Mandela reportedly wants to be "buried next to his children," three of whom have predeceased him, and now a "family dispute over the burial site" has "deepened" after Mandla Mandela, described as Nelson Mandela's "controversial grandson" and "chief of the Mvezo area in the Eastern Cape Province," moved the bodies of the three Mandela children to Mvezo, "where Nelson Mandela was born."

SCHUMER: BOEHNER WILL IGNORE HASTERT RULE TO PASS IMMIGRATION REFORM. Appearing on Fox News Sunday (6/30), Sen. Chuck Schumer predicted that the House will "pass the Senate bill by the end of this year even though most House members don't think so." Schumer said he is confident that House will eventually approve the Senate bill due to pressure from unspecified members of "the national Republican leadership." Schumer went on to contend that, "within several months," Speaker Boehner "will find two choices: no bill, or let a bill pass with a majority of Democratic votes and some Chamber of Commerce-type Republicans – and he'll find that the better choice." Schumer added, "Three times in the last six months, Speaker Boehner has violated the so-called 'Hasert Rule'" and the "dynamics" of the immigration debate will "force him to abandon that Hastert Rule" once again.

Despite Shumer's prediction, on Friday, the New York Times, and many other outlets, reported that Boehner has explicitly ruled out the scenario sketched by Schumer. According to the Times, last Thursday, Boehner "insisted" that he will not allow a vote on an immigration reform bill that is not "supported by a majority of his Republican

conference."

On CBS's Face The Nation (6/30), the Washington Post's Michel Gerson, who served as a senior adviser to President George W. Bush, commented that "68 votes in the Senate is a good start for immigration reform, but there were some warning signs there as well." Gerson noted that "two-thirds of Republican senators voted against the immigration reform" last week, which is "actually higher than it was last time around when they voted on comprehensive reform." However, like Schumer, Gerson added "there is a path here to make this happen, but it's going to require, eventually, Speaker Boehner to pass this with majority Democratic support in the House." Gerson called such a potential move "a huge risk to [Boehner's] speakership."

Appearing on Fox News Sunday (6/30), Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) described himself as a supporter of "immigration reform," but said that in regards to Schumer, "we're not going to take his advice." Gowdy quipped, "I was moved almost to the point of tears by Sen. Schumer's concerns for the future prospects of the Republican Party." Gowdy said House Republicans are already "making progress" on immigration reform, and noted that they have "passed four separate bills out of [the] House Judiciary [Committee] and an additional bill out of' the House Homeland Security Committee tied to immigration. Referring to the Senate bill, Gowdy said, "I cannot sell, in South Carolina, a border security plan where the security comes after the legalization" nor one "where [DHS Secretary] Janet Napolitano gets to tell us the border is secure."

Also on Fox News Sunday (6/30), Sen. John McCain claimed that "it's a fact that the overwhelming majority of people in America support" the Senate immigration reform package "once it's explained to them," and "Republicans realize the implications of the future of the Republican Party...if we don't get this issue behind us."

House minority leader Nancy Pelosi, in an interview shown on NBC's Meet The Press (6/30), said, "I'm very optimistic that we will – before too long and certainly this year – have comprehensive immigration reform." Pelosi went on to praise the "courage of those on the Republican side, especially, who made the tough vote," and added that expects that as for the House, Speaker Boehner "will have his way to bring legislation to the floor and hopefully it will be in a form that takes it to conference." Pelosi added that "we wouldn't even be where we are right now had it not been that 70% of Hispanics voted for President Obama, voted Democratic in the last election," and predicted that a sufficient number of House Republicans "– many more than are directly affected themselves by the number of Hispanics in their district – will do what is right...and it's certainly right for the Republicans if they ever wanna win a presidential race."

Goodlatte Prefers "Pathway To Legalization" Rather Than "Pathway To Citizenship." Asked, on CNN's State of the Union (6/30), if "comprehensive" immigration reform is "dead in the House," Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said, "I don't think so; we're taking a step-by-step approach to immigration reform, but we want to solve all three major problems with immigration reform." Goodlatte said the three "major problems" are the current system's perceived drag on economic growth, the need for existing immigration laws to be "actually enforced," and the lack of "appropriate legal status for people who are not here lawfully." Goodlatte also said the House is unlikely to approve any immigration bill including a "pathway to citizenship," but might back a "pathway to legalization" because House Republicans do not want to "people who are here unlawfully get something that people who have worked for decades to immigrate lawfully do not have."

The AP (7/1, Elliott) reports that Goodlatte said the House "cannot offer a 'special pathway to citizenship' for those in the United States illegally." The Wall Street Journal (7/1, Dooren, 2.29M) reports that on Sunday, several House Republicans stressed that they do not intend to take up the Senate bill.

Appearing alongside Goodlatte on CNN's State of the Union (6/30), Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), a member of the House's so-called "Gang of Seven" at work on a bipartisan immigration plan, said, "What the House Republicans are doing is giving a Republican solution, and a Republican solution isn't what we saw was successful in the Senate."

In an appearance on ABC's This Week (6/30), the Wall Street Journal's Peggy Noonan argued that the "essential problem with this [Senate] immigration bill is that Americans have a problem trusting Congress with anything called ' comprehensive.'" Noonan added, "I can imagine the Republicans in the House now starting to tease out good parts of the bill that everybody can agree on and saying, 'let's vote on that.'"

Gowdy And Gutierrez's "Newfound Camraderie" Noted. Gannett News Service (6/30, Troyan) reports that the "newfound camaraderie" between Gowdy and Gutierrez, a liberal Latino, "could help seal the deal on a sweeping immigration overhaul this year." Their friendship "may offer the U.S. House its best chance to find agreement on how to secure the border, overhaul procedures for legal immigration and deal with the 11 million people in the country illegally."

Bush, Bolick: House Should Pass Senate Bill. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (7/1, Bush, Bolick, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Clint Bolick, the vice president for litigation at the Goldwater Institute, write that while the Senate immigration bill could be improved, it would, according to the CBO, reduce the deficit and help the economy.

ANALYSIS: HIGH COURT MOVING TO THE RIGHT. USA Today (6/30, Wolf, 1.71M) cites recent Supreme Court decisions as evidence that under Chief Justice Roberts the court is moving to the right. While the court's ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act "was in many ways the ideological opposite of the voting rights ruling," what tied it to the decision on the Voting Rights Act "was a deference to states' rights — but not to Congress." USA Today notes that Roberts has "kept the court on its even keel, inching it to the right without appearing to do so — at least not to the general public." According to polls, "liberals are slightly more satisfied with the court's actions than conservatives."

Barnes: Ginsburg, Thomas Provided Only Debate On Race In Affirmative Action Case. In his column for the Washington Post (7/1, Barnes, 489K), Robert Barnes writes that the only real debate over the issue of race in last week's Supreme Court decision on affirmative action "came from [Justice Ruth Bader] Ginsburg, the only justice willing to say that UT's policy passed muster, and Justice Clarence Thomas, the only one who wrote to say that the university's use of race is categorically prohibited by the Constitution." In her dissent, Ginsburg "said that racial considerations should be allowed, and that the use should be freely acknowledged." In his concurring opinion, Thomas argued that affirmative action "is simply another form of racial discrimination and that it imposes a 'stigma' on those who benefit from it." Barnes added that the High Court's direction for courts "to rigorously examine universities' race-conscious plans should spawn additional challenges."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Stuck In Purgatory."*** The New York Times (7/1, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), in an editorial, says "one of the most formidable obstacles" delaying President Obama's "regulatory agenda" is his own Administration's "resistance to finalizing new rules, even when it has expressed support for the causes those rules would address." The Times adds that in 2012, as the President was seeking reelection, and Republicans "hammered the administration for its allegedly 'job killing' regulations, the number of rules receiving final approval hit a historic low," and now, according to the Times, "even though Mr. Obama won, delays persist." The Times goes on to say that the White House is either "still driven by election-year motives," or, "worse, its commitment to new rules is suspect."

"Secretary Kerry's Quest." An editorial in the New York Times (7/1, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) notes a "sense of fatalism in Washington about Secretary of State John Kerry's quest to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks." The Times argues that many experts believe "the conditions for peace don't exist and are unlikely to exist anytime soon," and adds that "there may come a point when Mr. Kerry and President Obama will have to decide whether it continues to make sense to invest this level of energy in this project indefinitely without a commensurate commitment by Israel and the Palestinians."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Farewell, Fannie And Freddie?"*** An editorial in the Washington Post (7/1, 489K), praises new housing finance reform legislation from Sens. Mark Warner and Bob Corker, noting, that such reform is needed and it is "good that someone's willing to try." The Post argues that as Fannie and Freddie are beginning to produce profits, the time to start "unwinding and replacing" them "is now — before Congress develops an irreversible dependence on this deceptively easy source of cash," and calls the Warner, Corker bill "a serious proposal for a serious issue."

"A Boost For Government Workers." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/1, 489K) calls the President's

decision to suspend the Presidential Rank Award program, which provides a salary bonus to certain Federal executives, "pound foolish." The Post cites a report from the Partnership for Public Service which found that "only four out of 10 federal employees believe they will be rewarded or promoted for doing good work," and notes that this sort of "low morale" will "will cost the government in the long run": as good people "leave or decide not to come in the first place." The Post adds that the Administration should "defend, reward and recognize federal employees who every day tackle our most complex problems."

"D.C.'s Wise Surplus Investments." An editorial in the Washington Post (7/1, 489K) praises a decision by D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray to use the city's revenue surplus "to address some of the deficiencies in a program that provides child-care subsidies to the working poor." The Post also praises the D.C. Council for approving that use the funds as well as its decision to use some of the "swelling revenue for tax relief." In addition, the Post praises a council decision not to spend the funds on a proposal "to adjust the per-pupil spending formula in public schools" until more analysis can be conducted.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Egypt Erupts Again."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says that a threat of further violence against Egyptian protesters by the Muslim Brotherhood is an attempt to hide its weakness. The Journal adds that if the protests become more violent and Egypt's economy continues to decline, another coup is possible and argues for a compromise under which Morsi and the Brotherhood share power with their opponents, draft a new, more liberal constitution, and make efforts to revive Egypt's economy.

"China's Reform Movement." In an editorial, The Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) argues that China's old economic model is breaking down and Beijing must implement bold reforms that include the privatization of state enterprises and ending the monopolies under which many of those enterprises operate. The greatest hindrance to implementing such reforms, the Journal says, will be politics because the reforms will require less political control.

"Tax Reform From Scratch." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) praises an announcement from Sens. Max Baucus and Orrin Hatch that they intend to rewrite the tax code from scratch and that backers of every tax preference will be required to justify its continued existence. The Journal notes that because the President is demanding another tax increase, tax reform is unlikely, but Baucus and Hatch should be credited for trying in the absence of presidential leadership.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Garcetti Is Sworn In As LA Mayor
A Heated Debate
Simple Gestures That Mean So Much
Arizona Wildfire Kills 19 Firefighters
Protests Escalating In Egypt

Wall Street Journal:
Insurance Costs Set For A Jolt
Snowden's Options For Refuge Narrow
As US Pulls Out, Feuds Split Afghanistan's Ruling Family

New York Times:
Job Title Key To Inner Access Held By Leaker
American Way Of Birth, Costliest In The World
Paid Via Card, Workers Feel Sting Of Fees
By The Millions, Egyptians Seek Morsi's Ouster
Creativity, Not Just Catch-Up At Retooled Summer Schools
London, Tokyo, Athens, Tulsa?

Washington Post:
A Trail Of Inaccuracy About NSA Programs
WikiLeaks' Assange Say Snowden Is 'Marooned'
DC To Implement 9th-Grade Rescue Plan
A 'God-Written' Marriage
Bush's Legacy On AIDS Trails Obama In Africa
Budget Cuts, But No Chaos

Financial Times:
EU Demands Answers Over US Bug Claims
Norway's Opposition Consider Oil Fund Split
Chinese Banks Hit Hong Kong IPO Hitch
Investors Move Out Of Cash And Into Bonds
Samsung Leads In Key European Markets
Kuwait Eyes $5bn Investment For UK
Obama In $7bn Africa Power Initiative

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather-Heat Wave, Helicopter Emergency Landing, Transportation-Road Rage, Obama-South Africa Visit, Egypt-Unrest, Snowden-NSA Leaks, Education-Student Loan Rates, Lightning Safety, NASA-Russian Meteorite, Corvette Anniversary
CBS: Severe Weather-Heat Wave, Heat Wave Forecast, North Carolina-Flooding, Obama-South Africa Visit, Egypt-Protests, Snowden-NSA Leaks, Helicopter Emergency Landing, 911 Texts, Gettysburg Anniversary, Education-Student Loan Increase, Law Students-Employment, Egypt-American Student Killed
NBC: Extreme Weather-Heat Wave, Southwest Heat, Egypt-Protests, Snowden-NSA Leaks, Obama- South Africa Visit, Zimmerman Trial, Health-Menopause Drug, Kennedy Denies Prop 8 Motion

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Arizona-19 Firefighters Killed, Southwest Heat Wave, Snowden-NSA Leaks
CBS: Arizona-19 Firefighters Killed, Southwest Heat Wave, San Francisco BART Strike, Snowden-NSA Leak, Obama-South Africa Visit, Economy-Asian Markets
NPR: Arizona-19 Firefighters Killed, Southwest Heat Wave, Kennedy Denies Prop 8 Motion, Maryland-Airplane Debris Discovered, Egypt-Five Killed In Protests, Pakistan-Sectarian Violence, Tropical Storm Delilah

Washington Schedule:

TODAYS EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Departs Cape Town with the First Family, Cape Town International Airport, open press; arrives with the First Family, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, Julius Nyerere International Airport, open press; participates with the First Lady in an official arrival ceremony, State House, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, pool coverage; holds a restricted bilateral meeting with President Kikwete, State House, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, closed press; holds an expanded bilateral meeting with President Kikwete, State House, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, travel pool spray at the top; holds a press conference with President Kikwete, State House, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, open press; participates in a tree planting ceremony with President Kikwete, State House, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, pool coverage; takes part in a CEO Roundtable, Hyatt Kilimanjaro, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, pool spray at the top; delivers remarks at a Business Forum, Hyatt Kilimanjaro, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, pool coverage; attends an official dinner with President Kikwete along with the First Lady, State House, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, pool spray of toasts.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN —No Public Events Scheduled.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events
US House: No Scheduled Events
Other: NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS CONFERENCE — June 30 – July 3. National Alliance for Public Charter

Schools National Charter Schools Conference. Location: Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Pl. NW, 3rd Floor/Ballrooms A, B and C.

BROOKINGS WEBCAST – SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER — 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Governance Studies program at Brookings will host a live webcast featuring scholars of the Voting Rights Act, the parties in the case, Shelby County v. Holder, experts on Congress, representatives from the civil rights community, and members of the media for a series of discussions on the Supreme Courts ruling, its impact on voting rights and election administration, and prospects for future legislative action.

CHINA DEVELOPMENT — 8 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. The Economic Strategy Institute hosts the China Financial Centre Development Summit. Opening remarks: Clyde Prestowitz, President, Economic Strategy Institute; Feng Yueqiu, Director China Development Institute. Panel discussion with: Clyde Prestowitz, President, Economic Strategy Institute. Speakers: Dr. Guo Wanda, Executive Vice President, CDI, The Prospect of RMB Internationalization; Zhou Guoyou, Director, Issuer Marketing, Department of Shenzhen Stock Exchange Development of Chinas Capital Market. PAnel discussion with: John Prout, Former Treasurer – Credit Commercial de France (Paris). Speakers: Dr. Zhang Jiansen, Director, Center for Financial Studies, China Development Institute, Innovation of Financial System & Development of China Financial Centre; Joseph Gagnon, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics. Location: Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER EVENT — 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Kids Against Hunger., a humanitarian food-aid organization whose goal is to end world hunger by providing nutritious food to hungry children and families in the United States and around the world, and Events DC kick off the DC Million Meal Pack. Events DC President & CEO Gregory A. ODell and Kids Against Hunger Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer Ron Osterbauer will launch the two-day DC Million Meal Pack with a ribbon cutting and VIP meal packaging, and will be available for photos and interviews. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center – Hall A, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW.

PREVENTING HEAT-RELATED DEATHS, ILLNESSES — 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. With the peak of summer heat beginning, the U.S. Department of Labors Occupational Safety and Health Administration and NOAAs National Weather Service will hold a teleconference exclusively for broadcast meteorologists and weather reporters to discuss the danger of heat to workers and provide life-saving information to share with outdoor workers in their communities. With Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health; Dr. Louis Uccellini, director, NOAAs National Weather Service. Maureen OLeary Notes: Dial-in: 888-790-2055, Passcode: HEAT.

RAINFOREST PROTEST — 12 p.m. Two salmon and two bear mascots flanked by Alaska Wilderness League staff will rally outside of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Building to call for protections for the very large old-growth trees that remain in the Tongass National Forest — Americas rainforest. Location: Between 14th and 15th Streets SW along Jefferson Drive.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Well, the big news is the Senate passed an immigration bill. The bill got 68 si, 32 nadas. Yeah. And now it goes to the House. I mean, la casa."

Jay Leno: "Another IRS official took the fifth this week after news reports came out they found that IRS credit cards were being used to buy alcohol and pornography. Finally, a government agency that isn't wasting our money, huh? At least I can see the benefits."

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BISON CONNECT

Press Release for Your Awareness: DOI and USDA Highlight Successes of Protecting Bird Habitat on Private Lands

Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jul 2, 2013 at 11:51 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Sally -

DOI will be issuing the below press release this afternoon shortly after 1pm EDT in conjunction with USDA to outline the highlights from the *2013 State of the Birds Report on Private Lands Report*.

You have a quote in the release which I've pulled here for your awareness:

"Our nation's most effective conservation efforts are partnerships in which federal, state and local governments work hand-in-hand with private landowners and other stakeholders," said Secretary Jewell. "The programs highlighted in this report help build these voluntary partnerships to conserve the vital habitat of our many bird species. Many of these partnerships provide direct benefits to people such as improving water quality and supporting jobs and economic growth."

DOI and USDA Highlight Successes of Protecting Bird Habitat on Private Lands

WASHINGTON, D.C – U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the release of the *2013 State of the Birds Report on Private Lands*. A collaborative effort as part of the U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative, involving federal and state wildlife agencies and scientific and conservation organizations, the report shows how private land conservation incentives positively impact bird habitat.

"Our nation's most effective conservation efforts are partnerships in which federal, state and local governments work hand-in-hand with private landowners and other stakeholders," said Secretary Jewell. "The programs highlighted in this report help build these voluntary partnerships to conserve the vital habitat of our many bird species. Many of these partnerships provide direct benefits to people such as improving water quality and supporting jobs and economic growth."

Individuals, families, organizations and corporations, including two million ranchers and farmers and about 10 million woodland owners own and manage 1.43 billion acres, roughly 60 percent of the land area of the United States. Private lands are used by virtually all of the terrestrial and coastal birds of the United States, 251 of which are federally threatened, endangered or of conservation concern. Many privately owned working lands that produce a bounty of food, timber, and other resources for society also provide valuable habitat for birds.

"Sixty percent of U.S. land is in private hands, making the efforts of farmers, ranchers and landowners critical when it comes to creating, restoring and protecting bird habitat," Secretary Vilsack said. "Today's report highlights the positive impact of voluntary conservation measures for birds, including those made possible by Farm Bill programs. The need for a long-term commitment to conservation is just one more good reason why we need Congressional passage of a multi-year Food, Farm and Jobs Bill as soon as possible."

The State of the Bird Report on Private Lands shows that private lands have critical conservation value, and that

landowners and managers can measure their yield not only in bushels and head and cords, but also in bluebirds, hawks and canvasbacks.

The success stories highlighted in this report demonstrate that these voluntary efforts on private lands are resulting in meaningful bird conservation results:

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):** Henslow's Sparrow populations, which have declined more than 95 percent since the mid-1960s, have rebounded in areas through CRP. In Illinois, regional Henslow's Sparrow spring bird counts are now about 25 times greater than 30 years ago, prior to CRP. The Illinois counties with the highest percentage of CRP acreage also have the highest Henslow's Sparrow population gains. A recent study in the Dakotas suggested that if CRP acres were put back into annual crop production, populations of several species of grassland birds (including Sedge Wren, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobolink and Western Meadowlark) would experience significant population declines, ranging up to 56 percent.

- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP):** The Wetland Reserve Program has restored 2.6 million acres of private wetlands across the nation. WRP-conserved wetlands provide essential breeding habitat for waterbirds such as Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser, wintering habitat for 3.5 to 4.5 million waterfowl every winter; and migratory stopover habitat for shorebirds such as Black-necked Stilt and Greater Yellowlegs.

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service Landscape Conservation Initiatives:** The Sage Grouse Initiative has targeted Farm Bill conservation funding to enroll more than 700 ranchers and implement sustainable grazing systems that improve habitat on more than 2 million acres in 11 western states. The Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative, delivered through various Farm Bill conservation programs, is providing inland habitats for migratory waterbirds on more than 470,000 acres of private lands in eight states from Florida and Georgia to Texas and Missouri.

- **Chippewa Flowage Forest Conservation Easement:** This Forest Legacy project—a partnership of the Forest Legacy Program, Wisconsin Bureau of Forest Management and Trust for Public Land—created an 18,000 acre conservation easement of forest, wetlands, and exceptional wildlife habitat especially important for forest birds like Wood Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Black-throated Green warbler, and water birds like the Bald Eagle, Osprey and Common Loon.

- **Machias River Project:** This project in Maine is a good example of conservation easements protecting the futures of both birds and working forests. This Forest Legacy project —a partnership of the Forest Legacy Program, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, The Nature Conservancy Maine Chapter, and others—protected 60,000 acres through fee purchase and easements. These acres connect to over 340,000 acres of other protected lands, creating a mega block of contiguous habitat for 28 bird species of conservation concern.

- **Foresters for the Birds:** Helping Landowners Integrate Timber and Forest Bird Habitat Management, this project, with financial support from the USDA Forest Service, is a partnership between the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Audubon Vermont. Audubon biologists and over 100 foresters in Vermont and the surrounding region have begun working together to help landowners integrate timber and songbird habitat management.

The full *2013 State of the Birds Report on Private Lands Report* is available at www.stateofthebirds.org. For more information about USDA's many conservation programs visit www.usda.gov.

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Jessica Kershaw
Press Secretary
OS/Office of Communications

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Cell: 202-669-0968

DOI and USDA Highlight Successes of Protecting Bird Habitat on Private Lands

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jul 2, 2013 at 3:10 PM
Reply-To: interior_news@ios.doi.gov
To: [redacted]ios.doi.gov

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

U.S. Department of the Interior

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: July 2, 2013
Contact: Jessica Kershaw (DOI) 202-208-6416

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The full *2013 State of the Birds Report on Private Lands* is available here. For more information about USDA's many conservation programs visit www.usda.gov.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Tue, Jul 9, 2013 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Interior Moves Data To Cloud.
+ Additional Coverage Of Decision To Rescind White River's Blueway Designation.
+ Thoming's Mixed Review Of Obama Climate Change Initiative.
+ Owens Chastises Obama Climate Change Plan.
+ Freeman: Obama Climate Change Strategy "Could Have Been Bolder."

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+ House Committee To Hold Hearing On Merced River Plan.
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+ BLM To Host Fire Rehab Tour.
+ BLM To Close Towell Falls At Escure Ranch.
+ BLM Seeks Public Input On Glass Buttes Towers Plan.
+ BLM Seeks Input For New Draft Management Plan.
+ Public Input Sought On TriCounty Draft Resource Management Plan.
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+ FWS To Protect Texas Invertebrates.
+ FWS Announces Extension For Listing Of Lesser Prairie-Chicken.
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+ "Wet June Weather" Helped Preserve Water Supply In Yakima River Basin.
+ Ash From Wildfires Threatens New Mexico Farmers.
+ Guerin: Lake Powell Retreat Causes Concern For The Future.
+ Elias Explores Relationship Between Water Tunnels and Fracking.

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+ North Fork Indian Casino Moves Forward.
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+ Former Indian Affairs Officer White Eagle Still Guilty, Says 9th Circuit.
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DOI in the News:

WASHINGTON MONUMENT ILLUMINATED. The Washington Post (7/8, 489K) reports that "while the

Washington Monument is closed for earthquake damage repairs over the next year, 488 lamps will restore the marble tower's glow each night on the National Mall." The NPS "lit up the monument for the first time on Monday evening – and will continue to do so each night at dusk." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis "and philanthropist David Rubenstein, who donated $7.5 million to fund half the cost of repairs, took part in the first lighting."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Post (7/9, Shapira, 489K), the Boston Herald (7/9, 91K), the Miami Herald (7/9, Zongker, 139K), the San Francisco Chronicle (7/9, Zongker, 220K), the St. Paul Pioneer-Press (7/9, Zongker, 201K), the Oakland (MI) Press (7/8, 53K), USA Today (7/8, 1.71M), USA Today (7/8, 1.71M), Politico (7/9, 25K), NBC News (7/9), NBC News (7/8), the Winnipeg (CAN) Free Press (7/9, 895K), the Global Post (7/9), the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce (7/9, 4K), the Washington Business Journal (7/9, Subscription Publication), Yahoo! (7/8, Zongker), Yahoo! Finance (7/9, Zongker), Yahoo! News Canada (7/9, Zongker), WJZ-TV Baltimore (7/8), WJLA-TV Washington (7/9), WRC-TV Washington (7/9), WJBK-TV Detroit (7/9, Zongker), KGTV-TV San Diego (7/9), WUSA-TV Washington (7/9), WVIT-TV New Haven, CT (7/9), WRC-TV Washington (7/9), WTTG-TV Washington (7/9, Zongker), KSL-TV Salt Lake City (7/9, Zongker), KNTV-TV San Jose, CA (7/9), and WHEC-TV Rochester, NY (7/9).

Providing local TV coverage were WNC8-TV (7/9) and WJLA-TV (7/9).

PROCESSION BRINGS REMAINS OF 19 FIREFIGHTERS TO PRESCOTT, ARIZONA. In continuing coverage, NBC Nightly News (7/8, story 6, 0:25, Williams, 7.86M) broadcast that there will be a memorial service held today for 19 firefighters who recently died trying to fight a wildfire in Arizona. This past weekend, a "procession of 19 hearses" brought the remains of the firefighters to Prescott, Arizona. The "procession took five hours, traveling a route stretching 125 miles."

Also providing coverage of wildfires were the AP (7/8) and NBC News (7/9, Dedman).

Meanwhile, the AP (7/9) reports on "several small wildfires" burning "across Idaho on Monday morning that were keeping crews from federal firefighting agencies as well as rural fire departments busy amid temperatures in the 90s and dry, gusty conditions."

COURT REJECTS CHALLENGE TO PUBLIC LAND DESIGNATION IN ALASKA. The Courthouse News (7/8) reports that "to preserve Alaska's scenic, historic and culturally significant landscapes, as well as the traditional subsistence hunting and fishing lifestyle of rural citizens, Congress established 'national parks, preserves and other federal reservations' with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980." Then, "almost two decades after the act passed, the secretaries of the US Departments of the Interior and of Agriculture amended its scope in 1999 Final Rules." The 9th Circuit upheld the lower court's ruling that "the secretaries acted lawfully by initiating rulemaking to identify waters for subsistence management," and also held that "secretaries acted reasonably in including certain water bodies and excluding others from the public lands determination."

INTERIOR MOVES DATA TO CLOUD. For Forbes (7/8, 928K), Hilary Kramer writes that "as the US must learn to do more with fewer dollars, one Washington, D.C.-based privately-held company, IQ Business Group (IQBG), has led the way in bringing one of the largest federal agencies, the Department of the Interior (DOI), into the 21st century." Last year, IQBG "scored a $53 million contract with the DOI, the federal agency that is responsible for federal land and natural resource conservation." The eight-year deal "for IQBG's software as a service (SaaS) platform is part of DOI's IT Transformation initiative, which is expected to save $100 million annually."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DECISION TO RESCIND WHITE RIVER'S BLUEWAY DESIGNATION. Additional coverage of the decision to rescind the White River's Blueway designation was provided by the Las Vegas Sun (7/8, 41K).

THORNING'S MIXED REVIEW OF OBAMA CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE. In a post in the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (7/9, Thorning, 21K), senior vice president and chief economist at the American Council for Capital Formation Dr. Margo Thorning says that President Obama's climate change regulations "couldn't have come at a worse time" as "America needs economic growth and job creation" but "the President's plan will only have the opposite effects, while also failing to have any substantial impact on the environment." Thorning also notes that "DOE data show that new electric generating capacity using wind and solar power tends to be considerably more expensive than conventional natural gas and coal resources" and thus Obama's "goal of doubling renewable

electricity generation by 2020 will raise electricity prices and slow U.S. economic growth." However, Thorning also says that because DOE data has shown "skyrocketing" GHG emissions from India, China, and Brazil, a "positive feature" of the Obama plan is working with those countries to reduce emissions.

OWENS CHASTISES OBAMA CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN. In a post in the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (7/9, Owens, 21K), editor of Orbis, the Foreign Policy Research Institute's quarterly journal of international affairs Mackubin Owens says that despite "the inconvenient truth" that "global temperatures essentially have been flat for the last 15 years," with his climate change agenda President Obama "will, in effect, be taking over the American economy to protect 'humankind' from climate change." Owens says that the economic costs of the Obama plan "will be immense" as it "will drive up the cost of electricity and will have no effect on global climate." Owens goes on to speculate that the reason Obama is "forcing such onerous policies upon the United States" is that "by artificially raising the cost of carbon energy, he can make his beloved, but heavily subsidized, 'renewables' competitive." Owens also notes that any reduction in emissions for which Obama is taking credit has been because of the natural gas revolution, which has "occurred despite the president's best efforts."

FREEMAN: OBAMA CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY "COULD HAVE BEEN BOLDER." In an op-ed for the Los Angeles Times (7/9, Freeman, 692K) Jody Freeman, a counselor for energy and climate change in the White House in 2009 and 2010, argues that President Obama's new climate strategy which will "regulate carbon pollution from the nation's power plants for the first time" will not be enough, and calls for Congress to step up and get involved. Freeman notes the EPA has authority under the Clean Air Act to enact even bigger policies that will help combat climate change, however, due to a fear of "backlash" in Congress, the EPA has "consistently rejected this approach." Freeman argues that the government will be sued over this latest greenhouse initiative as it has over every other initiative in the past, and calls for Congress to stop sitting "on the sidelines"

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

AIRPLANE THAT WENT MISSING IN 2012 FOUND IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The Lompoc (CA) Record (7/9, 3K) reports that "the body of Solvang pilot Nicol Wilson, missing since December, has been found in Yosemite National Park," according to a spokeswoman. Kari Cobb, a spokeswoman for Yosemite National Park, said that "a park visitor Saturday near Vogelsang High Sierra Camp, an area in the rugged high country of Yosemite National Park, spotted the plane, which was largely intact." Cobb said that "on Sunday, Yosemite National Park Rangers hiked to the location and the body has been positively identified as Wilson."

Also reporting on the story are Reuters (7/8, Whitcomb) and the Modesto (CA) Bee (7/8, 59K).

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARING ON MERCED RIVER PLAN. The MyMotherLode.com (7/9, Ambler) reports that the US House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources "will hold a hearing about the proposed Merced River Plan tomorrow, July 9." Rep. Tom McClintock "said that the Subcommittee will look at what legal actions can be taken." McClintock said, "One thing that we want to do is to impress upon the parks Management that they work for the public and that their job is to welcome and accommodate the public not to restrict and harass them."

NPS CONSOLIDATING FERRIES AT CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE. WCTI-TV New Bern, NC (7/9) reports that "private ferry operators for Cape Lookout National Seashore will soon no longer be able to take visitors to the park." The NPS "has decided to consolidate the ferry system to one private ferry company, contracted by the park." According to the article, "consolidation is meant to make things more organized in the park and provide the public good and reliable transportation to the park."

NPS REOPENS FORT PICKENS. The Pensacola (FL) News Journal (7/8, Thompson, 38K) reports that the NPS "has reopened Fort Pickens Road in the Gulf Islands National Seashore on Pensacola Beach after closing it due to flooding over the weekend." Park superintendent Dan Brown said, "We're keeping a close eye on it. The ground is pretty saturated, right now, causing the rain to drain slowly ... I imagine if the rain persists, we may see water begin to pond in some areas."

HERRING COVE BEACH BATHHOUSE SET TO OPEN THURSDAY. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (7/8) reports that "the grand opening of the new Herring Cove Beach bathhouse in the Cape Cod National Seashore will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday."

SAVANNAH MUSEUM DENIES ENTRY BECAUSE OF WHEELCHAIR. The Athens (GA) Banner-Herald (7/8, 27K) reports that "a Charlotte, NC couple said their 11-year-old daughter was told she couldn't use her wheelchair at a Savannah museum because it would get the carpet dirty." The article notes that "the museum is housed in a historic home and doesn't have an elevator or a lift because of conflicts between city regulations and rules from the Department of the Interior on historic sites, according to a statement on the museum's website."

CENTRAL KANSAS PROPERTIES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTSORIC PLACES. The Hays (KS) Post (7/8) reports that on Monday, the Kansas Historical Society announced "that a Mitchell County farmstead and a former high school in Belleville are among the newest Kansas properties added to the National Register of Historic Places."

CANADIAN CLIMBER INJURED DESCENDING MOUNT RAINIER. The Bellingham (WA) Herald (7/8, 16K) reports that "a Canadian climber was injured in a fall Sunday while descending from the summit of Mount Rainier." NPS spokeswoman Patti Wold said that "he was at the 13,500-foot level at the top of Emmons Glacier when he fell."

BOY DROWNS IN DELAWARE RIVER. WNEP-TV Scranton, PA (7/8) reports that "a nine-year-old boy drowned Monday afternoon in the Delaware River near Bushkill in Pike County." According to the NPS, "the boy from Bushkill was fishing in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, just downstream from Bushkill Access."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GETTYSBURG. Additional coverage of Gettysburg was provided by the Chambersburg (PA) Public Opinion (7/9, Reed, 15K), the Lebanon (PA) Daily News (7/9, 20K), the York (PA) Daily Record (7/9, Burger, 63K), and Forbes (7/8, 928K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. Additional coverage of Manhattan Project National Historical Park was provided by the Pacific Standard (7/9, Todd).

PUBLIC URGED TO SEE STATUE OF LIBERTY. In his column for Scripps Howard News Service, Dale McFeatters urges "every American who's able to...visit the Statue of Liberty and climb up to the crown – once." He notes that NPS "worked heroically to get the island reopened for the Fourth of July," and "the public responded in kind by snapping up all the tickets to climb to the crown and all but same-day tickets to climb to the top of the base."

The column was picked up by the Erie (PA) Times-News (7/9, McFeatters, 50K) and the Evansville (IN) Courier & Press (7/9, McFeatters, 50K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO RESTRICT AREA TO ORV USE TO PROTECT RARE PLANT. The San Francisco Chronicle (7/9, 220K) reports that the BLM "announced Monday its restrictions apply to public land next to Big Willow Creek in Payette County." The agency aims "to limit off-road vehicle travel to protect a rare plant that grows only in a 10-square-mile area in southwestern Idaho." The FWS has designated the Packard's milkvetch "a candidate for Endangered Species Act protections."

BLM TO HOST FIRE REHAB TOUR. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (7/9, 7K) reports that the BLM "is hosting a tour showing residents how the land can rehabilitate" after a fire. The bureau's Elko District "is hosting its fourth open communications forum Saturday to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about rehab projects."

BLM TO CLOSE TOWELL FALLS AT ESCURE RANCH. The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (7/8, 69K) reports that "increasing fire danger has prompted" the BLM "to close Towell Falls Road in the Bureau of Land Management Spokane District's Rock Creek management area to motorized traffic for the summer."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON GLASS BUTTES TOWERS PLAN. KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (7/9) reports that the BLM Prineville District Office is "asking for public comments on a proposed project to establish a Right-of-Way agreement with each of Bonneville Power Administration, a federal entity under the US Dept. of Energy and American Towers LLC, a private company, to construct two new communication facilities (of up to 100 feet height, with non-reflective material) on the top of Glass Buttes, 15 miles east of Hampton." The bureau "is preparing an Environmental Assessment to identify a range of alternatives to address the potential of granting the ROWs, including a No Action alternative that would deny the proposed actions."

BLM SEEKS INPUT FOR NEW DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN. In a letter to the Rapid City (SD) Journal (7/9, 24K), Marian Atkins, the Field Manager for the BLM South Dakota Field Office, announces that the "South Dakota Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement" (RMP/EIS) "is ready for public review." According to Atkins, "in this Draft RMP/EIS, we address conservation measures and actions for the Greater Sage-Grouse through the range of alternatives." She notes that "Alternative D is identified as the BLM's preferred alternative."

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON TRICOUNTY DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. In an op-ed for the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (7/9, Childress, 22K), Bill Childress, the Las Cruces district manager for the BLM, writes that the Las Cruces District "works to balance the nation's competing demands for resources in a sustainable manner." He notes that "on April 12, 2013, the BLM released the TriCounty Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for a public review and comment period."

PROFESSOR URGES CONGRESS TO PASS HELIUM BILL. In a piece for CQ Roll Call (7/9, Chan, Subscription Publication, 19K), Moses Chan, an Evan Pugh Professor of physics at Penn State University, writes in support of "legislation to continue sales of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve and" and its "benefits to US taxpayers and America's leading industries and scientific researchers." He warns of a "significant disruption to advanced manufacturing and research in the United States that would result from a failure to enact legislation before the October deadline." Pugh also notes "the conclusions of the National Academies of Sciences and the inspector general of the Department of Interior, both of which called for reform of the federal helium program."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE ATTENDS WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION MEETING. The BYU Daily Universe (7/8) reports that "governors, Canadian Premiers and agencies within the Department of the Interior (DOI) met together this month to discuss public lands and endangered species issues that span across state lines." At the Western Governors' Association (WGA) 2013 Annual Meeting, FWS Director Dan Ashe "proposed a perspective to negotiate a middle ground between the state-federal perspectives." Ashe "said the various state and federal agencies involved should avoid shortchanging their financial resources while depending on other overlapping services to take up the slack."

LAWSUIT SEEKS PROTECTION FOR BICKNELL'S THRUSH. The Burlington (VT) Free Press (7/8, Murray, 29K) reports that "the Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit against the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell on June 27 for failure to make a final decision" on the protection of Bicknell's thrush. The FWS "has 60 days from the lawsuit filing date to respond."

FWS TO PROTECT TEXAS INVERTEBRATES. The Houston Chronicle (7/9, 434K) reports that the FWS "says it will protect six species of aquatic invertebrates native to West Texas as endangered and is designating 450 acres of land as critical habitat for these species" The FWS "said Monday that four species of spring snails and two of amphipods – minute crustaceans – are in danger of extinction due to the loss of the natural springs where they live."

FWS ANNOUNCES EXTENSION FOR LISTING OF LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN. KFYO-AM Lubbock, TX (7/9) reports that the FWS "has announced a six-month extension on their determination of whether to name the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species." The agency "allowed the extension to solicit additional scientific information and public comment before making the final listing determination."

FWS ALLOWS EXPANDED USE OF CAROLINA BEACH SAND RAKE. The Wilmington (NC) Star News (7/7, Withers, 36K) reports that "a $40,000 beach rake that has sat basically unused for almost a decade will finally get to see some action in Carolina Beach." According to the article, "the town recently received a letter from the" FWS "that would allow it to use the rake year-round with some restrictions."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

OBAMA ADVISERS WOULD RECOMMEND VETO OF HOUSE GOP ENERGY BILL. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (7/9, 21K) reports that the White House has threatened "to veto House Republicans' Energy Department spending bill" because of its "sharp cuts to green energy programs." Advisers to President Obama "would 'recommend' that he veto the fiscal year 2014 spending bill if it reached his desk, the White House Office of Management and Budget said late Monday afternoon." The bill "funds the Energy Department, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Interior Department water programs" and will hit the House floor today.

Reuters (7/9) reports that the White House said in a statement, "The bill would leave U.S. competitiveness at risk in new markets for clean energy industries such as advanced vehicles, advanced manufacturing, energy efficiency for homes and businesses, and domestic renewable energy such as wind, solar, and biomass. ... If the President were presented with H.R. 2609, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DECISION TO BAR MINING IN SOLAR ENERGY ZONES. Additional coverage of the decision to bar mining in solar energy zones was provided by the Denver Business Journal (7/9, Subscription Publication), the Tucson (AZ) Citizen (7/8, 19K), and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (7/9).

Onshore Energy Development:

ENERGYWIRE STUDY SUGGESTS ONSHORE US SPILLS INCREASING. EnergyWire (7/9, Soraghan, Subscription Publication) reports that following four months of internal investigation into "data for the most comprehensive report available" on oil and gas well spills in the US in 2012, EnergyWire found that there were over 6,000 "spills and other mishaps" for onshore sites, or an average of 16 spills daily. Of the 12 states where data was available for 2010 and 2012, spills were up 17% in 2012.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WESTERN EXPANSION PIPELINE III PROJECT. Additional coverage of the Western Expansion Pipeline III Project was provided by Platts (7/9, Magill).

Offshore Energy Development:

BP ASKS COURT TO STOP "FEEDING FRENZY" OF "FICTITIOUS" SPILL CLAIMS. AFP (7/9) reports British Petroleum has asked a US appeals court to stop a "feeding frenzy" of "fictitious" compensation claims coming from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Although BP has reached a settlement of $7.8 billion, now the issue is "how the administrator accounts for lost revenues" and whether claimants "should be allowed to pick and choose which periods to use as a benchmark." The appeals court has not given a time frame on when it will rule on this issue.

Nocera Criticizes Louisiana Justice System. In his column for the New York Times (7/9, Nocera, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), Joe Nocera argues that the Louisiana justice system has taken advantage of BP, following the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. After describing BP's experience with the Louisiana justice system, Nocera argues that "what is going on in Louisiana today is not all that different than when a corrupt Russian official creates a fake tax liability to line his pockets at the expense of some hapless company operating in Russia."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALTRANS CONFISCATING ANTI-TUNNEL SIGNS IN DELTA. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (7/9)

reports that "Caltrans crews are confiscating 'Save the Delta! Stop the Tunnels!' signs displayed by land and business owners in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta, even though the signs are posted on private property." According to Jeff Bennett, supervisor at the Caltrans Rio Vista office, "display of such signs is in violation of Streets and Highways Code 54053, because the message is supposedly a political campaign message and political messages cannot be displayed within 660 feet of a public right of way."

"WET JUNE WEATHER" HELPED PRESERVE WATER SUPPLY IN YAKIMA RIVER BASIN. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (7/8, 28K) reports the final monthly forecast for the season by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation stated that "all users will receive a full supply of water." However, natural runoff "continued to lag below normal" and is expected to do so for the remainder of the summer, according to Chuck Garner, river operations supervisor for the Yakima Irrigation Project. Garner also said he expects low reservoir storage at the end of the irrigation season.

ASH FROM WILDFIRES THREATENS NEW MEXICO FARMERS. The AP (7/9) reports that recent thunderstorms have "washed wildfire ash into the upper end of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District System" causing concern for farmers. Ash coming downstream could "clog farmers' drip irrigation systems and municipal treatment plants" which were installed to conserve water due to the drought.

GUERIN: LAKE POWELL RETREAT CAUSES CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE. In a blogpost for The High Country (CO) News (7/9, Guerin, 25K) Emily Guerin examines the Glen Canyon Dam's decreasing hydropower and reminds readers to be conscious that "water is never too far behind the flick of a switch." According to the Bureau of Reclamation, the Glen Canyon reservoir was only 48% full and "is expected to drop 11 feet before September." Guerin says the "severe to extreme" drought in Colorado, as well as the "record heat" is not "exactly helping" the current situation.

ELIAS EXPLORES RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WATER TUNNELS AND FRACKING. In his column for the Redding (CA) Record Searchlight (7/8, Elias) Tom Elias explores how the Monterey Shale which contains oil and natural gas in "Saudi Arabian-style quantities" can be harvested, citing fracking as the most plausible way in which it could be achieved. Elias suggests that water tunnels, in particular, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan which would include "two parallel 35-mile-long freeway-width tunnels to bring Sacramento River water under the Delta formed by that river and the San Joaquin" could provide the "reliable source of water" the oil drilling companies would need in order to begin fracking. However, he notes that the Endangered Species Act could now make that water supply "unreliable" and, coupled with a fear of fracking, could stall the project altogether.

Empowering Native American Communities:

$500 MILLION TAUNTON CASINO PROJECT STALLED. The New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (7/8, Brennan, 21K) reports that efforts made by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to move forward with the $500 million Taunton casino are being stalled as "no vote has been scheduled" in order to move the renegotiated compact to the BIA. Back in March, Governor Patrick "filed the renegotiated compact he reached with the Mashpee tribe about payments the state would receive" from the casino, which needs full support of legislature in order to move forward. It has been two and a half months "and counting." During this time, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission has been "accepting applications from commercial casino developers in Southeastern Massachusetts," which effectively ends the tribe's "exclusive hold over the region."

Historic Documents Question Tribe's Land Claims. The Taunton (MA) Gazette (7/9, Tuoti, 6K) reports that tribal casino opponents have found "historic government documents" stating that the Mashpee were "not under federal jurisdiction" which could damage the tribe's bid to open a Casino in Taunton. These documents show that the tribe "doesn't meet the requirements to have land taken in trust," according to Taunton resident and casino opponent, Michelle Littlefield. According to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, a tribe cannot open a casino without land in trust. Interior Associate Solicitor Michael Berrigan stated that the "historical exhibits will be considered by the department, and included in the record for its decision on the Tribe's application."

KENT FACES BATTLE OVER RECOGNITION OF SCHAGHTICOKE INDIANS. The Waterbury (CT) Republican-American (7/9, 42K) reports that the Department of Interior Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs proposed changes that would "alter how Indian tribes obtain federal recognition." This has caused an uproar in Kent, which

is "gearing up for a major legal battle" claiming the new rules would make it easier for the Schaghticoke Indians to be recognized.

NORTH FORK INDIAN CASINO MOVES FORWARD. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/9, Stutz, 228K) reports that California Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill which will allow North Fork Racheria of Mono Indians to move ahead with their $350 million casino project, which is backed by Station Casinos. The proposed casino project has faced opposition by rival tribes, however, the North Fork compact with California is still pending approval from the US Department of the Interior, while Station Casinos management deal needs a signature from the National Indian Gaming Commission.

BARSTOW CASINO TALKS ONGOING. The Barstow (CA) Desert Dispatch (7/9, Self) reports the process of opening an Indian casino in Barstow was "still in preliminary talks," according to Barstow Mayor Julie Hackbarth-McIntyre. The Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians Tribe, based out of San Diego, still needs approval of the fee-to-trust application which is pending in the US Department of Interior. There has been a consistent effort on behalf of Barstow to bring Indian gaming to the city for 10 years, "citing economic benefits and job creation" to combat its 12% unemployment rate recorded for May.

CALIFORNIA GOV. BROWN APPROVES MADERA INDIAN CASINO. The Merced (CA) Sun-Star (7/8, 12K) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown "approved a compact that will allow construction of California's first off-reservation casino on 305 acres north of Madera." Brown's "approval comes on the heels of last week's state Senate approval of the compact." The Interior Department, "which helped negotiate the compact, also must approve it in a final action expected early next year."

AUTHORITIES SEARCHING FOR MISSING TRIBAL MEMBER. KTVQ-TV Billings, MT (7/9) reports that "authorities are searching for" Hanna Harris, "an enrolled tribal member has been missing since Friday July 5, 2013." According to BIA spokesperson Nedra Darling, "an attempt to locate Harris was made the same day she was reported missing." Along with the BIA, "numerous friends and family members are helping with the search."

FORMER INDIAN AFFAIRS OFFICER WHITE EAGLE STILL GUILTY, SAYS 9TH CIRCUIT. The Courthouse News (7/8) reports the 9th Circuit Court "affirmed Florence White Eagle's bribery and misprision of a felony convictions" after they reversed four of her six convictions on Friday. Although White Eagle had "turned a blind eye to fraud and facilitated its cover up" the court found "little evidence to sustain her convictions for conspiracy to convert tribal credit program proceeds, theft and conversion from an Indian Tribal organization, concealment of public corruption and public acts affected a personal financial interest." White Eagle was involved in a government-loan scam of $1.2 million, allegedly run by the late Toni Greybull who died in 2008.

WESTERLY SUN: MODIFIED PROCEDURE FOR INDIAN RECOGNITION A LOW OF THE WEEK. In an editorial, the Westerly (RI) Sun (7/9, 9K) argues that a low of last week was the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs considering "relaxing" the criteria for recognition, which currently say that a group "must have functioned throughout history." Under the proposed regulations, "throughout history" is replaced with "from 1934." Public hearings on the proposed regulations are scheduled to take place nationally between July 23 and August 6.

Top National News:

OBAMA REVIVES PUSH FOR "SMARTER," "MORE INNOVATIVE" FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. President Obama's remarks at the White House Monday on his renewed efforts to streamline the Federal bureaucracy generated very little coverage and were not mentioned on any of the three network newscasts Monday evening.

USA Today (7/8, Jackson, 1.71M) reports that the President said Monday that he had "told his staff to continue efforts to develop a 'smarter' and 'more innovative' government, using new technology to deliver better services and save money." USA Today noted that the President said OMB director Sylvia Mathews Burwell will "head up the continuation of an effort made in his first term to modernize government." The President said Congress "can help...by giving him more authority to re-organize and streamline executive branch agencies." According to Bloomberg News (7/8, Runningen), the President claimed that in his first term, the Administration "identified more than $2.5 billion in savings by ending overlapping programs and improving efficiency."

Correspondent Peter Doocy, on Fox News' Special Report (7/9), reported that "new technology enabled Obama supporters to organize themselves so well in 2008 and 2012 that" the President "thinks the government should operate more like his campaigns." Doocy went on to report that "economically significant regulations – the ones that have an impact of more than $100 million a year – have increased 148% in the last decade," and analysts warn that the President's "promises will not slow down the damage caused by years of regulation."

The Washington Post (7/9, Goldfarb, 489K) reports that the President wants the Federal government to "work a little bit more like a Silicon Valley start-up – or at least a modern technology company" – and said Monday that the Administration "has already made progress by hiring technology experts from the private sector and introducing policies to make government more efficient." The Los Angeles Times (7/8, Parsons, 692K) reports that the President will also be relying on chief technology officer Todd Park, "who co-founded the health information technology company Athenahealth," and chief information officer Steve VanRoeke, formerly a Microsoft senior director.

The AP (7/8, Lederman) notes that the President was accompanied by Vice President Biden and "nearly a dozen Cabinet members" on Monday. Among the "innovations" touted by the President were a FEMA app that "allow[s] hurricane victims to register for help, the truncating of an insurance application prototype for new health care exchanges, and more than 75,000 sets of government data posted to" data.gov. However, the AP adds that data.gov "has frustrated many users who say the data is limited, error-prone and hard to use." And, according to the AP, the Administration "pruned the insurance application from 21 pages to five – three, by Obama's count – only after widespread griping that they were as bad as tax forms and might cause" the uninsured "to give up in frustration."

CQ Roll Call (7/9, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 19K), in an article titled, "Obama Zings Congress On Reorganization Authority," reports that the President requested from Congress "fast-track authority to reorganize the federal government" after having done so previously last year. CQ Roll Call says "lawmakers in both parties poured cold water on that plan a year ago." The President is quoted as saying, "We sure could use Congress' help, particularly at a time when Congress is saying they want more efficient government – they give a lot of lip service to it – and we're operating under severe fiscal constraints." According to CQ Roll Call, the President wants "the ability to get up-or-down votes within 90 days in the House and Senate on legislation consolidating and reorganizing" Federal agencies, which "would bypass committees and limit individual lawmakers' ability to kill provisions they don't like."

According to Politico (7/9, Epstein, 25K), the President's 2012 "effort to get reorganization authority didn't go far...in part because of bipartisan opposition to the president's plan to merge the Office of the US Trade Representative with trade functions in the Commerce Department." On Monday, the President said, "We sure could use Congress's help, particularly at a time when Congress is saying they want more efficient government – they give a lot of lip-service to it – and we're operating under severe fiscal restraints. It makes sense for us to be able to redesign government so it can deliver on the functions the American people are looking for,."

The Hill (7/9, Easley, 21K) reports that Rep. Darrell Issa, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, said, "This time, instead of trying to find a way to work around Congress, President Obama needs to approach Congress as a partner in reorganizing federal agencies." Issa added, "This is something that Congress has said, on a bipartisan basis, it wants to do. There is common ground on this issue and members of both parties and both chambers stand ready to work as partners with the President."

The Washington Times (7/9, Boyer, 76K) reports that according to Politifact, since taking office, the President has "kept 11 of 32 promises to improve government efficiency...broken nine of those promises" and "compromised on another 11 issues."

Jim Treacher, in a post for the Daily Caller (7/9, Treacher) notes skeptical responses on Twitter to the President's pledge to create "a smarter, more innovative, and more accountable government" featuring the hashtag #SmarterGov. Ta-daaaaaa!

The Wall Street Journal (7/9, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial, says the President's commitment to cheaper and more efficient government is belied by the cost and rocky rollout of the Affordable Care Act.

OBAMA, CBC TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC ISSUES. The AP (7/9, Lederman) reports that as the President seeks to "shift focus back to the economy and an immigration overhaul," he plans "to meet with black members of Congress about the economy and other issues." According to the White House, the President and the CBC "will discuss economic issues, immigration, implementation of Obama's health care law and voting rights." The meeting will be the first between the President and the caucus since last month's Supreme Court decision which "stripped a key provision of the Voting Rights Act."

Bloomberg News (7/9, Nichols, Preciphs) reports that CBC Chairwoman Marcia Fudge and other lawmakers "plan to press the president on what he's doing to lower black unemployment," which rose in June to 13.7 percent from 13.5 percent.

MARKETS UP AS INVESTORS GROW COMFORTABLE WITH IDEA OF FED PULLBACK. The Wall Street Journal (7/9, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports that stocks were up on Monday as investors appeared to believe that they could weather an easing of the Fed's bond-buying program. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 88.85 points to 15224.69, while the S&P 500 rose 8.57 points to 1640.46. The NASDAQ Composite Index rose a more modest 5.45 points to 3484.83.

The Wall Street Journal (7/9, Jakab, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports that domestic US stocks are currently hot among investors as weakness overcomes a number of overseas markets, but cautions that investors could get burned by pushing to hard in that direction.

Consumer Borrowing Up Sharply In May. Bloomberg News (7/8, Smialek) reports that US consumer borrowing rose $19.6 billion in May, far higher than the $12.5 billion expected by economists or the $10.9 billion increase notched in April. Bloomberg says that increase came as Americans "put more purchases on their credit cards and took out more school and automobile loans." Bloomberg also says that the increase in the stock markets and in real estate values has made US consumers more able to borrow money.

USA Today Analysis: Jobs Picture Not "As Rosy As It Seems." USA Today (7/9, Davidson, 1.71M) reflects on last Friday's "better-than-expected" June jobs report, saying it raises the question as to why businesses are hiring "in a weakening economy." USA Today says that one explanation is that the employment picture "isn't as rosy as it seems," because many of the new jobs "have been low-wage, part-time slots in industries such as retail, restaurants and hotels." Another reason is that firms "are still making up for shedding too many workers in the recession."

Early Economic Data Feeds Facing Scrutiny. The Wall Street Journal (7/9, Rothfeld, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports that Thomson Reuters announced Monday that it would end its practice of sending a two second advance release of the University of Michigan's Consumer Confidence Index to high speed traders following an investigation by New York's Attorney General. Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley (R) said her boss will send a letter to the University seeking information on the arrangements. The Journal says that many traders and hedge funds pay non-governmental organizations for early looks at key economic data that may impact markets.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Laws You Can't See."*** The New York Times (7/9, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) raises questions about the NSA's conduct and findings of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. The Times writes that it believes that significant rulings need to be declassified and adds, "We don't know what we'll find." The court "may be strictly adhering to the limits of the Fourth Amendment as interpreted by the Supreme Court" or not, and that is "the problem." It has "morphed into an odd hybrid that seems to exist outside the justice system, even as its power grows in ways that we can't see."

"Bloodshed In Egypt." The New York Times (7/9, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), in an editorial, says that the evidence suggests that the Egyptian military "fired on hundreds of Mr. Morsi's supporters as they were praying" without provocation.

"Spitzer Redux." In an editorial, the New York Times (7/9, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) takes a dim view of

Eliot Spitzer's new campaign, writing that there will always be candidates who are "ethically compromised, temperamentally unsuitable and politically incompetent, but if they insist on running anyway, who has the right to tell them not to?" However, Spitzer's bid "to recycle himself" is "unnerving on many levels," and not just because of the prostitution issue – there are also his "colossal failures in what he did and didn't do as governor of New York."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Runaway Train."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/9, 489K) says that the train crash in Quebec shows that there are "real and oft-ignored dangers involved in the transfer of crude oil by rail." The Post says that in the midst of the "boom" in North American oil production, the amount of crude oil shipped by rail has "skyrocketed." The Post says that the Quebec tragedy "is a reminder that no transportation method is without risk" and pipelines, "properly built and maintained, offer the most secure, as well as most efficient, method."

"A Vote For Mali." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/9, 489K) warns that although the French military intervention in Mali has been an overall success, the current situation is not ideal to conduct early elections. The Post notes the French are "eager to be out" and "pressing" for a July 28 election date, although the electoral commission has said that it "cannot properly prepare voter registry and distribute ballots" by that time. The Post goes on to offer praise for the success of the French initiative, but concludes that the Mali election process should be given "more time."

"D.C.'s Business Buster." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/9, 489K) is highly critical of the DC city council's plan to impose a "super minimum wage" for large retailers, saying it "will prompt companies to think twice about coming to the District, particularly to struggling neighborhoods that most need jobs and services." The Post says that existing businesses will worry that they "will be next in line for prejudicial treatment from lawmakers catering to special interests."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Spitzer Method."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/9, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says that Elliot Spitzer behaved in a lawless manner as governor, and therefore should not be trusted as comptroller, where he would oversee the city's finances. The Journal says that as both governor and attorney general, Spitzer abused his power for political gain and to target his enemies.

"You're Too 'Cynical.'" The Wall Street Journal (7/9, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial, says the President's commitment to cheaper and more efficient government is belied by the cost and rocky rollout of the Affordable Care Act.

"Unions Don't Like Farm Workers." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/9, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) criticizes California unions and their Democratic allies for pushing a scheme to allow unions to force contracts into bind mediation, skipping the entire collective bargaining process. The Journal portrays the policy as highly destructive and very unfair to both workers and employers, and calls on Democrats to block the policy.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Egypt Deaths Drive Call For Revolt
Dramatic Race To The Rescue
Pilots' Cockpit Actions Under Review
Heroic Sidekick Or Ethnic Setback?
Haven For Child Victims

Wall Street Journal:
Dozens Killed In Egypt Clashes
US Struggles For Leverage As Mideast Crisis Deepens
Central Bankers Hone Tools To Pop Bubbles
Runaway Train's Owner Battled Safety Issues

New York Times:
US Considers Faster Pullout In Afghanistan
Financial Crisis Just A Symptom Of Detroit Woes
Killing Of Islamists Deepens Crisis In Egypt
Spitzer Quickly Hits Establishment Headwind
Words To Start A Stampede: New York Apartment For Sale
Unlikely Partners, Freeing Chimps From The Lab

Washington Post:
Egypt's Military Shoots Protesters
At A Crossroads, Group Faces A Stark Choice
Regimes' Web Tools Made In USA
Disaster In Canada Puts Focus On Oil Transportation
I Think People Are Willing To Give Me A Shot

Financial Times:
Financial Data Groups Face NY Probe
China Smog Cuts Life Expectancy By 5.5 Years
Kazakh State Oil Company Targets Europe
LVMH Spends €2bn On Cashmere Brand
Investor Advisory Groups Back Dell Buyout
Emerging Markets Look Less Good Close Up
Muslim Brotherhood Urges Egypt Uprising

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: California-Jet Crash, Flight 214 Hero, Jet Crash Analysis, Zimmerman Trial, Egypt-Unrest, Florida-Rip Currents, Plane Crash Survival, UK-Royal Baby
CBS: California-Jet Crash, California-Jet Crash-Analysis, California-Jet Crash-Rescue, Egypt-Unrest, Canada-Train Explosion, Zimmerman Trial, Politics-Perry Won't Seek Reelection, Heinz Kerry Hospitalized, Afghanistan-US Soldier Killed
NBC: California-Jet Crash, Jet Crash-Rescue, Alaska-Air Taxi Crash, Canada-Train Explosion, Egypt-Unrest, Arizona-Firefighter Procession, Heinz Kerry Hospitalized, Tropical Storm Chantal, Zimmerman Trial, Spitzer Re-Enters Politics

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Zimmerman Trial, Kidnapped Ohio Women Speak Out, Canada-Train Explosion, Snowden Leaks, California-Jet Crash
CBS: Afghanistan-Early Pullout, Egypt-Unrest, Kidnapped Ohio Women Speak Out, California-Jet Crash, Canada-Train Explosion, Toronto-Power Outage, FBI Director Confirmation Hearings
NPR: California-Jet Crash, Egypt-Unrest, Military-Sequestration Cuts, Syria-Opposition Peace Talks, South Africa-Circumcision Deaths, Tropical Storm Chantal

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, closed press; meets with Secretary of the Treasury Lew, Oval Office, closed press; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Situation Room, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Travels to Prescott Valley, Arizona with Dr. Jill Biden, attends a memorial service with Dr. Biden honoring the nineteen firefighters who died fighting the Yarnell Hill Fire; delivers remarks at this event, Tim's Toyota Center; returns to Washington, DC.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA – Announces the winners of a nationwide recipe challenge with to promote healthy lunches as part of the First Lady's Let's Move! Initiative.
US Senate: 10 a.m. JUCIARY — Judiciary Committee hearing on the nomination of James Comey to be FBI director. Location: 226 Dirksen.

11 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, today announced that the subcommittee meets to consider Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations bill. Location: 138 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. BECERRA & CROWLEY — Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-34), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus; Representative Joe Crowley (NY-14), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus hold media availability immediately following the Democratic Caucus meeting. Location: HVC-210 alcove stakeout location; Watch live online at www.dems.gov/live

10 a.m. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-WA; Representative Trey Radel (R-FL). Location: HC-8.

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. 200 HOUSE DEMOCRATS – NRLB OBSTRUCTION — Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (CA-38), Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-2), and other Members of Congress will join with labor unions from across the country at a press conference calling on Senator Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to stop threatening to block a Senate vote on the full package of National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) nominees. Participants include: Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (CA-38); Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-2); Congressman Mark Pocan (WI-2); Congressman Bill Foster (IL-11); Gertrude Villegas from Brooklyn, NY, a 14-year Outside Plant Tech with Cablevision; Kathleen VonEitzen from Battle Creek, MI, a bakery union worker from Panera Bread; AFL-CIO; AFSCME; Communications Workers of America (CWA); International Association of Machinists (IAMAW); International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); United Autoworkers (UAW). Location: House Triangle.

10:30 a.m. – NLRB — News Conference with Rep. Linda Sanchez on National Labor Relations Board – NLRB Location: House Triangle.

11:30 a.m. MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM — FRC to Join Capitol Hill News Conference Urging Restoration of Religious Freedom in the Military, to Release New Report on Religious Hostility. Speakers: Tony Perkins, president, Family Research Council; Rep. John Fleming (R-LA); Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-OK); Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX); Ron Crews, Ch. (Col.) USAR (Ret.), executive director, Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty; Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Jerry Boykin, executive vice president, Family Research Council. Location: The House Triangle.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. — The House meets for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. The House is expected to begin consideration of H.R. 2609 – Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014. First votes expected: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Last votes expected: evening

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Legislative Branch subcommittee markup of – FY 2014 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. Location: HT-2 Capitol.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE — Keeping College Within Reach: Improving Higher Education through Innovation. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Energy and Power hearing on H.R. 1900, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureaus collection of consumer data and whether the CFPB is properly safeguarding the privacy of consumer data I reaction to news reports that the CFPB recently began collecting financial data on at least 10 million American consumers. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee Hearing: Leaming from Iraq: A Final Report from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. Witnesses: Stuart W. Bowen, Jr., Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction; John Herbst, Director, Center for Complex Operations, National Defense University, (Former American Ambassador to Ukraine and Uzbekistan). Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Emergency hearing on MGMT 2.0: How Social Media and New Tech are Transforming Preparedness, Response, & Recovery. Witnesses: Shayne Adamski, Senior Manager of Digital Engagement, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Suzanne C. DeFrancis, Chief Public Affairs Officer, American Red Cross; Albert Ashwood, Director, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Regulatory Reform, Commercial, and Antitrust Law Subc. On H.R. 2122 – Regulatory Accountability Act of 2013. Location: 2141 Raybum.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation oversight hearing on Public Impact of Closing Amenities at Yosemite National Park. Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — Subcommittee on Environment Markup of: H.R. 2413, Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2013. Location: 2318 Raybum.

10 a.m. SELECT INTELLIGENCE — Full Committee. On ongoing intelligence activities. Location: HVC-304 Capitol.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Hearing: The Role of Innovative Finance in Intercity Passenger. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. VETERANS' AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Health Legislative Hearing on Draft Legislation, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act; H.R. 1443; H.R. 1612; H.R. 1702; H.R. 2065. Location: 334 Cannon.

10:15 a.m. ENERGY & COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on Cyber Espionage and the Theft of U.S. Intellectual Property and Technology. Witnesses: Slade Gorton, Former U.S. Senator from Washington State, Commission Member, Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property; Dr. Larry M. Wortzel, Ph.D., Commissioner, U.S.- China Economic and Security Review Commission; James A. Lewis, Director and Senior Fellow, Technology and, Public Policy Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Susan Offutt, Chief Economist, Applied Research and Methods, Government Accountability Office. Location: 2123 Raybum.

10:30 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements, hearing on Examining the Obama Administration's Social Cost of Carbon Estimates. Location: 2154 Raybum.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access hearing titled, American Competitiveness Worldwide: Impacts on Small Business and Entrepreneurs. Witnesses: Professor Michael Porter, Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, Harvard Business School, Boston, MA; Smyth McKissick, Chief Executive Officer, Alice Manufacturing Company, Inc., Easley, SC, testifying on behalf of the National Council of Textile Organizations; and James McConeghy, Chief Financial Officer, Chobani, Norwich, NY. Location: 2360 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee will examine whether sections of the Dodd-Frank Act concerning Too Big to Fail financial institutions are unconstitutional. Witnesses: C. Boyden Gray, Boyden Gray and Associates; Professor Thomas Merrill, Charles Evans Hughes Professor. Location: 2128 Raybum.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific hearing on Cambodias Looming Political and Social Crisis. Location: 2172 Raybum.

2 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency Threat to the Homeland: Irans Extending Influence in the Western Hemisphere. Witnesses: Alberto Nisman, General Prosecutor of the AMIA Case; Ilan Berman, Vice President, American Foreign Policy Council; Douglas Farah, President, IBI Consultants. Location: 311 Cannon.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing on Mining in America: Powder River Basin Coal Mining the Benefits and Challenges. Location: 1324 Longworth.

3 p.m. RULES — Full Committee. On H.R. 761 – National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013. Location: H-313 Capitol.

4 p.m. ENERGY & COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Energy and Power Markup on H.R. 1582, the Energy Consumers Relief Act, H.R. 1900, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act, and H.R. 83. Location: 2123 Rayburn.
Other: 2013 SMART GRID NATIONAL TOWN MEETING — 10th Anniversary National Town Meeting on demand response and smart grid. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Atrium Ballroom.

NTSB – NJ TRAIN DERAILMENT —9 a.m. The National Transportation Safety Board is convening a two-day investigative hearing to discuss and gather additional factual information into the ongoing investigation of a Conrail freight train derailment and hazardous material release in Paulsboro, New Jersey. Location: National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza.

ASA LEGISLATIVE FORUM – SEN. BROWN, REP KING, AMBASSADOR CABANAS — 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Senator Sherrod Brown, Senate Agriculture Committee; Representative Steve King, House Agriculture Committee; Jose Ramon, Cuban Ambassador Cabanas; others deliver remarks at the American Soybean Associations Legislative Issues and Education Forum. Location: Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue NW.

HEALTH AFFAIRS – HIT TRENDS — 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Health Affairs will host a briefing to report latest trends in health information technology adoption among US health care providers and hospitals. Remarks from Farzad Mostashari, the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology at the US Department of Health and Human Services, and coincides with the release of three Web First papers from Health Affairs, as well as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Annual Report on HIT Adoption. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Holeman Lounge, 13th Floor.

AEI- CLOSING GUANTANOMO BAY – REP. POMPEO — 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Closing Gitmo? A conversation with Rep. Mike Pompeo. Congressman Mike Pompeo (R-KS), a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and a West Point graduate, will sit down with Marc Thiessen (AEI) for a conversation on the Gitmo facility and the implications its closure could have for America's security. A brief Q&A will follow. Location: American Enterprise Institute, Wohlstetter Conference Center, 1150 17th St. NW, 12th floor.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY EPIDEMIC — 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. RWJF and the American Heart Association (AHA) host discussion on Signs of Progress Toward Reducing the Childhood Obesity Epidemic. Location: The National Capital Y, 1711 Rhode Island Ave. NW.

9:30 a.m. IMF – WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK — The IMF is publishing the World Economic Outlook Update and will hold a press conference. Participants: Olivier Blanchard, Economic Counsellor; Jorg Decressin, Deputy Director, Research Department; Thomas Helbling, Chief, World Economic Studies Division;; Rupa Duttagupta, World Economic Studies Division. Location: IMF, Conference Hall 2, 1900 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

9:30 a.m. STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – DUNCAN — Secretary Duncan will give remarks at the 60th annual meeting of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), focusing on the importance of keeping college affordable and challenging states and institutions to do more to lower the cost of college, while still providing high-quality higher education. Under Secretary Martha Kanter will join Secretary Duncan for a question-and-answer session following his remarks. Location: Westin Georgetown, Washington

Ballroom, 2350 M St. N.W.

IMPACT OF PATENT SETTLEMENTS – DRUG COSTS — 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Analysis conducted by the IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics on behalf of the Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA) provides new evidence that patent settlements, including patent settlements with consideration, provide billions in savings to the U.S. health system. These new findings contrast sharply with previous reports by the Federal Trade Commission based on older data. DIAL IN: (626) 521-0013, Access Code: 133-135-885, Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting. Meeting ID: 133-135-885.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Meeting of the President's Global Development Council (GDC). Location: Eisenhower Executive Office Building, South Court , Auditorium, Pennsylvania Avenue and 17th Street NW.

MILITARY CHILDREN – DUNCAN, HAGEL — 11:55 a.m. Secretary Duncan will deliver keynote remarks at the Military Child Education Coalitions 15th National Training Seminar. Sec. Hagel remarks at 3:30 p.m. Highlights: 11:55 a.m. Education Secretary Arne Duncan remarks. 3:30 p.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and other senior leaders deliver remarks. Location: Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center, Maryland Ballroom A/B, 2nd Level, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Md.

GREEN PROPELLANT INFUSION MISSION — 12 p.m. Green Propellant Infusion Mission Press Conference. The NASA GPIM program is demonstrating and testing a high-performance green fuel in space. DIAL IN: (712) 432-1500; Access Code 313040 Speakers: Senator Mark Udall (D-CO); Dr. Michael Gazarik, NASA Space Technology Mission Directorate Associate Administrator; Christopher McLean, Green Propellant, Infusion Mission Principal Investigator, Ball Aerospace; Roger Myers, Aerojet Rocketdyne Executive Director for Redmond, WA. Location: Reserve Officers Association, 1 Constitution Ave, NE, 20002 – 4th floor.

CALIFORNIA NETWORK FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. The California Institute for Federal Policy Research hosts Congressional Lunch Briefing on: The California Network for Manufacturing Innovation. Panelists: Elizabeth Cantwell, Ph.D., Vice Chair, CNMI Board of Directors; and Director, Economic Development, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (Moderator); Frank W. Gayle, Sc.D., Deputy Director, Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office, National Institute of Standards and Technology; Jim Watson, Chair, CNMI Board of Directors; and President and CEO, California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC), Manufacturing Extension Partnership; Kem Edward Robinson, Ph.D., Member, CNMI Board of Directors; and Director, Engineering Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Marc Madou, Ph.D., Chancellor9s Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, University of California Irvine; Katie Wheeler Mathews, Deputy Director, California Governor's Washington, DC Office (invited). Location: B-338 Rayburn.

THE THIRD SHIFT: CHILD CARE NEEDS — 2 p.m. Press conference and release of Third Shift: Child Care Needs and Access in the Restaurant Industry, a new report from ROC United and the Ms. Foundation detailing the experience of working mothers in the restaurant industry. Location: Bloomberg Room, National Press Club; 529 14th St NW, 13th Floor.

EESI – HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION — 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Electric Transmission 101: How the Grid Works. The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and WIRES (Working group for Investment in Reliable and Economic electric Systems) host a briefing about the operational basics of high-voltage transmission to help facilitate understanding of the complex economic and policy challenges facing the grid in the 21st century. Location: 106 Dirksen. (ROOM CHANGE)

NASA – MARS 2020 – TELECONFERENCE — 3 p.m. NASA will host a media teleconference to provide details about a report that will help define science objectives for the agency's next Mars rover. Participants: John Grunsfeld, NASA's associate administrator for science, Washington; Jim Green, director, Planetary Science Division, NASA Headquarters, Washington; Jack Mustard, SDT chair and professor of geological sciences, Brown University, Providence. R.I.; Lindy Elkins-Tanton, SDT member and director of the Carnegie Institution for Science's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Washington.

DHS -CYBERSECURITY — 7:30 p.m. National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Acting Under Secretary Suzanne Spaulding will deliver remarks on the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) cyber efforts

and challenges at a Cyber, Space & Intelligence Association event. Location: Tortilla Coast on Capitol Hill, 400 1st St., SE.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Hope you all had a nice Fourth of July. As you know, last Thursday we celebrated our 237th year of independence from Great Britain. And our tenth year of dependence on the Chinese. So it has worked out very nice."

Jay Leno: "According to the Census Bureau, more Asians are immigrating to this country than any other minority group. And they assimilate quickly, considering when they get here; most of them don't even speak Spanish."

Jay Leno: "Former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer – remember him? He announced he is running for New York City controller, and one of his opponents is the madam who supplied him with hookers. She is running against him. There's a tough choice for the voters, huh? I mean, one is involved in the most degrading profession of all time, and the other ran a whore house."

Jay Leno: "Federal prosecutors say an immigration officer in Santa Ana, California, right down the road here, has been indicted on charges that she took 200 egg rolls as a bribe from an immigrant seeking citizenship and a green card. She took 200 egg rolls. In fact, she would have gotten away with this crime, but she got greedy and made the guy go back for the little soy sauce packets. See, it's always the greed."

David Letterman: "It's hot in New York City, am I right? ... You know that guy, the NSA leaker guy, that Edward Snowden? Here's how hot it is. He's seeking asylum in Antarctica."

David Letterman: "Frankly, I'm surprised about Eliot Spitzer running for city comptroller. Because the comptroller, this guy couldn't even comp-trol himself."

Conan O'Brien: "I can't believe this; the next presidential election is still like three years away. They're already starting. They're already starting. Here's the latest, the Republicans are already trying to paint Hillary Clinton as too old to be President. In fact, the new ad claims she's so old, she could be a Republican."

Jimmy Fallon: "This week at the White House, President Obama will present George Lucas with the National Medal of Arts while Joe Biden will present him with some fan mail for Yoda."

Jimmy Fallon: "You guys read about NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden? Yeah. Well he's been offered asylum in Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia. Or as Snowden put it, 'Prison it is.'"

Jimmy Kimmel : "Former President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush were in Africa last week. They were there on a humanitarian visit. And this to me is the worst part about being President. It's not deciding whether to send troops to war or the daily scrutiny or the schedule. Worst part of being President I think is being forced to dance with villagers. Imagine if Lincoln had to do this? He wouldn't be on money."

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BISON CONNECT

Seattle Times Preview Story: Interior Secy Jewell dives into pressing issues

Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jul 19, 2013 at 12:33 AM
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Sally -

The Seattle Times preview story is up:

Interior Secretary Jewell dives into pressing issues

Since her confirmation as Interior secretary in April, former REI Chief Executive Sally Jewell has immersed herself in the pressing issues facing her vast agency.

By Kyung M. Song
Seattle Times Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Since her confirmation as Interior secretary in April, former REI Chief Executive Sally Jewell has immersed herself in the pressing issues facing her vast agency, from updating hydraulic-fracturing regulations to protecting sage grouse and opening more lands and waters to oil and gas exploration.

During that time, perhaps the biggest news from Jewell's former employer was Recreational Equipment Inc.'s decision to replace its lifetime merchandise-return policy with a one-year limit.

Even for an engineer-turned-banker-turned-retail-executive, Jewell's venture into public service has been quite a shift.

"This is an enormous job," she said in an interview Thursday.

Saturday marks Jewell's 100th day as the nation's 51st Interior secretary. Coincidentally, she'll be making her first public appearance as secretary in Washington state that same day, at a summit for youth and the outdoors at the University of Washington.

Connecting children and families with nature is a priority for Jewell, one of the only Cabinet secretaries who travels with a backpack.

Jewell has devoted much of her first months in office familiarizing herself with Interior's far-flung operations.

She has toured an offshore-drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, checked on restoration progress at the Everglades National Park and attended the memorial for 19 firefighters killed in an Arizona wildfire.

She also has met frequently with Senate and House members, tending to the political business that is no small part of her job.

Republicans, chief among them Rep. Doc Hastings of Pasco, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee that has oversight of Jewell's department, has been agitating for the Obama administration to open up more federal waters that ring the coastal states to oil and gas drilling.

In 2012, the Interior Department collected $12.2 billion in revenue from oil, gas and other leases. Jewell has said in congressional testimony and on Capitol Hill that the administration will pursue energy exploration safely and

responsibly while meeting the nation's security needs.

She said her previous careers, especially her days as a petroleum engineer and a commercial banker, have served her well in her new role.

"To actually know what (hydraulic fracturing) is, having done it myself and recognizing the risks" has been extremely valuable, she said.

Jewell said she plans to follow advice she received to focus on a few key issues that would mark her tenure at Interior, adding that she was still working on that list.

But she mentioned the 2016 centennial of the National Park Service, one of her department's agencies. She called it a chance to celebrate the national-park system's cultural and natural treasures.

Jewell also talked about Interior Department's responsibility to American Indians and Alaska natives. The Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs is charged with upholding treaty obligations with tribes on self-governance, education for native students and other matters.

Sent from my iPhone

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, July 19, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Fri, Jul 19, 2013 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL DEFENDS FRACKING RULE. Bloomberg News (7/17, Drajem) reports that "appearing before the House Natural Resources committee," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "faced criticism from Republican lawmakers arguing that the department's proposed rule to govern fracking on public lands will cause unnecessary delays." She "drew on her past experience to answer criticism from Democrat Alan Lowenthal of California, who complained that the Interior proposal relies on the independent FracFocus for disclosure of chemicals used in fracking." Jewell said that FracFocus "is imperfect, but it's being updated," and "if it's not providing adequate disclosure, 'we will look for other ways to do it.'"

For Forbes (7/18, Steffy, 928K), Loren Steffy writes that "while many environmentalists argue the rules don't go far enough, Jewell is trying to strike a balance between environmental protection and the concerns of the oil industry, where she once worked." Steffy argue sthat "while the industry may balk at Jewell's pragmatic approach, it has no one to blame but itself when it comes to fracking regulation."

Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Jewell's defense of "her department's proposal to implement a new rule governing hydraulic fracturing on federal lands" was provided by the E&E Daily (7/18), Inside Climate News (7/18), and the Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (7/19, 85K).

SECRETARY JEWELL PRESSED FOR COAL LEASE MORATORIUM. The E&E Daily (7/18) reports that environmental groups are pressing Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for a moratorium on coal lease sales. The groups' "letter calling for Jewell to act comes weeks after an Office of Inspector General report said the Bureau of Land Management might be losing out on more than $60 million from leasing federal coal to mining companies." They wrote, "The report points to the need for a moratorium on new coal leasing so these improvements can be made. As we have before, we call on you to take action to fully restore the integrity of the American coal management program."

Also, the Grist (7/19) reports that Interior Department employees "were greeted during their lunch break today by youth climate activists distributing memos from a made-up government agency, the 'Department of Climate Action,' to highlight that the federal coal leasing program is undermining President Obama's Climate Action Plan."

WITNESSES FEAR REGULATIONS IN OPPOSING BLUEWAYS ORDER. The E&E Daily (7/18) report that "witnesses from Arkansas and Missouri yesterday said they fear a national designation of the White River in their states could lead to unwanted regulations that could harm the area tourism and timber industries." However, "when pressed repeatedly by Democrats on the panel, none of the order's critics could name any examples of how such a designation would lead to new federal regulations."

Additional coverage was provided by the Northwest Arkansas Online (7/18), the Springfield (MO) News-Leader (7/18), the Baxter (AR) Bulletin (7/18, 8K), the Springfield (MO) News-Leader (7/18), the Wayne County (MO) Journal-Banner (7/19, 3K), and the Farmington (MO) Daily Journal (7/19).

OFFICIALS TO UNVEIL WILDFIRE PARTNERSHIP. The Northern Colorado Business Report (7/18) reports that Sen. Mark Udall, "together with US Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, will visit Larimer County Friday" to "unveil a partnership to protect Colorado water from wildfire."

Also covering the story is Politico (7/19, Bade, 25K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TACKLES PRESSING ISSUES. The Seattle Times (7/19, Song, 236K) reports that "since her confirmation as Interior secretary in April, former REI Chief Executive Sally Jewell has immersed

herself in the pressing issues facing her vast agency, from updating hydraulic-fracturing regulations to protecting sage grouse and opening more lands and waters to oil and gas exploration." The article notes that "Saturday marks Jewell's 100th day as the nation's 51st Interior secretary," and on that day, "she'll be making her first public appearance as secretary in Washington state that same day, at a summit for youth and the outdoors at the University of Washington."

JUDGE ORDERS DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. TO PERFORM CLEANUP. The San Francisco Chronicle (7/19, Egelko, 220K) reports that "a Marin County judge has ordered" the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. "to comply with Coastal Commission cleanup orders on its property at Point Reyes National Seashore while awaiting a federal court ruling on the Obama administration's attempt to shut the operation down." Superior Court Judge Lynn Duryee told the company "on Wednesday to obey the state commission's directives, dating from 2007, that found the company responsible for plastic debris, disruptions to the habitat of harbor seals and the planting of nearly 2 million Manila clams, an invasive species." According to environmental advocates, "the order requires Drakes Bay to clean up pollution and remove the clams while awaiting its fate at the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals, which heard arguments May 14."

The Los Angeles Times (7/19, Cart, 692K) reports that the California Coastal Commission "has twice ordered the oyster farm to submit detailed operational plans in accordance with the state's Coastal Act." Lisa Haage, the Coastal Commission's chief of enforcement, "welcomed the judge's ruling." According to Haage, "the ruling means that the court is compelling the oyster company to comply with the Coastal Commission's edicts."

SECRETARY JEWELL MENTIONED IN ARTICLE ABOUT NEW EPA ADMINISTRATOR. Reuters (7/19, Gardner), covering the confirmation of Gina McCarthy by the Senate as the new administrator of the EPA, notes that McCarthy will join Jewell on President Obama's energy and environment team.

BUFFALO TRACE DISTILLERY NAMED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. A press release carried by KION-TV Monterey, CA (7/19) announces that Buffalo Trace Distillery "has been named a National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior."

INTERIOR RELEASES NEW MAPPING TOOL TO TRACE WATERSHEDS. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (7/19, 221K) reports that the Interior Department has released a new tool that "allows you to trace rivers the entire length of the watershed." The tool "also gives you detailed information on specific watersheds, including this report for the Milwaukee River."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TAKING STEPS TO IMPLEMENT CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (7/19, Geman, 21K) reports the Obama Administration on Thursday took several steps "that officials say will advance the energy efficiency portion of the White House climate change plan unveiled in late June." The "incremental" steps "are a piece of what officials call wide-ranging efforts to help double U.S. energy 'productivity'" by the year "2030, while working with other nations to boost efficiency, too."

Also covering the climate change plan is FOX News (7/18, Russell).

Reid: Climate Change To Blame For Nevada Wildfires. The National Journal (7/19, Harder, Subscription Publication, 12K) reports Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader, "blamed climate change" for this summer's wildfires in Nevada that have ravaged almost 28,000 acres. This has been the second occasion this week that Reid has blamed the fires on climate change, although Reid "normally doesn't talk about climate change at press conferences."

US Coasts Should Prepare For A Longer, Hotter Summer. Bloomberg News (7/19, Sullivan) reports the Climate Prediction Center says the US Northeast, parts of the mid-Atlantic, and "much of the western half of the country all have a chance to be warmer than normal through the next three months." The two coasts of the country "may have temperatures above normal," although the prediction is not "as clear" for the northern Great Plains, Midwest and Southeastern US. The higher temperature forecast "can affect energy markets as more people turn to air conditioners to keep cool."

AGENCIES PARTNER TO BENEFIT AGRICULTURAL LANDS, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND MILITARY READINESS. Additional coverage of the "federal, local and private collaboration that will preserve agricultural

lands, assist with military readiness and restore and protect wildlife habitat" was provided by the Aberdeen (SD) News (7/19, 15K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: UTAH REPEALS LEGISLATION LIMITING FEDERAL POWER. Additional coverage of Utah's repeal of legislation limiting federal power was provided by the Los Angeles Times (7/18, Glionna, 692K).

INTERIOR OFFICIALS INTERVIEWED ON CONSERVATION MOVEMENT. For the La Crosse (WI) Tribune (7/19, 27K), Sam Scinta writes about people he interviewed "involved in the conservation movement ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014, for a documentary film being produced." Among the officials he talked to were FWS Director Dan Ashe and NPS Director Jon Jarvis. Ashe "emphasized the importance of passing on the legacy of wilderness preservation, respect and enjoyment to the young generation, and is leading efforts, as are many at the Department of the Interior, in building bridges to our young citizens." Jarvis "noted that regardless of budget realities, it was the job of his team, along with more than 180,000 NPS volunteers across the country, to do all that is necessary to preserve and share our nation's 'jewels.'"

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

ARTS COMMISSION APPROVES GEHRY'S EISENHOWER MEMORIAL DESIGN. The Washington Post (7/18, 489K) reports that "a powerful commission overseeing civic art and architecture in the nation's capital voted Thursday to approve the general concept and layout of Frank Gehry's design for a national memorial honoring Dwight D. Eisenhower." According to the article, "the US Commission of Fine Arts reviewed Gehry's plans for stone or bronze statues of the 34th president, and members voted 3-1 to approve the major elements." The article notes that "one commissioner voted no, saying the memorial's landscape design needed to be further developed."

Also reporting on the story is the Denver Post (7/19, Zongker, 443K).

In an editorial, the Wichita (KS) Eagle (7/19, 68K) says the approval was "encouraging." According to the paper, "though the $142 million project also needs congressional reauthorization and National Park Service approval, the arts commission's 3-1 vote should help its momentum."

TOMATO BATTLE DRAWS FIRE. The New York Times (7/18, Miller, 1.68M) reports that the Tomato Battle "makes its New York debut on Saturday at an outdoor space at Aviator Sports and Events Center at Floyd Bennett Field, after having played cities including Denver, San Diego and Portland, Ore." But some critics "believe such events don't belong in a national park." For instance, Don Riepe, the Jamaica Bay guardian for the American Littoral Society, said, "It just seems like a bad public image" for the NPS "to allow such frivolity and silliness in a national park."

BOY RESCUED FROM INDIANA DUNE UPGRADED TO SERIOUS CONDITION. The Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (7/19, Coyne, 8K) reports that "the condition of the 6-year-old boy rescued from a northwest Indiana dune was upgraded to serious Thursday," while NPS "officials continued to try to figure out what caused him to become trapped under 11 feet of sand." Dr. Rachel Wolfson said that Nathan Woessner "has been removed from a ventilator, is recovering from sedation and he continues to respond to commands." He "is expected to make a full neurological recovery, though he may suffer lingering lung problems from inhaling sand."

MOUNT RAINIER OFFICIALS REMIND CLIMBERS OF CHANGES IN RESCUE PROCEDURES. The Bellingham (WA) Herald (7/18, Mayor, 16K) reports that Mount Rainier National Park officials have "issued a news release reminding climbers the park has changed its rescue procedures, especially those involving helicopters."

MYSTERY SUBSTANCE REAPPEARS IN WATER AT PORTER BEACH. The Chesterton (IN) Tribune (7/19, Nevers, 5K) reports that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management is "investigating yet another occurrence at Porter Beach of a mystery substance found in the offshore waters." IDEM spokesman Dan Goldblatt said "that the decision to close Porter Beach belongs to the National Park Service (NPS)."

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK MONITORS 3 SMALL FIRES. The Springfield (OH) News Sun (7/19, 18K) reports that officials at Grand Canyon National Park "say they're monitoring three small lightning-caused fires on the canyon's north rim." For now, park officials are "allowing the fires to burn."

LIGHTNING STRIKES INJURE ONE WOMAN IN COLORADO, THREE HIKERS IN MONTANA. The Washington Post (7/18, 489K) reports that on Thursday, "a 65-year-old woman was struck by lightning near a trailhead in Rocky Mountain National Park." The NPS "says the woman was taken to Estes Park Medical Center. Her condition wasn't immediately released." In Montana, "two adults and a child were injured Wednesday after lightning struck nearby as they hiked on a trail in Glacier National Park."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Post (7/18, 489K) and the Denver Post (7/19, 443K).

MAN DIES WHILE FISHING IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK RIVER. The Washington Post (7/18, 489K) reports that a 73-year-old man "has died while fishing in Yellowstone National Park." The NPS "says the man, whose name has not been released, lost his footing while fishing in the Yellowstone River and was swept away in the swift current on Wednesday."

BODY OF MISSING HIKER FOUND IN YELLOWSTONE PARK. The Macon (GA) Telegraph (7/18, 42K) reports that "the body of a 23-year-old solo hiker has been found near the summit of an 11,000 foot mountain in Yellowstone National Park." The NPS says Joseph Austin Parker "was reported missing about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, about five hours after he called friends saying he was descending Electric Peak because of nearby lightning." According to the artricle, "an aerial and ground search turned up nothing until Thursday morning when his body was discovered below the summit of Electric Peak."

NPS PROPOSAL FOR YOSEMITE CRITICIZED. In an editorial, the U-T San Diego (7/18, 242K) criticizes an NPS "proposal to end bike, horse and river rentals, scrap ice skating and remove the swimming pools at the Yosemite Lodge and Ahwahnee Hotel." The paper argues that "Yosemite is fine as it is" and "environmental extremists should go peddle their lunacy elsewhere."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM LAND SALE IN NEVADA BRINGS IN $21.4 MILLION IN BIDS. Yahoo! (7/19) reports that "a federal land sale in southern Nevada has netted $21.4 million." The BLM "offered 134 acres of federally-owned land, as authorized under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act." The bureau "sold seven parcels encompassing 109 acres."

Also reporting on the story is the Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/19, 228K).

BLM DELIVERS WATER TO HORSES. The Deseret (UT) News (7/19, 105K) reports that "since late June," the BLM "has orchestrated the delivery of water to troughs some 22 miles into the hills off state Route 196." According to the article, "the herd of about 570 animals was draining the trough, which operates on a float system — a float valve that controls the water coming in — and is fed through a pipe." The bureau "in Utah is trying to avoid the untenable situation that has confronted its counterpart in Nevada, where many members of the Seaman herd are in extremely poor condition and at imminent risk of dying."

Also reporting on the story is KSL-TV Salt Lake City (7/19).

TREATMENT OF WILD HORSES CRITICIZED. The Headline News (7/18) reports that wild horses "are not being properly cared for during bouts of extreme weather, with temperatures over 100 degrees in some places," according to critics. The article notes that "one facility near Reno, Nevada has been pinpointed by critics for not providing adequate shelter in sweltering heat." The BLM "said they recently installed sprinklers in this facility, and have a vet visiting regularly."

ILLEGAL DUMPING ON BLM LAND CRITICIZED. In an editorial, the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (7/19, 14K) says that "the report of a septic tank business illegally dumping waste on" BLM property is "infuriating." According to the paper, "what would have cost $119.34 to legally dump in the landfill will cost an estimated

$28,500 to cleanup."

CONGRESS URGED TO RENEW AUTHORITY FOR AGENCIES TO ENTER INTO STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS. In an op-ed for the Verde (AZ) Independent (7/19, Flake), Sen. Jeff Flake notes that the BLm and the Forest Service "are about to lose one of their most valuable tools in reducing wildfire threats." He warns that "unless Congress acts, the authority to enter into" stewardship contracts "will expire at the end of September." Flake urges Congress to "waste no time in renewing this beneficial tool."

SOLUTION SOUGHT FOR SUSTAINABLE TIMER HARVESTS. The Dalles (OR) Chronicle (7/18, 3K) reprints an editorial from the Roseburg News-Review noting that "the state and federal forests that count for 55 percent of Douglas County's land saw another decline in harvest." On BLM "forests, the harvest dipped by 13 percent in the Roseburg district." The paper concludes that "the lopsided state of sustainable timber harvests in Oregon is another reminder of how important it is for Congress to devise a solution."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE PROPOSES CRITICAL HABITAT FOR LOGGERHEAD TURTLES. The E&E Daily (7/18) reports that the National Marine Fisheries Service "proposed habitat protections yesterday for loggerhead sea turtles in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico." It "includes 36 breeding and migration areas off North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi." The proposal "complements the onshore critical habitat proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service last year to protect 739 miles of loggerhead nesting beaches." Also reporting on the story is the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (7/18).

FWS Releases Cost Of Loggerhead Designation. The State (SC) (7/17, 71K) reports that the FWS "on Wednesday released the cost of designating almost 750 miles of beaches as critical habitat for endangered loggerhead sea turtles." The agency "estimated it will cost about $150,000 a year to administer the Endangered Species Act along the designated beaches." The figure "reflects the costs of government reviews of projects such as beach renourishment that might affect the turtles."

FWS ADDS SIX MORE MONTHS TO GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE REVIEW. The Oil and Gas Journal (7/19, Snow) reports that the FWS "said it will take another 6 months to decide whether to designate the Gunnison sage grouse as an endangered species, and areas of southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah as critical habitat for the bird." FWS Mountain-Prairie Regional Director Noreen Walsh said, "We heard loud and clear from many people invested in Gunnison sage grouse conservation that there is additional scientific information we should consider during our decision-making process."

FWS REOPENS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR PROPOSALS ON YOSEMITE TOAD, OTHER AMPHIBIANS. The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (7/19) reports that the FWS "is reopening the public comment period for 120 days for the proposal to list the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and the northern distinct population segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog as endangered and the Yosemite toad as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)." The agency "is also reopening the public comment period for 120 days for the proposal to designate critical habitat for these three amphibian species in California."

FWS LAUDED FOR RECOVERY OF WOLVES. For the Yale Environment 360 (7/19, Williams), Ted Williams writes that the FWS' "brilliant politicking over the last 30 years is the reason wolves in the northern Rockies and Lake States really are recovered." Now, thanks to the FWS "and no thanks to the perennial plaintiffs, there are an estimated 1,674 wolves in the northern Rockies and 4,432 in the Lake States." Although Williams says that the agency's draft plan is lacking, he is confident that the FWS will listen to concerns.

US Geological Survey:

BILL AIMS TO HELP AGENCIES ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The Missoula (MT) Independent (7/18, 22K) reports on the legislation recently introduced "to jumpstart climate adaptation on federal lands." The Safeguarding America's Future and the Environment (SAFE) Act "aims to make climate adaptation planning a requirement of all federal natural resources agencies." The bill "would also establish a National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center within the USGS, to focus efforts on helping public land and natural resources stand up to

climate change."

USGS TO USE CAL STATE BUILDING DEMOLITION TO STUDY HAYWARD FAULT. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (7/19, Parr, 539K) reports that "scientists are taking advantage of next month's implosion of a 13-story Cal State East Bay building to study a portion of the Hayward Fault using seismic monitors they will place throughout nearby neighborhoods." According to Leslie Gordon, USGS communications specialist, "the implosion of Warren Hall will produce energy similar to a very small earthquake and because scientists know when and where the quakelike event will occur, they can closely monitor the event." The article notes that "the data collected will help them better understand the Hayward Fault zone, which lies a little more than 750 yards west of the building."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FWS APPROVES BUCKEYE WIND CONSERVATION PLAN FOR INDIANA BAT. The Urbana (OH) Citizen (7/19, 5K) reports that the FWS "approved an extensive habitat conservation plan and issued an incidental take permit to Buckeye Wind LLC in the Buckeye Wind Farm projects according to a press release issued on Thursday." It "allows for the incidental 'take' of a small number of endangered Indiana bats at its proposed wind power project in eastern Champaign County." According to the article, "to offset the loss of Indiana bats, Buckeye Wind must follow the approved habitat conservation plan designed specifically for the Indiana bat."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM CRITICIZED FOR SELLING LEASES UNDER CONTESTED MANAGEMENT PLAN. The E&E Daily (7/18) reports that "several of the oil and gas leases sold at a" BLM "lease sale here yesterday fall under an almost 30-year-old management plan and therefore should have stayed on the shelf," critics charge. According to the article, "at its quarterly lease sale, which included parcels in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, Red Dirt Energy LLC of Oklahoma City snagged leases for five parcels in southern New Mexico's Otero County totaling 1,166 acres." Several environmental groups claimed the bureau "should not have leased the five Otero County parcels because they are managed under a resource management plan that dates back to 1986, before industry showed much interest in the area."

MARCELLUS SHALE DEVELOPMENT LEADING NORTHEAST TOWARD NATURAL GAS SELF-SUFFICIENCY. The E&E Daily (7/18) reports that a recent report by commodity analysts at Citigroup said that "shale gas development across Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia is driving at future regional self-sufficiency and in the meantime changing the dynamic of US gas pricing out of the Henry Hub in Louisiana." According to the report, "the need to fill underground natural gas caverns in the eastern United States to prepare for frigid New England winters could come to an end if pipelines keep building on their capacity to move Marcellus Shale gas."

"HABITAT EXCHANGE" PROPOSED FOR PRAIRIE CHICKEN. The Upstream Online (7/19, Johnson, 7K) reports that "a recent report by Texas Tech University" and the USGS "found that the lesser prairie chicken, which nests in the grasslands of the Texas Panhandle and surrounding areas, could by 2050 see its reproductive opportunities decrease to a level below what is required to sustain its current population." The report "pointed to climate change as the primary culprit," but "rampant drilling activity in the Permian basin, Granite Wash and Rocky Mountain areas, among others, also poses a threat, and could accelerate the bird's already decreasing ranks." According to the article, "to address the potential conflict, ranchers and oil companies, along with the Environmental Defence Fund, are proposing a 'habitat exchange' that would allow both prairie chickens and oil producers to thrive."

AGENCIES ADMITS FAULT IN STREAM BUFFER ZONE RULE SUIT. The Law 360 (7/19, Rodriguez) reports that the Interior Department and the Environmental Protection Agency "on Wednesday admitted they violated the Endangered Species Act by not consulting with the Fish and Wildlife Service before approving a 2008 rule limiting surface coal mining near streams."

FRACKING IN WYOMING UNDER FIRE. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (7/19, 22K) reports the method of

fracking to extract oil and natural gas in Wyoming is drawing a heated debate as critics say it could "pollute groundwater supplies." Wyoming is the first state to establish rules on fracking, which were challenged in March by environmental groups, saying that the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has been "too quick to offer trade secret exemptions to companies that want to protect the identity of chemicals in fluids pumped underground as part of the fracking process." The EPA "tentatively linked" fracking to contaminated wells last year and was attacked by "industry and state officials" who claimed their testing methods were false.

SOUTH DAKOTA BEATS NORTH DAKOTA IN LEASE OF OIL AND GAS FIELDS. The Rapid City (SD) Journal (7/19, 24K) reports "optimistic signs of expanded energy development" in South Dakota oil and gas fields. South Dakota actually beat North Dakota in the "total acres of Bureau of Land Management oil and gas leases sold" on Wednesday, selling 50 out of 87 oil-and-gas leases. However, BLM spokeswoman Kristen Lenhardt warned not to read too much into the numbers as "a variety of factors determine the amount of acreage up for lease."

Offshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR EXPECTED TO ASK FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ARCTIC OIL EXPLORATION IN COMING WEEKS. The E&E Daily (7/18) notes the ongoing speculation about the future of US Arctic exploration following Shell's mishaps during its 2012 drilling season. Some analysts believe that Shell's experiences "have seriously damaged" prospects for others to explore the area. Still, "most energy experts" believe Arctic oil exploration off the US coast will pick up in the future. However, drilling may not happen for awhile. As Kevin Casey of the Arctic Institute notes, Arctic development moves slowly, with companies spending between 10 and 20 years on exploration, financing, planning, and development before any oil is drilled. Regulatory battles are also key, with the industry prepared to fight environmental groups "over Alaska's future." Meanwhile, the Obama Administration is "paving the way for new Arctic drilling." Soon, the Interior Department is "expected to formally ask for public comment on which regions of the Chukchi Sea should be opened for future exploration and development."

REPORT BY COAST GUARD ON KULLUK EXPECTED IN MID-AUGUST. The Alaska Journal of Commerce (7/19, Bradner, 5K) reports the US Coast Guard plans to have a report out on the grounding of Shell's drillship Kulluk by the middle of August, according to a senior Coast Guard official. The Kulluk, used in Shell's arctic drilling in the summer of 2012 was "damaged...after being caught in a Gulf of Alaska storm" and the report may "fault Shell's decisions on the timing of moving the rig and equipment deployed for towing."

MARITIME SENIOR LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE ANNOUNCED. The Marine Link (7/19) reports the program for its Environmental Intelligence in Maritime Senior Leadership Roundtable has been announced. It "will be held in Anchorage, Alaska on August 8th, 2013, at the Captain Cook Hotel." According to the article, "giving updates on Coast Guard expectations will be RADM Tom Ostebo, followed by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's RADM James Watson."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR APPROVES $5 BILLION INTEGRATED WATER PLAN. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (7/19, Lester, 28K) reports that the BOR has approved "an ambitious and expensive plan to meet future Yakima River Basin water needs for people and fish." The bureau "has adopted the potentially $5 billion proposal as the approach it intends to pursue over what could be the next 30 years if Congress provides authorization and funding." Its "decision is based on an environmental review that looked at the potential impact of those seven elements as a whole and not each individually."

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA PLAN DRAFT CRITICIZED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES. The Los Angeles Times (7/19, Boxall, 692K) reports California's proposal to "re-plumb the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta" are being criticized by Federal agencies. The Federal comments say the work is "insufficient, biased and confusing." The project is estimated to cost $24 billion and the urban and agricultural water contractors who will be funding most of it "are hoping to get relief from environmental restrictions on their deliveries."

DELTA RESIDENTS HAVE SIGNS CONFISCATED. The Vacaville (CA) Reporter (7/19, Murphy, 17K) reports residents living near the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta had signs in their front yards "pulled out and confiscated" by Maintenance crews from Caltrans District 4. The signs were put up to "draw attention" to The Bay

Delta Conservation Plan and read "Save the Delta, Stop the Tunnels" in a reaction against Governor Brown's BDCP. The signs were "strategically placed on private property."

COLORADO COURT RULES TO GO AHEAD WITH PIPELINE. The Colorado Springs (CO) Independent (7/18, 36K) reports that the Colorado Court of Appeals has ruled to uphold the state's "approval of a certification for the Southern Delivery Pipeline water project." The ruling means a "hurdle that has been cited by Pueblo County in correspondence with the Interior Department as a roadblock for SDS has been removed." SDS program director John Fredell said that "today's decision is one more major milestone for the SDS project, which is proceeding on schedule and under budget."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF COLORADO RIVER. Additional coverage of the Colorado River was provided by the Durango Herald (7/16, Jones, 8K), the Laramie (WY) Boomerang (7/18, 5K), the Casa Grande (AZ) Dispatch (7/19, 7K), and the Arizona Capitol Times (7/18, Eaton).

STUDIES DON'T HELP SALMON SURVIVE. In an opinion article for the Modesto (CA) Bee (7/18, 59K) Steve Knell, the general manager of the Oakdale Irrigation District, and Jeff Shields the general manager of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District argue that the countless studies done on the "health of our native salmon and steelhead populations" are not helping their survival. They argue that the problem is that there is "no active program in California addressing non-native predator fish" who threaten the salmon population. They claim that "additional studies at the expense of immediate action are no longer appropriate" and that districts should support "House Resolution 2705, which would establish a five-year pilot program to remove non-native predator fish from the Stanislaus River" proposed by Rep. Jeff Denham.

Empowering Native American Communities:

SUPPORT GROWS FOR TRIBAL CONTROL IN CHILD WELFARE. The Sioux Falls (SD) Argus Leader (7/19, Young, 34K) reports that Gov. Dennis Daugaard has "sent a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius saying he supports tribal efforts in South Dakota to run their own child welfare and foster care services." The move "is a positive sign to Danny Sheehan, chief counsel for the Lakota People's Law Project, a nonprofit that has provided expertise to the tribes since 2006 on the Indian Child Welfare Act." The article notes that "after a report by National Public Radio in 2011, concern had been building among the tribes that the Department of Social Services repeatedly had violated ICWA," and that a Rapid City conference was attended by Kevin Washburn, the U.S. Interior Department's assistant secretary for Indian Affairs in May

PROPOSED BIA RULE COULD CREATE NEW CASINOS IN CONNECTICUT. The Greenwich (CT) Time (7/19, 7K) reports the BIA's proposed change in how tribes are recognized could "revive long dormant plans to build an Indian casino along the western I-84 corridor, Bridgeport and elsewhere" in Connecticut. Both the Schaghticoke and Golden Hill Paugussett tribes would benefit from the change, as it would make it easier for them to gain recognition, and "the ability to offer gambling on federally held reservation land."

MEDFORD VOICE THEIR OPPOSITION TO BIA RULE CHANGE. The Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (7/18, 21K) reports Medford City Council is opposing the BIA's effort to "speed up the process for tribes seeking to open casino." This comes as no surprise, as the council has previously "voiced its opposition to a Coquille Indian Tribe proposal to place land in southern Medford into trust." The Coquille eventually designed to build a casino there.

FORMER NORTHERN CHEYENNE PRESIDENT WAITS FOR BIA DECISION. The Helena (MT) Independent Record (7/19, 12K) reports ousted president of the Northern Cheyenne tribe, John Robinson, is waiting to see whether the BIA "signs off on the tribal council's decision to remove him." The BIA will review the council resolution that fired Robinson to "ensure the language is correct and the constitution followed."

JUDGE RULES TRIBAL CLAIMS SUBMITTED TOO LATE. The Courthouse News (7/18) reports that a Federal judge ruled that Quapaw tribal members "waited too long to accuse the US government of failing to protect their land." The Quapaw claim the Federal government leased their land to "lead and zinc mining activities in the late 1800s" which caused a by-product, "chat" which is environmentally hazardous. The tribe claims that the "chat accumulation contaminated tribal soil and ground water, and destroyed the land for agricultural use."

SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE COUNCIL APPEALS YANKTON REINSTATEMENT. The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (7/19) reports the Spirit Lake Nation tribal council has appealed a court ruling that would reinstate "embattled chairman" Roger Yankton Sr. Yankton had been removed earlier in July due to petitions accusing him of "corruption, intimidation and ineffective leadership." Although Yankton "returned briefly" as chairman on Wednesday, his opponents "obtained an emergency injunction from the Northern Plains Intertribal Court of Appeals" to throw him out of office.

TULE TRIBE PRESS FOR NEW CASINO. The Modesto (CA) Bee (7/17, 59K) reports the Tule River Indian Reservation government is "considering building a casino and resort at a more accessible location off tribal lands" despite already owning Eagle Mountain Casino in the mountains. The tribe told the county Board of Supervisors that if the tribe "finds a potential site...presumably near Porterville" it will "gladly work with county planners to mitigate traffic, public safety and other development concerns." County officials "greeted the statement as a warming of relations between county and tribe."

Top National News:

OBAMA TOUTS ACA HEALTH INSURANCE REBATES FOR 8.5 MILLION AMERICANS. President Obama's East Room event Thursday touting a provision of the Affordable Care Act that means approximately 8.5 million Americans will receive rebates averaging $100 from insurance companies was covered by just one broadcast network but did get coverage in most major national newspapers. While reports focus mainly on the President's remarks, some suggest a level of urgency and defensiveness given continued Republican attacks on the law and ongoing issues in implementation as the October 1 deadline for state-level insurance exchanges nears.

The CBS Evening News (7/18, story 9, 3:05, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that on Thursday, the President "promised what he called more 'bang for your buck' when a major part of his health insurance program opens for enrollment in October. The Affordable Care Act is facing public doubts and technical setbacks, but the President said today costs are already falling and will fall even more when uninsured Americans begin enrolling in healthcare exchanges, where insurance companies will compete for customers."

The AP (7/18, Superville) reports the President "drew attention to $500 million in rebates going to nearly 9 million people under a provision of the law he said is holding insurance companies more accountable to their customers." Speaking in the East Room with "a group of healthcare consumers" on hand, the President said, "If they're not spending your premium dollars on healthcare, they have to give you some money back." The Hill (7/19, Baker, 21K) says the President also promised to "blow through" Republican criticisms of the law, saying, "If the folks who have been trying to make political hay out of this thing, if they had some better ideas, I've already told them I'm happy to hear them. But I haven't heard any so far."

The New York Times (7/19, Landler, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says the President returned to "his episodic role as a vigorous campaigner" for the ACA, "flanked by families who have benefited" from a provision of the law that requires insurers to spend at least 80% of premium revenue on medical care, not overhead, and requiring those who do not do so to pay refunds. The President said, "Last year, millions of Americans opened letters from their insurance companies, but instead of the usual dread that comes with getting a bill, they were pleasantly surprised with a check."

The Washington Post (7/19, Tumulty, 489K), in its report, highlights the difficulties the President faces in implementing his "most crucial piece of unfinished business, with much of his presidential legacy riding on whether it is deemed to have succeeded or failed." While his predecessors "have managed to overcome intense opposition to major new social initiatives," Obama "faces a degree of difficulty with health care that has no historic parallel." The Post says there was therefore "a certain urgency" in his Thursday remarks.

USA Today (7/19, Madhani, 1.71M) says as the October 1 deadline for healthcare exchanges to be set up approaches, the Administration and Capitol Hill Republicans "are exchanging barbs and rewing up outreach efforts to make their case to the public in the most highly partisan policy battle" of the Obama presidency. The Wall Street Journal (7/19, Favole, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports the President questioned why Republicans continue to strive to dismantle the ACA, saying, "We're refighting these old battles. Sometimes I just try to figure out why. Maybe they think it's good politics." Reuters (7/18, Lawder) reports more and more

House Republicans say they will oppose the stopgap government funding bill or a debt ceiling increase unless the measures withhold funds for ACA implementation.

The Los Angeles Times (7/19, Levey, 692K) reports HHS said about 8.5 million Americans will receive rebates totaling about $504 million. McClatchy (7/19, Douliery) says nearly 13 million people received rebates last year based on 2011 premiums, but the number has fallen as more companies came into compliance with the 80% rule. The New York Daily News (7/19, Warren, 543K) says the President "fought back rising criticism...with a defiantly simple message Thursday: the check is in the mail."

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/19, Diaz, 335K) notes that the provision the President touted Thursday was authored by Minnesota Sen. Al Franken. The President "said the provision has lowered premiums and provided rebates averaging $100 each. Much of that money, however, goes to employers who provide insurance."

Bloomberg News (7/18, Runningen, Lerer), Reuters (7/18, Felsenthal), the Washington Times (7/19, Boyer, 76K), Politico (7/19, Nather, 25K), and Huffington Post (7/18, Young) also report on the President's remarks.

HHS Report: Insurance Premiums At Exchanges To Be 18% Lower Than Previous Estimate. Reuters (7/18, Morgan) says an HHS report released Thursday forecast health insurance costs at state healthcare exchanges at lower rates than previously anticipated. HHS, examining data from 10 states and the District of Columbia, said preliminary 2014 premiums will be 18% lower on average than previous estimates. Bloomberg News (7/18, Lerer, Wayne) says monthly rates for so-called silver-level plans will average $321, down from the earlier Congressional Budget Office estimate of $392.

Iwry Says Treasury Has No Current Plans For Further ACA Implementation Delays. The Hill (7/19, Viebeck, 21K) reports Deputy Assistant Secretary of Treasury for Retirement and Health Policy J. Mark Iwry told the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Thursday that Treasury "has no current plans to delay additional provisions" of the ACA. He said, "We don't have any specific provision that we've identified for which we would give some relief."

Sebelius Urged NAACP To Push For ACA Implementation This Week. The Washington Times (7/19, Chumley, 76K) notes that in her speech to the NAACP convention in Florida Tuesday, HHS Secretary Sebelius urged the civil rights group to press for ACA implementation "with the same furor they sought equal rights." Sebelius said, "Start spreading the word. Download tool kits and customize fliers to hang up at local businesses and restaurants and barbershops and beauty salons."

Donnelly Urges Revision Of ACA's Definition Of "Full-Time." Sen. Joe Donnelly writes in the Wall Street Journal (7/19, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) that because the ACA defines full-time employees as anyone working an average of 30 hours per week, many businesses are reducing employees' weekly hours to 29 or less, when part-time workers used to get 35 or more. This ACA definition, Donnelly argues, is inadvertently hurting part-time employees. He urges the passage of the "Forty Hours Is Full Time Act Of 2013," which would lift the ACA definition of full-time to an average of 40 hours per week.

More Commentary. The Wall Street Journal (7/19, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says in an editorial that though the latest House votes to block ACA implementation were widely dismissed, the vote counts showed increasing Democratic dissatisfaction with parts of the law, with 35 Democrats voting to delay the employer mandate and 22 Democrats voting to repeal the individual mandate. While the repeal bills are certain to never become law, the Journal says the Democratic defections are significant because House Minority Leader Pelosi worked hard to keep her caucus in line.

The New York Times (7/19, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says in an editorial that the House vote to repeal the ACA's individual mandate was "symbolic" and "designed purely for the campaign trail," but if it did become law, it would "harm the very people whose interests the Republicans claim to champion" since HHS said this week that the individual mandate is reducing consumer costs.

Kim Strassel writes in her Wall Street Journal (7/19, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) column that while Democrats had hoped 2014 would be the year when doubts about the ACA abated and the public's skepticism was overcome, instead supporters of the healthcare law are now confronting implementation delays, technical

glitches, funding shortfalls, and more.

Chapman University's Ronald Rotunda, "co-author of a six-volume treatise on constitutional law," writes in a Washington Post (7/19, 489K) op-ed that President Obama's decision to suspend the ACA employer mandate "has no support in precedent and dramatically shifts the arc of presidential power" since the law has a set implementation date and does not give the President "power to suspend or postpone" it. Rotunda writes, "If the president has the discretion to ignore laws that he prefers not to exist, the constitutional limits of presidential authority have the restraining power of air."

BERNANKE AGAIN SAYS END OF EASING NOT IMMEDIATELY LIKELY, COMMENTS ON INTEREST RATES. The New York Times (7/19, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that Fed Chairman Bernanke said on Thursday that it is "way too early to make any judgment" about a move to end his organization's easy-money policy "in September." Bernanke, speaking before the Senate, "largely repeated the themes and often the words of Wednesday's testimony."

USA Today (7/19, Davidson, 1.71M) reports Bernanke also "downplayed a recent report of sharp divisions among Fed policymakers over when to pull back its extraordinary economic stimulus." Bernanke said that members of the FOMC "generally support a tentative plan to pare back the Fed's monthly bond purchases later this year and end them by mid-2014."

The Wall Street Journal (7/19, McGrane, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports Bernanke said that the financial tightening that has come with the recent increase in interest rates is "unwelcome." Bernanke said that the primary reason is the winding down of the "leveraged and perhaps excessively risky" positions adopted by investors taking advantage of the Fed's easy-money policy. Referring to the interest rate rise, Bernanke said, "It's probably a good thing to have that happen, although the tightening that's associated with that is unwelcome." He added that the rate increase has also eased concern among some Fed governors that their policy was creating a new financial bubble.

Yellen Seen As Most Likely Replacement For Bernanke. The Wall Street Journal (7/19, Hilsenrath, Izzo, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports economists they surveyed believe that Fed vice chairwoman Janet Yellen as the most likely replacement for Bernanke when his term ends in January. Thirty-five of 42 economists surveyed expected the President to select Yellen, while five believed that Lawrence Summers would get the post.

Partisan Leanings Color View Of Economy. The AP (7/18, Raum) reports that politicians and economists are "straining to get a clearer view" of what the economy will look like when the mid-term elections heat up next summer, and while Republicans "see the glass half empty," Democrats see it as "half full," while economists "aren't sure." Economists' forecasts are "suddenly all over the map." Some see US growth "stuck below 2 percent for some time, while others – among them the Federal Reserve and the White House – predict it will climb above 3 percent as soon as next year."

Index Of Leading Indicators Unchanged In June. Bloomberg News (7/18, Woellert) reports the Conference Board's Index of Leading Indicators was unchanged in June, "indicating the world's largest economy will follow a fitful path in shaking off the effects of federal spending cuts and tax increases that slowed growth in the first half of 2013." Bloomberg says that the median expectation of economists it surveyed was for a 0.2% increase to the index.

Jobless Claims Plummet. Reuters (7/19) reports first-time claims for jobless benefits fell 24,000 to 334,000 last week, the lowest reading since May. The four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 5,250. Economists told Reuters that the numbers were indicative with moderate job growth.

Western States Tops In Job Creation. The Wall Street Journal (7/19, Morath, 2.29M) reports that nine of the 10 states with the fastest rate of employment growth lie west of the Mississippi. According to new Department of Labor data released Thursday, payrolls in Idaho were up 3% over the last year, followed by Texas, Colorado and North Dakota, all whom saw greater than 2.5% growth.

Dow, S&P Hit New Highs. The Wall Street Journal (7/19, Dieterich, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports that the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 78.02 points to 15,548.54, while the S&P 500 rose 8.46 points to

1,689.37, both record highs. The Journal credits positive economic reports for the increase. Meanwhile, the Nasdaq rose 1.28 points to 3,611.28.

DETROIT BECOMES LARGEST US CITY IN HISTORY TO FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY. Detroit became the largest city to file for bankruptcy protection in US history Thursday, a development that receives wide national and regional coverage. While reports focus on the specifics of Detroit's municipal woes, coverage also considers the city's long decline from its place as a center of American industry and innovation to its current malaise.

ABC World News (7/18, story 3, 1:45, Sawyer, 7.43M) said Detroit is "waving the white flag." ABC (Avila) added, "Once America's fourth largest city, Detroit now a stunning $18 billion in debt." NBC Nightly News (7/18, story 3, 2:30, Williams, 7.86M) called Detroit "a great American city, once the engine of prosperity," now facing "such hard times the city is filing for bankruptcy, becoming the largest US city to do so. It is the latest chapter in what's been a slow-moving tragedy of decline." The CBS Evening News (7/18, story 8, 0:25, Pelley, 5.58M) ran a brief item on the filing.

The Detroit News (7/19, 119K) reports the White House said President Obama "is closely monitoring Detroit's financial situation." Politico (7/19, Epstein, 25K) reports spokesperson Amy Brundage said, "The President and members of the President's senior team continue to closely monitor the situation in Detroit. While leaders on the ground in Michigan and the city's creditors understand that they must find a solution to Detroit's serious financial challenge, we remain committed to continuing our strong partnership with Detroit as it works to recover and revitalize and maintain its status as one of America's great cities."

The AP (7/18) reports Detroit emergency manager Kevyn Orr filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection in US Bankruptcy Court in the Eastern District of Michigan Thursday afternoon. The city "lost a quarter-million residents between 2000 and 2010. A population that in the 1950s reached 1.8 million is struggling to stay above 700,000." In recent months, the city "has relied on state-backed bond money to meet payroll for its approximately 10,000 employees."

The Detroit News (7/19, 119K) says the bankruptcy plan "was expected to closely follow" a restructuring proposal Orr outlined to creditors last month. The Wall Street Journal (7/19, Dolan, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says the city is expected to report long-term liabilities of nearly $20 billion, but the documents filed Thursday say only that assets and liabilities each exceed $1 billion.

The Detroit Free Press (7/19, Kaffer, Henderson, Helms, 280K) reports Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said, "The fiscal realities confronting Detroit have been ignored for too long. I'm making this tough decision so the people of Detroit will have the basic services they deserve and so we can start to put Detroit on a solid financial footing that will allow it to grow and prosper in the future."

The New York Times (7/19, Davey, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says for "the cradle of America's automobile industry," the filing "comes as a painful reminder of a city's rise and fall."

USA Today (7/19, Healey, Meier, Woodyard, 1.71M) says the bankruptcy filing "apparently won't affect the Detroit Three automakers." Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors all expressed support for the city Thursday and said their operations will continue as normal.

The Washington Post (7/19, Fletcher, 489K) similarly says the city has faced a "five-decade slide." Bloomberg News (7/18, Church, McCarty), Reuters (7/18, Carey), the Washington Times (7/19, Chasmar, 76K), and Huffington Post (7/18, Williams, White) also have reports.

More Commentary. USA Today (7/19, 1.71M) says in an editorial, "Though rare, municipal bankruptcy reorganizations have been on the rise of late." While the reasons differ, they "tend to have something that unites them: a decision to make unrealistic and inflexible pension promises for their public workers. As pension costs skyrocket, driven up by elected officials long gone when the bills come due, cities are forced to raise taxes or cut services to meet their obligations. ... The rest of the country needs to learn its lessons."

The Wall Street Journal (7/19, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says in an editorial that Detroit's bankruptcy will be a drawn-out process, likely to be fought in the courts as unions try to protect their pension plans, and in the

meantime the city will see little improvement in services and safety.

The Detroit Free Press (7/19, 280K) editorializes, "We never thought Kevyn Orr was crying wolf. And we suspect that residents and creditors who argue that the emergency manager has been exaggerating the severity of Detroit's fiscal plight or poor-mouthing its capacity to satisfy their claims are about to get the rudest possible awakening. ... Everyone – Orr, and especially residents – has to be disappointed that it came to this."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Good News On Insurance Premiums."*** The New York Times (7/19, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says in an editorial that the House vote to repeal the ACA's individual mandate was "symbolic" and "designed purely for the campaign trail," but if it did become law, it would "harm the very people whose interests the Republicans claim to champion" since HHS said this week that the individual mandate is reducing consumer costs.

"Mr. Putin Tries To Crush Another Rival." A New York Times (7/19, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) editorial criticizes the conviction of anti-corruption campaigner and critic of President Vladimir Putin Alexei Navalny, arguing that Putin "seems weak and insecure" and noting that the image is "reinforced every time he manipulates the system to crush a potential political rival."

"Judging Rolling Stone By Its Cover." In an editorial, the New York Times (7/19, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) condemns the "hysteria" over the Rolling Stone magazine cover featuring accused Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev arguing that "singling out one magazine issue for shunning is over the top." The Times notes that Time magazine covers have featured Adolf Hitler and Osama bin Laden, and that Charles Manson "appeared on Rolling Stone's cover 40-some years ago." The Times argues that the outcry on social media and the merchants who have refused to sell the magazine have ensured that "this issue should sell quite well."

"You (And Your Cell Phone) On Candid Camera."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Power v. Power."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/19, 489K) shows support for UN Ambassador-designate Power's previous stance against non-intervention in the Syrian civil war, while pointing out that President Obama has shown "passivity" in the conflict. The Post believes the UN will be unable to act while Assad still has a chance to succeed and "Assad's downfall seems increasingly unlikely unless the United States provides more assistance to the Syrian opposition than Mr. Obama has favored so far." The editorial board says the Senate should confirm Power and expresses hope that she will be able to work to resolve the Syrian conflict.

"'Your Raisins Or Your Life.'" The Washington Post (7/19, 489K) editorializes that laws compelling the surrender of certain farm goods to the government under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 are "relics of a long-gone era." The Post uses the example of Marvin Horne, a raisin farmer who took his claim against the USDA to the Supreme Court, which sent the case back to a Federal appeals court. Laws such as the one Horne is fighting, the Post argues, are not worth the cost to farmers and lead to inflated prices for US customers. Because farms are larger and less numerous than in the past, the Post suggests that Congress "reconsider" the law altogether.

"Watergate In Prince George's."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"ObamaCare's Eroding Support."*** The Wall Street Journal (7/19, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says in an editorial that though the latest House votes to block ACA implementation were widely dismissed, the vote counts showed increasing Democratic dissatisfaction with parts of the law, with 35 Democrats voting to delay the employer mandate and 22 Democrats voting to repeal the individual mandate. While the repeal bills are certain to never become law, the Journal says the Democratic defections are significant because House Minority Leader Pelosi worked hard to keep her caucus in line.

"Carbon Politics Down Under." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/19, Subscription Publication, 2.29M)

argues that Australian Prime Minister Rudd's decision to revoke the carbon tax was made simply to make him look like he's against taxes, and revive the image of a moderate he campaigned under in the 2007 election. The Journal is eager to see if Australians will respond to this tactic in the next election.

"Free Alexei Navalny." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/19, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) criticizes the Russian government's conviction of anti-corruption campaigner and critic of President Vladimir Putin Alexei Navalny and likens him to other political prisoners and dissidents like Mandela, Walesa, Havel, Sakharov, and Sharansky. The Journal calls on Europe and Canada to pass their versions of the Magnitsky Act and urges Western leaders to raises Navalny's case as often as possible with Putin.

"Down And Out In Detroit." The Wall Street Journal (7/19, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) says in an editorial that Detroit's bankruptcy will be a drawn-out process, likely to be fought in the courts as unions try to protect their pension plans, and in the meantime the city will see little improvement in services and safety.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Out Of Money, Detroit Calls It Quits
Phone Hackers A Threat To Safety
Malibu Sea Change
Netflix Raises The Stakes
Victims Reclaim A Grim Anniversary

Wall Street Journal:
Record Bankruptcy For Detroit
Dell Buyout Votes Goes To Overtime
How Europe's Bank Crisis Swamped A Seafood Empire

New York Times:
Billions In Debt, Detroit Tumbles Into Insolvency
Protests Erupt Over Sentence Of Putin Critic
Romanian's Tale Has Art World Fearing Worst
Court Restricts Police Searches Of Phone Data
Big Banks, Flooding In Profits, Fear Flurry Of New Safeguards
For NBA's Version Of Steinbrenner, $183 Million Is No Object

Washington Post:
As Putin Opponent Gets Jail Term, Protests Erupt
Streaming Ahead
State Officials Decline To Defend Some Divisive Laws
Detroit Files Largest Municipal Bankruptcy
Security At Jail In Pr. George's Scrutinized

Financial Times:
Dell Delays Vote As Investors Shun Deal
Sheikh In Barclays Rescue Sells Stake
Vivendi Spurned $8.5bn Universal Bid
Trading Boosts Morgan Stanley Earnings
Investigators Urge Dreamliner Transmitters Be Disabled
Nokia Reports Weak Mobile Phone Sales
US Banks Take Bulls By The Horns

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Weather-Heat Wave; California-Wildfire; Detroit-Bankruptcy; Syria-Civil War Refugees; Whitey Bulger Trial-

Stephen Rakes Death; Nelson Mandela; Electricity Bills.
CBS: Weather-Heat Wave; California-Wildfire; Heat Wave-Electricity; Tsarnaev Photos; Whitey Bulger Trial; Syria-US Preparations; Moscow Protests; Detroit-Bankruptcy; Affordable Care Act; Nelson Mandela; Indiana-Sand Dune Incident.
NBC: Weather-Heat Wave; California-Wildfire; Detroit-Bankruptcy; Chicago-Credit Rating Downgrade; Texas-Abortion Bill; Syria-Civil War; Nelson Mandela; Whitey Bulger Trial; Biden-GQ Magazine Story; UK-Royal Baby; California-Volunteers On Patrol.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Florida-Stand Your Ground Debate; Detroit-Bankruptcy; Denver-Pro-Gun Protests. Tsarnaev Photos; Economy-Unemployment Claims.
CBS: California-Wildfire; Weather-Heat Wave; Detroit-Bankruptcy; Congress-Student Loans Deal; Texas-Abortion Bill; Florida-Stand Your Ground Debate.
NPR: Obama-Affordable Care Act; Economy-Unemployment Claims; Detroit-Bankruptcy; California-Wildfire; Napolitano-University Of California Appointment; Egypt-Unrest; India-Free Lunch Incident.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — With the Vice President receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with senior advisors, Oval Office, closed press; with the First Lady hosts the Diplomatic Corps Reception, East Room, closed press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.
US Senate: 12:15 p.m. — The Senate convenes for a pro forma session.
US House: The House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m. Complete Consideration of H.R. 5 – Student Success Act, Rules Committee Print (Structured Rule) The Rule provides for no further general debate and makes in order the following remaining amendments: Rep. John Culberson Amendment (10 minutes of debate); Reps. Fitzpatrick / Meehan Amendment (10 minutes of debate); Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee Amendment 24 (10 minutes of debate) ; Reps. Cantor / Bishop Amendment (10 minutes of debate); Rep. George Miller Substitute Amendment (20 minutes of debate).

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE — 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CHLI Future Leaders Conference. http://www.chli.org/events/event_details.asp?id=297855&group=. Location: 345 Cannon.

PELOSI PRESSER — 10:45 a.m. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference in the Capitol Visitor Center. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

APPROPRIATIONS — 9 a.m. Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=342067. Location: H-140 The capitol.

JUDICIARY — 9 a.m. Over-Criminalization Task Force Hearing on: Mens Rea: The Need for a Meaningful Intent Requirement in Federal Criminal Law. http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/113th/hear_07192013.html. Location: 2237 Raybum.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 9 a.m. Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation will hold a legislative hearing. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=342227. Location: 1324 Longworth.

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE — 10 a.m. Closed hearing on ongoing Intelligence Activities. http://intelligence.house.gov/hearing/ongoing-intelligence-activities-44. Location: HVC304 Capitol.

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Health Hearing: Safety for Survivors: Care and Treatment for Military Sexual Trauma. http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/safety-for-survivors-care-and-treatment-for-military-

sexual-trauma. Location: 334 Cannon.
Other: CLERGY PRESS CONFERENCE – RETAILER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT — Thirty Clergy will gather to urge the Mayor of D.C. to "do the right thing" and sign the Large Retailer Accountability Act when it is transmitted to his desk. Cotnact: Rev. Graylan Scott Hagler, President, Faith Strategies and Senior Minister, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ 202-302-0307 (cell) 202-723-5330 (office). Location: Pennsylvania Baptist Church, 3000 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.

SEVEN DAY WALK FROM CAMP DAVID TO DC — July 19 – 26. Seven Day Walk from Camp David to DC against Climate Change. The walk is organized by CCAN, 350.org, and a group of "elders" from North Carolina to "remind President Obama that his legacy" depends upon progress on climate issues. Location: The march begins at Camp David, MD.

OVERCRIMINALIZATION TASK FORCE — 9 a.m. Second hearing of the Overcriminalization Task Force. The topic of this hearing is "Mens Rea: The Need for a Meaningful Intent Requirement in Federal Criminal Law." Location: 2237 Rayburn.

USIP – FOREIGN ASSISTANCE – REP. SMITH — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Effective Foreign Assistance and National Security: A View from Congressman Adam Smith – A USIP Congressional Newsmaker Series Event. Location: US Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave, NW. Contacts: Steven Ruder sruder@usip.org. Allison Sturma (asturma@usip.org), 202-429-4725

BROOKINGS – PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, NATIONAL SECURITY – LITT — 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Privacy, Technology and National Security: An Overview of Intelligence Collection – An Address by General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence Robert S. Litt. https://www.cvent.com/events/privacy-technology-and-national-security-an-overview-of-intelligence-collection/registration-42f8008c5101468b8a52f2d8b8991670.aspx. Location: Brookings Institution, Saul/Zilkha Rooms, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW.

HEALTH OF US STREAMS — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD), and Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA), along with the Water Environment Federation and the Northeast Midwest Institute, present a briefing on new US Geological Survey (USGS) findings about the ecological health of the nation's streams. Congresswoman Edwards will open the briefing. Location: SVC Room 209-208 Capitol Visitor Center.

CATO – KOREAN WAR — 12 p.m. The Korean War, Sixty Years On: Whither the US-South Korean Alliance and Relations with North Korea. Speakers: H. E. Ahn Ho-Young, South Korean Ambassador to the United States; Scott Snyder, Senior Fellow for Korea Studies and Director of the Program on US-Korea Policy, Council on Foreign Relations; and Doug Bandow, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute, Author of Tripwire: Korea and US Foreign Policy in a Changed World; moderated by Christopher Preble, Vice President for Defense and Foreign Policy Studies, Cato Institute. http://www.cato.org/events/korean-war-sixty-years-whither-us-korean-alliance-relations-north-korea. Location: Cato Institute, Hayek Auditorium, 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

CATO – THE KOREAN WAR – SIXTY YEARS ON — 12 p.m. The Korean War, Sixty Years On: Whither the US-South Korean Alliance and Relations with North Korea. Speakers: H. E. Ahn Ho-young, South Korean Ambassador to the United States; Scott Snyder, Senior Fellow for Korea Studies and Director of the Program on US-Korea Policy, Council on Foreign Relations; and Doug Bandow, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute, Author of Tripwire: Korea and US Foreign Policy in a Changed World. Moderated by Christopher Preble, Vice President for Defense and Foreign Policy Studies, Cato Institute. Location: Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW. On the Net: http://www.cato.org

HERITAGE – ISRAEL – CHRISTIAN SOJOURNER — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday People, Sunday People: Israel through the Eyes of a Christian Sojourner. http://www.heritage.org/events/2013/07/saturday-people. Location: Heritage Foundation, Lehrman Auditorium, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE.

ORGAN HARVESTING IN CHINA — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon Forum on Organ Harvesting in China and its US Impact. Participants: Mike He, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology, Alpert Medical School of Brown University; Levi Browde, Executive Director, Falun Dafa Information Center; Jianchao Xu, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Nephrology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Moderator: Damon Noto, M.D.,

Spokesperson for Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH). Location: B-339 Rayburn. Contacts: RSVP to TransplantForum@gmail.com. On the Net: www. StopOrganHarvesting.org

CSIS – US MILITARY EQUIPMENT – FOREIGN SALES — 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. Expanding Foreign Sales of US Military Equipment: Industry Perspectives. http://csis.org/event/expanding-foreign-sales-us-military-equipment-industry-perspectives. Location: B1 A/B Conference Center, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1800 K Street, NW.

WILSON CENTER – ARAB AWAKENING – SYRIA — 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Syria in Context of the Arab Awakening. http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/syria-context-the-arab-awakening. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 6th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

CATO – MEDICAID – SEBELIUS; TACTICS — 1:30 p.m. "A Gun to the Head: Secretary Sebeliuss Coercive Tactics to Expand Medicaid" with Michael F. Cannon, Director of Health Policy Studies, Cato Institute; moderated by Laura Odato, Cato Institute. http://www.cato.org/events/gun-head-secretary-sebeliuss-coercive-tactics-expand-Medicaid REGISTER AT: events@cato.org, fax (202) 371-0841, or call (202) 789-5229 by 1:30PM on Thursday, July 18, 2013. Location: 2325 Rayburn.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.
David Letterman: "Edward Snowden, the guy who leaked things from the NSA and is now living at the Moscow airport, I mean think about that. Living...I mean isn't that like every JetBlue flight? We were supposed to take off Wednesday, aren't we? Why are we still at the airport?"
David Letterman: "But apparently the staff of the Moscow airport is treating the guy very nicely. Every night they leave a mint on his neck pillow."
David Letterman: "And they're even saying now that this Edward Snowden guy could be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. Whoa, how about that. Yeah. It's between him and the team that brought back Twinkies. Very close."
Stephen Colbert: "Nation, today marks the 25th day that NSA leaker Edward Snowden has been holed up in the Moscow international airport. He has been there so long he has finished his second Cinnabon."
Stephen Colbert: "And now, folks, we may never get our hands on this traitor because he has officially petitioned Russia for asylum. Of course Russia was his fallback. He couldn't get asylum in Ecuador or Dartmouth."
Stephen Colbert: (Referring to the sexual harassment accusations against San Diego Mayor Bob Filner) "Now despite his admission, Mayor Filner has announced will not resign. And folks I'm not surprised. These days the public is very forgiving of politicians and sex scandals, Mark Sanford has been re-elected to Congress and right now in New York City's mayoral race, city council speaker Christine Quinn and former penis self-portraitist Anthony Weiner are running neck and what I hope is his neck. Now no surprise, folks, no surprise New Yorkers are willing to overlook Weiner's previous indiscretions. I mean if they were disturbed by seeing exposed genital they wouldn't ride the subway."
Jay Leno: "Just a few hours ago, Detroit became the largest city in US history to file for bankruptcy. That's financial bankruptcy. Don't confuse that with L.A. That's moral bankruptcy."
Jay Leno: "Here's a sign of the times. Obesity is becoming such a huge problem in this country a lot of people are literally too fat for ambulances or getting too heavy even for rescue helicopters to airlift them to the hospital. Can you imagine? You know something? We need to forget about Obamacare. What we need in this country is Chris Christie-care. That's what we need."
Conan O'Brien: "Get this, a conservative consultant meant to send Michele Bachmann a massager for her migraines but accidentally sent her a vibrator. Yeah. Bachmann was outraged, but an hour later she was calm and...serene."
Conan O'Brien: "In a new interview about the New York elections, Eliot Spitzer, who you remember was caught frequenting prostitutes, described himself as a feminist. Yes, the famed interviewer, Anthony Weiner, describes himself as a photographer."

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WSON CONNECT

Re: Seattle Times Preview Story: Interior Secy Jewell dives into pressing issues

Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jul 19, 2013 at 7:03 AM
To: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, laura davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>

Interesting. Great headline and positive advance piece - but knowing what material she had to work with (background, 20-min interview), this falls short. (b)(5) [redacted].

On Friday, July 19, 2013, Jessica Kershaw wrote:
Sally -

The Seattle Times preview story is up:

Interior Secretary Jewell dives into pressing issues

Since her confirmation as Interior secretary in April, former REI Chief Executive Sally Jewell has immersed herself in the pressing issues facing her vast agency.

By Kyung M. Song
Seattle Times Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Since her confirmation as Interior secretary in April, former REI Chief Executive Sally Jewell has immersed herself in the pressing issues facing her vast agency, from updating hydraulic-fracturing regulations to protecting sage grouse and opening more lands and waters to oil and gas exploration.

During that time, perhaps the biggest news from Jewell's former employer was Recreational Equipment Inc.'s decision to replace its lifetime merchandise-return policy with a one-year limit.

Even for an engineer-turned-banker-turned-retail-executive, Jewell's venture into public service has been quite a shift.

"This is an enormous job," she said in an interview Thursday.

Saturday marks Jewell's 100th day as the nation's 51st Interior secretary. Coincidentally, she'll be making her first public appearance as secretary in Washington state that same day, at a summit for youth and the outdoors at the University of Washington.

Connecting children and families with nature is a priority for Jewell, one of the only Cabinet secretaries who travels with a backpack.

Jewell has devoted much of her first months in office familiarizing herself with Interior's far-flung operations.

She has toured an offshore-drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, checked on restoration progress at the Everglades National Park and attended the memorial for 19 firefighters killed in an Arizona wildfire.

She also has met frequently with Senate and House members, tending to the political business that is no small part of her job.

Republicans, chief among them Rep. Doc Hastings of Pasco, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee that has oversight of Jewell's department, has been agitating for the Obama administration to open up more federal waters that ring the coastal states to oil and gas drilling.

In 2012, the Interior Department collected $12.2 billion in revenue from oil, gas and other leases. Jewell has said in congressional testimony and on Capitol Hill that the administration will pursue energy exploration safely and responsibly while meeting the nation's security needs.

She said her previous careers, especially her days as a petroleum engineer and a commercial banker, have served her well in her new role.

"To actually know what (hydraulic fracturing) is, having done it myself and recognizing the risks" has been extremely valuable, she said.

Jewell said she plans to follow advice she received to focus on a few key issues that would mark her tenure at Interior, adding that she was still working on that list.

But she mentioned the 2016 centennial of the National Park Service, one of her department's agencies. She called it a chance to celebrate the national-park system's cultural and natural treasures.

Jewell also talked about Interior Department's responsibility to American Indians and Alaska natives. The Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs is charged with upholding treaty obligations with tribes on self-governance, education for native students and other matters.

Sent from my iPhone

–

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Tue, Jul 23, 2013 at 7:06 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES SEPTEMBER AUCTION DATE FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS. The AP (7/22, Szkotak) reports that on Monday, the BOEM announced that "eight energy companies will bid Sept. 4 on a lease for a vast expanse of ocean off Virginia's coast set aside for the development of wind farms." The auction "is a critical step in establishing what would be among the first offshore wind turbines in US waters, possibly rising above the ocean surface by the end of the decade." In a statement, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Responsible commercial wind energy development has the potential to create jobs, increase our energy security

and strengthen our nation's competitiveness."

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (7/22, Colman, 21K) reports that "the planned Virginia site is 23.5 nautical miles from Virginia Beach, Va., and could generate 2,000 megawatts — enough to power roughly 700,000 homes, according to Interior." According to the article, "the Monday announcement could hint that Interior is ready to charge ahead with offshore wind." However, "Jewell has cautioned that it will take time to develop a domestic offshore wind industry."

Platts (7/23, Scheid) reports that BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau said, "After careful review, [the Bureau of Ocean Enery Management] has determined that these companies are legally, technically and financially qualified to participate in the upcoming lease sale. We applaud their leadership and look forward to overseeing a fair and competitive leasing process."

The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (7/23, Dietrich, 62K) reports that "the move was praised by federal and state officials and environmental groups for its potential to create jobs, strengthen the country's energy security and competitiveness and develop large-scale clean energy projects." The office of Gov. Bob McDonnell's said it is "an exciting and significant step in our bipartisan effort to advance Virginia's 'all-of-the-above' energy strategy."

The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian Pilot (7/23, Harper) reports that "environmental groups applauded the auction date in Virginia but said they worried about the winner-take-all guidelines." In particular, "they fear that Dominion will gain control of the wind zone and then wait to develop wind farms until the economics are more suitable." Beth Kemler, Virginia director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, said, "We don't want the company to buy up the whole lease block and then sit on it for years and years. We need companies to develop large-scale clean energy products as quickly as possible."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Post (7/22, Szkotak), the San Francisco Chronicle (7/23, Szkotak, 220K), the Miami Herald (7/23, Szkotak, 139K), Yahoo! (7/23, Szkotak) , the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (7/22, 113K) , the Portland (ME) Press Herald (7/23, Szkotak, 46K) , the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (7/23, Springston, 113K) , the Northern Virginia Daily (7/22, 15K) , the Baltimore Daily Record (7/22, 10K) , the Charlottesville (VA) Daily Progress (7/22, 28K) , the Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian Pilot (7/22) , the King George (VA) Journal Press (7/23, 2K) , the Virginia Business Magazine (7/23, 27K) , the International Business Times (7/23), reNews (7/23), Recharge News (7/22, Kessler), North American Windpower (7/23, 15K), Power Engineering (7/23) , the Investor's Business Daily (7/22, Szkotak, 122K) , the Law 360 (7/23, Goldberg), and the HotAir.com (7/22).

HOUSE SPENDING BILL PROPOSES SIGNIFICANT CUTS FOR INTERIOR, EPA, AND FOREST SERVICE. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that House's fiscal 2014 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies spending bill proposes significant budget cuts for Federal environmental and natural resources programs. It "would provide $24.3 billion for the Interior Department, US EPA and the Forest Service – a cut of $4 billion compared with current levels even after sequestration took effect in March." Republican lawmakers "said in a statement that the low budget numbers were part of the House's commitment to shrink the federal debt by cutting spending and that efforts had been made to prioritize."

In a separate story, the E&E Daily (7/22) reports that the Interior Department "would be barred from establishing new national wildlife refuges without the consent of Congress under" the bill. For years, "House Republicans have complained...that new wildlife refuges stretch limited federal funding thin and that Congress should have oversight over which lands are designated." According to the article,, "many believe Congress will simply extend current funding levels through a continuing resolution at the end of September, though the fate of policy riders such as the moratorium on new refuges would be unclear."

The Washington Post (7/22, 489K) reports that the bill "takes a more modest approach to the national parks with a slight increase over levels mandated by sequestration, the across-the-board cuts forced by Washington's failure to strike a bipartisan budget accord." Also, "firefighting efforts would benefit from $1.5 billion in 'emergency' funds on top of the spending limits set by the GOP's austere budget plan."

Politico (7/23, Rogers, 25K) reports that for the NPS, "the bill adds back about $24 million to operating accounts to keep facilities open next year." Rep. Mike Simpson, who chairs the natural resources subcommittee, said,

"Simply put, this bill makes very difficult choices in an extremely tough budget environment. We are going to see these kind of dramatic reductions as long as we keep trying to reduce the debt by cutting discretionary spending alone, rather than also tackling mandatory spending, which is the real driver of our debt."

Also reporting on the story are the Denver Post (7/23, Taylor, 443K), the Boston Herald (7/23, 91K), FOX News (7/22), the Chambersburg (PA) Public Opinion (7/23, Taylor, 15K), the Pasadena (CA) Star-News (7/23), and the Talking Points Memo (7/23, Kapur).

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBECK: NO PLANS TO STOP OMBUDSMAN SHUTDOWN. The Saipan Tribune (7/23) reports that "Interior Assistant Secretary Eileen Sobeck's vehicle drove past but she did not roll down her window nor stop by to talk to a small group of ralliers in Garapan who are pressing the Interior Department to retain the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office in the CNMI beyond fiscal year 2013." Later, Sobeck said "that the plan to close the office remains and that a transition plan is now underway." When "asked which agencies will absorb all the functions of the ombudsman's office," said Sobeck answered, "We're working on that."

Also reporting on the story is the Pacific News Center (7/23).

HISTORIC REMOVAL OF VEAZIE DAM BEGINS. The Penobscot (ME) Bay Pilot (7/23) report that contractors have begun "to remove the Veazie Dam from the Penobscot River, the second largest river in New England, reconnecting the river with the Gulf of Maine for the first time in nearly two centuries." According to the article, "the project first originated when PPL Corporation, a Pennsylvania-based energy company, purchased the Penobscot dams in 1999." The article adds that "PPL, along with the US Department of the Interior, the Penobscot Indian Nation, the State of Maine, and several conservation groups, worked to develop a comprehensive solution to a large number of issues involving hydropower relicensing, migratory fish passage and ecological restoration on the Penobscot River."

INTERIOR'S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT ATTRACTS 70,000 FOLLOWERS. The Huffington Post (7/22, Grenoble) reports that the Interior Department's "well curated Instagram account" offers "photos from a smattering of professional photographers and DOI staffers, typically alongside a description of when, where, and (sometimes) how the photo was taken." It "has racked up just shy of 70,000 followers with nearly 700 posts, earning a thumbs-up from professionals and buzz-hungry internet fiends alike."

FWS AWARDS GRANTS TO CONSERVATION PROJECTS. The Kaua'i (HI) Garden Island News (7/23, 10K) reports that, last week, the FWS "awarded a pair of grants totaling nearly $1 million to local conservation projects." According to the article, "more than $508,000 will go toward developing an island-wide Habitat Conservation Plan for incidental take of the federally endangered Nene, or Hawaiian Goose" Also, "the Kauai Seabird Habitat Conservation Program will receive more than $445,000." In a release, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Our nation's most effective conservation efforts are partnerships in which federal, state and local governments work hand-in-hand with private landowners and other stakeholders. The cooperative grants announced today will make it possible to build these voluntary partnerships to conserve the vital habitat of diverse threatened and endangered species."

SECRETARY JEWELL VOWS TO WORK ON PRAIRIE DOGS. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (7/22, Wentz, 15K) reports that "after Rep. Chris Stewart, R-Utah, questioned" Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "last week about the status of the Utah prairie dog's listing as a threatened species, Jewell has agreed to work with Stewart to ensure prairie dogs living on private and public lands will be counted when assessing the species' listing with the Endangered Species Act." According to Allison Barker, communications director for Stewart's Washington, DC, office, "the next step after Jewell's agreement with Stewart to reconsider the method of counting the dogs has not yet been determined."

HOUSE APPROVES CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPANSION ACT OF 2013. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (7/23, Halstead, 539K) reports that the House has approved the California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act of 2013 "on a voice vote." The bill "instructs the Secretary of the Interior to finalize an amendment to the monument's management plan within two years for the long-term protection and management of the 1,255 acres." The legislation "would add 10 miles to the California Coastal Trail and includes the Garcia Estuary and two miles of the Garcia River, a critical habitat for salmon and steelhead."

The Los Angeles Times (7/23, Simon, 692K) reports that "once the bill clears Congress and is signed into law by President Obama, as expected, the Mendocino County site would be the first onshore addition to the monument, established in 2000 by President Clinton to protect small islands, reefs, rocks and pinnacles off California's coast." The article notes that "Republicans have been critical of President Obama's creation of national monuments when Washington has a backlog of unfunded park maintenance projects." However, "most of the land in the proposed expansion is already owned by the federal government and the expansion would not have a significant effect on the federal budget."

AGENCIES ASSESS PINE NUT MOUNTAINS FOR REHABILITATION. The Gardnerville (NV) Record Courier (7/23, 6K) reports that "federal and state agencies are assessing the areas of the Pine Nut Mountains burned in the Bison fire to determine places suitable for rehabilitation and stabilization." The BLM, Carson City District and BIA Western Nevada Agency are "leading an interagency planning effort to address fire impacts caused by the fire." According to the article, "among the 24,136 acres burned by the fire, which was started by lightning on July 4, were more than 11,000 acres of bi-state greater sage-grouse habitat."

ACTIVIST APPEALS WYOMING GOV. MEAD'S DENIAL OF GRIZZLY RECORDS. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (7/23, 22K) reports that "a dispute over an activist's request to inspect documents regarding grizzly bears sets the stage for another round of arguments at the Wyoming Supreme Court over whether public officials have the right to withhold materials they use in reaching final decisions about policy matters." Grizzly activist Robert Aland "filed a brief with the state Supreme Court last week arguing that Gov. Matt Mead and Scott Talbott, director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, were unjustified in withholding records he requested regarding grizzly bear management." According to the article, "Aland had filed a request for records supporting Mead's conclusion that grizzly population is healthy enough that federal Endangered Species Act protections are no longer needed." Mead "made the statement in a May 2012 letter to then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF SEQUESTER. On its website, MSNBC (7/22, Noah) reports that "visitors to the Washington Monument during this summer of sequestration may think the Obama administration, which wants to restore the automatic budget cuts that took effect in March, is playing (and winning at) some version of" the Washington Monument syndrome. But "as it happens, though, the cause" of the monument's closure "is not budgetary brinksmanship, but rather a freak earthquake that occurred in 2011" However, "a shutdown of White House tours—which arguably was an Obama ploy to turn the public against the sequester–backfired politically (or is backfiring at least for now)."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WESTERN WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT PARTNERSHIP. Additional coverage of the Western Watershed Enhancement Partnership was provided by the Cortez (CO) Journal (7/22), the Suwannee (FL) Democrat (7/23, 5K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (7/23), and the Circle of Blue WaterNews (7/23).

NATIVE AMERICAN ELDER HOPES SECRETARY JEWELL WILL BRING CHANGE. In an op-ed for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (7/23, Coochum, 7K), Manuel Coochum, an elder of the Elko Indian Colony, writes that "our Indian people's sovereign rights have been violated for years by the bureaucrats, but today some of our present Indian elders are still waiting for that word of forgiveness from the bureaucrats." He notes that "today there is a new leader, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, finding the balance and the understanding of our issues past and present." Coochum hopes "there is a change in all Indian Country because of her."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

YOSEMITE TAKES STEPS TO PREVENT ANOTHER OUTBREAK OF HANTAVIRUS. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (7/23, 221K) reports that DNC Parks & Resorts of Yosemite, "which operates the lodgings and other businesses in Yosemite National Park, has gone to great lengths to prevent another outbreak" of last year's hantavirus. According to the article, 91 Signature Tent cabins, "the relatively new structures that turned out to be well-suited for harboring infected mice, were torn down earlier this year." Also, "park employees now take more time to clean structures — at least 15 minutes for the Curry Village tent cabins — and watch for mouse droppings." And "park authorities also have redoubled efforts to educate visitors about the importance of stowing

food so mice, as well as bears, deer and other animals, can't get to it."

BILLS SEEK TO BOOST BUFFALO SOLDIER HISTORY IN NATIONAL PARKS. For the "Goat" blog of the High Country (CO) News (7/23, Wiles, 25K), Tay Wiles writes that "two bills awaiting review in the Senate could mean" that the NPS "will recount the history of African-American soldiers in a more complete way." According to the article, "the legislation would enable a $400,000 deep-dive research project to unearth the history of Buffalo Soldiers' stewardship in the parks, consider how to better share that narrative in the parks, and evaluate the feasibility of creating a national historic trail commemorating the soldiers' treks from San Francisco's Presidio to Yosemite and Sequoia Parks, where they served in the summers of 1899, 1903 and 1904."

MAMMOTH CAVE SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS. WBKO-TV Bowling Green, KY (7/23) reports that "despite budget cuts and weather that's not normal for this time of year, Mammoth Cave National Park is hosting several tourists from all over the country." But "while the park is seeing great numbers in terms of visitors, they're also asking for your help." The park is "preparing a foundation document that Craighead says involves revisiting the park's core mission."

Also reporting on the story are WYMT-TV Hazard, KY (7/23) and WHAS-TV Louisville, KY (7/23).

BOY BURIED BY SAND DUNE CONTINUES IMPROVEMENT. WTSP-TV St. Petersburg, FL (7/23) reports that Nathan Woessner, "the little boy buried alive by a sand dune less than two weeks ago, is making a strong recovery, walking alongside his father for the first time in the hospital on Monday." Dr. Diana Mitchell of The University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital, "where Nathan is being treated," said, "Nathan is listed as in good condition and continues to improve. He returns to a regular diet today and can leave his room to visit the playroom."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WORK TO REMOVE QUOTE FROM MLK JR. MEMORIAL. Additional coverage of the work to remove the controversial quote from thee Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial was provided by the Washington Times (7/23, Somers, 76K).

YOSEMITE MERCED RIVER PLAN CRITICIZED. In an editorial, the Victorville (CA) Daily Press (7/23) criticizes environmentalists who are pushing "to end bike, horse and river rentals, scrap ice skating and remove the swimming pools at the Yosemite Lodge and Ahwahnee Hotel." The paper says that "California congressmen were right to heatedly denounce the plan at a recent House hearing."

Bureau of Land Management:

DUNES FEE MEETING POSTPONED. The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (7/22, 130K) reports that "a July 27 meeting of the" BLM's "Desert Advisory Committee in Riverside has been postponed." It "was to consider a proposed fee increase for the Glamis off-roading." According to BLM officials, "the meeting will be rescheduled for some time in August, and a notice will be posted in the Federal Register at least 15 days in advance."

RED CLIFFS RECREATION AREA TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO FLOOD DAMAGE. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (7/22, 15K) reports that the BLM Utah St. George Field Office is "temporarily closing the Red Cliffs Recreation Area campground and day-use area until flood damages are repaired." Crews are "evaluating the damage and will begin necessary repairs in the near future."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PLAN TO ROUND UP 1,300 WILD HORSES. Additional coverage of the plan to round up 1,300 wild horses in the West this summer was provided by KRQE-TV Albuquerque, NM (7/23).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

RESEARCH QUESTIONS ENDANGERED CLAIM FOR WHITE BLUFFS BLADDERPOD. The Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (7/22, Folsom, 77K) reports that "a DNA test, funded largely by area farmers" has concluded that "there was no genetic deviation between the White Bluffs bladderpod and...other samples – meaning genetically it is the same as the common Douglas's bladderpod." According to West Richland agronomist Stuart Turner, "that means the plant is not endangered and that Fish and Wildlife has no legal basis to push forward with its

endangered species listing for the bladderpod, which would declare up to 419 acres of private land near the Hanford Reach National Monument in Franklin County as critical habitat."

FWS EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR PROPOSED FROG LISTING. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (7/23, 38K) reports that the FWS "has granted a 120-day extension for comments on proposed Endangered Species Act protections for the yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad."

DRUNK DRIVER FACES MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE FOR CRASH THAT KILLED FWS WORKERS. The Sioux Falls (SD) Argus Leader (7/22, 34K) reports that "a drunk driver was behind the wheel of a Pickstown car crash earlier this month that killed two researchers with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, authorities allege." A warrant for Ronald Ray Fischer Jr.'s "arrest was issued Friday," but "apprehending the 28-year-old, who checked out of Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls more than a week ago, may take some time because he lives on the Yankton Indian Reservation, outside the sheriff office's jurisdiction."

FWS PARTNERS TO PROTECT FLORIDA'S FISH AND WILDLIFE. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (7/23, Wiley, Dohner), Nick Wiley and Cindy Dohner write that the FWS and Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission "took an important step last year to streamline and simplify a process to protect threatened and endangered species." They claim that "the amendment to our long-standing cooperative agreement – the first of its kind – represents a cooperative, load-sharing arrangement that consolidates two permitting processes into one, serves our citizens more efficiently and enhances our conservation work to protect imperiled species." According to the two, "it represents our strong partnership and the belief that the agreement will allow both agencies to concentrate our resources on what matters most: conserving Florida's unique fish and wildlife for the continuing benefit of Floridians from the Panhandle to the Keys."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM PROPOSED FRACKING RULES COULD COST DRILLERS AN ADDITIONAL $354M PER YEAR. Reuters (7/22) reports that according to an economic analysis released last Thursday by Western Energy Alliance and the Independent Petroleum Association of America, amended BLM proposals for fracking on public lands could cost oil and gas companies more than $345 million per year in additional costs, 90 percent of which would be attributed to requirements that drillers improve casing in wells. The article notes that the BLM originally estimated the costs at only $12 million to $20 million per year. The piece quotes Kathleen Sgamma, a vice president of government affairs for the Western Energy Alliance, as saying in a release, "While there are improvements in the second version of the rule, it still remains fundamentally flawed from an engineering perspective, as well as bad regulatory policy."

Also reporting on the story are the Upstream Online (7/23, 7K) and the Oil and Gas Journal (7/23, Snow).

HOUSE PANEL TO HOLD HEARING ON FRACKING RULE. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (7/23, Geman, 21K) reports that on Thursday a House Natural Resources Committee panel will "hold a hearing on GOP legislation that would thwart planned Interior Department regulation of hydraulic fracturing, or 'fracking,' on public lands."

HOUSE PANEL TAKES AIM AT MINING RULE. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (7/23, Colman, Geman, 21K) reports that a House Natural Resources panel will target "potential Interior Department rules that would tighten restrictions on disposal of waste from mountaintop removal coal mining."

COLORADO AG SAYS FEDERAL WITHHOLDING OF MINERAL LEASING FUNDS IS "UNLAWFUL." The AP (7/22) reports that, in a letter to the Americans for Prosperity Foundation, which the article calls "a free-market advocate," Colorado Attorney General John Suthers wrote that "given the lack of articulated authority to sequester funds, I believe the sequester" of millions of dollars from Federal mineral leases "is unlawful, especially as it relates to royalty payments due to states under the federal Mineral Leasing Act." The AP also says that "energy and mining companies pay royalties to the federal government for the rights to produce minerals from lands administered by the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies," which are to be split between the Federal government and "states and the local governments to help localities deal with the effects of energy and mineral

development" but that millions are "being withheld from the states...to reduce the federal budget deficit."

DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION BOOMING ACROSS THE COUNTRY. FOX News (7/23, Burke) reports that "according to the Energy Information Administration, since 2010 oil production has increased 64% in Colorado, 51% in Oklahoma, 46% in New Mexico, 45% in Utah and 23% in Wyoming." The article attributes technology to "the reason behind the boom" and quotes a BLM statement that said, "Domestic production from over 99,000 federal onshore oil and gas wells accounts for almost 13 percent of the nation's natural gas production and 5 percent of its oil. In FY 2012, this amounted to about $2.5 billion in royalties from onshore federal oil and gas production." The article also notes, however, that "while industry critics say those figures are insignificant compared to what they could be, some conservationists believe the administration has gone too far in opening up federal lands in the West to oil and gas production."

BLM IDENTIFIES COMPANY BEHIND LA PLATA DRILLING PLAN. A story by the AP in the Denver Post (7/23, 443K) reports that the BLM "has identified Mark A. O'Neal and Associates, based in Baton Rouge, La.," as the firm "behind a request for more than 10,000 acres in La Plata County that are set to be leased for natural-gas and oil development in November." The article notes that "the leases for eight parcels" of BLM-owned "minerals south and west of Hesperus were originally going to be auctioned off in February, but have been delayed over regulatory issues."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM ANNOUNCES GULF LEASE AWARDS FROM MARCH 20 AUCTION. Platts (7/22, Gentile) reports that on Monday, the BOEM said it "awarded 307 leases from the March 20 Central Gulf of Mexico lease sale for a value of $1.2 billion" and also threw out "13 high bids totaling $15.6 million it said were 'insufficient to provide the public with fair market value for the tracts.'" The article says that according to the BOEM, "those tracts will be re-offered at the next Central Gulf lease sale, tentatively scheduled for March."

Also reporting on the story is the Marine Link (7/23).

DEEPWATER ACTIVITY IN GULF OF MEXICO EXPECTED TO CLIMB. Rigzone.com (7/23, Boman) reports that Barclays Capital analyst James C. West predicts "deepwater U.S. Gulf of Mexico drilling activity will continue to rise," assuming the "continued strong permitting environment" continues in the Gulf, "especially in light of recent, very successful discovery announcement in the Lower Tertiary." Additionally, "Barclays believes that near-term momentum for awards for ultra-deepwater rigs is building." The piece cites the BOEM's issuance of 45 permits for floating rigs in the Gulf in April, 36 in May, and 37 in June as proof of that momentum, which West expects "to persist in the coming months."

SHELL PLANS SONAR SURVEYS OF CHUKCHI SEA. KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (7/22, Klint) reports that Shell Oil is planning to "conduct sonar work in the Chukchi Sea this year, inspecting seafloor sites where it might build pipelines to offshore oil wells if its exploration plans for the Arctic" are successful. The article says that "the survey indicates Shell's continued interest in Arctic drilling, despite its decision in February to shelve its 2013 plans for exploratory drilling in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas." The BOEM has said that because the work is "considered ancillary to Shell's Arctic exploration plan...it has no objection" to the survey work, "provided that they comply with Federal law."

CHEVRON, OTHERS BUILDING NEW GULF OIL PLATFORMS. FuelFix (7/22, Shauk) reports, "Royal Dutch Shell, Chevron, Anadarko Petroleum and others are rushing to finish" oil platforms under construction at yards in Ingleside, "employing thousands amid a resurgence of activity aimed at oil riches in the Gulf." Chevron's Jack/St. Malo and Big Foot platforms are among the largest vessels being built. These new offshore vessels will produce from wells in the Gulf of Mexico "that weren't reachable or even visible in the past" and "are multibillion dollar manifestations of the huge investments and profits in deep-water oil production, where interest from the biggest companies remains high."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

FOLSOM LAKE, AMERICAN RIVER APPROACH 5-YEAR LOWS. The Merced (CA) Sun-Star (7/22, Weiser,

12K) reports that according to the BOR, the water level in Folsom Lake "will fall to a storage level of 241,000 acre-feet by December," which "is about one-fourth of total capacity." The article also says that "a shrunken lake also means less water to maintain flows in the American River. By October, the BOR estimates, flows will drop to about 1,000 cubic feet per second, or about one-third of where they are today." The Sun-Star says that "the lake has not reached such lows since December 2008, the last extended drought period, when it fell to as low as 199,000 acre-feet."

Also reporting on the story are the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (7/22, Weiser, 32K), the Woodland (CA) Daily Democrat (7/23, 8K), and the Inside Bay Area (CA) (7/23).

BOR BEGINS DROPPING LUCKY PEAK RESERVOIR WATER LEVELS. Boise State Public Radio (7/22, Barnhill) reports that although it's five weeks earlier than usual, with water "supplies at about 50 percent of normal," the BOR "has started dropping water levels" in the Lucky Peak Reservoir "and is diverting the water for irrigation." The article says that the main effects of the action will be exposed boating ramps and, according to Brian Sauer, who manages water operations for the BOR, "the hydroelectric plant will also be affected" as "less water flowing through the system...means there's less power that will be generated."

BOR CONTRACTS WITH COMPANY TO HELP RESTORE ENDANGERED SPECIES IN MANASTASH CREEK. KNDO-TV Yakima, WA (7/23) reports that "in an effort to restore an endangered species to the Yakima Basin," the BOR "is taking on a big project." The agency "contracted with a Florida based construction company to help conserve water in Manastash creek." The BOR "said the Kittitas County creek dries up each year when farmers draw water to irrigate their crops, leaving fish without access to a stretch of natural habitat." Walter Lamick with the BOR said, "It's one of the critical tributaries or creeks in the Upper Valley, so it's a real special creek. It will help the steelhead. They're listed as a threatened species, and this is one step we can do to improve their conditions."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Willits (CA) News (7/23, 3K) and the Lake County Record-Bee (7/23, 6K).

EDITORIAL: BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN WILL PROTECT FROM ECONOMIC COLLAPSE. In an editorial posted in the Inland Valley (CA) Daily Bulletin (7/23, 52K), the Los Angeles News Group says that the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan will serve "two so-called co-equal goals: restoring the Delta ecology and securing the water supply upon which most of the state relies." The Group says that despite likely objections from Northern Californians, the plan "seeks reliability of the water supply, not a bigger share for Southern California," can fortify the Delta and thereby "prevent a Superstorm Sandy kind of disaster in an extreme event," and can work because "SoCal residents are not greedy water-chuggers." The piece concludes by calling the "water-supply reliability" plan a "protection from economic collapse."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA CHIEF WASHBURN TO SPEAK ON TRIBE RECOGNITION PROPOSAL. The Santa Maria (CA) Times (7/23, 13K) reports that BIA chief Kevin K. Washburn is "scheduled to speak Thursday in Solvang about proposed changes to federal acknowledgment regulations for Native American tribes." Washburn "is expected to speak about the availability of a discussion draft of potential changes to the Part 83 process of the Department of the Interior (DOI) for acknowledging certain Indian groups as federally recognized tribes." In a statement, Washburn said, "The discussion draft is a starting point in the conversation with federally recognized tribes, petitioners and the public on how to ensure that the process is fair, efficient and transparent. We are starting with an open mind and no fixed agenda, and we're looking forward to getting input from all stakeholders before we move forward with a proposed rule that will provide additional certainty and timeliness to the process. In many parts of the discussion draft, we have made no fixed recommendations in order to have the benefit of that input in formulating a proposed rule."

NORWICH FIRST SELECTMAN CALLS FOR HEARINGS ON PROPOSED RECOGNITION CHANGES. The Norwich (CT) Bulletin (7/22, Mosher, 15K) reports that Preston First Selectman Robert Congdon is demanding that the BIA "hold hearings in Connecticut on proposed changes that would make it easier for two local tribes to become federally recognized" and is "calling for an extension of the public comment period past the August 24

deadline set by the DOI." The piece says that according to the BIA, "there are no hearings scheduled to be held in Connecticut on the proposed changes." Consequently, the Bulletin quotes Congdon as saying, "The process should be fair, transparent, and open and so far it hasn't been."

WHITE EARTH LAND TRANSFERS COMPLETED. The Park Rapids (MN) Enterprise (7/22, Larson, 5K) reports that the final two parcels, comprising of 77.75 acres total, have "finally" been transferred to White Earth. The article says that the land transfer was completed under the White Earth Land Settlement Act of 1986 and throughout the process, economic development on the White Earth Reservation was supported by the State of Minnesota and the DOI, which contributed $500,000 and $6.6 million, respectively.

WYOMING INDIAN SCHOOL MAKING CUTS TO DEAL WITH LOSSES IN FUNDING. Youth Today (7/22, Feemster, 6K) reports that "two things were in short supply at St. Stephens Indian School on Wyoming's Wind River Indian Reservation even before the sequester began in March 2013: federal funding, and information about when that funding was coming." The article says that "even when the money comes, there is less of it than in previous years. The school's funding was cut 5.96 percent from 2011-12 levels when the sequester began in March 2013. This year, the school is budgeting for an additional eight percent cut." The article says that the BIE has acknowledged changes in available funding and, accordingly, the school "is eliminating jobs and cutting salaries" in order to deal with the loss of funds.

LINCOLN COUNTY APPEALS TRIBAL LAND TRANSFER. The Flathead (MT) Beacon (7/22, Franz, 5K) reports that the "Lincoln County Commissioners are appealing a decision by the DOI and Northwest Regional Office of the BIA that confers 8.3 acres of land at Kootenai Falls to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes." The article says that the county is arguing "that the county would lose tax revenues, which would harm its already stretched budget" and that because the land is located "more than 125 miles from the nearest border of the Flathead Reservation...greater scrutiny should be given to the request" to transfer the land to the tribes.

NATIVE AMERICAN CUSTODY BATTLE CONTINUES. The CBS Evening News (7/22, story 6, 2:20, Pelley, 5.58M) reported on the ongoing legal wrangling in the custody battle pitting "a Native American man against a couple who wants to adopt" his biological daughter. CBS (Quijano) reported that Dusten Brown has raised three-year-old Veronica for the past year and a half. Brown "had surrendered his parental rights before Veronica was born," and her "unmarried biological mother then gave permission for her to be adopted" by Matt and Melanie Capobianco, who raised the child for the first two years of her life. Brown, a Cherokee Indian, objected to this case, and a South Carolina court ruled last week that the adoption should go through. CBS reported that Brown and the Cherokee Nation have "filed separate requests in South Carolina for new hearings in the case."

Top National News:

OBAMA NOT EXPECTED TO UNVEIL NEW ECONOMIC PROPOSALS IN UPCOMING SPEECHES. Sunday's announcement that on Wednesday, President Obama will give the first two of a series of speeches on the economy has generated relativity light coverage. The upcoming speeches were not mentioned during any of the network newscasts Monday, nor is it front-page news in this morning's papers. However, the President's "need to pivot from scandals that have plagued the Administration...to the US economy" was the lead story on Fox News' Special Report (7/23). Fox's chief White House correspondent Ed Henry went on to place the revival of the President's economic initiatives in the context of Detroit filing for bankruptcy last week.

Both the volume and tenor of what coverage there is serves to lower expectations for the speeches. Nearly all the previews this morning note that the White House has said that the President will not be presenting new plans to stimulate economic growth. The New York Times (7/23, Shear, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says White House officials have made it clear that the President's speeches "will not contain sweeping new proposals," and, "instead, they are largely repackaged economic proposals that the president has offered for years."

Similarly, the AP's (7/23) Julie Pace, under the headline, "Obama's Latest Economic Push Has Familiar Feel," says that since he was first inaugurated in 2009, the President "has been launching – and re-launching – initiatives on the economy." Pace continues, "Remember 2011's 'Winning the Future' campaign? Or the 'We Can't Wait' initiatives..?" Pace adds that "just a few months ago," the President was "headlining the 'Middle Class Jobs and Opportunity Tour.'"

Jim Mitchell, an editorial writer for the Dallas Morning News (7/23, Mitchell, 430K), says he does not "have a lot of faith in the president's new push," which he "expect[s] will be heavy on politics, modest on substance and sorely lacking on leverage." Mitchell adds, "If all [Obama] does is repackage economic proposals, what's the point?"

The Hill (7/22, Sink, 21K) reported that in his daily briefing Monday, White House press secretary Jay Carney was "repeatedly pressed...about what was new or special about the president's speeches," and, according to The Hill, Carney "offered...little to refute the general assumption that this week's events would generally rehash some of Obama's previous proposals and philosophies."

At the same time, while reports say the President will tout positive economic developments, it is mentioned repeatedly that US economic growth is still weak and the unemployment rate remains persistently elevated. USA Today (7/22, Madhani, 1.71M) says the President "hopes to return the focus to an economy that, while significantly better than the one he inherited, continues to limp along."

Michael Shear, in a piece for the New York Times (7/23, Shear, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) titled, "Obama Seeking To Take Credit And Set Course For Economy," says the speeches are part of a "strategy aimed at giving him credit for the improving job market." Shear notes that on Monday, Carney said, "We have come a long way since the depths of the Great Recession." However, according to Shear, the White House's strategy "brings risks, given that the economy is not yet close to full recovery."

Roll Call (7/23, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 19K) reports that an unidentified "senior administration official" says the President "believes...the economy has reached a level of stability," and intends to "tout a combination of new proposals, pieces of his agenda that have stalled in Congress and items he can do on his own." Roll Call adds that the same official "expressed deep frustration with the House and its inability to pass much of anything," but "offered no new way the president could take to change that in the short-term."

USA Today (7/22, Madhani, 1.71M) notes that the President's first speech will be delivered Wednesday at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, "the site of [his] first major economic speech as a freshman senator," and "will focus broadly on his economic philosophy." USA Today adds that the President "will amplify those remarks with speeches in Warrensburg, Mo., and Jacksonville this week."

According to the Kansas City (MO) Star (7/22, Helling, 197K), it is "becoming increasingly clear" that the President's December 2011 speech in Osawatomie, Kansas, in which he "made an explicit appeal to the middle class, arguing it had been short-changed by decades of financial decisions," will "eventually be considered one of the most important of his presidency." The Star reports that White House officials are saying that this week's speeches in Galesburg and Warrensburg, Missouri "will focus in broad strokes on the economy," which "immediately brought comparisons to the Osawatomie speech."

The Quad-City (IA) Times (7/23, 43K) reports that Carney said Monday that Wednesday speech in Galesburg "would have 'thematic continuity' with the 2005 commencement address that then-Sen. Barack Obama gave at Knox College, as well as a 2011 speech in Osawatomie." Reuters (7/23, Rampton), in an article titled, "Obama To Talk Jobs In Struggling Illinois Town," recounts some of the economic blows suffered by Galesburg, in particular, the loss of 900 jobs after a Maytag factory closed in 2004, and notes that Wednesday's speech comes just a week after Detroit filed for bankruptcy. The Galesburg (IL) Register-Mail (7/23, 10K) reports on the residents of Galesburg who waited in line for tickets to see the President's speech Wednesday.

The Florida Times-Union (7/22, Bauerlein, 100K) reports that on Thursday, the President will be appearing at the port of Jacksonville, and Jacksonville Port Authority officials "hope to make a personal appeal...about one of the port's most pressing needs – fixing the Mile Point navigation hazards that limit the port's ability to get more business from ocean-crossing ships." The Times-Union notes that later this week, Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL) will talk about the project with Transportation Secretary Foxx. According to the Miami Herald (7/23, Klas, 139K), the President's speech in Jacksonville Thursday, though expected to be focused on economic issues, is "likely to be viewed in the context of the racial issues festering since the Zimmerman verdict."

Obama Previews New Initiative In Speech To OFA. USA Today (7/22, Jackson, 1.71M) reports that in a

Monday night speech at an event for Organizing For Action, described as "a group of volunteers created from the remnants of 2008 and 2012 [Obama] campaigns," the President said the economy is "recovering from its near-collapse in 2008, but more work remains before middle class families can feel fully secure."

The Washington Post (7/23, Gold, 489K) reports that the President told OFA "volunteers, staff members and donors" that the Administration has "succeeded in clearing 'away the rubble' of the economic crisis." According to the Post, the President previewed his upcoming speeches, which "will be aimed at refocusing Washington and the news media on the economy," and "stressed that he needed grass-roots help to drive home his message." The Post notes that the President was "joined at the event by" Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Planned Parenthood's Cecile Richards.

Politico (7/23, Tau, 25K) reports that in reference to his planned remarks for Wednesday, the President said, "Here's the thing: It'll be a pretty good speech," but he added that he needs his "grassroots volunteers...to help translate his words into action." According to Politico, the White House's new initiative, "Action August," will "launch" on August 4, which is the President's birthday, "with health care events designed to tout the benefits of the Affordable Care Act."

The Washington Times (7/23, Boyer, 76K) reports that ahead of the President's address Monday, OFA Executive Director Jon Carson sent out an email telling supporters that "at the top of the list," for the next month is pushing the House to pass a "comprehensive immigration reform bill."

The AP (7/22) reported that OFA's August initiative "may also be an attempt to pre-empt what Democrats anticipate will be a concerted effort by conservatives to show lawmakers they want Obama's agenda stopped in its tracks."

The Los Angeles Times (7/22, Mascaro, 692K) reports that for her part, Pelosi has "rolled out an ambitious economic agenda for women," including "family-friendly policies, such as paycheck fairness for women, an increased federal minimum wage," and an "early childhood education initiative."

Obama Approval Rating Down To 41% In New Marist Poll. McClatchy (7/23, Lightman) reports that according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll, President Obama is "suffering his lowest job approval numbers in nearly two years" as the White House "looks to turn the national conversation back to the economy." The President's job approval is now just 41%, "Overall, the poll found Obama's job approval at 41 percent last week, a sharp drop from April's 50 percent and his worst showing in the poll since 39 percent in September 2011."

Obama Utilizes "Middle Out" As New "Catchphrase" To Describe His Economic Philosophy. Annie Lowrey, in a piece for the New York Times (7/23, Lowrey, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), says the White House has developed a "catchphrase" to describe the President's belief that "prosperity does not trickle down, and a rising tide does not necessarily lift all boats." According to Lowrey, the new catchphrase employed by the President is "prosperity needs to come from the 'middle out' rather than the top down." Lowrey says that in his planned speeches on the economy, the President will "elaborate on the middle-out theory," which Lowrey calls an "intellectual counteroffensive against the supply-side economics that has dominated conservative thinking for decades."

Economists Expect Fed To Begin Scaling Back QE In September. Bloomberg News (7/23, Keams, Zumbrun, Saraiva) reports that half of the 54 economists who participated in its July 18-22 survey said that the Fed "will begin trimming its $85 billion in monthly bond purchases in September." That marks an increase "44 percent in last month's poll."

Existing Home Sales Down From Last Month; Number Of First-Time Home Buyers Declining. The Wall Street Journal (7/22, Mitchell, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports that the National Association of Realtors said Monday that sales of existing homes declined 1.2% in June from a month ago to an annual rate of 5.08 million. Despite the decline, June marked the second-best month of home sales since November 2009. The Journal notes that higher home prices and higher mortgage rates could have a negative impact on sales in coming months.

The Wall Street Journal (7/23, A1, Dougherty, Wotapka, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) also notes in a front-

page story that the number of first-time home buyers is declining. Over the past year, first-time buyers represented about 30% of home sales. Over the last 30 years, on average, they represented 40% of sales and in 2009, they represented more than 50%. The Journal notes that over the long term, the declining number of first-time buyers could have a negative impact on the housing recovery as well as the larger economic recovery.

"Missing Households" Have Increased 4% Over The Past Year. The Wall Street Journal (7/23, Mitchell, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports that the number of so-called "missing households," which are adults living in someone else's home due to economic factors, has increased 4% over the last year. According to the Journal, there are around 32.4 million such people including adults living with their parents, seniors living with adult offspring, and people renting rooms from an unrelated person. The Journal notes that the phenomenon could be a problem for the housing market and the overall economic recovery because it is keeping down demand in the housing market.

Study: Parents Relying More On Loans, Grants To Pay For College. USA Today (7/22, Kowalski, Malcolm, 1.71M) reports that Sallie Mae's How America Pays for College study, which is to be released Tuesday, says that in the wake of the economic recession, families are relying more on grants and scholarships rather than their own incomes or savings "to finance a college education than in previous years." According to the study, which "surveyed a group of 1,602 undergraduates and parents of undergraduates earlier this year," grants and scholarships "are used more than any other type of funding, covering 30% of total college costs for a typical family." At the same time, parents "are contributing less of their income and savings toward college costs, covering 27% of college costs compared with 37% in 2010, the study shows."

Study Shows Odds Of Attaining American Dream By City. NBC Nightly News (7/22, story 6, 2:10, Taibbi, 7.86M) reported that a study of earnings records by economists at Harvard and the University of California at Berkeley "shows the odds of attaining the American dream by region and even city." According to the study, it is "a slow climb in cities like Atlanta, Charlotte, Memphis, Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Columbus and a faster climb in New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City, Seattle and large parts of California." The study shows that "moving up is linked to several factors, mixed income neighborhoods, good schools, two-parent households and involvement in community and religious life."

Average Gas Price Rises To $3.68 Per Gallon. ABC World News (7/22, story 7, 2:20, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported that the average price for a gallon of regular gas increased to $3.68 this week, "up five cents from a week ago." ABC also noted that electricity bills are on the rise as a result of "the massive heat wave last week."

Stocks Post Modest Gains. The Wall Street Journal (7/22, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports that stocks posted modest gains Monday amid weak earnings reports and indications of a slowdown in the housing recovery. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 1.81 points to end the day at 15545.55. The S&P 500 increased 3.44 points to close at 1695.53, marking a record close for the index. The Nasdaq gained 12.78 points, finishing at 3600.39.

More Commentary On The Economy. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (7/23, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) David Malpass, who served as deputy assistant Treasury secretary in the Reagan Administration and deputy assistant secretary of state in the George H.W. Bush Administration, writes that the US economy may be ready to accelerate above the 2% average growth rate it has posted since 2009. Malpass makes a case for the Fed scaling back its bond-buying program, arguing that doing so would help bring the economy out of the so-called "new normal."

In his column for the Wall Street Journal (7/23, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), Gerald Seib writes that there are reasons to hope that the US economy is emerging from the recession in a strong position.

An editorial in USA Today (7/22, 1.71M) praises Sens Max Baucus and Orrin Hatch for their efforts to "overhaul the nation's disgracefully complex tax code," arguing that Baucus's "blank slate" approach is "the best, and perhaps only, way to start what is sure to be a difficult endeavor," because it "puts the onus on lawmakers to justify their favorite tax breaks," and to "propose higher tax rates to pay for their breaks."

In an accompanying op-ed in USA Today (7/22, 1.71M) Steve Wamhoff, legislative director of Citizens for Tax Justice, argues that Baucus and Hatch "have not addressed a crucial problem — our desperate need for

increased revenue to fund public investments." Wamhoff writes that the tax code's biggest problem is that "it doesn't raise enough money." He adds that while we "do need a simpler, fairer tax system," the "most important goal should be to make sure we're collecting enough revenue to pay for Medicare, roads, bridges, schools, research and all the other investments that we need to build our country."

HOUSE GOP'S AUGUST STRATEGY GUIDE EMPHASIZES "FIGHTING WASHINGTON." Roll Call (7/23, Fuller, 19K) reports that House Republicans have been issued an "August House Republican Conference planning kit," called "Fighting Washington for All Americans," which, according to Roll Call, "offers a rare glimpse into the constituent outreach efforts of the GOP." Roll Call adds that "of the many topics Republicans could delve into – the impending debt ceiling debate, immigration or, perhaps, the sequester –" the kit "focuses on safer ground: Obamacare, jobs and the fierce hatred of all things Washington."

Brian Williams, in a brief item for NBC Nightly News (7/22, story 8, 0:25, Williams, 7.86M), noted that over the weekend, Speaker Boehner said Congress "should not be judged on how many new laws we create. We ought to be judged on how many laws we repeal." Williams added, "Of course, that's been a rallying cry of many in his caucus."

HOUSE DEMOCRATS FACE DILEMMA OVER GOP VERSION OF DREAM ACT. Roll Call (7/23, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 19K) reports that House Democrats are facing a dilemma over whether to vote against "a new, Republican version of the DREAM Act." Top Democrats are concerned that GOP leaders' effort to move the new version of the DREAM Act "will undercut their push for a comprehensive immigration overhaul." While the measure "would likely fail" without Democratic votes, the "risk" for Democrats "is if they block a partial win on immigration...the overhaul efforts could fall apart altogether."

Key DHS Vacancies Could Have Big Impact On Immigration Debate. The Washington Times (7/23, Waterman, 76K) reports on vacancies at the Department of Homeland Security, noting that it "soon will have 15 key vacancies" following the departures of Secretary Napolitano and ICE Director John Morton. These vacancies "could affect everything from airport screening to the Secret Service, but they are likely to be felt most keenly in immigration," and "analysts said leaving acting officials in place is no way to run a department." Christian Beckner, deputy director of George Washington University's nonpartisan Homeland Security Policy Institute, commented, "If enough positions are open for a long enough period of time, it can lead to significant operational and management risks. I am afraid that the Department of Homeland Security is now at the point where it is facing these risks."

Illegal Immigrants Want Deportations To Stop While Congress Debates Reform. The Washington Post (7/23, Constable, 489K) reports that illegal immigrants facing deportation are in Washington this week "as part of a campaign by the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) and several other organizations to call attention to the problems of working immigrants who are in the country illegally." Organizers of the visit said that "thousands continue to be deported, even though many illegal immigrant students were granted a reprieve from deportation by the president last year." The group wants the Administration to "stop all workplace raids and suspend noncriminal deportations while Congress is grappling with immigration reform."

Number Of Bodies Found Along US-Mexico Border On The Rise. USA Today (7/23, Jervis, 1.71M) reports that the number of bodies found along the US-Mexico border is "rising at a startling rate." Last year, Brooks County, Texas Sheriff's deputies "picked up 129 bodies," believed to be immigrants crossing into the US. That is a "nearly 100% jump from 2011 and the most ever recorded in the county, according to sheriff's office statistics." USA Today notes that the bodies indicate "a disturbing trend: more people dying as they try to enter the USA illegally even as the overall number of undocumented immigrants declines."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Getting Detroit Back On Its Feet."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (7/23, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) argues that even if Detroit is able to eliminate "much of its debts in bankruptcy court," city and state officials "will have to develop a much more comprehensive and far-reaching plan to deal with the city's problems."

"A Terrible Precedent For Press Freedom." The New York Times (7/23, A20, Editorial by the New York (NY), Times, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) editorializes that an "egregious appeals court ruling on Friday" has "dealt a major setback to press freedoms by requiring the author of a 2006 book to testify in the criminal trial of a former Central Intelligence Agency official charged with leaking classified information." The Times argues that the ruling "and the Justice Department's misplaced zeal in subpoenaing James Risen, the book's author and a reporter for The Times, carry costs for robust journalism and government accountability that should alarm all Americans." The Times calls the Justice Department's statement approving of the ruling "dismaying," and argues that Attorney General Holder "should reopen the question" of Risen's subpoena.

"Opportunity And Risk In Japan." In an editorial, the New York Times (7/23, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe should not treat his coalition's election victory "as an endorsement of his disturbingly right-wing foreign-policy views," noting that the election "was about economics." The Times argues that Abe "has to stop rubbing raw the wounds of World War II," and his government should not "divert budget resources into military muscle flexing," because doing so would "erode the economic progress and promise of stable political leadership Mr. Abe has just worked so hard to achieve."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Obama's Press Freedom Hypocrisy."*** The Washington Post (7/23, Editorial by the Washington (DC), Post, 489K) editorializes that the Obama Administration "seems to be of two minds when it comes to freedom of information and the role of the press." Noting that President Obama early on "committed his administration to 'creating an unprecedented level of openness in government,'" and recently "proclaimed" that "a free press is essential to democracy," the Post also notes that the Administration "has conducted the most far-reaching campaign against leaks in recent memory, with twice as many prosecutions as in all previous administrations combined." The Post endorses the media shield legislation recently introduced by Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC), which "would introduce a 'balancing test' for a court to use before compelling disclosure from a reporter."

"China's Wrong Turn." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/23, 489K) says that early hopes that China's President Xi Jinping would be "a political reformer are vanishing," as Xi "seems determined to impose more Communist Party control on both state and society while still pursuing economic modernization." The Post notes that while Xi "seems to want to pursue economic modernization without giving an inch to its political equivalent," the more the Chinese people "taste economic good times" the more they "may feel empowered and entitled to a political voice."

"Censure, At Long Last." The Washington Post (7/23, 489K) editorializes about the "antics" of Eugene Delgaudio, "the homophobic buffoon" on the Loudoun County, VA Board of Supervisors. Delgaudio (R), "has continued to conduct himself as if no one took notice of his clownish persona, unhinged, hateful rhetoric and, it turns out, sleazy public ethics." The Post notes that a state grand jury last month "took the highly unusual step of issuing a damning report" on Delgaudio's "shenanigans in abusing the authority of his office," and the Board of Supervisors last week "followed suit by formally censuring" Delgaudio. The Post argues that Delgaudio "has repeatedly embarrassed the county and constituents he serves, saddling Loudoun with an ill-deserved aura of hayseedery," and urges Loudoun County voters to "send him packing."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"A Global Revenue Grab."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/23, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) criticizes the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Developments plan to combat "base erosion and profit shifting" or BEPS and the G-20 ministers' endorsement of the plan, saying it amounts to a coordinated international effort to increase taxes on businesses and remove money from the private economy.

"Stand Whose Ground?" In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/23, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) notes that when he was an Illinois state senator, the President supported a measure that was similar to so-called Stand Your Ground laws.

"The Spitzer Method: A Case Study." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/23, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) criticizes Eliot Spitzer's actions as New York State Attorney General, arguing that he exploited cases for publicity. As an example, the Journal cites Spitzer's prosecution of Braulio Baeza, the assistant clerk of scales for the New York Racing Association, who Spitzer accused of allowing jockeys at New York horse-racing tracks to exceed permitted weight limits. The Journal says that Spitzer made his case in the media, which, given the

racing association's history of corruption, was ready to believe the allegations. A judge dismissed the charges after Spitzer was elected governor.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Ex-Aide Files Suit Against Filner
Highest Pension Earner Suing Vernon
The Prince Of Wails Has Arrived
The NRA's New Online Sensation
Risking All At The Border

Wall Street Journal:
As Banks Retreat, Hedge Funds Smell Profit
Duchess Of Cambridge Gives Birth To A Son
First Time Home Buyers Getting Left Behind
A Backdoor Approach To Union Organizing

New York Times:
A Legal Bane Of Wall Street
Qatari Riches Are Buying Art World Influence
Drug Research In China Falls Under A Cloud
Genital Cutting Found In Decline In Many Nations
Prices Fuel Outrage In Brazil, Home Of The $30 Cheese Pizza
Doping Tarnishes Baseball Again As A Star Slugger Is Suspended

Washington Post:
On Martin Verdict, A Stark Divide
It's A Boy Goes Round The World
2016 Is Now For Outside Groups
Long Before Crash Drive On Bay Bridge Could Scare
Prison Attacks In Iraq Amplify Al-Qaeda Fears

Financial Times:
GSK Admits Wrongdoing In China
Telefónica In Talks To Buy KPN's E-Plus
US Banks Reassert Market Cap Dominance
Third Point Sells Down Yahoo Holding
High-Frequency Trader Fined In Transatlantic Clampdown
Regulator Pulls Back On Audit Rotation
Signs Japan Asset Tide Is Turning

Washington Times:
Homeland Security: No One Home At The Top
Alaska's Oil Dilemma
Neocons Try To Pin Racist Label On Libertarian Paul
Tea Party Branches Likely To Clash In Kentucky Race
Prince's Regal Future, Retail Influence

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: UK-Prince Born, UK-Prince Born, UK-Royal Succession, UK-Prince Born, New York-LaGuardia Incident, Weather-Southwest Flooding, Economy-Gas Prices, UK-Diana Remembered
CBS: UK-Prince Born, UK-Prince Born, Cleveland-Serial Killer, Syria-Hezbollah, Drugs-Brewers Player Suspended, SCOTUS-Custody Battle, New York-LaGuardia Incident

NBC: UK-Prince Born, UK-Royal Succession, New York-LaGuardia Incident, Cleveland-Serial Killer, Detroit Bankruptcy, Economy-Social Mobility, Helen Thomas Dies, Politics-Boehner Comments, UK-Diana Remembered

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Syria-US Involvement, Drugs-Baseball Player Suspended, Zimmerman Rescue, Health-Breakfast-Heart Attack, Southwest Airlines Incident
CBS: UK-Prince Bom, Southwest Airlines Incident, Snowden Asylum, Politics-Student Loan Rates, Cleveland-Serial Killer, Drugs-Baseball Player Suspended
NPR: Syria-US Involvement, Obama-Organizing For Action, Detroit-Bankruptcy, Southwest Airlines Incident, Drugs-Baseball Player Suspended, UK-Prince Born, Economy-Wall Street

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, closed press; honors the 2013 NCAA Men's Basketball Champions the Louisville Cardinals, The East Room, open press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Meets with Vice President Hamid Ansari, Hyderabad House, New Dehli, India, pool spray at the top; meets with US Embassy staff and families, New Delhi, closed press; meets with Sushma Swaraj of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Taj Palace Hotel, pool spray at the top; travels to the Prime Minister's residence, arrival is pooled press; meets with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, pool spray at the top; meets with President Pranab Mukherjee, pool spray at the top; attends a dinner hosted by Vice President Ansari, Hyderabad House, pool spray with welcoming remarks at the top; departs New Delhi with Dr. Biden, en route Mumbai, India; arrives with Dr. Biden in Mumbai, Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, open press.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA – Delivers remarks about the problem of childhood obesity at the 2013 NCLR Annual Conference, New Orleans.

DR. JILL BIDEN – Visits the USAID Health of the Urban Poor (HUP) program, Kachhpura, Agra, meets with the workers and volunteers and tour the vaccination and nutrition facilities as well as the preschool, pooled press; visits the Taj Mahal, open press.
US Senate: FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. — The Senate convenes and recognize the Majority Leader. Thereafter, it is the Majority Leader's intention to resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.1243, the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

2:30 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — To resume hearings to examine S.1273, to establish a partnership between States that produce energy onshore and offshore for our country with the Federal Government. Location: 366 Dirksen.

9 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph Y. Yun, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to Malaysia, Daniel A. Clune, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Morrell John Berry, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Australia, all of the Department of State. Location: 419 Dirksen.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for Financial Services and General Government. Location: 138 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection hearings to examine financial holding companies, focusing on if banks should control power plants, warehouses, and oil refineries. Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere,

Fisheries, and Coast Guard hearings to examine New England and mid-Atlantic perspectives on Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization. Location: 253 Russell.

10 a.m. ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — Hearings to examine the nominations of Kenneth J. Kopocis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, James J. Jones, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances, and Avi Garbow, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, all of the Environmental Protection Agency. Location: 406 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS — Hearing on National Labor Relations Board Nominees: Kent Yoshiho Hirozawa, Member-Designate, National Labor Relations Board; Nancy Jean Schiffer, Member-Designate, National Labor Relations Board. Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights entitled Pay-for-Delay Deals: Limiting Competition and Costing Consumers. Location: 226 Dirksen.

10:15 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — TOP SECRET/CLOSED: Briefing on Nuclear Employment. Location: SVC-217.

10:30 a.m. AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY — Hearing to consider pending nominations. Location: 328A Russell.

10:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee markup of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs fiscal year 2014 Appropriations bill. Location: 124 Dirksen. Updated room number.

10:30 a.m. BUDGET — Hearings to examine the impact of sequestration on national security and the economy. Witnesses: Mark N. Klett, President and CEO, Klett Consulting Group, Inc.; Robert O. Work, Chief Executive Officer, Center for a New American Security; Jennifer-Cari Green, Secretary, Neurosurgery and Plastic Surgery Services, Madigan Army Medical Center, Representing the American Federation of Government Employees; Baker Spring, F.M. Kirby Research Fellow in National Security Policy, The Heritage Foundation; Thomas Donnelly, Co-Director of the Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies, American Enterprise Institute. Location: 608 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Hearing titled The 90/10 Rule: Improving Educational Outcomes for our Military and Veterans. Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:15 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Business meeting to consider S.Res.156, expressing the sense of the Senate on the 10-year anniversary of NATO Allied Command Transformation, embassy security legislation, and the nominations of Victoria Nuland, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, Douglas Edward Lute, of Indiana, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and Daniel Brooks Baer, of Colorado, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, all of the Department of State. Location: S-116.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.

3 p.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment hearings to examine creating a housing finance system built to last, focusing on ensuring access for community institutions. Panel 1: Sandra Thompson, Deputy Director, Division of Housing Mission and Goals, Federal Housing Finance Agency. Panel 2: Jack Hartings, President and CEO, The Peoples Bank Company, on behalf of the Independent Community Bankers of America; Bill Hampel, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, Research & Policy Analysis, Credit Union National Association; Andrew J. Jetter, President and CEO, Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka; Mike Middleton, Chairman and CEO, Community Bank of Tri-County, on behalf of the American Bankers Association. Location: 538 Dirksen.

3 p.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Bankruptcy and the Courts entitled Sequestering Justice: How the Budget Crisis is Undermining Our Courts. Witnesses: Judge Julia Gibbons, 6th Circuit Appeals Judge and Chair

of the Judicial Conference's Budget Committee; Michael Nachmanoff, Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia; W. West Allen, Chair of the Govt. Relations Committee of the Federal Bar Association and partner at Lewis and Rocca, LLP; others. Location: 226 Dirksen.
US House: 9:15 a.m. ROYCE, OTHERS – VIETNAM — Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, will participate in a press conference, joined by Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), and Rep. Alan Lowthenthal (D-CA) to highlight the ongoing human rights abuses in Vietnam. The press conference comes days before President Obama is scheduled to meet with Vietnams President Sang. Location: House Triangle.

10 a.m. BECERRA & CROWLEY – MEDIA AVAIALABILITY — Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-34), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and Representative Joe Crowley (NY-14), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. Location: HVC-210 alcove stakeout location. Watch live online at www.dems.gov/live

10 a.m. BOEHNER – LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA; Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Representative Diane Black (R-TN). Location: HC-8.

10 a.m. BROADCASTERS, SEBELIUS – MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN — the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) will unveil a new multiplatform public service announcement (PSA) campaign to increase understanding and awareness about mental health. Gordon H. Smith, president and CEO, National Association of Broadcasters; Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 1/8Invited3/8; Sen. Roy Blunt (MO), sponsor of the Excellence in Mental Health Act; Reps. Tim Murphy (PA-18) and Grace Napolitano (CA-32), chairs of the Mental Health Caucus. Location: 2237 Rayburn.

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. ALL ABOVE ALL LAUNCH — Unveiling of a new national effort called All Above All, directed at building support to lift the bans that deny abortion coverage, ensuring that every woman, however much she makes, can get affordable, safe abortion care. Participants: Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA13); Tracy Weitz, PhD, MPA, Associate Professor Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science, UCSF School of Medicine, Co-investigator, Turnaway Study; Heather Boonstra, Senior Policy Associate, Guttmacher Institute; Eesha Pandit, board member, National Network of Abortion Funds; Kierra Johnson, Executive Director, Choice USA. Location: 2226 Rayburn.

10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CAPITOL HILL CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN — Afghanistan and the Region: Security, Prosperity, and Stability sponsored by American Foreign Policy Council and the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) and the US-India Political Action Committee (USINPAC). 11:30 – Congressman Ed Royce (R-CA); Keynote: Rajnath Singh, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), India. Location: 340 Cannon – confirmed location.

11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. 0Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol.

11:30 a.m. THOMPSON, GERLACH – CONSERVATION — News Conference with Representative Mike Thompson and Representative Gerlach on Conservation incentivizing. Location: House Triangle.

12:30 p.m. TAKEOUT FOR POLICY LUNCHEONS — Gallery escort at 11:30am. Location: OCC.

2:30 p.m. AGE OF DELIRIUM SCREENING — U.S. Helsinki Commission to screen award-winning film Age of Delirium. Speakers: David Satter, Russia scholar and former Moscow correspondent; Kevin Klose, President and CEO, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Location: 210 Cannon.

3 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. NASA TECH DAY ON THE HILL — The technology showcase is open to the public. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Technology Michael Gazarik and Members of Congress are expected to tour the technology showcase and participate in a media availability with reporters starting at 4 p.m. Location: Rayburn House Office Building foyer.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. — The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

July 23 – 24. ENERGY & COMMERCE — Two-day hearing by the Energy and Power Subcommittee, Overview of the Renewable Fuel Standard: Stakeholder Perspectives. Witnesses: Panel one: Jack N. Gerard, President and CEO, American Petroleum Institute; Charles T. Drevna, President, American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers; Bob Dinneen, President and CEO, Renewable Fuels Association; Michael McAdams, President, Advanced Biofuels Association; Dr. Jeremy I. Martin, Senior Scientist, Clean Vehicles Program, Union of Concerned Scientists. Panel II: Tom Buis, CEO, Growth Energy; Shane Karr, Vice President, Federal Government Affairs, The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers; Todd J. Teske, Chairman and CEO, Briggs & Stratton Corporation; Robert Darbelnet, President and CEO, AAA; Joseph H. Petrowski, CEO, The Cumberland Gulf Group, On behalf of the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America and National Association of Convenience Stores; Joe Jobe, CEO, National Biodiesel Board. Panel III: Pam Johnson, President, National Corn Growers Association; Bill Roenigk, Senior Vice President, National Chicken Council; Ed Anderson, CEO, Wen-Gap, LLC, On behalf of the National Council of Chain Restaurants; Scott Faber, Vice President of Government Affairs, Environmental Working Group; Chris Hurt, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University. Highlights: 9:45 a.m. Tuesday session. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. AGRICULTURE — Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management- Public Hearing on The Future of the CFTC: Commission Perspectives. Location: 1300 Longworth.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies subcommittee Markup – FY 2014 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill. Location: B-308 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security hearing on A Study in Contrasts: House and Senate Approaches to Border Security. Witnesses: Panel I: John Cornyn, Senator, State of Texas. PANEL II: Jayson Ahern, Principal, Chertoff Group; Edward Alden, Bernard L. Schwartz Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations; Richard Stana, Former Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office. Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation hearing on Legislative Hearing on H.R. 163, H.R. 361, H.R. 433, H.R. 706, H.R. 908, H.R. 930, H.R. 1025, H.R. 1808. Location: 1334 Longworth.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing entitled, War on Jobs: Examining the Operations of the Office of Surface Mining and the Status of the Stream Buffer Zone Rule. Witness: Joseph G. Pizarchik, Director, Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement. Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. RULES — Hearing on H.R. 2218Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act of 2013; H.R. 1582Energy Consumers Relief Act of 2013. Location: H-313 The Capitol.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Hearing, How the Financial Status of the Highway Trust Fund Impacts Surface Transportation Programs. Witnesses: Polly Trottenberg, Under Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation; Kim P. Cawley, Unit Chief, Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit, Congressional Budget Office. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10:15 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Markup of H.R. ____, the Protecting American Taxpayers and Homeowners (PATH) Act of 2013; Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to the PATH Act; Section-by-Section to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10:30 a.m. ENERGY & COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Hearing, Oversight of Incentive Auction Implementation. Witnesses include Rick Kaplan, Executive Vice President, Strategic Planning, National Association of Broadcasters; others. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Markup to the Committee print to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reform the sustainable growth rate and Medicare payment for physicians services, and for other purposes. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific hearing on Asia: The Cyber Security Battleground. Witnesses: Phyllis Schneck, Ph.D. Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Global Public Sector, McAfee, Inc.; James Lewis, Director and Senior Fellow, Technology and Public Policy Program, Center for Strategic International Studies. Location: 2172 Raybum.

2 p.m. JUDICIARY — Addressing the Immigration Status of Illegal Immigrants Brought to the United States as Children. Location: 2141 Raybum.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Indian & Alaska Native Affairs legislative hearing on H.R. 1103 (Young of AK), To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Alaska, is and shall be recognized as an eligible Native village under that Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 1225 (Larsen), To direct the Secretary of the Interior to place certain lands in Skagit and San Juan Counties, Washington, into trust for the Samish Indian Nation, and for other purposes. Samish Indian Nation Homelands Act of 2013; H.R. 2319 (Mullin), To clarify certain provisions of the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994. Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013; H.R. 2388 (McClintock), To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes; H.R. 2455 (Amodei), To provide for the sale or transfer of certain Federal lands in Nevada, and for other purposes. Nevada Native Nations Lands Act.; H.R. 2650 (Nolan), To allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land. Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Non-Intercourse Act of 2013. Location: 1334 Longworth.

2 p.m. VETERANS' AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Health Markup of Pending Legislation: s: H.R. 2726; H.R. 1443, H.R. 1612, H.R. 2065; and H.R. 207. Location: 334 Cannon.

3 p.m. RULES — Full Committee. On H.R. 2218 – Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act of 2013, and H.R. 1582 – Energy Consumers Relief Act of 2013. Location: H-313 Capitol.
Other: AFT TEACH 2013 CONFERENCE — TheAmerican Federation of Teachers conference. Highlights: 10:30 a.m. Release of testing report. Advancing Our Profession panel, announcement of next Innovation Fund grantees and new AFT Solution-Driven Unionism Prize. 11 a.m. Safe and Welcoming Schools panel. 2:45 p.m. Building our Strength Through Partnerships panel, including Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.).7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. Washington.

NTSB – SCHOOL BUS, TRAIN CRASH — 9:30 a.m. The National Transportation Safety Board will hold a Board meeting to determine the probable cause of a school bus and truck crash near Chesterfield, New Jersey. The Board will also be hearing information regarding a crash that occurred in Port St. Lucie, Florida on March 26, 2012 in which a school bus was hit by a truck-tractor semitrailer. As a result of the crash, one student passenger was fatally injured, four sustained serious injuries and twelve others were transported to the hospital. Due to the similarities between the Port St. Lucie, Florida and Chesterfield, New Jersey crashes, school bus occupant protection issues from both crashes will be reviewed and the Board will consider possible recommendations to improve school bus safety nationwide. Location: NTSB Board Room and Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza, SW.2

SENATOR GRAHAM – ISRAEL — 9:30 a.m. Senator Lindsey Graham will address the Christians United for Israel Summit. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Ballroom ABC, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW.

CAP – WYDEN – DOMESTIC DATA COLLECTION — 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Senator Ron Wyden, D-OR on Domestic Data Collection and Privacy Rights. Location: Center for American Progress Action Fund 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

DOMESTIC WORKER – WORKPLACE STANDARDS RULE — 11 a.m. Countdown to Dignity rally and petition delivery, calling on the White House and Department of Labor to release new regulations extending minimum wage and other basic workplace protections to in-home care workers. Location: Upper Senate Park, at the corner of Constitution and Third Ave (across from the Department of Labor.

NRDC – KEYSTONE – REPORT RELEASE — 11 a.m. The Natural Resources Defense Council, 350.org Founder Bill McKibben and others will discuss Keystone XLs climate impact and release the most recent

technical analysis on the Keystone XL climate implications under Presidents New directive. Location: Bloomberg Room, National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, 13th Floor.

PETERSON – REP. LEVIN — 11:30 a.m. The Peterson Institute will host Representative Sander M. Levin, for a speech on The Challenges and Opportunities of International Trade – Past, Present, and Future. Location: Bergsten Conference Center, Peterson Institute, 1750 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.

ECONOMIC CLUB OF WASHINGTON – VALERIE JARRETT — 12 p.m. Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama and Assistant to the President for Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs will make remarks and participate in a conversation-style interview with David Rubenstein, President of The Economic Club. Location: JW Marriott, The Grand Ballroom, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

NASA – HURRICANE RESEARCH FLIGHTS — 2 p.m. NASA will host a Google+ Hangout from several NASA centers as the agency prepares to fly two unmanned aircraft over Atlantic Ocean hurricanes this summer. Participants: Scott Braun, HS3 principal investigator, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD; Tom Miller, Global Hawk pilot, NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA; Marilyn Vasques, HS3 project manager, NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA; Brian McNoldy, senior research associate, University of Miami, FL., Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "In a recent interview in 'GQ' magazine, Vice President Joe Biden says, he can 'die a happy man never having been President of the United States.' And you know something? Woo, so can we."

Jay Leno: "Well, a new study is found that employees who smoke cigarettes earn 17.5% less than employees who don't smoke. They also learned that crack smokers tend to earn 100% less than people who don't smoke crack."

David Letterman: "Anthony Weiner, you know former Congressman, now running for the mayor. He's on the campaign trail now. Or as he calls it, 'The Tour de Pants.' That's right. That's what he calls it."

Conan O'Brien: "The TSA just announced that passengers can pass through security without taking their shoes off if they are willing to pay an extra $85. That explains the TSA's new motto: 'We Catch Terrorists Who Don't Have an Extra $85 on Them.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Oh, and we also have former New York governor, Eliot Spitzer, on the show tonight! And he'll only be here for about five minutes, but we're charging him for the full hour."

John Oliver: "Hold on. If you get shot in Detroit, you can get a pizza faster than you can get a cop. In fact maybe that's the only way to survive there. 'Hey, Dominoes I would like one large pizza with two policemen and a side of paramedics, please. And can you stuff the crust with gauze because I'm bleeding terribly. Thank you.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Nation, I've always been suspicious of the minimum wage. I've said it before. Minimum is a misnomer. $7.25? I can think of wages a lot lower. $3.28., $1.19. A pat on the back and a handful of mints. There are literally dozens of other things you could give them. A barn owl."

Stephen Colbert: "And when it comes to opposing the minimum wage, I'm in good company with guys who own companies. For example, billionaire industrialist and my future face twin Charles Koch in an interview with 'The Wichita Eagle,' said he wants to eliminate the minimum wage because it creates a culture of dependency and keeps people with limited capital from starting their own business. He is right. Having to pay your employees really hurts small business. I mean, look at our nation's forefathers. Many arrived with nothing but the blouse on their back but thanks to no minimum wage, they started a booming cotton industry."

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Re: appropriations and conservation funding - what we do

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jul 23, 2013 at 1:03 PM
To: "Davis, Laura" <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Rhea Suh <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Laura -

I am in full agreement - (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Sally

Sent from my iPad

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>
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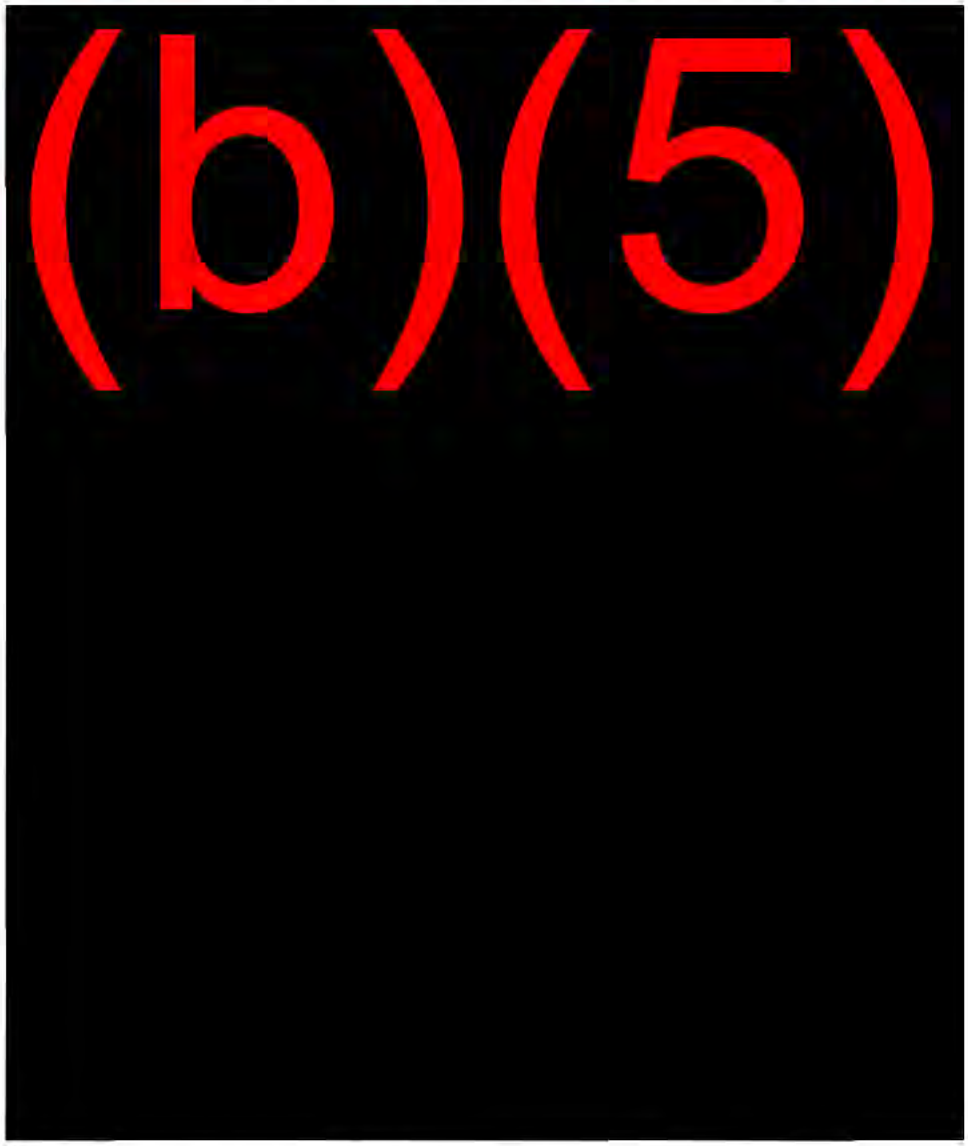

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> Phil Taylor, E&E reporter
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> Published: Monday, July 22, 2013
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> by House Republicans this morning.
>
> The proposal, the first of its kind, was one of a handful of lands and
> species riders included in the bill offered by the Interior, Environment
> and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.
>
> The language is similar to *H.R.
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> Rep. John Fleming (R-La.), which would also require congressional assent
> for new wildlife refuges. That bill is scheduled to be marked up by the
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> An official who lobbies for wildlife refuge funding criticized the
> appropriations language.
>
> "It's kind of sad that this would be on an appropriations bill," said
> Desiree Sorenson-Groves, vice president of government affairs for the
> National Wildlife Refuge Association, who noted that the bill would also
> cut the Fish and Wildlife Service's budget by $401 million, or 27 percent,
> under 2013 enacted levels. "It's one of the most depressing and detrimental
> bills I've ever seen."
>
> House Republicans have complained for years that new wildlife refuges
> stretch limited federal funding thin and that Congress should have
> oversight over which lands are designated (*E&E
> Daily<http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059980181>
> *, April 26).
>
> Then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar helped establish 10 new national
> wildlife refuges covering 4.5 million acres of private and public lands
> during the Obama administration's first term in office.
>
> The overall spending bill would slash funding for the Interior Department,
> U.S. EPA and Forest Service by roughly $4 billion below current levels even
> after sequestration took effect in March, including a particularly deep cut
> for EPA.
>
> In addition, the bill includes a bevy of policy riders curbing EPA,
> Interior and Forest Service regulatory authority.
>
> Few believe the House bill will become law, given how far apart its funding
> levels are from what Senate appropriators would be expected to propose.
>
> Many believe Congress will simply extend current funding levels through a
> continuing resolution at the end of September, though the fate of policy
> riders such as the moratorium on new refuges would be unclear.
>
>
> APPROPRIATIONS: Deep cuts proposed for Interior and EPA ahead of tomorrow's
> House subcommittee vote
>
> E&E staff
>
> Published: Monday, July 22, 2013
>
> Federal environmental and natural resources programs would see their
> budgets slashed significantly under the House's fiscal 2014 Interior,

> Environment and Related Agencies spending bill, released this morning.
>
> The *bill*<http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/bills-113hr-sc-ap-fy2014-interior-subcommitteedraft.pdf>
> would
> provide $24.3 billion for the Interior Department, U.S. EPA and the Forest
> Service – a cut of $4 billion compared with current levels even after
> sequestration took effect in March.
>
> The bill was released ahead of tomorrow's markup by the Appropriations
> Committee subpanel.
>
> Republican appropriators said in a statement that the low budget numbers
> were part of the House's commitment to shrink the federal debt by cutting
> spending and that efforts had been made to prioritize.
>
> "In order to do more with less, the legislation seeks to protect vital
> programs that directly affect the safety and well-being of Americans, while
> dramatically scaling back lower-priority or 'nice-to-have' programs," said
> Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.).
>
> Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) said the bill would safeguard
> "critical 'must-do' priorities, like human health, public safety, and
> treaty obligations and responsibilities."
>
> In order to fund wildfire prevention, the National Park Service and
> programs for Native Americans, the subpanel underfunded or eliminated other
> programs, he said.
>
> "We are going to continue to see these kinds of dramatic reductions as long
> as we keep trying to reduce the debt by cutting discretionary spending
> alone, rather than also tackling mandatory spending, which is the real
> driver of our debt," Simpson warned.
>
> And the reductions would be dramatic, with every agency funded by the bill
> taking a haircut. EPA would receive $5.5 billion for the fiscal year
> beginning Oct. 1, a reduction of $2.8 billion -- or 34 percent -- below the
> levels Congress approved for fiscal 2013.
>
> Cuts to EPA served a dual purpose of saving taxpayer funds and reining in
> an agency that "has been rife with governmental overreach, overspending on
> ineffective and unnecessary programs, and costly and questionable
> regulations," the Appropriations Committee said in its statement.
>
> Funding cuts would fall heavily on agency leadership and operations. The
> office of Administrator Gina McCarthy, who was confirmed last week after a
> long delay, would see its budget slashed by more than 30 percent compared
> with current levels. The measure would also halve the budget for the
> agency's congressional liaison and cut operating funds by $921 million.
>
> The agency's personnel would be capped at 1992 levels.
>
> The bill would bar EPA from moving ahead with plans to regulate greenhouse
> gas emissions from the utility sector -- a centerpiece of the president's
> second-term climate change agenda released last month.
>
> Simpson said last month that the president's plan was likely to increase
> the number of carbon-related riders that will be offered by House

> Republicans (*Greenwire*<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059983602>,
> June 27). The House has passed similar provisions before -- both as part of
> the appropriations process and as stand-alone legislation -- but they have
> yet to clear the Democratic-controlled Senate.
>
> The measure would exempt agriculture from Clean Air Act rules for
> pollutants and from reporting requirements for greenhouse gases.
>
> Another rider in the bill would block EPA from spending any money on the
> Tier 3 rule or any other that would seek a reduction in the sulfur content
> of gasoline. EPA proposed the Tier 3 rule that would lower the levels of
> sulfur in gasoline from 30 parts per million to 10 ppm by 2017 in March and
> is set to finalize it before the end of the year, despite oil industry
> complaints that it will raise the price of gas.
>
> The bill also contains language requiring EPA, DOI and the U.S. attorney
> general to publish all information related to a legal settlement over
> concerns that the administration has been using so-called sue-and-settle
> tactics to enact new rules. Under the alleged strategy -- which the
> administration has denied -- outside groups would sue an agency and use the
> courts to negotiate settlement agreements with rulemaking requirements.
>
> The rider would require that the administration post terms and conditions
> from any settlement online within 30 days. That follows an agreement EPA
> made with Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) to publish all notices of intent to sue
> and petitions for rulemaking online to increase transparency in the
> agency's litigation.
> Water infrastructure
>
> The bill proposes steep cuts to the popular federal loan programs intended
> to repair decrepit wastewater systems. The Clean Water and Drinking Water
> state revolving funds would see a combined 69 percent cut from President
> Obama's proposed budget, which was already $472 million shy of fiscal 2013
> levels. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund would take the deeper hit,
> being slashed to just $250 million.
>
> The revolving funds have come under the knife repeatedly in recent years,
> even as the country's water infrastructure is aging and failing. The
> American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded the nation's wastewater
> and stormwater system a D, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates that
> the country needs as much as $4.8 trillion in water and wastewater
> investment over the next two decades (*E&E
> Daily*<http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2013/07/22/stories/1059984757>,
> July 22).
>
> The bill would block any use of funds for work on guidance or regulations
> aimed at clarifying convoluted oversight of wetlands under the Clean Water
> Act. The Obama administration's proposed guidance on the issue has become a
> political lightning rod and has been stalled at the White House Office of
> Management and Budget for more than a year.
>
> The administration is currently weighing whether to issue the guidance as
> it moves ahead with a rulemaking on the issue. The energy and water
> appropriations bill approved by the House earlier this month included a
> mirror provision.
>
> The bill also includes several provisions aimed at a contentious,

> long-overdue stormwater rule that EPA is preparing to propose under a
> settlement agreement with an environmental group. The proposed rule is
> expected to set the first nationwide requirements for private property to
> manage stormwater runoff on site and potentially expand the number of
> municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) that require permits under
> the Clean Water Act
> (*Greenwire*<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059983921>,
> July 5).
>
> The House bill would block the agency from moving ahead with the proposed
> rule, though, until the agency submits a report to Congress on regulatory
> options and their potential costs. It would also block the agency from
> regulating certain MS4s that serve populations of fewer than 100,000 people.
>
> The bill includes a provision that would effectively block logging roads
> from EPA stormwater regulation. The agency had long assumed that forest
> roads were exempt from such regulations, but a 2010 lawsuit threw the issue
> into question. EPA last year finalized a rule formally exempting logging
> roads from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, but the
> forest industry and its congressional advocates say that without
> legislation, the door is left open for future litigation or regulation.
> Coal and mining
>
> The legislation includes several policy riders pushing back against what
> Republicans and some Democrats describe as the Obama administration's
> assault on coal and mining jobs.
>
> The bill would block the federal Office of Surface Mining's forthcoming
> stream protection rule, meant to protect waterways from coal strip mining.
> The rider has become common in GOP spending bills in recent years, with
> critics viewing the rule as a potential job killer in the coal fields.
>
> The Republican spending blueprint would give OSM $142 million, roughly $8
> million below fiscal 2013 enacted levels but about the same as current
> levels under sequestration.
>
> Even though spending numbers for OSM are similar to the Obama
> administration's budget blueprint, the GOP draft does not include a new fee
> on hardrock mining companies for abandoned mine reclamation nor a boost in
> the current fee on coal companies for old mine cleanups.
>
> "The bill will fund state grants at $68 million, and language is included
> to discourage the Administration from imposing new fees on the mining
> industry," said House GOP appropriators in a news release. The Obama budget
> would have cut grants.
>
> When it comes to hardrock mining, the new legislation aims to block ongoing
> EPA rulemaking to establish new financial assurance or bonding requirements
> on the industry under the Superfund law. The agency has tapped the industry
> as a priority on the issue.
>
> The spending bill would also block EPA from working on a new definition of
> fill material under the Clean Water Act. Environmentalists have complained
> about the current definition for years because they say it facilitates
> dumping of waste into regulated waters.
>
> EPA has said it is not working on a fill rule rewrite. But groups like the

> National Mining Association are not taking any chances. A version of the
> rider also passed in the energy and water spending bill, which governs the
> Army Corps of Engineers.
> Bill would boost wildfire spending, cut land acquisition entirely
>
> The subcommittee bill would provide $9.7 billion to the Interior agencies
> it oversees. It would significantly boost Interior and Forest Service
> programs to prevent and respond to wildfires, while also making significant
> cuts to the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets
> and -- for the first time in at least many years -- provide no money for
> land acquisition under the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
>
> The bill provides $1.5 billion in emergency spending for wildfires, offset
> by a rescission of unused funding from an advanced vehicle manufacturing
> loan program in the White House's 2009 stimulus program.
>
> The total $4.08 billion for base and emergency wildfire funding is $559
> million, or 16 percent, above the fiscal 2013 enacted level, the committee
> said.
>
> It also includes $502 million for hazardous fuels reduction -- the primary
> means by which Interior and the Forest Service mitigate future blazes and
> restore forest health -- which is $205 million above the president's budget
> request.
>
> In addition, the bill provides a $130 million infusion for the Forest
> Service to modernize its aging wildfire air tanker fleet through the
> purchase of two next-generation aircraft.
>
> For the Bureau of Land Management, the bill provides $989 million, a cut of
> $76 million from 2013 enacted levels and roughly $20 million below the
> level caused by sequestration.
>
> The agency's oil and gas program would receive $23 million more than what
> was enacted in 2013, but it does not authorize the Obama administration's
> proposal to collect an additional $48 million through inspection fees.
>
> The bill also provides $410 million for a one-year extension of payments in
> lieu of taxes, a program that compensates rural counties with large blocks
> of tax-exempt federal lands. That provision has a significant impact on the
> subcommittee's bill given that no discretionary funds were provided for the
> program last year.
>
> The bill contains $2.3 billion for the National Park Service. While that is
> 9 percent less than the 2013 enacted level, the agency's operating accounts
> for national parks are funded at $24 million above the current
> sequestration level, the committee said.
>
> The bill would provide $1.06 billion for the Fish and Wildlife Service, a
> steep cut of $401 million, or 27 percent, below 2013 enacted levels.
>
> The Forest Service would be funded at $5.3 billion, a $149 million bump
> over the 2013 enacted level, though much of that comes from the significant
> increases in wildfire prevention and suppression.
>
> The bill also contains a few policy riders regarding public lands.
>

> It would prevent lands agencies from closing federal lands to hunting,
> fishing and recreational target shooting; it would prevent FWS from
> preparing or issuing an Endangered Species Act rule for the greater sage
> grouse; and it again prohibits BLM from carrying out former Interior
> Secretary Ken Salazar's wild lands order.
>
> *Reporters Jean Chemnick, Phil Taylor, Jason Plautz, Manuel Quinones and
> Annie Snider contributed.*
>
>
>
> --
>
> Kate Kelly
> Director of Communications
> Department of the Interior
> (202) 208 2409 (o) / (202) 306 3888 (c)
> kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov
> <FY2012 DOI Econ Report (Final).pdf>

BISON CONNECT

Re: appropriations and conservation funding - what we do

Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jul 23, 2013 at 5:37 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Rhea Suh <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Great - we will get moving and put things into motion, and discuss more when we get a moment.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 23, 2013, at 3:30 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Laura -
>
> I am in full agreement -(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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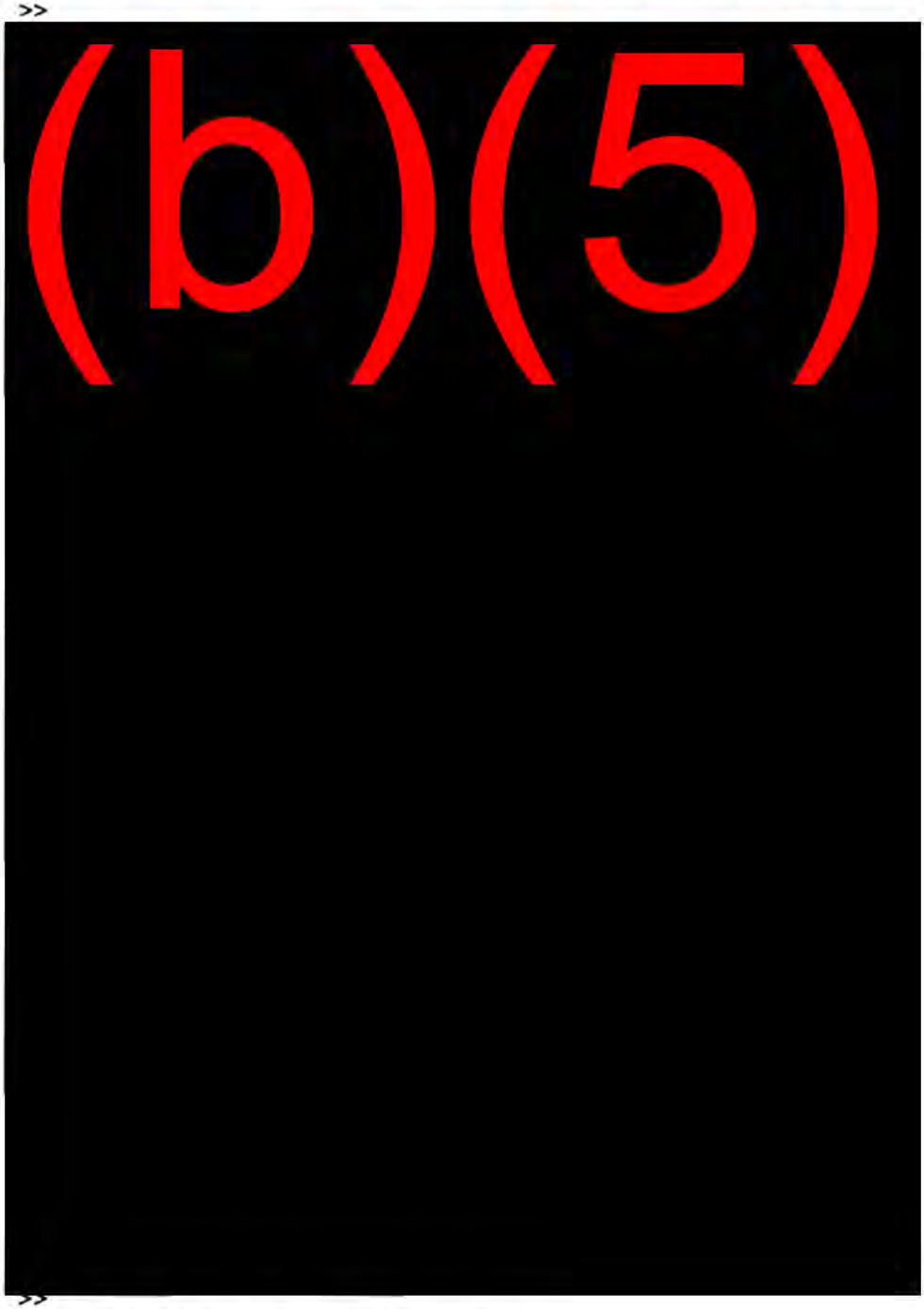

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>> during the Obama administration's first term in office.
>>
>> The overall spending bill would slash funding for the Interior Department,
>> U.S. EPA and Forest Service by roughly $4 billion below current levels even
>> after sequestration took effect in March, including a particularly deep cut
>> for EPA.
>>
>> In addition, the bill includes a bevy of policy riders curbing EPA,
>> Interior and Forest Service regulatory authority.
>>
>> Few believe the House bill will become law, given how far apart its funding
>> levels are from what Senate appropriators would be expected to propose.
>>
>> Many believe Congress will simply extend current funding levels through a
>> continuing resolution at the end of September, though the fate of policy
>> riders such as the moratorium on new refuges would be unclear.
>>
>>
>> APPROPRIATIONS: Deep cuts proposed for Interior and EPA ahead of tomorrow's
>> House subcommittee vote

>>
>> E&E staff
>>
>> Published: Monday, July 22, 2013
>>
>> Federal environmental and natural resources programs would see their
>> budgets slashed significantly under the House's fiscal 2014 Interior,
>> Environment and Related Agencies spending bill, released this morning.
>>
>> The *bill*<http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/bills-113hr-sc-ap-fy2014-interior-subcommitteedraft.pdf>
>> would
>> provide $24.3 billion for the Interior Department, U.S. EPA and the Forest
>> Service -- a cut of $4 billion compared with current levels even after
>> sequestration took effect in March.
>>
>> The bill was released ahead of tomorrow's markup by the Appropriations
>> Committee subpanel.
>>
>> Republican appropriators said in a statement that the low budget numbers
>> were part of the House's commitment to shrink the federal debt by cutting
>> spending and that efforts had been made to prioritize.
>>
>> "In order to do more with less, the legislation seeks to protect vital
>> programs that directly affect the safety and well-being of Americans, while
>> dramatically scaling back lower-priority or 'nice-to-have' programs," said
>> Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.).
>>
>> Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) said the bill would safeguard
>> "critical 'must-do' priorities, like human health, public safety, and
>> treaty obligations and responsibilities."
>>
>> In order to fund wildfire prevention, the National Park Service and
>> programs for Native Americans, the subpanel underfunded or eliminated other
>> programs, he said.
>>
>> "We are going to continue to see these kinds of dramatic reductions as long
>> as we keep trying to reduce the debt by cutting discretionary spending
>> alone, rather than also tackling mandatory spending, which is the real
>> driver of our debt," Simpson warned.
>>
>> And the reductions would be dramatic, with every agency funded by the bill
>> taking a haircut. EPA would receive $5.5 billion for the fiscal year
>> beginning Oct. 1, a reduction of $2.8 billion -- or 34 percent -- below the
>> levels Congress approved for fiscal 2013.
>>
>> Cuts to EPA served a dual purpose of saving taxpayer funds and reining in
>> an agency that "has been rife with governmental overreach, overspending on
>> ineffective and unnecessary programs, and costly and questionable
>> regulations," the Appropriations Committee said in its statement.
>>
>> Funding cuts would fall heavily on agency leadership and operations. The
>> office of Administrator Gina McCarthy, who was confirmed last week after a
>> long delay, would see its budget slashed by more than 30 percent compared
>> with current levels. The measure would also halve the budget for the
>> agency's congressional liaison and cut operating funds by $921 million.
>>

>> The agency's personnel would be capped at 1992 levels.
>>
>> The bill would bar EPA from moving ahead with plans to regulate greenhouse
>> gas emissions from the utility sector -- a centerpiece of the president's
>> second-term climate change agenda released last month.
>>
>> Simpson said last month that the president's plan was likely to increase
>> the number of carbon-related riders that will be offered by House
>> Republicans (*Greenwire*<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059983602>,
>> June 27). The House has passed similar provisions before – both as part of
>> the appropriations process and as stand-alone legislation – but they have
>> yet to clear the Democratic-controlled Senate.
>>
>> The measure would exempt agriculture from Clean Air Act rules for
>> pollutants and from reporting requirements for greenhouse gases.
>>
>> Another rider in the bill would block EPA from spending any money on the
>> Tier 3 rule or any other that would seek a reduction in the sulfur content
>> of gasoline. EPA proposed the Tier 3 rule that would lower the levels of
>> sulfur in gasoline from 30 parts per million to 10 ppm by 2017 in March and
>> is set to finalize it before the end of the year, despite oil industry
>> complaints that it will raise the price of gas.
>>
>> The bill also contains language requiring EPA, DOI and the U.S. attorney
>> general to publish all information related to a legal settlement over
>> concerns that the administration has been using so-called sue-and-settle
>> tactics to enact new rules. Under the alleged strategy -- which the
>> administration has denied -- outside groups would sue an agency and use the
>> courts to negotiate settlement agreements with rulemaking requirements.
>>
>> The rider would require that the administration post terms and conditions
>> from any settlement online within 30 days. That follows an agreement EPA
>> made with Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) to publish all notices of intent to sue
>> and petitions for rulemaking online to increase transparency in the
>> agency's litigation.
>> Water infrastructure
>>
>> The bill proposes steep cuts to the popular federal loan programs intended
>> to repair decrepit wastewater systems. The Clean Water and Drinking Water
>> state revolving funds would see a combined 69 percent cut from President
>> Obama's proposed budget, which was already $472 million shy of fiscal 2013
>> levels. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund would take the deeper hit,
>> being slashed to just $250 million.
>>
>> The revolving funds have come under the knife repeatedly in recent years,
>> even as the country's water infrastructure is aging and failing. The
>> American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded the nation's wastewater
>> and stormwater system a D, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates that
>> the country needs as much as $4.8 trillion in water and wastewater
>> investment over the next two decades (*E&E
>> Daily*<http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2013/07/22/stories/1059984757>,
>> July 22).
>>
>> The bill would block any use of funds for work on guidance or regulations
>> aimed at clarifying convoluted oversight of wetlands under the Clean Water
>> Act. The Obama administration's proposed guidance on the issue has become a
>> political lightning rod and has been stalled at the White House Office of

>> Management and Budget for more than a year.
>>
>> The administration is currently weighing whether to issue the guidance as
>> it moves ahead with a rulemaking on the issue. The energy and water
>> appropriations bill approved by the House earlier this month included a
>> mirror provision.
>>
>> The bill also includes several provisions aimed at a contentious,
>> long-overdue stormwater rule that EPA is preparing to propose under a
>> settlement agreement with an environmental group. The proposed rule is
>> expected to set the first nationwide requirements for private property to
>> manage stormwater runoff on site and potentially expand the number of
>> municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) that require permits under
>> the Clean Water Act
>> (*Greenwire*<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059983921>,
>> July 5).
>>
>> The House bill would block the agency from moving ahead with the proposed
>> rule, though, until the agency submits a report to Congress on regulatory
>> options and their potential costs. It would also block the agency from
>> regulating certain MS4s that serve populations of fewer than 100,000 people.
>>
>> The bill includes a provision that would effectively block logging roads
>> from EPA stormwater regulation. The agency had long assumed that forest
>> roads were exempt from such regulations, but a 2010 lawsuit threw the issue
>> into question. EPA last year finalized a rule formally exempting logging
>> roads from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, but the
>> forest industry and its congressional advocates say that without
>> legislation, the door is left open for future litigation or regulation.
>> Coal and mining
>>
>> The legislation includes several policy riders pushing back against what
>> Republicans and some Democrats describe as the Obama administration's
>> assault on coal and mining jobs.
>>
>> The bill would block the federal Office of Surface Mining's forthcoming
>> stream protection rule, meant to protect waterways from coal strip mining.
>> The rider has become common in GOP spending bills in recent years, with
>> critics viewing the rule as a potential job killer in the coal fields.
>>
>> The Republican spending blueprint would give OSM $142 million, roughly $8
>> million below fiscal 2013 enacted levels but about the same as current
>> levels under sequestration.
>>
>> Even though spending numbers for OSM are similar to the Obama
>> administration's budget blueprint, the GOP draft does not include a new fee
>> on hardrock mining companies for abandoned mine reclamation nor a boost in
>> the current fee on coal companies for old mine cleanups.
>>
>> "The bill will fund state grants at $68 million, and language is included
>> to discourage the Administration from imposing new fees on the mining
>> industry," said House GOP appropriators in a news release. The Obama budget
>> would have cut grants.
>>
>> When it comes to hardrock mining, the new legislation aims to block ongoing
>> EPA rulemaking to establish new financial assurance or bonding requirements
>> on the industry under the Superfund law. The agency has tapped the industry

>> as a priority on the issue.
>>
>> The spending bill would also block EPA from working on a new definition of
>> fill material under the Clean Water Act. Environmentalists have complained
>> about the current definition for years because they say it facilitates
>> dumping of waste into regulated waters.
>>
>> EPA has said it is not working on a fill rule rewrite. But groups like the
>> National Mining Association are not taking any chances. A version of the
>> rider also passed in the energy and water spending bill, which governs the
>> Army Corps of Engineers.
>> Bill would boost wildfire spending, cut land acquisition entirely
>>
>> The subcommittee bill would provide $9.7 billion to the Interior agencies
>> it oversees. It would significantly boost Interior and Forest Service
>> programs to prevent and respond to wildfires, while also making significant
>> cuts to the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets
>> and -- for the first time in at least many years -- provide no money for
>> land acquisition under the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
>>
>> The bill provides $1.5 billion in emergency spending for wildfires, offset
>> by a rescission of unused funding from an advanced vehicle manufacturing
>> loan program in the White House's 2009 stimulus program.
>>
>> The total $4.08 billion for base and emergency wildfire funding is $559
>> million, or 16 percent, above the fiscal 2013 enacted level, the committee
>> said.
>>
>> It also includes $502 million for hazardous fuels reduction – the primary
>> means by which Interior and the Forest Service mitigate future blazes and
>> restore forest health – which is $205 million above the president's budget
>> request.
>>
>> In addition, the bill provides a $130 million infusion for the Forest
>> Service to modernize its aging wildfire air tanker fleet through the
>> purchase of two next-generation aircraft.
>>
>> For the Bureau of Land Management, the bill provides $989 million, a cut of
>> $76 million from 2013 enacted levels and roughly $20 million below the
>> level caused by sequestration.
>>
>> The agency's oil and gas program would receive $23 million more than what
>> was enacted in 2013, but it does not authorize the Obama administration's
>> proposal to collect an additional $48 million through inspection fees.
>>
>> The bill also provides $410 million for a one-year extension of payments in
>> lieu of taxes, a program that compensates rural counties with large blocks
>> of tax-exempt federal lands. That provision has a significant impact on the
>> subcommittee's bill given that no discretionary funds were provided for the
>> program last year.
>>
>> The bill contains $2.3 billion for the National Park Service. While that is
>> 9 percent less than the 2013 enacted level, the agency's operating accounts
>> for national parks are funded at $24 million above the current
>> sequestration level, the committee said.
>>
>> The bill would provide $1.06 billion for the Fish and Wildlife Service, a

>> steep cut of $401 million, or 27 percent, below 2013 enacted levels.
>>
>> The Forest Service would be funded at $5.3 billion, a $149 million bump
>> over the 2013 enacted level, though much of that comes from the significant
>> increases in wildfire prevention and suppression.
>>
>> The bill also contains a few policy riders regarding public lands.
>>
>> It would prevent lands agencies from closing federal lands to hunting,
>> fishing and recreational target shooting; it would prevent FWS from
>> preparing or issuing an Endangered Species Act rule for the greater sage
>> grouse; and it again prohibits BLM from carrying out former Interior
>> Secretary Ken Salazar's wild lands order.
>>
>> *Reporters Jean Chemnick, Phil Taylor, Jason Plautz, Manuel Quinones and
>> Annie Snider contributed.*
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>> –
>>
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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, August 1, 2013

Bulletin News <Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com> Thu, Aug 1, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior-Editors@bulletinnews.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

NEW ENGLAND FIRM TOPS BID IN FIRST US OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALE. The Boston Globe (8/1, Ailworth, 250K) reports a New England company has won the "rights to develop offshore wind farms in nearly

165,000 acres of specially designated federal waters off the coasts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island." The company bid $3.8 million for the rights. Deepwater Wind LLC of Providence proposes to set up to 200 turbines "capable of producing enough energy to power roughly 350,000 homes, with a transmission system linking Long Island, N.Y., to southeastern New England."

FuelFix (7/31) reports the Interior Department said that over the next nine months, leases will be offered for areas off Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

The Washington Post (7/31, 489K) reports that Director Tommy Beaudreau "calls it a historic moment in the future of clean energy in the US and says the final bid was higher than expected."

NPR (8/1) reports that the US "has no offshore wind farms, but some industry experts say the fact that there was competition for these leases shows that despite all the setbacks, the offshore wind industry might soon take off." Also, "some environmental groups cheered the auctions as a sign that the country is moving toward cleaner energy."

Additional coverage was provided by the Wall Street Journal, the Bloomberg BusinessWeek (7/31, Drajem, Hemdon, 921K), the Bloomberg BusinessWeek (7/31, 921K), Bloomberg News (8/1, Drajem), Yahoo! Finance (8/1), Yahoo! News Canada (8/1), the Boston Herald (8/1, 91K), the Providence (RI) Journal (7/31, 114K), the Providence (RI) Journal (8/1, 114K), the Providence (RI) Business News (8/1, 10K), the Providence (RI) Business News (8/1, 10K), the New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (7/31, 21K), the Cape Cod (MA) Times (7/31), the Cape Cod (MA) Times (7/31), the Contra Costa (CA) Times (8/1, 174K), Recharge News (8/1), and the Law 360 (8/1),

HOUSE PANEL VOTES TO THWART INTERIOR'S PLAN TO EXPAND FRACKING RULE. The Hill (8/1, Geman, 21K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog the House Natural Resources Committee voted mainly "along party lines Wednesday for GOP legislation" aimed at thwarting Interior Department efforts "to expand regulation of oil-and-gas 'fracking' on public lands." The blog posting says the Interior unveiled draft fracking rules in May. Supporters of "tougher federal oversight say minimum Interior standards are needed to prevent water pollution in cases where states don't have rules or they're too weak."

FuelFix (7/31) also covers the news.

MICHAEL CONNOR NOMINATED AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR INTERIOR. The E&E Daily (7/31) reports that the White House has nominated BOR Commissioner Michael Connor "as the next deputy secretary of the Interior." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Mike will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position after two decades in public service working on energy, conservation and water issues. He has proven himself to be a thoughtful and collaborative leader on some of the toughest challenges at the department – including finding sustainable solutions to water challenges in the West and resolving Indian water rights claims." Connor's "nomination drew praise from Capitol Hill," including from Sens. Ron Wyden and Lisa Murkowski.

KCIT-TV Amarillo, TX (8/1) reports that Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) issued a "statement praising President Obama's nomination of Michael Connor to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Interior Department. Connor, of New Mexico, currently serves as commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation."

The Pechanga (8/1) reports that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) released a statement supporting the nomination. Also, the Pechanga (8/1) reports that Tribal Chairman Mark Macarro issued a statement supporting the nomination.

Also reporting on the story are Politico (8/1, Guillen, 25K), the Native American Times (8/1), the Hydroworld (8/1), the Recharge News (8/1), and Indianz (8/1).

INTERIOR APPROVES PLAN TO EXPAND GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK. The Washington Post (7/31, 489K) reports that the Interior Department "has endorsed a plan to expand Gettysburg National Military Park." The plan "would incorporate the Lincoln Train Station in downtown Gettysburg as part of a 45-acre expansion at the southern end of the battlefield."

Also reporting on the story are the Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/1, 335K), the Philly.com (8/1), the Hanover (PA)

Evening Sun (8/1, 19K), and the New Jersey Herald (8/1, 17K).

SENS. REID AND HELLER MEET WITH INTERIOR OFFICIALS ON SAGE GROUSE. Roll Call (8/1, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 19K) reports that Sens. Harry Reid and Dean Heller met "with Interior Department officials" for a "Sage Hen Summit." In a statement, Reid said, "Conservation and restoration of sagebrush habitat in Nevada and throughout the West is vital to maintaining healthy sage grouse populations and thwarting a threatened or endangered listing that will negatively affect Nevadans and our rural economies." Also, Heller said, "Should the sage grouse be listed as an endangered species, Nevada's way of life and our state's economic recovery will be in jeopardy. I am committed to working with Governor Sandoval and the rest of the delegation to take steps on the federal level that complement and reinforce strategies developed in the state to prevent such a listing."

Also reporting on the story are the Gardnerville (NV) Record Courier (8/1, 6K) and the CarsonNow.org (Carson City, NV) (8/1).

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEBATE FUNDING MEASURE. The AP (8/1) reports that "on Wednesday, a bitterly divided Appropriations Committee debated a $24.3 billion measure funding the Interior Department and the Environmental Protection Agency at levels 19 percent below those passed earlier this year."

Also reporting on the s ory are the Petoskey (MI) News-Review (7/31, 8K) and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (8/1, 221K).

HOUSE COMMITTEE DEBATES OVER NAMING OCEAN WATERS AFTER REAGAN. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (8/1, Geman, 21K) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee debated Wednesday on a "GOP bill that would name 3.4 million square nautical miles of ocean after the late President Ronald Reagan." The committee "is weighing Rep. Darrell Issa's (R-Calif.) bill that would rename the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which generally extends from 3 miles to 200 miles offshore, as the Ronald Wilson Reagan Exclusive Economic Zone."

INTERIOR SEEKS ACTUAL REVENUE HISTORY EVALUATION. The Insurance News Net (7/31) reports that the Interior Department's National Business Center "has issued a combined synopsis/solicitation notice (D13PS00375) for the evaluation of actual revenue history of the Citrus Pilot Crop Insurance program."

GLACIER BAY LODGE STRUGGLING TO STAY OPEN. The Juneau (AK) Empire (8/1, 4K) reports that the NPS is "in negotiations with Aramark to extend a concessions contract at the Glacier Bay Lodge." The article notes that "Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich have since taken an interest in the issue." In June, "Murkowski wrote a letter to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell," and "Begich sent a letter to NPS director Jonathan Jarvis stressing the importance of the lodge to the community of Gustavus and the Southeast tourism industry."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BLUEWAYS PROGRAM. Additional coverage of the continuing opposition to the National Blueways program was provided by the Washington Post (7/31, 489K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/1, Hollingsworth, 335K), Yahoo! (8/1, Hollingsworth), Yahoo! News Canada (8/1), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (8/1, 16K), and the Arkansas Business (8/1).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WATER-RIGHTS DEAL. Additional coverage of the water-rights agreement signed by the federal government and White Mountain Apache tribe was provided by the Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (8/1, Bell), the Casa Grande (AZ) Dispatch (8/1, 7K), the Arizona Republic (7/30, 308K), and the Arizona Capitol Times (7/31, Bell).

CALL TO REVIEW CADIZ WATER-PUMPING PLAN SUPPORTED. In an editorial, the Inland Valley (CA) Daily Bulletin (8/1, 52K) supports "Rep. Paul Cook's call for a federal review of the" Cadiz water-pumping proposal. It notes that "the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project hopes to use railroad right-of-way that crosses federal land for a 43-mile section of pipeline, which could give the federal government purview," and "much more importantly, the project has potential impacts on nearby, protected federal lands." The paper urges the Interior Department to "heed Cook's request that the US Geologic Survey analyze the project area's hydrology and make sure the proposed pumping is sustainable."

Also editorializing are the San Gabriel Valley (CA) Tribune (8/1, 57K) and the San Bernardino (CA) Sun (8/1, 53K).

PAPER: ALASKA'S ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE REQUEST DESERVES FULL HEARING. The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (8/1, 12K) editorializes that "the rejection" by the FWS "of a plan to conduct research about oil and gas potential in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was expected, but the Parnell administration is appealing the move." The paper argues that "the nation would be better off knowing what the resource potential of the refuge is and the state plan would help meet that goal." The paper notes that Alaska's "appeal of the decision should include this quote from the 2001 opinion: 'The primary argument against expiration of the statutory authority for 'exploratory activity' as defined in 1002 rests mainly on the fact that nowhere in the section is there any express statement of expiration. Most specifically, in 1002(a)'s statement of purpose, no end point for the exploratory activity being authorized is expressly set.'"

SECRETARY JEWELL PLACES PRIORITY ON FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE. For GlobalWarming.org (7/31, Lewis), Marlo Lewis writes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "told employees today that combating climate change is a 'privilege' and 'moral imperative,' adding: 'I hope there are no climate change deniers in the Department of Interior.'" However, according to Lewis, "Jewel's anti-'denier' sermonizing is morally vacuous," and "it will...discourage candor and independent thought in an important and powerful agency."

TAX ADVOCACY GROUP SEEKS TO BLOCK EXPANSION OF FRACKING RULES. In an opinion piece in Reuters, (7/31) Grover G. Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, and Patrick Gleason, the organization's director of state affairs, lament that the White House and liberal critics will continue to cast Republicans as anti-environment despite their efforts in cutting emissions and saving public funds at the state level. They say Obama Administration officials continue to interfere with states even when they have successfully implemented policies such as raising natural gas production through fracking. They complain that the Bureau of Land Management is now considering expanding regulation of fracking on Federal lands, which would hurt production.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS TRIES TO COMBAT YOSEMITE CONGESTION. NBC Nightly News (7/31, story 8, 2:40, Williams, 7.86M) reported that the National Parks Service, in what is a "controversial idea," is trying to make "Yosemite a road less traveled" to reduce congestion. NBC's Harry Smith said that, in particular, the NPS wants to give "the 81 miles of the Merced, which runs through the park, more space" by "moving a number of the concessions, bike rental, horseback rides and rafting." Some including Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) say that it's a "bad idea." But environmentalists "say the park needs to do much more."

Continuing Coverage Of Yosemite Draft Plan. In an op-ed for the U-T San Diego (7/31, Greenhut, 242K), Steven Greenhut writes that the "tension between traditional conservationists and modern-day green purists is being played out now in a contentious battle over the future of the public's access to Yosemite." The NPS "is pushing forward a plan that would restore 200 acres of land within highly visited sections of Yosemite and close many commercial facilities including swimming pools, skating rinks, and rental shops for bicycles, rafts and horses." However, Greenhut argues that "reducing facilities will no more reduce congestion at this popular park than shutting down lanes will reduce congestion on California's crowded freeways."

In an op-ed for the Monterey County (CA) Herald (8/1, Hoss, 28K), Peter T. Hoss, a retired lawyer, writes that "the draft plan adds a layer of conflicting regulation that spawns litigation and produces nothing positive." He also calls the draft plan "visitor unfriendly" and claims that "it restricts traditional recreation enjoyed by generations for no valid reason and incorrectly labels visitor amenities provided by a concessioner 'commercial' and therefore bad." Hoss also argues that "the draft plan is discriminatory against seniors, the handicapped, people of modest means, families and foreign visitors," and it "will eliminate jobs and hurt the economy of surrounding communities."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF WORK ON MLK MEMORIAL . The Washington Post (8/1, 489K) reports that the

NPS "and sculptor Lei Yixin are discussing how they will remove a disputed inscription from the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall." The NPS "has scheduled a news conference Thursday to discuss the work."

Also covering the story are the Miami Herald (8/1, 139K) and the Washington Business Journal (8/1, Subscription Publication).

For the "On Faith" blog of the Washington Post (8/1, Junior, Ware, 489K), Nyasha Junior, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Howard University School of Divinity, and Frederick Ware, Associate Professor of Theology at Howard University School of Divinity, praises the work to remove the controversial inscription on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. However, they write that "although the removal is a welcome step; there is, unfortunately, another very serious problem with the memorial that cannot be fixed by erasing." That is, "the King Memorial is devoted solely to a man— not to the movement that made him great." According to the two, "in depicting King by himself, the King Memorial fails to acknowledge the many people who were involved in the Civil Rights Movement."

SITE ON OUTER BANKS TO BE ADDED TO NPS' UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SITES. The Washington Post (8/1, 489K) reports that "a site on the Outer Banks is being added" to the NPS's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. According to the article, "a monument is scheduled for dedication Wednesday at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras to the Hotel De Afrique."

Also reporting on the story are the Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/1, 335K), Yahoo! (8/1) , and the Times Colonist (8/1).

RENOVATED BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MUSEUM REOPENING IN AUGUST. The Washington Post (7/31, 489K) reports that the Benjamin Franklin Museum "is reopening after nearly two years of renovations." The museum "will welcome its first visitors on Aug. 24." The NPS "said the museum's official grand opening celebration is scheduled for Sept. 19."

NPS ANNOUNCES FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING. The New London (CT) Day (7/31, 28K) reports that "more than $8 million in new federal disaster relief funding is available" from the NPS "for repairs to historic and archaeological properties in New London County and the state's three other shoreline counties that were damaged by Superstorm Sandy, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy announced today." The article notes that "eligible properties are those listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places." In a news release, Malloy said, "These funds are an investment in our irreplaceable historic resources — which are major drivers of our tourism industry — and will go a long way toward repairing many of these damaged treasures so they can be enjoyed by generations to come."

NPS RECOGNIZES BOOTS COURT RECONSTRUCTION. The Carthage (MO) Press (7/30, 3K) reports that Kaisa Barthuli, program manager for the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program with the NPS, "joined Harvey, Carthage City Administrator Tom Short, City Clerk Lynn Campbell, City Council member Steve Leibbrand, Fire Chief Chris Thompson, Chamber of Commerce President Mark Elliff, Tommy and Glenda Pike, with the Missouri Route 66 Association, and others to celebrate the completion of a grant project that funded the removal of the gabled roof from the two buildings that make up the Boots." The NPS "provided $12,000 to match $12,000 from Harvey to pay for removing the roof and restoring the Boots to the flat-roofed look it sported from the mid-1930s until the mid-1970s." Barthuli said that "removing the gabled roof makes the Boots eligible to be included on the National Register of Historic Places and brings on the protections and the funding opportunities the National Register brings."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF LINCOLN MEMORIAL VANDALISM. Continuing coverage of the Lincoln Memorial vandalism was provided by WUSA-TV Washington (8/1). Carol Johnson with the NPS "said they are evaluating security at the Lincoln Memorial, but unfortunately, there are times it is going to be unattended, and if someone is really determined to do something, sometimes it's hard to stop."

Also reporting on the story is WJLA-TV Washington (8/1).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF COURT'S RULING IN LASSEN CASE. Additional coverage of the court's ruling in

the case of a boy's death at Lassen Volcanic National Park was provided by USA Today (7/31), the San Francisco Chronicle (8/1, Ho, 220K), the Chesterton (IN) Tribune (8/1, 5K), and the Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (8/1, 30K).

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS PRAISED FOR DECISION ON ALASKA FISH. The Juneau (AK) Empire (8/1, 4K) reprints an editorial by the Fairbanks Daily News-miner on July 28. The paper notes that in response to questioning by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, NPS Director Jon Jarvis responded, "What I am willing to do is to change the guidelines so it includes Alaska wild-caught fish. I think that's the simple fix here. The guidelines were drawn broadly to give some guidance to our concessioners. We want a park visit to be a healthy experience. The food was the key component. And you have extraordinary food in Alaska. I mean, I lived up there. I know. I lived on the Copper River. I want that Copper River salmon in those concessions. So this is a simple change to the guideline. It's not a withdrawal of our guideline."

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT REACTS TO PLAN TO IMPROVE ACCESS. In an op-ed for the Charlottesville (VA) Daily Progress (8/1, Northup, 28K), Shenandoah National Park Superintendent Jim Northup writes in response to the "May 6, 2013 proposal regarding management of the Rapidan Road within Shenandoah National Park." He agrees "that portions of the lower section of the Rapidan Road are currently in rough condition and would be willing to discuss with all involved stakeholders some modest improvements in maintenance for this road, but cannot support a proposal to change the fundamental character or use of the road." He adds that "we cannot support opening the upper Rapidan Road to public motor vehicle use, but support its current use as an entrance for hikers and horseback riders." Also, "we cannot support opening the upper Rapidan Road to guided tours by motor vehicle but would be willing to discuss a Commercial Use Authorization for a reputable tour company to offer a guided walking tour from the current trailhead to Rapidan Camp."

Bureau of Land Management:

COURT RULES BLM MUST SURVEY ROADS, AIRSTRIPS IN BREAKS. The Miami Herald (8/1, Brown, 139K) reports that a federal appeals court held Wednesday that "the government must closely examine roads, airstrips and other travel routes in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument to prevent potential damage to cultural and historical properties." The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals' decision "came in a lawsuit filed by environmental groups, who in 2009 challenged the Bureau of Land Management's resource management plan for the 590-square-mile area in north-central Montana." The court ruled that "federal officials must conduct an intensive survey of roads, airstrips and other travel routes to identify historical and cultural sites at risk of damage."

Also reporting on the story are the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (7/31, Puckett, 25K) and the Courthouse News (7/31).

HOUSE PANEL APPROVES O&C LANDS PROPOSAL. The Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (8/1, 52K) reports that a US House committee has "advanced legislation aimed at increasing timber harvests on former Oregon & California Railroad lands in Western Oregon." The measure "was included in a sweeping federal forests bill that passed the Natural Resources Committee in a voice vote."

The Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (7/31, Chebium, 35K) reports that Rep. Peter DeFazio "and two other Oregon House members who sponsored the plan – Democrat Kurt Schrader and Republican Greg Walden – say it would protect some of America's oldest and biologically diverse forests, provide consistent payments to 18 western counties and create jobs in the struggling region, which contains 2.6 million acres that once belonged to the Oregon and California Railroad Co. and are now federally owned."

Also reporting on the story is the Roseburg (OR) News-Review (8/1, 18K).

CAMPERS EVICTED FROM BERTELSEN NATURE PARK. The Columbus (IN) Republic (8/1, 21K) reports that the BLM "has completed the eviction of about 90 campers in the Bertelsen Nature Park in west Eugene."

Also reporting on the story is The Oregonian (8/1, 237K).

BLM TO HOLD EMERGENCY ROUNDUP FRIDAY. NBC News (8/1) reports that the BLM "and several other agencies will begin an emergency horse gather in the Blue Wing Complex area west of Lovelock this Friday." According to the bureau, "the emergency round up is due to a lack of water sources in the area." The article notes that "the round up will take several days and a helicopter will be used. Currently, there are more than 1,500 wild horses within parameter."

CHAVES COUNTY REJECTS PRAIRIE DOG RELOCATION. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (8/1, 83K) reports that "a federal plan to relocate an unwanted population of prairie dogs is getting no support from Chaves County officials." The article note sthat "commissioners earlier this month declined a request by an Albuquerque group to capture the squirrel-like creatures and move them to Bureau of Land Management property."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF AGREEMENT TO ADVANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS. Additional coverage of the agreement to expand outdoors access for veterans was provided by KRXI-TV Reno, NV (8/1) and KRWG Las Cruces, NM (8/1).

BLM CRITICIZED FOR CONTEMPLATING ALLOWING DEVELOPMENT IN FOUR CORNERS REGION. In an op-ed for the Durango (CO) Herald (7/31, Randolph, 8K), Dan Randolph, executive director of San Juan Citizens Alliance, writes that the BLM "is faced with easy and difficult choices in how to manage our public lands on an ongoing basis," but "sometimes, it chooses...the momentary...over...the basic." One choice the BLM is facing is whether to "allow oil and gas, or other developments, that will diminish" the "cultural and archaeological treasures of the Four Comers region are world-renowned." He warns that "currently, Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon, Canyons of the Ancients, and Hovenweep are all under serious danger of poor BLM decisions."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

DIAMOND DARTER GETS PROTECTION. The Courthouse News (7/31) reports that the FWS "has finalized the listing of the diamond darter, one of the most imperiled fish in the southeastern US, as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, according to a new regulation." The agency's action "spurred by a landmark agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity to speed protection decisions for 757 species," according to the CBD's press release in response to the final rule.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF SUNZIA PROJECT. The Willcox (AZ) Range News (8/1, 3K) reports that the Cochise County Board of Supervisors "agreed to submit a letter of protest of the route selected" by the BLM "that permits SunZia Southwest Transmission, LLC., to install two parallel power lines that will run through the northwest corner of the county and the Lower San Pedro River Valley." The letter stated: "In addition, we expressed our concerns related to the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Range, protected by Arizona Senate Bill 1387. The test range relies on an extremely quiet electro-magnetic spectrum for missions of Fort Huachuca in testing electronic equipment vital to military missions and the protection of military personnel in theater."

In an editorial, the Willcox (AZ) Range News (8/1, 3K) wonders whether the Center for Biological Diversity and the Audubon Society "will join the Cochise County Board of Supervisors in protesting the SunZia power line route recommended" by the BLM. According to the paper, "the collective silence of these groups regarding the SunZia project raises questions of what motivates and determines whether these organizations get involved."

Also providing coverage is the Ruidoso (NM) News (8/1, Simonich, 13K).

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM HALTS PLAN TO OPEN BLUE ROCK STATE FOREST TO FRACKING. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (7/31, 152K) reports that the BLM's "plan to open Blue Rock State Forest to fracking was put on hold yesterday after state officials said they didn't know about it." The move "to suspend that auction was made after Ohio

Department of Natural Resources officials told" the BLM "that they had not given their consent, said Bethany McCorkle, an agency spokeswoman."

The Dayton (OH) Daily News (8/1, 100K) reports that McCorkle "says the state agency will now gather information to make sure threats to the forest and wildlife are minimized by any drilling."

The Mansfield (OH) News Journal (7/31, 18K) reports that environmental advocates "applauded a decision to halt for now federal plans to auction off mineral rights for gas drilling underneath a state forest in Muskingum County." Eric Miller, director of Mohican Advocates Inc., said, "There was a rush of protests and calls and emails. I think it indicates they're listening to the public, and that's a good sign." He added, "But every state that has gas and oil beneath it is in danger. The current law has to be changed."

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (8/1, 152K) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups" had sent a letter to the BLM "to protest the federal agency's plan to open Ohio's Blue Rock State Forest for fracking." Nathan Johnson, staff attorney of the Buckeye Forest Council, said, "Blue Rock State Forest is a natural treasure that belongs to all Ohioans. We are stunned the BLM would attempt to frack our forest without making sure citizens and state government had a chance to respond to the plan and make their concerns known."

Also providing coverage are the Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (8/1, 85K), the Coshocton (OH) Tribune (7/30, 3K), the Martins Ferry (OH) Times Leader (8/1, 12K), the Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (8/1, 85K), and the Mansfield (OH) News Journal (7/30, 18K).

FEDERAL AGENTS RAID COLORADO DRILLING OFFICE. The Oklahoman (8/1, 127K) reports that federal agents with the FBI, IRS and BLM "have served a search warrant at the offices of Crystal River Oil and Gas in Basalt." According to IRS special agent Karen Gurgel, "the action on Tuesday is part of a criminal investigation."

Also reporting on the story is the Aspen (CO) Daily News (8/1, 12K).

BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE NETS NEARLY $50 MILLION. The Billings (MT) Gazette (8/1, 39K) reports that a BLM "oil and gas lease auction in Billings netted nearly $50 million from the sale of 87 federal leases totaling 19,015 acres, in North and South Dakota."

SHALE DRILLING IN SEISMICALLY-ACTIVE CHINESE PROVINCE ELICITS FEARS OF EARTHQUAKE RISKS. Bloomberg News (8/1, Haas) reports companies including China National Petroleum and Royal Dutch Shell have begun drilling for oil and natural gas in Sichuan province, the "most seismically active" area in China. University of Utah Energy & Geoscience Institute professor Shu Jiang warns, "The siting of the wells could cause some artificial earthquakes." Still, with potentially twice as much shale gas reserves as the US, China is intent on fulfilling its growing energy needs through fracking. And, other researchers have countered that "calculating seismic risk" is tricky; therefore, the risk of shale drilling in a seismically-active area may not be as great as some fear.

GOP BILL WOULD FORCE EPA TO ALTER ONGOING FRACKING STUDY. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (8/1, Geman, 21K) reports that today the House Science Committee "will mark up legislation" that forces the EPA "to alter its ongoing study of the effects of oil-and-gas 'fracking' on drinking water resources." The bill, by chairman Lamar Smith, "would require the major, years-long study to include 'objective estimates of the probability, uncertainty and consequence of each identified impact, taking into account the risk management practices of states and industry.'"

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE INVESTIGATION INTO RIG BLOWOUT PREVENTERS INTENSIFIES AFTER NATURAL GAS RIG BLOWOUT. Yahoo! (8/1, Amy) reports that the "blowout on a natural gas rig off the Louisiana coast" last week "could shift regulators' focus to shallow-water drilling and make an overhaul of safety equipment regulations more likely." According to the article, "interest is expected to focus on the apparent failure of the blowout preventer, a series of that's supposed to shut off flow from a well when drillers lose control." Meanwhile, BSEE Director James Watson "said he plans to meet with executives from shallow-water drilling companies to discuss safety and risk

reduction." In a statement, Watson said, "This vent and other recent incidents serve as a reminder that industry must rededicate its efforts to make safety its top priority, including in shallow water."

Also providing coverage are the Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/29, Plaisance, 335K), the Galveston County (TX) Daily News (8/1), the Baton Rouge (LA) Business Report (7/31), the Mississippi Business Journal (7/31), and the Rigzone.com (8/1).

BOEM IN PACT TO RESTORE COASTAL AREA IN VIRGINIA BEACH. Dredging Today (7/31) reports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management signed in July a memorandum of agreement with the US Navy "for oceanfront and dune system stabilization and restoration at the Dam Neck Annex at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach," VA. The agreement will allow for the "use of up to 700,000 cubic yards of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand," the article notes.

HALLIBURTON TO PLEAD GUILTY TO DESTROYING GULF OIL SPILL EVIDENCE. The AP (8/1, Kunzelman) reports from New Orleans that US District Judge Jane Triche Milazzo "has scheduled a hearing on Sept. 19 for Halliburton Energy Services to plead guilty to destroying evidence after BP's 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." Halliburton "was arraigned Wednesday in New Orleans on a misdemeanor charge," and although attorneys for the firm "entered a plea of not guilty during the arraignment, Halliburton has agreed to plead guilty to one count of destruction of evidence in a deal with the Justice Department." Halliburton "also has agreed to pay the statutory maximum fine of $200,000, be on probation for three years and to cooperate with the government's criminal investigation." The deal is subject to Judge Milazzo's approval.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

DAINES HYDROPOWER BILL CLEARS HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. The AP (7/31) reports a House committee "is advancing a bill from U.S. Rep. Steve Daines that would allow hydropower projects in more local irrigation districts." The AP says the bill is one of the measures "advancing in Congress" to end "restrictions on hydropower development in Bureau of Reclamation irrigation systems built by the government after 1939."

The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (7/31, Puckett, 25K) also covers the news.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FINALIZES RECLAMATION MANUAL POLICES. WaterWorld (8/1), an online magazine dealing with water and wastewater industry issues, says "four water-related Reclamation Manual Policies and Directives and Standards" were "recently finalized by the Bureau of Reclamation." The magazine says the revised policies will help Reclamation staff improve performance related to "development, negotiation, execution and administration of water-related contracts."

NAVAJO NATION IN PACT TO EXTEND NAVAJO GENERATING STATION LEASE. The Lake Powell (AZ) Chronicle (8/1, 2K) reports Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly "signed a $1.3 billion lease extension July 30 for the Navajo Generating Station." The extension must be approved by the Interior Department.

Empowering Native American Communities:

CONNECTICUT TOWNS BACK SEN. BLUMENTHAL'S MOVE TO BLOCK REVISION TO TRIBE RECOGNITION. The Indian Country Today Media Network (7/31) reports Connecticut officials "have jumped on Sen. Richard Blumenthal's bandwagon of opposition to the Interior Department's proposed revisions to the federal recognition regulations." The article says that on June 21, Kevin Washburn, Interior's assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, released his draft changes to Interior's "process for federally acknowledging Indian tribes." The article says two weeks later, Blumenthal called a meeting to raise awareness about the planned revisions to stop the possible Federal acknowledgment of some of the tribes.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO SEEKS $1 MILLION FROM TRIBE FOR CASINO TERMINATION. The New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (7/31, Brennan, 21K) reports the town of Middleboro, whose deal to host a casino turned sour, seeks out years of payments totaling $1 million from the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe. The Middleboro Board of Selectmen voted Monday "to send a letter to the tribe," with copies to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and

US Rep. William Keating (D-MA). The paper reports the town says the deal wasn't terminated properly, hence it is owed the money for the planning the town did for the casino.

POLICE CONTINUE WITH INVESTIGATION OF $65,000 THEFT FROM EASTERN PEQUOTS. The New London (CT) Day (7/31, 28K) reports Connecticut state police continue to probe "the apparent theft" of $65,000 from the Eastern Pequot Tribe, whose chairman, Brian Geer, "resigned abruptly last month." The paper says Geer had been voted in for "a three-year term as chairman in July 2012." Months earlier, the tribe had sued Department of the Interior officials, "seeking to overturn the Bureau of Indian Affairs' 2005 denial of recognition for the tribe."

PAPER BACKS NAPA COUNTY STANCE IN LEGAL FIGHT AGAINST TRIBE. In an editorial, the Napa Valley (CA) Register (8/1) backs the Napa County officials' efforts to stop "Federal recognition of the Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley." The paper says county officials believe "Federal recognition equals a casino," though the tribe discounts such a possibility. However, Supervisor Diane Dillon isn't convinced, and notes that "the tribe is seeking federal recognition through litigation because it cannot qualify for recognition through established procedures with the Bureau of Indian Affairs." The paper says it supports the current status because it has helped Napa County protect its land from housing developments and other "encroaching development of all sorts."

Top National News:

OBAMA DECRIES CRITICISM OF SUMMERS FROM THE LEFT. President Obama's exchanges with House and Senate Democrats Wednesday regarding the advisability of choosing former treasury secretary Larry Summers as the next Fed chair generated a significant amount of online and print coverage, but was not mentioned on any of the network newscasts Wednesday evening.

The Washington Post (7/31, O'Keefe, Nakamura, Kane, 489K) reports that in a Capitol Hill meeting Wednesday, the President "clashed with" House Democrats who urged him not to choose his former NEC director as the next Fed chair. The Post says that "in a tense exchange" with Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), the President "defended Summers' role in helping to restore the US economy and 'expressed frustration; with a growing negative campaign against him." According to the Post, Summers created enemies on the left due to "his central role in the deregulation wave of the 1990s." Twenty Senate Democrats have announced that they would prefer that the President choose Fed vice chair Janet Yellen to succeed Ben Bernanke, but on Wednesday, according to an anonymous senator, the President "described [Summers' and Yellen's] ideological differences on economic policy as 'paper thin.'"

Referring to the exchange over Summers, Jake Tapper, on CNN's The Lead (7/31), reported that "the President's visit did not go super smoothly," although, "of course the White House disputes that."

On Bloomberg TV's Bottom Line (7/31), Yang Yang reported that the White House "is saying not to read into this," but, "according to lawmakers, the President offered a strong and even adamant defense" of Summers. Yang added that the President also "threw a curveball and named former Fed vice chairman Donald Kohn...as a potential third candidate."

USA Today (8/1, Madhani, 1.71M) quotes White House Press Secretary Jay Carney as saying, "Larry Summers' service here was extremely helpful to the President." The AP (8/1, Lederman) notes that the White House insists that the President's "defense of Summers isn't an endorsement...and that Obama won't announce Bernanke's replacement until the fall."

But Larry Kudlow, on CNBC's Kudlow Report (7/31, 126K), said, "I have never heard a president get so active, involved in a Federal Reserve chairman...debate." Kudlow added, "You are setting up a situation – no matter how bright you might think Larry Summers might be, or whether he deserves the job – it begins to look like he would be Obama's guy at the Federal Reserve, and I don't think that's what you want. You want independence."

The Wall Street Journal (8/1, Hook, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reports that on Wednesday, Rep. Rick Nolan (D-MN) said of the President, "He was trying to convince the caucus that Larry Summers would be a good choice as far as he's concerned." Nolan added, "I think the country would be a lot further along in creating

jobs and in the recovery had the president listened more to the Democratic caucus than to Larry Summers and Wall Street."

Bloomberg News (8/1, Hunter, Bender) reports that after the meeting, Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) said the President "took a minute to stand up for Larry Summers." Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) described the President as "very defensive...of Summers...saying that Summers had played a very critical role early in the administration." And Rep. John Larson (D-CT) said the President was "very adamant in his defense of the service Larry Summers has provided." Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY) is quoted as saying, "I think he has a lot of respect for Larry Summers. I think he respects the work that he did on the financial crisis, and he didn't want anybody standing up and casting aspersions on him." Yarmuth paraphrased Perlmutter's question to the President as, "Larry Summers? Bad idea – I'm willing to discuss."

According to Politico (8/1, Gibson, Everett, 25K), "after delivering his defense, Obama sought to ease the tension in the room" by adding, "The good news is I would defend all of you."

The New York Times (8/1, Landler, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that in his "strong defense" of Summers, the President argued that Summers "had been maligned in the liberal news media," but "did not address the criticism of Mr. Summers over his record on women's issues, which has dogged him throughout his career."

The Hill notes that the New York Times "recently endorsed Yellen in an editorial that criticized Summers' handling of the president's stimulus bill," while the Huffington Post (8/1, Lewis) "has published a series of blistering columns this month attacking Summers as a corporate shill for his close ties to Wall Street." The Huffington Post (7/31, Bendery) draws attention to The Hill's report that, according to Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), the President told the House members Wednesday "not to believe everything you read in The Huffington Post."

McClatchy (8/1, Clark, Lightman) says Summers is "considered by critics an irascible, controversial figure," who "pushed deregulation policies that many Democrats say helped lead to the 2008 financial downtum." McClatchy goes on to note that as president of Harvard, Summers "ignited controversy by suggesting in 2005 that women may not have the same innate abilities that are required to excel in science and math as men." After Wednesday's meeting, Senate Majority Whip Durbin said, "If he's the nominee I'd have a lot of questions." Reuters (8/1, Ferraro, Lawder) reports that Durbin added that Yellen has "expressed some progressive views of things I'd like to see at the Federal Reserve."

According to the Huffington Post (8/1, Terkel), "Thirty-eight of the 62 Democratic women in the House have signed on to a letter circulated by" Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) that calls Yellen the "best choice" for Fed chair. Politico (8/1, Brown, 25K) reports that at a breakfast hosted by the Christian Science Monitor Wednesday, White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said the President "puts a lot more stock in private advice then public advice."

Ezra Klein, in a "Wonkblog" piece for the Washington Post (8/1, Klein, 489K) titled "The Case For Larry Summers," wrote that while Yellen has been publicly endorsed by dozens of members of Congress, Summers' allies are "concentrated in and around the Obama administration, and they stay out of the media almost as a matter of course." Klein contends that it is their "reticence" that "has led to a real imbalance" in the press in Yellen's favor. Klein goes on to list Summers' perceived strengths in detail. According to Klein, Summers has a reputation among his allies as "an informed, confident and engaged financial regulator – something they worry Yellen wouldn't be." Klein adds that they are not saying Yellen's "heart wouldn't be in the right place, but that her focus would be elsewhere."

Karen Finerman, CEO of Metropolitan Capital Advisors, in a piece for CNBC.com (8/1, Finerman), endorses Summers over Yellen. Finerman writes, "Where I think Summers' true edge lies is in his real 'in the weeds' experiences with multiple financial market crises both at home and abroad over the last three decades."

Obama Floats Kohn As Another Potential Nominee. Citing an anonymous "Democratic aide," Bloomberg News (8/1, Hunter, Bender) reports that the President "also named" former Fed Vice Chairman Donald Kohn "as potential nominee" on Wednesday. The Wall Street Journal (8/1, Hook, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) notes that Kohn is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and was on the Bank of England's interim Financial Policy Committee following his 40-year career at the Fed.

Neil Irwin, in a piece for the Washington Post (8/1, Irwin, 489K), says Kohn was "Bernanke's No. 2 during the financial crisis" meaning that he was "at Bernanke's side for many of the biggest, hardest decisions the Fed had to make during that era." Irwin adds, "That could cut both ways in evaluating a nomination." The Wall Street Journal (8/1, McGrane, 2.29M) also provides a full profile of Kohn, including this quote from former Fed govemor Laurence Meyer: "Don is the most important nonchairman member of the board in the history of the Fed."

Politico (8/1, Gibson, Everett, 25K) reports that according to Durbin, the President "said that he'd interviewed many people whose names have been mentioned and many whose names have not been mentioned."

McCain Accidentally Enters Obama's Meeting With Senate Democrats. The Hill (8/1, Kurtz, 21K) reports "there was confusion Wednesday" when Sen. John McCain "mistakenly strolled into President Obama's meeting with Senate Democrats at the Capitol. The room full of Democrats – who happened to be meeting in the same room where the Senate GOP usually holds their weekly policy luncheons – erupted in applause and laughter" as Obama's 2008 presidential rival entered. McCain later wrote on Twitter, "To be clear: I opened the wrong door, looked in and saw the President, said 'my mistake' and everybody laughed. Lighten up everybody."

GDP GREW 1.7% IN SECOND QUARTER, BEATING EXPECTATIONS. Bob Schieffer, on the CBS Evening News (7/31, story 3, 2:25, 5.58M), reported that the Commerce Department announced Wednesday that the US economy "slowed a bit...going from moderate growth to just modest," but Schieffer added that the Fed "will keep interest rates low to stimulate" growth. Schieffer said US GDP "grew just 1.7% in the second quarter of this year," which is "better than the 1.1% in the first quarter."

According to the New York Times (8/1, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), the 1.7% rate of growth is "well ahead of the pace economists expected," and "came despite higher taxes and as automatic spending cuts imposed this year by Congress took effect." The Times says that in surveys taken prior to Wednesday's announcement, economists "estimated that the economy would record growth of just under 1 percent in the second quarter." The Wall Street Journal (8/1, Sparshott, Portlock, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) also reports that the consensus forecast for second quarter growth had been 0.9%.

The New York Times (8/1, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reports that after its meeting Wednesday, the Federal Open Market Committee did not indicate "how much longer it would continue to add $85 billion a month to its holdings of mortgage-backed securities and Treasury securities," but by leaving "its economic outlook basically unchanged," it was "suggesting" that it "still intended to reduce the volume of its purchases later this year." The Times notes that the FOMC's statement released Wednesday "acknowledged the weak pace of growth during the first half of the year, which it described as 'modest' rather than 'moderate'...suggesting an even more lackluster economic performance." However, the FOMC nevertheless anticipates that "economic growth will pick up from its recent pace" in the second half of the year. The Wall Street Journal (8/1, Hilsenrath, Mcgrane, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) covers the FOMC's statement in an article titled "Fed Leaves Bond Buys In Place, Moderates Description Of Economy."

The Washington Times (8/1, Hill, 76K) notes that after "sweeping revisions by the department that treat business and federal spending on research and development as an investment...rather than an expense that subtracts from the economy's momentum," the Commerce Department now estimates that the US economy grew last year "at 2.8 percent rather than 2.2 percent." The Wall Street Journal (8/1, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial, welcomes the new measure of GDP, which it says more accurately reflects the role of intellectual property in creating economic growth.

ADP: 200,000 Jobs Added In July. USA Today (8/1, Davidson, 1.71M) reports that payroll processor ADP announced on Wednesday that, according to its estimates, "businesses added 200,000 jobs in July," while "economists expected ADP to report 180,000 additional jobs."

Stocks Almost Unchanged On Last Day Of Dow's Best Month Since January. The AP (7/31) reports that on Wednesday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average "edged lower," dropping 21, or 0.1% to 15499, but "still closed out July with its best monthly gain since January." The S&P 500 "dropped 0.23 of a point, or 0.01 percent, to 1,685.73" and the Nasdaq "rose 9.90 points, or 0.3 percent, to 3,626.37." The Wall Street Journal (7/31, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) covers Wednesday's market action under the headline "Dow Industrials Finish

In Red: Economic Data Fail to Buoy Shares."

HOUSE PASSES STUDENT LOAN BILL. The CBS Evening News (7/31, story 7, 0:15, Schieffer, 5.58M) reported that the House on Wednesday "gave final congressional approval...to rolling back the interest rate on student loans." Reuters (8/1, Nawaguna) reports that the bill would reduce student loan interest rates to 3.86% for undergraduates and tie the rates to the 10-year Treasury note plus 2.05% for undergraduates, and plus 3.6% for graduates.

Politico (8/1, Nelson, 25K) reports that the bill caps rates "at 8.25 percent for undergraduate loans, 9.5 percent for graduate loans and 10.5 percent for PLUS loans." Politico notes that the measure had an easier time passing the House than the Senate where "liberal Democrats objected, saying the measure doesn't do enough to protect students from rising costs in the long term."

The Washington Post (8/1, Johnson, 489K) notes that while House Republicans "have deemed this a long-term solution," many Democrats say the plan "will probably need tweaking in future years."

The AP (8/1) reports that "despite objections from consumer advocates that the proposal could cost future students," the White House "has endorsed the deal."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"More Fog From The Spy Agencies."*** The New York Times (8/1, A20, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) says in an editorial that the documents released Wednesday were "narrowly selected and heavily censored" and failed to show the "value of the surveillance." The Times says they "clarified nothing of importance."

"The Next Civil Rights Frontier." The New York Times (8/1, Subscription Publication, 1.68M), in an editorial, casts the "next civil rights frontier" as transgender rights. Looking at the case of a California student who was at the center of a debate over transgender issues, the Times says "the student's classmates accepted" the student's gender status. But "the school district would not let the matter go." After the parents filed complaints with the Department of Justice and Department of Education, the school district decided to "revise its antidiscrimination policies so as to prohibit gender-based discrimination." The Times sees it as a possible sign for a "welcoming future for transgender students."

"The Safety Of Imported Foods." The New York Times (8/1, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) editorializes about new safety rules imposed by the FDA on imported foods. Noting the importance of "stronger regulation," the Times claims that "the new rules would shift the primary burden for safety to the companies that import the food." However, the Times says that the new regulations, along with others for domestic products "should be given final approval."

"47 Rejections, Then The Booker Long List."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A Window On Intel Gathering."*** The Washington Post (8/1, 489K) says in an editorial that "it should not have taken high-profile leaks to prod the government" to reveal information about surveillance. The Post says classification policy is generally an executive branch matter, and that President Obama can improve transparency without congressional action.

"Italy's Racism Problem." The Washington Post (8/1, 489K), in an editorial, looks at recent public ridicule of Cecile Kyenge, Italy's first black cabinet minister. Beyond having a banana thrown at her at a public appearance, the vice president of Italy's Senate, said she has "the features of an orangutan." The Post sees the racial undertones as backlash resulting from the immigration population growing "from 1 million to 4.5 million people" in recent years. But, the Post says that with unprecedented unemployment, "Italy will need every immigrant it can attract."

"Bob McDonnell's Disgrace." An editorial in the Washington Post (8/1, 489K) says that while Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell "can dodge accountability," for the scandal surrounding gifts he and his wife received from

businessman Jonnie R. Williams Sr., his "damage-control campaign speaks louder than his words." The Post argues that McDonnell's strategy on the matter is "to obfuscate and split legal hairs while dodging responsibility for his role, and that of his wife, in what has become his administration's disgrace."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Data Of Prosperity Past."*** The Wall Street Journal (8/1, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial, welcomes the new measure of GDP, which it says more accurately reflects the role of intellectual property in creating economic growth.

"The IMF And Greek Losses." The Wall Street Journal (8/1, Subscription Publication, 2.29M), in an editorial, views the IMF warning as an attempt to pressure European governments will making sure its own funding is repaid by Athens. In examining data, the Journal says that Greece will begin paying back more than it borrows from the IMF beginning next year. Any additional funding should be shared by the IMF, argues the Journal.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
White House Tries To Calm NSA Tempest
Alaska Homecoming
Ready To Shake Up The Film Academy
Research Reveals Hidden Damage In War Veterans
Cotton Candy Off The Vine

Wall Street Journal:
Tepid Growth Restrains Fed
Military Branches Fight Over Shrinking Budget
Retailers Notch Win In Card-Fee Feud

New York Times:
Banks Find S&P More Favorable In Bond Ratings
Senate Panel Presses NSA On Phone Logs
A Day's Strike Seeks To Raise Fast-Food Pay
Crowds Return To Las Vegas, But Gamble Less
Despite West's Efforts, Afghan Youths Cling To Traditional Ways
New Rule At NFL's Camps: No Tackling. It's Just Practice

Washington Post:
Skepticism Deepens About NSA Program
NSA Outreach Fails To Win Hackers' Trust
Obama Defends Summers To Democrats In Congress
Libertarians' Rise Has The GOP Boiling
Near Fukushima Plant, A Sliver Of Normalcy

Financial Times:
Fed Views Economic Growth As 'Modest'
Siemens Names Kaeser As Chief Executive
Brazil Hits Out At IMF Over Greek Bailout
EADS To Rebrand As Airbus
Dell's $24bn Bid Left Hanging By A Thread
Herbalife Boosted By Reports Of Soros Stake
US Equities Pause After Optimistic July

Washington Times:
Obama Opens To Changes At NSA
After Year Of Pushing Job Creation, Obama Laughs At Keystone Option

Elephants, Rhinos, Lions And ... Drones?
Lawmakers Leave Capitol Hill Empty-Handed
GOP Wary Of 'Cost Of Carbon' Measurement
Times To Launch Digital Edition To Serve National Audience

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Baseball PED Scandal; NSA Surveillance Program-Leak; Politics-Anthony Weiner; France-Jewelry Robberies; O.J. Simpson Granted Parole; Heroin Addictions; Used Car Sales Report-Flood Cars.
CBS: Baseball PED Scandal; NSA Surveillance Program; Economic Recovery Update; Obama-Meeting With Democrats; Egypt-Unrest; VA Clinic Shortage; Congress-Student Loans; O.J. Simpson Granted Parole; Extreme Weather-China; Organ Donors.
NBC: TSA-GAO Report; NSA Surveillance Program-Leak; Obama-Meeting With Democrats; Baseball PED Scandal; Politics-Republican Party Disputes; Egypt-Unrest; 2013 Hurricane Season; Yosemite National Park Changes; Iraq-Fatality Report; Consumer Reports-Hospital Rankings.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Cleveland-Kidnapper Sentencing; Baseball PED Scandal; Congress-Student Loans; Minnesota-Same-Sex Marriage; Rhode Island-Same-Sex Marriage; Hurricane Gil.
CBS: Cleveland-Kidnapper Sentencing; Baseball PED Scandal; NSA Surveillance Program; Congress-Student Loans; Health-Cyclospora Outbreak; Economic Recovery Update.
NPR: Kerry-Pakistan Visit; NSA Surveillance Program-Leak; Snowden-Asylum; Congress-Student Loans; Minnesota-Same-Sex Marriage; Rhode Island-Same-Sex Marriage; Thailand King Leaves Hospital; Extreme Weather-Puerto Rico; North Dakota-New Gun Laws.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Meets for lunch with the Vice President, private dining room, closed press; meets with a group of bipartisan Members of Congress, Oval Office, closed press; holds a bilateral meeting with President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi of the Republic of Yemen, Oval Office, pool spray at the bottom; hosts a reception for the 50th Anniversary of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law, East Room, closed press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — In the morning, the Vice President will attend the Presidential Daily Briefing in the Oval Office; In the afternoon, the President and the Vice President will meet for lunch in the Private Dining Room.
US Senate: STABENOW – FARM BILL CONFERENCE CALL — 3 p.m. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, will hold a media conference call tomorrow on Thursday, July 31 at 3:00 p.m. ET to discuss the path forward for the Farm Bill. http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/OTLPV5F1048FOPQ9. Contacts: Ben Becker ben_becker@ag.senate.gov (202-224-5466)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESCOURCES — 9:30 a.m. Hearings to examine the November 6, 2012 referendum on the political status of Puerto Rico and the Administration's response. Witnesses: Alejandro Garcma-Padilla, Governor of Puerto Rico, President of the Popular Democratic Party; Pedro R. Pierluisi, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, President of the New Progressive Party; Rubin Berrmos, President of the Puerto Rican Independence Party. http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings?ID=c65e3706-46e4-40e0-b50e-51e52ac1f2dc. Location: 366 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY — 9:30 a.m. Executive Business Meeting on pending nominations and two bills. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=46c0474f3ba43037db5917ce8fb65371. Location: 226 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 10:15 a.m. Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty Embassy Security, Threat Mitigation, and Personnel Protection Act of 2013". http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-08-01-2013. Location: 419 Dirksen. Notes: Time updated to 10:15 a.m.

APPROPRIATIONS — 10:30 a.m. Markup of the fiscal year 2014 Defense Appropriations Bill. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/events.cfm?date=8/1/2013. Location: 106 Dirksen. Notes: Still photography and videography are permitted prior to the markup being called to order. Live audio of the markup will stream at www.appropriations.senate.gov.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight Mismanagement of POW/MIA Accounting. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/fco/hearings/mismanagement-of-pow/mia-accounting. Location: 342 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Oversight, Federal Rights, and Agency Action entitled "Justice Delayed: The Human Cost of Regulatory Paralysis." Witnesses: Rena Steinzor, President, Center for Progressive Reform, Professor, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, MD; Sam Batkins, Director, Regulatory Policy, American Action Forum; Peg Seminario, Director, Safety and Health, AFL-CIO; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center, Arlington, VA; Janette Fennell, President and Founder, KidsAndCars.org, Bala Cynwyd, PA. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=46c0474f3ba43037db5917ce8f963f2b. Location: 226 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE — 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and noon for legislative business.

CONGRESSIONAL EVERGLADES CAUCUS — 9 a.m. Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL) and Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Co-Chairmen of the Congressional Everglades Caucus, will host a meeting with Chairman Colley Billie and elders of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. Location: 340 Cannon. Contacts: Evan Polisar ((202) 225-1313)

DENT, BEATTY – COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ACCOUNTABILITY ACT — 10 a.m. News Conference Representatives Dent, Beatty introduce the National Collegiate Athletic Accountability Act. Location: HVC Studio B.

HOYER, HOUSE DEMS – JOB CREATION — 10:15 a.m. News Conference with Whip Hoyer, House Dems on Job Creation and New Make It In America Legislation. Location: HVC Studio A.

SPEIER – MEDICARE — 10:30 a.m. News Conference Rep. Speier et al on the Promoting Integrity in Medicare Act of 2013. Location: House Triangle.

DEFUNDING OBAMACARE — 11:30 a.m. Tea Party Patriots National Coordinator Jenny Beth Martin and ForAmerica Chairman Brent Bozell and will hold a news conference to announce a united push to stop the funding of Obamacare – "You Fund It, You Own It." Participants: ForAmerica Chairman Brent Bozell; Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX); Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-OK); Club for Growth; FreedomWorks; Heritage Action; Citizens United; Family Research Council Action. CONTACT: Kevin McVicker with Shirley & Banister Public Affairs at (703) 739-5920 or kmcvicker@sbpublicaffairs.com. Location: House Triangle on Capitol Hill.

BOEHNER BRIEFING — 11:30 a.m. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) will hold an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A HVC 114.

BIPARTISAN IMMIGRATION REFORM BRIEFING — 1:30 p.m. Bipartisan Briefing on Economic Impact of Immigration Reform Speakers: Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-San Fernando Valley); . Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Central Valley); Dr. Frederick Treyz, Ph.D., CEO, Regional Economic Models, Inc.; Ken Barbic, Western Growers Association. Location: 210 Cannon. Contacts: Paul Kincaid paul.kincaid@mail.house.gov (202-225-6131)

REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMISSION — 2 p.m. Republican Study Committee Chairman Steve Scalise and a bicameral panel of conservatives will discuss "the Obama Administrations abuses of power and its refusal to

enforce current laws on the books". Participants: RSC Chairman Steve Scalise; Rep. Michael Burgess; Rep. Trent Franks; Rep. Jim Jordan; Rep. Patrick McHenry; Sen. Pat Toomey; Sen. Ted Cruz. Location: HVC – 201.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARMED SERVICES — 8 a.m. Subcommittee on Military Personnel hearing on Department of Defenses Challenges in Accounting for Missing Persons from Past Conflicts. Witnesses: Paul Cole, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC); Brenda S. Farrell, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, US Government Accountability Office. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display?ContentRecord_id=35209637-3a35-4292-a44a-8e41b8d84393. Location: 2212 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY — 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet hearing: Innovation in America: The Role of Technology. http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/113th/hear_08012013.html. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES — 10 a.m. Full committee Initial Conclusions Formed by the Defense Strategic Choices and Management Review. Witnesses: Ashton B. Carter, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr, USN , Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, US Department of Defense. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_id=fb756e91-328b-481b-8579-6c68b54e50a7. Location: 2118 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on PPACA Pulse Check. Witnesses: Marilyn Tavenner, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, US Department of Health and Human Services. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/ppaca-pulse-check. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Markup: H.R. ___, Department of State Operations and Embassy Security Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2014. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

HOMELAND SECURITY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies West Fertilizer, Off the Grid: The Problem of Unidentified Chemical Facilities. Witnesses: PANEL I: David Wulf, ISCD Director, National Protection and Programs Directorate, US Department of Homeland Security; Stephen L. Caldwell, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, US Government Accountability Office. PANEL II: Donnie Dippel, President, Texas Ag Industries Association; Paul Derig, Environmental Health and Safety Manger III, J.R. Simplot Company; Timothy Scott, Chief Security Officer, Corporate Director, Emergency Services and Security, Dow Chemical; Sean Moulton, Director, Open Government Policy, Center for Effective Government. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-west-fertilizer-grid-problem-unidentified-chemical-facilities. Location: 311 Cannon.

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE — 10 a.m. Full committee CLOSED: Ongoing Intelligence Activities. http://intelligence.house.gov/hearing/ongoing-intelligence-activities-46. Location: HVC304 Capitol.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 10 a.m. Full committee Oversight Hearing on "Transparency and Sound Science Gone Extinct?: The Impacts of the Obama Administration's Closed-Door Settlements on Endangered Species and People." http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=343531. Location: 1324 Longworth.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. "Department of Energys Bonneville Power Administration: Discriminating Against Veterans and Retaliating Against Whistleblowers." http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/department-of-energys-bonneville-power-administration-discriminating-against-veterans-and-retaliating-against-whistleblowers/. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — 10 a.m. Markup of H.R. 2850, the "EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study Improvement Act and Authorize the Issuance of Subpoenas." Location: 2318 Rayburn.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Full committee Markup of H.R. 813; H.R. 1804, As Amended; H.R. 2072; H.R. 2189, As Amended; H.R. 2481; H.R. 1443; and H.R. 2011. http://veterans.house.gov/markup/markup-of-pending-

legislation-9. Location: 334 Cannon.

WAYS AND MEANS — 10 a.m. Hearing on the Status of the Affordable Care Act Implementation. Witnesses: Gary Cohen, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, US Department of Health and Human Services; Daniel Werfel, Principal Deputy Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement Internal Revenue Service. http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=343952. Location: 1100 Longworth.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — 1 p.m. "EPAs Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment" – A Factual Review of a Hypothetical Scenario. Witnesses: Lowell Rothschild, Senior Counsel, Bracewell & Giuliani LLP; Dr. Michael Kavanaugh, Senior Principal, Geosyntec Consultants, and Member, National Academy of Engineering; Daniel McGroarty, President, American Resources Policy Network; Wayne Nastri, Co-president, E4 Strategic Solutions; Former Regional Administrator, USEPA Region 9. http://science.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-oversight-hearing-epa-s-bristol-bay-watershed-assessment-factual-review. Location: 2318 Raybum.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 1:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Hearing: The Trans-Pacific Partnership: Outlook and Opportunities. Witnesses: Edward F. Gerwin, Jr., President, Trade Guru LLC; Amgad Shehata, Vice President, International Public Affairs, United Parcel Service; Steven Metalitz, Counsel, International Intellectual Property Alliance; Celeste Drake, Trade and Globalization Policy Specialist, The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. Witnesses: Edward F. Gerwin, Jr., President, Trade Guru LLC; Amgad Shehata, Vice President, International Public Affairs, United Parcel Service; Steven Metalitz, Counsel, International Intellectual Property Alliance; Celeste Drake, Trade and Globalization Policy Specialist, The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-trans-pacific-partnership-outlook-and-opportunities. Location: 2200 Raybum.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Hearing: The Impact of US Water Programs on Global Health. Panel I: Christian Holmes, Global Water Coordinator, US Agency for International Development; Aaron A. Salzberg, Ph.D., Special Coordinator for Water Resources, US Department of State. Panel II: John Oldfield, Chief Executive Officer, WASH Advocates; Malcolm Morris, Chairman, Millennium Water Alliance. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-impact-us-water-programs-global-health. Location: 2255 Raybum.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Joint Subcommittee: Western Hemisphere and Middle East and North Africa Hearing: Examining the State Departments Report on Iranian Presence in the Western Hemisphere 19 Years After AMIA Attack. Witnesses: Matthew Levitt, Ph.D., Director and Senior Fellow, Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Michael A. Braun, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Spectre Group International, LLC, (Former Chief of Operations, Drug Enforcement Administration); Eric Farnsworth, Vice President, Council of the Americas and Americas Society. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/joint-subcommittee-hearing-examining-state-department%E2%80%99s-report-iranian-presence-western. Location: 2172 Raybum.

ARMED SERVICES — 3:30 p.m. Joint Subcommittees on Readiness & Seapower and Projection Forces hearing: Ensuring Navy surface force effectiveness with limited maintenance resources. Witnesses: Rear Admiral Timothy S. Matthews, USN, Director, Fleet Readiness (OPNAV N43), Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense; Rear Admiral Thomas S. Rowden, USN , Director, Surface Warfare (OPNAV N96), Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display?ContentRecord_id=e338de20-73db-4283-bc16-2663cdb48233&ContentType_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_id¢13e47ffa-0753-47a7-ad5e-1ba7592015c9. Location: 2118 Raybum.
Other: CATO UNIVERSITY — July 28 – Aug. 2. Summer Seminar on Political Economy. Speakers include: Robert Levy, chairman of the Cato Institute; Mary Anastasia OGrady, Wall Street Journal; Jeffrey Miron, Harvard University and Cato Institute; Robert McDonald, United States Military Academy; and Tom G. Palmer, Cato Institute. http://www.cato.org/cato-university/2013/schedule?utm_source=Cato+Institute+Emails&utm_campaign=1171b2c444-events&utm_medium¢email&utm_term¢0_395878584c-1171b2c444-141560838. Location: Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

DOE – BIOMASS 2013 — July 31 – Aug. 1. Biomass 2013: How the Advanced Bioindustry is Reshaping American Energy. http://www1.eere.energy.gov/bioenergy/biomass_2013.html. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vemon Place, NW.

YOUNG AMERICANS FOR LIBERTY CONFERENCE — July 31 – Aug. 3. more than 300 youth leaders attend the 5th Annual Young Americans for Liberty National Convention. http://www.fee.org/publications/detail/5th-annual-young-americans-for-liberty-national-conventionaxzz2a4fdlKQS. Highlights: 7 p.m. GMU-Arlington Campus, Congressmen Justin Amash, Razl Labrador, Thomas Massie, and Mick Mulvaney will join together for an insider's look at the state of freedom on Capitol Hill and the growing coalition of pro-liberty congressmen. Location: Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 N Glebe Rd. Arlington, VA 22203. Notes: Credential requests: https://yaliberty.wufoo.com/forms/press-pass-request-form/

U.S CHAMBER – SEC COMMISSIONER PAREDES — 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. The US Chambers Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness (CCMC) will host Securities and Exchange Commissioner Troy Paredes for a discussion on the current state and future of financial regulatory reform. As he marks his last days at the SEC, Commissioner Paredes will reflect on what remains to be done to achieve liquid, competitive, efficient and well regulated capital markets. Location: US Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW. Contacts: Lisa Burgess lburgess@uschamber.com

WILSON CENTER – CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Congress & the President at War: Checks or Imbalance? http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/congress-the-president-war-checks-or-imbalance. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 5th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

HOLDER REMARKS – MUELLER FAREWELL CEREMONY — 10 a.m. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver remarks at the farewell ceremony for FBI Director Robert Mueller. ALL MEDIA MUST RSVP by 12:00 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, July 30, 2013 to Stephen Ratner at stephen.ratner@usdoj.gov. Media that RSVP will receive a confirmation email indicating they are cleared to enter the building and other logistical information. Location: US Department of Justice, Great Hall, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Contacts: (202) 514-2007. On the Net: http://www.justice.gov

MLK STATUE PRESS CONFERENCE — 10 a.m. The National Park Service (NPS) will host a media availability with the sculptor of the Stone of Hope and the Mountain of Despair at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Sculptor Master Lei Yixin will be joined by Bob Vogel, Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks and Harry Johnson, President and CEO of The Memorial Foundation to answer questions about the work being done to remove the "Drum Major" quote from the Memorial. Location: Forecourt of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Contacts: Carol Johnson carol_b_johnson@nps.gov ((202) 245-4700)

REPRESENTATIVE FUDGE — 10 a.m. Third-term Congresswoman Marcia Fudge of Ohio, the new chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, will address the state of black women in America at a National Press Club Newsmakers news conference. http://press.org/events/congresswoman-marcia-fudge-ohio. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Carmen Russell-Sluchansky carmen@carmenrussell.net (202-942-3302,)

MOMS DEMAND ACTION — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Lemonade Stand, with brief remarks from Shannon Watts and members of Congress on gun control legislation. Speakers: Moms Demand Action founder Shannon Watts, Program Director Jennifer Hoppe, and DC chapter members. Visits expected from members of Congress including House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force Chairman Mike Thompson and Rep. Robin Kelly. http://momsdemandaction.org/lemonade-stands-2013/. Location: Upper Senate Park, Constitution Ave NE & Delaware Ave NE.

SMITHSONIAN – USAID — 10:30 a.m. Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony between the Smithsonian Institution and the US Agency for International Development. Collaborating on projects around the world for more than 20 years, the Smithsonian Institution and the US Agency for International Development are formalizing their relationship with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. Speakers: Wayne Clough, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Rajiv Shah, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development. Location: The Commons of the Smithsonian Castle, 1000 Jefferson Drive S.W. Contacts: John Gibbons gibbonsjp@si.edu ((202) 633-5187)

PEDESTRIAN CRASH DEMONSTRATION — 11 a.m. Lifelike demonstration showing the potentially deadly effects of speeding. A pedestrian may be unharmed when a vehicle brakes at 25 mph, may sustain critical injuries at 35 mph and may be killed at 40 mph. Speakers: Cathy Lanier, Chief, Metropolitan Police Department; Terry Bellamy, Director, District Department of Transportation; Thomas J. Gianni, Chief, Maryland Highway Safety Office; James Dewees, Captain, Maryland State Police; Christine Trankiem, MD, FACS, Trauma Surgeon, MedStar Washington Hospital Center; Ron Wilkins, Lieutenant, Metropolitan Police Department. Location: Metropolitan Police Department, 501 New York Avenue NW. On the Net: www.smoothoperatorprogram.com. Notes: Parking: Street parking available on New York Ave in front of the MPD station.

DUNCAN – LET'S READ, LET'S MOVE — 12 p.m. Secretary Duncan will host the fourth of five 2013 Lets Read! Lets Move! events to promote summer reading, healthy eating and physical activity. He will be joined by US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Houston Rockets point guard Jeremy Lin, Washington D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier, CSI New York star Hill Harper, and former Washington Redskins running back Brian Mitchell. Location: US Department of Education LBJ Building, 400 Maryland Ave. N.W.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – HAGEL REACTION — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Secretary Hagel's SCMR Announcement: Reactions, Implications, and Analysis – A discussion with Steven Grundman, M.A. and George Lund Fellow for Emerging Defense Challenges, Atlantic Council; Barry Pavel, Vice President and Director, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, Atlantic Council. DIAL-IN INSTRUCTIONS: Please call 1-800-311-9402 at 11:55 a.m. The passcode is 60535. RSVP with name and affiliation (acceptances only) to press@acus.org.

REAGAN NATIONAL – UNCLAIMED CLOTHING DONATED — 1 p.m. Reagan National Airport has formed a partnership with the Transportation Security Administration to donate unclaimed clothing left at security screening checkpoints to needy veterans and their families. The airport maintains a Lost and Found office that warehouses found items and works to return them to their owners for 67 days. After that, the items become eligible for other uses. Media and the public are invited to view the first shipment of clothing before it leaves the airport: Speakers: Paul Malandrino, Vice President and Airport Manager of Reagan National Airport; Bob Allison, TSA Federal Security Director for Reagan National Airport; Richard Weidman, Executive Director for Policy and Government Affairs, Vietnam Veterans of America. Location: Reagan National Airport, Historic Terminal A Lobby – Parking: Daily Garage A, which is connected to the terminal via underground moving walkways

API – ANALYSIS RELEASE — 1:30 p.m. American Petroleum Institute (API) President and CEO Jack Gerard to unveil a new oil and natural gas industry jobs and economic analysis conducted by PwC. DIAL IN: (800) 374-2418 Code: 262 32 848. RSVP by emailing back to carrollc@api.org or by calling API media relations at 202-682-8114.

"EPAS BRISTOL BAY WATERSHED ASSESSMENT" – 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. A FACTUAL REVIEW OF A HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO — Careers in National Security Law Program and networking reception. Location: Arnold & Porter, 555 Twelfth Street, NW, 10th Floor. Contacts: Holly McMahon holly.mcmahon@americanbar.org ((202) 662-1035). On the Net: www.americanbar.org/natsecurity.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "In politics, plus-size New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Kentucky Senator Rand Paul are in a bit of battle right now. For those who don't know, Rand Paul is Rue Paul's straight-edge, conservative brother, something like that. Apparently Gov. Christie criticized Rand Paul for pork barrel spending so Rand fired back. He said this is the king of bacon talking about bacon. The king of bacon, is that supposed to be an insult? I would kneel before the king of bacon."

Jimmy Kimmel: "But it is notable because Governor Christie is a very large man and he called him the king of bacon. He had that surgery though. So far he's lost about 50 pounds. I hope he gets down to 160 pounds. I would love to see Gov. Christie holding an enormous pair of pants above his head like Jared from Subway. Wouldn't that be inspiring?"

Jimmy Kimmel: "But I tell you whatever is going on in New Jersey is peanuts compared to what is going on with Anthony Weiner in New York. Today's news was one of his former interns shared a great story with 'The New

York Daily News'. She claims at one point, this is not sexual, he called all 20 interns into his office. He told them tell me your names and I'll be able to go around the room and remember all of your names. And then he started to go around the room and couldn't remember any of their names. He knew their screen names. But he did not know their..."

David Letterman: "A lot of people are saying maybe Anthony Weiner should get out of the race. Maybe he should go run for mayor of Orange County."

David Letterman: "Eliot Spitzer says Anthony Weiner should drop out. A lot of top Democrats say he should... even Silvio Berlusconi said the guy is a creep. Silvio Berlusconi. That's right."

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, I always try to keep a level head. You know I for one always try to keep a level head but even I am enraged by this Bradley Manning trial. First of all, that he had a trial. Those prisoners in Gitmo must be dying to know how he wrangled that sweet deal. You may remember Bradley Manning as the WikiLeaker who released the infamous collateral murder video or perhaps for being the least athletic Manning brother."

Stephen Colbert: "Now, since his arrest three years ago manning has been held in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day, forced to sleep naked without pillows and sheets on his bed. But I say he deserves it. For Pete's sake the guy revealed that the United States tortures, partly through his document leak, but mostly by how we tortured him."

Stephen Colbert: "Manning was found not guilty of the most serious charge: Aiding the enemy. And even more shocking, he was also found not guilty of shooting Trayvon Martin. Evidently, no one is guilty of that one."

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, yesterday President Obama gave a major speech about the economy at an Amazon distribution center. I think he chose Amazon because they're going to start equipping congressmen with a 'buy now' button."

Stephen Colbert: (Refeming to a photo of President Obama's lunch with Hillary Clinton) "I don't need news from the cable crowd because I can analyze the entire 2016 campaign strategy through this lunch. First of all, Hillary's campaign, it is on to the on. And obviously they ate outdoors to woo the environmentalists. Had the jambalaya to court gulf coast Democrats. President's rolled-up sleeves say, 'I support the right to bare arms.' But the lack of beverages says that under Hillary, there will be no water boarding, tap or sparkling. And the grilled chicken? It was on sale at Safeway."

Jimmy Fallon: "Let's talk a little bit about Governor Chris Christie over in New Jersey. Love that guy. I love that guy. But now a Kentucky Senator Rand Paul is criticizing Christie for the pork barrel spending in his state. He even called Governor Christie the king of bacon. Christie would have been offended, but in fairness, that is what it says on his apron."

Jimmy Fallon: "So actually, here's what Rand Paul said. He said, 'In terms of pork barrel spending, Christie is the king of bacon,' low blow. While in response, Christie fired back. He said 'That kind of name calling is beneath the office you hold, sir. But just to clarify, would I be the king of real juicy pork bacon or that gross generic turkey bacon?' To which Paul replied, 'What? I don't know, man. Bacon, bacon. Look, your fiscal values are not in line with the Republican Party.' To which Christie said, 'Are you kidding, I'm as Republican as they come. But hey, back to that king of bacon thing. Do you think I wear a crown of bacon or sit on a throne of bacon? Or would I just be all like eating bacon all the time?' To which Paul said, 'Dude, it was just a metaphor. Let it go. My point is your state's spending is out of control.' To which Christie says, ;I'll tell you what's out of control, how much you got me thinking about bacon. You do whatever you want with the Republican Party. I'm about to start a bacon party in my tum-tum.'"

Jay Leno: "Well, not looking good for Anthony Weiner. He is now fourth place in the polls. Well, the current leader in the New York City mayoral race is Christine Quinn, which, of course, if she wins would make her the peter tweeter defeater."

Jay Leno: "More and more people calling for Anthony Weiner to step aside. But, in a new ad campaign, Weiner says, 'Quit isn't the way we roll in New York City.' Well, it's better than his old slogan: 'When in doubt, whip it out.'"

Jay Leno: "The state of Hawaii is now offering to buy homeless people a one-way ticket to anywhere they want to go just to get them to leave the island. Why can't we offer this same deal to the mayor of San Diego? This could be our way out of this problem."

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Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, August 20, 2013

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Aug 20, 2013 at 11:15 AM
To: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica L Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Blake and Jessica -

(b)(5) (can't yet open the article - just the summary) (b)(5)
(b)(5) Let me know your thoughts. Thx. S

Begin forwarded message:

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Date: August 20, 2013, 4:02:02 AM PDT
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

WYOMING GOP DELEGATION WANTS STATE TO BE EXEMPT FROM BLM FRACKING RULES. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (8/20, Colman, 322K) reports that the Republican congressional delegation of Wyoming has asked the Interior Department "to exempt states that already regulate hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, from a proposed rule governing the practice on federal land." Sen. John Barrasso, Sen. Mike Enzi and Rep. Cynthia Lummis said in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that they are "concerned the draft rules from the department's Bureau of Land Management would be duplicative" and the rules "could deter people from drilling for oil and gas on federal lands within their states, costing 'hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.'" In the letter the lawmakers said, "Federal law and regulations often delay investment and job creation for years. Consequently, Federal law and regulations push investment out of public land states and into other states where there is greater regulatory certainty."

The AP (8/20, Gruver) reports that in May, when the draft rules were released, Jewell said "that federal rules for fracking on federal land are needed to reconcile a patchwork of state fracking rules." However, she offered praise for the rules in Wyoming "which, among other requirements, make companies provide to regulators lists of the chemicals that go into the specially formulated fluids they use to improve the fracking process." In an email statement, Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said that "the U.S. Bureau of Land Management is committed to working with states that have fracking standards to avoid unnecessary duplication or delays."

Also reporting on the story are the Columbus (IN) Republic (8/20, 76K), the San Francisco Chronicle (8/20, Gruver), the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (8/19, 119K), the Billings (MT) Gazette (8/20, 188K), the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (8/19, 18K), the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (8/19, 223K), the Rock Hill (SC) Herald (8/19, 102K), the Upstream Online (8/20, Johnson, 20K), and the Law 360 (8/20, 3K).

CONSERVATIONISTS FRET ABOUT SECRETARY JEWELL'S "SLOW START." The Seattle Post-Intelligencer (8/20, Connelly, 800K) reports that conservation advocates are worrying that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "off to a slow start," and "so far, it seems – to steal the phrase of ex-Labor Secretary Robert Reich – that she is locked in the Cabinet." The article points out "a trio of worries about Jewell, and ways out." First, the article suggests Jewell to "get out of the rut of photo opportunities;" second, to "install your own people;" and third, to "connect with the President."

Secretary Jewell Urged To Protect Public Lands. In an op-ed for the Wyoming Tribune Eagle (8/18, Zimmerman, 44K), Kate Zimmerman writes that according to a recent report issued by the National Wildlife Federation, "outdoor enthusiasts...now spend more than $646 billion annually." But the National Wildlife Federation reports that, "despite the economic and public values of these lands, federal lawmakers have introduced dozens of bills seeking to sell off or roll back protections for public lands." Zimmerman hopes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's "stewardship over the next several years will pay back dividends."

SEN. HEINRICH URGES FEDERAL ACTION ON SUNZIA POWER LINE. The El Paso (TX) Times (8/20, Simonich, 240K) reports that Sen. Martin Heinrich wrote in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewel that "the SunZia proposal had been delayed long enough, and that the federal government's credibility was on the line in resolving property use involving military installations and alternative energy suppliers." Heinrich wrote, "Another delay on this project threatens the credibility of the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse process. SunZia was selected as an early 'fast track' project for the nine-agency Rapid Response Team for Transmission and was intended to act as an example of how DOD and the Department of the Interior could work together to resolve energy siting conflicts quickly and collaboratively."

Additional coverage was provided by the Alamogordo (NM) Daily News (8/20, Simonich, 21K), the Deming (NM) Headlight (8/20, Simonich, 10K), the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (8/20, Simonich, 46K), and KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM (8/20, 5K).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS PRESS SECRETARY JEWELL TO REJECT IZEMBEK ROAD. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that environmental groups are increasing pressure on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "reject a proposed gravel road through an Alaskan wilderness, drawing swift rebuke from Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R), the road's most outspoken supporter." On Friday, the groups wrote in a letter to Jewell, "The proposed road would be harmful to the Izembek Refuge and Wilderness and the American public. It would fail to provide the emergency medical transportation desired by the people of King Cove, and it would be extremely costly for taxpayers in a time of great financial strain and many pressing national needs." However, "Robert Dillon, a spokesman for Murkowski, said that the letter was misleading and most environmentalists have never experienced the turbulent weather at King Cove that makes a road necessary."

IN PUBLIC COMMENTS TO STATE DEPARTMENT, INTERIOR ENUMERATES WAYS IN WHICH KEYSTONE XL COULD HARM WILDLIFE. The Los Angeles Times (8/20, Banerjee, 3.4M) continues coverage of last week's warning from the Interior Department that the Keystone XL pipeline could harm wildlife near the route. The agency's warnings are in direct contradiction to the March draft environmental assessment issued by the US State Department, which found the pipeline would have only an indirect, temporary effect on area wildlife. In a letter spanning 12 pages as part of public comments on the State Department's draft assessment, the Interior Department "repeatedly" suggests that State's assessment of the environmental effects of the pipeline project is "inaccurate." Among the ways the project could harm wildlife, Interior suggests it could cause "species displacement, increased predation rates and predator travel lanes, increased nest parasitism, vehicle collisions with wildlife ... invasive plant species, increased wildfire risk, lower wildlife density, increase in collisions with power lines and electrocutions on power poles ... and increase in poaching."

DRONES COULD CHANGE FIGHT AGAINST WILDFIRES. CNN (8/19, 11.58M) reports that "accessing new technology in rural areas where forest fires rage has been a challenge, but the use

of new unmanned drones could drastically change the nature of the fight." Sher Schranz, a project manager at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who researches fire weather modeling, explained, "We can get more information for less cost, and it doesn't put anyone in harm's way." The article notes that "drones can help in two ways: They can safely gather more information about fire conditions than is currently available, and they can send that information to firefighters on the ground quickly."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF COLORADO RIVER. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "as drought continues to grip the Southwest, officials in charge of managing the Colorado River's water announced Friday that they will be forced to take a historic action on account of low water levels." The article notes that "for the first time since Lake Powell was filled in the 1960s, water releases from that reservoir down to Lake Mead, the downstream reservoir that provides water to southern Nevada, Arizona, Southern California and northern Mexico, will be just 7.48 million acre-feet for the upcoming water year, which begins Oct. 1." According to the article, "those familiar with water management in the river basin called it a symbolic moment and a potential warning of what the future of the river could look like as the climate changes."

Additional coverage of the Colorado River drought measures was provided by the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (8/18, 165K), the St. George (UT) Spectrum (8/19, 48K), the Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (8/19, 447K), the Marin (CA) Independent Journal (8/20, 111K), the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (8/20, Harmon, 75K), the Hydroworld (8/20, 151), and the Aspen Business Journal (8/20).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S LAWSUITS EXAMINED. The Washington Examiner (8/20, Rosiak, 294K) reports that "the federal government paid by far the most on record last year to parties who sued it, at $2.9 billion, and will surpass that amount this year, a Washington Examiner analysis of court records found." Moreover, "due to oddities in federal accounting, the largest single settlement is not yet reflected in the data, thus positioning 2013 to be by a record year in dollar terms by a wide margin." The article notes that "a settlement between the Interior Department and Native Americans awarded $3.4 billion after Native Americans argued that the government was mismanaging their money and withholding revenue."

SETTLEMENT REACHED IN PUBLIC ROADS SUIT. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (8/19, 48K) reports that Utah and Juab County have "reached the first settlement with the federal government and environmental groups granting the state and county ownership over three disputed roads in Juab County." According to the article, "US District Judge Tena Campbell has been given a consent decree today that would restore public access to three roads — and for the first time opens access to a road closed due to a Wilderness Study Area boundary." The agreement "requires the federal government to unlock the gate on Granite Canyon and remove fallen trees and any other obstacles blocking access to Camp Ethel at the end of the Granite Canyon Road" and it "also allows the state or county to repair the roads but preserves their primitive status."

Also reporting on the story is the Cache Valley (UT) Daily (8/20, 639).

INTERIOR FAVORS NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION FOR TULE SPRINGS PARK. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (8/20, DeHaven, 437K) reports that the Obama administration recently came out in favor of a national monument designation for Tule Springs park. According to a July 31 statement released by the Interior Department, a park built in the area would be "the most significant Pleistocene paleontological resource in the American Southwest."

INTERIOR, VIRGIN ISLANDS TO LAUNCH JOINT AUDIT NEXT YEAR OF PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY. The Virgin Islands Daily News (8/20, Norris, 49K) reports that the Interior Department and the Virgin Islands Inspector General will launch a joint audit next year of the Public Finance Authority.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S REMARKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's remarks on climate change was provided by FOX News (8/19, 6.72M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INTERIOR'S CLOUD CONTRACTS. Additional coverage of Interior's cloud contracts was provided by the Washington Post (8/20, Ravindranath, 4.53M) and Government Computer News (8/20, Miller, 1K).

USA TODAY: US COULD REACH ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN 20 YEARS. An editorial in USA Today (8/20, 5.82M) notes the changing energy landscape around the world and notes that "the vast increase in oil and gas production in the USA and Canada," means that the US, which has long been "dependent on supplies from potentially hostile nations, will attain self-sufficiency in 20 years, according to a study by BP." USA Today adds that the "developments in North American energy production even suggest ways to attack the complex threat of global warming," including investing in basic research "to find means to cope with warming that do not exist now," and taxing pollutants and letting "the market adjust and innovators innovate."

In an accompanying op-ed in USA Today (8/20, Beinecke, 5.82M), Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, takes a different view of the North American energy boom, arguing that an increase in domestic oil and gas production "is no panacea for our nation's energy needs or economy." Such an increase, she argues, "will only intensify our fossil fuel addiction" and it will not "free us from the tyranny of the global oil market." Beinecke writes that for the US to be truly energy independent, we must reduce "our reliance on oil and gas by investing in America's abundant clean energy resources that can power our country and boost our economy without endangering our health and climate."

HAROLD HAMM DISCUSSES FRACKING, CLIMATE CHANGE, WIND POWER. The National Journal (8/20, Harder, Subscription Publication, 377K) publishes an interview with Continental Resources founder and CEO Harold Hamm, whom it calls "one of the most influential oil-industry executives and one of the richest people alive." In the interview, Hamm says that he opposes Federal regulations on fracking and says that states should be left to regulate the process, recommends population control measures to contain global warming, and says he doesn't support subsidizing wind power or forcing people to look at wind turbines.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF BEAR ATTACKS. NBC Nightly News (8/19, story 7, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported, "A 12-year-old Michigan girl is telling NBC News tonight she thought she was a goner when she went out for a jog and out of no where, was mauled by a black bear. She is just one of seven people in five states who have been attacked by bears in the past week. Why so many close encounters between humans and bears? Here's NBC's Tom Costello." NBC (Costello) added, "It was a heart-stopping discovery in Naples, Florida, a black bear who had tom into a screened-in porch, sleeping on the tile floor." Unidentified speaker: "I couldn't believe my eyes. Like I never seen a bear that big." Costello: "Fortunately, the bear woke up and left, but across the country, bears have attacked at least seven people over the past week. In northern Alaska, a National Guard helicopter had to rescue a hunter on Saturday who survived 36 hours after being mauled by a bear. In Wyoming, two hikers suffered minor injuries after being attacked by a grizzly and her cub. A camper in Colorado was slightly injured last week. In Idaho, two researchers were attacked by a grizzly, one bitten on the leg. And in Cadillac, Michigan, Thursday, a 12-year-old girl was attacked by a black bear while jogging. She thought she was going to die." Abby Wetherall, bear attack victim: "This is it. I'm not gonna see my family ever again. Not going to see my soccer team or any of my friends. I'm a goner." Costello: "She tried to run away, but the bear caught her. But then she says she played dead and the bear walked away. According to contrary thought, bear attacks aren't about protecting a cub. In a 2011 University of Calgary study, in 88% of the attacks, the bear was acting as a predator, viewing humans as food. Bears that have grown up near humans are far less likely to attack, researchers say. This bear recently showed up near the NBC News offices here in Washington. Increasingly, urban sprawl and remote recreation are bringing humans

and bears together." Brian Aucone, Denver Zoo: "It's the time of year that they are going to have cubs and also going to be out actively foraging and looking for food, all preparing for wintertime to come and hibernate." Costello: "In Colorado, this bear walked right into a bar, while another literally tried to walk off with a restaurant's dumpster. Close encounters a little too close for comfort. Tom Costello, NBC News, Washington." Holt: "The National Park Service has some recommendations what to do and whatnot to do if you encounter a bear. We have put that information on our website."

Additional coverage was provided by the International Business Times (8/20, 237K) and the Marin (CA) Independent Journal (8/20, 111K).

CLEANUP OF LINCOLN MEMORIAL COMPLETED. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that crews "removed the last traces of green paint from the Lincoln Memorial last week, three weeks after an act of vandalism kick-started citywide outrage over the defacement of the iconic statue." The NPS "announced Friday that employees were able to remove the last flecks of paint from the marble likeness of Abraham Lincoln." According to the article, "the memorial is now completely open to visitors to Washington, D.C., who come in the millions each year to tour the 19-foot-tall statue of the 16th president."

MAINTENANCE BACKLOG PLAGUING NPS. The Examiner.com (8/20, 1.36M) reports that "budget cuts in recent years have left" the NPS "with an $11.5 billion deferred maintenance backlog." Moreover, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis told the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources that "this amount grows annually at a far greater rate than the service is able to pay down." Jarvis "mentioned several ways to increase revenue without adding to the federal deficit, such as increasing the price of the annual park pass" and "he also suggested raising funds through donors and matching grant programs."

FRIENDS OF THE INDIAN KING TAVERN RECEIVES NPS GRANT. The South Jersey (NJ) Sun (8/19) reports that the Friends of the Indian King Tavern "recently acquired a grant from" the NPS' American Battlefield Protection Program to "create a map brochure of Revolutionary War battle sites in Camden and Gloucester counties." Garry Stone, state Park Service historian and historian for the Indian King Tavern, said "It's thought of as a two-year project. I need to get a running start September/October so I can make enough progress for second-year funding." NPS Director Jon Jarvis said, "We are proud to support projects like this that safeguard and preserve American battlefields. These places are symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage that we must protect so that this and future generations can understand the struggles that define us as a nation."

AFTER HURRICANE SANDY, FAMILY FIGHTS TO SAVE RESTAURANT. The New York Times (8/20, A14, Applebome, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) reports on Ed Segall, the owner of "the Sea Gulls' Nest, a restaurant damaged by Hurricane Sandy and facing a maddeningly complex series of bureaucratic hurdles blocking it from reopening." The article notes that Sen. Robert Menendez and Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., "both of New Jersey, have asked the director of the National Park Service, Jonathan B. Jarvis, to meet with Mr. Segall." Segall "has prepared four thick binders of history and tributes to remind the government what he has done over the past decades, but is still waiting for a meeting." In the mean time, "food trucks operated by other people provide service at Sandy Hook, and the Segalls wait and worry."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SEEK INJUNCTION TO BLOCK SUSQUEHANNA-ROSELAND CONSTRUCTION. The New Jersey Herald (8/19, 37K) reports that as two power companies say "they will begin construction of a 500-kilovolt electric transmission line through a national park early next month, environmental groups on Monday asked a federal judge to stop any work until he can decide the case that could shut down the project altogether." In the lawsuit, the groups "argue that permits for the powerline construction were given" by the NPS "despite studies by the park service that show construction of the new lines, which follow the right-of-way of an existing 230-kV transmission line, would cause irreparable harm to the park." The lawsuit questions whether the NPS "acted correctly late last year when it gave the necessary permits to the two utilities for the 4.5 miles across the national park."

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ZION NATIONAL PARK'S VIRGIN RIVER. The Deseret (UT) News (8/20, 251K) reports that the NPS "may change the way visitors enjoy Zion National Park, all in the interest of protecting the Virgin River and the areas around it." According to the article, "a new management plan for portions of the river and its tributaries, which were designated as 'wild and scenic' by Congress back in 2009, has been completed and now Park Service officials want the public to weigh in on the plan." Kezia Nielsen, an environmental resource protection specialist with the NPS, said, "There could be a lot of things that happen, but they are not imminent. The whole purpose of this plan is to protect and enhance the values for which made them eligible for designation as wild and scenic rivers."

BEN FRANKLIN MUSEUM TO REOPEN AFTER RENOVATION. The Philadelphia Business Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 39K) reports that Philadelphia's Ben Franklin Museum will "reopen Aug. 24 after a major renovation." The NPS "worked with various partners to pay for the changes, splitting the cost." NPS "funding for the improvements totaled $11.3 million, while other partners contributed $11.8 million."

WILDFIRE FORCES CLOSURE OF ROUTE INTO YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The Columbus (IN) Republic (8/20, 76K) reports that "a wildfire has forced the shutdown of a highway that serves as a busy gateway to Yosemite National Park." According to the US Forest Service, "two days after it broke out in the Stanislaus National Forest, the blaze crossed State Route 120 on Monday, shutting it down in both directions."

YELLOWSTONE TO RELEASE FISH TOXIN. The Yellowstone Gate (8/20, Prevost) reports that "wildlife managers in Yellowstone National Park are planning this week to release a fish toxin in Grayling Creek as part of a long-term plan to restore native fish populations to the waterway in the Madison River drainage." The goal is to rid "the creek of non-native brown and rainbow trout, species which have contributed to a decline in native cutthroat trout in park lakes, rivers and streams, according to a statement released by the park's public affairs office." Officials hope "to restore native westslope cutthroat trout and Arctic grayling in Grayling Creek and other park waters."

REFERENCE TO GOD URGED FOR MLK MEMORIAL. In an op-ed for the Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (8/19, Murray, 140K), John A. Murray, headmaster of Fourth Presbyterian School in Potomac, Md., writes that "in preparation for the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech," the NPS "is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to remove a controversial quote on the side of the King Memorial." But Murray asks, "If King were alive, would he be less concerned about being called a drum major than he'd be by the omission of any reference to God?" Murray concludes that "given the August anniversary of the March on Washington, rather than modifying the 'drum major' quote," he would recommend one from King's powerful 1963 speech: "I have a dream ...when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

Bureau of Land Management:

HELIUM RESERVE FACES SHUTDOWN. The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) reports that unless Congress acts to wind it down more slowly, the Federal Helium Reserve will shut down on October 8. Moreover, the BLM could begin winding down its operations as early as Sept. 15 to prepare for the closure, according to industry estimates.

BLM MULLS GEOCACHING IN CONSERVATION AREA. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (8/20, 75K) reports that the BLM "wants adventurers to leave no trace of their hunts for geocaches in the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, but an advisory group says there ought to be a little leeway." The agency is "working on the first-ever resource management plan for the area south and east of Grand Junction for the treasure-hunting activity." The BLM's "preferred alternative calls for geocaching to be limited to the virtual variety, or searches that result in participants taking

photos of themselves with recognizable locations they find using geocaching directions."

TUSCARORA FIRE BURNING SAGE GROUSE HABITAT. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (8/20, 23K) reports that "a burning about 10 miles northwest of Tuscarora had charred about 16,000 acres as of Monday evening." According to BLM public affairs specialist Lesli Ellis-Wouters, "the Red Cow Fire was about 10 percent contained." Ellis-Wouters noted that "the fire is burning in an area of intact sage grouse habitat not impacted by previous fires."

BLM REOPENS JQS ROAD NORTHWEST OF RIFLE AFTER ROCK SLIDE CLEARED. The Post Independent (Glenwood Springs, CO) (8/20, 27K) reports that the BLM has "reopened the JQS Road northwest of Rifle, which had been closed since Friday, Aug. 16, due to a rock slide."

Also reporting on the story is the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (8/20, 75K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPORT SAYS TEXAS HAS MISMANAGED HABITAT PLAN FOR DUNES SAGEBRUSH LIZARD. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "Texas has failed to report impacts from oil and gas development on the dunes sagebrush lizard, a violation of the habitat conservation plan the state signed with the Interior Department to keep the reptile off the endangered species list, according to a new report from Defenders of Wildlife." According to the article, the Texas comptroller in March told the FWS "that landowners and oil and gas developers in west Texas who were participating in its conservation plan had caused no new surface disturbances to the lizard's shinnery oak dune habitat in 2012." However, "imagery from government satellites and aircraft found multiple instances of surface disturbance on habitat enrolled by ConocoPhillips Co., which operates in the oil-rich Permian Basin, according to the Defenders investigation."

FWS TO LIST TWO TEXAS SALAMANDERS. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that the FWS "plans to add two Texas salamanders to the endangered species list, a move that could lead to more protections for central Texas waterways." The agency said "it will give 'endangered' species status to the Austin blind salamander and 'threatened' status to the Jollyville Plateau salamander."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP URGES HUNTERS TO SWITCH TO NONLEAD BULLETS. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that an environmental group "concerned about lead poisoning of birds is using the US military's recent announcement that it will switch to nonlead bullets as a clarion call for hunters to do the same." Robert Johns, a spokesman for the American Bird Conservancy, said, "If it's good enough for them, we think it's good enough for the average hunter, whose life is not in peril." The article notes that "lead poisoning from ingesting bullet fragments or pellets while consuming carcasses left behind by hunters is a leading cause of death for endangered California condors and other birds."

HUNDREDS OF SALMON STRANDED IN FARM DITCHES IN CALIFORNIA. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "the strandings of hundreds of endangered salmon in Colusa Basin irrigation ditches have California and federal wildlife officials searching for answers." Jeffrey McClain, assistant supervisor at the National Marine Fisheries Service office in Sacramento, California, said, "There has been some stranding in the past, but as far as I can tell, the numbers have been significantly lower than this. It's significant, and that's why this is a serious thing for us to figure out."

NEW STUDY QUESTIONS GREATER YELLOWSTONE BEARS COUNT. The High Country (CO) News (8/20, 74K) reports that "a new study strongly suggests" that the FWS' "calculations may be badly flawed – so much so, say the paper's authors, that no one knows how many bears are really out there." According to the article, "the population may even be dropping: Whitebark pine nuts, a key food source, are rapidly disappearing, and the impact on bears is in dispute."

ECONOMIST CRITICIZES FWS ANALYSIS OF ROSEMONT MINE'S IMPACT ON JAGUAR. The

Tucson (AZ) Citizen (8/19, 60K) reports that "a review by a nationally recognized economist found, among other things, that the economic analysis commissioned" by the FWS "for its critical habitat proposal for the jaguar relied 'exclusively' on information provided by Rosemont that amounts to a 'distorted public relations exercise.'" The review by natural resource economist Dr. Thomas Power "concluded that the analysis provided to FWS by Cambridge, Massachusetts based Industrial Economics, Inc. (IEI) treats mining as if it only has benefits while ignoring its costs, and promotes a 'free lunch economics' approach that is 'contrived for public relations purposes.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS. Additional coverage of the $5.1 million in grants awarded to 11 states was provided by the Hendersonville (NC) Times-News (8/19, 39K) and the Latin American Herald Tribune (8/20, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PLAN TO SAVE SPOTTED OWL. Additional coverage of the plan to save spotted owls was provided by the High Country (CO) News (8/20, 74K).

US Geological Survey:

AGENCIES COMPLAIN ABOUT SEQUESTER-IMPOSED TRAVEL LIMITS. The New York Times (8/19, A1, Shear, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), in a front-page article, reports that as a result of the sequestration cuts, "most government travel budgets have been cut this year by 30 percent," and now "agency officials" complain that as a result, the Federal government "cannot conduct essential business and is embarrassing itself abroad." But Sen. Tom Coburn rejects that claim, saying, "Hopefully what you will have is more sound judgment at these agencies about what is critical travel and what isn't. ... Most of it has nothing to do with their jobs. It's a perk."

CALIFORNIA BUILDING'S DESTRUCTION REVEALS EARTHQUAKE RISK. The LiveScience (8/20, Oskin, 445K) reports that on August 17, a tiny artificial earthquake triggered by a building implosion at California State University, East Bay, "were recorded by more than 500 seismometers set out in backyards and businesses by volunteers the week before the building's collapse." The effort, coordinated by the USGS, "will provide the best picture to date of which areas could suffer the worst shaking in future earthquakes on the dangerous Hayward Fault," according to project leader Rufus Catchings, a research geophysicist with the USGS in Menlo Park, California. Catchings said, "This will give us a chance to really improve our shake map, which is something that comes out immediately after an earthquake to tell first responders which areas are most affected."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

MANZANAR COMMITTEE OPPOSING LADWP'S PROPOSED 200 MEGAWATT SOLAR PROJECT. Southern California Public Radio (8/19, Peterson, 33K) reports on supporters of Manzanar Historic Site, which is "home to a former Japanese-American internment camp," objecting to a plan proposed "by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to put solar panels nearby," arguing that the panels "would obstruct the view from the camp." LADWP is hoping to build the solar project near Manzanar on land owned by the City of Los Angeles, with the agency planning to "install enough solar panels to generate around 200 megawatts." The Manzanar Committee said in a letter that the panels would obstruct the view, "and that construction would harm an old solid waste dump site that may contain historic artifacts."

This story was also reported by KCET-TV Los Angeles (8/19, Clarke).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WEST CHOCOLATE MOUNTAINS RENEWABLE ENERGY EVALUATION AREA. Additional coverage of the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area was provided by the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (8/19, Kaufmann, 162K).

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM DEFERS PROPOSED OIL, GAS LEASE SALES. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that the BLM "has reversed course and will not offer eight parcels near southwest Colorado's Mesa Verde National Park in a November oil and natural gas lease sale," pleasing the NPS "and some local government leaders who feared the drilling could harm the park." However, BLM officials "said late Friday that the agency is still conducting an environmental analysis of the eight parcels just east of the national park and that is why they were not included in the formal lease sale notice for the Nov. 14 sale." According to Shannon Borders, a BLM spokeswoman, "depending on the results of the ongoing environmental analysis, the eight parcels covering about 10,700 acres could still be offered at four planned oil and gas lease sales in the state next year."

Also reporting on the story is the Climate Progress (8/19, Goad, 375).

COMPANY FINED FOR FALSE ROYALTY DATA. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that the Interior Department' Office of Natural Resources Revenue has fined Quinex Energy Corp. "$2.2 million for knowingly maintaining false and misleading royalty information." Paul Mussenden, Interior's deputy assistant secretary for natural resources revenue management, said in a statement, "Accurate reporting is indispensable to proper royalty collection and is one of the first lines of defense in ensuring that ONRR collects every dollar due to the American taxpayer. In addition to our data mining and audit and compliance enhancement efforts, our enforcement team's increased focus on accurate reporting will continue to play a pivotal role in carrying out ONRR's core revenue collection mission."

GROWTH OF UNCONVENTIONAL GAS SOURCES REQUIRE REEXAMINATION OF GOVERNMENTAL ROLES. The Oil and Gas Journal (8/19, Snow, 1K) reports on the Aug. 15-16 National Research Council conference at which participants largely agreed that the "rapid growth of unconventional natural gas development and production is forcing governments worldwide to examine not just how to regulate the business, but also to consider which levels of government can do the best job in specific instances." Accordingly, the article says that those processes are "raising new intergovernmental questions that could make federal, state, and local officials reconsider whether existing enforcement responsibilities are still effective for nonoil and gas industries" and notes that "supplemental oversight by local residents is increasingly essential." The article adds that some attendees suggested that public forums akin to those held by the BLM "as it developed its proposed hydraulic fracturing regulations" may be helpful in developing "consultation between federal and state governments."

BLM PLAN CRITICIZED FOR HALTING LOCAL DRILLING. In an op-ed for the Silver City (NM) Sun-News (8/20, Griggs, 24K), Ron Griggs, a Republican, who represents District 34 (Otero, Dona Ana and Eddy counties) in the New Mexico Senate, notes that the recently released BLM "draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the tri-county area that covers Dona Ana, Otero and Sierra counties defers action on fluid mineral leasing and development in the three counties." According to Griggs, "this effectively stops oil and gas drilling there for the foreseeable future." Griggs argues that the BLM "should allow continued development on the Bennett Ranch area of Otero Mesa and they should not use the Tri-County DEIS to delay potential additional development."

Offshore Energy Development:

SCIENTISTS DEBATE ESTIMATES OF OIL SPILLED INTO GULF. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "a dispute among experts over the extent of the Deepwater Horizon disaster is heating up as BP PLC prepares for the next stage of a civil trial to determine the final cost of the largest offshore oil spill in US history." According to the article, "recent filings in federal court in New Orleans include expert reports with a wide range of estimates on how much oil was spilled when BP's Macondo well exploded in 2010, killing 11 oil rig workers." For instanc, e the Justice Department "believes the well spewed 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf," but "a report prepared for BP by

Andreas Momber, a lecturer at the Aachen University of Technology in Germany, suggests the number is much lower because the concrete well eroded at a slower rate than the government claims."

BLACK ELK ENERGY STILL REELING FROM GULF PLATFORM FIRE. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that Black Elk Energy "says its finances and production are still ailing following a fatal explosion last year at an offshore production platform in the Gulf of Mexico." Black Elk Energy "reported that its oil and gas output has slowed due to permitting delays and maintenance work." The BSEE is "still probing the company over its role in a Nov. 16, 2012, fire at the West Delta 32 production platform off Louisiana's coast."

NEW ANALYSIS QUESTIONS FEDERAL SAMPLING OF GULF OIL SPILL. The New York Times (8/19, Fountain, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) reports that an analysis of water, sediment, and seafood samples gathered during and after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico "has found higher contamination levels in some cases than previous studies by federal agencies did, casting doubt on some of the earlier sampling methods." Paul W. Sammarco of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, who is the lead author of the new analysis, which was published last week in the journal Marine Pollution Bulletin, "said that the greater contamination called into question the timing of decisions by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to reopen gulf fisheries after the spill and that 'it might be time to review the techniques that are used to determine' such reopenings."

DOI EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE COASTAL SEISMIC DECISION AIRGUN TESTING THIS YEAR. The Business Insider (8/19, Angelova, 1.79M) reports that the DOI is expected to decide this year "whether to allow seismic airgun testing for oil and gas deposits along the coast from Delaware to Cape Canaveral, Florida." The article says that despite the fact that drilling along the Atlantic Coast "cannot begin until at least 2017, the exploration plan has sparked a heated debate between conservationists," who cite the potential harm to sea life, "and some members of Congress."

FORMER OBAMA OFFICIAL FAULTS OIL INDUSTRY'S OPPOSITION TO DISCLOSURE. FuelFix (8/19, Dlouhy, 3K) reports that according to David Goldwin, the former State Department special envoy for international energy affairs under President Obama, the oil industry's attempt to "undo a new Securities and Exchange Commission rule that forces publicly traded companies to disclose what they pay other countries to harvest oil and natural gas" is a "'poison pill' that puts the 'otherwise uncontroversial' international pact" with Mexico to drill in the Gulf "at risk." The article quotes Goldwyn as writing in an article for the Brookings Institute, "In raw political terms, the trans-boundary agreement is important but not at the top of the oil and gas industry's priority list for Congress, whereas the proponents of transparency are well-organized and gaining momentum. Even the White House announced it could not support the House bill."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

AZTEC DISTRICT COURT APPROVES NAVAJO WATER RIGHTS AGREEMENT. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (8/19, Yee, 46K) reports on the "historic water rights settlement approved late last week" by an Aztec District Court. The article says that the agreement "guarantees the Navajo Nation an additional 130,000 acre-feet of water on top of the 195,000 acre-feet previously allotted to the tribal government" and also assures Federal backing for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, which "will provide water to the eastern portion of the Navajo Nation, the southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the city of Gallup." Nevertheless, the Daily Times says the "decision is likely to be appealed" as its critics argue that "it will dry out the region and open doors for the tribal government to sell water to large cities downstream, such as Las Vegas, Phoenix and Los Angeles."

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT CLOSE TO "BECOMING A REALITY." The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (8/19, Woodka, 103K) reports on the Arkansas Valley Conduit, which will provide water to "40 communities in Eastern Colorado...becoming a reality." The article says that the BOR will

publish a decision no the project "after a 30-day comment period" to its environmental impact statement, which indicates that "work on the actual project can begin."

LAKE NIGHTHORSE DELAYS TEST PATIENCE OF RESIDENTS. The Durango (CO) Herald (8/18, 28K) reported on the Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District meeting that took place last week concerning the recreation plan at Lake Nighthorse, or lack thereof. The Herald noted that the resentment from "anglers, watercraft owners and hikers all eager to explore the reservoir and nearby areas...was heard loud and clear" but also said that adding to those frustrations was the notable void left by BOR and OMRA officials "who attend board meetings without fail" and "who could have supplied some answers." Despite the backlash, the article said that according to Grand Junction BOR representative Ed Warner, "there are many 'hot issues' to resolve" before the area can be opened to recreation. Warner added, "The who, what and how, take time. We're trying to work with everybody."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Stockton (CA) Record (8/15, 130K) and the Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (8/20, Hacking, 91K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN EXPLAINS INTERIOR'S LAND BUY-BACK PLAN. In a piece for the Indian Country Today Media Network (8/19, Washbum, 11K), Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn explains how the Land Buy-Back Program will benefit tribes. Washbum notes that his "goal is to stay true to my guiding principle and use cooperative agreements to maximize tribal participation for those parts of the program where it will be most cost effective to do so." According to Washbum, "maximizing tribal engagement and offering the greatest flexibility for each tribal nation to determine how to best implement the Program in its community are critical."

MONTANA, TRIBAL OFFICIALS AGREE TO BISON TRANSFER. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that Montana state and tribal officials "agreed to plans to transfer 35 bison from Fort Peck reservation to Fort Belknap in the wake of a state Supreme Court ruling allowing the project to move forward." According to the article, Fort Belknap tribal President Tracy King and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director Jeff Hagener "last week signed a memorandum of understanding, but officials have yet to set a date for the transfer."

APPELLATE ARGUMENTS SCHEDULED IN SPIRIT LAKE DISPUTE. The Grand Forks (ND) Herald (8/19, Haga, 88K) reports on the "latest stage of the turbulent and convoluted dispute" over "who should be recognized as the chairman of the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe" and says that an appellate court will hold oral arguments on Aug. 30 at the UND School of Law in Grand Forks. Nevertheless, the Herald notes that in his Federal lawsuit, ex-Chairman Roger Yankton, Sr. maintains "that he remains the tribe's duly elected leader and the appeals court has no jurisdiction." The article adds that Yankton's Aug. 12 filing also claims "that a restraining order issued against him by a Spirit Lake tribal judge was obtained improperly, prevents him from acting as chairman and amounts to an 'illegal detention' that violates his civil rights."

SOUTHWEST TRIBES SEE BATTLE LOOMING AGAINST EXPLODING FERAL PIG POPULATIONS. The Indian Country Today Media Network (8/19, Allen, 11K) reports on the issues facing several southwest tribes as feral pig populations march across the country. The article says, "Tribes are at the forefront of the battle" against the creatures with Texas tribes actively engaged in "battling them" while tribes in New Mexico, Arizona, and California "are monitoring a pending problem." The piece notes, "Tribal lands are not yet overrun, but they are seeing the need to make a plan." Nevertheless, while Federal agencies "know of the situation and could mount a counterattack...no money exists to pay for such a war."

REPORTS SHOW REVENUE DOWN AT POTAWATOMI CASINO. The Milwaukee Journal

Sentinel (8/19, Spivak, 790K) reports that according to figures released on Monday, gambling revenues at the Potawatomi Bingo Casino slipped by almost 1.3% in 2012, "as the nation's first off-reservation casino continues to experience the industry trend of flat growth." The article says that the casino's gamblers forfeited almost $363 million in 2012, which was down from the $368 million they lost at the casino during 2011. The Journal Sentinel adds that consequently, "the payments the Potawatomi tribe makes to the city and county also fell." The article also notes that the tribe is "keeping a close watch on proposals to open new off-reservation casinos in Wisconsin," the applications for which are before the US Bureau of Indian Affairs.

KAKE SEEKS FUNDS TO STABILIZE HISTORIC KEKU CANNERY. The AP (8/19) reports that Kake, Alaska "is trying to save its historic Keku Cannery," which earlier this year the National Trust for Historic Preservation dubbed "one of the nation's most endangered historic places" and is now on the verge of collapse. The article says that according to the National Trust, "the cannery is worth saving because of the role it played in developing Alaska's canning industry during the first half of the 20th Century." Nevertheless, the village is seeking funds in order to do so, including requests to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The AP adds that Kake officials hope to at least steady the building or at most turn it into "a tourist stop where residents can put up shops."

FREMONT COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS BRIEF LEGISLATORS ON SCHOOL PERFORMANCES. The Riverton (WY) Ranger (8/19, Silva, 167) reports that during a meeting at Central Wyoming College, Fremont County school district superintendents "updated the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Education Committee and the Select Committee on Tribal Relations on their schools' performances." The article adds that although the schools are seeing progress, "poverty, lack of transportation and cuts in the Impact Aid Program have made education far more difficult." The Ranger also provides updates on St. Stephen's schools, the funding for which is provided by the US Bureau of Indian Education.

NONPROFIT SPONSORS NATIVE YOUTH TRIP TO WASHINGTON. The Indian Country Today Media Network (8/19, Schilling, 11K) reports on the weeklong summer camp attended by 24 Native Youth, which was sponsored by the new nonprofit organization Pathkeepers for Indigenous Knowledge. The article says that the camp took place "on a horse farm where" the students "learned life lessons and traditional Native practices from elders" and the campers "also got a taste of Indian policy when they met with senators and other officials in Washington, D.C." Among the officials with whom the youth met were "Mary Pavel, staff director and chief counsel for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; Mike Smith, deputy director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Chairman Darrin Old Coyote of the Crow Nation, and other key staff and officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior."

Top National News:

AS OBAMA PONDERS FATE OF US AID, CYCLE OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN EGYPT. As violent turmoil continues in Egypt, where reports indicate ousted ruler Hosni Mubarak could soon be released from prison, the US media casts President Obama as undecided over the fate of US aid. The issue continues to generate debate among lawmakers and media commentators, with a new poll showing a majority of Americans favoring cutting assistance to Egypt and giving the President low marks for his handling of the situation. The story generated about 11 minutes of combined coverage on the network newscasts last night.

The networks, like much of the coverage, describe the US as increasingly powerless in its bid to manage the crisis. Driving that line of analysis is a statement from Defense Secretary Hagel, who according to AFP (8/20, De Luce) told reporters yesterday, "Our ability to influence the outcome in Egypt is limited." NBC Nightly News (8/19, story 2, 2:50, Holt, 7.86M), which referred to "an increasingly precarious situation for the United States," described Hagel's comment as an admission that "there is not much the US can do." Chief Foreign Correspondent, Richard Engel, reporting from Cairo, noted that "Egyptian officials" he interviewed "say they don't believe Washington has an accurate picture of what's going on."

Ed Henry, on Fox News' Special Report (8/19, 2.07M), reported that "some key Republicans disagree" with Hagel's assessment, and said "it is time for the President to play an important card, cutting off the $1.3 billion in military aid the US provides Egypt each year." Fox then showed Sens. John McCain, Lindsey Graham and Rand Paul making that case on Sunday.

Reuters (8/20, Wroughton, Mohammed), meanwhile, reports that State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki denied the US had already placed some economic aid on hold, as reported by the New York Times on Monday. Psaki said the US is "reviewing...programs on a case-by-case basis to identify whether we have authority to continue providing those funds or should seek to modify our activities to ensure that our actions are consistent with the law." Psaki indicated that also under consideration are potential cuts to US military aid. The Washington Post (8/20, A1, Sly, 4.53M) quotes Psaki as saying that the US "review is ongoing," though "we have not made a decision to put a blanket hold."

Reporting from Cairo, ABC World News (8/19, story 2, 2:00, Raddatz, 7.43M) said the situation is "fast becoming a simmering civil war," which could turn a "new generation" of Islamist militants "into fighters against not only the Egyptian military but the US as well." Reuters (8/20, MacDonald), for example, notes that the Kenyan branch of Somalia's Al Qaeda affiliate Al Shabaab said on its Twitter feed yesterday, "If ever there's a ripe moment 2 support Al-Qaeda, it's surely now. Raising the flag in Egypt in now a priority, Insha'Allah!"

The CBS Evening News (8/19, story 3, 3:05, D'Agata, 5.58M) showed "the bodies of 24 policemen killed by suspected Islamic militants in the Sinai" yesterday, and noted that 36 prisoners had previously "died in police custody under circumstances that are still unclear." Reporting on Monday's attack in the Sinai, the AP (8/20, Hendawi) says suspected Islamists "ambushed two minibuses carrying off-duty policemen" and forced them "to lie on the sand" before shooting them dead. Khalil al-Anani of the Middle East Institute in Washington tells the Wall Street Journal (8/19, El-ghobashy, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), "It is a new style of attack...and can't be separated from what's happening in Cairo. ... This could lead to a new kind of insurgency that would be difficult to control."

The Christian Science Monitor (8/19, Bryant, 564K) reports that the increase "in militant attacks in Sinai since the military deposed...Morsi...places additional strain on security forces already preoccupied with escalating political violence in Cairo and elsewhere."

Amid the continuing violence and uncertainty, Politico (8/20, Wright, 652K) describes Obama as "reluctant to exhaust his leverage" on the issue of aid, while Mark Thompson, writing for Time (8/19, Thompson, 13.36M), likens US assistance to "an IV" which is "designed to keep Egypt's generals under some – increasingly limited – sway of the US government." Thompson warns about "side effects," namely placing the US in the middle of Egypt's crisis which is likely to fray the ties between the two countries. In his Capital Journal column for the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Seib, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), Gerald Seib notes the same phenomenon, arguing that Obama's apparent search for a compromise flies in the face of Egyptian generals' determination to destroy the Muslim Brotherhood. Given this stark divergence, says Seib, losing US aid may not be too high a price to pay for the ruling military.

In fact, as Bloomberg News (8/19, Atlas, 1.41M) reports, Obama's push "for political reconciliation with Islamist protesters...is being challenged by financial and political support from Middle East countries" such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE "pursuing their own stakes in Egypt's future." On its front page, the New York Times (8/20, A1, Nordland, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) calls Saudi Arabia, for example, "the foremost supporter of Egypt's military rulers," and says it is delivering "a blank check to Cairo" and "promising to shower it with money as needed." The Saudis have "not only undermined Western efforts to press for compromise, but...also revealed diminished United States influence across the Arab world." The Saudi actions, says the Washington Post (8/20, A1, Sly, 4.53M) in a front-page story, are "exacerbating a fierce struggle for influence in the chaotic and increasingly leaderless Arab world and putting the Saudis at odds with the" US.

Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said yesterday, "Concerning those who announced stopping their assistance to Egypt or threatening to stop them, the Arab and Islamic nation is rich with its people and capabilities and will provide a helping hand to Egypt."

As the Administration ponders its next steps, Roll Call (8/20, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 78K) reports, spokesman Josh Earnest said on Monday that it "has set aside the legal question of whether the military's takeover...is a 'coup.'" Instead, said Earnest, the ongoing analysis of US policy options are designed "to determine what impact" each course "would have on our national security, whether it's in compliance with the law, and is it going to get us closer to seeing the kind of outcome in Egypt that we would like to see, which is the prompt return to a democratically elected civilian government." Along those lines, notes The Hill (8/19, Sink, 322K), Earnest also said "senior administration officials...have made clear" to their Egyptian counterparts that "it is incumbent upon the interim government in Egypt to transition back to a democratically elected government."

According to the AP (8/19, Klapper), a key factor for US policy-makers is "the specter of Benghazi." Under this scenario, cutting US aid "could prompt Egypt's ruling generals to scale back their protection of the US Embassy in Cairo and other diplomatic properties," which "would be a political disaster for Obama." Hagel also said on Monday, "We are concerned about our people. ... Protection of Americans in Egypt, not just only our diplomats but all Americans, is of the highest priority."

Lauren Fox, in a blog post for US News & World Report (8/20, Fox, 595K), describes Obama's policy so far as "a clever game of word avoidance," despite the fact that "experts...agree" that a US law, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, "dictates the overthrow of a duly elected head of government" and "is enough to suspend aid."

Poll: Majority In US Wants Aid Cut; Half Think Obama Not Tough Enough On Egypt. Politico (8/20, Arkin, 652K) reports that according to a Pew Research Center poll, 51% believe the US should cut aid to Egypt, while only 26% want to continue it. Meanwhile, "half of those surveyed thought...Obama has not been tough enough on Egypt," 6% though "he has been too tough" and 12% "thought his reaction was about right." Americans also favored the military over the Muslim Brotherhood by a 46%-11% margin.

Cutting Military Aid To Egypt Could Hurt US Jobs, Weapons Manufacturers. Noting the debate over possibly cutting US military aid, the CBS Evening News (8/19, story 3, 3:05, Schieffer, 5.58M) said last night the issue "is more complicated than it might seem, and you may be surprised by who could be hurt if that happens." CBS (Quijano) noted that the aid "goes to places such" as a General Dynamics factory in n Archibald, Pennsylvania that "makes parts for the M1A1 Abrams tank," and employs 135 workers. In fact, "44 companies in Pennsylvania alone involved in the production of the M1A1," which is called "the centerpiece of US aid to Egypt."

Politico (8/20, Wright, 652K) reports that last week the USAF "awarded a contract to General Electric," worth just under $14 million, "to upgrade the Egyptian air force's fighter jets." Politico casts the award as "a tacit acknowledgment by the Pentagon that...for now it plans to maintain a relationship" with Egypt.

Journalist Mona Eltahawy, interviewed by Jake Tapper for CNN's The Lead (8/19), said, "The $1.3 billion [from the US] that goes to the Egyptian army goes toward buying US-made weapons. It goes right back into the arms manufacturing industry in the US." Eltahawy continued, "So if you're seeing reluctance" to cut that aid "on the US side, you have to remember why: because the money goes back towards buying US weapons. So I think the US Administration...must not arm those who use those weapons against civilians, especially unarmed civilians."

Disappointed EU Foreign Ministers To Discuss Aid On Wednesday. The New York Times (8/20, Erlanger, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) reports that EU foreign ministers will meet Wednesday in an "emergency session" to discuss a possible suspension of aid to Egypt. The Times calls the

military's crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood "a devastating blow to European efforts to negotiate a political solution and fill a vacuum left by Washington," and notes that despite their best efforts and their "remarkable access to leaders of both" sides, foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and her deputy Bernardino León have found little success in crafting a compromise. The Times quotes an unnamed "senior European official" as lamenting in an interview, "Unlike Washington, we were seen as having no historical baggage, no hidden agenda. ... That was the European advantage." León said yesterday, "There are no easy solutions, no easy way out. But the EU will keep striving for this."

Another story in the New York Times (8/20, A1, Kirkpatrick, Cowell, Nordland, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) notes that during an interview with the BBC, British foreign secretary William Hague said he "did not accept that outsiders were powerless to influence events." Added Hague, "We have to do our best to promote democratic institutions, to promote political dialogue and to keep faith with the majority of Egyptians who just want a free and stable and prosperous country. ... Foreign policy is often about striking the right balance."

Media Analyses: Mubarak's Release Could Exacerbate Crisis. Bloomberg News (8/20, El-Tablawy, El Wardany, 1.41M) reports that Cairo's criminal court yesterday ordered Mubarak's "release from prison," in a move that "threatens to inject new tensions in the standoff between the Muslim Brotherhood and the military-supported interim government." The CBS Evening News (8/19, story 3, 3:05, D'Agata, 5.58M) said the court's decision on Mubarak "came completely out of left field," though prosecutors "may bring other charges to keep him locked up for the foreseeable future."

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, El-Ghobashy, Coker, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) also notes that while the court found there was not sufficient evidence to hold the ousted ruler on the main corruption charges he was facing, other accusations remain outstanding. Among them, the Washington Post (8/20, A1, Sheridan, 4.53M) reports, are "charges in connection with the killing of hundreds of protesters in that Arab Spring revolt," though Mubarak "has been granted bond in that case, and a judge on Monday said he should be able to leave prison as he awaits another trial on corruption charges."

The Los Angeles Times (8/20, Fleishman, Abdulrahim, 3.4M) quotes Mubarak lawyer Farid Deeb as saying of his client, "He'll be out in a couple of days." The New York Times (8/20, A1, Kirkpatrick, Cowell, Nordland, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), however, notes on its front page that according to "Egyptian state media" Mubarak "would remain in custody for another two weeks...before the authorities make a decision on his release." The AP (8/20, Hendawi), Reuters (8/20, Lyon, Alsharif) and the Washington Times (8/20, Chumley, 452K), among other news outlets, also note the news about Mubarak's release, casting the development as a potential new trigger for tensions in Egypt.

McClatchy (8/20, Youssef, Ismail, 49K), meanwhile, reports on a change in public opinion regarding the military and Mubarak, and profiles several Egyptians who once backed Morsi and now have nothing but anger toward the Brotherhood. In fact, adds McClatchy, "Egyptians largely welcomed news of Mubarak's potential release."

Brotherhood's "Spiritual Leader" Arrested; Morsi Charged With Role In 2012 Deaths, Torture. The Washington Post (8/20, A1, Sheridan, 4.53M) reports on its front page that last night security forces arrested "the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood," Mohammed Badie, who "was shown on state television being whisked away to prison in a car, sitting next to a security officer in a bulletproof vest."

AFP (8/20) reports that an Egyptian court yesterday accused Morsi of "complicity in the deaths and torture of protesters outside his presidential palace in late 2012, judicial sources said." The new charges "mean his current detention will be extended by 15 days started next week."

As Attacks On Christians Continue, Coptic Patriarch Praises Security Forces. The Washington

Times (8/20, Chumley, 452K) reports on the growing number of attacks on Christians over the last few days, which include attacks and burnings of "dozens of churches and monasteries," the decapitation of "a Virgin Mary statue" and the killings of "several Christians."

Yesterday, AFP (8/20) reports, Catholic Coptic Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sidrak "said there were no real divisions between Christians and Muslims in Egypt," and "thanked the military and the police in Egypt 'for all their efforts in protecting the country.'" Said Sidrak, "This is not a political conflict between different factions but a struggle by all Egyptians against terrorism." AFP also notes the attacks on "dozens of Christian churches, schools and shops."

GM Reopens Egyptian Office, Factory. AFP (8/20) reports that General Motors said yesterday "it had reopened its office and factory in Egypt after shutting both down last week." AFP notes the company builds "light trucks, cars and minibuses in Egypt and employs more than 1,400 Egyptians."

Priceless Museum Artifacts Looted. The AP (8/20, Batrawy) reports on looting taking place in Egypt, leading to the loss of "a prized 3,500-year-old limestone statue, ancient beaded jewelry and more than 1,000 other artifacts in the biggest theft to hit an Egyptian museum in living memory."

Matthews, Davidson, Hayes: Crisis Puts Clinton, Obama's Foreign Policy In Negative Light. Appearing on MSNBC's Hardball (8/19, 689K), The New Yorker's Amy Davidson said Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state "seems more and more now...about her and about her stature – and less and less about really crystallizing an Obama agenda, and so now his foreign policy feels really a little vacant, especially in the face of the crisis in Egypt." Chris Matthews added, "I think John Kerry is doing a hell of a job," doing "what she hadn't yet done. That's the fact." Matthews continued, "I get the feeling the President's become reactive. ... He gets a bad headline in the New York Times about the Egyptian military...and all of a sudden he has a press conference the next day, a reaction to editorial writing. That's dangerous when a president" is "simply reacting to events; that doesn't look strong."

The Weekly Standard's Steve Hayes, on Fox News' Special Report (8/19, 2.07M), said, "Any discussion about US policy in Egypt today has to start with failure of US policy in Egypt over the past couple years. The fact is, the President hasn't had a strategy. What we've been doing is basically ad hoc policymaking."

WPost, NYTimes Call For Ending Military Aid; Other Commentators Disagree. In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/20, 4.53M) says that Egypt's military-backed government "appears to have embarked on a frighteningly similar course" to Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad in response to protests – unleashing "unrelenting violence." The Post warns that it is "not only a moral challenge" to the US, it could lead to "civil war," "massive flows of refugees," and a new base for Al Qaeda. The Post says that the Administration should respond by suspending military aid.

In an editorial, the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) says that a "surprising number of world leaders and foreign policy experts have effectively acquiesced in the continued brutality of Egypt's generals," their argument being that supporting the military is the "only way to restore stability." However, the Times says this is "certain to ensure more unrest, not less." The Times says that Obama's "muted chastising of the generals and his indecisive reaction to the slaughter does not inspire confidence." The Times says that the Administration should immediately suspend military aid.

In an op-ed for the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), Steven Simon, the executive director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies-United States, says that "many Americans" are "outraged" that the Administration "has not exerted its supposed leverage, in the form of military aid, to pressure the Egyptian army to restore a democratic form of government." However, he says that the aid really doesn't give the US much leverage, and has "never succeeded in persuading Egypt's rulers to govern the way Washington wants."

In his column for USA Today (8/19, Wickham, 5.82M), Dewayne Wickham says that he is surprised that US politicians believe that the US can influence the Egyptian military at all by cutting off aid. He says "an end of U.S. aid won't force Egyptian soldiers back into their barracks, or return Morsi to that country's presidency."

In his column for the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), Roger Cohen says that with the recent events, "Egyptian democracy was stillborn." For the US and Europe, he says it "amounts to a colossal strategic failure" and adds that "nothing — and certainly not the outcome in Afghanistan or Iraq — was more important than getting Egypt right." Cohen says that the Administration has "appeared hesitant and wavering, zigzagging from support for Morsi to acceptance of his ouster." Still, Cohen says that cutting off aid would not solve anything except to further reduce US influence.

In his column for the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Stephens, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), Bret Stephens says that if the US restricts military aid to Egypt, it will lose all influence with the military there and gain little. He argues that having the Egyptian military succeed as quickly as possible is the best of a group of bad outcomes for the US. He argues that if the Brotherhood wins, it would be a disaster for secular Egyptians and for US policy.

In an essay for the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), Joe Sharkey writes that "global security and medical response companies" say that the increasing violence in Egypt have "reduced the number of foreign business travelers there to workers who are deemed necessary." They also say that they expect conditions to worsen, at least in the short term.

OBAMA PRODS TOP REGULATORS TO FINISH IMPLEMENTATION OF DODD-FRANK.
President Obama's Monday meeting with Fed Chair Bernanke, Treasury Secretary Lew and other top Administration officials regarding the pace of the Dodd-Frank Wall St. reform law's implementation did not generate any coverage on the network newscasts. Several outlets report that dissatisfaction within the Administration over the failure to put the Volcker Rule into place was among the topics covered Monday. On PBS's Nightly Business Report (8/20, 275), SEC chair Mary Jo White was shown being asked after the meeting, "What's the most important thing you still have to do on Dodd-Frank?" and replying, "Obviously, the Volcker Rule stands out."

At the opening of the lead story for NBR (8/20, 275), Tyler Mattheson said that upon returning from vacation, the President "got back to work," and "wasted no time tackling a topic of high interest to investors, not to mention financial services executives." John Harwood went on to report that "only about 40% of the regulations" called for in the law "have been enacted or completed by the regulators," and so Monday's meeting was "a pep rally to try to get them to finish that job."

Earlier in the day, on CNBC's Closing Bell (8/20, 151K), Harwood, who is a columnist for the New York Times and chief Washington correspondent for CNBC, which produces the Nightly Business Report for PBS, paraphrased White as saying that the "top priority is the Volcker Rule." Harwood went on to note that the President is "also going to be giving speeches in upstate New York later in the week to try to push his vision of a middle-out economic growth agenda."

The New York Times (8/20, B1, Shear, Eavis, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) reports that Administration officials "have expressed frustration that critical parts of Mr. Obama's overhaul of the financial system...remain unenforced," and, "in particular, top presidential aides have highlighted the failure in putting the Volcker Rule into effect." The Times says the Volcker Rule "prohibit[s] banks from risking institutional money in certain speculative investments." The Times notes that in a speech last month, Lew "complained...that the regulators were moving too slowly to confront the dangers of banks that are so large that governments cannot allow them to fail for fear of bringing down the economy." Lew is quoted as having said, "If we get to the end of this year, and cannot, with an honest straight face, say that we've ended 'too big to fail,' we're going to have to look at other options because the policy of Dodd-Frank and the policy of the administration is to end 'too big to fail.'"

The progress of Dodd-Frank was also the lead story on Fox News' Your World (8/20, 1.3M). Host Neil Cavuto said, "Whether it's ATM surcharges spiking, or monthly checking account fees soaring, you are paying – to date – 77 different Dodd-Frank regulations," which have "cost consumers and businesses more than $15 billion – and that is with only 40% of the...law in place." Fox Business Charlie Gasparino added that despite the costs, "we still have 'too big to fail.'" According to Gasparino, "There's nothing in the bill that stops bailouts," and, "as a matter of fact, there are bailout mechanisms." Gasparino added, "They should really break up these banks," but the President "shows no willingness to do that."

The AP (8/20, Kuhnhenn), in an article titled, "Obama Urges Regulators To Enact Wall Street Rules," reports that three years after its passage, implementation of Dodd-Frank is "behind schedule with scores of regulations yet to be written, let alone enforced," so the President met "privately with the nation's top financial regulators" and "prodded them to act more swiftly." Before the meeting, deputy White House press secretary Josh Earnest said the President wanted to express "the sense of urgency that he feels" about the issue. The AP goes on to report that an independent analysis has concluded that "so far, regulators have missed 60 percent of the rule-making deadlines." The AP notes that Republicans see the implementation delays as evidence of the law's overall shortcomings. Rep. Jeb Hensarling, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, says, "Much like Obamacare, Dodd-Frank is an incomprehensively complex piece of legislation that is harmful to our floundering economy and in dire need of repeal."

The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Ackerman, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), in an article titled, "Obama Presses Regulators To Finish Financial Rules," includes a version of the same comment from Hensarling, and quotes Bair as saying, "It has astonished me, the lack of leadership, the lack of sense of purpose and direction." The Journal attributes much of the Dodd-Frank rulemaking delay to pressure from banking lobbyists. The Financial Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 1.42M) has a similar report.

However, The Hill (8/20, Schroeder, Sink, 322K) reports that on Monday, Earnest insisted that the White House "is not disappointed with the pace of progress," saying, "We're certainly pleased with the level of cooperation and coordination that's taken place among these independent regulators, and the president wants to encourage them to capitalize on the momentum they've already built up to put this regulatory regime in place."

Under the headline, "Obama Asks Regulators To Speed Up Wall Street Reforms," Reuters (8/19, Stephenson) reports that the White House released a statement after the meeting reading; "The president commended the regulators for their work but stressed the need to expeditiously finish implementing the critical remaining portions of Wall Street reform to ensure we are able to prevent the type of financial harm that led to the Great Recession from ever happening again."

MNI News (8/20, Gulino) reports that while the Treasury Department "is not formally taking credit for placing a meeting with every financial regulator right at the top of Obama's post-vacation schedule," Lew "has emphasized several times that he is making Dodd-Frank one of his top priorities."

Bloomberg News (8/20, Talev, Lerer, 1.41M) says the White House "provided no details on the discussion," but the statement released after the meeting disclosed that the President "also discussed the need for a simpler housing finance system 'that better serves middle-class families' and cooperation among agencies involved in financial market regulation." According to Bloomberg, in addition to the President, Bernanke and Lew, those present at the meeting included, "the Comptroller of the Currency, the director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the acting director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the chairmen of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., National Credit Union Administration, and Securities and Exchange Commission."

NYTimes: JOBS Act Weakened IPO Regulations' Investor Protections. The New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), in an editorial notes that a year ago, the JOBS Act "sailed through Congress with the support of bipartisan majorities, President Obama and the banking

industry." However the Times notes that at the time, there were "warnings that it would harm investors by weakening the standards" for IPOs, and the Times says "some of the predicted ill effects...are now coming to pass." According to the Times, "as public offerings have ramped up again on Wall Street...banks have clamored for looser restrictions and got them in the JOBS law." In Particular, the Times objects to the law "allow[ing] analysts to attend an investment banking pitch for a public offering of an 'emerging growth company.'"

Fed Demands Tougher Stress Tests For Some Banks. The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Crittenden, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) reports that the Federal Reserve released a study on Monday that showed that while some of the banks with the most complex operations have made good progress in preparing for market shocks since the financial crisis, there is still work to be done. The Fed wants executives to focus on more specific problems they may face, and test their readiness against them. The report said, "Bank holding companies, when considering their capital needs, should focus on the specific risks they could face under potentially stressful conditions."

Bloomberg News (8/20, Torres, Marcinek, 1.41M) reports that the study found that the "18 largest banks still fall short in at least one of five areas critical to risk management and capital planning." The study shows that after four recent stress tests, "some of the largest banks still lack comprehensive systems and policies to model, test, report and plan for economic calamities."

The New York Times (8/20, Eavis, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), in a more negative take on the study, says that "most" large banks "appear to have been sailing through the annual 'health checkups' they have had to undergo since the financial crisis." The Fed said that, for example, "some banks were not taking into account the possibility of falling house prices when valuing certain mortgage-related assets for the tests."

Lipsky: Public Resolution To Questions About AIG Dissolution Needed. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Lipsky, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), Seth Lipsky, editor of the New York Sun, writes that US Court of Federal Claims Judge Thomas Wheeler is seeking to have Bernanke testify under oath about the Fed's bailout of AIG in 2008 as part of a suit by former top shareholder Starr International, which was wiped out in the bailout. However, the Federal government has been fighting the move, warning that it would distract Bernanke from his primary duties. Lipsky says that Bernanke may have bent or broken the rules in the process, and the public deserves to know.

Reuters Analysis: Yellen, Summers Closer On Regulation Than Many Believe. Reuters (8/20, Saphir) says that as President Obama looks to select a replacement for Fed Chief Ben Bernanke, he should look beyond where the candidates stand on monetary policy and focus on how they rate as regulators. However, Reuters says that the difference between the two leading candidates, Janet Yellen and Lawrence Summers, may not be as sharp as some assume. While Yellen has historically been in favor of tougher regulation, Summers has been less consistently tough. Still, Reuters says that Summers did push for a crackdown on abusive lending, a key contributor to the financial crisis.

Rand Paul Expected To Play Major Role In New Fed Chair Confirmation. Politico (8/20, Lee, Burns, 652K) reports that if "you thought the debates over drones and surveillance were tailor-made" for Sen. Rand Paul (R), "just wait" until Obama selects a new Fed chief. The forthcoming debate "is both a golden opportunity and a test for the libertarian-leaning senator, who has long criticized Bernanke's policies and the institution of the Fed." Paul will need to "continue to rally his grass-roots supporters" while not "turning off deep-pocketed GOP donors" in the financial services community.

STATE DEPT. OFFICIALS PUT ON LEAVE FOLLOWING BENGHAZI WILL NOT BE PUNISHED. The Daily Beast's (8/19, 928K) Josh Rogin reports that Secretary of State Kerry "has determined that the four State Department officials placed on administrative leave" by former Secretary of State Clinton in the wake of the Benghazi attack last September "do not deserve any formal disciplinary action and has asked them to come back to work at the State Department starting Tuesday."

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Raymond Maxwell, described by Rogin as "the only official from the State Department's Near Eastern Affairs bureau to lose his job over the Benghazi attack," says he "received a memo from the State Department's human resources department informing him his administrative leave status has been lifted and he should report for duty Tuesday morning." Maxwell is quoted as saying, "No explanation, no briefing, just come back to work. So I will go in tomorrow." An anonymous "senior State Department official" says the four will "not face any formal disciplinary action" although they "are not blameless and the fact that they will not be returned to the same positions is relevant."

Boehner Faces Growing Pressure To Create Benghazi Investigative Panel. The Hill (8/20, Pecquet, 322K) reports in its "Global Affairs" blog that as the one-year anniversary of the Benghazi attack approaches, Speaker Boehner and other House Republicans are facing growing pressure "to create a special investigative panel." A group of special forces veterans called Special Operations Speaks "has spent $5,800 for three giant billboards scheduled to go up in Boehner's district this week." the billboards urge lawmakers to support a discharge petition to force "a vote on legislation from Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) that would create a special committee." Another conservative group is planning "a day-long commemoration at the steps of the Capitol on Sept. 11."

Claim That Missiles Bound For Syrian Rebels Were In Benghazi Noted. Instapundit's Glenn Harlan Reynolds, in an op-ed for USA Today (8/19, Reynolds, 5.82M), says the Administration's account of the terrorist attack in Benghazi "– successfully pushed off past the 2012 elections by scapegoating an obscure YouTube filmmaker – is looking worse and worse." Reynolds notes that former US Attorney Joseph DiGenova, who is "representing a Benghazi whistleblower, even says that missiles were being funneled through Benghazi to the Syrian rebels and that 400 were stolen by Al Qaeda terrorists at the time of the attack." Reynolds also notes that CNN "has reported that dozens of CIA agents were on the ground in Benghazi – and that they're being pressured to keep quiet."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"False Choices On Egypt."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) says that a "surprising number of world leaders and foreign policy experts have effectively acquiesced in the continued brutality of Egypt's generals," their argument being that supporting the military is the "only way to restore stability." However, the Times says this is "certain to ensure more unrest, not less." The Times says that Obama's "muted chastising of the generals and his indecisive reaction to the slaughter does not inspire confidence." The Times says that the Administration should immediately suspend military aid.

"Back To The Future On Wall Street." The New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), in an editorial notes that a year ago, the JOBS Act "sailed through Congress with the support of bipartisan majorities, President Obama and the banking industry." However the Times notes that at the time, there were "warnings that it would harm investors by weakening the standards" for IPOs, and the Times says "some of the predicted ill effects...are now coming to pass." According to the Times, "as public offerings have ramped up again on Wall Street...banks have clamored for looser restrictions and got them in the JOBS law." In Particular, the Times objects to the law "allow[ing] analysts to attend an investment banking pitch for a public offering of an 'emerging growth company.'"

"Trifling With The Arts And Humanities." An editorial in the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) criticizes the White House over the amount of time it is taking to nominate chairmen for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, noting that while the "small-but-vital endowments" have acting leaders who are able, "interim bosses do not have the influence permanent leaders do." The Times stresses that as Republicans in congress threaten "major budget cuts that neither agency can easily absorb," a "strong voice at the top...would be particularly helpful."

"Riding And Raging On The Rail Road."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"What Egypt Needs."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/20, 4.53M) says that Egypt's military-backed government "appears to have embarked on a frighteningly similar course" to Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad in response to protests – unleashing "unrelenting violence." The Post warns that it is "not only a moral challenge" to the US, it could lead to "civil war," "massive flows of refugees," and a new base for Al Qaeda. The Post says that the Administration should respond by suspending military aid.

"America's Weight Loss." The Washington Post (8/20, 4.53M), in an editorial, notes that the CDC just reported "that the obesity rate dropped among younger, poor children in 19 states and territories between 2008 and 2011," and just "three states saw increases." The Post says the findings are important because "public-health advocates have worried for years that the United States was entering an age of obesity," but it "may be reaching a plateau" instead. According to the Post, "It makes sense that adjusting the WIC program might have changed some people's behavior," and "meant that taxpayers would no longer fund the consumption of junk." The Post says Congress "should think about how it might change the broader $75 billion food-stamp program along similar lines."

"Cuccinelli's Fuzzy Math." In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/20, 4.53M) criticizes Virginia Attorney General and Republican gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli's economic plan, which would cut "business income taxes by a third and personal income taxes by 13 percent." Noting that Cuccinelli "insists that, under his plan, revenue would hold steady and the state's already lean budget would be held harmless," the Post calls his plan "gobbledygook," unless "what he is really planning is a frontal assault on state spending," which would mean "eviscerating education, public safety, infrastructure and social services, which together account for a large majority of that spending."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Die Harder States."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) criticizes states that have maintained an estate tax, despite the end of a provision in Federal law that offered a credit to offset them. In particular, the Journal is critical of Minnesota for expanding its tax. The Journal says the tax is particularly foolish because wealthy residents of states with significant estate taxes can simply change residency to states without them, to the detriment of the states they are leaving, whom the Journal says will be losing successful individuals.

"'Perverse Effects.'" An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) calls on Congress to end ethanol and biofuel subsidies, citing a report from the National Academies, which found that before it expired in 2012, the 45-cents-a-gallon ethanol tax credit was increasing carbon emissions by five million tons each year.

"Exposing Asbestos Fraud." The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) editorializes about a bankruptcy case in North Carolina. Garlock Sealing Technologies, a gasket manufacturer, was forced into bankruptcy in 2010 by asbestos claims, and the Journal contends that plaintiffs' attorneys are asking a Federal judge to force Garlock to contribute $1.3 billion into a bankruptcy trust for future asbestos claims. The Journal argues that evidence in the case has been sealed and kept from public view, and contends that such practices are violations of the public trust.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Time:
Pot Law Lights Up A Beer Joint
Law Schools Shrink In Soft Market

A Deadly Turn In Pomona
New Social Site, Same Bullying
Egypt's Sectarian Subplot

Wall Street Journal:
Allies Thwart America In Egypt
Fear Of Fed Retreat Roils India
Cash-Poor Companies Feed Hunger For 'Happy Meal' Bonds
Pension Funds Dispute Math In Detroit Bankruptcy

New York Times:
China Takes Aim At Western Ideas
Climate Panel Cites Near Certainty On Warming
Saudi Arabia Promises To Aid Egypt's Regime
Egypt In Tumult As Court Orders Mubarak Freed
Scholar Saw A Multicolored American Culture
Scandal-Weary San Diego Asks A Question: Where's The Mayor?

Washington Post:
Saudis Lead Effort To Back Egypt's Military Leaders
Brotherhood's Spiritual Leader Is Arrested
With New Rivals, Atlantic City Battles To End A Losing Streak
Signs Of Sequester's Regional Toll
Teacher Pay At Charters Trails DCPS Review Finds

Financial Times:
Emerging Market Currencies Hit Heavily
Sinai Killings Fuel Israel Concerns
Gold Exports Surge Tenfold As Asian Buyers Pounce
Blackstone Builds Europe Property Fund
OMV Shifts Focus With North Sea Deal
P&G Lobbies EU Over Teeth-Whitener Sales Curbs
No Bollywood Ending For The Rupee

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Idaho Wildfire, Egypt Unrest, Sequester-Head Start, Health-Lyme Disease, Christie-Gay Conversion Therapy, Alex Rodriguez Scandal, Transportation-Speed Traps, UK-Royal Baby
CBS: CBS: West-Wildfires, Southeast-Flooding, Egypt-Unrest, Egypt-US Aid, UK-Greenwald Partner Detained, UK-Diana Death Revelations, San Diego-Mayoral Scandal, Japan-Volcano, Health-Lyme Disease, Russia-Flooding, UK-Royal Baby.
NBC: Idaho-Wildfire, Egypt-Unrest, Chicago-Gun Violence, California-Limo Fire Investigation, San Diego-Mayoral Scandal Health-Lyme Disease, Interior-Bear Attacks, Alex Rodriguez Scandal, UK-Royal Baby

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Egypt-Unrest, Pakistan-Musharraf Indicted, New Jersey-Child Conversion Therapy Banned, Biden Son Hospitalized
CBS: Pakistan-Musharraf Charged In Bhutto Assassination, Egypt-Muslim Brotherhood Chief Arrested, Egypt-Mubarak Acquitted, Fort Hood Trial, Filner Meets With Attorneys, Idaho-Wildfire, Georgia-Baby Shooting Trial
NPR: Egypt-Unrest, California-Inmates Hunger Strike Ruling, Idaho-Wildfire, Obama-Bank Oversight, UK-Greenwald Partner Detained, Hedge Fund Firm Fined, New Jersey-Child Conversion Therapy Banned

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; honors Super Bowl Champion Miami Dolphins and their undefeated 1972 season, East Room, open press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Public Events Scheduled.
US Senate: No Events Scheduled
US House: No Events Scheduled
Other: NORTHROP GRUMMAN – AIRCRAFT UNMANNED SYSTEMS — 8:30 a.m. Tom Vice, corporate vice president and president of Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, will discuss the promise of aircraft unmanned systems and describe Northrop Grumman's leadership in unmanned systems, a capability that is transforming military and commercial approaches to aerospace. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFITS SURVEY — 11 a.m. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Research & Educational Trust will hold a reporters-only conference call to release the 2013 Employer Health Benefits Survey. Participating in the briefing will be: Drew Altman, president and CEO of the Kaiser Family Foundation; study lead author Gary Claxton, a Kaiser vice president and director of the Health Care Marketplace Project; and Matthew Rae, a study co-author and Kaiser senior policy analyst.

EVANGELICAL IMMIGRATION AD CAMPAIGN — 11 a.m. Evangelical Immigration Table press call to launch immigration reform advertising campaign on Christian and talk radio.

CATO – SOCIAL SECURITY – DISABILITY BRIEFING — 12 p.m. Cato Institute hosts briefing on the rising costs of social security disability. Speakers: Tad DeHaven, Budget Analyst, Cato Institute; and Jagadeesh Gokhale, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; moderated by Chris Edwards, Director of Tax Policy Studies, Cato Institute. Location: B-338 Rayburn.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT — 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. The Federal Bar Association Criminal Law Section and The Law Library of Congress are hosting an event marking the beginning of a year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Criminal Justice Act. This landmark legislation secured the Sixth Amendment right to counsel in Federal court. Location: Library of Congress, James Madison Memorial Building, Montpelier Room (6th Floor, Yellow Corridor), 101 Independence Avenue, SE.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "'The Butler,' number one movie in the country. It's a story about a guy who spent his life getting coffee for the President. It's based on Joe Biden."

David Letterman: "Speaking of presidents, George W. Bush had heart surgery. I hope he's doing well. Doctors say he's resting comfortably, which is what he did for eight years in the Washington."

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RE: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, August 20, 2013

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Aug 20, 2013 at 11:28 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov>

Hi there - Our comments were sent to the State Department on April 29th before you were sworn in. I've attached them here for background.

Because these were comments on a NEPA document, I am told they ran through our normal NEPA process, which means each program office contributed comments. This process typically doesn't include 6th floor review. Happy to explain more by phone if and when you'd like to talk.

Thanks,
Nikki

From: Sally Jewell [mailto(b)(6)ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2013 11:17 AM
To: Nikki Buffa
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, August 20, 2013

Nikki - can you give me some background on where the comments from DOI on the XL pipeline are coming from? Thx. SJ

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
> **Date:** August 20, 2013, 4:02:02 AM PDT
> **To:** <Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com>
> **Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, August 20, 2013**
>
> ## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING
> Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.
>
> **DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2013 7:00 AM EDT**

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+ Additional Coverage Of Plan To Save Spotted Owl.

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+ Obama Prods Top Regulators To Finish Implementation Of Dodd-Frank.
+ State Dept. Officials Put On Leave Following Benghazi Will Not Be Punished.

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DOI in the News:

WYOMING GOP DELEGATION WANTS STATE TO BE EXEMPT FROM BLM FRACKING

RULES. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (8/20, Colman, 322K) reports that the Republican congressional delegation of Wyoming has asked the Interior Department "to exempt states that already regulate hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, from a proposed rule governing the practice on federal land." Sen. John Barrasso, Sen. Mike Enzi and Rep. Cynthia Lummis said in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that they are "concerned the draft rules from the department's Bureau of Land Management would be duplicative" and the rules "could deter people from drilling for oil and gas on federal lands within their states, costing 'hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.'" In the letter the lawmakers said, "Federal law and regulations often delay investment and job creation for years. Consequently, Federal law and regulations push investment out of public land states and into other states where there is greater regulatory certainty."

The AP (8/20, Gruver) reports that in May, when the draft rules were released, Jewell said "that federal rules for fracking on federal land are needed to reconcile a patchwork of state fracking rules." However, she offered praise for the rules in Wyoming "which, among other requirements, make companies provide to regulators lists of the chemicals that go into the specially formulated fluids they use to improve the fracking process." In an email statement, Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said that "the U.S. Bureau of Land Management is committed to working with states that have fracking standards to avoid unnecessary duplication or delays."

Also reporting on the story are the Columbus (IN) Republic (8/20, 76K), the San Francisco Chronicle (8/20, Gruver), the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (8/19, 119K), the Billings (MT) Gazette (8/20, 188K), the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (8/19, 18K), the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (8/19, 223K), the Rock Hill (SC) Herald (8/19, 102K), the Upstream Online (8/20, Johnson, 20K), and the Law 360 (8/20, 3K).

CONSERVATIONISTS FRET ABOUT SECRETARY JEWELL'S "SLOW START." The Seattle Post-Intelligencer (8/20, Connelly, 800K) reports that conservation advocates are worrying that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "off to a slow start," and "so far, it seems – to steal the phrase of ex-Labor Secretary Robert Reich – that she is locked in the Cabinet." The article points out "a trio of worries about Jewell, and ways out." First, the article suggests Jewell to "get out of the rut of photo opportunities;" second, to "install your own people;" and third, to "connect with the President."

Secretary Jewell Urged To Protect Public Lands. In an op-ed for the Wyoming Tribune Eagle (8/18, Zimmerman, 44K), Kate Zimmerman writes that according to a recent report issued by the National Wildlife Federation, "outdoor enthusiasts...now spend more than $646 billion annually." But the National Wildlife Federation reports that, "despite the economic and public values of these lands, federal lawmakers have introduced dozens of bills seeking to sell off or roll back protections for public lands." Zimmerman hopes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's "stewardship over the next several years will pay back dividends."

SEN. HEINRICH URGES FEDERAL ACTION ON SUNZIA POWER LINE. The El Paso (TX) Times (8/20, Simonich, 240K) reports that Sen. Martin Heinrich wrote in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewel that "the SunZia proposal had been delayed long enough, and that the federal government's credibility was on the line in resolving property use involving military installations and alternative energy suppliers." Heinrich wrote, "Another delay on this project threatens the credibility of the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse process. SunZia was selected as an early 'fast track' project for the nine-agency Rapid Response Team for Transmission and was intended to act as an example of how DOD and the Department of the Interior could work together to resolve energy siting conflicts quickly and collaboratively."

Additional coverage was provided by the Alamogordo (NM) Daily News (8/20, Simonich, 21K), the Deming (NM) Headlight (8/20, Simonich, 10K), the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (8/20, Simonich, 46K), and KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM (8/20, 5K).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS PRESS SECRETARY JEWELL TO REJECT IZEMBEK ROAD. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that environmental groups are increasing pressure on Interior Secretary

Sally Jewell to "reject a proposed gravel road through an Alaskan wilderness, drawing swift rebuke from Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R), the road's most outspoken supporter." On Friday, the groups wrote in a letter to Jewell, "The proposed road would be harmful to the Izembek Refuge and Wilderness and the American public. It would fail to provide the emergency medical transportation desired by the people of King Cove, and it would be extremely costly for taxpayers in a time of great financial strain and many pressing national needs." However, "Robert Dillon, a spokesman for Murkowski, said that the letter was misleading and most environmentalists have never experienced the turbulent weather at King Cove that makes a road necessary."

IN PUBLIC COMMENTS TO STATE DEPARTMENT, INTERIOR ENUMERATES WAYS IN WHICH KEYSTONE XL COULD HARM WILDLIFE. The Los Angeles Times (8/20, Banerjee, 3.4M) continues coverage of last week's warning from the Interior Department that the Keystone XL pipeline could harm wildlife near the route. The agency's warnings are in direct contradiction to the March draft environmental assessment issued by the US State Department, which found the pipeline would have only an indirect, temporary effect on area wildlife. In a letter spanning 12 pages as part of public comments on the State Department's draft assessment, the Interior Department "repeatedly" suggests that State's assessment of the environmental effects of the pipeline project is "inaccurate." Among the ways the project could harm wildlife, Interior suggests it could cause "species displacement, increased predation rates and predator travel lanes, increased nest parasitism, vehicle collisions with wildlife ... invasive plant species, increased wildfire risk, lower wildlife density, increase in collisions with power lines and electrocutions on power poles ... and increase in poaching."

DRONES COULD CHANGE FIGHT AGAINST WILDFIRES. CNN (8/19, 11.58M) reports that "accessing new technology in rural areas where forest fires rage has been a challenge, but the use of new unmanned drones could drastically change the nature of the fight." Sher Schranz, a project manager at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who researches fire weather modeling, explained, "We can get more information for less cost, and it doesn't put anyone in harm's way." The article notes that "drones can help in two ways: They can safely gather more information about fire conditions than is currently available, and they can send that information to firefighters on the ground quickly."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF COLORADO RIVER. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "as drought continues to grip the Southwest, officials in charge of managing the Colorado River's water announced Friday that they will be forced to take a historic action on account of low water levels." The article notes that "for the first time since Lake Powell was filled in the 1960s, water releases from that reservoir down to Lake Mead, the downstream reservoir that provides water to southern Nevada, Arizona, Southern California and northern Mexico, will be just 7.48 million acre-feet for the upcoming water year, which begins Oct. 1." According to the article, "those familiar with water management in the river basin called it a symbolic moment and a potential warning of what the future of the river could look like as the climate changes."

Additional coverage of the Colorado River drought measures was provided by the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (8/18, 165K), the St. George (UT) Spectrum (8/19, 48K), the Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (8/19, 447K), the Marin (CA) Independent Journal (8/20, 111K), the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (8/20, Harmon, 75K), the Hydroworld (8/20, 151), and the Aspen Business Journal (8/20).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S LAWSUITS EXAMINED. The Washington Examiner (8/20, Rosiak, 294K) reports that "the federal government paid by far the most on record last year to parties who sued it, at $2.9 billion, and will surpass that amount this year, a Washington Examiner analysis of court records found." Moreover, "due to oddities in federal accounting, the largest single settlement is not yet reflected in the data, thus positioning 2013 to be by a record year in dollar terms by a wide margin." The article notes that "a settlement between the Interior Department and Native Americans awarded $3.4 billion after Native Americans argued that the government was mismanaging their money and withholding revenue."

SETTLEMENT REACHED IN PUBLIC ROADS SUIT. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (8/19, 48K)

reports that Utah and Juab County have "reached the first settlement with the federal government and environmental groups granting the state and county ownership over three disputed roads in Juab County." According to the article, "US District Judge Tena Campbell has been given a consent decree today that would restore public access to three roads — and for the first time opens access to a road closed due to a Wilderness Study Area boundary." The agreement "requires the federal government to unlock the gate on Granite Canyon and remove fallen trees and any other obstacles blocking access to Camp Ethel at the end of the Granite Canyon Road" and it "also allows the state or county to repair the roads but preserves their primitive status."

Also reporting on the story is the Cache Valley (UT) Daily (8/20, 639).

INTERIOR FAVORS NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION FOR TULE SPRINGS PARK. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (8/20, DeHaven, 437K) reports that the Obama administration recently came out in favor of a national monument designation for Tule Springs park. According to a July 31 statement released by the Interior Department, a park built in the area would be "the most significant Pleistocene paleontological resource in the American Southwest."

INTERIOR, VIRGIN ISLANDS TO LAUNCH JOINT AUDIT NEXT YEAR OF PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY. The Virgin Islands Daily News (8/20, Norris, 49K) reports that the Interior Department and the Virgin Islands Inspector General will launch a joint audit next year of the Public Finance Authority.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S REMARKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's remarks on climate change was provided by FOX News (8/19, 6.72M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INTERIOR'S CLOUD CONTRACTS. Additional coverage of Interior's cloud contracts was provided by the Washington Post (8/20, Ravindranath, 4.53M) and Government Computer News (8/20, Miller, 1K).

USA TODAY: US COULD REACH ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN 20 YEARS. An editorial in USA Today (8/20, 5.82M) notes the changing energy landscape around the world and notes that "the vast increase in oil and gas production in the USA and Canada," means that the US, which has long been "dependent on supplies from potentially hostile nations, will attain self-sufficiency in 20 years, according to a study by BP." USA Today adds that the "developments in North American energy production even suggest ways to attack the complex threat of global warming," including investing in basic research "to find means to cope with warming that do not exist now," and taxing pollutants and letting "the market adjust and innovators innovate."

In an accompanying op-ed in USA Today (8/20, Beinecke, 5.82M), Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, takes a different view of the North American energy boom, arguing that an increase in domestic oil and gas production "is no panacea for our nation's energy needs or economy." Such an increase, she argues, "will only intensify our fossil fuel addiction" and it will not "free us from the tyranny of the global oil market." Beinecke writes that for the US to be truly energy independent, we must reduce "our reliance on oil and gas by investing in America's abundant clean energy resources that can power our country and boost our economy without endangering our health and climate."

HAROLD HAMM DISCUSSES FRACKING, CLIMATE CHANGE, WIND POWER. The National Journal (8/20, Harder, Subscription Publication, 377K) publishes an interview with Continental Resources founder and CEO Harold Hamm, whom it calls "one of the most influential oil-industry executives and one of the richest people alive." In the interview, Hamm says that he opposes Federal regulations on fracking and says that states should be left to regulate the process, recommends population control measures to contain global warming, and says he doesn't support subsidizing wind power or forcing people to look at wind turbines.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF BEAR ATTACKS. NBC Nightly News (8/19, story 7, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported, "A 12-year-old Michigan girl is telling NBC News tonight she thought she was a goner when she went out for a jog and out of no where, was mauled by a black bear. She is just one of seven people in five states who have been attacked by bears in the past week. Why so many close encounters between humans and bears? Here's NBC's Tom Costello." NBC (Costello) added, "It was a heart-stopping discovery in Naples, Florida, a black bear who had torn into a screened-in porch, sleeping on the tile floor." Unidentified speaker: "I couldn't believe my eyes. Like I never seen a bear that big." Costello: "Fortunately, the bear woke up and left, but across the country, bears have attacked at least seven people over the past week. In northern Alaska, a National Guard helicopter had to rescue a hunter on Saturday who survived 36 hours after being mauled by a bear. In Wyoming, two hikers suffered minor injuries after being attacked by a grizzly and her cub. A camper in Colorado was slightly injured last week. In Idaho, two researchers were attacked by a grizzly, one bitten on the leg. And in Cadillac, Michigan, Thursday, a 12-year-old girl was attacked by a black bear while jogging. She thought she was going to die." Abby Wetherall, bear attack victim: "This is it. I'm not gonna see my family ever again. Not going to see my soccer team or any of my friends. I'm a goner." Costello: "She tried to run away, but the bear caught her. But then she says she played dead and the bear walked away. According to contrary thought, bear attacks aren't about protecting a cub. In a 2011 University of Calgary study, in 88% of the attacks, the bear was acting as a predator, viewing humans as food. Bears that have grown up near humans are far less likely to attack, researchers say. This bear recently showed up near the NBC News offices here in Washington. Increasingly, urban sprawl and remote recreation are bringing humans and bears together." Brian Aucone, Denver Zoo: "It's the time of year that they are going to have cubs and also going to be out actively foraging and looking for food, all preparing for wintertime to come and hibernate." Costello: "In Colorado, this bear walked right into a bar, while another literally tried to walk off with a restaurant's dumpster. Close encounters a little too close for comfort. Tom Costello, NBC News, Washington." Holt: "The National Park Service has some recommendations what to do and whatnot to do if you encounter a bear. We have put that information on our website."

Additional coverage was provided by the International Business Times (8/20, 237K) and the Marin (CA) Independent Journal (8/20, 111K).

CLEANUP OF LINCOLN MEMORIAL COMPLETED. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that crews "removed the last traces of green paint from the Lincoln Memorial last week, three weeks after an act of vandalism kick-started citywide outrage over the defacement of the iconic statue." The NPS "announced Friday that employees were able to remove the last flecks of paint from the marble likeness of Abraham Lincoln." According to the article, "the memorial is now completely open to visitors to Washington, D.C., who come in the millions each year to tour the 19-foot-tall statue of the 16th president."

MAINTENANCE BACKLOG PLAGUING NPS. The Examiner.com (8/20, 1.36M) reports that "budget cuts in recent years have left" the NPS "with an $11.5 billion deferred maintenance backlog." Moreover, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis told the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources that "this amount grows annually at a far greater rate than the service is able to pay down." Jarvis "mentioned several ways to increase revenue without adding to the federal deficit, such as increasing the price of the annual park pass" and "he also suggested raising funds through donors and matching grant programs."

FRIENDS OF THE INDIAN KING TAVERN RECEIVES NPS GRANT. The South Jersey (NJ) Sun (8/19) reports that the Friends of the Indian King Tavern "recently acquired a grant from" the NPS' American Battlefield Protection Program to "create a map brochure of Revolutionary War battle sites in Camden and Gloucester counties." Garry Stone, state Park Service historian and historian for the Indian King Tavern, said "It's thought of as a two-year project. I need to get a running start

September/October so I can make enough progress for second-year funding." NPS Director Jon Jarvis said, "We are proud to support projects like this that safeguard and preserve American battlefields. These places are symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage that we must protect so that this and future generations can understand the struggles that define us as a nation."

AFTER HURRICANE SANDY, FAMILY FIGHTS TO SAVE RESTAURANT. The New York Times (8/20, A14, Applebome, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) reports on Ed Segall, the owner of "the Sea Gulls' Nest, a restaurant damaged by Hurricane Sandy and facing a maddeningly complex series of bureaucratic hurdles blocking it from reopening." The article notes that Sen. Robert Menendez and Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., "both of New Jersey, have asked the director of the National Park Service, Jonathan B. Jarvis, to meet with Mr. Segall." Segall "has prepared four thick binders of history and tributes to remind the government what he has done over the past decades, but is still waiting for a meeting." In the mean time, "food trucks operated by other people provide service at Sandy Hook, and the Segalls wait and worry."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SEEK INJUNCTION TO BLOCK SUSQUEHANNA-ROSELAND CONSTRUCTION. The New Jersey Herald (8/19, 37K) reports that as two power companies say "they will begin construction of a 500-kilovolt electric transmission line through a national park early next month, environmental groups on Monday asked a federal judge to stop any work until he can decide the case that could shut down the project altogether." In the lawsuit, the groups "argue that permits for the powerline construction were given" by the NPS "despite studies by the park service that show construction of the new lines, which follow the right-of-way of an existing 230-kV transmission line, would cause irreparable harm to the park." The lawsuit questions whether the NPS "acted correctly late last year when it gave the necessary permits to the two utilities for the 4.5 miles across the national park."

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ZION NATIONAL PARK'S VIRGIN RIVER. The Deseret (UT) News (8/20, 251K) reports that the NPS "may change the way visitors enjoy Zion National Park, all in the interest of protecting the Virgin River and the areas around it." According to the article, "a new management plan for portions of the river and its tributaries, which were designated as 'wild and scenic' by Congress back in 2009, has been completed and now Park Service officials want the public to weigh in on the plan." Kezia Nielsen, an environmental resource protection specialist with the NPS, said, "There could be a lot of things that happen, but they are not imminent. The whole purpose of this plan is to protect and enhance the values for which made them eligible for designation as wild and scenic rivers."

BEN FRANKLIN MUSEUM TO REOPEN AFTER RENOVATION. The Philadelphia Business Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 39K) reports that Philadelphia's Ben Franklin Museum will "reopen Aug. 24 after a major renovation." The NPS "worked with various partners to pay for the changes, splitting the cost." NPS "funding for the improvements totaled $11.3 million, while other partners contributed $11.8 million."

WILDFIRE FORCES CLOSURE OF ROUTE INTO YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The Columbus (IN) Republic (8/20, 76K) reports that "a wildfire has forced the shutdown of a highway that serves as a busy gateway to Yosemite National Park." According to the US Forest Service, "two days after it broke out in the Stanislaus National Forest, the blaze crossed State Route 120 on Monday, shutting it down in both directions."

YELLOWSTONE TO RELEASE FISH TOXIN. The Yellowstone Gate (8/20, Prevost) reports that "wildlife managers in Yellowstone National Park are planning this week to release a fish toxin in Grayling Creek as part of a long-term plan to restore native fish populations to the waterway in the Madison River drainage." The goal is to rid "the creek of non-native brown and rainbow trout, species which have contributed to a decline in native cutthroat trout in park lakes, rivers and streams, according to a statement released by the park's public affairs office." Officials hope "to restore native westslope cutthroat trout and Arctic grayling in Grayling Creek and other park waters."

REFERENCE TO GOD URGED FOR MLK MEMORIAL. In an op-ed for the Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (8/19, Murray, 140K), John A. Murray, headmaster of Fourth Presbyterian School in Potomac, Md., writes that "in preparation for the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech," the NPS "is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to remove a controversial quote on the side of the King Memorial." But Murray asks, "If King were alive, would he be less concerned about being called a drum major than he'd be by the omission of any reference to God?" Murray concludes that "given the August anniversary of the March on Washington, rather than modifying the 'drum major' quote," he would recommend one from King's powerful 1963 speech: "I have a dream ...when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

Bureau of Land Management:

HELIUM RESERVE FACES SHUTDOWN. The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) reports that unless Congress acts to wind it down more slowly, the Federal Helium Reserve will shut down on October 8. Moreover, the BLM could begin winding down its operations as early as Sept. 15 to prepare for the closure, according to industry estimates.

BLM MULLS GEOCACHING IN CONSERVATION AREA. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (8/20, 75K) reports that the BLM "wants adventurers to leave no trace of their hunts for geocaches in the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, but an advisory group says there ought to be a little leeway." The agency is "working on the first-ever resource management plan for the area south and east of Grand Junction for the treasure-hunting activity." The BLM's "preferred alternative calls for geocaching to be limited to the virtual variety, or searches that result in participants taking photos of themselves with recognizable locations they find using geocaching directions."

TUSCARORA FIRE BURNING SAGE GROUSE HABITAT. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (8/20, 23K) reports that "a burning about 10 miles northwest of Tuscarora had charred about 16,000 acres as of Monday evening." According to BLM public affairs specialist Lesli Ellis-Wouters, "the Red Cow Fire was about 10 percent contained." Ellis-Wouters noted that "the fire is burning in an area of intact sage grouse habitat not impacted by previous fires."

BLM REOPENS JQS ROAD NORTHWEST OF RIFLE AFTER ROCK SLIDE CLEARED. The Post Independent (Glenwood Springs, CO) (8/20, 27K) reports that the BLM has "reopened the JQS Road northwest of Rifle, which had been closed since Friday, Aug. 16, due to a rock slide."

Also reporting on the story is the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (8/20, 75K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPORT SAYS TEXAS HAS MISMANAGED HABITAT PLAN FOR DUNES SAGEBRUSH LIZARD. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "Texas has failed to report impacts from oil and gas development on the dunes sagebrush lizard, a violation of the habitat conservation plan the state signed with the Interior Department to keep the reptile off the endangered species list, according to a new report from Defenders of Wildlife." According to the article, the Texas comptroller in March told the FWS "that landowners and oil and gas developers in west Texas who were participating in its conservation plan had caused no new surface disturbances to the lizard's shinnery oak dune habitat in 2012." However, "imagery from government satellites and aircraft found multiple instances of surface disturbance on habitat enrolled by ConocoPhillips Co., which operates in the oil-rich Permian Basin, according to the Defenders investigation."

FWS TO LIST TWO TEXAS SALAMANDERS. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that the FWS "plans to add two Texas salamanders to the endangered species list, a move that could lead to more protections for central Texas waterways." The agency said "it will give 'endangered' species status to the Austin blind salamander and 'threatened' status to the Jollyville Plateau salamander."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP URGES HUNTERS TO SWITCH TO NONLEAD BULLETS. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that an environmental group "concerned about lead poisoning of birds is using the US military's recent announcement that it will switch to nonlead bullets as a clarion call for hunters to do the same." Robert Johns, a spokesman for the American Bird Conservancy, said, "If it's good enough for them, we think it's good enough for the average hunter, whose life is not in peril." The article notes that "lead poisoning from ingesting bullet fragments or pellets while consuming carcasses left behind by hunters is a leading cause of death for endangered California condors and other birds."

HUNDREDS OF SALMON STRANDED IN FARM DITCHES IN CALIFORNIA. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "the strandings of hundreds of endangered salmon in Colusa Basin irrigation ditches have California and federal wildlife officials searching for answers." Jeffrey McClain, assistant supervisor at the National Marine Fisheries Service office in Sacramento, California, said, "There has been some stranding in the past, but as far as I can tell, the numbers have been significantly lower than this. It's significant, and that's why this is a serious thing for us to figure out."

NEW STUDY QUESTIONS GREATER YELLOWSTONE BEARS COUNT. The High Country (CO) News (8/20, 74K) reports that "a new study strongly suggests" that the FWS' "calculations may be badly flawed – so much so, say the paper's authors, that no one knows how many bears are really out there." According to the article, "the population may even be dropping: Whitebark pine nuts, a key food source, are rapidly disappearing, and the impact on bears is in dispute."

ECONOMIST CRITICIZES FWS ANALYSIS OF ROSEMONT MINE'S IMPACT ON JAGUAR. The Tucson (AZ) Citizen (8/19, 60K) reports that "a review by a nationally recognized economist found, among other things, that the economic analysis commissioned" by the FWS "for its critical habitat proposal for the jaguar relied 'exclusively' on information provided by Rosemont that amounts to a 'distorted public relations exercise.'" The review by natural resource economist Dr. Thomas Power "concluded that the analysis provided to FWS by Cambridge, Massachusetts based Industrial Economics, Inc. (IEI) treats mining as if it only has benefits while ignoring its costs, and promotes a 'free lunch economics' approach that is 'contrived for public relations purposes.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS. Additional coverage of the $5.1 million in grants awarded to 11 states was provided by the Hendersonville (NC) Times-News (8/19, 39K) and the Latin American Herald Tribune (8/20, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PLAN TO SAVE SPOTTED OWL. Additional coverage of the plan to save spotted owls was provided by the High Country (CO) News (8/20, 74K).

US Geological Survey:

AGENCIES COMPLAIN ABOUT SEQUESTER-IMPOSED TRAVEL LIMITS. The New York Times (8/19, A1, Shear, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), in a front-page article, reports that as a result of the sequestration cuts, "most government travel budgets have been cut this year by 30 percent," and now "agency officials" complain that as a result, the Federal government "cannot conduct essential business and is embarrassing itself abroad." But Sen. Tom Coburn rejects that claim, saying, "Hopefully what you will have is more sound judgment at these agencies about what is critical travel and what isn't. ... Most of it has nothing to do with their jobs. It's a perk."

CALIFORNIA BUILDING'S DESTRUCTION REVEALS EARTHQUAKE RISK. The LiveScience (8/20, Oskin, 445K) reports that on August 17, a tiny artificial earthquake triggered by a building implosion at California State University, East Bay, "were recorded by more than 500 seismometers set out in backyards and businesses by volunteers the week before the building's collapse." The effort, coordinated by the USGS, "will provide the best picture to date of which areas could suffer the worst shaking in future earthquakes on the dangerous Hayward Fault," according to project leader Rufus Catchings, a research geophysicist with the USGS in Menlo Park, California. Catchings said, "This will give us a chance to really improve our shake map, which is something

that comes out immediately after an earthquake to tell first responders which areas are most affected."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

MANZANAR COMMITTEE OPPOSING LADWP'S PROPOSED 200 MEGAWATT SOLAR PROJECT. Southern California Public Radio (8/19, Peterson, 33K) reports on supporters of Manzanar Historic Site, which is "home to a former Japanese-American internment camp," objecting to a plan proposed "by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to put solar panels nearby," arguing that the panels "would obstruct the view from the camp." LADWP is hoping to build the solar project near Manzanar on land owned by the City of Los Angeles, with the agency planning to "install enough solar panels to generate around 200 megawatts." The Manzanar Committee said in a letter that the panels would obstruct the view, "and that construction would harm an old solid waste dump site that may contain historic artifacts."

This story was also reported by KCET-TV Los Angeles (8/19, Clarke).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WEST CHOCOLATE MOUNTAINS RENEWABLE ENERGY EVALUATION AREA. Additional coverage of the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area was provided by the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (8/19, Kaufmann, 162K).

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM DEFERS PROPOSED OIL, GAS LEASE SALES. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that the BLM "has reversed course and will not offer eight parcels near southwest Colorado's Mesa Verde National Park in a November oil and natural gas lease sale," pleasing the NPS "and some local government leaders who feared the drilling could harm the park." However, BLM officials "said late Friday that the agency is still conducting an environmental analysis of the eight parcels just east of the national park and that is why they were not included in the formal lease sale notice for the Nov. 14 sale." According to Shannon Borders, a BLM spokeswoman, "depending on the results of the ongoing environmental analysis, the eight parcels covering about 10,700 acres could still be offered at four planned oil and gas lease sales in the state next year."

Also reporting on the story is the Climate Progress (8/19, Goad, 375).

COMPANY FINED FOR FALSE ROYALTY DATA. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that the Interior Department' Office of Natural Resources Revenue has fined Quinex Energy Corp. "$2.2 million for knowingly maintaining false and misleading royalty information." Paul Mussenden, Interior's deputy assistant secretary for natural resources revenue management, said in a statement, "Accurate reporting is indispensable to proper royalty collection and is one of the first lines of defense in ensuring that ONRR collects every dollar due to the American taxpayer. In addition to our data mining and audit and compliance enhancement efforts, our enforcement team's increased focus on accurate reporting will continue to play a pivotal role in carrying out ONRR's core revenue collection mission."

GROWTH OF UNCONVENTIONAL GAS SOURCES REQUIRE REEXAMINATION OF GOVERNMENTAL ROLES. The Oil and Gas Journal (8/19, Snow, 1K) reports on the Aug. 15-16 National Research Council conference at which participants largely agreed that the "rapid growth of unconventional natural gas development and production is forcing governments worldwide to examine not just how to regulate the business, but also to consider which levels of government can do the best job in specific instances." Accordingly, the article says that those processes are "raising new intergovernmental questions that could make federal, state, and local officials reconsider whether existing enforcement responsibilities are still effective for nonoil and gas industries" and notes that "supplemental oversight by local residents is increasingly essential." The

article adds that some attendees suggested that public forums akin to those held by the BLM "as it developed its proposed hydraulic fracturing regulations" may be helpful in developing "consultation between federal and state governments."

BLM PLAN CRITICIZED FOR HALTING LOCAL DRILLING. In an op-ed for the Silver City (NM) Sun-News (8/20, Griggs, 24K), Ron Griggs, a Republican, who represents District 34 (Otero, Dona Ana and Eddy counties) in the New Mexico Senate, notes that the recently released BLM "draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the tri-county area that covers Dona Ana, Otero and Sierra counties defers action on fluid mineral leasing and development in the three counties." According to Griggs, "this effectively stops oil and gas drilling there for the foreseeable future." Griggs argues that the BLM "should allow continued development on the Bennett Ranch area of Otero Mesa and they should not use the Tri-County DEIS to delay potential additional development."

Offshore Energy Development:

SCIENTISTS DEBATE ESTIMATES OF OIL SPILLED INTO GULF. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "a dispute among experts over the extent of the Deepwater Horizon disaster is heating up as BP PLC prepares for the next stage of a civil trial to determine the final cost of the largest offshore oil spill in US history." According to the article, "recent filings in federal court in New Orleans include expert reports with a wide range of estimates on how much oil was spilled when BP's Macondo well exploded in 2010, killing 11 oil rig workers." For instanc, e the Justice Department "believes the well spewed 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf," but "a report prepared for BP by Andreas Momber, a lecturer at the Aachen University of Technology in Germany, suggests the number is much lower because the concrete well eroded at a slower rate than the government claims."

BLACK ELK ENERGY STILL REELING FROM GULF PLATFORM FIRE. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that Black Elk Energy "says its finances and production are still ailing following a fatal explosion last year at an offshore production platform in the Gulf of Mexico." Black Elk Energy "reported that its oil and gas output has slowed due to permitting delays and maintenance work." The BSEE is "still probing the company over its role in a Nov. 16, 2012, fire at the West Delta 32 production platform off Louisiana's coast."

NEW ANALYSIS QUESTIONS FEDERAL SAMPLING OF GULF OIL SPILL. The New York Times (8/19, Fountain, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) reports that an analysis of water, sediment, and seafood samples gathered during and after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico "has found higher contamination levels in some cases than previous studies by federal agencies did, casting doubt on some of the earlier sampling methods." Paul W. Sammarco of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, who is the lead author of the new analysis, which was published last week in the journal Marine Pollution Bulletin, "said that the greater contamination called into question the timing of decisions by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to reopen gulf fisheries after the spill and that 'it might be time to review the techniques that are used to determine' such reopenings."

DOI EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE COASTAL SEISMIC DECISION AIRGUN TESTING THIS YEAR. The Business Insider (8/19, Angelova, 1.79M) reports that the DOI is expected to decide this year "whether to allow seismic airgun testing for oil and gas deposits along the coast from Delaware to Cape Canaveral, Florida." The article says that despite the fact that drilling along the Atlantic Coast "cannot begin until at least 2017, the exploration plan has sparked a heated debate between conservationists," who cite the potential harm to sea life, "and some members of Congress."

FORMER OBAMA OFFICIAL FAULTS OIL INDUSTRY'S OPPOSITION TO DISCLOSURE. FuelFix (8/19, Dlouhy, 3K) reports that according to David Goldwin, the former State Department special envoy for international energy affairs under President Obama, the oil industry's attempt to "undo a new Securities and Exchange Commission rule that forces publicly traded companies to disclose what they pay other countries to harvest oil and natural gas" is a "'poison pill' that puts the

'otherwise uncontroversial' international pact" with Mexico to drill in the Gulf "at risk." The article quotes Goldwyn as writing in an article for the Brookings Institute, "In raw political terms, the trans-boundary agreement is important but not at the top of the oil and gas industry's priority list for Congress, whereas the proponents of transparency are well-organized and gaining momentum. Even the White House announced it could not support the House bill."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

AZTEC DISTRICT COURT APPROVES NAVAJO WATER RIGHTS AGREEMENT. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (8/19, Yee, 46K) reports on the "historic water rights settlement approved late last week" by an Aztec District Court. The article says that the agreement "guarantees the Navajo Nation an additional 130,000 acre-feet of water on top of the 195,000 acre-feet previously allotted to the tribal government" and also assures Federal backing for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, which "will provide water to the eastern portion of the Navajo Nation, the southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the city of Gallup." Nevertheless, the Daily Times says the "decision is likely to be appealed" as its critics argue that "it will dry out the region and open doors for the tribal government to sell water to large cities downstream, such as Las Vegas, Phoenix and Los Angeles."

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT CLOSE TO "BECOMING A REALITY." The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (8/19, Woodka, 103K) reports on the Arkansas Valley Conduit, which will provide water to "40 communities in Eastern Colorado...becoming a reality." The article says that the BOR will publish a decision no the project "after a 30-day comment period" to its environmental impact statement, which indicates that "work on the actual project can begin."

LAKE NIGHTHORSE DELAYS TEST PATIENCE OF RESIDENTS. The Durango (CO) Herald (8/18, 28K) reported on the Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District meeting that took place last week concerning the recreation plan at Lake Nighthorse, or lack thereof. The Herald noted that the resentment from "anglers, watercraft owners and hikers all eager to explore the reservoir and nearby areas...was heard loud and clear" but also said that adding to those frustrations was the notable void left by BOR and OMRA officials "who attend board meetings without fail" and "who could have supplied some answers." Despite the backlash, the article said that according to Grand Junction BOR representative Ed Warner, "there are many 'hot issues' to resolve" before the area can be opened to recreation. Warner added, "The who, what and how, take time. We're trying to work with everybody."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Stockton (CA) Record (8/15, 130K) and the Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (8/20, Hacking, 91K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN EXPLAINS INTERIOR'S LAND BUY-BACK PLAN. In a piece for the Indian Country Today Media Network (8/19, Washburn, 11K), Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn explains how the Land Buy-Back Program will benefit tribes. Washburn notes that his "goal is to stay true to my guiding principle and use cooperative agreements to maximize tribal participation for those parts of the program where it will be most cost effective to do so." According to Washburn, "maximizing tribal engagement and offering the greatest flexibility for each tribal nation to determine how to best implement the Program in its community are critical."

MONTANA, TRIBAL OFFICIALS AGREE TO BISON TRANSFER. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that Montana state and tribal officials "agreed to plans to transfer 35 bison from Fort Peck reservation to Fort Belknap in the wake of a state Supreme Court ruling allowing the project to move forward." According to the article, Fort Belknap tribal President Tracy King and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director Jeff Hagener "last week signed a memorandum of understanding, but

officials have yet to set a date for the transfer."

APPELLATE ARGUMENTS SCHEDULED IN SPIRIT LAKE DISPUTE. The Grand Forks (ND) Herald (8/19, Haga, 88K) reports on the "latest stage of the turbulent and convoluted dispute" over "who should be recognized as the chairman of the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe" and says that an appellate court will hold oral arguments on Aug. 30 at the UND School of Law in Grand Forks. Nevertheless, the Herald notes that in his Federal lawsuit, ex-Chairman Roger Yankton, Sr. maintains "that he remains the tribe's duly elected leader and the appeals court has no jurisdiction." The article adds that Yankton's Aug. 12 filing also claims "that a restraining order issued against him by a Spirit Lake tribal judge was obtained improperly, prevents him from acting as chairman and amounts to an 'illegal detention' that violates his civil rights."

SOUTHWEST TRIBES SEE BATTLE LOOMING AGAINST EXPLODING FERAL PIG POPULATIONS. The Indian Country Today Media Network (8/19, Allen, 11K) reports on the issues facing several southwest tribes as feral pig populations march across the country. The article says, "Tribes are at the forefront of the battle" against the creatures with Texas tribes actively engaged in "battling them" while tribes in New Mexico, Arizona, and California "are monitoring a pending problem." The piece notes, "Tribal lands are not yet overrun, but they are seeing the need to make a plan." Nevertheless, while Federal agencies "know of the situation and could mount a counterattack...no money exists to pay for such a war."

REPORTS SHOW REVENUE DOWN AT POTAWATOMI CASINO. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (8/19, Spivak, 790K) reports that according to figures released on Monday, gambling revenues at the Potawatomi Bingo Casino slipped by almost 1.3% in 2012, "as the nation's first off-reservation casino continues to experience the industry trend of flat growth." The article says that the casino's gamblers forfeited almost $363 million in 2012, which was down from the $368 million they lost at the casino during 2011. The Journal Sentinel adds that consequently, "the payments the Potawatomi tribe makes to the city and county also fell." The article also notes that the tribe is "keeping a close watch on proposals to open new off-reservation casinos in Wisconsin," the applications for which are before the US Bureau of Indian Affairs.

KAKE SEEKS FUNDS TO STABILIZE HISTORIC KEKU CANNERY. The AP (8/19) reports that Kake, Alaska "is trying to save its historic Keku Cannery," which earlier this year the National Trust for Historic Preservation dubbed "one of the nation's most endangered historic places" and is now on the verge of collapse. The article says that according to the National Trust, "the cannery is worth saving because of the role it played in developing Alaska's canning industry during the first half of the 20th Century." Nevertheless, the village is seeking funds in order to do so, including requests to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The AP adds that Kake officials hope to at least steady the building or at most turn it into "a tourist stop where residents can put up shops."

FREMONT COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS BRIEF LEGISLATORS ON SCHOOL PERFORMANCES. The Riverton (WY) Ranger (8/19, Silva, 167) reports that during a meeting at Central Wyoming College, Fremont County school district superintendents "updated the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Education Committee and the Select Committee on Tribal Relations on their schools' performances." The article adds that although the schools are seeing progress, "poverty, lack of transportation and cuts in the Impact Aid Program have made education far more difficult." The Ranger also provides updates on St. Stephen's schools, the funding for which is provided by the US Bureau of Indian Education.

NONPROFIT SPONSORS NATIVE YOUTH TRIP TO WASHINGTON. The Indian Country Today Media Network (8/19, Schilling, 11K) reports on the weeklong summer camp attended by 24 Native Youth, which was sponsored by the new nonprofit organization Pathkeepers for Indigenous Knowledge. The article says that the camp took place "on a horse farm where" the students "learned life lessons and traditional Native practices from elders" and the campers "also got a taste of Indian policy when they met with senators and other officials in Washington, D.C." Among the officials with whom the youth met were "Mary Pavel, staff director and chief counsel for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; Mike Smith, deputy director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Chairman

Darrin Old Coyote of the Crow Nation, and other key staff and officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior."

Top National News:

AS OBAMA PONDERS FATE OF US AID, CYCLE OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN EGYPT. As violent turmoil continues in Egypt, where reports indicate ousted ruler Hosni Mubarak could soon be released from prison, the US media casts President Obama as undecided over the fate of US aid. The issue continues to generate debate among lawmakers and media commentators, with a new poll showing a majority of Americans favoring cutting assistance to Egypt and giving the President low marks for his handling of the situation. The story generated about 11 minutes of combined coverage on the network newscasts last night.

The networks, like much of the coverage, describe the US as increasingly powerless in its bid to manage the crisis. Driving that line of analysis is a statement from Defense Secretary Hagel, who according to AFP (8/20, De Luce) told reporters yesterday, "Our ability to influence the outcome in Egypt is limited." NBC Nightly News (8/19, story 2, 2:50, Holt, 7.86M), which referred to "an increasingly precarious situation for the United States," described Hagel's comment as an admission that "there is not much the US can do." Chief Foreign Correspondent, Richard Engel, reporting from Cairo, noted that "Egyptian officials" he interviewed "say they don't believe Washington has an accurate picture of what's going on."

Ed Henry, on Fox News' Special Report (8/19, 2.07M), reported that "some key Republicans disagree" with Hagel's assessment, and said "it is time for the President to play an important card, cutting off the $1.3 billion in military aid the US provides Egypt each year." Fox then showed Sens. John McCain, Lindsey Graham and Rand Paul making that case on Sunday.

Reuters (8/20, Wroughton, Mohammed), meanwhile, reports that State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki denied the US had already placed some economic aid on hold, as reported by the New York Times on Monday. Psaki said the US is "reviewing...programs on a case-by-case basis to identify whether we have authority to continue providing those funds or should seek to modify our activities to ensure that our actions are consistent with the law." Psaki indicated that also under consideration are potential cuts to US military aid. The Washington Post (8/20, A1, Sly, 4.53M) quotes Psaki as saying that the US "review is ongoing," though "we have not made a decision to put a blanket hold."

Reporting from Cairo, ABC World News (8/19, story 2, 2:00, Raddatz, 7.43M) said the situation is "fast becoming a simmering civil war," which could turn a "new generation" of Islamist militants "into fighters against not only the Egyptian military but the US as well." Reuters (8/20, MacDonald), for example, notes that the Kenyan branch of Somalia's Al Qaeda affiliate Al Shabaab said on its Twitter feed yesterday, "If ever there's a ripe moment 2 support Al-Qaeda, it's surely now. Raising the flag in Egypt in now a priority, Insha'Allah!"

The CBS Evening News (8/19, story 3, 3:05, D'Agata, 5.58M) showed "the bodies of 24 policemen killed by suspected Islamic militants in the Sinai" yesterday, and noted that 36 prisoners had previously "died in police custody under circumstances that are still unclear." Reporting on Monday's attack in the Sinai, the AP (8/20, Hendawi) says suspected Islamists "ambushed two minibuses carrying off-duty policemen" and forced them "to lie on the sand" before shooting them dead. Khalil al-Anani of the Middle East Institute in Washington tells the Wall Street Journal (8/19, El-ghobashy, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), "It is a new style of attack...and can't be separated from what's happening in Cairo. ... This could lead to a new kind of insurgency that would be difficult to control."

The Christian Science Monitor (8/19, Bryant, 564K) reports that the increase "in militant attacks in Sinai since the military deposed...Morsi...places additional strain on security forces already preoccupied with escalating political violence in Cairo and elsewhere."

Amid the continuing violence and uncertainty, Politico (8/20, Wright, 652K) describes Obama as "reluctant to exhaust his leverage" on the issue of aid, while Mark Thompson, writing for Time (8/19, Thompson, 13.36M), likens US assistance to "an IV" which is "designed to keep Egypt's generals under some – increasingly limited – sway of the US government." Thompson warns about "side effects," namely placing the US in the middle of Egypt's crisis which is likely to fray the ties between the two countries. In his Capital Journal column for the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Seib, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), Gerald Seib notes the same phenomenon, arguing that Obama's apparent search for a compromise flies in the face of Egyptian generals' determination to destroy the Muslim Brotherhood. Given this stark divergence, says Seib, losing US aid may not be too high a price to pay for the ruling military.

In fact, as Bloomberg News (8/19, Atlas, 1.41M) reports, Obama's push "for political reconciliation with Islamist protesters...is being challenged by financial and political support from Middle East countries" such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE "pursuing their own stakes in Egypt's future." On its front page, the New York Times (8/20, A1, Nordland, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) calls Saudi Arabia, for example, "the foremost supporter of Egypt's military rulers," and says it is delivering "a blank check to Cairo" and "promising to shower it with money as needed." The Saudis have "not only undermined Western efforts to press for compromise, but...also revealed diminished United States influence across the Arab world." The Saudi actions, says the Washington Post (8/20, A1, Sly, 4.53M) in a front-page story, are "exacerbating a fierce struggle for influence in the chaotic and increasingly leaderless Arab world and putting the Saudis at odds with the" US. Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said yesterday, "Concerning those who announced stopping their assistance to Egypt or threatening to stop them, the Arab and Islamic nation is rich with its people and capabilities and will provide a helping hand to Egypt."

As the Administration ponders its next steps, Roll Call (8/20, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 78K) reports, spokesman Josh Earnest said on Monday that it "has set aside the legal question of whether the military's takeover...is a 'coup.'" Instead, said Earnest, the ongoing analysis of US policy options are designed "to determine what impact" each course "would have on our national security, whether it's in compliance with the law, and is it going to get us closer to seeing the kind of outcome in Egypt that we would like to see, which is the prompt return to a democratically elected civilian government." Along those lines, notes The Hill (8/19, Sink, 322K), Earnest also said "senior administration officials...have made clear" to their Egyptian counterparts that "it is incumbent upon the interim government in Egypt to transition back to a democratically elected government."

According to the AP (8/19, Klapper), a key factor for US policy-makers is "the specter of Benghazi." Under this scenario, cutting US aid "could prompt Egypt's ruling generals to scale back their protection of the US Embassy in Cairo and other diplomatic properties," which "would be a political disaster for Obama." Hagel also said on Monday, "We are concerned about our people. ... Protection of Americans in Egypt, not just only our diplomats but all Americans, is of the highest priority."

Lauren Fox, in a blog post for US News & World Report (8/20, Fox, 595K), describes Obama's policy so far as "a clever game of word avoidance," despite the fact that "experts...agree" that a US law, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, "dictates the overthrow of a duly elected head of government" and "is enough to suspend aid."

Poll: Majority In US Wants Aid Cut; Half Think Obama Not Tough Enough On Egypt. Politico (8/20, Arkin, 652K) reports that according to a Pew Research Center poll, 51% believe the US should cut aid to Egypt, while only 26% want to continue it. Meanwhile, "half of those surveyed thought...Obama has not been tough enough on Egypt," 6% though "he has been too tough" and 12% "thought his reaction was about right." Americans also favored the military over the Muslim Brotherhood by a 46%-11% margin.

Cutting Military Aid To Egypt Could Hurt US Jobs, Weapons Manufacturers. Noting the

debate over possibly cutting US military aid, the CBS Evening News (8/19, story 3, 3:05, Schieffer, 5.58M) said last night the issue "is more complicated than it might seem, and you may be surprised by who could be hurt if that happens." CBS (Quijano) noted that the aid "goes to places such" as a General Dynamics factory in n Archibald, Pennsylvania that "makes parts for the M1A1 Abrams tank," and employs 135 workers. In fact, "44 companies in Pennsylvania alone involved in the production of the M1A1," which is called "the centerpiece of US aid to Egypt."

Politico (8/20, Wright, 652K) reports that last week the USAF "awarded a contract to General Electric," worth just under $14 million, "to upgrade the Egyptian air force's fighter jets." Politico casts the award as "a tacit acknowledgment by the Pentagon that...for now it plans to maintain a relationship" with Egypt.

Journalist Mona Eltahawy, interviewed by Jake Tapper for CNN's The Lead (8/19), said, "The $1.3 billion [from the US] that goes to the Egyptian army goes toward buying US-made weapons. It goes right back into the arms manufacturing industry in the US." Eltahawy continued, "So if you're seeing reluctance" to cut that aid "on the US side, you have to remember why: because the money goes back towards buying US weapons. So I think the US Administration...must not arm those who use those weapons against civilians, especially unarmed civilians."

Disappointed EU Foreign Ministers To Discuss Aid On Wednesday. The New York Times (8/20, Erlanger, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) reports that EU foreign ministers will meet Wednesday in an "emergency session" to discuss a possible suspension of aid to Egypt. The Times calls the military's crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood "a devastating blow to European efforts to negotiate a political solution and fill a vacuum left by Washington," and notes that despite their best efforts and their "remarkable access to leaders of both" sides, foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and her deputy Bernardino León have found little success in crafting a compromise. The Times quotes an unnamed "senior European official" as lamenting in an interview, "Unlike Washington, we were seen as having no historical baggage, no hidden agenda. ... That was the European advantage." León said yesterday, "There are no easy solutions, no easy way out. But the EU will keep striving for this."

Another story in the New York Times (8/20, A1, Kirkpatrick, Cowell, Nordland, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) notes that during an interview with the BBC, British foreign secretary William Hague said he "did not accept that outsiders were powerless to influence events." Added Hague, "We have to do our best to promote democratic institutions, to promote political dialogue and to keep faith with the majority of Egyptians who just want a free and stable and prosperous country. ... Foreign policy is often about striking the right balance."

Media Analyses: Mubarak's Release Could Exacerbate Crisis. Bloomberg News (8/20, El-Tablawy, El Wardany, 1.41M) reports that Cairo's criminal court yesterday ordered Mubarak's "release from prison," in a move that "threatens to inject new tensions in the standoff between the Muslim Brotherhood and the military-supported interim government." The CBS Evening News (8/19, story 3, 3:05, D'Agata, 5.58M) said the court's decision on Mubarak "came completely out of left field," though prosecutors "may bring other charges to keep him locked up for the foreseeable future."

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, El-Ghobashy, Coker, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) also notes that while the court found there was not sufficient evidence to hold the ousted ruler on the main corruption charges he was facing, other accusations remain outstanding. Among them, the Washington Post (8/20, A1, Sheridan, 4.53M) reports, are "charges in connection with the killing of hundreds of protesters in that Arab Spring revolt," though Mubarak "has been granted bond in that case, and a judge on Monday said he should be able to leave prison as he awaits another trial on corruption charges."

The Los Angeles Times (8/20, Fleishman, Abdulrahim, 3.4M) quotes Mubarak lawyer Farid Deeb as saying of his client, "He'll be out in a couple of days." The New York Times (8/20, A1, Kirkpatrick, Cowell, Nordland, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), however, notes on its front page

that according to "Egyptian state media" Mubarak "would remain in custody for another two weeks...before the authorities make a decision on his release." The AP (8/20, Hendawi), Reuters (8/20, Lyon, Alsharif) and the Washington Times (8/20, Chumley, 452K), among other news outlets, also note the news about Mubarak's release, casting the development as a potential new trigger for tensions in Egypt.

McClatchy (8/20, Youssef, Ismail, 49K), meanwhile, reports on a change in public opinion regarding the military and Mubarak, and profiles several Egyptians who once backed Morsi and now have nothing but anger toward the Brotherhood. In fact, adds McClatchy, "Egyptians largely welcomed news of Mubarak's potential release."

Brotherhood's "Spiritual Leader" Arrested; Morsi Charged With Role In 2012 Deaths, Torture. The Washington Post (8/20, A1, Sheridan, 4.53M) reports on its front page that last night security forces arrested "the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood," Mohammed Badie, who "was shown on state television being whisked away to prison in a car, sitting next to a security officer in a bulletproof vest."

AFP (8/20) reports that an Egyptian court yesterday accused Morsi of "complicity in the deaths and torture of protesters outside his presidential palace in late 2012, judicial sources said." The new charges "mean his current detention will be extended by 15 days started next week."

As Attacks On Christians Continue, Coptic Patriarch Praises Security Forces. The Washington Times (8/20, Chumley, 452K) reports on the growing number of attacks on Christians over the last few days, which include attacks and burnings of "dozens of churches and monasteries," the decapitation of "a Virgin Mary statue" and the killings of "several Christians."

Yesterday, AFP (8/20) reports, Catholic Coptic Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sidrak "said there were no real divisions between Christians and Muslims in Egypt," and "thanked the military and the police in Egypt 'for all their efforts in protecting the country.'" Said Sidrak, "This is not a political conflict between different factions but a struggle by all Egyptians against terrorism." AFP also notes the attacks on "dozens of Christian churches, schools and shops."

GM Reopens Egyptian Office, Factory. AFP (8/20) reports that General Motors said yesterday "it had reopened its office and factory in Egypt after shutting both down last week." AFP notes the company builds "light trucks, cars and minibuses in Egypt and employs more than 1,400 Egyptians."

Priceless Museum Artifacts Looted. The AP (8/20, Batrawy) reports on looting taking place in Egypt, leading to the loss of "a prized 3,500-year-old limestone statue, ancient beaded jewelry and more than 1,000 other artifacts in the biggest theft to hit an Egyptian museum in living memory."

Matthews, Davidson, Hayes: Crisis Puts Clinton, Obama's Foreign Policy In Negative Light. Appearing on MSNBC's Hardball (8/19, 689K), The New Yorker's Amy Davidson said Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state "seems more and more now...about her and about her stature – and less and less about really crystallizing an Obama agenda, and so now his foreign policy feels really a little vacant, especially in the face of the crisis in Egypt." Chris Matthews added, "I think John Kerry is doing a hell of a job," doing "what she hadn't yet done. That's the fact." Matthews continued, "I get the feeling the President's become reactive. ... He gets a bad headline in the New York Times about the Egyptian military...and all of a sudden he has a press conference the next day, a reaction to editorial writing. That's dangerous when a president" is "simply reacting to events; that doesn't look strong."

The Weekly Standard's Steve Hayes, on Fox News' Special Report (8/19, 2.07M), said, "Any discussion about US policy in Egypt today has to start with failure of US policy in Egypt over the past couple years. The fact is, the President hasn't had a strategy. What we've been doing is basically ad hoc policymaking."

WPost, NYTimes Call For Ending Military Aid; Other Commentators Disagree. In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/20, 4.53M) says that Egypt's military-backed government "appears to have embarked on a frighteningly similar course" to Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad in response to protests – unleashing "unrelenting violence." The Post warns that it is "not only a moral challenge" to the US, it could lead to "civil war," "massive flows of refugees," and a new base for Al Qaeda. The Post says that the Administration should respond by suspending military aid.

In an editorial, the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) says that a "surprising number of world leaders and foreign policy experts have effectively acquiesced in the continued brutality of Egypt's generals," their argument being that supporting the military is the "only way to restore stability." However, the Times says this is "certain to ensure more unrest, not less." The Times says that Obama's "muted chastising of the generals and his indecisive reaction to the slaughter does not inspire confidence." The Times says that the Administration should immediately suspend military aid.

In an op-ed for the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), Steven Simon, the executive director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies-United States, says that "many Americans" are "outraged" that the Administration "has not exerted its supposed leverage, in the form of military aid, to pressure the Egyptian army to restore a democratic form of government." However, he says that the aid really doesn't give the US much leverage, and has "never succeeded in persuading Egypt's rulers to govern the way Washington wants."

In his column for USA Today (8/19, Wickham, 5.82M), Dewayne Wickham says that he is surprised that US politicians believe that the US can influence the Egyptian military at all by cutting off aid. He says "an end of U.S. aid won't force Egyptian soldiers back into their barracks, or return Morsi to that country's presidency."

In his column for the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), Roger Cohen says that with the recent events, "Egyptian democracy was stillborn." For the US and Europe, he says it "amounts to a colossal strategic failure" and adds that "nothing — and certainly not the outcome in Afghanistan or Iraq — was more important than getting Egypt right." Cohen says that the Administration has "appeared hesitant and wavering, zigzagging from support for Morsi to acceptance of his ouster." Still, Cohen says that cutting off aid would not solve anything except to further reduce US influence.

In his column for the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Stephens, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), Bret Stephens says that if the US restricts military aid to Egypt, it will lose all influence with the military there and gain little. He argues that having the Egyptian military succeed as quickly as possible is the best of a group of bad outcomes for the US. He argues that if the Brotherhood wins, it would be a disaster for secular Egyptians and for US policy.

In an essay for the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), Joe Sharkey writes that "global security and medical response companies" say that the increasing violence in Egypt have "reduced the number of foreign business travelers there to workers who are deemed necessary." They also say that they expect conditions to worsen, at least in the short term.

OBAMA PRODS TOP REGULATORS TO FINISH IMPLEMENTATION OF DODD-FRANK. President Obama's Monday meeting with Fed Chair Bernanke, Treasury Secretary Lew and other top Administration officials regarding the pace of the Dodd-Frank Wall St. reform law's implementation did not generate any coverage on the network newscasts. Several outlets report that dissatisfaction within the Administration over the failure to put the Volcker Rule into place was among the topics covered Monday. On PBS's Nightly Business Report (8/20, 275), SEC chair Mary Jo White was shown being asked after the meeting, "What's the most important thing you still have to do on Dodd-Frank?" and replying, "Obviously, the Volcker Rule stands out."

At the opening of the lead story for NBR (8/20, 275), Tyler Mattheson said that upon returning from vacation, the President "got back to work," and "wasted no time tackling a topic of high interest to

investors, not to mention financial services executives." John Harwood went on to report that "only about 40% of the regulations" called for in the law "have been enacted or completed by the regulators," and so Monday's meeting was "a pep rally to try to get them to finish that job."

Earlier in the day, on CNBC's Closing Bell (8/20, 151K), Harwood, who is a columnist for the New York Times and chief Washington correspondent for CNBC, which produces the Nightly Business Report for PBS, paraphrased White as saying that the "top priority is the Volcker Rule." Harwood went on to note that the President is "also going to be giving speeches in upstate New York later in the week to try to push his vision of a middle-out economic growth agenda."

The New York Times (8/20, B1, Shear, Eavis, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) reports that Administration officials "have expressed frustration that critical parts of Mr. Obama's overhaul of the financial system...remain unenforced," and, "in particular, top presidential aides have highlighted the failure in putting the Volcker Rule into effect." The Times says the Volcker Rule "prohibit[s] banks from risking institutional money in certain speculative investments." The Times notes that in a speech last month, Lew "complained...that the regulators were moving too slowly to confront the dangers of banks that are so large that governments cannot allow them to fail for fear of bringing down the economy." Lew is quoted as having said, "If we get to the end of this year, and cannot, with an honest straight face, say that we've ended 'too big to fail,' we're going to have to look at other options because the policy of Dodd-Frank and the policy of the administration is to end 'too big to fail.'"

The progress of Dodd-Frank was also the lead story on Fox News' Your World (8/20, 1.3M). Host Neil Cavuto said, "Whether it's ATM surcharges spiking, or monthly checking account fees soaring, you are paying – to date – 77 different Dodd-Frank regulations," which have "cost consumers and businesses more than $15 billion – and that is with only 40% of the...law in place." Fox Business Charlie Gasparino added that despite the costs, "we still have 'too big to fail.'" According to Gasparino, "There's nothing in the bill that stops bailouts," and, "as a matter of fact, there are bailout mechanisms." Gasparino added, "They should really break up these banks," but the President "shows no willingness to do that."

The AP (8/20, Kuhnhenn), in an article titled, "Obama Urges Regulators To Enact Wall Street Rules," reports that three years after its passage, implementation of Dodd-Frank is "behind schedule with scores of regulations yet to be written, let alone enforced," so the President met "privately with the nation's top financial regulators" and "prodded them to act more swiftly." Before the meeting, deputy White House press secretary Josh Earnest said the President wanted to express "the sense of urgency that he feels" about the issue. The AP goes on to report that an independent analysis has concluded that "so far, regulators have missed 60 percent of the rule-making deadlines." The AP notes that Republicans see the implementation delays as evidence of the law's overall shortcomings. Rep. Jeb Hensarling, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, says, "Much like Obamacare, Dodd-Frank is an incomprehensively complex piece of legislation that is harmful to our floundering economy and in dire need of repeal."

The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Ackerman, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), in an article titled, "Obama Presses Regulators To Finish Financial Rules," includes a version of the same comment from Hensarling, and quotes Bair as saying, "It has astonished me, the lack of leadership, the lack of sense of purpose and direction." The Journal attributes much of the Dodd-Frank rulemaking delay to pressure from banking lobbyists. The Financial Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 1.42M) has a similar report.

However, The Hill (8/20, Schroeder, Sink, 322K) reports that on Monday, Earnest insisted that the White House "is not disappointed with the pace of progress," saying, "We're certainly pleased with the level of cooperation and coordination that's taken place among these independent regulators, and the president wants to encourage them to capitalize on the momentum they've already built up to put this regulatory regime in place."

Under the headline, "Obama Asks Regulators To Speed Up Wall Street Reforms," Reuters (8/19,

Stephenson) reports that the White House released a statement after the meeting reading; "The president commended the regulators for their work but stressed the need to expeditiously finish implementing the critical remaining portions of Wall Street reform to ensure we are able to prevent the type of financial harm that led to the Great Recession from ever happening again."

MNI News (8/20, Gulino) reports that while the Treasury Department "is not formally taking credit for placing a meeting with every financial regulator right at the top of Obama's post-vacation schedule," Lew "has emphasized several times that he is making Dodd-Frank one of his top priorities."

Bloomberg News (8/20, Talev, Lerer, 1.41M) says the White House "provided no details on the discussion," but the statement released after the meeting disclosed that the President "also discussed the need for a simpler housing finance system 'that better serves middle-class families' and cooperation among agencies involved in financial market regulation." According to Bloomberg, in addition to the President, Bernanke and Lew, those present at the meeting included, "the Comptroller of the Currency, the director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the acting director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the chairmen of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., National Credit Union Administration, and Securities and Exchange Commission."

NYTimes: JOBS Act Weakened IPO Regulations' Investor Protections. The New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), in an editorial notes that a year ago, the JOBS Act "sailed through Congress with the support of bipartisan majorities, President Obama and the banking industry." However the Times notes that at the time, there were "warnings that it would harm investors by weakening the standards" for IPOs, and the Times says "some of the predicted ill effects...are now coming to pass." According to the Times, "as public offerings have ramped up again on Wall Street...banks have clamored for looser restrictions and got them in the JOBS law." In Particular, the Times objects to the law "allow[ing] analysts to attend an investment banking pitch for a public offering of an 'emerging growth company.'"

Fed Demands Tougher Stress Tests For Some Banks. The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Crittenden, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) reports that the Federal Reserve released a study on Monday that showed that while some of the banks with the most complex operations have made good progress in preparing for market shocks since the financial crisis, there is still work to be done. The Fed wants executives to focus on more specific problems they may face, and test their readiness against them. The report said, "Bank holding companies, when considering their capital needs, should focus on the specific risks they could face under potentially stressful conditions."

Bloomberg News (8/20, Torres, Marcinek, 1.41M) reports that the study found that the "18 largest banks still fall short in at least one of five areas critical to risk management and capital planning." The study shows that after four recent stress tests, "some of the largest banks still lack comprehensive systems and policies to model, test, report and plan for economic calamities."

The New York Times (8/20, Eavis, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), in a more negative take on the study, says that "most" large banks "appear to have been sailing through the annual 'health checkups' they have had to undergo since the financial crisis." The Fed said that, for example, "some banks were not taking into account the possibility of falling house prices when valuing certain mortgage-related assets for the tests."

Lipsky: Public Resolution To Questions About AIG Dissolution Needed. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Lipsky, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), Seth Lipsky, editor of the New York Sun, writes that US Court of Federal Claims Judge Thomas Wheeler is seeking to have Bernanke testify under oath about the Fed's bailout of AIG in 2008 as part of a suit by former top shareholder Starr International, which was wiped out in the bailout. However, the Federal government has been fighting the move, warning that it would distract Bernanke from his primary duties. Lipsky says that Bernanke may have bent or broken the rules in the process, and the public deserves to know.

Reuters Analysis: Yellen, Summers Closer On Regulation Than Many Believe. Reuters (8/20, Saphir) says that as President Obama looks to select a replacement for Fed Chief Ben Bernanke, he should look beyond where the candidates stand on monetary policy and focus on how they rate as regulators. However, Reuters says that the difference between the two leading candidates, Janet Yellen and Lawrence Summers, may not be as sharp as some assume. While Yellen has historically been in favor of tougher regulation, Summers has been less consistently tough. Still, Reuters says that Summers did push for a crackdown on abusive lending, a key contributor to the financial crisis.

Rand Paul Expected To Play Major Role In New Fed Chair Confirmation. Politico (8/20, Lee, Burns, 652K) reports that if "you thought the debates over drones and surveillance were tailor-made" for Sen. Rand Paul (R), "just wait" until Obama selects a new Fed chief. The forthcoming debate "is both a golden opportunity and a test for the libertarian-leaning senator, who has long criticized Bernanke's policies and the institution of the Fed." Paul will need to "continue to rally his grass-roots supporters" while not "turning off deep-pocketed GOP donors" in the financial services community.

STATE DEPT. OFFICIALS PUT ON LEAVE FOLLOWING BENGHAZI WILL NOT BE PUNISHED. The Daily Beast's (8/19, 928K) Josh Rogin reports that Secretary of State Kerry "has determined that the four State Department officials placed on administrative leave" by former Secretary of State Clinton in the wake of the Benghazi attack last September "do not deserve any formal disciplinary action and has asked them to come back to work at the State Department starting Tuesday." Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Raymond Maxwell, described by Rogin as "the only official from the State Department's Near Eastern Affairs bureau to lose his job over the Benghazi attack," says he "received a memo from the State Department's human resources department informing him his administrative leave status has been lifted and he should report for duty Tuesday morning." Maxwell is quoted as saying, "No explanation, no briefing, just come back to work. So I will go in tomorrow." An anonymous "senior State Department official" says the four will "not face any formal disciplinary action" although they "are not blameless and the fact that they will not be returned to the same positions is relevant."

Boehner Faces Growing Pressure To Create Benghazi Investigative Panel. The Hill (8/20, Pecquet, 322K) reports in its "Global Affairs" blog that as the one-year anniversary of the Benghazi attack approaches, Speaker Boehner and other House Republicans are facing growing pressure "to create a special investigative panel." A group of special forces veterans called Special Operations Speaks "has spent $5,800 for three giant billboards scheduled to go up in Boehner's district this week." the billboards urge lawmakers to support a discharge petition to force "a vote on legislation from Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) that would create a special committee." Another conservative group is planning "a day-long commemoration at the steps of the Capitol on Sept. 11."

Claim That Missiles Bound For Syrian Rebels Were In Benghazi Noted. Instapundit's Glenn Harlan Reynolds, in an op-ed for USA Today (8/19, Reynolds, 5.82M), says the Administration's account of the terrorist attack in Benghazi "-- successfully pushed off past the 2012 elections by scapegoating an obscure YouTube filmmaker – is looking worse and worse." Reynolds notes that former US Attorney Joseph DiGenova, who is "representing a Benghazi whistleblower, even says that missiles were being funneled through Benghazi to the Syrian rebels and that 400 were stolen by Al Qaeda terrorists at the time of the attack." Reynolds also notes that CNN "has reported that dozens of CIA agents were on the ground in Benghazi – and that they're being pressured to keep quiet."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"False Choices On Egypt."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) says that a "surprising number of world leaders and foreign policy experts have effectively acquiesced in the continued brutality of Egypt's generals," their argument being that supporting the military is the "only way to restore stability." However, the Times says

this is "certain to ensure more unrest, not less." The Times says that Obama's "muted chastising of the generals and his indecisive reaction to the slaughter does not inspire confidence." The Times says that the Administration should immediately suspend military aid.

"Back To The Future On Wall Street." The New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M), in an editorial notes that a year ago, the JOBS Act "sailed through Congress with the support of bipartisan majorities, President Obama and the banking industry." However the Times notes that at the time, there were "warnings that it would harm investors by weakening the standards" for IPOs, and the Times says "some of the predicted ill effects...are now coming to pass." According to the Times, "as public offerings have ramped up again on Wall Street...banks have clamored for looser restrictions and got them in the JOBS law." In Particular, the Times objects to the law "allow[ing] analysts to attend an investment banking pitch for a public offering of an 'emerging growth company.'"

"Trifling With The Arts And Humanities." An editorial in the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) criticizes the White House over the amount of time it is taking to nominate chairmen for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, noting that while the "small-but-vital endowments" have acting leaders who are able, "interim bosses do not have the influence permanent leaders do." The Times stresses that as Republicans in congress threaten "major budget cuts that neither agency can easily absorb," a "strong voice at the top...would be particularly helpful."

"Riding And Raging On The Rail Road."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"What Egypt Needs."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/20, 4.53M) says that Egypt's military-backed government "appears to have embarked on a frighteningly similar course" to Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad in response to protests – unleashing "unrelenting violence." The Post warns that it is "not only a moral challenge" to the US, it could lead to "civil war," "massive flows of refugees," and a new base for Al Qaeda. The Post says that the Administration should respond by suspending military aid.

"America's Weight Loss." The Washington Post (8/20, 4.53M), in an editorial, notes that the CDC just reported "that the obesity rate dropped among younger, poor children in 19 states and territories between 2008 and 2011," and just "three states saw increases." The Post says the findings are important because "public-health advocates have worried for years that the United States was entering an age of obesity," but it "may be reaching a plateau" instead. According to the Post, "It makes sense that adjusting the WIC program might have changed some people's behavior," and "meant that taxpayers would no longer fund the consumption of junk." The Post says Congress "should think about how it might change the broader $75 billion food-stamp program along similar lines."

"Cuccinelli's Fuzzy Math." In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/20, 4.53M) criticizes Virginia Attorney General and Republican gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli's economic plan, which would cut "business income taxes by a third and personal income taxes by 13 percent." Noting that Cuccinelli "insists that, under his plan, revenue would hold steady and the state's already lean budget would be held harmless," the Post calls his plan "gobbledygook," unless "what he is really planning is a frontal assault on state spending," which would mean "eviscerating education, public safety, infrastructure and social services, which together account for a large majority of that spending."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Die Harder States."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) criticizes states that have maintained an estate tax, despite the end of a provision in Federal law that offered a credit to offset them. In particular, the Journal is critical of Minnesota for expanding its tax. The Journal says the tax is particularly foolish because wealthy residents of states with significant estate taxes can simply change residency to states without them, to the detriment of the states they are leaving, whom the Journal says will be losing successful individuals.

"Perverse Effects." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) calls on Congress to end ethanol and biofuel subsidies, citing a report from the National Academies, which found that before it expired in 2012, the 45-cents-a-gallon ethanol tax credit was increasing carbon emissions by five million tons each year.

"Exposing Asbestos Fraud." The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) editorializes about a bankruptcy case in North Carolina. Garlock Sealing Technologies, a gasket manufacturer, was forced into bankruptcy in 2010 by asbestos claims, and the Journal contends that plaintiffs' attorneys are asking a Federal judge to force Garlock to contribute $1.3 billion into a bankruptcy trust for future asbestos claims. The Journal argues that evidence in the case has been sealed and kept from public view, and contends that such practices are violations of the public trust.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Time:
Pot Law Lights Up A Beer Joint
Law Schools Shrink In Soft Market
A Deadly Turn In Pomona
New Social Site, Same Bullying
Egypt's Sectarian Subplot

Wall Street Journal:
Allies Thwart America In Egypt
Fear Of Fed Retreat Roils India
Cash-Poor Companies Feed Hunger For 'Happy Meal' Bonds
Pension Funds Dispute Math In Detroit Bankruptcy

New York Times:
China Takes Aim At Western Ideas
Climate Panel Cites Near Certainty On Warming
Saudi Arabia Promises To Aid Egypt's Regime
Egypt In Tumult As Court Orders Mubarak Freed
Scholar Saw A Multicolored American Culture
Scandal-Weary San Diego Asks A Question: Where's The Mayor?

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With New Rivals, Atlantic City Battles To End A Losing Streak
Signs Of Sequester's Regional Toll
Teacher Pay At Charters Trails DCPS Review Finds

Financial Times:
Emerging Market Currencies Hit Heavily
Sinai Killings Fuel Israel Concerns
Gold Exports Surge Tenfold As Asian Buyers Pounce
Blackstone Builds Europe Property Fund
OMV Shifts Focus With North Sea Deal
P&G Lobbies EU Over Teeth-Whitener Sales Curbs
No Bollywood Ending For The Rupee

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Idaho Wildfire, Egypt Unrest, Sequester-Head Start, Health-Lyme Disease, Christie-Gay Conversion Therapy, Alex Rodriguez Scandal, Transportation-Speed Traps, UK-Royal Baby
CBS: CBS: West-Wildfires, Southeast-Flooding, Egypt-Unrest, Egypt-US Aid, UK-Greenwald Partner Detained, UK-Diana Death Revelations, San Diego-Mayoral Scandal, Japan-Volcano, Health-Lyme Disease, Russia-Flooding, UK-Royal Baby.
NBC: Idaho-Wildfire, Egypt-Unrest, Chicago-Gun Violence, California-Limo Fire Investigation, San Diego-Mayoral Scandal Health-Lyme Disease, Interior-Bear Attacks, Alex Rodriguez Scandal, UK-Royal Baby

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Egypt-Unrest, Pakistan-Musharraf Indicted, New Jersey-Child Conversion Therapy Banned, Biden Son Hospitalized
CBS: Pakistan-Musharraf Charged In Bhutto Assassination, Egypt-Muslim Brotherhood Chief Arrested, Egypt-Mubarak Acquitted, Fort Hood Trial, Filner Meets With Attorneys, Idaho-Wildfire, Georgia-Baby Shooting Trial
NPR: Egypt-Unrest, California-Inmates Hunger Strike Ruling, Idaho-Wildfire, Obama-Bank Oversight, UK-Greenwald Partner Detained, Hedge Fund Firm Fined, New Jersey-Child Conversion Therapy Banned

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; honors Super Bowl Champion Miami Dolphins and their undefeated 1972 season, East Room, open press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Public Events Scheduled.
US Senate: No Events Scheduled
US House: No Events Scheduled
Other: NORTHROP GRUMMAN – AIRCRAFT UNMANNED SYSTEMS — 8:30 a.m. Tom Vice, corporate vice president and president of Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, will discuss the promise of aircraft unmanned systems and describe Northrop Grumman's leadership in unmanned systems, a capability that is transforming military and commercial approaches to aerospace. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFITS SURVEY — 11 a.m. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Research & Educational Trust will hold a reporters-only conference call to release the 2013 Employer Health Benefits Survey. Participating in the briefing will be: Drew Altman, president and CEO of the Kaiser Family Foundation; study lead author Gary Claxton, a Kaiser vice president and director of the Health Care Marketplace Project; and Matthew Rae, a study co-author and Kaiser senior policy analyst.

EVANGELICAL IMMIGRATION AD CAMPAIGN — 11 a.m. Evangelical Immigration Table press call to launch immigration reform advertising campaign on Christian and talk radio.

CATO – SOCIAL SECURITY – DISABILITY BRIEFING — 12 p.m. Cato Institute hosts briefing on the rising costs of social security disability. Speakers: Tad DeHaven, Budget Analyst, Cato Institute; and Jagadeesh Gokhale, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; moderated by Chris Edwards, Director of Tax Policy Studies, Cato Institute. Location: B-338 Raybum.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT — 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. The Federal Bar Association Criminal Law Section and The Law Library of Congress are hosting an event marking the beginning of a year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Criminal Justice Act. This landmark legislation secured the Sixth Amendment right to counsel in Federal court. Location: Library of Congress, James Madison Memorial Building, Montpelier Room (6th Floor, Yellow Corridor), 101

Independence Avenue, SE.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "'The Butler,' number one movie in the country. It's a story about a guy who spent his life getting coffee for the President. It's based on Joe Biden."

David Letterman: "Speaking of presidents, George W. Bush had heart surgery. I hope he's doing well. Doctors say he's resting comfortably, which is what he did for eight years in the Washington."

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DOI Comments on Keystone XL SDEIS (1).pdf Non-responsive
189K

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, September 5, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Sep 5, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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LAST LAUGHS:
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DOI in the News:

DOMINION POWER IS TOP BIDDER FOR VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT LEASE News that Dominion Virginia Power had the winning bid in an Interior Department auction to lease an offshore area for wind power development received significant coverage in national and local outlets. The Washington Post (9/5, Bernstein, 4.53M) reports that the company's $1.6 million bid won out over that of competitor Apex Virginia Offshore Wind, giving Dominion "the right to install wind turbines 27 miles off the" coast of Virginia Beach, where Interior officials say they will not be visible from land. According to Tommy Beaudreau, director of the Bureau of

Ocean Energy Management, Dominion can now lease the area for $339,000 per year for 33 years. The Post quotes Mary C. Doswell, Dominion's senior vice president for alternative energy solutions, as saying, "Offshore wind has the potential to provide the largest scalable renewable resource for Virginia if it can be achieved at reasonable cost to customers."

A Washington Post (9/4, Szkotak) story notes that Dominion is already "involved with offshore wind research projects intended to lower the energy source's cost." It says the lease will become official after a Justice Department antitrust review, which could take one month. Dominion "will then have six months to submit a site assessment plan for the 112,800-acre area, which has the potential to generate 2,000 megawatts of electricity." A construction and operations plan must be submitted within five years, and "Dominion said it expects it will be a decade before the first turbine is installed in the area." The BOEM director Tommy Beaudreau called the auction outcome "a major milestone getting leases in the hands of operators we believe are in a position to do something with the leases and stand up wind generation facilities." The Sierra Club in Virginia also welcomed Dominion's win, calling on the company to continue moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (9/5, Colman, 322K) reports that the Obama Administration said "it's pleased with the start of its push to develop wind off the nation's coasts after an auction for a tract of ocean near Virginia netted $1.6 million on Wednesday." In a statement, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This year's second offshore wind lease sale is another major milestone in the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy and demonstrates continued momentum behind a robust renewable energy portfolio that will help to keep our nation competitive and expand domestic energy production while cutting carbon pollution."

The FuelFix (9/4, 3K) reports that "although just two bidders participated in Wednesday's auction," BOEM Director Beaudreau said he was "very impressed" with the level of competition. As for "when it comes to the offshore Virginia wind lease auctioned Wednesday," Beaudreau stressed that the government "will be quite focused on ensuring diligent development in this area."

The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian Pilot (9/5, Applegate, 441K) writes that "politicians and environmentalists" were touting "Hampton Roads as ripe to become a hub to support an offshore wind industry." The piece notes that Gov. Bob McDonnell released a statement saying that "Today is another great step forward in ensuring Virginia is the 'Energy Capital of the East Coast.'"

The Augusta (VA) Free Press (9/5, 280) also quotes McDonnell's statement: "I want to congratulate Dominion Virginia Power on winning the lease. ... Dominion is one of the largest energy producers in the country and a great corporate partner in Virginia. ... I want to thank Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and her team at BOEM for moving this project forward as part of a comprehensive approach toward meeting our nation's energy needs and creating more good jobs."

The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (9/5, 220K) quotes Sen. Mark Warner, who "called the lease acquisition an 'important milestone in the development of Virginia's renewable energy industry.'" He said it would help Virginia become a leader in the field while creating new jobs.

On the Huffington Post (9/4, Sheppard, 11.54M), Kate Sheppard wrote about the significance of Dominion's victory, noting that "renewable energy advocates are cheering" the fact that "a giant of coal-fired power won" the lease. Dominion spokesman Jim Norvelle told Sheppard that wind power is "just too big of a resource" to ignore. Referring to the company's current DOE-funded turbine project, Norvelle said of wind power, "Right now, it is expensive to do. ... That's why we're involved. We think it could be beneficial to customers if the price is right."

Other AP coverage appears in the Washington Post (9/4, Szkotak, 4.53M), NBC News (9/5, 6.68M), FOX News (9/4, 6.72M), WUSA-TV Washington (DC) Washington (9/5, 95K), WTOP-FM Washington (DC) Washington (9/5, 12K), WVEC-TV Hampton Roads (VA) Hampton Roads, VA (9/5, 53K), WAVY-TV Norfolk, VA (9/5, 49K), WVEC-TV Hampton Roads, VA (9/5, 53K), the Staunton (VA) News Leader (9/4, Szkotak, 9K), the Boston Globe (9/4, Szkotak, 1.53M), the Connecticut Post (9/5, Szkotak, 297K), the Greenwich (CT) Time (9/5, Szkotak, 27K), the U-T San Diego (9/4, Szkotak, 667K), the San Francisco Chronicle (9/5, Szkotak, 2.33M), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (9/5, Szkotak, 800K), the Arizona Daily Star (9/5, Szkotak, 354K), the Las Vegas Sun (9/4, Szkotak, 179K), the Houston Chronicle (9/5, Szkotak, 1.97M) reports, the Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/5, Szkotak, 1.07M), the Miami Herald (9/5, Szkotak, 800K), the State (SC) (9/4, Szkotak, 306K), and the Bluefield

(WV) Daily Telegraph (9/5, 52K).

Also covering this story were Reuters (9/5), Bloomberg BusinessWeek (9/4, Drajem, 4.55M), Bloomberg News (9/5, Drajem, 1.41M), the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (9/5, Bacque, 333K), WCAV-TV Charlottesville (VA) Charlottesville, VA (9/5, 210), The Hill (9/5, Colman, 322K), Law 360 (9/5, Sundar, 3K), Electric Light & Power (9/5), Electric Energy Online (9/5), Power Engineering (9/5), Penn Energy (9/5, 128), FuelFix (9/4, 3K), reNews (9/5), Recharge News (9/5, 633), Citybizlist (9/5, 3K), Inhabitat.com (9/5, 62K), Daily Finance (9/4, 576K), Yahoo! Finance (9/5, 6.7M), and Yahoo! (9/5, Szkotak, 15.66M).

Broadcast coverage of the story included a WCAV-TV Charlottesville, VA (9/4, 11:07 p.m. EDT, 1K) report that "Dominion Virginia Power won rights to develop wind power on more than 100-thousand acres of coastline at an auction today. It will take several years to build the wind turbines, but they could generate enough power for 700,000 homes. Studies estimate the offshore wind industry would create around 10,000 jobs in Virginia."

WVBT-TV Virginia Beach, VA (9/4, 10:40 p.m. EDT, 28K) added on its broadcast that the lease cost Dominion $1.6 million.

WDBJ-TV Roanoke, VA (9/4, 11:03 p.m. EDT, 41K), WAHUCA-TV Charlottesvile, VA (9/4, 10:14 p.m. EDT), WBOC-TV Salisbury, MD (9/4, 7:01 p.m. EDT, 24K), WVIR-TV Charlottesville, VA (9/4, 6:11 p.m. EDT, 16K), WRIC-TV Richmond, VA (9/4, 6:09 p.m. EDT, 28K) and WAVY-TV Norfolk, VA (9/4, 7:48 a.m. EDT, 5K) also covered the story.

SECRETARY JEWELL: TIME TO ASSESS HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS TRUST. The AP (9/5, Mcavoy) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday that "it's time to assess the Hawaiian homelands trust and to think about where it should be when the centennial of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act arrives in eight years." While delivering the keynote address at the 12th Annual Native Hawaiian Convention, Jewell noted that "it's been 30 years since a federal task force addressed the topic in 1983." Jewell said, "We're mindful of a balance struck by Congress and a continuing need for Interior (Department) and the state to work collectively together." She also "repeatedly stressed how important it would be for the department to consult Native Hawaiians on issues like cultural resources, homelands and what people expect of the department."

Also reporting on the story are the Kaua'i (HI) Garden Island News (9/5, 33K) and the Hawaii News Now (9/5, 56K).

House Democrats Presses For Formal Tribal Recognition Of Native Hawaiians. The Washington Times (9/5, Richardson, 452K) reports that Hawaii Democrats are pressing for formal tribal recognition of Native Hawaiians, but "some Native Hawaiians are pushing back." According to the article, "advocates of Hawaiian independence have posted a petition on the White House's We the People website asking President Obama to reject Democratic pleas to grant them tribal status via executive order." The petition claims that the attempt to "transform our Hawaiian identity is an unconstitutional, race-based action; a clear breach and violation of our perfect right denying our due process under law."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S TRIP TO ALASKA. The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (9/4, 223K) reports that members of the Fish Basket Coalition "lobbied to keep Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea free from offshore oil and gas development" as Interior Secretary Sally Jewell departed from a press conference Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, the Alaska Public Radio Network (9/4) reports that Jewell faces a "difficult decision" on the King Cove road.

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. TO CHALLENGE FEDERAL RULING. The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (9/5, Prado, 111K) reports that Kevin Lunny, the owner of Drakes Bay Oyster Company said Wednesday he will seek a rehearing of the federal appeals court ruling Tuesday that would force him to shut down. Lunny said that within 45 days his attorneys will file a petition for a hearing before the panel of the 9th Circuit US Court of Appeals in San Francisco. In a statement, Lunny said, "With the support of thousands of environmentalists, community members and elected leaders around the nation, we will continue to fight for what's right and remain committed to succeeding in our fight to remain open and serve our community."

Also providing coverage are Reuters (9/4, Hurley), the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (9/4, Kovner, 179K), the Huffington Post (9/4, O'Connor, 11.54M), the SFist (9/4, 32K), and the SF Weekly (9/5, 292K).

INTERIOR WARNS NEW UTAH HIGHWAY WOULD PERMANENTLY HARM WETLANDS. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (9/5, 396K) reports that the Interior Department says that the proposed West Davis Corridor freeway will "irreparably harm Great Salt Lake wetlands that are important to migratory birds," and is pressing "state officials to consider instead an alternative critics proposed to upgrade existing roads and mass transit instead." Federal officials wrote, "A new 4-lane freeway adjacent to the [Great Salt Lake] shore lands would have significant, irreparable impacts to the wildlife populations that rely on those habitats, would substantially degrade the value of that habitat, and would permanently alter the composition of the wildlife community in the area."

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS HOLD FIELD HEARING IN WYOMING. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (9/5, 95K) reports that four members of the House Natural Resource Committee held a field hearing at the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission building in Casper. Wyoming US Rep. Cynthia Lummis was joined by committee chairman Rep. Doc Hastings, Wash.; Rep. Doug Lamborn, Colo.; and Rep. Steve Daines, Mont. They accused the Obama Administration, the BLM, and the FWS of "allowing special interest groups to use litigation to dictate how federal agencies prioritize endangered species listings."

Meanwhile, the Fairfield Sun Times (9/3) interviewed Daines about energy development.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM. Additional coverage of the Pacific Islands Forum was provided by Yahoo! News New Zealand (9/5, 1K), the Global Post (9/5, 93K), the NZCity (9/5, 1K), the Islands Business (9/5), and the New Zealand Herald (9/5, Davison, 601K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FUNDING FOR TAMIAMI TRAIL. Additional coverage of the funding for Tamiami Trail was provided by the Fort Myers (FL) Beach Bulletin (9/5, 41K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORT ON ENERGY BOOM'S IMPACT ON ECONOMY. Additional coverage of the IHS study on the energy boom's impact on the economy was provided by the FuelFix (9/4, 3K) and the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (9/5, 165K).

DIVERSE INTERESTS DISCUSS ISSUES ON COLORADO RAFT TRIP. In an op-ed for the Summit (CO) Daily News (9/5, Bennet, 36K), Sen. Michael F. Bennet writes that Dinosaur National Monument and the surrounding desert have "been the subject of a series of debates epitomizing the challenges that the state of Colorado faces." He notes that Anne Castle, assistant Interior Department secretary for water and science, was among those invited for a raft trip to consider "all these angels." Bennet concludes that "we proved something on our trip, something many of our leaders seem to have forgotten since the battle over Echo Park: When it comes to our natural resources, we're all in the same boat."

PROTECTION URGED FOR PUBLIC LANDS. The Arizona Daily Sun (9/5, 36K) editorializes that national parks are under pressure from "encroachment" and "development." The paper supports honoring "America's best idea" by keeping national parks "as natural as possible."

Meanwhile, in an op-ed for the Denver Post (9/4, Brass, 1.08M), Tim Brass, the Southern Rockies coordinator for the Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, urges protection for public lands from energy development, to keep hunting and outdoors activities intact.

COLUMNIST: NEVADA'S DISCLAIMER CLAUSE MEANS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD "CLEAR OUT". In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (9/5, Mitchell, 23K), Thomas Mitchell argues that the original intention of the Disclaimer Clause in Nevada's Constitution "seems pretty clear": "Obtain clear title. Sell the land. Divide the proceeds. Clear out."

EDITORIAL: ENERGY REVOLUTION TAKING PLACE DESPITE OBAMA'S POLICIES. In an editorial, the Washington Examiner (9/5, 294K) writes that the energy boom in the United States has not been a result of President Barack Obama's policies but rather "despite" them as "oil, natural gas and coal production are zooming upwards on private land, but plummeting on government lands." The Examiner believes that the "energy

revolution" is the "fruit of Americans working together voluntarily in the private sector. Think what they could do if Obama and the bureaucrats would get out of the way."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

ASSAULT ON NPS EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS CROSS-BORDER DANGER. The E&E Daily (9/4) reports that the assault on an NPS employee at Chiricahua National Monument last week is one of "several incidents" that highlight the "dangers faced by Interior Department employees who work along the front lines of the United States' border battle." The article notes that Border Patrol staffing levels are "increasing by leaps and bounds," which has had the effect of "diverting large amounts of illegal traffic to more remote federal land, including national parks and other Interior lands." Jon Andrew, the interagency borderlands coordinator for Interior, noted that cross-border incidents have fallen from a decade ago, but "he acknowledged that agency employees do continue to face threats from illegal drug and human trafficking coming from Mexico."

Also covering the assault are the Douglas (AZ) Dispatch (9/4, 5K) and t he Willcox (AZ) Range News (9/5, 11K).

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON KILLDEER MOUNTAINS POWER LINE. The Prairie Business (9/5, 55K) reports that a public hearing will be held on a proposal to construct a new transmission line that would go through the Killdeer Mountain Battlefield site. The line would run through the boundaries of a NPS study "led by North Dakota State University history professor Tom Isem, who characterizes the battlefield as the most significant historic site in the state."

The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (9/5, 34K) reports that Basin Electric Power Cooperative said Wednesday "it won't build a substation in the historic Killdeer Mountain battlefield area, but it's still planning to build a major transmission line through the heart of where the battle was fought." The plans were "detailed in a hearing that started in the morning and ended in the evening at Killdeer, just miles from the controversial location."

Also reporting on the story is the Dickinson (ND) Press (9/5, 360).

ILLEGAL POT FARM RULED OUT AS CAUSE OF RIM FIRE. The Los Angeles Times (9/4, Bloomekatz, Sema, 3.4M) reports that Jerry Snyder of the U.S. Forest Service said Wednesday that the massive Rim fire burning into Yosemite National Park was "probably not caused by an illegal marijuana farm, despite earlier comments made by a local fire chief." According to the article, "the rumor that marijuana growers may have been involved began when Twain Harte Fire and Rescue Chief Todd McNeal told a community meeting that the blaze was definitely human-caused." However, Snyder said that "at this point in their review, investigators have not found any evidence that marijuana was grown in the area where the fire probably started Aug. 17."

ARREST OF PROTESTER ON INDEPENDENCE MALL CAUSES STIR ONLINE. KYW-TV Philadelphia (9/4, 45K) reports that footage of NPS police "arresting a protester on Independence Mall last Friday," is "causing a stir online" and assisting "the young woman raise money for her defense fund." The video of protester, Emily Yates, an Army veteran who served two tours in Iraq, "has been viewed nearly 100,000 times and helped Yates raise more than $12,000," but NPS spokesperson Jane Cowley "says it doesn't show the whole story." Cowley said, "She did kick, strike and spit on uniform park rangers."

BI-COUNTY PARKWAY OPPONENTS URGE GOV. MCDONNELL TO SLOW ROAD. The Washington Post (9/5, Borden, 4.53M) reports that in a letter, a contingent of 13 Northern Virginia elected officials urged Gov. Robert F. McDonnell to "slow plans for a controversial parkway that would connect Prince William and Loudoun counties." The officials are "all in agreement that the proposed Bi-County Parkway would worsen traffic and quality of life for the area's residents," according to Del. Timothy D. Hugo. Also, "residents worry about their home values and the integrity of Prince William's protected rural area, which sits adjacent to the Manassas National Battlefield Park."

FLIGHT 93 ADVISORY COMMISSION TO DISBAND. The Indiana (PA) Gazette (9/5, 42K) reports that the Flight 93 Advisory Commission is disbanding. The commission has "met four times a year since being sworn in nearly

10 years ago," and "its last meeting will be Sept. 10, the day before the 12th anniversary of the attacks." Jeff Reinbold the National Park Service superintendent at the memorial, said, "This is a sign of success."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP PROTESTS USE OF CHEMICALS IN SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. The Malibu (CA) Times (9/5, 35K) reports that "citing the growing threat of non-native plants to the local ecosystem," the NPS is formulating a "master plan to combat the trend in its Santa Monica Mountains that could include the use of herbicides." However, in Topanga, an environmental group is "arguing the use of herbicides would harm the environment worse than encroaching non-native plants."

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZES DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA SUPERINTENDENT. The Pocono (PA) Record (9/5, 47K) reports that Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Superintendent John Donahue was "presented with a citation of recognition Wednesday by state Rep. Rosemary Brown, R-189." The recognition, "from the state Legislature, acknowledges Donahue as an energetic leader in partnerships and conservation." The citation says, "He provides active influence and support to ensure the protection of scenic, natural and cultural resources under his care within the Poconos region. His efforts toward watershed preservation and river monitoring have led the way for the middle Delaware River to be noted for having pristine water quality and providing clean drinking water to more than 16 million consumers."

YELLOWSTONE'S BISON POPULATION INCREASED. The Laurel (MT) Outlook (9/5, 9K) reports that Yellowstone National Park has finished its annual summer bison population abundance monitoring. According to the article, the population is estimated to be 4,600 bison. The numbers "represent an increase of 8.75 percent over last year's count."

Bureau of Land Management:

REP. GRIJALVA TOURS WILD HORSE CORRALS IN NEVADA. The Los Angeles Times (9/4, Glionna, 3.4M) reports that Rep. Raul M. Grijalva toured the BLM's temporary holding facility in Palomino Valley with wild horse advocates on Wednesday. Brandon Bragato, a senior legislative assistant for the congressman, said, "The congressman has been tracking the wild horse and burro issue for pretty much the entire time he's been on committee, over the last 10 years. He's concerned with the way the BLM is managing these animals and the techniques they're using to restrict herd size on the range. He wants to take a look at the program."

The Fresno (CA) Bee (9/4, 324K) reports that Grijalva said Wednesday that "he wants to work with" the "well-meaning" BLM to "overcome decades of mismanagement of wild horses and fix outdated, 'broken' roundup policies he says prioritize livestock over mustangs." Grijalva said, "It's not a question of blame. It's a question of a policy and management strategy that has consistently failed in preserving and sustaining the wild horse legacy of this country." Grijalva said he "hopes to work with BLM to develop legislation that would lead to a 'sound management plan with the maximum amount of habitat that the wild horses use ... as opposed to a management plan that is constricted around holding pens.'"

The Arizona Daily Star (9/5, 354K) reports that BLM spokeswoman Erica Szlosek said the bureau welcomes the Grijalva's visit. Szlosek said, "The NAS (National Academy of Sciences) report did not call for an end to the gathers. It looked at different options on the range, population control, growth depression, those kinds of measures." She added, "We've been reading the report, and we are parsing out chapter by chapter different parts to different specialists at BLM to look at the range of possibilities."

Also reporting on the story are the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (9/5, 290K), the Springfield (OH) News Sun (9/5, 58K), the Contra Costa (CA) Times (9/5, Sonner, 309K), KTAR-FM Phoenix (9/5, 8K), KOLO-TV Reno, NV (9/5, 2K), and KTVN-TV Reno, NV (9/5, Bennett, 3K).

BUDGET CONSTRAINTS FORCE BLM TO SCALE BACK FIRE REHAB IN NEVADA. The Jamestown (ND) Sun (9/5, 1K) reports that budget constraints are "forcing" the BLM to "scale back wildfire rehabilitation plans" in Nevada, "including some habitat deemed important to sage grouse." The BLM "recently identified more than $3.2 million worth of potential restoration work to be done in southern Douglas County where the Bison Fire burned nearly 38 square miles last year," but bureau officials say "they'll only be able to spend about $1 million on the effort in the coming year due to increased demand and dwindling resources after last year's big fire season."

JUDGE SIGNS OFF ON DEEP CREEKS ROAD CONSENT DECREE. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (9/5, 396K) reports that Juab County has "assumed responsibility for strictly regulating ATV use in the Deep Creek Mountains under a consent decree settling its long-standing road dispute" with the BLM. The accord, signed last week by US District Judge Tena Campbell, "memorializes an agreement the county and state of Utah reached with the federal government and three environmental groups to resolve the question of who controls three primitive routes up canyons on the West Desert range's east slope."

HEARING SET FOR PROPOSED TRANSWEST POWER LINE. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (9/4, 48K) reports that the BLM is taking public comment on its draft environmental impact statement for the Transwest Express Transmission Project. The line was "originally proposed to pass through Washington County," but the BLM's proposed alternative is "to move the line out of Utah's western border before getting to Washington County, avoiding potential impacts to natural or cultural resources such as roadless parts of the Dixie National Forest and the Mountain Meadows National Historic Landmark." The BLM and Western Area Power Administration have "hosted a series of public meetings, with two more scheduled, one tonight in Cedar City and another Friday in St. George."

BLM TO CLOSE BEAVER CREEK ROAD. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (9/5, 56K) reports that the BLM's Shoshone Field Office will close the Little Beaver Creek Road. The article notes that "a portion of the road was recently covered by a land slide due to soil instability and the recent rain fall," which "has caused the road to be impassable, posing a risk to public safety."

PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY WARNS OF HELIUM SHORTAGE. In an op-ed for the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (9/5, Wu, 835K), Marinda Li Wu writes, president of the American Chemical Society, writes that "due to a lack of political will among our nation's elected officials and miscommunication with business leaders, the world's helium supply is suddenly at risk." Wu notes that in an August 12 letter from BLM to Praxair, the bureau "states that it will not be able to provide helium if Congress does not fund the Federal Helium Program beyond Oct 7." Wu urges Congress to "present a bipartisan agreement that will allow the Federal Helium Program to continue operations for the time being."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

HATCHERY FUNDING RESOLUTION STUCK IN HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE. The Baxter (AR) Bulletin (9/4, 28K) reports that a Congressional resolution that could provide "continuing funding for 18 federal mitigation-of-species fish hatcheries is stuck" in a subcommittee of the US House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources. The article notes that Rep. Rick Crawford and staff are shopping the legislation "aggressively for cosponsors among other House members."

In an editorial, the Rapid City (SD) Journal (9/5, 93K) questions the "apparent decision" by the FWS to "target fish hatcheries if it loses funding in its 2014 budget." The paper hopes the state's congressional delegation "asks questions" of the FWS and "urges it to keep its fish hatcheries open, particularly the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery."

US Geological Survey:

EXPERTS SAY ALASKAN QUAKE COULD LEAD TO CALIFORNIA TSUNAMI. The San Francisco Chronicle (9/5, Perlman, 2.33M) reports that "a giant tsunami spawned by a huge Alaskan earthquake could hit the California coast," according to a report from USGS experts and state and national specialists. The scenario proposes a "hypothetical but plausible" event involving a magnitude 9.1 quake. The USGS authors wrote, "Although this pales in comparison to the loss of lives and property in Japan, the US government must ask whether California, and the national economy, will someday face worse consequences from other distant-source tsunamis. Unfortunately the answer is 'yes.'"

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING ON BLYTHE SOLAR PROJECT. The Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times (9/3, 162K) reports that the BLM has scheduled a public meeting on NextEra Energy's Blythe solar project on September 17.

Also reporting on the story is the Palo Verde Valley (CA) Times (9/5, 11K).

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM NARROWS PROPOSED CHACO DRILLING SITES TO FOUR. The Durango (CO) Herald (9/4, 28K) reports that the BLM has "released an environmental assessment that proposes to lease four of 38 parcels" near Chaco Culture National Historic Park that were "nominated by gas and oil companies" The article notes that "none of the parcels recommended by the BLM's preferred alternative to go forward is among the nominated parcels closest to the park."

OIL, GAS LEASING PLAN MAY IMPACT UTAH LAND DEAL. The High Country (CO) News (9/5, Keller, 74K) reports that the San Rafael Swell, the Book Cliffs, Desolation Canyon and the areas around Canyonlands National Park "lack federal protections," and "they've been land management battlegrounds for decades," but Congressman Rob Bishop "is working to broker a big federal land management deal, and find some closure on decades of acrimony over land use." The piece notes that "there are two new wrinkles in protecting wilderness values in the San Rafael Swell and the Book Cliffs," as "the Bureau of Land Management and Utah's school land trust are offering up nearly 236,000 acres of their respective lands for potential oil and gas leasing, making the push for Congressional action to protect red rock country even more urgent."

JUDGE SIDES WITH NORTH DAKOTA PSC IN SURFACE MINING LAWSUIT. The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (9/5, 34K) reports that on Tuesday, US District Judge Daniel Hovland "sided with the North Dakota Public Service Commission" after the Dakota Resource Council and the Sierra Club "claimed the commission had provided written guidance to mine operators, which they alleged was a violation of the federal surface mining program." Hovland ruled "that the Dakota Resource Council's claims were vague and without merit." Furthermore, "the Secretary of the Interior had intervened in the lawsuit on the PSC side."

Offshore Energy Development:

WATSON REFLECTS ON TIME AT BSEE. Environment & Energy Publishing (9/5, 705) reports that James Watson, the former head of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, will now serve "as president of the Americas division of the American Bureau of Shipping." Watson recently "reflected on his time helming BSEE," saying that "though proud of what BSEE has accomplished during its short time of existence, he acknowledged that there was still much left to be done but said he feels the agency is on the right track."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ARIZONA, NEVADA MAY HAVE WATER DELIVERIES CUT IN 2016. The Laughlin (NV) Times (9/4, 23K) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation is "giving Arizona and Nevada a 50-50 chance of having water deliveries cut in 2016." The piece notes that "bureau officials and environmentalists have been raising alarms in recent months about demand outstripping supply on the river serving about 40 million people in seven states and cities including Los Angeles, Phoenix, Denver and Las Vegas."

The Moapa Valley (NV) Progress (9/4) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation proposal "is something that has never happened before."

The Business Journal (CA) (9/5) also reports this story.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (9/5, Beley, 206).

Empowering Native American Communities:

ENVIRONMENTAL BATTLEGROUNDS IN INDIAN COUNTRY DETAILED. The Indian Country Today Media Network (8/27, 11K) reports on "some of the most environmentally embattled hot spots in Indian country." These include "Havasupai Tribe Challenges Grand Canyon Uranium Mine" and "Lummi Stand Firm Against SSA Marine's Proposed Cherry Point Coal Terminal."

GROUP SEEKS COMPENSATION FOR CLEANING UP ALASKA. KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (9/4, 19K) reports that the Alaska Native Village CEO's Association "estimates there are 650 contaminated sites around Alaska, affected by everything from military sites to mines." Association founder Maver Carey said "top officials from her organization will meet" with the BIA in Washington, D.C. September 16 to discuss "getting compensation for cleaning up these areas." Carey said, "I think it's going to be a battle, I really do. This is a federal government issue, I don't think when we come back from DC in two weeks, there's going to be shining stars."

COURT RULES TRIBE PROPERLY DENIED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR POLICE FORCE. Courthouse News (9/4, 3K) reports that on Wednesday, the 9th Circuit ruled that "despite high crime rates on Indian reservations nationwide," the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians "had been properly denied federal funding for a police force." The community "sued the secretary of the Interior and others after the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) denied the tribe's request for $746,110 to enhance its police force, which currently consists of one part-time officer."

ATTORNEYS OFFER CONFESSIONS AS EVIDENCE IN SPIRIT LAKE INDIAN RESERVATION KILLINGS. The AP (9/5) reports that on Wednesday, "attorneys in the case of a North Dakota man on trial for killing two children on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation offered separate confessions as evidence," and also "disagreed over the significance of a palm print and DNA sample." The piece notes that the trial "comes as the tribe is trying to overhaul its child protection system," as the "U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs stepped in last October to bolster and oversee the system."

Top National News:

OBAMA SAYS "THE WORLD," NOT HE, SET "RED LINE" REGARDING CHEMICAL WEAPONS. Nearly all the coverage of President Obama's appearances in Sweden Wednesday put the trip in the context of the debate over potential US involvement in Syria's civil war, with a focus on the President's argument that the "red line" he has vowed to enforce in regards to the use of chemical weapons is matter of longstanding international precedent, not his own creation. Many reports also highlight Russian President Putin's continued insistence that the US has failed to prove that the Assad regime carried out a chemicals weapons attack on August 21, and his claim that Secretary of State Kerry, who on Wednesday estimated that 15% to 25% of the Syrian rebels are Islamic extremists, is actually underestimating the proportion of the fighters with ties to Al Qaeda and other like-minded groups.

Coverage of Syria remained extremely heavy, with the three broadcast networks offering more than 20 minutes of combined coverage. CBS and NBC, which each opened with the story, had about nine and eight and one-half minutes respectively, while ABC had about four and one-half minutes of coverage. Print coverage is also heavy, with the New York Times and Washington Post each running two front-page stories, and the Los Angeles Times and Wall Street Journal among the other major newspapers also running front-page reports.

Diane Sawyer, on ABC World News (9/4, story 2, 2:10, 7.43M), said Obama and Putin are "taking opposite sides on Syria and in 24 hours they will be face to face." Jonathan Karl went on to report that in Sweden Wednesday, the President "said responding to Syria's chemical weapons attack is now more than just his leadership." President Obama was shown saying, "My credibility is not on the line. The international community's credibility is on the line and America and Congress's credibility is on the line. ... I didn't set a 'red line'; the world set a red line." Karl added that Putin "is once again standing in opposition," accusing Kerry "of lying about Syria," and "suggesting it was Syrian rebels, not the government, who used chemical weapons." On the CBS Evening News (9/4, story 2, 2:15, 5.58M), Major Garrett clarified that Putin accused Kerry of "appearing to minimize the role of Al Qaeda-backed fighters in the Syrian opposition."

Scott Pelley, on the CBS Evening News (9/4, story 2, 2:15, 5.58M), said the President "has made a point of staying out of the two-year-old Syrian civil war, but a year ago he warned the Syrian dictator that a 'red line' would be crossed if the dictator used chemical weapons." The President was then shown saying on Wednesday: "I didn't set a 'red line.'"

Jonathan Allen, in a piece for Politico (9/5, Allen, 652K) titled "Obama Reframes 'Red Line' Rhetoric," says the President's claim "shocked critics of his Syria policy, prompting an immediate response – online and off – that demonstrated just how much his credibility is on the line." Allen notes that on Twitter, "the hashtag #whosaidobamasredline began trending soon after Obama spoke." Allen notes that at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) said, "The President drew a red line...when the President drew that red line." And Sen. Saxby Chambliss is quoted as saying, "He needs to go back and read his quote."

Brian Williams, on NBC Nightly News (9/4, story 2, 2:05, 7.86M), said there is "pressure on the President to take his case directly to the American people, even as he takes the case to the world stage." Chuck Todd also reported that "the pressure on the President to speak publicly in some sort of official form prime-time address, Oval Office-style address to the nation" in order to "give political cover to a bunch of House Democrats, a lot of [whom] got elected on being anti-war, anti-Iraq."

USA Today (9/5, Davis, 5.82M) notes that on Wednesday at a House hearing, Kerry was "asked...whether Obama intends to address the nation before Congress votes next week," and Kerry answered, "I have no doubt the president will."

The New York Times (9/5, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) reports from Stockholm that on Wednesday, the President "laid blame for the Aug. 21 attack directly on Mr. Assad," although "American intelligence has not disclosed any evidence that Mr. Assad personally ordered the use of sarin." According to the Times, the President's "language on Wednesday appeared to go a little further in singling out Mr. Assad" when he said, "We believe very strongly with high confidence that in fact chemical weapons were used and that Mr. Assad was the source." Nevertheless, Putin "scoffed at the notion that the Syrian government was responsible for the chemical attack, calling it 'utter nonsense,' and suggest[ed] that it was a provocation by rebels eager to draw the United States into their civil war." The Times adds that Putin also "pointedly recalled the false Iraq intelligence" used by the Bush Administration to secure support for their invasion of Iraq, asking rhetorically, "Did we forget about that?"

The Washington Post (9/5, A1, Rucker, Englund, 4.53M) reports on its front page that at a joint news conference in Stockholm with Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, the President argued that "the moral thing to do is not to stand by and do nothing," but, according to the Post, "the challenge of marshaling global support...was made clear by Reinfeldt, who agreed with Obama that the use of chemical weapons was unacceptable but added that Sweden...could not come out in support of a unilateral response." The Post goes on to report that the President "indirectly drew a parallel to the Holocaust, and later paid tribute to the late Swedish humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg at a nearby Stockholm synagogue and Holocaust memorial."

The Wall Street Journal (9/5, Favole, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) reports that also on Wednesday, the President reiterated his contention that he was not required to seek Congressional authorization for strikes against Assad, but added, "We will be stronger as a country in our response if the president and Congress does it together." the President is quoted as saying, "As commander in chief I always preserve the right and the responsibility to act on behalf of America's national security. I don't believe that I was required to take this to Congress. But I did not take this to Congress because I think it's an empty exercise."

The Washington Times (9/5, Wolfgang, 452K) reports that during the press conference in Stockholm on Wednesday, the President "was asked the bigger-picture question of how he's reconciling his calls for military strikes with the fact that he was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 2009 – an award he told reporters he felt 'unworthy' of when compared to past recipients." In response, the President, "speaking deliberately...described how the Syrian conflict is just the latest example of 'the challenge all of us face when we believe in peace but we confront a world that is full of violence.'"

More Commentary On Syria. In a highly critical editorial headlined "Blurred Red Lines," the Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) says the President remark that he "didn't set a red line" shows that the

President has yet to realize or accept that the US is the only nation capable of enforcing order in the world, and that it is his credibility and that of the US, and not that of the international community, that will suffer from inaction.

Robert Samuelson writes in his Washington Post (9/5, 4.53M) column that "perhaps the most misleading phrase in the debate over Syria is 'war weary.'" He asks, weary "of exactly what? The truth is that for most Americans, the constant combat has imposed no burdens, required no sacrifices and involved no disruptions. ... Whatever we do in Syria must spring from a sober calculation of national interest so that it commands broad public support," and not determined by "an exaggerated and artificial sense of 'war weariness.'"

In a Washington Post (9/5, Miller, 4.53M) column headlined "Six Qualms About Syria," Matt Miller wonders why the US was not concerned about "the first 100,000" killed in Syria, the possible "August 1914 analogy" of "unintended consequences" leading to a wider Middle East war, whether the threat of action is due solely to President Obama's "'red line' remark," why the US has few international partners as it did in Libya, what the crisis says about the President's "basic leadership skills," and how Obama is responding to "the unique burden of the presidency" that forces American leaders to make such choices on behalf of the world.

Karl Rove, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), accuses the President of antagonizing Congress even as he lobbies on behalf of the Syria resolution. Rove says the President ought to be making the case that if the US does not force Assad out of power, it will be a win for Iran and Russia, among others.

The Weekly Standard's Stephen Hayes, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) titled "The Hawk's Case Against Obama On Syria," notes that the President did not seek Congressional authorization before ordering US military assets to be used against the Gadhafi regime in Libya in 2011, and suggest that he is only doing so now so that Congress will share in the responsibility for the decision, unpopular with the public, to involve the US in Syria civil war. Hayes goes on to argue that the resolution before Congress is too narrow, and urges Republicans to vote against anything short of a mandate for regime change in Syria.

SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES SYRIA RESOLUTION ON 10-7 VOTE. USA Today (9/5, Korte, 5.82M) reports that on a 10-7 vote Wednesday, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "voted to authorize President Obama to use limited force against Syria...after adopting amendments from Sen. John McCain designed to urge Obama to 'change the military equation on the battlefield.'" Voting in favor were Democrats Barbara Boxer, Ben Cardin, Chris Coons, Richard Durbin, Tim Kaine, Robert Menendez, and Jeanne Shaheen, and Republicans Bob Corker, Jeff Flake, and John McCain. Voting against were Democrats Chris Murphy and Tom Udall, and Republicans John Barrasso, Ron Johnson, Rand Paul, James Risch, and Marco Rubio. Democratic Sen. Edward Markey voted present.

Jonathan Karl, on ABC World News (9/4, story 2, 2:10, 7.43M), reported that the bipartisan opposition on display Wednesday "suggest[ed] a tough battle ahead." The AP (9/5, Espo, Cassata) reports that "political fault lines were clear on a military action that polls show a war-weary public opposes," and notes "among Republicans, opposition came from lawmakers with the closest ties to tea party activists, including" Paul and Rubio, "both presidential aspirants." The AP reports that Paul "has threatened a filibuster." The Los Angeles Times (9/5, Richter, 3.4M) notes that "liberal" Sens. Murphy and Udall opposed the resolution.

McClatchy (9/5, Rosen, Douglas, 49K) also says the vote "indicated deep divisions within Congress," and quotes Paul as saying, "I see a horrible tragedy, but I don't see that our involvement will lessen the tragedy. I think it may well make the tragedy worse. I think more civilian deaths could occur. I think an attack on Israel could occur. I think an attack on Turkey could occur. I think you could get more Russian involvement and more Iranian involvement. I don't see anything good coming of our involvement."

The Washington Post (9/5, Gearan, O'Keefe, Branigin, 4.53M) reports that in a hearing Wednesday, Menendez, the chairman of the committee, insisted that the resolution was "'tightly tailored' to give the president the necessary authority but 'does not authorize' the use of US ground troops in Syria." The Post also reports that Menendez's panel "rejected, by a 14-4 vote, an amendment from" Paul "that would have imposed further restrictions by invoking provisions of the 1973 War Powers Resolution," and "approved a McCain amendment aimed at strengthening the moderate rebel groups fighting Assad."

The New York Times (9/5, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) notes that the amendment backed by McCain, which was also sponsored by Coons, "reiterated that 'it is the policy of the United States to change the momentum on the battlefield in Syria,' urging 'a comprehensive US strategy' to not only degrade the government's weapons of mass destruction but also to improve the fighting abilities of 'elements of the Syrian opposition.'"

The Washington Times (9/5, Dinan, 452K) notes that an amendment from Udall "to specifically limit attacks to naval or air power outside Syria was defeated overwhelmingly," after McCain warned, "We start down this road, we are going to be running the campaign from here, and as smart as we are, I don't think we are that smart."

According to the Huffington Post (9/5, McAuliff, 11.54M), prior to the vote, the senators on the panel "attended a classified briefing" from Kerry and Defense Secretary Hagel "that ended up running nearly four hours."

Murphy, in an appearance on MSNBC's Rachel Maddow Show (9/5, 267K), said his vote Wednesday was a "close call," but that he is concerned that "military action could perhaps actually make the situation worse." Murphy went on to says that he also objected to the resolution because it "committed the Congress to supporting arming of the rebels."

According to Politico (9/5, Kim, Everett, Raju, 652K), DNI Clapper also briefed the senators Wednesday. Politico quotes Barrasso as saying, "They have not made a case that this is a national security issue. I understand and believe the administration being convinced that Assad used chemical weapons. I want to see a real strategy ... I am still not confident that the administration has fully thought it all out."

The Chicago Tribune (9/5, Skiba, 2.43M) reports that on Wednesday, Durbin he has spoken with friends in Illinois, "many of whom worked on" the Obama's campaigns, and, according to Durbin, "They don't agree with the president, not at this moment, and his policy in Syria, and he understands that." Durbin added, "But a true leader has to step up and do what he thinks is right."

The Wall Street Journal (9/5, Boles, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.33M), The Hill (9/5, Muñoz, Swanson, 322K), and Reuters (9/5, Zengerle, Oweis) also have reports on the Senate panel's vote. NBC Nightly News (9/4, story 8, 0:30, Williams, 7.86M) devoted a short segment to McCain admitting that he was playing online poker during Monday's committee hearing on Syria.

Durbin: Full Senate May Consider Resolution "As Early As Monday." Roll Call (9/5, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 78K) reports that "in an effort to move the resolution...to the floor as quickly as possible, the Senate may technically return on Saturday." Durbin is quoted as saying, "As I understand it, [Senate Majority Leader] Reid wants to try to move this so it can be considered as early as Monday of next week," but Durbin added, "I don't know if there's going to be objection to the motion to proceed. We just have to wait and see."

Politico (9/5, Palmer, 652K) reports that on Wednesday, Paul told reporters, "I can't imagine we won't require 60 votes on this," but added that he was certain that would involve "an actual standing filibuster."

Politico (9/5, Bresnahan, Raju, Everett, 652K) also reported that, "so far, it's unclear whether [Reid] can get" 60 votes because "Republicans will likely only be able to muster roughly 10 to 12 votes to cut off debate, meaning Reid can lose only a handful of his 54 Democrats." Politico says Reid "is expected to argue to his rank-and-file members that they need to support him – and Obama – in overcoming the 60-vote threshold to cut off debate, and are then free to oppose the resolution on final passage, which would only require 50 votes."

Tea Party Republicans, Progressive Democrats Unite In Opposition. At the opening the CBS Evening News (9/4, lead story, 4:05, 5.58M), Scott Pelley, referring to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee vote, announced, "President Obama has won the first battle in his campaign to get Congress to authorize military action against Syria." However, correspondent Nancy Cordes went on to report that "even as the plan gained momentum the Senate, the depth of opposition in the House was revealed at a House Foreign Affairs hearing." Several House members, form both parties, were then shown challenging Secretary of State Kerry's arguments for US intervention at Wednesday's hearing, including Rep. Tom Marino, who said, "This will not stop the

butchering and the killing that takes place over there. So what is the purpose? ... Where is the imminent danger to the United States?" Kerry was then shown responding, "Congressman, you're absolutely correct that it will not stop the butchery. I wish it would."

On NBC Nightly News (9/4, story 3, 2:40, Williams, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell also reported that the President is" still facing a fierce debate in the House as tea party Republicans and liberal Democrats joined forces against the White House." Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC) was shown saying, "Not a one member in my district in South Carolina, or the emails of people that have contacted my office, say go to Syria and fight this regime. To a letter, they say no." Mitchell added that some in Congress "have doubts, saying they were lied to about Iraq." Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA): "I want to make sure that you promise us that you're telling the truth."

In a front-page analysis for the New York Times (9/5, A1, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) under the headline "Obama Faces Barrier In His Own Party On Syria," Jeremy Peters says that in the House, the President's "core supporters, especially African-Americans and members of the Democratic Party's liberal wing who voted repeatedly against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, are expressing the deepest reservations." Peters says the liberals in the House "are being confronted with a difficult choice: go against the wishes of a president who is popular and well respected in their caucus, or defy voters back home who are overwhelmingly opposed" to US military involvement in Syria. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), "who...has not decided how he stands," says "the pressure from his constituents to oppose the president's plan is unmistakable." Cummings is quoted as saying, "If you've got 95 percent of them saying one thing, it becomes far more difficult to go against them."

The Wall Street Journal (9/5, King, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) reports a substantial portion of the House's Democrats have indicated that they are either leaning towards opposing the Syria resolution, or are definitely opposed, and estimates that the President can lose no more than 40 House Democrats if the resolution is to have any chance of passage. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO) is quoted as saying, "If I had to vote today, I would cast a 'no' vote." Rep. Rick Nolan (D-MN) says, "I am more convinced than ever that this will be a tragic mistake," and vowed to "work and vote" against the resolution. The Journal also reports that at Wednesday's House hearing, Rep. Gregory Meeks said, "If we act in a unilateral way, I have huge concerns."

Politico (9/5, Brown, Sherman, 652K) reports that House Republicans "were already grumbling about the prospect of several perilous votes this fall," and "adding a vote on military intervention in Syria could create even more friction...as lawmakers are being put in a position of potentially voting against their party leaders." According to Politico, "the vast majority of the conference appears to oppose the resolution, at least at this point."

Al Kamen, in his "In The Loop" column for the Washington Post (9/5, 4.53M), notes that "of the 144 current House members who voted on" the 2002 Iraq war resolution, "78 voted for it (including only 20 Democrats) and 65 Democrats and one Republican voted against it."

Sanders Says Constituents Oppose Strikes. Sen. Bernie Sanders, on MSNBC's Ed Show (9/5, 449K), said he has "very, very deep concerns about" the Senate resolution, and said that his constituents who have contacted his office are opposed to US strikes "almost unanimously."

Cotton's Support For Strikes Gives Pryor Cover To Back Obama On Syria. USA Today (9/5, Moore, Camia, 5.82M) reports that Sen. Mark Pryor, "considered vulnerable by Republicans, could support a president unpopular in his state by voting for authorization – he has some cover because his opponent," Rep. Tom Cotton (R-AR), "endorsed military action in a Washington Post op-ed Wednesday."

MoveOn.org And VoteVets.org Announce Opposition To Syria Strike. Alexander Bums, in a piece for Politico (9/5, Bums, 652K), says the President "has a problem on the left," and notes that on Wednesday, VoteVets.org, a "combat veterans-oriented organization," and MoveOn.org, "the grass-roots group that helped lead opposition to invading Iraq in the first place," both "announced their opposition to striking Syria." MoveOn.org's executive director, Anna Galland, "said that a vote of the organization's membership that wrapped up Wednesday morning found nearly three quarters 'opposing the use of force.'" For his part, VoteVets.org founder Jon Soltz wrote: "I fully understand that President Obama has painted himself into a political corner, but VoteVets.org cannot support this rush to conflict."

WTimes Analysis: Senate Resolution "Riddled With Loopholes." The Washington Times (9/5, Dinan, Sherfinski, 452K), in an article titled "Senate-Crafted Syria Resolution Riddled With Loopholes For Obama," reports that "analysts and lawmakers said the language still has plenty of holes the White House could use to expand military action well beyond what Congress appears to intend." Louis Fisher, identified as a "scholar in residence at the Constitution Project and former long-time expert for the Congressional Research Service on separation of powers issues," says, "What could possibly be the meaning of 'limited and tailored?' I doubt if I've ever seen the word 'tailored' in a bill. Even if the 'intent' of Congress is a limited war, war has its own momentum. ... I've never seen such a broad abdication before in the war powers area."

Wilson Suggests Syria Action Intended To "Divert Attention" From "Scandals." The Huffington Post (9/5, Terkel, 11.54M) reports Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) "is very suspicious" about President Obama's motives for seeking military action against Syria, "not because Wilson doesn't believe the administration's chemical weapons claims but because he has a hunch that the call for air strikes is designed to distract" the public. Wilson asked Kerry at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, "Why was there no call for military response in April? Was it delayed to divert attention today from the Benghazi, IRS, NSA scandals; the failure of Obamacare enforcement; the tragedy of the White House-drafted sequestration or the upcoming debt limit vote?"

Roll Call Lists 20 "Bellwether" House Members On Syria Vote. Roll Call (9/5, Fuller, 78K) lists 20 members of the House who "serve as important bellwethers – and potentially critical components – to the math of 218" votes to pass the Syria resolution. They are Republican Reps. Tom Cole (R-OK), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Bill Huizenga (R-MI), Jim Jordan (R-OH), Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Tom Price (R-GA), Scott Rigell (R-VA), Paul Ryan (R-WI), and Ann Wagner (R-MO), and Democratic Reps. Xavier Becerra (D-CA), James Clyburn (D-SC), Joseph Crowley (D-NY), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Marcia Fudge (D-OH), Jim Himes (D-CT), John Larson (D-CT), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Jared Polis (D-CO), and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL).

Sutherland Leaning Against Resolution. The CBS Evening News (9/4, story 4, 2:10, Pelley, 5.58M) reported, "Most members of Congress are still on vacation and they're getting an earful of opinion in their last week at home before returning to Washington." CBS profiled a town hall meeting held by Rep. Steve Sutherland (R-FL), who "says he's leaning against voting to authorize the use of force." Sutherland: "Overwhelmingly we are hearing pushback from our citizens against a military action in Syria."

More Commentary. The New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) editorializes that the "divided" committee vote "showed there is no strong consensus yet on this critical question." Even though the committee's resolution "was more restrictive than the language the White House suggested, it was rejected by five Republicans and two Democrats." The Times says the Obama Administration "is walking a difficult line, trying to persuade Congress and Americans that limited military strikes will be enough to be punitive and effective yet will not pull the United States into another Middle East conflict."

Daniel Henninger writes in his Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) column that President Obama is trying to push Republicans into opposing the Syria resolution because he does not want the responsibility for action but wants to blame his political rivals for blocking it. Henninger says Obama never wanted the presidential role of commander-in-chief, preferring to focus on domestic policy, but now must fulfill it – and that House Republicans must call him on it.

DESPITE CRITICS, OBAMA LEANING TOWARD SUMMERS FOR FED. In a Washington Post (9/5, A1, Goldfarb, 4.53M) front-page analysis headlined "Why Obama Might Tap Summers For Fed Despite Harsh Criticism From Left," Zachary Goldfarb writes that while "Democratic lawmakers and top economists are mystified" and women's groups "apoplectic" over the prospect of Lawrence Summers becoming head of the Federal Reserve, President Obama "developed great faith" in Summers during the pivotal first months of his presidency, "according to many people who saw their relationship up close." While critics view Summers as "combative," these people says the President sees Summers are willing "to consider every option in the face of a crisis."

The New York Times (9/5, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) writes that soon after his re-election, the President showed a "preference" for Summers, but "well aware of Mr. Summer's love-him-or-hate-him reputation and the trouble he could face winning Senate confirmation," postponed a decision, dispatching his congressional liaison to lobby Capitol Hill. The Times says that while the President "still has not finally settled" on Summers, he

remains the President's favorite, according to "associates."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Stakes In Congress."*** The New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) editorializes that the "divided" vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to authorize the use of force in Syria "showed there is no strong consensus yet on this critical question." Even though the committee's resolution "was more restrictive than the language the White House suggested, it was rejected by five Republicans and two Democrats." The Times says the Obama Administration "is walking a difficult line, trying to persuade Congress and Americans that limited military strikes will be enough to be punitive and effective yet will not pull the United States into another Middle East conflict."

"Uninsured In Texas And Florida." The New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) says in an editorial that in the wake of a Census Bureau report showing that "alarming percentages of people in Texas and Florida" lack health insurance, "leaders of both states should hang their heads in shame because they have been among the most resistant in the nation to providing coverage for the uninsured under the Affordable Care Act." Florida also refuses to expand Medicaid, meaning, the Times says, that "the uninsured may have a very hard time getting the coverage they need and deserve."

"Last Call In The Race For Mayor." The New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 9.44M) says in an editorial that the final debate of the New York Democratic mayoral primary campaign was basically useless, focusing on "trivia" and how well the candidates "bicker." The Times instead urges voters to turn to YouTube "to hear the candidates speak thoughtfully and at length on signature issues outside the debates."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Mr. Putin's Blinders."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/5, 4.53M) says that while Russian President Vladimir Putin has been a "stalwart backer" of Syria's Bashar al-Assad, "that does not give him license to ignore the facts and gloss over inconvenient truths." Putin, the Post argues, "cannot simply look the other way."

"Power To The Masses." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/5, 4.53M) says that with its announcement for "a new plan to deal with the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant," the Japanese "government, finally, has decided to step in more forcefully." Nevertheless, the Post says that nuclear power shouldn't be abandoned as a viable energy source because "sound regulation" can help cure "design flaws" as well as mismanagement and "Plants built in the future, meanwhile, will be much safer, utilizing 'passive' safety mechanisms that activate without human intervention."

"Cuccinelli's Record." The Washington Post (9/5, 4.53M) runs an editorial criticizing Virginia Republican gubernatorial nominee Ken Cuccinelli over his role in "the so-called 'personhood amendment'" to Virginia's constitution in 2007, "which granted full rights to 'prebom human being[s] from the moment of fertilization.'" The measure "failed even in the Republican-dominated House of Delegates" and had very few supporters. The Post says that Cuccinelli last week "denied that he ever backed legislation" that would have let government "interfere with contraception," but that personhood measures "would easily include banning the most popular forms of contraception."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Blurred Red Lines."*** The Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) says President Obama's remark that he "didn't set a red line" on Syria shows that the President has yet to realize or accept that the US is the only nation capable of enforcing order in the world, and that it is his credibility and that of the US, and not that of the international community, that will suffer from inaction.

"The Beltway Choom Gang." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) criticizes President Obama's and the Justice Department's liberal interpretations of the Federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970, in which Congress determined that marijuana is a drug that should be banned, and the Supreme Court's ruling in Gonzales v. Raich, which said that Federal law preempts state law. The paper says that their perceptions, which they applied in deciding not to impose Federal laws on Colorado and Washington as those states attempt to govern marijuana use, is about politics and not the law, which Congress has clearly established. The Journal adds that in this instance, Obama is the first president since Nixon to act in such

blatant disregard of the law.

"Innovator Liability, Take Two." The Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 5.33M) criticizes the Alabama Supreme Court's January decision to allow plaintiffs to file lawsuits against manufacturers for products from which generic derivatives were created. The paper says that since that decision was rendered, other courts around the country have refused to follow suit. The paper also notes that the FDA could preempt the Alabama court.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Senate Panel Backs Force Against Syria
"Jumbo" Mortgage Rates Hit Milestone
US Car Sales Soar To Pre-Slump Level
Energy-Hungry China Struggles To Join Shale-Gas Revolution

New York Times:
Brutality Of Syrian Rebels Posing Dilemma In West
Obama Faces Barrier In His Own Party On Syria
Seeking To Succeed Bloomberg, While Keeping Him At A Distance
Falling Economic Tide In India Is Exposing Its Chronic Troubles
On The Edge Of Poverty, At The Center Of A Debate On Food Stamps
Dunes Fight Sets Neighbor Against Neighbor In New Jersey

Washington Post:
Heritage's New Tactics A Hit With Base, But Not Hill GOP
In Stockholm, Obama Presses His Case On Syria
Across Mideast, Rising Fears Of Bioweapons Use
Oft-Criticized Summers Has The One Fan Who Counts
His Top Secret Was Alleged Fraud

Financial Times:
Obama Calls On World To Act Over Syria
Rajan Enters RBI With A Big Bang
Samsung Gets Ticking With New Smartwatch
EU Clamps Down On Money Market Funds
Apple Event Raises Hopes Of China Mobile Deal
Caixabank Head Faces Directorship Ban

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Cleveland-Ariel Castro; Syria-Obama; Syria-Women; Affordable Care Act-Clinton; Tropical Storm Gabrielle; Education-School Evacuation Procedures Report; Crime-Gas Pump Skimming.
CBS: Syria-Congress; Syria-Obama; Syria-Pew Research Poll; Syria-American Reactions; Cleveland-Ariel Castro; Affordable Care Act-Bill Clinton; Affordable Care Act; Economy-Auto Sales.
NBC: Syria-American Reactions; Syria-Obama; Syria-Congress; Cleveland-Ariel Castro; Economy-Auto Sales; Tropical Storm Gabrielle; Health-Chicken; John McCain Photo; Technology-Samsung Smartphone.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Syria-Congress; Syria-Congressman Ted Yoho; New Hampshire-Rented Surgical Instruments Controversy; Tropical Storm Gabrielle; Houston-Deadly School Fight.
CBS: Syria-Congress; Obama-G-20 Summit; Montana-Teen Rapist Sentencing; Houston-Deadly School Fight; Arizona-Disaster Aid Controversy; Economy-Wall Street.
NPR: Syria-Congress; DOJ-LGBT Veterans' Benefits; Tropical Storm Gabrielle; Pew Research Poll-Online Privacy; Oklahoma-Custody Battle; Texas-Whooping Cough.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – CEST – meets with the King and Queen of Sweden, the Royal Palace, Stockholm, Sweden, limited pool spray after the meeting; CEST – departs Stockholm, Sweden, Stockholm-Arlanda International Airport, open press; MSK – arrives Saint Petersburg, Russia, Pulkovo International Airport, open press; MSK – Holds a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Abe of Japan, Bilateral Meetings Pavilion, travel pool spray at the top; MSK – Participates in an Official G-20 Arrival and Leaders Welcome, Konstantinovsky Palace, pre-set pool spray; MSK – participates in G-20 Working Session One, Konstantinovsky Palace, closed press; MSK – participates in a G-20 working dinner, Konstantinovsky Palace, pre-set pool coverage of the arrival only.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will meet with senior advisors; the Vice President will host a reception for leaders of labor organizations at the Naval Observatory.
US Senate: Aug. 5 – Sept. 8. – Congress on break until Sept. 9.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE – 10 a.m. Closed Hearing: Intelligence Matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: Aug. 5 – Sept. 8. – Congress on break until Sept. 9.
Other: ANNUAL CAF CONFERENCE – Sept. 4 – 5. Seventeenth Annual CAF Conference with the Development Bank of Latin America; the Organization of American States (OAS); and the Inter-American Dialogue. Speakers to include: Opening address by Secretary of State Kerry; remarks by former Chilean president Ricardo Lagos; others. http://www.thedialogue.org/page.cfm?pageID=425&eventID=359&invitee=2a6db5cb-1ae2-43a8-b1ed-a3eac82d8009. Location: Willard Inter-Continental Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES – DONOVAN, FUGATE – 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The 2012 National Research Council report Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative revealed a strong community of stakeholders eager to build resilience to risk and catastrophic disasters in the United States. Speakers include: Shaun Donovan, secretary, US Department of Housing and Urban Development; Caitlin Durkovich, assistant secretary for infrastructure protection, US Department of Homeland Security; W. Craig Fugate, administrator, Federal Emergency Management Administration; Todd Jones, CEO, Willis Group North America; Eduardo Martinez, chair, World Economic Forums Global Agenda Council on Catastrophic Risks. Location: Auditorium, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W. On the Net: webcast at www.nationalacademies.org

AEI – ADMIRAL GREENERT – NEW START TIME – 8:30 a.m. Squaring the circle: Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert on American military strategy in a time of declining resources. Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

FEMA – AMERICAS PREPAREATHON – FUGATE – 10 a.m. The National Academy of Sciences, FEMA is unveiling a new campaign titled Americas PrepareAthon – to increase the number of people who understand the disasters most relevant to their community and to encourage them to participate in drills, exercises, and trainings and then practice, practice, practice so they know what to do when the real thing happens. Speakers: Paulette Aniskoff, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Engagement, White House; Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator; Tim Manning, FEMA Deputy Administrator, Protection and National Preparedness; Other senior leadership from FEMA as well as representatives from the national partners. Live Web Streaming: Location: National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave, NW. Contacts: 202-210-6636. Karen Gruebnau karen.gruebnau@icfi.com (301-204-1522, 202-210-6636)

RENEWABLE FUEL – 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Experts will hold teleconference to discuss important progress that the renewable fuel industry has made this summer and look ahead to the issues that will both help and hurt the industry this fall. Speakers: Tom Buis, CEO, Growth Energy; Paul Bertels, Vice President of Production and Utilization, National Corn Growers Association; Bob Dinneen, President and CEO, Renewable Fuels Association. DIAL IN: Phone number, 888-329-8893; Conference ID, 3177126; Conference Name, Fuels America Fall Look

Ahead. Contacts: RSVP Alissa Ohl (aohl@gpgdc.com). On the Net: www.fuelsamerica.org

CARNEGIE – DHAKA – FM MONI – 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Dhaka at a Crossroads: Foreign Minister Dipu Moni on Bangladeshs Uncertain Future. Location: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

BROOKINGS – STRIKING SYRIA – 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Striking Syria: Obama, Congress and Military Action. Participants: Roger Hertog Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution; Fiona Hill, Senior Fellow and Director, Center on the United States and Europe, The Brookings Institution; Suzanne Maloney, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution; Bruce Riedel, Senior Fellow and Director, Brookings Intelligence Project; The Brookings Institution; Jeremy Shapiro, Visiting Fellow, Foreign Policy, The Brookings Institution. Location: The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW. Contacts: 202.797.6105

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION – OPEN INTERNET – COURTS – 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Open Internet goes to Court – in collaboration with Free Press. Participants: Susan Crawford, Professor, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Former Special Assistant for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy to President Barack Obama; Angie Kronenberg, Chief Advocate and General Counsel, COMPTEL, Former Wireline Legal Advisor for Acting FCC Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn; Marti Doneghy, Senior Legislative Representative, AARP; Matt Wood, Policy Director, Free Press; Sarah Morris, Senior Policy Counsel, Open Technology Institute, New America Foundation. Location: New America Foundation, 1899 L St. NW Suite 400.

YPFP – CROATIA – EU – 6:30 p.m. Conversation With His Excellency Joko Paro, Ambassador Of The Republic Of Croatia To The United States. Location: Embassy of the Republic of Croatia, 2343 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Sen. John McCain got caught in an embarrassing moment yesterday. A photographer from the Washington Post caught him playing poker on his phone during the first public hearing on the potential US military action in Syria. Caught playing poker on his phone. Sounds like something Anthony Weiner would have been caught doing."

Jimmy Kimmel: "While some believe it's inappropriate to be playing a video game while the committee is deciding whether or not to kill people and potentially star a war, I say the man is John McCain. The man is 114 years old. We should be impressed he's even wearing pants, never mind he's using a cellphone."

David Letterman: "Well, it looks like we're getting ready to teach Syria a lesson and President Obama is now saying that he never used the term 'red line.' Remember when he was talking about if we find out that they used chemical weapons in Syria that that would be crossing a red line and if they cross that red line, by God, we had to go in there and get them? ... Well, now the President is saying he never used the term 'red line.' He's saying that the world used the term 'red line.' So it's taken him five years, but finally the guy has learned how to bull(bleep)."

David Letterman: "John McCain...They're having a big Senate discussion on whether or not we're going to teach Syria a lesson and...well, during the talk, the discussion, he's playing online poker on his computer. Online poker on his computer during a Senate session on whether we're going to Syria or not. I was stunned! You're telling me John McCain knows how to use a computer?"

Stephen Colbert: "I've been warning you for years that Barack Obama is a weak leader and he has proven me right once again...The man could not lead us on healthcare reform. He could not lead us on the budget talks. And now he can not lead us into war, specifically with Syria, where dictator and high school freshman trying to grow a mustache Bashar al-Assad has used chemical weapons against his own people. Now, as the world's policeman, America has a moral imperative to blow some (bleep) up. But thanks to Obama's limp leadership, that idea is going over like a turd falafel. Only 29% of Americans want us to attack Syria. Now, on the plus side, that means 29% of Americans know there is a place called Syria."

Stephen Colbert: "I miss George W. Bush...That man knew how to sell a war. Obama has hard evidence of weapons of mass destruction and he can't even get England to go along with it. Meanwhile, President Bush gotten a international coalition with nothing more than Colin Powell's reputation and half a test tube of Crystal Light."

Stephen Colbert: "So President Obama, you could learn a thing or two about salesmanship from this good man.

Stop asking our permission and start telling us our peril, like this: 'My fellow Americans, Bashar al-Assad has used poison gas on his own people. If we do not respond sources say next he will hit Epcot, thereby taking out Paris, London, and China, and it flows over to Disney, that's all of our robotic presidents. Furthermore, we have satellite photos of him punching your mother and sodomizing a baseball. And he has purchased uranium from Hitler's ghost. It is our moral obligation to stop this madman and if Britain won't help us, I say (bleep) 'em. From now on English muffins will be called liberty toast because America, this land is my land and your land and America does not back down on the face of tyranny.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Sen. John McCain is in the news after he was spotted playing poker on his iPhone during a hearing on Syria yesterday...Actually, it turns out it's not so bad when you hear that another group of Senators were playing poker with actual cards."

Jimmy Fallon: "McCain was playing poker during a hearing. The worst part is that he didn't even know he was playing poker. He was just trying to text his wife."

Jay Leno: "All week President Obama has been saying he'll seek congressional approval for the strike, but he insists he doesn't really need it. And when asked by the media if he was sending mixed messages, the President said yes and no. Well, despite what the critics say, President Obama says the lack of response to Syria so far does not threaten his credibility. And you know something, he's right. The economy, Benghazi, the spying scandal, that threatens his credibility. But this other stuff, no."

Jay Leno: "Everybody is criticizing McCain for playing poker on his iPhone. But you know something, compared to what these other politicians are doing on their iPhones, that's not so bad, okay?"

Jay Leno: "Anthony Weiner. This guy just doesn't give up. He got in a big confrontation with a voter in New York City today. Yeah, Weiner said to this guy, 'You have no right to judge me.' Really? I don't think Anthony Weiner understands how voting works."

Conan O'Brien: "Sen. John McCain is under fire for being caught playing poker on his smart phone during a Senate hearing on Syria. Yeah. Even worse, it was strip poker. That was the worst part. We saw much more of him than we want to see."

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BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for Wednesday, September 18

Olson, Elizabeth <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Sep 17, 2013 at 5:41 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Israporn Pananon <israporn_pananon@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are briefing materials for Wednesday, September 18. These have also been uploaded to Google Drive. In addition, a memo for Thursday's Internal Discussion on Engaging the Next Generation (attached) has been added to your September 19 folder.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

8 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1, & 3-8)

- **9 18 13_315pm_Principals AGO Meeting.pdf** 47K
- **9 18 13_430pm_Phone Call with Governor Otter.pdf** 17K
- **9 18 13_500pm_Call with Jason Furman, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors.pdf** 486K
- **9 18 13_800pm_Dinner with Administrator Gina McCarthy.pdf** 24K
- **9 18 13_900am_Opening Remarks at the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science Inaugural Meeting.pdf** 54K
- **9 18 13_1000am_Meeting with Marty Massey, Marine Well Containment Company CEO.pdf** 38K
- **9 19 13_1140am_Internal Discussion on Engaging the Next Generation.pdf** 34K
- **9 18 13_100pm_Meeting with the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition.pdf** 65K

TELEPHONE CALL SHEET

CALL WITH GOVERNOR C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER (IDAHO)

FROM: Neil Kornze, Principle Deputy Director, BLM (202)208-3801
TO: Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter
DATE: September 18, 2013
TIME: 4:30 PM – 4:40 PM, Governor Otter to dial (202)208-6087

PURPOSE

To discuss Governor Otter's request for information on: 1) the communication about sage-grouse among the State of Idaho, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); and 2) the potential of an October meeting with the Governor during which sage-grouse would be the principal discussion topic.

TALKING POINTS

Communication among Idaho, FWS, and BLM

- The BLM continues to work in close coordination with State governments on the planning effort to address Greater Sage Grouse.
- This includes full participation from State wildlife management departments as well as the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) executive oversight committee.
- The State of Idaho has been a cooperating agency since December 2012.
- As a cooperating agency, Idaho has provided input into the planning process, including submitting an alternative based on the State's plan. BLM staff served as advisors to Governor Otter's Sage-grouse Task Force, and the BLM has maintained a high degree of coordination with the Governor's staff on his alternative.
- FWS has reviewed the planning documents and provided feedback as a cooperating agency.
- FWS Deputy Regional Director and the Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game actively participate in the BLM monthly National Policy Team (NPT) meetings.
- The draft and proposed plan amendments/revisions are undergoing thorough review at the BLM, FWS, and the Department. It is still early in the process, but we think you will like the direction we are headed.
- We look forward to continuing our close working relationship with your office, FWS, as well as other State entities and stakeholders as this important effort moves through the process.

Discuss the potential of a meeting with the Governor in October at which sage-grouse would be the principal topic of conversation.

- As part of this continuing effort to communicate, we would be pleased to set up a meeting with you and your staff in October.

- Potential discussion topics could include:
  - Update on the planning process (timeline);
  - Process for Cooperating Agencies to provide meaningful feedback on the draft environmental impact statements;
  - Opportunities as we move forward in this coordinated effort; and
  - Lessons learned.

BACKGROUND

Governor Otter has written several letters, and a common theme is his concern about the disparate treatment between the FWS and BLM regarding his plan. A March 22, 2013, letter from the BLM Idaho State Director and the Idaho FWS State Supervisor explained that "each have a separate and distinct role to play in the review of the State's plan."

In a letter to Governor Otter dated April 10, 2013, FWS-Idaho concurred with portions of the Governor's alternative. In addition, they stated that, "Although we realize [the Governor's alternative] will require further effort to bring it to full development, currently, it most closely meets the goals and objectives of the [Conservation Objectives Team (COT) report]." The COT report establishes conservation objectives for the primary habitat threats identified in the March 2010 FWS finding that listing of the Greater Sage-Grouse was warranted but precluded.

The FWS-Idaho commented on the June version of the Administrative Draft EIS. The BLM has since made changes to address their concerns in the sub-regional alternative (Alternative D), but the FWS has not taken a position on the current version of that alternative.

Unlike Wyoming, the ID Governor's Alternative applies only to BLM and FS administered lands, and does not have direction specific to private lands or state lands. The following are comparisons of the alternatives:

	Sub-Regional Alt D	**Governor's Alt E**
Addresses all threats?	Yes	Addresses in detail wildfire, invasive species, infrastructure, grazing and some elements of OHV and mining
Management areas?	Priority, Medial and General Habitat—Priority is the most protective	Core, Important and General Habitat—Core is the most protective
Acres in most protective areas?	Priority = 6.8 M	Core = 4.9 M
Adaptive management	20% change (loss) of habitat or decrease in population	20% change (loss) of habitat or decrease in population (males on leks within one

	Sub-Regional Alt D	Governor's Alt E
	(males on leks within one of the 8 populations in Idaho) changes management direction from Medial to Priority	of the 4 conservation areas in Idaho) changes management direction from Important to Core
Grazing	Proposed management direction is consistent/ implementable with our current regulations	Management direction is not consistent with BLM's regulations for rangeland health

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL DISCUSSION ON SAGE GROUSE

DATE: September 13, 2013
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 2:30PM – 3:20PM
FROM: Dan Ashe, FWS (202)208-5788, Neil Kornze, BLM (202) 208-6668, Michael Bean, ASFWP (202) 208-7400, Jim Lyons, ASLM (202) 208-4318, Sarah Greenberger, OS (202) 219-2140, Stephenne Harding, OCL (202)208-6174

FWS is two years away from the September 2015 deadline to make a proposed listing determination for the greater sage-grouse. Several significant steps in the Department's efforts related to that determination are occurring this month. The purpose of this briefing is to update YOU on:

1. FWS September 2013 proposal to list the Bi-State population of greater sage-grouse (a distinct population segment in Nevada and California that is genetically differentiated from other populations of the greater sage-grouse)
2. Status of the BLM's planning effort. Draft management plans will be completed by October 2013. Final plans by fall 2014. First Record of Decision (Lander ROD) focused on sage grouse management will be released September 2013.
3. Near-term timeline for the review of BLM RMPs and related management and regulatory actions
4. Recommendation that you attend a meeting of the Sage Grouse Task Force in December

BACKGROUND

ESA Listing Determinations

When FWS reviews the status of any species, it evaluates the best scientific and commercial information available to determine whether a species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Based on this review, the FWS determines whether a species is either endangered (currently in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range) or threatened (likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range).

To make a determination, the FWS analyzes the five statutory factors that may affect the well being of a species. Those factors are:

(A) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
(B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
(C) disease or predation;
(D) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
(E) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

Listing Determination for the Greater Sage-Grouse

In March 2010, the FWS concluded that the greater sage-grouse warranted protection under the ESA, although proceeding with a proposed listing rule was precluded by work on species facing a

higher degree of threats. At this stage, the FWS has not determined which category of protection, endangered or threatened, to assign greater sage-grouse. This determination will occur if, in 2015, the species continues to warrant listing.

In 2010, the FWS analyzed the five statutory factors. Greater sage-grouse require vast undisturbed landscapes, and the FWS determined that continuing habitat loss and fragmentation resulting from wildfire, energy development, urbanization, agricultural conversion, and infrastructure development were the primary threats to the species. The FWS also determined that the existing regulatory mechanisms were inadequate to address these threats (*additional detail on the greater sage-grouse and its ecology are attached, below*).

In 2011, the FWS negotiated global settlement agreements with WildEarth Guardians and the Center for Biological Diversity that served to restore control over work priorities to the FWS and to greatly reduce litigation. In these two agreements, the FWS agreed to complete proposed listing rules or publish not warranted findings for the following sage-grouse species and populations by certain dates:

- Gunnison sage-grouse by September 30, 2012 (extended until December, 2012)
- Bi-state DPS of greater sage-grouse by September 30, 2013
- Greater sage-grouse by September 30, 2015

The ESA statute allows for one year between a proposed and final listing determination with a 6-month extension in certain circumstances.

Assessments of threats to the Greater Sage-Grouse

In making its proposed listing determination in 2015, the FWS will review and evaluate the threats to the species, how those threats are affecting the species now, what mechanisms are available to address the threats, and how likely those actions are to be successful in the future to conserve the species and its habitat. To provide as much advance clarity as possible regarding the criteria that will guide the 2015 decision, the FWS established a Conservation Objectives Team whose report (the "COT report," completed in Feb 2013) identifies "primary areas for conservation," the key threats operating in those areas, and the degree to which those threats should be ameliorated to conserve the grouse. This report is focused on the ends rather than the means to get there.

In advance of the COT report, in August 2011, the BLM chartered a National Technical Team (NTT) of scientists and technical experts from BLM, state fish and wildlife agencies, USFWS, NRCS and USGS. Their report (the "NTT report") contains "regulatory mechanisms, through Resource Management Plans (RMPs), to conserve and restore the greater sage-grouse and its habitat on BLM-administered lands on a range-wide basis over the long term. Unlike the COT report, this report provides the means for conservation.

In 2013, USGS (in cooperation with the BLM) completed a *Summary of Science, Activities, Programs, and Policies That Influence the Rangewide Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse* which summarizes the current status of the sagebrush biome and sage-grouse populations and the factors affecting them. This report provides important baseline information with regard to the character and distribution of threats to sage-grouse against which the FWS can measure the success or failure of conservation and restoration strategies (*additional detail on these reports are attached).*

Congressional Interests

House and Senate Member interest in the BLM's sage grouse conservation efforts have largely focused on concerns that BLM has not sufficiently engaged state conservation plans as part of the National Planning Strategy. Additionally, Members in several states have sought to ensure sufficient fire rehabilitation and hazardous fuels funding to help break the cycle of fire and invasive species growth that threatens large areas of sage brush habitat.

2013 Congressional Sage-Grouse Events of Significance:

- On March 7, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA) sent a letter to then-Secretary Salazar requesting a substantial amount of information and documents related to the Department's expenditures on sage grouse conservation, and the number of activities potentially delayed by the sage grouse planning process.
- On July 31, the BLM and FWS met with Sens. Reid (D-NV) and Heller (R-NV), as well as Reps. Amodei (R-NV) and Titus (D-NV), to discuss the BLM's efforts to conserve sage grouse habitat in Nevada.
- On September 4, the House Natural Resources Committee held field hearings on greater sage-grouse and ESA issues entitled, "State and Local Efforts to Protect Species, Jobs, Property, and Multiple Use Amidst a New War on the West."
- Senators Heller and Reid included a supportive Sage Grouse amendment in the Budget Resolution this spring, encouraging funding and continued development of plans.
- The House Interior Appropriations Bill for 2014 contains a delay in the listing of the Greater Sage Grouse until 2016. ("*Therefore, in light of the questions surrounding the scientific evidence and in light of the partnership efforts currently underway, the Committee has included a section in Title I General Provisions to delay any potential Endangered Species Act listing decision on greater sage-grouse until fiscal year 2016.*")

NEXT STEPS

1. FWS Bi-State Sage Grouse Proposed Listing Determination and Critical Habitat

Proposal to list the Bi-State DPS

As required by the settlement, the FWS will make a listing determination on the Bi-State DPS this month. The Bi-State DPS of greater sage-grouse occurs along the central California-Nevada border, and numbers fluctuate between 1,800 and 7,400 individuals. The Bi-State DPS is represented by 4 to 8 demographically independent populations, each of which is relatively small and below theoretical minimum criteria for long-term persistence. The DPS occupies less than half its historical range.

The FWS has found that the Bi-State DPS is likely to become endangered throughout all of its range in the foreseeable future (i.e., a threatened species) based on the following:

(1) Multiple threats are significantly impacting all of the Bi-State DPS populations (i.e., infrastructure; grazing and rangeland management; nonnative and native, invasive plants; wildfire and altered fire regime; and small population size).

(2) Additive and synergistic effects due to the threats listed above as well as other multiple threats (i.e., urbanization and habitat conversion, mining, renewable energy development,

climate (including drought), recreation, disease, and predation) are likely to continue and increase in the future, resulting in increasingly fragmented habitat.

(3) Current or future impacts identified above will likely persist and interact in the near-term, most significantly affecting the smaller and more isolated populations.

Thus, the potential exists for one or more of these peripheral populations to be lost or impacted to such a degree that recovery would be difficult.

The proposed listing determination will include a proposed 4(d) special rule to exempt from the Act's take prohibitions activities conducted pursuant to a comprehensive conservation program that was developed by or in coordination with a State agency.

Proposed Critical Habitat

When a species is proposed for listing under the ESA, FWS must consider whether there are areas of habitat believed to be essential to the species' conservation. Those areas may be proposed for designation as "critical habitat." While a listing determination is based solely on science, section 4(b)(2) of the ESA requires FWS to consider the economic impacts, and any other relevant impacts, of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. The Services may exclude any area from critical habitat if they determine that the benefits of excluding an area as critical habitat outweigh the benefits of specifying such area as part of the critical habitat, unless the exclusion of an area will result in the extinction of the species concerned.

The Service is proposing approximately 755,960 hectares (1,868,017 acres) in four units as critical habitat for the Bi-State DPS.

- FWS anticipates two section 4(b)(2) exclusions: (1) Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, based on development of an MOU and Conservation Strategy, ongoing development of a draft Habitat Conservation Plan, and active partnership; and (2) the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center based on National Security (*Note: the Marine Corps' land is not within the proposed critical habitat although they conduct military readiness on Forest Service lands within the proposed critical habitat via a 40-year special use permit*).
- The Hawthorne Army Depot occurs within the footprint of Unit 2 of the proposed critical habitat. However, the installation has an integrated natural resources management plan approved by FWS that provides a conservation benefit to the Bi-State DPS and its habitat. Therefore, the Hawthorne Army Depot is exempted under section 4(a)(3) of the Act.

Position of Interested Parties

Locally-led conservation efforts in the Bi-State area are growing and are helping address threats that are impacting the Bi-State DPS. A multi-agency, long-term conservation plan has been developed (Bi-State Action Plan) that, if fully implemented, could significantly reduce threats. However, there is currently no assurance of funding.

Partners: Ultimately, all State and Federal partners prefer to avoid listing and an associated critical habitat designation due to concerns over impacts to economic development and extra administrative effort, respectively. FWS expects more concern from Nevada based on (1) the potential impact on industry (ranching, mining, and renewable energy), with the ranching community likely the most vocal since there are few mining or renewable energy interests in the area; and (2) how the proposed listing and designation of critical habitat may be interpreted with respect to the upcoming 2015 range-wide greater sage-grouse decision.

Other interested parties include industry, tribes and the environmental community. Concerns are expected only from industry as described above.

2. BLM Planning Effort

BLM manages approximately 50% of the sagebrush habitats used by sage-grouse. On December 11, 2011, the BLM and Forest Service initiated a National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy, which is a coordinated stakeholder team approach to incorporate regionally appropriate, science-based conservation measures into BLM land-use planning efforts throughout the range of the greater sage-grouse. In addition, the Forest Service is working with the BLM to amend Forest and National Grassland management plans. There are a total of 98 land use/management plans that are being amended/revised through 15 separate sub-regional environmental impact statements ("EISs"). The Lander RMP and Record of Decision (ROD) to be released this month will be the first RMP to be completed in this strategy (*see attachments for EIS timeline, comparison with the Lander RMP*).

The remaining greater sage-grouse EISs will be reviewed by the BLM and Forest Service field, state, regional and Washington offices for consistency and completeness. The FWS, State fish and game departments, and other cooperating agencies will also have opportunities to review and provide comments on the draft and final EISs. The BLM and Forest Service will complete their planning revisions by the fall of 2014. The BLM and Forest Service, in cooperation with FWS, will develop a separate document that summarizes the conservation measures and cumulative range-wide impacts to help inform the FWS's listing decision in 2015.

3. Timeline for the review of BLM RMPs and related management and regulatory actions

The FWS is working with the States and Federal partners to create a common set of conservation "metrics" to compile and organize the many conservation measures being implemented at the state and Federal level. These metrics are intended to create a common base for the review of conservation actions as well as provide a framework for reporting those actions. These metrics will be presented at the September Governor's Sage Grouse Task Force meeting. The Task Force, created in 2011 at the initiative for former Secretary Salazar and WY Governor Mead, meets regularly to ensure coordination among the state and Federal interests.

Key activities for the remainder of 2013:

- September 23-24: Governor's Task Force Meeting: FWS and partners will present suggested metrics. Federal Family meeting (to troubleshoot and finalize plans for moving successfully from draft to final BLM/USFS RMP/LMPs).
- October: BLM completes Draft RMPs.
- October-November: FWS works with BLM and state partners to develop a status assessment of conservation planning.
- November: Federal Executive meeting (to take stock of overall progress on sage-grouse conservation and identify key areas or roadblocks that need attention at the executive level).
- December: Governor's Task Force Meeting – **YOU** and Governors attend to review the status of conservation efforts and commit to closing any regulatory gaps that remain before plans must be complete in September 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that YOU attend a meeting of the Governor's Sage Grouse Task Force in December, convening the governors (who normally do not attend) to review the status of conservation efforts and secure a commitment by the states and Federal bureaus/agencies to close the remaining gaps before plans must be completed in fall of 2014.

ATTACHMENTS

The attachments below are for background only, and can be skimmed if you would like more information.

1 – Basic Ecology and Threats
2 - Key Reports/Institutional Coordinators/Coordination Efforts
3 - BLM's National Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Planning Timeline and Planning Area Map
4 – Common Elements in Each of the 15 EISs – Comparison with the Lander ROD
5 – Maps: (a) Greater Sage-Grouse Historic and Current Range and Priority Areas for Conservation (PAC); (b) Greater Sage-Grouse PACs, Preliminary General Habitat, and Preliminary Priority Habitat; (c) Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat and 10-year Wildfire Boundaries (Great Basin only)

ATTACHMENT 1: Greater Sage-grouse Basic Ecology and Threats
USFWS
September 9, 2013



The greater sage-grouse is a large, ground-dwelling bird, up to 30 inches long and two feet tall. Males have a large white ruff around and bright yellow air sacks which they inflate during a mating display. They are found in sagebrush habitats ranging from 4,000 - 9,000 feet and are highly dependent on sagebrush for cover and food.

Characteristics: The species is a sagebrush obligate; healthy sagebrush with an understory of perennial grasses and forbs is required as food and cover. They are long-lived with a slow reproductive rate. Sage-grouse populations occupy vast landscapes as a result of large home ranges and substantial dispersal or migratory movements of individuals.

Current range: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, eastern California, Nevada, Utah, western Colorado, South Dakota and Wyoming and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. They occupy about 56 % of estimated historical range.

Population trend: Estimated decline of 80% from pre-settlement levels and 30% from 1985

Primary threats: Habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms

Habitat loss and fragmentation: invasive species/fire, energy development, conversion to ag (among others, such as urbanization, recreation, conifer encroachment, etc.)

Invasive species/fire: The historic fire frequency in these habitats was estimated at 200-350 years, now it is 70-150 years. Primary reason for increased frequency is the prevalence of invasive annual grasses: cheatgrass. Most sagebrush species are not fire resistant and the habitat not resilient to this disturbance; recovery is uncertain. In the Great Basin, 27% of sagebrush habitat burned between 1980 and 2010.

Energy development: Nearly 9% of "preliminary priority habitat" has been leased for oil and gas production, but more than 80% of that has yet to be developed. Thus, the effects of the great majority of leases already issued have yet to be experienced. The direct footprint of active and abandoned well sites within PPH is small (roughly $<1/10^{th}$ of one percent); however, the area potentially indirectly influenced by oil and gas development is much larger: over 22 million acres or nearly 33% of the total. Sage-grouse are sensitive to noise, traffic, and human activity associated with oil and gas development. Specifically, with greater proximity to oil and gas or greater density of such development, lek attendance, probability of lek persistence, and female survival all decline, while chick mortality and the probability of nest failure increase. Female survival, chick survival and nest success are the demographic parameters with the most influence on population growth.

ATTACHMENT 2: Key Reports/Institutional Coordinators/Coordination Efforts

Key Reports

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 2011 National Technical Team Report (NTT) was the product of collaboration among State and Federal agency representatives. The NTT Report sought to provide "the latest science and best biological judgment to assist in making management decisions," and was to be used as "a starting point" in BLM's planning processes. Specifically, BLM has committed to consider, in the course of its planning effort, in at least one alternative, all of the relevant conservation measures in the NTT Report.

The FWS convened a Conservation Objectives Team of state and FWS scientific experts to provide clear guidance regarding the criteria that would be used in making a listing determination in advance of that decision. This 2013 report is referred to as the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) Report. The COT Report is the work product of a scientific team that included FWS and State participants. The COT Report identifies "Priority Areas for Conservation" (PACs) that generally correspond to State-identified areas of most importance for sage-grouse conservation. The COT Report then identifies the major threats affecting the species in each PAC and, in general terms, describes the degree to which those threats need to be addressed to accomplish the goal of conserving the species. As the States very much wanted, the COT Report identifies the goals, but gives the States and other the flexibility to design strategies to address the threats to the species.

The COT Report describes generally what needs to be accomplished, and the NTT Report more specifically describes the on-the-ground measures that may be appropriate to meet sage-grouse conservation objectives, particularly in priority habitats. As a result, it has generated controversy from those who believe its conservation measures may be overly restrictive of particular land uses. In response to this controversy, the BLM and Forest Service have reiterated that the planning process will make appropriate adjustments to address regional and local ecological variability with robust justifications for measures that may vary from the NTT recommendations.

USGS, in cooperation with BLM, recently released a comprehensive report ("*Summary of Science, Activities, Programs and Policies that Influence the Rangewide Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse*" - aka the "baseline report") summarizing decades of scientific research on sage grouse and the activities that affect sage grouse and their habitats. The information below is a small sample of the type of data the report provides.

Nearly 9% of "preliminary priority habitat" ("PPH," aka "core areas") has been leased for oil and gas production, but more than 80% of that has yet to be developed. Specifically, there are 1.1 million acres held by production and 4.9 million leased acres that are undeveloped out of a total of 68.2 million acres of PPH. Thus the effects of the great majority of the oil and gas leases already issued have yet to be experienced.

The direct footprint of roads within PPH is 1.3 million acres, or roughly 2% of the total. However, the area indirectly affected exceeds 95% of the total, and in three management zones 100% of preliminary priority habitat is indirectly influenced by roads (i.e., with 7.5km of an interstate highway, or within 3km of a highway or primary or secondary route).

Key Coordination Efforts

The Western Association of Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) published a Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy in 2006 and established an Executive Oversight Committee to oversee its implementation. The Oversight Committee is comprised of State and Federal conservation agency representatives. It meets regularly and has been an effective forum for communication about and coordination of species conservation efforts. Its State members are drawn from state fish and wildlife agencies, which generally lack any regulatory authority over land uses that negatively affect sage-grouse.

In December 2011, Secretary Salazar co-hosted a meeting in Cheyenne, WY, that resulted in the establishment of a Sage-Grouse Task Force, co-chaired by Governors Mead (Wyoming) and Hickenlooper (Colorado) and the Director of BLM. Each of the eleven states within the sage-grouse range has a Governor appointed member on the Task Force. In addition, BLM, FWS, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are represented on the Task Force. By having Governor-appointed representatives on the Task Force, the intention was to secure the participation of those who could influence agencies beyond the state fish and game agency (although in some cases the Governor appointed the Director of the State fish and game agency to the Task Force). The Task Force generally meets every 2-3 months and is singularly focused on addressing actions and policies that can influence the FWS listing determination in 2015.

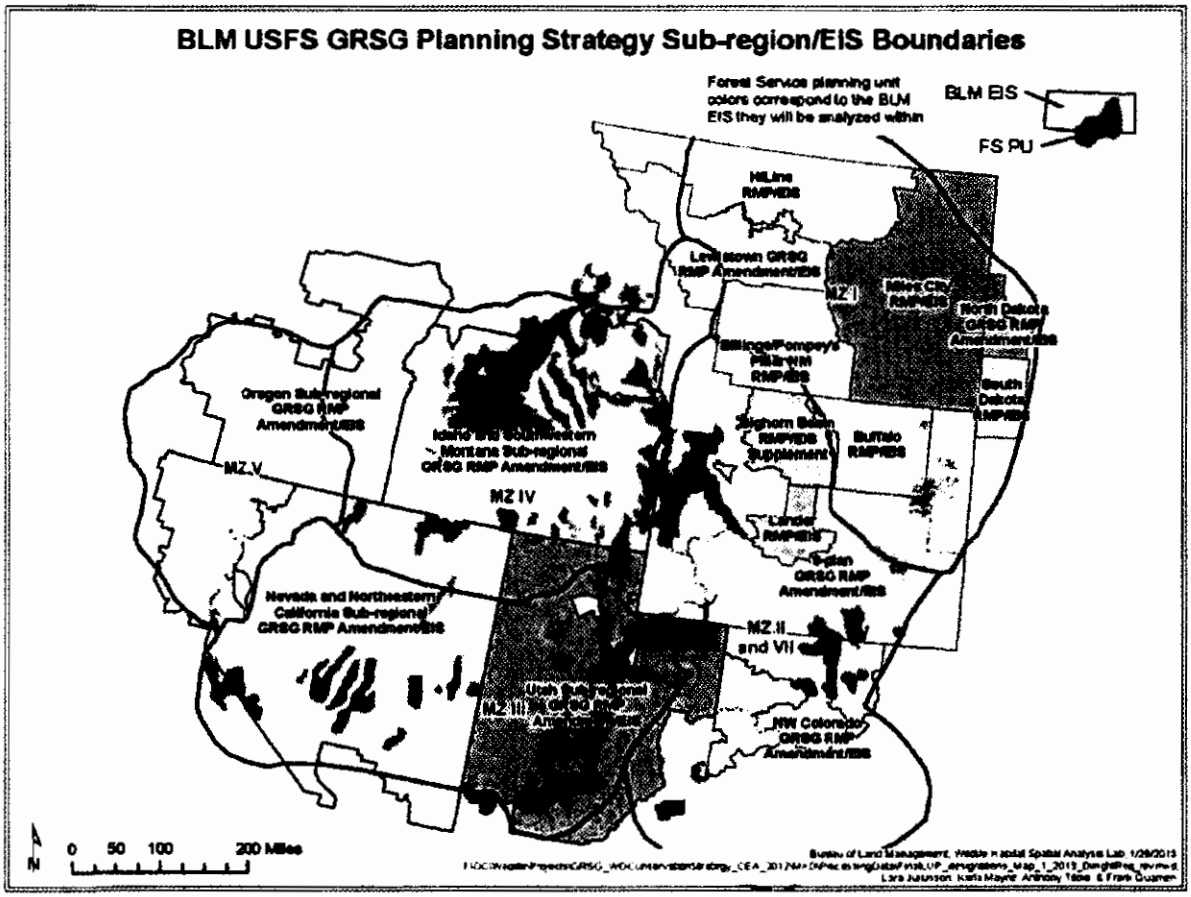
The FWS, BLM and USFS coordinate regularly and at multiple levels on local to regional to national teams regarding the BLM/USFS planning processes. The agencies met as a "federal family" to kick off the planning process, met again earlier this year, and will again meet at the end of September to trouble-shoot and come to agreement on how to most effectively move the planning process to successful completion.

Within the FWS, greater sage-grouse are found in three administrative regions (Regions 1, 6, and 8); Region 6 has lead coordination responsibility. The FWS employs a "field management team" structure composed of Ecological Services office supervisors in each of the eleven states and appropriate regional leadership. The field management team elevates issues, challenges, solutions through the FWS leadership. This team meets monthly by teleconference and has hosted two in-person management meetings this year to share, coordinate approaches, and provide consistent guidance and recommendations across the agency. FWS recently hosted a meeting of the field management team and NRCS' Sage-grouse Initiative leadership to boost coordination and information exchange with NRCS.

ATTACHMENT 3

NATIONAL GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLANNING TIMELINE			
Planning Effort/EIS	**Draft EIS Release**	**Final EIS Release**	**Record of Decision**
Lander RMP Revision	September 2011	February 2013	September 2013
HiLine RMP Revision	March 2013	April 2014	August 2014
Billings/Pompeys Pillar NM RMP Revision	March 2013	March 2014	August 2014
South Dakota RMP Revision	June 2013	July 2014	September 2014
Bighorn Basin RMP Revision	July 2013 (Supplement)	February 2014	July 2014
Northwest Colorado RMP Amendments	August 2013	February 2014	August 2014
North Dakota RMP Amendment	September 2013	June 2014	September 2014
Nevada/Northeast California RMP Amendments	October 2013	May 2014	September 2014
Utah RMP Amendments	October 2013	May 2014	September 2014
Idaho/Southwestern Montana RMP Amendments	October 2013	May 2014	September 2014
Oregon RMP Amendments	October 2013	May 2014	September 2014
Lewistown RMP Amendments	October 2013	June 2014	September 2014
Wyoming 9 Plan RMP Amendments	November 2013	June 2014	September 2014

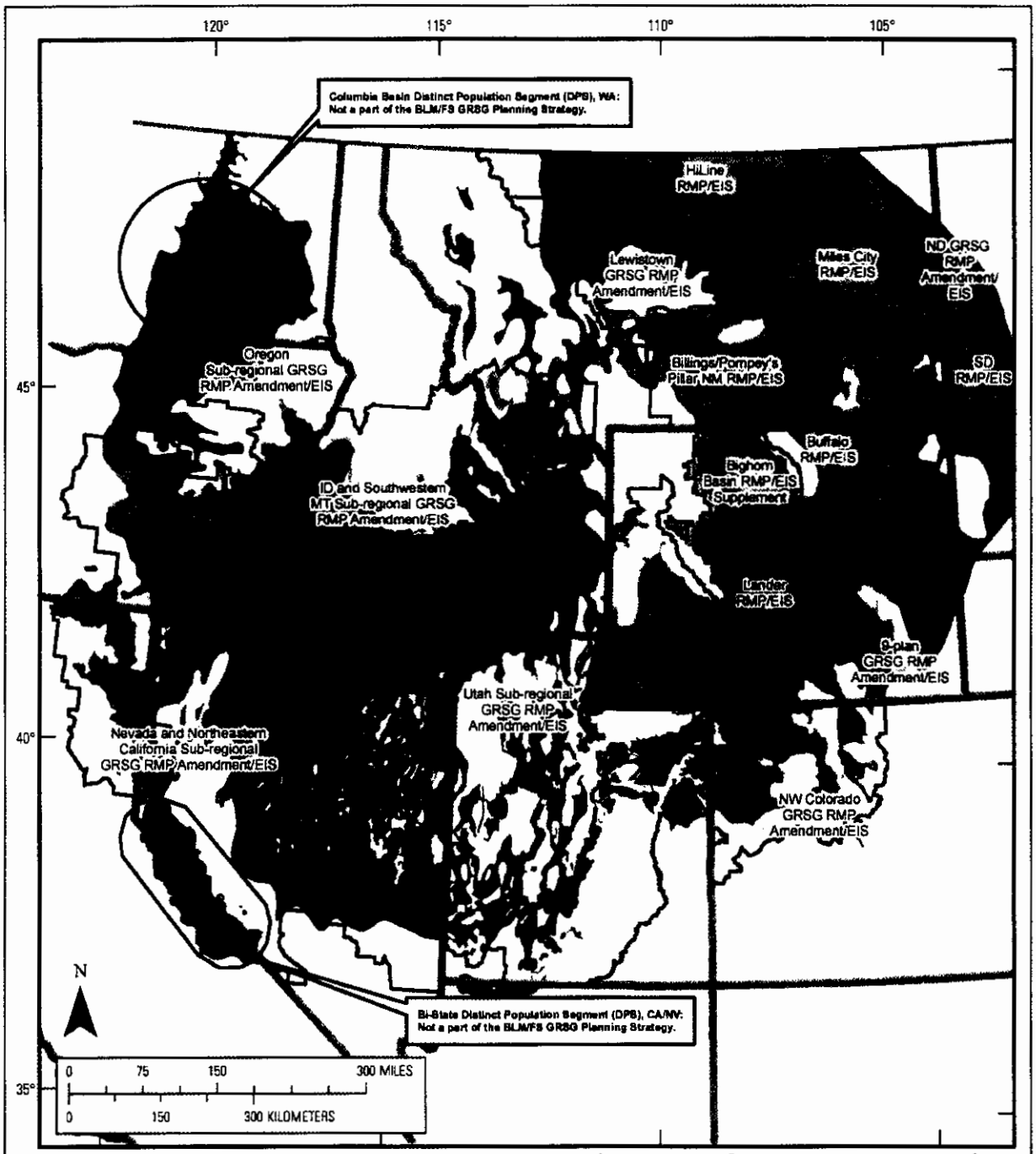
BLM USFS GRSG Planning Strategy Sub-region/EIS Boundaries



ATTACHMENT 4

COMMON ELEMENTS IN EACH OF THE 15 EISs – COMPARISON WITH THE LANDER RECORD OF DECISION

Common Elements within Each EIS	Lander RMP/EIS Approach
Refine data and maps with State collaboration	Uses data collected in collaboration with WY and consistent with the PACs from FWS' Conservation Objectives Team ("COT") Report
Use *Baseline Environmental Report* ("BER") on a range-wide scale	Incorporated preliminary BER information
Analyze the conservation measures in the *National Technical Team* ("NTT") Report	BLM reviewed the Lander RMP and EIS to ensure incorporation and analysis of the NTT Report's recommendations
Analyze State plan in at least one alternative	BLM-WY has worked with WY in the development of the Lander RMP and EIS
Analyze conservation measures from the Dec. 2011 – Mar. 2012 public scoping period	BLM concurred that public input had been sufficiently considered
Commit to an adaptive management that will provide regulatory certainty to the FWS	ROD commits to adaptive management, and BLM-WY will coordinate with WY to implement
Use effectiveness monitoring framework	Effectiveness monitoring framework included and will be updated through adaptive management
Develop a mitigation plan that will comply with BLM's new draft regional mitigation manual	The ROD will be issued prior to issuance of the finalized manual
Integrate FWS' COT report within the EIS	A Supplemental Information Report has been prepared and included with the ROD to address the COT report



GRSG Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs)[1], PPH/PGH[2], and Historic Range[3]

Legend

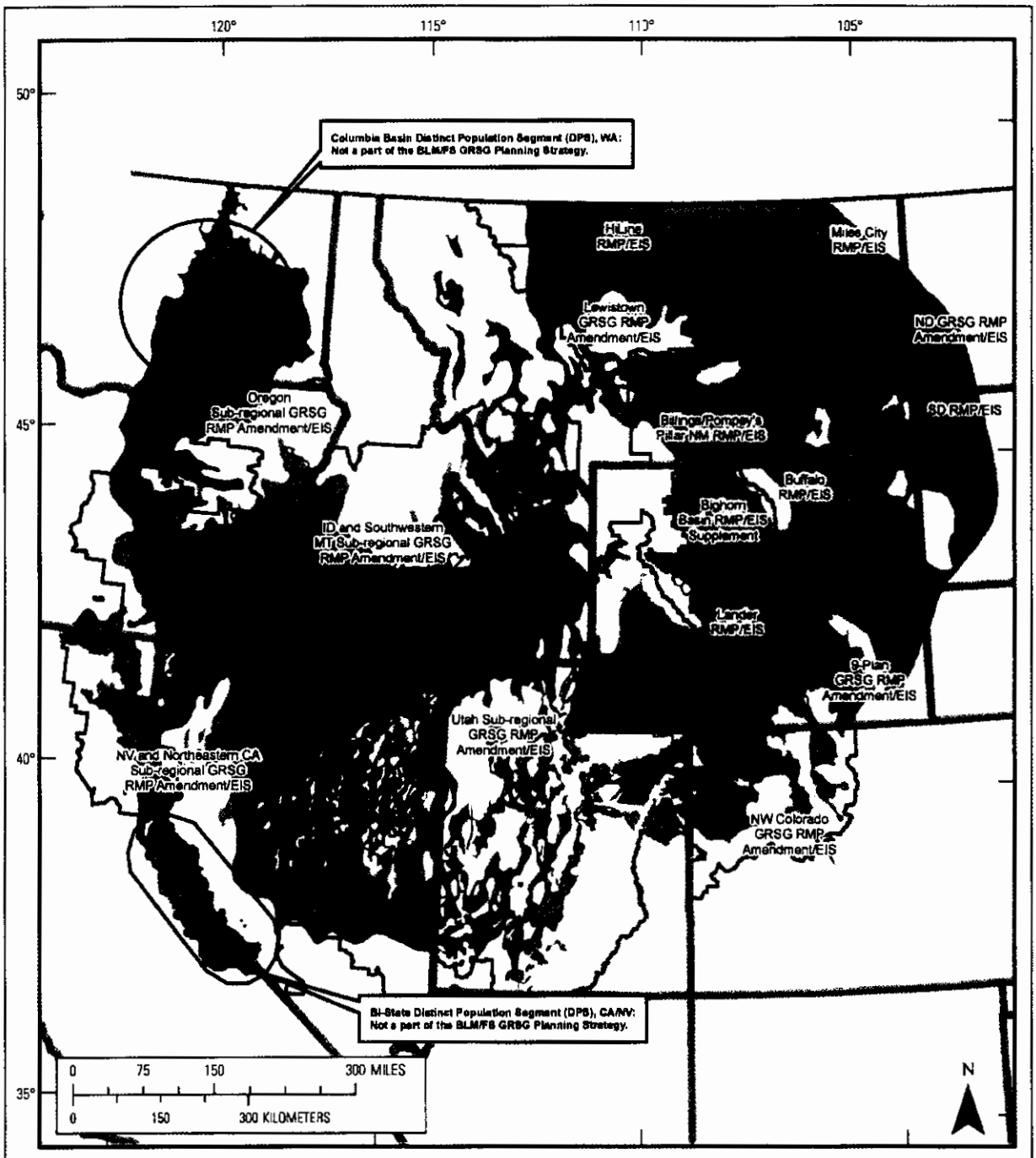
- COT PACs
- PGH
- PPH
- GRSG Historic Range

Sources:

[1] PACs: USFWS COT Report, 2013

[2] Preliminary Priority Habitat and Preliminary General Habitat, 8/2013, with Bi-State and Columbia Basin DPSs from Schroeder et al., 2004

[3] Historic Range: Schroeder et al., 2004



GRSG Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs)[1], Current Range[2], and Historic Range[3]
Legend

- COT PACs
- GRSG Current Range
- GRSG Historic Range

Sources:
[1] PACs: USFWS COT Report, 2013
[2] Current Range: Schroeder et al., 2004
[3] Historic Range: Schroeder et al., 2004



West-Wide Greater Sage-grouse, Gunnison Sage-grouse, and Fire Perimeters 2000-2013
- August 27, 2013 -

Legend

Greater Sage-grouse:

- Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH)
- Preliminary General Habitat (PGH)

Gunnison Sage-grouse:

- Proposed Occupied Habitat (POH)
- Proposed Unoccupied Habitat (PUH)
- Fire Perimeters 2000-2012
- Fire Perimeters 2013 (up to 8/27/2013)
- State Boundary
- BLM District Office Boundary
- BLM Field Office Boundary

DESCRIPTION:

Greater Sage-grouse:

Preliminary General Habitat (PGH):

Areas of relatively intact sagebrush communities which provide current or future habitat requirements for GRSG. When suppression resources are widely available, maximum efforts should be placed on limiting fire growth in these polygons.

Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH):

Areas offering the highest quality GRSG habitat based upon bird density, lek location, habitat potential, community composition, intactness, or other variables. As such, these polygons should be the highest priorities for conservation and protection during fire operations and fuels management decision making. The PPH will be viewed as more valuable than PGH when priorities are established.

Gunnison Sage-grouse:

Proposed Occupied Habitat (POH):

Areas of suitable habitat known to be used by GUSG within 10 years of completion of the Rangewide Conservation Plan (RCP). As such, these polygons should be the highest priorities for conservation and protection during fire operations and fuels management decision making. The GUSG POH will be viewed as more valuable than GUSG PUH when priorities are established.

Proposed Unoccupied Habitat (PUH):

Unoccupied GUSG habitat which is either: 1) currently suitable but not contiguous with occupied habitat, or 2) capable of supporting sagebrush communities based on soils or other site characteristics. When suppression resources are widely available, maximum efforts should be placed on limiting fire growth in these polygons.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Sep 18, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

MICHAEL CONNOR RECEIVES "GLOWING REVIEWS" DURING SENATE HEARING. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (9/18, 288K) reports that Michael Connor, who is nominated by President Barack Obama to be second-in-command at the Interior Department, "received glowing reviews and friendly questions at his Senate energy committee confirmation hearing on Tuesday." Connor's nomination is "expected to clear the committee easily," and he was praised by former Sen. Jeff Bingaman, Sen. Tom Udall, and Sen. Martin Heinrich. The article notes that "in questioning Connor, senators largely stuck to parochial issues and none indicated any displeasure over his tenure as director of the Bureau of Reclamation."

The E&E Daily (9/17) reports that both committee Chairman Ron Wyden and ranking member Lisa Murkowski pledged to support the confirmation of Connor. Wyden said, "Mike has demonstrated his integrity, his knowledge, his commitment to public service and his ability to bring people together and to solve problems." However, Sen. Jeff Flake said that "he would be reluctant to support Connor's nomination if the Interior Department does not commit to allowing a public hearing in Arizona to discuss a rule to expand recovery efforts for Mexican wolves, a proposal he argued would significantly affect Arizona landowners."

The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (9/18, 59K) reports that Udall lauded "Connor's integrity and work for" the BOR, saying "he's the ideal person to carry out the duties."

Also covering the story is Politico (9/18, Restuccia, 467K).

Connor: Expect Middle Rio Grande Water Leasing Pilot Program By 2014. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (9/18, 288K) reports that Connor said that a pilot "water leasing" program in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District can be expected by 2014. During questioning, Conner called water leasing "absolutely one of the most critical tools."

FOREST COALITION URGES CONGRESS TO ADDRESS FUNDING SHORTFALL. The E&E Daily (9/17) reports that a coalition of conservation, logging, state forestry and recreation groups have "urged the House to restore $600 million that the Forest Service siphoned from other agency programs to fight wildfires and to find a more sustainable way to fund future firefighting efforts." The coalition also "urged lawmakers to authorize a longer extension of stewardship contracting, a popular tool the Forest Service uses to combine logging operations with forest restoration work, which helps gird forests against future wildfires."

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSIONERS OPPOSE TRIBAL STATUS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS. The Washington Times (9/18, Richardson, 417K) reports that members of the US Commission on Civil Rights are "urging" the President to "reject Democratic requests to grant tribal status to Native Hawaiians by executive order, saying it would be 'unwise and unconstitutional.'" Four of the eight commissioners signed a September 16 letter to the President saying, "Neither Congress nor the president has power to create an Indian tribe or any other entity with the attributes of sovereignty. Nor do they have the power to reconstitute a tribe or other sovereign entity that has ceased to exist as a polity in the past. Tribes are 'recognized,' not created or reconstituted."

INTERIOR SAYS NO NEED FOR LABOR OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE. The Saipan Tribune (9/18, 641) reports that acting US assistant Interior secretary for insular areas Eileen Sobeck told Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Ron Wyden (D-OR) that "since the passage of a law placing CNMI immigration under federal control, 'it has been assumed' that the need for the US Labor Ombudsman's Office 'would not be permanent.'" Sobeck told Wyden that "since the passage of the CNRA, it has been assumed that need for the Office would not be permanent." According to the article, "Sobeck's letter seals the fate of the ombudsman's office, which is set to close at the end of fiscal year 2013 on Sept. 30."

LAWSUIT CLAIMS SLAUGHTER IN HORSE ROUNDUP PROGRAM. The Courthouse News (9/17, 7K) reports that in their lawsuit against Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, FWS director Daniel Ashe and Sheldon National Wildlife Service director John Kashbohm, Bonnie Kohleriter and Laura Leigh claimed that "a 'feral' horse program meant to help and conserve wild horses in Nevada is instead leading the beasts to slaughter." According to the complaint, "though Sheldon has used the round-up program since 2009 to put Nevada's wild horses in good homes through an adoption process, one bad adoption agent made it through the process." The two women are

seeking "an injunction under the Administrative Procedures Act and their constitutional right to observe the roundup."

SEN. MURKOWSKI CRITICIZES OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ON NATIVE HEALTH FUNDING NEEDS. The Alaska Native News (9/18, 245) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski on Monday "criticized the Obama Administration's proposal to short-fund the operation costs of tribally run hospitals, despite last year's historic Supreme Court ruling requiring full funding of contract support costs." In a statement, Murkowski said, "I am deeply troubled by the Indian Health Service's continued resistance to the Supreme Court's ruling last Summer that the federal government must pay the full amount of contract support costs to our tribes' tireless and, oftentimes, thankless care for their people. This is not merely justice denied, but justice ignored." The article notes that earlier this year, Sen. Murkowski questioned Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "about only consulting tribes 'after the fact' on contract support costs."

AS COLORADO FLOODWATERS DROP, 581 REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR. The CBS Evening News (9/17, story 5, 2:35, Pelley, 5.58M) broadcast that although floodwaters in Colorado began to recede, the military continued its rescue operations and saved 800 "more stranded Coloradans." Nevertheless, 581 people "are still unaccounted for" and "by one estimate, 19,000 homes were damaged or destroyed." In addition, "More than 400 miles of road has washed away." The piece added that "state officials say it could take a month to get a full picture of the damage."

Colorado Flooding Shuts Down Oil And Gas Well Production. According to Reuters (9/18, Houlihan) reporting on the flood damage in Colorado, hundreds of oil and gas wells are not operating in light of the floods. For instance, Encana Corp counted almost 300 wells it was forced to shut down, but company spokesperson Doug Hock commented, "We still have not found any spills of any reportable quantity, but cannot rule out future discoveries until we get to everything."

The Denver Post (9/18, Jaffe, 949K) also reports, writing that nearly 1,900 wells have been shut off, while hundreds of industry employees are going through well sites to inspect and repair.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROTECTION OF SOUTHERN WHITE RHINO. Additional coverage of the action to protect the southern white rhinoceros under the Endangered Species Act was provided by KHOU-TV Houston (9/18, 125K) and the Africa Science News Service (9/18).

MILITARY VETERANS FIGHTING FIRES. For the Stars And Stripes (9/18, Madalena, 9K), Michael A. Madalena, a crew leader with the Student Conservation Association's Veterans Fire Corps, writes that military veterans have been combating "the nearly 32,000 wildfires" that the Interior Department "says have burned more than 3.4 million acres nationwide this year." He notes that "it's a challenge for many veterans to find a job and build a career after returning home from military service." According to Madalena, the Veterans Fire Corps "addresses all of that: taking advantage of military training — and especially a warrior's readiness to adapt to and overcome rapidly changing conditions — in order to confront a continuing growing danger of national significance."

FORMER SIERRA CLUB CHAIR ARGUES US ENERGY EXPORTS HURTING "STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES" OF PRODUCTION BOOM. In a 1,500-word essay in Bloomberg News (9/17, 1.91M), former Sierra Club chair Carl Pope discusses the widely-circulated idea that the US is becoming the new Saudi Arabia after its surge in oil and natural gas production. Pope concedes that although it's correct to say that America currently "has access to abundant supplies" of cheap natural gas that could transform "the US economy," political leaders are giving "away a vast chunk" of the resources, along with any "strategic advantages" they may bring. He notes that the first signs of this happened when WTI prices sunk below Brent prices after "oil traders reversed two small pipelines" to carry crude to export docks to send to Latin America and Europe, rather than to Gulf Coast refineries and Cushing, OK. He argues that US exports of LNG and oil are "part of the biggest story" of the energy boom: that the US is "squandering" the advantages that "cheap fuel and competitive manufacturing" bring and instead favoring "an energy-export policy that has no larger economic, political, environmental or moral rationale."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

GETTYSBURG HOPE TO OBTAIN ORIGINAL COPY OF LINCOLN'S ADDRESS FOR 150TH ANNIVERSARY. The Washington Post (9/17, Press, 4.28M) reports that officials in Gettysburg are seeking to "borrow one of the nation's most historic documents — an original copy of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address." According to the article, "the foundation that runs Gettysburg National Military Park's museum and visitor center wants to borrow a copy held by the Library of Congress and put it on public display as part of its celebration of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's famed speech." However, "the library does not lend either of its two copies of the speech because of their fragility and priceless nature."

RANGER SHOOTS MAN AT LAKE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The E&E Daily (9/17) reports that last weekend, a noise violation at one of Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area's campgrounds "ended with a park ranger shooting a 43-year-old man, possibly in front of his family." Both the NPS and the Washington State Patrol investigating the confrontation.

Also reporting on the story are the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (9/17, 214K) and the Oregon Public Broadcasting (9/18, 4K).

YOSEMITE REOPENS TIOGA ROAD AS RIM FIRE EBBS, BUT SOME CAMPS CLOSED. The Los Angeles Times (9/16, Forgione, 3.07M) reports that Yosemite National Park officials "reopened the east-west California 120 last weekend, though the Rim fire continues to burn and has kept the Tuolumne Grove of sequoias and some campgrounds closed."

NPS SEEKS WATER MANAGEMENT DESIGNATION FOR WEST HAWAII AQUIFER. The West Hawaii Today (9/18, 26K) reports that last week, Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park Superintendent Tammy Duchesne "took a step toward getting permanent protections for the Keauhou aquifer by requesting the state's Commission on Water Resource Management to give the area a water management designation. "In announcing the petition, park officials said, "Since the park's establishment, substantial groundwater development has occurred within the Keauhou aquifer. Despite six years of efforts by the Water Commission, the park and other stakeholders to address the potential impacts of proposed development at the Kona Water Roundtable and other venues, no plan has been produced to protect water-dependent cultural and natural resources from the cumulative effects of groundwater withdrawals. Given the sensitivity and importance of these resources and importance of water to all stakeholders, including the community living in this area, proactive management of groundwater withdrawals is urgently needed."

EFFORT SEEKS TO SAVE HISTORIC TAMIAMI TRAIL WAY STATION. USA Today (9/17, Williams, 5.82M) reports that "even though it's on the National Register of Historic Places, funding hasn't been easy to find" for the Tamiami Trail Way Station. Bob Degross, chief of interpretation and public affairs for Big Cypress National Preserve, said, "We want to stabilize and restore it, but it's in great disrepair and about the only remaining original (portion) that can be reused is the roof."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW NPS ONLINE SITE FOR EDUCATORS. Additional coverage of the new NPS online site for educators was provided by the Saipan Tribune (9/18, 641).

PAPER: EFFORT TO BUY NATURAL BRIDGE A "LONG SHOT". The Staunton (VA) News Leader (9/17, 9K) editorializes that the Natural Bridge will go to auction in November and "that a private group – The Friends of the Natural Bridge – is trying to raise money to buy the property and have it donated to either the National Park Service or the state park system." While "a long shot," the paper hopes "it works." According to the editorial, "for the region's economic, educational and historical good, it is vital that Natural Bridge remain well preserved and open to all."

HUNTING ACCESS PRAISED FOR ENERGIZING PLAN FOR NATIONAL PARK. The Waterville (ME) Morning Sentinel (9/18, 59K) editorializes that "in spite of the opposition — largely from sportsmen, snowmobilers and the forest products industry — Elliotsville Plantation Inc., the group formed by Roxanne Quimby to manage her vast land holdings and push for a park, has continued to make its case." The paper notes that "Elliotsville Plantation last week opened the land near Baxter to hunting," which "shows the group sees the value of a balanced approach to recreation." It concludes that "rather than as a cause for concern, the proposed conservation of 150,000 acres should be seen as an opportunity to help the region, and protect some of Maine's most treasured

land."

SIERRA CLUB REPRESENTATIVE DOWNPLAYS OUTDOOR RISKS. In an op-ed for the Long Beach (CA) Press-Telegram (9/17, Bare, 194K), Stacy Bare, director of the Sierra Club's Mission Outdoors program, says that "there's no trend of tragedy," despite stories about mishaps in outdoors recently. Bare asserts: "You are more likely to be killed in this country while driving to the gym for a workout than you are while hiking in a park." As such, Bare concludes that "the real challenge is not to make the outdoors safer but to increase dramatically the number of prepared, passionate people who are getting outside, bringing out new people to explore the majesty of our country, and in the process leading healthier, happier, and even less stressful lives."

Bureau of Land Management:

MEDIA GROUPS CLAIM BLM LIMITING ACCESS TO WILD HORSE ROUNDUPS. The Laramie (WY) Boomerang (9/17, 17K) reports that the Reporters Committee on Freedom of the Press claims the BLM is "using safety concerns as an excuse to limit media access to wild horse roundups across the West in violation of the First Amendment." According to the article, "the National Press Photographers Association and more than a dozen newspaper companies joined the committee in a friend-of-the-court brief filed in the 9th Circuit US Court of Appeals late Monday to back an advocacy group waging a series of legal battles over mustang roundups in Nevada." The media groups said that Horseback Magazine photographer Laura Leigh and others "have a right to see what happens" during the roundups, and urged the court to be "highly skeptical of assertions by the BLM that restrictions placed on media access were done for administrative convenience and/or to satisfy safety concerns."

Also reporting on the story are the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (9/18, 768K), the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (9/17, 147K), and the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (9/17, 165K).

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE CONFIRMS HOUSE FORESTRY BILL WOULD INCREASE LOGGING. The Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (9/17, Chebium, 104K) reports that the Congressional Budget Office said Tuesday that "a House forestry bill that contains O&C language pushed by three Oregon lawmakers would 'substantially increase' logging on federal lands." The CBO also said "tax savings would be negligible over the next five years if the bill sponsored by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings, R-Wash., becomes law this year," largely because "revenue from ramped-up timber sales would be offset by the loss of 1.4 million acres from the Bureau of Land Management's portfolio."

BLM TO AUCTION TO SELL 28 PARCELS IN NEVADA. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (9/18, Robison, 437K) reports that the BLM has slated an auction on January 16 auction to sell 28 parcels totaling 440 acres in Nevada. The article notes that January's scheduled sale is the second-largest offering since November 2005, when the bureau auctioned off more than 2,900 acres across the Las Vegas Valley.

NEW MEXICO LAND COMMISSIONER PROPOSES CREATING ADDITIONAL STATE TRUST LANDS. The Ruidoso (NM) News (9/18, Brooks, 39K) reports that New Mexico State Land Commissioner Ray Powell is "proposing a sustainable solution to generate more money for education while creating jobs and without putting the Land Grant Permanent Fund at risk." Powell's proposal "could be accomplished by having the state acquire a small percentage of federal lands that are designated as 'disposal lands,' or lands that no longer fit the mission" of the BLM. Powell said, "Often these federal 'disposal lands' are located around growing urban areas. Some are located in prime areas for building a solar array or a wind farm. Such lands are a perfect fit for the New Mexico State Land Office, whose mission is to earn money from commercial development, renewable energy, grazing, rights of ways, and oil, gas and mineral extraction. Acquiring these lands would create jobs for New Mexicans and earn as much as $60 million a year for education."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REP. CRAWFORD REASSURED TROUT HATCHERIES TO REMAIN OPEN. The Arkansas News (9/18, 1K) reports that the Obama Administration will "keep federal fish hatcheries operating for now and won't close them without a lengthy public review," Rep. Rick Crawford said on Tuesday. Crawford said the FWS had "reassured him there are no 'imminent' plans to close the fish hatcheries, including those in Arkansas at Greers Ferry and Norfork." Crawford said that "he plans to work toward a permanent solution to insure that the hatcheries remain

open and jobs supported by these facilities are secure."

Also covering the story are the Pine Bluff (AR) Commercial (9/18, 36K) and the Black Hills (SD) Pioneer (9/18, 11K).

FWS PLACES TWO SITES IN URBAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM. The Sammamish (WA) Review (9/17, Cetron) reports that the FWS has placed Lake Sammamish, and Masonville Cove in Baltimore, in its Urban Partnership Program. The Federal government will spend "$30,000 to fund early planning of the project around Lake Sammamish, which might help people to better understand and enjoy the lake and its wildlife."

FWS CRITICIZED OVER BANDON MARSH. In an op-ed for the Coos Bay (OR) World (9/18, Taylor, 34K), Rob Taylor, a founder of the group Coos County Today, writes that in November 2011, the FWS "sent a letter to owners whose properties lay within an area proposed for expansion of the Bandon Marsh outlining a proposal to acquire their land," and since then, the service has "tried to bully the people of Coos County while displaying only indifference to the needs of farmers, their livelihoods, and our local rural economy." He notes that what the FWS "failed to mention in their report is that their work on this project would also spawn millions of mosquitos — destroying residents' quality of life, harming livelihoods and endangering the health of humans, animals, and wildlife." Taylor claims that "the only real remedy to this problem is a class-action lawsuit" against the FWS that "uses the force of the courts to get the agency to replace the dikes and drain the marsh."

US Geological Survey:

NASA, USGS LAUNCH STUDY OF NEXT-GENERATION GLOBAL LAND IMAGING SYSTEM. The Hispanic Business (9/18, 110K) reports that NASA and the USGS will "kick off a quest for an innovative and affordable space-based system to extend the Landsat data record for decades to come with a public forum and call for ideas Wednesday, Sept. 18." The Sustainable Land Imaging Architecture Study Industry and Partner Day will be held "from 1-4:30 p.m. EDT in the NASA Headquarters Webb Auditorium, 300 E St. SW, Washington." Matt Larsen, USGS Associate Director for Climate and Land Use Change, said, "Landsat data are used by a broad range of specialists to assess some of the world's most critical issues – the food, water, forests, and other natural resources needed for a growing world population. We are happy to participate in the NASA study to help develop and refine the long-term future of this program, while at the same time recognizing that it is vital that we maintain our Landsat observational capabilities over the short-term to ensure that no data gap occurs."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

JUDGE RULES IN FAVOR OF WIND PROJECT. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (9/17, 113K) reports that a Federal judge ruled against environmentalists who sought to block a BLM-approved transmission line to a wind energy project in Oregon, although the delays from litigation have caused a new batch of problems. Lower natural gas prices have made competition tougher for renewable energy, said Chris Crowley of Columbia Energy Partners, which proposed the wind project. In addition, a power purchase agreement with a utility expired, as did a tax incentive. The BLM approved the project in 2011 but environmental groups sued to have the approval overturned, and US District Judge Michael Morsman has dismissed those arguments. Columbia Energy Partners is now considering its options for the transmission project, given the market shifts.

NECROPSY UNDERWAY FOR PEREGRINE FALCON FOUND WOUNDED AT CALIFORNIA SOLAR PLANT. A remarkably long report on the website of KCET-TV Los Angeles (9/17, Clarke, 15K) writes that a peregrine falcon "was found mortally injured at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in the Mojave Desert two weeks ago." The US Fish and Wildlife Service received the bird, but could not prevent its death, the cause of which will be determined by a USFWS forensics lab. According to the article, one possible cause of death that the forensics will examine is "the issue of the concentrated solar energy Ivanpah's mirrored heliostats focus on the facility's three 459-foot power towers, also known as 'solar flux.'" While the falcon may also have died mistaking the reflective solar panels for sky, the article stresses that "solar flux figures large as an unresolved threat in the California Energy Commission's Final Staff Assessment on Palen, and may well figure into public comment at hearings on the project being held this week by the Bureau of Land Management."

STUDY: PALEN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT UNCERTAIN. Fierce Energy (9/17, Lundin) reports that the California Energy Commission released its final staff assessment (FSA) on licensing for the proposed Palen Solar Electric Generating System Project, which found that the project would have "significant environmental impacts even with the implementation recommended mitigation measures." Additionally, the 500 MW solar thermal project would not follow all laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) in the visual resources area, and the Commission said it was questionable whether measures regarding birds would lessen potential impact to "less than significant levels" in the biological resources area. The FSA will act as the testimony of Commission staff at hearings to review the project.

FIRST SOLAR PLANS FACILITY IN NEVADA'S AMARGOSA VALLEY. In his column for the Las Vegas Review-Journal (9/18, 437K), John L. Smith writes that First Solar Inc. met with residents of Amargosa Valley in Nevada to announce its intention to build a 65-megawatt solar project. Smith says that if the project gets off the ground, it could represent real progress toward making Nevada a more environmentally friendly state. Some residents are concerned about the project, especially after the Solar Millennium project failed after myriad promises and Department of Interior approval. Smith writes that First Solar's track record does not indicate a similar failure ahead, but rather one more step toward greener policy in Nevada.

Onshore Energy Development:

WYOMING GAME AND FISH, PETROLEUM COMPANY COOPERATE ON GROUSE. The San Francisco Chronicle (9/18, Gruver, 2.88M) reports that as "Wyoming's oil boom continues to encroach on areas populated by sage grouse," the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has "been working with a petroleum company to develop a plan to guide oil drilling in a vast area of state-designated sage grouse habitat in east-central Wyoming." According to the article, Laurie Heath of Chesapeake Energy and Bob Budd, executive director of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, "plan to present the latest developments with the proposal on Wednesday when the Sage Grouse Implementation Team, a panel of landowners and government, industry and conservation officials, is scheduled to meet in Cheyenne." The article notes that "the plan seeks to concentrate future drilling in already disturbed portions of the Douglas Core Area while trying not to disturb new portions of the nearly 140-square-mile zone a few miles east of Douglas."

Also reporting on the story is the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (9/18, 90K).

DECLINING DOMESTIC COAL MARKET FORCES MINE, TRIBE TO LOOK AT EXPORTS. Environment & Energy Publishing (9/18, Quiñones, 705) reports in depth on coal production in Montana as the shifting energy market causes producers to look at other alternatives for shipping coal. At Cloud Peak Energy's Spring Creek Mine in the Powder River Basin, the company looks to expand its overseas exports. The company is also looking to open up another mine on the Crow Indian Reservation and developing about 1.4 billion tons of coal. The Bureau of Indian Affairs approved a lease and exploration agreement between Cloud Peak and the Crow, and the project could prove to be a huge benefit for the tribe, especially if exports go ahead as planned.

CALIFORNIA FRACKING STUDY SETTLES LAWSUIT. The San Francisco Chronicle (9/17, Egelko, 2.88M) reports that the Obama administration reached a "tentative settlement" in a lawsuit over oil and gas drilling by agreeing to conduct a statewide study of fracking and its potential environmental impacts. The settlement was announced in a Federal court filing Monday. No details were provided, by Brendan Cummings of the Center for Biological Diversity mentioned the Bureau of Land Management's earlier promise to perform a new fracking review after two oil leases were blocked in April. "This will be the first statewide assessment of fracking in California," said Cummings, adding that the review would likely take over a year. The case involved two leases approved by the BLM in Fresno and Monterey counties, which were blocked after US Magistrate Paul Grewal said the agency had not conducted the necessary analysis of fracking risks.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OPPOSITION TO FEDERAL PLAN FOR OIL AND GAS LEASING AT SAN RAFAEL SWELL. Additional coverage of the opposition to the federal plan for oil and gas leasing at San Rafael Swell was provided by the Columbus (IN) Republic (9/18, 80K), the Provo (UT) Daily Herald (9/18, 102K), the Oklahoman (9/18, 345K), FuelFix (9/17, 7K), and the Deseret (UT) News (9/18, 274K).

OP-ED: NOTHING SACRED TO GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT. The Pacific Northwest (WA) Inlander (9/17, 126K) carries an op-ed by Dave Stalling, who voices his opposition to gas and oil development around northwest Montana's Chief Mountain. Stalling argues that the area's pristine natural beauty, thriving animal populations, and the mountain's sacred status to the Blackfeet and other First Nation people should be reason enough not to develop gas and oil. Stalling laments the Bureau of Indian Affairs' leasing of an area near the mountain for gas and oil development, asking, "what protection does a sacred place have these days?"

OPINION: FRACKING EMISSIONS STUDY PROVOKES "KNEEJERK REACTION" BY OPPONENTS. An opinion column for the Chicago Tribune (9/17, Lynch, 2.32M) discusses the reactions to an emissions study observing shale wells that found "the wells do not appear to be emitting significant amounts of methane, which is an important finding." The column points to "the bias in some analysts," such as the complete rejection by Physicians, Scientists and Engineers for Healthy Energy of what it called a "fatally flawed" study, as an example of commentary with a motive. The writer finishes by comparing the "scientists, and some media and industry observers" who "seem to have no trouble admitting the limitations even of a study whose results they find agreeable" with "the kneejerk reactions from some fracking opponents...highly informative of their prejudice."

Offshore Energy Development:

STUDY FINDS INCREASED CANCER RISK FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL CLEANUP WORKERS. The E&E Daily (9/17) reports that workers "hired to clean up the Gulf of Mexico region during the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill have an increased chance of developing leukemia, liver cancer and other illnesses, according to a report published today." The study, published in the Journal of American Medicine and conducted by the University Cancer and Diagnostic Centers in Houston, focuses on the potential consequences for the workers.

CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER SHELL'S ARCTIC EXPLORATION. PBS (9/17, Jacobsen, 804K) reports in depth on Royal Dutch Shell Oil's operations in the Arctic, the first such exploration in the region in 20 years, which has also "been fraught with accidents and controversy." Even after the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement granted drilling permits for Shell in 2012, a series of accidents raised concern among environmentalists. The Department of the Interior began reviewing Shell's operation after a ship ran aground, and former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said the company would be forbidden from Arctic drilling without additional safety measures. Several environmental groups sued the BSEE for allowing Shell to drill, and said an EPA fine for Clean Air Act violations was not harsh enough. Despite criticism, Shell president Marvin Odum in January said the 2012 drilling was "done safely; it was done from an environmental perspective, the way we wanted it done."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CLAIM SEISMIC TESTING COULD LEAD TO MARINE MAMMAL DEATHS. The Asbury Park (NJ) Press (9/16, 324K) reports that seismic air gun testing in Atlantic ocean waters "to survey for oil and gas could injure or kill as many as 138,500 marine mammals," according to an environmental impact statement drafted by the Interior Department. On Monday, Nancy Sopko, an advocate for the environmental group Oceana, which hosted a public panel discussion at Monmouth University, said "Seismic testing is the first step toward drilling in the Atlantic." The article notes that "Oceana, which as a policy opposes expanded offshore drilling, is trying to get President Barack Obama's administration to withhold permits that would allow seismic testing."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR PLEDGES TO IMPROVE PROTECTIONS AT DELTA WATER PUMPS IN CALIFORNIA. The E&E Daily (9/17) reports that the BOR has "awarded a $4.3 million contract to install new fish protection devices at its water diversion pumps in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." Contractor Valentine Corp. will start "installing new self-cleaning louvers in January, helping curb losses to endangered species including salmon and delta smelt."

RAINFALL INCREASES CABALLO, ELEPHANT BUTTE WATER LEVELS. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (9/17, Soular, 59K) reports that a recent rain storm helped elevate the water levels at Caballo Reservoir and Elephant Butte Lake, mitigating some of the drought and benefiting farmers who rely on the lakes. According to the Bureau of Reclamation, Elephant Butte held about 93,000 acre-feet last week, and 29,400 acre-feet had been added by Tuesday bringing the total to 122,700. The Bureau says the lake held 114,000 acre-feet at the same time last year. Caballo Lake received 25,200 acre-feet. While the rainfall was welcome, Bert Cortex of the Bureau

of Reclamation said Elephant Butte is about 6% full after the storm, and Caballo is 17% full.

KLAMATH RIVER ALGAE A HEALTH HAZARD. The Eureka (CA) Times Standard (9/17, 76K) carries a press release from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, warning recreational users of the Klamath River to avoid direct contact with blue-green algae blooms due to the health risks of cyanobacteria. Those using the river where the algae is blooming are urged against consuming the water in any way, and keeping pets and young children away from water containing algae.

CALIFORNIA GOV. BROWN URGED TO SIGN THE SALTON SEA BILL. In an editorial, the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (9/17, 110K) urges California Gov. Jerry Brown to sign Assembly Bill 71, which would restore power to the Salton Sea Authority. The paper argues that "California's largest lake has been shrinking and the situation will get worse in a few years when water rights are transferred from the Imperial Valley to San Diego County," and "exposing more of the lake bed will send fine dust into the air, exacerbating the already high rates of asthma for the sea's neighbors."

COLUMN REFLECTS ON TETON DAM FAILURE. In a column for the Idaho State Journal (9/17, 54K), Chris Carlson discusses a fishing trip near the former site of the Teton Dam, and reflects on the dam's collapse in 1976. In addition to the damage caused by the flood, Carlson also discusses the thriving fishery that now exists in the area. Carlson writes that he and his friends "discussed the hubris that must have existed within the Bureau of Reclamation that allowed them to believe" the dam could be built the way it was. Carlson concludes by echoing the sentiment of a friend who said some were considering rebuilding the dam, and asked, "Why destroy a thriving fishery for a questionable project that would primarily provide more water to grow more crops that would only further depress prices?"

COLUMN: COLORADO FLOODING HAS SILVER LINING. In a column for the Post Independent (Glenwood Springs, CO) (9/17, 27K), Hannah Holm of Colorado Mesa University's Water Center writes that while flooding has ravaged Colorado, the "silver lining" of the situation is that it has ended a drought affecting much of the northeastern part of the state. In addition to counties removed from drought classification, Holm writes that the flood has increased water supply and decreased demand. Less water will be diverted across the Continental Divide, and Holm notes that the Bureau of Reclamation stopped diversions from the Western Slope through the Colorado-Big Thompson Project. Additionally, water-saturated soil could help snowmelt run off into reservoirs rather than being absorbed.

Empowering Native American Communities:

HOUSE MOVES TO BLOCK EXPANSION OF INDIAN CASINOS. Bloomberg News (9/17, Bykowicz, 1.91M) reports that the House on Tuesday passed legislation that would bar the construction of Indian casinos on land distant from a tribe's reservation. The Bush Administration had issued an order blocking such construction, but it was not supported by the Obama Administration. Bloomberg says that "fights" over expanding Indian gaming are "breaking out across the country as the Obama administration rolls back Bush-era restrictions on Native Americans, easing their way into the growing $27 billion market." The Administration's effort, which is opposed by many state and local governments, seeks to aid Native Americans, who face high unemployment rates.

FEDS ASKED TO STOP PENOKEES MINING. The Superior (WI) Telegram (9/17, 1K) reports that northern Wisconsin tribal leaders have asked the Federal government to stop mining operations in the Penokees, saying the ceded territory must be protected. An Aug. 28 letter to President Obama asks that legal action be prepared by the Department of the Interior to protect the area, citing treaties allowing the tribes to hunt, gather and fish, activities that mining and its resultant pollution would preclude. Although State Senator Tom Tiffany said the Federal government cannot intervene, Bad River Tribal Chairman argues that it is required to, as the state land is in ceded territory. "In real time right now, we know what we need and we need intervention because of all of the efforts to obscure and cloud over GTac's activities in the hydrology and the science of this site," said Wiggins. "We expect from a trust responsibility perspective, we expect the federal government to be there for us and to honor those treaties."

POLL ASKS IF MUSKEGON INDIAN CASINO SHOULD GO FORWARD. MLive (9/17, Alexander, 334K) features a poll for readers, asking if the city of Muskegon should forgo plans for a downtown Indian casino and

move forward with other waterfront development plans. MLive reports that development of a waterfront casino by private developers and the Great River Band of Ottawa Indians has been slow, and city leaders are becoming frustrated, as bonds to cover investment in the site need to be repaid.

Top National News:

OBAMA: PUBLIC NEEDS TO PRESSURE CONGRESS ON GUN CONTROL. Monday morning's Navy Yard shootings continued to dominate the news cycle Tuesday, with many cable news programs devoted exclusively to the aftermath of the tragedy. More so than on Monday, when reports focused on the details of the attack, coverage last night and this morning puts the attack in the context of broader debates over gun control and Federal contractors' security clearances in the wake of the Edward Snowden leaks. While President Obama and some Congressional Democrats made the case that Monday's shootings were another reason to work to limit gun crimes legislatively, nearly all the analyses conclude, as did Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Tuesday, that there is insufficient support in Congress for virtually any new gun control proposals.

The AP (9/17, Stein) reports that in an interview with Telemundo on Tuesday, President Obama said that "if voters want significant gun legislation to get passed in the wake of the nation's latest mass shooting...they should focus their attention on Congress" because he "had brought the gun debate about as far as he personally could after the shooting last December in Newtown, Conn." The President is quoted as saying, "Ultimately this is something that Congress is gonna have to act on. I have now in the wake of Newtown initiated a whole range of executive actions. We've put in place every executive action that I proposed right after Newtown happened. So I've taken steps that are within my control. The next phase now is for Congress to go ahead and move."

The Washington Post (9/18, O'Keefe, 4.28M) quotes the President as saying, "The overwhelming majority of the American people understand that there's some common-sense gun safety laws that we can put in place that could prevent some of this tragedy from happening."

The Washington Times (9/18, Boyer, 417K) reports that on Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney also "blamed Republican lawmakers for blocking President Obama's gun-control efforts." Carney said, "The problem here is not Democrats. The problem here is senators, overwhelmingly from one party, who refuse to do something very simple, which is expand the background check system that everyone believes functions well but needs to function better." According to the Times, Carney also and "said it was a 'cop-out for opponents of gun control to point out that Navy Yard shooter...passed a background check in Virginia." Carney is quoted as saying, "The background check system is an important aspect and an important tool available to law enforcement, and we need to expand it in a way so that there aren't giant loopholes."

The Hill (9/18, Shabad, Lillis, 255K) reports that Congressional Democrats also "call[ed] for Congress to take up gun control legislation," including Sen. Dianne Feinstein who said, "This is one more event to add to the litany of massacres that occur when a deranged person or grievance killer is able to obtain multiple weapon ...and kill many people in a short amount of time."

Politico (9/18, Lee, Gibson, 467K) reports that on Tuesday, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, who noted that "three of the 13 people killed were his constituents," said, "I'm sure that it will renew the discussions about access to weapons that can be used to kill a lot of people quickly." However, Politico adds that that Hoyer also "pointed to the recent recall of two Colorado legislators who supported gun restrictions as reason to be skeptical that legislation will advance in Congress."

The Washington Post (9/18, O'Keefe, 4.28M) notes that "even before Monday's...shootings, gun control activists were scheduled to be on Capitol Hill this week for public rallies and private meetings with lawmakers as they mark nine months since the rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut." Politico (9/18, Arkin, 467K) reports that New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns "will hold a rally Thursday on the grounds of the US Capitol to support background check legislation."

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (9/18, 4.28M), notes that on Monday morning, the President's first remarks about the Navy Yard shootings did not include "any overt call for gun restrictions," which was, according to Milbank, "a tacit acknowledgment that there is no hope of reviving even the modest gun

measure that failed in the Senate in April."

Maureen Dowd, in her column for the New York Times (9/18, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says that on Monday morning, the President "could have posted his original remarks on the White House Web site and replaced them with a cri de coeur on gun control, or comfort for the shaken city." But Dowd notes that instead, "jarringly, the president went ahead with his political attack, briefly addressing the slaughter before moving on to jab Republicans over the corporate tax rate and resistance to Obamacare." According to Dowd, as had been the case "with the address to the nation on Syria last week, the president went ahead with a speech overtaken by events."

Senators Consider Banning The Mentally Ill From Owning Guns. AFP (9/18) notes that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "said he wanted to revive the debate sooner rather than later." However, Reid added, "We've got to have the votes first. We don't have the votes. I hope we get them but we don't have them now." Nevertheless, Sen. Richard Blumenthal "hope[s] to reintroduce legislation including a measure that would expand background checks and ensure the mentally ill would not have access to firearms," and Sen. John McCain, "one of a handful of Republicans who voted for the background bill this year, said mental health could emerge as a focal point of legislation."

According to Politico (9/18, Everett, 467K), the dynamics of the debate boil down to: "the gun lobby remains powerful" and Senate Democrats need to "protect vulnerable incumbents in gun-friendly states like Arkansas, Alaska, North Carolina and Louisiana from another tough vote." Sen. Mark Pryor, who is up for reelection next year, is quoted as saying, "Is there a background check issue? I'll look at the facts and I'll weigh those."

USA Today (9/18, Davis, 5.82M) reports that on Tuesday, Sen. Joe Manchin, who sponsored background check legislation that died in the Senate earlier this year, said of his failed proposal, "It's not gun control, this is gun sense." According to the Washington Post (9/18, O'Keefe, 4.28M), Manchin says he is "willing to work with colleagues on legislation that might prohibit people diagnosed with mental illness from purchasing firearms," Sen. Lindsey Graham says is "where talk of new federal gun policy should begin." Graham is quoted as saying, "I would like to see the current background check law redesigned to capture mental health events in a better way."

As the Senate considers legislation that could bar the mentally ill form owning firearms, many outlets on Tuesday highlighted Aaron Alexis' history of mental health problems. On ABC World News (9/17, lead story, 2:50, Sawyer, 7.43M), Diane Sawyer reported that Alexis "was hearing voices, had even reached out for help, a warning sign that may have been missed." Correspondent Pierre Thomas added that law enforcement sources describe Alexis as a "ticking time bomb...descending toward madness."

Likewise, in the lead story for NBC Nightly News (9/17, lead story, 3:15, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that Alexis "told police he was hearing voices and that somebody was using microwave technology to infiltrate his body." But correspondent Pete Williams noted that "officials say it would have been illegal for the VA to report he was seeking psychiatric treatment."

On the CBS Evening News (9/17, story 2, 3:05, Pelley, 5.58M) it was reported that Alexis used a shotgun that he "legally bought" on Saturday from a Virginia gun store although his "family has told investigators that he suffered from mental illness for a decade," and he "sought and received treatment through the Department of Veterans Affairs." The New York Times (9/18, A1, Goldstein, Nir, Williams, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) and USA Today (9/18, Johnson, 5.82M) detail Alexis' history of mental illness and gun-related incidents.

Shooting Puts Spotlight On Security Clearance Process. Politico (9/17, Kopan, 467K) reported that White House press secretary Jay Carney announced on Tuesday that President Obama has "ordered a review of standards for contractors across federal agencies in the wake of the Navy Yard shootings" that will be "conducted by the Office of Management and Budget." Politico notes that the review "is in addition to an ongoing review of intelligence community contractors Obama ordered" in the wake of the Edward Snowden leaks.

The Washington Post (9/18, Whitlock, Vargas, Markon, 4.28M) reports that during his "highly checkered four-year career as a Navy reservist," Alexis "was cited at least eight times for misconduct for offenses as minor as a traffic ticket and showing up late for work but also as serious as insubordination and disorderly conduct."

On ABC World News (9/17, lead story, 2:50, Sawyer, 7.43M), Pierre Thomas reported that despite a life filled with "gun play, run-ins with the law and trouble with his military commanders," Alexis "went to work for a government computer contractor at the Washington Navy Yard, using a secret security clearance he had received after joining the Navy." According to Thomas, President Obama has "order[ed] a study of security standards for contractors across all Federal agencies."

On NBC Nightly News (9/17, lead story, 3:15, Williams, 7.86M), Pete Williams reported that Monday's incident "follows two government reports that found shortcomings in background checks for contractors," and, on Tuesday, the Secretary of the Navy "ordered another investigation on how clearances are granted and reviewed." According to Williams, the Navy said Alexis "was granted a low-level secret clearance in 2008, good for ten years," but "it is not clear if the government didn't know or didn't care that four years earlier he was arrested in Seattle for shooting the tires of a car that was parked near his house."

The Washington Post (9/18, A1, Leonnig, O'Keefe, 4.28M) reports that Thomas Hoshko, chief executive officer of The Experts, Alexis' employer, "said he would not have hired [Alexis] if he had known about some of his brushes with the law and said the military should have shared more information with the company about Alexis' history." According to the Post, Hoshko "rel[ies] on the military to approve the security clearances of their employees, and fears that budget crunches have led to faster and less thorough checks." The Post adds that Sen. Tom Carper, who chairs the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, says he "plans to investigate...how Alexis could have been employed by a federal contractor despite his arrest records and treatment for mental illness." The Wall Street Journal (9/18, Barrett, Nissenbaum, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) also interviewed Hoshko about his company's hiring process.

The Washington Post (9/18, 4.28M), in an editorial, says Hoshko's "claim...that he wouldn't have hired Mr. Alexis if he had known about his past indicts a process already called into question when...Snowden used his top-security classification to steal sensitive government information."

Hagel Orders Review Of Military Installations' Security. USA Today (9/17, Dorell, 5.82M) reports that Navy Yard workers now says they "don't feel safe at their jobs after learning that...Alexis was cleared to work at the military facility despite a discharge from the Navy following aggressive and violent behavior." According to the Wall Street Journal (9/18, Barnes, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), an IG report previously scheduled to be released Tuesday, criticized the Navy's background check procedures. Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA), who chairs the House Armed Services Committee, said, "The report details critical flaws in the practice of contracting access control for military installations to non-governmental personnel." The Washington Post (9/18, Whitlock, Hermann, Fahrenthold, 4.28M) reports that Defense Secretary Hagel "intends to order a security review at all US military bases worldwide."

Joe Davidson, in his column for the Washington Post (9/18, Davidson, 4.28M), reports that Anthony Meely, "a Navy Yard police officer and...chairman of the Fraternal Order of Police Naval District Washington Labor Committee," notes that at the time of the shooting, "we only had five officers at work." According to Meely, "About twice as many are needed...'to meet the minimum of our requirements.'"

Professor: Mass Shootings Are Not On The Rise In the US. James Alan Fox, a criminology professor at Northwestern, in an op-ed for USA Today (9/18, 5.82M), says that "it is important to dispel the widely held notion that mass shootings are on the rise." According to Fox, in the last 30 years, "there has been an average of nearly 20 mass shootings a year in the US, each involving at least four victims killed, but with no upward or downward trajectory."

On the other hand, Kathleen Parker, in her column for the Washington Post (9/18, 4.28M), says that according to Mother Jones, "half of the 12 deadliest mass shootings" since 1982 "have occurred since 2005."

Shooter Legally Purchased Shotgun From Virginia Gun Range On Saturday. McClatchy (9/18, Hall, 95K) reports that on Tuesday, the FBI confirmed that Alexis "was armed only with a shotgun purchased legally two days before." According to the New York Times (9/18, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Alexis "test fired an AR-15 assault rifle at a Virginia gun store last week but was stopped from buying one because state law there prohibits the sale of such weapons to out-of-state buyers." However, the Washington Times (9/18, Miller, 417K) is reporting that Alexis "did not attempt to purchase a rifle or handgun from the store."

USA Today (9/18, 5.82M), in an editorial, argues that Alexis' "symptoms of mental illness" ought to have "stopped him from legally buying a shotgun."

Friend Describes Shooter As "More Of A Liberal." The Daily Caller (9/17, Howley, 422K) reported that on CNN's The Lead Tuesday, "Alexis' friend" Michael Ritrovato said, "Aaron wasn't conservative like I am. He was more of a liberal type; he wasn't happy with the former administration. He was more happy with this administration."

Singletary Says ACA May Help Prevent Another Navy Yard Tragedy. Noting Monday's tragic events at the Washington Navy Yard, in her Washington Post (9/18, 4.28M) column, Michelle Singletary discusses mental health and substance-use disorder coverage under the Affordable Care Act, which she says "will provide one of the largest expansions" of those services "in a generation." Singletary adds that she hopes "that by expanding access to mental health coverage, we can get people the help they need, and in the most severe situations prevent tragedies that result in the loss of life."

HOUSE GOP MAY PASS CONTINUING RESOLUTION DEFUNDING ACA. In a front-page article, the Washington Post (9/18, A1, Montgomery, Kane, 4.28M) reports House Republican leaders "intensified" the threat of a government shutdown by moving towards funding the government but not the Affordable Care Act, "setting up a stalemate with the Democratic Senate." Speaker Boehner and his leadership team are "being pushed into a more confrontational strategy," despite "many Republicans" expressing "frustration with the right wing's fixation on" the ACA.

The AP (9/18, Taylor) reports a GOP aide says "House GOP leaders are looking to reverse course" and pass a temporary government funding bill that would block implementation of the ACA, a move that "has been a crusade of tea party conservatives" who have been "frustrated" at an inability to enact their agenda with GOP control of only one chamber of Congress. However, GOP leaders are skeptical of the conservative desire "to take a must-pass bill hostage" to force concessions on the ACA, as Democrats "would never go along" and the GOP is "likely to get the blame" for any government shutdown.

Roll Call (9/18, Fuller, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that while sources say the GOP leaders discussed passing a continuing resolution funding the government but defunding the ACA during their Elected Leaders Conference, Michael Steel, a spokesman for Speaker Boehner, said the "leaders had not yet decided to move ahead with that plan."

Bloomberg News (9/17, Tiron, 1.91M) reports that House Republicans are "at loggerheads over" attempting "to thwart" the Affordable Care Act without shutting down the Federal government. House Republican leaders are seeking to "mollify" those who oppose healthcare reform through possible other resumes, such as a stopgap measure funding all the government but that "defunds and delays the" ACA or voting on stopgap measure when increasing the debt limit is being decided. However, the "Senate is certain to alter" any House bill to save the ACA and will then probably send the measure back to the House, "forcing a final vote that would attract enough Republican and Democratic votes to pass."

Increasing GOP Resistance To Vitter's Plan To End Federal Aid To Congress, Staff On Healthcare. Politico (9/18, Raju, Haberkorn, 467K) reports that in "another sign" of how GOP efforts to stop the ACA have "suddenly devolved into an internal Republican battle, prompting widespread concerns among party elders," an increasing number of Republicans oppose Sen. David Vitter's (R) efforts to prevent Federal contributions towards health coverage that lawmakers and their staff will buy in ACA exchanges. Such a move would be the equivalent of a $5,000 pay cut for staffers, which "could lead to a mass exodus of staffers from Capitol Hill."

Roll Call (9/18, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports in a blog that "few on either side of the aisle seem happy" with Vitter's plan. Meanwhile "disgusted Democrats...believe Vitter is grandstanding," but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid indicated there will be a vote on the plan. A Democratic aide says any vote "would be accompanied by a side-by-side alternative."

Senate Has No Backup Plan On Government Spending Bill. Politico (9/18, Everett, 467K) reports that a lack of contingency plans in the Senate for a government spending bill puts pressure on House Speaker John Boehner

to pass one in the House. Both Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell are "in agreement on" this "critical issue."

NYTimes: "Extremist Groups" Driving GOP Agenda. In an editorial, the New York Times (9/18, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) criticizes "Club for Growth and other extremist groups" that are spending millions to pressure legislators to demand a government shutdown or a default if the healthcare reform law isn't defunded. The groups are "financed with secret and unlimited money, feed on chaos and" would like "to claim credit for pushing Washington into another crisis," according to the Times, which says they're more interested in an ideological victory than preventing "severe economic effects" of their demands. These moves also help the organizations get donations. The Times concludes that "unlimited money and rigid ideology is proving toxic for the most basic functioning of government."

OBAMA WON'T SUSPEND DEPORTATIONS, CALLS FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM. The Huffington Post (9/18, Foley, 11.54M) reports that President Obama on Tuesday said that he has no plans to "expand a deferred action program" that would "prevent some deportations," despite the "urging of immigration activists." Interviewed on Noticias Telemundo, the President said, "If we start broadening that, then essentially, I would be ignoring the law in a way that I think would be very difficult to defend legally. So that's not an option."

The Washington Post (9/17, Nakamura, 4.28M) similarly reports that the President "ruled out using his executive authority to freeze deportations for most of the 11 million immigrants in the country illegally, saying such a move would violate federal law." The decision is "likely to disappoint advocates who are beginning to lose hope that sweeping immigration legislation" will pass this year.

The Hill (9/18, Sink, 255K) adds that the President "said that advocates of immigration reform shouldn't expect him to use prosecutorial discretion to address the issue if Congress is unable to agree to reform legislation." In 2012, the Administration announced it would "stop deporting some illegal immigrants who entered the United States as children if they did not break any laws and enrolled in either college or the military," and "some immigration advocates" have urged the President to do the same for all illegal immigrants if reform dies in the House.

Also in the interview, Politico (9/18, Epstein, 467K) reports, the President said that immigration reform "shouldn't be" dead for this year, and urged the House to bring the Senate bill to the floor. He said, "We've got a bill that passed with bipartisan support, strong bipartisan support in the Senate. You've got a president who says that this is a number-one priority and he can't wait to sign a comprehensive immigration reform bill. You've got the majority of the American public who are committed to immigration reform and support a pathway to citizenship for those who don't have it." The "only thing" holding it back is "John Boehner calling it into the floor."

Outside Groups Look To Jump-start Immigration Reform. Politico (9/18, Palmer, Kim, 467K) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi is "huddling" with Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, "top labor leaders" and former AOL head Steve Case in "separate meetings this week as supporters of immigration reform try to revive the issue, which fast seems to be dying on Capitol Hill." Their goal is to get legislation moving in the House "before the Thanksgiving recess." However, they "concede that it's a heavy lift," and that Republican lawmakers "didn't come out of the August recess ready to act."

Visa System Seen As Vulnerable To Fraud. USA Today (9/18, Maresca, 5.82M) reports that despite a "struggling economy," the US is "still seen as a promised land for many in Vietnam" and elsewhere, and it has "given rise to bribery schemes that are hard to detect because US officials who decide on visas are rarely questioned about their decisions, experts familiar with the process say." For example, a former US diplomatic officer in Vietnam was indicted this summer in a "scheme that netted millions of dollars by approving visa requests from foreigners looking to work or go to school in the United States." The problems "illustrate the weaknesses in a system that insiders warn remains vulnerable to manipulation because it allows individuals to decide visa requests with little oversight from above."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Money Behind The Shutdown Crisis."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (9/18,

Subscription Publication, 9.61M) criticizes "Club for Growth and other extremist groups" that are spending millions to pressure legislators to demand a government shutdown or a default if the healthcare reform law isn't defunded. The groups are "financed with secret and unlimited money, feed on chaos and" would like "to claim credit for pushing Washington into another crisis," according to the Times, which says they're more interested in an ideological victory than preventing "severe economic effects" of their demands. These moves also help the organizations get donations. The Times concludes that "unlimited money and rigid ideology is proving toxic for the most basic functioning of government."

"Steps Toward A Less Secret Court." The New York Times (9/18, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the release "of judicial opinions would not normally be notable in a constitutional democracy premised on open courts, but the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has been anything but normal." The Times contends that the Federal government "is justified in classifying certain information regarding national security operations, but, in most cases, there is no good rationale for the classification of judicial interpretations of law."

"The Antibiotic Resistance Crisis." In an editorial, the New York Times (9/18, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that on Monday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "issued the first solid numbers on the extent of the" problems stemming from the overuse of antibiotics in both healthcare and agriculture. The Times adds that the "Overuse of antibiotics on farms...also contributes to development of resistant strains of germs." Moreover, the Times says that according to CDC director Thomas Frieden, absent "prompt action...to reduce overuse, track and prevent the spread of resistance, and develop new drugs," our "'medicine cabinet may be empty for patients with life-threatening infections in the coming months and years.'"

"Big Coal Takes One an Obama Nominee." In an editorial, the New York Times (9/18, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes that the coal industry and its allies, "angry" over the Administration's energy policies, "have decided to take it out on" Binz, despite FERC not having regulatory authority over coal. They hope "their misleading campaign" will influence Democrats like Manchin or Sen. Mary Landrieu, but the Times calls for the senators to "ignore the attacks from vested special interests, many of whom deny the existence of climate change, and confirm Mr. Binz."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"An Urgent Need For Rational Laws."*** The Washington Post (9/18, 4.28M), in an editorial, says Hoshko's "claim...that he wouldn't have hired Mr. Alexis if he had known about his past indicts a process already called into question when...Snowden used his top-security classification to steal sensitive government information."

"Tobacco Shouldn't Be Protected." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/18, 4.28M) says that the latest US proposal to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) "would leave tobacco companies free to mount legal challenges to various nations' policies." The Post adds that the uniqueness of tobacco "can be enshrined in an enforceable" Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) "if all 'stakeholders' worked toward an effective compromise instead of attacking" US attempts "as insufficiently protective of U.S. interests, as business interests continue to do."

"Energy Dept. Sparks Gas Exports At Cove Point." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/18, 4.28M) supports the Energy Department's decision to approve the Cove Point, Maryland natural gas export facility. The Post says that despite environmentalists' concerns that the plant will encourage the use of fracking to extract natural gas supplies, such conservation groups "would be more productive if they took all the energy they're spending in their crusade against natural gas and put it into pushing for reasonable fracking regulations and a smart greenhouse-gas policy."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Obama Goes To War."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/18, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that unlike previous presidents, Barack Obama is looking to smooth things over abroad so that he can focus on his efforts on attacking Republicans at home. The Journal says that the President's speech on Monday was simply a demand for capitulation from the GOP in its opposition to his domestic agenda. The Journal says that the evidence suggests that the President is actually seeking a showdown that results in the shutdown of the Federal government or threatens the default on the debt, which would then allow him to hit Republicans for political gain.

"Chemical Weapons And Turtle Bay." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/18, Subscription Publication,

5.91M) writes that the UN report on the use of weapons were in Syria shows how the organization protects rouge nations. The report found that Russian-made rockets with chemical weapons were fired from Syrian army positions, but refused to name who was responsible. Meanwhile, Russia has blocked any proposal to sanction Syria and the US-Russia deal for Syria to hand over its chemical weapons doesn't hold it accountable for the attack.

"A Green Car Names Desire." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/18, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes Califomia's emissions regulations, saying that they essentially require that consumers purchase electric cars, for which the legislature had to create subsidies in order to entice people to buy them. The Journal says that the result of those subsidies are now in turn hampering the state budget. Consequently, the Journal says that it expects a new fee or tax to be levied against the middle class in order to compensate for the budget shortfall.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
County To Send Inmates To Fire Camps
Navy Yard Shooter Heard "Voices"
At 93, This Rosie Is Still Riveting
UN Report Fuels Calls For Assad's Prosecution
Flooding Recedes, But Not The Crisis

Wall Street Journal:
Walgreen To Give Workers Payments To Buy Plans
Companies Unplug From The Grid
Labor Department Adds Protections For Home-Health-Care Workers
Shooting Exposes Screening Lapses

New York Times:
Suspect's Past Fell Just Short Of Raising Alarm
Reaping Profit After Assisting On Health Law
Donors' Funds Sidestep Law, Aiding Christie
UN Data On Gas Attack Points To Assad's Top Forces
In New York, Having A Job, Or 2, Doesn't Mean Having A Home
Extended Ruling By Secret Court Backs Collection Of Phone Data

Washington Post:
Voices, Violence Hint At Personality That Was Unraveling
House GOP Revolt Moves Shutdown Closer
In Tunisia, Echoes Of Egypt's Discontent
Checks Failed To Flag Gunman's Past
Shooter Carved An Indiscriminate Path Through Building
After Loving Each Other Through Tragedy, The Unthinkable

Financial Times:
US Families Feel The Squeeze
Dimon Outlines Simplified JPMorgan
Tesla Joins Race To Build Self-Driving Cars
Boeing Closes In On South Korean Deal
Buyout Groups Refinance Record Debt
EA Picks Sports Unit Head As New Chief
What Happens After The Fed Tapers Is Unclear

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Navy Yard Shooting; Navy Yard Shooting-Survival; Colorado Flooding; New Jersey-Boardwalk Fire; Connecticut-Explosion; Obamacare Scam Warnings; Italy-Costa Concordia; Made In America.
CBS: Navy Yard Shooting-Victims; Navy Yard Shooting-Suspect; Navy Yard Shooting; Navy Yard Shooting-Rescue; Colorado Flooding; North Carolina-Police Shooting; Louisiana-Katrina Police Retrial; Italy-Costa Concordia; New Jersey-Boardwalk Fire.
NBC: Navy Yard Shooting-Suspect; Navy Yard Shooting-Victims; Colorado Flooding; New Jersey-Boardwalk Fire; Economy-US Poverty Levels; New Orleans-Water Safety; Italy-Costa Concordia; Mexico-Tropical Storms; UK-Prince Harry.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Navy Yard Shooting-Suspect; New Jersey-Boardwalk Fire; Colorado-Flooding; Oklahoma-Submerged Vehicles Recovered.
CBS: Navy Yard Shooting-Suspect; Navy Yard Shooting-Military Base Security; Congress-Debt Ceiling Debate; Fed-Bond Buying Program Talks; New Jersey-Boardwalk Fire; Colorado Flooding; Economy-Wall Street.
NPR: Navy Yard Shooting-Suspect; Navy Yard Shooting-Victims; Contraceptive Mandate Debate; White-Collar Crime Sentencing Investigation; Obama-Unlocking Cell Phones; New Jersey-Boardwalk Fire; Barry Bonds Case.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing with the Vice President, Oval Office, Closed Press, delivers remarks to members of the Business Roundtable and answer questions, Business Roundtable Headquarters, Washington, DC, in-town travel pool; meets with the Vice President and Secretary of the Treasury Lew, Oval Office, closed press; meets with the Vice President and Secretary of State Kerry, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with U.S. participants in the U.S.-Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue, Roosevelt Room, closed press; attends the President's meeting with Secretary of the Treasury Lew, Oval Office, closed press; attends the President's meeting with Secretary of State Kerry, Oval Office, closed press.
US Senate: 10 a.m. GILLIBRAND – SAY YES – COLLEGE TUITION — The Say Yes to Education Inc. and Sen. Gillibrand announce the addition of 11 universities to the Say Yes Higher Education Compact. (Current partners include Harvard, Duke, University of Pennsylvania, Notre Dame, Syracuse University, University of Rochester and Georgetown.) Location: 216 Hart.

10:30 a.m. MARKEY FLOOR SPEECH — Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) will deliver his first speech on the floor of the United States Senate. Topic: Massachusetts economy and national priorities. Contact: Eben Burnham-Snyder, Senator Ed Markey, 202-224-2742 Location: Senate floor.

12:45 p.m. DEBT CEILING — U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Bob Casey (D-PA), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) will discuss a new report outlining the economic consequences of GOP brinkmanship over the debt ceiling. Location: S-325 Senate Radio/TV gallery.

2:30 p.m. LANDRIEU – FLOOD INSURANCE — U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., will testify before the Senate Banking Committee on the flawed Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and the negative impacts it is having on communities in Louisiana and throughout the country. Sen. Landrieu has been working with her colleagues from both sides of the aisle to fix flood insurance reform so that it is affordable, accessible and self-sustainable. Also available as a webcast: Location: 534 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. SENATE CANCER COALITION FORUM — Speakers: Sen. Feinstein; Dr. Louis Staudt, director, Center for Cancer Genomics, National Cancer Institute; Dr. Fadlo Khuri, Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University; Dr. Renier Brentjens, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Roslyn Meyer, melanoma survivor. Location: 325 Kennedy Caucus Room.

9:30 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine the nominations of Stevan Eaton Bunnell, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel, and Suzanne Eleanor Spaulding, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, both of the Department of Homeland Security. Location: 342 Dirksen.

10 a.m. ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — Hearings to examine implementing Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century's (MAP-21) provisions to accelerate project delivery. Witnesses: John D. Porcari, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, United States Department of Transportation; Daniel M. Ashe, Director, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality; Joseph W. Comi, Assistant Inspector General for Highway and Transit Audits, United States Department of Transportation. Location: 406 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS — Business meeting to consider S.1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, the nominations of Richard F. Griffin, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, Chai Rachel Feldblum, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Scott S. Dahl, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor, and any pending nominations. Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Hearings to examine reevaluating the effectiveness of Federal mandatory minimum sentences. Panel I: Rand Paul, United States Senator, State of Kentucky. Panel II: Brett Tolman, Shareholder; Ray Quinney & Nebeker, Salt Lake City, UT; Marc Levin, Policy Director, Right on Crime Initiative at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, Austin, TX. Location: 226 Dirksen.

10 a.m. SMALL BUSINESS – MINORITY WEALTH GAP — Hearings to examine closing the wealth gap, focusing on empowering minority owned businesses to reach their full potential for growth and job creation. Location: 428A Russell.

10:30 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development hearings to examine recovering from Superstorm Sandy, focusing on assessing the progress, continuing needs, and rebuilding strategy. Witnesses: Shaun Donovan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Peter Rogoff, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Location: 538 Dirksen.

2 p.m. AGING — Hearings to examine older Americans, focusing on the changing face of HIV/AIDS in America. Location: 562 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Economic Policy hearings to examine implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act of 2012, focusing on one year after enactment. Witnesses: Panel I: Senator David Vitter, Louisiana; Mary Landrieu, United States Senator, Louisiana. Panel II: William Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency. Panel III: Alicia P. Cackley, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Christine Shirley, National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator, Planning Services Division, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development; Stephen Ellis, Vice President, Taxpayers for Common Sense; Birny Birnbaum, Executive Director, Center for Economic Justice. Location: 538 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Brief business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress; then hearing on pending nominations: Michael ORielly to be Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission; Terrell McSweeny to be Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission. Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS — Business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee from October 1, 2013, through February 28, 2015. Location: 628 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE — Hearings to examine the economic costs of debt-ceiling brinkmanship. Witnesses: Dr. Mark Zandi, Chief Economist, Moodys Analytics, Philadelphia, PA; David

Malpass, President, Encima Global LLC, New York, NY; Dr. Daniel J. Mitchell, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; Donald Marron, Director, Economic Initiatives, Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. Location: 216 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. HOUSE DEMOCRATS — Press availability after the Democratic Caucus meeting. Speakers: Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-34), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus; Congressman Joe Crowley (NY-14), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus; Congressman Peter Welch (VT-AL), Chief Deputy Whip, Member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. Location: HVC-210.

10 a.m. HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAKEOUT — House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE). Location: HC-8, Capitol

10:30 a.m. MEDICAL MARIJUANA – IMPRISONED – BLUMENAUER, FARR — Theatrical press conference to urge Congress to restrict DOJ funding for medical marijuana enforcement in states that have adopted such laws. Participants: Congressmen Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Sam Farr (D-CA), as well as several family members of imprisoned patients. Contact for interviews: Kari Boiter at 206-612-0916. Additional contacts: Contact: ASA Media Spokesperson Kris Hermes 510-681-6361 or ASA Executive Director Steph Sherer 510-872-7822 (in D.C.) Location: Elm Tree Site, Southeast corner of grounds of Capitol Building, near 1st St. SE, between E. Capitol St. NE and Independence Ave SE.

12 p.m. AMERICAN AIRLINES, US AIRWAYS MERGER — American Airlines And US Airways Employees Join Members Of Congress For Capitol Hill Rally In Support Of The Merger. Speakers: Congressman Michael Burgess (R-TX); Congressman Robert Brady (D-PA); Congressman Pat Meehan (R-PA); Congressman Marc Veasey (D-TX); Congressman Robert Pittenger (R-NC); Laura Glading, President, Association of Professional Flight Attendants (American Airlines); Veda Shook, President, Association of Flight Attendants (US Airways); Keith Wilson, President, Allied Pilots, Association (American Airlines); Ron Collins, Communications Workers of America (US Airways); Bill Gray, President, Transport Workers Union of America Local 544 (US Airways); James Ray, US Airline Pilots Association (US Airways). Location: House Triangle (House side of the Capitol building's East Front).

12 p.m. NATURAL GAS CAUCUS – ROUNDTABLE — The Co-Chairs of the House Natural Gas Caucus House host a Natural Gas Roundtable Luncheon. Participants: Congressman Tom Reed (R-NY); Congressman Gene Green (D-TX); Congressman Glenn GT Thompson (R-PA); Congressman Jim Costa (D-CA). Location: B-338 & B-339 Rayburn.

2 p.m. RSC – HEALTH CARE — Republican Study Committee Chairman Steve Scalise, RSC Health Care Working Group Chairman Dr. Phil Roe, and other RSC members will unveil the RSCs American Health Care Reform Act. The bill repeals and replaces President Obama's health care law. Speakers: Rep. Steve Scalise, RSC Chairman; Dr. Phil Roe, RSC Health Care Working Group Chairman; Rep. Marsha Blackburn; Rep. Renee Ellmers; Rep. John Fleming, M.D.; Rep. Paul Gosar; Rep. Todd Rokita. Location: HVC Studio A.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. — The House meets for morning hour and noon for legislative business.

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Planning for Sequestration in Fiscal Year 2014 and Perspectives of the Military Services on the Strategic Choices and Management Review. Witnesses: General James F. Amos, USMC Commandant of the Marine Corps, U.S. Marine Corps; Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy; General Raymond T. Odierno, USA , Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF , Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force. Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10 a.m. EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE — Higher Education and Workforce Training Subc. On improving the access and affordability of college through innovative partnerships. Public witnesses. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — The Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the Securities and Exchange Commissions proposed rules governing money market mutual funds. Witnesses: Steven N. McCoy, Treasurer, State of Georgia, on behalf of the National Association of State Treasurers; Sheila Bair, Chair, Pew Charitable Trusts, Systemic Risk Council; Marie Chandoha, President and Chief Executive Officer, Charles Schwab Investment Management Inc.; James Gilligan, Assistant Treasurer, Great Plains Energy, on behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Paul Schott Stevens, President and Chief

Executive Officer, Investment Company Institute. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Hearing: Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability? Witnesses: Patrick F. Kennedy, Under Secretary for Management, U.S. Department of State. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Subcommittee Markup. H.R. 2952 (Mr. Meehan), To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the advancement of security technologies for critical infrastructure protection, and for other purposes. The Critical Infrastructure Research and Development Advancement Act of 2013 or the CIRDA Act of 2013. H.R. ___, a bill to be introduced prior to consideration (Ms. Clarke), To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish cybersecurity occupation classifications, assess the cybersecurity workforce, develop a strategy to address identified gaps in the cybersecurity workforce, and for other purposes. The Homeland Security Cybersecurity Boots-on-the-Ground Act. Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Joint Hearing: Federal Implementation of ObamaCare: Concerns of State Governments. Witnesses: Jeff Colyer, M.D. Lieutenant Governor of Kansas; Alan Wilson, Attorney General, State of South Carolina; Matthew Hudson, State Representative of the State of Florida; Kathy Kliebert, Secretary, Department of Health and Hospitals, State of Louisiana. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY — Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on Methamphetamine Addiction: Using Science to Explore Solutions. Witnesses: Niki Crawford, Meth Suppression Section Commander, Indiana State Police; Dr. Edythe London, The Thomas and Katherine Pike Professor of Addiction Studies, Director of the UCLA Laboratory of Molecular Pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles; Dr. Jane Maxwell, Senior Research Scientist, School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin; Dr. Celeste Napier, Director, Center for Compulsive Behavior and Addiction, Professor of Pharmacology and Psychiatry, Rush University Medical Center. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — FEMA Reauthorization: Recovering Quicker and Smarter,. Witnesses: Joseph L. Nimmich, Associate Administrator for Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency; Yolanda Chavez, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grant Programs, Office of Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; James Rivera, Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration; Glenn M. Cannon, Director, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; on behalf of National Emergency Management Association; Gayland Kitch, Director of Emergency Management, City of Moore, Oklahoma; on behalf of U.S. Council for the International Association of Emergency Managers; Michael Finley, Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10:15 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing on The Obama Administrations Climate Change Policies and Activities. Witnesses: EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy DOE Secretary Ernest Moniz. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Markup of H.R. 2542, the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2013. Location: 2360 Rayburn.

2 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy Regulation of Existing Chemicals and the Role of Pre-Emption under Sections 6 and 18 of the Toxic Substances Control Act. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

2 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Understanding the Threat to the Homeland from AQAP. Witnesses: Katherine Zimmerman, Senior Analyst, AEI Critical Threats Project, The American Enterprise Institute; Frank J. Cilluffo, Associate Vice President, Director, Homeland Security Policy Institute, The George Washington University. Location: 311 Cannon.

2 p.m. JUDICIARY — Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet Subc. On the role of voluntary agreements in the U.S. Intellectual Property System. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

2 p.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the operations of the Internal Revenue

Services (IRS) Exempt Organizations (EO) Division since the revelation that the IRS targeted certain organizations on the basis of their political views. Location: 1100 Longworth.

3 p.m. RULES — Full Committee. On H.R. 687 – Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2013, and H.R. 3102 – Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act of 2013. Location: H-313 The Capitol. Other: NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK — Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education. Information on child safety seats may be found at website, at www.aaa.com/foundation, Child Passenger Safety link.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY — The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) in partnership with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and the National Institutes of Health's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research host a conference on Technology Innovations for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment highlighting promising innovations for treating these disorders. Location: Eisenhower Executive Office Building, South Court Auditorium.

AICPA NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BANKS AND SAVINGS INSTITUTIONS — Sept. 16 – 18. Participants include: FDIC, Federal Reserve Board and OCC: Thomas J. Curry, Comptroller of the Currency, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; Kathy Murphy, Chief Accountant, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC); Grant Wilson, Director, Credit and Market Risk Policy, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; Robert F. Storch, Chief Accountant, FDIC; Steven P. Merriett, Chief Accountant, Federal Reserve Board; Jeffrey J. Geer, Deputy Chief Accountant, OCC. SEC: Brian Croteau, Deputy Chief Accountant, Professional Practice Group, Office of the Chief Accountant, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); Craig Olinger, Deputy Chief Accountant, Division of Corporation Finance, SEC; Stephanie Hunsaker Ciboroski, Senior Assistant Chief Accountant, Division of Corporation Finance, SEC; Mark Shannon, Associate Chief Accountant, Division of Corporation Finance, SEC; Shelly C. Luisi, Senior Associate Chief Accountant, SEC. FASB: Lawrence Smith, Board Member, Financial Accounting Standards Board, Norwalk, Conn. PCAOB: Glenn Tempro, Associate Director, Division of Registration and Inspections, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB); Barbara Vanich, Associate Chief Auditor, PCAOB. Fannie Mae: Douglas Duncan, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, Fannie Mae. Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Md.

E-HEALTH POLICY – HEALTH IT SHOWCASE —National Health IT Week 2013. Highlights: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Room B340, Raybum House Office Building.

CBCF LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE —Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 43rd Annual Legislative Conference (CBCF ALC). Guests include: Former President Bill Clinton, Shaquille O'Neal, Susan Taylor, Iyana Vanzant, MC Lyte, Marc Morial, Robert Townsend, Brandy, Alfred Woodard, Rick Fox, Marvin Sapp, Mo Ivory, J. Anthony Brown, Sherri Shepherd, Dr. Bernice King, Tamron Hall, Wendell Pierce, Isaiah Thomas, Antoine Fuqua, Marian Wright Edelman, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake; others. Highlights: 12 p.m. Investment in Minority Banks. Participants: U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah (PA), Board Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation; A. Shuanise Washington, President and CEO, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation; Michael Grant, President, National Bankers Association; B. Doyle Mitchell, Jr., Board Chair, National Bankers Association and President, Industrial Bank; Russell Kashian, PhD, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin Whitewater; Ron Busby, Sr., CEO, U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. Location:. Walter E. Washington Convention Center L Street Bridge (2nd Floor) Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW.

U.S. CHAMBER – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. EDUCATION REFORM SUMMIT — Speakers: Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee; Margaret Spellings, Former U.S. Secretary of Education; President, George W. Bush Foundation; Cheryl Oldham, Vice President of Education Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Campbell Brown, Co-Founder, The Parents' Transparency Project; Kim Hauer, Chief Human Resource Officer and Vice President of Human Services, Caterpillar, Inc.; Wilbert Wil James, President, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, Inc.; Patrick McCarthy, Executive Director, ExxonMobil Foundation; Amanda Ripley, Journalist and Author, The Smartest Kids in the World. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "And 'Forbes' magazine has come came out with its annual list of the 400 richest people in America. And 399 of them were bankers that got us into the recession five years ago. What are the odds of that? What are the odds of that? You know, this week, this week marks the fifth anniversary of the class of the collapse of Lehman Brothers, which of course sparked the recession. Think about how bad things were back then. We had unemployment...over 7%. The debt was out of control. There were wars breaking out all over the globe. Thank God that's all behind us now, huh? Whoo. Thank God we don't have to worry about that anymore."

Jay Leno: "And President Obama's new top economic adviser is a former management consultant who worked for Mitt Romney's Bain Capital. You can tell he was a Romney guy. His first order of business now? Moving the US Treasury to the Cayman Islands."

Jay Leno: "And 'USA Today' had a big front page feature on the new healthcare law, said that the opposition to Obamacare was at an all-time high. It has gotten so bad the President is now calling it 'Bidencare.'"

Jay Leno: "Vice President Joe Biden was in Iowa over the weekend, raising speculation that he plans to run for President in 2016. Yes. Biden said that he and the President have had a 'laser-like' focus on the middle class. That's what happened to the middle class. They didn't disappear. They got zapped by a laser."

Jay Leno: "Critics say Obamacare will require doctors to ask you about your sex life. Why is that necessary, huh? Why don't you do what everybody else does, just check your Facebook posts?"

Conan O'Brien: "Joe Biden's niece was arrested. The hardest part about arresting a Biden is convincing them they have the right to remain silent."

Jimmy Fallon: "Don't know why they're doing this, but I read this week NASA is sending chocolates to astronauts on the International Space Station. I guess it makes sense, it's not like those guys have to watch their weight. It's like, 'Nope, still zero pounds.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, I wish I were as happy as you are, but I'm afraid we're living in the People's Republic of Obamastan. Folks, it is not safe to be rich in this country anymore. Frankly, I would give all my fortune to the needy but I don't want to turn some poor person into a target. I'm afraid all that money is my cross to bear. It's a cross made of solid gold. Very nice, actually. Well, during a speech yesterday, President Obama hit the rich with another drone strike in that he was boring."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, September 20, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Sep 20, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

REP. SIMPSON ADDS $636 MILLION IN FIREFIGHTING MONEY TO CONTINUING RESOLUTION. The Idaho Statesman (9/20, 205K) reports that Rep. Mike Simpson has added $636 million in wildfire suppression funding for the Interior Department and the Forest Service in the short-term continuing resolution. Simpson said, "One of the biggest problems with fire borrowing is that it perpetuates the cycle of catastrophic wildfires in forests that are not being adequately managed. Siphoning money away from resource management accounts during a bad fire year means that those forests will be more susceptible to devastating fires in the future—and when almost every year is a bad fire year, land managers' hands are tied."

KIVI-TV Boise, ID (9/20, 861) repsorts that "the funding would provide $600 million to the Forest Service" and $36 million to the Interior Department to "restore wildfire suppression reserves that have been depleted during the active 2013 fire season." Simpson said, "Siphoning money away from resource management accounts during a bad fire year means that those forests will be more susceptible to devastating fires in the future—and when almost every year is a bad fire year, land managers' hands are tied. Restoring this funding will help ensure that fire fighters can continue to put out fires without jeopardizing the important work of hazardous fuels removal, resource restoration, and timber harvests that we need to do in order to return our forests to health."

Cost Of Fire Prevention Work Sought From Federal Government. KRNV-TV Reno, NV (9/20, 2K) reports that firefighters and small businesses in Nevada and California are seeking $2.56 million from the federal government for fire prevention work. According to the article, "the work they performed stems from a grant from the now-defunct Nevada Fire Safe Council, which administered fire prevention grants throughout Nevada." Meanwhile, lawmakers such as Sen. Harry Reid have "decried the role of climate change in the wildfires ravaging the West," and Sen. Dean Heller has "called for more fire prevention funding."

REP. BISHOP BLASTS INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ON WEST DAVIS FREEWAY. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (9/20, 343K) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop said that the Interior Department is "distasteful, callous and wrong" for trying to protect Great Salt Lake wetlands by opposing a West Davis Corridor freeway route. Bishop wrote Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "saying her department should come to Utah to 'explain to the homeowners, face to face, why their homes are less important than a few acres of wetlands.'" However, critics claim that "while Bishop purports that residents want a route that begins at Glovers Lane in Farmington, he ignores opposition by neighbors there and by Farmington City officials — who live outside his district. Residents living just inside his district north of a Shepard Lane alternative for the freeway would be hurt if the route changed to there."

Meanwhile, the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (9/19, Shaw, 147K) reports that the Utah Department of Transportation has purchased "acres of land worth millions of dollars in the path of the West Davis Corridor." However, officials still maintain that a final decision has not been made on the project. UDOT Executive Director Carlos Braceras said, "We're obviously in the middle of an EIS on this project. And the federal agencies that will be making the decision on this road — first, if there is a need and then the location — haven't selected a preferred alternative. We can't use these purchases to influence the outcome of this decision. If the decision is made that these properties aren't needed, we can sell these properties. This will not drive a decision on the environmental process."

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT REDUCES ADVANCE PAYMENT ON RUM COVER-OVER. The Virgin Islands Daily News (9/20, Blackburn, 49K) reports that the Virgin Islands government will "receive significantly less funding in rum cover-over revenues than officials had anticipated," after the Interior Department "provided a smaller advance on the rum tax rebate than the territory had requested." The Interior Department "reduced the advance payment on rum cover-over revenues to the territory for Fiscal Year 2014 by almost $71 million."

SECRETARY JEWELL URGED TO APPROVE KING COVE ROAD. In an editorial, the Alaska Journal of Commerce (9/20, 14K) urges Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to approve the proposed land swap that would allow the King Cove road to be built. The paper argues the "pros" outweigh the "cons" because "the danger to the refuge is a non-quantifiable best guess by experienced personnel, not a scientific certainty upon which to base some legally mandatory conclusion." Furthermore, "a stack of additional arguments" favors the road.

WTIMES CALLS FOR OPENING ALL FEDERAL LAND TO OIL, GAS DRILLING. In an editorial, the Washington Times (9/20, Times, 417K) writes that developing oil and gas on Federal lands would end "high unemployment and stagnant growth." The paper adds that such a move would "permanently" end the nation's dependence on OPEC countries for oil. The Time concludes that President Obama's energy policies made oil and gas "more expensive" and "taken a toll on families struggling to survive."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

PRINCE WILLIAM BOARD SAYS BYPASS SHOULD BE BUILT BEFORE BI-COUNTY PARKWAY. The Washington Post (9/20, Borden, 4.28M) reports that on Tuesday, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors affirmed that "a long-planned bypass around the Manassas National Battlefield should be" built before the proposed Bi-County Parkway is constructed and two major roads through the Manassas battlefield are closed. The County Board voted to pass another resolution on Tuesday, "clarifying its position on the closure of the roads through" battlefield. Later, the article notes that it is unclear what impact the county's action could have on the proposed parkway, which it notes is "designed to improve traffic flow, spur economic development and provide better access to Dulles International Airport," according to state officials.

Also providing coverage of the bypass is WAMU-FM Washington (9/20, 5K).

LIST OF GROUPS SUPPORTING LAKE MICHIGAN WATER TRAIL GROWS. The MLive (9/20, 334K) reports that Grand Valley State University and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council has joined "the list of West Michigan groups lining up to support the development of a Lake Michigan Water Trail in the region." The two have secured a $95,000 Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program grant through the Office of the Great Lakes and the Department of Environmental Quality. According to the article, "the overall goal is for the Lake Michigan Water Trail to receive a federal 'water trail' designation" from the NPS.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY ATTRACTION MABRY MILL TO RECEIVE REPAIRS. The Roanoke (VA) Times (9/20, 259K) reports that "more than $51,000 in work is set to be done at Mabry Mill in Meadows of Dan beginning soon after the site closes to visitors in October," according to Parkway Foundation Chief Executive Officer Carolyn Ward. The article notes that "the most visible part of the project will be the repair of the picturesque water wheel, which has been featured in countless photos, postcards and paintings of the parkway."

MOUNTAIN GOAT STUDY BEINGS AT GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. KXLF-TV Butte, MT (9/20, 2K) reports that Glacier National Park officials, along with University of Montana researchers, are starting "a three-year study on the effect that people, trails and traffic have on mountain goats in the park." According to the article, "six animals had been successfully collared" by the NPS, University of Montana researchers, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks personnel as of earlier this week.

SENATOR'S AIDE MEETS WITH SHADDOX CEMETERY BOARD ON DISPUTE WITH NPS. The Newton County (AR) Times (9/20, 7K) reports that Hillrey Adams, field representative for Sen. John Boozman, "visited the Shaddox Cemetery here Thursday morning where cemetery board members showed him a fence that has been the subject of an ongoing dispute between the board" and the NPS.

SMOKIES, BIG SOUTH FORK SEEK APPLICANTS FOR CONCESSIONS CONTRACTS. The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (9/20, Simmons, 366K) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area are "seeking to award new concession contracts for park operations that serve the public."

PHOTOGRAPHER CAPTURES GRAND CANYON LIGHTNING STORM. The New York Daily News (9/20, Nina Golgowski /, News, 3.94M) reports that "a stunning photograph" shows "several massive bolts of lightning electrifying the Grand Canyon." Sedona photographer Rolf Maeder said that "he used a long exposure to capture the series of lightning strikes while perched from Moran Point."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NATCHEZ TO RECEIVE SURPLUS TRACE PROPERTY. Additional coverage of President Barack Obama's signing of "a bill to transfer surplus land along the Natchez Trace Parkway to the city of Natchez" was provided by the AP (9/20).

Bureau of Land Management:

SENATE APPROVES EXTENSION OF FEDERAL HELIUM PROGRAM. The AP (9/20, Daly) reports that by a 97-2 margin, the Senate voted to approve a measure to continue the Federal Helium Program, thereby "averting an impending shutdown of the federal helium reserve, a key supplier of the lighter-than-air gas used in a products ranging from party balloons to MRI machines." The article notes that the program, "which provides about 42 percent of the nation's helium from a storage site near Amarillo, Texas, is set to shut down Oct. 7" as "a result of

a 1996 law requiring the reserve to pay off a $1.3 billion debt by selling its helium."

The Washington Post (9/20, Fahrenthold, 4.28M) notes that had the program been phased out, there may have been a shortage of helium "since there are not sufficient private sources of helium to take the federal program's place." Moreover, "The program, with about five employees, pays for itself with proceeds from sales."

The Wall Street Journal (9/20, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) adds that the bill will proceed to the House, which had already approved a marginally different version of the measure in April. The Journal notes that both the Senate and House versions of the bill seek to end the Federal program over a longer period of time than the current October deadline. The article also says that the program provides over one-third of the global supply of crude helium.

Roll Call (9/20, Lesniewski, 87K) reports that if approved by the House, the measure will stretch out the winding down of the program "over the next decade."

Also providing coverage are Reuters (9/20, Krasny) and Reuters (9/20, Chestney).

BLM WORKS TO OPENING MUSTANG MONUMENT FOR TOURISM. WHIO-TV Dayton, OH (9/20, 98K) reports on the Mustang Monument, a Nevada mustang eco-sanctuary, where "a herd of about 700 free-roaming horses" is "to be an engine for the nonprofit organization Saving America's Mustangs." Organization founder Madeleine Pickens and the BLM have "slowly worked toward opening Mustang Monument for tourism, which is slated for June of next year."

NAVAJO NATION ASKS FOR HELP WITH FERAL HORSES. The Navajo Times (AZ) (9/19, Bitsoi, 66K) reports that President Ben Shelly is advocating "for more humane treatment of the estimated 75,000 feral horses that are running freely on the 27,000-square-mile reservation." Last week, Shelly informed the BLM's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory of "the growing feral horse problem on the Navajo Nation." Shelly said, "The potential damage and cost of addressing this problem, coupled with the suffering these animals experience has brought the Navajo Nation to ask you to find a solution to feral horses."

GRAND COUNTY LAUNCHES SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT STUDY. The Sky-Hi Daily News (CO) (9/20, 728) reports that to avoid listing the greater sage-grouse as an endangered species, the BLM has "partnered with the US Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and other agencies on environmental impact statements recommending ways to protect the birds." However, Grand County commissioners have "taken issues with the study's delineation of habitat in the area." As a result, the county has "determined it needs an independent study in order to make appropriate comment, a study that cost $40,000."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE SAYS FOCUS SHOULD BE ON CLIMATE CHANGE FOR KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE. The Lexington (NE) Clipper-Herald (9/20, 15K) reports that House Republicans on Wednesday announced plans to tie the Keystone XL pipeline "to the formal approval of an increase in the debt ceiling." Notably, "environmental groups have expressed concerns about the pipeline's impact on wildlife." When asked about these concerns, FWS Director Dan Ashe said that "the real question behind the pipeline lies with its impact on climate change."

Also reporting on the story is the Omaha World-Herald (9/19, Morton, 437K).

MONTANA TRIES TO ATTRACT MORE WOLF HUNTERS WHILE FWS CONSIDERS DELISTING. The High Country (CO) News (9/20, Mast, 74K) reports that "five years after the federal government dropped Montana's wolves from the Endangered Species List and the state took over management, officials are still trying to trim the state's growing wolf population." Montana's efforts "come amidst a contentious national conversation about whether gray wolves everywhere should come off the Endangered Species List." The FWS "says that the proposal to delist is scientifically sound, and that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) does not require full restoration across a species' previous range," but "opponents argue that, while wolf populations have indeed improved since the mid-20th century, their range and numbers are still not big enough to maintain healthy genetic diversity." In a blog post in June, FWS Director Dan Ashe wrote, "Of course, the gray wolf is not everywhere it

once was, nor can it be; think Denver, or Minneapolis, or Salt Lake City, or even the now grain- and livestock-dominated American Plains." But "Ashe sees current wolf populations as a mark of success and reason enough to delist in all states: 'We can work conservation miracles, because we have. The gray wolf is proof.'"

MAN CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL SALE OF RHINOCEROS HORNS. The E&E Daily (9/19) reports that an Irish man has been charged with illegally acquiring and selling rhinoceros horns in New York City. Michael Slattery Jr. faces "counts of falsifying documents in the sale of several horns for $50,000." The article notes that the arrest is part of the FWS and DOJ's "Operation Crash" to crack down on illegal horn smuggling.

SCARBOROUGH POSTPONES DECISION ON DOGS AT BEACHES. The Forecaster (Falmouth, ME) (9/19, 60K) reports that amid what Chairman Ron Ahlquist called "active negotiations" with the FWS "over a fine against the town for the death of a protected bird, the Town Council on Wednesday night delayed a decision on whether to tighten restrictions on unleashed dogs at town beaches." However, the decision to delay "didn't stop more than 20 people from expressing opinions about the proposal to prohibit beach-going dogs from running without leashes and only under 'voice control.'" The article notes that "the speakers were nearly unanimous in their opposition to the change in the town's Animal Control Ordinance."

BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS TO BE RELEASED NEXT MONTH. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (9/19, 90K) reports that "up to 30 endangered black-footed ferrets will be released" at Montana's Fort Belknap Reservation next month, "just as the state's last surviving population of ferrets at the UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge has dwindled to a handful of animals." According to the article, the number of prairie dogs, "the ferret's main food, is increasing at Fort Belknap, and wildlife officials hope the slender predator with a distinctive black mask finally will gain a foothold after two previous failed reintroduction attempts." Also, "more tools also are available now to fight sylvatic plague, a disease that did in both animals before."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FEDERAL DECISION KEEPS FISH HATCHERIES OPEN. Additional coverage of the decision by the Interior Department to keep fish hatcheries open was provided by the Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (9/19, 226K), the Cookeville (TN) Herald-Citizen (9/20, 31K), the Rapid City (SD) Journal (9/20, 103K), the Examiner.com (9/20, 1.16M), the Cookeville (TN) Herald-Citizen (9/20, 31K), and the Baxter (AR) Bulletin (9/19, 28K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FWS INVESTIGATING FALCON DEATH NEAR CALIFORNIA SOLAR PLANT. The E&E Daily (9/19) reports that the FWS is investigating the death of a peregrine falcon discovered at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in San Bernardino County. A necropsy will be performed at FWS' "forensics laboratory in Ashland, Ore., in an effort to determine the cause of death." The FWS has "become increasingly concerned about bird deaths at utility-scale solar plants," and it "is currently conducting a broader analysis of solar installations in the West in an effort to determine if they are contributing to bird mortalities and injuries."

BLM TO INVESTIGATE WATER BIRD DEATHS AT SOLAR PLANTS. KCET-TV Los Angeles (9/20, 15K) reports that the BLM is "forming a task force to investigate a spate of unexpected deaths of water birds at remote desert solar facilities." Frank McMenimen of the BLM's Palm Springs office "made the informal announcement at a Wednesday meeting in Palm Desert organized by the BLM to solicit public comment on the proposed Palen Solar Electric Generating System." McMenimen said, "It was an issue that caught a lot of people by surprise. The birds dying grabbed a lot of public attention very quickly, and we obviously have to look into it."

DEEPWATER SIGNS US OFFSHORE LEASE. The Recharge News (9/20, 633) reports that Deepwater Wind signed a lease on Thursday at the Interior Department for "two parcels in an area in federal waters facing Rhode Island and Massachusetts." Deepwater "in July submitted a winning $3.83m bid in the country's first commercial offshore wind energy competitive lease auction." Deepwater "plans a utility-scale wind farm of up to 1,000MW in the area with a regional transmission system linking Long Island, New York, to southeastern New England."

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE COMMANDER: SUNZIA IMPAIRS MISSION. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal

(9/20, Robertson, 288K) reports that Brig. Gen. Gwen Bingham, the commanding general of White Sands Missile Range, said that "there is no question that the proposed siting of a renewable energy transmission line across the northern extension of the huge military testing site would impair national defense missions." Bingham said that the Department of Defense is "trying to find a 'win-win solution' on the controversial SunZia transmission line proposal," but she also said, "It's going to have a negative impact on our mission." Bingham explained, "There's no way to do my missions with some of the weapons systems we're currently testing, now and into the future, because they would strike the line."

WIND DEVELOPER SEEKS BAT TAKE PERMIT. The reNews (9/20) reports that the FWS is "nearing a decision on Invenergy's application for the Beech Ridge wind project in West Virginia." The service has "issued a final environmental impact statement associated with an 'incidental take permit' application." Invenergy is "requesting a 25-year permit for two endangered bat species."

COMPANY TO OFFER WINDFLOAT UPDATE AT TOWN HALL. The Coos Bay (OR) World (9/20, 34K) reports Principle Power will host a Town Hall meeting in North Ben "to update the community on the proposed WindFloat Pacific Demonstration Project." Having received a $4 million financial award from the US Department of Energy, the company "has begun project outreach, engineering design and initial project permitting for installation of five semi-submersible floating foundations outfitted with 6MW direct-drive offshore wind turbines."

WIND POWER GAINING TRACTION IN US. The Fortune (9/19, Dumaine, 2.51M) reports, "The pro-wind view finally appears to be gaining traction with a small but growing number of utilities, investors, [and] politicians" in the US. This is partly due to state requirements for renewable energy. As a result, "this summer, for the first time, the U.S. Interior Department auctioned off leases for offshore wind in Virginia, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island." However, there are technological "obstacles to offshore wind" as well. The article contrast the complete lack of offshore wind projects in the US to Europe's 58 finished in the last two decades.

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM TURNS DOWN SALE OF COAL IN WYOMING. The E&E Daily (9/19) reports that the BLM has rejected the sale of coal in Wyoming after an auction drew the lowest top bid, a $35 million bid from Kiewit Corp, in 15 years. The rejection comes "as environmentalists and taxpayer groups question whether BLM is doing enough to make sure the government gets enough money from coal mining on federal land."

Also reporting on the story are the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (9/20, 90K) and the Gillette (WY) News Record (9/20, 19K).

In an op-ed for the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (9/19, Squillace, 90K), Mark Squillace, director of the Natural Resources Law Center at the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder, and Tom Sanzillo, director of finance for the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, claim that the federal lease program run by BLM is "shortchanging the public budgets" in Montana and Wyoming. They note that a number of studies have shown that the BLM "dramatically undervalues this coal and sells it at prices well below fair market value." They conclude that "an overhaul of the federal coal-leasing program is imperative."

ALASKA CONSIDERS LEGAL ACTION OVER ANWR SEISMIC STUDIES. The E&E Daily (9/19) reports that "Alaska's battle for permission to explore for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is likely to move to the courts in the coming weeks if the Obama administration stands firm on its decision to bar seismic studies in the refuge." Alaska Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Dan Sullivan said yesterday that the FWS has "until tomorrow to respond to the state's plea for permission to conduct state-of-the-art 3-D seismic exploration in ANWR's 1.5-million-acre coastal plain." Sullivan said that "if federal regulators turn down the state's most recent request to explore in the refuge, Alaska is likely to take legal action."

TWO SENATORS DEMAND ANSWERS FOR EPA MINING INVESTIGATION. The Alaska Journal of Commerce (9/20, 14K) reports that the "tactics federal agencies used to investigate potential regulatory violations at Alaska gold mines have drawn the ire of senators from outside the state." Sens. John Barrasso and David Vitter sent a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy "Sept. 11 questioning the agency's decision to send armed personnel to placer mine sites in the Fortymile River area near Chicken." The senators wrote, "According to several news

outlets, EPA agents needlessly intimidated miners last month near Chicken while investigating supposed Clean Water Act violations, going so far as to wear full body armor and carry guns in confronting the surprised miners."

BLM FRACKING STUDY POSTPONES ENVIRONMENTAL LAWSUIT. The E&E Daily (9/19) reports that "an environmental lawsuit over hydraulic fracturing in two California counties has been tentatively settled," after the BLM pledged to conduct a review of the contentious process. According to plaintiffs' attorney Brendan Cummings of the Center for Biological Diversity, the "BLM's proposed study would mark a first for the state."

COLORADO FLOODING IMPACTS OIL AND GAS WELLS, CAUSES OIL SPILLS. The AP (9/20, Slevin) reports the flooding in Colorado "shut down hundreds of natural gas and oil wells." Damage to infrastructure "will affect the region's energy production for months to come," and analysts say that images of flooded wellheads "will increase public pressure" for restrictions on fracking. Meanwhile, Anadarko Petroleum Corp. reported a 323 barrels spill along the St. Vrain River and a 125 barrels spill into the South Platte River. Additionally, "a 4-inch Anadarko natural gas pipeline began leaking...after the ground washed away around it."

The Wall Street Journal (9/20, Sider, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports Colorado officials said the floods caused at least 10 oil spills, but only the St. Vrain River and South Platte River spills involved measurable volumes of oil. A statement by that Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission noted the flood also released raw sewage and other hazardous industrial or agricultural chemicals.

The Los Angeles Times (9/19, Pearce, 3.07M) reports that how the flooding affected fracking wells is "one of the biggest questions for local environmentalists."

The Denver Post (9/20, Jaffe, Finley, 949K) also covers this story.

Offshore Energy Development:

JUDGE ACCEPTS HALLIBURTON'S PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DELETING DATA AFTER BP OIL SPILL. The E&E Daily (9/19) reports that Halliburton Co. will plead guilty to a misdemeanor criminal charge related to a deadly rig explosion and massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. Halliburton is "admitting to the destruction of evidence after the disaster and the punishment it negotiated with the Justice Department, which includes a $200,000 fine and three years' probation." According to the article, "if the guilty plea is approved, it would end the federal criminal probe of Halliburton, meaning the company would not face prosecution for conduct leading up to the explosion and spill."

he New Orleans Times-Picayune (9/20, 700K) reports that US District Judge Jane Triche Milazzo on Thursday "accepted a plea agreement requiring Halliburton Energy Services Inc. to pay a $200,000 fine and serve three years probation in exchange for pleading guilty to computer fraud after deleting data related to the 2010 BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill." At the same time, "a former Halliburton employee was charged with destruction of evidence for ordering the discarding of the files." The Times-Picayune adds that the "data-scrubbing incident occurred in May or June of 2010, shortly after the April explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig killed 11 people and set off the record-breaking spill." Judge Milazzo "described Halliburton employees repeating the simulations and deleting the results a second time."

The AP (9/19, Press) reports that Anthony Badalamenti, "who had been the cementing technology director for Halliburton Energy Services Inc., was charged in federal court with instructing two other employees to delete data during a post-spill review of the cement job on BP's blown-out well." Badalamenti, 61, of Katy, TX, "is charged in a bill of information, which typically signals that a defendant is cooperating with prosecutors." Judge Milazzo "said she believed the plea agreement was reasonable and agreed with prosecutors and the company that it 'adequately reflects the seriousness of the offense.'" Attorney General Holder "said in a statement that Halliburton's guilty plea and the charge against Badalamenti 'mark the latest steps forward in the Justice Department's efforts to achieve justice on behalf of all those affected by the Deepwater Horizon explosion, oil spill, and environmental disaster.'"

The Hill (9/20, Shabad, 255K) reports in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that Judge Milazzo "noted Halliburton's 'self-reporting of the misconduct, substantial and valuable cooperation in the government's investigation, and

substantial efforts to recover the deleted data.'"

Bloomberg News (9/19, Johnson, Fisk, 1.91M) reports that the Justice Department "has agreed not to pursue any further criminal prosecution of the Houston-based company or its subsidiaries for any conduct related to the well blowout and subsequent spill, Beverly Stafford, a company spokeswoman, said Thursday in a statement."

The Wall Street Journal (9/20, Fowler, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) and the Katy (TX) Sun (9/20, 81K).also report on this story.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CLAIM BOR VIOLATED ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The Law 360 (9/20, Winegarner, 18K) reports that a coalition of environmental groups appeared before an en banc panel of the Ninth Circuit on Thursday to "revive its allegations that the federal government violated the Endangered Species Act when it negotiated dozens of long-term water supply contracts in California that allegedly harm delta smelt." The environmental groups, led by the National Resources Defense Council, argued that the BOR "violated one of the act's requirements by not consulting with contractors to adjust water flows in ways that would protect the smelt."

CALIFORNIA'S LIMITED WATER HAS BECOME SOURCE OF CONFLICT. The North Coast Journal (9/20, Scott-Goforth) reports in an over 4,000-word article that water brokers are promising "far more water than nature can deliver" and a "torrent" of lawsuits are emerging as water becomes increasingly scarce. A new proposal has been made to divert Sacramento River Delta water to southern California, leaving the people it would normally serve dissatisfied. The Bureau of Reclamation has also fallen short of its obligations to deliver water to Central Valley irrigators for the past 20 years; the water it fails to deliver is called "paper water." California Water Impact Network's Tom Stokely accuses the water suppliers of "sweeping it under the rug for years." The article mentions several more anecdotes, and closes by stating, "the only certain thing is the continuing struggle over California's water."

LOWER ARK FIGHTING SDS TO REINSTATE STORMWATER ENTERPRISE. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (9/20, 94K) reports Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District (Lower Ark) plans to file a Federal lawsuit to force the Bureau of Reclamation to reopen its record of decision on the Southern Delivery System (SDS). The Buearu had approved a 40-year SDS contract to store water at Pueblo Dam, but then the Colorado Springs stormwater enterprise shut down in 2009 when the contract was still active. Lower Ark insists the stormwater issue must be resolved before SDS is allowed to deliver water, but Reclamation refused Lower Ark's request to reopen the case.

Another Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (9/20, 94K) article reports Lower Ark claims higher stormwater flows have increased Fountain Creek's sedimentation and bacteria since closing the stormwater enterprise. SDS Spokesperson Mark Pifher claimed this was the result of three years of higher peak flows and that pollution safeguards are built into the Bureau's contract. Although City Council abolished the stormwater enterprise, Pifher did say stormwater fees would be collected again in 2015 if voters choose this in 2014, but Lower Ark members remain dissatisfied.

Empowering Native American Communities:

COURT REVERSES RULING ON AMERICAN INDIAN STATUS CASE. The AP (9/20) reports a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals did not change a ruling reducing an Arizona man's sentence for assault and firearms charges, but "made an important revision" on his status as an American Indian. The court reversed the holding that the jury determines "whether a tribe is recognized by the federal government," now holding "it's a matter of law for the judge to decide."

BILL BANNING GAMING ON TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION LAND PASSES HOUSE. The Peoria (AZ) Times (9/20, 11K) reports Rep. Trent Franks is again introducing a bill that would prohibit Class II and III gaming on tribal lands. The previous bill would alter the settlement reached in 1986 between Congress and the Tohono O'odham Nation to ban the gaming on replacement lands. The new bill would ban it "on land within the Phoenix, Ariz. metropolitan area that is acquired after April 9, 2013, by the Secretary of the Interior in trust for the benefit of an

Indian tribe." The bill passed the House, but opponents say it would have Congress intervene for the first time in a state and tribal gaming compact, "putting all other tribal compacts at risk of future Congressional intervention." The Gila River Indian Community and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community favor the act, while the Tohono O'odham Nation said in a release that "two wealthy tribes are trying again to change the law so they can protect their massive market share."

TRIAL IN KILLING OF SPIRIT LACK RESERVATION CHILDREN GOES TO JURY. The Jamestown (ND) Sun (9/20, 850) reports Valentino "Tino" Bagola's Federal trial for killing two children on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation went to the jury on Thursday. During closing arguments defense attorney Christopher Lancaster said "that FBI agents manipulated an uneducated Bagola into confessing" and pointed to a confession by Travis DuBois Sr., which he recanted. Assistant US Attorney Chris Myers said DuBois' confession only included "suggestions from investigators" with "nothing to back them up," while "Bagola gave details only a killer would know." Meyers also pointed to DNA evidence.

WISCONSIN TRIBES RESISTING IRON MINE. James Rowen writes in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (9/20, Rowen, 798K) reports "Purple Wisconsin" blog. "I thought I'd expand the distribution of a significant legal step of resistance to" a proposed iron ore mine In Wisconsin by local tribes. He quotes the a Duluth-Superior article on the issue.

GERSON CRITICIZES STATES' INCREASING RELIANCE ON CASINO REVENUES. Michael Gerson writes in a Washington Post (9/20, 4.28M) column that at least 23 states "have turned to gambling as a source of revenue...to squeeze some public benefit out of a common vice." Noting that "40 percent to 60 percent of slot-machine revenues come from problem gamblers," Gerson asks, "Would the government exploit any other disability in this manner?" Gerson says both libertarians and liberals should be disturbed by the trend – the former because it grants "monopolies and awarding regulatory advantages to favored firms," and the latter because "revenues are drawn disproportionately from low-income workers and retirees."

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE VOWS VETO AS HOUSE SET TO VOTE ON CR WITH ACA DEFUNDING. While the broadcast networks did not cover the showdown over the continuing resolution to keep the Federal government open past the end of this month, the story continues to be widely covered in print and wire media. House Speaker Boehner said the House will vote on a CR today that would defund the Affordable Care Act. However, reports generally see the move as a show, as the legislation is unlikely to survive in that form in the Senate, and the White House immediately issued a veto threat.

The AP (9/20, Taylor) reports Boehner said that his chamber will "pass" a bill Friday to keep the government open while "undercutting Obama's health care law." Boehner said, "The fight over here has been won. The fight over there (in the Senate) is just beginning. I expect my Senate colleagues to do everything they can to defund this law, just like the House is going to do." On the debt limit, Boehner said, "Let me be very clear. Republicans have no interest in defaulting on our debt – none."

However, USA Today (9/20, Camia, 5.82M), along with other news outlets, reports that the White House on Thursday vowed that the President will veto any effort to defund the ACA. A statement from the OMB said that the President would not sign the House bill, which would fund the government through December 15, because "it advances a narrow ideological agenda that threatens our economy and the interests of the middle class." The piece also reports that White House spokesman Jay Carney said it is "unconscionable" for the GOP to risk a shutdown.

The Washington Post (9/20, Kane, O'Keefe, 4.28M) reports that Boehner "told reporters that the stopgap government funding bill that they will advance Friday would yield to conservative demands of including a rider to block funding for the law commonly known as Obamacare." The Post adds that the President, speaking at a meeting with the Business Roundtable, "warned" that "another fight over government spending and the debt limit could harm businesses and consumers."

The Daily Caller (9/20, Pappas, 422K), summing up the sub-text of most coverage, says that because the

Democrats control the Senate and the White House, "the legislation is not expected to go much farther."

The Hill (9/20, Berman, 255K) reports that Boehner "would not say" if he would be willing to bring up a bill that "lacked majority Republican support if the Senate returned the House measure with funding" for the ACA restored. Boehner also "strongly hinted" that Congress would "have to remain in session next weekend to avert a shutdown." The House GOP has already canceled next week's scheduled recess.

The Wall Street Journal (9/20, Peterson, Hook, 5.91M) predicts that the debate over the legislation will be nasty, as Senate Majority Leader Reid has vowed to strip out the language defunding the ACA. Reid said, "Any bill that defunds Obamacare is dead. It is a waste of time."

However, Politico (9/20, Kim, 467K) reports that Reid "declined to answer whether he has enough Republican support to clear the 60-vote threshold to end a filibuster on the CR." But the Democratic Leadership "indicated that they won't back away from their position against defunding Obamacare even when the clock ticks closer to a potential government shutdown."

Meanwhile, the Washington Times (9/20, Howell, 417K) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi said Thursday that the House vote set for Friday would "devastate health care reforms and investments in jobs, education and research." The Times adds that assuming the House's effort to defund "Obamacare fails" in the Senate, the House GOP "plans to seek a one-year delay to the Affordable Care Act as part of any subsequent deal to extend the government's borrowing authority." Pelosi said that "shutting down the government is one bad thing," but it can be re-opened, but "Not lifting the debt limit is unleashing a torrent, a river of no return."

CR's Potential Path Through Senate Laid Out. The Hill (9/20, Bolton, 255K) reports Senate Democratic aides see on path forward on the CR: Reid would first schedule a vote to end debate on the House resolution, which would require 60 votes but presumably draw GOP support because it would include the amendment to defund the ACA. Reid would then "fill the amendment tree," and include an "amendment to strike" the defunding language and anything else Democrats find objectionable. That would be followed by a second cloture vote, on legislation that would still include defunding. Finally, any pending amendments could then be passed on a simple majority vote, allow the defunding language to be removed with only Democratic support.

Cruz Willing To Risk Shutdown To Defund ACA, But Not Lee. The AP (9/20, Espo) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz, who has acknowledged that the Senate will likely defeat any effort to defund the ACA, on Thursday "vowed" at a news conference to do "everything and anything possible to defund Obamacare." He said that might include a filibuster of "legislation to prevent a partial government shutdown." However, Sen. Mike Lee, Cruz's partner in "Defund Obamacare" commercials, said that law "is not worth causing a shutdown over."

Bloomberg News (9/20, Tiron, Hunter, 1.91M) reports that Senate Democrats are "considering a procedural tactic that would put Cruz and his allies in an awkward spot." The Democrats "could have a simple majority vote that would strip the health-care defunding language once they end debate on the House measure," which would require Cruz to either vote against the House bill with the defunding language or "instead join with Democrats to overcome the procedural hurdle."

Corker Down On Defunding Strategy. Roll Call (9/20, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports Sen. Bob Corker is "openly" saying what "other Republicans seem to be thinking behind the scenes:" the strategy to defund that ACA is "raising expectations among conservatives to unrealistic levels." Corker said, "It seems to me that the House sends over a piece of legislation, we are easily going to support it. We are also going to probably support ending debate," adding that under Senate rules, Democrats "would have a chance to amend the bill post-cloture to eliminate the language defunding Obamacare."

ACA Defunding Fight Disrupting GOP. McClatchy (9/20, Lightman, 95K) says that with the House vote, Republicans will "proclaim solidarity" in efforts to defund the ACA, but adds, "Don't be fooled: The party is bitterly divided about how and when to get rid of Obamacare." The battle "over tactics could well determine who controls the Republican Party – and just as important, its image – for years to come."

The New York Times (9/20, Parker, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) profiles those conservatives pressing Boehner to adopt more conservative positions, including defunding the ACA, describing them as a

"rotating cast of characters – often backbench newcomers whom few have heard of outside their districts, and who were elected on a Tea Party wave."

As Debate Proceeds, Lawmakers Scale Back Ambitions. The Washington Post (9/20, Montgomery, 4.28M) reports that when House Majority Leader Eric Cantor "rolled out a list of Republican demands this week for raising the federal debt limit," there was a "surprising omission" in the lack of "any real plan" to tackle the debt. Democrats similarly "have largely stopped talking about imposing new taxes on the rich and are focused on reversing" sequestration.

DNC Chair Says Congress "Hurtling" Toward Shutdown. USA Today (9/20, Page, 5.82M) reports that DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz says Congress is "hurtling" toward a "fiscal crisis in the next few weeks." In an interview with USA Today's Capital Download, she said that the House Republicans have "been engaged in an intemecine battle and an internal civil war, and the Tea Party has won,. It's evident that we're headed toward government shutdown or a default, one or the other. It's kind of like deciding which car you're going to take."

Boehner Lashes Out At President Over Negotiating. The AP (9/20) reports Boehner is "criticizing" President Obama for "negotiating with Russian President Vladimir Putin" but not with Congress. White House spokesman Jay Carney said "joked" that Boehner "seemed to be suffering from 'Putin envy.'"

The Washington Times (9/20, Klimas, 417K) reports Boehner "tweeted out a video" with the comments. In the tweet, Boehner said, "POTUS is happy to negotiate w/Vladimir Putin ... but won't work w/Congress on needed deficit reduction." The video starts with clips of Obama, Carney and others "saying that the administration will not negotiate on the debt limit." It then flips to clips of the President and Secretary of State Kerry "expressing a desire to engage in 'substantive, meaningful negotiations' with Mr. Putin on chemical weapons use in Syria."

Politico (9/20, Epstein, 467K) expands on Carney's response, reported he said that Boehner's charge that the President won't negotiate is "irrefutably false," and adding, "The president has spent an enormous amount of time with John Boehner over the years" and will begin a new "round of outreach" to the GOP in coming days to "avert a government shutdown."

Politico (9/20, Sherman, Allen, 467K) separately reports that Obama is "working to set up a meeting on budget issues with top Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress at the White House next week, according to several sources." While no date has yet been set, the "tail end of the week – perhaps Thursday – seems most likely."

Meanwhile, The Hill (9/20, Berman, 255K) reports that Boehner said he has "no intention of returning to the one-on-one grand bargain talks he pursued with Obama in 2011." Boehner told reporters, "I'm not doing that. The House is going to pass a bill. We expect the Senate to pass a bill. I would guess the president would engage with the majority leader over there if he so desires."

Roll Call (9/20, Dennis, 87K) also reports on the "Putin envy" exchange.

More Commentary. In an editorial, USA Today (9/20, 5.82M) condemns the GOP for linking defunding the ACA with budget and debt issues, saying their "obsession with overturning ObamaCare is getting sillier and more dangerous at the same time." The editorial says that the GOP "hard-liners' contempt for the federal bureaucracy blinds them to the consequences of a government shutdown."

In an counterargument, Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-IN) writes in an op-ed for USA Today (9/20, 5.82M) that the ACA harms all Americans, highlighting its impact on his constituents. Stutzman argues that the law harms small businesses, medical device manufacturers, and those purchasing health insurance.

In his column for the New York Times (9/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) entitled "The Crazy Party," Paul Krugman says that in recent months, the GOP "seems to have transitioned from being the stupid party to being the crazy party." He adds that it "grows increasingly hard to see how, in the face of Republican hysteria over health reform, we can avoid a government shutdown – and maybe the even more frightening prospect of a debt default."

In his column for the Washington Post (9/20, 4.28M), Eugene Robinson says that House Republicans "are like a bunch of 3-year-olds playing with matches." He says that the President needs to stand up to them by defending Obamacare, and fending off their efforts to tie its fate to raising the debt ceiling or funding the government.

In her column for the Washington Post (9/20, 4.28M), Ruth Marcus argues that Americans should "be afraid. Be very, very afraid." That is her "chilling, and surprising, takeaway from numerous conversations with administration officials and members of Congress over the past several days about the looming need to fund the government and raise the debt ceiling." She argues that a government shutdown is "stupid but survivable," but failing to raise the debt ceiling "evokes words such as 'catastrophic' and 'unthinkable,' which is why it has never happened."

ECONOMISTS WARN JOBLESS RECOVERIES NEW TREND. The Washington Post (9/20, Tankersley, 4.28M) reports the US economy "just hasn't looked like its old self lately, especially when it comes to regaining the jobs" lost during a reception. Now, the US looks more like 1980s Europe, "slow to rebound and hire after a downtum, leaving workers to flail for years in a weak job market." The Post says that a "major new study" from economists at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of California at Berkeley "suggests that vintage Europe is the new American normal for recessions and recoveries," though "even after an exhaustive series of tests, the economists still can't explain what has gone wrong."

Meanwhile, the AP (9/20, Yen) reports that even as the economy "shows sings of improvement" and "poverty levels off," new Census data "suggests the gains are halting and uneven." Not all segments of the population are "seeing an economic turnaround," particularly groups like single mothers.

Jobless Claims Near Six-Year Low, But Data Problems Persist. Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (9/20, Morath, Sparshott, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that first time claims for jobless benefits rose 15,000 last week to 309,000, near a six-year low. However, claims may still be low due to computer issues in California and Nevada. The four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, came in at 314,750, the lowest since October 2007. The Journal says some economists are skeptical that the drops in the data in recent weeks is accurate.

Wells Fargo To Eliminate Another 1,800 Jobs. The AP (9/20) reports Wells Fargo will lay off "an additional 1,800 employees from its mortgage department, after cutting about 2,300 jobs from the same unit in August," citing a lower-than-expected number of mortgage refinancings.

Domestic Textile Production Rebounding, But With "Far Fewer Workers." The New York Times (9/20, Clifford, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) runs a 2,600-word feature on the return of some textile manufacturing to US facilities after years of outsourcing, with one business owner saying domestic production "has several advantages," including lower transportation costs, faster turnaround time and, "most striking, labor costs – the reason all these companies fled in the first place – aren't that much higher than overseas because the factories that survived the outsourcing wave have largely turned to automation and are employing far fewer workers." So while manufacturing might be coming back to the US, jobs in the sector are not necessarily following.

FBI DIRECTOR GIVES DETAILS ON NAVY YARD SHOOTING. NBC Nightly News (9/19, lead story, 3:05, Williams, 7.86M) reported, "A lot of the details of what we thought we knew about the gun massacre at the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard have changed." NBC (P. Williams) added FBI Director Comey gave a briefing to journalists in which he said that shooter Aaron Alexis showed "no signs of targeting anyone in particular." He began shooting a little after 8:00 a.m., but police say the first call for help was at 8:21. The FBI also says there isn't evidence Alexis went into the building's atrium from the upper floors. Meanwhile, "a Navy police union says its force was understaffed preventing quicker action."

Bob Orr reported on the CBS Evening News (9/19, story 2, 2:10, Pelley, 5.58M) that "Comey said there was 'no discernible pattern' to Alexis' movements." After Alexis used all his shotgun ammunition, he started using the Beretta semiautomatic pistol he took from a security guard he killed. Meanwhile, "analysts are still struggling to understand why it happened."

The New York Times (9/20, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports Comey said, "We are continuing to work through video evidence and understand the shooter's life and motivation better, and that requires

painstaking work to make sure we do that well and carefully."

USA Today (9/20, Michaels, 5.82M) reports a government official with knowledge of the investigation said that the FBI's computer forensics team is "examining a computer at the Residence Inn where Alexis stayed" and that they "found undisclosed 'digital evidence.'" Meanwhile, Anthony Meely, chairman of the Fraternal Order of Police Naval District Labor Committee, said that only seven Navy police officers were working at the Navy Yard on Monday, instead of the minimum 11 that are supposed to. With six required to man the gates, "only one could immediately respond to the attack at Building 197, Meely said." He added, "People died because of management rights, the right to make a decision to save money."

The Los Angeles Times (9/20, Serrano, 3.07M) reports a Navy official responded to the union's concerns "with a statement: 'This is absolutely something we are looking at."

Navy Yard Reopens. The AP (9/20, Witte) reports that the Washington Navy Yard re-opened Thursday "for normal operations," except for building 197, where the shooting took place, and the gym, which the FBI is using as a staging area for its investigation. The article includes comments from some of the workers returning to the installation.

The Washington Post (9/20, Londoño, Gold, Leonnig, 4.28M) also covers the installation's reopening.

Military Acknowledges Security Clearance Procedures Need Improvement. The Washington Post (9/20, Londoño, Gold, Leonnig, 4.28M) reports that the Pentagon's ordering a review of security-clearance procedures in the wake of the Navy Yard shooting "effectively acknowledged that years of escalating warning signs about Alexis went unheeded." Similarly, "top intelligence and military officials concede" that not having regular reviews when millions of people receive security clearances for up to 10 years "is a serious safety risk." The Office of the Director of National Intelligence Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive spokesman Gene Barlow "acknowledged that the agency sees room for improvement." During the last year, ODNI "has been studying how to more regularly screen people who have passed background checks."

The Christian Science Monitor (9/20, Mulrine, 540K) reports the issue of security clearance and mental health is "fraught with complications," with veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan seeking "to assimilate back into society – and, in many cases, get Pentagon jobs." Additional restrictions on security clearances for those with mental health-related issues "could affect the opportunities available to those struggling with combat-related stress." Meanwhile, some say that asking if a person has been treated for a mental health issue isn't the right question, as seeking treatment may indicate the person seeks to better themselves and is healthier than one who doesn't.

Same Company Performed Background Checks On Snowden, Alexis. The New York Times (9/20, Goldstein, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports USIS, previously known as US Investigations Services, performed background checks on both leaker Edward J. Snowden and Washington Navy Yard shooter Aaron Alexis. The company has been under investigation by the Office of Personnel Management since late 2011.

The Wall Street Journal (9/20, Nissenbaum, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports USIS currently conducts about 45% of government background investigations and had over $415 million in government contracts this fiscal year.

Reuters (9/20, Ingram, Simpson) reports Sen. Claire McCaskill, head of the Senate Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight, said in a statement, "What's emerging is a pattern of failure on the part of this company, and a failure of this entire system, that risks nothing less than our national security and the lives of Americans."

Alexis Exhibited "Bizarre" Behavior "Numerous" Times Before Shooting. The New York Times (9/20, Goode, Nir, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that on "numerous occasions" prior to the shootings "Alexis' increasingly bizarre behavior was noted by others," such as hotel employees, Virginia airport guards, and the Newport police. Similar to other mass killers, Alexis "left a trail of telltale signs that were minimized, misinterpreted or ignored." While the Experts Inc., which employed Alexis, said they thought he felt his hotel was too noisy when he complained about voices, the Residence Inn's log includes an entry that the company said in a call that Alexis "is unstable and the company is bringing him home." The call, six weeks prior

to the shooting, suggests the company "had deep concerns about his state of mind and raises questions about why he was allowed to continue working at Navy bases," according to the Times.

ABC World News (9/19, story 2, 1:55, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported that in "a recent bizarre encounter" with Alexis. ABC (Thomas) added that Glynda Boyd and her family had "an unsettling encounter of paranoia" at the Norfolk, Virginia airport when a man she believes was Aaron Alexis confronted them, believing one of the group was laughing at him.

Capitol Police Reviewing Allegations Team Was Pulled Back At Start Of Shooting. At the end of its segment on the Navy Yard shooting, NBC Nightly News (9/19, lead story, 3:05, Williams, 7.86M) reported that members of US Capital Police Tactical Team say a supervisor ordered them back as "they were preparing to enter the Navy Yard to help."

The Washington Times (9/20, Waterman, 417K) reports the US Capitol Police say they are investigating the allegations Capitol Hill Police Chief Kim C. Dine said in a statement that he "asked the Capitol Police Board to lead an independent fact review," and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Terrence Gainer, said "that officials were pulling radio logs from Monday's incident and interviewing the officers involved."

Roll Call (9/20, Hess, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports the fact review will be due October 21. Politico (9/20, Everett, 467K) reports Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) will meet with the Capitol Police Union will "over allegations that a tactical team was ordered to stand down when it moved to respond to the shooting."

Federal First Responders Had Problems With Radios. The Hill (9/20, Bogardus, 255K) reports that Federal firefighters and police officers had trouble with their radios during the Navy Yard shooting, according to union representatives for first responders, who said they "resorted to using their cell phones and radios from D.C.'s emergency responders." One police officer's radio's battery died and another was unable to call for help because his radio didn't have a signal. Additionally, a union official said that "firefighters were also having problems with their radio signals." Anthony Meely, chairman of the Fraternal Order of Police Naval District Washington (NDW) Labor Committee said such problems were "'a known issue' on the base."

Little Pushback From Gun Groups Following Starbucks' No Longer Welcoming Guns. USA Today (9/20, Horovitz, 5.82M) reports that while "the blogosphere has been on fire" after Starbucks asked customers to not bring guns into its stores, "several key groups" representing gun owners haven't called for action against the company. "For the most part" these groups "had little negative to say." However, David Primo, associate professor of political science at University of Rochester, warned that the organized special interests' reaction wasn't important, but "grass-roots actions."

More Commentary. Charles Krauthammer writes in a column in the Washington Post (9/20, 4.28M) that liberals blame weapons for gun violence and that we should instead focus on the shooters. Krauthammer says that when the police learned Alexis was hearing voices, he should have been taken to a hospital, given an anti-psychotic, and then either put into the care of family and friends or involuntarily committed. Krauthammer acknowledges this as "outright paternalism" but adds that allowing those "as lost and profoundly suffering" as Alexis to be uncared for is "cruel and reckless ." He calls for the nation to stop allowing "the mentally ill to die with their rights on," and sometimes take innocents with them.

An op-ed in the Washington Post (9/20, 4.28M) is a version of a piece by Cynthia McCabe that appeared in her Brunch Bird blog. McCabe writes that "America hardly noticed" the Navy Yard shooting, contrasting it with the reaction to the Newtown, Connecticut shooting. McCabe criticizes the nation's "apathy" and attributes it to those in Washington being "considered faceless, pointless bureaucrats" who "are held up as symbols of everything wrong with politics, government and media." Thus, the killings in DC were "not people dying in Real America." She concludes that the "dehumanization" of DC and "uninterest" in the deaths "cannot be forgiven."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Another Insult To The Poor."*** The New York Times (9/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the House vote on food stamps "can be seen only as an act of supreme indifference." The Times

notes that data shows that poverty remains severe and that Middle Class struggling. The Times ties the cuts to sequestration, concluding, "against that backdrop, there is no justification for savaging the safety net and decimating the budget."

"Blocking Healthcare Reform In Florida." The New York Times (9/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that "Florida's destructive efforts to sabotage healthcare reform has drawn a much-needed response from the Obama administration." The state "has been shameless in attempting to destroy" the Affordable Care Act, but HHS Secretary Sebelius "has awarded almost $8 million in grants to Florida organizations to hire and train outreach workers and another $8 million to community health centers for the same purpose. ... With the state government so adamantly obstructive, the success of healthcare reform in Florida will depend heavily on such private efforts."

"Funny Money In New Jersey." In an editorial, the New York Times (9/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) condemns how "some New Jersey players...have found a backdoor way to support Gov. Chris Christie's campaign" by donating to the Republican Governors Association, which has donated $1.7 million to Christie. The Times calls for an investigation concluding that cleaning up the state's pay to play culture "deserve[s] more than a shrug from the politicians and the state officials charged with overseeing their campaigns."

"Where Water Is Gold." The New York Times (9/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, notes that "a potentially huge new water source" has been discovered underneath Kenya. The Times calls it "some rare good news" to "offset the usual grim predictions about the planet's dwindling natural resources," but adds "now comes the challenge of managing it fairly and transparently." According to the Times, in Kenya, "an estimated 17 million lack access to safe drinking water and 28 million are without adequate sanitation."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Repression In Bahrain."*** The Washington Post (9/20, 4.28M), decries the arrest of Bahraini "opposition leader" Khalil al-Marzooq, who the Post says has been "seeking to bridge the growing polarization between the Persian Gulf nation's Sunni ruling family and its restless, majority-Shiite population," and "had firmly renounced violence." The Post goes on to says that, "incredibly, the State Department's response to Mr. Marzooq's arrest was to express disappointment with the opposition for withdrawing from the national dialogue." According to the Post, the State Department's "myopic attitude will only encourage more repression...and endanger the very U.S. assets that the administration sees itself as protecting."

"Confronting The Superbugs." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/20, 4.28M) highlights CDC Director Tom Frieden's warnings about superbugs, writing that "laudable efforts are being made everywhere to improve hospital procedures" and that the FDA and CDC are taking other steps, but "the question raised by Dr. Frieden's alarm is whether the responses measure up to a problem described as potentially catastrophic. ... Let's hope we won't look back on the latest CDC report as just another warning that was forgotten."

"Terry McAuliffe's Budget Flaw." The Washington Post (9/20, 4.28M) says in an editorial that while Virginia Democratic gubernatorial nominee Terry McAuliffe "is right" about expanding Medicare in the state, his argument that expansion will boost state revenue "poses several problems." The Republican-led General Assembly "may continue to oppose Medicaid expansion," and even if it does not, "much of the projected windfall would come in the first few years, when the federal contribution would be highest. After that, Virginia would have to pony up some cash of its own."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Government Won."*** The Wall Street Journal (9/20, Journal, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that five years after the beginning of the financial crisis, the Federal government is significantly more powerful than it was in 2008, particularly in the finance sector. The Journal says Dodd-Frank and other legislative actions have added more risk to the financial system.

"Tom DeLay's Vindication." The Wall Street Journal (9/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that while a Thursday appeals court ruling vindicates ex-House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, he should never have been prosecuted in the first place.

"Born-Again Fracker." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writes that FERC nominee Ron Binz's history of hostility to all fossil fuels is the cause of his trouble, having bent the law and manipulated companies to favor clean energy. The Journal says Binz's statements at his confirmation

hearing denying such hostility and avowing regulatory restraint don't match his previous actions and statements. The Journal predicts that, if confirmed, Binz will continue FERC's abuse of its power to make the grid favor clean energy instead of fossil fuels and calls on Landrieu to vote against him.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Government Shutdown No Idle Threat
A Family Separated
DWP Says It Can't Track Millions
Pope Wants To Shift Focus To Mercy
Ride Share Services Have Arrived

Wall Street Journal:
Pricing Glitch Afflicts Health Rollout
Fed's Guidance Questioned As Market Misreads Signals
Despite Merkel's Popularity, Angst Creeps In
Pope Warns Church Focusing Too Much On Divisive Issues

New York Times:
Iran Said To Seek A Nuclear Accord To End Sanctions
Quick Turn Of Fortunes As Diplomatic Options Open Up With Syria And Iran
Pope Says Church Is "Obsessed" With Gays, Abortion And Birth Control
Signs Of Distress Multiplied On Killer's Path To Navy Yard
US Textile Plants Return, With Floors Largely Empty Of People
Private Schools Are Expected To Drop A Dreaded Entrance Test
Life On Mars? Well, Maybe Not

Washington Post:
Reboot Sought For Computer's Forefather
Ahead Of UN Gathering, The Buzz Is About Rouhani
Francis Stresses Pastoral Role
Shutdown's Shadow Shrinks Hill Priorities
Workplace Dispute Is Investigated In Navy Yard Killings

Financial Times:
JPMorgan Hit By $920m Fine
Elop Given €18.8m To Return To Microsoft
US Tech Groups Face Tougher European Rules
Admin Costs For BP Spill Deal Soar Above $600m
Pinterest Launches Advertising Service
Paulson Warns Of Regulatory Conflict
Fed, ECB And BoE Strain To Curb Equities Inflation

Washington Times:
Obama To Accelerate His Agenda On Climate Change
Benghazi Investigators Gave Clinton Heads-Up On Findings
Kerry Tells UN: Source Of Chemical Attack Is Not The Issue
Saudi Woman Sees Life Through Unique Lens
Delay-ed Gratification
Perry: Texas Democrats Misuse Prosecutor Power

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Mexico-Acapulco Flooding; Navy Yard Shooting Investigation; Pope Francis Interview; Economy-Home

Sales; Caroline Kennedy Confirmation Hearing; Walmart-Invention Competition; Crime-Trespassing Case.
CBS: Pope Francis Interview; Navy Yard Shooting Investigation; Veterans Affairs-Painkiller Overdoses; Mexico Hurricane Manuel; Colorado Flooding-Missing People; Caroline Kennedy-Confirmation Hearing; NASA-Curiosity Rover; Medal Of Honor Recipient's Story.
NBC: Navy Yard Shooting Investigation; Pope Francis Interview; Iran-President Rouhani Interview; Iran-President Rouhani Interview-Reactions; Food Stamps Debate; Mexico-Acapulco Flooding; Caroline Kennedy Confirmation Hearing.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Illinois-Chicago Park Shooting; Congress-Food Stamps Debate; Congress-Benghazi Hearing; Senator McConnell-Coal Debate.
CBS: Illinois-Chicago Park Shooting; Congress-Food Stamps Debate; Congress-Obamacare Debate; Pope Francis Interview; Wall Street-Whale Trading Scandal; Colorado Flooding.
NPR: Congress-Food Stamps Debate; EPA-Coal Plant Requirements; ACLU-Fed-Collected Suspicious Activity Reports; Colorado Flooding; USPS-Financial Crisis; Egypt-Border Crossing Changes.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – Departs the White House en route Joint Base Andrews, South Lawn, open press; departs Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives Kansas City, Missouri, Kansas City International Airport, open press; tours the Ford Stamping Plant, the Ford Kansas City Stamping Plant Liberty, Missouri, travel pool coverage; delivers remarks at the Ford Stamping Plant, the Ford Kansas City Stamping Plant Liberty, Missouri, open to pre-credentialed media; departs Kansas City, Missouri en route Washington, DC, Kansas City International Airport, open press; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives the White House, South Lawn, open press. Notes: Principal Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest will gaggle aboard Air Force One.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will attend the US-Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue as part of his travel to Mexico City, Mexico, on September 19-20th. Highlights: The Vice President will be in Mexico City, Mexico. The Vice President will deliver remarks highlighting the launch of the US-Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue at the Ministry of Foreign of Affairs. The Vice President's remarks are open press and audio will available on www. WhiteHouse.gov/live. Vice President will attend the inaugural meeting of the US-Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue. The Vice President will be joined by Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, United States Trade Representative Michael Froman, Assistant Secretary of State Jose Fernandez, Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson, Undersecretary of the Treasury Lael Brainard, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Rand Beers and Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. There will be a photo spray at the top of this meeting. Later, the Vice President will travel to the Presidents residence. The Vice President will meet with President Enrique Pena Nieto. There will be a pool spray at the top of this meeting. Following their meeting, the Vice President and President Peqa Nieto will deliver statements to the press. These statements will be open to pre-credentialed media. Afterwards, the Vice President will depart Mexico City, Mexico, en route Wilmington, Delaware.

MICHELLE OBAMA – First Lady Michelle Obama will host a luncheon in honor of the winners of the 2013 National Design Awards, which are organized by the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum. Winners are high school students from NY and Washington, DC.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: 9 a.m. – The House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m. House expected to vote on defunding Obamacare. H.Res. 352 – A resolution providing for the consideration of the Joint Resolution (H.J.Res 59.) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes (Special Rule, One Hour of Debate) (Sponsored by Rep. Tom Cole / Rules Committee) H.R. 3102 – Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act of 2013 (Closed Rule, One Hour of Debate) (Sponsored by Rep. Frank Lucas / Agriculture Committee) Begin Consideration of H.R. 1526 – Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act, Rules Committee Print (Structured Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. Doc Hastings / Natural

Resources Committee)

GOP RALLY – 11 a.m. House Republican Leaders and their colleagues will hold a rally following the House vote to "protect Americans from the Presidents unworkable health care law" and keep the government open. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Members of the House Republican Conference. Speaker.gov/Live/. Location: Rayburn room. Contacts: Dylan Colligan dylan.colligan@mail.house.gov (202-225-5107). Notes: Note: All cameras must be set up between 9:00 – 10:00 AM ET. Start time of event is approx.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

POSTPONED

NATURAL RESOURCES – 9 a.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources hearing on "Energy Independence: Domestic Opportunities to Reverse Californias Growing Dependence on Foreign Oil". Location: 1334 Longworth.

ARMED SERVICES – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Subcommittee on Readiness hearing on Resetting the Force for the Future: Risks of Sequestration. Witnesses: Lieutenant General William M. Faulkner, USMC , Deputy Commandant Installations and Logistics, US Marine Corps; Lieutenant General Raymond V. Mason, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, US Army. Location: 2212 Rayburn.

SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY – 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Space hearing on "NASA Infrastructure: Enabling Discovery and Ensuring Capability." Witnesses: Paul K. Martin, Inspector General, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Richard Keegan, Associate Deputy Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

NEW

EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE – 10 a.m. Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subc. Hmg. on career and technical education and training programs. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs oversight hearing on the Department of the Interiors proposal to use a Categorical Exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for adding species to the Lacey Acts list of injurious wildlife. Location: 1324 Longworth. Notes: NEW START TIME.

Other: NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK – Sept. 15 – 21. Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education. Contacts: Lon Anderson: 202/481-6820 (O) 703/980-8868 (C), John B. Townsend II: 202/481-6820 (O) 202/253-2171 (C), Jeanette Tejeda de Gomez: 202/481-6820 (O) 202/699-1206 (C).

CBCF LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE – Sept. 17 – 21. Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 43rd Annual Legislative Conference (CBCF ALC). Guests include: Former President Bill Clinton, Shaquille O'Neal, Susan Taylor, Iyana Vanzant, MC Lyte, Marc Morial, Robert Townsend, Brandy, Alfred Woodard, Rick Fox, Marvin Sapp, Mo Ivory, J. Anthony Brown, Sheri Shepherd, Dr. Bernice King, Tamron Hall, Wendell Pierce, Isaiah Thomas, Antoine Fuqua, Marian Wright Edelman, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake; others. Highlights: 3 p.m. National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), nations oldest professional Minority trade association under the direction of NAREB president, Donnell Spivey, assembled a six-member, expert panel to present perspectives on the current and future prospects of homeownership among African Americans. 3 p.m. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver keynote remarks on voting rights at a public policy forum, hosted by Rep. Melvin Watt, as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW. Contacts: (877) 585-6018, Priscilla Clarke pclarkepr@gmail.com (240-476-9643)

NLN SUMMIT 2013 – NLN Education Summit – Sept. 18 – 21. Raising the Roof/Advancing the Nation's Health.

Highlights: COEs will be formally recognized at the NLN's Annual Education Summit during the NLN Banquet. Deans and other top administrators, faculty, and healthcare executives. The ceremony follows the President's Reception. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. Washington. Contacts: Karen R. Klestzick kklestzick@nln.org (212-812-0376), Tish Hess thess@nln.org (212-812-0374).

DISTRACTED DRIVING – TEENS – Sept. 19 – 20. The 4th Annual NOYS (National Organizations for Youth Safety) Teen Distracted Driving Prevention Summit. Highlights: Event at the Washington Court Hotel. Teens will hear from transportation safety officials including National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Deborah A.P. Hersman, National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator David Strickland, victims of distracted driving crashes and experts in the field of engineering, education and enforcement. Students will also meet with exhibitors and brainstorm solutions to bring back to their communities. Contacts: Cathy Gillen ((443) 463-4449).

LPAC CONFERENCE – Sept. 19 – 22. Third Liberty Political Action Conference (LPAC). Media credentials: megan.stiles@campaignforliberty.com no later than September 18, 2013. Highlights: Dr. Ron Paul, Congressman Thomas Massie, Congressman Steve Stockman, Mark Mix (President of the National Right to Work Committee), and Morton Blackwell (President of the Leadership Institute). Location: Westfields Marriot, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151.

SAIS – GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN – SEC CHAIR WHITE – 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) will hold its fourth "Global Conference on Women in the Boardroom." Kara M. Stein, commissioner, SEC will deliver the opening keynote at approximately 9:10 a.m. Mdiea contact: contact Felisa Neuringer Klubes in the SAIS Communications Office at 202.663.5626 or fklubes@jhu.edu. Location: Kenney Auditorium of the schools Nitze Building, located at 1740 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Notes: due to a scheduling conflict, Kara M. Stein, a commissioner of the US Securities and Exchange Commission, will give the conferences keynote address in the place of SEC Chair Mary Jo White.

WASHPOST LIVE – CHILDHOOD OBESITY – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Washington Post Live Hosts Summit Addressing Childhood Obesity Speakers include Dr. Janet Collins from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Olympian Michelle Kwan; and Quincy Jones III of the Feel Rich Movement. Location: The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street NW.

INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE – US – BRAZIL RELATIONS – 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. The Inter-American Dialogue hosts discussion of US-Brazilian relations after the cancelation of President Dilma Rousseffs state visit to Washington next month. This will be the only state visit that President Obama will be hosting this year, and one of just six since he took office. Speaker: former Brazilian Ambassador to the United States, Rubens Barbosa. Commentary will be provided by the Eurasia Groups Senior Analyst for Latin America, Joco Augusto de Castro Neves. Location: Inter-American Dialogue, 1211 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 510.

EPA – CLEAN AIR ANNOUNCEMENT – 9 a.m. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will discuss EPA's priorities in addressing climate change at a National Press Club Speakers' event. Location: 13th floor, 529 14th Street, NW. Contacts: Julia P. Valentine valentine.julia@epa.gov (202-564-0496, 202-564-4355).

FUTURE OF NEXTGEN – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. NextGen Institutes 2013 Annual Public Meeting: "NextGen – Successes and Challenges: Building a Path to the Future." Attendance is free but seating is limited. Speakers: AIA President and CEO Marion C. Blakey, Deputy Secretary of Transportation John D. Porcari; FAA Administrator Michael P. Huerta; Rep. Frank LoBiondo, (R-N.J.) Chairman, House Aviation Subcommittee; Rep. Rick Larsen, (D-Wash.) Ranking Minority Member of the House Aviation Subcommittee; Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell, (R-Alaska) Chairman of the Aerospace States Association (ASA); Mayor Michael B. Hancock, (D-Denver, Colo.). Location: Atrium, Department of Transportation Headquarters, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE. Contacts: Dan Stohr dan.stohr@aia-aerospace.org (703-358-1078, 703-517-8173)

OECD – AG MARKETS – GLOBAL OUTLOOK – 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Global Outlook on Agricultural Markets Hosted by USDA Economic Research Service (ERS). Chair: Mary Bohman, Administrator, Economic Research Service, US Department of Agriculture. Speakers: Wayne Jones, Head of Agro-food Trade and Markets, OECD Directorate for Trade and Agriculture; Stephen MacDonald, Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service, US Department of Agriculture; Tim Sulser, Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization; Neil Conklin,

President, Farm Foundation. Location: USDA/ERS Conference & Training Center, Patriots Plaza III, 355 E Street SW. Notes: Plan to arrive at 9 a.m. for security.

EDUCATION IN LATIN AMERICA – 10 a.m. Panelists: Emily Gustafsson-Wright, Guest Scholar, Center for Universal Education in Global Economy and Development Brookings Institution; Adriana Vilela, Education Specialist, Organization of American States; Ana Eugenia Garduno, Head of the Mexico Center, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Moderator: Peter Meyer, Analyst in Latin American Affairs, Congressional Research Service. Location: Congressional Meeting Room South, Congressional Visitors Center.

CIVIL RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT PROJECT – MEN AND BOYS – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Panel discussion on improving outcomes for African American men and boys. Speakers: Tracy Martin, Jahvaris Fulton, Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, Rev. Al Sharpton, National Action Network, Actor Malik Yoba, Isiah Thomas, Hall of Fame NBA player and Chairman and CEO of ISIAH International, Robert Townsend, Hollywood Icon and Producer, Judith Browne Dianis, Co-Director, Advancement Project, Bishop Victor T. Curry, Pastor of the New Birth Baptist Church, Joshua Dubois, Former Executive Office of the President, Office of Faith Based & Neighborhood Partnerships under President Obama, David Johns, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African-Americans, Dr. Dana L. Suskind, Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics Director, Pediatric Cochlear Implantation Program, Paul Wilson, Administrative Director, Office of Labor Relations Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Phillip Agnew, Executive Director, Dream Defenders and Robert Parker, 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Room 202B.

BPC – GENOMIC MEDICINE – 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Bipartisan Policy Center to Hold Interactive Policy Discussion on Advancing Personalized and Genomic Medicine: Exploring Information Needs and the Role of IT. Speakers: Edward Abrahams, PhD, President, Personalized Medicine Coalition; Alice Borrelli, Director of Global Healthcare Policy, Intel; Omri Gottesman, MD, Assistant Professor of General Internal Medicine, The Bronfman Institute for Personalized Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai ; Alice Leiter, Policy Counsel, Health Privacy Project, Center for Democracy and Technology ; Leonard Lichtenfeld, MD, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, American Cancer Society ; Andrew Litt, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Dell Healthcare & Life Sciences ; Janet Marchibroda, Moderator; Director, BPC Health Innovation Initiative ; Josh F. Peterson, MD, MPH, Director of Health Information Technology Evaluation, Assistant Professor of Bioinformatics and Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center ; Richard Schilsky, MD, Chief Medical Officer, American Society of Clinical Oncology ; Madeleine Smith, Director of Government Policy, GE Healthcare ; Jeffrey M. Trent, PhD, President and Scientific Director, TGen. Contact: Joann Donnellan (703) 966-1990 , jdonnellan@bipartisanpolicy.org Media RSVP: press@bipartisanpolicy.org. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 1000, 10th floor.

CATO – TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP – 11:30 a.m. The Trans Pacific Partnership: Race to the Finish, or Long Slog Ahead? Speakers: Jason Kearns, Chief Trade Counsel, House Ways and Means Committee (Democratic); Simon Lester, Trade Policy Analyst, Cato Institute; and Meredith Kolsky Lewis, Associate Professor, SUNY Buffalo Law School; moderated by Daniel Ikenson, Director, Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies, Cato Institute. Location: Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

US GREEN BUILDING COUNCILS SERIES – 11:30 a.m. Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson to Lay Out a Vision for Building Resiliency in America at the US Green Building Councils Series. Location: National Press Club, Bloomberg Room, 529 14th Street NW.

POW/MIA RECOGNITION – HAGEL, DEMSPEY – 11 p.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey deliver remarks the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony on the River Parade Field, Pentagon. Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 45 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the cordon.

WILSON CENTER – SOMALIA – SHEIKH MOHAMUD – 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. Somalia: A Conversation with President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. CONTACT: Maria-Stella Gatzoulis on the day of the event: tel. (202) 691-4188. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 6th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

PRESS CALL TO SAY "NO THANKS TO BOEHNER" – 2:30 p.m. US Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), ranking member of the House Budget Committee, US Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ), and health reform advocates will hold an

emergency press call to say no thanks to Speaker Boehner's threat of a Congressional showdown. DIAL-IN INFO: (805) 747-4187, 677876. Contacts: Jeremy Funk 202-470-5878, Lauren Weiner 202-470-5870.

DOD HONOR CORDON – SOMALIA – 4:45 p.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mahamud to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance. Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Parking Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the cordon.

JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG – 6:30 p.m. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be interviewed by Michel Martin, host of NPRs Tell Me More, at a dinner celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Womens Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program, the 20th anniversary of the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa program, and Justice Ginsburgs 20th year on the US Supreme Court and 80th birthday. MEDIA RSVP: mediarelations@law.georgetown.edu. Location: Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW.

NASSP GALA – DUNCAN – 7 p.m. Secretary Duncan will give remarks at the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) National Principal of the Year Awards Gala, where he congratulate winners and highlight the important role of school leaders. The gala will recognize outstanding middle and high school principals who succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as made exemplary contributions to the profession. Location: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Va. Contacts: Press Office press@ed.gov ((202) 401-1576)

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "A Brazilian hacker group launched a cyberattack against the NSA website in retaliation of the reports that the NSA spied on the Brazilian president. Unfortunately though, instead of hacking the NSA, they accidentally hacked NASA. And...that's why Brazilian hackers never win 'Wheel of Fortune.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "Last week Russian President Vladimir Putin wrote an opinion piece that was published in the New York Times. It was a letter directed at the American people and in response, Sen. John McCain just wrote his own op-ed that was published on a Russian news website. The piece was titled 'Russians Deserve Better Than Putin' and he really called Putin out. He exposed him for the thug that he is. He did. You have to give him credit for it. In fact, he dissed the Russian president so hard there's speculation he may have collaborated with Kendrick Lamar."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Unfortunately there was some confusion when it came to publishing the letter. McCain intended it to be published in 'Pravda,' which is one of Russia's oldest and respected newspapers. But instead it was published on the website Pravda.ru, which has no affiliation with the newspaper at all and it appears that the letter went through some kind of government filter before it was posted, which, I guess, isn't surprising for a country that still doesn't have freedom of the press. But what was surprising was the tone of the translation. It almost seemed friendly, which was not how it was intended. This is how it was translated, 'Vladamir Putin is very sexy man and very strong like bear or bull. If I were lady, I would sex him. I am not lady. Therefore, I envious his muscles and strong eyes, but not in gay way. Putin is hero! Signature, Poopy Pants McCain.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "The Fourth US Circuit Court of Appeals just made an interesting decision about Facebook. They said that liking something on Facebook is considered free speech and is therefore protected under the First Amendment. The case went to court because a former deputy sheriff in Virginia claimed he was fired for liking the Facebook page of the candidate running against his boss for sheriff. Which, the real takeaway is do not Facebook friend your boss under any circumstances."

Craig Ferguson: "It is also a great day for Russia. Or is it? Vladimir Putin says he's going to run for a fourth term as president in 2018. He has already decided. He has come up with a great campaign slogan: 'Vote for me or be executed.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Michelle Obama is a lovely lady, friend of the show. But ever since she started her 'Let's Move' campaign to combat childhood obesity, she's been cramming her pro-health agenda down our throats. Throats that should be packed with chili cheese fries."

Stephen Colbert: "I'm also not a huge fan of Barack. From day one I have vowed to stop Obamacare or die trying. And knowing my luck I'd almost die and then get nursed back to life by Obamacare."

Jay Leno: "If the Republicans and Democrats can't get together, there's a strong possibility of a Federal

government shutdown. You know what the legal definition of that is? A government shutdown is when Congress continues not to work, but they do it from home. See, they don't work. First of all, why do we call it a government shutdown? We are $17 trillion in debt. Why don't we call it a going out of business sale?"

Jay Leno: "Pundits say President Obama is starting to lose support from his own party. Give you an idea how bad it's gotten, today Jimmy Carter compared him to Jimmy Carter."

Jay Leno: "Syrian President Assad told Fox News that if he were ever to talk to President Obama, he would tell Obama to listen to your own people. Is he the one to give advice about listening to your own people, huh? His people are shooting at him. Really! Why don't you listen to them?"

Jay Leno: "According to a Fox News poll, most Americans don't understand Obamacare. You know why? Cause it's not in Spanish. That's why they don't understand it."

Jay Leno: "Critics are saying that Obamacare will require doctors to ask you about your sex life. See, that is outrageous. Because your sex life is between you and the NSA, okay? And nobody else has any right to listen in or see those pictures."

Conan O'Brien: "In a recent interview that just came out, a former mistress of Bill Clinton said that Hillary Clinton is bisexual. Yeah, today Bill Clinton said, 'It's true. When I want sex, Hillary says bye.'"

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Senate Questions for Record

Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Sep 20, 2013 at 1:02 PM
To: Jewell Sally (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

Sally,
Here are the QFRs from your June Senate hearing (word doc). Happy reading.
Laura

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

--

2 attachments

OMB cleared SOI SENR QFRs final version.docx
74K

SENR QFR Attachment 1.xlsx
18K

06.06.13 Full Committee Hearing the programs and activities of the Department of the Interior

FROM CHAIRMAN WYDEN

Question 1. In March, then Secretary Salazar responded to a letter from Sen. Murkowski and me inquiring about the status of the operations of the Federal Helium Reserve. The response stated that, under current law, the Helium Production Fund will terminate when the Department makes its final payment to the U.S. Treasury within 7 days after October 1, 2013. According to the letter, "when the Helium Production Fund terminates, the Department will lose the source of funds established to operate the Reserve and storage, transport and withdrawal facilities and equipment at the Cliffside Field. Absent action by Congress this would hinder or prevent management of the Reserve, including sales and revenue." Can you confirm that October 7, 2013 is a hard deadline for the continued operation of the Reserve, and that the matter requires the urgent action of Congress to prevent a supply disruption that will have severe consequences on major sectors of the economy, including advanced manufacturing?

Response: October 7, 2013 is a hard deadline. The Bureau of Land Management has already generated enough revenue during this fiscal year through currently authorized helium sales to pay off the debt at the beginning of FY 2014. In accordance with the Helium Privatization Act, the Department must make the final payment to the U.S. Treasury within 7 days after October 1, 2013, and, at that point the Helium Production Fund will terminate and the Department will lose the source of funds established to operate the Reserve.

2. What is DOI doing to assist states, like Oregon, who are trying to develop Sage Grouse plans and implement conservation measures to prevent the USFWS from having to list the Greater Sage Grouse on the ESA list?

Response: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to working with each state within the range of the species, including the State of Oregon, to develop a comprehensive conservation plan to address threats to greater sage-grouse and to provide timely feedback to states about their plans, both during plan development and upon completion of the plans. The Service has reiterated this commitment to the Governors' Sage-grouse Task Force and has also committed to providing the states with a more explicit framework and/or criteria to use to report their sage-grouse conservation efforts leading up to the 2015 decision. We are hopeful this approach will help the conservation community, including the states, accurately quantify and qualify the efficacy of its collective work to conserve sage-grouse and allow the Service to conduct a comprehensive and robust analysis of the species' status.

3. With the number of wild horses in holding facilities now surpassing 50,000, what concrete steps has the BLM taken to *reduce* the holding population? Has the agency analyzed Herd Areas from which wild horses have been eliminated to identify potential

habitat areas that would be appropriate for reintroduction of horses from holding facilities?

Response: The BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program is dedicated to reducing the population of wild horses and burros currently in holding facilities. When rangeland health concerns require the BLM to gather and remove wild horses and burros from public lands, the BLM actively works to place as many as possible into private care through adoptions and sales to good homes. Ford Motor Company and Take Pride in America have joined together through the Save the Mustangs Fund in support of the BLM's effort to place sale-eligible animals into good homes. In addition to humane sales and adoptions, the BLM recently delivered 300 non-reproducing wild horses to the first wild horse eco-sanctuary in Wyoming, and is currently conducting an environmental review for a proposed eco-sanctuary in Nevada.

Under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the BLM manages wild horse and burro herds within areas where they were found roaming in 1971. Section 1339 of the Act states that nothing in the Act "shall be construed to authorize the Secretary to relocate wild free-roaming horses or burros to areas of the public lands where they do not presently exist." In many herd areas where the BLM does not manage public lands for wild horse and burro use, herd reintroduction at this time is not possible because the lands were transferred out of BLM ownership; they were removed from wild horse and burro use through court decisions; they featured checkerboard land ownerships where water sources were not controlled by the BLM; they held substantial conflicts with other resource values; or they did not provide critical habitat components necessary to support a herd (such as winter range). BLM periodically reviews wild horse and burro use of public lands through its land use planning process.

4. The Bureau of Land Management recently re-proposed its rule on hydraulic fracturing that would apply to oil and gas operations on federal land. I want to encourage you to personally ensure that the BLM issues a strong final rule – one that provides for advance public disclosure of fracking chemicals; well integrity requirements; and sound water management, including baseline and follow-up monitoring.

- **<u>Advance Disclosure of Fracking Fluids</u> – Why shouldn't the public get advance notice of what fracking chemicals are used in their vicinity? I understand that the mix of chemicals can change after the drilling begins but why not have advance notice supplemented by updates if the mix of chemicals change?**
- **<u>FracFocus</u> – BLM proposes to rely on FracFocus, a private not-for-profit entity, as a means of public disclosure. However, I understand that there is no verification of the information that is posted by industry on that site. Also, the site doesn't conform to federal requirements regarding data and record retention. And it's not clear that regulators can enforce if false information is provided on a private**

website. Will the final rule require that any internet site relied on by BLM for public disclosure address these problems?

- **Backstop Standard -- At the Committee's Natural Gas hearing earlier this year, Frances Beinecke of NRDC raised an interesting point about having some sort of a national backstop standard to reassure the public that our water resources are protected, given the boom in hydraulic fracturing that is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. What do you think about that?**

Response: The revised proposal, on which the Department sought public comments until August 23, 2013, supports the Administration's commitment to an all-of-the-above approach to energy development by expanding domestic oil and gas production on public lands in a safe and responsible way in order to reduce our reliance on foreign oil imports. BLM's current regulations governing hydraulic fracturing operations on public and Indian lands have been on the books since 1983 and were not written to address modern hydraulic fracturing activities.

As indicated in the revised proposal, a number of comments were received requesting that BLM require up-front disclosure of the chemicals proposed for use in fracking fluid. In response, BLM noted that an analysis of the impacts from fracking is done as part of the National Environmental Policy Act analysis conducted prior to the issuance of permits and that, for this purpose, the exact composition of the fluid proposed for use is not required because chemicals used in the process are generally considered potentially hazardous for the purpose of impact analysis and mitigation. Also, operators will be aware that the rule requires disclosure of chemicals after operations are complete and operators will also be required to certify that the fluid used complied with all applicable permitting and notice requirements and all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations. Finally, operators would also be required to certify that wellbore integrity was maintained prior to and throughout fracking operations. Through these requirements, BLM believes that the post-fracturing disclosures and certifications would provide adequate assurances that fracking operations protect public health and safety and protect federal and Indian resources, and will ensure that the public is informed about the specifics of the actual fracking operations which are ultimately performed. Moreover, it is the practice in the industry for operators to change fracking contractors and for the fracking contractors to change the chemicals used for a variety of reasons. Thus, a prior disclosure rule would either provide the public with information of low reliability, or the operators would have to delay operations every time a chemical was changed from its previously filed plan. Neither of those options would promote the goals of the rulemaking.

Similarly, comments were received on the FRACFOCUS issue referenced in the question and were addressed in the revised proposal. BLM recognized and understood that FracFocus is in the process of improving the database with enhanced search capabilities to allow for easier reporting

of information. Moreover, information submitted to the BLM through FracFocus will still be required to comply with this federal rule, including its requirements that the operator must certify the information submitted is correct.

Finally, the Department agrees that it is important that the public has full confidence that the right safety and environmental protections are in place. The revised proposed rule will modernize BLM's management of hydraulic fracturing operations and help to establish baseline environmental safeguards for these operations across all public and Indian lands.

5. The Department of Interior has had an Acting Inspector General since February 23, 2009 – a period of more than four years – when the President appointed Earl Devaney to chair the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board. It is important that the Department of Interior have a permanent watchdog who can lead the 300 employees in its mission to "provide independent oversight and promote excellence, integrity and accountability within the programs, operations, and management of the Department of Interior." Will you work with the White House and the Committee to bring a qualified nominee to the Senate for confirmation?

Response: This is an important position and we will work with the White House to ensure continued excellence and integrity.

6 - 8. Less than a decade ago, energy experts said that coal, like natural gas, was a commodity the U.S. would be importing rather than exporting. But last year the U.S. exported 125 million tons of coal, the most in 30 years. Arch Coal estimates the nation's coal export capacity will double over the next five years, with proposed coal terminals in Oregon, Washington, as well as the Gulf and East coasts. With protection of federal and state revenue in mind, Ranking Member Murkowski and I wrote a letter in January that prompted the Office of Natural Resources Revenue to begin an audit of coal mined on federal land then sold to international buyers.

What progress has the Office of Natural Resources Revenue and its state audit partners made since the audits began earlier this year?

Response: In December 2012, ONRR formed a special task force that includes our state auditor partners to review U.S. federal coal mines located in the Powder River Basin through a risk-based audit and compliance action plan. ONRR is also working closely with the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) office as needed to provide a further check on overseas coal sales.

To date, the task force has reviewed all sales summaries and sales contracts submitted by federal coal lessees to ONRR for all PRB mines/leases. The goal was to identify whether additional documentation is needed to determine if reported transactions are U.S. coal export sales from federal leases involving non-affiliated or affiliated marketers or brokers and non-affiliated foreign companies. ONRR has also identified the universe of ONRR and State partners' completed or current audits of PRB coal mines/leases through a review of audit work plans covering sales in CYs 2009 through 2011. In addition, ONRR and its auditing partners in Wyoming and Montana are auditing all 15 producing federal Powder River Basin coal mines in their Fiscal Year 2013 and 2014 audit work plans.

The agency is using a risk-based strategy to narrow the number of leases and mines that are being audited. How many leases or mines have been identified as being in need of an audit, and what percentage of leases or mines being reviewed does this group represent?

Response: ONRR and its state audit partners are auditing all 15 producing federal PRB mines for calendar years 2009 through 2011, to verify whether export sales are occurring from a mine and whether coal lessees are properly valuing coal production under federal statutes, lease terms, and regulations.

FROM SENATOR LANDRIEU

Question 1. Do you support the implementation of some form of revenue sharing to coastal energy producing states, specifically the acceleration of GOMESA?

- **Do you believe that allowing coastal states to share in the revenues that they produce will allow those states to implement important coastal protection measures, protecting invaluable infrastructure, wilderness and population centers?**

Response: The Administration has been clear that all American taxpayers, who own the nation's natural resources and public assets, should get a fair return from the sale of the public resources. It is through continued rigorous dialogue with stakeholders that the Department, as steward of our public lands and waters, must strike the right balance of the interests of local communities and the public owners of the resource as the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy is advanced.

2. Do you see room for improvement in the current permitting system for on and offshore oil and gas development?

- **Specifically, do you see a way to bring the time required to process onshore permits on Federal lands more in line with the time required to process permits for practically identical private lands?**
- **Currently, one issue I hear come up frequently regarding offshore permitting is the issue of permits being "deemed received"- essentially, permits are being returned to their submitters multiple for spelling and other minor errors before they may be reviewed for technical criteria, slowing the process of permit submission and review. Do you support a commonsense reworking of this system to allow permits which are 100% technically accurate, but may have differing abbreviations or very minor typos to be considered without the process of return and resubmission?**

Response: The leasing reforms put in place by the Department in 2010 established an open and environmentally sound process for developing oil and gas resources on public lands in a manner that maintains a robust leasing system and provides certainty in acquiring federal oil and gas leases. We will continue to maximize efficiencies and to work with industry and the public to ensure that these resources are developed safely and responsibly, while also delivering a fair return to the American taxpayer, businesses and communities. As noted at the hearing, BLM is also taking steps to implement an online permitting system that is designed to reduce the time it takes to process drilling permits, and the bureau recently hosted an interagency meeting that included executives from multiple agencies to establish strategies for decreasing permitting times while improving environmental outcomes.

Offshore, BOEM has achieved substantial efficiencies in its review process for offshore oil and gas exploration and development plans, while requiring compliance with the heightened safety and environmental protection standards. Exploration and development plans for deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico submitted between October 2010 and October 2011 averaged 190

days from submission to approval. In contrast, since October 2011 these plans have averaged 125 days for approval. Similarly, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) achieved an average review time of 52 days for deepwater permits in 2012, down from 83 days in 2011, all while requiring compliance with the heightened safety standards. The FY 2014 budget includes a package of legislative reforms to bolster and back-stop administrative actions being taken to reform the management of Interior's onshore and offshore oil and gas programs, with a key focus on improving the return to taxpayers from the sale of these federal resources.

3. Though immunocontraception tools have been used on wild horses for research purposes, the BLM has vaccinated only a relatively small handful of horses over the years. The NAS indicates that this is the most promising technology that is available to humanely reduce population growth without resorting to removals.

- **Why has the BLM been seemingly so resistant to embracing and using the technology and how will you ensure that the agency begins to fully utilize this methodology to control wild horse population growth while limited or eliminating capture and removal of animals.**

Response: The BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program utilizes a variety of strategies to ensure herd populations are maintained within the land's capacity to support them. Since 1978, BLM efforts to safely and sustainably control herd population growth have included support for the development of an effective contraceptive agent. Several approaches developed in that time, were tried but abandoned as ineffective or impractical. The BLM currently utilizes the immunocontraceptive vaccine Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) in the formulations known as ZonaStat-H and PZP22; however, appreciable decreases in on-the-range herd growth rates as a result of these treatments have not yet been apparent – in part because too few mares were treated but also because the duration of effectiveness is too short lived. The President's Fiscal Year 2014 budget provides $2 million in funding for the implementation of recommendations made in the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) independent review of BLM wild horse and burro management practices. The BLM is currently considering the report's findings, and will evaluate contraception and population growth suppression recommendations for potential implementation on the range.

FROM SENATOR CANTWELL

Question 1. Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan: We've learned that climate change is causing more extreme storm events and changing seasonal temperatures and precipitation patterns in the Pacific Northwest. Some parts of the Cascades have already experienced a more than 30% decline in spring snow water melt-off over the past five decades, and the April 1st snowpack at mid and low elevation basins is projected to decline by 44% by the 2020s.

In the Yakima Basin, agricultural output is highly sensitive to water availability, and to potential impacts of climate change that increase the probability of water shortages. Expected annual crop losses due to water shortage increases are estimated to be $79 million by midcentury, roughly six times the historic average losses. While we need to begin reducing carbon emissions as much as we can and as soon as possible, natural resources will continue to be hurt due to the carbon pollution already in the atmosphere. In anticipation of coming water challenges, we've been working on long term management plans in Washington state. Particularly, the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan is the product of extraordinary work and compromise with many potential long term benefits for both farmers and the environment.

The tens of millions of dollars that Washington State has already contributed and is planning to contribute into the Integrated Plan demonstrate the commitment of a diverse group of stakeholders to ensuring adequate water supplies in Yakima valley and adequate flows for fish as the region faces increasingly erratic snow fall patterns. While we appreciate the Administration's inclusion of $8 million in its FY14 budget for enhancement projects in the Yakima River Basin, there will have to be a significant federal commitment over the long term to make this happen and realize all of these benefits. Former Secretary Salazar came to the Yakima Valley and expressed support for these efforts. Will you continue support for the Integrated Plan at the federal level, and will you give due consideration for funding projects on the Yakima River as part of the FY15 budget process that is already underway?

Response: The Administration's FY 2014 budget request included $8 million for the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, and due consideration will be given to funding programs and projects on the Yakima River as part of the FY 2015 budget process. In the meantime, the Department continues to partner with the Washington State Department of Ecology on the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Integrated Plan), along with the Yakama Nation, irrigation districts, environmental groups, and local and county governments.

Ongoing Departmental activities in the Yakima Basin include the completion of the Yakima River Basin Study under the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Basin Study Program, jointly funded with the Washington State Department of Ecology; coordination with basin stakeholders to implement early action items from the Integrated Plan; funding early action items

such as the Manastash Creek Project to increase instream flows and the Cle Elum Fish Passage; and the release of the Final programmatic environmental impact statement in March 2012. Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Ecology developed the proposed Integrated Plan, which has the strong support from basin stakeholders.

2. Wolf Management Funding: Montana and Idaho received over $500,000 in FY11 and FY12, and Wyoming has received over $300 over that time for wolf management activities. Over that same period, Washington, which was the only one of these states that currently had Endangered-Species-Act-listed wolves present, is expected to receive only $50,000 in FY13 for wolf activities. Washington received only $100,000 in FY12.

Do you feel that this disparity in funding levels is fair and equitable, given the greater burden on Washington State for managing the recovery of wolves under the Endangered Species Act? Will you work with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that adequate resources are available to implement the wolf recovery plan in Washington state?

Response: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been working closely with the State of Washington on their recovery plan for gray wolves and will continue to do so. Generally, once a species is delisted, the amount of funding available to assist in their management is reduced. When a species is delisted, a minimum of five years of post-delisting monitoring is required under the Endangered Species Act. Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho have and will continue to receive funds to support post delisting monitoring efforts until the five year period ends. Last year FWS also provided recovery funds to Oregon and Washington to assist in building capacity for wolf management and is also providing recovery funds this year.

FROM SENATOR STABENOW

Question 1. The State of Michigan is home to 36,000 miles of rivers of streams, many of which flow through major cities like Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. As you can imagine, these rivers face many challenges in an urban setting, including contamination, fish passage and spawning problems, and pollution run off. I am pleased that the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, which includes the Department of the Interior, will be working with the City of Grand Rapids on rehabilitating the stretch of the Grand River that runs through the city. This work is important in tackling problems that this river has faced for decades and serves as a good example of how people at the local, state, and federal levels can work together to support urban waterways nationwide. Could you please describe the plans of the Department of Interior's to work with our nation's cities on providing cleaner, safer rivers for our urban areas?

Response: The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is an innovative union of thirteen federal agencies that is improving coordination and collaborating with local community-led revitalization efforts. This program is a key component of the America's Great Outdoors initiative. By uniting landowners, businesses, nonprofit organizations, tribes, and local, state and federal agencies, we can lead the efforts to stop pollution of the waterways and make them safe for recreational use. In 2013, Grand Rapids was selected as one of 20 AGO national urban projects, as well as one of eleven new Urban Waters Federal Partnership locations. America's cities serve as centers for innovation and engines for economic growth. By coordinating efforts of federal agencies, and collaborating with community revitalization efforts, we can improve our nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental, and social benefits.

2. As you know, the National Park Services is facing $153.4 million in cuts due to sequestration. The timing of these cuts are especially concerning as we approach tourism season in the State of Michigan. My state is home to five national parks that attract millions of visitors each year, generating over $159 million for the economy.

The parks play an integral role in enhancing communities, business, and Michigan's way of life. For example, Isle Royale in Michigan's Upper Peninsula contributes an estimated $2 million to nearby communities. However, due to the cuts forced by sequestration, the park is shutting down facilities, reducing law enforcement, and will not be hiring staff to ensure visitors have access to safe drinking water. This will undoubtedly affect not only how the park functions, but the economic benefit the park provides for local communities.

What effect are you expecting the sequestration cuts to have in terms of economic impact and attendance at our nation's parks?

Response: In planning for the sequestration cuts, the National Park Service (NPS) took care to minimize the potential negative effects of sequestration on visitors. However, with a reduction of this magnitude, implemented in a compressed timeframe of seven months, the impacts are not entirely avoidable. The NPS has delayed road openings and reduced hours of operation for

programs and services. In addition, the NPS has hired about 1,000 fewer seasonal employees for the summer of 2013 than were hired last year and will leave approximately 900 permanent vacancies unfilled for the remainder of FY 2013. These actions are resulting in some diminished services for visitors. In addition, as parks adjust operating seasons and facility staffing schedules, we expect to see negative impacts to park entrance fee revenue, concession revenue, and the economies of gateway communities. However, we do not know the impact sequestration is having on park attendance, since attendance levels are based on a variety of factors.

3. As you know, the Department of Interior is a member of the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and shares responsibility for providing funds through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

I am glad the President's FY2014 Budget proposes to at least keep funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at levels similar to FY2013. It is imperative that the federal government continue to focus on projects that will improve and protect this region.

Since the start of the Initiative, the Great Lakes are experiencing a resurgence in Lake Sturgeon and other native fish populations, as well as reduced contamination by toxins. And as our hunters and anglers can attest, natural habitat has been restored in many areas.

The GLRI has also helped introduce new methods to combat the destructive sea lamprey eel, and is a key source of funding to address the growing threat of Asian carp to the Great Lakes region.

Can you please describe how the Department of Interior plans to work with other federal agencies to combat the spread of Asian carp and other invasive species?

Response: Protecting the Great Lakes ecosystems and fisheries from invasion by the Asian carp is a significant challenge. Confronting this issue is a major priority of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), an unprecedented regional collaborative effort under the Obama administration to restore ecosystem health in the Great Lakes. The FWS and the USGS, partners in the implementation of the GLRI, serve on the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, a multi-agency body that coordinates an intensive, comprehensive strategy with federal, state and local partners to stop the spread of Asian carp in the Great Lakes. The FWS is also providing technical assistance and support to the Great Lakes states to monitor for the presence of Asian carp. The USGS is researching use of seismic technology to contain Asian carp; determining the potential use of pheromones or food cues to herd Asian carp; and developing and improving existing molecular tools to detect Asian carp in areas of low abundance. USGS researchers are also working closely with private industry to develop chemical formulations for new control methods that can target specific aquatic invasive species.

FROM SENATOR MURKOWSKI

Question 1. The Land and Water Conservation Fund budget request is for a funding level of $600 million, which represents a nearly $300 million increase above the current level for DOI agencies and the Forest Service. Shouldn't these funds be used to pay down our maintenance backlog? With such an enormous maintenance backlog, why would DOI focus such a large amount of money on acquiring more federal land.

Response: The commitment for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, proposed by President Kennedy and enacted in 1964, is to use a portion of the proceeds from the development of our public lands and waters for investments in conservation and recreation for the benefit of all Americans. Enactment of a mandatory LWCF program would ensure continued funding for this program designed to balance investments in conservation and recreation with the development of oil and gas resources. This funding will provide stability needed for agencies and States to make strategic, long-term investments in our natural infrastructure and outdoor economy to support jobs, preserve natural and cultural resources, bolster outdoor recreation opportunities, and protect wildlife. The Department also takes seriously its responsibility to maintain facilities and infrastructure, and the budget request proposes $4.7 billion in fiscal year 2014 for core land management operations, a $141 million increase from 2012. Within this is $585 million for maintenance of our parks, refuges, and public lands, a $5 million increase from 2012. The Department is committed to working with the Committee to explore available opportunities for a long-term solution to these funding issues.

2. More generally, how do you reconcile additional federal land acquisition at this time of staggering national debt and maintenance backlogs?

Response: The land acquisition component of our budget request is a long-term investment as part of a balanced approach intended to protect our natural and cultural treasures. LWCF funds are used to acquire parcels to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States. Strategic land acquisition allows DOI to join with partners to conserve significant landscapes before they require more expensive efforts to sustain them, resolve conflict, and reduce landscape fragmentation making it more efficient to protect wildlife habitat, respond to wildfires, and other natural disasters and to improve access to recreational opportunities. Permanent authorization and mandatory funding also provide certainty for planning and accomplishing our priority conservation efforts, coordinated in concert with our state and tribal partners.

3. Recently, the National Park Service has closed a number of preserves in Alaska to certain methods of bear and wolf hunting or shortened the hunting seasons as defined by

the Alaska Board of Game. When instituting the closures, the NPS has cited "Park Values" in those closures. Please provide a definition of "Park Values." Please be specific.

Response: In the last several years, the State of Alaska has adopted measures to reduce predators in order to increase game (generally moose and caribou) for human consumption. State regulations that seek to manipulate natural wildlife populations for human consumption are inconsistent with NPS statutes, regulations, and policies. Section 101 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (P.L. 96-487) cites "values" among the purposes for establishing conservation areas. Section 1313 of the Act authorizes NPS to designate zones where and periods when to close or restrict hunting in preserves for reasons of public safety, administration, floral and faunal protection, or public use and enjoyment. Additional definition of park resources and values are found at Section 1.4.6 of the 2006 NPS Management Policies.

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

Response: In general, the State of Alaska manages wildlife within the State. In some cases, however, the federal government must act to ensure that State measures do not compromise wildlife conservation and management actions mandated by federal law. By law and policy, non-conflicting State general hunting and trapping regulations are adopted on lands within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) and on National Park Service (NPS) Preserves. However, there have been instances when State regulations created direct conflicts with federal statutes and policies underlying the management of NWRS and NPS lands. In those instances, it is appropriate for the federal government to act to supersede state regulations. For NWRS lands in Alaska, a number of statutes provide authority and directives, including the following three key statutes: the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the NWRS Administration Act (as amended), and the Wilderness Act. In addition, FWS policies 601 FW 3 (Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health) and 610 FW 2 (Wilderness Stewardship Policy) provide guidance as to actions that are allowable on NWRS lands.

Practices that are counter to NWRS requirements are also inconsistent with NPS statutes, regulations, and policies on wildlife management and hunting. Additionally, Title VIII of the Alaska National Lands Conservation Act provides for a subsistence priority on federal public lands in Alaska. Accordingly, it is also appropriate for the Federal Subsistence Board to override the State of Alaska's decisions if those decisions were contrary to Title VIII of ANILCA. Finally, we note that before regulations are issued, the proposals are subject to public notice and comment including from the State of Alaska, tribes, localities and interested stakeholders.

5. Last month, BLM released new draft regulations on hydraulic fracturing. While the new proposal did make some improvements over the previous draft, states are best positioned to regulate hydraulic fracturing that occurs within their borders. BLM appears to recognize the important role states play by including provisions that would allow for a

"variance" from these rules when state regulations "meet or exceed" federal law. However, it is unclear how this variance process would work.

Could a blanket variance from the regulations be provided if a state's rules "meet or exceed" federal law? If not, why not, and which regulations could a state not obtain a variance from?

Response: The revised proposed rule would allow for two kinds of variances. One would be proposed by an operator that has a technology that will be as effective in protecting the resources as a requirement in the rule. The other would be developed with a state or a tribe and would apply to all lands within that state or tribal lands, or in specific fields or basins.

An approved variance would allow the use of an alternative standard, technology, or process that meets or exceeds the hydraulic fracturing rule's protections of the public's resources and lands. However, variances are not necessary in many of the situations where a state's regulation meets or exceeds standards in the hydraulic fracturing rule. If an operator, through compliance with state rules, is automatically meeting the requirements of the hydraulic fracturing rule, no variance is necessary.

In those cases where compliance with state rules would not automatically put the operator in compliance with the hydraulic fracturing rule, the revised proposed rule would allow the BLM to approve a variance that would apply to all lands within a field, a basin, a state or within Indian lands and that would be based on the BLM's determination that it will meet or exceed the objectives of the regulation. The variance process would allow the BLM to work with States or tribes to appropriately adapt the regulatory requirements to the unique geology of an area or defer to a standard, technology, or process required or allowed by State or tribal government, as long as application of the standard, technology, or process meets or exceeds the objectives of the hydraulic fracturing rule. BLM would issue the variance in cooperation with the state or tribe. The variance would apply only to the requirements of the hydraulic fracturing regulations.

6. Once it's been determined that the state's regulations "meet or exceed" federal law, what federal obligations would remain for the regulated entity?

Response: The hydraulic fracturing rule contemplates that variances would be granted as to specific requirements under it. If BLM in cooperation with a state has issued a variance from certain provisions of the hydraulic fracturing regulation, then compliance with the state rules specified in the variance will be deemed compliance with the specific provisions of the fracking rule. All requirements of the Mineral Leasing Act, or the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands, other federal statutes and other all regulations would continue to apply to all lessees and operators.

7. BOEM is in the process of developing Arctic-specific regulations for the exploration and development of Alaska's OCS oil and gas resources. Exploration has been delayed in part because of the regulatory uncertainty surrounding oil and gas projects in the Arctic OCS.

What is the timeline for the development of these regulations? Is it your intent to have these regulations in place in time for a 2014 drilling season?

Response: The Department plans to have proposed Alaska OCS regulations published in the *Federal Register* by the end of 2013. As part of the process, the Department held Listening Sessions to obtain public comments in Anchorage and Barrow, Alaska, on June 6 and 7, respectively. We anticipate developing a performance-based approach that will fully inform BOEM and BSEE how lessees plan to achieve safe operations under the operating conditions likely to be experienced while drilling and while transporting equipment into and out of the Alaska operating theater.

8. How will you intend the new regulations to impact Exploration Plans and Oil Spill Response Plans for 2014?

Response: There have been no proposals received for 2014. Since it is unlikely the regulations will be in place for 2014, if a proposal were to be submitted for 2014, appropriate Arctic-specific standards would be put in place as conditions of approval for Exploration Plans and Oil Spill Response Plans.

One of the goals of the rulemaking is to codify and further develop Arctic-specific standards that were applied during the 2012 drilling season. As a result, these standards would be in place for all companies that may propose drilling offshore Alaska, rather than impose the standards on an operation-by-operation basis.

9. What will the stakeholder engagement process look like?

Response: BOEM and BSEE are already actively engaged in obtaining stakeholder input on the development of the proposed Alaska OCS regulations. The stakeholder engagement process began with public outreach efforts in the form of Listening Sessions, held in Anchorage and Barrow, on June 6 and 7. Public comments will also be accepted through Regulations.gov. In addition, BOEM and BSEE held more detailed meetings with industry, non-governmental organizations, State of Alaska, local government, and Native Alaskans and Tribes in Anchorage on June 17 through 19. The purpose of these follow-up meetings was to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of concerns and criteria for consideration in the proposed rules.

Stakeholder comments will be used to develop the scope of the Alaska OCS regulations and identify appropriate issues applicable for BOEM and BSEE oversight to ensure safe and responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and production on the Alaskan OCS. BOEM

and BSEE will develop draft regulations that addresses issues and goals identified during the comment period.

The proposed Alaska OCS regulations will be published in the *Federal Register*, and stakeholder input will again be solicited.

10. BOEM has worked with NMFS on the EIS for the impacts of oil and gas activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. There are major problems with this document, including development alternatives that are not realistic and the lack of participation from relevant agencies.

The Fish and Wildlife Service expressly declined to participate in the EIS, yet the EIS still analyzes impacts to polar bears and walruses – species for which the Service has trust responsibility. Why was this approach taken? Will these species be removed from the next draft? If not, please explain why not.

Response: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declined to be a cooperating agency on the Arctic EIS in 2010 because it had recently completed Environmental Assessments (EA) on the effects of oil and gas activities in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas on polar bears and Pacific walruses in conjunction with issuing Marine Mammal Protection Act Incidental Take Regulations (ITRs). The potential effects of oil and gas activities on polar bears and Pacific walruses had been adequately addressed in the ITRs and effectively considered in the EAs. Instead, the Service offered to provide copies of these EAs and an informal review and comment on the Draft EIS. The Service is currently reviewing the Draft EIS and, as appropriate, will provide feedback to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Since both the polar bear and Pacific walrus occur in the area of the Arctic EIS, the Service expects that NMFS would retain discussion of each in the Final EIS. The National Environmental Policy Act requires that all resources in an action area are analyzed in an EIS regardless of which agency has jurisdiction. Because polar bears and walruses are important resources in the Arctic region, NMFS must analyze any potential impacts to them.

11. The new draft also appears to cap each company to one drilling rig at a time per Sea. This is inconsistent with Exploration Plans previously submitted and approved by BOEM. Is it BOEM's intent to limit exploration in this way? If it is, what is BOEM's rationale for the change of course? If it isn't, will BOEM clarify this point in the next draft?

Response: NMFS is the action agency on the Draft Supplemental EIS (SEIS). The purpose of the Draft SEIS is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of seismic and exploration activities for the purpose of informing NMFS' decisions regarding authorizations for the incidental take of marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The seismic and exploration activities analyzed in the Draft SEIS are not limited to one drilling unit at a time per sea per company. The alternatives analyzed in the Draft SEIS consider up to four drilling units operating in each sea at one time.

It is important to note that a NEPA document is not a decision document; rather, it is an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with particular activities. BOEM will use the information in the Draft SEIS, as appropriate, to inform its own decisions for specific projects.

12. The new draft appears to have no timeline – for example, the last draft covered a 5-year period, this draft does not. Is there precedent for an environmental document with no timeline? What was the rationale for an open-ended document?

Response: The Draft Supplemental document provides an analysis of the potential environmental impacts of a reasonable range of OCS activities that changes and adds to the analysis begun in the 2011 Draft EIS.

13. How do you plan to ensure that this document is not used to limit exploration in the Arctic?

Response: As previously noted, the Draft SEIS is not a decision document but is an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with particular activities. BOEM will use the information in the Draft SEIS, as appropriate, to inform its own decisions for specific projects, and all decisions made will be consistent with statutory authority.

14. The Fish and Wildlife Service's draft conservation plan and EIS for ANWR did not include a development alternative for oil and gas in the coastal plain. The Service's rationale for this omission appears to be that development requires an Act of Congress. However, the draft plan included several alternatives for additional wilderness and wild and scenic rivers, which also require an Act of Congress.

Will the final conservation plan and EIS for ANWR include an oil and gas development alternative? If not, why not? And if the reason that the oil and gas development alternative was omitted is that, as a policy matter, the President does not favor oil and gas development for ANWR, on what legal basis has the oil and gas development alternative been omitted?

Response: The final conservation plan and EIS have not yet been finalized and, as such, it would not be appropriate to speculate as to the content of any final documents. However, any additional exploration would require Congressional authorization because it is currently prohibited under the terms of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

15. When do you expect the final plan to be released?

Response: While there is no date set for release of the plan, the FWS has completed its public engagement process and the plan and companion EIS are currently under review.

16. Last month, the State of Alaska presented an oil and gas resource evaluation and resource proposal for ANWR and offered to provide $50 million to help complete seismic work. Does the Department intend to move forward with the State's proposal? If not, why not?

Response: As noted in response to Q. 14, any additional exploration in the coastal plain would require Congressional authorization because it is currently prohibited by the terms of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

17. The U.S. Geological Survey has steadily reduced the amount of geological surveying that it conducts. These activities accounted for less than 9% of the USGS budget in FY 2012. The rest was spent on facilities, climate change research, and other activities. Yet the USGS has managed to use hyperspectral imaging to map 96% of Afghanistan with DOD funding. But only 5% of the U.S. has been mapped using these same technologies.

When the Afghan data was released, a DOD official stated that "The mineral resources in Afghanistan have the potential to completely transform the nation's economy." I agree that surveying is important, and that it facilitates investment, but American mineral resources provide an equally significant opportunity to transform our own economy.

For this reason, I sent a letter to the President – with a dozen of my Senate colleagues – explaining that we believe the next nominee for Director of the USGS should be an economic geologist. The position of USGS Director remains vacant, and it is clear to me that someone with a background in economic geology would be best suited to restore an emphasis on the activities contemplated by the agency's Organic Act. Do you agree?

Please share your perspective on mission creep at the USGS over the years, and any thoughts you might have on how to restore the agency's focus on conducting geological surveys.

Response: In 2014, the USGS will celebrate 135 years of providing the Nation with reliable scientific information. The Administration is evaluating potential nominees who will ensure strong leadership is brought to the USGS.

The Department, mainly through the USGS, serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life. Research on and assessments of the location, quantity, and quality of the Nation's

and world's mineral and energy resources, including economic and environmental effects of resource extraction and use, are supported through a range of USGS programs and provide valuable contributions to the President's "all-of-the-above" strategy for energy development. The USGS continually works to enhance its ability to bring its core strengths to bear on the challenges the Nation faces today and into the future.

Conducting geological surveys remains an important component of the USGS mission. Application of remote sensing technologies, such as the hyperspectral survey of Afghanistan funded by DOD, here at home in the United States is helping to delineate areas that may contain concealed mineral resources. A survey released at the beginning of this year of the U.S. mid-continent conducted by USGS minerals scientists imaged deep subsurface structures similar to those associated with mineral resources now being mined in Canada. The USGS's role in understanding the Nation's mineral endowment is essential to supporting national security and a robust economy. However, assessments of mineral and energy resource potential, using tools such as geological surveying or remote sensing, are but one component of the USGS's activities to produce decision-ready information. The 2014 budget requested support for several programs that will continue to enhance our understanding of domestic energy and mineral resources including $28.3 million for the National Cooperative Geological Mapping Program, which advances the understanding of earth-surface processes, groundwater availability and quality, and energy and mineral resources; $46.4 million for the Minerals Resources Program to support data collection and research on a wide variety of nonfuel mineral resources; and $31 million million for the Energy Resources Program, which addresses the challenge of increasing demand for energy sources by conducting basic and applied research on geologic energy resources and on the environmental and human health impacts of their production and use.

18. What is the process and current status of nominee selection for USGS Director?

Response: Science plays an important role at the Department and this is an important position. The Administration intends to ensure that USGS remains a world leader in basic research.

19. Alaska is the largest state in the United States. It has roughly 229 million acres of land in federal ownership, more than any other state in the country. The federal lands in Alaska alone exceed 36 percent of the total land area of the state of Texas, the second largest state in the nation. As a result, PILT payments make up the largest percent of federal land payments in Alaska. PILT payments have not gone out yet but are expected to go out sometime this summer. How will sequestration affect PILT payments?

Response: The 2013 authorized level for PILT payments is $421.7 million, which was reduced by $21.5 million due to sequestration. After administrative expenses, a total of $399.8 million is allocated for payments to counties.

20. When does the Department plan to make its PILT payments to states?

Response: On June 13, 2013, The Department announced it will be making payments to counties totaling $399.8 million; and payments were made that day to over 1,900 local governments. A breakdown of payments by state and county can be found at the following website: http://www.doi.gov/pilt/county-payments.cfm

21. You recently described the condition of our western forests as a tinderbox and called for more focus on reducing the hazardous fuel loads on public lands. Yet, the FY2014 budget proposal for the Department, if enacted, would result in steep budget cuts to your hazardous fuels programs – a 50 percent cut. What is the rationale behind these budget cuts?

Response: We expect the 2013 fire season to be an active one. The budget request provides funding to cover anticipated preparedness and suppression needs, and we developed a sequestration implementation plan that preserves our fire response capabilities in the short term. We have concerns that long-term effects of the sequestration are unavoidable. One of the difficult choices that this budget makes is a reduction to the hazardous fuels budget.

22. What do you understand the relationship to be between the Department's hazardous fuel reduction programs and its wildfire management program?

Response: The Department's Wildland Fire Management Program is a Department-wide program that funds fire preparedness, suppression, and rehabilitation activities carried out by the Department's land management bureaus (and the Bureau of Indian Affairs). Generally, hazardous fuels reduction activities are part of that program and are carried out to remove or modify wildland fuels to reduce the risk of intense wildfire behavior, lessen post-fire damage, limit the spread and proliferation of invasive species and diseases, and restore and maintain healthy, diverse ecosystems. Along with improving fire risk reduction and suppression, restoring fire-adapted ecosystems, and promoting community assistance, hazardous fuels reduction is one of the goals identified in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Consistent with the Strategy, the Wildland Fire Management Program is continuing to focus fuels reduction on the highest priority projects in the highest priority areas resulting in the mitigation of risks to communities and their values.

23. In Northwest Alaska, with the increase in ships transiting the Northwest Passage, there is a growing need for America to develop a northern Arctic port that can be used to base environmental cleanup equipment to aid with shipping accidents or oil and gas development or other activities in the Arctic. Soon, the U.S. Coast Guard will be turning back to your Bureau of Land Management a several thousand acre tract at Port Clarence, the site of now-abandoned Loran Station. Alaska's Bering Straits Native Corporation, the corporation representing Alaska Natives in the area, selected that site back in 1976 as one

of its prime land selections under terms of 1971's Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The Corporation is perfectly willing to reserve for the Coast Guard areas at Port Clarence for it to use for docks and air facilities for future operations. Options should be opened to speed development of one or more facilities to handle Arctic development needs.

Will you commit to work with Alaska to accelerate the Port Clarence land conveyance to Bering Straits once the Coast Guard's needs have been fully met in any agreement?

Response: The Department supports the goals of completing ANCSA entitlements as soon as possible so that Alaska Native corporations can take advantage of the economic benefits of completed entitlements. BLM is committed to exploring opportunities for completing the Port Clarence land conveyance in a manner that ensures the Coast Guard's needs are met in a timely fashion.

24. You recently stated that it is the Obama administration's position to build a "strong renewable energy portfolio on our public lands and water." This is evident in the Administration's approval of 45 solar, wind, and geothermal power projects on over 250,000 acres of federal land since 2009. Missing from this equation however, are sustainable hydroelectric power projects. Hydropower remains a viable, proven source of clean renewable energy and must be a part of our public lands energy portfolio.

Given ecological advancements in hydroelectric generation, the demand advantages of pump storage, and the promise of marine hydrokinetics, is this administration willing to take another look at hydropower projects on public lands and water?

Response: Hydropower remains a clean and efficient way to produce energy and is a renewable resource. The Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Energy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on March 24, 2010 to increase communication between federal agencies and strengthen the long-term relationship among them to prioritize the generation and development of sustainable hydropower.

And in 2011 Reclamation released the results of an internal study, the Hydropower Resource Assessment at Existing Reclamation Facilities, that estimated the Department could generate up to one million megawatt hours of electricity annually and create jobs by addressing hydropower capacity at 70 of its existing facilities. Last year Reclamation completed the second phase of its investigation of hydropower development. While the first phase focused primarily on Reclamation dams, the second focused on constructed Reclamation waterways such as canals and conduits, and estimated the Department could generate over 365,000 megawatt hours of electricity annually by addressing hydropower capacity on 373 of its existing canals. In total, the two studies revealed that an additional 1.5 million megawatt-hours of renewable energy could be generated through hydropower at existing Reclamation sites.

The budget allocates $1.1 million to increase clean renewable energy generation by exploring how renewable technologies including solar, small hydropower, and hydrokinetics can be integrated into Reclamation projects; by continuing the effort to optimize Reclamation hydropower projects to produce more energy with the same amount of water; by investigating hydro pump-storage projects that can help integrate large amounts of variable renewable resources such as wind and solar into the electric grid; and by working with Tribes to assist them in developing renewable energy sources.

25. How can the Department of the Interior assist in moving hydropower projects forward in their resource agency role in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing process? Please provide a list or a link to the list of hydropower projects currently under review in the Department.

Response: One of the goals of the MOU referenced in the previous response was to gather federal agencies involved in the permitting process, including the Department of the Interior and DOE's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to clarify the current processes for projects and development occurring at federal sites and facilities, and identify the most time-intensive and resource-intensive components of each process. DOE, Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also held a collaborative workshop in June of 2010 to identify ways in which processes could be shortened by reducing unnecessary delay, streamlined, or simplified for appropriate projects. Reclamation and its regional offices, power and water customers, investors, and developers have conducted several meetings to identify ways to improve the lease of power privilege (LOPP) process.

Reclamation developed a directive and standard in 2012 to provide standardized guidance for Reclamation offices and developers in permitting under the LOPP process. Since the signing of the MOU, there has been non-federal hydropower development interest and activity at 43 Reclamation sites through FERC and LOPP. The MOU agencies are continuing to move forward under the framework of the MOU by developing a new list of action items to be initiated between 2013 and 2015.

Attachment 1 to this document is a spreadsheet indicating projects under review in the Department. The first tab lists FERC projects under Reclamation review as of 7/2013, and includes all FERC projects on Reclamation facilities that are currently in development. The second tab lists all FERC projects under Departmental review, as indicated by DOI bureaus, as of 9/2012. This second list is currently being updated.

26. In 2010, the State of Alaska adopted a goal of meeting 50% of its energy needs with renewable energy by 2025. To help achieve this goal, in 2011 the Alaska State Legislature enacted legislation directing the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) to undertake the licensing and development of the Susitna-Watana Hydro Project.

To facilitate development of the Project, the State has requested BLM to open certain withdrawn federal lands in the Project area for the limited purpose of allowing title to

those lands to be conveyed to the State. These lands previously were selected by the State of Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act many years ago.

It is my understanding that BLM previously has followed a process that did not require amendments to the relevant Resource Management Plan to facilitate Alaska Statehood Act conveyances at other proposed and existing hydroelectric projects in Alaska. It also is my understanding that BLM has raised questions about its ability to follow this approach with respect to the Susitna land conveyances. Finally, I understand that BLM has a fair amount of discretion under the law regarding the procedural steps it will take to open the lands for conveyance to the State.

What is the likelihood that the administrative action of opening the Susitna lands for the limited purpose of allowing conveyance to the State may evolve into a time-consuming exercise that is likely to create greater risk of challenge and potentially delay development of the Project?

Response: The BLM's Alaska State Office is actively working with the State of Alaska and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to explore the possibility of opening the withdrawal and conveying state-selected lands related to the Susitna-Watana hydropower project. Several procedural and legal questions have been raised related to the request. The BLM is working to resolve these issues as quickly as possible.

27. Can you assure me that BLM will exercise it discretion in a manner that allows the Susitna lands to be conveyed in a timeframe that meets the State's schedule and that minimizes the risk of challenges and delay?

Response: As mentioned in the previous response, several procedural and legal questions have been raised related to the request to open the withdrawal. The BLM is working to resolve these issues as quickly as possible, and I have asked the BLM to keep you informed of the status of that effort.

28. Please describe the level of collaboration between the agencies of the Interior Department and the Department of State. How is this collaboration coordinated?

Response: The Department conducts international activities to accomplish its mission and support complementary U.S. foreign policy priorities. These cooperative activities include facilitating access to energy and mineral resources in an environmentally responsible manner; conservation and management of wildlife and other natural resources; protection of cultural resources; cooperation on indigenous affairs; and scientific research and monitoring of natural hazards such as volcanoes and earthquakes. The Department collaborates on these activities at all appropriate levels with the Department of State. Some interactions take place at the technical or field level. For example, DOI makes technical experts available for meetings with visiting foreign officials upon request of DOS, and coordinates with the relevant DOS and U.S. Embassy personnel when technical personnel carry out activities in foreign countries.

As needed, DOI and DOS leadership coordinate to provide appropriate management and guidance. For instance, the Secretary of the Interior accompanied the Secretary of State to the 2011 meeting of the Arctic Council in Greenland, to highlight U.S. government priorities involving Arctic natural resource management.

29. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, and other Interior Department agencies have international programs. Is there a Department-level strategy to coordinate these various efforts?
Response: While there are clear linkages between some of the bureaus' international activities, such international activities are shaped by bureau program goals and through the budget process, in coordination with complementary foreign policy goals set by DOS. The Secretary has delegated the authority to coordinate DOI international activities to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget in order to maximize effectiveness and efficiency. By facilitating meetings and exchanges of information as needed, AS-PMB personnel help bureaus identify activities where they can work most effectively with each other, as well as with DOS and other federal agencies. Through this flexible approach, DOI and its bureaus work to ensure strategic coordination across their international activities.

30. Are any Interior Department personnel currently deployed in Afghanistan or Iraq?

Response: With the understanding that the term "deployment" means long-term stationing, the Department does not currently have personnel deployed in Afghanistan or Iraq. However, Departmental personnel do travel to those countries on occasion, pursuant to coordination with relevant agencies such as DOS and DOD.

31. Please provide an overview of the recent trends in Reclamation's maintenance backlogs, including trends over the past ten years.

Response: Reclamation's anticipated expenditures for major rehabilitation and replacement (MR&R) needs, which are focused on its aging infrastructure, have been relatively steady, totaling approximately $3 billion for a five-year time horizon. Reclamation began compiling its MR&R needs in 2008, which initially totaled $3.2 billion. The most recent annual update, at the end of fiscal year FY 2012, totaled $2.5 billion (five year outlook). Some of this decrease can be attributed to the completion of work activities in recent years, but most of the decrease is reflective of continued data verification and validation which has occurred over these years.

These MR&R estimates have been compiled for all facilities based on current conditions, at the major facility level, and irrespective of the source of financing. It should be noted that of the FY 2012 estimated total (five year outlook), approximately 50 percent was related to activities funded through annual appropriations.

As defined in the amended Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standard No. 6, "deferred maintenance and repairs" are maintenance and repairs that were not performed when they should

have been or were scheduled to be and which are put off or delayed for a future period. Deferred Maintenance (DM) amounts have been reported by Reclamation since FY 1998 for reserved works assets only; no mission critical maintenance is deferred.

DM is reported on the amount of maintenance that was scheduled, but not completed, and Reclamation does not "project" DM into the future. The trend over the last ten years has been for increasing DM.

32. What are the plans or expectations for each of these backlogs going forward (e.g., steady state, significant increases, decreases)?

Response: Reclamation has been constructing water, power and associated facilities for over 111 years, and many of these facilities now have an average age of over 50 years. Although Reclamation has lengthened the service lives of many of these facilities through its preventive maintenance activities, a number of these facilities are showing increased operations and maintenance needs.

33. What is the average amount of time it takes Reclamation to address a deferred maintenance project, from the time it is documented to the time the project is complete? (If exact statistics are not available, please provide an approximation.)

Response: Reclamation tracks and reports an accumulated deferred maintenance amount for its reserved works facilities, which, at the end of FY 2011, was slightly more than $128 million. A certain amount of DM is typical for the "utility-type" missions that Reclamation is responsible for, and there is no expectation that this amount will be significantly reduced or eliminated in the foreseeable future under the current budget climate.

DM continues to be completed within reasonable timeframes, and Reclamation is adequately managing its accumulation of DM. The data on accumulation of DM on Mission Critical Assets demonstrates that, over time, DM identified in one year is addressed and generally becomes a smaller percentage of the overall outstanding DM in subsequent years.

34. In recent years, deferred maintenance needs doubled in one region (Mid Pacific, FY2007-FY2008) and tripled in another (Great Plains, FY2010-FY2011). Please provide a more detailed explanation for these major increases. Are similar increases expected for other regions in future years?

Response: The doubling of deferred maintenance from FY 2007 to FY 2008 was almost entirely due to the Mid Pacific Region bringing outstanding DM work up to current prices. Between FY 2010 and FY 2011, the reported DM for the Great Plains Region tripled due to management decisions to reschedule and do more research to determine the best methods to complete the

work. Similar increases are not expected, but are possible in the future as each region continues to evaluate the way maintenance is managed and addressed.

35. What is the status of Reclamation's loan guarantee program authorized under P.L 109-451? What actions has OMB requested as needing to be complete, as referenced in the FY2011 AMP, for this program to be implemented?

Response: P.L. 109-451 authorized loan guarantees for certain rural water supply projects; operation and maintenance of facilities authorized by or under contract pursuant to Reclamation law, and improvements to some existing Bureau of Reclamation water projects. Reclamation requested public comment on a proposed rule to implement the loan guarantees program published in the Federal Register on October 6, 2008. The proposed rule established criteria to determine eligibility of entities to use loan guarantees to fund Rural Water projects, as well as extraordinary maintenance and rehabilitation for existing federal facilities. Reclamation received comments from 14 entities mainly dealing with: 1) the appropriate portion of loans to be guaranteed; and 2) using loan origination fees to offset appropriations needed to fund the program. The rule has not been finalized. Authority for the program will end in December 2016.

36. Why have no requests been made for the long-term extended repayment of extraordinary operations and maintenance costs (XOM) under Title IX of P.L. 111-11? Have any users approached the Administration or requested to use this funding? What actions could Congress take to facilitate usage of this program?

Response: Reclamation has received five requests for funding and repayment under Title IX. All five requests have been approved; however, only three of the requesting entities chose to move forward with the funding. Two of the entities opted to use their own funds for the necessary XOM costs after the request for Title IX funding and repayment had been approved. Reclamation is aware of an additional request that is in preparation at this time for XOM funding and repayment under Title IX.

FROM SENATOR BARRASSO

Question 1. A. What is the current estimate for Reclamation's indicated maintenance backlog? B. What are the plans/expectations for each of these backlogs going forward (e.g., steady state, significant increases, decreases)?

Response: Reclamation's anticipated expenditures for major rehabilitation and replacement (MR&R) needs have been relatively steady, totaling approximately $3 billion for a five-year time horizon. Reclamation began compiling its MR&R needs in 2008, which initially totaled $3.2 billion. The most recent annual update, at the end of fiscal year FY 2012, totaled $2.5 billion (five year outlook). Some of this decrease can be attributed to the completion of work activities in recent years, but most of the decrease is reflective of continued data verification and validation which has occurred over these years.

These MR&R estimates have been compiled for all facilities based on current conditions, at the major facility level, and irrespective of the source of financing. It should be noted that of the FY 2012 estimated total (five year outlook), approximately 50 percent was related to activities funded through annual appropriations.

As defined in the amended Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standard No. 6, "deferred maintenance and repairs" are maintenance and repairs that were not performed when they should have been or were scheduled to be and which are put off or delayed for a future period. Deferred Maintenance (DM) amounts have been reported by Reclamation since FY 1998 for reserved works assets only; no mission critical maintenance is deferred. DM is reported on the amount of maintenance that was scheduled, but not completed, and Reclamation does not "project" DM into the future. The trend over the last ten years has been for increasing DM.

Reclamation has been constructing water, power and associated facilities for over 111 years, and many of these facilities now have an average age of over 50 years. Although Reclamation has lengthened the service lives of many of these facilities through its preventive maintenance activities, a number of these facilities are showing increased operations and maintenance needs due to age.

2. In the FY 2011 Asset Management Plan (AMP), Reclamation notes a total of $1.3 billion for "Other RAX" items (i.e., not deferred maintenance or dam safety). Is it accurate to say that Reclamation's indicated maintenance needs for non-Dam Safety projects are $1.3 billion?

Response: Other Replacements, Additions, and Extraordinary Maintenance (RAX) items are those items that have been identified and scheduled to be completed within the next five years

but do not fall under any of the other three criteria. It would be accurate to say that "Other RAX" items are non-Dam Safety projects.

"Indicated/identified maintenance" is maintenance that is recognized as needing to be accomplished and may or may not be scheduled by the office responsible. Most indicated/identified maintenance on mission critical reserved works is identified either in Reclamation's annual budget process, or through advanced funding agreements from Reclamation's (mostly power) customers. Other indicated maintenance is identified through Reclamation's Facility Reviews and Review of O&M Program Examination of Associated Facilities.

3. Does the Bureau of Reclamation maintain a listing, including dollar amounts, of Reclamation's deferred and indicated maintenance needs at the project level? How much of this information is publicly available?

Response: Reclamation currently tracks deferred and indicated maintenance needs at the project level and is annually reported as part of Reclamation's Major Rehabilitation and Replacement (MR&R) needs. Reclamation's 2012 MR&R needs are approximately $2.5 billion.

Reclamation also reports the deferred maintenance (DM) five year plan as required by the Department of the Interior's Budget Guidance Attachment G. The five year plan only lists those projects reported in the MR&R that have been scheduled to be completed within the five year timeframe. Depending on the reporting period, some projects may fall before or after the reporting time period and therefore would not be included in the five year plan.

4. In recent years, deferred maintenance needs doubled in one region (Mid Pacific, FY2007-FY2008) and tripled in another (Great Plains, FY2010-FY2011). Please provide a more detailed explanation for these major increases. Are similar increases expected for other regions in future years?

Response: The doubling of deferred maintenance from FY 2007 to FY 2008 was almost entirely due to the Mid Pacific Region bringing outstanding DM work up to current prices. Between FY 2010 and FY 2011, the reported DM for the Great Plains Region tripled due to management decisions to reschedule and do more research to determine the best methods to complete the work. Similar increases are not expected, but are possible in the future as each region continues to evaluate the way maintenance is managed and addressed.

5. How is "indicated maintenance" tracked?

Response: "Indicated/identified maintenance" is maintenance that is recognized as needing to be accomplished and may or may not be scheduled by the office responsible. Most

indicated/identified maintenance on mission critical reserved works is identified either in Reclamation's annual budget process, or through advanced funding agreements from Reclamation's (mostly power) customers. Other indicated maintenance is identified through Reclamation's Facility Reviews and Review of O&M Program Examination of Associated Facilities.

6. A. Is Reclamation's Facility Reliability Rating (FRR) information publicly available? B. Where would the public find this information?

Response: The percentage of water infrastructure in good condition, as measured by the FRR, is available to the public. The details of the FRR criteria and scoring specific to each facility are available only within Reclamation.

The percentage of water infrastructure in good condition, as measured by the FRR, can be found at: http://www.doi.gov/bpp/upload/DOI_FY2011-FY2016_StrategicPlan.pdf

7. What is the process for tracking and reviewing maintenance needs on transferred works, and how does it differ from the process for reserved works?

Response: Essentially, the operating entities for transferred works facilities are responsible for the day-to-day tracking and reviewing (and funding) of related maintenance needs. As part of Reclamation's oversight responsibilities of these facilities, Reclamation is aware of general performance of routine maintenance activities and most extraordinary maintenance needs through the MR&R estimates.

These MR&R estimates are compiled for all facilities based on current conditions, at the major facility level (e.g., dam, canal system, power plant, major pumping plant, pipeline, etc.), and irrespective of the source of financing (e.g., appropriated monies, power financing, funding agreements, revolving funds, non-appropriated funds used by operating entities of transferred works, etc.).

8. A. What portion of transferred works do not track performance data for the Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP)? B. Are there any estimates as to the cost of compliance with these metrics?

Response: Reclamation's Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP) reporting is at the major asset level for transferred and reserved works. The metrics for these assets are computed and reported as part of the FRPP. The estimate of cost of compliance is currently not available.

9. A. Has the Administration considered how it could improve its approach to tracking and addressing maintenance needs at transferred works? B. What options are available to you to address maintenance needs at transferred works?

Response: It is important to note that much of the O&M funding responsibilities of Reclamation's assets lies with our project beneficiaries and those operating entities that O&M Reclamation's transferred works facilities. For some operating entities and project beneficiaries, rehabilitation and replacement needs may exceed available resources. In particular, many smaller irrigation or water conservancy districts are unable to fund these needs in the year incurred absent long-term financing assistance. To address this issue, the Administration is currently developing a strategy for appropriate implementation of a program of loan guarantees, as authorized in P.L. 109-451, to assist water users in financing costly rehabilitation and replacement of project facilities. We are also exploring opportunities for utilization of the authority provided under P.L. 111-11 to allow extended repayment with interest of extraordinary (non-routine) maintenance costs on project facilities. Water users are currently required by Reclamation law to pay these costs, often substantial, in advance.

10. Page 28 of the AMP notes that indicated maintenance is identified in Reclamation's annual budget process, through examination of facilities, or arrangements with customers. To what extent does Reclamation track indicated maintenance for transferred works?

Response: Most indicated/identified maintenance on mission critical reserved works is identified either in Reclamation's annual budget process, or through advanced funding agreements from Reclamation's (mostly power) customers. For transferred works, where maintenance needs are identified as part of formal O&M recommendations, which result from facility reviews, such recommendations are tracked until completion through Reclamation's electronic database tracking system (i.e., Dam Safety Information System.)

It is important to note that much of the O&M funding responsibilities of Reclamation's assets reside with our project beneficiaries and those operating entities that O&M our transferred works facilities.

The following questions were submitted on April 8th during your confirmation process. With respect to each of these questions, you responded that it would be "premature and inappropriate" to answer until you were confirmed.

11. What specific steps, if any, will you take to expedite the Department's preparation and completion of environmental impact statements for large scale coal, oil and gas, and uranium projects on Federal public lands?

Response: The Department's view has been that in most cases existing environmental review provisions do not unduly delay project development and, at the same time, provide for important public input into the process and ensure environmental health and safety in the management of the public lands. However, Departmental staff understand the value of expedient environmental review and its importance for efficient decision making by both businesses and government. The leasing reforms that were implemented in 2010 established an orderly, transparent, and environmentally sound process for developing resources on public lands in a manner that has maintained robust leasing and permitting. These reforms focused on increasing predictability and certainty for stakeholders, including industry, and restoring needed balance with comprehensive upfront analysis added to the development process. We will continue to work toward increasing efficiency and decreasing the time necessary for completion of these reviews.

12. A. Do you believe States and local governments which would be impacted by settlement agreements between the Department and environmental groups should have a say in such agreements? B. Will you agree not to enter into any settlement agreement unless the States and local governments which would be impacted by the agreement are party to the agreement?

Response: : Unfortunately, litigation is a common occurrence when implementing the numerous statutes under our jurisdiction. We agree that the Department's resources are best spent on implementing these statutes than on litigation. However, often settlement is the most prudent course. Much of our litigation involves missed mandatory statutory deadlines. In each of these cases, before any settlement is entered, its merits are carefully reviewed, in conjunction with our colleagues at the Department of Justice, to ensure it is in the interest of the United States. In such settlements, we do not commit to any substantive outcomes, but rather only to making otherwise statutorily required determinations by a date certain. All of these agreements are approved by a court. Before any determination called for in a settlement agreement has regulatory effect, it is subject to public notice and comment, including from States and local governments if they so desire.

13. Will you commit to supporting the principles of S. 258, the Grazing Improvement Act to streamline the renewal process for grazing permits and extend the term of a grazing permit from 10 to 20 years?

Response: As stated in the Department's statement at the April 2013 hearing on this legislation, the Department shares the interest in identifying opportunities for increasing efficiencies in public land grazing administration and for finding ways to make permit renewal less complex, costly, and time-consuming. The Department also supports the concept of having the flexibility to issue, in certain circumstances, longer term permits. The Department supports a solution that achieves these goals without limiting the BLM's ability to provide for appropriate environmental review and public involvement, critical components of the BLM's multiple-use management of the public lands.

14. What do you plan to do, or what specific actions will you take to ensure the Department complies with the National Environmental Act in a more timely fashion? What specific ways is the Administration proposing to "modernize NEPA" as you put it?

Response: As noted in the response to question 11, the Department's view has been that in most cases existing environmental review provisions do not unduly delay project development and, at the same time, provide for important public input into the process and ensure environmental health and safety in the management of the lands that belong to them. However, we understand the value of expedient environmental review and its importance for efficient decision-making by both businesses and government. The leasing reforms that were implemented in 2010 established an orderly, transparent, and environmentally sound process for developing resources on public lands in a manner that has maintained robust leasing and permitting. These reforms focused on increasing predictability and certainty for stakeholders, including industry, and restoring needed balance with comprehensive upfront analysis added to the development process. We will continue to work toward increasing efficiency and decreasing the time necessary for completion of these reviews. The Administration, through the Council on Environmental Quality, has made public a number of proposals to strengthen and modernize NEPA. Detailed discussions of those proposals and related information can be found at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/nepa.

FROM SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question 1. If legislation is not enacted extending BLM's authority, will BLM have to stop private sales of helium from the reserve when the BLM makes its final payment to the U.S. Treasury sometime around October?

Response: The Bureau of Land Management has already generated enough revenue during this fiscal year through currently authorized helium sales to pay off the debt at the beginning of FY 2014. In accordance with the Helium Privatization Act, the Department must make the final payment to the U.S. Treasury within 7 days after October 1, 2013, and, at that point the Helium Production Fund will terminate and the Department will lose the source of funds established to operate the Reserve.

2. Since the reserve represents about half of U.S. helium supply the concern is that if the reserve closes, a helium shortage would follow. Does the BLM have emergency authority to sell helium to prevent an economic disruption or would Congress have to act first?

If Congress does not act, will BLM still have the authority to operate the reserve for federal use? If so, how will BLM fund the operations?

Response: The BLM helium program's operational expenses are funded by the Helium Production Fund, as authorized in the Helium Privatization Act of 1996 (HPA). Once the Department makes the final payment to the U.S. Treasury, by operation of law, the Helium Production Fund will terminate and the Department will lose the source of funds established to operate the Reserve. The BLM does not have an alternate source of funding for the helium program.

FROM SENATOR TIM SCOTT

Offshore Atlantic

Question 1. The investment to collect seismic data is only worth something to energy producers if there is the future prospect of being able to lease in the areas where new data shows there are resources. When President Obama came into office nearly all off America's offshore was available to lease. Unfortunately, the President's restrictive 5-year lease plan eliminated the Mid and South Atlantic offshore areas from the 2012-2017 plan and only left 15% of America's offshore available to lease.

- **Given that we still need to collect seismic data in these areas to update our current resource estimates, do you think that government, through the reorganization of the MMS and the implementation of new regulations—and the industry, through the development of new and the creation of the Center for Offshore Safety—have made sufficient progress to consider future leasing in the Mid and South Atlantic offshore areas?**

Response: By applying modern seismic interpretation techniques to existing data and incorporating more recent information from geologically analogous offshore regions worldwide, BOEM has made significant progress in updating their resource estimates as reflected in their 2011 National Resource Assessment. BOEM is proceeding with a region-specific strategy in the area that focuses on the need to update information in order to inform future decisions about whether and, if so, where leasing would be appropriate.

- **If so, when will you direct that the development of a new 5-year Plan begin?**

Response: In order to comply with all statutory requirements and have a new program in place July 1, 2017, we envision we will begin the process in late 2014 or early 2015.

- **If not, what else do you see that needs to be done (outside of collecting new seismic data)?**

Response: Collection of new seismic data is not a pre-requisite to developing the next Five Year Program. BOEM has begun informal efforts to put in place the data, procedures, and agreements necessary to begin the preparation of the next Five Year Program. One example is BOEM's work with the Department of Defense on complex issues relating to identifying and mitigating multiple or conflicting use issues.

National Ocean Policy

2. On August 21, 2012 John Holdren and Nancy Sutley sent a "Memorandum for the heads of departments and agencies" with the subject "National Ocean Policy Implementation Guidance for the FY2014 Budget" to your agency and others instructing DOI to present to

OMB, along with their FY14 budget proposals, "an explanation of their continuing efforts and plans to comprehensively support the goals and objectives of the National Ocean Policy through existing ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes programs."

- **Did you make such a presentation to OMB and include the National Ocean Policy budget explanation?**

Response: The Department did make a presentation.

- **If so, please provide a copy of DOI's National Ocean Policy budget explanation as requested in the memo.**

Response: The budget explanation and related material are internal, deliberative Executive Branch communications. However, an explanation of most of the programs addressed in this memo, and some program accomplishments, are contained within the Federal Ocean and Coastal Activities Report for FY 2010-11, which was transmitted to Congress on July 19, 2013.

- **How many people within DOI worked to draft this explanation? If not, why did you not make such a presentation to OMB?**

Response: One person from each of the participating bureaus (BLM, BOEM, BSEE, FWS, NPS, OIA and USGS) selected applicable information from data already assembled for the budget development process, accomplishment reports and similar existing sources. One person at the Department assembled the information into the memorandum.

3. The same memo references the importance of "Regional Efforts" in implementing the National Ocean Policy.

- **What efforts if any have been made by DOI to coordinate, work with or partner with local entities in South Carolina and the Southeast as a whole, including but not limited to State and Tribal entities and authorities and local and national non-governmental organizations?**
- **If none, are there currently plans for any such efforts in the future?**

Response: The Department's work related to South Carolina under the National Ocean Policy is largely conducted through the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (the Alliance) comprised of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. These States have joined together to work on various ocean- and coastal-related issues, with an emphasis on Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters, Working Waterfronts, Disaster Resilient Communities, and Healthy Ecosystems. The Department has been a supporting partner to the Alliance since its inception four years ago, and provides support at all levels of the Alliance with personnel from the USGS, FWS, and NPS stationed in those States. These bureaus also cooperate directly with the State of South Carolina, tribes and stakeholders on many programs, including those related to ocean and coastal areas, but as this is part of their normal operations, the Department does not track those efforts.

4. How many people at the Department of the Interior are working on implementation of National Ocean Policy? How much of their time is dedicated to working on the National Ocean Policy? Have any additional hires at DOI been made to specifically work on or coordinate with others who are working on the National Ocean Policy?

Response: A large number of individual employees work on actions related to implementation of the National Ocean Policy as part of their regular work. The actions to implement the Plan on which the Department is engaged, as set out in the May 2013 Implementation Plan, are all directly related to the statutory responsibilities and on-going work of the Department and its participating bureaus. Many of these actions are work long underway which is now being better coordinated with other agencies, resulting in more productive use of resources. Because of this, we do not know nor could we readily determine how many employees are involved. The Department has not hired anyone to work specifically on or to coordinate with others who are working on the National Ocean Policy, although the Department's Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Activities office has played a significant supporting role in this matter.

5. In your view, what are the immediate and long term goals for DOI in the implementation of the National Ocean Policy?

Response: The Department supports the long-term goals of the National Ocean Policy as set out in Executive Order 13547. These are to ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, enhance the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, preserve our maritime heritage, support sustainable uses and access, provide for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change and ocean acidification, and coordinate with our national security and foreign policy interests. The intermediate goals of the Policy are set out in the Implementation Plan, and are focused on several priority areas – the Ocean Economy, Safety and Security, Coastal and Ocean Resilience, Local Choices, and Science and Information needed to support those priorities.

6. How has the implementation of the National Ocean Policy impacted or influenced the current programmatic EIS being conducted in the Atlantic for the assessment of the oil and natural gas resources in the OCS?

Response: The development of the Programmatic EIS incorporates the guidance of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. It takes an ecosystem based approach to assessment of environmental resources, is fully transparent, provides for stakeholder input through NEPA public review opportunities, and makes use of the best available science and data to inform the analysis. It also increases efficiencies in decision-making as the Programmatic EIS was developed to meet the NEPA environmental analysis needs for both BOEM and the National Marine Fisheries Service, thereby avoiding duplication of efforts and generating cost savings.

7. How do you see implementation of the National Ocean Policy impacting the potential for portions of the South Atlantic planning area to be included in the next 5-year offshore leasing plan?

Response: The marine planning information in the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan lays the groundwork for all stakeholders to be involved in identifying multiple ocean uses and resources in the South Atlantic planning area. BOEM anticipates the affected States and South Atlantic Regional Planning Body, when established by the region, to play important roles in providing local perspective in future planning for this area.

FROM SENATOR PORTMAN

Question 1. I have been told that on October 7, 2013, barring Congressional action to authorize the continuation of the Helium Production Fund, BLM will not be able to operate or maintain the Federal Helium Reserve. Is this your understanding?

Response: The Bureau of Land Management has already generated enough revenue during this fiscal year through currently authorized helium sales to pay off the debt at the beginning of FY 2014. In accordance with the Helium Privatization Act, the Department must make the final payment to the U.S. Treasury within 7 days after October 1, 2013, and, at that point the Helium Production Fund will terminate and the Department will lose the source of funds established to operate the Reserve.

2. Are there administrative actions which could be taken that would allow BLM to continue to deliver crude helium to refiners for processing and delivery for end market users?

Response: The helium program's operational expenses are funded by the Helium Production Fund, as authorized in the Helium Privatization Act of 1996 (HPA). Once the Department makes the final payment to the U.S. Treasury, by operation of law, the Helium Production Fund will terminate and the Department will lose the source of funds established to operate the Reserve. The Department does not have an alternate source of funding.

3. Do you agree that the upcoming centennial is an excellent opportunity to engage all of those who utilize and benefit from our national parks in helping prepare for their future?

Response: The centennial of the National Park Service in 2016 is an exciting opportunity to engage all American's, including park visitors, the public in general, and local civic and business communities.

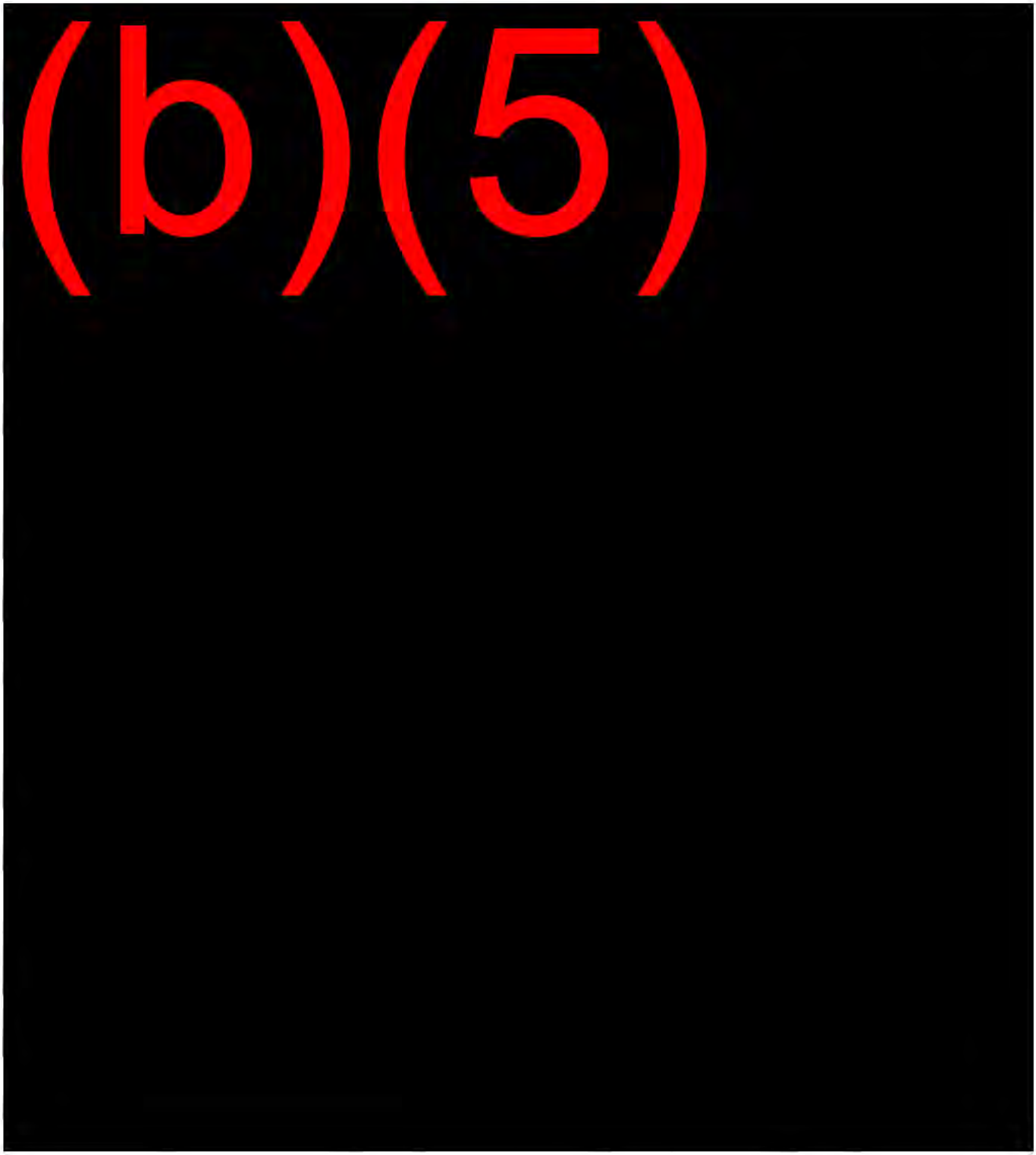
4. How does the Department intend to engage the private sector in the upcoming NPS centennial?

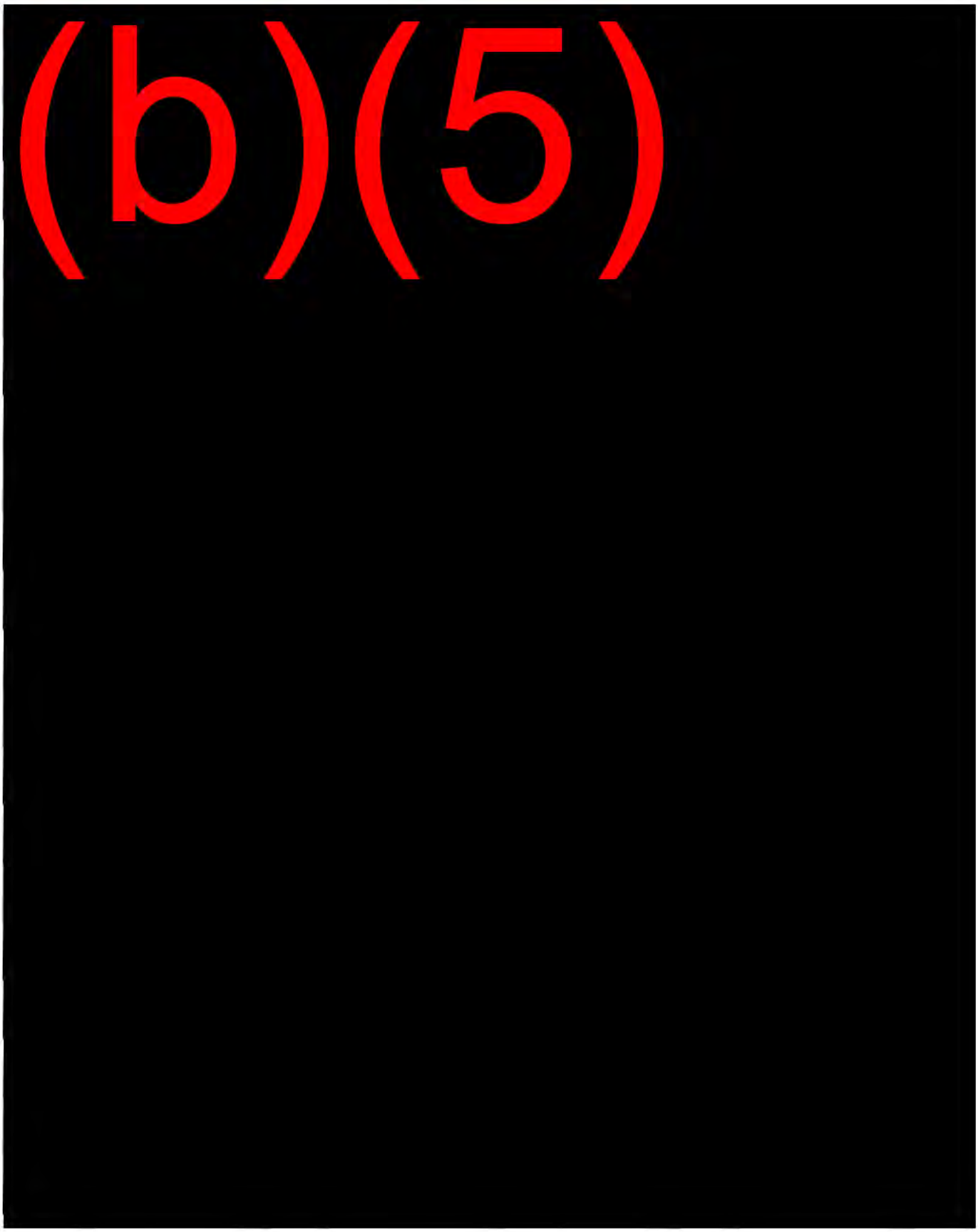
Response: The NPS is engaging a broad array of stakeholders in its planning for the centennial, and recently established a Centennial Advisory Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board, including representative stakeholders for gateway communities, local and national business operators, education and youth program partners, park friends groups, and advocate organizations for conservation, preservation and recreation. The task of this committee is to offer guidance and recommendations to the National Park System Advisory Board, and by extension, the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the NPS, on centennial strategies, products and programs that celebrate the national park idea and its growing value to society.

In addition, the National Park Foundation, the national philanthropic partner of the National Park Service is also engaging the private sector in planning and a range of opportunities for support and engagement for the centennial.

Confidential and Pre-Decisional
October 8, 2013

Powering America's Future Secretarial Priority
Key Action Items

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BISON CONNECT

Notes on 21st Century Conservation

Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 10:06 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

Sally, I know folks are preparing a speech for you to make this coming week. I've contributed some thinking for that, and will continue supporting that effort. I'm pasting below some notes that I have been keeping, and refining, over the past year, about "21st Century Conservation." (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

21st Century Conservation

(b)(5)

(b)(5)


(b)(5)

BISON CONNECT

Re: Notes on 21st Century Conservation

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 4:54 PM
To: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Cc: Kate Kelly <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks Dan. I will review them this weekend. Kate is working with me on my speeches so I have copied her as well.

Enjoy the weekend - refuges open, people happy!

Sally

On Oct 19, 2013, at 10:06 AM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

> Sally, I know folks are preparing a speech for you to make this coming week. I've contributed some thinking for that, and will continue supporting that effort. I'm pasting below some notes that I have been keeping, and refining, over the past year, about "21st Century Conservation." (b)(5)
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> (b)(5)
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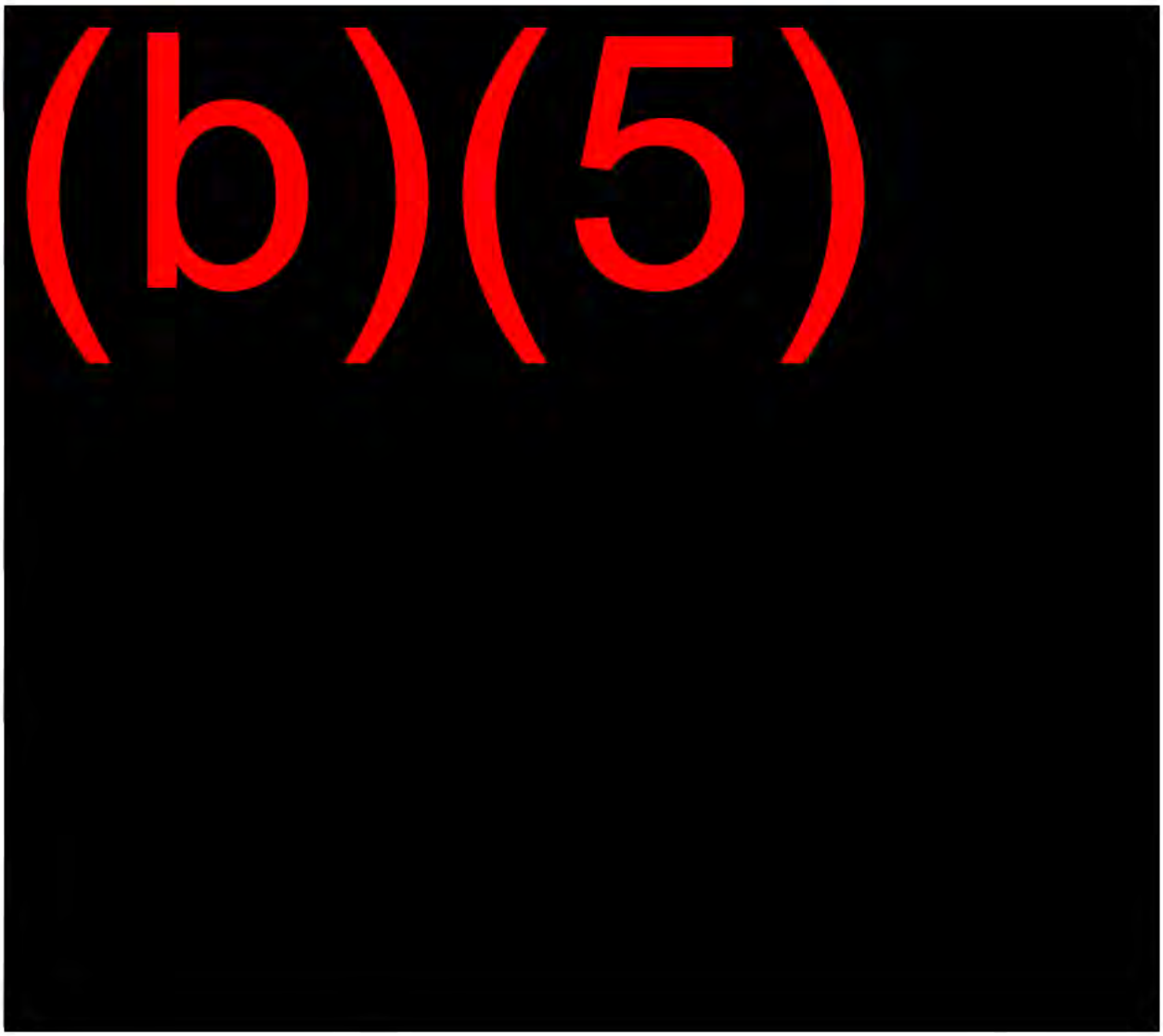
> Dan.
>
> Dan Ashe
> Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

21st Century Conservation

(b)(5)


(b)(5)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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 28, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Oct 28, 2013 at 7:07 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

CONSERVATION GROUPS WANT ANTI-POACHING EFFORTS TO GO FURTHER. The Washington Post (10/28, Fears, 4.28M) reports that "a US push to save the African elephant and rhinoceros from being wiped out by a wave of poaching comes down to this: an executive order by President Obama, an advisory panel, a task force and $10 million added to the pot of federal money earmarked to train wildlife police and fight poverty." According to the article, "the effort is being helped by former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, who

recently unveiled a three-year, $80 million joint effort with nonprofit groups and African nations to end elephant poaching, including setting up new wildlife parks." FWS officials have "called on other nations to destroy stockpiles of ivory that some want to sell legally to raise cash." The agency had "hoped to set an example by crushing its entire stockpile of seized ivory in Colorado for the first time, but the move was postponed by the government shutdown."

FWS To Take "Immediate Action" To Protect Southern White Rhino. AmmoLand (10/25, 5K) reportrf that "in response to an ongoing poaching crisis that is decimating wild rhinoceros populations worldwide," the FWS will "take immediate action to protect the southern white rhinoceros under the Endangered Species Act." According to the article, "by extending ESA protection to the white rhino—the last remaining unprotected species of rhinoceros—the Service closes a loophole that has been exploited by unscrupulous poachers and traffickers seeking to cash in on global demand for rhino horn." The action, which was announced by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell at the White House Forum to Combat Wildlife Trafficking, "will protect the southern white rhinoceros as a threatened species under the ESA's 'similarity of appearance' provisions and will aid international law enforcement efforts to fight poaching and crack down on trafficking in rhino horn." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "As both a transit point and consumer destination for illegal rhino horn products, the United States plays a vital role in curbing poaching and wildlife trafficking. Along with extending protection to the southern white rhino, we're evaluating additional regulatory and policy options in an effort to strengthen our ability to investigate and prosecute poachers and traffickers. We have a long history in working to curb the illegal wildlife trade, and are committed to working with international law enforcement agencies to address current and emerging challenges."

Texas Hunting Club To Auction Permit To Kill Black Rhino. The AFP (10/25, Sheridan, 17.91M) reported that "a Texas hunting club said Friday it aims to raise up to a million dollars for endangered black rhinoceroses by auctioning off a permit to kill one in Namibia." Ben Carter, executive director of the Dallas Safari Club, which "is hosting the auction early next year," said that the Namibian government "selected" his hunting club to "auction a black rhino hunting permit for one of its national parks." According to he group, "limited hunting is a conservation strategy that is supported by US wildlife officials, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species – all of which list rhinos as endangered."

Also reporting on the story is FOX News (10/27, 6.72M).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF SHUTDOWN'S IMPACT. In the "Federal Eye" blog of the Washington Post (10/25, 4.28M), readers were offered "an opportunity to share their experiences with unexpected effects, inspired by a diabetes foundation that said it canceled a fundraising ride in Death Valley, Calif., because the national park there was closed." According to the article, "some readers told us they thought certain shutdown measures were unnecessary." For instance, Albert Sutlick, who lives in Washington state, said "he was bothered by the shuttering of parks and monuments, which he described as an attempt by the Obama administration to draw attention to shutdown effects."

Federal Employees Furloughed In Shutdown Must Return Jobless Benefits. Reuters (10/25) reports that Federal workers furloughed during the partial shutdown of the government will have to return any jobless benefits they received given that Congress has approved retroactive pay, the Labor Department said on Friday.

Shutdown Impacts Land Rehabilitation. NWCN-TV Seattle (10/28, 6K) reports that "the federal government shutdown is over, but it's still impacting Idaho by causing a major backup in the rehabilitation of land burned by this year's wildfires." According to the article, "the emergency stabilization process to re-seed the burned out areas was set to begin weeks ago, but federal employees were furloughed during that time," and "now, they're rushing to restore thousands of acres before colder weather moves in." BLM spokesperson MJ Byrne said that "during the key time to re-seed, everyone was furloughed."

NPS Criticized For Conduct During Shutdown. For "The Corner" blog of the National Review (10/28, 290K), Andrew Stiles writes that the NPS has "a history of going out of its way to inconvenience the public during budget disputes — a reputation that was on full display during the recent government shutdown." Stiles also says "that commitment to inconvenience extends to other, more mundane, facets of the NPS operation." He notes that "the agency has repeatedly frustrated the House Oversight Committee's efforts to get information and hear testimony from NPS director Jon Jarvis."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the shutdown's impact was provided by the Hazelton (PA) Standard Speaker (10/28, 1K).

FEDERAL AGENCIES PREPARE FOR HARDER HITS FROM SEQUESTER. The New York Times (10/27, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "while the most dire predictions" of the impact of the sequester "may not have materialized in 2013, the tricks that many agencies employed – deferring maintenance, using unspent money from earlier years, cutting staff by attrition – are likely to be exhausted by 2014," when $24 billion in additional cuts will be required. With leaders of both parties saying it is unlikely budget negotiators will seek much beyond a small agreement in the next few months, it seems unlikely the sequester will be significantly reduced.

BUDGET CUTS, FURLOUGHS HAVE MANY YOUNG FEDERAL EMPLOYERS CONSIDERING PRIVATE SECTOR. The Washington Post (10/27, Wax-Thibodeaux, 4.28M) reports that many young Federal workers, "disillusioned by furloughs and worried about budget cuts and pay freezes," are looking for work in the private sector. The Post says while a Federal job "remains attractive to many, the continuing turbulence of federal work has made the government a less competitive employer." The Post says "no one has compiled statistics" on how many are leaving, but "public employees say the chorus of dissatisfaction among young people is reaching record decibels."

NEW LEGISLATION PROMOTING PUBLIC LANDS ACCESS FOR HUNTING DRAWS PRAISE FROM SPORTSMEN. AmmoLand (10/26, 5K) reported that a Senate bill "that would increase hunting and angling access on public lands and bolster the nation's outdoor recreation economy was welcomed by a broad coalition of influential sportsmen's groups and outdoor interests." The Hunt Unrestricted on National Treasures Act, or "HUNT Act," introduced by Sen. Martin Heinrich, "directs federal agencies to inventory all public lands greater than 640 acres where hunting and fishing are legal but inaccessible with the goal of expanding access for members of the public." The bill "finances land acquisitions from willing sellers through a small percentage of Land and Water Conservation Fund monies."

CALVERT PRESERVATION SPECIALIST NOMINATED FOR AWARD. The Baynet (MD) (10/28, 5K) reports that Kirsti Uunila, Calvert County Government's historic preservation specialist, is "in the running" for the 2013 Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Award. Uunila's nomination praised her for assuring citizens "are informed and engaged in historic preservation." It also added that Uunila has been able to "engage newcomers" in Calvert's long history.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF POST-SANDY RESILIENCY GRANTS. Additional coverage of the grants announced by the Interior Department for post-Sandy resiliency projects was provided by the Washington Post (10/26, 4.28M), the Washington Post (10/24, Montgomery, 4.28M), NPR (10/28, Martin, 465K), the National Geographic (10/28, 21.55M), the New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (10/28, 54K), the Providence (RI) Journal (10/26, 389K), the New Haven (CT) Register (10/26, 217K), the Philadelphia Inquirer (10/28, 1.22M), the Baltimore Sun (10/25, Wheeler, 812K), the Chestertown (MD) Spy (10/25), the Delmarva (MD) Daily Times (10/25, 26K), the Cape Cod (MA) Times (10/25, 92K), the French Tribune (10/28, 2K), and the Southern Maryland News Net (10/28).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SEMINOLES' PUSH TO PRESERVE EGMONT KEY. Additional coverage of the effort by the Seminole Tribe to preserve Egmont Key was provided by the Bergen (NJ) Record (10/28, 383K) and the Florida Today (10/27, 222K).

SNAKES THREATEN HAWAII. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (10/25, Fahs, 11.54M), writer Barbara Fahs warns about the brown tree snake, which has "has nearly wiped out Guam's bird populations," and could invade Hawaii. She notes that the Office of Insular Affairs has "authorized grant funding of $250,000 to Guam for the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Brown Tree Snake Program, under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GETTYSBURG ADDRESS. In its "House Divided" blog, the Washington Post (10/25, Wheeler, 4.28M) reports on events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the delivery of the Gettysburg Address. President Obama has been invited to attend the free "Dedication Day" ceremony, but the White House has "not announced his schedule for that day." On Nov. 16, NPS ranger Troy Harman will speak on "Breaking Down the Gettysburg Address Line by Line," followed by Chris Gwinn on Nov. 17, speaking on "Millennium of Glory: Edward Everett and the Making of his Gettysburg Address."

MASSIVE LANDSLIDE COVERS STRETCH OF ROAD IN DENALI NATIONAL PARK. The Washington Post (10/25, 4.28M) reports that "a massive landslide" in Denali National Park "rained tons of rock and soil on parts of a road that attracts scores of tourists each summer, park officials said Friday." Workers "began clearing the 200-foot stretch of Denali Park Road on Friday." According to park officials, "it was not immediately clear if road damage or instability of the terrain would affect visitors next summer."

AP coverage was also picked up by USA Today (10/25, 5.82M).

RIM FIRE 100% CONTAINED. The Los Angeles Times (10/26, Ceasar, 3.07M) reports that the Rim fire "in and around Yosemite National Park that began in August and burned 250,000 acres was declared 100% contained Friday by fire officials." The article notes that "the cost of battling the Rim fire reached over $127.3 million."

GROUP SEEKS TO REDUCE AMMONIA AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. The Denver Post (10/28, Brown, 949K) reports that the local agriculture industry is working with scientists and other experts to reduce ammonia at Rocky Mountain National Park. Biologist Jim Cheatham said a 2006 Rocky Mountain National Park Initiative report found that nitrogen levels in the park are about 15 times more than natural amounts. Such levels, according to Cheatham, have changed the vegetation composition, aquatic communities and overall natural processes of the alpine tundra the park was created to protect under its designations as a National Park, an International Biosphere Reserve and a Class I Airshed.

PRIVATE EFFORT TO CREATE NEW KIND OF NATIONAL PARK TROUBLES SOME MONTANA RANCHERS. The New York Times (10/26, Healy, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "a group of conservationists and millionaire donors" are "trying to build a new kind of national park, buying up old ranches to create a grassland reserve where 10,000 bison roam and fences are few." According to the article, "supporters see it as the last, best way to create wide-open public spaces in an era of budget cuts, government shutdowns and bitter battles between land developers and conservationists." However, "the trouble is many ranching families here in northern Montana say it is not a project for them," and "as the reserve buys out families and expands its holdings — it now has about 274,000 acres of private ranches and leased public lands — some here are digging in their heels and vowing not to let their ranches become part of the project."

BURN PRESCRIBED AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK. The Hanover (PA) Evening Sun (10/28, 38K) reports that NPS "fire specialists plan to burn 13 acres of the Gettysburg National Military Park this week to test new ways of maintaining the condition of the Civil War-era battlefield." The prescribed fire is scheduled to begin "at noon Wednesday on Snyder farm, in the southern portion of the battlefield, and is funded by the National Park Service Wildland Fire Management Program." The fire will "test whether fire can help accomplish several park objectives including the ability to reduce the encroachment of woody species in the open fields."

NPS HIGHLIGHTS RESTORATION OF HISTORIC SIOUX CITY BUILDING. The Sioux City (IA) Journal (10/28, 15K) reports on the $4 million project to restore State Steel Supply's factory and warehouse. The article notes that "the Sioux City project is one of 11 adaptive reuse projects and one of 35 sites overall currently featured on NPS's website."

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE BUILDING DISTRICT ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (10/25, 725K) reports that the Pittsburgh Renaissance Historic District has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS RECOMMENDS SITES FOR CESAR CHAVEZ HISTORIC PARK. Addtioinal coverage of the recommendation of sites to honor Cesar Chavez was provided by the Washington Post (10/25, 4.28M), the Washington Post (10/28, Fonseca, 4.28M), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (10/25, Fonseca, 1.14M),

the Denver Post (10/28, 949K), and Yahoo! News Canada (10/28, 76K).

COURT URGED TO REJECT DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO.'S CLAIMS. In an op-ed for the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (10/27, 156K), Lynn Hamilton, a former mayor of Sebastopol , writes that "in its quest to privatize the West Coast's only marine wilderness area — Drakes Estero at Point Reyes National Seashore — the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. has submitted various unsupported claims to the federal courts." Hamilton urges the 9th Circuit Court to "swiftly reject the company's baseless appeal and give back our land and marine wilderness."

Bureau of Land Management:

STEARNS DAM DEMOLISHED. The Dalles (OR) Chronicle (10/26, 40K) reports that "a contractor began dismantling the Stearns Dam on the Crooked River south of Prineville last week after more than a decade of negotiations and planning." According to the article, "the project is the latest in efforts to bring back Central Oregon salmon and steelhead." Michelle McSwain, assistant field manager with the Bureau of Land Management in Prineville, said, "There are more challenges."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PROPOSES LISTING SAGE GROUSE SUB-POPULATION AS THREATENED. The Washington Post (10/25, 4.28M) reports that the FWS on Friday "proposed to list as threatened populations of greater sage grouse in Nevada and California in an effort to save the struggling species, a decision that promises to pose new challenges for ranching and energy development in the West." The agency "found that invasive species and energy development in the desert have had a devastating effect on the large, ground-dwelling bird's populations," according to Ted Koch, Nevada state supervisor for the service. The FWS "found multiple threats facing this specific sub-population of the sage grouse."

The Los Angeles Times (10/25, Cart, 3.07M) reports that "federal biologists estimate that about six groups of birds are occupying about half of their historical range." According to the FWS, "four of the six populations are at risk for loss in the foreseeable future."

Additional AP coverage was provided by the Denver Post (10/28, 949K).

WOLF PROTECTION PLAN GENERATES CONTROVERSY. The Los Angeles Times (10/27, Cart, 3.07M) reports that the proposal by the FWS "to extend Endangered Species Act protections for an estimated 75 Mexican wolves in the wild in New Mexico and Arizona" has "ignited a furor" in the Southwest. According to the article, "to many conservatives in the West, such protections are examples of government overreach — idealistic efforts by officials who don't know what it's like to live with wolves." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "With the political debate we see raging, we can't just listen to the loudest voice in the room. There are many loud voices in the room. No animal engenders more polarizing emotion among Americans than does the wolf."

FWS Extends Comment Periods For Gray And Mexican Wolf Proposals. The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (10/28) reports that "as a result of delays caused by the lapse in federal appropriations," the FWS has "announced rescheduled dates for the remainder of a series of public hearings on two proposed rules—one to list the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies and delist the gray wolf elsewhere, and the other to improve recovery efforts for the Mexican wolf in the Southwest." According to the article, "comment period deadlines also are extended until December 17 to allow these hearings to take place within the public comment periods on the proposed rules."

Meanwhile, the Sacramento (CA) Bee (10/25, 749K) reports that "Sacramento will host one of four hearings in the West on the federal government's proposal to withdraw Endangered Species Act protection for the gray wolf."

Additional coverage of the gray wolf was provided by the Green Right Now (10/25, 305).

FWS HALTS HUNTING OF GRIZZLIES IN KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Columbus (IN) Republic (10/28, 80K) reports that "sport hunting of grizzly bears will end Saturday in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge because too many bears have been killed this year," the FWS announced Friday. The service said that "the

emergency closure will take effect at 12:01 a.m. Saturday on the nearly 3,125-square mile refuge that takes up much of the northern and central areas of the peninsula south of Anchorage."

DENR CHIEF ASKS FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO RECONSIDER TURTLE DESIGNATION. The Carteret County (NC) News-Times (10/28, 28K) reports that the secretary for the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources has written the Interior. Department and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "asking they reconsider sea turtle critical habitat designation in North Carolina." In his letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, NOAA Acting Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, FWS Director Daniel Ashe, NOAA Acting Director Sam Rauch III and Gov. Pat McCrory sent on Oct. 18, DENR Secretary John Skvarla III discusses "concerns he has with recent proposals by both NOAA and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to designate critical habitat for loggerhead sea turtles on the Atlantic coast."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSAL TO LIST NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT AS ENDANGERED. Additional coverage of the proposal by the FWS to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered was provided by the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (10/28, 90K).

COOPERATION ON TIGER BEETLE PRAISED. In an editorial, the St. George (UT) Spectrum (10/27, 48K) praises the cooperation by the FWS, the BLM, the Utah Department of Natural Resources and Kane County, that resulted in the FWS withdrawing its proposal to list the Coal Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle as threatened. The paper notes that "the decision allows the beetle to live in a protected habitat while keeping the rest of the park available for ATV use."

US Geological Survey:

USGS WARNS OF MORE DRILLING-RELATED QUAKES IN OKLAHOMA. NPR (10/24, 465K) reports that "central Oklahoma is still experiencing a 'significant rise' in magnitude 3.0 or greater earthquakes, and federal and state seismologists are collaborating to study possible links to disposal wells used by the oil and gas industry," according to the USGS. The article notes that "from 1975-2008, central Oklahoma averaged between one to three 3.0-magnitude quakes a year," and "that annual average grew to about 40 per year from 2009 to mid-2013, federal seismologist Bill Leith wrote on the USGS website." As a result, the USGS has "raised central Oklahoma's earthquake 'hazard' risk to account for more frequent and more damaging earthquakes, a move that is forcing municipalities to reconsider building codes."

The Environment & Energy Publishing (10/28, 705) reports that Leith said, "They're more at risk than they were four years ago. These don't look like normal earthquake sequences."

Also reporting on the story are the Houston Chronicle (10/26, Juozapavicius, 2.26M), the Huffington Post (10/24, Grenoble, 11.54M), and Salon (10/28, 613K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FIRST LAND AUCTION FOR SOLAR DESCRIBED AS A COMPLETE "BUST." The Washington Times (10/26, Chumley, 417K) describes the first Federal auction, which was ran by the Bureau of Land Management, to sell opportunities to build solar power projects on public land as a "waste of time" and a complete "bust" since "nobody showed to bid." The Times reports that even though no one showed up to the auction, which was held on Thursday in Lakewood, Colorado, "the BLM still has high hopes for solar development and says the lack of bids doesn't mean the project plans are dead."

Additional coverage was provided by FOX News (10/26, 6.72M), the Durango (CO) Herald (10/24, 28K), the Cortez (CO) Journal (10/25, 646), the Denver Business Journal (10/28, Subscription Publication, 71K), the SNL Financial (10/28, 22K), the Earth Techling (10/28, 3K), and KREX-TV Grand Junction, CO (10/28, 1K).

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE DEMOCRATS URGE WHITE HOUSE TO SPEED UP FRACKING GUIDANCE REVIEW. The Hill (10/26, Hattem, 194K) reported that "top Democrats on the Energy and Commerce Committee and its Oversight subcommittee" wrote a letter to the White House Office of Management and Budget urging them to finalize the review of EPA's guidance for fracking "operations...that use diesel to develop oil and natural-gas resources." The Hill reported that the House Democrats said in its letter that "the guidance is long overdue" and added that without rules from the EPA, "energy developers have been unrestrained."

RECORDS SHOW PIPELINE SPILLS IN NORTH DAKOTA WENT UNREPORTED. The AP (10/26, Macpherson) reported that nearly 300 oil pipeline spills in North Dakota "occurred since January 2012 without public notification." The AP reported that soon after it published its report Friday, the state's Health Department "announced it is testing a website to publish information on all spills reported to the department." Dave Glatt, the department's chief of the environmental health section, said that the website "would likely go live in two to three weeks."

FRACKING SEEN AS KEY TO AMERICA'S OIL INDEPENDENCE. In a Washington Times (10/26, 417K) op-ed, Bob Taylor, founder of the Magellan Travel Club, wrote there are rumors "in Saudi Arabia that the Kingdom is upset with the United States because of the Obama Administration's policies in Syria and Egypt," which sparks concern from some since America currently remains dependent on Saudi oil. However, with the amount of oil that is being produced by techniques such as fracking, Taylor wonders if Americans should be concerned at all with their relationship with Saudi Arabia. Taylor concluded by suggesting that the US should keep fracking since "it just may be the key to our freedom from the stranglehold of Saudi Arabia."

FEDERAL CONTROL OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Las Vegas Review-Journal (10/28, 437K), Geoffrey Lawrence, deputy policy director at the Nevada Policy Research Institute, laments the slow development of Nevada oil exploration. Despite the great potential, Lawrence says that Federal control impedes large-scale energy development in Nevada.

Also, in an op-ed for the Denver Post (10/28, Considine, 949K), Timothy Considine, director of the Center for Energy Economics and Public Policy at the University of Wyoming, criticizes the Federal government for delaying development in the Rocky Mountain region. As a solution, Considine suggests returning control of Federal lands to states.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM PROPOSES CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE. Platts (10/28, 2K) reports that the BOEM on Friday announced it will conduct Lease Sale 231—to auction off oil and gas tracts in the central Gulf of Mexico planning area—on Mar. 19, 2014, in New Orleans. The bureau proposed "offering 7,508 blocks over 39.4 million acres for oil and gas exploration." BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau said, "The Central Gulf of Mexico is one of the most prospective and productive basins in the world, and this proposed sale continues the Administration's all-of-the-above strategy to increase safe and responsible domestic energy production."

The Oil and Gas Journal (10/28, 1K) notes that "this is the fourth lease sale to be held in the 2012–17 Outer Continental Shelf leasing program."

Also reporting on the story are the Law 360 (10/28, 18K), the Penn Energy (10/28, 128), the Rigzone (10/28, 12K), and the Marine Link (10/28, 1K).

OIL, GAS INDUSTRY PUSHES TO OPEN AREAS TO OFFSHORE DRILLING. The SNL Financial (10/25, Hiar, 22K) reports Randall Luthi, president of the National Ocean Industries Association trade organization, said at the Natural Gas Roundtable "that Arctic exploration is inevitable and that now is the time to push for more drilling on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf." He added that "technical and regulatory uncertainty" has slowed US companies operating in the region. Meanwhile, as part of an effort "to sway regulators, Luthi's organization is working with API on a forthcoming report that seeks to quantify the economic benefits of opening the Mid-Atlantic region to drilling." SNL added that oil and gas industry groups "are making such a big push" for the Department of the Interior to consider this offshore drilling "is because they are worried that if regulators do not look at it now,

they will not revisit the issue later."

The FuelFix (10/26, 7K) reports that "with the Interior Department poised to soon begin the long process of drafting the next five-year sale schedule spanning 2017 to 2022, oil industry representatives are imploring the administration to keep the door open to Atlantic auctions." According to the article, "in assembling the current sale schedule, Interior Department officials insisted that private companies should first conduct geophysical research to get a sense of the area's potential oil and gas resources before the government makes any leasing decisions or schedules sales." However, "industry representatives worry that sticking to that same approach for the 2017-2022 schedule would likely foreclose Atlantic auctions for that time period too."

REUTERS ANALYSIS: GULF OF MEXICO REMAINS ATTRACTIVE TO OIL COMPANIES. Reuters (10/28, Hays, Wade) reports that the Gulf of Mexico is on the verge of producing over 700,000 barrels per day of new crude, reversing declining production. Despite post-Deepwater Horizon spill safety and environmental rules and its technical challenges, the area remains attractive to companies even as other offshore oil patches struggle. This is due to larger profit margins, reasonable costs, predictability in the legal and regulatory systems, and no local employment requirements.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA RESERVOIRS WATCHING FOR SIGNS OF WINTER. The Fresno (CA) Bee (10/27, 327K) reports that major reservoirs in California "need gully-washing storms this winter." The article notes that "all eyes will be on Northern California, where the state's highest rain and snow totals occur." According to the article, "farmers and cityfolk who closely watch Shasta and other northern reservoirs might have suffered whiplash last winter." BOR spokesman Pete Lucero said that "the reservoirs stored a lot of water last year after a stormy November and December," but "suddenly the spigot turned off."

BOR CONSIDERS OPTIONS TO DEAL WITH HYATT DAM SEEPAGE. The Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (10/27, 67K) reports that the BOR is "mulling whether to address growing seepage through a portion of Hyatt Dam with structural fixes or by keeping Hyatt Lake's water levels more than one-third lower to ensure dam safety." The bureau is "in the early stages of flushing out the ramifications of either option to deal with the seeping water, which is deemed to have the potential for structural damage." According to the BOR, "options include putting filters inside the earthen and rock-filled structure so water would pass through the often-leaky dam without threatening its structural integrity."

RESEARCHERS SAY EXPERIMENT USING FLOODED RICE FIELDS AS YOUNG SALMON HABITAT IS SUCCESSFUL. KOVR-TV Sacramento, CA (10/25, 47K) reports that "flooded rice fields appear capable of serving as substitutes for now-depleted wetlands and helping California's Chinook salmon population recover, researchers have concluded." In a report submitted to the BOR, the researchers said "salmon raised in replicated rice fields near Sacramento as part of their experiments were the fattest and fastest-growing salmon ever documented in freshwater in the state."

COMPANY SEEKS TO ELECTRIFY GIBSON DAM. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (10/27, 90K) reports on the effort by Gibson Dam Hydroelectric Co. LLC to "electrify the dam on the popular Sun River Canyon in the Lewis and Clark National Forest 20 miles northwest of Augusta." However, "a relatively recent development — creation of the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area — could be a difficult hurdle for the $34 million project."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA OFFERS TO MEDIATE IN DISPUTE THAT SPLIT BLACKFEET TRIBAL LEADERSHIP. The Columbus (IN) Republic (10/28, 80K) reports that the BIA is "offering to mediate in a dispute that has split the governing body of the Blackfeet Indian tribe into two factions, but the tribal chairman said Friday he hopes to resolve their problems internally." Chairman Willie Sharp Jr. said "he appreciated the BIA's offer of assistance, but he wants to see if the factions can resolve their differences face to face."

Also reporting on the story are the Helena (MT) Independent Record (10/28, 45K) and the Montana Kaimin (10/28, 11K).

MENOMINEE TRIBE CALLS FOR OUTSIDE REVIEW AS WALKER DELAYS DECISION. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (10/28, 798K) reports that the Menominee tribe and Hard Rock International are "challenging" the Potawatomi tribe "to have an outside expert determine what impact a new casino in Kenosha would have on the Potawatomi's Milwaukee gambling hall, Hard Rock chairman James Allen said Friday." Allen made the challenge "after Gov. Scott Walker said he was taking more time to consider the Menominee proposal to open a massive casino in Kenosha." Also reporting on the story is the Milwaukee Business Journal (10/25, Subscription Publication, 12K).

In an op-ed for the Minneapolis Star Tribune (10/28, Vig, Leecy, 1.14M), Charlie Vig, chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and Kevin Leecy, chairman of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, write about their concerns regarding the Interior Department's approval of "an application by the Menominee Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin to open a casino in Kenosha." They argue that "no matter how well-intended the Department of Interior's decision, it pits tribe against tribe." They vow that "in Minnesota, the MIGA tribes will continue to oppose any significant expansion of gambling, whether it is proposed by the state or by another tribe" because they "believe Indian gaming is and should remain a reservation-based economic development tool that helps fund the vital tasks of tribal governments, create jobs for Minnesotans and improve the lives of Indian people."

STAFF TURNOVER IMPEDES PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AT SPIRIT LAKE. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (10/28, 15K) reports that "turnover of staff to investigate suspected child abuse and neglect cases has hampered efforts" by the BIA to "improve child protection services on the Spirit Lake reservation." According to Russ McDonald, who took over as chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe on Sept. 10, "tribal leaders and members credit BIA staff members with working hard to improve child protection, but visible progress has not yet been achieved." Nedra Darling, a BIA spokeswoman, "acknowledged the bureau has had to rely on temporary social work staff at Spirit Lake." Darling said, "It's been difficult. It's an ongoing challenge for every agency in the region. We are continuing to work very hard to find social workers. We have good people there. The staff we are using are top of the field."

FEDERAL RECOGNITION URGED FOR MONACAN TRIBE. In her column for the Staunton (VA) News Leader (10/26, 9K), Lisa Louie argues for the Federal recognition of "the Monacan people as an Indian tribe."

Top National News:

AMID CONTINUING GOP CRITICISM, SEBELIUS TO APPEAR BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE THIS WEEK. HHS Secretary Sebelius is set to testify before a House panel this week about the problems plaguing the Federal health insurance exchange website. Two of the three network news broadcasts covered the problems with the websites Sunday evening and mentioned Sebelius' testimony as part of their coverage. In addition, the website problems and Sebelius' perceived responsibility for them dominated the Sunday talk shows, with media accounts focusing on GOP efforts to place blame on the Secretary – and on Rep. Darryl Issa's call for her resignation.

NBC Nightly News (10/27, lead story, 3:10, Holt, 7.86M) reported in its lead story that "embattled" Sebelius "will testify before a congressional committee on Wednesday," as many Republicans are "still calling for her to resign." In a follow-up story on NBC Nightly News (10/27, story 2, 0:50, Holt, 7.86M), CNBC Chief Washington Correspondent John Harwood said that Sebelius is "going to have to defend the law because she's going to have to explain to people how the law will function if they can get past the technical challenges." NBC noted that Sebelius has "support from the Administration, from the President" and she "can survive this." Nonetheless, "this is a moment for her and the entire White House team to step up and demonstrate that they can manage a crisis, show some competence and governance." The CBS Evening News (10/27, lead story, 1:55, Glor, 5.58M) briefly mentioned Sebelius' planned testimony as part of its lead story.

The Christian Science Monitor (10/28, Knickerbocker, 540K) reports that Sebelius will appear before "a Republican-led House committee highly skeptical of (if not hostile to) Obamacare." Sebelius will appear before the panel as Republican lawmakers, and some Democrats, are demanding "to know why the roll-out of the health care insurance exchanges has been so rocky." The Monitor notes that Sebelius "is unlikely to be a pushover for House Republicans, some three dozen of whom have demanded that she resign over the Obamacare troubles."

The AP (10/28, Thomas) reports that Republicans "intend to press" Sebelius about the problems with the website "and concerns about the privacy of information that applicants submit under the new system." Sebelius is set to testify before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Wednesday, one day after "Medicare chief Marilyn Tavenner is to testify during a House hearing." The AP notes that both officials will "be grilled on how such crippling technical problems could have gone undetected prior to the website's Oct. 1 launch." Republican Rep. Marsha Blackburn, "an opponent of the law," said on Fox News Sunday, "The incompetence in building this website is staggering."

The Wall Street Journal (10/27, Patterson, 5.91M) reports that Blackburn said the problems with the website highlight the need for a delay of the law.

The Hill (10/28, Viebeck, 194K) reports in its "Healthwatch" blog that on the Sunday talk shows, Republicans "repeatedly singled out the secretary and called for her resignation over the disastrous rollout of HealthCare.gov," and notes that Sebelius is "sure to feel the heat" when she "makes her first appearance before Congress on the rollout."

The Los Angeles Times (10/28, Tanfani, 3.07M) reports that congressional Republicans on Sunday vowed to "press investigations into what went wrong" with the website and said that Sebelius should resign. The Times notes that for Republicans, who have been "battered by public disapproval of their government-shutdown strategy, the bungled design of the program's website is providing an opportunity to resume the offensive against the Obama administration" and the ACA.

Republicans appearing on the Sunday talk shows were highly critical of Sebelius, blaming her for the website problems and calling for her resignation. USA Today (10/28, Moore, 5.82M) reports that House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Darrell Issa said that Sebelius "must fix the problems with the HealthCare.gov website or lose her job." Speaking on CBS' Face the Nation, Issa said, "If she cannot reorganize to get the kind of a team in consistently to meet (President Obama's) agenda, then she shouldn't be there. ... When she says she didn't know, why didn't she know that the president's signature legislation was in fact in trouble?"

Issa said on CBS' Face The Nation (10/27, Stephanopoulos, 2.52M), "The President has been poorly served in the implementation of his own signature legislation. So if somebody doesn't leave, and there isn't a real restructuring, not just a 60-day somebody comes in and tries to fix it, then he's missing the point of Management 101, that these people should serve him well and they haven't."

Rep. John Fleming (R-LA) said on CNN's State Of The Union (10/27, Crowley, 862K), "Americans demand accountability. Secretary Sebelius is obviously not taking accountability for this. She says the people that want her to resign she doesn't work for. I can tell you, I'm a taxpayer. She works for me. She's a public servant. I'm a public servant. I work for the American people. ... We never had input to this law to begin with. We tried to tell her all along – she was a big cheerleader for this – 'please, work with us.' Instead, she said, 'No, we don't want to hear from Republicans on this.'"

Meanwhile, Democrats defended Sebelius, arguing that she will get the job done and that the focus should not be on her but on fixing the website. Manchin said on ABC's This Week (10/27, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "I think [HHS Secretary Sebelius] was a successful governor working with both sides of the aisle. She's very capable of bringing people together. ... I think she should stay and I think she will get the job done. And I think she can do that. We need to move forward."

Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA) said on Fox News Sunday (10/27, Wallace), "The most important thing right now is making sure we fix the website, not fixate on the website. And certainly, I hope that no one is talking about shutting down something new now with the healthcare website, because what we want to do is see all those young people and older folks access good healthcare."

Republican Sen. John Barrasso said on ABC's This Week (10/27, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "I want to make sure that patients can get high-quality care. The website was supposed to be the easy part of this. So I see that this is just the tip of the iceberg of problems, with bigger problems to come. But the Democrats are at a point of high anxiety. Americans have been very skeptical about this healthcare law. But now there is a lot of anger about the wasted taxpayer dollars on this website about all of the waivers the President has given to unions, to members of

Congress, no one at the White House is going to have to sign up on the exchanges and now Americans are saying, 'Wait a minute, why do I have to pay a fine if I don't sign up?'"

House Intelligence Chairman Mike Rogers said on CNN's State Of The Union (10/27, Crowley, 862K), "This worries me a lot, the fact that they have different segments of people controlling pieces of information and they say, 'Well, we don't store information,' but they have to store your application at some point. And that's a lot of your very personal information. And it was very clear to me in the hearing that they do not have an overarching solid cybersecurity plan to prevent the loss of private information."

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said on Fox News Sunday (10/27, Wallace), "I think this is just the tip of the iceberg. They will fix the Internet problems. Bring in Al Gore, who says he invented the Internet, to fix the website. But we don't need the government running our health care. ... I think the pressure will only grow as we see more and more problems with the roll-out. More and more plans dropping, and millions of Americans are learning they cannot continue in their insurance. I think more and more frustration will build for Democrats and Republicans."

Ohio Gov. John Kasich said on NBC's Meet The Press (10/27, Gregory), "The roll-out is the least of the problem here. The roll-out looks like a disaster, but in my state most Ohioans are going to pay higher costs. In fact, this is not going to control healthcare costs. ... The problem with Obamacare is it doesn't get to the nub of the problem, which is higher healthcare costs that have been out of control. When you roll it out, if it rolled out perfectly, it's not going to achieve what America wants."

Meanwhile, Kentucky's Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear said on NBC's Meet The Press (10/27, Gregory), "At 12:01 a.m. when our exchange opened up to enrollment, Kentucky started swarming all over our exchange, all over our toll free lines, and in about four weeks, we've had over 300,000 Kentuckians trying to sign up for Obamacare. ... This is working in Kentucky. We had and have some of the worst health statistics in the country. And it's been that way for generations. The only way we're going to get ourselves out of the ditch is some transformational tool. That's what the Affordable Care Act is going to do for us."

Howard Dean said on ABC's This Week (10/27, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "The problem is the scale. It would have been better to have four exchanges than one. They didn't know 34 states were going to refuse to participate in the exchanges. We can fault the Obama Administration, certainly there are faults to be had here. I should add that Republicans bear some responsibility for this. They defunded part of Obamacare."

Jennifer Granholm said on NBC's Meet The Press (10/27, Gregory), "The President is so mad about this that he himself will go down and supervise the writing of code if this is not fixed by the end of November. This is going to be fixed. The real question is, once this is fixed, what do the Republicans then do, because the Republicans have every incentive to conflate the web site with Obamacare, because they have to justify why they shut down the government for weeks."

No One Was Responsible For Overseeing Implementation Of HealthCare.gov. The Wall Street Journal (10/28, Weaver, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that while different groups of people in different cities were involved in the creation of HealthCare.gov, its is becoming clear that no one was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the website. The Journal cites accounts from current and former officials who say agency cultures, political decisions that conflicted with operational deadlines, an abbreviated timeline, and the fact that agencies working on various components of the project were in different cities all led to the technical problems plaguing the site.

Shaheen, Manchin Call For Delays Of ACA Provisions. The CBS Evening News (10/27, lead story, 1:55, Glor, 5.58M) reported in its lead story that there are now calls from both sides of the aisle "for delay in a key date when millions were supposed to be signed up for health insurance." CBS (Pegues) added that there "appears to be growing consensus" in Washington that "parts of the Affordable Care Act" should be delayed. CBS notes that Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, who supports the law, "is leading an effort to let the March 31st deadline for enrollment to slide." Shaheen and nine other Democrats have written to HHS saying that "extending the enrollment period would give consumers valuable time to choose a plan best for them."

Shaheen said on CBS' Face The Nation (10/27, Schieffer, 2.52M), "We're hearing from lots of constituents in

New Hampshire that they want to enroll in health insurance, but they can't because of the problems with the website. The roll-out has been a disaster. And so what I'm proposing is that we extend the period in which people can enroll, so we can make sure we can get as many people who want health insurance able to enroll and be able to be covered."

The Washington Post (10/28, Somashekhar, 4.28M) reports that in an appearance on ABC's This Week on Sunday, Sen. Joe Manchin made a case for legislation "delaying the so-called 'individual mandate' for a year."

The Washington Times (10/28, Wolfgang, 417K) reports that Manchin says a one-year delay "would offer time for the Obama administration to work out the bugs with the glitch-plagued HealthCare.gov website," but believes the law "can be a success if Republicans and Democrats, insurance companies and health care professionals all work together." Manchin said on ABC's This Week, "We can make this happen, but we've all got to be on the same team right now, and that's Team America to make this happen."

Manchin said on ABC's This Week (10/27, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "I have been working in a bipartisan manner in trying to put a coalition together that basically says the penalty, the fine of $95, will not be into effect until 2015, at that time the fine will be $325. It will still induce people to get involved but also gives us a time to transition in, to work out things, we identified a lot of problems, a lot of glitches."

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) said on Fox News Sunday (10/27, Wallace), "Absolutely we should have a delay. I hope H.R. 2809, which is a one-year delay of all things ObamaCare, and there should be a suspension of the law to allow people to review this process and I'm pleased that so many Democrats are joining me now saying yes indeed. There should be a suspension because there are too many problems not only with the enrollment but with the mandates, taxes, fees, and penalties."

Site Problems Could Drive Away Young People. The New York Times (10/28, Lowrey, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that there are concerns among "economists and policy wonks" that the problems facing the Federal health insurance exchange website "could become much more than an inconvenience" by dissuading young people, who "are supposed to help pay for the medical costs of older or sicker enrollees," from enrolling. If that occurs, "so-called risk pools in Ohio and other states might become too risky, forcing insurers to raise premiums."

SNL Mocks Health Insurance Exchange Site. The Wall Street Journal (10/28, 5.91M) reports in its "Washington Wire" column that Saturday Night Live mocked the problems facing the rollout of the Federal health insurance exchange website. During the sketch, cast member Kate McKinnon, as HHS Secretary Sebelius, offered a number of suggestions for Americans who have been unable to use the site, which has been, as she said, "crashing and freezing and shutting down and stalling and not working and breaking and sucking." Among the suggestions were a "low-res" version of the site, which showed a screen with the words "U Want Doctr?" and buttons labeled "yes" or "no," and an Icelandic-language site. In addition, the mock-Secretary suggested other sites which might be helpful, including "kayak.com, where you can purchase airline tickets to Canada and buy cheaper prescription drugs." A report on the sketch by the Huffington Post (10/28, McGlynn, 11.54M) includes the video clip.

More Commentary. Brit Hume said on Fox News Sunday (10/27, Wallace), "I think we can assume that the website will sooner or later get fixed and that hundreds of thousands of people will sign up using it. But the test, really, and the Administration clearly noticed this, is whether enough young healthy people sign up to furnish the premiums. ... We're seeing two things that suggested that may not be so. One is, that a lot of the signing up that's going on is for Medicaid. Medicaid, of course, doesn't bring in any money. It spends money. ... The second is that all kinds of people are getting thrown off their insurance policies."

Bill Kristol said on ABC's This Week (10/27, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "Let's hope they fix it for the sake of the country. They can fix the website but not ObamaCare. The big story this week and last week, people in the individual insurance market, about 15 million, getting notices from their insurance companies they won't be able to renew their policies next year. ... Over 10 million people are losing policies."

Peggy Noonan said on CBS' Face The Nation (10/27, Schieffer, 2.52M), "It has been, I believe, a political disaster for the White House. It has made people in America nervous, anxious, and confused. It seems to me this whole

thing should be delayed. But deep inside myself, I really think, look, they can probably get this tech end to work in a certain amount of time, but the internals of the law, the content of the law is already causing problems."

Other commentators on the Sunday shows were also critical of the law. For example, ABC's Richard Besser said on ABC's This Week (10/27, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "The website is not ready for prime time. The first is accessing that website and creating your accounts. Some people are getting incorrect quotes. And that information being passed to insurance companies isn't always correct. ... For this to be successful, they have to ensure that young, healthy people sign on. ... If you don't have them on board the financial structure doesn't work very well. But I think the long-term impact of Obamacare is going to be very good because there are so many other things that are included, coverage of people who have existing medical conditions, free preventive care. These are things that people, once they get them, they won't want them to go away."

S.E. Cupp said on ABC's This Week (10/27, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "Millennials have never bought health insurance in the past. Buy something that they don't think they need; in some cases, can't afford. ... Culturally, it also reads...an inability to speak their language. You might call an 800 number and sit on the phone. Millennials aren't used to that. They don't meet in-person with insurance brokers or travel agents or anyone. They need a website that works...and they're not going to be patient as the President and the Administration tweaks all of that."

Similarly, in his column for the New York Times (10/28, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) today, Paul Krugman questions why the ACA has to be "so complicated in the first place." calling the law "an immense kludge — a clumsy, ugly structure that more or less deals with a problem, but in an inefficient way." Krugman decries the "better-than-nothing-but-pretty-bad solutions" thinking that he says led to the website and blames "an ideology that is fundamentally hostile to the notion of the government helping people, and tries to make whatever help is given as limited and indirect as possible." Krugman argues that a society which is "committed to the notion that government is always bad will have bad government."

Donna Brazile said on ABC's This Week (10/27, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "I think that they are going to fix it. It's going to work better over the next 30 days. And you look at the people who have already enrolled. They are not just enrolling online, there are in-person rollouts. There are people who are calling that 1-800 number. ... It works. And there are people who are being recruited to help sign up people. ... And all of these, what I call negative folks who are saying bad things, they're going to eat their words."

RCP AVERAGE HAS OBAMA JOB APPROVAL AT 45%. The RealClearPolitics average of recent polling on President Obama's job approval has the President's approval at 45%, and disapproval at 50.8%. Approval is up 0.1% since yesterday; disapproval is unchanged.

The latest Gallup daily tracking poll of 1,500 "adults" (10/24-10/26) shows the President with a 44% approval rating and 50% disapproval. Rasmussen's automated survey of 1,500 "likely voters" (10/24-10/26) finds Obama's approval at 50%, with 49% disapproving of his performance.

OBAMA, CABINET OFFICIALS TO PRESS FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN US AT SUMMIT. Under the headline, "Barack Obama Mounts Big Push To Bolster FDI in US," the Financial Times (10/28, Politi, Subscription Publication, 1.43M) reports, "President Barack Obama and his senior cabinet officials are mounting a big push to bolster foreign investment in the US – amid evidence that America is falling behind other countries."

The President will appear at a two-day summit next Thursday and Friday designed for that purpose. The Hill (10/26, Sink, 194K) noted that Treasury Secretary Lew, Secretary of State Kerry, and National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling, among others, will also attend. The Hill quoted a White House official as saying, "On the heels of the manufactured crises in Washington, it's time for folks to come together and focus on doing everything we can to spur growth and create new high-quality jobs." The official added, "The Summit will provide an opportunity to do just that."

Visa Program For Foreign Investors Comes Under Criticism. The Washington Times (10/28, Anderson, Waterman, 417K) reports that a DHS "whistleblower" says that "one of its agencies is skimping on background checks of US companies seeking to participate in a program that gives green cards to high-dollar foreign investors — potentially compromising national security." The EB-5 visa program "came under scrutiny this

summer after reports that the head of Homeland Security's US Citizenship and Immigration Services agency personally intervened to expedite applications from a company affiliated" Virginia gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe (D).

ECONOMISTS SAY SHUTDOWN IMPACTED ECONOMIC GROWTH. USA Today (10/28, Davidson, Hansen, 5.82M) reports that the impact of the shutdown is likely to be felt by the economy for "some time." According to a survey of 41 "top economists," more than half are "less optimistic about growth prospects than they were three months ago." Of those surveyed, 63% said that the "recurring standoffs" are harming the economy "some" or "a lot," while the rest say they have cause "a little" damage. The economists "now expect the economy to grow at a tepid 2.1% annual rate in the fourth quarter and 2.6% in the first quarter, down from their median estimates three months ago."

Dionne Says Administration, Congress Should End Sequestration. In his column for the Washington Post (10/28, 4.28M), E.J. Dionne Jr. writes that that Washington is wrong to focus on the deficit, and should instead focus on "sluggish growth and persistent unemployment." Dionne argues that the budget cuts have "slowed the very growth we need to make our way toward fiscal balance." Facing "tea party" Republicans, the Administration "has backed off aggressive efforts to use government to pump much-needed energy into an economy," but should now make sure to avoid any "grand bargain" to cut spending with the GOP. In addition, Congress must now end the sequestration cuts that Dionne argues are slowing the economy.

Halloween Spending On The Rise, Boosting Economy. ABC World News (10/27, story 6, 1:40, Muir, 7.43M) reported that the US economy is getting a "welcome boost" because Halloween spending is "on the rise this year." ABC (Sandell) added that nationally, there are "roughly 1,200 professional haunts, ticket sales roughly a billion dollars. Halloween spending is second only to Christmas." Accessories, candy and decorations will "scare" $7 billion "out of American Wallets this year, up from $3.3 billion in 2005."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"'Not One More.'"*** In an editorial, the New York Times (10/28, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) is pleased the President urged Congress to help him get immigration reform enacted, because it "acknowledges his own role in this continuing disaster." The Times says that President can do much to fix the system himself, including stopping "needless" deportations, highlight the impact of the system on individuals and families, and "get beyond politics." The Times concludes that Obama "has sometimes been resentful when immigrant advocates remind him of his failures. Now, at least, he has invited their pressure."

"Why Prisons Are Shrinking." The New York Times (10/28, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the mandatory sentencing movement that swept the US starting in the 1970 "drove the state prison population up from less than 200,000 to about 1.4 million today and made corrections the second-fastest-growing state expense after Medicaid," but "bipartisan sentencing reforms in a growing number of states are starting to reverse that trend – causing the prison population to decline by about 3.8 percent since 2009." The Times notes that state reforms often reflect "a relatively new and more sophisticated way of using data about the offender – including criminal history, drug abuse and instances of antisocial behavior – to assess the likelihood of that individual's committing a new crime." The Times notes that by reviewing arrest, sentencing and probation information, states "can revise policies that might be driving people back into prison unnecessarily."

"For Extending New York's Judicial Terms." The New York Times (10/28, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the judicial retirement ages "embedded in New York State's Constitution" are "a relic of a time when average life expectancy was much shorter than it is today." The Times calls "sensible" a proposal on the state's November 5 ballot that would "modestly extend the age limits for certain state judges and help ease court system backlogs by allowing seasoned judges to stay on past age 70."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Marijuana In D.C.? Fine."*** The Washington Post (10/28, 4.28M) editorializes about the argument for decriminalization of marijuana in Washington, DC. The Post notes that much of the debate "has focused on an American Civil Liberties Union report that suggests that the District and many other jurisdictions enforce their anti-marijuana laws unfairly, disproportionately arresting African American suspects." The Post argues that the debate "does not need to be resolved to conclude that maintaining criminal penalties for small-

time users of any race doesn't make sense." Noting the changing national opinion on marijuana use, and Attorney General Eric Holder's announcement earlier this year aiming Federal resources "at high-level offenders," the Post concludes that of "all the official reactions to changing mores on marijuana, decriminalization is the best."

"Politics In the Academy?" A Washington Post (10/28, 4.28M) editorial says that the recent firing of Xia Yeliang, a Peking University economics professor and advocate for democratic reform in China, shows that Chinese universities continue to be subject to interference from the country's ruling Communist Party. Chinese universities' assurances of academic freedom should not be trusted by US institutions eager to establish partnerships in China. H. Kim Bottomly, Wellesley College president, said to Inside Higher Ed that "We think it's a real mistake to enter into arrangements with authoritarian societies without any conditions whatsoever, without any kind of sense of basic rules of engagement."

"Secret Stash." The Washington Post (10/28, 4.28M) editorializes that the California Fair Political Practices Commission "has just parted the curtains on a network of hidden donations in the state's Nov. 2012 campaign," offering "a rare glimpse of the dark money coursing through U.S. politics." The Post notes several examples of suspicious activity, and argues that the report reveals "the way the nonprofits were used to hand off contributions to each other while masking the true source of the donations." The Post concludes that "the network of transfers – millions of dollars being handed off in the shadows – should spark renewed efforts to expose dark money to sunlight."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Little Orphan Fannie."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (10/28, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that while the settlements between the Federal government and major banks portray Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as victims of unscrupulous private lenders. The Journal says that this is wrong, as the two GSEs were as much at fault as the banks, if not more so, for the mortgage crisis in 2008.

"Birds, Bees And Spies." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (10/28, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the European leaders should be thankful that the Snowden leaks give them something to focus on other than their economies. The Journal questions the veracity of European complaints, and defends the monitoring as generally justified historically. The Journal expresses concern that the President will now unwisely restrict intelligence activities to please overseas leaders.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Obama Unaware As US Spied On World Leaders: Officials
US Cities Grapple With Finances
Sandy's Legacy: Higher Home Prices
Health Site Stymied By Lack Of Direction

New York Times:
Forging An Art Market In China
FDA Shift On Painkillers Was Years In The Making
Skakel Lawyer, In A TV Twist, Is Talk Fodder
Lists That Rank Colleges' Value Are On The Rise
Outsider Whose Dark, Lyrical Vision Helped Shape Rock 'N' Roll

Washington Post:
In Iraq, Security Crisis Deepens
Revenge Of The Phantom Planter
McAuliffe-Clinton Bond Goes Beyond The Politics
Boom In Spinal Fusions Questioned
The Pentagon Jedi Master Vs. The Budget Sequester

Financial Times:
Noyer Warns Against 'Robin Hood' Tax
Obama Mounts Big Push To Boost FDI In US
Emirates Eyes Record $30bn Boeing Order
Titan Bets On Europe Recovery
Fed Probes Banks' Exposure To MReits
Myanmar Courts Foreign Telecoms Groups
Buyout Groups Set Course For Shipping

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Northwest-Severe Weather Forecasts; North Carolina-State Fair Incident; Massachusetts-High School Murder Investigation; Europe-US Eavesdropping; England-Saint Jude Storm; Economy-Halloween Spending; Pennsylvania-Police Dash Cam Video; Washington DC-Musician Arrested.
CBS: Obamacare-Website Issues; NSA Leaks; Superstorm Sandy Aftermath; North Carolina-State Fair Incident; California-Sara Kruzan Story; Oklahoma-Inmates Escape; New Mexico-Shooting; Detroit Recovery.
NBC: Obamacare-Website Issues; Europe-US Eavesdropping; Oklahoma-Inmates Escape; California-Police Shooting Investigation; Iraq-Car Bombings; Afghanistan-Roadside Bombing; North Carolina-State Fair Incident; Superstorm Sandy Exhibit; Economy-Halloween Spending.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: California-Conrad Murray Freed; Massachusetts-Murdered Teacher's Funeral; Europe-US Eavesdropping; England-Saint Jude Storm; Sports-MLB World Series.
CBS: Obamacare-Website Issues; NSA Leaks; Sports-MLB World Series; Lou Reed Obit.
NPR: Clean Energy And Climate Change Agreement; Columbia-US Army Soldier Released; Obamacare-Deadline Extension Debate; Sebelius-Congressional Hearing; Sports-MLB World Series; Lou Reed Obit; New York-Sleepy Hollow Village; Movies-Weekend Box Office.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Attends the installation of FBI Director James Comey at FBI headquarters.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unknown.
US Senate: 2 p.m. — The Senate will convene and begin a period of morning business. Thereafter, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Richard F. Griffin, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMERCE FIELD HEARING — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security will hold a field hearing in Bridgeport, Connecticut on Monday titled, "Power Outage on Metro-Norths New Haven Line: How to Prevent Future Failures Along Passenger Rails Busiest Sector." Location: Bridgeport City Council Chambers, Bridgeport City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, Conn. Contacts: Kevin McAlister (202-224-8374)
US House: 12 p.m. — The House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RULES — 5 p.m. Full committee meets on H.R. 992, Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act, and H.R. 2374, Retail Investor Protection Act. Location: H-313 Capitol.
Other: FOOD DAY EVENTS — Oct. 24 – 31. The George Washington University, others host a weeklong series of celebrations for Food Day, a national movement to promote healthy, affordable and sustainable food.
Highlights: 4 p.m. A Path to Responsible Chocolate? John Forrer of GWs Institute for Corporate Responsibility

will moderate a discussion with business leaders from chocolate companies on various challenges they face in the industry. Location: The George Washington University, Duques Hall, Room 553, 2201 G. St., N.W. 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. "A Place at the Table Film Screening and Discussion." US Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.; US Department of State Acting Special Representative for Global Food Security Jonathan Shrier; Uri Colon-Ramos, GW assistant professor of global health, and Tony Castleman, GW associate research professor of international affairs, will discuss the film and implications of food security both domestically and globally. Kim Robien, associate professor of epidemiology and biostatistics and of exercise science, will moderate. Location: The George Washington University. Marvin Center, Third Floor Amphitheater 800 21st St. NW. Notes: GW Media contacts: Angela Olson, 202-994-6466; olsona@gwu.edu; Michelle Sherrard, 202-994-1423; mcs1@gwu.edu.

MBA 100TH ANNUAL CONVENTION — Oct. 27 – 30. The Mortgage Bankers Association's 100th annual convention and expo. Speakers: George W. Bush, 43rd President of the US; John Ellis Bush, 43rd Governor of Florida; Richard Cordray, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Session: Second General Session; Shaun Donovan, Secretary, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; Edward J. DeMarco, Acting Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency. Session: Second General Session; Theodore W. Tozer, President , Ginnie Mae, Session: Fourth General Session; Session: First General Session; Mike Heid President, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Session: Third General Session; Donald H. Layton, Chief Executive Officer, Freddie Mac, Session: Fourth General Session; Timothy J. Mayopoulos, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fannie Mae, Session: Fourth General Session; David H. Stevens, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mortgage Bankers Association, Session: First General Session; others. http://events.mortgagebankers.org/100th_Annual/default.html. Highlights: 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Session on the new CFPB's rules: Richard Cordray, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Edward J. DeMarco, Acting Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW. Contacts: Mortgage Bankers Association ((800) 793-6222). Notes: To apply for press credentials, working members of the press should contact Rob Van Raaphorst at rvanraaphorst@mba.org or 202-557-2799. Unless otherwise noted, all convention events are open to the media with the exception of MBA committee meetings, correspondent meetings and board meetings.

CSIS – PONI 2013 FALL CONFERENCE — Oct. 28 – 29. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. The third conference of the 2013 PONI Series will be held on December 17-18 at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Ave. NW.

KURDISH ROLE – WASHINGTON CONFERENCE — 8 a.m. Washington Conference to Explore Kurdish Role in Changing Middle East. Hosted by the US Representative Office of the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), the conference will analyze how regional transformations are impacting the Kurdish issue, and how Kurds can contribute to a just and democratic solution to ongoing regional instability. Location: National Press Club, Holeman Lounge, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Mehmet Yuksel info@bdpusa.org (202-445-6012)

INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE – ECUADOR — 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Discussion on recent government efforts to regulate civil society organizations in Ecuador. Participants: Carlos Pirez Guartambel, who heads the movement of indigenous groups Ecuarunari, along with Enrique Herrerma, the director of the Observatory of Rights and Justice. Josi Miguel Vivanco, Americas director at Human Rights Watch, will provide an overview of the decrees implications for the rights to free speech and freedom of assembly. http://www.thedialogue.org/page.cfm?pageID=425&eventID=371&invitee=a1160a46-ee22-404e-8c18-c8354fba3322. Location: 1211 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 510. Notes: This event will be in Spanish.

DUNCAN – PRESCHOOL STEM — 10 a.m. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan visits Brightwood Elementary School in Washington to learn how teachers are using the arts to teach preschool students about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The initiative is a partnership between the school and the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning through the Arts, a program of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. Following a preschool classroom visit, Duncan will hold a roundtable with STEM and art teachers, local business and education leaders, and elected officials about the importance of early learning, particularly in STEM education, and highlight how the arts can be used to engage students in a fun, innovative and meaningful way. Location: Brightwood Elementary School, 1300 Nicholson St. NW. Contacts: press@ed.gov, 202-401-1576

CSIS – COUNTER-TERRORISM – HUMANITARIAN ACTION — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Impact of Donor Counter-Terrorism Measures on Principled Humanitarian Action. Introduction: Sam Worthington President & CEO,

InterAction. Panel Discussion: Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, United Nations; Jan Egeland, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council; Ambassador Daniel Fried, Coordinator of Sanctions Policy, US State Department; Ambassador William Garvelink , Senior Adviser, CSIS Project on US Leadership in Development and Former US Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Moderator: Daniel Runde, Director of the Project on Prosperity and Development and William A. Schreyer Chair in Global Analysis, CSIS. Location: C115 Conference Center. CSIS 1616 Rhode Island Ave. NW.

HAGEL – NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE MINISTER — 11:45 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome New Zealand Minister of Defense Jonathan Coleman to the Pentagon. Location: Steps of the Pentagon River Entrance. Contacts: Press Desk, 702-697-5131 Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Parking Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the cordon.

CAP – SOFT-ON-CRIME ADS — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Center for American Progress (CAP) hosts discussion on the Impact of 'Soft-on-Crime' Attack Ads and Campaign Spending on the Criminal Justice System. Welcome: Lori Lodes, Senior Vice President of Campaigns and Strategies, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Senior Vice President, Center for American Progress. Panelists: Louis Butler, former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice; partner at Gonzalez, Saggio, & Harlan LLP; Oliver Diaz, former Mississippi Supreme Court Justice and attorney; Stephen Bright, President and Senior Counsel, Southern Center for Human Rights. Moderator: Billy Corriher, Associate Director of Research, Legal Progress. Contact Madeline Meth at mmeth@americanprogress.org or 202.741.6277. Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

NASA MARS MISSION BRIEFING — 2 p.m. NASA will host a news briefing to discuss the upcoming launch of the agency's next mission to Mars and the first devoted to understanding the upper atmosphere of the Red Planet. Participants: John Grunsfeld, associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters, Washington; Jim Green, director, Planetary Science Division, Headquarters; Lisa May, MAVEN program executive, Headquarters; Kelly Fast, MAVEN program scientist, Headquarters; Bruce Jakosky, MAVEN principal investigator, University of Colorado Boulder Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics; David Mitchell, MAVEN project manager, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. Location: NASA Headquarters, 300 E St. SW. Contacts: Dwayne Brown dwayne.c.brown@nasa.gov (202-358-1726). Nancy Neal-Jones nancy.n.jones@nasa.gov (301-286-0039). Notes: Journalists unable to attend in person may ask questions from participating NASA locations, join by phone, or send questions via Twitter using the hashtag askNASA. To participate by phone, reporters must contact Steve Cole at stephen.e.cole@nasa.gov with their media affiliation by 1 p.m. Monday.

GW – TEHRAN LEADERSHIP — 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. New Leadership in Tehran: Time for Rapprochement? Ambassador John Limbert, former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Iran; Dr. Shireen Hunter, Visiting Fellow, Center for Christian Muslim Understanding and Director, Carnegie Endowment Project on reformist Islam. RSVP: http://bit.ly/GThrgi For more information: Location: SMPA, Room B07, 805 21st St. NW.

CNAS – BUILDING BETTER GENERALS — 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The Center for a New American Security for a discussion marking the release of a major new CNAS report, Building Better Generals. Speakers include: Brigadier General Paula Thornhill, USAF (Ret.), Director, Strategy and Doctrine Program (PAF), RAND; Lieutenant General David W. Barno, USA (Ret.), CNAS Senior Advisor and Senior Fellow; Dr. Nora Bensahel, CNAS Deputy Director of Studies. Location: The Willard InterContinental Hotel's Crystal Room, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Contacts: RSVP to (202) 457-9427

SAIS – HEALTH GAINS – AFGHANISTAN — 6:30 p.m. "Maintaining and Securing the Health Gains in Afghanistan Post-Transition and Election" Suraya Dalil, minister of public health of Afghanistan, will discuss this topic. Eileen OConnor, senior director of communications and public diplomacy at the US Department of State. Location: Room 500, Bernstein-Offit Building, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

ALBRIGHT – US CHINA RELATIONS – LIVE EVENT — 7 p.m. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will join audiences in 66 cities and towns by live broadcast for China Town Hall, a nationwide meeting and Q&A on

the US-China relationship conducted by the National Committee on US-China Relations. Contacts: Joseph Weed (212) 645-9677 ext 11 (jweed@ncuscr.org)

JACK KEMP FOUNDATION – JEB BUSH — 7:30 p.m. The 2013 Jack Kemp Foundation Leadership Award will recognize Governor Jeb Bush for his leadership in "advancing the American Idea". Speakers: Speaker John Boehner (OH); Governor Jeb Bush (FL); Senator Dan Coats (IN); Lawrence Kudlow, CNBC; Senator Mike Lee (UT); House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (MN); Senator Tim Scott (SC). Location: The Mayflower Renaissance Hotel&8232;, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW. Contacts: RSVP to Dan Ronayn (202) 288-1048.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.
Jimmy Fallon: "This is just crazy. Another scandal with the National Security Agency, the NSA. They are at it again. More stuff keeps coming out. You know they have been accused of spying on Americans. Well, it just came out that they actually spied on 35 world leaders. Yeah. It was 34 prime ministers and Oprah."
Jimmy Fallon: "Some more news out of Washington. All good news, of course. This time it is about the IRS. A new report found that 700 IRS employees owed a combined $5.4 million in back taxes. When IRS workers got the news, they were like, 'Oh, man, I hope I don't find out about this.'"
Jimmy Fallon: "My man John McCain was in the news this week. He said that he's seriously thinking about running for a sixth term in 2016. In addition to that, the other thing he's seriously thinking about, stewed prunes."
Jay Leno: "Here is some amazing technology. NASA has successfully tested a broadband communications system that's built into the lunar atmosphere explorer probe. And it's sending data to and from the moon at the rate of 622 megabytes per second. To the moon and back in a second. In a related story, the Obamacare website is still down. Yeah, we can't get that going. But we're getting to the moon and back."
Jay Leno: "You know, I tried to log on to the Obamacare website today. I don't think I'm doing it right. I lost $300 playing Texas Hold 'em. That's not right."
Jay Leno: "And Washington, D.C. police are now investigating a burglary at the home of Secretary of State John Kerry. Somebody broke into his house. I understand Kerry is giving a statement to police right now. He should be finished with his statement by Tuesday."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Oct 30, 2013 at 9:45 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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+ President Obama To Nominate Interior Official.
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+ New River Gorge National River Gauge In Danger Of Funding Cuts.
+ Citations Issued During Shutdown.
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+ Op-Ed: Shutdown Shows Utah's Land Grab Is Misguided.

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National Park Service:
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+ Study Finds Roadwork Won't Harm Arches National Park.
+ Denali National Park Employees Puzzled By Discovery Of Pet Killing.
+ Tampa Mayor Says National Historic Designation Shouldn't Save Bro Bowl.
+ Historic Benton Church Added To National Register.

Bureau of Land Management:
+ Nevada Rancher Testifies Before House Public Lands Subcommittee.
+ Group Urges Remand of Montana Monument Ruling.
+ Deep Creek Wild And Scenic Designation Approaches Next Step.
+ Logging Activity Begins South Of Parshall.
+ Public Invited To BLM Land Health Workshops.
+ BLM Extends Comment Period On King Range Business Plan.

Fish and Wildlife Service:
+ Sportsmen Welcome Proposal To Expand Hunting, Angling On National Wildlife Refuges.
+ FWS Says Waterfowl Production Areas Will Remain Open.
+ Hawaiian Plants And Animals Gain Endangered Species Act Protection.
+ FWS To Hold Public Meeting On Grotto Sculpin.
+ Additional Coverage Of Gray Wolves.
+ Additional Coverage Of Black Rhino Hunt Auction.

US Geological Survey:

+ Scientists Find Asian Carp Breed In Great Lakes.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:
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Onshore Energy Development:
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+ Two Oklahoma Agencies Object To Proposed Energy Production Rules.
+ Environmental Group Fighting Extension Of Raleigh Co. Mining Permit.
+ WSJournal: Fracking Behind CO2 Emissions Drop.

Offshore Energy Development:
+ Report Recommends More Money, Broader Mandate For Upcoming Safety Institute.
+ BOEM Says Seismic Delay Won't Preclude Atlantic Offshore Lease Sale.
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+ Woman Pleads Guilty To Filing False Claim For Oil Spill Recovery Money.
+ New System Tor Tracking Incident Data Could Make Offshore Drilling Safer.

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+ BOR, Klamath Project Reflect On Water Year.

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+ Sen. Schumer Urges BIA To Provide Update On Cayuga Nation's Land-into-trust Application.
+ Attorney Argues Government Didn't Prove Spirit Lake Murder Case.
+ Tribes Make Case For Public Lands During Hearing.
+ Additional Coverage Of Proposed Kenosha Casino Project.
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+ Business Leaders Push House GOP To Act On Immigration.

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WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:
+ Today's Events In Washington.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING TO RESTORE DYKE MARSH WILDLIFE PRESERVE. The Mount Vernon Voice (10/30) reports that on Tuesday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Sen. Tim Kaine, and Rep. Jim Moran were at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve to announce "nearly $25 million in federal funding to restore it from the ravages of man and nature over the past several decades." Jewell noted "that places like this don't create themselves." She also said that "containment cells will be constructed in the marsh which will stop erosion and be used to restore it to its 1940 size."

The Mount Vernon (VA) Patch (10/30, 238) reports that Jewell said, "We're investing $25 million to restore more than 100 acres of marsh. This park will be able to connect youth and veterans with nature and that's great." Also, Sen. Tim Kaine said, "We all care passionately about the beauty of this community. Today is a good step forward. We have a lot of work to do and you have to involve the local community like Friends of Dyke Marsh." Rep. Jim Moran said, "The money [for this project] has been set aside, and this project is expensive. There was no sense in making plans before without the funds. It will take time to make plans, but we want to do this right."

Also providing coverage were Politico (10/30, Wong, 467K), the Washington Examiner (10/30, 319K), the Mount Vernon (VA) Patch (10/30, 238), the Greater Alexandria (VA) Patch (10/30), WUSA-TV Washington (10/30, 95K), WUSA-TV Washington (10/30, 95K), and WAMU-FM Washington (10/30, 36K).

Additional Coverage Of Hurricane Sandy. The National Geographic (10/30, 21.55M) reports that Hurricane Sandy "appears to have wrought positive changes in the landscape." According to the article, "amid the devastation caused by Sandy are a few places where the storm has improved wildlife habitat."

Additional coverage of Hurricane Sandy was provided by Philly (10/30, 1.22M), the Norwalk (CT) Patch (10/30, 1K), the Huffington Post (10/30, Clark, 11.54M), Reuters (10/29, Russ, Skinner), and WJLA-TV Washington (10/30, 118K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA TO NOMINATE INTERIOR OFFICIAL. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (10/30, Barron-lopez, Geman, 194K) reports that President Obama will nominate Rhea S. Suh to be the Interior Department's assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement, "Rhea's extensive experience and depth of knowledge of natural resource management make her an outstanding choice for this key position on our departmental leadership team." Jewell added, "She has guided the Department and our bureaus through increasingly austere budgets, helping find creative ways to continue to carry out our critical and diverse missions."

SPORTSMEN'S COALITION SEEKS MONUMENT STATUS OF BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS. The Boise (ID) Weekly (10/29, 108K) reports that a sportsmen's coalition is calling for the creation a national monument in the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains in central Idaho. John Caywood, member of the Ada County Fish and Game League, said, "We've been waiting nearly a decade for Congress to preserve our hunting and fishing opportunities in the Boulder-White Clouds. But after years of broken stalemate politics in Washington, D.C., it's clear that our 'do nothing' Congress can't get the job done." The Sportsmen for Boulder-White Clouds has "posted a petition on its website, urging sportsmen to call on US Secretary of Interior Sally Jewel and US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to create such a monument via the Antiquities Act."

Also reporting on the story is KTVB-TV Boise, ID (10/30, 87K).

BLUEWAY QUESTIONS REMAIN UNADDRESSED. The Branson Tri-Lakes (MO) News (10/30, 23K) reports that the National Blueway Program has "been put on hold in response to widespread opposition in Missouri," but the Interior Department has "yet to address legislators' questions about the program." The article notes that House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings has "made several requests for information on the program" to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Also, "Congressman Jason Smith (R), who is a member of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power, and Congressman Billy Long (R) held two oversight committee hearings in order to get answers from Interior personnel," but "no representatives from the Department of the Interior attended either meeting."

NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER GAUGE IN DANGER OF FUNDING CUTS. The Charleston (WV) Daily Mail (10/30, Gibb, 75K) reports that due to the federal budget sequestration, the NPS "was forced to slice and dice various services they provide, including full funding of the river gauge along the New River." Patricia Kicklighter, New River Gorge National River superintendent, said the NPS has "historically funded the river gauge along the New River but because of budget cuts, the service could not continue to fund the gauge 100 percent." The USGS can "authorize to pay up to 50 percent of the river gauges' operational costs as long as there are additional federal, state and local funding partners."

CITATIONS ISSUED DURING SHUTDOWN. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (10/30, 437K) reports that the BLM

issued five tickets during the government shutdown to people who entered the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Also, Lake Mead spokeswoman Christie Vanover said NPS rangers handed out 12 citations to hikers, cyclists, motorists and fishermen who violated the closure order at the 1.5 million acre recreation area east of Las Vegas.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR CIO SAYS AGENCIES NEED MORE AUTHORIZED CLOUD VENDORS. Additional coverage of Interior Department's CIO, Bernie Mazer's comments that agencies need more authorized cloud vendors was provided by the Federal Times (10/28, 120K) and the Washington Business Journal (10/30, Subscription Publication, 119K).

OP-ED: SHUTDOWN SHOWS UTAH'S LAND GRAB IS MISGUIDED. In an op-ed for the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (10/30, Metcalf, 343K), Peter Metcalf, CEO, president & co-founder of Black Diamond Inc., writes that "if we learn any lesson from this debacle of a government shutdown, I hope it's that national parks and other public lands are of greater daily benefit to Utahns than the rhetoric of the state Legislature's sagebrush rebels and our own members of Congress would ever acknowledge." He notes that "when the shutdown hit national parks, several Utah counties went so far as to declare a state of emergency, despite the fact that many of these county officials never miss an opportunity to criticize the parks when they're open." For this reason, Metcalf argues that "the state of Utah's ludicrous land grab must stop."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

SEN. COBURN CALLS FOR HALT IN NEW DESIGNATIONS UNTIL MAINTENANCE BACKLOG IS ADDRESSED. The E&E Daily (10/29) reports that "Congress should place a moratorium on new national parks" until the NPS can "take care of the 401 parks it already manages," according to a new report by Sen. Tom Coburnthat "calls the National Park System a 'microcosm' of fiscal waste in the federal budget." The report "blasts Congress and the Obama administration for designating frivolous park units, funneling hundreds of millions of dollars into 'non-park support bureaucracy,' and buying thousands of acres of new lands instead of addressing the Park Service's estimated $11.5 billion maintenance backlog." Coburn argued that "the rush to designate new parks has stretched the agency's limited budget too thin and allowed its 'crown jewels' to fall into disrepair and neglect."

FOX News (10/29, 6.72M) reports that Coburn "doesn't blame" the NPS; "he blames Congress." Coburn said, "Congress continues to add things – 'parks' – that aren't significant in terms of national interest in a declining budget. What we have is our most treasured resources, the big parks, with maintenance backlogs in excess of $2 billion."

According to the Cronkite News (10/30), the report said "Congress underfunded the park service's maintenance budget by $256 million this year, even as it allocated $57 million to acquire more land and spends $255 million to $529 million a year to acquire land through the Land and Water Conservation Fund." Coburn said "Congress should stop acquiring land and reallocate that money to parks like the Grand Canyon, which had a $405 million maintenance backlog in 2012."

The Washington Times (10/30, Dinan, 417K) reports that Jeffrey Olson, "a parks spokesman, said they will review the report and that it's an important topic as they near the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 1916."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Examiner (10/30, Ferrechio, 319K), the Detroit Free Press (10/30, Spangler, 794K), the Daily Caller (10/30, May, 422K), and KOTV-TV Tulsa, OK (10/30, 69K).

STUDY FINDS ROADWORK WON'T HARM ARCHES NATIONAL PARK. The Deseret (UT) News (10/30, 274K) reports that "a study has found that proposed roadwork will not significantly affect" Arches National Park. The NPS has "announced the Finding of No Significant Impact for the park-wide road maintenance and modification project in Arches National Park was signed by the acting Intermountain regional director on Oct. 18."

DENALI NATIONAL PARK EMPLOYEES PUZZLED BY DISCOVERY OF PET KILLING. The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (10/29, 198K) reports that "employees at Denali Park and Preserve on a geology outing last week made a grisly discovery as they drove the park road to check a massive landslide below Sable Pass." According to the article, "at a roadside pullout, the group found a large rodent, charred and apparently partially eaten, a crushed mouse, and the severed head of a baby python along with the remains of a campfire and several empty boxes from Petco, a chain pet store with a Fairbanks location." Park authorities are "still trying to figure out what happened – and why."

TAMPA MAYOR SAYS NATIONAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION SHOULDN'T SAVE BRO BOWL. The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (10/30, 78K) reports that Mayor Bob Buckhorn is disagreeing with the addition of Tampa's Bro Bowl skateboard park to the National Register of Historic Places. Buckhorn said, "It's not historical, and it's marginally significant." Moreover, "from the city's perspective, it's in the way" of plans to demolish "the Bro Bowl as part of a $6 million makeover of Perry Harvey Sr. Park."

HISTORIC BENTON CHURCH ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER. The Corvallis (OR) Gazette-Times (10/30, 31K) reports that "the 130-year-old North Palestine Baptist Church is now on the National Register of Historic Places."

Bureau of Land Management:

NEVADA RANCHER TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (10/30, 437K) reports that Wayne Hage Jr., whose family has battled federal agencies for more than two decades over water and property rights for its Nevada ranch, appeared before the House public lands subcommittee to testify on Tuesday. Hage said, "The abuses were so great, I can tell you stories that would make the hair stand on the back of your neck. I'm probably going to get retribution for just even being here and talking to you about this."

GROUP URGES REMAND OF MONTANA MONUMENT RULING. The Fairfield Sun Times (10/29) reports that the Mountain States Legal Foundation "last week urged a Montana federal district court to remand a portion of its ruling for review" by the BLM. According to the article, "the filing follows after a ruling by a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in favor of environmental groups that challenged federal management plans for a Montana national monument."

DEEP CREEK WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATION APPROACHES NEXT STEP. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (10/30, 27K) reports that "a process that began nearly 19 years ago to have Deep Creek in far eastern Garfield County designated as a Wild and Scenic waterway is nearing the end of a formal suitability analysis as part of the BLM's new Resource Management Plan." David Boyd, spokesman for the BLM's Northwest Colorado District, said, "We are conducting our suitability analysis for Wild and Scenic Rivers through our RMP. We anticipate the proposed plan/alternative will be released late this fall or early next year." Also, the White River National Forest is working with the BLM to "analyze eligible segments of Deep Creek as it passes through forest lands."

LOGGING ACTIVITY BEGINS SOUTH OF PARSHALL. The Sky-Hi Daily News (CO) (10/30, 728) reports that "hunters and other public land users could encounter logging activity and increased heavy truck traffic in the coming weeks" on BLM-administered lands "about 10 miles south of Parshall." According to the article, "loggers will be clearing beetle-killed lodgepole pine from BLM lands near Morgan Creek and Mule Creek off of Grand County Road 3, and Cow Creek near Grand County Road 34. All are in Big Game Management Unit 28."

PUBLIC INVITED TO BLM LAND HEALTH WORKSHOPS. The Deseret (UT) News (10/30, 274K) reports that BLM range specialists will "present a series of workshops/field trips of how science is used to monitor land health on BLM lands and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and how the collected data helps ranchers and land managers make livestock management decisions." According to the article, "the workshops will explain long-term trend studies, study site selection and setup, how photo points are used, how data is collected and recorded, and plant identification." Richard Madril, assistant monument manager for resources, said, "You don't have to be a scientist, or a rancher, or a land manager to learn something from these workshops. Our range specialists are very excited about the work they do and are really looking forward to sharing what they've learned

with the public."

BLM EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON KING RANGE BUSINESS PLAN. The Redwood (CA) Times (10/30, 57K) reports that the BLM "has extended the deadline to Oct. 31, 2013, for public comments on a business plan setting use limits and fees for recreation in the King Range National Conservation Area on northern California's Lost Coast." Lynda Roush, manager of the BLM's Arcata Field Office, said, "We are extending the comment period to accommodate those who could not access the business plan while the BLM's websites were offline during the government shutdown."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SPORTSMEN WELCOME PROPOSAL TO EXPAND HUNTING, ANGLING ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES. The AmmoLand (10/30, 5K) reports that the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is welcoming a proposal by the FWS to expand hunting and angling throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System. Under the proposal, which FWS Director Dan Ashe says represents "one of the largest expansions of hunting and fishing opportunities on wildlife refuges in recent years," new hunting programs will be "initiated on six refuges, and existing hunting and angling programs will be expanded on another 20 refuges." TRCP President and CEO Whit Fosburgh "commended the proposal, citing the economic powerhouse that is hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation in the United States."

FWS SAYS WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS WILL REMAIN OPEN. The Lincoln (NE) Journal Star (10/30, 220K) reports that the FWS has said Waterfowl Production Areas will remain open. The agency said that "due to the ongoing lapse in Congressional appropriations, the decision was made to close all facilities and lands to public use." However, "it was determined that allowing public access to Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) will not incur further government expenditure or obligation," and "therefore, effective immediately, all WPAs will reopen to public use."

HAWAIIAN PLANTS AND ANIMALS GAIN ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROTECTION. The E&E Daily (10/29) reports that the FWS granted Endangered Species Act protections to 15 types of plants and animals native to Hawaii. The anchialine pool shrimp, the picture-wing fly, and 13 kinds of plants will be "considered endangered once the Fish and Wildlife Service's rule, published today in the Federal Register, goes into effect next month." The article notes that "the decisions on the fauna and flora come as part of a legal settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity to fast-track decisions on protections for hundreds of plants and animals in return for the group limiting future petitions and lawsuits."

Also reporting on the story is KHON-TV Honolulu (10/30, 30K).

FWS TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON GROTTO SCULPIN. The Perry County (MO) Republic Monitor (10/30, 14K) reports that "the public meeting that was supposed to be held this Tuesday via the US Fish and Wildlife Service is now slated for Nov. 20 in Perryville." According to the article, "last week, Perryville City Administrator Brent Buerck told the Perryville Board of Aldermen that, because of the government shutdown, Fish and Wildlife had notified him that they would not hold a meeting, originally scheduled for this week." FWS Biologist Shuana Marquardt said "she and other relevant agencies will be present at the public meeting to field questions from attendees about the recent listing of the grotto sculpin as endangered and the exclusion of critical habitat on Perry County land."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GRAY WOLVES. Additional coverage of the proposal by the FWS to extend protections for Mexican gray wolves in New Mexico and Arizona was provided by FOX News (10/29, 6.72M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BLACK RHINO HUNT AUCTION. Additional coverage of the planned auction of a permit to kill one rare black rhino in Namibia by the Dallas Safari Club was provided by the Houston Chronicle (10/28, Christian, 2.26M).

US Geological Survey:

SCIENTISTS FIND ASIAN CARP BREED IN GREAT LAKES. The E&E Daily (10/29) reports that invasive Asian

carp have successfully reproduced in the Great Lakes, according to an analysis by the USGS and Bowling Green State University. Researchers found that "four grass carp captured last year in Ohio's Sandusky River, which feeds into Lake Erie, had spent their entire lives there." The article notes that "the development worries officials, who are working to prevent the invasive species from entering the watershed."

Also reporting on the story is the Christian Science Monitor (10/29, Flesher, 540K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

OPPONENTS OF OAKFIELD WIND FARM FILE LAWSUIT IN FEDERAL COURT. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (10/29, 166K) reports that opponents of a wind farm under construction in Oakfield have filed a lawsuit in US District Court to halt "the proposed installation of 50 mountaintop turbines and 59 miles of transmission lines." Protect Our Lakes and the Forest Ecology Network, "both nonprofit groups, and people who own camps in the area sued" the Interior Department and the US Army Corps of Engineers on Tuesday. The lawsuit argues that "the wind project, which was approved by Maine's Department of Environmental Protection, would endanger bald eagles and Atlantic salmon."

Also reporting on the story is the Waterville (ME) Morning Sentinel (10/30, 59K).

Onshore Energy Development:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS ASK INTERIOR TO SLOW DOWN DRILLING IN SAGE GROUSE HABITAT. The E&E Daily (10/29) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups is asking the Interior Department to slow down planned oil and natural gas drilling activity inside prime greater sage grouse habitat in eastern Wyoming." WildEarth Guardians recently sent a formal petition to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking the department "to exercise its authority over subsurface mineral rights in the area and forbid new well pads and associated infrastructure such as roads inside a state-designated core sage grouse area until it has finalized resource plan amendments designed to protect grouse in the region." According to the article, "the 15-page petition – which was also sent to Neil Kornze, the Bureau of Land Management's principal deputy director – asks Interior to also incorporate new conditions of approval for wells in the area such as seasonal restrictions to prevent drilling activity during breeding and nesting season, March 15 through June 30."

Also reporting on the story is the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (10/30, 90K). AP coverage was picked up by Yahoo! (10/30, Gruver, Press, 17.91M) , the Huffington Post (10/29, 11.54M) , the Bloomberg BusinessWeek (10/29, 4.93M) , the FuelFix (10/29, 7K) , the Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (10/30, 31K) , the Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (10/30, 325K) , the Riverton (WY) Ranger (10/30, 167), and the Albany (NY) Times Union (10/30, 674K).

TWO OKLAHOMA AGENCIES OBJECT TO PROPOSED ENERGY PRODUCTION RULES. The Oklahoman (10/30, 345K) reports that "two state agencies on Tuesday challenged proposed federal rules for jurisdiction and oil and gas production in Osage County." In the 11-page letter to the BIA, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt "objected to language regarding water rights and said state regulators should have jurisdiction." Also, J.D. Strong, executive director for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, "expressed a similar sentiment in his comments to the BIA this week."

Also reporting on the story is KOTV-TV Tulsa, OK (10/30, 69K).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP FIGHTING EXTENSION OF RALEIGH CO. MINING PERMIT. The West Virginia Record (WV) (10/30, 313) reports that a state environmental group is seeking an injunction against the Interior Department "over a rule that would prevent certain three-year-old mining permits from expiring." Coal River Mountain Watch filed a complaint against the Interior Department and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement on Oct. 21 in US District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia. CRMW argues that "the rule violates the Administrative Procedure Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act."

WSJOURNAL: FRACKING BEHIND CO2 EMISSIONS DROP. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (10/30,

Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that energy-related CO2 emissions fell 3.8% in 2012 to their lowest level since 1994. While a warm first quarter reduced the heating fuel use and Americans drove less, an EIA report said that the boom in natural-gas production seriously reduced the carbon intensity of electricity generation. The Journal says that the President should thank fracking for doing more to combat CO2 emissions than the Administrations regulations.

Offshore Energy Development:

REPORT RECOMMENDS MORE MONEY, BROADER MANDATE FOR UPCOMING SAFETY INSTITUTE. The E&E Daily (10/29) reports that "a forthcoming independent offshore safety research center needs to have its mandate broadened and funding significantly increased to augment the government's capabilities, a team of scientists and engineers recommends in a new report." The BSEE will soon announce which group or institution will host the Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI). However, "with initial proposed funding of just $5 million over five years, the institute will find it difficult to retain highly skilled people to lead it, warn the authors of a report by the National Academy of Engineering and National Research Council."

Additional coverage was provided by the Rigzone (10/30, 12K).

BOEM SAYS SEISMIC DELAY WON'T PRECLUDE ATLANTIC OFFSHORE LEASE SALE. Platts (10/30, 2K) reports that "US officials expect to have sufficient information to decide whether to include an offshore Atlantic lease sale in the 2017-2022 five-year plan, even if fresh seismic data is not available," BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau said Tuesday. According to Beaudreau, "a lease sale off Virginia or elsewhere in the Mid or South Atlantic could be included in the later years of the next leasing plan on the assumption that seismic companies would be able to complete new surveys by then." Beaudreau said in an interview, "We have a strategy for evaluating whether and, if so, under what configuration to have sales, but not all of that has to come together before you start scoping the next five year plan, which we're going to start in 2014."

DIVERS FIND BODY OF MISSING PLATFORM WORKER. The AP (10/30) reports that "divers have found the body of a missing oil platform worker at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, near the platform that sits in 100 feet of water about 55 miles offshore." The body, "recovered Tuesday, is believed to be that of 38-year-old Peter Voces, a Filipino welder who works for Houma-based Offshore Specialty Fabricators LLC." According to Petty Officer Carlos Vega, "Voces reportedly was knocked overboard when an empty 'tank barrel' fell on him Sunday evening on a rig south of Freshwater Bayou." Inspectors from the BSEE have "been on the scene since Monday and are investigating what caused the accident."

Also covering the story are WWL-TV New Orleans (10/30, 107K), KATC-TV Lafayette, LA (10/30, 16K), and the Houma (LA) Courier (10/29, 48K).

WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FILING FALSE CLAIM FOR OIL SPILL RECOVERY MONEY. The E&E Daily (10/29) reports that a Mississippi woman has "pleaded guilty to filing a false claim for $17,000 in oil spill recovery money." According to the article, Kim Marie Isabell "filed a claim in 2010 saying she had lost money from her job after the Deepwater Horizon explosion," and "an oil spill trust fund sent her a $12,000 check in the mail and wired $5,000 to her bank account." Isabell could "receive a sentence of up to 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine."

NEW SYSTEM TOR TRACKING INCIDENT DATA COULD MAKE OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFER. For Forbes (10/29, 6.03M), Loren Steffy writes that former Coast Guard Vice Admiral Brian Salerno recently took over as head of the BSEE, and "in his inaugural speech last week, Salerno indicated he favored strengthening requirements for collecting and analyzing data about offshore incidents." Specifically, BSEE is "leading the effort to track 'near-miss' incidents that could indicate bigger problems with an operator or a part of the drilling process" Steffy says that "the publicly available data on offshore incidents is at best scant and incomplete, and the new system for tracking incident data, begun under Salerno's predecessor, is long overdue."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR TO MAKE PRESENTATION AT IDAHO WATER SEMINAR. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (10/29, 113K) reports that "drought conditions during the 2013 growing season have spurred interest in the Idaho Water Users

Association's 30th Annual Fall Water Law and Resource Issues Seminar." The article notes that "the seminar will include a presentation" by a BOR official on "how recent changes to the agency's operating manual could impact water transfers and pricing."

BOR, KLAMATH PROJECT REFLECT ON WATER YEAR. The Oregon Public Broadcasting (10/30, 4K) reports that "thanks to the new biological opinion tying needs in Upper Klamath Lake for listed shortnose and Lost River suckers and the needs of threatened coho salmon in the Klamath River, Klamath Project irrigators had a baseline to work with and a security they haven't had for more than a decade." In the spring, the BOR "released its operations plan, based on the new joint biological opinion," and "it estimated project irrigators would have 290,000 acre feet of water available." The bureau "won't know if the winter is looking good until January or February."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR RELEASES LAND VALUATION PLAN FOR BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The Native American Times (10/29, 337) reports that the Interior Department has released its revised Land Buy-Back Program Valuation Plan. The article notes that "the Appraisal Foundation (TAF), the nation's foremost authority on appraisal standards and qualifications, performed a comprehensive review of the draft Plan, which was revised to incorporate all of TAF's recommendations." Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, said, "There is no greater authority for establishing standards for appraisals and qualifications for appraisers than The Appraisal Foundation. TAF's independent analysis confirms that the steps we are taking to determine fair market value for offers to landowners are cost-effective and conform to the best practices for valuation. We are grateful for their comprehensive review and have incorporated their recommendations into the Valuation Plan we will use in the months and years ahead as we work through a transparent process to provide fair market value to tribal landowners."

SEN. SCHUMER URGES BIA TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON CAYUGA NATION'S LAND-INTO-TRUST APPLICATION. The Auburn (NY) Citizen (10/30, 34K) reports that Sen. Chuck Schumer urged the BIA Tuesday to "meet with officials from Cayuga and Seneca counties to update them on the status of the Cayuga Indian Nation's land-into-trust application." Schumer said he contacted Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn to request the meeting. According to Schumer, "local officials haven't been afforded the opportunity to share their views on the Cayugas' latest effort to place nearly 130 acres of land into trust."

ATTORNEY ARGUES GOVERNMENT DIDN'T PROVE SPIRIT LAKE MURDER CASE. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (10/30, 15K) reports that "the lawyer for a man convicted in the brutal killings of two children on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota said his client should either be acquitted or granted a new trial." Defense attorney Christopher Lancaster on Monday "filed separate motions for Valentino 'Tino' Bagola, 22, who is awaiting sentencing on two counts of felony murder." Lancaster, a public defender, said that "the government did not prove its case and that Bagola's confession was coerced by FBI agents with several 'gotcha' moments."

TRIBES MAKE CASE FOR PUBLIC LANDS DURING HEARING. The Idaho Statesman (10/29, 205K) reports that "leaders of Native American tribes made a historical and cultural case Monday that they should be first in line if any of Idaho's 32 million acres of federal public lands are transferred to state control." According to the article, "tribal leaders were one of several interest groups that testified before the Legislature's Federal Lands Interim Committee meeting, which is studying the pros and cons of a resolution approved by lawmakers earlier this year demanding that the federal government cede most of the public land in Idaho to state control." The article notes that "leaders of three Idaho tribes voiced opposition to the proposal and said keeping those lands under federal ownership prevents any state effort to sell acreage for revenue or to companies seeking to extract resources."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSED KENOSHA CASINO PROJECT. Additional coverage of the proposed Kenosha casino project was provided by the Kenosha (WI) News (10/30, 64K) and the Green Bay (WI) Press-Gazette (10/29, 135K).

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY WORKING TO CHANGE BIA'S LEASING REGULATIONS. In an op-ed for the Arizona Capitol Times (10/29, 599), Gregory Mendoza, the governor of the Gila River Indian Community, writes that the community continues to "work hard to change" the BIA's "leasing regulations that have stood in

the way of self-determination for Indian nations for decades." He argues that "the feds' 'one size fits all' set of rules and bureaucracy too often hamstrings Indian tribes by failing to acknowledge our unique geographies and government structures."

Top National News:

AS MANY LOSE CURRENT HEALTH PLANS, OBAMA ACCUSED OF BREAKING PROMISE. The President's promise that consumers who like their current health insurance plan will be able to keep it is getting extensive media coverage amid reports that many Americans are receiving notices that their individual health insurance policies will be canceled because they do not comply with the ACA. All three network news broadcasts reported on the cancellations, and the issue is the subject of extensive print coverage this morning. Almost universally, reports cast the White House as on the defensive from criticism that the President has broken a major promise that he made repeatedly during the push to pass the healthcare law.

ABC World News (10/29, story 2, 2:00, Stephanopoulos, 7.43M) reported that the President is being "accused of breaking a key healthcare promise" as millions of Americans are "learning they will lose their current insurance coverage." ABC (Avila) added that for 14 million Americas, the President's promise that those who like their plan can keep it "may not be true." The President's opponents say his claim was a "big lie," but the White House says that the "underinsured will be better off with Obamacare."

NBC Nightly News (10/29, lead story, 3:15, Williams, 7.86M) reported in its lead story that "the assurances made by the President" are "drawing scrutiny." NBC (Myers) added that "so far almost two million of the 14 million Americans who buy individual coverage have gotten letters that their policy is canceled or has to change because of the law." Nonetheless, "the White House insists the President did not mislead Americans when he promised everyone could keep their insurance."

The CBS Evening News (10/29, story 2, 1:30, Garrett, 5.58M) reported that according to the White House, "consumers angered at having to switch their individual insurance policies after the President promised them they could keep them can find better alternatives and possibly cost-saving subsidies on the Federal healthcare website." In a separate story, the CBS Evening News (10/29, story 3, 0:30, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that "more than two million Americans are getting notices that they can no longer keep their policies, including 279,000 in California, Michigan, 140,000. Florida, 300,000. And in New Jersey, 800,000."

The Wall Street Journal (10/30, Martin, Weaver, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that millions of individual policy holders are discovering that they must change coverage by the end of the year in order to comply with the ACA, and for many, the price will be higher – sometimes double their current premium.

The New York Times (10/29, Abelson, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that coverage required under the ACA "is much more generous than many of the plans that had been sold to individuals, and insurers are now pricing these policies to account for many of the older and sicker people they once could turn away but must now cover." As a result, some consumers "may find a new policy less expensive than their previous one."

The Washington Times (10/30, Boyer, 417K) reports that the White House said Tuesday that President Obama "didn't mislead the public when he promised everyone could keep his or her plan under Obamacare." White House press secretary Jay Carney said that Obama "was making the promise only for people who held a policy when the law was enacted in 2010." Carney added that "those people are being 'grandfathered' under the law."

Under the headline, "White House Playing Defense On Obamacare," Politico (10/30, Brown, 467K) reports that the President's "soundbites are coming back to bite him," adding that Carney said that "only the 5 percent of Americans who buy insurance on the individual market are receiving letters from insurers warning of policy changes and premium hikes." However, "that 5 percent of the population — 15 million — is still a huge number of people potentially experiencing changes that Obama promised they wouldn't face."

The Hill (10/30, Easley, Sink, 194K) reports in its "Healthwatch" blog that the White House "struggled to defend President Obama's 2009 claim that people could keep their old health insurance under ObamaCare as thousands of people received notifications that their insurance companies were dropping their plans." Republicans are

accusing the President and his Administration "of misleading the public, and the controversy has become another difficult flashpoint on healthcare for the White House."

The Daily Caller (10/30, Munro, 422K) reports that the White House "strategy to explain why millions of Americans are losing their health insurance plans" is to "blame the insurance companies." Carney "rewrote President Barack Obama's much-repeated 'you can keep it' promise Tuesday afternoon, and began blaming health insurance companies for canceling millions of individuals' insurance plans." Carney said, "If you had a plan... and you liked it, and you've kept it, you can keep if forever as long as your insurer offers it."

USA Today (10/30, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that Republicans and the White House disagree about whether the President's "repeated vows over the past four years that insured Americans would be able to keep their current coverage if they wanted to under his health care overhaul were misleading." USA Today notes that since 2009, the President has "regularly suggested during his public pitches of the Affordable Care Act that those who have insurance shouldn't be worried about losing it," but on Tuesday Administration officials said that "it should be no surprise that a slice of the 5% of U.S. consumers who are on the individual insurance market would be forced to switch plans as a result of insurance providers dealing with meeting the minimum benefit requirement established under the law."

The Washington Post (10/29, A1, Sun, Somashekhar, 4.28M) reports in a front-page story that the controversy over the President's promises "is threatening to overshadow the messy launch of its Web site." Republicans "are insisting that the president misled the public about the effects of the law." The Post notes that if accusations that the President broke his promises "stick, they could ultimately be more damaging than the glitchy Web site."

Similarly, Reuters (10/30, Rampton) reports that the accusations that the President made a misleading promise could pose a greater threat than the website problems.

The Wall Street Journal (10/30, A1, Radnofsky, Martin, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports in a front page story that as thousands of Americans receive cancellation notices Republicans are criticizing the President for repeatedly promising that people who like their coverage can keep it and Democrats are saying that the President did not prepare them to respond to the latest accusations.

The Los Angeles Times (10/30, Hennessey, Parsons, 3.07M) reports that the President's promises "have come back to haunt the president and his allies less than a month into the launch of the online insurance marketplaces at the heart of his healthcare legislation." The Times adds that "for the first time since the Oct. 1 launch, criticism of the administration moved well beyond the website's technical troubles" as hundreds of thousands of people "have received notices that their policies will be canceled or amended — and their premiums on new policies could rise."

The New York Times (10/30, Weisman, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Republicans have "broadened their criticism" of the ACA from the website problems as the "rising concern about canceled health coverage has provided Republicans a more tangible line of attack on the law and its most appealing promise." The Times calls the cancellation notices "a political gift to Republicans, who were increasingly concerned that their narrowly focused criticism of the problem-plagued HealthCare.gov could lead to a dead end, once the website's issues are addressed."

Politico (10/30, Nather, 467K) lists among its "top takeaways" from a House Ways and Means Committee hearing at which Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Marilyn Tavenner testified, the fact that "canceled policies are the new broken website."

The AP (10/30, Alonso-Zaldivar, Ohlemacher) reports that while the Administration has been warned about the cancellations, "they could become another public relations debacle for President Barack Obama's signature legislation." In this case, the problem "goes to the credibility of one of the president's earliest promises about the health care overhaul: You can keep your plan if you like it."

The Daily Caller (10/30, Weinstein, 422K) reports that New York Magazine, which is "no bastion of conservatism," has posted a video (10/30, 6.83M) on its website highlighting the President's "lies." In the video, the President "is seen stating over and over again, with no caveats, that after his health-care law passes, those

who like their health-care plan will be able to keep it."

The Huffington Post (10/30, 11.54M) reports that White House officials are pushing back against an NBC News report which "said up to 75 percent of Americans who currently buy private health insurance will lose their plans under Obamacare." The segment, which aired Monday "said that the White House knew this as far back as 2010, even though President Obama had said that people can choose to keep their current plans." The Post cites Tweets by several White House officials criticizing the report and notes that NBC News correspondent Lisa Myers defended the report Tuesday on MSNBC's Morning Joe, "explaining that insurance plans that do not meet Obamacare standards by 2014 or that have been changed since 2010 will get canceled." Myers said, "When you add those two parts together, you get to more than 40 to 67 percent of folks in the private market who cannot keep their policies even if they want to and the administration knew that."

This morning's opinion pages are divided about the importance of the cancellation of individual insurance policies. On one side of the argument, an editorial in the Wall Street Journal (10/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that the mass cancellation of individual insurance policies was the President's goal since 2008 because the choice of plans provided by the individual market is a threat to the ACA.

Similarly, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (10/30, Jenkins, Jr., Subscription Publication, 5.91M) Holman Jenkins writes that the ACA was intended to ensure that millions of Americans would lose the plans they like so that they would be forced to pay for coverage they do not want or need. Jenkins adds that the President wants consumers to pay for coverage they do not need so that he can use the money on someone else.

On the other side, an editorial in the Washington Post (10/30, 4.28M) defends the President arguing that while his claim "that Americans who liked their insurance plans would be able to keep them under health-care reform" is "not completely true," it is also not "evidence that the law is a failure." The Post notes that while some consumers "might pay more than they did before, they and many others will also get more." The Post adds that this is not "an outrage." Rather, it is "the predictable result of a defensible policy choice embedded in the reform."

In a column for the Los Angeles Times (10/30, Hiltzik, 3.07M) Michael Hiltzik portrays the ACA in a positive light, arguing that the cancellation of "nonconforming policies" is not news.

Hoyer: Democrats Knew Some People Would Lose Coverage. The Hill (10/30, Lillis, 194K) reports in its "Healthwatch" blog that House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said Tuesday that Democrats "knew all along that some patients would lose their health insurance plans under the new law." Hoyer said that "Democrats were aware that such a shift was coming," and "defended the change by arguing that those patients would ultimately benefit by getting better insurance, many of them at a lower price than they currently pay." Asked if the President and Democrats "misled the public on the topic, Hoyer conceded the party's message could have been better articulated."

Christie Says White House Did Not Tell The Truth. Politico (10/30, Kopan, 467K) reports that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie on Tuesday called on the White House "to explain why it didn't tell the truth on Obamacare when the president promised people could keep their health care plans." Christie said on "CBS This Morning," "The real problem is that people weren't told the truth. You can remember they were told that they would be able to keep their policies if they like them, and now you hear hundreds of thousands of people across the country being told they couldn't. ... So the White House needs to square that with what was told to the American people and told to Congress beforehand."

TAVENNER APOLOGIZES FOR HEALTHCARE.GOV PROBLEMS, BLAMES CONTRACTORS. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Marilyn Tavenner testified before the House Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday, marking the first time an Administration official has answered lawmakers' questions about problems with Healthcare.gov. Tavenner's testimony was covered by all three network news broadcasts and was part of the lead story on two of the broadcasts. TV and print coverage almost universally focuses on Tavenner's apology for the problems with the site, but most of the reports also note that she blamed the problems on the contractors who built the site and on heavy traffic when it went live. Many stories also mention that despite repeated questions from members of the committee, Tavenner refused to say how many people have been able to enroll for coverage.

The CBS Evening News (10/29, lead story, 2:40, Pelley, 5.58M) reported in its lead story that Tavenner "apologized for all of the problems with the site" and "placed the blame on tardy contractors," but her apology "did not satisfy members of the House committee who were frustrated when Tavenner would not answer some of the key questions." CBS (Cordes) added that members of the committee repeatedly asked "how many Americans have managed to navigate this system and actually sign up for insurance," but Tavenner "wouldn't answer."

NBC Nightly News (10/29, lead story, 3:15, Williams, 7.86M) reported in its lead story that Tavenner apologized but "insisted to a somewhat incredulous audience that the system is working." ABC World News (10/29, story 2, 2:00, Stephanopoulos, 7.43M) mentioned Tavenner's testimony as part of a story on problems with the healthcare law.

In a separate story, the CBS Evening News (10/29, story 2, 1:30, Garrett, 5.58M) asked David Seamus, the top healthcare adviser to President Obama, "how it was decided to launch the healthcare website when the Administration knew it had failed some key early tests?" Seamus: "There wasn't– it's clear now there wasn't enough testing. And the bottom line is the President of the United States last week went out in front of the American people and said here's what we're going to do to fix it. The good news, is when it's up and running we'll have until March 31 to make sure that people are covered."

USA Today (10/30, Kennedy, 5.82M) reports that Tavenner said, "The experience on HealthCare.gov has been frustrating for many Americans. ... Some have had trouble creating accounts and logging in to the site, while others have received confusing error messages, or had to wait for slow page loads or forms that failed to respond in a timely fashion. The initial consumer experience of HealthCare.gov has not lived up to the expectations of the American people and is not acceptable."

Reuters (10/30, Morgan, Heavey) reports that Tavenner apologized but attributed problems with the site to contractors and heavy traffic.

Politico (10/30, Millman, Haberkorn, 467K) also reports that Tavenner apologized but notes that she "singled out CGI Federal as the only HealthCare.gov contractor that failed to meet expectations, saying it had 'some issues with timely delivery.'" Politico adds that Tavenner was "was spared some of the harshest criticism for the website mess," adding that Republicans "have reserved that for Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who will testify at a separate House panel Wednesday amid growing GOP calls for her resignation."

The Christian Science Monitor (10/30, Trumbull, 540K) reports that Tavenner apologized but "insisted that the website for enrolling in Obamacare is 'a system that's working.'" Republican Rep. Kevin Brady asked, "Why should the American people believe you now," noting that the Administration "has had four years to get ready to launch the exchanges, and didn't get it right." The Monitor notes that some Democrats echoed those concerns. Democratic Rep. Allyson Schwartz "called a working website for Obamacare a legal obligation, since the site is the central venue for people to enroll under rules set in the law."

The Los Angeles Times (10/30, Memoli, 3.07M) reports that while Tavenner apologized for the problems with the site, she "highlighted successes of the law," noting that 78 million Americans "have saved $3.4 billion as insurance companies lowered rates to meet a requirement of the law...and millions more already have coverage because of it."

The Washington Post (10/29, Kliff, Branigin, 4.28M) also reports that Tavenner apologized and notes that in written testimony submitted to the committee in advance, Tavenner "pushed back against allegations that her agency mismanaged the project, suggesting that the difficulties with HealthCare.gov originated with some of the private contractors enlisted to work on the project." The Post adds that while Tavenner said that "700,000 applications for health insurance have been submitted so far, more than half of them in the federal marketplace," under questioning "she declined to say how many people have actually been able to enroll."

McClatchy (10/30, Pugh, 95K) reports that while Tavenner apologized for the website problems, she "said the setback 'took us by surprise.'" Tavenner said that the "inability of the Healthcare.gov website to establish individual user accounts and handle the initial volume of users shortly after open enrollment began on Oct. 1 'was not anticipated' and 'did not show up in testing.'" McClatchy also notes Tavenner's repeated refusal "to provide information about how many people have been able to sign up for coverage on the website, telling committee

members those numbers would be released in mid-November."

The Daily Caller (10/30, Pappas, 422K) reports that Tavenner "repeatedly refused to say how many people have actually enrolled in the new Obamacare exchanges."

The New York Times (10/30, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) also reports that Tavenner apologized for the problems people are having with the site but "repeatedly refused to say how many of those people had actually enrolled in health insurance plans since the federal and state marketplaces, or exchanges, opened on Oct. 1." Noting that "at least 146,000 Michigan residents had recently received notices that their current insurance policies would be canceled because the coverage did not meet requirements of the new health care law," Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp said that "based on what little information the administration has disclosed, it turns out that more people have received cancellation notices for their health care plans this month than have enrolled in the exchanges."

The Wall Street Journal (10/30, Schatz, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that lawmakers used Tuesday's hearing to air their differences about the ACA, noting that Republicans pointed out that people are being told their insurance policies are being canceled because they do not comply with the ACA despite promises from the President that they could keep their coverage if they liked it, while Democrats argued that Republicans do not want to work with them to fix problems with the law.

Glitches Could Drive Away Healthy Consumers, Restrict Access To Lower-Cost Coverage. The CBS Evening News (10/29, story 4, 2:05, Atkisson, 5.58M) reported in another story that analysts are concemed that "with the website problems, more of the enrollees will be the sickest and most motivated." If that occurs, insurers would "have no choice but to raise premiums and that could cause more health customers to flee," and "the Obamacare business model would collapse."

Reuters (10/30, Krauskopf, Morgan) reports that thousands of people could be denied easy-access to lower-cost health insurance if the problems with Healthcare.gov are not resolved by November. Reuters notes that many consumers who purchase their own policies are set to lose their current coverage because it does not comply with the ACA. If the problems with the site are not fixed, these people could lose access to low-cost coverage, which could undermine the Administration's goal of making coverage widely available in 2014.

Sebelius Will Testify HHS Is "Working Hard" To Fix Problems. USA Today (10/30, Locker, Kennedy, 5.82M) reports that in testimony prepared for her Wednesday appearance before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, HHS Secretary Sebelius says that she "realizes the problems with the HealthCare.gov website and is working hard to fix them." According to Sebelius' testimony, her Department "has updated the system with new code and help from experts inside and outside the government."

The Hill (10/30, Easley, 194K) reports in its "Healthwatch" blog that Sebelius is "kicking back at the contractors who blamed her agency for the botched ObamaCare website rollout," blaming "a 'subset' of contractors who 'have not met expectations' for the website's problems" in her opening statement. According to the testimony, Sebelius will say, "CMS has a track record of successfully overseeing the many contractors our programs depend on to function. ... Unfortunately, a subset of those contracts for HealthCare.gov have not met expectations."

Roll Call (10/30, Fuller, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 87K) lists questions Sebelius can expect to be asked during her testimony. Among them: "Will you resign?", "Will you admit that when the president said 'if you have a health care plan you like, you can keep it,' that was a lie?", and "What is the administration going to do to keep its promise to Americans?"

First Lady's Friend Whose Company Designed Site Held Key White House Meetings. The Daily Caller (10/30, Howley, 422K) reports the First Lady's college friend, Toni Townes-Whitley, "whose company received the no-bid contract to build the failed Obamacare website met at the White House with the current acting commissioner of the IRS and with a special assistant to President Obama." In addition to her Christmas visit to the White House in 2010, Townes-Whitley "also had four White House meetings in 2013, sitting down with top administration officials and a presidential assistant, according to White House visitor logs."

Unions Not Rallying To President In Battle Over Web Site. Politico (10/30, Epstein, 467K) reports that the

President's "loyal allies" in the labor movement are not moving to aid the Administration in the "public battle over the problematic Obamacare website." Politico said that the unions are "put off by new reinsurance fees on group health care plans that affect union members." Unions are "largely" skipping the effort to enroll people or argue the White House's "public case that the mangled rollout of HealthCare.gov doesn't mean the entire Affordable Care Act is flawed."

BUSINESS LEADERS PUSH HOUSE GOP TO ACT ON IMMIGRATION. The New York Times (10/30, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that on Tuesday, a "group of more than 600 leaders from roughly 40 states descended on the Capitol for meetings with nearly 150 Republican lawmakers." They are pressing House Republicans who they believe might be convinced to back a "broad immigration overhaul." US Chamber of Commerce's Randel K. Johnson said, "Our fly-in today is about moving votes on the Hill in support of reasonable immigration reform. I'm confident we're going to move the ball forward."

Politico (10/30, Kim, 467K) reports the group intends to "make the conservative case for immigration reform to lawmakers by bringing business experts, religious leaders and law enforcement officials to the Hill." While the group targeted some Democrats, the "overwhelming majority" of those visited are House Republicans. Among the groups represented are the American Conservative Union, whose head, Al Cardenas, said, "Failure to come up now with a solution to immigration reform is a sign of weakness, not of strength."

Reuters (10/30, Debenedetti, Sullivan) reports that the effort has attracted a wide variety of groups, including farmers and high-tech firms that say they can't find sufficient workers.

In his column for Politico (10/29, Simon, 467K), Roger Simon says that in "normal times," "sheer political expediency" would "motivate Republicans to back immigration reform as a way to attract Hispanic voters." Simon says that while the majority of Hispanic voters now vote Democratic, passing immigration reform would give the GOP the chance to compete for their votes. In addition, Simon says that the Senate legislation does not make illegal immigrants citizens immediately. Finally, the GOP "has a real opportunity to reach out to Hispanic voters and persuade them to vote Republican," as studies have shown that they are "susceptible" to voting Republican as they move up the social and economic ladder.

Pelosi Says Votes Are There To Pass Immigration Reform. The Washington Times (10/30, Klimas, 417K) reports that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said on Tuesday that "there is a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives ready to pass a comprehensive immigration overhaul bill," though she may "never get the chance to prove it" if Speaker Boehner doesn't bring it up for a vote.

Illinois To Begin Issuing Licenses To Illegal Immigrants. The Chicago Tribune (10/29, Garcia, 2.32M) reports that Illinois will begin issuing driving licenses to illegal immigrants in December, with "officials estimating that as many as 500,000 people could eventually apply for the special permits." The launch comes about a year after Gov. Pat Quinn (D) "signed a law creating the specialized license, officially known as the temporary visitor driver's license," which can't be used "as a form of identification for purposes such as boarding a plane, voting or buying a gun."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Allies In Revolt."*** The New York Times (10/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, lays out its perception of the dynamics facing the US in the Middle East. In looking at relations with Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, the Times says that Obama "he has been absolutely right in refusing to be goaded into a war in Syria or bullied into squandering a rare, if remote, chance to negotiate an Iranian nuclear deal." The Times does, however, wish Obama "had put more emphasis on Egypt and Iraq." In all, the Times thinks that Obama's Middle East "priorities make sense."

"Putting More Controls On Painkillers." In an editorial, the New York Times (10/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) hails the FDA's "important step" last week to "curb an epidemic of overdose deaths from misuse of prescription painkillers that contain hydrocodone" and another painkiller. The FDA is planning to change those drugs from Schedule III to the more restricted Schedule II. However, the Times faults the FDA for exempting drugs that contain only hydrocodone.

"A Mixed Decision On The Texas Abortion Law." The New York Times (10/30, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the high court "should affirm the Oklahoma court's decision that prohibiting women and their doctors from using the latest forms of medication abortion is unacceptable."

"Japan's Illiberal Secrecy Law." In an editorial, the New York Times (10/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that the Japanese government is about to enact a secrecy law that "will give all government ministries the right to classify information related to defense, diplomacy, counterintelligence and counterterrorism as a state secret." The Times argues that the law "will undermine the people's right to know" because "there is no guideline as to what constitutes a secret," which means "the government could well designate any inconvenient information secret."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Those Lost Health Plans."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (10/30, 4.28M) defends the President arguing that while his claim "that Americans who liked their insurance plans would be able to keep them under health-care reform" is "not completely true," it is also not "evidence that the law is a failure." The Post notes that while some consumers "might pay more than they did before, they and many others will also get more." The Post adds that this is not "an outrage." Rather, it is "the predictable result of a defensible policy choice embedded in the reform."

"NSA Spying Unbounded." In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/30, 4.28M) says that it is "painfully clear that the damage from the revelation" of the tap of German Chancellor Angela Merkel "is considerable." The Post says that there shouldn't be a "witch hunt" at the NSA, the "dismantlement of vital collection operations in European countries or a surrender to the demands of European politicians," but "it should lead to the establishment of greater political control and accountability for sensitive foreign operations, starting with the president."

"Tough Choices In Fairfax."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The ObamaCare Awakening."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (10/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that the mass cancellation of individual insurance policies was the President's goal since 2008 because the choice of plans provided by the individual market is a threat to the ACA.

"Natural Decarbonation." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (10/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that energy-related CO2 emissions fell 3.8% in 2012 to their lowest level since 1994. While a warm first quarter reduced the heating fuel use and Americans drove less, an EIA report said that the boom in natural-gas production seriously reduced the carbon intensity of electricity generation. The Journal says that the President should thank fracking for doing more to combat CO2 emissions than the Administrations regulations.

"Redistributing Charity." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (10/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman for reaching an agreement with four charities to have them direct $10 million toward Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts. The Journal says that it is likely that the move by the charities was not voluntary, and argues that Schneiderman is forcing them to give to his politically-preferred causes for publicity purchases.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Says France, Spain Aided NSA Spying
SAC Capital To Plead Guilty To Fraud
Canceled Policies Heat Up Health Fight
A Radioactive Legacy Near You?

New York Times:
Ousted General In Egypt Is Back, As Islamists' Foe

Spying Known At Top Levels, Officials Say
Where the Buck Stops, Some See A Bystander
In Race For Boston Mayor, Former Addicts Back Candidate With A Past
Calder's Heirs Accuse Trusted Dealer Of Fraud
Christie Embraces Budget Strategies He Scorned As A Candidate
Public Housing Residents Relying On Agency Still Recovering From Storm

Washington Post:
Canceled Policies Spur Health Furor
Faster Slaughter line A Slower Death For Poultry?
Cuba's Message To A Master Pitchman: No Sale
NSA Chief Says Phone Allegations Are False
Financial Times:
European Banks' Bill For Misconduct Mounts
NSA Hits Back Over Eavesdropping Claims
Batista's Talks With OGX Creditors Fail
Barclays Faces New $700m Bill
Google Uses Android Army In Plus Drive
Nextdoor lures Leading Venture Capitalist
Eurozone Seen To Run Too Far, Too Fast

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: NSA Spying Scandal; ACA-Individual Coverage; Hurricane Sandy-Breezy Point; Hurricane Sandy-Update; Arizona-Dust Storm; Made In America-Olympic Uniforms; Oral Health-Candy; UK Navy-Pirate Repellent; Hurricane Sandy-Babies.
CBS: ACA-Tavenner Apology; ACA Website-White House; ACA-Individual Policies; ACA-Minimum Numbers; NSA Spying Scandal; Economy-Wall Street Up; Afghanistan-Roadside Bombs; JFK-Eternal Flame; California-Police Child Shooting; Sandy-Fire Recovery.
NBC: ACA-Individual Policies; NSA Spying Scandal; Hurricane Sandy-Recovery; Hurricane Sandy-Breezy Point; Airline Travel Fees; JFK-Eternal Flame; Hurricane Sandy-Rebuilding.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Obama-Boston Visit; Sebelius-Congressional Hearing; ACA-Individual Coverage; Hurricane Sandy Vigils; Dallas-Murder Investigation; South Carolina-Murder Investigation.
CBS: South Carolina-Murder Investigation; ACA-Congressional Hearing; NSA Spying Scandal; Sports-MLB World Series; Federal Reserve Meeting; Connecticut-Parents Arrested.
NPR: NSA Spying Scandal; ACA-Tavenner Apology; FEMA-Flood Insurance Changes; Economy-Wall Street; South Korea-North Korea Talks; Turkey-Underwater Rail Line; Halloween-Trick Or Treating Apps.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with Secretary of the Treasury Lew, Oval Office, closed press; departs the White House en route Joint Base Andrews, The White House, in-town pool coverage; departs Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives Boston, Massachusetts, Logan International Airport, open press; delivers remarks on healthcare, Faneuil Hall, Boston, Massachusetts, open to pre-credentialed media; delivers remarks at a DCCC event, private residence, Boston, Massachusetts, print pool for remarks only; departs Boston, Massachusetts en route Andrews Air Force Base, Logan International Airport, open press; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage, arrives at the White House, in-town pool coverage

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Meets with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of Iraq, Naval Observatory, pool spray Prime Minister's arrival; travels to Austin, Texas; visits the headquarters of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, open press; attends Democratic National Committee event, private residence, closed press; returns to

Washington, DC.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA – Joins 'Sesame Street's' Elmo and Rosita, the Produce Marketing Association and the Partnership for a Healthier America for an announcement about marketing healthier foods to children; joins school children for the annual fall harvest of the White House Kitchen Garden.
US Senate: 10 a.m. JOINT BUDGET CONFERENCE COMMITTEE — Meeting of conferees on S.Con. Res.8, a concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2013, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023. Location: HC-5.

2:30 p.m. AGRICULTURE JOINT CONFERENCE — Business Meeting: H.R. 2642 Conference Meeting. Democrats: Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT); Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA); Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT); Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH); Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN); Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO). Republicans: Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS), Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS); Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA); Sen. John Boozman (R-AR); Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) Location: 1100 Longworth.

1 p.m. JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE — Meeting of conferees on H.R.2642, to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018. Location: 1100 Longworth.

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. EPI – RETIREMENT INCOME CRISIS – SOCIAL SECURITY — The Economic Policy Institute host Capitol Hill discussion on the Social Securitys Role in Solving Retirement Insecurity. Speakers: Nancy Altman, Co-Director, Social Security Works; Dean Baker, Co-Director, Center on Economic and Policy Research; John Burbank, Executive Director, Economic Opportunity Institute; Co-Founder, Social Security Works, Washington State; Ross Eisenbrey, Vice President, Economic Policy Institute; Adam Green, Co-Founder, Progressive Change Campaign Committee; Eric Kingson, Co-Director, Social Security Works; Celinda Lake, President, Lake Research Partners; Nancy LeaMond, Executive Vice President, State and National Group, AARP; Theodore Marmor, Professor Emeritus, Yale University; Diane Oakley, Executive Director, National Institute on Retirement Security; Maya Rockeymoore, President and CEP, Global Policy Solutions; Damon Silvers, Policy Director, AFL-CIO; Zachary Schechter-Steinberg, Economic Policy Advisor, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, U.S. Senate. Location: 902 Hart.

11 a.m. HOUSE & SENATE LEADERS – WINSTON CHURCHILL BUST — Leader to dedicate a bust of Winston Churchill at a ceremony. Speaker: House Speaker John Boehner; United States Secretary of State John Kerry; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; The Right Honourable Nicholas Soames MP; Laurence Geller CBE; Roger Daltrey CBE. Location: National Statuary Hall, United States Capitol.

12:30 p.m. JOINT HOUSE-SENATE PRESS CONFERENCE – BENGHAZI — U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), John McCain (R-Arizona), and Kelly Ayotte (R-New Hampshire), along with Congressmen Trey Gowdy (R-South Carolina), Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), and Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), will hold a press conference tomorrow to address the latest issues surrounding the Benghazi investigation. Speakers: Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina); Senator John McCain (R-Arizona); Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-New Hampshire); Representative Trey Gowdy (R-South Carolina); Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah); Representative Jim Jordan (R-Ohio). Location: Senate Radio-TV Gallery, S-325 Capitol.

9:15 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS — Business meeting to consider S.1562, to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, S.1557, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals, S.1561, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve provisions relating to the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees, H.R.2094, to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the preference given, in awarding certain asthma-related grants, to certain States (those allowing trained school personnel to administer epinephrine and meeting other related requirements), S.1302, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans, H.R.2747, to amend title 40, United States Code, to transfer certain functions from the Government Accountability Office to the Department of Labor relating to the processing of claims for the payment of workers who were not paid

appropriate wages under certain provisions of such title, and the nominations of Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and James Cole, Jr., of New York, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Education, and Chai Rachel Feldblum, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and any pending nominations. Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment hearing on The JOBS Act at a Year and a Half: Assessing Progress and Unmet Opportunities. Witnesses: Keith Higgins, Director, Division of Corporation Finance, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; Alan Lewis, Director of Special Projects, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, Incorporated; Robert Kaplan, Jr., Managing Partner, Kaplan Voekler Cunningham & Frank PLC; Andrea L. Seidt, Commissioner of Securities, Ohio Department of Commerce and President, North American Securities Administrators Association; Sherwood Neiss, Principal, Crowdfund Capital Advisors, LLC. Location: 538 Dirksen.

11 a.m. FINANCE — Hearings to examine the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Witnesses: Michael L. Ducker, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, FedEx, Memphis, TN; Ryan McCormick, President, Montana Grain Growers Association, Great Falls, MT; Dave Ricks, Senior Vice President, Eli Lilly and Company and President, Lilly Bio-Medicines, Indianapolis, IN; William Roenigk, Senior Vice President, National Chicken Council, Washington, DC. Location: 215 Dirksen.

2 p.m. COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE — To receive a briefing on the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, focusing on how the movement has impacted Europe and the continuing work of the United States in advancing human rights for minorities in Europe. Location: 2255 Rayburn.

2 p.m. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine pending health care and benefits legislation. Witnesses: PANEL I: Robert L. Jesse, MD, PhD, principal deputy under secretary for health, Department of Veterans Affairs; David R. McLenachen, director, pension and fiduciary service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs. Accompanied by Richard Hipolit, assistant general counsel; Jane Clare Joyner, deputy assistant general counsel. PANEL II: Adrian Atizado, assistant national legislative director, Disabled American Veterans; Colonel Robert F. Norton, USA (Ret.), deputy director, Government Relations, Military Officers Association of America; Rick Weidman, executive director for policy and government affairs, Vietnam Veterans of America. Location: 418 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS — Business meeting to consider S.235, to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, S.611, to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and S.920, to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S.1074, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Easter Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe, S.1132, to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and S.161, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana. Location: 628 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. JUDICIARY — Hearings to examine the nominations of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Matthew Frederick Leitman, Judith Ellen Levy, Laurie J. Michelson, and Linda Vivienne Parker, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, and Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. Location: 226 Dirksen. US House: 10 a.m. JOINT BUDGET CONFERENCE COMMITTEE — Meeting of conferees on S.Con. Res.8, a concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2013, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023. Location: HC-5.

2:30 p.m. AGRICULTURE JOINT CONFERENCE — Business Meeting: H.R. 2642 Conference Meeting. Democrats: Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT); Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA); Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT); Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH); Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN); Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO). Republicans: Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS), Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS); Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA); Sen. John

Boozman (R-AR); Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) Location: 1100 Longworth.

1 p.m. JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE — Meeting of conferees on H.R.2642, to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018. Location: 1100 Longworth.

9 a.m. HVAC AND SVAC LEADERS – VA PRGRAM FUNDING — Press Conference on Advance Funding of VA Programs with: HVAC Chairman Jeff Miller, SVAC Chairman Bernie Sanders, HVAC Ranking Member Mike Michaud, SVAC Member Sen. John Boozman, SVAC Member Sen. Mark Begich, representatives from Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and Military Officers Association of America. Location: House Triangle on the east front of the U.S. Capitol.

9:30 a.m. ROYCE – HUMAN RIGHTS – KOREA — Photo Opportunity with chairman Royce, Foreign Affairs Cmte mtg w/ Cmsn. of Inquiry on Human Rights in N.Korea. Handheld only. Location: 2200 Rayburn.

10:15 a.m. PELOSI PRESS CONFERENCE — Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference tomorrow. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center.

10:45 a.m. WATT NOMINATION — Press conference to call on the U.S. Senate to confirm Congressman Mel Watt (NC-12) as Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Director.. Participants: CBC Chair Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11); Assistant Democratic Leader James Clyburn (SC-06); CAPAC Chair Judy Chu (CA-27); CHC Chair Rubin Hinojosa (TX-15); Leslie Proll, Director of the Washington, D.C. Office of the Legal Defense Fund; Lisa Rice, Vice President at National Fair Housing Alliance; Leaders within the Civil Rights community. Location: 2325 Rayburn.

11 a.m. FOSTER, HOUSE FRESHMEN – IMMIGRATION — Congressman Bill Foster will join Rep. Tony Cardenas and more than a dozen fellow freshmen Representatives for a press availability, discussing the importance of passing comprehensive immigration reform. U.S. Reps. Horsford, Garcia, Kildee, Ruiz, Lowenthal, Lujan Grisham, Cartwright, Swalwell, Scott Peters, Duckworth, ORourke, Sinema, Kirkpatrick and others. Location: House Triangle (outside House of Reps. steps).

11 a.m. HOUSE & SENATE LEADERS – WINSTON CHURCHILL BUST — Leader to dedicate a bust of Winston Churchill at a ceremony. Speaker: House Speaker John Boehner; United States Secretary of State John Kerry; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; The Right Honorable Nicholas Soames MP; Laurence Geller CBE; Roger Daltrey CBE. Location: National Statuary Hall, United States Capitol.

12:30 p.m. JOINT HOUSE-SENATE PRESS CONFERENCE – BENGHAZI — U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), John McCain (R-Arizona), and Kelly Ayotte (R-New Hampshire), along with Congressmen Trey Gowdy (R-South Carolina), Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), and Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), will hold a press conference tomorrow to address the latest issues surrounding the Benghazi investigation. Speakers: Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina); Senator John McCain (R-Arizona); Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-New Hampshire); Representative Trey Gowdy (R-South Carolina); Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah); Representative Jim Jordan (R-Ohio). Location: Senate Radio-TV Gallery, S-325 Capitol.

1 p.m. LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT — The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence will hold a briefing on the consequences of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. Panelists include: California Rep. Adam Schiff, on ending gun violence immunity; Ismael Ileto, whose brother, Joseph Ileto, was shot and killed in 1999. The group says that because of the PLCAA, the Ileto family was unable to hold the gun industry liable for its negligence in arming Joseph's killer. Location: 2456 Rayburn.

2 p.m. ROYCE ENGEL – AL-MALIKI MEETING — Photo Opportunity with Chairman Royce, Rep. Engel meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki. Photo spray at top of meeting. Handheld only. Location: H-139, Capitol.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. — the House will meet for morning hour and noon for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected Wednesday afternoon.

9 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Hearing on PPACA Implementation Failures: Answers from HHS. Witness: HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

9 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Joint Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications hearing on Cyber Incident Response: Bridging the Gap Between Cybersecurity and Emergency Management. Witnesses: Roberta Stempfley, Assistant Secretary (Acting), Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Charley English, Director, Georgia Emergency Management Agency and President, National Emergency Management Association (testifying on behalf of NEMA); Dr. Craig Orgeron, Chief Information Officer and Executive Director, Department of Information Technology Services, State of Mississippi and Vice President, NASCIO (testifying on behalf of NASCIO); Mike Sena, Director, Northern California Regional Intelligence Center and President, National Fusion Center Association (testifying on behalf of the National Fusion Center Association). Location: 311 Cannon.

9:30 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency Facility Protection: Implications of the Navy Yard Shooting on Homeland Security. Witnesses: L. Eric Patterson, Director, Federal Protective Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Greg Marshall, Chief Security Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Caitlin Durkovich, Assistant Secretary, Infrastructure Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Testifying on behalf of the Interagency Security Committee); Mark Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Location: 210 Cannon.

9:30 a.m. JUDICARY — Hearing on Regulatory Crime: Identifying the Scope of the Problem. Witnesses: Reed D. Rubinstein, Partner, Disnmore & Shohl, LLP; Rachel Barkow, Segal Family Professor of Regulatory Law and Policy, New York School of Law; Lawrence Lewis, Bowie, MD; Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kinder, Grand Rivers, KY. Location: 2237 Rayburn.

9:30 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Full committee A Culture of Mismanagement and Wasteful Conference Spending at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Location: 2154 Raybum.

9:30 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY — Subcommittee on Energy hearing on Providing the Tools for Scientific Discovery and Basic Energy Research: The Department of Energy Science Mission. Witnesses: Dr. Pat Dehmer, Deputy Director for Science Programs, Office of Science, Department of Energy; Dr. Horst Simon, Deputy Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab; Dr. John Hemminger, Chairman, Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee, Department of Energy. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats hearing on China's Maritime and other Geographic Threats. Speakers: Perry Pickert, Ph.D., Retired Career Intelligence Officer; Rick Fisher, Senior Fellow, Asian Military Affairs, International Assessment and Strategy Center; Steven Mosher, Director, Population Research Institute; Peter Sandby-Thomas, Ph.D., Visiting Lecturer of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Location: 2255 Raybum.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Full Committee Markup on H.R. 298, H.R. 585, H.R. 1308, H.R. 1846, H.R. 2798, H.R. 2799 and H.R. 2954. Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Aviation hearing on Review of FAA's Certification Process: Ensuring an Efficient, Effective, and Safe Process. Witness: Panel I: Dorenda Baker, Director of Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration; Gerald Dillingham, Director, Civil Aviation Issues, Government Accountability Office; Jeff Guzzetti, Assistant Inspector General for Aviation Audits, U.S. Department of Transportation. Panel II: Ali Bahrami, Vice President – Civil Aviation, Aerospace Industries Association; Tom Hendricks, President, National Air Transportation Association; Pete Bunce, President, General Aviation Manufacturers Association; Michael Perrone, President, Professional Aviation Safety Specialists. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS — Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Focused Issues on Dignified Burials: A National Cemetery Update. Panel 1: Patrick K. Hallinan. Executive Director of Army National Cemeteries Program, U.S. Department of Defense; Glenn Powers, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs,

National Cemetery Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Panel 2: Todd Kleismit, Director of Community & Government Relations, Ohio Historical Society; Ray Kelley, Director of National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ami Neiberger-Miller, Director of Outreach and Education, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; Diane M. Zumatto, National Legislative Director, AMVETS. Location: 334 Cannon.

1:30 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Joint hearing with Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa on Establishing a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal? Witnesses: Michael A. Newton, Professor of the Practice of Law, Vanderbilt University Law School; David M. Crane, Professor of Practice, Syracuse University College of Law, (Former Chief Prosecutor, United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone); Alan White, Ph.D., President, AW Associates, (Former Chief Investigator, United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone); Jeremy Rabkin, Professor of Law, George Mason University School of Law; Stephen G. Rademaker, National Security Project Advisor, Bipartisan Policy Center; Richard Dicker, Director, International Justice Program, Human Rights Watch. Location: 2172 Rayburn.
Other: MBA 100TH ANNUAL CONVENTION — The Mortgage Bankers Association's 100th annual convention and expo. Speakers: George W. Bush, 43rd President of the U.S.; John Ellis Bush, 43rd Governor of Florida; Richard Cordray, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Session: Second General Session; Shaun Donovan, Secretary, United States Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW.

U.S. CHAMBER – ANNUAL HEALTH CARE SUMMIT — 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. U.S. Chambers 2nd Annual Health Care Summit. Speakers include: Thomas J. Donohue, President and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Harvey V. Fineberg, M.D., Ph.D., President, Institute of Medicine Bruce Josten, Executive Vice President, Government Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Randel Johnson, Senior Vice President, Labor, Immigration and Employee Benefits, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Mila Kofman, Executive Director, DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority; Larry J. Merlo, President and CEO, CVS Caremark; Ralph de la Torre, M.D., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Steward Health Care System LLC. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW.

DOD – HAGEL— 11 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome Latvia's Minister of Defense Artis Pabriks to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, October 31, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Oct 31, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SENATE CONFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SELECTION FOR INTERIOR DEPUTY SECRETARY IS HELD UP. The E&E Daily (10/30) reports that "Senate confirmation of President Obama's pick for Interior deputy secretary is on hold after Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) yesterday vowed to block every nominee until survivors of the Benghazi terrorist attack and FBI transcripts are made available to Congress." The article notes that "Graham's blanket hold came weeks after the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee by voice vote advanced the nomination of Michael Connor for the Interior post." According to the artricle, "barring unanimous

consent, the Senate would have to confirm Connor by regular procedures that could take days."

President Obama Makes Picks For Interior Posts. The E&E Daily (10/30) reports that President Obama is expected to nominate BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau to become the Interior Department's assistant secretary for policy, management and budget. Beaudreau would replace Rhea Suh, the current assistant secretary, who has been "nominated to become assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks." according to the article, "while many expected Beaudreau to eventually be nominated to the land and minerals post, that position is expected to go to Janice Schneider, an environmental attorney and former Interior official during the Clinton administration."

The E&E Daily (10/30) reports that Suh would "inherit tough policy decisions involving FWS' implementation of the Endangered Species Act and balancing the promotion of renewable energy with the preservation of birds and other protected species." Suh would also oversee an NPS "struggling to rein in an $11.5 billion deferred maintenance backlog while balancing the protection and promotion of America's treasured lands." in a statement, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Rhea's extensive experience and depth of knowledge of natural resource management make her an outstanding choice for this key position on our departmental leadership team. She has guided the department and our bureaus through increasingly austere budgets, helping find creative ways to continue to carry out our critical and diverse missions."

The FuelFix (10/30, 7K) reports that Beaudreau has "earned praise from both the oil industry and environmental activists during his tenure heading the ocean energy bureau — a role that put him at the forefront of decisions on Arctic drilling and what coastal waters should be leased for energy development." For instance, "one oil company lobbyist described him as an 'honest broker' who listens to industry's concerns, even though decisions may ultimately swing another way." Also, "others noted that Beaudreau would bring his offshore energy experience to the policy management and budget office, which has a decisive role assembling the Interior Department's spending plan."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Post (10/31, 4.28M), the "In The Loop" blog of the Washington Post (10/30, 4.28M), the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (10/31, 194K), the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (10/31, 194K), and Politico (10/31, Guillen, 467K).

INTERIOR AIMS TO FIGHT FLOODS AND FIRE BY RESTORING A SWAMP. The E&E Daily (10/30) reports that "hoping to rein in both carbon-releasing peat fires and post-hurricane floods," the Interior Department is "betting $3.13 million on 15 small dams in a Virginia wildlife refuge." According to officials, "these structures will help restore a natural water balance to the Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in Virginia and North Carolina, undermined since the 1700s when farmers and loggers started to build ditches and drain the area." By "better controlling the water running through the 150-mile ditch network that now crisscrosses the refuge," the FWS "hopes to both mitigate regional weather disasters and adapt to the future impacts of climate change." The article notes that the "effort is one of 45 Interior projects that received a total of $162 million last week for post-Superstorm Sandy research and restoration efforts."

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ATTEND GETTYSBURG CEREMONY. In its "House Divided" blog, the Washington Post (10/31, Wheeler, 4.28M) reports that President Obama will not be attending the Dedication Day Ceremony on Nov. 19 at the Gettysburg cemetery. Gettysburg National Military Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will represent the administration.

The York (PA) Dispatch (10/31, 50K) reports that Jewell will "share the keynote speaker role with Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James McPherson."

Also reporting on the story are the York (PA) Daily Record (10/31, 204K) and WHTM-TV Harrisburg, PA (10/31, 74K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK ABOUT SHUTDOWN OF NATIONAL PARKS. C-SPAN (10/31, 12K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "speak about the impact of the government shutdown on the national parks when she appears at today's National Press Club luncheon." Jewell will also "focus on the economic value of the parks and other resource-rich public lands."

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING TO RESTORE DYKE MARSH WILDLIFE PRESERVE. WAMU-FM Washington (10/30, 36K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewel announced a rescue package to restore the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve to 1937 boundaries. In announcing the $25 million appropriation, Jewell, said, "Places like this don't create themselves. They are created by the wisdom and foresight of elected officials that set them aside."

AMERICAN SAMOA COMPLAINS ABOUT FISHERY DEALS WITH ALLIES. The Radio New Zealand (10/31, 1K) reports that Lolo Matalasi Moliga, the Governor of American Samoa, says "the fishery treaties between United States and its allies is hurting the territory." He said he is "bringing the issue to the attention" of Interior Department officer Eileen Sobeck.

CONSERVATIONIST INSPIRED BY WOMEN ON FRONTLINES FIGHTING FOR WILDERNESS. In an essay which is "part of a series in which dozens of women will reveal what women they most admire" for Politico (10/31, Beinecke, 467K), Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, recognizes Interior Secretary Sally Jewell as an example of "many women have come to the fore" on environmental initiatives. As a result, "women entering the environmental community today have many role models to emulate." Beinecke is "proud to say the Natural Resources Defense Council has played a role in this shift: We have hired talented young women since we opened our doors, and many now lead our programs and campaigns."

OFFICIALS URGED TO PROTECT MORE PUBLIC LANDS. In an op-ed for Politico (10/31, Podesta, 467K), John Podesta, chair of the Center for American Progress, notes that due to the federal government shutdown, "communities near parks lost an estimated total of $76 million in economic activity." He argues that "of the many lessons our leaders ought to learn from the shutdown, this one is central: America's parks are a national treasure and a crucial economic engine for many parts of the country." Podesta urges elected leaders to "take swift action to open new parks, wildlife refuges, monuments, and recreation and wilderness areas for the enjoyment of the public, instead of slashing budgets, laying off rangers and closing parks."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT NAYLOR HONORED. The E&E Daily (10/30) reports Theodore Roosevelt National Park Superintendent Valerie Naylor was "honored this week" by the National Parks Conservation Association for "her work to protect the park from encroaching oil shale development and for a controversial elk management plan that has proved a success." NPCA this week awarded Naylor the Stephen T. Mather Award, named after the NPS' first superintendent and bestowed annually on an agency employee who has "shown steadfast leadership and persistent dedication to our national parks." Craig Obey, NPCA's senior vice president for government affairs, who presented the award to Naylor at a ceremony, said, "With great devotion, Valerie has demonstrated unwavering dedication to protecting our national treasures for future generations, in the most difficult of circumstances."

For the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (10/31, 194K), Roger Di Silvestro, a historian and author, writes that "a burgeoning oil industry threatens the integrity of the 218-acre Elkhorn site, which now lies within Theodore Roosevelt National Park, one of North Dakota's biggest tourist attractions." He notes that "similar troubles loom over other parks and wildlife refuges abutting lands controlled by federal agencies that emphasize development or multiple uses ranging from hiking to mining and logging." However, Di Silvestro argues that "developing our resources doesn't require the destruction of wild and historic areas." He proposes that "we can strike a more pragmatic balance between development and other treasured uses of public lands."

NPS CONDUCTS GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD BURN. The Hanover (PA) Evening Sun (10/31, 38K) reports that NPS fire specialists "burned several acres of the Gettysburg National Military Park Wednesday to test new ways of maintaining the condition of the Civil War-era battlefield, according to a park news release." According to a release from Katie Lawhon, park management assistant, "the prescribed fire started after noon on Snyder farm, in the southern portion of the battlefield, and was funded by the National Park Service Wildland Fire Management Program."

Also reporting on the story is the York (PA) Daily Record (10/31, 204K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SEN. COBURN'S REPORT. Additional coverage of Sen. Tom Coburn's report on the maintenance backlog at national parks was provided by CBS News (10/31, 3.87M), FOX News (10/30, 6.72M), the Detroit Free Press (10/31, Spangler, 794K), and the Arizona Capitol Times (10/30, 599).

REPUBLICANS CRITICIZED FOR SHUTDOWN. For the OpEdNews (10/31, 2K), Jim Hightower criticizes Republicans for the shutdown, as well as "the spectacle of a House committee hauling in the director of national parks to berate him mercilessly for five hours, demanding to know why the parks were closed." Hightower commends NPS Director Jon Jarvis for being patient in his testimony.

COURT APPLAUDED FOR REJECTING DRAKES BAY OYSTER COMPANY'S PRIVATIZATION EFFORTS. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (10/31, Grieco, 11.54M), Helen Grieco, Organizer, California Common Cause, writes that the decision last month by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upholding the Interior Department's decision to protect Drakes Estero in Point Reyes National Seashore "supports the Interior Department's efforts to protect the sensitive marine habitat from the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's ongoing operations that damage the natural environment, pollute National Seashore beaches with plastic debris, and negatively impact wildlife such as birds and harbor seals." She also notes that "the court also put to rest the company's attacks on peer-reviewed scientific research that concluded Drakes Bay's ongoing operations were harming the environment."

Bureau of Land Management:

HOUSE PANEL HEARS FROM RANCHERS. The E&E Daily (10/30) reports that "federal agencies have trampled on the rights of property owners who lack the legal and financial muscle to fight back, a witness panel told House lawmakers yesterday." According to the article, "whether the witnesses' stories reflect systemic government abuse or isolated policy disputes was a matter of partisan debate at the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation." The article notes that much of the debate "revolved around BLM's implementation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which requires a tricky balance between the protection and development of natural resources on behalf of all Americans."

BLM PROPOSING PLAN TO PROTECT SAGE GROUSE IN THE WEST. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (10/31, 343K) reports that the BLM on Friday will "release a proposed plan to protect greater sage grouse on 4 million acres of federal land and subsurface mineral areas in Utah." According to the article, "among the many conservation measures envisioned, the plan would prohibit drilling within 4 miles of leks, the places where the chicken-sized bird stages its late-winter mating rituals." The bureau "wants to amend land-use plans for several BLM resource areas that harbor habitat for the West's signature native bird, as well as for six national forests."

REPORT CRITICIZES POOR CONTRACTING PRACTICES AT BLM. The Fierce Government (10/31, 224) reports that "a government employee who stepped into a contractor's role is among the targets of a report criticizing contracting practices" at the BLM. The Interior Department office of inspector general said "in a recently released report, dated Sept. 30, that a BLM project officer placed a request to modify a contract, 'in effect, representing the contractor.'" The audit stemmed from the OIG's "prior discovery that BLM had made payments for costs that exceeded the amount agreed to in a contract and also for costs that the contractor incurred outside the period of performance."

CARLSBAD SCHOOL DISTRICT EYES BLM LAND FOR NEW CAMPUSES. The Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus (10/31, 18K) reports that Carlsbad Municipal School officials are eyeing 80 acres of BLM "land as a possible location for its newest schools." The district is "proposing to build a new elementary school just north of Callaway Drive." Tessa Cisneros, real estate specialist for the BLM, said "the application must be approved by the agency's headquarters in Washington D.C."

BLM PLANS BURN PROJECTS IN LASSEN, MODOC COUNTIES. The Lassen County (CA) Times (10/31, 577) reports that fire crews from the BLM will "conduct several prescribed burning projects in Lassen and Modoc counties during fall and early winter." According to the article, "Alturas Field Office crews plan to begin a juniper thinning and burning project in the Hayden Hill area, about 50 miles north of Susanville, today, Wednesday, Oct. 30." The article notes that "the burns, designed to improve habitat for sage grouse, will be conducted within a

500-acre project area."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS ANNOUNCES URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGE INITIATIVE. The Southeast Green (10/31) reports that the FWS has announced a multi-faceted Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative to "make its programs reflect the diverse perspectives, values and cultures of America." FWS Director Dan Ashe said that the initiative will "provide economic benefits to hundreds of communities as new generations of city dwellers learn wildlife-dependent recreation, such as birding, fishing, hunting, hiking, canoeing and so much more. Too many Americans have grown up without a real connection to wildlife. This initiative gives us the chance to change that."

The New Haven (CT) Register (10/30, 217K) reports that "the urban oases project in the New Haven Harbor Watershed was recognized Wednesday" as one of FWS's "eight pilot partnerships across the nation aimed at connecting cities with nature." Ashe said, "While a lot of our work is oriented towards big, open spaces, if people don't care about wildlife, we won't have the support that we need. So these urban partnerships are critical for us if, in the future, we're going to have citizens that care about wild places that might be far; the places that are near in are what's going to bring it home to them."

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO CELEBRATE GROUNDBREAKING. The Southgate (MI) News Herald (10/30, 101K) reports that "a groundbreaking ceremony and open house for the Visitor Center at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge have been rescheduled for Nov. 8." The article notes that "the government shutdown caused the cancellation of a groundbreaking ceremony earlier this month." According to the article, "a number of dignitaries are expected at the groundbreaking ceremony that follows," including FWS Director Dan Ashe and Rep. John Dingell.

XCEL SEEKS RIGHT-OF-WAY EXPANSION THROUGH REFUGE.. The Madison (WI) Capital Times (10/31, 143K) reports that Xcel Energy is "seeking to increase its right of way through the Upper Mississippi River refuge by about 9 percent to accommodate a high-voltage transmission line." The expansion, "which will take about 1.6 acres of floodplain forest near Alma, Wis., is necessary to accommodate a couple of requests" the FWS "made to protect birds in the refuge," according to Mary Stefanski, Winona district refuge manager. According to an FWS determination, the expansion will "create additional forest fragmentation, which is undesirable but preferable to higher towers or vertically configured wires."

FWS AND FRESHWATER LAND TRUST REMOVING DAM. WVTM-TV Birmingham, AL (10/31, 2K) reports that the FWS and the Freshwater Land Trust are "preparing to remove a dam on Turkey Creek in order to improve the habitat for a native fish." The two agencies are "working on a project to remove a dam, reconstruct a bank and replant native vegetation on the creek in order to allow the vermilion darter its entire natural range."

BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS RELEASED UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES DEALS. The Denver Post (10/31, Finley, 949K) reports that thirty black-footed ferrets were released Wednesday, potentially launching a new approach to rescuing endangered species — and introducing a natural predator of prairie dogs. The article notes that Colorado law prohibits any state role introducing endangered species without legislative approval, but the state law was relaxed this year to let ferrets be released on private land under new "safe-harbor" deals with the FWS.

FWS SEEKS INFORMATION ON KILLING OF ENDANGERED DEER. The Clark County (WA) Columbian (10/30, 116K) reports that the FWS is "seeking information about the shooting of an endangered deer near Kalama." According to the article, "a Columbian white-tailed deer was found dead of a gunshot wound on Oct. 3." The FWS noted that "this is the first shooting of an endangered species in the area."

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTION FOR SAGE GROUSE. The Inyo (CA) Register (10/31, 18K) reports that the FWS has "proposed to list the bi-state sage grouse as a threatened species." However, "some Eastern Sierra residents are questioning the science used to justify the listing, saying declining numbers are due to natural events as much as human sources."

WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA TO RELEASE PEREGRINE FALCON AT RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER VALLEY

REFUGE. The Washington Post (10/30, Press, 4.28M) reports that the Wildlife Center of Virginia will release a peregrine falcon at Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge on Wednesday.

OKLAHOMA HUNTER PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGALLY KILLING WILDLIFE OUT OF STATE. KOTV-TV Tulsa, OK (10/31, 69K) reports that Oklahoma hunter Kyle McCormack has "pleaded guilty to illegally killing wildlife in another state and bringing it back to Oklahoma." The article notes that "several agencies worked together on this case including the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife" and the FWS

Also reporting on the story is KWTV-TV. Oklahoma City (10/31, 60K)

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ADDITION OF HAWAII CREATURES AND PLANTS TO ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. Additional coverage of the addition of 15 Hawaii creatures and plants to the endangered species was provided by the Washington Post (10/30, Press, 4.28M) and ABC News (10/31, 671K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FWS APPROVAL OF CONSERVATION PLAN FOR LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. Additional coverage of the approval by the FWS of a conservation plan for the lesser prairie chicken was provided by the Texas Tribune (10/24, 11K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BLACK RHINO HUNT AUCTION. Additional coverage of the planned auction of a permit to kill one rare black rhino in Namibia by the Dallas Safari Club was provided by FOX News (10/31, 6.72M) and the Denver Post (10/31, Graczyk, 949K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

INTERIOR COMMENDED FOR STEPS TO PROMOTE SOLAR, WIND ON PUBLIC LANDS. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (10/31, Morgan, 11.54M), Ann Morgan, Executive director, National Wildlife Federation regional office in Boulder, CO, writes that "America's Western public lands are home to some of the best hunting, fishing and wildlife habitat in the world," but "these same lands, however, also provide some of the best wind and solar resources our county has to offer." Morgan says that "the steps the Department of the Interior has taken to preserve valuable fish and wildlife habitat as it plans for this increased renewable energy development should be commended." Morgan concludes that "through smart planning, we can avoid the mistakes of the past energy production, including poorly planned oil and gas development, and safeguard our prized public lands while guaranteeing our hunting, fishing and outdoor heritage for generations to come."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM SCRAPS NEW MEXICO MINE LEASE. The E&E Daily (10/30) reports that the BLM is "scrapping its decision to lease more than 600 acres of land to Peabody Energy Corp. for coal mining in New Mexico." The article notes that WildEarth Guardians, "an environmental group active in fighting coal leases around the country, appealed BLM's decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) in August." However, "in a surprise move, instead of standing by its decision, based on an environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI), BLM this month agreed with the need for more study," and "yesterday IBLA judges agreed with sending the case back to BLM."

TRIBES ATTEND MEETING ON OIL ROYALITES. The Prairie Business (10/31, 55K) reports that Fort Berthold American Indian mineral owners "gave input Tuesday to federal government officials on a new proposal for how their oil royalties are calculated." According to the article, "much of the meeting, at New Town Civic Center, was spent explaining the pricing system, while mineral owners also steered the discussion toward other issues they have with their leases." ONRR representatives touted the proposal as "a win for American Indian mineral owners."

Offshore Energy Development:

COMPANY FINED FOR OFFSHORE RIG VIOLATIONS. The Tulsa (OK) World (10/31, 271K) reports that

contract driller Helmerich & Payne Inc. announced Wednesday "it will pay $6.4 million in fines and other costs as part of a plea bargain with federal prosecutors over testing irregularities at a Gulf of Mexico offshore platform rig more than three years ago." Company subsidiary Helmerich & Payne International Drilling Co. "agreed to plead guilty to one misdemeanor count of knowingly making and delivering false writings in the federal eastern district of Louisiana." The company will "pay a criminal penalty of $5.4 million, as well as a $1 million organizational community service payment to the National Academy of Sciences." Both Helmerich & Payne and the BOEMRE "conducted probes about the alleged violations."

EXPERT SAYS BP BEHAVED APPROPRIATELY IN EFFORT TO STOP MACONDO WELL. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (10/31, Waller, 700K) reports that Iain Adams, managing director of the Norwell drilling company, testified regarding "efforts at pinching off the billowing Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010," saying that BP "behaved appropriately."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

MANASTASH CREEK PIPELINE AND OTHER WATER PROJECTS PRAISED. The Ellensburg (WA) Daily Record (10/31, 16K) reports that Washington Gov. Jay Inslee "signed his name on a 30-inch diameter water pipeline Tuesday, a ceremonial gesture celebrating the first on-the-ground project of a long-term plan to stabilize water supplies in the Yakima River basin, improve fish habitat and conserve upper basin ecosystems."

Meanwhile, the Salem (OR) Capital Press (10/30, 113K) reports that Tom Iseman, Interior Department deputy assistant secretary for water and science, was "accompanied by officials of other federal agencies who toured reservoirs involved in the plan and discussed future funding." Iseman said, "We recognize this doesn't come easy and appreciate the balanced approach, broad stakeholder support and community investment." He added that "the plan is a model and aligns with the Interior secretary's priorities of protecting wildlife and water."

RED RIVER WATER SUPPLY PROJECT MOVES AHEAD WITHOUT FEDERAL SUPPORT. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (10/31, 15K) reports that "with hope for federal support all but dried up, supporters of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project met with Gov. Jack Dalrymple here Wednesday to talk about ways to advance the project through state and local efforts." The article notes that "the preferred alternative would use the McClusky Canal and a 123-mile buried pipeline to carry the water to Lake Ashtabula." The option, "estimated to cost $660 million, received a positive environmental review in 2007," but the BOR has "failed to issue a decision of record, which would clear the way for Congress to authorize and fund the project."

COULEE DAM STILL NEGOTIATING FOR BOR CONTRACT. The Star of Grand Coulee (WA) (10/30, 169) reports that "officials in the town of Coulee Dam are hopeful that they will be able" to reach a deal with the BOR on a law enforcement contract. Mayor Quincy Snow, Police Chief Pat Collins and Councilmember Bob Poch met last Wednesday with the BOR's regional director, Lorri Lee, "to make another attempt to land a contract." According to Collins, "another meeting is scheduled for later this week and that 'negotiations continue.'"

HOUSE PASSES PRINEVILLE WATER BILL. The Oregon Public Broadcasting (10/31, 4K) reports that "for the second time in more than a year, the House has passed a bill that would make more water available for the city of Prineville." Oregon Rep. Greg Walden's bill had to be "reintroduced after a version in the Senate died in committee." But "this time around, supporters are optimistic the bill won't suffer the same fate," because "the place where the bill died, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has a new chairman — Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden."

BOR LOWERING BLACK CANYON DIVERSION DAM. The Emmett (ID) Messenger-Index (10/31, 22K) reports that the BOR is "lowering Black Canyon Reservoir about 13 feet to perform routine maintenance at the facility located on the Payette River about 5 miles northeast of Emmett." The bureau began "drawing down the reservoir Thursday, Oct, 24, and will continue lowering it about six inches a day until Nov. 19, when it will be at an elevation safe enough for work crews to clean the trash racks of debris."

Empowering Native American Communities:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS HEARS THREE FEDERAL RECOGNITION BILLS. The Indian

Country Today Media Network (10/30, 21K) reports that Sen. Maria Cantwell, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, will "chair a business meeting followed by a legislative hearing on three bills for federal recognition for tribes in Virginia, North Carolina, and Montana." The Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act (S. 1074), introduced by Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Mark Warner (D-VA), "would extend federal recognition to six Virginia Tribes: the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, the Monacan Indian Nation and the Nansemond Indian Tribe." In North Carolina, Sens. Richard Burr (R-NC) and Kay Hagan (D-NC) have introduced The Lumbee Recognition Act (S. 1132) that "would extend federal recognition to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and authorize the taking of land into trust for the tribe by the Secretary of the Interior." Finally, the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana are seeking federal recognition through a bill introduced by Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and Max Baucus (D-MT).

The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (10/30, 90K) reports that speaking at a hearing before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, said that the Obama Administration "supports legislation from Montana's senators that would grant federal recognition to Montana's Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians." Washburn argued that "'Congress does have the right to do so, and should' approve legislation to federally recognize the Little Shell tribe."

Also reporting on the story is the Fayetteville (NC) Observer (10/31, 141K).

SENATORS OPPOSE CASINO PROPOSAL. The Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (10/30, 67K) reports that Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have "opposed the Coquille Indian Tribe's proposal to build a casino in Medford." In an Oct. 21 letter written to Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs, the two Democratic senators from Oregon said "they agree with the opposition already voiced by Gov. John Kitzhaber, the Jackson County commissioners and the city of Medford." Wyden and Merkley "say the type of video gambling that would be offered at the proposed Medford facility is comparable to the gambling offered at other casinos throughout the state that have existed under a so-called one-tribe, one-casino agreement."

NORTH CAROLINA SENATE LEADERS ARGUE AGAINST CATAWBA CASINO. The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (10/30, 475K) reports that the legal battle over the Catawba Indian Nation's plans to build a casino resort in North Carolina is "escalating." North Carolina Senate leaders sent a letter earlier this month to the BIA that "argues the South Carolina-based tribe's application to put lands in Cleveland County in a federal trust — the first step toward opening a casino — is unlawful." President Pro Tem Phil Berger, Rules Chairman Tom Apodaca, Sen. Jim Davis, all Republicans, and Democratic leader Martin Nesbitt are "asking the federal government to deny the application, saying it would 'set a new and dangerous precedent.'"

BIA APPROVES TRUST STATUS FOR LAND OWNED BY LUMMI NATION. The Bellingham (WA) Herald (10/30, 113K) reports that "in a move that has potential implications for the future growth of both Bellingham and Ferndale," the BIA has "approved trust land status for 80 acres of property at Slater Road and Interstate 5 that is owned by Lummi Nation." According to the article, "in the past, the site has been widely viewed as a likely location for retail development," but "in a Tuesday, Oct. 29, interview, Lummi Indian Business Council Chairman Tim Ballew said the tribe has no immediate plans for it."

MASSACHUSETTS LAWMAKERS APPROVE REVISED GAMING COMPACT. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (10/30, 92K) reports that "the revised gaming compact reached between Gov. Deval Patrick and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe cleared a legislative hurdle Wednesday, as the House approved the agreement that could steer millions of dollars from the proposed Taunton casino's profits into state coffers." According to the article, "Cape and Islands legislators unanimously joined in the 116-38 vote to ratify the compact, which would take effect only if the tribe wins federal approval to take land in a Bristol County office park into trust and construct Project First Light, a proposed $500 million resort casino off Route 140."

Top National News:

OBAMA DEFENDS ACA AT BOSTON RALLY. The Administration defended the Affordable Care Act on two fronts Wednesday, with the President in Boston for a rally in support of the law before a friendly audience, and HHS Secretary Sebelius facing questions about problems with the roll-out of HealthCare.gov before the House

Energy and Commerce Committee. There is more coverage of the Sebelius event, mostly critical, while coverage of the President's appearance at Faneuil Hall is more measured, but still somewhat negative overall. While reports do note the President's highlighting of the parts of the law that are working, most choose to focus on Obama's explanation of why some Americans are seeing their previous health insurance policies canceled despite his frequent assurances that those who like their plans would be able to keep them.

Another common theme is the President's adoption of a bipartisan tone, with his references to then-Gov. Mitt Romney's 2006 signing of a Massachusetts health plan on which the ACA was largely modeled, as well as on early ACA successes in states like Arkansas and Kentucky, which went heavily Republican in the 2012 presidential election.

The CBS Evening News (10/30, story 2, 0:40, Pelley, 5.58M) reported, "The President has said often that people that like their insurance would be able to keep it. But now that millions are seeing their plans canceled because those plans don't meet the standards of Obamacare, the President said this today by way of explanation." The President was shown saying: "If you had one of these substandard plans before the Affordable Care Act became law and you really like that plan, you are able to keep it. But ever since the law was passed if insurers decided to downgrade or cancel the substandard plan what we said under the law is, you got to replace them with quality comprehensive coverage."

The Boston Globe (10/31, A1, Viser, 1.75M) says the President "gave a vociferous defense of his health care law on Wednesday in Boston, returning to the intellectual birthplace of the legislation." Obama said, "Yes, this is hard. The healthcare system's a big system, and it's complicated. If it was hard doing it just in one state, it's hard doing it in 50 states. ... We have to keep moving forward – just like you did in Massachusetts." The Globe says the President "spoke in the same room" where then-Gov. Mitt Romney "signed the state's groundbreaking law" in 2006. Obama said, "Mitt Romney and I ran a long and spirited campaign against one another. But I always believed that when he was governor here in Massachusetts he did the right thing on healthcare."

The Boston Herald (10/31, Stout, 643K) says the President "said he's 'not happy' with the problems that have plagued the roll-out of the Affordable Care Act's online marketplace, adding 'there's no excuse for it.'" But the President highlighted Kentucky and Arkansas, pointing out that he lost both states in 2012, "as examples of early success stories before turning his focus toward Republicans critical of the law's roll-out." Obama said, "If they put enough energy into making this law work as they do in attacking the law, Americans would be better off."

The New York Times (10/31, A1, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the President "for the first time admitted that some people who have had what he called 'substandard' insurance plans may have to choose another one." But USA Today (10/31, Jackson, 5.82M) reports Obama "said people who have had their insurance canceled had 'cut-rate' policies that did not provide adequate coverage when people got sick," and that the law "requires certain types of coverage and ends discrimination that has led to higher costs and cancellations for women and people with pre-existing medical conditions."

The Wall Street Journal (10/31, A1, Nelson, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports Obama said Republicans and other critics of the law are being disingenuous by highlighting the policy cancellations without noting the reasons why. The Washington Post (10/31, Rucker, Branigin, 4.28M) reports the President said "if people receive notification from their insurer that their plan is being canceled, 'just shop around in the new marketplace.'" The Hill (10/31, Sink, 194K) says the President "downgraded his longstanding promise that people can keep their healthcare policies if they like them and said instead that 'the vast majority' could."

Politico (10/31, Epstein, 467K) says "while struggling to explain why he hadn't misled in saying that Americans who liked their plans could keep them, Obama played defense on a second front, voicing continued frustration with HealthCare.gov." He said, "The website is too slow, too many people have gotten stuck and I'm not happy about it. ... And I take full responsibility for making sure it gets fixed ASAP." The Daily Caller (10/31, Munro, 422K) says the President "declined to take responsibility" for the "crippled" website, but "announced that he would take responsibility for fixing it."

Karen Tumulty writes in the Washington Post (10/31, 4.28M) that the President's assertion that "if you like the health insurance you have, you can keep it" is "a catchy sound bite that has turned around to bite the hand that

fed it to the country," and Obama's "credibility has taken a hit" over it. Tumulty says "the damage comes not just from the fact that it does not happen to be true," but also because it "attempted to gloss over the fact that choices and trade-offs" were part of healthcare reform. Politico (10/31, Allen, Brown, 467K) reports under the headline "Obamacare's Split-Screen Day" that as the President defended the law, Sebelius faced a hostile congressional committee, and "the scenes in Washington and Boston on Wednesday could hardly have been more different: Sebelius weighted down by the hitches in the system as she testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Obama buoyed by a crowd packed with his supporters as he touted the benefits of the law."

Reuters (10/31, Morgan) and AFP (10/31) also have reports.

Romney Responds To Obama's Characterization Of Massachusetts Law. The Los Angeles Times (10/31, Parsons, 3.07M) says "in citing the Massachusetts health law, Obama is asking both for bipartisan cooperation and for patience with the troubled" launch of the healthcare marketplaces, but "Republicans are not inclined to give that leeway." The AP (10/31, Pickler) says Romney "took issue with Obama's characterization" of the Massachusetts law, saying in a statement, "Had President Obama actually learned the lessons of Massachusetts health care, millions of Americans would not lose the insurance they were promised they could keep, millions more would not see their premiums skyrocket and the installation of the program would not have been a frustrating embarrassment."

The Washington Times (10/31, Wolfgang, 417K) says that "while there's little doubt Obamacare is based in large part on the Massachusetts reform" Romney introduced, last year Romney "did offer dire warnings that now are coming true." Romney said in a presidential debate last fall, "We didn't also do something that I think a number of people across this country recognize, which is put people in a position where they're going to lose the insurance they had and they wanted."

Politico (10/31, Epstein, 467K) writes that the President "just can't leave Mitt Romney alone." He "has name-dropped his former rival at least a half-dozen times this year on economic and health care issues." But there is "no more talk of Romney's '47 percent' quip, his multiple Cadillacs or car elevators. The 2013 Romney – according to Obama – is the archetype of a reasonable Republican."

Anti-Pipeline Protesters Interrupt President Speech. Politico (10/31, Epstein, 467K) reports President Obama was interrupted by protesters opposed to the Keystone XL pipeline during his speech, but "took it all in stride." The President said, "That is the wrong rally. We had the climate change rally back in the summer. This is the healthcare rally."

"Body-Language Expert" Says Obama "Tentative" And "Embarrassed." The Daily Caller (10/31, Howley, 422K) reports that "professional body-language expert" Lillian Glass said the "glitch-ridden Obamacare website roll-out has plunged" the President "into a personal anxiety never before seen during his presidency." Glass said, "Basically, we're seeing an Obama that we've never seen before. Body language-wise, he looks tentative. He looks down. We see an embarrassed Obama."

Biden Apologizes For HealthCare.gov Issues. The Hill (10/31, Sink, 194K) reports Vice President Biden "apologized Wednesday for the botched roll-out of HealthCare.gov, calling the technical issues plaguing the website 'inexcusable.'" During an interview with HLN, Biden "said President Obama personally 'tried to get online' to check out the website glitches, but said he personally had not because 'it was clear that I wasn't getting online.'"

ACA Roll-Out Woes, Other Issues Driving Down Obama's Approval Rating. NBC Nightly News (10/30, story 3, 3:35, Williams, 7.86M) reported, "The problems with this roll-out of the President's healthcare plan, as you might expect, are having a real political impact for this White House." NBC (Todd) added, "President Obama, who has been battling various problems for months from Syria to the budget, NSA, and healthcare, it all adds up to the public losing confidence in his leadership." While at the start of his second term in January, the President's approval rating stood at 52% in the NBC/Wall Street Journal poll, in the latest survey, Obama "hit an all time low, 42% – getting close to George W. Bush territory."

The Wall Street Journal (10/31, King, Prang, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says the roll-out of the healthcare

law and the recent, and ongoing, budget battles are weighing hard on the President's numbers. Politico (10/31, Delreal, 467K) also reports on the poll, saying that the 51% disapproval rating is a new high for Obama.

More Commentary. The Wall Street Journal (10/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes President Obama's past assertion that Americans who like their current health plans will be able to keep those plans, writing that the Administration has been taking pains in the past few weeks to add caveats about what defines insurance and that only insurance plans that are acceptable under the Affordable Care Act would qualify for continuance.

The Christian Science Monitor (10/31, 540K) editorializes, "Critics are taking President Obama to task for allegedly not knowing beforehand about two startling revelations: US spying on top allies and a lack of preparation for the Oct. 1 roll-out of 'Obamacare.' To many, it is difficult to believe that a buck-stops-here chief executive didn't know of either one. ... If we take Obama at his word that he didn't know, then Americans might ask if any modern president will ever enter the Oval Office in the 21st century with enough leadership qualities to conduct the giant orchestra that is the federal bureaucracy."

In his column for the New York Times (10/31, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Charles Blow writes that while the roll-out of the site "was a mess," and the President's promise "that people could keep their insurance if they liked it has turned out not to be true for many people," neither of these problems mean the Affordable Care Act "is destined to fail."

Gail Collins writes in her New York Times (10/31, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) column about the perils of a second-term presidency, writing that "lately, it really has seemed as if the Obama White House is incapable of producing good news beyond the fact that the debt ceiling wasn't smashed."

In his column for the Washington Post (10/31, 4.28M), Robert Samuelson argues that while the effects of the Affordable Care Act's deterrents to job creation are "probably less than the ACA's most rabid opponents assert" they are "more than the law's uncritical apologists assume."

In his Washington Post (10/31, 4.28M) column, Matt Miller imagines a 1936 "Crossfire"-style debate between libertarian economist Friedrich Hayek and socialist author Upton Sinclair as "Americans begin signing up for FDR's new 'Social Security' program," with Sinclair arguing that "two dozen countries already have systems of social insurance on the books," and "that morality, not to mention the survival instincts of the ruling class, requires a decent society to offer something...to protect against destitution in old age," while Hayek saying such "taxing and spending will put us on the road to serfdom."

In his Wall Street Journal (10/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) column, Karl Rove argues that it strains credulity to believe that neither President Obama nor Sebelius was aware that some Americans would not be able to keep their current insurance plans, and that the President repeatedly said something he must have known to not be true.

Daniel Henninger writes in his Wall Street Journal (10/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) column that the problems with the launch of the ACA are another failure of the progressive vision of government of the Obama presidency, writing that throughout Obama's presidency, economic growth has been slow, job creation has lagged, and more Americans have moved onto food stamps, which Henninger links together as indicators of a general failure of the President's governing philosophy.

In the Los Angeles Times (10/31, 3.07M), Cathleen Decker writes that "as he tried to reframe the national discussion" over healthcare, the President "uttered an outright fib: 'This debate has never been about right or left,' he said. ... Oh, yes, it has. And is. ... But in trying to re-argue the case for a program passed several years ago – and not sold well in the interim – Obama faces an intractable question: Is anyone listening?"

In a piece for Politico (10/31, Lowry, 467K) National Review editor Rich Lowry that while the call for "a cease-fire over Obamacare" is a "common liberal theme," it is "a little late to get or expect any Republican buy-in" because that "would have required serious compromise back in 2009, when Democrats, at the high tide of their power in the Obama era, saw no reason to make any." Lowry argues that the President "got his law" and if "more people will be uninsured in 2014 than if it had never passed," it is "on him, no matter how much he and his supporters

want to evade responsibility for their own achievement."

Jonathan Cohn writes on the New Republic (10/31, 195K) website, "Republicans are outraged that some Americans must give up their current insurance plans because they don't satisfy Obamacare's new regulations for benefits and pricing. ... Obama should have said 'most' people, not 'all' people. Readers can decide for themselves whether, by the standards of politics, that's a felony or misdemeanor."

SEBELIUS TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEBSITE PROBLEMS DURING HEATED HOUSE HEARING. HHS Secretary Sebelius' appearance before the House Energy and Commerce Committee Wednesday led two of the three broadcast network newscasts – ABC opened with a report on severe weather – and is covered by every major national newspaper. While the coverage is critical, portraying Sebelius as on the defensive against hostile Republican questioning, the GOP also takes some hits for pressing Sebelius even after she took full responsibility for the problems with HealthCare.gov. But it is Sebelius who is called "hapless" and frustrated under a barrage of questions.

The CBS Evening News (10/30, lead story, 3:30, Pelley, 5.58M) reported, "This was the day that Republicans were waiting for," as they got the chance to "grill" Sebelius about the "disastrous" website roll-out. Sebelius "acknowledged that the website has been, quote, 'a debacle'...and that she is responsible." Sebelius: "Let me say directly to these Americans: You deserve better. I apologize. I am accountable to you for fixing these problems." Cordes: "That mea culpa didn't satisfy Republicans" who wanted to know why no one "has been fired." Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN): "Who was in charge as it was being built? ...At that time who is the individual..." Sebelius: "[CMS Chief Operating Officer] Michelle Synder..." Blackburn: "Michelle Synder is the one responsible for this debacle?" Sebelius: "Well, excuse me, Congresswoman. Michelle Synder is not responsible for the debacle. Hold me accountable for the debacle. I'm responsible."

NBC Nightly News (10/30, lead story, 3:05, Williams, 7.86M) reported Sebelius "said in effect the buck stops with her, but that may not be enough for everybody." NBC (O'Donnell) added, "This was a day of aggressive questioning. ... As the cabinet secretary in charge of the problem-prone" website, Sebelius "drew a crush of media attention, and even a long line for spectators. ... Hammered by questions, Sebelius repeatedly took the blame for a roll-out she even labeled a debacle."

ABC World News (10/30, story 2, 2:25, Stephanopoulos, 7.43M) reported that Sebelius "fielded tough questions from Congress, apologized for the launch she called a debacle, and at times lost her patience." ABC (Avila) called it "official finger-pointing day on Capitol Hill, producing a 'whatever' moment from the woman in charge of Obamacare." Rep. Gregg Harper (R-MS): "So you're saying that the President is not responsible for HHS?" Sebelius: "Sir, I didn't say that." Harper: "It is the President's ultimate responsibility, correct?" Sebelius: "Whatever. Yes, he is the President. He's responsible."

USA Today (10/31, Kennedy, Camia, 5.82M) reports that "as Republican calls for her resignation grow louder, Sebelius was subjected to sharp, partisan grilling from lawmakers who asked her about technology, website security, the law's mandate that people obtain insurance," and other issues. The hearing "grew testy at times and the look on Sebelius' face was often one of frustration."

The New York Times (10/31, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says over "three and a half grueling hours of testimony," Sebelius "gamely defended the problem-plagued roll-out," but the fact that HealthCare.gov was down even during her testimony "undercut Ms. Sebelius's statements that the federal online insurance marketplace was improving every day and would be fully functional and able to accommodate millions of users" within one month. The Times says in her testimony, Sebelius "came across as a hapless official, aloof from many operational decisions" about HealthCare.gov. The Christian Science Monitor (10/31, Feldmann, 540K) says "even as she insisted that the site's problems are fixable, the optics could not have been worse: The site was down, yet again, due to technical difficulties (though not HHS's fault)."

The Washington Post (10/31, Branigin, Somashekhar, 4.28M) says "new problems emerged" with Affordable Care Act implementation even as Sebelius "assured lawmakers that 'miserably frustrating' problems" with the website will soon be fixed. Sebelius said, "I am as frustrated and angry as anyone with the flawed launch of HealthCare.gov."

The Wall Street Journal (10/31, Schatz, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that when asked how many people have signed up for insurance via the ACA healthcare exchanges so far, Sebelius said she did not have the data, but given the launch problems, "it will be a very small number."

Politico (10/31, Nather, 467K) writes that "even an experienced politician" like Sebelius "can only do so much damage control when the damage is this bad." She "shielded" the President "from blame for the failures" and took responsibility, but she "still pointed fingers" by saying CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner "made the critical decision to turn off a website feature that would have let people browse health insurance plans before creating an account," which has been blamed for creating "serious bottlenecks" on the website. Sebelius "also tossed the hot potato back to the website contractors."

The Huffington Post (10/31, Bendery, 11.54M) reports Blackburn also "pressed Sebelius to explain why some people are being terminated from their individual health insurance plans" when the President "promised during the Obamacare roll-out" that people would be able to keep their plans if they so chose. Sebelius "tried to explain that insurance companies have the right to cancel individual insurance policies as they please." The Hill (10/31, Easley, 194K) reports Sebelius said, "If a person had a policy in place in March 2010, liked that plan, and the insurance company made no changes to disadvantage the consumer, those policies are in place, you keep your plan if you like it, and that goes on."

The Daily Caller (10/31, Levinson, 422K) reports Sebelius "showed her frustration under questioning...when she was caught on an open microphone, muttering, 'don't do this to me'" after Rep. Billy Long (R-MO) "peppered her with questions."

Sebelius Says She Is Not Eligible To Use Healthcare Exchange. The Washington Times (10/31, Howell, 417K) reports Sebelius "rejected calls from Republicans" to enroll in a marketplace plan, "saying she is happy with the coverage she gets as a federal employee." Sebelius said that since she has employer-sponsored coverage, she is not "eligible to enter the exchange." In a "fact check" piece, the AP (10/31, Woodward) writes that the reason why Sebelius does not get coverage from an exchange "is straightforward enough: She can't."

Krauthammer Says Sebelius Delivered "Pathetic, Horrible, Mortifying Performance." The Daily Caller (10/31, Poor, 422K) reports conservative commentator Charles Krauthammer "slammed" Sebelius' testimony as "pathetic" in a radio interview. He said, "It was a pathetic, horrible, mortifying performance. She wasn't holding a lot of cards. ... She said what she to and it certainly didn't help them in any way."

Obama Said To Have Little Incentive To Want Sebelius To Step Down. Susan Page writes in USA Today (10/31, Page, 5.82M) that "whether she is responsible or not, there is little chance" President Obama "would demand or even desire Sebelius' exit from the hot seat," since "having an aide who has become a lightning rod during a controversy in fact can be a useful division of duties." New York University political scientist Paul Light said, "We have no tradition in this country of holding Cabinet members accountable for lower-level or even high-level failures. If Napolitano could not be fired over the Christmas Day bombing plot and Chu couldn't be fired over Solyndra and Holder has survived over several meltdowns at Justice, including Fast and Furious, why would Sebelius be fired for what appears to be a blended failure between the contractors and her department?"

More Commentary. Dana Milbank writes in his Washington Post (10/31, 4.28M) column that for Sebelius to accept responsibility "was a sneaky and dastardly thing for her to do: sneaky, because it wasn't in the advance testimony she gave the committee, and dastardly, because in today's Washington, any acceptance of responsibility is so rare that the Republicans – who were counting on her evading and deflecting – were caught off-guard."

FOOD STAMPS PROGRAM TO BE CUT THIS FRIDAY. Reuters (10/31, Abbott, Baertlein) reports that a $5 billion reduction in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will take effect on November 1, noting that it will be the first ever broad cut in the program. The cut will affect about 48 million recipients. The cut is the result of a temporary increase adopted as part of 2009's stimulus package expiring. The reduction is expected to have only a small effect on the national economy.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Endless War, Endless Suffering."*** The New York Times (10/31, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) in an editorial reviews the suffering of "innocent civilians" in Syria's civil war, noting yesterday's announcement of the country's first polio outbreak in 14 years. The Times also says that the response to a UN call for aid is "disgraceful" particularly criticizing China and Russia for their small contributions. While the Times says that ending the war would be the best thing, "the next best" would be to provide "generously" for the needs of civilians suffering from the war

"Scott Stringer For New York City Comptroller." The New York Times (10/31, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) in an editorial on the race for New York City comptroller endorses the Democratic candidate Scott Stringer as better qualified, though it says the Republican John Burnett has "a strong private-sector résumé" and his "emergence is good news for New York's Republican Party."

"Alabama Surrenders." In an editorial, the New York Times (10/31, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) hails Alabama's agreement to discard major parts of its "unjust immigration law," which is "the most extreme attempt by any state to harass and expel immigrants." The Times calls this "a huge setback" for the strategy of forcing "immigrants to 'self-deport' by making their lives unbearable." The Times goes on to criticize House Republicans for continuing on this "dead-end road" with this "self-destructive strategy."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Diminished Expectations."*** The Washington Post (10/31, 4.28M), in an editorial about congressional budget negotiations, asks "what role, if any, higher revenues should play in the deal-making." The Post says that while over the longer term tax increases and entitlement reforms will be necessary, for the present "revenue is not indispensable." It praises the President's position "that revenue is not a deal-breaker" as "sensible" given that the Republicans have a "very real political advantage" in being "more willing to accept" the automatic spending cuts that would otherwise kick in.

"Unfairly Trimming A Court." The Washington Post (10/31, Board, 4.28M) editorializes in favor of President Obama's nomination of Patricia Millett to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, calling Millett "well-qualified" with "gold-plated bipartisan credentials," but regrets that she "may well end up a victim of a GOP campaign against allowing any more of Mr. Obama's nominees onto the D.C. Circuit." The Post notes that Republicans "pushed to fill" all of the court's 11 seats "when George W. Bush was president," but "now argue that it doesn't need more than its current eight judges," and that Obama "is trying to 'pack' the court." The Post argues that Republicans "shouldn't insist on altering the size of a court only when it's a Democratic president's turn to pick judges or filibuster highly qualified nominees on that pretext"

"Mr. Cuccinelli's Clone." In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/31, Board, 4.28M) pans the candidacy of state Sen. Mark Obenshain (R), the GOP nominee in the 2013 Virginia attorney general race, saying that he "voted against...the landmark transportation bill that will pump billions of dollars into upgrading Virginia's rapidly failing transportation network." Noting that GOP gubernatorial nominee Ken Cuccinelli also opposed the transportation measure, the Post adds that Obenshain's voting record is "virtually indistinguishable, and in some ways worse, than Mr. Cuccinelli's own." Cuccinelli is a former state senator. The Post notes that it has endorsed state Sen. Mark Herring (D) in the AG race.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"You Can Keep Your Health Plan*."*** The Wall Street Journal (10/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes President Obama's past assertion that Americans who like their current health plans will be able to keep those plans, writing that the Administration has been taking pains in the past few weeks to add caveats about what defines insurance and that only insurance plans that are acceptable under the Affordable Care Act would qualify for continuance.

"Fannie Mae Revivalist." The Wall Street Journal (10/31, Journal, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that GOP senators are right to oppose Rep. Mel Watt's confirmation to head the FHFA, pointing out that the Obama Administration has been attempting to replace DeMarco for years, and hope to succeed this time with Watt, who would owe his allegiance to the Administration. The piece says Watt does not possess even the minimum requirements for the post, and goes on to laud DeMarco's accomplishments, including the GSEs' recent profitability, and his efforts to increase risk-sharing by Fannie and Freddie.

"The Children Of Brown." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (10/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M)

criticizes students at Brown University for their treatment of New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, who was shouted off the stage during an appearance at the school Tuesday. The Journal praises Kelly's record as police commissioner, noting that much of the drop in the city's crime rate under Kelly is due to the NYPD stop-and-frisk policies the Brown students were protesting.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Fed Opts To Stay Easy-Money Course, For Now
Obama Tempers Insurance Pledge As Health Fight Rages
Eike Batista's Empire Soared, Then Melted Into Bankruptcy
US Blasts Germany's Economic Policies

New York Times:
No US Action, So States Move On Privacy Law
Tap On Merkel Provides Peek At Vast Spy Net
As Interest Fades In The Humanities, Colleges Worry
From Anonymity To Scourge Of Wall Street
Activists Feel Powerful Wrath As Russia Guards Its Arctic Claims
On Council, De Blasio Blended Idealism With Push For Power
Voters' Anger Over Shutdown Is Inspiring Democrats To Run
Sebelius Apologizes For Health Site's Malfunctions
Red Sox Rout Cardinals To Win World Series

Washington Post:
NSA Tapes Yahoo, Google Links
Perfect Winds Blowing Brazil To New Era Of Renewable Energy
Sebelius: Blame Me For Website's Flaws
Cuccinelli's Conservatism On Display In His Writings
Fresh Start In Budget Talks, But Taxes Are Still The Rub

Financial Times:
Fed Stays The Course On Bond Buying
Google 'Outraged' By Latest NSA Claims
PwC Seeks To Bulk Up With Booz & Co Deal
Qatar Fund Quietly Builds $1bn BofA Stake
Batista Seeks OGX Bankruptcy Protection
Barclays Launches Forex Trading Probe
Japan Investors Buy Abenomics Rumour

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Halloween Storm; Sebelius-Congressional Hearing; Cirque Du Soleil Tragedy; Health-Teenagers And Concussions; Coal Miners-Black Lung Benefits; Fire Safety.
CBS: Sebelius-Congressional Hearing; Obama-Individual Coverage; ACA-Website Issues; NSA Leaks; Egypt-Muslim Brotherhood Leader Arrested; Egypt-Attacks On Christians; Social Security-Monthly Payment Increase; Economy-Wall Street; Health-Teenagers And Concussions; Halloween Store.
NBC: Sebelius-Congressional Hearing; ACA-Website Privacy Issues; Obama-Approval Rating; Syria-Polio Outbreak; Health-Teenagers And Conversions; Halloween Storm; Alaska-Delta Jet Forced To Land; Nashville Plane Crash; Smithsonian Magazine-Neil Armstrong Space Suit; Pope Francis.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Sports-MLB World Series Results; ACA Website Issues-Biden Apology; ACA-Obama; Obama-Individual Coverage; New York-Smoking Age Change; Obama-Prime Minister Of Iraq Meeting.
CBS: Sports-MLB World Series Results; Obama-Individual Coverage; Sebelius-Congressional Hearing; NSA

Spying Scandal; Napolitano-Undocumented Student Aid; Social Security-Monthly Payment Increase.
NPR: Sebelius-Congressional Hearing; GAO-Federal Building Security Report; Sports-MLB World Series Results; Economy-Wall Street; Job Growth-Government Shutdown; Saudi Arabia-Jordanian Man Convicted Of Spying; San Diego-Tijuana Tunnel Discovered.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; delivers remarks at the SelectUSA Investment Summit Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, open to pre-credentialed media; meets with Senator-elect Cory Booker, Oval Office, closed press; With the First Lady, welcome local children and military families to trick-or-treat at the White House, pooled press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – In the morning, the Vice President will attend the Presidential Daily Briefing in the Oval Office. The Vice President will swear in Cory Booker as Senator of New Jersey at the US Capitol. The Vice President will meet with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of Iraq at the White House. This meeting is closed press.
US Senate: 2 p.m. – The Senate is expected to convene.

ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS – NATIONAL DEBT – RALLY – 10:30 a.m. The Rally to Restore (Fiscal) Sanity rally – National Center for Policy Analysis Senior Fellow Larry Kotlikoff will keynote a bipartisan Capitol Hill rally in support of the INFORM Act. Location: Upper Senate Park, 200 New Jersey Ave NW. Contacts: Catherine Daniell 972-308-6479, 817-991-1041

KAINE, THUNE – THE CAN STOPS HERE – 11 a.m. The non-partisan, millennial-led campaign The Can Kicks Back (TCKB) will conclude its five-week, cross-country "Generational Equity" Tour. Senators Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and John Thune (R-S.D.), sponsors of the INFORM Act, will speak in support of the bipartisan piece of legislation supported by TCKB that would allow lawmakers to "better understand" the impact of the Federal budget and pending legislation on future generations. Several of the many economists who have endorsed the INFORM Act, including Boston University's Laurence J. Kotlikoff, will also address the audience of millennials at "The Can Stops Here" event. Location: Upper Senate Park on Capitol Hill. Contacts: Bill Beaman press@thecankicksback.org (301-767-7807)

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS – SHUTDOWN COSTS – 2:15 p.m. Press conference to issue a new report on the impact of the recent 16-day Federal shutdown on jobs and the economy. Study to show that the "Tea Party" shutdown cost more than $20 billion, or 0.5% of GDP growth. The report also demonstrates that uncertainty caused by the continued insistence on budgeting by crisis has thus far cost the economy 900,000 jobs, and cut growth by 12%. Speakers: Senator Mark Warner; Senator Ben Cardin; Senator Robert Casey; Senator Amy Klobuchar. Contacts: Kevin Hall (Warner) 202-224-2023; Sue Walitsky (Cardin) 202-224-4524; April Mellody (Casey) 202-228-6367; Brigit Helgen (Klobuchar) 202-228-6317. Location: Senate Radio/TV Gallery, US Capitol S-325.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. Executive business meeting followed by hearing on "Housing Finance Reform: Essential Elements of a Government Guarantee for Mortgage-Backed Securities." Witnesses: Joseph Tracy, Executive Vice President and Senior Advisor to the President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Phillip L. Swagel, Professor of International Economic Policy, University of Maryland School of Public Policy; David H. Stevens, President and CEO, Mortgage Bankers Association. Location: 538 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 10 a.m. Business meeting to consider S.Res.268, condemning the September 2013 terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, and reaffirming United States support for the people and Government of Kenya, and the nominations of Gregory B. Starr, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, Mark Bradley Childress, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, Thomas Frederick Daughton, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, Matthew T. Harrington, of

Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Eunice S. Reddick, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, John Hoover, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone, Michael Stephen Hoza, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, Tomasz P. Malinowski, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Crystal Nix-Hines, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, Pamela K. Hamamoto, of Hawaii, to be Representative to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador, Philip S. Goldberg, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, Robert O. Blake, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia, Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Timothy M. Broas, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Donald Lu, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, Robert A. Sherman, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, Adam M. Scheinman, of Virginia, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador, Rose Eilene Gottemoeller, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Frank A. Rose, of Massachusetts, to be Assistant Secretary for Verification and Compliance, Dwight L. Bush, Sr., of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, James Walter Brewster, Jr., of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, and Carlos Roberto Moreno, of California, to be Ambassador to Belize, all of the Department of State. Location: 419 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS – 10 a.m. Hearings to examine attaining a quality degree, focusing on innovations to improve student success. Panel I: Richard Kazis , Senior Vice President, Jobs for the Future, Boston, MA; Dr. William E. Kirwan , Chancellor & Chief Executive Officer, University System of Maryland, Adelphi, MD; Dr. R. Scott Ralls , President, North Carolina Community College System, Raleigh,, NC; Timothy L. Hall , President, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN; Dr. Paul J. LeBlanc , President, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH. Location: 430 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. The Navy Yard Tragedy: Examining Government Clearances and Background Checks. Witnesses: Joseph G. Jordan, Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget; Elaine D. Kaplan, Acting Director, US Office of Personnel Management; Brian A. Prioletti, Assistant Director, Special Security Directorate, National Counterintelligence Executive, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Stephen Lewis, Deputy Director for Personnel, Industrial and Physical Security Policy, Directorate of Security Policy & Oversight, Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, US Department of Defense; Brenda Farrell, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, US Government Accountability Office. Location: 342 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY – 10 a.m. Executive Business Meeting. I. Nominations Robert Leon Wilkins, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit Brian J. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida Timothy L. Brooks, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas James Donato, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California Beth Labson Freeman, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California Pedro A. Delgado Hernandez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico Carolyn B. McHugh, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit Pamela L. Reeves, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee Vince Girdhari Chhabria, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California James Maxwell Moody, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas II. Bills S.42, Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act of 2013 (Leahy, Grassley). S.822, Justice for All Reauthorization Act (Leahy, Cornyn, Coons, Klobuchar, Franken, Feinstein, Hatch) Location: 226 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 10:15 a.m. Hearing on Syria. Witnesses: Panel One: Robert S. Ford, Ambassador to Syria, US Department of State; Thomas M. Countryman, Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation, US Department of State; Nancy E. Lindborg, Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, US Agency for International Development (USAID). Panel Two: Ambassador Frederic C. Hof, Senior fellow, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Atlantic Council; Leslie H. Gelb, President Emeritus and Board Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations. Location: 419 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 2:15 p.m. Nominations hearing for Daniel W. Yohannes of Colorado, to be

Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Location: 419 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE – 2:15 p.m. Closed Hearing: Intelligence Matters. Location: 419 Hart.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: IRAQI PRIME MINISTER – Iraqi Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Noori al-Maliki will be in Washington. Highlights: 8:30 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel meets with Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki at the Willard Hotel, Washington, D.C. This event is closed to the press. 10 a.m. Iraqi Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Noori al-Maliki delivers remarks at the USIP. 1:30 p.m. The Vice President will meet with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of Iraq at the White House. Closed press.

SAIS – NORTH KOREA – Oct. 30 – 31. Two day "United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea Public" Hearings. DAY ONE: 1:45 – 6p.m. The UN-mandated Commission of Inquiry (COI) will hold two days of public hearings to investigate the human rights situation in the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. COI commissioners Michael Kirby, Marzuki Darusman (UN special rapporteur) and Sonja Biserko will conduct the hearings. Day 1 will feature testimony from North Korean escapees. DAY TWO: 8:30-4:30 p.m – Day 2 will feature testimony from experts including Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., a retired imagery analyst; Victor Cha, Korea Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; Roberta Cohen, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a SAIS graduate; Jared Genser, managing director of Perseus Strategies, LLC; David Hawk, a visiting scholar at the Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights; Andrew Natsios, director of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs; and Marcus Noland, a senior fellow and director of studies at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Location: Kenney Auditorium, Nitze Building, 1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW. Contacts: Felisa Klubes (fklubes@jhu.edu), 202-663-5626

23RD ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE FIELD OF NATIONAL SECURITY LAW CLE CONFERENCE – Oct. 31 – Nov. 1. Co-Sponsored By The American Bar Association; Standing Committee on Law and National Security; Center for National Security Law, University of Virginia School of Law; Center on Law, Ethics and National Security, Duke University School of Law Center on National Security and the Law, Georgetown Law. Participants include speakers from the legal staff of NSA; CIA; Office of the Director of National Intelligence; House and Senate Intelligence committees; House Foreign Affairs; others. Location: Ritz Carlton Hotel, 1150 22nd St., NW. Contacts: Holly McMahon holly.mcmahon@americanbar.org ((202) 662-1035)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – INVESTMENT SUMMIT – Oct. 31 – Nov. 1. The US Department of Commerce hosts the SelectUSA 2013 Investment Summit with foreign and domestic investors with local, state, and regional economic development organizations in an effort to promote investment and job creation in the United States. Participants include: US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker will be joined by Secretary of State John Kerry, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, US Trade Representative Michael Froman, three state governors, senior Federal officials and some of the worlds top CEOs. Location: Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road NW. Contacts: (202) 482-3809 SUSApress@trade.gov. Notes: Media registration deadline is MONDAY, OCTOBER 28.

INAUGURAL SELECTUSA 2013 INVESTMENT SUMMIT – Oct. 31 – Nov. 1. President Obama and US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker will host the first-ever SelectUSA 2013 Investment Summit. Leading public and private sector officials from around the world to discuss the benefits of investing in the United States. Senior Obama Administration officials, including Secretary Pritzker, Secretary of State John Kerry, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, and US Trade Representative Ambassador Michael Froman will deliver remarks. As well as speakers from Corporate leaders from Bloomberg L.P., Caterpillar, Inc., Dow Chemical Corporation, and Wal-Mart. Highlights: 9 a.m. Opening / Welcome Remarks: The US is Open for Business Speaker: Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Commerce. Marriott Ballroom. 9:15 a.m. A view of the US and Global Economy with Jack Lew, Secretary of the Treasury. Location: Marriott Ballroom. 10:45 a.m. US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Walmart US President and CEO Bill Simon press conference. RSVP, please contact Mami Goldberg at mgoldberg@doc.gov and 202-482-5035. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. Washington. Contacts: Tim Truman (202) 482-5435 ((202) 482-3809). Notes: Media attending the event must be registered for the SelectUSA Summit. Registration must be completed by noon on Wednesday, October 30th at:

GW LAW SYMPOSIUM – 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The GW Center for Law, Economics & Finance (C-LEAF) will

host its fifth annual symposium on regulatory reform, featuring keynotes by Eugene A. Ludwig, founder and CEO of Promontory Financial Group and 27th comptroller of the currency; Thomas M. Hoenig, vice chairman of the FDIC; and Gary S. Gensler, chairman of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Location: Jack Morton Auditorium, The George Washington University, 805 21st St., NW. Notes: R.S.V.P.: Media interested in attending should contact Angela Olson at 202-994-3087 or olsona@gwu.edu, or Liz Field at 202-994-5609, 202-510-1702 or efield@law.gwu.edu.

10TH ANNUAL IMMIGRATION LAW AND POLICY CONFERENCE – MCCAIN —9 a.m. Conference organized by the Migration Policy Institute, Georgetown Law Center, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., and the Center for Migration Studies of New York. Keynote is former Mississippi Gov. and former Republican National Committee Chair Haley Barbour (9a.m.); Keynote: Senator John McCain (2:45 p.m.) Location: Georgetown University Law Center, Hart Auditorium, McDonough Hall (Entrance on 2nd Street NW between F St. and Mass. Ave), 600 New Jersey Avenue, NW. Contacts: Michelle Mittelstadt 202-266-1910, C

CSIS – WORLD BANK GROUP'S DOING BUSINESS REPORT – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) will host representatives from the World Bank Group and USAID to discuss the World Bank Groups Doing Business Report 2014. The report highlights the complications small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) face across countries by summarizing government regulations on business into comparable indicators. Location: C115 Conference Center, CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave. NW. Contacts: RSVP to: aschwartz@csis.org

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BENEFITS – 9:30 a.m. Former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, founder of the Richardson Center for Global Engagement, and Senior Director of TRAFFIC/World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Crawford Allan will launch a new partnership to advance new strategies to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in key parts of Africa. Forum runs 9:30-11:30 a.m. Press conference at 11:30 a.m. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW, 13th Floor. Notes: Media RSVP: Sean Walsh, sean@navigatorcommunications.com or 917-687-8291 or Becky Fleischauer, becky@navigatorcommunications.com or 302-588-0671.

ACA ENROLLMENT TELECONFERENCE – 11 a.m. State exchange officials and navigators will discuss the health coverage enrollment they have helped to facilitate, the progress they have made in addressing any enrollment problems, and their expert views on the future of the enrollment process. Participants: Demian Fontanella, General Counsel, Office of the Healthcare, Advocate, Connecticut; Jodi Ray, Project Director, Florida Covering Kids & Families; Elisabeth Benjamin, MSPH, JD, Vice President, Health Initiatives, Community Service Society of NY; Rebecca Whitaker, MSPH, Director of Health Policy, Governmental Affairs, North Carolina Community Health Center Association; Ron Pollack, Executive Director, Families USA. Dial in toll-free: 800-344-6491. Confirmation code: 9865861. Contacts: Dave Lemmon, Bob Meissner Bryan Fisher ((202) 628-3030). info@familiesusa.org.

ABA – BROWNBAG – NEVO – 12:15 p.m. Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division Aviv Nevo will deliver remarks at the Economics Committee of the American Bar Associations Antitrust Sections brownbag talk. Location: Mayer Brown LLP, Town Hall, First Floor, 1999 K St., N.W. Notes: Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Diane Odom at diane.odom@americanbar.org.

NPC LUNCHEON – SECRETARY JEWELL – 12:30 p.m. NPC Luncheon with Sally Jewell, Secretary ,US Department of the Interior to discuss conservation priorities, including Interiors role in the Presidents Climate Action Plan, and strengthening the nations economy through healthy lands, water and wildlife. Location: National Press Club, Ballroom, 529 14th Street NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "And on top of all the World Series related chaos in Boston, President Obama went to Boston today to do to Boston traffic what his healthcare website did to traffic on the web."

David Letterman: "Anybody tried to sign up for the Obamacare? You guys have any luck signing up? It's impossible. You're supposed to go to a computer and type in all of your information and then...the website shuts down. You can't get Obamacare. After all of this crap you can't get it now. And everybody's furious. ...Here's why

the Republicans are mad. They are upset about Obamacare because something they tried to stop now won't get started."

David Letterman: "Top ten things Vladimir Putin has learned by spying on the United States:"

10. "Americans like their meat filled with cheese and their cheese filled with meat."
9. "Hillary Clinton's ATM pin code is 2016."
8. "Gossip Girl's Blake Lively is a national treasure."
7. "Ninety-seven percent of Americans lie to their dentists about flossing."
6. "Next in line for the Supreme Court? Judge Judy."
5. "There's nothing going on in Delaware"
4. "Obamacare website built using same technology as Sputnik."
3. "Broadway Theater is more alive than ever."
2. "Biden hasn't turned on his work computer in months."
1. "Sofia Vergara – Va-Va-Va-Voom!"

Stephen Colbert: "You know, I like giving you good news but I'm afraid it's sad to say this Congress right now is the least popular of all time. Just thinking about what's going on, on Capitol Hill makes people nauseous. Nausea, by the way, more popular than Congress."

Stephen Colbert: "And Republicans in Congress are the most-least popular. One reason is that they disappointed their base by voting to raise the debt ceiling on the flimsy excuse of avoiding a galactic economic meltdown. Well, yesterday senate Republicans did their best to fix that mistake when 27 GOP Senators voted to disapprove of their previous votes to raise the debt ceiling. I believe the motion was titled 'SR-346, fiscal I call backsies.'"

Stephen Colbert: "And, folks, it was not easy for them to get this vote. Mitch McConnell had to negotiate with Harry Reid so that the recent debt ceiling bill included a provision that there would be a second vote expressing approval or disapproval of the first vote. In short, GOP Senators voted for raising the debt ceiling on the stipulation they could vote against having voted for it. Proving that Republicans may not be bipartisan but they may be bipolar."

Jon Stewart: "Ladies and gentlemen, there are many consequences to its growing cascade of revelations about our nation's spying activities. Most recently the bugging of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cell phone and lederhosen drawers and the fact that the United States pretended to be her online boyfriend for two years."

Jimmy Fallon: "People are already talking about the next presidential race, which is still a few years away. In fact, the new poll found that 48 percent of New Jersey wants Chris Christie to run for president in 2016. Which isn't surprising since Christie actually makes up 48 percent of New Jersey."

Jay Leno: "You know, it's really trick or treat time at the White House. President Obama tricked us into thinking we'd be able to afford treatment. You see, it was 'trick or treatment.'"

Jay Leno: "Well, now the Federal Trade Commission reports that con-artists are using confusion over Obamacare to sign people up...for what they call fake health insurance. The scammers lure victims with false promises. Stuff like, 'If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan.' See, they'll tell you that. The scammers will tell you that, but you have to be careful."

Jay Leno: "Well, now, a lot of people are accusing the President of being less than truthful. In fact, a couple weeks ago, President Obama called me and told me personally, 'If I like my current job, I can keep my current job.' And I believed him."

Jay Leno: "Well, according to the L.A. Times, regarding the promises made about Obamacare, some officials privately said...they privately wish they'd had left more wiggle room. Wiggle room. See, only in politics is the truth considered wiggle room."

Jay Leno: "I don't know if you saw the hearings today, three different members of congress compared Obamacare to the Wizard of Oz. Actually, Congress is like the Wizard of Oz. The Republicans have no heart. The Democrats have no courage. And the people who are on the Obamacare website have no brains."

Jay Leno: "And this Obamacare website, boy, has been nothing but problems, hasn't it? Oh, my God. You don't know how difficult it is to log on. Today, Edward Snowden said even he couldn't get in. He said, 'That's it, I'm through.'"

Jay Leno: "It is slower than a Thanksgiving dinner at your in-laws house. That's how slow it is."

Jay Leno: "It is slower than Chris Christie driving up hill in a Prius. That's how slow it is."

Jay Leno: "It is slower than a George Clooney marriage proposal. That's how slow it is."

Jay Leno: "And, of course, the other big scandal. This NSA spying thing. This is another huge scandal. In fact, today, the White House announced President Obama is changing his slogan from 'Change you can believe in' to 'I know nothing!'"

Jay Leno: "The President said he didn't know we were spying on our allies, didn't know about the problems with

the healthcare website. Have you heard the latest? Now the President claims he doesn't know how 'Breaking Bad' ended."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Nov 5, 2013 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO TOUT CONSERVATION DURING MINNESOTA VISIT. The Minneapolis Star Tribune

(11/5, Mitchell, 1.14M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "visit Minnesota on Tuesday to promote her conservation initiatives." She will "release a new national report on the economic contributions of the nation's 561 national wildlife refuges while visiting the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington." Jewell will also tour the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls.

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB SPEECH. For the Denver Post (11/5, Caldwell, 949K), editorial writer Alicia Caldwell writes that in her speech at the National Press Club last Thursday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell laid out her conservation strategy and warned Congress that if it doesn't protect wild lands, President Obama will use his authority to do so. Caldwell argues that the warning was justified, since public lands bills have languished in Congress for years.

Secretary Jewell Urged To Listen To Scientists On Wild Horses. For the Atlantic (11/5, Cohen, 7.51M), Andrew Cohen writes that last Thursday, speaking at the National Press Club, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "addressed in detail a question about the nation's beleaguered wild horses." Cohen criticizes Jewell's response and claims that her statement was "unsupported by key facts revealed in June in a report by the National Academy of Sciences that was sharply critical of Bureau of Land Management's practices and policies toward the horses." Cohen writes that Jewell's stance "suggests that the Interior Department, under Secretary Jewell, is more concerned with papering over faulty BLM practices than it is with fixing those practices to bring them into line with accepted scientific methods."

Also criticizing Jewell for her position on wild horses is the Desert Independent (11/5).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of Jewell's speech was provided by the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/5, 343K), the Fly Rod & Reel (11/5, 146K) and KSJR-FM Collegeville, MN (11/4, 34K).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CRITICIZE BLM'S LATEST PROPOSALS TO SAVE SAGE GROUSE. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that a coalition of conservation groups found "mostly fault" with the BLM's "proposed plans to protect millions of acres of greater sage grouse habitat in five Western states, concluding that overall, they fail to protect the imperiled bird from energy development and other activity that could drive the grouse to extinction." However, the groups, led by WildEarth Guardians, gave BLM "high marks for its proposed grouse management plan in Nevada and eastern California, finding that it adequately addresses impacts from oil and natural gas drilling and livestock grazing."

In an editorial, the Las Vegas Review-Journal (11/5, 437K) says that the environmentalists' cause is less about saving the sage grouse or increasing its population, and more about gaining the land use restrictions that bar development of open spaces. The paper claims that for these activists, the sage grouse is a but pawn in the campaign to block the projects that lead to increased use of natural resources, improved standards of living and increased energy consumption.

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE CREATED. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports on the creation of the State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. The team, "made up of eight governors, 16 local officials and two tribal leaders, has a year to recommend ways that the federal government can hasten investments in resilience to communities that are vulnerable to climate change." The group is also tasked with helping the government identify "useful climate preparedness tools" for towns and states.

Creation Of Council On Climate Preparedness Angers Republicans. The National Journal (11/5, Foran, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that Republicans are enraged by President Obama's executive order setting up the inter-agency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience and subsequent appointments that make the 24-member task force primarily Democrat. Several Republican Representatives spoke out on the issue, criticizing Obama's use of executive orders to avoid involvement with Congress. Several Democrat representatives have spoken out to defend the order, saying that the Republican-controlled Congress would not have passed legislation to address climate change and that Obama's executive order was necessary to "help better prepare communities to withstand the impact of climate changes."

SENATE PANEL TO TACKLE WILDFIRE PREVENTION. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that a Senate panel will "explore pre-emptive measures to reduce the spiraling cost of wildfires across the West." The Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry and Natural Resources will "discuss how reduced budgets and forest

management affect the risk of catastrophic wildfires." Members will "hear from the Forest Service's top wildfire deputy, a logging industry official, a conservationist, county leader and the CEO of a Colorado ski area that operates on agency lands."

DRAKES BAY OYSTER FARM DRAWS SUPPORT IN COURT BATTLE. The Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (11/4, 156K) reports on eight "friend of the court" briefs filed in "the last three weeks in support of oyster company owner Kevin Lunny's request for a rehearing by the 9th Circuit US Court of Appeals in San Francisco." According to the article, "the briefs, totalling 150 pages, are intended to convince the appeals court to reconsider its 2-1 decision in September rejecting Lunny's bid to continue harvesting oysters from the 2,500-acre estero in Marin County's Point Reyes Peninsula."

Also reporting on the story is the Petaluma (CA) Argus Courier (11/4, 1K).

INTERIOR AGREES TO FUND MUDDY CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT. The Cape Cod (MA) Day (11/5) reports that the Interior Department has "agreed to fund the Muddy Creek Restoration Bridge project, to the tune of $3.3 million, and now the design and permitting processes can move full-speed ahead." The article notes that the Muddy Creek bridge is "one of 45 Atlantic Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Projects selected to receive federal money from a competitive pool of projects along the Eastern Seaboard."

NEVADA COUNTY TO HEAR ON PRESENTATION ON FEDERAL CONTROL OF PUBLIC LANDS. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (11/5, 22K) reports that "the county will hear a presentation Wednesday by Pam Borda, Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority executive director, that will address how a transfer of public land from federal to state control could affect economic development." The article notes that Borda presented "in September to the Nevada Land Management Task Force — the state board meets monthly to study a possible land transfer." Borda "told the task force that federal control of public land costs businesses millions of dollars in regulatory expenses."

FEDERAL WORKERS FILE SUIT AGAINST GOVERNMENT OVER SHUTDOWN. The Huffington Post (11/4, Jamieson, 11.54M) reports that "hundreds" of Federal employees who worked through the shutdown "have now filed paperwork to join a lawsuit against the government over having their paychecks withheld last month, according to the lawyers handling their case." The suit argues that the Federal government broke the Fair Labor Standards Act by delaying pay for those working during the shutdown. The employees argue that they delayed paychecks played havoc with their personal finances.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: WYOMING LAWMAKERS PURSUE STUDY ON TAKING OVER FEDERAL LAND. Additional coverage of the study pursued by Wyoming lawmakers on taking control of federal land was provided by the Casper (WY) Journal (11/5, 80K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO ATTEND GETTYSBURG EVENT. In an editorial, the Pottstown (PA) Mercury (11/5, 76K) urges President Obama to attend the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address instead of sending Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in his place.

SHULTZ, SMITH: US HAS POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (11/5, Shultz, Smith, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), George P. Shultz and Frederick W. Smith write that protecting domestic energy security is vital to defending the national interest, and the energy revolution of the last decade has given the US the means of doing so. They argue that the combination of rising US production and a drop in consumption due to new technologies, such as alternatively fueled vehicles, could see the US as essentially energy independent. However, the pair cautions that continuing this trend will require a national effort, and they suggest that the US establish oil displacement as a metric to measure success.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS HIRES CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS' PUBLIC LANDS DIRECTOR. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that the director of the Center for American Progress' public lands program is now the deputy director for

congressional and external relations at the NPS. Christy Goldfuss, "a former Democratic public lands aide in the House who has led CAP's public lands efforts for more than two years, will serve as the Park Service's liaison to Congress and will lead the Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs and the Office of International Affairs." In a statement, NPS Director Jon Jarvis said, "Christy's solid experience in the public and private sectors, understanding of public lands and preservation issues, and energy and commitment to bring people together to reach common goals make her a natural addition to my executive leadership team. As we ready the National Park Service for its second century of stewardship, we rely on close working relationships with many partners."

Also reporting on the story are the Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/5, 749K) and the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (11/4, 126K).

FORMER DISCOVERY CHANNEL EXECUTIVE HIRED AS PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that the National Parks Conservation Association has announced it has hired former Discovery Channel executive Clark Bunting as its new president. Bunting will replace former NPCA President Tom Kiernan, who left the group in April to lead the American Wind Energy Association. He will begin Nov. 11.

OFFICIALS MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANS TO RESTORE YOSEMITE SEQUOIA GROVE. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that the NPS "last week released an environmental impact statement for a $24 million, three-year project to restore the largest grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park." Officials are seeking "to restore wetlands, remove parking lots, reduce noise and add a shuttle service for visitors to get to the trees in the south end of the park." The plan is "to break ground by the park's 150th anniversary next year."

Also reporting on the story is the Los Angeles Times (11/4, Boxall, 3.07M) and the Chicago Tribune (11/4, Boxall, 2.32M).

NPS ASKED TO PURCHASE WRIGHT BROTHERS BUILDINGS. The Dayton (OH) Daily News (11/5, 88K) reports that Rep. Mike Turner is asking the NPS to purchase the historic Wright Company Factory in Dayton. The request is "part of an effort to keep the building from being demolished."

Also reporting on the story is WDTN-TV Dayton, OH (11/5, 27K).

WASHINGTON MONUMENT SCAFFOLDING REMOVED. The Washington Post (11/4, 4.28M) reports that "gone Monday was the once-brilliant illumination of the screen around the Washington Monument." The NPS said "Sunday was the last night of the decorative lights on the monument."

IN RIM FIRE'S AFTERMATH, A NEW WORRY EMERGES OVER WATER. The Los Angeles Times (11/4, Barboza, 3.07M) reports that "as autumn turns to winter and rain falls over the charred landscape left behind by the Rim fire, forest rangers and emergency planners have a new worry: water." According to the article, "over 90% of the blaze burned in the Tuolumne River watershed, where more than 2,600 miles of streams cut through steep, now-burned slopes of the Sierra Nevada." The article notes that "trails and roads are at risk of washing away, cutting off access to world-class white-water rapids," and "burned trees and debris will almost certainly be flushed downstream, fouling irrigation water supplies."

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL 2014 TO BE HELD MARCH 20 THROUGH APRIL 13. WJLA-TV Washington (11/5, 118K) reports that the annual Cherry Blossom Festival will take place from March 20 through April 13 of 2014, organizers announced Monday.

NPS ARCHAEOLOGISTS PARTICIPATE IN ANCIENT SPEAR TIP STUDY. The Houston Chronicle (11/5, Christian, 2.26M) reports that "two Texas universities studying ancient spear tips found in northwest Alaska have raised intriguing questions about how people spread throughout the Americas." A research team led by Texas A&M University Professor Ted Goebel has been analyzing "fluted" stone spear points "discovered in 2005 at Bering Land Bridge Preserve on the Seward Peninsula." Archaeologists with the NPS, "who are also participating in the study, found a fluted spear tip fragment in an area called Serpentine Hot Springs, according to an A&M news release."

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY DEPOT ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC

PLACES. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (11/5, 798K) reports that the Chicago and North Western Railway Depot has joined the National Register of Historic Places.

EDITORIAL: NPS DECISION ON HELICOPTERS AND HOVERCRAFTS DESERVES APPEAL. The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (11/4, 198K) reprints an editorial by the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner arguing that the decision by the NPS on helicopters and hovercrafts deserves appeal. According to the paper, "the decision greatly limits the utility of a central provision that authors of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act added to protect the ability of the state and private landowners to use their lands within the vast federal parks, refuges and other units created when Congress passed the law in 1980."

Bureau of Land Management:

JUDGE OVERTURNS BLM MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR RANGELANDS OF CENTRAL UTAH. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/5, 80K) reports that "a judge on Monday overturned a Bush-era management plan that opened more than 4,200 miles of dirt paths to motorized vehicles on public rangelands across a wide region of Utah." US District Judge Dale Kimball held that the BLM "failed to consider how vehicles were accelerating soil erosion and threatening archaeological sites." The decision "sent the Richfield district plan back" to the BLM, and "the paths will stay open until a final decision is made later."

The Deseret (UT) News (11/5, 274K) reports that "a coalition of conservation groups is hailing" the decision. Stephen Bloch, legal director for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, said, "This landmark decision is a resounding rejection of the BLM's mismanagement of Utah's stunning public lands." He added, "The Richfield (Resource Management Plan) wrongly prioritized ORV use over all other uses of the public lands and neglected streams and special places worthy of protection. The court didn't mince words in its ruling that this violated federal environmental and historic laws."

BLM IDENTIFIES SUSPECT IN POMPEYS PILLAR VANDALISM. The Billings (MT) Gazette (11/5, 206K) reports that the BLM has identified Cole Randall as "the man suspected of carving his name and date at Pompeys Pillar National Monument last month." According to a press release from the BLM, Randall "owned up to having committed the act of vandalism." In an email sent to a Billings Gazette reporter, a person who identified himself as Randall said "I humbly apologize to the people of Montana and to every American who was affected by my foolishness."

Also reporting on the story is the Minneapolis Star Tribune (11/5, Brown, 1.14M).

COURT'S RULING OPENS DOOR FOR DOMESTIC HORSE SLAUGHTER. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that "US horse slaughterhouses can start operating following a ruling from a federal judge last week." District Judge Christina Armijo in Albuquerque, N.M., has "dismissed a lawsuit from animal advocacy groups, including the Humane Society of the United States, that argued the Department of Agriculture did not conduct appropriate environmental studies before issuing permits to two horse slaughter plants." The Humane Society, joined by the state of New Mexico, has filed an appeal with the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver.

SENATE TO TAKE UP MARINE BASE EXPANSION CONTROVERSY. The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (11/4, 465K) reports that a long-running battle "over the military's planned expansion of the Twentynine Palms Marine base into the off-roading mecca of Johnson Valley could be settled as early as this month when the issue comes before the US Senate." The article notes that Reps. Paul Cook, R-Yucca Valley, and Buck McKeon, R-Santa Clarita, "stepped in this summer with a compromise proposal." Their legislation "would keep the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area under control" of the BLM and "require the Marines to obtain a permit for their training exercises two months of the year." According to the article, "the House passed the compromise in June as part of the National Defense Authorization Act," and "the Senate will consider its own bill in the next two months, then both Houses will negotiate a final version."

BLM'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR NORTHWEST COLORADO MEETING ON DECEMBER 5. The Hill (11/5, 194K) reports in its "Regwatch" blog that the BLM's advisory council for Northwest Colorado is meeting on Dec. 5 in the town of Silt.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPORT SHOWS LAGGING HISPANIC PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION. The Huffington Post (11/4, 11.54M) reports that "while Hispanics make up more than 17% of the nation's population, a 2013 outdoor recreation report shows that only 7% of those who participate in outdoor recreation are Hispanic." Meanwhile, members of the FWS "acknowledge that while Hispanics are affected by the issues USFWS addresses just as much as their neighbors, neither the government nor outdoor industries have reached out to this rapidly growing US population segment." According to Noemi Pérez of the USFWS Office of Partner Liaison, "while initiatives to increase diversity in the USFWS's 10,000-member workforce within the Department of Interior is a continuing process, no bureau within the department had specifically addressed diversity in consumer and participant involvement, until six months ago."

TOTOABA FISH BLADDER HIGHLY PRIZED IN BLACK MARKET. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that the bladder of the endangered totoaba fish is "highly prized in China, leading to the smuggling of the commodity from the United States." Currently, "a single dried bladder can fetch between $5,000 and $10,000 on the black market." The article notes that "just this year, seven people have been charged with smuggling about 700 pounds of fish bladders."

PRIME HOOK WILDLIFE REFUGE TO HOST PUBLIC MEETING NOVEMBER 13. The Dover (DE) Post (11/4, 79K) reports that the FWS will host a public meeting on "its proposed planning for a dune/marsh restoration project in Units II and III at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge on Nov. 13." The meeting will "focus on environmental survey results, project overviews, conceptual designs, and potential sites to secure material to build up the dunes and beaches at Prime Hook to complete the initial phase of marsh restoration, and plans to restore the marsh complex within Units II and III."

Also reporting on the story are WBOC-TV Salisbury, MD (11/5, 30K) and WBOC-TV Salisbury, MD (11/5, 30K).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS PLEASED BY DECISION TO REMOVE CALIFORNIA TOWHEE FROM PROTECTION. The Bradenton (FL) Herald (11/4, 143K) reports that on Monday, the FWS "published the formal proposal to remove the Inyo California towhee from the list of 'threatened' species." Environmentalists are "pleased" with the decision. The towhee's revival, they claim, shows the Endangered Species Act can still work. Tierra Curry, a biologist at the Center for Biological Diversity, said, "The recovery of the towhee and its spring habitats is cause for celebration and provides yet another example of the success of our most important law for saving wildlife."

Also reporting on the story is the Chicago Tribune (11/4, Doyle, 2.32M).

FWS DECISION CLOSES STATE-APPROVED SKILAK LOOP HUNT. The Alaska Native News (11/5, 245) reports that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game learned Friday that FWS will "implement additional hunting closures on the Kenai Peninsula." In a news release Friday, the FWS has "promulgated a closure of state-authorized wolf, lynx and coyote hunting within the Skilak Loop Management Area." The article notes that "the closure is scheduled to go into effect on November 10, 2013."

GRIZZLY DEATHS DECLINED BY HALF IN YELLOWSTONE AREA. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/5, 90K) reports that "the number of grizzly bear deaths declined by more than 50 percent this year in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, according to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team." According to the article, "the numbers are particularly notable because trees produced fewer than normal whitebark pine cones, an important grizzly bear food." The article notes that "grizzly bears' reaction to declines in whitebark pine cones will help determine if the bear is removed from the endangered species list."

MANATEES LOITERING IN SOUTH CAROLINA. The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (11/4, 284K) reports that biologists are alarmed by manatee sightings in South Carolina. Jennifer Koches of the FWS said, "Providing manatees with food and water is not only a violation of federal law, but it also creates significant problems for the manatees, as they will easily acclimate to hand-outs of food and fresh water."

FWS EXTENDS WOLVERINE COMMENT PERIOD. The Bonners Ferry (ID) Herald (11/5, 10K) reports that the FWS is "reopening the comment period for the proposed listing of the North American wolverine to broaden the

discussion to the entire public and to ensure that all available information is adequately considered in the process." The reopened comment period will close on December 2, 2013.

PROTECTION URGED FOR WOLVES. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/5, Chu, 11.54M), Dan Chu, Director, Sierra Club "Our Wild America" campaign, writes that last June, the FWS "proposed no longer protecting gray wolves as an endangered species in the vast majority of the country, threatening any chance of wolves returning to much of their former range." Chu argues that "putting the fate of wolves back into the hands of the western state politicians will not keep them on the road to recovery, but send them down a path to destruction." He concludes that "we must allow the recovery of wolves to continue under the Endangered Species Act; the job is far from done."

US Geological Survey:

USGS CONCLUDES QUARRY BLAST SPARKS TREMORS IN CHICAGO SUBURBS. NPR (11/5, Peralta, 465K) reports that residents in Chicago's western suburbs assumed that the shaking they felt was an earthquake and the USGS reported it as a 3.7 magnitude quake. But "interestingly, after the USGS looked at their data, they came to the conclusion that the tremor was actually caused by a quarry blast."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND POWER TAX CREDIT EXPECTED TO EXPIRE. Politico (11/5, Restuccia, 467K) reports, "It's looking increasingly likely that the production tax credit, a key wind industry lifeline," will expire soon after the end of the year, which "could hurt the wind industry." Uncertainty over the PTC this year caused new wind projects construction to "grind to a virtual halt." A Senate aide said tax writers "aren't even talking about a year-end extenders package," which is traditionally how credits like the PTC are continued. It then would have to be revived "as part of broader tax reform, which isn't expected to move until next year, if at all." Meanwhile, various companies are "lobbying hard to kill the tax credit." For instance, Exelon, says "that wind power threatens its nuclear power operations."

SENATE DEMOCRATS PUSHING RENEWABLES. The Daily Caller (11/5, Bastasch, 422K) reports Senate Democrats "have begun a renewable energy blitz," introducing a pair of bills "mandating an increase in renewable use through 2025." Sens. Tom Udall and Mark Udall introduced a bill last week that would call for 25% of the nation's energy to come from renewable sources by 2025. A similar bill was introduced by Sen. Ed Markey.

Onshore Energy Development:

STUDY LINKS CO2 INJECTIONS INTO WELLS WITH EARTHQUAKES. Reuters (11/5, Gebrekidan) reports a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences linked injecting carbon dioxide into oil and gas wells to minor earthquakes in Texas. This would be the first study to link earthquakes of magnitude 3 and above with carbon dioxide injections in the Cogdell oil field.

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE ISSUES REPORT ON NOVEMBER 2012 GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE RIG EXPLOSION. The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Gilbert, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on Monday, the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement issued a report on the November 2012 explosion at an offshore platform in the Gulf of Mexico being operated by Talos Energy for Black Elk. BSEE director Brian Salerno said, "Collectively, the industry must do more to protect workers."

The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations LLC and its contractors "ignored hazards and failed to encourage workers to raise safety concerns before a fatal explosion and fire aboard a Gulf of Mexico production platform last fall, according to a scathing new report by federal investigators." Black Elk also "conducted welding work without taking required safety precautions, failed to isolate hydrocarbons inside an

oil tank and promoted ineffective communication among contractors," according to the 54-page report by the BSEE and the Coast Guard. The BSEE said "it plans to issue incidents of noncompliance to Black Elk and its contractors, which could include civil penalties of up to $40,000 per incident per day." BSEE Director Brian Salerno said, "These failures reflect a disregard for the safety of workers on the platform and are the antithesis of the type of safety culture that should guide decisionmaking in all offshore oil and gas operations. BSEE safety regulations were not followed, and accordingly BSEE will proceed with appropriate enforcement actions."

Also reporting on the story are the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/5, 194K), the New Orleans Times-Picayune (11/5, 700K), the FuelFix (11/4, 7K), the San Antonio Express-News (11/5, 746K), the MarketWatch (11/4, 967K), the Law 360 (11/5, 18K), KHOU-TV Houston (11/5, 125K), KPLC-TV Lake Charles, LA (11/5, 10K), KALB-TV Alexandria, LA (11/5, 1K), WXVT-TV Greenwood, MS (11/5, 98), and WWL-TV New Orleans (11/5, 107K).

INDUSTRY EXPRESSES WISH FOR EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF GULF OF MEXICO TRANSBOUNDARY TREATY. The Oil and Gas Journal (11/5, 1K) reminds readers that versions of bills approving the Gulf of Mexico transboundary treaty between the US and Mexico differ in the House and Senate, with the House including "a provision that waived a Dodd-Frank law" requirement for US companies to conduct foreign payment disclosure, and the Senate leaving such a provision out. This makes "a conference likely" and might harm "the treaty's timely ratification." The article then recalls that a US District Court for the District of Columbia ruling on July 2 barred implementation of that Dodd-Frank mandated provision by the SEC, "after the American Petroleum Institute and other business groups sued over what they considered an anticompetitive requirement." On October 28, "an API spokesman" said to the Journal, "Since the SEC's original rule has been thrown out and the SEC is working with all stakeholders on a new rule, we'd like to see the House and Senate work together to expedite approval of the transboundary agreement."

APPEALS COURT BEGINS REVIEW OF BP SETTLEMENT. The E&E Daily (11/4) reports that an appeals court was scheduled "to hear objections to the multibillion-dollar settlement meant to compensate victims of the 2010 Gulf spill." BP has contended that "the settlement it agreed to a year ago has been misinterpreted by the judge and the court-appointed claims administrator overseeing the payouts." The company "argues a decision that the claims administrator, Patrick Juneau, announced earlier this year has allowed businesses to manipulate comparisons of revenues and expenses from before and after the spill."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

HIGH-FLOW RELEASES FROM GLEN CANYON DAM SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK. The Arizona Daily Sun (11/5, 33K) reports that "next week, Glen Canyon Dam will start pumping an Olympic-sized swimming pool worth of water into the Colorado River every other minute." According to the article, "the experiment is an attempt to replicate the high-flow conditions that would naturally be seen in the Grand Canyon before the dam, where sediment rich water creates beaches and critical wildlife habitat."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional Coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Huffington Post (11/4, 11.54M), the Bay Area (CA) Indymedia (11/4, 2K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (11/5, 206), and KXTV-TV Sacramento, CA (11/5, 25K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

ALASKA TRIBES CALL ON OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO SETTLE CONTRACT COST CLAIMS. The Juneau (AK) Empire (11/5, 21K) reports that "sixty tribes and tribally affiliated organizations from across the country have signed a letter to President Barack Obama asking his administration to settle outstanding Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs contract costs claims." According to the article, "the letter — which includes signatures from leaders of the Tlingit-Haida Central Council, the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Southcentral Foundation and the Arctic Slope Native Association, among others — was sent to the president as representatives from tribes and tribal organizations from around the country prepare to attend a Nov. 13 White House Tribal Nations Conference."

NEW YORK TOWNS PIN HOPES ON REFERENDUM ON CASINOS. The New York Times (11/3, Mckinley, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that towns in New York are "betting on the success of Proposal 1, a

statewide referendum to be decided on Tuesday that would authorize up to seven full-scale casinos around the state." The article notes that "supporters, including Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, have been selling it as an economic development measure, describing the potential for 'Las Vegas style' resorts with investments in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and the potential for 10,000 new jobs." However, "the reality may be far more restrained." According to the article, "some of the possible locations for the new gambling operations are distant from major population centers, and the experience of some remote American Indian casinos suggests that luring customers from big cities could be a challenge."

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES PROSECUTING MORE INDIAN COUNTRY CRIMES. The Tulsa (OK) World (11/5, 271K) reports that "federal authorities have been ramping up their efforts to prosecute crimes in what they call 'Indian Country,' and statistics show those efforts have not been in vain." The US Department of Justice reports "a 54 percent increase in Indian Country criminal prosecutions since fiscal year 2009." The article notes that "in June 2009, Attorney General Eric Holder announced a Justice Department initiative to enhance public safety in Indian Country, a wide-ranging effort that has included increased prosecution, training and outreach efforts."

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE PUSHBACK FAILS TO SHIFT ACA ROLLOUT MEDIA NARRATIVE. On Monday evening, after several days of coverage spotlighting Americans who are losing their health insurance or are facing thousands of dollars in increased premiums and deductibles as a result of the Affordable Care Act – including a front-page article in Monday's Washington Post on Americans who "are angrily complaining about 'sticker shock," and a viral Wall Street Journal op-ed by a cancer patient who may lose access to the specialists she credits for saving her life – President Obama offered what media reports are casting as a slightly modified case for the law in remarks at an Organizing For Action event.

Despite the President's attempt to reframe the national conversation about the ACA, he and his Administration continue to be the subject of a great deal of negative media coverage. And while much of it is focused on the problems associated with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, some of the critiques are broader in scope. For instance, under the headline, "For Obama, A Sudden Struggle With Personal Appeal," the AP (11/5, Pace, Agiesta) reports that "Americans increasingly view the president unfavorably," and notes that "an NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll released last week that found positive views of Obama at the lowest point of his presidency."

On NBC Nightly News (11/4, story 2, 2:45, Williams, 7.86M), Peter Alexander reported that in regards to HealthCare.gov, "even [the President's] Democratic allies are even calling for a time-out." Former Democratic Congressman Harold Ford was shown saying, "This program will crumble if you don't find ways to deal with the challenge right now. ... Shutting the program down for 60, 90, 120 days – I would rather see that and the political fallout than a program that limps along over the next several months."

On ABC World News (11/4, story 6, 2:45, Sawyer, 7.43M), Diane Sawyer said there is "new trouble for the President and Obamacare; it's about what the President said and what he knew and when." ABC's Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl, who engaged in a widely noted verbal sparring match with Jay Carney during Monday's White House press briefing, went on to report that "as the healthcare website melted down, The President repeatedly told people there were other options working just fine." President Obama was shown saying, "You can bypass the website and apply by phone or in person." However, according to Karl, "ten days before the President said those words his own healthcare team knew that all applications were having the same problems."

The Huffington Post says the "heated exchange" between Carney and Karl came after Karl asked about "internal documents that show Obamacare applications submitted by phone or paper go through the same pipeline and system as the website, and do not take less time, as officials have previously said."

At the opening of CNN's The Situation Room, Wolf Blitzer reported that there is "panic in the Obamacare war room," and that "we now have some proof of White House fears that Americans will be disappointed even after the website is fixed." Blitzer went on to report that "notes from inside the Administration...reveal deep fears about the healthcare program and the political backlash."

The perception that the "mainstream media" is growing increasingly skeptical of the Administration's narrative regarding the HealthCare.gov problems and the controversy over the Americans who are losing their current health insurance as a result of the ACA was a recurring theme during Fox News' primetime lineup Monday night. On Fox News' Special Report (11/5, 6.72M), which also showed a lengthy clip of ABC's Karl peppering Carney with questions Monday, Brit Hume drew attention to criticism of the Administration from Obama allies such as former White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs on MSNBC's Morning Joe Monday. Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (11/5, Munro, 422K), also notes negative coverage of the ACA's implementation "from some of the media outlets that championed" the law previously.

Reporting on the President's remarks at the OFA event, the Washington Post (11/5, Nakamura, 4.28M) says he "defended himself against Republican criticism that he misled the public...telling supporters that his administration could not in good faith allow people with inferior insurance plans to keep them." The President is quoted as saying, "The bottom line is we are making the insurance marketplace better for everybody."

Reid Epstein, in a piece for Politico (11/5, Epstein, 467K) titled "Obama Adds Explainer To 'You Can Keep It' Mantra," noted that on Monday, the President said, "Now if you had one of these plans before the Affordable Care Act came into law and you really liked that plan, what we said was you can keep it if it hasn't changed since the law passed." According to Epstein, the last "extra clause represents a slight change from the 'if you like your plan, you can keep it' mantra of the 2012 campaign."

Likewise, Jackie Calmes, in the New York Times (11/5, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says the President "has been widely criticized for having promised...that Americans could keep their current coverage," and so "on Monday he modified his language in the face of reports, long anticipated, that some companies had canceled individual policies because they did not meet minimum coverage standards set by the Affordable Care Act." Calmes notes that the President emphasized that as a result of the ACA's passage "nobody can be dropped all together," while also acknowledging that "some Americans with higher incomes will pay more up front, for better insurance with better benefits and better protections that could eventually help them a lot."

The AP (11/4) says that the President "express[ed] sympathy for Americans who are getting kicked off their health insurance plans," but also contended that "they were often getting 'a very bad deal'" before losing coverage, and that "virtually every insurer is offering newer, better plans."

According to USA Today (11/4, Madhani, 5.82M), the President was trying to "reframe the public conversation over the Affordable Care Act" as "millions of Americans...receiv[e] cancellation notices" sent by their insurers "despite Obama's frequently repeated pledge that no one would lose the coverage they already had."

The Washington Times (11/5, Wolfgang, 417K) quotes the President as saying, "If we had allowed these old plans to be downgraded or sold to new enrollees once the law had already passed then we would have broken an even more important promise: making sure that Americans gain access to health care that doesn't leave them one illness away from financial ruin."

Bloomberg News (11/5, Lerer, 1.91M) reported that later in the week, the President will be in Dallas "to meet with volunteers working on enrollment," while HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and Secretary of Labor Tom Perez "are also being dispatched to the 10 cities with the highest rates of uninsured residents to promote the insurance plans." Bloomberg also reports that OFA "has started to promote the law with an initiative urging parents to use holiday visits to encourage their older offspring to sign up for coverage."

The Washington Post (11/5, Nakamura, 4.28M) notes that David Plouffe and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick (D) "also addressed the crowd, sharply attacking Republican lawmakers who have opposed Obamacare." Politico (11/5, Epstein, 467K) notes that Plouffe predicted that ACA "enrollment will go smoothly 'as long as the website is completed and works error-free and delay-free by the end of the month.'"

The Daily Caller (11/5, Howley, 422K) reports that in response to an op-ed in Monday's Wall Street Journal by a California woman who suffered from stage-4 gallbladder cancer and is losing her health insurance because of ACA rules, White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer "tweeted out the message 'The Real Reason That The Cancer Patient Writing In Today's Wall Street Journal Lost Her Health Insurance,' along with a link to a ThinkProgress (11/5, Volsky, 117K) article that blames the woman's insurance company United Healthcare for

dropping her."

Senate Democrats Want To Delay ACA-Mandated Coverage Cancellations. The AP (11/5, Espo) reports that "after millions of consumers received health care cancellation notices, lawmakers in both parties are pushing legislation to redeem" Obama's "pledge that anyone liking their coverage will be allowed to keep it under the nation's controversial new law." Congressional Democrats "said top administration aides got a close-up view of the cancellation controversy last week, when Sen. Joe Donnelly said at a closed-door meeting...that his son had received notice his coverage was being terminated." The AP goes on to report that Rep. Fred Upton has introduced legislation that "permits insurers to sell existing coverage plans that would otherwise be banned," and that Sen. Mary Landrieu wants to "go one step further by requiring" insurance companies "to continue offering existing paying customers continued coverage under any plans in effect at the end of 2013." Landrieu is quoted as saying, "A promise was made that if you like your health plan, you can keep it."

The Hill (11/5, Easley, 194K) reports that on Monday, Sen. Marco Rubio said, "This week we learned that... people are, in fact, losing their health plans, and that President Obama's administration has known this fact for over three years." Rubio added, "In essence, ObamaCare's passage was built on a foundation of lies and promises that simply can't be delivered."

Marc Thiessen, in his column for the Washington Post (11/5, Thiessen, 4.28M), notes reports that White House officials objected to the President's "you can keep your plan" phrasing, but that it "stayed in the speech" anyways, which, according to Thiessen, is evidence of "a willful intent to deceive."

ACA Enrollees Are Reportedly Older Than Anticipated. Under the front-page headline, "Young Avoid New Health Plans: Early Buyers of Coverage Are Older Than Expected, Raising Expense Concerns," the Wall Street Journal (11/5, A1, Weaver, Martin, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that according to insurance executives and state officials, the first cohort of Americans who have gotten healthcare coverage since the ACA marketplaces' rollout on October 1 are, on average, older than anticipated, which could undermine some of the Administration's financing projections. The Journal suggests that the well-documented problems affecting HealthCare.gov are contributing to the demographic trend because the younger, healthier uninsured are not as eager to get coverage as those who are older or have pre-existing conditions.

HealthCare.gov Security Concerns Draw Attention Amid Continuing Outages. Scott Pelley, on the CBS Evening News (11/4, story 3, 2:50, Pelley, 5.58M), reported that on Monday, HealthCare.gov "went down again for about hour and a half," and "no one is sure why." Pelley went on to say that "it turns out that even when the website works it may not be secure enough to protect privacy," and Sharyl Attkisson reported that "the final required top-to-bottom security tests never got done." Attkisson noted that the House Oversight Committee has "released an Obama Administration memo that shows four days before the launch...it granted itself a waiver to launch the website with a level of uncertainty deemed as a 'high security risk.'" Georgetown law professor Lawrence Gostin, identified as a "big supporter of the Affordable Care Act," was shown saying, "You could have somebody hack into the system, get your Social Security number, get your financial information."

On NBC Nightly News (11/4, story 2, 2:45, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that while the White House "says they have made a lot of progress over this past weekend fixing the Obamacare website...the sign-up page which has been plagued with problems from the start will go offline now every day from 1:00 to 5:00 in the morning...while that so-called tech surge team works to get it right." Williams added that it is "also...becoming clear the problems with the website cannot be avoided by applying on the phone or in person as the President has been suggesting." Peter Alexander went on to report that "internal Obama Administration memos showed that won't solve the problem" because "the same portal is used to determine eligibility no matter how the application is submitted – paper or online."

Reuters (11/5, Rampton, Holland) notes that in remarks at an Organizing for Action event Monday, President Obama said, "There are a whole range of things that we're going to need to do once we get this fixed to talk about federal procurement when it comes to IT and how that's organized."

Politico (11/5, Kenen, 467K) reported that in testimony prepared for a Senate hearing on Tuesday, CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner says, "We are seeing improvements each week and by the end of November the experience on the site will be smooth for the vast majority of users." Politico (11/5, Millman, 467K) also covered

CMS's response to media inquiries about the outages.

Cutler Warned Summers In 2010 That Administration Officials Were Incapable Of Implementing ACA. On Monday morning, CBS News (11/5, 3.87M) reported that in 2010, Harvard economics professor David Cutler, who "worked on the Obama 2008 campaign and was a valued outside health care consultant" for the White House, wrote to then-NEC director Larry Summers: "I do not believe the relevant members of the administration understand the president's vision or have the capability to carry it out." According to CBS, Cutler warned that "no one was in charge who had any experience in complex business start-ups," and "also worried basic regulations, technology and policy coordination would fail."

Yale Law School Peter Schuck, author of "Why Government Fails So Often, and How It Can Do Better," has an op-ed in this morning's Wall Street Journal (11/5, Schuck, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) titled, "The ObamaCare Website Failure Was Inevitable."

ADMINISTRATION LAWYERS CONCERNED ABOUT MEASURE RESTRICTING SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS. The Wall Street Journal (11/4, Favole, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that top Administration intelligence lawyers criticized a bipartisan measure to restrict US surveillance programs saying the measure goes too far. According to the lawyers, who testified at a hearing of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, the proposal is likely to prevent the collection of key telephone information and limit the ability of the government to investigate individuals.

Reuters (11/5, Selyukh) reports that the attorneys said the US government is open to changes to the phone and Internet surveillance programs provided that those changes do not undercut the effectiveness of the programs. After the hearing, Board Chairman David Medine said, "I think we've learned a lot about some potential reforms that the government was amenable to." The Washington Times (11/5, Waterman, 417K) also reports on the hearing.

Officials: Metadata Collection Must Continue As Administration Mulls Spying Changes. The New York Times (11/5, Sanger, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that while the Obama Administration has said it is "considering reining in a variety of National Security Agency practices overseas," for now, the President and his top advisers "have concluded that there is no workable alternative to the bulk collection of huge quantities of 'metadata,' including records of all telephone calls made inside the United States." The Administration has suggested that it "may hold that information for only three years instead of five while it seeks new technologies that would permit it to search the records of telephone and Internet companies, rather than collect the data in bulk in government computers," but NSA Director Gen. Keith Alexander "has told industry officials that developing the new technology would take at least three years."

ADMINISTRATION TO RECONSIDER CARBON-COST ESTIMATES. Bloomberg News (11/5, Drajem, 1.91M) reports the Administration on Monday said it would "revise and open for public comment its estimate of the social cost of carbon," which is used by agencies to "calculate the benefits of regulations to address climate change." The move comes after "complaints from industry lobbyists" that the estimate, last revised in May, "exaggerated the potential costs of rising seas and droughts from climate change to justify regulations that would impose a high up-front cost for manufacturers and the energy sector."

Senate GOP Questioning Administration Input Into IPCC Report. The Daily Caller (11/5, Bastasch, 422K) reports that Senate Republicans "question" the Administration after reports that US officials "tried to suppress the 15-year global warming hiatus" in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. The AP, the Caller says, reported back in September that the Administration joined with several European nations to lobby the IPCC to "omit or downplay data showing that global warming stopped in 1998." GOP senators have sent a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, "questioning her knowledge of these international lobbying efforts."

Senate Democrats Pushing Renewables. The Daily Caller (11/5, Bastasch, 422K) reports Senate Democrats "have begun a renewable energy blitz," introducing a pair of bills "mandating an increase in renewable use through 2025." Sens. Tom Udall and Mark Udall introduced a bill last week that would call for 25% of the nation's energy to come from renewable sources by 2025. A similar bill was introduced by Sen. Ed Markey.

Four Colorado Towns To Vote Tuesday On Banning Fracking. The Wall Street Journal (11/4, Gold, Bryson,

Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that four towns in Colorado will hold votes on Tuesday to decide whether to ban fracking withing their borders in "what many here say could be a precursor to a statewide referendum on fracking next year." While Vermont and New York have already moved to block fracking, Colorado "would be a bigger test of whether the oil and gas industry and its supporters can surmount growing opposition from some communities and national environmental groups."

More Commentary. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (11/5, Shultz, Smith, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), George P. Shultz and Frederick W. Smith write that protecting domestic energy security is vital to defending the national interest, and the energy revolution of the last decade has given the US the means of doing so. They argue that the combination of rising US production and a drop in consumption due to new technologies, such as alternatively fueled vehicles, could see the US as essentially energy independent. However, the pair cautions that continuing this trend will require a national effort, and they suggest that the US establish oil displacement as a metric to measure success.

In his column for the Wall Street Journal (11/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Bret Stephens says that leaks show a new IPCC report projects a consistent drop in crop yields in coming decades due to global warming, along with a rising demand for food. Combined, the report says, these events could put food supplies in jeopardy. Stephens says that similar predictions were made in the 1960s and 1970s, but the opposite turned out to be true – food output is up massively since then. Stephens says that despite the predictions, it is unlikely that the world will grow hungrier in the coming decades.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Toward Ending Workplace Discrimination."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (11/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) calls ENDA an "overdue measure" and says that the Republicans who voted in favor of it "put to shame colleagues in their party who are still mired in intolerant thinking and too scared of Tea Party reactionaries to do the right thing."

"Mr. Kerry Fumbles In Egypt." An editorial in the New York Times (11/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues that Secretary of State Kerry's visit to Egypt "served only to add to the confusion over the Obama administration's policy toward this critically important Arab nation." The Times argues that it is important for the US and Egypt "to keep trying to work together," but both nations must "be clear about their differences, especially on what the word democracy means." Kerry, says the Times, "has muddied the waters."

"Arming The T.S.A. Is Not A Solution." An editorial in the New York Times (11/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) opposes calls to arm TSA screeners, arguing that the move "seems both overly reactive to the Los Angeles shooting and impractical." Noting that the TSA "doesn't train its agents to use firearms or recruit employees who would know how to handle themselves in a shootout," the Times says it would be "extremely costly for the agency to reimagine itself as an airport terminal police force."

"Election Day Choices."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Red Blood On A Blue Shirt."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/5, 4.28M) praises the efforts of TSA officers, arguing that last week's shootings should "encourage Americans to appreciate those who do the thankless work of running the airline security system Congress set up." The Post calls the officers "conspicuous symbols of a security system that, though necessary to make terrorist attacks and hijackings more difficult, some Americans detest," and says that "Americans should appreciate, not disrespect" them.

"Kerry's Diplomatic Games." In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/5, 4.28M) argues that Secretary of State Kerry's assertion that Egypt's military government is implementing the "road map" and moving toward democracy ignores "the fact that its last elected leader and thousands of his supporters are now political prisoners," overlooks "the reality that opposition media have been shut down," and "skips over the rigging of the constitution by the military and that leading secular liberal politicians...have been driven out of the country." The Post says it is clear that the Obama Administration "will accept and do business with the new autocracy that Gen. Sissi is constructing," and argues that they should "be honest about it," because "Kerry's embrace of the regime's empty

promises of democracy only makes him appear foolish — or, perhaps, as cynical as the generals."

"The Post's Va. Endorsements."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"A Federalism Watershed."*** The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that the Supreme Court need to establish clear limits on treaty interpretation so that Federal officials are not able to use treaties with foreign nations to usurp state powers. Without limits, the Wall Street Journal fears that the treaty power will destroy Federalism.

"It's Only Money." The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that although SAC Capital will pay record penalties and has agreed to plead guilty to criminal insider-trading charges, it is unlikely that any individuals will plead guilty to any criminal wrongdoing. The Wall Street Journal criticizes that Justice Department's statement that no institution is too big to jail, saying that institutions don't go to jail--people do. While the SEC has brought a civil case against CEO Steven A. Cohen for failure to supervise, the end result is that Cohen is free to continue with his life after agreeing to the $1.8 billion settlement, after which he will remain a multibillionaire.

"North Korean Horror Show." The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that a UN commission has finally begun to investigate human rights violations in North Korea, recounting testimony delivered in Washington by a young woman from North Korea who fled to China after most of her family died of starvation, was caught by Chinese authorities, and repatriated to North Korea where she was placed in a detention center. The young woman asked the commission not to send humanitarian aid to North Korea, as the aid goes to the rulers rather than the people who need it. The commission said that it would consider her testimony and will report its findings in March.

"China's Desperate 'Terrorists.'" The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that an Uighur family burned themselves to death near Beijing's Tiananmen to protest against Chinese rule, casting doubt on claims from Chinese authorities that the incident was a terrorist attack. Chinese authorities have blamed the Turkestan Islamic Movement for the incident and used it called for a renewed crackdown on Islamic extremism. The Wall Street Journal states that while Beijing's repressive policies have driven some Uighurs to acts of terrorism, there is little evidence of organization behind the attacks and that the Uighurs' anger is not based on radical ideologies, and that it stems from practical concerns, cultural injustices, and human rights abuses under Chinese rule.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
German Recluse Kept Nazi Art Trove
Union Urges Armed TSA Agents
Astrodome In Extra Innings
He's In The Hear And Now
Where's Obama The Manager?

Wall Street Journal:
Blackberry Abandons Sale Process
Young Avoid New Health Plans
Valuable Cache Of Nazi-Seized Art Discovered
China's Central Banker Leads Push To Overhaul Economy

New York Times:
For Uninsured, Clearing A Way To Enrollment
$1.2 Billion Fine For Hedge Fund In Insider Case
Big Money Flows In Bid To Thwart Christie Agenda
Egypt's Ex-President Is Defiant At Murder Trial

Far-Off Planets Like The Earth Dot The Galaxy
In Bullying Case, Questions On NFL Culture
Report Of Nazi-Looted Trove Puts Art World In An Uproar

Washington Post:
In Syria, Using The Dead To Reel In The Living
Gay Rights Bill Spotlights A Shift
Other Potential Earths? Try 25 Billion Of Them
Buddies Now Bitterly Playing For Keeps
For Mayor, Detroit Seeks A 'Mr. Fix-It'

Financial Times:
Twitter Sharply Increases IPO Valuation
BlackBerry Abandons Sale
Food Prices Face Sting From Decline In Humble Bee
SAC To Pay Biggest Insider Fine Of $1.8bn
Believe Nothing Of 'Everything Store', Says Bezos Wife
High-Tech Cars Spark Fears Of Auto Patent Wars
Trickle-Down Monetary Policy Fails To Spread Riches

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: NFL Bullying, LAX Shooting, Connecticut-Campus Lockdown, Weather-Cold Snap, Economy-Heating Costs, ACA Website Issues, Black Lung Program Scandal, Health-Egg Donors
CBS: LAX Shooting, LAX Shooting-Analysis, Healthcare Website Problems, SAC Capital-Settlement, Economy-Dow Up, Egypt-Morsi Trial, NASA-Earthlike Planets, Politics-Virginia Governor Race, Germany-Nazi Art, WWII-Switzerland POWs.
NBC: LAX Shooting, ACA-Website Issues, Politics-Gubernatorial Races, Egypt-Morsi Trial, Gas Prices, Wisconsin-Midair Crash, Cleveland Kidnap Survivor Interview, Germany-Nazi Art, Economy-Holiday Retail

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: New Jersey-Mall Shooting, New Jersey-Gubernatorial Election, Virginia-Gubernatorial Election, Johnson & Johnson Settlement, Oregon-Reserve Officer Shot
CBS: New Jersey-Mall Shooting, ACA Website Issues, Johnson & Johnson Settlement, SAC Insider Fine, NFL-Bullying,
NPR: Senate-Gay Rights Bill, New Jersey-Mall Shooting, LAX Shooting Review, Holder Opposes Airline Merger, Economy-Asian Markets, California-Shooting Lawsuit, UK-Phone Hacking, Egypt-Morsi Trial

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing with the Vice President, Oval Office, closed press; meet with business leaders with the Vice President, The Roosevelt Room, pool spray at the top; meets with the Vice President for lunch, Private Dining Room, closed press; departs the White House en route Bethesda, Maryland, South Lawn, open press; arrives Bethesda, Maryland, in-town travel pool; visits the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, closed press; visits Fisher House, Bethesda, Maryland, closed press; departs Bethesda, Maryland en route the White House, in-town travel pool; arrives at the White House, South Lawn, open press

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN —Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with top business leaders, Roosevelt Room, closed press; meets with the President for lunch, Private Dining Room, closed press; hosts a reception with Dr. Jill Biden commemorating Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Naval Observatory, remarks at the top of the event are pooled press.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA – Delivers remarks at the White House Diwali, open press.

US Senate: Senate Floor 10:00 a.m. — The Senate will Convene and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.815, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine housing finance reform, focusing on protecting small lender access to the secondary mortgage market. Witnesses: Richard Swanson, President and CEO, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines on behalf of the Council of Federal Home Loan Banks; William A. Loving, Jr., President and CEO of Pendleton Community Bank, Franklin West Virginia and Chairman of Independent Community Bankers of America; Bill Hampel, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, Research & Policy Analysis, Credit Union National Association; Bill Cosgrove, CMB, President and CEO, Union Home Mortgage Company and Chairman-Elect of Mortgage Bankers Association; John Harwell, Associate Vice President of Risk Management, Apple Federal Credit Union, Fairfax, VA on behalf of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions. Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Hearings to examine the online Federal health insurance marketplace, focusing on enrollment challenges and the path forward. Witness: Marilyn Tavenner , Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Changing the Rules: Will limiting the scope of civil discovery diminish accountability and leave Americans without access to justice? Witnesses: Arthur R. Miller, Professor, New York University School of Law; Andrew Pincus, Partner, Mayer Brown; Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. Location: 226 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY — Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry and Natural Resources hearings to examine wildfires. Witnesses: Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, DC; Davey Pitcher, President and CEO, Wolf Creek Ski Area, Pagosa Springs, CO; Chris Topik, Director, Restoring Americas Forests Program, The Nature Conservancy, Washington, DC; Tom Troxel, Executive Director, Intermountain Forest Association, Rapid City, SD; Sallie Clark, Incoming Vice President, National Association of Counties, Commissioner, El Paso County, CO. Location: 328A Russell.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — The U.S. Aviation Industry and Jobs: Keeping American Manufacturing Competitive. Witnesses: Susan Kurland, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation; Raymond L. Conner, President and Chief Executive Officer, Boeing Commercial Airplanes; Nicholas E. Calio, President and Chief Executive Officer, Airlines for America; Pete Bunce, President and Chief Executive Officer, General Aviation Manufacturers Association; Ed Wytkind, President, Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO. Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — Subcommittee on Oversight hearings to examine methane emissions from oil and gas operations. Witnesses: Panel I: Sarah Dunham, Director of the Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Air and Radiation, United States Environmental Protection Agency. Panel II: Dr. David Allen, PhD, Gertz Regents Professor in Chemical Engineering and Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Resources, The University of Texas at Austin; Mark K. Boling, President, V+ Development Solutions, and General Counsel, Southwestern Energy Company; Dr. Vignesh Gowrishankar, PhD, Staff Scientist, Sustainable Energy, Natural Resources Defense Council; Darren Smith, Environmental Manager, Devon Energy Corporation; Dr. A. Daniel Hill, PhD, P.E., Department Head, Petroleum Engineering, Texas A&M University. Location: 406 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearing on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Panel One: Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH); Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL). Panel Two: Thomas J. Ridge, Former Secretary of Homeland Security & current chairman of the National Organization on Disability; Representative Tammy Duckworth (IL-8) & Lieutenant Colonel, Illinois Army National Guard; Richard Thornburgh, Former Attorney General of the U.S. & current Counsel, K&L Gates, LLP; Dr. Susan Yoshihara, Senior Vice President for Research & Director of the International Organizations Research Group, The Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute; Timothy L. Meyer, Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Georgia School of Law. Location: 419 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.

US House: The House will be in recess for a Constituent Work Period until 2 p.m., on Tuesday, November 12th. Other: AICPA NATIONAL TAX CONFERENCE – WERFEL — 7 a.m. Top IRS officials – including the Acting IRS Commissioner, one of the IRS operating division heads, the head of the Office of Professional Responsibility, and the IRS Taxpayer Advocate – will offer insights about preparations for the 2014 tax filing season, including guidance on the net investment income tax, DOMA, and tangible property regulations at the American Institute of CPAs premier tax conference. Also, hear discussions about taxpayer identity theft, reporting under FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act) when bank reporting and individual reporting requirements become effective in 2014 and the legislative outlook. Highlights: 8:15 a.m. Danny Werfel, Acting Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service. 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Faris Fink, Commissioner, Small Business/Self-Employed Division, IRS. 10:55 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. Sunita Lough, Director, Pre-filing and Technical Guidance, Large Business & International Priorities, IRS. 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. David Alito, Deputy Commissioner, Wage and Investment Division, IRS. 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Nina Olson, National Taxpayer Advocate, IRS. 3:40 p.m. – 4:40 p.m. Karen L. Hawkins, Director, Office of Professional Responsibility, IRS. Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Md.

2013 CIPAC PLENARY — National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Acting Under Secretary Suzanne Spaulding will deliver remarks (8:35a) on the Departments efforts and priorities related to critical infrastructure at the 2013 Critical Infrastructure Protection Advisory Council (CIPAC) Plenary. NPPD National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Director Larry Zelvin will participate in a panel discussion entitled Response & Recovery (2:00p). Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Pl., NW.

CSIS – GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM 2013 — 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. The 2013 Global Security Forum. Highlights: 8:15 a.m. Keynote by Charles T. Chuck Hagel United States Secretary of Defense. 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Remarks by: Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy Distinguished Scholar, Wilson Center, and former U.S. Ambassador to China; Charles W. Freeman III , Vice President, Rock Creek Global Advisors LLC. 1:15 p.m. Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes Daniel Glaser Participation in Panel Discussion on What Role Should Financial Power Play in National Security? Location: CSIS headquarters located at 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

HEALTH CARE INNOVATION CONFERENCE – HAMBURG — 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Bloomberg Governments first health care summit, Mind the Gap: Connecting Health Care Policy with Next Century Innovation. Speakers include: Margaret Peggy Hamburg, Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (11:40 a); John Sculley, CEO, Sculley Brothers LLC; Keith Dunleavy, President, CEO and Chairman, Inovalon; Elli Kaplan, CEO, Neurotrack; Doug Ulman, CEO, LIVESTRONG; Steve Downs, CTO, RWJF; Matthew Douglass, Co-Founder/VP Platform at Practice Fusion. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, The Pavilion, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

WASHPOST – DIGITIAL DIVIDE – SPERLING, CLYBURN — 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Gene Sperling, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Richard Culatta and Rep. Doris Matsui among speakers addressing why the gap and access matter and what can be done about it . Speakers include: Richard Culatta, director, Office of Educational Technology, U.S. Department of Education. Location: The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street NW.

Contacts: Jennifer Lee 202-334-5207 desk (301-503-7787 cell)

NTSB – TEXAS PARADE FLOAT ACCIDENT — 9:30 a.m. The National Transportation Safety Board will meet to determine the probable cause of the November 2012 fatal grade-crossing accident involving a parade float in Texas. Background: At about 4:35 p.m. CT, on November 15, 2012, a truck-tractor combination unit being used as a Hunt for Heroes parade float was struck by a Union Pacific freight at a grade crossing in Midland, Texas. As a result of the accident, four parade float passengers were killed, and five float passengers were seriously injured. Additionally, eight float passengers and a deputy sheriff received minor injuries. The two train crewmembers, the combination unit driver, and seven other float passengers were not injured. Location: NTSB Board Room and Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza, SW.

FRANCHISE INDUSTRY – HIRING VETERANS EVENT — 10 a.m. National event including the International Franchise Association (IFA), Small Business Administration, White House Joining Forces Initiative, Military

Officers Association of America, (MOAA) and the UPS Store will take place at U.S. Navy veteran Wade Franklins the UPS Store. Location: The UPS Store at 3033 Wilson Blvd. Suite E, Arlington, VA 2220.

DOD – HAGEL – BELGIUM — 11:30 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome Belgium's Minister of Defense Pieter de Crem to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance. Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Parking Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the cordon.

CDC TELEBRIEFING – COLORECTAL CANCER — 12 p.m. Colorectal cancer screening (CRC) saves lives, but only if people get tested. A new Vital Signs report shows about 23 million adults have never been tested, as recommended. DIAL IN: Media: 888-795-0855. Non-Media: 800-369-1605. INTERNATIONAL: 1-630-395-0331. PASSCODE: CDC Media

PETERSON – CYCLICAL UNEMPLOYMENT — 12:30 p.m. The Peterson Institute will host a luncheon discussion on Keeping Cyclical Unemployment from Becoming Structural Inequality. While measured unemployment is slowly declining in the US and much of the advanced world, both long-term and youth unemployment remain a particular concern, with huge implications for already unprecedented levels of income and wealth inequality. Location: Bergsten Conference Center at the Institute at 1750 Massachusetts Avenue.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "You all turn your clocks back an hour over the weekend? You know, it is easier to remember spring ahead, fall back. It's like trying to log onto Obamacare. You spring ahead, make a little progress, then you fall back."

Jay Leno: "And NASA's next Mars mission is set to launch from Cape Canaveral on November 18th. It will be manned by a group of NASA scientists who obviously don't want to see their relatives on Thanksgiving."

Jay Leno: "Well, authorities in Columbus, Ohio, say they may have encountered their first case of the flesh eating drug krocodil. Have you heard about this drug? Krocodil? It's made by mixing codeine with oil and gasoline, and it rots your skin. It's a flesh eating drug. I guess this is for people who feel crystal meth's too hoity-toity."

Conan O'Brien: "The Obamacare website is still having problems. They just announced it will not be accessible at night due to maintenance. Also it will not be accessible during the day due to it sucking."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama gave his weekly address on Saturday and of course he talked about the economy. In fact, he said he'll do anything to increase job growth which got weird when he looked directly into the camera and he said, 'And I mean anything.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of Obama, it turns out that Obamacare is surprisingly popular with prostitutes. Which is true. Because it's much cheaper than traditional insurance plans. I guess that explains its new name, 'Ho'bamacare. Just leave your co-pay on the dresser."

Jimmy Fallon: "Pretty important week for our pal, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. We love Governor Christie. Well he's hoping to win re-election tomorrow and polls show he's winning by a 19-point margin. Christie was really excited to hear that, but only because he thought someone said margarine."

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, nation, the big news continues to be the slow motion train wreck that is the rollout of the President's signature legislation the Affordable Care Act ... Everyone is getting screwed by the website but the true victim of this healthcare disaster are America's most vulnerable, the men. When it comes to medical care men always get the short end of the long end of the scope. You see, folks, up until now health insurance in America has always struck a delicate balance. Women paid higher premiums then men and in return men paid

less. The system worked. But now folks, all that's changing. Obamacare will have men and women paying the same amount for healthcare but since women live longer, and have babies shouldn't they pay more? Under Obamacare men will pay the same amount as women and yet we still don't get to pass cantaloupe with toenails through our genitals."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Nov 6, 2013 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOUTS REPORT SAYING REFUGES CREATED OVER $2 BILLION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN 2011. The E&E Daily (11/5) reports that "wildlife refuges generated $2.4 billion in 2011," according to a new report from the FWS. The article notes that "nearly 75 percent of that amount comes from recreational activities such as picnicking, birding and hiking," and "the rest is attributed to fishing and hunting." According to the report, "the country's 561 wildlife refuges also employ more than 35,000 people and produce $343 million in local, state and federal taxes."

The Washington Post (11/5, 4.28M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "released the report Tuesday during a visit to a wildlife refuge in Minnesota." Jewell visited the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on Tuesday, "part of a weeklong push to highlight the role of public lands in boosting ecotourism and conservation." In a statement, Jewell said that the wildlife refuge system is not only "the world's greatest network of lands dedicated to wildlife conservation, but it is also a powerful economic engine for local communities across the country." Jewell noted that "refuge visitors come from around the world and support hundreds of local restaurants, hotels and other businesses."

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (11/6, Marcotty, 1.14M) reports that "Minnesota was the first stop on a national trip designed to highlight her priorities, announced in her first major speech last week in Washington D.C." Jewell "laid out a long-term conservation strategy designed to balance economic development of oil and gas and other resources with protection of natural resources, saying her agency will ensure that both are pursued during a

period of climate change, tight budgets and increasing demands on land and water." She also noted that "Congress has not protected 'a single acre of land' since 2010, promising that if Congress doesn't, President Obama will through the exercise of his executive powers."

KSJR-FM Collegeville, MN (11/5, 34K) reports that Jewell said "she was frustrated with Congress over the federal government shutdown and cuts being proposed to two conservation funds." Jewell said, "Both of those were goose-egged. Zero. And the Fish and Wildlife Service had its budget cut by 27 percent. It won't stick, I hope. It's absurd, but if you care about this it's important that you let your elected officials know that these are important tools for Minnesota to protect what is important to Minnesota."

AP coverage was picked up by the Boston Herald (11/6, 643K), the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (11/6, 31K), the Huffington Post (11/5, 11.54M), Time (11/5, 13.4M), and WUSA-TV Washington (11/6, 95K).

FORMER INTERIOR SECRETARY WARNS AGAINST CREATING MORE NATIONAL PARKS. The E&E Daily (11/5) reports that former Interior Secretary Gale Norton has come out against the creation of more national parks. Although Norton said she hadn't read Sen. Tom Coburn's recent report on the NPS' $11.5 billion maintenance backlog, in "which he argued that Congress should place a moratorium on new national parks until the agency can take care of the 401 parks it already manages," Norton "echoed Coburn's assertion that creating more parks has made less money available to preserve the country's 'true gems.'" In an interview after a forum on energy hosted by the Conservation Leadership Council, Norton said, "Definitely, we should think carefully before establishing any new parks. We've had a proliferation of parks without considering long-term funding, and that is a very important part of the overall budget solution." The article notes that "Norton's comments contrast with those of current Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who announced last week that the Obama administration will unilaterally protect the nation's treasured lands if Congress fails to act."

FORMER SALAZAR AIDE TO LEAD CAP'S PUBLIC LANDS PROJECT. The E&E Daily (11/5) reports that "an aide to former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will lead the left-leaning Center for American Progress' public lands work." Matt Lee-Ashley, who "became a senior fellow at CAP in June, will replace Christy Goldfuss at the Public Lands Project, an initiative that CAP launched in spring 2011 to preserve open spaces and promote the expansion of renewable energy."

INTERIOR GRANTS $1.6 MILLION TO BOOST BAY HABITAT. The Cape May County (NJ) Herald (11/6, 6K) reports that "migratory birds and horseshoe crabs along with residents of Reeds Beach and Pierce's Point received great news at the Middle Township Committee meeting Nov. 4." Deputy Mayor Timothy Donohue announced the receipt of $1.6 million from the Interior Department. Donohue "explained that the money will be used to build berms and restore flats before the arrival, next spring, of horseshoe crabs and the migrating birds that feed on them."

GOV. LOLO OUTLINES NEED FOR INTERIOR FUNDING TO AID EDUCATION, RENEWABLE ENERGY. The Samoa News (11/6, 682) reports that "funding is needed for the American Samoa Power Authority, which is aggressively advancing the implementation of recommendations from the local Renewable Energy Plan with specific focus on the solar option, said Governor Lolo to Eileen Sobeck, Acting Assistant Secretary Office of Insular Affairs last week." Lolo, "in his lengthy letter to OIA, explained the need for funding in numerous areas in order to advance the territory's quality of life."

Also reporting on the story is the Pacific Islands Report (11/11, 2K).

ALASKA APPEALS TO SUPREME COURT IN "KATIE JOHN" CASE. The Alaska Dispatch (11/5, 7K) reports that "on Monday, the state of Alaska filed a petition for writ of certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court, making clear its intention to appeal a case that spans decades and disputes over who has the right to manage many of Alaska's waterways – the state, or the federal government and by extension, Alaska's Native peoples." A day later, the Alaska Federation of Natives "announced its intent to oppose that petition, saying the appeal would be an affront to Alaska Natives' subsistence rights, and an 'assault upon the people of Alaska who depend upon hunting, fishing and gathering to feed their families.'" The article notes that Alaska is petitioning Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for a "response in the case."

Also reporting on the story is the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (11/5, 198K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PETITION SEEKING TO MAKE BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS A MONUMENT. Additional coverage of the petition seeking to create the Boulder-White Clouds National Monument was provided by the Idaho State Journal (11/6, 54K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS OFFICIALS CONSIDER IMPROVING WIRELESS ACCESS. The Wall Street Journal (11/6, Campoy, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that NPS managers are embracing wireless technology, such as online park information access, wildlife sighting alerts, and weather and traffic advisories. However, parks must also contend with minimizing adverse impacts on the environment and park-goers' experiences, in particular the impact of discourteous behaviors. Businesses operating within park grounds advocate for increased wireless access.

FORMER NATIONAL MALL SUPERINTENDENT TO BE NEXT CHIEF OF STATUE OF LIBERTY MONUMENT. The E&E Daily (11/5) reports that John Piltzecker, the former superintendent of Washington, D.C.'s National Mall and Memorial Parks, has been tapped as the next chief of the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island. Piltzecker will take the reins from David Luchsinger, who is planning to retire in January. In a statement, Piltzecker said, "It's a pleasure to return to the New York City metropolitan area, where I began my National Park Service career. I am looking forward to this new opportunity. It is an honor to work with the dedicated staff and nonprofit and business partners who help to share these icons with the public."

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT RETIRING. The Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide (11/6, 1K) reports that retiring Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott said that "of all the places she's been a public servant in the last 33 years, 'this park is one of the most political animals I've ever seen.'" Scott cited "political pressure" because of the parks' many "incongruous uses, including a commercial airport, hunting and grazing that are allowed by law." Moreover, "the superintendent also answers to Rockefeller heirs who guard their family's 'investment' in the Grand Teton gift."

NEW SITES OFFER WEATHER INFORMATION TO BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY VISITORS. The Washington Post (11/5, 4.28M) reports that people seeking to visit the Blue Ridge Parkway "in the winter will be able to check weather forecasts made specifically for the road." The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation "worked with the parkway and two other groups to set up BRPweather.com and BRPwebcams.org." They "hope visitors will use the sites so they avoid being stopped by gates and signs reading 'parkway closed for winter weather.'"

NPS AWARDS CONCESSION CONTRACT TO NEW OPERATOR AT MABRY MILL. The Roanoke (VA) Times (11/6, 259K) reports that the NPS announced Tuesday that Florida-based Cape Leisure Corp. has been awarded a 10-year concession contract to manage Mabry Mill on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Floyd County. According to the article, Cape Leisure will "take over operations at the mill on Jan. 1."

Bureau of Land Management:

COURT STRIKES DOWN BUSH-ERA BLM UTAH PLAN. The E&E Daily (11/5) reports that the BLM "failed to minimize impacts on sensitive soils, streams, wildlife and archaeological sites in south-central Utah when it authorized nearly 4,300 miles of off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes in 2008, according to a ruling yesterday by a federal district judge that could have far-reaching impacts in the Beehive State." Judge Dale Kimball in Salt Lake City "struck down" the BLM's Richfield resource management plan (RMP), "one of six plans covering nearly 12 million red-rock acres in southern and eastern Utah that were finalized in the waning months of the George W. Bush administration but later challenged in court by environmental groups." The holding is "a major blow to BLM, Utah, its counties, motorized recreation groups, and oil and gas companies that defended the plan in court."

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/6, 343K) reports that "champions of wilderness and historic preservation on Monday" hailed the decision. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance's legal director Stephen Bloch, said, "It's a huge victory for Utah redrock wilderness. This is just the first of six cases, but this is a landmark decision that should

resonate with Interior that all the plans suffer from the same legal flaws."

However, the Wall Street Journal (11/6, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Garfield County Commissioner Leland Pollock said, "This is a vast amount of land with very little access. There is enough wilderness as it is."

Also reporting on the story are the Law 360 (11/6, 18K) and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (11/6, 242K).

FILM "AMERICAN MUSTANG" TO HAVE WORLD PREMIERE ON NOVEMBER 7. The Denver Post (11/6, Davidson, 949K) reports that the film "American Mustang" will have its world premiere Nov. 7 at the Starz Denver Film Festival

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM IDENTIFIES SUSPECT IN POMPEYS PILLAR VANDALISM. Additional coverage of the BLM's identification of the "man suspected of carving his name and the date at Pompeys Pillar National Monument last month" was provided by the Ravalli (MT) Republic (11/6, 19K), the Daily Mail (UK) (11/6, 2.92M), WJON-AM St. Coud, MN (11/6, 641), WCCO-AM Minneapolis (11/5, 78K), KXLF-TV Butte, MT (11/6, 2K), and KRTV-TV Great Falls, MT (11/6, 7K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BLM'S SAGE GROUSE DRAFT STATEMENT. Additional coverage of the BLM's regional draft environmental impact statement for the sage grouse was provided by the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (11/6, 22K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION VOWS "FULL COURT PRESS" ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. The E&E Daily (11/5) reports that the Obama Administration will tackle wildlife trafficking with a "full court press," engaging federal agencies and countries as "part of an intensified focus on an illicit trade that has ballooned in recent years, administration officials said today." Officials from the departments of State, Justice and the Interior "courted the foreign media in a briefing this afternoon that emphasized the administration's commitment to the issue." The article notes that "the first step" is "destroying 6 tons of ivory next week in a symbolic display." By destroying "the stockpile – a culmination of 25 years of confiscating tusks and carvings – the" FWS will be "destroying something of immense beauty," FWS Director Dan Ashe said, which "will send a strong message to the rest of the world on where the country's priorities lie."

The New York Times (11/6, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "blaming increased demand for a devastating rise in poaching, largely by organized crime syndicates, members of a task force created by President Obama told reporters in a briefing at the National Press Building that they wanted to send a message of zero tolerance and reduce the appeal of ivory, rhinoceros horns and other illicit animal products." Robert G. Dreher, acting assistant attorney general for the environment and natural resources, said, "By destroying our domestic stocks of ivory, we send a very clear signal that these illegally traded products should not be perceived as items of value."

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (11/6, 194K) reports that "agencies plan on reaching out to China and Thailand — both countries have strong cultural ties to ivory — in curbing demand for the product." Kerri-Ann Jones, assistant secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, said "a partnership across US agencies and with countries that are a part of the supply, demand and transit in the illegal trafficking chain will work together under the executive order issued by President Obama earlier this year." Jones said, "How do you reduce demand. With a full court press to address and stop the problem."

Also reporting on the story is Time (11/5, 13.4M).

RESEARCHERS FIND ASIAN CARP DNA IN WATER SAMPLE TAKEN FROM LAKE MICHIGAN. The Washington Post (11/5, 4.28M) reports that "a water sample from Lake Michigan's Sturgeon Bay in Wisconsin has tested positive for DNA from invasive Asian carp, although it's unknown whether the genetic material came from a live fish, scientists said Tuesday." The article notes that "it's the second positive DNA hit for the feared carp detected in Lake Michigan in recent years, as experts work to determine how far the voracious fish have

advanced toward the Great Lakes." The Wisconsin DNR and the FWS will "take more samples from the area in hopes of determining whether the positive hit was a fluke or something worse."

Also reporting on the story are the Detroit Free Press (11/6, Flesher, 794K), ABC News (11/6, 671K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (11/6, 83K).

CATTLE GRAZING KEEPS WOLVES IN CROSSHAIRS. For Forbes (11/5, 6.03M), James McWilliams writes that "whatever techniques are eventually used to keep wolves off the headlines and in the wilderness, critics of wolf hunting should not lose sight of the fact that, while hunters are an easy (and perhaps legitimate) target for their ire, a lead poisoned wolf in 2013 is ultimately the victim of a century of disastrous decisions regarding land use–specifically, the use of livestock on the landscape." According to McWilliams, "eliminating grazing permits for western cattle ranchers would negatively impact no more than 10 percent of the beef industry in the United States."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN RANGE-WIDE CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan was provided by the Quay County (NM) Sun (11/5).

US Geological Survey:

USGS, ODNR COLLABORATE ON GRASS CARP STUDY. The Farm and Dairy (11/6, 88K) reports that the USGS and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources "collaborated on a recent USGS study on the origins of grass carp caught in the Lake Erie basin." The study "analyzed four grass carp provided by commercial fishermen to ODNR from Ohio's Sandusky River and concluded through bone analysis that the fish were at least one year of age and likely produced through natural reproduction in the Lake Erie basin."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CONSERVATIVE GROUP URGES CONGRESS TO LET WIND ENERGY TAX INCENTIVE LAPSE. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/6, Barron-Lopez, 194K) reports that over "100 organizations under the Americans for Prosperity think tank called on Congress to let federal support for the wind energy industry expire." On Monday, the conservative coalition "sent a letter to Congress...asking lawmakers to allow the wind Production Tax Credit, which gives wind power owners a tax credit per kilowatt-hour of electricity they produce, to expire." The letter stated, "The wind industry has very little to show after 20 years of preferential tax treatment; it remains woefully dependent on this federal support."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S FOCUS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY CRITICIZED. In an editorial, the Washington Times (11/6, Times, 417K) criticizes the creation of the new Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. The paper also notes that the BLM "held a first-ever auction of permits to produce solar power on federal land last month, and the Denver Business Journal reports that no one showed up."

Offshore Energy Development:

REPORT PLACES BLAME FOR DEADLY GULF ACCIDENT ON BLACK ELK ENERGY. The E&E Daily (11/5) reports that "in a harsh review of what led to a deadly accident on a Gulf of Mexico oil rig last year," the BSEE and the Coast Guard "place the blame for what they describe as an avoidable incident squarely on the backs of Black Elk Energy and the companies it hired to do construction work on the platform." In a 54-page report, the agencies "described a culture of complacency with safety at both Black Elk and the contractors and subcontractors assigned to work on the rig." The report found that "though Black Elk had safety procedures in place, it failed to communicate them to the companies working on the rig," and "contractors and subcontractors paid too little attention to safety or were otherwise unappreciative of the dangers inherent in the work they were to perform."

Also reporting on the story are the Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (11/6, 259K), the Galveston County (TX) Daily News (11/6, 4K), the Houston Business Journal (11/6, Subscription Publication, 91K), the Philippine Daily Inquirer (11/6, 793K), the Oil and Gas Journal (11/6, 1K), the Rigzone (11/6, 12K), the Oil Price (11/6, 2K), KRIV-TV Houston (11/6, 20K), and WWL-TV New Orleans (11/6, 107K).

ARCTIC STUDY TARGETS IMPACTS OF OIL INDUSTRY INSTALLATIONS AROUND PRUDHOE BAY. The Oil and Gas Journal (11/6, 1K) reports that "an examination of the effects of oil industry installations around Prudhoe Bay is one of two studies of Arctic sustainability selected for funding by a joint program of the National Science Foundation, US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and international partners." According to a BOEM statement, one of the two new studies "will measure and assess long-term cumulative impacts of increases in the oil and gas industry infrastructure in the Prudhoe Bay area of Alaska, with the goal of reducing the impacts of future development in the region." The other study will "examine the vulnerability and resilience of the walrus population off Alaska's North Slope."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

COLORADO RIVER SUFFERING THROUGH WORST DROUGHT IN MORE THAN A CENTURY. The High Country News (11/6, 74K) reports on the Colorado River, which has suffered "through its worst drought in more than a century," but "may flow to the sea once more."

High-flow Release Scheduled For Glen Canyon Dam. The Arizona Daily Sun (11/6, 33K) reports that "next week, Glen Canyon Dam will start pumping an Olympic-sized swimming pool worth of water into the Colorado River every other second." According to the article, "the flooding, part of a long-planned high-flow release experiment, will last from Monday to Saturday." The article notes that "the experiment is an attempt to replicate the high-flow conditions that would naturally be seen in the Grand Canyon before the dam, where sediment rich water creates beaches and critical wildlife habitat."

Also reporting on the story are the Arizona Daily Star (11/6, 335K), the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (11/5, 147K), and the Cache Valley (UT) Daily (11/6, 639).

BOR Regional Director Attends IID Meeting. KXO-AM El Centro, CA (11/6) reports that Terry Fulp, the BOR Regional Director, attended an IID Board meeting and "made a presentation on the Colorado River, the drought affecting the River, water shortage criteria, and future predictions on water levels of Lake Mead and Lake Powell, which he said were not as dire as first thought." Fulp then "received an earful. Imperial Irrigation District Board President Matt Desert and Director James Hanks told the Regional Director the IID was concerned about water storage, the salinity of Colorado River Water, and the Bureau's help and understanding on efforts to restore the Salton Sea."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/6, 749K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/6, 749K), the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (11/5, 126K), and the Bay Area (CA) Indymedia (11/5, 2K).

COLUMNIST SAYS TO LOOK TO ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS FOR ANSWERS. In his column for the Ronan Valley (MT) Journal (11/6, 22K), Gene Erb says to "look to the Department of Interior records: Circulars No.102, 178 and 108-194 that define the laws to be followed by homesteaders who were enticed to this area by the federal government for the purpose of creating a ranching and farming base for the nation." He claims that The Interior Department has "taken or helped themselves to our Reclamation Funds (called net power revenues), since 1915 or before." According to Erb, "now we can understand why the BPA is taking advantage of our neighbors, buying lands with the best water rights and holding it in trust for them."

Empowering Native American Communities:

FAMILY SUES AFTER FATAL FALL IN RESERVATION JAIL. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/6, 80K) reports that "the family of a man who died after a fall in a jail on an American Indian reservation in South Dakota is suing" the BIA for $2.1 million for wrongful death. The lawsuit filed in US District Court in South Dakota "alleges that jailers at the federal detention facility on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation southeast of Pierre ignored Sheldon

cancellations for a year, said, "We didn't say, 'if you had insurance that you liked that met the minimum standards, you could keep it.' We just said, and the President said, over and over, 'if you have insurance and you like the insurance you have, you can keep it.'"

Ron Fournier, in a piece for National Journal (11/6, Fournier, Subscription Publication, 427K) titled, "Lying About Lies: Why Credibility Matters To Obama," wrote, "The president is now misleading the public about his deception." Fournier goes on to characterize the President's modified defense of the ACA on Monday night at an Organizing For Action event as part of "an orchestrated deceit," before alleging that the President "participated in a lie."

New York Magazine (11/6, 6.83M) put together a video titled, "'If You Like your Plan...' Supercut" that shows the President telling audiences 23 times that "if you like your plan, you can keep your plan." Fox News' Special Report (11/6, 2.15M) showed the President on September 26, "just five days before the October 1 rollout," as White House correspondent Ed Henry noted, telling an audience in Largo, Maryland: "If you already have healthcare, you don't have to do anything."

Appearing on CNBC (11/6, 126K) Tuesday evening, National Journal's Fournier said, "It is the White House strategy – for whatever reason – to convince Americans what they've seen on videotape 20, 23, 29 times didn't exist." Fournier continued, "They're trying almost in an Orwellian way to reinvent history" because "they just don't think the American public is very smart; they think they can get away with this, and it's beneath...the presidency."

On Fox News' Special Report (11/6, 2.15M), Dr. Ben Carson, formerly a Johns Hopkins neurosurgeon and now a prominent critic of the President, said, "My concern is that if you have a government that can't be trusted, if you have to parse every word, if you have to filter it through legalese in order for the people to understand what's going on, then what have we devolved into? This is not what America is supposed to be." NPR's Mara Liasson added, "It's impossible for" the White House to "explain why the President said something dozens and dozens of times that they must have known wasn't true."

Kathleen Parker, in her column for the Washington Post (11/6, Parker, 4.28M), says she was taught as a child not to "call someone a liar, which was considered the worst character indictment one could issue," and that for her "it is still jarring to...impugn another, especially the president of the United States, as a liar." However, Parker adds, "it is not possible to pretend that the American people have been told the truth" by the President, "nor is it possible to pretend that" he "has been completely honest." Parker continues, "To sum up, the American people were duped" by an Administration that "knowingly misled" them.

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (11/6, Milbank, 4.28M), draws attention to several reports that the President's "policy advisers were aware long ago that the president's promise that 'if you like your insurance plan, you will keep it' wouldn't hold up."

USA Today's (11/6, Page, 5.82M) Susan Page reports that on Tuesday, "Democrats saw looming problems...on the horizon" stemming from "the roiling furor over the flawed rollout" of the ACA, and, according to Page, "Obamacare seems to be emerging as the defining issue of 2014." Page adds that in contrast to the last two cycles, "the controversy...is gaining traction not as a result of Republican attacks but through administration fumbles." Page notes that in his latest National Journal (11/6, Cook, Subscription Publication, 427K) column, Charlie Cook argued that the Democrats' boost from last month's shutdown has been "effectively neutralized" by the ACA's problems. Bloomberg News (11/6, Mccormick, 1.91M) was among many outlets noting a new Gallup poll (11/6, 17K) showing that the President's approval rating is now at 39%, "its lowest level since October 2011." Bloomberg attributes the President's weak poll numbers to "the rocky debut of his health-care program."

GOP pollster Kellyanne Conway, appearing on CNBC's The Kudlow Report (11/6, 126K), said, "The Democrats lost the House in 2010 largely because of the fear of Obamacare and...now you've got Obamacare in practice. You have real names and faces...and horror stories," including "the cancer victim in yesterday's Wall Street Journal (11/4, Sundby, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writing [that] her insurance had been canceled."

The AP (11/6, Espo) reports that the Administration is "under growing pressure...to state a position" on Landrieu's bill "formalizing" the President's "oft-stated promise that people who like their existing coverage should be allowed to keep it under the new health care law." The AP also reports that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "showed no enthusiasm for permitting a vote on the measure introduced by Landrieu."

Bloomberg News (11/5, Hunter, 1.91M) reported that in a statement, Landrieu said, "A promise was made and

this legislation will ensure that this promise is kept." Bloomberg says that along with Landrieu's bill, Sen. Joe Manchin's proposal to delay fines for individuals who are not insured, "underscore Democrats' anxiety over the failures of the online exchanges." Bloomberg notes that Manchin "said his concern about delays in the enrollment process 'hasn't changed' since he started working several weeks ago...to craft the proposal." On Tuesday, Manchin said, "The product's poor, and you've got to have the thing fixed."

According to USA Today's (11/6, Page, 5.82M) Page, "Eleven Democratic senators have endorsed an appeal by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen...that the administration give consumers more time to sign up." Page notes that "seven of the 11 are in potentially competitive re-election races next year, and one of the others is Michael Bennet of Colorado, who just happens to chair the Democrats' Senate campaign committee."

Roll Call (11/6, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said, "I think what'll be really interesting to see in the Senate is the number of Democrats in very red states who are up in '14 and what they start demanding of the majority leader and the administration, in terms of adjustments to this law." According to Roll Call, Sen. Mark Begich, "one such Democrat...said he's going to look at Landrieu's proposal as well as legislative fixes of his own." Begich is quoted as saying, "I've always said the whole law is not perfect."

The Hill (11/6, Sink, 194K) reported that at the White House briefing Tuesday, Press Secretary Jay Carney, who "was peppered with questions about whether the president regretted promising that Americans who liked their health insurance plans could keep them," maintained that the President's "repeated guarantee that 'if you like your healthcare plan, you can keep it' was in reference to the 'broader promise of the Affordable Care Act.'" According to The Hill, Carney "also sidestepped a question about whether Obama had misled the public when he said earlier this year that individuals who already had health insurance did not have to do anything during the law's implementation."

The Washington Times (11/6, Wolfgang, 417K) reports that on Tuesday, Carney also contended that Americans are more concerned about the partial Federal government shutdown last month than they are about the problems surrounding the ACA's implementation.

The National Review's Jonah Goldberg, in his column for USA Today (11/5, Goldberg, 5.82M), says the President's fellow Democrats "are in barely concealed panic over the fact that he didn't tell the truth when he was selling the [ACA]." According to Goldberg, even as the President was reassuring Americans that if they liked their health insurance, they could, he "understood that one of the central aims of the [ACA] was to squeeze out the individual insurance market (and the small business market), forcing those Americans on to the HealthCare.gov exchanges."

Senate Democrats Tell Tavenner Administration Has Created A "Crisis Of Confidence." McClatchy (11/5, Pugh, 95K) reports that in an appearance before the Senate HELP Committee, CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner "tried to assure anxious senators that Americans' personal information was secure on the troubled HealthCare.gov website, which erroneously provided a South Carolina man's personal information to another man in North Carolina last week." According to McClatchy, "last week...Justin Hadley of North Carolina opened his personal account on HealthCare.gov and saw a letter from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services addressed to Tom Dougall, of Elgin, S.C.," which "included information about Dougall's eligibility for federal subsidies." McClatchy adds that Dougall alerted Sen. Tim Scott, who, on Tuesday, "chided Tavenner" and "called the HealthCare.gov debut 'one of the greatest website disasters in history.'"

The Wall Street Journal (11/5, Schatz, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Sen. Tom Harkin, the panel's chairman, told Tavenner, "Security is paramount. I think that's something we all agree on here. There has to be absolute assurance that this is secure." The New York Times (11/6, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says Harkin "joined Republicans in voicing concern about the security of personal information." The Times notes that Sen. Barbara Mikulski "told Ms. Tavenner that the problems with the federal insurance website, HealthCare.gov, could deter people from enrolling and threaten the [ACA's] success." Mikulski is quoted as saying, "There's been a crisis of confidence created in the dysfunctional nature of the website, the canceling of policies and sticker shock from some people."

According to Politico (11/6, Haberkorn, Millman, 467K), at the hearing featuring Tavenner, "one Democrat after another voiced frustration and expressed anxiety about how to turn Obamacare around after the disastrous rollout and the avalanche of bad publicity around cancelled health plans." Politico reports that when Sen. Lamar Alexander asked Tavenner why the President had "promised Americans they can keep their health insurance, even if the administration knew some of those plans would be eliminated by 2014." According to Politico,

Tavenner said the Administration intends to "'actively engage' consumers who have received cancellation notices," but acknowledged that some people who are losing their insurance will now have to sign up for coverage that is "more expensive."

Tavenner Says ACA Enrollment Target Is 800,000 By The End Of The Month. The Washington Post (11/6, Somashekhar, Goldstein, 4.28M) reports that Tavenner told the Senators that CMS "plans to release next week information about who enrolled" and revealed that "the target for the end of November is 800,000 enrollments."

Reuters (11/6, Morgan) reported that on Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Committee subpoenaed Administration figures on the volume of ACA enrollment. In a letter to Tavenner, Camp wrote, "Actual enrollment could lag projections by over 1 million people. There is no evidence this system is capable of handling this type of volume."

The Daily Caller (11/6, May, 422K) reported that in reply to Camp's letter, Tavenner "denied his request but appeared to indicate that the agency did have access to enrollment data." Under the headline, "Mystery Shrouds Plans For Release Of ObamaCare Enrollment Data," The Hill (11/6, Viebeck, 194K) reported that while the Administration "said it will publish...enrollment data next week," it has "repeatedly refused to disclose which figures it plans to release." According to The Hill, that has fed suspicions "that they will release a single sign-up number that fails to shed light on how the enrollment effort is really proceeding," which "would signal a continued effort by the administration to control the flow of details about the healthcare law in the face of an unfriendly news cycle."

Administration Officials Were Aware Of Widespread HealthCare.gov Problems On Oct 1. Robert Pear, in a piece for the New York Times (11/6, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) titled, "Notes Reveal Chaotic White House Talks on Health Care Site," reports that "more than 100 pages of 'war room notes' released by congressional investigators on Tuesday offer a window into the chaos that overwhelmed the Obama administration as the federal health insurance marketplace started up last month and officials realized that its problems could not be fixed quickly." Pear goes on to write that the documents, which were released by the House Oversight Committee, "indicate that by Oct. 8, one week after the exchange opened, administration officials had begun to realize that its problems were widespread and could not be easily fixed."

The Washington Post (11/6, Somashekhar, Goldstein, 4.28M) reports that the documents "mak[e] clear that some [HHS] staff members and technical contractors were aware of wider problems than the White House acknowledged at the time." According to the Post, "Meeting notes from the morning of Oct. 1...show that HHS employees and the contractors were discussing flaws that included the system that verifies insurance-seekers' identity, 'glitches with eligibility questions,' and a problem with letting people know whether they qualify for Medicaid."

Politico (11/6, Cunningham, 467K) noted that while the Administration initially "blamed the HealthCare.gov glitches on high website traffic," the documents released Tuesday "contain little to no mention of higher-than-expected volume."

Mark Gongloff, in a piece for the Huffington Post (11/6, Gongloff, 11.54M), argues that the President ought to have taken former NEC director Larry Summers' suggestion that he "take the job of launching the [ACA] away from...[his] political team and give it to a health-care 'czar,'" who "knew about insurance and business and technology." According to Gongloff, the President "resisted Summers, which helped lead to the clownpocalypse of Obamacare's launch, now in its second embarrassing month."

McDonough Tells Insurance CEOs To Inform Those Losing Their Coverage About Federal Subsidies. The AP (11/5, Lederman) reports that White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough met with health insurance executives Tuesday and requested that they "explain to Americans the cancellation letters they're receiving in the mail." According to the AP, the White House said McDonough "urged insurance companies to 'ramp up communication and education efforts' to those who have lost their insurance."

Under the headline, "Obama Administration Pushes Back Over Canceled Health Plans," Reuters (11/6, Morgan, Rampton) reports that McDonough wants the insurers to tell those who are losing coverage that they may qualify for subsidies. Reuters reports that on Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said McDonough was "saying that we all need to do the best we can in getting information that consumers need."

According to The Hill (11/6, Sink, 194K), "some" cancellation letters "tell people they need to purchase more expensive, more comprehensive plans to replace them, sometimes without mentioning the new ObamaCare

plans that are now available to them."

Democrats In California And Vermont Push For Cancellation Delays. The Wall Street Journal (11/6, Martin, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on Tuesday California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones (D) announced that Blue Shield of California will not cancel its plans that fail to meet ACA guidelines until March, an extension of three months for 115,000 Californians. Jones is quoted as saying, "For 115,000 people, they get additional time to decide what's best for them and their families." Likewise, Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin (D) wants insurers in his state to delay cancellations until March 31, saying, "I won't tolerate a situation where Vermonters go into the holiday season worried and confused by their health care options come Jan. 1."

The Los Angeles Times (11/6, Terhune, 3.07M) reports that on Tuesday, Jones "reiterated his support for President Obama's healthcare law...but he said these cancellation notices and the resulting avalanche of consumer complaints were an unnecessary blunder." The Times reports that Jones said, "There are areas where implementation could be done better, and this is an example of that. Individuals could have been allowed to stay in their plan for another year. Don't force people out arbitrarily Dec. 31."

LAWMAKERS LOOK FOR REVENUE TO OFFSET SEQUESTER CUTS. The Wall Street Journal (11/6, Mckinnon, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that budget negotiators from both parties are currently looking for a variety of non-tax revenue sources that would allow them to reduce sequestration cuts. Potential moves include boosting Medicare premiums for wealthier seniors, increase the amount Federal employees must contribute to their pensions, and selling surplus properties.

In an editorial, the New York Times (11/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that if budget negotiators are able to find a way to raise the sequester spending caps, "it would remove a significant drag on employment" and would "also end the reductions of government services that are hurting millions of people, especially those with low incomes." The Times endorses raising revenue to do this, such as through closing tax loopholes.

OBAMA LOOKS TO KICK-START IMMIGRATION REFORM DEBATE. Reuters (11/6, Holland) reports that President Obama brought a group of business leaders to the White House on Tuesday in an attempt to build momentum for immigration reform. The President argued that reform would add $1.4 trillion in growth to the US economy over the next 20 years while also reducing deficit spending by $850 billion. Obama told reporters, "There's no reason why we can't get this done before the end of the year."

The Washington Times (11/6, Wolfgang, 417K) reports the President said that the Senate reform bill has sufficient support in the House to pass. The President said, "Although right now there has been some resistance from House Republicans, what's been encouraging is there have been a number of House Republicans who think this is the right thing to do, as well. It's my estimation that we actually have the votes to get comprehensive immigration reform done right now."

Meanwhile, Politico (11/6, Allen, Brown, 467K) reports that the President "has a busy schedule this week, jumping from health care to immigration to the economy at events across three different cities." The "disparate" messages "add up to one unifying theme for a White House on the defensive: HealthCare.gov will not paralyze the president's second term." Politico says the White House doesn't want the public to think that healthcare is "all they're focused on — or even that it's the overriding priority."

Entrepreneur Argues Immigrants Don't Weaken Economy. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (11/6, Zadeh, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Shayan Zadeh, the co-founder and CEO of Zoosk, an online dating website, writes that his example shows that immigrants aren't a drain on the economy, but rather a boost to it. He says that he has created 150 jobs since coming to the US from Iran.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"New Chance For A Budget Compromise."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (11/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that if budget negotiators are able to find a way to raise the sequester spending caps, "it would remove a significant drag on employment" and would "also end the reductions of government services that are hurting millions of people, especially those with low incomes." The Times endorses raising revenue to do this, such as through closing tax loopholes.

"A Pacific Trade Deal." The New York Times (11/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes negotiators at the Trans-Pacific Partnership are grappling with a variety of difficult issues as they attempt to complete a

trade agreement by the end of the year. The Trans-Pacific trade agreement would include 12 countries, lower tariffs and investment restrictions, improve labor rights, encourage environmental protection, and reduce government favoritism of state-owned businesses. The New York Times says that a good agreement would not only help individual countries, but would also set an example for the WTO global trade talks.

"Remember The Second Responders." In an editorial, the New York Times (11/6, A28, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that day laborers are key responders to large-scale disasters, such as Hurricane Sandy, but are "routinely abused in their everyday jobs, and the speed and intensity of post-disaster cleanups, plus exposure to mold, asbestos and other dangerous debris, makes things worse." The Times says that the de Blasio Administration "should work with federal, state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide day laborers with disaster training, and to make day-labor-hiring sites into places where information and protective gear can be distributed."

"Approving, And Suspending, A Dangerous Drug." The New York Times (11/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the Food and Drug Administration's course of action was appropriate when it suspended sales of Iclusig, a "promising leukemia drug" that was found to have serious adverse side effects upon further testing. The drug appears to have minimal effects for some patients, and the FDA has established a process in which doctors can inform the agency of their patients' conditions in order to arrange and expedited shipment of the drug.

"High-Caliber Cosmic Nothingness."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Mr. McAuliffe's Victory."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/6, 4.28M) says that the election is a triumph for Terry McAuliffe, as "well as a watershed moment for Democrats." The Post says that for many Democrats, McAuliffe's "checkered past, lack of experience in elected office and impressionistic grasp of the mechanics of state government" has left him "regarded by his party's stalwarts much as he is regarded by many Virginians — a scandal-prone outsider with a lot to learn." However, the Post says he succeeded both because the GOP selected Cuccinelli and that McAuliffe crafted "the right message," putting jobs first.

"High Hopes On The Hudson." In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/6, 4.28M) says that Christie's win suggests a path for an end to partisan gridlock. Christie has also "made himself the new hero of mainstream Republican conservatives." Meanwhile, Bill de Blasio, the mayor-elect of New York City, "is the champion of those on the Democratic left who are disillusioned with President Obama and eager to implement their undiluted ideas on the Big Apple's big stage."

"Texas Holds 'Em Voteless." In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/6, 4.28M) says that the Texas voter ID law is a "transparent effort to tilt elections in the state to Republicans by suppressing the minority vote, which is becoming more important as Texas's demographics shift."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Portents Of Election 2013."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (11/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that in the wake of its defeat in the Virginia governor's race, the Republican Party needs to do some self-examination. The Journal notes that Republican candidate Ken Cuccinellli's social conservatism hurt him among some voters. The Journal also argues that Republicans should avoid portraying New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie as a moderate and study his victory to determine how he was able the support to win so many non-GOP voters.

"Class-Action Dodge." The Wall Street Journal (11/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that the Supreme Court should rule against Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood, who filed a lawsuit on behalf of the state and residents who purchased liquid crystal display screens from companies that allegedly engaged in price fixing. His lawsuit names the same defendants as those named in private class action cases, but Hood is conducting the lawsuit through his own office. The editorial accuses Hood of evading Federal law, which requires private class actions to be removed to Federal court, but excludes class actions based entirely in one state. The defendants in the Hood case want removal to a Federal court, but Hood contends that such a move infringes on his authority to enforce state law.

"The Snowden Clemency Campaign." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (11/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) dismisses Edward Snowden's claim that his leaks were useful because they prompted calls for reforms, and argues that when Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi engaged in civil disobedience, they did not avoid the law and instead sought its punishment to prove their argument. Snowden, on the other hand, violated his pledge to protect NSA secrets and then fled the country. The Journal argues that if Snowden truly wanted "open,

respectful and informed debate" on the NSA as he has written, he could have gone to Congress or taken his concerns to the public without revealing the secrets. The Journal adds that if Snowden were truly committed to his ideals, he would leave Russia and return to face charges in the US.

"An Afghan Commitment." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (11/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) calls on the President to settle a status of forces agreement with Afghanistan, arguing that a strong foreign force is necessary to keep the country from falling into Taliban or al Qaeda hands.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Passenger Chaos After LAX Shootings Brings Official Scrutiny
Santa Monica Is Bracing For A Growth Spurt
Details Emerge Of Masterpieces In Nazi Art Trove

Wall Street Journal:
New York City Takes Left Turn
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ABC: New Jersey-Mall Shooting; Gun Rampage-Protection Tips; Virginia, New Jersey Elections; Election Day; Toronto-Mayor Admits Drug Use; California-Police Bribery; Child Predator Sting; Montreal-Plane Fire.
CBS: New Jersey-Mall Shooting; LAX Shooting; Mass Shootings; Mass Shootings-Congress; Missouri-Murder Conviction Overturned; Health-Testosterone Therapy; FDA-Ranbaxy Scandal; Toronto-Mayor Admits Drug Use; Germany-Nazi Art.

NBC: Politics-Virginia; Politics-New Jersey; Toronto-Mayor Admits Drug Use; New Jersey-Mall Shootings; Transportation; New Pilot Training; Syria-Polio; Germany-Nazi Art; Pope-Survey; NASA-Earth-Like Planets; FAA-Mid-Air Collision.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: New Jersey-Gubernatorial Election Results; Virginia-Gubernatorial Election Results; New York City-Mayoral Election Results; Boston-Mayoral Election Results; Detroit-Mayoral Election Results; Illinois-Same-Sex Marriage; Sports-Houston Texans' Coach Update.
CBS: New Jersey-Gubernatorial Election Results; Virginia-Gubernatorial Election Results; Alabama-Runoff Election Results; Toronto-Mayor Admits Drug Use; Senate-Sebelius Hearing; House-ACA Bill; Hagel-Defense Cuts; FAA-Training Requirement Changes.
NPR: New Jersey-Gubernatorial Election Results; New York City-Mayoral Election Results; New York-Casino Gambling; Toronto-Mayor Admits Drug Use; Economy-Wall Street; Detroit-Mayoral Election Results; Charlie Trotter Obit; Michael Skakel Hearing Scheduled.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing with the Vice President, Oval Office, closed press; departs the White House, South Lawn, open press; departs Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool; arrives Dallas, TX, Dallas Love Field, open press; participates in an Affordable Care Act event, Linz Hall, Temple Emanu-El, travel pool; delivers remarks at a DSCC event, private residence, Dallas, TX, print pool; delivers remarks and answers questions at a DSCC event, private residence, Dallas, TX, print pool coverage for remarks only; departs Dallas, TX, Dallas Love Field, open press

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN —Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office closed press; travels to North Baltimore, Ohio; delivers remarks at the CSX Northwest Ohio Intermodal Terminal, open press; travels to Cleveland, Ohio, attends an event for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; returns to Washington, DC.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA – Attends a DNC fundraising event. Pittsburgh, PA. closed press.
US Senate: FLOOR SCHEDULE 10:30 a.m. — The Senate will convene and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.815, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

10 a.m. FINANCE — Health Insurance Exchanges: An Update from the Administration with HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Location: 215 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. Location: 342 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — An oversight hearing to examine the Bureau of Prisons and cost-effective strategies for reducing recidivism. Witnesses: Panel I: Charles E. Samuels, Jr., Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons. Panel II: John E. Wetzel, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Representative John Tilley, Chair, Judiciary Committee, Kentucky House of Representatives, Hopkinsville, Kentucky; Nancy G. La Vigne, Ph.D., Director, Justice Policy Center, The Urban Institute; Matt DeLisi, Ph.D., Professor and Coordinator, Criminal Justice Studies, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa; Dr. Jeffrey Sedgwick, Managing Partner and Co-Founder, Keswick Advisors, Richmond, VA. Location: 226 Dirksen.

10 a.m. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine the nominations of Sloan D. Gibson, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary, Linda A. Schwartz, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, and Constance B. Tobias, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Location: 418 Russell.

10:30 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearings to examine the nominations of Carolyn Hessler Radelet, of Virginia, to be Director of the Peace Corps, and Michael G. Carroll, of New York, to be Inspector General, United States Agency for International Development. Location: 419 Dirksen.

2:15 p.m. AGING — Hearings to examine transportation, focusing on independence for seniors. Witnesses:

Grant Baldwin, PhD, Director, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Therese McMillan, Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation; Virginia Dize, Co-Director, National Center on Senior Transportation, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging; Katherine Freund, Founder and President, ITN America. Location: 562 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Hearings to examine the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act (America COMPETES), focusing on science and the United States economy. Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia hearing on One Year Later: Examining the Ongoing Recovery From Hurricane Sandy. Witness: Shaun L. S. Donovan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; John D. Porcari, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation; W. Craig Fugate , Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), U.S. Department of the Army; Kathleen S. Tighe , Chair, The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board; Cas F. Holloway , Deputy Mayor for Operations, City of New York. Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. JUDICIARY — Judicial Nominations hearing to examine the nominations of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Christopher Reid Cooper, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., and Edward G. Smith, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and M. Douglas Harpool, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri. Location: 226 Dirksen.
US House: 10 a.m. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Texas' Innovative Approaches to Jobs and Employment for Veterans. Location: Bill Daniel Student Center, Baylor University, 1311 S. 5th Street Waco TX 76798.
Other: GWU – VETERANS WEEK — The George Washington University hosts Veterans Week Activities. Highlights: 3 p.m. Veterans Park Dedication Ceremony. The George Washington University Veterans Park. H St. between 21st and 22nd streets, NW (adjacent to Gelman Library). 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. War in the Media: Recording History. The George Washington University Marvin Center Amphitheater, 800 21st St., NW.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM – OUR WALLS BEAR WITNESS —Walls Bear Witness: The Plight of Burma's Rohingya to raise awareness of the Rohingya, a Muslim minority in Burmas Rakhine State, long considered among the worlds most persecuted people, and to raise the alarm about the possibility of future violence against them. Location: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,, 100 Raoul Wallenberg PL, SW, 15th Street entrance.

AICPA NATIONAL TAX CONFERENCE – WERFEL — 7 a.m. Top IRS officials – including the Acting IRS Commissioner, one of the IRS operating division heads, the head of the Office of Professional Responsibility, and the IRS Taxpayer Advocate – will offer insights about preparations for the 2014 tax filing season, including guidance on the net investment income tax, DOMA, and tangible property regulations at the American Institute of CPAs premier tax conference. Also, hear discussions about taxpayer identity theft, reporting under FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act) when bank reporting and individual reporting requirements become effective in 2014 and the legislative outlook. Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Md. (also livestreamed)

AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE — 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. ABI Worksop: Risky Times for Secured Lenders and Servicers. Experts will be examining the CFPB's new mortgage servicing rules and other hot lending topics. Location: 66 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 600, Alexandria, Va. 22314 or attend via live webstream.

SAIS – TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS – DOMESTIC WORKERS — 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Conference on Domestic Work as a Form of Trafficking in Persons to investigate the new legal developments and the existing challenges in the provision of services to domestic workers both in the United States and abroad. Location: Kenney Auditorium, Nitze Building, 1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

EVOLUTION OF THE FARM BILL — 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. The Farm Foundation Forum hosts forum on the evolution of the Farm Bill. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

UMD – MEXICO-U.S. MIGRATION — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The University of Maryland School of Public Policy is co-hosting a forum on Mexico-U.S. migration trends since 1970. The forum will include a discussion between

representatives from UMD, Center for Immigration Studies, Arsht Latin America Center, Pew Hispanic Center, and Mexico Institute.. Speakers: Douglas J. Besharov, University of Maryland School of Public Policy (moderator); Mark Krikorian, Executive Director, Center for Immigration Studies; Jason Marczak, Deputy Director, Arsht Latin America Center, Atlantic Council; Jeffrey Passel, Senior Demographer, Pew Hispanic Center; and; Andrew Selee, Vice President for Programs and Founding Director, Mexico Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center. Location: Washington Marriott, 1221 22nd Street, NW.

HOSPITAL OF TOMORROW — 10:15 a.m. The U.S. News and World Report hosts forum on their report: HOSPITAL OF TOMORROW. Keynotes by: Thomas Frieden, M.D., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Patrick Conway, M.D., Chief Medical Officer and Director, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Panel discussion by: Jeffrey Bokser, Vice President, Safety, Security and Emergency Services, New York-Presbyterian Hospital; Eric Goralnick, M.D., Medical Director of Emergency Preparedness, Brigham and Womens Hospital; Anthony E. Shorris, Senior Vice President, Vice Dean, and Chief of Staff, NYU Langone Medical Center; Margaret Mannix, Executive Editor, U.S. News & World Report (moderator). Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. NW.

NANS INAUGURAL HEALTH CARE AWARDS LUNCHEON — 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Speakers: Rev. Al Sharpton, President of National Action Network; Janaye Ingram, National Executive Director, National Action Network; Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President of the United States; George Halvorson/Chairman, Kaiser Permanente; Garth Graham, MD/President, Aetna Foundation ; CVS Caremark (Presented to the corporation for their work to educate communities on ACA. Award will be accepted by David Casey, VP Workforce Development and Chief Diversity Officer). Location: Hay-Adams, 800 16th Street.

NATIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY AWARDS — 12 p.m. U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary of Transportation Porcari to Present National Roadway Safety Awards. Participants: John D. Porcari, United States Deputy Secretary of Transportation; Tony Furst, Associate Administrator for Safety, Federal Highway Administration; Gregory M. Cohen, P.E., Executive Director, Roadway Safety Foundation. Award winning projects in the following states: Alabama, Connecticut, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, and Washington. An Honorable Mention will also be presented for a program headquartered in Massachusetts and active in 13 States. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

U.S. CHAMBER – SKILLS GAP SUMMIT — 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. U.S. Chamber Vice President of Education Policy Cheryl Oldham participates in a panel at The Close It Summit. Location: The Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St NW, Washington, DC

ACEEE ENERGY EFFICIENCY STATES — 1 p.m. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) will teleconference to issue the 2013 edition of the State Energy Efficiency Scorecard. Most Improved States and 5 States Needing Most Improvement to be Highlighted: AK, CA, CT, IL, KS, MA, ME, MD, MS, ND, NY, OH, OR, RI, SD, VT, WA, WV, and WY. Speakers include: U U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Dr. Ernest Moniz; Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick; others. DIAL IN: 1 (800) 860-2442. Ask for the ACEEE state scorecard news event.

VETERANS DAY – PEREZ — 1:30 p.m. U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez speaks on the importance of creating and providing employment opportunities to military service members as they transition to civilian careers. Location: Labor Dept. 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington

US CHAMBER – VETERANS — 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. Hiring Our Heroes Executive Director Eric Eversole joins U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Dakota Meyer, and former Rep. Patrick Murphy, for the Department of Labor's annual Salute to Veterans, – a roundtable discussion on the obstacles and opportunities veterans face as they search for employment after the military. Location: U.S. Department of Labor

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Well, to celebrate the 34th anniversary of the storming of the US embassy in Iran, Iranians chanted anti-Obama slogans and called him a dictator. Ooh. Hey, is that a big deal? Fox News does that every single day."

Jay Leno: "And that NSA whistle blower – traitor, Edward Snowden, he's living in asylum in Russia. He has released a manifesto directed at the United States. Claiming that telling the truth should not be considered a crime. And believe me there's no better place to celebrate free speech, truth and equal rights than in Russia."

Jay Leno: "The drug trade at the US-Mexico border has taken a big hit this morning. Check this out. Federal drug agents have shut down what they call a super tunnel. The sophisticated passage which stretches from Tijuana to San Diego has electricity, ventilation and even its own food court. There's a Starbucks. Unbelievable."

David Letterman: "Mayor Bloomberg has been Mayor of New York City for 12 years, 12 years. Remarkable, isn't it? Maybe. Maybe not. I never thought about it while he was mayor because when he was mayor you thought he would never go away, but now he's going away, and I believe – I think we'll all miss Mayor Bloomberg. But he says no, 12 years is plenty. That's three terms and he really now want to settle down and spend more time with his money so that's what he's going to do."

David Letterman: "Somebody has still got a stick up his nose about the presidential campaign– I'm talking about Mitt Romney. He was on David Gregory's 'Meet the Press' program. He said he didn't choose Chris Christie as a running mate because he's fat. How about that? Mitt Romney has a similar but opposite problem. He's a lightweight. That's the problem."

David Letterman: Top 10 things You Never Knew About the House of Representatives: [Presented by Rep. Nancy Pelosi]

10. Nineteen Representatives have gone on to become President; 10 have gone on to manage a Sizzlers

9. Members may vote 'Yea,' 'Nay, ' or 'Whatever'

8. When we water the Capitol lawn we use the Hose of Representatives

7. Our cafeteria chef created the original 'House Salad'

6. Every month we're tested for steroids.

5. Steny Hoyer's middle name? Also Steny.

4. Thanks to corporate sponsorship, Majority Whip now known as Miracle Whip

3. Members tap silverware against water glasses to encourage the House leaders to kiss

2. We have the power to impeach talk show hosts

1. The Tea Party isn't nearly as much fun as it sounds.

Conan O'Brien: "Big news, big news, today, New Jersey re-elected governor Chris Christie. That's right. Or as Christie put it, 'I came back for seconds.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Hollywood producers are being asked to work the Affordable Care Act into television plots and movies. Yes. Which is why AMC has renamed it 'The Walking Dead, but Not Due To Pre-Existing Conditions.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "You know, Rand Paul, the freshman Senator from Kentucky? Well, he's in the news again. Now they're saying that he actually plagiarized an entire section of his 2012 book 'Government Bullies.' Yeah. When asked for a comment, Paul said, 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, November 8, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Nov 8, 2013 at 7:03 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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HOLIDAY PUBLISHING NOTICE. In observance of Veterans Day, the Department of the Interior News Briefinig will not be published on November 11. Publication will resume on November 12.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP CAMPAIGN TO BOOST PARKS. The San Francisco Chronicle (11/8, Fimrite, 2.88M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "outlined a major push Thursday to inspire children and teenagers to express their wild side by putting aside their cell phones and other

electronics and getting outdoors to experience nature." At San Francisco's Crissy Field, Jewell "announced a $20 million public-private campaign to inspire ecological awareness through education, employment and volunteer opportunities in parks and on public lands." Jewell said, "There is a growing disconnect between young people and the great outdoors, and it's a gap that Interior has the power to help bridge." According to Jewell, the plan is "to raise enough money to create outdoor recreation and education opportunities for 10 million young people in 50 cities and to attract a million volunteers per year to help administer the programs."

SECRETARY JEWELL TO TOUR POINT ARENA-STORNETTA PUBLIC LANDS. The Mendocino (CA) Beacon (11/8) reports that Interior Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will be joined by Rep. Jared Huffman to tour the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands on California's North Coast on Friday, Nov. 8, and will hold a public meeting at 2 p.m. according to the article, "the meeting will include stakeholders and members of the public to discuss the community's vision for the continued protection of Point Arena Stornetta Public Lands, which is a significant recreational and wildlife habitat area that is administered by the Bureau of Land Management." In addition to Jewell and Huffman, attendees are expected to include Neil Kornze, principal deputy director at the BLM, John Laird, State of California Secretary for Natural Resources, Leslie Dahlhoff, former Point Arena mayor, Assemblymember Wes Chesbro, and Nelson Pinola, tribal chair of Point Arena/Manchester Band of Pomo Indians.

Also reporting on the story is the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (11/6, 156K), the Fort Bragg (CA) Advocate-News (11/8, 16K), and Public News Service (11/8, 306).

SECRETARY JEWELL SAYS BUDGET CUTS HAVE THREATENED CONSERVATION EFFORTS. KSJR-FM Collegeville, MN (11/7, 34K) reports that "Minnesota state agencies are marking the fifth anniversary this week of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment." Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Landwehr spoke about the Legacy Amendment during a visit to Minnesota this week by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. According to the article, "both officials say state and federal budget cuts have threatened conservation efforts."

Also reporting on the story is KSJR-FM Collegeville, MN (11/7, 34K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA MAKES SELECTIONS FOR INTERIOR POSTS. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (11/8, 194K) reports that President Obama is nominating Neil Kornze to formally head the BLM. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "praised the White House move to make Kornze the official head of the BLM, a task that will keep Kornze front-and-center in political battles over conservation and drilling." In a statement, Jewell said, "Neil has helped implement forward-looking reforms at the BLM to promote energy development in areas of minimal conflict, drive landscape-level planning efforts, and dramatically expand the agency's use of technology to speed up the process for energy permitting." Also, Obama announced that "he would nominate Tommy Beaudreau as Interior's assistant secretary for policy, management and budget." In a statement, Jewell said, "[Beaudreau] has successfully led key administration and departmental energy reforms in the Gulf of Mexico, steadily advanced our Atlantic offshore wind program and developed and implemented critical regulatory initiatives for Arctic conservation and energy policy. His accomplishments and skills will well serve the department and the nation in his new position."

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (11/8, 194K) reports that President Obama announced late Wednesday plans to nominate environment lawyer Janice Schneider for assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management in the Interior Department. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "applauded the president on the nomination." In a statement, Jewell said, "Janice's expertise in natural resource, energy development and environmental law and policy will enable us to continue to safely and responsibly expand America's conventional and renewable energy exploration and development under President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy."

The Marine Link (11/8, 1K) reports that National Ocean Industries Association President Randall Luthi issued a statement on the nomination of Schneider. Luthi said, "It is the prerogative of the President and Secretary to nominate whomever they choose, but there are many unanswered questions about how Janice Schneider will regulate the offshore energy industry. We look forward to learning more about her during the Senate confirmation process." He added, "That being said, many of our members are disappointed that Tommy Beaudreau was not nominated. He came to the Department of the Interior during a difficult time, but over the last two years he earned the reputation for being willing to listen and learn about industry concerns. I wish him the very best as he returns

his full attention to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. His knowledge and experience will be a great asset to the new Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management."

Also reporting on the story are Politico (11/8, Guillen, 467K), the National Journal (11/8, Subscription Publication, 427K) and the Las Vegas Review-Journal (11/8, 437K).

OMB SAYS SHUTDOWN COST $2 BILLION IN LOST PRODUCTIVITY. The Washington Post (11/8, Rein, 4.28M) reports that the "partial shutdown" of the Federal government is October "cost taxpayers about $2 billion in lost productivity from 850,000 furloughed employees, the White House budget office said Thursday in a report quantifying the ripple effects" of the "impasse." On top of that, OMB director Sylvia Mathews Burwell, said the shutdown launched a series of "negative ramifications on a number of other fronts," including the disruption of a number of businesses.

Politico (11/8, Cirilli, 467K) reports the report said the shutdown "inflicted completely unnecessary damage on our economy and took a toll on families and businesses across the country." The Administration "estimates that the shutdown will shrink fourth quarter economic growth by 0.25 percent, resulting in an estimated 120,000 fewer private-sector jobs for the first two weeks of October."

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (11/8, 194K) reports that "the tally notes that the Interior Department was unable to process 200 onshore oil-and-gas drilling permit applications."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Post (11/7, Rein, 4.28M), the Christian Science Monitor (11/7, Trumbull, 540K), McClatchy (11/8, Clark, 95K), Reuters (11/8, Felsenthal), and the National Journal (11/8, Subscription Publication, 427K).

Workers To Get $2 Billion In Back Pay After Government Shutdown. The Los Angeles Times (11/7, Puzzanghera, 3.07M) reports that "federal workers furloughed during last month's partial government shutdown will receive about $2 billion in back pay, the White House said Thursday."

SOUTHEAST YOUTH CORPS APPROVED AS MEMBERS OF THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS. The Chattanoogan (11/8, 17K) reports that the Interior Department and the Agriculture Department on Thursday "announced that Chattanooga's Southeast Youth Corps is one of 91 initial organizations nationwide that have been approved as member organizations to help implement the Obama Administration's 21st Century Conservation Service Corps."

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM HAILS MARINA RENOVATIONS. The Pacific (GUM) Daily News (11/8, 61K) reports that "Port Authority of Guam officials, representatives from Black Construction Corp. and relatives of Gregorio D. Perez celebrated the renovations to the Hagåtña marina yesterday at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the boat basin." According to the article, "renovations to the marina include removal and installation of galvanized pipe railing and a new epoxy-coated steel ladder, restoration of the demolished walkway, installation of new sheet piles in front of deteriorating existing sheet piles, and the modification and construction of a new storm-water deep-sump catch basin and drainage system." The article notes that "the eight-month project, contracted by Black Construction, cost almost $2 million and was paid for by the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs."

SEN. HEINRICH PROPOSALS MAKE IT INTO HUNTING, FISHING BILL PACKAGE. The Albuquerque (NM) Business First (11/8) reports that "two measures proposed by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) have been included in a legislative package known as the Sportsmen's and Public Outdoor Recreation Traditions (SPORT) Act now working its way through Congressional committees." According to the article, "the package includes bills introduced by both Democrats and Republicans expanding access to federal public lands for hunting and fishing." In a statement, Heinrich said, "Hunting and fishing are a way of life for millions of Americans – especially in New Mexico. Passing the SPORT Act would be a momentous advancement in improving hunting and angling access on public lands and growing the outdoor recreation economy. As an avid hunter, I remain deeply committed to preserving our outdoor heritage for my children, and for future generations."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

WASHINGTON MONUMENT BEING MEASURED BY TEAM OF SURVEYORS. The Washington Times (11/8, Somers, 417K) reports that a team of surveyors is measuring the Washington Monument "to determine for sure whether the memorial still stands straight at 555 feet." According to the article, "ror the past week, staffers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Geodetic Survey have been working atop the iconic structure's topmost point, studying the more than century-old landmark to see if it has sunk farther into the ground or is listing to one side as a result of either the passage of time or the effects of the August 2011 earthquake that rattled the region." Dru Smith, chief geodesist for the survey, said "the survey was done at the request" of the NPS.

METRO OFFICIAL OPTIMISTIC THAT ARCH CONTRACT WILL BE RESOLVED SOON. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (11/8, 866K) reports that "an unresolved contract that threatens to delay an overhaul of the Gateway Arch grounds is a matter of red tape, not conflict, according to the head of Metro." Metro President and CEO John Nations said he was told by NPS officials earlier this week that "they are very, very close" to resolving the issue of a contract related to the trams in the Arch. Michael Reynolds, the midwest regional director of the NPS, "said Thursday that an agreement could be reached within days to move past the hangup."

QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK CONCESSIONS CONTRACT. WMEA-FM Portland, ME (11/8, 333) reports that "Maine's two US House members say they've gotten lots of calls from constituents and supporters of Acadia Corporation in and around Bar Harbor." Rep. Chellie Pingree said, "It just seems wrong to be giving up that contract to another company that's based halfway around the country." Both Pingree and Rep. Mike Michaud also "want the House Natural Resources Committee to review the overall procedures for awarding concessions contracts at National Parks." Sens. Angus King and Susan Collins have sent their own letter to the head of the NPS, "calling for a similar top-to-bottom review."

NPS REVIEW ESSENTIAL TO CROSSTOWN PLANS. The Memphis (TN) Daily News (11/8, 7K) reports that the NPS "nixed plans for planting greenery on one side of the Crosstown parking garage" but "is OK with developers of the old Sears Crosstown property replacing windows in the mammoth building with new, similar-looking and configured ones." The article notes that the review by the NPS is "essential to receiving federal historic tax credits that are part of the financing for the project."

NEW PLAZA FOR HISTORIC JAPANESE LANTERN ON NATIONAL MALL MARKS ORIGINAL CHERRY BLOSSOMS. The Washington Post (11/8, 4.28M) reports that "a 360-year-old Japanese stone lantern that sits among Washington's cherry blossom trees now has a more prominent place on the National Mall." According to the article, "the nonprofit Trust for the National Mall and Japan's ambassador are unveiling a new granite plaza for the lantern Friday along the Tidal Basin."

SECTION OF BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY TO CLOSE ONCE AGAIN. Yahoo! News Canada (11/8, 76K) reports that "a section of Blue Ridge Parkway closed last summer because of a 300-foot-long crack is being shut down once again." The NPS "says the stretch of road from Milepost 376 to Milepost 355 near the entrance to Mt. Mitchell State Park will close on Nov. 12." The closure "allows work to resume on the stabilization of a slope at Milepost 374."

NORTH MAIN STREET HOMES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER. The Oshkosh (WI) Northwestern (11/7, 48K) reports that the North Main Street Bungalow Historic District has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON ISLE ROYALE'S WOLVES. Additional coverage of the plans by the NPS to hold public meeting on Isle Royale's wolves was provided by the Minneapolis Star Tribune (11/8, Press, 1.14M), the Duluth (MN) News Tribune (11/8, 152K), the Detroit News (11/8, Press, 619K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (11/8, 768K), and WWJ-TV Detroit (11/7, 34K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: STUDY FINDS VA NEGLECTS HISTORIC PROPERTIES. Additional coverage of the study on the Veterans' Affairs' historic buildings was provided by the Los Angeles Times (11/7, Groves, Zarembo,

3.07M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INSECTS INVADE FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL. Additional coverage of insect problem at the Flight 93 Memorial was provided by WRC-TV Washington (11/8, 291K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM PROPOSAL FOR SAGE GROUSE DRAWS CRITICISM. The Deseret (UT) News (11/8, 274K) reports that the Utah BLM's "proposal to help prevent the greater sage grouse from being added to Endangered Species list is the weakest plan environmentalists said they have seen so far and all but 'guarantees' the bird will land on the list." Kevin Mueller with the Utah Environmental Congress said, "Their plan will be Exhibit A for why sage grouse should be listed. The BLM's proposed action will lower protections that are already in place in the four national forests in Utah." However, Mueller said "the BLM Utah plan is a chance for that federal agency to assert it is doing enough to protect the bird." Mueller said, "This is a test to see if federal agencies can come up with their own standard to protect the species instead of relying on the Endangered Species Act to recover the sage grouse. To me, this plan says we are doomed for failure."

BLM, FOREST SERVICE TO BE REIMBURSED FOR 2012 IDAHO FIRE. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (11/8, 56K) reports that "the federal government said Thursday it is collecting $168,500 to cover fire suppression costs after an Illinois man ignited a 440-acre blaze in central Idaho in 2012 while shooting at an exploding target." The US Attorney's Office "announced the agreement after Jeffrey Kerner was target shooting on July 18, 2012 on private land near Salmon in Lemhi County." The money will be paid into the coffers of the BLM and the US Forest Service, "to reimburse them for their costs of fighting what became known as the 'Tenmile Fire.'"

Also reporting on the story is the Idaho State Journal (11/8, 54K).

BLM TO SELL CHRISTMAS TREE-CUTTING PERMITS. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (11/7, 165K) reports that the BLM will start "selling Christmas tree cutting permits for $5 starting Tuesday for pinyon pine or juniper tree on designated BLM lands in the Pinenut Mountains between Carson City and Yerington, the Clan Alpine and Desatoya mountains east of Fallon, and the Excelsior Mountains southeast of Hawthorne."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPORT TOUTS ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF WILDLIFE REFUGES. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (11/8, Press, 1.14M) reports that the FWS says the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is "a boon to the regional economy." According to the agency, "the refuge generated over $161 million in economic benefits for a 19-county area in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois in 2011." The service's report, Banking on Nature, also "says the Upper Mississippi refuge returned nearly $46 for every $1 appropriated." The report also "says the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Minnesota generated over $202,000 in economic benefits for Marshall and Pennington counties in 2011."

The Beaver Dam (WI) Daily Citizen (11/8, 28K) reports that the study said the "Horicon National Wildlife Refuge is an economic boon to Dodge and Fond du Lac counties." According to the study, the Horicon refuge "generated almost $9 million in economic benefits for the two counties in 2011." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Our National Wildlife Refuge System is the world's greatest network of lands dedicated to wildlife conservation but is also an important contributor to our economy, attracting more than 46 million visitors from around the world who support local restaurants, hotels, and other businesses. Every dollar we invest in our Refuge System and other public lands generates huge dividends for our country."

Also reporting on the story are the Mankato (MN) Free Press (11/8, 69K), the Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (11/8, 15K), the Portage (WI) Daily Register (11/8, 11K), and WEAU-TV Eau Claire, WI (11/8, 32K).

POND LILY PREPARED FOR NEXT SUPERSTORM. The Amity (CT) Observer (11/8, 23K) reports the Rep. Rosa DeLauro "applauded progress on removal of the Pond Lily Dam, but no details of the project were announced." The Interior Department will "be awarding $661,500 to remove the dam, which has caused repeated flooding in Woodbridge's Village District for decades, causing safety problems and property damage." DeLauro

was joined at a press conference by representatives from the FWW, the City of New Haven, the Town of Woodbridge, Save the Sound and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Wendi Weber, Northeast Regional director for the FWS, called the project an example of "the wonderful opportunities we have to work with our partners to support projects that are shovel ready and will restore native fish habitat, as well as protect the local communities from future flooding events."

Also reporting on the story is the New Haven (CT) Independent (11/8, 4K).

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION POSTPONES FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ON CORRIDOR. The Davis (UT) Clipper (11/8, 28K) reports that "after three-plus years of studying proposed routes for the West Davis Corridor, the Utah Department of Transportation is postponing release of the final Environmental Impact Statement until the summer of 2014." The move is "in response to an overwhelming number of comments on the route, including scathing comments from area environmentalists opposed to the road, and from federal agencies who weighed in on the road's proximity to the Farmington Bay Bird Refuge." In extending the Final EIS, UDOT said "it wanted more time to thoroughly study the comments it received, and look at other alternatives."

FORMER INTERIOR OFFICIAL TO USHER IN MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY. The Florida Today (11/7, 222K) reports that Nathaniel P. Reed, the former assistant secretary of the US Department of the Interior, will speak Saturday at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge as part of the refuge's 50th anniversary celebration.

GRIZZLY BEARS MOVE CLOSER TO POSSIBLE DELISTING. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/8, 90K) reports that "grizzly bear survival in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem does not depend on the future of whitebark pine cones, according to recent research presented Thursday by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, a group of federal and state researchers." The conclusion "means grizzly bears could be one step closer to losing federal protections." Some conservationists "praised the amount of information collected, but also expressed continued concern about the future of the bear."

Also reporting on the story is the Bay Area (CA) Indymedia (11/7, 2K).

FWS SEEKS INPUT ON PROPOSED WOLVERINE RULE. The Clark County (WA) Columbian (11/7, 116K) reports that the FWS is "seeking public comment from Washington residents about whether the North American wolverine should be classified as threatened under the Endangered Species Act."

Also reporting on the story is the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/8, 90K).

FWS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RED KNOT. The News of Cumberland County (NJ) (11/8, 29K) reports that the FWS has "opened a public comment period, scheduled to end on November 29, as part of an effort to determine if the red knot should be labeled a 'threatened' species."

MEETING SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS BUTTERFLY HABITAT. WLUK-TV Green Bay, WI (11/8, 37K) reports that the FWS has "scheduled a meeting in Berlin to discuss a plan to list two butterflies as endangered or threatened."

STEPS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING APPLAUDED. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/8, Travers, 11.54M), Will Travers, CEO of Born Free, "applauds" the FWS for its plans to destroy "5.4 tons of seized elephant ivory" next week. However, he notes that "despite our best efforts, wildlife traffickers may still find the financial rewards of trafficking to be so attractive that they're willing to risk potential penalties." David Hayes, former Deputy Secretary of the Interior Department, admits, "We're not creating the kind of disincentive for wildlife trafficking that this problem deserves."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM TO HOLD FOR MARYLAND OFFSHORE WIND AUCTION. The reNews (11/8) reports that BOEM "in the coming weeks will launch an auction for the Maryland offshore wind energy area, the first of three sales planned in 2014," according to BOEM offshore renewable energy program manager Maureen Bornholdt. The article notes that "a number of wind developers have expressed an interest in building projects off Maryland." Bornholdt added that "the bureau aims to launch auctions for federal waters off New Jersey and Massachusetts in the first quarter of 2014."

Onshore Energy Development:

STUDY LINKS BAKKEN BOOM TO HAZE AT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK. The Environment & Energy Publishing (11/8, 705) reports that "as new oil wells crop up by the thousands in the mineral-rich Bakken play in northwest North Dakota, nearby Theodore Roosevelt National Park has experienced spikes in haze-causing pollution, according to a new study." According to the article, "while the boom has created wealth for the state of 700,000, which boasts the nation's lowest unemployment rate, the study by Colorado State University and the National Park Service suggests the development may come at the cost of clear park skies." Preliminary results showed "significant spikes in ammonium nitrate, a fine particle that causes haze, as well as fine particles ammonium sulfate and black carbon, also known as soot."

OSM FINDS NO MAJOR IMPACT FROM MINE SALE. The Navajo Times (AZ) (11/13, 66K) reports that the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has "found no significant impact from the Navajo Transitional Energy Company's acquisition or transfer permit of Navajo Mine from BHP Billiton New Mexico Coal." Rick Williamson, manager for the Western Region-OSM Indian Program Branch, said, "Based upon OSM's review of the attached EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action that will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment individually or cumulatively with other actions within the region." Williamson "added that no environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity, as outlined by the federal regulation CFR 1508.27."

Meanwhile, the Navajo Times (AZ) (11/13, 66K) reports that Diné C.A.R.E has "protested the tribe's acquisition of Navajo Mine for numerous reasons, including pressuring tribal leaders to wait for the findings of a comprehensive environmental impact statement of the entire mine site and Four Corners Power Plant."

BLM TO CONSIDER ALTERNATE NORTH FORK PLAN. The Montrose (CO) Press (11/8, 17K) reports that the BLM has "agreed to consider oil and gas lease opponents' suggestions for the agency's ongoing resource management plan revision." According to the article, "although proponents of the 'North Fork Alternative' plan acknowledge a long road ahead, the agency's decision is seen by them as a positive sign."

COMPANY PUTS GRAND CANYON URANIUM MINE WORK ON HOLD. The Christian Science Monitor (11/7, Fonseca, 540K) reports that "a uranium mining company that was sinking a shaft for a mine south of Grand Canyon National Park has put the work on hold, citing market conditions and the expense of litigation." Energy Fuels Resources Inc. said "the operation will be on standby until December 2014 or until a ruling is issued in a federal case challenging the US Forest Service's decision to allow development of the Canyon Mine near Tusayan."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPR-A LEASE SALE DRAWS $2.9 MILLION IN WINNING BIDS. Additional coverage of the NPR-A lease sale was provided by the Columbus (IN) Republic (11/8, 80K) and the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (11/8, 51K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE DIRECTOR SALERNO SEES GROWING SAFETY CULTURE. Reuters (11/8, Seba, Hays) reports that BSEE Director Brian Salerno says the effort to avert another disaster like 2010's Macondo well blowout may never be finished, and that experts at a national laboratory are helping it model deepwater risks. At the Reuters Global Commodities Summit in Houston, Salerno said, "What we mean when we talk about safety culture is that it really takes root and is built into the actual business processes of the companies." He added that BSEE is working to introduce "an additional focus on how we manage risk, collectively."

Reagan-Era Interior Official Criticizes Demise Of Minerals Management Service. In his column for the Washington Examiner (11/8, Arnold, 319K), Ron Arnold asked William Perry Pendley, the Interior Department's deputy assistant secretary of energy and minerals during the Reagan years, about his thoughts on "the recent demise" of the Minerals Management Service, "which he helped create." Pendley said, "It came as no surprise. It's the same power play as Obama's war on coal – to make energy so expensive that no one can use it." Pendley explained, "The MMS made the federal outer continental shelf oil and gas program efficient, so OCS oil and gas was less expensive to produce – the opposite of Obama's goal – and that made it a target."

TEXAS UNIVERSITIES TO LAUNCH OFFSHORE SAFETY CENTER. FuelFix (11/7, 7K) reports that the University of Houston, Texas A&M, and the University of Texas are set to launch a new Ocean Energy Safety Institute using $5 million in funds from the Federal government. The announcement came from the Interior Department on Thursday. The new institute won't have an industry regulatory role, FuelFix notes. However, it "dovetails with other efforts launched since the 2010 oil spill, including a Center for Offshore safety created by the American Petroleum Institute to foster best practices for the industry."

Also reporting on the story are the San Antonio Express-News (11/8, Dlouhy, 2.26M) and the Rigzone (11/8, 12K).

ANALYSIS CRITICAL OF PROPOSED COASTAL STATE OFFSHORE ROYALTY PAYMENTS. FuelFix (11/8, 7K) reports that a new analysis to be released on Friday by the Center for American Progress says a proposal in Congress "to give coastal states a greater share of government royalties tied to oil and gas drilling would cost taxpayers more than $49 billion" over the next 30 years. The bill, proposed by Sens. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) received a hearing in July. The CAP argues that Congress shouldn't send more offshore drilling revenues to coastal states, but should instead use the money for permanent funds to the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as "create an energy security trust" to pay for clean energy research.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING GROUP SAYS WATER OFFICIALS PURPOSELY DISREGARDED ISSUES. The Stockton (CA) Record (11/7, 123K) reports that "the summer of 2013 was a bad one for fish in the San Joaquin River Delta, and California Sportfishing Protection Alliance Executive Director Bill Jennings says state water pollution cops exacerbated the situation by quietly promising they wouldn't enforce state water quality standards." In particular, Jennings "points to a May 29 letter from California Water Quality Control Board Delta Watermaster Craig Wilson to top officials for the State Water Project and the California operations of the US Bureau of Reclamation." In that letter, Wilson said "he would 'not object or take any action' if the two agencies took measures to hold water back in reservoirs and allow increased salinity in the water Delta farmers use for irrigation."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Lompoc (CA) Record (11/8, 11K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

PRESIDENT OBAMA TO HOST NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES IN WASHINGTON. KOTA-TV Rapid City, SD (11/8, 890) reports that President Barack Obama will host the White House Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of the Interior on Nov. 13. According to the Indian Health Service, "the conference will provide leaders from the 566 federally recognized tribes the chance to speak with the president and members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs."

Also reporting on the story is KELO-TV Sioux Falls, SD (11/8, 25K).

APPRAISAL FOUNDATION SAYS ALLOTTEES WILL GET FAIR MARKET VALUE UNDER COBELL. The Navajo Times (AZ) (11/13, 66K) reports that "owners of fractionated American Indian allotted land can rest assured that they will get fair market value should they choose to sell their claims back to the Department of the Interior under the Cobell Settlement," according to the Appraisal Foundation, which "last week released a review of the Interior Department's valuation plan for the buyback program." In a statement, Kevin Washburn, assistant

secretary for Indian Affairs, said that the review "confirms that the steps we are taking to determine fair market value for offers to landowners are cost-effective and conform to the best practices for valuation." Washbum promised a "transparent process to provide fair market value to tribal landowners."

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE APPROVES TRIBAL CASINO AGREEMENT. The Boston Herald (11/8, 643K) reports that the Massachusetts Senate "signed off Thursday on a revised casino compact between Gov. Deval Patrick and the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe." The article notes that "the compact between Patrick and the Mashpee must be approved by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, which last year rejected an earlier agreement that guaranteed the state 21.5 percent of gambling revenues from a tribal casino. " According to the article, "under the revised compact, the tribe would give the state 17 percent of its gambling revenues if its casino is the only gambling facility in the southeast region, and 21 percent if it winds up as the only casino built in the state."

Also reporting on the story are the Taunton (MA) Gazette (11/8, 36K), the Springfield (MA) Republican (11/8, 286K), and the Cape Cod (MA) Times (11/7, 92K).

Top National News:

OBAMA APOLOGIZES TO THOSE LOSING HEALTH COVERAGE DUE TO ACA. At the opening of NBC Nightly News (11/7, lead story, 4:35, 7.86M), Brian Williams said, "We are all about to hear the President of the United States apologize...for the fact that his promise to the American people that if they like their current health insurance they can keep it has not held true for all." Chuck Todd, who interviewed President Obama earlier on Thursday, went on to report that "the President's apparent broken promise about folks keeping the plans they like has been weighing heavily on the entire White House, so it was a chastened commander in chief that I spoke with." President Obama was shown saying, "We're talking about five percent of the population who are in what's called the individual market," and "even though it only affects a small amount of the population, it means a lot to them, obviously, when they get this letter [informing them that their health insurance has been] canceled – and I am deeply concerned about it and I've assigned my team to see what can we do."

The New York Times (11/8, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an article titled "Apologizing, Obama Yields to Criticism of Health Law," reports that in that interview, the President "bowed...to mounting criticism that he had misled the American people about the health care law, apologizing to people who were forced off their health insurance plans by the Affordable Care Act despite 'assurances from me.'" The Times says the President's "decision to apologize...reflects the increasingly dire political position that the president is in."

As does the Times, nearly every report on the President's interview includes some variation of the words "apology" or "sorry" in the title. Under the headline "President Obama Apologizes To Americans Who Are Losing Their Health Insurance," the Washington Post (11/8, A1, Eilperin, 4.28M) reports that Thursday's interview represented an "unusual act of contrition for a president who has come under heavy criticism for misleading the public." According to the Post, "presidents rarely say 'I'm sorry' in public, even when acknowledging missteps," and, on Thursday, President Obama "only did so after Chuck Todd...pressed him on the point."

Scott Pelley, on the CBS Evening News (11/7, story 6, 0:50, 5.58M), said the President "apologized for one of the biggest emerging problems with the [Affordable Care Act]." According to Pelley, "More than three million Americans have been told that they will lose their health insurance plans, even though the President has repeated for years that Americans who liked their plans could keep them."

In a distillation of the President's remarks on NBC that is representative of the coverage last night and this morning, Roll Call's (11/8, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 87K) Steven Dennis writes that the President, "after weeks of trying to finesse the issue of millions of Americans losing their health insurance plans despite the oft-repeated promise that they could keep them if they liked them...has apologized." Dennis also notes that the President's "apology" follows a Wednesday White House meeting in which "Senate Democrats facing re-election in 2014 vented anger at the Obamacare roll-out."

The National Journal's (11/8, Fournier, Subscription Publication, 427K) Ron Fournier, who, in a widely noted column earlier this week, had accused the President of "lying" about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on the individual market, says "the NBC interview was full of excuses," and urges the President to "to stop blaming

Republicans, insurance companies, and the media – to stop making excuses and shading the truth." On the other hand, Andrew Sullivan (11/8, 27K), who on Wednesday had counseled the President to "stop digging" and "be as candid as you possibly can" in acknowledging that he "over-sold" the ACA, says the President "did exactly the right thing" in his NBC interview.

Todd, in an online piece for NBC News (11/7, Todd, 6.79M), noted that it has been reported that the Administration "has known since the summer of 2010 that millions of Americans could lose their insurance under the law" despite the President's "repeated assurances" to the contrary. According to Todd, "Guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services dating back to July 2010 estimated that '40 to 67 percent' of the 14 million consumers in that marketplace could lose their policies."

Under the headline "Obama Says He's Sorry Americans Losing Insurance," the AP (11/8, Pace) reports that while the President "says he's sorry Americans are losing health insurance plans he repeatedly said they could keep," he "stopped short of apologizing for making those promises in the first place." The AP adds that "critics" of the President "have accused him of misleading the public about changes that were coming under the law, which remains unpopular with many Americans."

USA Today (11/8, A1, Madhani, 5.82M) says the President was responding to "a steady stream of criticism as millions of Americans on the individual insurance market received notices that their plans do not meet the minimum benefit requirements set under the ACA and will be canceled." USA Today says the President's apology "mark[s] a significant change in tone following more than a week of his aides resisting suggestions that the president misled Americans." USA Today notes that Senate Minority Leader McConnell "dismissed the apology, and called on Obama to embrace a bipartisan legislative effort in the Senate that would allow those getting cancellation notices to retain their coverage." McConnell is quoted as saying, "If the president is truly sorry for breaking his promises to the American people, he'll do more than just issue a half-hearted apology on TV."

Politico (11/8, Epstein, 467K) notes that on Monday, at an Organizing for Action event, the President "was far less conciliatory than he was on Thursday," saying, "If you had one of these plans before the Affordable Care Act came into law and you really liked that plan, what we said was you can keep it if it hasn't changed since the law passed." According to Politico, "what he'd said since fighting for ACA's passage was only the first part of that line."

Bloomberg News (11/8, Lerer, 1.91M) says the President's "public approval ratings have been driven down by" HealthCare.gov's "flawed" launch "and stories about canceled policies." Bloomberg goes on to report that the President had "previously accused his critics of being 'grossly misleading' about how the law works and said those people being thrown off plans that don't meet the law's standards will be getting better insurance coverage."

The Los Angeles Times (11/8, Parsons, Hennessey, 3.07M) reports that on Thursday, the President "suggested he was open to changes in parts of the law but did not offer specifics," and "also promised to find a solution for those who are losing plans they like and paying a higher premium not offset by government subsidies."

Ruth Marcus, in a column for the Washington Post (11/8, Marcus, 4.28M) that points to the potential benefits of the ACA nevertheless says the President had been "peddling a misleading claim" before "weaselly rewording...his pledge" earlier in the week, which she says "insults anyone who heard what he said repeatedly."

Hagan Backs Landrieu Bill That Would Delay Cancellations. McClatchy (11/8, Schoof, 95K) reports that on Thursday, Sen. Kay Hagan "joined a push by Senate Democrats to get the Obama administration to make sure that people who like their health insurance can keep it." McClatchy says Sen. Mary Landrieu' "Keeping the Affordable Care Act Promise Act," which Hagan now says she supports, "would let people keep their current health plans as long as they made the payments, even if the policies don't meet coverage standards under the law." McClatchy notes that both Hagan faces a reelection campaign in state where the ACA is "isn't popular," but "pushed back against the idea that the health care plan would cause political trouble for her next year."

AP Analysis Identifies Potential Upside To Millions Of Canceled Policies. Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, in an analysis for the AP (11/8, Alonso-Zaldivar) titled "Canceled policies could be a plus for new market," says while it is true that "millions of people who currently buy their own health insurance coverage are losing it next year," it is

also the case that "experts say the resulting shift of those people into the new health insurance markets...would bring in customers already known to insurers, reducing the overall financial risks for each state's insurance pool." Alonso-Zaldivar says "that's painful for those who end up paying higher premiums," but "it could save money for the taxpayers who are subsidizing the new coverage."

According to The Hill (11/8, Sink, 194K), "Some insurance companies have...announced they would not continue to offer existing plans, saying that it is too administratively burdensome to manage plans that do not satisfy basic coverage requirements mandated by" the ACA, and, "instead, they've offered consumers more expensive plans."

Charles Krauthammer, in his column for the Washington Post (11/8, Krauthammer, 4.28M), says, "The more honest Obamacare advocates are...admitting that to make this omelet you have to break 8 million eggs – roughly the number of people with individual plans who are expected to lose them."

SENATE PASSES ENDA, BUT HOUSE PROSPECTS APPEAR BLEAK. The Senate voted Thursday to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. While gay rights advocates are hailing the bipartisan 64-32 Senate vote as a victory, the bill has dim prospects in the House, where House Speaker Boehner has indicated a vote may not even occur. The Senate vote gets heavy print coverage this morning. Almost universally, the reports cast the vote as a major step forward for the gay rights movement but note that House passage is unlikely. The CBS Evening News (11/7, story 4, 0:30, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that while supporters said the measure "would allow workers to love whom they chose without the threat of being fired," opponents argued that "it could force employers to violate their own religious beliefs."

The AP (11/8, Cassata) says the vote reflects "Americans' increasing acceptance of gays," and notes that while gay rights advocates praised the vote, "as a historic step," it "could prove short-lived," as Boehner, who opposes the measure, "has signaled that the Republican-led House is unlikely to even vote." Boehner claims the measure "is unnecessary and would touch off costly, lawsuits for businesses."

The Washington Post (11/8, O'Keefe, 4.28M) calls the vote "another milestone victory for the gay rights movement that has been gaining favor in the courts and electoral politics." However, like other reports this morning, the Post reports that the bill "faces a steep uphill climb in a GOP-controlled House still dominated by social conservatives." House GOP leaders "believe the measure is too broad and is unnecessary," and that "the people ENDA is intended to protect are already covered under existing federal, state and private workplace protection laws."

Politico (11/8, Everett, 467K) reports that the Senate vote was a "poignant moment for gay rights activists," who saw the measure fail by one vote in the chamber in 1996. Politico also notes that Democrats disagree with House Republicans' assessment of the bill, "and noted that Boehner's home state of Ohio is a state where such discrimination is not prohibited." Senate Majority Leader Reid said, "The time has come for Congress to pass a federal law that ensures all citizens, regardless of where they live, can go to work not afraid of who they are." Reid expressed concern that ENDA "will be put into the same vault where Boehner has shelved bipartisan immigration, farm and Internet sales tax bills."

Roll Call (11/8, Shiner, Subscription Publication, 87K) calls the vote "a tempered win for gay rights advocates who still need a reluctant, GOP-controlled House to take up and pass the bill." Roll Call adds that the bill's prospects in the House "appear dim."

The Los Angeles Times (11/8, Memoli, 3.07M) reports that gay rights advocates "hailed the bipartisan vote" and again called on Boehner to allow a vote in the House. The Times notes that House Minority Leader Pelosi "said this week that '95 percent' of Democrats stand ready to vote for the Senate-passed bill in the House, and that just 10% of Republicans would need to add their votes to ensure passage."

The Wall Street Journal (11/8, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that bill supporters expressed optimism that the House could vote on it, especially if it is added as an amendment to other legislation such as the defense authorization bill. The Journal also notes that Democrats say blocking the measure could hurt Republicans in the next election.

Obama Urges House Republicans To Follow Senate's Example. The New York Times (11/8, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) describes the Senate vote as a "bipartisan show of support that is rare for any social issue," but notes that "nothing is guaranteed in the House." The Times also reports that the President hailed the Senate vote, "and urged House Republican leaders to bring the bill to the floor for a vote," saying in a statement, "One party in one house of Congress should not stand in the way of millions of Americans who want to go to work each day and simply be judged by the job they do. ... Now is the time to end this kind of discrimination in the workplace, not enable it."

Politico (11/8, Epstein, 467K) reports that the President said the Senate's passage of the measure "is 'a tribute' to those who have fought for gay rights for decades." The President said it is now "up to the House of Representatives," adding that the measure "has the overwhelming support of the American people, including a majority of Republican voters, as well as many corporations, small businesses and faith communities. They recognize that our country will be more just and more prosperous when we harness the God-given talents of every individual."

Mormon Church Was a "Powerful Ally" In Senate's Passage Of ENDA. The New York Times (11/8, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Mormon Church has been an "unconventional and powerful ally" at "nearly every critical juncture" as the Senate bill moved toward passage. The measure was "a priority" of Senate Majority Leader Reid, "who, as the Mormon Church's highest-ranking member in the government, put the nondiscrimination measure at the top of the Senate's agenda once the government reopened last month." Moreover, Sen. Orrin Hatch, who once opposed the bill, "changed his mind earlier this year after Gordon H. Smith, a fellow Mormon and former Republican senator, convinced him there was nothing in it that violated church doctrine." And, Sen. Dean Heller, "who has taught Sunday school at his Mormon church, provided the crucial 60th vote to break a filibuster." The Times notes that "all but two of the Senate's seven Mormons voted yes."

GDP SHOWS "SURPRISING" STRENGTH, BUT LONG-TERM TROUBLE SEEN. Media coverage of economic news on Thursday was sharply split – while the Twitter IPO went extremely well, the rest of the news from the markets was grim. In addition, while the Q3 GDP report was better than expected, underlying data is seen as a sign of economic weakness going forward.

The AP (11/8, Crutsinger) reports that the Commerce Department announced on Thursday that the GDP rose at a 2.8 percent annual rate in the third quarter, showing "surprising" growth. However, "much of the gain came from a buildup in company stockpiles," while consumer and business spending slowed, a "a cautionary sign for the current quarter and early 2014."

The New York Times (11/8, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the economy was "bolstered by inventory investments and a narrowing trade deficit," but economists "warned the gains could be fleeting." The 2.8 percent rate was "well above" the 2.0 percent rate expected by economists. The Times says that on the debt side, consumer spending in the 3rd quarter rose "just" 1.5 percent, "well below the 2.3 percent pace of the first quarter and the slowest advance since the second quarter of 2011."

The Wall Street Journal (11/8, Shah, Knox, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the rate of growth was up from 2.5 percent in the 2nd quarter and was the quickest pace of expansion in a year. However, the Journal warns that a substantial portion of the growth came from a buildup in inventories held by businesses, and that is unlikely to continue if consumer demand does not rise. Excluding business inventories, the core GDP rose at a 2.0 percent rate, down from a 2.1 percent core rate in .

The Los Angeles Times (11/8, Lee, 3.07M) reports on the positive top-line of the report, but says that "details" were "less encouraging." The Times says that "many analysts" saw the overall report "as another indication that the economy is still struggling to break out of a four-year-long recovery that has been slow, bumpy and marred by unexpected shocks, the most recent of which was the federal government shutdown."

Twitter Soars On IPO, But Markets Overall Sink. The AP (11/8, Rothwell, Sweet) reports that in the stock market on Thursday, Twitter "popped" bu the rest of the market "dropped." Twitter "wowed investors with a 73 percent surge on its first day of trading Thursday." However, the Dow Jones Industrial Average "retreated" from Wednesday's record high, falling 152.90 points to 15,593.98. The S&P 500 fell 23.34 points to 1,747.15. Meanwhile, the NASDAQ Composite Index fell 74.61 points to 3,857.33. The Q3 report is blamed for the drop, as,

given its strength, "traders worried that the Federal Reserve could cut back on its economic stimulus."

ABC World News (11/7, story 3, 3:10, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported that Twitter is "soaring on the first day of trading as a public company," far surpassing the market's expectations. ABC (Muir) looks at whether it will boost the economy generally, reporting that long-term investment could pay off for individual investors, as Amazon, Apple and Groupon have.

NBC Nightly News (11/7, story 4, 2:15, Williams, 7.86M) reported that Twitter share prices rose from $26 to "almost $45." CBS (Quintanilla) added, "Already Twitter has more than 230 million users around the world, 76 percent of them on mobile devices" and "a whopping 500 million tweets are sent each day." However, despite the service's popularity, "we may not know for years if it makes money. That's because it's plowing cash back into the business to get more users," a "high risk business."

The CBS Evening News (11/7, story 2, 2:10, Pelley, 5.58M) reported Twitter "charges advertisers to insert ads in users' fees" but "the company still hasn't made money. It lost almost $65 million last quarter and doesn't forecast a profit until 2015."

The AP (11/8, Ortutay) reports shares of Twitter "instantly" jumped "more than 70 percent above their offering price in a dazzling debut that exceeded even Wall Street's lofty hopes." By the market close, the company "was valued at $31 billion – nearly as much as Yahoo Inc., an Internet icon from another era, and just below Kraft Foods, the grocery conglomerate founded more than a century ago." Overall, the performance "seemed to affirm the bright prospects for Internet companies, especially those focused on mobile users."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/8, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the success of Twitter's IPO shows that the US continues to produce vibrant new companies and lead the world in providing services in the digital age. Looking at the company's prospects, the Journal expects that they are good in the long-term. The Journal also adds a shot at Healthcare.gov, saying that Twitter hadn't crashed despite all the media attention.

October Jobs Report Due Tomorrow. Politico (11/8, Cirilli, 467K) reports that on Friday, the Department of Labor will report jobs numbers for October. However, a Politico report says that the shutdown is likely to skew the numbers.

Krugman Says Efforts To Control Debt Crippling Economy. In his column for the New York Times (11/8, Krugman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Paul Krugman writes that while the recession officially ended in 2009, "nobody would argue that we've had anything like a full recovery." Krugman says that what "passes these days for sound policy is in fact a form of economic self-mutilation, which will cripple America for many years to come," according to "researchers from the Federal Reserve." Krugman blames efforts to reduce Federal spending.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Judge Scheindlin's Case."*** The New York Times (11/8, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that "the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit erred badly last week when it stayed the remedies ordered by Judge Shira Scheindlin of Federal District Court to correct the civil rights violations associated with New York City's stop-and-frisk policy," as well as "also unjustly damaged Judge Scheindlin's reputation when it removed her from the case." The Times argues that the "court ignored a rule that requires judges accused of improper conduct to receive notice and an opportunity to respond," and "worse, the panel put on hold the corrective measures on stop-and-frisk that the public wants and needs."

"Lessons From European Prisons." An editorial in the New York Times (11/8, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues that a new report from the non-profit group the Prison Law Office and the Vera Institute of Justice, based on research by a group of US corrections officials, judges, prosecutors and public defenders, who visited prisons in Germany and the Netherlands, "suggests that European sentencing and penal practices may provide useful guidance in the growing effort to reform an American prison system buckling under its own weight." The Times notes that while direct comparisons "are hard to make, and some European practices would not be workable with violent prisoners," the report "emphasizes that many of the principles are applicable especially to lower-level, nonviolent offenders." The Times argues that as states consider reforms, "they would be wise to pay close

attention to European counterparts."

"Religion, Contraception, And Bosses' Rights." The New York Times (11/8, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the Affordable Care Act's "mandate that employer health plans cover birth control has sparked dozens of lawsuits," and so far, "a handful of federal appeals courts have ruled on the question, with a few correctly rejecting the specious religious liberty claims," although the latest ruling "goes the wrong way." The Times argues that "the Supreme Court is expected to decide by Thanksgiving whether it will take up the issue," and "its duty is to resolve the conflicting opinions by firmly rejecting the dangerous view that private employers can use their religious belief to discriminate against women."

"Labels For Controversial Ingredients." The New York Times (11/8, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that voluntary labeling of genetically modified food is a better course of action than mandatory labeling, as required by a Washington state measure that partial results say voters have rejected, or the food industry's strategy of "fighting these initiatives hard." The article claims that consumers want to understand the contents of the food they purchase, but "the vast majority may well shrug at the labels and buy the products anyway" since they have previously done so without harm.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"School Reform Is Working."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/7, 4.28M) write that "the unassailable message" of the District of Columbia's improved scores is that the city's school reform "is working." The Post calls for the critics of those reforms to take note, adding that some "owe apologies for their slanderous suggestions that school officials were cheating." The Post calls for "more open-mindedness" on such reforms, concluding that "these results show that the reformers are on the right track."

"Affirmative Discrimination." The Washington Post (11/8, 4.28M) editorializes that a recent decision of the Dominican Republic's highest court to strip ethnic Haitian migrants of Dominican citizenship is an "unconscionable decision" borne of racism that will leave the Haitians stateless. The court ordered authorities to "comb through birth records, back to 1929, to weed out ethnic Haitians no longer entitled to citizenship." The editorial called upon US officials to work with their Dominican counterparts to "press the issue" and not ignore the injustice.

"Cuccinelli Has Himself To Blame." The Washington Post (11/8, Board, 4.28M), in an editorial on Virginia Gov.-elect Terry McAuliffe's victory on Tuesday, says Republican Ken Cuccinelli's "record had nothing to do with job-creation or the state's economic well-being," and was, instead, "mainly about bashing homosexuals, harassing illegal immigrants, crusading against abortion, denying climate change, flirting with birthers and opposing gun control."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"#Freedom."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/8, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the success of Twitter's IPO shows that the US continues to produce vibrant new companies and lead the world in providing services in the digital age. Looking at the company's prospects, the Journal expects that they are good in the long-term. The Journal also adds a shot at Healthcare.gov, saying that Twitter hadn't crashed despite all the media attention.

"School Reform Delivers." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/8, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writes that Education Secretary Duncan's positive words on the National Assessment of Educational Progress only apply to the states that have enacted teacher accountability and other reforms, adding that the slight improvements in the national averages aren't worth crowing over. The Journal attributes the District of Columbia's improvements to teacher evaluations and the end of tenure, and Tennessee's to eliminating collective bargaining, as well as evaluations.

"Europe And The Zero Bound." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/8, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that the European Central Bank's policy until now has been very accommodative and worries that the central bank's dovish policy has eased pressure on European governments to reform. The Journal argues that those worried about deflation will next pressure the bank to pursue unconventional monetary policy, but says that ECB President Mario Draghi should continue to focus on the bank's mandate of price stability.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Iran Nuclear Deal Expected As Early As Friday
FDA Says Trans Fats Aren't Safe
Twitter IPO: Relief, Riches And A $25 Billion Finish
Northern Europe Beckons to Desperate Syrians

New York Times:
Rules To Require Equal Coverage for Mental Ills
West And Iran Seen As Nearing A Nuclear Deal
FDA Ruling Would All But Eliminate Trans Fats
Swastikas, Slurs And Torment In Town's Schools
Cut in Food Stamps Forces Hard Choices On Poor
Hollywood's Ready To Cast Clinton In Top Role
Twitter Shares Make Smooth Market Debut

Washington Post:
Obama Apologizes Over Promise On Healthcare Law
Big Jump For D.C. Kids On National Test
Moles Inside Navy Aided Huge Fraud, Officials Say
FDA To Banish Trans Fats
Iran Is Offered Deal For Freeze
Furloughs Leave Office Flooded By Appeals

Financial Times:
Euro Drops On ECB's Interest Rate Cut
Twitter Shares Surge 73% On Market Debut
Russia Slashes Long-Term Growth Forecast
Currencies Market Probe Shifts To The US
Netflix Teams Up With Marvel
LME Tackles Long Warehouse Queues
Draghi Proves He Is A Man Of Action

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Philippines-Super Typhoon; FDA-Trans Fats; Wall Street-Twitter; Concussions-Tony Dorsett; Meteor Sightings.
CBS: FDA-Trans Fats; Wall Street-Twitter; Economy; Antidiscrimination Bill; Military-Sexual Assaults; Obama Interview; NFL Bullying Incident; Great Britain-Spy Hearings; Philippines-Super Typhoon; Haiti-Cholera Epidemic; Toronto-Rob Ford Controversy; UK-Royal Couple; Meteor Sightings.
NBC: Obama Interview; FDA-Trans Fats; Philippines-Super Typhoon; Wall Street-Twitter; Iran-Nuclear Program Talks; Military-Sexual Assaults; Concussions-Tony Dorsett; Meteor Sightings; European Satellite To Fall This Weekend.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Philippines-Super Typhoon; Great Britain-Spy Hearings; Obama-ACA; Senate-Antidiscrimination Bill; Mississippi Abduction Case.
CBS: Iran-Nuclear Program Talks; Obama-ACA; Senate-Antidiscrimination Bill; FDA-Trans Fats; Sports-College Football Results; Wall Street.
NPR: Obama-ACA; Senate-Antidiscrimination Bill; Iran-Nuclear Program Talks; Philippines-Super Typhoon; French Credit Rating; NATO Military Drills Increase; Louisiana-Fire Incident.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – Departs the White House en route Joint Base Andrews, South Lawn, open press; departs Joint Base Andrews, Out-of-Town Travel Pool Coverage; arrives New Orleans, Louisiana, Louis Armstrong International Airport, open press; tours the Port of New Orleans, port of New Orleans, out-of-town travel pool Coverage; delivers remarks, port of New Orleans; open to pre-credentialed media; departs New Orleans, Louisiana, Louis Armstrong International Airport, open press; arrives Miami, Florida, Miami International Airport, open press; attends a DNC event, Private Residence, Coral Gables, Florida, closed press; delivers remarks at a DSCC event, Private Residence, Miami, Florida, print pool for remarks only; delivers remarks at a DSCC event, private residence, Miami, Florida, print pool for remarks only. Notes: Principal Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest will gaggle aboard Air Force One

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – In the morning, the Vice President will attend meetings at the White House. The Vice President will attend an event for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in Baltimore, Maryland. The Vice President will deliver remarks at the Second Annual Louis L. Redding Benefit and Awards Gala in Wilmington, Delaware. This event at the Hotel du Pont is open press.

MICHELLE OBAMA – The First Lady will host a workshop at the White House for high school students from DC, New York and Boston about careers in film.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: Nov. 1 – 12. – The House will be in recess for a Constituent Work Period until 2 pm on Tuesday, November 12th.
Other: NATIONAL ARCHIVES – IRAQI JEWISH ARTIFACTS – The National Archives will unveil a new exhibition, "Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage." The exhibit details the dramatic recovery of historic materials relating to the Jewish community in Iraq from a flooded basement in Saddam Husseins intelligence headquarters, and the National Archives ongoing work in support of US Government efforts to preserve these materials. Video preview online (www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZmP0uwzEII) Location: Lawrence F. OBrien Gallery of the National Archives Building. Contacts: Public affairs 202-357-5300. Notes: Background On May 6, 2003, just days after the Coalition forces took over Baghdad, 16 American soldiers from Mobile Exploitation Team Alpha, a group assigned to search for nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, entered Saddam Husseins flooded intelligence building. In the basement, under four feet of water, they found thousands of books and documents relating to the Jewish community of Iraq – materials that had come from synagogues and Jewish organizations in Baghdad.

VIETNAM WOMEN VETERANS – Nov. 8 – 11. Full agenda at: http://www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org/upcoming.phpstorytelling2011. Highlights: 1 p.m. American Red Cross Memorial Service in the Memorial Garden of the ARC Headquarters.

US CHAMBER – GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The US Chambers Global Intellectual Property Center hosts the "Global IP Summit: Enhancing our Today, Building our Tomorrow." Location: US Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW. Contacts: Trinh Nguyen (tnguyen@uschamber.com)

G2 AT GW – US CHINA ECONOMIC RELATIONS – 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. G2 at GW: 6th Annual Conference on US-China Economic Relations and China's Economic Development. Keynote: Steve Barnett, Division Chief – China, IMF. Session 1: China-US Trade: Jobs and Competition; Ann Harrison, Professor of Management, Pennsylvania; Mary Lovely, Professor of Economics, Syracuse; Peter Schott, Professor of Economics, Yale. Session 2: Multinational Firms in the US and China; Lee Branstetter, Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon; Wenjie Chen, Assistant Professor of International Business, GW. Session 3: China's Growth and Financial Liberalization; Xiaodong Zhu, Professor of Economics, University of Toronto; Chang-Tai Hsieh, Professor of Economics, University of Chicago. Session 4: China's Economic and Political Development; James Kung, Senior Fellow, Hkust; Yan Wang, Visiting Professor, GW. http://www.elliottschool.org/events/calendar.cfm?fuseaction=ViewMonthDetail&yr=2013&mon=112219. Location: Lindner Family Commons, Room 602 1957 E Street NW. Notes: RSVP: http://go.gwu.edu/2013chinaatgw

NASA – ORBIT BRIEFING – 8:50 a.m. Nine International Space Station crew members discuss their mission with reporters from around the world during a joint crew news conference to be broadcast live on NASA Television. Contacts: Joshua Buck (jbuck@nasa.gov), 202-358-1100.

FUTURE OF NAVY OPERATIONS – GREENERT – SEQUESTRATION – 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. IISS-US Policy Makers Series, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, US Navy. http://www.iiss.org/en/events/events-s-calendar/future-of-us-navy-operations-922e. Location: IISS-US, 2121 K Street NW, Suite 801. Contacts: RSVP to: events-washington@iiss.org (202 659 1490)

JAPANESE STONE LANTERN UNVEILING – 11 a.m. Japanese Stone Lantern Plaza Unveiling and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. Participants: H.E. Kenichiro Sasae, Ambassador of Japan; Superintendent Bob Vogel, National Mall and Memorial Parks; Caroline Cunningham, President, Trust for the National Mall; Tsunehiko Yanagihara, President, Japan Commerce Association of Washington, D.C. (JCAW). Location: Japanese Lantern at the Tidal Basin, Independence Avenue and 17th Street SW. Contacts: Farrah Kim farrahkim@rational360.com (202-568-8986, 310-408-8335)

GI BILL – ONE MILLIONTH USER – 11:30 a.m. Telephone news conference with Dr. Jill Biden and VA officials announcing the Post-9/11 GI Bill one millionth beneficiary and the success of the program since its inception in 2009. Speakers: Dr. Jill Biden, Second Lady of the United States; Allison Hickey, Undersecretary for Benefits, Dept. of Veterans Affairs; Steven Ferraro of Edison, N.J., one millionth user of Post-9/11 GI Bill. MEDIA DIAL IN: (800) 553-0351 and ask for the "GI Bill" call. On the Net: ttp://www.gibill.va.gov

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION – 3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Senior US officials and nongovernmental experts will explore US domestic and international efforts at curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors (Terrorists and other criminals). Speakers: Simon Limage, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation, US Department of State; Rick Cupitt, UNSCR 1540 Coordinator, US Department of State; Johan Bergenas, Deputy Director, Stimson's Managing Across Boundaries Initiative. Moderator: Brian Finlay, Managing Director, Stimson's Managing Across Boundaries Initiative. Location: The Stimson Center, 1111 19th St., NW -12th Floor. Contacts: Rich Robinson Communications@stimson.org (202-478-3419)

FEDERAL RESERVE – 3:30 p.m. The Federal Reserve holds panel discussions on "The Crisis as a Classic Financial Panic." Contacts: Ismaila Dieng (IMF), 202-623-9758. Notes: Media must register in advance with contact. Event will be webcast live at: http://www.imf.org/external/np/res/seminars/2013/arc/

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND CONFERENCE – BERNANKE – 3:30 p.m. International Monetary Fund Conference: Fourteenth Jacques Polak Annual Research Conference with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on The Crisis as a Classic Financial Panic. Contact: Ismaila Dieng, International Monetary Fund, (202) 623-9758 or idieng@imf.org (Media must register in advance). http://www.imf.org/external/np/res/seminars/2013/arc/

JUDGE OKUN SWEAR-IN – 4 p.m. Superior Court Judge Investiture of Robert Okun. Speakers: DC Court of Appeals Senior Judge Frank E. Schwelb, oath of office; Assistant US Attorney Anthony Quinn and PDS Counsel Laura Hankins. Location: Moultrie Courthouse, Atrium, 500 Indiana Avenue, NW. Contacts: Leah Gurowitz ((202) 879-1700). On the Net: www.dccourts.gov

ELLIOTT SCHOOL – AMBASSADOR KING – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. "Prospects for US-Taiwan Relations" with Pu-Tsung King, Ambassador for the R.O.C. – an evening with the Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the United States, Pu-Tsung King. Elliott School Dean, Mike Brown will give introductory remarks. http://www.elliottschool.org/events/calendar.cfm?fuseaction=ViewMonthDetail&yr=2013&mon=112219. Location: City View Room, 7th Floor, 1957 E Street NW. Notes: RSVP: http://go.gwu.edu/ambassadorking

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, I don't know if it is an honor. He appeared on the cover of the new 'Time' magazine. This is the headline – it says – 'The Elephant in the Room,' which could be a reference to the fact that he is a Republican and the elephant is their symbol. But let's be honest, it isn't".

David Letterman: "[Referring to New York City mayoral election] Yes, 22 percent of register voters of New York City citizens voted for the mayor. Twenty-two percent. I'll tell you why. It's more fun to vote if your mayor's on crack. More fun to vote."

David Letterman: "The new guy, De Blasio, he was so tired from celebrating or something he missed an important budget meeting. The new guy did. He slept through an important budget meeting, the new guy did. And I said have you tried crack? What's the matter with you? But it reminds me of George W. Bush who slept through eight years it in the White House."

Jon Stewart: "As you know, all week we have been following Toronto Mayor Rob Ford as he's been filming the footage for what we assume will be his forthcoming VH1 'Behind the Music' episode. He was riding high as Mayor of Toronto. But how high, no one had any idea."

Jimmy Fallon: "Earlier this week, Joe Biden – what a nice guy – called Boston's Mayor-elect Marty Walsh to congratulate him on winning. But it turns out he called the wrong Marty Walsh. He called a dude named Marty Walsh who lives in Boston. But in Biden's defense, it's pretty hard to find a guy in Boston who isn't named Marty Walsh. It's like, 'Hey, you Marty Walsh? I'm Marty Walsh. Yeah, I work with your brother Marty Walsh.'"

Jay Leno: "You know, I was thinking about Thanksgiving today and I realized that's who we should put in charge of the Obamacare website. The Butterball Hotline people. You ever call them? They always pick up. They're friendly. They have all of the information you need. And they're used to dealing with big turkeys. So this thing would be fantastic."

Jay Leno: "The White House webpage still says – it still says this: 'If you like your healthcare plan, you can keep it.' well, we know that's not true. But, the White House said today they're trying to change it, they just can't log on."

Jay Leno: "You know, people are criticizing the latest issue of 'Time' magazine. ...They got Chris Christie. See the silhouette with the headline: 'The Elephant in the Room.' This is a real issue. No, that's the real issue. You know, people think, oh, it's kind of a jab. But, in their defense, I think they chose the least offensive title. Here's the other ones they had. Take a look. 'Chris Christie Having a Whale of a Time.' I didn't like that one. Then they have, 'Between a Rock and a Lard Place.' Yeah, that's not good. And 'Hail to the Chef.' Yeah, I don't think any of those...were appropriate."

Jay Leno: "Exit polls showed that Virginia's anti-oral sex candidate – remember the guy that was against oral sex? Ken Cuccinelli? ...Anyway, he won married women by nine percent. But he lost married men by 100 percent."

Jay Leno: "Well, I guess you heard this. Apparently, there is a huge crack problem in Toronto. Luckily, it's just confined to the Mayor's office."

Jay Leno: "As I'm sure you've heard by now, the mayor of Toronto, a man named Rob Ford, has admitted to smoking crack cocaine. But, you know, people should have seen it coming. There were signs. Like his last campaign slogan, 'Just say yes.'"

Jay Leno: "And voters in Colorado approved a 25 percent tax on recreational marijuana. Twenty-five percent. Now opponents of this tax say it will make marijuana too expensive. I just hope it doesn't cause people to start buying illegally grown marijuana."

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Outside Magazine: Sizing Up Sally Jewell

Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Nov 11, 2013 at 10:37 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Sally -

I hope your travels back to the left coast were safe and you're gearing up for a busy week here in DC with the WH Tribal Nations Conference.

To kick off the week, we've got a rather well-balanced, extremely well research, long-form, profile to share with you (pasted below) from the months that Bruce Barcott from Outside Magazine has been following you, interviewing you and paying attention to what you've been doing.

The piece we've been working on and you've been speaking to Barcott about for all these months is finally out - in the Dec '13 issue of Outside Mag - and the online version is below for you.

It appears he published before your National Press Club speech so I imagine there is some kicking himself going on that he wasn't able to add the key pieces of your conservation agenda to this article - however - he does capture your desire for re-connecting youth and the outdoors, and a well-balanced, all-of-the-above energy approach.

We'll be interested in your thoughts on this one - it's been in the works since you arrived!

Jessica

—

Outside Magazine: Sizing Up Sally Jewell

The new Interior Secretary has an impressive résumé. Oil geologist, banker, president of REI. But today's Washington is a landscape without maps, and in this age of climate change and keystone, the major battles are taking place over at the EPA and State. Is greatness still possible at Interior?

By: BRUCE BARCOTT



Here was a cabinet secretary whose adventure résumé rivaled her executive CV. She's climbed Antarctica's Vinson Massif, and she summited Mount Rainier the first of seven times at age 16.

The interior secretary recognized the jacket and boots I wore to her office. Four months earlier she'd been selling them.

"They let you in here wearing that?" Sally Jewell said, giving the once-over to my North Face soft shell and Zamberlan hiking boots.

Jewell, the former REI chief executive who is now in charge of one-fifth of the U.S. landmass, 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate, 1.7 billion acres of offshore territory, 401 national parks, 561 national wildlife refuges, 476 bureau of reclamation dams, 2,055 endangered or threatened species, and the maintenance of good relations with 566 American Indian tribes, smiled and led me into her working quarters.

"Holy shit," I couldn't help but blurt out.

The office of the Secretary of the Interior has long been one of the most formidable redoubts in the federal government. In scope the corner suite rivals the state of Montana

—if big sky Country were carpeted in royal blue.

"I know," Jewell said. "I'm still getting used to the size of it."

The same could be said of Jewell's new job, which the sinewy, silver-haired, 57-year-old executive took over in early April. In the 164-year history of the Interior Department, no incoming secretary has faced such a steep learning curve. Last December, she had nothing more pressing on her mind than the holiday sales figures at recreational Equipment Incorporated, the outdoor-gear cooperative she'd run for the past eight years. Then came a phone call from President Barack Obama, who offered an upgrade she couldn't refuse.

"This is the one job I would have left REI for," she told me. "I'm not sure there's another one out there."

If the offer was a surprise to Jewell, it was equally unexpected to members of the capital's chattering class, none of whom had Jewell on the list of likely successors toKen Salazar, Obama's first-term Interior boss. With zero political experience and an eclectic three-phase career (petroleum engineer, banker, outdoor retailer), Jewell gave everyone something to love—and to worry about. The American Petroleum Institute liked her oil-field experience. The Natural resources Defense Council saw (it hoped) a nominee with "the heart of an environmentalist and the know-how of a business woman."

For the outdoor industry, her appointment brought long-sought recognition of recreation's place on public lands. Here was a cabinet secretary whose adventure résumé rivaled her executive CV. She's climbed Antarctica's Vinson Massif, and she summited Mount Rainier the first of seven times at age 16. "This is a paradigm change, not just for our industry but for America," says Black Diamond CEO Peter Metcalf, who once shared a rope with Jewell on Liberty Bell, a classic climb in the North Cascades. "Secretary of the interior is traditionally a job given with a nod to industries like oil and gas or ranching. Today, much of the GNP on public lands comes from non-extractive industries like recreation, tourism, and ecological services." Now, Metcalf says, "politics have finally caught up with reality."

"You've got somebody who fundamentally gets the fact that there's a huge economic stream" flowing from protected wildlands, says Adam Cramer, who heads the outdoor alliance, an industry group that lobbies for recreation and conservation. "Oil, gas, timber, and grazing aren't the only ways to make money from the federal estate."

President Obama agrees. "She knows the link between conservation and good jobs," he said in announcing Jewell's nomination. "She knows that there's no contradiction between being good stewards of the land and our economic progress—that, in fact, those two things need to go hand in hand."

In a nod to her passion for the outdoors, Obama said, "For Sally, the toughest part of this job will probably be sitting behind a desk."

Hardly. The toughest part may be keeping Interior relevant at a time when the biggest environmental battles are being fought on the turf of rival agencies. Jewell has plenty on her plate, to be sure. In the next three years, her department will set new rules for fracking on federal land, oversee the first offshore Atlantic wind installations, decide whether to list hundreds of proposed endangered species, double the number of renewable-energy projects on public land, regulate offshore Alaskan oil exploration, and defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) against the ever present threat of oil and gas exploration. But the signature green campaigns of Obama's second term are being waged by the Environmental Protection agency, where carbon regulation will be shaped, and, of all places, the state Department, which will help decide the fate of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Oh, and there's one other thing on her to-do list. Interior secretaries traditionally bear the burden of establishing a president's environmental legacy. Stewart Udall, the secretary under both Kennedy and Johnson, created the Canyon lands and North Cascades National Parks and the Appalachian National scenic trail, and he oversaw passage of the Wilderness Act. Walter Hickel, Richard Nixon's Interior head, saved the Everglades when developers wanted to turn it into the world's largest airport. Under Bill Clinton, Bruce Babbitt gave the department a transfusion of environmental values and created the National Landscape Conservation System, which helps safeguard 27 million acres of BLM land. Even Dirk Kempthorne, George W. Bush's second-term secretary, managed to create the world's largest marine protected area, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument.

So far, Obama's legacy is muddled at best. If he left office tomorrow, he'd be known for his ramp-up of renewable energy, for being not as bad as W., and for not much else. When I first spoke with Jewell, she was still emerging from senate confirmation mode: smile and speak only in vague platitudes. "I'm finding my way with a lot of help from the people here at Interior," she told me. "My primary focus has been on listening. Listening to what's been done before me, listening to the

mistakes that others have made. Listening to the president and his agenda, and considering the role that Interior can play." It wasn't a bad early strategy: ears open, mouth shut. But before long, Jewell would have to stop listening and start acting. Because she faces one of the biggest challenges in Washington: creating an environmental legacy for a president who seems indifferent about having one.

When Obama took office in early 2009, environmentalists' hopes were over the moon. The ruinous record of his predecessor was best summed up by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who predicted that "George W. Bush will go down as the worst environmental president in U.S. history." Much of the damage had taken place in and through the Department of the Interior, which, under Gale Norton, had become a den of corruption.

Bush's appointees made oil and gas leasing their top priority, demoting conservation-minded managers, harassing scientists, cutting secret deals, partying with drilling executives, and encouraging greasy lobbyists like "Casino Jack" Abramoff, who scammed Indian tribes on casino deals, to roam the halls of Interior headquarters at 18th and C. In 2006, Inspector general Earl Devaney, charged with making sure Interior officials followed the law, summed up the situation under Norton: "simply stated, short of a crime, anything goes at the highest levels of the Department of the Interior."

In 2007, Steven Griles, Norton's right-hand man, was sentenced to federal prisonfor obstructing the investigation into the Abramoff scandal. Abramoff himself pleaded guilty to conspiracy, mail fraud, and tax evasion. Norton was later investigated but never charged over unrelated conflict-of-interest questions raised about leases won by the oil giant royal Dutch shell, for whom she went to work upon leaving Interior.

To rehab the department, Obama chose Ken Salazar, a Colorado rancher and an old friend from the Senate. The day Salazar was sworn in, White house chief of staff Rahm Emanuel walked up to Tom Strickland, Salazar's deputy secretary, poked him in the chest, and said, "Clean up that mess."

Salazar took out the trash. He immediately withdrew 77 oil and gas leases in Utah's red-rock country—more than 100,000 acres—auctioned off in the final days of the Bush administration (and made famous by eco-activist Tim DeChristopher, who was imprisoned for false bidding) and revised leasing rules to prevent another Utah debacle. He issued a 20-year ban on new uranium mining around the Grand Canyon. He also moved quickly to appoint conservation-minded directors of the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service. Fish and Wildlife began moving dozens of stalled endangered-species listings through the evaluation process.

Job one for Salazar, though, was renewable energy. Solar and wind projects had been back-burnered by Bush's BLM officials; for eight years, not a single solar project had been approved. Declaring Interior "the real department of energy," Salazar replaced Bush's "drill, baby, drill" policy with a shine-and-spin initiative. He fast-tracked 35 solar, wind, and geothermal projects—capable of generating 10,500 megawatts, enough to power 1.6 million U.S. homes—and approved offshore wind turbines along the Atlantic coast. When conservationists raised alarms about flyways turning into bird blenders and solar projects destroying desert tortoise habitat, Salazar responded with a siting process, called smart from the start, that identified appropriate zones for future renewables development.

That didn't slow down oil and gas production. In Obama's first three years, his all-of-the-above energy strategy produced more oil than Bush did in his final three years. The BLM approved about 4,000 drilling permits per year—down from the record number issued under Bush, but twice the permitting rate of the 1990s. Oil and gas data are notoriously susceptible to political skewing, but to get a real sense, look to the number of leases challenged by grassroots groups like the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. SUWA went bonkers during the Bush years, protesting hundreds of leases in fragile habitat. In 2009, 47 percent of all leases sold were challenged in federal court by environmental groups. By 2012, that number had fallen to 18 percent.

Like Obama, Salazar was just moderate enough to infuriate conservative critics and disappoint environmental allies. When Fish and Wildlife listed the polar bear as endangered in 2008, Kempthorne infamously slipped in a rule prohibiting the government from using the Endangered Species Act to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions, the very cause of the bear's decline. Salazar froze Kempthorne's order—but ultimately allowed the controversial clause to stand. After breaking up the ineptMinerals Management Service in the wake of BP's Deepwater horizon spill, he let Shell conduct oil exploration in Alaska's rough and risky Chukchi and Beaufort seas.

Overall, environmental advocates seemed to give Obama passing grades: a B minus or a solid C. "I had high hopes for this administration," says Jamierappaport Clark, executive director of Defenders of Wildlife and the head of Fish and Wildlife under

Bruce Babbitt during President Clinton's second term. "From an imperiled-wildlife and conservation stand-point, the first term has been disappointing. It's hard to look back and see anything bold, aggressive, or earth-shattering."

"Interior needs a visionary, not a mechanic," SUWA legislative director Richard Peterson-Cremer wrote when Salazar stepped down. "The Obama administration has a real opportunity to change its course on public lands. The question is not whether it has time enough and space—it does—but whether it has will enough and steel."

"I'VE BEEN TOLD that coming up to speed in this job is like drinking from a fire hose," Jewell told a gathering of Interior Department employees in Portland, Oregon, in June. "Actually, I've found that it's more like a water main."

The line drew chuckles from the friendly, if skeptical, DOI bureaucrats. They'd seen secretaries come and go. Many of the department's 70,000 employees were hired during the Babbitt years, and a few are old enough to remember the 22-month term of James Watt, the Reagan appointee who still holds the crown as the most environmentally destructive interior secretary in history. Billed as a meet-the-boss session, Jewell's day in Portland was a chance for her to shake hands and make friends in the field offices. Unlike Salazar, who arrived with dozens of allies in the senate and installed his own "Colorado mafia" of well-seasoned appointees, Jewell had to build a network from scratch, working rooms like the Portland federal-building auditorium. There, 150 staffers spread themselves in agency-specific clusters: Bureau of Indian Affairs officials over here, Fish and Wildlife biologists over there, BLM folks in the back. "Anybody from the Park service?" Jewell asked. "No? Well, I guess it is the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. They're kind of busy." a natural informality attends to her. Give Jewell a lectern and she'll avoid it. Offer the choice between a hike and a backroom one-on-one, she'll lace up her boots. She connects with personal stories, not policy. And so, in Portland, she spoke about her life.

Born in England, she moved to Seattle at age three when her father, Peter Roffey, took a fellowship in anesthesiology at the University of Washington Medical School. Eager to fit in, Roffey became REI member #17249 and bought his first tent from alpinist Jim Whittaker. Young Sally Roffey spent weekends hiking in the Cascades and sailing the family's eight-foot dinghy on Puget Sound. "We used to camp everywhere we went," she recalled.

At the University of Washington, she studied mechanical engineering and met her

future husband, Warren Jewell, a fellow engineering student. After graduation, the pair took jobs with Mobil Oil in the roughneck fields of southern Oklahoma. She enjoyed the work, but it was the oil business in the seventies, and the glass ceiling hung low. "I wanted to work on offshore oil rigs, but Mobil wouldn't allow any women on their rigs, except in Norway," she told Interior employees in Portland. "I figured that was a long way to go for work."

Then she heard that banks were hiring engineers to help evaluate oil and gas investments. She and Warren wanted to move back to the Pacific Northwest, so she talked her way into a job with Seattle-based rainier bank. The oil boom was showing signs of shakiness, but two rival Seattle institutions, Rainier and Seattle First National bank (Seafirst), continued to lay heavy bets. Jewell steered Rainier away from a number of bad investments, and when oil went bust in the mid-1980s, Seafirst collapsed. Jewell became known as the woman who saved Rainier Bank.

There are certain kinds of people who hire on as interns and, within a few years, end up running the place. Jewell's rise was like that. By the late 1980s, she was overseeing Rainier's entire loan portfolio, and when she left in 1992 to join West one bank, a smaller regional operation, she was CEO of its Washington subsidiary within a year. Meanwhile, she was raising two children, Peter and Anne, both now grown and living in Seattle. her style wasn't aggressive or brash; rather, say colleagues, she comes across as sensible and polite. "Sally is able to judge situations in a very sophisticated way," says Seattle attorney William Gates Sr., who is the father of the Microsoft founder and served with Jewell on the UW board of regents. "She's a person who very often has the right answer for the question under discussion."

REI recruited Jewell to its board in 1996, attracted by her combination of backcountry experience and banking savvy. By 2005, she was CEO. REI was a foundering ship at the time, burdened by too much debt and knocked on its heels by an ill-advised foray into Japan. Jewell closed the overseas outlet, paid down the debt (the co-op now has none), and embarked on a slow national expansion, opening a handful of well-chosen, self-financed stores every year, including a 39,000-square-foot Manhattan base camp in 2011. Last year the company's website and 127 stores reported revenue of $1.9 billion, making it the biggest consumer cooperative in the nation.

Meanwhile, Jewell pushed a triple-bottom-line ethos that emphasized environmental ethics and employee relations as much as profit and loss. That's

Jewell's strong suit: getting the best out of people, but in a low-key way. "She was always asking questions, soliciting points of view," says Camelbak chief executive Sally McCoy, who worked with Jewell on the industry-supported wildlands group Conservation alliance.

One of Jewell's favorite books is *Orbiting the Giant Hairball,* Gordon MacKenzie's guide to fostering creativity within a corporate bureaucracy. It's an idea she's pushing at Interior. "Did you know the engineers at hoover Dam are buying spare parts on eBay because nobody makes them anymore?" she asked her staffers. "If there's something you're doing as part of your job that makes no sense, tell me about it. Raise a holler. One of the things I told everyone at REI was: We've got to stop doing things that don't make sense and concentrate on the things that do."Let me help you do your job better: that's the message going out to the field from Madame secretary. "I'm a businessperson," Jewell told her troops. "I've got 30 years in business and two months in the federal government." a lot of people do outstanding work at Interior, she said. "I want you to know I've got your back." she let that hang for a moment, leaving unsaid the second half of the sentence: *and I'm hoping you'll have mine.*

To do what exactly wasn't yet clear.

ON MOST WEEKDAY mornings, Sally Jewell walks to work under the haunting eyes of her predecessors. Along the hall outside her office hang large oil paintings of salazar, Norton, Watt, and the rest, and in the lobby there's a bust of Udall, widely acknowledged as the greatest interior secretary of the modern era.

In case Jewell doesn't feel the weight, every once in a while a former secretary will pop up with some unsolicited advice.

Hello, Bruce Babbitt! In a bit of exquisite timing, Babbitt, the most influential secretary since Udall, issued a challenge to Obama 24 hours before the president nominated Jewell. "So far, under President Obama, industry has been winning the race," he said during a speech at the National Press Club. "Over the past four years, the [oil and gas] industry has leased more than 6 million acres, compared with only 2.6 million acres permanently protected. In the Obama era, land conservation is again falling behind."

Babbitt called for a one-for-one scheme that would protect an acre of public land for every acre put up for lease.

It's an idea worth considering, but it also relies on a bygone metric. Environmentalism has expanded beyond its traditional protect-the-land-and-water paradigm. These days, the movement has become as much about energy and carbon, and that expanded focus has sent policy beyond the neat boundaries of Interior. The state Department is doing the environmental analysis for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline (because the pipe, which would deliver Canadian tar-sands oil to gulf Coast refineries, crosses an international border), which effectively gives Obama the sole up-or-down vote. Interior has criticized state's characterization of the pipeline's wildlife impact as "inaccurate," and in June the president said he'll OK Keystone only "if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution."

"Significantly"—that's a word that allows a lot of room to operate.

Obama said this while announcing his climate-change initiative, a series of moves that bypass Congress and deal with global warming through executive orders. Interior plays a part—the president called for a redoubling of renewable-energy development on federal land—but most of the action will continue to happen at the EPA, which ran point on carbon under first-term administrator Lisa Jackson. The centerpiece of Obama's climate initiative is an EPA-led clampdown on carbon pollution from power plants, which accounts for more than a third of U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions. It remains to be seen whether Obama has the will to follow through; the president backed Jackson on a number of clean-air initiatives, but in 2011 he caved on tougher smog standards after big polluters screamed job loss—as they're already doing on the power-plant rule.

As if to underscore the centrality of the EPA—not Interior—to the president's environmental agenda, senate republicans let Jewell's nomination proceed while blocking Obama's second-term EPA nominee, Gina McCarthy, for 136 days before confirming her in early July. a tough-talking Bostonian who ran Jackson's clean-air team, McCarthy wasted little time in declaring that "we will act" to cut carbon pollution. She followed up on that pledge in September, when the EPA proposed new rules capping carbon emissions from new coal and natural-gas power plants. Similar caps for existing plants—where the real battle will come—are expected in 2014.

Jewell and McCarthy may end up playing good cop, bad cop for Obama on climate change—Jewell the gentle reconciler in a fleece jacket, McCarthy the brassy brawler straight out of *the Departed.* It's a good match, because the EPA will surely draw

more fire than Interior. Reducing emissions hits polluters in the wallet; expanding renewables offers the promise of profit. And Jewell's confirmation led no one to believe that she'd pull back on oil and gas development. "We will continue to pursue the president's all-of-the-above energy strategy," she said at her senate hearing, and she hammered the point for months thereafter.

Inevitably, Jewell's charm offensive has to give way to tough policy decisions if she wants to be something more than a caretaker. She's not going to be the second coming of Udall—nobody will. What saint stew wanted, he got, thanks to a compliant Congress, an open checkbook, and a president preoccupied with Vietnam. Since Jewell took office, she's confronted an insanely hostile Congress, a government shutdown that closed the parks, and a boss whose environmental commitment seems to come and go.

Is there still room for greatness at Interior? Bruce Babbitt thinks so. "Sally Jewell has the background, she has the national constituency, and she has the president's confidence," he told me over the phone from his office in Washington. Babbitt, now semi-retired, ticked off those qualities as if they were tools in a Jobox—here's your hammer, there's your tape and nails, get to work. "She has a fantastic opportunity to address a number of important issues."

SO WHAT WOULD a Jewell legacy look like? "I don't think about my own legacy," she told me back in June. "I do think about a legacy for President Obama." Exactly what that might be remained an open question.The answers began to come 111 days into her term, when the secretary pivoted from listening to leading. At a speech given at DOI headquarters and webcast to field offices nationwide, she laid out the top priorities. The more traditional goals included ramping up renewable-energy production, repairing the Native American education system, and addressing looming water catastrophes like the massively overburdened Colorado River. Jewell told staffers her agenda wasn't "radically different than what you've been doing. Maybe a little tweaking, a little change."

On climate, she showed that she can be bold. "I hope there are no climate-change deniers in the Department of the Interior," she said to her team. "If you don't believe in it, come out into the resources. Come out to Alaska, which is melting. Go in to the sierra," which is losing its snowpack. It was a strong, clear message that raised howls among fringe denialists but provided cover to the scientists and biologists in Interior's ranks.

We could use more of that straight-up fact facing, the courage to point at a cow pie

and call it bullshit. Specifically, Jewell has a rare opportunity when it comes to oil and gas regulations. Interior's proposed rules for fracking on federal land are a joke, modeled on a template put out several years ago by the American Legislative Exchange Council, the conservative bill mill backed in part by billionaire brothersCharles and David Koch. Jewell commands both the respect of the drilling guys—she knows how to frack a well herself—and the support of environmentalists; she's in a unique position to give the regulations real teeth.

Ditto the rules for siting oil and gas leases on fragile lands. An early test will come in Utah, where the BLM has proposed 82 leases for the San Rafael swell, a recreationally important and biologically rich region often mentioned for monument designation. The leases, scheduled for auction in November, pin Jewell between her oil experience and her conservationist leanings. When I asked her about the skepticism with which outdoor enthusiasts usually greet drilling, she struck a decidedly non-Babbittian tone. "I think it's important for people to step back and look at their own lifestyle and acknowledge that it's difficult if not impossible to not be a user of fossil fuels," Jewell told me. "Most outdoor recreationists drive to a destination. Some walk softer than others, but we all have an impact. It's important to understand that and not vilify the industries that we rely upon."

Other issues are also going to intersect oil and gas. She's unlikely to halt the full delisting of the gray wolf, but her leadership could either cause or avert a legal train wreck over the possible listing of the greater sage grouse, a bird whose habitat of existing and potential oil fields could make it the spotted owl of the Intermountain West.

Much of the action during Jewell's term will happen in Alaska: the ANWR stalemate will likely continue, and Obama shows no signs of slowing Shell's push into the Chukchi Sea. But Jewell has real power when it comes to Bristol Bay, breeding ground for the world's most productive salmon runs. It's an airport-or-Everglades issue. One of two global conglomerates planning a gold mine there pulled out of the project this fall. Jewell and Obama could build on that momentum by creating a wildlife refuge or national monument on federal land. It wouldn't stop the mine (which is on state land), but it would throw up roadblocks. "If you're going to allow offshore leasing in Alaska, there ought to be offsetting designations of protected areas," Babbitt says. "Using the Antiquities Act to protect Bristol Bay is a great opportunity."

Those are the traditional big gets for Jewell's term. But the question remains: What does *she* want her legacy to be?

THE KEY to Sally Jewell is that there's no grand ideology at work. She's neither neocon nor neolib. She doesn't align herself with the Aldo Leopold school of conservation or the Bill McKibben carbon-fighting corps. Policy is driven by the personal and the pragmatic. She's got to get on the ground and see what's going on, paddle Rhode Island's Blackstone River, as she did in May; handle an invasive boa in the Everglades (April); or circle Washington's Squaxin Island, as she does every New Year's Day in her kayak. She's worked on the Alaska pipeline; she knows the benefits oil companies can bring, and she knows the environmental harm they can wreak. Most of all, she knows what outdoor exposure did for her as a girl, so she wants to spread the gospel of adventure among the next generation.

That commitment was on display on an early June morning in D.C., when the secretary of the interior went fishing with some kids on the Anacostia River.

"How many of you have ever been fishing?" Jewell asked. A few hands went up. "How many have ever been out on the river?" Fewer hands. Their parents and grandparents didn't use the river because, back in the day, the Anacostia was a veritable sewer. Now that it's clean—er, cleaner—the kids don't use it because it's not connected to a screen.

Once the kids were herded onto a tour boat, Jewell encouraged the youngsters to bait hooks, cast carefully, reel in, and see what they'd caught. She did her best work one-on-one, talking with young girls about the outdoors, and life, and siblings, and school, and whatever. Away from the microphones, the old silver-haired white lady actually forged a connection with a couple of young African-American girls. They spoke in low voices, with long, natural silences. As they baited a hook, one girl asked, "Doesn't that hurt the worm?"

Jewell paused before answering. "Yes," she said. "Yes, I suppose it does."

It wasn't a politician's answer. The words seemed to startle Jewell even as they came out of her mouth. But they also earned the respect of the girl, who considered the information, then continued spearing the nightcrawler.

If there is anywhere that Jewell wants to have a lasting impact, it's here, with the next generation. "This is one heck of a platform," she told me in her office, "to help people understand about our planet, about our public lands, about the role they play

in caring for our resources."

Indeed, when she laid out her goals for the department in July, the last two were these: "celebrating and enhancing America's great outdoors" and luring the millennial generation into the wilds.

That first part refers to the America's great outdoors Initiative, a fuzzy, feel-good effort created during Obama's first term. The idea was to connect an increasingly urban, plugged-in citizenry with its public land and waterways—but nobody on Salazar's team figured out how to give it purpose and clarity. As Jewell receives it, America's great outdoors can become whatever she wants it to be.

She can use it to lure more Hispanics and African-Americans into the parks, to expand the constituency of the outdoors. And she can use it to get kids to unplug.*Last Child in the Woods,* journalist Richard Louv's exploration of kids' increasing disconnection from the natural world, is a touchstone book for Jewell, and she's determined to use her bully pulpit to fight the syndrome Louv calls nature-deficit disorder.

This is where Jewell's true passion lies, and she's already made it a top priority. There are easy fixes she can make: she can direct park and refuge managers to reconceptualize their most accessible areas to attract underserved communities. She can empower young Park Service rangers and reach the millennials where they live, on social media. But she has an opportunity to go even bigger, to create a signature program under her watch. To do that, she could revamp Interior's partnership with the Student Conservation Association, which provides high school and college students paid, hands-on internships in parks and wilderness areas. SCA is one of America's greatest programs, but it's largely unknown outside of outdoor culture. It could become a public-service option as famous as teach for America or a brand as strong as outward bound. Franklin Roosevelt had the Civilian Conservation Corps; a supersized SCA could be Obama's next-gen public-works project. With a one-month stint in SCA, you'll hook a kid on the outdoors for life.

Youth and climate change: those could be the overriding themes of a great Jewell administration—and the foundation of Obama's environmental legacy.

"We need warriors for that battle on climate change," Jewell told me when I caught up with her again in July, at a youth summit in Seattle. The secretary seemed clear and confident in her message. "If I don't get these young people engaged, they're not going to care about and support the outdoors. I only have three and a half

years. So I gotta get going."

http://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/nature/Its-a-Wilderness-Out-There.html

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Nov 12, 2013 at 7:09 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS CALIFORNIA'S NORTH COAST. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/12, 731K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Friday "toured a rugged area of California's North Coast in a fact-finding mission to help decide if the area should be made a national monument." She "joined state leaders and federal land managers to hike the Stornetta Public Lands in Mendocino County, and later attended a public hearing where hundreds of residents showed up, mostly to voice support for adding the lands to the protected area." Jewell said, "Today I had a chance to hike this spectacular coastline and to see firsthand how important this area is for the community and for its economy – from tourism to outdoor recreation."

The Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (11/8, 156K) reports that "at a two-hour meeting in a packed City Hall, she was feted by more than 300 schoolchildren and adults, unanimous in their enthusiasm to have the land she had just walked become part of the 1,100-mile marine monument." Jewell "reiterated the president's pledge to act when Congress does not to set aside and preserve unique, deserving lands for future generations, imparting a palpable sense of hope that had many in the audience talking in terms of 'when, not if,' the land was included in the national monument."

The Ukiah (CA) Daily Journal (11/12, 17K) reports that Rep. Jared Huffman said, "I am very pleased that Secretary Jewell accepted my invitation to the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands and was able to see the tremendous support from the local community for adding these lands to the California Coastal National Monument,. This is an unmatched opportunity to preserve a pristine stretch of coastline and boost the local tourism industry, already Mendocino County's largest employer. I hope Secretary Jewell and the Obama administration find this land as beautiful and worthy of preservation as we do."

Also reporting on the story are KCET-TV Los Angeles (11/12, 15K), KFMB-TV San Diego (11/12, 15K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV (11/12, 2K), and WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (11/12, 117K).

Secretary Jewell Could Recommend President Obama To Bypass Congress On Monuments. The Los Angeles Times (11/12, Cart, 3.07M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell says "she will recommend that President Obama act alone if necessary to create new national monuments and sidestep a gridlocked Congress that has failed to address dozens of public lands bills." In an interview in San Francisco last week, Jewell said, "The president will not hesitate. I can tell you that there are places that are ripe for setting aside, with a tremendous groundswell of public support." Jewell said "the logjam on Capitol Hill has created a conservation backlog, and she warned that the Obama administration would not 'hold its breath forever' waiting for lawmakers to act."

SECRETARY JEWELL PUSHES FOR CONSERVATION, YOUTH CONNECTION TO OUTDOORS. The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (11/9, 465K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "kicked off a national campaign last week to expand opportunities for youth on public lands." In a recent speech, Jewell "outlined conservation priorities for the Interior department, including an emphasis on fostering the next generation of environmental stewards, scientists and natural resource managers." Jewell said, "Through public-private partnerships and in conjunction with all levels of government, Interior will expand its efforts to pass on our nation's rich conservation legacy and to inspire millions of young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors."

The San Francisco Appeal (11/12, 823) reports that Jewell visited San Francisco's Crissy Field to announce the launch of a youth conservation initiative. According to Jewell, "the project, which will be organized and funded through a public-private partnership, will provide jobs, training, educational and volunteer opportunities to tens of millions of school-age children and young adults." Jewell called the initiative "ambitious" in that it aims to "engage youth in a major way to our public lands."

Additional coverage of Jewell's initiatives was provided by the Public News Service (11/11, 306).

Secretary Jewell Praised For Leadership. In an op-ed for the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/12, Hayes, 731K), David J. Hayes, former Interior Deputy Secretary praises Jewell for issuing "a directive that embraced a 'landscape-scale' approach to mitigating the environmental impacts of major highway, water, energy and other infrastructure development projects." Hayes argues that "this is a big idea that deserves notice, and the support of developers and the environmental community alike."

In an op-ed for the Orlando (FL) Sentinel (11/8, Lakly, 780K), Shelly Lakly writes that Jewell "made an important first step toward more effective and efficient conservation of the natural resources we all share" during her speech at the National Press Club by announcing "a secretarial order adopting policies and procedures that apply landscape-scale mitigation to the Interior's responsibilities to manage public resources and lands." Lakly argues that "this order is important" because "when done right, especially across landscapes, mitigation is the most practical and effective way to balance conservation of resources with economic development." For this reason, the Nature Conservancy in Florida "strongly supports landscape-scale mitigation and congratulates Jewell for her leadership in this area."

For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/12, Baca, 11.54M), Jim Baca, former Natural Resource Trustee, New Mexico, writes that hearing the Jewell "speak out in this way at the Press Club was inspiring – and not just for those of us in the West that see the tension between energy and conservation every day." Baca hopes Jewell "continues visiting with Americans who want their public lands protected – and heeding their concerns." He encourages President Obama to join her, as well, "to see our irreplaceable landscapes and meet Americans newly energized by the government shutdown to champion the value of their parks and public lands."

SECRETARY JEWELL SUMS UP ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY. The San Francisco Chronicle (11/8, Baker, 2.88M) reports that speaking at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco last Thursday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell succinctly summed up Obama's approach to energy and climate when she said "We can't switch from a fossil-fuel based economy to a renewable energy economy overnight...So yes, we're going to still continue to develop those resources, but we're also going to stand up renewable resources" and adding that "it's important that we do both," in response to a question asking if the Administration could be a climate leader while simultaneously promoting expansion in the oil and coal industries. Jewell also defended hydraulic fracking, but when asked about Keystone XL pipeline told them that they should "call John Kerry" because the pipeline is an international issue.

The National Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that Jewell "called on the oil and gas industry Thursday to better inform the quality of public debate over fracking and quell safety concerns over use of the technique to extract oil and natural gas from shale-rock formations." Jewell said, "I think that there's a lot of misinformation about fracking. I think that it's part of the industry's job to make sure that the public understands what it is, how it's done, and why it's safe. It's our job as a regulator and public land manager to make sure that it is done safely and responsibly, that we use the best available science, and we are in fact doing that."

PRESIDENT OBAMA NAMES THREE TO KEY INTERIOR DEPARTMENT POSTS. Platts (11/12, 2K) reports that the Obama Administration has named three new appointees at the Interior Department "to oversee onshore and offshore oil and gas development, leaving a key opening at the agency that develops the five-year offshore leasing plan." Neil Kornze was nominated as director of the BLM, Janice Schneider was appointed assistant secretary for land and minerals management, and Tommy Beaudreau was appointed as Interior's assistant secretary for policy, management and budget.

Kornze To Be Pressed On Sage Grouse. Roll Call (11/11, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that "in a statement Friday, Republican Sen. Dean Heller of Nevada sounded optimistic about President Barack Obama's choice of Neil Kornze to be the BLM director, noting Kornze's ties to the Silver State." Heller added, however, that "he planned to question Kornze at the Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing about the sage grouse, a large bird best known for its unique mating ritual."

Additional Coverage. Also reporting on the story are Politico (11/11, Guillen, 467K), the Washington Post (11/12, Kamen, 4.28M), the National Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 427K), the Washington Examiner (11/12, Press, 319K), the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/12, 343K), the High Country (CO) News (11/12, 74K), the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (11/8, 165K), the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (11/12, 22K), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (11/12, 51K), the Denver Business Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 71K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV

(11/12, 2K), KCVB-TV Las Vegas (11/12, 12K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV (11/12, 2K), KRXI-TV Reno, NV (11/12, 656), KCET-TV Los Angeles (11/12, 15K), the Rigzone (11/12, 12K), and the Oil and Gas Journal (11/12, 1K).

INTERIOR FLOODS GRAND CANYON. The Los Angeles Times (11/11, Boxall, 3.07M) reports that the Interior Department is increasing releases from Glen Canyon Dam this week as part of an ongoing experimental program to replenish downstream sandbars and beaches in the Grand Canyon. According to the article, "September storms that drenched parts of the West washed bountiful amounts of sediment into two tributaries of the Colorado River below the dam, presenting a wealth of beach-building material that the flood-like high flows are intended to distribute."

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/12, 343K) notes that "Monday marked the first time the releases have been done in back-to-back years since the US Bureau of Reclamation began conducting high-flow releases in 1996." The goal is to "push these sediments downstream and re-deposit them as sandbars that benefit both aquatic life and recreational boaters," according to Anne Castle, assistant secretary of the Interior for water and science. Castle said, "The scientists estimate 1.5 metric tons are in the main stem and that's three times more than last year. We can do a release and spread that sediment up onto the bed and banks and use that to reduce erosion that has occurred to beaches, sandbars and backwaters."

The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (11/12, 22K) reports that Castle said, "The idea is to see if we can react whenever conditions are right, whenever there's a lot of sediment load in the river. Whether we can reverse or at least stabilize the net loss in sediment that has been occurring in the river below Glen Canyon Dam."

Also reporting on the story are ABC World News, Yahoo! (11/12, Busbee, 17.91M) , the Deseret (UT) News (11/12, 274K) , the Durango (CO) Herald (11/10, 28K) , the Bellingham (WA) Herald (11/11, 113K) , the St. George (UT) Spectrum (11/10, 48K), Yahoo! News UK (11/12, 79K) , the Daily Mail (UK) (11/12, 2.92M), and KTVK-TV Phoenix (11/12, 88K).

Sen. Udall Urges Action On Colorado River. In an op-ed for the Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (11/12, Udall, 27K), Sen. Mark Udall writes that "the Colorado River is healthy now, but make no mistake: the Centennial State and the six states downriver are on an unsustainable course." He notes that "at a US Senate hearing I recently led, we examined a US Bureau of Reclamation study that found the demand for water along the Colorado River Basin could exceed the available supply by more than 3.2 million acre-feet — enough water to supply more than 3.2 million families across the basin — by 2060." Udall concludes that "the Colorado River may have shaped the West, but given the growing demands here and downstream, it is now our obligation to the river and to ourselves to make every drop count."

SECRETARY JEWELL FACES TOUGH CHALLENGES. In a profile of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Outside Magazine (11/12, 55K) reports on the challenges facing her in the years ahead. The article notes that "the toughest part may be keeping Interior relevant at a time when the biggest environmental battles are being fought on the turf of rival agencies." Additionally, "Interior secretaries traditionally bear the burden of establishing a president's environmental legacy," but "so far, Obama's legacy is muddled at best." Inevitably, the article concludes, "Jewell's charm offensive has to give way to tough policy decisions if she wants to be something more than a caretaker."

ADVOCATES SAY CONGRESS FAILS TO FUND WILDFIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (11/12, 165K) reports that "Year after year, Congress promises to beef up wildfire-prevention programs but doesn't follow through with enough money, frustrated lawmakers and advocates say." According to the article, "many Democratic and Republican lawmakers, especially from the West, agree that Congress should spend more on preventive steps like thinning forests, clearing excess brush and performing controlled burns before the wildfire season heats up." However, "come budget time, fire-prevention programs run by the US Forest Service and the Interior Department invariably get underfunded, advocates say, though wildfires are getting bigger, more destructive and costlier to control."

GOOD CONTENT HELPS INTERIOR ENGAGE WITH ITS TWITTER ACCOUNT. In the NextGov (11/11, 2K) "CIO Briefing" blog, Jed Sundwall examined the number of tweets sent by various government agencies, finding that the Department of Interior is getting as much engagement as NASA, even though NASA has five million followers compared to Interior's 110,000. Sundwall thinks those that sign up for Interior's tweets want to hear from

the Interior, while many of NASA's followers include those who sign up for NASA based on recommendations and may not even use their accounts. Sundwall concludes that based on Interior's tweets, "good content" is more important for engaging the public than just trying to increase subscription numbers.

THROUGH EXECUTIVE ORDERS, OBAMA COULD CRAFT A SECOND-TERM LEGACY ON CLIMATE CHANGE. The Hill (11/8, Geman, 194K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that as the rest of President's agenda "runs aground in Congress," he "has a chance to craft a second-term legacy on climate change," as executive action on the issue "is moving full-speed ahead at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)." The Hill adds that the "most far-reaching piece of Obama's climate plan is carbon emission standards for the nation's fleet of existing power plants." In addition, the EPA is "writing standards for new plants." However, Princeton University professor Julian Zelizer said "the push on climate change through executive action could shape Obama's legacy — but only to a point." One problem is that "some of the new EPA regulations might not be settled by the time he leaves office." In addition, the next president could choose to alter them.

UTECH TO SUCCEED ZICHAL AS OBAMA'S TOP ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISER. Reuters (11/9, Gardner, Rampton, Rucker) reports Dan Utech will become President Obama's top adviser on energy and climate change now that Heather Zichal is stepping down. The Washington Post (11/9, Hicks, 4.28M) says Utech "most recently served as Zichal's deputy after working as a senior adviser to former Energy Secretary Steven Chu and to Hillary Clinton when she was a senator." The Post says the President "supposedly urged Zichal to stay with his administration." The Los Angeles Times (11/9, Banerjee, 3.07M) and The Hill (11/9, Barron-Lopez, 194K) also have reports.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE JOB SATISFACTION AT LOWEST POINT SINCE 2010. The Washington Post (11/9, Rein, 4.28M) reports the government's Employee Viewpoint Survey finds job satisfaction declining among Federal employees in the wake of "salary freezes, continuing budget cuts and furloughs." While "the vast majority of employees think that the work they do is valuable and look for ways to do their jobs better," job satisfaction is now at its lowest point since 2010.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EVENTS CELEBRATING 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS. Additional coverage that Interior Sally Jewell will serve as a keynote speaker at Gettysburg's Dedication Day ceremony Nov. 19 was provided by the Allentown (PA) Morning Call (11/9, 247K) and the Frederick (MD) News-Post (11/12, 97K).

SUPPORT FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND URGED. In an op-ed for the Seattle Times (11/12, Dicks, Evans, 1M), Norm Dicks, former US representative for Washington's 6th Congressional District, and Dan Evans, former governor and US senator for Washington, write that "the outcry over the impact of...closures" during the government shutdown "on our way of life, our communities, our economy and our natural resources served as a clear reminder of the importance of our public lands to all Americans." In addition, they note that "although the shutdown is over," threats to the Land and Water Conservation Fund remain. They "hope our former colleagues still in Congress do the right thing and lead the nation to reauthorizing and fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund to ensure that our natural legacy is passed down to the next generation."

In his column for the Denver Post (11/12, Willoughby, 949K), Scott Willoughby criticized Congress' failure to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which in nearly 50 years of existence has only been fully funded once.

SECRETARY JEWELL URGED TO RECONSIDER POLICIES ON WILD HORSES. In an op-ed for the Denver Post (11/11, Matthews, 949K), Ashley Matthews, a graduate student urges the BLM to reconsider its wild horses policies. She claims that lobbies like the National Cattleman's Beef Association have the support of the BLM advisory board. Matthews urges Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to run the BLM on behalf of American people and American laws instead of placating the interests of powerful lobbies.

NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION FOR ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (11/12, Simmons, 59K), Randy T. Simmons, director of the Institute for Political Economy and professor of political economy at Utah State University, and Ryan M. Yonk, assistant professor of political science at Southern Utah University and director of the Institute of Policy Analysis, write that monument designation for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region of southern New Mexico can "bring distinct negative impacts." According to the two, "using a careful methodology and making comparisons between

counties through time, we find at best no effect on local economies and, more likely, negative effects of monument designations."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

CESAR CHAVEZ NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK FACES AN UPHILL BATTLE. The Huffington Post (11/8, 11.54M) reports that "getting congressional approval to make the Cesar Chavez national park a reality could be an uphill struggle." The article notes that "unlike the Cesar Chavez national monument created last year through President Obama's own executive power, establishing a national historical park requires congressional approval." In addition, "California farmers' long opposition toward the United Farm Workers could also pose hurdles."

Meanwhile, FOX News Latino (11/7, 142K) reports that Midy Aponte, the executive director of the American Latino Heritage Fund of the National Park Foundation (ALHF), and others have "made it their mission to encourage Latinos – a group that spends much of their vacation time visiting their home countries and whose idea, for many, of embracing nature means spending a day at the beach – to learn to love the national park system in the US" According to the article, "recent national campaigns – including one that partners food service giant Aramark and outdoor retailer REI called American Latino Expeditions – have the aim of sharing the park experience with the Latino community."

NATIONAL PARKS OPEN IN TIME FOR SNOW SEASON. The New York Times (11/8, Brennan, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "although the federal government shutdown, from Oct. 1 to 16, forced the National Park Service to close 401 parks and lose $450,000 a day in revenue, it did little to slow preparations for winter activities like cross-country skiing and snowshoeing." According to the article, "that the shutdown occurred during the shoulder season eased the pain for national parks like Yellowstone, which was already winding down its services from the peak summer season when its employees were furloughed." The article notes that "Yellowstone, which lost $191,000 in entrance fees and licenses during the closure, reopened in time to start grooming roads for activities like guided snowmobile and snow coach tours, which begin in December."

NPS LOOKS FOR TENANTS TO REPAIR HISTORIC BUILDINGS AT SANDY HOOK BAY. The New York Times (11/8, Foderaro, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the NPS "put out an unusual for-rent sign last month: 35 historic buildings, including the genteel quarters of lieutenants and captains, at a wind-swept former Army base overlooking Sandy Hook Bay." According to the article, "in the past, proposals for what to do with the buildings varied with the tides, but the park service is now actively looking for tenants to invest in them and save them." Under the park service's plan, "instead of paying a set rent, tenants would pay for repairs to the buildings and be given long-term use of them in exchange."

DENALI NATIONAL PARK OFFICIALS HOPE TRAVELERS IN LANDSLIDE AREA PROVIDE INFORMATION. The Washington Post (11/8, 4.28M) reports that Denali National Park officials "want to hear from people who may have traveled in the area of a huge landslide that fell on a section of a road frequented by summer tourists."

APP ALLOWS WWII MEMORIAL VISITORS TO EXPLORE HISTORY. Roll Call (11/12, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that the "WWII Memorial" app enables visitors to the National Mall's World War II Memorial to "explore the history behind the memorial." According to the article, launched by the Trust for the National Mall, a nonprofit partner of the NPS, "it is the organization's first try at monument-specific smartphone and tablet technology." The article notes that "plans are under way to develop mobile apps to complement other monuments on the Mall."

WASHINGTON MONUMENT SCAFFOLDING TO START TO COME DOWN TUESDAY. WJLA-TV Washington (11/12, 118K) reports that "the scaffolding that has encased the Washington Monument for months will start to come down this week." On Tuesday, "workers will begin to disassemble the scaffolds that have been set up around the obelisk." According to the article, "deconstructing the scaffolding will take about three months." NPS officials "expect the Washington Monument to reopen this coming spring."

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK MOVES AHEAD ON RESTORATION OF MARIPOSA GROVE. The Columbus

(IN) Republic (11/12, 80K) reports that Yosemite National Park officials are "moving forward on a $24-million plan to remove parking lots, roads and buildings from Mariposa Grove, an ancient collection of humongous sequoias." The NPS could begin "work on removing asphalt and a gift shop from the grove in southern Yosemite as early as next summer." The article notes that "the restoration plan, expected to be finalized in December, is meant to help the old trees survive and thrive for future generations of park visitors."

HORTICULTURISTS CLONE SEQUOIA PLANTED BY JOHN MUIR. The Los Angeles Times (11/11, Sahagun, 3.07M) reports that "horticulturists recently announced that they had successfully cloned a genetic replica of an ailing 130-year-old giant sequoia planted by conservationist John Muir in the 1880s on his ranch in Martinez, Calif." According to the article, "as part of an effort to preserve at the site a living connection to Muir, Keith Park, a National Park Service horticulturist, trimmed two dozen cuttings from healthy young branches and shipped them to Archangel, which has successfully cloned trees planted by George Washington at Mount Vernon in Virginia."

CLOSURE OF MEMORIALS GENERATES CONTROVERSY. In his column for the Washington Times (11/11, 417K), Dennis Jamison criticizes the closure of memorials during the government shutdown. Jamison accuses the Obama Administration of seeking "to make a political statement about the budget crisis and the federal shutdown by spending more money to make sure barricades would be erected to block normally easy-access public monuments."

In an op-ed for the Roanoke (VA) Times (11/12, 259K), Bill Shiner, who coordinated the Park Ranger Program and National Park Service Seasonal Law Enforcement Training at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, writes that the criticisms "were both misguided and reflect an ignorance of Park Service responsibilities regarding the visitors and resources under its care." According to Shiner, "for members of Congress to fault the NPS during this time for closing sites was disingenuous at best, and downright hypocritical at worst."

NPS FIGHTING TO SAVE FLIGHT 93 TREES. The Johnstown (PA) Tribune Democrat (11/12, 95K) editorializes that the NPS announced Thursday that it has "begun an aggressive treatment project in hopes of saving the hemlocks" at the Flight 93 National Memorial. Keith Newlin, the National Park Service's deputy superintendent for the western region that manages the memorial, said, "Right now, the trees are still fairly healthy. But we've got to knock these buggers back."

NPS PLANS FOR NATIONAL PARKS IN SIERRA NEVADA EXPECTED TO BE DIVISIVE. In his column for the Visalia (CA) Times-Delta (11/9, 42K), William Tweed writes that the environmental assessment by the NPS on national parks of the Sierra Nevada will likely be controversial. According to Tweed, "if your view of the national parks is that they are places set aside to protect nature, then this proposal makes good, even compelling sense" However, "if you go into the High Sierra to fish, long a popular activity, then removing fish to protect frogs will be hard to accept."

Bureau of Land Management:

LEWISTOWN BLM OFFICE RELEASES DRAFT SAGE GROUSE PLAN. The Billings (MT) Gazette (11/12, 206K) reports that "a draft plan for managing sage grouse in five central Montana counties to try to ensure the birds aren't listed as a threatened or endangered species has been completed." The BLM's Lewistown Field Office on Friday issued its Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement for Petroleum, Fergus, Judith Basin, Chouteau and Meagher counties. Geoff Beyersdorf, the Lewistown Field Office manager, said, "This RMPA/EIS will provide future management direction to maintain or increase greater sage grouse abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing or restoring sagebrush ecosystems on which the population depends."

BLM TO EXPLODE OLD ORDNANCE ALONG SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA. The Sierra Vista (AZ) Herald (11/9, 30K) reports that in coordination with the BLM Tucson Field Office, the US Army Corps of Engineers will "soon be removing unexploded ordnance (UXO) outside Fort Huachuca within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA)." The article notes that "the removal and mitigation will begin next week and is anticipated to proceed through April 2014." BLM Tucson Field Manager Vi Hillman said, "Public safety is our top priority. We are doing everything possible to ensure that the visiting public can enjoy and

remain safe when they visit the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

US TO CRUSH SIX TONS OF IVORY THIS WEEK. Yahoo! (11/12, Gannon, Editor, 17.91M) reports that US officials are preparing "to destroy their massive stockpile of illegal ivory this week, hoping to send a zero-tolerance message to elephant poachers." On Thursday (Nov. 14), the FWS "will pulverize nearly 6 tons (5.4 tonnes) of illegal ivory items, from whole tusks to tiny trinkets, which have been seized over the past 25 years as a result of smuggling busts and criminal investigations." The ivory crush will take place at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Also reporting on the story are the Business Insider (11/12, 1.39M), the South China Morning Post (11/12, 7K), the Stuff (NZL) (11/12, 37K), and the Hindu (IND) (11/12, 65K).

TEXAS IS CENTER OF ILLEGAL TRADE IN BLACK RHINO HORNS. The Dallas Morning News (11/11, Swartsell, 1.13M) reports that "smugglers have been snatching up black rhinoceros horns from Texas auction houses and selling them on the black market." The News reports that the "illicit trade is global," and that authorities say "smugglers travel to Texas to buy the horns of the African-native rhinos and sell them to dealers in California and New York," who then "ship them to Asia, where they command huge sums as an alleged cancer cure or party drug." The News notes that last week, Michael Slattery pleaded guilty to smuggling rhino horns he bought in Texas. Authorities say Slattery "is part of the Rathkeale Rovers, a group of Irish nomads active in organized crime, including smuggling operations."

Additional coverage was provided by the New York Times (11/8, Wilson, Subscription Publication, 9.61M).

INTERIOR DEFENDS GMO CROPS ON FEDERAL WILDLIFE REFUGES. Politico (11/12, Hopkinson, 467K) reports that the Interior Department is "rejecting claims made by the Center for Food Safety and others that it erred in allowing the use of certain pesticides and the production of GMO crops federal wildlife refuges --arguing that the plaintiffs lack standing." In a Nov. 8 response to the lawsuit Center for Food Safety, et al. v. Jewell, et al., the Interior Department "denies the claims made by the groups, and argues 'Plaintiffs do not have standing to bring this action. Venue is not proper in this Court. Plaintiffs are precluded from re-litigating this action based on issue preclusion and res judicata,' though the agency provides no further background to its argument."

TEXAS COMPTROLLER CALLS ON CONGRESS TO FUND RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC DAMAGE OF PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES. The Washington Times (11/12, Mclaughlin, 417K) reports that Texas Comptroller Susan Combs says "it's time to improve the science that determines which animals get listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, calling on Congress to create a $50 million fund for independent research that also would factor in the economic damage to communities when a species is designated for protection." Combs said that Texas has "set aside $5 million to try to fight spurious listings, and said it's time for the federal government to give the states some help."

Overview Of Dunes Sagebrush Lizard Monitoring Program By Texas Comptroller Criticized. In an editorial, the Houston Chronicle (11/8, Copyright 2013:, Chronicle, 2.26M) supports "the deal that the industry proposed a few years ago, as it was persuading the US Fish and Wildlife Service that really, the lizard didn't need those big-stick, able-to-disrupt-business protections that come with being an endangered species." However, it notes that a lizard-monitoring program would not be overseen by Texas Parks and Wildlife, but by the Texas comptroller – the state's bookkeeper and tax collector. The paper argues that Comptroller Susan Combs' office "knows doodly squat about lizards."

FWS CONSIDERS PROTECTIONS FOR BUTTERFLIES. The Detroit Free Press (11/12, Matheny, 794K) reports that the FWS is proposing to list the Poweshiek skipperling as "an endangered species and preserve critical habitat areas for it and another threatened butterfly found outside of Michigan, the Dakota skipper." The agency "will host a public meeting Wednesday in Holly to present information and answer questions about the proposed butterfly protections."

Also reporting on the story are the Lansing (MI) State Journal (11/11, 158K), the Livingston County (MI) Daily

Press & Argus (11/11, 49K), and the Chicago Tribune (11/11, Matheny, 2.32M).

ROUNDUP PLANNED FOR ARSENAL BISON HERD. The Denver Post (11/12, Finley, 949K) reports that the multiplication of bison threatens to degrade drought-prone prairie at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Federal biologists say they must cut the herd by 25 — and keep it at 60 until fenced habitat is expanded. A roundup is planned for Dec. 17, and the biologists are looking for options short of slaughter, such as trucking the animals to other bison preserves.

REWARD OFFERED FOR KILLER OF RARE RED WOLVES. The Washington Post (11/10, 4.28M) reports wildlife biologists in North Carolina "are offering a bounty of sorts for information leading to the capture of whoever who shot to death two rare red wolves." The article notes that "the $21,000 reward was raised by animal rights organizations after the dead wolves were found Oct. 28 and Oct. 30 on the flat plains of Washington County, on the central Carolina coast." According to the article, "accelerometers pinging in the wolves' tracking collars informed US Fish and Wildlife Service officials that the animals' hearts had stopped beating and led them to the dead bodies."

TWO CONDOR DEATHS ARE MAJOR BLOW TO SPECIES. The Los Angeles Times (11/10, Banks, 3.07M) reports that "the deaths of two California condors found last month in water tanks used by Kern County firefighters have state wildlife officials working on a way to keep the large, endangered birds out of the tanks." California wildlife officials have "sent the condor carcasses to a forensics lab in Oregon for necropsies to determine how the birds died," but "with so few in the wild, experts called the loss a blow to a still-fragile recovery program."

FLOOD IMPACT ON PREBLE'S MOUSE NOT YET KNOWN. The Denver Post (11/12, Writer, 949K) reports it will be months before experts know the impact of September's rains on the Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORT ON WILDLIFE REFUGES CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMY. Additional coverage of the report by the FWS on the economic impact of wildlife refuges was provided by the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/12, 343K), the Columbia (MO) Daily Tribune (11/12, 68K), the Southern Illinoisan (11/12, 12K), WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (11/12, 117K), and WXOW-TV LaCrosse, WI (11/8, 2K).

TREATMENT OF WAR HORSES CRITICIZED. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/12, Roy, 11.54M), Suzanne Roy, Campaign Director, American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, writes that "the federal government is complicit in a shameful violation of our responsibility toward" America's War Horses. Roy argues that "the decedents of America's War Horses should be honored and protected," but instead, the FWS has "turned its back on these horses, disregarding and literally disposing of them."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CONCERNED ABOUT THREAT OF SOLAR POWER PLANTS TO BIRDS. USA Today (11/10, Kaufmann, 5.82M) reports that "trying to estimate how many birds could be injured or killed because of large-scale solar projects and what might be done to prevent deaths has become a pressing concern for solar developers and environmental agencies as these projects multiply." In addition to radiation injuries, "scientists are concerned about bird deaths linked to confusion because of the shimmering expanses of solar panels in the desert."

REMOTELY CONTROLLED TURBINES HELP PROTECT BIRDS. The Billings (MT) Gazette (11/12, 206K) reports that "an operations center in California can shut down wind turbines 1,200 miles away in Montana in fewer than 30 seconds when the flight patterns of golden eagles and other raptors indicate a potential collision in the making." According to the article, "the quick response is possible because of tracking radar, 'detect and deter' cameras and human spotters called 'bio-monitors' deployed at Rim Rock Wind Facility in Montana's Glacier and Toole counties." Greg Copeland of San Francisco-based NaturEner USA, the owner, says "the combination of technology and trained avian biologists form a tiered alert system that's proving to be effective, so far, at preventing the turbine blades from striking birds."

STUDY FINDS 600,000 BATS KILLED BY WIND TURBINES IN 2012. CBS News (11/12, 3.87M) reports that "more than 600,000 bats fell victim to the turbines in 2012, according to a new study." Published in the journal BioScience, the University of Colorado study "analyzes records of dead bats found near the wind generators." Biologist Mark Hayes wrote, "Dead bats are being found underneath wind turbines across North America. This estimate of bat fatalities is probably conservative." The article notes that "the most deaths are occurring in the Appalachian Mountains, especially in Buffalo Mountain, Tenn., and Mountaineer, W. Va."

Onshore Energy Development:

RECYCLING WASTEWATER TAKES OFF IN HYDRAULIC FRACTURING INDUSTRY. The AP (11/11, Pushnick-Masti, 1.26M) reports that drought has caused the hydraulic fracturing industry to embrace recycling systems that allow them to use less freshwater and dispose of less wastewater. Tod Ennenga, vice president of business development for Pure Stream, a company that offers two different recycling technologies, said that interest in recycling technology has doubled in the past year. State regulators are racing to draft regulations for the new recycling systems, and in some cases make it easier for fracturing companies to recycle.

Offshore Energy Development:

DRILLING COMPANY FINED, PUT ON PROBATION OVER FALSIFIED TEST RESULTS. WWL-TV New Orleans (11/12, 107K) reports that "an Oklahoma contractor that owns oil rigs and drills in the Gulf of Mexico pleaded guilty Friday to covering up problems with one of its critical blowout preventers by falsifying the results of pressure tests on the device in 2009 and 2010." Helmerich & Payne International Drilling Company was "also ordered to institute and comply with an environmental compliance plan that includes increased well control monitoring and enhanced training." BSEE Director Brian Salerno said, "The safety of offshore workers and the environment is dependent on the integrity of the safety and control equipment. Companies need to be on notice that falsification of test results will not be tolerated."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SHELL'S ARCTIC PLANS. Additional coverage of Shell's Arctic drilling plans was provided by the Christian Science Monitor (11/8, Oilprice.com, 540K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

100 PEOPLE LIVING RENT-FREE ON BOR LAND. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (11/12, 437K) reports that almost 100 people are living rent-free on Snowbird Mesa, a this 90-acre tract of BOR land. Jason Kirby, a realty specialist who patrols the land and hands out the permits for the BOR said, "It is a unique place and exemplifies a cross-section of our society. The camping season has just begun and it's free. We provide regular patrols, and there is a law enforcement presence when necessary, but that is rare."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/10, 749K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (11/12, 206), the Victorville (CA) Daily Press (11/12, 3K), and the Rocklin & Roseville Today (11/12).

SUPPORT FOR NAVAJO GENERATING STATION PROPOSAL URGED. In an op-ed for the Arizona Daily Star (11/12, Modeer, Pickard, 335K), David Modeer, general manager of the Central Arizona Project, and Pam Pickard, who has been a member of the CAP Board since 2006, write in support of an alternative NOx-reduction plan that exceeds the EPA's retrofit technology goal for the Navajo station. They note that "the major components of the technical work group's proposal call for the owners to shut down one of the three power units by 2020 or accomplish equivalent reductions in emissions through changes in operations." According to the two, "should the EPA accept the plan, the benefits to CAP and its customers and stakeholders are numerous."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR RELEASES VALUATION PLAN FOR LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The Indian Country Today Media Network (11/9, 21K) reports that on October 29, the Interior Department released its revised Land Buy-

Back Program Valuation Plan. The article notes that "the draft Plan received a review from The Appraisal Foundation," and "upon the review the Plan was revised to incorporate all of TAF's recommendations." Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs said, "There is no greater authority for establishing standards for appraisals and qualifications for appraisers than The Appraisal Foundation. TAF's independent analysis confirms that the steps we are taking to determine fair market value for offers to landowners are cost-effective and conform to the best practices for valuation. We are grateful for their comprehensive review and have incorporated their recommendations into the Valuation Plan we will use in the months and years ahead as we work through a transparent process to provide fair market value to tribal landowners."

BUY INDIAN ACT IMPLEMENTED 100 YEARS AFTER PASSAGE. The Washington Times (11/11, Swarts, 417K) reports that regulations for the Buy Indian Act, which was passed during the William Howard Taft administration are "just now getting around to being implemented, some 103 years later." The bill requires the BIA to "give preference in funding and contracts to American Indian-owned businesses, a similar practice employed by 'set-aside' policies many government agencies use to support businesses owned by targeted groups such as veterans, minorities or women." In June, Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary for Indian affairs, said, "The publication of this final rule to implement the Buy Indian Act is a major accomplishment for the administration and a win-win for both Indian Affairs and the American Indian and Alaska Native business community. We expect this will help increase economic activity in tribal communities and provide greater employment opportunities where these businesses are located."

SOUTH DAKOTA TRIBAL LEADERS SEEK FEDERAL FOSTER CARE HELP. The Connecticut Post (11/12, 298K) reports that "leaders of South Dakota's nine Sioux tribes will spend time in Washington, D.C., this week seeking federal help in a long-running dispute over state government's handling of foster care for Native American children." The tribal officials claim that "the state removes too many American Indian children from their homes and places them in foster care with non-Indian families." According to Randy Pozos, communications coordinator for the Lakota People's Law Project, "the tribal leaders and others will hold a press conference on Tuesday and a demonstration on Wednesday outside near the offices of the US Department of Interior, which is hosting a conference with tribal leaders from around the nation."

Also reporting on the story is the San Francisco Chronicle (11/12, Brokaw, 2.88M).

REPORT ADDRESSES PUBLIC SAFETY ON TRIBAL LAND. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/12, 749K) reports that "a national panel of judicial and law enforcement experts traveled the country taking comment on public safety issues on American Indian reservations, where federal statistics show the violent crime rates can be 20 times the national average." The report, "Strengthening Justice for Native America: A roadmap," will be released Tuesday, a day ahead of the White House Tribal Nations Conference. The article notes that "among the report's 40 recommendations is giving tribes more control over crime and justice on their reservations, including an expansion of authority to prosecute non-Indians."

Also reporting on the story is the Denver Post (11/12, Fonseca, 949K).

WISCONSIN GOV. WALKER STILL UNDECIDED ON KENOSHA CASINO. Yahoo! (11/12, 17.91M) reports that Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on Monday said "he was directing his top aide to begin 'extensive discussions' with tribal governments interested in the proposal to open a casino in Kenosha." Walker "gave no timeline for when he will announce his decision on whether to approve the $800 million casino project proposed by the Menominee tribe and Hard Rock International."

Also reporting on the story are the Bloomberg BusinessWeek (11/11, 4.93M), the Appleton (WI) Post-Crescent (11/11, 139K), the Racine (WI) Journal Times (11/12, 85K), and the Milwaukee Business Journal (11/8, Subscription Publication, 12K).

BIA FACES DIFFICULT DECISION ON COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE'S GAMING PLAN. The Oregonian (11/12, 751K) editorializes that the Coquille tribe's plan "reaches well beyond gambling." According to the paper, "the consequences of allowing the Coquille tribe to move ahead on its Medford plan poses several dilemmas, not least of them the future of tribal relations statewide, Oregon's deep addiction to lottery dollars and the willingness of all Oregonian's to see gaming pop up in unlikely places." The BIA's "decision on whether to place the Medford site in trust will have far-reaching consequence that should be debated openly among tribes and state officials and in

Oregon's communities."

SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN CARCIERI CASE ANALYZED. For the Indian Country Today Media Network (11/9, 21K) attorney Peter d'Errico analyzes the 2009 Supreme Court decision in Carcieri v. Salazar that "derailed the effort of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Narragansett."

Top National News:

OBAMA NOTES IMPENDING END OF AFGHAN WAR IN VETERANS DAY SPEECH. Coverage of President Obama's Veterans Day speech at Arlington National Cemetery tends to focus on his remarks regarding the wind-down of the war in Afghanistan and his pledge to provide adequate Federal assistance to the nation's veterans

The New York Times (11/12, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the President "pledged...that Americans 'will never forget' the sacrifices made by the country's military veterans, and promised that his administration would continue pushing for money to support the men and women home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan." The Times notes that the President also "declared that the nation's most recent 'chapter of war is coming to an end."

On the CBS Evening News (11/11, story 10, 1:20, Pelley, 5.58M), President Obama was shown saying, "By this time next year the transition to Afghan-led security will be nearly complete. The longest war in American history will end." The New York Daily News (11/12, Larson, 3.94M) reports that the President "praised" the "9/11 generation for serving 'tour after tour after tour' abroad," and "bringing 'the core of al Qaeda ... on the path to defeat.'" The AP (11/12, Anderson) reports that while "the war is expected to formally conclude at the end of next year," the US "may keep a small footprint in the country."

According to McClatchy (11/12, 95K), the President "pledged to pay attention to the debts owed to veterans." The President is quoted as saying, "Even as we make difficult fiscal choices as a nation, we're going to keep making vital investments in our veterans." McClatchy reports that VA Secretary Shinseki "noted that the [VA's] budget...has increased by more than 50 percent, 2 million veterans have been added to the VA's health care system and there have been reductions in veteran homelessness."

USA Today (11/12, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that the President, "pledging help with jobs, education and health care," said, "When we talk about fulfilling our promises to our veterans, we don't just mean for a few years. We mean now, tomorrow and forever." According to USA Today, the President said the Administration "is working to reduce the oft-criticized backlog of claims at the Veterans Administration." On Monday, the President said, "We've slashed it by a third since March, and we're going to keep at it, so you can get the benefits that you have eamed and that you need, when you need them."

However, according to the Washington Times (11/12, Boyer, 417K), the Administration "hasn't made as much progress as [Obama] promised." The Times says the "400,835 veterans' benefits claims remain in the pipeline, down about 211,000 since March," but the VA "has processed about 100,000 fewer claims than promised." The Times adds that Shinseki "has said the [VA] will eliminate the backlog sometime in 2015."

The Hill (11/12, Sink, 194K) notes that the President "said those veterans not covered by the Department of Veterans Affairs could 'secure quality, affordable health insurance' under ObamaCare, and touted the millionth student veteran pursuing an education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill."

According to Bloomberg News (11/12, Lerer, 1.91M), the President also praised employers who "have...worked with Michelle Obama and Jill Biden to help 290,000 veterans and military spouses get trained or hired, and are committed to hiring an additional 400,000."

Diane Sawyer, on ABC World News (11/11, story 3, 0:50, Sawyer, 7.43M), noted that "the nation's oldest veteran, 107-year-old Richard Overton" was among those at Arlington. President Obama, "He was there at Pearl Harbor when the battleships were still smoldering. He was there at Okinawa. He was there at Iwo Jima where he said. 'I only got out of there by the grace of God.'" Sawyer added, "Someone else who served got a salute today, 91-year-old Phyllis Gould, one of the original Rosie the Riveters." According to Sawyer, Gould "worked as a

welder during World War II and today Vice President Biden called her to invite her to the White House because she had said it's a big item on her bucket list."

According to Politico (11/12, Delreal, 467K), Biden's call to Gould "is featured on the latest installment of 'Being Biden,' an audio series put together by the Vice President's office." NBC Nightly News (11/11, story 10, 0:20, Williams, 7.86M) also briefly noted the tributes at Arlington Monday. Reuters (11/12, Wulfhorst) lists some of the many commemorations across the country Monday.

The Los Angeles Times (11/12, Muskal, 3.07M) notes that "according to the US Census Bureau, there are 21.2 million military veterans as of 2012," including "7.4 million Vietnam-era veterans...5.4 million who served during the Gulf wars," approximately "1.6 million served in World War II and 2.3 million served in Korea." 5.3 million "served only in peacetime."

Congress's Iraq And Afghan War Vets Overwhelmingly Oppose US Involvement In Syria. Anna Mulrine, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (11/12, Mulrine, 540K), notes that the current Congress includes "a total of 16 members have served in Iraq or Afghanistan," and that only two of them back US military involvement in Syria, while "the other 14...a mixture of Democrats and Republicans, either remain skeptical or oppose action altogether."

"Huge Crowds" Honor Four Surviving Doolittle Raiders. NBC Nightly News (11/11, story 11, 2:40, Williams, 7.86M) reported that "huge crowds turned out at the National Air Force Museum at Dayton, Ohio, this weekend to honor the few Doolittle Raiders still alive today." According to Brian Williams, there are just four surviving Raiders "who pulled off a secret mission to strike back at Japan after Pearl Harbor."

Veterans Day Event Used To Push For DC Statehood. The Washington Post (11/12, Ruane, Binkovitz, Martin, 4.28M) reports that "in the District, officials...marked Veterans Day with...a political statement." According to the Post, Mayor Vincent Gray (D) and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) attended an event at the African American Civil War Memorial that "quickly became a rally for full federal representation." Louis Anderson, "a major in the Tuskegee Airmen," told those assembled, "Today, I urge everyone to join Congresswoman Norton, Mayor Vincent Gray and our city council members in the fight for full rights for the residents of the District of Columbia."

US Court Of Appeals For Veterans Claims Marking 25th Anniversary. McClatchy (11/12, Doyle, 95K) reports that the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is "celebrating its 25th anniversary, which dates to passage of the Veteran's Judicial Review Act in 1988." According to McClatchy, "the specialized panel has heard more than 60,000 appeals of veterans claims decisions."

ENROLLMENTS ON FEDERAL, STATE EXCHANGES FAR LOWER THAN EXPECTED. In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (11/12, A1, Weaver, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that according to two people familiar with the numbers, early reports indicate that as of last week, fewer than 50,000 people were able to successfully enroll in private health insurance plans via the Federal health insurance exchange website. The total is well short of the 500,000 October enrollments the Administration anticipated in internal memos, and the Journal notes that insurers who are counting on higher enrollments are concerned.

The Washington Post (11/12, A3, Goldstein, Kliff, 4.28M) notes that the Federal enrollment numbers are "a tiny fraction of the total projected enrollment for the 36 states where the federal government is running the online health-care exchange, indicating the slow start to the president's initiative."

Politico (11/12, Cheney, 467K) reports that while health industry consultant Robert Laszewski, "said the Journal report is consistent with the industry data he has seen," the Administration "declined to confirm the Wall Street Journal figures." HHS spokeswoman Joanne Peters said, "We cannot confirm these numbers. ... [A]s we have said, the problems with the website will cause the numbers to be lower than initially anticipated."

Meanwhile, Bloomberg News (11/12, Wayne, 1.91M) reports that according to the consulting company Avalere Health, about "49,100 people have enrolled in Obamacare plans through 12 state-run insurance exchanges." A statement from Avalere says that enrollment as of Nov. 10 "represents 3 percent of the 1.4 million people projected to sign up in those states by the end of 2014." That number does not "include California, the most populous US state, Massachusetts or Oregon," and it does not "account for those enrolled through the federal

website serving 36 states."

The Washington Times (11/12, Howell, 417K) reports that Avalere CEO Dan Mendelson said that problems with the Federal site and "issues in various state-run markets," have created a "'climate of scrutiny and negativity' that may have suppressed enrollment among the states in Avalere's analysis." Mendelson added, "I would expect to see these numbers to grow over time. This happens gradually."

Study Finds Less Competition On ACA Exchanges. The Daily Caller (11/12, May, 422K) reports that a Heritage Foundation analysis has found that competition among healthcare companies "has decreased on the Obamacare exchanges" despite the President's call for more such competition. The Heritage Foundation study found that "in most states the number of carriers on that state's exchange are less than the number that sold on the individual market in the state." The analysis of all 50 states "found that more than half of America's 3,135 counties would experience an exchange with two or fewer insurance carriers and 78 percent would have a choice of three or less carriers." According to the study, only "313 counties out of the 3,135 counties nationwide...have a choice of more than five carriers."

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: YELLEN WILL NEED TO MANAGE FED INTERNAL DEBATE. The Wall Street Journal (11/12, Hilsenrath, Mcgrane, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that one of Janet Yellen's top challenges at the Fed will be managing the organization's internal debates and the confused signals this often gives the public. While Yellen is expected to maintain Ben Bernanke's tendency to favor open debate, some former officials believe she will try to get the Fed to speak in a more unified manner to the public.

Summers Argues Focus Should Be On Economic Growth, Not Deficit Reduction. Politico (11/12, Cirilli, 467K) reports that former Clinton Administration Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, who in September withdrew his name from consideration to be Federal Reserve chairman, "is returning to the public stage with a new message for Washington: Drop the obsession with seeking deficit deals, and focus on the economy." Summers said in an interview, "Growth should be a priority. ... We are starving our potential." Politico notes that Summers "isn't simply arguing more should be done now to boost the economy — he's also questioning whether the focus on cutting deals to tame government debt over the medium and long term is a worthwhile pursuit." Summers argues that "growing the economy will bring down or keep the deficit and debt at sustainable levels over time by, for example, boosting tax revenues."

QE Said To Do Little For Economy As A Whole. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (11/12, Huszar, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Andrew Huszar, who managed the Fed's $1.25 trillion mortgage bond buy-back program, apologizes for his involvement in the Fed's quantitative easing program. He says that QE programs have not in fact done much to help the economy as a whole, instead acting as a boon to major banking firms.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Iran Nuclear Talks: Unfinished But Alive."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (11/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the "inconclusive" talks over Iran's nuclear program were "disappointing," but is encouraged that there has been progress at all. The Times encourages the Administration to ignore those opposed to a deal and press forward.

"Redefining The Minimum Wage." In an editorial, the New York Times (11/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that the people of SeaTac, a small city south of Seattle, have voted on a referendum to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour, though the results are not yet clear. The Times says that while the $15 an hour seems high, over the past 50 years, "American workers have achieved productivity gains that can easily support" such as level. The Times encourages the Federal government to push for a higher wage.

"An Overdue Ban On Trans Fats." The New York Times (11/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the Food and Drug Administration's move to ban trans fats from foods is a "long-awaited move" that "should save thousands of lives and potentially billions of dollars in medical and economic costs a year." The FDA's move would "eliminate a loophole" which enabled food manufacturers whose products contained less than half a gram of trans fats to market these foods as "containing zero grams of trans fats per serving."

"The Next Step In Stop-And-Frisk." The New York Times (11/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that a three-judge panel of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals "created a public-policy crisis earlier this month" when it "stayed the remedies ordered by Judge Shira Scheindlin of Federal District Court to correct civil rights violations associated with the New York Police Department's stop-and-frisk policy." The judges, by "wrongly removing Judge Scheindlin from the case," sent "a chilling message to district court judges who challenge the practices of the police and other government entities." The Times urges the full circuit to review the panel's ruling.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The U.S. Needs A Better Iran Deal."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/12, 4.28M) says that the latest "pause" in the talks over Iran's nuclear program is "fortunate." The Post says that the Administration "could profitably spend the time before the next round of talks ensuring that whatever terms it puts forward for limiting Iranian nuclear capacity have broad support in Washington and among U.S. allies." The Post says that any deal will "require distasteful concessions," but it is "preferable to military action."

"Emergency In The Philippines." In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/12, 4.28M) that as international organizations prepare "for what will be a vast, complex and challenging relief effort" in the Philippines, it is "essential they get priorities straight and the resources to do the job." The Post adds that the "scope of destruction is daunting," and notes that "there are worrisome signs that the international community faces an uphill struggle to mobilize for it." The Post argues that while "the efforts planned by some, such as China's pledge of $100,000, seem grossly inadequate," on the other hand, "the U.N.'s humanitarian affairs office quickly released an initial $25 million from the world body's emergency fund," suggesting "more realism about the scale of the tragedy."

"Protections Needed For Nonprofits." The Washington Post (11/12, 4.28M) editorializes that non-profit organizations must better protect themselves against fraud and other unauthorized use of funds, and better regulatory scrutiny is warranted. A Washington Post investigation found that "hundreds of millions of dollars were drained from institutions that are underwritten by public donations and government funds," as disclosed in IRS filings. Furthermore, "nonprofits routinely omitted important details from their filings, and about half the groups didn't disclose the total amounts lost." The investigation has prompted regulators in seven states and the District of Columbia, as well as Congress, to look into the matter further.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Biggest Fiscal Losers."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that the US is making a bit of short-term progress in bringing down the budget deficit. However, the Journal says that the longer-term budget outlook remains grim, mainly due to rising entitlement spending. The Journal says that the Administration wants to eliminate the sequestration cuts and budget caps, and replace them with tax increases. The Journal calls on Republicans to reject this.

"California's Green Reality Check." The Wall Street Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that California's emissions-reduction policies are implausible and will not help the state meet its emissions reduction target. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory reportedly advised the state's Air Resources Board that it will not be able to reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. To do so, the state would have to reduce demand for energy in addition to its plethora of incentives and initiatives. Energy demand is a function of population growth and economic growth, which the state's emissions policies do not and cannot address.

"The Racial Runaround." The Wall Street Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that a Justice Department amicus brief for an appeals court rehearing of Fisher v. University of Texas contradicts Justice Anthony Kennedy's majority opinion in the Supreme Court's decision on the case, which remanded it to the appeals court. The Justice Department's brief instructs the University of Texas that it can define its own criteria for utilizing race in admissions decisions, thus avoiding the "strict scrutiny" standard in a 2003 Supreme Court decision that Justice Kennedy advised the university to use. The editorial contends that the Supreme Court has failed to establish its decisions on constitutional principles, and advocated the end of race-based admissions.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Health Site Far Short Of Obama Target
Job Gap Widens In Uneven Recovery
Grim Toll Rises Amid Ruin And Chaos
Former BP Chief's New Quest: Wildcatting On The Edge Of Danger

New York Times:
Struggle For Survival In Philippine City Shattered By Typhoon
For De Blasio, Contract Talks Offer Problem
Blighted Cities Prefer Razing To Rebuilding
Insurers Press For Way Around Healthcare. Gov
Bloody End For Iranian Rockers Seeking Musical Freedom In US
China's One-Day Shopping Spree Sets Record In Online Sales
With Hard Sell, Big-Ticket Art Comes To Auction

Washington Post:
UDC Looks At Cutting Athletics, Programs
For The Modern Consumer, The Week Never Seems To End
Wreckage Stands In Way Of Fast Relief In The Philippines
Snatching Their Son From Syria's Civil War
The Government's Eyes On The Price

Financial Times:
Shadow Banks Reap Fed Rate Reward
China's E-Commerce Affair Breaks Records
Green Energy Move Fuels German Job Fears
ICBC Joins Financial Stability Risk List
Apollo Takes A Leaf Out Of Buffett's Book
Plan To Shake Up Norway's Oil Fund
Investors Reassured Over Taper And Rates

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-Aid Effort; Veterans Day Observances, UK-WWII Vet Funeral; Government Contracts-Terrorist Groups; European Satellite; Amazon Sunday Delivery; Movie Violence; Louisiana-Kidnap Rescue; Grand Canyon-Flooding; Wounded Vets.
CBS: Philippines- Typhoon; Philippines-Typhoon-US Relief; ACA Website Manager; Iran-Nuclear Talks; Pope Polling Catholics; Economy-Dow Closes Up; Veterans Day Observances; Veterans-World War Stories.
NBC: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-Typhoon-Health; Philippines-Typhoon-Weather Analysis; Philippines-Typhoon-Filipino Americans; Economy-Gas; Economy-Holiday Retail; NASA-European Satellite; UK-WWII Vet Funeral; Obama-Veterans Day; Veterans Day-Doolittle Raiders.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-US Aid Effort; LAX Shooting-TSA Officer Memorial; NFL Bullying Incident; Holiday Drunk Driving.
CBS: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-US Aid Effort; Congress-ACA Website Hearings; ACA-Enrollment Statistics; Military-Service Member Suicides Report; Economy-Mortgages; Movie Violence.
NPR: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-US Aid Effort; Russia-Greenpeace Prisoners Moved; Smartphones Report; Wall Street; US-EU Free Trade Talks; Iran-Nuclear Talks; Egypt-Curfew, State Of Emergency Expires.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President will attend meetings at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — In Wilmington, Delaware. No public events scheduled.

MICHELLE OBAMA — The First Lady will deliver remarks and participate in a conversation with sophomores, Education Secretary Duncan at Bell Multicultural High School, which is part of the Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC).
US Senate: 2 p.m. — The Senate will convene and begin a period of morning business. 4:30 p.m.: Proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Comelia T. L. Pillard to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — 2:30 p.m. Hearings to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) semi-annual report to Congress with CFPB Director Richard Cordray. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=3199bc71-b050-4e99-9088-a7cbf08d0947. Location: 538 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety hearings to examine payroll fraud. Panel I: Matt Anderson , Residential Construction trim installer, Michigan: Danny Odom , Odom Construction Systems, Inc., Knoxville, TN; Cathy Ruckelshaus , Legal Co-Director, National Employment Law Project, NY, NY; Chris MacKrell , Custom Courier Solutions, Rochester, NY. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=cc7f251e-5056-a032-520e-2335584bc64f. Location: 430 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE — 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/hearings.cfm?hearingId=5fa8a4fcfd512d43b3816f1ee71cee7e. Location: 219 Hart.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — 5:40 p.m. Nominations hearing for: Nomination of Ms. Terrell McSweeny to be a Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission; Nomination of Dr. Robert Simon, to be Associate Director for Environment and Energy, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President; Nomination of Dr. Jo Handelsman, to be Associate Director for Science, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President; Nomination of Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, to be Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce, and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=0c5c9a3b-1433-4c73-9f71-b56b7468491a&ContentType_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a. Location: S-216.
US House: Nov. 1 – 12. — The House will be in recess for a Constituent Work Period until 2 pm on Tuesday, November 12th.

2 p.m. — The House will meet at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. Suspensions (6 bills). S. 252 – PREEMIE Reauthorization Act, as amended (Sen. Alexander – Energy and Commerce). S. 330 – HIV Organ Policy Equity Act (Sen. Boxer – Energy and Commerce) . S. 893 – Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013 (Sen. Sanders – Veterans Affairs). H.R. 2922 – To extend the authority of the Supreme Court Police to protect court officials away from the Supreme Court grounds (Rep. Holding – Judiciary). H.Res. 196 – Supporting the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the right to counsel, as amended (Rep. Deutch – Judiciary). H.R. 2871 – To amend title 28, United States Code, to modify the composition of the southern judicial district of Mississippi to improve judicial efficiency, and for other purposes (Rep. Coble – Judiciary).

BUDGET CUTS – SICKER, POORER AND LESS SECURE — 11 a.m. Press conference discussing new report on the impact of sequestration and other budget cuts to core government programs. Speakers: Rep. Nita Lowey, D-NY; Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-CT; Emily Holubowich, Co-Chair, NDD United; Exec Director, Coalition for Health Funding. Featured in report: Phil Francis, Former Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway; Sharilyn Cano, SPHR, Human Resources Director, Southern Oregon Head Start; Ryan Dinkgrave, Manager, Government Affairs & Grantwriting, Focus: HOPE; Ian Kremer, Executive Director, LEAD: Leaders Engaged on Alzheimers Disease; Aaron Payment, Tribal Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Chippewa Indians. Location: 441 Cannon.

SEN. HARKIN, REP DELAURO – SEQUESTER BATTLEFIELD REPORT — 11 a.m. Press conference

discussing new report on the impact of sequestration and other budget cuts to core government programs. Participants: Sen. Tom Harkin, D-IA; Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-CT; Emily Holubowich, Co-Chair, NDD United; Exec Dir, Coalition for Health Funding. Featured in report:; Phil Francis, Former Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway; Sharilyn Cano, SPHR, Human Resources Director, Southern Oregon Head Start; Ryan Dinkgrave, Manager, Government Affairs & Grantwriting, Focus: HOPE; Ian Kremer, Executive Director, LEAD: Leaders Engaged on Alzheimers Disease; Aaron Payment, Tribal Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Chippewa Indians; Rosemary Brewer, Human Resource Director, Detroit Manufacturing System. Contact Christy Setzer at 202-506-6421 or Christy@newheightscommunications.com. Location: 441 Cannon.

HOYER PEN AND PAD — 1 p.m. House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: H-144.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RULES — 5 p.m. Full Committee. On H.R. 982 – Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act of 2013, and H.R. 2665 – Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2013. Location: H-313 Capitol.
Other: Nov. 10 – 12. PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES — More Than 1,250 Public University Officials to Convene at the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities 126th Annual Meeting. The Three Day Conference Will Address the Challenges & Opportunities Facing Public Universities Across the Country. Location: Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Road. Notes: Media Credentials: www.aplu.org/2013mediacredentials.

DEFENSE DAILY OPEN ARCHITECTURE SUMMIT — DoDs Better Buying Power 2.0, Open Architecture Opportunities in C4ISR and War Gaming Open Architecture will be among issues explored at Defense Dailys 6th Annual Open Architecture Summit . Speakers include Katrina McFarland, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acuisition); others. Full schedule: http://openarchitecturesummit.com/summit_schedule.html. Highlights: 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Katrina G. McFarland, Assistant Secretary of Defense Katrina G. McFarland delivers opening remarks. 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Morning keynote by Lieutenant General Charles Davis (confirmed) Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition. 11:30 a.m. Luncheon keynote: Stephen Welby (confirmed) Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering Department of Defense Research and Engineering Enterprise. Location: Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H St. NW

DIPLOMACY, SECURITY AND EDUCATION – US, NORWAY — Nov. 12 – 13. International Experts Convene in Washington DC on National Security, Terrorism as well as Technologys Impact on Education. Speakers from the Peace Research Institute of Oslo, the Norwegian Police College, the World Bank, the US Marine Corps University, Harvard, the US Naval War College, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, MIT, Columbia University and the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism will be among the participants convening at Transatlantic Science Week. The conference focuses on international security, cybersecurity, safety and emergency preparedness, as well as the major changes in education due to technological advances. http://www.cvent.com/events/transatlantic-science-week-2013/event-summary-4324cc2d821848949b0b0d99b800331f.aspx. Location: 12th: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Concourse Level. 13th: FHI 360 Conference Center, 1825 Connecticut Avenue NW, 8th floor. Contacts: Valerie Holford valerieholford@starpower.net (301-926-1298)

CSIS – HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS – MEKONG – HAMBURG — 8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. day-long conference on US Health Partnerships in the Mekong, organized by the Global Health Policy Center at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the CSIS Sumitro Chair for Southeast Asia Studies. Speakers include: FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg. http://csis.org/event/us-health-partnerships-mekong. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

CENUS BUREAU – 2010-2012 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY — The Census Bureau will provide embargo-period access to the 2010-2012 American Community Survey estimates that will be released to the public on Nov. 14. In addition, a new American Community Survey briefs will be available on the embargo site: Home Value and Homeownership Rates: Recession and Post-Recession Comparisons From 2007-2009 to 2010-2012, which uses the American Community Survey statistics to focus on homeownership rates and home values for smaller areas. Contacts: pio@census.gov (301-763-3030). Notes: Embargo subscribers will have access to the estimates on Tuesday, Nov. 12, up to 48 hours in advance of the public release. Only members of the media who

have applied for and received embargo access may join.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – NATO'S DETERRENCE — 9 a.m. NATO's Deterrence and Collective Defense. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs Madelyn Creedon participates 1 p.m. http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/natos-deterrence-and-collective-defense. Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor.

NASA – DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION — 9 a.m. NASA Television will air a roundtable discussion with aerospace industry leaders about the progress being made toward sending humans into deep space. Panelists representing NASA and its prime contractors will discuss the work being done on the agency's Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System rocket, which will carry humans farther into space than ever before. The participants are: William Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for human exploration and operations, NASA; Julie Van Kleek, vice president, advanced space and launch programs, Aerojet Rocketdyne; Charlie Precourt, vice president and general manager, ATK Space Launch Division; John Elbon, vice president and general manager, Boeing Space Exploration; Jim Crocker, vice president and general manager, civil space, Lockheed Martin Space Systems. Location: The live broadcast will take place at the Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, in Washington. Contacts: Rachel Kraft rachel.h.kraft@nasa.gov (202-358-1100)

US CHAMBER – QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The US Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation, will host its quarterly economic briefing to provide insights on the future course of economic activity, the Fed, and fiscal policy. Dr. Martin Regalia, the Chambers chief economist and senior vice president, will deliver remarks on GDP data before leading a panel discussion with economists and industry experts. Participants: Martin Regalia, Ph.D., Chief Economist and Senior Vice President,, US Chamber of Commerce; David Crowe, Ph.D., Chief Economist and Senior Vice President,, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB); G. Mustafa Mohatarem, Ph.D., Chief Economist, General Motors; Daniel J. Meckstroth, Ph.D., Vice President and Chief Economist, Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation (MAPI). Location: US Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW. Contacts: press@uschamber.com 202-463-5682

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS — 9:30 a.m. Members of the scientific community will join Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, Seth MacFarlane, Ann Druyan and other guests Tuesday, November 12, for the official opening of the "Seth MacFarlane Collection of the Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan Archive" at the Library of Congress. http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/spacecraft/goldenrec.html. Location: Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First St. SE. Contacts: Gayle Osterberg gosterberg@loc.gov (202-707-0020). Sheryl Cannady scannady@loc.gov (202-707-6456). Notes: Invitation only. Media must RSVP: scannady@loc.gov

NPC – HEALTH CARE – JAMA BRIEFING — 9:30 a.m. Critical Issues in US Health Care – A JAMA Media Briefing on Critical Issues in US Health Care. Contact: Jim Michalski, 312-543-8946, Jim.Michalski@jamanetwork.org For more information: http://press.org/events/critical-issues-us-health-care-jama-media-briefing. Location: National Press Club, Zenger room, 529 14th Street NW.

OPEN DOORS REPORT — 9:30 a.m. Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Evan Ryan will brief reporters on the 2013 Open Doors report. The report includes this years data on foreign student enrollment on US campuses and US students studying abroad Assistant Secretary Ryan will be accompanied by Allan Goodman, President and CEO of the Institute of International Education. Media RSVP: http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors/Open-Doors-Press-Kit-Registration. Location: National Press Club, Ballroom, 529 14th Street NW.

CSIS – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. The CSIS Americas Program hosts discussion of The Dominican Republic: Becoming a One-Party State? With Author: Carl Meacham, Director, CSIS Americas Program. Discussant: Roberto Alvarez, General Coordinator, Grupo Participacisn Ciudadana, and Former Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the Organization of American States. Location: 110/112 Conference Room, CSIS 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW.

OSCE REPRESENTATIVE – TWEETCHAT — 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Sign in to tweetchat.com and sign in using your Twitter handle, and enter RFOM15 to enter the RFOM15 discussion room.

ASBESTOS VICTIMS – MEDIA CALL — 11 a.m. Speakers: Susan Vento, Widow of Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN) Asbestos Cancer Victims Rights Campaign (ACVRC); Linda Reinstein, Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO); Michelle Schwartz, Alliance for Justice (AFJ); Jason Johns, Wisconsin Asbestos Victims Network (WAVN). CALL-IN : 1.800.434.1335 CODE: 394831. Contacts: Joy Howell, ACVRC (202-302-5932)

ENROLL AMERICA – MEDIA CALL UPDATE — 11 a.m. Enroll America, a non-profit health insurance enrollment coalition, will host a press conference call to give an update on the progress of fundraising efforts, and the growth and reach of the consumer-focused Get Covered America campaign. Contact: Justin Nisly Press@EnrollAmerica.org, 202-601-2494. Register at: http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/LID9NHGRNBWNQL9G

PUBLIC CITIZEN – KEYSTONE — 11 a.m. Release of a new Public Citizen report which "documents construction problems and more than 125 excavations of possible anomalies and engineering code violations along the Texas portion of the pipeline". Speakers: Tom "Smitty" Smith, director, Public Citizens Texas office; Mohammad Najafi, civil engineer; Evan Vokes, former TransCanada engineer; David Whitley, landowner. DIAL IN: 1-866-952-1906, passcode: PIPELINE. Contacts: Angela Bradbery (202) 588-7741. Tom "Smitty" Smith (512) 477-1155.

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Government Regulations: Practical Considerations for the US Forest Industry And Their Impact on Consumers and Businesses. Speakers: Former Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Chair, National Federation of Independent Business's Small Business for Sensible Regulations Coalition ; Stephen Pociask, PhD, President, American Consumer Institute; Wayne Winegarden, PhD, Contributing Editor, EconoSTATS at George Mason University; Robert Lichter, Professor of Communication and Director, Center for Media and Public Affairs and Statistical Assessment Center (STATS) at George Mason University; William Tucker (Moderator) – News Editor, RealClearEnergy. Location: 2456 Rayburn.

PRIVACY IN THE CLOUD – WEB EVENT — 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Presenters: Jim Siegl, Technology Architect, Fairfax County Public Schools (VA); Kathleen M. Styles, Chief Privacy Officer, US Department of Education; David Rubin, Attorney, Council of School Attorneys; Aimee Guidera, Executive Director, Data Quality Campaign. http://www.cosn.org/events/webinars/cosn-webinar-series-privacy-cloud-possible.

EPA – CARBON POLLUTION – MEDIA CALL — 1:30 p.m. Curbin Carbon Pollution – the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the NRDC Action Fund release results from new Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois and New Hampshire surveys conducted in states of some key swing senators. DIAL IN: 1 (800) 860-2442. Ask for the "EPA Carbon Pollution Poll" telenews event. Contact: Jake Thompson, jthompson@nrdc.org, (202) 289-2387; or Melissa Harrison, (NRDC Action Fund), (614) 203-2616, mharrison@nrdc.org; or Alex Frank, afrank@hastingsgroup.com or (703) 276-3264. On the Net: http://www.nrdc.org

FEDERAL BUDGET DEBATE – PRESS CALL — 2 p.m. Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF) will hold a phone briefing for journalists about the results of a new public opinion poll on taxes and government spending that was conducted in late October after the government shutdown and as the next round of the federal budget fight begins. Participants: Geoffrey Garin, President, and Guy Molneaux, Partner at Hart Research Associates. Joining them on the call will be Chuck Loveless, Director of Federal Government Affairs of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Michael Linden, Managing Director for Economic Policy of the Center for American Progress; and Frank Clemente, Campaign Manager of Americans for Tax Fairness. DIAL IN: (785) 424-1828, conference ID: tax. Notes: Polling materials available on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 1:45pm EST at: http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/polls/2013/11/08/atf-oct-2013-polling-materials/

NOW, FEMINIST MAJORITY- WOMEN – FEDERAL BENCH — 2 p.m. The National Organization for Women and the Feminist Majority Foundation host a media call on what they say is the Senate Republicans continued blocking of qualified nominations of women to the Federal Bench. Participants: Terry ONeill, president at National Organization for Women; Ellie Smeal, president at Feminist Majority Foundation. RSVP. Contacts: Megan Vibert mvibert@scottcircle.com (202-695-8229, 703-946-4868). On the Net: www.now.org. Notes: The call should only last about 15 to 20 minutes.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS – STEM FIELDS — 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Policy Briefing on Professional Science Masters

Degrees: Higher Educations Response to a National Workforce Need. Speakers: Reps. Richard Hanna (NY) and Rush Holt (NJ); Nancy Zimpher, Chancellor, State University of New York (SUNY) System; Juliette Bell, President, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Sheldon Schuster, President, Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences; Ross Grossman, Vice President for Human Resources, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. Location: The Library of Congress, Jefferson Building, Members Room, First Street, S.E. Contacts: Laura Trivers triviatta@hotmail.com (301-512-4442). On the Net: www.psmmilestone.com

CSIS – PHILIPPINES — 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Public Health in the Philippines: Progress and Challenges with keynote by: H.E. Enrique T. Ona, Secretary of the Department of Health, Republic of the Philippines. http://csis.org/event/public-health-philippines-progress-and-challenges. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

CSIS – RULE OF LAW – DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION — 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. The CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development hosts discussion on the Trends in the Practice of Development Cooperation: Strengthening Governance and the Rule of Law with Ambassador James Michel, Senior Adviser, CSIS and Former US Ambassador to Guatemala. http://csis.org/event/trends-practice-development-cooperation-strengthening-governance-and-rule-law. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

QUINNIPIAC POLL – OBAMA, COGNRESS, NATIONAL ISSUES — 4 p.m. Quinnipiac University Releases Results of National Poll on President Obama, Congress and National Issues. http://press.org/events/quinnipiac-university-releases-results-national-poll-president-obama-congress-and-national-is. Location: National Press Club, Zenger room, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Pat Smith psmith@rubenstein.com (212-843-8026)

HERITAGE – MCGINLEY LECTURE – GENERAL MCCAFFREY — 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. National Security in an Uncertain Age. http://www.heritage.org/events/2013/11/mcginley-lecture. Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE

SAIS – ROOFTOP SOLAR — 5 p.m. "Can Expanding Rooftop Solar Coexist With Traditional Electric Utilities?" with Bob Gibson, vice president for education and communication at the Solar Electric Power Association; Bill Murray, director of public policy at Dominion Virginia Power; Rick Morgan, former commissioner of the D.C. Public Service Commission; and Robert Margolis, senior analyst at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Location: Kenney Auditorium, Nitze Building, 1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW.nContacts: Felisa Klubes (fklubes@jhu.edu), 202-663-5626. RSVP saisereglobal@jhu.edu

SAIS – TURNING RUSSIA AGAINST ASSAD — 5 p.m. Samuel Charap, senior fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and Jeremy Shapiro, visiting fellow in the Foreign Policy Program at the Brookings Institution and senior adviser to the US assistant secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia. Location: Room 806, Rome Building, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW. Contacts: Felisa Klubes (fklubes@jhu.edu), 202-663-5626

CACI FORUM – GEORGIA — 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Georgia's Domestic and Regional Economic Agenda: Realities and Prospects for Future. Participants: Giorgi Pertaia, Head of Georgian National Investment Agency; George Bachiashvili, CEO, Georgian Co-Investment Fund (GCFund); Mamuka Bakhtadze, CEO, Georgian Railway; Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chair, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University. Location: Rome Auditorium, 1st Fl., the Rome Building, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Notes: To register for this Forum please email your name and affiliation to SAISCACIForums@jhu.edu latest by end of business, November 11.

ANTITRUST LAWS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY – HESSE — 6 p.m. Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division Renata B. Hesse will participate in a panel on intellectual property developments at the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Antitrust Laws Intellectual Property Committee 2nd Annual Fall Networking Event. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Alisha Cybulski at 202-662-1097 or Alisha. Cybulski@americanbar.org. Location: Cromwell & Moring LLP, 1001 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Suite 1100.

GW – MARTHA KANTER — 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. A Conversation with Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter,

US Under Secretary of Education. RSVP: http://bit.ly/16O7ozQ For more information: http://www.elliottschool.org/events/calendar.cfm?fuseaction=ViewMonthDetail&yr=2013&mon=112219. Location: Elliott School, Room 505, 1957 E Street NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "Hey, hey, we got a new mayor in New York City, how about that? I like Mayor Bloomberg. He was mayor for 12 years and for the first five or six years we had no idea who the mayor was. And then in the middle of his second term we kind of got to like him and he had another – tacked on another third term and we finally really got to know Mayor Bloomberg. Now he's gone and the new guy whose name – I tell you what I know about the new guy. He's freakishly tall."

David Letterman: "Well, listen to what the new guy is going to do right off the bat. He is putting an end to stop and frisk. This was the deal where if cops didn't like you look they could frisk you. ...Great, that was my favorite part of the day."

David Letterman: "Here's what else we know about the new mayor. ...Listen to this. This is gossipy behind-the-scenes stuff. His wife is a former lesbian. We know this guy crosses party lines."

Stephen Colbert: "Ladies and gentlemen, folks, if you watch the show – and I hope you do – do you know that we at 'The Report' are laser focused on the truth. And that means obsessive fact checking. We check every episode and if we find a fact, we replace it with the truth. Unfortunately, folks, not all news organizations out there are up to our standards. There is a scandal tearing apart CBS News, home of Edward R. Murrow, Walter Cronkite and Julie Chen. You see, two weeks ago, CBS News' '60 Minutes' took time off from doing in-depth buddy curls with Wolverine to blow the lid off Benghazi-gate. When the attacks in Libya occurred, '60 Minutes' was on the scene within minutes of 13 months later. Of course, Fox News has been working this story for a year, having definitively proven that tragedy something, something, something, Hillary Clinton."

Jimmy Fallon: "Joe Biden took an Amtrak train to Delaware and wound up sitting next to Whoopi Goldberg. He just ran into her on the train. He has a photo. Look at this. Yeah. Isn't that crazy? Biden said, 'What is it like making millions of Americans laugh every day?' And Whoopi said, 'I was going to ask you the same question.'"

Jay Leno: "President Obama said he is sorry that some Americans have lost their existing health coverage due to Obamacare. You know, I think he's getting a little desperate. Like, today he said if you like your complete lack of coverage, you can keep your complete lack of coverage."

Jay Leno: "Well, according to 'The Washington Post,' the White House is considering appointing a civilian to lead the NSA. And here's the great part. If you're interested in the job, no need to submit a resume. They got all your information already. They'll call you."

Conan O'Brien: "This is fascinating. A 107-year-old veteran met with President Obama this morning. Yeah, I know. It was good to see President Obama finally getting along so well with John McCain."

Conan O'Brien: "In political news, in a new interview today, Sarah Palin refused to endorse Chris Christie. Yeah. Afterwards, Christie told Palin, 'Thanks, I owe you one.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Nov 12, 2013 at 7:09 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS CALIFORNIA'S NORTH COAST. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/12, 731K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Friday "toured a rugged area of California's North Coast in a fact-finding mission to help decide if the area should be made a national monument." She "joined state leaders and federal land managers to hike the Stornetta Public Lands in Mendocino County, and later attended a public hearing where hundreds of residents showed up, mostly to voice support for adding the lands to the protected area." Jewell said, "Today I had a chance to hike this spectacular coastline and to see firsthand how important this area is for the community and for its economy – from tourism to outdoor recreation."

The Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (11/8, 156K) reports that "at a two-hour meeting in a packed City Hall, she was feted by more than 300 schoolchildren and adults, unanimous in their enthusiasm to have the land she had just walked become part of the 1,100-mile marine monument." Jewell "reiterated the president's pledge to act when Congress does not to set aside and preserve unique, deserving lands for future generations, imparting a palpable sense of hope that had many in the audience talking in terms of 'when, not if,' the land was included in the national monument."

The Ukiah (CA) Daily Journal (11/12, 17K) reports that Rep. Jared Huffman said, "I am very pleased that Secretary Jewell accepted my invitation to the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands and was able to see the tremendous support from the local community for adding these lands to the California Coastal National Monument,. This is an unmatched opportunity to preserve a pristine stretch of coastline and boost the local tourism industry, already Mendocino County's largest employer. I hope Secretary Jewell and the Obama administration find this land as beautiful and worthy of preservation as we do."

Also reporting on the story are KCET-TV Los Angeles (11/12, 15K), KFMB-TV San Diego (11/12, 15K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV (11/12, 2K), and WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (11/12, 117K).

Secretary Jewell Could Recommend President Obama To Bypass Congress On Monuments. The Los Angeles Times (11/12, Cart, 3.07M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell says "she will recommend that President Obama act alone if necessary to create new national monuments and sidestep a gridlocked Congress that has failed to address dozens of public lands bills." In an interview in San Francisco last week, Jewell said, "The president will not hesitate. I can tell you that there are places that are ripe for setting aside, with a tremendous groundswell of public support." Jewell said "the logjam on Capitol Hill has created a conservation backlog, and she warned that the Obama administration would not 'hold its breath forever' waiting for lawmakers to act."

SECRETARY JEWELL PUSHES FOR CONSERVATION, YOUTH CONNECTION TO OUTDOORS. The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (11/9, 465K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "kicked off a national campaign last week to expand opportunities for youth on public lands." In a recent speech, Jewell "outlined conservation priorities for the Interior department, including an emphasis on fostering the next generation of environmental stewards, scientists and natural resource managers." Jewell said, "Through public-private partnerships and in conjunction with all levels of government, Interior will expand its efforts to pass on our nation's rich conservation legacy and to inspire millions of young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors."

The San Francisco Appeal (11/12, 823) reports that Jewell visited San Francisco's Crissy Field to announce the launch of a youth conservation initiative. According to Jewell, "the project, which will be organized and funded through a public-private partnership, will provide jobs, training, educational and volunteer opportunities to tens of millions of school-age children and young adults." Jewell called the initiative "ambitious" in that it aims to "engage youth in a major way to our public lands."

Additional coverage of Jewell's initiatives was provided by the Public News Service (11/11, 306).

Secretary Jewell Praised For Leadership. In an op-ed for the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/12, Hayes, 731K), David J. Hayes, former Interior Deputy Secretary praises Jewell for issuing "a directive that embraced a 'landscape-scale' approach to mitigating the environmental impacts of major highway, water, energy and other infrastructure development projects." Hayes argues that "this is a big idea that deserves notice, and the support of developers and the environmental community alike."

In an op-ed for the Orlando (FL) Sentinel (11/8, Lakly, 780K), Shelly Lakly writes that Jewell "made an important first step toward more effective and efficient conservation of the natural resources we all share" during her speech at the National Press Club by announcing "a secretarial order adopting policies and procedures that apply landscape-scale mitigation to the Interior's responsibilities to manage public resources and lands." Lakly argues that "this order is important" because "when done right, especially across landscapes, mitigation is the most practical and effective way to balance conservation of resources with economic development." For this reason, the Nature Conservancy in Florida "strongly supports landscape-scale mitigation and congratulates Jewell for her leadership in this area."

For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/12, Baca, 11.54M), Jim Baca, former Natural Resource Trustee, New Mexico, writes that hearing the Jewell "speak out in this way at the Press Club was inspiring – and not just for those of us in the West that see the tension between energy and conservation every day." Baca hopes Jewell "continues visiting with Americans who want their public lands protected – and heeding their concerns." He encourages President Obama to join her, as well, "to see our irreplaceable landscapes and meet Americans newly energized by the government shutdown to champion the value of their parks and public lands."

SECRETARY JEWELL SUMS UP ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY. The San Francisco Chronicle (11/8, Baker, 2.88M) reports that speaking at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco last Thursday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell succinctly summed up Obama's approach to energy and climate when she said "We can't switch from a fossil-fuel based economy to a renewable energy economy overnight...So yes, we're going to still continue to develop those resources, but we're also going to stand up renewable resources" and adding that "it's important that we do both," in response to a question asking if the Administration could be a climate leader while simultaneously promoting expansion in the oil and coal industries. Jewell also defended hydraulic fracking, but when asked about Keystone XL pipeline told them that they should "call John Kerry" because the pipeline is an international issue.

The National Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that Jewell "called on the oil and gas industry Thursday to better inform the quality of public debate over fracking and quell safety concerns over use of the technique to extract oil and natural gas from shale-rock formations." Jewell said, "I think that there's a lot of misinformation about fracking. I think that it's part of the industry's job to make sure that the public understands what it is, how it's done, and why it's safe. It's our job as a regulator and public land manager to make sure that it is done safely and responsibly, that we use the best available science, and we are in fact doing that."

PRESIDENT OBAMA NAMES THREE TO KEY INTERIOR DEPARTMENT POSTS. Platts (11/12, 2K) reports that the Obama Administration has named three new appointees at the Interior Department "to oversee onshore and offshore oil and gas development, leaving a key opening at the agency that develops the five-year offshore leasing plan." Neil Komze was nominated as director of the BLM, Janice Schneider was appointed assistant secretary for land and minerals management, and Tommy Beaudreau was appointed as Interior's assistant secretary for policy, management and budget.

Kornze To Be Pressed On Sage Grouse. Roll Call (11/11, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that "in a statement Friday, Republican Sen. Dean Heller of Nevada sounded optimistic about President Barack Obama's choice of Neil Komze to be the BLM director, noting Komze's ties to the Silver State." Heller added, however, that "he planned to question Kornze at the Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing about the sage grouse, a large bird best known for its unique mating ritual."

Additional Coverage. Also reporting on the story are Politico (11/11, Guillen, 467K), the Washington Post (11/12, Kamen, 4.28M), the National Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 427K), the Washington Examiner (11/12, Press, 319K), the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/12, 343K), the High Country (CO) News (11/12, 74K), the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (11/8, 165K), the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (11/12, 22K), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (11/12, 51K), the Denver Business Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 71K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV

(11/12, 2K), KCVB-TV Las Vegas (11/12, 12K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV (11/12, 2K), KRXI-TV Reno, NV (11/12, 656), KCET-TV Los Angeles (11/12, 15K), the Rigzone (11/12, 12K), and the Oil and Gas Journal (11/12, 1K).

INTERIOR FLOODS GRAND CANYON. The Los Angeles Times (11/11, Boxall, 3.07M) reports that the Interior Department is increasing releases from Glen Canyon Dam this week as part of an ongoing experimental program to replenish downstream sandbars and beaches in the Grand Canyon. According to the article, "September storms that drenched parts of the West washed bountiful amounts of sediment into two tributaries of the Colorado River below the dam, presenting a wealth of beach-building material that the flood-like high flows are intended to distribute."

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/12, 343K) notes that "Monday marked the first time the releases have been done in back-to-back years since the US Bureau of Reclamation began conducting high-flow releases in 1996." The goal is to "push these sediments downstream and re-deposit them as sandbars that benefit both aquatic life and recreational boaters," according to Anne Castle, assistant secretary of the Interior for water and science. Castle said, "The scientists estimate 1.5 metric tons are in the main stem and that's three times more than last year. We can do a release and spread that sediment up onto the bed and banks and use that to reduce erosion that has occurred to beaches, sandbars and backwaters."

The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (11/12, 22K) reports that Castle said, "The idea is to see if we can react whenever conditions are right, whenever there's a lot of sediment load in the river. Whether we can reverse or at least stabilize the net loss in sediment that has been occurring in the river below Glen Canyon Dam."

Also reporting on the story are ABC World News, Yahoo! (11/12, Busbee, 17.91M) , the Deseret (UT) News (11/12, 274K) , the Durango (CO) Herald (11/10, 28K) , the Bellingham (WA) Herald (11/11, 113K) , the St. George (UT) Spectrum (11/10, 48K), Yahoo! News UK (11/12, 79K) , the Daily Mail (UK) (11/12, 2.92M), and KTVK-TV Phoenix (11/12, 88K).

Sen. Udall Urges Action On Colorado River. In an op-ed for the Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (11/12, Udall, 27K), Sen. Mark Udall writes that "the Colorado River is healthy now, but make no mistake: the Centennial State and the six states downriver are on an unsustainable course." He notes that "at a US Senate hearing I recently led, we examined a US Bureau of Reclamation study that found the demand for water along the Colorado River Basin could exceed the available supply by more than 3.2 million acre-feet — enough water to supply more than 3.2 million families across the basin — by 2060." Udall concludes that "the Colorado River may have shaped the West, but given the growing demands here and downstream, it is now our obligation to the river and to ourselves to make every drop count."

SECRETARY JEWELL FACES TOUGH CHALLENGES. In a profile of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Outside Magazine (11/12, 55K) reports on the challenges facing her in the years ahead. The article notes that "the toughest part may be keeping Interior relevant at a time when the biggest environmental battles are being fought on the turf of rival agencies." Additionally, "Interior secretaries traditionally bear the burden of establishing a president's environmental legacy," but "so far, Obama's legacy is muddled at best." Inevitably, the article concludes, "Jewell's charm offensive has to give way to tough policy decisions if she wants to be something more than a caretaker."

ADVOCATES SAY CONGRESS FAILS TO FUND WILDFIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (11/12, 165K) reports that "Year after year, Congress promises to beef up wildfire-prevention programs but doesn't follow through with enough money, frustrated lawmakers and advocates say." According to the article, "many Democratic and Republican lawmakers, especially from the West, agree that Congress should spend more on preventive steps like thinning forests, clearing excess brush and performing controlled burns before the wildfire season heats up." However, "come budget time, fire-prevention programs run by the US Forest Service and the Interior Department invariably get underfunded, advocates say, though wildfires are getting bigger, more destructive and costlier to control."

GOOD CONTENT HELPS INTERIOR ENGAGE WITH ITS TWITTER ACCOUNT. In the NextGov (11/11, 2K) "CIO Briefing" blog, Jed Sundwall examined the number of tweets sent by various government agencies, finding that the Department of Interior is getting as much engagement as NASA, even though NASA has five million followers compared to Interior's 110,000. Sundwall thinks those that sign up for Interior's tweets want to hear from

the Interior, while many of NASA's followers include those who sign up for NASA based on recommendations and may not even use their accounts. Sundwall concludes that based on Interior's tweets, "good content" is more important for engaging the public than just trying to increase subscription numbers.

THROUGH EXECUTIVE ORDERS, OBAMA COULD CRAFT A SECOND-TERM LEGACY ON CLIMATE CHANGE. The Hill (11/8, Geman, 194K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that as the rest of President's agenda "runs aground in Congress," he "has a chance to craft a second-term legacy on climate change," as executive action on the issue "is moving full-speed ahead at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)." The Hill adds that the "most far-reaching piece of Obama's climate plan is carbon emission standards for the nation's fleet of existing power plants." In addition, the EPA is "writing standards for new plants." However, Princeton University professor Julian Zelizer said "the push on climate change through executive action could shape Obama's legacy — but only to a point." One problem is that "some of the new EPA regulations might not be settled by the time he leaves office." In addition, the next president could choose to alter them.

UTECH TO SUCCEED ZICHAL AS OBAMA'S TOP ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISER. Reuters (11/9, Gardner, Rampton, Rucker) reports Dan Utech will become President Obama's top adviser on energy and climate change now that Heather Zichal is stepping down. The Washington Post (11/9, Hicks, 4.28M) says Utech "most recently served as Zichal's deputy after working as a senior adviser to former Energy Secretary Steven Chu and to Hillary Clinton when she was a senator." The Post says the President "supposedly urged Zichal to stay with his administration." The Los Angeles Times (11/9, Banerjee, 3.07M) and The Hill (11/9, Barron-Lopez, 194K) also have reports.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE JOB SATISFACTION AT LOWEST POINT SINCE 2010. The Washington Post (11/9, Rein, 4.28M) reports the government's Employee Viewpoint Survey finds job satisfaction declining among Federal employees in the wake of "salary freezes, continuing budget cuts and furloughs." While "the vast majority of employees think that the work they do is valuable and look for ways to do their jobs better," job satisfaction is now at its lowest point since 2010.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EVENTS CELEBRATING 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS. Additional coverage that Interior Sally Jewell will serve as a keynote speaker at Gettysburg's Dedication Day ceremony Nov. 19 was provided by the Allentown (PA) Morning Call (11/9, 247K) and the Frederick (MD) News-Post (11/12, 97K).

SUPPORT FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND URGED. In an op-ed for the Seattle Times (11/12, Dicks, Evans, 1M), Norm Dicks, former US representative for Washington's 6th Congressional District, and Dan Evans, former governor and US senator for Washington, write that "the outcry over the impact of...closures" during the government shutdown "on our way of life, our communities, our economy and our natural resources served as a clear reminder of the importance of our public lands to all Americans." In addition, they note that "although the shutdown is over," threats to the Land and Water Conservation Fund remain. They "hope our former colleagues still in Congress do the right thing and lead the nation to reauthorizing and fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund to ensure that our natural legacy is passed down to the next generation."

In his column for the Denver Post (11/12, Willoughby, 949K), Scott Willoughby criticized Congress' failure to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which in nearly 50 years of existence has only been fully funded once.

SECRETARY JEWELL URGED TO RECONSIDER POLICIES ON WILD HORSES. In an op-ed for the Denver Post (11/11, Matthews, 949K), Ashley Matthews, a graduate student urges the BLM to reconsider its wild horses policies. She claims that lobbies like the National Cattleman's Beef Association have the support of the BLM advisory board. Matthews urges Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to run the BLM on behalf of American people and American laws instead of placating the interests of powerful lobbies.

NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION FOR ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (11/12, Simmons, 59K), Randy T. Simmons, director of the Institute for Political Economy and professor of political economy at Utah State University, and Ryan M. Yonk, assistant professor of political science at Southern Utah University and director of the Institute of Policy Analysis, write that monument designation for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region of southern New Mexico can "bring distinct negative impacts." According to the two, "using a careful methodology and making comparisons between

counties through time, we find at best no effect on local economies and, more likely, negative effects of monument designations."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

CESAR CHAVEZ NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK FACES AN UPHILL BATTLE. The Huffington Post (11/8, 11.54M) reports that "getting congressional approval to make the Cesar Chavez national park a reality could be an uphill struggle." The article notes that "unlike the Cesar Chavez national monument created last year through President Obama's own executive power, establishing a national historical park requires congressional approval." In addition, "California farmers' long opposition toward the United Farm Workers could also pose hurdles."

Meanwhile, FOX News Latino (11/7, 142K) reports that Midy Aponte, the executive director of the American Latino Heritage Fund of the National Park Foundation (ALHF), and others have "made it their mission to encourage Latinos – a group that spends much of their vacation time visiting their home countries and whose idea, for many, of embracing nature means spending a day at the beach – to learn to love the national park system in the US" According to the article, "recent national campaigns – including one that partners food service giant Aramark and outdoor retailer REI called American Latino Expeditions – have the aim of sharing the park experience with the Latino community."

NATIONAL PARKS OPEN IN TIME FOR SNOW SEASON. The New York Times (11/8, Brennan, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "although the federal government shutdown, from Oct. 1 to 16, forced the National Park Service to close 401 parks and lose $450,000 a day in revenue, it did little to slow preparations for winter activities like cross-country skiing and snowshoeing." According to the article, "that the shutdown occurred during the shoulder season eased the pain for national parks like Yellowstone, which was already winding down its services from the peak summer season when its employees were furloughed." The article notes that "Yellowstone, which lost $191,000 in entrance fees and licenses during the closure, reopened in time to start grooming roads for activities like guided snowmobile and snow coach tours, which begin in December."

NPS LOOKS FOR TENANTS TO REPAIR HISTORIC BUILDINGS AT SANDY HOOK BAY. The New York Times (11/8, Foderaro, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the NPS "put out an unusual for-rent sign last month: 35 historic buildings, including the genteel quarters of lieutenants and captains, at a wind-swept former Army base overlooking Sandy Hook Bay." According to the article, "in the past, proposals for what to do with the buildings varied with the tides, but the park service is now actively looking for tenants to invest in them and save them." Under the park service's plan, "instead of paying a set rent, tenants would pay for repairs to the buildings and be given long-term use of them in exchange."

DENALI NATIONAL PARK OFFICIALS HOPE TRAVELERS IN LANDSLIDE AREA PROVIDE INFORMATION. The Washington Post (11/8, 4.28M) reports that Denali National Park officials "want to hear from people who may have traveled in the area of a huge landslide that fell on a section of a road frequented by summer tourists."

APP ALLOWS WWII MEMORIAL VISITORS TO EXPLORE HISTORY. Roll Call (11/12, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that the "WWII Memorial" app enables visitors to the National Mall's World War II Memorial to "explore the history behind the memorial." According to the article, launched by the Trust for the National Mall, a nonprofit partner of the NPS, "it is the organization's first try at monument-specific smartphone and tablet technology." The article notes that "plans are under way to develop mobile apps to complement other monuments on the Mall."

WASHINGTON MONUMENT SCAFFOLDING TO START TO COME DOWN TUESDAY. WJLA-TV Washington (11/12, 118K) reports that "the scaffolding that has encased the Washington Monument for months will start to come down this week." On Tuesday, "workers will begin to disassemble the scaffolds that have been set up around the obelisk." According to the article, "deconstructing the scaffolding will take about three months." NPS officials "expect the Washington Monument to reopen this coming spring."

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK MOVES AHEAD ON RESTORATION OF MARIPOSA GROVE. The Columbus

(IN) Republic (11/12, 80K) reports that Yosemite National Park officials are "moving forward on a $24-million plan to remove parking lots, roads and buildings from Mariposa Grove, an ancient collection of humongous sequoias." The NPS could begin "work on removing asphalt and a gift shop from the grove in southern Yosemite as early as next summer." The article notes that "the restoration plan, expected to be finalized in December, is meant to help the old trees survive and thrive for future generations of park visitors."

HORTICULTURISTS CLONE SEQUOIA PLANTED BY JOHN MUIR. The Los Angeles Times (11/11, Sahagun, 3.07M) reports that "horticulturists recently announced that they had successfully cloned a genetic replica of an ailing 130-year-old giant sequoia planted by conservationist John Muir in the 1880s on his ranch in Martinez, Calif." According to the article, "as part of an effort to preserve at the site a living connection to Muir, Keith Park, a National Park Service horticulturist, trimmed two dozen cuttings from healthy young branches and shipped them to Archangel, which has successfully cloned trees planted by George Washington at Mount Vernon in Virginia."

CLOSURE OF MEMORIALS GENERATES CONTROVERSY. In his column for the Washington Times (11/11, 417K), Dennis Jamison criticizes the closure of memorials during the government shutdown. Jamison accuses the Obama Administration of seeking "to make a political statement about the budget crisis and the federal shutdown by spending more money to make sure barricades would be erected to block normally easy-access public monuments."

In an op-ed for the Roanoke (VA) Times (11/12, 259K), Bill Shiner, who coordinated the Park Ranger Program and National Park Service Seasonal Law Enforcement Training at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, writes that the criticisms "were both misguided and reflect an ignorance of Park Service responsibilities regarding the visitors and resources under its care." According to Shiner, "for members of Congress to fault the NPS during this time for closing sites was disingenuous at best, and downright hypocritical at worst."

NPS FIGHTING TO SAVE FLIGHT 93 TREES. The Johnstown (PA) Tribune Democrat (11/12, 95K) editorializes that the NPS announced Thursday that it has "begun an aggressive treatment project in hopes of saving the hemlocks" at the Flight 93 National Memorial. Keith Newlin, the National Park Service's deputy superintendent for the western region that manages the memorial, said, "Right now, the trees are still fairly healthy. But we've got to knock these buggers back."

NPS PLANS FOR NATIONAL PARKS IN SIERRA NEVADA EXPECTED TO BE DIVISIVE. In his column for the Visalia (CA) Times-Delta (11/9, 42K), William Tweed writes that the environmental assessment by the NPS on national parks of the Sierra Nevada will likely be controversial. According to Tweed, "if your view of the national parks is that they are places set aside to protect nature, then this proposal makes good, even compelling sense" However, "if you go into the High Sierra to fish, long a popular activity, then removing fish to protect frogs will be hard to accept."

Bureau of Land Management:

LEWISTOWN BLM OFFICE RELEASES DRAFT SAGE GROUSE PLAN. The Billings (MT) Gazette (11/12, 206K) reports that "a draft plan for managing sage grouse in five central Montana counties to try to ensure the birds aren't listed as a threatened or endangered species has been completed." The BLM's Lewistown Field Office on Friday issued its Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement for Petroleum, Fergus, Judith Basin, Chouteau and Meagher counties. Geoff Beyersdorf, the Lewistown Field Office manager, said, "This RMPA/EIS will provide future management direction to maintain or increase greater sage grouse abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing or restoring sagebrush ecosystems on which the population depends."

BLM TO EXPLODE OLD ORDNANCE ALONG SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA. The Sierra Vista (AZ) Herald (11/9, 30K) reports that in coordination with the BLM Tucson Field Office, the US Army Corps of Engineers will "soon be removing unexploded ordnance (UXO) outside Fort Huachuca within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA)." The article notes that "the removal and mitigation will begin next week and is anticipated to proceed through April 2014." BLM Tucson Field Manager Vi Hillman said, "Public safety is our top priority. We are doing everything possible to ensure that the visiting public can enjoy and

remain safe when they visit the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

US TO CRUSH SIX TONS OF IVORY THIS WEEK. Yahoo! (11/12, Gannon, Editor, 17.91M) reports that US officials are preparing "to destroy their massive stockpile of illegal ivory this week, hoping to send a zero-tolerance message to elephant poachers." On Thursday (Nov. 14), the FWS "will pulverize nearly 6 tons (5.4 tonnes) of illegal ivory items, from whole tusks to tiny trinkets, which have been seized over the past 25 years as a result of smuggling busts and criminal investigations." The ivory crush will take place at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Also reporting on the story are the Business Insider (11/12, 1.39M), the South China Morning Post (11/12, 7K), the Stuff (NZL) (11/12, 37K), and the Hindu (IND) (11/12, 65K).

TEXAS IS CENTER OF ILLEGAL TRADE IN BLACK RHINO HORNS. The Dallas Morning News (11/11, Swartsell, 1.13M) reports that "smugglers have been snatching up black rhinoceros horns from Texas auction houses and selling them on the black market." The News reports that the "illicit trade is global," and that authorities say "smugglers travel to Texas to buy the horns of the African-native rhinos and sell them to dealers in California and New York," who then "ship them to Asia, where they command huge sums as an alleged cancer cure or party drug." The News notes that last week, Michael Slattery pleaded guilty to smuggling rhino horns he bought in Texas. Authorities say Slattery "is part of the Rathkeale Rovers, a group of Irish nomads active in organized crime, including smuggling operations."

Additional coverage was provided by the New York Times (11/8, Wilson, Subscription Publication, 9.61M).

INTERIOR DEFENDS GMO CROPS ON FEDERAL WILDLIFE REFUGES. Politico (11/12, Hopkinson, 467K) reports that the Interior Department is "rejecting claims made by the Center for Food Safety and others that it erred in allowing the use of certain pesticides and the production of GMO crops federal wildlife refuges –arguing that the plaintiffs lack standing." In a Nov. 8 response to the lawsuit Center for Food Safety, et al. v. Jewell, et al., the Interior Department "denies the claims made by the groups, and argues 'Plaintiffs do not have standing to bring this action. Venue is not proper in this Court. Plaintiffs are precluded from re-litigating this action based on issue preclusion and res judicata,' though the agency provides no further background to its argument."

TEXAS COMPTROLLER CALLS ON CONGRESS TO FUND RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC DAMAGE OF PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES. The Washington Times (11/12, Mclaughlin, 417K) reports that Texas Comptroller Susan Combs says "it's time to improve the science that determines which animals get listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, calling on Congress to create a $50 million fund for independent research that also would factor in the economic damage to communities when a species is designated for protection." Combs said that Texas has "set aside $5 million to try to fight spurious listings, and said it's time for the federal government to give the states some help."

Overview Of Dunes Sagebrush Lizard Monitoring Program By Texas Comptroller Criticized. In an editorial, the Houston Chronicle (11/8, Copyright 2013:, Chronicle, 2.26M) supports "the deal that the industry proposed a few years ago, as it was persuading the US Fish and Wildlife Service that really, the lizard didn't need those big-stick, able-to-disrupt-business protections that come with being an endangered species." However, it notes that a lizard-monitoring program would not be overseen by Texas Parks and Wildlife, but by the Texas comptroller – the state's bookkeeper and tax collector. The paper argues that Comptroller Susan Combs' office "knows doodly squat about lizards."

FWS CONSIDERS PROTECTIONS FOR BUTTERFLIES. The Detroit Free Press (11/12, Matheny, 794K) reports that the FWS is proposing to list the Poweshiek skipperling as "an endangered species and preserve critical habitat areas for it and another threatened butterfly found outside of Michigan, the Dakota skipper." The agency "will host a public meeting Wednesday in Holly to present information and answer questions about the proposed butterfly protections."

Also reporting on the story are the Lansing (MI) State Journal (11/11, 158K), the Livingston County (MI) Daily

Press & Argus (11/11, 49K), and the Chicago Tribune (11/11, Matheny, 2.32M).

ROUNDUP PLANNED FOR ARSENAL BISON HERD. The Denver Post (11/12, Finley, 949K) reports that the multiplication of bison threatens to degrade drought-prone prairie at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Federal biologists say they must cut the herd by 25 — and keep it at 60 until fenced habitat is expanded. A roundup is planned for Dec. 17, and the biologists are looking for options short of slaughter, such as trucking the animals to other bison preserves.

REWARD OFFERED FOR KILLER OF RARE RED WOLVES. The Washington Post (11/10, 4.28M) reports wildlife biologists in North Carolina "are offering a bounty of sorts for information leading to the capture of whoever who shot to death two rare red wolves." The article notes that "the $21,000 reward was raised by animal rights organizations after the dead wolves were found Oct. 28 and Oct. 30 on the flat plains of Washington County, on the central Carolina coast." According to the article, "accelerometers pinging in the wolves' tracking collars informed US Fish and Wildlife Service officials that the animals' hearts had stopped beating and led them to the dead bodies."

TWO CONDOR DEATHS ARE MAJOR BLOW TO SPECIES. The Los Angeles Times (11/10, Banks, 3.07M) reports that "the deaths of two California condors found last month in water tanks used by Kern County firefighters have state wildlife officials working on a way to keep the large, endangered birds out of the tanks." California wildlife officials have "sent the condor carcasses to a forensics lab in Oregon for necropsies to determine how the birds died," but "with so few in the wild, experts called the loss a blow to a still-fragile recovery program."

FLOOD IMPACT ON PREBLE'S MOUSE NOT YET KNOWN. The Denver Post (11/12, Writer, 949K) reports it will be months before experts know the impact of September's rains on the Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORT ON WILDLIFE REFUGES CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMY. Additional coverage of the report by the FWS on the economic impact of wildlife refuges was provided by the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/12, 343K), the Columbia (MO) Daily Tribune (11/12, 68K), the Southern Illinoisan (11/12, 12K), WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (11/12, 117K), and WXOW-TV LaCrosse, WI (11/8, 2K).

TREATMENT OF WAR HORSES CRITICIZED. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/12, Roy, 11.54M), Suzanne Roy, Campaign Director, American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, writes that "the federal government is complicit in a shameful violation of our responsibility toward" America's War Horses. Roy argues that "the decedents of America's War Horses should be honored and protected," but instead, the FWS has "turned its back on these horses, disregarding and literally disposing of them."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CONCERNED ABOUT THREAT OF SOLAR POWER PLANTS TO BIRDS. USA Today (11/10, Kaufmann, 5.82M) reports that "trying to estimate how many birds could be injured or killed because of large-scale solar projects and what might be done to prevent deaths has become a pressing concern for solar developers and environmental agencies as these projects multiply." In addition to radiation injuries, "scientists are concerned about bird deaths linked to confusion because of the shimmering expanses of solar panels in the desert."

REMOTELY CONTROLLED TURBINES HELP PROTECT BIRDS. The Billings (MT) Gazette (11/12, 206K) reports that "an operations center in California can shut down wind turbines 1,200 miles away in Montana in fewer than 30 seconds when the flight patterns of golden eagles and other raptors indicate a potential collision in the making." According to the article, "the quick response is possible because of tracking radar, 'detect and deter' cameras and human spotters called 'bio-monitors' deployed at Rim Rock Wind Facility in Montana's Glacier and Toole counties." Greg Copeland of San Francisco-based NaturEner USA, the owner, says "the combination of technology and trained avian biologists form a tiered alert system that's proving to be effective, so far, at preventing the turbine blades from striking birds."

STUDY FINDS 600,000 BATS KILLED BY WIND TURBINES IN 2012. CBS News (11/12, 3.87M) reports that "more than 600,000 bats fell victim to the turbines in 2012, according to a new study." Published in the journal BioScience, the University of Colorado study "analyzes records of dead bats found near the wind generators." Biologist Mark Hayes wrote, "Dead bats are being found underneath wind turbines across North America. This estimate of bat fatalities is probably conservative." The article notes that "the most deaths are occuring in the Appalachian Mountains, especially in Buffalo Mountain, Tenn., and Mountaineer, W. Va."

Onshore Energy Development:

RECYCLING WASTEWATER TAKES OFF IN HYDRAULIC FRACTURING INDUSTRY. The AP (11/11, Pushnick-Masti, 1.26M) reports that drought has caused the hydraulic fracturing industry to embrace recycling systems that allow them to use less freshwater and dispose of less wastewater. Tod Ennenga, vice president of business development for Pure Stream, a company that offers two different recycling technologies, said that interest in recycling technology has doubled in the past year. State regulators are racing to draft regulations for the new recycling systems, and in some cases make it easier for fracturing companies to recycle.

Offshore Energy Development:

DRILLING COMPANY FINED, PUT ON PROBATION OVER FALSIFIED TEST RESULTS. WWL-TV New Orleans (11/12, 107K) reports that "an Oklahoma contractor that owns oil rigs and drills in the Gulf of Mexico pleaded guilty Friday to covering up problems with one of its critical blowout preventers by falsifying the results of pressure tests on the device in 2009 and 2010." Helmerich & Payne International Drilling Company was "also ordered to institute and comply with an environmental compliance plan that includes increased well control monitoring and enhanced training." BSEE Director Brian Salerno said, "The safety of offshore workers and the environment is dependent on the integrity of the safety and control equipment. Companies need to be on notice that falsification of test results will not be tolerated."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SHELL'S ARCTIC PLANS. Additional coverage of Shell's Arctic drilling plans was provided by the Christian Science Monitor (11/8, Oilprice.com, 540K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

100 PEOPLE LIVING RENT-FREE ON BOR LAND. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (11/12, 437K) reports that almost 100 people are living rent-free on Snowbird Mesa, a this 90-acre tract of BOR land. Jason Kirby, a realty specialist who patrols the land and hands out the permits for the BOR said, "It is a unique place and exemplifies a cross-section of our society. The camping season has just begun and it's free. We provide regular patrols, and there is a law enforcement presence when necessary, but that is rare."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/10, 749K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (11/12, 206), the Victorville (CA) Daily Press (11/12, 3K), and the Rocklin & Roseville Today (11/12).

SUPPORT FOR NAVAJO GENERATING STATION PROPOSAL URGED. In an op-ed for the Arizona Daily Star (11/12, Modeer, Pickard, 335K), David Modeer, general manager of the Central Arizona Project, and Pam Pickard, who has been a member of the CAP Board since 2006, write in support of an alternative NOx-reduction plan that exceeds the EPA's retrofit technology goal for the Navajo station. They note that "the major components of the technical work group's proposal call for the owners to shut down one of the three power units by 2020 or accomplish equivalent reductions in emissions through changes in operations." According to the two, "should the EPA accept the plan, the benefits to CAP and its customers and stakeholders are numerous."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR RELEASES VALUATION PLAN FOR LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The Indian Country Today Media Network (11/9, 21K) reports that on October 29, the Interior Department released its revised Land Buy-

Back Program Valuation Plan. The article notes that "the draft Plan received a review from The Appraisal Foundation," and "upon the review the Plan was revised to incorporate all of TAF's recommendations." Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs said, "There is no greater authority for establishing standards for appraisals and qualifications for appraisers than The Appraisal Foundation. TAF's independent analysis confirms that the steps we are taking to determine fair market value for offers to landowners are cost-effective and conform to the best practices for valuation. We are grateful for their comprehensive review and have incorporated their recommendations into the Valuation Plan we will use in the months and years ahead as we work through a transparent process to provide fair market value to tribal landowners."

BUY INDIAN ACT IMPLEMENTED 100 YEARS AFTER PASSAGE. The Washington Times (11/11, Swarts, 417K) reports that regulations for the Buy Indian Act, which was passed during the William Howard Taft administration are "just now getting around to being implemented, some 103 years later." The bill requires the BIA to "give preference in funding and contracts to American Indian-owned businesses, a similar practice employed by 'set-aside' policies many government agencies use to support businesses owned by targeted groups such as veterans, minorities or women." In June, Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary for Indian affairs, said, "The publication of this final rule to implement the Buy Indian Act is a major accomplishment for the administration and a win-win for both Indian Affairs and the American Indian and Alaska Native business community. We expect this will help increase economic activity in tribal communities and provide greater employment opportunities where these businesses are located."

SOUTH DAKOTA TRIBAL LEADERS SEEK FEDERAL FOSTER CARE HELP. The Connecticut Post (11/12, 298K) reports that "leaders of South Dakota's nine Sioux tribes will spend time in Washington, D.C., this week seeking federal help in a long-running dispute over state government's handling of foster care for Native American children." The tribal officials claim that "the state removes too many American Indian children from their homes and places them in foster care with non-Indian families." According to Randy Pozos, communications coordinator for the Lakota People's Law Project, "the tribal leaders and others will hold a press conference on Tuesday and a demonstration on Wednesday outside near the offices of the US Department of Interior, which is hosting a conference with tribal leaders from around the nation."

Also reporting on the story is the San Francisco Chronicle (11/12, Brokaw, 2.88M).

REPORT ADDRESSES PUBLIC SAFETY ON TRIBAL LAND. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/12, 749K) reports that "a national panel of judicial and law enforcement experts traveled the country taking comment on public safety issues on American Indian reservations, where federal statistics show the violent crime rates can be 20 times the national average." The report, "Strengthening Justice for Native America: A roadmap," will be released Tuesday, a day ahead of the White House Tribal Nations Conference. The article notes that "among the report's 40 recommendations is giving tribes more control over crime and justice on their reservations, including an expansion of authority to prosecute non-Indians."

Also reporting on the story is the Denver Post (11/12, Fonseca, 949K).

WISCONSIN GOV. WALKER STILL UNDECIDED ON KENOSHA CASINO. Yahoo! (11/12, 17.91M) reports that Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on Monday said "he was directing his top aide to begin 'extensive discussions' with tribal governments interested in the proposal to open a casino in Kenosha." Walker "gave no timeline for when he will announce his decision on whether to approve the $800 million casino project proposed by the Menominee tribe and Hard Rock International."

Also reporting on the story are the Bloomberg BusinessWeek (11/11, 4.93M), the Appleton (WI) Post-Crescent (11/11, 139K), the Racine (WI) Journal Times (11/12, 85K), and the Milwaukee Business Journal (11/8, Subscription Publication, 12K).

BIA FACES DIFFICULT DECISION ON COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE'S GAMING PLAN. The Oregonian (11/12, 751K) editorializes that the Coquille tribe's plan "reaches well beyond gambling." According to the paper, "the consequences of allowing the Coquille tribe to move ahead on its Medford plan poses several dilemmas, not least of them the future of tribal relations statewide, Oregon's deep addiction to lottery dollars and the willingness of all Oregonian's to see gaming pop up in unlikely places." The BIA's "decision on whether to place the Medford site in trust will have far-reaching consequence that should be debated openly among tribes and state officials and in

Oregon's communities."

SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN CARCIERI CASE ANALYZED. For the Indian Country Today Media Network (11/9, 21K) attorney Peter d'Errico analyzes the 2009 Supreme Court decision in Carcieri v. Salazar that "derailed the effort of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Narragansett."

Top National News:

OBAMA NOTES IMPENDING END OF AFGHAN WAR IN VETERANS DAY SPEECH. Coverage of President Obama's Veterans Day speech at Arlington National Cemetery tends to focus on his remarks regarding the wind-down of the war in Afghanistan and his pledge to provide adequate Federal assistance to the nation's veterans

The New York Times (11/12, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the President "pledged...that Americans 'will never forget' the sacrifices made by the country's military veterans, and promised that his administration would continue pushing for money to support the men and women home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan." The Times notes that the President also "declared that the nation's most recent 'chapter of war is coming to an end."

On the CBS Evening News (11/11, story 10, 1:20, Pelley, 5.58M), President Obama was shown saying, "By this time next year the transition to Afghan-led security will be nearly complete. The longest war in American history will end." The New York Daily News (11/12, Larson, 3.94M) reports that the President "praised" the "9/11 generation for serving 'tour after tour after tour' abroad," and "bringing 'the core of al Qaeda ... on the path to defeat.'" The AP (11/12, Anderson) reports that while "the war is expected to formally conclude at the end of next year," the US "may keep a small footprint in the country."

According to McClatchy (11/12, 95K), the President "pledged to pay attention to the debts owed to veterans." The President is quoted as saying, "Even as we make difficult fiscal choices as a nation, we're going to keep making vital investments in our veterans." McClatchy reports that VA Secretary Shinseki "noted that the [VA's] budget...has increased by more than 50 percent, 2 million veterans have been added to the VA's health care system and there have been reductions in veteran homelessness."

USA Today (11/12, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that the President, "pledging help with jobs, education and health care," said, "When we talk about fulfilling our promises to our veterans, we don't just mean for a few years. We mean now, tomorrow and forever." According to USA Today, the President said the Administration "is working to reduce the oft-criticized backlog of claims at the Veterans Administration." On Monday, the President said, "We've slashed it by a third since March, and we're going to keep at it, so you can get the benefits that you have earned and that you need, when you need them."

However, according to the Washington Times (11/12, Boyer, 417K), the Administration "hasn't made as much progress as [Obama] promised." The Times says the "400,835 veterans' benefits claims remain in the pipeline, down about 211,000 since March," but the VA "has processed about 100,000 fewer claims than promised." The Times adds that Shinseki "has said the [VA] will eliminate the backlog sometime in 2015."

The Hill (11/12, Sink, 194K) notes that the President "said those veterans not covered by the Department of Veterans Affairs could 'secure quality, affordable health insurance' under ObamaCare, and touted the millionth student veteran pursuing an education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill."

According to Bloomberg News (11/12, Lerer, 1.91M), the President also praised employers who "have...worked with Michelle Obama and Jill Biden to help 290,000 veterans and military spouses get trained or hired, and are committed to hiring an additional 400,000."

Diane Sawyer, on ABC World News (11/11, story 3, 0:50, Sawyer, 7.43M), noted that "the nation's oldest veteran, 107-year-old Richard Overton" was among those at Arlington. President Obama, "He was there at Pearl Harbor when the battleships were still smoldering. He was there at Okinawa. He was there at Iwo Jima where he said. 'I only got out of there by the grace of God.'" Sawyer added, "Someone else who served got a salute today, 91-year-old Phyllis Gould, one of the original Rosie the Riveters." According to Sawyer, Gould "worked as a

welder during World War II and today Vice President Biden called her to invite her to the White House because she had said it's a big item on her bucket list."

According to Politico (11/12, Delreal, 467K), Biden's call to Gould "is featured on the latest installment of 'Being Biden,' an audio series put together by the Vice President's office." NBC Nightly News (11/11, story 10, 0:20, Williams, 7.86M) also briefly noted the tributes at Arlington Monday. Reuters (11/12, Wulfhorst) lists some of the many commemorations across the country Monday.

The Los Angeles Times (11/12, Muskal, 3.07M) notes that "according to the US Census Bureau, there are 21.2 million military veterans as of 2012," including "7.4 million Vietnam-era veterans...5.4 million who served during the Gulf wars," approximately "1.6 million served in World War II and 2.3 million served in Korea." 5.3 million "served only in peacetime."

Congress's Iraq And Afghan War Vets Overwhelmingly Oppose US Involvement In Syria. Anna Mulrine, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (11/12, Mulrine, 540K), notes that the current Congress includes "a total of 16 members have served in Iraq or Afghanistan," and that only two of them back US military involvement in Syria, while "the other 14...a mixture of Democrats and Republicans, either remain skeptical or oppose action altogether."

"Huge Crowds" Honor Four Surviving Doolittle Raiders. NBC Nightly News (11/11, story 11, 2:40, Williams, 7.86M) reported that "huge crowds turned out at the National Air Force Museum at Dayton, Ohio, this weekend to honor the few Doolittle Raiders still alive today." According to Brian Williams, there are just four surviving Raiders "who pulled off a secret mission to strike back at Japan after Pearl Harbor."

Veterans Day Event Used To Push For DC Statehood. The Washington Post (11/12, Ruane, Binkovitz, Martin, 4.28M) reports that "in the District, officials...marked Veterans Day with...a political statement." According to the Post, Mayor Vincent Gray (D) and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) attended an event at the African American Civil War Memorial that "quickly became a rally for full federal representation." Louis Anderson, "a major in the Tuskegee Airmen," told those assembled, "Today, I urge everyone to join Congresswoman Norton, Mayor Vincent Gray and our city council members in the fight for full rights for the residents of the District of Columbia."

US Court Of Appeals For Veterans Claims Marking 25th Anniversary. McClatchy (11/12, Doyle, 95K) reports that the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is "celebrating its 25th anniversary, which dates to passage of the Veteran's Judicial Review Act in 1988." According to McClatchy, "the specialized panel has heard more than 60,000 appeals of veterans claims decisions."

ENROLLMENTS ON FEDERAL, STATE EXCHANGES FAR LOWER THAN EXPECTED. In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (11/12, A1, Weaver, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that according to two people familiar with the numbers, early reports indicate that as of last week, fewer than 50,000 people were able to successfully enroll in private health insurance plans via the Federal health insurance exchange website. The total is well short of the 500,000 October enrollments the Administration anticipated in internal memos, and the Journal notes that insurers who are counting on higher enrollments are concerned.

The Washington Post (11/12, A3, Goldstein, Kliff, 4.28M) notes that the Federal enrollment numbers are "a tiny fraction of the total projected enrollment for the 36 states where the federal government is running the online health-care exchange, indicating the slow start to the president's initiative."

Politico (11/12, Cheney, 467K) reports that while health industry consultant Robert Laszewski, "said the Journal report is consistent with the industry data he has seen," the Administration "declined to confirm the Wall Street Journal figures." HHS spokeswoman Joanne Peters said, "We cannot confirm these numbers. ... [A]s we have said, the problems with the website will cause the numbers to be lower than initially anticipated."

Meanwhile, Bloomberg News (11/12, Wayne, 1.91M) reports that according to the consulting company Avalere Health, about "49,100 people have enrolled in Obamacare plans through 12 state-run insurance exchanges." A statement from Avalere says that enrollment as of Nov. 10 "represents 3 percent of the 1.4 million people projected to sign up in those states by the end of 2014." That number does not "include California, the most populous US state, Massachusetts or Oregon," and it does not "account for those enrolled through the federal

website serving 36 states."

The Washington Times (11/12, Howell, 417K) reports that Avalere CEO Dan Mendelson said that problems with the Federal site and "issues in various state-run markets," have created a "'climate of scrutiny and negativity' that may have suppressed enrollment among the states in Avalere's analysis." Mendelson added, "I would expect to see these numbers to grow over time. This happens gradually."

Study Finds Less Competition On ACA Exchanges. The Daily Caller (11/12, May, 422K) reports that a Heritage Foundation analysis has found that competition among healthcare companies "has decreased on the Obamacare exchanges" despite the President's call for more such competition. The Heritage Foundation study found that "in most states the number of carriers on that state's exchange are less than the number that sold on the individual market in the state." The analysis of all 50 states "found that more than half of America's 3,135 counties would experience an exchange with two or fewer insurance carriers and 78 percent would have a choice of three or less carriers." According to the study, only "313 counties out of the 3,135 counties nationwide...have a choice of more than five carriers."

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: YELLEN WILL NEED TO MANAGE FED INTERNAL DEBATE. The Wall Street Journal (11/12, Hilsenrath, Mcgrane, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that one of Janet Yellen's top challenges at the Fed will be managing the organization's internal debates and the confused signals this often gives the public. While Yellen is expected to maintain Ben Bernanke's tendency to favor open debate, some former officials believe she will try to get the Fed to speak in a more unified manner to the public.

Summers Argues Focus Should Be On Economic Growth, Not Deficit Reduction. Politico (11/12, Cirilli, 467K) reports that former Clinton Administration Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, who in September withdrew his name from consideration to be Federal Reserve chairman, "is returning to the public stage with a new message for Washington: Drop the obsession with seeking deficit deals, and focus on the economy." Summers said in an interview, "Growth should be a priority. ... We are starving our potential." Politico notes that Summers "isn't simply arguing more should be done now to boost the economy — he's also questioning whether the focus on cutting deals to tame government debt over the medium and long term is a worthwhile pursuit." Summers argues that "growing the economy will bring down or keep the deficit and debt at sustainable levels over time by, for example, boosting tax revenues."

QE Said To Do Little For Economy As A Whole. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (11/12, Huszar, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Andrew Huszar, who managed the Fed's $1.25 trillion mortgage bond buy-back program, apologizes for his involvement in the Fed's quantitative easing program. He says that QE programs have not in fact done much to help the economy as a whole, instead acting as a boon to major banking firms.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Iran Nuclear Talks: Unfinished But Alive."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (11/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the "inconclusive" talks over Iran's nuclear program were "disappointing," but is encouraged that there has been progress at all. The Times encourages the Administration to ignore those opposed to a deal and press forward.

"Redefining The Minimum Wage." In an editorial, the New York Times (11/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that the people of SeaTac, a small city south of Seattle, have voted on a referendum to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour, though the results are not yet clear. The Times says that while the $15 an hour seems high, over the past 50 years, "American workers have achieved productivity gains that can easily support" such as level. The Times encourages the Federal government to push for a higher wage.

"An Overdue Ban On Trans Fats." The New York Times (11/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the Food and Drug Administration's move to ban trans fats from foods is a "long-awaited move" that "should save thousands of lives and potentially billions of dollars in medical and economic costs a year." The FDA's move would "eliminate a loophole" which enabled food manufacturers whose products contained less than half a gram of trans fats to market these foods as "containing zero grams of trans fats per serving."

"The Next Step In Stop-And-Frisk." The New York Times (11/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that a three-judge panel of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals "created a public-policy crisis earlier this month" when it "stayed the remedies ordered by Judge Shira Scheindlin of Federal District Court to correct civil rights violations associated with the New York Police Department's stop-and-frisk policy." The judges, by "wrongly removing Judge Scheindlin from the case," sent "a chilling message to district court judges who challenge the practices of the police and other government entities." The Times urges the full circuit to review the panel's ruling.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The U.S. Needs A Better Iran Deal."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/12, 4.28M) says that the latest "pause" in the talks over Iran's nuclear program is "fortunate." The Post says that the Administration "could profitably spend the time before the next round of talks ensuring that whatever terms it puts forward for limiting Iranian nuclear capacity have broad support in Washington and among U.S. allies." The Post says that any deal will "require distasteful concessions," but it is "preferable to military action."

"Emergency In The Philippines." In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/12, 4.28M) that as international organizations prepare "for what will be a vast, complex and challenging relief effort" in the Philippines, it is "essential they get priorities straight and the resources to do the job." The Post adds that the "scope of destruction is daunting," and notes that "there are worrisome signs that the international community faces an uphill struggle to mobilize for it." The Post argues that while "the efforts planned by some, such as China's pledge of $100,000, seem grossly inadequate," on the other hand, "the U.N.'s humanitarian affairs office quickly released an initial $25 million from the world body's emergency fund," suggesting "more realism about the scale of the tragedy."

"Protections Needed For Nonprofits." The Washington Post (11/12, 4.28M) editorializes that non-profit organizations must better protect themselves against fraud and other unauthorized use of funds, and better regulatory scrutiny is warranted. A Washington Post investigation found that "hundreds of millions of dollars were drained from institutions that are underwritten by public donations and government funds," as disclosed in IRS filings. Furthermore, "nonprofits routinely omitted important details from their filings, and about half the groups didn't disclose the total amounts lost." The investigation has prompted regulators in seven states and the District of Columbia, as well as Congress, to look into the matter further.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Biggest Fiscal Losers."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that the US is making a bit of short-term progress in bringing down the budget deficit. However, the Journal says that the longer-term budget outlook remains grim, mainly due to rising entitlement spending. The Journal says that the Administration wants to eliminate the sequestration cuts and budget caps, and replace them with tax increases. The Journal calls on Republicans to reject this.

"California's Green Reality Check." The Wall Street Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that California's emissions-reduction policies are implausible and will not help the state meet its emissions reduction target. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory reportedly advised the state's Air Resources Board that it will not be able to reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. To do so, the state would have to reduce demand for energy in addition to its plethora of incentives and initiatives. Energy demand is a function of population growth and economic growth, which the state's emissions policies do not and cannot address.

"The Racial Runaround." The Wall Street Journal (11/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that a Justice Department amicus brief for an appeals court rehearing of Fisher v. University of Texas contradicts Justice Anthony Kennedy's majority opinion in the Supreme Court's decision on the case, which remanded it to the appeals court. The Justice Department's brief instructs the University of Texas that it can define its own criteria for utilizing race in admissions decisions, thus avoiding the "strict scrutiny" standard in a 2003 Supreme Court decision that Justice Kennedy advised the university to use. The editorial contends that the Supreme Court has failed to establish its decisions on constitutional principles, and advocated the end of race-based admissions.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Health Site Far Short Of Obama Target
Job Gap Widens In Uneven Recovery
Grim Toll Rises Amid Ruin And Chaos
Former BP Chief's New Quest: Wildcatting On The Edge Of Danger

New York Times:
Struggle For Survival In Philippine City Shattered By Typhoon
For De Blasio, Contract Talks Offer Problem
Blighted Cities Prefer Razing To Rebuilding
Insurers Press For Way Around Healthcare. Gov
Bloody End For Iranian Rockers Seeking Musical Freedom In US
China's One-Day Shopping Spree Sets Record In Online Sales
With Hard Sell, Big-Ticket Art Comes To Auction

Washington Post:
UDC Looks At Cutting Athletics, Programs
For The Modern Consumer, The Week Never Seems To End
Wreckage Stands In Way Of Fast Relief In The Philippines
Snatching Their Son From Syria's Civil War
The Government's Eyes On The Price

Financial Times:
Shadow Banks Reap Fed Rate Reward
China's E-Commerce Affair Breaks Records
Green Energy Move Fuels German Job Fears
ICBC Joins Financial Stability Risk List
Apollo Takes A Leaf Out Of Buffett's Book
Plan To Shake Up Norway's Oil Fund
Investors Reassured Over Taper And Rates

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-Aid Effort; Veterans Day Observances, UK-WWII Vet Funeral; Government Contracts-Terrorist Groups; European Satellite; Amazon Sunday Delivery; Movie Violence; Louisiana-Kidnap Rescue; Grand Canyon-Flooding; Wounded Vets.
CBS: Philippines- Typhoon; Philippines-Typhoon-US Relief; ACA Website Manager; Iran-Nuclear Talks; Pope Polling Catholics; Economy-Dow Closes Up; Veterans Day Observances; Veterans-World War Stories.
NBC: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-Typhoon-Health; Philippines-Typhoon-Weather Analysis; Philippines-Typhoon-Filipino Americans; Economy-Gas; Economy-Holiday Retail; NASA-European Satellite; UK-WWII Vet Funeral; Obama-Veterans Day; Veterans Day-Doolittle Raiders.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-US Aid Effort; LAX Shooting-TSA Officer Memorial; NFL Bullying Incident; Holiday Drunk Driving.
CBS: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-US Aid Effort; Congress-ACA Website Hearings; ACA-Enrollment Statistics; Military-Service Member Suicides Report; Economy-Mortgages; Movie Violence.
NPR: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-US Aid Effort; Russia-Greenpeace Prisoners Moved; Smartphones Report; Wall Street; US-EU Free Trade Talks; Iran-Nuclear Talks; Egypt-Curfew, State Of Emergency Expires.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President will attend meetings at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — In Wilmington, Delaware. No public events scheduled.

MICHELLE OBAMA — The First Lady will deliver remarks and participate in a conversation with sophomores, Education Secretary Duncan at Bell Multicultural High School, which is part of the Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC).
US Senate: 2 p.m. — The Senate will convene and begin a period of morning business. 4:30 p.m.: Proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Cornelia T. L. Pillard to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — 2:30 p.m. Hearings to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) semi-annual report to Congress with CFPB Director Richard Cordray. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=3199bc71-b050-4e99-9088-a7cbf08d0947. Location: 538 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety hearings to examine payroll fraud. Panel I: Matt Anderson , Residential Construction trim installer, Michigan: Danny Odom , Odom Construction Systems, Inc., Knoxville, TN; Cathy Ruckelshaus , Legal Co-Director, National Employment Law Project, NY, NY; Chris MacKrell , Custom Courier Solutions, Rochester, NY. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=cc7f251e-5056-a032-520e-2335584bc64f. Location: 430 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE — 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/hearings.cfm?hearingId=5fa8a4fcfd512d43b3816f1ee71cee7e. Location: 219 Hart.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — 5:40 p.m. Nominations hearing for: Nomination of Ms. Terrell McSweeny to be a Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission; Nomination of Dr. Robert Simon, to be Associate Director for Environment and Energy, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President; Nomination of Dr. Jo Handelsman, to be Associate Director for Science, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President; Nomination of Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, to be Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce, and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=0c5c9a3b-1433-4c73-9f71-b56b7468491a&ContentType_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a. Location: S-216.
US House: Nov. 1 – 12. — The House will be in recess for a Constituent Work Period until 2 pm on Tuesday, November 12th.

2 p.m. — The House will meet at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. Suspensions (6 bills). S. 252 – PREEMIE Reauthorization Act, as amended (Sen. Alexander – Energy and Commerce). S. 330 – HIV Organ Policy Equity Act (Sen. Boxer – Energy and Commerce) . S. 893 – Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013 (Sen. Sanders – Veterans Affairs). H.R. 2922 – To extend the authority of the Supreme Court Police to protect court officials away from the Supreme Court grounds (Rep. Holding – Judiciary). H.Res. 196 – Supporting the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the right to counsel, as amended (Rep. Deutch – Judiciary). H.R. 2871 – To amend title 28, United States Code, to modify the composition of the southern judicial district of Mississippi to improve judicial efficiency, and for other purposes (Rep. Coble – Judiciary).

BUDGET CUTS – SICKER, POORER AND LESS SECURE — 11 a.m. Press conference discussing new report on the impact of sequestration and other budget cuts to core government programs. Speakers: Rep. Nita Lowey, D-NY; Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-CT; Emily Holubowich, Co-Chair, NDD United; Exec Director, Coalition for Health Funding. Featured in report: Phil Francis, Former Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway; Sharilyn Cano, SPHR, Human Resources Director, Southern Oregon Head Start; Ryan Dinkgrave, Manager, Government Affairs & Grantwriting, Focus: HOPE; Ian Kremer, Executive Director, LEAD: Leaders Engaged on Alzheimers Disease; Aaron Payment, Tribal Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Chippewa Indians. Location: 441 Cannon.

SEN. HARKIN, REP DELAURO – SEQUESTER BATTLEFIELD REPORT — 11 a.m. Press conference

discussing new report on the impact of sequestration and other budget cuts to core government programs. Participants: Sen. Tom Harkin, D-IA; Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-CT; Emily Holubowich, Co-Chair, NDD United; Exec Dir, Coalition for Health Funding. Featured in report:; Phil Francis, Former Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway; Sharilyn Cano, SPHR, Human Resources Director, Southern Oregon Head Start; Ryan Dinkgrave, Manager, Government Affairs & Grantwriting, Focus: HOPE; Ian Kremer, Executive Director, LEAD: Leaders Engaged on Alzheimers Disease; Aaron Payment, Tribal Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Chippewa Indians; Rosemary Brewer, Human Resource Director, Detroit Manufacturing System. Contact Christy Setzer at 202-506-6421 or Christy@newheightscommunications.com. Location: 441 Cannon.

HOYER PEN AND PAD — 1 p.m. House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: H-144.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RULES — 5 p.m. Full Committee. On H.R. 982 – Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act of 2013, and H.R. 2665 – Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2013. Location: H-313 Capitol.
Other: Nov. 10 – 12. PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES — More Than 1,250 Public University Officials to Convene at the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities 126th Annual Meeting. The Three Day Conference Will Address the Challenges & Opportunities Facing Public Universities Across the Country. Location: Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Road. Notes: Media Credentials: www.aplu.org/2013mediacredentials.

DEFENSE DAILY OPEN ARCHITECTURE SUMMIT — DoDs Better Buying Power 2.0, Open Architecture Opportunities in C4ISR and War Gaming Open Architecture will be among issues explored at Defense Dailys 6th Annual Open Architecture Summit . Speakers include Katrina McFarland, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acuisition); others. Full schedule: http://openarchitecturesummit.com/summit_schedule.html. Highlights: 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Katrina G. McFarland, Assistant Secretary of Defense Katrina G. McFarland delivers opening remarks. 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Morning keynote by Lieutenant General Charles Davis (confirmed) Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition. 11:30 a.m. Luncheon keynote: Stephen Welby (confirmed) Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering Department of Defense Research and Engineering Enterprise. Location: Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H St. NW

DIPLOMACY, SECURITY AND EDUCATION – US, NORWAY — Nov. 12 – 13. International Experts Convene in Washington DC on National Security, Terrorism as well as Technologys Impact on Education. Speakers from the Peace Research Institute of Oslo, the Norwegian Police College, the World Bank, the US Marine Corps University, Harvard, the US Naval War College, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, MIT, Columbia University and the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism will be among the participants convening at Transatlantic Science Week. The conference focuses on international security, cybersecurity, safety and emergency preparedness, as well as the major changes in education due to technological advances. http://www.cvent.com/events/transatlantic-science-week-2013/event-summary-4324cc2d821848949b0b0d99b800331f.aspx. Location: 12th: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Concourse Level. 13th: FHI 360 Conference Center, 1825 Connecticut Avenue NW, 8th floor. Contacts: Valerie Holford valerieholford@starpower.net (301-926-1298)

CSIS – HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS – MEKONG – HAMBURG — 8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. day-long conference on US Health Partnerships in the Mekong, organized by the Global Health Policy Center at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the CSIS Sumitro Chair for Southeast Asia Studies. Speakers include: FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg. http://csis.org/event/us-health-partnerships-mekong. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

CENUS BUREAU – 2010-2012 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY — The Census Bureau will provide embargo-period access to the 2010-2012 American Community Survey estimates that will be released to the public on Nov. 14. In addition, a new American Community Survey briefs will be available on the embargo site: Home Value and Homeownership Rates: Recession and Post-Recession Comparisons From 2007-2009 to 2010-2012, which uses the American Community Survey statistics to focus on homeownership rates and home values for smaller areas. Contacts: pio@census.gov (301-763-3030). Notes: Embargo subscribers will have access to the estimates on Tuesday, Nov. 12, up to 48 hours in advance of the public release. Only members of the media who

have applied for and received embargo access may join.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – NATO'S DETERRENCE — 9 a.m. NATO's Deterrence and Collective Defense. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs Madelyn Creedon participates 1 p.m. http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/natos-deterrence-and-collective-defense. Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor.

NASA – DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION — 9 a.m. NASA Television will air a roundtable discussion with aerospace industry leaders about the progress being made toward sending humans into deep space. Panelists representing NASA and its prime contractors will discuss the work being done on the agency's Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System rocket, which will carry humans farther into space than ever before. The participants are: William Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for human exploration and operations, NASA; Julie Van Kleek, vice president, advanced space and launch programs, Aerojet Rocketdyne; Charlie Precourt, vice president and general manager, ATK Space Launch Division; John Elbon, vice president and general manager, Boeing Space Exploration; Jim Crocker, vice president and general manager, civil space, Lockheed Martin Space Systems. Location: The live broadcast will take place at the Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, in Washington. Contacts: Rachel Kraft rachel.h.kraft@nasa.gov (202-358-1100)

US CHAMBER – QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The US Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation, will host its quarterly economic briefing to provide insights on the future course of economic activity, the Fed, and fiscal policy. Dr. Martin Regalia, the Chambers chief economist and senior vice president, will deliver remarks on GDP data before leading a panel discussion with economists and industry experts. Participants: Martin Regalia, Ph.D., Chief Economist and Senior Vice President,, US Chamber of Commerce; David Crowe, Ph.D., Chief Economist and Senior Vice President,, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB); G. Mustafa Mohatarem, Ph.D., Chief Economist, General Motors; Daniel J. Meckstroth, Ph.D., Vice President and Chief Economist, Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation (MAPI). Location: US Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW. Contacts: press@uschamber.com 202-463-5682

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS — 9:30 a.m. Members of the scientific community will join Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, Seth MacFarlane, Ann Druyan and other guests Tuesday, November 12, for the official opening of the "Seth MacFarlane Collection of the Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan Archive" at the Library of Congress. http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/spacecraft/goldenrec.html. Location: Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First St. SE. Contacts: Gayle Osterberg gosterberg@loc.gov (202-707-0020). Sheryl Cannady scannady@loc.gov (202-707-6456). Notes: Invitation only. Media must RSVP: scannady@loc.gov

NPC – HEALTH CARE – JAMA BRIEFING — 9:30 a.m. Critical Issues in US Health Care – A JAMA Media Briefing on Critical Issues in US Health Care. Contact: Jim Michalski, 312-543-8946, Jim.Michalski@jamanetwork.org For more information: http://press.org/events/critical-issues-us-health-care-jama-media-briefing. Location: National Press Club, Zenger room, 529 14th Street NW.

OPEN DOORS REPORT — 9:30 a.m. Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Evan Ryan will brief reporters on the 2013 Open Doors report. The report includes this years data on foreign student enrollment on US campuses and US students studying abroad Assistant Secretary Ryan will be accompanied by Allan Goodman, President and CEO of the Institute of International Education. Media RSVP: http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors/Open-Doors-Press-Kit-Registration. Location: National Press Club, Ballroom, 529 14th Street NW.

CSIS – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. The CSIS Americas Program hosts discussion of The Dominican Republic: Becoming a One-Party State? With Author: Carl Meacham, Director, CSIS Americas Program. Discussant: Roberto Alvarez, General Coordinator, Grupo Participacisn Ciudadana, and Former Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the Organization of American States. Location: 110/112 Conference Room, CSIS 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW.

OSCE REPRESENTATIVE – TWEETCHAT — 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Sign in to tweetchat.com and sign in using your Twitter handle, and enter RFOM15 to enter the RFOM15 discussion room.

ASBESTOS VICTIMS – MEDIA CALL — 11 a.m. Speakers: Susan Vento, Widow of Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN) Asbestos Cancer Victims Rights Campaign (ACVRC); Linda Reinstein, Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO); Michelle Schwartz, Alliance for Justice (AFJ); Jason Johns, Wisconsin Asbestos Victims Network (WAVN). CALL-IN : 1.800.434.1335 CODE: 394831. Contacts: Joy Howell, ACVRC (202-302-5932)

ENROLL AMERICA – MEDIA CALL UPDATE — 11 a.m. Enroll America, a non-profit health insurance enrollment coalition, will host a press conference call to give an update on the progress of fundraising efforts, and the growth and reach of the consumer-focused Get Covered America campaign. Contact: Justin Nisly Press@EnrollAmerica.org, 202-601-2494. Register at: http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/LID9NHGRNBWNQL9G

PUBLIC CITIZEN – KEYSTONE — 11 a.m. Release of a new Public Citizen report which "documents construction problems and more than 125 excavations of possible anomalies and engineering code violations along the Texas portion of the pipeline". Speakers: Tom "Smitty" Smith, director, Public Citizens Texas office; Mohammad Najafi, civil engineer; Evan Vokes, former TransCanada engineer; David Whitley, landowner. DIAL IN: 1-866-952-1906, passcode: PIPELINE. Contacts: Angela Bradbery (202) 588-7741. Tom "Smitty" Smith (512) 477-1155.

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Government Regulations: Practical Considerations for the US Forest Industry And Their Impact on Consumers and Businesses. Speakers: Former Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Chair, National Federation of Independent Business's Small Business for Sensible Regulations Coalition ; Stephen Pociask, PhD, President, American Consumer Institute; Wayne Winegarden, PhD, Contributing Editor, EconoSTATS at George Mason University; Robert Lichter, Professor of Communication and Director, Center for Media and Public Affairs and Statistical Assessment Center (STATS) at George Mason University; William Tucker (Moderator) – News Editor, RealClearEnergy. Location: 2456 Rayburn.

PRIVACY IN THE CLOUD – WEB EVENT — 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Presenters: Jim Siegl, Technology Architect, Fairfax County Public Schools (VA); Kathleen M. Styles, Chief Privacy Officer, US Department of Education; David Rubin, Attorney, Council of School Attorneys; Aimee Guidera, Executive Director, Data Quality Campaign. http://www.cosn.org/events/webinars/cosn-webinar-series-privacy-cloud-possible.

EPA – CARBON POLLUTION – MEDIA CALL — 1:30 p.m. Curbin Carbon Pollution – the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the NRDC Action Fund release results from new Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois and New Hampshire surveys conducted in states of some key swing senators. DIAL IN: 1 (800) 860-2442. Ask for the "EPA Carbon Pollution Poll" telenews event. Contact: Jake Thompson, jthompson@nrdc.org, (202) 289-2387; or Melissa Harrison, (NRDC Action Fund), (614) 203-2616, mharrison@nrdc.org; or Alex Frank, afrank@hastingsgroup.com or (703) 276-3264. On the Net: http://www.nrdc.org

FEDERAL BUDGET DEBATE – PRESS CALL — 2 p.m. Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF) will hold a phone briefing for journalists about the results of a new public opinion poll on taxes and government spending that was conducted in late October after the government shutdown and as the next round of the federal budget fight begins. Participants: Geoffrey Garin, President, and Guy Molneaux, Partner at Hart Research Associates. Joining them on the call will be Chuck Loveless, Director of Federal Government Affairs of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Michael Linden, Managing Director for Economic Policy of the Center for American Progress; and Frank Clemente, Campaign Manager of Americans for Tax Fairness. DIAL IN: (785) 424-1828, conference ID: tax. Notes: Polling materials available on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 1:45pm EST at: http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/polls/2013/11/08/atf-oct-2013-polling-materials/

NOW, FEMINIST MAJORITY- WOMEN – FEDERAL BENCH — 2 p.m. The National Organization for Women and the Feminist Majority Foundation host a media call on what they say is the Senate Republicans continued blocking of qualified nominations of women to the Federal Bench. Participants: Terry ONeill, president at National Organization for Women; Ellie Smeal, president at Feminist Majority Foundation. RSVP. Contacts: Megan Vibert mvibert@scottcircle.com (202-695-8229, 703-946-4868). On the Net: www.now.org. Notes: The call should only last about 15 to 20 minutes.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS – STEM FIELDS — 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Policy Briefing on Professional Science Masters

Degrees: Higher Educations Response to a National Workforce Need. Speakers: Reps. Richard Hanna (NY) and Rush Holt (NJ); Nancy Zimpher, Chancellor, State University of New York (SUNY) System; Juliette Bell, President, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Sheldon Schuster, President, Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences; Ross Grossman, Vice President for Human Resources, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. Location: The Library of Congress, Jefferson Building, Members Room, First Street, S.E. Contacts: Laura Trivers triviatta@hotmail.com (301-512-4442). On the Net: www.psmmilestone.com

CSIS – PHILIPPINES — 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Public Health in the Philippines: Progress and Challenges with keynote by: H.E. Enrique T. Ona, Secretary of the Department of Health, Republic of the Philippines. http://csis.org/event/public-health-philippines-progress-and-challenges. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

CSIS – RULE OF LAW – DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION — 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. The CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development hosts discussion on the Trends in the Practice of Development Cooperation: Strengthening Governance and the Rule of Law with Ambassador James Michel, Senior Adviser, CSIS and Former US Ambassador to Guatemala. http://csis.org/event/trends-practice-development-cooperation-strengthening-governance-and-rule-law. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

QUINNIPIAC POLL – OBAMA, COGNRESS, NATIONAL ISSUES — 4 p.m. Quinnipiac University Releases Results of National Poll on President Obama, Congress and National Issues. http://press.org/events/quinnipiac-university-releases-results-national-poll-president-obama-congress-and-national-is. Location: National Press Club, Zenger room, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Pat Smith psmith@rubenstein.com (212-843-8026)

HERITAGE – MCGINLEY LECTURE – GENERAL MCCAFFREY — 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. National Security in an Uncertain Age. http://www.heritage.org/events/2013/11/mcginley-lecture. Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE

SAIS – ROOFTOP SOLAR — 5 p.m. "Can Expanding Rooftop Solar Coexist With Traditional Electric Utilities?" with Bob Gibson, vice president for education and communication at the Solar Electric Power Association; Bill Murray, director of public policy at Dominion Virginia Power; Rick Morgan, former commissioner of the D.C. Public Service Commission; and Robert Margolis, senior analyst at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Location: Kenney Auditorium, Nitze Building, 1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW.nContacts: Felisa Klubes (fklubes@jhu.edu), 202-663-5626. RSVP saisereglobal@jhu.edu

SAIS – TURNING RUSSIA AGAINST ASSAD — 5 p.m. Samuel Charap, senior fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and Jeremy Shapiro, visiting fellow in the Foreign Policy Program at the Brookings Institution and senior adviser to the US assistant secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia. Location: Room 806, Rome Building, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW. Contacts: Felisa Klubes (fklubes@jhu.edu), 202-663-5626

CACI FORUM – GEORGIA — 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Georgia's Domestic and Regional Economic Agenda: Realities and Prospects for Future. Participants: Giorgi Pertaia, Head of Georgian National Investment Agency; George Bachiashvili, CEO, Georgian Co-Investment Fund (GCFund); Mamuka Bakhtadze, CEO, Georgian Railway; Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chair, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University. Location: Rome Auditorium, 1st Fl., the Rome Building, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Notes: To register for this Forum please email your name and affiliation to SAISCACIForums@jhu.edu latest by end of business, November 11.

ANTITRUST LAWS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY – HESSE — 6 p.m. Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division Renata B. Hesse will participate in a panel on intellectual property developments at the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Antitrust Laws Intellectual Property Committee 2nd Annual Fall Networking Event. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Alisha Cybulski at 202-662-1097 or Alisha. Cybulski@americanbar.org. Location: Cromwell & Moring LLP, 1001 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Suite 1100.

GW – MARTHA KANTER — 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. A Conversation with Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter,

US Under Secretary of Education. RSVP: http://bit.ly/16O7ozQ For more information: http://www.elliottschool.org/events/calendar.cfm?fuseaction=ViewMonthDetail&yr=2013&mon=112219. Location: Elliott School, Room 505, 1957 E Street NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "Hey, hey, we got a new mayor in New York City, how about that? I like Mayor Bloomberg. He was mayor for 12 years and for the first five or six years we had no idea who the mayor was. And then in the middle of his second term we kind of got to like him and he had another – tacked on another third term and we finally really got to know Mayor Bloomberg. Now he's gone and the new guy whose name – I tell you what I know about the new guy. He's freakishly tall."

David Letterman: "Well, listen to what the new guy is going to do right off the bat. He is putting an end to stop and frisk. This was the deal where if cops didn't like you look they could frisk you. ...Great, that was my favorite part of the day."

David Letterman: "Here's what else we know about the new mayor. ...Listen to this. This is gossipy behind-the-scenes stuff. His wife is a former lesbian. We know this guy crosses party lines."

Stephen Colbert: "Ladies and gentlemen, folks, if you watch the show – and I hope you do – do you know that we at 'The Report' are laser focused on the truth. And that means obsessive fact checking. We check every episode and if we find a fact, we replace it with the truth. Unfortunately, folks, not all news organizations out there are up to our standards. There is a scandal tearing apart CBS News, home of Edward R. Murrow, Walter Cronkite and Julie Chen. You see, two weeks ago, CBS News' '60 Minutes' took time off from doing in-depth buddy curls with Wolverine to blow the lid off Benghazi-gate. When the attacks in Libya occurred, '60 Minutes' was on the scene within minutes of 13 months later. Of course, Fox News has been working this story for a year, having definitively proven that tragedy something, something, something, Hillary Clinton."

Jimmy Fallon: "Joe Biden took an Amtrak train to Delaware and wound up sitting next to Whoopi Goldberg. He just ran into her on the train. He has a photo. Look at this. Yeah. Isn't that crazy? Biden said, 'What is it like making millions of Americans laugh every day?' And Whoopi said, 'I was going to ask you the same question.'"

Jay Leno: "President Obama said he is sorry that some Americans have lost their existing health coverage due to Obamacare. You know, I think he's getting a little desperate. Like, today he said if you like your complete lack of coverage, you can keep your complete lack of coverage."

Jay Leno: "Well, according to 'The Washington Post,' the White House is considering appointing a civilian to lead the NSA. And here's the great part. If you're interested in the job, no need to submit a resume. They got all your information already. They'll call you."

Conan O'Brien: "This is fascinating. A 107-year-old veteran met with President Obama this morning. Yeah, I know. It was good to see President Obama finally getting along so well with John McCain."

Conan O'Brien: "In political news, in a new interview today, Sarah Palin refused to endorse Chris Christie. Yeah. Afterwards, Christie told Palin, 'Thanks, I owe you one.'"

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BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, November 13, 2013

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To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

PRESIDENT OBAMA, SECRETARY JEWELL MEET WITH TRIBAL LEADERS AHEAD OF CONFERENCE. The Indian Country Today Media Network (11/12, 21K) reports that "before the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference scheduled for tomorrow, President Barack Obama sat down with a dozen tribal leaders to discuss job creation and economic development in tribal communities according to a White House Blog post." Tribal leaders met with Obama and members of his administration, including Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Among the issues the tribal leaders in attendance raised were "job creation, including expanding opportunity for renewable energy on tribal lands, increasing access to capital and foreign direct investment opportunities in Indian country, the successes of tribal self-determination, improving educational outcomes, and jurisdictional challenges."

The Shreveport (LA) Times (11/12, 143K) notes that Jewell is "scheduled to kick off the 5th annual White House Tribal Nations Conference Wednesday at Interior Department headquarters."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington (DC) Post, (11/13, 4.28M) ABC News (11/13, 3.68M), the Columbus (IN) Republic (11/13, 80K), the Boston (MA) Herald, (11/13, 643K) the Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise

(11/12, 465K) and the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (11/12, 165K).

Commission's Report Addresses Gaps In Public Safety On Reservations. The Washington Post (11/12, 4.28M) reports that "a national panel of judicial and law enforcement experts traveled the country taking cornment on public safety issues on American Indian reservations, where federal statistics show the violent crime rates can be 20 times the national average." The commission's 324-page report "seeks to close gaps in public safety in tribal communities." The report, "Strengthening Justice for Native America: A roadmap," was released Tuesday, a day ahead of the White House Tribal Nations Conference. The article notes that "among the report's 40 recommendations is giving tribes more control over crime and justice on their reservations, including an expansion of authority to prosecute non-Indians."

Also reporting on the story is the Denver Post (11/13, Press, 949K).

BLM APPROVES MOST OF GATEWAY WEST POWER LINE. Platts (11/13, 2K) reports that the BLM has issued a record of decision approving large parts of the Gateway West project in Wyoming and Idaho. However, the BLM "delayed making a decision on two out of 10 project segments so federal, state, and local permitting agencies would have more time to reach a consensus on siting routes in those areas." According to the BLM, "the process could take up to two years to finish."

The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/13, 90K) reports that in a news release, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "The line will strengthen the Western grid, bringing a diversified portfolio of renewable and conventional energy to meet the region's projected growth in electricity demand."

Meanwhile, the Idaho Statesman (11/12, 205K) reports that the Obama Administration "put off indefinitely two controversial routes for the Gateway West Transmission Line through Kuna and Owyhee County in a decision released Tuesday."

The Boise State Public Radio (11/13) reports that Heather Feeney with the Idaho BLM Office said, "Segment 8 runs to the north to the Snake River and Segment 9 is to the south of the Snake River Canyon. Parts of those two segments are located near the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area."

Also reporting on the story are reNews (11/13), the Law 360 (11/13, 18K), KIFI-TV Idaho Falls (ID) Idaho Falls, ID (11/13, 23K), and KIVI-TV Boise, ID (11/13, 861).

SECRETARY JEWELL MEETS WITH HECHO. The Los Alamos (NM) Monitor (11/13) reports that "a delegation from Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and Outdoors (HECHO), led by Director Rod Torrez, met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, her staff and various officials prior to her address to the National Press Club on Thursday." Torrez, a former Bandelier National Monument spokesman, said, "One of the things that was most exciting to me–and also slightly disheartening–in a lot of ways it seemed like we were an animal they'd never seen before. This was the first time any group of Hispanics had come together on a national level dealing with conservation. And there was a lot of buzz about that. We're kind of breaking ground."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OUTSIDE MAGAZINE'S INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY JEWELL. Additional coverage of the Outside magazine piece was provided by the Washington Post (11/13, Kamen, 4.28M), Politico (11/13, Guillen, 467K), and the Huffington Post (11/12, 11.54M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RELEASES FROM GLEN CANYON DAM. Additional coverage of the releases from Glen Canyon Dam was provided by NBC Nightly News, the Durango (CO) Herald (11/10, 28K), the Provo (UT) Daily Herald (11/13, 102K), the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (11/12, 147K), the Wenatchee (WA) World (11/12, 60K), WRTV-TV Indianapolis (IN) Indianapolis (11/13, 40K), KVOA-TV Tucson, AZ (11/13, 7K), KNXV-TV Phoenix (11/13, 155K), KTVK-TV Phoenix (11/13, 88K).

SECRETARY JEWELL CRITICIZED FOR CONSERVATION PROPOSAL. For the HotAir (11/12, 50K), Erika Johnsen writes that Secretary Jewell is "evidently threatening to recommend to President Obama that he make use of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to take control of still more land via executive order, but the American landscape could be much better off if faux-conservationists would take to heart that big government isn't the answer for everything, and that in fact, it's the answer for relatively few things."

Additional coverage was provided by Politico (11/13, Allen, 467K), Politico (11/13, Wong, 467K), the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (11/13, 288K), and MSNBC (11/12, 7.96M).

SECRETARY JEWELL URGED TO HELP STOP OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE ARCTIC. The Examiner (11/13, 1.16M) urges Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to recognize "that the Chukchi Sea in America's Arctic is one of those special places that we just cannot afford to drill in." The article notes that "the League of Conservation Voters is asking for help to reach a goal of sending 70,000 messages by the November 18th deadline."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

SUPPORTERS SAY MAKING PULLMAN NATIONAL PARK WOULD BOOST ECONOMY. The Los Angeles Times (11/13, Smith, Reporter, 3.07M) reports that the Pullman Palace Car Co.'s old factory would "become the centerpiece of a proposed national historical park on the Far South Side if Congress signs off, a step that community leaders say would spark investment and boost tourism." Sen. Dick Durbin "hopes to introduce a bill this month that would add Pullman to the park system, a spokeswoman for the Illinois Democrat said." The article notes that "supporters of the plan hope a law passes within a year but acknowledge that could be a challenge." An alternative would be for President Barack Obama to "bypass lawmakers and name Pullman a national monument."

However, in an op-ed for the Crain's Chicago Business (11/12, Stanek, 158K), Steve Stanek, a research fellow at the Heartland Institute in Chicago, argues that "if these historic landmark designations have failed to generate the economic growth people in the area desire, there's no good reason to expect economic growth from declaring the area a national park." He concludes that "millions for a 300-acre monument to a sitting president is hardly money well-spent."

NPS OWNERSHIP ON FORT MONROE MAY TAKE TWO MORE YEARS. The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (11/13, 206K) reports that the NPS will "likely not own a single square foot of land on Fort Monroe until 2016 at the earliest — four years after President Barack Obama declared 325 acres of the former Army base a national monument." The state "does not intend to transfer any land to the NPS until the Army addresses each contaminated site on the property." The NPS and state "still need to reach agreements determining which entity pays for utilities and property maintenance," according to John Hutcheson, Fort Monroe Authority deputy executive director.

CONTRACTORS SELECTED FOR PART OF ARCH GROUNDS RENOVATION. The St. Louis Business Journal (11/13, Subscription Publication, 62K) reports that Great Rivers Greenway has "approved contracts with seven different firms worth a total of more than $23 for work related to the CityArchRiver project." The article notes that "all seven firms meet or exceed the goals for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation on the project." The Central Riverfront project, the second component of the CityArchRiver 2015 initiative, will break ground Thursday.

Bureau of Land Management:

COMMENT PERIODS EXTENDED FOR SAGE GROUSE. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (11/12, 165K) reports that the BLM Carson City District and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest have extended the comment period for the Bi-State Sage-Grouse Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The extension comes after the recent release of the FWS' proposal to protect the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the Greater Sage-grouse as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

COURT'S RULING ON RICHFIELD RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS CRITICIZED. The Richfield (UT) Reaper (11/13, 102K) editorializes that "a ruling issued last week by US District Judge Dale Kimball has the potential for devastating effects on the region as well as the public's ability to access federally administered land." According to the paper, "Kimball's ruling throws the entire travel plan for the 2.1 million acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Richfield office into question." The paper urges the BLM to

appeal the ruling and for "county governments need to step in and make their voices heard."

In an op-ed for the Price (UT) Sun Advocate (11/13, Shaw, 19K), Richard Shaw writes that "where the BLM will go from here no one knows for sure, but you can bet that the other RMP's in the state will be taken to task too." He warns that "our industries, our recreation and our way of life will be slowly strangled out of us as the courts go about their merry way of disregarding plans that took years to put together through the cooperation of many agencies and private citizens." Shaw argues that "protection is important; but it must be mitigated with use as well."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SEEK DECISION ON SOUTHEAST ALASKA WOLVES. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/12, 749K) reports that "two environmental groups say the federal government is taking too long to decide whether a subspecies of gray wolf found in southeast Alaska old-growth forests should be considered for endangered species protection." In a letter Tuesday, the Center for Biological Diversity and Greenpeace urged the FWS to "decide whether additional protections are needed for Alexander Archipelago wolves, which are found on Prince of Wales Island and are genetically distinct from other wolves in the Tongass National Forest." FWS spokeswoman Andrea Madeiros says the agency is preparing a response.

Also reporting on the story are the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (11/12, 86K), the Ventura County (CA) Star (11/12, 196K), the Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (11/12, 596K), the Miami (FL) Herald (11/13, Joling, 806K), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (11/12, 713K), and the Alaska Public Radio Network (11/12, 2K).

RESEARCHERS TEST STURGEON BAY FOR EVIDENCE OF ASIAN CARP. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (11/13, 798K) reports that "government biologists took water samples from Sturgeon Bay on Tuesday to search for the DNA of Asian carp in the hope of gaining a better understanding of whether the destructive fish could be lurking in these reaches of Lake Michigan." While "the results from laboratory analysis won't be known until January," once the samples are analyzed, "it will give scientists and regulators a better — though far from complete —understanding of whether two species of invasive carp could be inhabiting Upper Lake Michigan."

Also reporting on the story are the Door County (WI) Daily News (11/13) and WBAY-TV Green Bay, WI (11/12, 38K).

WYOMING SUPREME COURT TO HEAR GRIZZLY DOCUMENTS CASE. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/13, 90K) reports that "the Wyoming Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Nov. 21 in a lawsuit that attempts to obtain Gov. Matt Mead's documents regarding delisting the grizzly bear as an endangered species." The article notes that "Robert H. Aland, an Illinois resident who has lived part-time in Wilson in Teton County since 1998, filed the lawsuit against Mead and Wyoming Game and Fish Department Director Scott Talbott." Aland "attempted to obtain copies of a letter issued May 24, 2012, from Mead to former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar."

KALI TO REMAIN AT THE BUFFALO ZOO THROUGH 2015. WGRZ-TV Buffalo, NY (11/13, 41K) reports that Sen. Charles Schumer said he has secured a commitment from the FWS to keep one of Buffalo's two resident polar bears, Kali, at the Buffalo Zoo through 2015, if the facility passes its 2014 inspection as expected. Schumer said, "For frequent zoo visitors, and for the staff at the Buffalo Zoo who have watched Kali grow up from a polar bear cub, to see him go before he had a chance to reach adulthood would have been unbearable. Now, as long as all goes as the Zoo expects with its 2014 APHIS review, Kali will stay in Buffalo until at least 2015, where he is safe, healthy, and has the potential to breed."

Also reporting on the story is the Wall Street Journal (11/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M).

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDY TO FOCUS ON REDHORSE, PEE DEE RIVER. The Stanly (NC) News Press (11/13, 27K) reports that North Carolina State University researchers will "lead an effort to better understand the impact that changes in habitat and water quality are having on fish, mussels and crayfish in the Pee Dee River in North and South Carolina." The effort is being funded with a $460,000 FWS grant, which will be matched with $225,400 in state funds. The grant was made through the FWS' competitive State Wildlife

Grants Program.

REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ON BALD EAGLE SHOOTING. The Sioux Falls (SD) Tri-State Neighbor (11/13, 79K) reports that the FWS and the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department are "offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for the shooting of an immature bald eagle six miles south and two miles east of Strandburg, South Dakota." The eagle was shot on or before October 31, 2013.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: US TO DESTROY SIX TONS OF IVORY. Additional coverage of the plan to crush six tons of ivory was provided by Yahoo! (11/12, Gannon, 17.91M) , the International Business Times (11/13, 237K) , the Independent (UK) (11/13, 487K), The Guardian (11/11, 1.59M), National Geographic (11/12, 21.55M), and AllAfrica (11/13, 18K).

PUBLIC URGED TO SPEAK OUT AT HEARING ON WOLVES. In an op-ed for the Denver Post (11/13, Bell, 949K), Gail Bell, a museum educator, writes that the upcoming decision by the FWS on the wolves will hold implications not only for the long term survival of the wolf, but also, the integrity of the Endangered Species Act. Bell urges the public to participate in a hearing to be held in Denver at the Paramount Theater on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

US Geological Survey:

BUDGET CUTS COULD POSTPONE IMPLEMENTATION OF CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE WARNING SYSTEM. The Los Angeles Daily News (11/12, 382K) reports that budgets cuts to the USGS could "postpone the implementation of a statewide earthquake early warning system." USGS geophysicist and early warning project chief Doug Given warned that "the budget impacts might disproportionately affect early warning," because "the early warning project and seismic networks are largely dependent on grants." In an effort to better secure funding to the USGS, Rep. Adam Schiff has "spearheaded a team of 14 other representatives across California to draft a letter to President Barack Obama urging that fiscal 2015 funding incorporate the highest amount of funding possible for the Earthquake Hazards Program and the Global Seismic Network."

USGS STUDY FINDS GROUND-WATER "LAG" MAY DELAY CHESAPEAKE BAY CLEANUP. The Baltimore Sun (11/12, 812K) reports that "the Chesapeake Bay's cleanup may be delayed 'several decades' by the slow pace at which farm pollution is being flushed from ground water on the Delmarva Peninsula, a new study says." The research by the USGS also "suggests pollution control efforts on Eastern Shore farms may need to be increased in order to achieve hoped-for water quality improvements." According to the article, "using a computer model to simulate ground-water flows, USGS scientists found that when nitrogen from fertilized farm fields on the Shore soaks into the ground, it takes 20 to 40 years on average for the nutrient-laden water to make its way underground into streams and rivers."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SEN. FEINSTEIN TO INTRODUCE NEW DESERT PROTECTION ACT. In an op-ed for the Santa Clarita Valley (CA) News (11/12, Feinstein, 431), Sen. Dianne Feinstein argues that California can "protect pristine desert areas" while responsibly developing renewable energy projects. Feinstein believes "those two goals can exist side-by-side by focusing energy development on suitable sites such as military bases and disturbed private land while protecting unspoiled desert landscapes." Feinstein says she "will soon introduce a new California Desert Protection Act to address the many competing land use demands in the desert, including conservation, recreation and military training." She notes that "a central piece of the legislation will protect 266,000 acres of land donated or acquired with federal conservation funds by creating the Mojave Trails National Monument."

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE COMMITTEE SEEKS TO THWART MINING RULE. in its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (11/13, 194K) report

that the House Natural Resources Committee will "likely approve GOP legislation Thursday that would block the Interior Department from toughening regulation of so-called mountaintop removal coal mining projects in Appalachia." According to the article, "the committee is slated to mark up Rep. Bill Johnson's (R-Ohio) bill that prevents Interior from rewriting a controversial George W. Bush-era regulation that environmentalists say enables destruction of Appalachian streams." Johnson and other critics of the potential revision argue "it would cost jobs in coal country, and cite it alongside new power plant pollution rules in claiming the White House is attacking the coal industry."

US EXPECTED TO BECOME BIGGEST OIL PRODUCER BY 2015. McClatchy (11/13, 95K) reports that the International Energy Agency's long-term energy outlook, released on Tuesday, predicts that the US will "surpass Russia and Saudi Arabia to become the world's largest oil producer in 2015." McClatchy says that US "energy production is skyrocketing, led by Texas and North Dakota, as oil companies use the techniques of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling to tap oil and natural gas trapped in shale rock." The IEA says that North America's "need for oil imports will all but disappear by 2035."

However, the New York Times (11/13, Wald, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that according to the IEA report, production of oil from shale formations "in the United States and worldwide will provide only a temporary respite from reliance on the Middle East." The report said, "By the mid-2020s, non-OPEC production starts to fall back and countries from the Middle East provide most of the increase in global supply." IEA executive director Maria van der Hoeven said, "There is a huge growth in light tight oil, that it will peak around 2020, and then it will plateau."

Reuters (11/13, Lawler, Bousso, MacKey) quotes IEA Chief Economist Fatih Birol saying, "We expect in 2015 the U.S. to be the largest oil producer in the world. ... We see two chapters in the oil markets. ... Up to 2020, we expect the light, tight oil to increase – I would call it a surge. And due to the increase coming from Brazil, the need for Middle East oil in the next few years will definitely be less." Birol continued, "But due to the limited resource base (of U.S. tight oil), it is going to plateau and decline. After 2020 there will be a major dominance of Middle East oil."

Bloomberg News (11/13, Smith, 1.91M) reports that according to the IEA, "U.S. oil production will rise to 11.6 million barrels a day in 2020, from 9.2 million in 2012, as it taps rock and shale layers in North Dakota and Texas with the use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing." During "the same time period, Saudi Arabian production will fall to 10.6 million from 11.7 million and Russia slips to 10.4 million from 10.7 million barrels."

The Christian Science Monitor (11/13, Unger, 540K) notes that the report says that "the technologies that have fueled that North American boom in shale rock formations won't be easily replicated in the rest of the world." The report stated, "The capacity of technologies to unlock new types of resources ... and to improve recovery rates in existing fields is pushing up estimates of the amount of oil that remains to be produced. ... But this does not mean that the world is on the cusp of a new era of oil abundance."

The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/13, Geman, 194K) reports that "most of the need for growing global energy supply in coming decades is centered in India, China and other Asian nations, while Middle East consumption also grows."

Offshore Energy Development:

MISSISSIPPI MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN OIL SPILL FRAUD CASE. The AP (11/13) reports that a man from Mississippi "has pleaded guilty to a fraud charge involving $36,300 he received in oil-spill recovery money." According to an article in the Sun Herald, "Joseph Anthony 'Joey' Clements will be sentenced Jan. 30 in Federal court in Gulfport." Prosecutors contend "Clements received a check for $36,300 by making false statements that he lost money from his shrimping and fishing business."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

LAIRD REPORTS ON BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The Business Journal (CA) (11/13, 154K) reports that "during a visit to Fresno on Tuesday, California Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird reported that

progress is being made on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan that will be released for public review on Dec. 13." Laird said that "although there are no specifics yet on downstream water capture and storage, it will be considered as part of the plan." He said that "once the plan and environmental impact report are released, the public would have 120 days to comment on the documents."

Also providing coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan is KVPR-FM Fresno, CA (11/13, 284).

NGS HEARINGS BEGIN. The Arizona Daily Sun (11/13, 33K) reports that "the EPA has scheduled a series of five public hearings starting today over its proposed Best Available Retrofit Technology rule to reduce haze from coal-fired NGS." Hearings were scheduled to begin at the LeChee Chapter House and in Page at the Cultural Arts Building on the Page High campus.

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN FINALIZES ADMINISTRATION'S PATCHAK PATCH. The Indian Country Today Media Network (11/12, 21K) reports that Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin Washbum "announced November 12 a finalized rule that aims to resolve some problems created for tribes by a recent US Supreme Court decision, which said that a litigant can sue for up to six years after the US Department of the Interior takes lands into trust for tribes." According to the article, "the new rule partially addresses the issues by ending a 30-day waiting period Interior established in 1996 for the assistant secretary to take land into trust for tribes wanting to develop casinos on such land." Washbum said, "The reason for staying is just not so compelling anymore. Our argument is that people can still bring their action if they want to after we've taken the land into trust—at least that's what Patchak says."

COASTAL EROSION THREATENS ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE. The Washington Times (11/13, D'oro, 417K) reports that "the flood-prone village of Newtok near Alaska's storm-battered coast is running out of time as coastal erosion creeps ever closer to the Yup'ik Eskimo community." According to the article, "as residents wait for a new village to be built on higher ground nine miles away, a dispute over who is in charge has led to a rare intervention" by the BIA, which "ruled that the sitting tribal council no longer represents the community of 350 as far as the agency is concerned." Council leaders are appealing the BIA's decision, "which gave the funding-administrative power to a new group that claims it is the rightfully elected council." But "until the matter is resolved, millions of dollars in government funds for the relocation effort have been halted, as nature's relentless erosion continues, oblivious to who is in charge."

Also reporting on the story are Yahoo! (11/13, D'oro, 17.91M) . The Oregonian (11/13, 751K), and the Daily Mail (UK) (11/13, 2.92M) .

BIA STEPS INTO BLACKFEET DISPUTE. KBZK-TV Butte, MT (11/13, 785) reports that the BIA has "stepped into a personnel conflict in the Blackfeet Tribal government, suggesting that the tribe's instability could affect federal contracts." In a letter Friday, the BIA said the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council "needed a quorum – six of its nine members – for its action last week appointing a new treasurer and personnel director, replacing those removed earlier by the council."

Also reporting on the story is KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (11/13, 1K).

AQUINNAH WAMPANOAG TRIBE SECURES FEDERAL APPROVALS FOR CASINO ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD. The Indian Country Today Media Network (11/12, 21K) reports that "the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) has secured the federal approvals necessary for it to open a Class II gaming facility on the Tribe's existing Indian lands on Martha's Vineyard." On August 29, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) "approved amendments to the Gaming Ordinance specifically identifying the Tribe's existing trust land on the Island," then on October 25, the NIGC's General Counsel "issued a legal opinion concluding that the existing trust lands qualify for gaming under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA)," and "finally, on October 22, the NIGC acknowledged the Tribe's Facility License for the Aquinnah site."

Also reporting on the story are the Cape Cod (MA) Times (11/12, 92K) and the Springfield (MA) Republican (11/13, 286K).

MASSACHUSETTS LAWMAKERS APPROVE CASINO COMPACT WITH MASHPEE TRIBE. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (11/12, 92K) reports that "both the House and Senate today approved the tribal-state compact between the Mashpee Wampanoag and Gov. Deval Patrick, a spokesman for Senate President Therese Murray said." The compact, "which would pay the state revenues from a proposed $500 million Indian casino in Taunton, is now headed to Patrick for his signature." Once Patrick signs the compact, it will be sent to the BIA, which will have 45 days to act on the compact.

Also reporting on the story is the New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (11/13, 54K).

Top National News:

CLINTON: OBAMA SHOULD HONOR HIS PLEDGE TO THOSE WHO WANT TO KEEP THEIR INSURANCE. Tuesday's news cycle included a volley of negative coverage regarding the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, much of it featuring criticism of President Obama from his own allies, including former President Clinton, as well as polls showing the President is less popular and less trusted than at any other point since his inauguration. All three networks covered Clinton's remarks in an interview with ozy.com, in which he advised President Obama to allow those Americans who have had their health insurance canceled as a result of the ACA – despite liking and wanting to keep their policies – to retain that coverage.

Clinton's wording appeared to suggest that were the President to do otherwise, he would not "honor the commitment" he made repeatedly to the public as he sought to build support for the ACA prior to its passage and implementation, which played into the narrative regarding the public's increasingly skeptical assessment of the President's veracity. Wolf Blitzer, at the opening of CNN's The Situation Room (11/12), said Clinton is "urging" the President to "keep his promise to the American people."

On ABC World News (11/12, story 5, 2:10, Sawyer, 7.43M), Jonathan Karl reported that Clinton "said what President Obama's harshest Republican critics have been saying – that he may need to the change the healthcare law to help the millions of people who have seen their insurance canceled despite the President's promise that would not happen." Clinton was shown saying, "I personally believe – even if it takes a change in the law – that the President should honor the commitment the Federal government made to those people and let them keep what they got." According to Karl, on Tuesday, the White House said the Administration is "looking at options to help those who have lost their coverage, but it's unclear what they would do," and, "in fact, the President's team has not even presented any options to the President yet."

Brian Williams, on NBC Nightly News (11/12, story 5, 2:30, Williams, 7.86M), reported that Clinton "likes and supports" the ACA, but "nonetheless...joined the chorus of people pushing the President to keep his promise." NBC's Peter Alexander reported that "while defending the healthcare law in a new interview," Clinton "urged President Obama to make good on his promise, and let anyone who wants to keep their current insurance plan." Alexander added that on Tuesday, White House press secretary Jay Carney "said that President Obama agrees with Clinton."

On the CBS Evening News (11/12, story 4, 1:40, Pelley, 5.58M), Major Garrett reported from the White House that "two senior advisers told us there was no coordination with...Clinton on that comment and you can see why." According to Garrett, "Clinton's comments focused even more attention on the most glaring political problem facing Obamacare – those consumers...who had their policies canceled but can't afford the new policies that comply with Obamacare."

Chris Hayes, in the lead segment for MSNBC's All In (11/12, 510K), said, "Republicans have settled on their latest anti-Obamacare message: 'If you like your health plan, you should be able to keep it.'" Hayes added, "And today, they got a big boost from Bill Clinton." Andrew Sullivan (11/13, 27K), in a post on Clinton's remarks, wrote: "if you made a promise, and it turns out to be empty," you can either "apologize for misleading people, which really does have a corrosive effect on your credibility as president; or you can fix the law so that your promise remains intact."

The New Republic's Jonathan Cohn pushed back against the Clinton-fueled narrative Tuesday in a piece titled,

"Bill Clinton Is Wrong. This Is How Obamacare Works." Cohn says Clinton is "likely to create some misimpressions...while giving the administration and its allies yet another political headache." Cohn says Clinton's suggestion to the President "makes it seem as if there is some simple way to let people keep their current plans," but, according to Cohn, "no such magic solution exists." Cohn says that in order for the ACA to function, some Americans "must pay more and, in some cases, put up with less."

Chris Matthews, on MSNBC's Hardball (11/12, 689K), briefly noted some of the defenses of the ACA offered by Clinton on Tuesday without mentioning his suggestion for the President regarding coverage cancellations. After showing an extended clip of Clinton speaking, Matthews said "the secretary of explaining stuff," as President Obama has called Clinton, was "doing a great job again." On MSNBC's The Ed Show (11/12, 449K), Ed Schultz did not mention the former president's comments at all, nor were they covered on MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show. Both Matthews and Schultz blamed the media for drawing attention to perceived drawbacks of the ACA. Schultz said, "The mainstream media, I believe, wants Obamacare to fail." Matthews accused "the big media" of repeating uncritically Republicans' criticisms of the President.

Under the headline, "Clinton To Obama: Let Americans Keep Canceled Health Plans," USA Today (11/13, Madhani, 5.82M) paraphrases Clinton as saying that the President "should honor his oft-repeated pledge and allow people to hang on to health care plans that are being canceled as a result of the Affordable Care Act." USA Today reports that on Tuesday, Jay Carney said "Clinton's comments were in line with Obama's statement last week that he has asked his administration officials 'to close some of the gaps in the law.'"

However, Justin Sink, in a post for The Hill (11/13, Sink, 194K), reported that some conservatives believe Clinton's remark was "a clear effort to distance he and his wife from the troubled ObamaCare rollout." Sink notes that Matt Drudge tweeted: "Clintons make their move. This was not HILLARYcare. This was OBAMAcare. And it was done wrong." Sink adds that the New York Times' Ross Douthat "joked that Clinton's solution for individuals losing their existing health plans under ObamaCare was to 'elect Hillary in 2016.'" Politico (11/13, Weinger, 467K) reports that on his radio show Tuesday, Rush Limbaugh said, "Did you see where Bill Clinton has said that Obama needs to keep his word about keeping our insurance plans if we like 'em? ... There are no coincidences with the Clintons." Limbaugh added, "If you're Obama, can you imagine being lectured to about honesty and integrity from a convicted perjurer?"

Juli Weiner, in a short piece for Vanity Fair (11/13, Weiner, 5.57M), calls Clinton's remark "somewhat off-message," but "fully gratuitous." Luke Johnson, in a piece for the Huffington Post (11/13, Johnson, 11.54M), noted that Clinton "preceded his comments by saying that the country is better off with the Affordable Care Act."

The Wall Street Journal (11/13, Schatz, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) covers the former president's remarks in an article titled, "Bill Clinton Says Health Law May Need To Be Changed." The Journal reports that on Tuesday, Carney said the President has told his aides to "make sure that nobody is put in a position where their plans have been canceled and they can't afford a better plan even though they'd like to have a better plan."

The AP (11/12, Kuhnhenn), in an article titled, "Bill Clinton Says Obama Should Follow Through On Pledge To Let Americans Keep Health Coverage," says Clinton is just the "latest in Obama's party to urge the president to live up to a promise he made repeatedly" after "millions of Americans...started receiving insurance cancellation letters." The AP notes that ten Democratic senators "are pushing for an unspecified extension of the sign-up period and in a private White House meeting last week several pressed Obama to do so." The AP notes that Sen. Mary Landrieu has also "proposed legislation that would require insurance companies to reinstate the canceled policies."

Bloomberg News (11/13, Talev, 1.91M) says Clinton "stepped into the debate...days before a vote in the Republican-controlled House on a measure that would let individuals keep their health-care plans into next year without penalty," and "Republicans seized on Clinton's remarks." Speaker Boehner said Clinton's remarks "signify a growing recognition that Americans were misled" by the President. The Miami Herald (11/13, Klas, 806K) notes Boehner's statement in an article titled, "GOP Seizes On Clinton's Criticisms Of Obamacare Rollout."

The Washington Times (11/13, Howell, 417K) reports that the Club for Growth "put out a statement asking if Sen. Mark Pryor, an Arkansas Democrat who faces a tough reelection battle next year, will support the Mr. Clinton's

call for Mr. Obama to consider potential changes to the law to help people keep their plans if they want."

The Hill (11/13, Easley, 194K) quotes Clinton as saying, "For young people mostly, but not all young, who are in the individual market whose incomes are above 400 percent of the poverty level, they were the ones who heard the promise that if you like what you've got, you can keep it." Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (11/13, Munro, 422K), said that on Tuesday, Jay Carney "offered vague reassurances to the millions of voters who are losing their insurance, whom he dubbed 'the five percent.'"

In a WonkBlog post tiled, "Why Did Obama Promise People Could Keep Their Health Insurance? Blame Bill Clinton," Ezra Klein of the Washington Post (11/13, Klein, 4.28M) makes the case that Clinton is "the reason Obama made the disastrous promise in the first place." According to Klein, when he was President, Clinton made it clear that Americans would lose their current insurance if "HillaryCare" were to become law, which was unpopular because "even though most Americans believe the health-care system is a mess, they're reasonably happy with the insurance they have." Klein contends that with that in mind, "it's a bit rich for Clinton to argue for a plan that leaves everyone's insurance unchanged."

The Los Angeles Times (11/13, Little, 3.07M) reports that "this isn't the first time Clinton's remarks have caused the Obama team headaches." The Times says he has "previously critiqu[ed] Obama's handling of the conflict in Syria," among other things. Josh Gerstein, in a piece for Politico (11/13, Gerstein, 467K), writes that Clinton's "endorsement of legislation to address the cancellation issue again put the former president in a place Obama had refused to go – a familiar spot for the Oval Office's current occupant." Gerstein adds, "On issues ranging from the debt ceiling fight to Syria," Clinton "has parted company with the White House party line – often at crucial times that leave the current president in a tough spot and exacerbate tensions that date back to the 2008 campaign."

Other coverage of Clinton's comments includes an article in the New York Daily News (11/13, Friedman, 3.94M) tiled, "Bill Clinton Chides Obama To Change Health Care Law So People Can Keep Coverage," and another from the New York Post (11/13, Solis, 1.4M) under the headline, "Clinton To Prez: Fix ObamaCare."

Analyses: Rescinding ACA Cancellations May Be Next To Impossible. Adding to the Administration's problems, analyses from the New York Times (11/13, A1, Shear, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) and The New Republic's Cohn, among others, indicate that there may be no way to "uncancel" coverage without seriously undermining the ACA and causing premiums for other Americans to spike next year. For instance, on NBC Nightly News (11/12, story 5, 2:30, Williams, 7.86M), Peter Alexander reported that on Tuesday, White House press secretary Jay Carney said the President's "goal is to make sure those who got cancellation letters can afford a better plan." However, Alexander noted that, according to Jonathan Gruber, identified as "an architect of both Romneycare...and Obamacare," that will be "no easy task." Gruber: "If you allow some people to jump out of the system and keep their old policies at a cheaper price, it puts the fundamental goals of the law at risk."

In a front-page article titled, "Obama In Bind Trying To Keep Health Law Vow," the New York Times (11/13, A1, Shear, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Administration is "under intense bipartisan pressure to answer mounting consumer complaints," and "follow through on last week's acknowledgment about his incorrect promise on health care coverage." But the Times says that on Tuesday, Administration officials "signaled the president's strong opposition to calls from across the political spectrum...to support bipartisan legislation that would allow people to keep their current insurance plans." According to the Times, "White House officials refused to discuss in detail what options" the President is mulling, but "made clear that" he is "skeptical of any solution that would allow insurance companies to continue selling what officials consider to be cheap and substandard policies." The Times adds that it is "unclear how the administration could make new plans more affordable, or whether that solution would be interpreted by Americans as keeping the promise that the president made."

USA Today (11/13, Madhani, 5.82M), in an analysis titled, "No Easy Fixes For Obamacare Cancellation Issue," reports that "analysts say Obama faces a mountain of complications in his hunt for an administrative fix for the problem." Timothy Jost, identified as "an expert on health care law at the Washington and Lee University law school," is quoted as saying, "I just can't see an administrative fix that doesn't make things worse." Robert Laszewski, president of Health Policy and Strategy Associates, says, "If it took the insurance industry months – three, four, five, six months in that range – to get the cancellation letters prepared and sent out, how are you

going to reverse it in six weeks?"

Poll: 52% Now Believe Obama "Not Honest And Trustworthy." Diane Sawyer, on ABC World News (11/12, story 5, 2:10, Sawyer, 7.43M), reported that "for the first time in his presidency a majority, 52%, say the President is not honest and trustworthy," while 44% continue to trust the President. According to Sawyer, some Americans believe they have been "misled about getting to keep their insurance through Obamacare."

Likewise, Scott Pelley, on the CBS Evening News (11/12, story 4, 1:40, Pelley, 5.58M), said, "The troubled rollout of President Obama's health insurance law is taking a toll on his job approval ratings." Pelley reported that "the respected Quinnipiac University Poll" has found that "only 39% of Americans say they approve of the job he's doing – the lowest ever in that poll –" while 54% "disapprove." Pelley added, "Perhaps reflecting his broken 'you can keep your insurance' promise, only 44% said the President is honest and trustworthy."

NBC Nightly News (11/12, story 5, 2:30, Williams, 7.86M) was the only network newscast that did not mention the President's weak new poll numbers.

The Wall Street Journal (11/13, 5.91M) reports that Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute, wrote, "Any elected official with an 8-point trust deficit is in serious trouble." The Journal also reports that Quinnipiac found that the public now disapproves of the ACA by a 16-point margin, 55%-39%, while 46% of respondents believe they were "knowingly deceived" by the President regarding the impact of his healthcare reforms. Politico's (11/13, Haberkorn, 467K) Jennifer Haberkorn said the President has been "called out by opponents – and some supporters – for misleading the public." Politico (11/13, Delreal, 467K) noted that Quinnipiac also found that "only 19 percent of Americans believe the quality of their healthcare will improve because of the ACA, while 43 percent think their care will worsen," and 33% "believe the ACA will not affect their health care at all."

Feinstein Co-Sponsors Bill Requiring Insurers To Delay Cancellations. Politico (11/13, Kim, 467K) reports that on Tuesday, in a signal that "it's not just red-state Democrats who want to take aggressive steps to mend" the ACA, Sen. Dianne Feinstein announced that that she will co-sponsor Sen. Mary Landrieu's bill "requir[ing] insurance companies to continue offering their existing health care plans." Feinstein released a statement reading: "This bill provides a simple fix to a complex problem." However, according to Politico, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "has no plans to bring Obamacare delay bills to the floor, and most Senate Democrats appear to be waiting until the end of the month...to demand major delays to the law's implementation." Politico notes that Landrieu's bill has "three other co-sponsors," Sens. Joe Manchin, Kay Hagan and Mark Pryor, "all Democrats hailing from more conservative territory."

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (11/13, Milbank, 4.28M), notes that only "two months ago, polls showed...Hagan leading prospective opponents by double digits," but PPP "released a poll Tuesday showing that 69 percent of North Carolinians think the Obamacare rollout has been unsuccessful," and "probably because of that," Hagan "is now in a dead heat with would-be challengers." According to Milbank, Hagan's "problem begins with Obamacare, ends with Obamacare and has a whole lot of Obamacare in between."

Upton Bill May Put Vulnerable House Democrats In A Bind. Reuters (11/13, Ferraro) reports that when asked if agrees with Clinton, Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), the House Minority Whip, said, "I agree that people that purchased their policies prior to the enactment of the bill, which was when the representation was made, ought to be able to keep their policies."

However, Politico (11/13, Gibson, 467K) reports that Hoyer's office subsequently announced that he opposes House Republican legislation introduced by Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) that "would grandfather in all current policies and exempt them from the requirements under Obamacare." According to Politico, when asked in person on Tuesday if "would support Upton's bill, Hoyer insisted that it was too soon to make a judgment."

Roll Call (11/13, Dumain, 87K) reports that "the vast majority of Democrats will likely side with leadership" and oppose Upton's bill, but "a sizable contingent of vulnerable caucus members – mostly freshmen – are expected to side with Republicans." According to Roll Call, "many House Democratic aides said that it was crucial to allow 'front-liners' to do whatever it takes to keep their seats in the next Congress," and "one staffer for a senior House Democrat suggested" that Democrats "back some changes to" the ACA. Roll Call notes that 22 Democrats

backed a one-year delay of the individual mandate in a House vote this summer.

More Than One Million Californians Have Received Cancellation Notices. In an article titled "More Than 1M Californians Notified Health Insurance Will Be Canceled" that was featured atop the Drudge Report on Tuesday night, Sacramento's KOVR-TV Sacramento, CA (11/12, 47K), a CBS affiliate, reported that on Tuesday, California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones (D) revealed that "more than 1 million [health insurance] cancellation notices have been sent to Californians," and that Anthem Blue Cross of California "has agreed to a two-month extension of about 104,000 individual policies after failing to give the required 90-day cancellation notice."

Steve Lopez, in a column for the Los Angeles Times (11/13, Lopez, 3.07M), profiles a southern California woman who is losing an insurance plan she says she is "completely happy" with and must now pay 80% more in premiums for coverage that is "inferior." Lopez goes on to deride the President's "now-laughable promises of a smooth transition."

FIRST LADY LAUNCHES NEW EDUCATION INITIATIVE. The New York Times (11/13, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that First Lady Michelle Obama "urged" high school students on Tuesday to pursue education after graduating, launching an "initiative that seeks to increase the number of low-income students graduating from college and signaling her plans to focus more on administration policy during the president's second term." Speaking at Bell Multicultural High School in Washington, the First Lady "told students they could write their own success stories if they focused on going to college."

The Washington Post (11/13, Layton, Thompson, 4.28M) reports the First Lady "kicked off her new campaign to prod and inspire high schoolers around the country to graduate and enroll in college, trade school or some type of higher education." She said, "We're going to talk about the power that you have to fulfill your potential and unlock opportunities that you can't even begin to imagine for yourselves right now." She was joined by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and her message "focused on personal responsibility and hard work, not the administration's education policies."

The AP (11/13) reports the First Lady said, "No matter what the president does, no matter what your teachers and principals do, or whatever is going on in your home or neighborhood, the person with the biggest impact on your education is you. It's going to take young people like all of you across the country stepping up and taking control of your education."

The Hill (11/13, Goodin, 194K) reports that the First Lady's speech was highly personal. She said, "I went to law school, became a lawyer. I've been a vice president for a hospital. I've been the head of a nonprofit organization. And I am here today because I want you to know that my story can be your story. The details might be a little different, but let me tell you, so many of the challenges and the triumphs will be just the same."

The Wall Street Journal (11/13, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports the First Lady's initiative is in support of the President's goal of having the US lead the world in the share of people who graduate from college in 2020. However, a number of experts interviewed for the piece are very skeptical that it is possible to hit that goal.

Meanwhile, the New York Times (11/13, Porter, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports a poll conducted last month by the College Board and National Journal shows that 46% of respondents, including a majority of 18 to 29 year olds, "said a college degree was not needed to be successful," while a Pew poll from 2011 showed that "only" 40% of Americans "think college is a good investment." The piece says that on a "pure dollars-and-cents basis, the doubters are wrong," as those with a bachelor's degree "still earn almost twice as much as high school graduates." Looking at the debate over whether more education can close the income gap, the piece interviews several academics who cast doubt on that, instead blaming the decline of unions, deregulation, and increased foreign trade.

Pell Grant Program Said To Be Poorly Structured For Low-Income Students. In an op-ed for the New York Times (11/13, Baum, Conklin, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Sandy Baum, Kristin Conklin and Nate Johnson write that the way the Pell grant program is designed makes it harder for low-income students to "graduate on schedule." The issue, they say, is that the program "provides support for only 12 credit hours per

term, which the government defines as full time for financial aid purposes," but to complete a bachelor's degree in four years requires 15 or 16 credit hours. They say that about three-quarters of grant recipients today "enroll in community colleges, vocational schools, for-profit institutions or other nonselective institutions," where tuition is based on credits taken, and few can pay without assistance, so it "essentially makes it impossible for them to graduate on time."

Philadelphia Looking To Sell Closed Schools. The New York Times (11/13, Hurdle, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Philadelphia's "financially troubled school district" is looking for buyers for about two dozen school buildings closed this summer. The school district is hoping that the properties "could be adapted and reused by buyers, who could provide the district with desperately needed cash."

BIDEN CALLS ON FAITH LEADERS TO PUSH IMMIGRATION REFORM. Politico (11/13, Epstein, 467K) reports that Vice President Biden, speaking on a conference call of Catholic clergy and "other faith leaders," said "it will be incumbent upon immigration reformers to be louder and more engaged with Congress than reform opponents" or else it will die as gun control did. Biden said, "Work the districts so these members understand how all their constituents feel, not just the loudest ones. This kind of reminds me of the gun control kind of fights we had, and gun safety. You know, the people who don't want anything changed to have a more rational position, they're the ones who show up in large numbers. The ones who strongly support us, they don't show up. You guys have to show up."

Pro-Immigration Reform Coalition May Be Fragmenting. The Wall Street Journal (11/13, Meckler, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that with the chances of immigration reform passing the House apparently waning, backers are adopting new tactics. For example, the AFL-CIO and SEIU are up on the air with harsh ads targeting Republicans, while some farm groups are seeking a smaller bill tailored to meet their limited needs. The Journal says that the net result is that the coalition of groups backing comprehensive reform is fracturing a bit, with component groups looking out more for their own interests.

Activists Begin Hunger Strike. The Washington Times (11/13, Dinan, 417K) reports that protests and arrests for civil disobedience haven't been enough to push immigration reform over the top, so "activists announced Tuesday they are beginning a hunger fast to try to pressure Congress to pass a bill legalizing illegal immigrants." The activists, including Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners, have "set up a prayer tent on the National Mall where they will be conducting their vigil and fast."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"When The Police Enter A Home."*** The New York Times (11/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes about a case to be argued today before the Supreme Court, in which Los Angeles police arrested a robbery suspect at his home, then returned an hour later and asked the suspect's girlfriend if they could enter without a warrant. The Times argues that a "tenant's right to object to a warrantless search should not depend on whether he can permanently stand guard at his front door," and if police "have probable cause to make an arrest, they will almost surely have the basis for a warrant as well." The Times notes that the court has said in the past that the home "has long enjoyed 'special protection as the center of the private lives of our people.'" The Times urges the court to "reaffirm that principle and require police who wish to search a home to get a warrant, even if the only person standing in their way is in a holding cell."

"Agony In The Philippines." A New York Times (11/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorial praises the international relief effort but adds that "delivering relief supplies to victims has been severely hampered by impassable roads, a collapsed infrastructure and, reportedly, a shortage of aircraft capable of landing on a short runway." Noting that this typhoon "will not be the last," the Times calls on Philippine officials to "re-examine early warning systems and evacuation procedures," and adds that in the near term, "faster evacuation may be the only way to save more lives in this kind of calamity."

"A Living Wage In Bangladesh." The New York Times (11/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that Bangladesh can afford to pay its clothing factory workers more, and that raising the minimum wage and indexing it to inflation would improve the lives of workers and reduce the threat of strikes and protests. Factory owners insist that they cannot afford the raise, yet Bangladesh exported $19 billion in clothes last year, a more

than 50% increase from two years ago. A government-appointed board recommended that the minimum wage be increased to about $68 per month, causing workers to take to the street demanding at least $100 a month.

"Fairness For College Athletes." The New York Times (11/13, A30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that a Federal district judge's certification of a class-action lawsuit against the National Collegiate Athletic Association implies that "the amateur model in college sports is in serious trouble." Twenty-five current and former student athletes are challenging the NCAA's ability to sell player names and images while the student athletes themselves receive no compensation. However, one possible outcome is that female players in "less popular sports" would receive less compensation than higher-profile men's basketball and football, thereby violating Title IX. The NCAA plans to contest the lawsuit, but it could settle with the plaintiffs in a way that ensures Title IX compliance.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Leaving Comrades Behind."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (11/13, 4.28M) says it is "incomprehensible that the State Department is dragging its feet" on providing US visas for the Afghan interpreters on whom "U.S. troops have relied heavily" during the last decade in Afghanistan. According to the Post, the process by which the visas are approved "flawed," because it "puts the burden of proof on the applicants and fails to take into consideration the threats they will face in the future, after the pullout." The Post calls on Secretary of State Kerry to "step in and order the situation fixed immediately for Afghan interpreters who can demonstrate faithful service to the United States."

"Decision Time In Kiev." The Washington Post (11/13, 4.28M) editorializes that the Ukraine is a "turning point," in that a free trade and political association agreement with the European Union is nearly complete, but one of the pre-conditions – the imprisonment of former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, a rival to current prime minister Viktor Yanukovych – threatens to derail the planned signing of the agreement at the end of this month. Other Eu leaders and the US have lobbied for Tymoshenko's release. Russia, which seeks to keep the Ukraine in its sphere of influence, has threatened "a trade war or a cutoff of energy supplies" if the EU deal proceeds. Yanukovich, for whom the deal is a "key objective," is a "former client of Putin" who is wavering on Tymoshenko's release.

"Cleared For Takeoff." In an editorial the Washington Post (11/12, 4.28M) is generally supportive of the settlement of the Justice Department's challenge to the merger of American Airlines and US Airways, arguing that "passengers will have a few more names to choose from in some of the nation's largest airports," which "could well be a better result than taking the matter to trial would have yielded."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Small Business And Obamacare."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (11/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that small businesses do not believe the President's claim that the ACA helps small business. The Journal cites a Public Opinion Strategies survey of business owners with between 40 and 500 employees which it says demonstrates the level of concern businesses feel about the law's costs. The Journal notes that some of those concerns might be alleviated by passing a proposal to change the ACA's definition of full-time job to 40 from 30 hours a week, and adds that a better solution would be to repeal the ACA in favor of a more business- and worker-friendly measure.

"Holder's Antitrust Bust." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) dismisses the Justice Department's challenge to the merger of American Airlines and US Airways as arbitrary, and argues that the department abandoned it rather than face defeat in court.

"Asbestos House Cleanup." The Wall Street Journal (11/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that the House of Representatives' attempts to combat asbestos trust claim fraud are overdue, but welcome. The bill would require trusts to publicly disclose the names and payouts of claimants with bankruptcy courts, with the hope of ending multiple claims against separate trusts for the same underlying conditions.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

Cardiologists Recommend Wider Use Of Statin Drugs
Washington State Is Making Health Exchange Work
Poland, Long An Economic Success Story, Losing Momentum
Desperation Grows Among Philippine Survivors Of Typhoon Haiyan

Wall Street Journal:
AMR-US Airways Merger Cleared To Fly
China Deepens Xi's Powers With New Security Plan
Philippine Chapel Is Sanctuary In Typhoon
Navy Ship Plan Faces Pentagon Budget Cutters

New York Times:
Experts Reshape Treatment Guide For Cholesterol
Obama in Bind Trying To Keep Health Law Vow
Chinese Leader Gets More Sway On The Economy And Security
Don't Call Her A First Lady; Brown's Wife Is His Top Aide
US Reaches Preliminary Deal in American-US Airways Merger Lawsuit
End of Proposal To Raise Skyline On The East Side
Private Donors' Funds Add Wild Card To War In Syria
Distress Grows For Philippine Typhoon Victims Who Can't Get Aid, Or Out

Washington Post:
Heart Health Guidelines Call For Wider Use Of Statin Drugs
HealthCare. Gov Vow Is In Doubt
In Storm's Aftermath, Growing Desperation
Merger Is Set As US Airways And American Give Up Flights
For Disadvantaged Firm, Little Meant A Lot
3 Senior Navy Civilians Embroiled In Fraud Probe

Financial Times:
China Pledge Cements Era Of Market Forces
Biggest Banks Face Forex Probe Questions
Shale Gas Boom To Fuel US Lead Over Europe And Asia For Decades
Starbucks Ordered To Pay Kraft $2.7Bn
Judge Says DoJ Deals "Morally Suspect"
Settlement Unlocks US Airways-AMR Deal
The Conundrum For Equities Investors

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Weather; Health-Statins; Philippines-Humanitarian Aid; Justice-Airline Merger; Obama-Poll Numbers; Freedom Tower-Tallest Building; Malala Yousafzai.
CBS: Philippines-Typhoon; Health-Statins; ACA-Obama Approval Ratings; ACA-Connecticut; Justice-Airline Merger; Keystone XL-Construction Problems; Kennedy Sworn In; World Trade Center Height.
NBC: Philippines-Typhoon; Philippines-Typhoon-Health; Health-Statins; Health-Statins-Analysis; ACA Rollout Issues; Kennedy Sworn In; Justice-Airline Merger; Grand Canyon-Flooding.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Justice-Airline Merger; Car Insurance Report; Clinton-ACA Individual Coverage; Philippines-Typhoon.
CBS: Philippines-Typhoon; Congress-ACA Website Issues; Clinton-ACA Individual Coverage; Boston Bombings Case; Health-Cardiovascular Diseases Guidelines; Health-Statins; Wall Street.
NPR: Philippines-Typhoon; LAX Shooting-TSA Officer's Memorial; ACA-Enrollment Data; ACA-Colorado Website; Justice-Airline Merger; Hawaii-Same-Sex Marriage; Boston Bombings Case.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with faith leaders, Oval Office, closed press; delivers remarks at the 2013 Tribal Nations Conference, Department of Interior, open to pre-credentialed media; meets with the Vice President and Secretary of State Kerry, Oval Office, closed press; meets with the Vice President and Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends President's meeting with Secretary of State Kerry, Oval Office, closed press; attends President's meeting with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closes press

DR. JILL BIDEN – Gives opening remarks at an event entitled 'Improving Veterans College Graduation Rate's hosted by Google, Army and Navy Club.
US Senate: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. FEINSTEIN, QUIGLEY – NUCLEAR WEAPONS — Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA,) Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-05) and an expert panel will discuss next steps in reducing the threat of nuclear weapons at an event hosted by the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation and Womens Action for New Directions. Speakers: Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA,); Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-05,); Steven Pifer, Director of the Arms Control Initiative, The Brookings Institution; Amy F. Woolf, Specialist in Nuclear Weapons Policy, Congressional Research Service. Moderator: Lt. General Robert G. Gard (USA ret.,) Chairman, Center for Arms, Control and Non-Proliferation. Location: SVC 203 (Capitol Hill Visitors Center).

10:45 a.m. SEN, HARKIN, REP. MILLER, SECRETARY DUNCAN, JENNIFER GARNER – EARLY EDUCATION — U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), Rep. Richard Hanna (R-NY), Education Secretary Arne Duncan, and actress Jennifer Garner will unveil a bipartisan proposal that would expand high-quality, early-childhood education for children from birth to age 5. Harkin, Miller, Hanna, Duncan, and Garner will join D.C. preschool children in a replica of an early learning classroom, engaging in activities and games that underscore the importance of early learning programs that begin at birth. Early education advocates including parents, educators, and members of the law enforcement, military, and business communities will "stand with Harkin, Miller and Hanna in support of their legislation". Location: Senate Visitor Center, rooms 210-212.

11:30 a.m. BOXER – SAFE SKIES ACT — Captain Chesley Sully Sullenberger will join Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Representatives Michael Grimm (R-NY) and Timothy H. Bishop (D-NY) at a press conference to discuss the need to pass the Safe Skies Act, legislation that would help ensure that Americas cargo plane pilots are sufficiently rested and alert before they fly. Location: S-116 (Hallway Outside Senate Foreign Relations Committee Room).

2:30 p.m. ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE CARE — A press conference to announce Womens Health Protection Act of 2013. Participants: Senator Richard Blumenthal; Senator Tammy Baldwin; Senator Barbara Boxer; Representative Judy Chu; Representative Marcia Fudge; Representative Lois Frankel; Walter Dellinger, Professor of Law, Duke University; Nancy Northup, CEO, Center for Reproductive Rights; Alexis McGill Johnson, Board Chair, Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Ilyse Hogue, President, NARAL. Location: G-11 Dirksen.

4 p.m. CASEY – PRESS ONE FOR AMERICA — Sen. Robert Casey Jr. (D-PA) will join House sponsors Rep. David McKinley (R-WV) and Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY) along with members of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) to formally announce the bipartisan U.S. Call Center and Worker Protection Act of 2013 (S. 1565/H.R. 2909). Participants: Sen. Robert Casey Jr. (D-PA) Rep. David McKinley (R-WV); Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY); CLocation: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Room 200.

9:30 a.m. SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP — Hearings to examine a review of programs for veteran entrepreneurs. Location: 428A Russell.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine the nomination of Jeh Charles Johnson, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of Homeland Security. Location: 342 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law entitled "The Surveillance Transparency Act of 2013". Witnesses: Senator Dean Heller of Nevada; Robert Litt, General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Brad Wiegmann, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, Department of Justice; Richard Salgado, Director, Law Enforcement and Information Security Matters,

Google, Inc.; Kevin Bankston, Director, Free Expression Project, Center for Democracy and Technology. Location: 226 Dirksen.

11 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Defense hearing on Sequestration and the Defense Industrial Base. Witnesses: Marion Blakey, President and CEO, Aerospace Industries Association; Lawrence P. Farrell, President, National Defense Industrial Association; Owen Herrnstadt, Chief of Staff and Director for Trade and Globalization, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers; Larry Williams,, President and CEO, BRS Aerospace; Greg Bloom, President, Seal Science, Inc.; Dr. Stephen S. Fuller, Dwight Schar Faculty Chair and University Professor Director, Center for Regional Analysis, George Mason University; Larry Morrissey, Mayor of Rockford, Illinois. Location: 192 Dirksen.

2 p.m. JUDICIARY — Hearings to examine certain nominations. Location: 226 Dirksen.

2:15 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Business meeting to consider S.1271, to direct the President to establish guidelines for the United States foreign assistance programs, and the nominations of Daniel W. Yohannes, of Colorado, to be Representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, Anthony Luzzatto Gardner, of New York, to be Representative to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and Amy Jane Hyatt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Palau, all of the Department of State. Location: S-116.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Hearings to examine the role of manufacturing hubs in a 21st century innovation economy. Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE — Hearings to examine the current economic outlook with Jason Furman, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers. Location: 216 Hart.
US House: 9 a.m. DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING STAKEOUT — Stakeout of Closed Democratic Caucus meeting. Media availability is planned with Caucus Chair Becerra, Vice Chr. Crowley after the meeting at approx. 10 a.m. – HVC-210 Alcove. Location: HVC-215.

10 a.m. HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAKEOUT — Participants: Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI). Location: RNC Lobby.

10 a.m. FARM SUBSIDY REFORMS — Reps. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., and Ron Kind, D-Wisc., and the Environmental Working Group will hold a Capitol Hill briefing for accredited journalists and congressional staffers to highlight the need for farm subsidy reforms, particularly in the federal crop insurance program. Speakers: Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn.; Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore.; Rep. Ron Kind, D-Wisc.; Scott Faber, EWG's Senior Vice President for Government Affairs; Alex Rindler, EWG's Policy Associate. Location: 304 Cannon.

11 a.m. NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS — Representatives Alcee L. Hastings and Eddie Bernice Johnson hold Homelessness Caucus Briefing Commemorating National Homelessness Awareness Month. Location: 2325 Rayburn.

11 a.m. SCHUMER, PELOSI – BRADY BILL ANNIVERSARY — U.S. Sen. Schumer, House Democratic Leader Pelosi, Members of Congress Join Sarah Brady and Advocates to Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Brady Bill. Participants: Sarah Brady, Chair, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, wife of Jim Brady, former Press Secretary for President Reagan that was shot in an assassination attempt against Reagan in 1981; Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), original U.S. House Sponsor of Brady law; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA-12); Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-5), Chair, House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force; Dan Gross, President, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence; Sherialyn Byrdsong, wife of Ricky Byrdsong, former Northwestern basketball coach killed by a man who bought a gun through a classified ad. Location: NEW LOCATION: Capitol Visitor Center HVC-215. The Capitol.

12:15 p.m. TRADE AND FAST TRACK POLICY — News Conference with Rep. DeLauro, House Dems on Trade and Fast Track Policy (access thru HVC 117). Location: HVC Studio A.

1 p.m. ROUNDTABLE OF ASIA / PACIFIC AMBASSADORS — Photo spray at the top of a CLOSED Asia Pacific roundtable discussion with: Rep. Buck McKeon, Rep. Adam Smith, Rep. Randy Forbes, Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, and Ambassadors from Australia, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and New Zealand. Location: 2212 Raybum. Stage in the hall outside room 2212.

3:30 p.m. PETITION DELIVERY — On the same day as the second meeting of the Budget Conference Committee, seniors, workers and citizens from a dozen national organizations will deliver more than 656,353 signatures demanding no cuts to Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid benefits. Signatures were gathered by: Sen. Sanders, MoveOn.org, Credo Mobilize, Progressive Democrats of America, Social Security Works, the Alliance for Retired Americans, Campaign for America's Future, Campaign for Community Change, DailyKos, Democracy for America, The Other 98%, Progressives United, USAction, the National Organization for Women; others. Location: 1233 Longworth.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and noon for legislative business. H.R. 982 – Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act (Subject to a Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. Blake Farenthold / Judiciary Committee).

9:30 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Full committee hearing: ObamaCare Implementation: The Rollout of HealthCare.gov Location: 2154 Raybum.

10 a.m. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — Full committee Hearing: "Keeping College Within Reach: Simplifying Federal Student Aid". Witnesses: Kristin D. Conklin, Founding Partner, HCM Strategists, LLC; Dr. Sandy Baum , Research Professor of Education Policy, George Washington University, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute; Jennifer Mishory, J.D., Deputy Director, Young Invincibles; Jason Delisle, Director, Federal Education Budget Project, New America Foundation. Location: 2175 Raybum.

10 a.m. COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET — Full Committee meets to hear Congressional Budget Office director Doug Elmendorf brief the conferees on CBOs budget and economic outlook, and answer questions. Location: 1100 Longworth.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade hearing on H.R. 1518, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act. Witnesses: Dr. John Bennett, DVM, Equine Services, LLC, on behalf of Performance Show Horse Association; Dr. W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA, Executive Vice President & CEO, American Veterinary Medical Association, Former Administrator USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; James J. Hickey, Jr., President, American Horse Council; Marty Irby, International Director and Former President, Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association; Julius Johnson, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture; Teresa Bippen, President, Friends of Sound Horses; Donna Benefield, International Walking Horse Association. Location: 2322 Raybum.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Housing and Insurance Hearing entitled The Future of Terrorism Insurance: Fostering Private Market Innovation to Limit Taxpayer Exposure. Witnesses: Sean McGovern, Director, Risk Management & General Counsel, Lloyds of London; Kean Driscoll, Chief Executive Officer, Validus Reinsurance, Ltd. ; Ernest N. Csiszar, Former Director of Insurance, State of South Carolina; Dr. John Seo, Co-Founder and Managing Principal, Fermat Capital Management, LLC; Dr. Robert P. Hartwig, Pres. & Economist, Insurance Information Institute. Location: 2128 Raybum.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Full committee hearing: Examining Nuclear Negotiations: Iran After Rouhani's First 100 Days. Witnesses: Mark Dubowitz, Executive Director, Foundation for Defense of Democracies; Danielle Pletka, Vice President, Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute; Colin Kahl, Associate Professor, Georgetown University. Location: 2172 Raybum.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Hearing: Cyber Side-Effects: How Secure is the Personal Information Entered into the Flawed Healthcare.gov? Witnesses: Panel I: Roberta Bobbie Stempfley, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Soraya Correa, Associate Director, Enterprise Services Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. PANEL II: Luke Chung, President, FMS, Inc. Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Full committee hearing on Implementation of an Entry-Exit System: Still Waiting After All These Years. Witnesses: Janice Kephart, Former Special Counsel at U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Former Counsel to the 9/11 Commission; James Albers, Senior Vice President, Washington Operations, MorphoTrust USA; Julie Myers Wood, President, Compliance, Federal Practice and Software Solutions, Guidepost Solutions LLC; David Heyman , Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Homeland Security. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY — Subcommittee on Research and Technology hearing on Keeping America FIRST: Federal Investments in Research, Science, and Technology at NSF, NIST, OSTP and Interagency STEM Programs. Witnesses: Dr. Richard Buckius, Vice President for Research, Purdue University; Dr. Daniel Sarewitz, Co-Director, Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes, Professor of Science and Society, Arizona State University; Dr. Timothy Killeen, President, The Research Foundation for SUNY, Vice Chancellor for Research, SUNY System Administration; James Brown, Executive Director, STEM Education Coalition. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (O&I) Correcting 'Kerfuffles' – Analyzing Prohibited Practices and Preventable Patient Deaths at Jackson VAMC. Witnesses: Panel 1 Dr. Phyllis Hollenbeck, M.D., FAAFP, Former Physician of Family Medicine; G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center; Dr. Charles Sherwood, M.D., Former Chief of Ophthalmology, G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center; Erik Hearon, Maj. Gen. (Ret.), United States Air Force; Charles Jenkins, President, American Federation of Government Employees, Local 589. Panel 2: Dr. Gregg Parker, M.D., Neurologist and Chief Medical Officer of VISN-16; G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center; Joe Battle, Director, G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center. Location: 334 Cannon.

10:15 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy hearing on S. 1009 – The Chemical Safety Improvement Act. Witnesses: Panel I: Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Panel II: Calvin M. Dooley, President and CEO, American Chemistry Council; Richard Denison, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund; Ernie Rosenberg, President and CEO, American Cleaning Institute; Andy Igrejas, National Campaign Director, Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families; Wendy Wagner, Joe A. Worsham Centennial Professor, The University of Texas School of Law; Richard E. Goss, Vice President, Environment and Sustainability, Information Technology Industry Council. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

1 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Joint Subcommittee Hearing: The Continuing Threat of Boko Haram. Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade. Panel I: Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Panel II: Emmanuel Ogebe, Managing Partner, U.S.-Nigeria Law Group; Khalid Aliyu, Secretary General, Jamaatu Nasril Islam, (Appearing via videoconference); Habila Adamu, Survivor of violence by Boko Haram; Jacob Zenn, Research Analyst, The Jamestown Foundation. Location: 2200 Raybum.

1:50 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Middle East and North Africa Subc. Markup of H.Res. 147 – Calling for the release of United States citizen Saeed Abedini and condemning the Government of Iran for its persecution of religious minorities. Location: 2172 Raybum.

2 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Hearing on Challenges and Opportunities in the 5 GHz Spectrum Band. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Monetary Policy and Trade Hearing entitled What Is Central About Central Banking?: A Study of International Models. Witnesses: Dr. Desmond Lachman, Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; Dr. Athanasios Orphanides, Professor, Practice of Global Economics and Management, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. John Makin, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute; Dr. Adam Posen, President, Peterson Institute for International Economics. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa hearing on U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Iraq. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence The Insider Threat to Homeland Security: Examining Our Nation's Security Clearance Processes. Witnesses: Merton W. Miller, Associate Director of Investigations, Federal Investigative Services, U.S. Office of Personnel Management; Gregory Marshall, Chief Security Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Brian Prioletti, Assistant Director, Special Security Directorate, National Counterintelligence Executive, Office of Director of National Intelligence; Brenda S. Farrell, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, Military and DOD Civilian Personnel Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Location: 311 Cannon.

2 p.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity (EO) hearing on VA's Independent Living Program-A Program Review. Location: 334 Cannon.
Other: NATIONAL AUTISM POLICY SUMMIT – CANTOR — 9 a.m. Autism Speaks hosts its first-ever national policy and action summit in Washington, D.C., Autism Speaks to Washington. Speakers include Autism Speaks Co-founders Suzanne and Bob Wright, Autism Speaks President Liz Feld, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (1:05 p.m.), Senator Robert Menendez (NJ), and several other top lawmakers and experts in the field of autism advocacy and research. Location: The George Washington University, Jack Morton Auditorium, 805 21st Street, NW.

2013 WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE — 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. President Obama will host the White House Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of the Interior. The conference will provide leaders from the 566 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact directly with the President and members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. Each federally recognized tribe has been invited to send one representative to the conference. Highlights: 2:40 p.m. Secretary Duncan will participate in a town hall with tribal leaders at the White House Tribal Nations Conference to discuss the Departments efforts to improve and expand educational opportunities for Native American youth. The town hall is being conducted by the White House Council on Native American Affairs, of which Secretary Duncan is a member. Location: U.S. Department of the Interior, Sidney R. Yates Auditorium, 1849 C. Street, NW.

TECHNOLOGY AND OUR ENERGY FUTURE- SEN. MANCHIN — 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. National Journal LIVE's Powering Innovation: Technology and Our Energy Future with keynote by Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV). Location: Ronald Reagan Building Pavilion Room, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.

DUNCAN – COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY — 9 a.m. Secretary Duncan will give opening remarks at the Departments second of four public forums on college affordability and value. The public forums are being held to gather comment and feedback on the Presidents proposal to develop a "better" college rating system. Location: George Mason University, Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, Va.

AAH – FAIRNESS IN AMERICA'S HOSPITALS — 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Alliance of Americas Hospitals hosts discussion on Fairness for America's Hospitals: An End to A Sweetheart Deal A briefing about a bipartisan solution to an "unfair distortion in the hospital wage index formula". Panelists: Larry Sartoris, Representative for the Alliance of America's Hospitals and President of the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association; Lynn Detterman, President of Mercy Willard Hospital (Willard, OH); Jim Hahn, Analyst with the Congressional Research Service. Location: 215 SVC U.S. Capitol Visitors Center.

HEALTH CARE ROUND TABLE — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The National Coalition on Health Care and the Partnership for the Future of Medicare hold a roundtable "Innovation in Health Care Delivery and Benefits: What's Worked in Medicare Advantage? Whats Needed Today?" with U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-Georgia), and others. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, Room SVC 212-10

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT – ACA – JUVENILE JUSTICE — 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Center for Adolescent Health and the Law and the National Academy for State Health and Policy will deliver remarks on the Affordable Care Act and its implications for vulnerable adolescents and young adults to the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Council). Participants: Associate Attorney General Tony West; OJJDP Administrator Robert L. Listenbee, Council Vice-Chair, Coordinating Council Members; Wilma Robinson, Deputy Director, Office of Adolescent Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Abigail English, Director, Center for Adolescent Health and the Law; Diane Justice, Senior Program Director, National Academy for State Health

Policy; Barbara Edwards, Director, Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, HHS. Location: 810 7th St., N.W.

HAGEL – SLOVENIA — 10:45 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome Slovenia's Minister of Defense Roman Jakic to the Pentagon.

DEA PAD AND PEN – DESIGNER SYNTHETIC DRUGS — 11 a.m. DEA Pen and Pad media roundtable on designer synthetic drugs. Speaker: DEA Associate Deputy Administrator Alan Santos, Office of Diversion Control; DEA lab and chemical experts; and Special Agents. Location: DEA Headquarters- 700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. (Corner of Army Navy Drive and Hayes St., across the street from Macys, near Pentagon City Metro)

NASA – BOLDEN – COMMERCIAL CARGO BRIEFING — 11:30 a.m. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden will discuss the success of the agency's Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) initiative during a televised news briefing. Charles Bolden, NASA Administrator; Alan Lindenmoyer, Manager of Commercial Crew and Cargo Program, NASA; Gwynne Shotwell, President, SpaceX; Frank Culbertson, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Orbital Sciences Advanced Programs Group; Frank Slazer, Vice President of Space Systems, Aerospace Industries Association; Phil McAlister, Director of Commercial Spaceflight Development, NASA. Contacts: David Weaver david.s.weaver@nasa.gov (202-358-1600/)

HAGEL – KAZAKHSTAN — 2:15 p.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome Kazakhstan's Minister of Defense Adilbek Dzhaksybekov to the Pentagon.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Yesterday, President Obama honored our oldest living veteran, a man named Richard Overton, 107 years old. And I thought this was nice. Today, President Obama told him he can finally come home from Afghanistan."

Jay Leno: "According to the International Energy Agency, by the year 2015, the United States will overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's biggest oil producer. Now you know what that means? Instead of getting screwed by foreign oil companies, we can get screwed by American oil companies."

Jay Leno: "A lot of good political gossip going around. It seems that during his re-election campaign this year, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie paid $46,000 to get advice from a former strategist for Mitt Romney. In fact, the advice he got – 'If you ever want to be President of the United States, don't listen to us.'"

Jay Leno: "Well, according to a new poll, 26% of Americans would buy marijuana if it was legal in their state. The other 74% will continue to buy it illegally."

David Letterman: "Didn't it seem like we just had an election? The election between Mitt Romney and Barack Obama? And didn't it seem like that election lasted about six years? They're already now talking about 2016. They're talking about three years from now, 2016. Listen to this. Democrats, 66% of Democrats say they'd prefer Hillary Clinton; 34% of Democrats say they'd prefer Joe Biden in a pants suit."

Conan O'Brien: "Obamacare website still having problems. Many scam artists are trying to take advantage of the problems with the Obamacare website. Experts say you can tell it's a scam site if it quickly and efficiently signs you up for healthcare. Then you know."

Conan O'Brien: "Former President Bill Clinton is calling on President Obama to honor the same healthcare policy. Clinton added, 'Unless a younger, hotter insurance policy comes along.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Very interesting fact about the President. It just came out that President Obama brings a portable security tent with him on overseas trips so he can read classified documents in his hotel room. He sets

up a tent in his hotel room. Obama says it's a good way to avoid being spied on while he keeps track of who he's spied on. ... That's right. Obama has indoor portable security tent while Biden keeps it simple and just builds himself a pillow fort."

Jon Stewart: "Exciting news in the world of foreign diplomacy. There are signals that the US could be close to an agreement with Iran over nuclear capability. Just in the nick of time. That is wonderful news because Iran is just a week away from developing a nuclear weapon. They have been for the past 20 years -- says people who would like to bomb Iran."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Nov 19, 2013 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES $8.7 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PROJECTS IN NEVADA. The AP (11/19) reports that the Interior Department on Monday announced that it is committing $8.7 million for various projects in Nevada. The funds come from "the sale of public lands in southern Nevada's Las Vegas Valley." The article notes that "the latest round of funds include $1.6 million for hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention; $1.3 million for parks, trails and natural areas; and $1.6 million for conservation initiatives."

Also covering the story are the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (11/18, 165K), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (11/19, 51K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV (11/19, 2K), XETV-TV San Diego (11/19, 836), and KTVN-TV Reno, NV (11/19, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO DELIVER KEYNOTE SPEECH FOR GETTYSBURG EVENT. The Washington Post (11/18, Press, 4.28M) reports that "thousands of people are heading to a small town in southern Pennsylvania Tuesday to commemorate" the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and James McPherson, a leading Civil War scholar, are the keynote speakers for the event and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett will also deliver remarks.

President Obama's Decision To Skip Gettysburg Event Draws Criticism. CNN (11/18, Killough, 14.53M) reports that President Obama's decision on to participate in activities celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address has drawn criticism. According to the article, "in his place, the White House is sending little known" Jewell, "who started her Cabinet position just this year."

Planting Of Trees Part Of Effort To Restore Gettysburg Battlefield. The Washington Post (11/19, Higgins, 4.28M) reports on an event to mark the planting of a baby apple tree at the Bliss Orchard. For Randy Krichten, an NPS landscape technician, "the reclamation of the Bliss Orchard caps an effort to replant 3,263 fruit trees in a total of 39 orchards on 112 acres of the park since 2005." The "endeavor, in turn, is part of a broader, 14-year plan by the Park Service, Pennsylvania state agencies and nonprofit allies to peel back decades of accumulated natural and man-made clutter to evoke a terrain much closer to the one awaiting the 163,000 Union and Confederate combatants who faced off here in the first three days of July, 1863."

Additional Coverage. Also covering the event are the Washington Post (11/19, Press, 4.28M), the Denver Post (11/19, Rourke, Press, 949K), the National Journal (11/19, Subscription Publication, 427K), FOX News (11/18, 6.72M), the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (11/19, 725K), the Reading (PA) Eagle (11/19, 154K), the Gettysburg (PA) Times (11/19, 26K), the Bluefield (WV) Daily Telegraph (11/19, 55K), the Denver Post (11/19, Lester, 949K), the Baltimore Sun (11/19, Stoneback, Call, 812K), the Hagerstown (MD) Herald-Mail Media (11/19), the Bellingham (WA) Herald (11/18, 95K), the Deseret (UT) News (11/19, 274K), the Examiner (11/19, 1.16M), the Associations Now (11/19), WDIV-TV Detroit (11/19, 178K), and WDSU-TV New Orleans (11/19, 74K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES INTERAGENCY EFFORT TO TACKLE FUTURE DROUGHTS. The E&E Daily (11/8) reports that in an effort to tackle future droughts that may come about with climate change, the Obama Administration on Friday announced "a new interagency effort to help communities more easily access federal resources" when facing dry spells. The National Drought Resilience Partnership, will be led by the Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and "aims to provide better coordination among federal agencies involved in drought response while emphasizing on a more proactive approach to drought management." Other participants include the Interior Department, EPA, the assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, the Department of Energy and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SENATE PANEL TO REVIEW PUBLIC LANDS BILLS. The E&E Daily (11/8) reports, A Senate Energy and Natural Resources panel on Wednesday afternoon will "take up nearly a dozen public lands bills, including measures to promote a copper mine, designate a large conservation area in Northern California and reduce the risk of wildfire on federal lands." according to the article, "perhaps the most controversial bill the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining will tackle is S. 339, by Arizona's Republican Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake, to authorize a land swap in their home state." The panel will also discuss S. 483, which would designate a 350,000-acre national conservation area in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region of Northern California. In addition, the committee will discuss S. 1479, which "seeks to expedite the removal of hazardous fuels from federal lands by accelerating grazing and timber projects."

HOUSE PANEL TO PROBE WITHHELD SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PAYMENTS. The E&E Daily (11/8) reports, The House Natural Resources Committee has invited Obama administration officials testify Wednesday on their decision to retroactively sequester millions of dollars in Secure Rural Schools payments, "but it was unclear as of late Friday whether either of the two invited administration witnesses plans to attend." According to the article, "the committee last Wednesday sent formal invitations to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Office of Management and Budget Director Sylvia Mathews Burwell asking them to testify on the administration's decision to sequester SRS funds, in addition to a committee subpoena issued in early September seeking

documents associated with that decision." A committee spokesman did not say what would happen if the administration declines to send a witness.

STUDY SAYS CENTRAL IDAHO DESIGNATION WOULD SPUR "MODEST" ECONOMIC GROWTH. The E&E Daily (11/8) reports that "designating 570,000 acres of rugged central Idaho mountains as a national monument could create scores of new jobs and spur up to $12.3 million in local economic activity," according to a new study commissioned by the Idaho Outdoor Business Council. The council "assessed the economic impacts of designating the Boulder-White Clouds National Monument, a proposal backed by IOBC along with the Idaho Conservation League, the Wilderness Society and the Outdoor Alliance." According to the report, such a designation would have a "modest but positive" economic impact on the surrounding counties of Blaine, Butte, Custer and Camas. The study said that "visitor spending would increase 10 to 33 percent, which in turn would create 47 to 155 jobs and increase the region's total economic output $3.7 million to $12.3 million annually."

However, in an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (11/19, 288K), Randy T Simmons, Director of the Institute for Political Economy and Professor of Political Economy at Utah State University, and Ryan M. Yonk, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Southern Utah University and Director of the Institute of Policy Analysis, write that monument designation "can bring distinct negative impacts." They note that "economic studies are providing justification for designating monuments," but claim that they "attempted to replicate these types of studies and failed." That is, Simmons and Yonk write, "using a careful methodology and making comparisons between counties through time, we find at best no effect on local economies and, more likely, negative effects of monument designations."

DARTMOUTH, TAUNTON PROJECTS RECEIVE HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF FUNDING. The New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (11/18, 54K) reports that "Round Hill in Dartmouth is one of two SouthCoast areas receiving Hurricane Sandy relief funding" from the Interior Department. Round Hill will "receive more than $2.2 million to help restore 11.6 acres of salt marsh that have been lost for nearly 100 years due to filling." Also, Mill River in Taunton will receive $650,00 to remove "two aging mill dams to open up 30 miles of habitat for American eel and river herring."

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS TO BLM'S NORTHWEST COLORADO RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (11/19, 27K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Monday announced the 2013 appointments to the citizen-based Northwest Resource Advisory Council. Jewell named five new appointments to the Northwest RAC.

NEVADA COUNCIL DEBATES NEXT MOVE REGARDING SAGE GROUSE. The San Francisco Chronicle (11/19, Chereb, 2.88M) reports that "a Nevada council hoping to prevent the listing of sage grouse as a protected species debated its next moves Monday just weeks after federal agencies identified preferred alternatives to protect the bird found in 11 states across the West." Some members of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and others said the alternative preferred by the BLM and US Forest Service "in a draft environmental impact statement released Nov. 1 is not much different than what the state proposed last year." However, "there are differences, and members of the nine-member council grappled with whether the state effort should tack more in concert with the federal agencies or stand in contrast to provide more options as a final national course of action is composed."

Also reporting on the story are the Columbus (IN) Republic (11/19, 80K) and KOLO-TV Reno, NV (11/19, 22K).

BLM To Hold Public Meetings On Sage Grouse In Oregon Next Year. The Bend (OR) Bulletin (11/19, 94K) reports that the BLM "plans to hold public meetings on sage grouse early next year in Central and Eastern Oregon." Meanwhile, the BLM is "set late this week to release proposed land use plan amendments pertaining to the bird in Oregon."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GRAND CANYON FLOODING. Additional coverage of the "high-flow experimental release" from Glen Canyon Dam was provided by the National Geographic (11/18, 40.49M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF APPROVAL OF GATEWAY WEST TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT. Additional coverage of the approval of the Gateway West Transmission Line project was provided by the International Business Times (11/19, 237K).

SECRETARY JEWELL PRAISED FOR BALANCING CONSERVATION WITH DEVELOPMENT. In her column for the Tennessean (11/19, Hancock, 417K), Gina Hancock praises Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's announcement of an order that will help balance economic development with the protection of natural resources. According to Hancock, "the secretarial order strikes a balance between needed development and protecting the resources and natural wonders that sustain us." Also, "the order calls for ensuring consistency and efficiency in the review and permitting of infrastructure development projects so that the process is fair and predictable."

WTIMES: OBAMA DESERVES NO CREDIT FOR ENERGY BOOM. In an editorial, the Washington Times (11/19, 417K) writes that the US "is on track to surpass Russia and Saudi Arabia to become the No. 1 oil and gas producer by 2015. By 2035, the nation will come close to self-sufficiency." President Obama, however, "deserves no thanks for this" as "he has only been interested in promoting the unaffordable technologies of yesteryear, such as windmills and solar panels."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

HOUSE PANEL EYES BILLS TO REIMBURSE STATES FOR SHUTDOWN COSTS, GIVE MORE MANAGEMENT ROLE. The E&E Daily (11/8) reports that a House bill authorizing reimbursement for states that reopened national parks during the government shutdown will "take its first step toward the floor Thursday, when a Natural Resources subpanel holds a hearing on several bills aimed at giving states a larger role in public lands." The Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation will take up H.R. 3286, "which directs the Treasury secretary to reimburse states for operating a national park during last month's 16-day shutdown and any others that occur this fiscal year." Also, H.R. 3311, the "Providing Access and Retain Continuity Act," will be discussed, which "makes reimbursements to states automatic if they take over park operation during a shutdown."

Poll Finds More Blame Congress Than Obama For Park Closures During Shutdown. In its "It's All Politics" blog, NPR (11/19, Berkes, 465K) reports that "the political fallout, if any," of the government shutdown's impact on national parks "may harm congressional Republicans more than President Obama." A national poll released Monday found that "60 percent of the 1,000 registered voters surveyed blamed the closure of national parks on Congress' failure to agree on a budget." About "30 percent believed that the Obama administration closed parks to make the government shutdown as painful as possible," and "90 percent agreed that closing park areas was a problem."

NPS: Blue Ridge Parkway Traffic Didn't Slow Down During Shutdown. The Roanoke (VA) Times (11/19, 259K) reports that "traffic on the Blue Ridge Parkway increased slightly in October from the same time a year ago, despite the 16-day federal shutdown that closed many sights along the scenic drive." However, "the parkway's lodges and campgrounds lost much business during the closure." The NPS "estimates that about 1.66 million visitors traveled the parkway in October, a nearly 2 percent increase over the same month in 2012, when 1.63 million people visited."

NPS HIRES NEW INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONAL DIRECTOR. The E&E Daily (11/8) reports that the NPS has announced it has hired Sue Masica as the agency's Intermountain regional director. NPS Director Jon Jarvis said in a statement, "Sue has an incredible track record of tackling tough issues and finding innovative solutions. Results-oriented and goal-driven, Sue manages by inclusion, building a collaborative work ethic among employees and with partners." Masica said, "I'm looking forward to working with communities and National Park Service staff on issues that are very different from those in Alaska, like Colorado River water, and others that are similar, such as partnering on close-to-home recreational opportunities."

Also reporting on the story are the Denver Post (11/19, Pankratz, 949K), the Denver Business Journal (11/18, Subscription Publication, 71K), and KCSG-TV St. George, UT (11/19, 43).

PLANNING COMMISSION COULD ALLOW TALLER BUILDINGS IN DC. Roll Call (11/19, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that "after hearing from city officials who worry that century-old caps established by

Congress under the 1910 Height of Buildings Act are constraining D.C.'s need for new housing and office space, the National Capital Planning Commission on Sunday recommended a process that would allow minor changes to the law." Under the NCPC's latest proposal, "the city could write up detailed plans for areas where it wants to see buildings taller than the federal limit — generally 130 feet or 90 feet — to be included as an amendment to its next five-year Comprehensive Plan." According to the article, "if taller growth is approved, the specifics would be in the hands of the city's five-member zoning board, which consists of three mayoral appointees, a representative from the Architect of the Capitol and a representative of the director of the National Park Service."

NPS SHARPSHOOTERS TAKE AIM AT CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK DEER IN HERD REDUCTION PLAN. The Washington Post (11/19, Press, 4.28M) reports that NPS sharpshooters are targeting white-tailed deer in Catoctin Mountain Park. The hunt that is scheduled to start Monday "marks the fifth round of a herd-reduction program that park managers say has eliminated 812 deer since 2010." According to park managers 3,600 pounds of venison were donated to food banks last year.

PRESCRIBED BURN AT GRAND CANYON EXPECTED TO PRODUCE RESIDUAL SMOKE FOR SEVERAL DAYS. The Washington Post (11/18, Press, 4.28M) reports that officials at Grand Canyon National Park say "a prescribed fire on the North Rim is expected to produce residual smoke for several days or weeks." The NPS and the US Forest Service are "teaming up for the burn, which starts Monday and will last through Wednesday as long as conditions remain favorable."

CAVERS DISCOVER LARGEST NEW CAVE IN CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK IN 25 YEARS. The Carlsbad Current-Argus (11/19, Smith, Current-argus, 949K) reports that two cavers discovered a new cave room inside Carlsbad Caverns National Park on Halloween night. According to the article, "dubbed 'Halloween Hall,' the fresh find marks the biggest discovery for the Caverns in more than 25 years."

Also reporting on the story is the Minneapolis Star Tribune (11/19, Press, 1.14M).

CUMBERLAND ISLAND SUPERINTENDENT RETIRING. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/19, 80K) reports that the NPS said Monday that Fred Boyles will leave his job as superintendent of Cumberland Island National Seashore at the end of November. Boyles has been with the NPS for 33 years.

Bureau of Land Management:

BOY SCOUTS HELP TO CLEAN UP VANDALIZED MOONSHINE ARCH. KSL-TV Salt Lake City (11/19, 242K) reports that when Brent Taylor, scoutmaster for Troop 544, found out Moonshine Arch had been vandalized, he "knew his Scouts could clean it up." Jason West, outdoor recreation planner for the BLM's field office in Vernal, said, "He came and talked to us ahead of time, met with our archaeologist and found out a way to do it right." After camping out Friday a few hundred feet from Moonshine Arch, Taylor and his Scouts "spent Saturday morning cleaning away the graffiti with the scrub brushes and soapy water recommended by the BLM."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

EFFORT TO SAVE SPEARFISH HATCHERY WILL CONTINUE. The San Francisco Chronicle (11/19, 2.88M) reports that "South Dakota officials have succeeded in keeping the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish open this year but that the battle will continue." April Gregory, executive director of the nonprofit Booth Society, said "the group looks forward to working with regional Fish and Wildlife Service officials 'to come up with realistic, creative solutions to keeping the hatchery open under the continued operation of the service.'" She said, "As a friends group whose main purpose is to support the service, we would not want to see them leave such a wonderful, vibrant facility with such well-established partnerships and support."

Also reporting on the story is the Sioux Falls (SD) Argus Leader (11/19, 116K).

REPORT SAYS FORSYTHE REFUGE GENERATED $6 MILLION FOR AREA ECONOMY. The Shore (NJ) News Today (11/19) reports that the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge "generated nearly $6 million for the counties of Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean in fiscal year 2011, according to a new economic analysis." The refuge "returned more than $8.3 million in total economic effects, which is the total recreational expenditures plus

net economic value." The figures come from the FWS study, "Banking on Nature."

FWS SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PLAN TO OPEN NEW AREA OF RED ROCK LAKES WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Montana Standard (11/19, 41K) reports that the FWS is seeking public input as "part of a plan to open additional parts of the remote Red Rock Lakes Wildlife Refuge to the public." According to refuge manager Bill West, the service "bought 1,490 acres east of the refuge last summer," but "before the area can be opened, West said, there has to be a public comment period and planning process."

Also reporting on the story is the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (11/19, 56K).

FWS TO HOLD HEARINGS ON GRAY WOLVES. The Ruidoso (NM) News (11/19, 39K) reports that the FWS will begin public hearings this week on "whether Mexican gray wolves can be released directly into New Mexico's Gila National Forest." According to the article, "the proposed rule change would require capture of wolves that rove beyond the borders of Interstates 10 and 40." Also reporting on the story are the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (11/19, 288K) and the Alamogordo (NM) Daily News (11/19, 19K).

In addition, KCSG-TV St. George, UT (11/19, 43) reports that the FWS will "host a public hearing on two proposed rules—one to list the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies and delist the gray wolf elsewhere, and the other to improve recovery efforts for the Mexican wolf in the Southwest –tomorrow evening in Denver."

ENDANGERED CRAYFISH AFFECTS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ON CONCORD ROAD. The Tennessean (11/18, 417K) reports that the Nashville crayfish, which was listed as endangered by the FWS in 1986, will "force changes to construction schedules for work on two bridges that go over Mill and Owl creeks as part of an effort to widen Concord Road." According to the article, "though the widening project won't be delayed due to the state's only federally endangered crayfish, construction crews will have to change the order in which they work on some tasks on those bridges to allow the crayfish time to hatch and rear their young as part of their annual reproductive cycle, which lasts from October until the end of May." Dennis Crumby, a biologist with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, said, "And really, it's no big deal because this is a two-year job. It hasn't caused a delay, just a reshuffling in the contractor's schedule. Instead of working on the culverts, which we typically do in the late summer and fall — the low water season — we'll just come back to those locations in June."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LAST WEEK'S DESTRUCTION OF SIX TONS OF IVORY. Additional coverage of last week's destruction of six tons of ivory was provided by the Associations Now (11/19).

US Geological Survey:

STUDY DETAILS GLOBAL FOREST LOSSES, GAINS. The Hispanic Business (11/18, 110K) reports that a new study published in Science used the Landsat 7 satellite to describe changes in the world's forests from the beginning of this century. Led by Matthew C. Hansen of the University of Maryland and assisted by USGS co-author Thomas R. Loveland, a team of scientists analyzed satellite data to map changes in forests from 2000 to 2012 around the world at local to global scales.

The Geo Community (11/18) reports that Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science, said, "Tracking changes in the world's forests is critical because forests have direct impacts on local and national economies, on climate and local weather, and on wildlife and clean water. This fresh view of recent changes in the world's forests is thorough, objective, visually compelling, and vitally important."

USGS TO RELEASE STUDY ON GROUNDWATER ISSUES IN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY. The Modesto (CA) Bee (11/18, 208K) reports that "concern about sinking groundwater levels" in the Northern San Joaquin Valley is "getting lots of attention this week." According to the article, Oakdale Irrigation District staff members will "make a presentation today about the issue, and researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey will release a new report Thursday about problems caused by overdrafting." The USGS will "release a study on how extensive groundwater pumping from San Joaquin Valley aquifers is increasing the rate at which the ground is sinking."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DOCUMENTS SUGGEST PALEN SOLAR POWER PROJECT IS "A DONE DEAL." KCET-TV Los Angeles (11/19, 15K) reports that "documents posted to a state agency's website Monday indicate that that agency may not be taking public comment on large desert solar plants as seriously as the law requires, treating one project in particular as a done deal even before the environmental assessment process is complete." According to the article, the documents are "a transcript of proceedings held by the California Energy Commission (CEC) on a proposed 500 megawatt solar power tower project on 3,800 acres of public land in Riverside County." Thea rticle notes that the "original version of the Palen plant never won approval by the Department of the Interior, which owns the land the project would be built on," and the BLM's "parallel environmental assessment process is ongoing; the public comment period on the Palen project's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) just ended on November 14, and the BLM is now collating those comments to include in a Final SEIS."

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE TO VOTE ON MEASURES TO SPEED FOSSIL FUEL PERMITS, BLOCK BLM FRACKING RULE. The E&E Daily (11/8) reports that the House this week plans to take up measures to speed the development of oil and gas on public lands and to restrict the Interior Department's ability to establish rules governing hydraulic fracturing. The House is scheduled to take up Rep. Doug Lambom's H.R. 1965, which "would establish strict deadlines on the approval of onshore oil and gas leasing and drilling permits." On Wednesday, the chamber plans to consider H.R. 2728, by Rep. Bill Flores, "which would preclude BLM from enforcing any federal rules or guidance for hydraulic fracturing in states that have any regulations or guidance for that activity."

Politico (11/18, Guillen, 467K) reports that the Interior Department "opposes the bill, and testified earlier this year that it speeds up energy development 'at the expense of sound public land management, public participation, and environmental review.'"

Also reporting on the story is the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/18, 194K).

AFP Praises House Measure To Give States Primary Role In Regulating Hydraulic Fracturing. The Hill (11/19, Hattem, 194K) reports in its "Regwatch" blog that Americans for Prosperity "is praising an effort in the House to limit the Obama administration's power to regulate 'fracking' on public lands." AFP manager of federal affairs, Christine Harbin Hanson, praised the measure in a letter to sponsor TX17 Rep. Bill Flores (R). Hanson said, "This legislation would assert states' authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing and protect the natural gas revolution that is improving Americans' access to affordable energy."

Colorado's Front Range Still Debating Fracking. The National Journal (11/19, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that "the answer to the question—Is fracking safe?—is an open one when asked throughout Colorado's Front Range." However, "among top state officials and leaders of President Obama's administration, the answer appears to be an unequivocal yes." The article notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz have "all indicated in recent months that fracking can be and is being done safely."

BILL TO PROTECT THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE'S COASTAL PLAIN SUPPORTED. The Everett (WA) Herald (11/19, 152K) editorializes that "the best opportunity to make history in more than three decades is a bipartisan bill to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain, the last remaining portion of the refuge not designated as wilderness." The ANWR Wilderness bill, introduced Wednesday, is co-sponsored by Washington Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell and Illinois Republican Mark Kirk. Cantwell said, "The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a national treasure that must be preserved for future generations to experience and enjoy. We need to advance forward-looking solutions for America's energy future, while preserving this treasured public land and the unique ecosystem that depends on it."

Offshore Energy Development:

NEW RULES FOR ARCTIC DRILLING, OFFSHORE EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT WON'T BE READY BEFORE 2014. FuelFix (11/18, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that the Federal government will not propose "new rules for Arctic oil

development and offshore emergency equipment before the end of the year." Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Brian Salerno said the proposal will not be ready until 2014, adding that the 16-day government shutdown is partially responsible for the delay. Salerno noted that the bureau is "finalizing language in the proposals now," stating, "I know the industry is waiting for them. They want that clarity. We are working as fast as we can to get them out and we want them to be good well-written rules that are clear as to what is expected."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR EMPLOYEE INJURED IN FIRE AT GRAND COULEE DAM . The AP (11/19) reports that the BOR says an employee has been injured in a fire at Grand Coulee Dam in Eastern Washington. The unidentified worker was taken to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Also, "a second employee was being treated locally for smoke inhalation." The BOR "says the fire started Monday in the John W. Keys III Pump Generating Plant."

Also reporting on the story are the Columbus (IN) Republic (11/19, 80K), NBC News (11/19, 6.79M), KHQ-TV Spokane, WA (11/19, 30K), KREM-TV Spokane, WA (11/19, 61K), and KREM-TV Spokane, WA (11/19, 61K).

NEW BUILDING BEING CONSTRUCTED TO STORE MELONES INDIAN ARTIFACTS. The Sonora (CA) Union And Democrat (11/19, 27K) reports that "a $1.5 million building is being constructed at New Melones Reservoir to store American Indian artifacts found during the dam's construction in the 1960s and 70s." The BOR "broke ground on the project in September and is eyeing a completion date in mid-January," according to BOR spokesman Pete Lucero. Lucero said, "It's a storage facility where we will house the artifacts on behalf of the tribes who may have a stake in those pieces. What we'll most likely end up doing is bringing out some of the more interesting artifacts for public view at the Visitor Center."

AGREEMENT OPENS 3,700 ACRES TO PUBLIC IN PHILLIPS COUNTY. The Billings (MT) Gazette (11/19, 206K) reports that "about 3,700 acres of federal land near Wagner in Phillips County will be opened to the public thanks to a memorandum of understanding between" the BOR and the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. the article notes that "the new 20-year agreement covers federal lands associated with Reclamation's Milk River Project."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (11/19, 206) and the East Bay Express (11/18, 151K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA DISCUSSES BLACKFEET CRISIS. In an exclusive interview with the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (11/18, 90K), Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs spokeswoman Nedra Darling "responded to a series of written questions" regarding the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, and the BIA's role in "facilitating a resolution to the crisis." Darling said that the BIA has "viewed the use of 'suspensions' as an internal procedure the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council (BTBC) created themselves subject to their own interpretation on how it is used and administered," and that "the BTBC is within its own authority to create their own internal mechanisms to administer itself." Darling added that the BIA believes "the solutions must come from the Council itself," but that the bureau continues "to offer mediation services to help resolve the impasse."

NEW NIGC ACTING CHAIR INTERVIEWED. The Indian Country Today Media Network (11/18, 21K) interviewed Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, who was appointed by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on September 4, 2013, to serve a three-year term as Associate Commissioner of the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) and designated as Acting Chairman on October 28. Chaudhuri said his "primary goal is to continue the positive steps taken by the commission toward consultation and relationship building with tribes and tribal regulators." He noted that the NIGC has "an initiative that's been in place that [former] Chairwoman Tracie Stevens developed that I feel very comfortable continuing. It's called ACE—assistance, compliance and enforcement."

BLACKFEET TRIBE SUES BIA OVER 2011 FLOOD DAMAGE. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (11/18, 90K) reports that "the Blackfeet tribe's housing agency is suing the US government for more than $1.2 million over damage to homes that were flooded in 2011, with the tribe claiming the government was responsible for a clogged

drainage system." Blackfeet Housing Authority attorney Terryl Matt claims in the lawsuit that the BIA is "responsible for the storm drains in the area because they are located along portions of BIA routes." An attorney for the BIA "responded Friday by saying the town of Browning is responsible for the drainage system, the homes were built in a low-lying area, and the tribe was negligent by piling up snow instead of removing it."

LAX ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS OF NATIVE AMERICAN "ARTIFACTS" AUCTIONS CRITICIZED. For the "Goat" blog of the High Country (CO) News (11/19, 74K), Leslie Macmillan writes that the 1990 federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) "requires the return of all Native American remains found on federal lands to tribes that request them," but "enforcement of NAGPRA is lax." The BIA is "largely responsible for enforcing the law, but the agency's role is 'ambiguous and remains unsettled,' according to a Government Accountability Office report; and while the agency started tracking compliance in 1997, 'it has not yet been completed due to staff turnover and lack of resources.'"

Top National News:

OBAMA TELLS OFA ACTIVISTS ACA ENROLLEES MAY HAVE TO BYPASS HEALTHCARE.GOV. There is a marked decrease in the continuing coverage of the Affordable Care Act's implementation last night and this morning. For instance, none of the three networks devoted any segments to healthcare reform. Most print coverage, meanwhile, continues to reflect negatively on the Administration. The Washington Post (11/19, A1, Eilperin, Somashekhar, 4.28M), for example, is reporting on its front page this morning that top Administration officials, including Secretary Sebelius, were warned by consultants last spring that HealthCare.gov's rollout was likely to be complicated by some of the same problems that subsequently manifested themselves in the past six weeks. The Post (11/19, A1, Balz, Craighill, 4.28M) also has another front-page article spotlighting a new Washington Post-ABC News poll that found the President's approval rating is at "the lowest point of his presidency," 42%. Other news outlets point to the improving pace of HealthCare.gov enrollments compared to last month, though the New York Times (11/19, LaFraniere, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) notes that despite the improvement, the total is "still a fraction of the number the administration once hoped for."

President Obama's conference call with Organizing For Action did not generate much coverage, although his advice to his supporters to remind those that they know that there are alternate routes to ACA enrollment – apart from HealthCare.gov – is being cast as further confirmation of the severity of the website's problems. The Los Angeles Times (11/19, Hennessey, 3.07M) describes the President as "sounding fatigued," while The Hill (11/19, Sink, 194K) says he was "noticeably subdued" while speaking to his most ardent backers Monday.

USA Today (11/19, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that during Monday's conference call, the President "again acknowledged problems with the glitch-plagued HealthCare.gov...but framed the battle for his troubled health care law as one he'll fight with his supporters." The President told approximately 200,000 supporters: "We're still going to have to make sure that we don't use the web site alone to sign people up. What I want to do is make sure that everybody on the phone call understands that we've always understood that we're going to have to enroll people by mail, we're going to have to enroll people over the phone, we're going to have to enroll people in person."

The AP (11/18, Lederman) says that in the conference call, the President was "seeking to tamp down expectations that the error-riddled HealthCare.gov website will ever be a panacea for the uninsured – even once it's fixed." The AP adds that "the heightened focus on more traditional, time-intensive methods for enrolling served as yet another reminder that the high-tech, streamlined insurance market Obama described as he pitched the law to the nation has not materialized." Reid Epstein, in a piece for Politico (11/19, Epstein, 467K), wrote that the President "spoke through a scratchy connection for about 14 minutes."

The Los Angeles Times (11/19, Hennessey, 3.07M) covers the President's conference call in an article titled, "Obama, Admitting Problems, Asks Backers To Rally For Healthcare Law." According to the Times, OFA "is set to launch an effort to seek out and enroll millions of uninsured Americans on the federal and state-run marketplaces." The Times says OFA's "campaign...includes both door-to-door work and efforts to encourage people to talk about insurance with their relatives over the holidays."

The Hill (11/19, Sink, 194K) reports that the President "conceded that the botched rollout 'created and fed a lot of this misinformation' about" the ACA, and "encouraged supporters to talk face-to-face with neighbors, friends, and

family members about the law." The Hill says the President sounded "noticeably subdued — an issue amplified by a scratchy phone connection that made it, at times, difficult to hear the president."

AFP (11/19) also reports that "in an ironic echo of the website glitches that have stalled the launch of Obamacare," some OFA activists invited to take part in the conference call "tweeted that they were unable to access the web feed at least to start with."

Commentators, meanwhile, predict in this morning's newspapers that the President's ACA problems are likely to continue to hurt his fellow Democrats. Marc Thiessen, in his column for the Washington Post (11/19, Thiessen, 4.28M), predicts that at the start of the next year, the President will face "a humanitarian disaster" as "millions of Americans could find themselves without the health coverage Obama promised they could keep." According to Thiessen, "the horror stories we are hearing today of people getting cancellation letters will be replaced by horror stories of cancer patients having their treatment disrupted and sick children being cut off from their doctors."

Gerald Seib, in a column for the Wall Street Journal (11/19, Seib, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), makes the case that it would have been easier for the Administration to implement a single-payer health insurance system than the ACA's hybrid of socialized medicine and the existing health insurance market.

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (11/19, 4.28M), asserts that the President knew very well that when he told voters over and over again that "If you like your health insurance plan, you can keep it," he was not telling the truth.

The Wall Street Journal's (11/19, Stephens, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) Bret Stephens suggests that Chief Justice Roberts' vote to uphold the ACA last June may have the unexpected benefit of boosting the very same Republicans who condemned him at the time.

In an editorial, the New York Times (11/19, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says, "unquestionably, the White House handed" Republicans a "gift through two kinds of incompetence: the technical failure of the health-exchange website, and the political failure of the president in falsely promising that no one would lose an insurance policy they already had."

Sebelius, Tavenner Were Warned About Site's Problems Last Spring. The Washington Post (11/19, A1, Eilperin, Somashekhar, 4.28M) reports on its front page that in "late March," McKinsey & Co. consultants "brought in...to independently assess how the federal online health-care enrollment system was developing" warned that the HealthCare.gov rollout scheduled for October 1 "was fraught with risks." The Post reports that it received the consultants' analysis from the House Energy and Commerce Committee and that it "foreshadowed many of the problems that have dogged HealthCare.gov since its rollout, including the fact that the call-in centers would not work properly if the online system was malfunctioning and that insufficient testing would make it difficult to fix problems after the launch." According to the Post, Administration officials who personally received the warnings last spring include HHS Secretary Sebelius, CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner, White House chief technology officer Todd Park, White House health policy adviser Jeanne Lambrew and former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Mark Childress. The New York Times (11/19, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), among other news outlets, also reports the story under the headline "Officials Were Warned About Health Site Woes."

Biden Appends "God Willing" To Reassurance That HealthCare.gov Will Be Fixed. Politico (11/19, Epstein, 467K) reports that in remarks to ACA supporters in Houston on Monday, Vice President Biden said, "The truth is, we're going to fix it," before adding, "God willing." In a piece for the Daily Caller (11/19, Munro, 422K) titled, "Joe Biden Hides From Obamacare Crisis," Neil Munro suggests that Biden is trying to distance himself from the ACA's problems as he prepares to once again campaign for the presidency in 2016. Munro notes that at a fundraiser for Sen. Kay Hagan last Friday, Biden completely avoided any mention of Affordable Care Act.

WPost-ABC Poll Finds Obama At "Lowest Point Of His Presidency." Under the front-page headline, "Obama's Ratings Tumble After Health Care Flaws," the Washington Post (11/19, A1, Balz, Craighill, 4.28M) reports that in the wake of the ACA's "flawed rollout," a new Washington Post-ABC News poll has found that President Obama is at "the lowest point of his presidency," a 42% approval rating, "with dwindling faith in his competence and in many of the personal attributes that have buoyed him in the past." The Post notes that "a record high" 57% now

oppose the ACA, and 46% "say they are strongly against it." The Post adds that, "by almost 2 to 1, Americans oppose the individual mandate, with more than half saying they strongly oppose it," and "seven in 10 Americans say the administration should delay the individual mandate."

Reuters/Ipsos Poll: Opposition To Obamacare Climbs To 59%. According to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released Monday, 59% now says the oppose the Affordable Care Act, which is up from 56% in a poll taken at the end of September. At the same time, support for the ACA is down to 41%, whereas it was at 44% in the earlier poll.

Gallup: Just 42% Believe Health Insurance Is Government's Responsibility. Politico (11/19, Delreal, 467K) reports that a Gallup poll released Monday found that "the majority of Americans," 56%, "say that guaranteeing access to health care isn't the responsibility of the federal government," while 42% "say it is the government's responsibility." The Daily Caller (11/19, Howley, 422K) notes that just seven years ago, Gallup found that "a whopping 69 percent of Americans believed that the government has a responsibility to provide health coverage."

Administration Mulling Allowing Enrollment Through Insurers. The Wall Street Journal (11/19, Radnofsky, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Administration officials have also suggested that those seeking health insurance who qualify for Federal subsidies may be able to get coverage directly from an insurer, rather than via HealthCare.gov as is now the case. The Journal reports that when asked about that possibility on Monday, White House press secretary Jay Carney said, "We have to make sure that there are other means available for the American people, even as we make improvements to the website. ... It's something that we've talked about and are working on."

Pace Of HealthCare.gov Enrollments Has "Nearly Doubled" Since Last Month, But Still Low. Amid unrelenting negative coverage of the ACA rollout, some news reports this morning provide good news for the Administration. The New York Times (11/19, LaFraniere, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an article titled, "Health Website Enrollment Is Close to Doubling Pace," reports that "the pace of enrollment in health plans through" HealthCare.gov "has nearly doubled since the end of October as software engineers have resolved some 200 of the more than 600 initial defects that had rendered the site all but unusable." According to the Times, "As of mid-November, the number of enrollees, which the Obama administration defines as people who have selected a marketplace plan, was more than 50,000 — up from 27,000 in the entire month of October." The Times cites "people familiar with the repair effort" as the source of its figures. The Times also notes that despite the improvement, the total is "still a fraction of the number the administration once hoped for."

Reuters reports that Henry Chao, deputy chief information officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, is set to testify that the Administration has "reconfigured various system components," which "has increased performance across the site."

However, Politico (11/19, Epstein, 467K) reported that on Monday, Jay Carney acknowledged that "there are going to be Americans who are going to need to get assistance either in person or over the phone to enroll." According to Carney, "Roughly 2-in-10 won't get through the system." The Washington Times (11/19, Boyer, 417K) covers Carney's remarks in an article titled, "White House: For Obamacare Website, 20 Percent Failure Rate Best We Can Do."

"Enrollment Is Surging" In Several States With Their Own Exchanges, Including California. The Los Angeles Times (11/19, Levey, 3.07M) reports that "enrollment is surging in many states as tens of thousands of consumers sign up for insurance plans made available by" the ACA, and "a number of states that use their own systems, including California, are on track to hit enrollment targets for 2014 because of a sharp increase in November. According to the Times, California, which accounted for a third of all enrollments nationally in October" with 31,000, "nearly doubled that in the first two weeks of this month." The Times goes on to report that Connecticut and Kentucky "are outpacing their enrollment estimates," and in Minnesota, "enrollment in the second half of October ran at triple the rate of the first half."

DeFazio: ACA Enrollment Deadline Will Have To Be Extended. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), who was one of 39 House Democrats who backed a Republican bill last Friday that would allow Americans to retain health policies that are being canceled as a result of the ACA, defended his vote on MSNBC's The Ed Show (11/19, 449K). DeFazio said, "My state has not gotten one person, not one, through the exchange." DeFazio added, "I think we'll have to extend the deadline because we can't say to people, 'well, you can't apply, you can't get

accepted, but you got a deadline and we've canceled your insurance." According to DeFazio, Rep. Fred Upton's bill "essentially...does what the President did by executive order," although "it's a little expanded from that."

Gibbs: HHS And CMS Officials Must Lose Their Jobs Over ACA Rollout Problems. The Hill (11/19, Sink, 194K) reported that on Monday, Jay Carney also "denied reports of a staff shake-up in the aftermath of the botched ObamaCare rollout." According to Carney, the White House is not "focused on...examining what went wrong behind the scenes and who was responsible." The Hill noted that Carney spoke after his predecessor, Robert Gibbs, in an NBC interview, said, "I think the only way to restore ultimate confidence in going forward is to make sure that whoever was in charge of this isn't in charge of the long-term health care plan."

Politico (11/19, Kopan, 467K) quoted Gibbs as saying, "I do not see how the administration goes forward implementing health care reform into next year with the same team at HHS and CMS that brought us this rollout. You simply cannot repair your credibility with the American people by having the same people captaining the ship."

Gibbs' comments were featured in the lead segment of Fox News' Special Report (11/18, 2.15M), in which Ed Henry reported on "speculation" that "there may...be a staff shake-up." According to Henry, on Monday, Carney "would not deny a possible shake-up, but suggested any changes the President makes would be after the website is fixed."

DEMOCRATS PONDER "NUCLEAR OPTION" AS GOP BLOCKS THIRD JUDICIAL NOMINEE. Senate Republicans on Monday blocked the nomination of US District Judge Robert Wilkins to serve on US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, marking the third nominee to the court to be blocked in recent weeks. Print reports note Democrats are once again considering the "nuclear option."

The New York Times (11/18, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) notes that the Republican opposition is not "driven by ideology or divisive social issues." Rather, they are trying to prevent the President "from filling any slots on the court, fearing that he will alter its conservative tilt." Democrats say Republicans are "exercising a nakedly political double standard for confirming presidential nominees."

McClatchy (11/19, Doyle, Douglas, 95K) reports that the GOP effort has left "one of the nation's top appellate courts shorthanded." The Senate action "leaves the appellate court with eight active judges and three empty seats." McClatchy adds that the "persistent filibuster" also "poisons the well for other judicial nominees, potentially for years to come," and is "prompting Senate Democrats, once again, to consider the so-called 'nuclear option' that would change Senate rules and ignite GOP rage."

The AP (11/19, Jackson) reports that the 53-38 vote to end the GOP filibuster was short of the 60 votes needed to advance the nomination. The AP adds that blocking the nomination is likely to "intensify partisan tensions in the Senate, where Democrats have grown frustrated by GOP efforts to stop Obama's nominees and talked about rewriting Senate rules to make it harder for the chamber's minority to block nominations."

The Huffington Post (11/19, Bendery, 11.54M) reports that Democrats have been warning for weeks "that they're prepared to invoke the 'nuclear option' and strip Republicans of their ability to block Obama's nominees if they keep filibustering." In the wake of Monday's vote, Democrats "have to decide if they have it in them to change institutional rules that both parties are typically reluctant to mess with." The Post adds that by "the sounds of it during Wilkins' vote, some Democrats are ready to go nuclear right now."

Politico (11/19, Everett, 467K) reports that Democratic "frustration has built steadily over the GOP's use of the filibuster to stifle Obama from filling out the court," and notes that the Republican tactic "essentially guarantees the Senate will soon endure another draining fight over changing the chamber's rules." Republicans claim that "they aren't trying to force a nuclear option fight — instead emphasizing they are making the same argument that Democrats made in 2005 when the GOP was in the majority: There just isn't enough work for this court."

The Los Angeles Times (11/19, Memoli, 3.07M) reports that Senate Majority Leader Reid, speaking before the vote, "slammed Republicans for rejecting another 'exceedingly capable nominee' for what he characterized as 'blatantly political reasons.'" Reid said, "Republicans have blocked these nominees solely to deny President Obama his constitutional right to appoint judges," and called it "a violation of an earlier bipartisan agreement to

only block nominations in 'extraordinary circumstances.'"

Abortion Rights Advocates Have Steered Clear Of "Nuclear Option" Debate. Roll Call (11/19, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that abortion rights advocate have largely avoided "public involvement in the latest round of ratcheting up of 'nuclear option' talk in the Senate." These face a dilemma because supporting the nuclear option now "for victories on issues like birth control now," will "increase the risk that a Republican president will be able to put hostile nominees on the bench in the future." Roll Call notes that while Planned Parenthood would not comment for the story, "some Senate supporters of changing the chamber's practice on judicial nominations have told CQ Roll Call they suspect that pro-choice groups are working behind the scenes against the effort."

SENATE PANEL TO VOTE ON YELLEN NOMINATION THURSDAY. The Wall Street Journal (11/19, McGrane, 5.91M) reports that the Senate Banking Committee announced Monday that it will vote Thursday on Janet Yellen's nomination to be Federal Reserve Chair. The Journal notes that the panel is expected to approve the nomination, and members from both parties expect her to be confirmed by the full Senate. Among other news outlets, Bloomberg News (11/18, Hopkins, 1.91M) also reports on Thursday's committee vote.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A New G.O.P. Excuse For Doing Nothing."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (11/19, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says, "unquestionably, the White House handed" Republicans a "gift through two kinds of incompetence: the technical failure of the health-exchange website, and the political failure of the president in falsely promising that no one would lose an insurance policy they already had."

"Cholesterol Guidelines Under Attack." An editorial in the New York Times (11/19, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says cholesterol guidelines issued last week by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association appear to "overestimate greatly the risk of heart attack or stroke that currently healthy individuals might face over the next decade," and as a result, "tens of millions of people could be prescribed cholesterol-lowering statin drugs that they don't really need." The Times argues that healthier patients "should probably wait until the heart organizations reassess their risk calculator, the possible flaws in it, and how best to fix them."

"Death Meted Out By Politicians In Robes." The New York Times (11/19, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the death penalty "should have no legitimate mooring at all in modern American society, and it certainly should not be imposed by a judge who is worried about keeping his job."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The U.S.-Israel Divide."*** The Washington Post (11/19, 4.28M) editorializes that the dispute between the United States and Israel over Iran would be more manageable if, instead of arguing in public, US and Israeli officials were working together to reach a consensus on acceptable terms for a final settlement with Iran. The conflict stems from the Iran deal that the Obama Administration hopes to achieve this week in order to reduce the chance of needing to use military force against Iran in the near future. Israeli leaders fear the proposed deal will leave Iran with a nuclear breakout capacity and a revived economy.

"Talked Out Of A Job." The Washington Post (11/19, 4.28M) editorializes that D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray's firing of insurance commissioner William White for a statement made about the Affordable Care Act "seems harsh" and may undermine the independence of insurance commissioners in the future. The article noted that White's statement–that permitting insurance companies to extend policies incompatible with the Act for another year to prevent cancellations undermines the exchanges created by the Act–is correct, and that his dismissal may reduce candor among public officials.

"A Dose Of Pragmatism." The Washington Post (11/19, 4.28M) editorializes that Ronald Reagan's "pragmatism" in de-escalating bellicose rhetoric against the Soviet Union during the "war scare" of 1983 is needed in today's "poisonous and bitterly contested" political climate. Newly-published documents show that Reagan reacted to intelligence that Soviet leaders "were growing paranoid about a possible attack" by recognizing and changing his own "flawed assumptions."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Obama's Trade Jeopardy."*** The Wall Street Journal (11/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that President Obama is facing attacks on his request for Trade Promotion Authority from both liberal Democrats eager to promote a pro-union agenda and Tea Party Republicans who misconstrue the Constitution. Obama has declined to discuss the benefits of free trade in his public speeches, and he needs to work with Republicans in the House of Representatives in order to build a bipartisan coalition amenable to free trade.

"Rigging Antidiscrimination Law." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that after a controversial New York housing discrimination case was pulled from the Supreme Court docket amid settlement talks, the court should seek another case in which disparate-impact analysis is used to allege housing bias.

"In Deng Xiaoping's Footsteps." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) lauds the reform outline produced by China's 18th Central Committee's Third Plenum, especially changes to capital markets and allowing companies to list shares freely. If this indicates that the state recognizes that markets are better at allocating resources than governments, the Journal says this could be a milestone for the country. However, the paper condemns tightened political repression and continued favored treatment of state-owned enterprises. The Journal concludes that these reforms will test if China can expand economic freedom without opening to political reform.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Healthcare Enrollment Rises Sharply
Homicide Library May Thaw Cold Cases
Will To Rebuild Survives Deadly Storm
Can Your Car Talk To Your Phone?
Wizard Of Screenplays

Wall Street Journal:
JP Morgan, US Reach Historic Settlement
Iran Gas Company Faces Collapse
Migrants Shift Sights From US To Neighbors
Safety Experts Raise Concern Over Popular Laundry Packs

New York Times:
Split On Accord On Iran Strains US-Israel Ties
Sleep Therapy Seen As An Aid For Depression
Obama Nominee Is Third In A Row Blocked By GOP
In The Middle Of Mexico, A Middle Class Is Rising
A Diver's Rise, And Swift Death, At The Limits Of A Growing Sport
His Honor? Toronto's Mayor Rampages On, To City's Shame

Washington Post:
Approval Ratings For Obama Drop To Lowest Point
Consultants Warned Of Rollout Risks
For Methodists, A Split Close To Home
Cheneys Mirror Party Rift Over Same-Sex Marriage
GOP Budget Architect Turns Focus To Poverty
Harry Potter And The Riled Postal Panel

Financial Times:
RBI Chief Plans 'Dramatic' Overhaul
US Stocks Set New Intraday Highs

Struggle For England's Graduates Revealed
UK Foreign Exchange Probe Turns Personal
Bitcoin Hits $785 With Help From Bernanke
JPMorgan Agrees To Shoulder WaMu Bill
China Reform Dividends May Disappoint

Washington Times:
Lawsuit Reveals Good Life At Gitmo
Nsa Snooping Programs Taken To Federal Court
Biden Looks To Higher Power For Big Deal
States Suddenly Handed Back Big Headache Of Health Care
Awash With $100b In Oil Revenue, Iraq Stays On US Dole
Immigration Staffers Pressured To Rush Visas For Wealthy Investors

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Midwest Tornadoes, Midwest Tornadoes, Health-Statin Use, Princeton Meningitis Outbreak, Cheney Feud, Zimmerman Arrest, Canada-Toronto Mayor, Kennedy Assassination
CBS: Midwest Tornadoes, Midwest Tornadoes, Health-Princeton Meningitis Outbreak, Health-Statins, ACA-Website, Politics-Cheney Feud, Economy-Stock Prices, Zimmerman Arrested, New Mexico-Police Shoot At Minivan, Canada-Toronto Mayor, Philippines-Typhoon Relief, Russia-Plane Crash, Kennedy Assassination.
NBC: Midwest Tornadoes, Midwest Tornadoes, Philippines Typhoon Relief, Princeton Meningitis Outbreak, Politics-Cheney Feud, Zimmerman Arrested, Kennedy Assassination, Afghanistan-US Soldier Killed, Russia-Plane Crash, Syracuse-Airport Security, Canada-Toronto Mayor, Midwest Tomado Relief

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Obama Approval Ratings, ACA-Website, Princeton Meningitis Outbreak, Canada-Toronto Mayor, Zimmerman Arrest
CBS: Justice -JP Morgan Chase Settlement, House Obamacare Website Hearings, Midwest Tornadoes, Zimmerman Arrest, Princeton Meningitis Outbreak, Canada-Toronto Mayor
NPR: NSA Releases Documents, Midwest Tornadoes, Apple-Samsung Lawsuit Appeal, Economy-Dow Jones, Kenyan Mall Attack, Zimmerman Arrest

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; delivers remarks and answers questions at the 'Wall Street Journal' CEO Council annual meeting, The Four Seasons Hotel, Washington, DC, . in-town travel pool; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN —Travels to the Presidential Palace, Panama City, Panama, open press; holds a restricted bilateral meeting with President Ricardo Martinelli of Panama, pool spray at the top; holds an expanded bilateral meeting President Martinelli, pool spray at the top; delivers statements to the press with President Martinelli, open press; meets with U.S. Embassy staff and families, Panama City, closed press; participates in a wreath-laying ceremony at Corozal American Cemetery and Memorial to honor U.S. military members who died in service to their country, pooled press; visits the Panama Canal, pooled press; makes remarks, Panama Canal, open press; meets with Panamanian Presidential candidates, pool spray at the top; departs Panama City, Panama, en route Washington, DC.
US Senate: 10:15 a.m. MIKULSKI, COLLINS – SEXUAL ASSAULT — Susan Collins (R-Maine) will lead a bipartisan group of Senate woman in speaking out on the Senate floor working to support historic change in an ongoing effort to address military sexual assault. Participants: Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.); Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine); Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska); Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.); Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.); Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash.); Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Miss.). Location: Senate floor.

11 a.m. INDEPENDENT MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM. — U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand, Chuck Grassley, Jeanne Shaheen, Rand Paul, Richard Blumenthal, and Mazie Hirono will be joined on Capitol Hill Tuesday by Air Force Major General (Ret.) and former Vermont National Guard Adjutant General Martha Rainville, who served in the military for twenty-seven years, including fourteen years in command positions, plus Brigadier General (Ret.) Loree Sutton who served as the top psychiatrist in the U.S. Army, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Service Womens Action Network (SWAN), and Kate Weber, a survivor, advocate, and member of Protect Our Defenders Advisory Committee, from the state of California to continue their unified push for an independent military justice system. Location: 562 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine housing finance reform, focusing on the fundamentals of transferring credit risk in a future housing finance system. Witnesses: Panel 1: Wanda DeLeo, Deputy Director for Office of Strategic Initiatives, Federal Housing Finance Agency; Kevin Palmer, Vice President, Freddie Mac; Laurel Davis, Vice President, Fannie Mae; Ted Durant, Vice President of Analytic Services, Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation; Ajay Rajadhyaksha, Managing Director and Co-Head of FICC Research Barclays; Laurie S. Goodman, Center Director, Housing Finance Policy Center at the Urban Institute. Location: 538 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs hearing on accessing the response to typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan. Witnesses: Scot Marciel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Location: 419 Dirksen.

11 a.m. COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE — Hearings to examine people of African descent and Black Europeans, focusing on issues of inequality, discrimination, and inclusion for Black Europeans, and discussing similarities and work with African-American civil rights organizations. Location: TBA.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce hearings to examine the roles and effectiveness of oversight positions within the Federal workforce, focusing on strengthening government oversight. Witnesses: Peggy Gustafson, Inspector General, U.S. Small Business Administration; Michael Horowitz, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice; Carolyn Lerner, Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel; Karen Neuman, Chief Privacy and Freedom of Information Act Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Wendy Ginsberg, Ph.D., Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.

3:30 p.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance: Subcommittee on Economic Policy Joint hearings to examine the present and future impact of virtual currency. Witnesses: . Jennifer Shasky Calvery, Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; David Cotney, Commissioner of Banks, Massachusetts Division of Banks; Anthony Gallippi, Co-founder and CEO, BitPay, Incorporated; Chris Larsen, Founder and CEO, Ripple Labs; Sarah Jane Hughes, University Scholar and Fellow in Commercial Law, Maurer School of Law, University of Indiana; Paul Smocer, BITS President, Financial Services Roundtable. Location: 538 Dirksen.

3:30 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Nominations hearing.: Dana J. Hyde of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation. Witnesses: Dana J. Hyde of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation. Location: 419 Dirksen.
US House: 10 a.m. BOEHNER BRIEFING — Media Availability with Speaker Boehner, GOP Leaderss Post Conference Media Avail (Meeting begins at 9 AM HC-5; Avail @ Center Steps S.O. Position) Location: Center Steps.

10 a.m. DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEDIA AVAILABILITY — Media Availability with Democratic Caucus Chair Becerra, Reps Crowley, Clyburn, Lowey, Van Hollen post-meeting avail. (Meeting begins at 9a, HVC-215). Location: HVC-210 Alcove.

11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: H-144 in the U.S. Capitol.

11 a.m. PIERLUISI – PUERTO RICK STATEHOOD — Special Event Delegate Pierluisi, et al hold rally in support of Puerto Rico statehood. Location: E. Front Lawn- House Side/Across from LOC.

3:30 p.m. POE, CORNYN – SEX TRAFFICKING — News Conference with Representative Poe, Senator Cornyn et al Introduce Sex Trafficking Legislation (access thru HVC 117). Location: HVC Studio B.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. — The House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. H.R. 1965 – Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act, Rules Committee Print (Subject to a Rule)

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Jobs: Improving the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. Witnesses: Brenda Dann-Messier, Assistant Secretary for Adult and Vocational Education, United States Department of Education; Stanley S. Litow, Vice President, Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs, President, IBM International Foundation, IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY; Dr. Blake Flanders, Vice President of Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents, Topeka, KS; Dr. Bryan Albrecht, President, Gateway Technical College, Kenosha, WI. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Health Examining Federal Regulation of Mobile Medical Apps and Other Health Software. Witnesses: Panel One: Jeffrey E. Shuren, M.D., J.D., Director, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Food and Drug Administration. Panel Two: Mike Marchlik, Vice President, Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs, McKesson Technology Solutions; Jim Bialick, Executive Director, Newborn Coalition; Zachary J. Lemnios, Vice President, Research Strategy, IBM Research; Robert Jarrin, Senior Director, Government Affairs, Qualcomm Incorporated; J. Leonard Lichtenfeld, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, American Cancer Society, Inc. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Oversight and Investigations Hearing entitled A General Overview of Disparate Impact Theory. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Hearing entitled A General Overview of Disparate Impact Theory . Witnesses: Peter N. Kirsanow, Commissioner, United States Commission on Civil Rights and Partner, Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Amoff; Kenneth L Marcus, President and General Counsel, Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations hearing on Crisis in the Central African Republic. Panel I: Robert P. Jackson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Panel II: The Most Reverend Nestor-Disiri Nongo-Aziagbia, Roman Catholic Bishop of Bossangoa, Central African Republic; Mike Jobbins, Senior Programme Manager, Africa, Search for Common Ground; Philippe Bolopion, United Nations Director, Human Rights Watch. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security hearing on What Does a Secure Maritime Border Look Like? Witnesses: Witnesses: Rear Admiral William Dean Lee, Deputy for Operations Policy and Capabilities, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Randolph D. Alles, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Air and Marine, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Steve Caldwell, Director, Maritime and Security Coast Guard Issues, Homeland Security and Justice Team, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Captain Marcus Woodring, USCG (ret), Managing Director, Health, Safety, Security and Environmental, Port of Houston Authority. Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements Subc. On oversight of the Social Security Administrations mismanagement of federal disability programs. Dept. witnesses. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY — Full committee hearing on Is My Data on Healthcare.gov Secure? Witnesses: Morgan Wright, Chief Executive Officer, Crowd Sourced Investigations, LLC; Dr. Fred Chang, Bobby B. Lyle Centennial Distinguished Chair in Cyber Security, Southern Methodist University; Dr. Avi Rubin, Director, Health and Medical Security Laboratory Technical Director, Information Security Institute, Johns Hopkins University (JHU); David Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer, TrustedSEC, LLC. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management hearing on Federal Triangle South: Redeveloping Underutilized Federal Property Through Public Private Partnerships. Witnesses: Jeff Denham (R-CA), Member of Congress; Daniel Tangherlini, Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration; L. Preston Bryant, Jr., Chairman, National Capital Planning Commission; David Winstead, Chair, Public Development and Infrastructure Council, Urban Land Institute. Location: 2254 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Highways and Transit How Autonomous Vehicles Will Shape the Future of Surface Transportation. Speakers: David Strickland, Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Kirk Steudle, Director, Michigan Department of Transportation; on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO); Mike Robinson, Vice President of Sustainability and Global Regulatory Affairs, General Motors; Andrew Christensen, Senior Manager of Technology Planning, Nissan Technical Center North America; Dr. Raj Rajkumar, Carnegie Mellon University; Dr. Joshua Schank, President and CEO, Eno Center for Transportation. Location: 2167 Raybum.

10:15 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on Security of Location: 2123 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Housing and Insurance Hearing entitled Implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act of 2012: Protecting Taxpayers and Homeowners. Panel I: Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency. Panel II: Josh Saks, Legislative Director, National Wildlife Federation; Michael Hecht, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater New Orleans, Inc.; Maurice Moe Veissi, Immediate Past President, National Association of Realtors; Barry Rutenberg, Immediate Past Chairman of the Board, National Association of Home Builders; Chad Berginnis, Executive Director, Association of State Floodplain Managers; Dr. Douglass Holtz-Eakin, President, American Action Forum. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet hearing on The Rise of Innovative Business Models: Content Delivery Methods in the Digital Age. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

2:30 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa hearing: U.S. Policy Toward the Arabian Peninsula: Yemen and Bahrain. Witnesses: Barbara Leaf, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Arabian Peninsula, U.S. Department of State. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

3 p.m. RULES — Full committee hearing on Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act. http://rules.house.gov/bill/113/hr-1900

5 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Energy and Power Subc. Markup of H.R. 3301 – North American Energy Infrastructure Act. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing: Crisis in the Central African Republic. Witnesses: Robert P. Jackson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State; The Most Reverend Nestor-Disiri Nongo-Aziagbia, Roman Catholic Bishop of Bossangoa, Central African Republic; Mike Jobbins, Senior Programme Manager, Africa, Search for Common Ground; Philippe Bolopion, United Nations Director, Human Rights Watch. Location: 2172 Rayburn.
Other: 25TH ANNUAL MONEY CONFERENCE — The American Bankers Association and the American Bar Association will bring together the nations top experts to address the latest in money laundering detection and prevention at the 25th annual ABA/ABA Money Laundering Enforcement Conference. Speakers include: Thomas J. Curry, Comptroller of the Currency; Jennifer Shasky Calvery, Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; Frank D. Whitney, U.S. Chief District Judge, Western District of North Carolina; James M. Cole, U.S. Deputy Attorney General. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. Washington.

WALL STREET JOURNAL CEO COUNCILS — The Wall Street Journal CEO Councils sixth annual meeting. Participants include: Former Director of National Intelligence, Dennis Blair, Founding Partner of 270 Strategies, Jeremy Bird; Chris Christie, governor of New Jersey; James Clapper, director of national intelligence; Gen. Martin

E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Stanley Fischer, governor, Bank of Israel (2005-2013); U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman; Glenn Hubbard, dean of the Columbia University School of Business; Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank; Paul Ryan, chairman of the House Budget Committee and U.S. representative (R., Wis.); Lawrence H. Summers, former U.S. treasury secretary and director of the national economic council; Cass Sunstein, the Obama administrations former chief regulator. Highlights: 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Live stream of an exclusive live interview with President Barack Obama, led by Gerald Seib, Washington Bureau Chief for The Wall Street Journal.

WALL STREET JOURNAL ANNUAL MEETING — The Wall Street Journal CEO Council Annual Meeting. President will deliver remarks – TIME TBA. Speakers also include: Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis. Highlights: 8:45 a.m. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew Conversation on the State of the Economy with Gerard Baker. Location: Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE — 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Department of the Army's Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC) meets to discuss the Section 60 Mementos Pilot Program, events for the 50th Commemoration of the interment of John F. Kennedy and 150th anniversary of Arlington National Cemetery, and the status of expansion. Location: Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Conference Room, Arlington National Cemetery.

AMERICAN SHALE — 8:30 a.m. American Shale & Manufacturing Partnership hold introductory press conference on American Shale. Speakers: Margot Anderson, executive director of the Energy Project at the Bipartisan Policy Center, will moderate a discussion with the following panelists: Karen Alderman Harbert, president & CEO, Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Charles T. Drevna, president, American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers; Matthew Sanfilippo, senior executive director, Research Initiatives for the College of Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University; Lawrence D. Sloan, president and CEO, Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates; Jay Timmons, president and CEO, National Association of Manufacturers; Walter W. Wise, general president, International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental & Reinforcing Iron Workers. Location: National Press Club, Murrow Room, 529 14th Street NW.

IMPACT OF THE BRADY BILL — 10 a.m. Sarah Brady, Chair of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the campaigns president, Dan Gross, will appear at a National Press Club Newsmakers news conference to assess the success of the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act, more commonly known as the Brady Bill, two decades after it was signed into law. Location: National Press Club, Lisagor Rom, 529 14th Street NW.

HEALTH BEHAVIORS – PERSONAL ECONOMICS — 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Web event hosted by Insurance Broadcasting on Using Personal Economics to Drive Health Behavior Change.

NATURAL GAS ROUNTABLE – MCCLELLAND — 12 p.m. Natural Gas Roundtable Lunch with Director of the Office of Energy Infrastructure at FERC, Joseph H. McClelland. Location: University Club, 1135 16th Street NW.

STUDENT DEBT — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. American Student Assistance Policy Forum on Student debt. Location: 203 Capitol Vistors Center.

THIRD WAY – ADVANCED BIOFUELS? — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. RFS Volumes: Defining the Future of Advanced Biofuels? Participants: Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI); Brooke Coleman, Executive Director, Advanced Ethanol Council; Paul Beckwith, CEO, Butamax; Brent Erickson, Executive Vice President, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO); Ryan Fitzpatrick, Moderator, Clean Energy Senior Policy Advisor, Third Way. Location: 328A Russell.

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS – DUNCAN — 12:30 p.m. The 2013 National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony with U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, Regency Ballroom, 2500 Calvert Street, N.W.

SPIRIT OF HOPE – WINNEFELD — 2 p.m. Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. James A. Winnefeld delivers remarks at the Annual Spirit of Hope Awards ceremony. Location: Room B6, Pentagon Conference Center, Arlington, Va.

PELOSI – BUZZFEED BREWS — 6 p.m. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will join John Stanton, DC Bureau Chief of BuzzFeed, tomorrow in a moderated conversation at . at Jack Rose Saloon as part of the BuzzFeed Brews series. Location: Jack Rose Saloon, 2007 18th Street Northwest.

U.S. CHAMBER – BERNANKE — 7 p.m. National Economists Club Annual Dinner: Herbert Stein Memorial Lecture with Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman, Federal Reserve. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Hall of Flags Room, 1615

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "I love this story. A right-wing Congressman from Texas – there's a shock – by the name of Louis Gomer, I think that's his name. He announced that there is a hidden provision in Obamacare that could create an armed secret security force. And he claims the White House masterminded this. You know, from what we've seen of the Obamacare rollout, do these people look like they could masterminds anything?"

Jay Leno: "And the state of California shut down ten fake Obamacare websites that were signing up thousands of people. You know, instead of shutting these people down, put them in charge of the real website. They're signing up thousands of people! Hire them. Don't put them in jail!"

Jay Leno: "Well, President Obama and his top aides met with insurance company CEOs at the White House on Friday. So we've got politicians meeting with insurance salesmen. You know, you throw in a couple used car dealers, you have the trifecta of professional lying right there."

Jimmy Fallon: "Get this, the US Postal Service just announced that it only lost $5 billion this year as opposed to $16 billion in 2012. Only lost $5 billion. Even Blockbuster is like, 'You guys suck at running a business.'"

Jon Stewart: "But first, it's been a rough couple of weeks for Barack Obama, months really. His foreign allies are angry with him because we are spying on them. His domestic allies are angry at him because of incompetent healthcare rollout. He taped over his wedding video recently. He was trying to record a very special 'Two Broke Girls.' Hello, Mr. President, they are all special."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Nov 20, 2013 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL DELIVERS SPEECH AT CEREMONY COMMEMORATING 150th ANNIVERSARY OF GETTYSBURG ADDRESS. The Washington Post (11/20, Press, 4.28M) reports that "thousands of people gathered" on Tuesday to honor the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said "the Gettysburg battle stands at the vortex of American history and the Gettysburg Address at the vortex of national consciousness."

The Washington Post (11/19, Vogel, 4.28M) reports that Jewell said that Lincoln's words "tell us what it means to be American. They call us to unfinished work, not just to win a war, but to build a more perfect nation."

The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (11/20, 339K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's speech at the ceremonies marking the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address "won praise from the shivering crowd gathered Tuesday morning, not least because she kept it short." According to the article, "before delivering the speech, President Obama's official proxy to the ceremony announced that 'Out of respect for Lincoln and respect for all of you huddled here' she would keep the speech to 272 words, the same length as Lincoln's." Jewell's

announcement "won approval from the crowd, but so did the speech itself."

The Hanover (PA) Evening Sun (11/20, 38K) reports that Jewell "sought to further sum up the struggle that Americans, both service members and citizens, have been fighting through history and continue to fight." Jewell said that "the steps on the journey...are marked by eloquence." She said, "The patriot who regretted he had but one life to give for his country. The president who affirmed our resolve on a day that will live in infamy, the courageous woman whose simple 'No' on an Alabama bus gave birth to choruses of 'We shall overcome,' and the passenger above another Pennsylvania field, who declared 'Let's roll,' giving voice to a nation battered by terrorism."

The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (11/20, 339K) reports that Jewell "pleased the crowd with a speech that was both far reaching in scope and short in length." At the end of the speech, "one attendee exclaimed to the man next to her, 'That was good!'"

USA Today (11/19, Bacon, 5.82M) reports that Jewell, NPS Director Jon Jarvis, and Sen. Bob Casey were among those presenting memorial wreaths.

Also reporting on the story are CNN (11/19, Jones, Liptak, 14.53M), FOX News (11/19, 6.72M), the US News & World Report (11/20, Beard, 620K), the Chicago Tribune (11/19, Wereschagin, 95K), the Washington Times (11/20, Wolfgang, 417K), the York (PA) Dispatch (11/20, 50K), the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (11/20, 636K), the Denver Post (11/20, Press, 949K), the Boston Herald (11/20, 643K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (11/20, Scolforo, 1.14M), the State College (PA) Centre Daily Times (11/19, 98K), the Daily Mail (UK) (11/20, 2.92M), Yahoo! (11/20, Scolforo, 17.91M), Yahoo! News Canada (11/20, 76K), WRC-TV Washington (11/20, 291K), WJBK-TV Detroit (11/20, 83K), WXYZ-TV Detroit (11/20, 101K), WTSP-TV St. Petersburg, FL (11/20, 42K), WPMT-TV Harrisburg, PA (11/19, 12K), WJLA-TV Washington (11/20, 118K), KTHV-TV Little Rock, AR (11/20, 28K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (11/20, 83K).

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES $14.2 BILLION IN ENERGY REVENUES. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (11/20, 194K) reports that the Interior Department collected disbursed $14.2 billion in energy production on public lands and offshore waters in 2013. According to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the figure is "a 17 percent increased from fiscal year 2012." In a statement, Jewell said, "Domestic energy production infuses funding into communities across the United States that creates American jobs, fosters land and water conservation efforts, improves critical infrastructure, and supports education. The funding reflects significant energy production from public resources in the United States and serves as a critical revenue stream for federal and state governments and tribal communities."

The FuelFix (11/19, 7K) reports that "the surge in revenues partially reflects a surge of interest in drilling in both the Gulf of Mexico and onshore, as energy companies use hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling to access previously inaccessible oil and gas reserves." However, "the increase also is connected to the way the federal government recorded bonus bids from three auctions of Gulf of Mexico oil and gas leases over the past two years, including two that took place during fiscal 2013." The article notes that "the government's $2.8 billion take in the bonus bids includes those from a third auction that took place in fiscal 2012 but effectively did not hit the books until later, in fiscal 2013."

The Alaska Public Radio Network (11/19, 2K) reports that the Interior Department announced Tuesday "it paid Alaska $19 million over the previous year for oil and gas development on federal land in the state." The article notes that "the state with the biggest federal disbursement in the past year was Wyoming, at nearly $1 billion," and "the smallest payment – a mere $38 — went to North Carolina."

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (11/20, 288K) reports that New Mexico "collected $479 million in oil and gas royalties in the 2013 fiscal year, the state's largest take in five years."

Also covering the story are Politico (11/20, Guillen, 467K), the Rigzone (11/20, 12K), the Delta (AK) News Web (11/19), and the Law 360 (11/20, 18K).

INTERIOR CONSOLIDATES FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. The E&E Daily (11/19) report that the Interior Department has completed deployment of a new financial management system across all its agencies.

The Financial and Business Management System "replaces 82 systems that were spread throughout a department infamous for its fragmented organization." In a statement, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget Rhea Suh said that the system "allows us to increase efficiency and make government work better and smarter."

CENTER FOR PLAIN LANGUAGE SHAMES AGENCIES WITH POOR GRADES. The E&E Daily (11/19) reports on the grades issued by the Center for Plain Language in the center's second "Plain Writing Report Card," which "aims to shame agencies into better implementing the 2010 Plain Writing Act." Of note, the Interior Department received a "D on plain language" and "a B for compliance with the act."

SENATE PANEL TO MARK UP GRAZING, WILDERNESS BILLS. The E&E Daily (11/19) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's will vote Thursday "on a pair of partisan measures to accelerate grazing permits on federal lands and designate new wilderness along Montana's Rocky Mountain Front." The committee will also vote on "11 additional measures to expand Gettysburg National Military Park, promote a mine cleanup in Nevada and designate wild and scenic rivers in Vermont, among other provisions."

REP. AMODEI ENCOURAGES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON SAGE GROUSE PROPOSAL. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (11/18, 165K) reports that Rep. Mark Amodei "this week encouraged Nevadans to make their voices heard by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management during three important public comment periods related to the sage grouse." Amodei said, "The proposed threatened species listing of the bi-state sage hen population and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the greater sage hen have significant consequences for multiple use and represent, really, our first test for how we solve the larger sage hen problem throughout Nevada and the West. In the case of the bi-state, should the listing move ahead, it would designate 1.86 million acres as critical habitat, including federal, state, tribal and private lands in Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral and Esmeralda counties in Nevada and Alpine, Mono and Inyo counties in California."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

HOUSE LAWMAKERS PUSH BILLS RELATED TO SHUTDOWN. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (11/20, 194K) reports that House lawmakers are "reopening the fight over the Obama administration's closing of national parks during the government shutdown." According to the article, "Arizona's congressional delegation is pressing the administration to pay their state for expenses from reopening national parks during the 16-day government shutdown." Separately, Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT) is "pushing a bill aimed at ensuring national parks remain open in the event that the government someday closes down again."

NPS Release Numbers On Shutdown Losses. KPHO-TV Phoenix (11/20, 74K) reports that the Grand Canyon "lost $19 million in tourism revenue thanks to this fall's 16-day partial federal government shutdown." The NPS "released numbers Tuesday that show Arizona's No. 1 attraction lost nearly 187,000 visitors between Oct. 1 and Oct. 16." The article notes that "all national parks combined lost about 12 million visitors, which totaled $568 million in lost revenue."

FORMER INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONAL DIRECTOR NOW WORKING AT AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION. In its "In The Loop" blog, the Washington Post (11/19, Kamen, 4.28M) reports the NPS announced on Monday that "Alaska regional director Sue Masica has been named Intermountain regional director," but "it didn't say where the former intermountain director, John Wessels, was going." According to the article, Wessels "got a spectacularly sweet gig as deputy secretary for overseas operations at the American Battle Monuments Commission, an independent agency that overseas 24 overseas military cemeteries and other memorials and monuments."

NPS OFFERS PLAN TO KEEP BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK OPEN TO BOATING AND FISHING. The Boating Industry (11/19) reports that last week, the NPS "announced a supplemental General Management Plan (GMP) for Biscayne National Park that marks an important step towards balancing the need for public access while addressing resource concerns." According to the article, "the park's new preferred plan addresses many of the

concems from the recreational boating and fishing communities contained in the original 2011 GMP proposals."

Also reporting on the story are the Soundings (11/20, 15K) and the Trade Only (11/20).

DIRECTOR OF GLACIER RESEARCH CENTER HONORED WITH NPS AWARD. The Missoulian (11/20, 104K) reports that Tara Carolin of Coram, director of the Glacier National Park Crown of the Continent Research Center, is the 2013 winner of the NPS Intermountain Region Director's Award for Professional Excellence in Natural Resource Research. According to a news release, "Carolin has created and nurtured science and research partnerships; communicated science results to natural resource managers, the academic community, teachers and the public; encouraged and assisted student research and intern mentorship; and been a leader in climate change research, among many other accomplishments."

Also reporting on the story is the Ravalli (MT) Republic (11/20, 19K).

PLANNING COMMISSION REJECTS MAJOR DC BUILDING HEIGHT CHANGES. The Washington Post (11/20, Debonis, 4.28M) reports that "a planning body charged with examining changes to the federal law restricting building heights in the District declined to endorse major changes Tuesday, voting to reject a recommendation to potentially allow higher structures in outlying parts of the city." The National Capital Planning Commission "voted 7 to 3 to remove language from a staff report that said the 1910 Height of Buildings Act should be amended to exempt areas of the city outside the historic core planned in the 18th century by Pierre L'Enfant." Instead, the report will "say that the issue is worthy of further study and future consideration."

Bureau of Land Management:

WYOMING GOV. MEAD ADDRESSES BLM LAND SWAP CONCERNS IN WHEATLAND. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/20, 80K) reports, that Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead says "state military officials won't try to expand a central Wyoming training site if ranchers currently using the land object." On Monday, Mead said that "it could be years or decades before any decisions are made about the disposition of land managed" by the BLM around Camp Guernsey outside Wheatland. The article notes that the BLM has "expressed interest in giving up thousands of acres around Camp Guernsey, and the Wyoming Military Department says it's interested in getting control of all the land within its boundaries and smoothing out some jagged boundaries."

Also reporting on the story is the Wyoming Tribune Eagle (11/19, 44K).

BLM, FOREST SERVICE MAP PRICES TO RISE IN 2014. The Oregonian (11/20, 751K) reports that "the price of most printed maps in the Pacific Northwest Recreation Series, Wilderness, Ranger District and Special Area categories will increase Jan. 1, 2014," the BLM and the US Forest Service announced in a news release last week. The article notes that "this is the first price increase for these maps in seven years."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS-LED STUDY FINDS "HOT SPOTS," BUT LESS DEFORMED FROGS ON REFUGES THAN FEARED. The E&E Daily (11/19) reports that "a landmark 10-year study" led by FWS "identified several so-called hot spot clusters of frogs and toads with physical abnormalities but found that overall these observed deformities were far lower nationwide than some had feared." The study, which was published in PLOS ONE, is "the largest of its kind, sampling more than 68,000 frogs found in hundreds of wetland sites at 152 national wildlife refuges." According to the latest study, "about 2 percent of the frogs examined were classified as having skeletal or eye abnormalities," which is "a much lower rate than what some scientists feared that they might find...indicating that severe malformations such as missing or extra limbs 'were very rare on national wildlife refuges.'"

Also reporting on the story are The Chattanoogan (11/19, 17K) and Sensors & Systems (11/20).

NINE SHARK SPECIES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PROTECTION. The E&E Daily (11/19) report that the National Marine Fisheries Service has determined that the status of the nine shark species "warrants investigation, according to today's notice in the Federal Register." The article notes that "the finding is in response to a petition from the environmental group WildEarth Guardians, which earlier this year called for

protections for 81 marine species." Bethany Cotton, WildEarth's program director, said "the group was pleased about the decisions on the nine species that will be considered for protection but was disappointed NMFS has decided not to further investigate protections for the other species."

HEARING ON GRAY WOLVES IGNITES FOES. The Denver Post (11/20, Finley, 949K) reports that more than 350 wolf advocates dominated a hearing held in Denver by the FWS on its proposal to end protection of gray wolves. Defenders of Wildlife regional director Jonathan Proctor said, "How can the job be done when only 8 percent of wolves' historic habitat is occupied? We want wolves in the southern Rockies, which is tremendous habitat that is suffering because of the lack of wolves."

FORMER ANIMAL PLANET EXPERT TO PLEAD GUILTY TO SELLING EXOTIC LIZARDS. The Los Angeles Times (11/19, Cowan, 3.07M) reports that "a former Animal Planet reptile expert is expected to plead guilty Tuesday to a federal charge that he illegally sold two endangered Iranian desert monitor lizards." Donald Schultz faces a sentence of two years of probation, 200 hours of community service and a $6,000 fine, according to a plea agreement. Schultz also agreed to give up the lizards to the FWS, and to pay $3,000 restitution for their cost and care.

US Geological Survey:

USGS RELEASES DEBRIS-FLOW STUDY. The Idaho Mountain Express (11/20, 36K) reports that a study conducted by the USGS in the Beaver Creek Fire burn area has "confirmed Blaine County's choices of sites to install an early-warning system for mudslides." According to the study, which was released Nov. 14, "debris flows are most frequent within two to three years after wildfires, when vegetative cover is absent or reduced and abundant materials are available for erosion and transport."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

HOUSE AXES GREEN ENERGY PERMITTING FUNDS FROM ENERGY BILL. The "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (11/20, 194K) reports that the House yesterday granted approval to an amendment "that would cut in half the money available to the government to consider and issue permits for solar and wind energy projects." The blog notes that "members agreed by voice vote to the amendment to the Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act, H.R. 1965." The amendment "adjusted language in the bill that limits wind and solar permitting activities at the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management to $10 million."

ROUTE DECISION ON SUNZIA PROJECT DELAYED INTO 2014 OR BEYOND. The SNL Financial (11/20, 22K) reports that the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project has been delayed again, as the Interior Department and the Defense Department "turn to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory to settle their differences over the impact of the route of the line, according to a Nov. 15 press release from Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M." The Lincoln Laboratory will "study whether White Sands' test protocols can be modified to accommodate the line and will issue a report early in 2014, according to an Oct. 18 letter sent by the DOD to Heinrich." In an interview, Donna Hummel, a spokeswoman for the BLM New Mexico office, said, "Bringing in a third party, who should be neutral to both perspectives, should be welcome at this point."

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (11/20, 288K) editorializes that "the sort-of good news" is that the BLM is "delaying a decision on an environmental impact statement that calls for routing a private consortium's high voltage transmission line across the White Sands Missile Range's Northern Extension." However, "the not-so-good news is that the study may just be one more effort by SunZia proponents to get more ammunition to push the project through at all costs." The paper argues that "this is clearly a time for national security – and New Mexico's economy – to take precedence."

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE ADVANCES DRILLING, FRACKING BILLS. The E&E Daily (11/19) reports that the House is expected

to pass GOP legislation seeking to speed the development of oil and gas on federal lands after considering a half-dozen Democratic amendments. The "Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act," H.R. 1965, is "one of two energy bills the Rules Committee yesterday sent to the House floor, along with H.R. 2728, which would restrict BLM's ability to regulate hydraulic fracturing in states that already have rules addressing the practice." The House is scheduled to vote Tuesday on the BLM leasing bill and Wednesday on the fracking bill.

In its "Floor Action" blog, The Hill (11/20, 194K) reports that "Democrats broadly criticized the rule for preventing several Democratic amendments from being considered this week, and said downplayed the bills as 'messaging' legislation that won't move in the Senate."

FuelFix (11/20, Dlouhy, 7K) adds that Democrats "blasted" the measures "with Colorado's Jared Polis casting them as 'messaging bills that aren't going anywhere.'" Rep. Steny Hoyer added that "the House should be focused on more pressing matters, given the recent surge in domestic oil and gas production." Hoyer stated, "There are more oil rigs in America today than the rest of the world combined, yet we're talking about energy security. ... We have it!"

Also reporting on the story are the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/20, 194K), the National Journal (11/20, Subscription Publication, 427K), the Washington Examiner (11/20, Colman, 319K), and the Washington Free Beacon (11/20, Markay, 37K).

White House Threatens Veto. The E&E Daily (11/19) reports that the White House has threatened to "veto a pair of House Republican bills aiming to curb regulations of oil and gas development on federal lands." The Obama Administration said it "strongly opposes" H.R. 1965 and H.R. 2728, which "it argued would compromise the Bureau of Land Management's ability to promote safe and balanced drilling on federal lands." The article notes that "the veto threats were largely symbolic, considering that neither measure is expected to advance in the Senate."

Platts (11/20, Scheid, 2K) also reports that President Barack Obama would "likely veto a bill aimed speeding up natural gas pipeline approvals if it ever makes it to his desk, the White House said Tuesday." The bill "is expected to be voted on by the House of Representatives on Thursday." The legislation "would require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve or deny a gas pipeline permit within one year of receiving a complete application."

Also reporting on the story are the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/20, 194K), the MarketWatch (11/19, 967K), the National Journal (11/20, Subscription Publication, 427K), the National Review (11/20, 290K), and Newsmax (11/19, 555K).

Heritage: GOP Energy Bill Votes Key To Rankings. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/20, Geman, 194K) reports that legislation in the House "to thwart federal oil-and-gas 'fracking' regulations is unlikely to advance beyond the lower chamber, but it could still be politically relevant for any Republican lawmakers who might be on the fence." On Tuesday, Heritage Action said "that lawmakers' votes on the bill this week will be a 'key vote' that's included in their rankings of members." The group said, "H.R. 2728 would maintain the states' ability to regulate fracking, which they have effectively done for decades, without burdensome, excessive, and costly federal regulation."

Commentary. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/20, Hauter, Steingraber, 11.54M), Wenonah Hauter and Sandra Steingraber write that earlier this month, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "delivered a proclamation that only served to highlight just how much misguided faith the Obama administration has invested in the oil and gas industry and its quest to keep the American public hooked on fossil fuels." Speaking before youth conservation leaders in California, Jewell "cited what she called 'confusion' in the fracking debate, implored the oil and gas industry to clear up 'misinformation,' about the process, and asserted that industry should 'make sure the public understands...why it's safe.'" However, Hauter and Steingraber argue that "the only thing confusing about the fracking debate is why this administration continues to embrace the practice in the face of scientific evidence that fracking and associated activities contaminates water, air, communities and the climate."

Reps. Bill Flores (R-TX) and Henry Cuellar (D-TX), together argue in a post for the "Congress Blog" online for The Hill (11/20, 194K) in favor of HR 2728, dubbed the "Protecting States' Rights To Promote American Energy

Security Act." After noting the economic benefits from fracking that come both in the form of lower energy costs as well as jobs and spurred economic activity in fracking areas, the Reps. continue by observing that "for decades" states have been the main fracking regulators "on both government and privately owned land," a power they "have consistently opposed" yielding to the Federal government. They view the Interior Department's measures to regulate fracking, therefore, as "adding duplicative federal regulations on top of state regulations," especially as they believe that "states are not asking the federal government to step in."

In an op-ed for the Daily Caller (11/20, Hastings, 422K), Rep. Doc Hastings characterizes H.R. 2728 as "responsible, bipartisan legislation" which will protect "American jobs and energy production by stopping the federal government from imposing duplicative and onerous regulations on hydraulic fracturing." According to Hastings, H.R. 2728 "recognizes that each state knows what regulations work best for them and prevents the federal government from wasting time, money and resources duplicating their efforts." He concludes that H.R. 2728 will "ensure that federal red-tape does not stifle American energy production and job creation and rightly allow states to continue to effectively and safely regulate hydraulic fracturing for the good of our economy."

For "The Balance Sheet" blog of the Denver Post (11/19, 949K), Paul Burgarino writes that the fossil fuel industry have criticized the Interior Department's effort to overhaul the program to leasing and drilling on federal land for stifling leasing and production. On the other hand, environmental groups have argued that the industry has plenty of leases which it is failing to exploit. The 2011 statistics released by the BLM shows a mixed picture that doesn't quite fit either sides' contention. Kathleen Sgamma, vice president for government affairs at the Western Energy Alliance, said, "There was a increase in leases because both the industry and the BLM worked to reduce a backlog that had built up. Production is up, but because of the long lead time on federal leasing, today's production is the result actions taken five to 10 years ago."

BLM AUCTION NETS $3.4 MILLION IN UTAH OIL AND GAS LEASES. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/20, 343K) reports that the BLM's Utah office netted in $3.4 million at an oil and gas auction Tuesday where leases were offered on 35 parcels covering 44,000 acres in Carbon, Emery and Uintah counties. Utah will receive "nearly half the auction's revenue, including a $1.50-per-acre annual rental charge, which will be shared with the counties where the leases are located."

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA RESEARCHER INVESTIGATING STATE'S RISE IN SEISMIC ACTIVITY. Reuters (11/20, Gillam) reports on University of Oklahoma seismologist Austin Holland, who is studying earthquakes for the Oklahoma Geological Survey in an effort to increase the body of knowledge on whether or not a sharp increase in the number and magnitude of Oklahoman earthquakes is in any way tied to Oklahoma's oil and gas activity. As the Department of Interior has counted significant upticks in the number and size of earthquakes in states besides Oklahoma, the article notes the analysis of John Daly, an oil industry expert, who said to clients, "Potentially billions of dollars are involved, from profits to class action lawsuits...Given the stakes, Holland's research will be closely watched not only by Oklahoma's oil and gas industry but producers throughout the U.S. as well." Meanwhile, the article also notes how there are those in the industry, including Steve Everley of Energy in Depth, who are not disagreeing that the earthquakes may be connected with the land use.

Offshore Energy Development:

SENIOR HOUSE DEMOCRATS URGE REJECTION OF DISCLOSURE WAIVER IN US-MEXICO AGREEMENT . The E&E Daily (11/19) reports that "the top Democrats on three key House committees today urged Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) to remain steadfast in preventing legislation implementing an agreement clarifying offshore drilling rights in the Gulf of Mexico from becoming a vehicle to shield oil companies from having to disclose their payments to foreign governments." According to the article, "at issue are ongoing negotiations between the House and Senate to reconcile bills that passed the two chambers to implement the US-Mexico Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreement, which delineates each country's access rights in the Gulf." Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Eliot Engel (D-NY), who are "ranking members of the Natural Resources, Financial Services and Foreign Affairs committees, today wrote to Reid urging him to keep the Dodd-Frank waiver out of the law."

Also reporting on the story is the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/20, 194K).

BP LAUNCHES WEBSITE FOR DATA ON POST-SPILL INVESTIGATIONS. The E&E Daily (11/19) reports that "data gathered from the official environmental investigations of the impact of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill were made public yesterday in the first round of a series of releases." BP PLC announced the launch ofgulfsciencedata.bp.com, which will "become the home for the results of several scientific studies taken on the spill and its effects on the environment and ecology of the Gulf." The data is being published without interpretation.

Meanwhile, the E&E Daily (11/19) reports, BP "released some of the environmental data it is using while working on the Gulf of Mexico cleanup." According to Laura Folse, BP's executive vice president for response and environmental restoration, "the hope is the information 'will enhance Gulf-related scientific research and improve the public's understanding of the condition of the Gulf of Mexico.'"

BP ADDS TWO MORE RIGS TO GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM. The Oil and Gas Journal (11/20, 1K) reports that BP PLC has "added two more drilling rigs to its deepwater Gulf of Mexico fleet." BP said "it now accounts for a record nine rigs in the region." BP the company said "it expects to invest at least $4 billion/year in the gulf over the next decade, focusing on its major deepwater operated production hubs Thunder Horse, Mad Dog, Na Kika, and Atlantis, along with nonoperated production hubs Mars, Ursa, and Great White (OGJ Online, May 2, 2012)."

SENS. KIRK, CANTWELL PRAISED FOR EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE ARCTIC REFUGE. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/20, Shogan, 11.54M), Cindy Shogan, Executive director, Alaska Wilderness League, praises Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) for co-introducing S. 1695 which would designate the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain as Wilderness. According to Shogan, Cantwell and Kirk "recognize that some places are just too special to drill for oil, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge tops that list." Shogan thanks "the Senators for their longstanding efforts to defend the Arctic Refuge, and applaud them as they assume another level of leadership to protect this place once and for all."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CONTRA COSTA RESIDENTS' CONCERN GROWS OVER BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The Contra Costa (CA) Times (11/20, Burgarino, 302K) reports that "as the state prepares to unveil key environmental documents for Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to build two large tunnels to move Sacramento River water south, dozens of concerned East Contra Costans were brought up to speed last week on how it could impact their Delta backyard." The article notes that Brown's "$24.7 billion plan is widely opposed around the Delta communities, as opponents say the tunnels would reduce fresh water flows, endanger local fish and other habitat and put a sizable financial dent in local agriculture." According to the article, "most, if not all, of the 60 residents at Thursday's forum hosted by the Contra Costa Farm Bureau and Contra Costa Taxpayers Association, echoed those sentiments."

Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Redding (CA) Record Searchlight (11/20, 32K).

VISITORS TO HOOVER DAM DROP. CBS (11/19, 3.87M) reports that fewer people are officially visiting Hoover Dam. Officials say the number of people "taking paid tours of the historic site dropped from 823,000 in 2011 to 755,000 in 2012 and are trending down in 2013." Rose Davis, spokesperson for the BOR said she doesn't believe the opening of the Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge is a factor, but that "it's more likely the overall down economy of the past few years."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WORKER INJURED IN FIRE AT GRAND COULEE DAM. Additional coverage of the fire at Grand Coulee Dam was provided by the Wenatchee (WA) World (11/19, 60K), the Columbia Basin (WA) Herald (11/20, 26K), and the Star of Grand Coulee (WA) (11/13, 169).

CLIMATE CHANGE POSES CHALLENGES FOR WATER MANAGEMENT. For the High Country (CO) News (11/20, Thompson, 74K), Jonathan Thompson writes that the Glen Canyon Dam "can't completely fix the arid truth any more than water managers' prayers for more rain and snow next year." He notes that "we're now 14 years into the current drought, the driest 14 years of the past century." Thompson concludes that "the West's biggest plumbing system is in danger of running on empty, and there's little our monumental dams can do about

it."

In her column for the Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (11/20, Holm, 27K), Hannah Holm writes that questions related to changing natural and human conditions in were discussed at the third annual Upper Colorado River Basin Water Conference at Colorado Mesa University Nov. 6-7. Presentations from the conference are available on the web at www.coloradomesa.edu/watercenter/UpperColoradoRiverBasinWaterForum. she notes that "the weather influencing our environment, and the people who inhabit and rely on it, just aren't behaving the way they did 50-100 years ago, or even 20-30 years ago." And "while conditions are changing, the legal apparatus and much of the infrastructure we use to manage water are old."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA WON'T PICK SIDES IN BLACKFEET DISPUTE. The AP (11/20) reports that the BIA "says it is not picking sides in a Blackfeet Tribal Business Council dispute that has lasted more than a month and left the tribe without a functioning government or the ability to pay its bills." BIA spokeswoman Nedra Darling said, "We believe the solutions must come from the Council itself. We still give great weight to the (Council) in working through these impasse problems themselves. We have and continue to offer mediation services to help resolve the impasse."

Also covering the story are the Columbus (IN) Republic (11/20, 80K) and KECI-TV Missoula, MT (11/20, 2K).

SPIRIT LAKE HOLDS CHILD WELFARE MEETING. The Grand Forks (ND) Herald (11/20, 87K) reports that Spirit Lake held a child welfare meeting. Tribal Chairman Russ McDonald said "coming together is the first step to keeping kids safe on the reservation." Bruce Loudermilk, regional director for the BIA, said, "We've been working very well together. We have monthly coalition meetings. This meeting that we're having right now is a clear cut example of everybody's willingness to come together."

Top National News:

ADMINISTRATION HEDGES ON NOV. 30 GOAL AS MORE ACA PROBLEMS COME TO LIGHT. On Tuesday, the White House acknowledged that President Obama was aware of a March report warning about problems likely to hamper HealthCare.gov as it went live. Also on Tuesday, Administration officials and outside cybersecurity experts testified that the site is far from complete and vulnerable to hackers. These developments shifted some of the media focus away from the ongoing controversy over Americans who are losing their health insurance as a result of the ACA, and back to the technical problems that initially drove the ACA rollout story starting in the middle of last month.

The new revelations about the ACA's tech challenges were the subject of the lead story on the CBS Evening News (11/19, lead story, 2:30, Pelley, 5.58M), but the other two network newscasts did not include any mention of the various aspects of the healthcare reform story. ABC World News (11/19, story 5, 1:05, Muir, 7.43M) did have a report on what Diane Sawyer called a "brand new ABC News poll," which was actually the Washington Post-ABC News poll that was released on Monday. Sawyer reported that the President's approval rating is "at an all time low," and Jonathan Karl said, "clearly the Obamacare troubles are the biggest factor." Karl noted that "for the first time...the majority say they have an unfavorable view of Obama personally," and when "asked if Obama was 'honest and trustworthy,' for the first time a majority say 'no.'"

Many reports last night and this morning draw attention to the Administration's claims – cast as seemingly contradictory – about the likely state of progress at the end of this month, when the President has said HealthCare.gov "will be functioning for the majority of people who are using it." CMS's Henry Chao, described by the New York Times (11/20, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) as "the chief digital architect for the federal health insurance marketplace," declined to second that prediction at a House hearing on Tuesday, and the AP (11/20, Kennedy) reports that, also on Tuesday, HHS Secretary Sebelius "appear[ed] to soften [Obama's] promise that the site will be working by then for the vast majority of users."

Scott Pelley, at the opening of the CBS Evening News (11/19, lead story, 2:30, Pelley, 5.58M), reported that "it turns out someone did," in fact, "warn the President" about HealthCare.gov's "many problems." Pelley said that on Tuesday, the White House "acknowledged...that Administration officials, including President Obama, were

briefed on a consultant's report six months before HealthCare.gov went online, a report that said problems were coming." Nancy Cordes went on to report that while the Administration says "they took this report's warnings into account and made changes," Republicans "argue that its very existence cast doubt on claims by the President on down that they were caught by surprise by the website's flaws."

Also on the CBS Evening News (11/19, story 2, 1:00, Pelley, 5.58M), Major Garrett reported that the President "was briefed in early April on the outside report predicting big problems for the website." According to Garrett, "this is clearly a story where the President was briefed on problems, but thought they were small enough [that] they could be addressed and...overlooked these design flaw predictions." Fox News' Special Report (11/19, 2.15M) also covered the revelations about the consultant's analysis in its lead story.

The Washington Post (11/20, Rucker, Somashekhar, 4.28M) reports that on Tuesday, White House press secretary Jay Carney responded to questions about the March McKinsey & Co report, saying, "Flags were raised throughout the development of the Web site, as would be the case for any IT project of this size and complexity. ... But nobody anticipated the size and scope of the problems we experienced once the site was launched, as we've discussed repeatedly."

According to Politico (11/20, Meyers, 467K), the McKinsey report "described a process that relied too heavily on outsider contractors, didn't provide enough time for complete testing and failed to hand authority to one decision maker. Chao's limited knowledge of the report feeds lawmaker frustrations with the site's fractured management and unclear controls." Linda Feldmann, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (11/20, 540K), reports that the White House and CMS "strongly defend the administration's response to the McKinsey report at the time," which they say "was not a technical review of the website's functionality."

Politico (11/20, Epstein, 467K) reported that in an appearance at the Wall Street Journal CEO Council on Tuesday, President Obama said that in regards to the ACA, "I am confident that the model that we built...is one that will succeed," but "we obviously are going to have remarket and rebrand, and that will be challenging in this political environment." The President also said his Administration "probably could have identified earlier the way the federal government does procurement and does IT just generally is not very efficient." The President also remarked that "there's probably no bigger gap between the public sector and the private sector than IT."

The Washington Post (11/20, Rucker, Somashekhar, 4.28M) reports that on Tuesday at the Wall Street Journal event, the President also "sought to redirect some of the political blame for the botched rollout of the federal health insurance exchange to Republicans, characterizing GOP lawmakers as rooting for the law's failure." The President said, "One of the problems we've had is one side of Capitol Hill is invested in failure."

The Miami Herald (11/20, Chang, 806K) reports that in Miami on Tuesday, HHS Secretary Sebelius "vowed to finish the job of repairing the federally-run healthcare.gov website but also tried to refocus the discussion on Medicaid expansion – pushing back on weeks of withering criticism." According to the Herald, Sebelius "acknowledged that the Obama administration's testing of the website in the months prior to the troubled launch 'was not sufficient.'"

The AP (11/20, Kennedy) reports that also on Tuesday, Sebelius, "appearing to soften a promise that the site will be working by then for the vast majority of users," said HealthCare.gov "will still be a work in progress beyond the end of the month." Sebelius is quoted as saying, "The 30th of November is not a magic go, no go date. It is a work of constant improvement. We have some very specific things we know we need to complete by the 30th and that punch list is getting knocked out every week."

Reuters (11/20, Liston) reports that Sebelius also had some positive comments on the progress that is being made. Sebelius said, "It is far faster than it was when we first opened. The error rate is down to less than one percent and the volume capacity is continuing to be added to."

The Wall Street Journal (11/20, Dooren, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that when asked at a House hearing if he agrees with President Obama when he said on Tuesday that, "by the end of this month," HealthCare.gov "will be functioning for the majority of people who are using it," CMS's Chao said, "There's still a lot of moving parts. It wouldn't be prudent to give 100% guarantees about where we are going to be, but I think we are on the right track."

Politico (11/20, Everett, Kim, 467K) reports that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is under pressure from vulnerable members of his caucus to allow votes on legislation that would allow Americans to retain health insurance policies that have been canceled due to ACA rules if they so choose, but that Reid "isn't ready to act just yet." According to Politico, Reid is waiting to see the enrollment numbers for this month, and is also "assessing how Obama's proposed administrative fix to allow individuals to keep canceled insurance plans for one year plays in GOP-friendly states like Louisiana, Arkansas and North Carolina." Politico says Reid's "hope is that the fix may blunt a recent nose dive in public approval of Obamacare." However, Politico adds that "if it's clear vulnerable Democrats need cover from the health reform program's rough launch, the party will try to coalesce around one of the many bills...submitted by Democrats to alter various portions of the law," although the White House has urged them not to.

CMS's Chao Says 30-40% Of HealthCare.gov Has Yet To Be Built. Politico (11/20, Meyers, 467K) reports that at a House hearing, CMS's Chao "acknowledged Tuesday that up to 40 percent of IT systems supporting the exchange still need to be built." Chao is quoted as saying, "It's not that it's not working. It's still being developed and tested."

Under the headline, "Health Insurance Marketplace Is Still About 40 Percent Incomplete, Official Says," the New York Times (11/20, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Chao, described as "the chief digital architect for the federal health insurance marketplace," estimated "that 30 percent to 40 percent of the project was still being built." According to the Times, House members at the hearing "expressed surprise that so much work remained to be done seven weeks after the federal website opened to the public." The Times notes that Chao "said the government was still working on 'back office systems,' including those needed to pay insurance companies." Chao testified: "We still have to build the financial management aspects of the system, which includes our accounting system and payment system and reconciliation system."

Jim Geraghty, in a piece for The National Review (11/20, Geraghty, 290K), noted that when Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO) "ask[ed] Chao what percentage of the system remains to be built," Chao answered, "I think it's, uh, just an approximation, we're probably sitting somewhere between 60 and 70 percent...because we still have to build the payment systems to make payments to issuers in January. ... There's the back-office systems, the accounting systems, the payment systems, they still need be built."

The Hill (11/20, Hattem, 194K) said "Chao's comments...are sure to disappoint Democrats who had hoped the enrollment system would be in tip-top shape by" the end of the month. However, the Hill also reports that CMS spokeswoman Julie Bataille maintains that the functions that have yet to be built are "not anything that is necessary in order for consumers to make a payment because that is something that they do outside of the marketplace, directly to issuers." According to Bataille, "Those back-end systems did not need to be up and running 'until about the middle of January.'"

Cybersecurity Experts Testify That HealthCare.gov Is Not Secure And Ought To Be Shut Down. In the lead segment for the CBS Evening News (11/19, lead story, 2:30, Pelley, 5.58M), Nancy Cordes reported that at a House hearing Tuesday, "a panel of security experts called" HealthCare.gov's "safety measures flimsy and ill constructed." Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY) was shown asking the witnesses, "Do any of you today think today the site is secure?" and all four "security experts" were shown responding, "no." In the lead story for Fox News' Special Report (11/20, 2.15M), Bret Baier described HealthCare.gov as a "goldmine for hackers."

The Christian Science Monitor (11/20, Clayton, 540K) reports that Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) asked the witnesses: "How can the public trust a hastily thrown together system in which meeting a deadline was more important for the administration than conducting complete end-to-end testing of the site's security?"

Under the headline, "Some Cyber Security Experts Recommend Shutting Obamacare Site," Reuters (11/20, Finkle, Selyukh) reports that three of the four witnesses at the House of Representatives Science, Space and Technology Committee hearing responded "yes," when asked by Collins, "Would you recommend today that this site be shut down?" Reuters adds that the one witness who did not advocate shutting down HealthCare.gov nevertheless said afterwards that he would not use the site himself on account of all of its security flaws.

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (11/20, Milbank, 4.28M), alleges that Republican efforts to

draw attention to HealthCare.gov's security flaws are "sabotage, plain and simple." According to Milbank, Republicans believe that "if they can frighten young and healthy people from joining the health-care exchanges, the exchanges will become expensive and unmanageable."

CMS Reportedly Set To Allow Direct Enrollment Via Insurers. The Huffington Post (11/20, Young, 11.54M) reports that those "interested in buying health insurance under Obamacare could soon skip the HealthCare.gov website and apply for coverage and financial assistance directly with private insurance companies." According to the Huffington Post, CMS "is close to providing insurers with the technological capability to also take subsidy applications, as well as sell plans to customers."

Insurer's CEO: "Anemic" ACA Enrollment Volume Doesn't Justify Marketing At This Point. The Wall Street Journal (11/20, Murray, 5.91M) reports that WellPoint CEO Joseph Swedish, during the same Wall Street Journal event that the President spoke at on Tuesday, described HealthCare.gov enrollment as "anemic," and added, "I'll be very candid, we have pulled back from marketing, not knowing how to get people enrolled at the moment."

Woman Obama Touted As ACA Success Story Was Misled And Still Can't Afford Coverage. On Fox News' Special Report (11/19, 2.15M), Ed Henry reported that "the President's credibility is...on the line over a letter he read on October 21 from a single mom, Jessica Sanford, that he used to claim that the new law is working." President Obama was shown reading from Sanford's letter in a Rose garden ceremony, and then Henry added that Sanford "now says the tax credit was reduced so the coverage is too expensive."

CNN (11/20, Acosta, 14.53M) reports that Sanford received letters from Washington state telling her that she did not actually qualify for any Federal subsidy. Sanford told CNN: "I had a good cry. ... This is it. I'm not getting insurance." The Daily Caller (11/20, Hurtubise, 422K) also covered Sanford's plight.

Obama No Longer Using The Term "Obamacare," Although He Embraced It Last Year. Politico (11/20, Epstein, 467K) reports that while the President "once embraced the term Obamacare to sell the American people on health care reform," that is no longer the case. According to Politico, the President "didn't say 'Obamacare' once during his nearly hourlong news conference last week," but "referred to the 'Affordable Care Act' a dozen times," and "White House talking points distributed to Democrats...repeatedly refer to the Affordable Care Act in suggested sound bites, not Obamacare." Politico notes that while campaigning last year, the President said, "We passed Obamacare — yes, I like the term — we passed it because I do care."

PRESIDENT BACKS PIECEMEAL APPROACH TO IMMIGRATION REFORM. The Wall Street Journal (11/20, A1, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports on its front page this morning that the President said on Tuesday that he would be willing to accept the passage of immigration reform on a piece-by-piece basis. At a Wall Street Journal event, the President said, "If they want to chop that thing up into five pieces, as long as all five pieces get done, I don't care what it looks like. What we don't want to do is simply carve out one piece of it...but leave behind some of the tougher stuff that still needs to get done." The President also said that he expects reform to pass by the end of the year.

AFP (11/20) reports the President previously called on House Republicans to act on the single comprehensive bill passed by the Senate, "but the legislation's prospects have dimmed." However, Obama said that "any measures passed must include better enforcement of US borders, a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants who pay a fine, and should also tackle the limbo status of the children" brought to the US by parents who are in the country illegally.

Ryan Says House To Pursue Piecemeal Approach. The Wall Street Journal (11/20, Paletta, 5.91M) reports that House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan said that House GOP leaders would likely move immigration reform on a piecemeal basis, probably starting early next year. Ryan, speaking at the same conference as the President, said that there wasn't time to push the Senate bill through the House this year.

Biden Announces Easing Of Immigration Rules For Panamanians. The Washington Times (11/20, Boyer, 417K) reports that Vice President Biden announced in a visit to Panama that the Administration is "easing" immigration rules for Panamanians traveling to the US. Biden "said Panama will be the newest member of the U.S. Global Entry program, which allows travelers to be prescreened in their country of origin and to avoid long

immigration lines in the U.S."

WPost Calls On Boehner To Push Immigration Reform. In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/20, 4.28M) says that House Speaker Boehner needs to act on immigration reform immediately. The Post says that the House "can't dictate that only border security and deportation are on the table," and adds that Boehner shouldn't try to "tell the Senate what it can and cannot bring to the table in negotiations with the House."

Schakowsky To Join Activist Fasters For A Day. Politico (11/20, Kim, 467K) reports that several immigration activists have been fasting on the Mall for more than a week, and now Rep. Jen Schakowsky (D) says that she'll join them "for one day to mark solidarity." Schakowsky said, "I'm so inspired by the fasters and...how they're willing to put their bodies on the lines, their health on the line to raise attention to an issue that is really tearing at the fabric of our country."

Protesters Look To Block Deportations In Atlanta, Chicago. The Washington Times (11/20, Dinan, 417K) reports that "illegal immigrants blockaded" a Federal office in Atlanta that handles deportations on Tuesday morning, while in Chicago, a "group of 12 illegal immigrants" chained themselves to the wheels of a bus they believed was to be used to deport people. The Times says that the moves "mark the latest escalation" of a campaign by activists to press the President to "use his executive authority to stop almost all deportations."

OBAMA ANNOUNCES GRANT COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. Politico (11/20, Severns, 467K) reports that the President announced a new competitive grant program on Tuesday, "designed to better prepare high school students for high-tech careers," but it received a "chilly reception from some lawmakers and education groups." Youth CareerConnect "will deliver 25 to 40 competitive grants of $2 million to $7 million to teams of secondary schools and higher education institutions that build programs" to prepare students for jobs. The President said, "We know what the challenges are, we know what the solutions are. What's holding us back is not a lack of policy ideas."

NYTimes Says Common Core Shows Promise. The New York Times (11/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that the improved student test scores in DC and Tennessee, two early adopters of the Common Core standards, show the promise of the reform. The Times says that the progress "shows that improvement is possible if the states strengthen their resolve and apply solutions that have been shown to work."

Kerrey, Leeds Criticize Gainful Employment Regulations. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (11/20, Kerrey, Leeds, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), former Sen. Bob Kerrey (D) and Jeffrey T. Leeds, president of Leeds Equity Partners, write that Education Secretary Arne Duncan this month proposed Gainful Employment rules that allow the Federal government to cut off student aid to colleges whose graduates don't find good jobs. The pair calls the regulations a bad idea, and, comparing them to Obamacare, say that the poor design and unintended consequences will ensure that the program is a failure.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Vladimir Putin Clings To The Past."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (11/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says Russian President Vladimir Putin is "doing everything he can" to prevent the former Soviet Republics from "developing closer ties with Europe — even threatening to cut off the gas that one country needs to get through the winter." Putin, says the Post, "seems to long for a return to the days when an iron curtain divided the Continent, darkening the horizons of the satellites and Soviet republics to the east — nations that now seek the enjoy more fully the fruits of independence."

"Advertisements For The Common Core." The New York Times (11/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that the improved student test scores in DC and Tennessee, two early adopters of the Common Core standards, show the promise of the reform. The Times says that the progress "shows that improvement is possible if the states strengthen their resolve and apply solutions that have been shown to work."

"The Expiring Ban On Plastic Guns." The New York Times (11/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that Congress should renew a law that bans guns made of parts undetectable by metal detectors and X-ray machines. The article notes that since the last renewal in 2003, plastic guns made with 3-D printing

technology and capable of lethal firepower have become reality. Democratic Congressmen are working on updated renewal measures, but the bill should receive bipartisan support.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A New Middle East Threat."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (11/20, 4.28M) urges Saudi Arabia to be transparent about its outbreak of Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS. The Post notes that the behavior of the virus "is a matter of concern to the world," and there are "rumblings of worry among public health experts about the lack of good research coming from Saudi Arabia, with its traditions of isolation and opacity." Noting that the virus "could mutate and pose a threat far beyond the Middle East," the Post says that before the occurs, Saudi Arabia should "do everything it can to make sure the world's wisdom and experience are brought to bear on this spiky blob."

"The Flawed D.C. Voucher Program." The Washington Post (11/20, 4.28M) editorializes that the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corp. has been faulted for "poor administration of the D.C. school voucher program" by the Government Accountability Office, and the DC Council should conduct its own inquiry into the organization. The GAO noted that the organization "does not effectively oversee participating schools, has not implemented effective policies and procedures, and is unable to efficiently manage day-to-day program operations," including timely filing of financial reports. The organization's executive director, Ed Davies, claims that it "inherited" many problems from the voucher program's previous administrators.

"Immigration Procrastination." In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/20, 4.28M) says that House Speaker Boehner needs to act on immigration reform immediately. The Post says that the House "can't dictate that only border security and deportation are on the table," and adds that Boehner shouldn't try to "tell the Senate what it can and cannot bring to the table in negotiations with the House."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"J.P. Morgan And Its 'Victims.'"*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) contends that the Justice Department's settlement with JPMorgan Chase is illogical, overly diffuse, and unfair to the bank.

"Enabling Bashar." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that the President's success at disarming Syria of its chemical weapons has been overstated because even as President Bashar Assad claims to be handing over Syria's entire chemical arsenal for destruction, US intelligence believes he is hiding weapons from inspectors, and even if he is handing over his entire arsenal, he can easily purchase more from North Korea. The Journal adds that if it is becoming less likely that Assad will be driven from power because as long as the goal of US policy is to rid Assad of his chemical weapons rather than to unseat him, Assad must remain in power to hand over the weapons. This, in turn, gives Assad an incentive to extend the process while his forces make gains against the rebels.

"Arizona's Solar Flare-Up." The Wall Street Journal (11/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that opposition to Arizona utility administrators' attempts to reform its net metering program for solar power users sets a bad precedent for similar changes contemplated in other states. The article characterizes the net metering program as a form of corporate welfare for solar-leasing companies that unfairly burdens poor and middle-class users of the state's power grid. However, solar companies used former Obama campaign advisers and organizations to mount a public relations campaign to pressure the state utility commission to a weak compromise.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Obama Backs Piecemeal Immigration Overhaul
Meet the Syrian Rebel Commander Assad, Russia And The US All Fear
JPMorgan Is Haunted By A 2006 Decision On Mortgages
New Tech Worries Loom For Health Law

New York Times:

Perks Ease Way In Health Plans For Lawmakers
Afghans Demand That US Admit Military Errors
In Places Like North St. Louis, Gunfire Still Rules The Night
Beirut Bombs Strike At Iran As Assad's Ally
Family's Tenacity And Wealth Put Skakel At Cusp Of Freedom
In Extracting Deal From JPMorgan, US Aimed For Bottom Line

Washington Post:
O Street Market: Symbol of Violence Becomes A Marker For D.C.'s Resurgence
Virginia's Deeds Stabbed In Home
Vote On Iran Sanctions Put Off As Talks Resume
Maryland Struggling With Online Insurance Exchange
With Letter, US Seeks To Clear Hurdle In Afghan Deal

Financial Times:
US Funds Place Big Vets On Euro Bank Recovery
JPMorgan Agrees $13Bn Settlement
Democrats Eye Tax On US Groups' Overseas Cash
Best Buy Plans Aggressive Price Cuts
US Regulators Probe Tesla Car Fires
Devon Nears $6Bn Deal For GeoSouthern
Hong Kong's Gears Grind Slowly
Beirut Blasts Leave 23 Dead

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Virginia-State Senator Attacked; Florida-Zimmerman Arrest; JPMorgan Settlement; Iranian Embassy Bombing; Obama Approval Rating; Pilot Obesity Risks; Insomnia Link To Depression; JFK Conspiracy Theory.
CBS: ACA Website Issues; ACA Website-White House; JP Morgan Settlement; SCOTUS-Texas Abortion Restrictions; Lebanon-Iranian Embassy Bombing; Midwest-Tornado Warnings; Tesla-Model S Issues; Florida Congressman-Drug Charges; Virginia-State Senator Attacked; Florida-Zimmerman Arrest; Gettysburg Address Anniversary.
NBC: JPMorgan Settlement; Afghanistan-US Troop Agreement; Lebanon-Iranian Embassy Bombings; FAA-Automation Report; Midwest Tornadoes; Philippines-Typhoon Recover; Kennedy Assassination; Presidents-Gettysburg Address; Florida Congressman-Drug Charges; Ambassador Kennedy Begins Service.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: SCOTUS-Texas Abortion Restrictions; JPMorgan Settlement; New Jersey-Waitress Incident; People Magazine-Adam Levine.
CBS: ACA Website Issues; ACA-Congressional Hearings; Iran-Nuclear Talks; SCOTUS-Texas Abortion Restrictions; New York-Tobacco Use Measure.
NPR: JPMorgan Settlement; SCOTUS-Texas Abortion Restrictions; Virginia-State Senator Attacked; Midwest-Severe Weather Damage; Wall Street; New Jersey- William Potts Arrested; Diane Disney Miller Obit; NASA-Wallops Rocket Launch.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA- Awards the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor, to former President Bill Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, former Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradlee, singer Loretta Lynn, women's rights activist Gloria Steinem, baseball Hall of Famer Ernie Banks and others.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN- No Scheduled Events

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA- will join the President as he awards the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

US Senate:9:30 a.m. JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE — Joint Conference Committee meeting of conferees on H.R.3080, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW), will convene the opening meeting of the House and Senate conferees on water resources legislation. In May, the Senate passed S. 601, the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) by a vote of 83 to 14. The House of Representatives passed H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) in October with a vote of 417 to 3. Senator Boxer will serve as the Chair of the Senate-House conference which will reconcile the two versions of water resources legislation.

11 a.m. GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY – NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS — Leaders of the U.S. House and Senate will award the Congressional Gold Medal to Native American code talkers as an expression of the nation's profound gratitude for their valor and dedication during World War I and World War II. Participants: Speaker of the House John Boehner ; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Members of Congress; Admiral James A. "Sandy" Winnefeld Jr., Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Native American Code Talkers & Invited Guests. CONTACT: Kevin Smith, Michael Steel, Brendan Buck, 202-225-0600.11:12 a.m. – 11:18 a.m. 11:12 a.m. Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK); 11:14 a.m. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI); 11:16 a.m. Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD); 11:18 a.m. Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK).11:22 a.m. 11:22 a.m. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; 11:24 a.m. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; 11:26 a.m. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. 11:28 a.m. Introduction of Medal Presentation: Speaker John Boehner 11:30 a.m. Presentation of the Congressional Gold Medals (Media escorted to stage: Photo of Medal Presentation with: All Tribal Representatives (33); House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; Speaker John Boehner. 11:40 a.m. Remarks: Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Location: Emancipation Hall, United States Capitol Visitor Center.

11 a.m. EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION — News Conference with Rep. Levin, Sen. Jack Reed et al introduce Emergency Unemployment Compensation Legislation (access thru HVC 117). Participants: Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI); Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX); Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA); Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD); Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA); Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI); Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). Location: HVC-117 House Radio-TV Gallery (Studio A).

FLOOR SCHEDULE 9:30 a.m. — The Senate will convene and begin a period of morning business. Thereafter, resume consideration of S.1197, the National Defense Authorization Act.

10 a.m. FINANCE — Hearings to examine the nominations of Sarah Bloom Raskin, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, and Rhonda K. Schmidtlein, of Missouri, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission. Location: 215 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging hearings to examine health relating to social and economic status. Panel I: Steven Woolf, MD, MPH , Director of the Center on Society and Health and Professor of Family Medicine and Population Health, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA; Lisa Berkman, PhD , Director of the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies and Thomas D. Cabot Professor of Public Policy and Epidemiology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; Nicholas Eberstadt, PhD, MPA, MSc , Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy, American Enterprise Institute; David Kindig, MD, PhD , Emeritus Professor of Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI; Sabrina Shrader , Athens, WV; Michael Reisch, PhD, MSW , Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD . Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Business meeting to consider S.1486, to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service, and the nomination of Jeh Charles Johnson, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of Homeland Security. Location: 342 Dirksen.

10 a.m. SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP — Hearings to examine Affordable Care Act implementation, focusing on how to achieve a successful rollout of the small business exchanges. Location: 428 Russell.

2 p.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection hearings to examine regulating financial holding companies and physical commodities. Location: G50 Dirksen.

2 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce hearings to examine the national security workforce. Witnesses: Brian A. Prioletti, Assistant Director, Special Security Directorate, National Counterintelligence Executive, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Tim Curry, Deputy Associate Director for Partnership and Labor Relations, Office of Personnel Management; Brenda Farrell, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, U.S. Government Accountability Office; David Borer, General Counsel, The American Federation of Government Employees; Angela Canterbury, Director of Public Policy, Project on Government Oversight. Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Hearings to examine soldiers as consumers, focusing on business practices relating to the military community. Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs hearings to examine rebalance to Asia IV, focusing on economic engagement in the Asia-Pacific region. Witnesses: Panel One: Scot Marciel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State; John Andersen. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Global Markets, International Trade Administration. U.S, Department of Commerce. Panel Two: Matthew P. Goodman, William E. Simon Chair in Political Economy, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Walter Lohman, Director, Asian Studies Center, Heritage Foundation. Location: 419 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS — An oversight hearing to examine Carcieri, focusing on bringing certainty to trust land acquisitions. Location: 628 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. JUDICIARY — Hearings to examine certain nominations. Location: 226 Dirksen.

3:30 p.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — Public Lands, Forests and Mining subcommittee hearing on PUBLIC Misc. Public Lands Bills. Location: 366 Dirksen.

US House: 9:30 a.m. JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE — Joint Conference Committee meeting of conferees on H.R.3080, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW), will convene the opening meeting of the House and Senate conferees on water resources legislation. In May, the Senate passed S. 601, the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) by a vote of 83 to 14. The House of Representatives passed H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) in October with a vote of 417 to 3. Senator Boxer will serve as the Chair of the Senate-House conference which will reconcile the two versions of water resources legislation.

9 a.m. US-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION — U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission releases its Annual Report to Congress. Location: 2212 Raybum.

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. ITIF – NEXT-GEN DATA CENTERS — Next-Gen Data Centers: Bringing Energy Efficiency to Government. Speakers include Rep. Eshoo; others. Location: 122 Cannon.

11 a.m. GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY – NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS — Leaders of the U.S. House and Senate will award the Congressional Gold Medal to Native American code talkers as an expression of the nation's profound gratitude for their valor and dedication during World War I and World War II. Participants: Speaker of the House John Boehner ; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Members of Congress; Admiral James A. "Sandy" Winnefeld Jr., Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Native American Code Talkers & Invited Guests. 11:12 a.m. – 11:18 a.m. 11:12 a.m. Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK); 11:14 a.m. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI); 11:16 a.m. Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD); 11:18 a.m. Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK).11:22 a.m. 11:22 a.m. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; 11:24 a.m. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; 11:26 a.m. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. 11:28 a.m. Introduction of Medal Presentation: Speaker John Boehner 11:30 a.m. Presentation of the

Congressional Gold Medals (Media escorted to stage: Photo of Medal Presentation with: All Tribal Representatives (33); House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; Speaker John Boehner. 11:40 a.m. Remarks: Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Location: Emancipation Hall, United States Capitol Visitor Center. Notes: Press pre-set begins at 6:45 a.m. with sweep at 7:30 a.m. Prelude at 10:35; Offical procession 11:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. ENERGY EFFICIENCY LUNCHEON BRIEFING — The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) hosts a briefing in coordination with the House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus on the "best energy source of all: energy efficiency". Speakers: Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO), Introductory Remarks. Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT), Introductory Remarks. Ross E. Eisenberg, Vice President, Energy & Resources Policy, National Association of Manufacturers; Paul Hamilton, Vice-President, Government Affairs, Schneider Electric ; Maria Kingery, Co-founder and CEO, Southern Energy Management Company.

2:30 p.m. CAMPUS FIRES — 80 students from South Lakes High School (Fairfax County Public Schools) are taking their message of "Campus Fire Safety to Capitol Hill, asking for Congressional support for H.R." 1609/ S. 750 – the Campus Fire Safety Education Act of 2013. Following the lobby visits, the students will hold a spirited rally and press conference on the West Front (grassy area) of the U.S. Capitol Building 2:30 p.m. Expected speakers include: U.S. Rep Bill Pascrell, a campus fire survivor and a representative from International Association of Fire Chiefs Location: West Front, U.S. Capitol.

2:30 p.m. RALLY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS — Advocates will take to Capitol Hill this Wednesday to urge Congressional action as a key commission examines the issue of violence against women and girls – the Tom Lantos Commission on Human Rights Hearing on Gender-Based Violence. Participants: Catherine Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Womens Issues, Department of State; Guerda Lexima-Constant, Executive Director, Fondayson Limyi Lavi (Haiti); Ravi Kant, President, Shakti Vahini (India); Carla Koppell, Chief Strategy Officer, USAID; Francisca Vigaud-Walsh, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, Women's Protection and Empowerment Unit, International Rescue Committee (IRC); Cristina Finch, Managing Director, Womens Human Rights Program, Amnesty International USA.

4 p.m. HASTINGS – THE LIST SCREENING — Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL) will host a Film Screening of the documentary The List with Kirk Johnson, founder of the List Project, and film director Beth Murphy. Beginning in 2007, Kirk, a former employee of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) mission in Iraq, began keeping track of the names of U.S.-affiliated Iraqis he met that were in need of Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs). Location: 2168 Rayburn.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. — The House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. H.R. 2728 – Protecting States Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act, Rules Committee Print (Subject to a Rule)

9:30 a.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS — Full committee Markup of Draft Legislation to be entitled 'Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act of 2013. Location: 334 Cannon.

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Full committee hearing on 2013 Report to Congress of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Witnesses: Carolyn Bartholomew, Commissioner, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission; William A. Reinsch, Chairman, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission; Dennis C. Shea , Vice Chairman, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission; Dr. Larry M. Wortzel , Commissioner, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — "Redefining Companion Care: Jeopardizing Access to Affordable Care for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities".

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Energy and Power Subc. Markup of H.R. 3301 – North American Energy Infrastructure Act. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Full Committee. Markup of H.R. 2385 – CFPB Pay Fairness Act of 2013, H.R. 2446 – Responsible Consumer Financial Protection Regulations Act of 2013, H.R. 2571 – Consumer Right

to Financial Privacy Act of 2013, H.R. 3183 – To provide consumers with a free annual disclosure of information the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection maintains on them, H.R. 3193 – Consumer Financial Protection Safety and Soundness Improvement Act of 2013, and H.R. 3519 – Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Accountability and Transparency Act of 2013. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Markup: H. Res. 147, Calling for the release of United States citizen Saeed Abedini and condemning the Government of Iran for its persecution of religious minorities; and H. Res. 402, Supporting the European aspirations of the peoples of the European Union's Eastern Partnership countries, and for other purposes; H.R. 1992, Israel Qualitative Military Edge Enhancement Act; H.R. 3470, The Naval Vessel Transfer and Arms Export Control Amendments Act of 2013; and H.R. 3509, Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2013; including Resolution Expressing Condolences and Support for Assistance to the Victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Hearing of "Abuse of Overtime at DHS: Padding Paychecks and Pensions at Taxpayer Expense." Witnesses: John Florence Branch Chief, Use of Force Policy Division, Field Operations Academy, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Carolyn N. Lerner, Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel; Catherine V. Emerson, Chief Human Capital Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Ronald Vitiello, Deputy Chief, Office of Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Brandon Judd, President, National Border Patrol Council, American Federation of Government Employees. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY — Subcommittee on Space hearing on Commercial Space. Panel I: Kevin McCarthy, Member, Majority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives. Panel II: Patricia Cooper, President, Satellite Industry Association; Stuart Witt, CEO and General Manager, Mojave Air and Space Port; Dennis Tito, Chairman, Inspiration Mars Foundation. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS — Full committee hearing on "Building VAs Future: Confronting Persistent Challenges in VA Major Construction and Lease Programs." Http://veterans.house.gov/markup/markup-of-hr-1402-draft-legislation-entitled-'department-of-veterans-affairs-major-medical Location: 334 Cannon.

10:30 a.m. HOUSE ADMINISTRATION — Full committee hearing on Military and Overseas Voting in 2012. Witnesses: Ross Miller, Secretary of State, Nevada; Matt Boehmer, Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program. Location: 1310 Longworth.

11:15 a.m. JUDICIARY — Full Committee. Markup of H.R. 3309 – To amend title 35, U.S. Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections. Location: 2141 Raybum.

11:30 a.m. HOUSE ADMINISTRATION — Full Committee. Markup of a committee resolution regarding the House Academic Competition and on reviewing military and overseas voting in 2012. Location: 1310 Rayburn.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Full Committee hearing The Startup Movement. Witness: Adam Arredondo, Co-Leader, Kansas City Startup Village, Kansas City, KS; Allison Lami Sawyer, CEO and Founder, Rebellion Phononics, Houston, TX; Jeff Reid, Founding Director of the Georgetown Entrepreneurship Initiative, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, Washington, DC; Anton Gelman, CEO, Cont3nt, Dulles, VA. Location: 2360 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Hearing on Terrorist Groups in Syria. Witnesses: Brian Michael Jenkins, Senior Adviser to the President, RAND Corporation; Phillip Smyth, Middle East Research Analyst, University of Maryland; Barak Barfi, Research Fellow, The New America Foundation; Andrew J. Tabler, Senior Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. 2200 Rayburn.

2 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Military Personnel Military Resale Programs Overview. Witnesses: Witnesses: Rear Admiral Lower Half Robert J. Bianchi (ret), Chief Executive Officer, Navy Exchange Service Command; William C Dillion, Director, Semper Fit and Exchange Services U.S. Marine Corps; Thomas T. Gordy, President, Armed Forces Marketing Council; Joseph H. Jeu, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Defense Commissary Agency; Patrick B. Nixon, President, American Logistics Association; Thomas C. Shull, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Army and Air Force Exchange Service; Rosemary Freitas Williams, Deputy

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, Department. Location: 2212 Rayburn.

2 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Examining Public Health Legislation to Help Local Communities. To provide for the establishment of the Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee, H.R. 669 – To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, H.R. 1098 – To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research, H.R. 2703 – To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act, H.R. 1281 – To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, H.R. ___ – To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and H.R. ___ – To amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 399O of the Public Health Service Act. Dept. and public witnesses. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific hearing: Bangladesh in Turmoil: A Nation on the Brink? Witnesses: Ali Riaz, Ph.D., Public Policy Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center; Maj. General A.M.N. Muniruzzaman, President, Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies; John Sifton, Asia Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch. Http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-bangladesh-turmoil-nation-brink Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Hearing: Terrorist Groups in Syria. Witnesses: Brian Michael Jenkins Senior Adviser to the President, RAND Corporation; Phillip Smyth, Middle East Research Analyst, University of Maryland; Barak Barfi, Research Fellow, The New America Foundation.

2:30 p.m. TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION — The Global Gender-Based Violence Threat. Panel I: Catherine Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Womens Issues, Department of State; Carla Koppell, Chief Strategy Officer, USAID (Former Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment). Panel II: Francisca Vigaud-Walsh, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, Women's Protection and Empowerment Unit, International Rescue Committee (IRC); Ravi Kant, President of the Board of Directors, Shakti Vahini, New Delhi, India; Cristina Finch, Managing Director, Womens Human Rights Program, Amnesty International USA; Guerda Constant, Executive Director of Fondasyon Limyh Lavi, Haiti. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

Other:KERRY, HAGEL – AUSTRALIA – WREATH LAYING — Secretary of State John Kerry and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel meet with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Defence Minister David Johnston at the U.S. Department of State for annual consultations at the Australia-U.S. Ministerial (AUSMIN). Secretary Kerry, Secretary Chuck Hagel, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Minister of Defense David Johnston participate in a full honor wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 8:30 a.m. EST, Arlington National Cemetery, Va. Notes: Signing ceremony at Department of State with Secretary Kerry; Hagel; Bishop; Johnson at 2:30 p.m.

DUNCAN – LOW-SKILLED ADULTS — Secretary Duncan will deliver remarks at the Kick-Off Session of the National Engagement Process to Develop a Plan to Improve the Skills of Low-Skilled Adults, examining recently released results of the OECD Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) as they apply to low-skilled adults in the U.S. The assessment, conducted in 2011-12, measured skills and competencies of adults aged 16-65 in 23 participating countries. Location: U.S. Department of Education auditorium, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W. 9:30 a.m.

AEI – SENATOR CORNYN — The future of US-India relations: A keynote by Senator John Cornyn. Http://aei.org/events/2013/11/20/the-future-of-us-india-relations-a-keynote-by-senator-john-cornyn/ Location: SVC 203, Capitol Visitors Center. 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

AEI — FOREIGN POLICY – SENATOR RUBIO — Restoring principle: A foreign policy worthy of the American dream. Http://aei.org/events/2013/11/20/restoring-principle-a-foreign-policy-worthy-of-the-american-dream/ Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW. 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

NAIC LEADERS – PRESIDENT, MEETING – PRESS CALL — Leaders of the National Association of Insurance

Commissioners (NAIC) will be available via conference call to discuss ACA implementation issues and other regulatory matters they addressed with President Obama following a meeting at the White House. Speakers: Senator Ben Nelson, NAIC Chief Executive Officer; Jim Donelon, NAIC President and Louisiana Insurance Commissioner and other state regulators.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Former President George Bush on the show tonight. Very excited about that. As you know, he's nicknamed 43 because he was the 43rd President. And President Obama is nicknamed 44 because that's how many people have signed up for Obamacare."

Jay Leno: "In a TV interview, the mayor's brother Doug said that everyone thinks that Mayor Ford is a conservative. They said no, no, he's not. They say he's a social liberal who loves President Obama. Mayor Ford loves president Obama. What good luck that is, huh? The only politician supporting the President is the crack-smoking mayor of Toronto."

David Letterman: "There's also a gravy shortage. Up it's up to $4 a gallon. Governor Chris Christie wants to build a gravy pipeline."

Conan: "President Obama is being criticized for not attending today's ceremony commemorating the Gettysburg Address. Yeah. In fairness, though, Lincoln did not attend Obama's 'Sorry About This Crappy Website' speech."

Jimmy Fallon: " I heard that Joe Biden has been noticeably absent from several White House events in the last few weeks. People haven't seen him in a while. Which can only mean one thing, somebody forgot they started a game of hide and seek with Joe Biden."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, November 22, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Nov 22, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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+ Study Finds Gulf Wetlands Loss Rate More Than Doubled Between 2004 And 2009.
+ Interior Not Hit As Hard With Furloughs As Other Agencies During Shutdown.
+ Senate Committee Passes Grazing Improvement Act.
+ Federal Agencies Headed To Court Over Historic Lowell Dam.
+ Conservation Groups Call For Protection Of Northern Spotted Owls.
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DOI in the News:

USGS FINDS LAND SINKING RAPIDLY IN CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL VALLEY. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/22, 731K) reports that "land in California's San Joaquin Valley is sinking more rapidly than usual because of increased pumping from underground sources, a phenomenon that is damaging vital water infrastructure," the USGS revealed Thursday. The USGS study found that "land sinking had been measured at

nearly one-foot per year in one area, and that it is reducing the flow capacity of the Delta-Mendota Canal and the California Aqueduct, two key sources of water." The BOR, "which operates the canals, will use the USGS data to mitigate damage and factor into current and future construction projects." Richard Woodley, the bureau's assistant regional director, said, "Nothing to date, to my knowledge, has affected our ability to deliver water to our customers. Our main point is to get ahead of that."

The Modesto (CA) Bee (11/21, 208K) reports that "parts of Merced near El Nido have dropped more than 21 inches in just two years." Moreover, "researchers warn the deepening sinkhole now is spreading across 1,200 square miles – from the cities of Merced on the north, to Los Banos on the west, Madera on the east and Mendota on the south." The article notes that "that' a much larger region than previous studies had ever documented."

Also providing coverage are the Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/21, 749K), the Fresno (CA) Bee (11/21, 327K), the Stockton (CA) Record (11/21, 123K), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (11/22, 51K), NBC News (11/22, 6.79M), KTVU-TV San Francisco (11/22, 128K), KTVU-TV San Francisco (11/22, 128K), KOVR-TV Sacramento, CA (11/21, 47K), KBFX-TV Bakersfield, CA (11/22, 12K), and KFMB-TV San Diego (11/22, 15K).

STUDY FINDS GULF WETLANDS LOSS RATE MORE THAN DOUBLED BETWEEN 2004 AND 2009. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (11/22, 700K) reports that "the loss of Gulf of Mexico saltwater wetlands more than doubled between 2004 and 2009 when compared to an earlier five-year period," according to a federal report released on Thursday. The report by the FWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that "wetlands loss rose from about 45,000 acres between 1998 and 2004, to more than 95,000 acres from 2004 to 2009." The rising rate "contributed to the Gulf Coast accounting for 71 percent of wetlands lost across the contiguous United States from 2004 to 2009." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell noted that the "overall annual losses are equivalent to an area four times the size of Miami." Jewell said, "Wetlands are important to our nation's heritage, economy and wildlife – especially when it comes to coastal communities. When a study shows that an area four times the size of Miami is disappearing every year, it underscores the importance of strengthening our collective efforts to improve wetlands management, to reduce losses and to ensure coastal infrastructure and resources are protected."

KCSG-TV St. George, UT (11/22, 43) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "In addition to the important economic and safety benefits they provide to people, coastal wetlands are also vitally important to native fish and wildlife species. While they comprise less than 10 percent of the nation's land area, they support 75 percent of our migratory birds, nearly 80 percent of fish and shellfish, and almost half of our threatened and endangered species. We can't sustain native wildlife for future generations without protecting and restoring the coastal wetlands that support them."

INTERIOR NOT HIT AS HARD WITH FURLOUGHS AS OTHER AGENCIES DURING SHUTDOWN. In its "Federal Eye" blog, the Washington Post (11/21, 4.28M) reports that "the furloughs that took place during the recent 16-day government shutdown hit agencies unevenly." A new graphic from a Web site that describes itself as "a guide to master's degrees in accounting" shows which employees were affected most. Of note, the graphic showed that 19% of the Interior Department worked during the shutdown, which was not as good as "State, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and Justice," but better than "NASA, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Education, and the Environmental Protection Agency, each of which sent at least 94 percent of their employees home during the shutdown."

SENATE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAZING IMPROVEMENT ACT. The Bismarck (ND) Farm and Ranch (11/22, 111K) reports that the Public Lands Council (PLC) and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) hailed the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for passage of S. 258, the Grazing Improvement Act of 2013. Scott George, NCBA president and Wyoming rancher, said, "The act is vital for ensuring the fate of our producer's permits — livelihoods are depending on the efficiency of the system — which undoubtedly needs restructuring. Not only will the bill codify the language of the decades old appropriations rider, it will also allow categorical exclusions from NEPA for permits continuing current practices and for crossing and trailing of livestock. Additionally, it will allow for NEPA on a broad scale, reducing paper pushing within the federal agencies."

FEDERAL AGENCIES HEADED TO COURT OVER HISTORIC LOWELL DAM. The Lowell (MA) Sun (11/22,

142K) reports that "two federal agencies that have been fighting with each other over Boott Hydropower's controversial project to install a new inflatable flashboard at Pawtucket Dam are now heading to federal court." The US Department of Justice has filed a lawsuit against the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "asking the US Court of Appeals to review FERC's earlier decision to allow Enel Green Power North America to replace the existing wooden flashboard system on Pawtucket Dam with a rubber-made pneumatic one." The lawsuit comes from the Interior Department, according to Peter Aucella, assistant superintendent of Lowell National Historical Park.

CONSERVATION GROUPS CALL FOR PROTECTION OF NORTHERN SPOTTED OWLS. The Chattanoogan (11/21, 17K) reports that in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, "a coalition of forest and wildlife conservation groups on Thursday called on the Obama administration to implement measures in the final Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan to protect post-fire forest habitats and structures used by the threatened owls and their prey." The November 21 letter notes that "action is needed as a result of legislative proposals, such as H.R. 1526, that would expedite post-disturbance logging and because of projects currently being considered by federal agencies." Steve Holmer, senior policy advisor with American Bird Conservancy, said, "Plans to boost post-fire logging in Spotted Owl habitat ignore the best-available science and would cause harm to old-growth forests. Government scientists have concluded that in order to recover the rapidly declining Northern Spotted Owl population, protection is needed for forest structures created by fires such as large standing dead trees that are used by the owls to nest in."

CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT WATER SUPPLIES. The Ridgecrest (CA) Daily Independent (11/21, 23K) reports that on Wednesday, California Congressional members sent a letter to the Interior and Commerce Department secretaries expressing concern about water supplies in Southern California. The letter, signed by eight Republican Congressional members called on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and "to take immediate action to mitigate the catastrophic effects on the people of California that environmental regulations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta are having in our communities by denying them the water they contract and pay for."

FISCAL WATCHDOGS CRITICIZE TRIP TO VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR CORAL REEF TASK FORCE EVENT. The Washington Times (11/22, Swarts, 417K) reports that "a group of federal officials skipped chilly Washington this month for a taxpayer-funded trip to the Virgin Islands in the name of protecting the world's coral reef." The organizer, the US Coral Reef Task Force, "isn't saying much about the total cost or reasons for the trip or why officials chose the St. Croix beachfront resort Buccaneer Hotel...as their destination." Federal officials "defend the trip by saying that on-scene experience about Caribbean coral reefs is important to the mission of conservation." However, "for fiscal watchdogs clamoring for reducing spending and the national debt, the trip stands as a powerful symbol of a government that has little sensitivity to appearances or the bottom line." An Interior Department representative said the task force meeting was "held in conjunction with a meeting of the Caribbean Regional Planning Body, and many people participated in both." According to the representative, "travel to the coral reefs directly is necessary, as they are 'places where on-the-ground conservation activities are ongoing and local management issues can be effectively highlighted and assessed for progress to goal.'"

SECRETARY JEWELL TOUTS INTERIOR'S WORK ON TRIBAL ISSUES. For the Char-Koosta News (11/22, 12K), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell writes that the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference was an opportunity to highlight "the work we are doing on a number of issues – including a top priority of restoring tribal homelands." She notes her announcement "that the Administration has set an ambitious goal of placing more than 500,000 acres of land into trust by the end of the President's term," and that already, the BIA has "processed more than 1,400 individual land into trust applications since 2009, accepting more than 230,000 acres in trust on behalf of tribes, so we are well on our way to meet this new ambitious goal." In conclusion, Jewell says she looks "forward to building on the progress we have made to promote prosperous and resilient tribal nations and to upholding President Obama's commitment to a strong government-to-government relationship with tribal nations."

SECRETARY JEWELL'S MITIGATION ORDER PRAISED. In an editorial, the Paris (TN) Post-Intelligencer (11/21, 25K) notes that Gina Hancock, the Tennessee Director of the Nature Conservancy, has praised a recent order by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to enforce the principle of mitigation. Hancock said, "This may sound like bureaucratic government-speak, but it actually is an important step." Hancock added, "It is an important way to accommodate our growing energy, transportation and water needs while protecting the precious natural

resources that we all depend on."

CROWD WANTS STORNETTA PUBLIC LANDS INCLUDED IN CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT. In a piece for the Sonoma West (CA) Times & News (11/22, 24K), Michael Haran recounts Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to North California, where she met with support for including the Stornetta Public Lands into the California Coastal National Monument. Jewell told a "crowd of over 200 people that by her presence she was confirming President Obama's commitment to land preservation for future generations." Jewell "asked for a show of hands for how many would prefer the Monument designation by a Presidential Proclamation or an Act of Congress." According to Haran, "overwhelmingly, people wanted a Presidential Proclamation but then several shouted, 'Anyway we can!'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S VISIT TO CAPE ROMAIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge was provided by the Rock Hill (SC) Herald (11/21, 89K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

REPUBLICANS PUSH BILLS TO PROTECT PARKS DURING SHUTDOWNS. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (11/22, 194K) reports that a group of Republican senators is "pushing to protect national parks in the event of a future government shutdown." Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) introduced legislation on Wednesday that "would allow states to keep national parks open during another government shutdown by speeding up the agreement process between states and the Interior Department." Also, Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) are "attempting to tack on an amendment to their chamber's Defense authorization bill that would reimburse states that paid for the operation of parks during the 16-day shutdown."

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/22, 343K) reports that House Republicans "want the federal government to refund money that Utah and some other states paid to re-open national parks during the October government shutdown." Also, they "want to create a process to allow states to temporarily step in if Congress causes another closure and, for the long term, they'd like the feds to hand over control of some public lands permanently to the states." Thursday, the House Natural Resources subcommittee on public lands "debated these demands, both small and large, in response to the recent 16-day partial shutdown that left tourists shut out of national parks across the country."

The Washington Examiner (11/22, Colman, 319K) reports that "the GOP members, all of whom voted against the bill to end the government shutdown last month, also voiced support for a bill that would allow states to operate the parks during a shutdown — effectively shielding those lawmakers from constituent criticism in the event of another shutdown." However, "the measure faced criticism from the administration, which called it an end-around to passing budgets." Bruce Sheaffer, comptroller of the NPS, said in his testimony, "Any change in law to try to address the impacts of a shutdown on these particular industries, or on any sectors of the economy, in advance of a future federal government shutdown, is not a responsible alternative to simply making the political commitment to provide appropriations for all the vital functions the federal government performs."

The Cronkite News (11/22) reports that Rep. Peter DeFazio "agreed that the service could be wasting its time preparing for something that should not happen again." DeFazio said, "For something that's happened twice since I've been in Congress for 27 years, and hopefully will never happen again, I would think this would be really a waste of taxpayers' money to enter into these proactive agreements with the states."

Also reporting on the story are the National Journal (11/22, Subscription Publication, 427K) and the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (11/21, 90K).

PARK POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT. The AP (11/22, Tucker) reports that Teresa Chambers, the chief of the United States Park Police, announced Thursday that "she plans to retire next month after more than three decades in law enforcement." Chambers "plans to step aside in early December on her 35th anniversary as a sworn police officer." No successor was immediately named.

The Washington Post (11/22, Hermann, 4.28M) reports that Chambers said "it was important for her to leave the federal agency on her own terms." In an interview, Chambers said, "There wasn't a better time to walk out."

Also providing coverage are the Washington Post (11/21, Press, 4.28M), the Wall Street Journal (11/22, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (11/21, 713K), and WJLA-TV Washington (11/22, 118K).

FLORIDA AGENCY AGREES HIGH WATER IN EVERGLADES NEEDS TO BE MANAGED. The Miami Herald (11/22, Cocking, 806K) reports that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission voted "unanimously Wednesday in Weston to push state and federal agencies to adopt a high-water emergency policy to protect plants and animals in the central Everglades." The commission supported "the plan developed by commissioner Ron Bergeron — its Everglades point man — calling for time and depth limits on water levels in the vast state conservation area that lies between I-75 and Tamiami Trail and a 'tool box' for sending excess water south to Everglades National Park." Bergeron said "wildlife can not survive completion of various Everglades restoration projects over the next 30 years unless water levels are regulated in the interim."

NEVADA DELEGATION PUSHING FOR TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS TO BECOME NATIONAL PARK. KLAS-TV Las Vegas (11/22, 36K) reports that "the entire Nevada delegation is supporting a bill to make Tule Springs a national monument." Gov. Brian Sandoval and Nellis Air Force base are also supporting the effort. Supporters of the Tule Springs Fossil Bed National Monument bill say the "park could generate millions of eco-tourism dollars and allow people to witness excavations."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK PICKED AS ONE OF THE TOP PLACES TO VISIT. The Denver Post (11/22, Parker, 949K) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park has been included among 20 destinations on the 2014 Best of the World List as the top places to visit next year, according to a new list released Thursday by National Geographic Traveler Magazine. Keith Bellows, editor in chief of National Geographic Traveler magazine, said, "Our annual Best of the World list doesn't reflect hot spots drawn from celebrity sightings or travel statistics. It reflects the expertise and experience of National Geographic Travel's huge network of global travel experts."

SURVEY FINDS VISITORS SATISFIED WITH YOSEMITE. The Modesto (CA) Bee (11/21, 208K) reports that "a survey of visitors to Yosemite National Park showed a 98 percent satisfaction rate with park facilities, services and recreational opportunities." Two hundred twenty-five visitors completed the survey in August 2013 in conjunction with the University of Idaho, Park Studies Unit for the NPS. Don Neubacher, Yosemite superintendent, said, "A high visitor satisfaction rate is something we can all celebrate. Yosemite employees and partners strive to provide exceptional service to the four million people who enjoy the park each year."

NEW SUPERINTENDENT KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK NAMED. The Seward (AK) City News (11/22) reports that Rebecca R. Lasell has been chosen as the new Superintendent of Kenai Fjords National Park. NPS Alaska Regional Director Sue Masica said, "Rebecca's demonstrated experience in complex landscape level planning, tribal consultation, renewable energy, and external and internal partnerships will be a great fit at Kenai Fjords." Lasell said, "Kenai Fjords is an amazing and valuable resource. I am honored and thrilled to join the dedicated professionals of the NPS. I look forward to working closely with the local tribes, community, and partners on tourism and stewardship opportunities."

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT FOR NEW SITES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED. The Dover (DE) Post (11/21, 79K) reports that the NPS and "a team of state and local government partners are requesting public input to identify potential new sites for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries." They will "include sites appropriate for boat ramps, fishing access, places to swim and picnic, or bird watch." The NPS has "developed an interactive web-based mapping tool for the public to locate, identify, and suggest new sites."

Also reporting on the story is WGMD-FM Rehoboth Beach, DE (11/22, 2K).

NPS SEEKS COMMENT ON FERRY FARM PLAN. The Fredericksburg (VA) Free Lance-Star (11/21, 113K) reports that the George Washington Foundation is seeking to redevelop Ferry Farm. Because the land is a

National Historic Landmark, and because Congress provided funds for its purchase, the Interior Department "holds an easement on it to ensure proper preservation of this one-of-a-kind place." On Wednesday, the NPS "posted online its draft Environmental Assessment of the foundation's Site Treatment Plan for Ferry Farm," and it "invites the public to comment on the plan for 30 days that end at the close of business on Monday, Dec. 23," according to Park Service historian Noel G. Harrison.

NPS CRITICIZED FOR PROPOSED CHANGES IN OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS PLAN. In an op-ed for the Farmington (MO) Daily Journal (11/22, 7K), Congressman Jason Smith writes that that the changes proposed by the NPS in its new management plan for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways "would have a devastating impact on the economies of many communities." He argues that "restricting access to the park and closing public access points are extreme measures that do not make sense." Smith notes that he raised these concerns to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in July but despite his warning, "further restrictions were included in the new management plan."

WPOST CRITICIZES COUNCIL VOTE ON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS. The Washington Post (11/22, 4.28M) editorializes on the District of Columbia Council's vote to oppose changing the Federal law that limits building heights in the District. The Post's editors say the vote was a "stunning repudiation" of the Council's claimed principles of "more home rule for local officials," and making the city "more affordable for residents of limited or modest means." Though the vote was symbolic, the National Capital Planning Commission followed the Council's lead and did not make any meaningful change to the building height restrictions. The Post called it "astonishing that this reasonable accommodation to update rules crafted for a different time was rejected."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM PLANS TO GATHER 700 WILD HORSES IN WYOMING. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/22, 80K) reports that the BLM is "planning to begin gathering wild horses in southwest Wyoming this week." According to a BLM press release, "horses will be collected from the Adobe Town and Salt Wells Creek herd management areas located south of Interstate 80 to the Wyoming-Colorado border from Rock Springs to Wamsutter." The BLM "plans to gather about 700 wild horses and treat female horses with fertility control."

Also reporting on the story are the Billings (MT) Gazette (11/22, 206K), the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/22, 90K), and KGWN-TV Cheyenne, WY (11/22, 519).

ACTIVIST PLANTS TREE SLAB IN BLM PARKING LOT. KOBI-TV Medford, OR (11/22) reports that George Sexton protested the harvesting of trees during the Cottonwood Timber sale by planting a tree slab estimated to be "260 years old" in the BLM's parking lot. According to Sexton, the problem is that "a BLM resource area manager signed documentation in Medford Federal District Court saying no trees 'with old growth character' would be cut there."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS REPORT DETAILS LOSS IN FUNDS FROM SEQUESTRATION. The Baxter (AR) Bulletin (11/21, 28K) reports that the FWS has "put the states on notice that government funding probably won't be adequate to keep its National Fish Hatchery System entirely afloat." The FWS has released the 2013 National Fish Hatchery System Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report to "summarize the service's problems now with sequestration-related cuts." According to FWS Director Dan Ashe, sequestration "slammed federal hatcheries to the tune of $2.1 million in fiscal year 2012 that ended Sept. 30. Up to $6 million in funding is at risk during the next 10 months if sequestration cuts go unchecked."

In his column for the Bismarck (ND) Tribune (11/22, 22K), Brian Gehring writes that "looking at the funding priorities" the FWS has "outlined, it appears that actually raising fish for people to catch is at the bottom of the list and would be the first program cut." Gehring urges the FWS to work with North Dakota in looking for solutions. He notes that North Dakota has had "a long-standing cooperative working relationship with federal and state agencies when it comes to growing and stocking fish."

DECISION ON THE STATUS OF THE WHITE BLUFFS BLADDERPOD DELAYED. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (11/21, 100K) reports that the FWS has delayed a final ruling on the endangered status of the White Bluffs Bladderpod found in Benton and Franklin Counties. The agency was scheduled to make a decision Thursday, but now, the ruling has been pushed back to December 20th.

Also reporting on the story is KNDU-TV Yakima, WA (11/22, 3K).

ALCOA AGREES TO PROTECT YADKIN RIVER GOLDENROD. The Charlotte (NC) Observer (11/21, 713K) reports that Alcoa has signed an agreement with the FWS to "protect the world's only known population of the Yadkin River goldenrod."

ANOTHER ENDANGERED RED WOLF FOUND DEAD IN NORTH CAROLINA. The New Bern (NC) Sun Journal (11/22, 47K) reports that "a sixth red wolf in the past month of the fewer than 100 now in the wild was killed by apparent gunshot and recovered" by the FWS on Thursday. David Rabon, FWS Red Wolf Recovery Program coordinator since 2009, said "the death brought the total of red wolves to 14 that have died since Jan. 1." Rabon said, "The Fish and Wildlife Service offers a reward but the level of attention that this has brought has grouped a number of organizations together that don't always think alike."

US Geological Survey:

100 MILLION-YEAR-OLD SEAWATER DISCOVERED IN CHESAPEAKE BAY. WTKR-TV Norfolk, VA (11/21, 25K) reports that "scientists drilling in the Chesapeake Bay say they've found the oldest body of seawater ever found." According to the article, "the water is estimated to be 100 to 145 million years old and was found 1.1 miles deep inside a massive crater." Study leader Ward Sanford, a hydrologist with the USGS, said, "The water was in the sediment long before the impact occurred. The impact simply reshuffled the sediment in large blocks, which helped preserve it."

USGS RESEARCHERS LOOKING FOR LEAKS IN WHITE BEAR LAKE. The Minneapolis- St Paul (MN) Press Publications (11/22, 1K) reports that scientists with the USGS have begun "the next phase of a lake study" with "seismic reflection survey equipment, otherwise known as the 'towfish'" being deployed to White Bear Lake. USGS hydrologist Perry Jones and "a team of three took the seismic readings Nov. 13 as part of phase two of his 2012 groundwater and surface water interactions study."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED SOLAR PLANT'S IMPACT. KCET-TV Los Angeles (11/22, 15K) reports that the NPS says a proposed solar power tower project just outside the boundaries of Joshua Tree National Park would have "unavoidable and unmitigatable significant adverse impacts" to the park. The summation by the service "came in the form of the agency's comments on the Draft Supplemental environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on BrightSource Energy and Abengoa Solar's proposed Palen Solar Electric Generating System (PSEGS), which would place 160,000 billboard-sized mirrors surrounding two 750-foot solar power towers about ten miles from the park's eastern boundary." The NPS recommended scrapping "the power tower design and go back to the drawing board to create a solar power plant with less visual impact than the two power towers, which at 750 feet would tie for sixth place among the tallest structures in Califomia."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM REAUTHORIZES RUBY PIPELINE AFTER NEW REVIEW. The Houston Chronicle (11/22, Sonner, 2.26M) reports that the BLM intends to reissue a right of way for Kinder Morgan's Ruby Pipeline "now that government scientists have completed a second environmental review they say corrects deficiencies in the first one struck down by a US appeals court." The BLM "published a new record of decision in the Federal Register on Thursday and issued a revised final supplemental environmental impact statement." According to the article,

"environmentalists who filed a lawsuit in an unsuccessful effort to block construction of the pipeline built in 2010 said they were reviewing the new documents but still found them to be inadequate and will consider further legal action."

Also reporting on the story are the Columbus (IN) Republic (11/22, 80K) and the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/22, 90K).

GOV. OTTER SAYS BLM RUSHED GATEWAY WEST APPROVAL. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (11/21, 113K) reports that Gov. Butch Otter and "southern Idaho farmers and ranchers in the path" of the proposed Gateway West transmission line believe the BLM has "rushed its decision on the project, using guidelines that overstate potential impacts to sage grouse." Heather Feeney, spokeswoman for the BLM's Idaho office, said the bureau is "required by law to render a prompt decision for the applicants." Furthermore, Feeney "stressed the project is identified as a national priority under the president's energy strategy." She said that "the decision can always be revisited once the sage grouse management plan is implemented."

BLM AUCTION NETS $3.4 MILLION IN UTAH OIL AND GAS LEASES. The St. George (UT) News (11/21, 3K) reports that the BLM-Utah "held its quarterly oil and gas lease sale Tuesday and sold 29 parcels out of 35 parcels – a total of 44,000 acres – offered in Emery, Carbon and Uintah counties that produced $3.4 million." BLM-Utah State Director Juan Palma said, "In the year leading up to today's sale, we conducted in-depth environmental analysis and offered opportunities for public participation as part of our continued national leasing reform implementation efforts. The combination of thorough environmental analysis and public participation helps us ensure that energy resources on Utah's public lands are responsibly developed in the right places and in the right ways."

Also reporting on the story is KCSG-TV St. George, UT (11/22, 43).

BLM APPROVES NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT NEAR WAMSUTTER. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/22, 90K) reports that the BLM has "approved plans to build a new access road, two new pipelines and two natural gas compression stations south of Wamsutter." The decision clears the way for Samson Resources Co. and Mountain Gas Resources to begin construction on the Endurance/Barricade Gas Infrastructure Project.

HEARING UNDERWAY ON VIOLATIONS ISSUED TO FARRELL-COOPER MINING COMPANY. NPR (11/21, 465K) reports that "there's a hearing underway in Poteau this week, where attorneys for Farrell-Cooper Mining Company are appealing federal violations at three of its former mines." The Tulsa branch of the Office of Surface Mining "issued the violations to Farrell-Cooper, saying the mines are out of compliance with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act." Chris Holmes, OSM spokesman said, "If you've got gently rolling hills the law says you should return the land to its closest form and function with those gently rolling hills. And we require the states to meet those minimum federal standards that are set up, regardless of where they are. Sometimes that can be a little tricky."

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE ORDERS FIVE COMPANIES TO HALT OFFSHORE WORK. The FuelFix (11/21, 7K) reports that the BSEE has ordered five companies to "halt offshore oil and gas operations, after they failed to give regulators an audit of safety plans newly required since the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster." The firms "forced to shut down their offshore work — all relatively small operators — are Houston-based Breton Energy, EP Energy and XTO Energy, as well as Louisiana-based firms Virgin Offshore USA and Matagorda Island Gas Operations." According to the article, "at issue is a requirement that companies working offshore implement broad 'safety and environmental management systems' for holistically assessing and managing risks at every stage of their work." BSEE Director Brian Salerno said his agency would "vigorously enforce compliance with this fundamental requirement." Salerno said in a statement, "An effective, fully implemented SEMS program is essential to reducing risks across offshore operations. BSEE must be assured that companies are addressing the key elements of SEMS and that they are not needlessly putting their workers and the environment at risk."

Also reporting on the story are the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/22, 194K), the Maritime Executive (11/21, 21), the Oil and Gas Journal (11/22, 1K), and the Law 360 (11/22, 18K).

BLACK ELK ENERGY OFFSHORE OPERATIONS STILL PAYING FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH 2012 EXPLOSION. The Houston Business Journal (11/21, Subscription Publication, 91K) reports that Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations LLC has "spent millions so far this year on costs associated with the 2012 explosion at its West Delta 32 Gulf of Mexico platform, and it's still dealing with the repercussions of the incident." According to regulatory filings, Black Elk "spent $4.7 million in the third quarter — and a total of $12.4 million in the first nine months of the year — on costs associated with the Nov. 16, 2012, explosion, which killed three subcontractor workers."

REP. CAPPS CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ON CALIFORNIA OFFSHORE FRACKING. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/22, 731K) reports that Rep. Lois Capps has "asked for a moratorium on offshore fracking after reports that the controversial oil production process has been used in coastal waters for decades." In a letter sent Tuesday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, Capps said that fracking "in federal waters off the coast should be halted until there's a study to determine its impact on the environment and public health." Capps wrote that "there has been 'inadequate oversight' of offshore fracking, and all current and proposed fracking projects should be halted pending a comprehensive review."

BP ASKS FIFTH CIRCUIT TO ORDER LIMIT ON OIL SPILL PAYMENTS. Bloomberg News (11/22, Fisk, Calkins, 1.91M) reports that BP Plc on Thursday asked the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals "for an injunction to stop some payments under a $9.2 billion settlement tied to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill," arguing that US District Judge Carl Barbier, who is overseeing the case, "ignored the court's mandate to review claims." BP is challenging Judge Barbier's decision "upholding the interpretation of the agreement" by claims administrator Patrick Juneau, contending that Juneau "approved millions of dollars in 'fictitious' payments to businesses for economic losses that weren't related to the worst offshore spill in U.S. history."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

GOOSE BAY MARINA DESIGN OPEN HOUSE LIGHTLY ATTENDED. The Helena (MT) Independent Record (11/22, 45K) reports that "only a handful of people showed up Wednesday night to peruse the newest design proposed" by the BOR for Goose Bay Marina. The article notes that "it was a stark contrast to earlier meetings, where representatives of the federal agency met with a room full of area residents who were angry over proposed upgrades to the marina and campground on the southeast side of Canyon Ferry Reservoir." Scott Joyner, who was a member of the Goose Bay homeowners association, said "he didn't plan on attending Wednesday's open house because he felt as though the decision on how to proceed already had been made, and he didn't want to waste his time anymore."

CALIFORNIA URGED TO UPDATE WATER REGULATIONS. The Pasadena (CA) Star-News (11/21, 81K) editorializes that California is "a different state than...in the mid-1800s" so "water regulations need to reflect that reality." According to the apper, "this inequity underpins the debate now raging over the governor's Bay Delta Conservation Plan, a multi-billion project to restore wetlands in the delta while building a more dependable water conveyance system serving agriculture and Southern California users." It concludes that "until and unless our elected officials in Sacramento start getting pressure to legislate some water parity on the state's biggest water users, then the rest of us will continue to fight over the remaining 20 percent."

Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Chico (CA) News and Review (11/22, 101K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

TWO FACTIONS IN BLACKFEET DISPUTE STRIKE DEAL TO MEET PAYROLL. The Helena (MT) Independent Record (11/22, 45K) reports that the two factions of a divided Blackfeet Tribal Business Council have reached "a deal to pay employees and vendors, the tribal chairman said, in the two sides' first agreement more than a month into an impasse that has crippled tribal operations." The article notes that "the deal is the first breakthrough in the schism that has pitted four council members on one side against" Chairman Willie Sharp Jr, Forrestina Calf Boss Ribs and three previously suspended council members on the other. Sharp "did not provide details on the payroll deal struck between the two sides, and did not say whether the factions were negotiating a permanent

reconciliation."

Also reporting on the story is the Sacramento (CA) Bee (11/21, 749K).

GLENDALE CITY COUNCIL SENDING MIXED MESSAGES ON PROPOSED CASINO. The Arizona Republic (11/22, 1.19M) reports that three Glendale City Council members recently "sent a letter to federal officials that denounces the city's opposition to a proposed casino near its sports and entertainment district." The three councilmen criticized a letter that City Attorney Michael Bailey sent the Interior Department in September "to affirm the Glendale's long-held opposition to the Tohono O'odham Nation's casino plans." The Nov. 15 letter signed by Councilmen Ian Hugh, Gary Sherwood and Sam Chavira slams Bailey's memo as "nothing more than a regurgitation of arguments" that have largely been dismissed by the courts.

Top National News:

OBAMA PRAISES REID'S INVOCATION OF "NUCLEAR OPTION" TO ADVANCE NOMINEES IN SENATE. On Thursday, Senate Majority Leader Reid moved through a change in Senate rules dubbed the "nuclear option" that will permit presidential nominees to executive branch positions and Federal courts other than the Supreme Court to move to a final vote with a simple majority, rather than the 60 votes that had been required for cloture. Majority leaders of both parties had been threatening to make such a change for years, but it was the blocking of several of President Obama's nominees to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that led to the action. The vote to accept the rules shift was 52-48, with all 45 Republicans and Democratic Sens. Carl Levin, Joe Manchin, and Mark Pryor opposed.

Coverage focuses on the historic nature of the change, as well as on the likelihood that it will increase tensions between the parties in the Senate and that it could mean President Obama and future presidents will feel free to select more ideological nominees. While print coverage is generally balanced about the pros and cons of the move from a legislative perspective, broadcast network coverage was sympathetic to the change, suggesting it will help break through gridlock.

Bloomberg News (11/22, Bender, Runningen, 1.91M) reports that President Obama said the change "will end an 'unprecedented pattern of obstruction'" by "a small group of senators that has been harmful to the economy and has blocked his nominations to important government posts." The President said the 60-vote rule "has been used in many cases 'just to refight the results of an election.'" McClatchy (11/22, Kumar, 95K) reports the President said, "This isn't obstruction on substance, on qualifications. It's just to gum up the works. ... What's at stake is the ability of any president to fulfill his or her constitutional duty." Roll Call (11/22, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 87K) says the President said his judicial nominees "had been held up more than twice as long" as his predecessor's, "even though many end up getting overwhelming votes in the end."

Zachary Goldfarb writes in the Washington Post (11/22, 4.28M) that the vote "should make it easier for President Obama to accomplish key second-term priorities, including tougher measures on climate change and financial regulation" and "also sets the stage for Obama to appoint new top officials to the Federal Reserve and other key agencies – probably leading to more aggressive action to stimulate the economy and housing market."

All three broadcast networks reported on the rule change near the top of their Thursday evening newscasts, though none of the three led with the story. The reports stressed how dramatic the change is, but also seemed sympathetic to the Democratic action. ABC World News (11/21, story 2, 1:45, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported, "We know Americans are tired of gridlock in Washington, but today Senate Democrats made a power move to break the hold of the filibuster." ABC (Karl) added that the filibuster is "a tactic Republicans are using more than ever."

The CBS Evening News (11/21, story 2, 2:35, Pelley, 5.58M) called it "a historic breach" in the Senate. Democrats "accused Republicans of abusing the filibuster rule to hold up these appointments and they point out that half of all filibusters against presidential nominations in US history have happened just in the Obama Administration." CBS (Cordes) added, "Leaders from both parties have threatened to deploy this nuclear option for decades, but until now they have never followed through because it fundamentally alters the way the Senate works."

NBC Nightly News (11/21, story 3, 1:55, Williams, 7.86M) reported, "In Washington, we've all heard that majority rules, but that hasn't always been the rule in the US Senate, for about a generation. In fact, 50 out of 100 votes doesn't win all votes." The rule change "will allow more Obama nominees for things like Federal judgeships to get through without a fight." NBC (Todd) added, "There was a time when Sen. Obama objected to Republican plans to change the rules to help President Bush get nominees through without a filibuster. Well now it's President Obama praising Senate Democrats for doing this."

The AP (11/22, Espo, Fram) more critically reports that Democrats, "sweeping aside a century of precedent...took a chunk out of the Senate's hallowed filibuster tradition" and "cleared the way for speedy confirmation of controversial appointments" made by Obama. While Reid called the vote "a blow against gridlock," Republicans "warned Democrats will eventually regret their actions" once they return to the minority and face nominees from a Republican president. The Hill (11/22, Cox, 194K) reports Senate Minority Leader McConnell said on the Senate floor, "You'll regret this, and you may regret this a lot sooner than you think."

The New York Times (11/22, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says while both parties had threatened such a change "for the better part of a decade," they "had always stopped short of carrying out. This time, with little left of the bipartisan spirit that helped seal compromises on filibuster rule changes in the past, there was no last-minute deal to be struck."

The Washington Post (11/22, Kane, Branigin, 4.28M) also seems sympathetic to the change, writing that "the partisan battles that have paralyzed Washington in recent years took a historic turn" with a Democratic move "severely curtailing the political leverage of the Republican minority in the Senate." But the Post says the move assures "an escalation of partisan warfare." The Post also notes that "Reid's move is a reversal of his position in 2005, when he was minority leader."

The Wall Street Journal (11/22, Hook, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says the immediate effect of the rule change will be the clearing of three Obama nominees to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which is generally seen as second only to the Supreme Court in influence, and where many Obama Administration priorities have been and will be fought out. The nomination of Rep. Mel Watt (D-NC) to lead the Federal Housing Finance Agency is also expected to advance shortly. The Huffington Post (11/22, Grim, 11.54M) says the court "has three vacancies and broad jurisdiction" over Federal regulations. The Washington Post (11/22, Leonnig, 4.28M) says over the past two decades, the court "has generally been considered favorable to business, skeptical of regulation and supportive of broad executive powers to wage war and ensure national security."

The Washington Times (11/22, Dinan, Klimas, 417K) says Republicans "feverishly objected" to the change, and "immediately moved to expand the change to include Supreme Court nominees, vowing that they would use Democrats' new rules to push through their own picks to the high court the next time a Republican wins the White House." The Washington Post (11/22, Blake, 4.28M) reports Sen. Charles Grassley said when Republicans return to the majority and a Republican to the White House, "Our side will likely nominate and confirm lower-court and Supreme Court nominees with 51 votes, regardless of whether Democrats actually buy into this fanciful notion that they demolish the filibuster on lower-court nominees and still preserve it for Supreme Court nominees."

The Daily Caller (11/22, Munro, 422K) headlines its report "Obama, Democrats Gut Minority Rights In The Senate," saying the President "lauded the Democratic senators' near unanimous decision Thursday to gut the Senate's 200-year-old policy of granting procedural rights to the minority party, and so help the president pack the courts with ideologically sympathetic judges."

The New York Times (11/22, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) examines the ramifications of the change, saying it came "in a politically charged vote Thursday that had been years in the making." Politico (11/22, Everett, Kim, 467K) calls it "a historic rules change."

More Ideological Court Nominees Possible Due To Change. The Wall Street Journal (11/22, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says ideological polarization on Federal courts may grow wider with the rules change, both because current nominees will be able to get through, and because presidents with a solid Senate majority may feel emboldened to pick more radical nominees. Former Justice Department official Christopher

Schroeder, now a Duke University law professor, said, "Some people never even came to mind because of the background threat of the filibuster." A Bush Administration Justice Department official told the Journal much the same thing. Politico (11/22, Epstein, 467K) says the White House believes the rules shift "changes the game on future nominations, allowing it to expand the field of potential choices."

McConnell Says Democrats "Want To Pack The Court." McConnell writes in a USA Today (11/22, 5.82M) op-ed that though Senate Republicans "considered deploying the 'nuclear option'" when Democrats, then in the minority, "embarked on an unprecedented, years-long filibustering frenzy" against President Bush's nominees, the GOP "ultimately (and wisely, in my opinion) declined to do so." McConnell says Republicans "confirmed 215 of President Obama's judicial nominees and rejected only two before this battle began," and that Democrats "want to pack the court with ideological nominees."

Change Makes 2014 Senate Races Even More Significant. Politico (11/22, Isenstadt, 467K) says the rules change "makes Election 2014 that much more consequential" because the power of the majority party "has been significantly enhanced." Republicans need to gain six seats to retake the Senate majority.

Rules Change Seen Placating Democratic Left. The AP (11/22, Cassata) says the filibuster move helps Democrats "placate the party's core liberal activists dispirited by the troubled roll-out of the health care overhaul and government snooping ahead of midterm elections." Charles Chamberlain of Democracy for America said, "There's no question our members are extremely excited. They've been fighting for years."

Congressional Black Caucus Lobbied For Change. Roll Call (11/22, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports the Congressional Black Caucus, though a House entity, gave the Senate "a push with a behind-the-scenes lobbying campaign" for the filibuster rules change. CBC Chair Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) said in an interview, "We've been active in terms of calling our senators. We have probably spoken with just about every senator in the past few weeks and months about how this needed to change."

Paul Calls Reid "Big Bully," Senate "Dictator." Politico (11/22, Delreal, 467K) reports Sen. Rand Paul told CNN, "What we really need is an anti-bullying ordinance in the Senate. I mean, now we've got a big bully. Harry Reid says he's just gonna break the rules and make new rules. ... Basically he's become the dictator of the Senate. He's going to bend and break the rules to get his way."

Reid's Office Dismisses Heller's Warning Over Yucca Mountain Revival. Roll Call (11/22, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports Reid's Nevada colleague Sen. Dean Heller said the rules change "could lead to opening a controversial nuclear waste dump" at Yucca Mountain, saying a future Senate may lower the 60-vote requirement on bills and amendments in addition to nominees, and then revive the Yucca Mountain plan. Reid's office dismissed the notion, with spokeswoman Kristen Orthman saying, "To show how clueless this assertion is, the efforts today to end gridlock in the Senate have nothing to do with legislation like Yucca, and only apply to judicial and executive branch nominations."

Klein Says Obama Now Has Greater Freedom To Fire Appointees. Ezra Klein writes in the Washington Post (11/22, 4.28M) "Wonkblog" that "one important effect" of the rules change is that HHS Secretary Sebelius, Attorney General Holder, "or really any political appointee" can "now be fired" by President Obama because the White House need not fear clearing a 60-vote threshold on a successor. Klein said that bar "became a standard excuse for why no one is losing their job over the HealthCare.gov debacle." More Commentary. In an editorial headlined "Democracy Returns To The Senate," the New York Times (11/22, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes, "For five years, Senate Republicans have refused to allow confirmation votes on dozens of perfectly qualified candidates nominated by President Obama for government positions," tried to "nullify entire federal agencies by denying them leaders," and "abused Senate rules past the point of tolerance or responsibility." The rules change "was necessary to turn the Senate back into a functioning legislative body."

The Washington Post (11/22, 4.28M), however, says in an editorial that "the Democratic majority was justified in its grievance but not in its rash action. ... We believe a filibuster should be rarely invoked. But now that it is not an option, the result is likely to be that the partisanship of Congress will seep increasingly into the judiciary, as presidents feel no obligation to search for balance or moderation in their nominations." The Post says that though Republicans "proved incapable of exercising their minority rights in a responsible way," Reid "proved not enough of a leader to resist the 'naked power grab.'"

The Wall Street Journal (11/22, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues in an editorial that Reid was pressured by Senate liberals to make the change, arguing that those Democrats who were part of the 60-senator majority at the start of President Obama's term got used to passing legislation without resistance and view the minority party as an irritant to be overcome. The Journal says, however, that Democrats should be wary of the fact that they have set the stage for a future repeal of the Affordable Care Act with just 51 votes.

USA Today (11/22, 5.82M) editorializes that the rules change "is sure to worsen partisanship in a body that is already dangerously dysfunctional," but that the GOP brought it "on itself" with "repeated abuse of the filibuster to block highly qualified nominees." USA Today calls the "court-packing" accusation "ludicrous" because there are three vacant seats on the District of Columbia Circuit bench.

Eugene Robinson writes in his Washington Post (11/22, 4.28M) column that it was "long past time" for the rules change, which "isn't about partisan politics" but rather about making the Senate "function the way the Framers of the Constitution intended."

Ruth Marcus argues, however, in her Washington Post (11/22, 4.28M) column that Democrats "made an understandable mistake in dramatically curtailing the use of the filibuster." While eliminating the filibuster for executive branch nominees "makes complete sense" because if a president chooses a bad nominee "the harm won't last long," lowering the bar for judges will mean more extremism on the bench. It also "marks a fundamental and unappreciated shift of power from the Senate to the executive branch."

UNINSURED ENCOUNTERING "SHOCKINGLY HIGH PRICES" FOR COVERAGE ON EXCHANGES. Under the headline "Sticker Shock Hits Health Exchange Shoppers," USA Today (11/22, O'Donnell, Overberg, 5.82M) reports that "health care exchange pricing...is leading to sticker shock for some middle-class consumers and others who aren't eligible for subsidies under the Affordable Care Act," and "the average prices for the most popular plans are twice as high in the most expensive states as those with the lowest average prices." According to USA Today, PPOs "carry monthly premiums that range from an average of $819 a month in the most expensive state to $437 in the least expensive." USA Today notes that approximately "4.4 million people in the individual insurance market are not eligible for the subsidies," and therefor must pay "shockingly high prices," according to "insurance brokers and 'navigators' helping people apply for insurance."

The Huffington Post (11/22, Young, 11.54M) reports that a Families USA analysis estimates that "among the roughly 15 million working-age Americans in the health insurance market for those who don't get health benefits from their employers or a government program like Medicare, 71 percent, or 10.8 million, have incomes low enough to qualify them for subsidized private insurance or Medicaid coverage," which "leaves 29 percent of the customers in this market, or more than 4 million people, who may see higher rates go up without the benefit of financial assistance."

ACA Advocate Downplays Impact Of Higher Premiums On Those Losing Health Insurance. McClatchy (11/22, Pugh, 95K) reports that Families USA is currently "pushing back against the wave of media reports about policy cancellations involving people with individual health insurance." Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, is quoted as saying, "This issue has been blown out of proportion. ... This is truly a tiny portion of the people that will be affected by the Affordable Care Act."

House Democrat's Chief Of Staff Complains About Premiums Spiking. Politico (11/22, Allen, Haberkorn, 467K) reports that some "veteran House Democratic aides are sick over the insurance prices they'll pay under Obamacare." Minh Ta, chief of staff to Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), in an email to "fellow Democratic chiefs of staff," wrote: "In a shock to the system, the older staff in my office (folks over 59) have now found out their personal health insurance costs (even with the government contribution) have gone up 3-4 times what they were paying before." Ta warned that "older congressional staffs may leave their jobs because of the change to their health insurance."

According to The Hill (11/22, Parnes, Viebeck, 194K), "under guidance from the chief administrative officer of the House, offices had discretion about whether to classify their workers as 'official staff' or 'unofficial staff,'" and those "designated as official must obtain healthcare on the exchanges, while those designated as unofficial are allowed to keep their federal employee plans."

DOW CLOSES ABOVE 16,000, JOBLESS CLAIMS DROP. Overall, the economic news on Thursday is being seen by the media as quite positive. In particular, the drop in jobless claims is being seen as a sign of labor market recovery, while the Dow's topping of 16,000 is also drawing positive media accolades.

Dow Tops 16,000 For First Time. The CBS Evening News (11/21, lead story, 2:20, Pelley, 5.58M) reported in its lead story that the stock market is "sailing in uncharted territory," with "interest rates are low, corporate earnings are high and there is no end in sight for the Federal Reserve stimulus program." On Thursday, that "added up to the Dow Industrial Average hitting another record, closing above 16,000, headed for its best year in a decade." CBS (Mason) says that the "momentum right now is still up" and will continue to be "until Janet Yellen signals a change in course at the Fed."

Similarly, ABC World News (11/21, story 4, 0:10, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported a "milestone on Wall Street" on Thursday, saying the increase was "fueled by encouraging new jobs numbers." NBC Nightly News (11/21, story 6, 0:15, Williams, 7.86M) reported, "News about American Jobs helped Wall Street set a new record today."

The AP (11/22, Rothwell, Condon) reports that the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 109.17 points to 16,009.99, the first time the index has closed about 16,000. Since the beginning of the year, the Dow "is up 22 percent and has now topped three 1,000 point milestones in 10 months." Since the recent low in March 2009, the Dow has "more than tripled." Meanwhile, the S&P 500 rose 14.48 points to 1,795.85, while the Nasdaq Composite Index rose 47.88 to 3,969.15.

The New York Times (11/22, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports the Dow "has been propelled higher this year by a combination of solid corporate earnings, a steadily strengthening economy and easy-money policies from the Federal Reserve."

The Wall Street Journal (11/22, Scaggs, Ng, Linebaugh, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the advance has been broad across the markets, but is strongest among those businesses that are focused on consumers. The Journal says that such businesses have been engaged in sharp cost-cutting, giving them an edge over their rivals.

Jobless Claims Down 21,000 Last Week. USA Today (11/22, Carrig, 5.82M) reports that first-time claims for jobless benefits fell 21,000 last week to 323,000, a "sign the labor market continues to improve as businesses see little need to cut jobs." Claims are now at their lowest level since late September. The four-week average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 6,750 to 338,500. Both the weekly and four-week average are "near pre-recession levels." Reuters (11/22, Mutikani) reports economists it surveyed had expected claims to come in at 335,000. However, economists warned that the Veterans Day holiday last week may have altered the figures.

Bloomberg News (11/21, Jamrisko, 1.91M) reports that economists it surveyed also expected claims to fall to 335,000. Bloomberg says that increasing sales "going into the holiday-shopping period will probably prompt employers to keep current workers on staff to meet demand," and a drop in firings "may also lead to bigger gains in hiring that will help boost consumer spending, which accounts for almost 70 percent of the economy."

Mortgage Rates Down This Week. The AP (11/22) reports that mortgage rates fell this week after rising the previous two, "keeping home-buying affordable." According to data released Thursday by Freddie Mac, the average rate on a 30-year loan fell to 4.22% from 4.35% the prior week, while the average rate on a 15-year fixed loan fell to 3.27% from 3.35%.

Consumer Confidence Continues To Drop. Bloomberg News (11/22, Schenkel, 1.91M) reports its Consumer Comfort Index fell to minus 34.6 this week from minus 33.9 the prior week. However, Bloomberg focuses on the rise in the economic expectations portion of the survey, which increased to minus 14 from a "two-year low of minus 31 in October." Bloomberg says that rising wealth from "higher stock and home prices, cheaper gasoline and more employment opportunities are providing households with the means to boost purchases."

Holiday Sales Critical For Struggling Sears. The CBS Evening News (11/21, story 8, 2:10, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that the forthcoming holiday sales season is rapidly approaching, and for Sears, "the stakes could not be higher." On Thursday, the company "reported it lost more than half a billion dollars just between August and

October." After reporting on problems at various Sears locations, CBS (Reynolds) adds that the company is "rushing to go online big time and ease in-store shopping with the newest technology, like mobile checkout scanners," but it is also "now seriously considering spinning off its Lands' End clothing line, as well as its automotive stores to save money."

Manufacturing Wages Failing To Keep Pace With Inflation. Using Boeing's unsuccessful attempt to convince a machinists union to accept cuts to pay increases as an example, Bloomberg News (11/22, Catts, Robison, Kolet, 1.91M) reports that even with "hiring and output robust enough to be dubbed a manufacturing renaissance by President Barack Obama, workers are falling behind." According to Bloomberg, factory wages haven't "kept pace with inflation," and in fact fallen 3% on that basis since May 2009, "while average pay for all wage earners slid only about 1 percent."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Democracy Returns To The Senate."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (11/22, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes, "For five years, Senate Republicans have refused to allow confirmation votes on dozens of perfectly qualified candidates nominated by President Obama for government positions," tried to "nullify entire federal agencies by denying them leaders," and "abused Senate rules past the point of tolerance or responsibility." The rules change "was necessary to turn the Senate back into a functioning legislative body."

"Another Banking Scandal." The New York Times (11/22, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that in a "widening inquiry," as many as 15 of the world's biggest banks "are under scrutiny by international officials for alleged manipulation of the $5.3-trillion-a-day foreign exchange market." The Times calls the probes "a hopeful sign that the department may be bringing more depth and creativity to its investigations of major banks," and urges "aggressive use of legal tools to prosecute misconduct, including admissions of wrongdoing, clawbacks of ill-gotten pay, sanctions for management failure to supervise, nondeductible penalties and criminal prosecutions, where warranted."

"All That Glitters Online." In an editorial, the New York Times (11/22, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the Bitcoin "proponents" say such digital currencies "provide greater security, lower costs and more stability than traditional forms of money like dollars and euros," but in the "real world," the currency seems mainly to serve those "engaged in illegal activities or speculation."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"No Robin Hood."*** The Washington Post (11/22, 4.28M) editorializes that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has resorted to "state-sponsored looting" to prop up his support, an approach that will do nothing to undo the "unraveling of Venezuela's economy and political system." The article foresees medium-term and long-term consequences, including "more radical action will be needed to prevent the mobs from turning on Mr. Maduro." The article also criticizes Venezuela's neighbors, particularly Brazil, for not using their influence to restrain Venezuela's "self-destruction."

"D.C. Council's Latest Head-Scratcher." The Washington Post (11/22, 4.28M) editorializes on the District of Columbia Council's vote to oppose changing the Federal law that limits building heights in the District. The Post's editors say the vote was a "stunning repudiation" of the Council's claimed principles of "more home rule for local officials," and making the city "more affordable for residents of limited or modest means." Though the vote was symbolic, the National Capital Planning Commission followed the Council's lead and did not make any meaningful change to the building height restrictions. The Post called it "astonishing that this reasonable accommodation to update rules crafted for a different time was rejected."

"The 'Nuclear' Fallout." The Washington Post (11/22, 4.28M) says in an editorial that "the Democratic majority was justified in its grievance but not in its rash action. ... We believe a filibuster should be rarely invoked. But now that it is not an option, the result is likely to be that the partisanship of Congress will seep increasingly into the judiciary, as presidents feel no obligation to search for balance or moderation in their nominations." The Post says that though Republicans "proved incapable of exercising their minority rights in a responsible way," Senate Majority Leader Reid "proved not enough of a leader to resist the 'naked power grab.'"

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The 'Spy' Who Fooled the EPA."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (11/22,

Subscription Publication, 5.91M) blasts the EPA for failing to regulate its employee, John C. Beale, who has admitted in a plea deal with the Justice Department that he defrauded taxpayers of $900,000 in pay and expenses over a 23-year career with the agency. The Journal points out that Beale's claims that he was a CIA operative to explain prolonged absences did not raise any red flags and notes that the EPA's inspector general said the case was the result of "an absence of even basic internal controls at the EPA."

"Senate Rules For Radicals." The Wall Street Journal (11/22, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues in an editorial that Senate Majority Leader Reid was pressured by Senate liberals to change Senate rules, arguing that those Democrats who were part of the 60-senator majority at the start of President Obama's term got used to passing legislation without resistance and view the minority party as an irritant to be overcome. The Journal says, however, that Democrats should be wary of the fact that they have set the stage for a future repeal of the Affordable Care Act with just 51 votes.

"A Worthy Obama Initiative." The Wall Street Journal (11/22, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) largely praises the US-Afghan deal in an editorial while noting that obstacles remain. Ultimately, the Journal likes the deal because the US not having any presence in Afghanistan beyond 2014 is seen as an unacceptable option by the Journal. The US military, the Journal says, should stay in the country as long as need to protect the security and interests of the Afghan people.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Democrats Rein In Senate Filibusters
Doctors' Fees Cut In New Health-Care Plans
One Town's Atomic Legacy: A $500 Million Cleanup
US To Sell Rest Of GM Stake

New York Times:
In Landmark Vote, Senate Limits Use Of The Filibuster
Partisan Fever In Senate Likely To Rise
Service Members Left Vulnerable To Payday Loans
Once At Kennedy's Side, Now At One Another's
After 11 Years In Prison, Skakel Goes Free On Bail
Forget TV; To Spread Word, Cuomo's On Radio

Washington Post:
The Path To Contracts Runs Through Deltek
The Scene Of The Crime
Senate Eliminates Filibusters On Most Nominees
Cellphones In The Air? A Backlash Takes Flight.
Change Should Help President Achieve Some Of His Main Goals In Second Term

Financial Times:
Democrats Overturn Filibuster Rule
Banks Ban Traders From Group Chat Rooms
Ukraine Freezes Trade Talks With EU
Plan To Limit 'Dark Pool' Trading In US
Traders Plan To Ship Canadian Oil Via US
Hilton Doubles Planned IPO To $2.25bn
European Trash Has Been Trade Of Year

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Michael Skakel Released; Filibuster Rules Altered; Afghanistan-US Troop Agreement; Wall Street; Cargo Jet Mistake; FCC-Cell Phones On Planes; JFK Assassination Anniversary; Holiday Electronics.

CBS: Wall Street; Filibuster Rules Altered; ACA-Obama Fix-California; Michael Skakel Released; Alabama-Scottsboro Boys; Navy Corruption Scandal; London-Trapped Women Rescued; Sears Earning Report; Cargo Jet Mistake; FCC-Cell Phones On Planes; Minnesota-Children Rescued From Pond; Marines-Women Pass Infantry Course; Japan-News Island; JFK Assassination Anniversary.
NBC: FCC-Cell Phones On Planes; Cargo Plane Mistake; Filibuster Rules Altered; Afghanistan-US Troop Agreement; North Korea-American Detained; Wall Street; Michael Skakel Released; Midwest Tornado Damage; Japan-New Island; Seattle-Boeing Plane Ad Mistake; JFK Assassination Anniversary.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Afghanistan-US Troop Agreement; FCC-Cell Phones On Planes; Minnesota-Children Rescued From Pond; Marines-Women Pass Infantry Course; Wall Street; Technology-Xbox One Release.
CBS: Filibuster Rules Altered; Janet Yellen Confirmation; Wall Street; Afghanistan-US Troop Agreement; Colorado-James Holmes Trial Postponed; San Francisco-BART Negotiations.
NPR: Filibuster Rules Altered; Arizona-Child Sex Abuse Investigation; Colorado-James Holmes Trial Postponed; Wall Street; Jobs-Unemployment Claims; Navy Corruption Scandal; 1970s IRA Shooting Investigation; Latvia-Deadly Building Collapse.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House: PRESIDENT OBAMA – Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; participates in a video conference with Peace Corps Volunteers in Tanzania, the Situation Room, closed press; hosts bilateral with Kind Mohammed VI of Morocco at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc of Turkey, White House, closed press.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA – Hosts the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards to honor the 2013 winners.
US Senate: 11:15 a.m. – The Senate will convene for a pro forma session.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS – Hearings to examine housing finance reform, focusing on developing a plan for a smooth transition. Witnesses: James Millstein Chairman and CEO, Millstein & Co.; John Bovenzi, Partner, Oliver Wynman; Dr. Mark Zandi, Chief Economist and Cofounder, Moody's Economy.com; David Min, Assistant Professor of Law, University of California, Irvine School of Law. Location: 538 Dirksen.
US House: 10 a.m. – The House will meet in a pro forma session. No votes are expected
Other: NEWSEUM – KENNEDY 50TH – 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Newseum will host JFK Remembrance Day, featuring a number of special events and exclusive programs. The news museum, a top attraction in Washington, D.C., will host a daylong series of JFK-themed discussions with authors, journalists and filmmakers. The museum also will rebroadcast in real time three hours of CBS News live television coverage from Nov. 22, 1963, including the unforgettable moment when legendary anchorman Walter Cronkite reported to the nation that the president was dead. Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

US CHAMBER – CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AMERICA CONFERENCE – The US Chamber of Commerce will host the Caribbean-Central American Actions 37th annual conference on the Caribbean and Central America, which will bring together public- and private-sector representatives for three days of interactive meetings, roundtable discussions, and networking events focused on critical issues facing the region. Speakers: Thomas J. Donohue, President and CEO, US Chamber of Commerce; Luis Alberto Moreno, President, Inter-American Development Bank; Vasant Bharath, Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment, Government of Trinidad & Tobago; Jodi Bond, Vice President for the Americas, US Chamber of Commerce; Ines Bustillo, Director, Washington Office, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America; Mark Lambrides, Chief, Energy & Climate Change Mitigation, Organization of American States. Register at: press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW. 7:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

CSIS – AUSTRALIA AND THE U.S. – Australia and the United States in the 21st Century. Keynote by: Julie

Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia. Introduction by Dr. John J. Hamre, President, CEO and The Pritzker Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies. Moderated by Ernest Z. Bower, Sumitro Chair for Southeast Asia Studies, Senior Adviser & Co-Director, Pacific Partners Initiative, Center for Strategic and International Studies. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2nd Floor Conference Facility, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Vice President Joe Biden went to pick up a couple sandwiches for lunch for him and the President and, when he got there, he didn't have enough money. He had to borrow ten bucks. He was ten bucks short. See, too bad it wasn't a Chinese restaurant. He could have just added it to the 17 trillion dollar tab we have running there."

David Letterman: "And a couple of days ago Florida Congressman Trey Radel was arrested for drug possession. Then he says, 'Look, I need the cocaine, I'm not going to lie, I need the cocaine to stay awake trying to sign up for ObamaCare.'"

Jon Stewart: "So deciding to allow majority rules to incrementally increase government efficiency and presidential appointments is so unthinkably extreme, it's the nuclear option?"

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, we have just witnessed the death of an American institution, the power of the minority to filibuster anything they didn't like is one of our founding principles. That's why it's not in the Constitution."

Stephen Colbert: "And we can't trust the Democrats with all this powers, folks. They can't do anything right. At Harry Reid's press conference announcing the end of the filibuster, they misspelled filibuster with two 'l's.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, November 25, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Nov 25, 2013 at 7:03 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL HEADED TO OKLAHOMA TO SIGN TRIBAL AGREEMENT. The Oklahoman (11/25, 345K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn will be in Oklahoma on Monday to sign an agreement with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation that will allow the tribe greater control in leasing their trust lands. The article notes that the tribe is one of the first to take advantage of the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act. The article also notes that Jewell will be making her first trip to Oklahoma as Interior Secretary, "though she spent some time in state when she worked for Mobil."

The Shawnee (OK) News-Star (11/22, 25K) reports that Rep. Tom Cole, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and other tribal community members will also be in attendance at the ceremony.

Also covering the story are the Indianz (11/25), the Pechanga (11/25), KOKH-TV Oklahoma City (11/25, 2K), KTUL-TV Tulsa, OK (11/25, 28K), KWTV-TV Oklahoma City (11/25, 60K), and KXII-TV Sherman, TX (11/25, 13K).

WHITE HOUSE, REPUBLICANS BATTLE OVER CREDIT FOR SURGE IN OIL, NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION. The Hill (11/23, Geman, 194K) reports that "Republicans and the White House are battling over whether President Obama deserves credit for oil and natural gas production that has surged in the last few

years." According to the Hill, many Republicans believe that Obama his taking the credit for oil and natural gas production that "he did nothing to enable." Republicans point to data showing that this surge in production "has occurred largely on the strength of production from shale formations outside the regions that the Interior Department regulates." However, the Obama Administration continues to use recently released data – such as statistics from the Energy Information Administration that revealed that the US is produced more oil in October than it imports for the first time since 1995 – to support their claim that Obama's energy policies are working.

SECRETARY JEWELL WORKS WITH IDAHO GOV. OTTER ON SAGE GROUSE, GATEWAY WEST. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (11/25, 56K) reports that in the two weeks following a meeting in October between Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Idaho Republican Gov. Butch Otter, the BLM "announced actions that demonstrated" collaboration between the federal and state entities. According to the article, "now, the state and the feds must decide how far they are willing to go to keep working together on two of the most sweeping and contentious land-management issues across Southern Idaho:" the sage grouse and the Gateway West project.

TWO VERMONT RIVERS CLOSER TO NATIONAL WILD RIVER STATUS. The Brattleboro (VT) Reformer (11/25, 22K) reports that two Vermont rivers are closer to being designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. Legislation that included the Upper Missisquoi and Trout rivers in northern Vermont was passed Thursday by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: USGS FINDS LAND SINKING RAPIDLY IN CALIFORNIA'S SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY. Additional coverage of the USGS study finding that land is "sinking more rapidly than usual because of increased pumping from underground sources" in California's San Joaquin Valley was provided by the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (11/25, 506), the Contra Costa (CA) Times (11/25, Dearen, Press, 302K), the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/25, 731K), the Stockton (CA) Record (11/21, 123K), the U-T San Diego (11/24, 647K), the Woodland (CA) Daily Democrat (11/25, 35K), the San Mateo (CA) Daily Journal (11/22, 46K), the AllGov (11/25, 1K), and KRNV-TV Reno, NV (11/25, 2K).

CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/22, Dicks, Evans, 11.54M), Norm Dicks, former US representative for Washington's 6th Congressional District, and a board member of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, and Dan Evans, former governor and US senator for Washington, and a founding co-chair of the coalition, write about the threat to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. According to the two, "despite the clear mandate for further investments to enhance, protect and increase access to our shared outdoor heritage, actions in Congress threaten to undermine this wildly successful program." They note that in her first major address Oct. 31, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "called on Congress to fully fund it."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS PLANS TO LABEL FLORIDA'S ICONIC SILVER SPRINGS AS THREATENED LANDMARK. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/25, 80K) reports that the NPS "plans to label Florida's iconic Silver Springs as threatened in an upcoming report because of its elevated level of contaminants and depleted water flow," according to officials. Mike Litterst, a spokesman for the Interior Department, said that "a federal monitor visited the springs earlier this year as part of the government's National Natural Landmarks program," and "Silver Springs' downgraded status will be reflected in the next program update."

Also covering the story are the Gainesville (FL) Sun (11/22, 91K), the Lakeland (FL) Ledger (11/24, 180K), WTEV-TV Jacksonville, FL (11/25, 22K), WFTV-TV Orlando, FL (11/25, 194K), WJXT-TV Jacksonville, FL (11/25, 112K), and WWSB-TV Sarasota, FL (11/25, 1K).

NPS HONORS JFK. The Boston Globe (11/25, Miller, 1.75M) reports that On Friday, the NPS "held a short memorial service and wreath-laying at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site." According to the article, "the program, which lasted about 20 minutes, included prayers from a priest and a rabbi, historical remarks from park rangers, a reading from Lyndon Johnson's 1963 proclamation for a national day of mourning for Kennedy and another from a letter from US Representative Joseph P. Kennedy III, who wrote about his great-

uncle's vision for the country."

Meanwhile, Roll Call (11/25, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that all NPS sites in the District flew flags at half-staff "to honor the life and public service of John F. Kennedy" on Friday, according to Carol Johnson, spokeswoman for the National Mall and memorial parks in D.C.

SENATE PANEL APPROVES GETTYSBURG PARK EXPANSION. The Philly (11/25, 1.22M) reports that a bill to expand Gettysburg National Military Park has been approved by the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The legislation now awaits consideration by the entire Senate.

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION OFFICIALS WARY OF BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK PLANS. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (11/23, 690K) reports that commissioners with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission were "wary" of the management plans for Biscayne National Park as they heard a presentation Thursday at the FWC's meeting in Weston. However, "after many questions about how restrictive" the Fishery Management Plan and the General Management Plan "would be and making sure the FWC has the final say on fishing regulations, the commissioners unanimously voted to concur with the park's FMP and work with the park on its GMP."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM PROPOSES PROTECTION PLAN FOR SAGE GROUSE IN OREGON. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/25, 80K) reports that the BLM has proposed a range of protections for the greater sage grouse in Oregon. The preferred alternative in the draft environmental impact statement issued Friday would "allow some development of roads, pipelines and electrical lines through areas occupied by sage grouse, and require that when grazing permits are renewed, the land be analyzed for how well suited it is to sage grouse." However, Eric Molvar, a wildlife biologist with the conservation group Wildearth Guardians, said the preferred alternative is "business as usual" and "does not protect the bird from the chief threats_overgrazing and the spread of non-native cheat grass."

Also providing coverage are the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (11/23, 165K) and KFMB-TV San Diego (11/25, 15K).

BLM URGES RESPECT FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES ON PUBLIC LANDS. KGAB-AM Cheyenne, WY (11/25, 274) reports that the BLM is reminding the public that "archaeological artifacts" are "protected by federal law and must be preserved for all." According to BLM spokeswoman Cindy Wertz, "it is important that archaeological artifacts remain in place and undamaged."

Also providing coverage is KTAK-FM Riverton, WY (11/22).

FEDERAL AGENCIES URGED TO RESTORE FORESTS. In an op-ed for the Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (11/24, Rachor, 67K), John Rachor, a Jackson County commissioner, writes that the Jackson County Board of Commissioners has "taken a strong stand in support of efforts to restore federal forests that were destroyed by wildfires earlier this year." However, he notes that "private lands are intermingled with federal O&C lands in a checkerboard pattern," which "makes it difficult to promote a full recovery across the landscape while reducing the risk of a reburn." He urges federal agencies to take action because "doing nothing on federal forest lands, as some have suggested, will only perpetuate the cycle of catastrophic wildfire and poverty in our rural, forested communities."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS RELEASES ANNUAL LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROTECTION. The Chattanoogan (11/22, 17K) reports that the FWS on Friday released the Candidate Notice of Review. The article notes that "three species have been removed from candidate status and three have a change in priority from the last review conducted in November 2012." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "Protecting America's most at-risk wildlife one of our highest priorities. We are currently working with landowners and partners across the nation to implement voluntary conservation agreements on some five million acres of habitat for more than 130 candidate species, helping address some of the threats they face before they are ever listed under the ESA."

FWS CLARIFIES GUIDELINES FOR SEA OTTER USES. The Juneau (AK) Empire (11/22, 21K) reports, the FWS has clarified rules defining how sea otter hides can be used for clothing and handicrafts. Changes were made to give people a better definition of the requirement that pelts be "significantly altered" to be considered authentic Alaska Native handicrafts or clothing that can be sold to non-Natives. The new guidelines say a hide is significantly altered when it's not recognizable as a whole hide and has been made into handicrafts or clothing.

Also providing coverage are the Cordova (AK) Times (11/25, 2K) and KTOO-FM Juneau, AK (11/22).

FWS HOLDS OPEN HOUSE ON PROPOSED NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger (11/25, By Brian Albert Broom Bbroom@, clarionledger.com, 213K) reports during an open-house meeting, where FWS representatives "explained the possibilities of a proposed National Wildlife Refuge in the Jackson area, little opposition was heard." Connie Dickard of the FWS said, "It was definitely more positive. Some folks have asked who would be against this."

FWS TO GIVE WATER QUALITY THE MOST WEIGHT IN DETERMINING GROTTO SCULPIN'S FUTURE. The AP (11/25) reports that "water quality, not the number of fish, will be the biggest factor determining what happens in the effort to save" the grotto sculpin. The FWS will review data in five years. At a public meeting, FWS biologist Shauna Marquardt said, "We're going to base recovery on water-quality parameters. ... Counting fish can be tricky."

FWS SETS ASIDE HABITAT FOR JEMEZ MOUNTAIN SALAMANDER. The Arizona Daily Star (11/25, 335K) reports that the FWS has designated more than 140 square miles in northern New Mexico as critical habitat for the Jemez Mountain salamander. The article notes that "tost of the land designated as critical habitat is federal," and "there are about 2,800 acres that are private property." The FWS "says no changes in economic activity or land or water management are expected to result from the critical habitat designation."

DECISION ON OREGON SPOTTED FROG COULD AFFECT LAND USE. The Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (11/24, 67K) reports that under an FWS proposal to list the Oregon spotted frog as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, "48 acres of Bureau of Land Management land and 13 acres of private land near the Parsnip Lakes will be listed as critical habitat." Jim Thrailkill, FWS field supervisor in the Roseburg Field Office, said, "If there are activities that are going to be done on those lands that involve some federal funding or permits, then there's conversation that needs to be entered in with the Fish & Wildlife Service. There's a perception that it's a 'hands off' or a reserve, and that's not the case. There are still allowable activities."

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATIONISTS URGE PROTECTION FOR GRAY WOLVES. KFMB-TV San Diego (11/25, 15K) reports that California conservationists are urging the FWS to protect gray wolves from human hunters. According to the article, "hundreds of activists attended a FWS hearing Friday in Sacramento to discuss a proposal to take the gray wolf off the federal list of endangered species throughout the lower 48 states."

RED WOLVES' RETURN TO CAPE ROMAIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE OUTSIDE CHARLESTON STILL UNCERTAIN. The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (11/24, 284K) reports that "the question still hangs whether the red wolf will return to the wild" at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, "where much of the recovery of the nearly extinct species began." On one hand, "prospects for a return have improved." FWS "biologists are looking at placing breeding pairs of wolves along remote East Coast islands as an alternative to the semi-captive program now used, and Bull's Island is one of the places under consideration." On the other hand, "the program still battles for budget and staff."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORT ON COASTAL WETLANDS LOSS. Additional coverage of the report on the increased rate of coastal wetlands loss was provided by NPR (11/22, Chappell, 465K), State (SC) (11/24, 280K), and the YubaNet (CA) (11/25, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORT ON FISCAL CHALLENGES FACING HATCHERIES. Additional coverage of the report issued by the FWS "outlining fiscal challenges for 70 federal fish hatcheries" was provided by the Daily Inter Lake (MT) (11/25, 57K).

FWS REPORT ON ECONOMIC IMPACT OF WILDLIFE REFUGES TOUTED. In an op-ed for the Bakersfield Californian (11/25, Love, 140K), Harry Love, president of the Kern Audubon Society, notes that a recent report by

the FWS, "Banking on Nature," found "refuges contributed an average $4.87 in total economic output for every $1 appropriated in fiscal year 2011." He concludes that "national wildlife refugees are the best bet we can make as a society."

Additional coverage of the report on the economic impact of wildlife refuges was provided by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (11/25, 798K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DUKE ENERGY PLEADS GUILTY TO KILLING GOLDEN EAGLES AT ITS WYOMING WIND FARMS. The AP (11/23, Cappiello) reported that Duke Energy has "pleaded guilty to killing 14 eagles and 149 other birds at two Wyoming wind farms" and has agreed to pay the US government a million dollars settlement with the US government. Duke Energy Renewables Inc. President Greg Wolf issued a statement apologizing for what happened to the golden eagles at their two wind farms and stated that the company's "goal is to provide the benefits of wind energy in the most environmentally responsible way possible." The AP added that the "case against Duke Energy Corp. and its renewable energy arm was the first prosecuted under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act," which provides protection for golden eagles.

The Hill (11/23, Hattem, 194K) reported in its "Regwatch" blog that the American Wind Energy Association issued a statement saying that this "agreement will help advance the knowledge of wind wildlife interactions to further reduce the industry's relatively small impacts."

The New York Times (11/23, Fitzsimmons, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) provided similar coverage on the topic. Also providing coverage are the Los Angeles Times (11/23, Karlamangla, 3.07M), the Washington Times (11/22, Cappiello, 417K), the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (11/25, 1.26M), the Boston Herald (11/25, 643K), the Denver Post (11/25, Press, 949K), the Christian Science Monitor (11/23, Cappiello, 540K), NPR (11/23, Peralta, 465K), ABC News (11/25, 3.68M), BBC News (11/22, 1.62M), and WJBK-TV Detroit (11/25, 83K).

Onshore Energy Development:

ENERGY EXPERT SEES WYOMING FRACKING RULE AS MODEL FOR US. The New York Times (11/23, Galbraith, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that last week, Wyoming's state regulators approved what some described as "one of the nation's strongest requirements for testing water wells near drilling sites" in order to "address concerns that ground water can become contaminated from" fracking. According to the Times, the new rule, "which takes effect in March, will require oil and gas companies to test wells or springs within a half-mile of their drilling site, both before and after drilling." Jon Goldstein, a senior energy policy manager at the Environmental Defense Fund, said that Wyoming's water-rule was the "strongest" yet and serves as a "kind of a model for the country."

BLM TO ALLOW ANONYMOUS OIL, GAS LEASE NOMINATIONS. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (11/25, 73K) reports that the BLM will "allow entities to anonymously nominate parcels to be leased for oil and gas development." However, the decision is "drawing criticism from dozens of citizen, conservation and other organizations who see it as an effort to sidestep a Colorado court ruling requiring nominators' names to be made public before leasing occurs." In a letter Friday to the BLM, Citizens for a Healthy Community and 44 other organizations, wrote, "This confounding decision results in a blatant undermining of the improved transparency BLM purports to advance."

BLM LEASE AUCTION NETS $11 MILLION. The Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus (11/25, 18K) reports that Thursday's BLM oil and gas mineral rights leasing sale resulted in more than $11 million in revenue.

NAVAJO NATION MOVES FORWARD WITH PLAN TO BUY NAVAJO MINE. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (11/25, 46K) reports that the Navajo Nation is continuing to pursue its "plans to acquire the Navajo Mine after the Arizona Corporation Commission decided not to continue studying deregulation of that state's energy market." However, "still unclear is how the purchase will be funded."

ADVOCATES URGED TO SEE BOTH SIDES OF ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DEBATE. In his column for the Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (11/25, Bishop, 44K), Sam Bishop writes that last week, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge "debate rose to the surface again" as Sens. Maria Cantwell and Mark Kirk "introduced legislation to place the 1.5-million-acre coastal plain in official wilderness status, which would prevent oil and gas drilling." Bishop urges advocates to see both sides of the debate. He writes that "as someone who respects people on both sides of this debate, I've often wished that the most passionate among them would not reach for images and slogans that seem to reflect ideological blinders more than reality (or at least my vision of reality, of course)."

CONGRESS URGED TO ENACT HR 2728. In an op-ed for the San Antonio Express-News (11/25, 746K), Bud Weinstein, associate director of the Maguire Energy Institute in the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University, criticizes the BLM's "recently issued new environmental and safety rules pursuant to hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and oil on federal and Indian lands." he notes that "for more than 40 years, states have had regulatory oversight of natural gas drilling, and hydraulic fracturing has been used in more than a million wells across the US" Weinstein argues that "the BLM rules would create a 'one-size-fits-all' federal regulatory regime on top of specifically crafted state programs." Weinstein urges Congress to enact HR 2728, "a bill that would allow state regulations regarding hydraulic fracturing to supersede any forthcoming federal standards."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM AWARDS GULF OF MEXICO CONTRACT TO CSA OCEAN SCIENCES. The Offshore Magazine (11/25, 143K) reports that the BOEM has awarded CSA Ocean Sciences "a contract for conducting measurements and modeling of the underwater pressure waves produced during explosive well decommissioning in the Gulf of Mexico." According to the article, "through an underwater modeling approach, CSA will calculate shockwave, acoustic impulse, and energy flux for underwater detonations."

Also covering the story is the Penn Energy (11/25, 128).

NORTH CAROLINA GOV. MCCRORY COULD RENEW PUSH FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING. The Wilmington (NC) Star News (11/24, 123K) reports that North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory says "he will push a comprehensive energy package during the short session that begins in May." According to the article, "though his office is mum on details, it could include policy related to drilling in federal waters off North Carolina."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BSEE CITES TWELVE OPERATORS FOR NEGLECTING SEMS. Additional coverage of the BSEE's citation of twelve operators for their failure to demonstrate compliance with the Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) requirements was provided by the Marine Link (11/25, 1K), the Offshore Magazine (11/25, 143K), the Penn Energy (11/25, 128), and the Rigzone (11/25, 12K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Marysville (CA) Appeal-Democrat (11/25, 70K), the Bay Area (CA) Indymedia (11/22, 2K), the Bay Area (CA) Indymedia (11/22, 2K), the Inside Bay Area (CA) (11/25, Altgelt, 47K), and the Inside Bay Area (CA) (11/25, 47K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

BLACKFEET LEADER EXPELS MEMBER. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (11/23, 90K) reports that "two factions of a divided Blackfeet Tribal Business Council have split again." Chairman Willie Sharp Jr. has expelled Councilman Leonard Guardipee and replaced him with Allen Shane Goss. Roger "Sassy" Running Crane said he expects that the BIA will "likely reject Goss' appointment and that Guardipee's expulsion will be reversed."

Also reporting on the story is the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (11/25, 54K).

Top National News:

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS BLAST DEAL ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM. Sunday's coverage of the deal reached by the P5+1 and Iran this weekend emphasizes objections to the agreement's framework from both Republicans and Democrats in Congress – as well as from Israel. The three network newscasts, which devoted more than 16 minutes of airtime to the developments out of Geneva, portrayed the deal as potentially historic, but – as is the case with print and online reports – featured almost no praise for the deal from anyone outside of the Administration. On the other hand, all three newscasts noted Israel's criticisms and had reports on the widespread support for the agreement among Iranians. Apart from Secretary of State Kerry's own defenses of the deal, the Sunday morning news programs featured an almost unrelenting bipartisan cavalcade of objections to the agreement from members of Congress.

In an analysis that is representative of much the coverage, Elizabeth Palmer, on the CBS Evening News (11/24, story 3, 1:25, Glor, 5.58M), said the Administration "has managed to anger two of its staunchest allies in the region with this agreement," Israel and Saudi Arabia. But Palmer added that, "broadly speaking, around the world, countries are pleased" because they "think there is not much of a downside to freezing Iran's nuclear program," and that the deal "will make the world a more stable place."

Terry Moran, on ABC World News (11/24, story 2, 2:45, Muir, 7.43M), reported that "the doubters and the critics" of the deal "are legion, starting" with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and including "most Republicans and many Democrats" in Congress. According to Moran, Iran has "agreed to freeze its nuclear program, destroy its dangerous near-weapons-grade fuel, and allow daily monitoring of key facilities by international inspectors." Moran continued, "In return, the US and allies agreed to ease some economic sanctions, about $7 billion worth...and the whole deal is temporary, six months for negotiators to hammer out a final agreement, which will be much more difficult to get done."

Lester Holt, at the opening of NBC Nightly News (11/24, lead story, 3:35, Holt, 7.86M), said, "With a historic multinational agreement," the US and Iran "stepped away from the edge after a long and dangerous game of brinkmanship over Iran's nuclear ambitions." However, Holt added that "there are some pretty loud and influential voices from Washington to the Middle East that are calling this agreement a historic mistake." Andrea Mitchell went on to report that the "landmark agreement...is already being criticized by Israel and Saudi Arabia, along with some of the President's closest allies on Capitol Hill." Mitchell reported that Netanyahu "condemned the deal," and he was shown saying, "This agreement has made the world a much more dangerous place." According to Mitchell, "many in Congress agree with Israel." Sen. Chuck Schumer: "We're sending a signal to Iran that they can continue to go ahead and by talking and acting like they have goodwill, can get away with at least nuclear weapon production capability."

On the CBS Evening News (11/24, story 2, 2:45, Glor, 5.58M), Margaret Brennan also reported that "skeptics, including...Netanyahu, slammed the deal, calling it a 'historic mistake' that would allow Iran to get closer to making a bomb." According to Brennan, "there is also bipartisan criticism of the deal coming from Capitol Hill." Sen. Bob Corker: "In Iran right now...they are spiking the football in the end zone saying that look, 'we consolidated our gains, we have relieved sanctions, we are going to have the right to enrich.'" According to Brennan, on Sunday, Kerry "dismissed" such analyses, and "said Iran will have to back up its words with action." Kerry was shown saying, "I think everybody has a right to be skeptical, because there are indications that there are people in Iran who have wanted to pursue a weapons program, that there have been secret facilities buildings under those efforts towards that program, and so there is lots of reason that's why we don't take anything at face value."

According to the Washington Post (11/25, A1, Warrick, 4.28M), on Sunday, "euphoria over the signing of a historic nuclear agreement with Iran gave way to sober realism...as...congressional skeptics threatened to thwart it." The Post notes that Sen. Robert Menendez, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "said new sanctions legislation being considered by the Senate would include a six-month window to allow diplomats to try to negotiate permanent limits to Iran's nuclear program," but Menendez added that the Senate will not "abstain from preparations to impose new sanctions on Iran, should the talks fail."

On NBC Nightly News (11/24, story 3, 1:05, Holt, 7.86M), Chuck Todd said, "Essentially, Congress is giving the

President a very short leash." Todd added, "Remember, support for Israel is bipartisan on Capitol Hill...so if...Iran doesn't look like they're doing this deal, the political pressure on the President to back out will be tremendous."

The AP (11/25, Elliott) notes that in July, the House "passed its latest round of sanctions against Iran with backing from both parties, but the measure stalled in the Senate" after President Obama "convinced Senate leadership to hold off consideration of the measure while negotiators pursued an agreement." The AP goes on to report that on Sunday, "lawmakers already were talking about sanctions designed to caution Iran that failure to use the six-month window to reach a deal would only leave Iranians in worse economic straits." Sen. Marco Rubio said, "There is now an even more urgent need for Congress to increase sanctions until Iran completely abandons its enrichment and reprocessing capabilities."

The Wall Street Journal (11/25, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on ABC's This Week, Sen. Saxby Chambliss said, "Instead of easing them, now is the time to tighten those sanctions."

House Minority Whip Rep. Steny Hoyer, on CBS' Face The Nation (11/24, Schieffer, 2.64M), said, "It is appropriate that we wait six months to implement those, which will say to the Iranians: `We need a final deal, and if not a final deal, these tougher sanctions are going to go into place.'"

Bloomberg News (11/25, Tirone, Lakshmanan, Foroohar, 1.91M) reports that on Sunday, the President "urged members of Congress not to proceed with plans to impose fresh sanctions on Iran." However, Sen. Schumer said the "disproportionality of this agreement makes it more likely that Democrats and Republicans will join together and pass additional sanctions when we return in December."

Politico (11/25, Everett, 467K) features statements from Schumer and Menendez under the headline, "Dems Still Press For New Sanctions." Roll Call (11/25, Lesniewski, 87K) notes that Menendez and Schumer "are senior members of the Senate Banking Committee, which has lead jurisdiction over the sanctions issue."

McClatchy (11/25, Kumar, 95K) notes that the President did get support from Sen. Dianne Feinstein, chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, who said, "By any standard, this agreement is a giant step forward and should not be undermined by additional sanctions at this time."

The Los Angeles Times (11/25, Simon, 3.07M) reports that Sen. Carl Levin, who chairs the Armed Services Committee, and, according to the Times, like Feinstein, has a "long record...of supporting Israel," released a statement describing this weekend's deal as "a realistic, practical way to freeze Iran's nuclear program for six months while we seek a long-range diplomatic end to Iran's nuclear weapon ambition."

In a post titled, "Top Dems, Republicans Blast Obama's Nuke Deal With Iran," The Hill (11/25, Becker, 194K) reports that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "vowed last week to move ahead with sanctions legislation, but has yet to comment on the agreement finalized this weekend in Geneva."

Bloomberg News (11/25, Tirone, Lakshmanan, Foroohar, 1.91M) draws attention to criticism of the deal from members of Congress of both parties, including House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, who said the US "must rebuild our alliances in the region and stand firmly with our closest partners against Iranian aggression." The Wall Street Journal (11/25, Solomon, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) quotes Sen. Mark Kirk as saying, "This deal appears to provide the world's leading sponsor of terrorism with billions of dollars in exchange for cosmetic concessions."

Reuters (11/25, Bohan, Dunham) reports that in an appearance on Fox News Sunday, Sen. Bob Corker, the top Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, predicted that there is going to be "a bipartisan effort to try to make sure that this is not a final agreement." Sen. Ben Cardin, also on Fox News Sunday (11/24, Wallace), vowed not to "stand by" and "just let this be the final deal."

The New York Times (11/25, Landler, 9.61M) reported that on CNN's State Of The Union, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI), the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, argued that "the agreement gave a 'dangerous' nation an out from mounting sanctions that were just starting to show results." Rogers is quoted as saying, "The only thing that has changed is that you have now given them a permission slip to continue enrichment."

House Foreign Affairs Committee ranking Democrat Eliot Engel (D-NY) said on CNN's State Of The Union (11/24, Crowley), "It's disappointing to me that Iran is still going to be allowed to enrich while they're talking. I would have thought that that should be a prerequisite to any kind of talks."

Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA), in an op-ed for USA Today (11/25, Hunter, 5.82M) titled, "Iran Deal's Details Are Cause For Alarm," also makes the case that this weekend's deal "provides no real assurance that Iran will stop pursuing nuclear weapons" because "Iran's centrifuges will still spin by the thousands."

According to the Christian Science Monitor (11/25, Knickerbocker, 540K), polling shows that the US public is far more open to negotiations with Iran than is the Congress. The Monitor notes that a CNN/ORC poll taken in September "found that 'three-quarters of Americans say they favor direct diplomatic negotiations with Iran in an attempt to prevent that country from developing nuclear weapons," and that included 87% of Democrats and 68% of Republicans.

Obama's Call To Netanyahu Fails To Mollify Israeli Officials. Bloomberg News (11/25, Doming, Talev, 1.91M) reports that on Sunday, President Obama "moved to prevent the agreement from opening a rift with" the government of Israel, as well as "some Democrats in Congress," by calling Netanyahu. Principal Deputy White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said that in a call to Netanyahu, Obama "underscored that the United States will remain firm in our commitment to Israel, which has good reason to be skeptical about Iran's intentions."

On NBC Nightly News (11/24, lead story, 3:35, Holt, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that the President "tried to reassure" Netanyahu "that he will be consulted on every aspect of any final deal with Iran," but, according to Mitchell, "Israel's worry is that the President is too eager for an agreement and not driving a hard enough bargain with Tehran."

The Wall Street Journal (11/25, Solomon, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that while President Obama called the agreement "a new path toward a world that is more secure," Netanyahu's office released a statement reading: "This is a bad agreement. It gives Iran exactly what it wants: both substantial easing of sanctions and preservation of the most substantial parts of its nuclear program."

The New York Times (11/25, Kershner, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Netanyahu's foreign minister, Avidgor Lieberman, called the deal reached this weekend "the greatest diplomatic achievement for the Iranians." Yuval Steinitz, Israel's minister of strategic affairs, maintained that "like the failed agreement with North Korea, this agreement is likely to bring Iran closer to obtaining the bomb." Steinitz added, "Israel cannot take part in the international celebration, which is based on Iranian duplicity and self-deception." The Times reports that Naftali Bennett, Israel's economic minister, "even warned that the pact could result in a nuclear attack against the West," saying, "If five years from now a nuclear suitcase explodes in New York or Madrid, it will be because of the deal that was signed this morning."

In a front-page article under the headline, "Iran Nuclear Deal Could Complicate Other US Foreign Policy Efforts In The Middle East," the Washington Post (11/25, A1, DeYoung, 4.28M) reports that "the Iran agreement, seen by...Netanyahu as a threat to regional stability, may hamper his government's willingness to compromise with the Palestinians in talks backed by the United States." According to the Post, the increased "tension...comes as the administration, and Kerry personally, are trying to weather a rough patch in efforts to bring the Israelis and the Palestinians to agreement on a two-state solution."

The Los Angeles Times (11/25, Sobelman, 3.07M) covers the reaction from Israel in a piece titled, "Israel's Netanyahu: Iran Agreement A 'Historic Mistake.'" The Wall Street Journal (11/25, Levinson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Israeli President Shimon Peres was less critical of the initial agreement than Netanyahu and his ministers, and contended that the final agreement may still provide Israel with many of the reassurances it seeks. The Journal also notes that on Sunday, the newspaper Haaretz suggested that "perhaps it's time to consider other diplomatic options besides perpetual petulance" because Israel's allies have been reduced to "only Saudi sheiks and U.S. lawmakers."

USA Today (11/25, Chabin, 5.82M) reports from Jerusalem that "few" Israelis "expect [their] military to stage a pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear facilities anytime soon," but they "know it is a possibility." USA Today

notes that a poll released this month found that "52.4% of Israeli Jews favored a solo strike on Iran's nuclear sites, and 68.8% thought an independent military strike against Iran would succeed." USA Today adds that a separate recent poll "found that only 31% of Israeli Jews trusted the U.S. to safeguard Israel's security."

The Weekly Standard's Bill Kristol said on ABC's This Week (11/24, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "That strikes me as a terrible deal," and so, "of course, the Iranian regime is very happy with this deal and our allies are very unhappy with it."

Gerald Seib, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (11/25, Seib, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), contends that US allies' concerns about the Iran deal reflect their larger worry about the US's commitment to the region, and the growing perception that the US is increasingly reluctant to engage in any new wars.

The Wall Street Journal (11/25, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial titled, "Iran's Nuclear Triumph," denounces the deal as an unmitigated disaster for the US and Israel that will make Iran a nuclear power and give it access to cash it desperately needs.

Kerry: "Verification Is The Key." The New York Times (11/25, Landler, 9.61M) reported that in interviews that aired on CNN's State Of The Union, CBS' Face The Nation and ABC's This Week, Secretary Kerry "offered a robust defense of the interim nuclear agreement with Iran...rejecting comparisons to North Korea and insisting that the deal would make Israel and Persian Gulf allies of the United States more secure, not less so."

The Washington Post (11/25, A1, Warrick, 4.28M) reports that on Sunday, Kerry "argu[ed] that the United States and its allies believe that it ensures Iran will either abide by the agreement or face the reinstatement of measures that have crippled Iran's economy." Politico (11/25, Drusch, 467K) reports that on CBS' Face The Nation, Kerry "compared the negotiations to dealing with the Soviet Union," saying, "We've done arms control agreements in other parts of the world. ... It's not based on trust. It's based on verification."

Likewise, USA Today (11/25, Jackson, 5.82M) says that in all of the interviews Kerry sat for, his message was "that without verification, there can be no real deal." On CNN's State Of The Union, Kerry said, "Verification is the key. ... We're trying to set up a process by which we can verify, know what we're doing, restraining the program while we negotiate the comprehensive deal."

The Hill (11/25, Schroeder, 194K) noted that on ABC's This Week, Kerry said, "This negotiation is not the art of fantasy or the art of the deal. It's the art of the possible." Kerry added, "We have no illusions." The Washington Times (11/25, Eldridge, Howell, 417K) covers Kerry's Sunday interviews in an article titled, "Kerry Defends Iran Deal: 'It's Not A Question Of Trust.'"

The Huffington Post (11/25, Edwards-Levy, 11.54M) reports that on ABC's This Week, Kerry said, "We guarantee that while we are negotiating for the dismantling...they will not grow their program and their capacity to threaten Israel," and so Israel "will actually gain a larger breathing space in terms of the breakout capacity of Iran." But USA Today (11/25, Jackson, 5.82M) notes that while Kerry insisted that the US and Israel "absolutely share the same goal here," and that "there is no daylight between us," Netanyahu "denounced the agreement, calling it 'a historic mistake.'"

David Andelman, editor in chief of World Policy Journal, in an op-ed for USA Today (11/25, Andelman, 5.82M), asks rhetorically, "How does...the IAEA or the Western powers in Geneva, determine to everyone's satisfaction that [Iran's] stockpiles of near-weapons-grade 20% uranium have been watered down, that no new fissile materials are being produced and that the Arak plutonium reactor has been returned to a standstill mode?" According to Andelman, "Trust, but verify, would seem to be the only viable option." However, Andelman adds that the Administration must not "let a desperate desire for a potentially historic foreign policy legacy trump the need to police every step of the process."

Kerry And Zarif Offer Different Perspectives On Iran's Right To Enrich Uranium. On NBC Nightly News (11/24, story 2, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M), Secretary Kerry was shown saying, "Let me be clear, this first step does not say that Iran has a right to enrichment. No matter what interpretive comments are made, it is not in this document." However, in an interview with NBC's Ann Curry, Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif said that while the agreement "doesn't say in so many words" that Iran has the right to enrich uranium, "it says very clearly that Iran

will have an enrichment program and it has a right to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes."

The Washington Post (11/25, A1, Warrick, Gearan, 4.28M) reports that in Geneva, Zarif "repeatedly insisted that" his government "needed explicit language about enrichment in the text in order to sell the deal back home," but the US "rejected any mention of an enrichment 'right' and pushed for vague language referring to Iran's ability to seek peaceful nuclear power in a 'mutually defined' way."

USA Today (11/25, Lackey, 5.82M) reports that on Sunday, the Twitter account, @HassanRouhani, which "has not been verified by Twitter but is believed to be the legitimate, English account of the Iranian leader," included this update: "#IranTalks progressed in such a way that rights of Iranian nation to peaceful #nuclear energy & enrichment were acknowledged by world powers."

Kerry Credited With Producing "A Diplomatic Coup." Anne Gearan, in an analysis for the Washington Post (11/25, 4.28M), says "the deal Kerry was instrumental in cutting is a diplomatic coup, even if its effectiveness and durability remain in doubt," because it "sets new boundaries for Iran's disputed nuclear program that represent significant compromises and concessions for Iran." Gearan goes on to say that the deal was also "the work of many lesser-known diplomats, including Wendy Sherman, the State Department's undersecretary for political affairs and its representative to the negotiations over Iran's nuclear program."

John Bacon, in a piece for USA Today (11/25, Bacon, 5.82M) titled, "Kerry's Place In History Could Hinge On Iran Outcome," notes that already in his "short time" at State, Kerry has worked on "efforts to revive the Palestinian peace talks, a deal brokered with Russia aimed at removing chemical weapons from Syria, and a post-withdrawal security agreement with Afghanistan."

Secret US-Iran Talks Preceded This Weekend's Deal. Terry Moran, on ABC World News (11/24, story 2, 2:45, Muir, 7.43M), reported that in a development that was met with "diplomatic astonishment," it was revealed that "there had been months of unprecedented secret talks between the US and Iran to lay the ground work for Geneva," including "five meetings this year" in which "US and Iranian officials [met] face to face." According to Moran, President Obama was "keeping some of the closest US allies, including Israel, in the dark, as the agreement took shape."

The AP (11/25, Klapper, Lee, Pace) reports that President Obama "first shared the existence of the secret diplomacy with...Netanyahu in September, and only then offered a limited recounting of how long the discussions between Iran and the United States had been taking place." According to the AP, Deputy Secretary of State William Burns and Jake Sullivan, an adviser to Vice President Biden, "led each US delegation," although Wendy Sherman, the State Department's undersecretary for political affairs, was also present at "the most recent face-to-face talks." The AP says Burns and Sullivan "were accompanied...by National Security Council aide Puneet Talwar and four other officials." The AP says the meetings, held in Muscat, Oman, were "guided by Sultan Qaboos, Oman's diminutive but wily monarch, who has cultivated decades of good relations with the United States and his region's two rivals: Sunni-controlled Saudi Arabia and Shia-dominated Iran."

The Washington Times (11/25, Taylor, 417K) reports that National Security Adviser Susan Rice was "also...involved in the secret direct talks." Mark Landler, in a front-page analysis for the New York Times (11/25, A1, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says President Obama "has wanted to bring in Iran from the cold since he was a presidential candidate," when he promised to "pursue 'aggressive personal diplomacy' with Iranian leaders, and ruling out the concept of leadership change, which was popular at the time."

According to USA Today (11/25, Jackson, 5.82M), the previously secret rounds of negotiations "may...explain some of the tensions between the United States and France, which earlier this month balked at a proposed deal, and with Israel, which is furious about the agreement and has angrily denounced the diplomatic outreach to Tehran." USA Today also reports that President Obama "personally authorized the talks," and that Secretary Kerry "visited Oman in May on a trip ostensibly to push a military deal with the sultanate but secretly focused on maintaining that country's key mediation role."

The Washington Post (11/25, A1, Warrick, Gearan, 4.28M) reports that in Geneva, Secretary Kerry's "personal influence appeared to help, and in ways that were not immediately obvious during the negotiations." According to the Post, the Administration has "revealed that Kerry had been working quietly through Omani intermediaries to

reach out to Iranian moderates since 2011, two years before he was named...secretary of state."

According to the New York Times (11/25, Kershner, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Silvan Shalom, Israel's Minister for Regional Development, "was asked on Israel Radio if Israeli officials had been informed about the secret American-Iranian talks." The Times reports that Shalom replied, "It is not important whether or not we were informed. What is important is if we knew of it, and we did know."

Saudis Concerned About Iran's Regional Influence, But Other Arab Governments Endorse Deal. USA Today (11/25, Dorell, 5.82M) reports that Abdullah al-Askar, "chairman of Saudi Arabia's appointed Shoura Council," said, "I am afraid Iran will give up something to get something else from the big powers in terms of regional politics — and I'm worrying about giving Iran more space or a freer hand in the region." Al-Askar added, "The government of Iran, month after month, has proven that it has an ugly agenda in the region, and in this regard no one in the region will sleep and assume things are going smoothly." USA Today adds that Marwan Bishara, senior political analyst at Al Jazeera, also says "the Saudis are most alarmed by the potential U.S.-Iran detente and the rise of an unrestrained Iran on the Middle East stage."

On the other hand, the Wall Street Journal (11/25, Knickmeyer, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an article titled, "Arab States Show Cautious Optimism On Nuclear Deal," reports that the governments of Turkey. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates all endorsed the deal reached this weekend.

Philip Ewing, in an analysis for Politico (11/25, Ewing, 467K), says, "Even the most optimistic Middle East analyst probably is not cockeyed enough to expect Iran's nuclear agreement to also mean it will withdraw the many tentacles it uses to work its will in places from Syria to Iraq to...Bahrain."

UN's Ban, Putin Welcome Diplomatic Progress. AFP (11/25, Sturdee, Revise) reports that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the initial deal, which he said might "turn out to be the beginnings of a historic agreement," while Russian President Putin cautioned that while "a breakthrough step has been made," it is "only the first on a long and difficult path."

AFP (11/25) reports that on Sunday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, "We are convinced that Iran will cooperate with the agency in good faith." Lavrov added, "We didn't recognise these unilateral sanctions, so it is correct to start easing pressure on Iran by removing unilateral sanctions."

Most Iranians Were Reportedly Elated By News That A Deal Had Been Reached. Lester Holt, on NBC Nightly News (11/24, story 2, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M), reported that "on the streets of Tehran" there were "celebrations" as "people waved flags and flowers and cheered Iran's foreign minister, the chief negotiator as an ambassador of peace."

ABC World News (11/24, story 3, 2:05, Muir, 7.43M)showed footage from Tehran as David Muir described the scene of "hundreds cheering on their negotiators returning to the airport, giving them a hero's welcome." ABC's Muhammad Lila reported from Tehran that President Rouhani is "being hailed as a hero."

On the CBS Evening News (11/24, story 3, 1:25, Glor, 5.58M), Elizabeth Palmer reported that "when the Iranian nuclear negotiating team arrived back at the Tehran airport, it was greeted by a cheering crowd of mostly young people who are very happy with the deal, happy with thawing relations with relations where the west." However, Palmer added that "behind the scenes, we should be very aware that there are hard-liners that are bitterly opposed to this deal inside Iran and see it as a sellout to the West."

AFP (11/25, Sturdee, Revise) reports that Iran's "supreme leader," Ayatollah Khamenei, "hailed the deal," and, according to AFP, "for ordinary Iranians, news of the breakthrough was a moment of unbridled joy."

The Christian Science Monitor (11/25, Peterson, 540K) reports that on Sunday, President Rouhani appeared alongside "family members beside him of assassinated nuclear scientists," and said Iran's "enemy [failed] to promote Iranophobia," as the rest of the world "came to understand that respecting the Iranian nation would bear results."

Reuters (11/25, Hafezi, Pawlak) reports that in an open letter to Rouhani that was published by Iran's state news

agency, Khamenei wrote: "This can be the basis for further intelligent actions." In an interview televised in Iran Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said, "In the coming weeks – by the end of the Christian year – we will begin the programme for the first phase. At the same time, we are prepared to begin negotiations for a final resolution as of tomorrow. ... We need to start moving in the direction of restoring confidence, a direction which we have managed to move against in the past." AFP (11/25) reports that Zarif has become something of a national hero in the wake of the announcement that a deal has been reached.

According to the New York Times (11/25, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), "factions from across the [Iran's] political spectrum, including hard-liners who have preached increased isolation, said they welcomed the first nuclear deal in more than a decade between Iran and world powers." The Times says that in Tehran on Sunday, "people could be seen smiling and discussing the news."

The Wall Street Journal (11/25, Michaels, Faucon, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the easing of sanctions on Iran could provide opportunities for multinationals that have not had access to the Iranian market for some time. However, according to the Journal, it is unlikely that US firms will be at the head of the line of firms hoping to take advantage of the shift because of the stigma attached to conducting business with Iranians.

The Foundation for Defense of Democracies' Mark Dubowitz and Orde Kittrie, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (11/25, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) predict that Iran will likely reap far more than the $7 billion estimated by the Administration from the easing of international sanctions over the next six months.

Analyses: Deal Provides Six Months To Prevent The US, Israel From Starting War With Iran. Under the headline, "Obama Has Leeway On Iran, Despite US Lawmakers' Concerns," Reuters (11/25, Zengerle, Bohan) reports that despite the skeptical assessment of this weekend's deal, President Obama is likely to have the six months he is asking for to work towards a final deal without active obstruction from Congress. Sen. Bill Nelson is quoted as saying, "It is a choice between a pause or imminent war. I choose a verifiable pause."

Bloomberg News (11/25, Ben-david, 1.91M) reported that Netanyahu emphasized that Israel "is 'not bound' by the Geneva agreement" and "has the right and obligation to defend itself, by itself, against any threat." However, Uzi Eilam, the former director-general of the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission, believes that "the use of force isn't seen as likely within the life of the deal." Eilam is quoted as saying, "This agreement will not allow Israel, or anyone, to utilize the military option over the six next months, or at least until the interim period is over and we know if a final deal is possible."

AFP (11/25) reports that Alireza Nader, a senior policy analyst with the RAND Corporation, is also under the impression that Israel "would not seek to undermine an accord which the international community has signed off on with a strike on Iran in the coming six months."

Josh Gerstein, in a piece for Politico (11/25, Gerstein, 467K), writes that while "supporters of a tougher line against Iran were disappointed...the pact did deliver an item long on their wish list: a deadline" of six months. According to Gerstein, "If no permanent deal is reached" in the next months, "the White House will come under increasing pressure to act militarily – or acquiesce to an Israeli strike." Gerstein notes that on CNN Sunday, Sen. Lindsey Graham said, "I think you will see the Congress impose additional sanctions that won't take place for six months with some conditions." According to Gerstein, on Saturday, the President was "ambiguous on how he would respond to sanctions legislation that might pass Congress in the coming weeks if new strictures are set to deploy automatically after six months or if Iran is found to have strayed from its promises in the interim pact."

Michael Gordon, in an analysis for the New York Times (11/25, A1, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), notes that the "interim accord...allows Iran to preserve most of its nuclear infrastructure, including the capabilities it would need to develop a nuclear device." Gordon adds that "negotiating a comprehensive agreement" will "require much tougher choices by each side." Gordon also says that, at this point, "the question is not whether the Obama administration is prepared to allow Iran to continue enriching uranium but rather what constraints the United States and its negotiating partners will insist on in return."

WPost, NYTimes And USA Today Offer Cautious Optimism About The Prospects For Peace. The Washington Post (11/25, 4.28M), in an editorial, says the deal reached this weekend "is freighted with risk," but is, nevertheless, "worthy as an interim step — and preferable to the military action that might otherwise have

been deemed necessary." The Post goes on to contend that while the imposition of sanction "played a vital role in bringing Iran to the bargaining table," Congress "would be wise to refrain from imposing sanctions that take effect while negotiations proceed."

The New York Times (11/25, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that President Obama and President Rouhani "deserve credit for resisting fierce domestic opposition and a 30-year history of animosity between the two countries to get to this point." Regarding the deal itself, the Times says, "no one can seriously argue that it doesn't make the world safer."

In an editorial, USA Today (11/25, 5.82M) maintains that "the potential benefits of this preliminary deal overwhelm the relatively small concessions that negotiations required."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Getting To Yes With Iran."*** The New York Times (11/25, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that President Obama and President Rouhani "deserve credit for resisting fierce domestic opposition and a 30-year history of animosity between the two countries to get to this point." Regarding the deal itself, the Times says, "no one can seriously argue that it doesn't make the world safer."

"How To Do Right By The Disabled." The New York Times (11/25, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes about the revival of a the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which the Senate failed to ratify last year. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) has held two hearings on the treaty and plans a committee vote as early as next month. The Times notes that 138 nations have ratified the treaty, and urges the Senate to approve it, dismissing right-wing arguments that it would hinder US sovereignty, and contending that disabled Americans "would find it easier to travel, study and live abroad if the United States could win improved conditions."

"Little Rock Moves On." The New York Times (11/25, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that last week, Arkansas reached an agreement with three state school districts and two citizen groups on phasing out by 2018 nearly $70 million a year in subsidies "that have helped those districts achieve workable desegregation through methods like crosstown busing and the creation of magnet schools." Noting that Little Rock, AR was "the site in 1957 of one of the most explosive desegregation struggles," the Times adds that the agreement "may bring an end to one chapter in the long fight for racial equality, one that began with the school board's unanimous decision to enroll nine black students in Central High School and took a notorious turn when Gov. Orval Faubus decided to play to segregationist politics and mobilized the National Guard to block the students," and "provides hope that the nation can labor beyond its racist past."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A Deal With Iran."*** The Washington Post (11/25, 4.28M), in an editorial, says the deal reached this weekend on Iran's nuclear program "is freighted with risk," but is, nevertheless, "worthy as an interim step — and preferable to the military action that might otherwise have been deemed necessary." The Post goes on to contend that while the imposition of sanctions "played a vital role in bringing Iran to the bargaining table," Congress "would be wise to refrain from imposing sanctions that take effect while negotiations proceed."

"Cellphones On Planes." An editorial in the Washington Post (11/25, 4.28M) argues that the FCC should "permit airlines to experiment with allowing passengers to use cellphones in flight," and that "airlines should get on with experimenting." The Post dismisses concerns about "the prospect of having to listen for hours to a loudmouth with unlimited mobile minutes," arguing that the "FCC's move wouldn't guarantee such an outcome" and would "leave matters to airlines and their passengers, which is as it should be." the Post expresses "hope that carriers explore their options to bring air travel into the 21st century, with all its pluses and minuses."

"Too Quiet On China." The Washington Post (11/25, 4.28M) editorializes that the Administration's promotion of human rights and democracy in China has been insufficient. A recent speech by national security adviser Susan Rice that was billed as "major address last week on Obama administration policy toward Asia" contained only one reference to this issue, despite what appears to be an "intense political crackdown" affecting both Chinese dissidents and American journalists. Although Rice's spokesman advised that another speech focusing on human rights is forthcoming, Rice's speech gave the impression to Chinese dissidents that "they are on their

own."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Iran's Nuclear Triumph."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/25, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) denounces the deal on Iran's nuclear program as an unmitigated disaster for the US and Israel that will make Iran a nuclear power and give it access to cash it desperately needs.

"The Wisdom Of The Swiss." The Wall Street Journal (11/25, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that the Swiss were wise to reject a measure that would have denied many people the salary they deserve, and would have also resulted in increased bureaucracy and government coercion as well as the flight of the wealthy.

"Rationing Bone Marrow." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/25, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes HHS for a proposed rule-making which seeks to override a decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to allow bone-marrow donors to be compensated. Noting that the ban on compensation for marrow donors has resulted in a shortage for patients facing life threatening blood diseases, the Journal says the HHS effort is an example of the Administration's desire to impose government control over medical decisions.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Iran Deal Is "First Step" Of Tough Climb
Secret Talks Paved The Way
Gehry's Grand Vision
Crawling The Streets
Local Food Push Healthy All Around

Wall Street Journal:
Iran Pact Faces Stiff Opposition
Capital Journal: Allies Fear A US Pullback In Mideast
Companies Prepare To Pass More Health Costs To Workers
Shaken NSA Grapples With An Overhaul

New York Times:
Court Confronts Religious Rights Of Corporations
Backlash By The Bay: Tech Riches Alter A City
With Accord, Obama Opens Mideast Door
Long-Term Deal With Iran Faces Big Challenges
At Bloomberg, Signs Of Change In News Mission
A Real Pollock? On This, Art And Science Collide

Washington Post:
Iran Nuclear Deal Done, But The Road Ahead Is Uncertain
Maryland Woman Accused Of Embezzling $5.1 Million
Crucial Health-Law Test Awaits For IRS
Last Second Objection Typical Of Tense Talks
Pact Hangs over US Goals In Middle East

Financial Times:
Relief Sweeps Tehran On Landmark Deal
US Banks Threaten To Charge For Deposits
Google Showcase Comes At A Premium
Trafigura Reduces Puma Energy Stake
Sexism Still Rife In Fund Companies
US Shale Boom Hits LNG Industry
RBS Faces Accusations On Client Treatment

Washington Times:
Iran Nuclear Deal Faces Uphill Battle
Pact On Iran Could Give Obama A Rare Boost In Job Performance Rating
Missteps, Resistance Hurt Secret Service Sex Investigation
'Nuclear' Move Opens One-Year Window For Obama On Nominations
Career Diplomat Steered The Iran Talks Quietly In Rounds Of Negotiations
Former Editor's Bonuses Amid Layoffs Follow Him To State

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Inclement Holiday Weather; Iran Nuclear Deal; US-Iran Relations; Afghanistan Security Deal; Holiday Shopping; Boeing Dreamliner Problems; In-flight Cell Calls; Lottery Scam; Remains Of Saint Peter; Mt. Etna Eruption
CBS: Dallas-Ice Storm, Iran-Nuclear Deal, Iran-Nuclear Deal-Reaction, Newtown Shooting-Report, New Steak, Economy-X-Box 1, NASA-Comet, Illinois-Tornado Recovery, Digital Library
NBC: US-Iran Nuclear Agreement, Iran-Agreement Reaction, Iran-Nuclear Deal-Analysis, Severe Weather, Weather-Storm Forecast, Afghanistan-US Troops, Economy-Holiday Retail

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Iran-US Nuclear Agreement, California-Oakland Coliseum Suicide Attempt, Southwest Storm, Egypt-Public Gathering Ban
CBS: Southwest Storm, Iran-US Nuclear Agreement, Iran-US Nuclear Agreement-Reaction, Afghanistan-Troops
NPR: Southwest Storm, Iran-US Nuclear Agreement, Syria-Civil War, Nigeria-Militants Attack Village, Economy-Thanksgiving Dinner Costs, Miami Dolphins-Bullying

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA-- Delivers remarks at Betty Ann Ong Chinese Recreation Center, San Francisco, as well as an event for the DNC; travels to Los Angeles, where he will take part in two DCCC/DSCC events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN-- No Scheduled Events.
US Senate: 10 a.m. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE ARRIVAL — The tree arrives after traveling through more than 20 communities. (Time approx.) Crew set-up 9:15 am. First St. NW (Garfield Circle). The 88-foot Engelmann spruce is from the Colville National Forest in Northeastern Washington state. It will mark the second time that Washington state has provided the Capitol Christmas Tree and it will be the second-tallest tree the Capitol has honored. After it arrives at the US Capitol and is secured in the ground, the tree will be decorated with approximately 5,000 ornaments, handcrafted by Washingtonians to reflect this year's theme, "Sharing Washington's Good Nature."
US House: 10 a.m. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE ARRIVAL — The tree arrives after traveling through more than 20 communities. (Time approx.) Crew set-up 9:15 am. First St. NW (Garfield Circle). The 88-foot Engelmann spruce is from the Colville National Forest in Northeastern Washington state. It will mark the second time that Washington state has provided the Capitol Christmas Tree and it will be the second-tallest tree the Capitol has honored. After it arrives at the US Capitol and is secured in the ground, the tree will be decorated with approximately 5,000 ornaments, handcrafted by Washingtonians to reflect this year's theme, "Sharing Washington's Good Nature."

10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – FIELD HEARING — Full committee hearing on "Field Hearing: ObamaCare Implementation: High Costs, Few Choices for Rural America." Witnesses: Dr. Jeff Reinhardt, President of The Longstreet Clinic, a privately-owned clinic serving both rural and urban hospitals; Michael Boyette, Small business owner, facing higher premiums under Obamcare; Joshua Kinsey, Former Owner, Cleveland Pharmacy, forced to sell due to uncertainty surrounding the healthcare law; Emma Lucille Collins, Self-employed, concerned about higher premiums and security risks to personal information; Raymer Sale, Jr.,, President of E2E Benefits Services, Inc., expert in employee benefits and HR administration.

Other: CSIS – PUBLIC DIPLOMACY – MUSLIM COUNTRIES — Public Diplomacy in Muslim Countries with Walter Douglas, Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi. Speaker: Walter Douglas, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi. Http://csis.org/event/public-diplomacy-muslim-countries. Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room A, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave. NW. 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

NASA — NASA Television will broadcast the Monday, Nov. 25, launch and the Friday, Nov. 29, docking of an unpiloted Russian resupply spacecraft, loaded with almost three tons of food, fuel and supplies for the six Expedition 38 crew members aboard the International Space Station.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Well, how embarrassing is this? Vice President Joe Biden was out picking up lunch for he and the President. When it came time to pay the tab at the sandwich shop, he didn't have enough money. He had to borrow 10 bucks. That's not the embarrassing part. He's Vice President of the United States and they sent him out to get sandwiches. That's the embarrassing part."

Jay Leno: "Can you imagine? He's [Rep. Radel] a Congressman, come on. He should have known it wasn't a real drug dealer. Drug dealers don't like to be seen with anyone as sleazy as a Congressmen."

David Letterman: "A dog in Colorado successfully signed up for ObamaCare. A dog. This is the kind of thing that happens when your state legalizes marijuana."

Jimmy Fallon: "One of the other big stories in politics this week is President Obama, he had to come out and apologize to America and admit that Obamacare is not working. It's a complete mess. So I was kind of surprised, but a new CBS poll came out found that 7 percent of Americans actually think ObamaCare is fine the way it is. In a related poll, 100 percent of CBS researchers do not understand sarcasm."

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Re: Zion Facebook Message

Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Mon, Nov 25, 2013 at 5:14 PM
To: "Jarvis, Jonathan" <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>
Cc: Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Rhea Suh <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov>

Jon -

Very nice and right on the mark. I think I will cut/paste the Facebook post and send it to Gov. Herbert - I will be seeing him next month over sage grouse.

Cheers,

Sally

On Nov 25, 2013, at 9:35 AM, "Jarvis, Jonathan" <jon_jarvis@nps.gov> wrote:

> Rhea, Laura and Sally: As we go into the holidays, and think about all the challenges we face, take a moment to read the attached email from a visitor and remember that the work we do at DOI can change lives!
>
> Jon
>
> From: Alyssa Baltrus <alyssa_baltrus@nps.gov<mailto:alyssa_baltrus@nps.gov>>
> Date: November 21, 2013 at 5:27:52 PM EST
> To: NPS Employees <zion_all_employees@nps.gov<ma
> ilto:zion_all_employees@nps.gov>>
> Cc: Colin Campbell <colin_campbell@nps.gov<mailto:colin_campbell@nps.gov>>, "Margaret O'Dell" <peggy_o'dell@nps.gov<mailto:peggy_o'dell@nps.gov>>, Michael Litterst <mike_litterst@nps.gov<mailto:mike_litterst@nps.gov>>, Julia Washburn <julia_washburn@nps.gov<mailto:julia_washburn@nps.gov>>
> Subject: Fwd: Zion Facebook Message
>
> I just wanted to pass this on. It was posted on our Facebook page.
>
> We often do not see the impact of our day-to-day work... the fantastically maintained trails... the excellent costumer service... the dedication to preserving the resources... Hopefully this will remind all of you how powerful a visit to Zion can be... On an individual, a budding family... on not only their memories, but also their health and happiness.
>
> Jock just sent out a message about us working together to not only finish crafting our park vision, but also to create core values, and a set of goals that help guide us. Please get involved in one of the teams if you can- it does matter!
>
> Thanks for all your hard work,
> Aly
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gezon, Christopher" <christopher_gezon@nps.gov<mai
lto:christopher_gezon@nps.gov>>
Date: November 21, 2013, 10:11:31 AM MST
To: Alyssa Baltrus <Alyssa_Baltrus@nps.gov<mailto:Alyssa_Baltrus@nps.gov>>
Cc: Sarah Stio <sarah_stio@nps.gov<mailto:sarah_stio@nps.gov>>
Subject: Facebook Message

Hi Aly,

One of our Facebook followers posted an extremely touching and grateful message about the park, park staff, and our social media efforts on our Facebook page yesterday. I thought that you would like to see it.

I don't know that I have ever told you or shared this with you... but in 2007 my 7 month pregnant wife and 3, almost 4, year old daughter were returning from a stay with my parents in Vegas. We had booked a night in Washington just to have a family day. As we came into St. George we saw a billboard for Zion National Park. I remarked to my wife that I had not been to Zion since I was a kid. She agreed that she had not either so we made the decision to "go check it out."

With no planning or preparation we showed up and wondered what we could do. We ended up hiking to the Narrows entrance, to Weeping Rock and few other smaller walks. The last one we did was the Canyon Overlook Trail. Now remember... a 7 month pregnant wife, a 3 year old, limited water and shoes designed for walking the strip in Vegas NOT hiking... I was very out of shape and overweight and we had a bit of struggle getting the family to the end but at the moment I set foot at that fence looking down into Zion from that overlook my life was changed forever.

I don't know what flipped in me at that moment but all of the old family camp trips and Boy Scout backpacking trips came flooding back. I felt a bit choked up as I looked out and realized that I had missed out on that experience for nearly a decade at that point. I had completely forgotten the feeling. I changed in that moment.

We of course then took the LONG way home. My wife and I talked about rocks, lakes, geology, camping, hiking... we gained a new drive and desire. It consumed us and we have never looked back.

Since that moment we set the goal to double our previous year's millage and explore new amazing places. We have since been to Goblin Valley State Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Golden Spike National Historic Site, Timpanogos Cave National Monument, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and so many other amazing places along the way.

Our daughter, now 6 has 7 Junior Ranger badges and countless pins and buttons documenting the ever increasing list of miles she has put on. My son, now 2, points out birds, rivers, rocks, valleys and more and talks about them as he plays in our home. We have witnessed the Bison Rut and herds of Elk feeding. We have watched Old Faithful in the dark and at mid day. We were there for the rare and unpredictable eruption of Steamboat Geyser... and each memory is so precious to us.

In the midst of all of this tale is the deepest thank you I can offer. To give you an idea of the impact Zion has had on me... I have since lost 40 pounds. I am training for my first 5k in nearly two decades. We have purchased gear for hiking, snowshoeing, backpacking, camping, dutch oven cooking and we plan our lives around more of the

experiences I have shared above.

Thank you... thank you for preserving and sharing the beauty that has fundamentally changed who I am. Thank you for the sacrifices you make to teach, honor and display a piece of our Utahn heritage. Thank you for your amazing posts on Facebook and other outlets that give me a glimpse each day as I sit in my office of what awaits me and what motivates and moves me. Your small and simple posts MAKE my day more than you can fathom.

We have not been back to Zion since that life-changing day... but we WILL be back. We are preparing ourselves to take on The Narrows, Subway and just embrace the beauty that Zion is. We talk about you and your park and your efforts all the time and long to be with you in those beautiful hills and valleys.

From the bottom of my heart and in gratitude for all that I am... Thank you. A million times over, thank you.

Jared Parmenter

~ Christopher

Christopher Gezon
Visual Information Specialist
Zion National Park
435.772.0161
www.nps.gov/zion<http://www.nps.gov/zion>
www.facebook.com/zionnps<http://www.facebook.com/zionnps>
www.flickr.com/zionnps<http://www.flickr.com/zionnps>
www.twitter.com/zionnps<http://www.twitter.com/zionnps>
www.youtube.com/npszion<http://www.youtube.com/npszion>

–
Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, NPS

BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Nov 25, 2013 at 7:00 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Elizabeth Olson <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Attached are the briefing materials for Tuesday, November 26, 2013. These have also been uploaded to Google Drive. Information for the internal briefing on Alaska have been hand-delivered to Erin.

Thank you,

Zaina

4 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1-3)

11 26 13_1pm_Internal Gulf Restoration Briefing.pdf
60K

11 26 13_9am_Internal Briefing on Presidio.pdf
175K

11 26 13_11am_Walk on the Mall with Trust for the National Mall.pdf
22K

11 26 13_330pm_Internal Sage Grouse Briefing.pdf
249K

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL SAGE GROUSE BRIEFING

DATE: November 26, 2013
LOCATION: Secretary's Office
TIME: 3:30PM – 4:15PM
FROM: James Lyons, Counselor to the AS/LM, 202-208-4318
Michael Bean, Counselor to the AS/FWS, 202-208-7400

PURPOSE

This memo provides an update on the status of sage grouse conservation efforts, including a preliminary assessment of progress and a plan for finalizing BLM plans, in anticipation of your meeting with Governors at the Sage Grouse Task Force in Las Vegas on December 12.

BACKGROUND

The December meeting of the Sage Grouse Task Force will take place almost exactly two years after the Task Force was launched at the suggestion of Secretary Salazar at a meeting with Governor Mead and others in Cheyenne. It also takes place at roughly the mid-point in the effort to address systematically the threats to the sage grouse that led FWS to conclude in 2010 that the species warranted protection under the Endangered Species Act. A decision on whether to propose it for protection is now approximately 22 months away.

When we last met we agreed that you would use the December meeting with the Governors as an opportunity to highlight key shortcomings in the planning efforts and encourage cooperation and joint commitment to address those shortcomings. Below is the status of efforts on the assessment, a process for completing the planning effort and other key issues that may come up in Las Vegas.

DISCUSSION

Preliminary Assessment: The FWS believes it can provide a preliminary assessment that will allow you to complement the States and BLM for a few high level strengths in their plans (e.g. mitigation frameworks in Oregon and Nevada plans) as well as call out a few high level key shortcomings (e.g. failure to address private lands in Idaho).

To help inform this effort, the Task Force agreed at its September meeting that the states would prepare assessments of their own efforts to conserve the species. The Service provided a template for the states to use in making their self-assessments. The purpose of this exercise was both to document the status of state conservation efforts and to determine whether there were significant differences between how the states and the Service evaluated the states' efforts. These self-assessments were to have been submitted to the Service several weeks ago, but the first of them has only recently arrived. The Service now has six assessments in hand and expects

that it will not receive the completed templates from at least two states. The fact that not all states will be submitting assessments is a disappointment. The Service is currently in the process of evaluating the assessments that it has received. It will complete its evaluation prior to the Task Force meeting and your remarks at the meeting will address that evaluation.

Conservation Metrics: When the Service makes its decision in 2015 whether to propose to list the sage grouse, it will have an abundance of information that may vary widely in quality, scale, importance, etc. To make its task manageable, the Service would like to reach agreement with the states regarding the information that is most useful to report and how it may be most usefully reported. To that end, this past summer the Task Force created a "metrics team" to recommend how this matter should be resolved. The metrics team was to have reported its recommendations to the Task Force at its December meeting, but it now appears uncertain whether they will be ready prior to the December meeting. If no consensus has emerged by then, the Service will move forward on its own, relying on as much partial consensus as then exists within the metrics team. That may be necessary because the Service wants to test the metrics in its annual review of the status of the sage grouse, which begins with a call for data in early 2014. Your Task Force remarks may address this metrics issue as well.

BLM Planning: BLM has recently completed its final of 15 amended or revised Resource Management Plans (RMPs) amending 98 land use plans in draft for release for public comment. The 90 day comment period. BLM state and district office staff are now beginning the process of reviewing public and FWS comments on each toward the development of final plans for issuance in early to mid-summer. *[A summary of the status of the draft RMPs is attached.]*

BLM and FWS are currently working to establish a process and timetable for collaborating in the development of final plans *[attached]*. Three key elements are addressed:

(1) Specific steps in the continuing FWS/BLM collaboration through September, 2014;
(2) How and when BLM/USFS will evaluate the cumulative effects of their plans for conserving the GSG and work with the FWS to identify inadequacies in the plans; and
(3) How state contributions to the conservation of the GSG will be considered in an overall cumulative effects analysis to aid in completing final, comprehensive and collaborative RMPs for submission to the FWS.

Fire: The mutually reinforcing phenomena of invasion by non-native annual grasses and shortened fire return intervals threaten the loss of sage brush habitat on a massive scale, particularly in the Great Basin. Because this is such a formidable threat, the Task Force has devoted considerable attention to it. At its September meeting, the Task Force heard the recommendations of a group assembled by WAFWA to evaluate the problem and make recommendations to address it. Those recommendation spanned a broad array of topics, from the need to identify in advance key habitat areas to that these areas are prioritized in pre-suppression and fire suppression activities; the need for a more reliable supply of native seeds to be used in post-fire restoration efforts; the creation of rural fire districts that safely utilize appropriate capabilities of those living on the landscape; and, of course, the need for more resources with which to address the threat. This is a topic well suited for cooperation with the states, and for discussion in your meeting with the Governors. *[A map of WAFWA zones, PACs and populations is attached]*.

Mitigation: Several of the states have developed sage grouse conservation plans that include a significant role for compensatory mitigation (i.e., offsetting the impacts of authorized detrimental activities by carrying out beneficial activities, usually at a different site). FWS, in turn, has very recently provided to the Task Force a memo setting forth its recommendations for a general framework for compensatory mitigation for the sage grouse. In light of your own Secretarial Order directing the review and revision of departmental mitigation policies and practices generally, the time is ripe for a productive engagement with the states on the role that mitigation can and should play in conserving the sage grouse. This topic may also be appropriate to include in your Task Force remarks.

NEXT STEPS

Key Messages/Outcomes for the meeting with the governors:

- Ensure shared clarity on the process of preparing state and federal plans to date and the key milestones moving forward leading to a listing decision by Sept, 2015
- Identify high level elements of the plans that are strong and what areas need to improve
- Agree on the timeline and key actions/activities over next 9 months for state and federal partners to complete plans for submission to FWS
- Agree to have a last status check at the WGA meeting in June and commitment to address any remaining shortcomings

ATTACHMENTS

1. FWS/BLM/States overall timeline for completing management plans and listing process
2. Status of BLM RMPs to date
3. Map of WAFWA zones, PACs and populations to illustrate "roll-up" for landscape-level cumulative effects analysis

Attachment 1: FWS/BLM/States overall timeline for completing management plans and listing process

Greater Sage-grouse Draft Timeline (as of 11/22/13):

FWS = primary Fish and Wildlife Service activity
BLM = primary BLM activity
STATES = primary state activity

Now: Working with federal partners, state partners, energy industry and private entities to conserve sage-grouse

Ongoing – Verbal and written feedback given to federal and state entities per agreed-upon communication protocol from the Federal Family meeting.

Winter 2013 – Draft project plan for FWS listing determination process identifying staffing, roles and responsibilities, draft team structure, goals and objectives, identify resource needs, and begin to outline the schedule, deliverable documents, expert panel workshops, additional expertise, format for analyzing information, format and process for developing and finalizing decision recommendations.

Nov. 2013 – All BLM/FS draft RMPs available for public comment.

Dec. 2013 – Governor's Task Force common conservation metrics development process complete. If the TF cannot resolve then FWS, together with BLM and FS, will select and finalize metrics. (See attached white paper on relationship of metrics and criteria).

Winter 2013-2014 - Complete design of Conservation Efforts Database.

Jan. 2014 – States have indicated that their plans should be completed.

Feb. 2014 - Conservation Efforts Database open for populating conservation action by federal, state, local and private entities; coordinate data call for annual candidate notice of review (CNOR) and initiate data call for the 2015 determination. Ask states to input data and test Conservation Efforts Database.

Feb. 2014 – All comment periods completed for BLM/FS draft RMP amendments and revisions. FWS will have delivered narrative comments and threat matrices (for each EIS) to BLM with explicit concerns raised at the individual plan level. FWS will also be providing verbal and then written comments on what needs to be included in a final proposed alternative to meet the COT objectives.

Feb. 2014 – Federal agencies meet to discuss planning effort and roll-up/roll-out. Preliminary assessment of outstanding issues could be delivered at this time.

Mar. 2014 –BLM/FS to provide draft cumulative effects analyses to FWS for fatal flaw review. This analysis should include cumulative effects at the population, WAFWA management zone, and range-wide scales. FWS will identify specific issues yet to be resolved at each scale based on information provided and any other information available to us. Note: it is critical the cumulative effects and related information from BLM/FS be available to FWS in order to conduct a timely and accurate assessment of the efficacy of the overall planning effort. Preliminary federal plans delivered to Governors by BLM/FS.

June 2014 – Final EISs are complete and released to the public

Spring/Summer 2014 – Work with BLM/FS to finalize RMP amendments and revisions.

June 2014 – Final candidate assessment update due to FWS HQ.

Summer/Fall 2014 – Host expert panels regarding topics with significant uncertainty or where expert panels would improve the analysis

- Using SDM and other structured processes, we anticipate convening several expert workshops to seek scientific input and analysis including a discussion of current and future affects to the species and habitat. This could be particularly useful in areas where there is uncertainty (e.g. climate change, invasive species/fire cycles and predictions, genetics).

Summer/Fall 2014 – Through facilitated discussions, evaluate potential for areas to be discrete and significant to the species including the Columbia basin population in Washington. Evaluate factors affecting those areas and their status later, during the range-wide analysis.

Sept. 2014 – BLM/FS final plans and Records of Decisions are due. Final state plans should also be completed.

Fall 2014 – Current BLM proposed plan-specific cumulative assessments and range-wide landscape assessment complete. These two pieces are essential for FWS evaluation range-wide. (See March 2014 reference.)

Fall 2014 – Complete analysis on Columbia Basin population (spec., is it a valid DPS of the species?).

Winter 2014 – Complete analysis of non-habitat based concerns (disease, predation, genetics, etc.).

NLT Dec. 2014 – Finalize data input to conservation efforts database (narrative, data in form of common metrics, spatial data)from BLM, FS, NRCS, State, industry and private entities.

After Jan. 1, 2015 –

FWS analyzes habitat concerns – using SDM and a team-based approach, analyze information regarding habitat-based threats (fragmentation and its sources).
Using this analysis, develop range-wide analysis of the species viability including time horizon of threats, reliability of data, and evaluation of important areas of uncertainty.
Finalize species status report and/or other summary of scientific information based on the analysis and information compiled.

Spring 2015 – FWS will develop and discuss decision recommendations based on relevant information

Spring 2015 – Once decision recommendations are settled, FWS will develop FR document and will compile and finalize administrative record documents related to each major decision point.

Sept. 30, 2015 – Proposed listing determination or not warranted finding due the Federal Register.

Attachment 2: Status of BLM RMPs to date

National GRSG Planning Strategy EIS Schedule			
GRSG Land Use Plan Amendments			
Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-Regional Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Amendment/EIS	BLM California : Alturas, Eagle Lake, and Surprise BLM Nevada: Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon NCA, Carson City, Elko, Ely, Paradise-Denio, Shoshone-Eureka, Tonopah, and Wells Forest Service: Humbolt and Toiyabe	The DEIS is currently within the 90-day public comment period, which ends on January 29, 2014.	Draft: November 1, 2013 Proposed: August 2014 ROD: November 2014
Idaho and Southwestern Montana Sub-Regional Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Amendment/EIS	BLM Idaho: Birds of Prey NCA, Bruneau, Challis, Craters of the Moon NM, Cascade, Kuna, Jarbidge, Lemhi, Owyhee, Pocatello, Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills, Cassia, Magic, Monument, Sun Valley, Twin Falls, Big Lost, Medicine Lodge, Big Desert, and Little Lost-Birch Creek BLM Montana: Dillon	The DEIS is currently within the 90-day public comment period, which ends on January 29, 2014.	Draft: November 1, 2013 Proposed: August 2014 ROD: November 2014

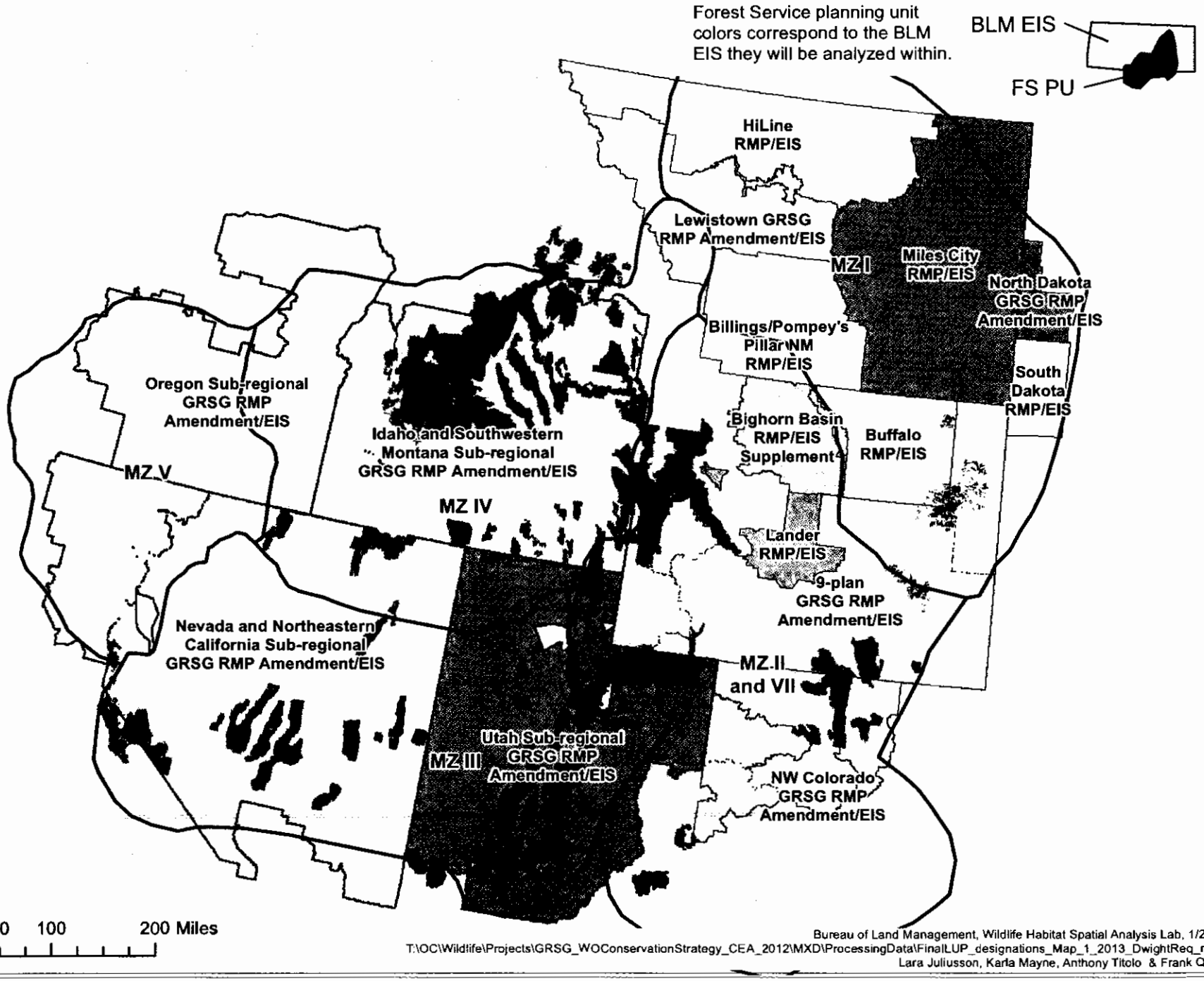
	Forest Service (Idaho): Boise, Salmon, Challis, Targhee, Curlew National Grasslands, Caribou, and Sawtooth (including Utah portion) Forest Service (Montana): Beaverhead-Deerlodge		
Utah Sub-Regional Greater Sage-grouse RMP Amendment/ EIS	BLM Utah: Kanab, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, Richfield, Price, Vernal, Pinyon, Cedar-Beaver-Garfield-Antimony, House Range, Warm Springs, Box Elder, Pony Express, Randolph, and Park City Forest Service: Dixie, Fishlake, Ashley, Manti-LaSal, Uintah, and Wasatch-Cache	The DEIS is currently within the 90-day public comment period, which ends on January 29, 2014.	Draft: November 1, 2013 Proposed: August 2014 ROD: November 2014
Oregon Sub-Regional Greater Sage-grouse RMP Amendment/EIS	BLM Oregon: Upper Deschutes, Brothers-La Pine, Three Rivers, Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area, Andrews Management Area, Southeast Oregon, Baker, and Lakeview	The DEIS is currently within the 90-day public comment period, which ends on February 20, 2014.	Draft: November 22, 2013 Proposed: September 2014 ROD: December 2014
Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Amendment/ EIS	BLM Colorado: Grand Junction, White River, Kremmling, Colorado River Valley, and Little Snake	The DEIS is currently within the 90-day public comment period, which ends on	Draft: August 16, 2013 Proposed: August

	Forest Service: Routt	December 2, 2014.	2014 ROD: Summer 2014
Lewistown Greater Sage-grouse RMP Amendment/ EIS	BLM Montana/Dakotas: Headwaters and Judith	The DEIS is currently within the 90-day public comment period, which ends on February 6, 2014.	Draft: November 8, 2013 Proposed: June 2014 ROD: Sept 2014
North Dakota Greater Sage-grouse RMP Amendment/ EIS	BLM Montana/Dakotas: North Dakota	The DEIS is currently within the 90-day public comment period, which ends on January 12, 2014.	Draft: September 27, 2013 Proposed: June 2014 ROD: Sept 2014
Nine-Plan Greater Sage-grouse RMP Amendment/ EIS	BLM Wyoming: Pinedale, Kemmerer, Green River, Rawlins, Casper, and Newcastle Forest Service: Thunder Basin National Grasslands, Medicine Bow, Bridger-Teton	BLM Wyoming is currently in the process of responding to WO/SOL comments. The DEIS is projected to be released to the public on December 20, 2013.	Draft: December 20, 2013 Proposed: August 2014 ROD: December 2014
RMP Revisions including GRSG Management			
Billings/ Pompeys	BLM Montana/Dakotas:	Public comment	Draft: March 29,

Pillar National Monument RMP/EIS	Billings/Pompeys Pillar National Monument	period closed June 28. Currently developing comment responses and initiating MZ 1Tier II CEA analysis.	2013 Proposed: June 2014 ROD: August 2014
HiLine RMP/EIS	BLM Montana/Dakotas: Valley, Phillips, and West HiLine	Public comment period closed on June 20. Currently developing comment responses and initiating MZ 1Tier II CEA analysis.	Draft: March 22, 2013 Proposed: May 2014 ROD: August 2014
Miles City RMP/EIS	BLM Montana/Dakotas: Big Dry and Powder River	Public comment period closed on June 5. Currently Developing comment responses and initiating MZ 1Tier II CEA analysis.	Draft: March 8, 2013 Proposed: May 2014 ROD: September 2014
South Dakota RMP/EIS	BLM Montana/Dakotas: South Dakota	Public comment period closed on September 10, 2013. Currently developing comment responses and initiating MZ 1Tier II CEA	Draft: June 14, 2013 Proposed: August 2014

		analysis.	ROD: December 2014
Lander RMP/EIS	BLM Wyoming: Lander	ROD is currently in the process of being finalized.	Proposed: February 22, 2013 ROD: PENDING
Bighorn Basin RMP/EIS Supplement	BLM Wyoming: Grass Creek, Cody, and Washakie	The DRMP/DEIS Supplement public comment period closed on October 27, 2013. Currently Developing comment responses and initiating MZ 1Tier II CEA analysis.	Draft Supplement: July 12, 2013 Proposed: April 2014 ROD: July 2014
Buffalo RMP/EIS	BLM Wyoming: Buffalo	The DRMP/DEIS public comment period closed on October 27, 2013. Currently Developing comment responses and initiating MZ 1Tier II CEA analysis.	Draft: June 28, 2013 Proposed: April 2014 ROD: Summer 2014

BLM USFS GRSG Planning Strategy Sub-region/EIS Boundaries



Bureau of Land Management, Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab, 1/29/2013,
T:\OC\Wildlife\Projects\GRSG_WOConservationStrategy_CEA_2012\MXD\ProcessingData\FinalLUP_designations_Map_1_2013_DwightReq_rev.mxd,
Lara Juliusson, Karla Mayne, Anthony Titolo & Frank Quamen

BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Nov 26, 2013 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL SIGNS TRIBAL AGREEMENT WITH CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/26, 80K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell signed an agreement Monday with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation that gives them greater control of their trust land. Jewell was "joined on her first trip to Oklahoma as a Cabinet official to the Obama administration by Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn and US Rep. Tom Cole." Jewell said, "The biggest thing to lift people up is housing and jobs."

The Native American Times (11/26, 337) reports that Jewell said, "The Citizen Potawatomi Nation now has the authority to decide how it wants to do business on its lands, making it easier for families to do things like buy and build houses or open businesses in the communities where they have lived for generations. Today's action encourages economic development on Indian lands, generating investment, new jobs and revenues. I applaud

Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps for their leadership on this initiative and look forward to working with other tribes across the nation to maintain tribal sovereignty and promote tribal self-determination and self-government."

The Oklahoman (11/26, 345K) reports that Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John Barrett said, "This is a step in the right direction for tribal self-governance and will empower tribal governments to take greater control of their land. CPN has created a thriving economy of retail and tourism developments and we look forward to working with other businesses to spur business and commercial development in Oklahoma."

Also providing coverage are the Muskogee (OK) Phoenix (11/26, 29K), KSWO-TV Lawton, OK (11/26, 6K), Bloomberg BusinessWeek (11/25, 4.93M), Yahoo! (11/26, 17.91M) , and Yahoo! Finance (11/26, 9.7M).

INTERIOR DEPUTY SECRETARY NOMINEE ADDRESSES ISSUES BEFORE SENATE PANEL. The E&E Daily (11/25) reports that Michael Connor, President Obama's nominee for the Interior Department's deputy secretary, pledged to work closely with governors to avoid an Endangered Species Act listing for the sage grouse. Connor also "defended the acquisition of new federal lands and said he would work closely with oil state lawmakers on 'common ground' for the sharing of offshore drilling revenues." He addressed those issues and more in a "lengthy response to members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which voted by voice in early October to advance his nomination to the floor."

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (11/26, 194K) reports that Connor told Sens. Mary Landrieu and Lisa Murkowski that "he's open to discussion about proposals that would share more offshore oil-and-gas royalties with coastal states." Connor said, "I know this is an issue that you care deeply about and, if confirmed, I commit to meeting with you in an effort to find any common ground that may exist and to work toward a path forward."

CAPE ROMAIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LOSING SEASHORE TO RISING ERSON. The State (SC) (11/24, 280K) reports that "chunks of seashore are vanishing" from the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge as "rising ocean levels and storms chew up the remote, unspoiled beaches some animals depend on for survival." According to the article, "during the past 25 years, erosion has claimed about 1,200 acres from four primary barrier islands in the nature preserve north of Charleston," including Bulls Island, which "drew national attention last week" as Interior Secretary Sally Jewell toured the island's eroding Boneyard Beach. However, "even more erosion is on the way as sea levels are expected to rise up to 5 feet in the Southeast by the end of this century."

The story also appeared in the Rock Hill (SC) Herald (11/25, 89K).

COLORADO GOV. HICKENLOOPER COMPLAINS ABOUT SAGE GROUSE BIAS. The Washington Times (11/26, Richardson, 417K) reports that "an example of the tension between Western Democrats and the Obama administration surfaced Monday when Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper told a rural audience that Washington bureaucrats are pushing a 'slanted version' of the sage-grouse issue to political decision-makers." Hickenlooper said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "receiving one-sided advice from staff at the Fish and Wildlife Service over the issue of whether to place the Gunnison sage grouse on the endangered-species list." At a town-hall meeting at the Moffat County Fairgrounds in Craig, Colo, Hickenlooper said, "My job is to make sure that she gets — I shouldn't say a slanted version on the other side — let's just say a better version — how's that? — but a balanced version so she hears both sides of the story."

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (11/26, 73K) reports that Hickenlooper said "western governors want to take a science-based approach to management of the greater sage-grouse." Hickenlooper said "governors are working on a framework for solving sage-grouse management on their own."

Also reporting on the story is the Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (11/26, 27K).

SURVEY FINDS EMPLOYEE MORALE AT INTERIOR SUFFERING. The E&E Daily (11/25) reports that employees at the Interior Department and the Energy Department are "on par with other federal workers when it comes to their overall job satisfaction," according to a recent government survey. According to the article, Employee morale suffers from "pay freezes, forced time off, congressional assaults on employee benefits and uncertainty about federal budgets." Moreover, "constant Republican criticism of the Obama administration's energy and environmental policies" means "these jobs aren't looking as attractive as they once did."

BIPARTISAN HOUSE COALITION URGES BUDGET LEADERS TO FUND PILT. The E&E Daily (11/25) reports that "nearly four dozen House lawmakers yesterday urged budget leaders to provide full funding to rural counties that contain large amounts of federal lands." Lawmakers from both parties said that the payments in lieu of taxes program is "critical for counties to fund services including law enforcement, infrastructure and education." A letter signed by 47 lawmakers to Budget Committee chairs and ranking members in the House and Senate stated, "The inability for counties to collect these local taxes on the extensive acreage of federal lands in their jurisdictions poses a significant burden, especially when counties often provide critical services on these very lands."

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY LAUDS GRAZING BILL'S PASSAGE BY SENATE COMMITTEE. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (11/25, 113K) reports that the livestock industry is more optimistic about legislation "seeking to address a backlog of environmental reviews on grazing allotments, now that the bill has passed a Senate committee." Wally Butler, an Idaho rangeland consultant and international president of the Society for Range Management, "I'm certainly more hopeful — by a lot. The Senate has always been the difficult side." The next step for the Grazing Improvement Act of 2013, S258, would be consideration by the full Senate.

TWO RETIRED GENERALS CALL FOR ACTION ON NATIONAL SECURITY, ECONOMIC ISSUES. The Examiner (11/26, 1.16M) reports that "two retired US generals are creating a citizens' commission to closely watch actions by the Obama administration on national security and economic issues." The project, known as "America's Provisional Leadership Council" will look closely at what the council calls "major concerns", as outlined by Army Gen. Paul E. Vallely and Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles Jones, in an eight-point paper titled "The Americans Project." Notably, Vallely and Jones "call for the elimination of several federal agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security, which they say have exceeded their authority." According to the article, "DHS responsibilities would go to the Department of Defense and the Interior Department, and FEMA would be reformed as the National Emergency Agency, with a significant reduction in manpower, and then merged into the Interior Department to be deployed only during national emergencies."

SECRETARY JEWELL NAMES COMMISSIONER JUSTMAN TO NORTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL. KREX-TV Grand Junction, CO (11/26, 1K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewel recently appointed Mesa County Commissioner John Justman to the Northwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC).

INTERIOR AUDITS GUAM'S HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS. The Pacific News Center (11/26) reports that an Interior Department audit of $4.1 million dollars in "State Homeland Security" grants received by GovGuam "could not fully assess whether ... the funding enhanced" GovGuam's "preparedness and security." The auditors placed the "blame for that" on the failure of both FEMA and GovGuam to "provide sufficient guidance, written policies or procedures and oversight of the grant process." Although the audit concluded that Guam had "spent the funds in accordance with applicable Federal laws and regulations" it recommends that GovGuam "revise its State Homeland Security Strategy to include measurable objectives with realistic target dates for completion."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: USGS FINDS LAND SINKING RAPIDLY IN CALIFORNIA'S SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY. Additional coverage of the USGS study finding that land is "sinking more rapidly than usual because of increased pumping from underground sources" in California's San Joaquin Valley was provided by the Stockton (CA) Record (11/21, 123K) and KPBS-TV San Diego (11/25, Quinton, 14K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

LAWMAKERS DEBATE REIMBURSING STATES FOR SHUTDOWN COSTS. The E&E Daily (11/25) reports a House Natural Resources subpanel held a hearing on the impact of the shutdowns on national parks. Most of the lawmakers agreed that Congress should give the Interior Department "the authority to pay states back for the money spent operating parks around the country during the 16-day closure." However, "controversy remains about whether states should be allowed automatic repayments in case of another shutdown."

EISENHOWER MEMORIAL SEES NO PROGRESS. Roll Call (11/26, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that

"it's been 14 years since Congress determined that a memorial to President Dwight D. Eisenhower was needed, but the question of how to do right by Ike continues to confound." At the time, the NPS "predicted seven years was a reasonable timeline for completion of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial." However, "more than a decade later, no construction permits have been issued for the four-acre site."

SEN. COBURN CRITICIZES NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM. The High Country (CO) News (11/26, 74K) reports thatin a 208-page report released Oct. 29, Sen. Tom Coburn "evaluates parks by how much taxpayers spent per visitor." In a recent interview with Fox News, Coburn concluded, "Of the 401 park units the NPS manages, a third aren't real treasures, and should never have been made parks in the first place." However, NPS Director Jon Jarvis disagrees. He recently told a group of journalists in Los Angeles that the national parks system is supposed to "represent the history and environment of America," and even the lesser-known park units "are still of value in telling the story of this country."

RADIATION BEING CLEANED UP AT GREAT KILLS PARK. The New York Times (11/26, Foderaro, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the NPS "quickly fenced" off an area in Great Kills Park in 2005 "when a police flyover of New York City detected a positive reading for radioactive material there." However, "in the years since, further investigations by the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Army Corps of Engineers turned up more hot spots and a fuller, more disturbing picture." Kathleen Cuzzolino, an environmental protection specialist for the NPS, said, "As we're getting through this tough job, we're finding that the contamination is not only in these discrete pockets, but is dispersed in the soil and also at the surface. After another flyover this fall and years of excavations has shown that "more than half of the park has shown some degree of radioactivity, "park officials have fenced off 260 acres, including four ball fields, the model airplane field and a popular trail along Hylan Boulevard." Cuzzolino said "she could not predict when the closed-off portions of the park would reopen, but she cautioned that the cleanup could take years."

UTAH LAWMAKER DRAFTING VANDALISM LAW. The E&E Daily (11/25) reports that Utah State Sen. Dixon Pitcher is drafting legislation that would penalize vandals in state parks and other protected areas, "in response to two former Boy Scout leaders who filmed themselves toppling an ancient boulder in Goblin Valley State Park." Pitcher said he drafted the bill after "realizing Utah did not have a law to prosecute people who vandalize natural wonders in the state's parks and preserves." His bill would likely impose a $15,000 fine and possible jail time for vandalism in parks.

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS REJECTS DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. The Bay Area (CA) Indymedia (11/25, 2K) reports that "in a major win for supporters of Wilderness, the California Democratic Party's Environmental Caucus overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting protection of the Drakes Estero Marine Wilderness area in Point Reyes National Seashore on Saturday." Amy Trainer, executive director of the Environmental Action Committee, said, "Thankfully the Environmental Caucus agreed that a deal is a deal, and that the Interior Department's decision to let the 40-year lease expire was good government in action. Like the millions of us that cherish our national parks and wilderness areas, they supported returning this ecologically rich estuary to all American to enjoy as long ago planned. This company continues to flout the California Coastal Act, refusing to comply with the second cease and desist order against it, and it is fundamentally incompatible with a national park wilderness area."

LAND AUCTION ALONG OCMULGEE RESULTS IN PROTECTED LAND. The Macon (GA) Telegraph (11/25, 187K) reports that "property between Bond Swamp and the Ocmulgee National Monument will be protected land after it has been sold." According to the article, "a land auction will result in permanent protection for 679 acres, the largest preservation deal in a pristine area of Bibb County's river corridor since the creation of Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in 1989."

Bureau of Land Management:

REPORT: MILLIONS OF FEDERAL ACRES IN SIX WESTERN STATES INACCESSIBLE BY TO PUBLIC. The E&E Daily (11/25) reports that millions of federal acres are inaccessible to the public, "in large part because they are surrounded by private lands" and the BLM and Forest Service have not established public entry points, according to a new report released by Center for Western Priorities. The 15-page report, titled "Landlocked:

Measuring Public Land Access in the West," used geographic information systems mapping software to study the accessibility to public lands in six Western states. The group "found more than 4 million acres of so-called landlocked areas in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming that, in many cases, cannot be legally accessed by the public."

BLM RELEASES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SAGE GROUSE IN OREGON. The Oregonian (11/26, 751K) reports that on Friday, BLM released a management plan which "would cap how much human disturbance is allowed on 4.5 million acres of the" greater sage grouse's core habitat in Oregon. The plan "would also require mitigation for activities there, potentially adding costs to projects proposed on the federal land." Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist with WildEarth Guardians, said "he was encouraged by buffer protections for sage-grouse breeding areas near current and proposed geothermal plants," but "he criticized the plan's approach to grazing, which he said remains too permissive."

BLM CONSIDERS HOLLISTER MINE TO BE SHUT DOWN. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (11/26, 22K) reports that Waterton Global Mining Co., which purchase the Hollister Mine and the Esmeralda Mill in April, "laid off 182 employees today — 157 from Hollister and 25 from the mill." Although a Waterton representative said the mine is not shut down, but that the company is "pausing production," the BLM will "consider it a shutdown." Deb McFarlane, BLM assistant field manager for the Tuscarora office "We have specific steps on temporary shutdowns. They have to step into a closure procedure to make sure it doesn't go into degradation."

BLM TO CLOSE SEVERAL ROADS IN GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE STARTING DECEMBER 1. KREX-TV Grand Junction, CO (11/26, 1K) reports that the BLM will close several roads in the Grand Junction Field Office beginning Dec. 1. according to the article, "the specific road closures to motorized use lasting through April 30, protect critical big-game winter range, and other sensitive areas, as well as preventing road damage during poor driving conditions."

RED ROCK CANYON OFFICIALS MAY CLOSE ACCESS TO SCENIC DRIVE OVER THANKSGIVING WEEKEND. The Las Vegas Sun (11/25, 155K) reports that the scenic drive at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area "may be temporarily closed during periods of high visitation Thanksgiving weekend," according to the BLM.

NEW MEXICO RUIN DAMAGED DURING HALLOWEEN BONFIRE. The AP (11/26) reports that "a fire in a room at the 300-year-old Frances Canyon pueblito didn't burn hot enough to compromise the structure, but soot has stained stones and mortar." BLM officials "believe the fire was set Oct. 31 during a Halloween party in the structure."

Also reporting on the story is KRQE-TV Albuquerque, NM (11/26, 29K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WILD HORSE ROUND-UP PLANNED ALONG WYOMING-COLORADO BORDER. The HLN (11/25) reports that the BLM announced another wild horse round-up along the Wyoming-Colorado border.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS TO LOOK AT PROTECTING ARCTIC GRAYLING. The AP (11/26) reports that the Arctic grayling will receive attention from the FWS to see if it warrants threatened or endangered status in Montana. The review "stems from a legal settlement with wildlife advocates who sued to force" the UFWS to take action on hundreds of species.

Also covering the story are the Flathead (MT) Beacon (11/26, 15K), the Ravalli (MT) Republic (11/26, 19K), The Missoulian (11/26, 104K), and the Billings (MT) Gazette (11/26, 206K).

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ASSERT THAT GRAY WOLF IS NO LONGER ENDANGERED IN WEST. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (11/25, 113K) reports that federal officials claim "reintroduction programs for the gray wolf have been a success and the animal no longer needs Endangered Species Act protections." According to Mike Jiminez, a wolf biologist for the FWS, "thanks to wolf management programs, public education and research,

more than 5,000 gray wolves now live in the lower 48 states." Jiminez and other federal officials assert that "state and tribal wildlife agencies, conservation groups and universities have helped federal scientists restore the species so that it is a functioning member of the ecosystem."

BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS REINTRODUCED ON COLORADO RANCH. The La Junta (CO) Tribune-Democrat (11/24, 11K) reports that black-footed ferrets were "recently introduced on a ranch in Pueblo County, Colo." However, "the release of the endangered mammal was monumental for many different reasons — controlling an overpopulation of another animal and showing entities working together for the cause." The ferrets were reintroduced on the Walker Ranch in Pueblo County during an event was hosted by the FWS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Gary and Georgia Walker.

WOLVERINE THREATENED SPECIES LISTING NEARS END OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD. The Oregonian (11/26, 751K) reports that a proposal by the FWS to list wolverines under the Endangered Species Act is nearing the end of its public comment period. The FWS will accept input until Dec. 2.

CONSERVATIONISTS FEAR RHINO POACHING COULD LEAD TO POPULATION DECLINE. The E&E Daily (11/25) reports that rhinoceroses are dying from poaching at such a rapid rate that conservationists worry the "deaths will soon outnumber the number of rhino births, which could lead to a rapid decline of the population." The rhino has seen "population gains in recent decades, but there's been an uptick in illegal hunting." The article notes that "other threats facing the rhino include deforestation, habitat fragmentation and displacement by humans."

OFFICIALS CALL WILD PIG BIGGEST ECOSYSTEM THREAT. The E&E Daily (11/25) reports that "the biggest invasive species threat in the Virginia woods – and perhaps the entire country – is the wild pig," according to officials. The animals have "experienced a recent population boom because hunters have imported wild pigs to hunt them all year long." Officials estimate that "wild pigs cause $1.5 billion in damage across the United States annually."

US Geological Survey:

USGS TO MONITOR WATER CONSUMPTION BY POWER PLANTS. The E&E Daily (11/25) reports that the USGS is "reinstituting its reporting on water consumption by coal, nuclear and other thermoelectric power plants." The USGS has released a report "outlining how it will calculate consumption numbers for power plants with once-through cooling technology and closed-cycle systems." The calculations will now be "incorporated into the survey's five-year reports on water use and will be part of a national water census aimed at providing accurate, real-time data on freshwater supplies for thousands of watersheds nationwide."

Also reporting on the story is the WaterWorld (11/26, 96).

QUESTIONS EMERGE AFTER USGS FLOOD GAUGES BREAK. KXAN-TV Austin, TX (11/26, 60K) reports that "questions are emerging over whether the Austin region has any better way to predict how severe the next major flood will be." According to the article, on Oct. 31, two USGS water height gauges stopped working.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DUKE ENERGY PLEADS GUILTY TO KILLING GOLDEN EAGLES . The E&E Daily (11/25) reports that Duke Energy has pleaded guilty to killing more than 150 migratory birds and 14 eagles and at two Wyoming wind farms and has agreed to pay the US government a million dollars settlement with the US government. The case against Duke Energy Corp. and its renewable energy arm was the first prosecuted under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Vitter: Obama Administration Playing Favorites In Energy Industry. The "Regwatch" blog of The Hill (11/26, Hattem, 194K) reports that the White House "is playing favorites when it comes to charging energy companies for illegally killing protected birds, according to Sen. David Vitter (R-La.)." According to Vitter, "the Justice Department's (DOJ) $1 million settlement with Duke Energy, the first of its kind against a wind energy firm, is just

a token measure meant to distract from its pattern of penalizing fossil fuel companies for the same charges." In a statement yesterday Vitter said, "It looks like DOJ is making an example out of this particular case to shift the focus away from the Administration's bias of using the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to go after oil, gas and other businesses. ... The instances of wind energy's favoritism have been so egregious under this Administration, and DOJ's settlement and response still don't explain the Administration's obvious bias."

The National Review (11/26, 805K) reports that two Republican senators "raised questions about whether the Obama administration is playing politics over the law's enforcement." In May, Sens. David Vitter and Lamar Alexander "sent a letter to the Department of Justice asking for clarification about why it was not charging or prosecuting wind-energy companies for killing federally protected birds."

Examiner: Green Energy Firms Being Abandoned By White House. In a negatively toned piece the Washington Examiner (11/26, Bedard, 319K) reports that "green energy firms are facing abandonment and even fines from" the Obama Administration, which is "now viewed as cozying up to Big Oil." The article notes that "Duke Energy Renewables Inc. faced the first ever criminal enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for bird collisions and came after the firm worked with the Justice Department to address the problem."

Additional Coverage. Also providing coverage are the Washington Times (11/26, Chasmar, 417K), the Renewable Energy Magazine (11/26), and the Daily Caller (11/26, Bastasch, 422K).

COURT REJECTS SUIT AGAINST OCOTILLO WIND. KCET-TV Los Angeles (11/26, 15K) reports that US Superior Court Judge Gonzalo P. Curiel has ruled that the FWS "paid enough attention to the welfare of Endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep when it assessed the environmental effects of the Ocotillo Express Wind project." In a November 20 decision, Curiel dismissed a lawsuit by three plaintiffs, Protect Our Communities Foundation; Backcountry Against Dumps; and Boulevard resident Donna Tisdale, who claimed that FWS's Biological Opinion on the Ocotillo Express project "didn't use the best available science on Peninsular bighom sheep, and failed to recognize the importance of low-elevation habitat to the subspecies." The plaintiffs had sought to force FWS to "reexamine the threat to bighom from Pattern Energy's 315-megawatt turbine array in southwestern Imperial County."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM CLEARING BACKLOG OF PERMITS. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/26, 80K) reports that "developers have bought the oil and gas rights to about three-fourths of the available federal land in western North Dakota, pushing prices to record levels despite industry complaints that the federal permitting process is still too onerous to immediately develop the land." According to the BLM, "federal oil and gas lease sales in the Dakotas and Montana totaled $64.4 million in fiscal 2013, up from $50.1 million the year before." The article notes that "North Dakota, which has led the three-state region in oil and gas leases for most of the past decade, accounted for the vast majority of sales — $61.4 million — which was up from $44.3 million in fiscal 2012." Paul Kelley, a BLM assistant field manager in Dickinson, said the bureau has "added 15 new positions boosting the agency's North Dakota workforce by about 30 percent," and "the agency also has utilized 'strike team' members from other states to help process permits."

Also providing coverage are the Wichita (KS) Eagle (11/26, Macpherson, 247K), the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (11/25, 475K), and KXNews (11/26, 1K).

INTERIOR, OIL COMPANIES SUED OVER MONTANA PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION. The Law 360 (11/26, 18K) reports that "a host of Montana landowners on Friday" sued the Interior Department "and other federal agencies, along with a number of oil pipeline companies, saying the companies began construction on a new pipeline without getting proper approval and the federal government has essentially looked the other way." The lawsuit, filed in Montana federal court, claims "the companies ran into regulatory trouble just before beginning construction on what was to be called the Thunderbird Pipeline, after having spent a year negotiating an easement agreement."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON SWEETWATER COUNTY DRILLING PLAN. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/26, 80K) reports that the BLM is seeking public input on a "proposal from an energy company to drill an

exploratory well south of Rock Springs." The Azalea Oil Company is "proposing to drill an oil and gas well on a single well pad in the North Dutch John Unit."

Also providing coverage is Yahoo! (11/26, 17.91M) .

GROUPS PROTEST BLM POLICY ON LEASE NOMINATORS. The Montrose (CO) Press (11/26, 17K) reports that Citizens for A Healthy Community and 44 other organizations are protesting a BLM "instructional memo that in effect makes it optional for those nominating lease parcels to provide their name and contact information." The groups say "this new policy, which goes into effect next year, is contrary to a February court ruling that required the BLM to release the names."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BLM'S OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE IN NEW MEXICO. Additional coverage of the BLM's latest oil and natural gas lease sale in New Mexico was provided by the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (11/26, 288K), the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (11/26, 46K), and KFDA-TV Amarillo, TX (11/26, 1K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. In an op-ed for the Stockton (CA) Record (11/16, Vogel, 123K), Ken Vogel, Chairman of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, criticizes the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. He argues that "increased water exports out of the Delta have caused the drastic decline in the health of this estuary." Instead, Vogel suggests a number of alternatives that should be considered in place of the BDCP. For instance: "What if we reactivate historical floodplains to lessen flood peaks, enhance wildlife habitat, and replenish depleted groundwater basins? What if we build new reservoirs to increase flood control and water storage potentials? What if we recycled or desalted as much water as possible?" Vogel concludes that "the BDCP is the wrong solution for the Delta and the entire state."

In an editorial, the Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (11/25, 465K) urges California legislators to "safeguard the state's primary water system and boost water storage capacity." The paper urges legislators to also "act to protect the state against droughts." It argues that "that effort should start by ensuring the reliability of water exports from Northern California."

Top National News:

OBAMA URGES REPUBLICANS TO ALLY WITH HIM ON IMMIGRATION REFORM. Much of the overage of President Obama's speech in San Francisco on Monday – in which he made the case for comprehensive immigration reform, and identified Republican opposition in the House as the only remaining obstacle to its passage – emphasizes the President's interaction with a group of hecklers, led by a citizen of South Korea, who called on the President to unilaterally halt the deportation of all foreign nationals currently residing in the US illegally. For instance, the Wall Street Journal (11/26, Lazo, 5.91M) covers the President's appearance in an article titled, "Deportation Protest Steals Spotlight In Obama Speech." NBC Nightly News (11/25, story 5, 0:50, Williams, 7.86M), the only network newscast to mention the President's remarks, focused entirely on the heckling incident. Likewise, MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show (11/26, 548K) aired a minute-and-a-half of footage showing the President being repeatedly interrupted on Monday, but did not include a discussion of immigration reform.

The San Francisco Chronicle (11/26, Marinucci, Fagan, Lee, 2.88M) reports that the President "issued an impassioned call...for Congress to pass immigration reform." According to the Chronicle, the President, "as he often does when he's unable to push his proposals into policy...blamed lack of progress on immigration reform on Republican obstructionism," but also said that he is "encouraged by" Speaker Boehner's suggestion last week that "at least some changes in immigration law might make it to a House vote." The Chronicle reports that the President, speaking to "an invited crowd of about 400 people at the Betty Ann Ong Chinese Recreation Center," said, "It is long past time to reform an immigration system that right now doesn't serve America as well as it should. The only thing standing in our way is the unwillingness of certain Republican members of Congress to catch up with the rest of the country."

USA Today (11/26, Jackson, 5.82M) notes that on Monday, the President once again said he is "willing to split

a[n immigration reform] bill into pieces if that will get it passed." The President said, "It's Thanksgiving. We can carve that bird into multiple pieces – a drumstick here, breast meat there." But USA Today also reports that the President "said a final package must include certain elements, including a proposed pathway to citizenship" for those "who are already in the country illegally," which, according to USA Today, "many Republicans oppose...likening it to amnesty to lawbreakers."

The New York Times (11/26, Wheaton, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), under the headline, "Obama Calls For Quick Action On Immigration, And So Does A Heckler," reports that the President's "acceptance of a piecemeal approach is part of an effort to keep immigration legislation alive after House Republican leaders made it clear they would not accept the broad framework of the bipartisan bill the Senate passed this year."

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/26, Richman, 731K) also says the President "urged Republicans in Congress to stop standing in the way of immigration reform, an issue he very dearly wants to return to the front burner of domestic policy and the headlines." According to the Mercury News, the President used the trip to California to deflect attention from the problems associated with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and to "try to return immigration to the headlines," while also "rais[ing] money for Democrats."

The Huffington Post (11/26, Foley, 11.54M) reported that "while there are already proposals on border security, high-skilled worker visas and interior enforcement," the House Republican leadership "has not put any bills on the table to give legal status to" non-US residents who are currently in this country illegally.

According to The Hill (11/26, Sink, 194K), on Monday, the President "accused the GOP of preventing a vote on the legislation out of political concerns." The President maintained that some Republicans "think that 'If Obama's for it, I've got to be against it.'" The President added, "Just because something is smart, fair, good for the economy...doesn't mean we'll actually get it done, because this is Washington, after all."

However, on Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (11/26, 2.53M), after briefly noting the President's appearance in San Francisco, Bill O'Reilly, who has endorsed the Senate's comprehensive immigration reform legislation, said, "The problem...is that nobody believes President Obama will secure the border." According to O'Reilly, "They believe he will give the pathway to citizenship, but nobody believes he's going to stop more people from coming in to follow the same pathway."

Jim Kuhnhenn, in an analysis for the AP (11/26, Kuhnhenn), says the President is "making a thread-the-needle appeal for bipartisanship with Republicans even as he calls for replacing the House GOP majority and holding his Democratic edge in the Senate." According to Kuhnhenn, the President hopes to "gain back his political standing in the aftermath of his administration's botched [ACA] launch...by defining himself as a pragmatic victim of tea party conservatives while casting his policies on the economy and immigration as popular remedies that could win bipartisan support."

According to the Washington Post (11/26, Rucker, 4.28M), on Monday, the President "argue[d] that immigration reform would be an economic windfall for the Bay Area and other communities nationwide," and noted that "35 percent of business owners in San Francisco are immigrants, many of them Asian Americans." The President said, "You don't have to be an economist to figure out that workers will be more productive if they've got their families here with them — they're not worried about deportation, they're not living halfway around the world. This isn't just the right thing to do. It's the smart thing to do."

The San Francisco Examiner (11/25, 412K) notes that Sen. Dianne Feinstein was among those who greeted the President when Air Force One landed at San Francisco International Airport Monday morning.

Obama Tells Illegal Immigrant That He Lacks The Power To Stop Deportations. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/26, Richman, 731K) reports that during his speech on Monday in San Francisco, the President was "dramatically interrupted by hecklers in a reserved seating section who urged him to halt deportations, of which his administration has conducted a record number." According to the Mercury News, the President "stopped Secret Service agents who tried to remove the protesters," and said, "I respect the passion of these young people." The Mercury News reports that "most of the hecklers" are "affiliated with ASPIRE, Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education."

A more than minute-long clip of the incident was shown on CNN's AC 360 (11/26, 687K). CNN's Wolf Blitzer commented that it is "pretty unusual" for the President to be "heckled by the people who are supposedly vetted to stand behind" him. Brian Williams, on NBC Nightly News (11/25, story 5, 0:50, Williams, 7.86M), also noted that it is "unusual for a protester to get so close to the President," and that the White House "confirmed" that the hecklers "were invited guests...at the event." Williams reported that the President reminded the crowd that "he needs Congress to change the law to stop deportations."

According to the Los Angeles Times (11/26, Parsons, 3.07M), after one of the hecklers "yelled, 'You have the power to stop deportations!'" the President replied, "Actually, I don't." McClatchy (11/26, Bureau, 95K) reports that the President added, "The easy way out is to try to yell and pretend like I can do something by violating our laws. And what I'm proposing is the harder path, which is to use our democratic processes to achieve the same goal that you want to achieve — but it won't be as easy as just shouting. It requires us lobbying and getting it done."

KGO-TV San Francisco (11/26, 4K), San Francisco's ABC affiliate, identified the heckler who called on the President to halt deportations as Ju Hong, "an undocumented immigrant...from South Korea," who told KGO that he "did not go to the event intending to disrupt the president, but felt compelled to do so."

Under the headline, "President Obama Interrupted By Hecklers During San Francisco Immigration Speech," the New York Daily News (11/26, Friedman, 3.94M) quotes the President as saying, "For those of you who are committed to getting this done, I am gonna march with you and fight with you every step of the way to make sure that we are welcoming every hardworking, striving immigrant sees America the way we do." The President continued, "I'm ready to work with you, but it is gonna require work. It is not just about saying 'we're gonna violate the law.' That's not our tradition."

In an article for Politico (11/25, Epstein, 467K) titled, "Obama Dismisses Using Executive Orders To 'Nullify Congress,'" Jennifer Epstein reported that upon "hearing 'executive order' shouts," the President said, "I'm going to actually pause on this issue because a lot of people have been saying this lately on every problem, which is just, 'Sign an executive order and we can pretty much do anything and basically nullify Congress.'" According to Epstein, the President's reference to "nullify[ing] Congress" drew "applause" from the crowd. However, the President added, "Wait, wait, wait. Before everybody starts clapping – that's not how it works. We've got this Constitution, we've got this whole thing about separation of powers and branches."

According to the Huffington Post (11/26, Foley, 11.54M), at that point, "other people in the crowd began to yell...'Stop deportations. Yes, we can.'" The Huffington Post notes that despite his insistence on Monday that he can not contravene Federal immigration laws, in 2012, he, in fact, "did so...for undocumented young people who entered the US as children."

The Washington Times (11/26, Dinan, 417K) reports that as a result of the President's executive order, "more than 450,000" illegal immigrants "have been granted papers exempting them from deportation." The Times adds that illegal immigrants, and some of the political activists whose interests are aligned with theirs, "argue that he could use those same powers to grant a temporary reprieve to most of the 11 million illegal immigrants in the US."

Bloomberg Group Lobbying "Ambitious" Republicans To Change Stance On Illegal Immigrants. Politico (11/26, Dovere, 467K) reports that Mayor Bloomberg's Partnership for a New American Economy, which advocates giving US citizenship to citizens of other nations who are currently in this country illegally, is targeting its lobbying efforts on "several dozen House Republicans hoping to run statewide." According to Politico, those "ambitious" Republicans are being promised "support from" Bloomberg, a "soon-to-be-less-occupied billionaire," if they change their position on immigration. Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL), who Politico says is "widely assumed to be looking forward to a run for governor or Senate," is described as a "perfect example of the kind of member advocates now have in their sights."

Bloomberg News (11/26, Bender, Bykowicz, 1.91M) notes that "earlier this month," the President "enlisted a group of business executives, including McDonald's Corp. CEO Donald Thompson and Blackstone Group LP CEO Stephen Schwarzman, to put pressure on congressional Republicans to pass an immigration law by year's end."

The Daily Caller (11/26, Munro, 422K) reported that on Monday, Sen. Jeff Sessions released a statement reading: "Congressional leaders must forcefully reject the notion, evidently accepted by the president, that a small cadre of CEOs can tailor the nation's entire immigration policy to suit their narrow interests."

DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS, HEALTHCARE.GOV MAY NOT BE FULLY FUNCTIONAL BY END OF MONTH. As the end of the month approaches, when the Administration has pledged that HealthCare.gov would be fully functional, the Washington Post (11/26, Somashekhar, Goldstein, 4.28M) reports that "consumer advocates say it is becoming easier for people to sign up for coverage," but insurers still fear "that critical flaws continue to hinder participating health plans." The Post says some "progress" has been made toward the Nov. 30 "goal," but "the online system is still marred by defects that would create havoc for insurance companies if a significantly larger volume of applicants starts to sign up in coming weeks."

Moreover, The Hill (11/25, Viebeck, 194K) reports in its "Healthwatch" blog that Administration officials warned on Monday that some visitors to HealthCare.gov would still "experience outages, slow response times or messages to try again later during the month of December." According to The Hill, CMS is trying to "downplay expectations" for the Administration's self-imposed November 30 deadline. CMS spokeswoman Julie Bataille said, "The system will not work perfectly on Dec. 1, but it will work much better than it did in October."

Administration Warns Problems With Site Likely To Persist Next Month. The Hill (11/25, Viebeck, 194K) reports in its "Healthwatch" blog that Administration officials warned on Monday that some visitors to Healthcare.gov would still "experience outages, slow response times or messages to try again later during the month of December." CMS was looking to "downplay expectations" for the Administration's self-imposed deadline to repair the site by November 30. CMS spokeswoman Julie Bataille said, "The system will not work perfectly on Dec. 1, but it will work much better than it did in October."

ID Verification Problem Persists. The New York Times (11/26, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "just days" before the deadline to fix the site, officials said on Monday that they are "aware of another problem that has prevented thousands of people who were unable to verify their identity from shopping for health plans." The Times says that "many" users have had their applications "cast into limbo" after they have provided documents to verify their identity, with no one responding to their problems.

Privately-Run Websites Authorized To Sell Coverage Under ACA. USA Today (11/26, Mullaney, 5.82M) reports that the government has approved several privately-run websites including eHeathInsurance.com, GetInsured.com and GoHealth.com, "to sell coverage under the ACA, including granting permission to connect to HealthCare.gov itself – once it works right." The sites, which are run by for-profit companies, "can sell policies that comply with the ACA's individual mandate in the 36 states served by HealthCare.gov." While not all of the technology "is in place to let the sites process the ACA's tax subsidies for moderate-income insurance buyers," most people "who don't need subsidies can buy now."

HealthCare.gov Users Will Go To Queuing System If Traffic Exceeds 800,000. Reuters (11/26, Morgan) reports that the Administration on Monday announced a plan to help visitors to the Federal health insurance exchange website deal with online problems should traffic swell once the site begins working properly for most users this weekend. An Administration official said that while the site will still have delays and outages in the coming weeks, users will be placed in a "queuing system" if traffic exceeds 800,000 visitors. While they wait in the queuing system, users will be able to see educational material, or they can provide an email address where they can be notified when the system is back up.

INVESTIGATION FAILS TO DETERMINE MOTIVE IN SANDY HOOK SHOOTING. The release of the final report from state investigators into the Sandy Hook killings drew significant media attention in the latest news cycle, including spots near or at the top of all three nightly news broadcasts. The main takeaway is that despite its comprehensive nature, the report has failed to determine a motive for the attacks.

NBC Nightly News (11/25, story 3, 2:40, Williams, 7.86M) reported that the investigation determined Adam Lanza "acted alone when he fatally shot his mother, then carried out a massacre at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, killing 20 children and six adults." NBC (Ellis) says that the report "offers a minute-by-minute account of the crime and the best insight yet into the young man who caused the tragedy," but "the answer that's so

important to so many families in Newtown is why. But after nearly a year-long investigation there is still no answer."

In its lead story, the CBS Evening News (11/25, lead story, 3:20, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that "we know more tonight about what happened that day but not the one thing everyone wants to know – why he did it." The report said Lanza "had significant mental health issues but was under no extreme emotional disturbance that would explain his actions," while he also "had a fascination with mass shootings and firearms but he displayed no aggressive or threatening tendencies."

ABC World News (11/25, story 3, 2:10, Stephanopoulos, 7.43M) said the report contained "new clues about the mind of a mad man," but the investigation "does not establish a conclusive motive."

The New York Times (11/26, Berger, Santora, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that after an 11-month investigation, the Connecticut State Police have not been able to determine a motive behind the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary. The report had been "long anticipated," and was issued by the state's attorney in nearby Danbury. The report found the shooter Adam Lanza had "significant mental health issues," but it "remained unclear if they contributed to his violent actions."

The Washington Post (11/26, Branigin, 4.28M) reports that the report showed that investigators "were unable to determine conclusively a motive for the attack or why he targeted the school." The 48-page report said Lanza "acted alone and was solely criminally responsible for his actions of that day." It adds that the question of motive "may never be answered conclusively, despite the collection of extensive background information on the shooter through a multitude of interviews and other sources. The evidence clearly shows that the shooter planned his actions, including the taking of his own life, but there is no clear indication why he did so, or why he targeted Sandy Hook Elementary School."

The Washington Times (11/26, Sherfinski, 417K) says that on the subject of motive, the report says Lanza had a "familiarity with and access to firearms and ammunition and an obsession with mass murders, in particular the April 1999 shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado. Investigators, however, have not discovered any evidence that the shooter voiced or gave any indication to others that he intended to commit such a crime himself."

The Wall Street Journal (11/26, De Avila, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says the report provides the most detailed look yet at the crime itself, but also focuses on the fact that evidence of a motive has not emerged.

USA Today (11/26, Stoller, 5.82M) says that the report's release "did little to ease the grief felt by the victims' families." USA Today adds that the release of the "summary report" comes after "a months-long debate among Connecticut officials, news outlets, open-government advocates and others over the public's right to know and the pain such a report could inflict on families who lost relatives in the shootings."

In an editorial, the New York Times (11/26, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the report "can only haunt the community and present the nation with difficult questions — far from adequately answered — about how to head off the next gun tragedy."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"China's Coercive Play."*** A New York Times (11/26, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorial said that China's declaration of a new air defense zone over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands conflicts with its stated desire to resolve territorial disputes peacefully. Instead, the announcement increases the possibility of direct conflict with Japan.

"The State's Findings On Newtown." In an editorial, the New York Times (11/26, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the report on the Newtown shootings "can only haunt the community and present the nation with difficult questions — far from adequately answered — about how to head off the next gun tragedy."

"A Glimmer Of Sense On Guantanamo." The New York Times (11/26, Subscription Publication, 9.61M)

editorializes that the Senate, "in a little-noticed but positive move," voted last week to give President Obama "new leeway to move toward closing the prison in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba." The Times contends that Guantánamo "has stained America's commitment to human rights and continues to serve as a potent recruiting tool for America's enemies." The Times notes that the vote "left standing provisions in the fiscal 2014 National Defense Authorization Act that would ease current transfer rules by replacing the onerous certification process and ending the ban on transfers to the United States either for medical treatment or for detention and trial in federal courts instead of the failed military commission system," and concludes that "it is important to applaud the Senate's good sense."

"New Jersey Goes All In, Online." In an editorial, the New York Times (11/26, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) criticizes New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for signing legislation last year (which goes into effect on Tuesday), legalizing online gambling. The Times says that Christie in the past seemed to care about the problems of gambling addicts, but "after weighing the interests of a vulnerable fraction of the population against those of a powerful industry, Mr. Christie folded."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"We're No. 1!"*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/26, 4.28M) criticizes Maryland schools for "artificially" inflating their schools "key" reading tests by excusing students with learning disabilities and poor English skills at a far higher rate than any other state. The Post says that while Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) and Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown (D), running to succeed his boss, are "fond of boasting" that the state's schools are ranked #1, but its "an empty political claim" as the state is "quite a distance from No. 1."

"Air Control." The Washington Post (11/26, 4.28M) editorializes that China's announcement of a new "air defense identification zone" over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands is "womisome and reckless." The potential for miscalculation leading to open hostilities is very high, and the US would obligated to intervene due to its commitment to Japan's defense. China's unilateral action belies its leaders' promises of the country's "peaceful rise." The article suggests that if China really needs an air identification zone beyond its territorial waters, then it could join Japan and other neighboring countries to create a joint zone.

"Sweet Nothing." In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/26, 4.28M) reports that the Agriculture Department lost $280 million on its sugar program in FY2013, "with more losses expected next year." The Post says the US "should stand for free trade in sugar and against protectionism," and says that "setting a better example" by reducing subsidies "would help."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The FDA And Thee."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (11/26, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes the FDA for attempting to regulate 23andMe, a genetic testing company. The Journal says that the FDA is overstepping its bounds and urges the company to fight back. In addition, the Journal says the company should begin looking for overseas locations to move its operations to in an effort to show the Obama Administration the negative impact of its regulatory policies.

"Pacquiao Wins, Uncle Sam Loses." The Wall Street Journal (11/26, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that Manny Pacquiao's recent fight in Macau highlights the effect that high US Federal marginal tax rates have on pushing business away from the domestic economy. Pacquiao specifically requested not to fight in the US because of the tax hit to his purse.

"The Battle For Ukraine." The Wall Street Journal (11/26, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that Ukraine' suspension of an EU agreement in order to pursue a customs union with Russia is a bad decision for the Ukrainian people. The country's business community shows no interest in joining the Russian customs union, and a West-oriented Ukraine would lead to a more peaceful Europe free from Russian President Vladimir Putin's sphere of influence. German Chancellor Angela Merkel's offer of EU-Russian talks regarding Ukraine and similarly positioned countries are misguided, and the US has been a non-entity in this matter.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

Ruling Puts Bullet Train At Risk
Entry To College May Get Easier
Iran Deal Sets Mideast Abuzz
UCLA Police Accused Of Brutality
A VW Goodwill Tour Across Latin America

Wall Street Journal:
Wal-Mart Elevates Insider To CEO
Genetic Test Service Hits FDA Roadblock
White House Launches Push To Sell Its Iran Nuclear Deal
Inside The Breakup Of The Pritzker Empire

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Obama Places An Emphasis On Diplomacy
US And Saudis In Growing Rift As Power Shifts
A Divided Rio, Overreaching For The World
Chilling Look At Newtown Killer, But No "Why"
As Homeless Line Up For Food, Los Angeles Weighs Restrictions
New Pitch For Health initiative: Mind Your Mom; Get Insured

Washington Post:
Security Pact With Afghans Cast Into Doubt
FDA Warns Firm To Stop Selling Genetic-Testing Kit
CIA Remains Behind Most Drone Strikes
Virginia Board Declares Herring Attorney General
For Low-Wage Workers, Unprecedented Anxiety

Financial Times:
Rafsanjani Sees Full Iran Deal Within Year
EU Warns US Over Trawling Online Data
Walmart Names McMillon As New Chief
Fiat Damps Chrysler IPO Speculation
Qualcomm Faces Antitrust Probe In China
Europe In Push To Block Tax Loopholes
Plenty Of Signs Of Froth In Equities

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Storm; Flight Cancellations; Newtown Shooting Report; Yale Gun Scare; Iran Nuclear Program; US Captive In North Korea; Miller Custody Battle; Travel Theft
CBS: Newtown Shooting Report, Texas-Winter Weather, Iran-Nuclear Talks, Iran-Nuclear Talks, Iran Talks-Gas Prices, NECC Investigation, Health-FDA-Avandia, Ohio-Rape Case Indictment, Boeing-Dreamliner Problems, Vatican-Putin Visit, JFK-Green Berets
NBC: Weather-Thanksgiving Travel, Weather Forecast, Newtown Shooting Report, Iran-US Nuclear Deal, Obama-Immigration Reform, ACA-Employer Health Plans, AARP-81st Anniversary, NASA-Comet, JFK Funeral-Jackie Kennedy

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Obama Meets With Slain TSA Agent Family, Obama-Immigration Protestor, East Coast Winter Storm, Boeing-Ice Crystal Issues, Newtown Shooter Report, Congressman-Cocaine Possession
CBS: Newtown Shooting Report, Thanksgiving Travel, SCOTUS-ACA Contraception Coverage, San Jose State-Hate Crime
NPR: Syria-Civil War Negotiations, Iran-US Nuclear Agreement, Obama-Immigration Reform, Ohio-Rape Case Indictment, San Jose State-Hate Crime, Winter Storm, Central African Republic-French Troops, Congressman-Cocaine Possession

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA-- Attends a DNC event, private residence, Los Angeles, CA, closed press; tours DreamWorks Animation, DreamWorks Studios, Glendale, CA, closed press; delivers remarks, DreamWorks Studios, Glendale, CA; departs Los Angeles en route to Washington, DC; arrives at Joint Base Andrews; arrives at the White House, South Lawn, open press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN-- Meets with senior advisors.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: GW – GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS — Panel Discussion: Breaking the Cycle Part II: Health Sector Responses to Violence
Against Women and Girls. Speakers: Catherine Russell, ambassador-at-large for global women's issues, U.S. Department of State; Mary Ellsberg, director, the George Washington University Global Womens Institute (GWI); Jon K. Andrus, PAHO; Francisco Becerra, PAHO; Alessandra Guedes, PAHO; Derrick Sialondwe, Livingstone General Hospital; Kiersten Stewart, Futures Without Violence. Location: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), 525 23rd St., NW. 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
NASA – COMET TELECONFERENCE — NASA will host a media teleconference Tuesday, Nov. 26 and a Google+ Hangout Thursday, Nov. 28 to discuss Comet ISONs journey through our solar system and what the public worldwide may see in the coming days as the comet traverses the sun on Thanksgiving Day. Participants: Jim Green, director, Planetary Science Division, NASA Headquarters, Washington; Michael Garcia, program scientist, Astrophysics Division, Headquarters; Carey Lisse, senior research scientist, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, Md.; Karl Battams, astrophysicist, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington. 1 p.m.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR. Jay Leno: "Well, apparently what got the Iranians to sign this deal was the promise from President Obama. He told the Iranians, 'If you like your uranium, you can keep your uranium.'"

Jay Leno: "Well, President Obama's approval rating is now down at the lowest point of his presidency. It's down to 37 percent. In fact, here's how bad it's gotten. You know the Thanksgiving turkey he's pardoning this week? The turkey said, 'No pictures. I don't want pictures.'"

Jay Leno: "And the US Senate has totally changed its rules to end filibusters of presidential nominees. Under the new rules, they'll now be able to get nothing done much faster."

Jimmy Fallon: "The thing a lot of people are talking about is how Obama was finally able to get this deal with Iran. Basically, what happened was Obama got tired of trying to fix healthcare and said, 'Give me an easier problem. Iranian nukes. I'm on it. Yeah, that's great. That's much better than what I've been dealing with the past couple weeks.'"

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BISON CONNECT

RE: thank you

Audrey Robertson <AudreyR@containerstore.com> Tue, Nov 26, 2013 at 10:51 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com>
Cc: David Jayo <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov>

Hello! And nice to meet you, David! Let's connect on another email and we'll determine a time to talk more about this incredible program.

In the meantime, the dates for the Conscious Capitalism event are April 9-11, 2014 - in San Diego. If you think that there's even a *glimmer* of a chance that you could attend to talk about 21CSC, let me know and I'll get in touch with the Conference organizers and start that conversation. Thanks so much – could be so wonderful!

Audrey

containerstore.com

What We Stand For

From: Sally Jewell [mailto:(b)(6)@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 4:52 PM
To: Kip Tindell; Audrey Robertson
Cc: David Jayo
Subject: Re: thank you

Dear Kip and Audrey -

It was a real pleasure to speak with you today. Congrats again on the IPO - it is wonderful to know that another public company will bring the principles of conscious capitalism to Wall Street!

I have copied David on this so he can connect directly with Audrey. As I mentioned, David joined me from REI to lead our efforts on 21CSC and engaging youth to play, learn, serve and work outside. It would be wonderful to

work with The Container Store, along with other enlightened businesses, to engage many more people in service on our public lands.

With regard to the CC event in San Diego, please let us know the dates and we can see if it works with our travel. I fully agree that this would be a wonderful audience for 21CSC.

Happy Thanksgiving and keep in touch!

Warmly,

Sally

On Nov 26, 2013, at 10:58 AM, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com> wrote:

> Sally,
>
> Thanks so much for your time today – can't tell you how much I enjoyed our conversation! Truly there isn't a better person our President could have so thoughtfully selected to lead our Dept. of Interior. Thank you for all that you're doing for our beloved country's present and future. It was thrilling to hear what you're working on and towards and know that Audrey will be eager to connect with David soon. After the call, Audrey and I also discussed maybe you or David coming to the big Conscious Capitalism event in April in San Diego to talk a bit about the 21CSC (is that the official name?) just thinking that audience of companies would be ripe for the message. That particular event is open to a much broader group of companies with many representatives coming from each organization versus, say, the CEO Summit that takes place in Austin each year with about 200 CEOs (although that could be a great audience as well – that takes place each October). The Conscious Capitalism events are a far cry from where they were in their humble beginnings when we were there together outside of Austin. They now include key business leaders from virtually every single business sector.
>
> Lastly, here's a link to our blog I mentioned we started after that get together in Austin many years ago – it's evolved into having a great presence in all of our catalogs and really, in everything we use to talk with our customers...the response has been delightful. And the fact that we have a blog about our culture and what we stand yet nothing yet on "getting organized" I think makes people REALLY understand how important...how core...this is to us and to them...as it obviously translates to their experience with The Container Store. http://standfor.containerstore.com/
>
> Again, thank you for reaching out...let's stay in touch.
>
> Kip

PS – and of course thank you for letting me bend your ear on the Gunnison Sage-Grouse ☺.

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What We Stand For

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, November 27, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Nov 27, 2013 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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HOLIDAY PUBLISHING NOTICE. In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Department of the Interior News Briefing will not be published on Thursday, November 28, or Friday, November 29. Publication will resume on Monday, December 2.

DOI in the News:

NPS WALKS BACK COMMENTS ABOUT FRACKING. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (11/27, 194K) reports that the NPS is backtracking from "comments that showcased doubts about whether natural gas development can help battle climate change, acknowledging they 'did not receive appropriate review.'" In a letter to a House Republican, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis "withdrew the unsigned comments that the service sent months ago to a separate federal agency crafting regulations on hydraulic fracturing." In the letter to Rep. Rob Bishop, Jarvis "said nobody in management reviewed the staff comments and that their handling was 'contrary' to NPS protocol." The Hill notes that "natural gas produces far less carbon emissions than coal when burned to create electricity," and supporters including Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz "have pointed to gas development as a near-term way to curb heat-trapping emissions."

Also, the Washington Times (11/27, Dinan, 417K) reports that Jarvis "didn't acknowledge that the science his agency relied upon was bad," but Bishop said "withdrawing the document is a tacit admission that the Park Service was 'misleading' Americans." Bishop said, "It concerns me that the National Park Service attempted to pass off unsubstantiated information as 'science.' This thinly veiled attempt to vilify energy production and hydraulic fracturing on our public lands illustrates a shared agenda between the administration and anti-energy special interest groups." Jarvis said "he's taken steps to make sure all future submissions are properly vetted and approved."

SENATE COMMITTEE COULD VOTE ON KIA'AINA'S OIA NOMINATION IN DECEMBER. The Pacific News Center (11/27) reports that "some of the President's nominees pending before the Senate Energy Committee could get a vote December 12th," according to GOP Spokesman Robert Dillon. Dillon said "the latest group includes eight nominees, including Guam born Hawaiian Esther Kia'aina who for OIA Assistant Secretary."

SHIPROCK CHAPTER OPPOSES WAIVER OF LIABILITIES GRANTED FOR NAVAJO MINE. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (11/27, 46K) reports that Shiprock Chapter is "submitting a resolution to federal officials that opposes the waiver of liabilities that the Navajo Nation Council granted BHP Billiton for Navajo Mine." The resolution, which chapter members approved Sunday, was attached to a letter chapter president Duane "Chili" Yazzie wrote Tuesday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn.

AMID BUDGET CUTS, PRISON CREWS STEP IN TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The New York Times (11/26, Santos, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports "that with Federal cuts over the last 30 years," the "burden of fighting wildfires has been shifted to states and local jurisdictions, even as they struggle under the weight of a sluggish economy." Now, prison crews "have emerged as a solution as wildfires burn bigger, hotter and longer each year and take up a growing portion of the United States Forest Service budget." According to program managers, commonly, "inmates leave prison at the end of their sentences and join firefighting crews." The article notes that "one of them, Grant Lovato, 46, who worked two seasons with the Lewis crew while serving time in prison for credit card fraud and identity theft, is now a firefighter" for the FWS in Gulfport, Miss. In a telephone interview, he said, "The idea that I could be in prison and still get out into the woods and get to enjoy the nature was a transformative experience to me."

LAWMAKERS URGE BUDGET COMMITTEE TO LEAVE PILT INTACT. The Montrose (CO) Press (11/27, 17K) reports that "as Congress again turns to budgetary concerns, Western representatives are pleading with the Budget Committee to leave intact the federal program that compensates counties with public lands."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CAPE ROMAIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LOSING SEASHORE TO RISING EROSION. The Grist (11/27, 25K) reports that "about 1,200 acres of land have disappeared" from Bulls Island and three nearby islands which are part of Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge "since the 1990s — lost to rising seas and the eroding effects of powerful storms." According to the article, the erosion problems at the barrier islands, are "so severe" that Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell "visited them last week."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL SUMMIT. The Sawyer County (WI) Record (11/27, 12K) reports that Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board Chairman Michael "Mic" Isham Jr. "visited with cabinet secretaries and other high-ranking officials during the fifth annual White House Tribal Nations Summit Nov. 12-14 in Washington, D.C." In an interview, Isham said, "One of the biggest benefits of being out there is you get to meet with the top people in the administration. We want to make sure our issues make it to the top, to have those officials understand how their decisions affect us locally here on the ground. I felt that was the most important thing, although I liked listening to the President also." Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who also serves as chair of the recently-established White House Council on Native American Affairs, said, "I am proud to work for a president who has demonstrated a lasting and meaningful commitment to upholding a strong government-to-government relationship with tribal nations. This conference is an important part of the ongoing dialogues we need to have as we work together toward tribal self-determination and self-governance and promoting prosperous and resilient tribal nations."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF TRIBAL AGREEMENT WITH CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION. Additional coverage of the agreement singed by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation was provided by the Tulsa (OK) World (11/27, 271K) and the Shawnee (OK) News-Star (11/26, 25K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: USGS FINDS LAND SINKING RAPIDLY IN CALIFORNIA'S SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY. Additional coverage of the USGS study finding that land is sinking in California's San Joaquin Valley was provided by the Fresno (CA) Bee (11/26, 327K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CONTINUES FIGHT TO STAY OPEN. The East Bay Express (11/27, 5K) reports that one year after it was ordered to close, the Drakes Bay Oyster Company continues "to harvest oysters and invasive clams in the area while fighting its legal case in court." Currently, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco is considering a request by the company to "overturn a decision made by a three-judge panel of the same appeals court earlier this year." Meanwhile, "its lease with the federal government expired last year, so the business is operating rent-free on public land."

GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTED WITH SERVICE AWARD. The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (11/27, 339K) reports that Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Bob Kirby on Nov. 19 was honored with the Superior Service Award from the Interior Department. Kirby was recognized for "his leadership, vision and planning efforts for the 150th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Gettysburg and Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address." Kirby will "retire on Jan. 3 after 40 years of federal service."

FORT HANCOCK PROPERTIES DRAWING INTEREST FOR LEASES. The Hub (NJ) (11/28, 516) reports that "businesses, nonprofits and even residents have expressed an interest in potentially leasing historic properties" at Fort Hancock. According to NPS spokesman John Warren, "there has been a significant level of both local and national interest in the fort's 36 historic military buildings, which are currently being marketed for reuse and redevelopment." Warren said, "There has been interest from individuals who are seeking family residences, from notfor profits and professionals inquiring about office space and from commercial entities, as well. I'm very impressed with not only the quantity, but the quality of the ideas and questions we have received."

GREAT SMOKY OFFICIALS CRITICIZED FOR EUTHANIZING ELK. The Bristol (TN/VA) Herald Courier (11/27, 81K) reports that "officials at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park received around 100 letters and 200 Facebook posts about their decision to euthanize an elk that was seen harassing a photographer on a YouTube video, with most of the comments criticizing the decision to kill the animal earlier this month." According to the article, "the video of the elk head-butting James York was put online Oct. 20 and has been viewed more than 2 million times." However, park biologist Joe Yarkovich said, "The video is getting all the attention but what most people don't realize is the history we had with this."

WORK CONTINUES ON VANCOUVER BARRACKS BUILDINGS. The Clark County (WA) Columbian (11/26, 116K) reports that structural work on the exterior of the historic Vancouver Barracks buildings has been completed. Now, exterior work on buildings will continue before interiors can be remodeled.

FORT JUELSON NAMED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (11/27, 15K) reports that Fort Juelson was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Bureau of Land Management:

SEN. WYDEN PROPOSES BILL TO BOOST LOGGING ON O&C LANDS. The Columbus (IN) Republic (11/27, 80K) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden has introduced a bill "to boost logging on federal lands in Western Oregon to help struggling timber counties." The Oregon and California Land Grant Act of 2013 attempts to resolve decades of lawsuits over the BLM's O&C timberlands in Westem Oregon by designating some areas for conservation and others for timber harvest. It would limit the environmental review process for logging in some designated harvest areas, while guaranteeing protection for stands of trees over 120 years old.

The Oregonian (11/27, 751K) reports that the legislation "picked up support from several timber industry and

environmental groups alike who praised it as a middle-ground solution that could actually pass Congress." However, the Sierra Club, Oregon Wild and Environment Oregon "all issued statements charging that Wyden's bill would once again allow widespread clear-cutting on federal forests in Oregon – a practice largely halted since spotted owl restrictions dramatically cut federal timber harvests since 1990."

Also providing coverage are the Clark County (WA) Columbian (11/26, 116K), the Yamhill Valley (OR) News-Register (11/27, 33K), the Oregon Public Broadcasting (11/27, 4K), KVAL-TV Eugene, OR (11/27, 31K), KPIC-TV Roseburg, OR (11/27, 653), and KDRV-TV Medord, OR (11/27, 671).

The Oregonian (11/27, 751K) editorializes that the bill "could put Oregon's long-struggling timber counties back on the road to viability." According to the paper, "the plan is a compromise that likely will leave all sides – environmentalists, the timber industry, elected officials in timber counties – a little bit uncomfortable." However, "that's part of why the bill deserves support."

SENATE PANEL ADVANCES GRAZING PERMIT BILL. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/27, 90K) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has "advanced a bill introduced by Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso that would keep livestock grazing permits on federal land despite environmental legal challenges." Barrasso said his proposal allows the BLM and the Forest Service to "continue issuing grazing permits while required environmental analysis is pending."

COMMENTS OFFERED ON BLM'S GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PROPOSAL. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (11/27, 27K) reports that "several entities in western Garfield County that rely on tax dollars from the oil and gas industry are weighing in" on the BLM's proposal to protect greater sage-grouse habitat in the region, "saying the potential economic impacts are being overlooked." In a Nov. 20 letter to Northwest Colorado BLM Director Jim Cagney, James Coombs, executive director of the Grand River Hospital District in Rifle, said, "This obviously is a major source of our income and any curtailing of oil and gas production in Garfield County will have devastating effects to our district and bring economic destruction to our community and our ability to provide affordable health care." The article notes that "other local entities providing comments on the sage-grouse proposal in advance of the Dec. 2 comment deadline include the city of Rifle, the town of Parachute, Colorado River Fire Rescue, the DeBeque Fire Protection District and Garfield County School District 16 in Parachute."

BLM TO IMPLEMENT SEASONAL CLOSURES IN WOOD RIVER VALLEY. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (11/27, 56K) reports that the BLM Shoshone Field Office has implemented seasonal motorized use closures in the Wood River Valley beginning December 1, 2013 and ending April 30, 2014 to protect wintering herds of big game. Shoshone Field Office Outdoor Recreation Planner John Kurtz said, "These closures serve an important role in protecting the big game that finds refuge on these slopes." The BLM also noted that non-motorized activities can have an impact on wildlife.

Also covering the sotry is KIVI-TV Boise, ID (11/27, 861).

BLM SETS TEMPORARY CLOSURE ON FORESTLAND EAST OF MYRTLE CREEK. The Roseburg (OR) News-Review (11/27, 53K) reports that the BLM "plans to close to the public 2,167 acres of forest east of Myrtle Creek to minimize conflicts between contractors and timber sale protestors while the area is being logged." According to a decision signed last week by BLM Field Manager Steven Lydick, "pending any appeals, the temporary closure will go in effect Dec. 24." Lydick said that "the blockage, which includes 15 miles of road, will not exceed two years and will be lifted as soon as the harvest activities that cause safety concems are completed."

BLM TO CLOSE LITTLE SAHARA RECREATION AREA VISITORS CENTER FOR WINTER. The Deseret (UT) News (11/27, 274K) reports that the BLM Utah Little Sahara Recreation Area will close the area's visitors center for winter from Dec. 1 through Feb. 8. according to the article, "closing the visitor center over the winter months saves money by reducing operating costs during periods when visitation is low."

ELKO COUNTY PREPARING FOR POSSIBLE SHUTDOWN. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (11/27, 22K) reports that the Elko County Commission is preparing for to "keep services running to avoid turning tourists away, especially if the next potential shutdown extends through the busiest outdoor months."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

AGENCIES ASSESSING MISSISSIPPI RIVER FUEL LEAK. NBC Nightly News (11/26, story 7, 0:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported, "Environment officials are conducting a damage assessment after a towboat carrying 100,000 gallons of fuel sank in the Mississippi river after striking something in the water along the way. It's now leaking fuel into the water. A stretch of river in eastern Iowa is closed to barge traffic while they try to figure out how bad this leak is and how to contain it."

ABC News (11/27, 3.68M) reports that "officials were assessing the environmental damage Tuesday after a towboat carrying 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel and oil sank in the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa, closing the river to barge traffic." Members of the U.S. Coast Guard, the EPA, the FWS and "other organizations don't yet know what the towboat struck before it began sinking around 4:30 p.m. Monday."

ST. TAMMANY, LOUISIANA PRE-APPROVED FOR FHWA GRANT FOR TRAIL EXTENSION. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (11/27, Chatelain, 700K) reports St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana "has received provisional approval for a $92,677 federal grant to help" fund the Tammany Trace exercise trail extension project. The article notes that the "grant is being issued through" the FHWA's Recreational Trails Program. Input on the project will be sought from the Louisiana field office of the US Interior Department's Wildlife and Fisheries Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the state Historic Preservation Office.

FWS EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSAL TO LIST NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT. The Chattanoogan (11/26, 17K) reports that the FWS is extending the deadline for public comment on the proposal to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. According to the article, "the extension notice is expected to publish in the Federal Register early next week and will extend the public comment period to Jan. 2, 2014."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORT ON COASTAL WETLANDS LOSS. Additional coverage of the report on the increased rate of coastal wetlands loss was provided by WLOX-TV Biloxi, MS (11/27, 22K).

RED KNOT SUFFERS FROM DECLINING HORSESHOE CRAB NUMBERS. In an op-ed for the New York Times (11/27, Cramer, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Deborah Cramer, a visiting scholar at the M.I.T. Earth System Initiative, writes that "the number of horseshoe crabs has declined over the years," due to increasing demand. She notes that "the demand for these crabs has been a factor in the decline of the red knot, Calidris canutus rufa, whose numbers have dwindled to the point that" the FWS "recently proposed designating the bird as threatened, or likely to become in danger of extinction." According to Cramer, "that has meant trouble not only for red knots, whose numbers in the Delaware Bay have plummeted by 70 percent since the early 1980s, but for us."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

CRITICS SAY OIL-AND-GAS ROYALTY RATE SHOULD BE UPDATED. The Colorado Independent (11/27, 158) reports that the royalty rate on onshore oil-and-gas production hasn't changed since the 1920s. Analysts claim that the "low rate has cost Colorado taxpayers an estimated $300 million since Obama took office in 2008." According to the article, "hiking the onshore royalty rate seems like an easy decision to make, especially given that it can be done administratively by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell with zero involvement from gridlocked Congress." The BLM "acknowledged that they could raise onshore royalty rates but wouldn't say when or if that might happen." Bev Winston, a BLM spokesperson said, "The Mineral Leasing Act gives the Secretary of the Interior the authority to set the royalty rate and that is done through a formal rule. There has been discussion of changing the rate for oil (not gas), but I have nothing new on that at this time."

BLM PROPOSES TO OFFER 29,000 ACRES FOR LEASE SALE. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (11/27, 73K) reports that the BLM is "proposing offering some 29,000 acres for oil and gas leasing in northwest Colorado in June, but it deferred leasing on tens thousands of acres more nominated for the sale due to greater sage-grouse and other concerns." The BLM is "moving toward a decision on proposed measures to protect the bird in northwest Colorado as part of an effort to keep it from being listed for protection under the Endangered Species

Act." BLM spokesman David Boyd said that "decision will dictate what deferred parcels are or aren't offered for leasing."

Also covering the story is the Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (11/27, 27K).

USGS ANALYSIS DISCUSSES THREATS FROM OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN THE APPALACHIAN BASIN. The Switchboard (11/27, 67K) reports that a new analysis from the USGS "discusses critical issues and evolving developments regarding water resources and oil and gas production in the Appalachian Basin." The USGS analysis "concludes that the impacts can be considerable–and there are still many unknowns about the impacts and to what extent they can be reduced."

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES CONSIDERING EXPANDED ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (11/27, 15K) reports that the Three Affiliated Tribes is "considering expanding a planned oil refinery on the Fort Berthold Reservation in western North Dakota before it is even built, and also considering construction of a natural gas plant." At a tribal energy seminar being held in Bismarck this week, Chairman Tex Hall said that "he expects 3,000 wells to be producing 300,000 barrels of oil a day on the reservation within six years." Hall said, "e will need a bigger refinery ... doesn't make sense to ship it down the road. There will be less of a (carbon) footprint to refine it here. We already have a 20,000 barrel facility; it just has to be bigger."

CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT OF ENERGY BILLS CRITICIZED. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (11/27, Morgan, 11.54M), Ann Morgan, Executive director of the National Wildlife Federation regional office in Boulder, CO, criticizes House Republicans for blasting the NPS for its decisions during the shutdown, and then a month later, pushing bills to prioritize energy development on public lands. According to Morgan, "rather than provide for responsible energy development on public lands, the legislation would make energy the preferred use, hamstring public input and undermine assurances that the public health and welfare are being safeguarded." She argues that the legislation "would set the ground for turning large patches of the West into an energy colony at a time when US oil production is already at record levels, natural gas prices remain low because of a big supply and roughly two-thirds of the 38 million acres of federal oil and gas leases sit idle."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM AUTHORIZES DREDGING OF OFFSHORE SAND. The Dredging Today (11/26) reports that the BOEM has "announced an agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authorizing the dredging of up to one million cubic yards of sand from the outer continental shelf to restore the shoreline at NASA's Wallops Island Flight Facility in Virginia." BOEM Director Tommy P. Beaudreau said, "BOEM's contribution of sand for this federal facility will help maintain the physical integrity of NASA's valuable launch infrastructure at Wallops Island and improve resiliency against future storms. This project is an example of the federal family working together on the ongoing response to Hurricane Sandy."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA WATER OFFICIAL INVITED TO INTERVIEW FOR BOR COMMISSIONER POSITION. The Los Angeles Wave (11/27, 261K) reports that Gloria Gray, the vice chair of the Metropolitan Water District of California, received an "unexpected call from the Obama administration last month inviting her to interview" for the position to replace Mike Connors as the commissioner of the BOR. Gray was "one of three to five people called in for interview and she traveled to Washington last week." Gray said, "They asked me about my leadership style and experience in water. I told them if you're looking for someone who has a long history in water then that's not me. However, if you're looking for someone that has the leadership to get things done, knows how to work with coalitions and partnerships and bring forth new ideas, then I'm the person [for the job]."

CALIFORNIA URGED TO FOCUS ON OPERATING CONDITIONS FOR SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN RIVER DELTA. The Vacaville (CA) Reporter (11/27, 57K) editorializes that "the battle for the better part of the last two years" over the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta has "been about how big a new conveyance system – probably tunnels – should be, how much it should cost, and who should foot the bill." According to the paper, "the result has been a political fight of the worst kind, pitting Northern Californians against Southern Californians and agriculture interests against environmentalists." Instead, it argues that "the focus instead should be the operating

conditions for the Delta, particularly the amount of water that needs to flow through it annually to maintain the health of the estuary."

Empowering Native American Communities:

MORE LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL HEADED TO SPIRIT LAKE NATION. The Grand Forks (ND) Herald (11/27, 87K) reports that the Office of Justice Services, part of the BIA, is "sending seven new law enforcement agents to the Spirit Lake Reservation." The article notes that "two new police officers and two BIA tribal investigators are already on Spirit Lake," and Tribal Chairman Leander "Russ" McDonald said "three more officers should arrive within a week." According to the article, "the change came after federal officials met with tribal leaders and heard from tribal members last week about child welfare problems on Spirit Lake." McDonald said the BIA will "conduct a study to see if any more help is needed."

Also providing coverage is WDAZ-TV Grand Forks, ND (11/27, 1K).

Top National News:

SUPREME COURT TO CONSIDER RELIGIOUS CHALLENGE TO ACA. The Supreme Court's announcement that it will hear a challenge to the Affordable Care Act was heavily covered in print and broadcast media, including nearly seven minutes of coverage on the network newscasts.

The CBS Evening News (11/26, story 4, 2:20, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that the court "has agreed to hear a case that centers on religious objections to Obamacare," which "requires employers to pay for contraceptives, but some employers say that, that violates their deeply held beliefs." CBS (Werner) added that Federal courts "have split on this issue so the Supreme Court will now consider whether corporations have the same religious rights as individuals." The court is expected to hear arguments in the case in March.

NBC Nightly News (11/26, story 3, 2:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported that the Oklahoma family "that owns the Hobby Lobby with more than 550 arts and crafts stores nationwide employing 13,000 people says the company is founded on religious principles," but the company "says providing insurance coverage for contraceptive measures like the morning-after pill is the equivalent of paying for abortion, violating its religious freedom." NBC (Williams) added that the Obama Administration "says that nearly half of all pregnancies in the US are unintended, costing health care five billion dollars a year."

ABC World News (11/26, story 4, 2:00, Stephanopoulos, 7.43M) reported that the "practical effect of Hobby Lobby and a second business, a kitchen cabinet company run by Mennonite, winning would mean it would be exempt of a fundamental principle of ObamaCare, birth control at no cost."

The New York Times (11/26, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Administration "has exempted many religious groups from the law's requirements for contraception coverage," but "it said for-profit corporations could not rely on religious objections to opt out of compliance with the law. 'Our policy is designed to ensure that health care decisions are made between a woman and her doctor,' Jay Carney, the White House press secretary, said in a statement. 'The president believes that no one, including the government or for-profit corporations, should be able to dictate those decisions to women.'"

The Wall Street Journal (11/26, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports the court consolidated two cases brought by Hobby Lobby Stores Inc., and Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp., a manufacturer of kitchen cabinet doors in Pennsylvania. The 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against Conestoga's challenge, while the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Hobby Lobby, setting up the Supreme Court confrontation.

Politico (11/27, Haberkorn, 467K) reports that the two cases "will be combined and given one hour of oral arguments before the justices." The court did not announce whether it will hear cases brought by other companies, including Autocam Corp., and Liberty University.

The Washington Times (11/27, Howell, 417K) reports that nearly 40 companies nationwide "filed suit over the mandate, with particular objections to insuring morning-after pills that they equate with abortion." Business

owners contend that fines "for flouting the mandate would cripple" their businesses.

USA Today (11/27, Wolf, 5.82M) reports that the case "is significant because it will answer a question with far-reaching consequences: Can corporations pray?"

McClatchy (11/26, Doyle, 95K) reports that the case will "pit religious beliefs against governmental power, with potentially far-reaching consequences for both. 'The question presented is one of exceptional importance,' Solicitor General Donald Verrilli, Jr., advised the Supreme Court in a legal brief." McClatchy notes that 11 states have filed briefs in the case urging the court to hear the challenge, underscoring "the case's significance, and foreshadowing the kind of kibitzing to come."

The AP (11/27, Sherman) reports that the key issue in the cases is "whether profit-making corporations can assert religious beliefs under the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act or the First Amendment provision guaranteeing Americans the right to believe and worship as they choose."

The Christian Science Monitor (11/26, Richey, 540K) reports that the Administration "views this issue not as a potential infringement of religious rights and religious liberty but as an attempt by certain business owners to impose their personal religious beliefs on their employees." The Administration's primary argument "is that it is up to each individual employee – not the company or its owners – to decide which contraceptive services to use."

The Huffington Post (11/26, Bassett, 11.54M) reports that Hobby Lobby attorneys contend that the law "forces it to pay for four methods of contraception to which the owners morally object: the Plan B morning-after pill, an emergency contraceptive called Ella, and two different kinds of intrauterine devices (IUDs) that may sometimes work by preventing a fertilized egg from implanting into the uterus."

The Daily Caller (11/26, Hurtubise, 422K) reports that while "for-profit corporations have not historically been given the same rights to free exercise of religion as individuals, they were granted another First Amendment right to free speech in the controversial 2010 Citizens United decision."

The Los Angeles Times (11/26, Savage, 3.07M) reports that the challenge "does not turn on the Constitution and its protection for the 'free exercise' of religion," but rather contends that the "contraceptive mandate" violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, which was "intended to overturn the high court's earlier refusal to give 'religious objectors' a constitutional exemption from ordinary laws."

Bloomberg News (11/26, Stohr, 1.91M) reports that the legal dispute "threatens to carve a hole in the 2010 health-care law, already beset by problems on multiple fronts as its major provisions take effect."

The Washington Post (11/26, Barnes, 4.28M) reports that Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) "said the issue is one of equality. 'Allowing a woman's boss to call the shots about her access to birth control should be inconceivable to all Americans in this day and age,' she said in a statement, adding: 'That is a slippery slope that could lead to bosses dictating everything from an employee's ability to access HIV treatment to their ability to vaccinate their children.'" House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), on the other hand, "called the requirement 'an attack on religious freedom, and I'm hopeful it will be reversed by the Court.'"

The New York Times (11/27, Belluck, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that European health authorities "have made two significant changes to the label of an emergency contraception pill that is equivalent to Plan B One-Step," one of which "could be relevant" to the cases before the Supreme Court. The Times notes that the new label of Norlevo "says it 'cannot stop a fertilized egg from attaching to the womb,' contradicting a claim by some abortion opponents that has fueled their objections to the Affordable Care Act." The Times notes that Norlevo "is not sold in the United States, but Plan B One-Step and two generic versions are identical to it."

In a column for the Washington Post (11/27, Meyerson, 4.28M), Harold Meyerson argues that "to extend the exemptions that churches receive to secular, for-profit corporations that claim to be following religious doctrine, but may in fact be nipping it here and tucking it there, would open the door to a range of idiosyncratic management practices inflicted on employees." He adds that if corporation "are going to be given the freedoms that people enjoy, they should be subjected to people's obligations and restrictions too."

The New York Times (11/27, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that while the court "has upheld the free speech rights of corporations, it has never recognized that a secular corporation is an entity capable of engaging in religion or that the religious beliefs of owners excuse noncompliance with the law," and argues that to do so now "would upset accepted principles of corporate law and set a risky precedent by elevating the religious views of company owners over the interests of society and the well-being of employees."

ADMINISTRATION LOOKS TO LIMIT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF NON-PROFIT GROUPS. The release by the Administration of new rules designed to rein in campaign spending by non-profit groups generated heavy print coverage. Most pieces interviewed concerned parties on one or both sides of the political divide. In general, Democratic-leaning groups and individuals approved of the move, while Republican-leaning groups opposed them, casting them as an attempt by the Administration to gain a political edge and silence dissent.

USA Today (11/27, Korte, 5.82M) reports that the Administration is "moving to clamp down on the growing political activity of 'social welfare' tax-exempt groups." The Treasury Department is expected to publish rules on Friday that "would restrict the ability of those groups," organized under 501(c)4 of the tax code, "to conduct a wide range of activities, from running ads to distributing mailers that target specific candidates to get-out-the-vote drives." However, it is unlikely the rules would go into effect before the 2014 elections. The move comes six months after "controversy erupted over the IRS scrutiny of conservative groups."

The Washington Post (11/27, Gold, 4.28M) reports that under the rules, groups such as Crossroads GPS and the League of Conservation Voters "could see their influence on campaigns dramatically curbed." The new rules would "explicitly define which kind of activities are political and fall outside of the social welfare category, forcing such groups to be more careful about how they spend their funds." Political activities, under the rules, would include "running ads that mention candidates close to Election Day, preparing voter guides or holding voter registration drives."

The New York Times (11/27, Confessore, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the move "follows years of legal and regulatory shifts, such as the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling in 2010, that have steadily loosened the rules governing political spending, particularly by big corporations, labor unions and wealthy individuals." Mark Mazur, the assistant Treasury Secretary for Tax Policy, said, "This proposed guidance is a first critical step toward creating clear-cut definitions of political activity by tax-exempt social welfare organizations."

The Huffington Post (11/27, Blumenthal, 11.54M) reports that acting IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel said, "This is part of ongoing efforts within the IRS that are improving our work in the tax-exempt area. Once final, this proposed guidance will continue moving us forward and provide clarity for this important segment of exempt organizations."

The Wall Street Journal (11/27, Mckinnon, Mullins, Catan, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the political activities of 501(c)4 groups are viewed by many as the best example of corruption of the current campaign finance system.

The Hill (11/27, Goad, Becker, 194K) reports in its "Regwatch" blog that the Administration "moved to rein in the 'dark money' groups that have spent millions of dollars in political campaigns without disclosing their donors."

The Washington Times (11/27, Dinan, 417K) reports that several months after the IRS "improperly" targeted "conservative political groups for scrutiny," the agency on Tuesday "proposed new guidelines it said will better define political activity and make it clearer when a nonprofit group has crossed the line."

Bloomberg News (11/27, Rubin, 1.91M) reports that politically active 501(c)4 groups spent "more than $256 million" during the 2012 elections, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Meanwhile, the proposal would "unnecessarily restrict First Amendment rights, said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, which sued the IRS on behalf of Tea Party groups." He said, "Instead of holding those responsible for the unlawful targeting scheme accountable for their actions, the Obama administration is determined to further limit the free speech of Americans by attempting to change constitutional practices that are decades old. With this move, the Obama administration opens a new front in its war against political dissent."

Roll Call (11/27, Carney, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports the guidelines "released by the IRS today fail to

address the key question of whether social welfare groups should be permitted to spend any money at all on political activities, said Democracy 21 President Fred Wertheimer." His group has sued the IRS, along with the Campaign Legal Center. Roll Call reports that First Amendment "advocates had mixed reactions." GOP lawyer Dan Backer, in an email, called the guidance "an astonishing — and from this feckless, hyper-partisan administration, unsurprising — effort to curtail the free speech of Americans who come together to better their community." Meanwhile, the "pro-free speech" Center for Competitive Politics President David Keating agreed with some of the regulations, but "objected" to the section "that defines political activity to include communications made within 60 days of a general election and 30 days of a primary that 'clearly identify a candidate or political party.'"

Politico (11/27, Tau, 467K) calls the rules an "aggressive move designed to crack down on free-spending outside political groups." Josh Orton, the political director of Progressives United, endorsed the move, as did Lisa Gilbert of Public Citizen's Congress Watch program.

The Hill (11/27, Goad, Becker, 194K) reports in its "Regwatch" blog reports Sen. Orrin Hatch (R) "chided the administration for releasing the new guidance before a bipartisan Senate investigation into the targeting of Tea Party groups came to a close." However, Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D) praised the move, saying, "We need to ensure clear standards and equal footing for the treatment of tax exempt social welfare organizations. Today's action by the IRS is an important step towards that goal."

Issa, Others Accuse Administration Of Seeking Political Advantage. The Washington Post (11/27, Gold, 4.28M) reports House Oversight and Government Reform Chair Darrell Issa (R) said that the regulation "released today continues this administration's unfortunate pattern of stifling constitutional free speech."

Reuters (11/27, Temple-West, Sullivan) reports Issa said, "The fact that the administration's new effort only affects social welfare organizations – and not powerful unions or business groups – underscores that this is a crass political effort by the administration to get what political advantage they can, when they can."

The AP (11/27, Taylor) reports House Ways And Means Chair Dave Camp "was skeptical of the administration's move." He said, "There continues to be an ongoing investigation, with many documents yet to be uncovered, into how the IRS systematically targeted and abused conservative-leaning groups. This smacks of the administration trying to shut down potential critics."

Politico Analysis: Rules Will Have Little Impact. In one of the few pieces to look at the impact of the guidance, Politico (11/27, Tau, French, 467K) reports that the rules "could make it harder for some nonprofit groups that play politics to get away with claiming a tax exemption," but "don't be fooled," as it isn't the end of "dark money." The rules "are unlikely to stem the tide of anonymous donations that have flooded into politics since the 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court decision." Donald Tobin, an Ohio State law professor, said, "One of the problems of this rule is it is only talking about (c)4s and you need to get a hold of all these entities. Clearly when you have an entity-based regulation, it encourages people to engage in activities from another entity."

HOUSING PERMITS TOP EXPECTATIONS. Reuters (11/27, Mutikani) reports that housing permits rose to a their highest level in more than five years in October, according to new data released on Tuesday by the Department of Commerce. Permits, a gauge of future housing starts, rose 6.2% in October to an annual rate of 1.03 million units. Economists had expected permits to come in at a 930,000-unit rate. Reuters also reports that the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index showed that housing prices in the 20 metro areas rose 13.3% in September from September 2012, the biggest jump since February 2006.

Bloomberg News (11/27, Stilwell, 1.91M) says that the rise in permits is a "sign the U.S. residential real-estate market is gaining momentum heading into 2014." Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expected permits to come in at a 930,000 unit rate. Bloomberg adds that housing market improvements "may continue as a pickup in employment offsets higher borrowing costs, rekindling demand for new homes as existing inventories remain tight."

The Wall Street Journal (11/27, Portlock, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that permits for multi-family units rose more than 15% in October, while single-family permits rose slightly.

Number Of Americans Underwater On Mortgages Plummets. The CBS Evening News (11/26, story 5, 2:00, Pelley, 5.58M) reported on "more positive" economic signs, noting the rise in home prices and building permits. CBS (Tracy) reports that those numbers mean that far fewer Americans are now underwater on their mortgages. Zillow's Stan Humphries said, "Since peak, we pulled about five million home owners out of negative equity and more than three million homeowners have been pulled out of negative equity just in the past year alone."

Consumer Confidence Fell This Month. USA Today (11/27, 5.82M) reports that the Conference Board announced on Tuesday that its consumer confidence index fell to 70.4 in November from 72.4 in October, its lowest level in seven months. The number was "depressed by increased concerns about hiring and pay in the coming months."

Stocks Ticked Higher On Tuesday, But Nasdaq Cleared 4000. Reuters (11/27, Reuters) reports that stocks were little changed on Tuesday as investors remained cautious after reaching recent market highs. The S&P 500 rose less than a point on Tuesday, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average was essentially flat. The Nasdaq Composite Index, the stronger performer on the day, rose 0.6%.

The Wall Street Journal (11/27, Kiernan, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the Nasdaq, boosted by the housing market numbers, rose above 4,000 for the first time in 13 years. However, the index still remains about 20% below its all-time record. The Nasdaq closed at 4017.75, while the Dow closed at 16072.80 and the S&P finished at 1802.75.

Silicon Valley Starting To Grow Concerned About Bubble. The New York Times (11/27, Streitfeld, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that in Silicon Valley, huge sums of money are being invested in and paid for tech companies that are extremely risky prospects, echoing the pre-dot.bomb days of 1999. The Times says that "it may not be 1999 yet, but that fateful year — a moment when no one thought there was any risk to the wildest idea — can be seen on the horizon, drifting closer." However, some investors believe that the situation is closer to 1996, when things were "just ramping up." The piece goes on to examine the recent deals and its impact on the venture capital market.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Pressure And Passivity On Immigration."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (11/27, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) questions how hard the President is fighting for immigration reforms. On Monday, the Times says, the President said that he was "up for the hard, messy work of reform." However, "as he keeps making such promises to people whose family members he is deporting in record numbers while protesting that he is powerless to stop himself, it seems only fair to ask: How hard are you fighting, really?"

"Another Challenge To The Healthcare Law." The New York Times (11/27, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that while the court "has upheld the free speech rights of corporations, it has never recognized that a secular corporation is an entity capable of engaging in religion or that the religious beliefs of owners excuse noncompliance with the law," and argues that to do so now "would upset accepted principles of corporate law and set a risky precedent by elevating the religious views of company owners over the interests of society and the well-being of employees."

"The War On Thanksgiving." The New York Times (11/27, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that retailers' decisions to open on Thanksgiving day are not just counter to the spirit of the holiday but also "hard on workers, who are often given no choice but to work on the holiday." An Ohio state legislator has drafted legislation mandating either triple-time for work on Thanksgiving or giving workers the option of staying home, but it is unlikely to pass the state's Republican legislature.

"Sifting Through The Irish Troubles." The New York Times (11/27, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the legacy of the Troubles "remains deeply relevant for the people of Northern Ireland," making its attorney general's call for a statute of limitations for prosecuting murder committed during that time misguided. Issues such as restricting the British flag's flying at Belfast's city hall are still the subject of protests, and a recent BBC report examined a secret British army unit's claim of having "a standing license to kill civilians" while fighting Irish Republican Army units.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"American, Afghan Deal."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/27, 4.28M) says the President and Afghan President Hamid Karzai "are playing a dangerous game of brinkmanship, one that could lead to a strategic reverse for the United States and a catastrophe for Afghanistan." while both sides are "betting that the other is bluffing," the "stakes are much too high for a pointless game of political chicken."

"Democracy In The Balance." The Washington Post (11/27, 4.28M) editorializes that former Honduran President Manuel Zelaya's supporters in Latin America, "Brazil especially," should help the Zelaya camp back down. The article notes that the US State Department has "appealed for calm" in Honduras following the contested election results.

"A Troubled Race In Virginia." In an editorial, the Washington Post (11/27, 4.28M) criticizes "Republican operative" Charles Judd, the Virginia Board of Elections chairman, for on Monday "suggesting, groundlessly," that the results of the state AG race "are somehow tainted" due to "a relative handful of voters in heavily Democratic Fairfax County" having been "given a week more than voters elsewhere to make the case that their provisional ballots should be counted." The Post argues that the move by Fairfax County officials was legitimate, and adds that Judd's "irresponsible remarks" potentially "could be seized upon by" the Obenshain campaign, "or state Republicans, to formally 'contest' the results in the General Assembly," which is controlled by the GOP.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The B-52s Reply To Beijing."*** An editorial in this morning's Wall Street Journal (11/27, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), praises the Administration for authorizing B-52 flights into the new East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone and standing up for Japan.

"The Desolate Wilderness."

"And The Fair Land."

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
IRS Plan Aims To Curb Secret Campaign Cash
Volunteer Chic
Teen Cartel Killer Free, US-Bound

Wall Street Journal:
Surging Nasdaq Pierces 4000
IRS Moves To Restrict Nonprofits' Politicking
US Jets Challenge China's Air Defense Zone
Coal's Decline Hits Hardest In The Mines Of Kentucky

New York Times:
New Rules Would Rein In Nonprofits' Political Role
US Sends Two B-52 Bombers Into Air Zone Claimed By China
In Israel, A Push To Screen For Cancer Gene Leaves Many Conflicted
Karzai's Bet: US Is Bluffing In Warning On Security Pact
Pulling A More Diverse Group Of Achievers Into The Advanced Placement Pool
A Plea To Avoid Crush Of Users At Health Site

Washington Post:
Microsoft Moves To Boost Security
Berlin: From Spy Central To Privacy Activists' Paradise
Pope Decries 'Trickle-Down' Economics
US Flies Two Bombers Over East China Sea
White House Seeks Limits On Non Profits In Elections

The Sacrifice Before The Feast

Financial Times:
US Bombers Fly Into China's Defence Zone
Cameron Launches Attack On EU Migration
Iran Opens Contacts With Oil Groups
Repsol Likely To Accept $5bn YPF Offering
Banks Face Payments Of $104bn, Says S&P
Private Equity Suitors Circle Compuware
Scotland's Currency Plan Faces A Pounding

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Storm; Flight Cancellations; Winter Storm; ACA-Contraceptives; Afghanistan Military Deal; Iran-US Hostage.
CBS: Weather-Thanksgiving Travel; Thanksgiving Travel; Weather Forecast; SCOTUS-ACA Contraception; Economy-Housing Numbers; China-US Bombers; Afghanistan-Troop Deal; Bahamas-Haitian Refugees Capsize; Syria-Huger; Benghazi-CBS Reporter Suspended; Pope Releases State; Economy-Chinese Counterfeit Paintings.
NBC: Winter Storm; ACA-Contraceptives; Afghanistan Military Deal; Guantanamo Bay-Penny Lane; Pope Francis Mission Statement; Mississippi River-Fuel Leak; NASA Satellite Picture.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: SCOTUS-ACA Contraceptives, OJ Trial Bid Rejected, NC Tornado, Poor Driving Conditions, Caroline Kennedy Speech.
CBS: Winter Storm Weather, Holiday Travel Nightmare, Iran-US Nuclear Deal, SCOTUS-ACA Religious Freedom, ACA-Website Repairs, Minimum Wage Vote.
NPR: Winter Storm, Social Welfare-Political Funding, US Bombers Over China, Cameron-Migration Limitations, Asian Stocks Lower, Bahamas-Haitian Capsize, UN-Privacy Rights.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; pardons the National Thanksgiving Turkey in a ceremony, Rose Garden. open press; holds a bill signing, Oval Office, .stills only pool spray; participates in a service event, Washington, DC area, in-town pool.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events
US Senate: No Scheduled Events
US House: FLOOR SCHEDULE— The House will be in a district work period for the Thanksgiving Day holiday until Monday, December 2nd.
Other: AAA MID-ATLANTIC THANKSGIVING EVE — AAA Mid-Atlantic Thanksgiving Eve Media Availability. Lon Anderson, Managing Director with AAA Mid-Atlantics Public and Government Affairs, will be available for media interviews regarding Thanksgiving travel. Location: Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Promenade C – Press Area.

THANKSGIVING MEALS – MAYOR GREY, MYA, REDSKINS — 9:30 a.m. About 5,000 city residents are expected to attend the Feast of Sharing, which brings together city officials, a host of community partners and volunteers, including the Salvation Army, Unity Health Care, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Sun Trust Bank and Centerplate/NBSE. Participants: Mayor Vincent C. Gray; Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC); Members of the DC City Council; Events DC Board of Directors; Greg ODell, President & CEO, Events DC; Seth Mitchell, Heavyweight contender; Mike Reid, Undefeated light welterweight prospect; Ethan White, DC United Player; Mya, Grammy-award winning recording artist; Raheem DeVaughn, Grammy-nominated recording artist; Washington Redskins Cheerleaders; Officials from Centerplate/NBSE. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW.

HOLIDAY SPENDING SURVEY — 10 a.m. The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) release their 14th annual consumer survey on holiday spending plans and concerns about debt levels. The CFA/CUNA survey was conducted two weeks ago (Nov. 7-10). Location: National Press Club, Zenger Room 529 14th Street, N.W., 13th floor, Washington, DC

NASA – THANKSGIVING IN SPACE — 11 a.m. NASA Astronaut, Food Scientist Discuss Thanksgiving in Space. NASA astronaut Tom Marshburn and Vickie Kloeris, the agency's manager of the International Space Station food system, will discuss the space station's Thanksgiving menus in live satellite interviews from 7- 8:30 a.m. EST.

NURSES GROUP TO PHILIPPINES — 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. A number of registered nurses are volunteering their Thanksgiving to travel to the Philippines for Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts. One of those RN volunteers is Gandessa Orteza of Burtonsville, Md., a surgical intensive care unit RN at Medstar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. Orteza, who was born in Quezon City, a part of metropolitan Manila, says she still has a lot of family in the Philippines, some in Iloeosur who she still has not heard from. Gandeza Orteza is scheduled to fly from Washington to the Philippines on Saturday.

NATIONAL CHANUKAH MENORAH LIGHTING — 4 p.m. Featuring the United States Air Force Band and "The Three Cantors" and a Special Musical Performance by Grammy.-Winning Violinist Miri Ben-Ari. (Ambassador) Michael Froman, United States Trade Representative and a member of the President's Cabinet, will be the event's special guest and join in lighting the National Chanukah Menorah. Location: The Ellipse.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "You know, I read an interesting holiday fact today. In 1941, Congress ruled that the fourth Thursday in November would officially be observed as Thanksgiving Day. Thus marking the last time Congress accomplished anything. Isn't that amazing?"

Jay Leno: "President Obama in Los Angeles. Today, he visited the famous DreamWorks studios. Now don't confuse DreamWorks with ObamaCare. That was a dream that didn't work. That's totally different."

Jimmy Fallon: "But the big news this week is that the US finally got Iran to agree to stop making nuclear weapons. In exchange, the US has freed up eight billion dollars of Iran's assets. When asked how it plans to spend the money, Iran said, 'We're going to buy nuclear weapons.'"

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Re: thank you

Jayo, David <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Nov 27, 2013 at 9:46 AM
To: Audrey Robertson <AudreyR@containerstore.com>, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com>
Cc: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

Hello, Kip and Audrey,

Thanks so much for the invitation to the Conscious Capitalism event as well as your interest in the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC). I'd love to set up time to talk a bit about the effort and explore ways that The Container Store could join the movement. Just give me a couple of options that work for you and I'll do everything possible to accommodate.

As you know, the Secretary has a strong commitment and inspirational vision for preparing the next generation of outdoor champions, advocates and leaders. She has set metrics for each component of the plan (play, learn, serve and work). Attached is a document that provides a high-level overview of the youth agenda including goals. The "work" category is getting the most attention from private sector as Sally has truly added depth and dimension to the term "public-private partnership".

By working collaboratively, we know that we can make significant strides and have a lasting impact. This is about creating a bold national movement to get more young people outdoors, connected to nature, caring for our public lands, employed and learning skills for future employment.

I will also flag the dates of the Conscious Capitalism event for the scheduling team. It would be an honor to attend and engage with the attendees. Thanks again for the invitation.

In the meantime, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season! I hope that your sales are through the roof and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,
David

On Tue, Nov 26, 2013 at 10:51 PM, Audrey Robertson <AudreyR@containerstore.com> wrote:

> Hello! And nice to meet you, David! Let's connect on another email and we'll determine a time to talk more about this incredible program.
>
> In the meantime, the dates for the Conscious Capitalism event are April 9-11, 2014 - in San Diego. If you think that there's even a *glimmer* of a chance that you could attend to talk about 21CSC, let me know and I'll get in touch with the Conference organizers and start that conversation. Thanks so much – could be so wonderful!
>
> Audrey

containerstore.com

What We Stand For

From: Sally Jewell [mailto:(b)(6)ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 4:52 PM
To: Kip Tindell; Audrey Robertson
Cc: David Jayo
Subject: Re: thank you

Dear Kip and Audrey -

It was a real pleasure to speak with you today. Congrats again on the IPO - it is wonderful to know that another public company will bring the principles of conscious capitalism to Wall Street!

I have copied David on this so he can connect directly with Audrey. As I mentioned, David joined me from REI to lead our efforts on 21CSC and engaging youth to play, learn, serve and work outside. It would be wonderful to work with The Container Store, along with other enlightened businesses, to engage many more people in service on our public lands.

With regard to the CC event in San Diego, please let us know the dates and we can see if it works with our travel. I fully agree that this would be a wonderful audience for 21CSC.

Happy Thanksgiving and keep in touch!

Warmly,

Sally

On Nov 26, 2013, at 10:58 AM, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com> wrote:

> Sally,
>
> Thanks so much for your time today – can't tell you how much I enjoyed our conversation! Truly there isn't a better person our President could have so thoughtfully selected to lead our Dept. of

Interior. Thank you for all that you're doing for our beloved country's present and future. It was thrilling to hear what you're working on and towards and know that Audrey will be eager to connect with David soon. After the call, Audrey and I also discussed maybe you or David coming to the big Conscious Capitalism event in April in San Diego to talk a bit about the 21CSC (is that the official name?) just thinking that audience of companies would be ripe for the message. That particular event is open to a much broader group of companies with many representatives coming from each organization versus, say, the CEO Summit that takes place in Austin each year with about 200 CEOs (although that could be a great audience as well – that takes place each October). The Conscious Capitalism events are a far cry from where they were in their humble beginnings when we were there together outside of Austin. They now include key business leaders from virtually every single business sector.

Lastly, here's a link to our blog I mentioned we started after that get together in Austin many years ago – it's evolved into having a great presence in all of our catalogs and really, in everything we use to talk with our customers...the response has been delightful. And the fact that we have a blog about our culture and what we stand yet nothing yet on "getting organized" I think makes people REALLY understand how important...how core...this is to us and to them... as it obviously translates to their experience with The Container Store. http://standfor.containerstore.com/

Again, thank you for reaching out...let's stay in touch.

Kip

PS – and of course thank you for letting me bend your ear on the Gunnison Sage-Grouse ☺.

containerstore.com

What We Stand For

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--

David Jayo

Senior Advisor to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
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(M): 202.297.2966

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Dec 4, 2013 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

HOUSE DEMOCRATS URGE SECRETARY JEWELL TO HALT NEW OIL EXPLORATION IN ARCTIC. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (12/4, 194K) reports that yesterday House Democrats put pressure on Interior Secretary

Sally Jewell to "halt new oil leasing and exploration in the Arctic." Reps. David Price, Rush Holt and Lois Capps "spearheaded a letter signed by 59 lawmakers that calls for Jewell to stop new exploration and revamp Interior's plans for drilling and permitting." The House Democrats wrote, "Over the past decade, the Department has provided industry ample opportunity to pursue oil and gas in the Arctic Ocean. ... But the industry proposals and government approvals have generated controversy, litigation, and opposition from local communities, Congress, scientists, the conservation community, and many other segments of the American people."

Comments Filed On Arctic Drilling Plan. The FuelFix (12/4, 7K) reports that in comments filed with the BOEM before a Tuesday evening deadline," environmentalists insisted that it is too risky to allow any oil drilling in the 'pristine' Chukchi Sea — even if especially sensitive areas are taken off the table." On the other hand, "oil industry trade groups blasted the agency's plan to abandon a previous tactic of widely selling acreage in the Chukchi Sea in favor of a 'targeted leasing' approach that limits acreage to areas with fewer environmental risks and other concerns, as nominated by would-be bidders." The trade groups — including the International Association of Drilling Contractors and the International Association of Geophysical Contractors — also "objected to the notion that the industry should identify the potential attractiveness of Chukchi Sea acreage now, three years before the planned sale, without any direction from the agency on what might be available."

POLAR BEAR SCIENTIST RECEIVES $100,000 IN SETTLEMENT WITH INTERIOR. NPR (12/4, Greenfieldboyce, 465K) reports that a researcher "whose observations of drowned polar bears raised alarms about climate change has received $100,000 to settle a whistle-blower complaint against" the BOEM. Under the settlement, wildlife researcher Charles Monnett retired from his job at the BOEM on "Nov. 15, and the agency agreed to remove a letter of reprimand that officials had placed in his file." The settlement document "states that it does not constitute any admission of liability, and that the agency entered into it to avoid the costs of litigation."

INTERIOR TO HOLD MEETING OF INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Politico (12/4, Hopkinson, 467K) reports that the Interior Department will hold a meeting of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee to "discuss consideration, modification and adoption of an ISAC position paper on utilizing harvest incentives to control invasive species."

WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL CHIEF TO RESIGN. The Hill (12/4, Barron-Lopez, 194K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that Nancy Sutley, "longtime adviser to President Obama on environmental and climate issues" has announced that she will resign as chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality effective February 2014. President Obama said in a statement that Sutley had been instrumental in establishing "historic new fuel economy standards...our first comprehensive National Ocean Policy, and our Climate Action Plan." No replacement has yet been named.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO MARK UP BILL REIMBURSING STATES FOR SHUTDOWN COSTS. The E&E Daily (12/3) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee will meet "to vote on a bipartisan bill to reimburse states for roughly $2 million they paid to reopen national parks during the 16-day government shutdown in October." The committee will also vote on "seven other measures to reauthorize a popular wetlands conservation program and allow hand-propelled boats on streams in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, among other provisions." However, "notably absent from the markup is a pair of more controversial bills to require the Interior Department to allow states to manage federal lands and reimburse them during future shutdowns and to allow states to take over management of federal lands."

NPS DESIGNATES THREE NATIONAL WATER TRAILS. The Newton (IA) Daily News (12/2, 17K) reports that the Red Rock Trail at Lake Red Rock, Knoxville, Iowa, the Island Loop Route Water Trail in Michigan, and the Missouri National Recreation River Water Trail that flows through South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa, has been designated as a National Water Trail by the NPS. NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "These national water trails provide exemplary close-to-home places for people to explore and enjoy. And I am particularly happy to have these trails added to the system. They are cooperatively supported and sustained through the efforts of community, state and federal partners."

REP. PELOSI URGES GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR COMMENTS. USA Today (12/3, 5.82M) reports that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi has written a letter urging the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to "give people more time to weigh in on a dog management plan that would add leash requirements in some areas and allow off-leash romping in other parts of the federally protected land." In her letter, Pelosi wrote, "Our city is named for Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment. There is a long history of off-leash dog recreation in San Francisco, which began before the transfer of land from the city and county of San Francisco to the National Park Service. Responsible dog guardians must continue to enjoy recreational activities with their pets in our spectacular setting." Pelosi urged a "workable balance" between the natural, historic, scenic and recreational uses of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. She "requested that the public comment period on the proposed rules, set to end Jan. 11., be extended through Feb. 17."

NPS FACES DECISION OVER WOLVES AT ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK. The E&E Daily (12/3) reports that the NPS faces the decision about whether to introduce more wolves to Isle Royale National Park or to allow the pack of eight gray wolves to possibly die out. According to the article, "rising winter temperatures have nearly obliterated the infrequent occurrence of an ice bridge that forms between Michigan's Isle Royale National Park and the mainland, the only way wolves naturally arrive there," and "today, the shrinking wolf pack is so inbred that some fear they will no longer reproduce." However, "others say that climate change has not played a role in the wolves' decline, claiming that despite their isolation, the pack could recover and carry on."

SUPERINTENDENT CLEARS UP MISINFORMATION ON NPS DRAFT PLAN. The Salem (MO) News (12/4) reports that Superintendent Bill Black is trying to clear up misconceptions surrounding the NPS Draft Management plan released Nov. 8. Under the preferred plan of the NPS, no designated hiking or horse trails would be closed and citizens would be allowed to continue to use 60/40 horsepower jet motors on the waters. Rep. Jason Smith told Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during a July 17 hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee that he would not support a limiting plan. Smith said, "Any plan that closes horse trails or other trails, or changes the horsepower or even promotes wilderness areas, we cannot support in the 8th Congressional District."

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL. The Pocono (PA) Record (12/4, 46K) reports that the NPS is seeking public input on a new management plan for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

GRAND CANYON HOTEL TO STAY OPEN DURING RENOVATIONS. The Washington Post (12/3, Press, 4.28M) reports that El Tovar, "the most recognizable hotel at the Grand Canyon's South Rim," will be "undergoing renovations over the next two years." However, Xanterra Parks & Resorts, the concessionaire that runs El Tovar, won't "completely shut down the building as originally planned." The NPS asked Xanterra to reconsider, and Xanterra regional sales and marketing director Bruce Brossman said "the company instead will do the renovation in two phases through 2015, leaving most of the 78 guest rooms open."

FRESNO YOSEMITE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CELEBRATES NATIONAL PARKS. USA Today (12/3, Baskas, 5.82M) reports that this year's themed-tree exhibit at California's Fresno Yosemite International Airport "celebrates the national parks and the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Yosemite Grant Act and the California State Park System, as well as the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act." According to the article, "one tree features a working waterfall," and "another depicts a camping scene, complete with tents and a skunk."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: APPEALS COURT URGED TO REJECT DRAKES BAY OYSTER CASE. Additional coverage of the Drakes Bay Oyster CO. case was provided by the Marin (CA) Independent Journal (12/4, 88K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW DIRECTOR FOR INTERMOUNTAIN REGION. Additional coverage that Sue Masica has been named the new regional director for the Intermountain Region was provide by the Flathead (MT) Beacon (12/4, 15K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GRAND CANYON'S CLOUD INVERSION. Additional coverage of the Grand Canyon was provided by CNN (12/3, Mendoza, Cnn, 14.53M), the Los Angeles Times (12/3, Pearce, 3.07M), and the National Geographic (12/4, 40.49M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: AI WEIWEI TO CREATE ART INSTALLATIONS FOR ALCATRAZ. Additional coverage of Ai Weiwei's plans to use Alcatraz to create artwas provided by the Los Angeles Times (12/3, Ng, 3.07M).

SEN. MURKOWSKI DISMISSES INCREASING NPS BUDGET, SUGGESTS IDEAS FOR FUNDING PARKS. In an op-ed for The Hill (12/4, Murkowski, 194K), Sen. Lisa Murkowski writes that "those who believe the federal government should expand its land ownership rarely acknowledge a critical truth: It cannot properly manage the lands it is currently entrusted with." She notes that the NPS has "an $11.5 billion maintenance backlog — well over four times its annual discretionary budget — which suggests that its principal priority should be its current portfolio." Murkowski dismisses the idea of increasing the budget for the NPS, and suggests alternative ideas like expanding "private donations from outside organizations and other friends of national parks," taking "a close look at current uses of funding, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)," and exploring "the structure of the recreational fee."

Bureau of Land Management:

SEN. UDALL TO SEEK MONUMENT DESIGNATION IN COLORADO. The E&E Daily (12/3) reports that Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) has announced that he "plans to file a bill this month that would designate a new national monument in a picturesque central Colorado canyon straddling the Arkansas River." Udall is proceeding with the "Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act of 2013" after "releasing a draft bill in March that received a broad range of support to establish the 22,000-acre national monument in Chaffee County, Colo." The proposal would also "designate 10,500 acres within the boundaries of the national monument as new wilderness."

BLM EMAILS QUESTION SCIENCE ON SAGE-GROUSE. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (12/4, 27K) reports that "a series of internal emails" between BLM officials and wildlife experts in "late 2011 suggest some reservations about a National Technical Team (NTT) report that was used as a basis for coming up with a plan to protect the greater sage-grouse." Specifically, "some comments by BLM officials during the early stages of a federal study to determine the bird's habitat in northwest Colorado and other western states seem to question the science behind the NTT's recommended protective measures," according to Fred Jarman, the lead staffer for Garfield County in its role as a cooperating agency with the BLM on the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse draft Environmental Impact Statement. The article note sthat "the messages, dating from late September 2011 through December of that year, were obtained on behalf of Garfield County by independent wildlife biology consultant Rob Ramey through an official Freedom of Information request."

CATTLEMEN'S GROUP CLAIMS SAGE GROUSE PLAN IMPACTS RANCHERS DISPROPORTIONATELY. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (12/3, 113K) reports that "some Oregon ranchers would be disproportionately harmed by grazing restrictions under a proposed plan to protect sage grouse," according to leaders of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Bob Skinner, chairman of the group's public lands committee and a Jordan Valley, Ore., rancher, said that "reducing livestock production in eastern Oregon has an impact beyond the individual ranchers, as it reverberates through to their suppliers and other local businesses."

BLM TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON LIVESTOCK GRAZING. The St. George (UT) News (12/3, 3K) reports that the BLM will be hosting "three open house meetings to discuss proposed changes to the rules governing livestock grazing at the Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument, as well as other lands managed by the Utah Kanab and Arizona Strip BLM field offices." The objective "of the meetings will be to provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposed changes, to ask questions, and to provide feedback to officials at the BLM and National Park Services."

BLM PARTNERS WITH PLATEAU VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION. KREX-TV Grand Junction, CO (12/4, 1K) reports that the BLM and the Plateau Valley Fire Protection District "began work last week" to "mitigate the risk of brush fires popping up and growing more severe." According to the article, "crews are clearing vegetation that can fuel wildfires from about 30 acres of the Mesa Creek drainage near Mesa." The "partnership is being funded through a $14,000 grant from the BLM Community Assistance Program."

GROUP SEEKS MORE TRANSPARENCY ON SEN. WYDEN'S OREGON TIMBER PLAN. The Watchdog (12/4,

Sebens, 4K) reports that "a group representing western loggers and lumber manufacturers" is calling on Sen. Ron Wyden to "provide more details on legislation that would open half of Oregon's federal land to timber harvesting while conserving the other half." The American Forest Resource Council claims Wyden's plan "lacks the detail that has been proposed in other plans by Oregon's US House members and Gov. John Kitzhaber." The group "sent a letter to Wyden asking for more details."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS CONSIDERING PROTECTIONS FOR BROWN BEARS IN NATIONAL KENAI WILDLIFE REFUGE. The E&E Daily (12/3) reports that the FWS wants to lower the number of brown bears killed in Alaska's Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, "angering residents and state officials who say that sport hunting should not be tightly regulated." The agency "temporarily banned bear hunting in Kenai in late October after the state relaxed hunting regulations and announced plans to remove more restrictions for the 2014 hunting season." Now, the FWS is "considering imposing a lower brown bear limit next year."

FWS PROPOSES ALLOWING WOLVES TO ROAM THROUGHOUT MORE OF ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO. The Prescott (AZ) Daily Courier (12/4, 42K) reports that the FWS is "proposing to allow endangered Mexican gray wolves to roam throughout more of Arizona and New Mexico," so "they have enough room to thrive in the wilds." Sherry Barrett, Mexican gray wolf recovery coordinator for the FWS, said, "There's a benefit to restoring a complex assembly of species on the landscape. Wolves are a unique part of the landscape, and it's important we restore the full assembly of wildlife back to the ecosystem."

The Payson (AZ) Roundup (12/3, 21K) reports that the FWS will "hold a hearing on changing the rules for the reintroduction of Mexican gray wolves at a hearing at the Hon-Dah Conference Center in Pinetop this afternoon and evening."

RESEARCHERS DETECT EURASIAN RUFFE DNA IN SOUTHERN LAKE MICHIGAN. The Washington Post (12/3, Press, 4.28M) reports that "genetic material from an invasive fish called the Eurasian ruffe has been found in southern Lake Michigan for the first time, raising the possibility that it could migrate into the Mississippi River watershed and compete with native fish there, a scientist said Tuesday." Scientists "testing Great Lakes waters for signs of Asian carp and other invasive species detected DNA from the ruffe in two samples taken in July from Lake Michigan's Calumet Harbor at Chicago," according to Lindsay Chadderton of The Nature Conservancy, a member of the team. However, "no actual ruffe were seen," and "state and federal officials downplayed the likelihood that the DNA discovery signaled a significant presence of the exotic fish even as they urged anglers to be on the lookout for them."

Also covering the story are ABC News (12/4, 3.68M) and the Detroit Free Press (12/4, Flesher, 794K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE CLIMATE CHANGE DAMPENS WOLVERINE ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTING. Additional coverage that "an organization of wildlife officials for Western states is asking the federal government to delay a possible listing for wolverines as a threatened species" was provided by the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (12/3, 214K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ENVIRONMENTALISTS THREATEN LAWSUIT OVER HAY'S SPRING AMPHIPOD HABITAT. Additional coverage of the impact of the Hay's Spring amphipod on plans for the Purple Line train was provided by FOX News (12/3, 6.72M).

US Geological Survey:

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONSIDER BILLS ON MAPPING, UPDATING DATABASE OF PUBLIC LANDS. The E&E Daily (12/3) reports that the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources is set to consider two bills Thursday that would "consolidate the map-making duties currently spread across the government and require the Interior Department to conduct a complete inventory of federal lands and infrastructure." H.R. 1604, the "Map It Once, Use It Many Times Act," by Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO) would create a National Geospatial Technology Administration (NGTA) within the USGS that would merge existing mapping programs at the Interior Department, Forest Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration. Lamborn, who leads the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, has said "centralizing government mapping functions would save taxpayer money."

USGS SCIENTIST PROFILED. The "Fed Page" blog of the Washington Post (11/26, 4.28M) profiles Dave Krabbenhoft, a research hydrologist and geochemist with the USGS. According to the article, "for more than two decades, Krabbenhoft has devoted his working life to studying the sources of mercury pollution throughout the United States and around the world." Krabbenhoft said, "I love doing research that will help policymakers make the best decisions to solve problems. For me, studying the mercury issue and making the findings available to achieve real outcomes is a match made in heaven." USGS Acting Director Suzette Kimball said, "Dave is one of those rare examples of a scientist who is not only a leader in his field, but a born communicator who is able to get across exactly why his research is vital to the public."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

HOUSE PASSES BILL BOOSTING DEVELOPMENT ON SMALL BOR WATERWAYS. The E&E Daily (12/3) reports that the House was scheduled to vote on a bill from Rep. Steve Daines (R-MT) "aimed at boosting nonfederal hydropower development on canals, ditches and conduits owned" by the BOR. The measure, H.R. 1963, is modeled on Rep. Steve Tipton's (R-CO) H.R. 678, which "passed the House in April by a vote of 416-7."

The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (12/3, 90K) reports that the bill was "passed unanimously" on Tuesday.

Also reporting on the story are Politico (12/4, Guillen, 467K) and KXLH-TV Helena, MT (12/4, 1K).

ADVOCATES SAY VIRGINIA COULD BECOME LEADER IN OFFSHORE WIND ENRGY. The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (12/4, Dietrich, 206K) reports that environmental and industry advocates say Virginia "could become a leader in offshore wind energy — if it only harnesses the political will and leadership to make it happen." Bob Matthias, chairman of the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority, said, "Virginia is ideally situated on the East Coast for wind development. We have a robust electrical grid, we're (on) the shore, with very shallow water extending offshore." The article notes that earlier this year, the BOEM "auctioned two offshore tracts in federal waters for commercial offshore wind development" off Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and off Virginia.

Virginia's Energy Industry Wary Of McAuliffe. The Wall Street Journal (12/4, Mundy, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the energy industry is concerned that Virginia governor-elect Terry McAuliffe will take Virginia, historically friendly to energy interests, in a policy direction more in line with environmental groups. Almost a third of McAuliffe's campaign financing came from environmental groups, and coal industry sources stated that, in their view, McAuliffe may become the most liberal governor outside of California with respect to environmental issues. McAuliffe's staff disputed this assertion.

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON SOLAR PROJECT PLANNED NEXT TO MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE. The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (12/3, 465K) reports that BLM officials are taking public input on "a draft environmental study on plans for a commercial-scale photovoltaic solar development on public land next to the Soda Lake area of the Mojave National Preserve." The BLM will "likely will hear plenty of environmental concerns before the comment period closes on Feb. 26." The development has drawn opposition from the NPS and environmental groups because "its footprint would be within a mile of the national preserve." According to the article, "among their worries" are "loss of quality wildlife habitat, negative effects on bighorn sheep that range in the surrounding mountains, and potential harm to water sources needed by a nearly extinct fish."

Onshore Energy Development:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION MEETS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS ABOUT FRACKING. The "Regwatch" blog of The Hill (12/4, Hattem, 194K) reports that the Obama Administration is being told by environmental groups "how it should write guidance for some hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, operations." Last week, the groups "met with White House and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials to discuss the new guidance for fracking

efforts that involve diesel." It was the first meeting that the White House has had "on the guidance in months, and could be a sign of new work on the effort." According to records, "officials from the Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthworks, Food and Water Watch, Clean Water Action and the Center for Effective Government attended the Nov. 26 meeting."

JUDGE ALLOWS COVERT WHISTLE-BLOWER TO ACCESS SEALED DOCS. The Courthouse News (12/3, 7K) reports that "an economist who helped force oil companies to turn over $440 million in unpaid royalties can access the search warrant against him, a federal magistrate ruled." According to the article, "the case stems from advice Robert Berman," who had been working in the Interior Department's Office of Policy Analysis at the time, "gave to the nonprofit watchdog Project on Government Oversight (POGO) in June 1994 on how to use the Freedom of Information Act to reveal that oil companies were underpaying royalties to the federal government when they extracted oil from federal or American Indian lands." Before the Thanksgiving holiday, US Magistrate Judge John Facciola granted Berman's motion to unseal.

GROUPS CHALLENGE DRILLING IN UINTA BASIN. The Courthouse News (12/3, 7K) reports that the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and the Wilderness Society have sued the Interior Department of the Interior and the BLM, claiming that the federal government "illegally approved oil and gas drilling near Utah's scenic Uinta Mountains that will aggravate the nation's worst wintertime ozone pollution." The groups "challenge environmental impact statements authorizing Gasco Production Co. to drill six oil wells (in one lawsuit) and a gas well (in the second lawsuit) in the Uinta Basin, bordered to the north by the snowcapped Uintas." The plaintiffs "claim the environmental impact statements did not adequately address impacts on air and water quality, in violation of the National Environmental Policy Acts, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GROUPS CHALLENGE BLM'S ANONYMOUS NOMINATIONS POLICY. Additional coverage of a challenge mounted by a coalition of 45 local and national organizations to the BLM's "new policy designed to sidestep a court order requiring transparency in the oil and gas leasing process" was provided by the Pagosa (CO) Daily Post (12/4).

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM LEASING NEARLY HALF MILLION ACRES OF EASTERN GULF LAND FOR OIL, NATURAL GAS DRILLING. According to the New Orleans Times-Picayune (12/4, Larino, 700K), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management stated yesterday its plan to "put more than 465,000 acres in the eastern Gulf of Mexico up for lease at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans on March 19." Taking note of the fact that this is "the first lease sale in that area in five years," the article continues that BOEM's director Tommy Beaudreau declared in a statement, "This proposed sale is another important step to promote responsible domestic energy production through the safe, environmentally sound exploration and development of the Nation's offshore energy resources." BOEM's calculations also predict a possible "710 million barrels of oil and 162 billion cubic feet of natural gas" contained in the area up for lease, and most of the land for lease is also "subject to a revenue-sharing agreement under the Gulf Of Mexico Energy Securities Act of 2006."

Also covering the story are the FuelFix (12/3, 7K), the Offshore Magazine (12/4, 143K), the Rigzone (12/4, 12K), the Oil and Gas Journal (12/4, 1K), the Upstream Online (12/4, 20K), and the Bayou Buzz (LA) (12/4, 4K).

REPORT SUGGESTS OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFETY IS SLOWLY IMPROVING. The SNL Financial (12/4, 22K) reports that the Interior Department has "made progress implementing offshore drilling safety reforms recommended in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon disaster," according to a recently released report from the department's Office of Inspector General. The October semiannual report to Congress, "made public Nov. 29, notes that the department still needs to complete 15 'corrective actions' recommended in the watchdog's nearly three-year-old review of the April 2010 accident on the BP plc-contracted drilling rig." According to the article, "while that figure may seem large to critics of the federal response to the disastrous well blowout, which led to the deaths of 11 workers and the world's largest accidental offshore oil spill, it is an improvement from the 25 reforms that remained unheeded in April, when the previous semiannual report was issued." The article notes that "it also means that the DOI has now addressed more than three-quarters of the 64 recommendations made in the Office of Inspector General's 2010 review."

FORMER BP ENGINEER'S TRIAL BEGINS. The AP (12/3, Kunzelman) reports that the trial of former BP drilling engineer, Kurt Mix, began on Tuesday. Mix is one of four BP employees charged in relation to the company's 2010 oil spill and the first to go to trial. The trial will focus on Mix's deletion of text messages and voicemails relating to the amount of oil was spilling per day. The other trials concern BP well site leaders Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine, who have pleaded not guilty to manslaughter charges stemming from the initial rig explosion. And former BP executive David Rainey "charged with concealing information from Congress about the amount of oil spewing from the well."

Jury Set For BP Engineer's Trial. The AP (12/3) reports that the jury has been picked for Kurt Mix's trial. Mix is the BP engineer accused of "deleting text messages and voicemails about the company's response to its massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." Mix has pleaded not guilty to charges of obstruction of justice.

APPEALS COURT ORDERS BROADER REVIEW OF BP SPILL FUNDS. The E&E Daily (12/3) reports that a divided 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans has ruled in favor of BP PLC, "granting the company a reprieve on some of its Gulf of Mexico spill payments." According to the article, "in 2012, BP said it would make payments to those who suffered economic losses as a result of the 2010 Gulf oil spill," but the firm "now says the payout formula developed by settlement administrator Patrick Juneau was too generous."

TEXAS RULING WILL ALLOW FOREIGN SHAREHOLDERS TO SUE BP. BBC News (12/3, 1.62M) reports that a Texas district court ruling has opened a pathway for overseas shareholders to sue BP for damages caused by its 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Jeremy Lieberman, a partner at Pomerantz, said of the ruling, "an avenue has been created for shareholders in the UK and Europe to litigate against the company."

API, OTHERS FILE COURT BRIEF SUPPORTING BP IN FEDERAL CONTRACTS CASE. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (12/4, Sayre, 700K) reports that groups including the American Petroleum Institute, National Association of Manufacturers, and the US Chamber of Commerce have filed a joint brief in support of BP's legal challenge against the EPA's temporary suspension of "BP and 20 of its subsidiary companies from any new contracts with the federal government." The groups' joint brief stated in part, "Far from protecting the public interest, excluding a company's affiliates from all federal programs punishes entities that share no blame."

The Washington Post (12/4, Mufson, 4.28M) says that in addition to a brief filed by "several trade groups, including the US Chamber of Commerce, the American Petroleum Institute and the National Association of Manufacturers," the British government also filed a brief supporting BP in the case.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BSEE REPORT PLACING BLAME ON BLACK ELK, OTHERS FOR FATAL EXPLOSION. Additional coverage of the BSEE's Nov. 4 report on Black Elk Energy's platform explosion was provided by the Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (12/4, 24K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

KLAMATH TASK FORCE SIGNS SHARE AGREEMENT. The E&E Daily (12/3) reports that "a group of Oregon ranchers yesterday signed a tentative agreement with the Klamath Tribes to share water in the state's Upper Klamath Basin." Under the agreement, "ranchers along three rivers in the area would significantly cut water use so farmers along the Klamath Restoration Project downstream could have secure water supplies." The ranchers also would "help with fish habitat restoration and tribal economic development projects in the area."

Also reporting on the story are Oregon Public Broadcasting (12/4), the Salem (OR) Capital Press (12/2, 113K), and KOBI-TV Medford, OR (12/4).

PROJECT WILL REPLACE LARGEST UNSCREENED INTAKE ON SACRAMENTO RIVER. KXJZ-FM Sacramento, CA (12/3, 1K) reports that "the cities of Woodland and Davis in collaboration with the agricultural community have joined forces to replace a century-old intake on the Sacramento River." The Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency "secured more than $33 million in state and federal funding to replace the intake." Pablo Arroyave with the BOR, said, "The environment is going to benefit, salmon are going to benefit and tens of thousands of people in the communities of Woodland and Davis are going to benefit from the clean reliable surface water that is being provided."

Empowering Native American Communities:

AQUINNAH TRIBAL LEADER VOWS TO FIGHT ANTI-CASINO LAWSUIT. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (12/3, 92K) reports that Tobias Vanderhoop, the new leader of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), is "vowing to fight the Patrick Administration's lawsuit that questions the tribe's federal right to operate a casino." Vanderhoop, the tribe's chairman-elect, said "he believes Gov. Deval Patrick's administration is wrong about the tribe's federal rights to casino gambling." According to the article, "the tribe's position is that federal law, approved one year after Congress approved the tribe's land deal, supersedes the settlement act," and "a recent opinion by the National Indian Gaming Commission, after consultation" with the BIA, "supports that contention by the tribe, which set the stage for this legal showdown."

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES APPEALS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. The Ronan Valley (MT) Journal (12/4, 22K) reports that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have filed an appeal with the Interior Board of Appeals of the Interior Department. The appeal is in "response to a Sept. 20 decision by BIA Northwest Regional Director Stanley Speaks to hold a secretarial election."

Top National News:

OBAMA TOUTS ACA'S BENEFITS AND HEALTHCARE.GOV'S IMPROVEMENTS. President Obama's White House appearance on Tuesday marking the start of a renewed campaign touting the benefits of the Affordable Care Act generated a great deal of generally positive coverage as many outlets, including NBC Nightly News (12/3, story 5, 2:30, Williams, 7.86M) and the CBS Evening News (12/3, story 4, 2:25, Pelley, 5.58M), either showed the President making his case or quoted his comments at length. Nevertheless, as has been the case since the weekend, many reports continue to give more attention to HealthCare.gov's persistent problems than to the site's improvements.

Brian Williams, on NBC Nightly News (12/3, story 5, 2:30, Williams, 7.86M), reported that after "the disastrous rollout of" HealthCare.gov, President Obama is acting as "salesmen-in-chief for a new campaign to praise the law, and remind people of its benefits and why it exists in the first place." However, Williams added that, "in the meantime, millions of Americans buying insurance still have their work cut out for them." Chuck Todd went on to report that while the site is "working well enough that 'Consumer Reports' magazine, which warned readers away from the site in October, is now on board," insurers "are concerned that they are getting inaccurate or incomplete information from the government about the new enrollees." Robert Zirkelbach of America's Health Insurance Plans: "This is happening at a rate that is simply unacceptable." Todd added that in "some bad news for the White House, a new report from the Treasury Department's Inspector General's office...warns that the IRS does not have enough safeguards to prevent folks from scamming the government out of tax subsidies that they really are not eligible for."

On the CBS Evening News (12/3, story 4, 2:25, Pelley, 5.58M), Scott Pelley reported that on Tuesday, "the first day of his new campaign" to promote the Affordable Care Act, President Obama said HealthCare.gov "is now working for the vast majority of users" although "Republicans still want to rollback ObamaCare." President Obama was shown saying, "I will work with anybody to implement and improve this law effectively. You got good ideas? Bring them to me. Let's go. But we're not repealing it as long as I'm President." Pelley added that "many of the people visiting the site are having a much more positive experience than earlier users did," but a subsequent report from Manuel Bojorquez featured two people trying to buy coverage via HealthCare.gov, only one of whom was successful.

The Wall Street Journal (12/4, Favole, 5.91M) quotes the President as saying, "Our poor execution in the first couple months on the website clouded the fact that there are a whole bunch of people who stand to benefit. ... Now that the website is working for the vast majority of people, we need to make sure folks refocus on what's at stake here, which is the capacity for you or your families to be able to have the security of decent health insurance at a reasonable cause, with choice and competition."

USA Today (12/4, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that the Administration has "claimed victory in achieving its goal of

getting the glitch-riddled HealthCare.gov website working for the vast majority of Americans" despite the fact that "consumers are still experiencing some delays on the site" and "some of the enrollment data insurers received" from the site "contain errors — meaning some consumers might not be able to access the benefits Jan. 1 when they're scheduled to go into effect."

McClatchy (12/4, Lightman, Kumar, 95K) reports that on Tuesday, in front of "hundreds of handpicked supporters gathered at the White House complex," the President "did not go as far as declaring the website fixed," but did claim that his Administration has "met its goal of making the website usable for the vast majority of visitors by the end of November." McClatchy adds that the President, "who has seen his approval rating plunge to the lowest levels of his presidency, will spend the next month on a renewed effort to tout the law's benefits," which will "stress" that the ACA "will slow growth in health care costs, provide preventative care and assist those with pre-existing conditions."

The Washington Post (12/4, Goldfarb, Eilperin, 4.28M) reports that the President and other Democrats "expressed confidence that they were finally turning the corner," while Republicans "immediately lampooned the effort...and conservative activists vowed to wage a counterassault publicizing the law's downsides." The Post adds that while the Administration "pointed to traffic...this week as evidence that the site" has improved, "it was clear that bugs remained in the system." The Post notes that on Tuesday, the National Association of Health Underwriters "asked the Obama to fix the Web site's 'back end' technical obstacles" that are "preventing brokers from enrolling hundreds of thousands of people in coverage."

Bloomberg News (12/4, Wayne, 1.91M) reports that on Tuesday, CMS spokeswoman Julie Bataille said, "We believe that we have fixed the largest percentage of issues that were causing concerns" but "we do know that things are not perfect with the site." The Hill (12/4, Sink, 194K) says that on Tuesday, the President, "shied away from directly addressing more recent critiques of the ObamaCare website, including reports that the portal was continuing to provide insurers with error-riddled enrollment information."

The Washington Times (12/4, Wolfgang, 417K) says the President "stopped short of declaring 'mission accomplished,' but...made clear Tuesday that he's done apologizing for the [ACA's] failures...and instead will lead a full-blown public-relations effort to sell it to the American people."

Byron York, in a piece for the Washington Examiner (12/4, York, 319K), reported that on Tuesday, "nineteen people stood behind" the President, but, according to York, with one exception, neither the President nor the White House would identify who they were or how they have been helped by the ACA. York says there is no evidence that any of the nineteen have successfully "purchased affordable coverage through healthcare.gov."

The Hill (12/4, Sink, 194K) reports that on Wednesday, the President "will address a gathering of 18-35 year old activists...at the White House Youth Summit," and that the White House "hopes the president can rally attendees to promote insurance enrollment."

The AP (12/4, Kennedy), in an article titled, "Updated Healthcare.gov Gets Mixed Reviews," reports that "counselors helping people use" HealthCare.gov "are giving mixed reviews to the updated site, with some zipping through the application process while others are facing the same old sputters and even crashes." The AP reports that while CMS has said "response times had dropped to 1 second," Compuware Corp. "said nine states still had response times of more than 8 seconds Tuesday morning."

The Hill (12/4, Easley, 194K) also reports that on Tuesday, an HHS spokesperson announced that "1 million people visited the HealthCare.gov website on Monday." According to The Hill, the Administration "had said that it hoped the site could accommodate 800,000 in one day by Nov. 30, so hitting the 1 million mark with no major issues is encouraging news."

The Los Angeles Times (12/4, Parsons, 3.07M) notes that after the President "accused GOP critics of trying to kill his reform law without offering any solutions to the long-standing problems of the American healthcare system," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell responded by saying, "Obamacare is broken beyond repair," and that what is needed is "full repeal followed by step-by-step, patient-centered reforms that drive down costs." However, according to the Washington Post (12/4, Blake, 4.28M), on Tuesday, Speaker Boehner "declined to commit to allowing a vote on a GOP-drafted health-care plan next year."

McClatchy (12/4, Lightman, 95K) reports that before the President spoke on Tuesday, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said, "At this point, one has to ask, what else are they hiding? You know, while the White House wants to claim that healthcare.gov is now working, we know that 'Obamacare' is still plagued with problems." The Wall Street Journal (12/4, Nelson, O'Connor, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that three House committees will hold ACA-related hearings on Wednesday.

Kathleen Parker, in her column for the Washington Post (12/4, Parker, 4.28M), says that while the President "at times resembles Baghdad Bob, the Iraqi spokesman who said everything's fine here as US bombs exploded in the background, Republicans are the shock-and-awe gang with no plan for the day after."

NYTimes: Sebelius Among Officials Who Could Be Fired Over Botched ACA Rollout. Michael Shear, in an article for the New York Times (12/4, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) titled, "Considering Which Head Or Heads May Roll For A Troubled Website Rollout," reports that "White House officials...are under mounting pressure from Democrats and close allies to hold senior-level people accountable for the botched rollout of President Obama's signature domestic achievement and to determine who should be fired." According to the Times, the "possible targets include" HHS Secretary Sebelius and CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner, as well as "Mike Hash, the head of the health and human services health reform office; Michelle Snyder, the chief operating officer at Medicaid and Medicare; Henry Chao, the chief digital architect for the website; Jeanne Lambrew, the head of health care policy inside the White House; David Simas, a key adviser involved in the rollout; and Todd Park, the president's top adviser on technology issues." Former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs is quoted as saying, "It's important, in order to restore the American people's confidence in both health care reform and government again, that the president fire the people responsible for this failure."

Politico (12/4, Millman, 467K) reports that on Tuesday, "a brief appearance at a health policy forum sponsored by Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy and Arent Fox LLP," White House chief of staff Denis McDonough "joined the president and other senior administration officials in taking responsibility for problems with HealthCare.gov." McDonough is quoted as saying, "The website didn't work the way it should have Oct. 1. That's on us. That's on me."

Treasury IG: IRS May Be Unable To Adequately Police Fraud Involving ACA Subsidies. The AP (12/4, Ohlemacher) says a report from J. Russell George, the Treasury inspector general for tax administration, warns that "subsidies to help Americans buy insurance under the health care overhaul may be vulnerable to fraud...in the latest indication that troubles are far from over for President Barack Obama's signature legislation." George wrote: "The IRS' existing fraud detection system may not be capable of identifying (Affordable Care Act) refund fraud or schemes prior to the issuance of tax return refunds. ... The IRS reported that the long-term limitations of its existing fraud detection system include its inability to keep pace with increasing levels of fraud."

WH's Simas, HHS's Hash Brief House Democrats On ACA Progress. Politico (12/4, Millman, Epstein, 467K) reported that on Tuesday, White House deputy senior adviser David Simas and HHS Office of Health Reform director Mike Hash "briefed House Democrats on the website's progress," which Politico describes as "humming along with a low rate of errors – and drawing many potential enrollees as it racked up 1 million visits on Monday." Politico says House Democrats "acknowledged the remaining challenges, both with the technology and with getting the message out about health benefits."

Politico (12/4, Kim, 467K) reports that on Tuesday, House Democrats' "fading sense of alarm was on display...when [the] two top Obama administration officials briefed" lawmakers "who have not been shy about their anger toward the White House." Politico says the "tensions that have badly frayed the relationship between Capitol Hill and the White House recently seemed to decrease." Nevertheless, an anonymous "senior House Democratic aide" says "there's still a 'great deal of anxiety' in the caucus about enrollment issues, whether the website actually functions smoothly, and potential other problems with Obamacare."

The Huffington Post (12/3, Cherkis, Grim, 11.54M), in an article titled, "Here's Why Obamacare Is Going To Work," says HealthCare.gov is "now quasi-functional," and makes the case that "there are good reasons to believe that the [ACA] will catch on." According to the Huffington Post, "there are tens of millions of uninsured people who want health insurance, a law in place to help them obtain it, and advocates on the ground making sure they know how to do it."

Court Hears Challenge To Subsidies Obtained Via HealthCare.gov. The Wall Street Journal (12/4, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on Tuesday, US District Judge Paul Friedman heard arguments contesting the legality of paying ACA subsidies to those who purchase health insurance via HealthCare.gov, as opposed to the 14 state exchanges. According to the Journal, the challenge is based on the fact that the ACA says the subsidies can be granted to those who buy insurance via an exchange "established by the state," but does not mention that the same applies to coverage purchased from a Federal exchange.

21 Of 30 States With GOP Governors Are Implementing Obama's Fix For Policy Cancellations. The Wall Street Journal (12/4, Scism, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that 21 of the 30 states with Republican governors have agreed to allow insurers to continue offering coverage deemed substandard according to ACA rules for one more year, as President Obama requested they do last month. On the other hand, according to the Journal, 10 states with Democratic governors declined to implement the President's fix.

Bill Clinton Says He Was Being "Supportive" Of Obama When He Suggested ACA Fix. The Washington Post (12/4, Blake, 4.28M) reported that in an interview with CNN Espanol, former President Clinton insisted he was "merely trying to help President Obama when he suggested Obama should live up to his word and allow people to keep their current health insurance plans." Clinton is quoted as saying, "I was trying to be supportive of him. I don't think you can find anybody in America who's worked harder for his reelection or supported this bill or went out of his way to explain the bill to the American people more than I did."

The Washington Times (12/4, Boyer, 417K) reports that Clinton also predicted that "the political damage for Democrats from the flawed law will be 'minimal.'" The Times reports that Clinton told Fusion's Jorge Ramos, "I believe that if the computer problems are all fixed, and it's up and running by — and healthy in the next several weeks, I think that the damage will be minimal."

HOUSE CALENDAR SHIFT SPARKS SPECULATION THAT A BUDGET DEAL IS NEAR. Roll Call (12/4, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports in its "218" blog that a decision by House Republican leaders to change the 2013 congressional calendar and call members back into session next Monday "is sparking all kinds of speculation about what it might mean for fiscal 2014 budget prospects." The speculation surrounds whether the budget conference committee is "nearing a deal to replace the sequester and provide higher spending levels for appropriations bills" ahead of the Dec. 13 deadline. Roll Call notes that a GOP leadership aide said that the chamber "was likely set to be in session on Dec. 9, so that the Rules Committee could pave the way for a House vote on a deal secured by House Budget Chairman Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Budget Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash." Said the aide, "No CR is currently being written...given the fact that the budget conference appears to be close to a deal."

Bloomberg News (12/4, Przybyla, 1.91M) reports that Rep. Tom Cole said that negotiators "are 'down to the last few items," adding, "It's not the grand bargain but it's a workable deal. ... In this environment, that's something to be proud of." According to Cole, the agreement "would probably cap spending at about $1 trillion, instead of $967 billion, through mandatory spending cuts known as sequestration and endorsed by House Republicans. Democrats set a $1.058 trillion cap in their plan."

Roll Call (12/4, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers "said Tuesday that he is 'somewhat optimistic'" that the budget conference committee "will deliver on a broad spending agreement by their Dec. 13 deadline." While House Republican leaders are reportedly considering "a short-term continuing resolution to fund the government through Jan. 15, when the current CR expires," Rogers "doesn't think that will be necessary." Said Rogers, "I don't think there's a need for a CR now. ... I believe we can do an omnibus bill that is done by [Jan.] 15." Rogers "said he was not preparing a contingency CR in the event leadership gave him the signal."

House Democrats Lining Up In Opposition To A CR. Meanwhile, The Hill (12/4, Lillis, Wasson, 194K) reports in its "On The Money" blog that House Democrats "are lining up against a stopgap spending bill that further entrenches the blunt sequester cuts." As early as next week, Republican leaders could bring a vote "on a short-term continuing resolution (CR) likely to adopt the $967 billion sequester-level spending cap urged by many Republicans." However, there has been "near universal" pushback from Democrats this week, "with liberals and centrists alike vowing to join party leaders in opposition to any such measure." The Hill notes that the opposition

increases "the chances of a government shutdown taking place in mid-January" if budget negotiators fail to reach a deal "on a broader framework to fund the government and scale back the sequester."

Politico (12/4, Gibson, 467K) reports that House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said Tuesday that he would "oppose a continuing resolution to keep government funded beyond Jan. 15 if it doesn't address the sequestration cuts." Said Hoyer, "I believe that hurts our national security, it hurts our economy and it undermines our responsibility of running government at a level that is productive for our people." Hoyer noted that if Republicans offer a CR, "it would be a sign that the negotiating process has broken down entirely."

STOCKS FALL AMID CONCERNS OVER CONSUMER SPENDING. The AP (12/4, Sweet) reports that following eight weeks of gains, the market "pullback long anticipated by investors may have arrived." The markets fell on Tuesday, "dragged lower by the Detroit automakers and consumer-focused companies such as GameStop and Amazon.com." The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 94.15 points to 15,914.62, while the S&P 500 dropped 5.75 points to 1,796.15. The Nasdaq Composite Index, meanwhile, fell 8.06 points to 4,037.20.

The Wall Street Journal (12/4, Kiernan, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) blames the drop on investors looking to cash in the big gains notched in the markets over the course of the year. However, the Journal says there is also a lurking concern about the potential end of the Fed's stimulus efforts.

Sales Soared On Cyber Monday. The AP (12/4, Anderson) reports very positively on Cyber Monday sales, saying that despite concerns about efforts to lure shoppers to stores earlier in the holiday season, "shoppers delivered." They "bought online at the heaviest rate ever Monday, according to research firm comScore Inc., which tracks online sales" The group says online purchasing was up 18% over 2012 to $1.74 billion.

Auto Sales Strong In November. The New York Times (12/4, Trop, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that while Thanksgiving weekend sales "may have been a disappointment for the nation's retailers," they were a "boon" for carmakers, boosting sales to their highest level since May 2007. Sales rose 8.9% in November to 1.25 million vehicles. For all of 2013, the industry "is expected to sell 15.6 million new vehicles."

The Wall Street Journal (12/4, Rogers, Kell, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Chrysler sales were up 16% over November 2012, while GM's rose 14% and Ford's were up 7%. However, industry analysts caution that the sharp rise in sales may be coming to an end, as dealer inventories have been rising significantly.

Tesla Says Germany Sees No Defects In Fire Investigations. USA Today (12/3, Woodyard, 5.82M) reports that while a US investigation continues, Tesla Motors said on Monday that "it has been given a clean bill of health from German auto-safety authorities regarding three reports of fires in the battery packs of its electric cars after impacts."

ABC News Pushes Made In America Christmas. ABC World News (12/3, story 5, 3:40, Sawyer, 7.43M) ran a lengthy piece on its effort to produce a "made in America Christmas," focusing on interviews with shoppers and goods available. In one of the few pieces of factual report, ABC (Muir) said, "The average American will spend more than $700 dollars on holiday gifts this year, $738 dollars to be exact. Back in the '60s, nine out of ten holiday gifts were made in America. Now, easily, more than half of what we buy is foreign made."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Keeping Shareholders In the Dark."*** The New York Times (12/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that SEC chairwoman Mary Jo White erred by removing a plan to consider a rule to require public companies to disclose political spending from its regulatory agenda. Opponents of the rule insist that the SEC should not be involved in campaign finance or free speech issues, but the Times argues that "good corporate governance requires that companies are transparent about their use of corporate resources" and that shareholders have "demanded disclosure."

"Lessons Unlearned On Rail Safety." The New York Times (12/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that that the "ultimate blame" for the Metro North train derailment "seems to be a deficit of money and political will, and years of wasted time." The NTSB has been "pleading" for positive train control systems since 1969, but

Congress only passed a law requiring the systems for railroads that carry passengers and dangerous chemicals by 2015. The railroad lobby has been pressing Congress for an extension to at least 2020, and the a report by the Government Accountability Office expects many railroads to "blow the deadline" due to a lack of Federal financing and limited revenue for "big capital investments."

"Sustaining Resilience At Sea." The New York Times (12/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that marine reserves may be of even greater importance in the fight against climate change than scientists previously thought. According to a recent study published in Nature climate Change, marine reserves enhance the "resilience of marine communities," helping to ward off climate change effects such as invasion by species from warmer waters and will provide a valuable example of how healthy ecosystems function, which will be of increasing importance as climate change disorders them.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Gray Owes Voters More."*** The Washington Post (12/4, 4.28M) editorializes that DC Mayor Vincent C. Gray still has many questions to answer about the "illegal shadow campaign" involved in his 2010 election. The Post says that "voters need answers" before they can decide whether or not to reelect Gray, arguing that his assertion that he has "done the best job I could to address the 2010 campaign" is an "astonishing claim," given that he has refused to answer questions, declined to meet with Federal prosecutors, and allowed his Administration to withhold key documents from the prosecution.

"Invisible, Lethal And Legal." In an editorial, the Washington Post (12/4, 4.28M) argues that the threat of 3D printed guns makes it necessary to expand the law as proposed by the Democrats. However, while that "would seem to be a no-brainer," the NRA and its "mostly Republican allies in Congress are balking, insisting that the existing law need not be modified and minimizing the threat."

"Tensions In Thailand." The Washington Post (12/4, 4.28M) sees Thailand as falling into the category of "repeating the same crises and learning nothing from them," as other nations have done over time. In analyzing recent clashes, the Post says that the "opposition would be wise to use that as a face-saving way to end the crisis" even though the Shinawatra regime is not without fault. Ultimately, the only way to halt the "endless turmoil is for both sides to commit themselves to democracy and the rule of law," says the Post.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Human Wealth Of Nations."*** The Wall Street Journal (12/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes on the PISA scores, asking if US schools really are at the middling level indicated by the scores. It also notes that the US spent more than twice the per capita level of the Slovak Republic on education while reaching the same result. The Journal argues that the scores indicate the US education system is failing to produce students ready to compete in the world. The paper says that the US needs to do a better job at educating its students or it faces economic decline.

"Holiday In Hell." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (12/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that while North Korea's motives for holding Americans like Newman and American-Korean tour company operator Kenneth Bae are unclear, the lesson for Americans should be to avoid the country. The Journal says that this lesson should be heeded by celebrities like Dennis Rodman, Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt and the New York Philharmonic in particular because while they believe cultural engagement will foster change in the regime, in reality their visits serve to mask the regime's brutality.

"Detroit's Bankruptcy Breakthrough." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) hails a court ruling allowing Detroit to move forward with bankruptcy proceedings, particularly Federal Judge Steven Rhodes ' argument that the state constitution does not bar the proceedings from impacting pensions.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA-- Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; delivers remarks on the economy, THEARC; delivers remarks at the White House Summit, South Court Auditorium; meets with

Secretary of the Treasury Lew, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN– Departs Tokyo, Japan, en route to Bejing, China; meets with US Embassy staff and families in Bejing, closed press; attends an official welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People; meets with Vice President Li Yuanchao; holds a restricted bilateral meeting, closed press; attends a dinner hosted by President Xi, closed press.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA– Welcomes welcome military families to the White House for the first viewing of the 2013 holiday decorations; delivers remarks in the East Room and then asks military children to join her in the State Dining Room as White House Chefs Cris Comerford and Bill Yosses, and White House Florist Laura Dowling demonstrate holiday crafts and treats.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: 10 a.m. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER'S MOTHER — Erika Andiola, former district outreach staffer for Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema (D- AZ-9), holds press conference to discuss her efforts to fight the deportation of her mother, Guadalupe Arreola, 55, in Arizona. Location: House Triangle.

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. GREEK DIET GOES TO CONGRESS — Top Chefs & Scientists Serve Up Benefits of Greek Cuisine with Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-NY), vice-chair of the Democratic Caucus, Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-chairs of the Hellenic Caucus, celebrity chef Cat Cora and renowned chefs from Greece and the United States.

10 a.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

9:30 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Full committee hearing on "The Roll Out of HealthCare.gov" The Limitations of Big Government. Location: 2154 Raybum.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — Subcommittee on Workforce Protections hearing on "Examining Recent Actions by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs". Speakers: Justin Draeger, President and CEO, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators; Dr. Jenna Ashley Robinson, Director of Outreach; John W. Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, Raleigh, North Carolina; Michael Dannenberg, Director of Higher Education and Education Finance Policy, The Education Trust; Richard C. Heath, Director, Student Financial Services, Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, Maryland. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Health hearing on Medicare Advantage: What Beneficiaries Should Expect Under the President's Health Care Plan. Witnesses: Douglas Holtz-Eakin President American Action Forum; Bob Margolis CEO, HealthCare Partners Co-Chairman, DaVita HealthCare Partners; Jon Kaplan Senior Partner & Managing Director Boston Consulting Group; Joe Baker President Medicare Rights Center Marsha Gold Senior Fellow Mathematica Policy Research. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee Hearing, "Examining Regulatory Relief Proposals for Community Financial Institutions." Location: Rayburn 2128.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Markup: Full Committee Markup on H.R. 915, H.R. 1425, H.R. 1491, H.R. 2208, H.R. 2319, H.R. 3286, H.R. 3492, and S. 230. Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY — Full Committee hearing: Astrobiology: Search for Biosignatures in our Solar System and Beyond? Speakers: Dr. Mary Voytek, Senior Scientist for Astrobiology, Planetary Science Division, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Dr. Sara Seager, Class of 1941 Professor of Physics and Planetary Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Steven Dick, Baruch S. Blumberg Chair of Astrobiology, John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRNASPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE — Full Committee Markup of Committee General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions; Overall Savings of GSA Resolutions; H.R. 3578 – a bill to ensure that any new or revised requirement providing for the screening, testing, or treatment of an airman or an air traffic controller for a sleep disorder is adopted pursuant to a rulemaking proceeding, and for other purposes; H.R. 3628 – The Transportation Reports Elimination Act. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Hearing on Chairman Brady Announces Hearing on the Challenges of the Affordable Care Act. Witnesses: Grace-Marie Turner, Founder, President and Trustee, Galen Institute; Scott Gottlieb, Resident Fellow, The American Enterprise Institute; Chris Carlson, FSA, MAAA, Principal, Oliver Wyman Actuarial Consulting, Inc.; Mike Kreidler, Insurance Commissioner, Washington State Office Of The Insurance Commissioner. Location: 1100 Longworth.

10:30 a.m. HOUSE ADMINISTRATION — Full committee hearing on GPO in 2023: Keeping America Informed in a Post-Print World. Witness: Davita Vance-Cooks, Public Printer of the United States, Government Printing Office. Location: 1310 Longworth.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Full committee hearing on The Health Care Law: The Effect of the Business Aggregation Rules on Small Employers. Witnesses: Deborah Walker, CPA, National Director, Compensation and Benefits, Cherry Bekaert, LLP, Tysons Corner, VA; Ellis Winstanley, Chief Executive Officer, Tradelogic Corporation, Austin, TX, Testifying on behalf of the National Restaurant Association; Donna Baker, CPA, Donna Baker & Associates, Adrian, MI. Location: 2360 Raybum.

1:30 p.m. JUDICIARY — Full Committee Markup of: H.R. 3627, the "Kilah Davenport Child Protection Act of 2013" and H.R. 1447, "The Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013." Location: 2141 Raybum.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific hearing on Oversight of US Policy Toward Burma. Witnesses: Judith Cefkin, Senior Advisor for Burma, Bureau of East Asia and the Pacific, US Department of State; Vikram J. Singh, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, US Department of Defense; Gregory Beck, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Asia, US Agency for International Development. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee Hearing: Transition at a Crossroads: Tunisia Three Years After the Revolution Witnesses: Scott Mastic, Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa, International Republican Institute; Leslie Campbell, Senior Associate and Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa, National Democratic Institute; Bill Sweeney, President and Chief Executive Officer, International Foundation for Electoral Systems. Location: 2167 Raybum.

3 p.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs hearing on Adjudicating VAs Most Complex Disability Claims: Ensuring Quality, Accuracy and Consistency on Complicated Issues. Witnesses: Panel 1: YN1 Lauren Price, USN (Ret.), Public Affairs Representative, Veteran Warriors Accompanied By: MMCS James Price, USN (Ret.), Senior Logistics Chief, Veteran Warriors; Bettye McNutt, Surviving Spouse. Accompanied By: Glenn R. Bergmann, Esquire, Bergmann & Moore, LLC. Panel 2: Sherman Gillums, Associate Executive Director for Veterans Benefits, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Ronald Abrams, Esquire, Joint Executive Director, National Veterans Legal Services Program; Zach Hearn, Deputy Director for Claims, The American Legion. Panel 3: Tom Murphy, Director, Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Accompanied By: Edna MacDonald, Director of the Nashville Regional Office, Veterans Benefits Administration, US Department of Veterans Affairs; Sondra F. McCauley, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Location: 334 Cannon.
Other: COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL VISIT – SANOTS — During his visit, Santos will also meet with Congressional leaders, including House Speaker John Boehner and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

VETERANS CONFERENCE Dec. 2 – 4.— First National Conference on Veterans and Criminal Justice System, Veterans Treatment Court Conference focusing on veterans' substance abuse and mental health crisis.

HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMIT — Speakers include Ambassador Susan Rice, National Security Advisor; Kerry Kennedy, Human Rights Activist and President, Robert F Kennedy Center for Human Rights; The Right Honorable Lord David Owmen CH PC FKC, form British Foreign Secretary, Navy Minister and Health Minister. Location: Newseum, 7th floor, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

BISNOW – SEN. WARNER, RUBENSTEIN — David Rubenstein and Sen. Mark Warner next week for a special

look at what's in store for 2014. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Atrium Ballroom. 7 a.m. – 10 a.m.

GW – HEALTH CARE PANEL – WARNER — The George Washington University and Verizon will co-host a panel discussion, "A Conversation on Health: Improving Access and Outcomes for Patients through 21st Century Technology." Panelists will discuss how technology such as smartphones and mobile applications can play a role in healthcare. Speakers: Thomas A. Daschle, former US Senate majority leader Lynn R. Goldman, dean of the GW School of Public Health and Health Services; Ivor Braden Horn, professor of pediatrics at Children's National Medical Center; Richard Katz, professor and director of cardiology, GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences; Jinha Park, director of MRI and radiology research at City of Hope; Jonathan Spalter, chairman of Mobile Future, a technology coalition U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va. Location: Jack Morton Auditorium, 805 21st St., NW. 8:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

CAP – PRESIDENT OBAMA — The Center for American Progress will hosts President Barack Obama for remarks on the economy. Location: THEARC, 1901 Mississippi Ave SE. 11:20 a.m.

U.S. CHAMBER – COLOMBIA – SANTOS — The US Chamber, in cooperation with the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACCLA) and the Colombia American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham Colombia), will host a luncheon and conversation with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos. After an introduction by US Chamber President and CEO Thomas J. Donohue, Santos will outline Colombias new leadership role in the global economy, the next phase of the US-Colombia bilateral relationship, and various other issues affecting regional trade. Before lunch, a panel of business and government leaders will discuss broader issues affecting the US-Colombia trade and economic relationships. Location: US Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW. 12 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

AMERICANS UNITED – ALEC — State and federal lawmakers will respond in a conference call to "disturbing new revelations about ALEC's upcoming legislative agenda and plans to further sabotage the Affordable Care Act, as well as newly published documents that raise serious issues about the group's status as a so-called charitable organization." Speakers include: Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL); Congressman Mark Pocan (D-WI); Nebraska State Senator Danielle Conrad, a former ALEC member; Center for Media and Democracy and ALEC Exposed Executive Director Lisa Graves.12:15 p.m.

NASA – CASSINI – GOOGLE HANGOUT — NASA will host a Google+ Hangout to discuss images of Satum taken by the agency's Cassini spacecraft. The Hangout also will look ahead to the next few years of the Cassini mission. Panelists: – Kunio Sayanagi, Cassini imaging team associate, Hampton University, Virginia; Carolyn Porco, Cassini imaging team lead, Space Science Institute, Boulder, Colorado; Linda Spilker, Cassini project scientist, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Pasadena, California; Earl Maize, Cassini program manager, JPL.

DIGITAL POLICY PIONEERS – WARNER — The Progressive Policy Institute will honor Americas "Digital Policy Pioneers "Enabling the Internet: A Conversation with America's Digital Policy Pioneers Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Mark Warner, US Senator (D-Va.); Larry Irving, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Administrator of the National Telecommunications Infrastructure Administration; Bill Kennard, former US Ambassador to the European Union and former FCC Chairman (1997-2001); Karen Kornbluh, former US Ambassador to the OECD and Senior Fellow for Digital Policy, Council on Foreign Relations; Ira Magaziner, former Senior Advisor to the President for Policy Development (1993-1998); Michael Powell, former FCC Chairman (2001-2005); Moderator: Larry Downes, Author of bestseller "Unleashing the Killer App: Digital Strategies for Market Dominance and "The Laws of Disruption: Harnessing the New Forces that Govern Business and Life in the Digital Age. Location: The Mayflower Renaissance Hotel , 1127 Connecticut Avenue NW. 4 p.m.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "Over the weekend, I got on the computer and I tried to sign up for Obamacare. You hear a lot of people having trouble. Had no trouble whatsoever. Signed right up for Obamacare and ordered six months,

Mexican Viagra."

Jimmy Kimmel: "And President Obama spoke today in defense of the Affordable Health Care Act. He said it's a disaster and he's sorry he tried. Interesting fact, did you know, the speeches he's made about Affordable Health Care is greater than the number of people who have signed up for it?"

Jimmy Kimmel: (In reference to the ACA website) "The President said despite the initial problems, it's working better now and going to continue to improve. A million people visited on Monday. Mostly to see if they were covered from injuries suffered at Wal-Mart on black Friday."

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Additional Briefing Materials for Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting and Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting - 12/12

Olson, Elizabeth <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Dec 5, 2013 at 6:38 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached, please find additional briefing materials for next Thursday's WGA Meeting and Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting. These materials have been uploaded to Google Drive in the folder marked "NM and NV Trip December 2013," and will be printed out in hard copy and delivered to you.

–
Elizabeth
208-2977

4 attachments

12 12 13_1010am PST_TALKING POINTS Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting.docx
30K

12 12 13_1010am PST_VERSION 2 Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting.pdf
68K

12 12 13_1230pm PST_Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting.pdf
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12 12 13_1230pm PST_TALKING POINTS Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting.docx
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Draft Talking Points for Secretary Jewell
Western Governors Association
Las Vegas, NV
December 12, 2013

Requested length: 15 minutes

Major Issues:

- **Managing Western Landscapes Together**
- **First Secretarial Order on Mitigation**
- **Greater Sage Grouse**

Acknowledgements:

[TO BE INSERTED]

MANAGING WESTERN LANDSCAPES TOGETHER:

- Since we last gathered in June, I've been coast to coast, visiting public lands entrusted to Interior.

- We manage **one out of every five acres** in the United States, the vast majority in the West. I know the **decisions we make have a broad impact** on the people of your states. It is vital that we **make these decisions in a cooperative manner as part of a partnership** with states and local communities.

- The federal government and states share an important responsibility as stewards of western landscapes and the resources they contain – resources that are critical to our **energy security**, our **economic vitality**, and **maintaining our rich heritage** and **treasured quality of life**.

- In particular, we must deal with the **inherent tension that often exists between development and conservation**. This is not an either-or-equation. Rather, we must encourage development in the **right ways and in the right places so that it is consistent with conservation**.

- Today we have an unprecedented opportunity – using science and technology – to create a **truly landscape level decision-making process** that will promote our conservation goals and achieve our development objectives.

- We are already **seeing this landscape-level approach work** as we develop both our conventional and renewable energy resources while protecting critical ecosystems and wildlife. Examples include:

    - **Western Solar Energy Plan** – guide renewable energy development in the six southwestern states

    - **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan** - blend science and satellite data to identify areas of high-energy potential and high-priority conservation lands in the Mojave Desert

    - **National Petroleum Reserve** - comprehensive look at the NPR-A to protect more than 13 million acres – like key caribou habitat around Teshekpuk Lake – while making available for development more than 72 percent of the estimated economically recoverable oil

    - **Master Leasing Plans** – for oil and gas development across the western states to make sure it's done in places with minimal conflicts

- We especially need this type of **smart, balanced approach** to development as we explore new frontiers in the Arctic, implement onshore leasing reforms, and experience an energy boom in the Bakken Region

- Under my leadership at Interior, **we will always take the long view**.

FIRST SECRETARIAL ORDER – MITIGATION:

- In October at the National Press Club, I laid out a vision to strengthen our economy and ensure that we pass along our nation's rich conservation legacy to the next generation.

- During the speech I issued my **first Secretarial Order** to develop a department-wide strategy to strengthen our mitigation practices.

- The Order aims to offset the impacts of major development projects using tools such as **landscape-level planning** and **mitigation banking.**

- Such **landscape-level planning** may include development of **regional mitigation plans** that address a wide range of issues, from conserving ecosystems to promoting recreation to boosting the economy.

- The Order will work to:
    - **promote permit efficiencies** and **financial predictability** for developers
    - enhance ability of Federal and state agencies to invest in larger-scale conservation efforts
    - **provide increased certainty** for both development and conservation

- My team will provide me a **preliminary report** and recommendations for mitigation **by the end of January**, so you will be hearing from them for your advice and input soon, if you haven't already.

- In many ways, this is about **doing what many of the governors in this room have known and done for decades:** recognize the unique and important values associated with western landscapes and use the best science and judgment to conserve them wisely.

- You – more than anyone – know that these issues do not stop at political boundaries. We must all work together – **across party lines, across state lines, at all levels of government**, including local and tribal communities

- You've done that already with: **Western Renewable Energy Zones initiative**, the establishment of the **Western Governors' Wildlife Council in 2008**, the **Western Governors' Wildlife Corridors initiative**, the **WGA 10-year energy vision.**

- And you're doing it again with the **new Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT)** that you are releasing today. You all get it.

    - The CHAT is a perfect example of **strong bipartisan cooperation** across the western states to develop a **cross-boundary informational system** for developers in the **pre-planning stage.**

- It also shows the Governors' commitment **to reduce time, conflicts, and surprises for industry**, while also **conserving our treasured natural resources**.

- The value of taking such an approach can be seen in the strategy we are employing to conserve the **Lesser Prairie Chicken:**

  - Developed through collaboration by six of the western states and endorsed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
    Strategy offers a **new paradigm for state-led efforts** to manage landscapes for wildlife conservation across state lines.

- In a time of **constrained resources**, we can and must operate together in a **smarter, faster, cheaper and more efficient manner**.

That way, we spend less time on the analysis of individual projects and more time trying to identify the right places to develop in advance of committing critical resources – including private capital – to important projects.

GREATER SAGE GROUSE:

- I want to wrap up my brief remarks today by focusing on what we all acknowledge is probably the **greatest wildlife management challenge** facing those in the room today – conserving the **Greater Sage Grouse**.

- I remain **firmly committed to working with the states to develop an action plan**. I am pleased to say that we are well into an unprecedented effort among the affected state and federal agencies to do just that.

- The **interagency task force** that was launched by Secretary Salazar and is chaired by Governors Hickenlooper and Mead and BLM Principle Deputy Director Neil Kornze, has continued to work over the past year to develop and implement a process that we believe can achieve our goals of:
  - conserving the Greater Sage Grouse; and
  - maintaining the flexibility needed to continue to meet the broader socio-economic goals of the region

- They have met nearly **a dozen** times, and I am proud of their work.

- Later today, I look forward to meeting with the governors to discuss the incredible progress we've made thus far, the challenges that lie ahead, and how we can map out a process to complete a **scientifically-based, collaboratively-developed, legally-defensible strategy** for conserving the species. It will be a process that involves all parties, as everyone needs to be part of the solution.

- We have essentially **nine months** to complete that work and to deliver our plans to the Fish and Wildlife Service next September for their analysis and review in making their listing decision by the end of 2015.

- By the time the Western Governors convene again in June, six months from now, BLM must be close to a final management regime for its 98 resource management plans. The states too must complete and begin to implement their own plans for state and private lands on a similar timeline.

- There is no doubt that **we have a lot of work to do** over the next nine months, **but we have laid a strong foundation.**

- This process began as a partnership between the federal land management agencies, the FWS, and the states, and I am optimistic that is how we will end this process – as strong partners.

- In fact, the underlying science that guides the development of the sage grouse action plan was also a product of collaboration between state and federal sage grouse experts and the work of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

- So, as it began, we are committed to continuing this partnership, working across the 11 state region of the remaining GSG habitat to ensure a viable sage grouse population across the West.

- Thank you, governors, for your collective commitment to this effort.

# # #

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING – VERSION 2

DATE: December 12, 2013
LOCATION: Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Oriental Ballroom, Las Vegas, NV
TIME: 10:10AM – 11:45AM PST
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, Sr. Advisor (202)208-6726; Terri Johnson, Acting Director, OIEA (202)208-7513

Note: Edits are highlighted below in yellow.

I. PURPOSE

You will attend the WGA Winter Meeting on December 12 in Las Vegas, NV. You will be one of two Keynote Speakers kicking off the Combating Western Wildfires Plenary Session and YOU will also participate in the Governors' Luncheon sage grouse discussion (a separate Luncheon Briefing Memo is prepared for you). You will also participate in the Closing Press Conference / Public Launch of Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool. Approximately 220 people are attending this year's winter conference.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Governors Attending the Conference:
  - John Hickenlooper (CO) – WGA Chair
  - Butch Otter (ID)
  - Steve Bullock (MT)
  - Brian Sandoval (NV)
  - Matt Mead (WY)
  - Gary Herbert (UT)
  - Jan Brewer (AZ)
  - Eruviel Avila, Governor of the State of Mexico

- DOI
  - Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary, Office of Water and Science
  - Lori Carmanian, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Water and Science
  - Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management
  - Dan Ashe, US Fish and Wildlife Service Director
  - Michael Bean, Senior Advisor, Fish and Wildlife and Parks
  - Mike Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
  - Sarah Greenberg, Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary
  - Jim Douglas, Director, Office of Wildlife Fire, DOI
- USG Attendees:
  - Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary of Agriculture, USDA
  - Jennifer Yezak, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, USDA
- Other Attendees Representing DOI Interests

- Energy (solar, wind, natural gas, copper, petroleum, coal, and transmission interests typically attend.)
- Conservation - (Theodore Roosevelt conservation Partnership, National Wildlife Federation, National Association of Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, Environmental Defense Fund, and the Western States Water Council)

III. AGENDA

10:00AM	Governor Eruviel Avila Villegas (Mexico) will deliver keynote remarks
10:10AM	You will deliver keynote remarks
10:25AM	Depart
11:45AM	WGA Closing Press Conference/Public Launch of Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool

IV. TALKING POINTS

Talking Points are attached as a separate document.

V. BACKGROUND

Western Governors' Association

The Western Governors' Association was established in 1984 and is an independent, nonprofit organization representing the Governors of 19 states and three US-Flag Pacific islands. Through their Association, the Governors identify and address key policy and governance issues that include natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, intergovernmental relations and international relations. The current chairman of is Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, who was elected in June 2013.

Current initiatives of the Association are energy generation; regional transmission expansion; weather and climate risk; water: supply, transfers, and drought; forest health; outdoor recreation and tourism; and wildlife corridors and crucial habitat.

Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool

The Western Governors' Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) is a cooperative effort of 16 Western states to provide the public and industry a high-level overview of "crucial habitat" across the West. This tool and several individual state CHATs have been developed pursuant to an MOU among WGA, DOI, and others. "Crucial habitats" are places that contain and connect the natural resources important to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, including species of concern, as well as hunting and fishing species. The CHAT helps users in the pre-planning of energy corridors and transmission routes, or in comparing fish and wildlife habitat, by establishing a common starting point across the West for the intersection of development and wildlife. The tool is designed to enable industry to reduce time, costs, conflicts, and surprises while helping government agencies ensure wildlife values are better incorporated into land use decision-making.

- The CHAT is non-regulatory and represents landscape-level analysis. For project-level review, additional information, data, and state consultation is necessary.
- Private landowner boundaries are not discernible on CHATs, which do not impose designations or identify species at the individual landowner scale. While some private land may appear marked as containing crucial habitat, that delineation has no regulatory or legal ramification.
- The CHAT is built from State wildlife agency data. States collaborated to ensure information in the regional viewer is comparable across the region. Arizona, California, Montana, Nevada, Washington, and Wyoming have developed state-specific CHATs The Souther Great Plains CHAT depicts Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat across five states.
- The online tool is an example of WGA's ongoing work with Federal agencies, including FWS, BLM, and the Forest Service to enable use of state fish and wildlife data and analyses to inform land use, planning, and related natural resource decisions.
- CHAT development began in 2010, supported by a grant from the Dept. of Energy

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- Profiles of Attending Governors (*below*)
- Information Memo regarding WGA Issues of Interest
- Information Memo regarding Sequester Impacts on Payments to WGA States
- Talking Points (*attached separately*)

PROFILES OF ATTENDING GOVERNORS WGA



Governor John Hickenlooper (D-CO): WGA CHAIR - Governor Hickenlooper describes himself as a "recovering geologist now on loan to public service." Elected in 2010, his priorities include making Colorado the model for energy policy by promoting an "all-the-above" energy policy that develops Colorado's traditional and renewable resources in a balanced way, and with the highest ethical and public safety standards and making Colorado the healthiest state. Governor Hickenlooper serves in leadership positions with the National Governors Association and the Western Governors' Association. He also serves as the Vice Chair of the Democratic Governors Association.



Governor Jan Brewer (R-AZ) – Ms. Brewer became governor in January 2009 following the resignation of Governor Janet Napolitano and reelected in 2010. She previously served as Secretary of State of Arizona from 2003 to 2009 and also served in the Arizona House of Representatives and State Senate from 1987 to 1996 including a four year period as Majority Whip. Arizona ranks as the nation's second-largest solar market. In 2012 Arizona installed more utility-scale solar last year than any other state. Arizona now has edged out New Jersey for the number two slot, and trails only California in solar production.



Governor Butch Otter (R-ID) - Governor Otter has been Governor of Idaho since January 2007. He previously served three terms in Congress representing Idaho's 1st District from 2001 through 2006. Otter was the longest serving Lieutenant Governor of Idaho, holding office from 1987–2001. He is the first Idahoan since statehood to win elections as both a United States Representative and as governor.



Governor Steve Bullock (D - MT) - Steve Bullock, Montana's former attorney general, was elected governor in 2012. Since becoming Governor, Bullock has approved a request from Yellowstone National Park to move bison from a holding facility in the park, to an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service facility for research and quarantine. He also supported the creation of the "Native Language Preservation Program," a partnership between the State of Montana and tribal governments to preserve the languages of Montana's Indian tribes and enhance the educational opportunities students have on Montana's reservations, while protecting American Indians' cultural heritage.



Governor Matt Mead (R-WY) - Governor Mead took office January 2011. He serves on the Council of Governors, a group of 10 governors chosen by the President to advise top federal officials on matters related to the National Guard and civil support missions. He also serves on the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory Council. In the National Governors Association, he is a member of the Natural Resources Committee. He is co-chair of the State and Federal Sage Grouse Task Force, which brings together federal officials and representatives of 11 western states for a regional conservation effort.



Governor Brian Sandoval (R-NV) - Brian Sandoval took office January 2011. He is a member of the Western Governors Association, National Governors Association, Republican Governors Association and the Hispanic Leadership Network. Governor Sandoval also serves as Vice-Chair of the NGA Health and Homeland Security Committee. He was recently appointed Chair-elect of the Education Commission of the States. Prior to becoming Governor, he served as a federal judge, and as the Nevada Attorney General. Sandoval was also the first Hispanic candidate elected to statewide office in Nevada.



Governor Gary Herbert (R-UT): WGA CHAIR - Gary Herbert became Utah's Governor in 2009. Before assuming the governor's office, he served as Utah's sixteenth Lieutenant Governor. Governor Herbert's priorities are education, energy, jobs and self-determination. The Governor currently serves as the Chair of the WGA and is a leading voice on energy issues in the West. He has made it a priority for the WGA to advocate for increased energy development on public lands.



Governor Eruviel Avila Villagas – State of Mexico - Governor Villegas is a member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party. He was Mayor of Ecatepec de Morelos twice, from 2003 to 2006 and from 2009 to 2012 and deputy of the State of Mexico's Congress from 997 to 2000 in the LIII Legislature and from 2006 to 2009. He has been a teacher at UNITEC. He is author of the book *"The Creation of the Constitutional Court in the State of Mexico"* published in 2003, a joint publication of the Legislative Investigations Institute.

Robert Bonnie –Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment - Robert



Bonnie was confirmed as Under Secretary in August, 2013. He previously served as a senior policy adviser for Secretary Vilsack. Bonnie worked for the Environmental Defense Fund from 1995 to 2008, holding a number of positions including vice-president of land conservation and wildlife and managing director of the Center for Conservation Incentives. He served on the board of visitors at the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, and was a member of the board of directors for the Piedmont Environmental Council and Scenic America.

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

SAGE GROUSE TASK FORCE MEETING

DATE: December 12, 2013
LOCATION: Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Las Vegas, Room TBD
TIME: 12:30PM – 1:30PM PST
FROM: James Lyons, Counselor, ASLM (202)208-6734; Michael Bean, Counselor, ASFWP, 202-208-7400; Sarah Greenberger, Senior Advisor, 202-219-2140; Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, BLM; Dan Ashe, Director, FWS; Ted Boling, SOL; Bret Birdsong, SOL

I. PURPOSE

You will make remarks over lunch to begin the meeting of the Sage Grouse Task Force, immediately following the close of the Western Governors Association's winter meeting. The Governors of several of the eleven states covering the range of the Greater sage-grouse are expected to attend. The primary purpose of your remarks is to provide a status assessment on the collective efforts of the states, the BLM, FWS, and others to conserve the greater sage grouse. In particular, you will underscore the need for continued close collaboration, in light of the fast-approaching September 2015 deadline for the FWS to decide whether to propose to list the sage grouse for protection under the ESA. You will also emphasize that the extent of state-federal collaboration that has been ongoing for the past two years is unprecedented under the ESA.

The Sage Grouse Task Force resulted from a 2011 initiative of former Secretary Salazar. The Task Force is co-chaired by Governors Mead (WY) and Hickenlooper (CO), and the Director of BLM. Each of the eleven sage grouse states has a Governor-appointed representative to the Task Force. In addition, representatives of two DOI agencies (BLM and FWS) and two USDA agencies (USFS and NRCS) serve on the Task Force. The Task Force meets approximately every other month. This will be the first meeting of the Task Force at which any Governors will attend. It will also be the first occasion that you have met with the Task Force.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Confirmed:

- Governor Hickenlooper (CO)
- Governor Mead (WY)
- Governor Sandoval (NV)
- Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, BLM
- Dan Ashe, Director, FWS

Expected:

- Governor Otter (ID)
- Governor Bullock (MT)
- Governor Herbert (UT)
- USDA Under Secretary Robert Bonnie

Each principal is allowed one staff person in the meeting.

III. AGENDA *(tentative)*

- Governor Hickenlooper (CO) will open the conversation and introduce you
- You give remarks
- Neil Kornze gives remarks
- Dan Ashe gives remarks
- Open to the Governors

IV. KEY FACTS

- In 2010, FWS determined that listing of the greater sage grouse under the ESA was warranted but precluded by higher listing priorities.
- The primary bases for the decision that listing was warranted were the loss and degradation of habitat and the lack of adequate regulatory measures to address threats to the species
- Threats to the grouse are many and vary in significance across the specie's range. They include the loss and degradation of habitat from fire, invasive plants, and energy development, among others.
- FWS has a deadline of September 2015 to decide whether to propose to list the greater sage grouse or any distinct population segment of the species
- To put stronger regulatory measures in place, BLM and the Forest Service (USFS) are revising all of their land use plans within the extant range of the sage-grouse to consider alternative conservation measures for sage grouse
- NRCS is investing heavily in a Sage Grouse Initiative that provides substantial funds to acquire conservation easements and to support the implementation of beneficial land management practices primarily on private lands by ranchers and other landowners.
- There has been unprecedented state-federal collaboration through the Task Force and:
  - When BLM sought scientific advice on sage grouse conservation needs, it assembled a National Technical Team that included state and federal scientists
  - When FWS was asked to provide as much clarity as it could regarding criteria for listing the species, it assembled a Conservation Objectives Team made up of state and federal representatives. That team's resulting "COT Report" is a first of its kind, carefully balancing states' request to clarify the conservation goal, but to leave room on how to meet that goal
  - When BLM and USFS developed 15 draft Environmental Impact Statements to evaluate amending or revising 98 land use plans, they included consideration of a state-produced alternative for every state that offered one.
  - The FWS is currently developing a database to ensure that all conservation activities for this species are accurately captured for consideration in 2015. The states have provided valuable input to this effort.
- The Task Force consists of a representative of the Governor of each of the 11 sage grouse states, plus FWS, BLM, Forest Service, and NRCS
- Although FWS has proposed to list the Gunnison sage grouse (a separate species) as endangered and the "bi-state" population of greater sage grouse as threatened, these are independent proposals that do not foreshadow any particular outcome for the greater sage grouse.

V. HOT TOPICS

Hot topics to include expected questions from the Governors and suggested responses will be forthcoming.

VI. TALKING POINTS

Talking Points are attached as a separate document.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Talking Points (*attached separately*)
- Summary of State Plan Assessment (*below*)

State Plan Summary

California. A 2004 state plan has been supplemented by three local plans. Plans are advisory, not regulatory. Relatively little habitat and few sage grouse remain in the state. Fire is a key threat.

Colorado. No self-assessment has been completed yet. Significant easement acquisition effort has been undertaken. State wildlife agency recommendations to the oil and gas commission are advisory, and there is no data to show whether those recommendations have been followed.

Idaho. A strong adaptive management component is the key feature in a plan that focuses entirely on BLM lands. Idaho has been a leader in promoting the development of rural fire protection associations.

Montana. A detailed strategy to implement Montana's 2005 plan is expected by January. FWS is concerned about inadequate lek buffer distances in non-core areas, uncertain regulatory authorities, and lack of a prohibition against prescribed burning of sage brush.

Nevada. Plan puts a heavy emphasis on a compensatory mitigation program that is not yet developed. Nevada's self-assessment acknowledged that most plan components are insufficient to meet COT objectives.

North Dakota. State expects to complete a revision of its 2005 plan by the end of December. FWS is concerned that the plan relies too heavily on voluntary measures.

Oregon. Although several months away from completion, Oregon's "All Lands, All Threats" plan is ambitious in scope. Oregon has not submitted a self-assessment, but the draft plan has many strong features, including a lower disturbance cap (4%) than that of other states.

South Dakota. A revision of the state's 2008 plan has not yet been completed. FWS has not been able to evaluate the state's effort against the COT objectives.

Utah. Utah has not provided a self-assessment. The plan sets ambitious population and habitat goals. However, FWS is concerned that it relies entirely on voluntary measures and excludes protection for two key populations.

Washington. The state has not provided a self-assessment. State expects to complete a review of its efforts in 2014.

Wyoming. Although Wyoming did not submit a self-assessment, its "core area strategy" has been in place for several years and appears to be working well. The Wyoming core area strategy served as a model for most other states.

TALKING POINTS

Welcome

- Two years ago yesterday, Ken Salazar met with Governor Mead and representatives of other states to begin work together to conserve this species
- Out of that meeting came this Task Force and an historic opportunity to conserve this species and its habitat so that listing the species under the ESA is not necessary.
- Thank in particular Governors Mead and Hickenlooper for their leadership of this effort

Unprecedented Collaboration

- To date, there has been unprecedented state and federal cooperation
- The BLM's "National Technical Team" Report and the FWS "Conservation Objectives Team" Report were produced through the collaboration of state and federal experts.
- The BLM and USFS land use plan amendments include consideration of a state-produced alternative for every state that offered one.
- We have provided states with the knowledge and tools at our disposal
- We have accomplished a great deal to date: a collective understanding of the conservation objectives, 98 draft land use plan amendments and revisions that are out or will shortly be out in the public domain, several state plans for conservation completed or underway

Critical Juncture

- But we have reached a critical juncture in this joint endeavor.
- Continued close cooperation will be even more important as we move forward
- BLM and the Forest Service intend to complete their plan revisions and amendments by this time next year to give FWS time to take them into account for their 2015 proposed listing determination
- To meet this timeline, BLM and the Forest Service must publish their final environmental analyses and proposed plans by next summer
- To be clear, six months from now, the BLM and USFS must be close to completing their final environmental analyses for the revisions and amendments of their plans.
- The states, too, must complete and begin to implement their own plans and programs for state and private lands on a similar timeline
- The clock is ticking

Top Line Assessment

- In September I asked my colleagues at Interior to ensure this meeting could be a frank and candid assessment of where we are today.

- In anticipation, most states prepared assessments of their own plans and programs
- I also asked my colleagues for preliminary thoughts on the draft BLM plans, though the review is ongoing
- Those assessments acknowledge that work remains to adequately address threats to the sage grouse identified in the COT report produced by state and federal officials
- I want to share a few of the high-level issues that emerged

Voluntary Actions

- Many of the state plans rely heavily – some almost exclusively – on voluntary actions
- Voluntary conservation measures are one possible approach, but you need to understand how FWS will evaluate them
- Two considerations will guide the FWS: first, the likelihood that voluntary measures will be implemented, and second, the likelihood that the measures will be effective
- Many of your staff are hearing from the FWS asking that you step beyond voluntary approaches and use your regulatory authorities to address threats
- Wyoming, for instance, has done so with a series of executive orders that provide the kind of regulatory certainty that the FWS can count and credit in their listing decision.
- For those of you relying on new voluntary programs: get them started as soon as possible so you can establish strong evidence of implementation and effectiveness by 2015
- But you should also think about doing more – think about using your state powers to ensure that necessary conservation measures are implemented.
- Understand that if there is not a regulatory guarantee that certain actions will take place and if there's not a proven track record of voluntary actions being implemented and being successful, FWS will not be able to credit those measures when making their listing decision

Private and State Lands

- Here's something else that I hope you'll consider.
- BLM and other federal lands comprise a majority of the remaining sage grouse habitat (58%), but effective conservation cannot be accomplished solely on federal lands.
- We are greatly appreciative of the ideas you've brought forward for how federal lands should be managed to conserve sage grouse, and we will continue to work with you to refine the plans for public lands in each state.
- But we need state conservation plans that apply to non-federal lands as well.
- If conservation measures for sage grouse are not shared across the landscape of public and private lands, then here's what will likely happen.
- The BLM and Forest Service will have to carry the conservation load on their own and the conservation measures they select will have to be more restrictive than if actions were being shared across entire landscape.
- The math here is fairly simple. And it's critical that we all take steps to get this right.

Science-Based Land Management Regimes

- The BLM, the Forest Service and the states will be making hard decisions on issues like the amount of disturbance the sage grouse can tolerate and the necessary buffer zone for activity occurring around leks
- The FWS, the BLM, the Forest Service and each of your people will have to spend the next few months looking at the best available science and determining how to craft final plans that will have the highest likelihood of conserving the sage grouse
- To be effective – and legally defensible – plans must address the threats to the bird's survival in the remainder of its range based on the best available science

Rural Fire Protection Districts

- As an example, fire is one of the greatest threats to sage grouse in the Great Basin
- At FWS request, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies convened a team of experts to look at the issue.
- That team identified expediting creation of Rural Fire Protection Districts - -local landowners trained to fight fire -- as one of the most important conservation actions we can take
- The State of Idaho worked with BLM and FWS to do exactly that
- Neil will talk more about this program in a few minutes.

Next Steps

- Over the next three months, the FWS will continue work with the States, BLM and the Forest Service to address comments and make needed improvements as appropriate to the land use plan amendments and revisions.
- In March, we intend to work with you to review all the plans – those that apply to public lands and those that apply to private and state lands – to assess how **together** they address the threats to the species across the range using the FWS Conservation Objectives Team Report as a guide
- The results of that assessment will give all of us an opportunity to make further adjustments, as appropriate, before the BLM and Forest Service select final management alternatives
- In that way, we can work across the landscape TOGETHER, to develop plans that give us the best chance of conserving the species
- I'd like to reconvene to discuss the resulting plans at the June WGA meeting
- After that conversation, we can proceed to finalize the plans next fall so that the FWS will be able to consider the plans in its listing process

In summary

- The Federal/state interagency cooperation to date has been unprecedented
- We are committed to continuing our partnership, working across the 11 state range of the grouse with the states and their experts, to develop a strategy to ensure viable sage grouse populations across the West.
- We're on track to meet our deadlines for finalizing the plans over the next 9 months
- Our efforts will only be meaningful if each of us develops strong, defensible science-based plans
- I appreciate all your efforts to date and
- I look forward to continuing our collaboration and hope for open communication over these next few critical months

BISON CONNECT

Re: Additional Briefing Materials for Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting and Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting - 12/12

Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> Thu, Dec 5, 2013 at 6:41 PM
To: "Olson, Elizabeth" <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>

Got em all - thanks.

> On Dec 5, 2013, at 5:38 PM, "Olson, Elizabeth" <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> Secretary Jewell,
>
> Attached, please find additional briefing materials for next Thursday's WGA Meeting and Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting. These materials have been uploaded to Google Drive in the folder marked "NM and NV Trip December 2013," and will be printed out in hard copy and delivered to you.
>
> –
> Elizabeth
> 208-2977
> <12 12 13_1010am PST_TALKING POINTS Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting.docx>
> <12 12 13_1010am PST_VERSION 2 Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting.pdf>
> <12 12 13_1230pm PST_Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting.pdf>
> <12 12 13_1230pm PST_TALKING POINTS Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting.docx>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, December 6, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Dec 6, 2013 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL THINKING ABOUT PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY. USA Today (12/5, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said "she's not thinking about her legacy," but she does "think about a legacy for President Obama" in a profile in Outside magazine. According to the article, the legacy could "include rules for fracking on federal lands, oil and gas leases on fragile lands, and addressing climate change." In a recent speech to Interior Department employees Jewell laid out her priorities: "The more traditional goals included ramping up renewable-energy production, repairing the Native American education system, and addressing looming water catastrophes like the massively overburdened Colorado River."

Also providing coverage are the Jackson (TN) Sun (12/6, 67K) and the Port Huron (MI) Times Herald (12/6, 75K).

SECRETARY JEWELL DISCUSSES COASTAL RESILIENCY IN NEW ORLEANS. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (12/6, 700K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "took a foggy helicopter ride on Thursday" to observe the erosion that has "rocked" North Breton Island during the past century. Throughout the ride, Jewell "pointed to the Mississippi River, how it has been reined in by civilization through the years, affecting the natural deposit of sediment downriver." Later in Lacombe, said, "Development has its cost and it also drives economic activity. There are economic impacts of lack of development and there are economic impacts of development, as you saw during the oil spill." On Friday, at Jean Lafitte National Park, Jewell is "scheduled to announce the third and largest phase of 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon early restoration projects for the Gulf Coast."

The Columbus (IN) Republic (12/6, 80K) reports that money for the restoration projects is "coming from $1 billion provided by BP PLC in 2011 as a down payment on coastal restoration." Jewell will also discuss "continuing interagency work to restore natural resources along the Gulf and about the region's importance to President Barack Obama's climate plan."

Also providing coverage are the Denver Post (12/6, 949K), WXVT-TV Greenwood, MS (12/6, 98), and KALB-TV Alexandria, LA (12/6, 1K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA DIRECTS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BOOST USE OF RENEWABLE SOURCES.. The E&E Daily (12/5) reports that President Obama has "more than doubled the government's renewable energy goal," following through on a vow "he made five months ago to combat climate change through executive actions." According to an administration official, "agencies will have to find the money within their own budgets but will have the flexibility to use whatever is most cost-effective for them." The Interior Department is already "planning how to meet the new renewable energy goals." It has combined several methods. More than 4 percent of its renewable energy is generated on site, while 1.5 percent is purchased through a utility company and 2.4 percent comes through renewable energy credits.

Also providing coverage is Politico (12/6, Guillen, 467K).

GREEN GROUPS URGE INTERIOR, EPA, TO REGULATE METHANE. The National Journal (12/6, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that the Environmental Protection Agency is being called on by "a coalition of national and regional environmental organizations and public-health advocates" to "draft regulations to limit methane emissions and asking the Interior Department to tighten existing regulations to control releases of the greenhouse gas." In a letter yesterday sent to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy "the groups say that curbing emissions of the greenhouse gas aligns with president Obama's second-term climate-change agenda." The article notes that "signatories of the letter include Conrad Schneider, advocacy director of the Clean Air Task Force" and "Elizabeth Thompson, vice president for U.S. Climate and Political Affairs for the Environmental Defense Fund."

Also providing coverage is the Washington Post (12/4, Bernstein, 4.28M).

GROUPS CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE OF PARKS AFTER SHUTDOWN. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (12/6, 194K) reports that there is growing concern among groups "over the future of national parks following the closure of the sites during October's government shutdown." The conservation group Environment America is "launching a Facebook campaign" on Thursday urging Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and President Obama to "take swift action on protecting the nation's public lands." Meanwhile, "a new coalition of mayors from US cities will announce their bipartisan effort to support federal funding for improving access to national parks next week."

Also covering the impact of the shutdown on national parks and memorials are the Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald (12/5, 154K) and the International Business Times (12/6, 237K).

ANALYSIS FINDS PUBLIC LANDS EMIT MORE CARBON THAN THEY ABSORB. The E&E Daily (12/5) reports that "public lands emit nearly five times more greenhouse gases than they absorb," according to a new analysis from the Center for American Progress. This is because "there's far more carbon dioxide released from burning coal, oil and natural gas taken from public lands than is absorbed by national forests, grasslands and coastal ecosystems." The group said, "Rather than fulfilling their natural role of absorbing carbon and balancing the carbon cycle, public lands have become one of the largest sources of US carbon emissions as a result of fossil

fuel extraction."

Also providing coverage are the Huffington Post (12/5, Elliott, 11.54M) and the Think Progress (12/5, 117K).

OFFICIALS TRY TO KILL GUAM SNAKES WITH POISONED DEAD MICE. The E&E Daily (12/5) reports that biologists are trying to wipe out an invasive snake in Guam with "dead mice filled with poison." On Monday, "crews distributed mice filled with 80 milligrams of acetaminophen through an aerial bait drop." The objective is for brown tree snakes, "which were introduced to the island six decades ago, to eat the mice and then die."

SECRETARY JEWELL URGED TO SUPPORT PROTECTING STORNETTA PUBLIC LANDS. In an op-ed for the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (12/4, De Graw, 156K), Debra De Graw, chief executive officer of the Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce, notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell recently made a visit to Northern California to hear from the public "on their vision for protecting the Stornetta Public Lands." At a public forum, De Graw told Jewell that "local businesses strongly support presidential action to protect the Stornetta Public Lands by including them in the California Coastal National Monument." She urges Jewell to "take the message she heard in Point Arena back to President Barack Obama" and to urge "the president to act now to protect the Stornetta Public Lands."

COLUMNIST QUESTIONS ENVIRONMENTALISTS' INFLUENCE ON INTERIOR DEPARTMENT. In his column for the Washington Examiner (12/6, Arnold, 319K), Ron Arnold criticizes the NPS for its comments on the BLM's proposed fracking rule. Arnold questions whether Interior Secretary Sally Jewell can "tear the arrogant, insubordinate, power-drunk park lords out of their autonomous concertina-wired fiefdom with its warped allegiances sworn to Big Green, and then convince whatever good people there may be into serving the federal government as they should, pledging allegiance to the United States of America." Arnold contends that that's "Jewell's real job — get Big Green's power agents out of her Interior Department."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF STRANDED PILOT WHALES. The New York Times (12/5, Preston, 9.61M) reports that efforts to lead more than 40 pilot whales caught in the Everglades continued Thursday.

The Los Angeles Times (12/6, Karlamangla, 3.07M) reports that on Thursday, "though one more whale was found dead, no living whales remained in the spot where they were clustered Wednesday." Blair Mase of the NOAA said biologists would be "lucky if we're able to even save a couple" of the remaining pod of approximately 41.

The Boston Herald (12/6, 643K) reports that "pods of 35 pilot whales slowly swam Thursday into deeper water off Florida's southwest coast, raising optimism that the strandings of whales" on Everglades National Park "beaches may soon end on a positive note." NOAA fisheries official Blair Mase said that the "three whale pods were nine miles north of their original location and continuing to move offshore." Mase said, "They are in deeper water, and they are getting closer to their normal home range. Even though we are hopeful, this situation could go either way. There is a chance they could come back inshore again." Mase said the "total of dead whales has reached 11, with five still unaccounted for."

Also providing coverage are the Washington Post (12/6, 4.28M), he New York Times (12/6, Madigan, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), the Los Angeles Times (12/5, Karlamangla, 3.07M), the Chicago Tribune (12/5, Karlamangla, 2.32M), the Boston Globe (12/6, Laboy, Armario, 1.75M), the Christian Science Monitor (12/5, Armario, Laboy, 540K), USA Today (12/5, Atteberry, 5.82M), NPR (12/6, Neuman, 465K), Yahoo! (12/6, Laboy, Armario, 17.91M), WLIO-TV Lima, OH (12/6, 1K), WMGM-TV Wildwood (NJ) NBC 40 (12/6, 2K), WMGM-TV Wildwood (NJ) NBC 40 (12/6, 2K), WJLA-TV Washington (12/6, 118K), WMGM-TV Wildwood (NJ) NBC 40 (12/6, 2K), KUSI-TV San Diego (12/6, 859), WJBK-TV Detroit (12/6, 83K), and WOOD-TV Grand Rapids, MI (12/6, 129K).

JUDGE UPHOLDS YUKON RIVER ARRESTS. WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (12/6, 117K) US District Court Judge Ralph Beistline on Monday ruled the NPS acted properly in arresting 70-year-old Jim Wilde in September 2010

after he refused the orders of two rangers to stop his riverboat in the middle of the Yukon River. In his decision, Beistline wrote, "Like it or not, under the law as it currently exists, the federal government may regulate activity on that portion of the Yukon River that runs through the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, despite the fact that the land under the waterway is owned by the state of Alaska."

Also covering the story is the Alaska Dispatch (12/5, 7K).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK SEES A DROP IN POST-FLOOD VISITORS. The Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette (12/6, 13K) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park saw a large drop in people visiting the park following the devastating mid-September flood. According to information released by the park, the number of visitors to the national park dropped a "staggering 52 percent in September and a whopping 70 percent in October over the same time period last year." The article notes that "there were 427,376 less visitors this year in September and October than in 2012."

NPS SEEKS COMMENTS ON APPALACHIAN TRAIL. The Kingston (NY) Daily Freeman (12/5, 73K) reports that the NPS is launching the process of "preparing a foundation document for planning and managing the Appalachian National Scenic Trail." The agency is seeking public input from Dec. 9 through Jan 9.

CEREMONY TO REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR ATTACK. The Washington Post (12/5, Press, 4.28M) reports that a public ceremony will be held "remembering those who died" in the attack on Pearl Harbor 72 years ago.

Also providing coverage is WJLA-TV Washington (12/6, 118K).

FOREST SERVICE STUDYING PLAN TO REMOVE THOUSANDS OF TREES DAMAGED IN RIM FIRE. The E&E Daily (12/5) reports that the Forest Service is "studying a plan to remove thousands of trees across nearly 30,000 acres" in the Stanislaus National Forest that were destroyed or damaged in September by the Rim fire. The agency will conduct an environmental impact statement to "study the five-year plan to not only remove dead and dying trees in the national forest but also revegetate scorched landscapes, remove burned trees along roughly 390 miles of public roads and build 6 miles of temporary roads needed to haul the dead timber away."

Bureau of Land Management:

COLORADO GOV. HICKENLOOPER SELECTS LEADER FOR SAGE GROUSE PLAN. A story by the AP in the Denver Post (12/6, 949K) reports that Gov. John Hickenlooper has appointed John Swartout, a former head of the Great Outdoors Colorado land conservation organization, to "lead a state effort to preserve the greater sage-grouse and fend off an endangered listing for the bird." Swartout said he "agreed to coordinate state efforts to deal with sage-grouse because he hoped to find a way to preserve the birds and allow for the development of Western Slope economies."

Also providing coverage are KUSA-TV Denver (12/6, 171K) and KMGH-TV Denver (12/6, 30K).

MONTANA STUDIES WAYS TO MANAGE FEDERAL LANDS. The Billings (MT) Gazette (12/6, 206K) reports that "the idea for greater state management of federal lands has caught on in other Western states, including Idaho and California, prompting comparisons to the so-called 'Sagebrush Rebellion' of the late 1970s and early 1980s." However, in an interview, Montana state Sen. Jennifer Fielder said "comparing today's circumstances to the Sagebrush Rebellion marginalizes what is taking place in the West – namely large forest fires, logging projects slowed or halted by court challenges and federal land management plans that have reduced motorized access to some lands." Meanwhile, the BLM and US Forest Service have "had liaisons attending" the Environmental Quality Council's "work group's meetings, mainly to provide information when questions arise."

STUDY FINDS INCREASING DEVELOPMENT ALONG FOREST BOUNDARIES. The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (12/5, 214K) reports that "private development along the edges of most public forests in Oregon and Washington more than doubled since the 1970s," according to a new study conducted by the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station. The study, which "used aerial photography to inventory structures at the fringes of public forests, is the first to look at development trends in the two states before and after the enactment of land use laws." The article notes that "in Oregon, the greatest amount of

development occurred along the edges" of BLM forests.

RESEARCHERS STUDYING DECLINE OF WYOMING ANTELOPE. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/6, 90K) reports that "state and federal wildlife researchers are undertaking a study of antelope populations in south-central Wyoming." Researchers with the BLM, the University of Wyoming, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department are "cooperating on the study of antelope in the Bitter Creek, Baggs and Red Desert herds."

BLM TO HOST TWO SAN PEDRO PLAN MEETINGS. The Willcox (AZ) Range News (12/6, 11K) reports that the BLM will host two public meetings in December to "continue public engagement in the development of a new Resource Management Plan to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (RNCA)."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ARSON INVESTIGATION AT GUNNISON BLM OFFICE. Additional coverage of the investigation into possible vandalism and arson at a BLM office in Gunnison was provided by the Denver Post (12/6, 949K), the Columbus (IN) Republic (12/6, 80K), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (12/6, 51K), and KMGH-TV Denver (12/6, 30K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SEN. WYDEN'S FOREST BILL. Additional coverage of Sen. Ron Wyden's forest bill was provided by the Eugene (OR) Weekly (12/5).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS CONSIDERING PROTECTION FOR 11 TARANTULA SPECIES. The Los Angeles Times (12/5, Cart, 3.07M) reports that the FWS is "considering extending Endangered Species Act protection to 11 tarantula species native to India and Sri Lanka." The creatures, sometimes known as parachute spiders, "are threatened by the international pet trade, where vividly hued spiders can fetch a few hundred dollars apiece. they are imperiled by shrinking habitats and fragmented ranges."

FWS COMPLETES EXAMINATION OF RAPTOR KILLED BY TRUCK. The East County (CA) Magazine (12/6) reports that the FWS has "completed its examination of a raptor euthanized after it was struck by a semi- truck in Boulevard on November 27." The agency has confirmed the species of bird as a red-tailed hawk, and not as a Golden Eagle.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSAL TO EXPAND RANGE OF MEXICAN WOLVES. Additional coverage of the proposal to expand the range of Mexican gray wolves was provided by the Santa Fe New Mexican (12/6, 58K) and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (12/6, 1.26M).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION FINALIZING RULE ON WIND FARMS THAT KILL EAGLES. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (12/6, 194K) reports that the Obama Administration has almost done finalizing "a rule that would give energy companies lengthy permits for wind farms that end up killing bald and golden eagles." Every year "hundreds of thousands of birds are killed...after flying into large wind turbine blades," and it has become "an ongoing saga for the administration this year." On Thursday, "the White House finalized its review...of a rule that would give the farms a 30-year pass for the killings, known as 'takings.'" The specifics of the Department of Interior rule aren't known yet "and it is possible it could be tweaked, though significant changes would be unusual at this stage in the process."

Also providing coverage are the National Journal (12/6, Subscription Publication, 427K), FOX News (12/5, 6.72M) and the Washington Free Beacon (12/6, 37K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: POWER COMPANY OF WYOMING SEEKS EAGLE-KILL PERMIT. Additional coverage of the eagle-kill permit sought by Power Company of Wyoming was provided by the Billings (MT) Gazette (12/6, 206K).

Onshore Energy Development:

USGS SCIENTISTS DEVELOP NEW METHOD TO PREDICT GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION. The Switchboard (12/6, 67K) reports that USGS researchers have developed a new way to "predict where groundwater is likely to be contaminated by salty oil and gas wastewater." USGS scientists are working with the FWS to "monitor areas near important wetlands that are at high risk for groundwater contamination."

DALLAS MORNING NEWS ASKS REGULATORS TO INVESTIGATE TEXAS EARTHQUAKES. The Dallas Morning News (12/6, 1.13M) editorializes on earthquakes in the Eagle Mountain Lake area. The area, containing a "high concentration of natural-gas drilling operations," has experienced an uptick in earthquakes, with 23 recorded in the past month. The editors say "state and federal governments owe it to residents to determine whether this is a purely natural phenomenon or if man-made factors are to blame." The editorial notes that fracking is unlikely to directly cause the quakes, but that the injection wells used to dispose of fracking waste water may be the cause.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM REQUESTS MORE DETAILS FROM SHELL ON ARCTIC PLANS, POLLUTION PERMITS. The E&E Daily (12/5) reports that in a Nov. 29 letter to Royal Dutch Shell PLC, the BOEM asked the firm to "provide more data on its 2014 Chukchi Sea drilling proposal and to prove that Shell has fixed the problems that doomed the firm's troubled 2012 Arctic drilling program." The bureau also "sought a meeting on Shell's air pollution permit data." But "in requesting six pages of new data," the BOEM "conceded that Shell may have already answered some of its questions in a separate 63-page integrated operations plan (IPO) the company submitted Nov. 26."

Nations Rushing To Expand Oil Drilling In The Arctic. The US News & World Report (12/6, Zalan, 620K) reports that "human activity in the Arctic is growing fast, as rising global temperatures have led the frozen polar region to warm faster than expected and become increasingly ice free for longer periods of time." The article notes that "in the last few years, six of the eight Arctic littoral countries – the United States, Russia, Norway, Canada, Denmark and Iceland – have granted energy companies offshore oil and gas exploration licenses." However, "for environmental groups, the harsh environment and potential for accidents are reasons to avoid industrialization of the Arctic altogether."

Expanding Oil Drilling In Arctic Opposed. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (12/6, Van Noppen, 11.54M), Trip Van Noppen, President of Earthjustice, writes that "the failures of Shell Oil's drilling efforts last year demonstrate that industry is not ready to handle Arctic offshore conditions." He argues that "drilling for oil in the Arctic Ocean is the very definition of a risky addiction," and "it also takes take us in the wrong direction when it comes to addressing the challenges of climate change."

Additional Coverage Of Comments Received On Lease Sale For Chukchi Sea. Additional coverage of the comments received by the BOEM on the proposed lease sale for the Chukchi Sea was provided by the Alaska Public Radio Network (12/5, 2K).

OIL INDUSTRY RENEWS PUSH FOR ATLANTIC OFFSHORE DRILLING . SNL Financial (12/6, 22K) reports that according to a report released for the American Petroleum Institute this week by Quest Offshore Resources, "drilling for oil and gas in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf could contribute as much as $24 billion per year to the US economy." The report said that by 2035, offshore gas and oil development could yield "an additional 1.3 million barrels of oil equivalent per day of oil and natural gas, generate 280,000 jobs, generate $51 billion in cumulative government revenue, and inject approximately $24 billion per year into the economy." API upstream and industry operations director Erik Milito said Atlantic oil and gas reserves are "a potential gold mine." He continued, "Developing oil and natural gas in the Atlantic could put hundreds of thousands of Americans to work, make us more energy-secure and bring in needed revenue for the government. But none of these benefits will appear unless the federal government follows pro-development energy policies."

Upstream Online (12/6, 20K) reports on the Quest study as well, noting that the American Petroleum Institute "envisages production of up to 1.35 million barrels of oil equivalent per day by 2035." This assumes that leasing would begin in the area in 2018.

The Oil and Gas Journal (12/6, 1K) reports response to the Quest study as well. American Petroleum Institute upstream and industry operations director Erik Milito said, "economic benefits of opening the US Atlantic OCS to oil and gas activity would be felt nationally." However, he cautioned, "none of these economic benefits will occur unless the federal government adopts a different strategy. The only question is whether it will open the door to more jobs, more economic growth, and more domestic energy production from the Atlantic OCS."

The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (12/5, 475K) reports that according to data released by the American Petroleum Institute on Thursday, "North Carolina could gain 55,000 jobs, and nearly $4 billion in revenue," if Atlantic Ocean offshore drilling occurred. The API noted the majority of these jobs would come from service industry workers that would support energy industry workers coming to the area. API also projected the state would "qualify for $885 million in annual rents and royalties, or nearly $4 billion from 2017 to 2035."

Also providing coverage is the Rigzone (12/6, 12K) .

BP LEADS EFFORTS TO EXPAND DEEP WATER DRILLING. The AP (12/5) reports that BP is exploring technology to let it retrieve oil from areas "so deep under the sea floor, and under such high pressure and temperature, that conventional equipment would melt or be crushed." Last year CEO Bob Dudley told colleagues that BP "thought very carefully before re-committing the company to the deep water following the 2010 accident." Since the 2010 spill BP's "production is down 21 percent...and its share price is 22 percent lower." BP needs to produce more oil, and exploring the Tiber, a BP oil field 35,000 feet below the sea floor is part of that, and why BP is developing these new technologies. The Tiber rests in the Lower Tertiary a formation now being explored by "by Exxon, Chevron, Shell and others."

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (12/6, 700K) reports that "new equipment, including blowout preventers far stronger than the one that failed on the Deepwater Horizon, must be developed," and "then BP must convince regulators it can tap this oil safely." According to the article, "another disaster could threaten BP's existence, but success could restore the company's fortunes – and perhaps its reputation."

RESEARCHERS TO STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF GULF. The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (12/6, 24K) reports that researchers from the Center for Natural Resource Economics and Policy in the LSU AgCenter Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness have won a "three-year award of more than $750,000 to study the value of the environmental monitoring system in the Gulf of Mexico." The award was made through the LSU Coastal Marine Institute, a partnership between LSU and the BOEM, with funding shared equally.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NORTH CAROLINA GOV. MCCRORY SEEKS TO OPEN OFFSHORE DRILLING. Additional coverage of North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory's push for offshore energy exploration was provided by the Greenville (NC) Daily Reflector (12/6, 59K) and the Sanford (NC) Herald (12/6, 22K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SETTLEMENT WITH BOEM SCIENTIST. Additional coverage of the settlement with Charles Monnett was provided by the Juneau (AK) Empire (12/5, 21K), the Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (12/6, 44K), the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (12/5, 506), the Alaska Dispatch (12/4, 7K), WRIC-TV Richmond, VA (12/6, 13K), KTIV-TV Sioux City, IA (12/6, 2K), and WNEW-FM Washington (12/5).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

AGREEMENT SIGNED TO SHARE WATER IN UPPER KLAMATH. . The E&E Daily (12/5) reports that state and federal officials has "agreed to a water-sharing deal in the Upper Klamath Basin." Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber and BOR Commissioner Michael Connor signed the agreement. Under the agreement, "ranchers along the Wood, Williamson and Sprague rivers would cut their water use to help provide irrigation for farmers downstream," and "in turn, the Klamath Tribes would not cut off irrigation to ranchers."

Additional coverage was provided by the Bend (OR) Bulletin (12/6, 94K), the Dalles (OR) Chronicle (12/5, 40K), and the Red Bluff (CA) Daily News (12/6, 20K).

STATE AUDITOR WARNS SALTON SEA COULD BECOME FINANCIAL SINKHOLE. The U-T San Diego (12/5, 647K) reports that "the Legislature's efforts to 'save' the Salton Sea...have gone virtually nowhere in the past decade, unless one counts the millions of dollars that have been spent on personnel and consultants," according to a recent report by State Auditor Elaine Howle. The report noted, "Although the Resources Agency identified various alternatives in 2007, none of them has been fully funded which may be due to the high costs of the alternatives presented — ranging from $2.3 billion to $8.9 billion to construct."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Fresno (CA) Bee (12/5, 327K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBAL LEADERS SAY CLIMATE CHANGE IS PRIORITY. On behalf of Idaho Tribe, Nez Perce Councilman and Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Natural Resource Committee Chairman, Brooklyn Baptist and Alaska Tribe, Akiak Native Community Councilman Mike Williams writes in the Indian Country Today Media Network (12/5, 21K), that at the 2013 White House Tribal Leaders Conference, tribal leaders "raised climate change as a top priority of Native Nations." Williams presses the Obama Administration for "something even bolder, something that enables tribes a fair opportunity to tackle climate disruption, something to meet this grave threat on its terms, something that will also keep with the trust responsibility." He says that "an intertribal interagency task force on climate resilience and preparedness must be established to address the United States' treaty and trust responsibilities to place-based nations."

INDIAN LAW AND ORDER COMMISSION REPORT CRITICIZES ALASKA. The Alaska Public Radio Network (12/5, 2K) reports that on Wednesday at the BIA Providers' Conference, three members of the Indian Law and Order Commission discussed "the findings of their report to Congress and the President, a report that singles out Alaska for criticism."

CATAWBA TRIBE PUSHES FOR LAND PURCHASE, CASINO. The Charlotte (NC) Observer (12/5, 713K) reports that the Catawba Indian tribe "says a 1993 settlement allows the federal government to designate land in North Carolina as a reservation, the first step toward building a new casino in Cleveland County that has spurred fierce opposition from Republican and Democratic leaders." The assertion is made in the tribe's application to the BIA to "put the noncontiguous lands in federal trust as part of its right to a 3,600-acre reservation."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HEARING ON MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE'S PROPOSED CASINO. Additional coverage of the hearing held by the BIA on a proposed casino by the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe was provided by the Taunton (MA) Gazette (12/6, 36K) and the Fall River (MA) Herald News (12/6, 116K).

Top National News:

OBAMA PRAISES MANDELA AS WORLD MOURNS HIS PASSING AT AGE 95. The death of former South African president Nelson Mandela at the age of 95 is the subject of extensive print and broadcast coverage. Mandela's death was the lead story on all three network news broadcasts, which dedicated nearly an hour of total coverage to the story on extended-length programs. Much of the coverage focuses on President Obama's reaction to Mandela's death and the influence the South African leader has had on the President dating back to his college years.

NBC Nightly News (12/5, story 2, 0:30, Williams, 7.86M) reported that Obama reacted to Mandela's death during "an emotional appearance late today...in the White House Briefing Room." ABC World News (12/5, story 2, 1:35, Marquardt, 7.43M) reported that the President "spoke about the profound effect Mandela had on his own life." Obama: "We've lost one of the most influential, courageous and profoundly good human beings that any of us will share time with on this earth. He no longer belongs to us. He belongs to the ages." ABC showed a picture of the President as a college student protesting apartheid on campus and noted that the President said "that was the moment that Mandela 'gave him a sense of what is possible in this world, sending a jolt of electricity through his homeland but also this nation, America, founded on equality for all.'"

The CBS Evening News (12/5, story 2, 1:10, Pelley, 5.58M) also reported on the President's reaction to

Mandela's death, showing a clip of the President saying, "Through his dignity and unbending will to sacrifice his own freedom for the freedom of others, Madiba transformed South Africa and moved all of us." CBS noted that the President "used the word 'Madiba,'" which is "an honorary title which translates as 'father.'" CBS added that according to the White House, the President "plans to attend the state funeral in South Africa," which is "likely to be in about 10 days."

In another story, ABC World News (12/5, story 3, 3:40, Pitts, 7.43M) examined Mandela's influence in the US, noting that his rise "inspired a young politician from Illinois." Then-Sen. Obama "visited his cell on Robben Island when his destiny was still a dream."

Bloomberg News (12/6, Talev, Goldman, 1.91M) reports that the President called Mandela's "life and legacy a touchstone for him and an example 'that all humanity should aspire to.'" The President joined a chorus of gold leaders "in paying tribute to Mandela," noting that "he was 'one of the countless millions who drew inspiration from Mandela's life. So long as I live, I will do what I can to learn from him.'" Reflecting on "Mandela's achievement in standing up to the apartheid government of South Africa, going to jail and emerging to continue a quest for reconciliation and equality," the President said, "His commitment to transfer power and reconcile with those who jailed him set an example that all humanity should aspire to, whether in the lives of nations or our own personal lives. ... He achieved more than can be expected of any man."

Politico (12/6, Dovere, 467K) reports that the President "addressed part of his remarks" to the people of South Africa, "praising them for being an example to the world of 'renewal and reconciliation and resilience.'"

Reuters (12/6, Mason, Holland) reports that the President said of Mandela, "Today he's gone home, and we've lost one of the most influential, courageous and profoundly good human beings that any of us will share time with on this earth."

USA Today (12/6, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that the President "said he has studied Mandela's writings throughout his career in government," noting, "Like so many around the globe, I cannot fully imagine my own life without the example that Nelson Mandela set. ... And so long as I live I will do what I can to learn from him."

The Los Angeles Times (12/6, Hennessey, Parsons, 3.07M) reports that the President said that "his first experience with political activism – 'the first thing I ever did that involved an issue or policy or politics' – was a college protest against apartheid." Said the President, "I would study his words and his writings. The day he was released from prison it gave me a sense of what human beings can do when they're guided by their hopes and not by their fears."

The AP (12/6, Pace) reports that while they met in person only once, the President's "political rise has drawn inevitable comparisons" to Mandela, with whom he "shares the distinction of being his nation's first black president."

Analyses Note Mandela's Influence On Obama. A New York Times (12/6, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) analysis reports that the President conveyed the "strong impression" that without Mandela "there might never have been a President Obama." The President's "political and personal bonds to Mr. Mandela," notes the Times, "transcended their single face-to-face meeting." While they met only once, "the trajectories of the two leaders, who broke political and social barriers in their own countries, were destined to be connected, even if mostly from afar."

A Washington Post (12/6, Wilson, 4.28M) analysis also notes Mandela's influence on the President, reporting that as a sophomore at Occidental College, he helped "lead the student push for the Southern California college to divest from companies doing business in apartheid South Africa." Thirty-three years later, as President, he "memorialized Mandela from behind a podium far from those heady student-led strategy sessions at Occidental." The President "located the very start of his long walk to the Oval Office...in the inspiration set by Mandela."

An analysis in Politico (12/6, Epstein, 467K) notes that while the President looked to Mandela "for inspiration for more than three decades," most of that inspiration "happened from afar." When they met in Washington in 2005, "Mandela's career was near its end, and Obama's ascent just beginning," but "the moment made an impression on the former South African president, who kept a photo signed by the future U.S. president on his desk even

before Obama made it to the White House." However, Obama's election to the presidency "coincided with the decline in Mandela's health, and the two men were never able to build the kind of relationship they both might have hoped for."

Lawmakers React To Mandela's Death. Medill News Service (12/6, Oprihory) reports on reactions from members of Congress to Mandela's death, noting that lawmakers including Senate Minority Leader McConnell, House Speaker Boehner, House Minority Leader Pelosi, and Sen. Patrick Leahy commented in statements and interviews about Mandela's leadership and personal presence, and offered their recollections of the former South African President. Politico (12/6, Gibson, 467K) publishes a similar story on the "outpouring of mourning and reflection on Capitol Hill."

President Clinton: Mandela Chose "Politics Of Inclusion." In a lengthy follow-up story, the CBS Evening News (12/5, story 9, 3:35, Pelley, 5.58M) spoke to former President Clinton about his relationship with Mandela. Asked about "Mandela's achievement," Clinton said, "He built a genuine multiracial democracy in South Africa. When he could have had a one party state and shut everybody else out. When he could have had the politics of resentment, he chose the politics of inclusion. It is the only thing that works it is the only thing that is working in American communities today."

Mandela Eulogized As An Influential Symbol Of Racial Reconciliation. There are extensive broadcast and print eulogies of Mandela this morning nearly all of which describe his rise from imprisoned anti-apartheid activist to the South African presidency, and examine his influence on his own country and the world.

In its lead story, ABC World News (12/5, lead story, 6:00, Sawyer, 7.43M) described Mandela as "the man who taught the modern world you can transform anger into hope" has died. ABC (Roberts) noted that "for the people of South Africa, Mandela's release" from a South African prison "ushered in a new era of hope and the end of apartheid." A separate ABC World News (12/5, story 5, 1:10, Stephanopoulos, 7.43M) story examined Mandela's influence on the entire world, noting that he "changed the world through power of example." In another story, ABC World News (12/5, story 4, 2:55, Muir, 7.43M) spoke with Christo Brand, Mandela's jailer on Robben Island, who "became his most unlikely friend."

NBC Nightly News (12/5, lead story, 0:55, Williams, 7.86M) reported in its lead story that South African President Jacob Zuma "went on live television and broke the sad news to his country." Zuma: "Fellow South Africans, our beloved Nelson Mandela, the founding president of our democratic nation, has departed." In a separate story, NBC Nightly News (12/5, story 3, 2:20, Williams, 7.86M) noted that Zuma "broke the news to the nation and broke the hearts of millions of South Africans," because while the news "was entirely predictable," given Mandela's age and failing health, "it was still incredibly painful." The CBS Evening News (12/5, lead story, 2:45, Patta, 5.58M) reported that there "is going to be a call for unprecedented mourning in South Africa."

AFP (12/6) reports that in his "somber statement," Zuma said, "Our people have lost a father. Although we knew that this day would come, nothing can diminish our sense of a profound and enduring loss." Zuma noted that Mandela's "tireless struggle for freedom earned him the respect of the world." Reuters (12/5) publishes the full text of Zuma's statement.

The Washington Post (12/6, Raghavan, Duke, 4.28M) reports that Mandela's "heroic life and towering moral stature made him one of history's most influential statesmen."

The New York Times (12/6, Keller, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) calls Mandela "an international emblem of dignity and forbearance."

The Wall Street Journal (12/6, A1, Wonacott, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that became a symbol of racial reconciliation around the world.

The AP (12/6, Torchia, Eliason) calls Mandela "a master of forgiveness," noting that after spending "nearly one-third of his life as a prisoner of apartheid," he "sought to win over its defeated guardians in a relatively peaceful transition of power that inspired the world."

USA Today (12/6, Welch, 5.82M) calls Mandela "a global symbol for the cause of human rights," whose struggle

against apartheid "earned him the Nobel Prize." USA today adds that his "charisma, stoic optimism and conciliation toward adversaries and oppressors established him as one of the world's most recognizable statesmen of the 20th century and a hero of South African democracy."

The Hill (12/6, Swanson, Shabad, 194K) reports that while Mandela is "deeply revered in the U.S. and internationally for bringing about a largely peaceful transformation of South Africa," for "much of his life he was a deeply controversial figure in the U.S. for his backing of violence to end apartheid."

The Los Angeles Times (12/6, Dixon, Drogin, Kraft, 3.07M) reports that Mandela was an "inspiration to millions of blacks seeking to end" apartheid long before his release from prison in 1990.

The Christian Science Monitor (12/6, Flood, 540K) reports that Africa "has lost its most important elder statesman, and someone whose moral stature and leadership were a powerful mover of history for more than five decades."

Mandela's Death Said To Leave South Africa Without Its "Moral Center." A separate story in the New York Times (12/6, Polgreen, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Mandela's death leaves South Africa "without its moral center at a time of growing dissatisfaction with the country's leaders." It comes "during a period of deep unease and painful self-examination for South Africa." Over the last 18 months, South Africa has faced "its most serious unrest since the end of apartheid, provoked by a wave of wildcat strikes by angry miners, a deadly response on the part of the police, a messy leadership struggle within the A.N.C. and the deepening fissures between South Africa's rulers and its impoverished masses."

The Wall Street Journal (12/6, McGroarty, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the ANC is divided over how to move South Africa forward. While some in the ANC favor Mandela's vision for nonracial society, others want to create a society that benefits those who were deprived.

USA Today (12/6, Wood, 5.82M) reports that according to John Kane-Berman, the head of the South African Institute of Race Relations, "there are enormous divisions within the ANC," and "the party could eventually split." Meanwhile, Mamphele Ramphele, who "launched a new political party, Agang, a Sotho word for 'Build.'" says "the ANC is corrupt and incompetent." he argues that the ANC "has failed miserably on education as only 30% of blacks obtain the qualifications for university admission." USA Today adds that the "most tangible alternative to the ANC" may be "the moderate Democratic Alliance headed by former investigative reporter Helen Zille," who "predicts the alliance will displace the ANC as the ruling party by 2019."

More Commentary. There is near-universal praise for Mandela on this morning's opinion pages. While there is some discussion of the problems facing South Africa since he left office, editorials, columns, and op-eds alike describe Mandela as one of the great leaders of the 20th Century. An editorial in the Washington Post (12/6, 4.28M) likens Mandela to Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., who it describes as "leaders who had no real armies to speak of and who wielded little power in office but who helped create a new ethic through the power of their ideas and the example of their lives."

A Wall Street Journal (12/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorial notes Mandela's leftist politics but describes him as a wise leader who Africa and the world were lucky to have.

In an editorial, the New York Times (12/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) describes Mandela as "one of the most extraordinary liberation leaders Africa, or any other continent, ever produced." Noting that South Africa now faces "many challenging problems," the Times says solving them "will be up to a new generation of South African leaders," all of whom "owe a historic debt to Nelson Mandela."

A USA Today (12/5, 5.82M) editorial argues that Mandela should be listed alongside Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Mohandas Gandhi, and Martin Luther King Jr., as a nominee "for greatest man of the 20th century." However, whether his "legacy can endure remains an open question." Since he left South Africa's presidency, the office "has been held by a succession of lackluster men, and so the deep problems left behind by apartheid have festered." USA Today notes that South Africa needs "another Mandela," but "such leaders are the rarest of things."

In an op-ed for the Huffington Post (12/3, Bush, 11.54M), former President George H.W. Bush praises Mandela as "one of the great moral leaders" during a "hopeful and transformative era of global change."

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (12/6, 4.28M), Paul Taylor, who served as The Post's bureau chief in South Africa from 1992 to 1995, writes that while Mandela's "saintly virtues" were "admirable," they "don't begin to explain his political genius." Taylor notes that Mandela was also "cunning, iron-willed, bull-headed, contemptuous – and more embittered than he let on," and adds that he "needed all of his traits...to engineer a political miracle: persuading a sitting government to negotiate its own abdication by yielding power to the very people it had ruthlessly oppressed."

In an op-ed for USA Today (12/5, Branson, 5.82M), author and journalist Louise Branson, who grew up in Idi Amin's Uganda, writes that the South African politicians "who have followed Mandela have not been in his mold – even as they have paid lip service to him." Branson notes that the ANC "is riven with rivalries and scandals" and South Africa "is a volatile, high-crime country." She argues that South Africans should "channel their grief" by working "to preserve the unique ways in which Mandela's life has shaped their country and its young narrative."

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (12/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Juan Williams, a political analyst for Fox News and a columnist for The Hill, recalls his interview with Mandela, noting that Mandela referred to some of his white prison guards as friends. Williams describes Mandela's ability to rise above racial divisions as his greatest gift to the world.

In an op-ed for the New York Times (12/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama praises Mandela's insistence on forgiveness after his release from prison, noting that his example "showed Africa that if we were to move beyond the divisiveness caused by colonization, and the pain of our self-inflicted wounds, compassion and forgiveness must play a role in governance."

In an op-ed for the New York Times (12/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Zakes Mda, a professor of creative writing at Ohio University, recalls when Mandela and his father, who helped found the African National Congress Youth League, would debate African nationalism. Mda notes that Mandela "leaves a proud legacy of freedom and human rights, of tolerance and reconciliation," but laments the fact that "some of his compatriots are trampling on it."

NEGOTIATORS CLOSE TO "MODEST" BUDGET DEAL. The New York Times (12/6, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that House and Senate negotiators on Thursday "closed in" on a "modest" budget deal that could "break the cycle of fiscal crises and brinkmanship" that has "hampered the economic recovery" and tanked Congress' approval ratings. However, negotiators "encountered last-minute resistance from House Democratic leaders who said any deal should be accompanied by an extension of expiring unemployment benefits." However, it was not clear "how serious a threat the demand posed to a deal" that has been "largely worked out" by Senate Budget Chair Patty Murray and House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan.

On its front page, the Wall Street Journal (12/6, Hook, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the proposed two-year deal would see spending of about $1 trillion over each of the next two years, splitting the difference between the House and the Senate. However, the precise details are not yet finalized. Those familiar with the talks say that the deal would not contain any serious changes, but would use targeted changes to offset some sequestration cuts.

Politico (12/6, Sherman, Bresnahan, 467K) reports that Ryan and Murray "are only a few billion dollars in budgetary savings away from a deal that would set spending levels and blunt the impact of across-the-board spending cuts for the next two years," but "hurdles remain." The two will "work through the weekend" to try and sort out the situation in time for action before the House adjourns on December 13. The plan would include no new taxes, but some increase in fees, such as those on airline tickets.

Bloomberg News (12/5, Przybyla, Cook, 1.91M) reports that the deal "is drawing protests from Democrats and also from groups including federal employees, who could contribute more to their pensions under the proposal, and airlines, which could face higher fees." Meanwhile, some Republicans are concerned that the deal "will replace spending cuts set in law with promises of future savings that might not be realized."

The AP (12/6, Taylor) also describes the potential deal as "modest" and warns that the "going is getting rougher." In particular, the AP cites a pledge Thursday by House Minority Leader Pelosi to "withhold support from any compromise to ease across-the-board cuts until Republicans also agree to renew expiring unemployment benefits for America's long-term jobless."

However, The Hill (12/6, Lillis, 194K) reports that Pelosi on Thursday was "softening" her comments on jobless benefits. She said at her weekly press conference that the benefits should be part of the deal, but if they were not "it could also be considered as separate legislation." Asked if she could back a budget without it, Pelosi said, "Within itself, yes. Except – but I do still want to see an unemployment bill."

In another negative story, the Washington Post (12/6, Raum, 4.28M) reports that historically, bipartisan budget panels don't have great records. Since the end of World War II, the Post reports, "more than a dozen high-profile bipartisan panels have convened to tackle the nation's thorniest fiscal problems" but "seldom have their recommendations spurred congressional action." While current negotiators "believe they may be able to reach some kind of deal," history is "not on their side."

Three Conservatives Push For Clean CR. Politico (12/6, Sherman, 467K) reports that three "well-respected" House Republicans, Reps. Jim Jordan, Mick Mulvaney, and Steve Scalise, are pushing the leadership "to pass a government funding bill at the low sequester level most in the GOP are trying to avoid." They argue that Democrats "would prefer a government shutdown to voting for low spending mandated by law and that the minority would want a government shutdown to distract from Obamacare's woes."

THIRD-QUARTER GDP REVISED UPWARD TO 3.6% RATE. Bloomberg News (12/6, Stilwell, 1.91M) reports that the Commerce Department on Thursday issued its second look at third-quarter GDP growth, sharply revising it upward from an originally reported 2.8% rate to a 3.6% rate. That's the "strongest since the first quarter of 2012," and well above economists' expectations of a 3.1% rate. The increase was driven by "the biggest increase in inventories since early 1998," though consumer spending fell. Commerce will release its final look at Q3 GDP on December 20.

The New York Times (12/6, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the Q3 growth "marked the best quarter for growth since the first quarter of 2012, when output jumped by 3.7 percent," and also "marked the first time since then that growth had exceeded 3 percent." The Times says the improvement came primary from inventory growth "as well as a slightly improved trade picture." However, the Times warns that inventory changes are "notoriously volatile," and gains can "pull growth forward into the third quarter, causing fourth-quarter gains to slacken."

USA Today (12/6, Mullaney, 5.82M) reports that the "revision to estimates of final demand – the value of goods and services people actually use now – fell slightly, to a 1.9% annual rate from 2.0% in the first estimate." Inventories "added 1.68 percentage points to growth, the Commerce Department said, twice as much as first estimated." USA Today says that economists "were divided in their reaction to the news."

The Wall Street Journal (12/6, Morath, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) also warns that inventories are likely to rise at a slower pace or drop in the fourth quarter, potentially slowing economic growth. The Journal adds that forecasters from Macroeconomic Advisers expect Q4 growth to come in at a 1.4% rate.

Jobless Claims Down To Lowest Level In Months. Bloomberg News (12/6, Smialek, 1.91M) reports that new jobless claims fell 23,000 last week to 298,000 for the week ending November 30, according to new data released by the Department of Labor on Thursday. That's the "lowest level in more than two months as the data becomes more difficult to adjust for seasonal variations during the year-end holiday period." Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expected claims to come in at 320,000. The four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 322,250 to 333,000.

The AP (12/6, Boak) reports that claims are nearing a "six year-low" which shows "companies are laying off fewer workers." Claims "have now fallen in seven of the past eight weeks, a hopeful sign for job growth at the end of the year." Reuters (12/6) reports that a Labor analyst said that there were no special factors impacting the report, though estimates around the holidays are challenging.

Mortgage Rates Jumped This Week. Bloomberg News (12/6, Gopal, 1.91M) reports that mortgage rates rose to their highest level since September this week, according to new data from Freddie Mac, "as investors speculated that the Federal Reserve will slow bond purchases aimed at keeping borrowing costs down." The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage rose from 4.29% to 4.46%, while the rate on a 15-year note rose to 3.47% from 3.3%. Rates "have climbed from a near-record lows in May as the Fed weighs how soon it should scale back its stimulus."

Consumer Confidence Up Last Week. Bloomberg News (12/5, Woellert, 1.91M) reports that its Consumer Comfort Index rose to minus 31.3 for the four-week period ending December 1, from minus 33.7 the prior week. That's the highest level since October 6, "almost erasing declines caused by the 16-day partial federal government shutdown in October." Bloomberg says that an "improving job market and widespread discounting by retailers may be making lower-income households more upbeat at the start of the holiday-shopping season."

Stocks Continue To Decline. The Wall Street Journal (12/6, Dieterich, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that stocks on Thursday fell for the fifth consecutive session because of concern that the positive economic news may nudge the Fed to begin tapering its stimulus earlier than expected. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 68.26 points to 15,821.51, while the S&P 500 fell 7.78 points to 1,785.03. the Nasdaq Composite Index, meanwhile, fell 4.84 points to 4,033.16.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Nelson Mandela."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (12/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) describes Mandela as "one of the most extraordinary liberation leaders Africa, or any other continent, ever produced." Noting that South Africa now faces "many challenging problems," the Times says solving them "will be up to a new generation of South African leaders," all of whom "owe a historic debt to Nelson Mandela."

"Money To Fight Global Diseases." The New York Times (12/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes, "Donor nations have pledged $12 billion over the next three years to a global fund that finances programs to curb three devastating infectious diseases in mostly poor or low-income countries." That "falls short of the $15 billion goal set by the fund's leaders, but is nevertheless a vote of confidence in the programs at a time when many nations face fiscal constraints." However, "it was disappointing that other donors failed to pledge enough money to take full advantage of an offer by the United States, the largest single donor to the fund," to "contribute $1 for every $2 contributed by other donors."

"The De Blasio Team Takes Shape." The New York Times (12/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that in NYPD commissioner nominee William Bratton and deputy mayor-designate Anthony Shorris, New York Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio, "who has promised a new vision for New York, has appointed two familiar, seasoned veterans to help him manage the nation's largest city government."

"Heroines At The Box Office."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Remembering Mandela."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (12/6, 4.28M) likens Nelson Mandela to Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., who it describes as "leaders who had no real armies to speak of and who wielded little power in office but who helped create a new ethic through the power of their ideas and the example of their lives."

"Christie's Broken Dream." In an editorial, the Washington Post (12/6, 4.28M) criticizes New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for backing away from his support for "tuition equality" for illegal immigrants. His backing of the idea, the Post says, "was born Oct. 12 and lasted through his Nov. 5 reelection victory, when he managed to win just more than half the Hispanic vote." However, it "died abruptly on Nov. 25," as Christie moved beyond his reelection bid and toward "his preparations for the 2016 Republican primaries. On to Iowa!"

"Did The Police Do Their Job?" The Washington Post (12/6, 4.28M) editorializes that the ongoing investigation into the October 3 shooting of Miriam Carey by police should be conducted in a manner "most transparent to the public." The Post say whether there were non-lethal means of addressing Carey's actions, and whether better training could have helped police deal with her mental problems, are among the questions that must be publicly

shared.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Nelson Mandela."*** A Wall Street Journal (12/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorial notes Nelson Mandela's leftist politics but describes him as a wise leader that Africa and the world were lucky to have.

"Apple's Star Chamber." The Wall Street Journal (12/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that the Justice Department's prosecution of antitrust charges against Apple has become particularly unfair. The appointment of a special prosecutor who is essentially re-investigating Apple, rather than monitoring its compliance with the court's judgment as it appeals the case, is a violation of the Constitution. Particularly objectionable is the special prosecutor's personal ties with the Federal district court judge overseeing the case and his lack of expertise in antitrust law. The article calls for the appeals court reviewing the judgment to remove the district court judge from the case.

"Britain's Laffer Curve." The Wall Street Journal (12/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that Britain's reduction in its corporate tax rates has been offset by the additional revenue from extra investment and productivity gained from the tax rate reduction. The UK Treasury estimated that extra growth would enable the government to recoup 45 to 60 percent of the lost tax revenue. The article recommended that the Obama Administration pursue this rather than focusing on income redistribution.

"East Asian Blurred Lines."

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Budget Pact Comes Into View
Nelson Mandela Dies at 95

New York Times:
Nelson Mandela, South Africa's Liberator as Prisoner and President, Dies at 95
Bratton to Lead New York Police For Second Time
Congress Nears Modest Accord On The Budget
California City's Return to Solvency, With Pension Problem Unsolved
China Pressures U.S. Journalists, Prompting Warning From Biden
In the Murky World of Bitcoin, Fraud Is Quicker Than The Law

Washington Post:
Nelson Mandela Dies; Former President Of South Africa Was 95
For 2014, GOP May Elect To Be Cautious
World Court accused Of Bias Against Africans
Gray, An Incumbent Playing Catch-Up
'He No Longer Belongs To Us; He Belongs To The Ages'

Financial Times:
Nelson Mandela Dies
Volcker Rule Leaves Regulation Grey Area
Companies In Post-IPO Share Sale Rush
'Double Irish' limits Facebook Tax Bill
CIA-Backed Palantir Valued At $9bn
Dollar Constrained By Fed Full Of Doves

Washington Times:
Increase In Battlefield Deaths Linked To New Rules Of Engagement
After Changing S. Africa And World, Mandela Ides At 95

Supporters Encourage Obama To Act On His Own Authority
Business Takes On Tea Party In GOP Elections
Feds Bailed On Solaria, The Anti-Solyndra

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Nelson Mandela-Death; Mandela Death-President Zuma; Mandela Death- US Impact; Mandela-Jailer; Mandela-Global Impact.
CBS: Mandela Death-Mourning; Mandela Death-Obama Reaction; Mandela-History; Benghazi-American Shot; Winter Storm; Pope-Sexual Abuse Protection; Mandela-American Teacher; Mandela-Clinton
NBC: Nelson Mandela Death; Mandela-Obama; Nelson Mandela Death; Nelson Mandela Death; Nelson Mandela Biography; Mandela-Biographer; Mandela-Tom Brokaw; Winter Storm; Fast-Food Workers Protest; Nelson Mandela Death

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Nelson Mandela Death; Fast Food Worker Strike; Winter Storm; Economy Growth Rate; Job Increase.
CBS: Nelson Mandela Death; Winter Storm; Unemployment Numbers; Benghazi-American Shot; Measles Outbreak; No Charges For Florida Attorney.
NPR: Nelson Mandela Death; Syria-Chemical Weapons; Winter Storm; Europe-Severe Storm; Los Angeles-Sues Wells Fargo; US-Israel Relations; French Troops To Africa.
FOX: Nelson Mandela Death; Mandela-Obama Reaction; Winter Storm; Congress-Budget Talks; NCAA-Jameis Winston Case; Paul Walker Wreckage Stolen; Obama-End Of Hanukkah Celebration; Health-Exercise; Wall Street.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; attends the National Christmas Tree Lighting on the Ellipse.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – No public schedule.
US Senate: No public schedule.
US House: 10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – FIELD HEARING – Full committee hearing on "ObamaCare Implementation, The Broken Promise: If You Like Your Current Plan You Can Keep It." Location: City Council Chambers, City of Apache Junction, AZ.
Other: LANTOS PRIZE – HILLARY CLINTON – The Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice awards the 2013 Lantos Human Rights Prize to former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Press who wish to cover the ceremony should contact Kate Ray at kate@rabinowitz.com or 202-265-3000.

WILSON CENTER – BIDEN IN ASIA – "Biden in Asia: Clearing the Air?" Introduction: Jane Harman, Director, President and CEO, The Wilson Center. Participants: Ambassador Jounyung Sun, Professor at the University of North Korean Studies, Seoul, and is also currently the Vice President and CEO of the United Nations Association for the Republic of Korea. Ambassador Sun served as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Deputy Foreign Minister for Trade, and South Korea's Ambassador to the United Nations, Switzerland, and Czechoslovakia; Dr. Yoshihide Soeya, Director of the Institute of East Asian Studies and Professor on the Faculty of Law at Keio University and Wilson Center Scholar, Professor Zheng Wang, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University and former Wilson Center Scholar. Moderator: Robert Daly, Director, Kissinger Institute on China and the United States, The Wilson Center. Toll-Free Conference Line: 888 947 9018 (Domestic), Conference Line: 1-517 308 9006 (International), Passcode: 13304.

VETERANS CONFERENCE – Acting Deputy Secretary of Education Jim Shelton delivers remarks at National Conference of State Legislatures Fall Forum.

U.S.-RUSSIA BUSINESS COUNCIL BRIEFING – Briefing with RF Minister of Energy Alexander Novak hosted by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Minister Novak will be in Washington, DC, for a meeting of the Bilateral

Presidential Commission's Energy Working Group and will update USRBC members on those meetings as well as the Russian government's outlook for the energy sector and its energy efficiency program in particular. Location: Robert S. Strauss Building, Tenth Floor 1333 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. 2 p.m.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The Washington Post has new details about the NSA and how they're monitoring us. The NSA collects almost five billion records a day that can pinpoint a cell phone anywhere in the world, track its movements and map the personal relationships of the person using it. This is interesting. I'll tell you what this means. You know the crazy people that wear the tinfoil hats because they think the government is tracking them? Turns out they were right."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Maybe I'm oversimplifying it but how is it possible that they can track every cell phone in the world but can't build a healthcare website. Maybe they should put the NSA in charge of Obamacare."

Conan O'Brien: "Funny story out of the White House. You probably heard about this. At a White House holiday party, the Obamas' dog, Sonny, reportedly knocked over a small child. Went up and knocked over a small child so although President Obama's approval rating is down to 40 percent, he's now number one on YouTube. The child is fine."

Conan O'Brien: "Earlier today, Vice President Joe Biden arrived in South Korea to talk to the people there. Yeah, first time ever people from South Korea have tried to sneak into North Korea."

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Re: 7:30pm PST: WGA and Sage Grouse Prep

Edward Boling <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov> Sun, Dec 8, 2013 at 7:08 PM
To: Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, [redacted]@ios.doi.gov", [redacted]ios.doi.gov>, Neil Komze <nkomze@blm.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Dan Ashe <d_rn_ashe@fws.gov>

I'm not scheduled to travel to this WGA. I can call in as necessary.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 8, 2013, at 7:05 PM, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> You have been invited to the following event.
>
> Title: 7:30pm PST: WGA and Sage Grouse Prep
> When: Wed Dec 11, 2013 10:30pm – 11:30pm Eastern Time
> Where: Location TBD (likely at the SOI Hotel or Team Dinner)
> Calendar: ted.boling@sol.doi.gov
> Who:
> [redacted]ios.doi.gov - organizer
> * jason_fink@ios.doi.gov - creator
> * Sarah Greenberger
> * Edward Boling
> * Neil Komze
> * Blake Androff
> * Terri Johnson
> * Dan Ashe
>
> Event details:
> Non-Responsive
>
> Invitation from Google Calendar: https://www.google.com/calendar/
>
> You are receiving this email at the account ted.boling@sol.doi.gov because
> you are subscribed for invitations on calendar ted.boling@sol.doi.gov.
>
> To stop receiving these notifications, please log in to
> https://www.google.com/calendar/ and change your notification settings for
> this calendar.
> <meeting.ics>

BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, December 9, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Dec 9, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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+ Additional Coverage: BOR Study Enlarging San Luis Reservoir.

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+ Additional Coverage Of Hearing On Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Proposed Casino.

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+ Reid Pushes For Votes On Obama Nominees In Final Weeks Of Senate Session.
+ Fed Officials In No Hurry To Scale Back Bond-Buying Program.

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+ Today's Events In Washington.

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+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES RESTORATION PROJECTS FROM BP FUND. The AP (12/6, Mcconnaughey, Press, 17.91M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced the latest round of projects aimed at restoring the coast after 2010's Gulf oil spill last Friday at Jean Lafitte National Park. Jewell said that "from coastal resiliency is important to President Barack Obama's climate action plan." Jewell said, "The Gulf of Mexico watershed is a large and diverse landscape that is critical to our nation's culture, economy and environment. Today's announcement is an important step as we work to not only restore the natural resources that were impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, but to also build back the resiliency of the region." The funds for the "44 projects is coming from a $1 billion fund BP created in 2011."

The Houma (LA) Courier (12/6, 48K) reports that "about $340 million worth of work, much of it to restore barrier islands off the Terrebonne and Lafourche coasts, is included in the latest round of projects aimed at restoring the coast after 2010's Gulf oil spill." According to the article, "if all 44 projects win final approval, about $300 million would remain in the fund set up as a down payment to help the Gulf." Sen. Mary Landrieu, said, "With this $340 million, we will make important progress in restoring our coast and bringing justice to the Gulf after the Deepwater Horizon disaster. By investing in barrier island restoration and fish hatcheries, we are helping to protect our communities, while restoring and preserving our fisheries that are so important to our local economies."

The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (12/8, 24K) reports that "a 60-day comment period is now open on proposals to spend coastal restoration money from BP on four barrier island restoration projects and two fishery research stations in Louisiana." The article notes that "praise for the announcement poured in from elected officials as well as representatives from a number of nonprofit organizations focused on coastal Louisiana, including the National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Defense Fund, National Audubon Society, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and US Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La."

Additional coverage was provided by the Alabama Live (12/8, 75K) and the Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald (12/6, 154K).

Environmental Assessment Released. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (12/8, 700K) reports that Jewell also announced the findings of "a comprehensive environmental assessment" on "the extensive damage caused by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the ensuing cleanup efforts to natural resources along the shoreline and in deepwater habitats of the Gulf of Mexico." According to the article, "the report cites studies showing continued problems with growing oysters in both Louisiana waters, where freshwater diversions designed to keep oil out of wetlands killed oyster beds, and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast, which may be linked to toxic chemicals associated with the BP oil," and "it also recounts concerns about the deaths of hundreds of bottlenosed dolphins, thousands of sea turtles and migratory waterfowl – plus potential reproductive problems for these species." The report also illustrates "concerns about tiny organisms living in deep water in the Gulf, and the possible effects of their loss on commercial fisheries, while also raising questions about the future of deepwater coral reefs and bottom-loving organisms close to the site of the BP Macondo well 50 miles off Louisiana's coast."

Also providing coverage are the Bayou Buzz (LA) (12/8, 4K) and Al Jazeera America (12/8, 79K).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the New Orleans Times-Picayune (12/8, 700K), WWL-TV New Orleans (12/8, 107K). AP coverage was picked up by the Huffington Post (12/6, Mcconnaughey, 11.54M), the Denver Post (12/8, Mcconnaughey, Press, 949K), the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (12/6, 198K), the Bradenton (FL) Herald (12/6, 143K), the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (12/6, 18K), the Washington County (FL) News (12/8, 11K), and WFLX-TV West Palm Beach, FL (12/8, 2K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PROVIDES LEGAL PROTECTION TO WIND-POWER INDUSTRY AGAINST EAGLE DEATHS. The AP (12/7, Cappiello, 4.28M) reported that, while facing pressure from the wind-power

industry, the Obama Administration said Friday that "it will allow companies to kill or injure eagles without the fear of prosecution for up to three decades." According to the new rule, companies that own wind farms and other projects will get legal protection in exchange for obtaining permits and making efforts to avoid killing protected birds. The AP noted that this is another example that highlights "Obama's willingness to accept environmental trade-offs — pollution, loss of conservation land and the deaths of eagles — in hopes that green energy will help fight climate change."

Bloomberg News (12/7, Doom, 1.91M) reported that the "permits are subject to review every five years, the maximum length previously allowed by a 2009 decision." Bloomberg News added that the "fee to apply for a permit is $36,000, with each five-year review costing $2,600."

The Los Angeles Times (12/7, Li, 3.07M) reported that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement that "the permitting change will 'help the renewable energy industry and others develop projects that can operate in a longer term, while ensuring bald and golden eagles continue to thrive.'" The Interior Department added that "all permits will be closely monitored to ensure that allowable take numbers are not exceeded...and that conservation measures are in place and effective over the life of the permit."

The Hill (12/7, Hattem, 194K) reported in its "Regwatch" blog that the American Wind Energy Association said in a statement that "by undertaking these efforts it is expected that the permit program will provide for the long-term conservation of eagle populations by not only addressing the permitted activity but also the impacts of others already occuring in the landscape today." However, David Yarnold, president of the National Audubon Society, disagreed and a said in a statement that the Administration "wrote the wind industry a blank check." Yarnold also "indicated that a court challenge court be in the works." The Wall Street Journal (12/7, Berzon, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) provided similar coverage on the topic.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the Washington Post (12/6, Bernstein, 4.28M), the Wall Street Journal (12/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), the Los Angeles Times (12/7, Ganga, 3.07M), the Washington Times (12/6, Dinan, 417K), CBS News (12/8, 3.87M), the National Journal (12/8, Subscription Publication, 427K), Reuters (12/6, Krasny), the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/8, 90K), the Allentown (PA) Morning Call (12/6, 247K), the Keene (NH) Sentinel (12/8, 24K), the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (12/6, 320K), the Bellingham (WA) Herald (12/8, 113K), The Chattanoogan (12/8, 17K), the Daily Caller (12/6, Bastasch, 422K), the SNL Financial (12/8, 22K), the Power Line (12/8, 37K), the Las Vegas Guardian Express (12/8, 64K), and KCET-TV Los Angeles (12/8, 15K).

AP coverage was picked up by USA Today (12/6, Cappiello, 5.82M), the Christian Science Monitor (12/6, Cappiello, 540K), Time (12/6, 13.4M), the Boston Globe (12/6, Cappiello, 1.75M), the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (12/8, 1.26M), the Philly (12/8, 1.22M), the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (12/8, 31K), the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (12/8, 1.26M), the Tennessean (12/7, 417K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (12/8, 83K).

REP. BISHOP URGES SECRETARY JEWELL TO DISREGARD WITHDRAWN FRACKING COMMENTS. The Hill (12/7, Barron-Lopez, 194K) reported that Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) is urging Interior Secretary Jewell "not to consider withdrawn comments about US natural-gas development as it completes final regulations on hydraulic fracturing." The Hill reported that Bishop's request stems from a letter he received last month from National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis "asking for the withdrawal of comments the department made expressing doubts about whether natural-gas development can help fight climate change."

Also providing coverage are the National Journal (12/8, Subscription Publication, 427K), the Environment & Energy Publishing (12/8, 705), and the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (12/3, 147K).

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER INTERIOR NOMINEES. Politico (12/8, Guillen, 467K) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has "announced plans to consider seven nominees for posts at the Energy and Interior departments next Thursday." The three Interior nominees are Esther Kia'aina to be an assistant secretary for insular areas, Rhea Suh to be assistant secretary of fish and wildlife and Tommy Beaudreau as assistant secretary for policy, management and budget.

KWIÁHT PARTNERS WITH FEDERAL CONSERVATION SERVICE INITIATIVE. The San Juan (WA) Islander (12/8, 418) reports that the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture have announced that "Kwiáht

is one of 91 organizations nationwide approved so far to help implement the Obama Administration's 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC)." Kwiáht director Russel Barsh welcomed the announcement as "a breakthrough in our efforts to bring island youth and Tribal youth together to protect and enhance the new National Monument and other federal lands, shorelines, and small islands in the San Juan archipelago."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GREEN GROUPS URGE AGENCIES ON METHANE EMISSIONS. Additional coverage of the pressure exerted by green groups on the Interior Department and the EPA to regulate methane emissions from oil and gas industry operations was provided by the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (12/6, Barron-Lopez, 194K), the Fort Worth (TX) Business Press (12/8, 889), and the Pagosa (CO) Daily Post (12/8).

SEN. BENNET CALLS FOR COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC LANDS. In an op-ed for the Fort Collins (CO) Coloradoan (12/7, Bennet, 85K), Sen. Michael Bennet writes that "maintaining access to quality places to play outside is critical to Colorado's economy, fundamental to recruiting employers, and at the heart of healthy and productive communities." He notes that in a recent speech, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "stressed that these lands are powerful economic engines," and "in 2011 alone, the US Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that Americans spent a total of $144.7 billion on wildlife-related activities, including hunting and fishing."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

OBAMA LIGHTS NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE. The AP (12/7) reports the Obama family appeared at the National Christmas Tree lighting Friday evening, "giving an otherwise dreary day in the nation's capital a festive and seasonal spirit." President Obama "acknowledged the cold and rainy weather and proposed an abbreviated countdown before flipping on the lights. 'We're going to start at 5; since it's little wet we shouldn't start at 10,' he said."

CNN (12/7, 14.53M) says on its website that the President "wished onlookers a Merry Christmas and holiday season on behalf of the first family." He said, "In this season of hope, let us come together as one people, one family to ensure that we are doing everything we can to keep America the land of endless opportunity and boundless optimism for which we are so thankful."

The Hill (12/7, Trujillo, 194K) says "a total of 3,000 seated tickets and 14,000 standing tickets were given away for the event in a lottery in October. Many of the guests wore ponchos to protect against the rain and wind."

ABC World News (12/8, 111) ran a feature on the lighting of the National Christmas Tree Friday night by President Obama, with "his growing daughters by his side." The segment looked back on the history of the tree-lighting tradition.

CEREMONY MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR. NBC Nightly News (12/7, story 6, 0:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported, "In Hawaii thousands gathered on the anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It happened 72 years ago today, the event that launched the United States into World War II. Among those attending today's ceremonies were 50 survivors of the attack that killed more than 2,400 Americans on that early morning in Hawaii."

ABC World News (12/7, story 10, 0:25, Muir, 7.43M) reported, "Now to our 'Instant Index' tonight. What's trending this Saturday. And we take note here of the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Seventy-two years ago the Japanese air assault on that port in Hawaii, taking the lives of 2,400 American servicemen. Today visitors watched an aerial show of vintage World War II planes, among them some 50 survivors from that fateful day."

The Washington Post (12/8, Press, 4.28M) reports that the Navy and NPS "co-hosted the ceremony, which was open to the public."

KXL-FM Portland, OR (12/8, 8K) reports that Rhea Suh, Interior Department assistant secretary, told the crowd, "Let us remember that this is where it all began. Let us remember that the arc of history was bent at this place

71 years ago today and a generation of young men and women reached deep and rose up to lead our nation to victory. Let us remember and be forever grateful for all of their sacrifices."

Additional coverage was provided by the Los Angeles Times (12/7, Press, 3.07M), the Los Angeles Times (12/8, 3.07M), and the Tennessean (12/7, 417K). AP coverage was picked up by the Washington Post (12/8, Press, 4.28M), the Boston Globe (12/8, Mcavoy, 1.75M), the Boston Herald (12/8, 643K), the Chicago Sun-Times (12/8, Mcavoy, 1.15M), the Denver Post (12/8, Mcavoy, 949K), the Detroit Free Press (12/8, Mcavoy, 794K), the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (12/8, 333K), WJBK-TV Detroit (12/8, 83K), WJLA-TV Washington (12/8, 118K), WRC-TV Washington (12/8, 291K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (12/8, 83K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE: OFFICIALS CEASE WHALE RESCUE EFFORTS. The Washington Post (12/8, Press, 4.28M) reports that "wildlife officials say that after losing sight of a pod of whales that was stranded in the Everglades, they are ceasing rescue efforts." The NPS said "aerial and boat survey teams could not locate the whales Saturday, a potentially encouraging sign that they have moved farther offshore." According to the article, "while authorities are hopeful the whales are headed back to the deeper, colder waters that form their natural habitat, they cannot say for sure."

Additional coverage was provided by CNN (12/8, 14.53M), USA Today (12/7, Mongilio, Atteberry, 5.82M), Time (12/6, 13.4M), the Los Angeles Times (12/6, Karlamangla, 3.07M), the Los Angeles Times (12/5, Karlamangla, 3.07M), the Chicago Tribune (12/6, Clark, 2.32M), the Boston Herald (12/8, 643K), WRC-TV Washington (12/8, 291K), and WUSA-TV Washington (12/8, 95K).

AP coverage was picked up by the Columbus (IN) Republic (12/8, 80K), Yahoo! (12/6, Armario, 17.91M) , the Miami Herald (12/8, Press, 806K) , the Denver Post (12/8, Press, 949K), and the Tampa Bay (FL) Times (12/8, 78K).

MAN ACCUSED OF ILLEGAL RIVER DUMPING. The Washington Post (12/6, 4.28M) reports that a government contractor is accused of dumping waste into the Potomac River from Hains Point when his company was contracted with the NPS to clean the National Mall's storm water sewer system. According to the US Attorney for the District of Columbia, Patrick Brightwell, 47, was arrested and indicted on eight counts including "conspiracy, false claims, obstructing an investigation and a Clean Water Act violation."

Also reporting on the story are the DCist (12/8, 21K), the Gothamist (12/8, 145K), the Breitbart (12/6, 255K), WUSA-TV Washington (12/8, 95K), and WJLA-TV Washington (12/8, 118K).

HUNTER WHO SPARKED RIM FIRE TO BE CHARGED. The Los Angeles Times (12/7, Serna, 3.07M) reports that "a Tuolumne County official said this week that federal prosecutors have 'privately declared' their intention to charge a hunter who earlier this year sparked the Rim fire." Tuolumne County District Atty. Michael Knowles said, "Federal prosecutors have privately declared an intention to prosecute."

CATTLE RANCHERS OPPOSE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE'S PLAN FOR BISON RESERVE. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer (12/8, 768K) reports that "some cattle ranchers on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota are fighting plans for a large bison reserve being pursued by the Oglala Sioux Tribe." The tribe and NPS are "working on making the South Unit of Badlands National Park into the nation's first tribal national park." The article notes that "the plan includes the return of bison to the park and the end of cattle grazing on leased land and some private land, which could be condemned." According to the article, "ranchers who rely on the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and Oglala Sioux Tribe grazing permits were recently notified that their leases will expire in October 2015."

NPS EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON YELLOWSTONE PARK UTILITY PLAN. The Missoulian (12/8, 104K) reports that the NPS has extended the comment period on a plan to improve the electrical power distribution system in Yellowstone National Park. The comment period was extended for an additional 15 days until Dec. 21.

Also reporting on the story is the Ravalli (MT) Republic (12/8, 19K).

THREE PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BE HELD FOR BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK'S GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Miami Herald (12/8, Sue Cocking Scocking@, miamiherald.com, 806K) reports that "three public

hearings will be held this week on the revised draft alternatives for Biscayne National Park's general management plan."

Also providing coverage are the Los Angeles Times (12/3, Fleshler, 3.07M) and the Key West (FL) Keynoter (12/7, 34K).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROTECTS ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARKS. The Boston Globe (12/8, Graham, 1.75M) reports on "struggle to predict — and preserve — the architectural landmarks of tomorrow." According to the article, "for most buildings, the best shot at success may simply be to survive their first half century." The article notes that the National Register of Historic Places "generally allows only properties more than 50 years old, although it makes exceptions for structures of 'exceptional importance.'"

TIVADAR AND DOROTHY BALOGH HOUSE ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Livonia (MI) Observer & Eccentric (12/8, 62K) reports that the Tivadar and Dorothy Balogh House has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CLOSURE OF WW II MEMORIAL. Additional coverage of the closure of Washington's World War II memorial was provided by the Miami Herald (12/6, Bureau, 806K), the Kansas City (MO) Star (12/6, Lightman, 95K), and the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (12/8, 636K).

VIRGINIA LAWMAKER WANTS STATE TO RECLAIM SHENANDOAH. In an op-ed for the Roanoke (VA) Times (12/8, 259K), Bob Marshall, a Republican member of the Virginia House of Delegates, argues that "our national parks should not be used as political weapons to be turned against citizens by a president eager to win a budget fight with Congress." For this reason, Marshall has introduced House Bill 16, which "would create a commission to evaluate the possibility of bringing the Shenandoah National Park back under Virginia's control."

Bureau of Land Management:

ACCESS LIMITS AT HORSE ROUNDUPS DEBATED IN 9TH CIRCUIT. The Courthouse News (12/6, 7K) reports that "a reporter urged the 9th Circuit to revive her claims that her First Amendment rights were trampled during a 2010 federal roundup of wild horses on public land." The article notes that "it was the second time Laura Leigh, a photojournalist and wild horse advocate, appeared before the federal appeals court in support of her suit concerning the Bureau of Land Management's September 2010 roundup of some 500 wild horses at the Silver King Herd Management Area in Lincoln County, Nev."

BLM HOSTING MEETINGS ON MONUMENT GRAZING, SAGE GROUSE. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (12/8, 343K) reports that the BLM will host "a string of scoping meetings in coming days on its latest attempt to develop a grazing plan for southern Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument." Also, "on the issue of greater sage grouse conservation, the BLM is staging another series of information meetings, all set from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., this week in northern Utah, starting Tuesday at the Salt Lake City Main Library."

AGENCIES TAKING COMMENTS ON SAGE GROUSE. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (12/8, 56K) reports that in November, the BLM and US Forest Service picked Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's "collaborative proposal as one of the two preferred alternatives in a draft analysis to better protect sage grouse." The agencies also chose "their own proposal, which was drawn up in 2011," and "they plan to pick the best suggestions out of both plans and combine them into the final proposal." The article notes that "public meetings will begin at the start of January, including one in Twin Falls on Jan. 14."

BLM'S LAW ENFORCEMENT RANGERS HANDLE VARITY OF ISSUES. The Imperial (CA) Valley Press (12/8, 46K) reports on the variety of issues handled by the BLM's El Centro field office. In any year, the bureau's law enforcement rangers may "handle hundreds of thousands of dunes visitors, drug or human smugglers coming from Mexico, or even people trying to harm the natural resources of our public lands."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SEN. UDALL SUPPORTS BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT AND WILDERNESS ACT. Additional coverage of Sen. Udall's support of the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act was provided by the Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (12/8, 94K) and the High Country (CO) News (12/8,

74K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SEN. WYDEN'S FOREST BILL. Additional coverage of Sen. Ron Wyden's forest bill was provided by the Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (12/8, 104K).

PROPOSAL TO CONVERT BLM LAND SUPPORTED. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/8, 288K) editorializes that "a proposed new source of money for education in New Mexico not only has merit on its own but would help protect the state's Land Grant Permanent Fund as a source of future funding." The paper supports New Mexico Land Commissioner Ray Powell's suggestion that "the state ask the federal government to give it some" of the BLM's "estimated 1 million acres of land in New Mexico that don't fit within the agency's mission, or reach some other mutually beneficial arrangement."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

STUDY DETAILS LOSS OF ECOLOGICALLY-SENSITIVE WETLANDS. The Washington Post (12/9, Fears, 4.28M) reports that "over a four-year span, the United States lost more than 360,000 acres of freshwater and saltwater wetlands to fierce storms, sea-level rise and booming development along the coasts," according to a newly released federal study funded by the FWS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the EPA. The article notes that "the disappearance of so much grass and forest marsh on the edge of waterways is a disturbing sign that government projects to restore wetlands are failing to keep pace, environmentalists said, as storms intensify, the sea level creeps up and development paves the way for rising coastal populations." Although "the starkest decline was in the Gulf, which was roiled by several massive hurricanes, including Katrina, Rita and Ike," the study found that "human development was a major factor, especially in places such as coastal North Carolina on the Atlantic Coast, where a development boom is sending storm-water runoff cascading into wetlands that cannot handle it."

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT FACES THREATS. The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian Pilot (12/8, 422K) reports that the Endangered Species Act, which "turns 40 years old this month," faces "threats to its survival from a partisan Congress, even while being hailed for bringing back from the brink of extinction many familiar animals." In the fall issue of Fish and Wildlife News, FWS Director Daniel M. Ashe, , wrote of the Endangered Species Act: "We have seen it succeed and we have seen it fail. It has worked miracles, like restoring the California condor to western skies. But we have also seen the dusky seaside sparrow vanish from the landscape, the coastal marshes of Florida forever silent of their song. The James Hole pupfish and Delta smelt may be soon to follow. ... If we want Canada lynx, if we want bull trout, if we want grizzlies or sage-grouse, then we have to make deliberate choices to make a place for them in the world."

BIOLOGISTS WORK TO CONSERVE PALLID STURGEON. The San Francisco Chronicle (12/8, Veit, 2.88M) reports on the decline of the pallid sturgeon, which is "attributed to man-made modifications of its habitat through river channeling and damming" by the FWS. Fish biologists are working to "ensure the endangered pallid sturgeon is here to stay."

FWS SEEKS COMMENTS ON ISLAND CATTLE PROBLEM. The Alaska Dispatch (12/6, 7K) reports that the FWS is "soliciting proposals for coping with approximately 800 unattended cattle free to roam on Chirikof Island and about 200 more on Wosnesenski Island." The article notes that "the scoping process kicked off" by the agency will "include open houses in Homer and Kodiak." The FWS has "set a Jan. 31 deadline for cattle-solution suggestions that will get further review as the environmental studies proceed."

FWS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON DUNES MANAGEMENT. The Santa Maria (CA) Times (12/8, 40K) reports that the FWS will "host public information meetings in Grover Beach and Guadalupe to gather ideas and suggestions from the public concerning future management of Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge."

WORLD'S OLDEST WILD BIRD LAYS ANOTHER EGG. The Washington Post (12/6, 4.28M) reports that Wisdom, "a 63-year-old albatross," has produced "yet another egg to the amazement of scientists." The bird was "captured on video laying an egg at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge on Nov. 29, exactly a year and a day after laying the last one."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSAL TO STOP PROTECTING GRAY WOLF. Additional coverage of the proposal to remove the gray wolf from the federal endangered species list was provided by the USA Today (12/8, Chebium, 5.82M).

FWS CRITICIZED FOR MISMANAGEMENT. In an op-ed critical of the FWS for the Las Vegas Review-Journal (12/8, 437K), David McDaniel, a retired biologist with the FWS and past chief of its National Fish Hatchery Program, writes that the program to save the Devil's Hole pupfish has cost many millions of dollars, while population of the endangered animal has dropped from a high of 544 fish to a recent low of 35. Meanwhile, he notes that FWS hatcheries are being threatened with closure because of budget problems.

COMPASSION URGED FOR HAWAII'S EGRETS AND OWLS. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (12/6, Singer, 11.54M), Sydney Ross Singer, Director, Institute for the Study of Culturogenic Disease, writes that "the unintended consequences of" releasing cattle egrets and barn owls as biocontrol agents to manage agricultural pests have "come back to roost, with the growing populations of barn owls and cattle egrets allegedly becoming a threat to endangered native birds." Now, the federal government is "proposing rule changes to make it permanent open season on cattle egrets and barn owls in Hawaii." Singer urges showing "compassion, concern, and empathy for helpless birds whose sole crime is that their introduction was successful."

PROTECTION URGED FOR WOLVES OF THE ALEXANDER ARCHIPELAGO. In an op-ed for the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (12/6, Noblin, 198K), Rebecca Noblin, a staff attorney and Alaska Director for the Center for Biological Diversity, writes that "as we approach the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act next month, the ongoing threat of logging and road-building to the ever-more fragile status of Alexander Archipelago wolves is a stark reminder of the irreplaceable role the Act has played in protecting our nation's most imperiled plants and animals and the ecosystems we share with them." She argues that "it's clear the Archipelago Alexander wolf now needs the help only the Endangered Species Act can provide."

US Geological Survey:

SCIENTISTS WORKING TO SOLVE MYSTERY OF BIRD BOTULISM OUTBREAKS. The Washington Post (12/8, Press, 4.28M) reports that scientists, "using time-tested methods and new technologies," are "coming closer to solving the mystery" of the dead waterfowl at Great Lakes beaches. According to the article, Florida Atlantic University "recently reported progress in a first-of-its-kind effort to determine the paths of birds that washed onto beaches after dying in open water." Meanwhile, several USGS labs are "studying waterfowl distribution and sampling sediments collected from Great Lakes bottomlands, hoping to pinpoint where the toxin is produced."

Additional coverage was provided by the Wall Street Journal (12/9, Subscription Publication, 5.91M).

USGS SENDING INSTRUMENTS TO RECORD TEXAS QUAKES. The Environment & Energy Publishing (12/8, 705) reports that the USGS is "sending four seismic recorders to Texas to record activity in an area where local leaders worry that drilling processes are causing earthquakes." According to Bill Leith, senior science adviser for earthquake and geologic hazards at USGS, "the portable recorders are to be deployed around the town of Azle by scientists from Southern Methodist University."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SILVERSTEIN: WIND TAX CREDIT INCREASES DEBATE ON WHICH INDUSTRIES SHOULD GET ENERGY SUBSIDIES. Ken Silverstein wrote in his Forbes (12/7, 6.03M) column that that the production tax credit given to the wind industry, which may possibly expire and not get renewed before the end of the year, "is now fanning the flames on all government largess and specifically which industries are the most worthy of getting the added incentives." Silverstein wrote that the wind industry believes that it is worth the subsidies, adding that it has created thousands of jobs. Meanwhile, "American Energy Alliance, which represents fossil fuel interests, counters that thinking by saying that oil, natural gas and coal power far more of the economy than green energy."

Silverstein concluded his column by writing that "while the United States government must watch what it spends, it has to continually invest in promising technologies — ideas that could increase energy independence in a cleaner fashion."

BOEM DECISION CLEARS VIRGINIA AGENCY FOR OFFSHORE STUDY. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (12/7, 333K) reports that the BOEM has said there is no competitive interest in an area off the coast of Virginia where the state's Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy has proposed building and operating a 12-MW wind farm under a research lease with the federal government. The lack of competitive interest allows the BOEM to find a "determination of no competitive interest."

Also providing coverage are the SNL Financial (12/8, Copley, 22K), the Law 360 (12/8, 18K), and WCAV-TV Charlottesville, VA (12/8, 1K). AP coverage was picked up by Yahoo! (12/6, 17.91M).

FWS APPROVES WILDLIFE PLAN FOR WEST VIRGINIA WIND FARM. The AP (12/8) reports that the FWS has "approved a permit allowing the killing of endangered bats by turbines at a West Virginia wind farm." The agency "says the 'incidental take' permit includes a habitat conservation plan to minimize the wind farm's effect on endangered wildlife."

Also providing coverage is the Charleston (WV) Gazette (12/8, 154K).

Onshore Energy Development:

BILL WOULD CHARGE $5,000 TO PEOPLE PROTESTING DRILLING ON PUBLIC LANDS. The Denver Post (12/7, Sherry, 949K) reports that a proposal by Rep. Doug Lamborn would charge $5,000 for those seeking to protest oil and gas leases on public lands. The "Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act of 2013" was included in batch of land bills that passed the US House of Representatives before Thanksgiving. Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of the Western Energy Alliance, said, "Obviously, it's going nowhere in the Senate. But as this concept gets refined in the future, there could be ways of adding provisions to waive it in some cases."

BLM WORKING WITH BIA ON MANAGEMENT PLAN IN MCALESTER AREA. The McAlester (OK) News-Capital (12/8, 28K) reports that the BLM is working with the BIA to develop a new Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement that "could open local land for the development of natural resources such as grasslands, wind energy, salt, gas, oil and — specifically in the McAlester area — coal." The article notes that "17 public meetings" are "planned throughout Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas to gather public input for the RMP and EIS."

CARTER COUNTY LANDOWNERS FILE LAWSUIT AGAINST PIPELINE COMPANIES, FEDERAL AGENCIES. The Billings (MT) Gazette (12/8, 206K) reports that "a group of Carter County landowners has filed a federal lawsuit against several pipeline companies and federal agencies demanding a halt to construction of a pipeline until an environmental review is complete." In a suit filed in US District Court on Nov. 22 that names the defendants as the Interior Department, the BLM and its Miles City field office, the FWS, the Butte Pipe Line Co., the Belle Fourche Pipeline Co. and Bridger Pipeline LLC, "about a dozen landowners and other groups are asking the court to halt construction of a new 16-inch Bakken oil pipeline and declare that the pipeline cannot be build under a 1955 easement for an already-existing line running through their properties."

NATURAL GAS BOOM ALLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF AGGRESSIVE POLICIES. The National Journal (12/9, Harder, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that President Obama would not have been able to move forward on aggressive policies such as tougher environmental rules and Iranian oil sanctions, which he would have not been able to effectively implement without America's vast oil and natural gas reserves. The International Energy Agency estimates that the US will surpass Saudi Arabia as the world's biggest oil-producer in 2015, and surpass Russia as the world's biggest natural-gas producer by the end of this year. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy called natural gas a "game-changer with our ability to really move forward with pollution reductions," and the EPA is pursuing rules favoring natural gas over coal.

Offshore Energy Development:

ENERGY COMPANIES CRITIQUE PROPOSED OFFSHORE REGULATIONS. The FuelFix (12/6, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that several oil companies have expressed dissatisfaction with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's proposed rules for "governing oil and gas production systems used offshore." The rule would "require a more rigorous cradle-to-grave...assessments of critical safety and pollution prevention equipment." Oil companies and trade groups are unhappy with the comment period for the rules, only 45 days instead of the 120 they were seeking. Critics also said the rules could, "cause inconsistencies with existing regulations, could muddle oversight of some equipment used offshore and is unduly prescriptive." It is unclear if the rules will apply to projects under construction right now and whether existing facilities will be grandfathered in. Anadarko, Shell and the Offshore Operators Committee also noted that new firefighting regulations could interfere with existing ones already under the oversight of the Coast Guard.

JUDGE SUSPENDS BP OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS TO BUSINESSES. The AP (12/7) reported that Judge Carl Barbier "has temporarily suspended BP oil spill settlement payments to businesses while he reconsiders the company's arguments against compensating those that cannot trace losses directly to the nation's worst offshore oil spill." Judge Barbier issued an order Thursday which noted that the claims office will still accept and process business claims "but won't make final decisions or payments until the matter is settled."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO STEP ASIDE FOR ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT. For the FuelFix (12/6, Holt, 7K), David Holt, President of Consumer Energy Alliance, acknowledges that "the United States has no doubt seen a dramatic increase in domestic production of oil, natural gas and renewable energy," but he argues that "the majority of this progress has taken place despite action from the federal government, not because of it." Holt claims that US energy companies could "seize the opportunity for American ambition and willingness to once again triumph over challenges, with ingenuity, technology and good old Yankee grit" if they are allowed to explore the Arctic for development.

JUDGE DENIES CLASS CERTIFICATION FOR BP INVESTORS. Bloomberg News (12/6, Fisk, Calkins, 1.91M) reported that U.S. District Judge Keith P. Ellison rejected a class certification for investors seeking to sue BP over loss in the value of BP stock due to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. "Ellison ruled that the investors failed to show that their damages could be calculated on a class-wide basis in a way that was consistent with their legal theory on BP's culpability." He noted a recent Supreme Court case involving Comcast that "appreciably changed the landscape for class certification," and gave the plaintiffs 30 days to revise their motion. Ellison also ruled that three pension funds "can pursue deceit claims for losses on their ordinary shares under English law."

Reuters (12/7, Raymond) also reported on the class certification denial.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SETTLEMENT WITH BOEM SCIENTIST. Additional coverage of the settlement with Charles Monnett was provided by the Las Vegas Guardian Express (12/8, 64K) and the Huffington Post (12/6, Kate Sheppard Posted: 12/06/2013 6:, Est, 11.54M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BP EFFORTS TO EXPAND DEEP WATER DRILLING. Additional coverage of the effort to expand deep water drilling was provided by the Christian Science Monitor (12/9, 540K), the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (12/8, 636K), the Longview (TX) News-Journal (12/8, 69K), and the Durango (CO) Herald (12/8, 28K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RESEARCHERS TO STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF GULF. Additional coverage that researchers from the Center for Natural Resource Economics and Policy in the LSU AgCenter Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness have won a "three-year award of more than $750,000 to study the value of the environmental monitoring system in the Gulf of Mexico" was provided by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (12/8, 768K), the Alexandria (LA) Town Talk (12/8, 98K), KATC-TV Lafayette, LA (12/8, 16K), and KNOE-TV Monroe, LA (12/8, 6K).

8. Tackling America's Water Challenges – Key

9. Empowering Native American Communities – K

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

DELTA WATER TUNNEL PROJECT NEEDS $1.2 BILLION MORE FOR PLANNING. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/7, 749K) reports that the Delta water-diversion tunnels proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown "need $1.2 billion more spent on planning and design before construction starts or is even assured." According to the article, "the additional planning costs, which come on top of $240 million already spent, first came to light at a board meeting of the Westlands Water District late last month." California "expects to release the draft environmental impact study – seven years in the making – for the project on Monday."

Also providing coverage is the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (12/7, 86K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/8, 749K), the Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (12/8, 90K) and the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (12/8, 206).

IMPERIAL VALLEY AGENCIES DEVELOP PLAN TO SAVE SALTON SEA. The Los Angeles Times (12/8, Perry, 3.07M) reports that "with an ominous deadline approaching, two feuding Imperial Valley agencies have put aside their differences and developed a plan they hope can save the ailing Salton Sea." The Imperial Irrigation District and the Imperial County Board of Supervisors have "agreed to push for additional geothermal energy exploration on the eastern edge of the sea." The goal is to "raise money for restoration projects from the profits from energy sales."

BOR TO LOWER LAKE HAVASU'S WATER LEVEL FOR PARKER DAM WORK. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/7, 749K) reports that the BOR plans to lower Lake Havasu's water level by "three feet for about eight weeks in order to work on the Parker Dam's filtering system." The lowering of the Colorado River lake will begin Sunday and is expected be completed by Dec. 16.

AP coverage was picked up by the U-T San Diego (12/7, 647K) and KPHO-TV Phoenix (12/8, 74K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOR STUDY ENLARGING SAN LUIS RESERVOIR. Additional coverage of the completion of a study on expanding the San Luis Reservoir was provided by the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (12/8, 86K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INDIAN LAW AND ORDER COMMISSION'S CRITICISM OF ALASKA. Additional coverage of the Indian Law and Order Commission's criticism of Alaska was provided by the Juneau (AK) Empire (12/8, 21K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HEARING ON MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE'S PROPOSED CASINO. Additional coverage of the hearing held by the BIA on a proposed casino by the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe was provided by the Cape Cod (MA) Times (12/6, 92K), the Cape Cod (MA) Times (12/7, 92K), the Taunton (MA) Gazette (12/8, 36K), the East Bridgewater (MA) Enterprise (12/8), and the Raynham (MA) Call (12/8).

Top National News:

PROPOSED BUDGET DEAL WOULD RAISE SPENDING FROM SEQUESTER-IMPOSED LEVELS. Reports this morning indicate that House and Senate budget conferees may be near completion of an agreement that would eliminate the potential for another shutdown standoff next year by generally avoiding the most controversial proposals for reducing the nation's debt. Reports indicate the deal would provide Federal agencies some relief from the across-the-board budget cuts agreed to as part of the Budget Control Act of 2011.

The Washington Post (12/9, Montgomery, 4.28M) reports that "House and Senate negotiators were putting the finishing touches Sunday on what would be the first successful budget accord since 2011." According to the Post, "The deal...would not significantly reduce the debt," nor "close corporate tax loopholes or reform" Medicare and Social Security. The Post also notes that the potential deal "would not even fully replace sharp spending cuts known as the sequester," which the Post says had been "the negotiators' primary target." However, according to the Post, the "emerging agreement aims to partially repeal the sequester and raise agency spending to roughly $1.015 trillion in fiscal 2014 and 2015."

The Wall Street Journal (12/9, Peterson, Crittenden, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) provides a similar outline of the deal that Sen. Patty Murray, who chairs the Senate Budget Committee, and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), chairman of the House Budget Committee, are working on, and reports that the two worked throughout the weekend on the details.

According to Politico (12/9, Samuelsohn, 467K), both Murray and Ryan "have ample reason to act — and act now." Politico says the main incentive is "averting the pain from a second year of sequestration, which could make the first 12 months of spending reductions seem mild in comparison." According to Politico, those looming "dramatic cutbacks...could help Murray and Ryan collect votes to get a deal through Congress." However, Politico adds that "selling every Republican on the need to end the sequester is no simple task" because "conservatives see the cuts as a prized feather in their cap...that shouldn't be undone unless Democrats agree to make commensurate changes to mandatory spending programs."

According to another article from Politico (12/9, Everett, Gibson, 467K), along with conservative Republicans, some Democrats "are getting increasingly antsy about the emerging agreement" that they are "learning...details" about "largely through the media." Politico says that "for Republicans," the "unease is caused by news that domestic spending may surpass existing caps," while Democrats "are growing angry over the increased likelihood that federal workers' benefits are going to be cut and the possible exclusion of unemployment insurance." Politico adds that "as angst over the content of the deal grows, the possibility increases that House Democrats or Senate Republicans could mount an attack to stop...[the] deal."

The Washington Times (12/9, Sherfinski, 417K) reports that on ABC's This Week (12/8, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), Sen. Richard Durbin said, "What I hear from Patty Murray — I spoke to her the other night — negotiations are making progress, moving in the right direction," but "they haven't closed the deal."

Sen. Rob Portman, also on ABC's This Week (12/8, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), said, "I think there is an obvious solution here...we can shift some of the savings from the part of the budget that Congress appropriates every year to the part of the budget, the two-thirds of the budget that is called mandatory spending, keep the budget caps in place, not raise taxes, which is important during this weak economy, and actually avoid a government shutdown."

McClatchy (12/9, Lightman, 95K) reports that a new McClatchy-Marist poll has found that majorities support the most important aspects of the proposed deal, including "eas[ing] the automatic spending cuts known as the sequester...more defense and domestic spending, no major cuts in popular programs and no big tax increases." According to McClatchy, "By 52-41, voters support replacing some [sequester] cuts with increases to taxes and fees over going ahead with the cuts as scheduled," including independents, who "favor replacing them by 52-40." However, McClatchy reports that "a solid majority of voters overall, 63 percent, saw no impact of the spending on themselves or their families," and "5 percent saw a positive impact."

The Wall Street Journal (12/9, Peterson, 5.91M) reports that on Sunday, both Democrats and Republicans said that the budget deal would proceed with or without agreement on the fate of unemployment benefits set to expire at the end of the month. Durbin, on ABC's This Week (12/8, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), said, "I don't think we've reached that point where we've said this is it; take it or leave it."

Reuters (12/9, Bohan, Viswanatha) reports that contrary to Durbin's assessment, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said last week that her caucus would oppose any budget deal that did not include an extension of the jobless benefits, or the promise that the benefits would subsequently be extended. Reuters also notes that on Fox News Sunday (12/8, Wallace), Sen. Rand Paul made the case for allowing the benefits to lapse, saying, "When you allow people to be on unemployment insurance for 99 weeks, you're causing them to become part of this perpetual unemployed group in our economy. ... While it seems good, it actually does a disservice to the people you're trying to help."

According to the Huffington Post (12/9, Terkel, 11.54M), "About 1.3 million long-term jobless Americans will lose federal benefits if Congress fails to reauthorize the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program." The Huffington Post adds that "without congressional action, the most time that people could get" unemployment benefits "would be six months." The Huffington Post notes that Paul "has consistently opposed long-term unemployment benefits," and that in 2010, he said, "You get out of a recession by encouraging employment, not

encouraging unemployment."

The Hill (12/9, Needham, 194K) reports that "while Democrats aren't insisting that the reauthorization be included in [the] budget agreement...supporters of the extension, including congressional aides," are nevertheless optimistic. The Hill notes that the extension has bipartisan support, including Rep. Chris Gibson (R-NY), who is "circulating a letter rallying Republican support." And, according to The Hill, Speaker Boehner has said he is "willing to look at any plan produced by the White House to renew the federal program."

Paul Krugman, in his column for the New York Times (12/9, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says many Republicans "like to cite academic research – some of it from Democratic-leaning economists – that seemingly confirms the idea that unemployment insurance causes unemployment." However, according to Krugman, "The view of most labor economists now is that unemployment benefits have only a modest negative effect...and in today's economy have no negative effect at all on overall employment." Krugman goes on to claim that, "on the contrary, unemployment benefits help create jobs."

Hagel Tells Troops In Afghanistan That Sequester Cuts May Be Eased. The AP (12/9, Baldor) reports from Camp Leathemeck in Afghanistan that on Sunday, Defense Secretary Hagel "offered troops a rare glimmer of hope on the department's financial woes, saying a possible budget agreement back home could ease the automatic spending cuts that have hit the military hard." According to the AP, Hagel "told Marines...that an emerging deal would restore some money to the Pentagon this budget year" after they "quizzed [him] about the budget and the potential effect on the military." The AP says Hagel "sounded a more optimistic tone than he has used for months." The AP reports that the sequester cuts "would slice $52 billion from the department's budget in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1," but members of Congress "are negotiating a deal that could restore between $10 billion to $25 billion each year, for the next two years, to defense spending."

However, Politico (12/9, Rogers, 467K) reports that the House and Senate budget negotiators are discussing reducing "military pensions" in order to "avoid deeper cuts from defense." According to Politico, "there is a greater recognition...in Congress and among the Joint Chiefs" that the Pentagon "must come to terms with personnel-related costs, which are eating up more and more of what money remains." Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, is quoted as saying, "Forty-four cents of every dollar we spend goes to military personnel." Politico notes that President Obama's 2014 budget "propos[ed] to increase what federal employees contribute to their pensions...from .8 percent of pay to 2 percent."

Rubin And Altman Urge Congress Not To Cut Food Stamp Spending. Former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, former deputy Treasury secretary Roger Altman and Melissa Kearney, director of the Hamilton Project, in an op-ed for the Washington Post (12/9, Rubin, Altman, Kearney, 4.28M), urge Congress to resist pressure to cut spending on food stamps "amid the worst poverty levels in two decades, a weak overall economy and rapidly falling budget deficits." Rubin, Altman and Kearney note that the $82.5 billion spent on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in 2013 is just "a small fraction of a $3.5 trillion budget and $16 trillion economy."

REID PUSHES FOR VOTES ON OBAMA NOMINEES IN FINAL WEEKS OF SENATE SESSION. The AP (12/9, Fram) reports that the two-week year-end Senate session which begins Monday will be "the first test of how Republicans respond" to Democratic rule changes, which limited "the traditional blocking ability of the Senate's minority party." The AP notes that Republicans can still "slow, though not derail, Obama's appointments." In addition to a vote Monday to confirm Patricia Millett to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Majority Leader Reid intends "to push five more major nominees through the Senate." They are: Janet Yellen to lead the Federal Reserve, Jeh Johnson to head the Department of Homeland Security and Rep. Mel Watt to lead the Federal Housing Finance Agency. In addition, there are "two more Obama picks for the remaining vacancies on the D.C. court – attorney Cornelia 'Nina' Pillard and U.S. District Judge Robert Wilkins."

The Washington Post (12/9, Phelps, 4.28M) reports that liberals are hoping the President and the Democratic Senate "will take the opportunity to fill numerous judicial vacancies nationwide without having to worry about Republican filibusters." The Post notes that the initial impact on the DC court, "if any, may be modest." Observers say that the addition of Millett, Pillard, and Wilkins "will over time counter the rising influence of two arch-conservatives appointed by President George W. Bush."

FED OFFICIALS IN NO HURRY TO SCALE BACK BOND-BUYING PROGRAM. The New York Times (12/9,

Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that while Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke predicted in June that the central bank would begin to taper its bond-buying program by the end of this year, and such a move is still possible next week when the Fed policy committee meets for the final time this year, public statements from Fed officials indicate that they "are in no hurry" to begin scaling back the effort. According to the Times, Fed officials "see little harm in postponing the decision, particularly compared with the risks of pulling back too soon." Some officials "argue that the slow pace of inflation is itself a reason for the Fed to maintain its stimulus campaign."

Feldstein Calls Fed Policy "Very Risky." In an op-ed for the New York Times (12/9, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Martin S. Feldstein, a professor of economics at Harvard who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Reagan, argues that the Fed strategy of trying to "stimulate the economy by driving down long-term interest rates by amassing long-term bonds and pledging to keep short-term rates near zero" is "very risky." Feldstein argues that while the effect "has been too small to raise economic growth to a healthy rate," the policy has "caused individuals and institutions to take excessive risks that could destabilize the economy just as it did before the 2007-9 recession." Feldstein calls on the President and Congress to "enact, a five-year fiscal package that would move the growth of gross domestic product to above 3 percent a year and focus on direct government spending on infrastructure."

Greenspan Praises Yellen, Says She Will Do Well As Fed Chairman. Alan Greenspan said on CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS (12/8, Zakaria, 456K), "Janet Yellen is a very good, an excellent economist, very intelligent. She knows exactly what is going on. I've worked with her for years. I learned a lot from her, actually. She knows what's going on. She will do as well as anyone I think can handle it."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Mr. De Blasio's Fiscal Challenge."*** The New York Times (12/9, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that New York City mayor-elect Bill de Blasio faces "real and immense" short- and long-term budget challenges. Michael Bloomberg's balanced budget eliminates an expected $2 billion deficit by not accounting for retroactive pay demanded by municipal unions. Federal spending cuts affecting city programs are also a concern, and de Blasio's universal pre-kindergarten and after-school programs plan will require tax increases that the state government is unlikely to favor. De Blasio may have to consider spending and revenue reforms that are not "politically easy."

"When Bishops Direct Medical Care." The New York Times (12/9, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes about what it calls the threat "posed by mergers between secular hospitals and Catholic hospitals operating under religious directives from the nation's Roman Catholic bishops" that "inevitably collide with the hospital's duty to provide care to pregnant women in medical distress." The Times notes that this "tension lies at the heart" of a Federal suit filed last week by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on behalf of a Michigan woman who claims she received substandard care at a Catholic hospital due to directives from the bishop of the local diocese. The Times concludes that the bishops "are free to worship as they choose and advocate for their beliefs," but those beliefs "should not shield the bishops from legal accountability when church-affiliated hospitals following their rules cause patients harm."

"France's New Approach To Curbing Prostitution." The New York Times (12/9, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that a French measure to impose fines on those who pay for sex while providing job-training programs for prostitutes brings the country in line with a consensus that prostitutes are "exploited and abused victims" and presumably victims of trafficking rather than criminals. France's legislature was compelled to act because of the finding that nine out of 10 prostitutes are reportedly of foreign origin.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The GOP's Shrinking Tent."*** The Washington Post (12/9, 4.28M) in an editorial says that "Virginia Republicans...have become an increasingly exclusive club." The Post says that using "scantily attended party conventions," to choose party nominees result in candidates that do not appeal to the broader electorate, citing the losses of James S. Gilmore III to Mark R. Warner, and Ken Cuccinelli to Terry McCauliffe. The Post says that the party appears to be doing the same thing to prevent Del. Joe T. May from running in the special election to fill the seat of Sen. Mark Herring (D) should he be named the winner in the contest for attorney general after a recount. The party is planning to choose a nominee at a meeting rather than through a primary

election.

"Blowing Smoke." The Washington Post (12/9, 4.28M) editorializes that Congress should update the Clean Air Act to reduce ambiguity in its wording and enable the prescription of "neater solutions to the country's serious pollution problems." The article noted that a case regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to set air-quality guidelines for states will be heard before the Supreme Court on Tuesday because EPA policy, although sensible, may run afoul of the law. The article did not express high confidence in Congress' willingness to amend the Act because "it has been years since lawmakers managed to pass any major environmental legislation."

"The China Vise." The Washington Post (12/9, 4.28M) editorializes that China's blocking of news websites and visa renewal delays for US correspondents is an attempt of the ruling elite to maintain their hold on power by limiting politically sensitive or embarrassing information. The US freely grants visas to Chinese journalists, but the article suggests "[injecting] a little more symmetry into its visa policy" if China continues to "exclude and threaten American journalists."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Barney Frank v. Dodd-Frank."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (12/9, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that Rep. Barney Frank, one of the principal authors if the Dodd-Frank law, is now questioning the regulatory expansion brought on by the law. At a recent event hosted by the Clearing House trade group, Frank argued that regulators should focus on banks instead of mutual-fund companies, saying that designating large asset managers like BlackRock or Fidelity as "systemically important" was not the law's intent. The Journal also opposes Treasury's regulation of asset managers, arguing that while a market decline will not impact an asset manager or the larger financial system, taxpayers are ultimately responsible for covering loans made with depositors' money.

"ObamaCare In Translation." The Wall Street Journal (12/9, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, publishes a section of the transcript of Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel's appearance on "Fox News Sunday" during which he and host Chris Wallace debated the President's intended meaning when he claimed that "if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor."

"The Stakes In Ukraine." In editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/9, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes what it sees as a lack of American interest in the situation in Ukraine and calls on the Obama Administration to warn Russian President Vladimir Putin that there will be consequences if he incites violence or promotes a government crackdown in the country.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Bell Will Again Be A Ring Leader
Wage Fight Is Left To Cities, States
Cashing In On Bitcoin Boom
As Boeing Seeks New Site, Workers Feeling Spurned
An Ultimatum In Ukraine
Wall Street Journal:
Congress Readies A Year-End Dash
High Deductibles Fuel New Worries Of Health-Law Sticker Shock
Innovation, Investment Pop Commodity Bubble
In Bankruptcy, Detroit Curses the Darkness
New York Times:
Eastern States Press Midwest To Improve Air
Girl In The Shadows: Dasani's Homeless Life
Protesters In Kiev Topple Lenin Statue As Rallies Grow
In Shepherding Detroit Bankruptcy, Lawyer Tackles A Job He Didn't Ask For
Three Senators Try To Hold Off GOP In South

Washington Post:
Mystery Firm Buys Liens 'Like A Machine'
Budget Deal Sets Debt Battle Aside
'Tower Dumps' Give Police Masses Of Cellphone Data
Ukraine's Protesters Dig In, Clamor For Systemic Change Ukraine's Protesters Move Goal Post, Push For Change
Shanahan-Snyder Relationship Appears Beyond Repair
Financial Times:
HSBC Eyes Listing Of 20 Billion Pound UK Bank
Ukraine Security Services Allege Coup Plot
Hedge Fund Invests In Brazil Fraud Cases
India's Top Banker Targets Bad Debts
Business Salutes WTO Trade Deal
Cerberus Offers Investors Way Out Of Guns
TV's Grip On Global Ad Spending Slips Away
Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
CBS: Winter Weather; South Africa-Mandela; Hagel Interview-Afghanistan; Iran-UN Nuclear Inspection; Ukraine-Gov't Protests; Airline Merger; Brazil-Soccer Riot; Kennedy Center Honorees; South Africa Apartheid Past
NBC: Nelson Mandela-Death; Winter Storm; Nelson Mandela-Howard University.
Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Winter Storm; Obama-Mandela Memorial; North Korea-Expelled Leader; Paul Walker-Memorial
CBS: Winter Storm; Weather Forecast; South Africa-Mandela Memorial; Hagel-Afghanistan Deal; NFL-Snow
NPR: North Korea-Expelled Leader; North Korea-Detainee Release; Snowden-European Testimony; Trains-Engineer Cameras; Winter Storm; Florida-Attempted Whale Rescue; Kennedy Center Honorees; Movie Ratings
FOX: Winter Storm; Hagel-Afghanistan Deal; South Africa-Mandela Mourning; LA-Best Films

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA-- No Public Schedule.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN– No Public Schedule.
US Senate: 2 p.m. — The Senate will convene and begin a period of morning business. Thereafter, resume consideration of S.1197, the National Defense Authorization Act.
US House: 12 p.m. — The House will meet at noon for Morning Hour, and 2 p.m. for Legislative Business. No votes are expected.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS – FIELD HEARING — Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere hearing, "Improving Security and Facilitating Commerce with Mexico at Americas Southern Border." Location: City Hall, 255 West Alameda Street Tucson, AZ

12 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES – FIELD HEARING — Full Committee Oversight Field Hearing on: "The Future of the US-Canada Columbia River Treaty – Building on 60 years of Coordinated Power Generation and Flood Control." Location: Pasco City Council Chambers, 525 N. 3rd Ave, Pasco, WA 99301.
Other: JUSTICE – 'SMART ON CRIME' — 9:10 a.m. Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole will deliver remarks at the Office of Drug Control Policy Drug Policy Reform Conference on the department's work to advance "Smart on Crime" policies.

NASA – CURIOSITY — 1 p.m. NASA will host a media teleconference to discuss new findings from the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) Radiation Assessment Detector (RAD) aboard the rover Curiosity. With Jason Crusan, Advanced Exploration Systems Division director, NASA Headquarters, Washington; Dan Dumbacher, deputy associate administrator for exploration systems development, NASA Headquarters, Washington; Donald M. Hassler, RAD principal investigator and program director, Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), San Antonio; Rich Williams, chief health and medical officer, NASA Headquarters, Washington.

FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL – SECRETARY LEW — 2:30 p.m. Secretary Jacob J. Lew will preside over an open session of the Financial Stability Oversight Council. During the meeting, among other topics, the Council will discuss cybersecurity and receive a presentation from the Office of Financial Research on financial market developments. Speakers include: Jacob J. Lew, Treasury Secretary (Chairperson of the Council); Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Richard Cordray, Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Thomas Curry, Comptroller of the Currency; Edward DeMarco, Acting Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency; Gary Gensler, Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Martin Gruenberg, Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Debbie Matz, Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration; Mary Jo White, Chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; S. Roy Woodall, Jr., Independent Member with Insurance Expertis; Richard Berner, Director of the Office of Financial Research (non-voting member); Michael T. McRaith, Director of the Federal Insurance Office (non-voting member); John Ducrest, Commissioner, Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions (non-voting member); John Huff, Director, Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration (non-voting member); David Massey, Deputy Securities Administrator, North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, Securities Division (non-voting member). Http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/Video-Audio-Webcasts/Pages/Webcasts.aspx Location: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Cash Room, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All shows were in rerun.

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BISON CONNECT

Red Rock

Iacobucci, Francis <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Dec 9, 2013 at 6:20 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

The folks at Red Rock are excited to host once again. They're planning to take you on the scenic drive followed by a 1.5-2 hour hike (easy-medium difficulty).

We'll depart Vegas immediately following your Sage Grouse lunch, and I'll be sure to build in some time for a wardrobe change.

Thanks,
Booch

BISON CONNECT

Re: Red Rock

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To: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

Perfect. Thanks, SJ

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Dec 10, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR FINALIZES FIRST CO-OP AGREEMENT FOR INDIAN LAND BUYBACK PROGRAM. The Washington Post (12/10, Press, 4.28M) reports that the Interior Department has "finalized the first cooperative agreement in a $1.9 billion Native American land buyback program," federal officials announced Monday. The agreement reached with the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota "outlines the strategy and resources to be provided to tribal leaders for outreach and education." Officials with the Interior Department said "they intend to make the first offers by the end of the year." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said the Obama Administration "wants to reduce fractionation and implement the buyback program in a fair and equitable manner." In a statement, Jewell said, "Cooperative agreements give us an opportunity to work together,

nation-to-nation, to ensure that the Program's implementation is tailored to the specific priorities of each tribe. This agreement reflects a spirit of mutual respect and teamwork as we work together to address this opportunity."

AP coverage was picked up by the Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (12/10, 31K), the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (12/10, 31K), the Columbus (IN) Republic (12/10, 80K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (12/10, Lammers, 1.14M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/9, 749K), the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (12/10, 82K), the St. Joseph (MI) Herald Palladium (12/10, 43K), the Vancouver (CAN) Sun (12/10, 559K), KOTA-TV Rapid City, SD (12/10, 890), KELO-TV Sioux Falls, SD (12/10, 25K), and KXNews (12/10, 1K).

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER INTERIOR NOMINEES. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (12/10, 194K) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will consider nominations for Rhea Suh to be assistant secretary of fish and wildlife for the Interior Department, and Tommy Beaudreau to be assistant secretary for policy, management and budget for Interior. It will also vote on the nomination of Esther Kia'aina to be an assistant secretary for insular at Interior.

Meanwhile, Politico Magazine (12/10, Thrush, 464K) reports on the nominations that have been held up by the legislative branch. It notes that Michael Connor was nominated to be deputy secretary at the Interior Department on July 30, 2013, but Sen. David Vitter has placed a hold on the nomination.

WHITE HOUSE ADVISER URGES CABINET SECRETARIES TO WORK TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS. In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, The Hill (12/10, 194K) reports that President Obama is bringing former Clinton chief of staff John Podesta back to the White House for a year-long stint as a top adviser, an administration official confirmed Monday. The article notes that on Friday, Podesta tweeted a Center for American Progress report encouraging Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to "establish goals reducing carbon emissions from public lands over time."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF STUDY ON LIMITED ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS. additional coverage of the report by the Center for Western Priorities on the limited access to public lands was provided by the High Country (CO) News (12/10, 74K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (12/10, Brune, 11.54M), Michael Brune, Executive Director, The Sierra Club, argues that "if we want any real progress on protecting public lands, then our best hope is the executive branch" Moreover, he believes "there's reason to be optimistic that the Obama administration might deliver." Brune notes that Interior Secretary criticized Congress' failure to act in her speech at a National Press Club event. In urging President Obama to act, Brune suggests that "many first-rate candidates for national monument status are still waiting – from the seashore of Northern California to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks of New Mexico."

FORT WORTH MAYOR URGES SUPPORT FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND . In an op-ed for the Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (12/9, Price, 596K), Betsy Price, the mayor of Fort Worth, warns that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is at risk of expiring. She argues that "the fund can and must be reauthorized." Price asserts that "access to parks for biking, hiking, fishing and other recreational activities makes for happier, healthier citizens." She concludes that "by strengthening the LWCF, we can help ensure that Fort Worth and other bustling cities in our great nation will be able to provide access to public parks for generations to come."

INTERIOR'S PLAN TO KILL MICE ON FARALLON ISLANDS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (12/8, Charter, 156K), Richard Charter, a senior fellow with the Ocean Foundation, criticizes a plan by the Interior Department to introduce rodenticide in the Farallon Islands in order "to prevent mice that were accidentally introduced on the Farallones back in the 1800s from attracting migrating burrowing owls, which, once there, sometimes also become opportunistic predators of the recovering population of a seabird called the ashy storm petrel." According to Charter, "this convoluted...scheme contains more than a few notable flaws of logic and a lot of potential for extremely dangerous unintended consequences." He concludes that "society faces no compelling reason to rush forward with scattering poison throughout our entire national marine sanctuary ecosystem in the unconfirmed hope of perhaps getting rid of a few misplaced burrowing owls."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS FACES CHALLENGES OF AGING WORKFORCE, EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION. The Federal News Radio (12/10, 11K) reports that at the National NPS, "management faces two challenges related to its people: The workforce is aging, and the latest governmentwide employee viewpoint survey showed the agency has some work to do in keeping employees engaged." Kathy Hanson, chief of learning and development at NPS, on Monday "said training and development are especially impacted by the current budget pinch." Hanson said, "We're fortunate, though, that our leadership believes that it's more important than ever to focus on developing employees in such a difficult time. Leading change is a hard thing to do in the best of circumstances. But, it's especially difficult when employees are faced with such dire shortfalls in their budget and their staffing. Our leadership has said, 'This is so important that we're not going to undermine your efforts. We're going to put as many resources as we can there.'"

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT NAMED FOR GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK. USA Today (12/9, Ostendorff, 5.82M) reports that Pedro Ramos, currently a superintendent at Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida will take over next month as acting superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park when Superintendent Dale Ditmanson retires. The NPS said that "the posting is for 90 days." According to Don Barger of the watchdog group National Parks Conservation Association, "the decision to tap an acting superintendent shows the park service is serious about finding a strong full-time leader for the Smokies." Barger said, "I think for the park service to put someone in for an interim period like that is an indication of how important the park is. You want to make sure that you have got someone in there really running things."

The Sevierville (TN) Mountain Press (12/10, 28K) reports that Stan Austin, Regional Director for the Southeast Region, said, "We are very pleased that Pedro has agreed to step in as the acting superintendent at the Smokies. He has great experience as a superintendent and is very knowledgeable in protecting resources and taking care of visitors. We know he will do a superb job as we conduct a search for a permanent superintendent." Ramos said, "I am excited about this opportunity to serve in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most visited National Park in the country. I look forward to working with the park's employees, volunteers and partners to continue serving the public."

Also providing coverage are the Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (12/9, 366K), the Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times (12/9, 162K), WATE-TV Knoxville, TN (12/10, 36K), and WVLT-TV Knoxville, TN (12/10, 8K).

NPS NORTHEAST REGION DIRECTOR REIDENBACH TO RETIRE NEXT MONTH. The Philadelphia Business Journal (12/9, Subscription Publication, 39K) reports that Dennis Reidenbach will retire as director of the NPS' Northeast Region next month. NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis called Reidenbach "focused, dedicated — an example of the best of the best of National Park Service Professionals." Until his successor is named, Mike Caldwell, who serves as deputy director of the Northeast Region, will serve as interim director.

FLIGHT 93 CRASH SITE VALUED AT $1.5 MILLION. The Washington Post (12/9, Press, 4.28M) reports that "the site where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed on Sept. 11, 2001, is worth more than the government paid for it but far less than the former owner claimed, according to a commission report released Monday." According to the article, "a three-person eminent domain commission in Pittsburgh said the 275-acre site in Shanksville" is "worth about $1.5 million." The Interior Department "condemned the property under eminent domain in 2009 and paid Michael Svonavec $611,000 for it."

Also covering the story are the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (12/9, 725K), the State (SC) (12/9, 280K), the Somerset County (PA) Daily American (12/10, 40K), ABC News (12/10, 3.68M), and Time (12/9, 13.4M).

NPS AND VDOT CLOSE TO DEAL ON BI-COUNTY PARKWAY. WAMU-FM Washington (12/10, 36K) reports that the NPS and Virginia and are "close to signing an agreement that would open the way for the construction" of the Bi-County Parkway. Ed Clark, superintendent of Manassas battlefield, said, "This is obviously the farthest it's ever gotten, but VDOT still has a tremendous amount of work to do to get this accomplished."

Resident Op-Ed Sees Bi-County Parkway As Stuck In The Past. Connie Moser writes in a guest editorial for

the Prince William – Stafford (VA) Potomac Local (12/8, Moser) that projects like the Bi-County Parkway may be a wasteful venture if communities are moving in the directions of less driving and more consolidated urban living. The op-ed portrays the Bi-County Parkway debate in Prince William County as being very divisive, but fundamentally Moser feels that constructing the highway would "build a road that changes nothing but just gives us more of the same."

BUDGET ISSUES COULD IMPACT LOWELL NATIONAL PARK. The Lowell (MA) Sun (12/10, 142K) reports that "federal budget issues remain that could impact future funding" to the NPS and Lowell National Historical Park workers. However, park Superintendent Celeste Bernardo and "her team are taking things in stride, focusing on what they can do to improve programs and their key events, the Lowell Folk Festival and the Lowell Summer Music Series." Bernardo said that "it reflects the park's renewed focus on its major programs despite a shrinking budget and staff size – and potentially another federal shutdown."

TRIAL BEGINS IN MONTANA NEWLYWED KILLING CASE. The Washington Post (12/9, Press, 4.28M) reports that the murder trial of Jordan Graham, who is accused of intentionally pushing her newly wed husband Cody Johnson at Glacier National Park, began Monday. Graham has "pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, second-degree murder and making a false statement to authorities."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: VIRGINIA LAWMAKER WANTS STATE TO TAKEOVER CONTROL OF SHENANDOAH. Additional coverage of the push by Virginia delegate Bob Marshall for the state to takeover control of Shenandoah National Park was provided by the Northern Virginia Daily (12/10, 48K).

PUBLIC SUPPORT OF KILLING DEER GROWING. In her column for the Washington Post (12/10, Dvorak, 4.28M), Petula Dvorak writes about the efforts to control the deer population. She notes that when the NPS "started deer kills at Rock Creek Park this spring, protesters were outraged not only by the kill itself but also by the cruel methods." However, now, "public support of deer kills is growing."

Bureau of Land Management:

RESCUE TEAMS SEARCHING FOR NEVADANS. The Washington Post (12/9, Press, 4.28M) reports that "rescue teams were working against the clock and the bitter cold Monday to find a couple and four children who went to play in the snow in the remote mountains of northwest Nevada but didn't return after a night of sub-zero temperatures." Mark Turney, a spokesman for the BLM, said, "Let's hope they are found quick. It's got to be brutal out there."

Coverage was also provided by the Helena (MT) Independent Record (12/10, 45K).

BLM TO HOST SAGE-GROUSE WORKSHOP. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (12/10, 22K) reports that the BLM will hold an open house workshop on Wednesday for public comments on its proposed sage-grouse plan. Joe Tague, BLM Nevada chief for renewable resources and planning, said, "We encourage people with questions on the Draft EIS to come to the workshops and get more information. We would also like to remind people that while they are reviewing the document and preparing their comments, they should be focused on the entire region as opposed to zeroing in on specific local areas."

BLM PETITIONED TO HAND OVER ASH SPRINGS. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (12/10, 437K) reports that five months after Ash Springs was closed by federal officials, local residents are pushing for more local control of the popular swimming hole. A petition calling for the BLM to hand over the site to Lincoln County has been signed by almost 300 people so far.

BLM PLANS PRESCRIBED FIRE IN UPPER MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (12/9, 90K) reports that the BLM's Central Montana Fire Zone is "accepting public comments on plans to reintroduce fire in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument to improve habitat diversity and reduce the threat of wildfires, the agency announced Monday." Under the proposal, "prescribed fire would be used to reduce hazardous wildfire fuel loadings and improve range land and wildlife habitat."

BLM'S DECISION NOT TO BAN SHOOTING AT SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT EXAMINED.

The High Country (CO) News (12/10, 74K) examines the BLM's decision not to ban shooting at Sonoran Desert National Monument.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS ECONOMIC VALUE OF LAGUNA ATASCOSA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. KGBT-TV Harlingen, TX (12/10, 12K) reports that a recent report by FWS "highlights the value of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge to the economy of the Rio Grande Valley." Boyd Blihovde, manager Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, said, "The US Fish and Wildlife service just published data that shows that every dollar spent at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife refuge brings in $37 to the local economy."

ADVOCATES ARGUE CHIMPANZEES SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS LEGAL PERSONS. In an article about "a new legal strategy to have chimpanzees recognized as legal persons," the New York Times (12/10, Gorman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) notes that the FWS has "proposed changes that would classify all chimps, even those in laboratories, as endangered, a move that would raise obstacles to experiments on privately owned chimps."

FWS HELPING ROCKY MOUNT REMOVE HAZARDOUS DAM. The Washington Post (12/9, Press, 4.28M) reports that Rocky Mount is "removing a hazardous low-head dam on the Pigg River." The FWS is "providing funding for the Pigg River project as part of an effort to save the endangered Roanoke logperch." Dave Byrd with the federal agency says "the project will cost an estimated $110,000."

Coverage was also provided by the Columbus (IN) Republic (12/10, 80K).

FWS EXTENDS DEADLINE ON PROPOSAL TO PROTECT NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT. The Cleveland (TN) Daily Banner (12/10, 33K) reports that the FWS is "extending the deadline for public comment on the proposal to list the Northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act." According to the article, "the extension notice is expected to publish in the Federal Register and will extend the public comment period to Jan. 2, 2014."

YOUNG FLORIDA PANTHER FOUND SHOT DEAD AT BIG CYPRESS PRESERVE. The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (12/10, 78K) reports that an endangered Florida panther has been found shot dead at the Big Cypress National Preserve. Investigators from the NPS, the FWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are "going over the scene for clues and appealing to the public for help in solving the crime, which carries a potential penalty of up to a year in prison and a $100,000 fine."

OREGON CONSIDERING ELLIOTT STATE FOREST SALE. The Oregonian (12/10, 751K) reports that the State Land Board will decide Tuesday whether to sell 2,728 acres in the Elliott State Forest. However, "state and volunteer biologists discovered threatened marbled murrelets nesting there during surveys this summer," and "timber once worth an estimated $22.1 million dropped to $3.6 million, according to state appraisals." According to the article, "while worth less on paper, a state contractor's appraisal theorized that the reduced value may allow small timber companies to buy the land cheap and log it anyway, skirting the law to reap the original, higher value." The article notes that "the contractor's appraisal says" the FWS "ignores violations of illegal logging in murrelet habitat."

KLAMATH COUNTY OFFICIALS OPPOSE OREGON SPOTTED FROG HABITAT. The Oregon Public Broadcasting (12/10, 4K) reports that Klamath County commissioners are "voicing their opposition to designating more than 56,000 acres in Oregon as critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog." On Tuesday, all three commissioners voted for sending a letter to the FWS opposing the habitat

REPORT DOCUMENTS WETLANDS LOSS. In an editorial, the Lake Charles (LA) American Press (12/10, 114K) notes that the "loss of coastal saltwater wetlands more than doubled between 2004 and 2009, according to a report by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "In addition to the important economic and safety benefits they provide to people, coastal wetlands are also vitally important to native fish and wildlife species. While they comprise less than 10 percent of the nation's land area, they support 75 percent of our migratory birds, nearly 80 percent of fish and shellfish, and

almost half of our threatened and endangered species. We can't sustain native wildlife for future generations without protecting and restoring the coastal wetlands that support them."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WILDLIFE GROUPS, VITTER OPPOSE NEW EAGLE RULE FOR WIND FARMS. Politico (12/10, Guillen, 467K) reports that both wildlife groups and the "Senate GOP's top environmental lawmaker" Sen. David Vitter are irate over a new Interior Department rule that allows the issuing of "30-year permits for wind farms to accidentally kill or injure bald and golden eagles." Vitter calls the rule "baldly un-American" but the Obama Administration and the wind industry defend the change as necessary because the previous five-year maximum is impractical. Critics have called the rule "unpatriotic" and point out that 30 years gives the projects a long time to accrue a high death rate.

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON SOLAR PROJECTS. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (12/8, 110K) reports that the BLM has "scheduled a two-day public workshop starting Wednesday in Palm Springs to discuss the strategy it is developing for monitoring the environmental impacts of large-scale solar projects on public land east of the Coachella Valley." According to the official announcement for the meeting, "the Riverside East solar zone, 148,000 acres of public land between Joshua Tree National Park and the city of Blythe, will be the pilot location for the strategy."

Onshore Energy Development:

OIL TAX AGREEMENT BRINGS IN $40 MILLION FOR NORTH DAKOTA, INDIAN RESERVATION. The AP (12/10, MacPherson) reports according to North Dakota Tax Department records, an agreement between the state and the affiliated Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes "that standardized the rules and spurred oil drilling" on the Fort Berthold Reservation "is bringing in more than $40 million monthly for the state and tribal members, up from zero five years ago." Since the agreement was signed in 2008, the number horizontal wells on the reservation "jumped from one to more than 1,000." The state "has collected $445.4 million, with the tribe getting $315.3 million" to date.

CONOCOPHILLIPS BUDGETS $1.7B FOR ALASKA IN 2014. The AP (12/9) reports that ConocoPhillips plans to send $1.7 billion for 2014 capital costs in Alaska. The company said that the larger budget reflects increased spending on the CD-5 development within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and increased activity spurred by the oil tax cut passed this year.

QUESTIONS RAISED ON BLM'S PROPOSED POLICY TO KEEP LEASING INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL. In his column for the Washington Examiner (12/10, Higgins, 319K), Sean Higgins writes that the BLM's proposal to preserve secrecy on leasing information has "won it few friends on either side." According to Higgins, "environmentalists are exasperated that the administration would allow this," and "industry claims the new rule is unworkable and wants to revert to the old one." In conclusion, Higgins raises some question: "In whose interest is it to allow confidentiality if it allows companies to hold down the value of the leases? Why shouldn't taxpayers want them to be sold to the highest bidder? Isn't that the free market in action?"

Offshore Energy Development:

GOVERNMENT, ACADEMICS, INDUSTRY URGED TO COLLABORATE ON OFFSHORE SAFETY. In an op-ed for the Houston Chronicle (12/10, Khator, Ramm, 2.26M), Renu Khator, chancellor of the University of Houston System and president of the University of Houston, and David Ramm, the managing partner of Dymar Development, and chairman and CEO of BrightSource Energy Inc., write that "more than three years after the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the worst of the damage is no longer visible to the naked eye, but the long-term consequences remain unclear." They assert that "determining what more needs to be done, and when, will require our best minds, including those from government, academia and industry." According to the authors, "a partnership among the three will help to ensure new technologies and processes deliver combined safety and

operational oversight, rather than continuing today's too-often adversarial relationships."

NYTIMES COMPARES AND CONTRASTS DEEPWATER HORIZON AND VALDEZ SPILLS. The New York Times (12/10, Fountain, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that even though there are notes the similarities and differences in the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill. While the object in any spill is to "separate the oil from the water," the gulf disaster struggled due to lack of evolution in cleanup technologies and the fact that oil spread out over a wide area before reaching the surface. The Times notes that technology failed BP's engineers, and that even though the major companies that drill in the gulf have formed an independent company to develop equipment and procedures to deal with potential future spills, "the next disaster may be completely different."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT RELEASED. The Wall Street Journal (12/10, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on Monday, state and federal officials unveiled a draft final environmental analysis of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. State officials say a 120-day public comment period begins Friday on the project's draft environmental-impact statement and report, as well as the delta conservation plan.

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/10, 749K) reports that "the impact report was filed with the US Environmental Protection Agency on Friday and should be made available on the plan's website some time today." According to the article, "there will be opportunity for the public to comment on the report starting Friday and extending until April 14."

The Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (12/10, 90K) reports that "dozens of conservation groups including the Sierra Club" held "steadfast in their opposition, saying the project would ship more water from the delta south and create more environmental problems." However, "other environmental groups supported the effort, saying major changes are needed to help restore the badly damaged delta ecosystem." According to the article, "the groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council and Nature Conservancy, stopped short of giving formal approval of the draft plan, saying they are reviewing the some 34,000 pages to see if previous concerns they raised were addressed."

The Salem (OR) Capital Press (12/9, 113K) reports that "opponents of Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to build tunnels to send water past the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta didn't wait for the project's key environmental documents to emerge before criticizing them." According to the article, "water experts, an environmental activist and an attorney for the Californians for a Fair Water Policy said Dec. 6 the tunnels will end up costing Central Valley farmers more than they benefit and that the project isn't environmentally sound."

The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (12/10, 206) reports that the plan "promotes pork barrel fantasies of Gov. Jerry Brown, the state Department of Water Resources and corporate agriculture, critics say."

Additional coverage was provided by the San Francisco (CA) Chronicle (12/10, Gutierrez, 2.88M), the Fresno (CA) Bee (12/9, 327K), the Fresno (CA) Bee (12/9, Walters, 327K), the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (12/9, 86K), the Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (12/9, 465K), the Santa Clarita Valley (CA) News (12/9, 431), the Oroville (CA) Mercury-Register (12/10, 1K), the Ventura County (CA) Star (12/9, 196K), Reuters (12/10, Bernstein), KOVR-TV Sacramento, CA (12/9, 47K), KXTV-TV Sacramento, CA (12/10, 25K), KXTV-TV Sacramento, CA (12/10, 25K), KQED-FM San Francisco (12/9, 13K), and KXJZ-FM Sacramento, CA (12/9, 1K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

FEDERAL COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST HEARING ON TRIBAL YOUTH EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE. The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (12/10, 22K) reports that the US Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence held its first hearing on Monday in Bismarck. The committee "heard testimony on the effects of domestic violence, sexual abuse and witnessing violence on tribal youth, as well as testimony about services working to help heal victims and prevent future violence." According to the article, "much of the testimony before the committee on Monday focused on the need for culturally relevant

and tribally driven programs dealing with trauma to children."

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (12/10, 1.26M) reports that US Associate Attorney General Tony West said that the meeting is "an early and important step in protecting Native American and Alaska Native children." The Devils Lake (ND) Journal (12/9, 11K) notes that "the task force is the latest effort by the Justice Department to address violence on reservations, particularly against women and children." The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (12/10, Nowatzki, 15K) adds that "the advisory panel also will hold public hearings in Arizona, Florida and Alaska and make policy recommendations for Holder by the end of October."

Also providing coverage is the Grand Forks (ND) Herald (12/10, 87K).

EPA HOLDS RIVERTON PART OF WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION. The Columbus (IN) Republic (12/10, 80K) reports that the EPA has ruled that the City of Riverton has been part of the Wind River Indian Reservation for the past 108 years. The agency "determined that congressional action nearly a century ago didn't change the legal status of nearly 1.5 million acres around Riverton as Indian Country." The EPA on Friday "sent notice to the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes that the federal agency has approved their application to have the Wind River Indian Reservation treated as a separate state for purposes of implementing the federal Clean Air Act."

Also providing coverage are the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/10, 90K) and the San Francisco Chronicle (12/10, Neary, 2.88M).

BIA DETERMINES LEGAL BLACKFEET TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP. KRTV-TV Great Falls, MT (12/10, 7K) reports that last week, the BIA "stepped in to determine the legal council list" of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council's membership. According to the BIA the council members are: Willie Sharp, Jr., Forrestina Calf Boss Ribs, Roger Running Crane, Earl Old Person, Shannon Augare, Cheryl Little Dog, Paul McEvers, William Old Chief, and Leonard Guardipee.

MAZANITA BAND OF KUMEYAAY INDIANS WANTS TO EXPEDITE DECISION ON CALEXICO CASINO. KXO-AM El Centro, CA (12/10) reports that the Mazanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians has been "pushing for permission to construct an off reservation Casino for the past several years". The BIA has "had the application for some time." Supporters are "encouraged" with the BIA's "recent approval of two off-reservation casinos in Northern Califomia," and "are asking local officials to request the Bureau expedite their decision on the Calexico Casino."

Top National News:

TREASURY SELLS LAST GM SHARES, BRINGING TOTAL LOSS TO $10.5 BILLION. The sale of the final GM shares owned by the Treasury received somewhat contradictory coverage. While just about every report noted that the Federal government lost money on the bailout, often in the headline, most outlets also described the cash infusion's impact in positive terms. In addition, some coverage focused on the widespread belief that failing to support GM, along with Chrysler, would have had a significant downside for the economy.

In its lead story, CBS Evening News (12/9, lead story, 2:10, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that the government "is out of the car business." Now, GM is "not only making cars, but profits." CBS (Mason) noted the losses on the auto bailout, but also quotes Steve Rattner saying that to not bail out GM and Chrysler would have cost "a million jobs."

In a short segment, NBC Nightly News (12/9, story 7, 0:25, Williams, 7.86M) reported that GM "received almost $50 billion, an influx in cash to stay afloat," and that, "in total, American taxpayers lost about $10 billion on the bailout."

In typical print coverage, the AP (12/10, Krisher) reports that the Treasury Department will "end up losing $10.5 billion," but adds that the government "says the alternative would have been far worse."

In a story focused on President Obama's comments about the divestiture, McClatchy (12/10, 95K) reports that the President "hailed the news" and "touted the move as proof the auto bailout worked." In what McClatchy

characterized as a "bit of a victory lap," the President said, "In 2011, we marked the end of an important chapter as Chrysler repaid every dime and more of what it owed the American taxpayers from the investment we made under my administration's watch. Today, we're closing the book by selling the remaining shares of the federal government's investment in General Motors. GM has now repaid every taxpayer dollar my Administration committed to its rescue, plus billions invested by the previous administration."

In one of the most positive reports, the New York Times (12/10, Lowrey, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that with the sale, the government has "exited one of the most controversial investments made during the midst of the financial crisis," and notes that it was a "decision that as many as three in four Americans opposed at the time." The Times says many analysts believe the sale "might be good for [GM], too." Treasury, the Times adds, has "recovered $433 billion from the Troubled Asset Relief Program after initially investing about $422 billion."

USA Today (12/10, Healey, 5.82M) reports that investors have been "speculating that after the government's exit, GM would begin a dividend payment on the shares," though the company has not confirmed that. Meanwhile, GM CEO Dan Akerson "played down the final sale of shares," saying, "The U.S. Treasury's ownership exit closes just one chapter in GM's ongoing turnaround story. We will always be grateful for the second chance extended to us, and we are doing our best to make the most of it."

The Washington Times (12/10, 417K) reports Mark Reuss, GM's North America president, "told reporters in Warren, Mich., that a government exit would boost sales, especially among pickup truck buyers." According to the Times, GM has "said repeatedly that some potential customers have stayed away from its brands because they object to the government intervening in a private company's finances."

Bloomberg News (12/9, Higgins, 1.91M) reports that the US "lost about $11 billion" on GM, which "was the largest piece of an industry bailout that became a centerpiece" of the President's first term. The piece quotes heavily from the Center for Automotive Research, which backed the bailout on economic grounds.

The Los Angeles Times (12/10, Puzzanghera, 3.07M) calls the bailout "controversial," but quotes Treasury Secretary Lew saying, "This marks one of the final chapters in the administration's efforts to protect the broader economy by providing support to the automobile industry." The Times adds that although the auto bailouts "ended with a loss for taxpayers, Treasury officials said the goal never was to turn a profit." The Times notes that, according to Lew, the bailouts "prevented further damage to the economy and the potential loss of 1 million jobs."

The Wall Street Journal (12/10, Bennett, Morath, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the sale came as the shares of GM hit $40.90, a new high, and then gained 30 cents after the announcement.

The Hill (12/10, Sink, 194K) reports in its "On The Money" blog that the President "proudly" said that the "American auto industry is back." The Hill says the President didn't focus on the government's losses, but instead stressed that GM "has now repaid every taxpayer dollar my Administration committed to its rescue, plus billions invested by the previous Administration." The Hill says that the bailout "proved consistently unpopular throughout the recession," and that "surveys showed that a majority of Americans did not support the assistance until 2012."

The Washington Examiner (12/10, Mali, 319K) reports on the President's comments, and adds that the rescue was the "centerpiece" of Obama's campaign, with "the president touting the bailout in midwestern states and arguing that his GOP opponent, Mitt Romney, would have allowed the industry to go out of business."

LAWMAKERS REPORTEDLY NEAR BUDGET DEAL. The Washington Post (12/10, O'Keefe, Montgomery, 4.28M) reports that lawmakers are nearing agreement on a budget bill. Lawmakers are hoping to reach an agreement by Friday. Negotiators "were preparing to brief colleagues by midweek on their proposal to fund the government past Jan. 15, aides said." While work "appeared to be complete on the basic package," Senate Budget Committee Chairman Patty Murray and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan "were conferring with congressional leaders on other year-end issues, including the expiration of benefits for the long-term unemployed and payment rates for doctors who see Medicare patients."

Politico (12/10, Sherman, Bresnahan, 467K) reports that Murray and Ryan "have taken advantage of a political climate that's unusually fertile for a deal," and with the press "focused on Obamacare's woes, Ryan, Murray and

their staffs have had the space to try to hash out an agreement." Politico notes that "the mere fact that these talks haven't fallen apart after two months speaks to the unique climate of these discussions."

Pending Budget Deal Faces Opposition From Both Sides. Bloomberg News (12/10, Przybyla, 1.91M) reports that while negotiators are nearing agreement on a budget bill that would "trim automatic spending cuts," coming to an agreement "is only the first step," and the "real challenge" will be gathering "enough votes to pass in Congress." The compromise "faces peril in both parties." Republicans "criticize the proposal because it relies on higher spending in the short term while pushing off into future years cuts they fought hard to secure." Meanwhile, top Democrats "say they'll oppose a deal that disproportionately targets federal workers."

Roll Call (12/9, Rojas, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that an aide close to the talks said that "the need to get 60 votes to limit debate in the Senate won't be much of a concern, but threading the needle in the House could prove quite a task."

Heritage Action Says It Will Oppose Budget That Exchanges Sequester For "Inadequate" Cuts Later. The Hill (12/10, Wasson, 194K) reports in its "On The Money" blog that Heritage Action warned Monday that "it will oppose any budget deal that reverses sequestration cuts in exchange for 'inadequate' spending cuts later." The group said in a statement, "Heritage Action cannot support a budget deal that would increase spending in the near-term for promises of woefully inadequate long-term reductions. While imperfect, the sequester has proven to be an effective tool in forcing Congress to reduce discretionary spending, and a gimmicky, spend-now-cut-later deal will take our nation in the wrong direction."

Conservatives Worry Deal Will Blow Through Spending Caps. The Daily Caller (12/10, Pappas, 422K) reports that conservatives are growing concerned as reports are emerging that the pending deal "would blow through spending caps and set next year's discretionary spending at more than $1 trillion instead of the $967 billion mandated under law." Some conservatives see the deal "as an example of lawmakers' insatiable desire for the government to keep spending more money, instead of working to cut government."

Deal Will Likely Make Federal Workers Pay More. The Washington Post (12/10, Davidson, 4.28M) reports in its "The Federal Diary" column that Federal employees and their advocates on Capitol Hill hope the budget deal won't force Federal workers to "sacrifice more toward government savings," but "hope is not the same as expectation." The Post notes that Ryan and Murray are considering an option "that would require federal workers to come up with less than $17 billion," but for Federal workers, "any amount its too much." The Post adds that in one form or another, the agreement is likely to make Federal employees "give back money to their employer."

Increase In Airline Passenger Tax Likely. The Wall Street Journal (12/10, Nicas, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the deal is likely to double the tax on US airline passengers. Currently, passengers pay a $2.50 "September 11th security fee" for each flight. House Republicans and the Obama Administration have called for charging $5 per one-way trip. The Journal notes that because the talks are ongoing, the size of the increase and the amount it would raise are unclear.

Deal Unlikely To Include Extension Of Unemployment Benefits. The AP (12/10, Espo) reports that hopes faded Monday "for a quick extension of expiring unemployment benefits as Republican officials said they would not agree to include a renewal in any year-end budget deal." Democrats "said they would continue to press to make additional benefits for jobless workers part of the bill, but it was unclear how strongly the White House would support them."

WSJournal Opposes Expansion Of Unemployment Benefits. An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (12/10, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes the President for seeking another extension of unemployment benefits, arguing that the expansion of unemployment insurance is responsible for increasing joblessness.

US HOUSEHOLD WEALTH REACHES RECORD HIGH. The AP (12/10, Rugaber) reports that a "surging" stock market and a "steady recovery" in home prices drove Americans' household wealth to a new record during the third quarter of 2013. The Federal Reserve said on Monday that household wealth rose 2.6% during the quarter to $77.3 trillion, up from a recent low of $57.2 trillion in 2008. An increase in personal wealth has "been a pillar of the slow but steady U.S. economic recovery and could continue to boost the economy next year," by boosting consumer spending.

Reuters (12/10, Mutikani) runs a similar report, though adds that economists warned against drawing too many conclusions from it. They say that the increase has primarily benefited those who own stocks and homes.

The Wall Street Journal (12/10, Shah, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that while the Fed's numbers are not inflation-adjusted, even using the Fed's preferred inflation gauge, household assets are at a record high. However, the numbers aren't adjusted for population growth, and figuring that in and using the CPI to calculate inflation, household wealth is about 1% below its peak.

Stocks Ticked Up On Monday. The AP (12/10) reports that the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose five points to 16,025 while the S&P 500 rose 3 points to 1,808. The Nasdaq Composite Index rose 6 points to 4,068. The market is "back at a record high" after a sharp rise by Sysco and hope from traders that "a budget deal could be reached in Washington." The Wall Street Journal (12/10, Strumpf, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the S&P closed at a new record, as did the Nasdaq, but the Dow remains below its November 27 peak.

Companies Increasingly Willing To Engage Activist Investors. On its front page, the Wall Street Journal (12/10, A1, Benoit, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that corporations are increasingly willing to engage activist investors, finding it cheaper to negotiate than outright fight their demands. The settlements allow firms to reach peace on their own terms, avoiding ugly public proxy battles and often winning concessions from the activist investors in return. Even long-time corporate agitators like Carl Icahn are finding more doors open, and executives are increasingly acting on the investors' recommendations even before they secure board seats.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Breakthrough Agreement At Risk."*** The New York Times (12/10, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the "more serious threat" of undermining the nuclear negotiations with Iran lies with the United States. According to the Times, the threat of sanctions is "not only unproductive but unnecessary" because Congress can impose tougher sanctions at any time if the negotiations fail, whereas the interim agreement stipulated that "no further sanctions should be imposed while it was in force."

"A Season For Sales Taxes." In an editorial, the New York Times (12/10, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that on Cyber Monday, the Supreme Court "quietly cleared the way for states to begin collecting some $13 billion in sales taxes that go uncollected each year on Internet purchases." The Times approves of the collection of taxes on online sales, particularly since they "tend to spare low-income consumers somewhat because they shop less online than those with higher incomes." The Times said that "ideally," Congress would "pass a law to ensure uniform and comprehensive taxation of Internet sales," but for the time being, states "will have to act on their own."

"Fairer Policing In Suffolk County." The New York Times (12/10, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that five years after the murder of Ecuadorean immigrant Marcelo Lucero, a tentative agreement has been reached by the Justice Department and the police department in Suffolk County, New York "to settle an investigation of discriminatory policing in immigrant communities there." The Times explains that the agreement "calls for new policies on training, accountability and outreach to Latinos," and urges the County Legislature to "approve the agreement, to get Suffolk moving beyond the dismal place it was five years ago."

"Bob Dylan's Discordant Notes." The New York Times (12/10, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that charges against Bob Dylan for "violating a law that restricts free speech" are overblown. The charges were based on Dylan's contention in a magazine interview that "Serbs can sense Croatian blood" in reference to the enduring power of communal hatred. Croatian groups in France filed a complaint under the country's hate-speech law. The article noted that Dylan "could have phrased his thoughts better" but that the case does not have merit.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Weathering Ukraine's Storm."*** The Washington Post (12/10, 4.28M) editorializes that a "negotiated settlement" is in the interest of both Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych and the opposition. The opposition has no legal means for compelling Yanukovych's exit, and Yanukovych "still needs the West." It is unlikely that Russia would be able to give Ukraine the financing that it needs to regain economic stability, which it could obtain with an agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

"A Challenge To The Castros." The Washington Post (12/10, 4.28M) editorializes that Antonio Rodiles, a democracy activist in Cuba, has been a "driving force" behind a human rights conference to take place in his home in Havana. Rodiles has been imprisoned and threatened by state security forces for his activism, for which he returned to the country in 2007. The article speculated that the Castro regime believes that their state security apparatus "will be sufficient to intimidate or overpower a handful of people at a homespun human rights conference," but that "from such living rooms grows immense change."

"Mr. Graham Faces The Voters." The Washington Post (12/10, 4.28M) editorializes that allegations DC Councilman Jim Graham "tried to get a businessman to withdraw" from the Metro development project "in exchange for support of the businessman's separate bid for the lucrative lottery business" while on the Metro board should be considered by voters. The Post rejects Graham's efforts to portray ethical questions as "old business," because "voters knew little about that conduct when they reelected him in 2010." The editorial states that while the "proven ethical lapse is not the totality of his record," it is also not irrelevant.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"How To Keep Workers Unemployed."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (12/10, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes the President for seeking another extension of unemployment benefits, arguing that the expansion of unemployment insurance is responsible for increasing joblessness.

"The Putin Media." The Wall Street Journal (12/10, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to dissolve RIA Novosti, one of the official news agencies of Russia, points to hypocrisy on the part of Edward Snowden and Glenn Greenwald for denouncing US and UK spying while choosing to live in a country so hostile to freedom of the press.

"EPA's Thin Legal Air." The Wall Street Journal (12/10, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, makes the case that downwind states, whose pollution blows into neighboring jurisdictions, ought to have had the opportunity to address the pollution they are emitting before the EPA imposed limits on emissions. The Journal says the EPA also erred by imposing the same rules on all the downwind states no matter how much responsibility they bore for the pollutants that eventually traveled over the northeast.

"Thailand's Revolution." The Wall Street Journal (12/10, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that Prime Minister Shinawatra's call for elections was a responsible course of action, and the opposition as deluded in their belief that they represent the majority of Thais. The opposition can only hope to prevail through the intervention of the military or the king, neither of which have signaled support for the opposition.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Volcker Rule Sets New Hurdles
Pressure Builds On Germany Over Looted Art
Companies, Activists Declare Truce In Boardroom Battles
Radical Teachers Union Gives Mexico Harsh Lesson

New York Times:
Rule That Curbs Bank Risk-Taking Nears Approval
Spies Infiltrate A Fantasy Realm Of Online Games
Dasani: A Future Resting On A Fragile Foundation
Public Ouster In North Korea Unsettles China
Without Notice, Putin Dissolves A News Agency
Delayed Train? Skeptical Boss? MTA Will Give Passengers A Late Note
Ukraine's Forces Move Against Protesters, Dimming Hopes For Talks

Washington Post:
Locating The Heismans: The Award Goes To...A Lot Of Places

Ancient Lake Buoys Hopes For Mars Life
Painful Steps Forward
Under Health Law, Insurers Limiting Drug Coverage
In Mideast, A Joint Effort To Keep Dead Sea Alive
Financial Times:
Wall St Cannot Derail Volcker, Says Frank
Oligarchs Key To Ukraine Power Struggle
Berlin And Paris Near Bank Union Deal
Sysco To Buy US Foods In 8.2 billion Dollar Deal
Shale Gas Boom Helps US Chemicals Exports
US Sells Last Of Its General Motors Stake
The Real Threat To India Is Not The Taper

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Storm; Storm-Flight Cancellations; Storm-Delivery Delays; NTSB-Pilot Investigation; Mandela-Memorial; North Korea-Leader Expelled; Health-Prescription Painkillers; Nelson Mandela-History
CBS: Government-General Motor Shares; Winter Storm; Mandela-Memorial; Iran-Economic Sanctions; Pilot-Cockpit Computers-NTSB Investigation; Senate-Plastic Gun Ban; Government Surveillance-Privacy Rights; Health-Cancer Treatment; Mandela-Jailer Friendship
NBC: Mandela Funeral; Carter-Mandela Memories; South Africa-Mandela Death; Severe Winter Weather; Severe Weather Forecast; Health-Leukemia Treatment; GM-Auto Bailout; Airline Merger; Kennedy Center Honors; Mandela Tribute

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Obama-Mandela Memorial; LA Sheriff Department-Deputies Arrested; Winter Storm; Plastic Gun Ban
CBS: Mandela-Memorial; CA City Manager- Conspiracy Trial; LA Sheriff Department-Deputies Arrested; Senate-Plastic Gun Ban; GM-Auto Bailout
NPR: Obama-Mandela Memorial; Winter Storm; Record Low Temperature; Sandy Hook-Family Members; Princeton-Meningitis Vaccinations; Mars-Signs Of Life
FOX: South Africa-Mandela Memorial; Central Africa-French Intervention; Vulckor Banking Rule; San Diego Mayor Sentenced

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA-- Arrives in Johannesburg, South Africa; attends and delivers remarks at the National Memorial Service for Former South African President Nelson Mandela, First National Bank Stadium, open press; departs Johannesburg, South Africa.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN– Delivers remarks at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) Centennial Celebration, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center; hosts a meeting at the White House to discuss the Administration's efforts to increase access to mental health services; attends the Congressional Holiday Ball, White House, closed press.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA– Attends the memorial service for Former South African President Nelson Mandela, First National Bank Stadium, Johannesburg, South Africa, open press.
US Senate: 10 a.m. FINANCE — Hearings to examine the nomination of John Andrew Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Department of the Treasury. Witness: John Andrew Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2017, vice Douglas H. Shulman, term expired. Location: 215 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Hearings to examine the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor. Location: 430 Dirksen.

11 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs hearings to examine assistance for Jordan and Lebanon. Witnesses: The Honorable Anne Richard, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration. The Honorable Alia Bouran, Ambassador, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Honorable Antoine Chedid, Ambassador, Lebanese Republic. Andrew Harper, Country Representative for Jordan, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Ewen Macleod, Senior Policy Advisor, Syrian Refugee Response, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Location: 138 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine housing finance reform, focusing on the fundamentals of transferring credit risk in a future housing finance system. Witnesses: Wanda DeLeo, Deputy Director for Office of Strategic Initiatives, Federal Housing Finance Agency; Kevin Palmer, Vice President, Freddie Mac; Laurel Davis, Vice President, Fannie Mae; Ted Durant, Vice President of Analytic Services , Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation. Location: 538 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Hearings to examine crafting a successful incentive auction, focusing on the stakeholders' perspective. Witnesses: Gary M. Epstein Chair, Incentive Auction Task Force and Special Advisor to the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; Joan Marsh, Vice President, Federal Regulatory Affairs, AT&T Services, Inc.; Hal Singer, Senior Fellow, Progressive Policy Institute; Steven Barry, President and CEO, Competitive Carriers Association; Preston Padden, Executive Director, Expanding Opportunities for Broadcasters Coalition; Rick Kaplan, Executive Vice President, National Association of Broadcasters; Harold Feld, Senior Vice President, Public Knowledge. Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearings to examine the transition in Afghanistan. Witnesses: Ambassador James Dobbins, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, U.S. Department of State; Donald L. Sampler, Jr., Acting Assistant to the Administrator, Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Location: 419 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce hearings to examine administrative overtime at the Department of Homeland Security. Witnesses: Carolyn Lerner, Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel; Ron Vitiello, Deputy Chief, Customs and Border Protection; Catherine Emerson, Chief Human Capital Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Brandon Judd, President, National Border Patrol Council. Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.

2:30 p.m. JUDICIARY — Hearings to examine certain nominations. Location: 226 Dirksen.
US House: 10 a.m. MINIMUM WAGE, PAY EQUITY — Congressional leaders will hold a press conference to call for the House to take action on behalf of low-wage workers this holiday season by increasing the minimum wage and securing pay equity for women. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); Rep. George Miller (D-CA), Senior Democrat, Education and the Workforce Committee; Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT); Rep. Donna F. Edwards (D-MD). Location: HVC-215.

12 p.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. (This is a change from the previously announced schedule.)

9 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Joint Subcommittee Hearing Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa: Human Rights Abuses in Egypt. Witnesses: Panel I: Zuhdi Jasser, M.D., Vice Chair, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Panel II: His Grace Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom; Samuel Tadros, Research Fellow, Center for Religious Freedom, Hudson Institute; Morad Abou-Sabe, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University, (Former President of Misr University for Science & Technology); Tad Stahnke, Director of Policy and Programs, Human Rights First. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

12:30 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Hearing on "The State of Online Gaming." The subcommittee will examine the current regulatory landscape for online gambling after the Justice Departments reinterpretation of the Wire Act. The subcommittee will also review H.R.

2666, the Internet Poker Freedom Act. Witnesses: John Pappas Executive Director Poker Players Alliance; Andrew Abboud Vice President of Government Relations and Community Development Las Vegas Sands Corporation; Geoff Freeman President and Chief Executive Officer American Gaming Association; Les Bernal National Director Stop Predatory Gamblin; Kurt Eggert Professor of Law Dale E. Fowler School of Law Chapman University; Rachel Volberg, Ph.D. Associate Professor School of Public Health and Health Sciences University of Massachusetts Amherst. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

1 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Hearing: "The Iran Nuclear Deal: Does It Further U.S. National Security?" with Secretary of State John Kerry. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Continued Markup of: H.R. 2413, the "Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2013; H.R. 2431, the "National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013; H.R. 2981, the "Technology and Research Accelerating National Security and Future Economic Resiliency Act of 2013 and H.R. 3625, "To provide for termination liability costs for certain National Aeronautics and Space Administration projects, and for other purposes Location: 2318 Rayburn.

2 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Health Markup of H.R. 3527, the "Poison Center Network Act;" H.R. 1098, the "Traumatic Brian Injury Reauthorization Act;" and H.R. 1281, the "Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act." Location: 2322 Rayburn.

2 p.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY — Full Committee Markup will resume on H.R. 2413, the "Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2013, H.R. 2431, the "National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013, H.R. 2981, the "Technology and Research Accelerating National Security and Future Economic Resiliency Act of 2013 and H.R. 3625, "To provide for termination liability costs for certain National Aeronautics and Space Administration projects, and for other purposes. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

4:30 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Full Committee Markup (Opening Statements only). Location: 2123 Rayburn.
Other: Dec. 10 – 11. NTSB – ASIANA CRASH – TWO DAY HEARING — Crash of Asiana Flight 214, San Francisco, CA, 7/6/2013 – The National Transportation Safety Board is convening a 2-day investigative hearing to discuss the ongoing investigation into the crash of Asiana Airlines Flight 214 and to gather additional factual information. The hearing, which will be held December 10-11, 2013, at the NTSB's Board Room and Conference Center in Washington, DC, will focus on pilot awareness in highly automated aircraft, emergency response, and cabin safety. Location: National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza.

DEFENSE FORUM WASHINGTON 2013 — 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. "Shaping the Maritime Strategy and Navigating the Budget Gap Reality." Policymakers and military leaders will discuss how budget cuts will affect the defense strategy of the U.S. sea services. Featured speakers: Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy; Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH); Rep. J. Randy Forbes (R-VA); Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA). Location: The Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HALL OF FAME – PETERSON — 9:15 a.m. U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez will induct Esther Peterson into the Labor Hall of Honor at U.S. Department of Labor headquarters. Followed by a Panel discussion: "50 Years Later: A 21st Century Workforce."

AEI – OPENING MARKETS – SENATOR FLAKE — 10 a.m. Opening markets, unlocking opportunity: Senator Jeff Flake on trade promotion in Congress. Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as he addresses the role Congress should play in expanding trade opportunities and increasing market access for US businesses. A panel will then discuss the current status of the TPP, trade promotion authority, and the Obama administrations trade agenda. Participants include Sourabh Gupta (Samuels International), Tami Overby (US Chamber of Commerce), and Derek M. Scissors (AEI). AEI's Arthur C. Brooks will begin the event with opening remarks, and AEI's Claude Barfield will moderate the discussion. http:

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY — 10 a.m. Press conference by stakeholders to observe International Human Rights Day by calling upon Congress to "slash runaway, dangerous military spending and meet critical domestic needs instead". Participating groups: Backbone Campaign; Coalition Against Nukes; Code Pink; Fellowship of Reconciliation, Freepress.org; Hunger Action Network of NYS; Global Network Against Weapons &

Nuclear Power in Space; Green Shadow Cabinet; Green Party of NY; Hip Hop Congress; Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution; No FEAR Coalition; Organic Consumers Association; Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign; PopularResistance.org; Roots Action; and US Labor Against War. Speakers include: Jill Stein, Green Shadow Cabinet; Cheri Honkala, Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign; David Swanson, Roots Action; Mark Dunlea, Hunger Action Network of New York State; Dr. David Schwartzman, Professor Emeritus Howard University and community activist. Location: Congressman John Conyer's office, 2426 Rayburn House.

TPP – SINGAPORE — 11 a.m. Telephone press conference: Members of Congress, Union and environmental presidents on outcomes of the Singapore Trans-Pacific Partnership Ministerial. U.S Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.); Leo Gerard, president, United Steelworkers; James Hoffa, president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Larry Cohen, president, Communication Workers of America; Mike Brune, executive director, Sierra Club (to be confirmed); Moderated by Lori Wallach, director, Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch.

SEQUESTER CUTS – DAMAGE – MEDICAL RESEARCHERS — 2 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Media teleconference to release university researcher profiles and discuss how vast NIH budget cuts are plaguing U.S. research labs. Speakers: Representative Jackie Speier, (D-CA); Representative Scott Peters, (D-CA); Valerie Weaver, PhD, Professor, Departments of Surgery, Anatomy and Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences, University of California, San Francisco; Donald Small, MD, PhD, Director, Pediatric Oncology Division of; Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center; Laurie McCaskill, Chair, Board of Directors, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, pancreatic cancer survivor; Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, President, United for Medical Research. DIAL IN: 888-417-8533, Conference Passcode: 7359517

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – TRANSATLANTIC FINANCIAL REFORM — 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. The Atlantic Council, TheCityUK, and Thomson Reuters will launch the second report in a series entitled The Danger of Divergence, followed by a high-level panel discussion on the future of international financial regulation. Speakers include: Christopher Murphy, US Senator and Report Co-Chair. Report overview by Mr. Christopher Brummer, C. Boyden Gray Fellow, Atlantic Council. 485 Russell.

REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – MENG — 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. The Global Womens Institute and We Belong Together will release a policy brief on immigration and violence against women with a keynote panel Violence Against Women as a Cross Border Issue. Speakers include: Mary Ellsberg, director, GW Global Womens Institute; Pramila Jayapal, co-chair, We Belong Together; U.S. Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y.; Terry O'Neill, president, National Organization for Women (NOW); Maya Raghu, policy and program attorney, Futures Without Violence; Jeanne Smoot, director of public policy, Tahirih Justice Center. Location: The George Washington University, Duques Hall, Room 151, 2201 G St., NW.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE – DORSEY, POWERS — 7 p.m. National Democratic Institute's Democracy Dinner. Participants include: Jack Dorsey, chairman and co-founder of Twitter; Samantha Power, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations; Madeleine K. Albright, former U.S. secretary of state and NDI chairman; Tom Daschle, former Senate Democratic leader and NDI vice chair; The Honorable Toomas Hendrik Ilves, president of Estonia. Location: The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 1150 22nd St., NW

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "You know that 85-year-old American who is being detained in North Korea? Returned home safely this past Saturday. Got home safely. His family said he is resting. He is in good spirits, and he's already planning his next trip to Pakistan. So he's very excited."

David Letterman: "Snowstorm all over the eastern two-thirds of the United States. It's really sad, because of the snowstorm, nobody can get to the unemployment office."

David Letterman: "You know what they did yesterday, they lit up– turned on the White House Christmas tree down there in Washington, DC. The entire week before they turn on the Christmas tree, Joe Biden, the Vice

President, is in the basement of the White House untangling the lights."

Jimmy Fallon: "Let's see what's going on in Washington here. Vice President Joe Biden was happy to be back in the US on Saturday after spending six days in Japan, China, and South Korea. Of course, no one had the heart to tell him it was only a PF Chang's."

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of Biden, in a new interview, President Obama said that Joe Biden has what it takes to be a great President. And he added 'Of the "Yo Gabba Gabba" fan club.'"

Jon Stewart: "Let us begin tonight with the National Security Administration which is the subject of the new ongoing series That Thing They Said They Are Not Doing, They Are Totally Doing.' ... On the bright side, under this plan, if you like your NSA spy you get to keep your NSA spy so that is something."

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Briefing Materials for NM/NV Trip - December 10 - 13, 2013

Olson, Elizabeth <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Dec 10, 2013 at 3:07 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are your briefing materials for your NM/NV Trip. These are also located on Google Drive in the NM and NV Trip folder, and a binder with hard copies has been delivered to Erin.

Thank you,
–
Elizabeth
208-2977

9 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 2-7)

12 12 13_1230pm PST_VERSION 3 TALKING POINTS Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting.docx
22K

12 13 13_730am PST_Personnel Meetings.pdf
58K

12 13 13_900am PST_Colorado River Water Users Association Meet....pdf
39K

12 13 13_900am PST_TALKING POINTS Colorado River Water Users Association Meeting.doc
97K

12 11 13_10am PST_Laguna Elementary School Site Visit.pdf
128K

12 11 13_300pm PST_Regional DOI Employee Meeting.pdf
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12 12 13_1010am PST_VERSION 2 TALKING POINTS Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting.docx
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12 12 13_1230pm PST_VERSION 3 Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting.pdf
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TALKING POINTS – SAGE GROUSE TASK FORCE MEETING – VERSION 3

Welcome

- Two years ago yesterday Ken Salazar met with Governor Mead and representatives of other states to begin work together to conserve this species
- Out of that meeting came this Task Force and an historic opportunity to conserve this species and its habitat so that listing the species under the ESA is not necessary.
- Thank in particular Governors Mead and Hickenlooper for their leadership of this effort

Unprecedented Collaboration

- To date, there has been unprecedented state and federal cooperation
- The BLM's "National Technical Team" Report and the FWS "Conservation Objectives Team" Report were produced through the collaboration of state and federal experts.
- The BLM and USFS land use plan amendments include consideration of a state-produced alternative for every state that offered one.
- We have provided states with the knowledge and tools at our disposal
- We have accomplished a great deal to date: a collective understanding of the conservation objectives, 98 draft land use plan amendments and revisions that are out or will shortly be out in the public domain, several state plans for conservation completed or underway

Critical Juncture

- But we have reached a critical juncture in this joint endeavor.
- Continued close cooperation will be even more important as we move forward
- BLM and the Forest Service intend to complete their plan revisions and amendments by this time next year to give FWS time to take them into account for their 2015 proposed listing determination
- To meet this timeline, BLM and the Forest Service must publish their final environmental analyses and proposed plans by next summer
- To be clear, six months from now, the BLM and USFS must be close to completing their final environmental analyses for the revisions and amendments of their plans.
- The states, too, must complete and begin to implement their own plans and programs for state and private lands on a similar timeline
- The clock is ticking

Top Line Assessment

- In September I asked my colleagues at Interior to ensure this meeting could be a frank and candid assessment of where we are today.

- In anticipation, most states prepared assessments of their own plans and programs
- I also asked my colleagues for preliminary thoughts on the draft BLM plans, though the review is ongoing
- Those assessments acknowledge that work remains to adequately address threats to the sage grouse identified in the COT report produced by state and federal officials
- I want to share a few of the high-level issues that emerged

Voluntary Actions

- Many of the state plans rely heavily – some almost exclusively – on voluntary actions
- Voluntary conservation measures are one possible approach, but you need to understand how FWS will evaluate them
- Two considerations will guide the FWS: first, the likelihood that voluntary measures will be implemented, and second, the likelihood that the measures will be effective
- Many of your staff are hearing from the FWS asking that you step beyond voluntary approaches and use your regulatory authorities to address threats
- Wyoming, for instance, has done so with a series of executive orders that provide the kind of regulatory certainty that the FWS can count and credit in their listing decision.
- For those of you relying on new voluntary programs: get them started as soon as possible so you can establish strong evidence of implementation and effectiveness by 2015
- But you should also think about doing more – think about using your state powers to ensure that necessary conservation measures are implemented.
- Understand that if there is not a regulatory guarantee that certain actions will take place and if there's not a proven track record of voluntary actions being implemented and being successful, FWS will not be able to credit those measures when making their listing decision

Private and State Lands

- Here's something else that I hope you'll consider.
- BLM and other federal lands comprise a majority of the remaining sage grouse habitat (58%), but effective conservation cannot be accomplished solely on federal lands.
- We are greatly appreciative of the ideas you've brought forward for how federal lands should be managed to conserve sage grouse, and we will continue to work with you to refine the plans for public lands in each state.
- But we need state conservation plans that apply to non-federal lands as well.
- If conservation measures for sage grouse are not shared across the landscape of public and private lands, then here's what will likely happen.
- The BLM and Forest Service will have to carry the conservation load on their own and the conservation measures they select will have to be more restrictive than if actions were being shared across entire landscape.
- The math here is fairly simple. And it's critical that we all take steps to get this right.

Science-Based Land Management Regimes

- The BLM, the Forest Service and the states will be making hard decisions on issues like the amount of disturbance the sage grouse can tolerate and the necessary buffer zone for activity occurring around leks
- The FWS, the BLM, the Forest Service and each of your people will have to spend the next few months looking at the best available science and determining how to craft final plans that will have the highest likelihood of conserving the sage grouse
- To be effective – and legally defensible – plans must address the threats to the bird's survival in the remainder of its range based on the best available science

Rural Fire Protection Districts

- As an example, fire is one of the greatest threats to sage grouse in the Great Basin
- At FWS request, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies convened a team of experts to look at the issue.
- That team identified expediting creation of Rural Fire Protection Districts - -local landowners trained to fight fire -- as one of the most important conservation actions we can take
- The State of Idaho worked with BLM and FWS to do exactly that
- Neil will talk more about this program in a few minutes.

Next Steps

- Over the next three months, the FWS will continue work with the States, BLM and the Forest Service to address comments and make needed improvements as appropriate to the land use plan amendments and revisions.
- In the spring, we intend to review all the BLM/FS plans to assess whether there are major gaps and weaknesses in how **together** they address the threats to the species across the range using the FWS Conservation Objectives Team Report as a guide.
- We URGE the states to provide their final conservation actions to the FWS as early as possible in February so that they can also be included in this evaluation of the conservation actions across the range of the sage grouse
- The results of that assessment will give all of us an opportunity to make further adjustments, as appropriate, before the BLM and Forest Service select final management alternatives
- In that way, we can work across the landscape TOGETHER, to develop plans that give us the best chance of conserving the species
- I'd like to reconvene to discuss the resulting plans at the June WGA meeting
- After that conversation, we can proceed to finalize the plans next fall so that the FWS will be able to consider the plans in its listing process

In summary

- The federal/state interagency cooperation to date has been unprecedented
- We are committed to continuing our partnership, working across the 11 state range of the grouse with the states and their experts, to develop a strategy to ensure viable sage grouse populations across the West.
- We're on track to meet our deadlines for finalizing the plans over the next 9 months
- Our efforts will only be meaningful if each of us develops strong, defensible science-based plans
- I appreciate all your efforts to date and
- I look forward to continuing our collaboration and hope for open communication over these next few critical months

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING – VERSION 3

DATE: December 12, 2013
LOCATION: Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Oriental Ballroom, Las Vegas, NV
TIME: 10:10AM – 11:45AM PST
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, Sr. Advisor (202)208-6726; Terri Johnson, Acting Director, OIEA (202)208-7513

Note: Edits are highlighted below in yellow.

I. PURPOSE

You will attend the WGA Winter Meeting on December 12 in Las Vegas, NV. You will be one of two Keynote Speakers kicking off the Combating Western Wildfires Plenary Session and YOU will also participate in the Governors' Luncheon sage grouse discussion (a separate Luncheon Briefing Memo is prepared for you). You will also participate in the Closing Press Conference / Public Launch of Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool. Approximately 220 people are attending this year's winter conference.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Governors Attending the Conference:
  - John Hickenlooper (CO) – WGA Chair
  - Butch Otter (ID)
  - Steve Bullock (MT)
  - Brian Sandoval (NV)
  - Matt Mead (WY)
  - Gary Herbert (UT)
  - Jan Brewer (AZ)
  - Eruviel Avila, Governor of the State of Mexico

- DOI
  - Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary, Office of Water and Science
  - Lori Carmanian, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Water and Science
  - Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management
  - Dan Ashe, US Fish and Wildlife Service Director
  - Michael Bean, Senior Advisor, Fish and Wildlife and Parks
  - Mike Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
  - Sarah Greenberg, Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary
  - Jim Douglas, Director, Office of Wildlife Fire, DOI
- USG Attendees:
  - Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary of Agriculture, USDA
  - Jennifer Yezak, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, USDA
- Other Attendees Representing DOI Interests

- Energy (solar, wind, natural gas, copper, petroleum, coal, and transmission interests typically attend.)
- Conservation - (Theodore Roosevelt conservation Partnership, National Wildlife Federation, National Association of Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, Environmental Defense Fund, and the Western States Water Council)

III. AGENDA

10:00AM	Governor Eruviel Avila Villegas (Mexico) will deliver keynote remarks
10:10AM	You will be introduced by MT Governor Bullock; You will deliver keynote remarks; Governor Bullock will ask 2-3 prepared questions from the stage
10:25AM	Depart
11:45AM	WGA Closing Press Conference/Public Launch of Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool

IV. TALKING POINTS

Talking Points are attached as a separate document.

V. BACKGROUND

Western Governors' Association

The Western Governors' Association was established in 1984 and is an independent, nonprofit organization representing the Governors of 19 states and three US-Flag Pacific islands. Through their Association, the Governors identify and address key policy and governance issues that include natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, intergovernmental relations and international relations. The current chairman of is Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, who was elected in June 2013.

Current initiatives of the Association are energy generation; regional transmission expansion; weather and climate risk; water: supply, transfers, and drought; forest health; outdoor recreation and tourism; and wildlife corridors and crucial habitat.

Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool

The Western Governors' Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) is a cooperative effort of 16 Western states to provide the public and industry a high-level overview of "crucial habitat" across the West. This tool and several individual state CHATs have been developed pursuant to an MOU among WGA, DOI, and others. "Crucial habitats" are places that contain and connect the natural resources important to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, including species of concern, as well as hunting and fishing species. The CHAT helps users in the pre-planning of energy corridors and transmission routes, or in comparing fish and wildlife habitat, by establishing a common starting point across the West for the intersection of development and wildlife. The tool is designed to enable industry to reduce time, costs, conflicts, and surprises while helping

government agencies ensure wildlife values are better incorporated into land use decision-making.

- The CHAT is non-regulatory and represents landscape-level analysis. For project-level review, additional information, data, and state consultation is necessary.
- Private landowner boundaries are not discernible on CHATs, which do not impose designations or identify species at the individual landowner scale. While some private land may appear marked as containing crucial habitat, that delineation has no regulatory or legal ramification.
- The CHAT is built from State wildlife agency data. States collaborated to ensure information in the regional viewer is comparable across the region. Arizona, California, Montana, Nevada, Washington, and Wyoming have developed state-specific CHATs The Souther Great Plains CHAT depicts Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat across five states.
- The online tool is an example of WGA's ongoing work with Federal agencies, including FWS, BLM, and the Forest Service to enable use of state fish and wildlife data and analyses to inform land use, planning, and related natural resource decisions.
- CHAT development began in 2010, supported by a grant from the Dept. of Energy

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- Profiles of Attending Governors (*below*)
- Information Memo regarding WGA Issues of Interest
- Information Memo regarding Sequester Impacts on Payments to WGA States
- Talking Points (*attached separately*)

PROFILES OF ATTENDING GOVERNORS WGA



Governor John Hickenlooper (D-CO): WGA CHAIR - Governor Hickenlooper describes himself as a "recovering geologist now on loan to public service." Elected in 2010, his priorities include making Colorado the model for energy policy by promoting an "all-the-above" energy policy that develops Colorado's traditional and renewable resources in a balanced way, and with the highest ethical and public safety standards and making Colorado the healthiest state. Governor Hickenlooper serves in leadership positions with the National Governors Association and the Western Governors' Association. He also serves as the Vice Chair of the Democratic Governors Association.



Governor Jan Brewer (R-AZ) – Ms. Brewer became governor in January 2009 following the resignation of Governor Janet Napolitano and reelected in 2010. She previously served as Secretary of State of Arizona from 2003 to 2009 and also served in the Arizona House of Representatives and State Senate from 1987 to 1996 including a four year period as Majority Whip. Arizona ranks as the nation's second-largest solar market. In 2012 Arizona installed more utility-scale solar last year than any other state. Arizona now has edged out New Jersey for the number two slot, and trails only California in solar production.



Governor Butch Otter (R-ID) - Governor Otter has been Governor of Idaho since January 2007. He previously served three terms in Congress representing Idaho's 1st District from 2001 through 2006. Otter was the longest serving Lieutenant Governor of Idaho, holding office from 1987–2001. He is the first Idahoan since statehood to win elections as both a United States Representative and as governor.



Governor Steve Bullock (D - MT) - Steve Bullock, Montana's former attorney general, was elected governor in 2012. Since becoming Governor, Bullock has approved a request from Yellowstone National Park to move bison from a holding facility in the park, to an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service facility for research and quarantine. He also supported the creation of the "Native Language Preservation Program," a partnership between the State of Montana and tribal governments to preserve the languages of Montana's Indian tribes and enhance the educational opportunities students have on Montana's reservations, while protecting American Indians' cultural heritage.



Governor Matt Mead (R-WY) - Governor Mead took office January 2011. He serves on the Council of Governors, a group of 10 governors chosen by the President to advise top federal officials on matters related to the National Guard and civil support missions. He also serves on the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory Council. In the National Governors Association, he is a member of the Natural Resources Committee. He is co-chair of the State and Federal Sage Grouse Task Force, which brings together federal officials and representatives of 11 western states for a regional conservation effort.



Governor Brian Sandoval (R-NV) - Brian Sandoval took office January 2011. He is a member of the Western Governors Association, National Governors Association, Republican Governors Association and the Hispanic Leadership Network. Governor Sandoval also serves as Vice-Chair of the NGA Health and Homeland Security Committee. He was recently appointed Chair-elect of the Education Commission of the States. Prior to becoming Governor, he served as a federal judge, and as the Nevada Attorney General. Sandoval was also the first Hispanic candidate elected to statewide office in Nevada.



Governor Gary Herbert (R-UT): WGA CHAIR - Gary Herbert became Utah's Governor in 2009. Before assuming the governor's office, he served as Utah's sixteenth Lieutenant Governor. Governor Herbert's priorities are education, energy, jobs and self-determination. The Governor currently serves as the Chair of the WGA and is a leading voice on energy issues in the West. He has made it a priority for the WGA to advocate for increased energy development on public lands.



Governor Eruviel Avila Villagas – State of Mexico - Governor Villegas is a member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party. He was Mayor of Ecatepec de Morelos twice, from 2003 to 2006 and from 2009 to 2012 and deputy of the State of Mexico's Congress from 997 to 2000 in the LIII Legislature and from 2006 to 2009. He has been a teacher at UNITEC. He is author of the book *"The Creation of the Constitutional Court in the State of Mexico"* published in 2003, a joint publication of the Legislative Investigations Institute.

Robert Bonnie –Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment - Robert



Bonnie was confirmed as Under Secretary in August, 2013. He previously served as a senior policy adviser for Secretary Vilsack. Bonnie worked for the Environmental Defense Fund from 1995 to 2008, holding a number of positions including vice-president of land conservation and wildlife and managing director of the Center for Conservation Incentives. He served on the board of visitors at the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, and was a member of the board of directors for the Piedmont Environmental Council and Scenic America.

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: December 4, 2013
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, OS, (202)208-6726; Terri Johnson, OIEA; Michael Bean, AS-FWP office; Gary Frazer, FWS; Pam Haze, AS-PMB; Amy Holley, PMB; Neil Kornze, BLM; Liz Klein, OS; Janet Lin, BLM; Maureen Foster, NPS
SUBJECT: Western Governors Association (WGA) Issues of Interest – VERSION 3

Note: Edits are highlighted below in yellow.
Note: Sage Grouse materials are included in a separate memo for the Task Force meeting.

WOLVERINE

In January, FWS proposed protections for the wolverine throughout the continental U.S. It opened a comment period that's set to end on December 10. Wildlife officials for Western states are asking for a 6-month extension of the listing deadline. FWS's position is that the available scientific evidence indicates that significant reduction of wolverine habitat is likely within 30 years.

Q: *Is FWS considering a 6-month extension on the deadline for a final listing rule?*
A: Yes. The Service is evaluating new comments received where we specifically requested comments on the issue of whether the climate models represent the best available science from which we can reasonably predict future effects. They will be making a decision shortly on whether a 6-month extension is warranted.

Q: Is the Service going to consider convening a panel of experts to look at the climate science and wolverine biology pursuant to the states concerns, as was requested by WY Governor Mead?
A: FWS is strongly leaning towards convening an expert panel to look at the climate science and wolverine biology unless information provided during the comment period makes this unnecessary.

Q: If wolverines are currently more numerous than they have been in the past 100 years, why were they proposed for listing?
A: Although wolverine populations have rebounded significantly since 1930, projections of future habitat under moderate climate change scenarios indicate that it is likely to be reduced by about 31% by 2045 and 63% by 2085. This projected loss would significantly affect the wolverines' ability to maintain populations in its current range and was the primary reason for our proposal.

Q: What is the status of any reintroduction or range expansion efforts?
A: Currently, the only reintroduction effort that is being considered is by the State of Colorado. It is very early and will require legislative approval along with a significant planning effort. The State has informed FWS that they are not interested in any reintroduction effort unless the wolverine is listed under the ESA, with a 10(j) rule to provide regulatory certainty and flexibility.

COLORADO RIVER

The Colorado River Basin has a problem: the ongoing drought that began in 2000 is one of the worst in a more than thousand years. While demand for water continues to grow, drought and climate change are causing supplies to dwindle. We are facing substantially decreased water levels in both Lakes Mead and Powell.

Current Hydrology:

Over the past 14 years, system storage in the Basin declined from nearly full to about 50 percent of capacity. If Lakes Powell and Mead had not been full at the start of this drought in 2000, the Basin would already be experiencing unprecedented crises. In water year 2013, inflow into Lake Powell was 47% of average, making it the **4th driest on record since 1964** (when Glen Canyon Dam was closed) and the two consecutive years (2012 and 2013) are one of the worst two-year periods in history. Despite these dry conditions, BOR was able to make the required delivery commitments, including environmental releases, in the Upper Basin in water year 2013 and anticipates meeting those commitments in 2014. BOR also met all delivery obligations to U.S. water users in the Lower Basin and to Mexico in 2013, and will do the same in 2014.

Issues and Challenges:

Throughout history, there has never been a shortage condition determined in the Lower Basin (Nevada, Arizona and California). Pursuant to agreement among the Basin States and DOI, a shortage is deemed to occur when Lake Mead reaches elevation 1075 feet. The elevation is currently around 1106 feet, but is forecast to reach 1084 feet **by next October**. Over the next 5 years, there is a potential for a shortage declaration, with probabilities ranging from less than 1% in 2015, to over 50% in 2018. At this point in the season, there is significant uncertainty regarding this coming winter's snowpack.

In the longer term, results from BOR's Colorado River Basin Study (undertaken in partnership with the Basin States) show that without proactive steps, we could be facing a 3.2 million acres-foot imbalance in future supply and demand by 2060. We need to take aggressive steps now toward solving this imbalance and protecting the vibrant economy of the Southwest.

DOI plays a key role across the Colorado River Basin and is committed to continuing to partner with Basin stakeholders to find new and better solutions. BOR has an established history of partnership with the Basin States which is founded on negotiation and compromise to resolve water issues within the Law of the River.

In June, you met with Basin States water representatives at the WGA meeting in Park City, and they committed to work together to identify solutions. Since that time, the Basin States have been working to identify actions to avoid reaching critical elevations in Lakes Powell and Mead should drought conditions continue. BOR has been providing technical expertise and support. The workgroup has identified broad categories of actions targeted at generating volumes of water to protect critical elevations in Lakes Powell and Mead including conservation, temporary demand reduction, and increased system efficiency. Many of these actions have significant political and legal sensitivities that must be worked through before public discussion, and hoped for adoption and implementation.

Although the Basin States remain committed to continuing discussions, there does not yet appear to be a consensus on which actions should be pursued at this time. The Basin States agree that the DOI is a key partner in each and every action under consideration, and privately some would concede that a push from the Department might help move things forward.

Minute 319

Implementation of the historic November 2012 agreement between the U.S. and Mexico on the Colorado River (known as "Minute 319") is well underway. Currently, effort is focused on planning for a potential environmental pulse flow in the spring of 2014 to benefit the riparian ecosystem in the River Delta. This is a joint effort involving the governments, scientists, and NGOs from both countries to design, execute, and monitor the ecological response to an unprecedented one-time pulse flow (simulated flood). All water for the pulse flow will be generated in Mexico through conservation; DOI will provide funding to generate 50 percent of that water.

While we are working to finalize necessary approvals for a pulse flow in 2014 (the Minute anticipates but does not require the flow take place next year), there are still issues to be resolved with Mexico and within the U.S. We are pressing to resolve these issues by **January 31, 2014** (the target date in Min. 319), as we strongly believe that a pulse flow in 2014 is the best option. Negotiating an extension of Minute 319 by December 2016 is a high priority, and a successful pulse flow will help pave the path to reaching an agreement.

BLM ARIZONA

Renewable Energy

Q: What renewable energy and transmission projects are moving through the DOI pipeline?
A:

(1) The **Hyder Valley Solar Energy Project** has a draft EIS scheduled for late-2014. The project would generate up to 325 MW using concentrated solar thermal technology and include storage capability.
(2) The **Maricopa Solar Park Project** has begun the scoping process—this photovoltaic project would generate 300 MW.
(3) The **Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Project** final EIS was issued in July 2013, and the ROD is pending resolution of 2 protests. The line is proposed to run for 38 miles, with about 8 of those miles on BLM land.
(4) Two major lines – **SunZia and Southline** – are proposed to originate in New Mexico and cross into Arizona. BLM New Mexico is the lead for both projects. The record of decision for SunZia is pending protest resolution. The draft EIS for Southline is anticipated in late 2013 or early 2014.

BLM COLORADO

Q: What is the status of Thompson Divide and White River National Forest Oil and Gas leasing?
A: The Thompson Divide is 221,500 acres of primarily National Forest land west of Carbondale, Colo (Northwest District). Two companies – SG Interests and Ursa Resources – have submitted separate development proposals in this area. In April, the BLM approved the companies' request to suspend the leases, which were set to expire May 31. In granting the request, the BLM has identified the need to remedy a defect when the leases were issued – the lack of a BLM NEPA analysis – and has decided to undertake additional NEPA analysis to determine whether the leases should be reaffirmed or subject to additional mitigation measures for site-specific development proposals or voided. The Notice of Intent is anticipated to publish in December or early 2014, initiating a public scoping process anticipated to be very controversial.

BLM IDAHO

Q: What is the Gateway West Project and what is the status of the project?
A: The Gateway West project would construct nearly 990 miles of high-voltage transmission lines across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho to add 1,500 to 3,000 MW of capacity. In response to the Final EIS, Idaho Governor Otter noted concerns about land use plan amendments and sage grouse management, all of which were rejected by the both the BLM Idaho State Director and, on appeal, the Director of the BLM.

BLM MONTANA

Q: What is the BLM doing to improve the Section 368 energy transmission corridors plan?
A: Upgrading our nation's electrical grid is an important component of the President's Climate Action Plan and a major priority of the Administration. The President has identified seven high-priority transmission lines for expedited permitting, and DOI is leading on 5 of those. Already, DOI has approved the Susquehanna-Roseland transmission line in PA and NJ, and last month the BLM signed a ROD for the Eastern portion of the Gateway West transmission line that will allow the projeet to move forward while the BLM takes additional time to resolve siting concerns in Southwestern Idaho. The BLM continues to work on 3 additional Presidential priority lines, as well as a dozen or so other major projects across the West.

The Administration has also taken a more systematic look at how we permit these long, multi-jurisdictional projects with an understanding of the landscape. Under the leadership of CEQ, we are moving forward on developing an Integrated Interagency Pre-application process that will make this sort of coordination and cooperation the regular way of doing business.

The Administration is also working to improve the West Wide Energy Corridors designated by the BLM and Forest Service in 2009 as required by Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This upfront landscape-level planning is smart for land managers, communities, and developers alike, but it must be done in a collaborative way that considers the interests of states, communities, and stakeholders. A Federal interagency team is working to assess the utility of existing designated energy corridors and complete regional assessments that will examine the need for additions, deletions, and revisions to the existing energy corridors. In 2014, the BLM will look to a few key locations to focus on doing this cooperatively and collaboratively, with additional regional assessments following based on appropriations. I look forward to working closely with the western Governors to ensure that we can develop meaningful plans that avoid conflict in the first place.

Q: How will designation of Energy Corridors result in faster and more efficient siting and permitting for developers?
A: The issues with long, linear energy projects that take the most time and resources to resolve are those that are identified late in the permitting process. By initiating effective coordination at the pre-application stage with States, local communities, partner agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders, the BLM can identify conflicts ahead of time, work with developers to adjust routes to avoid those conflicts, and develop stipulations that minimize and compensate for unavoidable conflicts. Future additions, deletions or revisions to corridors will involve amendments to BLM and Forest Service

land use and management plans. These planning efforts will include robust stakeholder involvement which will further reduce potential conflicts with siting future projects.

Q: How will agencies and districts coordinate corridor identification, location, and permitting?
A: The BLM is working with the Department of Energy and the Forest Service to coordinate on the early stages of conducting a corridor study and planning for regional corridor assessments, the first of which we expect to begin next year subject to appropriated funds. These targeted assessments will focus on priority regions and will be conducted in close coordination among the general public; governmental agencies; Native American Tribes; energy developers; non-governmental organizations; and others in the process of shaping energy corridor locations and use in the coming years.

Q: How will state energy plans be factored in to corridor planning decisions?
A: The Department of Energy is the lead agency working on the corridor study that will look at current and future energy supply and demand to inform the location of corridors. This analysis will consider state-level energy policy as a driver for future transmission needs.

Q: How will state siting and permitting processes be integrated into decision-making to contain costs and encourage state-federal coordination?
A: Whenever possible, the BLM will coordinate its reviews with state siting and permitting processes to ensure consistency. I understand that BLM staff are in communication with WGA staff on the most appropriate way to do this.

BLM UTAH

November 2013 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Q: What is the economic impact of the sale and development of O&G leases on UT public lands?
A:

- In FY 2012, the State of Utah received more than $164 million from royalties, rentals and bonus bid payments for federal minerals and energy development, including oil and gas.
- The BLM-Utah State Office currently administers almost 4 million acres of public mineral estate that is leased for oil and gas development.
- The extraction of oil and gas resources and their introduction into the market generated more than **$5.5 billion in direct economic benefits and more than $8.3 billion in total economic impacts in FY2012.**

Q: How did the BLM Utah determine that 44,021 acres of public lands in Utah were appropriate for oil and gas leasing and responsible development for the Nov 19 oil and gas lease sale?
A: Nearly 1.1 million acres in the Green River District were nominated by industry for oil and gas leasing. However, after evaluating these lands for occupied Greater sage-grouse habitat and areas included in proposed Master Leasing Plans and to ensure statutory availability for leasing, the preliminary lands list sent for further analysis contained 664,756 acres. In keeping with leasing reform standards and considering field office workloads, the Green River District Office subsequently deferred 521,339 acres of the lands contained in the preliminary list. After completing the environmental analysis, BLM Utah posted a Notice of Competitive Lease Sale in August that

contained the proposed final parcel list for the November 2013 oil and gas lease sale, included 82 parcels covering 143,981 acres in the Price and Vernal Field Offices.

Posting the notice initiated a 30-day public protest period that closed in September. The BLM Utah received 431 timely filed protests, including those from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council and Rocky Mountain Wild. Protests stated concerns with air quality, climate change, sensitive species, lands with wilderness characteristics, visual resources, and the Nine Mile Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

After further consideration, BLM Utah deferred an additional 99,960 acres from the sale for a range of reasons, including but not limited to: (1) concerns with cultural resources; (2) potential impacts to the Old Spanish Trail; (3) potential impacts to the Graham's and White River penstemon; and (4) non-Wilderness Study Area lands that have been inventoried and determined to contain wilderness characteristics but are not managed for their wilderness values. The BLM sold 29 of the offered parcels, receiving $3,340,266 in bonus bids. The sale also brought in $54,724 in rental fees and $4,495 in administrative fees, grossing $3,399,486 in total receipts.

Q: Why did the BLM-Utah Nov. 19 oil and gas lease sale receive so much public/media attention?
A: The sale received heavy media attention due to: 1) activist groups and citizen concerns that 51 proposed parcels intersected with citizen-proposed wilderness included in proposed Red Rocks Wilderness legislation or were located in the vicinity of Utah's San Rafael Swell; and 2) industry and county government concerns that the BLM had deferred too many parcels from the 1.1 million acres initially nominated by industry.

BLM WYOMING

<u>BLM fracking rule</u>

Q: Has the State of Wyoming taken a position on the BLM's fracking rule?
A: Governor Mead may ask that Wyoming's fracking rule be deemed in compliance with the proposed Federal rule because he feels Wyoming's fracking rule already meets or exceeds the standards in the proposed Federal rule.

Q: Will the BLM determine that Wyoming's fracking rule is in compliance with the proposed Federal rule?
A: It's too soon to say since the rule is not final, but we appreciate Wyoming's willingness to work with the BLM in the formation and execution of the BLM's rule regarding hydraulic fracturing. While Wyoming's regulations meet or exceed the standards in the proposed Federal rule on certain provisions, there are some differences to reconcile before we can reach any conclusions.

<u>Oil and gas issues</u>

Q: How have budget issues affected the oil and gas program in WY?
A: The BLM Wyoming is consolidating staffing levels by eliminating or not filling vacant positions, and has reduced funding support for the inspection and enforcement program since Energy Policy Act funding for energy pilot offices is due to expire in 2015. Budget funding impacts have also caused the elimination of four assistance agreements with State agencies designed

as cooperative efforts to accelerate oil/gas drilling permit processing. As a result, oil/gas drilling permit processing will take longer in Wyoming. BLM is reviewing possible alternatives to replace the shortfall in oil/gas funding with the future elimination of receipts (i.e. extend 9141 funding by legislation, increase oil/gas program revenues, or reduce expenses/cost savings). Because of other budget issues, such as a reduction in MLR funding due to the sequester, BLM Wyoming is following the national priorities: 1) inspection and enforcement, 2) processing applications for permits to drill (APDs), and 3) oil and gas leasing. Total funding reductions in the BLM Wyoming oil and gas program since 2010 total about $5.2 million for an overall reduction of 15%.

Wild horses

Q: Why is the BLM Wyoming conducting a wild horse gather?
A: The BLM must remove wild horses that have strayed onto Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA) private lands under an April 3, 2013, consent decree approved by a U.S. District Court Judge. The consent decree resolves *Rock Springs Grazing Assoc. v. Salazar*, requiring removal of wild horses from private lands. The BLM must gather and remove horses in Salt Wells Creek/Adobe Town (AT/SW) in 2013, Great Divide Basin in 2014 and White Mountain in 2015. The AT/SW gather commenced on November 22, 2013.

BLM FIRE AND AVIATION TOPICS

DOI's primary goal each fire season is to ensure safety for firefighters and the public. Unfortunately, 34 firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty in 2013, the most since 1994. The number of fires this year stands at about 44,000, which is about 65% of the ten-year average. Much the same is true of acres burned (about 4.1 million), roughly 58% of the decadal average. It's worth noting that the reason for the lower figures is the very slow fire seasons in the Southeast and Southwest. In other areas, fire season was within the bounds of a normal season. As of late November 2013, DOI has spent about $394 million on fire suppression in 2013.

Q: Did the budget sequester harm firefighting efforts in 2013?
A: We were fortunate in one respect: that the national fire season was lighter than expected in some areas. However, in August, we did reach the highest of what we call "preparedness levels" for the first time in 5 years, so there was a time when fire activity was intense. The Forest Service estimates that it employed about 500 fewer firefighters this year because of budget cuts directly related to the sequester. The four DOI agencies with fire programs estimate the number to be about 230. When the western fire season peaked the third week of August, would it have been good to have another 730 or so firefighters available? Yes. We give great credit to firefighters and fire managers at all levels for the work they did with the resources they had. But a better, more suitable funding means for wildfire management needs to be adopted. Across-the-board mandatory budget cuts are not the best way to protect life, property, and natural and cultural resources from wildfire.

Q: The DOI budget for reducing fuels dropped substantially in 2013 and is scheduled for even greater cuts in the President's 2014 budget. You've been quoted as saying the nation cannot afford to allow fuels to build up again and thereby increase the danger from wildfires. How do you reconcile those two apparently contrasting points-of-view?
A: Our nation is in a difficult budget situation and tough choices need to be made, and fire management is not exempt from those discussions. But when it comes to fire management, an

ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. And we have the data now to demonstrate that fuels reduction work is effective at slowing the growth of wildfires. We need to figure out ways to efficiently manage fuel loads and thereby reduce the risk from wildfire to communities and natural resources. We are working with our partners and within the Administration to come up with a better approach to address the problem.

Q: What are the three most important things that need to be done to reduce wildfire risk?
A.

- Shared responsibilities. State, local communities, private landowners, as well as Federal agencies, must all work together to ensure that they have the appropriate standards and compliance programs in place to prevent, respond, and recover from wildfire. This is far from a federal problem. Some of our worst fires this year occurred on private lands under state or local protection. The interagency, intergovernmental Cohesive Strategy is key for everyone to work together to increase the fire resilience of our landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and respond effectively to unwanted fire.
- Landscape level approaches. In order to make our forests and rangelands more fire resilient, we must have a broader and more holistic strategy. Fires will occur; our ability to respond to and recover from them depends upon multiple management tactics and collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries. In addition to reducing abnormal fuel loads and concentrations and protecting key infrastructure, success depends on cooperative, landscape scale efforts that involve all landowners and managers.
- Consistent and adequate appropriations. In order to maintain a commitment to preparedness and planning to enable initial attack success, as well as to effectively continue our work in hazardous fuels management and restoration activities, we must have a more concerted and consistent approach to our budgeting process.

Q: What are the biggest obstacles to doing those things?
A:

- Culture - we need to accept that fire is a fact of life in many parts of the country, that everyone has a responsibility for prevention and mitigating risks of fire, but we can't make it go away. A partnership of funding, of planning, and taking appropriate steps to reduce fuel loading, implement sound planning and building codes, and personal actions is required.
- Our preparedness programs, in particular, our fuels management program, do not concentrate resources where they are most needed. Many of our forests and rangelands have concentrations of fuel that contribute to severe fire behavior and large fires. The combination of decades of overly aggressive fire suppression, changing environmental conditions, and increased settlement in and around wildlands require resources, management action, and authorities (such as permanent authorization of stewardship contracting) to implement fuels treatments on a sufficient scale to make a difference.
- Continued budget challenges - we recognize we are in a period of constrained budgets, but short term "CR's" and across the board reduction without regard for priorities make it extremely difficult for fire managers to plan and make investments in staffing, equipment, and technology. We need long-term, stable funding to build and maintain a high quality fire management capability.

SECRETARIAL ORDER 3330

Q: What additional mitigation requirements do you foresee as a consequence of Secretarial Order 3330, and how do you plan to reconcile those new requirements with the President's instructions to streamline federal permitting of certain infrastructure projects?

Q: Will a 'test' of reasonableness be developed to ensure that proposed mitigation strategies can be reasonably applied without excessive cost to developers of energy infrastructure?

A: I didn't issue SO 3330 with the agenda to adopt specific new mitigation measures. Rather, we want to harmonize the many existing mitigation policies and practices of the Department's various agencies to minimize redundancy and maximize efficiency in our review and permitting process. And we want to take a holistic landscape-level approach to mitigation that meshes with the policies and actions of other agencies, whether they be federal, state, local or tribal. We expect and intend that this approach will both reduce confusion and delays experienced by those who seek permits or other approvals from DOI agencies, and lead to more coherent and effective management of our landscapes.

The first jobs for the Task Force are to gather up and review all the existing mitigation policies, guidance, and requirements currently being applied by Interior's agencies and to consult with our sister agencies to ensure that our actions will be well coordinated with those of other agencies. At this point, the Task Force has not identified any specific actions that it will recommend.

RECLAMATION ISSUES

Quagga Mussel Infestation and Control on the Lower Colorado River

Three major BOR facilities on the lower Colorado River – Hoover, Davis, and Parker dams – are currently impacted with heavy infestations. This mussel colonization has increased operations and maintenance activities and associated costs. Action plans to address the presence of these mussels are in place for all three facilities and the annual budget for mussel control ranges between $700 thousand to $1.2 million. Current mussel control efforts are focused on testing and development of a variety facility protection technologies and strategies that are environmentally safe. To date, restrictions or interruptions of water and power deliveries have not been required at these facilities due to mussel infestation.

NOTE: *You may be asked by Gov. Otter of Idaho about Reclamation's quagga mussel control efforts at Lake Mead. The concern is infected boats trailered from Lake Mead to Idaho waters.*
A: Quagga mussels have not been found in Idaho waters to date, and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture has established a watercraft inspection station program to inspect boats from impacted states. The technology to control invasive mussels in large open water bodies such as Lake Mead has not been developed; therefore, Reclamation's focus is on facility protection.

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

SAGE GROUSE TASK FORCE MEETING – VERSION 3

DATE: December 12, 2013
LOCATION: Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Las Vegas, Room TBD
TIME: 12:30PM – 1:30PM PST
FROM: James Lyons, Counselor, ASLM (202)208-6734; Michael Bean, Counselor, ASFWP, 202-208-7400; Sarah Greenberger, Senior Advisor, 202-219-2140; Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, BLM; Dan Ashe, Director, FWS; Ted Boling, SOL; Bret Birdsong, SOL

Note: Edits are highlighted below in yellow.

I. PURPOSE

You will make remarks over lunch to begin the meeting of the Sage Grouse Task Force, immediately following the close of the Western Governors Association's winter meeting. The Governors of several of the eleven states covering the range of the Greater sage-grouse are expected to attend. The primary purpose of your remarks is to provide a status assessment on the collective efforts of the states, the BLM, FWS, and others to conserve the greater sage grouse. In particular, you will underscore the need for continued close collaboration, in light of the fast-approaching September 2015 deadline for the FWS to decide whether to propose to list the sage grouse for protection under the ESA. You will also emphasize that the extent of state-federal collaboration that has been ongoing for the past two years is unprecedented under the ESA.

The Sage Grouse Task Force resulted from a 2011 initiative of former Secretary Salazar. The Task Force is co-chaired by Governors Mead (WY) and Hickenlooper (CO), and the Director of BLM. Each of the eleven sage grouse states has a Governor-appointed representative to the Task Force. In addition, representatives of two DOI agencies (BLM and FWS) and two USDA agencies (USFS and NRCS) serve on the Task Force. The Task Force meets approximately every other month. This will be the first meeting of the Task Force at which any Governors will attend. It will also be the first occasion that you have met with the Task Force.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Confirmed:

- Governor Hickenlooper (CO)
- Governor Mead (WY)
- Governor Sandoval (NV)
- Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, BLM
- Dan Ashe, Director, FWS

Expected:

- Governor Otter (ID)
- Governor Bullock (MT)
- Governor Herbert (UT)
- USDA Under Secretary Robert Bonnie

Each principal is allowed one staff person in the meeting.

III. AGENDA *(tentative)*

- Governor Hickenlooper (CO) will open the conversation and introduce you
- You give remarks
- Neil Kornze gives remarks
- Dan Ashe gives remarks
- Open to the Governors

IV. KEY FACTS

- In 2010, FWS determined that listing of the greater sage grouse under the ESA was warranted but precluded by higher listing priorities.
- The primary bases for the decision that listing was warranted were the loss and degradation of habitat and the lack of adequate regulatory measures to address threats to the species
- Threats to the grouse are many and vary in significance across the specie's range. They include the loss and degradation of habitat from fire, invasive plants, and energy development, among others.
- FWS has a deadline of September 2015 to decide whether to propose to list the greater sage grouse or any distinct population segment of the species
- To put stronger regulatory measures in place, BLM and the Forest Service (USFS) are revising all of their land use plans within the extant range of the sage-grouse to consider alternative conservation measures for sage grouse
- NRCS is investing heavily in a Sage Grouse Initiative that provides substantial funds to acquire conservation easements and to support the implementation of beneficial land management practices primarily on private lands by ranchers and other landowners.
- There has been unprecedented state-federal collaboration through the Task Force and:
  - When BLM sought scientific advice on sage grouse conservation needs, it assembled a National Technical Team that included state and federal scientists
  - When FWS was asked to provide as much clarity as it could regarding criteria for listing the species, it assembled a Conservation Objectives Team made up of state and federal representatives. That team's resulting "COT Report" is a first of its kind, carefully balancing states' request to clarify the conservation goal, but to leave room on how to meet that goal
  - When BLM and USFS developed 15 draft Environmental Impact Statements to evaluate amending or revising 98 land use plans, they included consideration of a state-produced alternative for every state that offered one.
  - The FWS is currently developing a database to ensure that all conservation activities for this species are accurately captured for consideration in 2015. The states have provided valuable input to this effort.
- The Task Force consists of a representative of the Governor of each of the 11 sage grouse states, plus FWS, BLM, Forest Service, and NRCS
- Although FWS has proposed to list the Gunnison sage grouse (a separate species) as endangered and the "bi-state" population of greater sage grouse as threatened, these are independent proposals that do not foreshadow any particular outcome for the greater sage grouse.

V. HOT TOPICS/Q&A

Q: What do you have to say about legislative efforts?

A: I think we are best off to focus our energy and resources on something that we can control - using this collaborative process between states and the feds to put in place strong, science-based, legally defensible measures to conserve the Greater Sage Grouse. Passing legislation these days is an uncertain proposition at best.

That said, I and my team, are happy to review any legislative efforts which bolster our efforts to conserve the species, but I am very concerned any effort to delay the deadline could be counterproductive. Kicking the can down the road could leave us in a place where the habitat and the bird are in worse shape than they are today.

Q: How is the DOI responding to the Western Energy Alliance letter?

A: These reports were the result of a collaborative effort between scientists and managers from state and federal agencies. The reports were based on the best available scientific information, including status of greater sage-grouse, the nature of threats facing the species, and the conservation objectives needed to ensure its long-term survival, *and considered the many state and federal conservation measures already in place. They were fully peer-reviewed by subject matter experts and met the Department's scientific standards.*

[Background: The Western Energy Alliance (WEA) expressed concerns about DOI documents on greater sage-grouse in a November 19, 2013 letter to the Secretary. Their primary concerns are with two documents: A Report on National Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Measures prepared by the Sage-grouse National Technical Team (NTT Report); and the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Objectives: Final Report (COT Report). *The WEA letter has been entered into the Departments scientific integrity process and an inquiry is underway. Because of this, it would be inappropriate to comment further.]*

Q: What assurance do I have that my state won't have to carry an unequal share of the burden for conserving the SG?

A: About 60% of the sage grouse habitat is on federal lands. The remainder is on state and private lands. In order to conserve the Greater Sage Grouse, we need to develop an action plan that adequately addresses the threat to the bird across the landscape of federal, state, and private lands. We intend to use the next 6 months to work with each of you and the other governors in the 11 sage grouse states to develop a balanced conservation strategy. So, the burden shouldn't fall on any one state, provided we all work together to make a sincere effort to conserve the bird and address specific threats to its survival.

Q: Are you saying my plan (pick a state) is a bad plan?

A: There is no such thing as a bad plan. To date, the level of collaboration and cooperation is unprecedented. But, in the end, we need to be sure that the FWS is confident that the conservation measures proposed by the BLM, Forest Service, and each of the states will be

implemented and will be effective. Where the FWS determines there are inadequacies in specific plans or where there is some question that the conservation measures proposed can be implemented, we'll need to fix those inadequacies. If we work together, across the landscape, to do our best to put together a strong and effective conservation plan, we will be successful.

Possible Questions from Governor Sandoval

Q: Despite years of work by Nevada, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service felt the bi-state population of the greater sage grouse merits ESA protection. What is different about the greater sage grouse determination to be made in 2015? Will the Fish and Wildlife Service find protection is needed despite all the work that has been done by the States and others?

A: In terms of the decisions on whether ESA protection is merited, there are two major differences between the bi-state population of the greater sage grouse and the greater sage grouse species. One is scale. The bi-state population only occurs in a relatively small area of Nevada and California. The occupied range and the numbers of bi-state sage grouse are quite small compared to the range and numbers of the greater sage grouse across 11 states. That means the effects of habitat loss caused by fire and invasive species more quickly impact the bi-state sage grouse. The greater sage grouse species, because of its larger range and greater numbers is more resilient and there are more opportunities to mitigate the threats. Secondly, the Fish and Wildlife Service had to make an ESA finding for the bi-state in 2013, two years before a finding is due for the greater sage grouse. That means we have more time to find solutions for the greater sage grouse. But we cannot be complacent. There is much work to be done in the next two years and it will require hard work and sustained effort by all partners to reduce the threats to the greater sage grouse.

Q: Why are you proposing to list the bi-state population of sage grouse when the numbers have been stable or increasing over the past decade?

A: Sage grouse populations naturally fluctuate from year to year. We could disagree on the trend in bi-state sage grouse numbers, but the real problem is that the number of areas populated by bi-state sage grouse have decreased, the rate of habitat loss because of juniper encroachment has increased, and the danger from wildfire, fueled by invasive species has increased.

Q: Given the work that has been done on the bi-state population of the sage grouse by so many, especially the State of Nevada, what will you accomplish by listing this bird other than alienating all the groups that have been working to conserve it?

A: We greatly appreciate all the hard work that has been done by so many, and I point out that the Fish and Wildlife Service has yet to make a final decision on the listing. However, the ESA requires that the listing determination be made on 5 threat faetors at the time of the deeision, not at a future date. The 5 factors are: loss of habitat, overuse for human purposes, disease or predation, inadequate existing regulations, and other natural or human caused threats. The Fish and Wildlife Service has to determine whether cumulatively the threats put the bird at risk of becoming endangered now or in the foreseeable future. Despite the good work and good intentions of all the parties that have contributed to conservation efforts thus far, last September

the Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the threats to the bi-state population were still too great and that listing is warranted.

However, the Service also proposed a special rule that would exempt from ESA regulation any impacts to sage-grouse in the bi-state population incidental to implementing these ongoing conservation efforts. We acknowledge the good work of those partners and want to avoid any disincentive for those partners continuing their conservation efforts.

Q: If states like Nevada must ensure adequate funding to address significant, large-scale threats beyond state control such as invasive species and fire in order to preclude the need to list sage grouse, then how can we succeed in our conservation planning efforts?

A: Finding the resource to address such difficult, landscape level, inter-jurisdictional needs is a challenge we all face, and we'll all have to work together to tackle these issues. The Service will have to be confident that conservation plans will be funded and implemented if they are to give them weight in their listing determination. If we work together and creatively, I don't think these challenges are insurmountable.

Possible Questions from Governor Hickenlooper

Q: I have expressed to the Fish and Wildlife Service my strong opinion that the Gunnison sage-grouse does not warrant listing under the ESA. Can you assure me that they will pay close attention to my concerns?

A: I know that the Service has heard your concerns and those of others about the proposed listing. In response, they have extended the deadline for making a final listing determination to provide for additional time to resolve issues of scientific uncertainty that have been raised. The decision on whether to list rests with the Director of FWS, and he is obligated to make it solely on the basis of the best available science, but I know that he will consider the information provided by the State of Colorado in that regard.

VI. TALKING POINTS

Talking Points are attached as a separate document.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Talking Points (*attached separately*)
- Summary of State Plan Assessment (*below*)

State Plan Summary (revised December 9, 2013)

California. A 2004 state plan has been supplemented by three local plans. Plans are advisory, not regulatory. Relatively little habitat and few sage grouse remain in the state. Fire is a key threat.

Colorado. Its self-assessment has only recently been received. Significant easement acquisition effort has been undertaken. State wildlife agency recommendations to the oil and gas commission are advisory, and an evaluation of whether those recommendations have been followed is ongoing.

Idaho. A strong adaptive management component is the key feature in a plan that focuses entirely on BLM lands. Idaho has been a leader in promoting the development of rural fire protection associations.

Montana. A detailed strategy to implement Montana's 2005 plan is expected by January. FWS is concerned about inadequate lek buffer distances in non-core areas, uncertain regulatory authorities, and lack of a prohibition against prescribed burning of sage brush.

Nevada. Plan puts a heavy emphasis on a compensatory mitigation program that is not yet developed. Nevada's self-assessment acknowledged that most plan components are insufficient to meet COT objectives.

North Dakota. State expects to complete a revision of its 2005 plan by the end of December. FWS is concerned that the plan relies too heavily on voluntary measures.

Oregon. Although several months away from completion, Oregon's "All Lands, All Threats" plan is ambitious in scope. The draft plan has many strong features, including a lower disturbance cap (4%) than that of other states. Oregon has only recently submitted a self-assessment

South Dakota. A revision of the state's 2008 plan has not yet been completed. FWS has not been able to evaluate the state's effort against the COT objectives.

Utah. Utah has not provided a self-assessment. The plan sets ambitious population and habitat goals. However, FWS is concerned that it relies entirely on voluntary measures and excludes protection for two key populations.

Washington. The state has not provided a self-assessment. State expects to complete a review of its efforts in 2014.

Wyoming. Although Wyoming did not submit a self-assessment, its "core area strategy" has been in place for several years and appears to be working well. The Wyoming core area strategy served as a model for most other states.

BISON CONNECT

Background on Sage Grouse Science and COT report

Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Dec 10, 2013 at 3:50 PM
To: [redacted]ios.doi.gov" [redacted]ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Olson <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Daniel Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>

Sally --

Not to overwhelm you, but I have put together several short summaries of information from key science reports/assessments that we have mentioned in our various briefings with you.

Each is a short summary of key findings/observations/recommendations from the reports.

The specific reports I reference are:

1. **National Technical Team report**, developed in Dec 2011 by the BLM to aid in developing its national planning strategy. The team included BLM, USGS, FWS, and state wildlife agency members;

2. **Conservation Objectives Team report** delivered in March, 2013 and developed by state fish and wildlife agency and FWS experts; and

3. a **USGS report** (2013) that provides baseline information on policies, programs, and activities affecting the GSG.

I also referenced a more recent article by Copeland, et al that assessed GSG conservation efforts in Wyoming, with a particular focus on the importance of private land conservation.

Finally, I also attached a power point presentation developed by the BLM planning staff that can provide a quick overview of the process to date and some of the challenges that lie ahead.

Glad to go into detail on any of these if you like. You seemed interested in the underlying science, and this is a mix of the key summary points/observations/ recommendations from the reports that are guiding our national strategy. Good airplane reading.

See you in Vegas.

Jim

--

Jim Lyons
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for Lands and Minerals Management
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5 attachments

State of the Science on Sage Grouse.summary.docx
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Key summary points from COT report.docx
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State of the Science on Sage Grouse

A number of important reports have been issued over the past decade that help inform understanding of the status of the Sage Grouse, factors affecting the species, key threats to the species continued viability, and options for changes in current land and resource management and policy that could help maintain the species and avoid listing:

- 2006 – The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) issued a report, "Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Strategy", highlighting challenges to the continued viability of the Greater Sage-Grouse and identifying 7 distinct management zones to characterize resource conditions for purposes of guiding future management decisions with regard to the Sage-Grouse.
- 2011 – BLM chartered a National Technical Team (NTT) to "develop new or revised regulatory mechanisms, through resource management plans, to conserve and restore the greater sage-grouse and its habitat on BLM administered lands on a range-wide basis over the long term." The NTT included resource specialists and scientists from the BLM, State fish and wildlife agencies, USFWS, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the USGS and produced a report (December, 2011) which "provides the latest science and best biological judgment to assist in making management decisions." The report identifies and focuses on threats to the sage-grouse in each of the identified management zones.
- 2013 – In February, the Director of the USFWS asked the affected states to join the Service in convening a Conservation Objectives Team (COT) to "develop rangewide conservation objectives for the sage-grouse to define the degree to which threats need to be reduced or ameliorated to conserve sage-grouse so that it is no longer in danger of extinction or likely to become in dange of extinction in the foreseeable future". (In fact, the COT effort was backed by the Sage-Grouse Task Force chaired by Gov's Mead and Hickenlooper and the Director of the BLM. Each state member of the task force was chosen by his or her state or agency.) A key outcome of this effort was the identification of Priority Areas of Conservation (PACs) described as key habitats that are essential for sage-grouse conservation (Letter from USFWS Director Dan Ashe, March 22. 2013).
- 2013 -- More recently, the USGS, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, issued a comprehensive assessment of the science and status of the sage-grouse and factors affecting the species and the sage brush ecosystem on which it depends. *Summary of Science, Activties, Programs, and Policits That Influence the Rangewide Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus).* This report (which was issued by Sec. Jewell and USGS Acting Director Kimball) is extremely detailed and *complete*. It highlights the fact that "[T]he cumulative and synergistic impact of multiple disturbances, continued spread and dominance of invasive species, and increased impacts of land use continue to have the most significant influence on the trajectory of sagebrush ecosystems and sage-grouse populations. Future patterns of land use, combined with *effective* restoration and management may improve, or

degrade, the remaining sage-grouse ranges, but natural dynamics and unforeseen stochasticity promise to add complexity to future plans and landscapes."

The significance of these reports and the rationale for highlighting key statements is to note the strong body of scientific information and analysis and professional judgment rendered by scientists and technical experts involved in the production of each. These reports were (with the exception of the USGS report – done in collaboration with the BLM) produced in collaboration with federal and state-designated experts and provide detailed information on the status of sage-grouse populations and the sagebrush ecosystems on which they depend as well as the threats to both on a regional-specific basis using managements zones and PACs as the framework for analysis.

This is a strong record of information and analysis which is critical to determining land and resource management and regulatory strategies essential to the conservation of the sage-grouse. It SHOULD provide the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of each RMP, LRMP (for FS), state agency, and private land conservation strategy employed in the name of protecting the species as well as their cumulative effects. In any event, it is likely to provide the body of evidence (produced by state and federal agencies themselves) that is used to challenge any management decisions that critics of these plans deem inadequate or in violation of existing legal requirements.

A quick summary of key findings from these reports would be:

1. The Greater Sage Grouse is dependent on large areas of contiguous sagebrush however sagebrush is considered "one of the most imperiled ecosystems in North America" (page 6 – COT report);
2. The loss and fragmentation of sagebrush habitats is a primary cause of the decline of sage-grouse populations (page 9 – COT report);
3. Fire is one of the primary factors linked to loss of sagebrush-steppe habitate and corresponding populations declines in greater-sage grouse (page 10 – COT report);
4. Habitat loss in occurring from the expansion of native conifers mainly due to changes in fire return intervals and overstocking of domestic livestock (page 10 – COT);
5. Sage-grouse populations can be significantly reduced, and in some cases locally extirpated, by non-renewable energy development activities, even when mitigative measures are implemented (page 10 – COT);
6. Impacts from renewable energy development are expected to have negative effects to sage-grouse populations and habitats (page 10 – COT);
7. Both non-renewable a d renewable energy developments are increasing within the range of (sage-grouse and this growth is likely to continue (page 10 – COT);
8. Other factors associated with habitat loss and fragmentation include agricultural conversion, urban development, alterations of sagebrush to enhance grazing for livestock, and impacts from wild ungulates and free-roaming horses and burros (page 10 – COT)
9. The "lack of sufficient regulatory mechanisms" to conserve sage-grouse and their habitats was identified by the FWS as a primary reason for its warranted but precluded finding (page 11 – COT); and
10. Wyoming governor Freudenthal (D) and Mead (R) issued executive orders to enact regulatory mechanisms to provide for the protection of sage grouse –*raising the question "Can the federal agencies do it to?"*

These reports include recommended conservation actions intended to address specific threats to the species:

1. Retain sage-grouse habitats within PACs. "This must be a priority." (page 37 – COT report)
2. If PACs are lost to catastrophic events, implement appropriate restoration efforts ... such that there is "no net loss" of sage-grouse or their habitats;
3. Restore and rehabilitate degraded sage-grouse habitats in PACs (which will require sufficient funding and resources , a scientifically rigorous monitoring plan, and the ability to change management if the monitoring results so indicate;
4. Identify areas and habitats outside of PACs which may be necessary to maintain the viability of sage-grouse;
5. Reevaluate the status of PACs and adjacent sage-grouse habitat at least once every 5 years;
6. Actively pursue opportunities to increase occupancy and connectivity between PACs;
7. Minimize or eliminate anthropogenic activities in surrounding, unburned PACs and sage-grouse habitats outside of PACs to enhance opportunities for re-establishment;
8. Avoid energy development in PACs (page 43 – COT report);
9. Livestock and wild ungulate numbers must be managed at levels that allow native sagebrush communities to minimally achieve Proper Functioning Conditions or Rangeland Health Standards and ensure that allotments meet ecological potential and wildlife habitat requirements;
10. Protect sage-grouse from the negative effects of grazing by free-roaming wild horses and burros;
11. Avoid further loss of sagebrush habitat for agricultural activities and prioritize restoration;
12. Avoid new mining activities and/or any associated facilities within occupied habitats and avoid leasing in sage-grouse habitats until other suitable habitats can be restored to habitats used by sage-grouse;
13. There should be no new development of infrastructure (e.g.,roads, pipelines, powerlines and cellular towers) corridors within PACs;
14. Make priority sage-grouse habitat areas exclusion areas for new ROWs (page 13 – NTT report);
15. Propose lands within priority sage-grouse habitat areas for mineral withdrawal (page 14 – NTT report).

USGS's "Summary of Science, Activities, Programs and Policies that Influence the Rangewide Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse" (aka the "baseline report").

USGS, in cooperation with BLM, recently released a comprehensive report summarizing decades of scientific research on sage grouse and the activities that affect sage grouse and their habitats. It presents detailed information on the extent to which various stressors (oil and gas development, wind, geothermal, roads, other infrastructure, etc.) directly or indirectly affect sage grouse in six of the seven Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies sage grouse management zones (the seventh, in central Washington, was not addressed because BLM lands there are very minor). The information below is a small sample of the type of data the report provides.

Nearly 9% of "preliminary priority habitat" ("PPH," aka "core areas") has been leased for oil and gas production, but more than 80% of that has yet to be developed. Specifically, there are 1.1 million acres held by production and 4.9 million leased acres that are undeveloped out of a total of 68.2 million acres of PPH. See Table 13. Thus the effects of the great majority of the oil and gas leases already issued have yet to be experienced. Even once new development begins, effects will not be immediately apparent, since there is typically a time lag of 3-4 years after activity associated with energy development occurs before impacts on sage grouse are evident. See page 59.

The direct footprint of active and abandoned well sites within PPH is small: roughly 24,000 acres, or less than one-tenth of one percent or the total. However, the area potentially indirectly influenced by oil and gas development is dramatically larger: over 22 million acres, or nearly a third of the total. See Table 11. This is because grouse are highly sensitive to noise, traffic, and human activity associated with oil and gas development. Specifically, with greater proximity to oil and gas development or greater density of such development, lek attendance, probability of lek persistence, and female survival all decline, while chick mortality and the probability of nest failure increase. Female survival, chick survival, and nest success are the demographic factors that have the most influence on population growth. See pages 51 and 59.

The USGS report provides similar data on direct and indirect impact of other activities negatively affecting sage grouse. The results are often quite sobering. For example, the direct footprint of roads within PPH is 1.3 million acres, or roughly 2% of the total. However, the area indirectly affected exceeds 95% of the total, and in three management zones 100% of preliminary priority habitat is indirectly influenced by roads (i.e., with 7.5km of an interstate highway, or within 3km of a highway or primary or secondary route). See Table 6. In general, the higher the speed and traffic volume on a roadway, the lower the density of sage grouse nearby. Also, areas from which sage grouse have been extirpated have 25% higher density of roads than areas still occupied by sage grouse. See page 44.

The report provides similar information for all of the major threat categories identified in the Fish and Wildlife Service's COT report. The information is broken down according to WAFWA management zones, rather than the smaller "primary areas for conservation' (PACs) identified in the COT report. If available on the basis of PACs, however, this baseline information could prove useful in evaluating progress over time in ameliorating threats to the species.

NOTES FROM COPELAND, ET AL ARTICLE FOR WGA:

1. Wyoming – 37% of GSG resides; **69% of SG habitat overlays federal mineral estate – 52% has been authorized for exploration and development (p 1)**
2. "Missing from state and federal policy and ESA decision-making is a spatially-explicit evaluation of the adequacy of regulatory mechanisms and efficacy of conservation easements" (p 2)
3. Effectiveness of private land easement policy in paper assumed future development would be averted (p 9)
4. Analysis indicates a 14 – 29% statewide SG decline and 11 – 24% decline within core areas from cumulative land use change in the absence of conservation measures that prevent fragmentation (p 11)
5. Core area policy in targeted easements most effective conservation strategy and averted expected population decline by up to 46% (statewide) and 62% in core areas (p 11)
6. **"Core area policy is the single most important component." "Unchecked by conservation expected development in the long term could threaten an additional 29% of the remaining population in WY." "Core area policy accompanied by $250 million in targeted easement program could reduce anticipated losses to 9-15% -- roughly half statewide and nearly 2/3 in core areas." (p 12)**
7. **"Core area policy is the single most important component..." (p 12)**
8. **"Targeting easements to areas with a high threat of residential subdivision and dense SG populations is critical." "Highly productive riparian habitats characteristic of private lands are critical..."**
9. **"If the integrity of the core area policy is not maintained , the risk of an ESA listing increases..."** (p 12)
10. "Conservation actions for SG are suspected to have additional ancillary protections for many other species occupying the same range such as mule deer..." (p 13)

The National Greater Sage-grouse Planning Strategy Update



BLM - Forest Service

Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Executive Leadership Team Meeting
December 4, 2013

Presentation Objectives

- Where are we now (status update)
- Consistencies across the range and quick comparison of the preferred alternatives
- Next steps between draft and final

Where are we now (status update)

BLM - Forest Service
Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

2 Regions

Great Basin
Rocky Mountain

Planning Area Structure Recap

15 Sub-regions/EISs

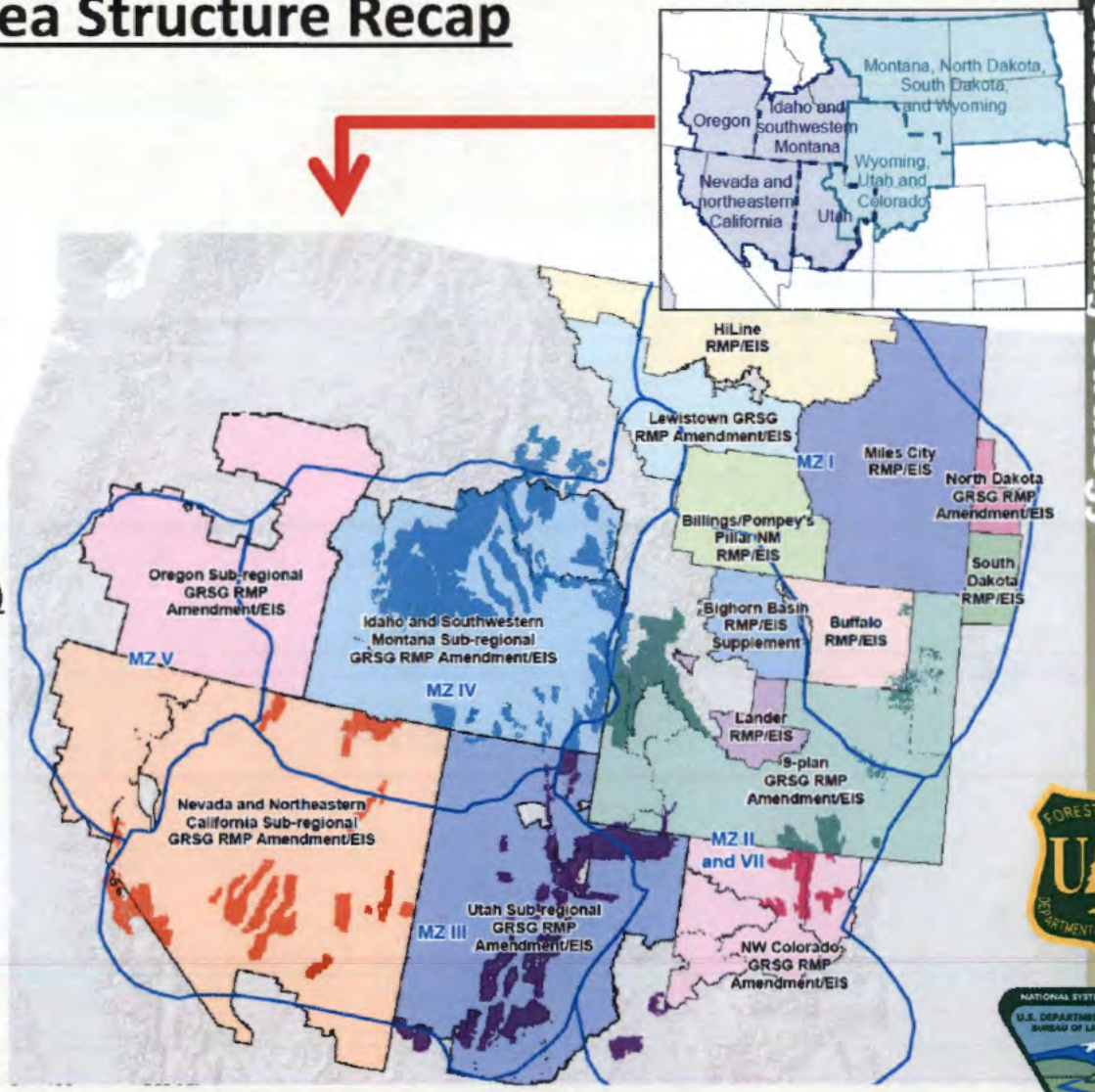
Great Basin (All Amendments)

Oregon, Nevada/NE California, Idaho/SW Montana, and Utah

Rocky Mountain (Revisions & Amendments)

NW Colorado, WY 9 Plan, Lander Revision (WY), Bighorn Basin Revision (WY), Buffalo Revision (WY), Billings/Pompey's Pillar NM Revision (MT), Lewistown Amendment (MT), HiLine Revision (MT), Miles City Revision (MT), South Dakota Revision, North Dakota Amendment

98 LUPs Being Amended (includes BLM and FS)

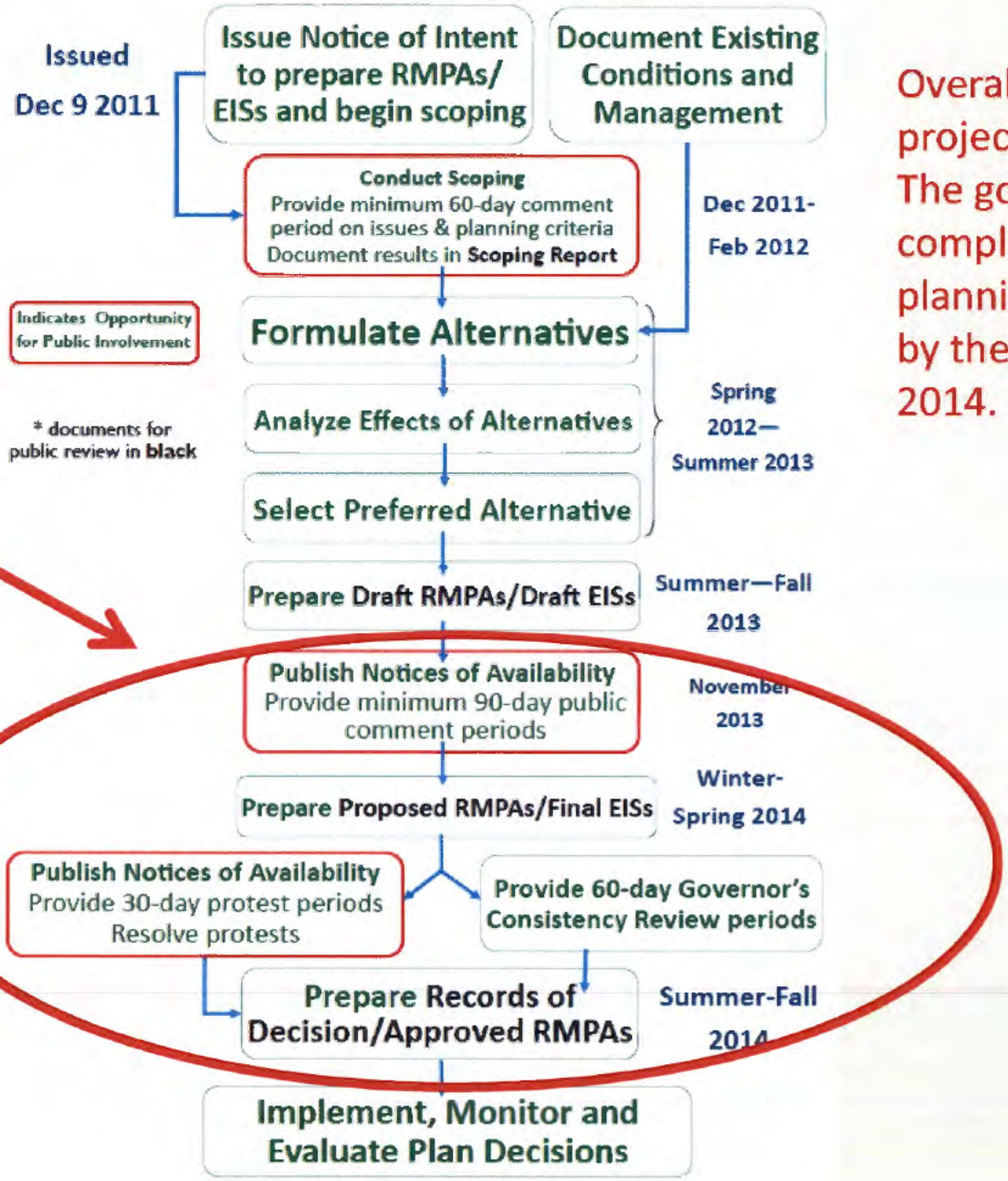


Where are we now (status update)

- 14 of the 15 sub-regional draft EISs have been released to the public.
- The Wyoming 9-Plan DEIS is scheduled to be released on December 20, 2013. This is the last sub-regional draft to hit the streets.
- 6 of the 15 sub-regional planning efforts are within their 90-day public comment periods. *Public meetings for these six efforts are currently underway.*
- 8 of the 15 sub-regional draft EISs in Wyoming and Montana that opted to incorporate GRSG conservation measures through RMP revisions have all reached the end of their 90-day public comments periods. These sub-regional planning teams are now in the process of responding to public comments.
- The Lander land use plan will be the first planning effort associated with the this strategy to complete their planning effort. The record of decision (ROD) is pending approval.

Planning Process

National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy—Western Region



Overall, the project is on track. The goal is to complete the planning process by the end of 2014.

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Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Consistencies Across the Range

- Certain action alternatives or applicable components of alternatives being analyzed include:
  - National Technical Team (NTT) Report
  - Citizen Based Proposals Derived from Scoping
  - State Proposals (if submitted for analysis)
- Draft Monitoring Framework
- Draft Mitigation Strategy
- Cooperating Agencies Including:
  - USFWS
  - US Forest Service
  - FAA
  - State Governments
- Clear inconsistencies across all of the sub-regional alternatives. However, BLM/FS still has an opportunity to mix and match in the proposed plans.

Comparison of the Preferred Alternatives

Great Basin Region					
	Nevada/NE California	**Idaho/SW Montana Preferred 1**	**Idaho/SW Montana Preferred 2**	**Oregon**	**Utah**
Habitat Management Areas					
PPMA PMMA (Idaho) PGMA	12,927,400 - 4,805,500	6,819,100 1,348,100 2,934,100	4,824,900 2,743,400 3,516,300	4,547,043 - 5,662,632	2,760,300 - 553,500
Rights-of-Way					
Open Exclusion Avoidance	0 0 17,832,900 (All PPMA and all PPGA) *PPMA and PGMA are excluded from wind and solar.	0 0 11,407,900 (All PPMA, PMMA, and PGMA) *PPMA and PGMA are excluded from wind and solar.	2,295,000 310,000 8,479,600 *PPMA and PGMA are avoided areas wind and solar.	5,662,632 (All PGMA) 0 4,547,043 (All PPMA) *PPMA and PGMA are excluded from wind and solar.	Varies by ROW type.
Travel and Transportation					
Open Closed Limited	0 0 17,832,900 (PPMA & PGMA)	7,200 1,033,701 13,104,801 (PPMA & PGMA)	2,063,000 902,400 6,628,500	5,662,632 (All PGMA) 192,087 4,547,043 (All PPMA)	0 32,200 3,313,800 (PPMA & PGMA)
Fluid Minerals					
Open Closed Constraints	0 1,670,800 17,732,900 (w/in both)	362,770 9,578,700 4,872,400 (w/in both)	9,023,200 2,118,900 3,320,440 (w/in both)	0 2,735,892 (w/in both) 7,516,855 (w/in both)	0 138,500 3,683,080 (w/in both)
Recommended Locatable Mineral Withdrawal					
Recommend With. Previous Withdrawal	0 1,670,800	0 621,300	0 620,100	0 996,760	0 498,700
Disturbance Caps					
Caps	No Net Unmitigated Loss (no Cap)	No Net Unmitigated Loss (no Cap)	3% (on fluid mineral)	3%	5%

Please note: there are many caveats associated with each of these allocations.

BLM - Forest Service
Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Comparison of the Preferred Alternatives

Rocky Mountain Region (acres)

	NW Colorado	Lewistown	North Dakota	Wyoming 9 Plan	Bighorn	Buffalo	Lander (Proposed)	HiLine	Miles City	Billings	South Dakota
Habitat											
PPH	1,576,900	233,177	33,381	5,000,000	1,525,048	1,188,052	1,960,000	930,265	680,000	154.140	88,891
PGH	1,134,800	112,341	80	11,600,000	1,922,996	4,670,518	812,000	NA	1,700,000	78,575	29,360
Rights-of-Way											
Open											
PPH	0	0	0	0	20	390,685	59,835	0	103,891	0	0
PGH	0	104,642	80	5.2 mil	635,187	(w/in both)	484,125	0	1.2 mil	NA	20,001
Exclude											
PPH	25,600	0	0	144,00	264	101,081	397,233	0	0	1,539	0
PGH	(w/in both)	NA	0	141,00	37,520	(w/in both)	170,243	60,642	539	9,174	0
Avoid											
PPH	930,500	233,130	32,900	4.8 mil	1.2 mil	290,336	897,941	958,547	798,176	163,421	82,753
PGH	(w/in both)	7,425	0	1.2 mil	1.2 mil	(w/in both)	384,832	77,677	479,398	138,625	43,880
Travel and Transportation											
Open											
PPH	202,600	0	0	300	0	650,252	0	0	0	0	0
PGH	(w/in both)	0	0	9,000	5,884	(open and limited)	0	0	72	0	0
Closed											
PPH	52,600	0	0	62,000	457	31,536 (w/ in	18,322	0	0	0	0
PGH	(w/in both)	0	0	230,000	59,549	both)	42,752	0	2,791	0	0
Limited											
PPH	921,600	233,100	32,901	4.8 mil	1.2 mil	(see open)	1.5 mil	1.2 mil	903,383	165,220	82,753
PGH	(w/in both)	111,887	80	5.7 mil	1.8 mil		663,900	472,078	1.7 mil	176,713	63,881
Fluid Minerals											
Open											
PPH	1.3 mil	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PGH	(w/in both)	NA	0	53,000	0	0	80,000	0	285,310	2,176	15,851
Closed											
PPH	350,300	NA	0	883,000	66,831	101,214	919,000	0	7	1,360	0
PGH	(w/in both)	NA	0	0	163,785	(w/in both)	390,000	85,363	92,207	9,002	83
Constraint											
PPH	1.3 mil	NA	30,527	5.6 mil	1.2 mil	3.0 mil (w/in	958,000	1.2 mil	846,279	145,774	83,946
PGH	(w/in both)	NA	(w/in both)	875,000	1.7 mil	both)	462,000	367,245	1.2 mil	142,763	49,396
Recommended Locatable Mineral Withdrawals											
PPH	0	0	0	Based on	3,661	115,614	467,065	0	0	2,378	0

BLM - Forest Service

Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Next Steps Between Draft and Final

- Core teams are currently working on the following frameworks/strategies that will be inserted into all of the FEISs:
  - Final Mitigation Framework Language for chapters 2, 3, and 4
  - Final Monitoring Framework Appendix
  - A Final Adaptive Management Strategy
- Priority area fire and invasive assessment pilots are currently being developed in cooperation with NIFC.
- Sub-regional planning teams continue to respond to public comments and are working with their USFWS and Forest Service liaisons to develop their proposed plans.
- A 4th Federal Family Meeting will be held in late March 2014. The theme will be "The Proposed Plans/Final EISs Roll Out."
- It is the goal to have all of the proposed plans released to the public by August 2014.

Questions?



Key summary points from COT report

- Objective of COT report, "reversing negative population trends and achieving a neutral or positive population trend." (consistent with the objective of the 2006 WAFWA GSG Comprehensive Conservation Strategy) (p 1 – Mar 22, 2013 memo)
- PACs "highly important for long term viability of the species and should be a primary focus of our collective conservation efforts". (p1 – Mar 22 memo)
- Truly collaborative federal-state effort/ **2/3 of team members from western state f&w agencies each selected by his or her state or agency**
- Direction to COT team, "define the degree to which threats need to be reduced or ameliorated to conserve sage grouse so that it is no longer in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction in the foreseeable future." (p5 – COT)
- "Restoration of disturbed areas is very difficult" (p9 – COT)
- "Sage grouse populations can be significantly reduced, and in some cases locally extirpated, by non-renewable energy development activities, even when mitigative measures are implemented". (p10 – COT)
- "Lack of sufficient regulatory mechanisms to conserve SG and habitats was identified as a primary threat leading to our warranted but precluded finding." (p11 – COT)
- "WY Executive Orders demonstrate the potential for successfully ameliorating the primary threats to SG and their habitat through the development and implementation of sufficient regulatory mechanisms." (p 12 – COT)
- SEE Threats by management zone and populations (p 16 – 29 – COT)
- **"... impacts to sage-grouse and their habitats should be avoided to the maximum extent possible to retain conservation options."** (p31- COT)
- ***"Stop population declines and habitat loss.* There is an urgent need to stop the bleeding.... There are no populations within the range of sage-grouse that are immune to the threat of habitat loss and fragmentation."** (p31-31 – COT)
- "Regulatory mechanisms and incentive-based actions should address all threats to PACs to the maximum extent practicable." (p34 – COT)
- "Voluntary conservation actions may not provide all actions necessary for conservation of the species range-wide." (p35 – COT)
- "A robust range-wide monitoring program must be developed and implemented." (p 35 – COT)
- **"Maintenance of the integrity of PACs ... is the essential foundation for sage-grouse conservation. Threats in PACs must be minimized as part of the effort to meet the objectives of the 2006 WAFWA Conservation Strategy."** (p36 – COT)
- **"Conservation of habitats outside of PACs should include minimization of impacts to sage-grouse and healthy native plant communities. If minimization is not possible due to valid existing rights,mitigation for impacted habitats should occur."** (p36 – COT)
- **"[I]t is imperative that no PACs are lost as a result of further infrastructure development or other anthropogenic impacts."** (p37 – COT)
- **Objectives for conserving PACs:**

- **"Retain sage-grouse habitats within PACs. Thus must be a priority."**
- **"If PACs are lost .. implement appropriate restoration efforts... such that there is no net loss of sage-grouse or their habitats."**
- **"Restore and rehabilitate degraded sage-grouse habitats in PACs."**
- **"Identify areas and habitats outside of PACs which may be necessary to maintain the viability of sage-grouse."**
- **"Re-evaluate the status of PACs and adjacent sage-grouse habitat at least once every 5 years...."**
- **"Actively pursue opportunities to increase occupancy and connectivity between PACs."**
- **"Maintain or improve existing habitat conditions in areas adjacent to burned habitat....**
- **"Minimizing or eliminating anthropogenic activities in surrounding, unburned PACs and sage-grouse habitats outside of PACs must also be a priority to enhance opportunities for re-establishment of connectivity among populations, and subsequent re-colonization of restored areas. Management actions within those surrounding PACs must strive to maintain or improve existing habitat conditions."** (p37-38 – COT)

- **"Avoid energy development in PACs."** (p43 – COT)
- Conservation measures associated with energy development (p43-44 – COT)
- "Design development to minimize tall structures (turbines, powerlines) or other features associated with the development. (p 44 – COT)
- Manage livestock to achieve Proper Functioning Conditions or Rangeland Health Standards (p45 – COT)
- "Avoid further loss of sagebrush habitat for agricultural activities and prioritize restoratiaon. In areas where taking agricultural lands out of production has benefited SG, the programs supporting these actions should be targeted and continued." (p48 – COT)
- Avoid new mining activities and leasing in SG habitats until other suitable habitats can be restored to habitats used by sage-grouse. (p49 – COT)
- "Close important sage-grouse use areas to off-road vehicle use" (p50 – COT)
- **"There should be no new development of infrastructure corridors within PACs. Designated, but not yet developed infrastructure corridors should be re-located outside of PACs." See other conservation measures for infrastructure .** (p51-52 – COT)

FW: Background on Sage Grouse Science and COT report

Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> Tue, Dec 10, 2013 at 3:53 PM
To: Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>

E – Please print all of these attachments so I can take them with me on the trip. Thx. S

From: Lyons, James [mailto:james_lyons@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 3:51 PM
To: [redacted] ios.doi.gov; Elizabeth Olson; Laura Daniel Davis; Sarah Greenberger; Michael Bean
Subject: Background on Sage Grouse Science and COT report

Sally –

Not to overwhelm you, but I have put together several short summaries of information from key science reports/assessments that we have mentioned in our various briefings with you.

Each is a short summary of key findings/observations/recommendations from the reports.

The specific reports I reference are:

1. **National Technical Team report**, developed in Dec 2011 by the BLM to aid in developing its national planning strategy. The team included BLM, USGS, FWS, and state wildlife agency members;

2. **Conservation Objectives Team report** delivered in March, 2013 and developed by state fish and wildlife agency and FWS experts; and

3. a **USGS report** (2013) that provides baseline information on policies, programs, and activities affecting the GSG.

I also referenced a more recent article by Copeland, et al that assessed GSG conservation efforts in Wyoming, with a particular focus on the importance of private land conservation.

Finally, I also attached a power point presentation developed by the BLM planning staff that can provide a quick overview of the process to date and some of the challenges that lie ahead.

Glad to go into detail on any of these if you like. You seemed interested in the underlying science, and this is a mix of the key summary points/observations/ recommendations from the reports that are guiding our national strategy. Good airplane reading.

See you in Vegas.

Jim

–

Jim Lyons

Counselor to the Assistant Secretary

for Lands and Minerals Management

Jim_Lyons@ios.doi.gov

202-208-4318 (direct)

202-815-4412 (mobile)

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5 attachments

State of the Science on Sage Grouse.summary.docx
19K

usgs grouse baseline report.doc
26K

NOTES FROM COPELAND report.docx
15K

GRSG Planning Update_11_19_13 (6).pptx
3186K

Key summary points from COT report.docx
18K

BISON CONNECT

Re: Background on Sage Grouse Science and COT report

Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> Tue, Dec 10, 2013 at 10:25 PM
To: "Lyons, James" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Elizabeth Olson <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Daniel Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>

Jim -

This was super helpful to me in understanding the overall issues, timing, and why folks are so concerned. I really appreciate the speed and synthesis that you employed in pulling these together for me. Many thanks!

Sally

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 10, 2013, at 2:50 PM, "Lyons, James" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Sally –
>
> Not to overwhelm you, but I have put together several short summaries of information from key science reports/assessments that we have mentioned in our various briefings with you.
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>
> 3. a **USGS report** (2013) that provides baseline information on policies, programs, and activities affecting the GSG.
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> I also referenced a more recent article by Copeland, et al that assessed GSG conservation efforts in Wyoming, with a particular focus on the importance of private land conservation.
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> Finally, I also attached a power point presentation developed by the BLM planning staff that can provide a quick overview of the process to date and some of the challenges that lie ahead.
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> Glad to go into detail on any of these if you like. You seemed interested in the underlying science, and this is a mix of the key summary points/observations/ recommendations from the reports that are guiding our national strategy. Good airplane reading.
>
> See you in Vegas.
>
> Jim

Jim Lyons
Counselor to the Assistant Secretary
for Lands and Minerals Management
Jim_Lyons@ios.doi.gov
202-208-4318 (direct)
202-815-4412 (mobile)

<State of the Science on Sage Grouse.summary.docx>

<usgs grouse baseline report.doc>

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<GRSG Planning Update_11_19_13 (6).pptx>

<Key summary points from COT report.docx>

Re: Background on Sage Grouse Science and COT report

James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Dec 11, 2013 at 7:11 AM
To: [redacted]ios.doi.gov
Cc: elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov, Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov, sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov, Michael_Bean@ios.doi.gov

Glad to help Sally. Safe travels and see you in Vegas.

Jim

From: Sally Jewell [mailto:(b) (6)ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 08:25 PM
To: Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Elizabeth Olson <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>; Laura Daniel Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>; Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>; Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Background on Sage Grouse Science and COT report

Jim -

This was super helpful to me in understanding the overall issues, timing, and why folks are so concerned. I really appreciate the speed and synthesis that you employed in pulling these together for me. Many thanks!

Sally

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 10, 2013, at 2:50 PM, "Lyons, James" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Sally –
>
> Not to overwhelm you, but I have put together several short summaries of information from key science reports/assessments that we have mentioned in our various briefings with you.
>
> Each is a short summary of key findings/observations/recommendations from the reports.
>
> The specific reports I reference are:
>
> 1. **National Technical Team report**, developed in Dec 2011 by the BLM to aid in developing its national planning strategy. The team included BLM, USGS, FWS, and state wildlife agency members;
>
> 2. **Conservation Objectives Team report** delivered in March, 2013 and developed by state fish and wildlife agency and FWS experts; and
>
> 3. a **USGS report** (2013) that provides baseline information on policies, programs, and activities affecting the GSG.
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See you in Vegas.

Jim

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, December 12, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Dec 12, 2013 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS LAGUNA PUEBLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/12, 288K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Wednesday heard about during issues facing Native American education during a visit to Laguna Pueblo Elementary School. Jewell was accompanied by a number of people with expertise in various education-related fields, who came together as part of the American Indian Education Study Group. Jewell said, "Indian education is not like a regular public school system because it covers the entire country. So how do we deliver what's right for students and do it in a way that provides academic rigor, but also supports the unique interests of each tribe?" Study group member Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs, said "the federal government is slowly changing its top-down delivery of Indian education." Washburn said, "The Bureau of Indian Education funds about 186 schools nationwide, and in the past those were all run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education. 'Nowadays, more

than 120 of those schools (including Laguna Elementary) are actually run by the tribes through contracts with the federal government. ... We have to put tribes in the driver's seat in all these schools, and in more of the subject area matters, because they have the best solutions."

SECRETARY JEWELL TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION MEETING. A story by the AP in the Washington Post (12/11, Press, 4.28M) reports that the winter meeting of the Western Governors' Association began Wednesday in Las Vegas to tackle "land use, wildfires and environmental conservation." The governors announced "eight symbolic resolutions." The article notes that "one asserted that states should be the primary authority for water supply planning." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "expected to deliver the keynote address on Thursday highlighting the federal government's commitment to collaborating on conservation and water issues."

AP coverage was also picked up by ABC News (12/12, 3.68M), the Houston Chronicle (12/12, Dreier, 2.26M), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (12/12, 768K), the Deseret (UT) News (12/12, 274K), the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (12/11, 147K), the Macon (GA) Telegraph (12/11, 187K), the Las Vegas NV Blog (12/12), and KCNC-TV Denver (12/11, 26K).

Also providing coverage is ABC News (12/12, 3.68M).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ADDRESS FUTURE OF COLORADO RIVER The Public News Service (12/12, 306) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will address the future of the Colorado River at the Colorado River Water Users Association 2013 Annual Conference at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas Friday. Jewell's presentation is titled "Action Is Imperative – We Need a Balanced Approach to Bridge the Gap between Supply and Demand on the Colorado River."

Also reporting on the story is the Public News Service (12/12, 306).

INTERIOR NOMINEES GO BEFORE SENATE. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (12/12, 194K) reports that some "of President Obama's latest nominees to the Interior and Energy departments will go before a Senate committee on Thursday." The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will consider nominations for Rhea Suh to be assistant secretary of fish and wildlife for the Interior Department and Tommy Beaudreau to be assistant secretary for policy, management and budget for Interior. It will also vote on the nomination of Esther Kia'aina to be an assistant secretary for insular at Interior.

HORSE ADVOCACY GROUP ANGERED OVER CONDITIONS FOR CAPTURED WYOMING HORSES. The Horsetalk (NZL) (12/12, 1K) reports that Cloud Foundation, a wild horse advocacy group, is "angered by the treatment of 668 horses captured in a Wyoming roundup, saying they are being given inadequate shelter from bitter winter conditions." The group claims "the animals taken in the roundup are being held in facilities without adequate windbreaks or shelter." The foundation has called on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "address the situation."

BLM's Wild Horse Policy Criticized. In his column for the Hartford (CT) Courant (12/11, Thorson, 600K), Robert M. Thorson, a professor of geology at the University of Connecticut's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, criticizes the BLM's wild horse policy as "ludicrous" because the BLM "boards out more 'wild' horses to Midwestern farmers than they allow to run free on the western range." As a result, Thorson claims, "taxpayers are renting private pastures for tens of thousands of unnamed horses until they die unnatural deaths."

FWS SAYS BLM'S PLANS FOR GREATER SAGE-GROUSE FALL SHORT . The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (12/12, 73K) reports that the FWS says a BM proposal for protecting the greater sage-grouse in northwest Colorado falls short. The FWS offered its opinion based on letters from the public commenting on the BLM's draft document for management of greater sage-grouse territory in the region. According to the article, opponents including the oil and gas industry, "area governments, agriculture, recreation and other interests have been contending for months that the measures the BLM is contemplating are overly restrictive and would cause significant economic harm."

INTERIOR SUPPORTS NATIONAL PARK TO HONOR CÉSAR CHÁVEZ. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (12/12, Sierra, 11.54M), Javier Sierra, a media consultant and Sierra Club columnist, argues that "our moral debt"

to César Chávez is "enormous." He notes that a new initiative by the Interior Department is "trying to partially repay it" with a "proposal to Congress to establish a new National Historic Park to honor Chávez and the farm workers movement he led along with Dolores Huerta." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Recognizing these sites associated with his leadership of the United Farm Workers as part of a national historical park will ensure that his contributions to the Civil Rights movement will be preserved and shared as an inspiration for future generations."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

HANFORD B REACTOR WON'T BECOME NATIONAL PARK THIS YEAR. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (12/11, 100K) reports that "Hanford's historic B Reactor will not become part of the National Park Service this year." On Tuesday, "supporters' hopes for that died...when a new version of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2014 was released and it failed to include an amendment creating a new Manhattan Project National Historical Park." Rep. Doc Hastings said yesterday "that he will push to get the amendment attached to the 2015 act."

Also reporting on the story is the Oak Ridge (TN) Today (12/11).

NPS TO ADVISE MOUNT WASHINGTON'S EMERALD VIEW PARK. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (12/12, 725K) reports that the NPS has selected Mount Washington's Emerald View Park as "one of 11 in the state to receive support from its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program in the coming year." The NPS will "advise the organization on developing trails on steep slopes 'to the highest standards,'" according to Ilyssa Manspeizer, director of park development and conservation for the Mount Washington Community Development Corp.

NPS CRITICIZED OVER RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST ON MOUNT VERNON BARRICADES. For "The Corner" of the National Review (12/12, 805K), Jillian Kay Melchior writes that a review of the NPS' response to a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act, "looking for e-mails discussing the shutting, closure, or barricading of Mount Vernon," shows that agency's "wide-ranging, unnecessary closings were an embarrassment during the government shutdown." Upon seeing redactions in the record, Melchior concludes that the Interior Department is "embarrassed" by what its NPS employees said

Bureau of Land Management:

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL PICKS GOV. OTTER'S PLAN TO PREVENT LISTING OF SAGE GROUSE. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (12/12, 56K) reports that during its meeting Tuesday evening, the Resource Advisory Council "unanimously selected Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter's alternatives" on Idaho's sage grouse "with the provision that the RAC will discuss and possibly modify the plan." The group's "choice now will go before the full federal advisory committee during its January meeting."

COURT SIDES WITH EASTERN NEVADA PIPELINE OPPONENTS. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (12/12, 437K) reports that in a decision issued Tuesday, Senior District Judge Robert Estes has stripped the Southern Nevada Water Authority of permission to siphon billions of gallons of groundwater a year from across eastern Nevada. Estes ruled that the state's chief water regulator has more work to do before allowing the authority sink its wells in four lonesome valleys in Lincoln and White Pine counties. In particular, Estes ordered the state engineer to recalculate how much the authority can safely be allowed to pump from Spring, Cave, Dry Lake and Delamar valleys to avoid draining the basins and causing conflicts with other water rights holders there and elsewhere.

BLM TO CONDUCT PRESCRIBED BURNS IN STEVENS COUNTY. The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (12/11, 214K) reports that the BLM is "planning to conduct prescribed fires in the Huckleberry Mountains area in Stevens County Dec. 12-Jan. 31, according to the Spokane District Office."

BLM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR EAGLE SURVEY. The Billings (MT) Gazette (12/12, 206K) reports that the

BLM Buffalo Field Office is "seeking volunteers to assist with the 2014 midwinter bald eagle survey on Jan. 11."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RESCUE OF FAMILY LOST IN NEVADA WILDERNESS. Additional coverage of the family rescued from the Nevada wilderness was provided by the Los Angeles Times (12/12, Karlamangla, 3.07M).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP WARNS SEA-LEVEL RISE THREATENS HUNDREDS OF ANIMAL SPECIES. USA Today (12/11, Rice, 5.82M) reports that "hundreds of species of animals in the US are threatened by sea-level rise due to climate change," according to a report released Tuesday by the Center for Biological Diversity. The report notes, "Our analysis finds that 17 percent — one in six — of the nation's threatened and endangered species are at risk from rising sea levels." According to the article, "left unchecked, the group says that rising seas threaten 233 federally protected species in 23 coastal states."

Also providing coverage is WUSA-TV Washington (12/12, 95K).

INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY BEAR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS LIFTING YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY PROTECTIONS. Reuters (12/12, Zuckerman) reports that federal and state wildlife managers of grizzly bears in the Yellowstone National Park area recommended on Wednesday that Endangered Species Act protections be lifted for the animals. On Wednesday, members of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee recommended a new de-listing after reviewing a report suggesting Yellowstone's bears can be sustained by berries and a multitude of other food sources. The article notes that FWS Director Dan Ashe told Reuters in a 2010 interview that the Obama Administration would seek to lift Endangered Species Act protections from both wolves and grizzlies in the Yellowstone area.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND COMMENT PERIODS ON GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE END. The Cortez (CO) Journal (12/11, 646) reports that public meetings and comment periods have concluded on the issue of whether the FWS should list the Gunnison sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. Susan Linner, FW field supervisor, said, "It is now up to Fish and Wildlife Director Daniel Ashe (and the Secretary of Interior) to weigh all the information and make the decision, which is expected at the end of March next year. It could be listed as endangered, threatened, or not warranted."

NEW LEADER SELECTED TO OVERSEE ARCATA FWS OFFICE. The Weaverville (CA) Trinity Journal (12/12, 12K) reports that Bruce Bingham has been chosen to lead the Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office.

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY CLOSES PART OF POPULAR TRAIL. The U-T San Diego (12/11, 647K) reports that "a popular trial near the Sweetwater Valley reservoir has been temporarily closed by the Sweetwater Authority because of concerns about environmental issues." The Sweetwater Authority "sent out a notice Wednesday stating the riding and hiking trail south of the Sweetwater Reservoir will be closed beginning Thursday due to an environmentally sensitive area containing vernal pools and associated species that are protected under federal law." Jim Smyth, general manager for the Sweetwater Authority, said that the "decision to closed a portion of the trail would reduce the risk of enforcement" by the FWS regarding the Endangered Species Act.

NASHVILLE ZOO SENDS 5,000 ENDANGERED TOADS TO PUERTO RICO. The Bristol (TN/VA) Herald Courier (12/12, 81K) reports that the Nashville Zoo has "sent more than 5,000 tadpoles to Puerto Rico as part of an effort to help saved the endangered Puerto Rican crested toad." According to the article, the Nashville Zoo started "efforts to breed the Puerto Rican crested toad since first acquiring the species in 2008 but was not successful until last year." The article notes that "a recent shipment of 3,774 tadpoles has brought the total number to more than 5,000 produced" for the FWS to "release back into their native habitat in Puerto Rico."

FWS SEEKS INPUT ON INVASIVE CATTLE IN ALASKA MARITIME NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.. The Alaska Public Radio Network (12/11, 2K) reports that the FWS is seeking "input from the public on how best to deal with about 1,000 head of cattle on two islands in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge." Steve Delehanty, the manager of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, has "announced the start of a 'scoping'

process to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act before the cattle are removed or eradicated."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM DEVELOPING PLAN TO MONITOR EFFECTS OF VALLEY SOLAR PROJECTS. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (12/11, 110K) reports that "with two large-scale solar projects on public land east of the Coachella Valley now pumping power onto the grid," the BLM is "developing a plan to monitor the long-term effects of solar development in the desert." The bureau is "holding a two-day public workshop that continues Thursday in Palm Springs on the Riverside East Long-Term Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan as the first step toward crafting policies and procedures that could eventually be used at projects on federal land across six Western states." Michael Sintetos, the BLM's renewable energy program manager for California, said, "Before three years ago, we had not seen the scale of development on public land that we've seen with solar projects. We've seen a new type of impact we haven't had to consider before. These things are thousands of acres."

FWS TO FURTHER STUDY SOLAR POWER TOWERS. KCET-TV Los Angeles (12/12, 15K) reports that Jane Hendron, Public Affairs Division Chief at the Carlsbad office of FWS, said that the "funnel effect" mentioned in "the agency's comments on the proposed Palen Solar Electric Generating Station isn't really an 'effect,' and it involves an actual funnel – or at least something that works like one." Hendron said that "a plan for broader, more consistent wildlife mortality monitoring and reporting at renewable energy projects is in the works," and that FWS will be "releasing a description of that plan in the next couple of weeks."

STUDY FINDS TALL WIND TURBINES KILL MORE BIRDS THAN SHORT ONES. The Softpedia (12/12, 137K) reports that a new paper authored by researchers working with the FWS, the Smithsonian Institution Migratory Bird Center, and the Oklahoma State University "documents how the wind power industry in the United States affects the country's biodiversity, especially its bird population." In their paper, the researchers "argue that, according to evidence at hand, monopole turbines now up and running across the US kill an average of 140,000 to 328,000 birds on a yearly basis." Notably, "it appears that there is a correlation between how tall a monopole wind turbine is and how many birds it kills annually."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW EAGLE RULE. Additional coverage of the new eagle rule was provided by the Durango (CO) Herald (12/11, 28K).

WSJOURNAL CALLS FOR END TO WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT. The Wall Street Journal (12/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that the wind production tax credit, intended to be temporary, has now been on the books for two decades, and that it should be ended. The Journal urges Republicans to argue against extending the credit by calling it an example of corporate welfare and cronyism intended to aid President Obama's supporters in the green energy industry.

MAINE URGED TO SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY. In an editorial, the Bangor (ME) Daily News (12/11, 166K) urges Maine to develop its offshore wind energy industry. Also, the paper argues that "the state and federal governments must stick to long-term, supportive energy policies" because "uncertainty makes it difficult to plan multi-million-dollar projects." In addition, it urges leaders across New England to discuss "how they can best foster the industry together." Finally, it notes that "another hurdle that cannot be understated is public acceptance."

Onshore Energy Development:

FRACKING LIFTS US OIL OUTPUT TO 25-YEAR HIGH. Bloomberg News (12/11, Harvey, Loder, 1.91M) reports that the energy boom created by fracking has lifted US oil production to a 25-year high. On the week that ended December 6, the US produced 8.075 million barrels a day, which accounts for a gain of 0.8 percent, according to the Energy Information Administration. That total out put is "the most since October 1988." The gains are attribute to fracking techniques.

ENERGY PRODUCING STATES HAVE MOST "SPARE CASH." The "GovBeat" blog of the Washington Post

(12/11, Chokshi, 4.28M) reports that "every single state ended the 2013 fiscal year with spare cash, but the ones with the biggest relative stockpiles also happened to be big energy producers." By the time the FY2013 ended, "Alaska, North Dakota and Wyoming had the largest year-end budget balances relative to their spending levels, according to a new state fiscal survey from the National Association of State Budget Officers." In each of the states, "energy-related industries account for a sizable chunk of economic output and Alaska's year-end balance of $16.5 billion alone accounted for a fourth of the all-state total." NASBO Executive Director Scott Pattison said, "There's a definite connection."

BLM REACTS TO BUDGET DEAL. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (12/12, 59K) reports that "a budget deal hammered out this week by Republican and Democratic negotiators likely will have profound effects on Southwest communities that are heavily reliant on federal spending, though precise impacts remain to be seen." The article notes that "in New Mexico, one agency most affected by the sequestration" has been the BLM. According to BLM spokesmen in Carlsbad and Farmington, "filling vacant positions has been a major challenge." As a result, although "the Farmington office is still processing drilling permits within two to three months, it is taking longer for customers to obtain right-of-way permits," BLM office manager Gary Torres said

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT TO RESTORE WALLOPS SHORELINE. The Delmarva (MD) Daily Times (12/11, 26K) reports that the BOEM has announced an agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the US Army Corps of Engineers "authorizing the dredging of up to one million cubic yards of sand from the outer continental shelf to restore the shoreline at NASA's Wallops Island Flight Facility in Virginia." BOEM Director Tommy P. Beaudreau said, "BOEM's contribution of sand for this federal facility will help maintain the physical integrity of NASA's valuable launch infrastructure at Wallops Island and improve resiliency against future storms." He added, "This project is an example of the federal family working together on the ongoing response to Hurricane Sandy."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF US-MEXICO HYDROCARBON AGREEMENT. Bloomberg News (12/11, 1.91M) reports that on Tuesday, a US budget compromise was announced. Language in the compromise would implement the 2012 US-Mexico agreement on "hydrocarbon reservoirs in parts of the gulf that cross the international maritime boundary." The article notes that American Petroleum Institute upstream operations director Erik Milito "said in October that the group was dropping its opposition to the Dodd-Frank reporting requirements as a way to expedite the US-Mexico agreement."

Also reporting on the story is the FuelFix (12/11, 7K) and the National Journal (12/12, Subscription Publication, 427K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR REPORT ASSESSES CLIMATE CHANGE'S IMPACT ON UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN. The AP (12/12) reports that "temperatures are likely to get hotter by a few degrees before the end of the 21st century and less water will be available in the Upper Rio Grande Basin thanks to a changing climate," according to a report released Wednesday by the BOR. The bureau "reviewed temperature and precipitation data from the last decade and compared models in an effort to start answering whether water planners should be ready for the possibility of a hotter, drier and more variable future."

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/12, 288K) reports that at a meeting of Albuquerque water managers and community members, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Anne Castle said, "It is sobering."

The Science Codex (12/12, 1K) reports that Castle said, "This report uses the most current information and state of the art scientific methodology to project a range of future supply scenarios in the upper Rio Grande basin. It is a great first step and a call to action for water managers and users in the basin and the partner federal agencies to move forward and develop adaptation to the challenges this study brings to light."

Also reporting on the story are the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/12, 288K) and KRQE-TV Albuquerque, NM (12/12, 29K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION FILES BRIEF ON NEW MEXICO-TEXAS WATER DISPUTE. The El Paso (TX) Times (12/12, Press, 247K) reports that the Obama Administration is urging the US Supreme Court to "take a middle-ground approach on a water dispute between Texas and New Mexico over management of the Rio Grande." According to the article, "a brief filed Tuesday by the US solicitor general's office didn't take sides in the interstate dispute but said the Supreme Court should leave the door open for a quick resolution." The article notes that "the federal government has a stake in the case" because the BOR "operates Elephant Butte Reservoir, which is used for delivery of much of the water involved in the dispute."

BOR TO USE CARGILL'S "GREEN CHEMICAL" TO FILL ELECTRICAL TRANSFORMERS. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (12/12, Spencer, 1.14M) reports that for the past few years, the Interior Department has "tested the effectiveness of electrical transformers that use vegetable oil instead of mineral oil to boost power production while lowering the threat of fires and toxic spills." Now, the Interior Department "plans a 'very large project' using the green technology that Minnetonka-based Cargill Inc. helped perfect." Bill Heckler, an engineer with the BOR, which operates hydroelectric dams, said, "Our transformers sit on decks overlooking the flow of beautiful Western waterways. We fear ruptures or fires that will drop large quantities of oil into rivers."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. In an op-ed for the Santa Clarita Valley (CA) Signal (12/12, Masnada, 13K), Dan Masnada, the general manager of the Castaic Lake Water Agency, writes that "a single earthquake could wreak havoc in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and disrupt Southern California's water supply for up to a year or more." He says that Castaic Lake Water Agency is "very concerned," as the USGS "estimates there is a 60 percent chance that such a quake could occur in the next 30 years." Masnada claims that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan "proposal to modernize the state's water-delivery system with two tunnels under the Delta would avoid this calamity."

Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (12/11, 110K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SAN LUIS RESERVOIR. Additional coverage of a proposal to increase the height of the San Luis Reservoir was provided by the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (12/12, 731K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

WYOMING PREPARED TO FIGHT RESERVATION BORDER DECISION BY EPA. The Riverton (WY) Ranger (12/12, 167) reports that Wyoming lawmakers say "they plan to take a 'strong, proactive position' against a recent decision by the Environmental Protection Agency impacting the boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation." State Sen. Eli Bebout is "in meetings this week with the Joint Appropriation Committee, which he co-chairs." Bebout said "the group is exploring legislative opportunities to reverse the EPA's ruling."

Additional coverage was provided by the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/12, 90K) and the Riverton (WY) Ranger (12/12, 167).

Top National News:

HHS: ACA ENROLLMENT AT 365,000 THROUGH NOVEMBER. The announcement from HHS that in November, approximately 260,000 people signed up for health insurance via HealthCare.gov, or the 14 state marketplaces, was met with contrasting assessments from partisan analysts, and generated less overall coverage than might have been expected given the attention paid to previous enrollment data. For instance, the news was noted in very brief segments on NBC Nightly News (12/11, story 5, 0:25, Curry, 7.86M) and the CBS Evening News (12/11, story 4, 0:50, 5.58M),and was not covered at all on ABC World News.

Ann Curry, on NBC Nightly News (12/11, story 5, 0:25, Curry, 7.86M), reported in a 25 second-long segment that "sign-ups on both the Federal and state exchanges are improving, but not fast enough to meet enrollment goals." Curry noted that the Administration says "nearly 365,000 people signed up for private coverage," which is "far short of the goal of 1.2 million through the end of November." Scott Pelley, in a similarly brief item for the CBS

Evening News (12/11, story 4, 0:50, 5.58M), said that in addition to the "364,000 people [who] chose policies, more than 800,000 found they were eligible for Medicaid or federal subsidies to help them buy health insurance."

While allies of the Administration contrasted the new numbers with the very low totals from October, critics of the Affordable Care Act pointed out that the enrollment figures continue to be far below where they need to be for the ACA operate effectively next year. Republicans also emphasized that millions of Americans have lost their health insurance coverage due to the President's reforms (their estimates range from 4 million to five million canceled policies).

In his opening monologue for MSNBC's Ed Show (12/12, 449K), Ed Schultz said, "The website problems have been fixed and the numbers are starting show just that." Schultz continued, "These are big numbers. This is proof that Obamacare is gaining steam, day by day," which is "is really bad news for the Republicans." On the other hand, in the lead story for Fox News' Special Report (12/12, 2.15M), correspondent Mike Emanuel reported that "the bottom line" is that "to make the goal of 7 million people [enrolled] by the end of March, the Administration needs to pick up the pace substantially in terms of getting people to register." Emanuel said "50,000 or so a day on average needs to be the number in order to make that goal by the end of March."

Under the headline "Health Care Sign-ups Pick Up But May Not Close Gap," the AP (12/12, Alonso-Zaldivar, Kellman) reports that "with time running short" the exchanges are not enrolling people "fast enough" to "guarantee that Americans who want and need coverage by Jan. 1 will be able to get it," which "means more trouble for the White House." According to the AP, "Next year could start with a new round of political recriminations." The AP adds that despite the apparently bleak outlook, HHS Secretary Sebelius "assured Congress on Wednesday that 'we are seeing very, very positive trends' now that HealthCare.gov is working reasonably well."

Politico (12/12, Cheney, 467K) reports that in November "about 260,000 people enrolled in Obamacare exchanges," which is "more than double the dismal October sign-up rate but still a low monthly number that reflects HealthCare.gov's protracted technical problems." Politico notes that House Majority Whip McCarthy pointed out that "more than 4 million Americans have lost their health plan" as a result of the ACA. House Speaker Boehner is quoted as saying, "I think when we get to Jan. 1st, it will be clear more Americans have lost their insurance than will sign up." Politico also reports that insurers "are warning that bugs in the system may create havoc in January when some people may discover that they aren't properly signed up in the plan they selected."

Nevertheless, the Los Angeles Times (12/12, Levey, 3.07M), in an article titled "Obamacare Sign-ups Continue To Increase," reports that November's "tally is fueling renewed optimism among supporters of the Affordable Care Act who believe that fixes to the federal site will rescue the law...from its disastrous debut." The Times notes that "enrollment continued to be strongest in California," which "recorded 107,000 sign-ups in [the] first two months" of its statewide exchange.

Under the headline "Obamacare Enrollments Surpass 1 Million," the Huffington Post (12/12, Young, 11.54M) offers a positive assessment of the enrollment numbers so far, noting that in addition to the "almost 365,000 people enrolled into private health insurance via the federal and state marketplaces" through the end of last month, "more than 803,000 were deemed eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program." The Huffington Post also reports that "about 1.9 million more people had been determined eligible for coverage through the marketplaces, but hadn't yet chosen a health plan."

The New York Times (12/12, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) notes that "the new enrollment numbers do not reflect reports of a surge in sign-ups since the end of November, when the administration had promised improved performance." The Times adds that, "according to people familiar with the project," since December 1 "about 112,000 people selected plans through the federal marketplace...which would mean enrollments for this month have already outpaced those in November." The Times also reports that Michael Hash, director of HHS's health reform office, maintains that the Administration is "still 'on track' to meet its goal of enrolling seven million people in private health plans...by the end of March."

However, according to USA Today (12/12, A1, Kennedy, 5.82M), "Despite the gains in November...the government faces significant challenges getting people signed up by Dec. 23 to gain coverage by Jan. 1, and by the end of the enrollment period March 31." Alan Cohen, chief strategy officer of Liazon, "which provides health

exchanges to private employees," says, "The numbers coming out seem like so much more than before, but they still have to be so much more."

McClatchy (12/12, Pugh, 95K) reports that the Administration "originally expected 3.3 million state and federal marketplace enrollees by the end of 2013," and while that "now seem unlikely, the administration hasn't changed its original goal of logging 7 million people into marketplace coverage by the end of open enrollment on March 31, 2014."

David Nather, in a piece on Sebelius' House appearance for Politico (12/12, 467K), said the panel's Republicans "did manage to put Sebelius on the spot...about how many people would actually have coverage in January and the possibility of more canceled policies." However, according to Nather, "some...also drifted into overreach, and Democrats fought back with a renewed passion now that the website is improving."

The Wall Street Journal (12/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial this morning, estimates that as of the beginning of the month, about four more million Americans lost their health insurance as a result of the ACA than gained it through the new exchanges. Karl Rove, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (12/12, Rove, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), makes the case that the ACA's unpopularity could cause Democrats to lose Senate races next year even in states that were carried by President Obama in 2012.

WPost Says "Obamacare's Biggest Losers" Include Many With Chronic Illnesses. Sarah Kliff, in a front-page article for the Washington Post (12/12, A1, 4.28M) titled "For Some Chronically Ill, Risk Of Coverage Gap Looms," reports that "Obamacare's biggest losers," include "people whose current plans have been canceled but who are having trouble getting through HealthCare.gov to purchase coverage by Dec. 23." According to Kliff, "The concern is particularly acute for patients with expensive medical conditions, who rely on their coverage for" treatment "that would otherwise break the bank." Kliff goes on to report that "those facing a potential coverage gap include an estimated 15 million people who purchase coverage for themselves on the individual market, many of whom received cancellation notices because their policies did not meet [ACA] requirements."

HHS IG To Review Problems That Preceded Roll-Out Of HealthCare.gov. The Washington Post (12/12, Somashekhar, 4.28M) reports that on Wednesday, in her testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Sebelius announced that she is "had directed the HHS inspector general to investigate what went wrong" with the roll-out of HealthCare.gov. Sebelius said, "Now that the website is working more smoothly, I've determined it's the right time to begin a process of better understanding the structural and managerial policies that led to the flawed launch so we can take action to avoid these problems in the future." According to the Post, Sebelius said she "asked HHS Inspector General Dan Levinson to review the development of the Web site with a particular focus on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the agency...that oversaw the creation of the Web site, and the private firms that were contracted to work on the project." The Post notes that when "asked...if she would have delayed the Oct. 1 launch date for HealthCare.gov, Sebelius responded, 'On balance, I am not sure what the right answer is.'"

The Wall Street Journal (12/12, Schatz, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Sebelius said she also will appoint a chief risk officer at CMS who will look at "risk management practices associated with major agency initiatives."

Issa Accuses CMS Of Obstructing Congress. The Hill (12/12, Viebeck, 194K) reports that House Oversight Chairman Darrell Issa "is accusing federal health officials of criminally obstructing his investigation into the botched roll-out of HealthCare.gov." According to The Hill, Issa alleges that HHS is "illegally interfering with the ongoing probe after HHS purportedly told one private contractor not to comply with congressional requests for information." The Hill says Issa "dismissed the department's argument that Creative Computing Solutions Inc. (CCSI) agreed in its contract not to share certain details with third parties."

Administration Still Trying To Attract Younger People To The ACA's Marketplaces. The Wall Street Journal (12/12, Schatz, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an article titled "White House Works To Attract Younger Health-Plan Users," reports that the Administration is about to redouble its efforts to convince younger, healthier uninsured Americans to get coverage through one of the ACA marketplaces. The Journal notes that the Administration has not released demographic data about those who enrolled via HealthCare.gov, but, according to the Journal, numbers from several states suggest that less than a quarter of those selecting plans are under 35.

Only 44 Oregonians Signed Up For Private Insurance Through November 30. USA Today (12/12, Chebium, 5.82M) reports "just 44 [Oregon] residents signed up for private insurance through Cover Oregon from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30," which means Oregon "was dead last among all states," although "the tally doesn't include the nearly 100,000 Oregonians who've newly signed up for Medicaid."

BUDGET DEAL SEEN AS "BETTER THAN NOTHING" FOR OBAMA. Roll Call (12/12, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 87K) notes that while the budget deal announced yesterday by House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan and Senate Budget Chairwoman Patty Murray is not the deal the President "has been seeking for the past three years," for "a weakened president under water in the polls and facing the prospect of endless stalemate in Congress, it appears to be better than nothing." White House spokesman Josh Earnest "praised the deal as allowing a return to 'regular order' while limiting the damage to the economy if the sequester had been allowed to continue full force."

CBO: Budget Deal Will Reduce Deficit By $85 Billion Over 10 Years. Politico (12/12, Everett, 467K) reports that the CBO estimates that the deal "will reduce the federal deficit by $85 billion over 10 years." The plan "will decrease spending by $78 billion and bring in $7 billion in new revenues by 2023, CBO found."

The AP (12/12, Taylor) reports that the CBO said that over the next two years, the deal "would increase the deficit...by $41.4 billion," raising it "by $23.2 billion in 2014 and by $18.2 billion the year after that."

House GOP Leaders Defend Budget Deal. The Washington Post (12/12, Montgomery, O'Keefe, Branigin, 4.28M) reports that amid objections from conservatives and liberals, House GOP leaders in Wednesday defended the bipartisan deal. House Majority Leader Cantor "congratulated Ryan on 'the hard work behind trying to get a deal in this divided government we're in,'" adding that the proposal "accomplishes deficit reduction and permanent federal pension reform, 'and it doesn't raise taxes.'" Cantor said the agreement "was consistent with Republican efforts to replace the mandatory budget cuts known as the sequester with 'permanent savings that make a lot more sense.'" The Post noted that House Republicans leaving a closed-door meeting about the deal on Wednesday "expressed mixed, but generally positive, reactions to the agreement."

The AP (12/12, Espo, Taylor) reports that the deal found support from House Republicans Wednesday "even though it would nudge federal deficits higher three years in a row." While there were complaints from both sides of the aisle, "other lawmakers, buffeted by criticism after last October's partial government shutdown, found plenty to like in the agreement and suggested it could lead to future cooperation. "

The Washington Post (12/12, Wilson, 4.28M) reports that the deal "represents a potentially defining moment" for Republicans, who are "divided between those who believe the party needs to prove it can govern, and those who believe in purity at all costs." The deal "puts House Republicans at a crossroads" at which they "can pass a compromise" or "reject the deal as insufficiently conservative and cement the party's growing reputation as unwilling to come to the table."

The Hill (12/12, Berman, Wasson, 194K) reports that the deal "won positive reviews from skeptical House Republicans on Wednesday morning." Although there was some criticism form conservatives, "lawmakers said there was little sign of the kind of revolt that has derailed Republican fiscal plans in the past."

McClatchy (12/12, Lightman, Douglas, 95K) reports that despite objections from conservatives and skepticism from Democrats, the deal "appears headed for passage, perhaps as soon as Thursday in the House of Representatives."

The Wall Street Journal (12/12, Hook, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that while few on the Hill are enthusiastic about the plan, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle say the hope of bringing an end to Congress's ongoing budget fights would be enough to move the bill through both chambers.

The Washington Post (12/12, O'Keefe, 4.28M) reports that the support for the bill "appears to rest on two things." First, "both parties will be making concessions in order to reach a deal, and two, that Congress is in no mood to have to rush back to Washington after the holidays to meet (yet) another fiscal deadline."

Boehner Blasts Conservative Groups Opposing Budget Deal. The CBS Evening News (12/11, story 3, 2:15, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that the conservative groups' opposition to the deal "drew a rare public rebuke from the Republican leadership." CBS (Cordes) added that "what made Republican leaders so angry was the fact that these powerful outside groups were once again urging Republicans to vote against a fragile compromise that had been worked out by a party standard bearer who, in this case, just happens to be a possible presidential candidate in 2016." Asked about the conservative groups' opposition, House Speaker Boehner said, "They're using our members and they're using the American people for their own goals. This is ridiculous. Listen, if you're for more deficit reduction you're for this agreement." CBS added that GOP leaders "feel that these influential groups have been pushing conservatives to sink deal after deal."

The Los Angeles Times (12/12, Memoli, 3.07M) calls Boehner's comments an "uncharacteristically forceful response" to the groups. The Times adds that Boehner "mocked the powerful conservative forces that he said were staking out opposition to the deal even before its full details were public."

The Hill (12/12, Berman, Wasson, 194K) notes that distrust between Boehner and the groups "has been a theme of his Speakership, but it boiled over" Wednesday as attacks on the deal by conservative groups, including Heritage Action and FreedomWorks prompted Boehner "to lash out at them." The Hill notes that with his comments, Boehner "joins senior Senate Republicans who have decried their influence and their motives in mounting primary challenges against incumbents."

Many Senate Republicans Oppose Deal. Politico (12/12, Raju, Sherman, 467K) reports that while House Republican leaders are "eager to lock down support from their party to back the bipartisan budget deal and avoid yet another round of fiscal crises," their message "appears to have gotten lost in the Capitol Rotunda." Senate GOP leaders and senior members "are balking at the budget deal, arguing that it hikes spending too high without demanding more immediate cuts in return." Politico notes that Senate Republicans "have the luxury of nearly uniform opposition because they are in the minority." Since they know the deal will have the 60-votes it needs to beat a filibuster, "'no' becomes the default position for many of them."

McConnell Said To Be "Leaning Against" Budget Deal. The Huffington Post (12/12, McAuliff, 11.54M) reports that Senate Minority Leader McConnell is "conspicuously absent" from the group of lawmakers praising the deal. Asked if he supports the agreement, McConnell "was noncommittal," saying, "I haven't really looked at it yet." However, there is an "unconfirmed report" that he "is leaning against it."

Cruz Finds Budget Deal "Deeply Concerning." The Hill (12/12, Jaffe, 194K) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz's office said Wednesday that the Senator, who was flying back from South Africa, finds the budget deal "deeply concerning." Spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said that Cruz "hasn't had time to fully review the proposal," but added that he "did take issue with much of it."

Sessions To Oppose Budget Deal. McClatchy (12/12, Lightman, 95K) reports that the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, Sen. Jeff Sessions said Wednesday that he "will oppose the bipartisan budget deal." Sessions said in a statement, "While I favor reorganizing elements of the Budget Control Act to smooth the impact, I do not favor increasing total discretionary spending above what was agreed to over the 10-year BCA period (exchanged for the already-exhausted $2.1 trillion debt increase in 2011)."

Democrats Say Failure To Address Unemployment Benefits Could Sink Deal. NBC Nightly News (12/11, story 4, 2:10, Curry, 7.86M) reported that the deal "sidestepped dealing with the crisis facing 1.3 million Americans who've been out of work for a long time and that means their unemployment benefits will stop at the end of the month unless Congress take action."

The Wall Street Journal (12/12, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Democratic leaders including House Minority Leader Pelosi are not pushing their members to support the budget deal. Pelosi said she did not know how much Democratic support the deal would get because unemployment aid was excluded.

The Hill (12/12, Needham, Lillis, Becker, 194K) reports that several leading Democrats say the deal "is on the verge of unraveling over the exclusion of federal unemployment benefits." These Democrats "are outraged by a GOP move to add the Medicare 'doc fix' to the package but not a continuation of unemployment benefits – a strategy they say could sink the entire package by scaring away Democratic votes." The Hill notes that while it is

unclear "whether Democrats would sink the first bipartisan budget deal in years over the unemployment insurance (UI) issue," with Republicans "intent on leaving town on Friday – and with GOP leaders showing little appetite to extend the benefits before they expire on Dec. 28 – the Democrats' only real leverage is to threaten to do so."

Deal Seen As A Career-Defining Moment For Ryan. USA Today (12/12, Davis, 5.82M) reports that for Ryan, the announcement of the deal Tuesday night was "a defining moment in his legislative career." His role "in crafting the first bipartisan budget deal to come out of divided government since the Reagan era has taken some conservatives by surprise." But, with him "as the face of the budget compromise, the groups are finding a harder time getting traction within the ranks."

The Wall Street Journal (12/12, O'Connor, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Ryan has a great deal riding on the success of the plan. If it passes the House, he can number it among his accomplishments in a potential 2016 presidential run. But the plan also creates an opening for conservatives to question his bona fides as budget cutter.

The New York Times (12/12, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that with the deal, Ryan "is taking a risk he has previously shied away from, putting what party leaders see as a crucial need – ending the debilitating budget wars in Washington that have crippled the Republican brand – over his own self-interests with the conservative activists that dominate the early Republican presidential primaries." Ryan is, for the first time, "taking withering fire from movement conservatives who see the deal as a betrayal by a former ally." However, Ryan "may have enhanced his stature as the conservative in Washington who can actually get things done."

Politico (12/12, Gibson, 467K) reports that while conservatives are "blasting" the deal, Ryan "doesn't seem to be losing support from the far right members of his party." Rep. Mick Mulvaney said, "Because Paul comes up with that kind of plan, it does not undermine his conservative credibility bona fides. ... I have a great deal of faith in Paul Ryan that will not be changed because of this issue." Part of the reason Ryan remains in "good standing with the right wing of his party" is that "he has fought their fight for the past several years, proposing budgets full of red meat for conservatives."

Deal Called The "Biggest Triumph" Of Murray's Career. McClatchy (12/12, Lightman, 95K) reports that the agreement "was arguably the biggest triumph of Murray's 20-year Senate career, where she was half the architect of a deal that's eluded negotiators for years." Murray, McClatchy notes, "stepped away from her role as partisan messenger and got leader-like" to craft this agreement. She said, "This agreement breaks through the recent dysfunction to prevent another government shutdown and roll back sequestration's cuts to defense and domestic investments in a balanced way," adding, "It's a good step in the right direction...that can hopefully rebuild some trust and serve as a foundation for continued bipartisan work."

Plan Does Not Repeat Sequester's "Everybody Hurts" Approach. The Washington Post (12/12, Fahrenthold, 4.28M) reports that the sequester "was intended as an across-the-board budget cut, reducing spending on national defense and non-defense programs." The cuts were triggered after "a better plan to reduce the federal deficit" could not be reached. With the plan announced Tuesday, Congress is considering a proposal to replace them "with something smaller. And, it is hoped, smarter." While Congress would still be required "to lower spending to billions less than pre-sequester levels," the "sequester's everybody-hurts approach" would not be repeated. The plan "is to let House and Senate appropriators choose specific trims, saving the muscle and cutting the fat."

Federal Employees To Pay More For Retirement Benefits Under Deal. The Washington Post (12/12, Hicks, 4.28M) reports that the deal would require future Federal government hires "to pay more than existing employees toward their retirement benefits." The agreement "would save the government $6 billion in pension costs over 10 years by forcing federal employees hired after Jan. 1 to pay an additional 1.3 percent of their salaries toward retirement."

Agreement Provides Spending Certainty For Pentagon. The AP (12/12, Cassata) reports that the agreement would provide "some long-sought stability in spending" to the Pentagon. The deal would cap defense spending in the current 2014 fiscal year "at $520.5 billion, up from the current level of $498.1 billion." Fiscal 2015 spending "would be capped at $521.4 billion, up from $512 billion." The AP notes that while the numbers were not their ideal, "defense leaders and members of Congress' military panels welcomed the certainty promised in the deal."

Deal Increases Airline Security Fee. The AP (12/12, Freed) reports that the deal "would more than double the $5 security fee on most round-trip tickets, to $11.20 per ticket" starting on July 1. According to the airline trade group Airlines for America, on a trip with one stop, "taxes can boost the price of what would have been a $238 ticket to $300."

More Commentary. In his column for the Washington Post (12/12, 4.28M), E.J. Dionne describes the deal as "very conservative" and notes that while it "leaves the jobless out in the cold, because it doesn't extend unemployment benefits, and provides little room for new initiatives to combat rising inequality and declining upward mobility," it is being subjected to "vitriolic attacks from the right wing." Dionne argues that this is "at best, a necessary deal, given the alternatives available in a political system whose priorities have been twisted away from the needs of the struggling majority."

In his column for the Washington Post (12/12, 4.28M), Dana Milbank writes that while there is much that is "wrong with the deal," Ryan "achieved something monumental this week" by persuading "his fellow conservatives to compromise, even though they are under pressure to oppose the pact from powerful groups such as Club for Growth, Heritage Action and Americans for Prosperity." Milbank calls this "first-time willingness among conservatives to buck the ideological purity police" a "small ray of hope that their bravery will repeat itself on other occasions."

An editorial in the Washington Post (12/12, 4.28M) that while there is not "a lot not to like" in the deal, it has "one overriding virtue: It exists." Its "importance is not fiscal but political: It amounts to a truce in the destructive budgetary wars that have plagued Washington since the advent of a Republican-majority House in 2011."

In an editorial, the New York Times (12/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) notes that Democrats "achieved much of what they wanted in a budget deal reached on Tuesday that in other important respects was disappointing." The Times argues that the details of the deal "show that Republican loathing of taxes and domestic spending continue to dominate the budget debate."

SENATE HOLDS ALL-NIGHT SESSION TO CONFIRM OBAMA NOMINEES. The Washington Post (12/12, O'Keefe, 4.28M) reports that "in another sign that the U.S. Senate is racing the clock and adjusting to life under a new set of rules, senators are scheduled to hold a series of votes overnight and early Thursday morning." The Senate was set to vote on Nina Pillard's nomination to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia around 1:30 a.m., with a vote on Equal Employment Opportunity Commission nominee expected around 5:30 a.m. Other nominations are set for later Thursday and Friday.

Bloomberg News (12/12, Hunter, Rubin, 1.91M) says Republicans, "stripped of their ability to stop confirmation of almost all" of President Obama's nominees, are trying to delay them instead. The Hill (12/12, Bolton, 194K) says the GOP is planning "a more than 30-hour talkathon on the chamber floor." Politico (12/12, Everett, 467K) writes, "Here's what the Senate looks like in the aftermath of last month's historic rules change: 1 a.m. votes, hours of partisan speeches and committee hearings being cut short." Roll Call (12/12, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) says "the Senate Historical Office defines all-night sessions of the Senate as those sessions running past 4 a.m."

More Commentary. The Wall Street Journal (12/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that Democrats are using the new rules to pack the District of Columbia Circuit Court and to push through ideological nominees to a variety of posts. The Journal says Democrats are eager to get President Obama's court nominees seated before further cases regarding the Affordable Care Act are heard.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Minimalist Budget Deal."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (12/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) notes that Democrats "achieved much of what they wanted in a budget deal reached on Tuesday that in other important respects was disappointing." The Times arguments that the details of the deal "show that Republican loathing of taxes and domestic spending continue to dominate the budget debate."

"The Toll From Three Deadly Diseases." A New York Times (12/12, A38, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorial writes yesterday the World Health Organization estimated global efforts against malaria had reduced mortality by 45% globally between 2000 and 2012. However, the paper points out that substantially less than 50% of sub-Saharan African residents have the necessary insecticide-treated nets to ward off the disease and millions have no access to tests and treatments. The region faces the same situation with tuberculosis, where the paper calls the number of resultant fatalities "an unacceptably high toll given that most deaths are preventable if cases are detected early and treated properly," and HIV.

"India's Reversal On Gay Rights." The New York Times (12/12, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) in an editorial calls a ruling by India's Supreme Court striking down a lower court decision to decriminalize homosexual conduct "disgraceful," and says the law was used "to threaten and blackmail gays, lesbians and transgender people." The Times says that the court's ruling that it is for parliament to make such decisions is "disingenuous" because it is "unlikely" to do so. The Times urges the government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to seek repeal of the law.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A Done Deal."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (12/12, 4.28M) that while there is not "a lot not to like" in the budget deal, it has "one overriding virtue: It exists." Its "importance is not fiscal but political: It amounts to a truce in the destructive budgetary wars that have plagued Washington since the advent of a Republican-majority House in 2011."

"Cubans Deserving Of Respect." An editorial in the Washington Post (12/12, 4.28M) criticizes the President's handshake with Raul Castro, calling it a gesture "freighted with symbolism that cannot be ignored." The Post notes that while the President was shaking hands with Castro, "courageous people attempting to uphold Mr. Mandela's ideals were suffering beatings and arrests," calls on the President "to follow his handshake with a loud and unambiguous salute to the real champions of human rights – those fighting for it on the streets of Cuba."

"Boo To The Naysayers." An editorial in the Washington Post (12/12, 4.28M) attributes the improvement of District of Columbia schools to "reforms grounded in accountability, high standards, and school choice." Mayor Vincent Gray and Councilmember Jack Evans are praised for "standing up for sensible policies that have brought much-needed change to the city's public schools" at Monday's teachers union-sponsored forum on education that included "boos and catcalls" by teachers. The Post argues the vocal educators criticizing the reforms at the event are not reflective of the "many teachers who want to be rewarded for the quality of their work."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Juking The ObamaCare Stats."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) cautions readers not to buy into the optimistic reports HHS and the White House are putting forth about the Affordable Care Act. The paper points out how selective the monthly enrollment figures have been, most notably for glossing over the number of Americans whose plans have been canceled as a result of the law.

"Behind The Filibuster Flurry." The Wall Street Journal (12/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that Democrats are using new Senate rules to pack the District of Columbia Circuit Court and to push through ideological nominees to a variety of posts. The Journal says Democrats are eager to get President Obama's court nominees seated before further cases regarding the Affordable Care Act are heard.

"Powering Down The Wind Subsidy." The Wall Street Journal (12/12, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that the wind production tax credit, intended to be temporary, has now been on the books for two decades, and that it should be ended. The Journal urges Republicans to argue against extending the credit by calling it an example of corporate welfare and cronyism intended to aid President Obama's supporters among the green energy industry.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
FDA To Phase Out Antibiotic Use By Farms

On A Night Of Fear, Violent Ambushes In The Streets
Mexico Poised To Open Its Oil Industry
Pilot In Asiana Crash Says Landing Was 'Very Stressful'
Conservative Groups Draw Boehner's Ire

Wall Street Journal:
Budget Deal Picks Up Steam
Foreign Pilots Face More Snags in Landing in San Francisco
Top Western-Backed Rebel In Syria Is Forced to Flee

New York Times:
A Long Wait For A Last Moment With Mandela
Finding Safety And Strength In The Bonds Of Her Siblings
Criminal Action Is Expected For JPMorgan In Madoff Case
US Suspends Nonlethal Aid To Syria Rebels
FDA Restricts Antibiotics Use For Livestock
US Colleges Finding Ideals Tested Abroad

Washington Post:
House GOP Warms To Deal
US Aid To Syrian Rebels Is Halted
Cuts Divided Haves From Have-Nots
Drama Takes Center Stage As Redskins Bench Griffin
For Some Chronically Ill, Risk Of Coverage Gap Looms

Financial Times:
Lloyds And RBS Face 90 Million Pounds In Fines
ECB Set To Act On Sovereign Bond Risks
Fischer In The Frame As Fed Number Two
JPMorgan 'Ready To Settle Madoff Claims'
Dongfeng And Peugeot Poised For Partnership
Legal Aid Cuts Spark Libor Case Fears
Strong Euro Checks Charge Of Dollar Bulls

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: NTSB-Asiana Investigation; NASA-ISS; Weather Forecast; Time Person Of The Year; Mandela Memorial-Interpreter Impostor; Job Market-Gender Study; Nevada Family-Survival Tips; Yellowstone; Detroit-Jobs
CBS: NTSB-Asiana Investigation; FDA-Antibiotic Reduction; Bipartisan Deal; Healthcare; US-Syria; Mandela Memorial; Mandela Memorial-Interpreter Impostor; NASA-ISS; Nevada Family Rescued; Health-NYC Flu Shot; Time Person Of The Year
NBC: Asiana Flight Investigation; NASA-ISS Situation; Nevada-Family Rescued; Budget Deal-Unemployment Benefits; ACA Enrollment; Obama-Approval Rating; Ukraine Protests; Health-Allergies; FDA-Antibiotics In Meat; Mandela Memorial; Mandela Memorial-Sign Language Controversy; Mandela Memorial-Air Force One Photo; Pope Francis

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Senate-Judicial Nominees; GOP-Filibuster Rule Change; Budget Deal-Airline Security Fee; NSA-Spy Program Continuance; Dow Falls 130 Points
CBS: Senate-Judicial Nominees; GOP-Filibuster Rule Change; Bipartisan Budget Deal; ACA-Enrollment; NASA-ISS Trouble; Army National Guardsman-Arrested; US-Halts Syria Funding; Germany-Anne Frank Tree Theft;
NPR: Bipartisan Budget Deal; IRS-Nominee Remarks; Senate-Judicial Nominees; GOP-Filibuster Rule Changes; ACA-Website; Housing Market Improves; LA-Shootings;
FOX: Senate-Judicial Nominees; GOP-Filibuster Rule Change Bipartisan Budget Deal; Federal Bus Safety-Shut Downs

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; attends meetings at the White House.
US Senate: 11 a.m. GILLIBRAND, DELAURO – FMIL ACT – Senator Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) will hold a press conference announce introduction of the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act. Additional speakers: Debra Ness, National Partnership for Women & Families Neera Tanden, Center for American Progress; Annette Bonilla, Environmental Science Associates; Tom Nides, Morgan Stanley; Grant Dotson, photography business owner and father from Georgia. Location: SD-G11 (ground floor).

9 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Nominations markup: Steven P. Croley to be the General Counsel of the Department of Energy; Christopher A. Smith to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (for Fossil Energy); Esther P. Kiaaina to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior (for Insular Areas). After the markup, the committee will proceed to the hearing for the consideration of the following nominees: Dr. Franklin M. Orr to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy; Jonathan Elkind to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs), Department of Energy; Rhea S. Suh to be Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife, for the Department of the Interior; Tommy P. Beaudreau to be Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, Department of the Interior. Location: 366 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS – Assessing the P5+1 Interim Nuclear Agreement with Iran: Administration Perspectives. Witnesses will be: The Honorable Wendy Sherman, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, United States Department of State; and The Honorable David Cohen, Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, United States Department of the Treasury. Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS – Full Committee Hearing – Accreditation as Quality Assurance: Meeting the Needs of 21st Century Learning. Panel I: Dr. Arthur Levine , President of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Princeton, NJ; Dr. Ralph Wolff , Former President of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Alameda, CA; Dr. Daniel J. Phelan, President of Jackson College, Jackson, MI; Laura King, Executive Director of the Council on Education for Public Health, Silver Spring, MD. Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY – Executive Business Meeting on pending judicial nominations and: Business meeting to consider S.619, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments, S.1410, to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders, S.1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, S.975, to provide for the inclusion of court-appointed guardianship improvement and oversight activities under the Elder Justice Act of 2009, and the nominations of John B. Owens, of California, and Michelle T. Friedland, of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Nancy L. Moritz , of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Matthew Frederick Leitman, Judith Ellen Lewy, Laurie J. Michelson, and Linda Vivienne Parker, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Christopher Reid Cooper, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., and Edward G. Smith, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, M. Douglas Harpool, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, Sheryl H. Lipman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Stanley Allen Bastian, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Manish S. Shah, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Robert L. Hobbs, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas, and Gary Blankinship, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas, all of the Department of Justice. Location: 226 Dirksen.

11 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS – Nominations hearing for: Bathsheba Nell Crocker of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs; Michael Anderson Lawson of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the

Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization; Robert C. Barber of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland. Location: 419 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS – Hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mark Gilbert, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to New Zealand and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa, George James Tsunis, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, John L. Estrada, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Jamaica, all of the Department of State. Location: 419 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE – Closed Hearing: Intelligence Matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 9:45 a.m. MENTAL HEALTH REFORMS – Congressman Tim Murphy (PA-18) is holding a press conference to introduce a legislative package of major mental health reforms. Location: House Radio-Television Correspondents' Gallery, House Visitors Center, HVC-114, Studio A.

10:15 a.m. REP. KINGSTON – AMERICAN RENEWAL INITIATIVE – Congressman Jack Kingston (R-GA) unveils six major policy legislative and initiatives "designed to restore America's greatness and get Washington back on track." Location: House Visitor's Center Media Gallery, Studio B, HVC117.

10:45 a.m. PELOSI PRESS CONFERENCE – Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center.

11:30 a.m. BOEHNER BRIEFING – House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) will hold an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114.

1:30 p.m. IMMIGRATION REFORM – House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and House Democratic Members will hold a press event on the House East Front Steps of the Capitol. At this event, Leader Pelosi and House Democratic Members will call on Speaker Boehner and House Republicans to take action on H.R. 15, a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill.

The House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. The House is expected to consider amendments to the Senate Amendment to H.J.Res. 59 – Continuing Appropriations Resolution 2014 (Subject to a Rule). The House is also expected to consider bills under suspension of the Rules.

9:30 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES – Full committee hearing with Treasury Secretary Jack Lew. The Treasury Secretary is required to appear annually before the committee to testify about the international financial system and progress in reforming the International Monetary Fund. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

9:30 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS – Joint Subcommittee Hearing: "Iran's Persecution of American Pastor Abedini Worsens." Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa. Witnesses: Katrina Lantos Swett, Ph.D.,Vice Chair, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom; Naghmeh Abedini, Wife of Pastor Saeed Abedini; Jordan Sekulow, Executive Director, American Center for Law and Justice. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

9:30 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY – Hearing, "Help Wanted at DHS: Implications of Leadership Vacancies on the Mission and Morale." Witnesses include Tom Ridge, first Secretary of Homeland Security. Location: 311 Cannon.

9:30 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – Full Committee hearing entitled "ObamaCare's Impact on Premiums and Provider Networks." Witnesses: Dr. Eric N. Novack, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon, OrthoArizona; Dr. Patricia McLaughlin, M.D., Ophthalmologist, New York City; Dr. Jeffrey English, M.D., Neurologist, The Multiple Sclerosis Center of Atlanta; Dr. Avik S. A. Roy, M.D., Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research; Edmund F. Haislmaier, Senior Research Fellow, Health Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation; Dr. Judith Feder, Professor of Public Policy, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University, Fellow, Urban Institute. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION – hearing on "Building a Network for Manufacturing

Innovation." Location: 2318 Raybum.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE – Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, Hearing on "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission." Witnesses: Tom Wheeler, Chairman Federal Communications Commission; Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner Federal Communications Commission; Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner Federal Communications Commission; Ajit Pai, Commissioner Federal Communications Commission The; Michael ORielly, Commissioner Federal Communications. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCE – Executive Session to Consider an Original Bill to Repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate System and to Consider Health Care Extenders. Location: 215 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY – Full Committee Hearing, "Subject: Asylum Abuse: Is it Overwhelming our Borders?" Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES – Full Committee oversight hearing on "ESA Decisions by Closed-Door Settlement: Short-Changing Science, Transparency, Private Property, and State & Local Economies." Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY – Subcommittee on Research and Technology Hearing, "Building a Network for Manufacturing Innovation." Witnesses: Panel I: Tom Reed, Member, U.S. House of Representatives; Joseph P. Kennedy, III, Member, U.S. House of Representatives. Panel II: Jonathan Davis, Global Vice President of Advocacy, SEMI; Dr. Richard A. Aubrecht, Vice Chairman of the Board, Vice President, Strategy & Technology, Moog Inc.; Dr. Stephan Biller, Chief Scientist Manufacturing Technology, GE Global Research; Dr. Stan A. Veuger, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. SELECT INTELLIGENCE – CLOSED: Clandestine Quarterly Update. Location: HVC304 Capitol.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – The State of American Aviation. Witnesses: Susan Kurland, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Department of Transportation; Nicholas E. Calio, President and CEO, Airlines for America; Mark Brewer, Airport Director, Manchester-Boston Regional Airport; Chair, American Association of Airport Executives; Peter Bunce, President and CEO, General Aviation Manufacturers Association; Edward M. Bolen, President and CEO, National Business Aviation Association; Edward Wytkind, President, Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS – Markup of: H.R. 2810 "Medicare Patient Access and Quality Improvement Act of 2013." Location: 1100 Longworth.

10:15 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE – Subcommittee on Energy and Power hearing on Oversight of NRC Management and the Need for Legislative Reform. Witnesses: Allison Macfarlane, Chairman Nuclear Regulatory Commission; George Apostolakis, Commissioner Nuclear Regulatory Commission; William Magwood, Commissioner Nuclear Regulatory Commission; William Ostendorff, Commissioner Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Kristine Svinicki, Commissioner Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

10:15 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE – Hearing on Oversight of NRC Management and the Need for Legislative Reform. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Allison Macfarlane will testify along with Commissioners Kristine Svinicki, George Apostolakis, William Magwood, and William Ostendorff. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10:30 a.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION – Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard hearings to examine forecasting success, focusing on achieving U.S. weather readiness for the long term. Witness Panel 1: Dr. Louis W. Uccellini, Assistant Administrator for Weather Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Director, National Weather Service. Witness Panel 2: Dr. William B. Gail, President-elect, American Meteorological Society, Chief Technology Officer of Global Weather Corporation; A. Thomas Young, Chair, Independent Review Team, examining NOAA/NASA weather satellite operations; Barry Lee Myers, CEO, Accuweather, Inc.; Richard Hirn, General Counsel, National Weather

Service Employees Organization; Dr. Lee E. Ohanian, Professor of Economics, UCLA, Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University. Location: G50 Dirksen.

1 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS – Joint Subcommittee Hearing: "The Resurgence of al-Qaeda in Iraq." Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa. Witnesses: Kenneth M. Pollack, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, The Brookings Institution; Jessica D. Lewis, Research Director, Institute for the Study of War; Michael Knights, Ph.D., Lafer Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Daniel L. Byman, Ph.D., Professor, Security Studies Program, Georgetown University. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements hearing, "FDA Checkup: Drug Development and Manufacturing Challenges." Location: 2154 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES – Hearing entitled "Rethinking the Federal Reserve's Many Mandates on Its 100-Year Anniversary." Witnesses: Dr. Douglass Holtz-Eakin, President, American Action Forum; Alice Rivlin, Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, Brookings Institution; Dr. Marvin Goodfriend, friends of Allan Meltzer, Professor of Economics, Tepper School of Business, Carnegie-Mellon University; Alex J. Pollock, Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute. Location: 2128 Rayburn.
Other: Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)—8:40 a.m. Update by Phyllis C. Borzi, Assistant Secretary of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

AEMC ENERGY SUMMIT – 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Speakers: Ernest J. Moniz, U.S. Secretary of Energy; David Danielson, Assistant Secretary of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy; Steny Hoyer, (D-MD) Democratic Whip; Norman Augustine, Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Lockheed Martin Corporation; Amy Ericson, U.S. Country President, Alstom; Michael Mansuetti, President, Robert Bosch LLC; Tom Werner, President and Chief Executive Officer, SunPower Corporation; Deborah Wince-Smith ,President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness. Location: Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

PENTAGON – SINGAPORE – 10:15 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome Singapore's Minister of Defence Dr. Ng Eng Hen to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance.

CSIS – KOREA – 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Korea's Interest in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Speakers: Ambassador Ahn Ho-Young, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United States, Embassy of the Republic of Korea joined by Wendy Cutler, Deputy United States Trade Representative (acting), Office of the United States Trade Representative; Scott Miller, Senior Advisor and Scholl Chair in International Business, CSIS; Dr. Victor Cha, Senior Advisor and Korea Chair, CSIS. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2nd Floor Conference Center

HERITAGE – CWN LUNCHEON – SEN. LEE – 12 p.m. Conservative Women's Network "From Boston to Philadelphia: Americas Opportunity Crisis and the Conservative Reform Agenda" with keynote by U.S. Senator Mike Lee. Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP HONORS – BIDEN, GRANGER, LOWEY, MCCAIN – 7 p.m. The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition will pay tribute to Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Representatives Kay Granger and Nita M. Lowey for their long-standing commitment to Americas global leadership and their strong support of U.S. development and diplomacy programs. Co-chaired by Marillyn A. Hewson, CEO and President of Lockheed Martin Corporation, and H. Melvin Ming, President and CEO of Sesame Workshop. Senator McCain will present the tribute to Vice President Biden. Participants: Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice President of the United States; Kay Granger, Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations; Nita M. Lowey, Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee; John McCain, U.S. Senator; Marillyn A. Hewson, CEO and President of Lockheed Martin Corporation; H. Melvin Ming, President and CEO of Sesame Workshop. Location: The Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, 1000 H Street, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "You see that picture where the President was using an iPhone to take a selfie and it was him and...it was the guy from Great Britain and the woman in charge of Norway or whatever, Denmark, yeah. And I thought it was interesting. He knows how to operate the camera to take a picture but they can't figure out how to operate the Obamacare website."

David Letterman: "Listen this, ladies and gentlemen. The Republicans and the Democrats have now agreed on a new budget without delay or bickering. ...It's an unusual deal, the new budget deal. They're going to increase military spending but they will outlaw any more musicals on NBC."

Stephen Colbert: "It seems like the bad news about Obamacare keeps pouring in. Seems like every time I turn on the TV I see me screaming about it and frankly, I can't blame me. I mean first the website was broken. Then it was fixed. And now a million people have signed up."

Stephen Colbert: "Well, folks, that was so inspired by Huckabee's...carol that I made my own anti-Obamcare song parodies. Order today for Steven Colbert's 'Now That's What I Call Christmas Healthcare Parodies: Volume 1.' Okay. Give it to a friend and they'll enjoy Christmas classics like, 'Hark the herald Kathleen Sebelius sing glory to Obamacare.' And, 'Obamacare is beginning to look a lot like Socialism. Every hospital to which you go.' Plus, 'Feliz Death Panel. Feliz Death Panel. Feliz Death Panel...Obamacare.' And no collection would be complete without, 'Away in a healthcare manager he said if you like your healthcare plan you could keep it. Obamacare made our little Lord Jesus cry." And for the kids out there, "Frosty the Biden.' And the whole family will sing along with, 'O Obamacare.' Act now and you'll also get 'Jingle Obamcare Dogs.' A bunch of loveable, fiscally conservative pups barking your favorite Christmas anti-Obamacare songs."

Jon Stewart: [Referring to new budget deal] "We'll pick off where we left off last night with the United States Congress. If you tuned in you might have seen this: how this, the 113th Congress, is perhaps the worst Congress in the history of not just this nation. So we thought we would check in on what today's congressional [bleep] was doing. What do they do today? Pass a resolution demanding preapproval of all presidential handshakes? Refuse to vote on anything except whether to add cronuts to the congressional brunch. Sitting around saying that Saxby Chambliss is an acceptable name. It's not. It's not okay. It's just not okay. ... Deal? Deal? What type of witchcraft is this? Deal? The elders have spoken of such wonders but I thought like the yeti it belonged to legend. If this be true, it be incredible."

Jimmy Fallon: "It's been another tough week for President Obama. ...Did you see this? Yesterday at Nelson Mandela's memorial service, two things. One is he came under fire when he shook hands with Cuba's communist leader Raul Castro. People are like, why would you want to be seen with that guy. And then Castro was like, 'I didn't, but all of a sudden he was shaking my hand. I didn't know what to do. What was I going to do, say no? He just came up and I shook his hand.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "But Obama's also facing criticism after he posed for a selfie right in the middle of Mandela's memorial service. ...There he's taking the picture of himself with the prime ministers of England and Denmark. You know it's bad when even Biden was like, man that was dumb. That was real dumb."

Jimmy Fallon: "And did you see Michelle while this is happening? Look at this. She did not look happy. Looks like somebody's going to be sleeping by him-selfie for a while. That's what I think."

Jay Leno: "It looks like the United States is trying to forge a new relationship with Iran. But the Iranians are leery. They want to make sure Ben Affleck is not involved in any way. We got burned by that guy once before."

Jay Leno: "Have you seen the picture going around the President taking a selfie with the female Prime Minister of Denmark? Here's the picture. And Michelle doesn't look happy, does she. Look at the President. He's having the time of his life and she is just staring straight ahead. Well people are now saying it was taken out of context and she's not mad at all. But I don't know. Like, this morning at the White House, Michelle gave the President

burnt toast and she said, 'Oh, sorry for the burnt toast. Were you hoping for a little Danish?'"

Jay Leno: "And Congressman Allen Grayson from Florida has acknowledged that he lost $18 million in the stock scheme. You've got to admit, doesn't that make you feel good to see a congressman losing his own money for a change?"

Jay Leno: [Refering to the weather in Los Angeles] "It was so cold, Chris Christie called his liposuction doctor and asked for the old fat back."

Conan O'Brien: "A federal judge has ruled that President Obama's Kenyan uncle may remain in the United States. Yeah. The judge also ruled that President Obama's Kenyan uncle is an amazing name for a band."

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BISON CONNECT

CHAT

Anne Castle <anne_castle@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Dec 12, 2013 at 9:44 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

Good morning Sally,

I asked about whether the CHAT data was available through the Geospatial Platform, and got this response back from Jerry Johnston:

> With regards to the CHAT tools, I had seen some mention of this work from WGA and others... and just took a look to see how far this has progressed after your note. The Southern Great Plains CHAT is probably the one that the Secretary is referring to as it directly pertains to Sage Grouse Habitat: http://kars.ku.edu/maps/sgpchat/
>
> The good news here is that (thanks to Esri's work on creating an infrastructure where people can share data services easily), we can definitely register these data services as a part of the Platform – I will do that over the next few days and make sure the data layers and this application are accessible to our users.

So I think it would be fair to say, if you want, that the CHAT data will be accessible through the federal Geospatial Platform very shortly.

Anne

Re: CHAT

Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov> Thu, Dec 12, 2013 at 11:37 AM
To: Anne Castle <anne_castle@ios.doi.gov>

Great - I will mention this in my WGA remarks. Thanks for the speedy follow up.

On Dec 12, 2013, at 6:44 AM, Anne Castle <anne_castle@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Good morning Sally,
>
> I asked about whether the CHAT data was available through the Geospatial Platform, and got this response back from Jerry Johnston:
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>
> Anne

BISON CONNECT

Secretary Jewell Meets with Western Governors to Provide Update on Sage Grouse Conservation Planning, Lauds Unprecedented Federal-State Cooperation

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Dec 12, 2013 at 3:55 PM
Reply-To: interior_news@ios.doi.gov
To: [redacted]ios.doi.gov

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

U.S. Department of the Interior

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News Release

Date: December 12, 2013
Contact: Jessica Kershaw (DOI) 202-208-6416

Secretary Jewell Meets with Western Governors to Provide Update on Sage Grouse Conservation Planning, Lauds Unprecedented Federal-State Cooperation

Emphasizes Much Work Still to Be Done Before Deadline on Listing Decision under Endangered Species Act

LAS VEGAS, NV – At a meeting with western governors today, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell applauded the unprecedented federal-state cooperation on planning efforts to conserve the greater sage-grouse but emphasized that much work still needs to be done by both the federal government and the states in advance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's September 2015 deadline to determine if the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act.

"Thanks to our partnership with states throughout the range of the greater sage-grouse, we have made tremendous progress analyzing and planning landscape-level strategies that could lessen the threats to the bird and conserve its sage-brush habitat," said Jewell. "At the same time, we are not yet where we need to be and it is time for both the states and the federal government to redouble our efforts so that we can have effective conservation efforts in place before a listing determination must be made."

Jewell highlighted important steps that have been taken including publication before the end of the year of draft changes to 98 resource management plans by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service that are expected to be finalized next year following a public comment period. She emphasized that conservation efforts on state and private lands need to be accelerated to mitigate the threats to the bird.

"The states, too, must complete and begin to implement their own plans for state and private lands on a similar timeline,"

she said. "The Fish and Wildlife Service needs substantial certainty that these plans will both be in place and effective as it considers the biological and legal issues related to a listing decision."

Among other issues, the Service is seeking continued state involvement in determining, based upon the best available science, whether sufficient measures are in place to ameliorate the effects of development and other disturbances of greater sage-grouse habitat as well as the threat posed by invasive species and more frequent fire cycles.

Two years ago, then-Secretary Ken Salazar and western governors formed the Sage Force Task Force to work together on a cooperative, landscape-level approach to conserving the species across the West. The Task Force includes a representative of the governor of each of the 11 greater sage-grouse states plus the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Task Force has met frequently since being formed. At the request of the Task Force, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assembled a Conservation Objectives Team made up of state and federal sage-grouse experts to assess the conservation needs of the species across its range. The BLM also assembled a National Technical Team that included state and federal scientists to advise its land management planning efforts.

Jewell emphasized the importance of this holistic and cooperative approach. "We will only be successful if we work together across the landscape to achieve our common conservation goals," she said.

Earlier in the day in a speech before the Western Governors Association, Jewell highlighted her first Secretarial Order to establish a Department-wide mitigation strategy to encourage balanced development through landscape-level planning on federal lands.

"Our goal is to have a strategy in place that provides consistency and efficiency as we review and permit new energy and other infrastructure development activities, at the same time ensuring that we are effectively conserving our nation's valuable natural and cultural resources," she said.

The greater sage-grouse is a large, rounded-winged, ground-dwelling bird, up to 30 inches long and two feet tall, weighing from two to seven pounds. The birds are found at elevations ranging from 4,000 to over 9,000 feet and are highly dependent on sagebrush for cover and food. They are well-known for their elaborate mating ritual and an iconic species of the remaining sage brush landscapes.

The greater sage-grouse is currently found in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, eastern California, Nevada, Utah, western Colorado, South Dakota and Wyoming and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Habitat fragmentation and destruction across much of the species' range has contributed to significant population declines over the past century. If current trends persist, many local populations may disappear in the next several decades, with the remaining fragmented population vulnerable to extinction. Taking actions to conserve the species will also restore the health of native sage steppe ecosystem that support local economies and communities in addition to big game species, upland birds and other wildlife.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service previously determined that the listing of the species as a threatened or endangered species was warranted but precluded by other conservation priorities. In accordance with a settlement agreement, the agency has until September 2015 to determine if the species should be proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, December 13, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Dec 13, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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+ Former Councilwomen Seeks Establishment Of Interpretative Center In Friday Harbor.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

National Park Service:
+ NPS Backs Away From Muir Woods Panoramic Parking Lot Plan.
+ Theodore Roosevelt National Park Completes Elk Maintenance Plan For 2013.
+ Controlled Burns To Be Conducted At Lake Meredith National Recreation Area.
+ Additional Coverage Of NPS' Response To Freedom Of Information Act Requests Regarding Mount Vernon Closing.
+ Additional Coverage Of Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

Bureau of Land Management:
+ New Legislation Proposed For Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.
+ Environmental Group Awarded $305,000 In Grazing Case.

Fish and Wildlife Service:
+ House Panel Eyes Endangered Species, Fishing Bills.
+ No Asian Carp DNA Found In Resampling.
+ FWS Finalizes Listing Of 2 Freshwater Mussels.
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+ Report Highlights Successes Of Endangered Species Act.
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+ Alaska BIA Director Named.
+ Management Of Land Buy-back Program Criticized.
+ Mashpee Wampanoag's Taunton Casino's Impact Report Said To Be "Fraudulent".
+ Wisconsin Gov. Walker Says Decision On Kenosha Casino Still Months Away.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
+ In Triumph For Boehner, Ryan, House Easily Passes Budget Deal.
+ Administration Moves To Minimize Disruptions During Transition To ACA.
+ Senate Holds Another Late-Night Session As Nominations Slowly Advance.

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BIG PICTURE:
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LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT MEETING OF WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION. The AP (12/13, Dreier) reports that Interior Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell "delivered a keynote address" during the annual winter meeting of the Western Governors Association on Thursday,

"highlighting the federal government's commitment to collaborating on conservation and land management issues." Jewell "told an audience of officials that climate change is real, and seen most clearly in the West." She said, "You see it here in the west around fires, around floods."

More Resources Sought To Fight Wildfires. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (12/13, 437K) reports that a panel called for more funds to be spent on forest management to combat the rising costs of fighting wildfires. Neil Komze, acting director of the BLM, said he saw the benefits of fuel reduction firsthand when he visited the site of the Dean Peak fire.

AP coverage was picked up by the Columbus (IN) Republic (12/13, 80K), the Fresno (CA) Bee (12/12, 327K), the Modesto (CA) Bee (12/12, 208K), the El Paso (TX) Times (12/13, Dreier, Press, 247K), the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (12/13, 59K), the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (12/13, 343K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (12/13, 768K), the San Francisco Chronicle (12/13, Dreier, 2.88M), the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (12/12, 18K), the Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (12/13, 160K), the Fort Mill (SC) Times (12/12, 54K), KPHO-TV Phoenix (12/13, 74K), KTVU-TV San Francisco (12/13, 128K), KCNC-TV Denver (12/12, 26K), KTVB-TV Boise, ID (12/13, 87K), KGW-TV Portland, OR (12/13, 130K), KSWO-TV Lawton, OK (12/13, 6K), and KTAR-FM Glendale, AZ (12/13, 17K).

Additional coverage was provided by KLAS-TV Las Vegas (12/13, 36K).

Western Governors Show Off New Wildlife Maps. The AP (12/12) reports that governors in 16 Western states "are unveiling a high-tech wildlife habitat mapping project they hope will encourage economic development across the West while protecting the region's environmental treasures from Puget Sound to the Rocky Mountains." The Western Governors' Association is hoping "to make it easier to chart paths across large landscapes where developers can expect the least regulatory resistance and threat of litigation as they draft plans to build highways, dig gold mines and erect power lines, pipelines or wind farms." The Department of Energy "provided a $3 million grant and individual states contributed the time of mapping specialists the past three years to help gather, organize and input the information," according to WGA spokesman Joe Rassenfoss.

Also reporting on the story is the Las Vegas Review-Journal (12/13, 437K).

Secretary Jewell Provides Update On Sage Grouse Conservation Planning. KXLO-FM Lewiston, MT (12/13) reports that at the meeting with western governors, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "applauded the unprecedented federal-state cooperation on planning efforts to conserve the greater sage-grouse but emphasized that much work still needs to be done by both the federal government and the states in advance of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's September 2015 deadline to determine if the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act." Jewell said, "Thanks to our partnership with states throughout the range of the greater sage-grouse, we have made tremendous progress analyzing and planning landscape-level strategies that could lessen the threats to the bird and conserve its sage-brush habitat. At the same time, we are not yet where we need to be and it is time for both the states and the federal government to redouble our efforts so that we can have effective conservation efforts in place before a listing determination must be made."

Wyoming Gov Mead Seeks Better Cooperation With States From Secretary Jewell. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/13, 90K) reports that Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead hopes Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "further commit to cooperation with and deference to the states during her keynote address today at the Western Governors' Association Conference in Las Vegas." Mead would like to see the Jewell's department "reconsider the BLM's hydraulic fracturing rule, which is redundant since Wyoming's rule – the first one adopted by a state – applies to BLM land."

Secretary Jewell Meets Teddy Roosevelt. In its "GovBeat" blog, the Washington Post (12/12, Wilson, 4.28M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "in town to address a meeting of the Western Governors Association, met a president instead." According to the article, "as Jewell made her way to the stage, a Theodore Roosevelt impersonator scored a brief audience." The article notes that "environmental activists have sent a Roosevelt impersonator to several events Jewell has held, to advocate for conservation issues."

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ANNOUNCE MITIGATION REPORT WILL BE COMPLETED IN JANUARY. Politico (12/12, Guillen, 467K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was expected to announce that "her department will finish their preliminary report on development and conservation issues by the end of January."

NEW DIRECTOR OF BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION ANNOUNCED. The Santa Fe New Mexican (12/13, 58K) reports that Dr. Charles M. "Monty" Roessel has been named Director of the Bureau of Indian Education. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell made the announcement while touring a BIE tribally controlled grant school located on the Pueblo of Laguna in Laguna, New Mexico. Jewell said Roessel has proven to be an effective steward for Indian education programs.

The Indian Country Today Media Network (12/12, 21K) reports that Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, who accompanied Roessel and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell on the tour, said, "The BIE plays a major role in the education of thousands of American Indian students across Indian country. As acting director, Dr. Charles M. Roessel has proven to be an effective steward of our Indian education programs, bringing to the Bureau extensive experience in school leadership and administration, and an understanding of what's needed at the local school level. He is a strong and effective member of my senior management team."

AP coverage was picked up by the Provo (UT) Daily Herald (12/13, 102K), the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (12/12, 147K), and KJZZ-FM Phoenix (12/13, 10K). Additional coverage was provided by the Arizona Republic (12/12, 1.19M).

SECRETARY JEWELL ADDRESSES INDIAN COUNTRY ISSUES. The Native American Times (12/13, 337) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "made her first official visit to the state Nov. 25 to sign an agreement with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation that gives the tribe complete leasing authority over its trust property." Before the ceremony, Jewell "toured the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's cultural heritage center with Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn and Jacque Secondine Hensley, the state of Oklahoma's tribal liaison and a representative from the Native Times." While touring the facility, Jewell "weighed in on some of the issues in Indian Country, including tribes' efforts to assert self-determination and diversify economically."

NEW CONSERVATION PAC ANNOUNCED. The Environment & Energy Publishing (12/13, 705) reports that former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and hedge fund billionaire Louis Bacon "plan to form a new political action committee to support candidates who back conserving lands and cultural resources." According to the article, "America's Conservation PAC will be led by Will Shafroth, who has worked closely with Salazar for decades, serving most recently as his counselor during the Obama administration's first term." Salazar and Bacon will serve as honorary co-chairmen.

Also providing coverage are Politico (12/13, Tau, 467K), the National Journal (12/13, Subscription Publication, 427K), the Denver Post (12/12, 949K), the Denver Business Journal (12/13, Subscription Publication, 71K), and KUSA-TV Denver (12/13, 171K).

MOST POPULAR PHOTOS OF NATIONAL PARKS ON TWITTER IN 2013 HIGHLIGHTED. The Skift (12/12) reports that Twitter is showcasing "2013's biggest events" as seen on the site. According to the article, "inside Twitter's year-end feature is a roundup of the most popular images shared" by the Interior Department.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CRITICIZE INTERIOR AGENCIES OVER ENDANGERED SPECIES LAW. In its "Regwatch" blog, The Hill (12/13, 194K) reports House Republicans are "charging the Obama administration with using 'political science' to justify adding new plants and animals to the endangered species list." During a Thursday hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, GOP lawmakers claimed that agencies like the BLM and FWS "are opaque and ignore state and local officials." Critics said "they don't have a problem with the law itself; just the way agencies are implementing it."

JUDGE TENTATIVELY RULES AGAINST CROSS ON FEDERAL LAND. The New York Times (12/13, Lovett, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports from Los Angeles that a Federal judge ruled on Thursday that a cross on Federal land in San Diego "violated the First Amendment ban on a government endorsement of religion and ordered it removed within 90 days," but the decades-old disput over the cross "may not be over," as the judge "said he would stay the order if there was an appeal."

GROUP SUES OVER REDEVELOPMENT OF DEREEF PARK. The Charleston (SC) City Paper (12/12, 9K) reports that "a neighborhood group based in Cannonborough-Elliottborough filed a lawsuit Wednesday to

challenge the loss of tiny Dereef Park to a new residential development." According to the lawsuit, in the early 1980s, "the City of Charleston received money from the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund to develop the tiny park on Morris Street, accepting in the process a covenant that guaranteed the park would be preserved indefinitely as a recreational space." However, "in 2003, the city entered a deal to sell the property to developer Civitas LLC," and "the land eventually changed hands to the Smith Morris Company LLC, which today plans to build the second phase of the Morris Square residential development on the site of the park." The lawsuit's list of defendants does not include "the developer who chose to build on the site nor the city officials who allowed the land's sale to a private interest," but instead names the NPS; the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism and its director, Duane Parrish; Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell; and Phil Gaines, the state liaison officer for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

BLM ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS TO PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY GROUP. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (12/13, 56K) reports that the BLM has announced new appointments to the Twin Falls District's citizen-based Resource Advisory Council. In a press release, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, said, "By working with federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as leaders from the industry and conservation communities, the BLM's Resource Advisory Councils exemplify the collaborative approach taken by the department in handling public land issues."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INTERIOR'S IT INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the Interior Department's information technology initiative was provided by the ExecutiveGov (12/13, 548).

FORMER COUNCILWOMEN SEEKS ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERPRETATIVE CENTER IN FRIDAY HARBOR. In an op-ed for the Journal of the San Juans (WA) (12/13, Pratt), Lovel Pratt, a former county councilwoman, urges Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Sen. Patty Murray, Sen. Maria Cantwell, and Rep. Rick Larsen to "consider establishing a coordinated public lands information and interpretive center in Friday Harbor." Pratt says the facility could "showcase the San Juan Island National Historical Park, the San Juan Islands National Monument, US Fish and Wildlife Wilderness islands, and perhaps more of the state and county public lands that are located in the San Juan Islands."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS BACKS AWAY FROM MUIR WOODS PANORAMIC PARKING LOT PLAN. The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (12/13, 88K) reports that "after an uproar in the community," the NPS has "backed away from a plan to create a satellite parking lot along Panoramic Highway to shuttle visitors to Muir Woods." Howard Levitt, spokesman for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, said, "We heard the public loud and clear. We are not pursing (parking) up there. From the beginning it was just an idea, nothing more." According to the article, "satellite parking and shuttles are still being discussed, but are focused on established lots at the Highway 101/1 junction near Mill Valley."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK COMPLETES ELK MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR 2013. The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (12/13, 22K) reports that "forty-six elk were killed in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the last month as part of the park's herd maintenance program." According to the article, "approximately 7,500 pounds of meat was packed out of the park, most of which was donated to Sportsmen Against Hunger through the North Dakota Community Action Partnership." Park Superintendent Valerie Naylor said "elk numbers in the park will be reassessed in late summer of 2014."

CONTROLLED BURNS TO BE CONDUCTED AT LAKE MEREDITH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The Borger (TX) News Herald (12/13, 12K) reports that the NPS and local fire departments are conducting a controlled burn at Lake Meredith Thursday and Friday.

Also reporting on the story is KFDA-TV Amarillo, TX (12/13, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NPS' RESPONSE TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS REGARDING MOUNT VERNON CLOSING. Additional coverage of the NPS' response to Freedom of Information

Act requests regarding the closing of Mount Vernon during the government shutdown was provided by the Washington Times (12/13, Ernst, 417K) and the TheBlaze (12/12, 1.07M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. Additional coverage of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park was provided by the Bellingham (WA) Herald (12/11, 113K) and the Walla Walla (WA) Union-Bulletin (12/12, 38K).

Bureau of Land Management:

NEW LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (12/13, 59K) reports that Sens. Tom Udall and Martinez Heinrich have "reignited a decade-old effort to seek federal protections for a mountain range that borders one of the state's largest cities as well as other scenic areas in Dona Ana County." The lawmakers on Thursday "announced legislation that would designate about 780 square miles as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument." Udall and Heinrich say "establishing the area as a monument would help conservation efforts and boost economic development for the border region."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP AWARDED $305,000 IN GRAZING CASE. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (12/12, 113K) reports that "an environmental group has convinced" the BLM to "fork over $305,000 in attorney fees in a lawsuit over grazing in Oregon's Louse Canyon area." According to the article, "while the Oregon Natural Desert Association failed to block grazing in the 500,000-acre area, a federal judge found that BLM's management plan for Louse Canyon violated environmental law." The federal government has "agreed to pay an environmental group $305,000 for attorney fees in a lawsuit over grazing in southeast Oregon."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

HOUSE PANEL EYES ENDANGERED SPECIES, FISHING BILLS. In its "Regwatch" blog, The Hill (12/13, 194K) reports that "House lawmakers will begin mulling new legislation to reform the Endangered Species Act and reauthorize the country's fishing management law in coming weeks." The chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, Doc Hastings, "announced on Thursday that lawmakers next week would release a draft version of a bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which governs the country's marine fisheries, and advance 'common-sense' reforms to the Endangered Species Act early next year." Rep. Peter DeFazio, the top Democrat on the committee, said that the Endangered Species Act "could be updated to ensure that the conservation methods of individual species added to the list did not conflict with each other."

NO ASIAN CARP DNA FOUND IN RESAMPLING. The Green Bay (WI) Press-Gazette (12/12, 135K) reports that "water samples collected from Sturgeon Bay last month and analyzed for evidence of Asian carp DNA have come back negative, state officials announced." The FWS and the Department of Natural Resources had "collected 150 water samples from Sturgeon Bay on Nov. 12 and 13 as a follow up to a single positive detection of Asian carp DNA in samples collected from the bay earlier in the year." Todd Turner, the FWS' Assistant Regional Director for Midwest Fisheries, said, "Sampling was completed as part of a Great Lakes wide early detection program intended to monitor for many different invasive species, including Asian carp. We continue to work closely with our state partners to use eDNA as a tool to investigate invasive species across the Midwest Region."

Also providing coverage is the Door County (WI) Advocate (12/12, 31K).

FWS FINALIZES LISTING OF 2 FRESHWATER MUSSELS. The Bristol (TN/VA) Herald Courier (12/13, 81K) reports that the FWS is listing the fluted kidneyshell and the slabside pearlymussel as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Also, the FWS is "designating about 1,380 miles of stream channel in Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Virginia as critical habitat units for these mussels."

FWS REQUESTS BUDGET FOR MOSQUITO MONITORING AND ABATEMENT AT BANDON MARSH. The Coos Bay (OR) World (12/13, 34K) reports that the FWS has asked Nikki Zogg, administrator for Coos County Public Health, to come up with a budget by Dec. 12 for mosquito monitoring and abatement next year at the Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Zogg "must budget for a seasonal worker to monitor the land three days per week during peak season, which runs between April and October." The FWS "hopes to have some plans

approved in January or February, but won't be able to begin creating about five miles of tidal channels until June or July," according to Zogg.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESSES OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The Prairie (MT) Star (12/13) reports that the Endangered Species Coalition is marking the anniversary the Endangered Species Act with a "new report highlighting a few of the great wildlife conservation accomplishments since the Act's passage in 1973." The report "highlights ten species that – thanks to the Endangered Species Act's protections – are either steadily improving or have been recovered and removed from the list of imperiled species." The success stories "include the nēnē goose, American peregrine falcon, El Segundo blue butterfly, Robbins' cinquefoil, bald eagle, southern sea otter, humpback whale, American alligator, brown pelican, and the green sea turtle."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY BEAR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS LIFTING YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY PROTECTIONS. Additional coverage of the recommendation by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee that Endangered Species Act protections be lifted for the grizzly bears in the Yellowstone National Park was provided by the Washington Post (12/12, Press, 4.28M), ABC News (12/13, 3.68M), The Guardian (12/12, 1.59M), Reuters (12/13, Zuckerman, 17.91M), AFP (12/13, Sheridan, 17.91M), the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/13, 90K), Salon (12/12, 613K), and Outside (12/13, 55K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP WARNS SEA-LEVEL RISE THREATENS HUNDREDS OF ANIMAL SPECIES. Additional coverage of the report by the Center for Biological Diversity warning that "sea-level rise threatens hundreds of species of animals across the United States" was provided by the Delmarva (MD) Daily Times (12/12, 26K).

AGENCIES CRITICIZED FOR TAKING NO ACTION ON DESECRATION OF AMITY PUEBLO. For the Indian Country Today Media Network (12/11, Sanders, 21K), Mark Sanders, an archaeologist, notes that "almost a year ago to the day, the Phoenix New Times reported on large-scale site disturbances at Amity Pueblo, a long-abandoned Native American settlement located in the eastern Arizona village of Eagar." He writes that "when tribal officials reported the desecration, both the state agency as well as the federal lead agency overseeing the project—US Fish and Wildlife Service—ignored demands for immediate corrective action." Still, "in the year since the news story came out, and despite the ripple effects of the article through the national media, nothing has been done."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SENS. HEINRICH, UDALL RESPOND TO PROPOSAL TO EXPAND WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (12/13, 59K) reports that Sen.s Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall on Thursday "responded to the possible expansion of White Sands Missile Range." Heinrich said, "I am pleased that both the House and Senate came together to support this important provision for White Sands Missile Range. This expansion is critical to strengthening WSMR's vital national security mission and will further protect it from encroachment. However, I am disappointed that similar buffer zone provisions for Fort Bliss failed to advance in the House. Despite receiving broad support from the Department of Defense, Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, White Sands Missile Range, community leaders, and specifically from Fort Bliss, the House neglected to introduce and consider common sense legislation that will further protect Fort Bliss from encroachment and incompatible development. I will continue to advocate for the buffer zone provisions for Fort Bliss and encourage my House colleagues to support their passage in next year's defense bill." Udall said, "White Sands Missile Range is a critical and valuable asset for New Mexico and for our national security, and I'm glad that that these measures to strengthen WSMR were included in this year's defense bill. This commonsense bill sets aside an enduring buffer that clarifies the boundaries and protects this unique asset from incompatible development. Fort Bliss needs similar protection, and we'll continue to work to ensure that the remaining portions of our bill can be passed and enacted as soon as possible."

Also covering the story is the Alamogordo (NM) Daily News (12/13, 19K).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CLASH OVER WIND POWER IN MAINE. The Kennebec (ME) Journal (12/13,

58K) reports that "two environmental groups are going head to head over the impact on wildlife and the future benefits of wind energy development in Maine." According to the article, "Friends of Maine's Mountains challenged Maine Audubon on Thursday to retract a recent report that says wind energy is sometimes compatible with wildlife, and to acknowledge funding it receives from the wind power industry." However, "Maine Audubon defended its report, 'Wind Power and Wildlife in Maine,' and questioned whether the leaders of Friends of Maine's Mountains fully understand its parameters and recommendations."

Also providing coverage is the Portland (ME) Press Herald (12/13, 279K).

COURT FINDS WIND FARM POSES NO THREAT TO BIGHORN SHEEP. The Courthouse News (12/12, 7K) reports that "a California wind-energy project will not threaten an endangered species of sheep, a federal appeals court ruled." The Protect Our Communities Foundation, Donna Tisdale and Backcountry Against Dumps challenged the Interior Department's "decision to allow Ocotillo Express to build 112 wind-turbine generations on 10,151 acres of public land in the Sonoran Desert in Imperial County, Calif." However, "in an opinion written by District Judge Gonzalo P. Curiel, the Southern District of California ruled that the biological opinion correctly concluded that even if the sheep lost up to 5,000 acres of their habitat, they would still be able to connect and reproduce."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW EAGLE RULE. Additional coverage of the new eagle rule was provided by the Oklahoman (12/13, 345K).

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM RELEASES OIL AND GAS SALE RESULTS. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (12/12, 165K) reports that BLM generated about $1.9 million during its last quarterly oil and gas competitive lease sale in Reno on Tuesday, selling 54 parcels comprised of more than 93,000 acres.

NORTH FORK VALLEY GROUPS CONCERNED ABOUT DRILLING'S IMPACT ON TOURISM, AGRICULTURE. The Aspen (CO) Daily News (12/13, 36K) reports that "a coalition of agriculture and conservation groups based in the North Fork Valley have released a plan that would drastically reduce the amount of land available for gas leasing in the region often called the 'bread basket' of the Roaring Fork Valley." The "North Fork Alternative Plan" would "apply to about 63,000 acres of land and 137,000 acres of underground minerals around Paonia, Hotchkiss, Delta and several smaller communities in the valley 60 miles south of Carbondale," and "would put roughly 77 percent of those lands off limits to oil and gas development."

SCIENTISTS SAY DRILLING PROCEDURE MAY BE TO BLAME FOR OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES. The New York Times (12/13, Fountain, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that while Oklahoma "has never been known as earthquake country, with a yearly average of about 50 tremors," over the past three years, "the state has had thousands of quakes" -- more than 2,600 this year alone. Scientists say the oil and gas industry practice "of disposing of billions of gallons of wastewater that is produced along with oil and gas by injecting it under pressure into wells that reach permeable rock formations" may be causing the earthquakes.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM SEEKS MORE INFORMATION ON SHELL'S 2014 CHUKCHI EXPLORATION PLAN. The Alaska Public Radio Network (12/12, 2K) reports that the BOEM is "seeking more information from Shell about their 2014 Chukchi Exploration Plan." According to the article, "until Shell provides the agency with the answers for dozens of requested revisions, BOEM will not consider their application complete." The bureau is "seeking more details on Shell's ships, the Noble Discoverer and the Polar Pioneer," and it also has "questions about Shell's plans to deal with air quality issues, among other things."

FORMER BP ENGINEER IS NOT EXPECTED TO TESTIFY AT OBSTRUCTION TRIAL. The AP (12/13, Kunzelman) reports from New Orleans that former BP drilling engineer Kurt Mix "isn't expected to testify at his trial on charges he deleted text messages about the company's response to its massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." An attorney for Mix told a Federal judge and prosecutor "that her client isn't one of three witnesses whom defense attorneys plan to call to testify once they begin presenting their case on Friday." Federal

prosecutors called their final witness on Wednesday, and the jury is expected to hear closing arguments on Monday.

NOIA PRESIDENT URGES US TO ALLOW ATLANTIC OFFSHORE OIL, GAS DRILLING. In an op-ed in the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (12/13, 333K) National Ocean Industries Association president Randall Luthi argued that as the US sits on the cusp of "energy independence," the opportunity may pass us by "if we don't make the right decisions now." He cited a recent Quest Offshore study showing that offshore Atlantic coast drilling "makes economic and energy sense." The NOIA co-sponsored the study, he noted, which suggested allowing offshore Atlantic exploration could lead to 280,000 jobs by 2035, with companies adding "nearly $200 billion in additional investments, contributing up to $23 billion per year to the US economy." He noted that $400 million in "engineering activity associated" with such exploration and production would occur in Virginia by 2035, according to the study, and urged the US to allow Atlantic offshore oil and gas activity.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR RELEASES SANTA ANA WATERSHED STUDY. The Science Daily (12/13, 53K) reports that BOR Commissioner Michael L. Connor "released the Santa Ana River Watershed Basin Study, which addresses water supply and demand projections for the next 50 years and identifies potential climate change impacts to Southern California's Santa Ana River Watershed." Connor said, "Basin studies are a key part of Secretary Sally Jewell's WaterSMART initiative and help us develop a clearer picture of the potential gap between water demand and available supplies. This study of the Santa Ana watershed gives water managers an array of science-based tools to make key future decisions and help us identify potential ways we can meet the diverse water needs of the region's population."

CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICTS COLLABORATE ON US-MEXICO PILOT PROJECT ON COLORADO RIVER. The Imperial Valley (CA) News (12/13, 1K) reports that "California's largest agricultural and urban water districts that make use of supplies from the Colorado River agreed today to share the costs of water conservation projects in Mexico and share the saved supplies as part of a bi-national pilot project." Imperial Irrigation District General Manager Kevin Kelley joined Jeffrey Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, to sign the agreement at the Colorado River Water Users Association's annual conference. BOR Commissioner Michael L. Connor "heralded the cooperation between IID and Metropolitan in reaching the agreement." Connor wrote in a letter to both agencies, "Reclamation welcomes this significant progress by IID and MWD and looks forward to working with these key California partners and the other partners in the basin states in 2014 to recognize IID as a full participant in the implementation of Minute No. 319 and the corresponding domestic implementing agreements. This partnership is a positive signal to future Colorado River and bi-national collaborative efforts."

Also providing coverage is the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (12/12, 110K).

SALMON EGGS PERISH IN SACRAMENTO RIVER DUE TO DECISION TO DECREASE WATER LEVELS. The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (12/13, 88K) reports that "for thousands of salmon that bore their way upstream to spawn in the Sacramento," their "efforts were for naught" because of "a federal water management decision to drastically reduce the outflow from Shasta Dam caused river levels to drop sharply in November, exposing numerous nests, or redds." According to Doug Killam, an environmental scientist with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, "between 20 and 40 percent of the fall-run eggs were aborted." The BOR said that it was not possible "to meet the needs of both humans and the river — so the latter was partially sacrificed."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the San Francisco Examiner (12/13, 412K), the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (12/13, 731K), and the Long Beach (CA) Press-Telegram (12/12, 194K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE'S IMPACT ON UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN. Additional coverage of the report assessing climate change's impact on the Upper Rio Grande Basin was provided by the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (12/13, 506).

Empowering Native American Communities:

ALASKA BIA DIRECTOR NAMED. The Tundra Drums (12/12, 14K) reports that Weldon "Bruce" Loudermilk has been named as regional director of the BIA's Alaska Regional Office in Anchorage by BIA Director Michael S. Black. Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said, "We recognize the importance of identifying and hiring the best candidates to serve tribes, the Alaska Native people and Alaska Native Corporations. Given that BIA regional directors are responsible for ensuring Indian Affairs carries out its mission within their regions, it is my firm belief that we should always be working to attract the best and brightest to these positions."

MANAGEMENT OF LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM CRITICIZED. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (12/12, 90K) reports that "members of Montana's Fort Peck Reservation and the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council told a Senate committee Wednesday that a federal land buy-back program is shortchanging tribes." Lawrence Roberts, deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the Interior Department, told the Senate Indian Affairs Committee at Wednesday's oversight hearing, "We are on track to send our first offers to purchase fractional interests by the end of 2013." However, Grant Stafne, councilman of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation in Poplar, said "the program was developed without tribal input and benefits the federal government first and Indian beneficiaries second."

Also, for the Indian Country Today Media Network (12/12, Daniels, 21K), Jay Daniels, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, criticizes the BIA for its handling of the Cobell settlement.

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG'S TAUNTON CASINO'S IMPACT REPORT SAID TO BE "FRAUDULENT". The New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (12/12, 54K) reports that Middleboro Selectman Allin Frawley says "he believes the draft environmental impact statement on the Mashpee Wampanoag's Taunton casino proposal is 'fraudulent' and full of 'half truths' and 'lies of omission,' echoing comments he made at the Bureau of Indian Affairs hearing held at Taunton High School last week to solicit public feedback on the over 1,000 page document." Frawley said, "They said that in 2007 they entered into negotiations for the project in Middleboro and that's where they left it. They didn't mention the IGA (intergovernmental agreement) that they signed, how they left us in limbo, how our IGA has never been terminated. We contend they still owe us a million dollars for the last four years of mitigation payments that they have not made."

WISCONSIN GOV. WALKER SAYS DECISION ON KENOSHA CASINO STILL MONTHS AWAY. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (12/13, 798K) reports that "the involvement of the Hard Rock brand with the proposed Kenosha casino has increased interest in the project but a decision on it is still months away," Gov Scott Walker said Thursday. Walker said, "The federal (Bureau of Indian Affairs) took nine years to approve the current application. We're not going to take that long but we think it's worth taking a significant amount of time – many months into 2014 – to look at all the factors out there."

Top National News:

IN TRIUMPH FOR BOEHNER, RYAN, HOUSE EASILY PASSES BUDGET DEAL. On a 332-94 vote, the House on Thursday approved the bipartisan budget deal negotiated between House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan and Senate Budget Chairwoman Patty Murray. In general, the media coverage is treating it as a sign that the vote represents a move by House Speaker Boehner to take control of the House from the tea party elements of his caucus and end the gridlock that has paralyzed the Federal government in recent months. Overall, passage is repeatedly described as a victory for Boehner, Ryan, and bipartisanship in general.

ABC World News (12/12, story 4, 1:40, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported the budget deal passed the House, but "the vote wasn't only about the budget. It was about gridlock and leadership and some Republicans taking a stand against hard line tea party tactics." ABC (Zeleny) added that Boehner is "finally saying no to the tea party by saying yes to a budget deal that offers modest deficit reduction but keeps the government open. The tea party is furious." ABC (Zeleny) says that this is the fight "for the soul of the Republican Party."

The CBS Evening News (12/12, lead story, 2:20, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that there are "things are happening in Washington many thought they'd never see" – Democrats and Republicans "agree on a budget." Boehner is also "lashing out at conservative groups," as he "blames them, at least in part, for the gridlock on Capitol Hill." CBS (Cordes) says that what set Boehner off "was the avalanche of criticism from conservative groups over a rare

bipartisan budget deal. Boehner said that kind of inflexibility led directly to this fall's government shutdown."

In its lead story, NBC Nightly News (12/12, lead story, 3:25, Williams, 7.86M) reported that there was a "rare outburst of candor mixed with anger and frustration" in Washington on Thursday. Boehner's "problem has been the rise of the tea party faction, the newly arrived and highly motivated members who do not go along or get along with the wishes of the leadership." Boehner, at a news conference, "took the lid off his long-simmering frustrations aimed at conservative political groups."

The New York Times (12/13, Weisman, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that House approved both the budget deal and a "Pentagon policy bill that would strengthen protections for victims of sexual assault." However, as the Chamber ended its business for the year, it "left unfinished a major piece of domestic policy – the farm bill – making it likely that Congress will not deal with it until January." Regarding the budget deal, leaders of both parties "sought to marginalize hard-line conservatives opposed to any compromise."

The Washington Post (12/13, Kane, Montgomery, 4.28M) reports that the budget passage may "possibly signaling a truce in the spending showdowns that have paralyzed Washington for the past three years." The Post says that 169 Republicans and 163 Democrats voted for the bill, while 62 Republicans and 32 Democrats opposed it. The Senate "is poised to pass the budget and defense bills next week." As for the farm bill, House and Senate leaders say that votes "will be held after Congress returns to Washington in early January."

Bloomberg News (12/12, Przybla, 1.91M) reports that the budget agreement is "on track" to clear Congress "largely because its most important accomplishment is pushing off automatic spending cuts that neither party likes." The deal "sidesteps lawmaker protests" by not cutting entitlement programs backed by Democrats and by maintaining corporate tax breaks Republicans "favor."

The Wall Street Journal (12/13, Hook, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) characterizes a vote as a step way from the partisanship that has gripped Washington and threatened the economy in recent years. The Journal says that the passage of the deal by the Senate and its signature by the President would initiate the tedious appropriations process that needs to be completed by January 15.

McClatchy (12/13, Lightman, Douglas, 95K) reports conservatives "fumed that the plan didn't take the kind of bold steps to reduce spending and deficits they have long sought," while Democrats "were not pleased that the package didn't tackle emergency unemployment benefits, which expire Dec. 28." However, "momentum for the agreement was too strong."

The Daily Caller (12/13, Levinson, 422K) reports that "both sides acknowledged that it was not all they wanted, but was perhaps the best they could get under the circumstances." The CBO "estimated that the plan would reduce deficits by approximately $85 billion over the next decade."

Earlier in the day, Politico (12/12, Sherman, 467K) reports that the House "cleared a procedural hurdle" on the budget deal. The "rule for debate" cleared the House on Thursday afternoon on a 226-195 vote. Passage Thursday night by the House would send it to the Senate "sometime next week." The President is "expected to sign the bill."

The Hill (12/12, Kasperowicz, 194K) reports that all but one Republican, Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC), backed the rule, while every Democrat opposed it. However, "several members of both parties are expected to vote for the final agreement." In addition to the budget deal, the rule "sets up votes on a one-month farm bill extension, a three-month 'doc fix,' and a vote on House-Senate agreement on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)." Each of these items was expected to pass by the end of the day on Friday, though the farm bill extension did not.

The Chicago Tribune (12/12, Skiba, 2.32M) reports that among the Illinois delegation, only "liberal" Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) opposed the legislation. She "said the budget deal didn't reflect the country's priorities nor did it extend emergency unemployment benefits."

Boehner Appears To Gain Edge Over Tea Party. CNN (12/12, Bash, Cohen, 14.53M) reports on its website that the "rift" between "establishment" Republicans and the "tea party wing" of the GOP over "policy and tactics"

was "on full display" in the budget debate. Boehner "escalated his criticism of outside conservative groups opposed to the budget deal," arguing against the plan before it was announced. Boehner told reporters that the deal was "not everything we wanted, but it advances conservative policy and moves us in the right direction."

The Los Angeles Times (12/13, Mascaro, 3.07M) calls the agreement a "victory" for Boehner, who "appears to have regained at least momentary control of his rebellious majority and turned back the super-sized influence of outside conservative groups." It is also a boost for Ryan, "a potential 2016 Republican presidential hopeful, who put his political capital on the line to craft the deal with his Democratic budgetary counterpart." However, whether or not the "spirit of détente" will continue in the new year is "uncertain."

The Washington Times (12/13, Mclaughlin, Klimas, 417K) reports that the Administration "said passage of the bill was 'a positive step forward for the nation and our economy.'" The vote was a "victory" for Ryan. Speaking before the vote, Ryan said, "This bill saves more than if we did nothing. It is not near the breadth and the scope of the budget that we passed earlier. But that is how it works in divided government. That is the nature of compromise."

USA Today (12/12, Davis, 5.82M) reports Ryan "said Republicans need to face the realities of divided government and focus on governing – and winning elections – if they hope to advance more fiscally conservative proposals in the future." House Republicans "largely lined up behind Ryan, despite ongoing opposition from outside conservative groups and GOP senators."

The Huffington Post (12/12, McAuliff, 11.54M) reports that "most outside conservative activist groups came out loudly against the measure, slamming it as worse than nothing, and calling the savings phony because most come from cuts years from now that could be undone." However, Ryan said on the on floor on Thursday, "We always lock horns, we always argue, we never agree. I think it's about time for once in a long time we find common ground and agree, and that is what this bill does."

The Christian Science Monitor (12/12, Kiefer, 540K) reports that the "overwhelming" vote in favor of the budget deal "offers the first major evidence of cracks in the tea party 'no compromise' stand, at least on high-stakes legislation." The CSM adds that "about half" of tea party House Republicans "swung over to vote with the majority of their colleagues."

The Washington Times (12/13, Mclaughlin, 417K) reports that by passing the deal, "some political observers say, the GOP establishment is banking on the idea that giving up ground in the spending battle now will pay off over the long run by allowing Republicans to avoid getting punished for another government shutdown." According to this line of thinking, if there is no shutdown, Republicans "can focus on the 2014 congressional elections and bank on the growing opposition to Obamacare to strengthen their numbers."

Senate Democrats Unsure They Have Votes To Pass Budget Deal. The Hill (12/12, Bolton, 194K) reports that the Senate Democratic leadership is "not sure there are enough votes to pass a year-end budget deal next week." Senate Majority Whip Durbin "cautioned" on Thursday that Democrats are "not assured of winning over enough Republican votes to pass a budget deal to avoid a government shutdown." The top three Senate GOP leaders "have signaled they will vote against the deal," and Durbin says that he needs "at least five" Republicans to back the legislation.

Roll Call (12/13, Shiner, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that a number of Senate Republicans "began to announce opposition Thursday to a bipartisan budget agreement – even as their House counterparts passed it – actions unlikely to imperil the deal but that will make vote counters sweat in the closing days of 2013." Roll Call says that the majority of GOP senators facing primary challengers next year have "either declared their opposition to the framework or are expected to do so in the coming days." Among those declaring their opposition were Sens. Lindsey Graham, Bob Corker and Richard Shelby.

Looking at the budget deal's prospects in the Senate, the AP (12/12, Kellman) reports that things may be delayed in the Senate because the GOP is slowing activity there in response to the changes in filibuster rules forces through by the Democrats.

Rogers, Mikulski Begin Appropriations Talks. The Hill (12/12, Wasson, 194K) reports that the chairs of the House and Senate appropriations committees on Thursday began "the next round of spending talks with the aim

of avoiding a government shutdown in January." The Hill says that a "giant omnibus spending bill covering all discretionary spending, from the Pentagon to education to medical research, must be passed by Jan. 15 to avoid a shutdown." While the appropriations bill will be based on the budget deal, "scores of issues are outstanding."

More Commentary. In his column for the Washington Post (12/13, Robinson, 4.28M), Eugene Robinson writes that the "unusual display of reasonable behavior by House Republicans this week should be seen as a retreat – a change in tactics – but not a surrender" and Democrats "had better note the distinction." Robinson asks if this means that Republicans "are willing to stop the brinkmanship and work alongside Democrats at the task of governance? Perhaps, but only in pursuit of a larger goal: It now appears that Republicans want to win."

In his column for the New York Times (12/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Paul Krugman says that the deal is a minor defeat for Republicans, but a major one for the unemployed, as extended benefits were not renewed. And if "you take a longer perspective – if you look at what has happened since Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in 2010 – what you see is a triumph of anti-government ideology that has had enormously destructive effects on American workers."

ADMINISTRATION MOVES TO MINIMIZE DISRUPTIONS DURING TRANSITION TO ACA. The AP (12/12, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that as the Obama Administration tries to "minimize disruptions during the transition" in January when new coverage under the Affordable Care Act take effect, HHS Secretary Sebelius on Thursday "announced a batch of measures Thursday to minimize disruptions during the transition." They include "recommendations, such as asking insurers to allow customers to temporarily keep filling prescriptions covered by a previous plan," as well as requirements, including mandating that companies "accept anyone who pays his or her premium by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31."

Reuters (12/12, Morgan) reports that the Administration has extended the Dec. 15 enrollment deadline to Dec. 23 and said it would consider additional extensions if consumers are prevented from enrolling by "extraordinary circumstances." The Administration also established a special enrollment period for people who were unable to sign up for coverage due to problems with the HealthCare.gov website or other insurance marketplace technology.

Politico (12/12, Norman, 467K) reports that the Administration "also asked insurers to voluntarily make the transition to new plans easier for people, for instance by letting some see their current doctors during January, even if that physician doesn't take part in the new health plan network." During a conference call with reporters, Sebelius said the measures "will give consumers 'more peace of mind and even more confidence that it [insurance] will be there when they want and need it.'"

The Hill (12/12, Easley, 194K) reports that during a conference call with reporters, Sebelius said that "insurers have the latitude to accept premiums even beyond Dec. 31, and that the administration was 'strongly encouraging' them to retroactively cover consumers that submit late payments."

USA Today (12/12, Kennedy, 5.82M) reports that the changes Sebelius announced "are aimed at preventing gaps in coverage for those buying insurance through the federal and state exchanges." A gap in coverage "could cause huge problems if diabetics or those with heart disease are unable to get their medications; or if someone coming off Medicaid doesn't understand he's no longer covered and injures himself in January; or for someone undergoing cancer treatment whose coverage stops Jan. 1."

McClatchy (12/13, Pugh, 95K) reports that the Administration proposals and requirements "could add further confusion to an already complex potpourri of deadlines, mandates and recommendations surrounding" the ACA. This, as the Administration is trying "to overcome the disastrous roll-out of the HealthCare.gov website."

Noting that "it will be up to each company whether to go along" with the recommendations, the Washington Post (12/13, A1, Goldstein, 4.28M) reports that the Administration "has held out the possibility of more time but has not provided a guarantee." The insurance industry trade group America's Health Insurance Plans, "did not address the specifics of the administration's request." The group's president Karen Ignagni, said, "Health plans will do everything they can to protect consumers from potential coverage disruptions caused by the ongoing technical problems with HealthCare.gov. With only weeks to go before coverage begins, continued changes to the rules and guidance could exacerbate the challenges associated with helping consumers through the

enrollment process."

The Wall Street Journal (12/13, A1, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the Administration cannot force insurers to comply with their requests, but officials expressed hope they would do so. One insurer, Allan Einboden, CEO of Scott & White health Plan, said, "In terms of covering things when they haven't paid premiums, that we would be concerned about doing."

The New York Times (12/13, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Republicans "expressed surprise," and sad that the Administration "was essentially telling companies like Humana and WellPoint to insure people before payment and change the very nature of their networks and coverage on a case-by-case basis."

The Washington Times (12/13, Howell, 417K) reports that the Administration proposals "are a tacit admission that Americans who lost existing coverage because of the law's coverage requirements – or never had coverage and want it – have struggled to enroll under Mr. Obama's signature reforms and may go without health insurance for a time, even as they are mandated to hold some form of coverage." The Times notes that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services spokeswoman Julie Bataille, when asked about the problem during a conference call, "answered indirectly," saying, "We're confident that millions of Americans will have access to affordable health coverage than they ever had before."

Politico (12/13, Nather, Kenen, 467K) reports that Thursday's moves are "just the latest in a long list of extensions, delays and punts that have plagued the health care law." Politico notes that "piece by piece, the Obama administration keeps giving itself extensions on smaller parts of the law, because there's always some piece that isn't quite ready." While it is "an attempt to put out fires – but it's also a painful admission that, yes, there are fires."

Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan Extended For One Month. The AP (12/12, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that technology problems have also forced the Administration to extend for one month the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, which was supposed to expire Jan. 1. The Administration said that the extension "is meant to smooth the transition to new coverage, easing anxiety for tens of thousands of patients with serious illnesses such as heart disease and cancer."

The Hill (12/12, Sink, 194K) reports that the extension drew praise from outside groups who said that "it ensured the sickest patients would not face a coverage gap as the administration continued to work out issues with the enrollment process." The Hill adds, however, that the decision "also seemed like it could be a tacit admission that, despite the administration's assurances, difficulties remain with the ObamaCare enrollment process."

Politico (12/12, Millman, 467K) reports that the extension of the program "seems to be the Obama administration's first tacit acknowledgment that it can't guarantee that everybody who wants to obtain coverage starting Jan. 1 will be able to do so."

McConnell: Delays Are Proof ACA Is "Failing." The Hill (12/12, Cox, 194K) reports that Senate Minority Leader McConnell said the decision to extend the enrollment deadlines is proof that the ACA is "failing." McConnell said, "Despite the administration's promises that ObamaCare enrollment is on track, this announcement is a clear admission that ObamaCare is failing Americans with pre-existing conditions who are losing the plans they already had."

SENATE HOLDS ANOTHER LATE-NIGHT SESSION AS NOMINATIONS SLOWLY ADVANCE. The New York Times (12/13, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes that the "final days of 2013 on Capitol Hill degenerated into something like an endurance contest to see who could be the most spiteful," with a second late-night session called Thursday "by Democrats as a way of retaliating for Republicans' delaying tactics on confirmations." Sen. Lamar Alexander, "usually one of the more reserved members," told the Times, "I think it resembles fourth graders playing in a sandbox, and I'll give the majority leader, Harry Reid, 99% of the responsibility for it." The Times says Democrats are "hoping to make the situation so unpleasant for their colleagues across the aisle that they eventually break."

The Washington Post (12/13, O'Keefe, 4.28M) says senators "will be summoned again Friday and over the

weekend for a series of votes on lower-level nominees amid sustained Republican objections to the changes." The procession through a series of confirmation votes "is expected to continue until Saturday afternoon," when senators will take up DHS Secretary-designate Jeh Johnson's nomination. The Los Angeles Times (12/13, Memoli, 3.07M) says while the Senate is now getting things done, "they're getting done slowly. Democrats can advance nominees by a simple majority vote, but Republicans are using all the mechanisms they can to deliver retribution."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Finally, The Volcker Rule."*** The New York Times (12/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the success of the newly unveiled Volcker Rule "depends on federal regulators doing what they failed to do in the run-up to the financial crisis and have done only haltingly since then: Enforce the spirit as well as the letter of the law against the wishes of powerful banks." The Times notes that the rule "is intended to curb recklessness by barring banks from trading for their own gain, disconnected from clients' needs and demands." The premise behind the rule, which the Times endorses as sound, "is that taxpayers, who back the banks, should not be on the hook for speculation undertaken for the purpose of generating big bonuses for traders and executives."

"Trade Talks Produce A Deal." Days after the WTO reached a trade deal expected to boost the global economy, an editorial in the New York Times (12/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) cautions that optimism for a broader trade agreement and less reliance on bilateral deals may be premature. Noting the merits of the deal, including allowing poorer countries such as Chad, Haiti, and Burma to boost their income by selling "more goods duty-free," the Times says the fact that a modest deal took as long as it did signals vast change is not on the horizon.

"Lift The Cuban Embargo." An editorial in the New York Times (12/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) calls the Cuban embargo "senseless." Noting that it has long called for the removal of an embargo, the Times says recent developments, including the detention of USAID contractor Alan Gross, make a case for not only his release but for President Obama to "press Congress to end the embargo and overhaul policy toward Cuba."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"An Olympic Violation."*** The Washington Post (12/13, 4.28M) blasts Russian President Vladimir Putin for his stance on gays ahead of the Olympics in Sochi next year. On Thursday, in a speech to the Russian parliament, Putin referred to the "destruction of traditional values from the top." Such comments came a day after he replaced the head of the state news agency, RIA Novosti with the new chief being Dmitry Kiselyov, "who is notorious for anti-gay diatribes." The Post proclaims that "Putin's actions place him blatantly at odds with Principle 6 of the Olympic Charter," as it urges the IOC to take a stand.

"Newtown's Legislative Legacy." The Washington Post (12/13, Board, 4.28M) editorializes that Congress "disgraced itself by refusing to toughen gun laws after" the Sandy Hook shootings, "yawning in the face of a national tragedy," but in the meantime, "the battle for reform in state capitals continued and intensified." A Times analysis of state legislation enacted since then found that "about two-thirds of the 109 new firearms laws around the country loosen restrictions." The Times notes that a new report from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence found that "many states with the most anemic gun laws already have the highest rates of gun deaths." The Times concludes that the nation's gun laws "are an evolving patchwork," which "offers some hope for further reform, but it also undercuts the effectiveness of restrictions that are in place," as criminals "stymied by one state's restrictions can cross a border to procure what they need in a neighboring state."

"Helping Rebeca Orellana." An editorial in the Washington Post (12/13, Board, 4.28M) criticizes "Virginia's senseless and self-defeating laws," which deny state resident status and the tuition benefits that accompany it to students who came to the US as children of undocumented immigrants. The Post calls Virginia's policy "absurd" and argues that it is "in the state's interest to help them afford college and realize their potential." the Post adds that a bill "to provide tuition benefits to such students – billing them at the same rate other Virginians are billed," which will be "offered by both Republicans and Democrats when the General Assembly convenes" in January "deserves to become law."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Mood-Music Diplomacy On Iran."*** The Wall Street Journal (12/13, Subscription

Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, provides details of lawmakers doubting Secretary of State Kerry's Tuesday appeal to refrain from further sanctioning Iran to allow for a nuclear deal to take shape. The Journal equates the Administration's stance with the policy that left former Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in power for a decade. Giving Iran any kind of a pass, the Journal says, will only fuel suspicions that the Obama Administration will accept any kind of an arrangement with Iran – no matter how risky.

"The Mexican Model." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) calls energy legislation that passed in Mexico on Thursday transformative because it allows for foreign investment in Pemex, the state-owned oil company. The Journal suggests the deal makes US policy makers look like underachievers considering one pipeline, the Keystone XL, has been stalled for years.

"New York State Of Tax." The Wall Street Journal (12/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's tax commission failed to address primary tax disadvantages in the state. The commission released its recommendations this week, and while the Journal concedes the report does suggest modest improvements, it is critical of the report for not going far enough in recommending tax relief.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Forgotten Soldiers
Phones Likely to Stay Silent on Planes Amid Backlash
Health Insurers Told to Ease Coverage Rules

New York Times:
Tempers Flare As New Rules Strain Senate
Obama Panel Said To Urge NSA Curbs
Amid Repressed Hopes, Reasons To Dream
Tobacco Industry Tactics Limit Poorer Nations' Smoking Laws
Mexico's Pride, Oil, May Be Opened To Outsiders
Poll Finds Hope Is Running High For Next Mayor Of New York City
Kosovo Attains Status (On Facebook) It Has Sought For Years: Nation

Washington Post:
Uproar May Push Ban On Inflight Cellphone Calls
Ex-FBI Agent Missing In Iran Tied To CIA, Officials Say
Some To Get More Time To Purchase Health Plans
North Korea Says It Executed Leader's Uncle

Financial Times:
Osborne Vows To Cut Billions From Welfare
Gold Price Probe Extended To Deutsche Bank
Google To Charge Only For Viewed Ads
EADS Calls For EU Drone Budget
Madoff Victims To Recover 74 percent Of Losses
EU Watchdog Aims To Cool Bitcoin Fever
Investors Up On Junk Bond See-Saw For Now

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: NASA-ISS Repair; Bus Safety; Winter Weather; Bipartisan Budget Deal-House Approval; North Korea-Execution; China-Smog; Mandela Memorial-Interpreter Imposter
CBS: Bipartisan Budget Deal-House Approval; North Korea-Execution; Snowden-Possible Amnesty; Iran-Missing American; Iran-Nuclear Deal; Mandela Memorial-Interpreter Imposter; Texas Drunk Driver-Sentence; FCC-Cell Phone Ban; NASA-ISS Repair; Prince Harry-South Pole Expedition; Gun Violence-DC Vigil
NBC: Congress-Budget Deal Debate; North Korea-Execution; Mandela Memorial-Interpreter Imposter; NASA-ISS

Problem; Gun Safety; Breast Cancer Prevention; FCC-Cell Phones On Planes; NASA-Connor Jackson; Military Care Packages

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Bipartisan Budget Deal; North Korea-Leader Executed; Denver-Stadium Stabbing
CBS: Bipartisan Budget Deal-House Approval; Senate-Republican Protest; Iran-Nuclear Program; Weather Forecast-Storm; Texas Drunk Driving-Sentence; Mandela Memorial-Schizophrenic Interpreter
NPR: Bipartisan Budget Deal; FCC-Cell Phones In Flight; FCC-Carrier Agreement; North Korea-Leader Executed; UN Inspectors-Chemical Weapons-Syria; Mexico-International Oil Trade; US-Yemen Drone Strike; Cambodia-Ancient Statue
FOX: ACA-Transition Program; Bipartisan Budget Deal-House Approval; CDC-Flu Vaccine Encouragement

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – Meets with a group of newly-elected mayors from across the country, Roosevelt Room.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – Meets with a group of newly-elected mayors from across the country, Roosevelt Room.
US Senate: 11 a.m. FINANCE – Open Executive Session to consider favorably reporting the nominations of Sarah Bloom Raskin, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, vice Neal S. Wolin; John Andrew Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2017, vice Douglas H. Shulman, term expired; and Rhonda Schnare Schmidtlein, of Missouri, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring December 16, 2021, vice Shara L. Aranoff, term expired. Location: 215 Dirksen.

2 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP – FIELD HEARING – "Fueling America: Enabling and Empowering Small Business to Unleash Domestic Production." Location: Lafayette Economic Development Authority, Lafayette, LA.
US House: 11 a.m. USGS – CRITICAL MINERALS – Congressional briefing titled, "Critical Minerals: Ensuring America's Future." Speakers: Joseph Gambogi, Commodity Specialist, Rare Earth Elements, USGS National Minerals Information Center; P. Patrick Leahy, Executive Director, American Geosciences Institute; Larry Meinert, Program Coordinator, USGS Mineral Resources Program; Jonathan G. Price, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (Emeritus). Hosted by: Congressman Rush Holt (NJ 12th District). Location: 2325 Rayburn.

12:30 p.m. HOUSE REPUBLICANS – GOOGLE HANGOUT – House Republicans will host a Google Hangout with constituents about "Obamacare". Participant: Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL).
Other: PENTAGON – AIR FORCE – 9:45 a.m. Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III will conduct a press briefing on the "State of the Air Force." Location: Pentagon Briefing Room (2E973).

NEWTOWN – 'ACT OF KINDNESS' – 1:30 p.m. U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-05), chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, and Reps. Elizabeth Esty (CT-05), Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-3) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC-At large) will participate in an "Act of Kindness" event in honor of the one year anniversary of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. Location: Martha's Table, 2114 14th St. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: [In reference to the sign-language interpreter at Nelson Mandela's memorial] "You know, for a minute I thought there might have been some kind of security problem. So, let me get this straight. The NSA is listening to our phone calls, but no one is checking up on the violent schizophrenic who is 18 inches from the President of the United States."

Jay Leno: "Well, in defending the budget deal, Congressman Paul Ryan quoted the Rolling Stones. He said, 'You can't always get what you want.' That's for the budget deal. When it comes to Congress, here's a better Stones quote, 'We can't get no satisfaction.' Okay, how about that one?"

Jay Leno: "Well, here's something interesting. You may have seen this on the Internet. A team of physicists announced that they have evidence that the universe is just an illusion and the whole thing is just a big hologram. See, this is what happens when you legalize marijuana, okay?"

Jay Leno: "Right-wing Texas Congressman, a US Senate candidate, a guy named Steve Stockman, said more people have chlamydia than have signed up for Obamacare. Well, you know something? Whether it's chlamydia or Obamacare, chances are you got it from a politician."

Stephen Colbert: "But with this bipartisan budget we'll have no chance of another government shutdown for two whole years! You fools! We can't leave our national parks open that long! It will give the wolves time to unionize!"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, December 16, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Dec 16, 2013 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL GIVES SPEECH ABOUT COLORADO RIVER. The Cache Valley (UT) Daily (12/15, 639) reports on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was scheduled to deliever a presentation titled "Action Is Imperative – We Need a Balanced Approach to Bridge the Gap between Supply and Demand on the Colorado River," during the Colorado River Water Users Association 2013 Annual Conference.

KLAS-TV Las Vegas (12/15, 36K) reports that Jewell told the group "she is happy to see that politics is not getting in the way of state governments talking about sharing dwindling water resources." She says it's because "the talk about climate change reached a new level." Jewell said, "The debate about whether it is going on is over. The president's climate action plan, which he released in June, was very helpful to all of us. He put a stake in the ground and he said, 'this is how we're going to go forward.' He charged people like me with being part of the solution and prepare our landscapes. That is where we're going. We're moving on from the debate and into the solution."

Also reporting on the speech is the Las Vegas Review-Journal (12/16, 437K).

SECRETARY JEWELL SUPPORTS RECONSIDERATION OF FEDERAL RECOGNITION FOR JUANEÑO TRIBE. The Capistrano (CA) Dispatch (12/15, 33K) reports that the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians "received encouraging news this month regarding their continuing efforts to attain federal recognition." In a letter sent Tuesday, December 3, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "supported the Juaneños' petition for reconsideration as a sovereign nation." According to the article, "following a petition for appeal sent by the Interior Board of Indian Appeals, on behalf of the Juaneños, Jewell found errors in the bureau's final assessment, primarily the bureau's own acknowledgement that they had overlooked some evidence."

SECRETARY JEWELL PUSHES FOR YOUTH TO GET INVOLVED WITH CONSERVATION. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (12/15, 73K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "champions the role of young people in the future of conservation." In a recent speech, Jewell "described that role as crucial in maintaining our public-lands heritage and voiced her plans to enlist 1 million younger Americans in supporting public lands and recreation opportunities." Now, the Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development, a coalition of Trout Unlimited, the Theodore Roosevelt Partnership Coalition and the National Wildlife Federation, is "sponsoring an essay contest for youths 15 to 19 years of age" on "what public lands mean to them."

INDIAN TRUST COMMISSION HOLDS FINAL MEETING. The Minot (ND) Daily News (12/15, 62K) reports that the Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform "held its final meeting Dec. 10 by webinar, completing its prescribed two-year evaluation mandate by submitting its final report and recommendations" to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Jewell said she "looked forward to reviewing the commission's recommendations as they seek to identify opportunities for enhancing the trust administration system's accountability, transparency, responsiveness and efficiency."

ARIZONA LAWMAKERS WANT GRAY WOLF PROTECTIONS KEPT IN PLACE. The Phoenix Business Journal (12/13, Subscription Publication, 5K) reports that two Arizona lawmakers are asking the Interior Department to "keep in place endangered species protections for gray wolves." Reps. Raul Grijalva and Ed Pastor have written Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "reconsider changes to wolf protections." According to the artricle, "Pastor, Grijalva and 84 Democratic lawmakers want the US government to continue protections for both species and have written Jewell."

PROPOSED BOULDER WHITE CLOUDS MONUMENT LEAVES CUSTER COUNTY UNEASY. The Idaho Statesman (12/15, 205K) reports that "a part of Custer County has been largely overlooked in the discussion about" a Boulder White Clouds Monument. The article notes that "the economic and recreational concerns of Custer County were at the center of a 10-year effort by Republican Rep. Mike Simpson to create a new Central Idaho wilderness area." However, "Simpson's bill is dead and Custer County's ranchers, outfitters and elected officials worry that a monument designation by Obama will change their lives without their involvement or input."

The Idaho Statesman (12/15, 205K) editorializes that the "region deserves to be protected with every ounce of

collaborative stewardship effort Idaho stakeholders can muster." However, the paper asserts that "it has to be an inclusive effort recognizing the spectrum of use from mountain bikers to motorized users, hunters, ranchers and the most ardent wilderness supporters." It argues that "this process demands transparency and won't benefit, in the long run, from back channel lobbying that creates winners and losers."

RESEARCHERS SUGGEST CUTTING DOWN SOME TREES MAY HELP COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE. The Washington Post (12/15, Bernstein, 4.28M) reports that "two Dartmouth College researchers are suggesting that in some limited circumstances, the cooling value of an open, snowy field may be greater than the climate benefits that a stand of trees can provide – and that it is possible to calculate where that might be the case." The two researchers said that this knowledge would be useful, in the short term, in forestry management and in the long term, to "nations with vast expanses of snow fields" because they would then be able to seek credit "for that contribution to reducing global warming during international climate negotiations." However, the researchers add that global warming may negatively impact this theory since the "warming planet will have less snow and shorter winters" in the future.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS LAGUNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Additional coverage of that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to Laguna Elementary School was provided by the Cibola (NM) Beacon (12/15, 10K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION MEETING . Additional coverage of the Western Governors Association meeting was provided by the Billings (MT) Gazette (12/15, 206K), the Houston Chronicle (12/12, Dreier, 2.26M), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (12/15, 768K), the Wichita (KS) Eagle (12/12, Dreier, 247K), KOLN-TV Lincoln, NE (12/15, 27K), KUSA-TV Denver (12/15, 171K), and KULR-TV Billings, MT (12/15, 2K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NEW CONSERVATION PAC ANNOUNCED. Additional coverage of the new political action committee formed by former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and hedge fund billionaire Louis Bacon to support candidates who back conserving lands and cultural resources was provided by the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (12/15, 194K), Forbes (12/13, 6.03M), and KRCC-FM Colorado Springs, CO (12/15).

SUH IS CONFRONTED BY SEN. BARRASSO. In his column for the Washington Examiner (12/15, Arnold, 319K), Ron Arnold claims that if Rhea S. Suh, President Obama's nominee for assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks in the Interior Department, is confirmed, it "would be a disaster for resource production and the national economy." Arnold asserts that "Suh's track record shows nothing but opposition to tapping America's natural resources." Arnold lauds Sen. John Barrasso for confronting Suh during her confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He hopes that "leading Democratic committee members – including Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and West Virginia's Joe Manchin – will step up and question Suh's suitability for a job that is crucially important to America's economic growth prospects."

Also covering the nomination is the National Journal (12/16, Subscription Publication, 427K).

MAYORS URGE SUPPORT FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. For the "Congress" blog of The Hill (12/15, 194K), Michael B. Hancock, the mayor of Denver, and Betsy Price, the mayor of Fort Worth, warns that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is at risk of expiring. They argue that "reauthorizing and strengthening the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has sent $4.1 billion to states since 1965, is a key step to ensure that our cities will be sustainable and economically viable in the future."

TAKEOVER OF FEDERAL LANDS URGED. In an editorial, the Las Vegas Review-Journal (12/16, 437K) supports the passage of Assembly Bill 227, which created the Nevada Land Management Task Force. The paper urges the task force to conclude that the state should assume responsibility for some public land managed by federal agencies.

SEMPLE: PODESTA'S WHITE HOUSE RETURN DELIGHTS ENVIRONMENTALISTS. In a column for the New York Times (12/15, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Robert B. Semple says that the appointment of John Podesta to President Obama's White House staff was met with delight from the environmental community and those in charge of Federal agencies responsible for the environment. The appointment is expected to further elevate the issue of climate change, with Podesta's main task being to give the EPA the support necessary to

create new rules controlling emissions from new and existing power plants. Semple says that Podesta's skill with political and policy-making skills could be of particular assistance to Interior Secretary Jewell.

Additional coverage was provided by the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (12/15, 194K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO ADD TENNESSEE BATTLEFIELDS TO NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM. The Tennessean (12/14, 417K) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander has introduced legislation to include four Tennessee Civil War battlefields in the national park system. The legislation would "designate battlefields at Davis Bridge and Fallen Timbers in Tennessee and Russell House — which is in Tennessee and Mississippi — as part of Shiloh National Military Park." It would also include Parker's Crossroads of Tennessee in the system.

Also reporting on the story is the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (12/14, 449K).

SLEEPING BEAR LEGISLATION MOVING FORWARD. The Traverse City (MI) Record-Eagle (12/15, 68K) reports that "legislation to protect northern Michigan's biggest tourism driver, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, is moving forward in the US House of Representatives." Rep. Dan Benishek said Thursday the House Committee on Natural Resources will "take up the legislation in January."

CONGRESS TO CONSIDER YOSEMITE BILLS. The Chicago Tribune (12/14, Doyle, 2.32M) reports that Congress will "revisit unfinished business with Yosemite National Park next year." The article notes that "one pending bill would expand Yosemite's boundaries," and "another would rename a local mountain peak," and a "third would speed salvage logging in the park's vicinity." However, "the Yosemite-related bills, while relatively modest, face multiple obstacles."

NPS SEEKS INPUT ON HOW TO SPEND $66 MILLION POWER LINE FUND. The Pocono (PA) Record (12/15, 46K) reports that public comment will be sought by the NPS on "how to spend about $12 million" for protecting Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area resources, "though specific dates have yet to be set for hearings." The article notes that "funding comes from a $66 million mitigation fund for the impacts of a power line upgrade."

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK AREA TO CLOSE. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (12/14, 690K) reports that "the popular Chekika Day Use Area of Everglades National Park will be closed because of federal budget cuts that have caused deep staff reductions over the past few years." Park Superintendent Dan Kimball said "he wasn't happy about having to close the picnic, hiking and biking area in the northeast part of the park." Kimball said, "We know a lot of people will be disappointed, but we had to make some difficult decisions," he said. "The realities of the current budget situation do not allow us to operate as we have in the past."

FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR RECOVERY AFTER RIM FIRE. The Los Angeles Times (12/13, Mather, 3.07M) reports that President Obama "signed a disaster declaration Friday for the state of Califomia, making federal funds available for recovery efforts related to the massive Rim fire near Yosemite National Park." The funds are "available to state and local governments and eligible private nonprofits for emergency work and to repair or replace facilities damaged by the blaze."

MOVEMENT SEEKS MEMORIAL FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED IN IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN. The Boston Globe (12/14, Bender, 1.75M) reports on "a diverse movement of veterans and families seeking to establish a national memorial to honor those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan." Their push is "fraught with complicated questions about the 'global war on terrorism,' its open-ended nature, and the unpopular conflicts it spawned." Also, "bureaucratic and practical obstacles also abound." For one, the National Mall, which is "home to a series of war memorials," is "considered a completed work of art," according to Carol B. Johnson, a spokeswoman for the NPS.

OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL BACKS OFF ON TRIBAL NATIONAL PARK PLAN. The Rapid City (SD) Journal (12/15, 103K) reports that "the creation of the nation's first tribal national park was dealt a blow Thursday

when the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council backed away from a plan to eject cattle ranchers from their leased lands for a 100,000-acre buffalo pasture in the South Unit of Badlands National Park."

GROUP SEEKS TO HAVE PEOPLE ADOPT CANNONS AT FORTS WHERE CIVIL WAR BEGAN. The Columbus (IN) Republic (12/15, 80K) reports that "a nonprofit group is urging people to lend a hand to help conserve pieces of history — the guns at the South Carolina forts where the Civil War began." Jim Thompson of the Fort Sumter-Fort Moultrie Trust said Friday the group has started an Adopt-A-Cannon drive to help the NPS "conserve the guns at Sumter, which is in Charleston Harbor, and at Moultrie, on nearby Sullivans Island."

COURT SIDES WITH SKI TOUR COMPANY IN GRAND TETON LAWSUIT. The Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (12/13, 596K) reports that a federal court has held the NPS acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in "handling concession contract for ski touring at Grand Teton National Park." In his decision issued Thursday, Senior Judge Lynn J. Bush of the US Court of Federal Claims "sided with a company called Eco Tour Adventures." Bush declined, though, to order the NPS "to block the new contracts," and "instead, the judge directed the park service to pay Eco Tour's bid preparation costs."

DEADLINE NEARS FOR PROPOSALS FOR MILITARY HOMES ON SANDY HOOK. The New Jersey (12/15, 526K) reports on that the deadline for "proposals from interested parties for ideas of what to do with the historic buildings" on Sandy Hook nears. Once the proposals have been received, the NPS will "review them and decide what to do next."

PRESIDIO TRUST DIRECTOR FACES POLITICAL, ECOLOGICAL CHALLENGES. The San Francisco Chronicle (12/15, Fimrite, 2.88M) reports on the challenges faced by Terri Thomas, the director of conservation, stewardship and research for the Presidio Trust,. Thomas' "task is to restore the wildly altered Presidio's ecosystem to as close to its natural state as possible while preserving the outpost's military heritage," but "her efforts have provoked outbursts essentially from all sides of every issue, including dog walkers, eucalyptus fanciers, bird watchers and history buffs." Thomas said, "It has been a big balancing act. Restoration is still a very new field and urban restoration is even newer."

NEW SUPERINTENDENT NAMED FOR CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (12/15, 46K) reports that Larry Turk, the Aztec Ruins National Monument superintendent since 2011, has been named the new superintendent of Chaco Culture National Historical Park. National Parks Service Regional Director Colin Campbell said, "Larry's facilities and management experience and long ties to the cultural and natural resources of the Southwest make him very well suited for his new duties as Superintendent at Chaco Culture National Historical Park and Aztec Ruins National Monument."

SEN. MURKOWSKI DISMISSES INCREASING NPS BUDGET, SUGGESTS IDEAS FOR FUNDING PARKS. In an op-ed that appears in the Juneau (AK) Empire (12/15, Murkowski, 21K), Sen. Lisa Murkowski writes that "those who believe the federal government should expand its land ownership rarely acknowledge a critical truth: It cannot properly manage the lands it is currently entrusted with." She notes that the NPS has "an $11.5 billion maintenance backlog — well over four times its annual discretionary budget — which suggests that its principal priority should be its current portfolio." Murkowski dismisses the idea of increasing the budget for the NPS, and suggests alternative ideas like expanding "private donations from outside organizations and other friends of national parks," taking "a close look at current uses of funding, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)," and exploring "the structure of the recreational fee."

Bureau of Land Management:

CONSERVATION GROUPS SEEK MONUMENT STATUS FOR FORMER SANTA CRUZ DAIRY. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (12/16, 731K) reports that the Trust for Public Land and Sempervirens Fund are "among the conversation groups are hoping to have a former dairy farm north of Santa Cruz crowned as a national monument, a move that backers say would bring greater protections and more federal dollars to the property." The Coast Dairies, a 7,000-acre tract of land, has "remained closed to the public in the 15 years since the Trust for Public Lands acquired it to prevent development, but parts are expected to be opened for recreation after the Bureau of Land Management takes control of it." Supporters said that "while BLM aims to develop a plan for protecting the property's wildlife, plants and waterways, a national monument designation would offer additional protections and

possibly money for restoration and supervision."

Also reporting on the story are the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (12/15, 731K) and the Santa Cruz (CA) Sentinel (12/15, 151K).

NEVADA SAGE GROUSE CRITICS CALL BLM CLOSED-MINDED. The Columbus (IN) Republic (12/16, 80K) reports that Elko County Commissioner Grant Gerber says he is "convinced the feds have already made up their mind to list the Greater sage grouse as a threatened or endangered species." Also, former Republican Assemblyman John Carpenter said he "believes the government is determined to list the chicken-sized game bird as part of a bigger strategy to lock up federal lands." However, a BLM official says "that's not the case and insisted at a public meeting in Elko this week they want the community's input on how best to save the troubled bird without a federal listing." BLM Elko District Manager Jill Silvey "disagreed with Carpenter's assertion that the BLM was in favor of a listing."

Also providing coverage are the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (12/16, 731K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (12/16, 768K), and KOLO-TV Reno, NV (12/16, 22K).

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO ADD CREST OF MONTEZUMA TO CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST. KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM (12/16, 5K) reports that Sen. Martin Heinrich and Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham have "introduced legislation in the Senate and the House to add the Crest of Montezuma to the north end of the Cibola National Forest and shift its management" from the BLM to the Forest Service. Heinrich said, "The Crest of Montezuma is the backdrop to historic Placitas village. But many local residents have shared their concerns with me about the future of this land. Most conceming to them are the ways in which access could be restricted for recreational uses and that a critical corridor for wildlife would be endangered. By shifting the management of the Crest of Montezuma to the Forest Service, New Mexicans can be sure that the land is not sold to private interests or developed for mineral resources. I look forward to working with Representative Lujan Grisham to improve recreational access to this spectacular area for families now and for future generations to enjoy."

PRESERVATIONISTS WORK WITH BLM ON PRYOR MOUNTAIN WILD HORSES. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (12/15, 90K) reports on a band of wild horses which have "stayed on the land" along the Montana-Wyoming border "with the help of a loyal following of preservationists who work" with BLM officials to "ensure the small horse herd remains healthy and genetically viable." The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center "assists the BLM in tracking the horses year-round." The BLM "monitors the herd and assigns corresponding numbers to each horse."

BLM TRANSFERS 1,116 ACRES OF LAND TO STUYAHOK LIMITED VILLAGE CORPORATION. The Bristol Bay (AK) Times (12/15, 4K) reports that on Dec. 6, the BLM "made a very large transfer to the Stuyahok Limited Village Corporation of 1,116.41 acres of land." The transfer "completed the corporation's entitlement of appropriated lands under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act."

BOY SCOUTS ASSIST BLM WITH SAGE-GROUSE PROTECTION PROJECT. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (12/15, 22K) reports that "about a dozen scouts from Elko's Boy Scout Troop 820 participated in an Eagle Scout project recently that provides protection to Greater Sage-Grouse from fence lines surrounding the Spanish Ranch, 55 miles north of Elko." The project was organized by 16-year-old Zach Daniels with assistance from the BLM, Elko District's Rangeland Specialist and part-time Scout leader Clay Stott and Tuscarora Field Office Wildlife Biologist Ken Wilkinson. Through Stott, Daniels "coordinated with Wilkinson and ranch owner Ellison Ranching Company to install 5,400 flight diverters over 5.6 miles of livestock control fencing."

BLM SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON LAND SALE. The Rawlins (WY) Times (12/15, 10K) reports that the BLM Rock Springs Field Office is seeking input on "a proposal to sell roughly 60 acres of public land approximately 30 miles east of Rock Springs."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage that Sens. Tom Udall and Martinez Heinrich have announced legislation that would designate about 780 square miles as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument was provided by the Albuquerque (NM) Business First (12/15).

FEDERAL ATTEMPTS TO SEIZE PRIVATE WATER RIGHTS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (12/15, Tipton, 94K), Rep. Scott Tipton criticizes "federal attempts to seize private water rights." He notes that "the same tactics have been used by both" the BLM and Forest Service in "attempts to take or interfere with private water rights associated with agricultural production in the heart of rural America where farmers and ranchers rely on their rights to secure loans and irrigate crops and livestock." Tipton claims that the Water Rights Protection Act would "protect communities, businesses, recreation opportunities, farmers and ranchers as well as other individuals who rely on privately held water rights for their livelihood from federal takings."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ONE THOUSAND ACRES ADDED TO SKAGGS ISLAND WETLANDS AREA. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (12/15, 731K) reports that last Friday, Sonoma Land Trust announced it had bought the Haire Ranch which will lead to restoration of up to 4,400 acres of wetlands at the northern end of Skaggs Island Immediately following acquisition, the land trust "transferred the 1,100-acre Haire Ranch" to the FWS, which operates the nearby San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Also providing coverage are the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (12/13, 156K) and the Vacaville (CA) Reporter (12/16, 57K).

FWS SEEK COMMENT ON LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN PROPOSAL. The Amarillo (TX) Globe News (12/13, 184K) reports that the FWS has published a draft rule in the federal Register that is "based on a conservation plan created by a coalition of five states to protect and expand the habitat the lesser prairie chicken needs to increase its population." According to FWS spokeswoman Lesli Gray, "comments will be accepted until Jan. 10."

Additional coverage of the lesser prairie chicken was provided by the El Paso (TX) Times (12/15, Ponce, 247K), the Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus (12/15, Ponce, 18K), and KFDA-TV Amarillo, TX (12/15, 1K).

PETITION TARGETS KILLINGS BY AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT'S WILDLIFE SERVICES. The Washington Post (12/16, Fears, 4.28M) reports that a petition filed early this month by the Center for Biological Diversity "seeks to reduce the power" of the Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services and "shine a light on its practices, claiming its agents have 'gone rogue,' overstepping the mission to protect the public by killing indiscriminately." Supporters include "politicians who agree that the agency is too secret and too deadly." The article notes that "even some federal workers frown on it; staff members" at the FWS "quietly dismiss Wildlife Services agents as 'gopher chokers.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY BEAR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS LIFTING YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY PROTECTIONS. Additional coverage of the recommendation by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee that Endangered Species Act protections be lifted for the grizzly bears in the Yellowstone National Park was provided by the Christian Science Monitor (12/13, Knickerbocker, 540K), the Austrian Tribune (12/15), and the Softpedia (12/15, 137K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF STUDY DETAILS LOSS OF ECOLOGICALLY-SENSITIVE WETLANDS. Additional coverage of the federal study funded by the FWS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the EPA on the loss of wetlands was provided by the Seattle Times (12/15, 1M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "BANKING ON NATURE" STUDY. Additional coverage of the FWS study titled "Banking on Nature" was provided by the KXNews (12/15, 1K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY FINDS DECLINE OF DESERT TORTOISE IN JOSHUA TREE LINKED TO LONG DROUGHTS. The Los Angeles Times (12/13, Sahagun, 3.07M) reports that "in recent years, California's Agassiz's desert tortoise population has been decimated by shootings, residential and commercial development, vehicle traffic, respiratory disease and predation by ravens, dogs and coyotes." Now, "dwindling populations of the reptiles with scruffy carapaces and skin as tough as rhino hide are facing an even greater threat: longer droughts spurred by

climate change in their Sonoran Desert kingdom of arroyos and burrows," according to a new USGS study. The study found that "drought conditions are linked to declines in a population of desert tortoises in a square-mile study plot in Joshua Tree National Park."

OFFICIALS IN CALIFORNIA CONSIDER LIMITS ON FACILITY THAT DREDGES SAND. The Wall Street Journal (12/16, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that a mining operation by Cemex at California's Monterey Bay is now coming under increased state and local scrutiny. The article notes that the Monterey Bay debate comes as communities are struggling with ways to slow beach erosion at a time when rising sea levels are likely to result in the loss of more shoreline, according to Cheryl Hapke, a research geologist with the USGS.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Offshore Energy Development:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS NOT SATISFIED WITH CALIFORNIA FRACKING REGULATIONS. The New York Times (12/14, Galbraith, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that environmentalists aren't satisfied with California's fracking regulations and, instead, would like to see a ban placed on the practice, at least until there's more research done. The Times reports that "on Thursday, more than 100 environmental groups sent a letter to California coastal regulators urging a stop to offshore fracking." The groups wrote that "with fracking, 'the risks of oil spills, vessel traffic, discharges of toxic waste, and air pollution are substantially increased." California's fracking regulations, which doesn't take effect until Jan 1st, requires "drillers to alert neighboring landowners at least 30 days before using hydraulic fracturing techniques...and to test their water wells upon request." The new rule also requires that "drillers must do other groundwater monitoring and also disclose many of the chemicals used."

BP TARGETS CHEF EMERIL LAGASSE OVER OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT PAYMENT. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (12/16, Sayre, 700K) reported that on Thursday, the New York Times published a full-page ad from BP that attacked chef Emiril Lagasse's restaurants for a 2010 Deepwater Horizon settlement claim. Emeril's Homebase management firm on Friday argued the restaurant's claim for more than $8 million "was legitimate under the terms of the BP-approved settlement agreement."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

PUMP FIRE RAISES CONCERNS OVER IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (12/12, 113K) reports that Columbia Basin irrigators are worried that "damage from a fire in a Grand Coulee Dam may limit the amount of water available in the spring." However, the BOR "doesn't foresee any impact." Lynne Brougher, public affairs officer at Grand Coulee Dam, said, "We are fully confident at this time that we will have enough units up by the beginning of March to supply irrigation water to the Columbia Basin."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/15, 749K), the Fresno (CA) Bee (12/15, 327K), the Stockton (CA) Record (12/10, 123K), the Modesto (CA) Bee (12/14, 208K), the Modesto (CA) Bee (12/14, 208K), the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (12/13, 86K), and the Santa Barbara (CA) Independent (12/13, 119K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SAN LUIS RESERVOIR. Additional coverage of a proposal to increase the height of the San Luis Reservoir was provided by the Charlotte (NC) Observer (12/12, 713K) and the Lodi (CA) News-Sentinel (12/15, 32K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SALMON EGGS PERISH IN SACRAMENTO RIVER DUE TO DECISION TO DECREASE WATER LEVELS. Additional coverage that salmon eggs died in the Sacramento River because of a decision to decrease water levels was provided by the Chico (CA) News and Review (12/15, 101K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

COURT REOPENS CALAVERAS COUNTY TRIBE CHALLENGE. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/15, 749K)

reports that the baltle over "a small Calaveras County tribe has now taken a new turn, as a Washington, D.C.-based federal judge has ordered Interior Department officials to take another look at its past decisions." In her decision, US District Judge Barbara Jacobs Rothstein "sided with Yakima Dixie and his allies with the Califomia Miwok Indian Tribe." Rothstein remanded the case to the Interior Department for reconsideration.

Also reporting on the story are the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (12/13, 86K) and the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (12/13, 126K).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FACES LAWSUIT OVER TRIBAL ROAD PROJECT. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/15, 749K) reports that "a road dispute on the Fort Independence Paiute Indian reservation in the Inyo County alpine tundra around Highway 395 has triggered the rare test of sovereignty that's being watched closely by legal experts across the country." The Fort Independence Paiute Tribe has "filed a $1.8 million suit in their tribal court against Pai of Kentucky Inc., a design and engineering firm." The suit claims that "PAIKI is guilty of faulty, unsafe design work on 3.7 miles of roads into and out of the tribe's travel center and planned casino resort." It "seeks to recover fees and lost revenue incurred" when the BIA "shut down the road project in October 2012 because of what it called 'massive safety problems.'"

FORMER INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN SUPPORTS CATAWBA'S NORTH CAROLINA CASINO. The Indian Country Today Media Network (12/13, 21K) reports that Manuel Lujan Jr., who was Interior Secretary from 1989 to 1993 when Congress passed the Catawba Indian Land Claims Settlement Act, has "come out in support of the South Carolina-based Catawba Indian Nation's proposal to build a casino just over the state line in North Carolina in a county that is within its federal service area and part of its aboriginal land." In a statement, Lujan said, "In settling the claim, the Catawbas sacrificed much and lived up to their part of the settlement. However, the Catawbas never received what they were promised. I was in the room. The Catawbas were told that this legislation gave them the right to a 3,600 acre reservation. However, their current reservation is only a little over 1,000 acres. The Tribe's efforts to take land into trust status at a fair price in South Carolina have been stymied by state and local action."

FORMER GOLFER NOTAH BEGAY SUPPORTS "LET'S MOVE IN INDIAN COUNTRY" PROGRAM. CNN (12/13, Gittings, 14.53M) reports on the support of Notah Begay III, a former golfer and friend of Tiger Woods, of the "Let's Move in Indian Country" program.

Also covering the story is KETV-TV Omaha, NE (12/15, 104K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF AGREEMENT WITH OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE. Additional coverage that the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation became the first tribe to reach a land-buy back agreement under the Cobell settlement was provided by the Indian Country Today Media Network (12/13, 21K) and KOTA-TV Rapid City, SD (12/15, 890).

Top National News:

RYAN "FRUSTRATED" BY CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION TO HIS BIPARTISAN BUDGET DEAL. Rep. Paul Ryan's appearances on two of the Sunday morning talk shows generated coverage and analysis stressing many of the same themes that were emphasized last week. Reports portray Ryan as eager to display his willingness to compromise and his distance from some outside conservative groups. In particular, Ryan said he shared the same "frustration" that drove Speaker Boehner to denounce some conservative activists last week after they announced their opposition to the deal reached by Ryan.

The AP (12/16) reports that on NBC's Meet The Press (12/15, Gregory), Ryan, the chairman of the House Budget Committee, said he is "frustrated with conservative groups that protested the bipartisan budget deal he helped engineer." Politico (12/16, Everett, 467K) reported that Ryan, who was appearing with Sen. Patty Murray, said Boehner "just kind of got his Irish up" when he "slammed groups like Heritage Action for rejecting Ryan and Murray's budget deal before it was even unveiled." Ryan said, "He was frustrated that these groups came out in opposition to our budget agreement before we reached a budget agreement. I was frustrated, too. ... I would prefer to keep those conversations within the family."

McClatchy's (12/14, Lightman, 95K) David Lightman says, "Congressional observers were heartened by" Boehner's "sudden willingness...to blast conservative interest groups" after having been "widely criticized earlier this year for being too acquiescent to their demands to defund or delay the Affordable Care Act...and to hold out for drastic spending cuts that had little chance of winning approval in the Democratic-run Senate."

Roll Call (12/16, Dumain, 87K) said Ryan "is choosing his words carefully when discussing the tenuous relationship between GOP lawmakers and conservative outside groups." USA Today (12/16, Schouten, 5.82M) notes that while Ryan expressed some frustration with activists who object to his budget deal, he also "defended conservative outside groups...as 'indispensable' to holding the federal government accountable to taxpayers," saying, "I think these are very important elements of our conservative family."

The Daily Caller (12/16, Bordelon, 422K) reports that on Sunday, Ryan said he would "love to talk to" Sen. Marco Rubio, "who claims the deal will add to spending now without reducing the debt in the future." Ryan is quoted as saying, "Marco's a good friend of mine. I disagree with him respectfully."

The Washington Times (12/16, Klimas, 417K) reports that on NBC's Meet The Press (12/15, Gregory), Ryan touted the agreement he reached with Murray as evidence that "there can be other breakthroughs and compromise if you take the time to know somebody, know what their passions are and know how to work together." Murray, also on NBC's Meet The Press (12/15, Gregory), said, "We can't take on the tough discussions unless we can learn to use the word 'compromise.' ... If we just sit in our corners and yell at each other and that's all we get rewarded for, we'll never get to those big discussions."

McClatchy (12/16, Lightman, 95K) reports that Ryan added, "I would love to throw a few more zeros at the end of these numbers, but the fact that we're doing this, preventing shutdowns, passing bipartisan legislation – it passed the House 332 to 94, majority of both parties— that's a good step in the right direction."

However, Reuters (12/16, Morgan) reports that Ryan also dismissed a "grand deficit reduction bargain" as unlikely while President Obama remains in office and the Democrats retain their majority in the Senate. Ryan said, "We need to win a couple of elections. ... We're going to have to win the Senate and we're going to have to win the White House to truly fix this country's fiscal problems."

The AP (12/16) reports that also on NBC's Meet The Press (12/15, Gregory), Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) "praised" Ryan "for...brokering a bipartisan budget bill that's been blasted by a number of conservatives," and, as did Ryan, made the case that "retaking control of the Senate in 2014 will be the key to getting budgets that more conservatives can embrace." Walker said, "If we really want a budget deal we can wrap our arms around, we're going to have to win in the 2014 elections, particularly in key Senate races."

Politico (12/16, Everett, 467K) reported that on ABC's This Week, Newt Gingrich contended that "the bipartisan budget agreement is "brilliant politics" that will allow Republicans to keep the heat on Obamacare and avoid the terrible optics of more government shutdowns." Gingrich is quoted as saying, "I think this is mediocre policy and brilliant politics. It doesn't get them what they want on policy terms, but it strips away the danger that people will notice anything but Obamacare. And the longer the country watches Obamacare, the more likely the Democrats are to lose the Senate."

Robert Samuelson, in his column for the Washington Post (12/16, Samuelson, 4.28M), says that while "Obamacare demonstrates the perils of transformational policies," the "Murray-Ryan accord is a triumph of incrementalism" that "beats the alternative, which might be another senseless government 'shutdown.'" However, Samuelson adds that "the price of peace is doing almost nothing about our long-term budget problems."

Charles Babington, in an analysis for the AP (12/16, Babington) titled, "Budget Deal May Signal Era Of Tiny Achievements," says that "in an era of low expectations," the House's approval of the deal reached by Ryan and Murray "marks a rare cease-fire that should avoid a repeat of this fall's government shutdown and flirtation with default." However, Babington adds that the agreement "comes nowhere near the more ambitious efforts to address long-term spending and debt." Babington notes that Rep. David Price (D-NC), "a former Duke University political science professor," says "praise for the budget deal shows 'just how low the aspirations have become around here.'"

Bill Kristol said on Fox News Sunday (12/15, Wallace), "It's a good short-term deal, it has limited objectives, it gets some money for defense, which is much needed." Former OMB director Peter Orszag, on CNN's State Of The Union (12/15, Crowley), remarked, "I think what's right with it is it gets the basic construct of what we should be doing correct, which is we should do a little bit less deficit reduction today and a little bit more out over time."

The Daily Caller (12/16, Pappas, 422K) noted that on Fox News Sunday (12/15, Wallace), the Washington Post's Bob Woodward said, "I think this deal worked, quite frankly – let's go right to the center of this – because Obama was not part of the negotiations. He is not a good negotiator."

The Christian Science Monitor's (12/16, Knickerbocker, 540K) Brad Knickerbocker says Boehner "may have found his political mojo...but mainstream Republicans like himself can feel the hot breath of challenge from their right as the 2014 mid-term elections approach." Indeed, the Washington Times (12/16,], 417K), in an editorial titled, "The GOP Retreats Into Fear" that was linked to from the Drudge Report Sunday night, criticizes the majority of House Republicans for backing the Ryan-Murray deal, which it describes as "a tax and spending increase in return for gossamer spending reductions to take place someday, maybe in a future decade." The Times says that in the wake of last week's vote, "a job-killing minimum-wage increase is probably inevitable."

Senate Democrats Need Eight Republicans For Ryan-Murray Deal To Pass. David Rogers, in a piece for Politico (12/16, Rogers, 467K), says the Senate's cloture vote on the budget deal that passed the House last week "rests squarely on the 14 Republicans on the Appropriations Committee," six of whom "are up for reelection in 2014 and may find some reason to back out." Rogers notes that still "leaves more than enough to help Democrats get to 60 votes." According to Rogers, Sen. Thad Cochran's "decision...to seek reelection means he could yet lay claim to the chairmanship of Appropriations at the expense of" Sen. Richard Shelby, the panel's ranking Republican, who has announced that he will oppose the deal. Rogers adds that on Sunday, "a Shelby spokesman said...'it is baseless' to suggest the potential competition with Cochran has anything to do with Shelby's opposition."

According to the Washington Post (12/16, Wilson, 4.28M), "several key Republicans signaled that they would vote to end debate." Sen. John McCain, on CNN's State Of The Union (12/15, Crowley), said "I hope it will pass the Senate. ... We must not shut down the government again." On CBS' Face The Nation (12/15, Schieffer, 2.64M), Sen. Richard Durbin said, "The struggle is still on in the United States Senate; we will need about eight Republicans to come our way. ... We need bipartisan support to pass it." The Post also reports that "both sides say" the budget deal "is likely to be one of the final pieces of significant legislation to pass the 113th Congress as midterm elections loom."

David Lightman, in a piece for McClatchy (12/14, Lightman, 95K), says, "While passage is expected" in the Senate, "so are...attempts at lengthy debate and delay" from Republicans "upset that the plan doesn't address long-term deficit issues."

The Hill (12/16, Wasson, 194K) reports that some Republicans believe the Ryan-Murray deal "has hidden political benefits for" Democrats facing reelection next year "because it sets a top-line budget number for 2015," meaning "vulnerable Democrats...won't have to take tough votes as part of a budget vote-o-rama." According to The Hill, some Republicans "are unhappy, as they believe the tough votes would have made it easier to defeat those candidates next fall."

Holtz-Eakin: Budget Deal Is Not Enough To Stimulate Economy. Politico (12/16, Huff, 467K) reports in its "Politico Live" blog that CBO Director Doug Holtz-Eakin said on CNN's "State of the Union" that the budget deal passed by the House and awaiting passage in the Senate "isn't strong enough to encourage business and stimulate the economy," and the government "should look to permanent changes such as immigration and tax reforms."

Ryan: GOP Expects Spending Cuts In Return For Debt Ceiling Hike. Politico's (12/16, Everett, 467K) Burgess Everett notes that on Fox News Sunday (12/15, Wallace), Paul Ryan said that Republicans in both the House and Senate "will soon huddle at their party retreats to figure out what Republicans can extract from Democrats in return for raising the debt ceiling next year." Ryan is quoted as saying, "We don't want nothing out of this debt limit. We're going to decide what it is we're going to accomplish out of this debt limit fight."

Under the headline, "Paul Ryan Says GOP Wants Ransom For Another Debt Ceiling Hostage," the Huffington Post (12/15, Grim, 11.54M) reports that President Obama "has said that he will refuse to negotiate around the debt limit, and that it is Congress' obligation to pay the debts that Congress itself ran up." The Huffington Post adds that while "it is not yet clear when precisely the debt ceiling will be hit," Treasury Secretary Lew has said, "They should just extend the debt limit way in advance and not have any sense of crisis at all." However, Lew added, "They set Feb. 7 as the day when the debt limit expires. We do have extraordinary measures [that] last about a month after that. So yeah, they have some time."

Ryan: House Republicans Intend To Advance Tax Reform Legislation. The Hill (12/16, Becker, 194K) reports that "after a string of setbacks" proponents of tax reform "say ratification of the budget pact could give them new momentum next year" because the deal "includes no new revenues from ending tax breaks, giving them free reign to pursue full-scale rewrite of the tax code." The Hill quotes Sen. Max Baucus, the chairman of the Finance Committee, as saying, "Provisions that were not part of the budget are going to be part of tax reform. Oh yeah, it very much helps." The Hill notes that on NBC's Meet The Press, Paul Ryan said he is "'hopeful' about moving tax reform." Ryan added, "Watch the Ways and Means Committee in the first quarter of next year. We're going to be advancing tax reform legislation, because we think that's a key ingredient to getting people back to work, to increasing take-home pay and to growing this economy."

The Wall Street Journal (12/16, Trottman, 5.91M) covers the same comments from Ryan in an article titled, "Budget Negotiators See Tax Overhaul Up Next." The Journal notes that Sen. Patty Murray, appearing alongside Ryan, added, "I would agree with the chairman [Ryan] that we do need to do tax reform." However, Murray also said, "Where the divide comes is what you would do with any revenue that was generated from that."

DMR Poll Prompts Speculation About 2016 Ryan Presidential Campaign. Chris Cillizza, in a piece for the Washington Post (12/16, Cillizza, 4.28M) on Ryan's political ambitions, notes that a Des Moines Register released over the weekend found that Ryan "was the single most popular Republican tested...with almost three quarters of Iowa Republicans saying they felt very or mostly favorable to him." Cillizza adds that among those who say they identify with the tea party, Ryan "was again the best liked with a 66 percent favorable score." Nevertheless, according to Cillizza, "the general consensus is that he has little interest in a [2016 presidential] bid."

FED COULD BEGIN WINDING DOWN BOND-BUYING SOON. Reuters (12/16, Spicer) reports that while the odds that the Federal Reserve will not make any major policy changes when it meets this week, recent economic data could indicate that the central bank could soon begin winding down its bond-buying program. Reuters notes that if the Fed decides to act, it could be a reflection of improving confidence in the global economy as much as recovery in the US. However, making such a move runs the risk of prompting a market selloff that threatens growth worldwide.

USA Today (12/16, Davidson, 5.82M) reports that most of the economists it surveyed say the Fed is likely "to keep the economy on a full dose of stimulus after this week's meeting but begin dialing it down by next month." Only "a handful of the 34 economists surveyed Dec. 12-13 predict the Fed this week will agree to pare its $85 billion in monthly bond purchases, but a slight majority say the tapering will begin by January."

Interest In Corporate Bonds Seen As Sign Of Investors' Growing Confidence In Economy. The Wall Street Journal (12/15, Cherney, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the fact that buyers of corporate debt are demanding the lowest interest-rate premium as compared to government bonds since 2007 is an indication that bond buyers' confidence in corporate America is on the rise. Moreover, according to Dealogic, sales of investment-grade bonds in the US are at their highest rate ever this year. The Journal notes that all of this highlights expectations that the economy will continue to improve.

Companies Setting Aside More Cash For Stock Buybacks. The Washington Post (12/16, Yang, 4.28M) reports that many US multinational companies are returning to the practice of setting aside funds to buyback stocks as a reward to shareholders. The trend, which "took a dip during the recession," has "roared back during the recovery." The Post notes that repurchasing stock reduces "the number of shares outstanding," and as a result, "the value of each one goes up, a way of instantly rewarding shareholders." In addition, repurchases lift "earnings per share, an important number closely watched by investors — and by corporate boards to determine executive pay." The Post notes that analysts say that "when companies spend money on buybacks rather than

investment, they're signaling low hopes for economic growth."

Dow To Open at 15,755 After Second Straight Week Of Losses. ABC World News (12/15, story 5, 0:25, Muir, 7.43M) reported that the Dow will open Monday "at 15,755, after losing just under 257 points for the week" in its "second-straight week of losses."

Experts Say That Despite Risks, Stocks Look Promising For 2014. USA Today (12/16, Shell, 5.82M) reports that the five investment strategists and portfolio managers who took part in its annual Investment Roundtable said that while the stock market, which is "on track for its biggest gain in 10 years, has put up championship-like numbers this year," the ability of Wall Street in 2014 "to deliver a 'two-peat,' or back-to-back years of 20% gains, is far from a slam dunk." Savita Subramanian, head of US equity and quantitative strategy at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, said, "The stock returns in 2014 will be positive, but less than what we've seen over the past couple of years." Russ Koesterich, global chief investment strategist at BlackRock, noted that a new risk "is if U.S. economic growth picks up too fast." Said Koesterich, "Markets will likely have to adjust to a more dramatic rise in rates and less accommodation from the Fed."

Summers Makes Case For Preempting Structural Stagnation. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (12/16, Summers, 4.28M), former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers notes the possibility of "secular stagnation," in which the "U.S. and other major global economies might not return to full employment and strong growth without the help of unconventional policy support." Summers argues that the "risk of financial instability provides yet another reason why preempting structural stagnation is profoundly important." The online version of the Post runs the piece under the headline, "Stagflation Is Not Our Fate — Unless We Let It Be," but Summers is describing how to avoid a low-growth, low-inflation state, rather than a low-growth, high-inflation equilibrium suggested in the headline.

LITTLE ACTIVITY EXPECTED IN SENATE'S FINAL SESSION WEEK OF 2013. The New York Times (12/16, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Senate will spend "the vast amount of time" in this, its final session week of the year, "doing nothing in particular." After its first vote at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, the rest of the week, "during which the Senate will take up the pending bills and a group of presidential nominations, seems certain to be bogged down with the kind of hurry-up-and-wait limbo that has consumed most working weeks in the Senate this year." The Times notes that in 2013, the Senate is near "its recorded lows for days on the floor," having spent "casting votes so far this year, close to the recent low point for a nonelection year in 1991 when there were just 95 voting days." As a result, "many of the most pressing questions of domestic and foreign policy remain at loose ends."

In an op-ed for USA Today (12/16, Mann, 5.82M), Windsor Mann, editor of "The Quotable Hitchens: From Alcohol to Zionism," casts Congress's inaction this year as a positive, noting that of the laws it has passed this year, "most are frivolous." Mann argues that "less from the government is more for the citizen." While Congress "should be embarrassed for passing the Helium Stewardship Act," we are "fortunate that is the only gas it passed."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Medicaid Outpaces Private Plans."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (12/16, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes that despite the "botched start," enrollment in health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act "has accelerated greatly." The greatest gains are in Medicaid programs. The Times calls the number of people predicted to sign up "surprisingly robust given the start-up troubles." The paper acknowledges that glitches in the systems remain, but Administration officials hope the problems will be addressed "in time to accommodate an upsurge in applications as the enrollment period runs on to the end of March."

"The Blackhole Of Terrorist Watch Lists." In an editorial, the New York Times (12/16, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) cites the case of Dr. Rahinah Ibrahim, who is challenging losing her visa after being "mistakenly" put on the no-fly list, in calling for reform of "the vast and secret world of terrorism watch lists." Given the "shrouded and unaccountable system," the Times argues that the courts "can do only so much to limit both honest mistakes and unchecked abuse." Currently, getting off such a list takes "a long, obscure process" that involves "appealing to the authorities responsible for creating the list in the first place." The paper calls legislation

making "it easier for people to challenge their inclusion" as well as forcing "the government to either defend its decision or correct the error."

"Big Tobacco Bullies." An editorial in the New York Times (12/16, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) criticizes "Big Tobacco" for "using trade and investment agreements to challenge and intimidate" developing countries as they try to "regulate cigarettes by, for example, requiring warning labels." The Times argues that while trade agreements and investment treaties "are meant to make it easier to do business internationally," they "should not serve as means by which corporations undermine legitimate public health regulations." Noting that US officials negotiating a trade agreement with 11 Pacific Rim countries plan to include language "to protect those nations from legal challenges by tobacco companies," the Times says those protections "must be ironclad and should include provisions to penalize companies that bring frivolous and harassing lawsuits." The Times also calls on governments worldwide to "add similar provisions to existing trade and investment agreements to stop the tobacco industry's bullying of sovereign governments."

"Safe Speeds On Commuter Rail." An editorial in the New York Times (12/16, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) notes the continuing "search for ways to ensure greater safety on commuter trains" following the deaths of four people on Dec. 1 "as a Metro-North train sped into a treacherous turn in the Bronx at 82 miles per hour when the maximum speed should have been 30 miles per hour." The Times says Sens. Chuck Schumer and Richard Blumenthal have "recommended that the M.T.A. install video and audio monitoring systems on all passenger trains," which the NTSB recommended in 2008 after a California collision that killed 25 people. Noting that the MTA "has delayed this change, citing costs of $900 million, wariness from unions about the effect on jobs and technical issues," the Times calls on New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to "help finance improvements," and notes that bringing in "the big money will be the job of Mr. Schumer and Mr. Blumenthal and their colleagues in Washington."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Mexico: Ready For Takeoff."*** The Washington Post (12/16, 4.28M), in an editorial, praises Mexico and its President, Pena Nieto, for moving forward with legislation to open Mexico's oil industry to foreign companies. The Post calls the legislation "a historic breakthrough that positions Mexico to restore its place as a major oil producer, attract billions in investment and modernize its economy." The Post adds that when compared to the US Congress' "minimalist bipartisan deal on the budget, Mexico demonstrated how a more functional democracy can tackle a nation's biggest and most sensitive problems." Nieto's lackluster opinion polls illustrate the "courage" needed to institute the change and "the payoff will mostly be in the longer term," the Post says.

"Cleanup On The Inside." The Washington Post (12/16, 4.28M) argues the Maryland legislature should initiate "ambitious changes" to "recent happenings at the Baltimore City Detention Center, where a joint federal-state investigation revealed a virtual takeover of the facility by violent inmate gang members and corrupt correctional officers." The Post states the commission, charged with proposing solutions, did not go far enough with its recommendations, which included replacing the "decrepit and dangerous" facility, hiring new officers, instituting new training, and increasing security procedures. FBI wiretaps indicated "corrupt guards felt protected by the elaborate procedural protections against administrative discipline," according to the Post. The Post recommends "rebuilding management's power to discipline unionized correctional officers," including "extending the period for which an officer may be suspended pending investigation."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Exporting American Oil."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/16, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) praises Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz's for demonstrating "common sense" by stating the "US may need to reconsider its 40-year ban on most oil exports." The Journal quotes Moniz as saying, "Those restrictions on exports were born, as was the Department of Energy and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, on oil disruptions. There are lots of issues in the energy space that deserve some new analysis and examination in the context of what is now an energy world that is no longer like the 1970s." The Journal argues that oil exports "would help with the US trade balance" and "allow energy markets to operate more efficiently." The export ban is characterized as "an example of a self-defeating resource nationalism that hurts US investment and the living standards of American workers" and "an obstacle to America's energy renaissance."

"Leading From The Front In Ukraine." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (12/16, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) praises the Obama Administration's professed support for protesters in Ukraine. The Journal notes that the while the reasons for the Administration's change of heart are uncertain, it may be due to a recognition that

Russian President Vladimir Putin's aims are bad for the US. In any case, the Journal adds, the change is welcome.

"California's Prison Break." The Wall Street Journal (12/16, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues in an editorial that the US Supreme Court unconstitutionally "usurped the powers of the executive and legislative branches" and endangered public safety in 2011 when it "reaffirmed a lower-court mandate that California cut its prison population" as a remedy for "providing an unconstitutional level of health care" to prisoners in the overcrowded system. Following the decision, California began sending nonviolent felons to county jails, which "coped with the influx by releasing inmates early and placing more felons on probation and house arrest. As a result about 18,000 offenders are free who would otherwise be behind bars." The Journal cites a Public Policy Institute of California study that found "robust evidence" that property crime increased, "estimating one or two more such crimes per year for each offender not incarcerated."

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Solid Growth For US Likely In 2014
Tailor Suits Them Just Fine
Gaping Void For South Africa
'Lawrence Of Arabia' Launched Epic Career
Tribal Plan Roils Santa Ynez Valley

Wall Street Journal:
Saudi Royal Blasts US's Mideast Policy
GOP Incumbents Lean On Donors
New Medicines Emerge, But Few Blockbusters
For Delhi Cop, Tradition Overwhelms Badge

New York Times:
China Focusing Graft Inquiry On Ex-Official
Sheriffs Refuse To Enforce Laws On Gun Control
Going Out With Building Boom, Mayor Pushes Billions In Projects
More Retailers See Haggling As A Price Of Doing Business
GOP Firebrands Tone Down Their Message And Run Again
Peter O'Toole, Star Of 'Lawrence of Arabia,' Is Dead At 81

Washington Post:
December 7th. December 8th.
Mandela Buried In A Solemn And Joyful Ceremony
The Printed Word Still Has Its Own Electricity
Companies Pour Cash Into Buybacks Of Their Own Stock
A Year After Bus Attack, Gang Rapes In India Go On

Financial Times:
EU Bank Wind-Up Plans Run Into Web Of Red-Tape
RSA To Hold Talks On Credit Rating
JCB Chairman Warns On Results
Buyout Firms Back LatAm Infrastructure
Google's Running Machines Join Robot Race
Credit Suisse Funds Bank Software Marketplace

Washington Times:
Proponents Of Air Support Fight To Save The 'Warthog'
Ryan Pitches To Conservatives As Budget Deal Heads To Senate

Fuel Technology's Thirst For Water Threatens To Cause Energy Crisis
Amid Tragedy And Raging Debate, Americans Cling To Views On Guns
Railroad Safety Agency Stretched Thin, GAO Says
DMV Study Recommends Fitness Tests For Aging Drivers

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Weather; NASA-ISS Space Walk; Colorado-Shootings; Arizona Wildfire-Hot Shots; Economy-Dow Drop; Mandela-Resting Place; China-Moon Rover; Polygamy Ruling; Pope Francis
CBS: Preempted By Football
NBC: Colorado School Shooting; NFL-Traumatic Brain Injuries; Severe Weather; Syria-Refugees; South Africa-Mandela Funeral; White House-Press Access

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Colorado-School Shootings; O'Toole Death; Florida-Tornado; Severe Weather; Mandela-Final Resting
CBS: Actors' Deaths; Mandela-Final Resting; China-Moon Rover; China-Police Station Attack
NPR: Senate-Budget Deal; NY Train Crash-Safety Regulations; Eurozone-Ireland Bailout Exit; Fontaine Death; Egypt-Constitution Vote; Middle East-Weather; Movie Rating-The Hobbit
FOX: Actors' Deaths; Lottery-Possible Mega Millions Record

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No Scheduled Events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA—Visits the Children's National Medical Center in Washington DC; visits children on a tour and thanks the Center's staff for their work, closed press; reads to children and takes their questions in the Center's atrium, open press.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: 11 a.m. — The House will meet in a pro forma session.

1:30 p.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – FIELD HEARING — "ObamaCare Implementation: Who are the Navigators?" Location: Eisemann Center, Richardson, Texas.
Other: JUVENILE JUSTICE — 12:30 p.m. Models for Change hosts their 8th annual National Working Conference on Juvenile Justice. Highlights include: Scott Budnick, Executive Producer of "The Hangover discusses juvenile justice at annual convening juvenile detention experts, practitioners after announcing last week his "retirement from film for juvenile/social justice. Pat Nolan of Prison Fellowship Ministries to address audience Monday, 3:45p; Robert Listenbee, Dept. of Justice Ofc of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention to address audience Tuesday 10:10 am. Location: MacArthur Foundation Models for Change Annual Conference, 2401 M Street, NW Fairmont Hotel, Georgetown. Sen. Ron Wyden--9:15 a.m. Delivers a keynote speech. Location: Georgetown Conference Center.

COMMERCE SECRETARY – TWITTER CHAT — 2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker (@CommerceSec) will be hosting a Twitter chat. She will be taking questions about the Departments Open for Business agenda.

ATTORNEY GENERAL – INVESTITURE CEREMONY — 3:30 p.m. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver remarks at the investiture ceremony for U.S. Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces Kevin Ohlson. Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole will also attend. Location: U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, 450 E Street, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Well, this week, as you know, President Obama attended Nelson Mandela's memorial service in South Africa. Hundreds of world leaders were there. President Obama said it felt strange to listen to these world leaders in person rather than eavesdropping on their phone calls."

Jay Leno: "A right wing Texas Congressman, a US Senate candidate, a guy named Steve Stockman, he said more people have chlamydia than have signed up for Obamacare. You know what Obamacare and chlamydia have in common? You can't get either one online. Actually, that's not a legitimate comparison. To be fair, there's no fine for not getting chlamydia."

Jimmy Fallon: "Everybody's in the holiday spirit, except President Obama and Joe Biden. Joe Biden said this week that he and President Obama do not exchange Christmas gifts. You know, because whenever Obama gets Biden a present, he just winds up playing with the box."

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BISON CONNECT

Priorities document for OMB

Haze, Pam <pam_haze@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Dec 16, 2013 at 6:38 PM
To: Rhea Suh <Rhea_Suh@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Holley <Amy_Holley@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, "Jewell, Sally" (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>

Attached is the revised document including the changes we discussed and the attachment.

(b) (5) [redacted] Sorry for the confusion.

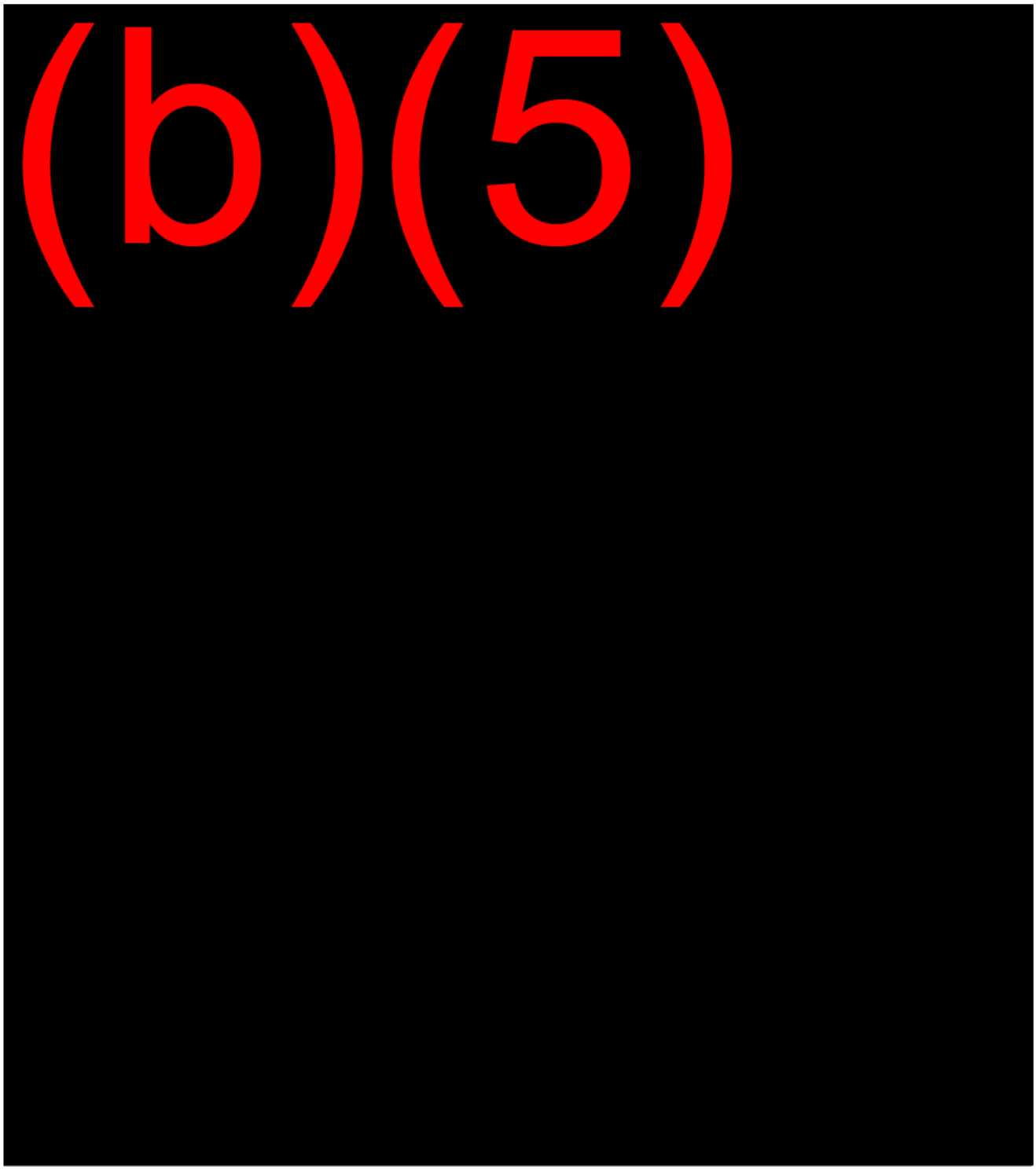
2014 Priorities for Director Burwell.docx
22K

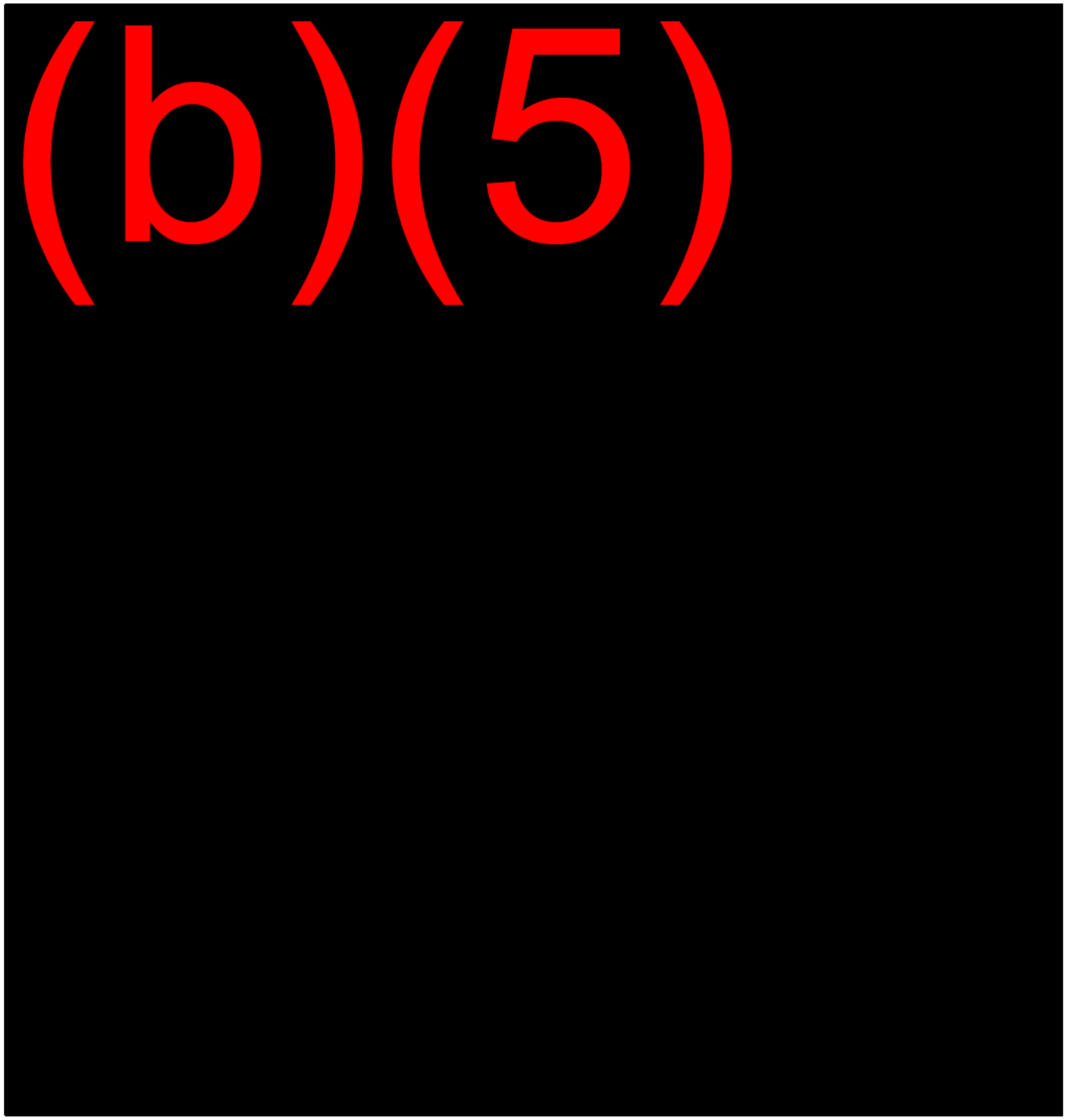
Memorandum

To: Sylvia Burwell

From: Sally Jewell

Subject: FY 2014 Appropriations





Thank you so much for soliciting our input for the 2014 budget. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss these matters in more detail.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Attachment

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR – LEGISLATIVE RIDERS

Legislative Riders – (b) (5) [redacted]

- **Greater Sage Grouse –** (b)(5) [redacted]

Priorities document for Interior

Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Mon, Dec 16, 2013 at 6:47 PM
To: Sylvia Burwell <Sylvia_M_Burwell@omb.eop.gov>, Sylvia Burwell <SBurwell@omb.eop.gov>
Cc: Davis Laura <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Dear Sylvia -

Attached is the priorities document for Interior. Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in with some fast input. Please call if I can provide any more clarity.

Warmly,

Sally

2014 Priorities for Director Burwell.docx
22K

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Dec 17, 2013 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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+ Senate Committees To Consider Interior, Energy Picks.
+ US To Launch Offshore Wind Lease Auction Off Maryland.
+ Secretary Jewell Praises Federal-State Sage Grouse Teamwork.
+ Interior Moves Forward With IT Reform Despite Budget Cuts.
+ PILT Program Not Funded Through Federal Budget Proposal.
+ White House Monitoring Rosemont Mine Progress.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

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+ Former NPS Employee Guilty Of Dumping Sewage At Mount Rainer.
+ NPS Recommends Delay In Crissy Field Plans.
+ Emerald View Park To Receive Support From Rivers, Trails, And Conservation Assistance Program.
+ Water Spring In New River Gorge Closed.
+ Conservation Groups Partner To Preserve Harpers Ferry Land.
+ Study Finds Yellowstone Magma Much Larger Than Thought.
+ Additional Coverage Of Manhattan Project National Park.

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+ Logging Trade Group Issues New Wilderness Policy.
+ Commission To Prepare To Give Sage Grouse Comment.
+ Deal Will Have Marines, Public Sharing Access.

Fish and Wildlife Service:
+ FWS Holds Public Meeting On Shooting Barred Owls.
+ Additional Coverage: Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Recommends Lifting Yellowstone Grizzly Protections.

US Geological Survey:
+ USGS Study Finds Rare Desert Tortoise Threatened By Drought.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:
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+ White Sands Land Swap Included In Defense Bill.
+ Cape Wind Construction Begins, Should Make Tax Deadline.

Offshore Energy Development:
+ Supreme Court Passes On Review Of Interior's Decision To Impose Drilling Moratorium.
+ Jury Begins Deliberating In Former BP Engineer's Obstruction Trial.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:
+ BOR Study Says Santa Ana River Watershed Faces Climate Change Challenges.
+ Additional Coverage Of Bay Delta Conservation Plan.
+ Red Willow Dam Reconstruction Is "Essentially Complete".

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+ Tribal Leaders Wary of Lobbyists' Attendance at Tribal Nations Conference.
+ Supreme Court Declines To Hear Dispute Over Grand Canyon Skywalk.
+ Court Lifts Temporary Ban On Horse Slaughter.
+ Man Gets Life For Killing Two Children On Spirit Lake Reservation.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
+ Federal Judge: NSA Surveillance Violates The Fourth Amendment.
+ Support For Budget Deal Growing Ahead Of Tuesday's Senate Vote.

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+ Washington Post.
+ Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:
+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:
+ Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SENATE DEMOCRATS URGE SECRETARY JEWELL TO ABANDON ALASKA DRILLING PLANS. The E&E Daily (12/16) reports that Senate Democrats are urging Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "forgo new oil and gas lease sales and drilling permits in the Arctic Ocean until the agency conducts a thorough review of environmental and safety risks." The legislators "aired their concerns in a Thursday letter to Jewell, whose Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is deciding whether to offer new lease sales in the Chukchi Sea in 2016 and the Beaufort Sea in 2017." The senators wrote, "The Department of Interior's proposals to allow drilling activity in the Arctic Ocean have generated significant controversy and litigation, with opposition from local communities, members of Congress, scientists, the conservation community and the American people. An update to current regulations, including oversight of the use of newly granted authority over Arctic air pollution, is needed to ensure that adequate oversight, spill plans and environmental safeguards are in place before any new leasing and exploration activities occur in this sensitive environment."

The National Journal (12/17, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that the letter to Jewell from Sens. Jeff Merkley, Dick Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara Boxer, Edward Markey., and Bernie Sanders "points to Shell's mishap-laden 2012 effort to begin exploration off Alaska's coast." The letter stated, "The myriad problems faced last year by Shell Oil Company as it attempted to drill exploration wells in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas

demonstrated the unpredictability, harsh conditions, and heightened potential for human error that characterize any industrial activity in the Arctic Ocean."

Also reporting on the story is the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (12/17, 194K).

Sen. Begich Opposes Delays On Oil Leases. The Alaska Native News (12/17, 245) reports that Sen. Mark Begich "pushed back on his Democratic colleagues in the Senate, calling their appeal to delay Arctic development shortsighted, misinformed and misguided."

In a statement, Begich said, "I'm disappointed – although not surprised – to see several Senate Democrats request that the government delay oil and gas leasing in the Arctic and order a review of existing operations. If they had done their homework, they would know the Department of the Interior has already conducted a thorough review of Arctic offshore oil and gas operations and regulations earlier this year, and the department is busy putting additional safeguards in place."

Also reporting on the story are KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (12/17, 4K) and KTVF-TV Fairbanks, AK (12/17, 338).

US Likely To Hit Crude Production Record By 2016. The Wall Street Journal (12/16, Bird, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the US is set to top its record for crude-oil production by 2016, which is generating a debate over whether the nation should allow the free export of crude oil. The US has limited the exports of crude since the oil crisis of 1973. In addition, an analyst argues in the piece that it could force down the price of oil sharply.

McClatchy (12/16, Cockerham, 95K) reports that the Energy Information Agency is "dramatically increasing its production forecast in response to the shale revolution." In its Annual Energy Outlook, released Monday, the EIA "projects U.S. oil production will increase to 9.5 million barrels a day in 2016, near the all-time high set in the boom of 1970." While the report sees limits on the total US crude production, "it sees no end to skyrocketing natural gas production."

The New York Times (12/17, Krauss, Reed, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that the EIA report projects that US production "would contribute to a decline in the world oil benchmark price over the next few years from a 2012 average of $112 a barrel to $92 a barrel in 2017, which should translate into lower prices at the pump for consumers." A separate report released Monday, this one from the International Energy Agency, projects that "global consumption of coal, a major source of the greenhouse gases blamed for rising global temperatures and other pollutants, is likely to continue to grow at 'a relentless pace' through 2018."

USA Today (12/17, Koch, 5.82M) reports that EIA Administrator Adam Sieminski wrote, "Advanced technologies for crude oil and natural gas production are continuing to increase domestic supply and reshape the U.S. energy economy as well as expand the potential for U.S. natural gas exports." The "energy bonanza" is mainly due to "the combined use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing or fracking," though fracking "faces growing criticism as some scientists link leftover fracking fluids to groundwater contamination."

SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONSIDER INTERIOR, ENERGY PICKS. The E&E Daily (12/16) reports that Senate committees "this week plan to hold hearings and votes on several Interior and Energy department nominees, teeing up their potential confirmation in the new year." The Energy and Natural Resources Committee "tomorrow will hold a hearing on nominees to fill two of Interior's top energy and land management posts." Janice Schneider has been nominated as assistant secretary for land and minerals management, and Neil Komze has been nominated as director of the BLM. Also tomorrow, the Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on Rhea Suh, the President Obama's nominee for Interior assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks.

Meanwhile, Bloomberg News (12/17, 1.91M) reports that Senate Majority Harry Reid said "filed to end debate" on nominations including Mike Connor to be the deputy Interior secretary.

Also covering the story are Politico (12/17, Guillen, 467K), Roll Call (12/17, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K), and the National Journal (12/17, Subscription Publication, 427K).

US TO LAUNCH OFFSHORE WIND LEASE AUCTION OFF MARYLAND. The reNews (12/17) reports that "the United States is expected to launch an offshore wind lease auction for an up to 1.2GW site off Maryland tomorrow, the country's third such sale for development along the mid-Atlantic coast." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau will join Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley in Baltimore on 17 December to announce the next steps. The officials are "expected to unveil a proposed sale notice that includes lease provisions and auction details on the area about 10 miles east of Ocean City."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Post (12/17, 4.28M), the Columbus (IN) Republic (12/17, 80K), and the Offshore Wind (12/17).

SECRETARY JEWELL PRAISES FEDERAL-STATE SAGE GROUSE TEAMWORK. The Mineweb (12/17, 114) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Thursday "praised unprecedented federal-state cooperation on planning efforts to conserve the greater sage grouse." However she "emphasized that much work still needs to be done by the federal government and the states in advance of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's September 2015 deadline to determine if the grouse warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act." During a meeting with the Western Governors Association in Las Vegas, Jewell noted, "Thanks to our partnership with the states throughout the range of the greater sage grouse, we have made tremendous progress analyzing and planning landscape-level strategies that could lessen the threats to the bird and conserve its sagebrush habitat." "At the same time, we are not yet where we need to be and it is time for both the states and federal government to redouble our efforts so that we can have effective conservation efforts in place before a listing determination must be made."

INTERIOR MOVES FORWARD WITH IT REFORM DESPITE BUDGET CUTS. The Federal Times (12/16, 120K) reports that the Interior Department "aims to shed redundant IT programs and invest more in innovative and forward-looking IT programs." The department "kick-started a multibillion dollar IT modernization effort in 2011 that is expected to save the agency $100 million a year from 2016 to 2020." Andrew Jackson, Interior's deputy assistant secretary for technology, information and business services, discussed "the challenges facing the agency and how Interior intends to invest in its IT future."

PILT PROGRAM NOT FUNDED THROUGH FEDERAL BUDGET PROPOSAL. The Billings (MT) Gazette (12/17, 206K) reports that the Department of the Interior's Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program is not funded through the bipartisan federal budget proposal. On Friday, Sen. John Barrasso's office issued a statement saying Barrasso would "urge Washington to focus on funding the PILT program." Sen. Mike Enzi's office also "called for the continuation of the program Friday."

Also providing coverage is the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/17, 90K).

WHITE HOUSE MONITORING ROSEMONT MINE PROGRESS. The Arizona Daily Star (12/17, 335K) reports that the White House is "informally involved in the contentious Rosemont Mine issue," Coronado Forest Supervisor Jim Upchurch said. At a news conference, Upchurch said that the White House's Council on Environmental Quality is, "in a sense, acting as a referee among various federal agencies that have taken different positions on the mine." Upchurch, referring to the EPA, the BLM and the NPS, said, "We are having substantive discussions with CEQ and other entities."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

FORMER NPS EMPLOYEE GUILTY OF DUMPING SEWAGE AT MOUNT RAINER. The E&E Daily (12/16) reports that a former NPS employee was "found guilty last week of violating the Clean Water Act after dumping about 180,000 gallons of minimally treated sewage into a river at Mount Rainer National Park." James Barber "initially accepted a plea bargain, in which he would have pled guilty to a misdemeanor and given up his certification to operate a wastewater facility." However, "he withdrew that plea before sentencing and opted for a trial in the US District Court for the Western District of Washington." His sentencing is scheduled for March 14.

NPS RECOMMENDS DELAY IN CRISSY FIELD PLANS. The San Francisco Chronicle (12/17, King, 2.88M)

reports that the NPS has issued a "strong recommendation" that "long-term plans for the former commissary building on Mason Street across from Crissy Field should be delayed several years," General Superintendent Frank Dean wrote in a letter last week to the Presidio Trust. Dean wrote, "The proper stewardship of the Presidio merits taking a long view. With the many improvements already approved and planned, such as the new tunnel top parklands ... there is wisdom in allowing these new uses to settle in before selecting a major new use and tenant for the Commissary site."

EMERALD VIEW PARK TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. The South Pittsburgh Reporter (12/17) reports that Emerald View Park has been chosen to receive assistance from the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program "to assist with identifying best practices for steep hillside trails, fund-finding, developing a trail use survey strategy, community involvement and consensus for a signage plan." The article notes that Emerald View Park is "one of 11 projects accepted in Pennsylvania."

WATER SPRING IN NEW RIVER GORGE CLOSED. The Charleston (WV) Gazette (12/17, 154K) reports that "a spring in the New River Gorge National River that has been used as a home drinking water source for decades is being closed by the National Park Service, after tests showed its water contains high levels of arsenic, mercury and coliform bacteria." Although Ajax Spring had "previously been posted as a non-potable water source, NPS officials were concerned that local residents were continuing to the spring for household use." Park Superintendent Trish Kicklighter said, "Because we are aware the public uses the spring, we were required to test it during a recent mandatory audit. When the test results were reviewed by the National Park Service Public Health Inspector, he recommended closing the spring."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (12/17).

CONSERVATION GROUPS PARTNER TO PRESERVE HARPERS FERRY LAND. The Washington Post (12/17, 4.28M) reports that "two conservation groups are joining forces to preserve battlefield land at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park." The Civil War Trust and the National Parks Conservation Association said "the public-private partnership will protect nearly four acres at the site." The article notes that "the purchase was financed by federal funds, a major gift from an anonymous donor and a number of smaller private donations."

STUDY FINDS YELLOWSTONE MAGMA MUCH LARGER THAN THOUGHT. The Washington Post (12/16, Press, 4.28M) reports that "the hot molten rock beneath Yellowstone National Park is 2 ½ times larger than previously estimated, meaning the park's supervolcano has the potential to erupt with a force about 2,000 times the size of Mount St. Helens, according to a new study." By measuring seismic waves from earthquakes, researchers were "able to map the magma chamber underneath the Yellowstone caldera as 55 miles long, lead author Jamie Farrell of the University of Utah said Monday."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL PARK. Additional coverage of the proposed Manhattan Project National Park was provided by Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/17, 288K).

Bureau of Land Management:

SENATE PANEL TO VOTE ON SEN. WYDEN'S LOGGING BILL. The E&E Daily (12/16) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will mark up Sen. Ron Wyden's S. 1301 on Thursday. Wyden's bill would "promote commercial forestry projects on tens of thousands of acres annually in eastern Oregon, while setting first-ever statutory protections for old-growth trees and streams." The Obama Administration "in July said it supports the bill but that it may not have the resources to treat as much land as the bill envisions."

LOGGING TRADE GROUP ISSUES NEW WILDERNESS POLICY. The E&E Daily (12/16) reports that "Congress should not designate new wilderness until it streamlines environmental reviews on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management timberlands, a national logging coalition said." The Federal Forest Resource Coalition, a trade group representing 650 wood products companies in 28 states, said "it would support new wilderness bills as long as Congress overhauls management of the 28 percent of national forests it said are suitable for timber production." For instance, the group suggested that "Congress should expedite the National Environmental Policy Act, streamline administrative and judicial reviews, and designate timber harvests as the

land management objective on those acres of forests."

COMMISSION TO PREPARE TO GIVE SAGE GROUSE COMMENT. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (12/17, 22K) reports that "even though one commissioner expressed distrust in federal agencies' scoping process, the county is planning to participate." Commissioner Grant Gerber was "critical Wednesday at an informal open-house meeting hosted by the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service regarding a proposed sage-grouse conservation plan." Gerber said he believed the BLM had "already decided on a strategy and comments weren't likely to help shape the record of decision, which the agencies hope to finalize by September." However, "on Thursday, the county commission will review the document in order to submit an informed comment before the Jan. 29 deadline."

DEAL WILL HAVE MARINES, PUBLIC SHARING ACCESS. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (12/16, 110K) reports that support from Sen. Dianne Feinstein may "have helped seal a compromise between off-roaders and the U.S. Marine Corps, ensuring that more than half of Johnson Valley's 188,000 acres of prime off-roading trails and desert vistas will remain open to the public most of the year." Rep. Paul Cook "recently announced the deal that would limit an expansion of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms into the valley to 88,130 acres and create a federally designated off-roading area on the remaining 99,690 acres." The article notes that "the deal, part of the National Defense Authorization Act the House passed late Thursday, would also allow the Marines to use 56,439 acres of the off-roading area for combat training up to 60 days a year but limits the kind of live ammunition that can be fired during combat exercises."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON SHOOTING BARRED OWLS. The Oregon Public Broadcasting (12/17, 4K) reports that "more than 60 people came to the Douglas County Library to hear" the FWS' "rationale for testing whether shooting non-native barred owls will bolster populations of the smaller spotted owl." Umpqua Valley Audubon Society President Diana Wales said "she was more comfortable about removing barred owls after hearing" FWS biologist Robin Bown's presentation. Wales said, "I am supportive of the project because I think, like so many things in life, we find ourselves in an extremely difficult situation with limited options. I appreciated (Bown) helping everyone in the audience walk through our own values and how our values consciously and non-consciously affect how we feel about these things."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY BEAR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS LIFTING YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY PROTECTIONS. Additional coverage of the recommendation by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee that Endangered Species Act protections be lifted for the grizzly bears in the Yellowstone National Park was provided by the Helena (MT) Independent Record (12/17, 45K) and the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (12/16, 506).

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY FINDS RARE DESERT TORTOISE THREATENED BY DROUGHT. The E&E Daily (12/16) reports that "worsening drought conditions are threatening to wipe out a rare tortoise species in California," according to a new report. A report by the USGS that was published in the online journalBiological Conservation found that "extreme drought brought on by climate change is harming the Agassiz's desert tortoise population in Joshua Tree National Park."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND FARM RULE SEEKS TO BALANCE ENERGY PRODUCTION AND WILDLIFE. The New York Times (12/16, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports on the new Obama Administration rule that allows "wind farms to lawfully kill bald and golden eagles under 30-year permits." Environmentalists are unhappy with the regulation calling it a "blank check" after having hoped for a rule that was regionally based and "that reflects how they live and where they travel." The 30-year rule replaces the 5-year permitting process put in place in 2009,

though the new rule "includes federal reviews every five years to assess whether sufficient measures are being taken to make sure eagles are being conserved." Daniel M. Ashe, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said that the service "would issue a permit only if a wind developer had minimized the risk to eagles through its choice of location and the design of the project, among other variables," including regional thresholds.

Meanwhile, the Indian Country Today Media Network (12/17, 21K) reports that the Osage "reacted strongly to Obama's rule change announcement and said the President should know better." Assistant Principal Chief Scott N. Bighorse said, "President Obama knows how important eagle feathers are to us: He was adopted into the Crow Nation and was adorned with a full war bonnet containing eagle feathers from head to toe."

WHITE SANDS LAND SWAP INCLUDED IN DEFENSE BILL. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (12/17, 59K) reports that the 2014 fiscal year National Defense Authorization Act, which authorizes spending for the Defense Department, has been approved by the House and includes a provision that will expand the buffer zone surrounding the White Sands Test Facility. The legislation provides for transferring 5,100 acres of land near White Sands from the Bureau of Land Management to the Army. The transfer was in legislation pushed in the Senate by Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich.

Also providing coverage are the El Paso (TX) Times (12/17, By Steve Ramirez Sramirez@lcsun-news.com @, Twitter, 247K) and the Albuquerque (NM) Business First (12/17).

CAPE WIND CONSTRUCTION BEGINS, SHOULD MAKE TAX DEADLINE. Bloomberg News (12/16, Goossens, 1.91M) reports that construction has begun of some components related to Cape Wind, Massachusetts' long-planned offshore wind farm. The construction should meet "the requirements for the investment tax credit," according to Siemens Energy's Markus Tacke. The ITC, which requires construction to begin by Jan. 1 to qualify for it, could save up $780 million for the Cape Wind project. However, activists like Audra Parker of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, believe the project still will not be completed "because of the legal and financial challenges."

Offshore Energy Development:

SUPREME COURT PASSES ON REVIEW OF INTERIOR'S DECISION TO IMPOSE DRILLING MORATORIUM. The E&E Daily (12/16) reports that the Interior Department will "escape being held in contempt of court for suspending offshore drilling after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill as the Supreme Court today declined to review a lower court ruling siding with the agency." According to the article, "several drillers led by Hornbeck Offshore Services LLC asked the justices to review an appeals court ruling that Interior didn't violate terms of a lower court's injunction against enforcing its offshore drilling moratorium." The Supreme Court action leaves the 5th Circuit ruling in place.

Also reporting on the story is Reuters (12/17, Hurley, 17.91M). AP coverage was picked up by the Huffington Post (12/16, 11.54M), the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (12/17, 1.26M), the Boston Herald (12/17), and the New York Daily News (12/17, Press, 3.94M).

JURY BEGINS DELIBERATING IN FORMER BP ENGINEER'S OBSTRUCTION TRIAL. The AP (12/17) reports from New Orleans that a Federal jury on Monday "started weighing whether" former BP engineer Kurt Mix "broke the law or harmlessly swiped his finger across a cellular phone when he deleted hundreds of text messages in the aftermath of the company's massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." Jurors deliberated for more than an hour before asking to go home for the night, and were scheduled to resume deliberations this morning. Federal prosecutors argue that Mix, 52, of Katy, TX, "was trying to destroy evidence when he deleted two strings of text messages – one with a supervisor and another with a BP contractor," but a defense attorney told jurors "that the charges against Mix are 'unfair and baseless' and the product of investigators' 'rank incompetence.'"

Bloomberg News (12/16, Fisk, Lawton, 1.91M) reports that Federal prosecutor Leo Tsao argued that Mix "deleted from his mobile phone text messages and voice mails related to BP's effort to estimate the size of the spill. 'Kurt Mix knew exactly what was on that text message string when he deleted it on Oct. 4 and 5 and intended to obstruct this grand jury investigation,'" Tsao told the jury, adding, "The defendant acted with corrupt intent when he deleted text messages." Mix's attorney, Michael McGovern, told that jury, "The government's theory is pure

nonsense. He doesn't have a corrupt bone in his body."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR STUDY SAYS SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED FACES CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES. The E&E Daily (12/16) reports that the Interior Department of the Interior has said that California's Santa Ana River Watershed "now faces major stress due to climate change and increased water demand." According to a study released last week by the BOR, the watershed is "likely to experience a decrease in surface water supply and a reduction in groundwater availability over the coming century." At the same time, the US Census Bureau "projects that the region's population will grow from 6 million to nearly 10 million within the next half-century." The study states, "In light of climate change, prolonged drought conditions, growth, and population projections, a strong concern exists to ensure there will be adequate water supplies to meet future demand."

Also providing coverage is the Circle of Blue WaterNews (12/17).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The E&E Daily (12/16) reports California Gov. Jerry Brown is "trying again to solve one of the state's most intractable problems, 30 years after his first attempt." The new plan, "released in draft form Monday by his administration, proposes to build two 30-mile tunnels beneath the delta's peaty soil." According to the article, "longtime observers of the California water scene say they are optimistic the new plan will bear fruit, unlike Brown's previous attempt."

Also providing coverage is the Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/16, 749K).

RED WILLOW DAM RECONSTRUCTION IS "ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE". The McCook (NE) Daily Gazette (12/17, 18K) reports that BOR has announced that major repairs to the Red Willow Dam are "essentially complete." The project superintendent, Thor Shriver, said, "The work is essentially complete. Only some fencing and seeding work is left to do."

In an editorial, the McCook (NE) Daily Gazette (12/17, 18K) congratulates the BOR and its contractors for completing major repairs to the Red Willow Dam.

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBAL LEADERS WARY OF LOBBYISTS' ATTENDANCE AT TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE. The Indian Country Today Media Network (12/17, 21K) reports that "nothing happened in Congress in 2012 or in 2013 on a Carcieri fix," and "tribal advocates fear nothing is likely to happen anytime soon, despite a supportive president and administration." Rosemary Morillo, chairwoman of the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, noted that "several attendees at the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference held in D.C. on November 13 were not elected tribal leaders," and "some...were lobbyists," which "alarms her." Morillo said, "Only elected officials of their tribal governments should be invited. Tribal leaders have an interest in their own lands and the people they govern."

SUPREME COURT DECLINES TO HEAR DISPUTE OVER GRAND CANYON SKYWALK. The E&E Daily (12/16) reports that the Supreme Court today "declined to take up a Nevada developer's case against an American Indian tribe over the Grand Canyon Skywalk." The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals has "ruled in favor of the tribe, holding that the company must exhaust all tribal court remedies before filing in federal district court." The developer has "also pursued litigation in those avenues, and those cases are ongoing."

COURT LIFTS TEMPORARY BAN ON HORSE SLAUGHTER. The Indian Country Today Media Network (12/16, 21K) reports that "on Friday, a federal appeals court lifted a temporary ban on horse slaughter in the US, removing barriers for plants to open while a lawsuit by The Humane Society of the United States, Front Range Equine Rescue and others is underway." According to the 10th Circuit judge, the USDA "adhered to proper procedure in issuing permits to Valley Meat Co. in Roswell, New Mexico; Rains Natural Meats of Gallatin, Missouri; and Responsible Transportation in Sigourney, Iowa."

MAN GETS LIFE FOR KILLING TWO CHILDREN ON SPIRIT LAKE RESERVATION. The San Francisco Chronicle (12/17, 2.88M) reports that "a man convicted of stabbing to death two young children on the Spirit Lake

Indian Reservation in North Dakota was sentenced Monday to life in prison without parole." According to the article, "a federal jury in September found Valentino 'Tino' Bagola, 20, guilty of the May 2011 slayings of 9-year-old Destiny Shaw-Dubois and her 6-year-old brother, Travis DuBois Jr., of St. Michael." On Monday, US District Judge Ralph R. Erickson in Fargo sentenced Bagola "to life in prison on each of two counts of first-degree murder."

Top National News:

FEDERAL JUDGE: NSA SURVEILLANCE VIOLATES THE FOURTH AMENDMENT. Federal Judge Richard Leon's ruling on Monday that the NSA is violating the Fourth Amendment generated a great deal of analysis portraying President Obama and his Administration as the clear losers in the case.

For instance, on ABC World News (12/16, lead story, 1:55, Sawyer, 7.43M), Jonathan Karl reported that the President "has long said the program and another that tracks information on email is a critical tool in keeping the country safe." President Obama was shown saying, "We've saved lives. We know of at least 50 threats that have been averted because of this information." But Karl noted that Leon concluded that "there is an utter lack of evidence that a terrorist attack has ever been prevented" by the NSA's surveillance.

The New York Times (12/17, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial titled, "A Powerful Rebuke Of Mass Surveillance," says Leon's ruling is "an enormous symbolic victory for opponents of the bulk-collection program, and a reminder of the importance of the adversarial process." Eugene Robinson, in his column for the Washington Post (12/17, Robinson, 4.28M), dismisses as "patronizing talk" the President's repeated offers to discuss the proper scope of the NSA's surveillance. Robinson says the President's "subtext...is clear: Get over it."

This morning's reports contain almost no criticism of the ruling from members of Congress, and a great deal of praise from both Democrats and Republicans. According to Politico (12/17, Everett, 467K), "lawmakers of a broad ideological spectrum came down in favor of Leon's decision on Monday, and there was nary a statement blasted out that defended the NSA."

All three network newscasts led with reports on the ruling, and the three combined devoted more than nine minute of airtime to the story, or about 15% of their broadcasts. Brian Williams, at the opening of NBC Nightly News (12/16, lead story, 3:30, Williams, 7.86M), noted that the Fourth Amendment has its roots in John Adams' "response to the British searching homes and businesses back in colonial times," and then reported that "a Federal judge has ruled the NSA is violating our Fourth Amendment rights when it collects data on phone calls into and from the United States." Correspondent Pete Williams went on to describe the ruling as "a serious legal blow to one of the most controversial practices of the NSA, a once secret program disclosed six months ago by" former NSA contractor Edward Snowden that "gathers logs of every phone number dialed by US phone customers, and dumps it into an enormous database."

On ABC World News (12/16, lead story, 1:55, Sawyer, 7.43M), Jonathan Karl said the ruling "may be the ultimate victory for" Snowden, since the "classified documents he leaked revealed just how much information the NSA collects on Americans and directly led to [Monday's] ruling."

Politico (12/17, Everett, 467K) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden said, "It is an astounding day when a federal judge says a government surveillance practice would leave James Madison 'aghast.'" Sen. Rand Paul said this ruling "reminds the federal government that it is not above the law," and Sen. Richard Blumenthal commented that "when exposed to the sunlight of constitutional scrutiny, this massive secret surveillance program could not stand." The Huffington Post (12/16, Reilly, 11.54M) reports that Sen. Mark Udall, in a statement released Monday, said, "The ruling underscores what I have argued for years: The bulk collection of Americans' phone records conflicts with Americans' privacy rights under the U.S. Constitution and has failed to make us safer."

Asked if the ruling would have been possible absent the leaked material from Snowden, the New York Times' Charlie Savage, appearing on MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show (12/16, 548K), replied, "Without the leak, we wouldn't have known this was happening. ... It took the leak by Edward Snowden to really drive this into the public consciousness and force the government, essentially, to acknowledge what was going on." Nevertheless, on NBC Nightly News (12/16, lead story, 3:30, Williams, 7.86M), Pete Williams reported that the White House

"rejected any idea that [Snowden] be given amnesty in return for ending the leaks."

On ABC World News (12/16, lead story, 1:55, Sawyer, 7.43M), Diane Sawyer said the program deemed unconstitutional has been described by the White House as a "key weapon in the fight against terror."

On the CBS Evening News (12/16, lead story, 3:40, Pelley, 5.58M), correspondent John Miller reported that while Leon "ruled that the NSA should get an individual court order to obtain the records in each case, rather than relying on a massive database," NSA director Gen. Keith Alexander warns "that would present problems for his agency in tracking terrorism suspects." Alexander: "If you don't have the data someplace, you can't search it." The Huffington Post (12/17, Mirkinson, 11.54M) reports that CBS's Miller has been criticized over his reporting on the NSA for Sunday's CBS's 60 Minutes. According to the Huffington Post, "critics dubbed" the segment "obsequious at best."

In the lead story for Fox News' Special Report (12/16, 2.15M), Catherine Herridge reported that "the suit, brought by Larry Klayman of conservative group Freedom Watch against the Obama Administration, challenged the constitutionality of the bulk collection of phone records and the NSA's authority to do so." The AP (12/17, Frommer) says the ruling has "potentially far-reaching consequences" and is "filled with blistering criticism of the Obama administration's arguments." The AP notes that the two plaintiffs are Klayman and Charles Strange, "who is the father of a cryptologist technician who was killed in Afghanistan when his helicopter was shot down in 2011." According to the AP, Strange's son "worked for the NSA and support personnel for Navy SEAL Team VI."

USA Today (12/17, Johnson, 5.82M) notes that Leon, "appointed to the bench by President George W. Bush, issued a preliminary injunction against the program but suspended the order to allow an appeal by the Justice Department." USA Today also reports that DOJ attorney James Gilligan "argued that Klayman lacked standing to bring the case because he could not prove the NSA examined his phone or Internet records." USA Today adds that Gilligan also contended that Leon "could not review the statutory authority granted by Congress under FISA," and that "only the secret courts and the Supreme Court have that power."

The Hill (12/17, Sasso, 194K) reported that Leon "noted that courts have rejected previous challenges to NSA spying because the plaintiffs...were unable to show whether they had actually been monitored." However, according to The Hill, Leon ruled that "because the NSA has now admitted collecting records on all U.S. phone calls, and the plaintiffs are phone subscribers, there can be little doubt that the NSA collected their records." The Washington Times (12/17, Dinan, 417K) reports that Klayman "accused the government of sending false text messages from his phone" as part of his claim to standing.

The New York Times (12/17, A1, Savage, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says Leon "rejected the Obama administration's argument that a 1979 case, Smith v. Maryland, had established there are no Fourth Amendment protections for call metadata" because "the scope of the program and the evolving role of phones and technology, distinguished the bulk collection from the 34-year-old case." According to the Times, "Similar legal challenges to the N.S.A. program, including by the American Civil Liberties Union and the advocacy group Electronic Frontier Foundation, are at earlier stages."

Under the headline, "NSA Phone Spying 'Almost Certainly' Unconstitutional," Judge Says," the Wall Street Journal (12/17, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Leon wrote: "The almost-Orwellian technology that enables the government to store and analyze the phone metadata of every telephone user in the United States is unlike anything that could have been conceived in 1979." Reuters (12/17, Ingram) notes that Leon added, "I cannot imagine a more 'indiscriminate' and 'arbitrary invasion' than this systematic and high-tech collection and retention of personal data on virtually every single citizen."

The New York Times (12/17, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) profiles Leon, describing him as a "conservative." The Times notes that Leon "teaches a course...with" John Podesta, "who will soon become a counselor to President Obama." The Times reports that on Monday, Podesta called Leon "an honorable guy and a straight shooter."

The Washington Post (12/17, Nakashima, Marimow, 4.28M) reports that Leon's "strongly worded decision stands in contrast to the secret deliberations of...the nation's surveillance court, which hears only the government's side of cases and since 2006 has held in a series of classified rulings that the program is lawful." The Post says

Congress is currently "debating whether to end the NSA's 'bulk' collection of phone data or endorse it in statute."

Michael Doyle, in a brief analysis for McClatchy (12/17, Doyle, 95K), says, "It's not a sweeping decision, as it covers only two individuals," and the Los Angeles Times (12/17, Savage, 3.07M) emphasizes that Leon's ruling "will have no immediate impact in stopping the massive data-collection effort." Politico's (12/17, Gerstein, 467K) Josh Gerstein says the preliminary injunction granted by Leon "does not require him to make a definitive ruling on the constitutional questions in the case, but does take account of which side he believes is more likely to prevail."

Bloomberg News (12/17, Harris, 1.91M) reported that on Monday, White House press secretary Jay Carney "said he hadn't seen the ruling and referred questions to the Justice Department." AFP (12/17, Decamme) reports that the NSA "refused to comment" on Monday's ruling. The Daily Caller (12/17, Macri, 422K) covered the ruling a post titled, "In Massive Blow To NSA, Judge Says Phone Spying Likely Unconstitutional."

The Washington Post (12/17, 4.28M), in an editorial, says that "if the government is to" retain "the authorities that officials insist are crucial, it will have to do more to demonstrate why they are essential and how Americans' privacy is being protected."

Obama Mulling NSA Reforms Recommended By Panel He Appointed. Josh Gerstein, in a piece for Politico (12/17, Gerstein, 467K), notes that Leon's ruling "was issued just three days after a review group established by Obama delivered its report proposing more than 40 changes to the federal government's surveillance programs." According to Gerstein, the President "was initially expected to dig through the reform proposals before Christmas," but the White House "now says that process won't be complete until sometime next month." Gerstein goes on to report that the President "has already signaled his plans to impose greater limits on the NSA, but the contours of those changes have only been partially decided."

On the CBS Evening News (12/16, lead story, 3:40, Pelley, 5.58M), CBS's Scott Pelley noted that the President has "put a commission together to look at whether the NSA's practices should be changed," and correspondent john Miller reported that the commission "is going to recommend largely the same thing" that Judge Leon called for in Monday's ruling, which is that the NSA should "stop keeping that massive database."

The Wall Street Journal (12/17, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial this morning, criticizes the bipartisan coalition calling for an end to some of the NSA's surveillance practices. The Journal encourages the President to ignore the recommendations of the commission that he set up to review the NSA if it recommends jettisoning some of the programs that the Journal says are necessary to prevent terrorist attacks.

Snowden Praises Ruling; Greenwald Says Snowden Has Been Vindicated. On CNN's The Situation Room (12/16, 554K), Barbara Starr reported that Snowden released from Moscow a statement reading: "I acted on my belief that the NSA's mass surveillance program would not withstand a constitutional challenge and that the American public deserved a chance to see these issues determined by open courts. Today, a secret program authorized by the secret court was, when exposed to the light of day, found to violate Americans' rights. It is the first of many." The Huffington Post (12/17, Reilly, 11.54M) and USA Today (12/17, Winter, 5.82M) also quote from Snowden's statement.

On CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (12/17, 14.53M), the Guardian's Glenn Greenwald, who worked with Snowden to publish the information he took from the NSA, was asked if Monday's ruling "vindicated" Snowden. Greenwald replied, "How can it not vindicate him?" Greenwald continued, "Here is an American citizen working inside of the government who discovers that the United States government is doing things, without the knowledge of the American people, that is so illegal...that a George Bush-appointed judge said, 'it's not even a close call.'" According to Greenwald, "It is not only the right, but the duty, of an American citizen in Edward Snowden's situation to come forward, at great risk to himself, and inform his fellow citizens about what it is their government is doing in the dark that is illegal."

Obama Meeting With Tech Executives Today. The AP (12/17) reported that on Tuesday, President Obama "will meet...with executives from leading technology companies, including Google, Twitter and Apple." According to the AP, while the White House "says the meeting will focus on efforts to repair" HealthCare.gov and "reforming government information technology," the participants will also discuss "leaks related to National Security

Agency's surveillance programs."

The Wall Street Journal (12/17, A1, Fitzgerald, Ante, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) has a front-page article on content providers, such as Facebook, Amazon and Google, that are building Internet infrastructure to rival that of telecoms.

Reuters (12/17, Holland, Mason) reports that while it is unclear what the President can learn during the meeting with tech CEOs, appearing with them may help convince Americans that he can fix the website's problems. Executives attending the meeting include Apple CEO Tim Cook, Twitter's Dick Costolo, Google's Eric Schmidt, Facebook's Sheryl Sandberg, Netflix's Reed Hastings, Comcast's Brian Roberts, AT&T's Randall Stephenson and LinkedIn's Erika Rottenberg.

Politico (12/17, Meyers, 467K) reports that Tuesday's meeting "marks the first public outreach to Silicon Valley leaders from Apple, Twitter, Facebook, Yahoo and Google." Politico notes that the executives "appear more likely to highlight another issue on the administration's agenda — federal surveillance efforts and the impact on their companies."

USA Today (12/17, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that according to the White House, the President "is expected to talk to the tech officials specifically about the economic impacts of unauthorized intelligence disclosures and how government can help the tech sector to 'grow the economy, create jobs and address issues around income inequality and social mobility.'"

US Officials Have Reportedly Said They Will Not Stop Spying On Germans. The New York Times (12/17, Sanger, Smale, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "nearly two months after President Obama assured" German Chancellor Angela Merkel that the US "would never again target her cellphone, a broader effort to build a new intelligence relationship with Germany is floundering." According to the Times, US officials "have refused to extend the 'no spying' guarantee beyond Ms. Merkel, telling German officials...that if the White House agreed to forgo surveillance on German territory, other partners would insist on the same treatment." An anonymous "senior German official" is quoted as saying, "[National Security Adviser] Susan Rice has been very clear to us. The U.S. is not going to set a precedent."

SUPPORT FOR BUDGET DEAL GROWING AHEAD OF TUESDAY'S SENATE VOTE. The New York Times (12/17, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that ahead of Tuesday's Senate vote on the compromise budget plan, support for the measure grew Monday "as Republicans concluded they could not allow a measure that passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support to die in Congress's upper chamber." On Monday, Sens. Orrin Hatch, Johnny Isakson, and Saxby Chambliss announced their support for the measure, which appears "to give it more than the 60 votes it would need to overcome a filibuster threat and bring it to a final vote." Four other Republicans, Sens. John McCain, Jeff Flake, Susan Collins, and Ron Johnson, have said they would vote to end debate on the measure.

The AP (12/17, Espo) reports that the announcements from Hatch, Isakson and Chambliss, as well as Sen. John Hoeven's claim that "he was inclined to join them," more than "offset an announcement from Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., who reversed course and said he would vote to block the bill."

The Wall Street Journal (12/17, Hook, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that as a small but increasing number of Senate Republicans are saying they will support the bill, one of the last remaining questions is how Democrats who are facing reelection next year will vote on the measure. Sen. Mark Pryor, who is one of those Democrats, said through a spokesman on Monday that he will vote for the bill.

Potential 2016 GOP Presidential Contenders Criticize Budget Deal. McClatchy (12/17, Lightman, 95K) reports that Tuesday's vote will be watched "as an illustration of a growing divide in the party, a split that could reverberate in the 2014 and 2016 elections." McClatchy notes Sens. Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, and Rand Paul, all of whom are seen as potential 2016 presidential contenders, "were quick to sharply criticize the deal."

Reuters (12/17, Ferraro) notes that Minority Leader McConnell and a number of members who are supported by the Tea Party are likely to fight the measure, but they do not appear to have the votes they would need to block it.

Gerson: Budget Deal Is Not The Start Of A Centrist Governing Coalition. In his column for the Washington Post (12/17, Gerson, 4.28M), Michael Gerson argues that while the budget deal was "a welcome exception to congressional gridlock," it was not "an indication that gridlock has been broken in any lasting or fundamental way." The deal, Gerson writes, "was not a precedent for grand compromises on immigration or tax reform." It marks "a truce in the budget wars, not the emergence of a centrist governing coalition." Gerson also notes that the President "was marginal to the deal, which had almost nothing to do with his policy priorities," and he now "risks permanent damage to his standing as a leader."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Powerful Rebuke Of Mass Surveillance."*** The New York Times (12/17, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial says a judge's ruling that NSA is violating the Fourth Amendment is "an enormous symbolic victory for opponents of the bulk-collection program, and a reminder of the importance of the adversarial process."

"The Next Chapter For Derivatives Regulation." In an editorial, the New York Times (12/17, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) lauds the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for, since the passage of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law, putting in place "dozens of generally sound new federal rules — on transparency and oversight — against nearly impossible odds." Now the driving forces behind the reform, chairman Gary Gensler and Commissioner Bart Chilton will soon leave the commission. The Times argues, "to make a difference, the new rules must be vigorously defended, monitored and enforced," and that "a deep understanding of the markets coupled with an unshakable commitment to reform" is needed to allow the new regulatory regime to take hold. The Times criticizes President Obama's reported nominees, saying they would mean the commission would not have "a proven reformist or a technical derivatives expert," which the paper calls "unacceptable."

"Discrimination In Sochi." In an editorial, the New York Times (12/17, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes that with Russia becoming "an increasingly dangerous place for gays and lesbians," Olympics officials are under pressure to give "assurances that athletes and others will not be harassed, or possibly even arrested, if they endorse civil rights for gays and lesbians." So far there have been "only vague assurances" and "a stern reminder" on Olympic rules about protests and propaganda. The Times calls for "a way for athletes to show their opposition to discriminatory laws," arguing that it would reinforce the part of the Olympic Charter that says: discrimination for "race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The NSA Must Make Its Case."*** The Washington Post (12/17, 4.28M), in an editorial, says that in the wake of a judge's ruling that NSA is violating the Fourth Amendment, "if the government is to" retain "the authorities that officials insist are crucial, it will have to do more to demonstrate why they are essential and how Americans' privacy is being protected."

"Va.'s Next Attorney General." In an editorial, the Washington Post (12/17, 4.28M) says that both state Sen. Mark Herring and state Sen. Mark Obenshain "should declare now, before results are announced by week's end, that they will respect the outcome" of the recount in the race for Virginia attorney general and not appeal the results "to the General Assembly," which would represent "an act of contempt for Virginia's voters."

"Chile's Next Steps." In an editorial, the Washington Post (12/17, 4.28M) writes that socialist Michelle Bachelet's victory in Chile could "soften" Latin American governments' trend towards being either "leftist, populist and authoritarian" or "modernizing, free market and democratic." She "is a democrat and not a populist," planning reforms such as free public higher education and rewriting the Pinochet-era constitution. Chile could show that inequality can be addressed "without resorting to reckless populism and authoritarianism." However, the Post anticipates pressure from the former student movement, and Bachelet could "end up compromising the free-market model that has carried Chile to prosperity and drastically reduced its poverty rate."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Disarming Surveillance."*** The Wall Street Journal (12/17, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial this morning, criticizes a bipartisan commission calling for an end to some of the NSA's surveillance practices, and encourages the President to ignore the recommendations of the commission that he set up to review the NSA if it recommends jettisoning some of the programs that the Journal

says are necessary to prevent terrorist attacks.

"Shame Of The Academy." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/17, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writes that the American Studies Association vote to boycott Israel is a manifestation of the long existing political corruption of the American academy. The paper argues that, in the standard operation of the modern academic and media left, bullying secured the vote. The Journal questions why a group that presumably embraces free speech would want to boycott the most democratic country in the Middle East, which gives Arabs better treatment and more rights than most Arab states. The Journal concludes by suggesting that such professors teach students supposed US misdeeds.

"Washington's Next Financial Mistake." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/17, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the next major financial mistake made by Washington is likely to be a move by the Financial Stability Oversight Council to treat all major financial institutions like banks.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Judge Rules Against NSA Surveillance
Death Rate Unusually High For Young Vets
Living By The Rules In A City Of Mayhem
Warhol Portrait Of Actress Sparks Ugly Court Battle
Singer Reshaped Country Music

Wall Street Journal:
Judge Deals Blow To NSA Phone Spying
Tech Firms Push To Control Web's Pipes

New York Times:
Glaxo To Stop Paying Doctors To Boost Drugs
A Political Deal In A Deeply Divided Tunisia
Obama's Library, Advisers' Dream
Judge Questions Legality Of NSA Phone Records
Boycott By Academic Group Is A Symbolic Sting to Israel
Secret Bids Guide Hopi Indians' Spirits Home

Washington Post:
Guarding The Guard A Wing And A Prayer
Judge Says NSA's Call Tracking Is Probably Illegal
Obama's Approval Ratings Plummet
Charter School's Medicaid Billing At Center Of Probe
In Syrian War, Extremists Train 'Children Of al-Qaeda'

Financial Times:
US Judge Condemns NSA Data Collection
Moncler Shares Jump 50 Percent On Milan Debut
Caribbean Blown By Winds Of Financial Crisis
US Oil Production To Test Record High
GSK Scraps Sales Rep Targets After Scandal
Zions Bank Becomes Early Volcker Casualty
Why Investors Remain Wary Of India

Washington Times:
Judge Deal First Strike To NSA's Snooping Program
Even The Employer-Insured Are Rocked By Obamacare Changes

Files Show Bizarre Ways Bureaucrat Biked EPA
New ACU Director Takes Aim At Debt, Size Government
Johnson OK'd For Homeland Security

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: NSA-Court Ruling; GM-US Factories; Google-Robots; California-Wildfire; New Jersey-Mall Shooting; FDA-Antibacterial Hand Soap
CBS: NSA-Court Ruling; Health-Multivitamins; Colorado School Shooting; FBI-Shooting Prevention; Kerry-Iran Nuclear Deal; Sports-Brain Disease; FDA-Antibacterial Soap; China-Cockroaches
NBC: NSA-Court Ruling; FDA-Antibacterial Soaps; Vitamins-Chronic Diseases; Colorado School Shooting; Syria-Refugees; Mandela-Statue; Severe Weather; Sports-Brain Disease; Kerry-Vietnam; China-Moon Rover

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: NSA-Court Ruling; Colorado School Shooting; Oklahoma-Hate Crime Trial; Delta-Plane Runway Slip; Califomia Wildfire
CBS: NSA-Court Ruling; Severe Weather; Califomia Wildfire; Health-Vitamin Dangers; Ohio-Charity Fraud; GM-Former CEO Interview; Dow-Increase
NPR: Califomia Wildfire; NSA-Court Ruling; ACA-Staff Increase; Dow-Increase; FDA-Antibacterial Soap; France-Horse Meat Scandal
FOX: NSA-Court Ruling; Tech Companies-Obama Meeting; Severe Weather; Mega Millions Jackpot

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets with executives from leading tech companies to discuss progress made in addressing performance and capacity issues with HealthCare. Gov and how government can better deliver IT to maximize innovation efficiency and customer service, The Roosevelt Room, closed press; meets the Vice President for lunch, closed press; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets with executives from leading tech companies to discuss progress made in addressing performance and capacity issues with HealthCare. Gov and how government can better deliver IT to maximize innovation efficiency and customer service, The Roosevelt Room, closed press; meets the President for lunch, closed press; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. KLOBUCHAR, COONS – U.S. MANUFACTURING — U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Vice Chair of the Joint Economic Committee, and Chris Coons (D-DE) will unveil a new report showing a revitalization in U.S. manufacturing. The report shows manufacturing exports are up 38% since 2009 and now exceed their pre-recession peak. Location: Senate Radio/TV Gallery (S. 325).

10 a.m. COBURN – WASTEBOOK 2013 — Senator Tom Coburn, M.D. (R-OK) will unveil Wastebook 2013, his annual report on "egregious federal spending", at a press conference. Location: Room S-325 of the Capitol.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine the nomination of Arun Madhavan Kumar, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service. Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — Meets to consider pending nominations for: Janice M. Schneider, Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Land and Minerals Management) Department of the Interior; Neil G. Kornze, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Dr. Marc A. Kastner, Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy; Dr. Ellen D. Williams, Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy. Location: 366 Dirksen.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — Business meeting to consider the nominations of Steven

Croley, of Michigan, to be General Counsel, and Christopher Smith, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, both of the Department of Energy, and Esther Puakela Kia'aina, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, and Jonathan Elkind, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, both of the Department of Energy, and Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Tommy Port Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of the Interior. Location: 366 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Hearings to examine protecting small businesses and promoting innovation by limiting patent troll abuse. Panel I: John J. Dwyer, Jr. , President & CEO, New England Federal Credit Union, Williston, VT; Michael Makin , President & CEO, Printing Industries of America, Sewickley, PA; Dana Rao, Vice President and Associate General Counsel for Intellectual Property Litigation, Adobe Systems, Inc., San Jose, CA; Philip S. Johnson, Senior Vice President and Chief Intellectual Property Counsel, Johnson & Johnson, Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, New Brunswick, NJ. Panel II: Steve Bossone, Ph.D., Vice President, Intellectual Property, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Cambridge, MA; Harry A. Wolin, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, AMD, Austin, TX; Q. Todd Dickinson, Executive Director, American Intellectual Property Law Association, Former Under Secretary for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Arlington, VA. Location: 226 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine the Navy Yard tragedy, focusing on the physical security for Federal facilities. Witnesses: Panel I: Caitlin A. Durkovich, Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, National Protection and Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; L. Eric Patterson, Director, Federal Protective Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Stephen Lewis, Deputy Director for Personnel, Industrial and Physical Security Policy, Directorate of Security Policy & Oversight, Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, U.S. Department of Defense. Panel II: Mark L. Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Stephen D. Amitay, Executive Director, National Association of Security Companies; David L. Wright, President, Federal Protective Service Union, American Federation of Government Employees. Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:15 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Subcommittee on African Affairs will convene a hearing on the crisis in the Central African Republic. Witnesses: Panel 1: Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Department of State; Earl Gast, Assistant Administrator for Africa, USAID. Panel 2: Lisabeth List, Medical Coordinator, Doctors Without Borders; Mark Schneider, Senior Vice President, International Crisis Group; Alexis Arieff, Analyst in African Affairs, Congressional Research Service. Location: 419 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — Hearings to examine the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Chief Financial Officer, and Thomas A. Burke, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of Environmental Protection Agency, and Roy K. J. Williams, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. Location: 406 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Bennett Smith, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, and Caroline Diane Krass, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency. Location: 106 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. JUDICIARY — "The Federal Arbitration Act and Access to Justice: Will Recent Supreme Court Decisions Undermine the Rights of Consumers, Workers, and Small Businesses?" Panel I: Leslie Overton, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Enforcement, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice. Panel II: Alan Carlson, Owner, Italian Colors Restaurant, Oakland, CA; Myriam Gilles, Professor of Law, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York, NY; Vildan Teske, Partner, Crowder, Teske, Katz, & Micko, PLLP, Minneapolis, MN; Archis A. Parasharami, Partner & Co-Chair, Consumer Litigation & Class Actions practice, Mayer Brown LLP; Peter Bowman Rutledge, Associate Dean for Faculty Development; Herman E. Talmadge Chair of Law, University of Georgia School of Law, Athens, GA. Location: 226 Dirksen.

4 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Nominations hearing for Helen Meagher La Lime of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola; Larry Edward Andre, Jr. of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; Eric T. Schultz of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia. Location: 419

Dirksen.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: JUVENILE JUSTICE — 12:30 p.m. Models for Change hosts their 8th annual National Working Conference on Juvenile Justice. Highlights include: Scott Budnick, Executive Producer of "The Hangover discusses juvenile justice at annual convening juvenile detention experts, practitioners after announcing last week his "retirement from film for juvenile/social justice. Pat Nolan of Prison Fellowship Ministries to address audience Monday, 3:45p; Robert Listenbee, Dept. of Justice Ofc of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention to address audience Tuesday 10:10 am. Location: MacArthur Foundation Models for Change Annual Conference, 2401 M Street, NW Fairmont Hotel, Georgetown.

TITANS BREAKFAST – GINSBERG — 8 a.m. Titans breakfast with U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. During the event, Justice Ginsburg will engage in a fireside chat with former U.S. Solicitor General Ted Olson. Location: Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents Street, Reston, VA.

VIRGINIA DELEGATION – MOVING THE FBI TO SPRINGFIELD — 10 a.m. Press Conference announcing the Virginia delegations support for relocating the FBI to Metro-accessible Springfield, VA site. Speakers: Congressman Jim Moran; Senator Mark Warner; Senator Tim Kaine; Congressman Frank Wolf; Congressman Gerry Connolly; Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade Jim Cheng; Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe; Senator George Barker; Delegate Vivian Watts; Chairman Sharon Bulova; Supervisor Jeff McKay. Location: Conference Room 152, Northern Virginia Community College Medical Campus, 6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22150.

BPC – SEN. BROWN, JOHANNS – DODD-FRANK — 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. The Bipartisan Policy Center hosts a discussion on Does Dodd-Frank Work for Non-Banks? Insurance as the Test Case with U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), U.S. Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE) ; Aaron Klein, Director, BPC's Financial Regulatory Reform Initiative. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 1000.

SECRETARY JEWELL, GOV. O'MALLEY – OFFSHORE WIND – (BALTIMORE EVENT) — 10:15 a.m. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will join Governor Martin O'Malley and others for an "important" announcement on progress for wind leasing offshore Maryland. Speakers: Sally Jewell, U.S. Secretary of the Interior; Tommy Beaudreau, Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; Mark Rice, CEO of Maritime Applied Physics Corporation. Location: Maritime Applied Physics Corporation, Headquarters, 1850 Frankfurst Ave., Baltimore, MD 21226.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Over the weekend, the Obamacare website was down. Fortunately, most Americans were not affected, because they never knew it was up."

Conan O'Brien: "It looks like Hillary Clinton is going to run. The team behind both of the campaigns is already preparing for a Hillary Clinton run. And, yeah, they're starting early, because they have to delete ten years of Bill Clinton's browser history."

Conan O'Brien: "NORAD said they're going to be tracking Santa Claus this Christmas, as they always do. Then the NSA said, 'No need, we got him.'"

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Briefing Materials for Thursday, December 19, 2013

Olson, Elizabeth <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Dec 18, 2013 at 5:08 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are your briefing materials for Thursday, December 19. These memos have also been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

–
Elizabeth
208-2977

5 attachments Attachments 2, 4, and 5 are unavailable

- **12 19 13_10am_Internal Discussion on 5 Year Plan.pdf**
  29K
- **12 19 13_11am_Meeting with Gene Karpinski, President, League of Conservation Voters.pdf**
  140K
- **12 19 13_330pm_Internal Sage Grouse Briefing.pdf**
  28K
- **12 19 13_930am_Meet and Greet with Coral Davenport, NYT Interior Beat Reporter.pdf**
  33K
- **12 19 13_1145am and 1230pm_Principals Meeting on Cooling Water Regulations.pdf**
  454K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

DATE: December 18, 2013
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 9:00AM – 10:00AM
FROM: Mike Connor, Commissioner of Reclamation, BOR, (202) 513-0501
Laura Davis, Chief of Staff, OS, (202) 208-7351
Benjamin Milakofsky, Deputy Chief of Staff, OS, (202) 256-8304

I. PURPOSE

You are hosting a senior leadership meeting with your Assistant Secretaries on Wednesday, December 17. You last met with the Assistant Secretaries group on December 3 where you provided an overview of your recent travel and Rhea Suh led a discussion on budget priorities. You requested this meeting to discuss 2014 and 2016 goals following a Cabinet conversation with Denis McDonough. At the beginning of the meeting, you should commend Rhea and Tommy for finishing their hearings before Senate committees as they work through the confirmation process. (b)(6) [redacted]

Last week, Laura Davis requested that each Assistant Secretary identify their top 2014 and 2016 goals for the Department. They were invited to provide ideas beyond their official areas of responsibility. That information has been organized into your priority areas and is included below for your review. We did not make significant edits or provide additions to the list.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Anne Castle, WS
- Rhea Suh, PMB
- Kevin Washburn, ASIA
- Tommy Beaudreau, ASLM
- Rachel Jacobsen, FWP
- Eileen Sobeck, Insular
- Jack Haugrud, SOL
- Mike Connor, BOR
- Laura Davis, COS
- Ben Milakofsky, Deputy COS

III. AGENDA

You will start the meeting by welcoming the group and congratulating Rhea and Tommy as they move through the confirmation process. You will then lead a discussion around the 2014 and 2016 priority goals identified by your leadership team.

Priority Goals by the end of 2014

Celebrating & Enhance AGO

LWCF (Rhea): Launch an interagency LWCF Task Force with CEQ and DOI and execute strategy for reauthorization of LWCF with full, permanent funding in the next 6-12 months.

Strengthening Tribal Nations

BIE (Kevin): Complete BIE Study Group evaluation of BIE grant and direct service schools, issue recommendations to Secretaries Jewell and Duncan, Secretaries complete evaluation and adopt preferred recommendations and begin implementation.

White House Council on Native American Affairs (Kevin): Schedule at least three meetings of the Council with one additional meeting at Tribal Nations Conference, establish at least one additional subcommittee and identify deliverables with timelines for subcommittees.

Cobell (Kevin): Enter into cooperative agreements with tribes or send offers to allottees for at least 20 reservations.

Federal Acknowledgement Process (Kevin): Issue proposed and publish final rule governing the Federal Acknowledgement Process.

Powering our Future

Oil and Gas Oversight and Reforms (Tommy): (1) Finalize BLM's Hydraulic Fracturing Rule; (2) Finalize Onshore Order 9 address waste and methane emissions; (3) Publish BSEE's draft BOP rule; and (4) Publish BOEM-BSEE Alaska standards rule

DRECP (Tommy): Finalize the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Offshore Wind (Tommy): Announce and hold three competitive offshore wind lease sales – Maryland, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Engaging the Next Generation

Urban Agenda (Rachel): Develop a focused urban agenda based a new model of urban partnerships that will have ten pilot Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships by the end of 2014. The Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative increases FWS relevance in urban communities by providing a variety of nature-based experiences and opportunities. The President's budget contains $20m for

funding of the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) to enhance or restore recreation facilities in urban areas. Working through UPARR and other technical assistance programs, DOI is well-positioned to be a national leader in promoting local parks and recreation access as key elements of urban revitalization and livability.

Assuring Healthy Watersheds and Sustainable, Secure Water Supplies

Klamath River (Anne): Complete negotiated water settlement with tribes and irrigators and support legislation to implement Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement.

Colorado River (Anne): Drought Contingency Plan in place; U.S and Mexico deliver Minute 319 pulse flow; Complete Phase 1 and enter Phase 2 of Basin Study Next Steps process; Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Draft EIS complete and published.

President's Climate Action Plan (Anne): Implement Reclamation Climate Change Strategy; through WaterSMART, complete 6 Basin Studies, conserve 800,000 af water, execute $25M in grants, and produce a public web-based data portal to deliver rainfall, evapotranspiration, hydroecological streamflow classification, and thermoelectric water withdrawals and consumptive use information for the entire Nation.

Building a Landscape-Level Understanding of Our Resources

Landsat (Anne): USGS, NASA, OMB and Congress establish a sustainable imaging strategy for the next 20 years of Landsat.

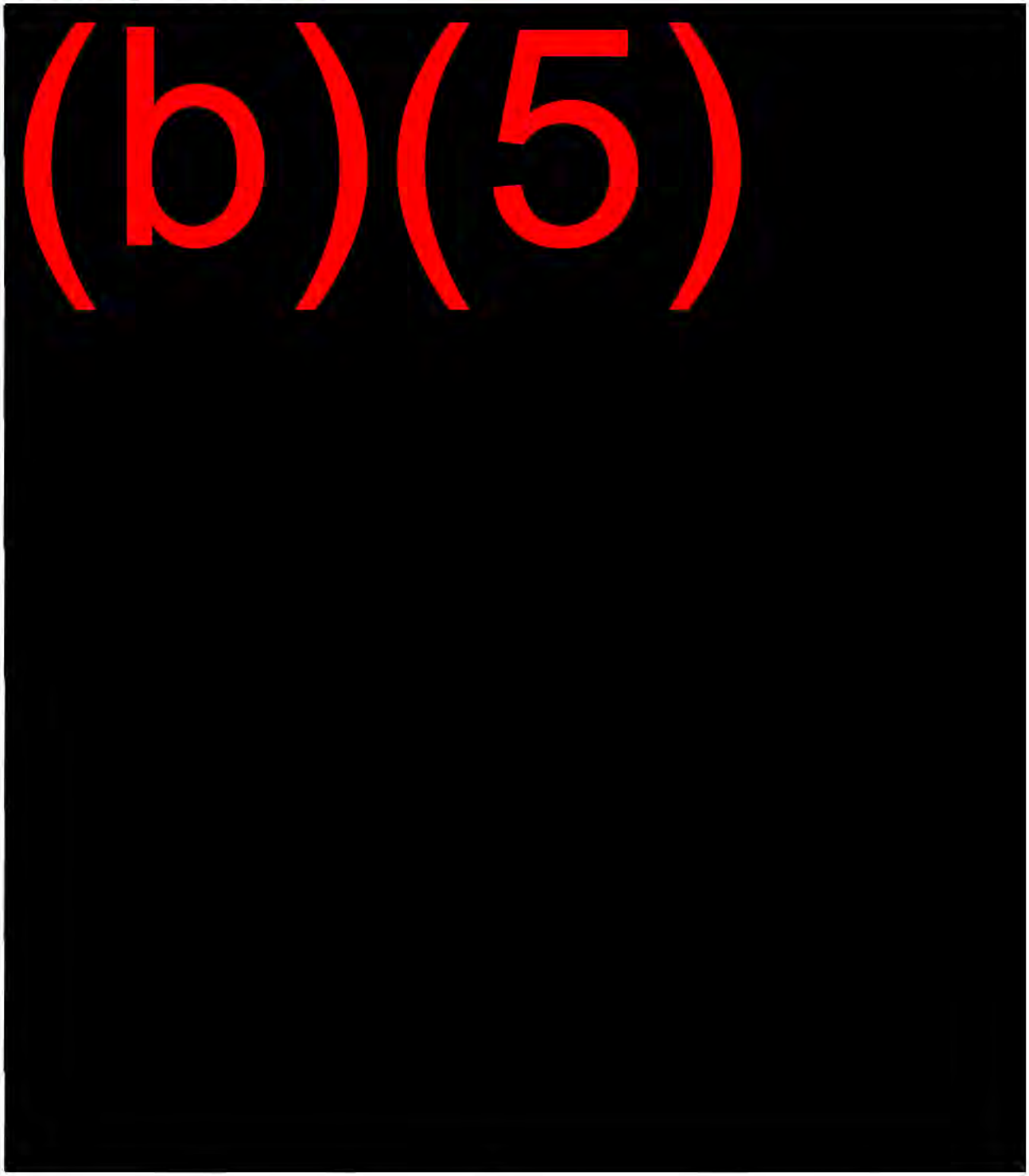
Sage Grouse (Rachel, Tommy and Anne): FWS will contribute to BLM land management plan revisions for Sage-Grouse; secure conservation commitments from states and other federal agencies that, in conjunction with the revised BLM plans, will provide an effective basis for long-term conservation of this species; create a conservation efforts database; and be substantially ready to complete a final listing of the bi-state with 4(d) rule, or a withdrawal of the proposed rule for sage grouse. Other offices will contribute through the evaluating impacts of energy development on sage grouse; expand efforts to understand the threat of altered fire regimes, spread of invasive plants, and climate change; and, analyze population and habitat connectivity in support of BLM and FWS.

National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking (Rachel): In cooperation with the Department of State and the Department of Justice, Interior will finalize and adopt the National Strategy required by the President's July 1, 2013 Executive Order Combating Wildlife Trafficking. To address wildlife trafficking, FWS will: improve U.S. enforcement of domestic laws protecting wildlife; strengthen international cooperation and engage governments of range, transit, and consumer countries around the globe; strengthen global enforcement of international agreements and build capacity to combat wildlife trafficking in range, transit, and consumer countries; and reduce the demand for illegal wildlife that ultimately drives the poaching crisis.

Hurricane Sandy (Tommy): Announce awards of $100 million in Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grants

Priority Goals by the end of 2016

Celebrating & Enhance AGO





Strengthening Tribal Nations



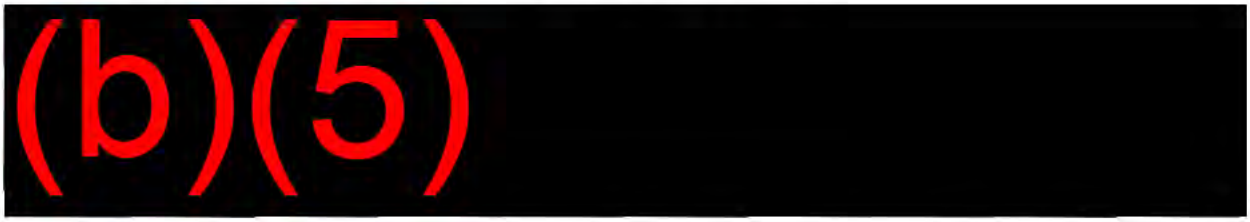
Powering our Future



Assuring Healthy Watersheds and Sustainable, Secure Water Supplies



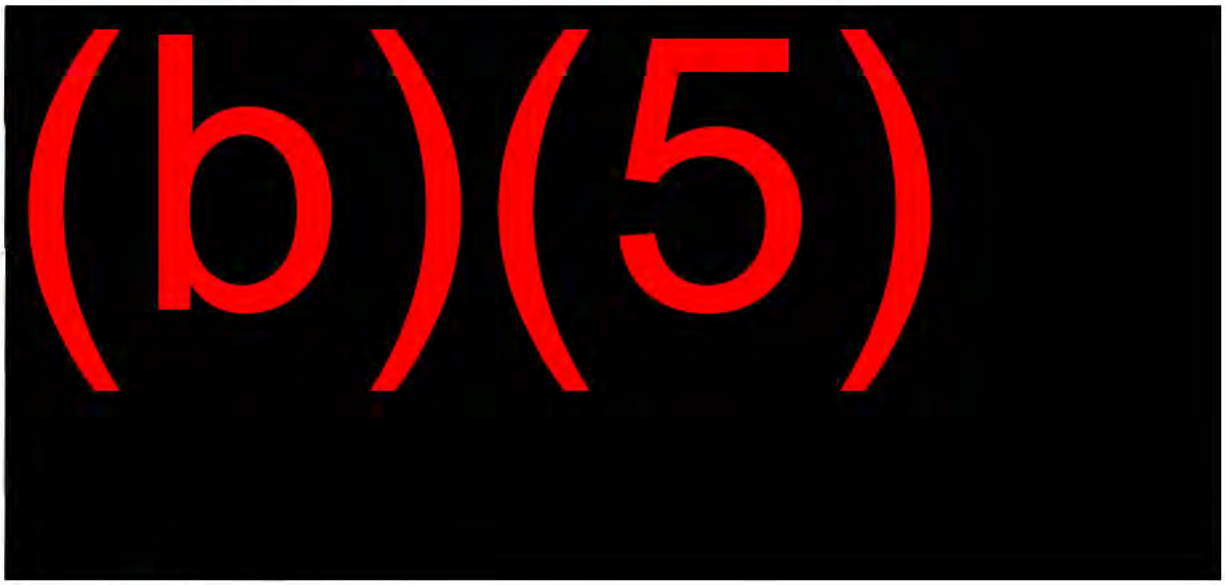
Building a Landscape-Level Understanding of Our Resources





POSSIBLE Priority Goals by the end of 2016

Strengthening Tribal Nations



Constrained Resources



EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL SAGE GROUSE MEETING

DATE: December 18, 2013
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 3:30PM – 4:15PM
FROM: James Lyons, Counselor - LMM, 202-208-4318; Michael Bean, Counselor – FWP; Sarah Greenberger, Senior Advisor, 202-219-2140

I. PURPOSE

This memo provides a report on the agreement on a spring assessment and timeline for collaboration among the Federal partners – and possibly the states – to develop final plans for GSG conservation to be submitted to the FWS in the fall of 2014. The memo also provides an update on the status of sage grouse conservation efforts following your meeting with Governors and the meeting of the Sage Grouse Task Force in Las Vegas on December 12 and 13.

II. DISCUSSION

Update on Assessment

BLM, FWS and USFS have agreed to conduct an early spring roll-up of "likely proposed plans" on multiple scales (PAC/WAFWA Zone/Population) to permit a written assessment of major gaps/weaknesses with time to address concerns before the plans are finalized. A major gap/weakness means a failure to reduce substantially a COT-identified major threat to a PAC or population. We will present details on the process, an agreed to timeline, and a sense of resource needs in the internal meeting on Thursday.

Read-out of Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting

Below is a read-out of the Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting for your information.

Outcomes: This WGA and task force meeting occurred at roughly the mid-point in the effort to address the threats to the sage grouse. Your participation as both a keynote speaker at the WGA meeting and in conversation with Governors Hickenlooper, Mead, Bullock, Otter, Herbert, and Sandoval were extremely helpful in a number of ways:

1. The Governors and their staffs were assured of your continued commitment to the work of the task force (as initiated by Sec. Salazar) and the goal of achieving a landscape-level conservation strategy.
2. Your emphasis on the need for the states to work together with the BLM, FS, NRCS and the FWS in developing a conservation strategy for the GSG may place additional pressure on states that have yet to do so.

3. It was made clear by FWS that the COT report would be used to guide future conservation actions and to evaluate the adequacy of conservation measures proposed by federal and state agencies to conserve the GSG.
4. The Governors and their staffs got the message that conservation plans dependent on voluntary measures – unless proven to work by prior experience – were not going to be sufficient.
5. The Governors and their staffs sent a strong signal that they view listing the GSG as an unacceptable option, making clear that if listing as "threatened" is a possible outcome, more work will need to be done to help increase the states' comfort with that decision.
6. The Governors and their staffs committed to continue to the collaboration with the agencies in developing a conservation plan for the GSG.

State Self-Assessments: The conversation with the governors regarding the state self-assessments provided a candid assessment of progress to date and an opportunity to discuss next steps. It also provided the opportunity to discuss the FWS' perspective on voluntary measures as a means of conserving the species. This conversation continued into the task force meeting with Federal and state agency staffs. It is clear at the staff level that a number of states will continue to advocate for "voluntary" measures as a part of their conservation strategy. FWS will need to make very clear what regulatory measures will be accepted in making the GSG listing determination – i.e., some certainty that they will be implemented and that the specific conservation measures are effective. Dan Ashe offered the WAFWA strategy for conserving the Lesser Prairie Chicken, which was "endorsed" by the FWS, as an example of acceptable voluntary measures.

Conservation Metrics: This past summer, the Task Force created a "metrics team" to recommend how to measure and report the impact of conservation efforts undertaken. The metrics team was to have reported its recommendations to the Task Force at its December meeting, but its recommendations were not yet ready. Instead, the FWS presented a proposed framework for metrics. However, Utah expressed strong concerns with the proposed framework and, instead, offered to present its own proposal. The states felt strongly that efforts to reconcile the divergent views continue over the next few weeks. Though all parties recognize that if no consensus is reached in early January, the Service will need to move forward with its own proposal. The FWS would like all conservation measures for the GSG across the landscape reported in a consistent fashion using common criteria, definitions, and units of measure (e.g., acres treated, miles of fence line flagged) to facilitate their evaluation of the cumulative conservation effort and its effectiveness.

Fire: The conversation with the Governors and their staffs spanned a broad array of topics, from the need to identify in advance key habitat areas so that these areas are prioritized in pre-suppression and fire suppression activities; the need for a more reliable supply of native seeds to be used in post-fire restoration efforts; the creation of rural fire districts that safely utilize appropriate capabilities of those living on the landscape; and the need for more resources. The task force had an extended conversation regarding the need for additional federal resources for firefighting, led by staff to Governor Hickenlooper (Doug Young), to help with rangeland and forest fires.

The task force endorsed the use of a framework developed by a WAFWA team commissioned by the FWS, for prioritizing fire-suppression and restoration of sagebrush steppe habitat after fire based on where those efforts are most likely to be meaningful.

However, USGS representatives at the task force meeting also made clear that a study that they are soon to publish raises questions about the efficacy of sage steppe restoration efforts following fire.

Mitigation: Several of the states have developed sage grouse conservation plans that include a significant role for compensatory mitigation (i.e., offsetting the impacts of authorized detrimental activities by carrying out beneficial activities, usually at a different site). The FWS has provided to the Task Force a memo setting forth its recommendations for a general framework for compensatory mitigation for the sage grouse which was welcomed.

III. NEXT STEPS

Our primary objective today is to reach final agreement on the path forward for completing BLM/FS plans and for engaging the states in the process of completing conservation action plans for the GSG.

At the briefing, we will present a timeline of key activities, milestones, and products associated with developing final resource management plans in 2014.

Key questions



U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, December 19, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

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+ Interior Sends Offers To Consolidate To Oglala Sioux.
+ Petition Seeks Federal Protection For Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
+ Budget Deal Will Cost States $415 Million In Oil And Gas Royalties.
+ GOP Bill Would Consolidate Departments Of Labor, Commerce.
+ Additional Coverage: Interior Unveils Auction For Maryland Offshore Wind Leases.
+ Additional Coverage: GAO Says Revenue Lost By Delay In Drilling Royalty Rate Hike.
+ Additional Coverage Of PILT Program.
+ More Analysis Of State Takeover Of Federal Lands Urged.

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+ Wild Horse Advocate: Wild Free-Roaming Horses And Burros Act Unfulfilled.

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+ FWS Proposes Moving White-tailed Deer From Puget Island.
+ Hunters, Fishermen Targeted By FWS For Violations Of Lacey Act.
+ FWS Honors Alliance For Protecting Environment.
+ Experts To Review Taking Gray Wolf Off Threatened List.

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+ Report Says Obama Holding Back Development On Federal Lands.
+ Noble Eyes Nevada For More Oil Drilling.
+ BLM Opens Public Comment Period On McKenzie Pipeline Project.
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+ Former BP Engineer Convicted Of Obstructing Gulf Spill Probe.

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+ Citing Improved Economic Outlook, Fed Announces $10 Billion Monthly Stimulus Taper.

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+ Washington Post.
+ Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:
+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:
+ Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

CONSIDERATION OF CONNOR'S NOMINATION WOULD BE HELD OVER UNTIL NEXT YEAR UNDER PROPOSED DEAL. The Huffington Post (12/18, Jennifer Bendery, 11.54M) reports that Senate Democrats are "hoping to cut a deal with Republicans to confirm four of President Barack Obama's nominees this week and punt the rest to next year – a plan that, if everything goes smoothly, would send senators home for the holidays as soon as Friday morning," according to a top Democratic aide. The "four nominees, in the order they would come up, are Alejandro Mayorkas for deputy secretary of Homeland Security, John Koskinen for IRS commissioner, Brian Davis for US District Court judge for the Middle District of Florida, and Janet Yellen for chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors." As for the other seven nominees awaiting votes, including Michael Connor for deputy secretary of the interior, "Democrats are hoping Republicans will agree to hold them over until the Senate comes back in January, when the new session of Congress begins."

Senators Spar Over Suh. The Environment & Energy Publishing (12/19, 705) reports that Rhea Suh, the nominee for Interior assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, "appeared before the Environment and Public Works Committee less than a week after testifying before the Energy and Natural Resources panel, where Republicans took shots at her past work for a conservation foundation." Suh "received a fresh round of GOP criticism yesterday over her past statement about the impacts of natural gas development in the West – though she also received bipartisan praise."

Sen. Heller Says Sage-grouse Conservation Depends On Wildfire Control. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (12/19, 22K) reports that Sen. Dean Heller said Wednesday "unless federal agencies can control wildfires, keeping sage grouse off the endangered species list would be difficult." Heller said the BLM and US Forest Service "should place a greater emphasis on suppressing wildfires and then treating more burned acres afterward." However, Heller was "encouraged by the newly nominated director of the BLM, Neil Kornze, who grew up in Elko." Heller said, "One of the pluses of having Kornze there is at least he has an open mind and understands the concerns."

Sen. Murkowski Tells Kornze About Unmet Promises To State And Native Corporations. In an editorial, the Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (12/19, 44K) that during a Senate committee hearing on the nomination of Neil Kornze to become the new director BLM, Sen. Lisa Murkowski "took an opportunity to highlight the fact that the state of Alaska and many Alaska Native corporations still lack title to the federal lands they were promised decades ago." The paper lauds Murkowski for reminding Kornze of the need to act on the issue.

GOP Balks At Obama's Human Rights Nominee. In its "Floor Action" blog, The Hill (12/19, 194K) reports that "despite Republican protests, a Senate panel plans to approve a human rights nominee appointed by President Obama." The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday is "scheduled to tackle the nomination of Keith Harper to become the US Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council." The article notes that "the nomination has been in limbo since his first hearing in late September, when Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) hammered Harper, a member of the Cherokee nation, for allegedly unethical behavior in his work representing Native Americans." McCain said Harper has "refused to answer his questions regarding his negotiation of Cobell v. Salazar — a $3.4 billion class-action lawsuit settlement over misspent Native American land royalties."

INTERIOR SENDS OFFERS TO CONSOLIDATE TO OGLALA SIOUX. The Native News Online (12/19) reports that "in a major step toward fully implementing the historic Cobell settlement," the Interior Department "announced today that it has sent initial purchase offers to consolidate ownership of highly fractionated trust lands." The Oglala Sioux, owners of fractionated land interests at the Pine Ridge Reservation, are the "first to receive purchase offers under the Department's Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations." The article notes that "purchase offers to individuals with interests at the Makah Indian Reservation, located in Washington state, will also be sent this week." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "The Buy-Back Program is one of the clearest opportunities we have to put power and decision-making back in the hands of tribal nations – to stimulate their economies, to determine how to manage their available resources, and to promote tribal sovereignty and self-determination. I want to acknowledge the incredible effort that went into this milestone, through our nation-to-nation relationship and across the Department. It is this spirit of collaboration that will continue to guide our efforts to reduce fractionation and implement the Buy-Back Program in as efficient, transparent and fair a manner as possible."

Also providing coverage is the Interested Party (12/19).

PETITION SEEKS FEDERAL PROTECTION FOR THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (12/19, 15K) reports that a petition with more than 10,000 signatures asking for Theodore Roosevelt National Park to be protected from oil development is set to be delivered to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. The online petition was sponsored by the Dakota Resource Council and includes signatures from people in every state, said council chairwoman Linda Weiss. DRC senior field organizer Scott Skokos said, "It just kind of went viral with a national audience. Our ultimate goal is to make it so that there's a buffer zone between energy development and the park."

The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (12/19, 22K) reports that park superintendent Valerie Naylor said the park is "under threat daily from a growing number of permits for oil and gas-related development." She said she's "concerned that people don't understand the effect oil development outside park boundaries has on the north and south units of the park and the Elkhorn Ranch site." Naylor said "development isn't just oil wells, but includes all the incidental roads, power lines and cellphone towers that go along with it."

Also reporting on the story are KMOT-TV Minot, ND (12/19) and KQCD-TV Dickinson, ND (12/19, 104).

BUDGET DEAL WILL COST STATES $415 MILLION IN OIL AND GAS ROYALTIES. The AP (12/19, Daly)

reports that according to the CBO, the budget deal "will cost Wyoming, New Mexico and other states $415 million in lost oil and gas royalties over the next decade." Legislation implementing the deal "makes permanent an effective 51-49 percent split that favors the federal government in dividing the 12.5 percent royalty collected from energy companies on oil and gas production on federal land." Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) said, "By perpetuating the policy of taxing mineral-producing states to pay for federal government bureaucracy, the deal unfairly burdens Wyoming to support increased spending in Washington. ... We need real cuts and real savings now, not more promises of cuts and savings years from now."

AP coverage was also picked up by ABC News (12/19, 3.68M), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (12/19, Daly, 1.14M), the Boston Herald (12/19, 643K), the Billings (MT) Gazette (12/19, 206K), the U-T San Diego (12/18, 647K), the Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (12/19, 27K), the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (12/19, 82K), the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (12/18, 147K), the Cortez (CO) Journal (12/18, 646), and the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (12/19, 59K).

GOP BILL WOULD CONSOLIDATE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, COMMERCE. In its "Floor Action" blog, The Hill (12/19, 194K) reports that Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) "introduced a bill Tuesday that would combine the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce into a single agency." S. 1836 would also transfer the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from Commerce to the Department of the Interior.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR UNVEILS AUCTION FOR MARYLAND OFFSHORE WIND LEASES. Additional coverage of the Interior Department announcement of a proposed notice of sale Tuesday for nearly 80,000 acres for commercial offshore wind development off the coast of Maryland was provided by the Delmarva (MD) Daily Times (12/18, 26K), the Bloomberg BusinessWeek (12/17, 4.93M), the Huffington Post (12/18, 11.54M), the CleanTechnica (12/18, 10K), the Business Spectator (AUS) (12/19, 446), the Law 360 (12/19, 18K), and WBFF-TV Baltimore (12/19, 3K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GAO SAYS REVENUE LOST BY DELAY IN DRILLING ROYALTY RATE HIKE. Additional coverage of the report by the GAO says that the Interior Department's decision to delay plans to raise the royalty rate for oil production on public lands resulted in lost revenue was provided by the Houston Chronicle (12/17, Dlouhy, 2.26M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PILT PROGRAM. Additional coverage of the PILT program's uncertain funding was provided by the St. George (UT) Spectrum (12/18, 48K).

MORE ANALYSIS OF STATE TAKEOVER OF FEDERAL LANDS URGED. In an op-ed for the Ravalli (MT) Republic (12/19, 19K), Margaret Gorski questions the proposed state takeover of federal lands. She proposes that "instead of spending time on a constitutionally questionable proposal, perhaps the county commissioners should establish a collaborative organization to address these issues in positive ways that are inclusive of all viewpoints and vested interests."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DEBATE GROWS OVER WHETHER TO SAVE ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK WOLVES. The Washington Post (12/19, 4.28M) reports that the gray wolf population has "dropped steadily in recent years" at Isle Royale National Park. According to the article, "eight wolves remained when the last count was taken last winter, the lowest since the 1950s, although a couple of pups are believed to have been born this year." Now, the wolves and

the moose on which the wolves feed are "subjects of the world's longest-running study of a predator-prey relationship in a closed ecosystem, which raises a thorny question for scientists: Should they intervene to preserve the wolves or let nature take its course?" The question is "forcing park managers to make an uncomfortable choice between their traditional hands-off policy toward wildlife and ensuring that Isle Royale continues to have wolves, a point of pride and longtime drawing card for visitors."

Also providing coverage are the Columbus (IN) Republic (12/19, 80K) and Salon (12/19, 613K).

APPEALS FILED IN WILDE, STURGEON COURT CASES. The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (12/19, 44K) reports that "two longtime Alaskans feuding with the federal government about how much clout the feds have on state-owned lands in national parks and preserves have filed appeals in an effort to overturn previous court decisions." According to the article, "appeals on behalf of Jim Wilde and John Sturgeon have been filed with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Anchorage." Alaska, which "intervened in Sturgeon's case, also is appealing the decision by a U.S. District Court judge that ruled the federal government has the authority to enforce federal regulations on state-owned land located in national parks and preserves."

LAKE POWELL RANGERS SHAVE HEADS TO SUPPORT GIRL IN CHEMO. The Lake Powell (AZ) Chronicle (12/19, 7K) reports that NPS rangers at Lake Powell "recently shaved their heads to show their support for a little girl who lost her hair from chemotherapy treatments." Ashley Fisher, 14, was "diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer on Halloween." Ashley's sister, who is "also named Ashley, lives in Greenehaven with her significant other, NPS ranger Matt Werner." Werner told Ashley, "When you start losing your hair and go bald, I'm going to go bald too."

Bureau of Land Management:

ATTORNEY SAYS $5.8 MILLION SETTLEMENT REACHED IN OFF-ROAD RACE CRASH. The Washington Post (12/18, Press, 4.28M) reports that an agreement has been reached to pay $5.8 million to the families of eight people killed and 12 injured in a California desert off-road race crash in 2010, a lawyer said Wednesday. Attorney Katherine Harvey-Lee, who represents three injured spectators and the father of one person killed, said the deal was reached in mediation on Tuesday with federal government lawyers. Under the agreement, the BLm would pay $4.825 million and race organizers and promoters Mojave Desert Racing Inc., and Mojave Desert Racing Productions Inc., would pay their $1 million insurance policy limit, she said.

The Los Angeles Times (12/19, Rojas, 3.07M) reports that David Christy, a spokesman for the BLM in California, "called the settlement 'tentative,' meaning it must be approved by the Justice Department before any money can be paid — a process that could take a few months."

Also providing coverage are the Los Angeles Times (12/18, Rojas, 3.07M), the San Francisco Chronicle (12/19, Taxin, 2.88M), the New York Daily News (12/19, Press, 3.94M), the San Bernardino (CA) Sun (12/18, 132K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (12/19, 83K).

GOLDEN SUNLIGHT SEEKS TO EXPLORE ON BLM LAND. KBZK-TV Butte, MT (12/19, 785) reports that the BLM says the Golden Sunlight Mine "wants to explore for minerals on land north of the mine's existing pit." The bureau says the "exploration activities will take place on more than five acres of land administered by the agency and would require construction of roads and drill pads."

WILD HORSE ADVOCATE: WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS ACT UNFULFILLED. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (12/19, Roy, 11.54M), Suzanne Roy, Campaign Director, American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, write that "the promise" of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act "remains tragically unfulfilled." In 1971, President Nixon observed that "demands of the market for [horses'] processed products, competition for forage used by domestic livestock" and other commercial forces had pushed wild horses and burros to the brink of extinction. She claims that "vested interests remain aligned against the mustangs," and "they have turned the law intended to protect these iconic animals on its head, and are the driving force behind the massive roundup and removal of wild horses and burros from our Western public lands." according to Roy, "the result is a corrupt and devastating federal program that today stockpiles more wild horses in captivity than remain free on the range."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PROPOSES MOVING WHITE-TAILED DEER FROM PUGET ISLAND. The Wahkiakum County (WA) Eagle (12/19) reports that the FWS is "proposing to translocate up to 35 Columbian white-tailed deer from Puget Island to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer in 2014 and an additional 10-20 deer to Ridgefield NWR in 2015." The agency has "proposed the translocations to promote the recovery of the Columbian white-tailed by stabilizing both the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge and Ridgefield NWR subpopulations."

The Wahkiakum County (WA) Eagle (12/19) reports that Wahkiakum County commissioners have "voiced opposition to a plan to move white-tail deer from Puget Island to US Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges." Commissioners Blair Brady, Dan Cothren and Mike Backman "unanimously voted to send a letter, drafted by Brady, to the Service opposing the proposed translocation."

HUNTERS, FISHERMEN TARGETED BY FWS FOR VIOLATIONS OF LACEY ACT. The Newsmax (12/18, 555K) reports that "law enforcement agencies are conducting thousands of investigations using a law that makes violating state wildlife statutes a federal crime, often ensnaring hunters and fishermen for seemingly minor infractions." According to the article, special agents and wildlife inspectors for the FWS "conduct about 2,500 investigative cases a year of violations of the Lacey Act, a 1900 law meant to combat illegal trafficking of wildlife."

FWS HONORS ALLIANCE FOR PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT. The Williston (ND) Herald (12/19, 18K) reports that the FWS is honoring Alliance Pipeline for its "efforts to reduce impacts to birds and other animal species while providing compensation for native prairie losses." In October, Alliance Pipeline completed "construction on its 80-mile, 12-inch natural gas pipeline in western North Dakota." Carol Aron, a biologist with the FWS, said that "Alliance really stepped up and tried to avoid the North Dakota native habitat."

EXPERTS TO REVIEW TAKING GRAY WOLF OFF THREATENED LIST. KIFI-TV Idaho Falls, ID (12/19, 23K) reports that "a group of experts is reviewing whether the federal proposal to lift more Endangered Species Act protections for the gray wolf is scientifically valid." A research center at the University of California, Santa Barbara, "assembled the experts at the request" of the UFWS to "determine whether the agency used the best available science to conclude that gray wolves no longer need protection." The scientific review is due by the end of January.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

REPORT SAYS OBAMA HOLDING BACK DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LANDS. The Daily Caller (12/19, Bastasch, 422K) reports that the Obama Administration is "holding back the economy by keeping federal lands off limits to oil and gas production in the midst of an energy boom," according to a new study. The conservative American Action Forum (AAF). Claims that the Obama Administration has "held back energy production on federal lands through long permitting times and keeping more land off-limits to oil and gas drilling."

NOBLE EYES NEVADA FOR MORE OIL DRILLING. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (12/19, 165K) reports that Noble Energy officials "discussed the company's plans this week during a public scoping meeting for the Huntington Valley project" hosted by the BLM's Elko District. According to the article, "Noble recently finished 3-D seismic surveying around Huntington Valley and is planning to drill a few wells once the BLM has signed off on an environmental assessment."

BLM OPENS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON MCKENZIE PIPELINE PROJECT. The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (12/19, 22K) reports that the BLM North Dakota Field Office has "opened a 30-day public comment period for the proposed Bear Den Phase 2 pipeline project in McKenzie County."

KEMP: OBAMA HAS AUTHORITY TO LIFT BAN ON US OIL EXPORTS. In his column for Reuters (12/19, Kemp), John Kemp writes that President Obama doesn't need the approval of Congress to end the ban on

exporting crude oil. Kemp notes that the Administration may be considering ending the policy, and he cites Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, who said, "Restrictions on exports were born, as was the Department of Energy and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, on oil disruptions. ... There are lots of issues in the energy space that deserve some new analysis and examination in the context of what is now an energy world that is no longer like the 1970s." Kemp says that whatever the Administration decides could have an impact on the profits of oil producers and refiners.

Offshore Energy Development:

FORMER BP ENGINEER CONVICTED OF OBSTRUCTING GULF SPILL PROBE. The AP (12/19, Kunzelman) reports that former BP engineer Kurt Mix was convicted on Wednesday of "trying to obstruct investigators by deleting text messages from his cellular phone" during the probe of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Mix, who worked on BP's efforts "to stop the nation's worst offshore oil spill, embraced stunned relatives and friends after jurors convicted him of an obstruction-of-justice charge punishable by up to 20 years in prison." He was acquitted on a second count of the same charge. Attorneys for Mix pledged to appeal his conviction, which the AP calls "a major milestone in an investigation that already has resulted in a guilty plea by BP itself."

McClatchy (12/19, Cockerham, 95K) reports that Acting Assistant Attorney General Mythili Raman said in a written statement, "Today a jury in New Orleans found that Kurt Mix purposefully obstructed the efforts of law enforcement during the investigation of the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history." Federal prosecutors had argued that "after Mix learned in October 2010 that his electronic filed were to be collected by a vendor working for BP's lawyers he deleted from his iPhone a text string that contained more than 300 messages with his BP supervisor."

The Los Angeles Times (12/19, Muskal, 3.07M) reports that Mix "is one of four current or former BP employees charged with crimes related to the spill." BP "took corporate responsibility for its role in the catastrophe earlier this year, pleading guilty in January to manslaughter charges and agreeing to pay a record $4 billion in penalties. 'This prosecution shows the commitment of the Justice Department to hold accountable those who attempt to interfere with the administration of justice,'" Raman said.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (12/19, 206) and the Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (12/19, 90K).

YAKIMA COUNTY PRAISED FOR TAKING ACTION IN WATER RIGHTS ALLOCATIONS. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (12/19, 86K) editorializes that Yakima County is "showing foresight in the contentious issue of water allocation, and the result will be a more systematic way to assure water for farmers, fish and future development." The article notes that "a key provision" of the Yakima County Water Resource System is the "creation of a water bank that will allow the rural property owners to acquire existing senior water rights before drilling for water."

KLAMATH BASIN DEAL LAUDED. In an op-ed for the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (12/19, 76K), Mark Hennelly, vice president for legislative affairs and public policy of the California Waterfowl Association, writes that the Klamath Basin deal "provides real hope for our hunting and fishing heritage throughout the watershed." According to Hennelly, "with the new Klamath agreements steelhead and salmon will regain more than 400 miles of habitat, plus improved water quality and flows."

Empowering Native American Communities:

CHAUDHURI APPOINTED TO NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION. The JD Supra (12/19, 4K) reports that "on September 4, 2013, Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, an enrolled member of the Muscogee Creek Nation, was appointed to a three-year term as Associate Commissioner, and on October 28, he was designated Acting Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission." Chaudhuri was appointed by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

Also providing coverage is the National Law Review (12/19).

NEW BIA ALASKA REGIONAL DIRECTOR NAMED. The Indian Country Today Media Network (12/18, 21K) reports that Weldon "Bruce" Loudermilk, who had been serving as the BIA Great Plains Regional director since June 20, 2010, has been named Director of the BIA's Alaska Region based in Anchorage. The announcement was made November 26 by Michael S. Black, director of the BIA, who said he has "full confidence" in Loudermilk, an enrolled member of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said, "We recognize the importance of identifying and hiring the best candidates to serve tribes, the Alaska Native people and Alaska Native Corporations. Given that BIA regional directors are responsible for ensuring Indian Affairs carries out its mission within their regions, it is my firm belief that we should always be working to attract the best and brightest to these positions."

FEDERAL APPEALS COURT RULES LANSING CASINO PROJECT CAN PROCEED. The Detroit Free Press (12/19, Vanhulle, 794K) reports that "a three-judge panel of the US 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati has ruled today that a federal district judge in Grand Rapids erred by granting the state an injunction halting the proposed Kewadin Lansing casino because it 'lacked jurisdiction' and based its ruling on 'contingent future events that may never occur.'" Now, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians can "move forward" with its application to the Interior Department to "have land it bought from the City of Lansing held in trust for gaming."

Also providing coverage is the Lansing (MI) State Journal (12/18, 158K).

NAVAJO NATION COULD RECEIVE $1 BILLION IN DAMAGES FOR URANIUM CLEANUP. The Indian Country Today Media Network (12/18, 21K) reports that the Navajo Nation could "net up to $1 billion for the cleanup of abandoned uranium mines and processing plants in Cove, Arizona and Shiprock, New Mexico, after a bankruptcy judge ruled that Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and Kerr-McGee Corp. are liable for damages." US Bankruptcy Judge Allan L. Gropper held that "Anadarko and Kerr-McGee are liable to the plaintiffs for damages, setting a range for such damages between $5.1 and $14.1 billion."

ALASKA NATIVE FOSTER CHILDREN TO RECEIVE FEDERAL HELP. The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (12/18, 198K) reports that Alaska has "entered into an agreement with Tanana Chiefs Conference to provide federal foster care reimbursements for the first time to a tribal consortium in Alaska." Federal officials called the partnership a "historic moment" for tribal child welfare in the state.

SUPPORT FOR CATAWBA CASINO GROWS. The Shelby (NC) Star (12/19, 43K) editorializes that "the outcry of state politicians in Harrah's back pocket has died down as local support" for the proposed Catawba Indian Nation resort and casino "continues to grow." It notes that "there's no set timetable as to when the Department of the Interior will make its decision." The paper hopes "it won't be long before Cleveland County – and the Catawba nation – hit the jackpot."

Top National News:

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDS LIMITS ON NSA SURVEILLANCE. On Wednesday, President Obama met with his Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies as the White House publicly released the panel's 308-page report, which it submitted to the President one week ago. The panel calls for a significant curtailing of National Security Agency surveillance activities, including the termination of the telephone and Internet metadata program. The release receives wide coverage, with reports on all three broadcast networks including the lead story on ABC, and front-page coverage in nearly all the nation's major newspapers. But while the recommendations are seen as significant, most reports note that the panel served in an advisory capacity, and that it will be up to the President to decide which of its 46 proposals, if any, to pursue.

ABC World News (12/18, lead story, 2:45, Sawyer, 7.43M) opened Wednesday evening by reporting that "giant questions about life, liberty and security in America are in the spotlight" after "a group of advisers hand-picked by the President has told him to stop monitoring phone records across this country and to rein in measures used by...the NSA. But the President has said those programs are important in the fight against terror." ABC (Ross) added, "It was another devastating blow for the NSA. Today's report said the NSA's collection of the phone

records of every American should be shut down because it presents a lurking danger of abuse and does not make the country any safer."

On the CBS Evening News (12/18, story 2, 2:20, Pelley, 5.58M), Major Garrett reported, "The panel said the National Security Agency should stop collecting and storing so much data on individual Americans. It suggested the government's willingness to use every new type of surveillance technology has put civil liberties at risk. The panel urged President Obama to place the right to privacy on equal footing with surveillance and counterterrorism investigations. The rise of modern technologies makes it all the more important that democratic nations respect people's fundamental right to privacy, the panel wrote."

On NBC Nightly News (12/18, story 4, 1:10, Williams, 7.86M), Chuck Todd reported the panel "would like to see that it no longer would have the government house the so-called meta phone and Internet data. Let the phone and Internet companies themselves do it. No more blanket court orders for phone and Internet data. Let the government show legal cause for every instance when it needs phone and internet data. Allow private phone companies to make public each time it is forced to turn over data to the company and perhaps take the NSA away from the control of the military and instead have a civilian put in charge."

The AP (12/19, Pace, Dozier) says the White House "authorized the release of the review group's report Wednesday, weeks ahead of schedule." President Obama "was also conducting an internal review of the government's surveillance programs and planned to announce his decisions in January." The Washington Post (12/19, Nakashima, Soltani, 4.28M) says the panel "made 46 recommendations in all, which included moving the NSA's information assurance directorate...outside the agency and under the Department of Defense's cyber policy office." The President "met Wednesday morning with the panel, whose suggestions are advisory only."

The New York Times (12/19, A1, Sanger, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says "taken together, the recommendations would remove from the N.S.A.'s hands the authority to conduct many of its operations without review by the president, Congress or the courts. But by themselves, they would terminate few programs." USA Today (12/19, A1, Madhani, 5.82M) says the panel also called for amending the section of the Patriot Act that "gives the government broad authority to compel a third party to produce private information relevant to a terrorism investigation," the enacting of legislation "requiring the intelligence community to regularly report to Congress and the American people on business records and metadata collected," and splitting leadership of the NSA and the military's Cyber Command.

On the CBS Evening News (12/18, story 3, 1:15, Miller, 5.58M), correspondent John Miller said, "It's a bit of a shock to the system at the NSA, of course. They had seen the drafts of the report and it goes beyond the telephone program, it talks about certain restructuring of the agency, whether it should be led by a military person or civilian or whether that person could also be head of the cyber command."

The Washington Post (12/19, Rupar, 4.28M) says the five members of the panel are Richard Clarke, "chief counter-terrorism adviser on the National Security Council under presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush"; ex-CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell; University of Chicago law professor Geoffrey Stone, who "has written about government secrecy and criticized the makeup of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court" this summer; Cass Sunstein, "an intellectual mentor to the president" and former White House regulatory official; and Georgia Tech professor Peter Swire, Office of Management and Budget chief privacy counselor under President Clinton.

The Wall Street Journal (12/19, A1, Gorman, Barrett, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Los Angeles Times (12/19, A1, Dilanian, Parsons, 3.07M), McClatchy (12/19, Clark, Watkins, 95K), and Politico (12/18, Gerstein, 467K) also have reports.

More Commentary. The New York Times (12/19, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the "remarkably thorough and well-reasoned report calling on the government to end its bulk phone-data collection program and to increase both the transparency and accountability of surveillance programs going forward" should be heeded by the President. The Times says "the surveillance programs began before Mr. Obama's presidency, but he allowed them to continue and grow in unprecedented ways." He can "quickly adopt his panel's recommendation and end the ineffective and constitutionally dangerous dragnet surveillance."

Karl Rove writes in his Wall Street Journal (12/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) column that in the wake of

the Monday Federal court ruling indicating that the NSA surveillance program is likely unconstitutional, President Obama can and should defend the program and appeal the ruling. While it might hurt him with his base, Rove says it would be an act of true leadership by Obama in defense of the country.

Paul: Obama Has Allowed NSA To Violate The Fourth Amendment. Sen. Rand Paul said on CNN's Situation Room (12/18, 554K), "My reaction is that the judge the other day that said that it was unconstitutional is exactly right. I think even the President's own team now is coming up with recommendations that acknowledge that the President has allowed this to get away from himself. He's allowed the NSA program to be intrusive, go against the Bill of Rights, go against the Fourth Amendment, and even his own team is now recommending that he needs to rein this in. I don't think they go far enough in the sense that I think the Fourth Amendment should protect your personal information and that you do have a right to privacy, whether the papers are in your house or whether they are kept at your bank. I think you do have a right to privacy and we'll continue to fight this."

Paul Says Clapper Damaged US Credibility By Lying To Congress. Sen. Rand Paul said on CNN's Situation Room (12/18, 554K), "I don't think you can give away national security secrets, but at the same time I'm very offend that the [National Intelligence Director James Clapper] lied to Congress which is perjury and punishable by time in jail, and the President has glibly gone on his way, has not asked for his resignation, has not said that he will try him in court for lying to Congress. I find that really – that Clapper is lying to Congress is probably more injurious to our intelligence capabilities than anything Snowden did because Clapper has damaged the credibility of the entire intelligence apparatus and I'm not sure what to believe anymore when they come to Congress."

SENATE PASSES BUDGET COMPROMISE 64-36. While only one network news broadcast covered the Senate's passage on Wednesday of the bipartisan budget agreement, it gets a great deal of print coverage this morning. Generally, the coverage cites the vote as a rare moment of bipartisanship at the end of a relatively unproductive legislative year. However, several reports highlight the fact that the agreement does not eliminate the possibility of a government shutdown and does almost noting to reduce the national debt or curb the growth of entitlement spending.

NBC Nightly News (12/18, story 5, 0:30, Williams, 7.86M) reported that by a vote of 64-36, the Senate on Wednesday night "passed a budget to fund the Federal government." Lawmakers hope the measure "will avert another shutdown for at least another two years."

The Los Angeles Times (12/19, Mascaro, 3.07M) reports that while the "$85-billion package is modest in scope," it "represents a rare bipartisan achievement for a divided Congress that has spent the past two years engaged in high-stakes standoffs over government budgets." Under the deal, "spending for 2014 and 2015 will rise by $63 billion, reversing some across-the-board cuts to defense accounts and social programs that only the most conservative lawmakers wanted to keep."

USA Today (12/19, Davis, 5.82M) reports that nine GOP senators "sided with all 55 members of the Democratic Conference" to pass the measure which was "one of the final legislative acts in what has otherwise been the most unproductive year on record for Congress."

The New York Times (12/19, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Senate vote, which was "far closer than the overwhelming 332-to-94 vote in the House last week," reflected "the particular politics of the Senate, where a Democrat, Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, was the budget's shepherd and where Republicans facing Tea Party challenges next year or positioning themselves for presidential runs in 2016 opted to oppose it."

Politico (12/19, Kim, 467K) reports that there was "little suspense but still a bit of drama," as Republicans "tried to make noise during the intervening hours of debate before the final budget vote on Wednesday, venting their frustrations about being blocked from offering amendments to the deal."

The Wall Street Journal (12/19, Hook, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the measure passed despite a late controversy over a provision to slow the growth of pension benefits for military retirees under the age of 62. The provision, which drew vocal opposition from veterans and their supporters.

The AP (12/19, Espo) reports that the vote added "a late dusting of bipartisanship to a year more likely to be

remembered for a partial government shutdown and near-perpetual gridlock." The AP notes that the signature of the President "was assured on the measure, which lawmakers in both parties and at opposite ends of the Capitol said they hoped would curb budget brinkmanship and prevent more shutdowns in the near future."

Roll Call (12/19, Shiner, Subscription Publication, 87K) also reports that the measure lays "the groundwork to avoid government shutdowns over that time period."

However, the Washington Post (12/19, O'Keefe, Montgomery, 4.28M) reports that the measure "does not erase the threat of a government shutdown." Rather, it "merely sets the parameters of federal spending levels; it leaves work on the details up to the House and Senate appropriations committees."

McClatchy (12/19, Lightman, 95K) reports that passage of the budget "virtually assures two years of fiscal stability, though it does virtually nothing to reduce the national debt or curb the growth of Medicare, Social Security or other entitlement programs." McClatchy also notes that it does not "guarantee the government will not shut down again early next year, though that prospect now appears highly unlikely."

The Hill (12/19, Cox, Wasson, 194K) reports that the agreement "falls far short of the 'grand bargain' negotiations held" by President Obama and House Speaker Boehner in 2011, "when significant entitlement cuts and tax hikes were on the table." In addition, it is "well short of the $4 trillion deal that many deficit hawks say is necessary to tame the national debt." The Hill also notes that it "does little to change the trajectory of federal deficits, which have declined with an improving economy but are slated to expand in the long run as Medicare and Medicaid costs rise higher."

Bloomberg News (12/19, Hunter, Przybyla, 1.91M) reports that before the vote, Senate Budget Chairman Patty Murray, who negotiated the agreement with House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, said of the agreement, "It is not going to solve every problem but it is a step in the right direction and a dramatic improvement over the status quo. ... The American people are sick and tired of the constant crises we see out of Washington." After the vote, Ryan said, "This vote shows both parties – in both chambers – can find common ground. ... This bill is only a small step. We need to do a lot more. But it's a small step in the right direction."

The Washington Post (12/19, Klein, 4.28M) reports that Murray "persuaded her fellow Democrats to vote for the deal." In a document Murray "has been circulating among Senate Democrats," she makes a case that "Democrats got a bit and gave up very little." She argues that Democrats "preserved their fundamental negotiating positions: no changes to entitlements absent tax increases, no changes to sequestration without revenues, no restoration of defense spending without unwinding an equal restoration of domestic spending."

Budget Deal Will Cost States $415 Million In Oil And Gas Royalties. The AP (12/19, Daly) reports that according to the CBO, the budget deal "will cost Wyoming, New Mexico and other states $415 million in lost oil and gas royalties over the next decade." Legislation implementing the deal "makes permanent an effective 51-49 percent split that favors the federal government in dividing the 12.5 percent royalty collected from energy companies on oil and gas production on federal land." Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) said, "By perpetuating the policy of taxing mineral-producing states to pay for federal government bureaucracy, the deal unfairly burdens Wyoming to support increased spending in Washington. ... We need real cuts and real savings now, not more promises of cuts and savings years from now."

Bernanke Signs Of Cooperation On Budget Deal Could Help Economy. The Wall Street Journal (12/19, Morath, Sparshott, 5.91M) reports that Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke welcomed the budget agreement, saying the indications of cooperation in Congress could help increase confidence in the economy. Bernanke said, "Relative to where we were in September and October, it certainly is nice there has been a bipartisan deal," adding, "Even if the outcomes are small, as this one was, it's a good thing that they are working cooperatively and making some progress."

Budget Deal Said To Provide Some Stability For Federal Employees. In his "Federal Diary" column for the Washington Post (12/19, Davidson, 4.28M), Joe Davidson writes that the budget agreement allows "a 1 percent pay raise for most federal workers and some stability for a workforce that repeatedly had been threatened with government shutdown." However, "it does not eliminate the possibility of agencies cutting their staffs through buyouts, early retirements and even layoffs."

CITING IMPROVED ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, FED ANNOUNCES $10 BILLION MONTHLY STIMULUS TAPER. The announcement from the Federal Reserve that it will cut back on its monthly bond purchases generated a great deal of coverage suggesting that the shift is an affirmation that the current US recovery is gaining momentum. For instance, at the opening of the CBS Evening News (12/18, lead story, 2:45, 5.58M), Scott Pelley reported that "after years of extraordinary measures to keep the economy from plunging into a depression, the Federal Reserve said it will now ease up on its stimulus program" because "the job market has improved." Likewise, the AP (12/19, Crutsinger) reports that the Fed "has sent its strongest signal of confidence in the U.S. economy since the Great Recession struck six years ago,"

The Washington Post (12/19, 4.28M), in an editorial, says the Fed has given a "sign of confidence that the economy is starting to stand on its own two feet." The Post goes on to give some credit for the improved outlook to the budget deal reached last week by Senate Budget Chairman Murray and House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan. However, the Post's emphasis on fiscal policy and the legislative process is not reflective of the bulk of analyses last night and this morning, most of which contain no references to Congress or the Administration.

On the CBS Evening News (12/18, lead story, 2:45, 5.58M), correspondent Anthony Mason reported that "unemployment has fallen from 8.1%, when the latest round of stimulus started in 2012 to 7%...a five-year low," and "2.9 million jobs were created during that time." According to Mason, the Fed "will still be stimulating the economy...but it's cutting back the amount from $85 billion in bond purchases to $75 billion next month." Fed chairman Ben Bernanke: "Today's policy actions reflect the committee's assessment that the economy is continuing to make progress, but that it also has much farther to travel before conditions can be judged normal."

Diane Sawyer, on ABC World News (12/18, story 2, 1:10, 7.43M), noted that that the Dow Jones Industrial Average "closed up nearly 300 points because of what...Bernanke revealed about the strength of the American economy." Rebecca Jarvis went on to report that the Fed "believe[s] the unemployment rate could drop next year as low as 6.3%."

CNBC's Sue Herrerra, offering a more negative assessment of the nation's unemployment numbers for NBC Nightly News (12/18, story 2, 2:00, Williams, 7.86M), said, "A lot of people on Wall Street think perhaps the Fed was premature, that the economy as Wall Street sees it, and as Washington sees its, may look pretty healthy, or healthier than before," but "if you're on Main Street, it's very iffy." According to Herrerra, "We have a record number of people unemployed," including "people who have been looking for work for so long that they are now discouraged" and have "stopped looking for work." CNBC (12/19, Park, 1.52M) reported that on Wednesday, Bernanke said "the recovery remains 'far from complete.'"

According to the AP (12/19, Crutsinger), Bernanke successfully "managed a delicate balance" as he "announced a...long-feared pullback in the Fed's stimulus," and, at the same time, "convinc[ed] investors that the Fed would continue to bolster the economy indefinitely." The AP notes that the Fed "strengthened its commitment to record-low short-term rates" by pledging to "hold its key short-term rate near zero 'well past' the time when unemployment falls below 6.5 percent."

The Wall Street Journal (12/19, Mcgrane, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) covers the Fed shift in a front-page article under the headline "Fed Dials Back Bond Buying, Keeps a Wary Eye on Growth," reports that Bernanke made clear that the Fed retains the flexibility to suspend the tapering if events warrant it. The Journal also notes that Bernanke said his successor, Fed Vice Chair Janet Yellen, "fully supports what we did today." Bernanke is quoted as saying, "In light of the cumulative progress toward maximum employment and the improvement in the outlook for labor market conditions, the Committee decided to modestly reduce the pace of its asset purchases."

Another article from the Wall Street Journal (12/19, Mcgrane, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) emphasizes that it will now be up to Yellen, for the most part, to judge whether or not the economy can sustain additional tapering or an interest rate hike. According to the Journal, Sen. Joe Manchin, who voted against Yellen's nomination as a member of the Senate Banking Committee, called her on Wednesday to tell her he would back her when the full Senate votes as a result of her support for the decision to begin to taper.

The Washington Post (12/19, Mui, 4.28M) calls the $10 billion monthly bond-buying reduction "a small but

symbolic first step toward unwinding" the Fed's "unprecedented support of the economy," and notes that Bernanke himself referred to the shift as a "modest reduction." The Post reports that the Fed "has been buying $40 billion worth of mortgage-backed securities and $45 billion in Treasury bonds" monthly, and now "will reduce purchases of each by $5 billion." McClatchy (12/19, Hall, 95K) reports that Mark Zandi, Moody's Analytics' chief economist, said, "It's a dovish taper. ... The Fed is on track to end (stimulus) by the fall of 2014 and begin raising interest rates by the fall of 2015."

According to the AP (12/19, Rugaber), the Fed "has had more success with the unemployment rate, which has fallen more than a percentage point to 7 percent since the Fed launched its bond-buying program last year," than with the inflation rate, which has "declined since then and remains far below the Fed's 2 percent target."

The New York Times (12/19, A1, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in a front-page article, says the policies announced by Bernanke are the "result of a compromise that has been months in the making between a group of officials convinced that the economy needs more help, and a range of internal critics who regarded the bond-buying campaign as ineffective or dangerous." The Times says there is "now...a clear – though tentative – schedule for the course of Fed policy over the next two years, including an end to asset purchases by late next year and a signal from Mr. Bernanke that the first increase in short-term interest rates is not likely to come until near the end of 2015." The Time notes that the "compromise" is backed by Esther George, president of the Kansas City Fed, "who has dissented at each previous meeting this year over concerns that the Fed was doing too much," but "drew a dissent from" Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren, "who called it premature."

Bloomberg News (12/19, Zumbrun, 1.91M) quotes Rosengren as saying the tapering is "premature until incoming data more clearly indicate that economic growth is likely to be sustained above its potential rate." Bloomberg also reports that Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd. in New York, said, "The Fed exit has begun, and the economy will guide how quickly they continue to cut back their stimulus." Rupkey added, "They changed the direction...and once they started this step, history tells you, they won't reverse it."

According to Politico (12/19, Lee, 467K), "analysts" say the Fed's shift "is the result of several positive economic indicators since September, when many Fed watchers were surprised by the announcement to hold off on tapering." Politico adds that "the budget agreement that emerged...this month has also helped to create a more stable political environment in Washington since September, when markets were rattled by the possibility of a government shutdown as well as a potential debt default." Carl Riccadonna, a senior economist with Deutsche Bank, is quoted as saying, "They didn't want to be tapering asset purchases and then have the economy slump due to the government shutdown."

Dana Milbank of the Washington Post (12/19, Milbank, 4.28M) blames fiscally conservative Republicans for slowing the pace of growth in the US since the GOP took control of the House.

US Stock Indices Spike On News From The Fed. On the CBS Evening News (12/18, lead story, 2:45, 5.58M), Scott Pelley said, "Wall Street's been anticipating this decision" from the Fed "for months and when it came...stock prices soared." The Los Angeles Times (12/19, Tangel, 3.07M) reports that US stocks "rallied nearly 2% after the Federal Reserve announced it would begin scaling back its stimulus program early next year." For the day, the DJIA "added 292.71, gaining 1.8% to 16,167.97"; the S&P 500 "rose 29.65 points, or 1.7%, to 1,810.65" and the Nasdaq "rose 46.38 points, or 1.2%, to 4,070.06." The AP (12/19, Sweet) reports that while "some investors had worried about a decline in stocks once the market got less rocket fuel," the Bernanke's reassurances eased those fears, leading to Wednesday's rally.

The Wall Street Journal (12/19, A1, Browning, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) covers Wednesday's rally in a front-page article under the headline "Relieved Investors Cheer Fed Move: Soaring Stock Market Is Sign of Investor Hopes for Recovering Economy." USA Today (12/19, Waggoner, 5.82M) reports that "the bond market reacted calmly to the Fed's announcement" as the "10-year T-note yield, which closed at 2.84% Tuesday, crept up to 2.90% just after the 2 p.m. Fed announcement," and "then...fell to 2.82% before closing at 2.89%."

The Wall Street Journal (12/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, says it remains to be seen how the market will react to more substantial tapering in the future.

Fed Delaying Bank Leverage Limits Until Basel Deal Finished: Sources. Bloomberg News (12/19, Hamilton, 1.91M) reports that sources say the Fed has decided to "delay imposing limits on leverage at eight of the biggest U.S. financial institutions until a global agreement is completed." Officials intend to "wait for a finished rule from the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision before completing their own requirement for how much capital U.S. banks must hold as a percentage of all assets on their books," they said. Bloomberg News explains that the international agreement is "shaping up as weaker in some respects than the U.S. plan." The sources added that the FDIC and OCC had "favored finishing a U.S. rule by year's end," and the Fed's "wait-and-see position is aligned with groups representing the banking industry, who have argued for a delay on grounds that the regulations should be consistent."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Turn Off The Data Vacuum."*** The New York Times (12/19, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the "remarkably thorough and well-reasoned report calling on the government to end its bulk phone-data collection program and to increase both the transparency and accountability of surveillance programs going forward" should be heeded by the President. The Times says "the surveillance programs began before Mr. Obama's presidency, but he allowed them to continue and grow in unprecedented ways." He can "quickly adopt his panel's recommendation and end the ineffective and constitutionally dangerous dragnet surveillance."

"An Epidemic Of Attention Deficit Disorder." The New York Times (12/19, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes in an editorial that "the hard-sell campaign by drug companies to drive up diagnoses of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or A.D.H.D., and sales of drugs to treat it is disturbing. The campaign focused initially on children but is now turning toward adults, who provide a potentially larger market." The Times says "a small percentage of children" actually have ADHD, but "many medical professionals benefit from overprescribing." The Times calls on both the FDA and the Federal Trade Commission to take "more aggressive action."

"Tunisia's Reawakening." An editorial in the New York Times (12/19, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that with a deal between Tunisia's ruling Islamists and opposition parties to install a caretaker administration until elections can be held reports, Tunisia, which three years ago was responsible for setting off the Arab Spring, "could now show the way to get the transitions to democracy back on track." The Post notes that "three years after it inspired the citizens of other Arab nations to seek a better deal from their leaders, Tunisians can show that political compromise is possible."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The Fed's Case For 'Tapering.'"*** The Washington Post (12/19, 4.28M), in an editorial, says the Fed has given a "sign of confidence that the economy is starting to stand on its own two feet." The Post goes on to give some credit for the improved outlook to the budget deal reached last week by Senate Budget Chairman Patty Murray and House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan. However, the Post's emphasis on fiscal policy and the legislative process is not reflective of most of the other analyses last night and this morning, most of which contain no references to Congress or the Administration.

"Buying Time In Ukraine." An editorial in the Washington Post (12/19, 4.28M) argues that the Russian aid package to Ukraine helps Vladimir Putin and Viktor Yanukovych move "toward realizing their short-term political ambitions," it does so "at the long-term expense of Russia and Ukraine." The Post argues that "the attempt to create an alternative empire of autocracy and corruption in the center of 21st-century Europe will collapse of its own weight," and the EU and the US "can speed that process by sticking to the principles to which they tried to hold Mr. Yanukovych in exchange for the association agreement with the European Union." The Post calls Putin's "bid for Ukraine...a zero-sum game borrowed from another century," and argues that the West "should have a strategy that looks past thuggish Russian and Ukrainian rulers and invests in Ukraine's future."

"Park It." In an editorial, the Washington Post (12/19, 4.28M) calls on the D.C. City Council to approve proposed new campaign laws that will restrict bundled campaign contributions.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"National Lampoon's ObamaCare Vacation."*** The Wall Street Journal (12/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that April Todd-Malmlov, the head of Minnesota's health insurance exchange, took a two-week vacation to Costa Rica amid the problems with Minnesota's site. The

Journal wonders if HHS Secretary Sebelius should follow the four state exchange heads into retirement.

"Bernanke Pulls The Trigger." The Wall Street Journal (12/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, says it remains to be seen how the market will react to more substantial Fed tapering in the future.

"China's Space Ambitions." The Wall Street Journal (12/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, congratulates China for landing its peaceful Jade Rabbit rover on the moon, especially because it contrasts with the country's military space program. With the US potentially vulnerable to asymmetric warfare in space, the editors note the US will still have to watch China's military activities even if this mission is only scientific in nature.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Fed Dials Back Bond Buying
Panel Seeks To Overhaul Spy Practices
Relieved Investors Cheer Fed Move

New York Times:
Obama Is Urged To Sharply Curb NSA Data Mining
Fed to Start Unwinding Its Stimulus Next Month
After Collapse, Bleak Struggle
Paper Or Plastic? Britain Joining Currency Trend
Uninsured Skeptical of Healthcare Law in Poll
Drug Maker's Donations to Co-Pay Charity Face Scrutiny
De Blasio Prods Council to Elect Ally as Speaker

Washington Post:
A New Calling For Local Innovators
Your laptop: Is Someone Watching Without Your Knowing?
Fed Will Begin Easing Stimulus
Panel Urges New Curbs On Surveillance By US
Federal Charges Loomed For McDonnells
Senate Passes Budget Deal Setting Up Debt Fight In 2016

Financial Times:
US Stocks Set Record As Fed Steps Back
Deloitte Faces Grilling Over RSA
Analysts Slash M&S Sales Forecasts
NSA Fallout Sees Brazil Snub Boeing
US Share Buybacks Highest Since 2008
BoJ Misfires On Loan Support Program

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: NSA-Obama Advisors; Economy-Stimulus; Health-Blood Pressure Treatment; Pope Francis-Christmas Message; Health-Drug Costs
CBS: Economy-Stimulus; NSA-Obama Advisors; NSA Surveillance; Health-Blood Pressure Treatment; ACA-Public Opinion; California-Synthetic Drugs
NBC: NASA-ISS Space Walks; Economy-Stimulus; Russia-Olympics; NSA Surveillance; Senate Passes Budget Deal; Syria-Civil War; Health-Blood Pressure Treatment; Netflix-Mitt Romney Documentary

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Budget Deal-Senate Approval; NSA-Obama Advisory Panel; Target-Credit Security Breach; Fed Reduces Stimulus; Dow Increase

CBS: NSA-Obama Advisory Panel; Target-Credit Security Breach; Fed Reduces Stimulus; Budget Deal-Senate Approval; Indian Diplomat Arrested
NPR: NSA-Obama Advisory Panel; Delta-In Flight Cell Ban; NASA-ISS Space Walks; UN-Condemns Syrian Violence; Target-Credit Security Breach; Youth Smoking Rates-Record Low; Massachusetts-Department Of Children And Family Investigation; Asian Stocks
FOX: Budget Deal-Senate Approval; Dow Increase; Fed Reduces Stimulus; E-Cigarette Ban Vote

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Daily Presidential Briefing, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Participates in meeting with senior advisors via teleconference, Wilmington, Delaware.

MICHELLE OBAMA — Visits Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling where she will deliver toys and gifts donated by Executive Office of the President staff to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Campaign; visits with Toys for Tots volunteers and other military personnel, open press.
US Senate: 11:15 a.m. DURBIN, REED, WARREN – STUDENT LOANS — Press conference call outlining legislation outlook for 2014 to bring fairness to students with Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL); Senator Jack Reed (D-RI); Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

9:30 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — Business meeting is to consider the following bills: S.37, a bill to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, and for other purposes; S.404, a bill to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest; S.974, a bill to provide for certain land conveyances in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; S.1237, a bill to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes; S.1300, a bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the conduct of stewardship end result contracting projects; S.1301, a bill to provide for the restoration of forest landscapes, protection of old growth forests, and management of national forests in the eastside forests of the State of Oregon; S.1341, a bill to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, and for other purposes; S.1491, a bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve United States-Israel energy cooperation, and for other purposes; H.R. 1158, an act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area; H.R. 2337, an act to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit. Location: 366 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Executive Business Meeting. Judicial nominations, including Peter Joseph Kadzik, to be an Assistant Attorney General. Also, S.619, Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013; S.1410, Smarter Sentencing Act of 2013; S.1675, Recidivism Reduction and Public Safety Act of 2013; S.975, Court-Appointed Guardian Accountability and Senior Protection Act. Location: 226 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: Dec. 16 – 20. U.S. – EU TRADE TALKS — The Office of the United States Trade Representative hosts EU and US negotiators for the third round of talks on a planned Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in Washington D.C. between 16 and 20 December 2013. UPDATE: The US Trade Commission has indicated that the Thursday meeting is in China. Press briefing on Friday will be in Washington, DC.

WILSON CENTER – AMBASSADOR SHANNON — 10 a.m. A Conversation with Ambassador Thomas A. Shannon. Opening remarks: Jane Harman, Director, President and CEO, Wilson Center. Introduction:

Ambassador Anthony S. Harrington, President and CEO, Albright Stonebridge Group and Chairman of Brazil Institute Advisory Board. Keynote: Ambassador Thomas A. Shannon, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State. Moderator: Paulo Sotero, Director, Brazil Institute, Wilson Center. Media RSVP to michael.darden@wilsoncenter.org. Media bringing heavy electronics MUST indicate this in their response so they may be cleared through our building security and allowed entrance. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center at the Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – SEN. MCCAIN – UKRAINE — 11:30 a.m. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) will deliver remarks on "Ukraine's Inflection Point: U.S. Strategy Toward Europe's East" at the Atlantic Council. (This past weekend, Sen. McCain spoke to the mass protest at Independence Square in Kiev and met with Ukrainian government officials, opposition leaders and members of civil society.) Location: 1030 15th Street NW, 12th Floor.

SECRETARY LEW – PHILIPPINES — 4 p.m. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew meets with Secretary of the Philippine Department of Finance Cesar Purisima to discuss policies to boost regional and global growth, and reconstruction plans in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda. Secretary Lew and Finance Secretary Purisima will deliver statements to members of the media at the conclusion of the meeting. Location: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Diplomatic Reception Room, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "And President Obama has named a top former Microsoft executive to run and fix the Obamacare website. Hey, how about fixing Windows first? Can you start there?"

Jay Leno: "University of Colorado officials have ordered a Boulder professor to stop teaching a course in deviant behavior. I didn't even know you could get a degree in deviant behavior. I mean, where are you going to find a job? Besides Congress."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, December 20, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Dec 20, 2013 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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+ Gov. Mead: Wyoming Won't Honor EPA Ruling On Reservation.
+ Counties Want Cayuga Tribe's Leadership Dispute Settled.
+ Additional Coverage Of Tribal Nations Conference.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
+ Individual Mandate Delayed For Those Who Have Recently Lost Coverage.
+ Senate Expects Vote In Early January On Extending Emergency Jobless Benefits.
+ Economic News Seen As Generally Poor On Thursday.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:
+ New York Times.
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BIG PICTURE:
+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:
+ Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SEN. REID WARNS REPUBLICANS AGAINST BLOCKING NOMINATIONS. Roll Call (12/20, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that Senate Majority Leader Reid has lined up 10 nominees for votes this week before the chamber adjourns for Christmas. In addition, Reid said that about 30 nominees for State posts are slated for confirmation this week. Regarding the GOP's ability to delay nominees, Reid said, "If there is a particular issue with someone, I can understand that, but to hold everybody up is ... we can't allow that to happen anymore." Roll Call says that "seemed to be a bit of a warning against any senator objecting to the entirety of the more routine nominations package that usually clears without any fanfare by unanimous consent at the end of a session."

Meanwhile, The Hill (12/20, 194K) reports that Senate Republicans "will let their rank-and-file members leave town for the Christmas break, leaving Democrats to vote around the clock to confirm the latest batch of President Obama's nominees." Republicans "decided at a meeting Thursday afternoon that they will not yield back any time on the Defense authorization bill or expedite consideration of any of Obama's nominees."

Roll Call (12/20, Shiner, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) similarly reports that while the Senate will vote on pending nominations through the weekend, "just don't expect most Republicans to be there for it." Roll Call says that "many" Republicans, angered by the filibuster rules changes, are "planning to hit the exits for Christmas after Thursday night's 11:15 defense bill vote."

Kornze's Experience Questioned. The Mineweb (12/20, 114) reports that Neil Kornze is "finding his nomination" as the next BLM director is "anything but a fait accompli as far as the Senate Energy and Natural Resources is concerned." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "praised Kornze for helping 'implement forward-looking reforms at the BLM to promote energy development in areas of minimal conflict, drive landscape-level planning efforts, and dramatically expand the agency's use of technology to speed up the process for energy permitting.'" However, Sen. John Barrasso "suggested Kornze lacks the experience required for the position of BLM director."

Suh's Background Questioned. The Washington Free Beacon (12/20, 37K) reports that Rhea Suh, a nominee to lead Interior's fish and wildlife and parks division, "helped create a financing apparatus that has steered hundreds of millions of dollars to some of the nation's most prominent environmentalist groups." Before joining the Obama Administration, Suh "worked at a number of left-wing foundations whose support for radical environmentalist groups has some senators concerned that she would work to stymie fossil fuel production if confirmed." At a confirmation hearing on Monday, Sen. John Barrasso asked Suh, "Given your lifetime of funding activist groups opposing natural gas production, how can the members of this committee suddenly expect you to change your views if you're confirmed?"

DEMOCRATS PRESS INTERIOR TO HIKE ROYALTY RATES. The National Journal (12/20, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that Democrats are pushing the Interior Department to "force energy companies to send more money to the government when they produce coal, oil, and natural gas on federal lands." The Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change said "in a report that Interior's current policies 'effectively subsidize fossil-fuel development on public land' with royalty rates that are too low and coal lease terms that are too generous." The report issued Thursday stated, "These policies are counterproductive to the goals of the President's Climate Action Plan because they subsidize a high-carbon energy source at the very time the US needs to reduce its carbon pollution and because they fail to provide taxpayers with a proper return on these publicly owned mineral resources."

Additional coverage of royalty rates was provided by Government Executive (12/20, 28K) and the Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (12/20, 325K).

Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change Calls For Coal Leasing Reform. The Grist (12/20, 25K) reports that the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change also "released several recommendations for the Department of Interior to support President Obama's Climate Action Plan, including a call to reform the federal coal leasing program."

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR ALASKA CLIMATE CENTER RESEARCH. The Alaska Dispatch (12/19, 7K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced on Thursday funding for several studies at the Alaska Climate Science Center. The center will "share more than $130,000 with two other Interior offices to help pay for studies into moth infestations of Southcentral Alaska berry crops and potential climate vulnerabilities of eulachon."

LAWSUIT FILED OVER DESERT TORTOISE LAND DISPUTE. The St. George (UT) News (12/19, 3K) reports that in a "complaint filed Sept. 20 in the US District Court for Utah, Washington County is being sued by a private land developer who, in 1995, volunteered to commit 2,440 acres of his own land into the Red Cliff's Desert Tortoise Reserve." The land developer, James Doyle, "claims that for 18 years the county has failed to meet its obligation to facilitate a deal with the federal government to either purchase Doyle's land outright, or to exchange it for land of similar value." In addition to Washington County, Doyle is suing the BLM, the FWS, and Interior

Secretary Sally Jewell. Doyle "claims that both federal and local governments have not followed through on their promises and, as a result, Doyle has been ruined, financially."

PODESTA TO HELP WHITE HOUSE FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE. The "Wonkblog" of the Washington Post (12/20, Plumer, 4.28M) reports that John Podesta, the newest adviser to President Obama, "will reportedly push the White House to focus more heavily on climate change in the coming year," according to a report by Politco which said, "With chances of major legislation on climate change all but dead given congressional opposition, Podesta will push for aggressive executive action, in addition to backstopping new Environmental Protection Agency chief Gina McCarthy on controversial new emissions guidelines for power plants." The piece goes on to lay out what Podesta may have hand in including increased efficiency standards and more pollution rules.

The Bloomberg BNA (12/20, 7K) reports that "even as President Barack Obama promises to implement aggressive regulatory measures to rein in climate change domestically, this year his administration used the same regulatory authority to quietly position the US to become a global leader in fossil fuel exports." According to the article, "in a series of decisions made by regulators under" oversight of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, "proposals for projects to export--for the first time in US history--huge amounts of coal to Asia and liquefied natural gas globally are being evaluated without a comprehensive analysis of the impact of exporting on climate change."

For USA Today (12/19, Yonk, Hansen, 5.82M), Ryan M. Yonk, an assistant professor of political science at Southern Utah University, and Megan E. Hansen, a policy analyst at Strata Policy, write that "earlier this month, President Obama issued a memo to the heads of executive departments and agencies, laying out his administration's new goals for renewable energy." The White House "directive calls for agencies to double their use of renewable electricity, which includes sources like 'hydrokinetic renewable energy' derived from lakes, rivers, and man-made channels." However, Yonk and Hansen argue that "to accomplish this noble goal, onerous government regulations may end up being the administration's own worst enemy."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: LAWMAKER PROPOSES NOAA MOVE TO INTERIOR. Additional coverage of the bill introduced by Sen. Richard Burr that would move NOAA from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Interior was provided by the "Capital Weather Gang" blog of the Washington Post (12/20, Samenow, 4.28M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SEN. COBURN'S "WASTEBOOK." In a piece appearing on Yahoo! (12/20, Pappas, Writer, 17.91M) , Stephanie Pappas writes that "the leading causes of death for wildlife biologists on the job" are small-plane crashes. According to Pappas, "that's one reason" the USGS is "turning toward a technology more associated with military reconnaissance than conservation for its field studies." She notes that the "program got a splash of bad publicity on Tuesday (Dec. 17) when Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) included the USGS drones as an example of government waste in his 2013 'Wastebook,' dismissing the research as 'counting sheep' instead of focusing on more-crucial flood gauges." However, Matthew Larsen, the associate director of Climate & Land Use Change at the USGS, said that the drones "conduct crucial research," and "actually represent a cheaper way to do that research than ever before."

For FOX News (12/19, 6.72M), Cathy Maxwell, a military veteran and author, suggests that "perhaps instead of a 'Wastebook,' we need to have a national dialogue on Senator Coburn's more meaningful question – 'what services and missions should our federal government support?'" For example, Maxwell asks, "When we are so deeply in debt, should the Department of the Interior fund grants to track animal behavior in our environment?"

FIRST LADY URGED TO SUPPORT USING LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND FOR CREATING PARKS. In an op-ed for the San Gabriel Valley (CA) Tribune (12/20, Faustinos, 128K), Belinda Faustinos, an advocate for the San Gabriel Mountains Forever campaign, writes that "it is critical we do what we can to ensure our children have access to outdoor recreation – for the good of their health and the necessary inspiration to help preserve our natural and cultural heritage for their own kids someday." She notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, has said, "Engaging with America's youth through the great outdoors helps lay the foundation for the next generation of our nation's stewards, scientists, business leaders, teachers, and others who will understand the key role that national parks and public lands and waters play in conservation and preservation of our nation's treasures." She applauds several national health and youth organizations for sending" a letter to First Lady Michelle Obama earlier this year, inviting her to champion a key tool for creating urban parks and protecting our

Great Outdoors: the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

The piece also appears in the Pasadena (CA) Star-News (12/19, Faustinos, 81K).

NEW ALLIANCE OF LATINO RELIGIOUS LEADERS SUPPORTS CONSERVATION. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (12/20, Arce, 11.54M), Maite Arce, Executive Director, Hispanic Access Foundation, writes that "a new alliance of Latino faith leaders" agrees with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's pronouncement that "it's important to think about what conservation legacy we will leave for the next 50 years, for the next 100 years." The faith leaders "point to the Bible as evidence of this responsibility." According to Arce, "the new alliance will educate and engage local congregations, the media and policy-makers."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS CONTINUES TO DECLINE IN RANKING FOR BEST PLACE TO WORK IN GOVERNMENT. The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (12/20) reports that "the 2013 Best Places to Work data present a disturbing picture of federal employees throughout the government who are increasingly dissatisfied with their jobs and workplaces." According to the article, "government-wide, the federal employee job satisfaction and commitment level dropped for the third year in a row, tumbling 3 points to a score of 57.8 on a scale of 100." Notably, the index score of the NPS dropped from 61.3 in 2013 to 55.1 in 2012.

NPS WORKING ON TRIBAL NATIONAL PARK DRAFT LEGISLATION. The Sioux City (IA) Journal (12/20, 15K) reports that NPS officials are "working on the creation of a tribal national park in South Dakota say they hope by early next year to complete draft legislation to eventually bring to Congress for approval." The NPS and the Oglala Sioux Tribe have been "working on making the South Unit of Badlands National Park into the first tribally managed national park in the country." NPS officials "met with tribal officials in Rapid City on Wednesday to further discussions."

The Rapid City (SD) Journal (12/20, 103K) reports that the meeting "took a different track when several tribal members came loaded with questions about the plan to create the park within the boundaries of the South Unit of Badlands National Park and reintroduce buffalo."

Also providing coverage is the Sioux Falls (SD) Argus Leader (12/19, 116K).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS URGE FEDERAL COURT TO DENY DRAKES BAY OYSTER COMPANY'S CASE. The Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (12/19, 156K) reports that in the latest federal court brief filed in the Drakes Bay Oyster Company case, four environmental groups said that the farm "has no place in an area designated by Congress as potential wilderness." According to the article, "citing the company's use of 95 wooden racks that cover seven acres of Drakes Estero, motorboat use and the planting of 'millions of non-native oysters and clams,' the 22-page brief urged the 9th Circuit US Court of Appeals in San Francisco to deny a rehearing of the long-running case." The brief filed by the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, Save Our Seashore and two national organizations stated, "It is beyond question that these structures and commercial activities are incompatible with wilderness status."

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE RECEIVES $1 MILLION TO STUDY BREACH. Newsday (12/20, 1.52M) reports that Fire Island National Seashore has "received a federal grant for about $1 million to study options for the breach that formed in a wilderness area when superstorm Sandy struck last year." Seashore Superintendent Chris Soller said the environmental impact statement will "evaluate several options for the breach, including monitoring and closing it immediately if it appears to pose a danger." The grant was awarded by the Department of Interior using Sandy aid money.

FEWER STAFF MEANS FEWER OFFERINGS AT OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK. The Kitsap (WA) Sun (12/19, 91K) reports that "fewer park employees mean Olympic National Park will have fewer winter offerings this year." For instance, "Hurricane Ridge — a popular destination during the weeks around Christmas and New Year's — will stick to a scaled-back Friday through Sunday schedule." Park spokeswoman Barb Maynes said, "We would

have liked to be open all next week, but we're trying to conserve funds to be open as much as possible during the summer."

FROMM BROTHERS FARM ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Wausau (WI) Daily Herald (12/19, 71K) reports that the Fromm Brothers Fur and Ginseng Farm has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

NPS CRITICIZED OVER HANDLING OF PUBLIC RECORDS RELATED TO MOUNT VERNON CLOSING. In an op-ed for the Seattle Times (12/20, Trejbal, 1M), Christian Trejbal, the open government chairman for the Association of Opinion Journalists, writes that in recent years, "sunlight is on the defensive against government agencies and lawmakers who fear disclosure and seek to allow greater secrecy." Trejbal notes that "when a writer for National Review Online asked the National Park Service for public records related to closing George Washington's Mount Vernon home during the recent federal government shutdown, she hit a wall." He argues that "if officials are embarrassed to let the public know how they reach decisions, they should reconsider whether they are making the right ones."

Bureau of Land Management:

SEN. TESTER'S FOREST BILL PASSES COMMITTEE. The Missoulian (12/20, 104K) reports that a bill by Sen. Jon Tester to "expand wilderness and mandate more logging on federal lands in Montana passed its first test Thursday in a Senate committee despite opposition by Republicans who called the measure unbalanced." The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources "voted to move the bill out of committee and to the full Senate."

SANDY RIDGE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL IS A BIG HIT. The Coos Bay (OR) World (12/20, 34K) reports that the Sandy Ridge mountain biking system is gaining popularity. For many local bikers, Sandy Ridge is "the go-to mountain bike trail, and is drawing bikers from across the country and internationally." According to Adam Milnor, who oversees the trail for the BLM, Sandy Ridge is the "largest trail built specifically for mountain bikes on federal land in the United States."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AWARDED $75,000 IN FOREST THINNING CASE. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (12/19, 113K) reports that "a federal judge awarded $75,000 to environmental groups that litigated against a forest thinning project" on BLM property in western Oregon. Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild and the Benton Forest Coalition opposed the North Fork Outlook project. They "sought to block the project in court because they claimed BLM hadn't analyzed possible harms to the red tree vole, a candidate for Endangered Species Act protection."

MAN AGREES TO PAY $55,000 FOR TAKING PARTS FROM HISTORIC CRASH SITE IN ALASKA. The Alaska Dispatch (12/19, 7K) reports that "federal prosecutors in Alaska have reached a settlement agreement with a Georgia-based aircraft restoration company that removed pieces of wreckage from a historic crash site south of the Interior city of Fairbanks." Restoration specialist Edward Thomas Reilly Jr. of Douglas, Ga., paid the BLM "$55,000 to end a five-year investigation surrounding the removal of parts from a military crash site."

NEW MEXICO HORSE SLAUGHTER PLANT TO OPEN NEXT YEAR WITH 20 HORSES FROM NEVADA. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (12/19, 165K) reports that "a New Mexico horse slaughter plant plans to open Jan. 1 after a federal appeals court rolled back a court order that had kept the Roswell facility from beginning operations." According to Valley Meat Co. owner Rick De Los Santos, "the plant will start off slow, but already has multiple meat contracts lined up."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS LISTS BLADDERPOD AS PROTECTED SPECIES. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (12/19, 100K) reports that the White Bluffs bladderpod has been named a protected species by the FWS. Critical habitat for the White Bluffs bladderpod will designated, "but only on federal land." Rep. Doc Hastings said he was "encouraged" that the FWS "had backed off its plan to designate 419 acres of private land in Franklin County critical habitat, but still had serious concerns about how the decision was reached."

Also reporting on the story is KNDU-TV Yakima, WA (12/20, 3K).

FWS SAYS RARE ORCHID FOUND AT ROSEMONT SITE NOT ENDANGERED. The Arizona Daily Star (12/20, 335K) reports that "a rare orchid that lives in the Santa Rita Mountains at the proposed Rosemont Mine site won't be legally protected" by the FWS. The agency "decided this week that largely because 22 colonies or populations of the pinkish-hued orchid exist in southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico, the plant is not in danger of extinction despite its low numbers."

FWS EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON SAGE GROUSE LISTING. The AP (12/20) reports that the FWS is "extending for 45 days the comment period on a proposal to list a distinct population of sage grouse as a threatened species." Public comments will now be accepted through Feb. 10.

Also providing coverage are KFMB-TV San Diego (12/20, 15K) and KSNV-TV Las Vegas (12/20, 12K).

REPTILE GROUPS SEEKS TO OVERTURN PYTHON BAN. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (12/19, 780K) reports that "a reptile industry trade group has gone to court to overturn a federal ban on the import of four species of large snake, including the Burmese pythons that have infested the Everglades." The United States Association of Reptile Keepers, which "represents dealers, importers, breeders and hobbyists, filed suit in federal court Thursday to overturn a 2012 ban on the import and interstate trade in Burmese pythons, northern and southern African pythons and yellow anacondas." The group said the "federal ban rested on shaky scientific evidence, including a highly exaggerated projection of the snakes' potential geographic range in the United States, and inadequate economic analysis that understated the potential harm to the reptile industry."

Also reporting on the story is the South Florida Sun Sentinel (12/19, 690K).

ANIMAL SMUGGLING RING LEADER PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. Yahoo! (12/20, Levine, 17.91M) reports that the ringleader of a global ring that trafficked in endangered black rhinoceros horns admitted his role in the crimes today in federal court in Newark. Zhifei Li, a 29-year-old Chinese national who was indicted by federal grand juries in both Newark and Miami for international smuggling of rhinoceros horns, pleaded guilty to 11 of the charges.

Also providing coverage are ABC News (12/20, 3.68M), CBS News (12/20, 3.87M), Reuters (12/19, Dilts), the Philly (12/20, 1.22M), the Cliffview (NJ) Pilot (12/20, 2K), and the North Jersey (NJ) Media Group (12/20, 80K).

FWS BIOLOGIST A FINALIST FOR SECURING AMERICANS VALUE AND EFFICIENCY AWARD.. The Bend (OR) Bulletin (12/20, 94K) reports that Dirk Renner, a fish and wildlife biologist for the FWS, is "one of four finalists for the president's Securing Americans Value and Efficiency Award." Last year, Renner completed "an online application for the award, laying out how he thought the government could save time and money by allowing certifications to be recognized by more than one agency." According to the article, "a former US Forest Service worker, Renner learned his Forest Service all-terrain vehicle training was not transferable to the Fish and Wildlife Service when he moved to his new job in 2009."

SCARBOROUGH SELECTS COMMITTEE TO CREATE DOG RULES. The Portland (ME) Press Herald (12/20, 279K) reports that "a committee of Scarborough residents has a month to come up with a recommendation for regulating dogs on town property and protecting piping plovers." The Scarborough Town Council has "voted 6-1 to establish the committee and appoint its seven members, who have until Jan. 21 to report back to the council. Katherine St. Clair was the only councilor opposed." It was "formed in response to the results of a Dec. 3 referendum, in which residents voted to overturn a ban on unleashed dogs on town property."

NRDC PROGRAM DIRECTOR SAYS WOLVES MUST NOT LOSE THEIR ENDANGERED STATUS. In an op-ed for the LiveScience (12/20, Wetzler, 670K), Andrew Wetzler, director of the Land & Wildlife Program at the NRDC, questions the push by the FWS to "strip wolves of the few federal protections they now enjoy." He notes that "close to 1,000,000 comments have been filed with the administration opposing the delisting proposal." Wetzler argues that "the scientific evidence justifying the delisting of wolves, particularly in the Northeast is shaky at best," and "there are numerous legal problems with the delisting."

NRDC SEEKS DATA ON GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY. On the Switchboard (12/20, 67K), the NRDC announces that it, "along with some of our partner groups," has sent a letter to FWS Director Dan Ashe, "asking for access to the data that is informing the decision to strip Yellowstone grizzly bears of their Endangered Species Act protections." According to the group, "in the interest of science, transparency, and sound decision-making, these data should be made publicly available immediately."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

NEW EAGLE RULE CRITICIZED. In her column for the Odessa (TX) American (12/20, Noon, 50K), Marita Noon criticizes the new rule issued by the Interior Department granting 30-year permits allowing wind farms to "accidently kill federally protected eagles." She also claims that "billions of taxpayer dollars that have gone down the drain in 'the quest for the holy grail of cheap renewable power.'"

Onshore Energy Development:

LEAK DISCOVERED ON NONPRODUCING WESTERN COLORADO GAS WELL ON BLM LAND. The Oil and Gas Journal (12/20, 1K) reports that "a leak has been found on a nonproducing natural gas well in western Colorado on land" overseen by the BLM. The BLM's Grand Junction field office said the "well's owner, Maralex Resources Inc., began working on containment Dec. 14 by diverting the leaking fluids to a storage pit already on the well pad." BLM said "it has ordered the Ignacio, Colo., independent producer to contain the spill and repair the well."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BUDGET AGREEMENT CUTS ROYALTIES TO STATES. Additional coverage of the federal budget deals was provided by the Riverton (WY) Ranger (12/20, 167), the Casa Grande (AZ) Dispatch (12/20, 24K), and the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/20, 90K).

OKLAHOMA EXPERIENCES INCREASE IN SEISMIC ACTIVITY. The AP (12/20) reports that Oklahoma's increased seismic activity is resulting in more preparation by state agencies and residents. According to The Post, "after decades of limited seismic activity in this region, earthquakes have become more common in the last several years." A study by the US Geological Survey said, "The increased hazard has important implications for residents and businesses in the area." An insurance agent, Matt Pryor, described the increased demand for coverage and said, "It used to be, 'Do I need earthquake coverage?' Now it's changed to, 'How much insurance do I need?" The Post says scientists are unsure why "seismic activity ha spiked," but highlights that it could be the result of wastewater injections that "weaken nearby fault lines." The Post states fracking can also cause earthquakes, "but they are typically smaller than magnitude-2."

Offshore Energy Development:

LEGISLATION CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR OIL, GAS DRILLING IN GULF. According to the FuelFix (12/19, 7K), last week's Congressional budget agreement included a measure that "opens the door to oil and gas drilling in international Gulf waters." The FuelFix says the legislation comes "just in time for Mexico's energy reforms" and a "deadline for the US to sign off on the work." The law "will implement a long-stalled international treaty" with Mexico that states the "moratorium on oil and gas drilling" will expire on Jan. 17 and "sets a framework for oil and gas development along the US-Mexico maritime boundary in the Gulf." The treaty "encourages commercial unionization agreements where resources straddling the boundary are divided up, effectively encouraging US companies to partner with Mexico's Pemex to produce oil and gas." National Security Council Spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden called the pact an "important priority," and said the agreement creates an "environmentally safe and responsible framework to explore, develop and share revenue form hydrocarbon resources that lie in the waters beyond each country's exclusive economic zones."

In the "E2 Wire" blog The Hill (12/20, 194K) reports that on Thursday, the White House touted congressional approval of a US-Mexico agreement to allow "offshore drilling cooperation along a maritime boundary in the Gulf of Mexico." The US-Mexico Transboundary Hydrocarbons Agreement was approved Wednesday night by the

Senate as part of the larger budget deal. The American Petroleum Institute also hailed the agreement. API upstream and industry operations director Erik Milito said, "US companies will now have the certainty they need to invest confidently along our maritime border with Mexico." Milito also said "the energy production made possible would help create jobs and raise more revenue for the government."

Also reporting on the story is the Upstream Online (12/19, 20K).

GULF POWER PARTICIPATES IN TURTLE-FRIENDLY LIGHTING PROJECT FOR CASINO BEACH. The Gulf Breeze (FL) News (12/19, 10K) reports that Pensacola Beach is getting new lights for the parking lot of the public Casino Beach. The new LED lights "are all turtle friendly," and are begin paid through funds from the BP Deepwater Horizon spill settlement, according to Santa Rosa Island Authority's Paolo Ghio. Ghio said, "The Dept. of Interior is driving this project, and the county, and Gulf Power, and the DOI are all involved. But the monies are all coming from the BP funds. I have been dogging this project, trying to move it ahead, for two years now, and it is finally all happening. We should have the new lighting project begin in March, and they plan to be done by next May."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ADDITIONAL COVEARGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Chico (CA) News and Review (12/20, 101K), the Switchboard (12/20, 67K), and the Examiner (12/20, 1.16M).

PROFESSOR SAYS GENETICS COULD BE IMPORTANT TO CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS. For the LiveScience (12/20, Whitham, 670K), Thomas Whitham, a regents' professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and the executive director of the Merriam-Powell Center for Environmental Research at Northern Arizona University, writes that "one important part of the puzzle" on how to tackle climate change "involves unlocking the natural genetic diversity of plants to identify those species and populations best able to cope with changing conditions." Whitham notes that "genetics-based environmental research is already helping to restore damaged and degraded landscapes." For instance, "a 50-year, $626 million effort on the lower Colorado River" shows "major genetics-based differences in the success of different populations" that the BOR and "other agencies are using to restore riparian habitat."

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBE MEMBERS INQUIRE ABOUT LAND BUY BACK PROGRAM. The Char-Koosta News (12/20, 12K) reports that last week, the Interior Department "announced that the Pine Ridge Reservation entered a Cooperative Agreement to purchase fractionated interests on the reservation." Upon hearing the news, "many Salish and Kootenai Tribal members have called the Tribal Lands Department to inquire about local land buy back efforts."

INDIAN COUNTRY FUNDING UNCERTAIN UNDER BUDGET DEAL. The Indian Country Today Media Network (12/19, 21K) reports that the federal budget deal "still holds uncertainties for tribal funding." According to the article, "it is a macro-level deal that makes recommendations on topline discretionary spending levels for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, so the details of how Indian program funding will be affected have yet to be ironed out and released by congressional appropriators." Meanwhile, Indian country officials are "widely reminding appropriators of the budget cuts tribes have faced as a result of sequestration, and tribes are encouraging a restoration of and increase in federal support."

GOV. MEAD: WYOMING WON'T HONOR EPA RULING ON RESERVATION. The San Francisco Chronicle (12/20, Neary, 2.88M) reports that Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead has written to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy "saying Wyoming won't honor her agency's recent determination that over 1 million acres around Riverton remains legally Indian Country." Mead said Thursday that the Wyoming Attorney General's Office is "preparing to file an appeal in federal court." He said "the ruling raises issues of criminal jurisdiction, taxation and administration and said Wyoming will ignore the decision until the courts rule on it."

Also providing coverage is the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/20, 90K).

COUNTIES WANT CAYUGA TRIBE'S LEADERSHIP DISPUTE SETTLED. The Finger Lakes (NY) Times (12/20, 43K) reports that the Seneca County Board of Supervisors and the Cayuga County Legislature want the BIA to "resolve a dispute over tribal leadership before deciding" on the Cayuga Indian Nation's application to put 129 acres of land it owns into federal trust.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE. Additional coverage of the Tribal Nations Conference was provided by the Char-Koosta News (12/20, 12K).

Top National News:

INDIVIDUAL MANDATE DELAYED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY LOST COVERAGE. On Thursday night, HHS Secretary Sebelius announced that the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate is being waived for those who lost their health insurance because their plans did not meet the law's standards. As a result of the announcement's timing, there is less coverage than might have been expected. For instance, none of the three network newscasts covered the change in policy Thursday evening, nor did any of the three have a segment on any aspect of healthcare policy.

Reports this morning cast the shift as an effort to head off some of the political damage Democrats expect as a result of the ACA's unpopularity. National Journal (12/20, Ritger, Subscription Publication, 427K) says the Administration's "allowance comes after months of political fallout from the president's promise that 'if you like your plan, you can keep your plan,' which proved untrue." The Hill (12/20, Viebeck, 194K) also reports that "the change appears to be another attempt to rectify the controversy surrounding the president's repeated promise that individuals could keep their current health insurance."

Ezra Klein of the Washington Post (12/20, 4.28M) says the decision announced Thursday night "puts the administration on some very difficult-to-defend ground" because "it's hard to argue that" the individual mandate is "right for the currently uninsured but wrong for people whose plans were canceled." Klein predicts that Republicans "will immediately begin calling for the uninsured to get this same exemption," and adds that "if congressional Democrats use this ruling as an excuse to delay or otherwise de-fang the individual mandate for anyone who doesn't want to pay for insurance under Obamacare, then it'll be a very big problem for the law."

The New York Times (12/20, A1, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in a front-page article titled "Another Rule In Health Law Is Scaled Back," reports that "millions of people facing the cancellation of health insurance policies will be allowed to buy catastrophic coverage and will be exempt from penalties if they go without insurance next year." The Times notes Sebelius "disclosed the sudden policy shift in a letter to" six Senate Democrats. The Times call the decision "another effort by President Obama to...minimize political damage to himself and Democrats in Congress who adopted the law in 2010 over solid Republican opposition."

The Washington Post (12/20, Goldstein, 4.28M) says the Administration has "significantly relaxed the [Affordable Care Act] rules...for millions of consumers whose individual insurance policies have been canceled" in a "surprise announcement, four days before the Dec. 23 deadline for people to choose coverage that begins on Jan. 1." The Post says the announcement "triggered an immediate backlash from the health insurance industry." Robert Zirkelbach, a spokesman for American's Health Insurance Plans, is quoted as saying, "This type of last-minute change will cause tremendous instability in the marketplace and lead to further confusion and disruption for consumers." However, the Post reports that an anonymous "administration official...predicted that relatively few people would take advantage of the opportunity to avoid the law's insurance requirement, reasoning that they have had insurance in the past so would want it in the future."

The Wall Street Journal (12/20, A6, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) covers the shift from HHS in an article titled "White House Will Allow Some To Buy Catastrophic Health Plans: Health-Care Law Tweak Addresses People Whose Polices Were Canceled Under New Rules."

According to Politico (12/20, Haberkom, Brown, 467K), "The catastrophic plan, which was always a part of the [ACA], is an option for people under 30 and for those who qualify for specific exemptions." Politico adds that "under the new policy, people would have to provide proof of a canceled policy to qualify for the exemption." Politico reports that on Thursday, Sen. Marco Rubio said, "This is a slap in the face to the thousands of

Americans who have already purchased expensive insurance through the ObamaCare exchanges."

Charles Krauthammer, in his column for the Washington Post (12/20, 4.28M), says the "keep-your-plan-if-you-like-your-plan ruse" amounted to "a fraud from the very beginning." According to Krauthammer, the ACA was actually "designed to throw people off their private plans and into government-run exchanges where they would be made to overpay...as a way to subsidize others."

Administration Claims Fewer Than 500,000 Are Without Coverage As A Result Of The ACA. The AP (12/20, Pace) reports that the Administration estimates that "less than a half million people whose health insurance was canceled" due to ACA rules "have not yet found other coverage," and "that figure could shrink in the coming days."

USA Today (12/20, Kennedy, 5.82M) reports that the estimate comes from four anonymous "senior administration officials." USA Today says the "sub-500,000 figure counters Republican claims that more Americans will lose coverage starting Jan. 1 than will be newly insured." USA Today notes that a Heritage Foundation report released this week "said 'millions of Americans have lost and will lose their coverage' due to the law and cited 4.7 million cancellation letters."

Bloomberg News (12/20, Talev, Wayne, 1.91M) notes that in California, "more than 1 million policy holders received letters from their current insurers saying their coverage will be canceled after Dec. 31 because their plans don't comply, and hundreds of thousands were canceled in other states."

According to the Los Angeles Times (12/20, Hennessey, 3.07M), the officials "said they had arrived at the estimate over weeks of contacting insurers and combing through the administration's own enrollment data." However, the Times notes that the AP "put the number of cancellation notices sent at 3.5 million."

WSJournal: Many Uninsured Are Hesitant To Seek Coverage Via ACA Exchanges. The Wall Street Journal (12/20, A1, Martin, Weaver, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in a front-page article titled "Last-Minute Health-Site Enrollment Proves A Hard Sell," reports on the obstacles facing the Administration as it tries to encourage the uninsured to purchase insurance via the exchanges established by the Affordable Care Act. In particular, the Journal says that many who tried unsuccessfully to enroll online in the first weeks after the ACA's rollout are hesitant to try again. According to the Journal, insurers say many people are also concerned about the exchange's vulnerability to hackers.

Reid: Obama Has Failed To Credit Senate Democrats For ACA Fixes. The Hill (12/20, Bolton, 194K) reports that on Wednesday, Senate Majority Leader Reid said members of his caucus "are unhappy the White House didn't give them any credit for key fixes to ObamaCare." Reid says he "recently reproached President Obama in private on the issue, arguing Obama should have given his colleagues more praise." Reid is quoted as saying, "I did communicate to him that there have been things done by the White House that improved the healthcare bill and those fixes were suggested originally by my senators and they got no credit for it. I thought that was improper."

SENATE EXPECTS VOTE IN EARLY JANUARY ON EXTENDING EMERGENCY JOBLESS BENEFITS. McClatchy (12/20, Lightman, 95K) reports that Senate Majority Leader Reid "vowed" that his chamber will vote on January 6 or 7 on a plan to extend emergency jobless benefits, which are due to expire December 28. The plan would extend benefits for three months. Reid also blamed Republicans for "resisting" a vote on the issue this month.

Politico (12/20, Kim, 467K) reports Reid also "laid out Senate Democrats' election-year agenda focused on income inequality." On jobless benefits, Reid "said he'll file cloture on the bill before the chamber adjourns and that he is aiming for a vote no later than Jan. 7." The piece notes that the Administration has endorsed the Democrats' plan.

The Hill (12/20, Sink, 194K) reports that Jason Furman, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, said the White House was "surprised" at the pace of job creation during 2013. Furman "said that over the past six months, the administration had seen the unemployment rate drop by an average of a tenth of a percent," when the White House had expected claims to drop only 0.6% for the full year. Still, Furman "said it was still important for

Congress to extend emergency federal unemployment insurance."

ECONOMIC NEWS SEEN AS GENERALLY POOR ON THURSDAY. Media coverage of Thursday's economic news was generally negative, with jobless claims rising, mortgage rates increasing, and existing home sales down. However, stocks were static as investors weighed the impact of the Fed's taper decision.

In an overview of the economic news, Reuters (12/20, Mutikani) reports on the weak housing and jobless claims data, but says that overall, the news continues to show the economy strengthening.

Jobless Claims Up Due To Holiday Volatility. The AP (12/20) reports that first-time claims for jobless benefits rose 10,000 last week to 379,000, the highest level since March, according to new data released on Thursday by the Department of Labor. However, the rise "may reflect volatility around the Thanksgiving holidays." The four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, rose 13,250 to 343,250. Economists "dismissed that spike, saying it likely reflected a Thanksgiving holiday that fell later in the month."

Bloomberg News (12/20, Jamrisko, 1.91M) similar says that the increase reflected "fluctuation in the filings that typically occurs around the year-end holidays."

Mortgage Rates Up On Fed Action. Bloomberg News (12/20, Gopal, 1.91M) reports that data released on Thursday by Freddie Mac shows that the average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage rose to 4.47% this week from 4.42% the prior week. The rate on a 15-year fixed loan rose to 3.51% from 3.43%. The rise came as the Fed "said it will scale back bond purchases that have supported the real estate market."

Existing Home Sales Down Last Month. Reuters (12/20) reports that existing home sales fell 4.3% in November to a annual rate of 4.9 million units, the lowest level since December 2012 and the third consecutive monthly drop. Economists surveyed by Reuters expected sales to come in at a 5.03 million unit rate.

Impact Of Fed's Move Remains Uncertain. The AP (12/20, Wiseman) reports on the impact of the Fed's decision to begin tapering its bond-buying program, saying that consumers "will likely pay more for home loans," while those saving money "may earn a few more dollars on CDs and Treasurys." While banks "could profit," investors "may get squeezed." Overall, the "impact of the Fed's action is hard to predict," and will be blunted by the fact that it is "a very slight reduction" and the Fed is still keeping interest rates at a "record low" for the foreseeable future.

Looking at the impact globally, the Washington Post (12/20, Wan, Bimbaum, 4.28M) reports that markets rose in Europe and Asia, a sign that the Fed's move is being seen "as a sign of confidence in the U.S. economy." The Post says the move "was greeted with particular warmth in Germany, where economists and policymakers have challenged the Fed's stimulus for years."

Treasury Yields Up On Fed Action. The Wall Street Journal (12/20, Cui, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the Treasury market saw a significant sell-off on Thursday, following the Fed's announcement, pushing yields on the key 10-year note to the highest level in the last three months. Prices on those notes fell 11/32 on Thursday to a yield of 2.923%. When prices fall, yields rise.

Gold Falls, Signaling Potential End To Decade-Plus Bull Run. On its front page, the Wall Street Journal (12/20, Day, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that gold prices on Thursday fell to a three-year low, and is on pace to notch its first annual decline in 13 years. Overall, gold is down 29% so far this year. The Fed's decision to taper its bond-buying is likely to force down the price of gold further.

Stocks Little Changed On Thursday. The AP (12/20, Rothwell) reports that stock indexes "ended up pretty much where they started on Thursday, a day after a powerful surge" on Wednesday. The S&P 500 fell 1.05 points to 1,809.60, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 11.11 to 16,179.08. The Nasdaq Composite Index fell 11.93 points to 4,058.13.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Release The Torture Reports."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (12/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) calls for the declassification of officials reports "about the extent and nature of the rendition, detention and torture" that followed the 9/11 attacks. The Times argues that it is "appalling" that the reports are "still being kept from the American public and even members of Congress charged with overseeing intelligence activities." The Times says the President "has a duty to ensure prompt public release of the documents."

"Russian Amnesties." An editorial in the New York Times (12/20, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues that while the amnesties announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin are "certainly good news," a clemency decree "is not the same as acknowledging that these prisoners were improperly incarcerated to begin with." Putin "gave no indication that they may have been wrongfully tried and imprisoned, nor that more people will not be treated similarly in the future." The Times concludes that without "a strengthening of the rule of law, these amnesties are mostly an imperial gesture, not a sign that justice has been served."

"India's Misplaced Outrage." An editorial in the New York Times (12/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) calls India's reaction to the arrest of one of its diplomats int he US "overwrought" and "unworthy of a democratic government." The Times argues that the charges against Devyani Khobragade, the deputy consul general in New York, "should concern anyone who values worker rights," but instead of "concerning themselves with that injustice, many in India seem incensed that Ms. Khobragade was arrested at all."

"Lessons From The Sandusky Case." The New York Times (12/20, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that as the Jerry Sandusky child-molestation scandal unfolded last year, "it became clear that Pennsylvania's child abuse laws were among the weakest in the nation." The Times notes that a "raft of reform bills that the State Legislature has begun enacting with Gov. Tom Corbett's support" would better protect children, especially a pending bill that "would mandate the prompt reporting of suspected abuse to government officials." The Times concludes that mandatory reporting "is essential to any meaningful response to the scandal, and it deserves legislative approval."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Overreaction From The Right."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (12/20, Board, 4.28M) criticizes the Republicans "budget hawks" "outrage" against the defense bill's "minuscule trim to military retirement pay." The Post says that "military retiree benefits need much greater reforms," particularly healthcare benefits.

"Iran's Posturing." An editorial in the Washington Post (12/20, Board, 4.28M) notes skepticism from the President and Secretary of State Kerry about Iran's readiness to come to an agreement on its nuclear program, and adds that recent events "have made clear that those bearish judgments were justified." Noting that Iranian officials walked out of talks on implementing the preliminary agreement in attempt "to bluff the West into hollowing out the remaining sanctions by stopping their enforcement," the Post says Iran "is sending an early message that it does not intend to bargain in good faith."

"Don't Rush The Fixes." The Washington Post (12/20, 4.28M) editorializes that "amid all the uncertainty" over the scheduling of the first election for District of Columbia attorney general, "the only thing clear is the complete hash the council has made of the future of this critical office. Just as it didn't consider the consequences of switching from an appointed attorney general to an elected one, it didn't think about the ramifications of delaying the election."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"John Beale's EPA."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writes that John Beale, who cheated the government out of $900,000 while working at the EPA, was a top official in the agency's Office of Air and Radiation. The Journal says that Beale was closely linked to now-EPA Director Gina McCarthy. The Journal says that Beale's work at the EPA now needs to be closely scrutinized.

"Putin Tries A Makeover." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (12/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement that he will pardon Mikhail Khodorkovsky was clearly an effort to improve Russia's reputation ahead of the Olympics. The Journal notes that while Khodorkovsky's release would be welcome, it would not be as much about freedom in Russia as it would be about Putin trying to improve his image.

"A California Paint Job." The Wall Street Journal (12/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes in opposition to a California court's ruling that paint manufacturers must pay billions to remove lead paint from thousands of private residences in the state. The Journal argues that the manufacturers sold a product that was legal at the time with no knowledge of its health risks.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
US Reports 10% Drop In Deportations
Vets Wage War With Red Tape
Target Data Theft Fuels New Worries On Cybersecurity
TV's Uneasy Spotlight
Brother's Deceit Hits Close To Home

Wall Street Journal:
Gold Sinks To Three-Year Low
Obama Issues Rare Veto Threat On Iran Bill
Syria's Civil War Forces Doctors To Choose The Rebels Or The Regime
Last-Minute Health Enrollment A Hard Sell

New York Times:
SEC Tension As It Examined Mortgage Cases
Putin, Secure In Power, Says He May Free Jailed Rival
Tackling A Racial Gap In Breast Cancer Survival
Obama Commutes Sentences For Eight In Crack Cocaine Cases
Another Rule in Health Law Is Scaled Back
A Publisher Who Took The Romance Out Of Sex
Growing Corruption Inquiry Hits Close to Turkish Leader

Washington Post:
Defenses Of NSA Program Eroding
Obama Relaxes Healthcare Rules Just Days Before Deadline
Judge Orders Mental Review For Accused Sept. 11 Plotter
GOP Hopefuls Flock To Embattled 'Duck Dynasty' Star
Huge Breach Of Data Security At Target

Financial Times:
Double Blow For BAE Fighter Sales
Businesses Will Be Paid To Switch Off
Target Breach Hits 40m Accounts
Zuckerberg To Sell 41m Facebook Shares
Europe Offsets US Growth To Drag Down M&A
EY Fined 750,000 Pounds For Christmas Club Audit
Don't Get Too Far Ahead Of The Taper

Washington Times:
Of 11.7 Million Illegals In US, Just 1% Were Deported Last Year
Alligators Popular Guards For Drug Dealers, Police Say
'Duck Dynasty' Star Sparks Culture War
Yes, Megyn, There Is A Black Santa
Feds Warned Of Lax Security At Buildings

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather-Shipping; London-Theater Collapse; Target-Credit Fraud; Safest Cars; Health-Dwarfism-

Cancer Prevention
CBS: London-Theater Collapse; Target Credit Fraud; Obama-Commuted Sentences; Putin-Rival Pardon; Religion-Methodist-Same Sex Wedding; Arizona Firefighters; Ice-Great Lakes; Syria-Civil War; London-Phone Hacking Trial; Safest Cars
NBC: Target-Credit Hacking; Target Credit Fraud; London-Theater Collapse; US Soldiers Lost; Russia-Putin Press Conference; Winter Storm; US Capitol Building Repairs; USDA-Chicken; North Korea-Dennis Rodman; Car Safety Ratings; Cuba-US Car Imports; London-Phone Hacking Investigation

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Senate Approves Defense Bill; Tampa-Plane Crash; Obama-Commuted Sentences; Trey Radel-Drug Rehab; London-Theater Collapse
CBS: London-Theater Collapse; Senate Approves Defense Bill; Target-Credit Fraud; New Mexico-Legalize Same Sex Marriage; Home Sales Up; Dow Increase
NPR: Senate Approves Defense Bill; Obama-US Embassy Sudan; Russia-Putin Year End Address; London-Theater Collapse; North Korea-Dennis Rodman; US-Execution Rate Decrease; PA Minister Defrocked
FOX: Senate Approves Defense Bill; Califomia Wildfire Contained; Michigan Murder-Trial; Facebook's Zuckerburg Sells Stock

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No Scheduled Events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: Dec. 19 – 20. FDA – NEW MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES — 8:30 a.m. The FDA/American Gastroenterological Association will be holding a public workshop to bring together key stakeholders in the development and delivery of new medical technologies. The workshop also aims to enhance collaboration and awareness, which ultimately supports continued innovation in device development. RSVP: Journalists and broadcast media must register for this event and arrive 15 minutes prior. Location: Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H St. NW.

PENTAGON – SECRETARY MABUS — 9:45 a.m. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus briefs the media on Navy husbanding policies and contracting initiatives in the Pentagon Briefing Room (2E973). Following his remarks, Rear Adm. Jonathan Yuen (Naval Supply Systems Command) and Elliott Branch (Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Acquisition and Procurement)) will be available to discuss contracting issues and reforms.

NASA ADMINISTRATOR – HIGH SCHOOL — 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden will visit a suburban Washington school where high school students built a small satellite, TJ3Sat, that was launched into space in November. Location: Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, VA.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Oh, here's some good news. The Federal budget compromise has been passed, so instead of shutting down and getting nothing done, the government will stay open and get nothing done. So how about that – that's terrific."

Conan O'Brien: "Some political analysts are now saying the Tea Party and the Republicans are going through a political divorce. Yeah. All I can say, is I do not want to be around for the makeup sex."

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BISON CONNECT

Re: Sage grouse follow-up

Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Dec 23, 2013 at 11:43 AM
To: Sally Jewell(b) (6)ios.doi.gov>

Thanks for the note Sally.

(b)(6)

I feel like we're beginning to hit our stride. And, with John in the White House, our issues will finally get the attention – and priority – they deserve.

Looking forward to an exciting and productive New Year!

Thanks, again.

Jim

On Fri, Dec 20, 2013 at 7:23 PM, Sally Jewell(b) (6)ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Jim -

I very much appreciate your creativity, experience and leadership on some of our thornier issues. I also am happy that you and Michael are working together to help move our teams forward.

We must look at the world differently to make progress - keep pushing (and come up with some better jokes ;>)

Enjoy the holidays and don't hesitate to reach out if needed.

Cheers,

Sally

On Dec 20, 2013, at 11:39 AM, "Lyons, James" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Sally –
>
> I hope the briefing was helpful yesterday. I think we are making progress.

(b)(5)

(b)(5) [redacted]

I want to thank you for the opportunity to work with you, Laura, and the talented team at the Department on these "interesting" projects and in helping to redefine how we manage natural resources on a landscape level.

(b) (5) [redacted]

(b)(6) [redacted].

I look forward to helping accelerate our progress on many fronts under your leadership in the New Year.

Jim

–
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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, December 23, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Dec 23, 2013 at 7:04 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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+ Sierra Club Director Lauds Successes In 2013.

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+ NPS Moving Forward With Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Projects.
+ Dinosaur Fossil Exhibit Proposed For Big Bend National Park.
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+ NPS Closes Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Due To Flooding.
+ NPS Seeks Public Input From Public Regarding The Appalachian Trail.
+ Glacier National Park Seeks Comments On Removing Lake Trout.
+ Vicksburg National Military Park Announces Foundation Document Project.
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+ Barrington Farmhouse Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
+ Expansion Of Yosemite National Park Supported.
+ Paper Urges For Clean Up Of Great Kills Park.

Bureau of Land Management:
+ Critics Push Back Against Protection For Greater Sage Grouse.
+ Sage Grouse Plan Raises Concerns.
+ Mustang Monument To Open To Tourists In June.
+ BLM Approves Pan Mine Project.
+ Designation Of Browns Canyon As A National Monument Supported.
+ Land Trust of Santa Cruz County Looking At National Monument On North Coast.

Fish and Wildlife Service:
+ FWS Preparing Events For Endangered Species Act's 40th Anniversary.

+ Killing Of Barred Owls Begins To Help Spotted Owl.
+ Vanishing Species Semipostal Stamps Helps Conservation Of Imperiled Species.
+ Report Touts Dungeness Wildlife Refuge As A Boon To Regional Economy.
+ Smith Island Eroding.
+ Conservation Group Purchases Preserve On Bolivar Peninsula.
+ Farmer Fined For Poisoning Eagles.
+ FWS Offering Additional Comment Period On Proposed Protection For Butterflies.
+ Neosho National Fish Hatchery Recognized With Award.
+ FWS Urged Not To Downgrade Status Of Manatees.

US Geological Survey:
+ Director Selected For Hawaii Climate Change Center.
+ USGS Researchers Study Caribbean Tsunami Risk.
+ USGS Study Finds Brown Trout Crowding Out Native Brook Trout.
+ Additional Coverage Of Research On Hawaiian Petrels.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:
+ Senate Approves Bill That Authorizes Planned Funding For New Mexico Labs.

Onshore Energy Development:
+ New Mexico's Oil, Natural Gas Production Makes State Third Largest US Net Energy Supplier.

Offshore Energy Development:
+ Plaintiffs Argue That BP Didn't Do Enough To Cap Macondo Well During Oil Spill.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:
+ BOR To Extend Repayment Contract For Trinidad Lake.
+ BOR Seeks Berryessa Team Nominations.
+ Additional Coverage Of Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:
+ Assistant Secretary Washburn Touts Land Buy-Back Program.
+ Federal Contractors Concerned As Tribes Wait For Claims.
+ Wisconsin Gov. Walker May Postpone Casino Decision Until After 2014 Election.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
+ Obama Warns Of Possible US Military Action In South Sudan.
+ Administration Allows More Oil Production To Help Clean Up Coal Industry.
+ Obama Faces Tough Fight To Gain Fast Tack Authority.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:
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+ Washington Post.
+ Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:
+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:
+ Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

FEDERAL BUDGET DEAL PERMANENTLY CUTS STATE OIL ROYALTIES. The AP (12/22, Daly) reports that the Federal budget deal makes permanent a 51-49 split in royalties between the Federal government and state governments, with the Federal government receiving the 51 percent. Until 2008 there was a 50-50 split, then the Interior Department began collecting a two percent administrative fee on the royalties, setting up the current 51-49 apportioning. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the difference will cost states with drilling on Federal land "$415 million in lost oil and gas royalties over the next decade." The article also notes that the Government Accountability Office has urged the Interior Department to increase royalty fees for oil produced on Federal land. Janice Schneider, nominated to be assistant interior secretary for land and minerals management, has said she would pursue the issue.

NEW NATIONAL WATER TRAILS DESIGNATED. The Examiner (12/22, 1.16M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has signed three rivers in Michigan, Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa into the National Trail System. The three newest additions to the national system are the Island Loop Water Trail in Michigan, the Red Rock Water Trail in Knoxville, Iowa, and the Missouri National Recreation River Water Trail that through South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa. NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis stated, "These National Water Trails provide exemplary close-to-home places for people to explore and enjoy." In addition, "I am particularly happy to have these trails added to the system. They are cooperatively supported and sustained through efforts of community, state and federal partners."

INTERIOR INSULAR NOMINEE ESTHER KIA'AINA SPEAKS AT UOG FALL GRADUATION. The Pacific News Center (12/22) reports that Interior Department Insular Affairs Nominee Esther Kia'aina "spoke about the values that have shaped her life during her Commencement Address at UOG Sunday, afternoon." During her Commencement address. Kia'aina "also identified what she called some of the critical issues for Guam like 'return of federal excess lands, Guam war reparations or increased opportunities in higher eduction.'"

RUSSIAN OFFICIALS VISIT NATIONAL PARKS, REFUGES FOR TRAINING. The Savannah (GA) Morning News (12/20, 183K) reports that a group of six Russian natural resources officials toured Savannah National Wildlife Refuge on Thursday. The officials "were in the US for a three weeks of training about law enforcement in national parks and refuges sponsored by the US Department of State." According to the article, "after visiting the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick along with the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado and Saguaro National Park in Arizona, the Savannah refuge was among their last stops."

AUDIT SHOWS OVERSEAS SUPPLIERS OF CLOTHING HAVE HARSH WORKING CONDITIONS. The New York Times (12/23, Urbina, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "even though the Obama administration has called on Western buyers to use their purchasing power to push for improved industry working conditions after several workplace disasters over the last 14 months, the American government has done little to adjust its own shopping habits." According to the article, "Labor Department officials say that federal agencies have a 'zero tolerance' policy on using overseas plants that break local laws, but American government suppliers in countries including Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Pakistan and Vietnam show a pattern of legal violations and harsh working conditions, according to audits and interviews at factories." The article notes that "soon after a fire killed at least 112 people at the Tazreen Fashions factory in Bangladesh in November 2012, several members of Congress asked various agencies for factory addresses." But "of the seven agencies her office contacted, Representative Carolyn Maloney, Democrat of New York, said only the Department of the Interior turned over its list."

UTAH LAWMAKER ARGUES FOR STATES TO TAKE OVER CONTROL OF PUBLIC LANDS. In an op-ed for the Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (12/20, Ivory, 104K), Ken Ivory, president of the American Lands Council and a member of the Utah House of Representatives, argue sthat "there is no good reason for the federal government to retain control over these lands and resources in states like Oregon." Ivory claims that "if we fail to stand up and take action to secure state and local control of our lands and abundant resources, it will not be because it is illegal, unconstitutional, or impossible," but "it will only be because we--and the local, state, and national leaders we 'hire'--lack the knowledge and the courage to do what has been successfully done before."

However, in an op-ed for the Ravalli (MT) Republic (12/22, Hamilton, 19K), Jeri Drake Hamilton claims that "if

Montana became the owner of all of our federal lands then catastrophic changes could and would occur." Hamilton questions the ability of states to manage public lands, and argues that "trained individuals can best manage our land."

VETERAN SUPPORTS PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS. In an op-ed for the San Bernardino (CA) Sun (12/20, Starr, 132K), Mark Starr, program director for Vet Voice Foundation, writes about the importance of protecting public lands. According to Starr, "for many veterans, spending time in the great outdoors is a way of dealing with the wounds of war after they return home." He writes that "for many, the peaceful surroundings of the California desert and our national parks and forests are a place of quiet and calm, a place to spend time with family and friends, a place to hunt, fish and hike away from the hubbub of everyday life, and a place of healing."

SIERRA CLUB DIRECTOR LAUDS SUCCESSES IN 2013. In a review of the major events of 2013 for "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (12/22, Brune, 11.54M), Michael Brune, Executive Director, The Sierra Club, writes that in March, President Obama "designated five new national monuments, including Rio Grande del Norte in New Mexico and the San Juan Islands in Washington State." Then, "less than a month later, the Senate confirmed his nominee for Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell – a dedicated outdoor enthusiast who understands the economic, recreational and conservation benefits of protecting public lands." Brune hopes that "2014 sees even more ambitious monument designations and protections for public lands."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

EACH STATE RECEIVING $228,000 FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION. The Albuquerque (NM) Business First (12/22) reports that NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis has "announced that more than $13 million is being released to states for historic preservation projects." Under a formula devised by the NPS, "each state will receive $228,458." Jarvis said in a statement, "Historic preservation funding sustains and revitalizes communities while preserving the social, cultural and ethnic heritage that enriches America. These grants – derived not from taxpayer dollars but from revenue from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf – leverage state dollars to increase the preservation work states or the federal government could not accomplish alone."

NPS MOVING FORWARD WITH CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL PROJECTS. The Washington Post (12/22, 4.28M) reports that "it appears some of the old ways of life on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal gradually will be coming back to Williamsport" now that the NPS has "announced plans to move forward with at least three projects on the canal that will re-create features of the former commercial waterway and enhance visitor experiences." The work will include "raising the railroad lift bridge near Cushwa Basin," according to Kevin Brandt, superintendent of Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park. Brandt said that "raising the lift bridge will allow boats to pass beneath the steel structure and lengthen ongoing boat rides on the canal in Williamsport by about one-third of a mile."

Coverage was also picked up by Yahoo! News Canada (12/22, 76K), the Cape Breton (AUS) Post (12/22), and WJZ-TV Baltimore (12/22, 36K).

DINOSAUR FOSSIL EXHIBIT PROPOSED FOR BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK. The El Paso (TX) Times (12/22, González, 247K) reports that the NPS is planning a new dinosaur fossil exhibit for Big Bend National Park in West Texas. The exhibit built inside the park would house fossil replicas from dinosaurs that existed in the area more than 90 million years ago. Don Curnick, park geologist, said that the exhibit would be built in an already developed area of the park.

Also covering the story is the Columbus (IN) Republic (12/22, 80K).

620,000 TREES BEING PLANTED TO HONOR CIVIL WAR DEAD. USA Today (12/21, Toppo, 5.82M) reports that "along the historic highway that stretches from Thomas Jefferson's home, near Charlottesville, Va., to the national cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., a small group has spent the past two years literally laying the groundwork to plant a tree for every one" of the "estimated 620,000 soldiers" that "died fighting from 1861 to 1865." According to the article, "when completed, the $65 million project will be the largest man-made pathway of trees on the

globe, stretching 180 miles north to south over three states." The group has "already planted 248 trees at Bliss Orchard at Gettysburg, part of a larger effort by the National Park Service to restore the battlefield site to what it looked like in 1863."

PRESENTATION MADE ON FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE BREACH. Newsday (12/22, 1.52M) reports that "250 South Shore residents gathered in Bellport on Saturday" to her "from government officials, researchers and environmentalists about a superstorm Sandy-caused breach in a Fire Island National Seashore wilderness area." National Seashore superintendent Christopher Soller said, "There are a lot of environmental values that we are seeing, but we have to balance that against the risks of if this breach stays open, if it gets worse, what will happen." The article notes that the National Seashore "recently received a federal grant of about $1 million to study alternative solutions for the breach near Old Inlet, south of Bellport."

NPS RANGER RETIRING AFTER 37 YEARS. The Outer Banks (NC) Voice (12/21) reports that "after nearly 37 years" with the NPS, Ranger Warren Wrenn will retire on Dec. 27. Superintendent Barclay Trimble, said, "Warren has had a remarkable career and much of it spent here on the Outer Banks. His institutional knowledge about all topics related to the parks will be missed. The Outer Banks Group has truly benefited from his experience and hard work the past thirty seven years. On behalf of his many Park Service colleagues throughout the area and in the National Park System, we wish Warren well in his retirement."

NPS CLOSES OHIO & ERIE CANAL TOWPATH DUE TO FLOODING. WJW-TV Cleveland (12/21, 103K) reports that "because of excessive flooding," the National Park Service has closed the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park until further notice.

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FROM PUBLIC REGARDING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL. The Knoxville (TN) Daily Sun (12/22) reports that the NPS is beginning "the process of preparing a Foundation Document for planning and management of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail." The NPS has invited the public "to play a role in charting the trail's future by sharing your thoughts on what is most important about the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and to help identify its most pressing threats and its greatest opportunities."

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK SEEKS COMMENTS ON REMOVING LAKE TROUT. The Missoulian (12/22, 104K) reports that Glacier National Park is seeking public comments on "proposals to continue lake trout suppression on Quartz Lake and start lake trout removal on Logging Lake."

VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK ANNOUNCES FOUNDATION DOCUMENT PROJECT. KTVE-TV El Dorado, AR (12/22, 1K) reports that the NPS is preparing a "foundation document" to guide planning and management of Vicksburg National Military Park.

SAN LUIS OBISPO OCTAGON BARN ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER. The Times Press Recorder (12/20) reports that the Octagon Barn in San Luis Obispo has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

BARRINGTON FARMHOUSE ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Providence (RI) Journal (12/22, 389K) reports that the Allen-West House in Barrington's Nockum Hill has been added to the National Register of Historic Places "for its colonial past, architectural significance and contributions to agriculture."

EXPANSION OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the U-T San Diego (12/20, 647K), Robert Hanna, the founder of Range of Light, and Nathan Weaver, the preservation advocate for Environment California, write in support of "by adding 1,600 acres of important habitat for park wildlife" to Yosemite National Park. They note that "the current landowners, the Pacific Forest Trust and a coalition of private stakeholders, have already announced their intentions to transfer the land to Yosemite," and "money to pay a fair price for the transfer is already available through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but only Congress can give the National Park Service permission to move forward."

PAPER URGES FOR CLEAN UP OF GREAT KILLS PARK. The Staten Island (NY) Advance (12/22, 166K) editorializes that "eight years after the discovery of radium contamination in popular Great Kills Park, not only has there apparently been precious little done in the way of cleaning up the mess, but the public isn't even sure what the contamination actually is." The paper notes that the NPS "won't have a final report on the matter ready until

next spring." The editorial asserts: "We have a seriously contaminated park that needs cleaning up, and a federal agency that seems to have no sense of urgency about getting the job done."

Bureau of Land Management:

CRITICS PUSH BACK AGAINST PROTECTION FOR GREATER SAGE GROUSE. FOX News (12/21, 6.72M) reports that "ranchers, miners, energy developers and public officials are voicing concerns over the federal government's push to protect" the greater sage grouse, "fearing possible restrictions on public lands that could have deep economic consequences in the rural West." Grant Gerber, a commissioner in Elko County, Nevada, "says he's convinced the feds have already made up their mind to list the sage grouse as a threatened or endangered species." However, a BLM official "says that's not the case and insisted at a public meeting in Elko last week they want the community's input on how best to save the troubled bird without a federal listing."

SAGE GROUSE PLAN RAISES CONCERNS. The Ontario (OR) Argus Observer (12/22, 19K) reports that "while many people are still trying to get their arms around a three-volume sage-grouse management document, both cattle producers and environmentalists are concerned about what it proposes and what it doesn't." The BLM is "taking public comment on its plans for maintaining and increasing habitat for the sage grouse on federally managed land, which includes large tracts of land in the Western Treasure Valley." John O'Keeffe, president-elect of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, notes that "one of the concerns ranchers have is that the preferred alternative listed in the document proposes to halt grazing on 118,000 acres of land throughout the region, which poses economic concerns." Also, "according to a statement from the Oregon Natural Desert Association, while the BLM proposed limiting certain types of disturbance to sage grouse habitat, the agency has also chosen not to include other needed protections, such as designating large protected areas in its preferred alternative."

MUSTANG MONUMENT TO OPEN TO TOURISTS IN JUNE. FOX News (12/20, 6.72M) reports that in June, the Mustang Monument will "open to tourists looking for an unconventional vacation experience." Meanwhile, the BLM says "it's evaluating any environmental impact."

BLM APPROVES PAN MINE PROJECT. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (12/22, 22K) reports that Midway Gold US, Inc. "received its record of decision for the company's Pan Mine Project Friday" from the BLM Ely District.

DESIGNATION OF BROWNS CANYON AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT SUPPORTED. In an editorial the Denver Post (12/22, 949K) argues for the designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument. The paper says the importance of the designation is illustrated by two pending mining claims in the area. It urges the BLM to challenge the claims in court.

LAND TRUST OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LOOKING AT NATIONAL MONUMENT ON NORTH COAST. In an op-ed for the Santa Cruz (CA) Sentinel (12/22, Corwin, Stephens, 151K), Terry Corwin, executive director of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, and Robert Stephens, president of the trust's board of trustees, write that the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County is looking "at the idea of a National Monument on the North Coast through the lens of our Conservation Blueprint." They note that the transfer of Coast Dairies to the BLM is "imminent," which will "provide additional financial support for public access and stewardship of a property already in federal hands." According to the authors, "those of us who have been privileged to tour these lands are working to open them up to everyone – and designation as a National Monument seems to us one of the few ways of doing so."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PREPARING EVENTS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY. The Missoulian (12/22, 104K) reports that "in the next few months, people in 10 states will be gathering for bus tours and field trips arranged" by the FWS to "see bald eagles in celebration of the act's anniversary." The article notes the successes of the act, including the bald eagle, "the American alligator, two kinds of peregrine falcon, the brown pelican and 31 other species." However, "seven species, including the Santa Barbara song sparrow, blue pike and dusky seaside sparrow, have gone extinct since they were given ESA listings," and it notes that "making the ESA triggers lots of impacts, including critical habitat designations, required interagency consultations before projects can happen on public land, and prohibitions of the deliberate or accidental taking of the listed species."

For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (12/20, Clark, 11.54M), Jamie Rappaport Clark, President & CEO, Defenders of Wildlife, argue sthat "the ESA is the ultimate representation of America's commitment to responsible stewardship." Clark argues that "the right choice is to uphold the conservation values and sense of responsibility to future generations that shaped the ESA 40 years ago."

Also providing coverage of the act is NBC News (12/22, 6.79M).

KILLING OF BARRED OWLS BEGINS TO HELP SPOTTED OWL. The Oregonian (12/22, 751K) reports that "an experiment to see if killing invasive barred owls will help the threatened northern spotted owl reverse its decline toward extinction is underway in the forests of Northern California." The FWS said Friday that "specially trained biologists have shot 26 barred owls in a study area on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation northeast of Arcata, Calif." According to FWS biologist Robin Bown, "they plan to remove as many as 118 barred owls from the area, keeping the 55 known barred owl nesting sites open over the next five years to see if spotted owls increase." The FWS is "spending $3.5 million over six years to remove 3,600 barred owls from sites in Oregon, Washington and California."

Also providing coverage is the MSN Canada (12/22).

VANISHING SPECIES SEMIPOSTAL STAMPS HELPS CONSERVATION OF IMPERILED SPECIES. The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (12/22) reports that the Save Vanishing Species semipostal stamp "continues to provide vital support for the US Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to fight global wildlife trafficking and poaching." According to the article, "millions of Americans have purchased these stamps online and at their local post offices in the past two years, generating more than $2.5 million that has been used in Africa, Asia and Latin America to benefit elephants, rhinoceros, tigers and other rapidly declining wildlife species." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "We are at a crucial point in the fight against poaching and wildlife trafficking. If we can't stop the killing now, elephants, rhinos, tigers and many other imperiled species may vanish entirely from their native habitat. The Save Vanishing Species semipostal stamp gives every American a way to provide direct support for vital on-the-ground conservation efforts that are making a difference to the survival of these irreplaceable species."

REPORT TOUTS DUNGENESS WILDLIFE REFUGE AS A BOON TO REGIONAL ECONOMY. The Kitsap (WA) Sun (12/22, 91K) reports that Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge "generates $7 for every $1 it was appropriated in 2011," according to a new report by the FWS. The report, titled Banking on Nature, "highlighted Dungeness as a prime example of how the national refuge system bolsters regional economies."

SMITH ISLAND ERODING. The Washington Post (12/22, 4.28M) reports on the erosion of the Smith Island. According to the article, "about 3,200 acres have vanished, representing nearly one-third of the land, scientists estimate," and "today, only about 900 of the islands' remaining 8,000 acres are hospitable to development." However, the article notes "$9 million campaign" was announced by the FWS in October "to stabilize the western shoreline of the Martin National Wildlife Refuge." The refuge "consists of an uninhabited swatch of land" that "lies on the north end of the Smith Island archipelago."

CONSERVATION GROUP PURCHASES PRESERVE ON BOLIVAR PENINSULA. The Houston Chronicle (12/20, Rice, 2.26M) reports that "a conservation group on Friday completed purchase of 1,350 acres on the Bolivar Peninsula, preserving one of the last remaining large tracts of undeveloped land on the peninsula." According to Jim Suydam, spokesman for the Texas General Land Office, "the purchase by the Conservation Fund for Texas secures vital habitat for migrating birds and will permanently protect estuarine emergent wetlands, associated tidal flats, subtidal ponds and Gulf coast beachfront." The group "plans to transfer the entire 1,350 acres, formerly part of the Cade Ranch planned development, to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to become part of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge."

FARMER FINED FOR POISONING EAGLES. The Daily News (WA) (12/22, 72K) reports that "a Winlock woman has been fined $1,500 for violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act after inadvertently poisoning seven bald eagles that fed on two euthanized horse caracasses left on her property in March." Debra Dwelly, who "runs a horse rescue farm, said she had intended to bury the two horses but a backhoe had broken down." Gary Young, special agent in charge for the FWS Pacific Region, said that, "considering the circumstances, the case had a positive ending since all seven birds were all able to be released back into the wild."

Also reporting on the story is the Clark County (WA) Columbian (12/21, 116K).

FWS OFFERING ADDITIONAL COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED PROTECTION FOR BUTTERFLIES. The Sioux Falls (SD) Tri-State Neighbor (12/22, 79K) reports that "the 60-day comment period on a proposal to protect two prairie butterflies, the Dakota skipper and the Poweshiek skipperling, under the Endangered Species Act will end on December 23, 2013," but the FWS "announced the public will have more opportunities to provide input." The agency "plans to open an additional public comment period in 2014, once a draft economic analysis on the potential impacts of critical habitat is available" Also, the FWS will "continue to accept comments via mail or hand delivery on the proposal for critical habitat and the proposal for listing between December 23, 2013, and when the comment period is reopened."

Also providing coverage is the Bismarck (ND) Farm and Ranch (12/22, 111K).

NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY RECOGNIZED WITH AWARD. The Neosho (MO) Daily News (12/20, 11K) reports that the Neosho National Fish Hatchery has been awarded one of only five 2013 Department of the Interior Team Achievement Awards. The award recognized Neosho's efforts in the Climate Change Goals of the Department. In addition to this national award, Janice Eaton, "who manages the reception desk at the hatchery was honored by the Friends of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery."

FWS URGED NOT TO DOWNGRADE STATUS OF MANATEES. In an editorial t he Tampa Bay (FL) Times (12/22, 78K) urges the state "to figure out what's killing Florida manatees at an alarming rate." According to the paper, "with days remaining before the end of 2013, the number of manatee deaths in a single year has topped 800, reaching that mark for the first time since records in Florida started being kept in the 1970s." Also, the paper urges the FWS to "not grant a petition being considered that would downgrade the status of manatees from an endangered to a threatened species."

Record Number Of Manatees Counted On Homosassa River This Week. The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (12/22, 78K) reports that "a record number of manatees were spotted at the Blue Waters on the Homosassa River during an aerial survey in Citrus County this week." The FWS "counted 186 manatees gathered at the Blue Waters area — just outside Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park — beating the previous record of 156 seen in 2009." The article notes that "a total of 600 manatees were spotted in Citrus waters, with the majority, 397, in Kings Bay on the Crystal River."

US Geological Survey:

DIRECTOR SELECTED FOR HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE CENTER. The San Francisco Chronicle (12/22, 2.88M) reports that "the first permanent director of the US Department of the Interior's Pacific Islands Climate Science Center has been selected." The USGS "announced last week that David Helweg will be the director of the center, whose headquarters are at the University of Hawaii's Manoa campus." Helweg was "previously deputy director of the USGS Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center."

Also providing coverage is the Honolulu Star-Advertiser (12/22, 439K).

USGS RESEARCHERS STUDY CARIBBEAN TSUNAMI RISK. The Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (12/21, 506) reports that "the risk of a large earthquake and subsequent tsunami may be greater than previously thought," USGS researchers "say after studying the plate boundary in the Lesser Antilles region, where 20 of the 26 Caribbean islands are located." Researchers "estimate that enough unreleased strain may have accumulated offshore of Guadeloupe to potentially create a magnitude 8.0-8.4 earthquake." USGS scientist Gavin Hayes, lead author of the paper, said, "Perception that a mega quake can occur in the Caribbean is low because none have been observed over the past century, and the rate at which the tectonic plates converge is fairly slow. Nevertheless, we show that enough unreleased strain may have accumulated on the subduction zone since the 19th century to generate a mega quake in the future."

USGS STUDY FINDS BROWN TROUT CROWDING OUT NATIVE BROOK TROUT. The Environment News Network (12/22, 629) reports that "native brook trout, Salvelinus fontinalis, populations could be at risk as a result of the introduction of Brown trout, Salmo trutta," according to a new USGS study. Scientists "found that, in New

York State, direct interactions between the two species, such as competition for food, have minor effects on diminishing brook trout populations compared to human-caused habitat disturbances." However, "repeated, disproportionate stocking of brown trout in brook trout habitats could drastically decrease brook trout numbers." James McKenna, USGS scientist and lead author of the study, said, "There is great potential for brown trout stocking to reduce native brook trout populations. But brown trout aren't necessarily causing the current brook trout declines, and managers may be able to develop sustainable scenarios to support both fisheries."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RESEARCH ON HAWAIIAN PETRELS. Additional coverage of the study on Hawaiian Petrels was provided by the Kaua'i (HI) Garden Island News (12/22, 33K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SENATE APPROVES BILL THAT AUTHORIZES PLANNED FUNDING FOR NEW MEXICO LABS. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/22, 288K) reported that, in an 84-15 vote on Friday, the Senate approved a bill that "maintains planned funding levels in fiscal 2014 for America's national laboratories, including Sandia and Los Alamos in New Mexico, as well as the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad." The bill also The bill also "provides for a federal land transfer to help protect White Sands Missile Range."

Onshore Energy Development:

NEW MEXICO'S OIL, NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION MAKES STATE THIRD LARGEST US NET ENERGY SUPPLIER. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/21, 288K) reported that Federal energy experts say that "New Mexico's petroleum and natural gas production make the state the third largest net energy supplier to the nation." The state's oil Conservation Division said recently that the state's "oil production jumped by another 15 percent in the first six months of 2013, putting New Mexico on track for its sixth consecutive year of growth." The Albuquerque Journal added that this "boom has fueled by high prices for crude, which remained near $100 per barrel during most of this year."

Offshore Energy Development:

PLAINTIFFS ARGUE THAT BP DIDN'T DO ENOUGH TO CAP MACONDO WELL DURING OIL SPILL. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (12/21, Schleifstein, 700K) reported that "attorneys representing private plaintiffs as well as the states of Louisiana and Mississippi argued Friday" that "BP's lies about how much oil and gas was flowing from the failed well in the days immediately after the blowout...delayed efforts to cap" its Macondo well. However, BP says "that it did everything in its power to halt the flow of oil after the blowout, and was acting during that time under the authority of the federal government." The Times-Picayune reported that the arguments are part of a trial to determine BP's culpability for the Deepwater Horizon spill. The Times-Picayune reported that, according to the Clean Water Act, if BP and its drilling partners' actions are found only to be negligent then they "could be fined a maximum $1,100 per barrel." However, if their found to have acted with gross negligence or willful misconduct, they will be fined "as much as $4,300 per barrel." Bloomberg News (12/20, Fisk, 2.32M) provided similar coverage.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR TO EXTEND REPAYMENT CONTRACT FOR TRINIDAD LAKE. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (12/22, 94K) reports that the BOR will "extend the repayment contract for Trinidad Lake to 75 years because prolonged drought has reduced the anticipated use of storage in the reservoir."

BOR SEEKS BERRYESSA TEAM NOMINATIONS. The Vacaville (CA) Reporter (12/22, 57K) reports that the BOR is "requesting nominations for new members of the Lake Berryessa Community Forum Coordinating Team to replace the following five stakeholder group representatives whose terms expire in February 2014: Local Ranchers, Land-based Recreation, Water-based Recreation, Conservation Groups, and Gateway Communities." The bureau will "also accept nominations for the Fish and Wildlife Management stakeholder group representative,

a position that has not yet been filled."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Stockton (CA) Record (12/21, Ruhstaller, 123K) and the Santa Clarita Valley (CA) Signal (12/22, 13K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN TOUTS LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. In a blog posted to the White House website, and picked up by the Indian Country Today Media Network (12/21, 21K), Kevin K. Washburn is the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Interior Department, writes that by establishing the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, the Interior Department has "made a commitment to work together – with tribes and individual Indian land owners alike – to address the negative impacts of land fractionation in Indian country." He notes that "over the next 10 years, the Buy-Back Program will make purchase offers to willing sellers in an effort to make land more usable and prevent further fractionation," and "by doing this, Interior will help expand tribal economic development opportunities across Indian country, and, in turn, restore tribal control over tribal lands and resources in order to build towards true tribal self-determination and ultimately strengthened tribal sovereignty." Washburn also notes that "in a historic step this week, Interior announced that the very first purchase offers have been sent" to the Oglala Sioux leadership, and "individuals with interests at the Makah Indian Reservation will receive offers as well."

The post was also picked up by the Native American Times (12/22, 337).

Also covering the program are the Char-Koosta News (12/22, 12K), the Native News Online (12/22), the Beltway Indian, and the Gering Citizen (12/22).

FEDERAL CONTRACTORS CONCERNED AS TRIBES WAIT FOR CLAIMS. The Washington Post (12/23, A1, Kindy, 4.28M) reports that after contracts to compensate tribes for running hospitals were "broken with hundreds of other Native American tribes and the debts they were owed snowballed to an estimated $2 billion, federal contractors joined their court battle, alarmed that the practice might eventually ensnare them as well." Now, according to agency records, "more than a year after the US Supreme Court ruled for a second time in favor of the tribes and ordered the government to pay up, the two federal agencies that are on the hook — the Indian Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs — have settled fewer than 1 percent of the claims." Meanwhile, the Obama Administration is "asking Congress to approve a proposal that would permanently limit how much Native Americans could be paid in the future for certain costs associated with government contracts." Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary for Indian affairs with the Interior Department, "during a congressional hearing last month about the unpaid claims," said, "There is not enough money to go around to do all of the things the United States should do in Indian Country." However, "the tribes, not surprisingly, call that excuse unacceptable."

Also covering the story is the Washington Post (12/15, 4.28M).

WISCONSIN GOV. WALKER MAY POSTPONE CASINO DECISION UNTIL AFTER 2014 ELECTION. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (12/22, 798K) reports that Gov. Scott Walker "may postpone a decision on whether to approve the $800million Indian casino proposed for Kenosha until after he stands for re-election in November, according to the governor's top aide." Administration Secretary Mike Huebsch said that "the state is hiring outside attorneys and a financial adviser to examine the issue, and they may need the extra time to analyze the off-reservation casino proposed by the Menominee tribe."

Top National News:

OBAMA WARNS OF POSSIBLE US MILITARY ACTION IN SOUTH SUDAN. The two networks that aired Sunday night – CBS was preempted – reported the latest developments on the ground in South Sudan one week after an attempted coup plunged the nation into turmoil. Neither network, however, reported that President Obama told Congress in a letter Sunday that he may order military action in the country to protect Americans there. And while the crisis in South Sudan is generating front-page headlines in several of the nation's major dailies – including the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post – the President's warning is not the focus of the

reports.

NBC Nightly News (12/22, story 3, 0:30, Holt, 7.86M) reported briefly that according to the State Department, "an unspecified number of Americans were safely evacuated today from the African nation of South Sudan." The Americans and other foreigners "were air lifted on US and United Nations helicopters." ABC World News (12/22, story 5, 0:25, Jarvis, 7.43M) also reported briefly on the evacuations, noting that on Saturday, "three US military aircraft were attacked by ground fire," and "four US troops were wounded."

The AP (12/23) reports briefly that the President informed lawmakers that "about 46 US troops were deployed Saturday to help evacuate Americans," in addition to "another 45 troops deployed to reinforce the US Embassy in Juba." The AP notes that he is spending the holiday in Hawaii, but "was briefed by advisers on events in South Sudan."

AFP (12/23) notes the move comes after "unidentified gunmen shot at three CV-22 Osprey," wounding four US servicemembers and "forcing the military aircraft to abort a mission to evacuate Americans" in the city of Bor. Reuters (12/23) quotes a statement released Sunday by the White House as warning, "Any effort to seize power through the use of military force will result in the end of longstanding support from the United States and the international community."

On its website, the Los Angeles Times (12/23, Reston, 3.07M) reports that White House officials "said the notification should not be interpreted as an escalation of US military operations in the region." The Times calls the move an indication the President "appeared to be leaving his options open."

The New York Times (12/23, Parker, 9.61M) reports on its "The Caucus" blog that Obama's letter is "consistent with the War Powers Resolution of 1937," and "does not necessarily mean that the administration plans further increases in its military operations in the region."

In a statement Sunday, USA Today (12/23, Bacon, Michaels, 5.82M) reports the State Department said roughly 380 Americans and 300 others were safely evacuated on Sunday from Bor. Spokesperson Jen Psaki said in a statement that the US is also "doing everything possible to ensure the safety and security of United States citizens in South Sudan," but would not discuss "specific plans," citing security.

The New York Times (12/23, Gordon, Kushkush, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says Sunday's evacuation in Bor "suggests that rebel commanders in that area of Jonglei State maintain sufficient control of their troops to facilitate the safe departure of the American citizens at the compound. But it also raised the question of why the United States needed to attempt the previous mission using Osprey aircraft," and "whether the diplomatic groundwork with rebel commanders and South Sudanese officials for the aborted Saturday operation had been adequately prepared."

The Wall Street Journal (12/23, A1, Vogt, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), meanwhile, reports on its front page that rebels allied with former Vice President Riek Machar solidified control of territory they seized over the past week as tens of thousands of refugees have already fled the country. Secretary of State Kerry spoke Saturday with President Salva Kiir and "made clear that continued violence endangers the vision set forth at the time of South Sudan's independence," the State Department said. US special envoy Donald Booth is also traveling to Juba, where he hopes to help an East African delegation broker a deal between Kiir and Machar.

The Washington Post (12/23, A1, Raghavan, 4.28M), in a front-page story, examines the relationship between Kiir and Machar, whom it says are "at the center of what could be the unraveling of this fragile African country into full-blown civil war." While Kiir accused Machar last week of plotting a failed coup, "analysts and diplomats say they are not convinced that Machar was attempting a coup. Instead, they say, last week's fighting was probably triggered by long-simmering ethnic and political tensions within the government and the military."

The AP (12/23, Muhumuza) reports Machar's forces have gained control of Bentiu, the capital of "a key oil-producing state." And Bor, where US forces came under attack over the weekend, "is said to be the scene of some of the fiercest clashes" between government troops and rebels.

Bloomberg News (12/23, Salant, Ngor, Ombok, 1.91M) reports as violence continues, South Sudan "evacuated

some oil employees and plans a partial shutdown of facilities," Petroleum Minister Stephen Dhieu Dau said in a phone interview.

In response to the ongoing violence, Reuters (12/23, Odera, Makori) reports the UN said Sunday that it was trying to deploy additional peacekeeping forces from other missions in the region. "We are now actively trying to transfer our assets from other peacekeeping missions like" the Democratic Republic of Congo, "and some other areas," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said.

AFP (12/23) reports the UN's "humanitarian chief" in South Sudan, Toby Lanzer, warned Sunday the country has "unravelled" since last week's failed coup attempt. "It would have been have been difficult one week ago to imagine that things would have unravelled to this extent," Lanzer said. Also reporting on the violence are Voice of America (12/23, 34K) and the BBC News (12/23, 1.62M), among other news outlets.

In an editorial, the Christian Science Monitor (12/22, 540K) urges "the US, Europe, and others with well-formed democracies" to play a role in resolving the current crisis in South Sudan, as well as in the Central African Republic, arguing that "they know the sacrifice that was needed for their own unity," and "must decide how much to sacrifice to help other peoples find their unity."

ADMINISTRATION ALLOWS MORE OIL PRODUCTION TO HELP CLEAN UP COAL INDUSTRY. The AP (12/23, Cappiello) reports that the government allowing coal-fired power plants to sell carbon dioxide to oil companies, which pump it into the ground to force more crude to the surface, demonstrates the "ingenuity of the oil industry, which is using government green-energy money to subsidize oil production," as well as "the environmental trade-offs Obama is willing to make, but rarely talks about, in his fight against global warming." The AP says the government's move "hits a political sweet spot" because it "silences critics who say the administration is killing coal and discouraging oil production," and "appeases environmentalists who want Obama to get tougher on coal, the largest source of carbon dioxide." Meanwhile, it allows the President "to make headway on a second-term push to tackle climate change."

OBAMA FACES TOUGH FIGHT TO GAIN FAST TACK AUTHORITY. The Washington Times (12/23, Hill, 417K) reports that while the President is pushing to negotiate trade deals with Asia and Europe, he "faces an uphill battle next year in Congress" to get the "fast track" authority his predecessors had to finalize the agreements. Analysts say that without the authority, his "hopes to enact trade deals before he leaves office may be doomed." According to the analysts, Democratic opposition to freer trade and Republican reticence to grant him the authority "endanger legislation in what could be a cliffhanger vote early next year." The President "will have to rely heavily on Republicans and a smattering of centrist Democrats to win fast-track authority," but that coalition "has been frayed by distrust of Mr. Obama among tea party and other conservative groups — one among many signs that the traditional Republican enthusiasm for free trade is waning among the party's more populist elements."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Small Step Toward More Mercy."*** The New York Times (12/23, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that President Obama's decision last week to commute "the outrageously long drug sentences of eight men and women showed a measure of compassion and common sense," but it "also served to highlight the injustice being done to thousands of prisoners under federal sentencing laws." The Times notes that despite the "now fairly widespread agreement that federal drug laws are far too harsh and inflexible, and that their burden falls most heavily upon the poor and racial minorities," President Obama was "able to identify only a handful of people worthy of clemency." The Times partly blames the pardon office, "which has been ineffective in doing its job in processing clemency requests." The Times concludes that the president "did not create the broken criminal justice system, but he can do much more to lessen its impact on those who have been most unfairly punished by it."

"Dark Days In Egypt." In an editorial titled "Dark Days In Egypt," the New York Times (12/23, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) criticizes last week's raid of a human rights organization in Egypt and charges filed against former president Mohamed Morsi for participating in what it calls "a fantastical terrorist plot." But instead of condemning the moves, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "approved legislation that would make it easier to resume aid" – a move the Times says Egypt's interim leaders "are almost certain to interpret that as an

endorsement of their authoritarian methods."

"Congress's Temerity On Gun Safety." The New York Times (12/23, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that despite "lawmakers' copious sympathy for the 26 victims of the Newtown, Conn., school massacre, all members of Congress were able to manage in the way of gun safety as they left town was renewal of the ban on the manufacture of plastic firearms," a "type of arcane weapon that figured not at all in the Sandy Hook Elementary School rampage in 2012, nor in the mass shootings featuring adapted weapons of war that have occurred on average every two weeks somewhere in America." The Times notes that in extending the ban on plastic firearms, "both the House and the Senate voted by voice so members could duck individual accountability," a process the Times calls "a sad reminder of this Congress's determined avoidance of meaningful laws controlling the lethal (metal) weapons regularly scourging the land."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"'Coming On Strong' In D.C."*** In an editorial the Washington Post (12/23, 4.28M) praises the progress made by students in DC public schools, noting that according to new data, the DC Public School (DCPS) is "the system with the greatest improvement of any urban district in the nation," having shown "statistically significant growth in both reading and math, and at both grade levels tested." The Post adds that in the wake of these improvements, DC must not "stray from the course of school reform started in 2007 with mayoral control."

"Year Of Immigration Reform." An editorial in the Washington Post (12/23, 4.28M) argues that the current immigration system, under which illegal immigrants are deported, "is unworkable and counterproductive; it neither fixes a broken system nor meets the economy's demand for labor." Noting "hostility from the GOP's rank-and-file to a pathway to citizenship," the Post cites a proposal for "deportation relief without citizenship," saying that while it is "not an ideal solution," something "has to move the ball on immigration in Congress, where it has been stalled for more than seven years."

"Scholars With Blinders." In an editorial, the Washington Post (12/23, 4.28M) condemns a vote by members of the American Studies Association to boycott Israeli academic institutions to protest Israeli "state policies that violate human rights" of Palestinians, "including academic freedom for scholars and students." The Post acknowledges that while the boycott is "largely symbolic," it's also "terribly misguided." It argues that a more appropriate response would have been to engage with both sides through "scholarly conferences and exchanges."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Obama's Iran Sanctions Veto."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/23, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes President Obama for threatening to veto any new sanctions against Iran, which it argues will do nothing to undermine current talks with Iran if Tehran is serious about giving up its nuclear weapons.

"The Podesta Hire." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (12/23, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that John Podesta's new role in the White House will be to push the President's liberal agenda through regulation without regard to congressional action or desire. The Journal says that Podesta's hiring is a sign that the President intends to rule even more by executive action and conflict with Republicans.

"The Baucus To Beijing Gambit." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/23, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) cites the political calculations behind the President's decision to nominate retiring Sen. Max Baucus to be US Ambassador to China. Noting that Mitt Romney carried Montana by nearly 14 percentage points, the Journal points out that by getting Baucus to leave his seat early, it increases Democrats' chances to hold on to it. Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock is expected to appoint Lt. Gov. John Walsh, who is already running for the Baucus seat. The early appointment, notes the Journal, may enable Walsh to avoid a primary fight and establish greater statewide name recognition.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Health Deadline Rattles Insurance Industry

South Sudan Refugees Swell
Quest To Track Nazi Loot Stirs Complex Emotions
Unwanted Memories Erased In Experiment

New York Times:
Buying Overseas Clothing, US Flouts Its Own Advice
Free To Speak About Russia, But Now From A Safe Distance
In Tech Buying, US Still Stuck In Last Century
Amid Steady Deportation, Fear and Worry Multiply Among Immigrants
On Jammed Jets, Sardines Turn On One Another
Seeing A Need For Oversight Of New York's Lordly Towers
Baby, It's Warm Outside

Washington Post:
Bidders' Past Jobs Weren't A Focus
Two Activists In Mideast Accused Of Terror Links
Tribes' Battle With US Shakes Up The World Of Federal Contracting
Despair Over 'The Bug That Ate Christmas'
Growing Strife In South Sudan Is Reflected In Leaders' Rivalry

Financial Times:
Khodorkovsky Vows Not To Seek Power
Elderly Breathe Life Into High Streets
South Sudan Crisis Sparks Global Oil Fear
Apple Strikes Deal With China Mobile
Markets Reflect Recovery Of Economies
US Food Start-ups Bring Home The Bacon
Whistleblower Tip-offs On The Rise

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Storm; Winter Weather-High Temperatures; JP Morgan-Debit Limit; Twitter-PR Disaster; Sudan-US Troops; NASA-ISS Space Walks; Healthcare Deadline
CBS: Preempted By NFL Coverage
NBC: Extreme Weather; Banks-Debit Limits; NASA-ISS Space Walks; Sudan-US Troops; Obama-Deadline; Colorado School Shooting Victim; Syria-Civil War; US India-Relations; South Africa-Plane Incident

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Weather; JP Morgan-Debit Limit; Sudan-US Relations; New Jersey-Real Estate Claim
CBS: Severe Weather; NSA-Presidential Panel; Russia-Band Member Amnesty; Dennis Rodman In China
NPR: Severe Weather; Russia-Freed Oil Tycoon; IMF-US Economy Outlook; Asian Markets; Oscar Song Nominees; Duck Dynasty Controversy; Gas Price Drop
FOX: Severe Weather; Healthcare Deadline; Boeing-Unions

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; no public events scheduled

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No public events scheduled
US Senate: No Scheduled Events
US House: 12 p.m. DEMOCRATIC WOMEN – UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE — House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and female members of the House Democratic Caucus will hold a press conference call to discuss "the impact of what 1.3 million Americans and their families face this holiday season because their unemployment insurance will expire on December 28, 2013." With Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Jan Schakowsky

(D-IL), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL).

FLOOR SCHEDULE 10 a.m. — The House is scheduled to meet in a pro forma session.
Other: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. GUN CONTROL RALLY — The Monday White House demonstration for "sane gun reform." Location: In front of the north side of the White House.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Well, a new report says that members of Congress work harder than the average American. Oh, shut up. You know why? Because thanks to Congress, the average American is out of work. That's why they work harder."

Jay Leno: "Scientists said this week that death may be reversible. In fact, the President promised, under Obamacare, if you like being dead, you can stay being dead."

David Letterman: "I'm fascinated at how celebrities celebrate Christmas. For example, right across the river, the Governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie, a lot of people like to throw tinsel on their tree. The Governor likes to throw spaghetti on his tree."

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Jewell, Sally (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

Washington Post: Sally Jewell at a different kind of summit: Head of the Department of the Interior

1 message

Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Dec 25, 2013 at 10:42 PM
To: Jewell Sally (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Davis Laura <Laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Buffa Nikki <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, David Jayo <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov>, Kelly Kate <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Androff Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

Washington Post: Sally Jewell at a different kind of summit: Head of the Department of the Interior



Melina Mara/The Washington Post - Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell tours Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge on the beach at Bulls Island concerning erosion issues, in Awendaw, South Carolina on Wednesday, November 20, 2013.

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By Lenny Bernstein, Updated: Wednesday, December 25, 9:23 PM **E-mail the writer**

Sally Jewell would rather scale the Washington Monument than sit in one more meeting about cutting her budget. This is not just hyperbole. The secretary of the interior has done both and clearly prefers the former. Jewell clipped into a safety harness in June and ascended what she calls the monument's "exoskeleton," an elaborate, 55-story structure erected for its repair that most people would call "scaffolding." With philanthropist David Rubenstein, who is paying for half the work on the monument, and several others, Jewell easily climbed the scaffold's stairs and a ladder to the top, where she reached the monument's aluminum cap and took in a magnificent view of a place she barely knew.

In a city where "climber" normally has less-than-positive connotations, Jewell, 57, is an accomplished and remarkably fit mountaineer who has scaled the other Washington's Mount Rainier seven times, as well as Antarctica's tallest peak, Mount Vinson, and Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Western Europe.

More health and science news

Have you used the new health insurance exchanges?



Charity Brown NOV 7
What has been your experience with the online insurance exchanges?

Study finds confusion over health insurance terminology

Sarah Kliff DEC 24
Fewer than one in four uninsured Americans felt confident they understood nine basic terms.

Going to extreme efforts to reach 'young invincibles'



Ariana Eunjung Cha DEC 24
Exchanges try to sign up younger enrollees, through edgy ads and other campaigns.

Was James Bond an impotent binge drinker with a tremor?



Associated Press DEC 23
"Shaken, not stirred" may have covered an alcoholic tremor, while drinking may have hurt his sex life.

That is just the beginning of what makes the 51st secretary of the interior one of the more unlikely government officials in town. She is only the second woman to hold the post (which she assumed in April), and, unlike Ken Salazar, Dirk Kempthorne, Gale Norton, Bruce Babbitt and most others in the decades before her, she is not a Western politician. In fact, she has never held elective office and says she is not interested in running for one. She is an engineer-turned-banker-turned-CEO of Recreational Equipment (REI), the outdoor gear cooperative that had nearly $2 billion in sales last year.

She is a pragmatist learning to manage a raft of contentious issues. To those Beltway insiders with hard-line opinions on hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas, Jewell can say — and does — that she has fracked wells herself.

But until recently, she had never taken on a petulant senator, shut down a $12 billion organization with more than 70,000 employees for 16 days, negotiated the emergency reopening of several national parks, lopped millions of dollars from her budget to comply with sequestration, worked with Indian tribes or confronted restive environmental groups, to name just a few of her new duties.

"It can be a breath of fresh air to not be stuck in the Washington ways," said Gene Karpinski, president of the League of Conservation Voters and a veteran of endless battles over environmental protection. "That is not a negative in any way. The key is understanding the tools you have at your disposal to make progress."

Jewell gave up a salary of $1.98 million (she is anticipating, however, an REI bonus of $1 million to $1.2

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wp

million) to come to Washington, according to her financial disclosure form. "I have always had an interest in making a difference," she said in an interview, "having an impact in a positive way."

So instead of handing out dividends to grateful REI members, she has taken command of an agency where the only guarantee is that every decision will irritate, if not infuriate, some powerful constituency, from green groups to coal miners. Take the gray wolf off the endangered species list? Some conservationists are appalled. Put the sage-grouse on? Not if ranchers have their way. Open more federal land to fracking? Over the dead bodies of many environmental groups.

"It's a tough job and I don't care who you put in there," said Cecil D. Andrus, who held the post during the Carter administration. "It's a tough time to be in Washington, a tough time to be in the Cabinet," said Salazar, Jewell's predecessor. "It's just tough to be a manager in Washington, and that's what a Cabinet officer is."

Yet even some of Jewell's antagonists call her outsider perspective refreshing. In May, at a closed meeting with conservation groups, she got into an argument over fracking with Michael Brune, the outspoken executive director of the Sierra Club, according to several people with knowledge of the incident.

A more seasoned Washington hand might have responded to Brune's criticism with something vaguely conciliatory. But the chief executive of a major company usually doesn't put up with such lip. Whatever combination of those personas Jewell is now, she has never been known to mince words.

Some people appreciate that. Among them is Brune himself.

"I like her a lot," Brune said. "She's energetic, she's direct, very candid, honest. She is different from most people in the administration or up on the Hill just for those qualities. She's there to get a job done. She's not there to build a career, necessarily."

In a narrow conference room in Awendaw, S.C., last month, Jewell addressed an overflow crowd of local officials, government parks employees, environmentalists and others concerned about the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. Dressed in her usual outfit of high-end outdoor gear and walking shoes, water bottle always at hand, Jewell was self-deprecating, amusing and blunt as she spoke off-the-cuff and answered questions from her sympathetic audience.

But the visit was layered with serious messages — and an implicit political one directed at a man who wasn't there.

As one of President Obama's lieutenants in the battle against climate change — Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy is the main face of the Cabinet effort — Jewell expressed her alarm at the one-foot rise in sea level the area has experienced over the past century. Later that day, she toured Bulls Island, which has suffered substantial erosion.

Plenty of places across the country are eroding, but Jewell chose South Carolina, which has a majority-Republican congressional delegation that is less than supportive of Obama's proposal for mandatory full funding of Interior's Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of the agency's main tools for upgrading places such as the refuge.

> "We do live in a democracy. It responds to voter input," Jewell told her listeners. "Make sure your voices are heard by your elected officials."

One of those officials is Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), who has placed a hold on the confirmation of Michael Connor as Interior's deputy secretary until he gets information he is seeking on the 2012 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya. Although the senatorial strong-arm tactic never came up in South Carolina, Jewell's message was clear: There are critical environmental issues in Graham's home state. Why not allow her the staff she wants to address them?

Jewell moved on to the budget. She noted that five people do the work at the 66,287-acre refuge, down from 13 a decade ago. She called the budget sequestration "ridiculous." Jewell spent 35 years in business, she reminded her audience, and "you would never manage a budget by cutting across the board."

At REI, Jewell is credited with restoring profitability after some questionable decisions before her tenure. Before that, she rose through the ranks at several banks, eventually overseeing Washington Mutual's entire loan portfolio after initially being hired to provide advice on lending to the oil industry. In the first part of her career, she worked in the oil industry as an engineer. She is married to Warren Jewell, an engineer whom she met while both attended the University of Washington. The couple have two grown children.

She was offered a spot as an assistant secretary at Interior early in Obama's first term but turned it down, saying the time was not right for her to leave REI, according to people with knowledge of the discussions.

Jewell's environmental credentials, personal and professional, are widely acknowledged by the myriad groups that fight fiercely for government protection of open spaces and wildlife.

She moved to Washington state from Britain with her family at the age of 3 and has been camping, kayaking and climbing ever since. In an October speech in which she outlined her vision for the department, she promised that Obama would use the Antiquities Act to preserve more wilderness in the face of a Congress that, for the first time in half a century, has failed to set aside a single acre since 2010. In recent months, Interior oversaw the first two auctions of offshore wind farms, a process begun under Salazar.

> Tom Kiernan, the chief executive of the American Wind Energy Association who survived a potentially deadly ice fall while climbing Mount Rainier with Jewell, calls her "an outstanding leader for Interior and an outstanding outdoorswoman."

But she can't please everyone.

"I didn't see leadership from Secretary Salazar on endangered species, and I'm hopeful I'll see it from Sally Jewell. I haven't seen it yet," said Jamie Rappaport Clark, president of Defenders of Wildlife and a former Interior official.

Jewell made environmentalists happy this week when, like Salazar before her, she refused to allow construction of a one-lane gravel road through a portion of Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to the tiny, remote town of King Cove, which has spent years seeking the road for medical evacuation access to an all-weather airport. The town and the state of Alaska had proposed a land swap to get the road built. But Jewell said four years of analysis showed that the acreage that would have been added to the refuge would not compensate for the road's impact.

During the October government shutdown, Jewell worked out an unusual agreement that allowed states to pay to reopen national parks such as Utah's Bryce Canyon and New York's Statue of Liberty, to keep revenue flowing and visitors happy. But the visual that captured more attention — and ultimately overshadowed the deal Jewell had worked out with the states — was a group of elderly Mississippi veterans, some in wheelchairs, storming the shuttered World War II monument when the Park Service refused to let them in.

The development of energy resources on public lands is even more treacherous terrain. Interior oversees 20 percent of the land in the United States, some of which contains oil, gas and coal that energy companies and

Indian tribes want to extract. Jewell has outlined a regional approach that will allow the federal government to set aside some areas as too "special" for drilling or mining, while offering others for development.

> She is not torn by the department's dual missions of conservation and promotion of energy development. "I don't feel like it's in conflict," she said. "Development is important for economic opportunity and health and well-being. But development should be balanced and recognized for its impact."

But revised fracking rules issued in May on the use and disposal of fluids and chemicals to release trapped oil from rock made no one happy. "It was a bad rule initially and, from our point of view, it's gotten worse," said Sharon Buccino, director of the land and wildlife program for the Natural Resources Defense Council, which now wants a moratorium on new fracking. The oil industry wants regulations left in the hands of states. Interior's Bureau of Land Management "has yet to answer the question why BLM is moving forward with these requirements in the first place," said Erik Milito of the American Petroleum Institute.

Babbitt, breaking the silence that past holders of the Interior post traditionally afford the current occupant, said in a National Press Club speech the day before Jewell was nominated that "Americans expect their public lands to supply more energy for today. But they also expect more parks, wilderness and open space for tomorrow. And that balance between development and land conservation is not being maintained." Babbitt said the administration has leased more than 6 million acres to the oil and gas industry while permanently protecting only 2.6 million.

Then there are Indian tribes, which the administration is trying to strengthen. "I was elected to provide basic services and jobs to my citizens and I will steadfastly and responsibly pursue Crow coal development to achieve my vision for the Crow people," Crow Nation Chairman Darrin N. Old Coyote testified to Congress.

Although she outlined her vision for the next three years in her October speech, Jewell said she is still listening and learning. She had traveled more than 65,000 miles as of Dec. 2, according to Interior figures, a total that has raised an eyebrow or two.

Andrus, the former Interior secretary under Carter, warned that one way the bureaucracy wears out a secretary is to keep that person on the road. Whether the boss is a top-flight corporate executive or a longtime politician, an organization's workers know they will be there when he or she moves on, and their keenest interest is often protecting themselves.

> Andrus said he drew up a list of nine priorities when he started the job and kept it in the top right-hand drawer of his desk. From time to time he'd pull it out and review it to make sure he wasn't being distracted from his mission.

"You have to drive the train," he said. "Somebody has to be the boss."

Jewell, who appears to be setting her own travel agenda, said there are secondary motives for her journeys: Employees are more likely to speak truth to power when they're out with her instead of sitting in her huge office. She followed the same practice at REI.

"One of the hardest things to do," she told the group in in South Carolina, "is to get people to tell you what's on their minds. . . . I try to get out on the land, try to spend time with the people who are doing the work."

Wherever possible, Jewell also tries to spend time with children. In a visitor's center in Awendaw, she poked through oyster shells and other muck with a classroom full of children who had returned from a dig. She asked questions and pointed out interesting finds. She became a soft-spoken biology teacher for a few minutes, the kind of person who thinks of scaffolding as an exoskeleton.

Jewell served on trail crews when she was younger; now one of her top goals is to create a million-member conservation corps that would get younger people back into the nation's parks, enjoying them and helping to maintain them. White middle-aged people and their elders are over-represented among parkgoers, as succeeding generations have taken up positions in front of computer and video-game screens.

"We are in the forever business," she said later. "We are in the business of protecting these resources forever."

Alice Crites contributed to this report.

Sent from my iPad

Jewell, Sally (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

Re: Washington Post: Sally Jewell at a different kind of summit: Head of the Department of the Interior

1 message

Sally Jewell (b) (6) @ios.doi.gov> Thu, Dec 26, 2013 at 12:19 PM
To: David Jayo <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks pal! (b)(6) [redacted].

Warmly,

Sally

On Dec 26, 2013, at 8:37 AM, David Jayo <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> This is a great article! I feel so proud and privileged to work with you. Thank you for the opportunity!
>
> On Dec 25, 2013, at 10:53 PM, Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> > Jessica -
> >
> > Thanks for your help on this. Lenny did a nice job.
> >
> > Sally
> >
> > On Dec 25, 2013, at 7:42 PM, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
> >
> > **Washington Post: Sally Jewell at a different kind of summit: Head of the Department of the Interior**



Melina Mara/The Washington Post - Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell tours Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge on the beach at Bulls Island concerning erosion issues, in Awendaw, South Carolina on Wednesday, November 20, 2013.

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By Lenny Bernstein, Updated: Wednesday, December 25, 9:23 PM
E-mail the writer

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Fewer than one in four uninsured Americans felt confident they understood nine basic terms.

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"Shaken, not stirred" may have covered an alcoholic tremor, while drinking may have hurt his sex life.

That is just the beginning of what makes the 51st secretary of the interior one of the more unlikely government officials in town. She is only the second woman to hold the post (which she assumed in April), and, unlike Ken Salazar, Dirk Kempthorne, Gale Norton, Bruce Babbitt and most others in the decades before her, she is not a Western politician. In fact, she has never held elective office and says she is not interested in running for one. She is an engineer-turned-banker-turned-CEO of Recreational Equipment (REI), the outdoor gear cooperative that had nearly $2 billion in sales last year.

She is a pragmatist learning to manage a raft of contentious issues. To those Beltway insiders with hard-line opinions on hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas, Jewell can say — and does — that she has fracked wells herself.

But until recently, she had never taken on a petulant senator, shut down a $12 billion organization with more than 70,000 employees for 16 days, negotiated the emergency reopening of several national parks, lopped millions of dollars from her budget to comply with sequestration, worked with Indian tribes or confronted restive environmental groups, to name just a few of her new duties.

"It can be a breath of fresh air to not be stuck in the Washington ways," said Gene Karpinski, president of the League of Conservation Voters and a veteran of endless battles over environmental protection. "That is not a negative in any way. The key is understanding the tools you have at your

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disposal to make progress."

Jewell gave up a salary of $1.98 million (she is anticipating, however, an REI bonus of $1 million to $1.2 million) to come to Washington, according to her financial disclosure form. "I have always had an interest in making a difference," she said in an interview, "having an impact in a positive way."

So instead of handing out dividends to grateful REI members, she has taken command of an agency where the only guarantee is that every decision will irritate, if not infuriate, some powerful constituency, from green groups to coal miners. Take the gray wolf off the endangered species list? Some conservationists are appalled. Put the sage-grouse on? Not if ranchers have their way. Open more federal land to fracking? Over the dead bodies of many environmental groups.

"It's a tough job and I don't care who you put in there," said Cecil D. Andrus, who held the post during the Carter administration. "It's a tough time to be in Washington, a tough time to be in the Cabinet," said Salazar, Jewell's predecessor. "It's just tough to be a manager in Washington, and that's what a Cabinet officer is."

Yet even some of Jewell's antagonists call her outsider perspective refreshing. In May, at a closed meeting with conservation groups, she got into an argument over fracking with Michael Brune, the outspoken executive director of the Sierra Club, according to several people with knowledge of the incident.

A more seasoned Washington hand might have responded to Brune's criticism with something vaguely conciliatory. But the chief executive of a major company usually doesn't put up with such lip. Whatever combination of those personas Jewell is now, she has never been known to mince words.

Some people appreciate that. Among them is Brune himself.

"I like her a lot," Brune said. "She's energetic, she's direct, very candid, honest. She is different from most people in the administration or up on the Hill just for those qualities. She's there to get a job done. She's not there to build a career, necessarily."

In a narrow conference room in Awendaw, S.C., last month, Jewell addressed an overflow crowd of local officials, government parks employees, environmentalists and others concerned about the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. Dressed in her usual outfit of high-end outdoor gear and walking shoes, water bottle always at hand, Jewell was self-deprecating, amusing and blunt as she spoke off-the-cuff and answered questions from her sympathetic audience.

But the visit was layered with serious messages — and an implicit political one directed at a man who wasn't there.

As one of President Obama's lieutenants in the battle against climate change — Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy is the main face of the Cabinet effort — Jewell expressed her alarm at the one-foot rise in sea level the area has experienced over the past century. Later that day, she toured Bulls Island, which has suffered substantial erosion.

Plenty of places across the country are eroding, but Jewell chose South Carolina, which has a majority-Republican congressional delegation that is less than supportive of Obama's proposal for mandatory full funding of Interior's Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of the agency's main tools for upgrading places such as the refuge.

> "We do live in a democracy. It responds to voter input," Jewell told her listeners. "Make sure your voices are heard by your elected officials."

One of those officials is Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), who has placed a hold on the confirmation of Michael Connor as Interior's deputy secretary until he gets information he is seeking on the 2012 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya. Although the senatorial strong-arm tactic never came up in South Carolina, Jewell's message was clear: There are critical environmental issues in Graham's home state. Why not allow her the staff she wants to address

them?

Jewell moved on to the budget. She noted that five people do the work at the 66,287-acre refuge, down from 13 a decade ago. She called the budget sequestration "ridiculous." Jewell spent 35 years in business, she reminded her audience, and "you would never manage a budget by cutting across the board."

At REI, Jewell is credited with restoring profitability after some questionable decisions before her tenure. Before that, she rose through the ranks at several banks, eventually overseeing Washington Mutual's entire loan portfolio after initially being hired to provide advice on lending to the oil industry. In the first part of her career, she worked in the oil industry as an engineer. She is married to Warren Jewell, an engineer whom she met while both attended the University of Washington. The couple have two grown children.

She was offered a spot as an assistant secretary at Interior early in Obama's first term but turned it down, saying the time was not right for her to leave REI, according to people with knowledge of the discussions.

Jewell's environmental credentials, personal and professional, are widely acknowledged by the myriad groups that fight fiercely for government protection of open spaces and wildlife.

She moved to Washington state from Britain with her family at the age of 3 and has been camping, kayaking and climbing ever since. In an October speech in which she outlined her vision for the department, she promised that Obama would use the Antiquities Act to preserve more wilderness in the face of a Congress that, for the first time in half a century, has failed to set aside a single acre since 2010. In recent months, Interior oversaw the first two auctions of offshore wind farms, a process begun under Salazar.

> Tom Kiernan, the chief executive of the American Wind Energy Association who survived a potentially deadly ice fall while climbing Mount Rainier with Jewell, calls her "an outstanding leader for Interior and an outstanding outdoorswoman."

But she can't please everyone.

"I didn't see leadership from Secretary Salazar on endangered species, and I'm hopeful I'll see it from Sally Jewell. I haven't seen it yet," said Jamie Rappaport Clark, president of Defenders of Wildlife and a former Interior official.

Jewell made environmentalists happy this week when, like Salazar before her, she refused to allow construction of a one-lane gravel road through a portion of Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to the tiny, remote town of King Cove, which has spent years seeking the road for medical evacuation access to an all-weather airport. The town and the state of Alaska had proposed a land swap to get the road built. But Jewell said four years of analysis showed that the acreage that would have been added to the refuge would not compensate for the road's impact.

During the October government shutdown, Jewell worked out an unusual agreement that allowed states to pay to reopen national parks such as Utah's Bryce Canyon and New York's Statue of Liberty, to keep revenue flowing and visitors happy. But the visual that captured more attention — and ultimately overshadowed the deal Jewell had worked out with the states — was a group of elderly Mississippi veterans, some in wheelchairs, storming the shuttered World War II monument when the Park Service refused to let them in.

The development of energy resources on public lands is even more treacherous terrain. Interior oversees 20 percent of the land in the United States, some of which contains oil, gas and coal that energy companies and Indian tribes want to extract. Jewell has outlined a regional approach that will allow the federal government to set aside some areas as too "special" for drilling or mining, while offering others for development.

> She is not torn by the department's dual missions of conservation and promotion of energy development. "I don't feel like it's in conflict," she said. "Development is important for economic opportunity and health and well-being. But development should be balanced and recognized for its impact."

But revised fracking rules issued in May on the use and disposal of fluids and chemicals to release trapped oil from rock made no one happy. "It was a bad rule initially and, from our point of view, it's

gotten worse," said Sharon Buccino, director of the land and wildlife program for the Natural Resources Defense Council, which now wants a moratorium on new fracking. The oil industry wants regulations left in the hands of states. Interior's Bureau of Land Management "has yet to answer the question why BLM is moving forward with these requirements in the first place," said Erik Milito of the American Petroleum Institute.

Babbitt, breaking the silence that past holders of the Interior post traditionally afford the current occupant, said in a National Press Club speech the day before Jewell was nominated that "Americans expect their public lands to supply more energy for today. But they also expect more parks, wilderness and open space for tomorrow. And that balance between development and land conservation is not being maintained." Babbitt said the administration has leased more than 6 million acres to the oil and gas industry while permanently protecting only 2.6 million.

Then there are Indian tribes, which the administration is trying to strengthen. "I was elected to provide basic services and jobs to my citizens and I will steadfastly and responsibly pursue Crow coal development to achieve my vision for the Crow people," Crow Nation Chairman Darrin N. Old Coyote testified to Congress.

Although she outlined her vision for the next three years in her October speech, Jewell said she is still listening and learning. She had traveled more than 65,000 miles as of Dec. 2, according to Interior figures, a total that has raised an eyebrow or two.

Andrus, the former Interior secretary under Carter, warned that one way the bureaucracy wears out a secretary is to keep that person on the road. Whether the boss is a top-flight corporate executive or a longtime politician, an organization's workers know they will be there when he or she moves on, and their keenest interest is often protecting themselves.

> Andrus said he drew up a list of nine priorities when he started the job and kept it in the top right-hand drawer of his desk. From time to time he'd pull it out and review it to make sure he wasn't being distracted from his mission.

"You have to drive the train," he said. "Somebody has to be the boss."

Jewell, who appears to be setting her own travel agenda, said there are secondary motives for her journeys: Employees are more likely to speak truth to power when they're out with her instead of sitting in her huge office. She followed the same practice at REI.

"One of the hardest things to do," she told the group in in South Carolina, "is to get people to tell you what's on their minds. . . . I try to get out on the land, try to spend time with the people who are doing the work."

Wherever possible, Jewell also tries to spend time with children. In a visitor's center in Awendaw, she poked through oyster shells and other muck with a classroom full of children who had returned from a dig. She asked questions and pointed out interesting finds. She became a soft-spoken biology teacher for a few minutes, the kind of person who thinks of scaffolding as an exoskeleton.

Jewell served on trail crews when she was younger; now one of her top goals is to create a million-member conservation corps that would get younger people back into the nation's parks, enjoying them and helping to maintain them. White middle-aged people and their elders are over-represented among parkgoers, as succeeding generations have taken up positions in front of computer and video-game screens.

"We are in the forever business," she said later. "We are in the business of protecting these resources forever."

Alice Crites contributed to this report.

Sent from my iPad

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, December 27, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Dec 27, 2013 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL PROFILED. The Washington Post (12/26, Bernstein, 4.28M) profiles Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "an engineer-turned-banker-turned-CEO of Recreational Equipment (REI), the outdoor gear cooperative that had nearly $2 billion in sales last year." According to the Post, Jewell is "pragmatist learning to manage a raft of contentious issues" who has "fracked wells herself." The Post says she has "taken command of an agency where the only guarantee is that every decision will irritate, if not infuriate, some powerful constituency, from green groups to coal miners."

The Washington Post (12/26, 4.28M) also runs a photo gallery of Jewell.

Also covering the story are the Seattle Times (12/27, 1M) and the Pechanga (12/27).

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT APPROACHES 40TH ANNIVERSARY. As the Endangered Species Act approaches its 40th anniversary, the International Business Times (12/26, 237K) reflects on the law's successes and failures. In a statement, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This landmark law has helped to stop the slide

towards extinction of hundreds of species. Along the way, we have strengthened partnerships among states, tribes, local communities, private landowners and other stakeholders to find conservation solutions that work for both listed species and economic development." According to the article, "on the balance, the ESA's signature feature, the endangered species list, seems overwhelmingly positive." However, "criticisms abound." For instance, "getting on the endangered species list is no easy feat, with layer upon layer of bureaucracy and reviews and studies and comments and proposals."

In an op-ed for the Olympian (WA) (12/24, 119K), former Congressman Norm Dicks writes that the Endangered Species Act has "helped save salmon in the Northwest." He notes that "on the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, many of our salmon populations have returned in record-breaking numbers." Dicks claims that "the ESA is working for the Northwest's salmon populations," and "that's just one of many great wildlife success stories of the Endangered Species Act."

Also providing coverage are the Huffington Post (12/27, Greenwald, 11.54M), the Brattleboro (VT) Reformer (12/26, 22K), the Austin (TX) American Statesman (12/26, 456K), and the Minnesota Farm Guide (12/26, 83K).

SENATORS URGE APPROPRIATORS TO KEEP PILT PROGRAM. In its "Floor Action" blog, The Hill (12/26, 194K) reports that Sens. Mike Enzi and Tom Udall have "urged leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committee to keep a $425 million program, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)." In a letter Monday to committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski and ranking member Richard Shelby, Enzi and Udall "argued the program helps localities offset losses from non-taxable federal lands." The article notes that "fifteen other senators joined Enzi and Udall — most from states with large amounts of federal land and forests."

Also reporting on the story is the Albuquerque (NM) Business First (12/26).

OFFICIALS LOOK TO TRAINING OVERHAUL FOR WILDFIRE AGENCIES. The Ravalli (MT) Republic (12/26, 19K) reports that "while the Forest Service has formalized its requirements for leadership education and advancement, that hasn't happened among its wildland firefighting partners," including the BLM, NPS, BIA, and FWS. Jim Cook, "a retired fire superintendent with 37 years of wildland firefighting experience, would like to see curriculum institutionalized by all wildfire agencies to require more than the two mandatory classes: L180, a four-hour class on Human Factors and Wildland Service, and L280, a two-day course on Followership to Leadership." According to the article, "while such an education overhaul would require infusions of time and money, it also could ameliorate problems that inevitably occur when mixed crews from varied agencies suddenly are thrown together on large fires, where good leadership is imperative."

CONCERN GROWS OVER RUM COVER-OVER RATE. The Virgin Islands Daily News (12/26, 49K) reports that "some V.I. officials say they believe that Congress will keep the rum cover-over rate high by renewing the extender – but the question, they say, is when." However, "others have expressed concern about whether the extender will be passed at all." The article notes that "the territory typically requests and receives an advance payment from the US Department of Interior on anticipated V.I. rum cover-over revenues for the upcoming fiscal year," and "Interior said it would process a second payment if Congress renews the higher rate."

COMMENT PERIOD ON SAGE GROUSE PROPOSALS EXTENDED. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (12/25, 165K) reports that the FWS, the BLM and the Forest Service extended last week the public comment period on the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of greater sage grouse. The FWS extended its public comment period for 45 days, from Dec. 27, while the BLM/USFS extension is to Jan. 29.

DESIGNATION OF ACRES IN SAN JUAN ISLANDS NOTED AS ONE OF THE TOP STORIES OF 2013. The Journal of the San Juans (WA) (12/26) chooses the designation of more than 1,000 acres on dozens of the San Juan islands as National Conservation Lands as one of the top ten stories of 2013.

SECRETARY JEWELL CRITICIZED OVER KING COVE ROAD DECISION. In an editorial, the Alaska Journal of Commerce (12/26, 14K) criticizes "the Dec. 23 announcement from Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to uphold the denial of a road between King Cove and Cold Bay." According to the paper, the decision "couldn't be less surprising," considering Jewell's track record, such as her rejection of "a request by the State of Alaska to conduct new seismic exploration of ANWR." The paper predicts that "Jewell will never, ever make a decision regarding Alaska that goes against the wishes of the Democrats' extremist environmental base."

Also providing coverage of the decision are the Alaska Dispatch (12/23, 7K), the Alaska Journal of Commerce (12/26, 14K), the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (12/24, 198K), the Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (12/26, 44K), the Kenai (AK) Peninsula Clarion (12/23, 17K), the Ketchikan (AK) SitNews (12/26), the Alaska Native News (12/26, 245), the Olympian (WA) (12/23, 119K), NBC News (12/26, 6.79M), CBS (12/23, 3.87M), CNS News (12/26, 95K), the Engineering News Record (12/24, 2K), the Pechanga (12/26), KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (12/26, 4K), and KTBY-TV Anchorage, AK (12/26, 122).

ACTION URGED TO ADDRESS COLORADO RIVER CHALLENGES. In an op-ed for the Arizona Republic (12/18, 1.19M), Steve Goetting, vice president of the Diamond S Ditch Corporation, and Margaret Bowman, deputy director of the environment program at the Walton Family Foundation, note that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "gave a speech Dec. 13 to the major water users in the Colorado River Basin, calling on them to take immediate action to address the region's water supply challenges." According to the two, "the challenges in the Colorado River basin are large, but the good news is that cost effective solutions are available and already being tested in different parts of the basin." They argue that "Implementing these solutions now will be good not only for the region's iconic Colorado River, but also for the region's economy."

NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION FOR BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS REGION SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the Idaho Mountain Express (12/27, 36K), John Freemuth, a professor of public policy, argues in favor of the possible designation of the Boulder-White Clouds region of Central Idaho. He notes that "the president has the authority to designate the management agency; in this case it will certainly be the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management," so "concerns about National Park Service management are unwarranted." Freemuth goes on to dismiss other concerns says that "the bigger concern these days, from former governor and Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne to former Craters of the Moon Superintendent and now National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, is that young people are not very interested in the outdoors."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

MAYORS PLAN TO LOBBY FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. The Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (12/25, 596K) reports that Mayor Betsy Price will "co-chair a national campaign to seek more national funding of parks as Fort Worth faces an unfunded five-year parks need of about $58 million." The Land and Water Conservation Fund is "scheduled to end in September 2015, unless Congress reinstates it." According to the article, "the mayors are not just seeking an extension of the fund, but also want to ensure that all the money committed to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to goes to land and water projects."

NPS HELPING TO IMPROVE EMERALD VIEW PARK. WESA-FM Pittsburgh (12/27, 2K) reports that Emerald View Park is "one of 11 Pennsylvania parks selected for improvements through the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program." Ilyssa Manspeizer, the director of park development and conservation at the Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation, said NPS is "helping to develop a trail use survey strategy."

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN CALLS FOR END TO PRIVATE AIRBOATING. The Miami Herald (12/27, Cocking, 806K) reports that the Everglades National Park's "proposed general management plan for the next 15 to 20 years calls for an end to all private airboating in the East Everglades once the 'grandfathers' who operate there now have died." According to the article, "as for longtime commercial airboat tour operators along the Trail — Coopertown, Everglades Safari Park, and Gator Park — the park proposes to buy their properties, turn them into concessionaires and confine their operations to a 'front country zone' of about 10,000 to 11,000 acres just south of the Trail." If the "park's preferred plan is adopted sometime next year, then the rest of the East Everglades — more than 80,000 acres — would be designated as wilderness with no mechanical propulsion — even bicycles — allowed."

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK POSES MAINTENANCE CHALLENGES. The Maryville (TN) Daily Times (12/26, 64K) reports on the challenges faced by the maintenance workers at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The park has "to balance its short-term and long-term needs as it competes for funding

for capital projects within all 68 parks of the National Park Service's Southeast Region," and it "has to find a balance between what needs it can directly address and when to partner with local governments that already provide similar services."

INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE ABANDONS PLAN TO BUILD AT PORTER BEACH. The Times of Northwest Indiana (12/26, 283K) reports that the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has "abandoned plans to build a parking lot and picnic shelter at Porter Beach after receiving public comments that were not in support of the plan," according to Bruce Rowe, public information officer for the IDNL. According to the article, despite receiving a Finding of No Significant Impact from the NPS for the Wabash Avenue/Porter Access Site for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, "a formality of the plan process, officials decided to scrap their plans and instead go with an alternative plan to improve a sidewalk, restore the dune north of the town parking lot, and repair a leaking foot wash at the area commonly known as Porter Beach." Rowe said, "We had one public comment session where folks could give their input and we opened it up to a public comment period on the website and after that period, based on the feedback we received, it was decided that we would not put the additional parking lot in, we would not put the picnic pavilion in, and instead we would make the improvements."

DISPUTE OVER BACKCOUNTRY ACCESS IN GRAND CANYON HEATS UP. The Arizona Daily Sun (12/26, 33K) reports that the superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park has "drawn the ire of avid backcountry users after a letter he sent to the chairman of the Havasupai Tribe popped up online." In the, David Uberuaga "offered to seasonally allow just one permit a week into a piece of land that covers some 90,000 acres of remote wilderness off the South Rim." Backcountry users say "they are upset not only because they believe their access is being limited, but because the process was carried out in private."

NPS AWARDS GRANT TO BOSQUE RIVER TRAIL CORRIDOR. The Stephenville (TX) Empire-Tribune (12/26) reports that the Keep Stephenville Beautiful project for the Bosque River Trail Corridor "recently received word they will be granted assistance from the United States Department of the Interior's National Parks Service for another year."

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT RETIRING. The Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (12/26, 226K) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Dale Ditmanson will "retire on Jan. 3, after spending 36 years with the National Park Service." Ditmanson "has been superintendent of the Smokies since 2004."

REHABILITATION PROJECT CONSIDERED FOR BROAD BRANCH ROAD. The Washington Post (12/26, Binkovitz, 4.28M) reports that "the signs of age and heavy use are evident" on Broad Branch Road, which runs along Rock Creek Park. Now, the District Department of Transportation is "considering an extensive rehabilitation that could include adding a sidewalk and a bike lane." One area of concern is the Soapstone Branch culvert because "10 inches of the stone structure reside on National Park property."

ANONYMOUS DONOR GIVES $650,000 FOR HISTORIC NEBRASKA BRIDGE. The Washington Post (12/24, 4.28M) reports that "three years after a flood wiped out part of a bridge spanning the Elkhorn River in Neligh, residents of the small northeastern Nebraska city received a festive surprise: an anonymous, $650,000 donation to rebuild the historic structure." According to the article, "the city received a check from the donor's Chicago-based attorney last week saying they can use it to rebuild the steel-truss Old Mill Bridge on the condition that residents never try to discover who contributed the money."

HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK SEEKING NEW DOCENTS. The Contra Costa (CA) Times (12/26, Treadway, 302K) reports that the Rosie the Riveter World War II/Home Front National Historical Park is "ready to train a new group of volunteer docents to help assist visitors to the Visitor Education Center next to the Ford Point building at 1414 Harbour Way South."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK SUSPENDS PERMITS. Additional coverage of Death Valley National Park's moratorium on foot and cycling races was provided by the Los Angeles Times (12/23, Forgione, 3.07M) and the Washington Post (12/24, 4.28M).

CONSERVATIONIST ARGUES AGAINST DRAKES BAY OYSTERY CO. In an op-ed for the Marin (CA) Independent Journal (12/27, 88K), Neal Desai, director of Pacific Region Field Operations for the National Parks

Conservation Association, writes that "in the year since then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar allowed Drakes Bay Oyster Co.'s permit to expire on its own terms, tremendous amounts of paper have been used to stall versus celebrate the American public's first marine wilderness area on the west coast." He argues that "without a large commercial footprint in the estero, enhanced opportunities for recreation and wildlife viewing would be enjoyed by all who visit the seashore."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR POWDER RIVER BASIN EAGLE SURVEY. The Columbus (IN) Republic (12/26, 80K) reports that the BLM is "seeking volunteers to help count bald eagles in the Powder River Basin." The annual midwinter bald eagle survey will take place Jan. 11.

Also providing coverage are the Billings (MT) Gazette (12/26, 206K) and the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/26, 90K).

LAND EXCHANGE PROCESS IN GRAND UINTAH COUNTIES NEARLY COMPLETE. The Moab (UT) Times-Independent (12/26) reports that "it has taken much longer than expected, but state and federal officials say they're close to finalizing a land swap that will allow them to trade scenic recreational areas in Grand County for energy-rich lands near Vernal." The BLM's "state office is hoping to release its final decision on the Utah Recreational Land Exchange in January 2014, according to external affairs chief Megan Crandall." The bureau "plans to publish its previously approved appraisal reports in the Federal Register at the same time, kicking off a 45-day public protest period."

CONSERVATIONIST FRUSTRATED BY LACK OF IMPROVEMENTS AT SLOAN CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (12/26, 437K) reports that Terri Robertson, who was instrumental in the creation of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, has grown frustrated by the lack of improvements there. BLM plans called for a paved entry road and a visitor center, but now, Robertson would settle for a trailer and some portable toilets. Robbie McAboy, the BLM's assistant field manager for Red Rock and Sloan canyons, called for patience because they only have one chance to get this right.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP FILES LAWSUIT OVER SHOOTING OF SNOWY OWLS AT JFK AIRPORT. The New York Daily News (12/26, Moore, 3.94M) reports that the deadly shooting of three snowy owls at JFK International Airport in New York earlier this month has sparked a lawsuit by an animal rights group, which claims that two government agencies failed to try non-lethal methods to remove the birds from the area. Advocacy organization Friends of Animals has filed suit against the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the FWS. Terri Edwards, a spokeswoman for the FWS, said "her agency permits major airports to control threatening animal populations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act."

Also reporting on the story are the Worcester (MA) Telegram & Gazette (12/25, 188K), the Examiner (12/26, 1.16M), and Yahoo! Finance (12/26, 9.7M).

AUCTION TO BE HELD FOR PERMIT TO HUNT ENDANGERED BLACK RHINO. The Washington Post (12/24, Tinsley, 4.28M) reports that "on Jan. 11," the Dallas Safari Club will hold an auction for "a rare permit to hunt and kill an endangered black rhino." As the club "moves forward with the auction to raise as much as $1 million to help preserve the near-extinct double-horned rhinoceros, worldwide attention — and outrage over the plan to allow the killing of one animal to save the waning species — is focused on the effort." Conservationists agree with the organization that the auction "could make a better future for the critically endangered animals," but "say there must be a better way to save a species than to allow one of the herd to be hunted and killed."

Also providing coverage is the Chicago Tribune (12/24, Tinsley, 2.32M).

ADDED LAND WILL HELP OHIO RIVER ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Marietta (OH) Times (12/26, 27K) reports that "two recently acquired pieces of land" by the FWS will "mean a more seamless tract of mainland property at the Ohio River Island National Wildlife Refuge's headquarters in Williamstown and also

guarantees future access to the refuge's nearby riverside facilities." According to Tylar Greene, public affairs specialist for the northeast region of the FWS, "though the purchases together total just slightly less than an acre, they will mean a less disjointed piece of property and more public access to facilities on the refuge."

MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT GETTING PUBLIC COMMENT AS IT GETS UPDATED. The Homer (AK) News (12/24, 9K) reports that "re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, or MSA, governing federal fisheries, is slowly making its way through the system, with House Committee on Natural Resources Chair Doc Hastings, R-Wash., releasing a draft copy for public perusal and comment." Hastings said, "The purpose of this draft proposal is to gather public input and to see how to best improve and modernize this important law governing fisheries. This proposal would give regional fishery managers increased flexibility to deal with the complexity of fishery issues and provide economic stability and certainty to fishermen and fishery dependent communities. It also would improve data collection and increase transparency so that management decisions are based on sound science and all who are impacted by this law can have an active role in the process."

FWS EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR JAGUAR CRITICAL HABITAT DETERMINATION. The Willcox (AZ) Range News (12/26, 11K) reports that the FWS "requested and recently received an extension of the deadline to reach a final determination on critical habitat for the jaguar." The article notes that "the previous settlement agreement date for publishing a final decision was Dec. 16; the new publication date is Feb. 14, 2014." The agency "requested the extension due to the unavailability of required personnel (and related contractors) during the recent lapse of appropriations (furlough), as well as the rescheduling of court-ordered deadlines and other commitments for unrelated matters involving the same personnel since the restoration of appropriations."

FWS REOPENS YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO COMMENT PERIOD. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (12/26, 90K) reports that the FWS will "take more comments on the plan to list the western population of the yellowed-billed cuckoo as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act." The service "announced it is reopening the public comment for 60 days on the proposal to list the neotropical migrant bird in the western United States, Canada and Mexico."

SHILOH LAUNCH COMPLEX TO UNDERGO FEDERAL REVIEW. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (12/27, Powers, 780K) reports that "Space Florida's plan to build a state-run launch complex on the environmentally sensitive fringes of Kennedy Space Center is ready for its federal and public vetting over possible environmental impacts." According to the article, "at stake are Florida's plans for a new launch complex marketed to private rocket companies weighed against environmentalists' hopes that the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge will be forever protected."

SURVEY FINDS INCREASED NUMBERS OF ENDANGERED MOUNT GRAHAM RED SQUIRREL POPULATION. The Willcox (AZ) Range News (12/26, 11K) reports that "as part of a conservation program for the endangered Mount Graham red squirrel, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service conducted an annual squirrel survey and estimated approximately 272 animals in the Pinaleño Mountains in southeastern Arizona." The article notes that "this year's survey shows an increase of 59 squirrels over the 2012 estimate of 213 squirrels."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND ENERGY PROJECTS THAT START BY THE END OF THE YEAR QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL SUBSIDY. The New York Times (12/26, Cardwell, Wald, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "the wind industry is...rushing to make sure projects qualify for an important subsidy before it is set to vanish at the stroke of midnight on Tuesday." According to the Times, "In previous years, the projects had to be in commercial operation by" the end of the year, but for "this year, they need only have begun."

DWP PROCEEDING WITH PLANS FOR OWENS VALLEY SOLAR PLANT DESPITE NPS CONCERNS. The Los Angeles Times (12/26, Sahagun, 3.07M) reports that Los Angeles is proceeding with plans to construct a $680 million 200 MW solar plant a few miles from the Manzanar National Historic Site, which commemorates a Japanese American internment camp used during World War II. The Los Angeles Department of Water and

Power's Southern Owens Valley Solar Project would build 1 million panels on 1,200 acres. Opponents of the project have included Japanese American organizations. Meanwhile, National Park Service officials are worried that views of the solar plant would "destroy an important element in understanding what internees here experienced." However, the National Renewable Energy Lab has found that "the southeastern portion of the Owens Valley provides among the highest solar resource values in the nation."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM REVIEW COULD CANCEL UP TO 65 OIL, GAS LEASES. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (12/26, 73K) reports that the BLM "expects early next year to kick off a new environmental review that could lead to potential modifications or cancellations of up to 65 existing oil and gas leases covering 80,772 acres in the White River National Forest." The article notes that "the review, to rectify an oversight dating back decades, could even affect 10 leases with producing wells, and some in the oil and gas industry are questioning the BLM's ability to take such an action." BLM spokesman David Boyd said "he's not aware of other cases of producing leases being canceled."

WYOMING MULLING HOW TO DEAL WITH ABANDONED WELLS AS NATURAL GAS BOOM ENDS. The New York Times (12/24, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Wyoming officials are "trying to address the problem" of the hundreds of abandoned drilling wells "amid concerns from landowners that the wells could contaminate groundwater and are a blight on the land." The article notes that "there are also 400 idle wells scattered across land owned by the Bureau of Land Management, which has its own criteria for determining when a well on its land is considered abandoned or idle." State officials said "they would need to work with the bureau to help deal with those wells, too."

COURT UPHOLDS POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL-MINING LEASE. Bloomberg News (12/24, Feeley, 1.91M) reports that "the US Court of Appeals in Washington rejected a bid by environmental groups to block plans" by the BLM to "lease federal tracts in the Wyoming Powder River Basin for coal mining." In rebuffing challenges to the lease, the appeals court held that "federal regulators properly considered whether more mining by Antelope Coal LLC, a unit of Cloud Peak Energy Inc. (CLD), would affect local pollution levels in the basin or increase the chances of global warming."

Offshore Energy Development:

DECISION ON ATLANTIC OFFSHORE DRILLING EXPECTED IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. The Charlotte (NC) Observer (12/26, Dalesio, 713K) reports, "the Obama administration is weighing a decision expected to be announced in the next three months on whether to ... allow seismic testing of the sea bottom. The tests could firm up estimates of how much hydrocarbon deposits may be" available. David McGowan of the North Carolina Petroleum Council called Atlantic fossil fuels "one piece of the larger US oil and gas pie."

REVIEW OF YEAR NOTES HERCULES OFFSHORE PLATFORM REPORTED MASSIVE BLOWOUT IN 2013. In a review of the year, the New Orleans Times-Picayune (12/26, 700K) reports that "signs of the national boom in natural gas and oil production were easy to spot across south Louisiana in 2013." However, "the year also renewed concerns about the safety of offshore drilling when Houston-based Hercules Offshore reported a massive blowout at one of its natural gas wells in July."

EX-OFFICIAL REJECTS BP AD'S "DISTORTED" CLAIMS. The Detroit Free Press (12/25, 794K) reports, "Two former top officials at the settlement program for compensating victims of BP's 2010 gulf oil spill say their recent resignations had nothing to do with the company's allegations that they frequented a New Orleans strip club that received a settlement award. Kirk Fisher, the settlement program's former chief operating officer, said in an email to The Associated Press late Monday that he and former program CEO David Odom left last week to pursue "other opportunities." In an advertisement that ran Monday in three major newspapers, BP claimed Fisher and Odom resigned following reports that they entertained subordinates at a strip club that was awarded more than $550,000 for its settlement claim."

US COURT REJECTS BP BID TO REQUIRE PROOF OF GULF OIL SPILL LOSSES. The Chicago Tribune (12/26, Stempel, 2.32M) reports, "BP Plc has failed to persuade a US federal judge to require businesses

seeking to recover money over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill to provide proof that their economic losses were caused by the disaster. US District Judge Carl Barbier in New Orleans said the British oil company would have to live with its earlier interpretation of a settlement agreement over the spill, in which certain businesses could be presumed to have suffered harm if their losses reflected certain patterns. Barbier said BP could not now take a new position on causation of damages, and reverse an interpretation that it had once termed "more than fair," even if this resulted in the substantially higher payouts that the oil company feared."

LEGACY LAWSUITS CONSIDERED DETERRENT FOR GULF DRILLING. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (12/27, Larino, 700K) reports, "The number of rigs drilling for oil and gas on land in south Louisiana is nearing a historic low, a decline industry groups are blaming on a surge in environmental lawsuits they say is driving investors away from the state. According to ... Baker Hughes Inc., a total of 11 rigs were actively drilling for oil and gas in south Louisiana as of last Friday. The number excludes rigs drilling for oil and gas in the northern part of the state as well as inland waters."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR WORKER DIES IN FALL AT PINTO DAM. The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (12/26, 214K) reports that "a 62-year-old Bureau of Reclamations employee died Wednesday of head injuries sustained during a fall at Pinto Dam near Ephrata." Holger "Hal" Jensen "fell about 35 feet to the concrete at the facility, which forms Billy Clapp Lake in eastern Grant County." According to the BOR, Jensen, "a civil engineer, was examining construction at the dam that would enable the storage of more water when he fell."

Also reporting on the story are the Columbia Basin (WA) Herald (12/26, 26K) and KREM-TV Spokane, WA (12/26, 61K).

BOR LOOKING TO UPGRADE GOOSE BAY MARINA. The Helena (MT) Independent Record (12/26, 45K) reports that "an era ended at the Goose Bay Marina this year when 31 trailer owners moved their rigs, and the Reller family ended its long run as concessionaires." The BOR, "which operates Canyon Ferry Dam and owns a large chunk of real estate around the reservoir, wants to redevelop and upgrade the marina." BOR officials say that "allowing the trailers to remain on-site year-round constituted "exclusive use" of the property, in violation of their regulations."

Also, the Helena (MT) Independent Record (12/26, 45K) picks the Goose Bay Marina as one of the best stories of 2013.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Bay Area (CA) Indymedia (12/26, 2K), the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (12/26, 126K), and the Los Angeles Times (12/26, 3.07M).

Empowering Native American Communities:

FUNDING TO STABILIZE HISTORIC KEKU CANNERY APPROVED. The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (12/26, 44K) reports that funding to stabilize the historic Keku Cannery has been approved Gary Williams, executive director for the Organized Village of Kake, said "the tribe has been authorized to use its Bureau of Indian Affairs transportation funding to stabilize the building, which is located on BIA trust land."

Also covering the story is the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (12/25, 198K).

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SUBMITS AMENDED COMMENTS ON CHUMASH FEE-TO-TRUST APPLICATION. The Santa Maria (CA) Sun (12/26, 55K) reports that Santa Barbara County has "added more paperwork to the stack of comments piling up" at the BIA "over the Santa Ynez Band of Indians fee-to-trust application." According to the article, "the additional letters were submitted at the tail end of a public comment period for the tribe's revised fee-to-trust application on its nearly 1,400-acre Camp 4 property in the Santa Ynez Valley."

Meanwhile, the Santa Barbara (CA) Independent (12/26, 119K) reports that Supervisor Steve Lavagnino has sent

a letter to Congressman Doug LaMalfa, "addressing his concerns with LaMalfa's federal legislation to bring the Chumash tribe's Camp 4 into trust while reminding the congressman that the supervisors' decision to oppose the tribe's wishes was not a unanimous one."

BIA ACCEPTING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL CASINO UNTIL JANUARY 6. The Galt (CA) Herald (12/26, 34K) reports that the BIA will "accept written environmental-based comments until Jan. 6 on a potential casino that could be built just north of Twin Cities Road." The bureau "will also hold a meeting on Dec. 19 at the Chabolla Community Center for people to provide verbal comments on the environmental aspects of the application submitted by Wilton Rancheria officials."

NO WORD ON CAYUGAS'S LAND TRUST APPLICATION. The Auburn (NY) Citizen (12/26, 34K) editorializes that the Cayuga Indian Nation has opened Lakeside Entertainment for gambling "despite the tribe having a pending land-into-trust application before the federal Interior Department." While "the village of Union Springs is sending the Cayugas a notice of violation for its recent reopening and is prepared to take legal action," according to the editorial, "nobody seems to know what the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs might be doing with the Cayugas' most recent land trust application."

Top National News:

OBAMA SIGNS BUDGET DEAL, DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION. On Thursday, President Obama signed two important pieces of legislation into law, the National Defense Authorization Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act, but the signings did not generate a great deal of coverage. Print coverage this morning emphasizes the President's statement released Thursday that praised the Defense bill's easing of the rules governing the repatriation of detainees, but also called for the eventual closure of the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The AP (12/27, Lederman) notes that the President "put his signature on both hard-fought bills while vacationing in Hawaii, where he has been regrouping with his family since Saturday." The AP says the signings were "one of Obama's last official acts in a year beset by a partial government shutdown, a near-default by the Treasury, a calamitous health care rollout and near-perpetual congressional gridlock."

Jim Axelrod, on the CBS Evening News (12/26, story 5, 1:20, Axelrod, 5.58M), the only network newscast to cover the President's bill signing on Thursday, reported that he "took time out from his vacation in Hawaii today to sign several bills into law," including the "defense authorization bill which, among other things, includes a crackdown on sexual assault in the military," and the "bipartisan budget deal that eases spending cuts." Correspondent Chip Reid went on to report that the "budget bill...funds the federal government through the year 2015 and that is significant because it all but eliminates the possibility of another government shutdown any time soon."

Politico (12/27, Epstein, 467K) reported that the Bipartisan Budget Act "restores a total of $63 billion in discretionary funding to the Defense Department and some domestic agencies in 2014 and 2015, but also includes $85 billion in deficit reduction." Reuters (12/27, Krasny) reports that Obama has described the budget deal as "a good first step away from the shortsighted, crisis-driven decision-making that has only served to act as a drag on our economy."

However, Noah Rayman, in a post for TIME (12/27, Rayman, 21.77M), says that despite the deal, "neither party appears willing to give ground on the borrowing limit expected to be reached by early March." The Hill (12/27, Cox, Weaver, 194K) also reported that "while the budget bill sets funding levels, it's up to congressional appropriators to decide how the money is spent," and "with government funding set to run out on Jan. 15, the appropriators are racing to complete a giant omnibus."

The New York Times (12/27, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "while most members of Congress have scattered for the holidays, the panels' bipartisan leadership and senior staff members have been assembling a $1 trillion measure that splits an extra $45 billion between military and domestic needs under the terms of the budget deal reached this month." According to the Times, "both Republicans and Democrats are determined to get legislation through Congress by the Jan. 15 deadline, even though many rank-and-file members

are likely to be wary of an omnibus measure" and they have only a little "more than a week to win passage." The Times adds that the negotiators "are holding details of the talks close, unwilling to let too much become public for fear of giving opponents time to build a case against the spending measure or incite lobbying campaigns by those who believe they are being overlooked."

The AP (12/27) reports that the defense authorization bill "provides $552.1 billion for the regular military budget, plus $80.7 billion for the Afghanistan war and other overseas operations." AFP (12/27) notes that the defense authorization includes "a one-percent raise for military personnel."

Obama Reiterates That It Is His Goal To Close Gitmo Completely. Regarding the defense authorization bill, Chip Reid, on the CBS Evening News (12/26, story 5, 1:20, Axelrod, 5.58M), noted that the President "said he's pleased that the bill eases is transfer of Guantanamo Bay prisoners to other countries, but he's disappointed that it does not allow the transfer of prisoners to the United States for trial." According to Reid, the President "even suggested that if he determines that that bill violates the constitution, he will ignore those provisions."

Likewise, the Los Angeles Times (12/27, Reston, 3.07M) reports that the President "praised Congress...for loosening regulations that will make it easier to transfer detainees...but noted that lawmakers' actions fell short of the flexibility he would need to achieve his goal of closing the prison." In a statement released after he signed the bill, the President said, "The continued operation of the facility weakens our national security by draining resources, damaging our relationships with key allies and partners, and emboldening violent extremists." Reuters (12/27, Krasny, Felsenthal) notes that the President also wrote: "The executive branch must have the authority to determine when and where to prosecute Guantanamo detainees."

The Washington Times (12/27, Dinan, 417K) notes that while the President "ran for the White House in 2008 as an opponent of then-President George W. Bush's practice of issuing signing statements," he has nevertheless "issued about two dozen of them himself." According to the Times, "This year's statement actually contains fewer objections than previous defense policy bill statements."

The Washington Post (12/27, Rucker, 4.28M) calls the bill the President signed on Thursday "a rare step toward achieving his goal of closing the controversial detention facility." The Post adds that "the new policy gives the Obama administration greater flexibility in accelerating the repatriation process." However, according to the Post, "Even with some transfer restrictions lifted, the process of sending detainees to foreign countries remains slow and often occurs on a one-by-one basis as the United States negotiates with the new host countries."

Defense Law Includes Overhaul Of How Sexual Assault Cases Are Handled. USA Today (12/27, Usatoday, 5.82M) reports that following "reports of increased sexual assaults among U.S. troops, the new defense bill changes the rules for military courts." According to USA Today, "commanders will no longer be able to overturn convictions for sexual assault, as they have in the past," and "the law also requires a civilian review when commanders decline to prosecute accused assailants."

However, according to The Hill (12/27, Cox, Weaver, 194K), the new law "does not...include a controversial proposal from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) to take sexual assault cases from the chain of command."

House Bills Would Restore Military Pension Benefits Cut By Budget Deal. The Hill (12/27, Cox, 194K) reports that "several bills have been introduced in the House...that would restore cuts made to military retirees' benefits" that were included in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement. The Hill notes that Sen. Patty Murray, the Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman, who, along with House Budget Committee chairman Rep. Paul Ryan, "drafted the deal...said lawmakers would work to at least fix a 'technical glitch' that also cut the benefits for veterans with disabilities."

At the same time, the AP (12/27, 4.28M) reports that Defense Secretary Hagel "says it's time to tame burgeoning military personnel costs, but he's facing a test of wills with the nation's powerful veterans groups, which don't want their benefits cut." According to the Post, "personnel costs now make up nearly half of the Pentagon's funding, and officials fear continued growth will force disproportionate cuts in other areas, such as training and equipment."

NEW CNN POLL SHOWS GOP RALLY ON GENERIC BALLOT, LOW APPROVAL FOR CONGRESS.

Coverage of the new CNN poll focuses on a pair of themes: first, the GOP has gained the edge in the 2014 elections, mainly due to the ACA rollout, and second, that few Americans think much of the job Congress is doing.

Politico (12/27, Delreal, 467K) reports a new CNN/ORC International poll shows the GOP leading the Democrats 49%-44% on the generic ballot, a sharp reversal of a 50%-42% Democratic lead two months ago. The poll "follows a tumultuous few months for Democrats, who have been hurt by the rocky rollout" of the ACA health insurance exchanges, while back in October, the GOP was "reeling" from the fallout from the government shutdown. The poll surveyed 1,035 adults from December 16-19.

The Huffington Post (12/27, Edwards-Levy, 11.54M) reports that the GOP "may begin 2014 with an advantage in the midterm elections." The poll also showed that "just about 30 percent of voters said they were enthusiastic about the congressional election in 2014, with Democrats less likely than Republicans to show enthusiasm." In addition, those surveyed were "more likely to say they'd vote for a candidate who opposes the president than for one who supports him."

The Hill (12/27, Joseph, 194K), in its "Ballot Box" blog, calls the swing "huge" and says the numbers are "the latest bad polling news for Democrats, indicating the GOP has a chance to pick up House seats and win control of the Senate." Overall, the survey "finds a lack of enthusiasm from both parties' bases — but especially from Democrats."

In a far more negative view of the state of the GOP, Eugene Robinson writes in his column for the Washington Post (12/27, Robinson, 4.28M) that the GOP, "which should have the wind at its back, enters 2014 in disarray bordering on open warfare." Still, the CNN/ORC poll suggests that the GOP is "back in the game." Voters "appear willing to listen to what the party has to say" if "only the GOP had a message." And despite the CNN numbers, other poll "show the GOP still has a ton of work to do."

The Huffington Post (12/27, Lavender, 11.54M) separately reports that the poll also shows that Americans believe this has been a "do-nothing" Congress. According to the survey, 73% said the current Congress "has done nothing to address the country's problems so far."

McClatchy (12/27, Lightman, 95K) reports that respondents saw Congress not only as "unproductive," but a majority also "see it as the worst they've ever known." According to the poll, "two-thirds" believe this Congress is "the worst of their lifetime," while 28% disagreed. CNN Polling Director Keating Holland said that the contempt for Congress "exists among all demographic and political subgroups. Men, women, rich, poor, young, old – all think this year's Congress has been the worst they can remember."

The Washington Times (12/27, Klimas, 417K) also reports on the numbers and adds that the "frustration" with Congress' "lack of productivity also isn't more politically damaging to one side — those surveyed blame both parties for the gridlock in Washington."

AP-Times Square Poll: Public Split On 2013 As A Whole. The AP (12/27, Agiesta) reports on the results of an AP-Times Square poll conducted online by KnowledgePanel, which shows that "large number of Americans see 2013 as anything but a banner year and aren't reluctant to wave goodbye on New Year's Eve." That's a reflection of "anxiety stretching from the corridors of power in Washington to corporate boardrooms, statehouses, and city and town halls." Overall, "32 percent say 2013 was a better year for them than 2012, while 20 percent say it was worse and 46 percent" say the two years were about the same. Meanwhile, 25% of respondents believed that 2013 was better than 2012 "for the country," while 25% said it was worse. Democrats "are more apt to say the U.S. turned out better in 2013 than 2012 (37 percent) than are Republicans (17 percent)."

In her column for the Wall Street Journal (12/27, Noonan, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Peggy Noonan writes that 2013 was not particularly satisfying for her politically, as the GOP committed a serious error by forcing a shutdown, but that was offset by the poor rollout of the ACA . Still, Noonan says that Democrats may be able to argue that the failures of ACA show the need for a more serious national effort to reform healthcare.

HOLIDAY SPENDING UP 3.5%. Bloomberg News (12/27, Rupp, Timberlake, 1.91M) reports that retail sales "rose 3.5 percent during the holiday season this year, helped by deep discounts at malls and purchases of

children's apparel and jewelry, MasterCard Advisors SpendingPulse said." Sales of "holiday-related categories, such as clothing, electronics and luxury goods, rose 2.3 percent from Nov. 1 through Dec. 24 compared with a year earlier, the Purchase, New York-based research firm said today."

In its lead story, the CBS Evening News (12/26, lead story, 2:20, Axelrod, 5.58M) characterized the Mastercard Spending Plus numbers, along with those compiled by the National Retail Federation, as "disappointing." CBS (Brown) added, "Deep discounts and extended hours couldn't get Americans to spend as much as stores expected" so now retailers are "cutting prices even more." Still, the piece portrayed the coming days as likely to be key in ultimately determining what kind of holiday sales year this is going to be.

Jobless Claims Down Sharply Last Week. The Wall Street Journal (12/27, Portlock, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that first-time jobless claims fell 42,000 to 338,000 for the week ending December 21, according to new data from the Department of Labor. That's the first drop in three weeks, and the Journal says that it is in line with a slowly improving labor market. While a Labor spokesman said that there were no special factors impacting the data, claims around the holidays can bounce around. Meanwhile, the four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, rose 4,250 to 348,000.

Reuters (12/27, Lange) reports on the jobless claims numbers and says that economists its surveyed expected claims to come in at 345,000.

Consumer Confidence Hits Four-Month High. Bloomberg News (12/27, Jamrisko, Chandra, 1.91M) reports that its Consumer Comfort Index rose to minus 27.4 in the month ended December 22, "the fifth straight gain, from minus 29.4." The rise came "as an improving job market and holiday discounts put Americans in the mood to shop." The component measuring whether it is a good time to make a purchase "advanced to the second-highest level since 2007, signaling a pickup in the spending that accounts for almost 70 percent of the economy."

Home Prices Continue To Rally. The CBS Evening News (12/26, story 8, 1:20, Axelrod, 5.58M) reported that there was "new evidence" that the housing market "has made it back from the depths of the recession," as the Federal government reported this week that "home prices rose half a percentage point in October." CBS (Blackstone) then focuses on the hot market in San Francisco, where home prices are up 50% since 2009.

Stocks Continue To Make Gains. The Wall Street Journal (12/27, Dieterich, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the stock markets continued to rise, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average rising for a sixth straight session and hitting another all-time high. The Dow was up 122.33 points to 16479.88, while the S&P 500 rose 8.70 points to 1842.02. The Nasdaq Composite Index, meanwhile, rose 11.76 points to 4167.18.

The Washington Post (12/27, Mui, 4.28M) says that Christmas "may be over but Wall Street is still brimming with holiday cheer." Markets "markets generally move higher during the holiday season, then pare the gains in the new year," but this time, analysts say the momentum is "particularly notable in the face" of the Fed's taper.

USA Today (12/27, Shell, Cummings, 5.82M) reports that the "so-called 'Santa Claus rally' powers on" with Thursday's gains. Meanwhile, the 10-year Treasury bond "touched 3% on Thursday for the first time since September, a level it has not closed above since the summer of 2011, according to Yahoo Finance," a change which comes as "investors continue to price in less bond purchases from the Federal Reserve and an improving U.S. economy."

The Wall Street Journal (12/27, Zeng, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the rise in Treasury bonds may signal a new baseline for increased interest rates, which could impact the economy and financial markets worldwide. The 10-year note is a key rate, used as a marker for the cost of borrowed money for consumers and businesses.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, December 30, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Dec 30, 2013 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

DECISION ON IZEMBEK ROAD DIVIDES COMMENTATORS. In an op-ed for the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (12/28, Williams, 198K), Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society, writes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's decision to uphold a FWS "decision to forbid the construction of a road through federally designated wilderness in Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge" is "a significant victory for conservation and America's public lands." Williams notes that "Jewell visited Alaska in September so she could meet with stakeholders on both sides of the issue and get a first-hand look at the region's transportation issues," and "armed with volumes of federal data and her own boots-on-the-ground knowledge," Jewell has "come to the conclusion that such a road should not be built, and Izembek's wilderness must remain intact." Williams concludes that "it is a sound, science-based decision that reflects the Obama administration's commitment to preserving America's public land, and upholds the sanctity of wilderness that has been set aside by Congress."

Also, for The Ecologist (12/30), Courtney Sexton, Communications Associate with Defenders of Wildlife and Isabel Ricker, the Landscape Conservation Coordinator, argues that "the road would have set a devastating precedent for the future wellbeing of all of our country's wildlife refuges and designated wilderness." They claim that "Izembek is such a special place that the American public long ago deemed it critical to permanently protect." According to the two, "building a road through Izembek would not only have impacted the refuge and the many species that depend on it, but would have set a devastating precedent for the future wellbeing of all of our country's wildlife refuges and designated wilderness."

However, the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (12/28, 198K) editorializes that Jewell made "a bad decision." According to the paper, "the better decision would have been to approve the land swap, adding tens of thousands of acres to the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, in exchange for a narrow corridor across the refuge for the King Cove-Cold Bay link." The paper asserts that "that link remains the safest and surest route to get patients from King Cove to advanced care in Anchorage and beyond for emergencies and routine medical care."

Also, in an op-ed for the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (12/28, Jenkins, 198K), Paul Jenkins, editor of the AnchorageDailyPlanet.com, argues that the decision "was the federal government at its worst." He notes that "the proposed track through the refuge would have had barriers on each side and have been used only for emergencies." Jenkins claims that "Jewell blithely ignored good sense and the federal trust responsibility to Alaska Natives."

SECRETARY JEWELL PICKED AS ONE OF 2013'S NOTABLE PEOPLE IN THE OUTDOORS. The Bellingham (WA) Herald (12/29, 113K) picks Interior Secretary Sally Jewell as one of "2013's Notable People In The Outdoors." In an interview with Outside magazine in November, Jewell said, "This is the one job I would have left REI for. I'm not sure there's another one out there." According to the article Jewell has "had a full plate since taking over, but Jewell seems to be keeping her head above the fray."

The story was also picked up by the Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (12/29, 305K).

"AUSTERITY WARS" SHOW DIFFICULTY OF CUTTING GOVERNMENT SPENDING. The Washington Post (12/28, Fahrenthold, 4.28M) reports that the "American austerity wars" of 2013 have demonstrated "the power of old Washington habits" that make cutting government spending difficult. Politicians have been plagued by the questions of "where to cut," "who to hurt," and "what to kill," further enforcing the view that Congress' difficulty making decisions means that they are only able to make cuts "across the board." Although the budget deal signed in August 2011 was projected to save about $2.1 trillion by 2021, some were disappointed by the results, having expected austerity to "force Washington to face decisions about how the country really ought to spend its money" and create a government that was "cheaper, smaller and smarter" rather than a government that was "just cheaper."

Additional coverage of the budget was provided by the Denver Post (12/29, Wallbank, Przybyla, News, 949K), the Orlando (FL) Sentinel (12/28, 780K), the Woodland (CA) Daily Democrat (12/30, 35K).

Additional Coverage Of PILT Program. Additional coverage of the uncertainty of the funding for the PILT program was provided by the Johnson City (TN) Press (12/30, 76K).

FEDERAL CLIMATE CHANGE DEBATE LIKELY TO INTENSIFY IN 2014. The Hill (12/29, 194K) reports that in 2014, the climate change debate may "heat up" as President Obama's climate plan begins to "come to fruition." The EPA is likely to announce "historic final standards" next June that will cub power plant emissions. However, lawmakers and industry groups will "give their two cents" first. Meanwhile, the GOP is anticipated to keep up its "crusade against the Administration's climate regulations" next year.

Satellite Launched To Monitor Climate Change. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (12/28, Barron-Lopez, 194K) reported that the US and Japan have "announced the launch of a satellite that will be able to monitor in unprecedented detail climate changes across the globe." The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency and NASA "will launch the new satellite on Feb. 27 from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center, the agencies said on Thursday." The satellite "will provide advanced information on rainfall and snowfall several times a day to enhance the countries' understanding of the water and energy cycles that affect the globe's climate."

COURT REINSTATES OVERFISHING CHARGES AGAINST KOOKESH. The Juneau (AK) Empire (12/29, 21K) reports that the Alaska Court of Appeals has "reinstated overfishing charges against former state senator Albert Kookesh and two other men." The Alaska Federation of Natives has "intervened in the case," now known as State of Alaska v. Sally Jewell, "and is currently drafting a response that is due by Jan. 21."

VETERANS OFFER SUGGESTIONS FOR WILDFIRE POLICY. The Ravalli (MT) Republic (12/30, 19K) reports that wildfire veterans "point to some simple, straightforward solutions to the dangers they confront each wildfire season." They recommend waging "timely, forceful attacks on fires when they first materialize," and scheduling "safer, more effective work shifts rather than sending crews into the fray in the afternoon, when they're exhausted, the fire is burning hottest and winds pick up and shift flames in various directions." They also advise letting "fires that don't threaten lives or properties burn themselves out rather than attacking every fire in the middle of nowhere...as the ecology of many areas depends on occasional wildfires to burn out excess fuels." Perhaps most important, they suggest standing "down when danger looms."

The Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (12/30, 172K) editorializes that "any budgeting system that fights fires with money needed to prevent those same fires — and the very real threat they pose to firefighters and property — needs to be changed." The paper supports legislation introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden and Sen. Mike Crapo which would "treat wildfires like natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornados that aren't paid for through federal agencies' regular budgets."

FEDERAL AGENCIES MAKE 2013 THE YEAR OF CLOUD. For the Washington Post (12/30, Rossino, 4.28M), Alex Rossino, a principal research analyst, claims that 2013 "will long be remembered by government contractors as the year that federal cloud adoption began in earnest." According to Rossino, "between October 2012 and September 2013, federal agencies awarded over $17 billion in cloud computing-related contracts." Notably, "after a couple of years evaluating and piloting cloud technology, federal customers dove in headfirst, awarding large contracts, such as the Interior Department's $10 billion Foundation Cloud Hosting Services program and the CIA's hotly contested $600 million cloud infrastructure award."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

HOG FARM NEAR BUFFALO RIVER DIVIDES COMMUNITY . The New York Times (12/27, Eligon, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that a pig farm operated by C&H Hog Farms near the Buffalo River "has divided the community, drawn scrutiny from environmentalists, politicians, and state and federal officials, and left many wondering how one of the largest hog operations in the so-called Natural State ended up in the heart of a major tourist area." According to the article, "for environmentalists, the development of the Mount Judea (pronounced Judy) hog farm provides a stark example of what they see as lax oversight of such farms by state and federal regulators." However, "C&H Hog Farms has many supporters, who say that these farms have long dotted the watershed without causing major environmental damage," and "they argue that the owners of C&H followed all the required steps to obtain a permit and will do all they can to make sure that the farm does not hurt the ecosystem."

NPS REWRITING BACKCOUNTRY-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR GRAND CANYON. USA Today (12/27, Loomis, 5.82M) reports that "the surge of people going to less-visited parts" of the Grand Canyon and "using the trails and Colorado River in new ways" has the NPS "rewriting its backcountry-management plan." Due to be released "next spring, the revised plan could create a day-hiking registry to keep trails from being overrun by large groups," according to park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga. The plan "could restrict how far backpackers can travel the Colorado on inflatable backpacking rafts and set guidelines for limiting slot-canyon access if too many canyoneers ply the same routes."

NPS CONSIDERING RULE CHANGES FOR OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS NATIONAL PARK. For the Sedalia (MO) Democrat (12/30, 39K) reports that "2014 is going to be a landmark year" for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways National Park. According to the article, "for the first time since 1984, changes in the rules regarding the ways the public is allowed to use the park are inevitable."

CHEETAHS KILL WHITE-TAILED DEER AT NATIONAL ZOO. The Washington Post (12/27, Press, 4.28M) reports that a deer on Friday jumped into an enclosure at the Smithsonian National Zoo that houses two young cheetahs. Zoo officials say the white-tailed deer was killed by the cheetahs. The article notes that "deer are plentiful in Rock Creek Park, which borders the zoo." The NPS has "used sharpshooters to control the deer population."

Also providing coverage are WJLA-TV Washington (12/30, 118K) and WRC-TV Washington (12/30, 291K).

RETIRING NPS NORTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR REFLECTS ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS. On the eve of Dennis Reidenbach's retirement, Philly (12/30, 1.22M) looks back on the career and accomplishments of the Northeast Regional Director for the NPS. Reidenbach "explained how his generation of park service bosses has had to tum to rich industrialists and foundation trustees like the Annenbergs, Lenfests, and Pews, who have been willing to back particular visions of how historic sites ought to look with tens of millions of tax-protected dollars." According to Reidenbach, "Pew influence helped teach the park service how to develop 'entrepreneurial, self-sustaining' business plans."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL PARK. Additional coverage of the proposal to create a new national park commemorating the Manhattan Project was provided by the U-T San Diego (12/29).

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT DALE DITMANSON RETIRING. The Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (12/30, 226K) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Dale Ditmanson will retire on January 3. the article reflects on Ditmanson achievements. It notes that "while serving as superintendent of the Smokies over the past 10 years, Ditmanson received the 2009 Southeast Region's Superintendent of the Year Award and the 2013 Associations of Public Lands' Agency Partner of the Year Award, which he shared with recently retired Deputy Superintendent, Kevin FitzGerald." Ditmanson also received the Department of the Interior's Honor Award for Meritorious Service.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK WOLVES. Additional coverage of the Isle Royale National Park wolves was provided by the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (12/29, Flesher, 449K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM, FOREST SERVICE FAVOR MIDDLE PATH FOR WYOMING SAGE GROUSE HABITAT. The Columbus (IN) Republic (12/30, 80K) reports that the BLM and Forest Service on Friday "released a draft plan for maintaining and increasing sage grouse habitat on BLM and Forest Service land around Wyoming." The two agencies "favor a middle path among the options they're considering for protecting habitat for the greater sage grouse in Wyoming." However, "two environmental groups and the Petroleum Association of Wyoming expressed reservations about the draft plan."

Also, providing coverage of how ranchers are dealing with sage grouse policy is the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (12/30, 56K).

NEW MEXICO LAND COMMISSIONER WANTS TO BUY FEDERAL LAND. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (12/30, 59K) reports, that New Mexico's land commissioner "wants to buy some federal land on behalf of the state in hopes that the property could generate revenue for state trust lands that help fund public schools and other institutions." The BLM is "looking to sell thousands of acres that no longer meet the agency's mission or are landlocked." State Land Commissioner Ray Powell "hopes to acquire some of the land, especially parcels along the interstates around Las Cruces and in the oil- and gas-rich Permian Basin of southeastern New Mexico."

Also providing coverage are the San Francisco Chronicle (12/30, 2.88M) and the Artesia (NM) News (12/29, 10K).

COURT DISMISSES APPEAL BY HORSE ADVOCATES. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/30, 288K) reports that the Wild Horse Observers Association has "lost its appeal against a 2012 ruling by a US District Court judge that dismissed its case against the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management and Algodones resident Al Baca." The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver this month issued an order affirming the District Court's decision.

COURT ENDS BAN ON HORSE SLAUGHTER. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (12/30, 27K) reports that "on Dec. 13, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of appeals lifted an emergency injunction that had blocked two slaughterhouses, Valley Meat Co. in Roswell, N.M., and Rains Natural Meat in Gallatin, Mo., from killing horses for money." According to the article, "the lifting of the injunction, which was brought by a coalition of animal welfare groups, opens the door to legal horse slaughter within weeks."

SENATORS INTRODUCE ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS CONSERVATION ACT. In an op-ed for the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (12/30, Udall, Heinrich, 59K), Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich write that they have introduced the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Conservation Act, which "would designate the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, putting a star on recreation maps around the world, highlighting the area's unique culture and history, and drawing tourists and outdoor enthusiasts." Udall and Heinrich "want to ensure that these natural and cultural treasures are preserved for future generations and that communities in Doña Ana County can continue to grow and prosper."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT TURNS FORTY YEARS OLD. The fortieth anniversary of the Endangered Species Act generated contrasting commentary on the successes and impacts of the law.

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (12/30, 194K) reports that Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) "warned that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) faced threats to its survival as the law turned 40 on Saturday." In an op-ed for the Detroit Free Press (12/28, Dingell, 794K), Dingell wrote, "I am saddened to report that this cornerstone environmental law is in greater peril now than it has been in its 40-year history." The article notes that "Republicans in Congress have taken measures to weaken the law, which bans the killing of endangered species and regulates the use of their habitats in an effort to protect those lands."

In an op-ed for the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (12/30, Talbot, 333K), Lee Talbot, one of the original authors of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, and a professor of environmental sciences and policy at George Mason, warns that "the ESA is in grave danger." He writes that "there is a segment of our elected officials that is willing to kill off any sort of regulation, no matter how beneficial it is to the public." According to Talbot, "this anti-regulatory, anti-conservation movement on Capitol Hill is unprecedented," and he argues that "it is too willing to sell our health, wildlife and natural treasures off for short-term corporate gains for the few, resulting in long-term loses for our country and our people."

In an op-ed for the Houston Chronicle (12/27, Fenwick, 2.26M), George Fenwick. president of the Washington, D.C.-based American Bird Conservancy, touts the success of the act. According to Fenwick, "when this law is allowed to work as it was designed to, it has been remarkably effective." Fenwick bemoans the "high-profile critics" who "blame the law (falsely) for larger economic problems."

However, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (12/27, Schiff, Macdonald, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Damien Schiff, a principal attorney with Pacific Legal Foundation, and Julie Macdonald, a former deputy assistant

secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the Interior Department, note that the law has brought about the recovery of only a fraction—less than 2%—of the approximately 2,100 species listed as endangered or threatened since 1973. Meanwhile, the law has endangered the economic health of many communities—while creating a cottage industry of litigation that does more to enrich environmental activist groups than benefit the environment. They blame the bureaucrats of the Endangered Species Act for administering the law poorly and flouting provisions designed to promote good science and good sense.

In an op-ed for the Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/29, Moyle, 749K), Peter Moyle, a fisheries biologist at the University of California, Davis, and associate director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at UC Davis, writes: "I wish I could say that once the Endangered Species Act kicked in, everything got better for California fishes. But it hasn't." In fact, Moyle says he has "been recording a statewide decline of most native fishes, largely as the result of dams, diversions, water export pumps in the Delta and other manipulations of our water system." Meanwhile, he notes that "climate change is warming the rivers and accelerating the declines of already depleted fish populations."

Also providing coverage are the Huffington Post (12/28, 11.54M), the Idaho Statesman (12/30, 205K), the Durango (CO) Herald (12/27, 28K), the Jacksonville (NC) Daily News (12/30, 1K), the Everett (WA) Herald (12/27, 152K), the Lakeland (FL) Ledger (12/27, 180K), the Las Vegas Guardian Express (12/30, 64K), the Sierra (CA) Sun Times (12/30), and the Science Recorder (12/30).

Grizzlies An Issue As Endangered Species Act Turns Forty. USA Today (12/27, Weise, 5.82M) reports that the anniversary of the law "comes as wildlife officials in the northern Rockies are considering lifting protections for hundreds of grizzly bears in and around Yellowstone National Park, a move environmental groups decry as short-sighted." The bears have "made a slow comeback," prompting the FWS to "advance plans on whether to take more than 700 bears across the Yellowstone region of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming off the threatened-species list."

Also covering the story is the Asbury Park (NJ) Press (12/28, 324K).

Gray Wolf Still An Issue. NPR (12/27, Shogren, 465K) reports that the FWS is "proposing to take the gray wolf off the endangered species list." The wolf has "rebounded since it was reintroduced to the northern Rockies in the 1990s and is continuing to spread into the Pacific Northwest," but "biologists warn that if these wolves loses federal protection, they will not be able to return to some places, such as Colorado, where the ecosystem sorely needs them." The article notes that "the law that protects endangered species turns 40 tomorrow and perhaps the most controversial thing the government has done under the law is to reintroduce the gray wolf."

The Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (12/29, 506) reports that the US District Court in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 17 heard arguments by Earthjustice attorney Tom Preso "to restore Endangered Species Act protections to gray wolves in Wyoming until state officials develop a stronger wolf conservation plan." Preso said, "The extreme hostility toward wolves demonstrated by some who participated in this fall's Wyoming wolf hunt shows why adequate legal protections are especially important for wolves in Wyoming. We are asking the court to hold the government accountable for failing to give wolves the protection that the law requires." Earthjustice is "representing Defenders of Wildlife, Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity in challenging the Fish and Wildlife Service's September 2012 decision to strip Endangered Species Act protections from gray wolves in Wyoming."

In an op-ed for the New York Times (12/29, Downes, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Lawrence Downes writes that "in Idaho, two recent developments have alarmed those who want to protect wolves and see them not as vermin, but as predators necessary for a healthy ecosystem." Downes says that "first was the hiring, by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, of a hunter to travel into federal wilderness to eliminate two wolf packs." The second "example of wolf-animus will be on display this weekend outside Salmon, Idaho, at a Coyote and Wolf Derby sponsored by a group called Idaho for Wildlife." Downes notes that "it's a sad coincidence that this weekend is also the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, which was signed into law on Dec. 28, 1973."

Tagged Wolverine Gone Missing. The Denver Post (12/30, Finley, 949K) reports that the wolverine M56 who traveled to Colorado has gone missing as federal and state authorities delay decisions on whether to protect

wolverines from intentional killing. No radio signal has been detected since October 2012.

Biologist Keeping The Polar Bears' Plight Public. NPR (12/28, Shogren, 465K) reports on the work of biologist Steve Amstrup to keep the plight of the polar bears in the public's perception.

DAM-LIKE DEVICES TO HELP FIGHT FIRES AT GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Washington Post (12/29, Press, 4.28M) reports that "on Dec. 18, federal and North Carolina officials unveiled two structures they hope will keep more water in the swamp" at Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge "and make nearly 10,000 of its 113,000 acres less susceptible to fire while enhancing wetlands." According to the article, "the large dam-like devices, called weirs, regulate flow at the end of two large ditches that channel water into the Dismal Swamp Canal and ultimately the Albemarle Sound." Their main task is "to back up water into the swamp for several miles, which gives it time to seep into the ground, raising the water table."

Also providing coverage are the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (12/30, 333K) and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (12/30, 768K).

EVERGLADES REFUGE STALLED AT TEN ACRES BUT COULD GROW SOON. The Los Angeles Times (12/27, Spear, Sentinel, 3.07M) reports that the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge was "billed with much fanfare as a federal rescue of an imperiled environmental treasure in Florida," but two years later, "the refuge today amounts to 10 acres donated by the Nature Conservancy." The article notes that "nothing so far has been purchased by the US government, but $4.5 million should be available for land buys in the near future." Though the FWS "has not dedicated any specific amount of money or funding source, the agency has given the project enough priority to raid other programs."

FWS TO HOLD MEETINGS ON PROPOSALS TO PROTECT SEVERAL SIERRA AMPHIBIANS. The Fresno (CA) Bee (12/27, 327K) reports that the FWS will "hold two meetings in January for proposals to list and designate habitat for two species of frogs and a species of toads." The FWS will "propose to list the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and the northern population segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog as endangered species in April." The agency will "also propose to list the Yosemite toad as a threatened species."

Also reporting on the story is the Sierra (CA) Sun Times (12/30).

HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS SELECTED IN NEW MEXICO. The Silver City (NM) Sun-News (12/30, 24K) reports that the FWS and the state Office of Natural Resources Trustee have "selected seven restoration projects in southwestern New Mexico to restore wildlife and wildlife habitat natural resources." The two agencies are "restoring the areas as a result of a natural resource damage assessment and settlement with the Freeport-McMoRan company for its Chino, Cobre and Tyrone mine facilities."

GROUP STARTS ITS OWN COUNT OF WHOOPING CRANES. The Victoria (TX) Advocate (12/28, 77K) reports that researchers with the International Crane Foundation say the FWS' survey of the Aransas-Wood Buffalo whooping crane is "missing valuable information and have started their own count of the endangered birds." According to Liz Smith, a conservation biologist with the foundation, the new FWS "surveys are concentrated in one month, but the birds' diet and behavior changes during their six-month stay at the Texas refuge."

FWS REOPENS CUCKOO COMMENT PERIOD. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (12/30, 94K) reports that the FWS is "reopening the public comment period for 60 days for the proposal to list the Western distinct population segment of the yellow-billed cuckoo as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act." Comments will be accepted through Feb. 24.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SHILOH LAUNCH COMPLEX TO UNDERGO FEDERAL REVIEW. Additional coverage of Space Florida's plan to build a state-run launch complex on the environmentally sensitive fringes of Kennedy Space Center was provided by the Washington Post (12/28, Powers, 780K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BLACK RHINO AUCTION. Additional coverage of the auction by the Dallas Safari Club for a permit to hunt a rhinoceros in Nambia was provided by NPR (12/30, Staff, 465K).

PAPER URGES CLOSING THE CHICAGO CANAL. In an editorial, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (12/30, 798K)

notes that a new report by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the FWS revealed that fish can swim through "the electric barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal that is supposed to stop Asian carp from infesting Lake Michigan." The paper agrees with Josh Mogerman, a spokesman for the Natural Resources Defense Council, who said: "The electric barrier already had a spotty track record, but this report seems to burst any remaining implication it can be considered a solution to the carp invasion. It reinforces the broadly held belief that a permanent, physical barrier separating the watersheds is the only way to stop the dozens of dangerous critters queued up on both sides."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

NUCLEAR, WIND ENERGY STRUGGLE AMID CHEAP NATURAL GAS. The New York Times (12/28, Wald, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that although carbon emissions from electricity will have to be lowered to aid against climate change, two of the most promising low-carbon energy sources, wind and nuclear, "are trying to kill each other off." The Times says both energy sources face pressure from natural gas, which offers "some carbon reductions compared with coal" and is currently cheap. While experts say higher electricity prices would mean "renewable sources of energy would flourish and even some reactors would be built," currently Federal subsidies for wind energy as well as cheap natural gas are forcing down electricity prices. University of Texas Austin's Michael Webber said, "Gas is raining on everyone's parade; gas is ruining it for everybody in most electricity markets."

MAINE OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT FACES OPPOSITION FROM ISLAND RESIDENTS. The AP (12/28, Durkin) reported that a Maine offshore wind project has been met with opposition by some of the residents of Monhegan, a tiny island off the coast of Maine, who fear that the project will upset their quiet life and hurt tourism. Maine Aqua Ventus hopes to receive initial approval to put the turbines 2.5 miles off the island's shore next month, and claims that its project will provide cheaper electricity to the island and bring "millions of dollars in investments to the state," in addition to creating hundreds of new jobs to bolster Monhegan Island's fragile economy. The company will soon post pictures of what the turbines would look like from different points on the island and will broadcast test sounds from the proposed site so that residents can hear what it will sound like on shore.

JONES ACT PRESENTS DILEMMA TO OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPERS IN MASSACHUSETTS. The New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (12/29, 54K) reports that the Jones Act is presenting a dilemma to the American offshore wind industry. The law, "initially passed to protect maritime merchants, requires vessels transporting cargo or equipment between two US points to be American flagged and manufactured," but "because the offshore wind industry has not yet taken off in the states, the only vessels in the world capable of helping it along are manufactured in Europe," which means "manufacturers don't want to construct vessels for an industry that does not yet exist." However, Massachusetts officials say "they are banking on the unique engineering of South Terminal to circumvent the riddle and spur an industry that will be based in the Commonwealth."

Onshore Energy Development:

OIL AND GAS PROJECT IN UINTAH BASIN UP FOR PUBLIC REVIEW. The Columbus (IN) Republic (12/30, 80K) reports that the BLM is seeking public input "on its draft study of a company's proposal to significantly boost its oil and gas production in the Uintah Basin." According to the article, "Newfield Exploration Co., Utah's largest crude oil producer, would be able to add 5,750 new oil and gas wells over a 16-year period at an existing field under the plan." The BLM says "its plan is the most restrictive for new oil and gas development across sensitive landscapes while still meeting project needs."

Also providing coverage are the Deseret (UT) News (12/30, 274K) and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (12/30, 242K).

OBAMA SIGNS BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT STREAMLINING ACT. The Williston (ND) Herald (12/30, 18K) reports that Rep. Kevin Cramer's Bureau of Land Management Streamlining Act has been signed by President Obama. Cramer said, "North Dakota will join other states in a streamlining pilot project to alleviate the increased workload of federal permit review. I am pleased the president accepted these modest improvements

and am hopeful we can build on this achievement to find more common ground in the future." The legislation "allows BLM offices in Montana and other less stressed states to review and approve permits."

Also providing coverage is KRMG-AM Tulsa, OK (12/30, 16K).

FEDERAL APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS BLM'S LEASE-BY-APPLICATION PROCESS. The SNL Financial (12/30, 22K) reports that "a federal appeals court rejected a challenge brought by environmental groups" to the BLM's "coal lease-by-application system, saying the agency acted 'reasonably' when it awarded the West Antelope II tracts to Cloud Peak Energy Inc." The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit held on Dec. 24 that the BLM "satisfied its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, affirming a July 2012 decision by the US District Court for the District of Columbia."

BLM APPROVES PAN MINE PROJECT. The Ely Daily Times (12/27, 776) reports that the BLM Ely District, Egan Field Office has "issued the Record of Decision for Midway Gold US, Inc.'s Pan Mine Project to be located in the Pancake Mountain Range in White Pine County." According to the article, "the decision allows the mining operator to construct and operate a new heap leach gold mine that would consist of two primary open pits, three satellite pits, one heap leach pad, three rock disposal areas and a transmission line."

Offshore Energy Development:

BP MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION TARGETS QUESTION INVESTIGATOR'S IMPARTIALITY. The AP (12/28, Kunzelman) reported that the targets of an investigation into alleged misconduct inside the settlement program for compensating the victim's of BP's 2010 Gulf oil spill are questioning the independence of former FBI director Louis Freeh and attempting to rebut his findings. Lionel "Tiger" Sutton III, whose resignation from the staff of Patrick Juneau sparked the investigation, urged US District Judge Carl Barbier to throw out a "scathing report" Freeh issued in September that concluded that Sutton and other top members of Juneau's staff engaged in "improper, unethical and possibly criminal" conduct. Sutton's wife's attorney argued that Freeh is BP's "man on the job" and that allowing Freeh to run the claims office is giving BP "exactly what it wants." Freeh's investigation is ongoing, with his next report expected shortly after January 1.

RESEARCHERS TO STUDY COST BENEFITS OF GULF WATER MONITORING. The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (12/30, 24K) reports on the three-year, $750,000 project led by the LSU Agricultural Center and the BOEM to study the cost benefits of Gulf water monitoring. The article notes that "the first phase will involve interviewing key members of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System to determine who uses the information and what value they put on the information."

NEW STUDY SAYS ENDANGERED WHALES AT RISK FROM SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING. The Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (12/27, 506) reports that "endangered North Atlantic right whales may be more at risk from oil exploration than previously thought," according to new research from Cornell University. The study "suggests the rare marine mammals are present throughout the year at varying distances off the coast of Virginia, putting them at risk from the acoustic impacts generated by seismic airguns — used to probe the ocean floor for oil and gas deposits."

MAYOR OF KURE BEACH SUPPORTS SEISMIC TESTING. WECT-TV Wilmington, NC (12/30, 23K) reports that Mayor Dean Lamberth of Kure Beach has "signed a letter from America's Energy Forum that asked for his support in seismic testing and natural gas exploration." The article notes that "the Kure Beach Town Council voted at their December meeting for the mayor to sign the letter that would be sent" to the BOEM. Lamberth said "he signed the letter in support because the federal government is decreasing funds for beach re-nourishment."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS RALLYING BEHIND WATER PROJECTS BILL. The AP (12/28, Jackson) reports that "Republicans and Democrats who found little common ground in 2013 are rallying around a" Senate bill that authorizes "up to $12.5 billion over the next decade for flood diversion in North Dakota, widening a Texas-Louisiana waterway, deepening Georgia's rapidly growing Port of Savannah and other projects." In comparison, "the House version would cost about $8.2 billion." Due to the "modest" differences between the two bills,

negotiators are "confident they can merge the two and pass the package for President Barack Obama's signature early in 2014."

DRY YEAR SPURS NEW CONSERVATION ORDERS FOR 2014. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (12/29, 749K) reports that December has "been so dry that mandatory water conservation orders are beginning to sweep across the Sacramento region." The city of Folsom on Monday imposed a mandatory 20-percent water conservation order, while Sacramento County has also asked residents in unincorporated areas to reduce water use by 20 percent. The cities of Roseville and Sacramento are also likely to consider similar measures in early January, according to the Sacramento Bee. According to the article, "because about 500,000 people in Folsom, Fair Oaks, Roseville and other communities depend on that stored water," the BOR "on Jan. 1 plans to reduce water releases from the dam into the American River."

Also providing coverage are the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (12/29, 126K), the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (12/29, 110K), and KGO-TV San Francisco (12/30, 4K).

GRAND COULEE PUMPING PLANT TO RE-OPEN MARCH 1. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (12/26, 113K) reports that the BOR says "there will be an adequate water supply for spring irrigation when a Grand Coulee Dam pumping station reopens in March." The bureau expects "all six pump units in the plant will be available to fill Banks Lake prior to the 2014 irrigation season, calling for a 'normal' irrigation water supply in the Columbia Basin." However, irrigators are still "skeptical," according to Mike La Plant, director of the Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District.

CONSERVATION GROUPS CALL FOR MORE PROTECTIONS FOR FISH. The Marysville (CA) Appeal-Democrat (12/30, 70K) reports that "while some groups are excited about the what the Yuba County Water Agency's FERC relicensing applications contains, other groups are lamenting what is missing — namely, provisions that address removing barriers to native spawning habitat for endangered fish." Many conservation groups have "called for the YCWA to look into developing fish passage through, or removing entirely, Englebright dam, which is a direct barrier to more than 120 miles of salmon habitat, according to comments submitted by the Foothills Water Network, which represents a group of water resource stakeholders in the Yuba, Bear and American River watersheds."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Fresno (CA) Bee (12/27, 327K), the Fresno (CA) Bee (12/29, 327K), the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (12/28, Rockwell, 731K), the Santa Clarita Valley (CA) Signal (12/30, 13K), the Marysville (CA) Appeal-Democrat (12/30, 70K), the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (12/28, 110K), the Vacaville (CA) Reporter (12/30, 57K), and the My Mother Lode (CA) (12/30, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSAL TO RAISE SAN LUIS RESERVOIR DAM. Additional coverage of the proposal to raise the San Luis Reservoir dam was provided by the Stockton (CA) Record (12/29, 123K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE ON TRIBAL CASINOS TOUCHES OFF CALIFORNIA FIGHTS. The Los Angeles Times (12/30, York, 3.07M) reports that Obama Administration "policies stimulating an expansion of tribal gambling have touched off new battles over proposed tribal casinos in California and elsewhere." During the administration of President Barack Obama, the Interior Department has "recognized dozens of new tribes and approved requests from a handful of others to acquire land that could house a casino, contingent on deals between the tribes and their home states," but "the department rejected nearly all such applications under President George W. Bush." The decisions are "causing a ripple effect in California, home to 109 federally recognized tribes, 62 of which already operate casinos." The article notes that "lawmakers have begun to question the historic ties the tribes have to the land where they want to build these casinos, and say major gambling operators from Las Vegas and elsewhere are funding the tribes' efforts to win federal approval in exchange for future management contracts."

INDIAN FAMILY PRESSES AUCTION HOUSE TO RETURN SHIRT. The New York Times (12/27, Macmillan, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports on the fight over a shirt that is believed to have belonged to Little

Thunder, a Lakota leader and a contemporary of Crazy Horse. According to the article, "the Skinner auction house in Boston had listed it as a 'Sioux Beaded and Quilled Hide Shirt' and estimated it would fetch between $150,000 and $300,000 at its Nov. 9 sale," but "minutes before the bidding began, Skinner withdrew the item from the auction in response to pressure from lawyers and tribal officials representing the Little Thunder family." According to a lawyer for the Little Thunder family, Robert P. Gough, "if the family cannot negotiate the return of the shirt," they would ask for help from the Interior Department, "which has jurisdiction over cultural property issues for Native Americans."

KICKAPOO LEADERSHIP VOWS TO CONTINUE FIGHT FOR RESERVOIR. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (12/27, 194K) reports that leaders of the Kickapoo tribal reservation in Kansas want the federal government to help out with a longstanding effort to build a reservoir. A federal court ruled this month that the tribe couldn't compel a water district to use its powers of eminent domain to obtain the private property so the reservoir can move forward. Tribal chairman Steve Cadue Cadue has sent a letter to Gov. Sam Brownback urging him to petition the Interior Department of the Interior and BIA to intervene.

Also covering the story are the Emporia (KS) Gazette (12/30, 17K) and KAKE-TV Wichita, KS (12/30, 66K).

COURT HOLDS IN FAVOR OF CHALLENGED NOOKSACK TRIBAL MEMBERS. The Olympian (WA) (12/27, 119K) reports that "the 306 people fighting to stay on the Nooksack Indian Tribe's membership rolls won a rare legal victory recently when Tribal Court Chief Judge Raquel Montoya-Lewis ruled that tribal leaders had violated their rights by denying them $250-per-person Christmas checks that were mailed to everyone else in the 2,000-member tribe." However, while Montoya-Lewis held "that it was illegal to deny the 306 the same treatment as other tribe members before their legal status is determined, she also decided that she had no legal authority to order Chairman Bob Kelly and his supporters on the tribal council to issue checks to anyone."

COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF FAMILY FIGHTING OUSTER FROM TRIBE. The U-T San Diego (12/27, 647K) reports that "a family fighting the San Pasqual Band of Mission's efforts to eject them from the tribe got a victory in court this week." The Valley Center tribe is "trying to remove about 60 members of the Alto family from its rolls saying they don't qualify for membership." In 2011, the Altos sued the Interior Department of Interior for "going along with the tribe's plans to expel them." The US Ninth District Court of Appeals held on Thursday that "the family's case against the federal agency could go forward without the tribe's involvement."

CHEROKEE NATION FILES BRIEF IN UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND'S CASINO CASE. The Cherokee (OK) Phoenix (12/30, 442) reports that Cherokee Nation Attorney General Todd Hembree filed a brief in the US Northern District Court of Oklahoma on Dec. 11 challenging a July 30, 2012, decision by the Interior Department that granted trust status for the United Keetoowah Band's casino property.

Top National News:

CMS: 975,000 ENROLLED VIA HEALTHCARE.GOV IN DECEMBER. The Administration's announcement on Sunday that 975,000 people enrolled for health insurance via HealthCare.gov in December received relatively positive coverage, including an above-of-the-fold, front-page article in the Washington Post (12/30, A1, Eilperin, Kliff, 4.28M) titled, "A Surge In Health Coverage Sign-Ups." However, much of the coverage Sunday and this morning also emphasizes that the current enrollment totals, while an improvement, are still far below the Administration's stated goals. In addition, many articles point to the likelihood of additional difficulties with the implementation of the law as those who purchased plans from one of the exchanges – or are under the impression that they purchased a plan – try out their coverage by visiting healthcare providers in the new year.

On NBC Nightly News (12/29, story 6, 3:00, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported that the Administration has "released new numbers showing a December surge in sign ups through the government's rehabilitated healthcare website" and that "total enrollment now tops 1.1 million." However, Holt added that "for a lot of Americans, including those working for small businesses, there is still uncertainty and often sticker shock over their health choices." The bulk of the NBC segment featured employees at a Michigan car company who are losing their health insurance as a result of the Affordable Care Act. According to NBC's Lisa Myers, the employees "count themselves as losers under the new law," and "many feel they're paying too much to help others get insurance." The segment concluded with one of the employees saying, "The days of low deductibles and all that stuff are

gone, so it's not going to get any better; it's just going to get worse."

Under the headline, "Federal Health Market Surpasses 1 Million Sign-ups," USA Today (12/30, A1, Korte, Locker, 5.82M) reports that HealthCare.gov "enrollment...surged in December, with almost half of the 975,000 signing up in the days before a Dec. 24 deadline." According to USA Today, "the new numbers...bring to 1.1 million the number of Americans who have enrolled through the exchange since it opened Oct. 1." In a blog post published on Sunday, CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner wrote: "As we continue our open enrollment campaign, we experienced a welcome surge in enrollment as millions of Americans seek access to affordable health care coverage."

According to the Los Angeles Times (12/30, Levey, Terhune, 3.07M), "An exact count nationwide is not yet available...but the total appears to be about 2 million," which "remains short of the administration's original goal of 3 million by this point, but marks a significant recovery from the system's disastrous debut in October."

The Washington Post (12/30, A1, Eilperin, Kliff, 4.28M) reports that Charles Gaba, "a Web designer tracking health-law enrollment numbers," estimates that approximately "850,000 people have enrolled through the state-run exchanges." According to the Post, "Some health-policy experts say the December surge does increase the possibility that" the ACA "could meet federal projections for 7 million enrollments by 2014." Larry Levitt, senior vice president at the Kaiser Family Foundation, is quoted as saying, "It is starting to track with what people, particularly the Congressional Budget Office, projected originally." The Post says March 31 is the ACA's "next critical deadline for enrollment" because after that date, "individuals face a tax penalty if they remain uninsured."

The Wall Street Journal (12/30, Barnes, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) covers the new numbers in an article titled, "1.1 Million Signed Up Via HealthCare.gov: Figure Falls Short of Earlier Expectations for New Marketplace."

McClatchy (12/30, Pugh, 95K) reports that Tavenner attributed the "surge" in enrollments, "in part," to the "improving HealthCare.gov," which "supported 83,000 concurrent users on December 23rd alone." However, USA Today (12/30, A1, Korte, Locker, 5.82M) notes that, at the same time, "potentially millions of Americans have had their existing insurance plans canceled because the plans failed to meet the [Affordable Care Act's] minimum standards."

The AP (12/30, Lederman) also reports that despite the "new signs of life," HealthCare.gov and the fourteen state exchanges established by the ACA "are still likely to fall short of the government's own targets for 2013." The AP adds that while CMS's Tavenner "said fixes to the website...contributed to December's figures," some "thousands of people wound up waiting on hold for telephone help on Christmas Eve for a multitude of reasons, including technical difficulties." Also, according to the AP, "insurers have complained that another set of technical problems, largely hidden from consumers, has resulted in the government passing along inaccurate data on enrollees," which could mean that those "who signed up and paid their premiums" already could "arrive at the pharmacy or the emergency room and find there's no record of their coverage."

Politico (12/30, Allen, 467K) reported that CMS "did not release figures showing the mix of the enrollment pool — whether enough young and healthy folks are signing up to balance out older and sicker consumers — which is considered by many experts to be the most important metric in assessing the success of the insurance exchanges." Politico also noted that "the enrollment tabulation represents the number of people who have completed the...plan-selection process but does not make a distinction between those who have paid for insurance plans and those who have not."

The Hill (12/30, Balluck, 194K) reported that on Fox News Sunday, former DNC chair Howard Dean said, "The data does show that less healthy people are signing up. Younger people are signing up less frequently than hoped." The Daily Caller (12/30, Bordelon, 422K) noted that Dean was responding to Dr. Scott Gottlieb, "a Connecticut-based internist who is also a scholar at the conservative American Enterprise Institute," who had said earlier on Fox News Sunday, "If you look at the demographic data — the underlying trends and who's enrolling — there's evidence that it's a less-healthy population than what the plan certainly hoped for, and probably older."

Neera Tanden of the Center for American Progress said on CNN's State Of The Union (12/29, Crowley), "If Obamacare continues to be a problem – the corporate mandate goes into effect and it is as much a catalyst for

anger amongst people as the individual mandate has been – then it's going to be a continued problem for [President Obama]."

White House Planning Campaign Highlighting ACA Success Stories. Early Sunday morning, Politico (12/30, Brown, Allen, 467K) reported that later this week, "the White House, Democratic lawmakers and advocacy organizations will launch a campaign...to highlight real-life experiences under the Affordable Care Act." Politico says the campaign will have to compete for coverage "if Wednesday's start of coverage for millions of Americans doesn't go as planned" and "the airwaves [are] dominated by stories of complications and dropped insurance." Nevertheless, according to Politico, the President's allies "still see this moment as their best chance yet to show voters why the embattled law is worth protecting by featuring accounts of people visiting the doctor for the first time in years...or buying medication that they could never afford before."

Reuters (12/30, Gershberg, Clarke) has a similar report on the dueling narratives expected to play out this week. Reuters notes that Aetna CEO Mark Bertolini has said, "The big moment of trust is 12:01 a.m. on January 1st, when a mother is standing in a pharmacy with a baby in her arms trying to get a script filled." Likewise, Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) asks, "When folks visit their doctor or take a child to get necessary treatment (this) week, will the services actually be available?"

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX), on NBC's Meet The Press (12/29, Gregory), maintained that the Affordable Care Act "is something that's good for the country" and "really is a new day for the American people" because "they can't be denied now because of preexisting conditions." Donna Brazile said on CNN's State Of The Union (12/29, Crowley), "For millions of Americans without health insurance, they are finding for the first time that they can truly have affordable healthcare. It has stabilized premiums. It has given a lifeline to millions."

On the other hand, former Sen. Scott Brown said on Fox News Sunday (12/29, Wallace), "I think the Obamacare disaster is actually contributing to a lot of what we're seeing in the economy. Businesses are holding back from hiring."

Obama's Use Of Executive Actions To Modify ACA Draws Criticism. The Washington Times (12/30, Howell, 417K) reports President Obama has repeatedly used his executive powers "to chip away at deadlines and penalties tied to the [ACA's] individual mandate, arguing that he has the power to use his 'discretion' to enforce parts and delay others," despite the fact that his 2012 campaign maintained that Mitt Romney would not have been able to substantially modify the ACA if he were to be elected. According to the Times, "Many of those who questioned whether Mr. Romney would have the authority are now defending Mr. Obama." Lanhee Chen, a policy adviser for the Romney campaign, says, "It's hypocritical of the left." On the other hand, Timothy Jost, a health policy analyst at Washington and Lee University School of Law, makes the case that "there's just a huge difference between using executive discretion to implement a law properly and using executive discretion to repeal a law."

Brit Hume said on Fox News Sunday (12/29, Wallace), "Obamacare will continue to unravel," and, "in fact, when you look at it, step back and look at it, an awful lot of it has either been undone, repealed or simply is now being canceled by executive fiat from the President."

WSJournal: New Fee On Employer-Provided Plans Takes Effect This Week. The Wall Street Journal (12/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, notes that as of January 1, a new non-tax deductible fee on some health insurance policies will be imposed as part of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. According to the Journal, the fee, which could add more than 2% to the cost of healthcare for employees of small businesses, does not apply to those who get their coverage from a union or a government entity. The Journal also notes that a bill to repeal the fee has 229 co-sponsors in the House, including some Democrats.

Cruz Attributes Shutdown To Democrats Unwillingness To "Compromise" On The ACA. Sen. Ted Cruz, on ABC's This Week (12/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), said October's partial Federal government shutdown happened because "conservatives...stood strong and said, 'let's stop the train wreck that is Obamacare,'" while President Obama insisted that he was "not going to negotiate" or "compromise on anything.'" According to Cruz, "Repeatedly Republicans were compromising, trying to find a middle ground, and repeatedly Democrats said, 'no compromise, shut it down.'"

AS RECOVERY GAINS STEAM, EMPLOYMENT COULD EXCEED PRE-RECESSION PEAK IN 2014. The Wall Street Journal (12/30, Cronin, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that indicators including recent strength in GDP, industrial production and construction indicate suggest that by mid-2014, total jobs could surpass their pre-recession peak. Economists in the Journal's most recent survey were optimistic, predicting on average the in 2014, the US will add 198,000 a month. That rate would put the nation on pace to reach pre-recession job levels before July.

The Wall Street Journal (12/30, A1, Timiraos, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that home prices have climbed back to all-time highs in 10 of the 50 largest US cities, according to a Journal analysis of price data from Zillow. The Journal notes, however, that these cities are generally exceptions and prices in many parts of the nation remain below peak. According to the Journal in 1,500 cities, values remain at least 25% below previous highs.

In his column for the Washington Post (12/30, Samuelson, 4.28M), Robert Samuelson that with many "economic 'fundamentals' improving simultaneously," including a strengthening job market, declining household debt, a continuing housing recovery, and corporations "awash in cash," the "case for a healthier recovery now seems the most plausible since the recession's nadir in mid-2009." Samuelson notes, however, that a stronger recovery "presumes that consumers and companies respond to good news as in the past" which they may not do.

Reuters (12/30, Bruce) reports that the world economy should break a three year run of declining growth in 2014, but the upswing will likely be incremental. While investors and analysts are confident going into 2014, structural problems and imbalances remain and many economists believe the world economy will continue to see modest growth. Reuters notes that much of the optimism in financial markets is a result of an improving outlook for the US, which appears to be on pace for faster growth in 2014.

Focus On "Inexpensive" Stocks Seen As A Sign Rally Could Continue Into 2014. The Wall Street Journal (12/30, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that with investors focusing on "inexpensive" stocks this year's stock rally could continue into 2014. Some money managers see the better-than-average gains posted by these stocks as a sign of the market's health. Their strong performance this year is an indication that investors are willing to take more risks but continue to be cautious about their portfolios.

DEMOCRATS TO PUSH MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE IN 2014. The New York Times (12/30, Martin, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Democratic leaders see increasing the minimum wage as an issue that "can lift their fortunes both locally and nationally in 2014." Officials from the White House, labor unions and liberal advocacy groups are coordinating the effort to capitalize on "growing populism among voters in both parties." Strategy meetings and conference calls in recent weeks "have focused on two levels: an effort to raise the federal minimum wage, which will be pushed by President Obama and congressional leaders, and a campaign to place state-level minimum wage proposals on the ballot in states with hotly contested congressional races."

The AP (12/30, Levy) reports that with GOP governors seeking reelection in 2014 aiming "to capitalize on distaste for Washington gridlock and President Barack Obama's dropping public approval amid the bumpy rollout of" the Affordable Care Act, Democratic gubernatorial hopefuls "may need to respond with a popular cause," and a hike in the minimum wage "could be the answer." Democratic candidates, "particularly those" running "in states that Obama won last year, are" already touting the issue. With surveys indicating an increase in the minimum wage is "publicly popular," talking up the issue "revives the message of economic inequality that Obama wielded" with success in 2012, "and it comes wrapped in a broader jobs and economic message that touches on the top priority of many voting Americans."

Minimum Wage To Increase In 13 States This Week. USA Today (12/30, Davidson, 5.82M) reports that while Congress did not raise the minimum wage in 2013, "a growing number of states are taking action." This week, the minimum wage will increase in 13 states, "and as many as 11 states and Washington, D.C., are expected to consider increases in 2014, according to the National Employment Law Project." USA Today notes that as of Jan. 1, "state minimum wages will be higher than the federal requirement of $7.25 an hour in 21 states, up from 18 two years ago."

Advocates Say Minimum Wage Laws Short Change Tipped Workers. USA Today (12/30, Tumulty, 5.82M)

reports that advocates for low-wage workers say minimum wage laws "short change" workers who make part of their income from tips. The Federal minimum wage for these workers "hasn't increased since 1991," and they "also have been overlooked at the state level."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Slow Demise Of Capital Punishment."*** An editorial in the New York Times (12/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) notes that a growing number of states "are coming to recognize that the death penalty is arbitrary, racially biased and prone to catastrophic error." The Times argues that the death penalty as it is currently applied in the US "violates the constitutional guarantees of due process and equal protection, and no longer can overcome the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishments."

"A Tool Consumers Need." The New York Times (12/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes in an editorial on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's recent report on "pre-dispute" or "forced" arbitration clauses in which consumers must "agree in advance to use arbitration for any dispute that arises from a company's products or services." The Times argues for a ban on such clauses, saying that they cause "a systematic denial of justice," because they leave "consumers with virtually no meaningful way to challenge corporate wrongdoing." The Times urges the CFPB to follow its own evidence in working towards a ban.

"Uncle Sam's Sweat Shops." An editorial in the New York Times (12/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) criticizes the US government for pushing retailers to "demand better working conditions at factories in the developing world that make their merchandise," but not following its own advice with the overseas factories from which it buys more than $1.5 billion of clothes. The Times notes that factories in Bangladesh, Haiti, Cambodia and other countries that make uniforms for Federal workers "often violate basic labor standards." The Times calls on Federal agencies to disclose "the names of all factories they use," and on Congress to "order an investigation of the labor violations in those facilities." Moreover, the Times says that agencies "should jointly develop a code of conduct for overseas factories as well as an inspection regimen."

"Mr. de Blasio Picks His Speaker." In an editorial, the New York Times (12/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says New York City's Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio "appears to have engineered a deal" that will guarantee that Melissa Mark-Viverito will be City Council speaker. The Times calls de Blasio's "meddling" in Council affairs "unsurprising but unseemly, especially from someone who used to accuse Speaker Christine Quinn of being too close to Mayor Michael Bloomberg," and notes that "we're about to get a speaker with an enormous debt to the mayor, leading a legislative body that is supposed to be an independent counterweight to the executive."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Which Way Burma?"*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (12/30, 4.28M) questions whether Burma's ruler have chosen the path of "true democracy or window-dressing," noting that elections scheduled for 2015 "will be meaningless unless the nation's constitution is changed in 2014." The Post argues that the constitution "was written to exclude Aung San Suu Kyi from the presidency," and "barring the nation's most popular politician would in itself make any vote illegitimate." In addition, it "preserves the military's untouchable status," which is "not compatible with democracy." Questioning whether Burma's leaders believe "they can stop halfway, retain their power and have their pseudo-democracy be accepted as the real thing," or if they "are prepared to allow the Burmese to freely choose their leaders," the Post calls on the Obama Administration to "make clear that the first option won't fly."

"Maryland's Tilted Playing Field." In an editorial that focuses on the 2014 Maryland governor's race and the state's campaign-finance rules, the Washington Post (12/30, 4.28M) criticizes a recent decision by the Maryland Board of Elections, which ruled that Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown's (D) running mate, Howard County Executive Ken Ulman (D), could continue to raise cash during the state's legislative session, though holders of statewide office and legislators are prohibited from doing so. While the board ruled that "Ulman may not coordinate his fundraising campaign with Mr. Brown during the 90-day legislative session," the Post asks, "what is to stop the two" candidates "from doing so?" The Post adds that because state Attorney General Douglas Gansler (D) and his running mate, Del. Jolene Ivey (D), are prohibited from fundraising during the legislative session, the ruling "blatantly handicapped" their campaigns.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"A Large New Tax On Small Business."*** The Wall Street Journal (12/30,

Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, notes that as of January 1, a new non-tax deductible fee on some health insurance policies will be imposed as part of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. According to the Journal, the fee, which could add more than 2% to the cost of healthcare for employees of small businesses, does not apply to those who get their coverage from a union or a government entity. The Journal also notes that a bill to repeal the fee has 229 cosponsors in the House, including some Democrats.

"Verdict For National Defense." The Wall Street Journal (12/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, praises US District Court Judge William Pauley's ruling upholding NSA metadata collection as a timely rejoinder to another Federal judge's ruling earlier this month that found the NSA program violated the Fourth Amendment. The Journal also notes that Pauley was appointed by President Clinton.

"A Letter To Rouhani." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (12/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that former Lebanese finance minister Mohamad Chatah last week wrote an open letter to Iranian President Hasan Rouhani calling on him to end Iranian interference in Lebanon, but he was assassinated before he could send it. The Journal calls Chatah's letter a test of whether Rouhani is truly a peace maker as he claims, noting that if Iran wants a better relationship with neighboring countries it must limit the Revolutionary Guard, which arms and controls Hezbollah and the Syrian army. The Journal argues that until those forces are controlled, Chatah's assassination is a clear indication of Iran's true intentions.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
One Troubled Priest Who Got A Second Chance
Buildings May Sit Atop Known Earthquake Faults
Insurgents Could Bounce Back Fast In Afghanistan
Health Law Set To Kick In
For Hollywood, 2013 Ranks As A Blockbuster

Wall Street Journal:
Saudis Pledge Three Billion Dollars To Support Lebanon's Army
Home Prices Back At Peaks In Some Areas
On The Run From War, Syria's Children Grow Up Fast
Patients Cram In Tests Before Health-Law Start

New York Times:
Democrats Turn To Minimum Wage As 2014 Strategy
Bombings Jolt Russia, Raising Olympic Fears
India's Efforts To Aid Poor Worry Drug Makers
On Defensive, JPMorgan Hired China's Elite
The Death Of A Family, And An American Dream
Cost Of Being Mayor? 650 Million Dollars, If He's Rich
Eagles Stop Late Surge To Thwart Cowboys' Playoff Hopes

Washington Post:
Turf Battle Shapes Up As Army Seeks Greater Pacific Role
A Surge In Health Coverage Sign-ups
Growing Proof Of The Limits Of Presidential Power
Unhappy Ending
In South Sudan, A Harrowing Christmas

Financial Times:
Suicide Bomb Kills 16 In Russian Station
Watchdog Warns On Graphene Scams
Cameron's Interest In Garden Cities Wilts

Activist Investors Launch Bonus Fight
US Distressed Debt Investors Target Europe
US Carmakers Grapple With CNG Demand
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Washington Times:
Benghazi Report Backs Up Clinton
Romney Foes Excuse Obama's Health Act Waivers
Female Bombers Make Their Mark
GOP Gains Preferred Status In Voter Polls
Old US Rivals China, Russia Step Up Challenges To Obama's Pivot
Protecting Saguaro Cactus A Prickly Task In Arizona

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
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CBS: Preempted By Sports
NBC: Russia-Bombing; Russia-Security; Benghazi-Attack Details; Egypt Protests; Alleged Bank Robber Shot; Healthcare-Public Opinion; Healthcare Law-Vending Machines; Mexico-Highway Collapse; Antarctica-Vessel Trapped

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Russia-Trolley Explosion; Alleged Bank Robber Killed; Winter Storm; Storm Effects
CBS: Russia-Terrorist Attacks; Western China-Police Terrorist Shootout; Antarctica-Trapped Vessel; Winter Storm; Healthcare Enrollment; Bank Robbery Suspect Profile
NPR: Healthcare Enrollment; Russia-Railway Bombing; Israel-Lebanon Border Violence; Snowden-Alleged Treason; Europe-Western European Immigration Regulations; Italy-Earthquake; US Winter Storms; Movie Ratings
FOX: Winter Storms; Antarctica-Trapped Vessel; Russia-Trolley Explosion

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
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PRESIDENT OBAMA — No Public Events Scheduled

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Public Events Scheduled
US Senate: No Scheduled Events
US House: No Scheduled Events
Other: ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FATALITIES REPORT — Law Enforcement Officer Fatality Research Bulletin providing preliminary officer fatality data for 2013, with preliminary data revealing a continued decline in law enforcement officer fatalities during the past year. Craig W. Floyd, Memorial Fund Chairman & CEO will be available for interviews to discuss the report and provide insight.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All late-night shows were in rerun.

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which creates custom news briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Dec 31, 2013 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2013 7:00 AM EST

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HOLIDAY PUBLISHING NOTICE. In observance of the holiday, the Department of the Interior News Briefing will not be published on January 1. Publication will resume on January 2.

DOI in the News:

INTERIOR PROVIDES FUNDING FOR CLIMATE STUDIES. The Springfield (MA) Republican (12/31, 286K) reports that the Northeast Climate Science Center at the University of Massachusetts is "awarding more than $800,000 to universities and other partners for research that will aid park and refuge managers and to help species and ecosystems adapt to regional climate change." The funds are being provided by the Interior Department. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Even as we take new steps to cut carbon pollution, we must also prepare for the impacts of a changing climate that are already being felt across the country. These new studies and others that are ongoing will help provide valuable, unbiased science that land managers and others need to identify tools and strategies to foster resilience in resources across landscapes in the face of climate change."

Also, the WRAL Tech Wire (12/31) reports that "seven climate science projects have been awarded federal funding for studies to be conducted with the Southeast Climate Science Center at N.C. State University." Gerard McMahon, director of Interior's Southeast Climate Science Center said in a statement, "The intersection of science and policymaking is always challenging, especially when dealing with complex scientific issues such as climate change, and resource allocation decisions that balance public priorities now and in the future," "Our intention with the projects funded by the Southeast Climate Science Center this year is to ensure that these scientific products developed by our researchers contribute information necessary for making effective decisions."

SURVEY FINDS AMERICANS BROADENING USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA SITES. The NextGov (12/31, 2K) reports that "online Americans are broadening the number of social media sites they use with 42 percent using two or more sites, according to a Pew Research Center survey released on Monday." According to the article, "the

findings could have implications for federal agencies, which are trying to broaden the ways they use social media to recruit new job applicants, communicate with the public about government programs and benefits and raise awareness of their work." The article notes that "federal agencies have moved more slowly into social media sites other than Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, partly because of their specialized audiences." It also mentions that the Interior Department has "a popular Instagram account populated with pictures of national parks and monuments."

INTERIOR'S EXPENDITURE ON OUTHOUSE PICKED AS EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT WASTE IN 2013. The Heritage Foundation (12/30, 34K) presents a "list of the top 10 examples of wasteful government spending this year, serving as a reminder that there is no shortage of excessive spending in Washington." At ten, the list picks $98,670 for an outhouse in Alaska. According to the foundation, the Interior Department "spent nearly $100,000 to install an outhouse on an Alaskan trail, which includes a single toilet with no internal plumbing."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK ADDS NEW ACRES TO PARK. The Arizona Daily Sun (12/31, 33K) reports that the NPS "officially took ownership of 4,200 acres of new land for Petrified Forest last week." The land was acquired "from a ranching family earlier this year by the Conservation Fund and the National Parks Conservation Association on behalf of the park." NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "This is an important milestone in the National Park Service's joint effort with our partners to protect the rich natural and cultural landscape in and around Petrified Forest National Park."

The National Journal (12/31, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that "paleontologists were excited when they came across the skeleton" of a dinosaur "this summer in northeastern Arizona," and "nearby, researchers also found the well-preserved, 2-foot-long skull of a phytosaur, a relative of the doswellia and a distant ancestor of the modern crocodile." Moreover, "researchers say that beneath both finds, they've found the petrified and fossilized remains of a prehistoric pond ecosystem, full of prehistoric fish, amphibians, plants and reptiles." In light of these finds, on Monday, the NPS "announced that it had bought the formerly private land for preservation and further excavation." The land was purchased for about $1.3 million with funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Also reporting on the story is KOLD-TV Tucson, AZ (12/31, 19K).

SAN JUAN ISLAND NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMPLETES WESTCOTT BAY ACQUISITION. The Journal of the San Juans (WA) (12/31) reports that "the acquisition of the former Webb property in Westcott Bay by the San Juan Island National Historical Park was completed Dec. 20 when The Conservation Fund transferred the remaining 34 acres to the park," according to Parks Superintendent Lee Taylor. The NPS "acquired the first portion of the 70-acre property in March from The Conservation Fund with support from the Land and Water Conservation Fund." According to the article, "the newly protected land, primarily woodlands located along a half-mile of pristine Westcott Bay shoreline, will enable the NPS to enhance educational and recreational offerings at English Camp."

STUDY FINDS RIM FIRE LOSSES BETWEEN $250 MILLION AND $1.8 BILLION. The Los Angeles Times (12/30, Stevens, 3.07M) reports that "a recent study commissioned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission estimates that damage from the Rim fire to the natural environment and to property values could total about $250 million to $1.8 billion." According to the artricle, "the preliminary assessment released last month places dollar amounts on losses in 'environmental benefits,' carbon storage and the asset value of property near where the fire burned." Researchers from Earth Economics "found losses in environmental benefits of $100 million to $736 million, in carbon storage of $102 million to $797 million, and in private property values of $49.7 million to $265 million."

NPS PROPOSING CHANGES TO OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS. The Farmington (MO) Daily Journal (12/31, 7K) reports that the NPS is proposing "a management plan for the first time in more than two decades" for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Rep. Jason Smith is "opposed to all of the alternatives,

stressing the economic and cultural importance of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to families and small businesses and opposing more control over public lands by the NPS." However, Stuart Keating, Environment Missouri advocate, said, "It's really heartening to see the effect that tens of thousands of Missourians raising their voice to protect the Current and Jacks Fork rivers have had on this plan. The plan offers three alternatives, and all of them represent improvements over the current management of the park, closing illegal access points, limiting horsepower on ecologically sensitive areas of the river and ensuring sustainable and sensible recreational horse use."

MESA VERDE WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT UPHELD. The Durango (CO) Herald (12/30, 28K) reports that "a couple who were not rehired as seasonal rangers at Mesa Verde National Park after the husband filed a complaint against a park superintendent under the Whistleblower Protection Act have been vindicated." The couple, Bruce and Sara Schundler, "received $220 (the cost of rescheduling two air fares), jobs next summer at a park of their choosing and public recognition of the settlement of the case." Ann O'Hanlon at the Office of Special Counsel said Monday "she didn't know if the National Park Service, which operates Mesa Verde National Park, disciplined park Cliff Spencer, the superintendent when the Schundlers weren't rehired."

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK TO OPEN VISITORS CENTER ON WEEKENDS. The Staunton (VA) News Leader (12/30, 9K) reports that "the Harry F. Byrd Sr. Visitor Center at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park will be open on winter weekends, with weather permitting, a release said, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m starting Jan. 11." Deborah Smith, interpretive operations supervisor for the park, noted that "this is the first year the center will be open during the winter." She said, "Typically, it closes shortly after Thanksgiving and then re-opens in the spring. We're excited that we'll be open and are looking forward to being able to provide more options for winter weekend visitors."

Bureau of Land Management:

NEW MEXICO LAND COMMISSIONER WANTS TO BUY FEDERAL LAND. In its "Govbeat" blog, the Washington Post (12/30, Chokshi, 4.28M) reports that New Mexico's State Land Office has its eyes on a few thousand acres up for sale by BLM. The article notes that "there may be limits to how much land the state can buy, but a state lawmaker has even pre-filed a bill for next year's legislative session — Senate Bill 1 — that would set aside $250,000 to study whether such a purchase would be worthwhile." State Land Commissioner Ray Powell said, "We're interested in high-value property that could be used for commercial purposes and would earn money for our beneficiaries."

BLM PLANS FIELD WORK NEXT SUMMER AT ABANDONED RED DEVIL MINE. The Columbus (IN) Republic (12/31, 80K) reports that the BLM is planning work at the Red Devil Mine in Alaska next summer "to stop large tailings piles from eroding into a nearby creek." The project is "intended to keep metals from getting into Red Devil Creek, and then the Kuskokwim River." The BLM is also "looking for a long-term solution."

Also providing coverage are the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (12/31, 768K) and KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (12/31, 4K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ELKO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WARY OF SENATORS' SAGE GROUSE DRAFT. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (12/31, 22K) reports that "a bipartisan plan in the US Senate intended to conserve sage-grouse habitat and keep the bird from a 2015 endangered species listing hasn't received a strong endorsement from Elko County's elected officials." County leaders have claimed if "sage-grouse are listed as endangered or threatened, economies in northeastern Nevada would be crippled." Commissioners argue that "because the county stands to take such an economic hit...decisions regarding sage-grouse conservation should be made on a local level."

The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (12/30, 165K) reports that Ted Koch, Nevada director for the FWS, "likes much of what he's seen in the state plan and other alternatives now under the microscope" However, "like others, he is worried time is running out with key decisions still to be made." Koch said, "It's getting close to crunch time, and we're eager to see how we will connect the dots." He added that "restoration goals for the Great Basin's sagebrush ecosystem deserve to be implemented at the same scale as massive restoration efforts that have

occurred in places like the Everglades, the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay."

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ADDS 57 ACRES. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/31, 288K) reports that the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge grew by 57 acres Monday. The acquisition, "funded with a $1.1 million state appropriation, brings the refuge to 488 acres and the project's sponsors hope to buy the rest of the 570-acre site by the end of 2014," according to refuge manager Jennifer Owen-White.

GROUP CLAIMS "SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT" IN EAGLE DISPUTE. The Payson (AZ) Roundup (12/30, 21K) reports that the Centers for Biological Diversity has "filed a legal action insisting" that the FWS "committed scientific misconduct in using an outdated, early draft of a computer modeling study showing little danger that the population of desert nesting bald eagles might die off." According to the article, "the latest court order came in response to a request from the Centers for Biological Diversity to hold off on its latest challenge" of the service's "insistence the desert-nesting bald eagle doesn't need continued protection, now that the eagles have recovered nationally." According to the article, "the latest allegation of scientific misconduct involves a 2009 study by USFWS researcher Brian Millsap, who developed a computer projection that gave the odds the desert-nesting eagles might die out under different circumstances."

TWO BALD EAGLES KILLED IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. The AP (12/31) reports that Maryland Natural Resources Police are investigating the killing of two bald eagles in Montgomery County over the past week. The first was shot with a rifle on Christmas Day. On Saturday, a wounded mature eagle was found near a home in Darnestown. The bird died, and an x-ray showed it had been hit by bird shot.

Also reporting on the story are the Baltimore Sun (12/30, Campbell, Sun, 812K) and WTOP-FM Washington (12/31, 172K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND TAX CREDIT FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE. The Christian Science Monitor (12/31, Silverstein, 540K) in its "Energy Voices" section carries a piece from Ken Silverstein that notes the struggle the Federal wind tax credit continues to face. The article says that the "relative stop-and-go nature of the terrestrial winds typifies the political treatment the industry has received." The article notes that proponents believe the credit has "led to the development of 60,000 megawatts of wind generation" causing "production costs to fall by 80 percent over the last 20 years." However, the article points out that opponents of the tax credit believe, "The growth in wind is driven not by market demand but by...state renewable portfolio standards and a tax credit." Current support for renewing the tax credit comes from a bicameral assortment of Democrats as well as Republican governors from wind-reliant states such as Iowa and Kansas. The article notes that a compromise may be in order on the Federal level as "Reducing the subsidy could then pave the way for a longer and more certain extension."

Onshore Energy Development:

OSM TO EXAMINE FIVE ASPECTS OF WEST VIRGINIA MINING OVERSIGHT. The Washington Post (12/30, Press, 4.28M) reports that the Office of Surface Mining announced on Monday it will examine five aspects of West Virginia's regulation of surface mining. The decision follows a petition filed earlier this year by nearly 20 advocacy groups which said the state Department of Environmental Protection isn't doing its job and is ignoring federal law. The OSM said it will look at five of the groups' complaints including flooding impacts, alleged violations of the Clean Water Act, water pollution from selenium and the handling of soil. OSM Director Joe Pizarchik said, "The analysis we shared with the petitioners today represents the next step in a process prescribed by the regulations that implement SMCRA. OSM will conduct its evaluations in a fair, transparent manner."

Also providing coverage are the Charleston (WV) Gazette (12/31, 154K), the West Virginia MetroNews (12/30, 5K), and WWBT-TV Richmond, VA (12/31, 48K).

IG REPORT: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SOUGHT TO CHANGE COAL REGULATION JOB LOSS NUMBERS.

The Washington Times (12/31, Swarts, 417K) reports that an investigation by the Interior Department inspector general's office has found that the Obama Administration "tried to edit a report that said new coal regulations could lead to serious job loss." The finding supports earlier reports that the department "pressured a private contractor to change information in order to make the data more acceptable." According to the IG's report, "After the contractors determined that there would be high costs to the industry and significant job losses, newer [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement] employees involved in the project asked the contractors to change a variable in the calculations." The Times notes that investigators "stopped short in saying the agency was directly pressuring the contractor or was attempting to fudge the numbers." OMB "said that both ways to calculate job loss were acceptable — the way the contractor originally did it and the second way OSM officials requested."

BLM CONSIDERING LEASING LAND IN RIO ARRIBA COUNTY FOR OIL, GAS DEVELOPMENT SITE. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/31, 288K) reports that "the BLM's Taos field office is considering leasing up to 13,300 acres of land in Rio Arriba County for oil and gas development, and not everyone is happy about it." According to the article, "Amigos Bravos, a Taos-based advocacy group, recently sent out an email urging people to contact the BLM's Taos field office to express their concerns about the proposed lease sale before the public scoping period deadline, which is Saturday." Donna Hummel, public information officer for BLM's New Mexico office, said, "Not only does BLM have an obligation to the public and public lands, but it also has an obligation to the industry. Our obligation is across the spectrum, and we take that responsibility seriously."

Offshore Energy Development:

LSU TO STUDY GULF MONITORING SYSTEMS. The AP (12/30) reports that Louisiana State University and the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management are conducting a three-year, $750,000 study to understand who uses the Gulf of Mexico Coast Ocean Observing System monitoring data and the "economic value of water-monitoring work by businesses that take the free initial data." The study should show if an expansion of the Gulf's monitoring systems is a good investment for the Federal government.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION HIT BY DELAYS, INCREASED COSTS. KVPR-FM Fresno, CA (12/31, 284) reports that "it's been almost eight years since" the BOR "began its program to restore the San Joaquin River," and "this January is the deadline for the program to restore enough water to the San Joaquin to eventually allow runs of Chinook salmon" However, "the restoration program has been plagued by delays and increased costs." The article notes that "the program's original estimate was between $250 to $800 million," but now, Alicia Forsythe, Program Manager for the restoration program, "says it's closer to a billion." Forsythe "says the schedule for the projects will be revised again, based on priority and what she calls more realistic funding."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Modesto (CA) Bee (12/29, 208K), the Western Farm Press (12/31, 2K), and KQED-FM San Francisco (12/26, 13K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

FATE OF CASINO PROPOSAL BY MENOMINEE TRIBE STILL UNDECIDED. The Appleton (WI) Post-Crescent (12/30, 139K) reports that "four months have passed" since the Interior Department "approved a proposal by the Menominee tribe to build a casino in Kenosha." However, "it could be many more months before Gov. Scott Walker decides whether to authorize the $800 million project at the site of the former Dairyland Greyhound Park." Walker said "recently he was directing his top aide to begin 'extensive discussions' with tribal governments interested in the proposal," but according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "the decision may be postponed until after Walker runs for re-election in November."

Also covering the story is the Oshkosh (WI) Northwestern (12/30, 48K).

WAMPANOAG TRIBAL LEADERS WANT DISPUTE SETTLED IN FEDERAL COURTS . Yahoo! (12/31, 17.91M) reports that the leaders of the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah on Monday said "it wanted a dispute over

its gambling rights settled in the federal courts, not the state courts." Gov. Deval Patrick's administration "filed a lawsuit with the state Supreme Judicial Court this month seeking to block the tribe from moving ahead with its plans to convert a small community center into a gambling facility." The Aquinnah on Monday "announced it had filed paperwork asking that the legal case be moved from state to federal court."

Also covering the story is WFXT-TV Boston (12/30, 60K).

Top National News:

ACA ENROLLMENT NUMBERS STILL FAR FROM ADMINISTRATION'S OWN GOAL. As was the case with the previous day's news cycle, reports from Monday evening and this morning on the December Affordable Care Act enrollment numbers describe the totals as a clear improvement over the previous two months' numbers, but note that they still far short of the Administration's goals.

For instance, Maurice DuBois, on the CBS Evening News (12/30, story 6, 2:30, Dubois, 5.58M), the only network newscast with a segment on any aspect of healthcare reform, reported that "the latest numbers...show enrollments for healthcare under Obamacare are picking up, but they are still well below what the administration had predicted." Jan Crawford went on to report that "975,000 people...signed up on Healthcare.gov in December, a surge of new enrollments that pushed the number to one point one million," and "another 831,000 signed up using the state-run health care exchanges for an overall total of nearly two million since October." Jennifer Palmieri, White House communications director, was shown saying: "December was great in terms of people wanting to be covered and also in terms of our web site being able to handle the traffic and being able to actually enroll people." However, Crawford added that Palmieri acknowledges that "there's a lot of work to be done if the Administration is going to hit its goal of seven million by the end of March."

The Hill (12/30, Easley, 194K) notes that the Administration "hasn't released a breakdown of who is enrolling, but preliminary data coming out of the state-run exchanges indicates a large number of high-risk consumers."

Peter Grier, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (12/30, Grier, 540K) titled, "Obamacare Enrollment Surge: Mission Accomplished Or Misleading Blip?" says that, in addition, "it's not clear how many of the new enrollees previously had individual health-care policies canceled because they didn't meet ACA standards." According to Grier, "it's possible the United States is entering the first year of Obamacare with a net loss of 2 million insured."

175,146 Purchased Plans Via New York's ACA Exchange By December 24. The New York Times (12/31, Hartocollis, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "after a rush of 11th-hour interest, 230,624 people had enrolled in either private or public insurance through New York State's health insurance exchange by the Dec. 24 deadline." According to the Times, "of those enrollments, 175,146 are in private commercial insurance plans, and 66,376 are in Medicaid." The Times also reports that "about 75 percent of those enrolling in individual plans on the New York exchange qualify for a subsidy."

Technical Problems Continue To Complicate Insurers Efforts To Verify ACA Enrollments. Politico (12/31, Cheney, 467K) reports that insurers who "are scrambling to finalize hundreds of thousands of last-minute Obamacare applications," but are "dealing with the fallout from persistent HealthCare.gov flaws that are invisible to most of their new customers." According to Politico, "Insurers have long complained of receiving duplicate or erroneous applications...and in many cases, receiving no application at all." Politico adds that the Administration "also rankled insurers with a series of last-minute changes, delays, modifications and exemptions...that pushed back enrollment deadlines right up to Christmas Eve for most people — with some extra time to help undisclosed numbers of people who tried to sign up on time but got snagged one way or another."

Under the headline, "Health Insurers Race To Complete Enrollments," the Wall Street Journal (12/31, Martin, Weaver, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that according to some insurers and firms that provides billing services for insurers, approximately 50% to 65% of those who have selected plans offered on the ACA exchanges have yet to pay their first month's premium.

Rattner: ACA Is "Redistribution On A Grand Scale." Steven Rattner, who served as President Obama's "car

czar," in an online opinion piece for the New York Times (12/31, Rattner, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says that over the past year, "little mention was made of the most fundamental aspect of the [ACA]: the way in which it raises nearly $2 trillion over the next decade – mostly from wealthy individuals and health care providers – and uses the money to fund the largest expansion in insurance coverage since Medicare was created." Rattner acknowledges that "this is redistribution on a grand scale," but says "we should all be very proud of it."

More ACA Commentary. The Washington Post's (12/31, Cohen, 4.28M) Richard Cohen says, "Maybe time will prove Obamacare a success," but "until that distant day, it will remain emblematic of governmental overreach and (supposedly arrogant) liberalism run amok."

Michael Gerson, in his column for the Washington Post (12/31, Gerson, 4.28M), predicts that in 2014, "the travails of implementing Obamacare will continue, with unexpectedly high premium and deductible costs, restricted doctor networks and small-business plan cancellations that affect millions."

Sen. Tom Coburn, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (12/31, Coburn, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), claims the President Obama was dishonest with the public as he pitched the Affordable Care Act, and says that he has ignored the rule of law since its implementation by unilaterally suspending or delaying aspects of it without Congressional approval.

SALES OF EXISTING HOMES INCREASE LESS THAN FORECAST. Bloomberg News (12/30, Woellert, 1.91M) reports that sales of existing homes in November increased less than predicated, "indicating higher borrowing costs are holding back the recovery in residential real estate." The National Association of Realtors said Monday that its Pending Home Sales Index "increased 0.2 percent." A Bloomberg survey of economists predicted an increase of 1 percent. Reuters (12/30, Bull) reports that its survey of economists also expected sales to increase 1 percent.

Wells Fargo Reaches $591 Million Settlement With Fannie Mae. The Wall Street Journal (12/30, Chaudhuri, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Wells Fargo & Co. has reached a $591 million settlement with Fannie Mae to resolve claims that it sold defective mortgages to the government-controlled mortgage company. Wells Fargo said the settlement resolves all potential buyback demands concerning loans sold to Fannie Mae which originated before 2009. When adjusted for credit from previous repurchases, Wells Fargo will pay $541 million.

DOW RISES TO 51ST RECORD CLOSE OF 2013. The Wall Street Journal (12/30, Strumpf, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose to its 51st record close for the year, finishing the day up 26 points to 16,504. The S&P 500 was nearly unchanged at 1,841. The Nasdaq lost two points to end the day at 4,154.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Mr. De Blasio's New Appointments."*** An editorial in the New York Times (12/31, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says New York City Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio's choice to be schools chancellor, Carmen Fariña "should help dispel the ill will that has persisted between the Bloomberg administration and many local communities over the last decade or so."

"The Facts About Benghazi." The New York Times (12/31, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, contends that "in a rational world," Times reporter David Kirkpatrick's investigation "would settle the dispute over Benghazi."

"Cull Of The Wild."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Terror And The Sochi Games."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (12/31, 4.28M) calls this week's terrorist attacks in Russia a "challenge for Mr. Putin." The Post calls the terrorists' "attempt to undermine the Olympics with violence" an "atrocity that all civilized states must resist," and urges nations preparing to send delegations to the Games not to hesitate.

"An End To Death Row?" The Washington Post (12/31, 4.28M), in an editorial, notes that the Death Penalty Information Center's "annual report on capital punishment...confirms that death sentences and executions remain at or near historically low levels since the Supreme Court's reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976." According to the Post, the Death Penalty Information Center "attribute[s] the death penalty's decline to waning public support," but "the decline in capital punishment also reflects the decline in commissions of the crime for which it is most often imposed: murder."

"A Food Stamp Loophole." An editorial in the Washington Post (12/31, 4.28M) praises a legislative proposal to save $8 billion over the next decade by stopping the misuse of the SNAP program. The plan would "would establish a minimum LIHEAP payment — $20 a year — to qualify for enhanced benefits." The Post notes that while it is "galling that the savings would effectively fund subsidies for farmers elsewhere in the bill rather than for other low-income programs," for now, "this reform to SNAP is the best hope for staving off more damaging cuts."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Global Disorder Scorecard."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (12/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that the US is backing away from its role as guardian of global order and lists the world's leading trouble spots going into 2014. They are Ukraine, Thailand, China, South Sudan, North Korea, Syria, Egypt, and Iran, which the Journal cites as the greatest threat to world peace due to its nuclear program.

"The Inequality Contradiction." The Wall Street Journal (12/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, says New York City Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio's selection of Carmen Fariña to be his schools chancellor is evidence that his Administration does not intend to continued fully implementing the education reforms championed by Mayor Bloomberg. The Journal notes that Fariña says she retired as deputy chancellor because she objected to some of Bloomberg's policies.

"The Volograd Bombings." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) describes this week's terrorist attacks in Russia as a reminder of Russia's continued vulnerability to terrorism. Noting the high potential for additional attacks leading up to the Olympics, the Journal notes that in the short-term Putin will have to increase security as the terrorists are hunted. However, the Journal argues that in the long-term, to ensure security, Russia requires a democratic evolution to give the government political legitimacy as well as greater administrative efficiency and transparency.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Valley Sees Major Drop In Homicides
Firing Ranges A Deadly Temptation For Afghans
Expiring Film Tax Credit Sets Off A Scramble
Gay Wedding Jitters In Utah
He Has Las Vegas At His Fingertips

Wall Street Journal:
Winners Of 2013: Boring Investors
Second Russia Blast Stokes Olympic Fears
Obama Seeks Way To Right His Ship
India Rape Cases Colored By Caste

New York Times:
Clothing Brands Sidestep Blame For Safety Lapses
Senate Discord Drains Power Of Finance Chief
Police Leader Kelly, Flinching A Bit, Looks Back With Head High
Russian Tycoon Is Free, But His Money Is Still Tied Up
Bomb Attacks In Russia Echo Threats By Chechen Insurgent
For De Blasio, So Many Jobs To Fill, So Little Time

Washington Post:
Violence Shadows Russia's Games
To Younger Vets, Cuts To Pensions Break Vow
Redskins Seem Intent On Testing The Limits Of A City's Devotion
China's 'Left-Behind Children' Reflect Toll Of Labor Migration
US Population Growth Remains Sluggish After The Recession

Financial Times:
Power Groups To Face MPs Over Outages
Latvia Sees Euro As Shield Against Russia
Cigars Face Extinction In Britain By 2026
Cooper Ditches Two Point Five Billion Dollar Deal With Apollo
Blockbuster Year For US Stocks
Threat To Facebook's Dominance Lessened
Global Regulators Turn To UK For Libor Aid

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Storms; Weather Forecast; Russia-Attacks; Antarctica-Trapped Vessel; Pakistan-US Captive; Health-Smoking; Traffic Light Cameras; NASA-Beyonce
CBS: Russia-Attacks; Benghazi Attack Account; FAA-Drone Strike; Winter Storms; North Dakota-Train Derailment; Healthcare Enrollment; Antarctica-Trapped Vessel; Volcano Eruptions; Califomia-Life Support Battle; Gun Related Police Deaths
NBC: Russia-Attacks; Russia-US Security Analysis; North Dakota-Train Derailed; FAA-Drone Testing Sites; Winter Storms; Antarctica-Trapped Vessel; Health-Smoking; Health-Flu Season; Supreme Court Justice-New Year's Ball

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: North Dakota-Train Derailment; California-Life Support Battle; Russia-Security Risks; Antarctica-Trapped Vessel
CBS: North Dakota-Train Derailment; California-Life Support Battle; Russia-Security Risks; Antarctica-Trapped Vessel; Winter Storms; Tim Tebow Hired
NPR: North Dakota-Train Derailment; FAA-Drone Test Sites; Jailed PA Priest Released; California-Life Support Battle; Winter Storms; Auto Sales Up; Israel Frees Palestinian Prisoners
FOX: North Dakota-Train Derailment; Califomia-Life Support Battle; Russia-Attacks; Russia-Security Analysis; Dow Up

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No Public Events Scheduled

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Public Events Scheduled
US Senate: FLOOR SCHEDULE Unless the House passes S. Con. Res. 30, the Adjournment Resolution, the Senate will convene for a pro forma session only on Friday, January 3 at 11:45 a.m.
US House: No Events Scheduled

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All late-night shows were in rerun.

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BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, January 2, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jan 2, 2014 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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+ Both Parties Repackage Messages For Midterm Elections.

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DOI in the News:

TRIBE SUES AFTER INTERIOR BLOCKS OKLAHOMA INTERNET GAMING WEBSITE. The Oklahoman (12/31, Palmer, 345K) reports that the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes has filed a federal lawsuit to re-establish its online gambling website. The tribe "wants to operate pokertribes.com with international players, which the state agreed to under its gaming compact." However, the Interior Department "put a stop to it last month." In its lawsuit filed Thursday in federal court in Oklahoma City, the tribe asks a judge to prevent the Interior Department "from interfering."

Also covering the story are the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/1, 80K), the Enid (OK) News & Eagle (1/1, 41K), the Lawton (OK) Constitution (1/1, 60K), the Muskogee (OK) Phoenix (1/1, 29K), and the Navajo Times (AZ) (1/1, 66K).

SUCCESSES OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT TOUTED. For the "Taking Note" blog of the New York Times (12/31, Semple, 9.61M), Robert B. Semple Jr. writes that "on Saturday the environmental community rightly celebrated the 40th anniversary of the passage of one of the most ambitious of the Nixon era's landmark environmental statutes: the Endangered Species Act." Semple notes that "right-wing critics of the law like to point out that less than 2 per cent of the 1500 or so animal and plant species listed as endangered or threatened under the law have actually recovered to the point that they can be removed from list." However, he claims that "a much better measure is that only about 30 species have gone to their doom, 37 species have been or will soon be removed from the list, and well over half are deemed stable or on the road to recovery." He notes that "some very tough and inevitably controversial decisions lie ahead for Sally Jewell, the Interior Secretary," and "the

biggest of these will be whether to protect the Greater Sage Grouse, a pretty little creature whose habitat not only ranges over nearly a dozen western states but is also believed to contain considerable reserves of oil and natural gas."

SEN. BARRASSO OPPOSES NOMINATION OF KORNZE TO BE BLM DIRECTOR. For the Torrington (WY) Telegram (1/1, Barrasso, 8K), Sen. John Barrasso writes that "on Dec. 17, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a confirmation hearing for Neil Komze to be the next director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)." Barrasso notes that during the hearing, he "highlighted my concerns with his nomination due to his overwhelming lack of experience." Barrasso asserts that until "Kornze can prove he is qualified to lead this important agency, I will withhold my support for his nomination."

WTIMES LISTS FIVE TOP EXAMPLES OF WASTEFUL SPENDING FROM 2013. The Washington Times (1/1, Swarts, 417K) lists the winners of its "Golden Hammer" award. The five winners are "top examples" of "misguided and pointless spending of taxpayer dollars." They are a $98,000 outhouse for a trail-head in Denali National Park in Alaska, the Energy Department and its contractors, Medicare and Medicaid, Afghanistan, and the government shutdown.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS FUNDING RESEARCH TO FORECAST CLIMATE CHANGE'S IMPACT ON NATIONAL PARKS. National Public Radio (1/2, Shogren, 465K) reports that "archeologists are looking to climate scientists to predict where the erosion will be the fastest so they can pinpoint their research on the places that will disappear the soonest." According to the article, "until now the predictions have largely been too coarse to provide much guidance." However, the NPS is "trying to change this." The agency is "funding research that supposed to forecast the threats that more than 100 coastal national parks face from sea level rise and storm surges due to climate change."

NPS WORKERS OFFER NEW-YEAR RESOLUTIONS. The Seattle Times (12/31, 1M) reports that NPS workers have released a video in which they reflect on the past and make plans for next year

Also reporting on the story is the YubaNet (CA) (1/2, 1K).

CAMP NELSON TO CELEBRATE STATUS AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. The Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (12/31, 320K) reports that Camp Nelson, "a Union recruiting center for black troops during the Civil War, on Saturday will celebrate its designation as a National Historic Landmark." According to Stephen McBride, director of interpretation and archaeology for Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park, "the designation is a necessary step toward Camp Nelson becoming a national park, which has been a goal of Jessamine County officials." The article notes that Rep. Andy Barr will "speak at the ceremony at 2 p.m. Saturday at Camp Nelson," and "Bill Justice, superintendent of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in LaRue County, will represent the National Park Service."

GRAND CANYON CUTS FEES FOR QUIETER AIRCRAFT. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (1/1, 1.26M) reports that "the fees for air tour operators that use technology to quiet the sound of aircraft at Grand Canyon National Park have been reduced." According to the article, "the new $20 fee per flight took effect Jan. 1 for any of eight operators authorized to take visitors sightseeing over the massive gorge." The NPS and the Federal Aviation Administration were "required to come up with incentives for quiet air technology aircraft at the Grand Canyon as part of a massive transportation bill passed in 2012."

Also covering the story is the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (1/2, 768K).

VINTAGE YELLOWSTONE, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK TOURING BUSES PARTICIPATE IN ROSE PARADE. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (1/1, 90K) reports that "two vintage touring buses from Yellowstone and Glacier national parks will help kick off the 125th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif." according to the article, "the touring buses are being provided to the parade by the Jammer Trust, a nonprofit organization

dedicated to operating and preserving vintage touring buses in the Western national parks."

BEER CELLARS BUILDT IN 1866 IN VIRIGNIA NOMINATED AS HISTORIC SITE. The Washington Post (1/1, Press, 4.28M) reports that "along the bank of the James River in Richmond and next to luxury condominiums, a movement is brewing to place beer cellars built in 1866 on the National Register of Historic Places." According to the article, "a state Department of Historic Resources board recently voted to add the brick and granite remnants of the James River Steam Brewery to the Virginia Landmarks Register and nominate it to the federal list aimed at protecting America's historic and archaeological resources."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM STILL WORKING ON PLANS AFTER OREGON FIRE. The Columbus (IN) Republic (1/2, 80K) reports that "salvage logging on land burned by last summer's Douglas Complex wildfire in southwestern Oregon is in full swing in privately owned forests, but not in federal ones." The article notes that the BLM is "still deep in the planning process and has no firm timber targets for the public land." According to the article, "the difference highlights the contrast between industrial logging under the Oregon Forest Practices Act and logging on public land that must conform to federal environmental laws."

Also providing coverage are the Danbury (CT) News Times (1/2, 140K) and KTVL-TV Medford, OR (1/2, 845).

GROUP RESCUES WILD HORSES. The U-T San Diego (12/31, 647K) reports that "a Southern Califomia animal rights group says it has rescued nearly two dozen wild horses captured in New Mexico and the animals are now being sheltered at a Bonsall ranch." The article noes that "the Navajo tribe has been embroiled in controversy over its efforts to control and thin the herds of thousands of wild horses that tribal leaders say are overgrazing and damaging tribal lands already ravaged by drought." The BLM "provided technical assistance to the tribe" for horse roundups. Donna Hummel, a spokeswoman for the BLM, said "the animals caught by the agency on federal land are relocated, put up for adoption or sold." Hummel also "said the agency does not condone slaughtering horses but acknowledged that some of the horses sold in the past have ended up in slaughter houses."

NEW MEXICO LAND OFFICE COULD ACQUIRE BLM LAND. The Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus (1/2, 18K) reports that "some parcels of land in Southeastern New Mexico may eventually change ownership thanks to an initiative by the New Mexico State Land Office and a state legislator from the north." Sen. Michael Sanchez has "introduced a proposal, Senate Bill 1, to the New Mexico Legislature that allocates $250,000 to the state land office in fiscal years 2014 and 2015 in order to assess the feasibility of purchasing lands currently held by the Bureau of Land Management."

SOUTHEAST ALASKA HELI-SKIING COMPANY ADMITS TO USING FEDERAL LAND ILLEGALLY. The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (12/31, 198K) reports that "a Haines helicopter ski operation repeatedly broke the law when it flew clients on dozens of guided trips into closed federal land in 2012 and 2013, according to charges filed in federal court Monday." According to the article, "owners of the company, Southeast Alaska Backcountry Adventures, signed a plea agreement also filed in court Monday admitting to the unauthorized land use charge, a misdemeanor." A federal prosecutor said that "the illegal landings and skiing only came to light after a skier died this spring." BLM officials learned ski guide Christian Arcadio Cabanilla "died in an area they had closed for an environmental study."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS AWARDS GRANT TO PROTECT ELEPAIO IN HAWAII. The New York Times (1/1, Keenan, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports on Paul Zweng's "mission to restore native species to the forest" in Hawaii. The article notes that "the state's department of land and natural resources likes his project so much that it is awarding him $616,000 over the next 10 years." Also, the FWS has "given him a $10,000 grant for another project: protecting the elepaio, an endangered mountain bird found only in Hawaii that is being eaten into extinction by tree-climbing black rats."

VISITOR CENTER OPENS AT DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (1/2, 437K) reports that a new 10,000-square-foot visitor center is welcoming visitors at Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Although the visitor center's grand opening won't be until Feb. 22, it's already open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

FWS ISSUES ANNUAL PAYMENT TO HOUSTON COUNTY. The Houston County (WI) News (1/1, 189) reports that "the Dec. 23 Houston County Board of Commissioners meeting began with a presentation" from the FWS. Under the provisions of the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, Houston County received a payment of $24,195. Jim Nissen, the La Crosse District Manager of the FWS, said "this annual payment was compensation for the loss of tax revenue on lands that are part of the national wildlife refuge system." However, Nissen "warned commissioners that the appraisal of Houston County's land in the refuge has gone down, which will lower the 2014 payment." Nissen "added that the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge generated $226 million in economic effects, thanks to recreational visitors and supported 1,394 jobs." He ended "by adding that a new visitor center/office is located in Brice Prairie, Wis., and a special program will take place with a family day on Jan. 15."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BIA APPROVES TULE WIND FARM LEASE. The East County (CA) Magazine (1/2) reports that "on December 26, local residents learned" that the BIA has "signed a Record of Decision approving a lease for Phase II of Iberdrola's controversial Tule Wind Project (also known as the Reduced Ridgeline Project) in San Diego County." Donna Tisdale, POC's Secretary, said, "The BIA's decision is reckless and shows outrageous disregard for the high fire risk we all face in San Diego County." Also, "Phase II of the Tule Wind project poses special risk to eagles." Kelly Fuller, a consultant to POC, said, "The US Fish and Wildlife Service told the BIA that Tule Wind will be an eagle killer, but the BIA didn't listen. San Diego County's Golden Eagle population has been declining for decades and the BIA's decision will make it even less likely that future generations of San Diegans will get to see Golden Eagles."

Onshore Energy Development:

GROUP URGES OBJECTIONS TO BLM LEASE IN NEW MEXICO'S RIO ARRIBA COUNTY. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (12/31, 288K) reports, "The Bureau of Land Management's Taos field office is considering leasing up to 13,300 acres of land in Rio Arriba County for oil and gas development." In response, Amigos Bravos is "urging people to contact the BLM's Taos field office" to object. The group is arguing for "sustainable energy resources," rather than "extractive industry proposals." BLM spokesperson Donna Hummel said that the agency "has a duty to extend leasing opportunities to companies interested in energy development." In considering objections to projects, Hummel explained that the agency will "consider only relevant issues" related to "air and water quality, livestock grazing, soils, vegetation, wildlife habitat and residences."

NAVAJO NATION COMPLETES PURCHASE OF BHP BILLITON MINE. The Indian Country Today Media Network (12/31, 21K) reports that the Navajo Nation has "put the final touches on its purchase of the Navajo Mine from BHP Billiton Limited and is now the official owner, the tribe announced on December 31." The Navajo Transitional Energy Company LLC finalized the "purchase on December 30 and has agreed to supply coal to the Four Corners Power Plant through 2013, the Nation said."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: OSM TO EXAMINE FIVE ASPECTS OF WEST VIRGINIA MINING OVERSIGHT. Additional coverage that the OSM will examine five aspects of West Virginia's regulation of surface mining was provided by the West Virginia MetroNews (12/31, 5K), the Weirton (WV) Daily Times (1/2, 12K), the Huntington (WV) Herald-Dispatch (1/2, 64K), the Charleston (WV) State Journal (1/2, 1K), and WOWK-TV Charleston, WV (1/2, 9K).

Offshore Energy Development:

SHELL'S PLANS TO EXPLORE ARCTIC UNCERTAIN IN NEW YEAR. The Alaska Journal of Commerce (1/2, 14K) reports that "major uncertainties" facing Alaska's oil and gas industry in 2014. For instance, one question is

whether Shell will "decide — and will it be allowed — to proceed with a Chukchi Sea exploration program now proposed for summer 2014." The article notes that "lawsuits, changes in government rules and operational mishaps, mainly the loss of the Kulluk drillship in a 2012 New Year's Eve Gulf of Alaska storm, have dogged Shell's efforts."

KUOW-FM Seattle (1/1, 15K) reports that "setbacks and delays have not dampened Shell's enthusiasm for drilling in the Arctic." The firm is "still seeking federal approval to drill in the Arctic, and a critical ship in Shell's Arctic fleet is still sitting idle on the Bellingham, Wash., waterfront." However, "Shell faces more federal hurdles than before its year of mishaps."

BP ASKS FEDERAL COURT FOR INJUNCTION ON PAYMENTS NOT DIRECTLY LINKED TO SPILL. Bloomberg News (12/31, Fisk, Calkins, 1.91M) reports that BP has asked a Federal appeals court for an immediate injunction blocking economic loss payments related to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico spill unless they can be directly linked to the disaster, saying that US District Judge Carl Barbier ignored the court's earlier decision requiring him to review causation when determining which claims should be paid. BP argues that Barbier's ruling will "impose further vast and unjustified costs on BP," while lawyers for the victims have repeatedly said that "BP is trying to rewrite a deal that is proving more costly than envisioned."

PAPER TOUTS SOUTH CAROLINA CONGRESSMAN'S EFFORTS ON OFFSHORE ATLANTIC DRILLING. The Greenville (SC) News (12/31, 204K) in an editorial praises Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC) for "bringing back to Congress a comprehensive energy bill" that would allow for expanded oil and natural gas drilling in the Atlantic. Though the paper says the bill is likely "too broad and controversial to pass" in "a bitterly divided Congress," it praises Duncan "for bringing forward genuine ideas" to boost US energy security. The paper notes that part of Duncan's legislation "would seek new studies to determine how much oil and gas is in the Atlantic, updating three-decades old estimates that the American Petroleum Institute says underestimates the amount of gas and oil that could be accessed in those areas."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR TO SPEAK AT IDAHO WATER USERS ASSOCIATION'S 77TH ANNUAL CONVENTION. The Prairie (MT) Star (1/2) reports that Lorri Lee, Regional Director of BOR, is also currently scheduled to speak at the Idaho Water Users Association's 77th annual convention and general meeting of Idaho's largest water use group, which will be held on January 21-23 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise.

BOR RELEASES PROGRESS REPORT ON PROPOSED SITES RESERVOIR. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (1/2, 206) reports that the BOR, "in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources, has now released a progress report on the 'North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation,' also known as the proposed Sites Reservoir."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Stockton (CA) Record (1/1, 123K), the Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (1/2, 90K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/1, 749K), and the Los Angeles Daily News (12/31, 382K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

NORTHWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR BIA LAUDS SCHOOL PROJECTS. The Portland (OR) Tribune (1/2, 107K) reports that "as part of the $26.6 million school bond passed by School District 509-J in 2012, work is underway on an $8 million auditorium and sports facility, just east of Madras High School, and $21.5 million K-8 school in Warm Springs." according to the article, "Kirby Nagelhout, the contractor for the new Warm Springs school for kindergarten through eighth-grade students, broke ground for the project on June 14, with officials from as far away as Washington, D.C., in attendance." At the groundbreaking, Stanley Speaks, the Northwest regional director for the BIA, said that "the school will be an example for other tribes to emulate." Speaks said, "It's one of those very special times that doesn't come around very often. This landscape's going to change; it's going to be different and it's going to be different for a reason. It can be a model for other schools across Indian Country."

BIA'S DECISION ON MASHPEE WAMPANOAG COMPACT EXPECTED SOON. The Taunton (MA) Gazette

(1/2, 36K) reports that "Taunton city officials and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe are expecting an affirmative decision on a revised tribal-state gambling compact to be issued" by the BIA soon. However, a spokesman from the BIA said on Tuesday that the decision is still under review.

Also providing coverage is the Dedham (MA) Daily News Transcript (1/2, 9K).

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY CONTINUES TO APPEAL BAND LAND TRUST. The Traverse City (MI) Record-Eagle (1/2, 68K) reports that Grand Traverse County officials "continue to dispute a decision" by the BIA "to place two parcels totaling 170 acres in Acme Township into trust." According to the article, "the Acme Township land in question is owned by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and for now has not been developed, but county officials worry it could be more valuable in the future." David Benda, the Grand Traverse County administrator, said, said, "The more land that goes into trust and then is developed, they could put things that are worth millions of dollars on that land and would never be taxed. All we're doing is trying to protect taxpayers' interest."

Top National News:

MILLIONS SIGNED UP FOR HEALTHCARE COVERAGE AS ACA TAKES EFFECT. One network news report last evening and print coverage this morning report that things appeared to go smoothly as the ACA took effect Wednesday. However, several stories caution that new challenges await the law in the weeks ahead, and several note an order from Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor that temporarily exempts some church-affiliated organizations from the law's contraception mandate.

NBC Nightly News (1/1, story 4, 2:40, Holt, 7.86M) reported that the ACA went into effect Wednesday "and millions of Americans began to be covered by health insurance." NBC (Costello) added that while there are "many trouble spots," including people "who signed up who haven't yet received cards or aren't showing up in the right computer system" and confusion "over premiums and benefits," millions of Americans are "insured under the Obamacare system and the numbers of people signing up are expected to increase in the next year."

The Washington Post (1/2, A1, Somashekhar, Barnes, Boorstein, 4.28M) reports that hospitals "reported a relatively quiet day, without any surge of newly insured people filling emergency rooms with pressing medical needs." The White House also "reported no problems."

Reuters (1/2, Krauskopf, Steenhuysen) reports that doctors and hospitals across the nation were preparing for confusion and administrative problems as the ACA took effect. In particular, healthcare providers were concerned about difficulties in verifying coverage with insurers, a problem that could be compounded by the Federal government and states attempting to push back enrollment deadlines and to permit some patients to wait until January to pay for coverage that is retroactive to Jan. 1.

The New York Times (1/2, Pear, Goodnough, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that while hospitals were preparing "for an influx of newly insured patients," on Wednesday, many "said the pace was slower than usual because of the New Year's holiday." The Times notes that some consumers using the new insurance "discovered that they could be responsible for substantial co-payments and other out-of-pocket costs." Meanwhile, the Times notes that in anticipation of "a continued battle over health care, the White House moved Wednesday to recruit volunteers for its campaign to defend and promote the law, which is likely to be a defining issue in many congressional races this year." Supporters and beneficiaries of the law are being invited "to provide their names, email addresses and personal experiences." According to Jessica Santillo, a White House spokeswoman, "the invitation was part of a systematic new effort by the administration to 'highlight stories of everyday Americans benefiting from the law.'"

ACA Still Faces Significant Hurdles. Politico (1/1, Nather, 464K) reports that while the ACA has "survived a series of near-death experiences," it now has "a whole new series of hurdles it has to clear." Politico notes some of the obstacles that lie ahead for the law. Among them: "changing the narrative" after "three solid months of 'botched rollout' stories," ensuring that the "beginning of private health and Medicaid coverage for millions of Americans" starts "smoothly, without a lot of horror stories," enrolling "enough people" or "at least the right mix of people," court challenges, including a Supreme Court case this spring which will decide whether the

"contraceptive coverage requirement should be struck down," dealing with Congress, particularly "the ongoing series of hearings Republicans will hold to keep any implementation problems front and center — and the constant danger of red-state Democrats calling for their own rewrites to the law," and the 2014 elections.

In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (1/2, A1, Weaver, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes some troubling signs concerning the question of whether the ACA extends health insurance to the millions of people who are without it. Among them, the fact that a large number of the people who have signed up for plans are older or have preexisting conditions, and too few younger, healthier people are signing up for plans to balance them out. The Journal also notes other challenges, including the fact that previously insured are finding deductibles to be higher under the new policies than their previous plan, and the refusal of 25 states to expand Medicaid.

Analysts Expect Healthcare Changes In Wake Of ACA Enactment. USA Today (1/2, Kennedy, 5.82M) reports that now that the ACA has taken effect, healthcare industry officials and analysts "anticipate a series of related changes to affect health care in 2014." Among them: insurers will bring "more private exchanges to the workplace, and people will begin to understand they have to control their own health costs," employers will "start making changes to prepare for the requirement that companies with more than 50 employees provide health insurance for their employees," the health industry providing "more transparency in the pricing of health services," new "rules and higher enrollments," an increase in the adoption of electronic records, which will "spur industry-wide change," and lead to "higher quality and efficiency," networks will shrink as insurers "continue to limit their networks of health care providers, often by using those providers with which it can negotiate better rates," and states will drive change as Medicaid has "the most impact on local price structures."

Sotomayor Delays ACA's Birth Control Mandate. The CBS Evening News (1/1, story 5, 2:25, Reid, 5.58M) reported that Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor on Tuesday issued an order temporarily exempting some church affiliated organizations "from a requirement in the health care through that they provide health insurance that includes birth control." The Little Sisters of the Poor, "an order of Roman Catholic nuns who provide nursing care for the elderly," petitioned the Court, arguing that "they could face millions of dollars in fines because they cannot comply with the law's requirement to provide access to contraceptives which are forbidden by their religion." The case "could affect hundreds of nonprofit Catholic organizations and ministries across the country."

The AP (1/2, Holland) reports that Sotomayor's order threw "a part of the president's signature law into temporary disarray." Sotomayor "gave government officials until 10 a.m. EST Friday to respond to her order." It is unlikely a decision on "whether to make the temporary injunction permanent or dissolve it" will be made before then.

The Wall Street Journal (1/2, Landers, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the White House said Wednesday that it remains "confident that our final rules strike the balance of providing women with free contraceptive coverage while preventing nonprofit religious employers with religious objections" from having to pay for the coverage or making arrangements for their employees to get it.

The New York Times (1/2, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Sotomayor has "opened a second front in Supreme Court challenges to the provision." The first front opened when the Court "agreed to hear a pair of cases from for-profit companies challenging that provision." Sotomayor's move requires the Administration to respond "to a different kind of challenge, this one from groups affiliated with religious organizations."

The Washington Times (1/2, Somers, 417K) reports that Sen. Roy Blunt "applauded Justice Sotomayor's decision, calling the contraception mandate 'an egregious and blatant violation' of religious freedoms guaranteed under the First Amendment." Blunt said in a statement, "No American should be forced to surrender their religious freedom or abandon their deeply held religious beliefs." The Times calls Sotomayor's move "the latest setback in a string of implementation problems that the Obama administration has encountered since the rollout of its health care exchanges in October."

Professor Blames "Southern White Radicals" For ACA's Troubled Rollout. The Daily Caller (1/2, Owens, 422K) reports that in an essay posted at the website Politics in Color, Gloria J. Browne-Marshall, who teaches constitutional law courses at the City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice, blames "'southern White radicals' for the disastrous, slow-motion train wreck failure that has been the rollout of the Affordable Care Act." In the essay, which is entitled "2013: A Year of Racial Challenges." Browne-Marhsall writes,

"[S]outhern White radicals vowed to stop implementation of the Obama-care law leading one to wonder if Tea Party members would oppose affordable healthcare if it came from a nonBlack [sic] President."

WPost: "Overriding Task" Now Must Be To Increase ACA Enrollment. An editorial in the Washington Post (1/2, 4.28M) argues that while the ACA has begun "working for a good chunk of those it was designed to help," the "painful truth is that, if it hadn't been for the incompetent rollout of HealthCare.gov and resistance from Republican politicians, more people would have new coverage." The Post argues that the "overriding task" now "is to increase enrollment, particularly among target populations."

RCP AVERAGE HAS OBAMA JOB APPROVAL AT 42.6%. The RealClearPolitics average of recent polling on President Obama's job approval has it at 42.6%, and disapproval at 53.4%. Approval is down 0.1% since yesterday; disapproval is unchanged.

The latest Gallup daily tracking poll of 1,500 "adults" (12/27-12/29) shows the President with a 42% approval rating and 49% disapproval. Rasmussen's automated survey of 1,500 "likely voters" (12/28-12/30) finds Obama's approval at 48%, with 50% disapproving of his performance.

SPERLING CALLS ON CONGRESS TO RENEW JOBLESS BENEFITS THAT JUST EXPIRED. The AP (1/2) reports that outgoing NEC director Gene Sperling has "call[ed] on Congress to make its first legislation of the new year the restoration of unemployment insurance for Americans whose benefits have expired." According to the AP, Sperling "says restoring the benefits would not only help those individuals, but also lead to the creation of 200,000 jobs and economic growth."

Politico (1/2, Kopan, 464K) noted that Sperling said President Obama "'strongly supports' a commitment from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to bring for a vote a bill from Sens. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.) that would extend benefits for three months the day the Senate reconvenes, Jan. 6."

According to the Washington Times (1/2, Sherfinski, 417K), "Democrats and Republicans have clashed over whether the benefits...need to be paid for in other parts of the budget" as House Republicans "say they'll consider a plan to extend the benefits if there's a proposal to pay for them." The Hill (1/1, Trujillo, 194K) reported that the extension sponsored by Heller and Reid "provides no offsets and comes with a $6.4 billion price tag, according to the Congressional Budget Office."

BOTH PARTIES REPACKAGE MESSAGES FOR MIDTERM ELECTIONS. The AP (1/2, Barrow) reports that as they head into a midterm election year, Republicans and Democrats "are looking for fresh ways to pitch old arguments." Republicans "are looking to hammer the clumsy implementation of Obama's health care overhaul and bemoan an economy that, while improving, still grows too slowly." Meanwhile, Democrats say they will run "as the party of average Americans and paint Republicans as out-of-touch allies of the wealthy," and will advocate "populist positions like a minimum wage increase and an end to tax breaks for energy companies, and they're already reminding voters of Republicans' struggle to connect with women, non-whites and younger Americans."

Republicans Optimistic About House, Senate Races. The Wall Street Journal (1/2, King, O'Connor, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that amid the President's declining popularity and the troubled rollout of the ACA, Republicans are optimistic that they can add to their House majority and retake the Senate in the 2014 elections. The Journal notes that while Democrats were faring well amid public anger with the GOP over the government shutdown, following the ACA rollout, a rolling average of national polls showed that voters went from preferring Democratic control of Congress to favoring Republicans.

Partisan Shift In House Seen As Unlikely In 2014 Election. The Los Angeles Times (1/2, Barabak, 3.07M) reports that although the current Congress is the most unpopular in history, its members "will face voters this year and, very likely, win reelection in overwhelming numbers." A Cincinnati focus group led by Democratic pollster Peter Hart found that while Democrats and Republicans "dislike their own representatives," they "hold members of the opposite party in even lower regard." That sentiment "works against the sort of throw-the-bums-out election that would produce wholesale, across-the-board upheaval in the House." The Times notes that there is a greater chance for a partisan shift in the Senate, "where candidates are forced to run statewide rather than hunkering in the partisan strongholds of the House."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Edward Snowden, Whistle-Blower."*** The New York Times (1/2, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) opines that NSA leaker Edward Snowden "deserves better than a life of permanent exile, fear and flight" considering "the enormous value of the information he has revealed, and the abuses he has exposed." Arguing that Snowden "has done his country a great service," the Times says it is time "for the United States to offer Mr. Snowden a plea bargain or some form of clemency that would allow him to return home, face at least substantially reduced punishment in light of his role as a whistle-blower, and have the hope of a life advocating for greater privacy and far stronger oversight of the runaway intelligence community."

"The Campaign For A Bigger Paycheck." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/2, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) calls Democratic plans to "take a more aggressive stand this year" on raising the minimum wage "smart politics" since more than three quarters of Americans "support a wage higher than the current $7.25 an hour, and Republicans will be hard-pressed to explain why they oppose it." The effort, adds the Times, is also "good economics" that would "benefit tens of millions of people." The Times also notes that the Democratic campaign "could help demonstrate to voters how intransigent Republicans have been on the most fundamental and popular elements of a strong recovery."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Keep Calm And Get Insured."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (1/2, 4.28M) argues that while the ACA has begun "working for a good chunk of those it was designed to help," the "painful truth is that, if it hadn't been for the incompetent rollout of HealthCare.gov and resistance from Republican politicians, more people would have new coverage." The Post argues that the "overriding task" now "is to increase enrollment, particularly among target populations."

"Byzantine Struggle." The Washington Post (1/2, 4.28M), in an editorial, notes that Turkish prosecutors "have brought graft charges against the sons of three cabinet ministers, the head of a state bank, a big developer and other figures close to the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan." According to the Post, Erdogan "has responded by firing the prosecutor heading up the case and...by alleging that he is the target of a foreign plot," while Turkey's "pro-government media flatly blame Israel and the United States." The Post says that for the US, "what matters is that Mr. Erdogan — once regarded as a model Islamist leader and treated as a close ally by President Obama — is responding to a political challenge with autocratic tactics and anti-Western diatribes."

"103: A Grim Tally." The Washington Post (1/2, 4.28M) editorializes that Washington, DC "ended 2013 with 103 homicides – a number, swelled by the grim toll of the 12 people wantonly gunned down at the Washington Navy Yard by a lone shooter, that is up from 2012's landmark low of 88 homicides." The Post points out that the nation's capital is, like much of the nation, "seeing a continuation of long-term reductions in violent crime," and notes that Washington "is on the right track with anti-crime efforts," but adds that DC Police Chief Cathy Lanier recently "singled out two areas for concern: deaths connected to bars or clubs and domestic-related killings," and contends that Lanier's warning "should be a cue for improved interventions by public and private social agencies."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"A Bumper Crop Of Bureaucracy."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (1/2, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that while OSHA has no jurisdiction over farming operations with 10 or fewer employees, agency officials have circumvented that restriction by re-categorizing small farms as commercial grain handlers. Noting that Sen. Mike Johanns has assembled a bipartisan coalition of 42 Senators to urge the Labor Secretary to order OSHA to end all actions based on this interpretation of the statute, the Journal calls on the rest of the Senate to join them.

"Carbon To The Rescue." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/2, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes the humor in the fact that the climate scientists on board the Akademik Shokalskiy, which became trapped in ice while on an expedition to study the melting of Antarctic ice sheets, are able to stay alive due to the carbon-based economy. The Journal adds that renewable-energy credits will not power the helicopters and ships that will the next attempt to rescue them.

"The Rope To Hang Them." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (1/2, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) examines the corporate donors to John Podesta's Center for American Progress, noting that the list suggests that Fortune 500 CEOs see a need to buy political protection from the left. The Journal adds that the list should

be kept in mind when liberals discuss corporations opposing government power.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
More Sheriff Hires Broke Rules
Voters May Say In With The Old
Parading Anew
Foreign Fighters Answer Call In Syria
Women Aim To Fly Far

Wall Street Journal:
Health Law Faces New Test
A Few Brave Investors Scored Huge, Market-Beating Wins
Billions Vanish In Banking Scandal
Tech Renegade Pushes Untraceable Currency

New York Times:
Taking Office, De Blasio Vows To Fix Inequity
Boehner Is Said To Back Change On Immigration
Up Early And In Line For A Marijuana Milestone In Colorado
Plenty Of Reminders Of Populism's Limits
For Prostitutes Jailed In China, Forced Labor With No Recourse
Loan Monitor Is Accused Of Ruthless Tactics On Student Debt

Washington Post:
Senate Primary In Hawaii Divides Democrats Along Ethnic, Age Lines
A Sweet Promise Waylaid By Oil
Birth Control Rule Is Delayed
Buyers Line Up For Pot In Colorado
Built To Detect Nuclear Tests, System Has Knack For Science

Financial Times:
Confidence Regained, UK Recovery Expected To Strengthen
Fiat Buys Remaining 41.5 Percent Of Chrysler
Desmond Explores Channel 5 Sale Options
Insurers Make Leap In Cutting Overheads
India Cancels AgustaWestland Order
Strong John Lewis Sales Cheer High Street
Eurozone Rate Divergence Disappoints ECB

Washington Times:
'Russian Bin Laden' Investigated In Attacks
Sotomayor's Ruling Sets Off Another Battle Over Obamacare
Organizers Preaching The Word Of Obamacare
Pentagon Pivots To Social Issues
Crowds Grow Like Weeds For First Legal Sales Of Marijuana

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Storm; Weather Forecast; Antarctica-Helicopter Rescue; Barbara Bush Hospitalized; De Blasio Sworn In; Colorado-Recreational Marijuana; FBI-Fraud Suspect; Russia-Attacks; Snapchat-Security Breach
CBS: Severe Weather; Minneapolis Fire; New York Mayor; Healthcare-Contraceptives; Colorado-Recreational Marijuana; North Dakota-Train Derailment; Antarctica-Helicopter Rescue; California-Life Support Case; Pope-Peace Plea

NBC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Colorado-Recreational Marijuana; Healthcare-Enrollment; Antarctica-Helicopter Rescue; Barbara Bush Hospitalized; New Laws; De Blasio Sworn In; Detroit Mayor

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Winter Weather; Antarctica-Helicopter Rescue; Colorado-Recreational Marijuana; Unemployment Benefits Cut; Former Israel Prime Minister-Kidney Problems
CBS: Severe Winter Weather; Colorado-Recreational Marijuana; Colorado-School Shooting Memorial; Obamacare-Contraceptives; Fiat Buys Chrysler Shares; Sports-Fiesta Bowl
NPR: Unemployment Benefits-Possible Extension; Colorado-Recreational Marijuana; South Sudan-State Of Emergency; Kerry-Israel Palestine Peace Agreement; Severe Winter Storm; Antarctica-Helicopter Rescue; Detroit Mayor
FOX: Colorado-Recreational Marijuana; Healthcare-Contraceptives; Palestinian Official Dies In Czech Republic; North Dakota Train Derailment Cause

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No Scheduled Events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Visits Naples, Florida.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: VIETNAM VETERAN – SILVER STAR — 10 a.m. Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen and Brigadier General Jeffrey Clark, Commander of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, will present George Carlton Bloodworth the Silver Star Medal, the Army's third highest honor. Participants: Congressman Chris Van Hollen; Brigadier General Jeffrey Clark, Commander of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; George Carlton Bloodworth. Location: Office of Congressman Chris Van Hollen, 51 Monroe Street, Suite 507, Rockville, MD 20850.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All shows were in rerun.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, January 3, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Jan 3, 2014 at 6:58 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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+ Mountain States Legal Foundation Challenging Regulatory Overreach.
+ Sen. Landrieu To Take Over As Chairwoman Of Energy And Natural Resources Committee.
+ Sen. Begich Touts Work On Behalf Of Drilling, Mining Industries In Radio Ads.
+ Federal Government Urged To Expand Energy Development.

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+ Pinnacles National Park Spotlighted.
+ Additional Coverage: Grand Canyon Gives Incentive For Quieter Aircraft.

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+ LATimes Supports Solar Project Near Manzanar National Historic Site.
+ New Eagle Rule Criticized.

+ BLM Criticized For Not Prioritizing Private Property In Gateway West Transmission Project Analysis.

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+ House Committee To Examine OIG Report On Rule Developed For Coal Mining.
+ Coal Company Challenging Reclamation Fee.
+ BLM Delays Sale Of Oil-gas Leases In Nevada.
+ Inquirer: Commission Should Reject Pipeline Through Pinelands.

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+ Judge Grants BP Expedited Appeal On Bid To Stop Spill Payments.

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+ Fate Of Contraception Mandate Now In The Hands Of The Supreme Court.
+ New Reports Add To Optimism About The Economy.

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WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:
+ Today's Events In Washington.

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR'S NORTH CENTRAL CLIMATE SCIENCE CENTER AWARDS $1 MILLION FOR RESEARCH. The Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette (1/3, 13K) reports that the Interior Department's North Central Climate Science Center, hosted at Colorado State University's Warner College of Natural Resources, will "award more than $1 million for research designed to guide managers of parks, refuges and other cultural and natural resources in planning how to help species and ecosystems adapt to climate change." According to the article, "three projects selected for funding will focus on how climate change will affect natural resources and suggest management actions to help offset that change."

Also reporting on the story is the Mountain Mail (1/3, 17K).

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES RECEIVE 1% RAISE. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that that "a three-year salary freeze ended yesterday for most federal employees, providing a boost to a workforce that has undergone pension

scale-backs, budget cuts, forced unpaid leave and a 16-day government shutdown over the past year." President Obama "released an executive order Monday that made the 1 percent raise official, beginning Jan. 1." However, "the wheels were set in motion late last year, when Congress passed a spending bill in October that did not mention a raise and hence defaulted to Obama's plan to end an across-the-board pay freeze he ordered in 2010."

SENATORS INTRODUCE BILL TO PREVENT WILDFIRE BORROWING. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that Sens. Ron Wyden and Mike Crapo have introduced a bill "seeking to bolster funding for the Forest Service and Interior Department to fight wildfires, while also freeing up more funds for wildfire prevention." The legislation would "treat the largest fires as natural disasters, funding them from an account separate from the agency's discretionary budget." Wyden, chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said, "Congress needs to fund the biggest, most catastrophic wildfires like the natural disasters they are, and free up funding to break the destructive cycle that underfunds fire prevention and shorts fire management. This bill ends that cycle, puts money back into prevention and provides the resources agencies need to effectively protect rural communities and forests."

MOUNTAIN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION CHALLENGING REGULATORY OVERREACH. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that the Mountain States Legal Foundation, which was "launched in the late 1970s as a conservative counterweight to environmental groups' litigation efforts," has recently "been taking on the government, challenging what it views as regulatory overreach." This month, "the nonprofit foundation based in a Denver suburb will be at the Supreme Court representing a Wyoming property owner who says the Forest Service had no right to build a bicycle trail on an abandoned railway that bisects his property." William Perry Pendley, the foundation's president, said "the case shows the government flouting property rights and acting without accountability." Also, William Perry Pendley, a former Interior Department official and president of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, says there is "no adult supervision" in Washington, D.C.

SEN. LANDRIEU TO TAKE OVER AS CHAIRWOMAN OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that Sen. Max Baucus' "ascension to a plum ambassadorship is weeks if not months away, but the reality of an oil and gas stalwart controlling a Democratic Energy and Natural Resources Committee began to sink in yesterday for both sides in the capital's environmental culture wars." According to the article, "although Baucus' likely departure from the Finance Committee chairmanship he first claimed in 2001 hinges on multiple political variables, the current Energy chief in the upper chamber – Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) – is poised to replace the Montana Democrat and hand over the ENR panel's gavel to Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) in the spring." The article notes that "that leaves a champion of the Keystone XL pipeline and drilling expansion, whose re-election battle next November further heightens the value of industry support, in charge of a committee with outsize importance to the US fuel mix."

Field of Republicans Looking To Oust Sen. Landrieu Grows. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that Louisiana state Rep. Paul Hollis (R) "announced his Senate bid earlier this week, adding a third Republican to the field of challengers looking to knock out Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) this fall." Landrieu, "who is seeking a fourth term, is among the GOP's top targets as the party seeks to flip the six seats it needs to gain majority control of the Senate." Hollis "joins a Republican field that already includes Rep. Bill Cassidy and Entergy Corp. executive Rob Maness." According to the article, "because Louisiana uses an open primary system – in which all candidates compete regardless of party – Landrieu will face all three of her Republican opponents in the November primary with a likely December runoff if no candidate claims a majority of the vote."

SEN. BEGICH TOUTS WORK ON BEHALF OF DRILLING, MINING INDUSTRIES IN RADIO ADS. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that Sen. Mark Begich has "launched his latest pitch in his bid to win re-election, releasing a radio ad that touts his work to support the state's drilling and mining industries." Begich, "a top target for Republicans in this year's election cycle, is working hard to distance himself from national Democrats on most issues, as the GOP seeks to flip the six seats it needs to claim a Senate majority." In the ad, Begich "ticks off accomplishments like new drilling sites at the Greens Creek mine on Admiralty Island, as well as his work with Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) to construct routes through roadless areas to the Niblack and Bokan Mountain mines."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO EXPAND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. In an op-ed for FOX News (1/2, 6.72M), Nathan Mehrens, president of Americans for Limited Government, writes that there "was one bright spot to emerge from Washington D.C.'s latest adventure in bad budgeting: A provision further enhancing our country's

expanding energy independence." The provision "gives formal Congressional approval to oil and gas drilling across 1.5 million acres of the western Gulf of Mexico." Mehrens argues that "cheaper, cleaner and more abundant energy – long a favorite talking point of the Washington enviro-liberals – is becoming a reality in America," but "we could further expand our advantage if lawmakers resist efforts by eco-radicals to stamp out production on federal lands."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DEER CULL TO BEGIN AT ROCK CREEK PARK. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that "deer culling at Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., could begin as soon as today and run through March 31," according to Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles, an NPS spokeswoman. Anzelmo-Sarles said, "We're not releasing specific dates or times or locations to ensure the highest degree of safety." She said that "sharpshooters from the Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services will conduct the project, whose goal is to kill 106 deer."

Also reporting on the story are Reuters (1/3), the Washingtonian Magazine (DC) (1/3, 338K), WTTG-TV Washington (1/3, 169K), WRC-TV Washington (1/3, 291K), and WUSA-TV Washington (1/3, 95K).

NEW SUPERINTENDENT SELECTED FOR GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK. The Gettysburg (PA) Times (1/3, 26K) reports that Ed W. Clark has been selected as the new Superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. Clark has served most recently as Superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park. Clark replaces Superintendent Bob Kirby, who retires on Jan. 3. Clark will begin his new position in early February. NPS Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach said, "Ed's deep understanding of park operations and tremendous partnership skills – as well as deep connections to the Civil War community – make him the ideal candidate to lead one of the most significant battlefields in the nation, if not the world. Ed's network and skill-set will serve the park staff, community and visitors well."

Also reporting on the story are the Hanover (PA) Evening Sun (1/3, 38K) and the York (PA) Daily Record (1/3, 204K).

PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK SPOTLIGHTED. In its "Travel" section, the Washington Post (1/3, Soslow, 4.28M) spotlights Pinnacles National Park.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GRAND CANYON GIVES INCENTIVE FOR QUIETER AIRCRAFT. Additional coverage of the reduced fees for "air tour operators that use technology to quiet the sound of aircraft at Grand Canyon" was provided by the Washington Post (1/2, Press, 4.28M), the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/3, 80K), and Yahoo! News Canada (1/3, 76K).

Bureau of Land Management:

GROUP AWARDS AREA BLM OFFICES FOR WILDERNESS INVENTORIES. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (1/3, 27K) reports that in 2013, two BLM field offices in northwestern Colorado received an award from a conservation group. According to the article, "once each year, the Wilderness Society, a national environmental organization dedicated to protecting wilderness, gives out Comparative Analysis of Particular Excellence – or CAPE – awards to deserving BLM field offices across the country." The article notes that "Kent Walter, field manager of BLM's White River Field Office (WRFO) in Meeker, and Wendy Reynolds, his counterpart at the Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) in Craig, shared a four-cape award for their inventories of lands with wilderness characteristics."

AMENDMENT TO LEGISLATION COULD SAVE ALASKA CABIN. The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (1/2, 198K) reports that "a man from the southwest Alaska village of Saint Marys is one step closer to saving his remote cabin, thanks to a recent action by a US Senate committee. The BLM said William Alstrom's cabin "had to go because it is illegally located on the Andreafsky Wilderness in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge." However, "Alstrom contacted Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski about the matter, and the senator drafted an amendment to exempt the cabin," which was attached to the Green Mountain Lookout Act," and the Senate

Energy Committee "recently passed the legislation and it's expected to go to the full Senate for consideration."

BLM TO HOLD HEARINGS ON GEMFIELD MINE. The Pahrump (NV) Valley Times (1/3, 23K) reports that the BLM has "published a notice of intent in the Federal Register to begin the environmental impact statement for the proposed Gemfield mine in Esmeralda County." The BLM "identified preliminary issues including the relocation of Highway 95, closure of the cyanide heap leach pad, impacts to cultural resources, impacts to vegetation and wildlife and socioeconomic concerns related to the anticipated influx of mine workers."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

COUNTIES RECEIVE MONEY FOR REFUGE LANDS. The Rochester (MN) Post-Bulletin (1/3, 57K) reports that Wabasha County received $4,383 and Winona County $4,111 from the FWS "to compensate them for taxes they didn't get from land in Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge." In total, "counties, cities and townships in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois received $113,950 in August."

FWS TO EVALUATE PESTICIDES. The Stockton (CA) Record (1/2, 123K) reports that "six widely used pesticides will be evaluated" by the FWS "over the next two years to determine whether they are being properly regulated to avoid having them contribute to the extinction of the California red-legged frog." The service "agreed to look at the effects of the pesticides to settle a lawsuit filed three years ago by the Center for Biological Diversity." According to the article, "the review of the effects of the pesticides, formally called a 'consultation' by federal officials, will be one of the first under a recently reformed system for pesticide evaluation by federal agencies that takes effect in 2014."

IDAHO HUNTING CONTEST RESULTS IN 23 KILLED COYOTES, BUT NO WOLVES. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that that "hunters killed nearly two dozen coyotes – but no wolves – in a controversial Idaho hunting contest." According to the article, "about 250 contestants participated in the contest, which took place on land in Salmon-Challis National Forest near Salmon, Idaho." During the contest, 23 coyotes were killed.

MEASURES BEING CONSIDERED TO REDUCE SNOW GEESE. The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (1/2, 27K) reports that "the number of snow and blue geese has tripled since the 1960s, to more than 6 million today," and "they are destroying their fragile Arctic breeding grounds." The FWS "started looking for ways to bring this mushrooming population to a level its habitat can sustain." Jamie Clark of the FWS said, "Too many snow geese are descending each year on nesting areas that simply can't support them all. Steps must be taken or these fragile ecosystems will continue to deteriorate to the point that they can no longer support geese or other species of wildlife that share this arctic habitat."

CONSERVATIONIST ARGUES WOLVES MUST NOT LOSE THEIR ENDANGERED STATUS. In an op-ed appearing at Yahoo! (1/3, WetzlerNatural Resources Defense Council (nrdc), 17.91M) , Andrew Wetzler, director of the Land & Wildlife Program at the NRDC, criticized the proposal by the FWS to remove the gray wolf from the federal list of endangered species. Wetzler claims that "the scientific evidence justifying the delisting of wolves, particularly in the Northeast is shaky at best. It's not the law." Furthermore, "there are numerous legal problems with the delisting."

US Geological Survey:

INCREASE IN EARTHQUAKES IN OKLAHOMA COULD BE LINKED TO FRACKING. National Public Radio (1/3, Wertz, 465K) reports that in October, the USGS "warned that Oklahoma's risk of quakes has increased tenfold." Bill Leith, senior science adviser for earthquake and geologic hazards at the USGS, said, "That doesn't mean that there's going to be a large earthquake tomorrow, or next month, or next year even. But those probabilities are up very substantially." Leith "says there's evidence linking Oklahoma's earthquakes to the state's large oil and gas industry."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

PENSION DANMARK EXTENDS FINANCING DEADLINE FOR CAPE WIND PROJECT. The Wall Street Journal (1/3, Bomsdorf, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Pension Danmark remains committed to its $200 million investment in Cape Wind despite the offshore wind project failing to find additional investors before 2013 ended. Officials with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners K/S, the public pension fund Pension Danmark is investing through, said the project is progressing well and expect that it will qualify for the investment tax credit. Details are sparse, but CIP has agreed to extend the deadline to an undisclosed date. Cape Wind spokesman Mark Rodgers said they are confident the $2 billion project will attract investors and expect financing to be completed by mid-2014.

LATIMES SUPPORTS SOLAR PROJECT NEAR MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. An editorial in the Los Angeles Times (1/3, 3.07M) writes in support of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Owens Valley solar project. The Times notes the criticism of opponents, who believe that the project would "damage the sense of desolation" and the Manzanar National Historic Site, an internment camp during World War II. While the editorial expresses understanding for their concern, it says that "California is obligated to both its past and its future," and that the project, while visible from Manzanar, would be silent and not "visually intrusive." The Times concludes, "accepting that change, while protecting signposts of our history, is an ongoing challenge. This project meets it."

NEW EAGLE RULE CRITICIZED. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (1/3, 731K) editorializes that the Obama Administration has "proposed new rules that would allow the operators of the wind farms to apply for 30-year permits allowing them leeway in the number of migratory birds they kill, so long as the operator has a plan in place to help mitigate the danger." The paper noes that "the question of raptor deaths will play a large role in the speed and cost of construction" of the Chokecherry/Sierra Madre wind power project. The editorial suggests that "if the administration is going to loosen its standards for deaths of migratory birds from wind turbines, it should be looking at other ways in which birds can and should be protected — permits could be tied to retrofitting older power poles that are known electrocution risks for raptors, and turbine operators could be required to be wary during known migration periods."

BLM CRITICIZED FOR NOT PRIORITIZING PRIVATE PROPERTY IN GATEWAY WEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT ANALYSIS. In an op-ed for the Salem (OR) Capital Press (1/2, Priestley, 113K), Frank Priestley, president of the Idaho Farm Bureau, notes that "in its selection process of a route for a massive power transmission line across southern Idaho," the BLM "listed eight criteria used in the decision making process," and "Route on public land where practical" came in seventh. Priestley writes that "it's astonishing that the right to own private property, one of the most basic freedoms outlined by our nation's forefathers, slips to seventh place on a list like this." Priestley blasts the BLM for "analyzing the six criteria deemed more important than private property rights," including threats to sage grouse.

Onshore Energy Development:

REGULATORS LAUNCH NEW PROBES AFTER TRAIN BLAST IN NORTH DAKOTA. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that "a mile-long oil train derailed Monday in North Dakota, resulting in overturned tankers and explosions." While "ho one was harmed in the BNSF Railway train derailment near Casselton, N.D.," federal investigators and railroad and energy company officials have begun "to look into whether the oil either was mislabeled or included additives that have resulted in the explosions."

Meanwhile, the E&E Daily (1/2) reports that "federal regulators in the midst of an inspection 'blitz' targeting rail shipments from the fertile Bakken Shale play today warned that the light crude propelling a domestic oil renaissance 'may be more flammable' than its heavier counterparts, adding momentum to a push for stronger regulation of the rapid growth in fuel trains." The safety alert issued by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration "opens a window into a summertime investigation it jointly launched with the Federal Railroad Administration after a train carrying Bakken crude fatally derailed in Quebec." Since that probe started, PHMSA said, "the agencies have found it necessary to expand the scope of their testing" of Bakken crudes to include factors affecting "corrosivity, toxicity, flammability" and other chemical properties that affect how oil is classified for rail transportation.

Safety Concerns Intensify With More Oil Traveling Rail-Freight Lines. The Wall Street Journal (1/3, Gold, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) yesterday issued a warning that crude oil from North Dakota's Bakken Shale may be more flammable than ordinary crude oil. The agencies, part of the Department of Transportation, are warning shippers to test the oil and remove gases if necessary to insure safe transportation.

The New York Times (1/3, Wald, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the DOT had already "warned that shippers were failing to follow basic precautions, like determining the temperature at which oil will turn into a gas and burn or explode, and selecting appropriate tank cars to transport the material." The story quotes NTSB chairman Deborah A. P. Hersman saying, "It's called 'hazardous material' for a reason."

The AP (1/2, MacPherson) reports that both Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, and Casselton Mayor Ed McConnell remarked that the warning contained no new information. Ness said that it was the oil's "lower flash point" that "makes it a desired commodity," and McConnell said, "The important thing and the intent here is to keep pressure on the federal and state government to make things safer." But Jeannie Shiffer of the PHMSA said, "The material must be properly classified at the beginning of the process. That determines everything."

Reuters (1/2, Rucker) quotes the PHMSA warning "the type of crude being transported from the Bakken region may be more flammable than traditional heavy crude oil." The warning also urged producers to "sufficiently degasify" the oil for safety. Reuters also estimated that it could cost $3 billion to upgrade tank cars safely to hold oil with greater amounts of gas.

The Los Angeles Times (1/3, Vartabedian, 3.07M) reports on the warning and "mounting concerns over public safety," as well as NTSB's "first broad examination of the safety of moving petroleum by rail."

OSM TO REVIEW WEST VIRGINIA MINING OVERSIGHT. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that OSM has said it would "conduct an in-depth review of West Virginia's oversight program following a petition from environmental and community groups." The article notes that "more than a dozen groups – including the Sierra Club, Earthjustice, Coal River Mountain Watch and the Center for Biological Diversity – outlined a series of grievances against the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in their 102-page petition last June." In a letter to the groups, OSM Appalachian Regional Director Thomas Shope wrote that "14 of the 19 allegations set forth in the petition will not be further evaluated." However, Shope said that "it will continue reviewing the remaining five allegations 'to determine whether there is reason to believe WVDEP is not effectively implementing, administering, maintaining, or enforcing the approved [West Virginia] program.'"

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE OIG REPORT ON RULE DEVELOPED FOR COAL MINING. The Hill (1/3, 194K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that the House Natural Resources Committee is beginning the year with "a hearing spotlighting President Obama's 'war on coal.'" The hearing will focus on "a recent report released by the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG), which probed the administration's process of rewriting a 2008 stream protection rule." The OIG found that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement changed "a variable in determining the impacts associated with the new rule" to reduce reported costs even though it would produce a "less accurate number."

COAL COMPANY CHALLENGING RECLAMATION FEE. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that "a small West Virginia coal company is attacking the constitutionality of a federal industry fee for abandoned mine reclamations, part of a long-running dispute between the coal mining industry and its regulators." Coal River Energy LLC claims the OSM is "running afoul of the Constitution's export clause when it charges the fee at the point of sale rather than at the point of extraction on coal destined for overseas markets."

BLM DELAYS SALE OF OIL-GAS LEASES IN NEVADA. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/3, 22K) reports that the BLM "in Nevada has changed the date for the oil and gas lease sale of parcels in the Elko and Southern Nevada Districts from April 15 to June 24." According to the article, "the new date will allow time for the NEPA analysis to be completed and will change the end of the protest period from Feb. 16 to April 20."

INQUIRER: COMMISSION SHOULD REJECT PIPELINE THROUGH PINELANDS. The Philadelphia Inquirer (1/3, 1.22M) in an editorial said, "When New Jersey and the federal government decided to protect the 1.1 million

acres known as the Pinelands, they were thinking about the future of the irreplaceable forest, its endangered species, and aquifers filled with drinking water below its sandy soil." The proposal by South Jersey Gas Co. would "violate the well-conceived Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan by putting a 22-mile-long natural gas pipeline through the forest." The Inquirer concludes that "the commission can grant the pipeline request, or it can protect the Pines and its own integrity."

Offshore Energy Development:

SPECULATION CONTINUES OVER WHETHER PODESTA WILL ADVISE WHITE HOUSE ON ARCTIC DRILLING. The National Journal (1/3, Geman, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that now that the Obama Administration has specifically said John Podesta "won't get near the Keystone Pipeline review," environmentalists are hoping he will be able to "influence another high-stakes" oil debate – Arctic drilling. Podesta is opposed to drilling in Arctic waters off the coast of Alaska, and the Interior Department faces "some big decisions" over drilling in the region. The Interior Department and "a White House aide" wouldn't comment on whether Podesta's issues might include Arctic drilling.

Murkowski Says US Is Behind In Arctic. The Hill (1/3, Barron-Lopez, 194K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) said that the US is "behind — behind in our thinking, behind in our vision," with respect to other nations with claims in the Arctic, even as the US is preparing to take on the chairmanship of the eight-nation Arctic Council beginning in 2015.

JUDGE GRANTS BP EXPEDITED APPEAL ON BID TO STOP SPILL PAYMENTS. Bloomberg News (1/3, Fisk, Calkins, 1.91M) reports that BP Plc "won fast-track consideration by an appeals court of it bid to block economic-loss payments tied to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill unless the claims can be directly linked to the disaster." BP said last week that US District Judge Carl Barbier in New Orleans "has ignored the appellate court's earlier decision requiring him to review causation in determining which claims should be paid," and "asked an appeals panel for immediate review while lawyers for spill victims sought a delay." Circuit Judge Edith Brown Clement in New Orleans on Thursday granted BP's request for expedited consideration, and "directed spill victims to respond to BP's motion by Jan. 8 and both sides to file letters that day on the causation issue."

BP Urges Appeal Court To Require Businesses To Prove Losses Sought In Claims. The E&E Daily (1/2) reports that "BP PLC asked the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals to order a US district judge to block payments to Gulf Coast businesses under a settlement of private claims unless they can prove their financial losses were related to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill." The firm also "asked the appeals court to throw out an order by US District Judge Carl Barbier that allowed nonprofit organizations to count drops in contributions as losses attributable to the oil spill."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR TO HOST OPEN HOUSES ON EMERGENCY PLANS FOR SCOGGINS DAM. The Portland (OR) Tribune (1/3, 107K) reports that the BOR, which owns Scoggins Dam, will "host two open houses next week to talk about emergency preparation with downstream landowners." According to the article, "the meetings stem from a study completed in 2012 that identified earthquake-related risks for the 151-foot-tall structure."

Also reporting on the story is The Oregonian (1/3, 751K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN RELEASES STATEMENT FOLLOWING DEATH OF FORREST GERARD. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/2, 21K) reports that "following the death of Forrest J. Gerard, Blackfeet Tribe and the first Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs on December 28, Kevin K. Washburn, current secretary, released a statement on behalf of the entire Department of the Interior." Washburn said, "Forrest Gerard will loom large in the history books as a key figure in American Indian policy. As a congressional staffer, he helped advance the interests of both the United States and Indian country by shepherding through Congress the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975, which formally marked the end of the Termination Era and the beginning of an important new chapter in federal-tribal relations." He added, "On a personal note, I will always

value the advice Mr. Gerard offered as I began my own service as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Gerard family and the Blackfeet Tribe community. He will be greatly missed."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN FINALIZES CHANGES TO LAND-INTO-TRUST PROCEDURES. The Cherokee (OK) Phoenix (1/3, 442) reports that "in advance of the fifth White House Tribal Nations Conference, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn announced Nov. 12 a final rule that demonstrates the Obama administration's continuing commitment to restoring tribal homelands and furthering economic development on Indian reservations." Washburn said, "This rule provides greater certainty to tribes in their ability to develop lands acquired in trust for purposes such as housing, schools and economic development. For such acquisitions, the rule will create a 'speak now or forever hold your peace moment' in the land-into-trust process. If parties do not appeal the decision within the administrative appeal period, tribes will have the certainty and peace of mind to begin development without fear that the decision will be later overturned."

BIA STILL REVIEWING MASHPEE WAMPANOAG COMPACT FOR TAUNTON CASINO. The Taunton (MA) Gazette (1/3, 36K) reports that "the new version of a compact for a proposed tribal casino in Taunton was still under review as of press time Thursday, according to a spokesperson from the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs' office." The article notes that "Thursday was the last day of the statutory review period of the compact."

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL HOW WELL THE ACA IS FUNCTIONING. As predicted by many analysts before the new year, the early days of the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act have generated a great deal of coverage featuring the "dueling narratives" from supporters and critics of the law. Anecdotes about the newly insured are pitted against reports on those who are experiencing problems as a result of the ACA. Perhaps as a result of the paucity of hard data this early in the year, the volume of healthcare reform coverage is relatively light.

Diane Sawyer, on ABC World News (1/2, story 5, 1:50, Sawyer, 7.43M), said, "We are in the beginning of a new era in healthcare in America" because "Obamacare [is] now in effect." Jonathan Karl reported on a woman for whom "the dawn of Obamacare means better health coverage, money saved, and a chance to make her first doctor's appointment in nearly a year." However, Karl added that "it's not all smooth sailing," and "it's too soon to tell if Obamacare is working." Karl reported that the Administration "can't say how many who have picked up the plan have actually paid for it," and that "there are early signs not enough healthy and young people are signing up in order to keep costs low." Karl continued, "And many...may find their current doctors are no longer covered under the new plans."

The AP (1/3, Williams), under the headline, "Relief, Confusion As New Health Benefits Begin," reports that in the new year, "the burden for implementing the law now shifts to insurance companies and health care providers." According to the AP, "although...[HealthCare.gov] is apparently fixed for consumers, the start of the year was expected to bring plenty of confusion," and Medicaid "already was experiencing problems in some states." The AP notes that while "Administration officials said this week that 2.1 million consumers have enrolled through the federal and state-run health insurance exchanges," it is not yet known "how many of those who signed up for coverage on the exchanges will follow through and pay their premiums."

The Wall Street Journal (1/3, Mathews, Martin, Weaver, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an article titled, "Consumers Hit Snags As Health Law Kicks In: Americans Seeking Medical Care And Prescriptions Got Mixed Results With The Nation's Newly-minted Insurance Plans," reports that insurers are already dealing with claims from those who erroneously believed they purchased a plan via an exchange.

On the other hand, according to Politico (1/3, Millman, 464K), insurers "aren't yet reporting major issues with people unable to access coverage." Politico says "providers, insurers and patient advocates say it's too early to know whether" the newly insured "are rushing to get care or running into problems when they try to use their new insurance for the first time."

On Fox News' Special Report (1/3, 2.15M), Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI), the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, was shown saying, "Time will tell in the next couple of weeks...in terms of whether people

that show up are actually" covered.

GOP State AGs Claim Obama's ACA "Fix" Is Illegal. In an online report, FOX News (1/3, 6.72M) reported that in a letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius, 11 state attorneys general "slamm[ed] the Obama administration for making repeated changes to ObamaCare without consulting congressional lawmakers, which they say is illegal." According to Fox, the AGs "specifically criticize...the administration's decision to allow insurance companies to sell policies that would otherwise be out of compliance with the Affordable Care Act for another year," which they claim "flies in the face of both federal and state law because it 'compounds illegal executive action.'" On Fox News' Special Report (1/3, 2.15M), Mike Emanuel reported that the AGs are "accusing the Administration of breaking the law by making numerous changes to Obamacare, bypassing Congress."

The Charleston (WV) State Journal (1/3, 1K) reports that West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said, "We support allowing citizens to keep their health insurance coverage, but any changes to the law must be done legally and through the proper channels. The administration may not decide single-handedly which parts of the law it will enforce and which parts it will ignore. The only way to fix this problem-ridden law is through congressional action." According to the West Virginia Record (WV) (1/3, Dickerson, 313), Morrisey "is leading a response to a proposed federal rule about the implementation of the Affordable Care Act."

Kim Strassel, in her column for the Wall Street Journal (1/3, Strassel, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), notes that several of the executive actions that the President used to modify the ACA benefited either allies of his or corporate interests with powerful lobbyists.

The Hill (1/3, Shabad, 194K) notes that all 11 AGs are Republicans. According to the Hill, "security on the state and federal health insurance exchanges is another major issue" the AGs "say they want the Obama administration to improve." In the letter to Sebelius, they claimed that HHS "continues to 'ignore the widespread public outcry over the security of consumers' private information' on exchanges.'"

Gallup: 59% Of Uninsured Americans Rated Exchange Experience As "Negative" in December. The Hill (1/3, Trujillo, 194K) reports that a Gallup poll released on Thursday found that 59% "of uninsured Americans reported having a negative experience with the new ObamaCare health exchanges in December," while 39% "reported a positive experience," which is "a rise of 6 percent from October and November." However, "only 7 percent reported a 'very positive' experience, while 29 percent had a 'very negative' experience."

The Washington Times (1/3, Sherfinski, 417K) noted that, according to Gallup, 26% "of uninsured Americans say they've visited an exchange, up from 20 percent for October and November," while 30% "say they're more likely to forgo insurance and pay the law's fine rather than sign up."

Cantor: House Will Vote On ACA Cybersecurity Legislation. Politico (1/3, Cunningham, 464K) reported that on Thursday, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said he "plans to schedule a vote next week on a measure placing more security requirements on the new Obamacare insurance exchanges." According to Politico, Republicans "spent much of last year warning that Americans' personal information could be compromised on the insurance exchanges," while the Administration "has said no such breaches have occurred."

On Fox News' Special Report (1/3, 2.15M), Mike Emanuel reported that in a memo released Thursday, Cantor "raised security concerns related to" HealthCare.gov, and "cite[d] an Experian report, which says, 'The Healthcare industry, by far, will be the most susceptible to publicly disclosed and widely scrutinized data breaches in 2014.'" Cantor was shown saying, "The administration has tried to hide the security problems that exist with the website that one official called 'limitless' prior to the website's launch."

According to The Hill (1/3, Berman, 194K), Cantor "cited the recent data breach at Target in which hackers gained access to the financial information of millions of customers." The Hill also reported that "four House committees have held hearings documenting the risks of data breaches within HealthCare.gov, and Cantor accused the Obama administration of downplaying the threat because it didn't want to scare people away from signing up for insurance."

McDermott: ACA Will Prove To Be A Political Boon For Democrats. The Washington Times (1/3, Sherfinski, 417K) reported that on MSNBC Thursday, Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) said, "For the first time many people

have health care and that's going to be an issue that Democrats I think can run on and be very proud of, and the other side's going to have a hard time explaining why it isn't good for people to have health insurance and be protected against previous problems they've had and getting their children covered. That's going to be hard."

Eugene Robinson, in his column for the Washington Post (1/3, Robinson, 4.28M), contends that "any existential threat to the Affordable Care Act...ended with the popping of champagne corks as the new year arrived." According to Robinson, "Obamacare is now a fait accompli," and "nobody is going to take this coverage away."

Krauthammer: Congress Needs To Repeal ACA Provisions That Could Facilitate "Bailout" For Insurers. Charles Krauthammer, in his column for the Washington Post (1/3, Krauthammer, 4.28M), says the "first order of business for the returning Congress" ought to be passage of a bill titled, "The No Bailout for Insurance Companies Act of 2014," which should be just "one line long: 'Sections 1341 and 1342 of the Affordable Care Act are hereby repealed.'" According to Krauthammer, those sections of the ACA create a "'reinsurance' fund collected from insurers and self-insuring employers" that can be used to pay for "the 'risk corridor' provision that mandates a major taxpayer payout covering up to 80 percent of insurance-company losses."

RCP AVERAGE HAS OBAMA JOB APPROVAL AT 42.6%. The RealClearPolitics average of recent polling on President Obama's job approval has it at 42.6%, and disapproval at 53.4%. Approval and disapproval are unchanged since yesterday.

The latest Gallup daily tracking poll of 1,500 "adults" (12/27-12/29) shows the President with a 42% approval rating and 49% disapproval. Rasmussen's automated survey of 1,500 "likely voters" (12/28-12/30) finds Obama's approval at 48%, with 50% disapproving of his performance.

FATE OF CONTRACEPTION MANDATE NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE SUPREME COURT. The Detroit News (1/3, Kozlowski, 619K) reports that the Michigan Catholic Conference "hopes a federal court injunction this week could lead to the church being exempt from the Affordable Care Act's mandated contraception coverage in health insurance policies." The News notes that "a three-judge panel of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals this week granted a temporary injunction against the federal law that requires the Catholic Conference to provide birth control coverage...or risk steep fines."

According to the Los Angeles Times (1/3, A1, Savage, Levey, 3.07M), "After more than two years of negotiations, a compromise that satisfies everyone appears out of reach." The Times says the Administration and Catholic bishops "are so far apart they don't even agree on what rests at the heart of the debate."

NYTimes Criticizes Sotomayor's "Perplexing Decision." The New York Times (1/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, takes issue with Justice Sonia Sotomayor's "perplexing decision to issue a temporary injunction against requiring an order of Colorado nuns to fill out paperwork required by the health care reform law's contraception mandate." According to the Times, "A careful review of the matter should persuade" the court "that the alleged threat to religious liberty is nonexistent," and that "the suit by the nuns' group boils down to an unjustified attempt by an employer to impose its religious views on workers."

Report: States Passed 70 Provisions Restricting Abortion In 2013. The Washington Times (1/3, Wetzstein, 417K) reports that according to the Guttmacher Institute, in 2013, state lawmakers "passed 70 provisions restricting abortions." In its report on 2013 state policies, Guttmacher said that taken together, "the new restrictions mean that 56 percent of women live in 27 states that are 'hostile' to abortion." The Times notes that Guttmacher "counts provisions individually, so one abortion-related law can have more than one provision."

NEW REPORTS ADD TO OPTIMISM ABOUT THE ECONOMY. McClatchy (1/3, Hall, 95K) reports that economic data released yesterday "point to a solid close to 2013." The ISM Manufacturing Index "came in with a reading of 57 for December," in "a sign of solid gains in manufacturing." The Census Bureau, meanwhile, said construction spending "climbed by 1 percentage point in November, well ahead of a consensus of most forecasters of about 0.7 percentage points." Moreover, the Labor Department reported "first-time claims for unemployment benefits dropped a tad to 339,000 for the week ending Dec. 28, 2013," even if the four-week average "nudged up to 357,250."

Remarking on the same three economic reports, Reuters (1/3, Mutikani) quotes Joel Naroff, chief economist at

Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, PA as saying, "The underlying trends are pointing to the economy accelerating as we move through the year. Conditions seem to be coming together for a very good year."

The Wall Street Journal (1/3, Cronin, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) runs a similar story under the headline "US Factories Begin To Hit Growth Stride," while Bloomberg News (1/3, Chandra, 1.91M) notes the ISM number means "manufacturing grew in December at the second-fastest pace in more than two years," and that "factory purchasing managers said orders were the strongest since April 2010."

Stocks Finish Lower. The AP (1/3, Rothwell) reports attributes the lower stock prices yesterday to a "sharp drop in the price of oil." The Dow Jones "lost 135 points, or 0.8 percent, to close at 16,441," the S&P "fell 16 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,831," and the Nasdaq "lost 33 points, or 0.8 percent, at 4,143." The Wall Street Journal (1/3, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), among other news outlets, also reports the story.

Dollar Surges In Year's First Day Of Trading. The Wall Street Journal (1/3, Hong, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on the first day of trading of 2014, the US dollar surged amid expectations that the recovering economy will attract overseas investors and enable the Fed to begin drawing down its stimulus efforts. The Journal notes that the euro saw its largest one-day percentage decline against the dollar since November, dropping below $1.37. Similarly, the Turkish lira fell to a record low against the dollar and the South African rand dropped to its weakest level against the dollar since November 2008. In addition, the Brazilian real declined to a four-month low.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Mayor de Blasio Looks Forward."*** An editorial in the New York Times (1/3, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) takes a more describes New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's inaugural speech as "an encouraging moment," in which the Mayor "insisted that progressive talking would now give way to progressive governing, without dilution or dithering." The Times says that de Blasio "deserves credit for an ambitious, admirable agenda," and notes that everyone in New York City "should be looking forward to his efforts to give a voice to the voiceless, to ease the suffering of the poor, and to increase opportunities for all."

"No Burden On Religion." The New York Times (1/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, takes issue with Justice Sonia Sotomayor's "perplexing decision to issue a temporary injunction against requiring an order of Colorado nuns to fill out paperwork required by the health care reform law's contraception mandate." According to the Times, "A careful review of the matter should persuade" the court "that the alleged threat to religious liberty is nonexistent," and that "the suit by the nuns' group boils down to an unjustified attempt by an employer to impose its religious views on workers."

"Scouting's Incomplete Evolution." The New York Times (1/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that 2014 "brings a positive change in the membership practices of the Boy Scouts of America," as in May, delegates to the organization's national convention "voted to allow openly gay boys to participate in the group's activities," an "overdue step toward inclusion" that took effect on New Year's Day, "a welcome – though incomplete – turn for an organization that until quite recently rejected any change in its discriminatory ways." The Times notes that the organization "will continue to prohibit gay and lesbian adults from serving as troop leaders," and urges former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who will become president of the organization in May, to "agree that the ban on gay troop leaders is unacceptable and see that it is quickly ended."

"Saving New Jersey's Coast." The New York Times (1/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that Hurricane Sandy "made a direct hit on New Jersey just over a year ago, killing 34 people and devastating much of the state's Atlantic coast," and now, "communities that want to build sand dunes to provide protection when (not if) another storm hits are being thwarted by landowners who have refused to allow the dunes to be built on their property." The Times notes that the state "and some local communities are threatening to seize parts of their property" by eminent domain "and build the dunes anyway." The Times argues that "public safety is a legitimate reason to exercise eminent domain," contending that it "is unfair for a few to jeopardize the lives and property of so many others." The Times also notes that New Jersey Governor Chris Christie in September "signed an executive order requiring the attorney general to 'immediately coordinate legal action' to acquire the necessary easements."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Keeping Faith In Afghanistan."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/3, 4.28M) writes the US "must not leave any ambiguity about the fate of the" Afghan "interpreters who aided US forces over the past 13 years." While "Congress has approved a special immigrant visa program" for them, and according to the State Department 5,000 are "already at various stages" of the application process, "not all may be approved." Moreover, "as bases close, more applications may come." Noting that Secretary of State Kerry "has insisted on getting this right," the Post urges Congress to "extend the Afghan program," including as new criteria for applying "potential future threats confronting" the "men and women who served shoulder to shoulder with US soldiers."

"New York's Great Equalizer?" An editorial in the Washington Post (1/3, 4.28M) argues that while New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio "ran on a pledge to end the Big Apple's glaring income inequality," it is concerned that he "might undermine efforts that would generate more equal opportunity in the long run." The Post cites former Mayor Michael Bloomberg's attempts to reform city schools and notes that while the effort "is still a work in progress," de Blasio "seems to side with those who want to scrap Mr. Bloomberg's efforts rather than build on them." The Post argues that "giving poor children access to good schools" is the most important way to reduce inequality and adds that "of all the political forces that propelled Mr. de Blasio into office, none is less truly progressive than the backlash against school reform."

"No Money? No Problem." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/3, 4.28M) criticizes a decision by D.C. officials to send 30 employees of the city's parks and recreation department "to a conference in Texas at the height of the federal government shutdown." Noting that the trip cost taxpayers $54,000, the Post says the decision "reflected the poorest of judgment." The Post adds that while some members of city council "are talking about legislation to formally limit the amount of money agencies can spend on travel," such a move "would be legislative overreach and a poor substitute for the simple use of common sense when expending public funds."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Colorado's Pot Experiment."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (1/3, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that states should closely monitor changes in the rates of marijuana-related crime and delinquency, teenage use, drug dependence and addiction, and accidents on the roads or ski slopes in Colorado to determine whether the benefits to marijuana legalization outweigh the societal costs. The Journal argues that if the effects of legalization prove to be negative, Colorado and Washington State voters may regret their decision.

"It Isn't Climate Change." Noting the cold temperatures across the nation, the Wall Street Journal (1/3, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) bemoans in an editorial the fact that spells of heat or cold in the US seem to routinely lead to politicized debates about global warming.

"Victory In Okinawa." The Wall Street Journal (1/3, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) hails in an editorial the agreement allowing the US to move its base in Futenma to the coast of Okinawa. The Journal credits Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with helping bring about the deal, along with a growing fear of Chinese military aggression. That fear, says the Journal, could also lead to stronger military ties between the US and the Philippines, South Korea, Vietnam and other nations in the region.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Law License Breaks New Ground
Deep Division Persists On Birth Control
Town Burned But Unbowed
Blast Prompts New Look At Safety Of Oil Trains

Xi Puts Party On Charm Offensive

Wall Street Journal:
Hezbollah Upgrades Missile Threat To Israel

Dollar Off To A Roaring Start In New Year
Afghan Forces Score Gains As US Starts To Pull Back
Study: Expanding Medicaid Boosts ER Visits

New York Times:
Qaeda-Aligned Militants Threaten Key Iraqi Cities
Emergency Visits Seen Increasing With Health Law
Allowed To Join The Bar, But Not To Take A Job
At Work, Mayor Finds Full Plate Of Headaches
Karzai Is Warned Over Release Of Detainees
Banned Substances Claim An Outsize Role In Athletics In India
Kerry Quietly Makes Priority Of Climate Pact
A Snowstorm Brings Delays, And Preparations

Washington Post:
The Mexican Town That Runs America's Fairs
US, Russia Face Strain Five Years After A 'Reset'
NSA Aims To Crack Most Online Codes
DC Making Transition To Elder Care At Home
A Puppet Of Terrorists, Or A Harmless TV Favorite?

Financial Times:
Debenhams Chief Under Fire After CFO Departure
Tech Start-up Hubs Blossom Worldwide
Redwood's Big Bang Fairytale
Fiat-Chrysler Aims To List In New York
Facebook Faces Suit Over Data Allegations
Cyber Security Deal Highlights Spying Fears
Walmart Recalls Chinese Donkey Meat

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Mayors; Weather Forecast; Antarctica-Helicopter Rescue; Healthcare; New Laws-Marijuana; Barbara Bush Hospitalized; Pope Popularity
CBS: Severe Winter Weather; Winter Weather-Highway Closings; Winter Storm-Traveling; North Dakota Train Derailment Investigation; Healthcare-Emergency Room; California-Immigrant Law License; FBI Fugitive Caught; Toronto-Mayor
NBC: Severe Winter Weather; Winter Weather Forecast; Winter Storm; Antarctica-Helicopter Rescue; Beirut Bombings; Israel-Former Prime Minister; FBI Fugitive Caught; Hacking Scandal; Colorado-Recreational Marijuana; Barbara Bush Hospitalized

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Winter Storm; Philadelphia-Worker Killed; California-Priest Murder Suspect Arrested; Chinese Embassy Fire; Toronto-Mayor
CBS: Severe Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Travel Delays; FBI Fugitive Caught; John Boehner-Immigration Reform; US-Syrian Chemical Weapon Disposal
NPR: Severe Winter Storm; California-Immigrant Law License; US-Syrian Chemical Weapon Disposal; China-Embassy Protection; Cambodia-Worker Protests; Central African Republic-Ex President Calls For Resignation; General Mills- Bans Genetically Modified Ingredients
FOX: Severe Winter Storm; Boeing-Contract Vote; First 2014 Unemployment Report; Sugar Bowl-Oklahoma Win

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No Scheduled Events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Visits Naples, Florida.
US Senate: 11:45 a.m. — The Senate will convene for pro forma session.
US House: 11 a.m. HOYER, LEVIN – UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE – PRESS CALL — Press call on economic impact of failing to extend Federal Unemployment Insurance. Participants: House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer; Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Sander Levin (MI); Former Department of Labor Secretary Robert Reich; Harvard economist Lawrence Katz.

11 a.m. — The House will meet in a pro forma session.
Other: HOYER, LEVIN – UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE – PRESS CALL — 11 a.m. Press call on economic impact of failing to extend Federal Unemployment Insurance. Participants: House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer; Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Sander Levin (MI); Former Department of Labor Secretary Robert Reich; Harvard economist Lawrence Katz.

PSL – KANGAMBA — 7 p.m. The Party for Socialism and Liberation hosts film screening of "Kangamba," on Cuba's Role in Angola -on the August 1983 battle in the Peoples Republic of Angola, when Cuban volunteer troops, the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, were under attack by the UNITA forces, who were "armed and organized by the racist, apartheid regime of South Africa." Location: 617 Florida Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All late-night talk shows were in rerun.

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Taking a New, Bolder Approach to Address Environmental Impacts of Infrastructure Projects

David Hayes <dhayes@law.stanford.edu> Sat, Jan 4, 2014 at 4:22 PM
Bcc: [redacted]ios.doi.gov

Friends:

I thought that you might be interested in my recent article: "Addressing the Environmental Impacts of Large Infrastructure Projects: Making 'Mitigation' Matter." The Environmental Law Reporter just published the article in its January edition; I've attached the PDF here.

The policy approach laid out in my article is one that I have been advocating both inside and now outside the Administration. It addresses two areas of that are of strong personal interest: (1) energy -- how to improve the way in in which we decide where and how to site conventional and renewable energy projects, including new, large-scale oil and gas and renewable energy projects, pipelines, and transmission lines; and (2) conservation -- how to best protect important landscapes that are highly valued by communities for the many services that they provide.

Under the status quo, developers and regulators alike typically take a small-frame view of how to compensate for environmental injuries caused by conventional and renewable energy projects, and other infrastructure projects. They often respond to environmental injuries by generating small, fragmented mitigation projects that shortchange the environment and do not generate good value for the companies that are writing the checks.

The Interior Department has been experimenting with a new approach that is described in my article. The first step requires agencies to work with developers and stakeholders to avoid or limit environmental damage from new projects. Then, for those environmental harms that cannot be avoided, I advocate that developers' mitigation dollars be directed toward larger, threatened landscapes, where the funds can have a bigger impact, consistent with environmental needs and opportunities that local, state, tribal and federal representatives identify through the type of public planning processes that already are underway across the country.

This approach would represent a significantly different way of doing business that, if adopted and coordinated across all of the many agencies that have a role in permitting large infrastructure projects, could advance communities' interests in protecting important landscapes, while rationalizing and streamlining the permitting of infrastructure projects. As noted in the article, the White House is now evaluating whether and how to introduce some of these reforms under the auspices of the President's infrastructure permitting Executive Order.

Thanks for listening, and best wishes to all for a happy new year!

--David

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COMMENT

Addressing the Environmental Impacts of Large Infrastructure Projects: Making "Mitigation" Matter

by David J. Hayes

David J. Hayes is a Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at Law at Stanford Law School and a Senior Fellow at the Hewlett Foundation. He is the former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

I. Overview

We are in the midst of an unprecedented governmentwide focus on infrastructure permitting and development in the United States. Our nation's energy industry is undergoing a significant expansion across our landscapes. Large, utility-scale solar and wind projects are springing up around the country, thousands of new oil and gas wells are being drilled each year on public and private lands throughout the United States, and new pipelines and electric transmission lines traversing the country are under construction, or are on the drawing boards. Meanwhile, bridges, roads, transit systems, and other key infrastructure are being built, restored, or replaced in every corner of our nation.

By definition, major infrastructure projects impact our landscapes. While avoiding and minimizing the impacts of infrastructure projects must continue to be the first option of project developers and reviewers, some projects may not be able to avoid filling wetlands, disrupting wildlife corridors or other sensitive habitat, or negatively affecting areas in and around parks, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and other special lands. Impacts may be felt for many years for some projects, and permanently for others.

When highway, port, or airport projects are funded by the federal government, or when large energy infrastructure projects are proposed to cross federal lands, fill wetlands, or otherwise trigger federal permitting or review requirements, federal agencies must analyze their potential environmental impacts. In their analysis, a "mitigation hierarchy" is applied to the proposed infrastructure, with project proponents expected to avoid or reduce potential impacts in the first instance and then, for unavoidable impacts, provide compensation by sponsoring "mitigation" projects that are deemed to be reasonably equivalent to the damaged environmental values.

A. *Theory and Reality Diverge*

The concept of a mitigation hierarchy, and the expectation that project proponents will make meaningful conservarion investmenrs that help make up for unavoidable environmental impacts, is sound, but its implementation has been uneven. All too frequently, the mitigation piece of the permirting puzzle has been an afterthought, with project proponents and permitting authorities alike giving limited, late, and inconsistent attention to mitigation requiremenrs. While systems are in place to measure and address wetlands and some endangered species impacts, other types of environmental impacts are dealt with on an ad hoc basis, or not at all. The result is that mitigation often is piecemealed, with project proponents responding to a set of varied and unpredictable requests from agencies that may or may not generate meaningful environmental benefits.

Few are happy with this state of affairs. Even though infrastructure project applicants typically recognize their obligation to mitigate for unavoidable environmental impacts as part of their project planning, it is often difficult for them to determine exactly what mitigation will be required, and rarely is there an adequate dialogue with regulatory agencies about how best to effectuate such mitigation. Instead, project proponents face an unpredictable set of requirements and costs associated with compensatory mitigation that are only revealed late in the game, when financing is already settled and avoidance is no longer a cost-effective option.

On the other side of the coin, overburdened permitting authorities do not find the exercise satisfying either. Often lacking broader guidance from headquarters, regional staff typically take well-worn paths that focus on those types of impacts that are well-codified—wetlands and listed species

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in particular—while giving shorter shrift to other types of impacts on land, water, and wildlife.

B. *Interior's Mitigation Strategy: Developing a New Framework*

The major push for new infrastructure now underway provides an opportune time to address these long-standing frustrarions and missed opportunities. The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)—which plays a major role in permitting many large renewable and conventional energy generation projects, transmission projects, and water projects, among others—has been taking steps to regularize and improve the mitigation evaluation and implementation process for projects under its purview. In so doing, DOI is ushering in a new mitigation approach that holds the promise of converting mitigation from an afterthought to a central tenet of project planning and execution—to the great benefit of both the infrastructure that we are building and the overall environment.

There are two key elements to the new mitigation strategy that DOI has been putting into place. First, is a concerted commitment to enter into early discussions with project proponents regarding key design features of proposed projects, so that agencies can identify serious and potentially project-threatening environmental impacts on the front end. In this way, siting and other design features of major projects can be adjusred to account for serious agency concerns before applicants invest heavily in problematic project features. To inform these decisions, and to integrate early analysis in a programmatic way, DOI's landscape-scale planning efforts have been leveraged to facilitate smarter siting and avoidance of critical resources.

Second, for those environmental impacts that cannot be avoided, DOI is applying new tools that will facilitate meaningful, landscape-scale mitigation investments in sensitive areas while, at the same time, enable agencies to guide impactful development to the most appropriate areas. More specifically, because DOI's land management and wildlife agencies have been actively collecting data and developing integrated management strategies on a landscape scale, as chronicled below, the Department and its partners are well-positioned to identify restoration and conservation needs on a regional basis. Mitigation obligations for infrastructure projects in a given region can then be coordinated with real restoration or conservation needs in the same region. The results will be berrer for both companies and the environment: project proponents' mitigation dollars will go toward meaningful, landscape-scale environmental needs—rather rhan small-bore and/or ad hoc mitigation efforts—and ongoing public and private investments in more significant, regional restoration or conservation needs will get a boost from project-related mitigation dollars.

These new approaches, which have been under development at DOI over the last couple of years, were formally endorsed recently in Secretary Sally Jewell's first Secretarial Order, issued on October 31, 2013. In laying out the purpose of the Secretarial Order, Secretary Jewell noted the central elements of the strategy as follows:

> (1) the use of landscape-scale approach to identify and facilitate investment in key conservation priorities in a region; (2) early integration of mitigation considerations in project planning and design; (3) ensuring rhe durability of mitigation measures over time; (4) ensuring transparency and consistency in mitigation decisions; and (5) a focus on mitigation efforts that improve the resilience of our Nation's resources in the face of climate change.[1]

C. *Moving to Consolidated, Permit-Friendly Mitigation Across All Agencies*

While DOI has been showing the way, large infrastructure projects typically bring a number of permitting agencies into play, each with its own authorities and approaches for mitigating unavoidable environmental impacts. As a general matter, the involvement of multiple agencies slows the permitting process for infrastructure projects, frustrating investors and the communities that stand to benefit from such infrastructure alike. At the same time, multiple agencies can require developers to implement different mitigation strategies under their statutory authorities for the same infrastructure project, complicating compliance and diverting limited mitigation funds to disconnected mitigation investments.

The president has taken on the task of improving the multiagency permitting process for infrastructure projects by issuing Executive Order No. 13604, which commits the Administration to increase coordination and substantially reduce the permitting time line for infrastructure projects, while improving environmental results.[2] One of the strategies that the White House is pursuing to achieve this goal calls on permitting agencies to "identify opportunities to integrate intra- and inter-agency mitigation processes to expedite project review and encourage large-scale—watershed, regional or landscape-level—mitigation planning, where appropriate and feasible."[3]

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1. *See* Secretarial Order No. 3330—Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior.
2. Executive Order No. 13604—Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects, *available at* http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/DCPD-201200202/pdf/DCPD-201200202.pdf.
3. *Implementing Executive Order 13604 on Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects:* A Federal Plan for Modernizing the Federal Permitting and Review Process for Better Projects, Improved Environmental and Community Outcomes, and Quicker Decisions, *available at* http://www.permits.performance.gov/sites/all/themes/permits2/files/federal_plan.pdf.

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The White House infrastructure permitting initiative presents a unique opportunity to expand on DOI's early efforts to implement compensatory mitigation through a landscape-scale approach that invests mitigation dollars in regional needs that community, state, and federal planning processes have identified. The big payoff will come if state and federal authorities can adopt a common set of criteria to define regional landscapes where compensatory mitigation investments can help address a broad set of environmenral values, including watershed health, species and habitat health, and landscape fragmentation. Permitting agencies could then simplify the permitting process by requiring developers to make one-time, direct payments to private conservation banks and other third parties who will have the responsibility to apply these investments on private and public lands in accord with already-approved regional plans.

There is no reason why this new approach cannot take hold and improve the permitting process, while yielding better environmental results. Many local, state, and federal authorities already have identified important, vulnerable landscapes close to proposed infrastructure projects. They know the lands in their region that have high habitat and watershed values that should be protected and/or restored with compensatory mitigation (and other) dollars. And many infrastructure developers would welcome the opportunity to speed their permitting time lines and simplify their permitting obligations by cashing out their mitigation obligations early and cleanly, particularly if their funds would generate obvious environmental benefits that are important to local communities.

There is no better time than now, with the focus provided by Secretary Jewell's recent Secretarial Order and, even more importantly, the Administrationwide attention provided by the president's infrastructure permitting Executive Order, to expedite and improve the process by which infrastructure permittees discharge the compensatory mitigation obligations that flow from a variety of agency authorities. Working together, and under the direction of the White House and its Office of Management and Budget, agencies can and should define a broader concept of conservation banking that compensates for wetlands, species, and other project impacts in a comprehensive way that makes a difference on a landscape scale. Everyone wins if this is done right.

II. First Step: Early Review of Proposed Projects to Avoid or Minimize Environmental Impacts

The first key step in reinvigorating the "mitigation hierarchy" is for permitting agencies and project proponents to give more serious attention at an early srage—*before* the projecr proponent has committed to specific project features—so that meaningful siting and design adjustments can be made to avoid or minimize environmental conflicts.

The best example of this approach is rhe early review process that DOI engaged in over the past five years in siting a large number of complex, large-footprint, renewable energy projects on public lands. For example, proceeding under a Memorandum of Understanding with California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and then Gov. Jerry Brown, and with the full cooperation of developers, utilities, and conservation organizations, promising renewable energy projects in California have been subject to a collaborative review process that enables federal and state regulatory agencies to approach project proponents on a unified basis to identify serious environmental concerns early in the process. The joint federal/state "Renewable Energy Action Team" has provided the forum for early discussions regarding siting and other design features for wind and solar projects in California, triggering significant changes in some proposed projects and paving the way toward a smoother and less divisive permitting process.

After successfully test-driving this early review strategy in the context of the Administration's renewable energy project push, the president called on all agencies to pursue this approach in his 2012 Infrastructure Permitting Executive Order No. 13604. The Executive Order specifically notes that agencies should integrate their evaluation of potential environmental impacts "into project planning processes so that projects are designed appropriately to avoid, to the extent practicable, adverse impacts on public health, security, historic properties and other cultural resources, and the environment, and ro minimize or mitigate impacts that may occur."

In many cases, the key to following this path on a more consistent and cross-agency basis is to have serious agency/applicant discussions prior to—and during—the process of preparing environmental impact statements (EISs) under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).[4] All agency hands need to be on deck early, along with flexible and cooperative project applicants, so that potential issues will be flagged and, hopefully, shaped by candid and productive agency/applicant discussions, before the full EIS process begins in earnest.

III. Off-Site Mitigation: Syncing Up Landscape-Scale Management Initiatives and Infrastructure Mitigation Obligations

Where environmental harms from infrastrucrure projects cannot be avoided, the next challenge is how to more effectively implement mirigation requirements. Today, mitigation dollars often are not spent in the most environmentally effective way because either (1) government land managers, companies, or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have not idenrified high-value restoration or conservation needs near the location of proposed projects; or (2) in those regions where there already is a focus on landscape-scale

4. 42 U.S.C. §§4321-4370h, ELR Stat. NEPA §§2-209.

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restoration or conservation needs, government authorities are not "connecting the dots" and seeking to apply project-related mitigation obligations to those needs.

The porential benefits of providing companies with an opportunity to apply and leverage their mitigation obligations toward higher profile, regional restoration or conservation needs is enormous—for the companies, who want their mitigation to be spent in a meaningful way, and for land managers and communities, who are looking to leverage investments in important restoration or conservation projects.

The president's infrastructure Executive Order is showing the way, and encouraging DOI and other agencies to combine landscape-scale planning exercises and project mitigation strategies.

DOI's implementation plan under the Executive Order accepts the challenge and notes that DOI already is "foster[ing] inter-agency collaboration" on a number of fronts, "including the Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement [the 'Western Solar Plan']; the Geothermal Environmental Impact Statement; the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan; the Arizona Restoration and Design Energy Project; BLM's [Bureau of Land Management's] Rapid Ecological Assessments and the Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation and Planning Strategy."[5] Indeed, as discussed below, BLM has gone one step further by issuing interim mitigation guidance that encourages that the nation's largest land manager—BLM—apply a suite of offsire mitigation tools, including a new emphasis on regional mitigation strategies and planning, so that project-based mitigation dollars can be spent more effectively.

For a variety of reasons that I recently described in a speech at Stanford's Lane Center for the American West, federal, state, and tribal authorities—working with communities, NGOs, and other interested parties—are engaged in an unprecedented number of landscape-scale management and planning exercises.[6] Many of these are the same landscapes in which large, new infrastructure projects are being planned or built. The trick now is to connect the dots, and better match up the restoration and conservation needs these integrated landscape-scale management and planning exercises are identifying with project-based mitigation obligations related to the siting of major infrastructure projects in those regions.

Examples of landscape-scale initiatives that are assisting in the siting of new projects in lower conflict areas, *and* in identifying regional mitigation needs that might provide a good match for those projects' mitigation obligations, include the following:

- **Western Solar Plan.** Through its Western Solar Plan, BLM has reviewed landscapes in six southwestern states and identified "solar energy zones" that have fewer environmental conflicts, access to transmission, and other features that make them particularly suitable for solar project development and attractive to project developers. Importantly, the Western Solar Plan calls on BLM and its partners to identify regional mitigation opportunities that can be paired with solar energy zones, so that applicants who are siting projects in solar energy zones can invest their mitigation dollars in meaningful, landscape-scale needs in the region. In this way, project-specific mitigation obligations can be directed into larger and more meaningful investments that mesh with broader environmental restoration and protection investments that federal and state governmental authorities, tribes, local communities, NGOs, and others may be prioritizing.
- **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.** BLM and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) are working with the California Energy Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other state, local, and tribal partners in developing the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan: an ambitious plan covering more than 20 million acres in the Mojave Desert in California that identifies "development focus areas" for project development, on the one hand, and conservation lands that should be protected from development, on the other hand. Mitigation is being baked into an integrated, landscape-scale management and planning exercise that is driven by the need to site large renewable energy projects in future years in southern California.
- **Rapid Eco-Regional Assessments.** DOI's BLM has launched 14 Rapid Eco-Regional Assessments (REAs) since 2010 that examine ecological values, conditions, and trends within large eco-regions, such as the Sonoran Desert and the Colorado Plateau. REAs span administrative boundaries and include both public and private lands. They identify regionally important habitats for fish, wildlife, and species of concern and gauge the potential of these habitats to be affected by four overarching environmental change agents: climate change; wildfires; invasive species; and development (both energy development and urban growth). At the same time, REAs also help identify areas that do not provide essential habitat, that are not ecologically intact or readily restorable, and where development activities may be directed to minimize impacts to important ecosystem values.
- **The Western Governors Association's Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool.** The Western Governors Association has been working for several years on a project that is developing Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) to identify wildlife corridors and other key habitats that need priority attention. The CHAT initiative develop landscape-level data that,

5. Department of the Interior Agency Plan Implementing Executive Order 13604 on Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects, *available at* http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=359605.
6. *See* http://west.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/DJHayes_Lane_Center_Speech-20130430.pdf; *see also* David J. Hayes, *Testimony: Thinking Big*, 30:6 ENVTL. F. 40 (Nov./Dec. 2013).

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much like BLM's REAs, can help direct new projects to lower conflict areas, while also identifying regional restoration or conservation needs that are good candidates for mitigating project impacts.[7]

- **Sage Grouse Habitat Protection Plans.** DOI and other federal and state authorities are devoting significant attention to the habitat needs of greater sage grouse in 11 western states in a coordinated planning effort designed to obviate a potential listing of sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)[8] or to reduce the impact if listing is necessary. In concert with the federal land management planning, states are developing landscape-scale plans that identify sage grouse strongholds and related sage grouse habitat protection strategies. This extensive, science-driven planning exercise potentially could provide a road map for impactful mitigation-related investments for project developers who potentially may be impacting sage grouse habitat (e.g., transmission lines; oil and gas, and wind developments).

There are other landscape-scale management exercises that provide similar opportunities. By way of example, DOI, working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, has instituted a new approach for allocating a significant percentage of its Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) to focus on the most deserving and in-need landscapes. When infrastructure is proposed to be sited in these regions, mitigation dollars can potentially be matched up with public LWCF monies to create a more significant environmental benefit.

Similarly, a massive interagency process is underway to address long-standing restoration needs in the Gulf of Mexico, following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. With so much expertise being focused on sound restoration investments in the Gulf, there may be significant leveraging available for offsite project mitigation dollars from the region.

Finally, land, water, and wildlife managers at all governmental, tribal, and NGO levels are using DOI-supported Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and regional Climate Science Centers around the country to better understand conservation challenges in their regions and to identify adaptation and resilience investments that can address such pressures—investments that project mitigation dollars might be appropriately directed toward.

The challenge—and the opportunity—is to sync up mitigation obligations with these landscape-scale assessment and planning exercises so that restoration and conservation needs identified through landscape initiatives can be addressed, in part, with mitigation dollars from projects in the region.

DOI is establishing the policy framework to accomplish this mission. The agency plan issued by the Department under the president's infrastructure Executive Order, for example, explicitly makes this point:

> DOI remains focused on prioritizing investments which are likely to preserve and enhance mitigation benefits over time; facilitate adaptive management; address and mitigate for distinct or unique assemblages of species or communities or locations that provide valuable ecosystem services; and that contribute to the permanence of conservation protections. *To promote the implementation of these principles across projects, DOI will continue to use current landscape-level planning initiatives . . . to identify sensitive habitats and landscape-scale mitigation opportunities in these regions.* (Emphasis added.)

BLM's mitigation "instruction memorandum" expands even further on these points. It urges BLM managers to adopt a "regional mitigation approach" that "shifts the BLM's mitigation focus from a permit-by-permit perspective to a landscape-scale planning perspective." As BLM explains: "This landscape-scale planning perspective will enhance the BLM's consideration of mitigation at the project level and afford greater certainty to permit applicants, partners, stakeholders, and the public."[9] And, even more recently, Secretary Jewell's October 31 Secretarial Order reinforces these efforts and calls on her senior team to develop recommendations for implementing improvements in the Department's mitigation practices and policies.

IV. Moving Beyond Interior to a Governmentwide Mitigation Framework

While DOI's leadership in promoting landscape-scale planning and regional mitigation concepts is commendable, it is not enough. Large infrastructure projects typically generate unavoidable environmental impacts that may trigger mitigation-related permitting obligations from a number of federal (or state) agencies. Examples include: agencies whose lands will be affected by the project (such as BLM, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, or the U.S. Department of Defense for oil and gas, renewable energy, or transmission projects); agencies that have responsibilities to address impacts to specific types of resources (such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) for wetlands or FWS for endangered species); and agencies that have overall environmental review and approval obligations because they are funding infrastructure projects (such as the U.S. Department of Transportation for highways, bridges, and ports) or because the law requires their approval for certain types of projects (such as the U.S. Department of State for cross-border projects or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for gas pipeline projects).

7. *See* www.westgovchat.org.
8. 16 U.S.C. §§1531-1544, ELR STAT. ESA §§2-18.
9. Bureau of Land Management IM 2013-142, Interim Policy, Draft Regional Mitigation Manual Section 1794, *available at* http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/regulations/Instruction_Memos_and_Bulletins/national_instruction/2013/IM_2013-142.html.

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In each case, NEPA typically requires the permitting agencies to analyze the proposed project and various alternatives, including mitigation requirements that may be imposed as permit conditions for unavoidable environmental harms.[10] Where multiple agencies must issue permits or other types of approvals for a large infrastructure project, it would be ideal from both a permittee perspective, and from the environmental benefits side of the equation, if a single, agreed-upon compensatory mitigation investment could be identified as satisfying all of the agencies' interests. If the single investment approach could also cover the type of one-off mitigation requirements now typically required by the Corps for wetlands impacts, or by FWS for endangered species impacts, all the better.[11]

This type of mitigation streamlining can be accomplished if compensatory mitigation is tied into regional planning processes. Through jointly conducted landscape-scale evaluation and planning efforts, federal, state, and local authorities can identify important landscapes whose environmental values, including watershed health, habitat and species health, wildlife corridors, and other landscape "intactness" values, will be broadly enhanced through the application of compensatory mitigation dollars. Then, rather than concoct one-off mitigation projects that deal with environmental harms on a piecemeal basis, the agencies should work on a multiagency basis, applying common criteria and metrics, to match the type and level of harm associated with a given project to an investment in a regional landscape need. The crireria and metrics need to be straightforward and workable so that private conservation mitigation bankers and other third parties can help facilitate investments in the targeted, regionally significant landscapes. Performance will need to be monitored and adjustments made, where needed, to confirm that mitigation investments are, in fact, generating the expected compensatory environmental benefits.

This idea that agencies should work together to identify regionally significant landscapes and then set up a consolidated permitting structure that facilitates compensatory mitigation investments in such landscapes makes common sense. We have all seen how large footprint oil and gas and renewable energy projects and other infrastructure projecrs, like highways and transmission or pipeline corridors, have fragmented local landscapes, disrupted wildlife migration corridors, and negatively impacted the proper functioning of local watersheds. Traditionally, these project impacts have either been ignored or addressed by requiring permittees to invest in postage stamp-sized, localized mitigation projects that generate limited environmental benefits. The White House's initiative holds the promise that permitting agencies can work with developers to apply mitigation dollars in a coordinated and efficient way, guided by regional planning, and dedicated to meaningful environmental results: conservation and restoration of regionally important landscapes and their watershed and wildlife habitat values.

V. Conclusion

The unprecedented attention that DOI has devoted to landscape-scale managemenr and planning has improved the siting process for major energy and other infrastructure projects. DOI's new landscape-scale approaches also hold the promise of applying project-related mitigation obligations more sensibly, and efficiently, to important regional conservation needs. Now, with the attention of the White House on developing cross-agency mitigation approaches that rie into advanced regional planning, there is a unique opportunity to work across all permitting agencies and to address mirigation obligarions in a holisric way. It is the classic definition of a "win-win": developers reap the benefit of expedited infrastructure permitting processes while, at the same time, their compensatory mitigation dollars are invested wisely and effectively in a consolidated manner, on regionally significant landscapes, in accordance with sound planning.

10. Section 1508.20 in the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations outlines the type of mitigation that agencies should be evaluating and potentially requiring as permit conditions. Mitigation measures considered should include:
    (a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
    (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
    (c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
    (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
    (e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.
11. So long as watershed and species health is being promoted by landscape-scale investments, this generalized approach should be able to satisfy the Clean Water Act (CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§1251-1387, ELR Stat. FWPCA §§101-607) and ESA's mitigation requirements in most cases, while also meeting more generalized mitigation obligations that arise through the NEPA process, or through underlying permitting statutes. Both the CWA and the ESA give significant discretion to permitting agencies to craft appropriate mitigation. In recent years, for example, the Corps has relied on this authority to adopt a watershed health-based mitigation approach that moves away from acre-by-acre comparisons of lost versus restored wetlands.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, January 6, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Jan 6, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR ENDS NATIONAL BLUEWAYS PROGRAM. The Washington Post (1/3, 4.28M) reports that the National Blueways System was "dissolved on Friday amid opposition from landowners and politicians who feared it would lead to increased regulations and possible land seizures." In a statement, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that her department "decided to disband the program, which was formed by her predecessor, Ken Salazar, after a departmental review." Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said, "The National Blueways Committee will be deactivated, but the department will continue to encourage collaborative, community-based watershed partnerships that support sustainable and healthy water supplies."

The Connecticut Post (1/5, 298K) reports that "the Connecticut River will be only other National Blueway waterway to retain that distinction," according to Jewell.

Meanwhile, the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (1/5, 90K) reports that "early in 2013, an Interior Department representative told a group of Montana conservation districts the Yellowstone River could be a candidate for a Blueways designation." However, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sens. John Barrasso and Mike Enzi, all Republicans, sent a joint letter to then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar "saying the process — the secretarial order bypassed Congress — did not include people on the ground in Wyoming." On Friday, the Wyoming delegation "took to Twitter...to announce its approval of the program's demise."

AP coverage was also picked up by Yahoo! (1/3, Draper, 17.91M) , Yahoo! (1/3, Draper, 17.91M) , Yahoo! Finance (1/5, 9.7M) , Yahoo! News Canada (1/5, 76K) , Yahoo! Business and Finance New Zealand (1/5, 64) , ABC News (1/5, 3.68M), the Waterbury (CT) Republican-American (1/5, 145K), the Portland (ME) Press Herald (1/5, 279K), the Columbia (MO) Daily Tribune (1/5, 68K), the Portland (ME) Press Herald (1/5, 279K), the Concord (NH) Monitor (1/5, 49K), the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (1/5, 82K), the Boston Herald (1/5, 643K), the Fort Collins (CO) Coloradoan (1/3, 85K), the Baxter (AR) Bulletin (1/4, 28K), the Southeast Missourian (1/5, 66K), the Decatur (AL) Daily (1/5, 56K), the Rochester (MN) Post-Bulletin (1/5, 57K), the Hanover (PA) Evening Sun (1/5, 38K) , KXMC-TV Minot, ND (1/5, 1K) , WUSA-TV Washington (1/5, 95K) , KUAR-FM Little Rock, AR (1/5), and KYTV-TV Springfield, MO (1/5, 20K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF KING COVE ROAD DECISION. Additional coverage of the King Cove road decision was provided by the Alaska Public Radio Network (1/3, 2K), the Bristol Bay (AK) Times (1/5, 4K), the Dutch Harbor (AK) Fisherman (1/5, 2K), and the Bristol Bay (AK) Times (1/5, 4K).

SECRETARY JEWELL URGED TO BALANCE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WITH CONSERVATION. In its "Congress Blog", The Hill (1/5, Reiss, 194K), Keith Reiss, the principal at Sanitas Sales Group, an independent outdoor recreation sales company, writes that his "business depends on access to these and other outdoor recreational opportunities, and here's why: All in all, outdoor recreation business drives $646 billion in consumer spending, $790 billion in local and state revenue—while supporting 12 million American jobs." For this reason, Reiss is "so concerned about oil and gas development near our national parks." He urges Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the Obama Administration to "advance policies that bring energy development into balance with other sustainable revenue streams and essential uses of our public lands."

CONGRESS CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO DESIGNATE NEW WILDERNESS. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/3, Sheppard, 11.54M), Kate Sheppard notes that "this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act," but "the only thing Congress has preserved in the last four years is its record dry spell, having designated no new areas of the country for protection under that law since 2009." According to Sheppard, "the 112th Congress, in 2010 and 2011, was the first since the law's passage to fail to designate any new wilderness," and "now, halfway through the 113th Congress, it's unclear whether any more will be designated this session, either."

CONGRESS URGED TO MAINTAIN PILT FUNDS FOR COUNTIES. In an op-ed for the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (1/6, Brown, 59K), Julia T. Brown is the county manager for Doña Ana County, writes that "as the Congress and President Obama structure budgets going forward, there has been some talk of reducing or eliminating federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to local governments." She notes that "Doña Ana County relies heavily on these funds to sustain programs and personnel across 3,804 square miles of public and private land." Brown urges citizens to contact ongressional representatives and encourag "them to work toward full, multi-year PILT funding that will continue our long tradition of partnership and progress."

REPTILE INDUSTRY CRITICIZED FOR SEEKING TO OVERTURN PYTHON BAN. In an editorial, the Hartford

(CT) Courant (1/3, 600K) criticizes leaders of the reptile industry who "say the federal ban on four types of invasive snakes is hurting their business, and so are suing to overturn the ban." It notes that "once out in the Everglades, the reptiles threatened several endangered species, including the wood rat and the wood stork." The paper argues that "these reptiles are dangerous, and have no business either in the Everglades or in people's homes, particularly people who live in urban areas."

NYTIMES SAYS FEDERAL CONTRACTING MAY NEED REFORM. The New York Times (1/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the White House's "revelations about unlawful surveillance and the botched health care rollout" both represent a "reminder of the increasing extent to which government work has been contracted out to private-sector companies." The Times argues that it is hard to see how "Americans are getting their money's worth" with companies given a financial incentive to overpromise their abilities during the bidding process, resulting in "delays, overruns and unmet public needs." The Times also notes that, despite the existence of "several sensible proposals to reform federal contracting," Congress and the Administration have not acted on any of them.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

INTERIOR MISSES DEADLINE PURCHASE OF STATE LAND IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK. The Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide (1/6, 1K) reports that the Interior Department has "missed its deadline to buy a $45 million square-mile chunk of Wyoming-owned land within Grand Teton National Park." However, "federal and Wyoming officials said the missed deadline isn't as bad as it sounds, and work to incorporate the land into the park is continuing." Jackie Skaggs, the spokeswoman for the park, said on Sunday that "the years long discussion will continue." Skaggs said, "We're still in conversation and working toward a resolution. But when something might happen, we don't know when that date might be."

FOREST SERVICE PROPOSES EXTENSIVE SALVAGE LOGGING FOR RIM FIRE AREA. The Los Angeles Times (1/5, Boxall, 3.07M) reports that the US Forest Service is "proposing an extensive salvage operation to log dead trees on about 46 square miles of timberland charred in last year's massive Rim fire in the Sierra Nevada." However, the project is "already triggering a fight by some environmentalists who argue that the post-fire logging would destroy valuable habitat for rare birds and other species that thrive in blackened forests."

CAMP NELSON'S DESIGNATION AS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CELEBRATED. The Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (1/4, 320K) reports that Camp Nelson's designation as a National Historic Landmark was celebrated Saturday. The article notes that "in the coming months, Jessamine County officials hope to take the next steps to make the site a national park." According to Mary Kozak, special projects director for Jessamine County, "it would cost an estimated $200,000 for the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study on whether Camp Nelson should become a national park."

NPS SEEKS INPUT ON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR JACKS FORK, CURRENT RIVER PARK. The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (1/4, 27K) reports that a new General Management Plan from the NPS for the Jacks Fork and Current rivers and surrounding national park lands "already has some local folks riled." According to the article, "they're upset over proposals to scale back motorboat use on some sections of the rivers, close down some unofficial horseback trails while adding new ones and reshape river access to help alleviate crowding on the water during heavy-use summer weekends." Park Superintendent Bill Black said, "We will be listening to what people have to say. We've got 450 comments already. If they're opposed to something in the plan, we're encouraging people to offer an alternative or suggest some reasoning behind their response. I think we will adjust the plan when it's practical and when we feel they have a good point. We're more open to that than they think we are."

Also reporting on the story is the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (1/4, 449K).

NPS SEEKS INPUT ON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS NATIONAL PARK. The Sedalia (MO) Democrat (1/5, 39K) reports that the NPS is seeking public comments on its management plan for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways National Park.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMPLIES LIST OF 10 HISTORIC SITES SAVED, 10 LOST IN 2013. The Washington Post (1/3, 4.28M) reports that the National Trust for Historic Preservation "compiled a list of 10 historic preservation saves and losses from 2013."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DEER CULL TO BEGIN AT ROCK CREEK PARK. Additional coverage of the decision to begin a deer kill at Rock Creek Park was provided by the Washington Post (1/5, 4.28M) and the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/5, 80K).

NPS URGED TO INCLUDE YULE LOG FOR MALL CELEBRATIONS. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (1/3, Schmidt, 4.28M), Marsha Schmidt notes that "for the second year in a row, the National Park Service did not include the yule log as part of the holiday attractions on the Mall." She says that the NPS "took away a display that probably thousands of people enjoyed and many of us looked forward to every year to accommodate those participating in a few hours of the tree lighting." Schmidt argues that "it is time for the Park Service to bring it back."

NPS SETTLES WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT OVER CUTTING OF TREES. For the Washington Monthly (1/5, Murphy, 36K), Tim Murphy recounts the story behind the "settling last fall by the National Park Service (NPS) of a whistleblower complaint over a secret sweetheart deal" Dan Snyder "extracted nine years ago to give his Maryland home an unobstructed view of the Potomac River." According to the article, "its discovery set off a decade-long campaign of bureaucratic retribution over two administrations that nearly sent an innocent man to prison."

Bureau of Land Management:

TREE SITTERS PROTEST PLAN VIEWED AS NEW MODEL FOR BLM. The Portland (OR) Tribune (1/5, 107K) reports that in 2012, the BLM "sold the rights to log a small grove of Douglas firs to a private company called Roseburg Forest Products." However, tree sitters from the group Cascadia Forest Defenders have showed up to protest "what they claim is a clear cut of native forest." The article notes that "the scheduled logging is also part of a pilot project designed by Northwest forestry professors to mimic nature." According to the article, "the professors' plan has become politically popular and is a key component of bills proposing new management for Oregon's O&C Lands."

Also reporting on the story is the Clark County (WA) Columbian (1/4, 116K).

Sen. Ron Wyden's O&C Plan Criticized. In an op-ed for The Oregonian (1/5, Martos, 751K), ecologist Pablo Martos writes that "instead of enhancing the landmark Northwest Forest Plan, Sen. Ron Wyden's recently-released plan for management of the Oregon & California Railroad trust lands seems intended to replace it." According to Martos, "relying on the work of Professors Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin, who helped craft the Northwest Forest Plan in the 1990s, the broad objective of the Wyden legislation appears to be to create a plan in which the O&C lands can be sustainably logged without dramatically sacrificing ecological protections." However, Martos notes that "logging has already taken a toll on our federal public lands which the Northwest Forest Plan is only beginning to heal." He concludes that "after decades of old-growth liquidation, doubling the timber harvest on BLM lands fails to offer any kind of balance."

BLM PARTNERS WITH AGENCIES TO CLEAN UP DUMP SITES IN NEW MEXICO DESERT. The Alamogordo (NM) Daily News (1/5, 19K) reports that "bver the last year, three agencies – the South Central Solid Waste Authority, Doña Ana County, and the Bureau of Land Management – have worked together to clean up 216 illegal dump sites in 20 different communities in the county covering approximately 1500 square miles of the county's total 3,807 square miles." According to the article, "the agencies removed more than 200 tons of illegally dumped trash, working with 2,000 community volunteers as well as student workers employed by the three organizations." Vanessa Duncan, safety and occupational health specialist with the BLM, said, "The Bureau of Land Management will continue to partner with Doña Ana County and South Central Solid Waste Authority, and continue funding cleanups. It is important to us to take a strong stand and be a strong voice against illegal dumping. And to be there for the community. Illegal dumping is, and will continue to be, an important issue for the BLM."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR RESOURCES IN KANSAS, OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS. The High Plains (KS) Daily Leader (1/5) reports that the BLM Oklahoma Field Office is seeking public input to "identify issues and concerns that should be analyzed in the Oklahoma Field Office Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement." The article notes that "the final Resource Management Plan, or RMP, will guide management decisions for public resources in the three-state area of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas."

Also reporting on the story is the Salina Journal (1/5, 88K).

BLM PREPARES FOR SAGE GROUSE HEARINGS. The Idaho Statesman (1/5, 205K) reports that "beginning Monday in Murphy," the BLM is "holding a series of public meetings on its sage grouse planning effort." Hearings are planned across southern Idaho, finishing up Jan. 15 in Boise.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPORT FINDS GREAT LAKES ONLY REGION TO GAIN WETLANDS. The Washington Post (1/5, 4.28M) reports that workers are constructing "levees, canals and pumps that will regulate water levels and upgrade fish passageways in a 946-acre section of Erie Marsh, making it a better home for wildlife and limiting the spread of invasive plants." The project is an "example of decades-old efforts by government agencies and private groups to rebuild Great Lakes coastal wetlands such as swamps, bogs and marshes that have been depleted by development." The article notes that "a federal report released in November suggests the work is beginning to pay off." According to the report, "the eight-state Great Lakes region — extending from western New York to eastern Minnesota— was the only section of the US where coastal wetland acreage increased during a five-year period when scientists took extensive measurements with satellites and field photography."

AP coverage was also picked up by the Detroit Free Press (1/6, Flesher, 794K) and the Huffington Post (1/5, 11.54M).

EXPERT DEBATE CLUES OF ASIAN CARP IN GREAT LAKES. The New York Times (1/5, Wines, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "after decades of increasingly dire warnings, countless studies and countermeasures, scientists are beginning to mull over hints of something that few of them wish to contemplate: The despised Asian carp may have finally arrived in the Great Lakes." According to the article, "the latest hint consists of a single water sample, one of scores taken last May from Lake Michigan, that tested positive for remnants of DNA from one particularly destructive species, silver carp." However, "experts debate the significance of that one hit, which was disclosed in late October, and a thorough resampling of the same waters in November turned up nothing, scientists were told late last month."

WILDLIFE ADVOCACY GROUP CONTESTS REMOVAL OF GRAY WOLF FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. The Knoxville (TN) Daily Sun (1/5) reports that the FWS has proposed removing Endangered Species Act protection from "most wolves across America, indicating that protection is no longer warranted since gray wolf populations worldwide are stable." However, the Center for Biological Diversity "claims the plan walks away from a 40-year commitment to gray wolves across the country."

Additional coverage of the proposal is the Lewiston (ME) Sun Journal (1/5, 22K).

Conservationist Claims Wolves Threatened By Government Actions. The Washington Post (1/3, 4.28M) reports that "noted conservationist Jane Goodall says state and federal government actions are threatening wolf packs in Denali, Yellowstone and elsewhere."

BUDGET CONSTRAINTS HIT KILAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Kaua'i (HI) Garden Island News (1/5, 33K) reports that the FWS will cut the "days Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge is open to the public to five days a week." According to a press release, "the reduction is necessary due to flat and declining budgets."

FWS TEN YEAR FROG STUDY REVEALS LOW RATE OF ABNORMALITIES, SOME HOTSPOTS. The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (1/5) reports that a FWS study "published in the journal PLOS ONE finds that on average less

than 2 percent of frogs and toads sampled on 152 refuges had physical abnormalities involving the skeleton and eyes." The article notes that "the rate is lower than many experts feared based on earlier reports." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "Frogs and toads are strong indicators of wetland and environmental quality. What affects them affects a broad range of other species. This research significantly advances our understanding of amphibian abnormalities while amassing one of the world's largest datasets on the issue."

WHITE BLUFFS BLADDERPOD LISTED AS THREATENED. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (1/3, 113K) reports that the FWS recently "announced plans to list the White Bluffs bladderpod as threatened under the Endangered Species Act." Franklin County Farm Bureau president James Alford said that "the decision to exclude private property from critical habitat for the plant eases some concerns, but some US Bureau of Reclamation ground for irrigation could still be affected."

RESEARCHERS SAY POPULATION OF MARBLED MURRELETS NO LONGER IN DECLINE. The Oregon Public Broadcasting (1/5, 4K) reports that "a couple of years ago, a research team from the US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service released a report showing marbled murrelet populations declined 30 percent between 2000 and 2010." However, "after three more years of monitoring and gathering data, those researchers no longer claim that same downward trend." Martin Raphael, a wildlife ecologist with the Forest Service and member of the monitoring team said that "when they run the numbers for 2000-2010, they do get the 30 percent decline," but "when they run the numbers for a longer period of time, 2000-2012, the statistical significance of that trend disappears."

METRO PARKS SEEKS TO DEVELOP CONSERVATION BANK FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BATS. The Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (1/5, 325K) reports that "Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, has asked the US Fish and Wildlife Service for permission to establish Ohio's first conservation bank to help the northern long-eared bat that has been decimated by a deadly fungus and is at risk of going extinct." According to Michael Johnson, chief of natural resources for the park district, "Summit County intends to use the funds in and around Liberty Park in northern Summit County where bats winter in five caves in the 1,908-acre park in Twinsburg, Twinsburg Township and Reminderville."

TEN WHOOPING CRANES RELEASED AT WHITE LAKE WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREA. KTVE-TV El Dorado, AR (1/5, 1K) reports that "ten juvenile whooping cranes, delivered to White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area in Gueydan last month, were released into the wild on Thursday." The article notes that "the young cranes join 23 adults which are part of an experimental population being monitored by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries." The cranes arrived in southwest Louisiana on Dec. 11 from the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. LDWF is working cooperatively with the FWS, USGS, the Louisiana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation to establish a non-migratory population in the state.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. Additional coverage of the fortieth anniversary of the Endangered Species Act was provided by the Daily Inter Lake (MT) (1/5, 57K) and the Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (1/3, 210K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS RESEARCHERS SAY CENTRAL VALLEY SINKING. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/5, 705) reports that "a large swath of Central Valley is sinking as farms pump groundwater in the face of searing drought, sparking a scramble for solutions as forecasts show no end to dry conditions," according to research by the USGS. Scientists say "land near the San Joaquin River sank by nearly a foot per year from 2008 to 2010, one of the most dramatic rates ever measured in the San Joaquin Valley." The article notes that "the most recent subsidence has buckled concrete liners in the Delta-Mendota Canal, which distributes water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." The BOR, "which commissioned the study in preparation for up to $800 million in restoration work on the San Joaquin River, isn't sure yet how the sinking will affect its plans."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CHICAGO TRIBUNE: CONGRESS SHOULD NOT RENEW WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT. The Chicago Tribune (1/4, 2.32M) editorialized that the "wind production tax credit has long outlived any public policy usefulness" and added that "lawmakers now being urged by industry lobbyists to renew the subsidy retroactively instead should let it blow away." The Tribune wrote that residents across the US should urge their representatives in Congress to vote against renewing the subsidy because "a government $17 trillion in debt — and still borrowing heavily — can't afford to keep protecting this industry from cheaper competition."

Onshore Energy Development:

GRANT AWARDED FOR RECLAMATION WORK IN COAL TOWNSHIP. The Gant (PA) Daily (1/3, 3K) reports that the Department of Environmental Protection has "announced contract awards for two abandoned mine reclamation projects in Clearfield and Northumberland counties, totaling $1,113,300." The article notes that "contracts were awarded on a competitive basis and are federally funded by Office of Surface Mining grants."

Also reporting on the story is the Shamokin (PA) News Item (1/5, 27K).

MORE FEDERAL REGULATION, OVERSIGHT OF FRACKING NOT EXPECTED. Reuters (1/6, Volcovici) reports that the Federal government is not expected to investigate complaints of water contamination from oil and gas drilling or to increase regulation of drilling practices. The story notes a recent Office of the Inspector General report on EPA activities critical of the agency for failing to act in some cases, but says that the agency is unlikely to change its approach.

SEVERAL STATES FIND WATER POLLUTION FROM FRACKING. The AP (1/6, Begos) reports that in "at least four states" where fracking is common, "hundreds of complaints have been made about well-water contamination from oil or gas drilling," and "pollution was confirmed in a number of them," according to an AP review. The piece says the data, covering Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Texas, "casts doubt on industry suggestions that such problems rarely happen." The Washington Post (1/6, 4.28M) picks up on the AP report and runs a shortened version.

NEW STUDY SUGGESTS FRACKING IS HARMFUL TO BABIES. Bloomberg News (1/5, Whitehouse, 1.91M) reported that a study conducted by researchers "Janet Currie of Princeton University, Katherine Meckel of Columbia University, and John Deutch and Michael Greenstone of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology" found that fracking is harmful to babies who live nearby. The study, which was presented Saturday at the American Economic Association meeting in Philadelphia, examined "Pennsylvania birth records from 2004 to 2011 to assess the health of infants born within a 2.5-kilometer radius of natural-gas fracking sites" and researchers "found that proximity to fracking increased the likelihood of low birth weight by more than half, from about 5.6 percent to more than 9 percent." Bloomberg News wrote that even though the study doesn't explain why fracking is harmful to infant's health, the study's finding "should be reason for serious pause."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INTERIOR WATCHDOG REPORT ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE. Additional coverage of the Interior Department watchdog's report "that says the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement told a contractor to switch to another set of baseline criteria after media reports in January 2011 revealed the initial set yielded projections of 7,000 job losses and a broad decline in coal production" was provided by the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (1/5, 636K).

Offshore Energy Development:

ARCTIC DRILLING REMAINS A QUESTION IN 2014. Politico (1/5, Guillen, 464K) provided a list of "the biggest energy questions of the coming year." One of the top questions is whether Arctic drilling will take off this summer. The article notes that "Shell pulled out of its nascent Arctic operations for a while after several big missteps in 2012 — but the company is sticking its toe back in the water with a renewed smaller effort this summer." The Interior Department says it will "turn a strict eye to Shell's plans, but environmentalists fear an oil spill could spell disaster in the remote region."

Additional coverage was provided by the Juneau (AK) Empire (1/3, 21K) and the Popular Mechanics (1/5,

10.85M).

OIL INDUSTRY SEES WIN IN TRANSBOUNDARY HYDORCARBONS AGREEMENT. The Washington Examiner (1/5, Colman, 319K) reports that "the oil and gas industry received a long-awaited gift from Congress when lawmakers approved a drilling pact between Mexico and the United States as part of the budget deal, signaling enhanced cooperation between the two nations just after Mexico opened energy exploration to foreign companies." The article notes that "the Transboundary Hydrocarbons Agreement opens drilling access to a fairly small amount of oil and gas — the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management estimates the 1.5 million acres of the Gulf of Mexico covered in the deal contains up to 172 million barrels of oil and 304 billion cubic feet of natural gas."

LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL ACCUSES FEDERAL JUDGE OF IGNORING STATE'S BP CLAIMS. The AP (1/4, Kunzelman) reported that Louisiana Attorney General James Caldwell accused US District Judge Carl Barbier of "ignoring the state's claims over BP's 2010 Gulf oil spill and asked...the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals to transfer its...claims from" Judge Barbier "to a different judge in the Eastern District of Louisiana." In his court filing this week, Caldwell said that the state "shouldn't have to wait any longer and deserves to proceed with a separate trial for the state's economic loss claims." The AP pointed out that "Caldwell and his team of private lawyers who are working on the case have had a testy relationship with Barbier since the outset of the high-stakes litigation."

RIGHT WHALES COULD BE THREATENED BY SEISMIC AIRGUNS. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/3, Sharpless, Mara, 11.54M), Andrew Sharpless and Kate Mara write that "right whales could soon face another threat – oil and gas exploration along most of their migration route." They note that "the government has proposed protection plans to try and mitigate the harm, but now new Oceana-funded research reveals that these measures won't adequately protect these critically endangered whales." The BOEM is "planning to allow the oil and gas industry to use seismic airguns to search for offshore deposits." According to the authors, "the blasts, 100,000 times louder than standing near a jet engine, are extremely harmful to marine mammals like the right whale."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

COLORADO RIVER SAPPED BY DROUGHT. The New York Times (1/6, Wines, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Colorado River and its "slew of man-made reservoirs from the Rockies to southern Arizona are being sapped by 14 years of drought nearly unrivaled in 1,250 years." In fact, "many experts believe the current drought is only the harbinger of a new, drier era in which the Colorado's flow will be substantially and permanently diminished." According to the article, "faced with the shortage, federal authorities this year will for the first time decrease the amount of water that flows into Lake Mead, the nation's largest reservoir, from Lake Powell 180 miles upstream." Officials say "there is a 50-50 chance that by 2015, Lake Mead's water will be rationed to states downstream. That, too, has never happened before."

CONGRESS TO DECIDE ON FUNDING FOR LEWIS & CLARK WATER PROJECT. The Des Moines (IA) Register (1/3, Doering, 516K) reports that "the bipartisan budget deal signed into law in Washington last month has failed to provide any clarity for operators overseeing the construction of the Lewis & Clark system and other water projects." The Lewis & Clark project is "expected to receive $3.2 million in funding proposed by the White House in its 2014 budget," and "Congress is expected to approve the money." However, "while the recent budget agreement established broad spending levels, appropriations committees in Congress charged with distributing funding are expected to decide in the next few weeks where that money goes and whether additional dollars should go to Lewis & Clark and five other projects overseen by the Bureau of Reclamation."

OPEN HOUSES ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANS FOR SCOGGINS DAM TO BEGIN JANUARY 9. The Oregonian (1/5, 751K) reports that the BOR will "host a series of open houses in Hillsboro and Forest Grove on Thursday, Jan. 9 on how an earthquake off the Oregon could impact a number of western cities." Representatives from the BOR, "Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Tualatin Valley Irrigation District and Washington County Sheriff's Office will give presentations on the dam's background and emergency response plans in the event Scoggins Dam fails to withstand a high magnitude earthquake."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta

Conservation Plan was provided by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/4, 749K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (1/5, 206) and the Southern California Public Radio (1/3, 57K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA APPROVES COMPACT THAT COULD LEAD TO MASHPEE WAMPANOAG CASINO IN TAUNTON. The Boston Herald (1/5, 643K) reports that the BIA has approved a compact between Massachusetts and the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe setting out financial agreements for a tribal casino in Taunton and advancing plans for one of the coveted casinos in the state. The deadline for the BIA to either approve or reject the compact within 45 days passed at midnight Friday with no action by the federal agency. Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, that makes the agreement between tribe leaders and Gov. Deval Patrick a binding deal. In a statement, Patrick said, "This is another important step toward growing jobs and opportunity in the Southeast region, and a good deal for both the Commonwealth and the Tribe."

The Cape Cod (MA) Times (1/4, 92K) reports that Mashpee Wampanoag tribal council Chairman Cedric Cromwell said Friday, "This is a huge, huge day. It's a historical day for the tribe, for the state of Massachusetts and for the city of Taunton. We're very excited."

The New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (1/3, 54K) reports that Nedra Darling "did not say why the BIA has not issued a definitive ruling."

Also providing coverage are the Boston (1/3, 750K), the Boston Herald (1/5, 643K), the Taunton (MA) Gazette (1/5, 36K), the Cape Cod (MA) Today (1/4, 3K), the Lakeville (MA) Call (1/5), the North Adams (MA) Transcript (1/5, 14K), the Fall River (MA) Herald News (1/5, 116K), the Wicked Local (MA) (1/5, 84K), WBUR-FM Boston (1/3, 64K), WLNE-TV Providence, RI (1/5, 4K), and WBZ-TV Boston (1/3, 68K).

AP coverage was picked up by the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/5, 80K), the Portland (ME) Press Herald (1/5, 279K), the New London (CT) Day (1/4, 76K), and the Navajo Times (AZ) (1/5, 66K).

LITTLE SHELL TRIBE STILL WAITING FOR RECOGNITION. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (1/3, 90K) reports that two bills before Congress would end the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe "long wait for federal recognition." Rep. Steve Daines, who has "sponsored a bill in the House that would bring federal recognition to the tribe and bypass the usual recognition process," said, "I think there's a realistic chance here to get this done,." Daines "met with tribal leaders Friday in Great Falls and provided an update on the bill." Meanwhile, Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., is sponsoring a companion bill in the Senate.

DISENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS SEEK FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The Mt. Pleasant (MI) Morning Sun (1/4, 40K) reports that "a group of Mt. Pleasant-based Native Americans, including 66 removed from the rolls of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe in November, are seeking federal recognition of the original three bands of American Indians that first settled in Isabella County in the mid-1800s." According to the article, "no one has disputed that most of those behind the effort are Native American descendants of the historical three tribes, but they claim to have been disenrolled from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe for historical quirks linked to inappropriate rulings and poor record keeping by the federal government."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN REFLECTS ON PASSING OF FORREST GERARD. In an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/6, 288K), Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Kevin K. Washbum reflects on the passing of former Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Forrest J. Gerard. Washburn discuses the "important federal Indian policies he championed and his contributions to Native Americans across the country deserve to be celebrated."

Top National News:

DEMOCRATS TRY TO SHIFT FOCUS FROM HEALTHCARE TO INCOME INEQUALITY. Many media analysts are describing Senate Democrats' focus on extending long-term unemployment benefits, along with President

Obama's renewed push for a minimum wage hike, as part of a concerted campaign to ameliorate the damage done to their party over the past several months by the problematic implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

On NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 6, 2:20, Quintanilla, 7.86M), Kristin Welker reported that the "biggest priority" for the President, who is "aim[ing] to reboot his presidency...after a rocky 2013," is to "to shift the narrative on healthcare," which "Republicans see...as their winning campaign issue." Welker added that the President is expected to "renew his call for an increase in the minimum wage in his State of the Union address," which is, according to Welker, "another piece of Democratic strategy designed to paint Republicans as the party of the rich ahead of the fall elections."

Chuck Todd, on NBC's Meet the Press (1/5, 3.08M), said that when he asked unnamed Administration officials what they intend to do in the month of January, they "ticked off a whole bunch of issues," but "sort of left out healthcare completely." According to Todd, "They would like to be talking about anything other than healthcare."

Likewise, Al Hunt, in his column for Bloomberg News (1/6, Hunt, 1.91M), says that "on health care, the best the White House can do is to neutralize the issue." According to Hunt, the White House "knows it needs to put the Republicans on the defensive elsewhere: by pushing an extension of unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless and raising the minimum wage."

Roll Call's Stuart Rothenberg, appearing on CNN's State of the Union (1/5), said, "The Senate is definitely in play," and it will be up to Democrats "to change the dynamic...so that the election is about the Republicans – 'Republican extremism,' Republicans being uncompromising – because, right now, it looks like the election will be much more about the President" and "healthcare reform."

Indeed, just a few minutes later, in an appearance on ABC's This Week (1/5, 2.73M), Sen. Chuck Schumer maintained that while "for the first five years of the Obama Administration, the two issues that dominated were healthcare and budget deficit," in 2014, "dealing with declining middle-class incomes and not enough job growth, will be the number one issue." As Rothenberg suggested Democrats would, Schumer went to claim that Republicans will expose themselves as "out of the mainstream" if they oppose the President's agenda.

Burgess Everett, in a piece for Politico (1/6, Everett, 464K) under the headline, "Dems Seize On Income Inequality For 2014," says the upcoming Senate vote on extending jobless benefits "marks the first concrete step by Democrats toward a populist economic platform ahead of the November elections." Everett says the Democrats are "daring Republicans to oppose legislation aimed at benefiting low-income Americans." According to Everett, "The inequality campaign will intensify later in the year with a push in the Senate to raise the federal minimum wage that will be synced with" the State of the Union address, "which is expected to dig heavily into the issue of economic disparity." USA Today (1/6, Jackson, 5.82M) says the President's address is expected to focus on "the rising gap between rich and poor in the United States, as well as the economy overall."

USA Today (1/6, Schouten, 5.82M) also reports that Democrats "have seized on income inequality as a major theme of the 2014 campaign," and "are pushing to increase the $7.25-an-hour federal minimum wage" along with an extension of "long-term unemployment insurance for people out of work for 26 weeks or longer," which "lapsed Dec. 28 for 1.3 million people." USA Today notes that the President "plans an event Tuesday at the White House with some long-term unemployed Americans to ramp up pressure on Congress to act."

Democrats Blast Republicans For Allowing Jobless Benefits To Lapse. On NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 6, 2:20, Quintanilla, 7.86M), Kristin Welker reported that "the first item" on the President's agenda for 2014 is "extending unemployment benefits" that "expired in December for 1.3 million Americans who have been out of work for six months or longer." Welker noted the President has "blamed Republicans for leaving those benefits out of last month's budget deal," and that "many Republicans say they will only support it if the $6.5 billion price tag is offset by spending cuts."

The New York Times (1/6, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that on CNN's State Of The Union and NBC's Meet the Press, NEC director Gene Sperling "continued the Obama administration's push to restore the support system that provides up to 47 weeks of supplemental payments for unemployed Americans who are still looking for jobs," while on CBS' Face The Nation, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid emphasized that "the current proposal to renew emergency unemployment benefits for three months needed the support of at

least four Republicans in addition to Senator Dean Heller of Nevada, who co-sponsored the bill."

The Washington Post (1/6, Sullivan, 4.28M) says Reid "sought to paint" Heller "as a staunch conservative," saying, "Remember, Dean Heller is not some maverick that is out spewing socialism. Here's a guy who is really a conservative person, and he wants to extend unemployment benefits. I admire him for doing that." According to Politico (1/6, Everett, 464K), Sen. Susan Collins "has indicated she supports the bill," but no other Republican in the Senate, apart from Heller, has done so.

Nevertheless, The Hill (1/6, Bolton, 194K) reports that the Senate Democratic leadership "feel[s] cautiously optimistic they have the 60 votes they need to advance unemployment benefits legislation on Monday." But The Hill does not identify any Republicans other than Heller and Collins who might back the extension.

Sperling, appearing on CNN's State Of The Union (1/5, 862K), said that while "the economy is improving" and the "unemployment rate, in general, is falling," the "worst legacy of the 'Great Recession' is that there is crisis of long-term unemployment." According to Sperling, "People who have been unemployed for six months or longer are finding it most difficult, and we have to be a country that's committed to leaving nobody behind in this recovery." Sperling continued, "We, as a country, have never, never the last half century, have we ever cut off emergency unemployment benefits when long-term employment has been this high."

On CBS' Face The Nation (1/5, 2.64M), Reid claimed that the "vast majority of the American people believe that unemployment benefits should be extended," and noted that it has been estimated that US GDP "would be increased by $23 billion" if the extension were approved. Politico (1/6, Glueck, 464K) reports that Reid added, "There's 55 of us, and there's 45 of them. It would seem to me that five Republicans in the Senate should agree with the Republicans around the country. Republicans around America want us to do something to extend these benefits. Why? Because it's good for the economy. It's good for the country."

In his column for the Washington Post (1/6, Dionne, 4.28M), E.J. Dionne says that in the past, extending unemployment benefits and raising the minimum wage wasn't "so complicated," because, despite partisan disagreements, "a solid block of Republicans once saw regular increases as a just way of spreading the benefits of economic growth." But Dionne says that conservatives are "now determined to blow up the national consensus that has prevailed since the Progressive and New Deal eras."

Paul: Unemployment Benefits Can Be A "Disincentive To Work." Sen. Rand Paul, on ABC's This Week (1/5, 2.73M), said, "With regard to unemployment insurance, I've always said I'm not opposed to unemployment insurance, [but] I'm opposed to having it without paying for it. I think it's wrong to borrow money from China, or simply to print out money for it, but I'm not against having unemployment insurance." However, Paul added, "I do think...the longer you have it, that it does provides some disincentive to work," and, according to Paul, "there are many studies that indicate this."

Sen. Chuck Schumer, also on ABC's This Week (1/5, 2.73M), said, "Most of the people I meet who are on unemployment are people who have had jobs for 25 years and lost them, and they've been knocking on doors every week." Schumer continued, "I think it's...a bit insulting to American workers when Rand Paul says that unemployment insurance is a disservice. They want to work, they don't want unemployment benefits."

The Washington Times (1/6, Klimas, 417K) notes that Paul did say that he "would support an extension...if it is offset in other parts of the budget." However, under the headline, "Obama Adviser Gene Sperling Pushes For Unemployment Benefits Extension Without Offsets," the Washington Examiner (1/6, Lawler, 319K) reports that on NBC's Meet the Press, Sperling pointed out that "14 of the last 17 times that emergency unemployment has been extended, there have been no strings attached," and "all five times that President Bush extended unemployment benefits, there were no pay-fors." Politico (1/6, Parti, 464K) also covered Sperling's remarks.

Bloomberg News (1/6, Przybyla, 1.91M) reports that on ABC's This Week, Schumer "forecast political blowback for Republicans who do not support the effort," and quotes him as saying, "they're going to show themselves so far out of the mainstream, it's going to hurt them in the election."

Nevertheless, the Wall Street Journal (1/6, Catan, Hook, 5.91M) reported that on CBS's Face The Nation, Rep. Matt Salmon (R-AZ) argued that "these giveaway programs, these government programs, don't create one job."

On the other hand, the Washington Post (1/6, Sullivan, 4.28M) reports that also on CBS's Face The Nation, Rep. Peter King (R-NY) said that he is "open to supporting a temporary extension of long-term unemployment benefits." King said, "I would like to find a way to get a compromise to extend unemployment insurance, at least for a brief period of time, but at the same time, the Democrats should make compromises."

PIMCO CEO Mohamed El-Erian, in a piece for the Huffington Post (1/6, El-Erian, 11.54M), lays out what he says are "solid economic and social arguments in favor of restoring these important benefits." According to El-Erian, "the country can afford to pay these benefits," and "in no way does the monetary burden of these benefits threaten overall national wellbeing and financial soundness."

In an editorial, USA Today (1/6, 5.82M) says "the job market is still bad enough...that it is simply cruel to cut off help now." The New York Times (1/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, says of the proposed extension that "it's hard to imagine a more important action for those who have been out of work the longest," as well as "for the economy."

However, Aloysius Hogan, a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, in an op-ed for USA Today (1/6, Hogan, 5.82M), maintains "another extension of unemployment insurance would do more harm than good." Hogan says that prior to taking to becoming the chair of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, economist Alan Krueger had suggested that "paying people not to work actually increases the incentive not to work."

Cillizza: Obama Is Concerned By His Relatively Weak Standing Among Democrats. Chris Cillizza, in a piece for the Washington Post (1/6, Cillizza, 4.28M), says the "12-point drop in Obama's approval rating from January 2013 to December 2013" was not due "to Republicans...but rather to precipitous declines among independents (down 14 points) and, interestingly, Democrats (down 15 points)." According to Cillizza, that "dip among Democrats explains why Obama has of late focused on economic inequality (unemployment insurance, a minimum-wage increase, etc.)"

Walker: "Fix Obamacare" To Help The Unemployed. Appearing later, on CNN's State of the Union (1/5), Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker contended that "the reason why the White House is so actively pushing" an extension of jobless benefits is that "they want to desperately talk about anything but Obamacare." Walker argued that "the best thing we could do to help people unemployed, or underemployed, is fix Obamacare," and "replace it with a patient-centered plan that puts people in charge, not government in charge – and got rid of the uncertainty so many businesses here in my state and across the country talk about." However, Politico (1/6, Parti, 464K) reported that Walker also said he "supports extending emergency unemployment benefits as long as reforms are made to the system."

Obama 2006 Minimum Wage Passage Called "More Nuanced" Than His Current Stance. Byron York, in a piece for the Washington Examiner (1/6, York, 319K), writes that even while the President pushes for a minimum wage, he "seems to acknowledge that there is evidence a higher minimum wage costs jobs," although he "doesn't find it 'solid.'" However, according to York, in The Audacity of Hope, published in 2006, the President "seemed much more open to the evidence that raising the minimum wage results in less hiring." York notes that the book contains this passage: "It may be true – as some economists argue – that any big jumps in the minimum wage discourage employers from hiring more workers." York adds, "that older, more nuanced view of the minimum wage will likely be absent from Obama's rhetoric in coming weeks" because "the new campaign will be all about politics."

ECONOMISTS ASSESS RECOVERY'S STRENGTH, PROSPECTS IN 2014. A Wall Street Journal (1/6, Reddy, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) piece examines the prospects for the economy in 2014, noting that many forecasters expect growth to soar in the coming year. The piece says that five major factors will determine the economy's prospects. First, businesses need to shed their cautious attitude. Secondly, DC lawmakers need to continue to cooperate on budget and debt issues. Third, the Fed needs to steer a clean course out of its bond-buying program. Fourth, the housing sector needs to adjust effectively to rising interest rates. Finally, the economies in the rest of the world need to avoid further crises.

Bloomberg News (1/6, Kennedy, Miller, 1.91M) reports that Harvard Professor Martin Feldstein argued at a Philadelphia economics event that the economy is going to accelerate in 2014. He said, "There is no reason for

pessimism about our near future if we adopt appropriate policies." Bloomberg adds that former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and Stanford's John Taylor "agreed in interviews that stronger growth this year was possible even as they clashed over what more policy makers could do to speed expansion."

The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Mcgrane, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports Summers argued that an expansionary fiscal policy would boost growth, though Taylor said that government actions, such as heavy regulation, were holding the economy back.

However, the New York Times (1/6, Rampell, Dewan, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues that despite the arguments of most of the economists that the economy was sluggish in recent years, a study presented at the event, from Carmen Reinhard and Kenneth Rogoff, argues that the economy is actually doing rather well in the wake of the financial crisis.

New York Fed's Dudley Says Bond-Buying Program Remains Opaque. The Wall Street Journal (1/4, Derby, 5.91M) reports that Federal Reserve Bank of New York President William Dudley said on Saturday that several key methods that the Fed goes about implementing its bond-buying program remain unclear. Speaking at an event in Philadelphia, Dudley, a strong backer of the program, said, "we don't understand fully how large-scale asset-purchase programs work to ease financial market conditions—is it the effect of the purchases on the portfolios of private investors, or alternatively is the major channel one of signaling?"

Summers Lays Out Growth Strategy. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (1/6, Summers, 4.28M), Lawrence Summers, a former Treasury Secretary under President Clinton and a key economic adviser to President Obama, lays out strategies to put the economy on a path of "sustainable growth." Summers lays out several strategies, but endorses a "commitment to raising the level of demand at any given level of interest rates through policies that restore a situation where reasonable growth and reasonable interest rates can coincide." Summers says that the government should boost the economy by investing more in infrastructure growth. He also endorses doing much more with the energy sector to "unleash private investments" in fossil fuels and renewables, while simultaneously ensure that the "widening trade deficit does not excessively divert demand from the U.S. economy."

Economist Argues For Ending Corporate Income Tax. In an op-ed for the New York Times (1/6, Kotlikoff, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Laurence Kotlikoff, a professor of economics at Boston University, argues that one way to boost the economy would be to eliminate the corporate income tax. He argues this isn't a "giveaway to the rich," as big companies can move operations and jobs overseas to avoid taxation. Kotlikoff argues that the US' very high tax rate drives jobs overseas and that ending it would significantly boost prospects of workers. In addition, he argues that the benefits from such a move would outweigh the budget costs.

CONGRESSIONAL AGENDA DRIVEN BY ELECTION-YEAR CONCERNS. The AP (1/6, Cassata) reports that Congress returns on Monday, and its agenda is likely to be heavily influenced by "election-year politics." Republicans are looking to focus on the ACA, as they see "a political boost in its problem-plagued rollout as the GOP looks to maintain its House majority and seize control of the Democratic-led Senate." Democrats, for their part, "will press to raise the federal minimum wage from $7.25 an hour and extend unemployment benefits."

The Washington Post (1/6, Kane, 4.28M) reports that after a relatively unproductive 2013, lawmakers are "struggling to find optimism that 2014 will mark a pivot point for an institution whose historically low approval rating has been at or below 20 percent for three years." The first "big hurdle" will be the January 15 deadline for current Federal budget authority, followed by a debt limit increase needed in the next few months.

Looking at the House GOP's agenda, the New York Times (1/6, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that House Majority Leader Eric Cantor is "quietly playing down expectations for any major legislative achievements in the final year of the 113th Congress." The calendar is "bare bones," with the House in session only 97 days before November's elections. More broadly, the Times says that White House "priorities" such as raising the minimum wage, extending emergency unemployment benefits, and immigration reform are "likely to go nowhere." Instead, Congress is expected to focus on the farm bill and budget issues.

For its part, the Wall Street Journal (1/6, Hook, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that Congress will immediately begin to tackle the issues laid out in the AP story.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Zero Tolerance, Reconsidered."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (1/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that schools "across the country" are reconsidering zero tolerance discipline policies, which are "long overdue." The Times says that studies "have shown that suspensions and expulsions do nothing to improve the school climate, while increasing the risk that children will experience long-term social and academic problems." In addition, Federal data "indicates that minority students are disproportionately singled out for harsh disciplinary measures."

"Another Step Forward On Okinawa." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) hails the advancement of plans to move US troops on the Japanese island of Okinawa to a less-congested area, but takes the opportunity to criticize Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "aggressive nationalism." The Times urges the Administration to press Abe more heavily to moderate himself on the issue.

"Republican Disdain For The Jobless." The New York Times (1/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, says of the proposed extension of unemployment benefits that "it's hard to imagine a more important action for those who have been out of work the longest," as well as "for the economy."

"Acing The Course At Chapel Hill." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) criticizes the role of athletics in universities, highlighting the recent scandal at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where a "former professor was indicted on fraud charges last month after running dozens of bogus and no-show courses heavily enrolled with student athletes looking for easy academic credits." The NCAA "should be alarmed at this scandal, but there is no sign yet of dedicated reform."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Just A Trim."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/6, 4.28M) says that members of Congress from both parties are "falling all over themselves" to undo a one "percentage-point reduction in military pension annual cost-of-living increases, which provides $6 billion in savings over 10 years" implement in the December budget deal. The Post says the cut "is an exceedingly modest one on a pension plan that is already far more generous than private-sector equivalents."

"Blast From The Past." An editorial in the Washington Post (1/6, 4.28M) decries Chinese leaders' efforts to control the media, noting that "President Xi Jinping, has been championing slogans and ideology from Mao's day and the pursuit of a Marxist Utopia, a pursuit that led to great suffering for hundreds of millions of people." The Post argue that because Chinese leaders "fear that openness and freedom pose an existential threat to their control," they "lord over information to preserve their monopoly on power." The Post adds that they "are right to be afraid; the digital revolution is only gathering force."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Costs Of U.S. Retreat."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that costs of the US's strategic retreat from Iraq and Syria are now being seen as al Qaeda's influence is growing in those countries and others, including Lebanon. The Journal adds that the costs of the US retreat are likely to be higher than if the US had remained engaged in Iraq and helped to make the Syria opposition more moderate.

"Boeing Workers Unite." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) hails the approval of a new contract by Boeing machinists, arguing that it is a victory for the workers and for the economy, as well as for common sense.

"A Good Time For Housing Reform." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that 2014 is a good year to cut back on Federal support for the housing market, which the paper says has previously caused a series of housing boom-and-bust cycles. The Journal cites the poor financial condition of the FHA as evidence for the need for reform. The Journal backs efforts to limit FHA subsidies of the housing industries.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Congress Returns To Spar, Set Up Elections
Fallout From Syria Conflict Takes Rising Toll On Mideast
Big Auto Makers Race To Take Web On The Road
How Mark Zuckerberg Came Of Age As A Corporate Executive

New York Times:
The Muslim Brotherhood, Back In A Fight To Survive
Sudan's Lost Boys Are Drawn Into War At Home
Popular Voice In The Capitol? It's The Pope's
Colorado River Drought Forces A Painful Reckoning For States
From Petraeus Scandal, An Apostle For Privacy
OJ Who? Rogues Vanish From Annals Of Sport

Washington Post:
US Will Not Send Forces To Aid Iraq
A Koch-Tied Labyrinth Of Political Spending
In Congress, Shrunken Ambitions
In Maryland, Sign Of Life At Dairy Plant Won't Erase Pain
Sweaty? Confused? Soon Your Devices Will Know

Financial Times:
Europe Set To Ease Reform On Bank Splits
Years Of Cuts Lie Ahead, Osborne Warns
Soaring Fees Blight Bankruptcy Process
Festive Online UK Sales Hit Record
Strong Credit Markets Fuel Refinancing
Ex-SAC Manager Resolute As Trial Starts

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Colorado-Plane Crash; Severe Weather-Air Travel; Winter Storm; Severe Weather-Wisconsin; Weather Forecast; Pennsylvania-Road Rage Shooting; Iraq-Car Bombs; North Korea-Basketball; First Lady Birthday; China-Ice Sculptures
CBS: Preempted by NFL Coverage.
NBC: Colorado Plane Crash; Record Cold Temperatures; Winter Storm; Weather Forecast; Iraq-Al Qaeda; Obama-Agenda; Barbara Bush Returns Home; Pope Francis-Holy Land; Knockout Attacks; China-Ice Sculptures; US Ice Breaker-Antarctica

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Winter Weather; Extreme Low Temperatures; Colorado Plane Crash; Iraq-Violence; Congress-Agenda
CBS: Extreme Low Temperatures; Severe Weather-Air Travel; Iraq-Violence; Green Bay Packers-Record Temperatures; Broadcaster Death
NPR: Severe Winter Weather; Severe Weather-Air Travel; Kerry-Israel-Palestine Peace Deal; Iraq-Violence; Lebanon-Warning To Americans; South Sudan-Slow Peace Efforts; Congress-Senate Unemployment Vote; Portugal-National Mourning For Soccer Player; Las Vegas-Consumer Electronic Show; Movie Ratings
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Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Schedule Unavailable

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Schedule Unavailable
US Senate: 12:15 p.m. SEN. JOHNSON – OPM LAWSUIT — Sen. Ron Johnson (WI) along with Paul Clement, partner at Bancroft PLLC and former U.S. Solicitor General, and Rick Esenberg, founder and current President and General Counsel of the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, will hold a press conference to discuss the filing of a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, against the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to "correct the special treatment being authorized for members of congress and their staffs." Location: Mike Mansfield Room, S-207.

FLOOR SCHEDULE 2 p.m. — The Senate will reconvene and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1845, the Unemployment Insurance Extension. At 5:30 p.m. the Senate will conduct two roll call votes as follows: 1.) Confirmation of Janet Yellen; 2.) The motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1845.
US House: No Scheduled Events
Other: AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY 223RD MEETING — "AAS 223: A Stimulus Package for Astronomy in the Nation's Capital." All briefings will be streamed on AAS's website, accessible to registered journalists. During the five-day meeting, NASA scientists and their colleagues will present briefings on noteworthy discoveries – made possible by NASA's astrophysics spacecraft – including the detection of unusually bright young galaxies, new gravitational lens findings, and black hole events in dwarf galaxies. Location: Gaylord National Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Md.

NATIONAL HEALTH SPENDING IN 2012 — 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Briefing with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service's National Health Expenditure Accounts Team on the "National Health spending in 2012: Slow growth continues". Location: National Press Club (13th Floor), Zenger Room, 529 14th St. NW.

CSIS – AFGHANISTAN – NATO — 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Ten Years in NATO; Twelve Years in Afghanistan – Minister Reinsalu as he discusses Estonia's defense priorities and its military modernization plans ahead of the September 2014 NATO Summit. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

PENTAGON – ESTONIA — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome Estonia's Minister of Defense Urmas Reinsalu. Location: Steps of the Pentagon River Entrance

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All shows were in rerun.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, January 9, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jan 9, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF "21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS."
For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/9, Bridgeland, 11.54M), John Bridgeland, CEO, Civic Enterprises, writes that "on the National Mall, with a backdrop of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Memorial," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "invoked the legacy of FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps to launch what she called a 'CCC 2.0' – a 100,000 person strong '21st Century Conservation Service Corps' that will eventually give thousands of young people...and veterans whose transitions home from war are improved through civilian national service, the opportunity to serve their country and enhance their lives." In addition to "ensuring the federal government will do its part," Jewell is "challenging the private sector to emerge with $20 million to support those nonprofits that deploy corps members."

Also reporting on the story are NPR (1/9, Shogren, 465K) and KUHF-FM Houston (1/9, 12K).

American Eagle Outfitters Pledges $1 Million For Public Land Effort. In its "Post Politics" blog, the Washington Post (1/8, Bernstein, 4.28M) reports that "American Eagle Outfitters pledged $1 million Wednesday to help train and hire young people and veterans to care for public lands." The contribution "is part of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's effort to raise $20 million from private groups by 2017 to build a '21st Century

Conservation Service Corps' that would work and volunteer to maintain public lands." Jewell has "made the effort one of her top priorities, noting in a speech on her vision for the department that young people are increasingly disconnected from the outdoors."

Also reporting on the story is the Women's Wear Daily (1/9, 69K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO TOUR EVERGLADES HEADWATERS. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (1/8, 780K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is visiting Florida "this week to show the Obama administration's 'sustained commitment to restoring and protecting the Everglades.'" Jewell will "meet with landowners at the Durando Ranch in Okeechobee on Thursday and discuss the next steps for the Everglades Headwaters National Park Refuge and Conservation Area – a plan to restore imperiled habitat while preserving private ranch land." She will also tour the Kissimmee River Restoration Project in Lorida. And on Friday evening, Jewell will deliver the keynote address to the Everglades Coalition Conference in Naples.

The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (1/8, 210K) notes that "this will be Jewell's second official visit to the Everglades since being swom in as secretary less than one year ago."

Also covering the story are the South Florida Sun Sentinel (1/8, 690K) and the Naples (FL) Daily News (1/8, 174K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO KEYNOTE OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INDUSTRY BREAKFAST. The SportsOneSource (1/9, 71) reports that the Outdoor Industry Association Industry Breakfast being held in conjunction with the Outdoor Retailer Winter Market 2014, will feature Interior Secretary Sally Jewell as its keynote speaker. According to the article, "the breakfast will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014 from 7:00 am to 9:00 am at the Salt Lake Marriott Downtown at City Creek, in Salt Lake City." Frank Hugelmeyer, President and CEO of Outdoor Industry Association, said, "We look forward to Secretary Jewell's keynote presentation as she outlines the Administration's ambitious initiative to engage and employ youth on public lands, improve access and increase participation in outdoor recreation as part of the Administration's conservation agenda."

The Bicycle Retailer (1/8) reports that Steve Rendle, president, VF Outdoor and the Action Sports Coalition, a co-sponsor of the event, said, "We're excited to host her at the OIA industry breakfast to hear and discuss ideas for greater public engagement with the outdoors and our partnership with policymakers."

Also reporting on the story is Politico (1/8, Tau, 464K).

NORTH CENTRAL CLIMATE SCIENCE CENTER RECEIVES $1 MILLION FOR RESEARCH. The Northern Colorado Business Report (1/8) reports that the North Central Climate Science Center at CSU will "receive more than $1 million for collaborative research to guide managers of parks, refuges and other cultural and natural resources in planning how to help species and ecosystems adapt to climate change." The Interior Department will "award the money for projects on how climate change will affect natural resources and management actions needed to help offset such change." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement, "Even as we take new steps to cut carbon pollution, we must also prepare for the impacts of a changing climate that are already being felt across the country. These new studies, and others that are ongoing, will help provide valuable, unbiased science that land managers and others need to identify tools and strategies to foster resilience in resources across landscapes in the face of climate change."

PILT FUNDING REMAINS IN JEOPARDY. The Hendersonville (NC) Times-News (1/9, 37K) reports that "a federal program to compensate Western North Carolina counties with large swaths of non-taxable public lands is in jeopardy if Congress doesn't act soon to restore its funding." Transylvania County stands to lose about $200,000 this year if the PILT program "isn't fully funded during ongoing budget negotiations between the U.S. House and Senate."

DEMISE OF NATIONAL BLUEWAYS SYSTEM LAMENTED. The Brattleboro (VT) Reformer (1/9, 22K) editorializes that "paranoia and misinformation" won "out over common sense and a genuine effort to do a good thing" with the demise of the National Blueways System. According to the paper, "there really was no downside to the program, until some conservative groups and politicians in the Midwest invented one." The editorial claims

that "they feared it would lead to increased regulations and land seizures, even though federal officials made it clear that the program was voluntary and did not include any new regulations."

Additional coverage of the Interior Department's decision to end further designation under the National Blueways System was provided by the Farmington (MO) Daily Journal (1/9, 7K).

RATIONALE OF KING COVE ROAD DECISION QUESTIONED. In an op-ed for the Juneau (AK) Empire (1/9, 21K), Rich Moniak admits that the "arguments from both sides" on the King Cove Road "may be more exaggeration than substance." However, Moniak questions how "a narrow, single lane road on the sparsely populated tail of the Alaska Peninsula" would cause "irreparable damage to important fish, wildlife, habitat and wilderness values of the refuge." Moniak claims that seems "to be an overly dire forecast for the impacts of a 40-foot-wide road corridor across a strip of land that's three miles wide."

STATES CHALLENGING FEDERAL CONTROL OF PUBLIC LANDS. For the Reno (NV) News & Review (1/9, 75K), Brendan Trainor writes that "Nevada is planning to join five other Western states challenging the federal government's control of the public lands." He acknowledges that "many studies conclude the federal government does a relatively poor job of range and timber management, especially with all the resources at its disposal," but he notes that "there are numerous examples of mediocre state management as well." For instance, "because Nevada manages so few public lands now, the state management infrastructure is largely nonexistent."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL TO LEAVE MALL FOR THE D.C. CONVENTION CENTER. The Washington Post (1/9, Charles, 4.28M) reports that "after 12 years on the Mall, the National Book Festival is moving to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center." According to the article, the NPS was "concerned about pedestrian damage to the grass first broke in September, just as the 2013 festival was about to begin." Stephen Lorenzetti, the Park Service's deputy superintendent for planning at the National Mall and Memorial Parks, said, "We worked closely with the library to allow the festival to continue at a reasonable cost. We showed them how they might use the walkways and the roadways. But in the end, the library decided that it was more affordable to move to a different venue. We respect their decision."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Post (1/9, 4.28M), CBS (1/8, 3.87M), the Washington City Paper (1/8, 849K), the DCist (1/9, 21K), the Gothamist (1/9, 145K), WJLA-TV Washington (1/9, 118K), and WRC-TV Washington (1/9, 291K).

VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK INCREASES IN SIZE. The New York Times (1/8, Winchester, 9.61M) reports that "Virgin Islands National Park – which already encompasses 60 percent of the tiny Caribbean island of St. John — just got a little bigger." The Trust for Public Land announced that "the beach at Maho Bay and its surrounding hillside recently was sold to the National Park Service in a $2.5 million deal." The article notes that "it's the park's largest addition since 1956, when the philanthropist Laurance Rockefeller, hoping to preserve the island paradise he fell in love with, donated more than 5,000 acres toward its creation." Brion FitzGerald, the park superintendent, said, "It's a story of perseverance and a vision. To be able to sit on the beach and look up there and not see a lot of development is what makes it worthy of a national park. It ensures that same view for every generation to come."

NPS LOOKING AT LACK OF LGBT HISTORIC SITES. The Bay Area Reporter (CA) (1/9, 310) reports that "the lack of LGBT historic sites with federal recognition is garnering the attention of National Park Service officials." Officials are "seeking nominations of sites to be added to the National Register of Historic Places and for consideration to be designated as a National Historic Landmark." The article notes that "to date just three sites, all on the East Coast, have received any federal recognition specifically due to their ties to LGBT history," and "the fourth site very likely will be the Henry Gerber House in Chicago."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ADDITION TO PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK. Additional coverage of the addition of 4,265 acres to Petrified Forest National Park was provided by the Arizona Journal (1/8).

Bureau of Land Management:

RANCHERS ATTEND BLM'S SAGE GROUSE MEETINGS. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (1/8, 113K) reports that "about 175 people attended a BLM open house Jan. 6 in Prineville, and an estimated 300 packed a meeting in Bums the following day" to hear about the BLM's sage grouse management plan, according to the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Bob Skinner, public lands chairman for the cattlemen's association, said that "while the grazing prohibition impacts only 1 percent of the BLM's grazing land, it amounts to a 'punch in the face' for cattle ranchers who depend on those allottments."

REPORT DETAILING CHARIOT FIRE CAUSE STILL UNRELEASED. The U-T San Diego (1/8, 647K) reports that "six months after the Chariot fire roared up an East County canyon from the desert floor, burning across Sunrise Highway in Mount Laguna and destroying the historic Al Bahr Shrine Camp, the official cause of the blaze has yet to be released." Meanwhile, "attorneys for the Shriners have filed several claims against the US Bureau of Land Management, seeking millions of dollars in damages caused by the July 6 fire, which the Shriners allege was inadvertently started by a BLM field officer who drove his vehicle over dry brush."

BLM ISSUES DECISION RECORD FOR KIEWIT MINE PROJECT. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (1/9, 43) reports that the BLM Utah Salt Lake Field Office has "released a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and signed the Decision Record (DR) approving the Kiewit Mine Project in southwestern Tooele County, Utah."

BLM'S PROPOSAL TO CLOSE MYRTLE CREEK WATERSHED QUESTIONED. In an editorial, the Roseburg (OR) News-Review (1/9, 53K) questions the BLM's proposal "to close more than 2,000 acres in the Myrtle Creek watershed." The paper says that "it's hard to see what the BLM will gain no matter how the appeals board rules."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

DC POLICE INVESTIGATING THEFT OF IVORY TUSKS FROM JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING. The Washington Post (1/9, Hermann, Debonis, 4.28M) reports that DC police are investigating the disappearance of elephant tusks that "Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I gave to the District during his 1954 visit" from the John A. Wilson Building. D.C. police estimated the stolen tusks to be worth at least $10,000. Edward Grace, deputy chief of law enforcement for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, "said the tusks stolen from the District 'would be pretty easy to sell,' adding that 'it would be very hard for a police agency to stop that sale or investigate it.'" Grace said trading elephant tusks is unusual in the United States, a market that he said was more interested in omate carvings.

FWS COMPLETES LAND SWAP FOR ATV TRAIL. The Berlin (NH) Daily Sun (1/9, 26K) reports that the FWS has "exchanged a 233-acre parcel of land in the Town of Errol for a conservation easement on the state's Big Island State Forest in Wentworth's Location." According to the article, "the Big Island State Forest conservation easement area will become part of Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge and a new state forest will be created in Errol." Paul Casey, refuge manager of Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, said, "This is a win-win deal for wildlife and people. High quality wildlife habitat will be managed by the refuge while the public will permanently gain an important connection in the new North Country all-terrain vehicle, or ATV, trail."

FWS REOPENS COMMENTS PERIOD ON PROPOSAL TO PROTECT ZUNI BLUEHEAD SUCKER. In its "Ballot Box" blog, The Hill (1/9, 194K) reports that the FWS is "announcing a six-month extension to a proposed rule that would protect" the Zuni Bluehead Sucker. According to experts, "the population of the Zuni Bluehead Sucker has rapidly declined by 90 percent over the last two decades." The FWS said, "We are taking this action because there is substantial disagreement regarding the sufficiency or accuracy of the available data relevant to our determination regarding the proposed listing rule, making it necessary to solicit additional information by reopening the comment period for 30 days."

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO LISTING WOULD AFFECT SNAKE WATER MANAGERS. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (1/8, 113K) reports that "Upper Snake River water managers say they'll face new administrative obligations if federal protection is approved for" the yellow-billed cuckoo. According to FWS, "90 percent of the bird's riparian habitat in the West has been lost or degraded, and habitat threats include 'conversion to agriculture, dams, river

flow management, bank protection, overgrazing and competition from exotic plants.'"

FWS SEEKS PROPOSALS FROM STATES FOR 2014 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT GRANTS. The Sioux Falls (SD) Tri-State Neighbor (1/9, 79K) reports that the FWS is "seeking proposals from states and US territories for federal financial assistance for conservation activities that benefit endangered species."

BIG GAME OUTFITTER CHARGED WITH WILDLIFE PLOT. The Washington Post (1/8) reports that "federal authorities have accused a Colorado man and a guide from Oregon of illegally capturing and maiming mountain lions and bobcats as part of a scheme to make hunting the cats easier for their clients." The US Justice Department said Wednesday that "Christopher Loncarich, of Mack, Colo., and Nicholaus Rodgers, of Medford, Ore., have been indicted on charges including transportation and sale of unlawfully taken wildlife." The case was investigated by the FWS Office of Law Enforcement, "Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and is being prosecuted by the Environmental Crimes Section of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division."

PROTECTION FOR SAGE GROUSE SUPPORTED. The Missoula (MT) Independent (1/9, Gulliford, 65K), Andrew Gulliford, professor of history and environmental studies at Fort Lewis College, asks, "A federal listing of the Gunnison sage grouse as an endangered species may change the way the rural West does business, but what's wrong with that?" Gulliford asserts that "every one of us has an obligation" to stand up for the sage grouse.

US Geological Survey:

SCIENTISTS DEVELOP MEANS FOR IDENTIFYING AREAS AT RISK OF BRINE CONTAMINATION. The Los Angeles Times (1/8, Banerjee, 3.07M) reports that a study from the US Geological Survey of Sheridan County, Montana indicates that a system they developed "could help prevent some contamination of wetlands and groundwater from oil development in the booming Williston Basin in Montana and North Dakota." The system helps identify areas at greatest risk for brine contamination.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARING ON ADMINISTRATIONS PROCESS OF 2008 STREAM PROTECTION RULE. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (1/9, 194K) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee will "hold a full committee hearing titled, 'Obama Administration's War on Coal: The Recent Report by the Office of the Inspector General.'" Members will "dive into a report, which probed the administrations process of a 2008 stream protection rule."

Also reporting on the story is the National Journal (1/9, Subscription Publication, 427K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BP CLAIMS FRAUD, SEEKS TO STOP OIL-SPILL PAYMENTS. McClatchy (1/8, Cockerham, 95K) reports that the Deepwater Horizon settlement agreement "is in turmoil, with BP attempting to stop the payments and saying money shouldn't have gone to an adult escort service, a global nuclear consultant and others that haven't proved the monster 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico cost them business." BP "is waging an aggressive campaign in the courts and the news media against the settlement it signed two years ago." The firm "agreed to the settlement under pressure as claims mounted from the oil rig explosion that killed 11 workers, led to the biggest environmental disaster in U.S. history and did major economic damage to businesses in the region." BP expected the settlement could cost about $7.8 billion, but "it soon became clear that payouts would swell," and now the company "is in court arguing that the claims administrator and the judge overseeing the settlement are misinterpreting the terms of the deal."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE RAISES AWARENESS OF COLORADO RIVER ISSUES. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/9, Feldstein, 11.54M), Stephanie Feldstein, Population and Sustainability Director, Center for Biological Diversity, notes that "a couple days ago, The New York Times published an article on the Colorado River that started with the sobering statistic that the once-mighty river of the Southwest has suffered '14 years of drought nearly unrivaled in 1,250 years.'" Feldstein claims that "with rising temperatures and demand already exceeding supply, the river won't be able to keep up." She argues that "we need to drastically cut back on water and energy intensive systems, like raising livestock for food," and "watershed management plans should go beyond simply meeting the needs of ever-growing human populations to actually enhance the watershed's habitat and provide a healthier ecosystem for the people and wildlife relying on it."

For the "Water Currents" blog of the National Geographic (1/8, 40.49M), Jennifer Pitt of Environmental Defense Fund writes that "those with the power to affect Colorado River water management – our elected leaders and the officials they appoint – have the power to preserve the natural wonders of the American West." She claims that "persistent drought presents these leaders with a significant challenge, and how they respond will have an enduring impact, not only on the economic viability of our cities and rural counties, but also on the health of the Colorado River." Pitt quotes Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of Interior, who said that "we can't simply sacrifice recreational and environmental flows when times get tough. We know that outdoor recreation is an important driver of the Southwestern economy, just like agriculture, so we've got to consider all of those things together. It's essential to our economy. It's essential to our way of life."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (1/9, 206) reports that "the time needed for citizens to comment on the 40,115 pages of the environmental impact report/environmental impact statement of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan needs to be extended by Gov. Jerry Brown, say opponents of the water tunnels that are the heart of the plan." According to calculations by Chris Austin, a specialist in California water issues, "based on when the plan was released on Dec. 13, a person would have to read 334.2 pages per day, every day of the week, just to have finished it by the deadline to submit comments." Restore the Delta Executive Director Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla said, "It is impossible to fully review the massive EIR/EIS documents in just 85 working days."

Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Bay Area (CA) Indymedia (1/8, 2K) and KCET-TV Los Angeles (1/9, 15K).

BOR WARNS OF SAN JUAN-CHAMA WATER SHORTAGE IN 2014. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/9, 288K) reports that the BOR has "warned water agencies, including the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, that there may be a first-ever shortage of San Juan-Chama Project water this year." According to a letter from Bureau Albuquerque office chief Mike Hamman, "with low storage in Heron Reservoir and a below-average forecast, there is not currently enough water available to ensure a full allocation."

Also reporting on the story is KRQE-TV Albuquerque, NM (1/9, 29K).

CALIFORNIA URGED TO CLOSE AMERICAN RIVER TO STEELHEAD FISHING. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/8, 749K) reports that California officials are "being urged to close fishing seasons on the American River in the Sacramento area to protect steelhead and salmon from fishing pressure as the river declines amid drought conditions." On Wednesday, the Sierra Salmon Alliance urged the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to close the fishery on the river. Tyrone Gorre, co-founder of the group, said he is "concerned that as the river shrinks, steelhead migrating upstream to spawn will be unable to avoid the many anglers trying to hook them."

MANCOS WATER CONSERVANCY WORKING TO EXPAND JACKSON GULCH RESERVOIR. The Durango (CO) Herald (1/7, 28K) reports that the Mancos Water Conservancy is "working on expanding Jackson Gulch Reservoir to hold an additional 80 acre-feet of water." According to the article, "a preliminary study has been completed, and the conservancy is going to start discussions with the Bureau of Reclamation later in January." The BOR "will have to complete its own study."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PLAN TO REDUCE EMISSIONS AT NAVAJO GENERATING STATION. Additional coverage of plan to cut emissions at the Navajo Generating was provided by the Power Engineering (1/9), the Electric Light & Power (1/9), and the Fierce Energy (1/9).

Empowering Native American Communities:

OPPONENTS CLAIM TRIBAL GAMBLING GETTING TOO BIG. The McClatchy (1/8, Hotakainen, 95K) reports that "casino opponents...fear President Barack Obama and his team are going too far to take care of the 566 federally recognized tribes and to promote their gambling interests." The article notes that "the issue is particularly big along the West Coast, causing divisions from Washington state to California." In an interview, Kevin Washburn, who heads the BIA, said that "democracy is working well in California, noting that voters approved tribal gaming in 1998." Washburn said that "casinos have helped tribes economically and that he knows of no studies indicating how many casinos are optimal."

BIA APPROVES MASHPEE'S TRIBAL-STATE GAMING COMPACT. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/8, 21K) reports that the BIA has approved the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's gaming compact with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, "setting another major landmark on the tribe's journey toward building Project First Light, a $500 million destination resort casino in the southeastern part of the state." Mashpee Chairman Cedric Cromwell said, "It's a historic and epic moment. It represents a collaborative and cooperative agreement between the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. No other state has designed a commercial gaming bill and added a tribal provision that respects and honors the rights of a federally recognized tribe while protecting the rights of the state." Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick "issued a statement lauding the BIA's approval of the compact." Patrick said, "I'm pleased that the Commonwealth's compact with the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe has been given final approval under federal law. This is another important step toward growing jobs and opportunity in the southeast region and a good deal for both the Commonwealth and the tribe."

INDIAN LAW AND ORDER COMMISSION COMPLETES REPORT ON HOW TO MAKE TRIBAL LANDS SAFER. For the Indian Country Today Media Network (1/8, 21K), Walter Lamar, a former FBI special agent and deputy director of BIA law enforcement, writes that the bipartisan Indian Law and Order Commission has completed its report, entitled "A Roadmap for Making Native America Safer." According to Lamar, "although this wide-ranging document was created specifically for Congress, its radical recommendations will also provide plenty of food for thought to Tribal and state leaders; attorneys, prosecutors and court personnel; Tribal and state law enforcement; and Federal employees in the Department of Justice, the DOI's Office of Justice Services, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the US Attorneys' offices, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE RESPONDS CAUTIOUSLY TO GATES MEMOIR. The continuing discussion of former Defense Secretary Robert Gates' memoir "Duty" and its criticisms of the Obama Administration was not covered on the broadcast network newscasts, but continues to be a major topic on cable and in print. The White House is defending Vice President Biden, in particular, after Gates said Biden has been wrong on foreign policy matters throughout his career, but Administration representatives stopped short of criticizing Gates himself.

On CNN's Situation Room (1/8, 554K), correspondent Barbara Starr reported that at the Pentagon, "all the talk is about" Gates' book, "and top generals are already bugging their aides to get them copies of it." According to Starr, "Even as Gates sent troops to war, he felt the White House didn't trust the military and he was emotionally conflicted about the President's handling of the Afghan war." Brianna Keilar went on to report that White House Press Secretary Jay Carney defended the President and Vice President Biden when asked about Gates' book, but "did not outright slam Secretary Gates." According to Keilar, "This is something that the White House has been wary of doing, afraid that it would backfire."

Likewise, the AP (1/9, Lederman) reports that White House officials, who were "initially caught off guard by the book's accusations...walked a fine line between publicly rebuking his former defense chief and allowing Gates' claims to go unchallenged." The AP says Carney "disputed several of Gates' points individually but said Obama appreciated Gates' service." Philip Ewing, in an analysis for Politico, says the White House "is taking the high road in responding to Gates's book."

However, USA Today (1/9, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that on CBS' This Morning Wednesday, former White House chief of staff Bill Daley "not only disputed Gates' criticism of President Obama and aides, he criticized the fact that Gates had it published while Obama is still in office." Daley is quoted as saying, "This rush to do books by

people who leave an administration while the administration is ongoing, I think, is unfortunate. ... I think it's just a disservice, to be very frank with you."

The Wall Street Journal (1/9, Nicholas, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on Wednesday, David Axelrod said, "I haven't spoken to one person who wasn't surprised, partly because Gates always spoke of what a good working relationship he had with the president, and partly because it is so inconsistent with the guy who seemed to be the soul of discretion."

CNN (1/9, 14.53M) quotes an anonymous "former White House official" as saying, "I thought the President was a close ally of Gates. It's disappointing, because if Gates had issues you would've expected him to raise them. When I spoke to Gates about the president he was always effusive."

Howard Kurtz, appearing on Fox News' O'Reilly Factor (1/8, 2.53M), said while Gates "is perfectly entitled to rip Barack Obama on policy, but it is an absolute betrayal to reveal private conversations with a president who trusted him to give confidential advice." Kurtz added, "How can a president rely on his inner circle in times of war and peace if they are gathering material for a best-seller?"

The Hill (1/9, Sink, 194K) quotes Jay Carney as saying, "When you pick a team of rivals, you do so because you expect competing points of view," but, according to the Washington Post (1/9, Wilson, 4.28M), Gates "has highlighted the risk Obama took by building a jostling, ambitious, big-intellect 'team of rivals' to advise him." The Post says "even before official publication, the reception of" Gates' memoir "is splitting along partisan lines," which means the President "probably faces little lasting political damage from the account."

The Washington Times (1/9, Boyer, 417K) reports that in "disput[ing]...Gates' claim that the president lacked faith in his own administration's plan for improving the military situation in Afghanistan," Carney said, "The president has great faith in the troops that carried out the mission and in the mission itself."

Bret Baier, at the opening of Fox News' Special Report (1/8, 2.15M), said, "The White House executed a hurry-up damage-control defense" a day after excerpts from Gates' book leaked, "while critics embraced the insider-level condemnation of the President's foreign policy approach."

The Wall Street Journal (1/9, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, says that, for the most part, Gates has merely confirmed what was already conventional wisdom in Washington regarding the President's foreign policy.

USA Today (1/9, 5.82M), in an editorial, writes that while "much of the press about...Gates' revealing new book centers on his disagreements with President Obama," Gates' "differences with Obama pale in comparison with his utter scorn for Congress." USA Today notes that a "partial list of" Gates' adjectives for members of Congress includes, "uncivil, incompetent, parochial and hypocritical."

Biden's Influence Prominently On Display At The White House Wednesday. Michael Shear, in a piece for the New York Times (1/9, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says that on Wednesday, "less than 24 hours after" it had been reported that Gates wrote that Vice President Biden has been "wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades," White House aides "went out of their way to praise Mr. Biden and extravagantly advertise his presence in the West Wing." According to Shear, Biden "was in the Oval Office for the president's morning briefing, in the Situation Room for a discussion about national security leaks, back in the Situation Room for a meeting with intelligence officials and, later, in the Oval Office yet again with Mr. Obama and the secretary of state." Shear adds that "for the first time since the Obama presidency began, the White House allowed photographers on Wednesday to take pictures of the vice president's weekly lunch with Mr. Obama."

Under the headline "White House Denies Gates' Charge That Biden Is Often Wrong," McClatchy (1/9, Clark, 95K) also reports that on Wednesday, "the White House sought...to portray Biden as a trusted presidential adviser." McClatchy reports that responding to Gates' characterization, Jay Carney said, "As a senator and as a vice president, Joe Biden has been one of the leading statesmen of his time and he has been an excellent counselor and adviser to the president for the past five years."

Gates Book Revives Questions About Obama's Commitment To Afghanistan. Howard LaFranchi, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (1/9, Lafranchi, 540K), notes that Gates says President Obama "was 'skeptical' of his own Afghanistan policy, 'if not outright convinced it would fail,'" and that for the President, "it's all about getting out." In a segment on the fallout from Gates' book for Fox News' Special Report (1/8, 2.15M), Ed Henry reported that Sen. Lindsay Graham, "who was just in Afghanistan, is skeptical that Mr. Obama is committed to working out a deal to keep at least a small US force" in Afghanistan "to lock in security gains." Graham was shown saying: "He is AWOL when it comes to leadership. And when it comes to Afghanistan, we have a chance to get that right," but the President "hasn't talked to the Afghan president since July."

Sen. Marco Rubio, appearing later on Fox News' Special Report (1/8, 2.15M), said, "Afghanistan was the premier operational area in the world for Jihadist planned attacks on us, our interests around the world, and the west in general. And, if, in fact, it becomes that again...the world becomes an even more dangerous place. So we have a significant interest in insuring the place does not devolve once again into a chaotic, ungoverned space where terrorist organizations can use it to undermine their neighbors and come after us."

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS VOTE ON HOLD AS REID SEEKS COMPROMISE. A day after legislation to reinstate long-term unemployment benefits advanced past a cloture vote in the Senate, Senate Majority Leader Reid postponed action until Thursday.

The AP (1/9, Espo) reports Reid said he "wanted to allow time for unspecified compromise efforts" and suggested a full year renewal rather than "a three-month resurrection of the expired program." Republicans including Sen. Kelly Ayotte and Rob Portman are suggesting ways to offset the estimated $6.4 billion cost of a three-month renewal. While "officials" said throughout much of the day that Reid "was likely to bar Republicans from seeking changes, a step that probably would derail the bill," this seemed to change by the end of the day. Bloomberg News (1/9, Hunter, 1.91M) says Reid indicated he is open to cost offsets in exchange for a full-year extension. Reid said, "There are a number of senators who are having productive conversations about reasonable offsets. We'll see where we are in the morning."

USA Today (1/9, Page, 5.82M) reports senior White House adviser Dan Pfeiffer also "had an offer" for Republicans on Wednesday, saying that if they pass a three-month extension now, President Obama "will negotiate ways to offset the costs of extending them for the full year." In an interview, Pfeiffer said, "We're happy to engage in conversations about how to do it; there are lots of ways to do it."

The Washington Post (1/9, Kane, 4.28M) reports Republicans on Wednesday "offered several proposals for offsetting budget cuts" that would match the costs. Democrats "continued to oppose the alternative budget cuts to justify such a short extension, but they opened the door to finding cuts if the extension was longer." While Republicans provided six of the votes needed to advance the bill Tuesday, the Wall Street Journal (1/9, Hook, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says without an amendment to offset the cost, those votes might not be there to advance the bill to a final vote – which would also require 60 votes – this week.

Politico (1/9, Everett, 464K) says Democrats "see little reason to have a knockdown, drag-out battle over a three-month extension" when their real goal is a full-year extension, which would cost about $25 billion. Reid said, "If it's going to be paid for, figure out a year's worth of pay-for. And that would be much better than this nickel-and-diming. If we try to do it for three months paid-for, I would almost bet that it won't get done."

The Hill (1/9, Trujillo, 194K) reports a Quinnipiac poll this week found 58% of respondents support an extension, with 37% opposed, but there were divisions by party. Among Democrats, 83% back an extension while 13% oppose it; among Republicans, 42% back an extension, with 54% opposed. Roll Call (1/9, Rojas, Subscription Publication, 87K) and the CNN (1/9, Barrett, 14.53M) website also have reports.

HOLDER, DUNCAN ANNOUNCE NEW SCHOOL DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES. The AP (1/9, Hefling) reports that Attorney General Holder and Education Secretary Duncan "pressed the nation's schools to abandon" what the Obama Administration "described as overly zealous discipline policies that send students to court instead of the principal's office." Holder "said problems often stem from well-intentioned 'zero-tolerance' policies that can inject the criminal justice system into school matters. 'A routine school disciplinary infraction should land a student in the principal's office, not in a police precinct,' Holder said." In a letter accompanying the new guidelines, the Administration also identified a racial component to the problem, saying, "In our investigations, we have found

cases where African-American students were disciplined more harshly and more frequently because of their race than similarly situated white students."

The New York Times (1/9, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Holder and Duncan "recommended public school officials use law enforcement only as a last resort for disciplining students." The guidelines "outlined approaches – including counseling for students, coaching for teachers and disciplinary officers, and sessions to teach social and emotional skills – that could reduce the time students spend out of school as punishment."

The Washington Post (1/9, George, 4.28M) reports that Holder and Duncan appeared at Frederick Douglass High School to announce the guidelines, which were "described as the first national guidelines on school discipline." Baltimore has been "lauded for a major reduction in student suspensions in recent years," and Federal officials "also praised Maryland leaders for proposing reforms to state discipline policies, which are expected to come for a vote later this month." Holder and Duncan "emphasized that safety and order are a priority in schools but said too many resort to suspension, expulsion or arrest for problems that could be handled in more constructive ways."

The Los Angeles Times (1/9, Watanabe, 3.07M) reports that the guidelines note that black students without disabilities "were three times more likely than white peers to be expelled or suspended." Holder and Duncan "said they would actively enforce federal laws against bias in school discipline practices, reporting that they had received 1,600 complaints since 2009 and had launched several reviews of school districts."

The Baltimore Sun (1/9, Green, 812K) reports that Duncan "said the effort was prompted by years of research illustrating how discipline is 'not applied as effectively as it could be across our nation's schools,'" and he said "that around the nation, where nonviolent offenses make up roughly 95 percent of out-of-school suspensions, the over-reliance on suspensions is clear. 'The need to rethink and redesign school discipline practices is, frankly, long overdue,' Duncan said. 'Too many schools resort too quickly to exclusionary discipline, even for minor misbehavior.'" Holder said that "while the guidelines aren't enforceable, his office would continue to pursue any complaints about racial discrimination in discipline policies."

The Christian Science Monitor (1/9, Paulson, 540K) reports that the guidelines "emphasize the need for a positive school climate and supports, clear and appropriate expectations and consequences, and equity in discipline policies." The Monitor notes that many "tough zero-tolerance policies – and increased involvement of law enforcement in schools – began 15 years ago in the wake of the Columbine school shooting" and have "increasingly been under attack by education experts and sociologists who see them as ineffective and potentially damaging to students." The Monitor adds that some school district in recent years "have started rolling back such policies and allowing for increased discretion by officials and more positive alternatives to suspensions or expulsions."

The Chicago Sun-Times (1/9, Schlikerman, 1.15M) reports that in Chicago, "although black students in 2009 made up 45 percent of CPS' enrollment, 76 percent of all CPS students who received out-of-school suspensions were black, according to Department of Education data," and when "it came to expulsions, black students made up 80 percent of those who were expelled."

The Hill (1/9, Goad, 194K) reports that the guidelines drew praise from the American Civil Liberties Union, "which offered research showing that black students make up 36 percent of those expelled, though they represent only 15 percent of students."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Gov. Cuomo Begins His Campaign."*** The New York Times (1/9, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) in an editorial calls Gov. Andrew Cuomo's State of the State address "a campaign speech for re-election," noting particularly a proposal "to cut taxes by $2 billion over the next three years." The paper says the proposal is certainly "good politics," but may also "mean less money for education, housing and other vital state services." While the governor "wants to end New York's reputation as a high-tax state," the Times wonders "whether he can do that without making life worse for communities staggering through hard times."

"The Bully Was A Dupe." The New York Times (1/9, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie "has explanations to make, apologies to give and an administrative house to clean now that his top aides and political cronies were shown to have been fully and gleefully aware of the chaos they caused." Christie "can start by getting rid of every one of his aides and cronies who knew about this scheme and show what actions he will take against the person with ultimate responsibility for his administration: himself."

"Abortion Restrictions In Texas And Beyond." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/9, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) laments the "tenuous state of women's basic right to make their own childbearing decisions," noting a "surge of anti-abortion measures – in the guise of health and safety protections or based on a scientifically dubious theory of fetal pain – approved in Republican-controlled states over the past three years." The restrictions will "make it more difficult for women in many regions to obtain an abortion," and the Times argues that "supporters of abortion rights will need to fight harder and more nimbly than ever on three fronts – in the courts, in legislatures and at the ballot box."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Rodman's Flagrant Foul Behavior."*** The Washington Post (1/9, 4.28M) editorializes against "Former NBA star Dennis Rodman" for "serving as a propagandist for one of the world's cruelest and most brutal dictators, Kim Jong-un of North Korea." It also says that Rodman's behavior may help convince Kim that "he doesn't need to free" American Kenneth Bae "in order to win good will in the United States."

"Utah's Marriage Purgatory." An editorial in the Washington Post (1/9, Board, 4.28M) argues that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert's decision not to recognize the gay marriages until a Federal appeals court rules is "not the fair answer, and Utah's same-sex married couples should challenge it." Noting that a final court decision could be years away, the Post says it would be "reasonable to let the licenses persist normally as long as the question of their legality is open." The Post adds that the state should "render the unfolding legal fight unnecessary by ridding itself entirely of its discriminatory ban."

"Closing The Barn Door." The Washington Post (1/9, 4.28M) says in an editorial that "the cash and gifts showered on [Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell] and his family by a favor-currying businessman have tainted his governorship, undercut his political prospects and embarrassed" Virginia. Proposed reforms to the state's ethics laws "are fine as far as they go – but they don't go far enough." The Post likes "a $250 ceiling on so-called tangible gifts from lobbyists and favor-seekers" but dislikes a lack of proposals for campaign finance laws, which the Post says "contain loopholes of epic proportions."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Gates On Obama."*** The Wall Street Journal (1/9, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, says that, for the most part, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates has merely confirmed what was already conventional wisdom in Washington regarding the President's foreign policy.

"Christie's Credibility." The Wall Street Journal (1/9, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that the scandal surrounding New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's staff has national implications and tests Christie's credibility as he introduces himself to the national electorate. The Journal says President Obama has used his power to attack political opponents, and Republicans do not need a standard-bearer who seems open to doing the same.

"Supreme Spin Cycle." The Wall Street Journal (1/9, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that the Supreme Court will soon decide whether it will hear the cases of Whirlpool v. Glazer and Sears v. Butler, both of which concern the certification of class-action lawsuits when many class members have suffered no harm. The court last year vacated lower-court decisions in both cases and remanded them in light of its ruling in Comcast v. Behrend, which abridged the standards for certifying class actions. In both cases, the lower courts simply reinstated their previous decisions. The Journal urges the court to stand up for judicial precedence and strike down the lower courts' rulings.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

State's Map's Show Higher Quake Risks
Hardware Is Hot At CES
LA Facing Grim Future, Panel Says
GOP Tries New Tack On Poverty
A Private Club's New Age

Wall Street Journal:
Fed Minutes: Bubble Risks Drawing Attention
US Leverage In Iraq Tested As Fears Of Civil War Mount
Bridge-Spat Emails Pose Questions For Christie
Fiery Oil-Train Accidents Raise Railroad Insurance Worries

New York Times:
Christie Faces Scandal on Traffic Jam
Christie's Carefully Devised, No-Nonsense Image in Peril
2 Parties Place Political Focus on Inequality
Grim Sequel to Iraq's War
Ambitious Redesign of MoMA Doesn't Spare a Notable Neighbor
Mayoral Ally Elected Speaker, Furthering City's Liberal Shift

Washington Post:
Waiting For A Renewal
Bridge Scandal Engulfing Christie
Great Society – And A Great, Lasting Divide
American Oasis Is Latest Casualty Of Row With India
Deeds Returns Quietly, Full Of Purpose

Financial Times:
Fed To "Proceed Cautiously" With Taper
Eurozone Risks Trying On Mood Of Confidence
US Energy Secretary Delays India Trip
Bolloré Son To Become Havas Global Chief
US Inflation Expectations At Eight-Month High
Strine Nominated To Top Delaware Court
Investment Trust Valuations At 40-Year Highs

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe-Cold Weather; Weather Forecast; Governor Christie-Traffic Jam Controversy; Virginia-Deadly Navy Helicopter Crash; Poverty In America; North Korea-Dennis Rodman Controversy; Japan-Fukushima Aftermath; Health-Restaurant Food Study; Justice Kagan-Jury Duty.
CBS: Governor Christie-Traffic Jam Controversy; Governor Christie-Traffic Jam Controversy-Analysis; Buffalo-Snow; Severe Cold Weather-Economy; Poverty In America; Virginia-Deadly Navy Helicopter Crash; Iraq-Battle For Fallujah; Colorado-Marijuana Sales; Giffords-NYTimes Op-Ed; NASA-Solar Flare Postpones Cargo Mission; Indonesia-Volcano Eruption; Poverty In America.
NBC: Governor Christie-Traffic Jam Controversy; Governor Christie-Traffic Jam Controversy-Analysis; Severe Cold Weather; North Korea-Dennis Rodman Controversy; Virginia-Deadly Navy Helicopter Crash; Central African Republic Conflict; Global Warming; Giffords-NYTimes Op-Ed; Poverty In America; Congressmembers Retire; NASA-ISS Extension; NASA-Hubble Telescope; Severe Cold Weather-Good Samaritans.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Governor Christie-Traffic Jam Controversy; Virginia-Deadly Navy Helicopter Crash; Consumer Borrowing Report; Saturday Night Live Additions.
CBS: Education-School Discipline; Congress-Unemployment Benefits; Macy's Restructuring; Loehmann's-Liquidation Plan; Governor Christie-Traffic Jam Controversy; NASA-Solar Flare Postpones Cargo Mission.
FOX: Virginia-Deadly Navy Helicopter Crash; California-Jahi McMath Case; Utah-Same-Sex Marriage Debate; Giffords Sky Dives; Sports-Baseball Hall Of Fame; NASA-ISS Extension; Insane Clown Posse Sues FBI.
NPR: Governor Christie-Traffic Jam Controversy; Utah-Same-Sex Marriage Debate; Health-H5N1 Bird Flu; NASA-

Solar Flare Postpones Cargo Mission; Governor Cuomo-Medical Marijuana Plan.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing; the President and the Vice President meet with Members of Congress to discuss the Administration's ongoing review of signals intelligence programs, the Roosevelt Room, closed press; the President will deliver remarks announcing the first five "Promise Zones," located in San Antonio, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Southeastern Kentucky, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; the President and the Vice President meet with Secretary of the Treasury Lew, Oval Office, closed press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – No public schedule.
US Senate: 10 a.m. – The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JUDICIARY – 9:30 a.m. An Executive Business Meeting on pending nominations and legislation. Location: 226 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 10:15 a.m. Hearings to examine the situation in South Sudan. Panel I: Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Department of State; Nancy Lindborg, Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Panel II: Princeton Lyman, Former Special Envoy for Sudan, United States Institute of Peace; John Prendergast, Co-founder, Enough Project; Kate Almquist Knopf, Adjunct Faculty, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University. Location: 419 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE – 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. – The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. First votes expected: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Last votes expected: 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

CONGRESSWOMAN NORTON – ABORTION FUNDING – 9 a.m. Press Conference with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) on H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. also with District of Columbia Mayor Vincent C. Gray. Location: 234 Cannon. Contacts: Daniel van Hoogstraten, 202-225-8050

REP PELOSI BRIEFING – 10:45 a.m. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi holds her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616

BOEHNER PRESS BRIEFING – 11:30 a.m. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) will hold an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 9:30 a.m. Full Committee hearing: "Waste in Government: Whats Being Done?" Location: 2154 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Health hearing on "The Extenders Policies: What Are They and How Should They Continue Under a Permanent SGR Repeal Landscape?" Location: 2123 Raybum.

FINANCIAL SERVICES – 10 a.m. Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on the effects of the Federal Reserve's current Quantitative Easing program on the international financial system. Location: 2128 of the Rayburn

JUDICIARY – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice hearing on: H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES – 10 a.m. Full committee Oversight Hearing on "Obama Administration's War on Coal: The Recent Report" by the Office of the Inspector General. Witness: Robert A. Knox, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Office of Inspector General, US Department of the Interior. Location: 1324 Longworth.

SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Research and Technology hearing on "Private Sector Programs that Engage Students in STEM." Witnesses: Panel I: Dean Kamen, Founder, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST), Founder and President, DEKA Research & Development Corporation; Hadi Partovi, Co-founder and CEO, Code.org; Dr. Kemi Jona, Director, Office of STEM Education Partnerships, Research Professor, Learning Sciences and Computer Sciences, Northwestern University; Dr. Phillip Cornwell, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Panel II: Ellana Crew, 12th Grade, South River High School, Edgewater, Maryland; Brian Morris, 12th Grade, Chantilly Academy, Chantilly, Virginia; Daniel Nette, 11th Grade, George Mason High School, Falls Church, Virginia; Vishnu Rachakonda, 12th Grade, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt, Maryland. Location: 2318 Rayburn

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Hearing: Will there be an African Economic Community? Witnesses: Amadou Sy, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, Africa Growth Initiative, The Brookings Institution; Stephen Lande, President, Manchester Trade; Peter Quartey, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, University of Ghana. Location: 2172 Rayburn.
Other: AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY 223RD MEETING – Jan. 5 – 9. "AAS 223: A Stimulus Package for Astronomy in the Nation's Capital." All briefings will be streamed on AAS's website, accessible to registered journalists. During the five-day meeting, NASA scientists and their colleagues will present briefings on noteworthy discoveries – made possible by NASA's astrophysics spacecraft – including the detection of unusually bright young galaxies, new gravitational lens findings, and black hole events in dwarf galaxies. Location: Gaylord National Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD.

IAA SPACE EXPLORATION CONFERENCE – "Planetary Robotic and Human Spaceflight Exploration." Held by the International Academy of Astronautics. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.

ABA – CONSUMER DELINQUENCY DATA – 12:01 a.m. The American Bankers Association will release the 3rd Quarter 2013 Consumer Credit Delinquency Bulletin containing delinquency data for several consumer loan categories. James Chessen, ABA chief economist, will be available for interviews. NOTE: Print and broadcast interviews may be booked in advance. Contacts: quarterly Delinquency Bulletin bbernste@aba.com Jeff Sigmund jsigmund@aba.com ((202) 663-5439)

ABA – REP. KING – 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. The ABA Standing Committee on Law & National Security hosts breakfast program with a keynote address from Congressman Peter King. Location: University Club, 1135 16th St. NW. Notes: RSVP by Jan. 6 to david.pulaski@americanbar.org.

TREASURY – DICK GREGG – 9 a.m. Panel Discuss with Fiscal Assistant Secretary Dick Gregg, at the Association of Government Accounts' Federal Financial Systems Summit. Location: The Walter E. Washington Convention Center 801 Mt Vernon Pl NW

CSIS – MATERNAL HEALTH PROGRAMS – 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. "Saving Mothers, Giving Life: A Year of Results and Lessons Learned." CSIS will be joined by senior leaders from Saving Mothers, Giving Life for a discussion of the initiative's vision, approach, delivery, impact and future challenges and opportunities. The event will feature Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, and Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among others. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave. NW. Contacts: H. Andrew Schwartz (aschwartz@csis.org), 202-775-3242.

ENROLL AMERICA SURVEY OF THE UNINSURED – 10 a.m. Healthcare enrollment coalition Enroll America holds press call to announce the results of a national survey of what uninsured consumers are hearing and

thinking about the Health Insurance Marketplace midway through the first open enrollment period. The survey was conducted in late December by PerryUndem. Speakers: Anne Filipic, President of Enroll America; John Gilbert, National Field Director of Enroll America; Tresa Undem, Partner at PerryUndem. Contacts: Justin Nisly Press@EnrollAmerica.org (202-601-2494)

BROOKINGS – HUMANITARIAN CRISES – 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Brookings-LSE Project on International Displacement and Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) will host a discussion, "Humanitarian Crises in 2013: Assessing the Global Response," looking back at 2013 and assess how well the international community responded to crises in 2013 with a particular focus on Syria – a high-profile crisis – and the Central African Republic – a low-profile crisis – as well as the particular thematic issue of access to healthcare during crises. Panelists will include Sophie Delaunay, executive director of MSF in the United States; Antoine Gerard from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Iain Levine from Human Rights Watch; and Francois Stamm from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Senior Fellow Elizabeth Ferris, co-director of the Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, will provide introductory remarks and moderate the discussion. Location: Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Contacts: Brookings Communications (events@brookings.edu), 202-797-6105

NPC – NATIONAL GUARD – 12:30 p.m. Gen. Frank J. Grass, member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and chief of the National Guard Bureau, will address issues facing the National Guard at a National Press Club luncheon. This is a ticketed event. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: reservations@press.org, 202-662-7501.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "By God, you know, did you hear about this? Chris Christie was having a feud...with the mayor of Fort Lee, New Jersey. So, he closed down the George Washington Bridge. It was traffic snarled up for hundreds of miles. Day after day. I'm telling you, this guy, you can't say power hungry without hungry, you know what I mean."

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, huge news tonight. The President of the United States of New Jersey, Chris Christie, is in hot water. ... New emails link top aides in the Christie Administration to a shutdown on the George Washington Bridge back in September. It was traffic on a biblical scale, with New Jersey highways backed up for days, which is slightly longer than normal."

Stephen Colbert: "Now, it turns out, turns out, folks, that the lane closures were meant to make life hell as payback to the mayor of [Fort Lee] New Jersey for not endorsing Christie for re-election. No word yet on what the rest of New Jersey is payback for."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama's former Defense Secretary, Robert Gates, has written a new memoir where he says that Joe Biden has been wrong on almost every foreign policy issue in the last 40 years. Yeah. Says he's awful when it comes to foreign countries. Then Biden was like, 'Hey, is this about the time I got lost at Epcot?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Some more news out of Washington. The White House is planning to air some ads for Obamacare during the Winter Olympics next month. It makes sense, if you think about it. Obamacare went downhill fast, left people cold, and then, somehow, it managed to skate by. That's good marketing right there."

Jimmy Fallon: "In fact, the Olympics are a lot like Obamacare, you know, because they both take around four years to get it together."

Jimmy Fallon: "I see that the First Lady, Michelle Obama, is still in Hawaii and get this, she's staying at Oprah's house. And Oprah's not there, but she did leave a list of housesitting instructions for the first lady. Take a look. First, she says, 'Sorry, the living room is a mess, but feel free to use any of the other 37 living rooms.' Next, she says, 'The keys to the helicopter are in the second helicopter.' Next, she says, 'If you feel like

watching a movie, just have Steven Spielberg write and direct one for you.' And finally, 'Don't talk to the human chess set in the backyard. That's just common.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Here's some more political news. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie just signed a major pro-immigration bill yesterday. Christie said everyone deserves a chance, no matter if you're a Mexican, Asian, Indian, Italian or any other kind of restaurant or person."

Jay Leno: "And Congressman Jack Kingston of Georgia. He is coming under attack for suggesting that poor students who are part of the school lunch program – that they should be forced to do janitorial work around the school. So they can learn that there is no such thing as a free lunch. And believe me, if anybody knows about getting a free lunch, it's a United States Congressman. Okay, please."

Conan O'Brien: "Critics are accusing President Obama of having attention deficit disorder. He responded to the accusation by saying, 'That is ridiculous. Look, a bird. No, just waiting.'"

Conan O'Brien: "A member of Congress said that unemployment benefits basically pay people to not work. Yeah. He said the only people who should be paid for not working are members of Congress."

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BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, January 10, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Jan 10, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS EVERGLADES. The Highlands (FL) Today (1/10, 11K) reports that "as part of the Obama administration's commitment to restore and protect the Everglades," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "marked the progress and met with regional stakeholders" at the Durando Ranch. Jewell "met with ranchers and private landowners to discuss next step: the January 2012 establishment of the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area."

The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (1/9, 780K) reports that Jewell, during her visit to Florida on Thursday, "didn't have news that her agency was ready yet to buy land as part of a planned 150,000-acre Everglades National Wildlife Refuge." However, Jewell promised "this will get done." According to the article, "no specifics were provided, but Jewell said purchases would begin later this month."

Additional coverage of Jewell's trip to Florida was provided by the Los Angeles Times (1/8, Gibson, 3.07M), The Florida Current (1/10), the Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (1/10, 210K), the Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (1/8, 210K), and WGCU-FM Fort Myers, FL (1/10).

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF "21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS." The E&E Daily (1/8) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has announced the launch of "a public-private partnership aimed at getting young people and military veterans involved with conservation work." To kick off the program, "clothing retailer American Eagle Outfitters will donate $1 million to the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps initiative, whose goal is to create 100,000 jobs for young people and veterans by 2017 and get 1 million people to volunteer on public lands every year." Jewell said she hopes the "initial investment will encourage other companies, organizations and philanthropists to commit to the initiative, whether through financial means or volunteering."

Additional coverage was provided by NPR (1/10, Shogren, 465K), the Sierra (CA) Sun Times (1/10), the Earth Island Journal (1/10, Mark, 213), and WEVO-FM Concord, NH (1/10, 2K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT COLORADO TO OBSERVE SAGE GROUSE MITIGATION EFFORTS. The Denver Post (1/10, Hickenlooper, 949K) prints the prepared text of the speech that Gov. John Hickenlooper gave on the floor of the Colorado Capitol on Jan. 9, 2014. In his speech, Hickenlooper asserted that "we can protect the sage grouse while at the same time allowing ranches, farms and other economic activity to flourish." He noted that "at our invitation, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell has agreed to visit Colorado and observe mitigation efforts firsthand."

The speech also appeared at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (1/10, 1.26M), the Danbury (CT) News Times (1/10, 140K), the Colorado Independent (1/10, 158), and KDVR-TV Denver (1/9, 40K).

OBAMA ORDERS BROAD REVIEW OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (1/10, Barron-Lopez, 194K) reports that yesterday President Obama "ordered a sweeping review of energy strategy that will involve departments and agencies across the federal government." The President "announced the review as part of his climate agenda, and as promised in his Georgetown speech last year, the Quadrennial Energy Review will focus on the nation's infrastructure." In a statement on Thursday, the White House said "as crude oil domestic production reaches a near 20-year high, and the natural-gas industry continues to boom, the U.S. must address its aging infrastructure."

The AP (1/10) reports the review will be co-chaired by top White House officials "but the Energy, Interior, Agriculture and other departments will participate, along with the Treasury and the Pentagon. Business groups, local governments and academics will also participate."

The National Journal (1/10, Foran, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that according to a blog post by White House written by Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, John Holdren, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy director and Cecilia Munoz, White House Domestic Policy Council director: "Over four years, successive installments of the QER will provide a comprehensive set of recommendations on how best to transform America's energy production, delivery, and consumption systems to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The QER will identify important opportunities to modernize, expand, replace, or transform our energy infrastructure system so that it better accommodates changes in energy supply, integrates cutting-edge information and security technologies, and meets increasing demand for new consumer services."

Reuters (1/10, Mason, Volcovici) also provides coverage of this story.

MONTANA MULLS TAKING CONTROL OF FEDERAL LANDS. The Billings (MT) Gazette (1/10, 206K) reports that "spirited discussions took place in the Capitol Wednesday on whether Montana should attempt to wrest ownership of public lands from the federal government." Ken Ivory, "a Utah state representative and attorney, urged members of the Environmental Quality Council to continue down its path of investigating whether Montana should try to assume ownership and management of some or all of the federal lands in the Treasure State." However, Tom France, an attorney with the National Wildlife Federation, "urged the EQC to step back from legal or legislative actions that Ivory touted, saying that approach will pull the West apart."

Also providing coverage are the Helena (MT) Independent Record (1/10, 45K) and the Montana Standard (1/10, 41K).

LAND WATER CONSERVATION FUND MONEY WOULD AID PROJECTS IN COLORADO. The Cortez (CO) Journal (1/9, 646) reports that the bipartisan budget agreement passed by Congress Dec. 21 "proposes that Congress budget $600 million towards the Land Water Conservation Fund." According to the article, "pending successful appropriation bills, Colorado is listed for funding on five projects, four of which are in the southwest corner of the state." The article notes that "over the last four decades, Coloradoans have invested approximately $231 million from LWCF to expand public access to streams, conserve working ranches, and protect iconic landscapes in the Rockies."

ALASKA SUPER PAC HITS SEN. BEGICH IN THREE RADIO ADS. Roll Call (1/10, Trygstad, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that "an Alaska-based super PAC supporting one of Democratic Sen. Mark Begich's Republican challengers is launching its first three ads of the campaign on Friday." The article notes that "each of the three 60-second ads mentions Begich's support of Obamacare," and "one also notes the incumbent's support of Obama's appointees, including Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, and questions where he stands on an oil tax reform referendum in the state this year."

INTERIOR'S TWITTER ACCOUNT LAUDED. For the Travel Pulse (1/10), Thea Klapwald commends the Interior Department for "putting resources towards social media and the intelligent use of Twitter." Klapwald writes that "the photos from @Interior remind me how much I haven't seen – and how much of it is in my own, relatively speaking, close backyard." She notes that Tim Fullerton, director of digital strategy, sends "out photos twice a day," and "once on weekends."

SOLUTION PROPOSED FOR THE SALTON SEA. For the Imperial (CA) Valley Press (1/10, Stewart, 46K), Colt Stewart, a former senior consultant to the Assembly Sub-Committee on Energy for the California State Legislature, proposes a solution for the Salton Sea. Stewart suggests that "the Imperial Irrigation District, IID, and Coachella Valley Water District, CVWD, create a new Joint Powers Authority, JPA, backed by their combined assets ($4 billion) to build, operate and maintain the canal/desalination/water treatment project transporting ocean water from Sea of Cortez to the Salton Sea." Also, he proposes that the Interior Department and State of California Department of Water Resources "guarantee the purchase of 200,000 acre-feet of desalinated water per year from them at $2,000/acre-feet, $400 million/year for 20 years."

DARK MONEY TRAIL TO JOHN PODESTA TRACED. For the Washington Examiner (1/10, Arnold, 319K), Ron Arnold traces the dark money that "feeds" John Podesta's Center for American Progress and its Action Fund to determine what Podesta will do during his "one-year-only stint on the White House staff as a counselor to President Obama." He notes that "three weeks after Obama announced Podesta's appointment, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced the award of nearly $7 million for 50 projects that will do research 'to prepare our communities for the impacts of climate change.'" The same day, Arnold notes, "Podesta's CAP released a detailed, 6-point policy brief for totally redirecting the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management – the nation's largest land-management agency – to kill anything to do with fossil fuels and resource production based on 'new public opinion data.'"

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP DEPLORES PARK FUNDING CUTS. The Durango (CO) Herald (1/9, 28K) reports that a new analysis by Environment America, titled "Death by a Thousand Cuts," addresses the challenges facing national parks as a result of mounting funding cuts to the NPS. According to the report, "a 13 percent reduction in its operating budget over the past three years has seriously curtailed the ability of the National Park Service to maintain critical wildlife habitat, keep up recreational facilities and protect natural resources."

The Wicked Local (MA) (1/10, 84K) reports that Sen. Edward Markey said, "National parks are known as one of America's best ideas. But now America's national parks are under attack by one of America's worst ideas, the sequester. Members of Congress and past presidents of both political parties supported and nurtured our national

parks for more than a century. We are just two years away from celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service. We should be reaffirming our commitment to National Parks and the economic, environmental and cultural benefits they provide, not cutting their budgets."

Also reporting on the story is the Augusta (VA) Free Press (1/10, 280).

Poll Finds Voters Against Cuts To National Park System. The Outdoor USA Magazine (1/10) reports that "four out of five voters don't want to see funding for national park services cut, despite federal budget problems, according to a survey from the National Forest Foundation (NFF)." The article also notes that "the poll revealed that as the cost of fighting wildfires has climbed dramatically in recent years, a strong majority of Americans feel a close connection to the national forest system."

TRIBES RECEIVE $2.2 MILLION IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/10, 21K) reports that "more than 100 tribal nations will share $2.2 million in federal grants for historic preservation." The NPS "announced Thursday that the annual Tribal Historic Preservation Office fund will distribute partial grant awards to 135 tribes." In a statement, NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "Tribal historic preservation offices are the fastest growing preservation partnerships within the national historic preservation program, showing the value that tribes place on preserving historic places and protecting tribal cultural traditions. These grants allow tribes to focus on what they are most concerned with protecting – Native language, oral history, plant and animal species important in traditions, sacred and historic places, and the establishment of tribal historic preservation offices."

EFFORT TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE FACES RESISTANCE. The New York Times (1/10, Seelye, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports on the effort spearheaded by Lucas St. Clair, and his mother Roxanne Quimby, to create a national park with land adjacent to Mount Katahdin. The Times says that the process of creating a national park is difficult, and notes that only 59 sites have received the designation. A major problem is local opposition from the region's residents, as there is a "towering distrust here of the federal government." Many worry that the Federal government would "seize control of local decision making, take over even more land, ban hunting and snowmobiling, and ruin the forest products industry by restricting air emissions from the mills and limiting the timber supply."

INBREEDING FOUND IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN LIONS. The Washington Post (1/9, Press, 4.28M) reports that "three mountain lion kittens born last month in the Santa Monica Mountains were inbred, a wildlife expert said, marking a troubling sign for a population penned in by the urban sprawl of metropolitan Los Angeles." According to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, "preliminary DNA tests indicate that the male and two females born in the Malibu Springs area were sired by an adult male and his daughter."

Also reporting on the story is WOOD-TV Grand Rapids, MI (1/10, 129K).

EIGHT TENNESSEE SITES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Chattanoogan (1/10, 17K) reports that eight Tennessee sites have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The sites include the Beaty General Merchandise Store, the Crockett Tavern Museum, the Greenback Depot, the M.A. Helm House, the Rocky Springs Presbyterian Church, the Sears, Roebuck and Company Catalog Distribution Center and Retail Store, the Wartburg Presbyterian Church, and the Westmoreland Water Wheel and Gatepost.

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SEEKS TO BUY PRIVATE PARCELS IN AGUA FRIA MONUMENT. The Prescott (AZ) Daily Courier (1/10, 42K) reports that "with thousands of acres of private parcels inside the Agua Fria National Monument," BLM officials are "excited about finalizing an effort to buy two 40-acre parcels that were on the market for possible development." The bureau is currently "preparing to analyze potential impacts of the Cross Y Ranch purchase, and is seeking public comments by Friday." BLM officials would "like to purchase more of the ranch in the future, except for 97 acres that contain buildings."

BLM APPROVES GOLD MINING PROJECT IN TOOELE COUNTY. The Deseret (UT) News (1/10, 274K) reports

that the BLM has determined that a gold-mining project in Tooele County would have no significant environmental impact. The BLM Utah Salt Lake Field Office "signed the decision record approving the Kiewit Mine Project, about 43 acres of federal land surface disturbance associated with the mine 4 miles southeast of Gold Hill."

Also reporting on the story are the Provo (UT) Daily Herald (1/10, 102K) and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (1/10, 768K).

BLM CITES DRY WEATHER FOR FIRE RESTRICTIONS. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/9, 749K) reports that "citing the unusually dry winter," the BLM "announced it will implement fire restrictions on public lands the agency manages in El Dorado, Amador, Sacramento, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa counties." The restrictions start "Friday and will remain in effect until further notice."

Also reporting on the story is the Stockton (CA) Record (1/9, 123K).

HAINES HELI-SKI OPERATOR SAYS LAND ENCROACHMENTS WERE "MINOR". The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (1/10, 44K) reports that "a Haines helicopter ski operation that has agreed to plead guilty to unauthorized use of" BLM land says the encroachments were "minor, infrequent and unintentional." Southeast Alaska Backcountry Adventures said the "intent of the plea agreement is to ensure payment of fees that would have been paid to" the BLM "for recreational access by SEABA onto BLM property."

Also reporting on the story is the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (1/9, 198K).

NEW MEXICO PLANS TO RELOCATE NEARLY 200 PRONGHORN. KOB-TV Albuquerque, NM (1/10, 59K) reports that New Mexico wildlife officials "plan to capture and relocate almost 200 pronghorn from a northern New Mexico ranch." Game and Fish Department officials will "relocate most of the pronghorn to national forest land near Fort Stanton and to Bureau of Land Management land northwest of Roswell."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WILD HORSES ISSUE. Additional coverage of the wild horse issue was provided by the Decoded Science (1/10, 1K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ARKANSAS OFFICIAL WARNS "CRITICAL HABITAT" DESIGNATION COULD AFFECT LANDOWNERS. The Batesville Daily Guard (1/10) reports that "areas in Arkansas have recently been designated critical habitats for endangered species and opponents fear the designation will restrict property owners." Jeff Sikes, legislative director for the Association of Arkansas Counties (AAC), said "it's worse than the National Blueway designation — and one the state will not be able to get out of."

DUCK STAMP PROGRAM ACCEPTING ENTRIES. The Sioux City (IA) Journal (1/10, 15K) reports that the FWS at D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery is "inviting students to learn about wildlife conservation and express their creativity by entering the 2014 Junior Duck Stamp competition."

AUCTION FOR RIGHT TO KILL BLACK RHINO CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Dallas Morning News (1/10, Pacelle, 1.13M), Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, criticizes the Dallas Safari Club for "auctioning the right to kill a black rhino in Namibia." Pacell argues that the US should not "be abetting the cash-for-trophies scheme, especially when US law is supposed to provide disincentives for killing rare species by blocking imports of animal parts from creatures listed as endangered." According to Pacelle, "the Endangered Species Act allows endangered species to be imported if the import 'enhances' the survival of the species," but the FWS has "a flawed policy where such permits are granted if a hunter simply offsets his otherwise illegal activity with a financial contribution."

REEXAMINATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT URGED. The Dalles (OR) Chronicle (1/9, 40K) editorializes that the Endangered Species Act deserves "a thorough re-examination of a law that is both still valuable and seriously outdated." For instance, the paper wonders "whether it is time to engage in a kind of ESA triage, to borrow a term from emergency medicine." This would mean that "instead of throwing a lot of money at a few charismatic species like tigers and pandas, scientists would make a rational effort to prioritize species that have

the best chance of surviving."

US Geological Survey:

USGS COULD LEARN CAUSE OF TEXAS QUAKES WITHIN MONTHS. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/10, 705) reports that the USGS "may know within two months whether the earthquakes around Azle, Texas, can be linked to natural gas drilling activity." USGS and researchers from Southern Methodist University have "set up instruments to monitor earthquakes around Azle, about 20 miles northwest of Fort Worth." Art McGarr, a researcher with USGS, said in an interview Tuesday, "We don't know whether there's a direct connection. With some analysis, we should be able to determine this within a month or two."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

PHILLIPS: WIND TAX CREDIT "SUCCEEDED." Matthew Phillips writes in a piece for Bloomberg BusinessWeek (1/9, Philips, 4.93M) that the wind production tax credit "looks to be on its way out, in part because it succeeded in what it set out to do." During the span of the last five years, "wind has accounted for 36 percent of all new electricity generation installed in the U.S., second only to new natural gas installations" and it "now supplies more than 4 percent of the country's electricity." Phillips notes that "the wind tax credit has expired before, including at the end of 2012, but Congress always renewed it."

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR IG SAYS THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT IN BOTCHED COAL REGULATIONS. The "Regwatch" blog of The Hill (1/10, 194K) reports that according to Assistant Interior Department Inspector General Robert Knox in testimony before Congress, "a probe into allegations of Obama administration misconduct in the development of contentious coal mining regulations found failures that cost taxpayers millions of dollars but found no evidence of political interference." Knox told the House Natural Resources Committee "the agency lost more than $3.7 million in contract costs in support of a rule designed to protect streams located near coal mines." The GOP "seized on the botched rule making after revelations that the agency directed the contractor to change the way it calculated the likely coal production and job losses that would result were the regulations to take effect." Knox said, "There was no evidence that it was politically motivated."

The Washington Examiner (1/10, Conger, 319K) reports that Committee chairman Doc Hastings said, "I also must again express my concern that Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall is withholding information from Congress when the IG is charged with being an independent watchdog for Congress." Hastings said, "I have been vocal about the mismanagement of the IG's office under the leadership of Ms. Kendall. As I've said before, we need a permanent IG."

The Washington Examiner (1/10, Colman, 319K) reports that "Republicans vowed Thursday to push further against findings by the Interior Department's internal watchdog that the Obama administration's changes to a study of the jobs impact of a potential rule on mining pollution were not politically motivated." Hastings "vowed to use the full powers of the panel — including issuing subpoenas for more information — to further assess whether political influence played a role." He said, "I don't think this issue is going to go away."

Also covering the hearing are the Charleston (WV) Gazette (1/9, 154K), WVVA-TV Bluefield, WV (1/9, 5K), and WCYB-TV Bristol, VA (1/10, 15K).

Senators Question OSM Statistics. Politico (1/10, Guillen, 464K) reports that Sens. Joe Manchin, Rob Portman, John Barrasso and Mike Lee has sent a letter to Janice Schneider, the nominee to be the next Assistant Secretary for Land and Management at the Department of the Interior, urging her to promptly address a report that poses serious questions about the integrity of Office of Surface and Mining (OSM). The article notes that on Dec. 20, the Inspector General released a report revealing information that employees of the OSM ordered

contractors to change the method by which they had estimated the 7,000 jobs loss expected to result from OSM's proposed stream rule. The lawmakers urged Schneider to read the report by , promptly address these allegations and help restore the public's confidence in the Department of Interior's rulemaking process.

Also reporting on the story is the Elkins (WV) InterMountain (1/10, 30K).

BLM SAYS BREAK IN PIPE CAUSES OIL WASTEWATER SPILL. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (1/9, 90K) reports that "a break in a 2½-inch pipeline caused 300 barrels of oil production water to spill on the Blackfeet Reservation on Tuesday," according to the BLM in Great Falls. About "12,600 gallons of 'produced water' is thought to have spilled."

Offshore Energy Development:

BP PROPOSES TRADITIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR LONG-DELAYED LIBERTY OIL FIELD. The Alaska Dispatch (1/9, 7K) reports that BP is now hoping to develop its Liberty prospect in the Beaufort Sea "the old-fashioned way – with an artificial island constructed in the shallow and icy sea, with drill pads on that artificial island and with a subsea pipeline carrying produced crude from the wells drilled on that pad to the North Slope main pipeline network onshore." The firm "has submitted an application to federal regulators for approval to work in the Beaufort Sea this spring to scope out potential sites for offshore drill pads and pipelines." According to the article, "the application, filed Dec.19 with federal regulators at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, outlines BP's plans to drill soils in the water and on land, and to examine the seafloor, in operations to be conducted from March to May."

JUDGE ORDERS ATTORNEYS FOR CONVICTED BP ENGINEER TO STOP FURTHER CONTACT WITH JURORS. The AP (1/9) reports from New Orleans that US District Judge Stanwood Duval Jr. on Thursday ordered the attorneys for former BP engineer Kurt Mix "to refrain from any further contact with jurors who convicted" Mix "of trying to obstruct a federal probe of the company's 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." Attorneys for Mix "have said they interviewed some jurors after the Dec. 18 verdict and found evidence of juror misconduct that warrants a new trial." Judge Duval "said he is concerned about the 'appropriateness' of lawyers interviewing jurors without his permission," noting that the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals "has 'expressed general hostility toward the practice of post-trial juror interviews.'" Judge Duval "instructed Mix's attorneys and Justice Department prosecutors to submit written arguments by Jan. 24 on whether the defense lawyers' contact with jurors should affect their motion for a new trial."

OIL SPILL FUND TRUSTEES EXTEND DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. The Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald (1/9, 154K) reports that "people who wish to comment on proposed Coast projects funded through BP oil spill settlement money now have an extra 15 days." The Natural Resource Damage Assessment trustees "extended the deadline from Feb. 4 to Feb. 19 after extra time was requested during public hearings in December."

JOLLEY SAYS HE DID NOT LOBBY FOR OFFSHORE OIL LEGISLATION. The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (1/10, Krueger, 78K) reports David Jolley, Pinellas congressional candidate, "said he supports the ban that prevents oil drilling off Florida's Gulf Coast, a perennially important issue in local politics." But Jolley's "facing questions over his own 2011 federal lobbying report, which indicates he lobbied for a House bill designed to expand oil drilling in the gulf and elsewhere." The Times notes, "under the 'specific lobbying issues' listed in his report, Jolly included House Resolution 909, 'A Roadmap for America's Energy Future.'" On Thursday, Jolley said that he "did not lobby for that legislation" but "he felt obligated to list it on his disclosure report because the subject came up during a meeting he attended while lobbying on other issues."

ENERGY ATTORNEYS CRITICIZE PROPOSED RULES FOR OFFSHORE VESSELS. In an op-ed in FuelFix (1/10, 7K) Houston-area energy attorneys James T. Brown and Michael J. Wray argue that there are "stark contrasts in the types of vessels" currently supporting offshore exploration and drilling, making the recent US Coast Guard proposal for a rule-making process "a complex and problematic undertaking." Meanwhile, there are the new BSEE SEMS rules, which incorporate American Petroleum Institute best practices, which the Coast Guard is now also using. The Guard "envisions each vessel having specific safe-operating procedures and training that incorporate the management principles from API." The attorneys ask if the API knows "boats," and whether its "policies translate effectively to vessels, especially such a variety of vessels?" They call it "a daunting prospect

to consider a uniform safety structure for all."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

RECORD-SETTING DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA THREATENS SALMON SURVIVAL. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/10, 705) reports that "California's intensifying drought is forcing water managers to make tough choices that pit fish species against one another for survival." The BOR has "cut back water releases from the Nimbus Dam on the American River in order to save water for steelhead salmon that are expected to lay eggs in the river later this month." According to the article, "the cutbacks may help the steelhead, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act," but "they're likely to harm another fish: the fall-run chinook salmon, which are just finishing laying eggs in the river's gravel streambed."

WATER ISSUES TRACED BACK TO DAMMING OF THE COLORADO RIVER. In an op-ed for the Los Angeles Times (1/10, Vandevelder, 3.07M), author Paul Vandevelder writes hat "as all eyes in the West look to the courts, the skies and the Colorado River for relief from 14 years of drought, it might be useful to remember the battles waged by two titans of the 20th century who played leading roles in the drama that led to the current mess." Vandevelder points to the fight betweenSen. Barry Goldwater and David Brower, a founder of the Sierra Club, over water policy, but also, notes that "trouble with the Colorado, and any other river, for that matter, is that nothing in nature is static."

Empowering Native American Communities:

GOVERNMENT CAN'T LOCATE RECIPIENTS OF COBELL SETTLEMENT. The New York Times (1/10, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that as the payments are being made from the Cobell settlement, "tens of thousands of Indians who are owed money cannot be located." According to the article, "about half a million Indians are eligible for payments," but "more than 30,000 tribal members have not yet been located." David Smith, a lawyer with Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, a law firm that worked on the settlement and is involved in locating tribal members, said "the large number of missing beneficiaries illustrated how the Indian land trust program, administered by the Interior Department, was mishandled."

INTERIOR, CHEROKEE NATION FORMALIZE HISTORIC FUNDING AGREEMENT. The Cherokee Nation (1/10) reports that the Cherokee Nation "formalized a historic five-year funding agreement" with the Interior Department on Wednesday. The Cherokee Nation "receives $23 million per year through the DOI compact for tribal programs such as social services, law enforcement, Indian Child Welfare and real estate services." Robert Impson, Eastern Oklahoma regional director for the BIA, who attended the compact formalization ceremony, said, "Only certain tribes are able to get long-term agreements. The Cherokee Nation has been involved in the self-governance program for several years. This agreement is our way of assisting the tribe in serving the community and its citizens."

Also reporting on the story is the Collinsville (OK) News (1/10) and the Muskogee (OK) Phoenix (1/10, 29K).

Top National News:

OBAMA ANNOUNCES FIRST FIVE PROMISE ZONES, WITH KEY REPUBLICANS ON HAND. Coverage of President Obama's announcement of the first five Promise Zones in his effort to focus on income inequality is mostly positive. Reports say the plan is indicative of the President's goal of pursuing bipartisan policy measures that do not require congressional approval. Several reports highlight the presence of both Senate Minority Leader McConnell and his Kentucky colleague Sen. Rand Paul – a vocal Obama Administration critic – at the announcement. Several reports also say the concept has some Republican support because it relies on existing Federal funding and is intended to cut through bureaucratic red tape.

Two of the three broadcast networks reported on the event in favorable terms. The CBS Evening News (1/9, story 9, 2:15, Pelley, 5.58M) reported the President "made good on a pledge to focus his year on income inequality" in creating "what he calls 'Promise Zones', communities that will be given tax incentives and grants to fight poverty, create jobs and improve education." CBS' Ben Tracy focused on the Los Angeles neighborhood so designated, noting its poverty and saying its "designation as a Promise Zone gives preference for Federal aid already

approved by Congress. Los Angeles could get a total of $500 million over 10 years to build affordable housing and public transit and to boost education and job training programs in the zone." NBC Nightly News (1/9, story 4, 0:25, Williams, 7.86M) ran a briefer report, linking it to "the 50th anniversary of LBJ's declared War on Poverty" and calling it "a new initiative in that battle."

The AP (1/10, Kuhnhenn) reports President Obama invoked "his own personal story" in announcing the initiative, comparing himself "to a young man invited to the White House event Thursday who graduated from high school under a 1997 Harlem program and become the first member of his family to attend college." The President made the announcement "at a bipartisan White House assembly, underscoring the type of administrative actions Obama wishes to employ that don't all require congressional action." Bloomberg News (1/10, Runningen, 1.91M) says the wide-reaching program reaches across "multiple federal agencies" including Agriculture, Commerce, Education, HHS, and Justice, and will first assist Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Antonio, southeastern Kentucky, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

USA Today (1/10, Madhani, 5.82M) notes that both McConnell and Paul – both of Kentucky, which was one of the designees – attended the event. The newspaper says that "unlike his recent pushes to extend emergency unemployment insurance and raise the minimum wage," the President's establishment of the Promise Zones "was met with a measure of enthusiasm from Republican adversaries." Obama said, "This should be a challenge that unites us all. I don't care if the ideas are Democrats or Republican. I do care that they work."

The Christian Science Monitor (1/10, Kiefer, 540K) says McConnell and Paul "recently introduced a bill along similar lines" that would be "a larger, simpler version of the president's plan, covering more areas and relying heavily on tax breaks to grow jobs." The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (1/10, Carroll, 449K) reports McConnell remained critical of the President on the Senate floor Thursday, faulting Obama Administration energy policies for hurting Kentucky's coal industry. Even so, he said, "The Promise Zone designation is a step in the right direction nonetheless. We're encouraged that the President is finally focused on a concrete approach to jobs that members of both parties can support."

The New York Times (1/10, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports Education Secretary Duncan, speaking with reporters about the educational aspects of the plan, "said schools 'can't do this by themselves.' He added, 'Bringing in nonprofits, companies and all of us working together is the only way to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.'" In fact, the White House highlighted the fact that "the Promise Zones initiative would not provide new money, rather it would be aimed at providing the local governments and agencies 'aid in cutting through red tape to get access to existing resources.'"

In one of the few skeptical reports, the Washington Times (1/10, Boyer, 417K) says that "promise to cut through red tape for the communities is off to an uncertain start. Mr. Obama announced the initiative at his State of the Union address one year ago; it has taken an entire year for the government to receive applications from cities" and make the first five selections.

Doug Schoen writes on the Forbes (1/10, 6.03M) website that the Promise Zone plan "aims to cut red tape and streamline federal funding from government agencies. In this way, specific zones can benefit from strategic, targeted government funding in the areas it needs it most."

The San Antonio Express-News (1/10, 746K) reports Rep. Pete Gallego (D-TX), whose district includes the San Antonio Promise Zone, "said in a statement that the designation will help cut 'red tape and bureaucracy' in applying for grants." The Los Cerritos (CA) Community News (1/10, Economy, 102K) reports Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), who represents parts of the designated Los Angeles area, said, "This is a tremendous opportunity for greater Los Angeles and the selected communities across the nation."

More Commentary. While not commenting specifically on the President's Thursday announcement, columnists continue to consider the impact of the War on Poverty. Paul Krugman writes in his New York Times (1/10, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) column that 50 years after that war was declared, "progressives have stopped apologizing for their efforts on behalf of the poor, and have started trumpeting them instead. And conservatives find themselves on the defensive." Krugman says the War on Poverty has "achieved quite a lot," and "there is strong evidence that antipoverty programs have long-term benefits, both to their recipients and to the nation as a whole."

Michael Gerson writes in his Washington Post (1/10, 4.28M) column, however, that the "actual result – as in most complex endeavors – is mixed. Programs such as Medicare and Medicaid are woven tightly into the fabric of American life...and represent some of the most admirable, humane moral advances of the 20th century." But "other efforts, such as the expansion of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, became political shorthand for unintended social and behavioral consequences."

OBAMA MEETS WITH LAWMAKERS AS HE CONSIDERS CHANGES TO NSA INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING PROGRAMS. As he considers the recommendations of a presidential commission concerning NSA surveillance programs, the President on Thursday met with 16 lawmakers at the White House. The president also met this week with his top intelligence advisers, a review group appointed by Congress, privacy advocates and technology companies. The President could announce his final decisions on the programs as early as next week.

The Washington Post (1/10, Nakamura, 4.28M) reports that since Edward Snowden stole classified files from the NSA last summer, the Administration "has been under siege and looking for a way out." With his upcoming speech to announce changes to intelligence-gathering programs, the President aims "to set in place guidelines that will convince critics he is serious about reform and that will withstand future disclosures." While White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said that the President "is nearly done with the review," he "would not disclose what Obama is likely to say."

AFP (1/10) reports that according to senior US officials, the President "is considering whether to permit the programs to continue while requiring data to be held either by technology companies or a third party instead of the NSA." The President is also said to be considering "reining in spying on telephone and email communications of foreign leaders, after Snowden's revelations of such activity – including on the cellphone of German Chancellor Angela Merkel – provoked outrage abroad."

The Wall Street Journal (1/10, A1, Gorman, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports in a front page story that officials say the President is likely to support a combination of executive actions and measures that would require the approval of Congress. The Journal notes that the President has indicated that he is leaning toward three recommendations from the review panel. they are, extending the protections of the Privacy Act f 1974 to non-US citizens, creating and advocate for privacy issues, to argue before the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, and restructuring the phone-data program.

The New York Times (1/10, A12, Baker, Savage, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that advisers say the President is "trying to navigate what advisers call a middle course that will satisfy protesting national security agencies while tamping down criticism by civil liberties advocates." According to one adviser, the President is "seeking a middle ground that probably would draw complaints from both security and privacy advocates." Said the adviser, "Whatever he does next week will be an attempt to reach that balance, and on both sides there will be some element of dissatisfaction"

USA Today (1/10, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that a "brief White House readout of the meeting" with lawmakers said that the President has "committed his administration to working with Congress to pursue reforms to our nation's surveillance programs and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court." According to USA Today, possible changes include "new restrictions on surveillance of foreign leaders and on the handling of telephone and Internet data."

Reuters (1/9, Rampton, Hosenball) reports that Sen. Saxby Chambliss, ranking Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said that the President was "in a listening mode" during the meeting, noting, "He also made clear that some changes should be made to create trust in the program by making them more transparent to the American people." House Judiciary Chairman Robert Goodlatte said that he urged the President to better explain to Americans how collecting their phone data protects national security.

The AP (1/10, Pace, Dozier) reports that following the meeting, lawmakers said that the President "is still grappling with key decisions on the future of the National Security Agency's phone collection program and the makeup of the secret court that approved the surveillance." Sen. Ron Wyden said after the meeting, "The president and his administration are wrestling with the issues. ... It's fair to say that the next few weeks are going to be crunch time in terms of judgments being made in both the administration and the Congress."

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXTENSION STALLS IN SENATE. The AP (1/10, Espo) reports that legislation to reinstate long-term unemployment benefits "stalled in the Senate on Thursday, triggering recriminations from both sides of the political aisle." Democrats "offered to pay for a 10-month extension of a scaled-back program of benefits – then refused to permit Republicans even to seek any changes" – and while Senate Majority Leader Reid faulted the GOP for refusing to act, several Republicans who helped advance the bill earlier in the week said they had not been approached about a compromise.

Bloomberg News (1/10, Hunter, 1.91M) says Democrats need at least five Republican votes to advance the measure, but Reid's version, which would extend the program through mid-November rather than just the next three months, seems unlikely to win significant GOP support without changes. Politico (1/10, Everett, 464K) says Republicans "are highly skeptical" of the plan to pay for the benefits "by extending the sequester's mandatory savings for one year, through 2024."

USA Today (1/10, Davis, 5.82M) reports that "with no Senate votes scheduled until Monday evening, the expiration will not be resolved until next week at the earliest."

Roll Call (1/10, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) headlines its report "Jobless Bill Descends Into Procedural Black Hole," saying that the debate "devolved back into an all-too-familiar feud over considering amendments." The Huffington Post (1/10, Stein, 11.54M) gives its report the similar headline "The Senate's New Unemployment Deal Is Already Falling Apart." Reuters (1/10, Cowan) also has a report.

Pelosi Says GOP "Moving The Goal Posts" On Benefits Extension. Meanwhile in the House, The Hill (1/10, Lillis, 194K) reports, Minority Leader Pelosi charged that Republicans are "'moving the goal posts' surrounding the debate" by seeking job creation components. House Speaker Boehner has said he is "open to extending" the benefits, "as long as the costs are offset and the proposal is accompanied by unnamed economic provisions."

Paul, Cato Scholar Call For Debate On Impact Of Extended Unemployment Benefits. Sen. Rand Paul and Daniel Mitchell of the Cato Institute write in USA Today (1/10, 5.82M),"The unemployed need a strong job market, not endless handouts that create dependency. Critics have said it is 'insulting' and 'ridiculous' to warn that there may be some adverse consequences to extending unemployment insurance beyond the typical 26 weeks – even if the debate is about doing so for the 12th time in the last five years." They argue that "a debate about whether extending long-term unemployment benefits has consequences for the unemployed, the employed, and America's economy" is necessary.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"After Chris Christie's Performance."*** The New York Times (1/10, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, says that on Thursday, while New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie "sounded remorseful — and clearly sorry that this scandal might sink his ambitions for national office — he blamed his staff for making him a victim." According to the Times, "At this point," Christie "has zero credibility."

"Fitful Progress In The Antismoking Wars." An editorial in the New York Times (1/10, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reviews the 50-year effort to curb tobacco use, noting that by some measures, it "has been an enormous success," but "nearly 44 million American adults still smoke, more than 440,000 Americans die every year from smoking, and eight million Americans live with at least one serious chronic disease from smoking." The Times adds that while "smoking rates among adults around the globe have fallen sharply since 1980, the number of smokers has increased significantly along with population growth," and calls on the US government to "help counter the tobacco industry's efforts to spread its noxious products around the world."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Christie's Uncertain Future."*** The Washington Post (1/10, 4.28M), in an editorial this morning, calls New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie "the leading centrist within a GOP that is listing dangerously right," and says "all Americans have an interest in the survival of [the GOP's] moderate wing."

"An Incomplete Apology." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/10, 4.28M) acknowledges that DC Mayor Vincent Gray has apologized for "the events that sullied his 2010 campaign," but says that "words of regret must

be only a first step." They are not a "substitute for a full accounting of what he did and knew four years ago."

"Ending Discriminatory Discipline." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/10, 4.28M) takes a positive view of a call from the Education and Justice Departments call for schools to consider race when disciplining students, saying that the behavior "might be exactly the same — mouthing off to a teacher, cursing another student, getting into a shoving match — but, for students of color, the outcome is far more likely than for their white peers to result in punishments that will see them suspended, expelled or even jailed."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Christie And The IRS."*** The Wall Street Journal (1/10, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), editorializes that it will be important for Gov. Chris Christie to show that he in no way condoned the sort of abuse of power that his top aides engaged in.

"Grand Theft Auto Disability."

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
DWP Chief To Quit Amid Funds Furor
Brown Urges Restraint As Revenue Increases
Insurers Under Fire As Glitches Mount
Answers Sought In Mother's Killing
Christie Tries To Stem Traffic Scandal Fallout

Wall Street Journal:
Obama Readies Revamp of NSA
Christie Moves to Contain Fallout From Bridge Scandal
Draghi Says ECB Ready To Act
More Students Subsidize Classmates' Tuition

New York Times:
'Very Sad' Christie Extends Apology In Bridge Scandal
Saying Sorry His Own Way
Syria Militants Said To Recruit For US Attack
Fallujah's Fall Stuns Marines Who Fought There
At Issue In 2 Wrenching Case: What To Do After The Brain Dies
Wall Street Predicts $50 Billion Bill To Settle US Mortgage Suits

Washington Post:
Christie Ousts Two Top Advisers In Scandal Over Lane Closures
For Redskins' Gruden, A Winding Road Of Success
Envoy: Karzai Unlikely To Yield
Will Your Next Car Google You?
Have Ambitions Hit A Roadblock?

Financial Times:
Too Early To Declare Crisis Over, Says Draghi
Humbled Christie Apologises For Bridge Scandal
Indian Diplomat Granted Immunity In US
Standard Chartered Launches Overhaul
Spain's Bankia Returns To Capital Markets
Ford Shares Jump On Dividend Boost
Draghi Can't Keep Euro Down For Long

Washington Times:

FBI Takes First Steps On Tea Party Targeting
Christie Struggles To Save His Reputation
Winding Road To DC
Obama Spins His Revolving Door For Key Energy Posts
GSA's Bad Connection Delays Phone Technology
DC Authority At Center Of Battle On Abortion Funding

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Christie-Traffic Scandal; Christie-Traffic Scandal-Analysis; Severe Cold Weather-Flooded Homes; Russia-Sochi Olympics Security; Vermont-Heroin Crisis; Hawaii-December Plane Crash Investigation; Cuba-Fidel Castro Sighting; Health-Coffee Study; Truck Driver Rescued; Workplace Happiness Study.
CBS: Christie-Traffic Scandal; Christie-Traffic Scandal-Analysis; Severe Cold Weather; Pentagon-Sexual Assault Investigation; Iraq-Suicide Bomber; Iraq-Battle For Fallujah; Virginia-Navy Helicopter Crash; Obama-Promise Zones; Cuba-Fidel Castro Sighting; Health-Calorie Cuts; NASA-ISS Cargo Mission.
NBC: Christie-Traffic Scandal; Christie-Traffic Scandal-Analysis; Obama-Promise Zones; Central African Republic Conflict; Health-Medicare; Cuba-Fidel Castro Sighting; Vermont-Heroin Crisis; Congress Members' Wealth; Airline Performance Report; Loehmann's Liquidation Plan.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Christie-Traffic Scandal; Florida-Flooding; West Virginia-Tap Water Warning; Giffords Interview.
CBS: Christie-Traffic Scandal; December Jobs Report; Senate-Unemployment Benefits; Obama-Promise Zones; West Virginia-Tap Water Warning; Aurora Borealis.
FOX: Christie-Traffic Scandal; West Virginia-Tap Water Warning; Sochi Olympics Security; Montana-Air Force Base Drug Investigation; CDC-Lung Cancer Rates Decrease; Colorado-James Holmes Trial; Oklahoma-Man Killed By Wedgie; Amiri Baraka Obit.
NPR: New York-Indian Diplomat Indicted; Obama-Surveillance Programs Review; Wyoming-Hagel Visit; Montana-Air Force Base Drug Investigation; Health-Calorie Cuts; Obama-Promise Zones.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President will ceremonially swear-in Jeh Johnson as Secretary of Homeland Security in the Roosevelt Room. There will be a pool spray for still photographers only at the top of this event.
US Senate: JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE — 9:30 a.m. Hearings to examine the employment situation for December 2013. Location: G50 Dirksen.
US House: 9 a.m. — The House will meet for legislative business. First and last votes expected: 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NATURAL RESOURCES — 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing on: "The Science Behind Discovery: Seismic Exploration and the Future of the Atlantic OCS." Location: 1324 Longworth.
Other: STIMSON CENTER – WILDLIFE CRIME — 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Stimson Center and the British Embassy host a discussion on wildlife poaching and trafficking, with Retired Army Gen. Carter Ham, former commander, U.S. African Command; others. Location: The Stimson Center, 1111 19th St., NW – 12th Floor, Washington, DC. Contacts: Rich Robinson (communications@stimson.org), 202-478-3419

PENTAGON – NORWAY — 10 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome Norway's Minister of Defense Ine Marie Eriksen Soreide to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of

the Pentagon River Entrance. Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Parking Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the cordon.

PENTAGON – SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORT — 10 a.m. Defense Department experts will brief the press on the Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence at the Military Service Academies. Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, Col. Alan Metzler and Dr. Nate Galbreath from the DoD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office and Dr. Elizabeth P. VanWinkle from the Defense Manpower Data Center will brief the press on the annual report, which covers the school year that began June 2012 and ended May 2013. Location: Pentagon Briefing Room (2E973). Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no later than 45 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort into the building.

CATO – RECESS APPOINTMENTS — 12 p.m. Policy Forum. "Resolved: President Obama's Recent Purported 'Recess' Appointments Were Unconstitutional." Featuring Nicholas Quinn Rosenkranz, Georgetown University Law Center, and Senior Fellow in Constitutional Studies, Cato Institute; vs. Victor Williams, Catholic University School of Law. Moderated by Roger Pilon, Director, Center for Constitutional Studies, Cato Institute. Location: 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Contacts: CATO Institute (events@cato.org), 202-842-0200

FAIRFAX COUNTY – HUMAN TRAFFICKING — 12 p.m. Media brief on the new Just Ask Prevention Project, including unveiling a newly produced10-minute film addressing human trafficking to be shown to all FCPS 6th-12th grade students as part of their health class curriculum. New interactive website, bus back posters, other educational materials will be shared at the briefing. Participants: Colonel Edwin C. Roessler, Jr. Chief of Fairfax County Police Department; Detective Bill Woolf, Jr. Fairfax County Police, Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force; Elizabeth Payne, Fairfax County Public Schools, K-12 Coordinator, Family Life Education/Physical Education; Chris Davies, Supervisor, Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services. QUESTIONS/RSVP: Lucy Caldwell, FCPD Public Information Office, 703-246-2253. Location: Massey Building, 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, 22030, A-Level Conf. room.

WILSON CENTER – MATERNAL HEALTH, HIV — 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. Maternal Health and HIV: Global Priorities for Research and Action. Two Panels: Creating a Comprehensive Research and Evaluation Agenda for Maternal Health and HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa and Addressing HIV Stigma and Preventing Disrespect and Abuse: Global Insights to Improve Maternal Health and Promote Reproductive Rights. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 5th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

NPC – AMTRAK CEO — 12:30 p.m. Amtrak President & CEO Joseph H. Boardman will share his thoughts on passenger rail issues and provide a preview of the year ahead for Amtrak at a National Press Club Luncheon. This is a ticketed event. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: reservations@press.org, 202-662-7501

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS – ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE — 2 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The American Academy of Physician Assistants will host a virtual briefing to highlight the ways Americas PAs are practicing medicine and "increasing access to care across all medical and surgical specialties". Via Conference Call 888-510-1765. Participant Passcode: 3350736. dial in 5 – 10 minutes prior to the start time. Contacts: Matt Forke 202-248-5484 (mforke@vancomm.com) Patrick Dunne pdunne@aapa.org (571-319-4394).

USIP – SOUTH SUDAN — 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The U.S. Institute of Peace and the Wilson Center host a discussion on the root causes of the crisis, strategies for ending the violence, and ideas for building a more stable South Sudan; with Ambassador Princeton Lyman, former U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan; and others. Location: U.S. Institute of Peace 2301 Constitution Ave, NW. Contacts: Steven Ruder (sruder@usip.org)

WILSON CENTER – NATO- RUSSIAN RELATIONSHIP — 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. Roundtable on the NATO-Russian Relationship with Sharyl Cross, Global Fellow, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Kozmetsky Center, St. Edward's University. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 6th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "And New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has had a bad couple of days. He's embroiled in a major scandal involving lane closures near the George Washington Bridge. One of his top aides allegedly ordered the lane closure to retaliate against the mayor of Fort Lee, who refused to support Governor Christie's re-election. A lot of people got stuck in terrible traffic. Ambulances had a hard time getting through. Blocking off bridges, you know, intentionally. To put that in perspective, that's what Bane did in the last Batman movie. It's a big deal. ... The scandal could damage Christie's chances of getting the Republican nomination for president in 2016, but he'll probably bounce back. He seems like a pretty bouncy person."

David Letterman: "Chris Christie, the governor of New Jersey, apparently some goons in his office closed the George Washington Bridge as a prank. And they have the emails to prove it. Now, this is what I don't understand. You got a major political figure. You have the busiest bridge in the world. Don't put anything in writing. ... Do what I always do when I have something top secret to discuss. I go to the bowling alley and use the pay phone."

David Letterman: "Christie is saying he knew nothing about it. It was all his aides. He had no knowledge of the closing of the bridge. He is trying to distance himself from the scandal. And this is a big guy. You want to distance yourself from something when you're that big, you got to go to Mars."

David Letterman: "They have traffic delays, four and five hour traffic delays, emergency problems, couldn't get any emergency vehicles. They had health problems, because of the big closure of the George Washington Bridge. Now, this is okay. But I want to tell you something, ladies and gentlemen. If a political scandal doesn't involve hookers, or photos of somebody's junk, I'm not interested. I don't care."

David Letterman: "People are saying because he let his aides close down the George Washington Bridge, he could be unfit for office. And I said, 'Hell, the guy could be unfit for his pants, what about that?'"

David Letterman: "It's been a lousy week for Governor Christie. I mean, first the bridge scandal and now the nationwide Velveeta shortage."

David Letterman: "The United States is running out of Velveeta cheese. We are desperately low on Velveeta cheese, I'm telling you. I had to wait in line for three hours at the pump earlier today to get Velveeta cheese. And President Obama may have to open up the strategic cheese reserve."

Craig Ferguson: "Governor Christie's office is accused of shutting down a bridge to get back at a mayor who won't endorse him. It's all very petty, but shutting down the bridge caused four-hour delays. Or as it's known in Los Angeles, 'three blocks at rush hour.'"

Craig Ferguson: "Everyone's talking about Chris Christie today. He's a Republican, so MSNBC says, 'He's guilty.' Fox News says, 'Give him a chance.'"

Craig Ferguson: "The government is cracking down on companies that say they can help you lose weight. The Obama Administration accused four weight-loss companies of misleading Americans about their health benefits. And the companies said, 'Couldn't we say the same about you?'"

Stephen Colbert: (Referring to Christie scandal) "Bottom line, bottom line, no one can definitively prove the original order came from Chris Christie. But I would like to go on the record as saying God, I hope it did. Because a year ago when I saw him palling around with Barack Obama after Hurricane Sandy, I was worried he was one of those fake conservatives who secretly believes that the government can do things. But now I realize he's the kind of leader I can get behind. The kind who says it's my way or I shut down your highway."

Stephen Colbert: "Christie is a true conservative. He is committed to proving the core conservative value that government is the problem, even if he has to create those problems himself. I can already see his 2016 bumper sticker: 'Christie. Bringing America Together Or I Will [bleep] You Over.' Best of all, his team will make sure you

have plenty of time to read those bumper stickers."

Stephen Colbert: (Referring to Robert Gates' memoir) "Secretary Gates writes" of "the President's Afghanistan strategy, 'I believe Obama was right in his decisions, but I myself, our commanders and our troops, had expected more commitment to the cause and more passion for it from him.' Yes, Obama made the right decisions, but he faked his war-gasm. Secretary Gates much preferred President Bush, who 'had no second thoughts about Iraq, including our decision to invade.' No second thoughts. I'm pretty sure he didn't have first thoughts."

Jon Stewart: "As you may have heard, New Jersey Republican, I believe his name is Christopher Christie, faced an outcry yesterday after it was revealed his staffers purposely tied up traffic for days at the Fort Lee, New Jersey side of the George Washington Bridge as payback against the town's Democratic mayor, because, apparently, being right there at the bridge isn't punishment enough."

Jimmy Fallon: "New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is dealing with a scandal after it was revealed that a top aide shut down access to the George Washington Bridge to get back at a Democratic mayor for not endorsing him. Christie was furious when they blocked the bridge, because he thought they said they were blocking the fridge. He was like, 'What?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Oh, man. Actually, though, Chris Christie held a press conference today to address the bridge scandal, where he insisted that he is not a bully. And he will sit on anyone who says otherwise."

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, President Obama announced a new plan to create things called 'promise zones' in parts of the country where the economy still needs help. 'Promise zones'? Sounds less like an economic plan, more like something your parents would say during the sex talk."

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of the President, though, yesterday Obama gave photographers a rare chance to take pictures of his weekly lunch with Joe Biden. Then Biden told his friends, 'Told you I knew the President.'"

Jay Leno: "Well, this has tumed into a huge scandal. Apparently somebody in Governor Christie's office, as you know, was involved in that traffic-lane closure at the George Washington Bridge that...caused a huge traffic jam. And the allegation is, it was done in retaliation against the mayor of Fort Lee for not supporting Christie's re-election campaign. But Christie is denying any personal involvement. He said he was too busy clogging his own arteries at the time."

Jay Leno: "Pundits are saying this could hurt his 2016 presidential campaign. The ironic thing is, now that Christie is denying everything, he sounds even more presidential, doesn't he?"

Jay Leno: "In fact, after his denial, Christie quickly left the news conference to deal with a more personal crisis, the Velveeta cheese shortage."

Jay Leno: "And in the new movie 'The Wolf of Wall Street,' they say the 'F' word was used a record 506 times, thus breaking the old record of 505 times set by President Obama when he heard about Robert Gates' new book."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, January 13, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Jan 13, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL DISCUSSES EVERGLADES RESTORATION AT NAPLES EVENT. The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (1/11, 210K) reports that at a short press conference during the 29th annual Everglades Coalition Conference at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that the Obama Administration strongly believes in Everglades restoration and the protection of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. Jewell said, "There is a significant effort among the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture to reduce flows in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie. These estuaries are so important, and this administration is very much aware of what's happening down here."

The Naples (FL) Daily News (1/10, 174K) reports that Jewell pointed to "the budget stalemate in Washington for not coming to Florida with cash for Everglades restoration but said she hopes to have ground broken by the end of her term on advocates' top priority: a second phase of Tamiami Trail bridging over the River of Grass to restore water flows." Jewell also said "cries of protest over discharges from Lake Okeechobee fouling waters in downstream estuaries on Florida's coasts, including in the Caloosahatchee River, are not falling on deaf ears." Jewell cited a "great deal of support" at the Interior Department to "reduce those discharges by building reservoirs to store the water or create new flowways south into the Everglades."

Meanwhile, the Naples (FL) Daily News (1/10, 174K) reports that the Everglades Coalition is requesting "$100 million for Everglades funding from the state Legislature this year, coalition leaders said Friday at their annual meeting in Naples." The funds, "which would pay to build parts of an $11 billion state-federal restoration plan, would reinforce the state's commitment to the Everglades," according to coalition co-chair Jennifer Hecker.

Also reporting on the story are the Sunshine State (FL) News (1/12, 3K), the Lakeland (FL) Ledger (1/11, 180K), the Winter Haven (FL) News Chief (1/11, 28K), the TCPalm (1/10, 224K), the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/12, 80K), the Miami Herald (1/10, 806K), the Naples (FL) Daily News (1/10, 174K), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (1/12, 51K), the Water Environment Federation (1/13), WTVJ-TV Miami (1/12, 50K), and WGCU-FM Fort Myers, FL (1/12).

Everglades Restoration Project Achieves Quick Success. The Huffington Post (1/10, 11.54M) reports that "the need to address the damage done by the C-111 Canal has been one of the early priorities of the Everglades restoration, and a series of pumps, waterways and reservoirs completed one year ago to stop the leakage is already being hailed as a success." Caroline McLaughlin, program analyst for the National Parks Conservation Association, said, "After only one year, we're really encouraged. We're seeing the hydration of wetlands that will ultimately support the health and vitality of native wildlife."

SEN. MURKOWSKI STILL IRATE OVER IZEMBEK DECISION. Politico (1/12, Goode, 464K) reports that "relations have turned frosty" between Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Sen. Lisa Murkowski over "Jewell's rejection of a road through Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge — a decision Murkowski calls 'callous and cold-hearted.'" Murkowski said, "This does not help my relationship with the secretary, let's put it that way. And I think she knows that." However, "Murkowski may have little recourse to punch back on the Christmas-week decision, despite her position as the top Republican on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Appropriations subpanel that oversees Interior's budget."

Also reporting on the story is KTBY-TV Anchorage, AK (1/12, 122).

INTERIOR MISSES DEADLINE TO BUY STATE LAND WITHIN GRAND TETON. The Belleville (IL) News-Democrat (1/10, 167K) reports that the Interior Department has "missed a deadline to buy state land located within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park, but state and federal officials say they're still optimistic about reaching a deal in which the land instead would be swapped for federal land and mineral rights." The article notes that "the blown deadline wasn't surprising," since "state and federal officials began talking about a land swap amid last year's federal belt-tightening." Furthermore, "there was also uncertainty over the second-phase purchase of 86 acres of state land for $16 million right up until that deal closed on Dec. 28, 2012."

Also reporting on the story is the Bradenton (FL) Herald (1/10, 143K).

CONGRESS CLOSING IN ON A BUDGET DEAL. Politico (1/12, Rogers, 464K) reports that "House-Senate negotiators have substantially narrowed their differences over a $1.1 trillion governmentwide spending bill and are closing in on a deal that the leadership hopes can be filed by Monday night and moved quickly through Congress this week." Notably, "to make room for firefighting funds in the Interior Department and Forest Service means no money is left to absorb the costs of the PILT program [payments in lieu of taxes], which helps small Western towns meet their local budgets when surrounded by federal lands."

GAO REVIEWS INTERIOR'S ALASKA OCS AIR PERMITTING UPDATES. Politico (1/12, Guillen, 464K) reports that the Government Accountability Office has "a short report out that outlines the ongoing transfer of Clean Air Act regulatory authority for air emissions on Alaska's outer continental shelf from EPA to Interior, a change made as part of a 2011 appropriations bill." Of note: "Interior is working on amending its oil and gas air quality rules, which haven't been significantly updated since 1988."

TOP ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS TO TESTIFY NEXT WEEK ON OBAMA'S CLIMATE AGENDA. The Hill (1/11, Barron-Lopez, 194K) reported in its "E2 Wire" blog that the Obama Administration's Council on Environmental Quality Chairwoman Nancy Sutley, EPA Administrator McCarthy, and officials from the Fish and Wildlife Service and State Service Administration will testify next week at the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee "hearing next week President Obama's climate plan." The Hill reported that the purpose of the hearing is for the committee to "review Federal efforts in line with Obama's agenda to address climate change."

Senate Aide Says Reid Is Setting Aside Time Weekly To Focus On Climate Change. Bloomberg News (1/11, Scott, 1.91M) reported that a senior Senate aide said Thursday that Senate Majority Leader Reid "is setting aside time at his party's weekly caucus lunch in the Capitol to focus solely on climate change...in hopes of one day reviving a bill to cut carbon dioxide emissions and better defend" President Obama's climate efforts "from Republican attacks." The aide told Bloomberg Business of National Affairs that "Reid reserves "a permanent spot" for the climate issue each week when Senate Democrats sit down for their hour-plus policy lunches."

SENATORS CREATE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE. The San Francisco Chronicle (1/10, Lochhead, 2.88M) reported that "more than a dozen senators, none of whom are Republicans," have created a task force aimed at removing the "'barricade of special interest lies' on climate change" in Washington. Led by Democratic Sens. Barbara Boxer of California and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, the group will work with new presidential counselor John Podesta. At a briefing Thursday, Sen. Boxer called the task force a "wake-up call" and an effort to win support for climate change legislation both within Congress and in the private sector. According to Sen. Whitehouse, the group has potential allies among "big nameplate American companies like Apple and Nike" and possibly the military's Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Chronicle said the task force's agenda and membership would be formally announced on Tuesday.

STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT DALE PENNY RETIRING. The National Journal (1/13, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that Student Conservation Association President Dale Penny has "announced that he would be retiring after 16 years as head of the SCA." Penny has "been a charismatic leader for an organization that has experienced dramatic growth in recent decades." The article notes that "the group has also emerged as an incubator for conservationists: According to a recent National Park Service estimate, 12 percent of the agency's personnel were at one time SCA volunteers." Also, "one notable alumna is Rhea Suh, a top-ranking official at the Interior Department."

SECRETARY JEWELL URGED TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION. In an op-ed for the Bellingham (WA) Herald (1/11, Buyagawan, 113K), Jaime Buyagawan Jr., the owner of Buyagawan LLC, an independent outdoor recreation sales company, wonders "how different Washington State would be without our national parks and forests," and expresses concern "about future development and the impact it could have on future generations." He notes that "in an Oct. 31 speech at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "articulated a vision for conservation on America's public lands." Buyagawan urges Jewell to "make it her New Year's resolution to make each of these goals a reality."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

POWER OUTAGE DISRUPTS NPS DATA CENTER. The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (1/12) reports that "just before 3 p.m. on the afternoon of January 1st, the National Park Service building in Denver where the NPS Data Center is located experienced a power outage." According to the article, "this was a non-NPS generated, unplanned, unpredicted power outage that caused a catastrophic technology event and outage in the data center."

GRAND CANYON BECAME NATIONAL MONUMENT 106 YEARS AGO. The National Journal (1/12, Subscription Publication, 427K) notes that 106 years ago, President Teddy Roosevelt, "instead of looking to Congress to grant the Grand Canyon national park status, Roosevelt declared the 800,000-acre area a national monument himself, beginning an entirely new presidential practice of recognizing the country's natural assets."

PINNACLES SEES MORE VISITORS ONE YEAR AFTER BECOMING NATIONAL PARK. The Monterey County (CA) Herald (1/13, 86K) reports that it has been one year since the Pinnacles "was upgraded from a national monument to a national park by President Barack Obama." According to the article, "although the upgrade may have seemed insignificant to critics, early estimates show an increase of about 90,000 visitors last year."

CONTROVERSY OVER DEER POPULATION CONTROL EFFORTS CONTINUES. WJLA-TV Washington (1/13, 118K) reports that "controversy continues to brew over population control efforts for white tailed deer in Rock Creek Park." The group Save the Rock Creek Park Deer is "gathering to protest the sharpshooting Sunday."

CAPITOL HILL FOX WINNING FANS. In its "Heard On The Hill" blog, Roll Call (1/12, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that the Capitol Hill Fox has been spotted around the National Mall. People have been "entranced" by the "well-traveled and amazingly well-behaved creature."

NPS TO HOLD FORUM ON LANGLEY FORK PARK PLAN. The Arlington (VA) Sun Gazette (1/12, 119K) reports that the NPS will "hold a public meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 14 to present information on the potential land exchange and the environmental-assessment process for the Langley Fork Park Master Plan."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SUED OVER WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/12, 22K) reports that the Nevada Association of Counties and the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation have filed a lawsuit against the federal government, "alleging mismanagement of wild horses has led to excessive damage on the land and to animals." The two groups "accuse the feds of failing to comply with the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971, which requires the BLM to 'protect the natural ecological balance of all wildlife species which inhabit such lands, and to maintain a current inventory of wild free-roaming horses and burros on given areas of the public lands, and to remove excess animals,' the complaint states." The plaintiffs argue the BLM should "destroy" horses that are deemed unadoptable, but the BLM "maintains it will not sell wild horses or burros for slaughter."

Also reporting on the story are the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (1/13, 731K), the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (1/13, 76K), and the Fort Mill (SC) Times (1/12, 54K).

BLM WARNS AGAINST FEEDING BURROS. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (1/12, 437K) reports that federal officials warn that burros and wild horses near and around Red Rock Canyon have grown used to frequent contact with people who feed them on the side of the road, which could lead to crashes. Kristen Cannon, a spokeswoman for the BLM, said that as long as people continue to feed the burros, crashes will occur. Cannon said, "I know people probably think they're doing them a favor by offering a carrot or Cheeto, but people who feed the burros are actually hurting them more than helping them."

USE OF VEHICLES A POINT OF CONCERN FOR ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS PROPOSAL. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/12, 288K) reports that "one of the key differences between land designated a national monument and land designated wilderness has to do with the use of vehicles – a sticking point for both the sheriff and cattle ranchers." According to the article, "in designating a monument, nothing changes in terms of

road use; existing roads remain open to both law enforcement and the public." The article notes that "the law permits construction of new roads if there is a need, and need is determined by the managing federal agency – in the case of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks proposal, the Bureau of Land Management."

BLM SEEKING COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY IN RECAPTURE CANYON. In an op-ed for the Durango (CO) Herald (1/12, 28K), Andrew Gulliford, a professor of history and environmental studies at Fort Lewis College, writes that in Utah, the BLM is "seeking comments on what could be a precedent-setting mistake." He notes that "in 2005, Blanding residents illegally constructed a seven-mile-long, 4-foot-wide, all-terrain-vehicle trail in Recapture Canyon, damaging archaeological sites," and "now San Juan County is seeking a right of way for that same trail." The BLM is accepting public comment about a proposal by San Juan County, which is "seeking 14.25 miles of ATV trail and three trailheads or staging areas for ATVs."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

BLACK RHINO HUNTING PERMIT AUCTIONED. FOX News (1/12, 6.72M) reports that the Dallas Safari Club sold a rare license to hunt an endangered black rhino in Africa for $350,000 at an auction held Saturday night. The auction stirred outrage among conservationists and lead to death threats against members of the club. Critics have also said "any hunting of a rhino sends a bad message to the public."

USA Today (1/11, Mullaney, 5.82M) reports that the FWS "endorsed the auction, saying limited culling of males too old to breed can boost the overall population by reducing fighting among other males and by lowering juvenile mortality." However, "that rationale was mocked by 90-year-old game-show host and animal-rights activist Bob Barker in a letter released by PETA."

Also reporting on the story are the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (1/12, 165K), the Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald (1/11, 154K), the Detroit Free Press (1/12, Mullaney, 794K), the Pacific (GUM) Daily News (1/12, 61K), the Christian Science Monitor (1/12, Graczyk, 540K), WDIV-TV Detroit (1/12, 178K), and KGO-TV San Francisco (1/12, 4K).

NEVADA GOV. SANDOVAL SAYS GROUSE PROTECTION EFFORTS "CAST ASIDE." The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (1/12, 165K) reports that the FWS "'cast aside' years of work to protect sage grouse habitat along the Nevada-California border with a recent proposal to list a subspecies of the bird as threatened," according to Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval. In a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Sandoval wrote "that direction could offer worrying insight into the service's coming decision on whether the greater sage grouse — found across much of Northern Nevada — should also be listed under the Endangered Species Act." In response to Sandoval's letter, Ren Lohoefener, regional director for FWS, wrote that "Nevada still has much work to do to convince the service it is taking sufficient measures to conserve some of the most valuable sage grouse habitat in the country."

ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION OPPOSES PROPOSED CRITICAL HABITAT AREA FOR RARE MUSSELS. The Columbus (IN) Republic (1/12, 80K) reports that "members of Arkansas' congressional delegation said Friday they want federal wildlife officials to reduce the size of a proposed 'critical habitat' area for two types of rare mussels." The FWS "in September proposed designating 769 miles of streams as critical for the Neosho mucket and the rabbitsfoot mussel." According to the article, "in a letter dated Thursday and released Friday," Arkansas' senators and four congressmen said "half of the rabbitsfoot critical habitat area falls in Arkansas and that 42 percent of the state could be affected by new regulations intended to protect the mussels." But "after the members of Congress released their letter," the FWS said "they were exaggerating the problem." The FWS said "the designation covers 8 percent of Arkansas' stream miles — not land area."

FWS RELEASES STUDY ON IMPACT OF HABITAT PROTECTION IN SIERRA NEVADA. The Stockton (CA) Record (1/11, 123K) reports that "designating 1.8 million acres of the Sierra Nevada as critical habitat for several amphibian species will have minimal economic impact," according to a study released by the FWS. The article notes that "the draft economic analysis of proposed critical habitat for the Yosemite toad and two species of yellow-legged frogs concludes that the costs of the designation over 17 years would likely range from $630,000 to $1.5 million, or a maximum of about $88,000 per year."

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR JAGUAR HABITAT DETERMINATION. The Eastern Arizona Courier (1/12, 18K)

reports that the FWS "requested and recently received an extension of the deadline to reach a final determination on critical habitat for the jaguar." According to the article, "the previous settlement agreement date for publishing a final decision was Dec. 16; the new publication date is Feb. 14, 2014."

SPACEPORT SHILOH PROJECT TARGETED BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (1/10, 780K) reports that the Spaceport Shiloh project in Merritt Island is under fire from environmentalists. Also, last week, the FWS released "a 38-page missive that spelled out several concerns the agency had with the proposed launch site." Now, "there are signs that the company the state was trying to lure — SpaceX of California — may go to Texas instead."

ARCTIC RESIDENTS WARY OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The Arctic (AK) Sounder (1/12, 6K) reports that "for those living in the Arctic," the Endangered Species Act is a point of concern. According to the article, "scientists and hunters alike, while they can appreciate what the Act stands for, have grown somewhat uneasy over the years with the ever-present possibility of more listings and thus, more red tape." Moreover, "recently, the boundaries of the Act have been getting a little muddy."

FWS SAYS DISEASE OUTBREAK IN REDWOOD SHORES POND POSES NO THREAT TO PEOPLE. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (1/12, 731K) reports that "citing a serious threat to wildlife, a wastewater treatment agency is draining a Redwood Shores pond popular with bird watchers where an outbreak of avian cholera has killed about 185 ducks in one week." However, "the disease does not pose a threat to humans," an FWS official said "in an announcement sent out Friday by the South Bayside System Authority."

US Geological Survey:

WHITE HOUSE NOMINATES NEW USGS CHIEF. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/12, 705) reports that President Obama has nominated Suzette Kimball to be the director of the USGS. Kimball has been acting director since February 2013, when Marcia McNutt stepped down.

The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (1/12) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today "praised" the nomination. Jewell said, "USGS brings critical, impartial information to bear on some of the most complex issues facing our nation today – from the impacts of climate change to natural hazards and their threats. With her scientific expertise and decades of public service, Suzette is an excellent choice to lead this agency. During her time at USGS, Suzette has proven herself to be a smart, thoughtful and collaborative leader, and a strong advocate for using science to inform our understanding of our world and provide tools to solve natural resource challenges."

HYDROLOGIST ARGUES USGS THE BEST AT MODELING VERDE RIVER FLOW. In an op-ed for the Camp Verde (AZ) Bugle (1/12, 3K), Win Hjalmarson, a retired USGS hydrologist, write that "a few months ago the USGS presented the regional groundwater model to the public at a large gathering in Camp Verde," and "they discussed how the model showed a decrease of about 7 cfs in the base flow of the upper Verde River as a result of withdrawal of water from the Big and Little Chino aquifers." However, the Bugle "reported that Doubting Thomases picked apart every aspect of the model and have even questioned the integrity of USGS employees and river preservation leaders" and "some doubted there has been a 7 cfs drop in base flow." In response, Hjalmarson argues that "the USGS is the best to perform such modeling of our precious water resource."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ECONOMY, TAX CREDIT UNCERTAINTY CONTRIBUTE TO SLOW PACE OF SOLAR DEVELOPMENT. The Los Angeles Times (1/12, Cart, 3.07M) reports that "five years after the Obama Administration's renewable energy initiative" ignited "a building boom of large-scale solar power plants across the...Southwest, the pace of development has slowed to a crawl, with a number of companies going out of business and major projects canceled for lack of financing." The Times reports that 20 out "of the 365 Federal solar applications since 2009" remain on track to being built and "only three large-scale solar facilities have gone online, two in California and one in Nevada." Industry analysts blame the economy, which has made it difficult for companies to obtain the finances it needs to fund projects, and the uncertainty surrounding the future of tax credits.

GROUPS THREATEN LAWSUIT OVER WIND TURBINE NEAR LAKE ERIE. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer (1/12, 768K) reports that "a group of birding enthusiasts is threatening to sue the Ohio National Guard over plans to build a wind turbine along Lake Erie because they are concerned it will endanger migrating birds and eagles." The American Bird Conservancy and Black Swamp Bird Observatory said that "they are looking at taking legal action over plans to build the wind turbine at the guard's Camp Perry site near Port Clinton." The FWS has "suggested shutting off the turbine and dimming the lights around it during the height of the spring and fall migration periods."

Also reporting on the story is WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (1/12, 117K).

NEW EAGLE POLICY CRITICIZED. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/10, Yarnold, 11.54M), David Yarnold, President, National Audubon Society, critics the decision by the Interior Department "to give wind companies permits to operate new turbine farms for decades, but without any real protection for eagles." He argues that "that's bad for eagles, and it's also bad politics for renewable energy." According to Yarnold, "critics of wind power are already using the lack of protection for eagles as a new way to attack an industry that deserves all the public support it can get."

Also, in an op-ed for the Lewes (DE) Cape Gazette (1/12, Hliva, 42K), Connie Hliva criticizes the federal government's new eagle policy. She argues that "death by wind turbine is not friendly" and "is also an insult to the American people who care enough to help preserve our wild life and environment." Hliva concludes that "unless action is taken to save these birds, the American Bald Eagle and other birds will disappear."

SALERNO: CONGRESS SHOULD EXTEND WIND ENERGY CREDIT FOR 2014. American Wind Energy Association Vice President of Industry Data and Analysis Elizabeth Salerno wrote in an op-ed piece for The Hill (1/11, 194K) that "the Federal Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind power must be extended for 2014 and Congress has yet to act." Salerno wrote that the "wind power industry employs over 80,000 Americans" and, with the support of the tax credit, "attracts an average of $18 billion annually in private investment, with a record $25 billion in 2012." Salerno wrote that the inaction by Congress on the tax credit "has injected uncertainty into the market and" is "threatening the livelihoods of thousands of hardworking Americans."

Onshore Energy Development:

PANEL REJECTS PROPOSAL TO RUN A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE THROUGH NEW JERSEY PINELANDS. The AP (1/11, Parry) reported that the "New Jersey Pinelands Commission rejected the proposal by South Jersey Gas, which had partnered with the state Board of Public Utilities, to" run a 22-mile natural gas pipeline through New Jersey's Pinelands and connect it "to the BL England power plant in Cape May County." The AP reported that the "decision delighted environmentalists, who had turned out by the hundreds to oppose the plan over the past six months." However, according to the AP, business groups and union members were upset with the decision since they hope that the proposal would lead to more jobs in the area.

In addition to coverage on the New Jersey Pinelands Commission's rejection of the natural gas pipeline, the New York Times (1/12, Powell, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reported that "four former governors, two Republican and two Democrat, wrote a letter opposing the project." Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, called the decision "the biggest environmental win" they've had during the Christie Administration. Meanwhile, Dan Lockwood, a spokesman for South Jersey Gas, which was in charge of the proposal, said that they were "disappointed" by the decision and that the company would study its options.

Columnist Kevin Riordan writes in a piece for the Philadelphia Inquirer (1/13, Columnist, 1.22M) that in a surprising decision, the New Jersey Pinelands Commission rejected a proposed natural gas pipeline. Riordan notes that "supporters and opponents in the room were united – in surprise." Jim Kehoe, president of the New Jersey State Association of Pipe Trades, said that the project would have created 550 construction jobs. In a statement, would-be pipeline builder South Jersey Gas said it is "disappointed" that it needed "to review our options."

Also reporting on the story are the Asbury Park (NJ) Press (1/9, 324K), the Press of Atlantic City (NJ) (1/12,

179K), and the Cape May County (NJ) Herald (1/12, 6K).

TEXAS, KANSAS RESIDENTS WONDER IF FRACKING IS LINKED TO RECENT TREMORS. The CBS Evening News (1/11, story 6, 2:25, Axelrod, 5.58M) reported that residents in Azle, Texas are wondering if oil and natural gas drilling nearby is causing the dozens of tremors they have been experiencing recently. CBS' Manuel Bojorquez reported that the town "its on top of Barnett Shale, a geographic formation where natural gas and oil are being extracted" and the waste water from those "operations is discarded through pressurized injections into underground wells," six of which are located near Azle. Bojorquez reported that, "since November, the US Geological Survey recorded 32 earthquakes in the area ranging from magnitude 2.0 to 3.7." According to Bojorquez, Texas Oil and Gas Association Executive Vice President Deb Hastings doesn't "see a clear connection" between the earthquakes and the oil and natural gas drilling, "but supports a review."

Meanwhile, the Kansas City (MO) Star (1/11, Hendricks, 1.11M) reported that Kansas officials and scientists have launched an investigation into the earthquake that occurred on December 16 along the Kansas-Oklahoma border to see fracking had anything to do with the tremor. The Kansas City Star reported that there are four disposable wells near the earthquake's epicenter and "scientists have long known that injecting fluids deep into the earth can trigger earthquakes."

TENSION REVOLVES AROUND FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENT IN UTAH. The Deseret (UT) News (1/13, 274K) reports that "while environmental groups and Utah's political conservatives batter each over fossil fuel development and have entrenched battle lines, there are examples of where compromise and alternative approaches are building solutions to the strife." Rob Bishop is "trying to broker a solution that strikes at compromise." He said, "One of the things I am trying to accomplish is that we quit fighting over all these lands. There are lands in Utah that are deserving of conservation status. There are also lands that should be developed for their energy."

The Deseret (UT) News (1/13, 274K) reports that "Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, his energy adviser Cody Stewart and a bevy of political conservatives believe control of those resources that sit on federal lands could help fund the state's struggling education system and an entire slate of other pressing needs." According to the article, "they need only look to North Dakota — thriving with the nation's No. 1 economy because of the Bakken oil boom — to argue that federal land management policies are stifling Utah's 'resource' potential." Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of governmental affairs and public relations, which represents independent oil and gas producers in the West, said, "We have 11 projects proposed in Utah that are in the environmental analysis stage with the Bureau of Land Management. If we give government the benefit of the doubt, it should take about three years to get through the environmental analysis stage. We have projects over that three-year mark." Sgamma said that "as a result, industry is directing its attention to state-owned or private lands or moving out of Utah altogether."

NUMBER OF ORPHANED WELLS IN WYOMING RISING. The Gillette (WY) News Record (1/12, 19K) reports that currently, "there are 6,924 plugged and abandoned coal-bed methane wells in Campbell County, according to the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission," and "of those wells, 5,202 are on fee or state land," while "the rest are on federal land." The article notes that "there also are wells that are orphaned — wells that the operators walked away from, leaving them unreclaimed," and "the responsibility of plugging these wells falls on the Oil and Gas Commission if the wells are on state or private land, or to the Bureau of Land Management, if they are on federal land." It adds that "since production peaked in 2009 at 580 million thousand cubic feet, the number of orphaned holes has been rising," and "there are about 1,220 abandoned wells on state and fee (private) land in Wyoming, most of which are in the Powder River Basin, according to Gov. Matt Mead's office."

DORRANCE FAN COMPLEX TO BE DEMOLISHED. The Wilkes-Barre (PA) Citizens' Voice (1/12, 83K) reports that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement and the state Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation are "teaming up to demolish and remove the Dorrance Colliery fan complex off Courtright Avenue in Wilkes-Barre, near the Susquehanna River." The article notes that "crucial parts of the complex will be saved: A 1883 Guibal fan, 1883 Pittston steam engine, 1908 Dickson-Guibal fan and matching Corliss steam engine will be preserved, as well as other historic artifacts at the site."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HOUSE PANEL HEARING ON "WAR ON COAL." Additional coverage of the House Natural Resources Committee hearing, where in Robert Knox, an assistant inspector general for investigations who's been looking into the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement at the

Department of the Interior, testified was provided by the "Heard On The Hill" blog of Roll Call (1/12, Subscription Publication, 87K) and the Bismarck (ND) Tribune (1/12, 22K).

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDERAL APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS APPROVAL OF BP OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT. The AP (1/11, Kunzelman, Johnson) reported that, in a 2-1 decision, the Fifth US Circuit Court Of Appeals "on Friday upheld" US District Judge Carl Barbier's "approval of the company's multibillion-dollar settlement with lawyers for businesses and residents who claim the massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico cost them money." The plaintiffs' attorneys Steve Herman and Jim Roy called Friday's ruling "an enormous victory for the Gulf, and an important step forward in ensuring that every eligible claimant is fully compensated according to the objective, transparent formulas spelled out in the settlement agreement that BP co-authored and agreed to." Meanwhile, BP spokesman Geoff Morrell said that "the company 'is assessing its legal options and the further implications of the Fifth Circuit's decision'" and "will continue to press its position on the proper interpretation of the settlement agreement's provisions requiring a causal nexus between a claimant's injury and the spill." The Wall Street Journal (1/11, Fowler, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) and Reuters (1/12) provides similar coverage on the topic.

BOEM EXPECTS TO RELEASE REPORT NEXT MONTH ON EFFECTS OF ATLANTIC SEISMIC TESTING. The FuelFix (1/10, 7K) reports that at a House Natural Resources subcommittee on Friday, Walter Cruikshank, the deputy director of the BOEM, that the agency is "on track" to issue "a final assessment of the environmental effects of a new generation of seismic research in US Atlantic waters" by the end of February, almost "two years after publishing a first draft." Cruikshank called the environmental review "particularly complicated." He said, "There are a lot of species out there and a lot of ocean to cover. We're continuing to learn new things as we conduct this research. There was a wealth of information that came in and had to be evaluated."

The Mcclatchy (1/10, Cockerham, 95K) reports that "no environmental groups were invited to testify at Friday's House of Representatives hearing on air guns, chaired by Rep. Doug Lamborn, a Republican drilling supporter from Colorado." The article also notes that "politicians and the oil industry are pushing hard for the president to open up the Atlantic waters to oil drilling, with the industry's main trade group suggesting the most economic potential for revenue and jobs lies in North Carolina, followed by South Carolina and then Virginia." Meanwhile, "some 50 members of Congress, including a few Republicans, are also opposing the tests and have sent letters to President Barack Obama suggesting that the Department of Interior's own estimates indicate that up to 138,500 marine mammals could be injured." The Mcclatchy piece was also picked up by the Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight (1/12, 92K), the Clark County (WA) Columbian (1/10, 116K), the Rock Hill (SC) Herald (1/10, 89K), the Olympian (WA) (1/10, 119K), and the St. Augustine (FL) Record (1/12, 68K).

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Examiner (1/12, Colman, 319K), the Greenville (SC) News (1/11, 204K), the Hilton Head (SC) Island Packet (1/10, 90K), the Politicker (NJ) (1/12, 3K), and WLTX-TV Columbia, SC (1/12, 44K).

Democrats Raise Concerns Of Offshore Drilling's Impact On Marin Life. The National Journal (1/12, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that House Natural Resources Committee ranking member Peter DeFazio, along with Democratic Reps. Frank Pallone and Rush Holt of New Jersey and Joe Garcia of Florida are "raising concerns over the impact of offshore drilling activity on marine ecosystems." The lawmakers "sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Acting Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Kathryn Sullivan on Thursday asking for information on the potential for offshore drilling activities to disrupt marine habitats and wildlife." The letter also "raises the concern that Interior Department officials have not always taken into account how drilling could affect biodiversity in decisions to open up new areas to offshore exploration."

Concerns Raised Over Noise On Marine Life. The Wilmington (DE) News Journal (1/10, Murray, 295K) reports that "researchers, conservationists and environmental advocates are increasingly concerned about the impact... noise is having on marine life and the marine environment." According to the article, "it may keep marine life from using normal habitats, disrupt commercial fishing or make it hard for marine mammals or fish to find mates, food or avoid predators."

Kure Beach Mayor Supports Seismic Testing. The Wilmington (NC) Star News (1/11, 123K) reports that Kure Beach Mayor Dean Lambeth "last month signed a letter endorsing seismic testing for oil and gas off the North Carolina coast, becoming the first beach town official in the Cape Fear region to take a public stance on the matter." Lambeth said, "My job as mayor is to pursue every revenue stream open to the city. In the next 10 to 15 years, most of the houses in Kure Beach are going to be full-time residential. We've got to start making plans to make sure that the water, sewer and police infrastructure can support that."

CONGRESS PRODDED ON OFFSHORE-DRILLING SAFETY. The National Journal (1/12, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that "three years after completing an investigation into the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, members of a presidential panel say Congress has failed to adopt necessary offshore-drilling safety reforms and environmental protections." In an interview, Frances Ulmer, the chair of the US Arctic Research Commission and a member of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, said, "Unfortunately Congress has really not acted to protect against future disasters."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CALL SHELL'S ARCTIC DRILLING PLAN INCOMPLETE. The Law 360 (1/12, 18K) reports that the Alaska Wilderness League, Greenpeace and other conservation groups told the BOEM "on Thursday that Shell Gulf of Mexico Inc.'s revised exploration plan for the Chukchi Sea was incomplete and flawed."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR CUTS RELEASES FROM FOLSOM DAM. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/12, 749K) reports that "in response to extreme dry conditions," the BOR "cut water releases from Folsom Dam into the river gradually last week from 1,100 cubic feet per second to 500 cfs Friday." According to the article, "the strict water-conservation measures have created the lowest flows anyone has seen in a generation, which stands in contrast to the median flow for January of 1,700 cfs for the past 15 years."

Also reporting on the story are the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (1/12, 86K) and KTXL-TV Sacramento, CA (1/10, 19K).

BOR HOLDS OPEN HOUSE ON SCOGGINS DAM. The Oregonian (1/12, 751K) reports that "more than 50 people, from Forest Grove residents to city officials, filled the Community Auditorium in Forest Grove Thursday night to hear how a possible failure at Scoggins Dam from an earthquake would impact homes in western Washington County." Steven Jarsky, deputy regional director for the Northwest region at the BOR, said, "It's all prediction. It's all based on probability. We don't know how big a quake would be ... All we could do is take the best science and come up with the best possibility of what would happen."

BOR SEEKS INPUT ON LAKE BERRYESSA RESORTS. The Napa Valley (CA) Register (1/13, 36K) reports that the BOR "is holding an open house Thursday evening at the Elks Lodge in Napa devoted to eliciting the public's ideas and thoughts on what the future of" Lake Berryessa's "resorts should be." The bureau "will have seven stations set up to provide the public with information about recreational opportunities at the lake, its history and how Reclamation manages recreation." The BOR is "looking for comments on five of the seven resorts at the lake that remain without long-term concessionaires — Steele Canyon, Putah Canyon, Berryessa Point, Monticello Shores and Spanish Flat."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Santa Clarita Valley (CA) Signal (1/12, 13K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

MAKAH SECOND TRIBE IN INTERIOR BUY-BACK PLAN. The Peninsula (WA) Daily News (1/12, 41K) reports that the Interior Department will "soon offer to buy land from individual property owners on the Makah reservation under a new federal program aimed at helping tribes consolidate ownership." The article notes that "the Makah reservation is the second in the nation to be part of Interior's Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations." According to Dale Denney, Realty officer for the Makah, "the tribe has been allocated $2.55 million to buy fractionated lots within the tribe's 30,000-acre reservation." The tribe "now has 14 allotments it has appraised to buy under the program." Genevieve Giaccardo, tribal relations adviser for Interior, said, "It's exciting to see the

numbers with the Makah and Pine Ridge and seeing how things are beginning to work out. We have a lot of work to do and a lot of logistics to work out. But these tribes have done a great job of finding ways to make this work."

BIA OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO FIND RECIPIENTS OF COBELL SETTLEMENT. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/12, 21K) runs a political cartoon by Marty Two Bulls criticizing the BIA Office of the Special Trustee for failing to find the 30,000 claimants that are owed $32 million under the Cobell settlement.

HUD WITHHOLDS $3 MILLION FROM CHUKCHANSI TRIBE. The Modesto (CA) Bee (1/11, 208K) reports that the federal Housing and Urban Development Department will "continue to withhold money from the Chukchansi Indian Housing Authority after a federal judge ruled the agency did not have to release funds to one tribal faction." US District Judge David Campbell said "he was unable to determine the tribe's rightful leadership in order to release the money." Campbell said that "the leadership question...must be settled by the Department of the Interior's Board of Indian Appeals, which has not issued a decision."

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY NAMES NEW PRESIDENT. The AP (1/12) reports that Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence has "named a longtime university employee to the school's top position." The federal Bureau of Indian Education "announced Friday that Venida Chenault, Haskell's vice president of academic affairs since 2004, will become the school's president effective Sunday."

ONEIDA SETTLEMENT SENT TO JUDGE. The Rome (NY) Sentinel (1/12, 35K) reports that "the wide-ranging settlement negotiated last year" between the state, tribe, and Oneida Indian Nation and Madison counties "has been sent to a federal judge for approval" after being approved by the Interior Department. The agreement has been submitted to US District Court Judge Lawrence E. Kahn for his approval, according to acting Oneida County Attorney Harris Samuels.

NORTH CAROLINA GOV MCCRORY'S AIDES SPENT MONTHS MULLING CATAWBA'S BID FOR CASINO. The Columbus (IN) Republic (1/13, 80K) reports that "Gov. Pat McCrory's administration spent months discussing a South Carolina Indian tribe's proposal to build a gambling casino in North Carolina, an idea that the governor's office later downplayed as a "local initiative" after news of the plan surfaced." According to the article, "internal documents released under the state public records law show the talks about a proposed casino in Kings Mountain off Interstate 85 started in April, included two of the governor's top economic advisers and covered revenue sharing that could have meant millions of dollars for the state treasury."

JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE BEGINS CASINO PROJECT BEGINS. The U-T San Diego (1/10, 647K) reports that Jamul Indian Village said "Friday it has begun construction of the casino it has long sought for its land on state Route 94, an announcement that drew quick promises of lawsuits from opponents." According to the article, "after seeing Friday's news release from the Jamul tribe about its plans, county Supervisor Dianne Jacob said the county would be filing a lawsuit." In September, "the committee and the Jamul Community Church filed suit against the National Indian Gaming Commission, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and others in federal court in Sacramento in an effort to stop Jamul Indian Village from building the 203,000-square-foot, three-story casino."

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN URGES PASSAGE OF "TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT" IN 2014. For the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (1/12, Shepherd, 194K), Robert Shepherd, the tribal chairman of Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate on the Lake Traverse Reservation, urges Congress to pass the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act. The legislation would "clarify that payments, programs or services provided by tribal governments for the general welfare of their people are excluded from federal income tax." He concludes that "passing the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act would be an excellent example of common agreement and bipartisanship that can help mark 2014 as a very positive and productive legislative session."

Top National News:

OBAMA VOWS TO VETO ADDITIONAL IRAN SANCTIONS BEFORE NUCLEAR DEAL PLAYS OUT. US coverage of the Sunday announcement that the P5+1 and Iran's preliminary agreement regarding Tehran's nuclear program will take effect starting on January 20 emphasizes the bipartisan support for legislation that would impose additional sanctions on Iran if it fails to honor its commitments. On ABC World News (1/12, story

5, 1:15, Karl, 7.43M), the only network newscast that aired Sunday evening, Jonathan Karl reported that "there is a big movement in Congress right now, including many top Democrats, to slap on new sanctions right now." According to Karl many members of Congress "think Iran is getting rewarded without fully stopping" its nuclear program.

President Obama's threat to veto new sanctions is noted in many headlines. For instance, Reuters (1/12, Mohammed, Rampton) titles its reporting on Sunday's developments, "Obama Hails Iran Deal, Argues Against New Sanctions." According to a front-page article in the New York Times (1/13, A1, Gordon, Schmitt, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), the "interim agreement is, in effect, an elaborate pause button that provides a basis for pursuing a more far-reaching accord."

Harris Faulkner, on Fox News' Fox Report (1/12, 1.66M), said, "You'll recall our key ally in the Middle East, Israel, has warned this is the worst deal possible for the world, but now it is moving forward." Kyra Phillips, on CNN (1/12, 14.53M) Sunday evening, reported that the White House says Iran is getting only "modest relief" from the sanctions as part of the preliminary agreement.

Due to the timing of the announcement, neither the deal's timeline nor the debate over additional sanctions was a focus of discussion on the Sunday morning news shows. On ABC World News (1/12, story 5, 1:15, Karl, 7.43M), David Muir reported that in a "major development," President Obama has announced that "the US and other countries will begin to give Iran some relief from...economic sanctions," while Iran has "agree[d] to start curbing their nuclear activities." Muir noted that last year, President Obama made "the first direct contact" between a US president and an Iranian president since 1979. Jonathan Karl went on to report that the White House "is hailing this as the best chance to get a big agreement that will finally put to end fears that Iran is developing a nuclear weapon."

USA Today (1/12, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that in a written statement issued on Sunday, the President said "the clock starts ticking Jan. 20 on a six-month nuclear deal with Iran," and "vowed to veto any congressional legislation that slaps new sanctions on Iran, saying it would damage prospects for a long-term nuclear agreement." The President wrote: "I have no illusions about how hard it will be to achieve this objective, but for the sake of our national security and the peace and security of the world, now is the time to give diplomacy a chance to succeed." USA Today says that "under the six-month agreement...Iran would restrict its uranium enrichment program in exchange for the loosening of economic" that the President "credited...with forcing Iran's leaders to the negotiating table." The Wall Street Journal (1/12, A1, Solomon, Lee, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) quotes the President as saying, "I welcome this important step forward, and we will now focus on the critical work of pursuing a comprehensive resolution that addresses our concerns over Iran's nuclear program."

Under the headline, "Obama Issues Veto Threat For New Iran Sanctions During Nuclear Deal's Implementation," the Huffington Post (1/12, Reilly, 11.54M) reports that the President contended that "imposing additional sanctions now will only risk derailing our efforts to resolve this issue peacefully, and I will veto any legislation enacting new sanctions during the negotiation." The Huffington Post notes that legislation that would impose additional sanctions on Iran "should the country break the deal" has the support of "a majority" in the Senate, including Sens. Chuck Schumer and Sen. Robert Menendez, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. According to Reuters (1/12, Mohammed, Rampton), in an article titled, "Obama Hails Iran Deal, Argues Against New Sanctions," 43 Republican senators and 16 Senate Democrats have said they support new sanctions.

The Christian Science Monitor (1/13, Knickerbocker, 540K) reports that in a statement released Sunday, Secretary of State Kerry said, "I very much appreciate Congress' critical role in imposing the sanctions that brought Iran to the table, but I feel just as strongly that now is not the time to impose additional sanctions that could threaten the entire negotiating process. Now is not the time for politics." In a very brief report titled, "Kerry Lauds Deal To Freeze Iran's Nuclear Program," the AP (1/12, Jakes) says Kerry "told reporters in Paris that the U.S. will keep a close eye on Iran during this interim period," which he noted "will be the first time in nearly a decade that Iran isn't advancing its nuclear program."

In an online article titled, "White House Fights Iran Sanctions Bill As Nuclear Deal Start Date Announced," Fox News (1/13, 6.72M) says the very fact that the President felt he had to reiterate his veto threat on the same day that the deal's timeline was solidified is "a sign of how sanctions legislation...is gaining momentum." Fox notes

that on Friday, Menendez said, "The need for additional prospective sanctions is already clear. ... This is hardly a march to war." The Washington Examiner (1/13, Crabtree, 319K) reports that according to "Senate aides," a "veto-proof majority – senators numbering well into the 70s – have pledged to support the bill if it comes to...a vote." The Examiner notes that Senate Democrats, including DSCC chair Sen. Michael Bennet "are defying Obama's warnings about supporting a new Iran sanctions bill and have signed on over the last week." An anonymous "Senate aide" is quoted as saying, "A lot of Democrats we're talking to say we have no favors to give Obama right now."

However, the Huffington Post (1/12, Hersh, 11.54M) reports that "a senior Senate Democratic aide" says that the sanctions legislation nevertheless "has little chance of coming to a vote in the near future."

The Washington Post (1/13, A1, Gearan, 4.28M) reports that Sen. Mark Kirk "scoffed at" the White House's "rationale" for putting aside new sanctions for the next six months. In a statement released Sunday, Kirk wrote: "Beginning Jan. 20th, the administration will give the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism billions of dollars while allowing the mullahs to keep their illicit nuclear infrastructure in place." Kirk added, "I am worried the administration's policies will either lead to Iranian nuclear weapons or Israeli air strikes."

On Fox News' Fox Report (1/12, 1.66M), correspondent James Rosen reported that Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, released a statement noting that the government of Iran "has announced in recent weeks it would continue to advance technology needed to make fuel for nuclear weapons." Royce added, "This agreement takes us down that path where sanctions pressure is relieved, but Iran maintains its ability to produce a nuclear weapon."

The Hill (1/13, Herb, 194K) reports that House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, "who has pushed sanctions in the House, said that the implementation announced Sunday 'only furthers a deeply flawed agreement that legitimizes Iran's flagrant violations of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for the full suspension of its nuclear program.'"

On the other hand, Politico (1/13, Dovere, 464K) reports that an anonymous "senior administration official" has "pointed out the Iranian foreign minister has said publicly that the Iranians would leave negotiations if new American sanctions were passed, and noted that the American intelligence assessment is that they would hold to this." This same official maintains that "new sanctions could actually empower Iran, giving them the power to appeal to the international community by saying the United States was acting improperly, potentially fracturing the broader sanctions." Politico adds that while the Administration has not "specif[ied] what, if anything, would happen at the end of the six-month period should no deal be reached," it has been reported that the President "would then support new, more severe sanctions," or even "military action."

The AP (1/12, Elliot, Dahlberg, Moulson, Jakes, Gambrell) reports that as of January 20, Iran will allow UN inspectors access to its nuclear facilities. According to the AP, Iran's "official IRNA news agency" is reporting that the government of Iran "will grant the United Nations' atomic agency access to its nuclear facilities and its centrifuge production lines to confirm it is complying with terms of the deal." The AP adds that as part of the agreement, Iran will "limit its uranium enrichment to 5 percent – the grade commonly used to power reactors" – and "stop producing 20 percent enriched uranium – which is only a technical step away from weapons-grade material." The AP reports that Iran has also agreed to "neutralize its 20 percent stockpile over the six months." The Washington Times (1/13, Wolfgang, 417K) notes that "as part of the agreement...Iran will not construct new centrifuges and also will allow more frequent and thorough inspections of its existing facilities."

The Los Angeles Times (1/13, Richter, 3.07M) reports that on Sunday, Kerry "hailed the implementation agreement as a 'critical, significant step' toward reaching a deal that will prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb making capability." According to the Times, Abbas Araqchi, Iran's "chief negotiator," said Sunday that the "negotiations for a longer term deal probably will start about two or three weeks after the implementation begins."

The Wall Street Journal (1/12, A1, Solomon, Lee, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on Sunday, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, said, "Thanks to this agreement on the implementation. the foundations for a coherent, robust and smooth implementation of the Joint Plan of Action over the six months period have been laid,"

Reuters (1/12, Mohammed, Rampton) reports that US officials have confirmed that the total value of the benefits Iran will reap as a result of the easing of the sanctions is about $7 billion, including $4.2 billion in oil export revenue that is currently off limits to the Iranians. In an online article, Al Jazeera English (1/13, 79K) reports that an unidentified "US official" revealed that Iran "will get a first installment of $550m of $4.2bn being unblocked under the nuclear deal around February 1." The official is quoted as saying, "The installment schedule starts on February 1 and the payments are evenly distributed across the 180 days." According to CBS News (1/13, 3.87M), "U.S. officials told reporters Sunday the most immediate sanctions that will be suspended will be on Iran's imports of goods and services for autos, oil, gold and precious metals."

AFP (1/13, Julien) describes the preliminary deal as "major achievement" Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, "who won a first-round electoral victory over a pool of conservatives last year by vowing a more diplomatic approach with the West after eight years of stalled talks and escalating sanctions under his hardline predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad." Reuters (1/12, Hafezi, Pawlak) reports that in a reference the countries his government is negotiations with, Araqchi, appearing on Iranian television, said, "We don't trust them," so "each step has been designed in a way that allows us to stop carrying out our commitments if we see the other party is not fulfilling its commitments."

The Jerusalem Post (1/13, Wilner, 25K) reports that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office "had no response to the announcement that the deal will come into effect next week, even though Jerusalem was harshly critical of the agreement when it was first signed in November."

Kerry: Nuclear Deal A Higher Priority Than Limiting Iran's Aid To Assad. The New York Times (1/13, A1, Gordon, Schmitt, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says "the agreement face[s] opposition from Iranian hard-liners and Israeli leaders," and "comes as Tehran has sought to expand its influence in the Middle East by providing weapons and sometimes members of its own paramilitary Quds Force to Syria." The Times reports that on Sunday, Secretary Kerry "said that he had raised the Syrian conflict with the Iranian foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif," but "made clear that cementing a nuclear deal had been a much higher priority than trying to change Iran's position on Syria." Kerry is quoted as saying, "Yes, I have raised the subject, but we've been so focused and so intent on the nuclear file that we have not dug into it in any appreciably substantive way at this time."

Radio Free Europe (1/13, 6K) reports that on Monday, Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will "meet in Paris...in a bid to decide Iran's role in ending Syria's civil war." RFE also reports that Zarif "plans to visit Damascus 'in the next few days,'" according to Iranian state media.

Sharif Nashashibi, in a piece for Al Arabiya (1/13, Nashashibi, 22K) titled, "Iran Should Be At Geneva II," argues that "regardless of one's views on [Iran's] direct and substantial support for" Assad, the Iranians' "absence will make the chances of the conference's success even slimmer than they already are." Nashashibi goes on to says that as "one of the biggest players in the conflict," Iran's "participation may encourage it to play a constructive role in finding a resolution," while "exclusion will only encourage it to play spoiler and continue its support for Assad."

CFR's Takeyh: Nuclear Deal Unlikely To Be A Harbinger Of Closer US-Iran Ties. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (1/13, Takeyh, 4.28M), Ray Takeyh, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, writes that "an unusual fear is gripping the Arab world," which is that "nuclear diplomacy may yet bring Iran and the United States into a close regional embrace." However, according to Takeyh, "Whatever confidence-building measures Iranian diplomats may be negotiating," Ayatollah Khamenei "insisted as recently as late November that Iran is 'challenging the influence of America in the region and is extending its own influence.'" Takeyh says the "the key actors defining Iran's regional policy are not its urbane diplomats...but the Revolutionary Guard Corps, particularly the famed Quds Force."

LAWMAKERS SPAR OVER EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS. Members of both parties touched on the debate over extending unemployment benefits during appearances on the Sunday morning shows. Republicans generally didn't rule out the possibility of extending benefits, but called for offsets to pay for it or for efforts generally to improve the economy. For example, Sen. John McCain said on CNN's State Of The Union (1/12, Crowley), "Sen. Reid will not allow us a single amendment on the unemployment insurance. We think we know ways to make it better. Not a single amendment is allowed. ... We've had four Republican amendments in

the last several months in the United States Senate."

Sen. Marco Rubio said on CBS' Face The Nation (1/12, Schieffer, 2.64M), "There is a general consensus that these programs need to be extended, but they need to be paid for. And in addition to that, maybe not as part of this effort right away, but in the long term we need to figure out way to reform those programs so that we get more people back to work."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R) said on ABC's This Week (1/12, Raddatz, 2.73M), "I think if we can pay for it and Harry Reid can provide something, I'll take a look at what it is. The reality, though, is this is, kind of, a straw man of the fact that we still live in a very terrible economy. The best unemployment insurance we can give people is a job, get them an opportunity to come back."

Rep. Steve Southerland (R) said on Fox News Sunday (1/12, Roberts), "North Carolina's emergency unemployment ended and they created 35,000 jobs and the unemployment rate has gone from 8.9% to 7.4%. So let's learn from that how we could apply that on a more broader scale, because the Republicans believe we've got to get this economy moving."

Democrats, on the other hand, focused on the need for extending benefits, and criticized Republicans for not agreeing immediately. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D) said on CBS' Face The Nation (1/12, Schieffer, 2.64M), "There are so many people who are depending on that. Keep in mind that extending those benefits will cover 1.3 million people, plus another two million for 2014. Yes, I'm hoping that they will."

Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D) said on Fox News Sunday (1/12, Roberts), "We put forward a proposal in the House before we took the winter break to pay for it by cutting excessive ag subsidies. We were denied an opportunity to even vote on that measure. The reality is, you listen to people like Rand Paul. They take the insulting position that these people are sitting back taking unemployment compensation when they're required to look for work."

Gov. Martin O'Malley said on CNN's State Of The Union (1/12, Crowley), "A lot of the ideologues that now steer the Republican Party always seem to find money for continued tax cuts for the wealthiest one percent of Americans. But when it comes to those moms and dads that are still looking for work after a huge structural recession, they start squawking about fiscal responsibility."

Donna Brazile said on ABC's This Week (1/12, Raddatz, 2.73M), "It's really up to Sen. Reid being able to get those six or seven Republicans back on the same page, figuring out a way to help 1.3 million Americans. Because, if we don't help them, this is going to hurt the economy. It's going to create more unemployment. Employment insurance is something that we should guarantee to people who are still out there looking for work."

War On Poverty Seen As Having Mixed Results. In his column for the Washington Post (1/13, Samuelson, 4.28M), Robert J. Samuelson writes that a "furious debate" over the impact of the War on Poverty has been ongoing. He says that we "won in the sense that programs for the poor have dramatically reduced hardship and kept millions from destitution." Noting that the poverty rate is unchanged over the last 50 years, Samuelson says that the "official poverty rate is a lousy indicator of people's material well-being" because of what it excludes. However, we "lost" the war over LBJs real target, "which aimed to catapult the poor into the economic mainstream." Overall, Samuelson says that the "War on Poverty's success at strengthening the social safety net — a boon in the Great Recession — should not obscure its failure as an engine of self-improvement."

Rise Of Single-Parent Families Seen As Driving Income Inequality. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (1/13, Fleischer, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Ari Fleischer writes that if the President wishes to reduce income inequality, he should take his focus off of redistribution and instead fight the breakdown of the family. Fleischer argues that children born to single-parent families are far more likely to be poor, and it is a major reason why income inequality exists. He concludes that the best way to fight inequality is to convince people to stay in school, get married, then have children.

Krugman Hammers Republicans On Attitude Toward Poor. In his column for the New York Times (1/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Paul Krugman writes that the GOP reputation for "reverse Robin-Hoodism" is difficult to shake because it is "justified." He says that it is "not much of an exaggeration to say that right now Republicans are doing all they can to hurt the poor, and they would have inflicted vast additional harm if they had

won the 2012 election." Krugman asks if the GOP can "change their approach," but says, "The answer, I'm sorry to say, is almost surely no."

WEST VIRGINIA SPILL RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT REGULATIONS. ABC World News (1/12, story 6, 1:45, Muir, 7.43M) looks at the chemical spill in West Virginia and asks, "how long were those chemicals there without being inspected?" ABC (Saulny) adds that officials are racing to "complete hundreds of tests of the drinking water around the Charleston area," and "what they're finding is encouraging" as "more samples coming back showing a low level of chemical in the water." Still, "an all-clear for the water supply could still be days away" and the region's "entire plumbing system" will "need to be flushed out." ABC (Saulny) adds that state officials said that inspections of the chemical plant responsible "weren't required because the company didn't produce the chemical, only stored it."

On its front page, the Wall Street Journal (1/13, A1, Berzon, Maher, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the storage site was basically unregulated by the state, which is prompting questions about whether localities have an understanding on the potential threats to their water supplies. While the damage appears small, the incident showed how a company could avoid scrutiny.

The New York Times (1/13, Davenport, Southall, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the spill "came in a state with a long and troubled history of regulating the coal and chemical companies that form the heart of its economy." Environmental advocates "hoped the leak would force state and national regulators to strengthen enforcement of environmental laws," though some fear it will be viewed as an "isolated event." Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin (D) said he was working with state officials "to come up with recommendations aimed at avoiding future leaks."

The Washington Post (1/12, A1, Achenbach, 4.28M) reports that a chemical used for cleaning coal "has leaked from an old tank along the Elk and invaded the water supply, a crisis that has affected nearly 300,000 people in nine counties and effectively closed the largest city in the state." Residents "can't drink the water, bathe in it or do laundry with it. It's good only for flushing." The leak was tracked to Freedom Industries, where it had "leaked from an inch-wide hole in the bottom of one tank, pooled in a containment area and then seeped through a porous cinder-block retaining wall, down the bank and into the river."

Leak Prompts Terror Concerns. USA Today (1/12, Hampson, 5.82M) reports that chemical spill has prompted a broader question: "If a simple accident involving a relatively benign chemical can cause such havoc, what about an attack on a reservoir with a far more potent toxin?" Locals said that terrorists could take advantage of such a problem.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Treading Water On Syria."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (1/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that "there is no indication that the United States or any other power has the influence to bring [the civil war in Syria] to an end." The paper adds that "moderates have long been fractured and the United States has been slow to provide them with supplies and training." The Times says that US officials are "considering resuming the nonlethal assistance" that ended in December, and claims that this "could strengthen the moderates and encourage them to attend peace talks." In addition, it might also "reassure the Saudis," who want greater US involvement in Syria and "fear" the possibility of US cooperation with Iran. The Times acknowledge that while the "American aid could backfire" the "risk may be worth it."

"Missing Executive Actions." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues that in some areas, the President has been to reticent to issue executive orders. The Times cites his "baffling refusal to issue an executive order banning discrimination by federal contractors based on sexual orientation or gender identity." In addition, the Times urges the President to issue executive orders concerning "a code of conduct for overseas factories that make uniforms and other clothing for the government," state compliance with submitting "notice of involuntary outpatient mental health treatment and of inpatient commitments to the national database of disqualified gun purchasers," and to end "a longstanding misinterpretation of the Helms amendment, which prohibits foreign aid money from being used to 'pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice

abortions.'"

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Road To Democracy."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/13, 4.28M) reports hails the "District of Columbia Paperwork Reduction Act," introduced in Congress by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D), which "seeks to eliminate the congressional review period for all legislation passed by the D.C. Council and signed into law by the mayor." The Post hopes that the GOP-controlled House will act on the legislation.

"Will Maryland Go To Pot?" The Washington Post (1/13, 4.28M) editorializes that Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's opposition to "following Colorado and Washington state down the path of legalizing marijuana sales" probably "seals the fate of the major pro-pot bills introduced in the state legislature this year," but still, the Post notes, "momentum for legalization is building," with public opinion "tilted clearly toward more lenient treatment of people who possess small amounts of pot and, more gradually, outright legalization." But the Post urges caution, and contends that the "wise course for states considering legalization, including Maryland, is to regard Colorado and Washington as data-generating laboratories."

"A Complex Web." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/13, 4.28M) warns that "dark money," with untraceable origins, is now flowing into political campaigns. In particular, it cites the efforts by "conservative billionaires" Charles and David Koch to create a system for funneling cash into races. The Post says that the Koch brothers "and others with great fortunes are adults, and if they want to participate in campaigns, they should stand up for what they believe in and do it in the open."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Ariel Sharon."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (1/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) praises Ariel Sharon, arguing that throughout his career, he was consistent in his goal of ensuring security for Israel.

"To Minnesota Station." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the lengthy debate over the new farm bill is finishing up, though without significant reform. The Journal blames the current delay on a plan from Minnesota Rep. Collin Peterson (D) to create a dairy program the paper says would artificially inflate product prices. The Journal hails House Speaker John Boehner for stepping in to block any conference report containing the plan.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Iranian Nuclear Accord Advances
Spill Site Avoided Broad Oversight
Christie Aides Pressed Hard For Endorsements
Arctic Passage Opens Challenges For US Military

New York Times:
Twinned Cities Now Following Different Paths
Negotiators Put Final Touches On Iran Accord
Saving Relics, Afghans Defy The Taliban
A Bridge To Scandal: Behind The Fort Lee Ruse
Where Free Speech Collides With Abortion Rights
Need Cash? Own A Bentley? Take A Pawn Ticket

Washington Post:
Nuclear Accord With Iran Advances
A Hard-Edged Defender Of Spy Agencies
WV Copes, With Days Of Water Woes Ahead
After Deaths Of Two Navy Divers, A Court-Martial
Wagner Loses Footing, Then Finds An Olympic Spot

Financial Times:
Treasury Gives Debt Pledge On Scotland
Banks Win Basel Concessions On Debt Rules
Clarke Rejects Talk Of 'Vast Migrations'
Big Banks Lean On Equities Businesses
Big Auto Revs Up R&D To Record Levels
Turnround In China's P2P Lending Boom
Pay Committee Directors See Own Fees Rise

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Coastal Weather; Weather-Forecast; Alex Rodriguez-Drug Suspension; Iran-Economic Sanctions; New Jersey-Christie Aides Subpoena; West Virginia-Chemical Spill; Retail Credit Hacking; French President-Controversy; Illegal Rhino Hunting; Pope-Baptisms
CBS: Preempted by NFL
NBC: Preempted by Golden Globes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: West Virginia-Chemical Spill; Iran Nuclear Program; Kerry-Syria Peace Talks; Southwest Flight-Wrong Airport; Golden Globe Awards
CBS: West Virginia-Chemical Spill; Alex Rodriguez-Drug Suspension; Golden Globes-Awards; Southwest Flight-Wrong Airport; Gas Prices Up
NPR: Iran Nuclear Program-Sanctions Relief; Kabul-Taliban Suicide Bombing; Federal Rail Safety-Driver Cameras; Golden Globes-Awards; NFL-Championship Games; Women's US Figure Skating Team Announced; NFL Player-Burglary
FOX: Golden Globes-Awards; West Virginia-Chemical Spill; Philippine-Grenade Explosion; Iran-Nuclear Program; Gas Prices Up

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Welcomes the President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain Mariano Rajoy Brey to the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends the funeral of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.
US Senate: 2 p.m. — The Senate convenes and resumes consideration of S.1845, the Unemployment Extension Act.
US House: 12 p.m. — The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 13 – 14. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Energy and Power Subcommittee Vote on H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act.

4 p.m. Markup begins.
Other: Jan. 12 – 16. TRB ANNUAL MEETING — The Transportation Research Board (TRB) 93rd Annual Meeting will be held. The program will attract nearly 12,000 transportation professionals from around the world to Washington, D.C. The spotlight theme for the 2014 TRB Annual Meeting is "Celebrating Our Legacy, Anticipating Our Future." http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting2014/annualmeeting2014.aspx Location: The Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Washington Hilton hotels.

Jan. 13 – 17. AIAA CONFERENCE — The 10th American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Multidisciplinary Design Optimization Specialist Conference. http://www.aiaa.org/EventDetail.aspx?id=18410 Keynote by Congressman Chaka Fattah (PA-02). 8:05 a.m. Location: Gaylord National Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Md.

BROOKINGS – SEN. GILLIBRAND, REP. RYAN — The Center on Children and Families is hosting its first annual Social Mobility Summit, with scholars, policymakers and leading politicians focused on the policy challenges posed by stagnant rates of social mobility. The Social Mobility Summit will open with a public keynote address from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and close with a public keynote address from Congressman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.). Sen. Gillibrand and Rep. Ryan will each lay out "their personal vision for how we can promote social mobility in the U.S. today."

SECRETARY DUNCAN – EDUCATION SUMMIT — 9:10 a.m. Education Secretary Duncan will attend the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) Education Summit for Parent Leaders. The Secretary will discuss "why it is urgent to improve U.S. students' performance, especially compared to the performance of their international peers, and he will highlight the need for parents to engage with their school to ensure their children are prepared to succeed." Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson David Highway, 1st Floor, (Grand Ballroom Salons A-C), Arlington, Va.

PENTAGON – ITALY — 12 p.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel Hosts an honor cordon to welcome Italy's Minister of Defense Mario Mauro to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance.

AMERICANS UNITED – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS — 1 p.m. Press call to appeal to congressional Republicans "to save jobs and families from falling into poverty by restoring UI benefits now." Congressman Sandy Levin (MI-9), Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee; Brad Woodhouse, President, Americans United for Change.

SECRETARY DUNCAN – TWITTER — 8:30 p.m. Education Secretary Duncan will participate in a StuVoice Twitter chat to engage with Twitter users about President Obama's college affordability agenda and gather their feedback about his proposals. He will also take questions from users about related policy issues.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "You know, during his press conference yesterday about the traffic scandal, Christie said that he was misled by a member of his staff. Now, don't confuse that with Anthony Weiner. He misled his staff with his member. That was totally different."

Jay Leno: [Referencing the closing of the George Washington Bridge] "Christie also said, 'I had no knowledge or involvement in this issue, in its planning or its execution.' He went on to say, 'he knew nothing about the Watergate break-in, and he did not have sex with that woman.' So there you go."

Jay Leno: "Well, the new report out today shows that for the first time, most of the members of Congress are millionaires. Isn't that unbelievable? Don't worry, despite the money they have they are still open to taking bribes. They're not above that."

David Letterman: [Referencing the closing of the George Washington Bridge] "And you know why this is such a big deal? Because Chris Christie wants to be President of the United States. And this will be good because we haven't had a president of this country with goons since Richard Nixon, so we're very, very excited about that."

Jimmy Fallon: "Here what people are talking about. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. He's in a lot of trouble because his staff shut down part of the George Washington bridge to get back at a political rival. And yesterday, Christie gave a 107-minute press conference to address the scandal. Man, last time Chris Christie talked for 107 minutes, he was ordering at IHOP."

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To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

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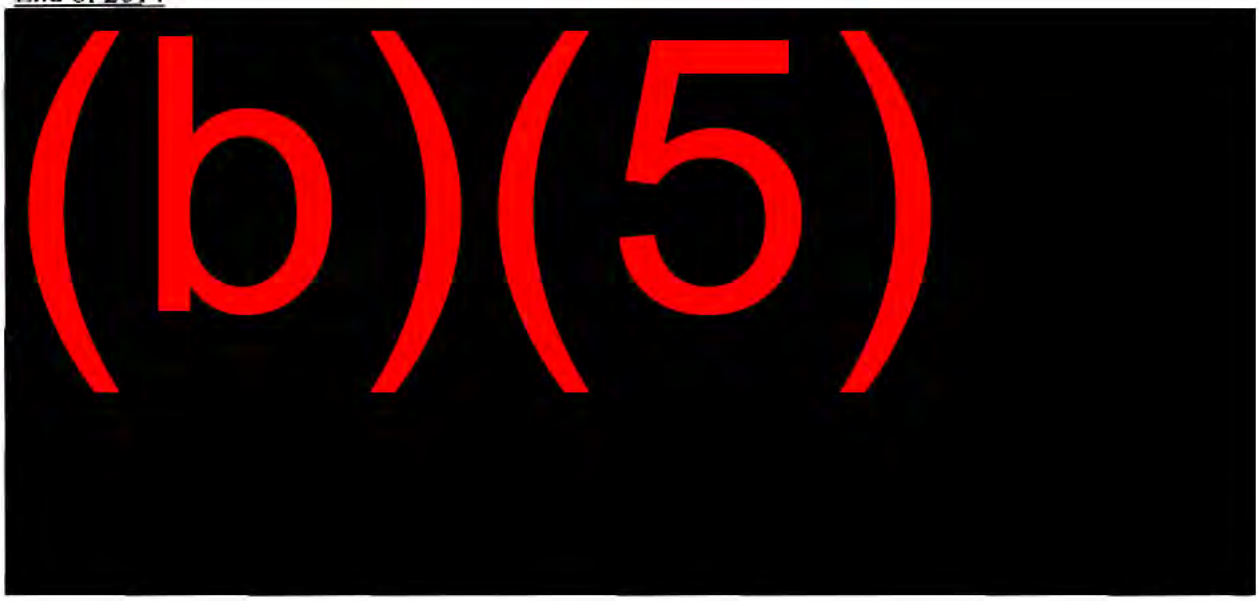
Department of the Interior Expected Accomplishments

End of 2014



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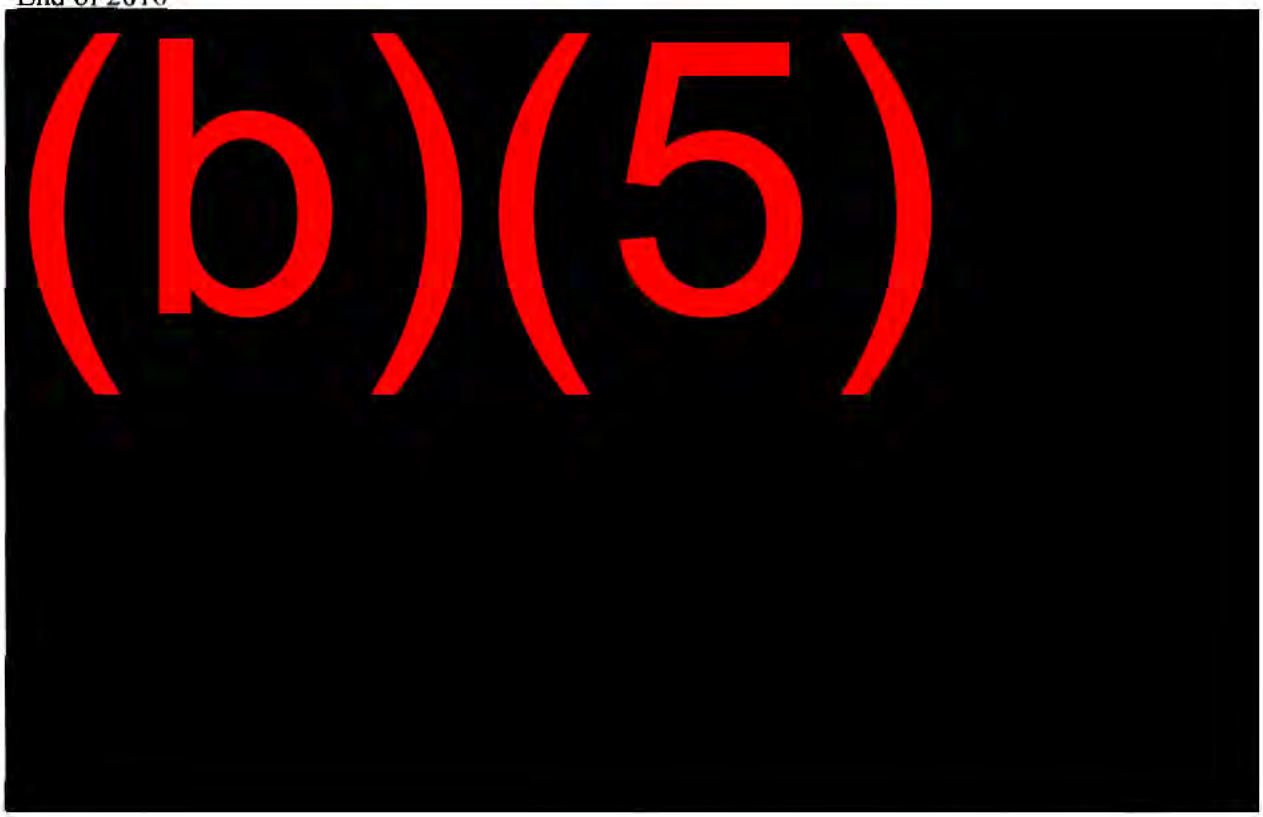

Re: thank you

Jayo, David <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jan 14, 2014 at 3:06 PM
To: Audrey Robertson <AudreyR@containerstore.com>, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com>
Cc: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

Hi Kip and Audrey,

I just wanted to follow up with you to confirm that you received my message and provide an update on Sally's youth agenda. We had a wonderful event last week at the FDR Memorial announcing our first public-private partner and $1M dollar commitment from American Eagle Outfitters. Attached is a link from a segment that was aired on NPR: http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=260979925&m=261064938

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to learn more about the effort and how you can get involved. I'd also like to learn more about the Conscious Capitalism event and any requests that you have of Sally regarding attendance and participation.

Thanks so much!

Sincerely,
David

On Wed, Nov 27, 2013 at 9:46 AM, Jayo, David <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hello, Kip and Audrey,

Thanks so much for the invitation to the Conscious Capitalism event as well as your interest in the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC). I'd love to set up time to talk a bit about the effort and explore ways that The Container Store could join the movement. Just give me a couple of options that work for you and I'll do everything possible to accommodate.

As you know, the Secretary has a strong commitment and inspirational vision for preparing the next generation of outdoor champions, advocates and leaders. She has set metrics for each component of the plan (play, learn, serve and work). Attached is a document that provides a high-level overview of the youth agenda including goals. The "work" category is getting the most attention from private sector as Sally has truly added depth and dimension to the term "public-private partnership".

By working collaboratively, we know that we can make significant strides and have a lasting impact. This is about creating a bold national movement to get more young people outdoors, connected to nature, caring for our public lands, employed and learning skills for future employment.

I will also flag the dates of the Conscious Capitalism event for the scheduling team. It would be an honor to attend and engage with the attendees. Thanks again for the invitation.

In the meantime, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season! I hope that your sales are through the roof and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

David

On Tue, Nov 26, 2013 at 10:51 PM, Audrey Robertson <AudreyR@containerstore.com> wrote:

Hello! And nice to meet you, David! Let's connect on another email and we'll determine a time to talk more about this incredible program.

In the meantime, the dates for the Conscious Capitalism event are April 9-11, 2014 - in San Diego. If you think that there's even a *glimmer* of a chance that you could attend to talk about 21CSC, let me know and I'll get in touch with the Conference organizers and start that conversation. Thanks so much – could be so wonderful!

Audrey

containerstore.com

What We Stand For

From: Sally Jewell [mailto:[b)(6)]@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 4:52 PM
To: Kip Tindell; Audrey Robertson
Cc: David Jayo
Subject: Re: thank you

Dear Kip and Audrey -

It was a real pleasure to speak with you today. Congrats again on the IPO - it is wonderful to know that another public company will bring the principles of conscious capitalism to Wall Street!

I have copied David on this so he can connect directly with Audrey. As I mentioned, David joined me from REI to lead our efforts on 21CSC and engaging youth to play, learn, serve and work outside. It would be wonderful to work with The Container Store, along with other enlightened businesses, to engage many more people in service on our public lands.

With regard to the CC event in San Diego, please let us know the dates and we can see if it works with our travel. I fully agree that this would be a wonderful audience for 21CSC.

Happy Thanksgiving and keep in touch!

Warmly,

Sally

On Nov 26, 2013, at 10:58 AM, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com> wrote:

> Sally,
>
> Thanks so much for your time today – can't tell you how much I enjoyed our conversation! Truly there isn't a better person our President could have so thoughtfully selected to lead our Dept. of Interior. Thank you for all that you're doing for our beloved country's present and future. It was thrilling to hear what you're working on and towards and know that Audrey will be eager to connect with David soon. After the call, Audrey and I also discussed maybe you or David coming to the big Conscious Capitalism event in April in San Diego to talk a bit about the 21CSC (is that the official name?) just thinking that audience of companies would be ripe for the message. That particular event is open to a much broader group of companies with many representatives coming from each organization versus, say, the CEO Summit that takes place in Austin each year with about 200 CEOs (although that could be a great audience as well – that takes place each October). The Conscious Capitalism events are a far cry from where they were in their humble beginnings when we were there together outside of Austin. They now include key business leaders from virtually every single business sector.
>
> Lastly, here's a link to our blog I mentioned we started after that get together in Austin many years ago – it's evolved into having a great presence in all of our catalogs and really, in everything we use to talk with our customers…the response has been delightful. And the fact that we have a blog about our culture and what we stand yet nothing yet on "getting organized" I think makes people REALLY understand how important…how core…this is to us and to them…as it obviously translates to their experience with The Container Store. http://standfor.containerstore.com/
>
> Again, thank you for reaching out…let's stay in touch.
>
> Kip
>
> PS – and of course thank you for letting me bend your ear on the Gunnison Sage-Grouse ☺.

containerstore.com

What We Stand For

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–
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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Jan 15, 2014 at 7:03 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF LANDMARK SPENDING AGREEMENT. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/15, 705) reports that "a massive spending bill unveiled last night leaves President Obama's energy, environment and climate programs largely intact while slightly boosting clean and fossil energy spending and keeping US EPA's budget relatively steady." The article notes that "in the case of US EPA, Interior Department and related programs, which are funded under a separate title, the omnibus provides about $30 billion – less than

$1 billion below the Senate target and nearly $6 billion more than a House bill would have provided." The Interior Department would "receive $10.4 billion in the omnibus, an increase of $492 million above the 2013 post-sequestration level." However, "the bill rejects a handful of Obama administration requests to raise inspections fees for onshore oil and gas drillers and triple the length of time for regulators to review offshore exploration plans, though it does extend Interior's authority to offer petroleum engineers and technicians a higher rate of pay to ensure faster permitting." The bill "also nixed Obama's proposal to collect $6.5 million in new grazing fees on public lands, a plan that drew intense opposition from Republicans and their ranching constituents." However, "Democrats scored a partial victory by ensuring that $306 million would be appropriated to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a keystone priority for the Obama administration, conservation groups and sportsmen."

Bill Directs Government To Pay Indian Contracts. The Washington Post (1/15, Kindy, 4.28M) reports that "the spending bill being considered in Congress this week orders two federal agencies to fully fund Native American contracts that were the subject of two Supreme Court rulings over the past decade." The bill "rejects the Obama administration's proposal to cap the costs on each contract at levels that would have been millions of dollars below what tribes say they are owed, and millions below the agencies' own cost estimates." Congressional negotiators also "rejected the administration's efforts to eliminate the tribes' right to seek legal remedies when contract claims are not paid in full."

PILT Program Left Unfunded. The Washington Post (1/14, O'Keefe, 4.28M) notes that "the spending agreement did not pay for an Interior Department program that compensates local governments for land the government owns." According to the article, "aides in both parties said the matter is likely to be sorted out in the forthcoming Farm Bill."

Meanwhile, the Summit (CO) Daily News (1/15, 37K) reports that Sen. Mark Udall "introduced legislation Monday, Jan. 13, to support cities and towns throughout the state that count" on the PILT program. The legislation would "permanently authorize and fund the PILT program and ensure that rural leaders are not left in budget limbo every year due to the uncertainty of the congressional budget process."

Also covering the issue are the Washington Post (1/15, 4.28M), Politico (1/15, Rogers, 464K) and the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/15, 343K).

Money Allocated To Fight Asian Carp. The Buffalo (NY) News (1/15, 494K) reports that the Interior Department "will get $3.5 million to fund its efforts to combat the Asian carp, while the Army Corps of Engineers will get authorization to take emergency measures to stop the invasive fish from entering the lakes ecosystem."

Heritage Partnership Programs Funded. The Washington Times (1/15, Harper, 417K) reports that the bill allocates $9.3 million for Heritage

Additional Coverage. Also covering the bill are the "Wonkblog" of the Washington Post (1/14, Plumer, 4.28M) and the Washington Examiner (1/15, Colman, 319K).

SECRETARY'S JEWELL'S OFFICE KEEPS CONTINUITY WITH FORMER SECRETARY SALAZAR. The E&E Daily (1/14) reports that "unlike many department heads who fill their offices with their confidants and former colleagues," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's "staff is still packed with holdovers from former Secretary Ken Salazar." According to the article, "that's likely in part to help guide the Washington outsider and keep continuity as the agency seeks to continue its broad expansion of renewable energy, oil and gas development and conservation on public lands in the Obama administration's second term." The article takes "a look at some of the behind-the-scenes players helping to guide Interior's policies on everything from landscape-scale mitigation to hydraulic fracturing and oil and gas exploration in the Arctic." Individuals highlighted include Laura Daniel-Davis, chief of staff' Elizabeth Klein, associate deputy secretary; Nikki Buffa, deputy chief of staff for policy; Ted Boling, deputy solicitor for parks and wildlife; Jack Haugrud, deputy solicitor for energy and mineral resources; Jim Lyons, counselor to the assistant secretary for land and minerals management; and Linda Lance, deputy director of policy and programs, BLM.

SENATE COMMITTEE SCHEDULES THURSDAY VOTES ON BLM, INTERIOR BUDGET, DOE PICKS. The E&E Daily (1/14) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has scheduled to vote on Thursday "on nearly a dozen Interior and Energy department nominees, including, for the first time, picks to lead

the Bureau of Land Management and Interior's budget office." The 11 nominees on the committee's docket include Michael Connor for Interior deputy secretary, Neil Kornze, for BLM director, and Tommy Beaudreau for Interior assistant secretary for policy, management and budget. Beaudreau would replace Rhea Suh, who was nominated to become assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks. The article notes that "all of Thursday's nominees are expected to advance, most of them by voice vote, barring any unforeseen political rifts."

Also covering the story is Politico (1/15, Guillen, 464K).

Additional Coverage: Suzette Kimball Nominated To Lead USGS. Additional coverage of the nomination of Suzette Kimball to lead the USGS was provided by the Virginia Gazette (1/14, 50K).

REPORT REVEALS OMB CONFUSION OVER WHETHER TO APPLY SEQUESTRATION TO COUNTY PAYMENTS. The E&E Daily (1/14) reports the White House Office of Management and Budget "initially didn't believe the across-the-board sequester cuts should apply to roughly $300 million in payments to timbered communities in 2013, but it later changed its mind and ordered the Forest Service to seek repayment of nearly $18 million from states, according to a report released today by the House Natural Resources Committee." The report "chronicles correspondence the committee received from OMB and the Agriculture Department regarding its decision to retroactively sequester about 5 percent of Secure Rural Schools funds, which for more than a decade have compensated counties for the decline in federal timber sales." However, "committee Democrats complained that although they, too, disagreed with the Obama administration's decision to sequester SRS funds, there is no evidence of political wrongdoing, and the committee's time would be better spent discussing bipartisan ways to extend SRS and increase jobs in national forests."

FEDERAL TRAVEL SPENDING DOWN AFTER REFORMS, OFFICIALS SAY. CBS News (1/15, 3.87M) reports that top officials from the Office of Management and Budget and the General Services Administration told lawmakers Jan. 14 that they are making progress in cutting conference and travel spending after the 2012 scandal that revealed millions spent on lavish government meetings. OMB Deputy Director for Management Beth Cobert and GSA Administrator Dan Tangherlini pointed to online tracking tools, virtual and videoconferencing, webinars and other digital options as measures that have been instituted to save taxpayers billions of dollars. In her opening remarks, Cobert said "progress was made across the executive branch, touting travel spending reductions from last year: $181 million in the Treasury Department, $99 million in the Department of the Interior and $35 million in the Environmental Protection Agency."

Also reporting on the story are the Las Vegas Review-Journal (1/15, Tetreault, 437K), Government Executive (1/15, 28K), and the Federal Computer Week (1/14, 263K).

SENATE DEMOCRATS LAUNCH CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE. Roll Call (1/15, Gardner, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that Senate Democrats launched the new 18-member Senate Climate Action Task Force on Tuesday, an endeavor they hope will "shift the politics of climate change back in favor of legislating a price on greenhouse gas pollution." Those efforts have been stalled since the 2010 midterm elections, writes Roll Call. Senate Environment and Public Works Chair Barbara Boxer (D-CA) acknowledged "that the makeup of Congress now is making it very difficult for us to pass climate change legislation," but she said the group would work to change minds. Boxer pointed out that Republican lawmakers from coastal states "ought to be leading the charge" in addressing the issue. The piece adds that 30 Democrats serve on the Safe Climate Caucus in the House, while the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change is co-chaired by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-CA).

Boxer Rejects Notion Climate Change Task Force Will Hurt Vulnerable Democrats. The San Francisco Chronicle (1/15, Lochhead, 2.88M) reports Sen. Barbara Boxer yesterday "led 18 senators...on an election-year assault against climate change denial, accusing oil and coal interests of holding members of Congress captive on the issue." The potential "captives" aren't "just Republicans, but Democrats representing conservative-leaning states that are home to large fossil-fuel industries." When "asked about the risk of a climate-change task force whose agenda she unveiled Tuesday," Boxer, "called the political calculus 'ridiculous.'"

Senate Task Force: Sunday Programs Need To Cover Climate Change. The Hill (1/15, Barron-Lopez, 194K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that the new Senate Climate Action Task Force, formally announced at a press conference on Tuesday, will be encouraging Sunday news programs to devote more attention to global warming.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) said he was working with Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) on a letter to the television networks, adding that in 2012, "the major networks on their important Sunday news shows...devoted all of eight minutes to discuss that issue. That has got to change."

Native Alaskan Group Describes Impact Of Climate Change. Roll Call (1/15, Rojas, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that a group of Native Alaskans from the barrier-island village of Shishmaref spoke before the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change on Tuesday. They told lawmakers that climate change has shortened their hunting season, which forces them to spend more on food, and it means that "the town's Army Corps of Engineers-designed sea wall is now only expected to protect the community for 15 years, rather than the originally expected 25 years." Task force Co-Chairman Henry A. Waxman (D-CA) said Republican climate change skeptics need to hear first-hand from people impacted by it. Roll Call adds that the group from Alaska will also be meeting with their congressional delegation, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, White House climate adviser Dan Utech, and other officials.

OBAMA OUTLINES 2014'S PEN-AND-PHONE STRATEGY. Politico (1/15, Epstein, 464K) reports that President Barack Obama "offered a brief preview Tuesday of his State of the Union address, telling his Cabinet that he won't wait for Congress to act on key agenda items in 2014." At his first Cabinet meeting of the year, Obama outlined the strategy: "he plans to use his pen to sign executive actions and his phone to convene outside groups in support of his agenda if Congress proves unable or unwilling to act on his priorities." Flanked by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, Obama added, "One of the things that I will be emphasizing in this meeting is the fact that we are not just going to be waiting for legislation in order to make sure that we are providing Americans the kind of help that they need."

Also reporting on the story is the Wall Street Journal (1/15, Favole, 5.91M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS. Additional coverage of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps was provided by the Memphis (TN) Tri-State Defender (1/15, 38K).

IZEMBEK ROAD DECISION CRITICIZED. In an op-ed criticizing the Izembek road decision for the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (1/14, Dingman, 198K), Mike Dingman calls the decision "a slap in the face" and "short-sighted." He argues that "the road is necessary because air travel out of King Cove is a sketchy proposition at best and is often hindered by poor weather." Dingman notes that "the environmental lobby lauds this decision by Secretary Jewell because the Izembek Lagoon provides for a stopover spot for various birds that fly throughout the West Coast," however, he argues that "this is just another decision by the Obama administration that puts the desires of the environmental lobby in front of the needs of Alaskans."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

APPEALS COURT DENIES DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO.'S BID TO STAY OPEN. The E&E Daily (1/14) reports that the9th US Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld its September denial of the Drakes Bay Oyster Co.'s injunction request to stay open. In the decision, Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown and District Judge Algenon Marbley voted to deny the petition, while Circuit Judge Paul Watford dissented. According to the article, "the farm continues to operate, but its options are limited," and "an attorney representing the farm said the owners are considering the next step."

Additional coverage was provided by the San Francisco Chronicle (1/15, 2.88M), the Petaluma (CA) Argus Courier (1/14, 1K), the Marin (CA) Pacific Sun (1/15, 106K), the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (1/14, 156K), the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (1/15, 731K), the Contra Costa (CA) Times (1/15, Prado, Rogers, 302K), the Inside Bay Area (CA) (1/15, 47K), the SF Weekly (1/15, 249K), and the East Bay Express (1/14, 5K).

YELLOWSTONE TO CONTINUE CURRENT VACCINATION PROGRAM OF BISON. The Washington Post (1/14, 4.28M) reports that Yellowstone National Park will continue to vaccinate bison calves and yearlings captured at the northern boundary of the park, rather than beginning a program that would remotely vaccinate bison in the park. NPS officials said the proposal was dismissed due to substantial uncertainties of the vaccine

effectiveness and delivery, the cost of a 30 year program, potential impacts to wildlife behavior and the visitor experience, and evaluation of public comments. The article notes that "Tuesday's announcement means a program that has led to the periodic capture and slaughter of thousands of migrating bison will continue."

The Washington Times (1/15, Brown, 417K) reports that Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk said, "We don't think it makes any sense to spend millions of taxpayer dollars and invest thirty years of effort in hopes of a small reduction in the prevalence of brucellosis in bison with no significant benefit to bison conservation. The fact is that by working with our federal, state, and tribal partners we have completely kept wild bison from infecting area livestock with brucellosis."

Additional coverage was provided by the Denver Post (1/15, Brown, 949K), KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (1/15, 1K), and KXLF-TV Butte, MT (1/15, 2K).

INTERIOR MISSES DEADLINE TO BUY STATE LAND WITHIN GRAND TETON. The E&E Daily (1/14) reports that the Interior Department has "missed a deadline to buy state land that falls within Grand Teton National Park," but "officials believe they may be able to do a land swap instead." According to the article, "the missed deadline did not come as a surprise...because of uncertainty over the federal budget." Now, "state and federal officials have started discussions on a land swap instead."

HOUSE PASSES BILL EXPANDING GETTYSBURG PARK. The E&E Daily (1/14) reports that the House "unanimously passed a measure that would expand the boundaries of the national park commemorating the battle of Gettysburg, along with two other public lands bills." H.R. 1513 would "include the Gettysburg Train Station and certain land along Plum Run in Cumberland Township within Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania." The legislation passed 396-0.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK TO HOST RANGE OF LIGHT FILM FESTIVAL. The Los Angeles Times (1/13, Forgione, 3.07M) reports that Yosemite National Park is "planning to host what officials are calling the Range of Light Film Festival to mark a milestone in the park's history." The article notes that "the four-day festival next month is to feature more than 25 current and vintage short films, including a new Ken Burns documentary about the first document that protected Yosemite's wildlands."

PRELIMINARY NUMBERS FOR BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY VISITS SHOW DECLINE. The Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times (1/14, 162K) reports that "official 2013 visitation numbers for parks in the National Park Service will not be officially released until February, according to parkway Superintendent Mark Woods, but preliminary numbers tallied up for the Blue Ridge Parkway show there might be a large decline from the previous year." According to the article, "it would make sense, considering the rough year that the parkway, and most every one of the 400 national parks, has faced in 2013." The article notes that "unofficial numbers reported show that the parkway – until now the single most visited site in the National Park Service – had a large decrease in visitors last year, from 15.2 million in 2012 to 12.8 million last year," but "even given all the woes the parkway faced, that number seems askew."

STUDY IN SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS SHOWS AIR POLLUTION MAY LEAD TO MORE WILDFIRES. The Ventura County (CA) Star (1/14, 196K) reports that "preliminary results from a study in the Santa Monica Mountains show air pollution may increase the risk of wildfires," the NPS reported. Researchers discovered that "higher levels of nitrogen led to a decline in native shrub seedlings and an increase in nonnative grasses. Other studies have demonstrated a link between nonnative grasses and larger and more frequent wildfires," according to NPS officials.

MOSES H. CONE MEMORIAL PARK ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The High Country (NC) Press (1/15) reports that the Moses H. Cone Memorial Park has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

NEW GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR JACKS FORK AND CURRENT RIVERS CREATES CONCERN. The Washington Times (1/15, 417K) reprints a recent editorial by the Springfield News-Leader. The News-Leader says that the Ozark National Scenic Riverways "has created a conflict of interests" for "people in the Ozarks" who "love their natural surroundings" and "hate government interference." Some "simply don't believe the federal government can be trusted" to "ensure the scenic natural environment stays that way and to make the rivers safer

and more inviting to visitors" with its new General Management Plan for the Jacks Fork and Current rivers. The paper notes that Missouri's Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder is proposing "to turn over the job of protecting the rivers to the state."

OP-ED: MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL PARK MUST TELL OF ITS COSTS. In an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/15, 288K), Dianne R. Layden writes that the Interior Department "has recommended Los Alamos as the site of a national park, or national historical park, for the Manhattan Project," but she notes that the proposal "contains no plan to commemorate the massive civilian casualties and urban destruction." Layden argues that "a national park to honor the Manhattan Project should not be built unless the full story is told of its human and social costs."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM APPROVES HEAP-LEACH MINE. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/15, 343K) reports that the BLM has "approved Utah's only cyanide heap-leach mine, but not without strong objections from Goshute officials who say the review process ignored tribal interests in wildlife, groundwater and cultural resources." According to the article, "a decision released Jan. 8 said potential impacts from the 104.5-acre surface mine and leach operation, located on a mix of federal, state and private land, 'are considered minor and all deemed acceptable with mitigation.'" However, "the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation contends the BLM environmental assessment is 'severely deficient.'"

COLORADO TO FILE COMMENT ON SAGE-GROUSE PRESERVATION. The Sky-Hi Daily News (CO) (1/15, 728) reports that Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper is "expected to file official state comment on a controversial management plan for greater sage-grouse preservation" this week. According to the article, "although Gov. Hickenlooper initially was going to file state comments on a Bureau of Land Management habitat management study in early December, uproar from northwest counties prompted him to seek local input."

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/15, 73K) reports that Hickenlooper is urging the BLM to "work with Colorado to avoid having another federal agency list the greater sage-grouse as endangered." In a letter to the BLM, Hickenlooper noted that "Colorado has spent more than $40 million to save the greater sage grouse and wildlife managers have set aside more than 74,000 acres of habitat for the bird primarily through conservation easements." He wrote that "communities in northwest Colorado, meanwhile, 'rely on access and productivity associated with public lands for their livelihood.'" Hickenlooper continued, "With that in mind, any plan that the BLM ultimately promotes must accurately assess the socio-economic values that link people to the land in that area."

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINES APPROACHES ON GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND BI-STATE SAGE-GROUSE PROJECTS. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (1/13, 165K) reports that "comment periods for Greater Sage-grouse and Bi-state Sage-grouse projects" from the BLM, FWS, and US Forest Service will be "closing over the next several weeks." The article notes that "comments on the Bi-State Sage Grouse Draft Environmental Impact Statement that proposes amendments to the Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and BLM Resource Management Plans on the Battle Mountain and Carson City districts were due Jan. 17. " Also, "comments on the Nevada-Northeastern California Greater Sage-grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments and Environmental Impact Statement are due Jan. 29." Comments on the UFWS "proposal to protect the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of greater sage-grouse-including the southern Lyon County area--as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act and to designate approximately 1.86 million acres of critical habitat for the bird are due Feb. 10."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WHITE HOUSE COULD RELEASE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING SOON. The E&E Daily (1/14) reports that the White House "may release a national strategy on wildlife trafficking as early as the end of the month, with a possible provision to clamp down on the country's legal ivory trade." FWS Director Dan Ashe "gave the update at a briefing yesterday for congressional staffers." The article notes that "the strategy – which will set the stage for how the United States reacts to the illicit trade – is already a couple of weeks overdue, thanks to sequestration and last year's government shutdown."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP PLANS LAWSUIT IF ARMY CORPS DOES NOT CHANGE RIO GRANDE PLANS. The E&E Daily (1/14) reports that "an environmental group plans to file a federal lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers if the agency does not change operations at dams and reservoirs in the Middle Rio Grande River in New Mexico to protect endangered silvery minnows and other imperiled species." WildEarth Guardians "formally sent a 60-day notice of intent to sue the Army Corps for its operations along the segment of the river in central New Mexico, as well as for apparently not working with the Fish and Wildlife Service on an updated plan to address impacts to the silvery minnow as well as the Southwestern willow flycatcher." The group's "notice says that the Army Corps violated the Endangered Species Act by walking away in late November from formal consultation with Fish and Wildlife over impacts to the listed species."

CONSERVATIONISTS ANGERED BY IDAHO WOLF KILL PLAN. The E&E Daily (1/14) reports that Idaho's plan aimed to kill two packs of wolves within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness has "angered not only wolf advocates but other conservation groups that have shown support" for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's "wolf-management decisions in the past." According to the article, "part of the controversy hinges on the hiring of" a "hunter, which isn't in line with traditional ways of reducing numbers, such as public hunts and trapping."

In an op-ed for the Idaho Statesman (1/15, 205K), Dori Broglino, an environmental professional, and Peter Spatz, a scientist with the Interior Department, criticizes Idaho Fish and Game's recent hiring of a professional wolf killer in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. According to the authors, "the wolf derby not only infuriates the conservation community, but also many hunters interested in promoting ethical, fair and respectful hunting." They claim that "these recent events resulted in worldwide negative publicity for Idaho and have likely alienated potential visitors." Instead, they argue, "Idaho could capitalize on tourism dollars by promoting the lucrative wolf-watching industry."

CANINE SHOT IN MISSOURI CONFIRMED AS WOLF. The Washington Times (1/15, 417K) reports that "a canine shot and killed by a southeast Missouri man in November has been identified as a wolf, a rare find that scientists call a migratory shift of the endangered species from the more populous Great Lakes states where it still thrives." On Tuesday, the Missouri Department of Conservation said that tests by the FWS "confirmed the 80-pound female was a gray wolf, about 2 years old and similar to those from wolf populations in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin."

TEXAS HUNTING, FISHING GUIDE SENTENCED FOR VIOLATION OF WILDLIFE LAWS. KETK-TV Tyler, TX (1/15, 2K) reports that a 49-year-old Kennard, Texas hunting and fishing guide has been sentenced for transporting an alligator that he knew had been shot in violation of state and federal wildlife laws. Steve Barclay pleaded guilty on Aug. 13, 2013, to the felony offense of transporting wildlife taken in violation of federal law and was sentenced to three years' probation and ordered to pay a $5,000 fine today by US District Judge Ron Clark. Special Agent in Charge of the FWS Southwest Region Nicholas E. Chavez said, "Our State partner was essential to the success of this case, and that cooperation remains critical to disrupting wildlife taken in violation of Federal Law. With our combined efforts, we protect our threatened/endangered listed species, and other wildlife from being exploited in our Nation."

Also reporting on the story is KTRE-TV Lufkin, TX (1/15, 8K).

US Geological Survey:

LOS ANGELES MAYOR GARCETTI ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH USGS ON EARTHQUAKE SAFETY STRATEGY. The Los Angeles Times (1/14, Lin, Xia, 3.07M) reports that Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti on Tuesday "announced an aggressive new plan to tackle earthquake safety, including how to better protect vulnerable buildings." In "marking the 20th anniversary of the destructive Northridge earthquake," Garcetti said "Los Angeles would for the first time partner" with the USGS "to build a comprehensive strategy for dealing with how to better protect private buildings and other resources such as telecommunications and the water supply during a major temblor." USGS seismologist Lucy Jones, "who will spend a year meeting with stakeholders and experts and devising policy recommendations for the city of Los Angeles," said, "What's really at stake is the viability of this city."

The Beverly Hills (CA) Courier (1/15, 116K) reports that USGS Associate Director for Natural Hazards, David Applegate said, "The USGS is pleased to enter into this partnership with the City of Los Angeles. The project will bring our science to support the city's efforts to reduce the potentially devastating losses that Southern California faces in future earthquakes. We look forward to a productive collaboration that will help make the citizens of Los Angeles safer and protect the economy of the Nation."

Also reporting on the story is KCAL-TV Los Angeles (1/14, 79K).

NORTH TEXAS EARTHQUAKE SWARM MORE CENTRALIZED THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. NPR (1/14, 465K) reports that scientists with the USGS and Southern Methodist University are studying the swarm of earthquakes that have hit the North Texas community of Azle over the last few months. One challenge for the researchers is that "they've needed to more accurately pinpoint the epicenters of the Azle quakes" in order to determine if they are linked to drilling activity in the region. USGS Seismologist Williams Ellsworth confirmed, "To date, it looks like the earthquakes are all in one very localized zone."

USGS DEVELOPS NEW MODELS WHICH COULD HELP CLEAN UP PHOSPHORUS ON BOISE RIVER. The Idaho Statesman (1/15, 205K) reports that the USGS has "developed computer models of how phosphorus cycles through the Boise River that it hopes will help the effort to clean up the river." Using the USGS models, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality managers can "simulate the effects of reducing upstream phosphorus loads from point sources such as wastewater treatment plants and non-point sources such as agricultural areas." According to the article, "by setting a specific load allocation for sources such as a wastewater treatment plant, resource managers can model how that allocation would affect downstream phosphorus concentrations."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FWS TO PROPOSE EAGLE-TAKING PERMIT FOR WIND PROJECT. The Delmarva (MD) Daily Times (1/14, 26K) reports that the FWS will "propose an eagle-taking permit during an Environmental Assessment on Wednesday." The article notes that "the proposal comes amid concerns that anticipated wind turbines in the area could cause eagle deaths and negative health effects." The Great Bay Wind Energy Center, "in partnership with Pioneer Green Energy, will construct the 25 wind turbines, estimated to be at least 500 feet tall with 150-foot blades, according to the company."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM HOSTING OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS ON OIL, GAS LEASING. The Salinas Californian (1/14, 27K) reports that the BLMt is conducting meetings as part of a scoping process in examining use of oil and gas resources on federal land, and whether to involve areas beyond the Hollister Field Office, according to an announcement from the agency.

Also reporting on the story is the San Benito County (CA) Today (1/15).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: OIL, GAS TRADE GROUP CHALLENGES BLM DEFERRAL OF UTAH LEASES. Additional coverage of the challenge lodges by the Western Energy Alliance against the BLM's "decision last fall to pull parcels in and around Utah's scenic San Rafael Swell from an oil and gas lease sale" was provided by the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/15, 343K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE OFFICIAL TO SPEAK AT DECOMWORLD'S 6TH SUMMIT. The Offshore Energy Today (1/15) reports that Susan Green, deputy regional supervisor for field operations in the Gulf of Mexico for the BSEE, will "deliver an update on BSEE's vision and priorities at DecomWorld's 6th Annual Decommissioning & Abandonment Summit in March." The article notes that "BSEE representatives will also be involved in other key panel

discussions, including those on reefing rigs and severance techniques."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SEISMIC TESTING IN ATLANTIC. Additional coverage of the debate over seismic testing in the Atlantic was provided by TIME (1/14, 21.77M).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

WATCHDOG SAYS GOV. BROWN'S WATER PLAN HELPS, BUT LONG-TERM FUNDING IS AN ISSUE. The E&E Daily (1/14) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal to bolster state "water management will benefit the parched state, but many of his priorities lack long-term funding, a legislative watchdog said yesterday." The Legislative Analyst's Office "in a critique of Brown's draft $154.9 billion budget praised the governor's goal of having state and local agencies coordinate oversight of water." The LAO said, "Traditionally, individual areas of water policy have been treated as largely unconnected, with responsibilities spread across numerous departments. Considering the diverse areas of water policy together in a consolidated manner would be a more effective approach, particularly since these areas are highly interconnected." However, "LAO cautioned that some key details were absent, and the Legislature might need to seek more information from the governor's office before deciding whether to accept the proposal."

Additional coverage of Brown's budget proposal was provided by the Fresno (CA) Business Journal (1/15, 160K).

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY TO RECEIVE FUNDS FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS. The Fresno (CA) Business Journal (1/15, 160K) reports that "farmers and conservation groups in the San Joaquin Valley have until March 21 to apply for funding for projects to conserve water and preserve wildlife." In total, about "$18 million has been made available under the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services's three-year old Bay Delta Conservation Initiative to enhance water quality, efficiency and ecosystem restoration." According to the article, "with funding for the program provided" by the BOR and the federal Farm Bill's Environmental Quality Incentives Program, "growers in four Valley water districts were approved for $2.15 million worth of projects to improve water delivery infrastructure and on-farm irrigation improvements."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS PROTEST WESTLANDS' WATER ALLOCATION. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (1/15, 206) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups has filed a protest against six interim contract renewals for delivery of 1,192,948 million-acre feet of water from the Central Valley Project to the Westlands Water District on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley." The protest says the BOR's "environmental assessment is inadequate and that a full Environmental Impact Statement is required by law." The groups claim that "the proposed interim contracts, which would run from March 1 through February of 2016 and their supporting environmental assessments and other environmental documents, violate a lengthy list of laws."

Empowering Native American Communities:

LETTER EXPLAINS BIA'S DEFAULT CASINO APPROVAL. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (1/14, 92K) reports that "the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's compact with Gov. Deval Patrick for a $500 million casino in Taunton violates an aspect of federal Indian casino law, but that was not enough for the federal government to reject the deal," according to a Jan. 6 letter to the tribe from Kevin Washburn, the assistant secretary of Indian Affairs. In the letter, released by the BIA on Monday, Washburn expressed "concerns with the state's attempt to regulate a Class II casino, which is high-stakes bingo or so-called bingo slots." He wrote, "We caution the parties that, in implementing the compact, they should avoid applying its provisions in a manner that does not directly relate to the operation of Class III gaming activities, and thus avoid any potential violation of (the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act) regarding the limited scope of tribal-state gaming compacts."

JUDGE DELAYS DECISION IN MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBAL LAWSUIT. The Taunton (MA) Gazette (1/14, 36K) reports that "all involved parties will need to wait to learn the fate of a federal lawsuit that requests the Bureau of Indian Affairs formally investigate allegations of voter fraud in the 2009 Mashpee Wampanoag tribal election." US District Judge Denise Casper "heard arguments Tuesday at the Moakley Courthouse on the US government's motion to dismiss the case." Casper "took the motion under advisement and will likely render a decision at a future date."

RESIDENTS OF MOBILE HOME PARK IN THERMAL EVICTED BY LANDLORD. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (1/13, 110K) reports that "residents of a mobile home park in Thermal said Monday that they are being ordered by their landlord to move their homes and that some trailers have already been relocated without their consent." According to the article, "more than a dozen residents of the Oasis Mobile Home Park protested what they called forced evictions at a public meeting in Coachella, appealing for help to prevent their landlord from shutting off power and requiring them to move within days." The article notes that "the community is largely made up of farm workers and is located on the reservation of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians." Raymond Torres, the tribe's vice chairman, said "he and other tribal leaders don't believe" the landowners "have the right to sell the land and have asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs to weigh in."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SEARCH FOR COBELL SETTLEMENT RECIPIENTS. Additional coverage of the difficulty in finding Cobell settlement recipients was provided by the Missoula (MT) Independent (1/14, 65K).

Top National News:

OBAMA PREVIEWS HIS 2014 AGENDA AT FIRST CABINET MEETING OF THE YEAR. President Obama's first cabinet meeting of the new year, in which he previewed his priorities for the coming months and called for bipartisan cooperation, did not receive as much coverage as might have been anticipated. None of the three network newscasts covered the developments from the White House. On the other hand, conservative outlets made much of the President's suggestion that he will use executive actions to move his agenda if Congress is unwilling to go along. On Tuesday, the Drudge Report featured the headline, "Obama Not Waiting On Legislation: 'I've Got A Pen And I Can Use It To Sign Executive Orders.'"

Likewise, at the opening of Fox News' On The Record (1/15, 1.65M), Greta Van Susteren said the President is "getting ready to bulldoze Washington." Van Susteren added that "in an email blast to supporters," White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer "promises the President won't be waiting for Congress to act and will use every, yes, every executive tool available to get what he wants." President Obama was shown saying, "I've got a pen, and I got a phone," meaning that he can sign executive orders and he can call on his base of supporters to help him put pressure on Congress. Van Susteren noted that during his radio show Tuesday, Rush Limbaugh (1/14, 149K) said, "He might have a pen and he might have a phone, but what he does not have is the constitutional power to run this country like a dictator." Also appearing on Fox News' On The Record (1/15, 1.65M), Karl Rove said, "I'm deeply troubled by the President's use of his executive authority and abuse of his executive authority." Rove added, "I think he is violating the law. He has exceeded his constitutional authority."

The AP (1/15) says the President is "demonstrating how he can advance his economic agenda administratively and through his ability to coax action from important interest groups." The AP notes that on Tuesday, at a meeting of his cabinet, the President said, "We're not just going to be waiting for legislation in order to make sure that we're providing Americans the kind of help they need. I've got a pen and I've got a phone."

Under the headline, "Obama Working To Mobilize Outside Coalition Of Groups To Promote White House Agenda," the Washington Post (1/14, Eilperin, 4.28M) reports that the White House is "increasingly working to mobilize an outside coalition of corporate, nonprofit and academic groups to promote" President Obama's agenda, and, according to the Post, "the strategy will be on full display Thursday as the White House hosts a summit with...college and university presidents, who will promise to enroll more low-income students and ensure that they graduate." The Post adds that "later this month," there will be "a session for corporations that pledge to hire long-term unemployed."

CBS News (1/15, Kaplan, 3.87M) reports that also on Tuesday, the President "encouraged Congress to extend unemployment insurance and pass some form of immigration reform." According to correspondent Mike Emanuel, on Fox News' Special Report (1/15, 2.15M), the President is "warning lawmakers if they don't get [this] done, he'll do it himself," although "Congress does not care for that type of executive action."

The Wall Street Journal (1/15, Favole, 5.91M) covers the President's comments under the headline, "Obama: 'I've Got A Pen And I've Got A Phone.'" The Journal reports that in regards to the long-term unemployed, the President said Tuesday, "We're finding it's very hard for them to just get in the door and make their case to an employer. We're going to try to work with CEOs to make a pledge that we're going to take a second look at

these Americans who are very eager to get back to work."

The AP (1/15) reports that on Wednesday, the President will travel to North Carolina "to draw attention to the type of manufacturing innovation hub that he promoted in his 2013 State of the Union speech."

According to Politico (1/15, Epstein, 464K), the President "said it's his hope that 2014 will be remembered as the 'year when we didn't just turn the corner in the aggregate for the economy but everybody's started feeling more optimistic about our futures.'" Politico also reported that the President "welcomed the bipartisan budget that congressional Democrats and Republicans released on Monday" and "called on both houses of Congress to pass it quickly," saying, "I'm very pleased."

Reuters (1/15, Mason) quotes the President as saying, "I am absolutely confident that in 2014, if we're all working in the same direction and not worrying so much about political points but worrying much more about getting the job done, that we can see a lot of improvement this year."

However, according to Politico (1/15, Sherman, Bresnahan, 464K), "when top Republican leaders gathered last weekend...for their annual planning retreat, the bulk of the conversation centered around Obamacare and presenting alternatives to what they consider Democrats' failed economic policies." According to Politico, Republicans "believe there is plenty of evidence that the midterm campaign will pivot on the president," whose "approval ratings are sagging." Politico adds that the Affordable Care Act "is widely unpopular and, for the first time in years, GOP polls show that voters blame Obama — not them — for the country's economic woes."

Obama Meets With National Governors Association Executive Committee. USA Today (1/14, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that on Tuesday, President Obama "discussed better federal-state cooperation" with the executive committee of the National Governors Association, which includes "three Republicans – Mary Fallin of Oklahoma, Gary Herbert of Utah, and Scott Walker of Wisconsin – and three Democrats: John Hickenlooper of Colorado, Mike Beebe of Arkansas, and Mark Dayton of Minnesota."

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXTENSION REMAINS MIRED IN SENATE. NBC Nightly News (1/14, story 4, 0:25, Williams, 7.86M) reported that on Tuesday, a "vote to extend long-term unemployment benefits went down in the Senate as the Chamber descended into partisan argument." The legislation needed 60 votes to advance, but fell 55-45. NBC adds that negotiations "will go on, but that's little comfort to more than a million people who were cut off from benefits right at the beginning of the year."

The AP (1/14, Espo) reports that compromise discussions on a three-month extension of benefits "ran aground in the Senate on Tuesday, leaving the fate of the measure in extreme doubt while Republicans and Democrats vied for political advantage in the wreckage." The Senate "blocked a pair of Democratic-drafted proposals from advancing, after first denying Republicans a chance to change the legislation – all on near party-line votes." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "accused Republicans in advance of resorting to obstruction to block help to families in need."

The Washington Post (12/30, Hicks, 4.28M) reports in its "Post Politics" blog that Democrats and Republicans "pointed fingers and accused each other of bad faith negotiations." By late in the day on Tuesday, both "had each rejected the other's latest proposal." Senators "said that they planned to move on Wednesday to the debate over keeping the government agencies funded." With Congress leaving town at the end of the week, January 27 has emerged as the earliest that new talks could occur.

The Wall Street Journal (1/15, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Senate Democrats rejected a proposal from eight Republicans, while the GOP rejected an offer by Reid to allow a small number of GOP amendments.

Politico Analysis: GOP Succeeded In Transforming Debate Into Referendum On Reid's Style. Politico (1/15, Everett, 464K) calls the failure to advance the legislation the Democrats' "first big defeat of 2014," and said that Reid is "betting that his party's message will trump growing Republican complaints about his leadership." Over the last week, the GOP has "transformed the debate" over benefits "into a referendum on Reid's iron-fisted stewardship of the chamber, labeling the Nevada Democrat a 'dictator' and 'obstructionist.'" However, Reid "dismisses the idea that Americans are interested in wonky procedural debates, believing instead they will

remember this as the week that Republicans blocked the restoration of aid to more than a million long-term unemployed Americans."

Issue Said To Impact Supporters Of Both Parties. The AP (1/14, Riccardi) looks at the politics of unemployment and says that there are "no data showing the political affiliation of people who lost their emergency jobless benefits or tracking them by congressional district." House Democratic staffers "crunched their own data from 20 states to demonstrate that jobless benefits have a bipartisan reach."

OBAMA ACCUSED OF IGNORING IMMIGRATION LAWS. In an article titled, "Obama Is Using Executive Power To Affect Immigration Law," McClatchy (1/13, Kumar, 95K) reports that President Obama, who "didn't wait for Congress to rewrite the nation's immigration laws to help millions who are in the United States illegally stay in the country," is continuing to use executive actions to ease the enforcement of US immigration laws. According to McClatchy, "Critics have accused Obama of violating the Constitution," including "immigration agents who accuse the government of preventing them from fulfilling their sworn oath to uphold the law." Rep. Bob Goodlatte, the chairman of the House judiciary Committee, is quoted as saying, "The current administration is picking and choosing which laws to enforce. The president cannot refuse to enforce a law simply because he dislikes it."

AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson, chairman of the Business Roundtable, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (1/15, Stephenson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), writes that along with tax reform and expanded free trade deals, immigration reform would accelerate US GDP growth.

Ayotte Wants To Block Illegal Immigrants From Receiving Some Tax Credits. Roll Call (1/15, Sanchez, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that Sen. Kelly Ayotte has sponsored an "amendment to offset an extension of unemployment insurance by eliminating child tax credits filed by undocumented workers." Ayotte is quoted as saying, "As someone who was one of the Republicans who supported the immigration reform, this is an appropriate fix of a tax refund that has been abused within our tax code." According to Roll Call, "a 2011 Treasury Inspector General report" found that billions of dollars "in refundable tax credits going to people not qualified to receive them," including illegal immigrants who claim the Additional Child Tax Credit. Roll Call also reports that "the issue has also been taken up by Hispanic media, which has covered the amendment intensely."

Law Enforcement Agencies Borrowing Border-Patrol Drones For Domestic Surveillance. The Washington Post (1/15, Whitlock, Timberg, 4.28M) reports that new released records show that Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies "are increasingly borrowing border-patrol drones for domestic surveillance operations" in "a harbinger of what is expected to become the commonplace use of unmanned aircraft by police." Customs and Border Protection, "which has the largest U.S. drone fleet of its kind outside the Defense Department, flew nearly 700 such surveillance missions on behalf of other agencies from 2010 to 2012, according to flight logs released recently in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a civil-liberties group."

Border Patrol Unveils Robot To Probe Border Tunnels. The AP (1/14, Skoloff, Billeaud) reports that with border security tightening, drug cartels "have turned to tunneling beneath the ground to avoid detection." The AP says that "nearly 170 tunnels" have been found along the US border since 1990, mostly along the border with Mexico. Now, the US Border Patrol "is unveiling its latest technology in the underground war – a wireless, camera-equipped robot that can do the job in a fraction of the time." The piece goes on to provide a primer on tunnel construction.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Finally, Congress Does Its Job."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (1/15, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) calls the omnibus spending bill "one of the few piece of good news to emerge from the current Congress." The Times says that while the spending bill "still reflects many Republican priorities, most of the worst proposals are gone," along with "the deepest cuts of the sequester, following the budget agreement reached last month." Still, the "right-wing's larger victory is in the overall spending amount, which is far less than it should be to revive the economy."

"The Christie Way." The New York Times (1/15, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, says

that while New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie "denies knowing that this scheme was revenge against the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee," it's "hard to imagine that he did not somehow encourage this type of conduct."

"India-America Relations On Edge." An editorial in New York Times (1/15, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that while the tensions between the US and India over the arrest of an Indian diplomat charged with visa fraud and mistreating a domestic worker have eased, the case "and the issues it raised are not resolved, and the damage to India-America relations is unlikely to dissipate soon." The Times notes that the case "has exposed differences between the two countries over such basic concepts as fairness and equality, while revealing a troubling level of Indian animosity toward the United States."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Give Diplomacy A Chance."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/15, Board, 4.28M) says "the White House's strident opposition to" the Menendez-Kirk sanctions bill "continues a distasteful practice — also seen in the debate over Syria — of accusing all who disagree with its strategy of favoring war." The Post calls that "an insult to serious legislators" who "reasonably seek to hedge against failed negotiations." But the Post goes on to say that that members of Congress "already may have accomplished the maximum good by proposing the bill," while "passing it — which probably would require overcoming a presidential veto — would be problematic." According to the Post, "this diplomacy has been President Obama's initiative, and he should be allowed to carry it through."

"Unsafe To Drink." The Washington Post (1/15, Board, 4.28M) editorializes that West Virginia state officials never knew the health risks associated with their recent chemical spill, because information on the chemicals' risks to humans is scarce. The editorials adds that a lot of environmental protection "depends on state officials" and that state officials in West Virginia "weren't notified and the water wasn't shut off in time" following the chemical spill. The editorial also implies that Federal regulations are "spotty" and points out that "for many chemicals in regular use, federal law does not require safety data." The editorial credits this shortcoming to a 1976 law, which "presumed chemicals in use at the time were safe." The editorial calls for a "bipartisan chemical safety reform bill" to improve matters.

"Jennifer Wexton For Va. Senate." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/15, Board, 4.28M) endorses Jennifer Wexton, "a promising Democrat who has been a prosecutor and attorney in private practice," in next Tuesday's special election for the Virginia state Senate seat of Mark Herring (D), "the state's newly elected attorney general." The Post notes that should either of the other two candidates in the race win – Joe May, "a moderate former Republican" who's "running as an independent," and John Whitbeck, "a Republican best known for telling an anti-Semitic 'joke' at a party rally last fall," would give "control of the Senate to the GOP, since both would back Republicans for leadership posts. A victory for Ms. Wexton would leave the upper chamber with a 20-20 partisan split, which amounts to Democratic control since the tie would be broken by Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Net Neutralized."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/15, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) hails a Federal Appeals Court ruling, which threw out FCC rules net neutrality rules, saying that it is another loss for the Administration in court as it attempts to create expansive rules.

"Thomas Victor Jones." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/15, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) eulogizes former Northrop Corp. Chief Executive and Chairman Thomas Victor Jones, praising him as a visionary who turned the faltering aviation company into an aerospace giant.

"Speechless In Massachusetts." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (1/15, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) discusses an upcoming Supreme Court case, McCullen v. Coakley, that challenges a Massachusetts law banning any protests within 35 feet of abortion clinics. The 2000 case Hill v. Colorado approved of a Colorado law that banned protests too close to any healthcare facility, though the editorial takes an extremely negative view of that precedent and hopes that the court will reverse it. The Journal quotes from Justice Anthony Kennedy's dissenting opinion in which he argued the majority opinion "contradicts more than a half century of well-established First Amendment principles [and] mandates outright reversal."

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
'Net Neutrality' Ruling Could Be Costly For Consumers, Advocates Say
L.A. Mayor Garcetti To Push For Greater Earthquake Safety
Surge In Shark Attacks Causes Alarm In Hawaii
Tony Rackauckas Put Reputation On The Line In Kelly Thomas Case

Wall Street Journal:
Court Rejects Rules On Net Neutrality
European Spies Reach Out To Syria
Splintered System Often Fails Mentally Ill With Low IQs
Cities Grapple With Oil-Train Safety

New York Times:
Obama To Place Some Restraints On Surveillance
NSA Devises Radio Pathway Into Computers
Arab Neighbors Take Split Paths In Constitutions
After Flurry Of Changes, Some States Ease Up
Ads Attacking On Health Law Stagger Outspent Democrats
No 'Mary Poppins,' School Chief Honed Blunt Style Over 40 Years
Administration Is Seen As Retreating On Environment In Talks On Pacific Trade

Washington Post:
Gray Leads Rivals In Mayoral Poll
Court Strikes Down 'Net Neutrality' Rule
In Detroit, Horsepower Steals The Show
As Government Evolves, Its Clerks Edge Toward Extinction
Drones Increasingly Used By Law Enforcement

Financial Times:
Hollande Promises Tax Cuts For Business
GM To Resume Dividend Payments
Boeing Hit By Fresh 787 Battery Problem
JPMorgan Profits Hit By Legal Bills
Ford Says More Cars Are Not The Answer
Nestlé Admits To Errors In India Push
Investment By Acronyms Makes No Sense

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: New Mexico-School Shooting; Florida Shooting Suspect Charged; West Virginia-Water Contamination; California-Arsonist; New Jersey Governor-State Of The State Address; Japan-US Bourbon Company; France-President Affair.
CBS: Asiana Plane Crash Video; New Mexico-School Shooting; Florida Shooting Suspect Charged; Texas-Pregnant Woman Life Support Case; Health-Autism Study; New Jersey Governor-State Of The State Address; France-President Affair; Chesley Sullenberger-Aviation Safety; Jacqueline Kennedy-Letters.
NBC: New Mexico-School Shooting; West Virginia-Water Contamination; New Jersey Governor-State Of The State Address; Senate-Unemployment Benefits; Ford-Aluminum Trucks; Shriver Gender Equality Report; NASA-Mars Pictures; Jacqueline Kennedy-Letters.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: New Mexico-School Shooting; Florida Shooting Suspect Charged; Navy Helicopter Crash-Victim Discovered; NSA-Phone Record Collection Debate; NSA-International Computers.
CBS: Oklahoma-Same-Sex Marriage Debate; New Mexico-School Shooting; Florida Shooting Suspect Charged; Senate-Unemployment Benefits; Congress-Spending Bill; FDA-Combination Drugs; Wall Street.
FOX: New Mexico-School Shooting; Boeing-Battery Problem Discovered; New Jersey Governor-State Of The State Address; Justin Bieber-Illegal Drugs Discovered; NFL Settlement Case; 9/11 Mastermind Speaks Out

Against Violence; Senate-Unemployment Benefits.
NPR: Congress-Spending Bill; December Economy Report; West Virginia-Water Contamination; NFL Settlement Case; Florida Shooting Suspect Charged; Oklahoma-Same-Sex Marriage Debate.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Travels to Raleigh, Durham, Raleigh-Durham International Airport, open press; tours Vacon, a company that manufactures AC drives, which are used to control the speed of electric motors to maximize energy efficiency; delivers remarks, North Carolina State University; meets with the Senate Democratic Caucus, The East Room, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — hosts a discussion with education stakeholders, open press.
US Senate: 10 a.m. MEDICARE BILL — U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and U.S. Reps. Erik Paulsen, R-Minn., and Peter Welch, D-Vt., will announce bipartisan, bicameral legislation aimed at providing better care at lower cost for the millions of Medicare beneficiaries living with multiple chronic illnesses. Location: 366 Dirksen.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — CLOSED: Situation in Iraq and Syria. Witnesses: Derek H. Chollet Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; Vice Admiral Frank C. Pandolfe, USN, Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff; Gerald M. Feierstein, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs; Alan R. Pino, National Intelligence Officer for Near East, Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Location: Room SVC-217, the Capitol Visitor Center.

10 a.m. CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA — CECC Hearing: "Chinas Compliance With the World Trade Organization and International Trade Rules." Witnesses: David Horn, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, AK Steel Holding Corporation; Elizabeth Drake, Partner, Stewart and Stewart; Thea Lee, Deputy Chief of Staff, Presidents Office, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. http://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/AR13DJ.PDF Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. FINANCE — Hearing to consider the nominations of R. Gil Kerlikowske to be the commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and L. Paige Marvel and Tamara W. Ashford to be judges on the U.S. Tax Court. The committee will also hold an open executive session during the hearing to vote on the nominations of Sarah Bloom Raskin to be deputy secretary of the Treasury Department and Rhonda Schnare Schmidtlein to be a member of the U.S. International Trade Commission. Location: 215 Dirksen.

2 p.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Full Committee Hearing, "Regulating Financial Holding Companies and Physical Commodities." Witnesses: Norman Bay, Director, Office of Enforcement, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Vince McGonagle, Director, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Michael Gibson, Director, Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=0e55dd8e-8589-4120-8c3e-2c6dc95f7f40 Location: 538 Dirksen.

2 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Business meeting on S____, Support for United States-Republic of Korea Civil Nuclear Cooperation Act, and nominations, followed by hearing on the Implications of the Crisis in Ukraine, with Victoria Nuland, assistant secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Thomas Melia, deputy assistant secretary of state, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and Dr. Zbigniew K. Brzezinski, former national security adviser, counselor and trustee, Center for Strategic and International Studies. Location: 419 Dirksen.

2:15 p.m. AGING — Hearings to examine aging in comfort, focusing on assessing the special needs of America's Holocaust survivors. Witnesses include Elihu Kover, VP, Selfhelp Nazi Victim Services, (of New York).

http://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/aging-in-comfort-assessing-the-special-needs-of-americas-holocaust-survivors Location: 562 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Full Committee Hearing, "The Future Of Unmanned Aviation In The U.S. Economy: Safety And Privacy Considerations," examining the growth of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), commonly referred to as "drones," in the United States, including the potential economic benefits of drone operations, and the progress of steps taken to facilitate the development of the industry through the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-95). The hearing will include consideration of safety and privacy issues surrounding the operation of drones in the United States. Witnesses include Michael Huerta, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Location: 253 Russell.

3 p.m. SENATE DRUG CAUCUS — Holds Hearing on Future of U.S. Countemarcotics Efforts in Afghanistan. Witnesses: William Brownfield, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; James Capra, Chief of Operations for the Drug Enforcement Administration; Erin Logan, Principal Director, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Global Threats; John Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. www.drugcaucus.senate.gov. Location: 138 Dirksen.
US House: 10:45 a.m. PRO – CHOICE CAUCUS — Reps. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., and Diana DeGette, D-Colo., co-chairs of the House Pro-Choice Caucus, hold a news conference and lead a protest against the House Judiciary Committee markup of H.R. 7. Location: Outside House Judiciary hearing room, 2141 Raybum.

1 p.m. FEDERAL HEALTH EXCHANGE NAVIGATORS — Press Conference to announce and discuss the letter from members of the Texas Democratic Congressional Delegation delivered to Attomey General Eric Holder seeking legal action by the Department of Justice to enjoin the State of Texas from preventing Navigators to do their job when it comes to helping individual obtain affordable healthcare coverage. Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee; Gene Green; Al Green; Eddie Bernice Johnson; Joaquin Castro; Marc Veasey; other members of the Texas Democratic Delegation. Location: HVC Studio B.

1:30 p.m. MINIMUM WAGE — House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, and House Democratic Members will hold a press event "on the need to raise the minimum wage to $10.10 for hard-working Americans and call for the passage of H.R. 1010, the Fair Minimum Wage Act." Members will also announce the kick-off of the "Time For $10.10" campaign to "galvanize public support and pressure Congress to take immediate action to pass the legislation." Location: Capitol Visitor's Center, HVC-215.

3 p.m. TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE ACT — Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee, will moderate a bipartisan panel discussion on the need to reauthorize of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA). Panel: Jeff DeBoer, President & CEO, Real Estate Roundtable; Ed Walter, President & CEO, Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc.; Molly Campbell, Deputy Executive Director of Finance and Administration, Port of Los Angeles; Ethan Sonnichsen, Govemment Relations, National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Location: 2168 Rayburn (Gold Room).

10 a.m. — The House will meet for moming hour and at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. First votes expected: 1:45 – 2:30 p.m. Last votes expected: 3:45 – 4:30 p.m.

9:30 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Full Committee Hearing, "Strengthening Agency Oversight: Empowering the Inspectors General Community." Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Hearing, "CommActUpdate: Perspectives from Former FCC Chairmen." Location: 2123 Raybum.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Financial Services Committee hearing to examine the impact and potential unintended consequences of the recently finalized Volcker Rule. Location: 2128 Raybum

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Full Committee Hearing: "South Sudan's Broken Promise?" Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Hearing on A False Narrative Endangers the Homeland. Witnesses: Joe Lieberman, former Connecticut Senator; Jane Harman, former California Congresswoman; Director, Wilson Center; General (Ret.) Jack Keane, former Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/hearing-false-narrative-endangers-homeland Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee Hearing, "A Review of the Challenges Facing California High Speed Rail." Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. VETERAN'S AFFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations hearing on "Vendors in the OR – VA's Failed Oversight of Surgical Implants". http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/vendors-in-the-or-vas-failed-oversight-of-surgical-implants Location: 334 Cannon

10:15 a.m. JUDICARY — Full Committee Markup of: H.R. 7, the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion." Location: 2141 Raybum.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — The Power of Connection: Peer-to-Peer Businesses. Witnesses: Dr. Arun Sundararajan, Professor and NEC Fellow, Stern School of Business, Head, Social Cities Initiative, New York University, New York, NY; Beth Stevens, Assistant General Counsel, Sidecar Technologies, Inc., San Francisco, CA; Alan Mond, CEO, 1000 Tools, Inc., Ann Arbor, MI. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=364939 Location: 2360 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere Hearing, "NAFTA at Twenty: Accomplishments, Challenges, and the Way Forward." Location: 2172 Raybum.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Hearing, "A Report on the G-8 Dementia Summit." Location: 2200 Rayburn.

2 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Markup of H.R. 3696, the "National Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2013," introduced by Chairman Michael McCaul (R-Texas) and Subcommittee Chairman Patrick Meehan (R-PA), to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements regarding cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection, and for other purposes. Location: 311 Cannon.
Other: Jan. 12 – 16. TRB ANNUAL MEETING — The Transportation Research Board (TRB) 93rd Annual Meeting will be held. The program will attract nearly 12,000 transportation professionals from around the world to Washington, D.C. The spotlight theme for the 2014 TRB Annual Meeting is "Celebrating Our Legacy, Anticipating Our Future." http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting2014/annualmeeting2014.aspx 1:15 p.m. U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will address transportation leaders in the Regency Ballroom at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. NW. Location: The Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Washington Hilton hotels.

ATLANTIC – 'SHRIVER REPORT' — 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The first annual "The Atlantic Presents: The Shriver Report LIVE" will mark a new partnership between The Atlantic and "A Woman's Nation," the nonprofit organization founded by Maria Shriver and devoted to raising awareness on the key issues facing American women. The marquee event will gather a group of leaders from a variety of backgrounds to discuss the findings and implications of the latest Shriver Report, "A Woman's Nation Pushes Back from the Brink," in partnership with the Center for American Progress. Featured speakers include House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Maria Shriver, Founder of A Woman's Nation; Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). 11:45 a.m. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. 2:30 p.m. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) Location: The Newseum, Knight Conference Center, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY INSTITUTE – DATA PRIVACY — 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. "The Big Data Revolution: Privacy Considerations." Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, Republican chair of the House Privacy Task Force, will give opening remarkst FTC Commissioner Maureen Ohlhausen will offer closing remarks. Confirmed panelists are: Thomas Lenard, President and Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute; Adam Thierer, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center, George Mason University; Catherine Tucker, Mark Hyman, Jr. Career Development Professor and Associate Professor of Marketing, MIT Sloan School of Management; Daniel Weitzner, Director, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Decentralized Information Group, MIT and former United

States Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Internet Policy; Alan Raul (moderator), Partner, Sidley Austin LLP. Location: City Club, 555 13th St., NW.

U.S. CHAMBER – ENERGY WORKS PLATFORM — 9:15 a.m. The U.S Chambers Institute for 21st Century Energy will unveil its comprehensive new "Energy Works for US policy platform. "Energy Works for US will be the basis for the Chambers work to build support for a commonsense energy policy across the nation in 2014 and beyond. Speakers: Thomas J. Donohue, President and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Karen Harbert, President and CEO, Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. RSVP: Credentialed members of the media are invited to attend. To register, email mletourneau@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW.

EDUCATION DATAPALOOZA — 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. The White House and the U.S. Department of Education will host an Education "Datapalooza," highlighting innovators from the private, nonprofit, and academic sectors who have used freely available government data to build products, services, and apps that advance postsecondary education, empower students with information, and help colleges innovate in creative and powerful ways. Key speakers: Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education; Cecilia Munoz, Assistant to the President, Director of the Domestic Policy Council; Dan Tangherlini, Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration; Nick Sinai, U.S. Deputy Chief Technology Officer. Location: Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

'WAGE THEFT' COMPLAINT — 10 a.m. Telephonic press announcement of new 'Wage Theft' complaint and briefing on what the President can do to address income iequality by executive order. US Reps. Keith Ellison (DFL – MN) and Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Co-Chairs, Congressional Progressive Caucus; Amy Traub, DEMOS Senior Policy Analyst, and 'wage theft victims.' (Low-wage federal contract workers at Union Station will file a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor alleging widespread wage theft and other violations of labor law on Wednesday morning.) Protest to follow at Union Station at 11:30 a.m., lower level food court in front of Subway.

BURMESE, BHUTANESE REFUGEE — 10 a.m. The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), in collaboration with the Association for Asian American Studies and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, is hosting a briefing to discuss findings from its new report, "Invisible Newcomers: Refugees from Burma/Myanmar and Bhutan in the United States." With Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-Calif.), Chair, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus; Congressman Mike Honda (D-Calif.) (Invited); Neil Horikoshi, President and Executive Director, APIASF; Myra Dahgaypaw, Board Member, Karen American Communities Foundation; Janelle Wong, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Maryland, College Park. Location: 121 Cannon.

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL – ABORTION DEMOGRAPHICS — 12 p.m. Family Research Council (FRC) hosts a lecture to release an analysis of the demographics of abortion. FRC's Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI) director, Pat Fagan, will discuss the findings with Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus. Location: FRC Media Center, 801 G St. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Today, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie delivered his State of the State Address. He said the state is improving, but admitted, it's still New Jersey. No, he said he wants to do all he can to keep people from leaving New Jersey. That's why he closed the bridge."

David Letterman: "And you know, the Mayor of Fort Lee upset the Governor of New Jersey, so he got back at him by allegedly blocking traffic on the George Washington Bridge. But usually when Chris Christie is blocking the line, it's the buffet at Golden Corral. That's a different story."

Conan O'Brien: [Referencing the George Washington Bridge closing] "Today, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie gave his State of the State Address. Christie started the speech by saying, 'Sorry I'm late, but I can't control the traffic.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Today was big news. It was announced that President Obama is going to visit Pope Francis. Obama said he can't wait to tell the Pope, 'You know, they liked me a lot, too, that first year. Good times.'"

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Fwd: Greenwire Profiles

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 15, 2014 at 5:36 PM
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

——— Forwarded message ———
From: **Beyer, Emily** <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 15, 2014 at 5:33 PM
Subject: Greenwire Profiles
To: Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>

4. .

INTERIOR:
Jewell keeps battle-tested Beltway insiders close at hand

Phil Taylor and Robin Bravender, E&E reporters
Published: Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Second in a series.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's office looks a lot like her predecessor's.

Unlike many department heads who fill their offices with their confidants and former colleagues, Jewell's staff is still packed with holdovers from former Secretary Ken Salazar. That's likely in part to help guide the Washington outsider and keep continuity as the agency seeks to continue its broad expansion of renewable energy, oil and gas development and conservation on public lands in the Obama administration's second term.

SPECIAL SERIES

PEOPLE WATCH IN 2014

In this series, E&E pulls back the curtain for a look at key agency staffers.

Her staff have plenty of congressional and policy chops to help her navigate the terrain and complement the business savvy that the former REI executive brings to the table.

While the Interior Department's geographical footprint is broad -- it controls one-fifth of the U.S. landmass and essentially all of its oceans -- policy decisions radiate from Interior headquarters at 1849 C Street N.W. in Washington, D.C.

Here's a look at some of the behind-the-scenes players helping to guide Interior's policies on everything from landscape-scale mitigation to hydraulic fracturing and oil and gas exploration in the Arctic.

Laura Daniel-Davis, chief of staff



As chief of staff to the Interior secretary, Laura Daniel-Davis sits in on almost every important policy meeting. Photo courtesy of Interior.

Daniel-Davis is a Washington, D.C., native but came to Interior after working as a top aide to then-Rep. Mark Udall (D-Colo.). She was Salazar's deputy chief of staff until early 2011, when she replaced outgoing Chief of Staff Tom Strickland. Daniel-Davis was critical in Jewell's transition and helped hire new staff, and people close to the agency say her keen political sense supplements Jewell's business background.

The chief of staff wields significant power at Interior, sitting in on almost every policy discussion Jewell has with her deputies in D.C. and beyond. "Inevitably, they make or break what you want to do," a former Interior official said.

Daniel-Davis is described as having gravitas. She worked under former Deputy Secretary David Hayes during the Clinton administration, rubbing shoulders with political heavyweights like Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Solicitor John Leshy.

A graduate of Wake Forest University, Daniel-Davis in 2001 followed Hayes to the law firm Latham & Watkins LLP and later returned to Interior to serve as Hayes' associate deputy secretary in 2009.

Elizabeth Klein, associate deputy secretary

Klein was recruited to Interior in 2010 by Hayes and Daniel-Davis after serving nearly four years at Latham & Watkins. She also spent nearly three years at the National Park Foundation, a philanthropic group, and as an assistant to Babbitt.

She's a fixture in the deputy secretary's hallway at Interior and was Hayes' right-hand aide. Aides say she has kept that wing operational since Hayes' departure. Sources expect her to stay on after the Senate confirms Michael Connor to replace Hayes, who left last summer to teach law at Stanford University.

Klein's portfolio includes multi-agency, cross-cutting issues, whether it's the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management coordinating sage grouse protections or Interior's offshore bureaus writing rules for oil and gas exploration in the Arctic. Her portfolio also includes climate change adaptation and streamlining infrastructure permitting. Klein is charged with interfacing with the White House Office of Management and Budget, and she helps make sure agencies are on task with rulemaking priorities.

In 2012, she was one of two Interior staffers named to an interagency steering team to implement President Obama's executive order promoting safe development of unconventional shale gas and tight oil resources (***Greenwire***, April 13, 2012).

Nikki Buffa, deputy chief of staff for policy



Nikki Buffa's White House connections make her a key cog in Jewell's policy agenda during President Obama's second term. Photo courtesy of Interior.

Policies rarely emerge from Interior without Buffa's stamp of approval, according to agency insiders. She came to Interior from the White House, where she worked as deputy director for Cabinet affairs under Chris Lu and helped develop and manage policy issues before EPA and the departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Energy and Transportation.

Buffa has less experience in public lands policy, but her White House connection gives her an influential role in Jewell's agenda. Another Hayes loyalist, Buffa worked about two years at Latham & Watkins at the end of the George W. Bush administration and later served at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, Buffa also served a short stint as a legal extern for the Environmental Defense Fund for course credit. Before law school, Buffa worked about five years in EPA's Pacific Southwest region as an environmental protection specialist.

Ted Boling, deputy solicitor for parks and wildlife; Jack Haugrud, deputy solicitor for energy and mineral resources



Deputy Solicitor Ted Boling could play a role in Interior's conservation of sage grouse and the siting and permitting of renewable energy. Photo courtesy of Interior.

Boling and Haugrud have their fingerprints on almost every rule or decision that leaves the secretary's desk, and their office will play an important role in Obama's second term in ensuring that regulations are legally bulletproof.

Boling was previously counselor to the assistant secretary for land and minerals management and also spent a decade as deputy general counsel at CEQ during the George W. Bush administration. He also served as a trial attorney at DOJ for much of the 1990s and as a counselor to Interior's assistant secretary for parks and wildlife at the end of the Clinton administration. This year, he could help craft policies involving sage grouse conservation, national monument designations or National Environmental

Policy Act reviews for renewable energy, among others.

Haugrud had a long career at DOJ before coming to Interior, where he's viewed as a practical, trusted legal adviser. His portfolio includes American Indian issues as well as regulations for surface mining, oil and gas royalties, offshore drilling and Arctic exploration, among other issues. "Jack is the point of the spear on natural resource law," said one former Interior aide.

Jim Lyons, counselor to the assistant secretary for land and minerals management



Jim Lyons was hired to implement Jewell's vision for landscape-scale mitigation. He spent several years in the Clinton administration conserving national forests. Photo courtesy of Lyons.

Lyons joined Interior in July after working for three years at Defenders of Wildlife promoting wildlife-friendly renewable energy on public lands. One source likened him to Interior's new Steve Black, formerly one of Salazar's top advisers on renewable energy at the agency, who now works at the law firm Bingham McCutchen LLP in San Francisco.

Lyons said he was brought in to help implement Jewell's secretarial order on landscape-scale mitigation planning, which includes working closely with her on sage grouse conservation, in addition to promoting development of commercial-scale wind, solar and geothermal on public lands. He accompanied the secretary on her trip last month to the Western Governors' Association meeting in Las Vegas, where she delivered a keynote speech on mitigation.

Lyons was a lightning rod for controversy during his time as Agriculture undersecretary for natural resources and environment during the Clinton administration, when he played a key role in the Forest Service's 2001 roadless rule and the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, which protected the northern spotted owl from old-growth logging.

Lyons, who holds a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry, where he still teaches part-time, began his career at the Fish and Wildlife Service and also served stints with the Society for American Foresters and as a staff member for the House Agriculture Committee.

Linda Lance, deputy director of policy and programs, BLM

Like Lyons, Lance is a relative newcomer at Interior with decades of Beltway policy experience. She was senior counsel for former Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) before becoming BLM's second in command this fall. She was associate director at CEQ during the Clinton administration and a lobbyist for the Wilderness Society from 2001 to 2008.

Given her background at the Senate energy panel, it's likely Lance will carry a heavy energy workload that could involve finalizing BLM's controversial hydraulic fracturing rule as well as crafting landscape-scale mitigation plans for solar.

One source called her "a classic, quintessential Washington insider," while another said she was viewed as one of the more ideologically rigid staffers at ENR. She's described as amiable and sharp in agency meetings and is carrying a huge workload at BLM that includes being a liaison with Capitol Hill.

While at CEQ, Lance worked with then-Chairwoman Kathleen McGinty on the Clinton administration's designation of the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, a designation that incensed many Republicans.

–

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–

Erin Walls
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202-208-6087
erin_walls@ios.doi.gov

Briefing Materials for Thursday, January 16, 2014

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 15, 2014 at 6:23 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Attached are your briefing materials for Thursday, January 16. They have also been uploaded on to GoogleDrive.

Thanks,

Zaina

9 attachments Attachments 1, 2, and 4-9 are unavailable.

1 16 14_10am_Meeting with Barry Russell IPAA President.pdf
15K

1 16 14_530pm_Reception in Honor of Mexican Ambassador to the US Eduardo Medina-Mora.pdf
149K

1 16 14_215pm_Internal Sage Grouse Meeting.pdf
157K

1 16 14_205pm_Remarks at FBMS Go-Live Celebration.pdf
82K

1 16 14_330pm_Meeting with Marvin Odum, President, Shell Oil Company.pdf
43K

1 16 14_1045am_Call with Representative Terri Sewell.pdf
42K

1 16 14_11am_TALKING POINTS 2013 Secretary's Partners in Conservation Awards.docx
28K

1 16 14_11am_2013 Secretary's Partners in Conservation Awards.pdf
446K

1 16 14_BiLateral Meeting with Ambassador Eduardo Medina-Mora.pdf
83K

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL SAGE GROUSE MEETING

DATE: January 16, 2014
LOCATION: Secretary's Office
TIME: 2:15PM – 3:00PM
FROM: James Lyons, Counselor to the A/S LM, 202-208-4318
Michael Bean, Counselor to the A/S FWS, 202-208-7400
Sarah Greenberger, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, 202-219-2140
SUBJECT: Status of Greater Sage Grouse Planning Efforts, Update on Key Activities, and Colorado Trip Background

I. PURPOSE

This memo provides an update on the status of DOI's work on the Greater Sage Grouse (GSG) conservation strategy including: (1) an update on key activities over the next 6 months; (2) BLM/FWS project management structure; and (3) progress on key issues/activities. Also included is background on the Colorado Grouse (Greater Sage Grouse, Gunnison Sage Grouse, and Lesser Prairie Chicken) in preparation for your travel to Colorado and meeting with Governor Hickenlooper next week.

II. DISCUSSION

Six Month Timetable for Key Activities

BLM (and FWS) have put together a tentative schedule of key deadlines, meetings and milestones for GSG strategy. The strategy provides a roadmap for collaboration between BLM, FWS, and USFS over the next 6 months. Revising draft BLM and FS plans will constitute the bulk of the work through June commencing with individual plan reviews/revisions leading to the roll-up of BLM/FS/state plans for each WAFWA zone to identify gaps/weaknesses (i.e., a failure to reduce substantially a COT-identified major threat to a PAC or populations) between all of the sub-regional administrative proposed plans with time to address remaining concerns before the plans are finalized. We will provide and walk through the 6-month, detailed timeline and list of key deadlines and meeting dates in the internal meeting on Thursday.

BLM/FWS Project Management Structure

BLM and FWS have reviewed and revised the management structure for their efforts to coordinate review and development of the final BLM RMPs. BLM has established a new position – National Sage Grouse Project Manager – to track and coordinate all aspects of the GSG strategy. Kathy Stangl, the project manager, will be housed in Washington DC at the MIB. FWS and FS are reviewing their current management structures to ensure that they will meet our collective needs for completing the GSG strategy.

Progress on Key Issues/Activities

Metrics for Assessing Conservation Efforts: The FWS has led an effort, in collaboration with the states, to develop a common set of metrics for measuring conservation actions in response to COT-identified threats across the range of the SGS. This becomes an important yardstick for FWS to assess conservation efforts across the 11 state range of the GSG to aid the agency in making their listing decision. It also provides an important tool for monitoring implementation of conservation commitments and evaluating the efficacy of conservation actions over time – a key to implementing the adaptive management strategy which will be a part of each GSG plan. Efforts are continuing to bring closure to this discussion and agree on the key metrics to be used. FWS is working with USGS to provide a geospatial display of the conservation efforts captured by these metrics.

In December, FWS presented a list of 35 quantitative measures that would be reported on by each state (although some measures may not be applicable to all states). These measures would serve as a common core of quantitative data, although states would be free to supplement this data with narrative explanations or additional quantitative or qualitative information.

Utah and Wyoming expressed concern that the FWS quantitative measures would be elevated in importance over other information, and requested that the metrics working group be asked to explore the Utah and Wyoming proposals in more detail. FWS expressed a willingness to continue to explore longer term monitoring and reporting measures, but for purposes of the listing decision due in 2015, it needed to bring the metrics discussion to a close soon. To that end, FWS asked to receive any suggestions to change its list by the end of this week, and stated its intention to make a decision on that list the following week.

Resolving Differences in Advice for Conservation Requirements: To ensure consistency where necessary between BLM plans and FWS comments on those plans (e.g., the "cap" on disturbance for a given area may vary, typically from 3% to 5%) a meeting is now scheduled for the "federal family" – i.e., BLM, FWS, FS GSG leadership – to meet in Portland, OR in mid-February to discuss these concerns as they relate to GSG plans in the Great Basin. A similar meeting will also be scheduled for the Rocky Mountain states.

Mitigation: Several of the states have developed sage grouse conservation plans that include a significant role for compensatory mitigation (i.e., offsetting the impacts of authorized detrimental activities by carrying out beneficial activities, usually at a different site). As previously reported, the FWS has provided to the Task Force a memo setting forth its recommendations for a general framework for compensatory mitigation for the sage grouse which was welcomed. BLM is in the process of finalizing its comments on the draft mitigation framework and working toward developing national guidance for mitigation.

Colorado Grouse (Greater sage grouse, Gunnison sage grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken)

Colorado Grouse

Colorado has the dubious distinction of being the only state that is both in Greater sage grouse (in NW CO) and Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) habitat (in SE CO). It is also home to the distinct Gunnison sage grouse (in SW CO). **FWS must make final listing determinations on the Gunnison SG and the LPC by the end of March.** Below is a brief overview of the state of play on each species in Colorado.

Map of LPC habitat (including CO) and map of CO Sage Grouse Habitat (Gunnison and Greater) are attached.

Greater sage grouse: Next week you will travel with Governor Hickenlooper to visit a ranch in Northwest Colorado implementing conservation practices that benefit the Greater sage grouse. Details of that visit will follow in a separate memo. BLM manages more than 1.7 million acres of Colorado's Greater sage-grouse habitat, almost half of the entire Greater sage-grouse habitat in Colorado. Habitat fragmentation resulting primarily from infrastructure related to energy development and urbanization poses the primary threat to the bird.

State Strategy: Colorado has spent $40 million on sage grouse conservation efforts and implemented a significant easement acquisition effort, protecting over 74,000 acres and is protecting additional acres through other means. The State wildlife agency has strong conservation recommendations to the oil and gas commission, but they are advisory and there is no data to show whether those recommendations have been followed. The state has begun that an assessment and expects to have the results in the next few months.

Status of BLM planning effort: The BLM/FS published their Draft Northwest Colorado RMP/EIS on August 16, 2013. The comment period closed December 2. On November 26, after a town hall meeting in northwest Colorado, the Governor's office asked for more time to submit state comments. Because BLM regulations allow for it, BLM agreed.

Overview FWS Comments on BLM plan: The FWS submitted comments on the BLM/FS draft plan on December 2 that questioned BLM's selection of a 5% versus 3% disturbance cap, the scope of the exemption process from that cap, and the manner in which mitigation was counted under that cap among other issues.

State Comments/Alternative: On January 14 (yesterday), Governor Hickenlooper's office submitted a four page letter with their comments calling them the "state alternative" along with much more detailed comments from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The Governor's letter says it "serves as the Colorado state alternative," however, the letter addresses very few of the issues in the PRMP/DEIS, and provides little detail on the issues that it does address. More significantly, however, the Governor's letter is hard to reconcile with accompanying CPW comments. The discrepancies among the two are particularly evident with respect to the issue of disturbance caps. The Governor's letter describes disturbance caps as "one of the most troubling tools being proposed in the PRMP" and urges BLM "to reconsider the use of disturbance caps unless they can be implemented with site-specific flexibility." In contrast, although the comments from CPW note that disturbance caps are largely untested, they go on to say that a

"3% disturbance cap is more scientifically defensible than a 5% limit," and discuss published studies that "lend support to a disturbance cap less than 5%." Moreover, CPW states that it is "concerned about the potential unlimited use of exceptions to the disturbance cap," noting that "oil and gas operators have the ability to request unlimited exceptions to the cap, effectively rendering the cap meaningless."

In general, the CPW comments strike a more cautious tone than is reflected in the Governor's letter. For example, CPW asserts that BLM's proposed "required design features" and "preferred design features" are not "sufficient to mitigate indirect effects. The Governor's letter makes no mention of this. Similarly, the CPW comments urge BLM to "apply increased protection to existing leases," whereas the Governor's letter warns that measures that impact valid existing leases are "a clear violation of property rights."

DOI will have to work with the state to reconcile these documents.

Gunnison sage grouse: The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to list the Gunnison sage grouse as endangered in January of 2013. Due to the MDL settlement agreement, the final listing determination is due by the end of March of this year. The FWS proposal to list the species as endangered was based on an analysis of the threats contributing to the species' decline across much of its range including: loss or fragmentation of habitat; lack of linkages or habitat connectivity between populations; invasive weeds; small populations; and the potential for disease, fire, or development to drastically affect an individual population's viability.

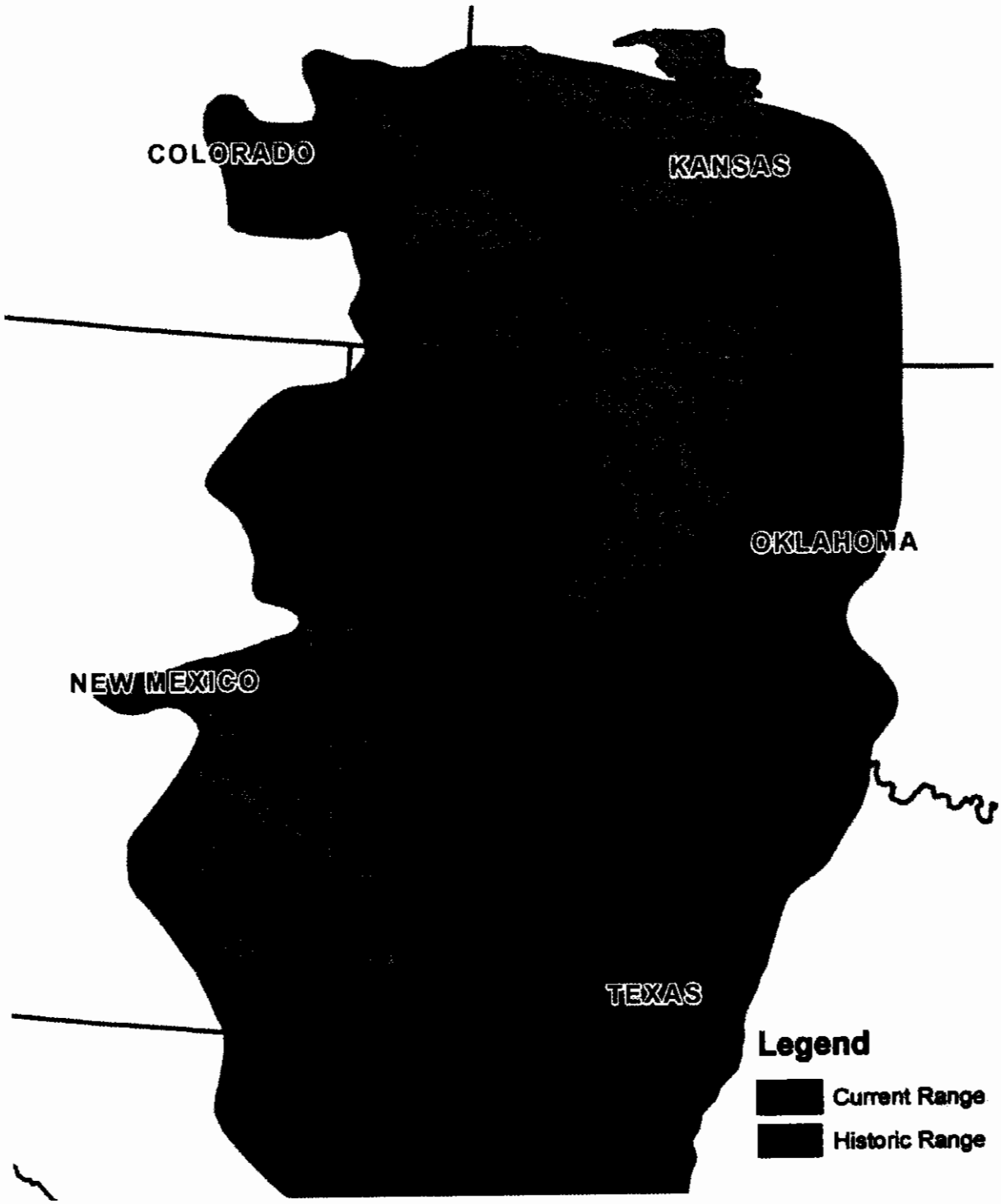
Since the proposed rule was published in January 2013, the Service has received and continues to receive substantive comments and information regarding the status of the species and the threats to it and its habitat that are relevant to the Service's final determination of whether the species is endangered, threatened, or neither. The Service is currently reviewing these comments and information to inform its final analysis and listing decision.

There is extreme frustration in the state about the listing proposal because Gunnison County has developed and implemented a conservation plan that FWS considers to be a good start. All agree that threats in the Gunnison Basin have been effectively ameliorated are no additional actions landowners in that county should be taking. The FWS must take into account, however, the failure of other counties to implement similar plans that would protect the species range-wide. Local frustration is in part what led the Governor to invite you to see firsthand the good work ranchers in the state are doing on the ground because in their eyes the FWS may not be taking that work sufficiently into account.

Lesser Prairie Chicken: The FWS has proposed to list the LPC as threatened with a final listing decision due THIS MARCH. The FWS has also proposed a special 4(d) management rule based on a five state conservation plan developed by the Western Association of Fish of Wildlife Agencies. There is only a small population of LPC in Colorado and in a small corner of the state. The potential for land use conflicts is also less significant than for the grouse.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Map of LPC habitat (including CO)
- Map of CO Sage Grouse Habitat (Gunnison and Greater)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NEW MEXICO
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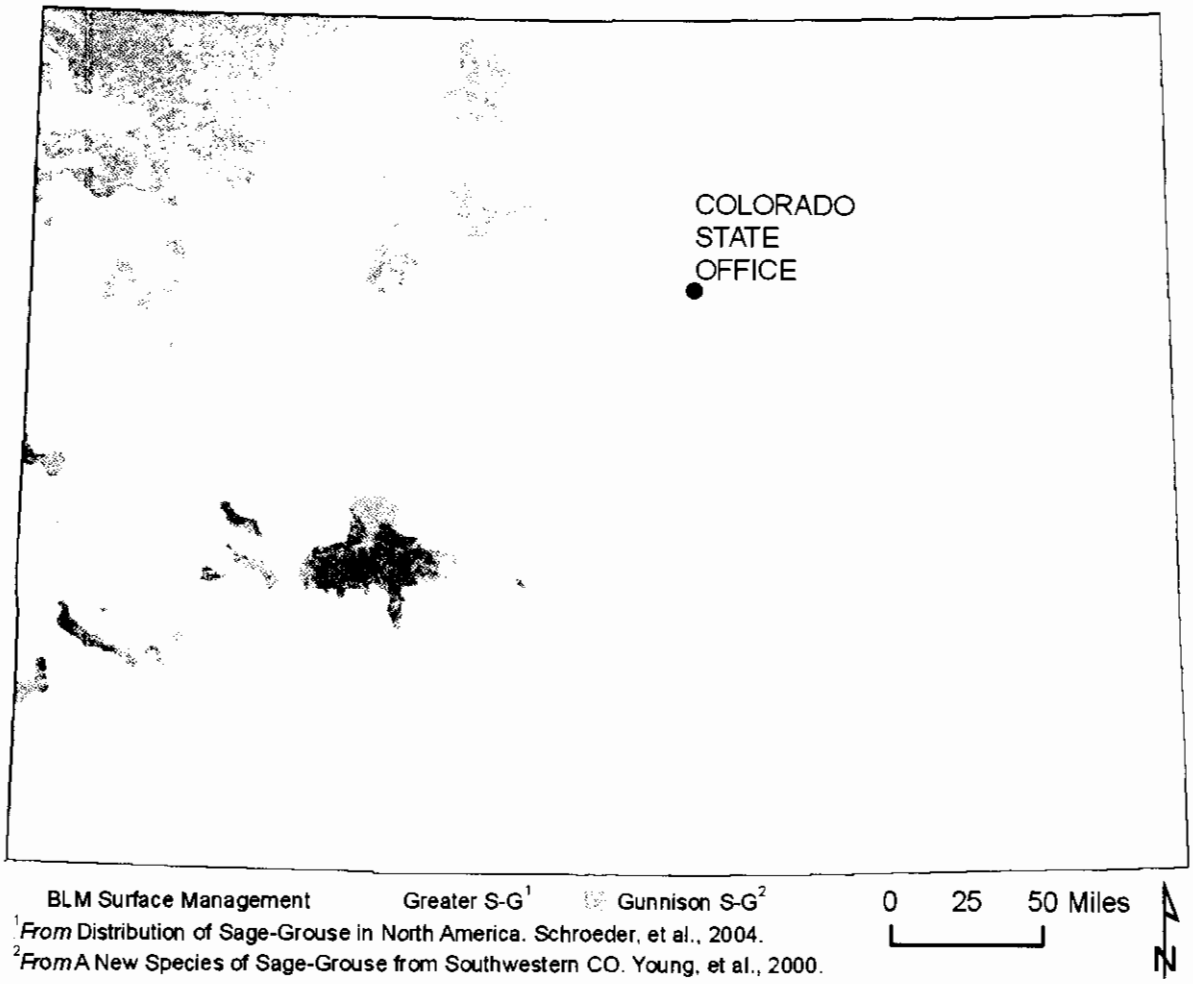
Historic Range



[1] *From* Distribution of Sage-Grouse in North America. Schroeder, et al., 2004.
[2] *From* A New Species of Sage-Grouse from Southwestern CO. Young, et al., 2000.

Re: Greenwire Profiles

Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jan 16, 2014 at 6:35 AM
To: Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Join the club! ;>)

On Jan 16, 2014, at 4:57 AM, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Sally,
> Thanks very much. It's nice to be recognized, if slightly embarrassing. Now back to work!
> Laura
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Jan 15, 2014, at 9:46 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> > Laura -
> >
> > This really is a nice tribute to you - falls short of the truth in many ways as you do much more, but is appropriate recognition of your "gravitas". It is great to have you at my side as we navigate through these interesting times and onto a brighter future.
> >
> > Cheers,
> >
> > Sally
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:
> >
> > **From:** "Walls, Erin" <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
> > **Date:** January 15, 2014 at 5:36:10 PM EST
> > **To:** Sally Jewell, (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
> > **Subject: Fwd: Greenwire Profiles**
> >
> > ——— Forwarded message ———
> > From: **Beyer, Emily** <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
> > Date: Wed, Jan 15, 2014 at 5:33 PM
> > Subject: Greenwire Profiles
> > To: Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
> >
> > **4.**
> > **INTERIOR:**

Jewell keeps battle-tested Beltway insiders close at hand

Phil Taylor and Robin Bravender, E&E reporters
Published: Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Second in a series.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's office looks a lot like her predecessor's.

Unlike many department heads who fill their offices with their confidants and former colleagues, Jewell's staff is still packed with holdovers from former Secretary Ken Salazar. That's likely in part to help guide the Washington outsider and keep continuity as the agency seeks to continue its broad expansion of renewable energy, oil and gas development and conservation on public lands in the Obama administration's second term.

PEOPLE WATCH IN 2014

In this series, E&E pulls back the curtain for a look at key agency staffers.

Her staff have plenty of congressional and policy chops to help her navigate the terrain and complement the business savvy that the former REI executive brings to the table.

While the Interior Department's geographical footprint is broad -- it controls one-fifth of the U.S. landmass and essentially all of its oceans -- policy decisions radiate from Interior headquarters at 1849 C Street N.W. in Washington, D.C.

Here's a look at some of the behind-the-scenes players helping to guide Interior's policies on everything from landscape-scale mitigation to hydraulic fracturing and oil and gas exploration in the Arctic.

Laura Daniel-Davis, chief of staff



As chief of staff to the Interior secretary, Laura Daniel-Davis sits in on almost every important policy meeting. Photo courtesy of Interior.

Daniel-Davis is a Washington, D.C., native but came to Interior

after working as a top aide to then-Rep. Mark Udall (D-Colo.). She was Salazar's deputy chief of staff until early 2011, when she replaced outgoing Chief of Staff Tom Strickland. Daniel-Davis was critical in Jewell's transition and helped hire new staff, and people close to the agency say her keen political sense supplements Jewell's business background.

The chief of staff wields significant power at Interior, sitting in on almost every policy discussion Jewell has with her deputies in D.C. and beyond. "Inevitably, they make or break what you want to do," a former Interior official said.

Daniel-Davis is described as having gravitas. She worked under former Deputy Secretary David Hayes during the Clinton administration, rubbing shoulders with political heavyweights like Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Solicitor John Leshy.

A graduate of Wake Forest University, Daniel-Davis in 2001 followed Hayes to the law firm Latham & Watkins LLP and later returned to Interior to serve as Hayes' associate deputy secretary in 2009.

Elizabeth Klein, associate deputy secretary

Klein was recruited to Interior in 2010 by Hayes and Daniel-Davis after serving nearly four years at Latham & Watkins. She also spent nearly three years at the National Park Foundation, a philanthropic group, and as an assistant to Babbitt.

She's a fixture in the deputy secretary's hallway at Interior and was Hayes' right-hand aide. Aides say she has kept that wing operational since Hayes' departure. Sources expect her to stay on after the Senate confirms Michael Connor to replace Hayes, who left last summer to teach law at Stanford University.

Klein's portfolio includes multi-agency, cross-cutting issues, whether it's the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management coordinating sage grouse protections or Interior's offshore bureaus writing rules for oil and gas exploration in the Arctic. Her portfolio also includes climate change adaptation and streamlining infrastructure permitting. Klein is charged with interfacing with the White House Office of Management and Budget, and she helps make sure agencies are on task with rulemaking priorities.

In 2012, she was one of two Interior staffers named to an interagency steering team to implement President Obama's executive order promoting safe development of unconventional shale gas and tight oil resources (***Greenwire***, April 13, 2012).

Nikki Buffa, deputy chief of staff for policy



Nikki Buffa's White House connections make her a key cog in Jewell's policy agenda during President Obama's second term. Photo courtesy of Interior.

Policies rarely emerge from Interior without Buffa's stamp of approval, according to agency insiders. She came to Interior from the White House, where she worked as deputy director for Cabinet affairs under Chris Lu and helped develop and manage policy issues before EPA and the departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Energy and Transportation.

Buffa has less experience in public lands policy, but her White House connection gives her an influential role in Jewell's agenda. Another Hayes loyalist, Buffa worked about two years at Latham & Watkins at the end of the George W. Bush administration and later served at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, Buffa also served a short stint as a legal extern for the Environmental Defense Fund for course credit. Before law school, Buffa worked about five years in EPA's Pacific Southwest region as an environmental protection specialist.

Ted Boling, deputy solicitor for parks and wildlife; Jack Haugrud, deputy solicitor for energy and mineral resources



Deputy Solicitor Ted Boling could play a role in Interior's conservation of sage grouse and the siting and permitting of renewable energy. Photo courtesy of Interior.

Boling and Haugrud have their fingerprints on almost every rule or decision that leaves the secretary's desk, and their office will

play an important role in Obama's second term in ensuring that regulations are legally bulletproof.

Boling was previously counselor to the assistant secretary for land and minerals management and also spent a decade as deputy general counsel at CEQ during the George W. Bush administration. He also served as a trial attorney at DOJ for much of the 1990s and as a counselor to Interior's assistant secretary for parks and wildlife at the end of the Clinton administration. This year, he could help craft policies involving sage grouse conservation, national monument designations or National Environmental Policy Act reviews for renewable energy, among others.

Haugrud had a long career at DOJ before coming to Interior, where he's viewed as a practical, trusted legal adviser. His portfolio includes American Indian issues as well as regulations for surface mining, oil and gas royalties, offshore drilling and Arctic exploration, among other issues. "Jack is the point of the spear on natural resource law," said one former Interior aide.

Jim Lyons, counselor to the assistant secretary for land and minerals management



Jim Lyons was hired to implement Jewell's vision for landscape-scale mitigation. He spent several years in the Clinton administration conserving national forests. Photo courtesy of Lyons.

Lyons joined Interior in July after working for three years at Defenders of Wildlife promoting wildlife-friendly renewable energy on public lands. One source likened him to Interior's new Steve Black, formerly one of Salazar's top advisers on renewable energy at the agency, who now works at the law firm Bingham McCutchen LLP in San Francisco.

Lyons said he was brought in to help implement Jewell's secretarial order on landscape-scale mitigation planning, which includes working closely with her on sage grouse conservation, in addition to promoting development of commercial-scale wind, solar and geothermal on public lands. He accompanied the secretary on her trip last month to the Western Governors' Association meeting in Las Vegas, where she delivered a keynote

speech on mitigation.

Lyons was a lightning rod for controversy during his time as Agriculture undersecretary for natural resources and environment during the Clinton administration, when he played a key role in the Forest Service's 2001 roadless rule and the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, which protected the northern spotted owl from old-growth logging.

Lyons, who holds a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry, where he still teaches part-time, began his career at the Fish and Wildlife Service and also served stints with the Society for American Foresters and as a staff member for the House Agriculture Committee.

Linda Lance, deputy director of policy and programs, BLM

Like Lyons, Lance is a relative newcomer at Interior with decades of Beltway policy experience. She was senior counsel for former Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) before becoming BLM's second in command this fall. She was associate director at CEQ during the Clinton administration and a lobbyist for the Wilderness Society from 2001 to 2008.

Given her background at the Senate energy panel, it's likely Lance will carry a heavy energy workload that could involve finalizing BLM's controversial hydraulic fracturing rule as well as crafting landscape-scale mitigation plans for solar.

One source called her "a classic, quintessential Washington insider," while another said she was viewed as one of the more ideologically rigid staffers at ENR. She's described as amiable and sharp in agency meetings and is carrying a huge workload at BLM that includes being a liaison with Capitol Hill.

While at CEQ, Lance worked with then-Chairwoman Kathleen McGinty on the Clinton administration's designation of the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, a designation that incensed many Republicans.

–

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–

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, January 16, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jan 16, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

CONTINUING COVERAGE: PILT PROGRAM LEFT UNFUNDED IN BUDGET BILL. Politico (1/16, Hopkinson, 464K) reports that House Republican leaders are trying "to use the farm bill" to fund the PILT program.

Also, the Steamboat (CO) Pilot & Today (1/15, 30K) notes that Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet have introduced a new bill to permanently fund PILT. Udall said, "The PILT program is essential for rural communities and counties near Colorado's public lands. Although these stunning natural resources attract tourists and support

Main Street businesses, these lands do not directly contribute to the local tax base."

Meanwhile, the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (1/15, 147K) reports that "although Davis County has little in the way of public lands, its county leaders have jumped head first into a fray with Washington officials when it comes to counties continuing to receive the benefit of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes program." The Davis County Commission on Tuesday "approved a letter requesting the House and Senate Appropriations committees fully support the PILT program, which provides critical funding to nearly 1,900 counties in 49 states and three US territories."

The Canon City (CO) Daily Record (1/16, 22K) reports that "more than $1 million could be diminished from Fremont County's General Fund if legislation isn't soon passed to restore" the PILT program.

New York Senators Laud Funds For Stream Gauges. The Washington Times (1/16, 417K) reports that "New York's senators say $33.7 million for the national stream gauge network is included in the appropriations before Congress this week." Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand say "the $6 million increase in funding will help strengthen stream gauges in upstate New York that provide flood warnings during extreme weather." The lawmakers say the money will help the USGS "keep existing gauges online and allow the USGS to add more gauges in high-risk flood zones in upstate New York."

Bill Funds Land And Water Conservation Fund. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer (1/15, 768K) reports that the Land and Water Conservation Fund has "survived Congress' budget battles, and is funded to the tune of $306 million in a $1.1 trillion omnibus appropriations bill which passed the House of Representatives on a 359-67 vote late Wednesday."

Bill Includes $452 Million For Fuels Reduction. The Bend (OR) Bulletin (1/16, 94K) reports that "federal hazardous fuels reduction efforts will receive $150 million more than the Obama administration requested for 2014 in the $1.1 trillion spending bill that Congress is poised to pass this week." The budget for hazardous fuel reduction was "set at $452 million." According to the article, "between the Department of Agriculture, which includes the Forest Service, and the Department of the Interior, the budget contains $3.9 billion in wildfire suppression and prevention."

Bill Includes $18.5 Million To Replace Beatrice Rafferty School. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (1/15, 166K) reports that "the omnibus budget bill passed in the House of Representatives that same afternoon included funding to replace the Beatrice Rafferty School." The legislation "includes funding for just one Bureau of Indian Education School in the entire country." according to a Pingree spokesman, "the amount of the appropriation will be $18.5 million," which will "fully fund the project."

White House: Climate Agenda Intact In Spending Bill. Bloomberg News (1/15, Adragna, 1.91M) reports White House Assistant Press Secretary Matt Lehrich said in a statement that "some limited environmental riders were included" in the fiscal year 2014 appropriations bill, but "our ability to continue to move our environment and climate agenda forward is very much intact." Provisions on emissions standards were excluded, as were riders that would have undercut energy efficiency standards. The bill still limits the power of the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to prohibit funding for overseas coal plants. It also requires "the White House to file a report to Congress outlining federal spending on climate change programs," and prohibits "the EPA from using appropriated funding to promulgate regulations requiring the issuance of permits under Title V of the Clean Air Act."

Republicans Slammed For Export-Import Bank Provision. Bloomberg News (1/15, Flavelle, 1.91M) criticizes Republicans for including the Export-Import Bank provision, which will require the bank to consider applications for funding from middle-income countries, in addition to the poorest countries and those implementing carbon-capture technology. It predicts that the move will inhibit the development of the technology, because plants will be now able to obtain US funding without using it. This shows that the "Republican insistence on global action as a precursor to U.S." emissions reductions measures is a "ruse," because this spending bill provision will deprive the US of an opportunity to curb overseas emissions, writes Bloomberg News.

SECRETARY JEWELL RECEIVES AWARD FROM OUTDOOR INDUSTRY WOMEN'S COALITION. The Outdoor USA Magazine (1/16) reports that the Outdoor Industry Women's Coalition (OIWC) has announced the

winners of its 2014 Pioneering Woman an First Ascent Awards. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has won the Pioneering Women Award. Jewell will be honored at the OIWC Keynote and Awards Presentation at Outdoor Retailer Winter Market.

Also reporting on the story is the SportsOneSource (1/16, 71).

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES TWO MEMBERS FOR COBELL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD. The Indianz (1/16) reports that the Interior Department has picked "its two members for the board that will oversee the scholarship fund that was created by the $3.4 billion Cobell trust fund settlement." Acoridng to the article, "Jean O'Brien (White Earth Ojibwe) of the University of Minnesota and Pam Agoyo (Kewa / Cochiti / Ohkay Owingeh) of the University of New Mexico will serve on the five-member board." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "It is with great pleasure that I announce the selection of these two outstanding educational leaders whose accomplishments have opened the doors of higher education to all American Indians and Alaska Natives. Their experience and expertise will be exceptionally valuable to the Board of Trustees as the scholarship fund helps students across Indian Country access the higher education they need to succeed in today's world. The fund will help strengthen Indian communities, advance tribal progress and secure a better future for Native Americans, honoring Eloise Cobell's vision and perseverance."

SECRETARY JEWELL TO PRESENT CONSERVATION AWARD TO SUU'S IIC. The Southern Utah News (1/15) reports that Southern Utah University's Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative program has been "recognized as one of the top three conservation programs in the country." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "present the Partners in Conservation Award to Briget Eastep, director of the Harry Reid Outdoor Engagement Center, and Seth Ohms, IIC coordinator, in Washington, D.C. today."

SEN. BEGICH INTRODUCES IZEMBEK ROAD BILL. The Alaska Public Radio Network (1/15, 2K) reports that Sen. Mark Begich has introduced legislation "to allow a road from King Cove to Cold Bay, just weeks after Interior Secretary Sally Jewell rejected the idea because it would run through a wildlife refuge." Begich says he chose "one of the options scrutinized in a recent environmental assessment."

The Ketchikan (AK) SitNews (1/16) reports that "King Cove Tribal and Community leaders are praising the introduction of legislation." King Cove Mayor Henry Mack said, "We are very grateful to Senator Begich, Senator Murkowski, Congressman Young and Governor Parnell for their continued commitment to fight for the people of King Cove. Protecting the lives of our elders, children and everyone else in our community so we have safe, reliable access to the Cold Bay Airport for health and quality-of-life reasons have always been at the heart of this matter. We don't want to see any further loss of life or tragedy because of extreme weather conditions standing in the way of critically-needed health care."

The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (1/16, 44K), Frank Murkowski criticizes the decision "to deny to the people of King Cove road access to the all-weather Cold Bay airport" as "outrageous." According to Murkowski, Interior has "chosen to disregard the fundamental right of access to this small group of mostly Alaska Natives."

REP. HASTINGS TO PRESS PROBE OF WILDLIFE POLICIES, SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS, STREAM PROTECTION RULE. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/16, 705) reports that House Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings will "seek subpoena authority to investigate the Obama administration's implementation of wildlife protection laws as well as 'apparent conflicts of interest' by current and former Interior Department employees, according to a subpoena motion the committee released today." Hastings will also "seek subpoena authority to compel additional documents and testimony from Obama officials on their implementation of the Secure Rural Schools program and revisions to a stream protection rule."

CONNECTICUT RIVER TO REMAIN NATION'S ONLY BLUEWAY. The Greenfield (MA) Reporter (1/16, 666) reports that "it appears the Connecticut River will enjoy the distinction of being the only federally designated 'National Blueways' river." The Blueways program "came undone earlier this month because of a controversy that erupted over the 700-mile long White River through Arkansas and Missouri." The Connecticut River Watershed Council says "now the nation's only 'National Blueway,' will continue to 'carry on that idea that protecting watersheds creates viable economies and sustainable environments.'"

TEXAS TECH CLIMATE RESEARCH PROJECTS RECEIVE $157,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDING. The Lubbock

(TX) Avalanche-Journal (1/15, 160K) reports that "two Texas Tech research projects will receive $157,000 in funding from the US Department of the Interior's South Central Climate Science Center." Dylan Schwilk, an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, will "receive $99,937 for his two-year project that investigates how different tree species survive in semi-arid landscapes." According to the article, "Schwilk will work with Anne Stoner, a postdoctoral researcher, who herself received $56,700 for a year-long project examining how to downscale climate projection models so local impact can be assessed."

INTERIOR OFFICIAL TO LEAD NOAA'S FISHERIES SERVICE. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/16, 705) reports that Eileen Sobeck, currently the acting assistant secretary of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, will join the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration' as the assistant administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service on Jan. 27. Sobeck will "take over for Samuel Rauch, who has been the acting assistant administrator of NMFS since 2012."

SOME SUBMERGED LANDS TO BE RETURNED TO COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. The Pacific (GUM) Daily News (1/16, 61K) reports that the Interior Department has announced that "some submerged lands will be returned to a neighboring island after being occupied by the federal government for years." President Barack Obama "signed a proclamation to go into effect on Jan. 16 stating the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will 'receive title to submerged lands extending three geographical miles seaward from the islands' coasts.'" Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Eileen Sobeck said, "The conveyance reflects this administration's longstanding, strong support for granting the CNMI rights similar to those accorded other territories for their surrounding submerged lands. We have also consulted extensively with CNMI leaders and gained an understanding regarding the need for a protective management plan for the submerged lands off military-use islands and in the national marine monument."

GOVGUAM RECEIVES 2.81 PERFORMETER SCORE. The Pacific News Center (1/16) reports that "GovGuam has received a score of 2.81 on the most recent Performeter score released by the Office of Public Accountability." The score "remains Guam's highest score in eight years, but it is still the lowest score among the eight insular areas analyzed." The article notes that "the analysis was conducted by Crawford & Associates for the US Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs [DOIOIA]."

CHAMBER CALLS FOR ENERGY REFORM. The Rigzone (1/16, Boman, 12K) reports the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for 21st Century Energy revealed its new Energy Works for U.S. platform, which updates "its 2008 Blueprint for Securing America's Energy Future, to reflect the current boom in unconventional oil and gas exploration in the United States." In its recommendations, the institute called for the Interior Department to "propose a new plan for the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) that would open the eastern Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and Pacific oceans to leasing and exploration and make significantly more onshore federal lands available for energy development." It also urged Congress to "provide a 37.5 percent share of royalty revenues from all new production on the OCS to the states adjacent to development areas." The institute also called for the BLM to "delay finalizing a proposed rule for hydraulic fracturing on federal lands until BLM works with state and industry officials to ensure a future rule addresses an existing regulatory gap, and not just to demonstrate its ability to regulate."

The Upstream Online (1/16, 20K) reports the Chamber said that "oil and gas production 'faces barriers that are holding back its full potential, costing America jobs and government revenue," so "the presumed 'era of energy abundance' is thus 'far from a foregone conclusion.'" The Chamber calls for the Interior Department to allow oil and gas developers greater access to Federal lands, avoiding rules on hydraulic fracturing, and not imposing "'punitive taxes' on the oil and natural gas industry."

CONGRESS URGED TO REAUTHORIZE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/16, Wilkes, 11.54M), Brent Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director and Jose Calderon, President of the Hispanic Federation, urges Congress to put Land and Water Conservation Fund "reauthorization and full funding high on the agenda for 2014." According to the authors, "for the Latino community, LWCF is critical in the fight to eliminate childhood obesity." They conclude that "reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund will be a step forward for our families and our communities."

ENERGY BOOM SEEN AS AMAZING STORY. In his column for the Washington Post (1/16, 4.28M), David Ignatius writes of the "amazing fact" that "on nearly every front, America's energy prospects have improved in

ways that would have been unimaginable just a decade ago." He says that President Obama's "all of the above" strategy is "actually happening." The changing "energy picture" was "summarized for me recently by Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz." Ignatius went on to say "I'd worry that Moniz was just blowing smoke, but he backed up his claims with extensive statistics." After reviewing the gains, Ignatius says it is an "almost ridiculously upbeat story."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DRAKE'S BAY OYSTER FARM TO ASK SUPREME COURT TO TAKE UP APPEAL. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (1/16, 731K) reports that Drakes Bay Oyster Co, owner Kevin Lunny says "he'll ask the US Supreme Court to hear his case challenging a federal decision not to renew the facility's lease." Lunny said "he remains committed to his fight."

The San Francisco Examiner (1/16, 412K) reports that "the appeals court has allowed the farm to continue operating during its appeal, but after Tuesday's order takes effect, the farm would need a new stay from either the 9th Circuit or the Supreme Court to remain open while the high court decides whether to take up the case."

AP coverage was also picked up by Yahoo! (1/16, 17.91M) , ABC News (1/16, 3.68M), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (1/16, 1.14M), the Washington Times (1/16, 417K), the Boston Herald (1/16, 643K), and the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (1/16, 76K).

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK RANGERS SEARCHING FOR WANTED MAN. The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (1/15, 366K) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park Rangers are searching for a Sevierville, TN man wanted in connection to a first degree murder charge in Pinellas County, FL where authorities have issued a warrant for his arrest. According to the park, "James Quilliams may have been left near Gatlinburg early Wednesday by a woman companion who was arrested on a DUI charge about 6:45 a.m. by Pigeon Forge police." According to park authorities, "Quilliams is not thought to be a threat to the public or park employees because he has shown no threatening behavior."

Also reporting on the story are the Maryville (TN) Daily Times (1/16, 64K) and the Sevierville (TN) Mountain Press (1/16, 28K).

NPS SEEKS TO KILL 100 DEER IN ROCK CREEK PARK. The Georgetown (DC) Patch (1/16, 1K) reports that the NPS "launched another round of deer reduction in Rock Creek Park at the start of this month." According to the article, "periodic killings of White-tailed deer in the park are expected to continue until March 31." Tara Morrison, superintendent of Rock Creek park, said that "the goal of the 'lethal reduction efforts' is to reduce the population by 100 deer by the end of March."

Also reporting on the story is WAMU-FM Washington (1/16, 36K).

NPS TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON OZARKS RIVERWAYS PLAN. The Washington Times (1/16, 417K) reports that "a series of public meetings on the National Park Service's proposed management plan for the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways in southern Missouri begins Thursday in Eminence."

Also reporting on the story is the Springfield (MO) News-Leader (1/16, 27K).

EVERGLADES SEEKS ART FOR VISITORS CENTER DISPLAY. The Washington Times (1/16, 417K) reports that "artists can apply to have their work on display at the visitor's center at Everglades National Park." The park "announced Tuesday that artists – especially local, amateur artists – can submit their applications by March 31." Superintendent Dan Kimball says "the mission of the gallery is for visitors to leave 'feeling inspired to explore the Everglades and wanting to help protect this fragile place.'"

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK RECEIVING COMMENTS ON MOOSE-WILSON ROAD. The Washington Times (1/16, 417K) reports that Grand Teton National Park officials are receiving "lots of opinions as they study

the future of the Moose-Wilson Road." Teton County commissioners "want a bicycle path to be built along the 7-mile road." However, "park officials are concerned that quick, silent cyclists could trigger an attack by the increasing number of grizzly bears there."

NEW CLIMBING PLAN APPROVED AT ARCHES NATIONAL PARK. The Deseret (UT) News (1/16, 274K) reports that the NPS "recently approved a climbing and canyoneering management plan for Arches National Park." The agency "reached the decision last month after review of the environmental impact analysis and consideration of public comments on the environmental assessment released in June 2013." According to the article, "canyoneering and rock climbing activities in Arches National Park will be actively managed and monitored to maintain desired resource and visitor experience conditions."

Bureau of Land Management:

GOV. HICKENLOOPER URGES CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL SAGE-GROUSE ALTERNATIVE. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (1/16, 27K) reports that Colrado Gov. John Hickenlooper is urging the BLM "to consider a state altemative as the agency prepares its final plan for managing the greater sage-grouse on federal lands in northwestern Colorado." In a letter sent Tuesday to BLM Northwest District Manager Jim Cagney, Hickenlooper "stressed the adoption of a plan that 'both safeguards the economic engine of northwestern Colorado and protects the greater sage-grouse sufficiently to preclude a listing under the Endangered Species Act by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.'" Hickenlooper said "such an alternative has been offered by local governments in the region, along with input from energy, ranching and conservation interests."

OFFICIALS SAY PREFERRED SAGE GROUSE PLANS WOULDN'T CLOSE IDAHO GRAZING. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (1/15, 113K) reports that "no allotments in Idaho or southeast Montana would be closed to grazing under the two preferred land management alternatives being considered to protect declining sage grouse populations, federal land managers said during a Jan. 13 public meeting." The BLM and the US Forest Service are "updating about 120 land management plans throughout 11 western states to better protect sage grouse."

OREGON RANCHERS CONCERNED OVER SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION PLANS. The Oregon Public Broadcasting (1/16, 4K) reports that "in response to dwindling greater sage grouse populations in the western United States," the BLM has "announced an initiative across ten states to increase numbers of the species." However, "while many conservation groups are pleased with the BLM's initiative, cattle ranchers who make use of public grazing lands are less enthused." Groups like the Oregon Cattlemen's Association claim "that, while only a very small number of ranchers will be affected by the changes, those that use the lands will be devastated."

COYOTE KILLING COMPETITION PLANNED IN OREGON. The Washington Times (1/16, 417K) reports that "a coyote killing contest is scheduled this weekend in Eastern Oregon." The article notes that "the event near Burns is called the JMK Coyote Hunt, and this year's event is the eighth." Organizer Duane Freilino says "the contest will begin and end on private property, but where hunters go to kill coyotes is up to them." The BLM said "such a commercial event would need a permit to be on land the agency manages." However, spokeswoman Tara Martinak said the bureau "hadn't been aware of Freilino's hunt, nor of a similar hunt last month sponsored by the Harney County chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association."

AP coverage was also picked up by the Everett (WA) Herald (1/15, 152K).

HOMELAND SECURITY HAS LENT BORDER DRONES TO OTHER AGENCIES. WTVQ-TV Lexington, KY (1/16, 975) reports that "government records show that the US Homeland Security Department has lent its border drones to other state, local and federal agencies nearly 700 times in the past three years." according to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, "Customs and Border Protection flew its 10 drones 687 times for agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, the Navy and Coast Guard and local law enforcement agencies."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LAWSUIT AGAINST BLM OVER WILD HORSES. Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed by the Nevada Association of Counties and the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation over wild horse management policies was provided by the Southwest Farm Press (1/16, 86K) reports,

Fish and Wildlife Service:

HUNTER WHO WON PERMIT TO KILL RARE RHINO TO "CONSIDER ALL SIDES." Yahoo! (1/16, Tucker, 17.91M) reports that "the hunter who placed the winning bid of $350,000 for the right to kill one of Namibia's 1,800 remaining black rhinos has taken to Facebook to let people know he is 'considering all sides and concerns involved in this unique situation.'" Corey Knowlton has "asked that people don't rush to judgment after he won an auction for the hunting permit on Saturday at the Dallas Safari Club." Knowlton wrote, "I deeply care about all of the inhabitants of this planet and I am looking forward to more educated discussion regarding the ongoing conservation effort for the Black Rhino."

CONSTRUCTION FOR KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE VISITOR CENTER ON SCHEDULE. The Homer (AK) News (1/15, 9K) reports that "despite an interruption from nature, construction for the new $6 million Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in Soldotna is on schedule with the completion date set for the end of September." The article notes that "a bald eagle nesting in the project area halted construction on the building for 45 days late last spring." Jason Hayes, FWS project manager, said "when the nest was abandoned in early June, refuge biologist Todd Eskelin gave the OK for work to continue."

WHOOPER RECUPERATING AT SAN ANTONIO ZOO DIES. The Victoria (TX) Advocate (1/15, 77K) reports that "an injured whooping crane captured by biologists in Lamar and treated at the San Antonio Zoo died Monday." According to Tracy Levine, San Antonio Zoo bird department II supervisor, "the exact cause of the bird's death is unknown." Levine said "an initial report and appropriate samples have been sent to a pathologist who will make a determination for cause of death."

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT URGES MEMBER STATES TO DESTROY THEIR IVORY. The LiveScience (1/16, 670K) reports that "to help combat elephant poaching, the United States crushed its stockpile of illegal ivory for the first time last year," and "now European Union member states could be poised to follow suit." The European Parliament "passed a non-binding resolution Wednesday (Jan. 15) — 647 to 14 votes — urging member states to destroy their illegal ivory stockpiles and establish bans on commercial imports, exports and domestic sales of ivory to help fight the killing of rhinos, elephants and other animals for profit."

US Geological Survey:

STUDY FINDS OLD TREES GROW FASTER WITH EVERY YEAR. The Los Angeles Times (1/15, Boxall, 3.07M) reports "scientists who gathered decades of measurements from hundreds of thousands of trees all over the world are punching a hole in the common assumption that large, old trees are biologically pretty much over the hill." Rather, "researchers found that the senior trees have rapid growth rates and keep capturing carbon – lots of it." Study leader Nate Stephenson, a California-based research ecologist with the USGS, said, "The growth rate just keeps increasing as trees get bigger." The findings, "published Wednesday in a letter in the journal Nature, are based on repeated measurements of 673,046 trees belonging to 403 species across every forested continent."

Also reporting on the story is NPR (1/16, Harris, 465K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

NEXTERA BLYTHE SOLAR POWER PLANT APPROVED TO USE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC TECH. Reuters (1/16) reports that the California Energy Commission, in a 5-0 vote, approved a plan by NextEra Energy to use solar photovoltaic technology at the proposed 485 MW Blythe solar power plant. NextEra spokesman Steve Stengel said that the project still needs approval from the US Bureau of Land Management and needs a firm to purchase the power.

The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (1/15, Kaufmann, 110K) also covers the story.

AMERICAN WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION CEO SAYS WIND FARMS SUPPORT EAGLE CONSERVATION. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/16, Kiernan, 11.54M), Tom Kiernan, CEO, American Wind Energy

Association, claims that "the wind industry is committed to, and strives for, further reducing...impacts and does more to address risks to eagles than any of the other, far greater human sources of eagle fatalities that exist in the landscape today." According to Kiernan, "the administrative change allowing for permits of up to 30 years, with check-ins required at least every five years, will encourage these much-needed, long-term eagle conservation efforts, while allowing wind companies to increase the affordable and renewable energy they supply to American consumers." He also notes that "wind energy already reduces US carbon dioxide pollution by nearly 100 million tons a year, and it's one of the most affordable and readily scalable ways to address climate change – the single greatest threat to eagles and wildlife, say leading wildlife experts."

Eagle Rule Criticized. On the other hand, the Scranton (PA) Times Tribune (1/16, 137K) editorializes that the new rule "should be rescinded." According to the paper, "the rule itself begs the question: If operators have to establish additional protective measures if they kill too many eagles, why not just mandate those measures in the first place?" It concludes that "rather than giving the industry a pass, the Department of the Interior should mandate use of all available technology to protect birds and that wind farm siting decisions take into account potential harm to eagle populations."

Onshore Energy Development:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION REASSURES ENVIRONMENTALISTS ON DRILLING OVERSIGHT. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/16, 705) reports that the Obama Administration is "seeking to reassure the environmental community that US EPA is on top of the shale drilling boom, even though it has bailed out on three major enforcement cases." According to the article, "in letters being sent to the leaders of national environmental groups, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is stressing its efforts to raise standards industrywide." McCarthy said "her agency is developing model regulations for hydraulic fracturing in the form of guidance, is assisting the Bureau of Land Management with rules for fracking and drilling on public land, and is working closely with state agencies."

EPA VOWS TO BOOST ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY OF FRACKING. The National Journal (1/15, Geman, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking to take steps towards boosting the environmental safety of fracking. The National Journal says that EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy wrote in a letter to the Natural Resources Defense Council defending past decisions made by the agency and laying out pending initiatives concerning fracking.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM SEEKS MORE DETAILS ON SHELL'S ARCTIC DRILLING PLANS. KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK (1/16) reports that "federal regulators still don't have enough detail on Shell Oil's latest Arctic drilling plans to judge whether the company is ready to proceed this summer." The BOEM "went to Shell on Tuesday seeking more information about the company's operating and exploration plans for the Chukchi Sea." According to the article, much of BOEM's "requests have to do with air emissions data for Shell's fleet."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

GOVERNMENT DATA SHOW WORSENING DROUGHT IN WESTERN STATES. The New York Times (1/16, Fountain, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports the National Climatic Data Center said Wednesday that drought conditions in the western US "intensified last year...adding to concerns about water supplies in the region." Their data show that California "had almost two and a half inches less precipitation than it had in the previous record year, 1898," with snowpack levels just one-quarter of the norm.

Op-Ed: Blame For Drought Should Not Be Placed On Congress . In an op-ed for the Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/16, Hayes, 749K), David J. Hayes, former deputy secretary of the Interior Department, writes that "the governor will soon make it official: California is experiencing a drought." According to Hayes, "although Mother Nature is responsible for the drought, the political spin game will soon begin with factions in the Central Valley trotting out their now-familiar drought refrain: It's Congress and the Endangered Species Act that are creating California's water shortage, and not Mother Nature." However, Hayes argues that "Congress' environmental laws restrict the movement of water when – as now – Mother Nature has provided the state of California with virtually no water to

work with."

MEETING HELD ON GILA RIVER DIVERSION PROJECT. The Silver City (NM) Sun-News (1/16, 24K) reports that representatives of the ISC, the BOR and engineers from Bohannan Huston "sat on the Cliff High School basketball court Monday listening to the audience's many questions about what a Gila River diversion project will mean for residents and the environment." According to the article, "the questions from the crowd ranged from what would happen to the river water once it was diverted to Deming to how much control such a large diversion project would allow the federal government to have in the region." However, by the end, "tempers began to flare," and "more than once a member of the crowd shouted out comments such as 'the spirit of Geronimo is alive and well.'"

Also providing coverage are the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/16, 288K) and the Deming (NM) Headlight (1/16, 10K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/16, 749K) reports that "a statewide series of twelve informational open houses about the controversial Bay Delta Conservation Plan kicks off today in Bakersfield."

Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Fresno (CA) Bee (1/15, 327K) and the Stockton (CA) Record (1/15, 123K).

GLEN CANYON INSTITUTE WANTS TO FILL LAKE MEAD. In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/16, Mitchell, 22K), Thomas Mitchell writes that the Glen Canyon Institute "describes itself as dedicated to the restoration of Glen Canyon and the Colorado River to their natural states prior to the construction of Glen Canyon Dam and the filling of Lake Powell." According to Mitchell, "while the institute's primary focus is on Arizona and Utah, one of its ideas for changes would have significant impact on Nevada, where the Las Vegas water agencies continue to press for access to groundwater from four valleys in rural Nevada." The institute wants to fill Lake Mead first, and the "objective is to lower Lake Powell, thereby uncovering natural and cultural sites such as Davis Gulch, Anasazi Canyon, Cathedral in the Desert, Moqui Canyon and Gregory Natural Bridge." This would also "speed up the flow of the Colorado River and restore the ecology of the Grand Canyon."

Empowering Native American Communities:

EPA REPORT: ALASKA'S PEBBLE MINE COULD DEVASTATE BRISTOL BAY SALMON, NATIVE CULTURE. The Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (1/16, 172K) reports that the EPA on Wednesday "released its final assessment of the impact of mining in the Bristol Bay region." Its conclusion are "similar to those of an earlier draft report, concluding that, depending on the size of the mine, up to 94 miles of streams would be destroyed in the mere build-out of the project, including losses of between 5 and 22 miles of streams known to provide salmon spawning and rearing habitat." The article notes that "up to 5,350 acres of wetlands, ponds and lakes also would be lost due to the mine footprint." The report "indicates a large-scale copper and gold mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay region could have devastating effects on the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery and adversely affect Alaska Natives, whose culture is built around salmon."

In an editorial, the Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (1/16, 44K) argues that EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy "shouldn't use the contents of this final watershed assessment to preclude Alaskans from deciding what's best for this state." It notes that "the conclusion of the assessment's summary points out that the study itself contains many uncertainties and unknowns about the impact on land, fish and people."

Also reporting on the story is the Los Angeles Times (1/16, Ganga, 3.07M).

BIA INVESTIGATING SANTA FE INDIAN SCHOOL SECURITY RUMOR. The Santa Fe New Mexican (1/16, 58K) reports that the Santa Fe Indian School Superintendent Roy Herrera said that BIA officers were "investigating a rumor that a student walked onto campus Wednesday with a firearm, though no evidence has been found to support that."

Top National News:

OBAMA TOUTS NEW FEDERALLY FUNDED MANUFACTURING HUB IN NORTH CAROLINA. President Obama's appearance in Raleigh, North Carolina on Wednesday to tout a manufacturing hub made possible by $70 million from the Department of Energy generated relatively light national media coverage. None of the three network newscasts mentioned the event. However, Al Sharpton, on MSNBC's Politics Nation (1/16, 894K), called the President's remarks in Raleigh "an important speech" in which he "threw down the gauntlet to Congress," and "offered concrete solutions to get Americans back to work."

In the lead story for MSNBC's Ed Show (1/16, 449K), Ed Schultz noted the President's remarks on the need to create more manufacturing jobs, but only in the context of blasting him for supporting the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which Schultz says would hasten the erosion of the US's manufacturing base. Schultz said, "Mr President, you can't have it both ways; you can't say that you are for manufacturing jobs...and then turn around and do exactly what NAFTA did, except it's going to be on steroids." Schultz went on to interview TPP opponent Brian Schweitzer, the former governor of Montana and a potential 2016 presidential candidate, who has derided the President as a "corporatist."

The AP (1/16, Superville) reports that in Raleigh, the President was "making good on a promise from last year's State of the Union to help create good-paying American jobs" when he "announced a new public-private manufacturing hub in North Carolina to develop next-generation power electronics." According to the AP, the President "also used the occasion to jawbone Congress to reinstate long-term unemployment benefits." However, the AP says the President's "quick stop in North Carolina...comes after the government reported last Friday that employers added just 74,000 jobs in December," which "raised fresh concerns about the pace of the economic recovery."

USA Today (1/16, Jackson, 5.82M) reported that on Wednesday, the President's message was: "the nation is poised for a big economic year if he and Congress do their jobs right." USA Today said the President, "making his first out-of-town trip of the year...kept the focus on the economy, telling the crowd at N.C. State that the economy is continuing to recover from the financial crisis." According to USA Today, the President "characterized" the manufacturing hub in Raleigh as "an example of the kind of executive action he plans to take in the absence of congressional legislation," saying, "Where I can act – on my own, without Congress – I'm going to do so."

Politico (1/16, Epstein, 464K) said the President "illustrated the White House economic message in about 30 seconds Wednesday." According to Politico, "After reiterating his call for Congress to renew long-term unemployment benefits," he "said he's going to move on without legislators wherever possible." Politico says the President "couched the unemployment benefit extension as central to his economic message for the middle class." However, Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (1/16, 4.28M), criticizes the President for discussing the lapsed jobless benefits for "all of 47 seconds, a third of the way into his speech."

Under the headline "Obama Says He'll Bypass Congress To Boost Economy," the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (1/16, Frank, Owens, 113K) also reports that the President is "embracing a do-it-yourself approach to reviving the nation's economy, saying Wednesday...that he will bypass Congress where he can to help accelerate the recovery." The News & Observer says the $140 million Next Generation Power Electronics Institute will be paid for with $70 million from the US Department of Energy "to be matched by at least $70 million in nonfederal money by the businesses and universities and the state of North Carolina."

The Washington Times (1/16, Wolfgang, 417K) reports that the Raleigh manufacturing hub's "research will be focused on wide-bandgap semiconductors, touted by the president as more powerful and efficient than the semiconductors currently used in computers, cell phones and other products." Bloomberg News (1/16, Bender, 1.91M) reports that North Carolina State University "is leading a consortium of universities, laboratories and 18 companies, including agriculture and construction equipment manufacturer Deere & Co. and vehicle component manufacturer Delphi Automotive Plc, that is being set up to foster innovations in manufacturing." Bloomberg notes that on Wednesday, the President announced that "two more such hubs will be announced in the coming weeks," and "urged Congress to pass a bill" from Sens. Roy Blunt and Sherrod Brown "that he said would create 45 additional manufacturing hubs around the country."

Reuters (1/16, Felsenthal) quotes the President as saying, "I don't want the next big job creating discovery, the

research and technology, to be in Germany, or China or Japan; I want it to be right here in the United States of America."

According to the Los Angeles Times (1/16, Hennessey, 3.07M), "After months of playing defense on the bungled rollout of" the Affordable Care Act, "the White House is hoping to...publicize other elements of his domestic agenda, particularly those popular with voters likely to hold sway in the November elections." The Times says the President's "remarks represented the White House's attempt to point to some progress on the economy while still expressing concern for those not yet feeling the effects of the recovery."

The New York Times (1/16, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that on Wednesday, President was "hasten[ing] to make good on a pledge from last year's" State of the Union address, but the White House "defended the time it took to announce the first manufacturing institute, saying these ventures require extensive planning and are chosen through competitions." White House Press Secretary Jay Carney told reporters, "If we had announced everything in a week, you would have said it wasn't serious, it wasn't real, and the assessments made about where to launch these initiatives weren't rigorous and substantive."

The Wall Street Journal (1/16, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) covers the President's stop in North Carolina under the headline "Obama Addressing Last Year's To-Do List: Only Days Before State of Union Speech, President Lauds Manufacturing Institute He Talked About a Year Ago."

Zachary Goldfarb, in a piece for the Washington Post (1/16, 4.28M), writes that "despite the lofty language," the President "begins 2014 with none of the boundless hope that characterized the start of his second term last year." According to Goldfarb, "Now...Obama and his senior aides are fighting the perception that they are out of time to make progress on his priorities." Goldfarb says that while the President "touted the manufacturing gains under his tenure," the "true numbers are far less rosy than they seem." Goldfarb says the President's "stated objective of adding 1 million new factory workers during his term...seems out of reach, with only 77,000 new workers last year."

Citing Senate Votes, Hagan Declines To Appear With Obama In Raleigh. The New York Times (1/16, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that in a "reliable barometer of Mr. Obama's diminished popularity" in North Carolina, Sen. Kay Hagan, "who faces an uphill re-election battle this year, skipped [the President's Wednesday] speech, citing the press of Senate business in Washington." Reuters (1/16, Felsenthal) notes that the RNC released a statement reading: "Kay Hagan is suddenly reluctant to associate herself with Obama."

Linda Feldmann, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (1/16, 540K), says the President "didn't do any favors for" Hagan, "one of the most vulnerable incumbents in the fall midterms," by traveling to North Carolina. Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (1/16, 422K), says that the President nevertheless "wrapped his arms tightly around...Hagan Wednesday," telling the crowd in Raleigh: "Sen. Kay Hagan couldn't be here, but I wanted to thank her – publicly – for the great work she's been doing."

HOUSE EASILY PASSES OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL 359-67. None of the broadcast networks covered the House's passage of a $1.012 trillion spending bill that includes all 12 appropriations measures, though all major newspapers report on the passage, with most of their coverage focusing on the easy passage of the measure. The AP (1/16, Fram) reports that "with none of the drama and conflict of recent budget battles, lawmakers approved the measure 359-67," with Senate approval expected Friday. The AP says "the 1,582-page bill provides money for virtually every federal agency." Three Democrats and 64 Republicans opposed the measure.

USA Today (1/16, Davis, 5.82M) reports the passage came "with little protest or debate. ... This omnibus is even more extraordinary in that it includes all 12 of the annual spending bills. It's the first time since at least 1989 – when legislative records are readily available – that Congress did not complete any of the individual spending bills in a fiscal year."

Under the headline "In Defeat For Tea Party, House Passes $1.1 Trillion Spending Bill," the New York Times (1/16, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says 166 Republicans voted for the spending bill, "shrugging off the angry threats of Tea Party activists and conservative groups whose power has ebbed as Congress has moved toward fiscal cooperation." The Washington Post (1/16, O'Keefe, 4.28M) says although "a large bloc of

House conservatives" voted against the package, it "easily passed." The Wall Street Journal (1/16, Hook, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that while current funding was originally set to expire at midnight Wednesday, a three-day stopgap measure was passed earlier in the week as work on the plan continued.

Politico (1/16, Rogers, 464K) says "the ghost of past shutdowns still haunted Wednesday's debate – together with a weariness that has seemed to infect the press coverage as well." Reuters (1/16, Lawder), Bloomberg News (1/16, Wallbank, 1.91M), The Hill (1/16, Kasperowicz, Wasson, 194K), and Roll Call (1/16, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 87K) also report on the votes.

OBAMA EXPECTED TO RETAIN MOST SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS, BUT ASK CONGRESS FOR REFORMS. The CBS Evening News (1/15, story 5, 0:50, Pelley, 5.58M) previewed President Obama's Friday speech on government surveillance programs, with Major Garrett reporting that while "the White House insists no final decisions have been made, numerous sources tell us the President will preserve most of the existing surveillance, technology, and tactics, but will require more additional government oversight." However, he "will keep the storage of phone and Internet data under the supervision of the National Security Agency."

The Washington Post (1/16, Nakashima, Nakamura, 4.28M) says the President "is expected to announce some new limits" on NSA data-mining, "but he will call on Congress to help determine the program's future, according to current and former officials." They say the President "has concluded that the program has value as a counterterrorism tool," but is also "confronting difficult political realities" due to privacy concerns in Congress and among the public.

The AP (1/16, Braun, Pace) says the President "is expected to back the idea of changing the program" but will "leave the specifics to Congress, according to U.S. officials briefed on the White House review." The Los Angeles Times (1/16, Dilanian, Parsons, 3.07M) reports one "senior intelligence official" said, "He will say, 'The program has to change... Over to you, Congress.'"

USA Today (1/16, Madhani, 5.82M) says "privacy and civil liberty advocates say they are bracing for disappointment." The Washington Times (1/16, Dinan, Boyer, 417K) reports the ACLU "lashed out" at the reports that the President "won't make major changes to government surveillance programs." ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero said, "If the speech is anything like what is being reported, the President will go down in history for having retained and defended George W. Bush's surveillance programs rather than reformed them."

The New York Times (1/16, A1, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) looks back on Obama's history on surveillance issues, writing that in 2007, Obama "described a surveillance state run amok and vowed to rein it in. 'That means no more illegal wiretapping of American citizens,' he declared. 'No more national security letters to spy on citizens who are not suspected of a crime.'" But as president, Obama is "presiding over a surveillance state that some of his own advisers think has once again gotten out of control."

Bloomberg News (1/16, Goldman, 1.91M) also has a report.

More Commentary. The Wall Street Journal (1/16, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that while it is good news that Obama will not eliminate programs it considers essential to protecting the nation, his likely proposal to extend privacy protections to foreigners is dangerous. The Journal hopes Congress will retain the necessary programs.

Former NSA career professionals William Binney, Thomas Drake, Ed Loomis, and Kirk Wiebe, and former House Intelligence Committee employee Diane Roark, whose homes were raided by the FBI in 2007, "falsely accusing them of leaking part of the NSA program to The New York Times in 2005," write in USA Today (1/16, 5.82M), "While we've been paying attention to other things, our intelligence agencies have been tearing holes into the Bill of Rights." There is "little reason for hope" that Obama's "proposals will go far enough." They offer multiple proposals, writing that "under both the Bush and Obama administrations, unconstitutional powers have been abused."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Mixed Results For Mideast Democracy."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (1/16, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) opines that Egypt is "on the verge of enacting a Constitution that would effectively legitimize last year's coup and further enable the kind of authoritarian system that the 2011 revolution was intended to displace." The Times argues that Egypt's election process "was anything but free or fair," and adds that while "General el-Sisi's election as president may well bring stability," it will do so "at the cost of democracy." The Times contrasts the situation in Egypt with Tunisia, which has "largely avoided political score-settling against its former elite and kept its military under civilian control."

"A Disappointing Internet Decision." The New York Times (1/16, A26, board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia's Tuesday ruling on net neutrality was "discouraging," writing that if it stands, "broadband providers would be free to strike deals with companies like Netflix and Apple to pay to have their movies, software and other data streamed to customers faster than or ahead of other content. Such deals would hurt smaller businesses or start-ups who cannot afford to pay for preferential treatment."

"False Reasons For Filibustering Jobless Aid." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/16, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that GOP senators are "pulling out every fake excuse they can think of for filibustering an extension of jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed on Tuesday." The Times says that the GOP is "happy to give out government benefits, but not to those who need them the most."

"Dissent, Guns & Ammo." The New York Times (1/16, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that Guns & Ammo magazine revealed itself to be on the extreme edge of the gun debate by firing "a respected columnist...after he dared to write the obvious – that all constitutional rights, including the right to bear arms, are and 'need to be' subject to legitimate regulation." The Times writes that polls have shown that "even a majority of members" of the NRA "support safer regulation" and "no less a conservative than Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has written that 'the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited,'" but the NRA and Guns & Ammo play to the extremes.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Milking The Federal Government."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/16, 4.28M) writes that the farm bill is being held up by a "battle over dairy policy," which "pits the Democratic-majority Senate, which wants to boost dairy farm incomes in part by limiting milk supplies, against the Republican-led House," where it is opposed. The debate, the Post says, obscures the fact that the dairy industry doesn't deserve government support at a time when milk consumption is down.

"Turning Point In Thailand." The Washington Post (1/16, 4.28M) editorializes that demonstrations against democracy in Thailand should receive criticism from the US. The editorial points out that demonstrators are demanding an "unelected council" to replace the "freely chosen" government. A spokeswoman for the State Department has reportedly called for the crisis to be "resolved through a 'democratic process' and praised the government's 'restraint' in responding to the demonstrators." Nonetheless, the editorial criticizes past responses from the Obama Administration, calling them "weak." The Post urges the Administration to make it publicly clear that "a coup...would be unacceptable...or that it would result in suspension of aid and security cooperation."

"The People's Choice." The Washington Post (1/16, 4.28M) editorializes that the District of Columbia needs to begin considering an election reform. The editorial claims that the upcoming Democratic primary for mayor will likely yield a winner who gains "as little as 30 percent of the total vote." The Post notes a recent poll, which showed Mayor Vincent Gray leading with 27 percent of the likely vote, while his top three challengers each had 12-13 percent. The Post says that it is "troubling" to know that it is possible for a candidate to be elected into public office with less than a third of the vote.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Surveillance Moment."*** The Wall Street Journal (1/16, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that while it is good news that Obama will not eliminate programs it considers essential to protecting the nation, his likely proposal to extend privacy protections to foreigners is dangerous. The Journal hopes Congress will retain the necessary programs.

"Fighting Back In Wisconsin." The Wall Street Journal (1/16, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that Wisconsin prosecutors who are investigating associates and allies of Gov. Scott Walker are overstepping their authority. Targets of the campaign finance probe have publicly accused the prosecutors of violating their

constitutional rights, and the Journal agrees.

"Barbara Boxer's Oversight." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/16, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes Sen. Barbara Boxer for praising EPA Administrator McCarthy following the discovery of John Beale, the former EPA employee who was found guilty of stealing government property. Boxer reportedly thanked McCarthy for her role in discovering the actions of Beale. The Journal adds that Sen. David Vitter has been pushing for a hearing on the case but notes that McCarthy and Boxer will be hosting a hearing to discuss climate change soon but not the Beale case. The editorial suggests that Senate Democrats are willing to grow government but not hold it accountable when it fails.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.
Los Angeles Times:
Earthquake Risks Have Evolved Since Northridge
Sony's Wins Quiet Critics
Obama To Seek Only Modest Reforms In Government Surveillance
California Areas Brace For Water Rationing As Reservoir Levels Fall

Wall Street Journal:
Senate Benghazi Report Spreads Blame
Bare-Bones Health Plans Survive Through Quirk In Law
Hefty Bank Fees Waylay Soldiers
E-Cigarette Rise Poses Quandary For Employers

New York Times:
Benghazi Attack Called Avoidable In Senate Report
Chinese Activists Test New Leader And Are Crushed
Obama's Path From Critic To Overseer Of Spying
US To Expand Rules Limiting Use Of Profiling By Federal Agents
With $613 Million At Stake, An Albany Rivalry Is Said To Escalate
Public Hospitals Hope To Attract More Upscale Patients Under Affordable Care Act

Washington Post:
Majority In D.C. Favor Legalizing Pot
The Art Of War Awaits A Home
N.Va.'s Moran Joins Crowd Of Lawmakers Who Will Leave Congress
Hill Balks At Shifting CIA Role In Drone War
Report: Libya Attacks Were Preventable

Financial Times:
Lagarde Warns Of Deflation Danger
'Fragile Five' Falls Short Of Taper Threat
Goldfinger General Quizzed In Probe
Deutsche Bank Suspends Forex Traders
Apple To Pay Out Millions Over App Billing
Choppy Equities Require Investor Focus

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: New Mexico-School Shooting Investigation; California-Drought; Virginia-Navy Pilot Rescued; Air Force Cheating Scandal; Captured US Soldier; Benghazi Attack Investigation; SCOTUS-Abortion Protests; Memory Loss Study.
CBS: Air Force Cheating Scandal; Benghazi Attack Investigation; Asiana Flight Investigation; New Mexico-School Shooting Investigation; Obama-Surveillance Programs; Iraq-Violence; Captured US Soldier; SCOTUS-Abortion Protests; Wall Street; California-Earthquake; California-Earthquake Planning; FDA-Acetaminophen Limit; Hudson River Landing Anniversary.

NBC: Benghazi Attack Investigation; Captured US Soldier; Air Force Cheating Scandal; New Mexico-School Shooting Investigation; West Virginia-Chemical Leak; SCOTUS-Abortion Protests; Governor Christie-Traffic Scandal; FDA-Acetaminophen Limit; Hudson River Landing Anniversary; Apple Refunds; Afghanistan-Opium Production Increases; California-Earthquake; Transportation-Aging Infrastructure; Transportation-American Eagle Name Change.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Indiana-Grocery Store Shooting; New Mexico-School Shooting Investigation; Benghazi Attack Investigation; New Hampshire-Marijuana Vote; SCOTUS-Abortion Protests.
CBS: Obama-Surveillance Programs; Benghazi Attack Investigation; Air Force Cheating Scandal; SCOTUS-Abortion Protests; New Hampshire-Marijuana Vote; Conrad Murray Case.
FOX: Benghazi Attack Investigation; Governor Christie-Traffic Scandal; Nebraska-Child Killed By Stray Bullet; Boehner-Jay Leno Appearance Next Week; Apple Refunds; Captured US Soldier; Chicago-Church Sex Abuse Scandal.
NPR: Congress-Spending Bill; New Mexico-School Shooting Investigation; FDA-Acetaminophen Limit; West Virginia-Chemical Leak; EU-Anti-Radicalization Measures; Air Force Cheating Scandal.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; the President and First Lady deliver remarks at an Event on Expanding College Opportunity, South Court Auditorium, open press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President is in Detroit, Michigan to address the North American International Auto Show. Afterwards, the Vice President will return to Washington, DC. In the afternoon, the Vice President will attend meetings at the White House. Highlights: The Vice President will deliver remarks at the North American International Auto Show. The Vice President will discuss the future of the American auto industry and highlight its strong recovery following the tough restructuring and shared sacrifice required by the Administration's actions in 2009. This event is open press.
US Senate: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE — 1:15 p.m. Congressional Democrats are joining with unemployed Americans from across the country to urge Republicans to "swiftly restore unemployment insurance for 1.5 million Americans and counting." U.S. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI); U.S. Rep. Sandy Levin (MI-9), Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee; Representatives from the National Employment Law Project, AFL-CIO, and the Philadelphia Unemployment Project; Unemployed Americans. (After the event, the participating unemployed workers will deliver petitions urging UI be restored to the offices of Senate Minority Leader McConnell and Speaker Boehner.) Location: SVC 202, U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center. Contacts: Chip Unruh (Sen. Reed), 202-224-4642

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — 9:15 a.m. Full committee Review of the Presidents Climate Action Plan. Panel I: Gina McCarthy, Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency; Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality; Dan Tangherlini, Administrator, United States General Services Administration; Daniel M. Ashe, Director, United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Panel II: Bill Ritter, Director, Center for the New Energy Economy, Colorado State University; Dr. Andrew Dessler, PhD, Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University; Dr. Daniel A. Lashof, PhD, Director, Climate and Clean Air Program, Natural Resources Defense Council; Dr. Judith Curry, PhD, Professor and Chair, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology; Kathleen Hartnett White, Distinguished Senior Fellow-in-Residence and Director, Armstrong Center for Energy and the Environment, Texas Public Policy Foundation. Location: 406 Dirksen.

ARMED SERVICES — 9:30 a.m. Hearing to consider the nominations of: Madelyn R. Creedon to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; Brad R. Carson to be Under Secretary of the

Army; and Dr. William A. LaPlante, Jr. to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition. Location: G50 Dirksen.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — 9:30 a.m. Nominations Markup, including Michael L. Connor, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior and Dr. Elizabeth M. Robinson, to be the Under Secretary of Energy, among others. Location: 366 Dirksen.

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Full Committee Hearing, "Progress Report on Public Transportation under MAP-21." The witnesses will be Peter Rogoff, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration and David Wise, Director, Physical Infrastructure, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Location: 538 Dirksen.

FINANCE — 10 a.m. Hearing titled "Advancing Congress's Trade Agenda: the Role of Trade Negotiating Authority." Location: 215 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — 10 a.m. Roundtable: "Strengthening Federal Access Programs to Meet 21st Century Needs: A Look at TRIO and GEAR UP." Location: 106 Dirksen.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE — 10 a.m. Hearing to examine income inequality in the United States. Witnesses will include former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, currently Chancellors Professor of Public Policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. Location: 216 Hart.

JUDICIARY — 10 a.m. Executive Business Meeting. Nominations, plus the following bills: S.619, Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013; .1410, Smarter Sentencing Act of 2013; S.1675, Recidivism Reduction and Public Safety Act of 2013. Location: 226 Dirksen.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet holds hearing on "Locating 911 Callers in a Wireless World." The Subcommittee will focus on the unique location accuracy issues associated with calling 911 from wireless phones. Location: 253 Russell.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 2:30 p.m. Hearings to examine the nominations of Robert C. Barber, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland, George James Tsunis, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, and Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador to Hungary, all of the Department of State. Location: 419 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE — 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. — The House will meet for legislative business. First and last votes expected: 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

ARMED SERVICES CHAIRMAN — 9 a.m. Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, will make an on-camera statement. Location: 2118 Raybum. Contacts: Claude Chafi, 202-225-2539. Notes: Doors will open at 7:00 a.m. for media pre-set.

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENTS — 9:30 a.m. Lawmakers, food companies, non-profit organizations, and advocates will hold a press conference to urge President Barack Obama "to fulfill his campaign pledge to require manufacturers to label food products that contain genetically engineered ingredients." Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR); Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT); Rep. Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH); Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME); Gary Hirshberg, Stonyfield Farm; Scott Faber, Environmental Working Group and Just Label It; Colin O'Neil, Center for Food Safety. Location: 421 Cannon. Contacts: Sara Sciammacco, ssciammacco@ewg.org (Environmental Working Group), 202-939-9122. Notes: RSVP Ssciammacco@ewg.org or ASeiler@CenterforFoodSafety.org if you plan to attend.

REP. PELOSI NEWSER — 10:45 a.m. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616

BOEHNER BRIEFING — 11:30 a.m. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, holds an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center, HVC Studio A. Notes: The briefing will be live-streamed on Speaker.gov/Live.

TORTURE IN VIETNAM — 1:45 p.m. Human rights abuses in Vietnam, including a new report to be issued by human rights activists about the alleged use of systematic torture by law enforcement officials in the Vietnamese government upon its own citizens, will be the topic of a press conference Thursday by victims and human rights leaders. Location: 2255 Rayburn. Contacts: Jeff Sagnip, 202-225-3765

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

INTELLIGENCE — 9 a.m. Closed Hearing on Ongoing Intelligence Activities. Location: HVC-304.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — 9 a.m. Full committee hearing on "Healthcare.gov: Consequences of Stolen Identity." Witnesses: David Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer, TrustedSEC, LLC; Waylon Krush, Co-Founder and CEO, Lunarline, Inc.; Michael Gregg, Chief Executive Officer, Superior Solutions, Inc.; Dr. Lawrence Ponemon, Chairman and Founder, Ponemon Institute. Location: 2318 Rayburn. Notes: Preceded by a business meeting. Agenda: Approval of amended Majority Subcommittee Roster.

WAYS AND MEANS — 9 a.m. Hearing on a massive Social Security Disability Insurance fraud scheme in New York "that could cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars." Location: B-318 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Hearing, "2014: Seeking PPACA Answers." The hearing will feature testimony from Gary Cohen, Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 9:30 a.m. Full Committee Hearing, "HHS' Own Security Concerns about HealthCare.gov." Location: 2154 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Hearing, "Water as a Geopolitical Threat." Location: 2172 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 10 a.m. The Committee will meet to consider a motion to authorize Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (WA-04) to issue subpoenas for the production of documents and to issue subpoenas to individuals to appear before the Committee on Natural Resources on matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. Location: 1324 Longworth. Notes: Time changed from 9:30 a.m.

SMALL BUSINESS — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations Hearing titled "SEC's Crowdfunding Proposal: Will It Work for Small Businesses?" Location: 2360 Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Subcommittee on Military Personnel Hearing, "Future Recruiting Challenges in the Fiscally Constrained Environment." Witnesses: Rear Admiral Lower Half Annie B. Andrews, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, U.S. Navy; Major General Mark A. Brilakis, Commanding General of Recruiting Command, U.S. Marine Corps; Brigadier General Gina Grosso, Director of Force Management Policy, U.S. Air Force; Vee Penrod, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy, Department of Defense; Major General Thomas Seamands, Director of Military Personnel Management, U.S. Army. Location: 2118 Rayburn.

TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Defending Freedoms Hearing Highlighting the Plight of Prisoners of Conscience around the World. Panel I: Dr. Robby George, Chair, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom; Frank Jannuzi, Deputy Executive Director, Advocacy and Policy Department, Head of Washington DC Office. Panel II: Natan Sharansky, Chairman of the Executive, The Jewish Agency for Israel; Geng He, Wife of Imprisoned Chinese Human Rights Lawyer Gao Zhisheng, Accompanied by Jared Genser, Founder, Freedom Now and Pro Bono Counsel for Gao Zhisheng; Josh Colangelo-Bryan, Pro Bono Attorney on behalf of Imprisoned Bahraini Human Rights Activist Nabeel Rajab; Tran Thi Ngoc Minh, Mother of Imprisoned Vietnamese Labor Activist Do Thi Minh Hanh; Gal Beckerman, author, When They Come for Us Well be Gone; The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry. Location: HVC 210. Contacts: 202-225-3599. On the Net: tlhrc@mail.house.gov

Other: TRB ANNUAL MEETING — Jan. 12 – 16. The Transportation Research Board (TRB) 93rd Annual Meeting

will be held. The program will attract nearly 12,000 transportation professionals from around the world to Washington, D.C. The spotlight theme for the 2014 TRB Annual Meeting is "Celebrating Our Legacy, Anticipating Our Future." Location: The Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Washington Hilton hotels. Contacts: Dana Korsen, Chelsea Dickson, 202-334-2138. Russell Houston rhouston@nas.edu, 202-334-3252

CFR – TREASURY SECRETARY LEW — 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Secretary Lew will discuss the U.S. economy, next steps for financial reform, and the Department of the Treasury's international agenda with John C. Bussey, The Wall Street Journal. Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F Street NW. Contacts: Tricia Miller Klapheke, 202-509-8525. Notes: RSVP REQUIRED. Reply by: 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 15 to: dcpressrsvp@cfr.org. Camera Set-up Time: 6:00 – 8:00 a.m. Reception and Press Registration: 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES – SOCIAL INTRANET — 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. "Driving Employee Engagement Through A Social Intranet," a National Archives event, with special guests, the Federal Communicators Network. With Kelly Osborn, Web Developer and Community Manager for NARAs Internal Collaboration Network. Location: 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. (Visitors should plan to arrive 15 minutes before the event, and enter through the Pennsylvania Ave. NW Researcher entrance.)

PENTAGON – MLK OBSERVANCE — 9 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel delivers remarks at the 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance in the Pentagon Auditorium. Location: BH-650. Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Parking Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 45 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the auditorium.

USIP – AFGHANISTAN — 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. The United States Institute of Peace launches its latest book on Afghanistan, "Getting it Right in Afghanistan," by hosting a panel discussion on what needs to be done in 2014. Panelists include Ghost Wars author Steve Coll, former Afghan Ambassador Omar Samad, former U.N. envoy to Afghanistan Kai Eide, and USIP's Moeed Yusuf. The panel discussion will be preceded by a statement via video link from Kabul by Minister Masoom Stanekzai, an introduction by Andrew Wilder, and a brief presentation of the book by Scott Smith. Location: 2301 Constitution Ave, NW. Contacts: Steven Ruder (sruder@usip.org), 202-429-3825

BROOKINGS – CENTRAL BANKING — 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Live Webcast, "Central Banking after the Great Recession: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead." Papers will be presented by: San Francisco Federal Reserve President and CEO John Williams on unconventional policy, with a response by Harvard University's Martin Feldstein; former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England Paul Tucker on regulation, with a response by Sullivan & Cromwell's H. Rodgin Cohen; and a panel discussion on central bank independence with Brookings' Donald Kohn, Harvards Kenneth Rogoff, and the University of California's Christina Romer. Following the panel, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke will be interviewed about the Federal Reserve's first and next century by Brookings Trustee Liaquat Ahamed. Highlights: 11:10 a.m. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke. Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Contacts: DJ Nordquist, djnordquist@brookings.edu. Notes: Media must register in advance.

AMERICAN GAS FOUNDATION – NATURAL GAS — 9:45 a.m. The American Gas Foundation and IHS CERA will release a new study titled "Fueling the Future with Natural Gas: Bringing it Home." Speakers: Dave McCurdy, president and CEO, American Gas Association; Chris Johns, president, Pacific Gas & Electric Company and chairman, American Gas Foundation; Tim Gardner, vice president of Power, Gas, Coal and Renewables Research with IHS CERA. RSVP by emailing crysta.jentile@edelman.com. Location: 101 Constitution, NW, Rotunda Room, 9th Floor

ABA – MONETARY POLICY PREDICTIONS — 10 a.m. Chief economists from the nation's largest banks present their monetary policy predictions and consensus economic forecast at a news conference. Members of the 2014 ABA Economic Advisory Committee are: EAC Chair Christopher Low, chief economist, First Horizon National Corps FTN Financial, New York; Scott A. Anderson, SVP and chief economist, Bank of the West, San Francisco, Calif.; Scott J. Brown, SVP and chief economist, Raymond James & Associates, Inc., St. Petersburg, Fla.; Robert A. Dye, SVP and chief economist, Comerica Bank, Dallas; Ethan S. Harris, co-head of global economics research, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, New York; Stuart G. Hoffman, chief economist, PNC Financial Services Group, Pittsburgh; Peter Hooper, managing director and chief economist, Deutsche Bank

Securities Inc., New York; Nathaniel Karp, EVP and chief economist, BBVA Compass, Houston; Bruce C. Kasman, chief economist, JP Morgan Chase & Company, New York; Christopher Low, chief economist, First Horizon National Corps FTN Financial, New York; Gregory L. Miller, SVP and chief economist, SunTrust Banks, Inc., Atlanta; George Mokrzan, director of economics, Huntington National Bank, Columbus, Ohio; Richard F. Moody, SVP and chief economist, Regions Financial Corporation, Birmingham, Ala.; and; Carl R. Tannenbaum, SVP and chief economist, Northern Trust, Chicago. RSVP REQUIRED: Please contact Blair Bernstein at (202) 663-5315 or bbernste@aba.com to RSVP or request dial-in information. Location: American Bankers Association, Alexander Room, 7th Floor, 1120 Connecticut Ave. NW. Contacts: Jeff Sigmund jsigmund@aba.com ((202) 663-5439).

NATIONAL SECURITY NETWORK – IRAN — 10 a.m. The National Security Network invites reporters to a press call to discuss the recent diplomatic progress made towards a nuclear-free Iran and the Senatorial legislation "which would severely inhibit negotiations going forward." With Ambassador William H. Luers, Director, The Iran Project and adjunct professor at Columbia University; Dr. Suzanne Maloney Senior Fellow, Brookings Saban Center for Middle East Policy; Ali Nader, Senior Policy Analyst at the RAND Corporation. Contacts: Kate Brown, KBrown@nsnetwork.org, 202-213-7051

NTSB 'MOST WANTED LIST' — 10 a.m. The National Transportation Safety Board will hold a press conference to unveil its 2014 Most Wanted List of transportation safety improvements. NTSB Board Members will be available for media interviews following the announcement. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel (Wilson A Room) 2660 Woodley Road, NW. Contacts: Keith Holloway, keith.holloway@ntsb.gov, 202-314-6100

OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL — 10 a.m. The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) will continue the regular meeting that was suspended Wednesday due to time constraints. Location: Simon Bolivar Hall, 17th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW. Contacts: OAS, 202-370-5437

WILSON CENTER – ROLE OF CIA IN CLANDESTINE REPORTING — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The Cold War International History Project presents "CIA Analysis of Warsaw Pact Military Forces: The Importance of Clandestine Reporting," examining the role of intelligence derived from clandestine human sources in the Central Intelligence Agency's analyses of Warsaw Pact military capabilities for war in Europe from 1955 to 1985. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Contacts: Maria-Stella Gatzoulis, 202-691-4188

CATO – ELI LILLY – NAFTA — 11 a.m. Policy Forum, "Patents, Public Health, and International Law: The Eli Lilly NAFTA Chapter 11 Case." Featuring Burcu Kilic, Legal Counsel, Public Citizen Global Access to Medicine Program; Christopher Sands, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute; and Mark Schultz, Associate Professor, Southern Illinois University School of Law, and Senior Scholar, Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property, George Mason University School of Law; moderated by Simon Lester, Trade Policy Analyst, Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies, Cato Institute. Location: 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Contacts: CATO Institute (events@cato.org), 202-842-0200

EMERGENCY CARE REPORT CARD — 11 a.m. Teleconference to release a new state-by-state report card evaluating America's support for emergency care will grade the nation, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and military emergency medicine, and forecast how the role of emergency medicine will expand under "Obamacare." Speakers: Alex Rosenau, MD, DO, FACEP, President, American College of Emergency Physicians; Jon Mark Hirshon, MD, MPH, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine. Contacts: Laura Gore, 202-370-9290. Notes: HOW TO PARTICIPATE: 800-874-4559 (dial in 15 minutes prior to the conference) Verbal Passcode: Report Card During Q&A session, press (star)1 to ask a question. Press to remove the question from the queue.

USDA – NUTRITION — 11 a.m. Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Kevin Concannon, and Sam Kass, Executive Director of Let's Move! and White House Senior Policy Advisory for Nutrition Policy, with Jessica Todd, a research economist at USDA's Economic Research Service, will host a national media call to discuss the findings of a new report by USDA's Economic Research Service, "Changes in Eating Patterns and Diet Quality Among Working-Age Adults, 2005-2010," and efforts to empower Americans to make healthy food choices. Contacts: USDA Communications, 202-720-4623. Notes: Dial-in 800- 800-475-0441 Passcode: ERSCORE (Given verbally) Troubleshooting: 202-720-8560 All callers using the pass code will be placed in listen-

only mode. To join the Q&A portion of the meeting, callers are instructed to press (star)1 on their touch tone phone.

SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE — 12 p.m. Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton and Dan Weber, founder and president of the Association of Mature American Citizens, will lay out plans to "shake up the establishment" in order to achieve Social Security reform in 2014. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: John Grimaldi, jpgrimaldi@verizon.net, 917-846-8485

PUBLIC CITIZEN – NSA — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Symposium with Geoffrey Stone, University of Chicago's Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor of Law, one of five top-echelon experts in law and intelligence appointed by President Barack Obama to a panel charged with assessing the National Security Agency's "overreaching" surveillance policies in the wake of revelations by Edward Snowden. Location: 1600 20th St. NW. Contacts: Barbara Holzer, 202-588-7716 Karilyn Gower, 202-588-7779. Notes: Due to limited seating, please register for the event as soon as possible by emailing bholzer@citizen.org.

AMERICA'S FISCAL CHALLENGES — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. "The Moral Case for Addressing America's Fiscal Crises," discussion hosted by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. Panel: Marc Goldwein, The Committee for a Responsible Budget; Josh Good, Values and Capitalism Project, American Enterprise Institute; Rev. John Allen Newman, Senior Pastor, The Sanctuary at Mt. Calvary Church; Dr. Jay Richards, Distinguished Fellow, Institute for Faith, Work and Economics; Mark Tooley, President, Institute for Religion and Democracy. Location: 1899 L Street, NW, Suite 400. Notes: RSVP to Peggy Cusack at Cusack@crfb.org.

U.S. CHAMBER – CANADA — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Days after the 20th anniversary of NAFTA's implementation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will host a luncheon with Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird to highlight "the importance of North American market integration and its related opportunities and benefits." Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW. Notes: Credentialed members of the media are invited to attend. To register, email press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682.

STIMSON – TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS — 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. "Benefit or Burden? The Future of US Tactical Nuclear Weapons." Former Air Force Chief of Staff Norton Schwartz and former Ambassador to Germany Richard Burt discuss the logic for and the military and diplomatic utility of these weapons and explain why they joined 15 other defense thinkers on the Peterson Defense Advisory Committee in calling for reductions in tactical nuclear weapons. Location: 2456 Raybum. Contacts: Rich Robinson, communications@stimson.org, 202-478-3419

CENTER FOR SECURITY POLICY – NSA — 2 p.m. On the eve of the unveiling by President Obama of changes to U.S. intelligence policy and practice, a former Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and a former National Counterintelligence Executive joined other intelligence and national security practitioners will release an open letter arguing that the world is too dangerous for American intelligence capabilities to be further degraded. Pete Hoekstra, former Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; Frank J. Gaffney Jr., former Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acting) and President, Center for Security Policy; Fred Fleitz, Senior Fellow, Center for Security Policy. Fleitz served in U.S. national security positions for 25 years at the CIA, DIA, Department of State and the House Intelligence Committee staff; Clare Lopez, Senior Fellow, Center for Security Policy. Location: National Press Club, Bloomberg Room, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Alex VanNess, vanness@securefreedom.org, 202-719-2421

. CSIS – INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION — 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m Building an IDA for the Future: Perspectives on the 17th Replenishment of the International Development Association. Panel Discussion with: Joachim von Amsberg, Vice President of Congressional Finance and Global Partnerships, World Bank Group; Jim Kolbe, Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States; Former Member of Congress; Sara Aviel, United States Alternate Executive Director, World Bank; Amelia Matos Sumbana 1/8invited3/8, Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique to the United States. Moderator: Daniel Runde, Director of the Project on Prosperity and Development and William A. Schreyer Chair in Global Analysis, CSIS. Location: Conference Room 212-B/C, CSIS 1616 Rhode Island Ave. NW. Contacts: RSVP to PPD@csis.org

POLITICO – ROBERT GATES — 6 p.m. Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates talks on politics and his new book "DUTY: Memoirs of a Secretary at War" with POLITICO Chief White House Correspondent Mike Allen.

Location: The Mayflower, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW. Notes: RSVP to booking@politico.com.

EMBASSY OF GREECE – BYZANTINE ART — 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. On the occasion of Greece's Presidency of the European Union Council, the Embassy of Greece and the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S. present, "Conversations in Culture: Celebrating Byzantine Art in the Nation's Capital." With Drs. Susan Arensberg and Eugenia Halkia, two of the main curators of the exhibition: "Heaven and Earth: Art of Byzantium from Greek Collections." Location: Delegation of the European Union to the United States, Press Room, 2175 K Street NW. Contacts: Christos Failadis (Embassy of Greece), 202-332-2727

WFPG – MEXICO – AMBASSADOR MEDINA MORA — 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Embassy series with H.E. Eduardo Medina Mora Icaza, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States. Location: Mexican Cultural Institute, 2829 16th Street, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "How about that Chris Christie, ladies and gentlemen. ... Yesterday, had the annual State of the State Address and he said, he emphasized that he has stopped, single-handedly...jobs from leaving New Jersey. Of course, he closed the bridge. He said crime in New Jersey is down, of course, he closed the bridge. They can't get in. He said he created a single biggest turnaround in the history of the state. You can't turn around, he closed the bridge!"

Jon Stewart: [Discussing the potential Iran nuclear agreement] "For the first time in decades, we would have diplomatic relations with Iran and a means of insuring that they would not obtain a nuclear weapon, just as long as nobody comes in and figuratively throws eggs at the entire thing." Unidentified Speaker: "The greatest threat to the long-awaited deal is taking place on Capitol Hill. Lawmakers are inching towards slapping Iran with new harsh sanctions." Stewart: "Congress is the Justin Bieber of our government...throwing away a tremendous opportunity because of immaturity and a lack of self control. We have Great Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany and Iran to all agree to this. What are you doing?"

Jimmy Fallon: "That's right. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is still digging himself out of this scandal. Bridgegate. In fact, some experts are now saying he could be impeached. When he heard that, Christie said, 'Mm, peach.'"

Jay Leno: "Well, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie gave his State of the State Address yesterday. Christie said that the George Washington Bridge-closing incident does not define New Jersey, the smell does. But not – not – you know. Despite the scandal, most New Jersey Republicans are standing behind the governor. See, that is why we couldn't see them. They were standing behind...the governor."

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Re: thank you

Jayo, David <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jan 16, 2014 at 8:31 PM
To: Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com>
Cc: Audrey Robertson <AudreyR@containerstore.com>, Sally Jewell (b) (6)@ios.doi.gov>

Wow, Kip! These videos are fantastic and reinforce your values of respect, authenticity and action. Coincidentally, I went to the Holocaust Museum this past weekend. While the experience is intense, the message that they are delivering is very similar to yours. Their theme and motto is: What you do matters! It's a wonderful reminder that our actions have an impact and we can all make a difference in our communities and world. It's powerful and empowering, just like your videos.

Thanks for sharing them and congratulations on your advertising campaign. You're truly making a difference and aware that "what you do matters".

Sincerely,
David

On Thu, Jan 16, 2014 at 7:01 PM, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com> wrote:

Thanks for reaching out, David. I know that you and Audrey will connect very soon as we're excited to learn even more about the initiative. In meantime, we're super proud of some ads (full page in today's NYT, USA Today and WSJ) and videos that launched today to try and communicate to an even broader audience what we stand for – and to hopefully inspire others to build their organizations where everyone associated with them can thrive...obviously something that you and Sally are so familiar with. Kind of ironic to think of this content in the Wall Street Journal – never thought I'd see that day.

Here are the videos...and hopefully you had a chance to see the ads in person. If not, let me know and we'll send one to you online.

http://standfor.containerstore.com/thrive/

Talk soon.

Kip

From: Jayo, David [mailto:david_jayo@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 2:07 PM
To: Audrey Robertson; Kip Tindell
Cc: Sally Jewell
Subject: Re: thank you

Hi Kip and Audrey,

I just wanted to follow up with you to confirm that you received my message and provide an update on Sally's youth agenda. We had a wonderful event last week at the FDR Memorial announcing our first public-private partner and $1M dollar commitment from American Eagle Outfitters. Attached is a link from a segment that was aired on NPR: http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=260979925&m=261064938

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to learn more about the effort and how you can get involved. I'd also like to learn more about the Conscious Capitalism event and any requests that you have of Sally regarding attendance and participation.

Thanks so much!

Sincerely,

David

On Wed, Nov 27, 2013 at 9:46 AM, Jayo, David <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hello, Kip and Audrey,

Thanks so much for the invitation to the Conscious Capitalism event as well as your interest in the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC). I'd love to set up time to talk a bit about the effort and explore ways that The Container Store could join the movement. Just give me a couple of options that work for you and I'll do everything possible to accommodate.

As you know, the Secretary has a strong commitment and inspirational vision for preparing the next generation of outdoor champions, advocates and leaders. She has set metrics for each component of the plan (play, learn, serve and work). Attached is a document that provides a high-level overview of the youth agenda including goals. The "work" category is getting the most attention from private sector as Sally has truly added depth and dimension to the term "public-private partnership".

By working collaboratively, we know that we can make significant strides and have a lasting impact. This is about creating a bold national movement to get more young people outdoors, connected to nature, caring for our public lands, employed and learning skills for future employment.

I will also flag the dates of the Conscious Capitalism event for the scheduling team. It would be an honor to attend and engage with the attendees. Thanks again for the invitation.

In the meantime, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season! I hope that your sales are through the roof and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

David

On Tue, Nov 26, 2013 at 10:51 PM, Audrey Robertson <AudreyR@containerstore.com> wrote:

Hello! And nice to meet you, David! Let's connect on another email and we'll determine a time to talk more about this incredible program.

In the meantime, the dates for the Conscious Capitalism event are April 9-11, 2014 - in San Diego. If you think that there's even a *glimmer* of a chance that you could attend to talk about 21CSC, let me know and I'll get in touch with the Conference organizers and start that conversation. Thanks so much – could be so wonderful!

Audrey

containerstore.com 

What We Stand For

From: Sally Jewell [mailto:(b) (6)ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 4:52 PM
To: Kip Tindell; Audrey Robertson

Cc: David Jayo
Subject: Re: thank you

Dear Kip and Audrey -

It was a real pleasure to speak with you today. Congrats again on the IPO - it is wonderful to know that another public company will bring the principles of conscious capitalism to Wall Street!

I have copied David on this so he can connect directly with Audrey. As I mentioned, David joined me from REI to lead our efforts on 21CSC and engaging youth to play, learn, serve and work outside. It would be wonderful to work with The Container Store, along with other enlightened businesses, to engage many more people in service on our public lands.

With regard to the CC event in San Diego, please let us know the dates and we can see if it works with our travel. I fully agree that this would be a wonderful audience for 21CSC.

Happy Thanksgiving and keep in touch!

Warmly,

Sally

On Nov 26, 2013, at 10:58 AM, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com> wrote:

> Sally,
>
> Thanks so much for your time today – can't tell you how much I enjoyed our conversation! Truly there isn't a better person our President could have so thoughtfully selected to lead our Dept. of Interior. Thank you for all that you're doing for our beloved country's present and future. It was thrilling to hear what you're working on and towards and know that Audrey will be eager to connect with David soon. After the call, Audrey and I also discussed maybe you or David coming to the big Conscious Capitalism event in April in San Diego to talk a bit about the 21CSC (is that the official name?) just thinking that audience of companies would be ripe for the message. That particular event is open to a much broader group of companies with many representatives coming from each organization versus, say, the CEO Summit that takes place in Austin each year with about 200 CEOs (although that could be a great audience as well – that takes place each October). The Conscious Capitalism events are a far cry from where they were in their humble beginnings when we were there together outside of Austin. They now include key business leaders from virtually every single business sector.
>
> Lastly, here's a link to our blog I mentioned we started after that get together in Austin many

years ago – it's evolved into having a great presence in all of our catalogs and really, in everything we use to talk with our customers…the response has been delightful. And the fact that we have a blog about our culture and what we stand yet nothing yet on "getting organized" I think makes people REALLY understand how important…how core…this is to us and to them… as it obviously translates to their experience with The Container Store. http://standfor.containerstore.com/

Again, thank you for reaching out…let's stay in touch.

Kip

PS – and of course thank you for letting me bend your ear on the Gunnison Sage-Grouse ☺.

containerstore.com

What We Stand For

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--

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, January 17, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Jan 17, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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HOLIDAY PUBLISHING NOTICE. In observance of the holiday, the Department of the Interior News Briefing will not be published on January 20. Publication will resume on January 21.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL PRESENTS 2013 PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARDS. The Bloomberg BusinessWeek (1/17, 4.93M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "presented the Departments 2013

Partners in Conservation awards at a ceremony in Washington, DC." Jewell "honored 20 partnership projects that have demonstrated exemplary natural resource conservation efforts through public-private cooperation." The article notes that four partnerships nominated by the FWS "involving nearly sixty individuals and organizations located in California, Oregon, Kansas and Texas received awards." The Services partnerships receiving the 2013 Partners in Conservation award were the Great Plains Nature Center, the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program, and the Center for Land-Based Learning Partnership.

Projects Nominated By FWS Recognized. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/16, 749K) reports that board members of Winters' Center for Land-Based Learning recently learned that its Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship program will receive an award from Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Mary Kimball, the agency's executive director, will receive the Partners in Conservation Award in Washington, D.C. According to the article, "the program begins with teachers educating students on everything from the water cycle to the role that native fish play in improving water quality." Then Kimball, the staff at the FWS, "farmers, ranchers and other partners lead students in real-world projects: They have planted hundreds of trees. They have set up drip irrigation systems. They have performed wildlife surveys and more."

Also reporting on the story is the Modesto (CA) Bee (1/16, 208K).

The San Antonio Express-News (1/17, 746K) reports that the Interior Department recognized the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program on Thursday with a Partners in Conservation award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The program "helped prevent the federal or state government from taking over management of the aquifer."

Also reporting on the story is the New Braunfels (TX) Herald-Zeitung (1/17, 26K).

Partnerships Involving NPS Recognized. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (1/17, 43) reports that "various efforts to protect natural resources in and around national parks have been recognized by the Department of the Interior with Partners in Conservation and Environmental Achievement awards." NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "The National Park Service constantly seeks to improve conservation practices and partnerships in an effort to protect our natural resources and provide additional opportunities for all Americans to enjoy the great outdoors. These award recipients really lead the way and serve as outstanding examples of all we can accomplish collaboratively to make our public lands accessible and sustainable." The article notes that partnerships involving the NPS sites and programs included the American Samoa Rainforest Partnership, the Groundwork USA Network, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Flight 93 Reforestation Project, the Cultural Resources Team of the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership, the Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative, and the Cienega Watershed Partnership.

BOR Employees Recognized. The Street Insider (1/17, 7K) reports that BOR Commissioner Michael L. Connor joined Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in "commending Reclamation employees who were recipients of the Department of the Interior's 2013 Partners in Conservation Award." Recognized were "the Minute 319 Bi-National Partnership and the Cultural Resources Team of the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership." Connor said, "I am proud to recognize these outstanding partners – including many Reclamation employees – for their dedication and hard work to achieve the goals of their respective programs. The significance of these awards cannot be overstated. From an historic agreement on the Colorado River between Mexico and the United States to a multi-agency endeavor to preserve cultural history, these types of partnerships demonstrate the model by which Reclamation will successfully do business as we move to the future." Also included in the award recipients "were two projects in which Reclamation employees partnered with other agencies and stakeholders to enhance conservation efforts," which included the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership and the Restoring Threatened and Endangered Fishes of the Truckee River Watershed Partnership.

Also reporting on the story is the National Geographic (1/17, 40.49M).

Partnership Involving USGS Recognized. The Pechanga (1/17) reports that the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) was recognized for its conservation achievements focused on federally listed salmon species.

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES TWO MEMBERS FOR COBELL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD. The Native

American Times (1/17, 337) reports that the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced the selection two members for the board that will oversee the scholarship fund that was created by the $3.4 billion Cobell trust fund settlement. According to the article, Jean O'Brien of the University of Minnesota and Pam Agoyo of the University of New Mexico will serve on the five-member board. Jewell said, "It is with great pleasure that I announce the selection of these two outstanding educational leaders whose accomplishments have opened the doors of higher education to all American Indians and Alaska Natives. Their experience and expertise will be exceptionally valuable to the Board of Trustees as the scholarship fund helps students across Indian Country access the higher education they need to succeed in today's world. The fund will help strengthen Indian communities, advance tribal progress and secure a better future for Native Americans, honoring Eloise Cobell's vision and perseverance."

Also reporting on the story is the Pechanga (1/17).

SECRETARY JEWELL SAYS DOCUMENT REQUESTS BY REP. HASTINGS COST INTERIOR $1.5 MILLION. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/17, 705) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told House Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings on Wednesday that his panel's numerous document requests are burdening the department and cost taxpayers $1.5 million in 2013. In a letter to Hastings, Jewell said the department "conservatively estimates" that in 2013 it spent 19,000 staff hours and $1.5 million of "taxpayer resources" responding to the committee's document requests.

Also reporting on the story is Politico (1/17, Guillen, 464K).

SENATE PANEL ADVANCES INTERIOR, ENERGY NOMINATIONS. The National Journal (1/17, Foran, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "voted to advance a slate of nominations for high-ranking Interior and Energy Department posts on Thursday."

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (1/17, 437K) reports that a Senate panel on Thursday advanced the confirmation of Neil Komze to lead the BLM. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved Kornze's nomination, 19-3, and sent it to the Senate floor for final confirmation.

ALASKA VILLAGE RENEWS CALL FOR ROAD THROUGH IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The AP (1/17, Joling) reports that in a letter, community leaders in King Cove are asking Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "reconsider her decision rejecting a one-lane gravel road through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge so that sick or injured residents could have land access to an all-weather airport at nearby Cold Bay." They claim that Jewell "received bad information before rejecting" the road. Meanwhile Sen. Mark Begich "on Wednesday announced he was introducing a bill that would require approval of the land exchange and allow the state to build the road."

Also covering the story are the Environment & Energy Publishing (1/17, 705), the Alaska Dispatch (1/16, 7K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (1/17, 768K), the Fort Mill (SC) Times (1/16, 54K), and WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (1/17, 117K).

FIRST LAND ACQUISITIONS FOR EVERGLADES HEADWATERS REFUGE EXPECTED SOON. WMFE-FM Orlando, FL (1/17, 8K) reports that "in the next few weeks environmentalists and federal leaders expect to announce the first land acquisitions for the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who "visited the area last week," said the FWS will begin "buying land and conservation easements later this month."

DOG ADVOCACY GROUPS TAKE GGNRA DOG MANAGEMENT PLAN TO SECRETARY JEWELL. The Half Moon Bay (CA) Patch (1/17) reports that "a coalition of dog groups working to preserve dog walking on parklands" are asking Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "for help to fix the dog management plan being proposed by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)." Bill Bechtell of the Montara Dog Group said, "We have essentially written off attempting to work with the people at the National Park Service, and are going over their heads to Department of Interior and Congress." In a letter to Jewell, the group "asks for help to fix the proposed plan that will deny people with dogs 'access to 99.9% of the GGNRA' and 'fails to manage the GGNRA for the recreation needs of the people of the Bay Area, in direct contradiction to its 1972 enabling legislation, and incorrectly treats the GGNRA as if it were remote wilderness, when it's actually located within a large and heavily populated major urban area.'"

US PRODUCING MORE OIL, BUT STILL IMPACTED BY RANGE OF VARIABLES. The Washington Post (1/16, Plumer, 4.28M) reports the US "is suddenly awash in crude oil" after domestic oil production "rose by 2.5 million barrels per day" from 2008-2013 in the "biggest five-year increase in the country's history." The Post notes that "last year, U.S. produced more oil than it imported for the first time since 1995." The Post says the increase "probably doesn't mean that Americans can now safely ignore the Middle East," because the US economy "is still heavily reliant on oil, and prices are still largely swayed by what goes on in the global markets," according to a report by a commission of former generals and senior officials. Former Director of National Intelligence Adm. Dennis Blair said, "The oil boom has sparked a lot of loose talk about how we can now ignore what goes on in the Middle East. But that's just not true." However, Blair said the boom "likely allowed the United States and Europe to impose stricter sanctions on Iran without worrying as much about resulting price spikes."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CALL ON ADMINISTRATION TO MORE AGGRESSIVELY ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE. The Washington Post (1/17, Eilperin, Bernstein, 4.28M) reports that a group of 18 leading environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club and the Environmental Defense Club, is arguing that the Obama Administration "needs to apply a strict climate test to all of its energy decisions or risk undermining one of the president's top second-term priorities." The groups' decision to break with the White House over its energy policy "signals that the administration is under pressure to confront the fossil fuel industry or risk losing support from a critical part of its political base during an already difficult election year."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL WINS OIWC AWARD. Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has won the Pioneering Women Award bestowed by The Outdoor Industries Women's Coalition was provided by the Bicycle Retailer (1/16)

EDITORIAL: UTAH COUNTIES DESERVE PILT FUNDS. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/17, 343K) editorializes that "the sudden loss of $35.4 million in annual aid to Utah counties is a both a cruel surprise and an abdication of the federal responsibility to help local governments make up for the fact that the federal lands within those jurisdictions are not subject to local taxes." According to the paper, "Utahns such as Reps. Chris Stewart, Jason Chaffetz and Rob Bishop are right to cry foul at the fact that budget negotiations between leaders of their own Republican Party and the Democrats left that aid out of the compromise $1.1 trillion budget."

Additional coverage of the PILT program was provided by the Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (1/17, 160K), the Sky-Hi Daily News (CO) (1/17, 728), the Cortez (CO) Journal (1/16, 646), the Idaho Mountain Express (1/17, 36K), and the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/17, 288K).

OP-ED: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT NEEDS REVISION. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (1/17, Male, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Timothy D. Male, the former vice president of policy at Defenders of Wildlife, argues that the Endangered Species Act's mixed record on wildlife restoration and its impact on business have made the law vulnerable to critics. In light of this, Male claims that the law is in need of a major revision. For example, he suggests that Congressional action or a directive from Interior Secretary Sally Jewell could raise the standard on federal projects to a "net benefit" level requiring that federal projects leave species better off.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TRIBAL NATIONAL PARK. The Rapid City (SD) Journal (1/17, 103K) reports that "members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe can learn more about the proposed tribal national park at a series of meetings called by President Bryan Brewer." A representative from the OST Land Office and Eric Brunneman, superintendent of Badlands National Park will attend the meeting along with members of the core team. The article notes that "a series of six informational meetings at district sites are scheduled to begin on Sunday and continue through next week."

PAYETTE RIVER WATER TRAIL RECEIVES PLANNING ASSISTANCE FROM NPS. The Ontario (OR) Argus Observer (1/17, 19K) reports that the West Central Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council recently learned it has won a 2014 award of planning assistance from the NPS Rivers Trails and Conservation

Assistance (RTCA) Program to "help build the water trail coalition and create an Action Plan." The council is "excited to be working on the Payette River Water Trail with National Park Service Community Planner, Sue Abbott; members of the Snake River Water Trail Coalition; and organizations and individuals with an interest in the Payette River watershed."

NPS UNVEILS DYKE MARSH RESTORATION PLAN. The Examiner (1/17, 1.16M) reports that a plan to restore the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve has been unveiled by the NPS. On Wednesday, the agency "officially announced the proposed Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Dyke Marsh Restoration and Long-Term Management Plan along the George Washington Memorial Parkway along the Potomac River south of Alexandria, Virginia."

NPS AND OUTSIDE EXPERTS COLLABORATE ON INITIATIVE TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY WILDLIFE. The Newswise (1/17, 1K) reports that "a new paper details a collaboration between" the NPS and "outside experts, including Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) scientists, in developing recommendations to conserve aerial, marine, and terrestrial populations of migrating wildlife that move in and out of US national parks, often coming from distant regions of the globe." The study, "Optimism and Challenge for Science-based Conservation of Migratory Species in and out of US National Parks," appears in "the online version (early view) of the international journal, Conservation Biology."

RESEARCHERS TARGET SEA LEVEL RISE TO SAVE YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE. The Science Daily (1/17, 53K) reports that "prehistoric shell mounds found on some of Florida's most pristine beaches are at risk of washing away as the sea level rises, wiping away thousands of years of archaeological evidence." Shawn Smith, a senior research associate with the Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies at Florida State University, said, "The largest risk for these ancient treasure troves of information is sea level rise." However, a joint project between Smith and the NPS is "drawing attention to the problem to hopefully minimize the impact on the state's cultural sites."

CHURCH HOSTS GUN VIOLENCE DOCUMENTARY SCREENING. WDEF-TV Chattanooga, TN (1/17, 3K) reports that the NPS, Atlanta police, the King Center and other organizations are "partnering to host a free screening of a film intended to spark discussions on gun violence." According to organizers, "Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence" will be "shown at Ebenezer Baptist Church Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by a panel discussion."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SELLS 160 ACRES AT AUCTION FOR NEARLY $24 MILLION. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (1/17, 437K) reports that the BLM held a major land auction Thursday at its northwest Las Vegas field office, selling more than 160 acres of property. The auction brought in nearly $24 million. The article notes that Thursday's auction was the second-biggest local bureau land offering since November 2005, when the bureau auctioned nearly 3,000 acres valleywide.

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CO2 PIPELINE PROPOSED FOR CATRON, SOCORRO COUNTIES. The El Defensor Chieftain (NM) (1/16, 10K) reports that the BLM is seeking public comments for the proposed Kinder Morgan Inc. Lobos CO2 Pipeline. According to the article, "the 213-mile pipeline will transport CO2 being produced at the St. Johns field in Arizona to the existing Kinder Morgan Cortez CO2 pipeline in Torrance County."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GOV. HICKENLOOPER QUESTIONS BLM'S SAGE GROUSE PLAN. Additional coverage of Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's stance on the BLM's sage grouse proposal was provided by the Craig (CO) Daily Press (1/16, 10K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE APPEARS BEFORE SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE. The Guardian (1/16, 1.59M) reports that "four of Obama's top climate change officials appeared before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Thursday to try to build momentum behind Obama's use of federal government agencies to cut greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for future climate change." FWS Director

Dan Ashe told the hearing the service "was working to protect lands and wildlife from future sea-level rise and to plan for a future of more frequent and intense wildfires."

FWS STATE DIRECTOR KOCH SAYS SAGE-GROUSE LISTING WON'T DESTROY ECONOMY. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/17, 22K) reports that "a sage-grouse endangered species listing won't destroy the local economy, but it might require more adaptability," according to Ted Koch, state director of the FWS. Koch, "one of six speakers at an information session Tuesday night, spoke to a full room in the Nannini Administration Building." According to the article, "contrary to what some local leaders believe, Koch said a listing would bring about more regulation, but it doesn't mean the end of mining, ranching or oil exploration."

NEW YORK CITY HAS ONLY THREE STATE INVESTIGATORS TO FIGHT IVORY TRADE. The New York Times (1/17, Dwyer, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that a "dire situation exists even though international commercial trade in ivory has been outlawed by treaty since 1989." The article notes that New York City is "a hub of trade for international poachers, who sell to both American and foreign markets." However, the city has "a grand total of three state investigators."

Meanwhile, the LiveScience (1/17, 670K) reports that at a public hearing in Manhattan, "state lawmakers discussed the need to tighten restrictions on the sale of ivory in New York, with some raising the possibility of a statewide ban on the trade." According to the article, "a diverse panel of diplomats, law enforcement officials, research scientists and activists testified before the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation to evaluate the effectiveness of existing laws and regulations to protect endangered species and halt the illegal sale of ivory." William Woody, assistant director of the Office of Law Enforcement at the FWS, said, "You have big ports here; our inspectors here in New York are extremely busy."

TO SAVE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL, BARRED OWLS ARE SHOT. NPR (1/17, Shogren, 465K) reports that "in desperation to save the rare northern spotted owl, biologists are doing something that goes against their core — shooting another owl that's rapidly taking over spotted owl territory across the northwest." According to the article, "the decision to shoot the more aggressive barred owls has been wrenching for biologists and the federal government." However, "one of the biologists says the consequence of not stepping in would be so dire that it justifies what he calls this Sophie's Choice."

WINNER OF BLACK RHINO HUNTING AUCTION RECEIVING DEATH THREATS. CNN (1/16, Lavandera, 14.53M) reports that Corey Knowlton is trying to "why he spent $350,000 for the chance to hunt a black rhinoceros in the southern African nation of Namibia." Knowlton said, "If I sound emotional, it's because I have people threatening my kids. It's because I have people threatening to kill me right now [that] I'm having to talk to the FBI and have private security to keep my children from being skinned alive and shot at." However, "despite the backlash, Knowlton has decided to engage the raging debate over how to protect an endangered species, such as the black rhino, by putting down his own money to help save the species and raise awareness about wildlife conservation."

Also reporting on the story is the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (1/16, 165K).

REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ON KILLING OF RARE WHOOPING CRANES IN KENTUCKY. CNN (1/16, Smith-spark, 14.53M) reports that "the hunt is on for the killers of two extremely rare whooping cranes, shot as they spent the winter in Kentucky." The animals are "thought to have been illegally shot in a single incident in November," the FWS Service and the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources said Thursday. Now, a reward that currently stands at $7,200 is "being offered to help track down the killers."

Also reporting on the story are Reuters (1/16, Ghianni), the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (1/16, Bruggers, 449K), KCCI-TV Des Moines, IA (1/17, 191K), and WCTV-TV Tallahassee, FL (1/17, 60K).

DOCUMENT OUTLINES WHY HATCHERY SHOULD NOT CLOSE. The Chaffee County (CO) Times (1/17, 9K) reports that "a document with a series of arguments for keeping the Leadville National Fish Hatchery open has been distributed by Mark Cole of Friends of the Leadville National Fish Hatchery." According to the article, the "document describes how the National Fish Hatchery System Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report, released in November by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will likely be used to justify the closure of numerous federal fish hatcheries around the country."

WYOMING SUPREME COURT HEARS GRIZZLY RECORDS CASE. The AP (1/17, Gruver) reports that lawyers argued before the Wyoming Supreme Court on Thursday "over whether Gov. Matt Mead's administration properly withheld from an environmentalist state records concerning federal endangered-species protections for grizzly bears." The court "took the arguments under advisement and will rule in writing later."

Also reporting on the story are the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (1/17, 90K) and the Billings (MT) Gazette (1/17, 206K).

TWO ANGLERS ON SAGINAW WATERWAYS HAVE CAUGHT STURGEON THIS WINTER. The MLive (1/17, 334K) reports that two angers have reported "catching a live sturgeon on the Saginaw River or Bay" this winter. FWS biologists have asked one angler "to send the lure to Central Michigan University to see if DNA left on the lure can conclusively determine the sturgeon's species."

US Geological Survey:

LOS ANGELES BUILDINGS VULNERABLE 20 YEARS AFTER NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE. The Washington Post (1/16, 4.28M) reports that "two decades after a magnitude-6.7 earthquake shattered Los Angeles and surrounding communities, buildings around the region remain vulnerable." According to the article, "while there has been progress to rebuild and shore up freeways and hospitals, there has been less attention paid to concrete buildings and housing with ground-floor parking." Earlier this week, Los Angeles "announced it would partner with the USGS to develop a plan to address seismic safety, including ways to get privately-owned buildings to be more quake-proof."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

GROWING NUMBER OF LARGE SOLAR PLANTS COMING ONLINE. The Washington Post (1/17, Bernstein, 4.28M) reports on the growing number of "utility-sized solar plants" coming online across the nation, noting that there are "232 under construction, in testing or granted permits, many in the Southwest and California, according to the Edison Electric Institute, which represents utilities." However, exerts say that while "the largest plants are helping utilities meet state requirements for renewable energy, the appetite for them may be waning." As solar development moves into its next phase, particularly in the East, there are likely to be "smaller projects located closer to cities."

Onshore Energy Development:

SG SEEKS THOMPSON DIVIDE LEASE EXTENSIONS. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (1/17, 27K) reports that the Wilderness Workshop on Thursday called for the BLM to "deny a request to further extend oil and gas leases in the Thompson Divide area and instead to allow the leases to expire." On the other hand, SG Interests "sent a letter on Tuesday asking the BLM to extend the expiration date on its 18 Thompson Divide leases by two more years, to April 1, 2016." SG Interests, "in its Jan. 14 letter to the BLM, cites several reasons in support of its extension request, including that the BLM has not yet begun its NEPA review and that the agency failed to respond to the company's requests during 2012 for an application for a permit to drill."

COAL MINE COMPANY ORDERED TO STOP LOGGING. The Southern Illinoisan (1/17, 12K) reports that "a Peabody coal company was cited Monday by the state for logging at a proposed mine location without a permit and ordered to stop." The article notes that "the order came the same day Illinois mining officials learned of a new federal interpretation that now considers tree clearing as a pre-surface mining activity." According to the article, "the interpretation was handed down after residents of the area and an environmental group complained to the US Office of Surface Mining."

Also reporting on the story is the SNL Financial (1/17, 22K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM ASKS SHELL FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ARCTIC DRILLING. The FuelFix (1/16, 7K) reports that the BOEM is "scrutinizing Shell's bid to resume Arctic drilling next summer are pressing the company for more evidence it has fixed the problems that plagued its last search for black gold in the region." The bureau "asked Shell to shed more light on changes under way to its leased drillship, the Noble Discoverer, which is being overhauled in an Asian shipyard." The bureau "made clear it wants Shell to demonstrate it won't let similar problems go unnoticed and unfixed if it is allowed to drill in the region again."

Also reporting on the story is the Alaska Journal of Commerce (1/17, 14K).

REP. DUNCAN FILES NEW VERSION OF EXPAND ACT. The Greenwood (SC) Today (1/17, 542) reports that Rep. Jeff Duncan on Thursday "filed a new version of the Energy Exploration to Achieve National Demand (EXPAND) Act which would open up area off the Atlantic Coast for energy exploration, potentially creating thousands of jobs and bringing billions of dollars in revenue to South Carolina." The BOEM is "considering whether to allow new seismic studies along the Atlantic coast from Delaware to halfway down the coast of Florida." According to Duncan, the new testing would "allow more accurate estimates of oil and natural gas reserves off the South Carolina coast."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT DECLARATION COULD EXACERBATE POLITICAL DIVISION. McClatchy (1/17, Doyle, 95K) reports that "an official California drought declaration" will "soon test lawmakers' ability to legislate." Gov. Jerry Brown is "preparing to formally declare a drought," and "Interior Department officials, meanwhile, are preparing to announce irrigation water allocations in late February for customers of the sprawling Central Valley Project, a federal water management effort. Farmers and their friends in Congress expect little." According to the article, "the conditions are attracting the kind of national attention that can drive political action."

BILL TO REMOVE SPENDING CEILING FOR DAM SAFETY COULD HELP FIXES AT SCOGGINS DAM. The Oregonian (1/17, 751K) reports that a bill by Sen. Ron Wyden to "remove the spending ceiling on dam safety improvements might help a costly seismic fix at Scoggins Dam move closer to reality." The proposed legislation would "amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 and remove spending caps for construction work to improve the safety of 476 dams and dikes managed by the US Bureau of Reclamation across the western United States." The article notes that "a seismic fix would cost around $340 million, according to preliminary estimates," and the BOR "currently has $400 million before it reaches a $1.4 billion spending cap for dam safety projects in its entire district, which spans across 17 states, said spokesperson Peter Soeth."

BOR PLANS $26 MILLION ADDITION FOR BULL LAKE DAM. The Riverton (WY) Ranger (1/17, 167) reports that the BOR is "planning to build a $26.4 million spillway for Bull Lake Dam." The bureau "informed parties involved in the project and gathered comments at a public meeting Jan. 14." Mahonri Williams, Wyoming BOR water and lands coordinator, said, "Reclamation wants to take action to fix it before something potentially fails out there."

STUDY FINDS GREEN STURGEON THREATENED BY WATER DIVERSIONS. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (1/17, 206) reports that "young green sturgeon may be killed by unscreened pipes that divert water from the Sacramento River into adjacent farm fields, according to researchers at the University of California, Davis." The research "confirms that the ancient protected fish species may be jeopardized by the current system of water diversion pipes, the university says." The article notes that "the findings also suggest that the threat could be lessened by diverting river water more slowly and over longer periods of time, meeting agricultural needs while conserving the green sturgeon populations."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (1/15, 126K), the Stockton (CA) Record (1/15, 123K), the Bakersfield Californian (1/17, 140K), and The Verge (1/17, 451K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBAL JUDGE DISMISSES LAWSUIT ON SALAZAR SETTLEMENT. The Missoulian (1/17, 104K) reports that "a tribal judge this week dismissed a lawsuit that challenged how the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes handled petitions that sought to distribute 100 percent of what's known as the Salazar settlement to individual CSKT members." Judge BJ Jones wrote, "The Salazar settlement simply did not vest any individual tribal members with a legal right to demand any of the settlement proceeds."

MILLE LACS COUNTY APPEALING BIA'S DECISION TO PUT LAND IN TRUST. The Mille Lacs County (MN) Times (1/16, 9K) reports that Mille Lacs County has filed an appeal of an Interior Department "decision to allow the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to place the Sher parcel, in Kathio Township in northern Mille Lacs, into trust status for the Band."

Top National News:

OBAMAS MEET WITH HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS TO PUSH FOR GREATER AFFORDABILITY. President Obama and the First Lady hosted higher education leaders at the White House on Thursday in a push to make college more affordable for minority and low-income students. While coverage of the event focuses mainly on the specifics of the event and the commitments the schools are making to meet the challenge, many reports also say the "Call To Action On College Opportunity" is the latest high-profile effort by the White House to enact change that does not require the approval of a recalcitrant Congress. Coverage was somewhat light, with none of the broadcast networks covering the event, and only some major newspapers doing so. There was, however, some local newscast coverage.

The AP (1/17, Kuhnhenn) reports the President "tested his persuasive powers Thursday, summoning university presidents to the White House to win their commitments to expanding access to higher education and to demonstrate a new determination to use his own presidential authority in the face of legislative roadblocks." The President told the gathering, "We still have a long way to go to unlock the doors of higher education to more Americans and especially lower-income Americans. We're going to have to make sure they're ready to walk through those doors." The AP says Michelle Obama also attended the event, and "both the president and the first lady spoke in personal terms, saying they had benefited from a national commitment to expand opportunities for young people that led them to attend elite universities."

The New York Times (1/17, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says "mobilized by the Obama administration, and egged on by both the president and the first lady, scores of college presidents, along with corporate and nonprofit leaders," agreed to "new initiatives and money toward enrolling and graduating more low-income minority students." The President said, "That's an extraordinary accomplishment, and we didn't pass a bill to do it."

The Washington Post (1/17, Anderson, 4.28M) says "dozens of leaders came even though there was, in essence, an entry fee" in pledging such initiatives and funding. McClatchy (1/17, Schoof, 95K) reports National Economic Council Director Sperling told reporters on a late Wednesday conference call that "the event is part of what the president calls his 'year of action,' even if cooperation with Congress isn't possible."

Coverage of the President and Mrs. Obama's college summit received nationwide news coverage, but was not generally the top story in the broadcast. Coverage generally noted the President's "new determination" that he will act on his own "if Congress remains deadlocked," stating his belief that "education is the surest bet to a stable, middle-class life." Some examples of typical reporting can be found on WFXL-TV, Albany, GA (1/16, 10:31 p.m. EST, 11K) KTVI-TV St. Louis (1/16, 9:20 p.m. CST, 65K), WPMT-TV Harrisburg, PA (1/16, 10:13 p.m. EST, 75K) and KABC-TV Los Angeles (1/16, 5:45 p.m. PST, 182K).

Other reports, such as those on WJW-TV Cleveland (1/16, 7:12 p.m. ET, 81K) and WLS-TV Chicago (1/16, 4:11 p.m. CST, 191K), added that the President announced billions of dollars of private commitments to help low-income students, saying, "The government is not going to be able to continually subsidize a system in which higher education inflation is going up faster than healthcare inflation." He has "laid out a plan to bring down costs and make sure that students are not saddled with debt before they even start out in life." The President is also reported as saying that "improving college access could transform economic mobility."

The Chicago Tribune (1/17, Skiba, Cohen, 2.32M) says the President "sounded an appeal for the country to do more to ensure low-income students go to college." The President said he "grew up with a single mother who was only 18 when he was born but who ultimately obtained a Ph.D.," while the First Lady "said she never would have gotten to Princeton had the school not recruited her older brother to play basketball there. Not knowing anyone but him when she arrived, she felt 'a little overwhelmed and a little isolated.'"

The Washington Times (1/17, Wolfgang, 417K) says the event was "part of a larger plan to work around a recalcitrant Congress." The U-T San Diego (1/17, Kucher, 647K) reports the President "said he was using a pen and a phone – instead of legislation in a gridlocked Congress – to help more low-income students not only attend but graduate from college and get on the path to a stable, middle-class life."

The San Francisco Chronicle (1/17, Asimov, 2.88M) says the educators agreed to "waive more college application fees. They'll reach down into middle schools to show children what classes they'll need for college. And they'll visit more homes to walk families through complicated financial aid forms." The Christian Science Monitor (1/17, Khadaroo, 540K) says the "'Call to Action on College Opportunity' is part of the administration's larger push to make college more affordable, invest in higher education as an engine of economic mobility, and make the United States a world leader in the share of citizens earning degrees by 2020."

The New Haven (CT) Register (1/17, Shelton, 217K) reports Yale University President Peter Salovey, who attended, said the school "will send 300 current Yale students from minority and lower-income backgrounds to make presentations in their home communities about Yale admissions and financial aid. It also will send mailings to 20,000 high-achieving, low-income students." The Rochester (NY) Democrat & Chronicle (1/17, Gearan, 387K) reports Hobart and William Smith Colleges President Mark Gearan, who also attended, said, "It was a kind of a momentous day."

Reuters (1/17, Rampton, Nawaguna) and the Time (1/17, Rhodan, 21.77M) and MSNBC (1/17, 7.96M) websites also have reports.

BUDGET COMPROMISE CLEARS SENATE, HEADS TO PRESIDENT'S DESK. A day after the House acted, the Senate on Thursday evening easily passed the compromise omnibus spending, sending it to the President's desk for his signature. Media coverage of the event is almost universally positive, focusing on the outbreak of bipartisanship in Congress and the potential for it to continue into the FY2015 budgeting process. However, several news outlets suggested that the quick compromises that marked the process may not survive the next round of budget work, potentially meaning a showdown of the forthcoming debt limit debate.

ABC World News (1/16, story 4, 0:10, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported the Senate "has passed a big, new budget deal. The compromise, which effectively avoids another government shutdown."

The CBS Evening News (1/16, story 5, 0:15, Pelley, 5.58M) reported, "Late today the Senate gave final congressional approval to that compromise $1.1 trillion spending bill to keep the government running past a midnight Saturday night deadline." The measure "now goes to the President for his signature."

The AP (1/17, Taylor) reports the bill "easily" passed 72-26. The House "easily passed the bill on Wednesday." The "huge" bill "funds every agency of government, pairing increases for NASA and Army Corps of Engineers construction projects with cuts to" the IRS, while it "pays for implementation of Obama's health care law."

The Los Angeles Times (1/17, Mascaro, 3.07M) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz "kept senators in suspense throughout the afternoon as he considered his options for blocking the bipartisan measure." Eventually, 17 Republicans backed the measure while 26 opposed it. All Democrats and independents back the legislation.

Bloomberg News (1/17, Hunter, 1.91M), noting the wide Senate margin and the 359-67 vote in the House, says that the "bipartisan cooperation marks a turnaround from the Tea Party-fueled discord that caused a 16-day partial government shutdown in October." The effort "went smoothly in part because both parties conceded points that led to acrimony in past debates." Republicans dropped demands to defund Obamacare, while Democrats "accepted far less spending than they had proposed." However, among the Republicans opposing the bill were Sens. Rand Paul and Marco Rubio, both "potential 2016 presidential aspirants."

Reuters (1/17, Lawder) quotes Senate Appropriations Chairman Barbara Mikulski saying, "We're a little late, but we have gotten the job done."

The Hill (1/17, Kasperowicz, 194K) reports that "most senators" spent Thursday "praising the level of cooperation that allowed both parties in both chambers of Congress to agree to the bill." Sen. Richard Shelby, ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, said the legislation is a "pretty good appropriation considering where we are." Both Shelby and Mikulski hope that "they hope getting spending for fiscal 2014 out of the way will let Congress get back to regular order as it takes up 2015 spending."

On its website, CNN (1/17, Desjardins, 14.53M) calls the passage a "notable departure from chronic, partisan-fueled budget battles in recent years that included the government shutdown last October."

The Daily Caller (1/17, Levinson, 422K) reports that the passage "marks the culmination of months of bipartisan work following the government shutdown in October." Senate Budget Chairman Patty Murray and House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan "crafted a compromise budget with which both sides had objections but on which both could agree."

The Wall Street Journal (1/17, Hook, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) warns that the bipartisanship that was evident on this spending bill may not necessarily occur in future. Still, the Journal says it shows that the combative tone of the debate has ebbed somewhat.

McClatchy (1/17, Lightman, 95K) says that while the "burst of partisan cooperation may not last," for the "moment at least," it suggests that Congress has "heard its constituents' message: Stop all the partisan battles, find common ground and do your job." AFP (1/17) says that the passage by both chambers marks "a truce after years of fiscal feuding in Washington."

Roll Call (1/17, Lesniewski, 87K) reports that the "allure of recess" won over senators who "sped up the timeline" to pass the legislation. Roll Calls says that "true regular order is the hope and aspiration of many a veteran appropriator" for the FY15 budget. However, despite the "good feelings," there was "no shortage of complaints about the closed process, though moving the single catch-all bill was rather inevitable since it is already mid-January – three and a half months late."

Striking a discordant note, USA Today (1/17, Davis, 5.82M) reports that Sen. John McCain, who voted against the bill, said it was a "shameful way to do business." He added, "We cannot continue this process where massive, un-amendable, thousand-plus page spending bills totaling trillions of dollars are voted on two days after being made available to members of this body."

Politico (1/17, Rogers, 464K) reports that the vote came after Cruz "dropped his insistence on a vote on funding" the ACA. Looking at the contents, Politico says that the ACA and Wall Street reforms "will endure but with far less money" than the President wanted. While about $20 billion "is restored for domestic programs cut under sequestration last spring," in inflation-adjusted dollars, Obama "is still left with less than Congress approved six years ago for his Republican predecessor."

Debt Limit Increase Next On Agenda. The Washington Post (1/17, Montgomery, 4.28M) reports that Senate leaders are "already anticipating the next deadline: raising the debt limit, the final fiscal hurdle that lawmakers must clear before they stand for midterm elections this fall." As of yet, congressional Republicans haven't settled on a strategy on that issue. Further complicating the matter, there is an apparent disconnect on when the limit needs to be raised. Senate Majority Leader Reid said on Thursday that the Treasury Department "can manage until May," adding that "this is not urgent." However, Treasury Secretary Lew warned that borrowing authority could would be more likely to run dry in late February than it would in March.

Legislation Does Not Include IMF Reforms. The New York Times (1/17, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the spending bill doesn't include an overhaul of the IMF, "leaving behind what might have been" the Administration's "best chance" to pass it and "meet its obligations to the world's other economic powers." Administration officials "concede that Congress's decision not to make the changes will be an embarrassment" to the President "internationally" and could undermine "future efforts to reach global economic

accords."

MEDIA SEES MOSTLY GOOD IN ECONOMIC REPORTS. Media coverage of economic reports was generally positive on Thursday. In particular, reports on inflation and new jobless claims were seen as positives. Even the drop in the Bloomberg consumer confidence measure was downplayed in that new outlet's coverage of the data.

Despite Small Jump, Inflation Remains Tame. Reuters (1/17) reports that the Labor Department said on Thursday that is Consumer Price Index, a measure of inflation at the retail level, rose 0.3% in December following a flat reading in November. That's the largest increase in six months. For all of 2013, the CPI was up 1.5%. However, the core CPI, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, rose only 0.1%, down from a 0.2% rise in November. Over the past 12 months, the core is up 1.7%.

The AP (1/17, Rugaber) reports inflation "has been held back in recent years by sluggish growth and high unemployment, which makes it harder for retailers and other businesses to raise prices." Consistently low inflation has allowed the Fed to "pursue its extraordinary stimulus program," and Fed leaders could continue their bond purchases for longer if "inflation doesn't move closer to their 2% target."

Jobless Claims Ticked Down Last Week. Reuters (1/17, Mutikani) reports that first-time claims for jobless benefits fell 2,000 last week to 326,000. Economists expected claims to come in at a similar 328,000. Reuters said that the decline suggests that the sharp drop in the rate of job growth in December (when the economy added just 74,000 new positions) is likely only temporary.

The Los Angeles Times (1/17, Puzzanghera, 3.07M) reports that the four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 13,500 last week to 335,000. Economists "say weekly claims below 350,000 indicate moderate labor-market growth."

Bloomberg News (1/16, Stilwell, Smialek, 1.91M) says the report is a "sign the labor market continues to strengthen." Bloomberg adds that rising business and consumer spending are "boosting growth prospects, allowing employers to hold the line on firings in anticipation of stronger demand" and adds that fewer job losses "typically precede a pick-up in hiring, as companies take on more workers to help production keep pace with improving momentum in the world's largest economy."

The AP (1/16, Boak) also calls the report "a sign that layoffs are weighing less on the job market and economic growth."

Mortgage Rates Fall After Week December Jobs Report. Bloomberg News (1/17, Gopal, 1.91M) reports that new data out Thursday from Freddie Mac shows US mortgages rates down "after a weaker-than-expected jobs report drove investors to the safety of the government bonds that guide borrowing costs." The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage dropped to 4.41% this week from 4.51% the prior week. That's the lowest level since November. Meanwhile, the average rate on a 15-year fixed loan fell to 3.45% from 3.56%.

The AP (1/17) says that rates are "edging closer to historically low levels." The AP says that rates have gone up "about a full percentage point since hitting record lows a year ago" on speculation that the Fed would cut its bond-buying. The AP says that the increase in mortgage rates has "slowed home sales, which have fallen for three straight months."

Foreclosures Down Nationwide Last Year. USA Today (1/17, Schmit, 5.82M) reports that foreclosure activity in 2013 fell to its lowest level in six year nationwide, but "increased in some states where foreclosures tend to take longer." About 1.4 million homes received a "foreclosure filing last year, down 26% from 2012 and down 53% from the peak foreclosure year of 2010, market researcher RealtyTrac says." However, states including Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut posted increases.

ABC World News (1/16, story 5, 0:15, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported that home foreclosure rates, "once soaring, that symbol of American's on the edge of the country headed towards a recession, are finally down to the level they were before the real estate meltdown."

Consumer Confidence Down, But Views Of Economy Approved. Bloomberg News (1/16, Jamrisko, Peralta,

1.91M) reports that its Consumer comfort Index fell to a "one-month low" of minus 31 for the period ending January 12. Still, respondents in January "became the least pessimistic about the economic outlook in five months amid signs the expansion was gaining momentum heading in 2014." The "gap between positive and negative expectations for the economy shrank to minus 5 this month, its best reading since August, from minus 11 in December."

Dow, S&P Down On Thursday, But Nasdaq Ticked Up. The AP (1/16) reports that a "batch of negative company news gave investors something to fret about" on Thursday. As a result, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 64.93 points to 16,417.01, while the S&P 500 fell 2.49 points to 1,845.89. Meanwhile, the Nasdaq Composite index rose 3.80 points to 4,218.89.

Reuters (1/17, Valetkevitch) reports that the Dow and S&P 500 fell after earnings from Goldman Sachs and other banks were less than expected. Goldman's earnings fell 21%, while Citigroup's profits were less than expected. Both said that lower bond trading revenue reduced their profits.

The Wall Street Journal (1/17, Kiernan, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) also reports that the disappointing performance of Citigroup and Goldman Sachs was responsible for pushing down stocks.

USA Today (1/17, Krantz, 5.82M) says that investors "were expecting volatility in 2014, but this is ridiculous." While the overall market is "somewhat tranquil," underneath "the quiet surface, some individual stocks are already giving their owners a sickening ride. Thursday was the latest day in a week full of some head-turning big drops in stocks, including consumer electronics seller Best Buy and skin treatment maker Nu Skin." For example, Best Buy shares fell 29% on Thursday, while Nu Skin was down 26%.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A 'Preventable' Tragedy."*** The New York Times (1/17, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, says that the Senate Benghazi report found that "it is the State Department that must bear most of the blame for failing to provide adequate security and not preventing the preventable."

"Contaminated Water In West Virginia." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/17, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the West Virginia chemical spill "has exposed serious defects in state and federal environmental protections that allow many facilities and chemicals to escape scrutiny." Noting West Virginia regulators' "long history of coddling the coal and chemical industries," and Federal government's "checkered record on chemical safety," the Times calls for "meaningful reform like the Safe Chemicals Act of 2013."

"Healthcare Reform Survives A Lawsuit." In an editorial, New York Times (1/17, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that the dismissal of a lawsuit "brought with the help of conservative legal groups and cheered on by Congressional Republicans eager to disable the Affordable Care Act," as "well-deserved." The Times argues that the plaintiffs' contention that the ACA's wording "allowed federal subsidies (in the form of tax credits) only for those buying insurance on the 14 health exchanges managed by a state," was "ridiculous on its face." The Times adds that while the plaintiffs have vowed to appeal the ruling, the "well-reasoned decision deserves to be upheld."

"The Convention And The Damage Done." The New York Times (1/17, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes about Wednesday's settlement between New York City and about 1,600 plaintiffs over mass arrests at the 2004 Republican National Convention. The Times notes that the settlement brings to $35 million the amount the city will pay for "the damage inflicted by the New York Police Department to the constitutional rights of innocent people swept up in mass arrests." The Times notes that that amount is "an expensive legal course in basic civil liberties."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The Free-Trade Lift."*** The Washington Post (1/17, 4.28M) writes in an editorial that while "America's increasingly skewed income distribution is finally getting the attention it deserves," the" bad news is that some people might use the issue to justify otherwise unjustifiable policy agendas" such as the campaign against the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership. The Post says the US "has been made more productive by broader international competition and more secure by broader international prosperity."

"Modify Recess Appointments Process." An editorial in the Washington Post (1/17, 4.28M) notes that the Supreme Court appears likely to "place limits, perhaps severe ones," on the President's recess appointment power. The Post argues that while the power was probably not intended to be used "as a way around intransigent lawmakers," the Court "ought to show some caution in approaching the balance of power that the other two branches have forged over the subsequent two centuries." The Post also calls on lawmakers to use the "advice-and-consent powers more responsibly," and notes that if they do not, "it would be worth revisiting reforms that could reduce the opportunity for senatorial mischief."

"A Place On The Move."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Iran Sanctions Showdown."*** The Wall Street Journal (1/17, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that the interim agreement with Iran does nothing to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, and that the secrecy the Obama Administration has insisted upon will not build confidence at home about the accord. The Journal says war is more likely if the US proceeds with the plan, possibly leading to a regional arms race and unilateral Israeli military action against Iran.

"Kansas Democracy Lesson." The Wall Street Journal (1/17, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes about efforts in Kansas to persuade the state Supreme Court to overrule the legislature funds spent on state schools. The Journal strongly opposes judicially imposed school spending, and argues that additional education funding will not lead to better results.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Colby Fire Above Glendora Burns Homes, Spews Smoke Over L.A. Basin
US Intelligence Gathering Not Likely To Change Much

Wall Street Journal:
Obama Wrestles With NSA Overhaul
Stores Confront New World With Less Foot Traffic
China's Left-Behind Kids Bear Grown-Up Burdens
Americans' Eating Habits Turn Healthier

New York Times:
Syrian Rebels Say Cease-Fire Deals Prove Deceptive
Judge Disallows Plan By Detroit To Pay Off Banks
A First Lady At 50, Finding Her Own Path
Blue And Gray Still In Conflict At A Battle Site
Forbidden Zone For The Police: Places Ready-Made For A Nap
In Age Of School Shootings, Lockdown Is The New Fire Drill

Washington Post:
Maliki Asks US For More Weapons
N.Va. Police Not Purging License Plate Databases
In The West, Towering Goals For Solar Power
Border Town Becomes A Purgatory For Legions Of Mexican Deportees
Behind Many A Major Bill In Congress Is . . . A Woman

Financial Times:
Chinese Shadow Banks Face Key Test
Banks Wreck Hopes Of Crisis Bounce Back
BlackRock Shrugs Off Rate Rise Fears
Best Buy Shares Hit By Holiday Sales Fall
Orange And D Telekom Put EE Float On Hold

Prospect Of Rising Yields Generates Fear

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: California-Wildfire; Indiana-Grocery Store Shooting; West Virginia-Chemical Leak; Congress-Spending Bill; Economy-Foreclosure Rates; Health-ER Wait Times.
CBS: California-Wildfire; Ohio-Execution; Target-Hacking Investigation; Congress-Spending Bill; Iraq-Violence; Syria-Civil War; New Treatment For Blindness; Indonesia-Volcanic Eruption; Severe Weather; Weather-Great Lakes Ice.
NBC: California-Wildfire; California-Drought; Governor Christie-Traffic Scandal Investigation; West Virginia-Chemical Leak; Indiana-Grocery Store Shooting; Georgia-Deadly Military Helicopter Crash; Nuclear Missile Launch Officer Scandals; Severe Weather; United Airlines Flight Incident; Australia-Heat Wave.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Congress-Spending Bill; Senator Coburn To Resign; Governor Christie-Traffic Scandal Investigation; California-Wildfire; Washington-Road Rage Incident.
CBS: Target-Hacking Investigation; Obama-Surveillance Programs; Senator Coburn To Resign; Congress-Spending Bill; Severe Weather; Wall Street.
FOX: Target-Hacking Investigation; Snowden-Latest NSA Leak; California-Wildfire; Octomom-Welfare Fraud Charge; Governor Christie-Traffic Scandal Investigation; Senator Coburn To Resign; Congress-Spending Bill; Ruth Robinson Duccini Obit; Russell Johnson Obit.
NPR: Senator Coburn To Resign; California-Wildfire; Treasury Secretary-Debt Ceiling Comments; Florida-Unemployment Compensation Website Issues; China-Government Promotion Process Changes; Sports-Australian Open Results; Ruth Robinson Duccini Obit.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President and Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing; the President will deliver remarks presenting the outcomes of the Administration's review of our signals intelligence programs, Department of Justice, pooled for TV, open to pre-credentialed stills and correspondents.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will deliver remarks at the launch of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund at the Department of State. This event is open press. The Vice President will ceremonially swear-in Catherine M. Russell as US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues at the Department of State. Dr. Jill Biden will also attend. This event is closed press.
US Senate: Not in session.
US House: 1 p.m. – The House meets in a pro forma session.

CONGRESSIONAL INTERNET CAUCUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 12 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Luncheon briefing, "Court Strikes Down FCC Open Internet Rules, What Does It Mean for the Net?" Location: 2226 Rayburn. Notes: RSVPs are appreciated. RSVP@netcaucus.org

WOLF PRESS CONFERENCE – 2014 OMNIBUS – 1 p.m. Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., chairman of the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee, holds a press conference to highlight a number of provisions in the 2014 Omnibus Appropriations bill approved by the House Wednesday. Location: HVC Studio A.
Other: SURGEON GENERAL REPORT ON SMOKING – 9:30 a.m. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Assistant HHS Secretary Howard Koh, Acting Surgeon General Boris Lushniak and Tom Frieden, director, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention release a report, "The Health Consequences of Smoking 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General." Location: White House, South Court Auditorium. Contacts: HHS Assistant Secretary for Health, 202-205-0143

ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE – PENSION CRISIS – Jan. 16 – 18. 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The crisis in the underfunding of state and local government defined benefit pension systems and recommendations for relieving the crisis will be the subject of a report presentation by the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government.

Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Notes: To attend, obtain a copy of the embargoed report and arrange interviews with the report's authors in advance of the event, contact Robert Bullock, deputy director of the Rockefeller Institute, at (518) 443-5837 or at Robert.bullock@rockinst.suny.edu.

NSA WHISTLEBLOWERS – NEWS CONFERENCE – 12:30 p.m. NSA veterans and whistleblowers hold a news conference on NSA surveillance. Speakers: Bill Binney, former technical director of the NSA's World Geopolitical and Military Analysis Reporting Group and co-founder of the SIGINT (Signals Intelligence) Automation Research Center; Russ Tice, former NSA analyst and a source for the New York Times' pieces published in 2005 about NSA surveillance; J. Kirk Wiebe, former senior analyst with the NSA's SIGINT Automation Research Center. Location: Zenger Room, National Press Club. Contacts: Sam Husseini Institute for Public Accuracy (samhusseini@gmail.com), 202-421-6858

ACTUARIES – RETIREMENT-INCOME SYSTEMS – 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Capitol Hill Briefing: "Retirement for the AGES: Building Enduring Retirement-Income Systems." Speakers from the American Academy of Actuaries will unveil a new approach to evaluating systems, which will help stakeholders design better systems and improve existing ones. Briefing will include Q-and-A. With Donald Fuerst, MAAA, FSA, FCA, EA Senior Pension Fellow, American Academy of Actuaries; Eli Greenblum, MAAA, FSA, FCA, EA, Vice-President, Pension Practice Council; Cindy Levering, MAAA, ASA, EA, Member, Forward Thinking Task Force. Location: Capitol Visitor Center, SVC- 202. Notes: Media are asked to RSVP to David Mendes at 202-384-2075 or mendes@actuary.orgso that they can be credentialed on-site.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT – BACKGROUND CALL – 2 p.m. The day following the bipartisan, bicameral introduction of the Voting Rights Amendment Act, staff leads of key co-sponsors will join legislative experts from diverse civil rights groups to explain key provisions of the bill and field questions from the media. This call will be for background information only and media that wish to listen or participate may not use quotes from the call. Nancy Zirkin, executive vice president of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Bart Forsyth, chief of staff to Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner; Perry Apelbaum, minority staff director and chief counsel to the House Judiciary Committee; Deborah Vagins, senior legislative counsel at the ACLU Washington Legislative Office; Tanya Clay House, director of public policy at the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law; Erin Hustings, senior policy analyst at the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund. Notes: Media interested in joining must submit a request to Scott Simpson at Simpson@civilrights.org, 202-466-2061. Capacity is limited.

BROOKINGS – NSA REFORMS – 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Governance Studies and Foreign Policy at Brookings will hold a forum to examine the impact of President Obama's speech on NSA reforms and the implications on privacy, Internet commerce and national security. A panel of experts will discuss questions raised by these proposed reforms and what the President's speech means for how the NSA conducts its surveillance. After the program, speakers will take audience questions. Location: Saul/Zilkha Rooms, Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Contacts: RSVP, 202-797-6105.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: [Commenting on the George Washington Bridge controversy] "And people are asking Chris Christie. ... This is what they want to know from Governor Chris Christie. ... They want to know what...did Chris Christie know? That's what they are saying. What did Chris Christie know and when did he eat it?"

Stephen Colbert: "As you know if you watch the show, then you know I am a huge fan of the heroes that work at the NSA. They have kept America safe. In fact, thanks to them, so far there has never been another September 11th, 2001. Don't believe me? Check your calendars. A recent study by the nonpartisan New America Foundation backs me up." Unidentified Speaker: "A new analysis of 225 individuals linked to al Qaeda and charged with terrorism since September 11th says NSA surveillance programs quote, 'Had no discernible impact on preventing acts of terrorism.'" Colbert: "See? I don't understand what people like Edward Snowden are so mad about. Is violating everyone's privacy really that bad if it doesn't even work?"

Stephen Colbert: "Besides, it does not have to work. It just has to feel like it's working. Because of what Director of National Intelligence James Clapper calls the 'peace of mind metric.' Now folks, I get that. NSA surveillance is just like the handful of placebo sugar pills I take every morning to prevent canine hip dysplasia. So far, so good, though I have developed type-two diabetes."

Jimmy Fallon: "This is what's going on in Washington. Of course, everyone's talking about the speech from President Obama, where he talks about Edward Snowden and how he wants to stop leaks like that from happening ever again. Well, he actually hasn't given the speech, yet. I just found it online. It looks like it's going to be good. Really good."

Jimmy Fallon: "First Lady Michelle Obama is making news over a recent interview, where she said that she is not ruling out plastic surgery or botox in the future. When asked to comment, Barack was like, 'Nope.'"

Jay Leno: "Well, a special New Jersey state assembly committee investigating Governor Chris Christie and this whole bridge deal is now getting ready to deliver subpoenas to former Christie aides. That is, unless traffic is so bad they couldn't get through."

Jay Leno: "Well, I read today that China is holding over $1.3 trillion in US Treasury bonds, which is a new record – $1.3 trillion. Economists say we should be concemed. Why? We're not going to pay them back."

Conan O'Brien: "Chris Christie busy dealing with his bridge scandal. He's responded to the crisis by hiring the legal team of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher. Team Christie typically works with Ben and Jerry. He's a heavy man."

Conan O'Brien: "A prominent gay conservative says he's leaving the Republican Party because he now believes it is intolerant. Friends describe the gay conservative as slow to notice things."

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Briefing Materials for CO, UT, NM trip - January 21-24, 2014

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jan 17, 2014 at 5:26 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>

Sally–

Attached are the briefing materials for your trips to Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. They have been uploaded to GoogleDrive and delivered to you in a binder.

Thanks,

Zaina and Elizabeth

8 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1, 4, 5, 7 & 8)

1 21 14_10am MST_Stakeholder Meeting on Methane.pdf
58K

1 21 14_130pm MST_Tour of Bord Gulch Ranch.pdf
20K

1 21 14_330pm MST_Stakeholder Meeting on Sage Grouse.pdf
379K

1 21 14_to_1 22 14_Outdoor Retailer Winter Show.pdf
52K

1 21 14_to_1 22 14_TALKING POINTS Outdoor Retailer Winter Show.docx
22K

1 22 14_2pm MST_Meeting with Utah Governor Gary Herbert.pdf
38K

1 23 14_9am_Stakeholder Meeting on BLM-UT MOAB Master Leasing Plan.pdf
185K

1 24 14_3PM_Public Meeting on Organ Mountain.pdf
2865K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

TOUR OF BORD GULCH RANCH

DATE: January 21, 2014
LOCATION: Bord Gulch Ranch, Craig, Colorado
TIME: 1:30PM – 3:00PM
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, Senior Advisor, O/S (202)208-6726; Jim Lyons, Counselor to A/S LM (202)208-4318; Michael Bean, Counselor to A/S FWS (202)208-7400

I. PURPOSE

Governor Hickenlooper invited you to visit the Bord Gulch Ranch in Northwest Colorado to see first-hand an example of the conservation efforts being made across Colorado that benefit the Greater Sage Grouse.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Governor Hickenlooper
- Ray Owens, Ranch Manager
- Neil Kornze, Acting Director, BLM
- Blake Androff, Deputy Director, O/S Communications
- Dan Ashe, Director, FWS
- Jim Cagney, BLM Northwest Colorado District Manager

III. AGENDA

This event will be open press; reporter(s) TBD to come along for tour.

11:40AM	Wheels Up Denver, CO en route Craig, CO
12:29PM	Wheels Down Craig-Moffat Airport, Craig, CO
1:15PM	Arrive Bord Gulch Ranch
1:30PM	Driving Tour of Bord Gulch Ranch
3:00PM	Departure en route Colorado Northwest Community College for Stakeholder event

IV. BACKGROUND

Bord Gulch Ranch

Bord Gulch Ranch has been nominated CPW Wildlife Landowner of the Year – 2014 (the ranch is actually one of two winners and has been notified as such, but the formal announcement is on January 23, two days after the visit!). The ranch totals almost 16,000 acres with approximately 10,000 acres of that being privately deeded property, and its remainder being BLM lands. This Ranching for Wildlife Property is geographically separated, but in close proximity with north and south units. The north is the larger of the two, as it's in excess of 10,000 acres. This NE Moffat County Ranch is NW of Craig and directly south of Great Divide, the closest community in this sparsely populated portion of Colorado.

Historically, the property has been used for agricultural purposes. Portions of it had been in wheat, with other areas used for cattle and sheep grazing. Proving that a highly competent land manager and owner can still build a large working ranch in present times, Bord Gulch Ranch is a shining example. The process took 4 years to compile current acreages, and many more to refine its management. Manager Ray Owens excels at bringing in the right people to further develop his ideas, and works hard to personally implement the necessary actions to benefit the ranch. Sadly this year the owner, Tom Gilliland, passed away. Tom's wife and two sons continue their strong support of the Ranch.

Bord Gulch Ranch is actively pursuing a Conservation Easement due to their desire of protecting the property in perpetuity. With an eye on protection and promoting greater sage grouse populations in this core range with its largest sage grouse population in the state, they have implemented a variety of conservation actions that directly benefit the species. Although sage grouse are the impetus, a host of sage-steppe obligate species as well as big game species are also benefitting from the actions that have been taken.

The NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) has been the key Conservation Program that provided much of the technical and financial ability for the wildlife improvements. The USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW) has also been a significant part of the overall effort leading to implementations of the SGI (see background, below). PFW now also has a second Agreement with the Ranch to further improve habitat conditions with additional water storage and artificial spring locations. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, HPP Program, provided funding for a previous water project and later fence work that occurred. The infrastructure improvements provide livestock access to a wider array of forage across the landscape. That improves overall residual grass and forb cover for nesting, early brood rearing, hiding, food, and thermal cover. In dealing with a landscape-level species, it's important to implement landscape-level improvements, these wildlife improvements benefit the entire Ranch and beyond.

Brood rearing habitats: springs, wet meadows, and riparian areas have been identified as a limiting factor for the regions sage grouse. Not long ago, there were just 3 reservoirs that provided all watering opportunities for livestock on the large property. Riparian habitats that are identified as limiting factors for the sage grouse populations in the region were over utilized, and the nearby upland locations were often more dirt than vegetation. In order to disperse and manage livestock over the 10,000 acres of private deed lands, a variety of practices were implemented. In dealing with landscape-scale species, the improvements not only directly benefit all the private acres, but also the Public Lands by their association. 18 pastures now have water to facilitate the required rest-rotation grazing plan. This is done in order to improve the grass understory and thereby improve nest success and brood rearing. In association with that work, artificial springs were created to increase insect production for chicks and improve residual grass and forb cover for adult birds

NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative

Launched by the NRCS in 2010, the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) is a partnership of ranchers, agencies, universities, non-profit groups, and businesses that embrace a common vision: wildlife conservation through sustainable ranching. You can get a sense for the scope of the partnership and the kind of work being accomplished by browsing their site: www.sagegrouseinitiative.com.

The NRCS states that the same conservation practices that promote healthy grazing lands also benefit the sage grouse and other wildlife. The same factors that negatively affect sage-grouse also affect the sustainability of native grazing lands:

- Land fragmentation
- Invasive species
- Unsustainable grazing systems
- Sod-busting
- Conifer encroachment

Farmers and ranchers can proactively work to conserve the sage grouse and help keep it from being listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The NRCS uses Farm Bill conservation programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), to help ranchers improve habitat for the sage-grouse.

FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The FWS Partners Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes who are willing to work with us and other partners on a voluntary basis to help meet the habitat needs of our Federal Trust Species. The program's FY13 funding level was $51.7 million.

The Partners Program can assist with projects in all habitat types which conserve or restore native vegetation, hydrology, and soils associated with imperiled ecosystems such as longleaf pine, bottomland hardwoods, tropical forests, native prairies, marshes, rivers and streams, or otherwise provide an important habitat requisite for a rare, declining or protected species. Locally-based field biologists work one-on-one with private landowners and other partners to plan, implement, and monitor their projects. Partners Program field staff help landowners find other sources of funding and help them through the permitting process, as necessary. This level of personal attention and follow-through is a significant strength of the Program that has led to national recognition and wide support.

V. BIOGRAPHY

Ray Owens is on the state level Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD); Soil and Land Committee. In this capacity, he participates in promoting Agriculture Resolutions that benefit the membership statewide. Ray is also the Yampa/ White River/ North Platte/ Watershed President. He oversees and meets with each of the 5 Conservation Districts involved to further State Resolutions while providing a voice for landowners in these locations while working on specific watershed concerns. As a member in the Colorado First Conservation District in Moffat County, Ray is working locally with his neighbors in educating, promoting, obtaining funds, and providing information for enhancing and protecting the areas natural resources. Most recently, this includes representing their interests in working with the local Sage Grouse Working Group. As the CPW HPP Committee Sportsman Representative, Ray reviews each application brought to the group from the sportsman point of view and provides his recommendation to the larger committee. In this capacity, he also promotes landscape scale habitat improvements to alleviate wildlife conflicts.

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH UTAH GOVERNOR GARY HERBERT

DATE: January 22, 2014
LOCATION: State Capitol, Governor's Office
TIME: 2:00PM – 2:45PM MST
FROM: Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, BLM (202)208-3801; Juan Palma, BLM-Utah State Director, (801)539-4010

I. PURPOSE

To discuss public lands issues with the Governor, including Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-1)'s Public Lands Initiative.

II. BACKGROUND

In February 2013, Congressman Bishop sent letters to local elected officials representing Utah's public lands counties, inviting them to participate in an effort to develop Federal legislation that tackles many of Utah's land management issues using a new approach. The Public Lands Initiative would address the need for balanced conservation and development on a larger, multi-jurisdictional geographic basis—in this case, counties in eastern Utah. Four counties—Carbon, Daggett, Emery, and Grand—volunteered to participate in the initiative. Over the last 15 months, Representatives Bishop, Jason Chaffetz (R-3-UT), Chris Stewart (R-2-UT) and their staffs, have participated in more than 400 meetings with elected officials, tribal leaders, individuals, and a wide-range of other stakeholders to discuss the Public Lands Initiative. According to the Rep. Bishop, five shared objectives emerged from the hundreds of stakeholder meetings:

- Conservation - Provide meaningful, permanent conservation designations to protect Utah's most pristine and beautiful lands;
- Local Participation - Facilitate local involvement to ensure local communities are heard and have a seat at the planning table;
- A Voice in the Process - Ensure Utahns and concerned citizens across the country have their opinions taken into account when land management decisions are made;
- Certainty - Create certainty for local communities and land users by resolving long-standing public land disputes; and
  Economic Opportunity - Accelerate energy development and boost outdoor recreation and tourism in appropriate locations to increase state education revenue, improve Utah's economy, and provide jobs.

When you met with Rep. Bishop in mid-April and again in late June 2013, you discussed with him his proposal for a "grand bargain" for public lands in multiple counties in eastern Utah. Rep. Bishop has indicated that he believes that a legislative proposal that includes wilderness and other conservation designations can "act as a currency" for other public land proposals including land exchanges, land transfers to counties for public purposes, control over roads, and designation of zones for oil and gas and other resource development.

As you have said before, the Department is happy to provide technical assistance including mapping and information on resources. We look forward to reviewing a written proposal in the future. The Department is always willing to work with locally driven stakeholder processes and to find solutions that make sense for all taxpayers and public land users.

The Department and the BLM are eager to resolve the lingering Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) issues in Utah and throughout the West. WSAs were first established in the 1980s under the direction of section 603 of FLPMA; however, only Congress can make final decision to either designate these areas as wilderness or release them from WSA status.

There are a number of areas where we anticipate a divergence of approach between the Administration and Rep. Bishop including:

- Land exchanges with the State of Utah's School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA)—SITLA has lobbied for land exchanges without appraisals to move the process forward more quickly, the BLM consistently argues for a standard process using the Uniform Appraisal Standards.
- Wilderness designation and WSA release—no specifics have been discussed but numbers of acres. We can also anticipate a renewed discussion on hard vs. soft WSA release.
- NEPA Exemptions—this Administration has consistently opposed any exemptions from NEPA. We can expect a number of such provisions in any "grand bargain" legislation.
- Energy development—we expect that the proposal may include dedicated oil and gas development zones with energy development as a primary use.

On May 21, Rep. Bishop held a hearing before the House Resources subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation (which he chairs) on "Perspectives on the Management of Federal and State Land." Utah Governor Gary Herbert, who chairs the Western Governors Association, was the sole witness. Governor Herbert indicated that while he backed the notion of a "grand bargain," he also wants the transfer of all public lands in Utah to the state government. The Governor indicated that he thought the two proposals were "complimentary."

Much of the impetus for Mr. Bishop's proposal comes from the fear among counties in Utah that the Federal government will designate another monument in Utah, without the input of local stakeholders or governments. Specifically, Greater Canyonlands and the Red Rocks Wilderness Bill draw the attention of local advocates.

III. OTHER UTAH HOT TOPICS

<u>BLM-UT Utah Recreational Land Exchange</u>

- The Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2009 directs the equal value exchange of State of Utah lands for BLM lands in eastern Utah.
- In addition to consolidating Federal and state ownership patterns, the exchange would provide the Federal government with valuable recreation and conservation lands and the state with lands that have a high potential for energy development.

- The BLM would acquire 58 parcels of high value recreation and conservation lands totaling 25,034 acres primarily in Grand County, while Utah would acquire 34 parcels of lands with high development potential totaling 33,516 acres primarily in Uintah County.
- The BLM-UT Moab Field Office will receive world class recreation lands, including Corona Arch on the side of Bootlegger Canyon and Morning Glory Arch, which is the 4th longest arch in the world.
- Recreation tourism contributes indirectly and directly to the economy of gateway communities like Moab, and the acquisition of high value recreation lands like those included in the exchange will be a socioeconomic boon to the region.
- Following approval to complete the exchange, the BLM-UT will sign the Decision Record and publish the Notice of Decision (NOD), initiating a 45-day public protest period and a 60-day Governor's consistency. The NOD will also include a notice of availability for the appraisal reports and revised exchange maps for 30 days.
- The legislation sunsets on Aug. 18, 2014.

BLM-UT Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Effort

- In March 2010, FWS ruled that listing the Greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act was warranted but precluded due to the need to focus on higher priority species. FWS plans to reassess the status of sage-grouse populations and habitat by September 2015.
- Based on the identified threats to the species, the BLM is working through a collaborative land use planning effort to incorporate species and habitat conservation measures into approximately 98 existing BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) by September 2014. In Utah, the effort will revise 14 BLM RMPs and six Forest Service land use plans.
- The Utah draft EIS planning area includes 3,313,800 acres of sage-grouse habitat on surface lands administered by BLM-UT and the Forest Service and an additional 694,880 acres of sage-grouse habitat with underlying, Federally administered public mineral estate. The planning area also includes the portions of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache and Ashley National Forests that extend into Wyoming.
- The planning effort includes all mapped occupied sage-grouse habitat in Utah for which the BLM and Forest Service have land management decision-making authority.
- On Oct. 31, 2013, the BLM Utah, working jointly with the Forest Service, issued a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a 90-day public review and comment period that ends Jan. 29, 2014. In Utah, this planning effort will revise or amend 14 BLM RMPs and six Forest Service Land Use Plans (LUPs).
- The proposed management direction in the draft EIS applies only to BLM- or Forest Service-administered lands in the planning area. It does not apply to private lands.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) Grazing EIS

- GSENM manages livestock grazing on 2.2 million acres of Federal lands in Kane and Garfield Counties, Utah and Coconino County, Ariz. These lands also include 319,000 acres of NPS lands in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and parts of the BLM-UT Kanab and BLM-Arizona Arizona Strip Field Offices.
- The BLM-UT is preparing an MMP amendment and EIS to replace existing grazing management decisions and to clarify livestock grazing use on GSENM for all stakeholders.

- The planning effort and analysis will be limited to decisions specific to livestock grazing management issues.
- On Nov. 4, 2013, the BLM Utah published a Notice of Intent to prepare a draft MMP amendment and EIS in the *Federal Register*, which initiated a public scoping period that ended Jan. 12, 2014.
- In mid-January, the BLM also hosted socioeconomic workshops in Escalante, Kanab and Cannonville, Utah. Participants provided information that BLM-UT will use as the basis for economic analysis to be included in the EIS.
- In 2000, the BLM began a planning effort to reauthorize grazing permits on Monument allotments that culminated with the October 2008 release of a draft EIS. After thorough review and consideration, the BLM-UT determined that the 2008 draft EIS was too broad, and did not accomplish its identified purpose or meet its identified need. The BLM decided to prepare a new draft MMP amendment and EIS.
- The BLM Utah proactively engaged the DOI Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) to expand opportunities for public involvement and stakeholder engagement. With CADR assistance, the BLM Utah identified a third-party neutral to facilitate a successful planning effort through early and consistent public outreach that seeks to achieve broader stakeholder buy-in and build some level of consensus among affected communities and stakeholders.
- The BLM-UT anticipates releasing the draft EIS for public review in August 2014 and signing the ROD in mid-2017.

<u>2008 Richfield RMP Litigation (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance v. Burke)</u>

- The Richfield RMP is the first of six Utah RMPs challenged in the SUWA v. Burke litigation.
- On Nov. 4, 2013, the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah held that the 2008 Richfield RMP and Travel Plan violated the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) "minimization criteria" regulations.
- The Court held that BLM's reliance on a Class I cultural resources survey to identify and inventory cultural resources on or adjacent to 4,277 miles of routes was not a reasonable and good faith effort to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA and directed the agency to conduct a more costly and time consuming Class III survey.
- The Court requested additional documentation on specific Wild and Scenic River decisions as well as further explanation for why a particular Area of Critical Environmental Concern was not included in the BLM's final RMP.
- The Court upheld the RMP and Travel Plan against plaintiffs' remaining claims holding that the agency took a "hard look" at the environmental impact of OHVs; adequately considered OHV damage in the context of climate change; and found that the Richfield planning area would meet all Federal and state air quality standards.
- Activist groups and environmental stakeholders have heralded the decision as "overturning" the entire Richfield RMP, while residents, local communities, and elected officials in southern Utah have vocally expressed their opposition due to fears that it will significantly impact socioeconomics in a rural area that is heavily dependent on the economic boost that ATV-driven tourism provides.
- BLM and Plaintiffs must simultaneously brief remedy by January 30, 2014.

Oil And Gas Production

- As of Jan. 15, 2014, there were 3,509 authorized oil and gas leases covering 3,713,547 acres in Utah. Authorized leases broken out by surface managing entity:
  - BLM-Utah Leases: 3,018
  - BLM-Utah Acres Under Lease: 3,124,547
  - U.S. Forest Service Leases: 240
  - U.S. Forest Service Acres Lease: 409,000
  - Tribal Surface Leases: 202
  - Tribal Surface Acres Under Lease: 117,595
- Additionally, 49 authorized leases are comprised of mineral estate underlying other surface-managing agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation, National Wildlife Refuges, and National Parks.

Applications for Permit to Drills (APDs) Processed by BLM-UT Field Offices

- The figures below cover FY 2009-2014*. Of the 3,357 APDs that were approved between Jan. 15, 2012, and Jan. 15, 2014, 954 have not been drilled. As of Jan. 15, 2014, the BLM-UT had an APD backlog of 1,386.

Field Office	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014*
Salt Lake	10	6	4	0	4	0
Moab	12	35	13	18	9	2
Price	23	56	112	123	68	2
Vernal – Tribal	121	216	208	334	441	122
Vernal Non-Tribal	730	422	602	868	1,050	196

*As of Jan. 15, 2014

Economic Impact of Oil And Gas Production In Utah

- The BLM-UT State Office currently administers approximately 3.9 million acres of public mineral estate that is leased for oil and gas development; since FY2010, the extraction of oil and gas resources and their introduction into the market generated more than $15.1 billion in direct economic benefits and $22.7 billion in total economic impacts.
- In FY2012, the State of Utah received more than $164 million from royalties, rentals, and bonus bid payments for federal minerals, including oil and gas. The extraction of oil and gas resources and their introduction into the market generated more than $5.5 billion in direct economic benefits and nearly $8.3 billion in total economic impacts in FY2012.

IV. ATTACHMENT

- Biography of Governor Herbert



Gary Richard Herbert is Utah's 17th Governor. He took the Oath of Office on August 11, 2009.

Governor Herbert is focused on four cornerstones to strengthen Utah's economy: Education, energy, jobs, and the ability of the State to solve its own problems. Utah is considered a premier destination for business, jobs, and an enviable quality of life. Under Governor Herbert's leadership, Utah has been recognized as the "Best State for Business and Careers" by Forbes magazine and the "best State to live in" by GALLUP.COM, among other accolades.

The Governor currently serves as the Chair of the Western Governors Association (WGA), on the Executive Committee of the National Governors Association (NGA), and on the Education and Workforce Committee of the NGA.

Prior to becoming the state's chief executive, Governor Herbert served as Lieutenant Governor for five years. In 1990, the Governor was appointed to the Utah County Commission. During his 14 years as county commissioner, he served as president of the Utah Association of Counties and the Utah Association of Realtors, and as a board member of the Provo Orem Chamber of Commerce and Utah Water Conservancy District.

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON SAGE GROUSE

DATE: January 21, 2014
LOCATION: Shadow Mountain Clubhouse, 1055 County Road 7, Craig, Colorado
TIME: 3:30PM – 4:30PM MST
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, Senior Advisor, O/S (202)219-2140; Terri Johnson

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this event is for you to join Governor Hickenlooper in meeting with local stakeholders and elected officials, provide an overview of your visit to Bord Gulch Ranch, and lead a discussion with the group on the importance of these practices and the partnerships between the Federal government, states, private landowners, and other stakeholders in creating and implementing a conservation strategy for the sage grouse.

II. PARTICIPANTS

See attached list of participants.

III. AGENDA

This event will be closed press. We are still finalizing details but anticipate the following:

- The Governor will open the meeting and introduce you
- You will make brief remarks about your Ranch Visit
- Governor will open for Q & A, comments limited to 2 minutes.
- You will give closing remarks
- Governor will close

IV. Q&A

1) "We're not getting enough credit for our conservation actions."

Suggested Response:

- Around 40 percent of greater sage grouse habitat is on private lands and those of you like Ray Owens who are taking actions to conserve that habitat are doing the most important thing you can to reach a place where the bird is conserved and a listing is not necessary.
- We greatly value your efforts and your partnership.
- But, you need to understand two considerations will guide how the FWS gives credit for those actions: first, the likelihood that they will be implemented, and second, the likelihood that the measures will be effective.
- There are lots of scientists at work proving these measures are effective.
- We need your help to demonstrate they are likely to continue into the future.
- One way you can do that is establish a track record of action year after year. That will get you credit.

- A way to get even more credit is to make a commitment to continue this work maybe through an easement or an agreement with the FWS.

2) "The Sage Grouse National Technical Team (NTT) report is terrible b/c . . ."

Suggested Response:

- It's important to understand why the NTT Report exists.
- The BLM commissioned that report, using a team of state and federal experts to give guidance on how to protect that sage grouse until the planning process was complete. It was meant to preserve decision space for the bureau.
- BLM will consider measures for protecting sage grouse habitat contained in the NTT report, but it will also consider other alternatives and science submitted during the NEPA process.
- *[NOTE: Though it may not come up, you can note if it does that*: The FWS's Conservation Objectives Team (COT) Report will guide the FWS Service listing determination process.]

3) "BLM's maps and science are wrong."

One of the counties, Garfield County, has put together its own "alternative" using paid consultants. The major contention from Garfield County officials has been that the BLM's identification of Priority and General Habitat is overstated in the county. Their consultants have suggested that the overall habitat area is 93 percent smaller than what BLM used in its analysis. Other counties are paying consultants to do more detailed mapping though it is not clear any others have come up with such wildly different proposals.

Suggested Response:

- The BLM is evaluating this information along with other comments and input received from the public as it develops its final plan.
- We understand how important it is to get it right and that means taking all information and science submitted and evaluating it to the best of our abilities. BLM is doing that.

V. TALKING POINTS

- Banking background brought me to ranches across the west, and there are no better conservationists than farmers and ranchers.

- Threats to the land are threats to their livelihood.

- True here too where some threats to the sage grouse also threaten the sustainability of grazing lands, whether it's invasive species or conifer encroachment.

- Visiting Bord Gulch Ranch today gave me a great sense of what's possible, and I want to thank the Governor for bringing me.

- Committed partners like Ray and all of you are essential if we are going to develop and implement a scientifically sound and legally defensible landscape-level conservation

strategy for the sage grouse consistent with the need to maintain traditional uses of the land and support economic growth.

- Seeing what I did today provides an inspiration that we can get the job done both for the sage grouse and for those who derive their living from the land here in Colorado and throughout the West.

- I look forward to hearing more from you about the conservation actions your taking and what you see working well here in Northwest Colorado.

VI. BACKGROUND

Map of LPC habitat (including CO) and map of CO Sage Grouse Habitat (Gunnison and Greater) are attached.

Greater sage grouse: **BLM manages more than 1.7 million acres of Colorado's Greater sage-grouse habitat, almost half of the entire Greater sage-grouse habitat in Colorado.** Habitat fragmentation resulting primarily from infrastructure related to energy development and urbanization poses the primary threat to the bird.

State Strategy: Colorado has spent $40 million on sage grouse conservation efforts and implemented a significant easement acquisition effort, protecting over 74,000 acres and is protecting additional acres through other means. The State wildlife agency has strong conservation recommendations to the oil and gas commission, but they are advisory and there is no data to show whether those recommendations have been followed. The state has begun that an assessment and expects to have the results in the next few months.

Status of BLM planning effort: The BLM/FS published their Draft Northwest Colorado RMP/EIS on August 16, 2013. The comment period closed December 2. On November 26, after a town hall meeting in northwest Colorado, the Governor's office asked for more time to submit state comments. Because BLM regulations allow for it, BLM agreed.

Overview FWS Comments on BLM plan: The FWS submitted comments on the BLM/FS draft plan on December 2 that questioned BLM's selection of a 5% versus 3% disturbance cap, the scope of the exemption process from that cap, and the manner in which mitigation was counted under that cap among other issues.

State Comments/Alternative: On January 14, Governor Hickenlooper's office submitted a 4-page letter with their comments calling them the "state alternative" along with much more detailed comments from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The Governor's letter says it "serves as the Colorado state alternative;" however, the letter addresses very few of the issues in the PRMP/DEIS, and provides little detail on the issues that it does address. The State would like to include an opportunity to consult on site-specific projects and include exception criteria for stipulations designed to protect the grouse. Colorado wants to ensure the science used to make decisions in the EIS are sound and defensible.

The Governor's letter is also hard to reconcile with accompanying CPW comments. The discrepancies among the two are particularly evident with respect to the issue of disturbance caps. The Governor's letter describes disturbance caps as "one of the most troubling tools being

proposed in the PRMP" and urges BLM "to reconsider the use of disturbance caps unless they can be implemented with site-specific flexibility." In contrast, although the comments from CPW note that disturbance caps are largely untested, they go on to say that a "3% disturbance cap is more scientifically defensible than a 5% limit," and discuss published studies that "lend support to a disturbance cap less than 5%." Moreover, CPW states that it is "concerned about the potential unlimited use of exceptions to the disturbance cap," noting that "oil and gas operators have the ability to request unlimited exceptions to the cap, effectively rendering the cap meaningless."

In general, the CPW comments strike a more cautious tone than is reflected in the Governor's letter. For example, CPW asserts that BLM's proposed "required design features" and "preferred design features" are not "sufficient to mitigate indirect effects. The Governor's letter makes no mention of this. Similarly, the CPW comments urge BLM to "apply increased protection to existing leases," whereas the Governor's letter warns that measures that impact valid existing leases are "a clear violation of property rights."

DOI will have to work with the state to reconcile these documents.

Affected counties and commercial interests are concerned that the plan amendments will place too much restriction on activities on public lands and have a significant negative socioeconomic impact. Some counties have expressed concern that their local, voluntary conservation plans are adequate and additional measures are not necessary. Garfield County in particular has taken this position, submitting its own alternative. Garfield County has also hired Americans for Civil Liberties to assist them during the sage grouse EIS.

Conservation groups have stated that they feel the anticipated conservation measures will not be strong enough to adequately protect the Greater Sage-grouse and its habitat.

Note: Included below is information on the Gunnison sage grouse and the Lesser Prairie Chicken in case the Governor raises these topics with you. We don't expect them to come up in the meeting.

Gunnison sage grouse: FWS proposed to list the Gunnison sage grouse as endangered in January of 2013. Due to the MDL settlement agreement, the final listing determination was due by the end of March of this year. If the judge grants an extension requested on January 15, that deadline will move to May. The FWS proposal to list the species as endangered was based on an analysis of the threats contributing to the species' decline across much of its range including: loss or fragmentation of habitat; lack of linkages or habitat connectivity between populations; invasive weeds; small populations; and the potential for disease, fire, or development to drastically affect an individual population's viability.

Of the approximately 940,000 acres of occupied habitat for Gunnison Sage Grouse: 54 percent occurs on Federal lands, 41 percent occurs on private lands, 5 percent on State lands. **BLM Colorado manages 49 percent (389,495 acres) of habitat for the Gunnison Sage-Grouse.**

Since the proposed rule was published in January 2013, the Service received much information during the subsequent comment periods that has improved their understanding of the level of threats and the degree to which they have been ameliorated in the Gunnison Basin population.

The Governor's office has made it clear that they strongly oppose listing and there is extreme frustration in the state about the listing proposal because Gunnison County has developed and implemented a conservation plan that FWS considers to be a good start. All agree that threats in the Gunnison Basin have been effectively ameliorated and no additional actions by landowners in that county should be taken. Gunnison Basin contains over 87 percent of the total number of Gunnison Sage Grouse birds and has the largest remaining population. The Gunnison Basin Strategic Committee, a diverse stakeholder group, and Gunnison County Commissioners, are be complimented for their leadership in conservation of this largest population.

The FWS must take into account, however, the failure of other counties to implement similar plans that would protect the species range-wide. The other counties that support six smaller satellite populations of the Gunnison sage-grouse have recently become more active in seeking conservation options. However, work remains to be done to ensure remaining threats are alleviated in some of these six areas to ensure viability of the species as a whole. The Service is committed to working with stakeholders to identify necessary actions.

Local frustration is in part what led the Governor to invite you to see firsthand the good work ranchers in the state are doing on the ground because in their eyes the FWS may not be taking that work sufficiently into account.

Lesser Prairie Chicken: The FWS has proposed to list the LPC as threatened with a final listing decision due THIS MARCH. The FWS has also proposed a special 4(d) management rule based on a five state conservation plan developed by the Western Association of Fish of Wildlife Agencies. There is only a small population of LPC in Colorado and in a small corner of the state. The potential for land use conflicts is also less significant than for the grouse.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Map of CO Sage Grouse Habitat
- Map of LPC Habitat
- Participant List
- Letter from Governor Hickenlooper
- Letter from Colorado Parks and Wildlife with specific comments to Colorado's proposal
- E&E Article on Governor Hickenlooper's letter



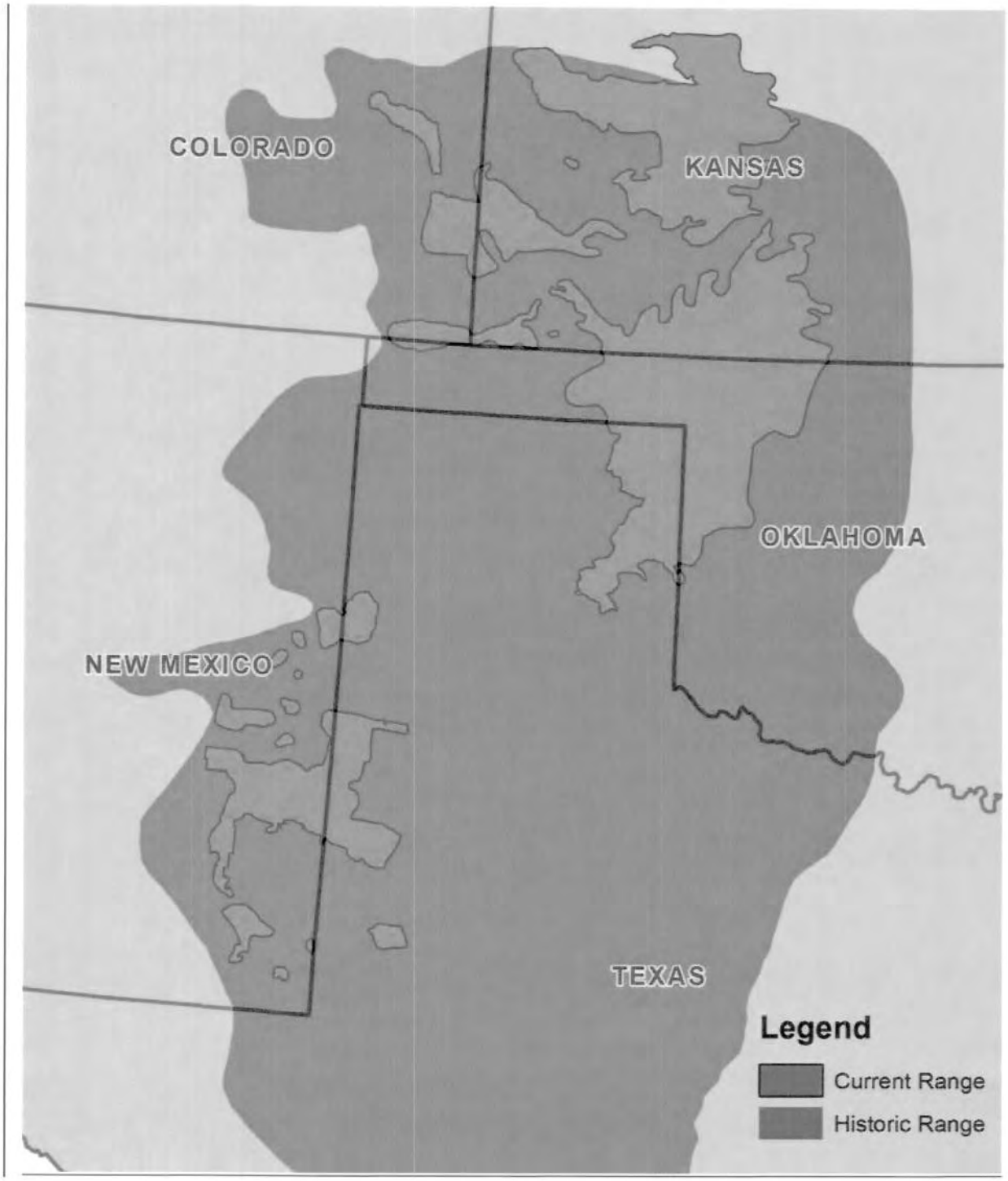
BLM Surface Management Greater S-G[1] Gunnison S-G[2]

0 25 50 Miles

N

[1] *From* Distribution of Sage-Grouse in North America. Schroeder, et al., 2004.

[2] *From* A New Species of Sage-Grouse from Southwestern CO. Young, et al., 2000.


COLORADO
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
NEW MEXICO
TEXAS
Legend
Current Range
Historic Range

Colorado Sage Grouse Stakeholder Meeting
List of Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Title
Ken	Bekkendahl	Rancher	
Shawn	Bolton	Rio Blanco County - Commissioner	Commissoiner
Gary	Bumgarner	Grand County	Commissioner
Nick	Charchalis	Rancher	
Ben	Clayton	Jackson County	
Jeff	Comstock	Moffat County	Director of Natural Resources
Cody	Deakins	Rancher/Guide	
T Wright	Dickinson	Land Owner/Rancher/Colorado Cattlemen's Association	
Jeff	Eskelson	Rio Blanco County	Commissioner
Terry	Fankhauser	Colorado Cattleman's Association	EVP
Jay	Fetcher	Office of Sen. Mark Udall	NW Reginal Director
Joshua	Green	Office of Rep. Tiption	
Chuck	Grobe	Moffat County	Commissioner
Callie	Hendrickson	White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts	Exec. Director
John	Hill	Rio Blanco County	Commissioner
Tom	Jankovsky	Garfield County	Commissioner
Fred	Jarman	Garfield County	Planner
Spencer	Kimball	Western Energy Alliance	
John	Kinkaid	Moffat County	Commissioner
Noah	Koerper	Office of Sen. Michael Bennet	
Tom	Kourlis	Kourlis Ranch	
W.M.	Lake		
Doug	Lempke	Tri-State G&T	
David	Ludlam	West Slope COGA	Exec. Director
Gene	Manuello	Colorado Cattleman's Association	
Tom	Mathers	Moffat County	Commissioner
Wes	McStay	Moffat County Rancher	
Brian	Meinhart	Western Energy Alliance	
Gary	Moyer	CO Association of Conservation Districts	President
Jim	Murphy	Jackson County	Commissioner
Sasha	Nelson	Environment Colorado	
Dawn	Nottingham	Walker Ranch	
Pat & Sharon	O'Toole	CO/WY Rancher	
Ray	Owens	Rancher/CO First Conservation District	
John	Raftopoulos	Rancher	
Luke	Shafer	Conservation Colorado	Western Slope Advocacy Director
Mark	Sprague	Rio Blanco County	Natural Resource Director
Barbara	Vasquez	NW RAC member	
Gary	Visintainer	Rancher	
Lanny	Weddle	Jackson County	Commissioner
Chris	West	Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust	Executive Director
Doug	Monger	Routt County	Commissioner
Tim Corrigan	Corrigan	Routt County	Commissioner
Paul Hoffman	Hoffman	Routt County	Commissioner
Chris	Brookshire	Routt County	Commissioner
Tom	Sullivan	Routt County	Commissioner
Steve	Ivancie	Routt County	Commissioner
State Legislators			

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866-2471
Fax (303) 866-2003



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

January 14, 2014

Mr. Jim Cagney
District Manager
Northwest District Office
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Dear Mr. Cagney:

Thank you for all of your hard work developing a Preliminary Resource Management Plan (PRMP) regarding the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse (GrSG). We know that the Department of Natural Resources and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) have been working closely as Cooperating Agencies throughout the process, and we welcome the emphasis on science throughout the draft document.

Additionally, we appreciate your willingness to give the State of Colorado additional time to explore elements of GrSG conservation that might not have been adequately addressed in the PRMP. This letter serves as the Colorado state alternative, and we ask for your consideration as you move forward with developing a final plan. It is our hope that a management alternative can be developed that both safeguards the economic engine of northwestern Colorado and protects the GrSG sufficiently to preclude a listing under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Since 2000, the State of Colorado has spent over $40 million on GrSG conservation efforts for the species. These expenditures include conservation planning and implementation, land protection, population and habitat monitoring, habitat treatments, restoration, research, and communications. Since 2004, CPW state wildlife managers have protected more than 74,000 acres of GrSG habitat, primarily through conservation easements. About 24,000 additional acres are managed by other conservation interests such as The Nature Conservancy and Cattleman's Land Trust. More than 50,000 acres of GrSG habitat have been improved through treatment since 2000. Working closely with private landowners, CPW has contributed to the 273,000 acres now managed through Wildlife Mitigation Plans, Grazing Plans, Ranch Management Plans, and Habitat Suitability Plans. These public/private partnerships are essential for managing resources in our state, and we hope to maximize their potential in future conservation efforts.

In 2008, when the GrSG was designed "warranted but precluded" from listing under the Endangered Species Act, a diverse group of Colorado stakeholders developed the statewide Conservation Plan for Greater Sage Grouse. This detailed plan was updated just this year, and our results clearly demonstrate the broad scope of work that is underway for conservation. That

update, called the Colorado Package, was submitted to both the BLM and the USFWS. Regulatory certainty is evident for many of our existing provisions, and we feel confident in the effectiveness of these measures. We urge our federal agencies to consider the progress documented there on state and private lands in any approach to conservation on federal lands.

We must keep the local context for this conservation challenge foremost in our minds. The communities of northwestern Colorado rely on access and productivity associated with public lands for their livelihood. With that in mind, any plan that the BLM ultimately promotes must accurately assess the socio-economic values that link people to the land in that area. Ranching and energy development are the two most important economic drivers in the region; the final RMP should propose an adaptive management approach that will conserve habitat for the GrSG while continuing to allow those industries to thrive. Such an approach will favor site-specific review and the consistent incorporation of new science over a one-size-fits-all management regime.

Grazing has not been identified as a primary threat to the stability of the species, and we must be vigilant that none of the conservation measures have unintended negative consequences for agriculture. In many parts of the range, existing grazing practices are working in concert with conservation efforts, and we should stick with these successful tools whenever possible. Alternative A, the "no action" alternative, provides some useful management guidance on this issue, but only where existing plans have been updated. Areas that are still operating under decades-old grazing regimes can be updated to reflect successful practices embodied in more recent plans.

Loss of habitat is the primary threat facing the long term viability of the species. Oil and gas development is a contributor to that loss, but the energy industry also provides necessary economic stability for the region. Any provisions the BLM advances must consider both dimensions of this resource issue. We are prepared to support conservation measures necessary to preclude a listing, but we do not want to see overly restrictive measures that would irreparably harm the energy industry. Indeed, the industry has a vested interest in conserving GrSG habitat because nothing would do more harm to their future operations than a listing. With that in mind, we suggest an approach that favors consultation over prohibitions on occupancy; within the 4 mile buffer from a lek, energy companies should be required to consult with wildlife experts (either BLM or CPW) before beginning operations. If Best Management Practices have been identified that can minimize the impact of energy access, operators should be required to adopt those once a site visit has been conducted. Our existing wildlife consultation regulations are administered by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; we are currently conducting a review of those practices and anticipate fresh insight into their effectiveness in the first quarter of 2014.

One of the most troubling tools being proposed in the PRMP is the use of disturbance caps. This is an untested management approach, and it raises at least four implementation questions.

- First, what percentage will define the cap? It is our understanding that there is limited scientific evidence that supports either of the two numbers currently in play for anthropogenic disturbance (3% and 5%). With that in mind, we urge the BLM to pursue a flexible approach that allows managers to learn as they go. Imposing an arbitrary cap on the landscape could have catastrophic impacts on resource use.

- Second, how will the cap be measured and enforced? We've heard widespread concerns about lack of staffing at BLM. Developing and tracking a complex new management tool will require a consistent and long term investment of time and resources; if the BLM lacks these resources, perhaps another approach should be considered. We also understand that federal agencies do not have jurisdiction over private property, and this should be made explicit in the final RMP. Calculations of disturbance toward a cap should not include private property.

- Third, how will we know if the cap is working to conserve habitat? Already, we see that some of the management zones with the healthiest GrSG populations are the same zones with the highest disturbance percentage. We should learn from these circumstances and not seek to undermine them. Rigorous monitoring and a feedback loop will help us fine-tune implementation.

- Finally, will the establishment of a disturbance cap lead to a cascade of unintended consequences? For example, valid existing energy leases may be impacted, especially if buffer distances from leks are restricted and overlaid on disturbance cap limitations. This is a clear violation of private property rights; we can't support it, and we suspect the courts will share our view. Similarly, grazing lessees may find their permits changed when it comes time to renew.

Given the critical importance of these industries to the economic health of the region, we urge the BLM to reconsider the use of disturbance caps unless they can be implemented with site-specific flexibility.

Mitigation is a promising approach for allowing industrial access without compromising aggregate habitat quantity and quality. However, the existing plans for mitigation in the PRMP are incomplete. Without more detailed information about how this program would work, we are hard pressed to support it. Please work closely with the appropriate state agencies engaged in the development of the Colorado Habitat Exchange; this emerging program may be a good fit for the BLM.

Adaptive management is a widely accepted tool for managing resources. Rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all prescription, we urge the BLM to consider local conditions before, during, and after any tools are deployed. In places with healthy and thriving bird populations, restrictions should be more flexible; in locations with struggling bird populations, restrictions should be tighter. Those parameters should then be revisited regularly. Evolving science will help us better understand what the species needs to succeed. Our improved understanding can then inform future regulatory terms, and the cycle of adaptive management will allow us to be both responsive and proactive.

Lastly, we urge the BLM to maximize the benefits available through public-private partnerships. We believe opportunities exist to protect additional acres of private land, and are working closely with industry, landowners, and land trusts to secure new easements. The Colorado Habitat Exchange exemplifies the gains to be made by connecting private landowners, energy companies, and state and federal natural resource agencies. When industry and agriculture are key players in the development of a conservation plan, we all stand to benefit. Reconstituting and strengthening the role for local working groups in the northwestern region is one way we might guarantee a seat at the table for all stakeholders as this effort progresses.

The state has been, and will continue to be, an active partner through the Cooperating Agency process. We remain committed to the use of science in protecting imperiled species; this approach is central to who we are as Coloradoans. Attached are two documents that together comprise Colorado's best available science: a cover letter from CPW and a detailed matrix that parses each of the provisions in the PRMP. Throughout, CPW has tried to walk a narrow line, identifying parameters that are restrictive enough to preclude a listing, but not too restrictive for the socio-economic health of the region. Colorado has a long track record of success working across party lines to find cooperative agreement in how we manage our iconic natural resources.

We look forward to ongoing discussions as we build a final plan from this initial draft.

Sincerely,

John Hickenlooper
Governor

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Mehlhoff, BLM Colorado Acting State Director

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

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January 14, 2014

Jim Cagney, Northwest District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

RE: CPW Comments for the Draft Greater Sage-Grouse Programmatic Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, December 2, 2013

Dear Mr. Cagney:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) appreciates the opportunity to work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the review of this Draft Greater Sage-Grouse Programmatic Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS). CPW believes that it is in the best interest of the people of Colorado to cooperate with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the development of the PRMP/EIS with the goal of providing sufficient protections for the greater sage-grouse (GrSG) and their habitats, so that a listing of the grouse will not be necessary. We also believe that the effects of a listing on the landscape and economies of northwest Colorado would be far more onerous than most of the measures currently being contemplated to avoid the need to list the species.

Since 1995, CPW has worked with federal, state, local governments as well as local working groups to develop local conservation plans and management actions with the purpose of protecting the GrSG and avoiding a listing under the Endangered Species Act.
Beginning in early winter 2012, CPW has engaged with the BLM as a Cooperating Agency on the development of a Northwest Colorado PRMP/EIS. CPW staff have attended all of the Cooperator Meetings and assisted with the development of the draft PRMP/EIS.

CPW recommends the creation of a new, hybrid alternative, crafted largely with provisions from Alts. B and D. Specific line-by-line comments are detailed in the CPW comment table (attached). Here, we offer a broad summary of topics that we focus on throughout that table.

Disturbance Cap Threshold

The use of disturbance caps is a new management technique. This conceptual approach is largely untested, and CPW requests that the BLM use a cautious approach toward implementation. Two dimensions of the concept warrant discussion here: 1) the appropriate proportion of disturbance, and 2) the types of ecological sites to which the disturbance cap should apply.

Bob D. Broscheid, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Parks and Wildlife Commission: Robert W. Bray • Chris Castilian, Secretary • Jeanne Horne
Bill Kane, Chair • Gaspar Perricone • James Pribyl • John Singletary
Mark Smith, Vice-Chair • James Vigil • Dean Wingfield • Michelle Zimmerman
Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

1) We believe that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) would likely consider a 3% disturbance cap threshold with only minor discretion for exemptions more protective of sage-grouse than a 5% cap with essentially unlimited discretion for exemptions. We hold that opinion because minor discretion offers more regulatory certainty than a large degree of discretion and because 3 % is more directly tied to findings and recommendations published in the body of scientific research related to oil and gas development in GrSG habitats. The 3 % disturbance cap is more scientifically defensible than a 5 % limit; still, research on this topic is largely limited to impacts from oil and gas well pad densities only.

   Existing practices are not sufficient to conserve greater sage-grouse. Sage-grouse literature contains evidence that oil and gas development and other disturbances can be detrimental to the species. For example, recent peer-reviewed literature (Doherty et al. 2010, Harju et al. 2010) has shown that at well pad densities of 1 to 2 per square mile, negative effects are detectable either in the form of lek persistence or number of males attending leks. Both papers cited began to detect effects once surpassing 1 pad per section within 2 (Doherty) to 5 (Harju) miles of a lek. These findings lend support to a disturbance cap less than 5%, although we recognize that Wyoming's core area strategy relies upon a 5% threshold (albeit with limited exceptions). We urge the BLM to confer with CPW and the FWS on this important threshold.

2) CPW supports the use of ecological sites as described in Alt. D, if; 1) the language is changed to say "ecological sites capable of supporting "*Sage-grouse* habitat" – rather than "sagebrush" habitat – in PPH and 2) that this phrase be used consistently throughout the document. In Colorado, other vegetative types in addition to sagebrush are critical components of sage-grouse habitat in several populations. While this is particularly true in the PPR population, sage-grouse in several other populations make extensive use of other vegetative types including grasslands and mountain shrub communities.

Exception Language (Cap Management and Lease Stipulations)

Alt. D frequently references exception language contained in Appendix E. The exception language of Appendix E, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations, describes the terms and conditions in which an exception may be granted. The language is as follows:

> **Exception:** "Where data-based documentation is available to warrant a conclusion that, a) GRSG populations in the applicable Colorado MZ are healthy and stable at objective levels or increasing, and b) an exception, modification, or waiver would not adversely affect GRSG population due to habitat loss or disruptive activities, the Authorized Officer may grant an exception, modification, or waiver."

We are concerned that the exception language has not been fully examined for unintended consequences that are likely to result from its liberal application. Generous provisions for exemptions also reduce the degree of regulatory certainty sought by the FWS. The next four sections describe some of these unintended consequences.

Population Numbers as Criteria

CPW believes that using population-based thresholds as a measure for granting exceptions is flawed. For example, localized lek/population counts are not a reliable predictor of long-term species viability and provide an inadequate criterion for site-specific management decisions. CPW believes the exception criteria should be focused on the threats, thus measuring habitat loss and disruptive activities rather than sage-grouse population trends. Focusing on threats rather than the status of the population will enable BLM and all involved stakeholders to effectively participate in conservation of all populations of GrSG within all Colorado Management Zones (MZ).

As written in Alt. D, the exception criteria language will be difficult to apply effectively. Populations vary in response to environmental conditions and are not a good tool for directing land use decisions without an appropriate long-term population trend analysis. Populations fluctuate over a ten-year period (more or less) and it would be inaccurate for BLM or CPW to state at any given point in time that the population is "healthy and stable at objective levels or increasing," since we know that short-term upward fluctuations may mask an overall downward trend (and vice versa). Similarly, numerous exceptions granted for disturbance above the cap would not show impacts to GrSG populations for several years after the exceptions were granted. Recent findings in scientific literature suggest that impacts from energy development and detection of declines in male lek counts have a time lag that may take at least 4 years (Walker et al. 2007) and up to 9 years to occur (Harju et al. 2010) and should be incorporated and analyzed in the Environmental Consequences section.

Appendix E, Stipulations

CPW recognizes the need for exceptions to stipulations. However, we believe the language as proposed in this draft document (Appendix E) is insufficient to provide adequate protection for GrSG. Furthermore, we feel protection under Alt. D (with the opportunity for liberal exceptions) does not provide sufficient regulatory certainty that implementation of protections will be sufficient.

Unlimited Exceptions to the Disturbance Cap

CPW is concerned about the potential unlimited use of exceptions to the disturbance cap. As we understand the application of the exception criteria, oil and gas operators have the ability to request unlimited exceptions to the cap, effectively rendering the cap meaningless and potentially undermining the regulatory certainty advocated for by the FWS. CPW believes the exceptions above the cap should be extremely limited in number and scope, should be approved at a level above that of the Field Office (preferably at the District Office level to provide consistency and assure regulatory certainty) in consultation with the CPW and FWS and should be tracked when they do occur.

A range of creative solutions could be applied to remedy the cap exception dilemma. For example, the BLM could create a two tiered exception cap. The two tiers would consist of a tier for all exceptions while the second tier would be more restrictive and be applied when

disturbance reaches one percent below the cap. The process would not preclude development but would effectively "apply the brakes" to the existing rate of development as the disturbance cap is approached and would be administered by individual CO Management Zones (MZ). .

Lack of Feedback Mechanism

CPW requests that a feedback mechanism be included in the EIS so that BLM and others can determine the effectiveness of the disturbance cap process. The feedback mechanism should include a threshold disturbance amount that triggers the feedback process and it should include changes resulting from the process. The feedback mechanism can easily be tied to BLM's five-year RMP review as outlined in the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1 (BLM 2005a).

We are uncertain if the spatial tracking mechanism for disturbance will be developed in a timely manner to satisfy the FWS desire for regulatory certainty. We question whether the proposed five-year period (the period the White River FO has given themselves to build and implement a tracking system) will be satisfactory to the USFWS. We are also unclear whether the system developed for the White River RMPA is transferrable to all of NW Colorado. Cap tracking could be problematic where FO boundaries and management zone boundaries overlap (e.g., within MZ 17, PPR, there are three BLM FOs vying for a composite cap).

Percent of Canopy Cover

CPW agrees with the idea of managing sage-grouse habitat integrity at a landscape scale (70-30 % disturbance cap) as proposed in Alt. D. However, BLM's proposed sagebrush canopy cover values are below the minimums for breeding and winter habitat in Colorado as defined in the Colorado Conservation Plan (2008). Alt. D suggests 12-15% cover, which is insufficient; in North Park, birds have been documented nesting in sagebrush with canopy cover up to 40 %. Ecological Sites Supporting Sagebrush, Appendix B, Figure 2-1, and used in Alt. D excludes areas that support lek sites in Middle Park. CPW is aware of four lek sites in Middle Park that occur in what is mapped as irrigated agricultural land.

Additionally, we are concerned that the BLM will be unable to map 12 to 15 % canopy cover throughout Northwest Colorado. Fine scale mapping of canopy cover over a large area will be time consuming and the timeline may exceed the conclusion of this PRMP/EIS.

Mitigation

Alts. B and D frequently refer to "effective mitigation" but fail to define it. To date, sagebrush mitigation projects have not demonstrated effectiveness. In addition, recovery from disturbance takes a long time (up to 20 or more years) (Hess and Beck, 2012) to achieve proper function and condition for GrSG nesting and winter use. Given the mitigation proposals in Alternative B and D, CPW believes that mitigation protocols should be developed that incorporate the following priorities in order of importance, 1) habitat **creation**, 2) habitat **restoration**, or 3) habitat **enhancement**.

- **Creating new habitat** will likely have the greatest population and landscape-level response. Creation of habitat in areas not currently occupied (i.e., "vacant or unknown") or in areas that are potentially suitable should concentrate on relatively large-scale efforts, as opposed to numerous small-scale efforts. Efforts to create habitat should focus on areas that (1) have been type-converted, such as cheatgrass monocultures, extensive areas lost to fire, etc.; or (2) have experienced successional progression to non-productive habitat for GrSG.

- **Restoring degraded sites to healthy plant communities** (e.g., mismanaged rangelands or riparian areas) will have the second highest population and landscape-level response. Restoring degraded habitats should focus at the landscape-level where habitat improvement can result in restoration of ecological function and biotic diversity. Careful analysis must be given to the root causes of the current community condition, the local site capability, whether ecological thresholds have been crossed, and address likely limiting factors for GrSG populations. Treatments should be large in spatial extent, range, scope or quantity. However, in occupied habitats, size and distribution of treatments should be designed to minimize impacts to existing greater sage-grouse populations. Initially, GrSG individual and population-level responses to treatments in degraded habitat may not be positive.

- **Enhancing functioning habitats**. These types of treatments will have a low or non-measureable population and landscape-level response, and should be avoided where other options are available. If adopted for mitigation, treatments of functioning habitats should be small and distributed irregularly across the landscape. The exception may be where treating functional habitats is necessary to maintain connectivity between two large blocks of habitat at risk from current or future development. This mitigation approach has a limited subset of mitigation opportunities.

Reclamation and Cap Management - Appendix F and G

Disturbance cap management as described in various locations in the DRMP/EIS is confusing. As CPW staff understands the cap management process, there are two (maybe three) measurement standards to determine when reclamation has reached a stage where the reclaimed acreage can be removed from the cap accounting process. There is an anthropogenic disturbance cap (5 % as proposed in Alt. D, 3% as proposed in Alt. B) and a total disturbance cap of 30 %. Criteria for the removal of disturbed acres from the anthropogenic disturbance cap are set forth in Appendix G, while criteria for removal of disturbed acres from the total disturbance cap are described in Appendix F. This creates some confusion as to when and where these standards are applied to cap management. It is also unclear to CPW where (e.g., PPH, ADH or as stated on page G-27 "on sage-grouse habitats") standards would be applied. CPW requests that BLM clarify where the different standards are applied; CPW suggests a table comparing the various mechanisms to improve clarity and understanding.

In most cases, newly-reclaimed habitat is not representative of pre-disturbance habitat and not sufficient to meet the basic habitat requirements of greater sage-grouse. Some measure of habitat suitability should be required before reclaimed habitat acreage is removed from the

calculated proportion of disturbed acreage. Otherwise the percentage of disturbed habitat could significantly exceed the intended 3-5% anthropogenic disturbance cap or 30% total disturbance cap.

Appendix G, Reclamation Applicability to NW Colorado

CPW is concerned that Appendix G, which was developed for the White River Field Office (WRFO) may not be directly transferrable to all of CO MZ's in Northwest Colorado. The WRFO reclamation plan was developed based on an estimate of up to 2,556 well pads, with an average of eight wells per pad. Additionally, the WRFO projected rate of development would be much higher than would be expected in other Northwest Colorado Field Offices. The reclamation plan was designed to expedite reclamation in a high density, fast rate of development area, and while this may work well for the WRFO, it should be modified for other FOs in Northwest Colorado.

Appendix G should be revised so that it will focus on GrSG habitat instead of exclusively meeting minimal reclamation standards (soil stabilization and erosion control). If implemented as proposed, the criteria and time frame for reclamation would effectively result in setting back functional sagebrush habitat to an early seral stage across Northwest Colorado which ultimately may be detrimental to all life stages of GrSG.

In addition to the development rate, CPW believes that the precipitation zones and vegetation communities in the WRFO are significantly different than other areas of Northwest Colorado and that Appendix G should be modified to include the differences.

CPW would like BLM to include stronger language requiring shrub plantings as COA in the reclamation plan. CPW recognizes that there may be some economic objections to this request; however, CPW staff believes that the short-term cost will be far outweighed by the long-term benefit of removing disturbance from the cap space. CPW believes that shrub plantings will shorten the time interval necessary to remove acres of disturbance from the cap.

Existing Leases

CPW understands that valid, existing rights are subject to original lease provisions. CPW believes that within PPH and specifically within the 0.6 mile NSO buffer described in Appendix E, stipulation GRSG ADH NSO-46d should be voluntarily applied by the lease holder (requested by BLM); if that does not occur, then BLM should evaluate and apply the NSO 46d stipulation according to the guidance provided in the "Yates" Case which allows BLM to apply increased protections to existing leases.

The vast majority of PPH is already leased and contains few conservation measures for sage-grouse. According to Table 3.4, page 300, only 471,970 acres of unleased Federal Mineral Estate remain available for lease within PPH. Application of GRSG ADH NSO-46d, or a review for the applicability of the "Yates" IBLA decision, would provide some assurance that existing leases are examined and afforded the opportunity for adequate protections for GrSG.

Grazing

CPW believes the threat of grazing on GrSG in Colorado is minimal. In general, we support the current grazing management regimes administered by BLM. Current grazing practices are better for sage-grouse than what is contained in existing plans. Thus, we support current practices as opposed to Alternative A (No Action), because endorsing the no action alternative could suggest the BLM needs to revert to outdated grazing standards. We believe that Alt. D more closely represents current grazing practices than any of the other alternatives. CPW recommends that allotments be maintained to optimal land health standards and incorporate best management practices that benefit GRSG. Allotments that may be available for retirement and reassignment as grass banks should be selected carefully and with full buy-in from the Lessee. Retired allotments should be managed for the maximum benefit of GRSG.

Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts (e.g., noise disturbance) are marginally accounted for in Alt. D through Required Design Features (RDF), attached as a Condition of Approval (COA). CPW does not believe that RDF and preferred design features (PDFs), (Appendix I) are sufficient to mitigate indirect impacts. The document describes PDFs as being incorporated into management activities where necessary, appropriate, and/or technically feasible: CPW believes the language applied to PDFs should be more rigorously applied (as a COA) to help ensure regulatory certainty. Indirect impacts are one of the primary reasons for imposing a disturbance cap and are the reason that exceptions to any disturbance cap should be limited in number and extent.

Power line right-of-ways

CPW staff has actively participated in cooperating agency meetings for this PRMP/EIS as well as the TransWest Project/EIS and Gateway South Project/EIS. CPW has been actively engaged with the BLM and project proponents and have provided significant input and comments for alignments. The specific alignments of both lines and the relationship to GrSG habitat and impact mitigation are still largely unknown to CPW staff. As CPW staff understand, the two power lines originating in Wyoming will propose different criteria for GrSG mitigation than what is being proposed in the Colorado PRMP/EIS. CPW would like clarification as to which mitigation measures will be applied so that CPW and BLM are assured that adequate protections are provided. CPW expects that the two Wyoming projects will incorporate sufficient protective measures for greater sage-grouse and will be consistent with the Colorado Programmatic Greater Sage-Grouse EIS. CPW expects that impacts from construction of these two power lines within NW Colorado will be mitigated within NW Colorado

Other specific errors in the EIS that need to be corrected are identified in Appendix A.

As a cooperating agency and state partner, Colorado Parks & Wildlife appreciates the opportunity to provide these recommendations for inclusion in your analysis of the alternatives in the Draft PRMP/EIS. We believe this important project is a matter of great interest to the residents of Colorado.

Sincerely,



Bob D. Broscheid, Director
Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Cc: Mike King, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Attachment - CPW Comment Table

ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Colo. governor urges BLM to be more flexible on sage grouse protection

Scott Streater, E&E reporter
Published: Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) has raised concerns that a federal plan to manage greater sage grouse habitat across the northwest corner of the state does not properly balance existing land uses such as energy development and ranching with species conservation.

Hickenlooper, in a four-page **letter** sent yesterday to the Bureau of Land Management, wrote that he is concerned that the proposal covering greater sage grouse habitat across 1.6 million acres of federal lands is too restrictive on surface activity.

Specifically, Hickenlooper wrote that he is concerned about surface disturbance caps across nearly two dozen proposed management zones that could restrict surface disturbance inside the zones to between 3 and 5 percent. BLM's proposal also evaluates no surface occupancy inside 4-mile buffers around grouse breeding areas, called leks.

The proposals are outlined in a voluminous draft **environmental impact statement** (EIS) and draft resource management plan amendments released last summer (***E&ENews PM***, Aug. 15, 2013). A final sage grouse plan for federal lands in northwest Colorado is not expected to be finalized until next year.

"The communities of northwestern Colorado rely on access and productivity associated with public lands for their livelihood," Hickenlooper wrote in the letter, addressed to Jim Cagney, BLM's Northwest District manager in Grand Junction, Colo.

"With that in mind, any plan that the BLM ultimately promotes must accurately assess the socio-economic values that link people to the land in that area," he wrote. "Ranching and energy development are the two most important economic drivers in the region; the final RMP should propose an adaptive management approach that will conserve habitat for the [grouse] while continuing to allow those industries to thrive. Such an approach will favor site-specific review and the consistent incorporation of new science over a one-size-fits-all management regime."

Hickenlooper wrote that the possible disturbance caps are "an untested management approach," and he labeled them one of "the most troubling tools being proposed" by BLM. He also questioned how the caps would be enforced and how the agency would gauge their effectiveness. And he noted that the caps could lead to "a cascade of unintended consequences," such as interfering with valid existing energy leases, which could lead to litigation.

"This is a clear violation of private property rights; we can't support it, and we suspect the courts will share our view," he added. "Given the critical importance of these industries to the economic health of the region, we urge the BLM to reconsider the use of disturbance caps unless they can be implemented with site-specific flexibility."

Instead, he highlighted in the letter a number of state and private efforts and partnerships that have proved successful in protecting or restoring tens of thousands of acres of grouse habitat without severely restricting land-use activities, even before the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2010 placed the grouse on a list of candidate species for federal protection.

Hickenlooper's letter underscores the enormous challenge the Obama administration faces in trying to protect the greater sage grouse and its dwindling sagebrush steppe habitat, which stretches across 11 Western states from Colorado to Oregon.

The proposed EIS/RMP for the agency's Northwest District in Colorado is one of 15 separate draft EIS/RMP amendments released last year as part of the Obama administration's ongoing effort to develop a "National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy" that would stretch across 10 Western states and cover the estimated 47 million acres of sage grouse habitat under BLM control.

BLM's plan for the Northwest District in Colorado covers 1.6 million acres, much of it prime grouse habitat. Nearly half the grouse's habitat in Colorado is on federal land in the district.

That's one reason why Hickenlooper's criticisms of the proposed disturbance caps are incorrect, said Mark Salvo, director of federal lands conservation for Defenders of Wildlife in Washington, D.C.

Salvo said the best available science recommends limiting surface disturbance and development density in priority sage grouse habitat and implementing protective lek buffers to conserve breeding, nesting and brooding habitat.

"Sage grouse are highly sensitive to habitat disturbance and require large expanses of healthy sagebrush steppe to survive," he said. "This means protecting the last, best sagebrush habitat and locating future development elsewhere."

But BLM's proposal as outlined is too restrictive, said Kent Holsinger, a Denver natural resources lawyer who has represented the energy and agricultural industry in litigation involving sage grouse.

Holsinger said he appreciates the governor's leadership on the complicated grouse issue, in part because he said he believes "states are much better suited to manage wildlife than the federal government."

"Federal agencies are proposing draconian measures that indicate the public lands are closed for business," he said. "The 'science' they use to justify these restrictions is fundamentally flawed and fails to meet their own standards of quality, integrity and objectivity. Proposed changes to land-use management plans for sage grouse -- whether the bird is listed or not -- will harm public land use, the environment and the economy for potentially decades to come."

BLM response

Hickenlooper's letter did not catch BLM officials by surprise.

The agency has been working closely with the state on the grouse plan, and officials have been "aware of their concerns" about it for some time, said David Boyd, a BLM spokesman in the Northwest District in Silt, Colo.

"We will continue to coordinate with them and the other cooperating agencies, which include a number of counties, as we develop the proposed plan and final EIS," Boyd said.

In the meantime, he said, "We are currently reviewing the 7,000 comments we received on the draft EIS."

Hickenlooper's comments and suggestions are not out of line with a number of comments BLM has received on the proposed EIS and RMP amendments since August.

"The disturbance caps ... are overly broad," and the "oil and gas industry is being specifically and unfairly targeted" in the plan, Andy Nickel, director of the Grand Junction-based Western Colorado Jobs Alliance, wrote in a Nov. 19 letter to BLM.

The public comment period deadline on the draft EIS and RMP amendments was Dec. 2, and a final EIS is expected to be released this summer, Boyd said.

Hickenlooper concluded in his letter to BLM that the state will continue to work with federal regulators but that he hopes the final plan will be flexible.

"Rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all prescription, we urge the BLM to consider local conditions before, during, and after any tools are deployed," he wrote. "In places with healthy and thriving bird populations, restrictions should be more flexible; in locations with struggling bird populations, restrictions should be tighter. Those parameters should then be revisited regularly.

"Evolving science will help us better understand what the species needs to succeed," he added. "Our improved understanding can then inform future regulatory terms, and the cycle of adaptive management will allow us to be both responsive and proactive."

(b)(6)

Fwd: thank you

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Jan 18, 2014 at 1:47 PM
To: Ashe Dan <D_M_Ashe@fws.gov>, Iacobucci Francis <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Davis Laura <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Jayo David <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov>, Androff Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

All -

Below is a message that David received from Kip Tindell, CEO of the Container Store. I know Kip from before and David and I have been pitching his company for support of the youth initiative. When I spoke first with Kip about that, he mentioned that he has a large ranch in Gunnison Sage Grouse territory and expressed some concern about assumptions the FWS was using in its analysis. One reference he made was that there are no birds above 9k ft., even though the FWS was looking at that habitat as important. I mentioned this to Dan at the time and he said he would look into it.

In this message from Kip, he is asking that I meet with Doug Washburn, head of Gunnison Stock Growers Assn. on my upcoming trip.

So, I turn this over to you for consideration (mainly Dan for content and Booch to consider the scheduling). We owe Kip an answer and Dan is probably in the best position to respond so I don't get in the middle of things. It is pretty clear that the information that Kip expresses regarding the bird is different from the reports I have heard.

Please let me know how we should handle and whether a meeting is possible and/or advisable, at least for Dan and possibly for me (I defer to Dan and Laura on that). In the meantime, I will ask David to quickly respond and say that he has passed the message along to trip organizers to consider whether it works with a very packed schedule. Also to clarify that my meetings are to discuss the Greater Sage Grouse (and not the Gunnison).

Thanks,

Sally

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** David Jayo <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov>
> **Date:** January 17, 2014, 9:58:28 PM EST
> **To:** Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: thank you**
>
> My oh my!
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com>
> > **Date:** January 17, 2014 at 8:03:21 PM EST

To: "Jayo, David" <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Audrey Robertson <AudreyR@containerstore.com>
Subject: RE: thank you

Thanks, David – so appreciate the feedback! Means a lot coming from you! So... on a completely separate note and one I had mentioned to Sally in our last call, if you don't mind, can I share some thoughts about another topic I'm passionate about? The Gunnison Sage Grouse and its potential listing. My wife and I are so proud of our ranch in Gunnison and over the years and years of being there, we have developed some wonderful relationships with our "neighbors"- with one of our shared causes being the Gunnison Sage Grouse.

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With all of that said, what do you think? Feel free to contact me or Burt Guerrieri (b)(6) cell) or Doug Washburn (b)(6) with any more questions. I know that Doug could be available to whatever schedule is necessary to meet.

If this Tuesday doesn't materialize with a meeting I'm confident that the group there is available and amenable to anything that will precipitate a meeting before the March decision.

Look forward to your thoughts. Have a wonderful weekend!

Kip

From: Jayo, David [mailto:david_jayo@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 7:31 PM
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Thanks for sharing them and congratulations on your advertising campaign. You're truly making a difference and aware that "what you do matters".

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http://standfor.containerstore.com/thrive/

Talk soon.

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Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to learn more about the effort and how you can get involved. I'd also like to learn more about the Conscious Capitalism event and any requests that you have of Sally regarding attendance and participation.

Thanks so much!

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What We Stand For

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Cc: David Jayo
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I have copied David on this so he can connect directly with Audrey. As I mentioned, David joined me from REI to lead our efforts on 21CSC and engaging youth to play, learn, serve and work outside. It would be wonderful to work with The Container Store, along with other enlightened businesses, to engage many more people in service on our public lands.

With regard to the CC event in San Diego, please let us know the dates and we can see if it works with our travel. I fully agree that this would be a wonderful audience for 21CSC.

Happy Thanksgiving and keep in touch!

Warmly,

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> http://standfor.containerstore.com/
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> Again, thank you for reaching out…let's stay in touch.
>
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> PS – and of course thank you for letting me bend your ear on the Gunnison Sage-Grouse ☺.

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Perfect! I didn't know how to reply but didn't expect you to craft a response for me. Thank you!

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David -

As noted in the message I just sent to others, please convey the following (or something like it) to Kip, so I don't get into the middle of the exchange:

Dear Kip -

There are so many interesting intersections in this job! Thanks for suggesting this as part of Sally's trip. I know that her schedule is packed and the Colorado portion with Gov. Hickenlooper deals with the Greater Sage Grouse and other matters related to the energy development activities in the state, however, I have passed along your request to the trip organizers for consideration. I do know that the head of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Dan Ashe, will be traveling with Sally to Colorado. They will consider whether Dan can meet with Doug, even if it doesn't work into Sally's schedule, so stay tuned.

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BISON CONNECT

(b)(6)

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Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to learn more about the effort and how you can get involved. I'd also like to learn more about the Conscious Capitalism event and any requests that you have of Sally regarding attendance and participation.

Thanks so much!

Sincerely,

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As you know, the Secretary has a strong commitment and inspirational vision for preparing the next generation of outdoor champions, advocates and leaders. She has set metrics for each component of the plan (play, learn, serve and work). Attached is a document that provides a high-level overview of the youth agenda including goals. The "work" category is getting the most attention from private sector as Sally has truly added depth and dimension to the term "public-private partnership".

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Audrey

containerstore.com

What We Stand For

From: Sally Jewell [mailto:(b)(6)ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 4:52 PM
To: Kip Tindell; Audrey Robertson
Cc: David Jayo
Subject: Re: thank you

Dear Kip and Audrey -

It was a real pleasure to speak with you today. Congrats again on the IPO - it is wonderful to know that another public company will bring the principles of conscious capitalism to Wall Street!

I have copied David on this so he can connect directly with Audrey. As I mentioned, David joined me from REI to lead our efforts on 21CSC and engaging youth to play, learn, serve and work outside. It would be wonderful to work with The Container Store, along with other enlightened businesses, to engage many more people in service on our public lands.

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>
> Again, thank you for reaching out…let's stay in touch.
>
> Kip

PS – and of course thank you for letting me bend your ear on the Gunnison Sage-Grouse ☺.

containerstore.com

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–

David Jayo

Senior Advisor to the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

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(b)(6)

Re: thank you

David Jayo <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Jan 18, 2014 at 2:40 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

I forwarded the message because bcc's have bitten me in the past. ;-)

Today was GREAT! Just what the Dr ordered.

Thanks for your support and understanding.

On Jan 18, 2014, at 2:25 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> David -
>
> Thanks. Did you bcc others, like Dan, Laura, Booch and Blake? If not, please forward your message to them so they know the reply.
>
> Great fun at the service project this morning - thanks for rallying DOI troops - I enjoyed getting to know Impact volunteers and the guys from FSU.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Sally
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> On Jan 18, 2014, at 2:04 PM, David Jayo <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> > Hi Kip,
> >
> > There are so many interesting intersections in this job! Thanks for suggesting this as part of Sally's trip. I know that her schedule is packed and the Colorado portion with Gov. Hickenlooper deals with the Greater Sage Grouse and other matters related to the energy development activities in the state, however, I have passed along your request to the trip organizers for consideration. I do know that the head of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Dan Ashe, will be traveling with Sally to Colorado. They will consider whether Dan can meet with Doug, even if it doesn't work into Sally's schedule, so stay tuned.
> >
> > All the best,
> > David
> >
> > On Jan 17, 2014, at 8:03 PM, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com> wrote:
> >
> > > Thanks, David – so appreciate the feedback! Means a lot coming from you! So...on a completely separate note and one I had mentioned to Sally in our last call, if you don't mind, can I share

some thoughts about another topic I'm passionate about? The Gunnison Sage Grouse and its potential listing. My wife and I are so proud of our ranch in Gunnison and over the years and years of being there, we have developed some wonderful relationships with our "neighbors"- with one of our shared causes being the Gunnison Sage Grouse.

I heard from our closest neighbor and dear, dear friend Burt Guerrieri that Sally is headed to Denver next Tuesday to meet at John Salazar's office concerning Greater Sage Grouse. Well, it turns out Doug Washburn, the President of the Gunnison Stockgrowers Assoc., will be in Denver that same day.

What do you think the chances are of arranging a meeting where Sally and Doug can visit about the Gunnison Sage Grouse? I'd imagine her schedule is packed full but thought I'd ask. As you probably know the final decision to list or not list the Gunnison Sage Grouse as an Endangered or Threatened species is this coming March.

For more than a decade the Gunnison community, led by Gunnison County and Gunnison Stockgrowers, has put forth an extraordinary effort to help the Gunnison Sage Grouse and preempt the need for a federal Endangered listing. There have been numerous on the ground projects and changes in our community to accommodate Sage Grouse habitat. Literally millions of dollars have been spent. This proactive effort is unmatched anywhere in the United States. We're so proud that a representative of the US Fish & Wildlife Service has been a participant at the table during this orchestrated effort the entire time.

The purpose of a meeting would NOT be to "plead" to Sally but to just have a conversation so that we can all be on the same page operating from the same information. It turns out locally the Gunnison Sage Grouse is thriving and has clearly established a long term trend of population increase. Although some Gunnison Sage Grouse populations in other parts of the Colorado are smaller, the Gunnison Sage Grouse as a species has a miniscule statistical chance of trending toward actually being extinct. I know that the US Fish & Wildlife service actually agrees with the previous sentence and states so many times in their documentation on the issue.

With all of that said, what do you think? Feel free to contact me or Burt Guerrieri (b)(6) cell) or Doug Washburn (b)(6) (b)(6) with any more questions. I know that Doug could be available to whatever schedule is necessary to meet.

If this Tuesday doesn't materialize with a meeting I'm confident that the group there is available and amenable to anything that will precipitate a meeting before the March decision.

Look forward to your thoughts. Have a wonderful weekend!

Kip

From: Jayo, David [mailto:david_jayo@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 7:31 PM
To: Kip Tindell
Cc: Audrey Robertson; Sally Jewell
Subject: Re: thank you

Wow, Kip! These videos are fantastic and reinforce your values of respect, authenticity and action. Coincidentally, I went to the Holocaust Museum this past weekend. While the experience is intense, the message that they are delivering is very similar to yours. Their theme and motto is: What you do matters! It's a wonderful reminder that our actions have an impact and we can all make a difference in our communities and world. It's powerful and empowering, just like your videos.

Thanks for sharing them and congratulations on your advertising campaign. You're truly making a difference and aware that "what you do matters".

Sincerely,

David

On Thu, Jan 16, 2014 at 7:01 PM, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com> wrote:

Thanks for reaching out, David. I know that you and Audrey will connect very soon as we're excited to learn even more about the

initiative. In meantime, we're super proud of some ads (full page in today's NYT, USA Today and WSJ) and videos that launched today to try and communicate to an even broader audience what we stand for – and to hopefully inspire others to build their organizations where everyone associated with them can thrive... obviously something that you and Sally are so familiar with. Kind of ironic to think of this content in the Wall Street Journal – never thought I'd see that day.

Here are the videos...and hopefully you had a chance to see the ads in person. If not, let me know and we'll send one to you online.

http://standfor.containerstore.com/thrive/

Talk soon.

Kip

From: Jayo, David [mailto:david_jayo@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 2:07 PM
To: Audrey Robertson; Kip Tindell
Cc: Sally Jewell
Subject: Re: thank you

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What We Stand For

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Secretary Jewell to Join Gov. Hickenlooper for Tour of Sage Grouse Conservation Efforts Underway at Colorado Ranch

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Jan 20, 2014 at 10:55 AM
Reply-To: interior_news@ios.doi.gov
To: [redacted]@ios.doi.gov

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

U.S. Department of the Interior

www.doi.gov

Media Advisory

Date: January 20, 2014
Contact: Jessica Kershaw (202) 208-6416

Secretary Jewell to Join Gov. Hickenlooper for Tour of Sage Grouse Conservation Efforts Underway at Colorado Ranch

Will Highlight Importance of Conservation Partnerships to Improve Habitat for Sage Grouse

CRAIG, CO – On Tuesday, January 21, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will join Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper and other Interior Department officials at the Bord Gulch Ranch in Craig, Colorado, to tour innovative sage grouse conservation efforts being undertaken by ranch manager Ray Owens. Owens was recently named one of two recipients of Colorado Parks and Wildlife's 2013 Wildlife Landowner of the Year award.

Jewell and Hickenlooper will highlight the importance of partnerships between the federal government, states, private landowners and other stakeholders in creating and implementing a landscape-level conservation strategy for the species, which will be considered for possible protection under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

WHO: **Sally Jewell**, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado
Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director of the Bureau of Land Management
Ray Owens, Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Wildlife Landowner of the Year

WHAT: Ranch tour and brief media availability

WHEN: Tuesday, January 21
1:00 p.m. MST – Media check-in
1:15 p.m. MST – Ranch tour followed by brief media availability

WHERE:
Bord Gulch Ranch
County Road 7 (Between Mile Markers 17 & 18)
Craig, CO 81625

RSVP: Credentialed members of the media who wish to attend the ranch tour and media availability are required to RSVP here no later than 6:00 PM MST on Monday, January 20.

#

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Jan 21, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

JEWELL: US TO NOMINATE SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS TO BE UN WORLD HERITAGE SITES. Reuters (1/17, Forsyth) reported the Interior Department said that it will nominate the Alamo and other colonial missions to be listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as UN World Heritage sites. In a statement, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said, "The San Antonio Missions represent a vital part of our nation's Latino heritage and the contributions of Latinos to the building of our country."

The San Antonio Express-News (1/18, Huddleston, 746K) reported that in a release, Jewell said, "World Heritage Sites represent an incredible opportunity for the United States to tell the world the whole story of America and the remarkable diversity of our people and beauty of our land." Previously "Rep. Joaquín Castro, D-San Antonio, said he was 'disappointed' that an omnibus bill appropriating funds for fiscal 2014 did not include some $700,000 to resume payment of dues to" UNESCO, which ceased in 2011 under a law forbidding funding of any UN branch admitting Palestine as a full member. He and others are concerned this will hurt the nomination, although a UNESCO spokesperson said it would not.

Also covering this story are the AP (1/18), the Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (1/19, Recio, Tinsley, 596K), the San Antonio Business Journal (1/18, Bailey, Subscription Publication, 27K), the Longview (TX) News-Journal (1/18, 69K), KSAT-TV San Antonio (1/17, 91K), and KWTX-TV Waco, TX (1/17, 48K).

JEWELL, OTHER OFFICIALS TO SEE SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION EFFORTS. The Craig (CO) Daily Press (1/20, Fenner, 10K) reports Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will be "in Moffat County Tuesday to talk sage grouse." She and Gov. John Hickenlooper, will tour the Bord Gulch Ranch's sage grouse conservation efforts, as well as exploring "how to protect the species while still leaving the land open to ranchers, the mining industry and other businesses."

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/21, Webb, 73K) reports that, besides Jewell and Hickenlooper, US Fish and Wildlife Service director Dan Ashe and Neil Kornze, principal deputy director of the BLM, will be on the tour. Meanwhile, "Fish and Wildlife is considering whether to list the bird for protection under the Endangered Species Act, and the Bureau of Land Management is considering land-management measures aimed at keeping it from needing to be listed."

The AP (1/21) and he Denver Post (1/21, Bartels, 949K) also cover this story.

JEWELL VOLUNTEERS AT MLK MEMORIAL. On its website, WTOP-FM Washington (1/18, Stewart, 172K)

reported on events during the weekend that celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On Saturday, almost 150 volunteers gathered at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, DC. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell "volunteered and worked the area around the MLK Memorial." She said, "We're going to beautify the site. We're going to pick up leaves, we're going to weed the garden," adding, "And make sure it represents Dr. King and everything we're proud of about his contributions to the country." Jewell also "challenged her colleagues to roll up their sleeves as well," saying "I welcome all my cabinet colleagues from the cabinet to come out and join us."

DOG ADVOCATES APPEAL TO JEWELL FOR INTERVENTION ON GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. Tom Stienstra wrote in the San Francisco Chronicle (1/20, Stienstra, 2.88M) that advocacy groups have written to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell requesting "intervention to keep several areas in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area open to dogs." Stienstra added that the government "means a lot of new rules and enforcement" and that rangers today often don't live in the community of the parks they patrol but instead are "from out of town and then impose their will on people they do not know, without a responsibility to or consequence within that community." He cites a ranger that r stun-gunned a man walking his dogs and "another ranger whose top priority appears to be hunting down dog walkers."

Christa Bigue writes in the Mill Valley (CA) Patch (1/21, Hickman, 636) the Montara Dog Group is asking "for help to fix the proposed" dog management plan, which they say "will deny people with dogs 'access to 99.9% of the GGNRA.'"

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NATIONAL PARKS OFFERING NINE DAYS WITH COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION. USA Today (1/17, Stapen, 5.82M) reported there will be "nine days of complimentary admission to America's national parks—the first is Jan. 20." Spokesperson Kathy Kupper said, "The entrance fees aren't that expensive, but the National Park Service wants to eliminate any barrier to enjoying the parks." Kupper added, "Most Americans live within an hour or two of a national park."

The St. George (UT) Spectrum (1/19, DeMille, 48K) reports, "The U.S. Forest Service is also waiving fees at day-use sites." US Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell said in a release, "Our public lands are open to everyone, and we hope these free days offer an incentive to all people to visit any of the 193 million acres of land held in trust for their enjoyment and use."

Also covering this story are the Denver Post (1/20, 949K), the AP (1/20), another AP (1/21) article, the Southern Illinoisan (1/20, 12K), and the Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (1/18, Miller, 104K).

TOWNS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS OPPOSE GIVING NPS OPTION TO ADD SAND TO SHACKLEFORD BANK. The AP (1/18) reported that "an odd coalition of towns" and environmentalists oppose "a proposal to give the National Park Service the option of using dredging material to fight erosion on North Carolina's pristine Shackleford Bank." The towns want the sand on their beaches, and the environmentalists don't want human interference with the Shackleford Bank. Pat Kenney, superintendent of the Cape Lookout National Seashore, said the plan would allow the park service to have the option of using the dredge material in the next 20 years; "it doesn't require it to do so."

COMPANY APPEALS ACADIA CONCESSIONS CONTRACT AWARD. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (1/20, Trotter, 166K) reports Acadia Corp., which provided retail and food services in Acadia National Park for decades but lost the concessions contract last fall, says the bid evaluation process was a "sham" and is appealing the decision in Federal claims court. The company says that Dawnland LLC, which received the ten-year contract, received "a high score based upon extensive promises Dawnland made that later were rejected by other National Park Service officials because the promises or commitments were 'either infeasible, of no benefit to the government, or unenforceable.'"

OP-ED: COMMISSION NEEDED TO MAKE NEW PLAN FOR NATIONAL MALL. Judy Scott Feldman, founder

and chair of the National Coalition to Save Our Mall, in an op-ed in the Washington Post (1/18, 4.28M), argued, "Management agencies should not dictate the purpose and meaning of the Mall." Feldman criticized the National Park Service as caring more about the health of the Mall's grass than public use, noting that the new grass regulations are preventing the National Book Festival from returning. The Mall "is not a national park and was never intended to be," and Feldman called for "an independent McMillan-type commission to provide an updated, unified plan for this nationally significant landscape."

Bureau of Land Management:

NEW MEXICO CONSIDERS BUYING LAND FROM BLM. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (1/21, Nott, 59K) reports New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands Ray Powell told the Legislative Education Study Committee that purchasing 800,000 acres of land from the Bureau of Land Management "could generate up to $50 million for education." He said that the agency is selling the land because it "no longer fits into the bureau's mission and is sitting idle, often close to urban centers." The state Land Office manages land "for the benefit of schools and other facilities."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

DIRECTOR ASHE: JUMP IN WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. The Voice of America (1/19, 34K) reported Dan Ashe, the Director of US Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "we have seen dramatic escalation in wildlife trafficking" in the last few years, and it is increasingly "sophisticated, highly organized, syndicated trafficking." He called for implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and reducing demand.

FEDEX, OTHER CARGO CARRIERS TRANSPORT LIVE WILD ANIMALS. McClatchy (1/20, 95K) reports that "there are some decidedly more exotic and unusual cargoes that are shipped through Miami International Airport," such as "live Florida lobsters destined for China, monkeys, blueberries from Chile, gold artifacts, stacks of currency, tissue and blood samples, and tropical fish in super-oxygenated water." In addition, "cargo carriers such as Tampa Air Cargo, LAN Cargo, DHL Express, and FedEx fly even bigger animals, including manatees, race horses and polo ponies." Sandy Cleva, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement at MIA, explained that "for animals traveling internationally, air cargo is typically the best alternative. And Miami is the second busiest U.S. airport, after Los Angeles, for transporting live wild animals."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

OP-ED PRAISES MASTER LEASING PLANS. In an op-ed in the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/20, Nimkin, 343K), David Nimkin, southwest senior regional director for the National Parks Conservation Association, writes in support of the US Department of the Interior's oil and gas Master Leasing Plans (MLPs), which seek "to study and discuss impacts to areas where the most potential conflicts exist between oil and gas development, recreation and conservation." Nimkin notes Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's upcoming visit to Salt Lake City, adding, "it's vital she hear from Utahns about the best way to provide for responsible oil and gas production while protecting Utah's national parks." Nimkin concludes that her "support for the MLP process is crucial" and hopes "she will continue to press for MLPs, urging the BLM and the NPS to undertake the process in areas where national parks may be affected."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM SEEKING MORE INFORMATION FROM SHELL ON ARCTIC DRILLING. The Juneau (AK) Empire (1/19, Joling, 21K) reports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "wants more information on plans for Arctic Ocean drilling in 2014 by Royal Dutch Shell PLC, which has not decided whether it will resume operations this year" in the Chukchi Sea. According to regional supervisor David Johnston, the agency sought "assurances of management changes that previously had allowed the deficiencies to remain unresolved on the drill vessel." BOEM asked for steps the company would take to prevent repeat problems on the Aiviq, an anchor handler that

lost tow lines and had four engines fail. The agency also wants drill logs and technical information on how the company concluded a pilot hole lacked permafrost or hydrates, and "BOEM also asked for additional emissions compliance data."

The San Antonio Express-News (1/20, Dlouhy, 746K) reports "Shell appears to have addressed many of the questions" BOEM raised in November when the company first asked for permission to resume drilling, "pushing the agency closer to a formal declaration that the proposed exploration plan's paperwork is complete."

The Alaska Dispatch (1/17, Quaile, 7K) and the Rigzone (1/17, Boman, 12K) also cover this story.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR DECLARES DROUGHT EMERGENCY. The drought in California saw significant coverage in major network newscasts over the weekend, although much of the coverage was devote to the drought's effect on wildfires like the one fought in that state during the same period. ABC World News (1/18, story 2, 2:05, Muir, 7.43M) reported the Sierra Nevada Mountains are "bone dry, no snow to melt to keep the land there from becoming so dry." ABC (Roy) added that California officials are calling it "a drought for the record books." California Gov. Jerry Brown was shown saying, "We're facing perhaps the worst drought that California has ever seen." Roy continued, "This drought is now covering two-thirds of the state, which is why residents are being urged to cut their water use by 20 percent."

The CBS Evening News (1/18, story 2, 1:55, Axelrod, 5.58M) reported, "The drought is making the fight against wildfires even more difficult, as we've seen all this week in California." CBS (Evans) added that "forecast is grim," and "rainfall in Los Angeles in 2013 was the lowest in more than 100 years,."NBC Nightly News (1/18, story 4, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported, "In California a state of emergency is now in effect because of the extreme drought there." NBC (Fryer) added that the drought "now covers parts of 11 states, including a majority of California seeing the least amount of rainfall in more than a century."

ABC World News (1/17, lead story, 2:30, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported that in California the water is "running so low there, it's now officially the worst drought in 100 years."

Carter Evans reported on the CBS Evening News (1/17, story 4, 2:20, Pelley, 5.58M), "Drought has caused parts of 11 states to be designated as natural disaster areas."

Bloomberg News (1/17, Marois, 1.91M) reported California has seen "three years of little rain." The declaration of drought emergency "may make it easier to divert water from fisheries and ecologically sensitive areas to farms and ranches." However, "If the drought persists, mandatory rationing may be ordered in some areas."

Among the other outlets covering this story are the AP (1/17), the San Francisco Chronicle (1/21, Alexander, 2.88M), the New York Times (1/18, Onishi, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), and the Los Angeles Times (1/18, Boxall, York, 3.07M).

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR TO CONSIDER RECOGNIZING LITTLE SHELL TRIBE. On its website, KFBB-TV Great Falls, MT (1/20, Biega, 2K) reported the US Department of the Interior said it "will consider the Little Shell Tribe's eligibility for Federal tribal recognition." The tribe previously had been "turned down based on Federal legal requirements that the tribe have not met." Besides DOI, the tribe could be recognized through a congressional vote.

KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (1/18, Grimes, 1K) reported Sen. Jon Tester and Max Baucus (D-MT), as well as Rep. Steve Daines are working on such legislation.

ALASKA NATIVES SEEK FEDERAL AID ON EROSION. The Juneau (AK) Empire (1/19, D'Oro, 21K) reported that five residents of he Inupiat Eskimo community of Shishmaref, Alaska to meet with the state's "congressional delegation and officials from federal agencies to talk about the effects of erosion," which is eating away at the town. They are seeking Federal aid in dealing with the issue, and possibly with relocation. "Nedra Darling, an

Indian affairs spokeswoman for the Interior Department, said officials are in the early stages of working with the community."

YAKAMAS TO REGAIN CIVIL, CRIMINAL AUTHORITY ON TRIBAL LAND. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (1/18, Prengaman, 86K) reported Washington state "Gov. Jay Inslee on Friday signed a proclamation that returns almost all civil and criminal authority over tribal members on the reservation back to the Yakama Nation." However, the move still requires approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Still, "in preparation, the Yakamas already signed memorandums of understanding with the cities and counties that overlap the reservation."

VIRGINIA TRIBE MOVES CLOSER TO FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/17, Degraded, 21K) reported, "Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn announced the Pamunkey Indian Tribe is one step closer to becoming the first tribe from Virginia to be federally recognized." A public comment period on the matter will now start, followed by a response period and then the agency's final determination.

OGLALA SIOUX TO MEET WITH BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK ON PROPOSED PARK. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/18, 21K) reported the Oglala Sioux Tribe is "meeting with the Badlands National Park to discuss the details of the United States' first tribal national park." The revocation of Oglala tribal ranchers' grassland leases in preparation of reintroducing bison has "sparked controversy on the reservation."

SECOND PAYMENTS IN LAND TRUST BENEFICIARIES SUIT TO ARRIVE. The AP (1/20) reported members of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes will, in a few weeks, receive a "second set of payments stemming from a settlement between the federal government and Native American land trust beneficiaries." The settlement stems from a lawsuit over the mishandling of trust funds, assets, and tribal land in which Elouise Cobell was the lead plaintiff

Top National News:

OBAMAS HONOR KING BY VOLUNTEERING AT DC CENTRAL KITCHEN. The First Family's community service outing in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day received a substantial amount of largely positive media coverage. Brian Williams, in a brief item for NBC Nightly News (1/20, story 9, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M), said that on Monday, the President "volunteered for service." The CBS Evening News (1/20, story 4, 0:15, Dubois, 5.58M) also noted that the First Family "went to a soup kitchen as part of a national day of service."

However, the Obamas' volunteering is also one of the focuses of a piece by Sheryl Gay Stolberg in the New York Times (1/21, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) titled, "2 Birthdays And 2 Ends Of The Income Spectrum" that places Monday's events alongside the White House party in honor of the First Lady's 50th birthday on Saturday. The Times reports that Princeton historian Julian Zelizer says while "all presidents hobnob with celebrities...for Democrats — and for Mr. Obama in particular — doing so carries particular risks...because imagery of mingling with the wealthy 'becomes a clash with their values and claims they are making in the public sphere.'" According to the Times, "the two events — one a very public effort to promote community service, the other a private affair that carried a whiff of celebrity and secrecy — spotlight the often contradictory worlds that modern presidents inhabit." The New York Daily News (1/21, Larson, 3.94M) also notes the First Family's MLK Day activities, writing that it "looks like the Obamas have recovered from Saturday's epic dance fest to celebrate the First Lady's 50th birthday."

The AP (1/20, Superville) reports that on Monday, President Obama "honored Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of service...by helping a soup kitchen prepare its daily meals and a host of administration figures fanned out across the capital to appear at holiday events." According to the AP, the President, First Lady and the two Obama girls went to DC Central Kitchen, "which is a few minutes away from the White House," and then "joined an assembly line that was churning out burritos." The Washington Times (1/21, Boyer, 417K) reports that "at one point, the president shouted down the line that they were running out of burritos" and "joked that he was 'very proud' of Sasha's technique."

Politico (1/21, McCalmont, 464K) notes that the First Family was "joined by senior adviser Valerie Jarrett." According to Politico, "Other members of the Obama administration also took time to take part in the Day of

Service, including" Vice President Biden, "who delivered remarks at the National Action Network's Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast." Politico (1/21, Drusch, 464K) reports that at the National Action Network breakfast, Biden "said he never imagined the country would once again be fighting over the Voting Rights Act." Biden is quoted as saying, "I never thought we'd be fighting the fight again on voting rights, I really didn't."

Al Sharpton, on MSNBC's Politics Nation (1/20, 894K), said that on Monday morning, "the National Action Network, my civil rights organization, held our annual Martin Luther King Day breakfast," during which Biden "got specific about a challenge we must fight." Biden was shown saying, "I never thought we'd be fighting the fight again on voting rights. I never believed – I really didn't. I really didn't. This has been the ultimate fight because our opponents know, they know the single most dangerous thing to give us is the right to vote. They know what that is." USA Today (1/20, Jackson, 5.82M) reported that on Monday, Biden also "joined members of the Catholic Volunteer Network to prepare hot lunches at another kitchen, So Others Might Eat."

According to The Hill (1/21, Neff, 194K), "Other Cabinet secretaries undertaking service projects included Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew, who packed clothes for homeless veterans at the VA Medical Center in Washington, and Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, who served food at Food and Friends."

The AP (1/20, Lucas) reports that in Atlanta, "hundreds of people filled Ebenezer Baptist Church...to remember and reflect on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., who preached at the church." According to the AP, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal (R) vowed to "work with state legislators to find an appropriate way to honor King at the Georgia Capitol, which drew a standing ovation from the audience," but "did not give any specifics." USA Today (1/20, Copeland, 5.82M) reports that Deal spoke at "a nearly four-hour jubilee of speeches and songs that drew some of the state's top political figures," including Sen. Johnny Isakson, Reps. John Lewis (D-GA) and Hank Johnson (D-GA), and Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed.

Reuters (1/20) reports that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, who has made it his goal to address income inequality in the city, said, "Dr. King would tell us we can't wait" to "start the work of changing this city."

In his opening monologue for Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (1/20, 2.53M), Bill O'Reilly noted that President Obama, in his recently published interview with The New Yorker, was quoted as saying, "There is no doubt that there is some folks who just really dislike me because they don't like the idea of a black president. Now, the flip side of it is that there are some black folks, and maybe some white folks, who really like me and give me the benefit of the doubt precisely because I'm a black president." According to O'Reilly, "That assessment" is "100% correct." O'Reilly went on to say that, "to his credit," the President "has not used race in his quest for power," and, "in the public arena, has been cautious and responsible on the race issue."

DeWayne Wickham, in his column for USA Today (1/21, 5.82M), says that last week, "a small, bipartisan group of congressmen offered" King "-- and this country – an unexpected gift." According to Wickham, the "surprising mix of Republicans and Democrats introduced a bill to fix much of the damage the Supreme Court did last year to the Voting Rights Act" when it "struck down a portion of the nearly 50-year-old law that required mostly Southern states with a history of voting rights abuses to get federal clearance before making any election changes."

Christina Villegas, an adjunct professor at California State University, San Bernardino, and a visiting fellow at the Independent Women's Forum, in an op-ed for USA Today (1/21, 5.82M), says King "rightfully recognized racial discrimination as a tragic stain on our country's past," but "still found reason to esteem and identify with America and its promise of liberty and justice for all."

Sebelius Ties ACA Enrollment Drive To MLK's Legacy. According to the Washington Times (1/21, Chasmar, 417K), HHS Secretary Sebelius "took the opportunity Monday to celebrate Martin Luther King Day while pleading with Americans to sign up for Obamacare." Sebelius issued a press release saying: "As we celebrate the inspirational life of Dr. King, please join us in this historic effort by helping your friends, neighbors, and loved ones get covered through the Marketplace."

Palin Calls On Obama To Avoid "Playing The Race Card." Politico (1/21, Mccalmont, 464K) reports that in A Facebook post on Monday, Sarah Palin wrote: "Mr. President, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. and all who commit to ending any racial divide, no more playing the race card." Robin Abcarian, in a piece for the Los

Angeles Times (1/20, Abcarian, 3.07M), says Palin "show[ed] pure contempt for the ideals that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. embraced."

OBAMA DETAILED PROPOSED NSA REFORMS IN GERMAN TV INTERVIEW. David Jackson, in an online piece for USA Today (1/20, 5.82M), wrote that President Obama "must be concerned about relations with Germany amid reports of past U.S. surveillance on" Chancellor Merkel because he "went on German television to explain his new National Security Agency surveillance policies, the only interview Obama has given since his big NSA speech Friday." Jackson says that "in the session with ZDF television, which aired in Germany on Saturday," the President "said he would not let U.S. surveillance operations damage the trust among the United States, the German people, and Merkel." President Obama is quoted as saying, "As long as I am president of the United States, the German chancellor need not worry about that."

Analysts: Implementation Of Obama's Proposed NSA Reforms In Doubt. The AP (1/20, Braun) reports that, according to "legal experts," some of President Obama's proposed "surveillance reforms...face complications that could muddy the proposals' lawfulness, slow their momentum in Congress and saddle the government with heavy costs and bureaucracy." The AP says that in regard to the President's "plans to shift the National Security Agency's mass storage of Americans' bulk phone records elsewhere, telephone companies do not want the responsibility," and there are likely to be "privacy and structural hurdles in relying on any other entity to store the data." The AP adds that "constitutional analysts also question the legal underpinning of Obama's commitment to setting up an advisory panel of privacy experts to intervene in some proceedings of the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court."

Under the headline, "No One Is Sure How Public Advocate At Spy Court Would Work," McClatchy (1/20, Doyle, Kumar, 95K) also reports that "serious questions shadow" the President's "proposal to add a public advocate to the secret court that oversees surveillance programs." According to McClatchy, in October, the Congressional Research Service "said in a report...that the 'novel' public advocate proposal raises 'several difficult questions of constitutional law' that ultimately might undermine the advocate's authority."

Former US Attorney General Michael Mukasey, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (1/21, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), chides the President for not addressing what steps he thinks the government should take to prevent leaks like those from Edward Snowden. Mukasey goes on to contend that such leaks would be actually more likely to happen if the NSA were to transfer its databases to a third-party entity, as the President proposed on Friday.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON MARIJUANA CONTINUE TO SPARK COMMENTARY. President Obama's comments on marijuana being no more dangerous than alcohol, reported in the New Yorker piece released this weekend, continues to generate media coverage in the latest cycle. NBC Nightly News (1/20, story 8, 2:35, Williams, 7.86M) reported on the President's comments, with Chuck Todd remarking that Obama's "live and let live attitude is in stark contrast to past White House positions on the drug." For example, Nancy Reagan "appeared in a popular sitcom to boost her 'Just Say No' campaign." NBC (Todd) looks at the evolution of views on marijuana, saying that in 1969, "84 percent of Americans were against legalization of marijuana. Today 58 percent are in favor. And the President may have just helped that number grow." Michael Beschloss of NBC News was shown saying, "And the President says marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol, that's going to affect a lot of people, could change history."

The CBS Evening News (1/20, story 5, 0:30, Dubois, 5.58M) reported that in the New Yorker piece, Obama said "I don't think it is more dangerous than alcohol," but "did call it a vice" and added, "smoking pot is not something I encourage and I've told my daughters I think it's a bad idea." Obama also "urged caution in changing marijuana laws."

USA Today (1/20, Weise, 5.82M) reports that physicians and "drug policy groups are sharply at odds" over the President's statement. On one side, Stuart Gitlow, director of the Annenberg Physician Training Program in Addictive Disease at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine said that Obama is "not familiar with the science and frankly doesn't know what he's talking about," adding that there is "no benefit" to marijuana and it is "simply that people want the freedom to be stoned." On the other side, Donald Abrams, chief of oncology at San Francisco General Hospital said, "That's a good start from the president but it's still misinformed. In my 37 years as a physician, the number of patients I've admitted to the hospital with complications from marijuana use is zero. The number I've

admitted due to alcohol use is profound."

In his column for the Washington Post (1/21, Cohen, 4.28M), Richard Cohen uses the President's comments on marijuana as an opening to discuss the dangers of smoking. After reviewing the latest reports on the extreme dangers of smoking, Cohen suggests that the debate should be not about marijuana's dangers, but instead focus on the harm caused by smoking cigarettes.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Pre-K On The Starting Blocks."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (1/21, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) backs NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan for the city to offer full-day preschool for all four-year olds, but only if it is done properly. The city "will have to persuade parents to sign up, make sure there is a qualified teaching corps with classes small enough to be effective, and tightly integrate the program" with primary schools. The Times says that skeptics "may say that the benefits of preschool tend not to last, but that doesn't have to be true, if done right and sustained by good schooling in later years."

"A Potentially Harmful Merger." The New York Times (1/21, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that a proposed merger between Sysco and US Foods, "two of the largest suppliers of food to restaurants, hotels and school cafeterias could significantly reduce competition and drive up prices of the meals Americans eat outside their homes." The Times argues that by "reducing meaningful competition, the new company would be able to demand higher prices to deliver food to restaurants and cafeterias, forcing them to charge their customers and users more." The Times urges antitrust regulators at the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission to "consider blocking the deal or requiring the companies to first divest parts of their distribution networks."

"Detention Must Be Paid." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/21, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes that "millions" are unemployed and have lost extended jobless benefits because Congressional Republicans say the government "can't afford to help them," but "there is no shortage of money when it comes to hunting down unauthorized immigrants." Noting the boost for immigration enforcement in the omnibus spending bill, the Times says it is "mindless to keep throwing billions at border enforcement and detention at a time when illegal immigration is at historic lows, when other, more pressing government functions are being starved and when none of the money spent actually goes toward solving the problem."

"Saratoga Springs Doesn't Need A Casino."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Under Cyberattack."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/20, board, 4.28M) writes that that "massive Target data breach" is a "warning of a persistent and deepening cybertheft problem that needs to be confronted." Congress has "debated cybersecurity bills," but they failed, "in part because of opposition by some in the business community who called the requirements too intrusive or burdensome." Congress "must now get serious about cybersecurity" as already, "millions of consumers are paying the price of inaction."

"A Bill To Be Proud Of." An editorial in the Washington Post (1/21, 4.28M) notes that House Ways and Means Committee chairman Dave Camp and incoming Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden "will face pressure to pass an unpaid-for" tax extenders bill, "with the excuse that all tax breaks must be dealt with in a grand bargain on tax reform." The Post argues that this is a "fiscally irresponsible cop-out," and calls on lawmakers to "break with past practice and pay for the bill."

"D.C.'s Missing Audit." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/21, 4.28M) says that over a year ago, the DC Office of Campaign Financed finished its review of Mayor Vincent Gray's 2010 campaign, but "the report has yet to be published." The Post says that the "reasons are hard to fathom and raise troubling questions about how seriously this office takes its duty to police the city's politics." The Post says that the campaign finance office "should release its findings before another election has come and gone."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Young And The ObamaCare-less."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (1/21, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that while ACA enrollments have improved since the launch of the exchanges, they are still far below the level necessary to ensure a workable insurance market. The Journal notes that only 24% of enrollees are between ages 18 and 24 and that the number needs to be closer to 40% or rates

will surge over time. The Journal adds that HHS is unilaterally rewriting the rules to help insurers deal with the problem, and notes that Republicans are right to criticize the effort as a "taxpayer bailout" for the insurance industry.

"Coburn's Principles." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/21, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) lauds Coburn as a man of principle during his tenure in the Senate, saying that – among other things – he has fought to limit the size of government, called out the GOP on the issue of earmarks, and was instrumental in the killing of the ethanol tax credit. The Journal also applauds Coburn for speaking out against conservatives' attempt to defund the Affordable Care Act by using a government shutdown as leverage.

"The Court And Union Coercion." The Wall Street Journal (1/21, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that the Supreme Court should strike down agreements with state governments that allow taxpayer-funded home-care workers to unionize, arguing that they violate constitutional free speech and association guarantees.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Iran, West Take Initial Steps
Jobless Agency Picks Up Few Calls
Feet First In Pasadena
MOCA Director Says It Has To Be 'Most Innovative'
Rookie Teen Turns Pro

Wall Street Journal:
Fed On Track For Next Cut In Bond Buys
UN Rescinds Invitation To Iran For Syria Talks
From His Refuge In The Poconos, A Reclusive Imam Roils Turkey
Republicans Widen Push For Senate Seats

New York Times:
Under US Pressure, UN Withdraws Iran's Invitation To Syria Talks
Law's Expanded Medicaid Coverage Brings A Surge In Sign-Ups
Parties Seize On Abortion Issues In Midterm Race
Hollande's Romances Turn Into A Political Spectacle In France
Super Sunday, And The Crowd Goes, Um, Silent
You Don't Have To Be Jewish To Love A Kosher Prison Meal

Washington Post:
UN Rescinds Iran Invitation To Syria Talks
Tug Of War In Iowa GOP Ahead Of Caucuses
Retirements To Leave A Void For Parties' Leaders In House
Showing The Beltway's Tech Backbone
With Oil At Stake, A Push To Quell Crisis In South Sudan

Financial Times:
Syria Talks Lifeline As UN Pulls Iran Offer
Deutsche Bank Losses Test Nerves
Retailers Join Growing IPO Shopping List
Wells Fargo Bans Investment In P2P Loans
Companies Flock To Europe To Raise Cash
Morrison Treasurer Suspended Amid Probe
Frontier Markets Begin To Lose Their Allure

Washington Times:

'Ring Of Steel' Vs. Stealth Of Terrorists
Two US Faces For Iran On War And Peace
After 40 Years, March For Life Makes Room For Other Causes
Victim Goes After Each Viewer Of Child Porn

Congress Inaction Could Cost US Clout At IMF

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Russia-Security; Winter Storm; New Jersey-Scandal; Syria-Peace Talks; North Korea-American Captive; Comet Satellite; Economy-Salary Raises
CBS: Russia-Security; Nebraska-Explosion; Winter Weather; MLK Day; Obama-Marijuana; New Jersey Scandal; Syria-Peace Talks; Japan-Dolphin Hunting; Health-Multiple Sclerosis-Vitamin D
NBC: Russia-Security; New Jersey-Governor Scandal; Nebraska Explosion; Severe Weather; Iran-Nuclear Program; North Korea-American Captive; Ukraine-Riots; MLK Day; Economy-Income Disparity

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Winter Storm; Syria Peace Talks; North Korea-American Captive; Nebraska-Explosion; Congressional Gridlock
CBS: Nebraska-Explosion; Winter Storm; Russia-Olympic Security; Target Credit Breach-Information Sold; US Postal Service-Possible Boycott
NPR: Nebraska-Explosion; West Virginia-Chemical Storage Facilities; New Jersey-Governor Scandal; Iran-Nuclear Program; Target Credit Breach-Information Sold; Central African Republic-First Woman Leader; CAR-Violence
FOX: Syria-Peace Talks; Pennsylvania Gunman Search; Nebraska-Explosion; New York-Cement Truck Crash

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with the President's Commission on Election Administration, Oval Office; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with the President's Commission on Election Administration, Oval Office; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press.
US Senate: 10:30 a.m. — The Senate convenes for a pro forma session.

3 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP – FIELD HEARING — "Fueling America – Enabling and Empowering Small Businesses to Unleash Domestic Production." Location: Picard Center – Rockhold Learning Center, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, 200 East Devalcourt Street, Lafayette, LA.
US House: 1 p.m. — The House meets in pro forma session.
Other: MULLEN – THREAT OF DEBT — 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mike Mullen speaks about "America's Biggest Threat: The Consequences of Debt" at the Concerned Veterans for America's fifth and final event in the Defend & Reform Breakfast series. Location: Charlie Palmer Steak, 101 Constitution Ave. NW.

GWU – BRAZIL AMBASSADOR — 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Ambassador Mauro Vieira will address the Elliott School community regarding the most pressing issues affecting Brazil and U.S. relations, including the recent NSA controversy. Location: The George Washington University, 1957 E St., NW, City View Room, 7th Floor.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Conan O'Brien: "Today, the George W. Bush Presidential Library started releasing classified documents from the Bush Administration. One of the documents shows we invaded Iraq, because that's where George W. Bush thought Carmen San Diego was."

Jimmy Fallon: "The President is actually getting a lot of attention over this new interview where he seems to be changing his stance on marijuana. He says marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol. Then he said, 'In fact, I know this one guy who used to smoke tons of weed and ended up President. ... Let's just say he did fine.'"

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Re: thank you

David Jayo <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jan 21, 2014 at 10:55 AM
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I know that the team that is in CO are trying to figure out a way to make this work.

Stay tuned.

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> **Sent:** Saturday, January 18, 2014 1:05 PM
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> **Subject:** Re: thank you
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Look forward to your thoughts. Have a wonderful weekend!

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Talk soon.

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Cc: Sally Jewell
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Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to learn more about the effort and how you can get involved. I'd also like to learn more about the Conscious Capitalism event and any requests that you have of Sally regarding attendance and participation.

Thanks so much!

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containerstore.com

What We Stand For

From: Sally Jewell [mailto:(b)(6)@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 4:52 PM
To: Kip Tindell; Audrey Robertson
Cc: David Jayo
Subject: Re: thank you

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I have copied David on this so he can connect directly with Audrey. As I mentioned, David joined me from REI to lead our efforts on 21CSC and engaging youth to play, learn, serve and work outside. It would be wonderful to work with The Container Store, along with other enlightened businesses, to engage many more people in service on our public lands.

With regard to the CC event in San Diego, please let us know the dates and we can see if it works with our travel. I fully agree that this would be a wonderful audience for 21CSC.

Happy Thanksgiving and keep in touch!

Warmly,

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> http://standfor.containerstore.com/
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> Again, thank you for reaching out…let's stay in touch.
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> PS – and of course thank you for letting me bend your ear on the Gunnison Sage-Grouse ☺.

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What We Stand For

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Fwd: thank you

Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jan 21, 2014 at 11:00 AM
To: Ashe Dan <D_M_Ashe@fws.gov>

Dan -

I believe you have been on this string. The message originated from Kip Tindell, CEO of The Container Store who has a ranch in GunnSG country. If you want to connect with the fellow referenced in Kip's message (Doug), that might be a good use of time when we are in the methane meeting with the gov - your call. I am sure he could meet you at the capitol, or perhaps just have a phone call.

Thanks,

Sally

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com>
Date: January 21, 2014, 8:50:45 AM MST
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What We Stand For

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(b)(6)

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David, I'll give him a call now and see if we can work something out for today.

Dan.

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Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Thanks for sharing them and congratulations on your advertising campaign. You're truly making a difference and aware that "what you do matters".

Sincerely,

David

On Thu, Jan 16, 2014 at 7:01 PM, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com> wrote:

Thanks for reaching out, David. I know that you and Audrey will connect very soon as we're excited to learn even more about the initiative. In meantime, we're super proud of some ads (full page in today's NYT, USA Today and WSJ) and videos that launched today to try and communicate to an even broader audience what we stand for – and to hopefully inspire others to build their organizations where everyone associated with them can thrive... obviously something that you and Sally are so familiar with. Kind of ironic to think of this content in the Wall Street Journal – never thought I'd see that day.

Here are the videos...and hopefully you had a chance to see the ads in person. If not, let me know and we'll send one to you online.

http://standfor.containerstore.com/thrive/

Talk soon.

Kip

From: Jayo, David [mailto:david_jayo@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 2:07 PM
To: Audrey Robertson; Kip Tindell

Cc: Sally Jewell
Subject: Re: thank you

Hi Kip and Audrey,

I just wanted to follow up with you to confirm that you received my message and provide an update on Sally's youth agenda. We had a wonderful event last week at the FDR Memorial announcing our first public-private partner and $1M dollar commitment from American Eagle Outfitters. Attached is a link from a segment that was aired on NPR: http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=260979925&m=261064938

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to learn more about the effort and how you can get involved. I'd also like to learn more about the Conscious Capitalism event and any requests that you have of Sally regarding attendance and participation.

Thanks so much!

Sincerely,

David

On Wed, Nov 27, 2013 at 9:46 AM, Jayo, David <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hello, Kip and Audrey,

Thanks so much for the invitation to the Conscious Capitalism event as well as your interest in the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC). I'd love to set up time to talk a bit about the effort and explore ways that The Container Store could join the movement. Just give me a couple of options that work for you and I'll do everything possible to accommodate.

As you know, the Secretary has a strong commitment and inspirational vision for preparing the next generation of outdoor champions, advocates and leaders. She has set metrics for each component of the plan (play, learn, serve and work). Attached is a document that provides a high-level overview of the youth agenda including goals. The "work" category is getting the most attention from private sector as

Sally has truly added depth and dimension to the term "public-private partnership".

By working collaboratively, we know that we can make significant strides and have a lasting impact. This is about creating a bold national movement to get more young people outdoors, connected to nature, caring for our public lands, employed and learning skills for future employment.

I will also flag the dates of the Conscious Capitalism event for the scheduling team. It would be an honor to attend and engage with the attendees. Thanks again for the invitation.

In the meantime, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season! I hope that your sales are through the roof and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

David

On Tue, Nov 26, 2013 at 10:51 PM, Audrey Robertson <AudreyR@containerstore.com> wrote:

Hello! And nice to meet you, David! Let's connect on another email and we'll determine a time to talk more about this incredible program.

In the meantime, the dates for the Conscious Capitalism event are April 9-11, 2014 - in San Diego. If you think that there's even a *glimmer* of a chance that you could attend to talk about 21CSC, let me know and I'll get in touch with the Conference organizers and start that conversation. Thanks so much – could be so wonderful!

Audrey

containerstore.com

What We Stand For

From: Sally Jewell [mailto:(b)(6)ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 4:52 PM
To: Kip Tindell; Audrey Robertson
Cc: David Jayo
Subject: Re: thank you

Dear Kip and Audrey -

It was a real pleasure to speak with you today. Congrats again on the IPO - it is wonderful to know that another public company will bring the principles of conscious capitalism to Wall Street!

I have copied David on this so he can connect directly with Audrey. As I mentioned, David joined me from REI to lead our efforts on 21CSC and engaging youth to play, learn, serve and work outside. It would be wonderful to work with The Container Store, along with other enlightened businesses, to engage many more people in service on our public lands.

With regard to the CC event in San Diego, please let us know the dates and we can see if it works with our travel. I fully agree that this would be a wonderful audience for 21CSC.

Happy Thanksgiving and keep in touch!

Warmly,

Sally

On Nov 26, 2013, at 10:58 AM, Kip Tindell <kip@containerstore.com> wrote:

> Sally,
>
> Thanks so much for your time today – can't tell you how

much I enjoyed our conversation! Truly there isn't a better person our President could have so thoughtfully selected to lead our Dept. of Interior. Thank you for all that you're doing for our beloved country's present and future. It was thrilling to hear what you're working on and towards and know that Audrey will be eager to connect with David soon. After the call, Audrey and I also discussed maybe you or David coming to the big Conscious Capitalism event in April in San Diego to talk a bit about the 21CSC (is that the official name?) just thinking that audience of companies would be ripe for the message. That particular event is open to a much broader group of companies with many representatives coming from each organization versus, say, the CEO Summit that takes place in Austin each year with about 200 CEOs (although that could be a great audience as well – that takes place each October). The Conscious Capitalism events are a far cry from where they were in their humble beginnings when we were there together outside of Austin. They now include key business leaders from virtually every single business sector.

Lastly, here's a link to our blog I mentioned we started after that get together in Austin many years ago – it's evolved into having a great presence in all of our catalogs and really, in everything we use to talk with our customers…the response has been delightful. And the fact that we have a blog about our culture and what we stand yet nothing yet on "getting organized" I think makes people REALLY understand how important…how core… this is to us and to them…as it obviously translates to their experience with The Container Store.
http://standfor.containerstore.com/

Again, thank you for reaching out…let's stay in touch.

Kip

PS – and of course thank you for letting me bend your ear on the Gunnison Sage-Grouse ☺.

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What We Stand For

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--

David Jayo

Senior Advisor to the Secretary

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--

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David Jayo

Senior Advisor to the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Sec. Jewell and Gov. Hickenlooper Tour Innovative Efforts to Conserve and Enhance Habitat for Sage Grouse

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@ios.doi.gov>
Reply-To: interior_news@ios.doi.gov
To: [redacted]@ios.doi.gov

Tue, Jan 21, 2014 at 3:35 PM

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

U.S. Department of the Interior

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: January 21, 2014
Contact: Jessica Kershaw, 202-208-6416

Sec. Jewell and Gov. Hickenlooper Tour Innovative Efforts to Conserve and Enhance Habitat for Sage Grouse

Commend Colorado Ranch Manager Ray Owens for Being Named Colorado's Wildlife Landowner of the Year

CRAIG, CO – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper today visited northwestern Colorado as part of the Secretary's commitment to working with states and private landowners toward developing conservation efforts for sage grouse in the region. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe and Bureau of Land Management Principal Deputy Director Neil Kornze joined Jewell and Hickenlooper for a tour of the Bord Gulch Ranch, as well as for a stakeholder meeting with local landowners and officials.

After the ranch visit, Jewell commended its manager, Ray Owens, for the innovative conservation efforts to promote habitat for sage grouse that led him recently to being named one of two recipients of Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) 2013 Wildlife Landowner of the Year award.

"Ray Owens is a model of the 21st century western rancher with his outstanding stewardship of this working landscape," said Jewell. "He represents the spirit of partnership that can be replicated across the West as we develop landscape-level strategies to lessen the threats to the sage grouse and conserve its habitat."

"The Bord Gulch Ranch is a terrific example of the significant progress made through public/private partnerships in conservation for the greater sage grouse," Gov. John Hickenlooper said. "Some rural residents rely on access and productivity on public land as part of their livelihood. We thank everyone involved in the effort to protect and preserve this iconic species while providing for continued and future economic vibrancy for rural Colorado."

Working with federal and state agencies, including the CPW, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Owens has implemented a variety of conservation actions that directly benefit the species on the 16,000-acre ranch. These conservation efforts include water projects, fencing, and other infrastructure improvements designed to improve habitat conditions for the bird.

"Ray has committed countless hours working on these projects in the field, in agency offices, and leading tours of his ranch to share his experience with others and lead by example," Jewell said. "We have an opportunity to work together to develop and execute a conservation strategy, rooted in partnerships, that effectively addresses the threats to the sage grouse."

The partnership of landowners is at the heart of a joint effort by the federal government and western states to develop and implement a landscape-level conservation plan for the sage grouse before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has to make a decision whether to protect the bird under the Endangered Species Act in 2015.

Two years ago, then-Secretary Ken Salazar and western governors formed the Sage Grouse Task Force to develop a cooperative approach to conserving the species across the West. This approach offers the best opportunity to conserve the species consistent with traditional land uses such as ranching and energy development.

Jewell emphasized that the development of this approach has reached a critical time, and that states in particular must work with private landowners and their federal partners to develop comprehensive strategies that can be demonstrated to reduce the threats to the bird and its habitat.

Additionally, Jewell and Hickenlooper earlier today met in Denver with representatives from the oil and gas industry, non-government organizations, and Colorado officials in a roundtable discussion of federal and state efforts to reduce methane emissions during the production, storage and transportation of oil and gas. As called for in President Obama's Climate Action Plan, Interior is working collaboratively with state governments, as well as the private sector, to reduce emissions across multiple sectors, improve air quality, and achieve public health and economic benefits.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Jan 22, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS COLORADO RANCH TO LEARN ABOUT SAGE GROUSE EFFORTS. The AP (1/22) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "visiting Colorado to learn about efforts by ranchers to help conserve sage grouse." Jewell is "scheduled to join Gov. John Hickenlooper on Tuesday on a tour of a ranch in Craig." Hickenlooper is seeking to persuade BLM "to change its proposed plan for protecting the birds." Additional coverage was provided by the Scottsbluff (NE) Star-Herald (1/22, 36K), KUSA-TV Denver (1/22, 171K), KULR-TV Billings, MT (1/22, 2K), and KCNC-TV Denver (1/21, 26K).

The AP (1/22) reports that Jewell said that "federal officials want to hear from Colorado farmers and ranchers on their efforts to protect sage grouse as federal land managers consider ways to preserve the bird's habitat." Jewell said the BLM and the FWS "want suggestions from Colorado as the BLM evaluates sage grouse habitat in 11 states." She said, "People really respect and want to learn from the people who work the land." Additional coverage was provided the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/22, 80K), the Washington Examiner (1/22, 319K), the Denver Post (1/22, 949K), the Washington Times (1/22, 417K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (1/22, 768K), KGWN-TV Cheyenne, WY (1/22, 519) and KFQX-TV Grand Junction, CO (1/22, 1K).

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/22, 73K) reports that joining Jewell were FWS Director Dan Ashe and Neil Kornze, principal deputy director of the BLM. Hickenlooper said, "We had everybody right here ... everybody that mattered. And they listened, is the most important thing."

The Steamboat Springs (CO) Pilot (1/21, 26K) reports that "following the tour, the crew of high-up officials led a meeting at the American Legion Clubhouse in Craig to talk more about sage grouse issues." According to the article, "more than 40 people attended, including all three Moffat County commissioners and other elected officials, but press was barred from the discussion." Eric Brown, director of communications for Hickenlooper's office, said, "Secretary Jewell's office decided the meeting should be closed to press to help foster an open and frank discussion." Also reporting on the story is the Craig (CO) Daily Press (1/21, 10K).

In an editorial, the Denver Post (1/22, 949K) lauds Hickenlooper's efforts. According to the paper, Hickenlooper's suggestions are reasonable and achievable.

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ADDRESS OUTDOOR RETAILER WINTER MARKET. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/22, 343K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will address the breakfast meeting of the Outdoor Retailer Winter Market on Wednesday. Jewell is "expected to address the need for the private sector to work with government to promote the economic importance of conservation and outdoor recreation." Also, she is "expected to talk more about her goal of providing 100,000 work and training opportunities to young people and veterans on public lands."

Also reporting on the story is the Deseret (UT) News (1/22, 274K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT LAS CRUCES. KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM (1/22, 5K) reports that on January 24, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will join Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich in "a visit to the Organ Mountains region of south-central New Mexico." Jewell will "spend time exploring the area and will attend a public meeting hosted by Senators Udall and Heinrich regarding the community's vision to preserve, protect and enhance some of the public lands located in Doña Ana County." Also, "Jewell will join Udall and Heinrich, as well as Principal Deputy Director at the Bureau of Land Management Neil Kornze, for a public listening session on the community's conservation priorities in the area."

CAPITOL HILL VET TO BE INTERIOR'S DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. The National Journal (1/22, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that the Interior Department is bringing on John Blair, "a veteran of Capitol Hill and President Obama's 2008 campaign," this week "to work with states, conservation groups, and other outside parties." Blair will be the director of intergovernmental and external affairs at Interior, "where he will manage relationships with governors, mayors, and groups like the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, the department said."

Also providing coverage is the Government Executive (1/22, 28K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS MAY GET WORLD HERITAGE STATUS. Additional coverage of the nomination of the San Antonio Missions to be recognized as a World Heritage site was provided by the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (1/21, 506).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARDS. Additional coverage of the Partners in Conservation Awards was provided by the St. George (UT) Spectrum (1/21, 48K), the New Jersey (1/22, 526K), KOLD-TV Tucson, AZ (1/22, 19K), and WTXL-TV Tallahassee, FL (1/22, 1K).

SUPPORT FOR PILT PROGRAM URGED. In an editorial, the Aspen (CO) Times (1/22, 46K) expresses doubt the funds for the PILT program will ever "materialize." According to the paper, "if the program disappears forever, we believe the pressure will increase on the federal government to sell off federal lands to help with rural economies." The paper wants "national forests, magnificent red-rock canyons and seashores to remain firmly under federal government control," and it argues that "in a small way, the continued federal support of PILT can help achieve that goal."

Additional coverage of the PILT program was provided by the Denver Post (1/22, Sherry, 949K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. FILES COURT ACTION TO REMAIN OPEN WHILE PREPARING SUPREME COURT CASE. The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (1/22, 88K) reports that the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. has "filed a legal motion to allow it to continue to operate while it prepares a case to bring to the US Supreme Court." Owner Kevin Lunny would have been "forced to begin dismantling his operation" beginning Tuesday after the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals declined to re-hear the Drakes Bay case last week, but "the new court motion filed Monday will buy him more time while a case to the high court is developed." The article notes that "it could be days to weeks before the 9th Circuit issues a ruling on the latest filing," and "if Drakes Bay is denied, it can make the same request of the Supreme Court."

Additional coverage was provided by the AP (1/22), the St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (1/22, 540K), and the SF Weekly (1/22, 249K).

EIGHT PILOT WHALES FOUND DEAD OFF FLORIDA COAST. The AP (1/22, Wides-munoz) reports that eight pilot whales found beached in shallow waters off Florida's southwest coast will be examined in the hopes of unraveling an underwater mystery as to how they died, authorities said Tuesday. They added that "six others remain unaccounted for." The article notes that "in December, more than 50 pilot whales stranded in Everglades National Park."

Also reporting on the story are USA Today (1/21, Cepero, Gillis, 5.82M) and the Boston Herald (1/22, 643K).

SIERRA NEVADA BEARS AWAKE EARLY DUE TO WARM WINTER. The E&E Daily (1/21) reports that "California's winter is so mild this year that Sierra Nevada black bears that normally would be deep in hibernation are instead roaming through areas frequented by humans." According to the article, "wildlife officials are working to notify visitors in popular areas like Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park after a series of unusual interactions with bears." The article notes that "a bear ran across a ski run earlier this month at Heavenly Mountain Resort in South Lake Tahoe, Calif., and wildlife officials in Nevada euthanized a 260-pound male bear after it broke into several cars last month."

PROPOSED BIKE PATH IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK SPURS DEBATE. The E&E Daily (1/21) reports that conservationists and bike advocates are battling over a proposed cycling path in Grand Teton National Park. Supporters argue "the $2 million pathway and other road improvements would make the stretch safer for cyclists." However, "critics argue the construction project would disturb a pristine section of the park where grizzly bears have made a comeback in recent years."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PARK CONSIDERS ALLOWING BIKES ON LAKE TRAIL. The AP (1/22, 417K) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park is "considering allowing bicycles on a 2-mile-long section of the East Shore Trail along Shadow Mountain Lake." Park officials said Tuesday that "they will hold public meetings on the proposal on Feb. 11 in Grand Lake and Feb. 24 in Boulder."

Also reporting on the story is the Fort Collins (CO) Coloradoan (1/21, 85K).

GRAY WOLF SHOT WITHIN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK. The AP (1/22) reports that officials are investigating after a gray wolf was shot and killed within Grand Teton National Park boundaries. According to park

officials, "the person who fired the lethal shot Monday notified Wyoming Game and Fish Department wardens, who in turn notified park rangers."

Also reporting on the story is KPVI-TV Idaho Falls, ID (1/22, 1K).

YELLOWSTONE ASKS WYOMING TO ADOPT "ORPHAN" STRETCH OF BEARTOOTH HIGHWAY. The Billings (MT) Gazette (1/22, 206K) reports that Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk visited Cheyenne, Wyo., "last week to ask Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and state transportation officials to participate in a unique adopt-a-highway program." Wenk "asked Wyoming to take ownership of an 'orphan' stretch of the Beartooth Highway." However, "neither Mead nor members of the Wyoming Transportation Commission — which governs the state's Department of Transportation — appear eager to take on the financial burden that would come with assuming responsibility for the road."

SHIFTING QUINAULT RIVER THREATENS BUILDING IN OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK. The AP (1/22) reports that Olympic National Park "says the shifting Quinault River has come within a foot-and-a-half of undercutting the historic Enchanted Valley Chalet." According to spokeswoman Barb Maynes, "officials are monitoring the building by air until someone is able to hike in."

MAN CHARGED IN ARIZONA ATTACK ON NPS EMPLOYEE. The AP (1/22, 949K) reports that "a man who is already in federal custody has been indicted in an attack on a National Park Service employee in southeastern Arizona last year, authorities said Friday." According to the article, "a Cochise County grand jury on Thursday indicted Gil Gaxiola, 33, on charges of attempted first- and second-degree murder, armed robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping and theft of means of transportation." The NPS employee, Karen Gonzales, was "found unconscious from head trauma in a picnic area restroom at Chiricahua National Monument on Aug. 28."

WOMAN CHARGED WITH BURNING DOWN TREE COULD BE OFFERED PLEA DEAL. WOFL-TV Orlando, FL (1/22, 26K) reports that the woman "accused of burning down a historic tree in Seminole County could be offered a plea deal as early as Tuesday," according to officials. Sara Barnes is accused of lighting "a fire at the base of the 3500 year old Bald Cypress named 'The Senator' located in Longwood's Big Tree Park back in January 2012."

PERMISSION SOUGHT FOR WORLD CUP VIEWING PARTIES IN DUPONT CIRCLE. The Washington Post (1/21, Goff, 4.28M) reports that Dupont Festival, a non-profit group, has applied to FIFA and the NPS for permission to organize large-scale viewing of the World Cup in Dupont Circle this summer Aaron DeNu, the festival's principal organizer, said he is seeking "to host at least one all-day watch party, on a Sunday (June 22), culminating with the United States vs. Portugal at 5 p.m." DeNu is "also looking into other possible dates, including the July 13 final."

PILGRIM CHURCH ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Boston (1/22, 750K) reports that Pilgrim Church in Dorchester has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Bureau of Land Management:

LAND COMMISSIONER SUPPORTS PURCHASE OF BLM SITES TO BENEFIT EDUCATION. The Alamogordo (NM) Daily News (1/22, 19K) reports that the acquisition of "800,000 acres of excess federal land could generate up to $50 million for education in New Mexico, Commissioner of Public Lands Ray Powell told the Legislative Education Study Committee last week." Powell said he backs "a bill, sponsored by Sen. Michael Sanchez, D-Belen, that would appropriate $250,000 for a two-year feasibility study about acquiring the land from the Bureau of Land Management." Powell supports the acquisition because, he said, "I think we need more money for education and early-childhood education. We can't grow the permanent fund without acquiring new land."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REMOVING BARRED OWLS CHEAPER AND EASIER THAN THOUGHT. The AP (1/22, Barnard) reports that "the mechanics of shooting invasive barred owls to make room for threatened northern spotted owls" has turned out to be "cheaper and easier than some people had imagined." According to the article, "equipped with a

specially modified shotgun and a remote-controlled digital owl caller, biologist Lowell Diller found that once he arrived at a known site, it took two hours and 23 minutes to call in, shoot and process a barred owl." Diller "estimates direct costs at $100 to $150 per bird."

Additional coverage was provided by KATU-TV Portland, OR (1/22, 105K).

JUDGE ORDERS AGENCIES TO PROTECT WILD SALMON FROM HATCHERY-BRED FISH. The E&E Daily (1/21) reports that "federal and Oregon officials must work with conservationists on a plan to better prevent hatchery fish from interfering with native endangered stocks in the Pacific Northwest, a federal judge ruled last week." Officials from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife this week will have to "present a proposal on how they will deal with the release of salmon raised at the Sandy River Hatchery into the river basin this year." However, "if government officials are unable to come to an agreement with conservationists, they will have to present a schedule for how they plan to resolve their disputes," US District Judge Ancer Haggerty held.

FWS CONSIDERING LIFTING PROTECTIONS FOR RELOCATED CANADIAN GRAY WOLVES. The Toronto (CAN) Globe and Mail (1/22, 1.1M) reports that the FWS is considering "lifting protections for transplanted Canadian grey wolves across the United States." According to the article, "almost two decades ago, the wolves were relocated to Yellowstone National Park in an effort to return them to where the animals had been hunted to extinction" But "as the wolf population increased, the repercussions – good and bad – were seen far and wide." The article notes that "elk declined but beavers increased," and "coyotes declined but their prey increased."

FWS PLANS TO RELEASE 750,000 SALMON INTO SACRAMENTO RIVER. The YubaNet (CA) (1/22, 1K) reports that "as the Brown administration declared a drought state of emergency in California, the Coleman national fish hatchery plans to release another 73,000 baby salmon next week to almost certain death in the drought-stricken Sacramento River." The article notes that "the planned release follows releases of almost 750,000 baby salmon over the last five weeks ignoring warnings from salmon advocates the fish are unlikely to survive." According to the article, "federal officials overseeing the controversial releases admit conditions are very bad for salmon but insist on releasing the fish at the hatchery anyway."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SEEKS ENDANGERED STATUS FOR SEVEN SPECIES. The Cronkite News (1/22) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity is petitioning the FWS to "put seven amphibians and reptiles on the endangered species list, including four native to Arizona." Citing declining populations, the group filed a formal notice of intent to sue the FWS on Jan. 16. According to the article, "the list includes the Arizona toad, which is also found in New Mexico, Nevada and Utah; the Arizona night lizard, found in rocky areas of Yavapai County; the Bezy's night lizard, found mostly in desert highlands and woodlands; and the Yuman Desert fringe-toed lizard, found in southwestern Arizona." The article notes that "the other species on the list are the Cascade Caverns salamander, native to Texas; the Rio Grande cooter, a turtle native to Texas and New Mexico; and the Reticulate collared lizard, native to Texas."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS FIGHT DECISION TO REMOVE PROTECTIONS FOR GRAY WOLF. The Denton Publications (1/21) reports that the Adirondack Council "has placed themselves front and center in the fight against" the FWS' "pending decision to remove the gray wolf from its endangered species list and their decision to list the eastern wolf as a new separate species with a distinct evolutionary heritage, an action that means that the eastern wolf is no longer technically endangered and doesn't warrant federal protection." The group argues that "a viable wolf population hasn't yet been reestablished in the northeast" and "delisting them not only is poor public policy based on shoddy science, but also a violation of the Endangered Species Act." However, "the FWS said current scientific research has shown that there are no resident populations of eastern wolf or any wolf species in the northeastern United States."

FWS RELEASES COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN FOR BENTON LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX. KXLO-FM Lewiston, MT (1/22) reports that the FWS has announced publication of the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Benton Lake National Wildlife Complex. The plan "addresses all units of the refuge complex, including 2 refuges, 1 wetland management district containing 22 waterfowl production areas, and 3 conservation areas over the next 15 years."

SUCCESSES OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT TOUTED. In an op-ed for the Jonesborough (TN) Herald and

Tribune (1/22, Lamberts, 13K), Frances Lamberts touts the importance of the Endangered Species Act. According to Lamberts, "the law's successes in recovering such wildlife species as the blackfooted ferret, wood stork, California condor and others are known." However, "of far greater importance yet is its keeping more than 1,500 plants and animals from becoming extinct within our borders."

FERAL NATURE OF CATS SPARKS DEBATE. In his column for the Washington Post (1/21, Milloy, 4.28M), Courtland Milloy writes about the feral nature of cats. He notes that a New York Times report on cat kills that was published in January 2013, "which was based on a major study, blamed cats — house cats roaming outside as well as feral cats — for killing 'a median of 2.4 billion birds and 12.3 billion mammals a year' in the United States." Milloy also writes that scientists at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the FWS "had used a 'mathematical model' to distill 'existing scientific literature on cat-wildlife interactions.'"

US Geological Survey:

USGS CONFIRMS ZEBRA MUSSELS IN LAKE LAVON. The San Angelo (TX) Standard-Times (1/21, 67K) reports that the USGS has confirmed the presence of Zebra mussels in Lake Lavon. According to the article, "the presence of live zebra mussels or veligers, their larvae, has now been confirmed in six Texas water bodies: Lakes Texoma, Ray Roberts, Lewisville, Bridgeport, Belton, and Lavon." The article notes that "a team of USGS scientists led by Dr. Christopher Churchill has been monitoring North Texas reservoirs and rivers for the presence of juvenile and adult zebra mussels as well as for the presence of zebra mussel DNA," and "Lake Lavon's water samples recently tested positive for zebra mussel DNA and a veliger was also positively identified."

Also providing coverage is the Gilmer (TX) Mirror (1/22, 12K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FIRST SOLAR OFFICIALS SAYS INDUSTRY THRIVING IN NEVADA. In an op-ed for the Las Vegas Sun (1/21, Woodruff, 155K), Jim Woodruff, vice president of state and local government affairs for First Solar, writes that the Los Angeles Times article "Solar power's future not as bright after initial building boom" runs "contrary to clear evidence that the large-scale solar industry is thriving in the Western US, particularly in Nevada." According to Woodruff, "although the article includes a small list of California solar thermal projects that have failed because of poor siting decisions resulting in environmental opposition, it omits numerous photovoltaic projects that have succeeded, including several projects First Solar has in development or under construction, or which First Solar has already delivered to owners in the Southwest." He concludes that "Nevada's abundant solar resource, favorable policy environment, skilled workforce, elected leadership, and effective state and federal agency personnel clearly make it today's front-running solar market in the western US"

Onshore Energy Development:

REP. DAINES SEEKS ANSWERS ON COAL RULES. The Fairfield (MT) Sun Times (1/21) reports that Rep. Steve Daines "recently continued his fight to stop the Obama Administration's War on Coal by pressing a top Department of Interior Office of Inspector General (OIG) official for answers about the Administration's efforts to implement damaging coal regulations that stand as a direct threat to Montana's coal industry and the jobs it supports." According to the article, "during the House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on 'Obama Administration's War on Coal: The Recent Report by the Office of the Inspector General,' Daines questioned Robert A. Knox, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations at the US Department of Interior, about why the Administration has spent millions of dollars rewriting with little public input or oversight." Daines said, "I find it very troubling here, that OSM's actions are being determined by court settlements with habitual litigants. And I think this particular situation just demonstrates a broader theme with this Administration—where the agency agrees to settle and then is bound by the arbitrary and unrealistic demands of these organizations. We see the same with ESA litigation. We see the same in the timber industry. The process is not transparent, and it's not how rulemaking is supposed to be conducted. And it's hurting jobs, and its hurting taxpayers."

Offshore Energy Development:

FORMER HALLIBURTON MANAGER SENTENCED TO PROBATION IN SPILL PROBE. The AP (1/22, Kunzelman) reports from New Orleans that former Halliburton manager Anthony Badalamenti was sentenced on Tuesday "to one year of probation for destroying evidence in the aftermath of BP's massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." Badalamenti, of Katy, TX, "had faced a maximum of one year in prison at his sentencing by U.S. District Judge Jay Zainey. Badalamenti pleaded guilty in October to one misdemeanor count of destruction of evidence."

Bloomberg News (1/21, Calkins, Feeley, 1.91M) reports that Badalamenti "was a supervisor for Halliburton Energy Services Inc., which provided cementing operations on offshore wells. He admitted in October that he ordered a subordinate to delete the results of computer simulations run on the cement seal of BP's Macondo well after it blew up in April 2010, triggering the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

EXPERTS SAY CALIFORNIANS FACE "NEW REALITY" OF WATER SCARCITY. The E&E Daily (1/21) reports that after Gov. Jerry Brown on Friday officially declared California's "record-shattering water shortage," experts are saying that "living with long-term drought could become the 'new reality' for California." In fact, "some fear not only that the drought's effects will be more pronounced than previous dry spells, but that the populous state might be forced to adjust to less precipitation on an ongoing basis." In light of this, experts asserted that "the drought should be seen as a catalyst for making needed changes to how California handles its water."

Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the High Country (CO) News (1/22, 74K), the Fresno (CA) Bee (1/21, 327K), the Rancho Santa Fe (CA) Review (1/21, 21K), KBFX-TV Bakersfield, CA (1/22, 12K), KQED-FM San Francisco (1/20, 13K), and KTXL-TV Sacramento, CA (1/21, 19K).

WATER MANAGERS KEEPING EYE ON LAKE POWELL. KUTV-TV Salt Lake City (1/22, 7K) reports that "disappointing snow pack levels across Utah have water officials predicting 2014 to be yet another below-average water year." Meanwhile, "water managers and observers are also keeping a close eye on the level of Lake Powell as an indication of the region's overall water situation." The article notes that "Powell is expected to keep dropping this year," prompting the Interior Department "to enact, for the first time ever, water-shortage management protocols on the Colorado River."

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT PROJECTS STALLED. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (1/22, 94K) reports that "federal processes have slowed the completion of a record of decision" for the Arkansas Valley Conduit, a master storage contract and interconnection of outlets on Pueblo Dam. According to Christine Arbogast, lobbyist for the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, sponsors of the projects, "an environmental impact study was finalized in August, but changes in the Bureau of Reclamation leadership and a federal shutdown have delayed the ROD for five months." Arbogast said "a decision could be made in a few weeks." The article notes that "this year's federal budget includes $1 million for the conduit, but larger appropriations are needed in future years to move the project ahead."

BOR SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON PLAN FOR LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK AND LAKE PUEBLO WILDLIFE AREA. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (1/22, 94K) reports that the BOR, "in cooperation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, is seeking public input on a resource management plan for Lake Pueblo State Park and the Lake Pueblo Wildlife Area." The agencies will begin "a 30-day public comment period with an open house at the Lake Pueblo State Park Visitor Center Wednesday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m."

STATE SEN. GRIFFIN TOURS YUMA DESALTING PLANT. The Sierra Vista (AZ) Herald (1/20, 30K) reports that "with an eye to explore new solutions to Arizona's long-term water supply challenges, State Sen. Gail Griffin recently joined representatives from the Central Arizona Project on a tour of the US Bureau of Reclamation's Yuma Desalting Plant to learn more about the facility and the viability of desalination as new source of water for the state." Griffin said, "As chairman of the Senate Government and Environment Committee, I am keenly aware of the importance of water to our state's economy and enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about an existing desalination facility here in Arizona. While thoughtful planning and policy-making have protected Arizona from the

kinds of water shortages faced in other states like California, it is important to explore new sources of water to ensure that our economy and our population continue to grow."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Santa Clarita Valley (CA) Signal (1/22, 13K) and the Salem (OR) Capital Press (1/21, 113K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

COURT UPHOLDS CALIFORNIA'S BAR AGAINST BIG LAGOON RANCHERIA CASINO. The Courthouse News (1/21, 7K) reports that "barring a big casino from environmentally sensitive land in California did not violate federal Indian gaming regulations, the 9th Circuit ruled Tuesday." The article notes that "the Big Lagoon Rancheria and California have been embroiled in a tug-of-war over a proposed Humboldt County casino since 1998 when the tribe rejected a statewide tribal gaming compact," and "the tribe claimed in a federal complaint that the compact violated the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act's requirement of good-faith negotiations for any proposed casinos."

INTERIOR BOARD OF INDIAN AFFAIRS DETERMINES HALFTOWN STILL CAYUGA NATION'S FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE. The Auburn (NY) Citizen (1/22, 34K) reports that "in two rulings issued Jan. 16, the Interior Board of Indian Affairs determined that Clint Halftown remains" the Cayuga Indian Nation's representative to the federal government.

Top National News:

US OFFERS ANTI-IED TECHNOLOGY TO RUSSIA AS OLYMPIC TERROR CONCERNS GROW. As has been the case for several days, concerns about terrorists' threats to disrupt the upcoming Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia continue to generate a great deal of media coverage in the US. Reports last night and this morning emphasize the perception – fed, in part, by President Obama's call to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday – that the US and Russia are cooperating on security measures. On CNN's The Situation Room (1/21, 554K), Wolf Blitzer reported that the White House had confirmed that on Tuesday, President Obama spoke to Putin about the threats to the Sochi Olympics, and "offered" Putin the US government's "full assistance."

McClatchy (1/21, Clark, 95K) reports that the White House released a statement saying the two presidents "discussed 'how best to advance shared US-Russian interests, including a safe and secure Sochi Olympics, for which the United States has offered its full assistance.'" McClatchy notes that the State Department "has issued a travel warning for Americans heading to the Winter Games and the White House has said it would like 'closer cooperation' with Russia to ensure the safety of" Americans in Sochi. The Hill (1/21, Sink, 194K) reported that "the Kremlin characterized the conversation as 'businesslike and constructive.'"

AFP (1/22) reports that President Obama's call "came amid signs of subtle but rising pressure on Russia over securing the Games from Washington." USA Today (1/22, 5.82M) noted that the White House's "readout" said Obama and Putin "also discussed Syria, trade and investment, and negotiations over Iran's nuclear program." Reuters (1/21) also briefly describes the White House's characterization of Tuesday's conversation.

On NBC Nightly News (1/21, story 5, 2:10, Williams, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that "the State Department's Diplomatic Security officers will be in Sochi," along with "FBI agents, primarily to protect the US delegations," and "two US war ships will be positioned in the Black Sea in case Americans need to be evacuated." Mitchell added that "the State Department has issued a travel warning for Americans going to Russia." According to the AP (1/22), the State Department "is telling those attending the games to remain attentive to personal security."

On CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (1/21, 687K), Phil Black reported that Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "met with his Russian counterpart, and they talked about sharing...American technology to detect and jam improvised explosive devices." Black added that "while the American version of [the] conversation" between Obama and Putin "mentions Sochi and the US offer to help in any way it can, the Russian version of that call does not mention that." According to Black, "The Russians will not easily admit that they need

help, or they are not up to the task of securing these Games."

Mark Philips, reporting for the CBS Evening News (1/21, story 6, 2:20, Pelley, 5.58M), also noted that the Pentagon "says it's in discussions with Moscow about providing technology, developed in Iraq and Afghanistan, for jamming phone signals used to set off explosive devices." However, according to Philips, "there are still technical issues to overcome...and there isn't much time."

Bloomberg News (1/21, Lerman, Kravchenko, 1.91M) reports that the US military "has developed ground-penetrating radar to detect explosives," and "a Pentagon task force to combat homemade bombs has deployed robots and other tools to disrupt mobile phone and other wireless signals used for detonation." Bloomberg reports that "it isn't clear how receptive" the Russian government "would be to the US offer." However, according to the New York Times (1/22, Shanker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), it was Russian military officials who "first raised the prospect of gaining access to the American technology." The Times adds that "the potential for a technological exchange was part of an extensive discussion...on Tuesday" in Brussels, where Dempsey "held his first face-to-face meeting with his Russian counterpart, Gen. Valery V. Gerasimov, chief of the general staff." The Times goes on to report that, "even with their extensive agenda on bilateral security issues, the question of safety at the Olympics was thoroughly discussed, including a description by General Gerasimov of the close cooperation between the Russian military and its civilian law enforcement and intelligence services" ahead of the Opening Ceremony.

According to AFP (1/22), Defense Secretary Hagel "already offered American support during a January 4 phone call with his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu." Richard Engel, on NBC Nightly News (1/21, story 4, 2:45, Williams, 7.86M), said, "On the one hand, Russia says that there is no security problem" ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, and "that everything is under control, but it also says that several suicide bombers are on the loose." Likewise, on ABC World News (1/21, story 4, 2:25, Sawyer, 7.43M), Brian Ross reported that Russia "continues to insist it has security issues in hand and counterterrorism officials in Moscow said today they had killed one of the leaders of the Islamic terror groups targeting Sochi in this military raid conducted over the weekend in Dagestan."

The Washington Post (1/22, A1, Lally, 4.28M) reports that the Russian government "has deployed up to 60,000 police personnel, troops and special forces to Sochi – double the number Britain enlisted in London for the 2012 Summer Games." The Post also reports that Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has allowed "the collection of telephone and e-mail metadata from foreign journalists, Olympic officials and athletes." Nevertheless, McClatchy (1/22, Douglas, Barrett, 95K) says "some security experts aren't sure whether Russia's security and intelligence efforts are geared toward handling a large-scale event like the Olympics." McClatchy adds that Jeffrey Mankoff of the Center for Strategic & International Studies contends that "Russia's security aparatus is designed to insulate the regime as its top priority, not necessarily protect the public."

On CNN's The Situation Room (1/21, 554K), Phil Black reported that "Russian authorities believe they have detected two separate terror plots involving so-called 'black widows,' or female suicide bombers," who intend to stage attacks in Sochi. According to USA Today (1/22, Scott, 5.82M), it has been reported that "authorities in Sochi are searching for Ruzanna 'Salima' Ibragimova, the widow of a member of a militant group from the Caucasus region, and two other black widows," and that "there is concern Ibragimova made it past the Olympic security ring." USA Today reports that "threats to the Games have primarily come from the Caucasus Emirates, an Islamist militant group led by Doku Umarov, whose death was reported last week" although "there has been no proof of his death." According to the AP (1/21, Heintz), "For more than a decade, women have committed many of Russia's worst terror attacks," including "downing airliners" and "blowing up subway cars."

The AP (1/21, Vasilyeva) reports that Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, who "was in Sochi on Tuesday to assess the situation," said he is "impressed by the work of Russian security forces but troubled that potential suicide bombers had gotten into the city." McCaul is quoted as saying, "We know some of them got through the perimeter." McCaul added, "The one improvement I would ask of the Russians is to allow our intelligence services to coordinate and cooperate better with theirs."

OBAMA REFRAINS FROM BLAMING REPUBLICANS FOR STALLED IMMIGRATION REFORM. Politico (1/22, Epstein, 464K) reports that in regards to immigration, the White House "is trying to dial down the partisan rhetoric," and is "asking its allies to do the same." Politico says that according to "White House officials,"

President Obama "won't threaten to take unilateral executive action — at least not yet —" because he "wants to give House Republicans some breathing room to try to pass legislation this year." As a result, "While Obama is blaming Republicans for blocking the rest of his domestic agenda," he "won't use his bully pulpit to embarrass or chasten the GOP on immigration" during his State of the Union address. An anonymous "White House official" is quoted as saying, "We're focused more on the result and less about the process," so "if they have to jump through a series of hoops, we're happy to let the House work its will."

NYTimes A1: New Boehner Adviser Is Close To Former Kennedy Aide Directing White House Immigration Strategy. In a front-page article titled, "2 Friends Reach Across the Aisle on Immigration," the New York Times (1/21, A1, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) profiles Esther Olavarria, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Policy of the United States, and Rebecca Tallent, who was recently hired by Speaker Boehner to help him win passage of immigration reform in the House. According to the Times, Olavarria "is charged with finding a compromise that Democrats and activists can live with." The Times reports that Tallent and Olavarria "began working together on immigration in 2003" when Olavarria "was the top immigration adviser to" the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, and Tallent "held a similar position under Republican lawmakers, including" Sen. John McCain.

Amid Immigration Push, US Chamber Lobbying Spending Topped $50 Million Last Year. The Hill (1/21, Bogardus, 194K) reports that the US Chamber of Commerce "funneled" about $52.7 million to lobbying efforts last year, according to disclosure files, including "almost $16.5 million" in the fourth quarter. The Hill says that some of that funding "went toward lobbying on immigration reform, which is a top legislative priority for the business community." The Chamber, The Hill says, "played an instrumental role" in pushing the Senate bill through last year. Now the group's focus has turned to moving the legislation in the House.

REPORT LAYS OUT CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS PRESIDENT CAN TAKE ON HIS OWN. Reuters (1/22, Volcovici) says that a new 207-page report by the Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University argues that President Obama can take a number of actions to combat climate change that do not require Congressional backing. For example, the report says that Administration could have Federal agencies to work with electrical utilities and regulators to remove barriers for clean energy technologies. Reuters says that the White House coordinated with the group on the report.

UN Report Blames West For Rise In CO2 Emissions In Developing Companies. The Daily Caller (1/22, Bastasch, 422K) reports that a "draft report" from the UN argues that growing global economies "through expanded trade between rich and poor countries is driving global warming." The report says that wealthy companies are "outsourcing" CO2 emissions to poorer nations "through increasing international trade." The report says that increased emissions from coal plants in China "and other developing countries" are "used to power factories that produce goods" for US and European consumers.

2013 Tied For 4th Warmest On Record. The CBS Evening News (1/21, story 5, 0:15, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that on Tuesday, "scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration told us that 2013 tied 2003 as the fourth warmest year on record," going back to 1880. The "average worldwide temperature last year was just over 58 degrees."

Despite a headline reading, "One Hot Planet: Earth Sets Record In 2013," USA Today (1/22, Rice, 5.82M) similarly reports that 2013 was the fourth-warmest year on record in 2013. The "average temperature across global land and ocean surfaces was 1.12 degrees above the 20th-century average." USA Today says that 2013 was "one of the warmest years on record that did not include the warming influence of an El Niño climate pattern," according to a NOAA official.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Another Syria Peace Conference."*** The New York Times (1/22, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that while "few peace conferences have been set up amid the unrelenting pessimism that surrounds the talks involving Syria" and "a peace agreement is unlikely to be reached anytime soon, the meeting can still produce useful results." The Times says the parties' "early goals should include a cease-fire" and getting humanitarian assistance to citizens. The Times also says "it is unfortunate that some diplomatic solution could

not have been found to include Iran" in the discussions.

"A Rebuff to Overbroad Watch Lists." The New York Times (1/22, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that although "public trials are a cornerstone of a democratic society," people who successfully show they were mistakenly placed on government terror watch lists "have no easy path around the walls of official secrecy and obstruction." The Times says that "terror watch lists remain pointlessly overbroad, with more than 875,000 names scattered among about a dozen lists." The Times notes that in a recent trial that resulted in US District Court Judge William Alsup finding that Stanford professor Rahinah Ibrahim was mistakenly placed on a no-fly list, the judge told the government lawyers, "Trials are important. Trials are supposed to be public," after they attempted to classify evidence that was already public.

"How Gov. Christie Moves Forward." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/22, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's "gauzy message of bipartisanship, long one of his favorite themes, had a hollow ring to it this time around." The Times says it "will take more than talk of political harmony to wipe away the mounting evidence and accusations of aggressive bullying by his administration."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Mr. Putin's Playground."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/22, 4.28M) suggests that, in passing measures aimed at opposition demonstrators, President Viktor Yanukovych is following the strategy Russian President Vladimir Putin "used to crush mass demonstrations against his regime," once again allowing "Putin to be his puppeteer." The Post calls for the West to do more "to prevent a nation that was headed toward integration with the democratic West from becoming an autocratic Kremlin colony." The paper argues sanctions against Yanukovych and his circle should be ready in the event of violence against protesters and calls for dispatching a special envoy to encourage negotiations. The Post also urges Obama "to recognize Mr. Putin's role...and hold him accountable."

"When A Child Dies." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/22, 4.28M) writes that the decision of a judge in Virginia to sentence a woman "to just five years in prison for the felony murder of a 23-month-old boy in her care brought an angry reaction." The Post says that some child advocates argue that such short sentences are not anomalous. The Post says that the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect, "created by Congress in 2012," should "examine are how crimes against children are prosecuted and adjudicated and whether the right message is being sent about the value of children's lives."

"McDonnell's Atrocious Behavior." The Washington Post (1/22, 4.28M), in an editorial, credits Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell for having "achieved important, ground-breaking accomplishments," but adds that, at the same time, he also "exercised atrocious judgment" by "putting himself in the private pay of a favor-currying businessman."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The President Inhales."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/22, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that in his New Yorker interview, the President essentially endorsed legalizing marijuana. The Journal says that there should be an open debate about legalizing marijuana, but that debate should be clear about the drug's risks and downsides. The Journal says that now that Obama is president, he needs to serve as a better role model for adolescents.

"A Government Warning To S&P." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/22, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writes that the government should, as S&P seeks, share documents relevant to the claims the lawsuit is retaliatory, and suggests that former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's alleged statement could provide the motive for the government's resistance to such a move. The editorial concludes that both S&P shareholders and taxpayers have a right to know the government's response to criticism.

"The Syria Peace Follies." The Wall Street Journal (1/22, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that the UN's rescinded Syria peace-talks invitation to Iran highlights the confusion that has surrounded the entire negotiation process. The Journal highlights conflicting statements from US officials and the UN. According to the Journal, US officials said they were surprised by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's invitation to Iran, while the UN says the White House knew about the offer before it occurred. The Journal argues that even without the confusion over the invitation, Syria's government has little incentive to reach an agreement because it believes it is winning the conflict and believes it can move forward without fear of Western military intervention.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Court Upholds Rights Of Gay Jurors
Pimco Chief El-Erian Abruptly Resigns
China Clamps Down On Dissent
Reels And Deals At Sundance
A YouTube Lifeline
Ex-VA Governor, Wife Indicted

Wall Street Journal:
Banks Sit Out Riskier Deals
US Military Proposal Seeks Shorter Afghan Stay
Card-Theft Software Grew in Internet's Dark Alleys
Access to Aid Is Weapon in Syria

New York Times:
Cuomo's Pre-K Plans Set Up Tax Conflict With De Blasio
Photo Archive Is Said To Show Widespread Torture In Syria
States Cutting Weeks Of Aid To The Jobless
2 Friends Reach Across the Aisle On Immigration
A Movie Date, A Text Message And A Fatal Shot
Knicks Have A Star Magnet: Courtside Seats
Amid Scandal, Christie Sounds Note Of Optimism At Inauguration

Washington Post:
Has Christie Gone From Bipartisan Governor To Partisan Warrior?
McDonnell And Wife Are Indicted
US Officials Harbor Doubts On NSA Plan
Snowstorm? Bring It On
Unease Before Olympics Despite Pledges By Putin

Financial Times:
Concentrated Cash Pile Puts Recovery In Hands Of The Few
Loeb Stake Turns Heat On Dow Chemical
El-Erian Quits As Pimco Chief In Reshuffle
US Oil Demand Growth Outstrips China
IBM Chiefs Waive Bonuses After Sales Slide
Bike-Share Leader Wobbles Into Bankruptcy
Loonie May Be Rescued By Commodity Turn

Chicago Tribune:
Papers Detail Decades Of Sex Abuse By Priests
Official's Well-Paid Leave Is At An End
The Man Who Didn't Know He Was A Legend
Sears To Close Flagship State St. Store This Spring
Proposed Medical Marijuana Rules: Choose Pot Or Gun

Atlanta Journal-Constitution:
Probation Lifted For DeKalb Schools
Brutality Puts Peace Talks In Doubt
Bill Revives Regional Transportation Strategy
HIV Case Sparks Talks Of Trust Responsibility

Detroit Free Press:
State Closes In On DIA, Pension Help
Patterson: I'm Feeling Betrayed, Ambushed
New Efforts Mean New Hope For Families Of Missing Persons

Houston Chronicle:
State Finalizes Health 'Navigator' Rules
2013 Home Sales Shatter Record
Grim Photo Trove Jolts Syria
High Court Game Turns Into Online Sensation
Ex-Teacher Gets Year In Jail For Sex With Boy

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Clothing; Russia-Terrorism Threat; China-Air Pollution; Governor Christie-Carl Lewis; Health-Heart Attacks. FLOTUS PSA.
CBS: Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Minnesota; Winter Storm-Flight Cancellations; Global Temperature Report; Russia-Terrorism; Syria-Civil War; Chicago-Church Child Abuse Scandal; Christine Levinson Interview; Governor Christie Inauguration; Former Governor McDonald Indicted; Chicago-Sears Store Closing; California-Drought.
NBC: Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Forecast; Russia-Terrorism Threats; Indian-Purdue University Shooting; Governor Christie Inauguration; Former Governor McDonald Indicted; Obama-Pope Francis Meeting; Kansas-Bombardier Lay Offs; China-Air Pollution.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Winter Storm-Flight Cancellations; Winter Storm; California-BART Officer Killed; Indiana-Purdue University Shooting; Former Governor McDonald Indicted.
CBS: Winter Storm-Flight Cancellations; Winter Storm; Putin-Obama Conversation; Russia-Terrorism Threats; Former Governor McDonald Indicted; Car Crash Test Report.
FOX: Winter Storm; SCOTUS-Anonymous Tips To Police; Former Governor McDonald Indicted; Wall Street; Obama-Income Inequality; US Conference Of Mayors; Global Temperatures Report; Car Crash Test Report.
NPR: Winter Storm; Former Governor McDonald Indicted; Governor Christie Inauguration; California-Glendora Fire Case; NHTSA-Child Car Safety Seats; UN-Syria Peace Talks; Obama-Putin Conversation; Russia-Terrorism Threats; Global Temperatures Report.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Network News:
ABC:
CBS:
NBC:

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing; the President and the Vice President meet with the President's Commission on Election Administration, Roosevelt Room, pool spray at the top; the President and the Vice President convene a meeting with select Cabinet Secretaries of the Council on Women and Girls, Oval Office, stills only pool spray at the top; the President and the Vice President meet for lunch; the President and the Vice President host an event for the Council on Women and Girls, East Room, pooled press; the President and the Vice President meet with Secretary of the Treasury Lew, Oval Office, closed press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — In the evening, the Vice President will host Speaker al-Nujaifi for dinner at the Naval Observatory. This dinner is closed press. The Vice President will meet with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop at the White House. This meeting is closed press. The Vice President will meet with Iraqi Council of Representatives Speaker Osama al-Nujaifi at the White House. There will be a pool spray at the top of this

meeting in the Roosevelt Room. Notes: Refer to The President's Schedule for other events.
US Senate: SEN. SANDERS – VETERANS — 1:30 p.m. Sen. Bernie Sanders, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, will hold a telephone conference call with reporters to discuss the "most comprehensive" veterans legislation in recent years. The measure would restore military pensions and address other long-standing concerns of the veterans' community. Notes: CALL-IN NUMBER: (202) 228-0808 or (855) 428-0808. CONFERENCE ID: 9811238. Please RSVP at (202) 228-6492 if you plan to join.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

AGING – FIELD HEARING — 11 a.m. "Medicare Advantage: Changing Networks and Effects on Consumers." Location: Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.
US House: REP. SCHAKOWSKY – MEDICARE CUTS — 11:30 a.m. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) will lead a telephone press conference call with Social Security Works and the Medicare Rights Center for local and national reporters to release new research on the impact of Medicare benefit cuts. Speakers include: Dr. Ben Veghte (Vek-Tee) Social Security Works; Stacy Sanders, Medicare Rights Center. DIAL IN: (712) 432-0900 Code: 242574. Contacts: Blair FitzGibbon 202-503-6141 mobile
Other: 2014 NSA/MCSA WINTER CONFERENCE. — Jan. 20 – 25. The National Sheriffs Association and the Major County Sheriffs' Association host the 2014 NSA/MCSA Winter Conference. http://www.sheriffs.org/content/2014-winter-conference- Highlights: MCSA Town Hall Meeting – NSA attendees are invited to attend. Location: J. W. Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Contacts: 800-424-7827 (www.sheriffs.org) Notes: MCSA (Major County Sheriffs' Association) meetings and functions will be held on Jan. 20-22, prior to the official start of the NSA Winter Conference.

WASHINGTON AUTO SHOW — Jan. 21 – Feb. 2. Annual auto show and related events, including Public Policy Preview Days which offer registered members of the media access to industry executives, legislators, administration officials and automotive technology innovators plus a sneak peek at the latest models and technology advancements. Show opens to the public on Jan. 23. Highlights: 9 a.m. Keynote by Mark Fields, chief operating officer, Ford Motor Company. (Contact Ashley. Duncan@directimpact.com). 9:30 a.m. Toyota's first hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle will make its East Coast debut at the Auto Show. Nihar Patel, Vice President, North American Business Strategy, Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., will discuss the technology and market distribution for the vehicle at a press conference, where it will be on display. CONTACT: Tucker Warren; twarren@hamiltonps.com; 202-276-4163. 1:40 p.m. Remarks by Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW (unless otherwise noted). Contacts: Barbara Pomerance (bp@pomeranceassociates.com), 800-697-7574. On the Net: http://www.washingtonautoshow.com. Notes: Media must register by Friday, Jan. 17. Online registration at: http://www.washingtonautoshow.com/media.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE — Jan. 22 – 24. Annual winter meeting. The theme for the week is "Building To Victory." Location: Renaissance Washington Hotel, 999 9th St. NW. Notes: RSVP to Jillian Rogers at jrogers@rnchq.org or 954-829-5988

SAE 2014 GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY MEETING — Jan. 22 – 24. 2014 Theme: "Continuing Collaboration for the Protection of Road Users and the Environment." http://www.sae.org/events/gim/ Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW. Contacts: n/a, 202-463-7318

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS — Jan. 22 – 24. he 82nd Winter Meeting. More than 280 of the nation's mayors will convene to meet with congressional leaders and administration officials and to urge Congress "to continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to spur job creation and economic growth in America's cities and metropolitan areas." http://www.usmayors.org/ Highlights: 11:45 a.m. Opening press conference, 2nd Floor Foyer outside the Presidential Ballroom. 12:30 p.m. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker will deliver keynote remarks at the opening plenary luncheon. Media must RSVP to the Office of Public Affairs at publicaffairs@doc.gov. 3:30 p.m. Gangs – Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Karol V. Mason will participate in a panel discussion on gangs in mid-size American cities at the Mayors and Police Chiefs Task Force meeting during the U.S. Conference of Mayors 82nd Winter Meeting. NOTE: Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Elena Temple-Webb at 202-861-6719 or etemple@usmayors.org. 3:30 p.m. Education Secretary Arne Duncan participates in a working meeting of the Education Reform Task Force, discussing a cradle-to-career education agenda, including increasing access to high-quality early learning

opportunities and ensuring that all students have access to, and complete, postsecondary pathways. Location: Capitol Hilton, 16th and K Streets NW. Contacts: Elena Temple, etemple@usmayors.org, 202-286-1100. Karen Hinton, Karen@hintoncommunications.com, 703-798-3109. Lina Garcia, lgarcia@usmayors.org, 202-341-6113

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL – PROLIFECON — 8:30 a.m. Family Research Council (FRC) will host its 9th annual ProLifeCon on the day of the 41st March for Life, marking the 41st anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide. Confirmed speakers include: U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.); U.S. Rep. Andy Harris (R-Md.); Tony Perkins, President, Family Research Council; Sen. Rick Santorum, Founder, Patriot Voices. http://frc.org/prolifecon. Location: Family Research Council Media Center, 801 G Street, NW. Contacts: J.P. Duffy, 866-372-6397

AAAS – CBRN HAZARDS — Jan. 22 – 23. 9 a.m. The use of science and technology to prevent or respond to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) disasters will be the focus of a workshop at the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The workshop will provide U.S. and South Korean perspectives on CBRN disasters and is co-hosted by the AAAS Center for Science, Technology, and Security Policy and the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, an independent think tank in South Korea. Location: AAAS Auditorium, 12th and H Sts. NW. Contacts: Earl Lane, elane@aaas.org, 202-326-6431. Notes: RSVP is available at: http://www.aaas.org/page/cstsp_event_asan.

NIHS – MINICARS – CRASH TEST RESULTS — The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety will release crash test results for 11 minicars. This will be the first time minicars have undergone a more challenging small overlap front crash test implemented by the Institute in 2012. Contacts: Russ Rader (703) 247-1530

AFA AIR FORCE BREAKFAST – JAMES — 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m. AFA Air Force Breakfast Program with Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force. http://www.afa.org/AFA/EVENTS/AFAAFBreakfastProgram. Location: Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, Virginia 22204. Contacts: Mary Ellen Dobrowolski Mdobrowolski@afa.org

STEM FORUM — 9 a.m. U.S. News & World Report and Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) will jointly present "STEM Saves Lives," a half-day forum about building a 21st century workforce educated in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to maintain global competitiveness in biomedical research and deliver medical advances to patients. Keynote remarks by Dr. Mae Jemison, former NASA astronaut and national advocate for Bayer's Making Science Make Sense program. Location: National Press Club Ballroom, 529 14th Street NW. Notes: For more information, please visit http://www.phrma.org/stem-saves-lives. To register, please email phrma@usnewsstemsolutions.com.

DOJ REPORT – PRISON SEXUAL ASSAULT — 10 a.m. Department of Justice To Release Reports On Sexual Victimization Reported By Adult Correctional Authorities, 2009-11, And Survey Of Sexual Violence In Adult Correctional Facilities, 2009-11 – Statistical Tables. EMBARGOED until 10:00 A.M. EST, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014. To access the embargoed news release and the full report now available on the BJS website, send an email to bjspress@usdoj.gov. You must type PREA in the subject line to receive a user ID and password. Following publication the report and press release can be found at http://www.bjs.gov/. Contacts: Kara McCarthy (202) 307-1241

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE – MAZUR — 11 a.m. Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Mark Mazur delivers remarks at a Meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, "Determinants of Market Adoption of Advanced Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Technologies." Media must RSVP to Aquila Coulthurst at acoulthurst@nas.edu. For additional information, please visit http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/meetingview.aspx? MeetingId=6955. Location: Keck Center, 500 5th Street, NW.

TAR SANDS PIPELINE — 11 a.m. Landowners along the route of TransCanada's Gulf Coast tar sands pipeline (aka the Keystone XL Southern Segment) will host a press call to discuss the start-up of the pipeline, their "disappointment" in the President's decision to fast-track the construction and their ongoing efforts to monitor the line for spills and defects. Hosted by Bold Nebraska and Public Citizen. With Julia Trigg Crawford, Texas landowner along pipeline route; Kathy DaSilva, Texas advocate; Jane Kleeb, Bold Nebraska Executive Director; Anthony Swift, Natural Resources Defense Council International Program Attorney; Tom Smith, Texas Public Citizen Director. Contacts: Nancy Nusser, 410-934-9588. Notes: Dial: 866-952-1908, Passcode: PIPELINE

HIGHWAY SAFETY REPORT CARD — 1 p.m. Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety releases its 11th annual report card grading all 50 states and the District of Columbia on their performance in adopting 15 basic highway safety laws on adult and child-occupant protection, impaired and distracted driving, and teen driving. Location: National Press Club, Zenger Room, 529 14th St. NW. Contacts: Beth Weaver (beth_weaver@verizon.net), 301-814-4088. Notes: NEW TIME – Live webcast of the news conference at http://www.visualwebcaster.com/highwaysafetylaws

MARCH FOR LIFE RALLY — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Marking the 41st anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Speakers include House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA). http://marchforlife.org/march-with-us/details. Location: National Mall.

NASA – EARTH SCIENCE 2014 PREVIEW — 12:30 p.m. NASA will host a media teleconferenc to outline the agency's Earth science activities planned for 2014, which include five mission launches. Speakers: Michael Freilich, director, Earth Science Division, NASA Headquarters, Washington; Julie Robinson, International Space Station chief scientist, NASA's Johnson Space Center, Houston. http://www.nasa.gov/press/2014/january/media-briefing-to-preview-big-year-ahead-for-nasa-earth-science/

HIGHWAY SAFETY REPORT CARD — 1 p.m. Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety releases its 11th annual report card grading all 50 states and the District of Columbia on their performance in adopting 15 basic highway safety laws on adult and child-occupant protection, impaired and distracted driving, and teen driving. Location: National Press Club, Zenger Room, 529 14th St. NW. Contacts: Beth Weaver (beth_weaver@verizon.net), 301-814-4088. Notes: NEW TIME – Live webcast of the news conference at http://www.visualwebcaster.com/highwaysafetylaws

NHTSA – CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY — 1 p.m. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Acting Administrator David Friedman will make "an important announcement" concerning child passenger safety during his address at the SAE Government/Industry Meeting. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Room 150 AB. Contacts: Nathan Naylor, Public. Affairs@dot.gov, 202-366-9550. Notes: Press conference call for media unable to attend event at 4:30 p.m. — to receive call-in information for the media-only conference call, please RSVP to NHTSA Public Affairs at public.affairs@dot.gov.

DR. JILL BIDEN – CAREGIVERS — 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The Center for American Progress hosts Dr. Jill Biden for a discussion on the Challenges Facing Caregivers and the Policy Solutions. Speakers: Neera Tanden, President, Center for American Progress Opening remarks: Dr. Jill Biden, Second Lady of the United States. Then: Dr. Barbara Bedney, The Jewish Federations of North America; Henry Claypool, American Association of People with Disabilities; Faith Culbreath, Service Employees International Union, or SEIU. Dr. Henry Pacheco, National Hispanic Council on Aging, or NHCOA. Moderator: Jocelyn Frye, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress. Contact: Madeline Meth at mmeth@americanprogress.org or 202.741.6277. Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor. On the Net: http://www.americanprogress.org/

CSIS – DEVELOPMENT — 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Chevron Forum on Development: "Bilateral Donor Engagement in the Shifting Development Landscape." Featuring Jennifer Adams, Director, Office of Donor Engagement, Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning, USAID; Keiichiro Nakazawa, Chief Representative, JICA U.S.A. Office; Andrew Preston, Development Counsellor, Foreign Policy and Security Group, British Embassy. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. Contacts: Christina Perkins, 202-775-3236

TRUMAN NATIONAL SECURITY PROJECT – TURKEY — 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Rumi Forum and Truman National Security Project Present "Turkey 2014: Challenges and Prospects Ahead." Panel with Ihsan Dagi, Joshua Walker and Alp Aslandogan. Moderated by Caitlin Howarth. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JzrS7KikFC1qsZOazIb662A7C7oBhdaagjQ_nxEjYmU/viewform. Location: Truman National Security Project, 1250, Street NW, Suite 500.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: [Referring to international criticism of anti-gay laws in Russia] "Because of the controversy, Vladimir Putin says that gay athletes will not be targeted during the Olympics. Whoa, thanks a lot, Vlad. I think we can take your word for it!"

David Letterman: "You know what happened today? Governor Chris Christie re-inaugurated. ... He won reelection and it was a beautiful ceremony. They had that phony sign-language guy there. And the Governor was sworn in. They put his right hand on a menu. Immediately following the ceremony, he closed the Holland Tunnel."

David Letterman: "A couple of months ago, he decided it would be good if his staff closed down the George Washington Bridge and didn't tell him they closed it down. They prank him a lot like that. But anyway, he says the scandal – this is a quote now from Governor Christie – he says the scandal has made him 'readier to be president.' Has made him readier. R-e-a-d-i-e-r. Has made him readier. That's one of those made-up words like, McRib."

Jimmy Fallon: "There is a new interview where Chris Christie said he was shocked by the bridge-gate scandal and it felt like getting hit in the head with a two-by-four. Of course, in New Jersey that is how people say hello."

Jimmy Fallon: "The scandals keep coming for the governor. Now, Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis is claiming Chris Christie pressured him to back out of the Senate race in 2011, because he was up against one of Chris Christie's allies. That makes sense. If there is one thing he's good at, talking someone out of running."

Jay Leno: "Hey, some terrific football over this past weekend. Wasn't it? Congratulations to the Seattle Seahawks and Denver Broncos going to the Super Bowl. Very good. You know it's interesting. Both teams come from states with legalized marijuana. Well, this has caused a problem for President Obama. He doesn't know who to root for."

Jay Leno: "And President Obama getting serious about this NSA spying scandal. He told the nation that the NSA will not be used for the purposes of suppressing or burdening criticism or dissent. That's what the IRS is for. That's why we have those people. That's their job."

Jay Leno: "And we are so lucky to live here in California. Huge snowstorm back east. Actually, Governor Chris Christie very happy about this weather. Sure, he's got something else to blame road closures on. 'See, it's not my fault.'"

Jay Leno: "Well, today was Christie's inauguration. During his inaugural address, he said, 'We will make it our priority that every child in New Jersey gets a good education.' He wants to make sure a TV show like 'Jersey Shore' can never happen again."

Conan O'Brien: "Republican Party now worried, worried about Chris Christie's viability as a candidate. ... Donald Trump said that Chris Christie is quote, 'One email away from disaster.' Bill Clinton said, 'Aren't we all?'"

Conan O'Brien: "Carl Lewis said Chris Christie canceled a position for him after Lewis said something that Christie didn't like. ... When asked what he did that Christie didn't like, he said, 'A sit-up.'"

Conan O'Brien: "In Washington, D.C., the Federal government has had to shut down due to snow. ... It's being called the biggest shutdown since the Tea Party."

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(b)(6)

Gunnison Sage Grouse (GUSG) and Elevation

Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> Wed, Jan 22, 2014 at 11:52 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, David Jayo <david_jayo@ios.doi.gov>

Sally, you asked about this question, which I believe Kip Tindell had raised to you. Here's what our folks have explained to me.

First, we do recognize that sage grouse, including GUSG, can and do live at elevations up to and even above10,500, where habitat exists to support them. Here's an excerpt:

> science indicates the species' distribution is influenced primarily by the distribution of sagebrush and other suitable habitats (including mountain shrub communities). Where those habitat types are present in sufficient quantity and configuration, the species' may occur. Big sagebrush (mountain) can occur up to 10,500' or more, with appropriate soils, moisture, aspect, etc. Likewise, mountain shrub communities (generally serviceberry, mountain mahogany) can occur up to about 10,000'. That said, the upper limit of the current known occupied range of GUSG is about 9,500' in the Gunnison Basin population area, and we've cited this figure in our past rules for GUSG.

We have identified critical habitat that is currently "unoccupied" including unoccupied habitat that is above 9,500 feet elevation. Here is an excerpt explaining that:

> Our critical habitat proposal and mapping criteria are based on occupied, unoccupied, and potential habitats. We included suitable unoccupied habitats in close proximity to occupied areas, to facilitate migration/ movement of birds and future migration or expansion of range (think climate change). However, all mapped critical habitat occurs within the species' potential historic range (based on sagebrush distribution, historical records, and museum specimens) (Schroeder *et al.* 2004). Thus, areas above the current occupied range of 9,500 feet in the Gunnison Basin were included in the proposed designation where habitat is suitable and in close proximity to currently occupied range.

Hope this helps. Thanks for sharing a great day up in Craig, CO. Good luck in UT and NM!

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
> **Date:** January 21, 2014 at 1:14:42 PM CST
> **To:** Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>

Cc: Michael Thabault <michael_thabault@fws.gov>, Matt Hogan <matt_hogan@fws.gov>
Subject: GUSG elevational limit and CH

Dan,

You asked about proposed CH about 9500 feet. The answer is we did propose some above 9500 feet and the explanation is below. Please let us know if you want to discuss it or need additional information.

Noreen

Noreen Walsh

Regional Director

Mountain-Prairie Region

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

303 236 7920

The Mountain-Prairie Region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: We provide conservation stewardship of some of America's most scenic lands, to ensure healthy fish and wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of all people.

From: Thabault, Michael [mailto:michael_thabault@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: Fwd: GUSG elevational limit

Noreen, Here is an explanation of the GuSG issue. I was pretty sure we didn't say they couldn't exist in suitable habitat above a certain elevation but that the current range does not show presence at this time. Let me know if you need more.

Michael Thabault

Assistant Regional Director

Ecological Services

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mountain Prairie Region

303-236-4210

michael_thabault@fws.gov

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Linner, Susan** <susan_linner@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Jan 21, 2014 at 11:17 AM
Subject: GUSG elevational limit
To: Michael Thabault <michael_thabault@fws.gov>, Nicole Alt <nicole_alt@fws.gov>
Cc: Patty Gelatt <Patty_Gelatt@fws.gov>, Charles Sharp <charles_sharp@fws.gov>

Mike,

We are not aware that we've ever identified an elevational limit to GUSG distribution/ survival, either verbally or in writing. Rather, the science indicates the species' distribution is influenced primarily by the distribution of sagebrush and other suitable habitats (including mountain shrub communities). Where those habitat types are present in sufficient quantity and configuration, the species' may occur. Big sagebrush (mountain) can occur up to 10,500' or more, with appropriate soils, moisture, aspect, etc. Likewise, mountain shrub communities (generally serviceberry, mountain mahogany) can occur up to about 10,000'. That said, the upper limit of the current known occupied range of GUSG is about 9,500' in the Gunnison Basin population area, and we've cited this figure in our past rules for GUSG.

Our critical habitat proposal and mapping criteria are based on occupied, unoccupied, and potential habitats as defined in the Rangewide Conservation Plan (RCP). We included suitable unoccupied habitats in close proximity to occupied areas, to facilitate migration/ movement of birds and future migration or expansion of range (think climate change). However, all mapped critical habitat occurs within the species' potential historic range (based on sagebrush distribution, historical records, and museum specimens) (Schroeder *et al.* 2004). Thus, areas above the current occupied range of 9,500 feet in the Gunnison Basin were included in the proposed designation where habitat is suitable and in close proximity to currently occupied range.

Let me know if there are any further questions.

Susan

–

Susan Linner, Field Supervisor

Colorado Ecological Services Office

134 Union Blvd., Suite 670

PO Box 25486 DFC

Denver, CO 80225

phone: 303-236-4774

fax: 303-236-4005

Re: People's Choice

Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 22, 2014 at 8:26 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>

Copying three articles. The article from the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel reporter who attended the tour. In addition, they printed another story (with the headline) based on a subsequent conversation with the Craig Daily Press reporter who was asked to leave. The Craig Daily Press article (that we discussed) also below.

Federal delegation sees sage-grouse issue from view of regulatory critics



As an agency in her department considers whether to list the greater sage-grouse as an endangered species, U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, right, looked at the bird's habitat northwest of Craig on Tuesda with Ray Owens, manager of a ranch where measures have been undertaken for sage-grouse conservation. Photo by Noelle Levitt Riley/Craig Daily Press

By Dennis Webb
Wednesday, January 22, 2014

CRAIG — Peering across the heart of greater sage-grouse country Tuesday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the heads of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management praised the joint conversation that's taking place in an effort to protect the bird and manage its habitat.

"The fact that everybody is around the table is really impressive," Jewell said.

For everyone from Moffat County Commissioner Tom Mathers to Gov. John Hickenlooper, what was impressive was that Jewell, Fish and Wildlife director Dan Ashe and Neil Kornze, principal deputy director of the BLM, all came to this remote part of northwestern Colorado to join in the discussion.

"To have all the top brass here at one time, it was amazing," Mathers said.

"We had everybody right here ... everybody that mattered," Hickenlooper said. "And they listened, is the most important thing."

The federal trio came to see firsthand voluntary sage-grouse conservation measures being undertaken at the Bord Gulch Ranch, far up Moffat County Road 7 northwest of town. Their visit comes as the Fish and Wildlife Service faces a 2015 decision on whether to list the greater sage-grouse for protection under the Endangered Species Act, and as the BLM weighs land-management measures it hopes will help persuade its fellow Interior Department agency that such a listing isn't warranted.

Both the prospect of a listing and the measures being considered by the BLM have caused consternation among several northwest Colorado counties, and among oil and gas, agricultural, recreation and other interests.

Their concern ultimately came to be shared by Hickenlooper himself, and last week he sent the BLM a letter urging it to take an adaptive management approach that protects the greater sage-grouse while safeguarding energy, agriculture and other economic engines of the region. He also pointed to the benefits of public/private partnerships, and on Tuesday Jewell, Ashe and Kornze were able to witness the results of one such partnership.

They stopped at the Bord Gulch Ranch to view sage-grouse conservation measures undertaken under the leadership of ranch manager Ray Owens. He's one of two 2013 recipients of Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Wildlife Landowner of the Year honor, and the ranch, owned by the Gilliland family, has been working in cooperation with agencies such as Parks and Wildlife and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Owens described fencing, watering, sagebrush treatment and other measures that benefit not just the birds but other wildlife. He said he doesn't just manage for a single species.

"You have to manage it for everything," said Owens.

He went on to detail efforts such as maintaining a variety of ages of sagebrush to avoid ending up with big, old stands susceptible to wildfire, and also maintaining fields without sagebrush because they provide places for elk to feed.

Owens spoke Tuesday from a hilltop in a seeming sagebrush ocean with waves extending to Wyoming and Utah.

"People are changing. The neighbors are seeing the benefit of what we're doing," he said.

He believes approaches such as the one the Bord Gulch Ranch is involved in make more sense than the government handing down rules.

"Just like your kid — you start giving them rules and they rebel," he said.

Hickenlooper's role

Rebellion isn't an entirely foreign concept in Moffat County. Upset over some state-level actions, commissioners there asked voters in November whether they wanted to pursue secession from the state, although the measure failed.

Still, a number of residents and elected officials in the county have considered Hickenlooper part of the problem, thanks in part to his support for things such as stricter gun laws and higher renewable-energy standards for rural electricity. But the governor's recent actions on greater sage-grouse, which included appointing John Swartout as a point person on the issue and ultimately formulating the position presented to the BLM last week, have drawn the notice of Mathers.

"I am so impressed with our governor right now," said Mathers.

Jewell also had praise for the role Hickenlooper has been playing on sage-grouse.

"Governor Hickenlooper has been a real leader in this process," she said.

For his part, Hickenlooper said he hadn't expected Jewell to come to Craig, and it was a generous move on her part. He said he also respects her private-sector roots.

"She understands how the real world works," said Hickenlooper, who said it appears she'll lead a team that wants to consider local concerns.

Jewell has been on the job less than a year, having replaced Coloradan Ken Salazar. She said she's learning every day and that it's important to listen closely to people such as Owens.

"We don't pretend to have all the answers," she said.

At the same time, Ashe emphasized the Fish and Wildlife Service is obligated to make a decision based on the

science about the potential listing of the sage-grouse.

"We're making a diagnosis. It's either threatened or endangered, or it's not," he said.

But he said if the bird ends up being listed, there's a lot of flexibility to recognize efforts being undertaken by individual properties, counties and states, and determine in some circumstances that further efforts aren't needed.

Meanwhile, the BLM has its own sage-grouse conservation plan decisions to make both in Colorado and other states. Fish and Wildlife has submitted comments saying the BLM's Colorado proposal doesn't go far enough, even as it has heard lots of other concerns that the proposal is too restrictive.

Kornze, who is President Obama's nominee to be the BLM's director and is leading the agency in the interim, said the BLM is working on 15 plans across the West.

"It's a large balancing act. ... It's both local and it's West-wide at the same time," he said.

Energy officials

Jim Cagney, who heads the BLM in Northwest Colorado, said the important thing will be to look at the details of the comments that have been submitted in trying to find a workable approach.

Ashe said he's never seen an effort like the one occurring regarding the greater sage-grouse.

"We have everybody sitting around the same table, working together. ... People are working in good faith with one another," he said.

Jewell, who noted that she had sat down in Denver earlier Tuesday with the oil and gas industry and others to talk about how to reduce methane emissions related to drilling and production, said she thinks the sage-grouse conversation can serve as a model for how to deal with other issues, including the methane concern.

"What's happening here around sage-grouse is an extraordinary effort," she said.

U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Colo., urged Jewell to work with local officials who already are working to conserve the greater and Gunnison sage-grouse.

"Secretary Jewell's visit to Craig today is welcome, and I am hopeful that she will truly take into consideration all of the work being done in Colorado to preserve the sage grouse, and will work with state and local conservation efforts by providing long-awaited measurable expectations for species recovery so that we can ensure those goals are being met at the local level," Tipton said.

Tipton was in Durango when Jewell visited Craig on Tuesday. He already had other commitments when Jewell's schedule was announced, Tipton's staff said.

Listing the grouse as endangered would "put private lands off-limits to most use and development, including agriculture production and grazing, without providing any compensation," Tipton said. "These listings would kill jobs, devastate communities, and disrupt effective species preservation efforts currently underway. They won't, however, more effectively preserve the grouse."

Interior Secretary Jewell visits Moffat County to discuss sage grouse



Story by Erin Fenner
Originally published January 21, 2014 at 09:23p.m., updated January 21, 2014 at 10:04p.m.



Photo by Erin Fenner

Gov. John Hickenlooper, right, joins U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on a tour of Bord Gulch Ranch in Moffat County. The ranch is owned by Ray Owens, who highlighted efforts he's made to help sage grouse, mule deer and elk populations thrive in Northwest Colorado. Moffat County Commissioner Tom Mathers, left, talks about sage grouse in the region.

Craig — What might ease the tensions between sage grouse conservationists, private landowners and businesses is a concept needed in politics: collaboration.

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper stopped in Moffat County on Tuesday to take part in such collaboration. Jewell came with the head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the head of the Bureau of Land Management to tour the Bord Gulch Ranch, owned by Ray Owens. His ranch, nestled in the northwest corner of Colorado, is an example of how a private landowner can further a conservationist goal, Jewell said.

"Ray Owens is a model of the 21st-century Western rancher with his outstanding stewardship of this working landscape," Jewell said in a press release. "He represents the spirit of partnership that can be replicated across the West as we develop landscape-level strategies to lessen the threats to the sage grouse and conserve its habitat."

The governor also celebrated Owens' efforts in taking a completely new approach to conservation.

"I think we are creating a new model of how to preserve species," Hickenlooper said. "We're modeling for all the other ranchers and farmers in the West. There are solutions. This isn't hopeless."

The Bureau of Land Management is in the process of evaluating sage grouse habitat in Colorado and 10 other states. They need to present their recommendation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — the federal agency evaluating the bird for the endangered species list — by September. The pressure is on federal departments to decide how much protection the birds need, how to regulate that protection and how to do so while not threatening the economy of areas near sage grouse habitats.

Moffat County is one of those areas. Seventy-five percent of the county is made up of land that would be affected by a sage grouse endangered species listing.

But while listing the bird as endangered is a possibility, the population is stable enough to likely avoid that list, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe said.

"Endangered is always a possibility," Ashe said. "The greater sage grouse is still in relatively good shape, so

it would seem like an endangered determination absent some major catastrophe is probably not where we would head."

But the birds still can be listed as a threatened species, which could come with regulations that affect private landowners and businesses.

Jewell reassured the attendees of the tour that the BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service were in Colorado to get input from farmers and ranchers.

"People really respect and want to learn from the people who work the land," Jewell said.

Hickenlooper praised the tour as an opportunity for high-level officials to meet and seek a solution with ranchers, farmers and leaders who understand the economic issues of the area.

"We have everybody that matters right here on this little hilltop," Hickenlooper said. "If you noticed: They listened."

Moffat County Commissioner Tom Mathers went on the tour as an elected official and as a lifelong rancher. He was encouraged by the conversations and ideas exchanged during the tour.

"It's overwhelming to have this much power all in one setting," Mathers said. "I'm so impressed with our governor."

Mathers said he was optimistic they could work out a way to protect the sage grouse species while also protecting people's livelihoods.

"It's going to take everyone working to get them to keep the bird from getting listed," he said. "We need multi-use on all these grounds."

Following the tour, the crew of high-up officials led a meeting at the American Legion Clubhouse in Craig to talk more about sage grouse issues. More than 40 people attended, including all three Moffat County commissioners and other elected officials, but press was barred from the discussion.

"I just assumed it was a public meeting," Mathers said.

But Jewell said it was closed.

"Secretary Jewell's office decided the meeting should be closed to press to help foster an open and frank discussion," said Eric Brown, director of communications for Hickenlooper's office.

Press booted as Interior chief Jewell meets Moffat officials

By Rachel Sauer
Tuesday, January 21, 2014

A meeting about greater sage-grouse that had been touted as open to the press and public was closed to the press Tuesday afternoon, in seeming violation of Colorado's Sunshine Law.

Erin Fenner, a Craig Daily Press reporter, was told to leave a meeting with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally

Jewell that followed a Tuesday morning tour of Moffat County sage-grouse habitat on Bord Gulch Ranch. Fenner said she'd heard that the 3:30 p.m. meeting at the Craig American Legion was going to be closed, "but (Tuesday) morning all three county commissioners said (the meeting) was going to be open and the press should come," Fenner said.

A man who didn't identify himself, but whom Fenner said she thought works in the Secretary of the Interior's office and was acting on Jewell's behalf, escorted her from the room and told her she couldn't be there because she was with the press, Fenner recalled.

After Fenner returned to the newspaper office, managing editor Noelle Leavitt Riley called Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid on his cell phone and he told her, "Send her back to the meeting," Leavitt Riley said, Kinkaid referring to the reporter Fenner.

Fenner returned to the meeting, she said, and was told to leave once again by the same man. She said she brought up Colorado's Sunshine Law "and he said that we weren't going to argue about it any more and said I had to get out," Fenner said.

She said all three Moffat County commissioners were at the meeting, which she said appeared to be a standard question-and-answer session.

According to the state Open Meetings Law — a part of Colorado's Sunshine statutes — "all meetings of a quorum of three or more members, whichever is fewer, at which public business is discussed or formal action might be taken are open."

Leavitt Riley said she then went to the American Legion building and the doors were locked, so she pounded on the window until someone let her in, "but by that time the meeting had adjourned," she said. "So, I go over to (Moffat County Commissioner) Tom Mathers and said, 'Did you know Erin was kicked out of this meeting?' And he said, 'No, this was an open meeting.'"

As she was leaving, Leavitt Riley said she saw Jewell in a car in the parking lot and the driver-side door was open, so she approached Jewell "and she said the press was not allowed at this meeting," Leavitt Riley recalled.

"I said, do you realize more than a dozen elected officials were in it? She said the tour was open to the press but this was a closed meeting" and then drove away, Leavitt Riley said.

She said the newspaper is pursuing the matter with the Colorado Press Association. No one with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's office was available for comment Tuesday night.

Blake Androff
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior

On Jan 22, 2014, at 6:06 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Blake -
>
> This is a bit different from what we discussed - especially the headline, which I suspect the editor wrote. If you have the content of the article, I'd like to read it.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Sally

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Date: January 22, 2014, 10:54:10 AM MST
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Noreen Walsh <Noreen_walsh@fws.gov>, Betsy Hildebrandt <Betsy_Hildebrandt@fws.gov>
Subject: People's Choice

Well, here's the verdict from my old high school football buddy out in Gunnison County.

Well you had a great meeting in Moffat County looks like. Here is the headline in grand junction!!! I liked your response about using science and "best practices" in the diagnosis of the listing. Thought you might like this!!!

<20140122_090554.jpg>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, January 23, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jan 23, 2014 at 6:58 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL PITCHES 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS AT OUTDOOR RETAILER WINTER MARKET. The AP (1/22) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "made a pitch Wednesday for a privately funded youth conservation corps and sought donations for the effort from executives" at the Outdoor Retailer Winter Market. Jewell said "budget paralysis in Washington has forced her to seek help from the private sector." Jewell said, "We're not waiting for Congress to act. We want to get started this spring."

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/23, 343K) reports that Jewell reflected on President Franklin Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps Wednesday as "she delivered the keynote to the Outdoor Industry Association's Industry Breakfast before the start of the annual Outdoor Retailer Winter Market trade show at the Salt Palace in downtown Salt Lake City." Jewell's "goal is to raise $20 million in private funds and to recruit 1 million volunteers in the next four years to help do maintenance on public recreation facilities and complete conservation projects across the country while giving youths and veterans meaningful work." At a news conference after the breakfast,

Jewell said, "The difference between the old CCC and the 21st Century CCC is the original was 100 percent paid for by the US government. We are in a different era where the federal government is not going to write a big check for this to happen. So we are calling on the private sector to be a partner with us, not just in providing financial resources, but engaging companies with us as volunteers. There is nothing better than working with your team in the great outdoors."

The Deseret (UT) News (1/23, 274K) reports that "at a press conference afterward, Jewell weighed in on a variety of Utah-related topics, noting that the use of the Antiquities Act to designate new national parks or monuments should be used sparingly; rules regarding methane emissions from oil and gas industry activity need to be updated to help improve air quality in places like the Uinta Basin; and political movements to wrest control of public lands contravene the idea they belong to everyone." Jewell "added that the value of those public lands was no more apparent in Utah than when the federal government shutdown forced the closure of its national parks, leading to 'frantic calls' to Utah Gov. Gary Herbert." Jewell said, "It is clear the citizens of Utah and its communities get tremendous benefit from public lands."

The Bicycle Retailer (1/22) reports that "sprinkling her 30-minute speech with quick quips delivered with a smile, Jewell returned again and again to the need for youth to get outside." Jewell said, "Children need time to play and it's best to play outside in an unstructured environment."

AP coverage was also picked up by the Washington Times (1/23, Foy, 417K), the Washington Examiner (1/23, 319K), Yahoo! (1/23, Foy, 17.91M), Yahoo! News Canada (1/23, 76K), the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (1/23, 82K), the Billings (MT) Gazette (1/23, 206K), the Cache Valley (UT) Daily (1/23, 639), the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/23, 80K), and KOB-TV Albuquerque, NM (1/23, 59K).

Also reporting on the story are Politico (1/23, Guillen, 464K), the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (1/22, 214K), the Yellowstone (WY) Gate (1/23), the Bicycle Retailer (1/22), KSTU-TV Salt Lake City (1/22, 42K), KTVX-TV Salt Lake City (1/23, 15K), and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (1/23, 242K).

In an editorial, the Boston Globe (1/23, 1.75M) lauds Jewell for the "innovation" shown in "coping with diminished resources." According to the paper, Jewell's "success would certainly provide relief some for the young people looking for work today." But more importantly, "cultivating a new generation of American conservationists could have an even more lasting impact."

In an editorial, the East Oregonian (1/23, 24K) lauds the proposal to create "a modern incarnation of the CCC and create 100,000 new jobs for young people and military veterans on public lands."

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TOUR COLORADO RANCH TO LEARN ABOUT SAGE GROUSE EFFORTS. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, FWS Director Dan Ashe, BLM Principal Deputy Director Neil Kornze and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper visited the 16,000-acre Bord Gulch Ranch "to discuss what landowners can do to improve habitat for the sage grouse and other native species." According to the article, "for Hickenlooper, the tour was an opportunity to showcase public-private partnerships he argued should be considered as BLM finalizes its sage grouse conservation plans and as FWS nears its listing decision." For Jewell, the tour was "an opportunity to mend rifts with Western states as BLM tries to preserve tens of millions of acres of sagebrush habitat without stifling the grazing, oil and gas drilling, and mining that fuel many rural economies."

Meanwhile, the Craig (CO) Daily Press (1/22, 10K) reports that it has "looked into a possible violation of Colorado Sunshine Law following a meeting about sage grouse conservation." According to the article, Jewell "did not acknowledge whether or not she had violated the law."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (1/23, 2.88M), the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/23, 73K), the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/23, 73K), and the Steamboat (CO) Pilot & Today (1/22, 30K).

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO VISIT NEW MEXICO. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, joined by Neil Kornze, who leads the BLM, "on Friday will visit the Organ Mountains region of southern New Mexico, a signal the Obama administration is considering designating the area as a national monument." Jewell will tour "the area and attend a public meeting hosted by New Mexico Democratic Sens. Tom Udall and

Martin Heinrich 'regarding the community's vision to preserve, protect and enhance some of the public lands located in Doña Ana County,' according to Interior."

Also reporting on the story is the Albuquerque (NM) Business First (1/23).

SECRETARY JEWELL ASKED TO TRANSFER MINERAL RIGHTS TO CNMI. The Pacific News Center (1/23) reports that CNMI Congressman Kilili Sablan is calling on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "take action on the transfer of oil, gas, and other mineral rights to the Northern Mariana Islands" now that "the transfer of submerged lands to the CNMI has begun." According to the article, "in addition to reminding Jewell of the responsibility to transfer oil, gas, and mineral rights, Sablan also asked for an accounting of any existing leases or permits that the federal government may have issued in areas now owned by the Commonwealth."

Also reporting on the story is the Pacific News Center (1/23).

WORLD HERITAGE DESIGNATION FOR SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS COULD BE PREVENTED BY POLITICS. The San Antonio Business Journal (1/23, Subscription Publication, 27K) reports that "America's decision to cancel its membership in 2011 in United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) could negatively affect the Alamo and San Antonio Missions National Park's inclusion on the World Heritage Site list." According to Suzanne Dixon, Texas regional director for the National Parks Conservation Association, "the US lost its voting privileges with the UNESCO General Conference in November — two years after cutting off dues payments to the organization." Dixon said "there are no procedural hurdles in place that would prevent the Tentative List nomination of San Antonio's missions from advancing," but "it's clear the US has lost some leverage."

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY ON PILT FUNDS. Additional commentary on the PILT funds was provided by Thomas Mitchell in his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/23, Mitchell, 22K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. TO ASK SUPREME COURT CASE TO REVIEW CASE. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. "indicated this week that it will ask the Supreme Court to take up its ongoing fight with the Interior Department to keep its doors open." The farm has "asked the 9th Circuit to delay the enforcement of that ruling while it petitions the Supreme Court to take up the case." According to the article, "in court documents that are likely similar to those the company will submit to the Supreme Court, the company claims there is a good chance the highest court will want to review the lawsuit."

Additional coverage was provided by the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (1/23, 731K).

NPS OBJECTS TO PALISADES TOWER. The New York Times (1/23, Pogrebin, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "two months after work began on LG Electronics USA's new headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., new opponents have jumped in the battle to scale back the project, which they see as a blight on the Hudson River landscape." According to the article, "the environmental activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the Natural Resources Defense Council and a New Jersey conservation group said they planned to join a legal challenge on Thursday," and the NPS has "registered its objections to the project's scope." The article notes that "the Defense Council — for which Mr. Kennedy is senior lawyer — together with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation planned to file a motion on Thursday to join a lawsuit challenging the company's plan to build a tower on the Palisades cliffs north of the George Washington Bridge."

APOSTLE ISLANDS SEA CAVES A WALK AWAY. The AP (1/23) reports that "for the first time in five years, you can visit the Apostle Islands sea caves by walking across frozen Lake Superior." Apostle Islands National Lakeshore superintendent Bob Krumanaker said "the experience of walking on a frozen Great Lake is remarkable, both physically and psychologically." According to the NPS, "with the current conditions," the caves are a "fairyland of needle-like icicles."

NPS DEVELOPING PLAN TO PROTECT MIGRATING WILDLIFE. The Missoulian (1/23, 104K) reports that the NPS and "the country's leading wildlife experts are developing a plan to conserve migrating wildlife as it moves through protected areas, sometimes crossing vast regions of the globe to reach birthing and feeding grounds." According to the aricle, "unveiled in a paper published last week in Conservation Biology, the plan details the need for more collaboration between the NPS, local governments and public landowners." Joel Berger, a professor at the University of Montana and the new paper's leading author, said, "Our national parks attract as many people as professional football, baseball and basketball games combined. Putting this on the public's radar is a good place to start, so 20 years from now we're still looking at these species."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WELCOME $130 MILLION INVESTMENT FOR EVERGLADES. The Sunshine State (FL) News (1/23, 3K) reports that "Gov. Rick Scott's announcement during Wednesday morning's Cabinet meeting that Florida will invest $130 million to continue work on restoring the Everglades and South Florida's ecosystem won cheers from state environmental leaders." The article notes that "ess than a year after Scott announced an $880 million long-term Everglades restoration plan, the $130 million investment for the Everglades and South Florida's ecosystem include $40 million to speed up completion of the C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area for Martin and St. Lucie counties." In addition, the "$130 million investment includes $30 million for a three-year installment for the Tamiami Trail project, which will provide necessary water to Everglades National Park, $32 million in recurring funding as part of the Governor's Everglades Water Quality Restoration Plan and funds to complete the Kissimmee River restoration project, which will store and clean water heading into Lake Okeechobee."

IRVING PRESENTS CIVIL RIGHTS LEGACY AWARD TO NPS. The Dallas Morning News (1/23, 1.13M) reports that in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the city of Irving presented its Civil Rights Legacy Award to the NPS.

Bureau of Land Management:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SUE TO BLOCK BLM "ECOLOGICAL FORESTRY" PROJECT. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that "two environmental groups have filed a federal lawsuit to block" a BLM plan "to harvest timber in western Oregon, a move that further hobbles the agency's plan to implement 'ecological forestry' projects." The groups, Oregon Wild and Cascadia Wildlands, "argued BLM took shortcuts in its environmental review of the 187-acre project." According to the article, "it's the latest bid by environmental groups to stall the agency's efforts to allow some patches of clearcuts in western Oregon as a way to increase timber harvests while mimicking natural disturbances like fire."

Additional coverage of by the AP (1/23, Barnard) was picked up by the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/23, 80K), the Washington Times (1/23, Barnard, 417K), KATU-TV Portland, OR (1/23, 105K), and KVAL-TV Eugene, OR (1/23, 31K).

BLM NETS $38 MILLION IN SALE FROM FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that the BLM "announced this week it netted $38 million in a sale from the federal helium reserve, the latest in an ongoing effort to eventually draw down the reserve and compel the private sector to secure its own helium supply." In all, "eight companies purchased a total of 400 million cubic feet of crude helium from the reserve near Amarillo, Texas, at a price of $95 per thousand cubic feet." Neil Kornze, BLM's principal deputy director, said in a statement, "We're pleased with the results of this helium sale. It's critical that we get a fair return on this national resource that is so important for health care innovation and technology development."

BLM IN COLORADO GETS NEW ACTING DIRECTOR. The Denver Business Journal (1/23, Subscription Publication, 71K) reports that Ruth Welch, currently the director of the BLM's National Operations Center in Lakewood, will become the new temporary director at the BLM's office in Colorado. Welch will take over from "John Mehlhoff, who was named the BLM's acting state director for Colorado in October."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP THREATENS LAWSUIT IF COLORADO DOES NOT INCREASE RIO GRANDE FLOWS. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that "an environmental group has notified Colorado officials that it plans to file a federal lawsuit against the state if it does not increase the volume of water it sends down the Rio Grande to

New Mexico, claiming low water flows are harming two endangered species downstream." WildEarth Guardians has "sent a 60-day notice of intent to sue to Mike King, executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and others, arguing that the result of the state's policy of diverting much of the Rio Grande instead of allowing the river to flow into New Mexico is harming the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow and the Southwestern willow flycatcher that live downriver." According to the article, "the group claims that diverting much of the Rio Grande to irrigate crops in Colorado's San Luis Valley during peak river flows in May constitutes a 'take' of the two species, requiring the state to obtain a permit under the Endangered Species Act to harm or kill them."

Additional coverage was provided by the AP (1/23, Bryan).

FWS TO CONSIDER PROTECTIONS FOR 19 ANIMALS. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that the FWS will "consider endangered or threatened listings for 19 species, it announced today." According to a notice published in today's Federal Register, "the proposals for the listings of 15 species of foreign bats, along with the emperor penguin, Flores hawk-eagle, Ridgeway's hawk and Virgin Islands coqui, come from five different petitions received" by the agency.

TRAPS SET FOR SNOWY OWLS AT GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. The AP (1/23, 417K) reports that "traps are being used to catch snowy owls alive at Gerald R. Ford International Airport after staff members shot nine in the last two months to ensure aircraft safety." The article notes that the airport has a FWS "permit to control snowy owls if they are deemed a safety hazard."

US Geological Survey:

USGS, TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION INVESTIGATING EARTHQUAKES. KXAS-TV Dallas (1/23, 155K) reports that the USGS and the Texas Railroad Commission are "investigating a series of small earthquakes in Parker County." Since the beginning of the month, there have been a total of 10 quakes. Dr. Ken Morgan, PhD, the head of TCU's Energy Institute, said "there are dozens of fault lines in North Texas," but he added that "there is a possibility the quakes are being caused by human activity." However, in his belief, Morgan said that "fracking is not a possible cause of the Parker County earthquakes."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CAPE WIND FACES NEW LAWSUIT. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that "opponents of the Cape Wind project are arguing in a federal lawsuit that state regulators did not have the right to broker an agreement to have utility NStar buy the power generated from the farm." They claim that "only the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has that power."

Meanwhile, the E&E Daily (1/22) reports that "federal appellate judges today rejected a challenge to the controversial Cape Wind offshore wind farm project from Massachusetts residents." The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit "upheld the Federal Aviation Administration finding that the proposed 130-turbine farm would not pose a risk to aeronautical navigation over Nantucket Sound."

Additional coverage was provided by the Cape Cod (MA) Times (1/22, 92K).

Cape Cod Wind Farm Would Be Built With European Components. The New York Times (1/23, Cardwell, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the politicians and the developers of the proposed $2.6 billion wind farm of the shores of Cape Cod "promised" that "much of the work" would go to US companies. However, a Massachusetts company "lost a bid to build support structures to a German company it had brought in as a partner, and last month Cape Wind completed arrangements for other major components, including the giant blades, towers and turbines, to be built in Denmark." The Times says that the problems "illustrate the difficulty of creating a new energy industry from scratch," even if it is backed by the government.

ANALYSIS FINDS GROWTH IN RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that

"renewable energy generation in the United States grew 23 percent from 2009 to 2012, a new analysis shows, led by an increase in wind and solar power." According to SNL Energy, "wind accounted for 74 percent of the uptick in utility-scale renewable generation." Also, solar generation "has taken off, ever since posting a 33 percent year-over-year increase in 2010, the study said."

FWS DISCUSSES GREAT BAY WIND ENERGY'S APPLICATION FOR EAGLE TAKE PERMIT. The Delmarva (MD) Daily Times (1/22, 26K) reports that "a packed room of Somerset County residents" and FWS officials "debated the possible implementation of Great Bay Wind Energy's application for an eagle take permit at the J.M. Tawes Technology Center." FWS representative Julie Slocum "encouraged the audience to 'put numbers into context' and observe the intent of Pioneer Green's project." She said, "The project's main purpose is for clean energy."

OP-ED: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S PUSH FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY HURTS TRIBAL LANDS. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/23, King, 11.54M), consultant Tom King writes that the Obama Administration "runs roughshod over tribal cultural and spiritual values." He notes that the Interior Department is "expediting industrial-scale wind and solar energy development on public lands," and "the locations chosen for many such projects are landscapes that tribes have valued and used for millennia, that remain critical to their cultural identity." But according to King, "Interior effectively ignores such tribal concerns, while pretending to do the consultation required by law and (supposedly) administration policy."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM CONSIDERS LEASE OF LAND IN COLORADO FOR COAL MINING. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that the BLM is "moving forward with environmental reviews for the potential leasing of more than 14,000 acres of federal land in western Colorado for coal mining." According to the article, "CAM Colorado LLC, a unit of Rhino Resource Partners LP, in 2006 requested the so-called Book Cliffs tract, which is said to contain almost 80 million tons of in-place coal." Although Rhino executive Corey Heaps said that that company "welcomed BLM's decision to move forward with consideration of a potential lease of the Book Cliffs tract," environmental groups are "sounding the alarm."

SOME WATER WELLS RECOVERING AMID POWDER RIVER BASIN METHANE BUST. The Columbus (GA) Ledger-Enquirer (1/22, 127K) reports that "a new report shows water levels in some monitoring wells" in the Powder River Basin are "rising now that gas production is falling." According to the article, "a report released Tuesday by the Wyoming Geological Survey shows falling water levels in about three-quarters of 62 wells the US Bureau of Land Management uses to monitor groundwater in the various coal and sandstone layers that underlie the basin." However, "water levels rose in 15 of the wells."

PLAN TO ALLOW FRACKING IN VIRGINIA NATIONAL FOREST DRAWS OPPOSITION OVER WATER CONCERNS. The Los Angeles Times (1/23, Banerjee, 3.07M) reports the US Forest Service is considering making George Washington National Forest in Virginia "the first national forest to permit high-volume hydraulic fracturing." However, about 4 million people , including those in Washington, DC, depend on water from the forest, and fracking's potential risk to that water "has drawn widespread opposition...from most of the towns and counties nearby, members of Virginia's congressional delegation and Washington's mayor."

Offshore Energy Development:

APPEALS PANEL REJECTS INTERIOR'S ARCTIC LEASE SALE. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that federal appellate judges have "ruled that the Interior Department's environmental assessment of its lease sale for oil and gas development in Alaska's Chukchi Sea was flawed and sent it back to the agency to reconsider." The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals held that "the department failed to adequately justify its estimate that there are 1 billion barrels of total recoverable oil available." According to the article, "the 2-1 divided panel sent the agency's environmental impact statement for the controversial Lease Sale 193 back to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for further consideration."

The Washington Post (1/23, Mufson, 4.28M) reports that the panel "sent the case back to District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline, who could ask the Interior Department to revise the environmental impact statement"

according to the article, "if that process takes a prolonged time, then it could postpone Shell's drilling plans."

The National Journal (1/23, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that environmental groups applauded "the ruling and quickly sought to use it as political ammunition in their campaign against Arctic drilling, which they contend is too risky." National Audubon Society CEO David Yarnold said, "This decision gives the White House a chance to reconsider drilling in the Chukchi."

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (1/23, 194K) reports that "the environmental groups that challenged Interior's analysis in Wednesday's case say the federal appeals court decision offers President Obama a chance to lead on climate change. Erik Grafe, an attorney for Earthjustice, said, "This ruling provides an opportunity for the administration to reconsider its decision to open up Chukchi sea to oil and gas drilling. It provides an opportunity for the administration to consider leaving oil in ground that would otherwise exacerbate climate change." Obama can take a leadership role. The Arctic presents opportunity for him to lead on climate change and take different path than the administration has up to this point."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (1/23, Joling), Reuters (1/23, Quinn), Bloomberg News (1/22, 1.91M), the Bloomberg BusinessWeek (1/22, 4.93M), the FuelFix (1/22, 7K), FOX News (1/22, 6.72M), the Los Angeles Times (1/23, Ganga, 3.07M), the Washington Times (1/23, Joling, 417K), the Washington Examiner (1/23, 319K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (1/22, 768K), the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (1/22, 198K), the Alaska Dispatch (1/22, 7K), the Daily Telegraph (UK) (1/23, Trotman, 3.22M), the Courthouse News (1/22, 7K), the Law 360 (1/23, 18K), and KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK (1/23).

FORMER HALLIBURTON MANAGER SENTENCED TO PROBATION IN SPILL PROBE. The E&E Daily (1/22) reports that "a federal judge sentenced former Halliburton Energy Services Inc. engineer Anthony Badalamenti to one year of probation yesterday for deleting data in the aftermath of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, as BP PLC opened a new legal front in its efforts to limit a massive settlement with residents and businesses in contaminated parts of the Gulf." Badalamenti "admitted to deleting results from computer simulations that showed the extent of the oil spill." He will "be required to perform 100 hours of community service and pay a $1,000 fine."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA OFFICIALS CALL FOR DROUGHT BILL. The AP (1/22) reports that House Speaker John Boehner and three San Joaquin Valley Republican congressmen on Wednesday called on their Senate colleagues to approve emergency drought legislation they say would bring more water to the region. The proposed bill, which is temporary and would likely sunset sometime in the summer of 2015, would allow the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta pumps to operate as long as water is available. It would also temporarily halt the San Joaquin River restoration. Finally, it would establish a joint House-Senate committee of 10 members that would meet over the rest of the year to come up with longer-term solutions to deal with California's drought, now in its third year.

Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the Fresno (CA) Bee (1/22, 327K), the Bakersfield Californian (1/23, 140K), KBFX-TV Bakersfield, CA (1/23, 12K), KERO-TV Bakersfield, CA (1/23, 4K), and KRCR-TV Redding, CA (1/23, 3K).

BILLS INTRODUCED TO PROTECT GILA RIVER. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (1/23, 59K) reports that State Sen. Peter Wirth "introduced legislation last Thursday that would guide how the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) can expend funds under the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) of 2004." According to the article, "Senate Bill 90 requires beneficiaries to secure and guarantee all funding necessary to construct a large-scale diversion and pipeline on the Gila River before the ISC can notify the Secretary of the Interior of its intent to begin construction." Also reporting on the story is the Silver City (NM) Sun-News (1/23, 24K).

Meanwhile, the Deming (NM) Headlight (1/23, 10K) reports that "three hundred business owners across the state have signed a letter to Gov. Susana Martinez asking that she support cost-effective, non-diversion alternatives to diverting the Gila River."

WORKER INJURED AT GRAND COULEE DAM TO BE RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL. The Star of Grand Coulee (WA) (1/22, 169) reports that "a worker burned in an accident at Grand Coulee Dam last November is due to be released from hospital today, the Bureau of Reclamation has informed an irrigation district."

CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE OFFERS GRANTS FOR WATER EFFICIENCY. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (1/21, 113K) reports that farmers in California are "being offered about $18 million for projects that conserve water and preserve habitat for wildlife." The Bay Delta Conservation Initiative is "offering money through 15 water districts throughout the Central Valley, including newly added districts in Tehama, Kern and Stanislaus counties and in the Lower Colusa Drain."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/23, 749K) reports that during Wednesday's State of the State speech, Gov. Jerry Brown pushed for "further progress on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan." He said that "it is what we must do to get through this drought and get ready for the next one."

Additional coverage of the speech was provided by the Ventura County (CA) Star (1/22, 196K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (1/23, 206), and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/22, 749K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

NEW MEXICO PANEL REVIEWS NAVAJO GAMBLING COMPACT. The AP (1/23, Massey) reports that "a proposed gambling compact with the Navajo Nation ran into opposition Wednesday from other tribes and pueblos in New Mexico because it would allow the Navajos to open additional casinos." According to the article, "in testimony to a legislative committee, leaders from Laguna and Acoma pueblos and the Jicarilla Apache Nation said that more casinos would dilute their share of a saturated gambling market, possibly forcing them to cut tribal services and reduce the workers in their casinos." However, Navajo President Ben Shelly "defended the compact negotiated with Gov. Susana Martinez's administration." Shelly said, "We need economic development and employment."

AP coverage was also picked up by the Arizona Daily Star (1/23, 335K).

CATAWBA INDIAN NATION ARGUES EXISTING SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ALLOWS RESERVATION GAMBLING. The AP (1/23, Kinnard) reports that the Catawba Indian Nation "argued before the state's Supreme Court Wednesday that current law allows them to have a reservation casino – even though video gambling is banned elsewhere within the state's borders." The tribe is "appealing a circuit judge's 2012 ruling that, not only does the law that allows those vessels not give the Catawbas the right to gamble, but that the tribe gave up that right voluntarily in its settlement agreement."

AP coverage was also picked up by the Augusta (GA) Chronicle (1/22, 184K).

FORT SILL APACHE STILL PURSUING SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO CASINO. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (1/23, 59K) reports that "despite setbacks," the Fort Sill Apache tribe still has "aspirations to carry out gaming on the 30-acre parcel." According to the article, "the tribe had poured its energies in recent years into applying for the right to game via a two-part test that requires approval from both the US Department of the Interior and a state's governor."

INDIAN LAW AND ORDER COMMISSION REPORT OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SAFETY. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/22, 21K) reports on the Indian Law and Order Commission's report "A Roadmap to Making Native America Safer." The commission "presented its report in November," saying that it had "concluded that criminal jurisdiction in Indian country is an indefensible morass of complex, conflicting, and illogical commands, layered in over decades via congressional policies and court decisions and without the consent of tribal nations." The report offers "more than three-dozen recommendations about how to change things, some of them breathtaking."

Top National News:

LEW: CONGRESS MUST RAISE DEBT CEILING EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED. Treasury Secretary Lew's letter to House Speaker Boehner advising him that Congress needs to increase the Federal debt ceiling by the end of next month did not generate a great deal of media coverage apart a smattering of generally brief print and online reports. None of the network newscasts mentioned the letter on Wednesday evening, and Lew's warning did not prompt debate over Federal spending on the cable news channels.

The New York Times (1/23, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that on Wednesday, in his letter to Boehner, Lew "warned...that the government would most likely exhaust its ability to borrow in late February, setting up the latest fiscal showdown earlier than Republican leaders anticipated." According to the Times, Lew told Boehner that "a surge of February spending, mainly tax refunds for 2013, would leave the Treasury with little room to maneuver after the official debt limit is reached on Feb. 7." The Times goes on to report that while Boehner "has said he does not want to have another showdown on the debt ceiling," other House Republicans "still want to force concessions from the White House, possibly on controlling the growth of entitlement...or easing the path to an overhaul of the tax code." USA Today (1/22, Korte, 5.82M) notes that "the debt limit is now more than $17 trillion."

McClatchy (1/23, Cockerham, 95K) quotes Lew as writing: "Protecting the full faith and credit of the United States is the responsibility of Congress, because only Congress can extend the nation's borrowing authority. No Congress in our history has failed to meet that responsibility." The Wall Street Journal (1/22, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that Lew emphasized that Congress must act quickly, "and certainly before late February."

However, according to USA Today (1/22, Korte, 5.82M), Lew himself "previously said that Treasury could run out of money to pay its bills by 'late February or early March.'" On CNBC's Closing Bell (1/23, 191K), Hampton Pearson reported that "the interesting thing about [Lew's] letter" is that he said "there's going to be a lot more money going out in early February to pay for tax refunds and there's a lot less borrowing authority available than in 2011 and 2013, the last time Congress and the Administration locked horns on the whole issue of raising the debt ceiling."

The Hill (1/23, Schroeder, 194K) reports that deal reached in October "to end the government shutdown also suspended the nation's $16.7 trillion borrowing cap until Feb. 7." The Hill adds that on February 7, "the borrowing limit will be automatically increased to cover all governmental borrowing done during the suspended period," and, "without an increase, the Treasury will begin to employ its set of 'extraordinary measures' to free up room under the cap."

Reuters (1/23) reports that in his letter to Boehner, Lew wrote, "We do not foresee any reasonable scenario in which the extraordinary measures would last for an extended period of time" after February 7.

According to Roll Call (1/23, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K), "Response on Capitol Hill to Lew's latest warning was swift and predictable, with Democrats pushing for a 'clean' increase in borrowing authority and Republicans calling for" offsets. Roll Call also notes that just "last week," Senate Majority Leader Reid "indicated the nation wasn't likely to hit the debt ceiling until May."

Jim Puzzanghera, in a piece for the Los Angeles Times (1/23, Puzzanghera, 3.07M), says Reid's time-frame "conflicts with estimates from the Treasury," as well as the Bipartisan Policy Center, which "reiterated its deadline of 'late-February to mid-March'" after Reid said Congress might have until May.

Politico (1/22, Sherman, 464K) reports that the House "is out of session this week and in session for only two-and-a-half days next week," and adds that "as of right now, there doesn't appear to be a plan to lift the debt limit." Politico goes on to report that Boehner spokesman Michael Steel "hinted in an email that Republicans will again demand concessions from Democrats to raise the borrowing limit." Steel wrote: "The speaker has said that we should not default on our debt, or even get close to it, but a 'clean' debt limit increase simply won't pass in the House."

The AP (1/22) notes that President Obama has repeatedly insisted that he "will not negotiate over the debt limit." According to Bloomberg News (1/23, Klimasinska, 1.91M), House Republicans "are expected to decide on their negotiation strategy at a party conference next week." Sam Stein, in a piece for the Huffington Post (1/22, Sam

Stein Posted: 01/22/2014 3:, Est, 11.54M), notes that last year, the House Republican leadership has "pushed for policy riders, such as one authorizing the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline."

OBAMA ESTABLISHES TASK FORCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULTS. NBC Nightly News (1/22, story 7, 1:00, Williams, 7.86M) reported President Obama "called for new attention today to the problem of sexual assault on our college campuses," announcing the "creation of a task force on the issue, pointing some sobering facts these days, like one in five college students sexually assaulted, but only 12% of the victims reporting the attacks." NBC ran quotes from both Obama and Vice President Biden, who said, "Men have to step up to the bar here. Men have to take more responsibility. Men have to intervene."

USA Today (1/23, Jackson, 5.82M) says in receiving the report from the White House Council on Women and Girls, the President said, "It's totally unacceptable." The New York Times (1/23, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "while both the administration and the news media have paid greater attention recently to sexual assaults in the military, rape is most common on college campuses, according to the council's report. The problem, it says, is exacerbated by students' alcohol and drug use."

MAYORS PREDICT ECONOMIC GROWTH. Gannett News Service (1/23, Kelly, 7K) reports Mesa, Arizona Mayor Scott Smith, president of the US Conference of Mayors, predicted at the group's annual winter meeting that US cities "will begin to see real economic growth in 2014 after years of struggling through the recession." A recent report by IHS Global Insight for the Conference, the Council on Metro Economies, and the New American City forecast 356 of 363 US metro areas will "experience true, inflation-adjusted economic growth this year." The group also wants Congress to act on immigration reform, with Smith saying, "The status quo is not acceptable." On trade, Smith plans to meet with Eduardo Medina Mora, Mexico's ambassador to the US, and Smith already talked with" DHS Secretary Johnson "about increasing US Customs and Border Protection staffing to reduce border crossing wait times

The Washington Post (1/23, Henneberger, 4.28M) reports that at the meeting, Commerce Secretary Pritzker promised her department will help expand exports "and energetically invited them to compete to become one of a dozen designated 'manufacturing communities.'"

The AP (1/23, Thomas) reports Smith also called on Congress "to work together to promote 'confidence in our markets.'"

Youth Unemployment Rate Remains Elevated. The Huffington Post (1/23, 11.54M) reports that while the stock market has recovered, the unemployment rate for those ages 18 to 29 remains in double digits and the percentage of young workers lacking employment is almost double what it was before the recession. Meanwhile, Yale University President Peter Salovey said in an interview that his is concerned about the effect of public universities' increasing tuition on student debt, making it more difficult for young people to afford the degree needed for many jobs. Salovey said that for middle-class and working-class students, "if they're admitted to a place like Yale University, their families will pay less for that college education than typically if they went to the state university in their own state as state tuition payers."

CEOs At Davos Concerned About Underemployment, Wage Stagnation, Healthcare Cuts. The Wall Street Journal (1/23, Ball, Glazer, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that, at the Wall Street Journal's CEO Council during the World Economic Forum, chief executives at top companies predicted that 2014 will see wage stagnation and underemployment in the US. Healthcare executives say that uncertainty over the healthcare overhaul has them expecting to cut jobs. Meanwhile, the economic recovery in Europe still has issues, and uneven growth is predicted for the developing world.

Stock Benchmarks Mixed. The Wall Street Journal (1/23, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 41.10 points (0.3%) to 16,373.34, the S&P 500 rose 1.06 points (0.1%) to 1,844.86, and the Nasdaq Composite Index was up 17.24 points (0.4%) to 4,243.00. Investors remain focused on corporate earnings reports, seeking profit growth following last year's record-setting rally.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Political Rumble Over Pre-K."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (1/23, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio "are locked in a contest over" providing free, full-day prekindergarten, something they both agree on. De Blasio would raise taxes to pay for it, while Cuomo is promising to pay for it all over the state without a tax increase. The Times argues that, for de Blasio, "the smart thing is to accept the offer and declare political victory." Meanwhile the Times calls for the Governor to offer more money for the program, create guidelines to ensure it is "more than babysitting or day care," and find the space and teachers needed to make the programs work.

"A Plan To Make Voting Easier." The New York Times (1/23, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that the Presidential Commission on Election Administration offered "a superb report," saying the commission "did far better than expected in showing the many ways that the nation's patchwork of state and local election laws has contributed to low turnouts. ... The most important idea in the report, endorsed by members of both parties on the panel, is that these are national problems requiring a national solution. It is no longer tenable for voting to be difficult in one state but easy next door."

"Ukrainian Standoff." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/23, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that a meeting between Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leaders was "a positive development," but "it was difficult to see what agreement could end the standoff peacefully and properly." The Times says that the West "must also make abundantly clear to Mr. Yanukovich and his lieutenants that they will pay a price if they try to use the talks simply to gain time, or if they order a bloody crackdown."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Leading To Failure In Syria."*** The Washington Post (1/23, 4.28M) says in an editorial that the diplomatic initiative Secretary of State Kerry "launched offers no means to hold the regime of Bashar al-Assad accountable" for atrocities, "or even to stop them. On the contrary: It may serve to prop up the Assad government by treating it as a legitimate party to negotiations about Syria's future." Kerry "insists the talks will lead to a transitional government that excludes Mr. Assad, but the Syrian delegation flatly rejects this premise, and there is no indication that its allies Russia and Iran think otherwise." That President Obama "refuses to consider options between Mr. Kerry's feckless diplomacy and an Iraq-style invasion only ensures that the Geneva 2 conference will fail and that the atrocities will continue."

"Not A Bailout." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/23, 4.28M) argues that it is likely that the Federal government will implement Affordable Care Act safeguards to spread risk "among insurance companies by transferring money from those that see relatively low claims costs to those that see relatively high costs" and to help "pay very high medical bills from individual patients." The Post says that this is not a sign that the ACA is failing, but an example of "smart contingency planning."

"From Felon To Voter." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/23, 4.28M) writes that while "Virginia is making meaningful progress" in allowing felons "to reestablish themselves as full members of society" with restored "voting and other civil rights," more needs to be done. The paper praises former Gov. Robert F. McDonnell for his efforts on the issue and calls for Gov. Terry McAuliffe to continue the effort and make sure it receives "adequate funding and attention."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Detroit's Bankruptcy Retreat."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/23, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) criticizes the proposed Detroit pension deal, arguing that Federal bankruptcy judge Steven Rhodes needs to hold firm to his insistence that settlements address Detroit's systemic problems. The Journal focuses on the defined-benefit public pensions as one of theses. The paper argues that leading pension system as is would hurt the city's recovery and contravene the purpose of bankruptcy.

"An Obama Foreign Policy IQ Test." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/23, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the Administration should learn from the Iraqi withdrawal and keep troops in Afghanistan as part of an open-ended commitment. The Journal says that by withdrawing from Iraq too soon, the Administration allowed chaos to develop there, and believes the result would be the same for Afghanistan if US forces are withdrawn at the end of the year.

"Scalia Agonistes." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/23, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writes that Justice Antonin Scalia appears to be the swing vote in Harris v. Quinn, which the paper casts as pitting union power against First Amendment rights. The paper attempts to sway Scalia, arguing that the government should

not be allows to compel works to pay dues, as private employers are allowed. The Journal contends that being forced to join a public union is politically coercive for free speech, contending that taking any bargaining position with the government is a kind of speech that dues-payers may disagree with.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US, Syria Spar At Start Of Peace Conference
Security Vetting Firm Is Accused Of Fraud
Can Rising Property Values Spur Wary Japanese To Spend?
Lucrative Role As Middleman Puts Amazon In Tough Spot

New York Times:
Europe, Facing Economic Pain, May Ease Climate Rules
Big Web Crash In China: Experts Suspect Great Firewall
When Political Spouse Helps Cause A Downfall
In New Jersey, Claims Elevate Mayor's Profile
Leaning Right In Hollywood, Under A Lens
Gay Marriages Confront Catholic School Rules
Yanks On A Budget? Yeah, Right

Washington Post:
Virginia To Fight Gay-Marriage Ban
Prosecutors Must Prove McDonnell Offered Help
Violence Surges In Ukraine As Talks Open
Floating Eyes In The Sky Heighten Privacy Worries
Climbing Economic Ladder As Hard As Ever, Study Finds

Financial Times:
Microsoft To Shield Foreign Users' Data
Chinese Hotels Look To Shed Stars
Companies Buoyed By Investors' Deal Hunger
Icahn Presses EBay To Spin Off PayPal
US Start-Up Raises $10m For 'Finance Siri'
Treat BoE's Guidance With Scepticism

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Travel; Winter Storm-Forecast; Russia-Olympic Security; Syria-Peace Talks; Florida-Theater Shooting Case; Anti-Abortion Protests; Transportation-Mini-Car Crash Test Report.
CBS: Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Forecast; Winter Storm-Propane, Natural Gas Prices; Snowden-NSA Leaks; Syria-Peace Talks; Syria-Refugees; Ukraine-Violent Protests; Russia-Olympic Security; Transportation-Mini-Car Crash Test Report; Mississippi-Biodiesel Fuel Plant Explosion; Colorado-Jet Crash Investigation.
NBC: Russia-Olympic Security; Russia-Olympic Security-Michael Leiter; Ukraine-Violent Protests; Syria-Peace Talks; Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Forecast; Obama-Sexual Assaults On College Campuses; Anti-Abortion Protests; Transportation-Mini-Car Crash Test Report; Colorado-Airplane Crash; Arlington National Cemetery Vigil; Governor Christie-Poll Results; South Africa-Mandela Statue.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Winter Storm; Indiana-Purdue University Shooting; Syria-Peace Talks; US Conference Of Mayors; Former NFL Player Convicted Of Intoxication Manslaughter.
CBS: Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Propane, Natural Gas Prices; Texas-Mexican National Executed; Russia-Olympic Security; Obama-Sexual Assaults On College Campuses;
FOX: Politics-Debt Ceiling Debate; Politics-Early Voting Expansion; Israel-Terrorism Plot Foiled; Target Data Breach; Syria-Peace Talks; California-BART Officer Killed; TSA Changes; Texas-Mexican National Executed;

Former NFL Player Convicted Of Intoxication Manslaughter.
NPR: Syria-Peace Talks; Boehner-Drought Relief Bill; Anti-Abortion Protests; Texas-Mexican National Executed; Apple-Patent Case; Cargill Meat Solutions Settlement; Olympics-Gambling.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing. The President delivers remarks at a reception with US mayors; the Vice President also attends, the East Room, pooled press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 12:45 p.m.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – No public schedule.
US Senate: Not in session.
US House: 9 a.m. – The House meets in pro forma session.
Other: "CONGRESS OF TOMORROW" – Deadline to register for the Congressional Institute's 2014 "Congress of Tomorrow" Issues Conference to be held from Wednesday, January 29 until Friday, January 31 in Cambridge, MD. Registration is required to attend.

2014 NSA/MCSA WINTER CONFERENCE. – Jan. 20 – 25. The National Sheriffs Association and the Major County Sheriffs' Association host the 2014 NSA/MCSA Winter Conference. Highlights: 9 a.m. Keynote by John F. Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Location: J. W. Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Contacts: 800-424-7827. Notes: MCSA (Major County Sheriffs' Association) meetings and functions will be held on Jan. 20-22, prior to the official start of the NSA Winter Conference.

WASHINGTON AUTO SHOW – Jan. 21 – Feb. 2. Annual auto show and related events, including Public Policy Preview Days which offer registered members of the media access to industry executives, legislators, administration officials and automotive technology innovators plus a sneak peek at the latest models and technology advancements. Show opens to the public on Jan. 23. Highlights: Eleven-day show opens to the public. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW (unless otherwise noted). Contacts: Barbara Pomerance (bp@pomeranceassociates.com), 800-697-7574.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Jan. 22 – 24. Annual winter meeting. The theme for the week is "Building To Victory." Highlights: 12:30 p.m. Lunch with Mike Huckabee – Open Press. 2 p.m. Townhall Meeting: GOP Rising Stars – Open Press. 3 p.m. Rules Committee Meeting – Open Press. Location: Renaissance Washington Hotel, 999 9th St. NW. Notes: RSVP to Jillian Rogers at jrogers@rnchq.org or 954-829-5988.

US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS – Jan. 22 – 24. The 82nd Winter Meeting. More than 280 of the nation's mayors will convene to meet with congressional leaders and administration officials and to urge Congress "to continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to spur job creation and economic growth in America's cities and metropolitan areas." Highlights: President Barack Obama meets with US mayors. Time TBA.

Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs – 11:30 a.m. Karol V. Mason will deliver remarks to the Criminal and Social Justice Committee. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Elena Temple-Webb at 202-861-6719 or etemple@usmayors.org. Location: Capitol Hilton, 16th and K Streets NW. Contacts: Elena Temple, etemple@usmayors.org, 202-286-1100. Karen Hinton, Karen@hintoncommunications.com, 703-798-3109. Lina Garcia, lgarcia@usmayors.org, 202-341-6113

FAMILIES USA CONFERENCE – Jan. 23 – 25. Hundreds of healthcare experts, advocates and professionals from around the nation come together for Families USA's annual conference. Health Action 2014 will be the 19th edition of this annual gathering of healthcare professionals. Highlights: 9 a.m. Vice President Joe Biden is scheduled to speak at the opening plenary session. Press arrival 7a.m. Final access for equipment is 7:30 a.m. Media Entrance: Hyatt Employee Entrance. Corner of 1st and D Streets NW. General Media Parking: Garage or Street Parking Available. Contact for logistical and planning purposes (media only): Lennon Duggan at lennonduggan@gmail.com (202)253-0494. Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW.

Contacts: Dave Lemmon, Bob Meissner, Bryan Fisher, 202-628-3030

DOD – AFGHANISTAN BRIEFING – 9 a.m. Army Lt. Gen. Mark A. Milley, International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, will brief the media live from Afghanistan in the Pentagon Briefing Room (2E973) to provide an update on operations and the status of the Afghan National Security Forces development. Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no later than 45 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort into the building.

ATTORNEY GENERAL – VETERANS – 10 a.m. US Attorney General Eric Holder will visit the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program in Roanoke, Va., and deliver remarks on the Justice Department's "Smart on Crime" initiative that seeks to reform the criminal justice system and improve reentry programs to curb repeat offenses and re-victimization. Location: US District Court for the Western District of Virginia, 210 Franklin Rd., Roanoke, VA. Notes: Media must RSVP to Brian McGinn at Brian. McGinn@usdoj.gov or 434-295-8672 or 540-293-4928. All media equipment must arrive by 9:00 a.m. the day of the event for a mandatory security sweep at 9:30 a.m. Once the security sweep is complete, additional media equipment will NOT be permitted to enter and swept equipment will NOT be permitted to exit. Pen and pad reporters may arrive by 9:45 a.m. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Brian McGinn.

PENTAGON – ADM. LOCKLEAR – 10 a.m. Commander, US Pacific Command Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III will conduct a press briefing in the Pentagon Briefing Room (2E973). Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no later than 45 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort into the building.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – NATO – 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. "Regional Defense Cooperation and the Transatlantic Link." An address and discussion with Carl Haglund, Minster of Defense, Republic of Finland. Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor. Notes: RSVP to press@AtlanticCouncil.org to reserve your spot.

ARLINGTON – ACTIVE DUTY BURIAL – 10:30 a.m. Burial service for US Army Sgt. Peter C. Bohler who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom at the time of his death is open for media coverage. (meet on Memorial Avenue by 10:30 a.m.) All media intending to cover the service must contact Melissa Bohan, Arlington National Cemetery public affairs, for an escort: melissa.bohan@us.army.mil or (703) 614-1091. Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. 22211. Contacts: 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office (785-240-1796)

REGIONAL CLUSTERS – ENERGY – 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Sen. Ed Markey will headline a Capitol Hill briefing on the use of regional clusters to improve energy innovation. The event is cosponsored by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation and the New England Clean Energy Council. It will bring together leading regional clean tech innovation programs from across the country to discuss their efforts and the policy reforms necessary to enhance impact. Location: Capitol Visitor Center (SVC201-00). Contacts: William Dube, wdube@itif.org, 202-626-5744.

WORLD BANK – SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA – 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. "Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa." Chair: Francisco H. G. Ferreira, Chief Economist, Africa Region, World Bank. Speakers: Deon Filmer, Lead Economist, Development Economics Research Group, and Human Development Department, Africa Region, World Bank; Louise Fox, Former Lead Economist, Africa Region, World Bank. Discussant: Mwangi S. Kimenyi, Senior Fellow and Director of the Africa Growth Initiative, Global Economy and Development Program, Brookings Institution. Location: Auditorium J1-050, World Bank J Building, 701 18th St. NW. Notes: RSVP to infoshopevents@worldbank.org

CARBON POLLUTION – LATINOS – PRESS CALL – 1 p.m. Discussion on Survey To Analyze Latino Support For Action On Carbon Pollution, Climate Change. Participants: Adrianna Quintero, senior attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council and Founder, Voces Verdes; Dr. Matt Barreto, principal co-founder, Latino Decisions, and associate professor of political science/adjunct professor of law, University of Washington, Seattle, WA; Nina Vaca, board member, US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and Maria Cardona, political commentator and founder, Latinovations. MEDIA CONTACTS: Ailis Wolf, 703-276-3265, aawolf@hastingsgroup.com; Jake Thompson, (202) 289-2387, jthompson@nrdc.org DIAL IN: 1-877-418-4267. Ask for the "Latino views on EPA and pollution" news event.

LATINOS – CLIMATE CHANGE – 1 p.m. Teleconference on a new survey by Latino Decisions conducted for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) which will explore why Latinos "are among the strongest supporters of federal action to reduce carbon pollution and to curb the impacts of climate change." With Adrianna Quintero, senior attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council and Founder, Voces Verdes; Dr. Matt Barreto, principal co-founder, Latino Decisions, and associate professor of political science/adjunct professor of law, University of Washington, Seattle, WA; Maria Cardona, political commentator and founder, Latinovations; Elianne Ramos, principal and CEO of Speak Hispanic Communications, and vice-chair of Marketing and PR for Latinos in Social Media (LATISM). Contacts: Ailis Wolf, aawolf@hastingsgroup.com, 703-276-3265. Notes: Reporters may join the phone-based news conference by dialing 1-877-418-4267. Ask for the "Latino views on EPA and pollution" news event.

JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR – MOOT COURT – 3 p.m. The George Washington University Law School will host the Van Vleck Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition. Student competitors will argue before a distinguished panel of judges, including Justice Sonia Sotomayor of the US Supreme Court, Judge Robert Katzmann, chief judge, US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Judge Lee Rosenthal, district judge, US District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. Location: The George Washington University, Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St., NW. Contacts: Nicole Carlotto, nfcarlotto@gwu.edu, 202-994-6466. Notes: RSVPs are required for credentials. Media interested in attending should contact Angela Olson at 202-994-3087 or olsona@gwu.edu.

YPFP – NAFTA – MEXICO – 6:30 p.m. Twenty years after the implementation of NAFTA, Young Professionals in Foriegn Policy is joining with the Embassy of Mexico for a panel discussion reviewing the trade agreement's impact and looking ahead at the future of North American trade. Panelists include: Kenneth Smith, Director of the Trade and NAFTA Office at the Embassy of Mexico; and Antonio Ortiz-Mena, Head of Economic Affairs at the Embassy of Mexico. Location: 1911 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Notes: To RSVP email samantha.powell@ypfp.org with your full name, affiliation, and whether you are a member of the press. This event is off the record.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "New Jersey Governor Chris Christie won reelection...and now they swore him in yesterday, and...they swore him in. And I think he raised his right hand, put his left hand on a cook book. And then, instead of the oath of office, by mistake, he recited Red Lobster's pledge to customers."

Jon Stewart: [Referring to corruption charges against former Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell (R)] "Ah, the old governor and his wife get you to pay them to promote your dietary supplement. We've seen this before. It explains the state's new motto: Virginia is for 10,000 milligrams of Niacin."

Jimmy Fallon: "This storm is affecting everyone, including Chris Christie who had to cancel his inauguration gala because of all the snow, which got weird when someone found an email from God that said, 'Time for some traffic problems in New Jersey.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "But everyone is still talking about the bridge-gate scandal. In fact, yesterday, Donald Trump said that Chris Christie is under so much pressure, he's just one email away from a disaster. As opposed to Trump, who's one gust of wind away from a disaster."

Jay Leno: "In a new interview, President Obama said he doesn't think marijuana is any more dangerous than alcohol. How about that? So, I guess we know what Michelle has been growing in that White House garden, huh? Yeah. We have gone from hope and change to toke and bake. That's what happened."

Jay Leno: "Well, President Obama is giving the NSA new guidelines on gathering data on American citizens. He said the NSA can no longer violate anyone's constitutional, protected right to privacy. That, of course, will be Target's job."

Jay Leno: "Oh, the President also said the United States will no longer spy on leaders of friendly foreign nations. You know what that means? The best way to protect yourself – become the leader of a friendly foreign nation."

Jay Leno: "Well, you know, here's something I find hard to believe. I read this in 'The New York Post.' Listen to this. Anthony Weiner makes between $300,000 and $400,000 a year as a political consultant. Anthony Weiner. How bad are you doing in the polls when you start saying to yourself, 'Now what would Anthony Weiner do?'"

Jay Leno: "Well, more problems for Chris Christie. And you know they are coming out of the woodwork now with these scandals. Olympic runner Carl Lewis says that Christie dropped a plan to appoint him as the state's first physical-fitness ambassador, when Lewis decided to run for the Senate against a Christie friend. See, I'm sorry. I find that hard to believe. Don't you? Huh, Chris Christie had a physical-fitness plan? I don't think so."

Conan O'Brien: "The big story, despite his recent scandals, Chris Christie has some good news. He is getting a lot of support from New Jersey Hispanics. Some like his moderate conservatism. Others believe if you hit him, he'll break open and spill out candy."

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Sally (b)(6)

Fwd: People's Choice

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jan 23, 2014 at 1:12 PM
To: Androff Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kelly Kate <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Iacobucci Francis <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kornze Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>, Ashe Dan <D_M_Ashe@fws.gov>, Davis Laura <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Blake, Kate and Booch -

Thanks for forwarding these articles - and for arranging the meetings. I do think they were a positive reflection on our ongoing commitment to gaining stakeholder input.

It would be helpful to review our process for the future to assure we are in compliance with all state sunshine laws. I am familiar with them from my previous work and if there was indeed a quorum of local commissioners, I feel we should consider issuing an apology in this instance and reflect our commitment to assure our process takes this into account. Given the importance of collaborative stakeholder input and the potential for this happening in the future (and the difficulty of us knowing who is and isn't in the room), we may want to rethink whether we should make large meetings like this closed press. We could certainly facilitate smaller meetings to assure that those who may be reluctant to speak up in an open meeting have an opportunity to voice their views.

Thanks,

Sally

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
> **Date:** January 22, 2014, 6:26:28 PM MST
> **To:** Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>
> **Subject: Re: People's Choice**
>
> Copying three articles. The article from the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel reporter who attended the tour. In addition, they printed another story (with the headline) based on a subsequent conversation with the Craig Daily Press reporter who was asked to leave. The Craig Daily Press article (that we discussed) also below.
>
> ## Federal delegation sees sage-grouse issue from view of regulatory critics
>
> By Dennis Webb
> Wednesday, January 22, 2014
>
> CRAIG — Peering across the heart of greater sage-grouse country Tuesday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the heads of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management praised the joint conversation that's taking place in an effort to protect the bird and manage its habitat.



As an agency in her department considers whether to list the greater sage-grouse as an endangered species, U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, right, looked at the bird's habitat northwest of Craig on Tuesda with Ray Owens, manager of a ranch where measures have been undertaken for sage-grouse conservation. Photo by Noelle Levitt Riley/Craig Daily Press

"The fact that everybody is around the table is really impressive," Jewell said.

For everyone from Moffat County Commissioner Tom Mathers to Gov. John Hickenlooper, what was impressive was that Jewell, Fish and Wildlife director Dan Ashe and Neil Kornze, principal deputy director of the BLM, all came to this remote part of northwestern Colorado to join in the discussion.

"To have all the top brass here at one time, it was amazing," Mathers said.

"We had everybody right here ... everybody that mattered," Hickenlooper said. "And they listened, is the most important thing."

The federal trio came to see firsthand voluntary sage-grouse conservation measures being undertaken at the Bord Gulch Ranch, far up Moffat County Road 7 northwest of town. Their visit comes as the Fish and Wildlife Service faces a 2015 decision on whether to list the greater sage-grouse for protection under the Endangered Species Act, and as the BLM weighs land-management measures it hopes will help persuade its fellow Interior Department agency that such a listing isn't warranted.

Both the prospect of a listing and the measures being considered by the BLM have caused consternation among several northwest Colorado counties, and among oil and gas, agricultural, recreation and other interests.

Their concern ultimately came to be shared by Hickenlooper himself, and last week he sent the BLM a letter urging it to take an adaptive management approach that protects the greater sage-grouse while safeguarding energy, agriculture and other economic engines of the region. He also pointed to the benefits of public/private partnerships, and on Tuesday Jewell, Ashe and Kornze were able to witness the results of one such partnership.

They stopped at the Bord Gulch Ranch to view sage-grouse conservation measures undertaken under the leadership of ranch manager Ray Owens. He's one of two 2013 recipients of Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Wildlife Landowner of the Year honor, and the ranch, owned by the Gilliland family, has been working in cooperation with agencies such as Parks and Wildlife and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Owens described fencing, watering, sagebrush treatment and other measures that benefit not just the birds but other wildlife. He said he doesn't just manage for a single species.

"You have to manage it for everything," said Owens.

He went on to detail efforts such as maintaining a variety of ages of sagebrush to avoid ending up with big, old stands susceptible to wildfire, and also maintaining fields without sagebrush because they provide places for elk to feed.

Owens spoke Tuesday from a hilltop in a seeming sagebrush ocean with waves extending to Wyoming and Utah.

"People are changing. The neighbors are seeing the benefit of what we're doing," he said.

He believes approaches such as the one the Bord Gulch Ranch is involved in make more sense than the government handing down rules.

"Just like your kid — you start giving them rules and they rebel," he said.

Hickenlooper's role

Rebellion isn't an entirely foreign concept in Moffat County. Upset over some state-level actions, commissioners there asked voters in November whether they wanted to pursue secession from the state, although the measure failed.

Still, a number of residents and elected officials in the county have considered Hickenlooper part of the problem, thanks in part to his support for things such as stricter gun laws and higher renewable-energy standards for rural electricity. But the governor's recent actions on greater sage-grouse, which included appointing John Swartout as a point person on the issue and ultimately formulating the position presented to the BLM last week, have drawn the notice of Mathers.

"I am so impressed with our governor right now," said Mathers.

Jewell also had praise for the role Hickenlooper has been playing on sage-grouse.

"Governor Hickenlooper has been a real leader in this process," she said.

For his part, Hickenlooper said he hadn't expected Jewell to come to Craig, and it was a generous move on her part. He said he also respects her private-sector roots.

"She understands how the real world works," said Hickenlooper, who said it appears she'll lead a team that wants to consider local concerns.

Jewell has been on the job less than a year, having replaced Coloradan Ken Salazar. She said she's learning every day and that it's important to listen closely to people such as Owens.

"We don't pretend to have all the answers," she said.

At the same time, Ashe emphasized the Fish and Wildlife Service is obligated to make a decision based on the science about the potential listing of the sage-grouse.

"We're making a diagnosis. It's either threatened or endangered, or it's not," he said.

But he said if the bird ends up being listed, there's a lot of flexibility to recognize efforts being undertaken by individual properties, counties and states, and determine in some circumstances that further efforts aren't needed.

Meanwhile, the BLM has its own sage-grouse conservation plan decisions to make both in Colorado and other states. Fish and Wildlife has submitted comments saying the BLM's Colorado proposal doesn't go far enough, even as it has heard lots of other concerns that the proposal is too restrictive.

Komze, who is President Obama's nominee to be the BLM's director and is leading the agency in the interim, said the BLM is working on 15 plans across the West.

"It's a large balancing act. ... It's both local and it's West-wide at the same time," he said.

Energy officials

Jim Cagney, who heads the BLM in Northwest Colorado, said the important thing will be to look at the details of the comments that have been submitted in trying to find a workable approach.

Ashe said he's never seen an effort like the one occurring regarding the greater sage-grouse.

"We have everybody sitting around the same table, working together. ... People are working in good faith with one another," he said.

Jewell, who noted that she had sat down in Denver earlier Tuesday with the oil and gas industry and others to talk about how to reduce methane emissions related to drilling and production, said she thinks the sage-grouse conversation can serve as a model for how to deal with other issues, including the methane concern.

"What's happening here around sage-grouse is an extraordinary effort," she said.

U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Colo., urged Jewell to work with local officials who already are working to conserve the greater and Gunnison sage-grouse.

"Secretary Jewell's visit to Craig today is welcome, and I am hopeful that she will truly take into consideration all of the work being done in Colorado to preserve the sage grouse, and will work with state and local conservation efforts by providing long-awaited measurable expectations for species recovery so that we can ensure those goals are being met at the local level," Tipton said.

Tipton was in Durango when Jewell visited Craig on Tuesday. He already had other commitments when Jewell's schedule was announced, Tipton's staff said.

Listing the grouse as endangered would "put private lands off-limits to most use and development, including agriculture production and grazing, without providing any compensation," Tipton said. "These listings would kill jobs, devastate communities, and disrupt effective species preservation efforts currently underway. They won't, however, more effectively preserve the grouse."

Interior Secretary Jewell visits Moffat County to discuss sage grouse



Story by Erin Fenner
Originally published January 21, 2014 at 09:23p.m., updated January 21, 2014 at 10:04p.m.



Photo by Erin Fenner

Gov. John Hickenlooper, right, joins U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on a tour of Bord Gulch Ranch in Moffat County. The ranch is owned by Ray Owens, who highlighted efforts he's made to help sage grouse, mule deer and elk populations thrive in Northwest Colorado. Moffat County Commissioner Tom Mathers, left, talks about sage grouse in the region.

Craig — What might ease the tensions between sage grouse conservationists, private landowners and businesses is a concept needed in politics: collaboration.

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper stopped in Moffat County on Tuesday to take part in such collaboration. Jewell came with the head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the head of the Bureau of Land Management to tour the Bord Gulch Ranch, owned by Ray Owens. His ranch, nestled in the northwest corner of Colorado, is an example of how a private landowner can further a conservationist goal, Jewell said.

"Ray Owens is a model of the 21st-century Western rancher with his outstanding stewardship of this working landscape," Jewell said in a press release. "He represents the spirit of partnership that can be replicated across the West as we develop landscape-level strategies to lessen the threats to the sage grouse and conserve its habitat."

The governor also celebrated Owens' efforts in taking a completely new approach to conservation.

"I think we are creating a new model of how to preserve species," Hickenlooper said. "We're modeling for all the other ranchers and farmers in the West. There are solutions. This isn't hopeless."

The Bureau of Land Management is in the process of evaluating sage grouse habitat in Colorado and 10 other states. They need to present their recommendation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — the federal agency evaluating the bird for the endangered species list — by September. The pressure is on federal departments to decide how much protection the birds need, how to regulate that protection and how to do so while not threatening the economy of areas near sage grouse habitats.

Moffat County is one of those areas. Seventy-five percent of the county is made up of land that would be affected by a sage grouse endangered species listing.

But while listing the bird as endangered is a possibility, the population is stable enough to likely avoid that list, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe said.

"Endangered is always a possibility," Ashe said. "The greater sage grouse is still in relatively good shape, so it would seem like an endangered determination absent some major catastrophe is probably not where we would head."

But the birds still can be listed as a threatened species, which could come with regulations that affect private landowners and businesses.

Jewell reassured the attendees of the tour that the BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service were in Colorado to get input from farmers and ranchers.

"People really respect and want to learn from the people who work the land," Jewell said.

Hickenlooper praised the tour as an opportunity for high-level officials to meet and seek a solution with ranchers, farmers and leaders who understand the economic issues of the area.

"We have everybody that matters right here on this little hilltop," Hickenlooper said. "If you noticed: They listened."

Moffat County Commissioner Tom Mathers went on the tour as an elected official and as a lifelong rancher. He was encouraged by the conversations and ideas exchanged during the tour.

"It's overwhelming to have this much power all in one setting," Mathers said. "I'm so impressed with our governor."

Mathers said he was optimistic they could work out a way to protect the sage grouse species while also protecting people's livelihoods.

"It's going to take everyone working to get them to keep the bird from getting listed," he said. "We need multi-use on all these grounds."

Following the tour, the crew of high-up officials led a meeting at the American Legion Clubhouse in Craig to talk more about sage grouse issues. More than 40 people attended, including all three Moffat County commissioners and other elected officials, but press was barred from the discussion.

"I just assumed it was a public meeting," Mathers said.

But Jewell said it was closed.

"Secretary Jewell's office decided the meeting should be closed to press to help foster an open and frank discussion," said Eric Brown, director of communications for Hickenlooper's office.

Press booted as Interior chief Jewell meets Moffat officials

By Rachel Sauer
Tuesday, January 21, 2014

A meeting about greater sage-grouse that had been touted as open to the press and public was closed to the press Tuesday afternoon, in seeming violation of Colorado's Sunshine Law.

Erin Fenner, a Craig Daily Press reporter, was told to leave a meeting with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell that followed a Tuesday morning tour of Moffat County sage-grouse habitat on Bord Gulch Ranch. Fenner said she'd heard that the 3:30 p.m. meeting at the Craig American Legion was going to be closed, "but (Tuesday) morning all three county commissioners said (the meeting) was going to be open and the press should come," Fenner said.

A man who didn't identify himself, but whom Fenner said she thought works in the Secretary of the Interior's office and was acting on Jewell's behalf, escorted her from the room and told her she couldn't be there because she was with the press, Fenner recalled.

After Fenner returned to the newspaper office, managing editor Noelle Leavitt Riley called Moffat

County Commissioner John Kinkaid on his cell phone and he told her, "Send her back to the meeting," Leavitt Riley said, Kinkaid referring to the reporter Fenner.

Fenner returned to the meeting, she said, and was told to leave once again by the same man. She said she brought up Colorado's Sunshine Law "and he said that we weren't going to argue about it any more and said I had to get out," Fenner said.

She said all three Moffat County commissioners were at the meeting, which she said appeared to be a standard question-and-answer session.

According to the state Open Meetings Law — a part of Colorado's Sunshine statutes — "all meetings of a quorum of three or more members, whichever is fewer, at which public business is discussed or formal action might be taken are open."

Leavitt Riley said she then went to the American Legion building and the doors were locked, so she pounded on the window until someone let her in, "but by that time the meeting had adjourned," she said. "So, I go over to (Moffat County Commissioner) Tom Mathers and said, 'Did you know Erin was kicked out of this meeting?' And he said, 'No, this was an open meeting.'"

As she was leaving, Leavitt Riley said she saw Jewell in a car in the parking lot and the driver-side door was open, so she approached Jewell "and she said the press was not allowed at this meeting," Leavitt Riley recalled.

"I said, do you realize more than a dozen elected officials were in it? She said the tour was open to the press but this was a closed meeting" and then drove away, Leavitt Riley said.

She said the newspaper is pursuing the matter with the Colorado Press Association. No one with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's office was available for comment Tuesday night.

Blake Androff
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior

On Jan 22, 2014, at 6:06 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Blake -
>
> This is a bit different from what we discussed - especially the headline, which I suspect the editor wrote. If you have the content of the article, I'd like to read it.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Sally
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> **From:** Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
> **Date:** January 22, 2014, 10:54:10 AM MST
> **To:** Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Komze

<nkomze@blm.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Noreen Walsh <Noreen_walsh@fws.gov>, Betsy Hildebrandt <Betsy_Hildebrandt@fws.gov>
Subject: People's Choice

Well, here's the verdict from my old high school football buddy out in Gunnison County.

Well you had a great meeting in Moffat County looks like. Here is the headline in grand junction!!! I liked your response about using science and "best practices" in the diagnosis of the listing. Thought you might like this!!!

<20140122_090554.jpg>

(b)(6)

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, January 24, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Jan 24, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO TOUR PROPOSED MONUMENT AREA. The El Paso (TX) Times (1/24, 247K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and New Mexico's senators on Friday will "tour Doña Ana County lands being proposed to become a national monument" Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich invited Jewell to the area. According to the article, "in the morning, Jewell will visit some proposed sites that would be granted a national monument status," and "in the afternoon, she'll attend a public 'listening session' about conservation priorities in the area."

The AP (1/24) reports that "the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition, which represents more than two dozen sheriffs' offices along the border, is leading the charge against the legislation." Dona Ana County Sheriff Todd Garrison, the group's chairman, said he has "concerns about drug cartels, gangs and other illegal activity in the area." However, "supporters of the legislation have dismissed the sheriffs' concerns, pointing to a clause in the bill

that would allow federal the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to continue with border-security activities."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (1/24, 59K), the Artesia (NM) News (1/24, 10K), and WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (1/24, 117K).

Also providing coverage are the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (1/24, 59K) and the Silver City (NM) Sun-News (1/24, 24K).

Poll Finds Strong Majority Of Doña Ana County Voters Support Organ Mountains Proposal. The E&E Daily (1/23) reports that "a strong majority of voters in Doña Ana County, N.M., support the designation of a national monument to protect the Organ Mountains and surrounding landmarks and archaeological sites along the Mexican border, according to a new poll commissioned by a veterans group." The poll also "found that 60 percent of voters favor a bill by Sens. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) to protect roughly half a million acres in Doña Ana, compared to 24 percent who favor a bill by Rep. Steve Pearce (R-N.M.) to protect about 55,000 acres." In total, "nearly three-fourths of Doña Ana voters said they favor a monument to protect landmarks including the Butterfield stagecoach trail, Apollo space mission test sites, World War II-era bombing targets, Geronimo's Cave and hundreds of other archaeological sites, as well as other natural areas surrounding Las Cruces, according to the poll commissioned by Vet Voice Foundation."

Paper Urges President Obama To Take Action. In an editorial, the Santa Fe New Mexican (1/24, 58K) says that Jewell's "visit is likely one of the last steps before action is taken — in this instance, a declaration from President Barack Obama through the Antiquities Act to create the Organ Mountains-Desert Peak National Monument." Claiming that "the action is worthwhile and long overdue," the paper urges "President Obama to listen to the people of the Las Cruces region and save the Organ Mountains-Desert Peak region — for today's residents, but most importantly, for the future."

FWS ANNOUNCES $16.5 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR COASTAL WETLAND PROJECTS. The E&E Daily (1/23) reports that the FWS has announced $16.5 million in grants for coastal wetland projects "aimed at curbing the loss of shoreline habitat." The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants will "draw an additional $18.2 million in private and local funds for the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands," according to the agency. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement, "Coastal wetlands not only provide key habitat for fish and wildlife but they also improve water quality, support local economies through jobs and improve community resilience through flood and storm surge protection. These grants, funded through excise taxes paid by anglers and boaters, give us the opportunity to join with states and territories and other partners to conserve and restore these areas that are so vital to our environment and our quality of life."

KCET-TV Los Angeles (1/24, 15K) reports that "four coastal wetlands in California will benefit from $3 million." The funds will "be used to buy unprotected wetlands and adjoining uplands, as well as working to heal damage to already protected land." According to the article, "two of the wetland areas are in the southern end of San Francisco Bay, with the others in San Luis Obispo and Humboldt counties."

KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (1/24, 4K) reports that "a project to protect wetlands on Afognak Island near Kodiak will receive a $1 million federal grant, after being named one of 21 projects nationwide to receive support under an Interior Department program." The funds were awarded to the state Department of Natural Resources and the Great Land Thursday, as part of the National Coastal Grants Wetlands Conservation Grants Program.

The Portland (ME) Daily Sun (1/24, 35K) reports that the FWS "announced Thursday that a $1 million grant will conserve coastal wetlands across 86 acres on Middle Bay in Harpswell." The agency said that "an additional $424,980 will be provided by partner contributions." According to the article, "the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, in partnership with Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, will conserve three parcels through acquisition of fee title and conservation easements."

PROPOSED BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS MONUMENT RECEIVES BLAINE COUNTY'S SUPPORT. The Idaho Statesman (1/23, 205K) reports that the Blaine County Commission said Wednesday "it's drafting a resolution in support of the concept" of a Boulder-White Clouds National Monument. The commission "held a public hearing Wednesday that brought 50 people out to speak about the proposal to turn the two mountain ranges and elk and deer winter habitat to the east into a national monument." According to the article, "the commissioners want the

monument patterned after Republican Rep. Mike Simpson's Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act, which would have protected more than 300,000 acres of the area as wilderness."

PILT FUNDING REMAINS UNRESOLVED. The Billings (MT) Gazette (1/24, 206K) reports that "Congress for 40 years has compensated counties with big federal holdings by providing Payment In Lieu of Taxes," but PILT was "left out of the one-year budget deal that Congress passed last week." Although "there has been talk of grafting PILT funding onto the 2014 farm bill, which could get a congressional vote in the next few weeks," according to the article, "nothing is certain."

The Oregonian (1/24, 888K) reports that "progress on a long-stalled farm bill in Congress means that Oregon may soon get millions of dollars to help counties cover the costs of public services on federally owned land." House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas "told reporters last week that the PILT money could be included."

Also covering the issue is KUSA-TV Denver (1/24, 171K).

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS LAUNCHES REGISTRY OF HISTORIC VEHICLES. The Detroit Bureau (1/24) reports that the Library of Congress has "launched a national registry of historically significant vehicles, each one of which will be arrived at and certified" by the Interior Department "through collaboration with the Historical Vehicle Association." The announcement came at the Washington D.C. Auto Show Day. The article notes that "the first vehicle to be entered onto the registry will be displayed for the public at the show—the 1964 Shelby Daytona Coupe—number CSX2287—one of six such race cars produced by Carol Shelby to take on Ferrari in the GT Series."

Also reporting on the story is the AutoWeek (1/23, 898K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA TO TALK CLEAN ENERGY IN ADDRESS. USA Today (1/23, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that "when President Obama heads to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to deliver the State of the Union address," he is expected "to touch on executive action he can take to bolster clean energy in the USA." According to the article, "ahead of next week's speech, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell also received more than 200 recommendations from a panel of outside experts on action that the president can take without Congress on energy efficiency, renewable markets, renewable-energy financing, alternative-fueled vehicles, new business models and natural-gas rule-making."

SEN. REID WORKED FOR A DECADE TO BRING A 235-MILE-LONG POWER LINE TO NEVADA. The National Journal (1/24, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that "for the better part of the last decade, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has gone out of his way—and dipped into federal funds—to help get a massive, cross-state transmission line built in his home state of Nevada." On Thursday, Reid will "attend the opening of the 235-mile line, which at the beginning of this year started carrying large amounts of electricity produced from renewable sources rather than coal, just as Reid envisioned seven years ago." The article notes that "when concerns arose about the transmission line's potential impact on sage-grouse habitat and a historic Japanese-American internment camp in Idaho, Reid inserted language into the summer jobs bill of 2010 that directed the Interior Department to change the line's route to avoid both these areas."

INTERIOR'S SOCIAL MEDIA SHOWS POWER OF INNOVATION. The Fed Tech Magazine (1/24, 204K) reports that "government hasn't always been recognized for its social prowess, but that is starting to change." The article notes that the Interior Department is "almost single-handedly proving that social media can be a workhorse for agencies."

SCIENTISTS CONCERNED NEW BILLS COULD KEEP THEM FROM ATTENDING VITAL CONFERENCES. The E&E Daily (1/23) reports that federal scientists are concerned that "a bill aimed at boosting government transparency will inadvertently bar them from attending conferences important to their research." According to the article, the "Digital Accountability and Transparency Act" is "beginning to gain bicameral support, with one version (H.R. 2061) passing the House in November and another (S. 994) making it through the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee." The legislation would "greatly expand the amount of spending information available to the public, requiring, among other things, that each recipient of federal funds gets a unique code across the federal government." However, the Assembly of Scientists says "one section of the bill could be 'deleterious' to the ability of federal scientists to accomplish their missions." Section 9 of the House bill

would "set various restrictions on federal conferences, such as limiting attendance at international events to 50 employees and requiring each agency to publicly post detailed information on any presentation made at a conference."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF 2013 PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARDS. Additional coverage of the 2013 Partners in Conservation awards was provided by the Hays (KS) Post (1/23), the Arizona Daily Star (1/24, 335K), and the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (1/23, 165K).

SECRETARY JEWELL CRITICIZED FOR CLOSING SAGE GROUSE MEETING TO REPORTERS. In an editorial, the Denver Post (1/24, 949K) criticizes Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for disregarding Colorado's open meetings laws this week in prohibiting reporters from an event in Craig. According to the paper, such actions are indefensible and could possibly raise suspicions about the federal government's intent.

Also, the Craig (CO) Daily Press (1/23, 10K) editorializes that "what's concerning about the situation is that members of the public were allowed in the sage grouse meeting but not the media." The paper argues that the decision "set a bad precedent on the nation's First Amendment rights." According to the paper, "if every elected official in America decided to close the press out of meetings to foster frank discussion, well, we would not have a democracy."

In his column for the Steamboat Springs (CO) Pilot (1/23, 26K), Rob Douglas says the decision by Jewell and Gov. John Hickenlooper has "raised questions about their commitment to a free and unfettered press as enshrined in the US and Colorado Constitutions." According to Douglas, "Jewell and Hickenlooper acted in a manner contrary to the inclusive image they were trying to project by barring reporters from what, under any fair assessment, was an open public meeting at American Legion Post 62 in Craig." Douglas hopes that "they will both acknowledge that excluding the press from Tuesday's meeting was wrong and take steps to make certain that it never happens again."

Meanwhile, the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/24, 73K) reports that a spokesman for Jewell "noted Thursday that a Colorado newspaper had concluded there was no violation of Colorado Sunshine laws and also noted that the question of press access was high on the list of things considered by the Interior Department." Spokesman Blake Androff noted that The Craig Daily Press had "concluded on the advice of Colorado Press Association attorney Steve Zansberg that there had been no violation of Colorado's Sunshine laws." However, Daily Sentinel Publisher Jay Seaton disagreed. The article notes that "Zansberg dealt with whether a federal official must comply with Colorado open meetings law, and whether a meeting between a federal official and state or local officials must be open to the press." However, "the overriding questions...are whether a federal official has authority to close a noticed, public meeting that is required to be open under Colorado law and whether a federal official has authority to hold a hearing open to the public, yet selectively exclude members of the press."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

MOUNTAIN LION KILLED ON ROAD IN SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. The Los Angeles Times (1/23, Stevens, 3.07M) reports that "a young mountain lion was struck by a car and killed earlier this week on Kanan Road in the Santa Monica Mountains," the NPS said Thursday. The animal was "not tagged, leading officials to believe that it is not one of the lions being tracked by the NPS." Officials said "the appearance of an untagged kitten suggests an untagged adult female mountain lion also is living in the mountains with a litter of kittens."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (1/24).

UNITED STATES MINT TO RELEASE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK QUARTER SOON. The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (1/24, Kilroy, 366K) reports that the United States Mint has "announced that they will be producing a Great Smoky Mountain National Park Quarter as part of the America the Beautiful Quarters Program." The coin will "depict a historic log cabin in a scene with a large forrest and mountains in the distance." The United States Mint will join NPS officials and "hundreds of local area school-aged children for a ceremony at Mills Auditorium-Gatlinburg Convention Center on January 29."

PARK RANGER SHOOTING DETAILS TO REMAIN SEALED INDEFINITELY. The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (1/24, 214K) reports that "investigative details in a September shooting by National Park Service rangers trying to break up a noisy houseboat party at a remote campground near Kettle Falls will remain sealed indefinitely by a federal court order." The NPS has "remained mum about which of its employees fired during a confrontation with Michael Sublie, who now faces two federal misdemeanor charges." According to the article, "in the run-up to his trial next month, Sublie will only be able to view 'investigative reports' in the presence of his lawyer and will be unable to share copies with anyone."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM'S COLORADO GETS NEW LEADERSHIP. The E&E Daily (1/23) reports that the BLM's Colorado office is "undergoing another round of leadership changes, with no word on when a permanent director will be appointed to lead a state office that manages 8.4 million acres of public land and almost 29 million acres of subsurface mineral estate." John Mehlhoff, "the acting BLM Colorado state director since October and a 30-year agency employee, is leaving next month to take a senior position at the Interior Department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue in Denver." Mehlhoff will be "replaced as acting state director by Ruth Welch, who since early 2012 has served as director of BLM's National Operations Center in Denver."

Also reporting on the story is Politico (1/24, Guillen, 464K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GROUPS FILE SUIT IN EFFORT TO STOP LOGGING. Additional coverage of the lawsuit by two environmental groups to block logging on BLM land was provided by the Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (1/23, 104K), the Clark County (WA) Columbian (1/23, 116K), and the Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (1/23, 67K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS FINDS PURPLE LINE WON'T HARM TWO RARE CRUSTACEANS. The Washington Post (1/24, Shaver, 4.28M) reports that "after reexamining the impact a Purple Line could have on springs in Chevy Chase and Rock Creek Park," the FWS has "found that the light-rail line's construction would not harm an endangered species living nearby." According to the article, "the finding — outlined in a Jan. 7 letter to the Federal Transit Administration — could spark a lawsuit over Maryland's plan to build a 16-mile Purple Line between Montgomery and Prince George's counties." John M. Fitzgerald, an environmental lawyer, said "the nonprofit Center for Sustainable Economy and some Chevy Chase residents are preparing a 'notice of intent to sue.'"

FLINT HILLS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ANNOUNCES CROP SHARE OPPORTUNITIES. The Emporia (KS) Gazette (1/24, 17K) reports that Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge has "announced crop share opportunities to interested members of the public." The refuge has "1,192 acres of farm ground near Hartford available," and "the farm ground will be offered in six Farming Units through Cooperative Farming Agreements."

TEXAS COMPTROLLER ANNOUNCES PLAN TO SUPPORT RESEARCH ON THREE SPECIES. The Houston Chronicle (1/24, 2.26M) reports that Texas Comptroller Susan Combs on Thursday "announced plans to provide $5 million for research on three species that could potentially be listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered or threatened." Combs will "solicit research proposals from all Texas public universities before awarding the funding." According to the article, "based on recommendations of a science working group, the first species selected for research are: freshwater mussels (12 mussels total); the spot-tailed earless lizard; and the desert massasauga (a snake)."

Also reporting on the story is KCIT-TV Amarillo, TX (1/24, 428).

KANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE SEEKS TO END PRAIRIE CHICKEN PROTECTION. The AP (1/24) reports that Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach is supporting "a bill that would exclude the lesser prairie chicken from federal protection." Kobach told the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Thursday that the legislation "would likely lead to a legal battle that pits state rights against federal law." According to the article, "the bill would assert state sovereignty over nonmigratory wildlife and declare null and void any federal law in Kansas on

the lesser prairie chicken."

ANALYSIS TARGETS COMMERCIAL FISHING'S ROLE IN MANATEE DEATHS AND INJURIES. The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (1/24, 78K) reports that commercial fishermen in Florida can injure or kill fourteen manatees "every year without affecting the future" of the species, according to an analysis the FWS unveiled Thursday. But the FWS "says the annual average number of deaths and injuries due to commercial fishing is 99," and "that calculation doesn't include the record 829 manatees overall that died in 2013." However, "compared with everything else, commercial fishing's impact on the manatee population is 'pretty minimal,'" said Chuck Underwood, a spokesman for the FWS.

US Geological Survey:

STUDY SAYS NEW MADRID FAULT ZONE ALIVE AND ACTIVE. The AP (1/23) reports that "the New Madrid fault zone in the nation's midsection is active and could spawn future large earthquakes, scientists reported Thursday." USGS seismologist Susan Hough, "who was part of the study published online by the journal Science," and USGS geophysicist Morgan Page "analyzed past quakes in the New Madrid region and used computer modeling to determine that the continuing tremors are not related to the big quakes two centuries ago." Hough said, "Our new results tell us that something is going on there, and therefore a repeat of the 1811-1812 sequence is possible."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

NEW EAGLE POLICY FACES BLOWBACK. The National Journal (1/24, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that "an ongoing battle over an Interior Department rule-making that allows wind-energy producers to kill bald and golden eagles without prosecution has created a rift between environmental advocates and the wind industry." David Yarnold, president and CEO of the National Audubon Society, said, "We're between a rock and a hard place. We support a move away from fossil fuels, but there's no question that this issue has strained our relationship with the wind industry." However, "contrary to what some environmentalists say, FWS insists that the permitting process actually works to protect wildlife." David Cottingham, senior adviser to the director of the service., said, "We're not going to issue a permit unless we think there's an overall conservation value."

Additional coverage of the rule was provided by the Watertown (NY) Daily Times (1/24, 63K).

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM ASKED AGAIN TO EXTEND CONTESTED LEASES IN COLORADO'S THOMPSON DIVIDE. The E&E Daily (1/23) reports that a second company is requesting that the BLM "extend for the second time in less than a year the expiration date of a group of contested oil and natural gas leases in west-central Colorado's pristine Thompson Divide." Ursa Resources Group "submitted a six-page letter to BLM's Colorado State Office formally requesting an additional two-year extension of seven leases the company owns inside the 221,000-acre Thompson Divide." The submission follows a request by SG Interests last week for "a second extension on its 18 leases in a letter to BLM Colorado officials."

Also reporting on the story are the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/24, 73K) and the Aspen (CO) Times (1/24, 46K).

SPORTSMEN WARY OF FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHWEST WYOMING MOUNTAINS. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (1/24, 90K) reports that "about 100 hunters, anglers, politicians, ranchers and recreationists" attended a BLM open house Tuesday night in Rock Springs to learn more about potential energy development in the greater Little Mountain area. Sportsmen's and conservation groups are concerned that "if development starts without a clear plan for the future, one of southwest Wyoming's most naturally diverse areas could suffer death by a thousand cuts."

VIRGINIA LEGISLATORS ARGUE FOR END TO "WAR ON COAL." In an op-ed in the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (1/24, Kilgore, Puckett, 333K), Virginia House Del. Terry Kilgore and state Sen. Phil Puckett blast the Obama Administration's 'war on coal,' saying that the Administration has harmed the state's economy while wasting "billions of taxpayer dollars on wind and solar projects." The two say that the EPA's "draconian caps on carbon emissions" will make it "impossible to build any new coal plants in the U.S. for the foreseeable future," threatening the jobs of coal miners and coal industry workers in the state and "putting an enormous strain on our nation's energy supply." Kilgore and Puckett argue for "a sensible energy policy that strikes an appropriate balance between traditional and renewable energy sources" and includes coal-fired generation and nuclear power. The op-ed concludes, "we cannot afford to eliminate coal as a part of our energy mix. Doing so will only lead us down the road to energy poverty."

RESPONSIBILITY OF FRACKING FOR TEXAS EARTHQUAKES EXAMINED. Fortune (1/24, Elkind, 2.51M) examines whether fracking is causing earthquakes around the town of Azle in rural Texas. Fortune says that since November 1, "more than 30 small temblors have struck" and "many residents are blaming the quakes on underground disposal wells, used to get rid of wastewater generated during the fracking and production process." The piece suggests that the evidence points to fracking being at fault, but that it is not yet certain.

Offshore Energy Development:

SEN. BEGICH CONFIDENT ON PROSPECTS OF ARCTIC DRILLING THIS SUMMER. The FuelFix (1/23, 7K) reports that Sen. Mark Begich is "optimistic that a federal court ruling against the government's handling of offshore drilling leases won't stop oil drilling in Arctic waters this summer." Begich said, "I remain confident that we will see continued safe exploration in the Arctic this summer. The Arctic has already been and will continue to be subjected to unprecedented safety standards and (this) announcement does not delay the important progress we have made." Begich also said he's "optimistic that we will see safe, responsible development in the Arctic this summer."

Also covering the ruling is CNN (1/23, Smith, 14.53M), the Bloomberg BusinessWeek (1/24, 4.93M), Reuters (1/24), the Raw Story (1/23, 70K), the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (1/23, 506), the Offshore Engineer (1/24), and KTOO-FM Juneau, AK (1/23).

EX-BP ENGINEER'S ATTORNEY SEEK TO FORCE JUDGE'S RECUSAL. The E&E Daily (1/23) reports lawyers for "an ex-BP PLC engineer who was convicted of interfering with an investigation into the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill are petitioning to disqualify the federal judge who presided over the trial." Kurt Mix's attorneys "argue that US District Judge Stanwood Duval Jr. must recuse himself because a spill-related civil claim was filed last year on his behalf." According to the article, "in 2012, Duval said he told lawyers on both sides that he was entitled to seek compensation from BP because his family owns a beachfront home in Grand Isle, La., and that he didn't see a reason to recuse himself from the Mix case."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR RELEASES DOCUMENTS ON PATTERSON-TO-WESTLANDS WATER TRANSFER. The Fresno (CA) Business Journal (1/24, 160K) reports that the BOR has "released environmental documents on a requested water transfer of 1,500 acre-feet of water from Patterson Irrigation District north of Los Banos to Westlands Water District in Fresno." Comments are being received "for the environmental documents and if approved, Westlands Water District would take delivery of the water no later than Feb. 28 of this year."

BOR, COLORADO OFFICIALS EXAMINE RECREATION ISSUES AT LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (1/24, 94K) reports that the BOR and Colorado Parks and Wildlife are "researching the best uses for Lake Pueblo State Park." According to the article, "comments on the resource management plan for Lake Pueblo will be accepted until Feb. 21." Kara Lamb, spokeswoman for the BOR, said, "We'll take the feedback we get tonight and in the next month, and use that data to develop a resource management plan."

SMALL FIRE AT SHASTA DAM EXTINGUISHED. The Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight (1/23, 92K) reports that firefighters on Thursday "extinguished a small blaze that broke out on the temperature control device on the face of Shasta Dam." According to the article, "driftwood had accumulated and become stuck in some equipment on

the device, sparking the fire."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CALIFORNIA DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORTS. Additional coverage of a proposal to ship more water out of the Delta and temporarily block plans to restore the San Joaquin Rive was provided by the Sierra (CA) Sun Times (1/24), the Stockton (CA) Record (1/23, 123K), the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (1/24, 731K), the Columbus (OH) Dispatch (1/23, 609K), KMJ-AM Fresno, CA (1/24, 13K), KMPH-TV Fresno, CA (1/24, 3K), and KPBS-TV San Diego (1/23, 14K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight (1/23, 92K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

FEDERAL RECOGNITION PROCESS CRITICIZED. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/23, 21K) reports that the BIA's Federal Acknowledgment Process (FAP) has "been described as broken, long, expensive, burdensome, intrusive, unfair, arbitrary and capricious, less than transparent, unpredictable, and subject to undue political influence and manipulation." According to indigenous leaders and others involved in recognition efforts, "it reflects a culture of neglect on the part of the federal government." In light of this criticism, "on January 16 and 17 close to 200 tribal leaders and representatives of both federally recognized and 'unrecognized' indigenous nations, attorneys and consultants specializing in the FAP, and federal officials gathered at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law for a unique conference called 'Who Decides You're Real? Fixing the Federal Recognition Process.'"

NORTHERN ARAPAHO TRIBE URGES EPA TO REJECT WYOMING LAND REQUEST. The E&E Daily (1/23) reports that the Northern Arapaho Tribe is asking the EPA to reject "Wyoming's petition to reconsider an agency decision to leave 1 million acres of land around Riverton under Indian Country domain." Attorneys for the tribe "told federal officials that the state's request was full of errors and misconceptions." The tribe's lawyers told EPA, "Worse yet, the letter manufactures mythical consequences for local communities that appear to be designed to inflame racial division and conflict."

Also reporting on the story is the Riverton (WY) Ranger (1/24, 167).

BIA APPROVES ROAD REPAIR FUNDING FOR SUGAR ISLAND. The Sault Ste. Marie (MI) Evening News (1/23, 17K) reports that the BIA has approved the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians "up to $820,000 in Emergency Relief funds to help the Chippewa County Road Commission repair Sugar Island roads damaged by flooding in the natural disaster last September."

APPEALS COURT'S DECISION ENDS CASINO PLANS BY BIG LAGOON RANCHERIA. The Eureka (CA) Times Standard (1/24, 76K) reports that the Big Lagoon Rancheria will not be constructing its Big Lagoon Casino and hotel "as planned after the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals found that acres owned by the rancheria were not considered 'Indian lands,' according to the Tuesday court decision." The article notes that "the 11-acre parcel of land set to house the new casino was purchased by the Bureau of Indian Affairs 'in trust' for Big Lagoon in 1994." However, "according to the three-judge panel, the bureau only had the authority to purchase lands in trust for tribes who were placed under federal jurisdiction before 1934."

Also providing coverage is the Humboldt Beacon (1/24, 13K).

Top National News:

OBAMA DISAGREES WITH PRIVACY BOARD'S ASSESSMENT OF LEGALITY OF NSA PROGRAM. Coverage of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board's report on the National Security Agency's telephone records program says that while the board has no authority to alter policy, its recommendation that the program be abandoned puts further pressure on President Obama and Congress to make changes beyond what the President announced last week. However, several reports note that the five-member panel adopted the report on a 3-2 vote, saying that this is another indication of how divisive the program is within the Federal government and intelligence community, and the White House was quick to say that Obama disagrees with the board's

conclusion that the data-gathering is illegal.

While every major newspaper except for the New York Times, which had an advance report in its Thursday edition, covers the release of the report, only one of the three broadcast networks did. ABC World News (1/23, story 3, 0:55, Muir, 7.43M) reported on the "major development" of "a damaging new report: a government panel calling" the records program "both illegal and ineffective." ABC (Karl) added, "They say flatly it is illegal and they directly contradict the President on how effective it has been. Just this last year, the President said that this program was saving lives. ... But look at what this report says. It says, 'We have not identified a single instance involving a threat to the United States in which the program has made a concrete difference.'"

The AP (1/24, Braun) reports that in the 234-page report, the panel warned that the NSA's "daily collection of Americans' phone records is illegal" and recommended that President Obama "abandon the program and destroy the hundreds of millions of phone records it has already collected." Two of the board's five members, "former Bush administration national security lawyers," dissented.

Bloomberg News (1/23, Talev, Strohm, 1.91M) says the "divided" board's conclusions "present a challenge" for Obama, "who is being pressed by phone and Internet companies, foreign governments, civil libertarians and some members of Congress to restructure the NSA's surveillance activities." While the panel "has no authority to change the programs," by "questioning the program's legality, the panel may give ammunition to critics in Congress and fuel legal challenges." Reuters (1/24, Selyukh) also says the report could put pressure on Obama and Congress to revise the programs, while Politico (1/24, Romm, 464K) also says the "recommendation adds to pressure" on Obama.

USA Today (1/24, Johnson, 5.82M) says the report is "yet another challenge to the legitimacy of the National Security Agency program." But the two Bush Administration Justice Department officials on the panel said "they believed the program was supported by the law and had been reauthorized repeatedly" by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

The Washington Post (1/24, Nakashima, 4.28M) reports that the White House said President Obama "disagrees" with the "independent watchdog group's conclusion" that the data-gathering program is illegal. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said, "We simply disagree with the board's analysis on the legality of the program." Carney "cited two federal court rulings that upheld the program's constitutionality, as well as the findings of at least 15 judges on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court over the past seven years."

The Los Angeles Times (1/24, Dilanian, 3.07M) says "critics" of the program and the President's policy "got a boost" from the assessment, but the dissents reflect the "larger disagreements in Congress and the public" and help to "explain why Obama gave mixed messages about what he called 'the program that has generated the most controversy these past few months.'"

While most of the coverage focused on the call for the end to data collection, the Wall Street Journal (1/24, Favole, Gorman, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that the panel also recommended a reduction in the length of time telephone databases are kept from five years to three, and that the government require the NSA to seek Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court approval before phone data searches.

McClatchy (1/24, 95K) said the board "has been a backstage voice in the nationwide debate" over the surveillance programs. The Washington Times (1/24, Dinan, 417K) says "the board's ruling now joins with the author of the Patriot Act, a federal district court in Washington, D.C., and President Obama's own internal review board in concluding that the NSA program violates the law and could even be unconstitutional."

The Hill (1/24, Hattem, 194K) reports in its "Hillicon Valley" blog that Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy said "the board's determinations 'add to the growing chorus calling for an end to the government's dragnet collection of Americans' phone records.'"

Time (1/24, Rayman, 21.77M) reports on its website that the report "goes a step farther than last month's report from a panel" appointed by the "in rejecting the option to move bulk data out of the hands of the government and requiring communication providers or a third party to hold the data." The Christian Science Monitor (1/24, Clayton, 540K) and The Guardian (UK) (1/24, Roberts, 1.59M) also have reports.

Podesta Working Group Will Review "Big Data" Collection, Use. The Los Angeles Times (1/24, Parsons, 3.07M) reports Counselor to the President John Podesta "took on a new role Thursday as the administration's 'big data' point person, launching a sweeping review of how the government and businesses use large caches of personal information – and what effect that has on privacy." Podesta "said he would spend the next 90 days looking at the way personal data are collected, stored and analyzed." His working group includes Commerce Secretary Pritzker and White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director John Holdren.

More Commentary. The New York Times (1/24, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes, "Once again, a thorough and independent analysis of the government's dragnet surveillance of Americans' phone records has found the bulk data collection to be illegal and probably unconstitutional," and "virtually useless at stopping terrorism." The Times says this raises "the obvious question: Why does President Obama insist on continuing a costly, legally dubious program when his own appointees repeatedly find that it doesn't work?"

Kim Strassel writes in her Wall Street Journal (1/24, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) column that the biggest impediment to improving intelligence is Congress, which forced its way into intelligence oversight in the 1970s and has failed to do the job properly or to resist using intelligence oversight as a political weapon. Strassel says the nation should be debating whether Congress' role in intelligence oversight should continue.

SOTU EXPECTED TO HIGHLIGHT MINIMUM WAGE, IMMIGRATION. USA Today (1/24, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that when President Obama delivers his State of the Union Address on Tuesday, "expect him to endorse gradually raising the minimum wage and offer a gentle plea to Republicans for cooperation on an immigration deal." The President's team has "signaled in conversations with Democratic lawmakers and other allies their hopes to use the speech to offer a mix of big bets and pragmatic outreach to Republicans" as he lays out his priorities. USA Today says that "perhaps highest" on his priority list is "brokering a long-elusive deal to overhaul the nation's immigration laws."

The New York Times (1/24, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that the President "has an opening" with his SOTU to "advance his argument to Congress that the rising inequality of economic opportunities is America's 'defining challenge of our time.'" Among the President's proposals, which "have so far been blocked" by the GOP: "a higher minimum wage, as a quick fix to raise incomes, and universal free prekindergarten for all 4-year-olds, to help more children realize their potential over time."

McMorris Rodgers To Give GOP Response To SOTU. USA Today (1/24, Camia, 5.82M) reports that Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), "the highest-ranking woman in the House GOP leadership," will deliver the official Republican response to the President's State of the Union Address. She is chair of the House Republican Conference, and her "assignment was announced Thursday" by House Speaker Boehner and Senate Minority Leader McConnell.

Roll Call (1/24, Newhauser, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that with the Democrats looking to "make hay of income inequality and how government policies can help the middle class," McMorris Rodgers will deliver the Republican "side of the narrative, focusing on self-determination and small government." Boehner said in a statement that McMorris Rodgers is "proof that with humility, hard work and dedication, you can overcome any obstacle – a story to which many Americans can relate."

Reuters (1/24, Cowan) reports McMorris Rodgers has established a solidly conservative voting record and is also the only woman to give birth to three children while in Congress.

THURSDAY'S ECONOMIC DATA CONTAINS FEW SURPRISES. There was little significant news in Thursday's economic data. In the weekly reports, jobless claims, mortgage rates, and consumer confidence were little changed. On the housing front, existing home sales rebounded from five months of declines, notching a small increase, while home prices were up only slightly. Despite this, the markets faced a significant sell-off as concern rose about the state of the Chinese economy.

Existing Home Sales Resumed Growth In December. Bloomberg News (1/24, Woellert, Stilwell, 1.91M) reports that sales of existing homes rose in December for "the first time in five months," making 2013 the "best year since 2006" and showing that the market is beginning to adjust to higher mortgage rates. December sales

rose 1% to a 4.87 million unit annual rate, according to data released by the National Association of Realtors on Thursday. Bloomberg says that a total of 5.09 existing homes were sold in 2013, up from 4.66 million in 2012.

Home Prices Ticked Up Only Slightly In November. Bloomberg News (1/24, Gopal, 1.91M) reports that housing prices rose 0.1% in November, the "smallest monthly gain in almost two years." The data, released by the Federal Housing Finance Agency, indicates the "real estate recovery may be losing strength." Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expected prices to rise 0.4% in November. Over the previous 12 months, prices were up 7.6%.

Mortgage Rates Edged Down This Week. Bloomberg News (1/23, Gopal, 1.91M) reports that mortgage rates fell this week, "decreasing borrowing costs for homebuyers as investors weighed whether the economy is strong enough for the Federal Reserve to make more cuts to its stimulus." According to data released Thursday by Freddie Mac, the average rate for a 30-year fixed mortgage fell to 4.39% from 4.41% the prior week. The average rate on a 15-year loan fell to 3.44% from 3.45%.

The AP (1/23) reports that rates "have risen about a full percentage point since hitting record lows roughly a year ago." The increase was driven by "speculation" that the Fed would cut its bond-buying program, something that began in December.

Jobless Claims Remain Relatively Low. Bloomberg News (1/23, Jamrisko, Woellert, 1.91M) reports that first-time claims for jobless benefits fell 1,000 for the week ending January 18 to 326,000, according to data released Thursday by the Department of Labor. Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expected claims to come in at 330,000. The level of claims "held near a six-week low, showing firings remain muted following the holidays." The four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 3,750 to 331,500, the lowest level since late November.

The AP (1/24) says that claims are at "a level consistent with steady job gains." However, the report contained one "sour note:" almost 1.4 million Americans "who have been unemployed longer than six months lost benefits in the week that ended Jan. 4, the latest period for which figures are available."

Consumer Confidence Unchanged Last Week. Bloomberg News (1/23, Peralta, 1.91M) reports that the Bloomberg Consumer Comfort Index was "little changed last week at a one-month low as Americans confronted having to pay holiday bills." The index held at minus 31 for the four-week period ending January 19. A "drop in the buying-climate gauge that sent it to a two-month low was offset by rebounding attitudes on the current state of the economy."

Disappointing Chinese Data Triggers Market Decline. The Wall Street Journal (1/24, Kilgore, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that US stock markets fell sharply on Thursday, driven downward by weak economic numbers from China with raised investors' concerns. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 175.99 points to 16197.35, while the S&P 500 fell 16.40 points to 1828.46. The Nasdaq Composite Index, meanwhile, fell 24.13 points to 4218.87.

Bitter Temperatures Leading To Higher Heating Bills. USA Today (1/24, Strauss, 5.82M) reports that "bitter cold" is has been enveloping much of the nation for the last month, so "millions of people with skyrocketing utility bills are likely to see another spike this month and next." The Energy Information Administration "have some home heating bills rising as much as 23.5%," and even that "may be low." For example, propane, the primary heat source for "8 million homes and businesses," rose almost a $1 to $4.37 a gallon on Thursday "at one of the nation's prime trading hubs."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"End The Phone Data Sweeps."*** The New York Times (1/24, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes, "Once again, a thorough and independent analysis of the government's dragnet surveillance of Americans' phone records has found the bulk data collection to be illegal and probably unconstitutional," and "virtually useless at stopping terrorism." The Times says this raises "the obvious question: Why does President Obama insist on continuing a costly, legally dubious program when his own appointees repeatedly find that it

doesn't work?"

"Even More Addictive Cigarettes." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/24, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says regulators should provide a "strong response" to the recent surgeon general's report that says change in cigarettes design results in a higher risk to smokers and make them more addictive. According to the Times, the report, published in Nicotine and Tobacco Research, found that while the content of nicotine remains the same, the new cigarette designs increase the efficiency of delivering nicotine to the smoker. The Times says "regulators will need to find ways to block the designs, ingredients and marketing strategies that increase the amount of nicotine taken in by smokers."

"Progress On Predatory Lending." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/24, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues "rules issued in November to stop banks from emulating predatory payday lenders have yielded promising results." The rules issued by the FDIC and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency have led to several banks discontinuing "'deposit advance' loans that are specifically designed to trap people in debt." According to the Times, "consumers will remain vulnerable to versions of the debt trap until another agency, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, issues rules of its own to protect consumers of small loans from excessive and unaffordable costs." The Times suggests adopting recent suggestions by the Pew Charitable Trusts' Safe Small-Dollar Loans Research Project to "limit monthly loan payments to 5 percent of the borrowers' pretax income, spread the costs of fees and interest over the life of the loan and require clear disclosure of all costs."

"Quick Work On Paid Sick Leave." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/24, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito proposed to revise the city's law on paid sick leave is "broader" and "better" than the bill passed last year on the same subject. According to the Times, the newly proposed bill applies to companies with five or more workers, rather than 20, which impacts "360,000 more people than the existing law." The Times says the new bill also "eliminates the current law's 18-month phase-in period and a trigger to delay implementation if the economy lags." According to the Times, the bill highlights a shift by the "city's political center of gravity has shifted toward working families and the poor."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Rich People's Republic."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/24, 4.28M) says China's communist leaders should consider "activists like Xu Zhiyong as allies in their effort to reform the country's economy, root out corruption and create a more representative and sustainable political system." The Post notes that rather than viewing Xu's New Citizens Movement "as constructive, the regime of Xi Jinping is 'terrified' of it. As Mr. Xu told a court." According to the Post, the recent report about leaders' offshore accounts might highlight why China's leaders are afraid. The Post argues the "persecution" of Xu shows Xi "mainly intends to protect what has become a massive network of official corruption."

"Contempt For Poor Kids." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/24, 4.28M) says some of Virginia's "biggest school districts, particularly in Northern Virginia, have been slow of the mark" in enabling poor children to attend pre-kindergarten. The Post notes that Virginia has "made strides" overall in this area, and the classes "are widely credited with improving learning skills, including reading readiness." According to the Post, Prince William County is the "worst laggard, by far," because it "has managed to find funding for just 4 percent of the eligible 4-year-olds under a state-subsidized program." The Post argues that the county is "ignoring those eligible poor children – more than two-thirds of them minorities" and "turning its back on more than $6 million in state funding."

"Allow Room For Snow In School Calendars."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Apple Inquisition."*** The Wall Street Journal (1/24, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that a decision by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily suspending court-appointed Apple antitrust compliance monitor Michael Bromwich is a rebuke to prosecutorial overreach in the Justice Department's case against Apple's e-book pricing. The Journal contends that Bromwich has sought privileged documents and interviews with Apple officials and board members who have nothing to do with the case, and urges the court to remove Bromwich as monitor.

"Reckoning In Caracas." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/24, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that Venezuela's bonds suffered on Wednesday based on news of the devaluation of the bolivar and blames the country's socialist system for its current financial troubles. The Journal notes Economy Vice-President Rafael Ramirez said the country's central bank will no longer sell dollars to airlines or travelers at the official exchange

rate. The Journal highlights the central bank holds less money in reserves than a year ago, and half is in gold; therefore, a large devaluation combined with price controls will drive many importers out of business and lead to more shortages.

"Whistling Past The Wind Farm." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/24, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues the US should learn from Europe's recent decision to abandon country-by-country targets for greenhouse-gas emissions. According to the Journal, Europe made this decision because the attempt to greatly reduce emissions also damaged the economy. The Journal says that European leaders believe America's shale natural gas boom gives the US an energy cost advantage and many European countries are shifting production to the US in an effort to remain competitive. The Journal also notes the increase in fracking has also greatly reduced US carbon emissions, because coal power plants were replaced by less expensive natural gas.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Investors Flee Developing Countries
Mideast Turmoil Dominates Gathering Of Business Elite
Argentina Loosens Grip; Peso Plunges
Google Broadens Its Outreach to GOP

New York Times:
Huge 'Super PAC' Is Moving Early To Back Clinton
Hospital Chain Said To Scheme To Inflate Bills
Industry Awakens To Threat Of Climate Change
Fined Billions, JPMorgan Chase Will Give Dimon A Raise
As Seen In 'Goodfellas': Arrest Is Made In '78 Lufthansa Robbery
In Rural Jails, E-Cigarettes Are A Calming Vapor

Washington Post:
A Wrinkle Hits Close To Home, Making Some Fear Medicaid
A CIA prison's Secret History In Poland
Ex-Va. Governor Rejected Plea Deal
Va. GOP Ready To Defend Ban
Making A Play For Diversity

Financial Times:
Argentine Peso In Biggest Fall Since 2002
BoE Signals Scrapping Forward Guidance
US Capex Set To Slow To Four-Year Low
SEC Auditor Ban Could Hit US Companies
McKesson Finalises Celesio Takeover
Icahn Lifts Apple Holding By $1bn
Spain Is No Longer A Bargain

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Forecast; NSA Surveillance Programs; Iraq-Violence; FBI-Mob Bust; Health-Artificial Caramel Coloring; Justin Bieber Arrested; US Olympic Outfits; Kerry Kennedy Trial.
CBS: Winter Storm; Winter Storm-Forecast; Winter Storm-Air Travel; FBI-Mob Bust; Russia-Olympic Security; World Economic Forum; Pentagon-Anti-Cruise Missile Blimps; Virginia State Senator Deeds Interview; Quebec-Senior Home Fire; Justin Bieber Arrested; Hawaii-Kilauea Volcano Erupts.
NBC: NSA Surveillance Programs-Snowden; Winter Storm; Quebec-Senior Home Fire; FBI-Mob Bust; Governor Christie-Traffic Scandal Investigation; New Jersey-Trenton Central High School; Health-Artificial Caramel Coloring; Justin Bieber Arrested; US Olympic Outfits; Stray Ocean Liner.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: NSA Surveillance Programs; Indiana-Huge Vehicular Crash; Governor Christie-Traffic Scandal Investigation; Tennessee-Flu Outbreak.
CBS: Indiana-Huge Vehicular Crash; NSA Surveillance Programs; Holder-Snowden; Russia-Olympic Security; Health-Artificial Caramel Coloring; Virginia-Same-Sex Marriage Debate.
FOX: Egypt-Car Bombing; NSA Surveillance Programs; Indiana-Huge Vehicular Crash; Transportation-Crude Oil Shipping By Rail; Wall Street; Target Data Breach Investigation; California-Teenager Murdered; Governor Christie-Traffic Scandal Investigation; West Virginia-Chemical Leak.
NPR: Egypt-Car Bombing; South Sudan-Cease Fire Agreement; Holder-Snowden; Indiana-Huge Vehicular Crash; Wall Street; South Africa-Mandela Statue; Mexico City-Water Filtration In Restaurants.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – No public schedule.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – No public schedule.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. – The Senate convenes for a pro forma session.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS – 1:06 p.m. House and Senate Democratic leaders will hold a press conference call on "the urgent need to extend unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for millions of hard-working Americans." The conference call will begin at 1:06 p.m. ET to symbolize "the number of Americans cut off from UI benefits reaching 1.6 million," according to new state-by-state data to be released Friday. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI); House Democratic Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra (D-CA); Congressman Robert Andrews (D-NJ); Congressman Joe Garcia (D-FL); Betsey Stevenson, Member of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers; "Individual Impacted by Unemployment Insurance." Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616. Notes: Press must RSVP to jorge.aguilar@mail.house.gov to receive call-in information.
US House: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS – 1:06 p.m. House and Senate Democratic leaders will hold a press conference call on "the urgent need to extend unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for millions of hard-working Americans." The conference call will begin at 1:06 p.m. ET to symbolize "the number of Americans cut off from UI benefits reaching 1.6 million," according to new state-by-state data to be released Friday. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI); House Democratic Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra (D-CA); Congressman Robert Andrews (D-NJ); Congressman Joe Garcia (D-FL); Betsey Stevenson, Member of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers; "Individual Impacted by Unemployment Insurance." Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616. Notes: Press must RSVP to jorge.aguilar@mail.house.gov to receive call-in information.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SMALL BUSINESS – FIELD HEARING – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access – Field Hearing in South Carolina: Getting Rural America Back to Work: Solutions to Lower Unemployment. Location: Dillon Wellness Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 1647 Commerce Drive, Dillon, South Carolina. 29536. Other: 2014 NSA/MCSA WINTER CONFERENCE. – Jan. 20 – 25. The National Sheriffs Association and the Major County Sheriffs' Association host the 2014 NSA/MCSA Winter Conference. Highlights: 9 a.m. Director James B. Comey, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Location: J. W. Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Contacts: 800-424-7827. Notes: MCSA (Major County Sheriffs' Association) meetings and functions will be held on Jan. 20-22, prior to the official start of the NSA Winter Conference.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Jan. 22 – 24. Annual winter meeting. The theme for the week is "Building To Victory." Highlights: 10 a.m. General Session – Open Press. Includes remarks by RNC Chairman Reince Priebus. 12:30 p.m. Lunch with Tim Scott – Open Press. 2 p.m. Strategic Initiatives Press Conference – Open Press. Location: Renaissance Washington Hotel, 999 9th St. NW. Notes: RSVP to Jillian Rogers at jrogers@rnchq.org or 954-829-5988

US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS – Jan. 22 – 24. The 82nd Winter Meeting. More than 280 of the nation's

mayors will convene to meet with congressional leaders and Administration officials and to urge Congress "to continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to spur job creation and economic growth in America's cities and metropolitan areas." Highlights: 11:30 a.m. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson delivers remarks. Open press. Contact: DHS Press Office, 202-282-8010. Location: Capitol Hilton, 16th and K Streets NW. Contacts: Elena Temple, etemple@usmayors.org, 202-286-1100. Karen Hinton, Karen@hintoncommunications.com, 703-798-3109. Lina Garcia, lgarcia@usmayors.org, 202-341-6113

FAMILIES USA CONFERENCE – Jan. 23 – 25. Hundreds of healthcare experts, advocates and professionals from around the nation come together for Families USA's annual conference. Health Action 2014 will be the 19th edition of this annual gathering of healthcare professionals. Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW. Contacts: Dave Lemmon, Bob Meissner, Bryan Fisher, 202-628-3030

CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME – 9 a.m. Press conference to increase awareness on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Speakers: Dr. Andreas Kogelnik, director, the Open Medicine Institute, Mountain View, CA, expert on molecular medicine and chronic disease, and supporter of the medical internship program for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome; Ryan Prior, patient and creator of the Blue Ribbon Foundation, based in Atlanta, GA, which will manage and coordinate the medical intern program. Facilitator: Llewellyn King, executive producer and host, "White House Chronicle" on PBS, and columnist, Hearst-New York Times Syndicate. For more information, call Llewellyn King at (202) 441-2702. To arrange a broadcast interview with either Ryan Prior or Dr. Andreas Kogelnik, email Llewellyn King at lking@kingpublishing.com. Location: The National Press Club, 529 14th St., NW.

CSIS – FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) Europe Program will host French Minister of Defense Jean-Yves Le Drian to discuss France's role in NATO and recent security challenges in Mali and the Central African Republic. Location: 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. Contacts: H. Andrew Schwartz (aschwartz@csis.org), 202-775-3242

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY – 10 a.m. Associate Attorney General Tony West will deliver remarks at a special naturalization ceremony for more than 400 citizenship candidates. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson will administer the Oath of Allegiance and deliver remarks. Location: Northern Virginia Community College, Rachel Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria, Va. Notes: Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to the Dan Cosgrove of the Office of Communications at 202-604-9839. Credentialed media planning to attend must RSVP to Joanne Ferreira at Joanne.M.Ferreira@uscis.dhs.gov or 202.272.8114 no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 23.

CAP – EXPENSIVE MEDICINE – 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. "High-Priced Drugs and Medical Devices: Do They Provide Added Benefit?" Featured speaker: Joe Selby, M.D., M.P.H., Executive Director, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Panelists: Ezekiel Emanuel, M.D. Ph.D., Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress; Vice Provost, University of Pennsylvania; Peter Bach, M.D., Attending Physician, Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center; Sergio Viroslav, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon, Baptist Medical Center. Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

STATE OF CLIMATE ACTION – 11 a.m. Former EPA Administrator and Center for American Progress Distinguished Senior Fellow Carol M. Browner and League of Conservation Voters President Gene Karpinski will look back on 2013 and look ahead at the state of climate action in 2014 during a tele-press conference. The two will discuss the progress made with the Administration's Climate Action Plan, milestones in 2014, and the upcoming elections. Contacts: Benton Strong, bentonstrongcac@gmail.com, 202-650-0287. Noreen Nielsen (Center for American Progress), 202-478-6346. Notes: Dial-In Info: 855-508-8964. Conference ID: 47039288

NASA – ROSETTA COMET MISSION – 12 p.m. NASA will host a media teleconference to discuss the road ahead for the three US science instruments, as well as other NASA support, that are part of the European Space Agency's (ESA) Rosetta mission. James Green, director of planetary science, NASA Headquarters, Washington; -Mark McCaughrean, ESA senior scientific advisor, Noordwijk, Netherlands; Matthew Taylor, ESA Rosetta project scientist, Noordwijk; -Claudia Alexander, US Rosetta project scientist, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Pasadena, Calif.; Art Chmielewski, US Rosetta project manager, JPL. Notes: To participate by phone, reporters must send an email providing name, media affiliation and telephone number to Dwayne Brown at dwayne.c.brown@nasa.gov or call Brown at 202-358-1726 by 11:45 a.m. Friday.

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH REFORM – MEDICARE – 12:15 p.m. – 2 p.m. "Beyond the SGR (Sustainable Growth Rate): Alternative Models." With Gail Wilensky, senior fellow, Project HOPE, who will discuss her recent paper on developing a viable alternative to the SGR; David Share, senior vice president, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, who will describe his health plan's incentive program for physicians that bases payments on value; Mark McClellan, senior fellow and director of the Healthcare Innovation and Value Initiative, Brookings Institution, who will assess various payment models for physicians. Location: G-50 Dirksen. Contacts: Marilyn Serafini, mserafini@allhealth.org, 202-789-2300

IMMIGRATION REFORM – BLOOMBERG, JOHNSON, GUTIERREZ, SNYDER – 1:30 p.m. The US Chambers Senior Vice President of Labor, Immigration, & Employee Benefits Randy Johnson will join Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and former Secretary Carlos Gutierrez for a panel discussion to make the economic case for passing immigration reform in 2014. Location: National Press Club, Murrow Room, 529 14th St NW, 13th Floor. Contacts: Blair Latoff Holmes bholmes@uschamber.com

PENTAGON – FRANCE – 2 p.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome France's Minister of Defense Jean-Yves Le Drian to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance. Secretary Hagel and Minister Le Drian will conduct a press conference at 3 p.m. in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room (2E973). Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Parking Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the cordon.

PENTAGON – AIR FORCE SECRETARY – 4:15 p.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel delivers remarks at Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James' swearing-in ceremony in the Pentagon Auditorium (BH-650). Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Parking Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 45 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the ceremony.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Well, in an interview...with the 'New Yorker,' President Obama said marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol. But doctors warn that pot smoking impairs young peoples' thinking, which, of course, makes them more likely to sign up for Obamacare."

Jay Leno: "In a letter to Congress, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said the US is about to exhaust its borrowing authority and we have to raise the debt ceiling. First of all, why are we calling it a debt ceiling? Is there a ceiling anymore? Aren't we looking at the sky at this point, really? Isn't this the debt is the sky limit? The ceiling disappeared years ago. Just call it the debt sky."

Jay Leno: "Well, in his State of the State Address, California Governor Jerry Brown said California has experienced a big comeback. He said, once again, California is a state worth illegally sneaking into."

Jay Leno: "Oh, and this week, in his inaugural address, the New Jersey Governor Chris Christie said...well he spoke of wanting to bring the people of Jersey together. He wanted to bring them together by having them all trying to merge into one lane. That was the idea. Just try to make them...they would all merge into one lane."

Jay Leno: "It is so cold, Virginia Governor Bob McDonald is talking to the Feds, just so he can stay in hot water. That's how cold it is."

Jay Leno: "Well, this is a huge story. Ex-Virginia Governor Bob McDonald and his wife were indicted by a Federal grand jury on charges of accepting more than $160,000 in loans and gifts in exchange for helping political patrons. Now, I know that's illegal, but isn't it kind of nice to see a politician doing something with his wife for a change? At least they're stealing together, right? You rarely see that anymore. It is nice to see."

Conan O'Brien: "A top Republican said Chris Christie should resign as chair of the Republican Governors Association. Yeah, he refused. He said, 'I made it a matter of principle to never get out of a chair.'"

Conan O'Brien: "MSNBC has come under fire for creating its own Chris Christie attack ad. However, later it just turned out to be an ad for Jenny Craig."

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BISON CONNECT

Jewell, Sally (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>

VIDEO: This Week at Interior January 24, 2014

Tim Fullerton

Tim Fullerton <info@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jan 24, 2014 at 12:03 PM
Reply-To: info@ios.doi.gov
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6) ios.doi.gov

U.S. Department of the Interior

Dear Friend,

Here's what happened this week at Interior: Secretary Jewell celebrates the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. with a Day of Service in Washington DC; the Secretary visits Colorado to discuss sage grouse conservation efforts, and touts her youth initiative at an outdoor retailer market in Salt Lake City, Utah; the Secretary wraps up her western swing with a visit to south central New Mexico; and $16.5 million in grants are announced to help conserve critical coastal wetlands sites.

Click here to watch this week's episode.



Thanks,

Tim Fullerton
Director of Digital Strategy
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Information Memo regarding Questions for the Record following the HNR hearing on 7 17 13

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jan 24, 2014 at 6:45 PM
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6)ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached is an Information Memo from OCL regarding Questions for the Record following the House Natural Resources Committee on July 17, 2013. This has been uploaded to Google Drive in your Information Memos folder.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: January 23, 2014
FROM: Chris Salotti, Legislative Counsel, OCL (202)208-7619; Sarah Neimeyer, Director, OCL (202)208-7693
SUBJECT: Responses to Questions for the Record following the House Natural Resources Committee hearing on July 17, 2013

Attached for your review are responses to Questions for the Record (QFRs) that we received following your appearance before the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 17, 2013. These have been reviewed internally and reviewed and cleared by the Office of Management and Budget, and we can make any additional changes that you would like to make following your review before submitting to the Committee.

You testified at three oversight hearings in 2013. This is the last of the three hearings for which QFRs will be submitted. You previously reviewed responses to the Senate Energy and Indian Affairs Committees.

Questions for Secretary Jewell
House Natural Resource Committee
July 17, 2013

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Questions from Rep. Lamborn

1. In reviewing permits, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife duplicate the efforts of state agencies. Shouldn't Federal Fish and Wildlife avoid duplication and waste of taxpayer resources by delegating permit review to state agencies? State Fish and Wildlife agencies are in the best position to understand what is appropriate for their state.

Response: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's permit issuance and review is carried out in accordance with federal laws and therefore in most cases cannot be delegated to states. The FWS works closely with local, state, and federal government partners to ensure that review processes are conducted in a timely manner, making the best use of taxpayer resources. The Department agrees that it is important to seek ways to increase efficiencies, including by institutionalizing best practices and strengthening collaboration with local and state stakeholders, as well as tribes.

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Questions from Rep. DeFazio

Drilling Safety

2. Secretary Jewell, in February 2012, the House natural Resources Committee Democratic staff released a report that examined safety and environmental violations that occurred relating to oil and gas drilling on federal lands over a decade beginning in the late 1990s. The report indicated that significant and potentially dangerous activities were occurring on federal lands without consistent or adequate federal oversight and enforcement. Since this report was issued what policies has the Department put in place to strengthen the inspection, oversight and enforcement program for onshore oil and gas activities?

Response: The Bureau of Land Management places a high priority on the oil and gas Inspection and Enforcement program. In July 2012, the BLM issued policy and guidance requiring additional oversight of the inspection and enforcement program. The BLM's Fiscal Year 2013 oil and gas inspection and enforcement strategy uses a risk-based system that identifies high priority drilling wells for technical inspection. In addition, the BLM is drafting comprehensive replacement regulations for Onshore Oil and Gas Orders 3 (site security), and 4 (oil measurement). The replacement regulations will update the minimum operating requirements as consistent with current law, technologies, and industry best management practices. Additionally the BLM is preparing a new Onshore Oil and Gas Order 9 (waste prevention) to establish standards to minimize the amount of venting and flaring of natural gas that takes place on oil and gas production facilities on federal and Indian lands. The BLM is also updating internal automation technologies, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of inspection staff. In addition, the BLM is drafting a final rule regulating hydraulic fracturing that will establish a baseline standard for safety and environmental protection across all federal and Indian trust lands throughout the country.

3. Secretary Jewell, the report indicated that monetary penalties for safety violations were almost never issued, and when they were issued, they were issued inconsistently and amounted to very little. Over the thirteen year period evaluated in the report the average fine was only $135 per violation for an industry where the top 5 companies made $119 billion last year. That is not a real deterrent for these companies.

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The fines that BLM can levy on oil and gas companies who violate regulations are set by a 30 year old law that has not been updated. The Interior Department and the American Petroleum Institute have both agreed that these low fines are not a sufficient financial deterrent for companies who violate the law. Former BLM Director Bob Abbey agreed that fine amounts are too low, and former Secretary Salazar committed to reviewing and evaluating ways the Department could increase the dollar amounts of fines. Do you agree that these fines are too low and has the DOI instituted any changes to provide additional deterrents for bad behavior?

Response: The BLM shares your concern over safety violations. The BLM is revising regulations relating to hydrocarbon measurement and accountability and these regulations would establish minimum standards to ensure hydrocarbons are accurately measured and reported. Onshore Order 4 was last updated in 1989, and since then changes in technology have allowed for more accurate fluid measurement.

Fracking Rule

4. Secretary Jewell, isn't it true that there is currently a wide variety in the stringency and efficacy of state regulations with respect to drilling or hydraulic fracturing on state lands? For example:

Wyoming requires pre-fracking disclosures of all hydraulic fracturing chemicals, no other state requires pre-frack disclosure of everything (some states have more limited disclosure requirements).

Colorado and West Virginia require advanced notice of fracking to landowners and/or residents, no other state has this requirement.

Wyoming has strong rules for surface casing setting depth and protecting drinking water and Texas has good rules for intermediate and production casing cementing. Other states do not have these prescriptive requirements. Furthermore, the existence of these requirements hasn't hindered oil and gas development in CO and TX.

Colorado and New Mexico have tight restrictions on the use of wastewater pits, New York has proposed rules require that all flowback be collected in tanks rather than pits. Other states do not have these requirements.

Despite the claims of the Majority, isn't it true that the revised draft proposed BLM hydraulic fracturing rule would not be a duplicative layer of regulation but would rather

be implemented by individual state BLM offices in a way that dovetails with existing state standards not on top of them?

Response: The BLM's proposed regulations are expected to integrate with existing state standards for hydraulic fracturing by establishing consistent standards for wellbore integrity, chemical disclosure, and flowback fluid management on public lands. While certain states have an established regulatory framework addressing hydraulic fracturing, a number of states with federal oil and gas leases do not. BLM is coordinating with the appropriate state regulatory agencies to minimize duplication and redundancy in the regulatory processes and to provide clarity to the industry.

5. Secretary Jewell, the discrepancies in state standards are why a federal standard, to act as a floor, is needed. But the revised draft rule BLM reeently issued is weaker in a number of important ways that the draft rule issued last year. For example:

In the revised draft rule, cement evaluations don't have to be submitted until after the well is fracked (vs before in the last rule).

In the revised draft rule, operators don't have to provide BLM with information (depth, volume of fluids, chemicals, water source, size of fracturing) about each well and instead can just use one packet of generic information to be submitted for all "similar wells"

In the revised draft rule, disclosure of fracking chemicals would not have to be disclosed until after a well is drilled and could be done using the website Frac Focus, which, while it is undergoing changes, remains a database not run by the federal government that has been criticized for preventing easy access, aggregation, and download of data.

The waiver provisions (called variances) have been expanded to allow entire areas or states to be exempt from some requirements.

I am concerned that despite the fact that a number of Democratic Members wrote to then-Secretary Salazar calling for the initial draft rule to be strengthened, tbe revised draft rule appears to have been weakened in these critical ways. I would hope that as you continue to work through this rulemaking process you incorporate suggestions of Members of t his Committee and the public to strengthen the rule to protect public health and the environment.

Response: The Department and the BLM have made clear that it is important that the public has confidence that the right safety and environmental protections are in place. The revised

proposed rule will modernize BLM's management of hydraulic fracturing operations and help to establish baseline environmental safeguards for these operations across all public and Indian lands.

BLM believes that the post-fracturing disclosures and certifications contained in the revised proposal would provide adequate assurances that fracking operations protect public health and safety and protect federal and Indian resources, and will ensure that the public is informed about the specifics of the actual fracking operations which are ultimately performed.

The BLM proposed for comment that where the cement evaluation log (CEL) data for a "type well" shows no indications of cement problems, the operator could construct the other wells in an approved group within the same field using the same well design and construction without getting prior approval for the other wells. However, the operator would be required -- for all wells -- to monitor and record the flowrate, density, and treating pressure, when cementing well casings and to submit a cement operation monitoring report to the BLM. The required monitoring data would provide important indications of problems with the cementing of casings and would help to verify the results of a CEL and for wells where no CEL is required and will provide the primary assurance that cementing operations conformed to those of a proven type well. If the monitoring information provides indications of an inadequate cement job, the operator would also be required to notify the BLM within 24 hours, submit a written report within 48 hours, and to certify that the inadequate cement job had been corrected and that usable water zone isolation had been achieved prior to starting hydraulic fracturing operations.

The BLM took comment on all aspects of the rule including whether this approach is sufficient to determine adequate cementing to protect usable water aquifers.

Regarding the use of FracFocus, BLM recognized and understood that FracFocus is in the process of improving the database with enhanced search capabilities to allow for easier reporting of information when including submission of data through this system. Moreover, information submitted to the BLM through FracFocus will still be required to comply with this federal rule, including its requirements that the operator must certify the information submitted is correct. For operators and the public, FracFocus provides a consistent venue that allows for ease of reporting and accessing data.

Finally, as noted in the question, the revised proposed rule would allow the BLM to approve a variance that would apply to all lands within a field, a basin, a state or within Indian lands and that would be based on the BLM's determination that it will meet or exceed the objectives of the regulation. The variance process would allow the BLM to work with states or tribes to appropriately adapt the regulatory requirements to the unique geology of an area or defer to a

standard, technology, or process required or allowed by state or tribal government, as long as application of the standard, technology, or process meets or exceeds the objectives of the hydraulic fracturing rule. The BLM would issue the variance in cooperation with the state or tribe. The variance would apply only to the requirements of the hydraulic fracturing regulations, and all requirements of the Mineral Leasing Act, or the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands, other federal statutes and other all regulations, would continue to apply to all lessees and operators.

Mining Reform

6. As you know, the Mining Law of 1872 – a law signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant – allows free hardrock mining on federal public lands.

Oil and gas companies have to pay the American taxpayers a royalty when extracting oil and gas from federal lands. Coal companies have to pay a royalty when mining coal on federal lands. But if you are mining for gold, silver, copper, uranium and other valuable hardrock minerals – you pay nothing.

Of course, states, tribal nations, and private landowners aren't foolish enough to give away their hardrock minerals for free – they all charge a royalty – some as high as 12 percent.

We also have the issue of abandoned hardrock mines. According to the GAO there are more than 160,000 abandoned mines in the West alone – some estimates put that toal as high as 500,--- mines and eaeh can cost tens of millions of dollars to elean up.

Secretary Jewell, would your department support – and will you commit to working with this committee on – real mining reform that includes royalties as a source of income for the U.S. Treasury and abandoned mine reclamation?

Response: Yes, the Department looks forwarding to working with the Congress on reform of the mining law. The Administration supports legislative efforts to address the problem of abandoned hardrock mine lands, and has proposed creating a program similar to that for coal mines for abandoned hardrock sites. The Administration also supports efforts to provide a fair return to the taxpayer from hardrock production on federal lands, and has proposed developing a leasing program under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 for certain hardrock minerals including gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, uranium, and molybdenum, currently covered by the General Mining Law of 1872.

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Oil and Gas Development

7. The Majority has brought a number of bills to the floor to require new oil and gas leases on lands under your jurisdiction. These efforts have included bills to require leasing off the West Coast, Atlantic Coast, and in sensitive areas like Bristol Bay – home of the most productive salmon fishery on the planet.

But the truth is that a substantial portion of federal lands – both onshore and offshore – are already under lease for oil and gas development. As I mentioned in my opening statement, there are currently 25 million acres onshore and 30 million acres offshore – for a total of 55 million acres – already under lease that are not producing a drop of oil and gas.

Would your department and President Obama support legislative action to incentivize the development of existing oil and gas leases? In other words, do you believe we should be pushing the industry to use what it already has – 55 million acres – or giving them access to more access to federal land?

Response: Yes. The Administration has proposed legislative reforms to bolster and backstop administrative actions being taken to reform the management of Interior's onshore and offshore oil and gas programs, with a key focus on improving the return to taxpayers from the sale of these federal resources. This includes proposals to encourage the diligent development of oil and gas leases (e.g., requirements for shorter primary lease terms, stricter enforcement of lease terms, and monetary incentives to get leases into production).

Pebble Mine

8. As you know, a Canadian mining corporation is proposing to develop "Pebble Mine," which would be the largest open pit gold-copper mine in North America in the headwaters of two of the most critical wild salmon producing drainages in the world that help support a $2 billion per year sustainable fishery.

Although the Department of the Interior is not directly involved in the approval process of the proposed mining operation, I would strongly encourage you to engage with the EPA and to get involved in this issue. The sheer size of the mine has implications for BLM holdings along the potentially impacted rivers and tributaries of the region as well as the fish and wildlife – like moose, caribou, ducks, geese, and other migratory birds.

And, if the native salmon populations are impacted you potentially have repercussions for the many wildlife species in the food change that salmon support. If you haven't already, I

would encourage you to have a conversation with Gina McCarthy – if and when the Senate does its job and confirms her – and stay active on this issue.

Response: This is an important issue for the Department. While the proposed development is on land owned and managed by the State of Alaska and the watershed assessment is being carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency, the assessment does include some lands managed by Departmental agencies. As such, the Department and its agencies will continue to monitor the process closely.

Public Lands/Wilderness

9. In 2011 DOI issued a report highlighting 18 backcountry areas deserving congressional protection as Conservation Lands or Wilderness, including two of my bills in Oregon – the Rogue Wilderness Area Expansion Act and Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act.

At that time, former Secretary Salazar noted the local and bipartisan support for these proposals and challenged the 112th Congress to pass them, stressing the importance of balancing land conservation with energy development. Unfortunately, not a single one of these bills passed either the House or the Senate – the first time Congress failed to protect a single acre of wilderness in seven decades.

The Obama Administration has been under pressure from the Majority over its use of the Antiquities Act. But I assume the President would much prefer to sign bipartisan conservation bills – passed by Congress – into law instead of using the Antiquities Act as the sole means available in the last two years to preserve and protect sensitive areas and landscapes.

Response: The Administration has testified in support of both the Devil's Staircase and Rogue Wilderness Expansion Acts, and we encourage the Congress to move these bills forward. The Administration is committed to engaging local citizens and getting public input; to understanding how communities feel; and to connecting with local communities in an effective way so that local sentiments about these spectacular places inform decisions about recognizing American treasures. The monument designations the President has made under Antiquities Act authority have followed this community-based approach. It is also worth noting that the Antiquities Act has been used by 16 presidents, from both parties, to recognize the importance of such areas as the Grand Canyon and the Statue of Liberty.

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Endangered Species

10. I am concerned about the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species list throughout the United States. Before the proposal was released, I organized a letter signed by more than 50 of my House colleagues to Service Director Dan Ashe urging him to keep protections for wolves in place as they continue to rebound. The lack of sound scientific evidence to support the Service's claim that the wolf is recovered, even though it only exists in a small portion of its historic range, indicates that a decision has been made to shift the goalposts and declare a victory. What are you doing to review this decision? Will you require the Service to produce additional scientific evidence to prove that wolves no longer warrant protection under the ESA?

Response: The Fish and Wildlife Service evaluated the classification status of gray wolves currently listed in the contiguous United States and Mexico under the Endangered Species Act. Based on that evaluation, and consistent with the ESA, the FWS published two proposed rules on June 13, 2013, to remove the gray wolf from the List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife but to maintain endangered status for the Mexican wolf by listing it as a subspecies. These actions are proposed because the best available scientific and commercial information indicates that the currently listed entity is not a valid species under the ESA and that the Mexican wolf is an endangered subspecies.

On September 30, 2013, the FWS announced that it has reinitiated a scientific peer review process to obtain an independent and objective peer review of the science behind the proposal. The peer review process will be sponsored and conducted by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, a respected interdisciplinary research center at the University of California – Santa Barbara. The center will vet prospective reviewers to verify that they are able to provide an objective review and have no conflict of interest, culminating in the selection of 5 or 6 well-qualified scientists with professional qualifications and relevant experience.

The Department recognizes the significant public interest in this issue and is focused on ensuring that all interested parties have the opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed rule. With that in mind, FWS extended the public comment period on the proposed rule for a second time. In addition, to provide a forum for additional stakeholder input, the FWS also held five public hearings on the proposal, including in Sacramento, CA, Denver, CO, Albuquerque, NM, Pinetop, AZ, and Washington, DC.

Additional details of the proposed rules and public hearings, and links to submit comments to the public record can be found here: www.fws.gov/graywolfrecovery062013.html.

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Questions from Rep. Hanabusa

11. Madame Secretary, since 2009 Indian country's highest legislative priority has been passage of a legislative fix to the Carcieri v. Salazar decision. I introduced bipartisan legislation in the House this year that would provide a clean fix to that misguided decision.

a. It has been suggested that a clean Carcieri fix is impossible, due to concerns related to so-called "off reservation" gaming. Does the Administration continue to support a clean Carcieri fix – that is, restoring Secretarial authority to place land into trust for any federally recognized Indian tribe, regardless of when that tribe was federally recognized?

Response: A *Carcieri* fix is a top priority for the Administration. The Department believes that this decision frustrates the U.S.'s trust responsibility to Indian tribes by hindering the Department's ability to take land into trust for some tribes. The President's 2014 Budget included language that, if enacted, would resolve the issue. The Department stands ready to assist Congress in passing legislation to fix the decision.

b. What administrative measures has the Department taken to ensure that tribal homelands are restored pending Congressional action?

Response: Despite the *Carcieri* decision, which has placed unnecessary and substantial administrative burdens on the Department and tribes and has significantly increased litigation risks, the Department over the last four years has processed more than 1,100 separate applications and acquired over 205,000 acres of land in trust on behalf of Indian tribes and individuals.

The Department is also currently engaged in both federal court and administrative litigation regarding the Secretary's authority to acquire land in trust pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 following the *Carcieri* decision.

c. What steps has the Administration taken or proposed to take in order to work with Congress on passing a clean fix in the 113th Congress?

Response: The Administration continues to support a legislative solution to address the negative impacts and increased burdens on the Department and on Indian Country resulting from this decision. The President included in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget language that, if enacted, would resolve this issue.

12. Last month, President Obama signed an executive order establishing the White House Council on Native American Affairs, furthering this Administration's already firm commitment to greater engagement and collaboration with Indian tribes. The National Congress of American Indians lauded the establishment of the Council, which you will chair as Seeretary of the Interior.

a. The executive order establishing the Counsel states that the Council "shall improve coordination of federal programs and the use of resources available to tribal communities." As Council chair, how do you intend to achieve this purpose? What specific goals would you like to see achieved?

Response: The Executive Order, signed by President Obama on June 26, is further evidence of this Administration's commitment to advancing self-determination. As noted in the question, the intent is to improve interagency coordination, efficiency, and expand efforts to leverage federal programs and resources available to tribal communities.

The Council will convene at least three times a year and will work collaboratively toward advancing five priorities that mirror the issues tribal leaders have raised during previous White House Tribal Nations Conferences, including promoting sustainable economic development; supporting greater access to and control over healthcare; supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of tribal justice systems; expanding and improving educational opportunities for Native American youth; and protecting and supporting the sustainable management of Native lands, environments, and natural resources.

b. How could Council recommendations impact reservation-level conditions, such as greater access to and control over tribal nutrition and healthcare and tribal justice systems, as well as protecting tribal lands, environments and natural resources?

Response: As noted in the testimony for this hearing, the Council will include more than 30 federal departments and agencies and will work across governments and executive departments, agencies, and offices to develop policy recommendations and expand efforts to leverage federal programs and resources available to tribal communities. The goal is that the Council, through this improved coordination and use of resources will focus on key activities, such as promoting sustainable economic development; supporting greater access to and control over healthcare; improving the effectiveness and efficiency of tribal justice systems; expanding and improving educational opportunities for Native American youth; and protecting and supporting the

sustainable management of Native lands, environments, and natural resources, will have a positive impact on issues of importance to tribes.

13. This Committee has received extensive testimony on the important distinction between federally-owned public lands and Indian country held in trust by the federal government. The recently revised BLM regulations on hydraulic fracturing now allow for a "variance" that enables tribes to be the relevant authority in hydraulic fracturing decisions, after a showing that the tribal regulations are at least as stringent as federal standards.

a. Does this inclusion in the regulation stem from outreach from the tribes? Have you received feedback on this specific provision from tribes? Do you think that this provision adequately distinguishes tribal lands from public lands and respects tribal sovereignty?

Response: The variance provision in the BLM's proposed hydraulic fracturing rule was informed by tribal consultations. The BLM contacted over 180 tribal governing bodies and had significant exchanges with over 30 tribes in multiple states during the drafting of the rule. The BLM fully embraces the statutes, Executive Orders, and other statements of governmental or departmental policy in favor of promoting tribal self-determination and control of resources. The Indian Mineral Leasing Act, however, subjects all oil and gas operations on trust or restricted Indian lands to the Secretary's regulations and does not authorize the Secretary to allow tribes to opt out of regulatory oversight. This rule applies to Indian lands so that these lands and communities receive the same level of protection provided on public lands.

Questions from Rep. Grijalva

14. The New York Times recently repoared that one of the poorest tribes in the country, the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian reservation, is ending its low income housing program due to sequestration cuts even though over 1500 tribal families are in need of and awaiting basic housing on the reservation. The tribe is cutting back on Headstart, healthcare and programs for the elderly. Ninety (90) percent of the tribe's annual budget is comprised federal funds, so the mandatory cuts due to sequestration are indeed devastating to this tribe. But this is just one example of many real stories about sequestration's impacts on the First Americans

When you hear about Oglala and other tribes struggling to survive sequestration, do you believe that this administration is doing everything in its power to fulfill the fiduciary obligations it has to tribal nations? Furthermore, what steps are you and this administration going to take to address the increasing cuts in the country's already poorest areas, including tribal reservations?

Response: Poor communities often suffer worse when tightening the fiscal belt. The sequestration's impacts are indiscriminate as applied under the law. Indian Country already experiences needs that exceed the ability to meet them, and these communities are arguably the least equipped to absorb the losses sequestration is imposing. At the Department we are trying to prioritize and find a way forward. President Obama also signed Executive Order 13647 in June establishing the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which will be chaired by the Secretary of the Interior and will include more than 30 federal departments and agencies.

The Council will work across governments and executive departments, agencies, and offices to develop policy recommendations and expand efforts to leverage federal programs and resources available to tribal communities. The goal is that the Council, through this improved coordination and use of resources will focus on key activities, such as promoting sustainable economic development; supporting greater access to and control over healthcare; improving the effectiveness and efficiency of tribal justice systems; expanding and improving educational opportunities for Native American youth; and protecting and supporting the sustainable management of Native lands, environments, and natural resources, will have a positive impact on issues of importance to tribes.

15. The Department of the Interior is one several federal agencies that entered into an MOU with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to improve the protection of and tribal access to Indian sacred sites through enhanced interagency coordination. What role is the DOI taking in order to enforce the goals of this MOU? Beyond this MOU, what steps, if any, are being taken by this administration to support tribal nations in their efforts to protect and preserve their sacred sites and objects?

Response: The Departments of the Interior, Energy, Defense, and Agriculture, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on November 30, 2012. This action was in response to tribal requests to improve the protection of and tribal access to Indian sacred sites through improved interdepartmental coordination and collaboration. Implementation of the MOU is through a three-tiered group approach: an interagency executive group, a core group of interagency staff coordinating work, and five subgroups of subject-matter experts that work on different aspects of implementing the MOU. During the first two years of this MOU, the Department of the Interior is the chair of both the core working group and the subgroup working on confidentiality standards for sacred sites.

The agencies are working together on strategies for sacred sites protection, including the creation of: a training program for federal staff; guidance for best practices, a public outreach plan, and recommendations for the confidentiality of and tribal access to sacred sites. The agencies are also working to establish mechanisms for the collaborative stewardship of sacred sites with tribes; identifying impediments and making recommendations to address the protection of sacred sites; and building tribal capacity. This interagency effort is being accomplished using the existing resources within each of the agencies.

16. Tribal consultation is a major component in the relationship between tribal nations and the federal government. What steps is this administration taking in order to uphold their responsibility in consulting with tribes for any federal, state, and corporate initiatives that will impact tribes and their homelands which may extend beyond reservation borders?

Response: This Administration has taken its responsibility to ensure consultation with Indian tribal governments on policies that have tribal implications seriously. Early in the Administration, the President signed a Presidential Memorandum on tribal consultation that made the importance of meaningful and regular consultation clear and directed agencies to submit a plan for implementing the policies and directives contained in Executive Order 13175, on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.

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The Department's official consultation policy was announced in December 2011, and it was developed in close coordination with tribal leaders. It sets out detailed requirements and guidelines for Interior officials and managers to follow to ensure they are using the best practices and most innovative methods to achieve meaningful consultation with tribes. And, as indicated in a previous response, in June the President signed Executive Order 13647, establishing the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which will be chaired by the Secretary of the Interior. The intent of the Council is to improve interagency coordination, efficiency, and expand efforts to leverage federal programs and resources available to tribal communities. In signing the Executive Order, the President noted that greater engagement and meaningful consultation with tribes is of paramount importance in developing any policies affecting tribal nations.

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Questions from Rep. Gosar

17. Grand Canyon Air Tours

The one year anniversary of the passage of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21, P.L. 112-141), recently passed. Senator McCain and I have inquired several times about the delay in the implementation of the law as it pertains to the quiet technology incentive requirements of the Act. As of March of this year, we were told that the National Park Service and the FAA were still working to identify options to implement these incentives. I believe a year is more than enough time. Coming from the private sector, I am sure you would not have stood for this type of delay. I know I wouldn't have in my dental practice.

Can you please tell me when my colleagues and I can expect to hear from the NPS and the FAA that the incentives are ready for implementation? We have been very patient but our patience is running thin. These incentives are critical to the long term economic health of Northern Arizona and Southern Nevada.

Response: Effective January 1, 2014, the NPS has implemented air tour fee adjustments as an initial incentive for operators conducting air tours at Grand Canyon National Park to convert to the use of quiet technology aircraft. These fee adjustments will also be made available to air tour operators who already have converted to the use of quiet technology aircraft. The FAA plans to announce a second incentive that would release FAA held allocations for the use of quiet technology aircraft in time for the busy part of 2014 tourist season. The NPS and FAA are continuing to work together on additional incentives that will require noise analysis to ensure compliance with the mandate set forth in MAP-21 that the impact of increased operations resulting from the incentives does not increase noise at Grand Canyon National Park.

18. Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) for Glen Canyon Dam

My question is about the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) for Glen Canyon Dam that is being undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service as co-lead agencies.

My understanding is that Reclamation currently has ten years of NEPA compliance for Glen Canyon operations – from two Environmental Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact issued just last year. Given this, and given that the endangered humpback chub population in the Grand Canyon is continuing to increase and currently

exceeds recovery goal requirements ....why is the Department proceeding with another EIS at this time?

Response: The 2012 Environmental Assessments and associated Findings of No Significant Impact focused on specific aspects of the operations of Glen Canyon Dam, including high flow experiments and nonnative fish management through 2020. In contrast, the Long Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP) announced by the Secretary in December 2009 will update a 1996 Record of Decision and considers potential modification of many aspects of Glen Canyon Dam operations beyond those considered in the 2012 Environmental Assessments. The LTEMP will incorporate scientific information developed by the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. The resulting Record of Decision from the LTEMP will allow the Secretary to meet statutory responsibilities for protecting and improving Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park resources and values, as well as statutory responsibilities under the Law of the River and the Endangered Species Act.

The President's budget contains $3.5 million for the Glen Canyon Dam LTEMP EIS. Given today's fiscal struggles, why would Interior spend $3.5 M on an EIS that basically is unnecessary since 1) BOR has NEPA compliance for the next 10 years; 2) USFWS has issued a fresh biological opinion showing current Glen Canyon operations are not jeopardizing the endangered Humpback Chub?

Response: As noted in the response to the previous question, the LTEMP EIS is a separate process focused on a different aspect of Glen Canyon Dam operations.

19. National Monument Designations via Antiquities Act authority in Arizona

I want to quickly ask about National Monuments. While I am not opposed to monuments, I firmly believe any designation should go through a public process and ultimately be codified by Congress.

I have introduced legislation, the Arizona Land Sovereignty Act, which would ensure a public process for monument designations. I know there are groups in my state urging the department to declare parts of my district as monuments. Does the Administration have any plans or are you considering any proposals to designate a National Monument in Arizona, under Antiquities Act authority?

Response: At a hearing in June 2013, the Administration strongly opposed efforts to weaken Antiquities Act authority, which has been used by 16 presidents from both parties to recognize

the importance of such areas as the Grand Canyon and the Statue of Liberty. While there are no current plans to designate monuments in Arizona under this authority, it is worth noting that this Administration is committed to engaging local citizens and getting public input; to understanding how communities feel; and to connecting with local communities in an effective way so that local sentiments about these spectacular places inform decisions about recognizing American treasures. The monument designations the President has made under Antiquities Act authority have followed this community-based approach.

Questions from Rep. Napolitano

20. Madam Secretary, last week the House passed its version of the Energy and Water Appropriations. As you know, the legislation guts the WaterSMART program by 53%, including the elimination of all funding for WaterSMART grants. These grants have helped conserve over 600,000 acre-feet in the past three years.

a. Where does the money go?

b. Why is WaterSMART a priority for the department, and what would the cuts, if enacted, mean to program?

Response to a. and b.: As competition for water resources grows for crop irrigation, growing cities and communities, energy production, and the environment, the need for information and tools to aid water resource and land managers grows. WaterSMART is a Department of the Interior initiative that leverages and directs existing expertise and resources within the USGS and the Bureau of Reclamation towards addressing complex, national and regional-scale water challenges. WaterSMART uses scientific and financial tools to promote collaborative efforts to help balance water supply and demand.

Over the last three years, the WaterSMART program has enabled the Department to act aggressively in response to near term and immediate water shortages and apply scientific findings to plan for longer term needs. Funded at $35.4 million, WaterSMART promotes sustainable solutions and economic productivity in the western United States. It addresses current and future water shortages; degraded water quality; increased demands for water from growing populations and energy needs; amplified recognition of environmental water requirements; and the potential for decreased water supply availability due to drought and climate change.

Cuts of that magnitude would significantly hinder actions under the WaterSMART program that could help address water supply shortages in the Colorado River Basin and elsewhere, and would undermine the government's ability to partner with local communities on improving resilience against climate-related impacts that threaten a range of economic and environmental interests.

21. The Natural Resources Committee is the authorizing committee for the Department of the Interior. As part of the Energy and Water Debate, programs and authorizations that

were vetted by House and enacted into law are now being defunded by the appropriators despite being requested by the Administration.

a. Energy and Water zeros out funding for Indian Water Rights Settlements. Why is it important that we prioritize Indian Water Rights Settlements?

Response: Water settlements secure tribal water rights helping to fulfill the United States' promise to tribes that Indian reservations will provide Indian people with permanent homelands. Indian water rights settlements are also consistent with the general federal trust responsibility to American Indians and with federal policy promoting Indian self-determination and economic self-sufficiency. The certainty that Indian water settlements provide is, in the words of the Western Governors Association, "a crucial element of effective water supply planning and management in the West." Achieving certainty through negotiated settlement is far superior to decades of expensive and disruptive litigation. Congress has agreed with tribes, states and non-Indian water users about the value of Indian water rights settlements by enacting 23 settlements spanning a period of over 30 years.

b. What would be the effects of zeroing out the San Joaquin "Settlement"?

Response: The Settlement's two primary goals are to restore and maintain fish populations and restore and avoid adverse water impacts. Eliminating funding for the Settlement creates an uncertain future for more than just river restoration but also for traditional water delivery operations from Friant Dam and the San Joaquin River. The Settlement effectively ended 18 years of litigation associated with water deliveries from the San Joaquin River. Eliminating funding risks encouraging the settling parties to return to court to pursue other avenues and disrupt the underlying long-term goals of restoring the San Joaquin River according to the processes and timelines spelled out in the Settlement.

c. What do these cuts mean for Reclamation's traditional construction budget, which majority claims to support?

Response: The elimination of funding for the Indian Water Rights Settlements and the San Joaquin Settlement would jeopardize ongoing construction activities, including the construction of seepage mitigation projects on the San Joaquin River or the construction of water supply projects to Tribes who have settled long-standing disputes through negotiated settlement.

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22. As part of the sequestration, several of USGS's streamgages have been discontinued. Why is it important that we support the streamgage system?

Response: Streamgages are critical and vital for meeting federal responsibilities associated with forecasting floods, tracking flows in major river basins, and assessing long-term climatic, land-use, and human impacts on streamflow and water quality. Increasing the number of streamgages is a high priority for the USGS. We look forward to working with you to explore possibilities for restoring recently discontinued USGS streamgages throughout the nation and to take steps to help make the network more stable so that water-resource managers have the streamflow information they need to make informed decisions.

Questions for Secretary Jewell
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Questions from Rep. McClintock

23. Madam Secretary, you may be aware that FWS recently proposed a rule for Categorical Exemption from NEPA mandates regarding "Injurious Wildlife Listings" under the Lacey Act. This Committee understands well the challenges in dealing with invasive species, however, I am concerned that exempting the FWS from addressing the environmental, economic and social impacts of proposed additions to the list could be extremely damaging to small business; as several of the species FWS seems to be targeting are widely traded and would have a significant economic impact. I'd like your commitment to look into this matter and get back to me before the service finalizes their rule making on this issue. Do I have that commitment?

Response: A final determination on this proposed rule will be made once the public comments received are analyzed and addressed. Regardless of whether or not a categorical exclusion is finalized and applied to the listing of injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to carry out the analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws applicable to federal regulatory action, including the Lacey Act itself, the Administrative Procedures Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review. These laws account for much of the analyses made when carrying out the regulatory listing process.

The proposed categorical exclusion would give FWS the flexibility to forego the preparation of an Environmental Assessment under NEPA when, absent extraordinary circumstances, listing a species as injurious under the Lacey Act. The proposed categorical exclusion meets the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines, which provide that a categorical exclusion may apply to actions that are administrative and repetitive in nature and for which Environmental Assessments continually result in "Findings of No Significant Impact."

Questions from Rep. Lowenthal

24. How can and will the BLM guarantee that FracFocus and all of its current and historic data will exist in perpetuity if it is a private website?

Response: The Bureau of Land Management's revised hydraulic fracturing rule would require operators to disclose the chemicals used in the fracturing process and provide that information to the BLM after the fracturing operation is completed. Operators may submit this information to the BLM through FracFocus, which is already used by some states for reporting mandatory chemical disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals as a single reporting location. FracFocus was initiated as a project with the Department of Energy and managed by the Ground Water Protection Council and Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. It was endorsed in the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board 90-day report of best practices. Use of this website allows an operator to provide the information to the BLM, as well as the public and state and tribal regulators. This approach also has the benefit of reducing reporting burdens for oil and gas operators by avoiding duplicative reporting requirements and administrative duties for the BLM in many instances. The data submitted to FracFocus is managed by the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) and in partnership with the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission; the data is provided to the BLM and other regulators on a regular basis, and BLM would also maintain permanent possession of a set of this data.

25. How can the BLM ensure that FracFocus has all of the proper data search, sort, and aggregation tools – which we have heard from other witnesses before this committee it still does not have, thus making it nearly impossible to effectively use?

Response: The FracFocus website was launched in April 2011 by the GWPC, a private nonprofit organization governed by state drilling and water quality officials. As states have expanded requirements for disclosure, FracFocus has evolved into a standardized, easily accessible repository of public information. FracFocus 2.0 was recently released with the added data search capability from a XML database platform. Users have the option of using the GIS mapping technology to identify chemicals used in the wells, as well as search and develop reports by date ranges, chemical names or Chemical Abstract Service numbers. The BLM will continue to work with GWPC to improve the FracFocus website to meet the expectations of the final BLM hydraulic fracturing rule.

26. BLM's Revised Draft Rule ambiguously states, "The BLM understands that the [FracFocus] database is in the process of being improved and will in the near future have enhanced search capabilities and allow for easier reporting of information." The BLM's

draft rule specifically references FracFocus as an acceptable compliance repository of data for oil and gas operators. What does it mean for the BLM to "understand" that FracFocus will provide additional tools? Has FracFocus provided written commitment to BLM to do so much? If so, please provide this documentation to the committee. Does the BLM have any recourse if FracFocus does not do what BLM "understands" that it will do?

Response: The BLM's proposed regulation (§3162.3-3(i)) requires submission of the data through FracFocus or another database specified by the BLM. The GWPC has a successful track record in development of similar risk-based data management systems reliably used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and other state agencies. FracFocus 2.0 was developed with a number of additional tools, such as dashboard access for individual users and configuration module for XML file download. The BLM has met on numerous occasions with the GWPC regarding FracFocus, and will continue meeting with the GWPC in the future as the final rule is being completed.

27. What is the oversight process for ensuring that operators are using the trade secret exception to chemical disclosure properly? In other words, what is the cross-check verification of whether these chemicals are in fact trade secrets? Will there be an internal BLM verification that those chemicals are in fact trade secrets? And will Congress and the public be excluded from providing oversight to the trade secret process? Please explain how the BLM and the public will not be relying on the world of operators without verification of the legitimacy of operators' trade secret exception claims? Do you think the BLM's broadening of the trade secret exeeption may erode the public's confidence and trust in hydraulic fracturing?

Response: The BLM must follow the Trade Secrets Act (TSA). Although operators may have their own list of chemicals that could fall under the TSA, the BLM would have the authority to validate the trade secret determinations. The BLM can issue a notice to the operator and move forward with the disclosure of the chemicals considered invalid for protection under the TSA if the operator does not appeal such a decision within 10 days of receipt of the notice.

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Questions from Rep. Sablan

28. As you are aware, the United States and the Republic of Palau signed an agreement on September 10, 2010, to extend the financial terms of the Compact of Free Association between our two nations until 2024. Since then, there has been little success in securing ratification of the agreement by Congress, largely due to the inability to find a suitable offset. After a recent visit to Washington by newly elected Palau President Tommy Remengesau, you joined Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, and Secretary of State John Kerry in sending a letter to Senate President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner in support of the ratification of the Compact Review Agreement. In the letter, you and your fellow cabinet members pointed out that "approving the results of the Agreement is of import to the national security of the United States, to our bilateral relationship with Palau, and to our broader strategic interests in the Asia-Pacific region." Madam Secretary, what update can you give us regarding your department's efforts to secure passage of the Palau agreement?

Response: As noted in the question, approving the results of the Agreement is of critical importance to the national security of the United States, to our bilateral relationship with Palau, and to our broader strategic interests in the Asia Pacific region. As such, the Administration transmitted legislation to Congress that would approve the Agreement and has worked with the Committee to try to identify appropriate offsets for funding the Agreement. The Administration stands ready to work with Congress to approve this critically important piece of legislation.

29. I commend DOI on its ongoing development of a 15-year Management Plan for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, which was established by then-President Bush in 2009. Please explain what other proposals your agency intends to take or is currently undertaking to support the monument?

Response: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, including the Trench Unit and the Volcanic Unit, as National Wildlife Refuges under Secretarial Order 3284, dated January 16, 2009. Management activities include convening the Marianas Trench Monument Advisory Committee, consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service on their responsibilities for fisheries-related issues, and coordinating with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on monument planning. On an operational basis, the Service fulfills its primary management responsibility by issuing special use permits that allow scientists and explorers like James Cameron's historic expedition to the trench. The FWS routinely consults and coordinates with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Defense, and the Friends of the Trench.

30. In January 2012, President Obama signed an Executive Order and announced new initiatives to significantly increase travel and tourism in the U.S. Back in October 2011, the Department of the Interior released a 50-state report outlining some of the country's most promising ways to reconnect Americans to the natural world. Unfortunately, the U.S. territories were left out. And then DOI rolled out the improved Recreation.gov website and the website did not include treasures such as the American Memorial Park managed by the National Park Service or the Marianas Trench National Monument Volcanic and Trench units managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, your staff worked with our office for months to update the website to reflect these areas. I am asking for your commitment to include the U.S. Territories when applicable in all reports, promotions, etc. This will complement the President's initiatives to increase travel and tourism in every state and territory.

Response: Yes, the Administration is committed to the empowerment and economic growth of US-affiliated insular communities.

31. The illegal international trade in timber and wildlife has skyrocketed in recent years, and has been linked to organized crime syndicates and terrorist groups. While the Lacey Act has proven successful in keeping these criminal elements out of the United States, forests and wildlife in other countries are being decimated. Will you work with other federal agencies, foreign governments, and the conservation community to fight illegal trafficking of wildlife and timber?

Response: In addition to being one of the lead federal agencies enforcing the Lacey Act, the FWS works closely with the other land managing agencies within the Department that enforce the Lacey Act across hundreds of millions of acres of public and tribal lands, as well as with other Departments and foreign governments. The FWS also enforces many other U.S. laws that protect wildlife, including the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The FWS will continue to work with its partners to ensure the success of the Lacey Act.

In July of this year, President Obama signed Executive Order 13648 on Combating Wildlife Trafficking that establishes a cabinet-level Task Force, led by the Attorney General and the Secretaries of State and Interior. Under the terms of that Executive Order, the Administration is developing a comprehensive program to work with African nations to combat wildlife poaching; prioritizing the targeting and prosecution of international syndicates engaged in illegal trafficking of wildlife for sale in consumer countries; and working with receiving countries to

stop the transshipment and sale of ivory and other illegal wildlife parts. The Task Force is in the process of developing a National Strategy to address this problem. The first meeting of the Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking, which will make recommendations to the task force, was held December 16, 2013.

32. From the brown tree snake on Guam and the Mariana Islands, to pythons in the everglades, to Asian carp in the Mississippi River, invasive species cost the United States over $120 billion a year. What are your thoughts on the severity of our problems with invasive species, and how will you work to minimize the damage they cause? What additional tools do you need?

Response: Addressing invasive species is a high priority for the Department. The Department requested an overall increase of about $23 million for invasive species prevention, management, control, and coordination in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget. Invasive species impact the Department's mission and purposes for which we manage public lands and their resources in myriad ways, including the services these lands offer, such as recreation, hydropower, water supplies, agriculture, and ranching. They also impact ecosystem functions including pollination, water filtration, climate stability, pest control, and erosion protection, wildfires, and other natural hazards. The environmental, economic, and social impacts of invasive species and their control or eradication can be costly, controversial, and complex. Prevention of their introduction, establishment, and spread is the most cost effective and least disruptive approach to managing the threats these species pose to the nation's public trust resources.

The Department has forged strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and other federal agencies in order to manage invasive species impacts on the resources it manages. The Department addresses a wide variety of invasive species through prevention, Early Detection and Rapid Response, control and management, restoration, research, and education and public awareness. This has resulted in tangible improvements in water quality, species recovery, habitat restoration, and overall invasive species management in ecosystems.

The Department is also working on several new tools to more effectively address the threat of invasive species through preventative and management efforts. These include an ongoing effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regulations and regulatory processes used to implement our existing authorities to address invasive species. We are developing an MOU with several key industry and state partners that will lead to voluntary actions to better manage the risks associated with harmful non-native species. We continue to improve our ability to detect, assess, and control key invasive species through research and environmental modeling. We have also become more effective at assessing the risk of invasive species more rapidly while

maintaining scientific accuracy and public transparency. The Department is also reviewing several other options for improving its ability to prevent invasive species introductions, and we appreciate Congressional interest in this issue. We look forward to working with Congress and other stakeholders and partners to tackle the significant problems that invasive species cause.

Questions from Rep. Wittman

33. Do you see any inherent conflict between the development of the five-year OCS leasing plan as mandated by the OCS Lands Act and the National Ocean Policy (NOP) and its call for regions to develop marine spatial plans that you as Secretary are subsequently bound to follow per the Executive Order establishing National Ocean Policy? What impact would NOP have on permitted activities like energy development?

Response: Neither the National Ocean Policy nor marine planning creates or changes existing regulations or statutory authorities that the Department's bureaus operate under. The final Implementation Plan for the NOP was developed with extensive stakeholder input and gives states and communities greater input in federal decisions, among other things. The Implementation Plan supports voluntary regional marine planning, which will bring together ocean users to share information to plan how we use, sustain and better understand our ocean resources.

34. Do you support the goal of wetland restoration and would you support continued authorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act?

Response: The Department supports the goal of wetland restoration and reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. The Department testified in strong support of H.R. 2208, the North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act, at a hearing before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, on August 2, 2013. The Department also supports legislation to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp, funding from which is also critical to protecting wetlands that offer breeding, feeding, and resting areas for migratory waterfowl.

35. In June the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (WHHCC) federal advisory council sent a letter to you asking for the creation of a dedicated spot for hunting and recreational shooting on the Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Councils (RACs). What is your position on providing sportsmen with this opportunity to have a dedicated voice in policy decision impact federal lands?

Response: The Bureau of Land Management takes seriously the work of the Resource Advisory Councils, which provide an opportunity for individuals from a wide-range of backgrounds and

interests to have a voice in the management of public lands. Under BLM regulations, each RAC must include balanced representation of the following three broad categories: Commercial/commodity interests; Environmental/historical groups (including wild horse and burro and dispersed recreation); and state and local government, Indian tribes, and the public at large. Hunting and recreational shooting interests may be represented in any of the three categories (as noted on the RAC application):

- Category 1: Developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;
- Category 2: Dispersed recreation interests
- Category 3: Public at large

One-third of RAC member positions become open each year, generally between January and March. The BLM's senior management will continue to consider changes to categories or the addition of special subcategories for interests like hunting and shooting sports. The Department recognizes that sportsmen and women care deeply about the public lands and we encourage them to apply for RAC appointments.

Questions for Secretary Jewell
House Natural Resource Committee
July 17, 2013

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Questions from Rep. Young

36. As you know, the State of Alaska recently submitted a very comprehensive Exploration Plan and Special Use Permit Application to the Department pursuant to Section 1002(e) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act or "ANILCA." Section 1002(e) is very clear on what must happen when such a plan is submitted, including a requirement that the Secretary of the Interior "shall promptly publish notice of the application and the text of the plan in the Federal Register and newspapers of general circulation in the State." When do you anticipate publishing this notice?

37. Section 1002(e) also states that "the Secretary shall hold at least one public hearing in the State for purposes of receiving the comments and views of the public on the plan." When do you anticipate holding such a hearing (or hearings)?

Response to 36 and 37: Based on long-standing legal interpretation, FWS has found that the underlying statute and its 1983-84 implementing regulations bar the Service from considering the exploration plan and permit application.

38. In June 2013, during a speech, former Deputy Secretary, David Hayes, announced that the Interior Department will soon be asking the general public to identify areas that should and should not be open to oil and gas leasing. While listening and receiving feedback from the public is important, without access to extensive data and teams of biologists, geophysicists, engineers, and geologists, what level of importance will be placed on an individual's suggestions in determining where is most appropriate for oil and gas leasing? Can you provide more information regarding this change in policy?

Response: The Department, as steward of our public lands and waters and through rigorous dialogue with stakeholders, must strike the right balance of meeting the interests of local communities and public owners of the resources as the President's "all of the above" energy strategy is advanced. The Department's management actions will continue to be developed and implemented in accordance with applicable law and regulations and supported by the best available science.

Questions from Rep. Bordallo

39. Given the current fiscal climate, priorities need to be made. In general, where do you place invasive species prevention and mitigation in your list of priorities? Specifically, the brown tree snake is responsible for many bird extinctions, loss of pollinating bats and increased power outages on our island. In response, the Refuge has installed the Multispecies Barrier Fence to keep out them out of 125 acres of the refuge. Unfortunately, with only six full time refuge staff we cannot do any intensive invasive species removal inside the fence. The refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan entails removal of the brown tree snake and eventual reintroduction of our birds. Do you foresee continued funding and support for brown tree snake mitigation?

Response: Addressing invasive species is a high priority for the Department. The Department's FY 2014 Budget Request sought an overall increase of about $23 million for invasive species prevention, management, control, and coordination. The USGS requested an increase of $500,000 to address the highest priority needs for control and management of brown tree snake, including research on the development of landscape scale methods to suppress or eradicate snakes on Guam and to detect and eradicate incipient populations of snakes accidentally transported to other islands such as Hawaii and the Northern Mariana Islands.

While the budget request reduces FWS's invasive species control and management funding by $507,000, the FWS will dedicate a small portion of Aquatic Invasive Species funding to continue to support the program. We intend to continue to provide funding for this effort, but priorities have shifted with growing concerns about the spread of continental aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp.

The FWS also continues to work closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services' brown tree snake program on Guam. Since its implementation, the rate of snake captures associated with cargo shipped to Hawaii has declined dramatically. The growth in United States military presence on Guam is causing increased air and sea traffic between Guam and other regions in the Pacific, including the continental United States. As a result, the Department of Defense's responsibility for brown tree snake control and interdiction at military and commercial facilities related to the military build-up on Guam was a component of a recently completed ESA Section 7 consultation with the FWS.

40. Guam is a beautiful island for both residents and our many tourists. It is also strategically important for the U.S. military. Recently, the Interior announced the Sentinel Landscape Partnership, a Public-Private collaboration aimed at preserving agricultural

lands, assisting military readiness and protecting wildlife habitat. I believe Guam may be a prime candidate for the program and am very interested in seeing how the pilot program fares at Base Lewis-McChord. Is this integrated approach something we may see more of from the Interior and what is the timeline for expansion of the program?

Response: This pilot program is a great example of coordination and collaboration between federal and local governments while showing how Farm Bill programs help support agriculture, rural America, the environment and national defense. Military readiness and wildlife habitat protection can go hand-in-hand with interagency, local government and private collaboration. The Sentinel Landscapes pilot will preserve the land's natural character and permanently protect critical habitat for declining species that could be listed under the Endangered Species Act, which is important for national defense, local economies and the conservation of natural resources. The goal is to restore and permanently protect critical habitat for three species that are proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, protect private and agricultural lands from development, and enable DoD's training mission to continue.

41. In Guam, the U.S. War in the Pacific National Historical Park houses some of our most beautiful places but more importantly it commemorates the WWII battles held in the Pacific Theatre. In response to sequestration there have been hiring freezes and program cutbacks. Like you mentioned in your statement and in addressing a similar question by Congresswoman Tsongas, these are unsustainable actions. If we do not solve the whole of sequestration will we be looking at permanent closure of some of our National Parks and refuges?

Response: The sequester was designed to be inflexible, damaging, and indiscriminate, and it is. The process put in place by the sequestration undermines the work that needs to be done on many fronts, and we will continue to see impacts across the country in all our bureaus during the coming months. The Department faces challenges across our bureaus to deal with the impacts of the sequestration. The short term steps that we will take –freezing hiring, eliminating seasonal positions, and cutting back on our programs and services – are not sustainable, as these actions which are eroding our workforce, shrinking our summer field season, and deferring important work cannot be continued in future years without further severe consequences to our mission.

42. The budget also affects the maintenance and improvement of our refuge. The roads in the refuge are in deplorable condition with potholes so extensive that traffic has moved to the dirt shoulder. The refuge has yet to be connected to an outside source of water and operations are dependent on roof rainwater collection and trucking in water during the dry

season. Needless to say, visitation has decrease by 10% due to these factors. How will the Interior keep up with maintenance of the current parks and refuges?

Response: We have to balance addressing the most urgent needs, including for recreation; species and habitat conservation; and preservation of landscapes and historic and cultural resources with addressing the deferred maintenance backlog. The deferred maintenance backlog of the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as challenges faced by other bureaus, will only increase as a consequence of the sequester. The NPS is prioritizing capital investment funding to address its most important assets, such as mission-critical infrastructure and historic buildings and is removing non-essential assets, which reduces the number of structures that contribute to the backlog. The FWS is continuing to refine its condition assessment process, using maintenance action teams, actively pursuing local partnerships, carefully prioritizing budgets, and disposing of unneeded assets.

43. On Guam, there is already increased pressure on our resources due to global climate change. Steps need to be taken to both address the causes of climate change and prepare for climate change impacts. The refuge recently connected an 84 solar panel array to the grid to both offset the 40% rise in electric rates this fall and to help decrease carbon emissions. I commend you for your commitment to massive renewable energy projects in Nevada and Arizona but global climate change is a problem for everyone. What plans does the Interior have to expand its alternative energy infrastructure in more local settings to decrease our carbon footprint? Does the Interior have plans to seek partnerships either public or private to accomplish this goal?

Response: Interior is working broadly to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy at all levels. On Guam, the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) assisted the Guam Energy Task Force in developing a strategic energy plan that sets a goal of reducing Guam's dependence on fossil fuels by 20% by the year 2020 ("20x20 goal"). With continued funding from OIA and with the support of NREL staff, the Guam Energy Task Force recently completed an energy action plan that identifies near-term strategies that will likely have the greatest impact on reducing Guam's fossil fuel energy consumption. Through a partnership with the NREL, the Department is supporting the design, development, and ultimate deployment of small-scale, modular, renewable energy/diesel hybrid systems that harness local renewable energy resources and will reduce dependence on expensive diesel fuel in remote communities around the world.

Questions for Secretary Jewell
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Questions from Rep. Cramer

44. Secretary Jewell, as you know, the development of oil and gas is important for our energy security and high standard of living, not just in North Dakota, but the entire nation. Many of my constituents are justifiably concerned about the Interior Department's actions relating to the greater sage grouse, which would affect more than 800 square miles in three southwestern counties in North Dakota. I am greatly concerned about the Bureau of Land Management amending resource management plans to include "priority habitat areas" in resource management plans, which have a statutory responsibility to ensure multiple use activities, including mining, grazing, energy development, and agriculture. I understand that the BLM has already delayed or cancelled many projects tin several western states as a result of this process. Can you assure me that your Department will follow its multiple-use mandates under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Multiple-Use and Sustained Yield Act with regard to sage grouse under other ESA activities?

Response: The Department and the Bureau of Land Management are fully committed to sustainably managing public lands for multiple uses both now and in the future. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 defines multiple-use as "the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people." Conservation of fish and wildlife habitat are important uses for which the Bureau of Land Management manages the public lands, as are mining, grazing, energy development, and many other uses. The land use planning process helps us determine the best use of resources on a local level.

The BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service are currently working through the unprecedented task of amending resource management plans in several western states to identify and incorporate appropriate conservation measures to conserve, enhance, and restore greater sage-grouse habitat by reducing, eliminating, or minimizing threats to habitat. In North Dakota, the BLM is working in close cooperation with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in developing the draft Environmental Impact Statement covering sage-grouse population areas within the state. The goals of this effort are to provide better protections for greater sage-grouse while continuing to support the use of public lands for mineral extraction, recreation, and other uses.

45. Secretary Jewell, within the Endangered Species Act "The Secretary may exclude any area from critical habitat if he determines that the benefits from such exclusion outweigh the benefits of specifying such area as part of the critical habitat, unless he determines,

based on the best scientific and commercial data available, that the failure to designate such area as critical habitat will result in the extinction of the species concerned." In making a determination to exclude certain areas as critical habitat will you give considerable weight to not only private landowner interests, but the interests of individuals and employees of industries utilizing our nation's vast resources? Will you take this ability to exclude certain areas seriously?

Response: Under the Endangered Species Act, the FWS and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service designate critical habitat for each listed species; these are areas that are needed for the species' conservation and recovery. Critical habitat does not create a refuge nor necessarily restrict development. It only affects federal lands or lands where there is a federal nexus such as the issuance of a permit or federal funding. Along with the benefits to listed species, the Services must also consider the economic impacts, the impacts on national security, and other relevant potential impacts in making designations of critical habitat. Probable economic impacts resulting from the designation of critical habitat are assessed in an economic analysis.

On August 28, 2013, the Services published a final rule to revise the regulations implementing the ESA so that a draft economic analysis of the probable impacts of a critical habitat designation is completed and made available for public comment at the same time the critical habitat proposal itself is published. Publishing a proposed critical habitat rule and making available the associated economic analysis at the same time means that public stakeholders will have more information at the time they are reviewing critical habitat proposals.

Under the new regulations, a summary of each economic analysis will be published in the Federal Register along with the proposed critical habitat designation, while the analysis itself will be made available on the Web (www.regulations.gov and other appropriate venues). The final rule also codifies standard Services' practices for assessing the likely impacts of proposed critical habitat designations.

The Services are also planning to publish a proposal in the near future that will provide more clarity on the process for excluding lands from critical habitat designation. We recognize that understanding this process is important for the public, and we will request public input on the proposal. This proposal represents one important part of our efforts to improve the implementation of the ESA.

46. Secretary Jewell, on June 13, 2013, the Fish & Wildlife Service issued a Federal Register notice proposing to de-list (remove from the Endangered Species Act list) the gray

wolf in most areas of the United States, an action I agree with – and I want to confirm you stand by this action. Do you? I understand this rule is expected to be finalized in September, correct? If the Fish & Wildlife Service is sued by environmentalists, will you defend the agency's actions on this delisting?

Draft Response: The actions that were published in June 2013 – to remove the gray wolf from the List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife but to maintain endangered status for the Mexican wolf by listing it as a subspecies – were proposed because the best available scientific and commercial information indicates that the currently listed entity is not a valid species under the ESA and that the Mexican wolf is an endangered subspecies.

The Department is committed ensuring that the public is well informed about the agency's actions related to the gray wolf and has the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed rule. On September 30, 2013, the FWS announced that it has reinitiated a scientific peer review process to obtain an independent and objective peer review of the science behind the proposal. The peer review process will be sponsored and conducted by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, a respected interdisciplinary research center at the University of California – Santa Barbara. The center will vet prospective reviewers to verify that they are able to provide an objective review and have no conflict of interest, culminating in the selection of 5 or 6 well-qualified scientists with professional qualifications and relevant experience.

Because of the significant public interest in this issue, it is important to ensure that all interested parties have the opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed rule. With that in mind, FWS extended the public comment period on the proposed rule for a second time. In addition, to provide a forum for additional stakeholder input, the FWS also held five public hearings on the proposal, including in Denver, CO, Albuquerque, NM, Pinetop, AZ, and Washington, DC.

47. On April 2, 2013, OSM Director Joe Pizarchik responded to a letter from Chairman Hastings stating that since 2009 OSM has spent approximately $8.6 million in developing a new stream buffer zone rule. The 2008 rule that has yet to be implemented took five years to complete, including 40,000 public comments, two proposed rules, and 5,000 pages of environmental analysis from 5 different agencies. Is such a comprehensive rewrite of OSM regulations justified or warranted at this time?

Response: While the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 has resulted in significant improvements in contemporary mining, recent studies have substantiated that adverse environmental impacts continue in certain situations long after mine reclamation has been

completed. Streams have been adversely affected biologically from continuing water-quality discharges from reclaimed mines. In some cases, streams have been dewatered due to underground mining activities. Forest lands that sustain water quality and habitat have been fragmented or lost. Therefore, the Department, through the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, has undertaken this rulemaking initiative, which is using the best science to modernize the bureau's rules in order to better protect streams from adverse effects of surface coal mining. OSM is currently developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the rule that will analyze alternatives to address the impacts of burying and mining through streams, including the protection of aquatic communities in streams located on, adjacent to, and downstream from coal mining operations. The draft will also analyze alternatives to provide for the restoration of native forests eliminated during future mining. Finally, it will consider alternatives to further enhance restoration of mined lands to their approximate original contour in accordance with SMCRA.

48. The 2008 stream buffer rule has never been implemented nationwide since OSM agreed to rewrite the rule as part of a settlement agreement. A legal challenge to OSM's existing rule was recently reinstituted. Do you plan to defend OSM's existing rule against legal challenge, or allow anti-coal groups to "sue and settle" the case as they did in 2010?

Response: The Federal government has filed motions for summary judgment in this litigation (*National Parks Conservation Ass'n v. Jewell* and *Coal River Mountain Watch et al. v. Jewell*), requesting, among other things, that the court vacate the 2008 Stream Buffer Zone Rule, reinstate the prior regulations, and remand the matter for further rulemaking because the defendants confessed legal error in failing to conduct consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

49. In BLM's proposed rule governing the use of hydraulic fracturing on public lands, trade secret information can be withheld from disclosure rather than being submitted to BLM. However, the rule requires operators to make trade secret claims and provide the required justification for those claims. The rule even indicates that one of the tests for determining whether something is a trade secret is whether the disclosure of the information would harm the operator's competitive position. In fact, isn't it true that typically it is the service companies actually performing a hydraulic fracturing job that would hold the trade secret information, rather than the operators? Why did the BLM choose not to give service companies or other trade secret holders the opportunity to make and support their own claims? Does the BLM care about harm to a service company's competitive position? States like Colorado, upon which BLM based its rule, allow service companies to make and substantiate their own trade secret claims.

Response: The BLM holds the operator as the responsible party for any of the oil and gas operations and activities approved and permitted by the BLM in its name.
The personnel and service companies that the operator chooses for their operation have to meet the same conditions of the permit. The operator as the permitted party is responsible to fulfill the terms of the permit, but may claim trade secret protection on behalf of its suppliers and subcontractors, assuming that the information constitutes a trade secret.

50. In its cost-benefit analysis for the hydraulic fracturing rule, BLM estimates the likelihood of an incident resulting from a fracturing operation is 0.03 percent for a major incident and 2.70 percent for a minor incident. BLM does not indicate what it considers to be "major" or "minor" incidents. Would you be able to clarify in order to help us to determine whether these estimates are consistent with the findings of other organizations, such as the Groundwater Protection Council and the American Petroleum Institute that have also studied the environmental risks from fracturing operations?

Response: The BLM used those figures to illustrate the likelihood of possible risks associated with hydraulic fracturing. The BLM reviewed an Energy Institute survey of violations that occurred on shale wells and tight sands and shales in Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, and Texas. According to the BLM, data in the Energy Institute survey do not distinguish between minor versus major impacts across the hydraulic fracturing risks that the BLM's rule is intended to address. Nonetheless, the BLM looked at the violations classified as surface spills of fracturing fluids, casing and cementing, fracturing, groundwater contamination complaints, and characterized them as minor or major incidents. For purposes of the BLM rule, a major incident means noncompliance which causes or threatens immediate, substantial, and adverse impacts on public health and safety, the environment, production accountability, or royalty income. A minor incident means noncompliance which does not rise to the level of a major violation. The agency will continue to examine impacts cited by other groups, including the Groundwater Protection Council and the American Petroleum Institute.

Questions for Secretary Jewell
House Natural Resource Committee
July 17, 2013

DRAFT

Questions from Rep. Daines

51. Sage Grouse and Resource Management Plans:

As you know, Montana is heavily reliant on our resource management pretty heavily – for economic development, including for resource extraction, and outdoor recreation and tourism. I share your vision that these two goals (resource development and outdoor recreation) can co-exist. Another vital piece component of land management in Montana is local involvement. Land management decisions are best made right at home in Montana instead of here in Washington.

As you know, recently, the Bureau of Land Management issued three Resource Management Plans for public comment. The comment periods for these plans – Billings, Miles City, and the Hi-Line – were short. Both of our Montana Senators and I requested an extension of the comment period, as well as many of our constituents, due to the serious implications for resource management outlined in the RMPs, especially on Greater Sage Grouse conservation planning, outlined in the RMPs. Much of the proposed boundaries for priority concern and the Bureau's restrictions on activities in these areas have potential to impact the livelihoods of many Montanans. We're learning development is projected to increase and bring more economic benefits to our communities and grazing continues to be a central part of life throughout proposed Greater Sage Grouse habitat. Conserving this species is a high priority for our state and local communities. They have a lot to say about it and have much to contribute to your Department's planning process.

On May 22, 2013, I sent my a letter to you requesting a 120 day extension on the comment period for the Billings-Pompeys Pillar, Hi-Line, and Miles City Resource Management Plans on May 22, 2013. And did not receive a response until later in the day on July 17th. Why is that?

Can you explain why the Bureau refused to extend the comment period?

Response: The Department and the BLM apologize for the delay in the response. We appreciate the importance of these plans as they relate to the economies of local communities and states. For this reason, the BLM has emphasized participation by the public, partners, and other agencies. In accordance with planning regulations, all of the draft plans were made available for public review and comment for a full 90 days, with administrative review copies available to cooperating agencies at various times throughout the planning process. While we acknowledge the large scope of the documents, the 90-day public comment period could not be extended without jeopardizing the BLM's commitment to addressing greater sage-grouse habitat conservation in the time-frame necessary to inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's

Endangered Species Act listing decision which must be completed by the court-mandated date of September 30, 2015.

In addition to the formal 90-day comment period, the BLM held 34 formal public scoping meetings, conducted five community economic workshops, and provided numerous briefings for cooperating agencies, user groups, environmental organizations, industries, county commissions, tribes, congressional staffs, other agencies, and the BLM's Resource Advisory Councils. Collectively, the Montana plan revisions involved 57 cooperating agencies, including counties, state and federal agencies, tribes and grazing/conservation districts. Our managers and planning teams addressed and incorporated public scoping comments and issues submitted throughout the planning process and have provided newsletters and website updates to keep our stakeholders informed of our progress. We value public input and will continue to accept substantive comments throughout the process.

In the mega-settlement which you had referenced in a response letter to my constituents as the reason you could not extend the comment period, was just only the timing of the listing of the GSG species agreed to in that settlement? Or was the timing and issuance of proposed RMPs part of the settlement?

Response: The issuance of the proposed RMPs was not specifically part of the settlement of the ESA Deadline Multi-District Litigation filed against the Fish and Wildlife Service, but it is a critical component in the larger effort to conserve greater sage-grouse and potentially avoid the need for a listing at the time of the required decision.

Moving forward with Sage Grouse conservation in Montana, how closely is the BLM going to rely on state data?

Response: Sage-grouse conservation in Montana and the Dakotas is a multi-jurisdictional challenge due to fragmented land ownership patterns across large portions of sage-grouse habitat, making a collaborative approach essential. The BLM has been working with state fish and wildlife agencies, local working groups, and other organizations throughout the BLM's National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy process. The BLM has a long history of working cooperatively with the State of Montana, including using their data and mapping of sage-grouse habitat in the BLM plans. The Montana/Dakotas BLM is also involved in the Montana Governor's Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Advisory Council, and we will consider the final state management plan when we formulate our proposed management actions for each land use plan.

Questions for Secretary Jewell
House Natural Resource Committee
July 17, 2013

DRAFT

52. Sage Grouse and Hard Rock Mining:

Madame Secretary: I have a quote from the HiLine Draft Resource Management Plan and this is what it says:

"The management of wildlife resources and habitat outside of special designations would seldom prevent locatable mineral development, but in order to avoid significant impact to wildlife, special conditions and possible relocation of exploration or mining development could occur. This relocation, as well as any additional mitigation, would create time delays and further expenses for locatable mineral development if not closing the area to mineral entry through withdrawal."

It's my understanding that the determining factor in the location of mineral deposits is the geology of an area. So if that's the case how do you propose to relocate [mineral] "exploration or mining development" in a manner that's practical and consistent with that does not seem like a practical solution to me nor does it seem to be consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976?

Did you have any economic (mining) geologist or mining engineers work on this document? If there had been, I don't understand how doubt the preeeding s type of statement could would have been included in the Resource Management Plan.

Response: The BLM uses an interdisciplinary team, including solid minerals specialists, in the development of its RMP revisions and amendments. Information in the RMP is used to guide activities on BLM lands. When a Notice or Plan of Operations for a mine is filed with the BLM, the proposed exploration or mining of locatable minerals is reviewed to confirm that the operations conducted will comply with the RMP and not cause unnecessary or undue environmental degradation. If necessary, conditions or mitigating measures may be applied. Such measures, as referenced in the RMPs, could include relocation of infrastructure such as access routes, power lines, tailings impoundments, or leach pads. As analyzed in the quoted RMP section, these conditions of approval or modifications may be more likely in areas identified as valued wildlife habitat. Therefore, mineral development in wildlife habitat may be delayed or modified to include more prescriptive mitigation measures.

BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, January 27, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Jan 27, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT AREA. The AP (1/26) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Friday "toured Broad Canyon outside of Las Cruces before headlining a public meeting centered on federal legislation for protecting the Organ Mountains and other scenic areas in Dona Ana County." Jewell said "the area has a rich history as well as many opportunities for enjoying the outdoors through hiking and hunting." Jewell said, "Over the past few years, we've seen a groundswell of support from many in the community to ensure that these landscapes are celebrated and passed on to the generations of New Mexicans to come. Those efforts also have the potential to drive significant economic benefits to the region through a boost in tourism and outdoor recreation." AP coverage was also picked up by the Washington Times (1/24, 417K), the Houston Chronicle (1/24, 2.26M), and the San Francisco Chronicle (1/26, 2.88M).

In a separate story, the AP (1/26) reports that "several hundred people were expected to join Jewell, officials with the Bureau of Land Management and New Mexico's two US senators for a public hearing Friday afternoon in Las Cruces to talk about the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument."

The El Paso (TX) Times (1/26, Soular, 247K) reports that "supporters speculated" the visit "meant the Obama administration was at least considering a proposal to create the monument via a sometimes-controversial 1906 law that gives US presidents the power to grant monument status to public lands without approval from Congress." Also, "many opponents to the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument interpreted Jewell's visit in the same light, saying they worried Obama may be on track to declare the lands a national monument." Opponents "argued that the president should allow the national monument issue to be decided via the legislative route." The story also appeared at the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (1/26, 59K) and the Silver City (NM) Sun-News (1/27, 24K).

The El Paso (TX) Times (1/26, Soular, 247K) reports that "some 750 people packed into a ballroom at the Ramada Palms Hotel in Las Cruces to express their views to Jewell and to US Democratic Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall, who are sponsoring a congressional bill to create the half-million-acre monument. Some people were turned away at the door because the building was at capacity." According to the article, "attendees had wide-ranging reasons for supporting the measure, such as preserving wildlands for future generations, providing places for recreation and keeping it from development." However, "there was also diversity among opponents. Some criticized the national monument measure, contending it would hurt future growth, negatively impact ranching and result in more federal governmental control in the area." The story also appeared at the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (1/26, 59K).

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/26, 288K) reports that "cheers and jeers erupted at a packed public meeting Friday in which US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell heard opinions for and against proposals to designate a ribbon of land in southern New Mexico a national monument." According to the article, "applause and shouts accompanied nearly every comment, both for and against the broader monument footprint." The article notes that "to close the two-hour meeting, Jewell asked for a show of hands in the somewhat thinned crowd: who supported no monument at all, a smaller monument or a larger monument – and the last show of hands won by far."

Also covering the story are the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/26, 288K), KDBC-TV El Paso, TX (1/26, 139) KTSM-TV El Paso, TX (1/26, 970), and KFOX-TV El Paso, TX (1/26, 2K).

HOUSE DEMOCRATS URGE INTERIOR TO TAKE ACTION, PROTECT NEW LAND. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/26, 705) reports that a group of 109 House Democrats is urging Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to push President Obama "to use his executive authority to bypass a deeply divided Congress and designate more national monuments." According to the article, "led by Reps. Peter DeFazio of Oregon and Raúl Grijalva of Arizona, the top Democrats on the Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, respectively, the group submitted a letter today to Jewell urging the president to use the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate more national monuments." In the "letter, signed by more than half the House Democratic Caucus, including pro-energy Democrats like California Rep. Jim Costa, they wrote that in the current partisan environment, 'it's becoming nearly impossible for Congress to make critical conservation decisions.'"

The Huffington Post (1/24, Sheppard, 11.54M) reports that "the letter notes that the House Natural Resources Committee had hearings on eight of 37 proposed land designations in the 113th Congress, and only one was passed in the House." In a statement, they wrote, "With only 121 legislative days scheduled for 2014, the time to

act is running out."

Also reporting on the story is The Oregonian (1/26, 888K).

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS TO BLM ADVISORY COUNCIL. The Meade County (SD) Times Tribune (1/26, 3K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "announced new appointments to the Bureau of Land Management citizen-based Dakotas Resource Advisory Council, which advises the BLM on public land issues." BLM State Director Jamie Connell said, "The Resource Advisory Councils provide invaluable management advice and expertise to the BLM in Montana and the Dakotas. I'm happy to welcome our new members. I want to thank them for their commitment and service, and I look forward to their ideas and input as we strive toward reaching the common goal of effective, multiple-use land management across our region."

BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUPPORT BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Idaho Statesman (1/27, 205K) reports that the Blaine County commissioners are "drafting a resolution in support of the concept of a Boulder-White Clouds National Monument after 50 people gave their views on the issue Wednesday night." According to the article, "many in the crowd agreed with former Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus and a coalition of environmental, sportsmen and recreation groups that the time has come for more protection for the two mountain ranges and the public lands in the East Fork of the Salmon River watershed."

INTERAGENCY GROUP ON INSULAR AREAS TO HOLD MEETING. The Samoa News (1/26, 682) reports that "governors and Congressional delegates from US territories will convene later next month in Washington D.C. for the annual meeting of the federal Interagency Group on Insular Areas, and the session, which will be held at the US Department of Interior's conference room, covers a wide range of issues, according to the meeting agenda." The IGIA co-chairs by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and David Agnew, Deputy Assistant to the US President & Director of Intergovernmental Affairs will "provide speeches at the opening of the one-day meeting on Feb. 24, after which governors and delegates will make their presentations."

PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING DISCUSSING IVORY TRADE. The Maine Antique Digest (1/26) reports on The Proposal for a National Ban on Ivory. The article notes that a Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking was created by Executive Order and signed by President Obama on July 1, 2013. Jessica Kershaw, spokeswoman for the Interior Department, discussed "what was currently being considered by the advisory council to the task force." Kershaw said: "Ideas being considered and discussed by the advisory council include administrative actions that the US Fish and Wildlife Service could take to increase restrictions on import and export; and to impose strict controls on domestic elephant ivory trade, effectively ending commercial ivory trade within the United States."

INTERIOR MAP PROVIDES ONGOING AWARENESS OF NATURAL HAZARDS. The Directions Magazine (1/26, 114K) reports that "a new Interior Department website offers the public as well as federal, state and local emergency management communities online maps containing the latest available information on earthquakes, earthquake shakemaps, streamflow data and floods, volcanoes and wildfires, as well as information on severe weather hazards." According to the article, "the Interior Geospatial Emergency Management System (IGEMS), managed by the department's Office of Emergency Management, provides ongoing awareness of natural hazards, enabling individuals to monitor and analyze natural hazard events as they occur."

PALAU AMBASSADOR SEEKS APPROVAL OF FUNDING AGREEMENT. The Islands Business (1/27) reports that "Palau Ambassador to the United States Hersey Kyota is asking American officials to approve the 2010 Compact funding agreement between their two countries." According to the article, "the agreement would provide steadily decreasing US assistance to Palau, totaling approximately US$215 million, for fiscal years 2011 through 2024" Kyota's letter was "addressed to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OUTDOOR RETAILER WINTER MARKET. The AP (1/26, Foy) reports that Peter Metcalf, CEO of Salt Lake City-based Black Diamond Inc., introduced Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "his company's 'soft' and 'sensual' line of jackets and stretch-woven pants as the Outdoor Retailer Winter Market opened Wednesday."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF COASTAL WETLANDS GRANTS. Additional coverage of the "$16.5 million in grants to support 21 critical coastal wetland projects in 12 states" was provided by the Kansas City (MO) infoZine (1/26, 175), the Portland (ME) Press Herald (1/27, 279K), and the RealEstateRama (1/24, 210).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PILT FUNDING. Additional coverage of PILT funding was provided by USA Today (1/24, Chebium, 5.82M) and the AP (1/24, Neary).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SAGE GROUSE MEETING IN COLORADO. Additional coverage of the sage grouse meeting attended by Interior officials in Colorado was provided by the Washington Times (1/27, Wolfgang, Richardson, 417K) and the Steamboat Springs (CO) Pilot (1/24, 26K).

IZEMBEK ROAD DECISION CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Alaska Dispatch (1/24, 7K), former governor of Alaska Frank Murkowski writes that the decision by the FWS "to deny to the people of King Cove road access to the all-weather Cold Bay airport" in order to protect birds is "outrageous." He notes that "at the same time", FWS is "planning to disturb the peace of a long established bovine population, sending a very different message to the cows on Chirikof Island." In conclusion, Murkowski asks: "Can't the Fish and Wildlife Service take care of the people at King Cove with a one-lane gravel road to provide them safe, reliable, and affordable medical access in times of bad seas or bad weather in the area? And for that matter, can't we carve out one small island and leave the cows alone to rule themselves without being milked by big government?"

CONGRESS URGED TO PAY UNESCO DUES. The San Antonio Express-News (1/26, 746K) editorializes that "the assertion recently by a spokeswoman for UNESCO that US nonpayment of dues will not affect the nomination of San Antonio's missions for World Heritage Site designation was good to hear." However, the paper notes that "politics dictate the United States' refusal to pay dues and it is not then far fetched that political payback might result." According to the editorial, "this is part of the reason San Antonio Democratic Rep. Joaquin Castro, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, recently urged resumption of the dues in the recent omnibus spending bill." Although the "$700,000 didn't make it into the bill," the paper argues that "it should have."

SKI INDUSTRY SUPPORTS "WATER RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT." For the "Water Currents" blog of the National Geographic (1/24, 40.49M), Amy Kober of Amercian Rivers writes that the Aspen Skiing Company and the National Ski Areas Association are "currently supporting a bill that could dry up rivers, damage fish and wildlife habitat, and hurt fishing and boating." The HR 3189, the "Water Rights Protection Act," would "allow private water users to dry up rivers on public lands with no regard for other uses or needs." According to Kober, "the bill would prevent federal agencies within the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior from ensuring enough water flows in our rivers – which is essential for healthy streams, local economies, and endangered species."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

LAWMAKERS PROPOSE NATIONAL PARK STATUS FOR PULLMAN. The AP (1/24) reports that "members of Illinois' congressional delegation say they're introducing federal legislation to create a national park in Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood." Sens. Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk, along with Rep. Robin Kelly, "announced Friday that they're introducing a proposal that'd give Pullman national park status." AP coverage was also picked up by the Washington Times (1/24, 417K).

The Chicago Tribune (1/26, Skiba, 2.32M) reports that "the lawmakers' proposal calls for the state to give the National Park Service the Pullman Factory Complex, including the clock tower building and other edifices on about 13 acres of land. Future land and buildings could be given to the federal government by donation, transfer or exchange only, the proposal says."

The Chicago Sun-Times (1/26, Schlikerman, 1.15M) reports that Sen. Dick Durbin said, "Creating the Pullman National Historical Park will allow the National Park Service to better represent America's cultural and ethnic diversity while providing a boost to the local economy." Rep Robin Kelly said, "This bill is for the Pullman community, where countless residents have worked heroically over decades to preserve and restore this national

treasure. And this bill is for future generations of Americans, who will one day visit Pullman and learn about the vital role it played in our nation's labor history and civil rights history."

Also reporting on the story is the Crain's Chicago Business (1/24, 158K).

FUTURE OF OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS UNDER DEBATE. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (1/26, 866K) reports that the Ozark National Scenic Riverways is "caught in a bitter battle over its future." Supporters of a plan released by the NPS argue "the park has been overwhelmed by visitors, especially during the summer, and the activity needs to reined in." On the other hand, opponents "say that's nonsense," and "some of them — mostly people living near the rivers — want the entire park to be stripped of federal control and handed over to the state." With the public comment period ending Feb. 7., "the last of four public meetings, held in places ranging from Van Buren, Mo., to Kirkwood, recently wrapped up," attracted "more than 1,500 people."

RIM OF THE VALLEY NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL FACES OPPOSITION. The San Gabriel Valley (CA) Tribune (1/25, 128K) reports that "designating nearly 400,000 acres from the coastal edge of the Santa Monica Mountains through Simi Hills, the Santa Susanna, Verdugo and San Gabriel mountains as a new National Recreation Area managed by the US National Park Service will be an uphill battle." The proposal "faces opposition from property rights groups, anti-government activists and the NPS itself which has said it doesn't have the money to take on new parks." and "although many grass-roots and even national environmental groups support the proposal, it suffers from confusion over where to place the boundaries and what to name it."

9/11 MUSEUM OFFICIALS DEFEND ADMISSION CHARGE. Newsday (1/26, 1.52M) reports that "officials at the 9/11 museum stood firm on their $24 admission charge Friday, saying the fee will keep the 'world- class museum' that showcases 'the best of humanity in the worst of times' open and financially secure." Joe Daniels, president of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, "said the museum has applied for additional federal funding," and "if the museum receives federal assistance, officials will 'absolutely' consider offering discounts." Meanwhile, "some other 9/11 families are opposed to a plan to entomb at the museum the unidentified remains of people killed in the attacks," and "they are asking elected officials to support a plan to have the National Park Service take over the memorial and museum."

GRAND TETON HAD STRONG YEAR DESPITE SHUTDOWN. The AP (1/27) reports that "Grand Teton officials say the national park had a strong year in 2013, despite a partial federal government shutdown and stagnating budgets." The park "saw 4.1 million visitors compared to 3.9 million in 2012." Park spokeswoman Jackie Skaggs said "the fact that we were shut down in a relatively popular month was encouraging and pleasantly surprising to be up by that much."

NPS EXCAVATING CASTLE ROCK CUT. The AP (1/26) reports that "a popular shortcut for Lake Powell boaters is being dredged as the National Park Service capitalizes on the lake's low water level." The article notes that "Castle Rock Cut has been closed since February 2013 because of low water." The NPS "hopes that deepening the cut will allow it to be used more often in the future."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (1/26, Betz).

HATTERAS LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION STONES THREATENED. The AP (1/26, Waggoner) reports that "as erosion continues to threaten the area" near the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse "and sand from storms such as Isabel and Sandy covers" the foundation stones, "Hatteras Island residents now want the stones moved to the lighthouse." However, "moving them is no easy job and probably expensive, especially since the Cape Hatteras National Seashore budget is $2 million less than it was in 2010." Instead, the NPS "says the stones will be uncovered one more time in the spring, making sure they still form a circle, and then will be mostly left to nature's forces."

ANNUAL TALLY FINDS 132 BALD EAGLES AT LAKE MEAD. The AP (1/26) reports that "an annual tally found 31 fewer bald eagles this year in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area than in 2013, but the number was still the fifth-highest total since counts began in 1991, officials said." Ross Haley, an NPS wildlife biologist, said, "It's lower, but it's not anything to be concerned about."

MULE DEER POPULATION DECLINES IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO. The AP (1/26, Mimiaga) reports that

"mule deer numbers are declining in Southwest Colorado, with populations near Groundhog Reservoir and Mesa Verde National Park suffering the largest declines." According to the article, "trends for the past 15 years show a consistent drop in estimated populations in the region."

MOUNT RUSHMORE SOCIETY'S GIFTS HELPS NPS. The Rapid City (SD) Journal (1/26, 103K) reports that the Mount Rushmore Society's contributions to the Mount Rushmore National Memorial "totaled $432,745 by the end of its 2013 fiscal year." The article notes that "the society's 2013 contributions included a $100,000 donation for continued sculpture maintenance, which is the first of five $100,000 gifts pledged for sculpture preservation."

EARHART RETIRES FROM FORT DONELSON NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD. The Clarksville (TN) Leaf Chronicle (1/24, 59K) reports that after thirty years with the NPS, Mitchell Earhart retired from the Fort Donelson National Battlefield on Jan. 9. Earhart started "his career at the national park as a Park Aide, soon being promoted to National Park Ranger, where he interpreted the resources of the battlefield, its stories, and of the national significance of the 1862 engagement and campaign." According to the article, "the preservation legacy that Earhart has left behind includes the various historic monuments, earthworks, stone walls, and buildings, on which he worked with his colleagues on numerous projects."

NPS RETHINKS APPROACH TO MIGRATORY SPECIES. For the "Goat" blog of the High Country (CO) News (1/26, 74K), Ben Goldfarb writes about "a new analysis, published by a team of wildlife experts last week in the journal Conservation Biology, that identifies a fundamental problem facing park managers around the country: 'The fragmented system of national parks is not sufficient to maintain migratory species or processes.'" The paper "offers a blueprint for addressing that challenge – one that could substantially change how America's best idea pursues its mission." He notes that "among the paper's strongest recommendations is for the 'functional (not statutory) expansion of park boundaries' – expanding NPS' influence without expanding its holdings."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SEEKS IDEAS TO HELP MANAGE WILD-HORSE OVERPOPULATION. The Washington Post (1/27, Bernstein, Dennis, 4.28M) reports that the BLM is tasked with the "decades-old problem" of managing the nation's wild horses. According to the article, "already it manages 50,000 horses and burros it has rounded up and sent to pastures and corrals," but the bureau is "rapidly running out of places for more." Now, by allocating "about $1.5 million from the new budget agreement for fiscal 2014, the agency is ready to take another shot at one of the West's most intractable wildlife problems." The BLM is "inviting anyone with a legitimate idea of how to curb the horse and burro populations to step up and propose it." The BLM will" study the ones it finds most promising and try again to find a solution."

REP. WALDEN SEEKS SAGE GROUSE COMMENT EXTENSION. The Ontario (OR) Argus Observer (1/26, 19K) reports that Rep. Greg Walden has announced that he has urged the BLM "to extend its comment period for its draft proposal for sage-grouse management." In a letter to BLM Deputy Director Neil Kornze, Walden wrote, "Many Oregonians have told me about the drastic impact this draft plan could have on rural communities throughout the West. They've also told me that complying with the deadline for comments is challenging due to the lack of availability of the document and complexity of the matter." He continued, "Extending the public comment period by 30 days would provide those wishing to provide comment the time they need to review the document and provide thorough comments. Local communities are most affected by the land management decisions, and residents deserve the opportunity to have their input incorporated into the final decisions."

Also reporting on the story is KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (1/26, 1K).

FEDERAL AGENCIES WORKING ON PLAN TO SAVE SAGE GROUSE. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (1/26, 56K) reports that "as sage grouse numbers and habitat shrink," the BLM and Forest Service have "scrambled to create a plan to save the bird from being listed as endangered." According to the article, "at stake is the management of mining, grazing, off-road travel, power lines, renewable energy and oil and gas development on more than 11 million acres in Idaho." But "while grazing is of primary concern locally, federal biologists don't consider it one of the state's top threats to sage grouse."

NEW MANAGER OF SAN JUAN ISLANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT NAMED. The Journal of the San Juans

(WA) (1/26) reports that Marcia deChadenedes has been named "the full-time manager of the San Juan Islands National Monument." The announcement was made Jan. 23 by BLM Spokane District Manager Daniel Picard. Picard said, "Marcia comes to us from the Colorado State Office, where she has been the National Conservation Lands Program Lead. She has several years of experience with the BLM in the NCL and National Monuments arena. Marcia also has an extensive background in museum management/ curation, national scenic trails, and cultural/heritage program development and management."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFERS DEAL TO LANDOWNERS IN PRAIRIE CHICKEN AREAS. The AP (1/26, Plushnick-masti) reports that "the federal government is offering first-of-its-kind legal protections for landowners who implement conservation measures to protect the lesser prairie chicken's dwindling populations across five states." Under the deal, "those who take steps to conserve and preserve habitat will receive a letter guaranteeing they will not be fined or prosecuted if lesser prairie chickens are found dead on their property." The decision is "designed to ease the concerns of landowners, ranchers and the energy industry that they would no longer be able to operate in the bird's habitat if the prairie grouse is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act." According to the article, "the agreement could also serve as a model for other areas where industry and landowners could be impacted by a threatened or endangered animal." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "As long as they continue to implement the ... conservation plan then they have nothing to fear from the Endangered Species Act or the US Fish and Wildlife Service."

NEVADA PROTECTS 3,800 ACRES IN CONSERVATION DEAL. The AP (1/26) reports that "thousands of acres of ranchland along a scenic river in southern Douglas County will be protected under a conservation easement." An agreement "announced last week preserves about 3,800 acres of the Fairfield Ranch, a move conservationists and land managers say will protect critical sage grouse habitat and the area's natural values." The article notes that "ranch owners Alan and Cindy Horn donated the conservation easement along with a stewardship endowment to The Nature Conservancy." Ted Koch, Nevada supervisor for the FWS, said "the deal demonstrates the value of conservation easements in protecting habitat for the bistate sage grouse, which experts say number only about 5,000 birds."

REP. HASTINGS CALLS FOR REFORMS TO ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (1/26, 86K) reports that Rep. Doc Hastings is calling for reforms to the Endangered Species Act. Hastings said, "Very generally, those of us in the Northwest have been hit by impacts of the Endangered Species Act more than anybody. The economy that is based here is natural-resource based, with water, and with the timber industry, so whenever you have laws that impact natural resources, they are going to impact the economy." Hastings "believes the law takes too much of an economic toll, leaves too much room for litigation by environmental groups and lacks an emphasis on getting species recovered and off the list," and "he called legislation to reform the act a priority for the year."

REWARD MORE THAN DOUBLES IN SHOOTING OF WHOOPING CRANES. The AP (1/24) reports that "the reward being offered for information in the shooting and death of a mated pair of whooping cranes in western Kentucky has more than doubled with contributions from conservation and animal protection groups." The FWS "initially announced a $7,200 reward for information in the case but said Friday it has grown to $15,250."

NEVADA URGED TO FIGHT SAGE GROUSE DESIGNATION. The Ely Daily Times (1/24, 776) editorializes against the proposal by the FWS to propose the bi-state greater sage grouse as threatened. The paper claims that the agency "has been known to alter the data to satisfy its environmental constituency, who balk at the idea of killing one species to protect another." It concludes that Nevada "should attack this problem from all fronts, including filing suit in federal court to point out the duplicity of the federal agencies making decisions that should be, and already have been, made by the states and counties."

US Geological Survey:

USGS TEAM TO STUDY TRINIDAD-AREA EARTHQUAKES. The AP (1/24) reports that a USGS research team "plans to visit the Las Animas County area around Trinidad to study a recent series of minor earthquakes, which in the past have been blamed on wastewater injection wells from drilling projects." According to seismologists,

"there were three earthquakes Wednesday and four more this month." Justin Rubinstein of the USGS said "five of the recent quakes were at least a magnitude of 2.5 and need to be studied."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW MADRID FAULT ZONE. Additional coverage of the New Madrid fault zone was provided by the AP (1/24) and NPR (1/24, Neuman, 465K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

GOP SPLIT ON SOLAR ENERGY. The New York Times (1/26, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reported that "solar energy is fast becoming one of the fracture lines dividing the conservative movement's corporate and libertarian sides." Conservatives, such as Barry Goldwater Jr., son of the 1964 Republican nominee for president, and former Arizona Republican Part chairman Tom Morrissey have rushed to defend solar energy against utilities who feel that solar users aren't "paying their fair share to maintain the power grid." Meanwhile, the American Legislative Exchange Council, "which helps pro-business Republicans across the country write legislation," continues to support utilities in the solar energy debate and "has successfully urged several states to fight Federal mandates for adopting."

BOR RELEASES SUSTAINABLE ENERGY STRATEGIC PLAN. The Hydroworld (1/26, 151) reports that the BOR has "released a sustainable energy strategic plan that includes hydroelectric power as a means of increasing the western US' power supply."

EAGLE TAKE POLICY CRITICIZED. The Hazelton (PA) Standard Speaker (1/26, 1K) editorializes that a new Interior Department of rule, giving the wind "industry a nearly free pass for the deaths of bald and golden eagles, should be rescinded." According to the paper, "the rule itself begs the question: If operators have to establish additional protective measures if they kill too many eagles, why not just mandate those measures in the first place?" In conclusion, it argues that "rather than giving the industry a pass, the Department of the Interior should mandate use of all available technology to protect birds and that wind farm siting decisions take into account potential harm to eagle populations."

The Watertown (NY) Daily Times (1/27, 63K) also criticizes the rule.

Onshore Energy Development:

EIGHT ACTIVE COAL FIRES BURN IN PENNSYLVANIA. The AP (1/26) reports that there are "eight active coal fires in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties on record with the state Department of Environmental Protection." According to USGS research geologist Allan Kolker, "carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, fine particles and toxic trace elements such as arsenic, mercury and selenium, are all byproducts of coal fires." The article notes that "extinguishing these fires would cost $1 million to $2 million on the low end, ranging up to more than $20 million for the fires at Laurel Run."

AP coverage was also picked up by the New Jersey Herald (1/26, 60K) and the Wilkes-Barre (PA) Citizens' Voice (1/26, 132K).

CBO: BILL BLOCKING STREAM BUFFER ZONE WOULD NOT HAVE IMPACT ON BUDGET. Politico (1/26, Guillen, 464K) reports that the Congressional Budget Office says "H.R. 2824, a bill blocking the Interior Department from issuing any new stream buffer zone rules for at least five years and directing it to implement a 2008 rule the administration is currently re-writing, would not have a significant impact on the federal budget." According to the article, that's because "the existing federal proceeds from the area affected by this bill are small, and because it is unclear whether the rule imposed by this bill would be more or less restrictive than the rule that OSM will impose under current law."

BLM DEVELOPING MANAGEMENT FOR WYOMING'S PUBLIC LANDS. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (1/27, 90K) reports that the BLM is "developing a once-every-20-years resource management plan for some 13 million acres of public land in Wyoming, including the Red Desert." The article notes that "the stakes for this round of

rulemaking are especially high." It notes that "domestic oil and gas production is booming," and "energy companies are exploring more federal lands for potential development, bolstered by new technology capable of unlocking previously inaccessible reservoirs of hydrocarbons."

ANALYSTS FORECAST INCREASE IN COAL PRODUCTION. The Gillette (WY) News Record (1/26, 19K) reports that Wyoming's Consensus Revenue Estimating Group and the US Energy Information Administration both forecast slight increases in coal production in 2014. However, the article notes that BLM "coal lease sales drew attention this year in the form of a low bid in one case and no bidder in another."

ENERGY INDUSTRY STILL WAITING IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW BEETLE RULE. The Oklahoman (1/26, 345K) reports that "the American Burying Beetle, classified as an endangered species since 1989, has slowed pipeline construction and inflated project7 costs throughout the eastern third of the state." The FWS "more than a year ago suspended its established practice of requiring companies to bait and trap beetles before moving the insects away." The article notes that "new rules still awaiting implementation are expected to require companies to obtain an 'incidental take' permit for the beetle by purchasing conservation credits," but "the rules have been delayed more than a year."

EPA ADMINISTRATOR DEFENDS AGENCY'S HANDLING OF THREE FRACKING INVESTIGATIONS. Bloomberg News (1/24, Kovski, 1.91M) reported that EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy wrote a letter in response to Natural Resources Defense Council President Frances Beinecke, who accused the agency of "a troubling trend of abandoning investigations of hydraulic fracturing before they are completed," referring to the three withdrawn investigations near Range Resources Inc. gas wells in Texas, Encana Corp gas wells in Wyoming and Cabot Oil &Gas Corp. gas wells in Pennsylvania. McCarthy said in the letter that "the EPA in its investigations worked closely with individual states, 'which have key capacity and regulatory authority relevant to unconventional oil and natural gas extraction.'"

Offshore Energy Development:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS PLAN TO PRESSURE WHITE HOUSE TO BLOCK ARCTIC DRILLING. The Washington Examiner (1/24, Colman, 319K) reports that "environmental groups plan to pressure the White House to block offshore drilling in the Arctic as Royal Dutch Shell gears up to start drilling there this summer." According to the article, "in a Jan. 16 letter, 18 green groups urged President Obama to ditch his 'all of the above energy' strategy, including Arctic drilling, saying that the policy 'would be fundamentally at odds with your goal of cutting carbon pollution and would undermine our nation's capacity to respond to the threat of climate disruption.'"

Court Decision Rejecting Environmental Analysis Of Arctic Drilling Welcomed. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/24, Sakashita, 11.54M), Miyoko Sakashita, Oceans Director, Center for Biological Diversity, writes that an appeals court decision saying "the federal Interior department wrongly sold leases to drill for oil and gas in the Chukchi Sea off the north coast of Alaska." Accoridng to Sakashita, "the decision confirms what so many of us have known all along: we have no business approving offshore drilling in the Arctic – a high-risk environment where an oil spill would be impossible to clean up and put wildlife directly in harm's way."

Additional coverage of the Ninth Circuit ruling rejecting a federal environmental analysis of Arctic drilling was provided by Salon (1/26, 613K), Penn Energy (1/26, 128), and the Law 360 (1/26, 18K).

LOCAL WORKSHOP TO FOCUS ON MINORITIES, BP RESTORATION. The Pensacola (FL) News Journal (1/27, 151K) reports that representatives of the Interior Department and the state Florida will "visit Pensacola on Tuesday to discuss how minorities can influence the use of millions of dollars in fines arising from the BP oil spill." The workshop will "focus primarily on early restoration funding allocated through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process." The article notes that "a town hall meeting will be held later in the day to get public input on the use of about $26.6 million in NRDA funds for early restoration projects in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR STRESSES CONSERVATION DURING PRESENTATION. The Fresno (CA) Bee (1/24, 327K) reports that "federal water leaders Friday painted a dire picture for California's water managers – key reservoirs down to 58% of average and Sierra watersheds with less than 15% of expected rain and snow at this point." The BOR "made a presentation at the annual regional water-users gathering in Reno." According to the article, "after two below-average winters and a record-setting dry spell this winter, conservation was the urgent message."

Also reporting on the story is the Red Bluff (CA) Daily News (1/26, 20K).

BOR CUTS COLORADO RIVER FLOW. The East County (CA) Magazine (1/26) reports that "for the first time ever," the BOR has ordered that supplies of water from the Colorado River and Glen Canyon Dam be slashed. Upper Colorado Regional Director Larry Walkoviak noted, "This is the worst 14-year drought period in the last hundred years." Water released from Glen Canyon Dam at Lake Powell will be cut "by 750,000 acre-feet this year —enough water to supply three quarters of a million homes."

LAWMAKERS SEND LETTER TO BOR ON CALIFORNIA WATER POLICIES. The Ridgecrest (CA) Daily Independent (1/25, 23K) that "California lawmakers in the Central Valley, including Sen. Jean Fuller and Sen. Andy Vidak, co-authored a letter" to BOR Commissioner Michael Connor and David Murillo, the regional director for the BOR's Mid Pacific Regional Office "regarding water flow to the Central Valley." They raised concerns "about the possibility of the Bureau of Reclamation not providing rescheduled water which was held over from the 2013-2014 contract year." The lawmakers argued that the BOR "cannot responsibly make this decision in contravention of their long standing policy on rescheduled water."

SEN. FRANKEN CONTINUES TO FIGHT FOR LEWIS & CLARK WATER SYSTEM. KELO-TV Sioux Falls, SD (1/26, 25K) reports that Sen. Al Franken said "he cares about the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System," and he "also admits that he is frustrated with local areas paying its share of the cost and the federal government not picking up the rest of the bill." Franken said, "The Bureau of Reclamation has to announce within 30 days of the signing of that thing where this $27 million is going to be spent. There's six water projects that it could be spent for. We're going to be making the argument for a large part of that, hopefully the majority of that going towards Lewis and Clark."

Also reporting on the story is KELO-TV Sioux Falls, SD (1/26, 25K).

EDITORIAL: CALIFORNIA FACES THREE DROUGHTS. The Los Angeles Times (1/26, 3.07M) editorializes that "Southern Californians are facing not one drought but three, interconnected yet distinct, each bringing its own hazards and each requiring its own emergency and long-term responses." According to the paper, "the first drought is regional, caused by the lack of rain in our own mountains and our own backyards," the second drought is in Northern California, and "the third drought is occurring across the Western United States, and especially in the Rocky Mountains, which feed the Colorado River and by extension the other major component, after the Central Valley, of California's agricultural wealth." The paper argues that "the kind of system envisioned by the Bay Delta Conservation Plan would help all parts of California deal with global climate change and its inevitable result: precipitation that falls on the Sierra less like the snow that generations have come to rely on and more like the rain that comes, when it does, to Southern California in unmanageable torrents."

Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the Stockton (CA) Record (1/24, 123K), the Los Banos (CA) Enterprise (1/24, 11K), the Rocklin & Roseville Today (1/26), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/26, 749K), the Tracy (CA) Press (1/26, 55K), KCRA-TV Sacramento, CA (1/26, 122K), and WBUR-FM Boston (1/24, 64K).

Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Stockton (CA) Record (1/24, 123K) and the Vacaville (CA) Reporter (1/26, 57K).

GOV. MARTINEZ URGED TO REJECT GILA RIVER WATER DIVERSION PROJECTS. In an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/26, 288K), Duane Mosley, Market Manager, Farmers and Crafts Market of Las Cruces, write that "more than 300 New Mexico business owners and leaders across the state" have "sent a letter to Gov. Susana Martinez asking her to reject expensive and unpopular water diversion projects as she decides on best approaches to secure southwestern New Mexico's future water supply and to instead consider cost-effective, common sense alternatives." The letter was sent "as the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission weighs options to divert water from the Gila River, a project permitted by the Arizona Water Settlements Act of

2004." Mosley argues that "any such project is an incredibly expensive undertaking," and "diverting water from the Gila would harm wildlife, limit recreation opportunities and almost certainly wither an important part of our local economy."

WSJOURNAL: CALIFORNIA WATER PROBLEMS EXACERBATED BY GOVERNMENT. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/27, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writes that the California water shortage has been exacerbated by government interference. In particular, the diversion of water to aid the Delta Smelt and the environmental-group pressure to avoid building or expanding reservoirs have harmed the state's ability to deal with water shortages. The WSJ endorses House GOP legislation that would force water to be used for humans and less for green projects.

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA AGAIN BACKS MECHOOPDA CLAIM TO LAND. The Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (1/26, 90K) reports that the Mechoopda Indian Tribe has "received the go-ahead...to place 626 acres in Butte County in federal trust, with 91 acres of the site for gaming purposes." In the decision delivered Friday, the BIA said "the tribe is allowed to acquire land under the Indian Reorganization Act." Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn wrote, "In reaching today's decision, the Department conducted a thorough review of the Tribe's history and application, and determined that the lands meet the 'restored lands exception' of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and the Department's implementing regulations, and that the Department is authorized to acquire the proposed lands in trust pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act."

Also reporting on the story is the Oroville (CA) Mercury-Register (1/26, 1K).

PAYMENTS FROM COBELL SETTLEMENT ON THE WAY TO WYOMING. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (1/26, 90K) reports that "the second set of payments stemming from a settlement between the federal government and American Indian land trust beneficiaries is due to be distributed to members of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes within a few weeks."

COURT DISMISSES DESERT WATER AGENCY LAWSUIT. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (1/24, 110K) reports that "a federal judge has rejected a lawsuit brought by Desert Water Agency against the US government, saying the agency failed to show it was harmed by new regulations involving Indian land leases." In her decision dismissing DWA's lawsuit against the Interior Department, US District Court Judge Dolly Gee said that "while DWA contends that the regulations required it to stop imposing certain fees, it's undisputed that the water agency hasn't changed its practices."

INDIAN LAW AND ORDER COMMISSION REPORTS FINDS TRIBAL JUVENILE JUSTICE OUTDATED. The Durango (CO) Herald (1/25, 28K) reports on the findings from the final report, "Roadmap for Making Native America Safer," from the national Indian Law and Order Commission. The article focuses on the report's findings on tribal juvenile justice. Former US Attorney Troy Eid, who chairs the commission, said, "Juvenile justice for Native kids has not changed since the 1930s. They're automatically transferred into federal jurisdiction. It's just extraordinary no one has reassessed that. There isn't juvenile justice within the Bureau of Prisons. It doesn't exist there. There's no diversion, no drug courts, no education. There are no books, no programs to reintegrate into society, nothing. It's really very sad."

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE WARNS IT WILL "BYPASS CONGRESS WHERE NECESSARY" IN 2014. Media coverage of the Sunday morning interviews of top White House aides Dan Pfeiffer and Jay Carney, in which they previewed Tuesday's State of the Union address, highlights their suggestion that President Obama may be forced to circumvent Congress this year in order to enact his agenda. The White House's comments on executive power generated reports on the two network newscasts that aired last night, as well as in print media, most of which forecast a dim fate for the President's agenda, while also casting GOP outrage over the warning that the White House would "bypass Congress where necessary" as an indication of continuing bickering and gridlock in Washington. Typical of much of the coverage was the AP (1/27, Elliott), which says the White House's "act-or-else posture bristled Republicans," and that with "the campaigns for November's election on the horizon, there's

scant reason for the White House to be optimistic about Republican support" for its agenda.

One exception was ABC World News (1/26, story 5, 1:10, Muir, 7.43M), where Jonathan Karl reported on "some reason for optimism at the White House" that "at least some Republicans" may be willing "to work with the President" on immigration reform. ABC, however, earlier in the story described the President's job approval rating in the latest ABC News/WPost poll (37%) as "brutal...for any president, but especially for one going into a State of the Union address where he hopes to get his agenda back on track." ABC then showed Carney saying on ABC's This Week yesterday, "The President sees this as a year of action. To work with Congress and bypass Congress where necessary to lift folks who want to come up into the middle class." On NBC Nightly News (1/26, story 7, 0:55, Holt, 7.86M), the New York Times' John Harwood also cited a "decent chance for immigration reform" and "long-shot hope for" most everything else in the President's agenda.

Reuters (1/27, Mason), meanwhile, notes that Pfeiffer said on CNN's State Of The Union that "the public ended 2013 very frustrated," and on Fox News Sunday that the President will say on his speech Tuesday that "he's going to have the pen and he's going to use those to move the ball forward to create opportunity."

The New York Times (1/27, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) leads its report on the interviews by saying the White House "aides" emphasized "Obama's willingness to bypass a gridlocked Congress to achieve his goals," and later notes that "the discussion of maneuvering around congressional gridlock comes less than two weeks before the Treasury Department expects to exhaust its authority to borrow money, potentially setting up another fiscal showdown on Capitol Hill." USA Today (1/26, Jackson, 5.82M) likewise notes that "aides took to Sunday interview shows to argue that Obama will stress the ability to take executive action if Congress balks at his proposals," though his "biggest agenda items – an immigration bill, an increased minimum wage, various jobs and education programs – require legislation from Congress, including the Republican-run House."

According to some media analyses, the White House's true intent, both with the speech and its warning about sidestepping Congress, is to better position Democrats for this November's midterm contests. Politico (1/26, Brown, 464K) reports that President's 2014 agenda "is expected to be a mix of initiatives designed to energize the Democratic base of women, students and blue-collar workers, and to attract independent voters," with the aim of highlighting "differences with the GOP" and providing "fodder for Democrats along the campaign trail – even though those measures stand little chance of winning approval in Congress." The Washington Times (1/27, Boyer, 417K) also describes Obama's speech as "an election-year rallying cry to his Democratic base to fight for income equality in America, even as the gap between rich and poor grows during his presidency." DCCC chair Rep. Steve Israel told Reuters (1/27, Holland) in an interview that Tuesday's speech "will define the battlefield of our debate, by clarifying for the American people about who's on their side. ... The more the president talks about building the middle class and the more Republicans talk about protecting special interests, the better the battlefield for us."

Along those lines, another Politico (1/26, Dovere, 464K) story states that "for progressives," the speech "isn't so much about what...Obama says, but how forcefully and expansively he says it." On the issue of equality, progressives are "looking for some attention to the generally agreed-upon progressive wish list: an executive order raising the minimum wage for government contractors, a vocal defense of his job creation record along with a proposal for a new jobs bill, a fresh case for fresh infrastructure investment and a new call for immigration reform." The Christian Science Monitor (1/27, Knickerbocker, 540K), meanwhile, reports that the President's "poll numbers have gone way down since his reelection in 2012," and "Republicans seem inclined to wait him out, strengthening their congressional power this year and looking ahead to 2016."

The White House, Bloomberg News (1/27, Bender, Talev, 1.91M) reports, used yesterday's interviews "to signal a backup strategy of executive action, even as a new Washington Post-ABC News poll showed 63 percent of Americans lack confidence in Obama's ability to make the right decisions for the country's future." Bloomberg adds that "the strategy risked antagonizing Republicans even before Obama gets his chance Jan. 28 to make the case for his legislative agenda in a prime-time televised address." The Washington Times (1/27, Howell, 417K), for example, notes that GOP Sen. Rand Paul said on CNN State of the Union yesterday, "It sounds vaguely like a threat, and it has a certain amount of arrogance." In a similar story, the Wall Street Journal (1/26, Da Costa, 5.91M) quotes Paul as adding, "The president's not allowed to write legislation. He's not allowed to amend legislation. He's not allowed to initiate war. And he's not allowed to tell us when we're in recess and when we're not." Reuters (1/27, Mason), meanwhile, quotes Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell as saying on Fox News

Sunday, "The President has sort of hung out on a limb and tried to get what he wants through the bureaucracy as opposed to moving to the political center."

Picking up on the parties' differing assessment of Obama's use of presidential power, the Christian Science Monitor (1/27, Feldmann, 540K) runs a story titled "Is Barack Obama An Imperial President?" in which it notes that "to critics, Obama is...willfully violating the Constitution to further his goals," while "to others, he is exercising legitimate executive authority in the face of an intransigent Congress." Ultimately, adds the Monitor, "the course of Obama's final three years in office...will be shaped by this debate." The Daily Caller (1/27, Munro, 422K) headlines its story on the interviews "Obama To Bypass Congress In 2014, Rule By Agency Decree."

Chuck Todd said on NBC's Meet The Press (1/26, Gregory), "The key word that the White House is trying to put out there is 'opportunity.' It's actually a word borrowed from the Clinton years. It used to be an obsession particularly in the second term of Bill Clinton. ... The New York Times" on Sunday "previewed the State of the Union and said it's going to be a modest State of the Union, which is exactly what the White House fears. ... They see it actually as their last State of the Union that can have an impact."

The Los Angeles Times (1/26, Hennessey, 3.07M) reports that "most initiatives Obama can push on his own are incremental, while most large-scale proposals move at glacial pace, or not at all." Meanwhile, "Republicans on Capitol Hill are no more likely this year than last to endorse expensive programs – even in the name of job creation."

Brit Hume said of Tuesday's speech on Fox News Sunday (1/26, Wallace), "I don't expect this one to be particularly memorable. His agenda has basically been frozen since the Republicans took control of Congress in 2010. There's not a lot he can do. That's why you hear him talking about pens and telephones because he can't get anything through Congress."

Bill Daley said on CBS' Face The Nation (1/26, Schieffer, 2.64M), "I think what the President is going to do, and what I think is a smart move, is to try to figure out how to use the government...in a way that you don't have to go to legislation and get mired in this craziness that has been going on on the Hill for too long."

Joe Davidson writes in the Washington Post (1/27, 4.28M) that Federal employees "shouldn't get their hopes up too high" before the address, as "Obama has given scant attention to federal employees in his previous...speeches" and they shouldn't "expect this year to be different."

Sen. Ted Cruz said on CBS' Face The Nation (1/26, Schieffer, 2.64M), "We've got the lowest labor force participation in over three decades, since 1978. And if President Obama wants to give an honest, candid State of the Union address this week, he'll address the fact that his economic policies are not working and that they're exacerbating income equality. They're hurting the people who are struggling the most."

Peggy Noonan said on CBS' Face The Nation (1/26, Schieffer, 2.64M), "I think people have gotten to the point where, at the beginning of the sixth year of the Obama Administration, people are managing to restrain their excitement when the President speaks in a big speech or not. ... He is overexposed, as all presidents are by this point. But he more than others in the past."

The New York Times (1/27, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the response to the speech, "a once careful attempt at stagecraft fashioned under the close watch of party chiefs to be as uniform and on message as possible, has given way to political free agency." While Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers will deliver the GOP's official response, Paul "plans to spend part of Tuesday in a television studio off Capitol Hill recording his own unsanctioned rebuttal to Mr. Obama's address that night," while Sen. Mike Lee "will have top billing for the newest – and to some Republicans the most unwelcome – post-State of the Union event, the official Tea Party response." Sen. Cruz "got rolling last week when he released a statement in which he demanded that Mr. Obama answer accusations on a variety of issues," including the NSA, the ACA and the IRS controversy.

White House Working To Promote State Of The Union Address On Social Media. The Washington Post (1/27, Farhi, 4.28M) reports that in the run-up to Tuesday's speech, the White House is "taking its message directly to the public" and "selling" it "with the same arsenal of social-media tools it deployed to sell candidate Obama during two national campaigns." The White House "has devoted a multimedia page of the official

WhiteHouse.gov Web site to the address," as well as "Obama's Twitter feed" and other "promotional material" which "appears on Obama and the White House's Facebook pages and Tumblr blog." The Post adds that the according to Nathaniel Lubin, "acting director of digital strategy for the White House," the goal "is 'greater public engagement' and clarity about the ideas and policies Obama advances." Adds Lubin, "First and foremost...we're trying to provide content that reflects the mission of the president's speech."

Drive Against Inequality Sparks Commentary. Politico (1/27, Nather, 464K) says that President Obama, by focusing on economic inequality, is "building his new agenda around an issue that has been in the making for decades." However, inequality is "kind of a big topic — as Obama himself acknowledges" and "would require a gigantic response, cutting across a broad swath of issues, everything from education and tax policy to wages, job skills and even the quality of the jobs themselves." And right now, Washington is in "no mood for a gigantic response to anything."

E.J. Dionne Jr. writes in the Washington Post (1/27, 4.28M) that the address' "purpose should be to influence the next decade of American political life and begin shaping the post-Obama era," particularly as "for the first time since his early days in office, Obama has the philosophical winds at his back," with polls showing the public agrees with him on the issue of income inequality.

John Harwood, writing for the New York Times (1/27, Harwood, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says that Obama "has made little headway on the goal he values most: government action to lift long-term economic prospects for average Americans." In fact, "as aides draft their 2015 budget plan, their 2014 version shows this bottom line for Mr. Obama's sixth year in office: Government investments in infrastructure, research and development, and education and training, at 3.3 percent of the nation's economy, match the level from President George W. Bush's sixth year in office."

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (1/26, Kaus, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Mickey Kaus, an author on inequality and a blogger for The Daily Caller, writes that the Democrats are focusing on the wrong kind of inequality in the current quest to combat it. He says the Democrats are focused on economic inequality, while the real issue is social inequality. Kaus says that economic inequality is likely to increase no matter what everyone does; social inequality, however, he says can be challenged.

In his column for the New York Times (1/27, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Paul Krugman writes that "extreme" economic inequality "creates a class of people who are alarmingly detached from reality — and simultaneously gives these people great power." Citing a letter to the WSJ by "billionaire investor" Tom Perkins in which he "lamented public criticism of the 'one percent' — and compared such criticism to Nazi attacks on the Jews," Krugman says that Perkins "isn't that much of an outlier." Krugman says that many of the very wealthy put forth political and economic views "that combine paranoia and megalomania in equal measure."

OBAMA AND DEMOCRATS ACROSS COUNTRY EMPHASIZE MINIMUM WAGE DEBATE. The AP (1/27, Hill) reports that "lawmakers in at least 30 states are sponsoring or are expected to introduce wage hike measures," and notes that on Tuesday, in his State of the Union address, President Obama "is expected to mention the minimum wage." According to the AP, "Even in Republican-dominated capitals where the bills are longshots," Democrats will still have an opportunity "to hammer home the popular theme of fair wages in...an election year." The AP notes that a new Quinnipiac poll "found 71 percent of Americans in favor of raising the minimum wage – including more than half of Republicans polled."

Administration Backs Hike in Minimum Wage For Those Who Get Tips. The New York Times (1/27, Greenhouse, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Administration, along with "some Democratic senators...are...backing increases to the tip wage (at $2.13, it is 29 percent of the minimum wage)," but "the restaurant industry is fiercely opposed to a mandated increase." Labor Secretary Thomas Perez points out that the tip wage "hasn't been raised for more than two decades despite increases in the cost of living." The Times reports that "advocates for restaurant workers" also note that "the tip wage alone has gone unchanged since 1991," and, "taking inflation into account, the $2.13 enacted back then is worth $1.24 today." The Times adds that a bill introduced By Sen. Tom Harkin, and "supported by the Obama administration, would increase the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour and raise the tip wage by 95 cents a year until it reached $7.10 an hour."

House Democrats Hope To Return Focus To Lapsed Jobless Benefits. The Washington Times (1/27, Klimas,

417K) reports that Congressional Democrats "are returning to Washington...armed with stories from some of the 1.6 million unemployed Americans back home who are desperate to have the federal government resume paying unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless." According to the Times, Democrats "have made extending benefits an early priority in 2014, but have met Republican opposition over finding a way to pay for the extension." The Times notes that Speaker Boehner has said he is "still waiting for a plan from the president that offsets the cost and includes job creation."

Drop In Unemployment Rate May Give Workers More Wage Leverage. USA Today (1/27, Mullaney, 5.82M) reports with unemployment rates likely to fall near pre-recession levels by the end of the year, 2014 "could be the Year of the Raise – at least for some people." While "middle-class incomes have lost ground to inflation for decades, workers have opportunities to catch up during the sweet part of economic cycles." In the "strongest position" are those workers with "scarce skills in cities or industries where nearly full employment will arrive by year-end."

WPost Backs Minimum Wage Hike, Calls For Expansion Of Earned Income Tax Credit. In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/27, Board, 4.28M) reports that while raising the minimum wage, as proposed by President Obama, "would help many hard-pressed low-income Americans," it is "easy to overstate the impact." In particular, "80 percent of the beneficiaries would not be poor," according to a recent Brookings report. To make a real difference, the Post endorses an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

FARM BILL'S FINAL PASSAGE EXPECTED BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT MONTH. Politico (1/27, Rogers, 464K) reports that "after a two-year struggle...Congress should see a new farm bill this week as House-Senate negotiators worked through the weekend in hopes of filing the legislation by Monday night." According to Politico, on Sunday, there was some was "final skirmishing over livestock regulations and new, tighter caps on farm subsidies," but "Democrats have won significant compromises on food stamp funding" and Speaker Boehner "is promising a real push to deliver the needed Republican votes." Politico adds that "if the farm bill is filed Monday night, the leadership is proposing to call it up as early as Wednesday."

Ed O'Keefe, in an online article for the Washington Post (1/26, 4.28M) reports that "according to several aides familiar with the talks," the farm bill's "final passage likely" will come "before a mid-February recess." O'Keefe says "final passage of the bill would cap years of sensitive talks led by Senate Democrats and House Republicans that continued in a relatively cooperative fashion" although "negotiations teetered on the brink of collapse last summer when" House Republicans "split apart the omnibus bill and held separate votes to dramatically cut funding for the federal food stamp program and another to deal with most farming-related policy."

Under the headline, "US Farm Bill Agreement Could Come Within Days," Reuters (1/27, Cooney) quotes House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) as saying, "We remain optimistic that we can reach agreement in time to be on the floor next week."

Demographics Suggest Growth Of Food Stamp Spending Is Unlikely To Slow Soon. The AP (1/27, Yen) reports that "working-age people now make up the majority in US households that rely on food stamps," which is "a switch from a few years ago, when children and the elderly were the main recipients." According to the AP, the "slow economic recovery with high unemployment, stagnant wages and an increasing gulf between low-wage and high-skill jobs...plays a big role," which "suggests that government spending on the $80 billion-a-year food stamp program – twice what it cost five years ago – may not subside significantly anytime soon." The AP adds that the program, "formally called" SNAP, "now covers 1 in 7 Americans."

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Well, a Federal appeals court has ruled that prospective jurors may not be excluded because of sexual preference. You cannot be kicked off a jury because you're gay. You know who was really upset about this? Gay people trying to get out of jury duty."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Jan 28, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA ADDRESS TO HIGHLIGHT CONGRESSIONAL INACTION ON ENERGY, CLIMATE. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that "when it comes to energy," President Obama's State of the Union addresses have "gotten increasingly pugnacious toward the deeply divided legislative branch, which has failed to act on measures with broad bipartisan support – and has even struggled to keep the government's doors open, thanks to bitter budget disputes." Obama is expected "to tout domestic production – including the natural gas boom – highlight the importance of energy efficiency and call for upgrades to the nation's aging energy infrastructure." Meanwhile, "Obama's critics in the GOP and industry stand ready to rip into his speech tomorrow, and they're not likely to

respond kindly to any announcements about bypassing their branch of Congress when it comes to energy and climate."

Also covering the State of the Union speech is the National Journal (1/27, Geman, Subscription Publication, 427K).

Sealed Gulf Bids To Be Opened In March. The FuelFix (1/24, 7K) reports that "oil companies that hope to nab new drilling leases near the US-Mexico boundary in the Gulf of Mexico will have to wait a little longer to see if they were successful." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "made the decision not to immediately open sealed bids for the transboundary area that were received during an offshore oil and gas lease sale in August." Instead, the "bids will be opened during two back-to-back lease sales planned for March 19." Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said, "The department has provided the companies an option to have their bid opened in March at the upcoming Gulf of Mexico lease sale. Companies also have the option to withdraw their bid up to the day prior to the sale on March 19."

Influential Oilman To Headline Senate Committee's Promised Hearing On Crude Export Curbs. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that "Congress' first public reckoning with the volatile politics of crude export curbs comes this week in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where a focus on how lifting the ban on overseas oil sales would affect US consumers promises to spotlight regional alliances rather than purely partisan ones." The "hearing Thursday makes good on Chairman Ron Wyden's (D-Ore.) vow earlier this month to examine the issue before his expected transition to lead the Senate Finance Committee following the departure of its current chairman, Sen. Max Baucus." The article notes that "while no witness will represent the Obama administration at the ENR hearing, the panel's most high-profile guest is a proponent of lifting the 39-year-old domestic crude export ban who holds considerable sway among Republicans: oilman Harold Hamm, whose Continental Resources Inc. is the biggest producer in the titanic Bakken Shale region of North Dakota."

Booming US Oil Production Sends Mexico To Seek New Buyers. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that "booming US oil production has forced the country's third-largest international source of fuel to seek out new buyers." According to the article, "Mexico's state oil company, Petróleos Mexicanos, will next month for the first time send a shipment of its extra-light crude to a Swiss refinery." The company is "seeking other buyers in Europe and elsewhere as the United States imports less and less gas."

COLORADO MEDIA GROUPS SAY SECRETARY JEWELL VIOLATED SPIRIT OF 1ST AMENDMENT. The Craig (CO) Daily Press (1/27, 10K) reports that the Colorado Press Association and the Craig Daily Press on Monday sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "expressing their disappointment that Jewell's staff barred reporters from attending a public meeting in Craig about the future of the sage grouse." Colorado Press Association Executive Director Samantha Johnston said Monday, "Certainly we have a vested interest in reporters' access to government meetings. We're the eyes and ears of the public, and when we're not allowed to be that, then the public is less informed." According to the article, "the letter penned by media attorney Steve Zansberg asks Jewell to take steps in the future to ensure reporters aren't prevented from attending meetings that should be open to all members of the public."

Also reporting on the story is the Steamboat (CO) Pilot & Today (1/27, 30K).

HOUSE PASSES BILL EXPANDING ACCESS FOR SEARCH-AND-RESCUE TEAMS. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that House lawmakers on Monday were "expected to vote on three public lands bills, including one that would allow quicker access to federal lands during search-and-rescue missions." H.R. 2166 "directs the Interior and Agriculture secretaries to expedite access to certain federal lands during such missions." The legislation would "allow private, nonprofit rescue teams to search for people lost on federal lands."

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (1/28, 437K) reports that the House on Monday passed a bill cutting red tape that has hindered rescue searches on federal lands. Lawmakers voted 394-0 to direct public land managers to expedite permits and waive insurance requirements for accredited search outfits helping locate missing people.

HOUSE PANEL TO MARK UP WILDERNESS, LAND DISPOSAL BILLS. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday "will mark up its first wilderness bills since the 111th Congress, taking up measures that would designate nearly 120,000 acres in Michigan and Nevada while selling

or releasing other lands for development." The panel will "also vote on controversial measures to require the Bureau of Land Management to identify and pursue the sale of millions of acres of federal lands in 10 Western states." A separate bill would require the Interior Department to "allow nonmotorized boating in pristine lakes and streams in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks."

Also reporting on the story is the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (1/27, 165K).

CONGRESS URGED TO FUND PILT PROGRAM. The Salinas Californian (1/27, 27K) reports that local officials who "fear Congress may scrap" the PILT program are "lobbying Congress to provide $425 million in payments due in fiscal 2014, which ends Sept. 30." A group of 750 county officials wrote in a letter to House and Senate appropriations committees, "Unless Congress acts, counties will have received their last fully funded PILT disbursement in June of 2013. We urge you to consider the economic hardship that counties will face if PILT is not given consistent funding."

MARIJUANA STILL ILLEGAL ON PUBLIC LANDS, DESPITE RELAXED COLORADO DRUG LAW. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that while "voters in Colorado legalized recreational marijuana use via a 2012 ballot initiative," the drug "remains illegal under federal law on all public lands, a wide swath of territory in the Centennial State." According to the article, "that division creates a unique scenario at the state's numerous ski resorts, which operate their businesses via contracts on US Forest Service lands." US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region spokesman Chris Strebig said, "It's like someone who might break any other law: You run the risk of being cited or arrested. We want people to be aware that ... whether you're on a Forest Service campground or a ski area, it's still the same. The law didn't affect us, and we will still enforce the prohibition on marijuana."

MINNESOTA RIVER GROUP SEEKS TO CONTINUE WITH "BLUEWAY" WORK. The West Central Tribune (MN) (1/28, 50K) reports that "the Minnesota River appeared to be on the verge of becoming the third designated Blueway when that decision was made" to end the program. Ted Suss of Wabasso, in a post on the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance blog, wrote, "Although the Department of the Interior discontinued the National Blueway Program, to the great disappointment of those who worked so hard to obtain a National Blueway designation for the Minnesota River Valley, the Minnesota River Blueway Initiative is still an active program." Suss said the Alliance "hopes to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Interior and other federal agencies that will outline a working arrangement and include commitments of federal agency support that will very nearly match the working arrangements and federal commitments of support as a National Blueway designation would have provided."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT AREA. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's trip to New Mexico was provided by the Fronteras (1/28).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF COASTAL WETLANDS GRANTS. Additional coverage of the $16.5 million in grants to support 21 critical coastal wetland projects in 12 states was provided by the Bangor (ME) Daily News (1/28, 166K).

PROPOSAL FOR PRIVATELY FUNDED CCC PRAISED. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/28, 343K) editorializes that "even as the economy slowly improves, unemployment remains stubbornly high," and "national parks and forests have long lists of maintenance and improvement projects that aren't getting done." The editorial notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "wants to raise $20 million from the private sector and recruit one million volunteers in the next four years, and she puts a particular focus on young people and veterans." According to the paper, "logistically, that $20 million doesn't seem like enough to build a lasting infrastructure, so Jewell needs to ensure she isn't creating something that will eventually turn to Washington for help." However, it concludes that "if it's seed money for growing an even larger private effort, the fruits will be enjoyed for another 80 years and beyond."

NPS URGED TO ENGAGE BLM ON MASTER LEASING PLANS. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/28, Richard, 11.54M), Ellis Richard writes that "one of the ways to protect America's public lands for recreation is through an important tool recently developed by a BLM team." According to Richard, "the concept of a master leasing plan was developed as a means to insure both the thoughtful and balanced extraction of oil and gas reserves on public lands, but also as a tool to protect landscapes important for recreation and wildlife, often in national parks, that could be negatively impacted from ill planned development on neighboring federal lands, principally BLM lands." He notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "gone on record as supporting master

leasing plans as a means to insure both oil and gas extraction on federal lands but also the preservation of important landscape values on both BLM properties as well as national parks." Richard adds that "it would also be encouraging to see more commitment from the National Park Service to engage the BLM in this issue," and he urges the NPS "to recognize the opportunity and walk through the door that the BLM has opened."

CASE SHOWS MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD REVIEWING DIRECTED GEOGRAPHIC REASSIGNMENTS. For the Federal Times (1/27, 120K), attorney Debra L. Roth writes that the Merit Systems Protection Board decisions in the case of Mary A. Miller v. Department of the Interior shows "that directed geographic reassignments are getting a fresh look by the board." Roth concludes that "at a minimum, and for the good of workplace morale and engagement, it may be time to work on changing the perception that geographic reassignments are being used to force a resignation rather than a legitimate management need for that person to fill that position."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. GIVEN MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR SUPREME COURT. The San Francisco Chronicle (1/28, Egelko, 2.88M) reports that the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. has been granted a legal stay to allow it to continue to operate over the next 90 days while it prepares a case to bring to the US Supreme Court. The high court could grant further extensions while it decides whether to take up the case.

Also reporting on the story is the Marin (CA) Independent Journal (1/28, 88K).

In an editorial, the Marin (CA) Independent Journal (1/28, 88K) notes that "politicians such as U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Marin Supervisor Steve Kinsey have fought to save the oyster farm." Whatever the courts decide, the paper concludes, "there's no question the oyster farm has a lot of local support and the park service needs to mend fences with a community that has not been shy about showing its support for a local farming family."

PROPOSAL TO BUILD WELCOME CENTER ON THE GROUNDS OF THE BREAKERS DIVIDES COMMUNITY. The AP (1/27) reports that "a proposal to build a visitors center on the grounds of The Breakers, the Gilded Age Vanderbilt family mansion and national historic landmark, is dividing Newport's preservationists, neighbors, and even some family members in this seaside city where tourism is a lifeblood." The Preservation Society of Newport County claims "the center is badly needed to serve The Breakers' 400,000 annual visitors." The article notes that "many opponents agree something is needed, but they want it across the street in the parking lot or elsewhere, not on the 13-acre grounds of the property, which they say would be irreparably damaged."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by FOX News (1/27, 6.72M) and the Boston Globe (1/28, Smith, 1.75M).

NPS PLANS TO INSTALL PARKING METERS NEAR NATIONAL MALL. WRC-TV Washington (1/28, 291K) reports that "in an effort to encourage use of public transportation, officials are doing away with free parking near the National Mall in several months." The NPS is planning to "install its own parking meters on roads controlled by the federal government." According to the article, "the meters will be similar to the ones used by the District and will also cost $2 per hour." The NPS says "they're installing the meters for several reasons; encouraging use of public transit and other alternative transportation modes, using parking revenue to amp up visitor experiences and managing the public parking turnover to allow more access to more people."

NPS SHELVES PROPOSED EXTENSION OF WESTERN MARYLAND RAIL TRAIL. The AP (1/27) reports that the NPS has "shelved a proposed extension of the Western Maryland Rail Trail to Paw Paw because it could threaten bats that roost in three tunnels along the route." Chris Stubbs with the agency said "that the bat populations in the tunnels don't have white nose syndrome," but that "disturbing their habitat would make them susceptible to the fungus that causes the deadly illness."

NPS PROPOSES OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE PLAN FOR GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The Cronkite News (1/28) reports that the NPS has "proposed making 17 areas of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area available for off-highway vehicle use, saying the plan would help attract a wider range of park

users." The article notes that "the preferred alternative for Glen Canyon includes adding 15-25 mph speed limits, quiet hours, noise restrictions and new signage." However, conservation groups "consider the preferred alternative detrimental to the environment" and would "prefer a more restrictive alternative for Glen Canyon."

NPS GIVES SAINT-GAUDENS HISTORIC SITE SEVEN YEARS TO PURSUE GRANTS. The New Hampshire Union Leader (1/28, 129K) reports that the NPS has "made a decision regarding the future of the Blow-Me-Down Farm at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, giving the historic site seven years to pursue grants and partnerships to renovate and add programming as an expansion of Saint-Gaudens." The article notes that "the decision concludes the park's environmental assessment planning process for the 42.6 acres property with nine historic structures abutting the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site."

FUNDS EARMARKED FOR NEW JERSEY'S HISTORIC D&R CANAL. The Guardian Liberty Voice (1/14, 64K) reports that the New Jersey Office of Budget and Management said that $14 million from the Interior Department will be "appropriated for the maintenance and upkeep of the D&R Canal, part of the New Jersey State Park system." The funds will "ensure that this landmark piece of history on the National Register of Historic Places will continue to be preserved."

Bureau of Land Management:

COALITION URGES BLM TO ALLOW UTAH TO LEAD ON STATE SAGE GROUSE AID. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that "a coalition of mostly local government and energy advocates says a federal plan to protect the greater sage grouse across Utah is 'fundamentally flawed' and goes well beyond what's needed to save the imperiled bird." The Utah Public Lands Multiple Use Coalition has sent a six-page letter to top officials with the BLM and Forest Service in Utah. The coalition in the letter "take aim at a plan developed by BLM and the Forest Service whose environmental impact statement (EIS) includes proposed land-use plan amendments in an area covering 3.3 million federal acres across Utah."

NEW MEXICO FACILITY SEEKS TO BE FIRST TO SLAUGHTER HORSES. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that "despite agricultural roots in Roswell, N.M., not everyone is happy about a local facility's push to be the first US slaughterhouse in years to start processing horses." Valley Meat Co. owner Rick De Los Santos "hopes to start slaughtering horses in his now-shuttered cattle processing facility." But "he alleges that he has been subject to threats and even arson by out-of-town animal rights activists."

BLM COULD FACE LAWSUIT OVER WILD HORSES. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (1/27, 48K) reports that "failure to manage wild horses on public lands could result in a lawsuit against" the BLM, according to Iron County Commissioner Dave Miller. Miller said "the wild horses have been allowed to multiply and overgraze to a point where the ground is barren of feed for livestock." Miller said, "They (BLM officials) come to the ranchers and ask them to cut their grazing allotments in half. That's literally a taking. Those grazing permits are like property."

BLM OFFERS $500 REWARD FOR INFORMATION ON STOLEN TARGETS AT SHOOTING RANGE. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/28, 73K) reports that the BLM is "offering a $500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of people who stole 3,000 pounds of steel range targets from the shooting range at 27 1/4 Road." According to the article, "the thefts occurred sometime between Sept. 15, 2013, and Jan. 14."

Also reporting on the story is KFQX-TV Grand Junction, CO (1/28, 1K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS SEEKS TO ERADICATE ALASKA ISLANDS' COW HERDS. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that the FWS wants to remove cows from the Chirikof and Wosnesenski islands In Alaska, "arguing that the bovines are bulldozing the agency's mandate to protect native birds and fish." However, the proposal has "stirred opposition from local residents who say the cattle are part of the state's pioneering history and are genetically unique." FWS officials say "they won't make any decision until ownership is resolved, though they believe the agency has the authority to remove the cows no matter what."

FWS TEAM INSPECTS LIVE ANIMALS SHIPPED THROUGH MIAMI AIRPORT. In a 2,300+ word article, the

Miami Herald (1/27, Whitefield, Mann, 806K) reports on the animals that are shipped through Miami International Airport. According to the Herald, Sandy Cleva, of the FWS' Office of Law Enforcement at Miami International Airport, said after Los Angeles, Miami is the second busiest airport in the US for transporting live wild animals. Cleva is "part of a team at MIA that includes 10 wildlife inspectors and a wildlife detector dog." According to the article, "they keep busy enforcing federal air cargo regulations on shipping live animals, checking for disease and watching for attempts to import or export endangered species."

SENATE PANEL CONTINUES EXPLORATION OF MAGNUSON-STEVENS LAW. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that on Thursday, members of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard will continue to examine the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. According to the article, "managers, fishermen, academics and others are expected to testify on how the law has affected fisheries in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Hawaii, American Samoa and the Mariana archipelago." The article notes that "this week's hearing will be the third held by subcommittee Chairman Mark Begich (D-Alaska), who has repeatedly said he intends to hear from all stakeholders across the country before proposing any legislation that would reauthorize the law."

FWS RELEASES BALLVILLE DAM DRAFT EIS. The Fremont (OH) News-Messenger (1/27, 24K) reports that the FWS has "published its draft environmental impact statement for the Ballville Dam project Monday and listed four conceptual alternatives for review, as the agency prepares for a February public meeting to present the draft EIS to the public." According to the article, "of the four, there are alternatives that involve either the removal or the repair of the dam, as well as scenarios that would require the installation of an ice control structure to break up ice jams on the Sandusky River." The public meeting will be held "Feb. 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Terra State Community College."

COMMENT DEADLINE APPROACHING ON STUDY ON KILLING EGRETS, BARN OWLS. The Big Island (HI) Now (1/27) reports that "next Monday is the deadline for the public to comment on an environmental study for a plan" by the FWS to "'control' populations of cattle egrets and barn owls in Hawaii because of their impacts on native birds."

REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MONTGOMERY COUNTY BALD EAGLE DEATHS. WTOP-FM Washington (1/28, 172K) reports that The Humane Society of the United States "wants to figure out who shot and killed two bald eagles in Montgomery County in December – and it is willing to pay thousands of dollars for information leading to an arrest." The funds "pledged to the Maryland Natural Resources Police investigation, added to the financial commitment by three private citizens, brings the reward total to $8,000."

IDAHO LAWMAKERS BACK FUNDS TO KILL MORE THAN 500 WOLVES. The AP (1/27) reports that "Republicans promoting Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter's proposed $2 million taxpayer-financed fund to kill wolves hope the cash helps reduce Idaho's population of these canine predators by more than 500 animals, to just 150 wolves in 15 packs." Rep. Marc Gibbs of Grace and Sen. Bert Brackett of Rogerson on Monday "told the House Resources and Conservation Committee the money set aside with Otter's proposal, along with smaller contributions from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and livestock producers, will bolster Idaho's predator arsenal and help it reach a 150-wolf goal."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SOLAR INDUSTRY SEES 20% JUMP IN JOB GROWTH. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that "employment in the US solar industry jumped 20 percent in 2013, adding almost 24,000 jobs from the previous year, according to a report released today from the Solar Foundation, a research and education nonprofit group." Lyndon Rive, the CEO of SolarCity Corp., noted that the "142,000 total jobs in the solar industry were distributed throughout the United States, something that is unusual compared with other growth industries usually found in one geographic location." Rive said "the report will help push back against the efforts by utilities and other organizations to 'abruptly' end state incentives for solar energy."

RENEWABLE FUELS' SHARE OF SOUTHEAST'S ENERGY MIX POISED TO GROW. The E&E Daily (1/27)

reports that renewable fuels' share of the Southeast region's energy mix is "poised to grow – though it's unclear to what amount – because of cracks in the Southeast's rigid regulatory foundation that have allowed some light in the form of solar power to shine through." According to the article, "falling costs of solar and environmental regulations are some reasons," and "other ones are mounting bipartisan political, shareholder and consumer pressure on utilities to add more solar to the power grid."

UTILITIES CHALLENGE SOLAR POWER COMPANIES IN UPPER MIDWEST. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that "two states best known for their development of wind power and biofuels – Iowa and Minnesota – have emerged as battlegrounds in the national debate over whether solar power can claim a larger share of electricity markets traditionally dominated by large, rate-based utilities." According to the article, "in separate but similar cases, two renewable energy firms – Eagle Point Solar of Dubuque, Iowa, and Geronimo Energy of Edina, Minn. – are asking authorities to allow for the expansion of solar energy in their respective states over objections from utilities that have their own ideas about how electricity markets should work." Last week, the Iowa Supreme Court "heard arguments in a case pitting Eagle Point Solar against the Iowa Utilities Board and the state's three dominant electricity providers – Interstate Power and Light (IPL), MidAmerican Energy and the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives" on "what constitutes a 'public utility' under Iowa law and whether third-party solar ownership agreements infringe on Iowa utilities' exclusive service territories."

OFFSHORE WIND COMPANIES SEEK TO DELAY LEASING OFF NEW JERSEY. The Offshore Wind (1/27) reports that New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and legislative leaders have been "warned to delay leasing offshore wind tracts along the Jersey coast." According to the article, "top companies from this industry, including Deepwater Wind and Offshore MW, wrote a letter saying that the state could 'lose the opportunity of offshore wind entirely, should the winners of the Bureau of Ocean Management (an agency located within the US Department of Interior) auction be unable to construct their projects, as could be the case if the winning bidders are found to be ineligible under the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act.'"

Onshore Energy Development:

MANAGEMENT PLANS IN WYOMING STIR DEBATE OVER NATURAL RESOURCES. The E&E Daily (1/27) reports that "the latest round of federal rulemaking on the use of public lands in Wyoming has stirred up debate between environmental groups and energy producers eager to tap the state's oil and natural gas resources." The BLM and US Forest Service are "reviewing management plans for 13 million acres of public land in Wyoming, or roughly 20 percent of the state."

AMID NEW "PR ASSAULT," COAL INDUSTRY ADVISED TO EMBRACE REALITY. The Christian Science Monitor (1/27, Silverstein, 540K) "Energy Voices" section reports that the US coal industry's "new public relations assault" is asserting coal can help developing countries go through their own industrial revolutions, with the benefits outweighing any environmental costs. However, the piece notes, those economies could also make progress "using other, less carbon-heavy fuels." It quotes Roger Bezdek, "author of a new report sponsored by the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity," as saying the billions of people living in poverty are the ones "we need to be concerned about and they need affordable and reliable power sources." He says the coal industry has reduced pollution by investing in emissions controls, but the piece points out that "such investments were driven by federal environmental regulations, which the coal industry routinely fought." What the industry should do, according to Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D) of West Virginia, is "to step up and lead by embracing the realities of today and creating a sustainable future."

Offshore Energy Development:

SCIENTISTS DISCUSS IMPACTS OF BP DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL ON GULF FISHERIES. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (1/28, Alexander-Bloch, 700K) reports that scientists at the 2014 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference "discussed the potential impacts of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill on Gulf fisheries, often describing the fishery as better off than many think but always adding that there still remains much ongoing research." Scientists discussed the importance of identifying biomarkers within species to measure the persistence of oil in their systems, determining how fish become exposed to the oil, and the short versus long-term effects of exposure.

BP TARGETS JUNEAU IN LETTER TO FORMER FBI DIRECTOR. The Wall Street Journal (1/28, Fowler, 5.91M) reports that BP has taken aim at Patrick Juneau, who was appointed by a Federal judge to administer claims related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, sending a letter to former FBI Director Louis Freeh last week, saying that "a strong tone on ethical issues from top management is lacking" in his reports on the alleged fraud in the Deepwater Horizon claims office.

KURE BEACH MAYOR RECEIVES BACKLASH FOR SEISMIC TESTING SUPPORT. The Wilmington (NC) Star News (1/27, 123K) reports that "hundreds of people descended Monday night on Kure Beach Town Hall, standing for more than two hours in the meeting room and parking lot, waiting for a chance to protest Mayor Dean Lambeth's decision to sign a letter endorsing seismic testing for oil and gas off the North Carolina coast." According to the article, "hundreds of people, many wearing matching blue Oceana T-shirts, filled the town hall meeting room and overflowed into the parking lot."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

FARMERS FEAR BOR COULD SEIZE WATER FROM SAN LUIS RESERVOIR. McClatchy (1/28, Doyle, Grossi, 95K) reports that with California "extremely dry, the farmers fear federal officials could effectively seize for other purposes the water set aside primarily in San Luis Reservoir on the valley's west side." According to the article, "affected farmers say that would be wrong," but "unfortunately for them, it might also be legal." However, "joined by Republican Reps. Kevin McCarthy, David Valadao and Devin Nunes, as well as Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Costa is urging the Interior Department not to redirect the so-called carryover water to other purposes." The piece also appears at the Fresno (CA) Bee (1/27, 327K), the Modesto (CA) Bee (1/27, 208K), the Bellingham (WA) Herald (1/27, 113K), the Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald (1/27, 154K), and the Chicago Tribune (1/27, Doyle, Grossi, 2.32M).

Meanwhile, the Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald (1/27, 154K) reports that "the California drought will soon expose the geographic, political, personal and institutional divisions that complicate meaningful congressional action." According to the article, "the first try comes this week when GOP lawmakers will introduce California water legislation." The article notes that "Republicans have promised a bill to temporarily stop San Joaquin River restoration, keep the Sacramento-San Joaquin pumps operating and establish a special 10-member House and Senate committee."

Additional commentary on the drought was provided by the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (1/27, 156K) and John Powell Jr. in an op-ed for the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (1/25, 110K).

BOR REDUCES FLOW INTO LAKE MEAD. FOX News (1/27, 6.72M) reports that "this year, for the first time in history, lower flows in the Colorado River have prompted the federal government to reduce the amount of water flowing into Lake Mead reservoir outside Las Vegas." BOR officials say "if the river's level doesn't increase soon, there's a 50 percent chance that by next year, residents in Arizona, southern Nevada and California will have to start rationing water." Larry Walkoviak, regional director with the BOR, explained, "There's a great deal of dependence upon the water supply from the Colorado River. There are seven states in the United States, but we also have the Republic of Mexico. So you have more than 30 million people that rely on the use of the water for municipal purposes, agricultural purposes, industrial purposes."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Contra Costa (CA) Times (1/28, Fitzgerald, 302K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

NIPMUC NATION FILES LAWSUIT SEEKING RECOGNITION AS TRIBE. The Boston Business Journal (1/27, Subscription Publication, 64K) reports that the Nipmuc Nation has "asked a federal court to overturn prior government decisions and grant the nation official status as an Indian Tribe — an effort that if successful could add a new wrinkle to the process of awarding casino licenses in Massachusetts." In its filing, "the tribe argues government officials who ultimately rejected the bid for tribal status 'acted arbitrarily and capriciously and have abused their discretion in the handling, consideration and determination of the Nipmuc Nation's Petition for Federal Acknowledgment, wrongfully rendered a Final Determination that is contrary to law and not supported by

substantial evidence, denied the Nipmuc Nation due process of law by applying the incorrect legal standard in its consideration of the standard and burden of proof, and by disregarding substantial evidence duly presented in support of the Petition and denied the Nipmuc Nation equal protection of the law by its refusal to apply federal law and regulations as to the Nipmuc Nation in the same or similar manner that it has applied such laws and regulations to other similarly situated petitioning tribes.'"

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR FIRST COBELL LAND CONSOLIDATION OFFERS. The Nation Sun News (1/28) reports that "deadlines are fast approaching for Indian landowners to accept offers being made under the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations." The article notes that "the first offers went out last month to members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe of South Dakota," and "responses are due starting this Wednesday." In addition, "offers went out to members of the Makah Nation of Washington last month," and "responses are due at various times, until February 10, according to a reminder from the Interior Department."

Top National News:

OBAMA EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON JOBS AND HIS EXECUTIVE POWERS TONIGHT. Preview coverage of tonight's State of the Union address includes front-page articles in the New York Times (1/28, A1, Lowrey, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) and the Washington Post (1/28, A1, Goldfarb, 4.28M) that touch on aspects of the President's anticipated themes. However, of the three network newscasts Monday evening, only the CBS Evening News (1/27, story 3, 3:05, 5.58M) featured a segment tied explicitly to tonight's address.

Much of the coverage draws attention to the White House messaging regarding the President's stated willingness to use his executive authority to advance his priorities, including his efforts to address income inequality. Scott Pelley, on the CBS Evening News (1/27, story 3, 3:05, 5.58M), reported that "jobs will be a theme in the President's State of the Union address," and that he is "expected to say that he will bypass Congress, if necessary, and use executive powers to bring relief to the long-term unemployment."

On Fox News' Special Report (1/28, 2.15M), Bret Baier said "all indications are the President will come out on the attack" Tuesday night. According to Ed Henry, the President's "top aides are signaling the speech will be a much more aggressive power play," and that he "stands ready to bypass [Congress] with unilateral executive action on issues like the economy, environment, and healthcare." White House press secretary Jay Carney was shown saying, "Mindful of Congress's reluctance to be cooperative at times, the President is going to exercise his authority; he's going to use his pen and his phone."

Ed Schultz, in his opening monologue for MSNBC's The Ed Show (1/28, 449K), said that the President is expected to "focus on income inequality," and noted that "this is supposed to be the 'year of action'" when the President will use all the power available to him to bypass Congress when need be. Schultz added, "it sounds good, but really it's a lot of generic talk, isn't it?" – because "the White House really hasn't made fully clear when and where this executive action is going to be taking place." Schultz went on to argue that when it comes to increasing the minimum wage, the President "is exactly right to take action without Congress," and that he "would be inept if he did not do it on the part of the progressive movement because that's what he ran on."

However, other analyses buttress the perception that the White House wants to diminish expectations regarding the scope of the agenda that the President intends to outline. For instance, the AP's (1/27, Pace) Julie Pace says the White House is hoping to "avoid...a repeat of 2013, when a long list of unfulfilled policy goals – including gun control and an immigration overhaul – dragged" the President "down like an anchor." According to Pace, this year's address "will focus instead on redefining success for Obama – not by what he can jam through Congress but rather by what he can accomplish through his own presidential powers."

Jackie Calmes, in a piece for the New York Times (1/28, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) titled, "Obama's Puzzle: Economy Rarely Better, Approval Rarely Worse," says that "never during [Obama's] time in office has the state of the economy been better — yet rarely has he gotten such low marks from the public for his handling of it." According to Calmes, "taking credit" for economic improvements is "complicated" because "many Americans have not seen much improvement for themselves or their family members." White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer is quoted as saying, "For the average person sitting at home watching news on TV and the Internet, they have seen their president spend the last six months or so dealing with N.S.A., a government

shutdown and a malfunctioning website."

On Fox News' Special Report (1/28, 2.15M), Bret Baier described the President as "an embattled leader hemorrhaging approval numbers whose party could possibly lose its tenuous grip of the Senate, virtually cementing his lame-duck status." However, former Democratic strategist Carter Eskew, in an online piece for the Washington Post (1/27, Eskew, 4.28M), notes that "for all the damage done recently to the president's image, on the question of who Americans have 'confidence in to make the right decisions for the country's future,'" the President "leads Congressional Democrats by 10 points and Republicans by 18 points, according to the Post-ABC news poll."

In an interview with USA Today (1/27, Page, 5.82M), Jon Favreau, who served as the President's chief speechwriter and "drafted his previous State of the Union addresses," says he expects the President to sketch "a plan to get [his] ideas through — not just Congress but, as he's been saying and as the White House has been saying for the last couple weeks, he can use the pen and he can use the phone." Asked by Susan Page, "'The pen and the phone' — doesn't that sound like a smaller presidency than before?" Favreau replies, "I don't think it's a smaller presidency. He's had a recalcitrant Congress for a couple years now," and so "you have to find other ways to get things done."

In his opening monologue for Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (1/28, 2.53M), Bill O'Reilly said the President "has promised that if Congress does not cooperate more with him, that he'll sign a bunch of executive orders, getting stuff done by fiat." According to O'Reilly, "that's not going to make many people happy."

Katrina Vanden Heuvel, in her column for the Washington Post (1/28, Heuvel, 4.28M), notes that "conservative businessman" Ron Unz is "fund[ing] a ballot measure that would raise California's minimum wage to $12 an hour," and that "58 percent of Americans who identify as Republicans support a higher minimum." Vanden Heuvel adds that "even" Fox News' O'Reilly, who will interview the President before the Super Bowl, "thinks it's a good idea!"

Gerald Seib, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (1/28, Seib, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), says the recent passage of the bipartisan spending deal could signal that the President and Congress can achieve something in the coming year – even if there is no hope for a "grand bargain" that would slow the increase of the Federal debt – potentially including immigration reform or infrastructure investments. But Rutgers political science professor Ross K. Baker, in an op-ed for USA Today (1/27, Baker, 5.82M), says that in his address last year, the President "was far too optimistic about the willingness of many Republicans to put their nation's interests ahead of the party."

WPost A1: Some Democrats Have Urged Obama To De-Emphasize Income Inequality Rhetoric. In a front-page article, the Washington Post (1/28, A1, Goldfarb, 4.28M) reports that Democrats hope Tuesday night's address is the "launching point for a year of sustained assault on Republicans over a populist economic agenda, part of an effort to focus more on bread-and-butter issues and less on income inequality." But, according to the Post, "some Democratic lawmakers and strategists have urged the White House to focus less on academic-sounding discussions of income inequality." Sen. Charles Schumer is quoted as saying, "The American people are more concerned about how they are doing as opposed to how someone else is doing. So simply saying, 'We're going to raise taxes on the wealthy' is not going to be the kind of answer that satisfies the middle class."

On the other hand, The Institute for Policy Studies' Sam Pizzigati, in an op-ed for USA Today (1/27, Pizzigati, 5.82M), notes that according to Gallup, "only 7% of Americans...currently feel 'very satisfied' with our nation's distribution of income and wealth," and, according to Pew, "only 26%...feel that the government should do 'not much' or 'nothing' to reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else." According to Pizzigati, these polls are evidence that "out beyond the Beltway...we have overwhelming public support for taking meaningful action against inequality."

USA Today (1/27, Board, 5.82M) in an accompanying editorial, says "income inequality is fodder for all manner of ideological...political gamesmanship," but "no one has yet come up with a convincing plan for reversing it." Bret Stephens, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (1/28, Stephens, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), mocks the President's campaign for income inequality by equating it with the government in Kurt Vonnegut's science fiction short story "Harrison Bergeron," which imposed a comically broad conception of equality through

legislation.

NYTimes A1: Obama's "Promise Zones" May Not Have Much Of An Impact. Annie Lowrey, in a front-page article for the New York Times (1/28, A1, Lowrey, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) titled, "Job Aid Zones Face A New Test In Coal Country," reports from Hazard, Kentucky that President Obama has "named the region a 'promise zone,' which means it will garner renewed attention from Washington." However, according to Lowrey, these "promise zones, which are part of the larger agenda to fight inequality and poverty that he plans to unveil Tuesday night...are just the latest version of an old idea: the politically popular enterprise zone." Lowrey says that in Kentucky, "experts are broadly skeptical that any federal initiative would be enough to combat...the immediate economic upheaval caused by the loss of coal jobs or the long-term economic torpor that is a product of remoteness, poor infrastructure and an undereducated work force."

Obama Plans Multi-Day Swing To Expand On Themes He Will Address Tuesday Night. The Washington Times (1/28, Dinan, 417K) reports that according to Nielsen, last year, the SOTU television audience was "33.5 million people, down from the 52.4 million who saw Mr. Obama's first address...in 2009." According to the Times, the White House "is desperate to turn the speech into a multiday event in an effort to bolster interest in Mr. Obama's policies, even if people don't tune in to hear his words." The Times notes that the President "has travel planned for Wednesday and Thursday with stops in Prince George's County, Md., Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, and Nashville, Tenn."

Republicans Claim Jobless Benefits Extensions Are Often Counterproductive. Scott Pelley, on the CBS Evening News (1/27, story 3, 3:05, 5.58M), said, "there's a debate...between Democrats and Republicans over whether extending unemployment benefits encourages people to stay unemployed." Nancy Cordes reported from North Carolina that "six months ago, the state's Republican-led legislature cut unemployment insurance from 26 weeks to 20 and slashed the weekly payment by 35 percent." According to Cordes, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory "argues the new law has given the jobless more incentive," and "points to the state's unemployment rate which fell from 8.9% last July to 7.4% today – the steepest drop in the country." Cordes said "a similar argument is playing out...on Capitol Hill" where "Republicans say the nation cannot afford these extended long-term benefits...while Democrats argue it can still take a year or more to find a job in some hard-hit industries."

Bloomberg News (1/27, Przybyla, 1.91M) reported that Congressional Democrats, including Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI) "think high poverty rates in Republican-held districts will soften opposition to restoring the jobless aid that expired Dec. 28 for more than 1.3 million Americans." However, according to Bloomberg, many "local Republican leaders and voters, even in areas with high unemployment, don't endorse a short-term fix," which has the effect of "easing pressure on House members to extend benefits." Bloomberg adds, "If anything, lawmakers are being lobbied against" extending the lapsed benefits by constituents who are "skeptical that restoring the benefits will help the jobless in their communities in the long run."

White House Asks Corporations Not To "Discriminate Against The Long-Term Unemployed." USA Today (1/27, Madhani, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that on Tuesday evening, the President "plans to urge major businesses...to pledge not to discriminate against long-term unemployed Americans." According to USA Today, "Several large...corporations confirmed that the Obama administration has called on them to sign a...pledge agreeing not to discriminate against the long-term unemployed when making hiring decisions." USA Today adds that the President is also "likely to call on Congress to pass an immigration bill and raise the minimum wage."

The Wall Street Journal (1/28, Leubsdorf, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that nationally and at the state level, there have been more than two dozen attempts to ban the practice of not hiring applicants solely because they have been out of work for an extended period of time, but only in New Jersey and Oregon have they been successful.

McMorris Rodgers Preparing For National Prominence. McClatchy (1/28, Bureau, 95K) reports that Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) "will join a long list of big names who've given the opposition response to the president's State of the Union speech since the tradition began 48 years ago." McClatchy notes that McMorris Rodgers "posted a photograph of herself on Instagram, holding her speech in one hand...and her 2-month-old daughter, Brynn, in the other" with the caption: "It really doesn't get much better than this!" According to McClatchy, McMorris Rodgers "has become the highest-ranking woman in the House of Representatives leadership," and is "taking a lead role in helping to shape the message as the GOP tries again to overhaul" the

Affordable Care Act.

In a piece for Politico Magazine (1/28, Farrell, 464K) titled, "The State of the Union Curse," John Aloysius Farrell says "being handed ...the opportunity to offer a retort to the president is generally thought to be an honor wrapped up in an opportunity," but "rather than propelling" Sen. Marco Rubio or Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal "to stardom, their ripostes to Obama's SOTU speeches bloodied none but themselves." The Weekly Standard's Fred Barnes, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (1/28, Barnes, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) titled, "The Curse Of The State-of-the-Union First Responder," notes that no one has gone from delivering the opposition party's response to winning the presidency.

FARM BILL COMPROMISE WOULD CUT FOOD STAMPS BY 1%. Coverage of the Congressional deal on a new farm bill tends to focus on the expected cuts to the food stamps program. USA Today (1/27, Doering, 5.82M) reports the measure "would save an estimated $24 billion over 10 years, with about a third of the spending cuts coming from the popular food stamp program." The House is expected to vote on the bill Wednesday, with the Senate following suit next week. The AP (1/27, Jalonick) says the food stamp cuts will amount to "about $800 million a year, or around 1 percent." The food stamp cuts, according to Reuters (1/28, Beech), would add up to $9 billion over 10 years – compared to the $40 billion previously sought by House Republicans.

The Washington Post (1/27, O'Keefe, 4.28M) notes the criticism of the food stamp cuts from "advocates for low-income families," who "blasted the deal Monday as unfair to the nation's poorest." Meanwhile, "several urban state lawmakers have said they likely will vote against the overall bill because of the...cuts." The New York Times (1/28, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) cites comments from Joel Berg, of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger, who said yesterday, "This vote is a tragic, heartless and economically counterproductive departure from America's bipartisan history of fighting hunger. ... Members of Congress who voted for this should be ashamed."

According to a preliminary CBO scores "provided to the Washington Times (1/27, Klimas, 417K) by a congressional aide," the measure "will reduce the deficit by about $23 billion," cutting "$19 billion from farm subsidy programs" and saving "$6 billion by increasing efficiency in conservation programs" in addition to the food stamp cuts. The deal, however, "spends an additional $10 billion in risk management and job creation and training." Bloomberg News (1/27, Bjerga, 1.91M) notes the accord "would be a third bipartisan deal by the current Congress, which passed a budget last month and cleared a $1.1 trillion spending bill on Jan. 16."

In a brief report on the story, the CBS Evening News (1/27, story 4, 0:25, Pelley, 5.58M) said the agreement "matters a lot because now farmers will be able to make plans knowing how much they'll be receiving in subsidies."

The Wall Street Journal (1/28, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) quotes House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas as saying, "We are putting in place sound policy that is good for farmers, ranchers, consumers, and those who have hit difficult times." Roll Call (1/28, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow said yesterday, "I'm confident we will have a majority of the conferees, and you know, we had strong bipartisan support." However, Politico (1/28, Rogers, 464K) reports, "the powerful meat industry was threatening to derail the giant measure when it comes to the House floor, possibly as early as Wednesday," and "the vehemence of the anger expressed by major beef, pork, and poultry lobbies left the House Republican leadership edgy." The Hill (1/28, Wasson, 194K) notes that the meat industry was upset after "language aimed at curtailing a meat country-of-origin labeling (MCOOL) requirement and one aimed at restricting activities by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) was left out" of the deal. In addition, McClatchy (1/28, Doyle, 95K) reports, "lawmakers dropped a controversial House provision that would have blocked California and other states from imposing stricter animal confinement rules."

Bill Allows Industrial Hemp Growth. The Washington Post (1/27, O'Keefe, 4.28M) that "aides confirmed that the bill authorizes colleges and universities to grow industrial hemp for research purposes in states that permit growth and cultivation of the plant." Those states are Colorado, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia.

NEW HOME SALES DOWN SHARPLY IN DECEMBER. Bloomberg News (1/27, Woellert, 1.91M) reports that new home sales fell 7% in December to a 414,000 unit annual rate, following a 445,000 rate in November.

December's sales were "lower than any estimate of economists" surveyed by Bloomberg, and November's report was also revised downward. Still, 2013 as a whole saw new home sales rise 16.4% to 428,000, the highest rate in five years. Bloomberg says that the housing rebound "has cooled as bad weather slowed the market and as buyers adjust to higher borrowing costs and rising property values."

Reuters (1/28, Mutikani) reports the numbers, but says that thin inventories and regular price gains argue that the housing market recovery continues. Reuters also said that economists largely dismissed the two consecutive months of declines, blaming it on the cold weather that has blanketed the nation.

Stocks Continued Decline On Monday. The Wall Street Journal (1/27, Strumpf, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that stocks fell again on Monday as investors looked to determine if the problems in emerging markets that hinder the markets last week had run its course. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 41 points to 15838, its fifth consecutive decline, while the S&P 500 fell nine points to 1782. The Nasdaq Composite Index, meanwhile, fell 45 points to 4,084.

Minnesota Fed Chief Pushes For More Fed Action. The New York Times (1/28, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Narayana R. Kocherlakota, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, was in the past a top opponent of Fed stimulus activity, but he has now "emerged as the only senior official arguing publicly that the Fed should do even more." Kocherlakota spent "recent months crisscrossing the Midwestern region served by the Minneapolis Fed," arguing that the Fed faces a challenge in dealing with "persistent unemployment," but so far, "the Fed is falling short."

Bernanke Led Determined Response To Financial Crisis. McClatchy (1/28, Hall, 95K) reports that outgoing Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke "ends his second four-year term as Fed chairman on Jan. 31, a stretch that to him might have felt like it was measured in dog years." After the financial collapse, Bernanke "was determined not to repeat the Fed's passive response of the 1930s." Instead, Bernanke "attacked the crisis with aggressive and creative moves designed to keep the economy moving forward at all cost."

More Commentary. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/28, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) considers Bernanke's legacy, noting that many in the economics sphere consider him one of the greatest Fed chairs in history. However, the Journal says that while Bernanke has been one of the most important Fed chairs, how good he is remains to be seen. The ultimately judge, the Journal says, is how well the Fed's taper goes.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Mayor Pushes Back, For Pre-K."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (1/28, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) criticizes the House GOP for approving a "package of bills that could undercut an environmental law that has helped clean some of the most polluted places in the nation." The legislation would allow states to "apply their own standards to the cleanup of hazardous waste sites," which would likely be "considerably weaker" than required by the Federal Superfund program. The Times hopes that the legislation dies in the Senate.

"Turkey's Wrong Turn." The New York Times (1/28, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan "has created a political disaster at home, transforming Turkey into an authoritarian state that poses dangers not just for itself but for its allies in NATO, including the United States." The Times notes that while the ongoing corruption probe in Turkey may be "politically motivated" as Erdogan has claimed, Erdogan should be "insisting that the probe be fair and transparent, not trying to derail it." The Times calls on the Obama Administration "to send a strong message about the damaging course Mr. Erdogan is pursuing," noting that whether Turkey "nurtures its hard-won democracy" or "turns authoritarian is as critical to regional stability and to its NATO allies as it is to Turks."

"Contraception Before The Court." The New York Times (1/28, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes about the Supreme Court's "disappointing order on Friday" extending "a temporary injunction barring the Obama administration from enforcing paperwork rules against a Colorado nuns' group in connection with a federal law that requires employer health plans to cover birth control without a co-payment." To the Times, "the real threat to religious liberty is the unjustified effort by employers to impose their religious views on their

employees."

"The House Targets Superfund." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/28, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio "went to Albany on Monday to answer the naysayers and skeptics — chief among them, Gov. Andrew Cuomo — who want him to abandon his prekindergarten plan and his tax on wealthy residents." The Times says that de Blasio "has a lot more to do" to make his plan work, but "he is pushing in the right direction."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Murder At The Mall."*** The Washington Post (1/28, Board, 4.28M) editorializes on Saturday's shooting in Columbia, noting that the killed appears to have chosen his victims at random, something which "defies comprehension, no matter how often we have witnessed similar spectacles."

"E.U.'s Choice On Cuba." An editorial in the Washington Post (1/28, 4.28M) calls on the European Union, which is Cuba's "second-most important trading partner and biggest external investor" to "take advantage of that leverage" to influence Cuba on the issue of human rights. The Post notes that when EU ministers meet in Brussels in February to consider "whether to begin a negotiation toward a new 'political and cooperation agreement' with Cuba," they should "take a stand for human rights and send a message to Raúl Castro and his brother Fidel that investments and aid are linked to progress toward democracy and an end to repression."

"Pollution Goes Global." An editorial in the Washington Post (1/28, 4.28M) notes the spread of pollution across borders and says that climate change "must ultimately be solved by many nations — particularly the emissions behemoths, the United States and China — moving in the same direction." The Post argues that there are "dozens of cross-border environmental issues, and they will require overcoming global political tensions and short-term economic incentives that discourage different countries from cooperating." While the world has tackled "the phaseout of emissions that thin the ozone layer," world leaders "have many more to see to."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Bernanke Legacy."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/28, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) considers outgoing Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke's legacy, noting that many in the economics sphere consider him one of the greatest Fed chairs in history. However, the Journal says that while Bernanke has been one of the most important Fed chairs, how good he is remains to be seen. The ultimately judge, the Journal says, is how well the Fed's taper goes.

"Obama's Trade Test." The Wall Street Journal (1/28, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, says that, with a few reservations aside, the TPP would benefit the US economy substantially. The Journal also says trade promotion authority is absolutely necessary to pass the TPP, or any other trade deal. The Journal goes on to say that a majority of House Republicans will back the President, but they need the President to secure support from House Democrats so that the trade votes are less likely to be used as a partisan campaign issue. The Journal faults the President for not making his case for his trade agenda more forcefully, and urges him to personally speak out on the issues in the future.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Reaches Deal With Tech Firms On Data Requests
Efforts To Ease Homs Siege Falter
A Suspect Emerges In Trading Hiccups

New York Times:
Backing In GOP For Legal Status For Immigrants
Job Aid Zones Face A New Test In Coal Country
Egypt's Ruler Eyes Riskier Role: The Presidency
Spy Agencies Tap Data Streaming From Phone Apps
Genetic Weapon Against Insects Raises Hope And Fear In Farming
The Food May Be Fast, But These Customers Won't Be Rushed

Washington Post:
Karzai Said To Suspect US In Insurgent Attacks
Democrat's VA Senate Victory Boosts Governor
Obama Plans A Broader Message
US Lets Tech Firms Reveal More About Surveillance
Mall Shooter Gave No Hint Of What Was To Come

Financial Times:
RBS Set For £8Bn Loss After £3Bn Provision
F&C Reveals 700 M Pound Offer From Canada's BMO
Google Buys UK Start-Up
AT&T Pauses Vodafone Pursuit
Apple Bruised As iPhone Sales Disappoint
Bitcoin Champion On Laundering Charge
Argentina A Special Case Among EM Nations

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; CDC-Cruise Ship Illness; Super Bowl-Sex Trafficking; Russia-Olympic Security; Gun Safety-Children; Hilary Clinton-Benghazi
CBS: Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; State Of The Union-Jobs; Farm Bill Agreement; Russia-Olympic Corruption; Japan-Fukushima; Texas Pregnant Woman Life Support Case; CDC-Cruise Chip Illness
NBC: Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; Maryland Mall Shooting Details; CDC-Cruise Ship Illness; Russia-Olympic Security; Hilary Clinton-Campaign Speculation; Radel-Resignation; Former New Orleans Mayor Trial; Snowden-Spying Documents

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Tech Companies-Spying Scandal; Flights Canceled; Winter Weather; Maryland Mall Shooting; CDC-Cruise Ship Illness
CBS: Winter Weather; CDC-Cruise Ship Illness; NSA-Phone Spying Scandal; Trey Radel-Resignation; Ohio-Death Penalty Controversy
NPR: Farm Bill Agreement; Winter Weather; Toyota Camry Problems; Asian Stocks Up; Mexico-Drug Cartel Leader Arrested; Maryland-Mall Shooting Details; Denver-Marijuana Plants In County Fair
FOX: Winter Weather; Natural Gas Shortage; Afghanistan-Prisoner Release; Gun Safety-Children

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; Delivers State of the Union address, United States Capitol.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Meets Secretary of State John Kerry for breakfast, Naval Observatory, closed press; receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; attends meetings at the White House; attends the State of the Union address.
US Senate: 8:30 a.m. REPEAL OF MILITARY RETIREMENT CUTS – SENATORS — Ahead of a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on adjustments to COLAs for military retirees and Tuesday nights State of the Union Address, veterans and military families will join Senators from both parties to call for a total repeal of the retirement cuts. Speakers: U.S. Senator Mark Begich (D-AK); Paul Rieckhoff, CEO and Founder, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Veterans and military families. Media RSVP: RSVP by emailing press@iava.org or calling 212-982-9699. Location: G-10 Dirksen.

3:15 p.m. MIKULSKI, SENATE WOMEN – LILLY LEDBETTER — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.); Senate women colleagues will hold a photo-op with pay equity activist Lilly Ledbetter. Ledbetter will be the guest

of Representative Rosa DeLauro, D-CT at President Obamas State of the Union Address "where he is expected to call for measures to reduce income inequality". Location: S-128, Senate Appropriations Committee Room.

9 p.m. STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS — President Barack Obama is scheduled to deliver the State of the Union Address to a joint session of Congress.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — To receive testimony on recent changes to the U.S. military retirement system. Witnesses: Christine H. Fox, Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense; Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Panel II: General John H. Tilelli, Jr., USA (Ret.), Chairman of the Board, Military Officers Association of America; General Gordon R. Sullivan, USA (Ret.), President and Chief Executive Officer, Association of the United States Army; Master Sergeant Richard J. Delaney, USAF (Ret.), National President, The Retired Enlisted Association; Dr. David S.C. Chu, President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute for Defense Analyses. Location: G50 Dirksen.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — Hearing to consider the bipartisan Critical Minerals Policy Act of 2013. ww.energy.senate.gov Location: 366 Dirksen.

10 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Nominations hearing. Panel One: Max Baucus of Montana, to be Ambassador to China. Panel Two: Arnold Chacon of Virginia, to be Director General of the Foreign Service; Daniel Bennett Smithof Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research. Location: 419 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Hearing on Judicial Nominations: Steven Paul Logan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; John Joseph Tuchi, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; Diane J. Humetewa, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; Rosemary Marquez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; Douglas L. Rayes, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; James Alan Soto, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=138603a26950ad873303535a63099d4b Location: 226 Dirksen.
US House: 10 a.m. DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS STAKEOUT — News Conference following the Democratic Caucus with Democratic Caucus Chairman Rep. Becerra, and Rep. Crowley post-caucus meeting avail. (Mtg starts @ 9 am, HVC-215) Location: HVC-210 Alcove.

10 a.m. HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAKEOUT — Participants: Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Representative Diane Black (R-TN). Location: RNC Lobby, U.S. Capitol.

11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. No Cameras allowed. Location: H-144 in the U.S. Capitol.

1 p.m. ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVES – IMMIGRATION – SOTU — Illinois Reps Host Immigration Advocates for State of the Union. Members of the Illinois Delegation: Congressman Luis Gutiirrez (IL-4) p guest: Rev. Tony Suarez,; Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-5) – Ameya Pawar; Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-9) – Rudy Lopez; Congressman Brad Schneider (IL-10) – Estefania Garcia; Congressman Bill Foster (IL-11) – Maria Torres. RSVP to Megan Jacobs (megan.jacobs@mail.house.gov) Location: 1224 Longworth.

1:15 p.m. VEASEY AND GUEST PRESSER — News Conference with Rep. Veasey meets with State of the Union guest Jason Roberts on the Affordable Care Act (ACA). RSVP: Jessica. Coscia@mail.house.gov Location: 414 CHOB.

2 p.m. GOP LAWMAKERS – OBAMATRADE — Members of Congress will be joined by leaders of the conservative movement, including Tea Party Nation, Eagle Forum, the U.S. Business & Industry Council and the American Jobs Alliance on what they are dubbing "Obamatrade". Speakers: Congressman Paul Broun (GA-10); Bruce Fein, advisor to Sen. Rand Paul; Judson Phillips, president, Tea Party Nation,; Kevin Kearns, president, U.S. Business & Industry Council; Den Black, president, American Jobs Alliance; others. Contact: Curtis Ellis, 917-861-2233 obamatrade@gmail.com Location: 2318 Rayburn.

2:45 p.m. RNC CHAIRMAN, HOUSE MEMBERS – OBAMACARE — RNC Chairman and Republican House

Members to Hold Press Conference with Americans "Affected by ObamaCare". Speakers: RNC Chairman Reince Priebus; NRCC Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR); Republican Study Committee Chairman Steve Scalise (R-LA); Congressman Bill Cassidy (R-LA); Congressman Bob Latta (R-OH); Americans "negatively affected by ObamaCare". Location: Republican National Committee, 310 First St. SE.

3:30 p.m. HOUSE DEMOCRATS – SOTU – UNEMPLOYED — Press Conference with House Democrats and their unemployed guests to the State of the Union Address. Members and guests will urge an extension of the federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, which expired December 28th. Participants: Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI) and Josie Maisano of St. Clair Shores, MI; Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Brian Krueger of Mount Horeb, WI; Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) and Alexandria Jamieson of Los Alamitos, CA; Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) and Wessita McKinley of Capital Heights, MD; Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM) and Coby Messier of Albuquerque, NM; Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) and Mark Wetherbee of Ewing, NJ; Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Katherine Hackett of Moodus, CT; Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV) and Tamika Woods of North Las Vegas, NV. Location: 234 Cannon House office building.

9 p.m. STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS — President Barack Obama is scheduled to deliver the State of the Union Address to a joint session of Congress.

10 a.m. — The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. The House will recess no later than 5:30 p.m. to allow a security sweep of the House Chamber prior to the President's State of the Union address. The House will meet again at approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving, in a joint session with the Senate, the President of the United States.

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Full Committee Hearing, "Rebalancing to the Asia-Pacific Region: Examining its Implementation." Witnesses: Frank Kendall Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense; Michael D. Lumpkin , Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display?ContentRecord_id=D4F70C83-7524-4839-938C-697623EAEA53 Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10 a.m. BUDGET — Full committee hearing on A Progress Report on the War on Poverty: Expanding Economic Opportunity. Witnesses: Ron Haskins Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, Brookings Institution; Scott Winship, Walter B. Wriston Fellow, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research; Robert Greenstein, President, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. http://budget.house.gov/hearingschedule2014/hearing1282014.htm Location: 210 Cannon.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE — Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training hearing on "Keeping College within Reach: Sharing Best Practices for Serving Low-income and First Generation Students". Witnesses: Dr. James Anderson, Chancellor, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, North Carolina; Mary Beth Del Balzo, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, The College of Westchester, White Plains, New York; Josse Alex Garrido, Graduate Student, University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas; Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, President, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois. http://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=362695 Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Energy and Power markup on H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act; H.R. 2126, the Better Buildings Act (Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute). http://energycommerce.house.gov/markup/full-committee-vote-hr-3826-electricity-security-and-affordability-act-and-hr-2126-better-buildings-act Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Full committee hearing on "The Semi-Annual Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau." Witness: Richard Cordray, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=367345 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations hearing on Top Management Challenges: Grant Management at the U.S. Department of Justice. Witness: Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings?ID=4043466F-B048-4008-86E1-2E8ADBBAD2C9 Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Full Committee Markup on H.R. 163, H.R. 433, H.R. 2095, H.R. 2259, H.R. 2657 and H.R. 3492. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=367369 Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing on A Roadmap For Hackers? – Documents Detailing HealthCare.gov Security Vulnerabilities. http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/roadmap-hackers/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade will hold a hearing titled, &8203;Small Business Trade Agenda: Status and Impact of International Agreements. Witness: James Sanford, Assistant United States Trade Representative, for Small Business, Market Access and Industrial Competitiveness, Office of the United States Trade Representative. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=340264 Location: 2360 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Highways and Transit Subcommittee Hearing, "Improving the Effectiveness of the Federal Surface Transportation Safety Grant Programs." Witnesses: Christopher A. Hart, Vice Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board; Douglas B. Danko, Chairman, American Traffic Safety Services Association; Sgt. Thomas Fuller, New York State Police; on behalf of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance; Kendall Poole, Director, Tennessee Governors Highway Safety Office; on behalf of the Governors Highway Safety Association; Dr. Peter Sweatman, Director, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, on behalf of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. VETERAN'S AFFFAIRS — Full committee hearing on What can the Federal Government Learn from the Private Sectors Successful Approach to Hiring Veterans? Witnesses: Panel 1: Brig. Gen. Gary M. Profit (US Army, Ret.), Senior Director, Military Programs, Walmart; Sean Kelley, Senior Staffing Director, Cloud and Enterprise Group & Military Recruiting, Microsoft Corporation; Maureen E. Casey, Managing Director, Military and Veterans Affairs, JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Jim Amos, Chairman, Tasti D-Lite and Planet Smoothie, On Behalf of the International Franchise Association; Ross Cohen, Senior Director, Hiring Our Heroes, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

10 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Hearing on the Impact of the Employer Mandates Definition of Full-time Employee on Jobs and Opportunities. http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=367349 Location: 1100 Longworth.

1:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Transportation Security hearing on "Examining TSA's Cadre of Criminal Investigators". Witnesses: Roderick Allison Assistant Administrator, Office of Inspection, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Karen Shelton Waters, Assistant Administrator, Office of Human Capital, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Anne Richards, Assistant Inspector General, Office of Audits, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/examining-tsas-cadre-criminal-investigators Location: 311 Cannon.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Joint Subcommittee Hearing: Implementation of the Iran Nuclear Deal. Witnesses: Mark D. Wallace, Chief Executive Officer, United Against Nuclear Iran, (Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations); Gregory S. Jones, Senior Researcher, Nonproliferation Policy Education Center; Olli Heinonen, Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, (Former Deputy Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency); David Albright, Founder and President, Institute for Science and International, Security. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet hearing on The Scope of Fair Use. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings? ID=8E18A9AA-1AA4-4D7C-8EBF-0284862EC44B Location: 2141 Rayburn.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce hearing on Examining the Use and Abuse of Administratively Uncontrollable Overtime at the Department of Homeland Security. Witnesses: Carolyn Lerner,

Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel; Ron Vitiello, Deputy Chief, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Catherine Emerson, Chief Human Capital Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Brandon Judd, President, National Border Patrol Council. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/fpfw/hearings/examining-the-use-and-abuse-of-administratively-uncontrollable-overtime-at-the-department-of-homeland-security Location: 342 Cannon.

3:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces Joint Hearing on the People's Republic of China's Counterspace Program and the Implications for U.S. National Security. Witnesses: Dr. Robert L. Butterworth President, Aries Analytics, Inc.; Michael Krepon , Co-Founder/Senior Associate, The Stimson Center; Dr. Ashley J. Tellis , Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Location: 2118 Rayburn.
Other: Jan. 27 – 28. AMERICAN ENERGY SUMMIT — The Summit brings together key federal, state, and local officials; top military leaders; and leading business executives "to discuss and identify solutions to advance American energy independence and to get details on the recently passed Congressional appropriations for energy." Location: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

Jan. 27 – 29. CHEA 2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE — Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) annual conference. 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Plenary Session III: Accreditation and the Higher Education Act: Perspectives from the U.S. House of Representatives Speaker: Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-North Carolina), Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training. Location: Capital Hilton Hotel, 1001 16th Street NW.

STATE OF THE NET — 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. The 10th Annual State of the Net Conference, billed as the largest Internet policy conference in the nation. Featuring an address by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler, recently confirmed by the Senate. Hosted by the Internet Education Foundation. http://www.stateofthenet.org/ 10:10 a.m. Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Mythili Raman will deliver remarks.

2014 FARM BILL – PITFALLS — 10 a.m. Press conference on the "economic harm" caused by the 2014 farm bill – saying that, in its current form the 2014 farm bill "fails to fix" the U.S. Country of Origin Labeling law. Speakers: Scott George, president, National Cattlemens Beef Association; Jessica Lemos, director of international trade policy, National Association of Manufacturers; Randy Spronk, president, National Pork Producers Council. Call-In Information: 866-847-7859 (Media Only), Conference ID: 1631968. Contact: Dave Warner, National Pork Producers Council: 202-347-3600; warnerd@nppc.org

HERITAGE – SOCHI OLYMPICS – SENATOR CRUZ — 10 a.m. Sochi Olympics, Human Rights, and the US-Russian Relations Featuring keynote remarks by Seantor Ted Cruz (R-TX); Stanislav Belkovsky, Chairman, Stanslav Belkovsky Foundation; Katrina Lantos Swett, Ph.D., Vice Chair, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. Followed by a panel with Ariel Cohen, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies, The Heritage Foundation; Ilan Berman, Vice President of the American Foreign Policy Council; Donald N. Jensen, Ph.D., Resident Fellow, The Center for Transatlantic Relations, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University; Vladimir Kara-Murza, Senior Policy Advisor, Institute of Modern Russia. Hosted by Steven P. Bucci, Ph.D., Director, Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation. http://www.heritage.org/events/2014/01/sochi-olympics Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE

AEI – SCHOOL CHOICE — 10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. At this event, held during National School Choice Week, Senators Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Tim Scott (R-S.C.) will unveil new federal legislation aimed at encouraging innovative state efforts to expand school choice and educational opportunity without imposing new federal mandates. Location: Wohlstetter Conference Center, 12th floor, AEI, 1150 17th St. NW.

RNC CHAIRMAN, HOUSE MEMBERS – OBAMACARE — 2:45 p.m. RNC Chairman and Republican House Members to Hold Press Conference with Americans "Affected by ObamaCare". Speakers: RNC Chairman Reince Priebus; NRCC Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR); Republican Study Committee Chairman Steve Scalise (R-LA); Congressman Bill Cassidy (R-LA); Congressman Bob Latta (R-OH); Americans "negatively affected by ObamaCare". Location: Republican National Committee, 310 First St. SE.

STATE OF THE UNION – GREEN PARTY — 9 p.m. The Green Party will host a Livestream broadcast of President Obama's State of the Union address with Green guest commentary. Participants include: Jill Stein, 2012 Green Party presidential nominee and co-founder of the Green Shadow Cabinet (http://greenshadowcabinet.us); Cheri Honkala, 2012 Green vice-presidential nominee, co-founder of the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (http://greenshadowcabinet.us/member-profile/8581); Laura Wells, 2014 Green candidate for Controller of California (http://www.laurawells.org / Twitter: https://twitter.com/WellsController). For more information: http://www.gp.org/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/details/4/669.html Contacts: Scott McLarty, Media Coordinator, 202-904-7614, mclarty@greens.org; Starlene Rankin, Media Coordinator, 916-995-3805, starlene@gp.org

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: "Well, tomorrow night President Obama will deliver his State of the Union address. Aides say he won't mention the war on drugs, because he's still not sure which side he's on."

Jay Leno: "Well, according to a new study, prolonged sitting around can be as unhealthy for you as smoking. They say sitting around all day and doing nothing can actually kill you. Naturally, these findings scare the hell out of Congress."

Conan O'Brien: "Last week, a New Jersey state Senator said he will introduce a bill to legalize marijuana in New Jersey. Today, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie promised to veto it, saying, 'You do not want to see me get the munchies.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Get this, after the President's State of the Union address, there will be three separate Republican rebuttals. Obama said, 'Yeah, I live with two daughters, my wife and my mother-in-law. Three people telling me I'm wrong is a holiday. I look forward to that. Three is easy.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Big new announcement from NSA leaker Edward Snowden. In a new interview, he said he no longer has any confidential documents in his possession. Then he said, 'Hey, where's everybody going?'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Jan 29, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA HIGHLIGHTS ENERGY IN STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS. Reuters (1/29, Volcovici) reports that in his State of the Union address, President Obama highlighted the role natural gas played in cutting greenhouse gas emissions and creating jobs, but did not address whether he will approve the Keystone XL pipeline. Instead, President Obama emphasized new and existing measures to expand clean energy production, primarily by using executive powers rather than depending on action by Congress. President Obama also reaffirmed his commitment to his Climate Action Plan and said that the EPA will continue to work with states and cities to develop new carbon pollution standards to cut domestic emissions from existing power plants.

The Hill (1/29, Barron-Lopez, 194K) notes in its "E2 Wire" blog that President Obama said that "climate change is a fact" in his State of the Union address, winning a "standing ovation from the majority of Democrats."

In another "E2 Wire" blog post, the Hill (1/29, Barron-Lopez, 194K) adds that President Obama credited his "all of the above" energy strategy "for bringing the U.S. closer to energy independence for the first time in decades."

The Washington Times (1/29, Wolfgang, 417K) adds that President Obama focused on "smaller goals" for climate and energy during his State of the Union address, vowing that "his administration would act to limit carbon emissions." The Times notes that these smaller measures are achievable "through executive action," rather than depending on "Congress taking serious action anytime soon."

This story is also reported by the US News & World Report (1/29, Neuhauser, 620K) and Forbes (1/29, McMahon, 6.03M).

Environmental Groups Prod Obama To Act On Conservation. The Washington Examiner (1/29, 319K) reports that environmental groups are pressing President Obama to "say he will use his pen to draw a border around lands they feel deserve special protection during his Tuesday State of the Union address." The organizations are "amping up a push aimed at getting Obama to use executive authority to designate national monuments and establish wilderness zones across the country." Proponents of "such an effort note that last Congress was the first since World War II to not designate a national monument through legislation – a product of Tea Party groups refusing to roll more land into federal management and also to keep such areas open to potential energy development."

The San Francisco Chronicle (1/29, Lochhead, Marinucci, 2.88M) reports that "in a single sentence, Obama promised to use his executive power to set aside more public lands – and high on the list is the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands off the coast of Mendocino, which Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited last summer." Also, "with a nod to the Western drought, Obama vowed to press ahead on his own with efforts to combat climate change, promising new fuel efficiency standards for trucks, touting US emergence as 'a global leader in solar' and vowing to set carbon emission limits on coal-fired power plants."

Meanwhile, the Indian Country Today Media Network (1/28, 21K) reports that "on January 24, the Fort Sill Apache tribe issued a resolution of support for the establishment of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks national monument located in tribe's aboriginal homeland." Tribal Chairman Jeff Haozous said, "As the people of this land we strongly believe that this region should be permanently protected to preserve valuable tribal cultural resources that originated on these territories. National monument designation would allow our children and future generations the opportunity to understand and appreciate the bounty and beauty of their cultural heritage and aboriginal homelands." According to the article, "in addition to protecting the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, the Tribe desires to participate in the management of the monument based on their cultural, historical and modern day connection with the former tribal lands."

Forbes Criticizes Obama's Energy Comments In State Of The Union. Forbes (1/28, Helman, 6.03M) argues that President Obama's "all of the above" energy strategy is not responsible for bringing the US closer to energy independence, instead crediting "the boom in the production of oil and natural gas." Forbes notes that President Obama did not mention fracking, nuclear power, wind power, or coal power, and criticizes his Administration's pressure on the coal industry.

SENATE PANEL ANNOUNCES SECOND HEARING ON INTERIOR NOMINATIONS. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/29, 705) reports that "President Obama's picks to lead the Interior Department's wildlife, parks and mineral programs will return to Capitol Hill next week for a second hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee." According to the article, "the Feb. 4 hearing will give members another chance to vet Rhea Suh for assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, and Janice Schneider for assistant secretary for land and minerals management." Committee ranking member Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) said "she requested the hearing to ask Suh more questions about Interior's management of federal lands in Alaska." Also, "Murkowski remains concerned with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's decision last month to reject a proposed road through an Alaskan wildlife refuge that she argues her constituents badly need."

FARM BILL INCLUDES EXTENSION OF PILT FUNDING. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/29, 22K) reports that Sen. Harry Reid has "announced that the Farm Bill agreement includes a one-year extension of Payments in Lieu of Taxes funding." Reid said, "As a rural Nevadan, I know how important PILT funding is for our counties. That's why I worked to ensure this one-year extension was included in the Farm Bill agreement. It is a matter of fairness that in a state like Nevada, where the federal government owns over 85 percent of the land, our counties receive the revenue they deserve from this land. Counties are able to use these funds to provide vital services such as fire-fighting, law enforcement, and healthcare. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Farm Bill and extend this important program and I stand committed to ensuring PILT's continued funding in the years to come."

Also reporting on the story is the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (1/29, 46K).

UTAH LAWMAKERS MAKING PLANS TO MANAGE NOW-FEDERAL LAND. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/29, 343K) reports that "the Legislature two years ago passed a law demanding that the federal government transfer most of its public lands within Utah to the state," and "now lawmakers are writing a package of bills to show how they would actually manage the land if the shift occurred." Rep. Keven Stratton said "the House GOP is working on bills, for example, that will outline how Utah would define and set aside wilderness areas on public lands it obtained." Legislators are "drafting another bill that would outline the use of revenues coming from the lands," and "another piece of legislation would set up a sort of task force, with legislators as members, to work with other states and the federal government to figure out next steps toward bringing about the transfer."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WORKING TO COMBAT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. The Antiques And The Arts (1/28) reports on the measures taken by the Obama Administration to combat illegal wildlife trafficking. The article notes that President Barack Obama's Executive Order 13648 "seeks to protect endangered wildlife, especially African elephants and rhinoceroses, which are being killed for their ivory tusks and horns, and to stem 'illegal trade in wildlife and derivative parts and products' in a variety of ways, one of which could ultimately result in a blanket ban on the trade of ivory as a way to reduce both illegal poaching and illegal trade, as well as the demand that fuels those activities." Also, "in issuing the order, the administration also established an advisory council charged with developing a national strategy." Jessica Kershaw, spokeswoman for the Interior Department said, "The Federal Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking held its first meeting in December to discuss efforts currently under way and to generate new ideas about actions that federal agencies can take to combat wildlife trafficking both domestically and internationally. Ideas being considered and discussed by the advisory council include administrative actions that the US Fish & Wildlife Service could take to increase restrictions on import and export; and to impose strict controls on domestic elephant ivory trade, effectively ending commercial ivory trade within the United States. These proposals, if adopted into the national strategy, would be one part of a broader set of efforts to reduce demand for ivory within the United States. Those efforts, in turn, would be included in a larger federal effort to combat wildlife trafficking worldwide."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES HISTORIC AMERICAN AUTOMOBILES. In a piece for Automobile Magazine (1/29, 2.83M), David Kiley, President of the International Motor Press, write that the Interior Department has "approved creation of a registry of historically significant automobiles to be recorded at the Library of Congress, a list which will quickly number in the hundreds within a few years." Kiley says that the move will jumpstart debates "in every car museum, bar, auto show, repair shop and backyard barbecue as to what cars should be included."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION CRITICIZES SECRETARY JEWELL OVER MEETING. Additional coverage of the criticism by Colorado Press Association against Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for closing a public meeting in Craig to reporters was provided by the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/29, 73K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

HOUSE PANEL PASSES BILL TO OPEN RIVERS IN YELLOWSTONE, GRAND TETON TO MORE VESSELS. The AP (1/29, Brown) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday "unanimously passed a

measure that would lift longstanding restrictions on canoes, rafts and other 'hand-propelled' vessels in rivers and streams in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks." The Interior Department "opposes the proposed changes," and "agency officials contend the existing restrictions allow visitors to experience the solitude and wildness of the parks' pristine waterways without the 'intrusion' of watercraft." However, "the bill's sponsor, Republican Wyoming Rep. Cynthia Lummis, said she wants to allow more paddling access so people can have 'a truly unforgettable experience' when they visit the parks."

AP coverage was also picked up by the Washington Times (1/29, Brown, 417K), the Fort Mill (SC) Times (1/28, 54K), and the Idaho Statesman (1/28, 205K).

Parks Crowded Despite Cutbacks. The AP (1/29) reports that "Grand Teton and Yellowstone national park officials say they were crowded over the past year, despite smaller staffs, decreased services and a government shutdown." The article notes that "Grand Teton, with an estimated 2.7 million recreational visitors, had the sixth-busiest year in its history." Also, "Yellowstone reported about 3.2 million visitors, the fifth-busiest year in its storied history."

NPS TO HOLD MEETING ON PROPOSED MALL METERS. The DCist (1/29, 21K) reports that the NPS will "hold a public meeting next month to discuss the proposed installation of parking meters on parts of the Mall, where public parking is currently free." The article notes that "a public meeting will be held on February 11 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the NPS headquarters (1100 Ohio Drive SW) to discuss the proposal."

Also reporting on the story are the Gothamist (1/29, 145K) and WJLA-TV Washington (1/29, 118K).

NPS CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ON PRESIDIO PROJECT. The San Francisco Examiner (1/29, 412K) reports that "any decisions about the proposals for the former commissary site in the Presidio, including a plan by filmmaker George Lucas to build a museum, already have been delayed for months," but now the NPS is "calling for a moratorium of several years on the decision for what could be built across from Crissy Field." Golden Gate National Recreation Area General Superintendent Frank Dean wrote in the Dec. 12 letter to the Presidio Trust, "We must again express our strong recommendation, echoed by many others, that the Trust defer any decision for several years to allow the site to develop a more comprehensive, thoughtful, integrated and planned manner."

PLAN FOR WELCOME CENTER ON GROUNDS OF THE BREAKERS TO GO FORWARD. The AP (1/28, Press) reports that "a proposal to build a welcome center on the grounds of The Breakers, a Gilded Age mansion once home to Cornelius Vanderbilt, cleared a critical hurdle on Monday." According to the article, "in a 4-1 vote, members of Newport's Zoning Board of Review overturned an earlier decision that had found the project incompatible with local historic standards." The NPS "in a letter last week expressed concerns that the plan constitutes a significant change that could damage the national historic landmark and asked the Preservation Society to reconsider," but on Monday, the agency "retracted the letter." The NPS said that "while it had concerns about the project, it hopes to work in partnership with the group."

EPA PROPOSES EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR SIX ARIZONA FACILITIES. According to the AP (1/29, 417K), the EPA has put forward emissions controls for "six facilities in Arizona to improve visibility at national parks and wilderness areas." The article continues, EPA will hold public meetings in the coming months, but it "estimates the proposals would reduce sulfur dioxide," for instance, "by almost 30,000 tons per year and nitrogen oxides by 3,100 tons annually."

ANNIVERSARY OF JOHNSTOWN FLOOD TO BE MARKED. The AP (1/29) reports that the Johnstown Area Heritage Association and "its partners are planning a season full of events to mark the 125th anniversary of Johnstown's 1889 flood." Organized by JAHA and dozens of partners, including the NPS, "events will include special Johnstown Symphony Orchestra concerts in May; a daylong June 1 'Community Day' heritage festival featuring music, vendors and carriage rides at Peoples Natural Gas Park; and historic programs May 22 featuring descendants of flood survivors and victims."

AP coverage was also picked up by the Washington Times (1/29, Hurst, 417K).

TOWN SAYS IT HAS ADDRESSED FEDERAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT BARE COVE PARK. The Boston.com (1/29, 750K) reports in response to a letter that Hingham officials received from the Interior Department saying

that "the town had mishandled parkland deeded to Hingham for passive use in 1972," Hingham officials said "most of the problems were misunderstandings, and any outstanding issues are being rectified." Also, in the letter, federal officials "had questions about delineating the boundary between the condo and parkland, creating long overdue signage for the park entrances, and ensuring proper use of the 475 acres of wooded land, including that of several buildings on the property." But overall, officials said "the fixes are minor, and views the dispute as a means to kickstart a new relationship between the town and the federal government."

NPS RECREATES PANORAMAS EIGHTY YEARS LATER. The Imaging Resource (1/28, 7K) reports that "in the early days of the 1930s," the NPS and the Forest Service "set up a series of panoramas from lookout points in order to set up maps for watching for fires." Now, "some 80 years later, they've returned to those same locations to take the same photographs, and see the way the landscape has changed." The article notes that "the modern photos were taken from 2007 to 2009, and rather than rely on the monochromatic film of the originals, the Park Service instead used infrared film." The NPS explained, "The crew used infrared film primarily in an effort to cut through any haze that was in the atmosphere. This produced a higher contrast image of the 'background' which was the primary focus of the images taken."

RINEHART BUILDING ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The AP (1/29) reports that the Rinehart Building in Portland "that served as the heartbeat of the city's black social scene during a time of racial and housing discrimination has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places."

SILT HOME ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (1/29, 27K) reports that Chris Classen's home at 311 N. Seventh St. "was officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 3, 2013, after a process that lasted more than a year."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO GIVEN MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR SUPREME COURT. Additional coverage that the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. has been granted a legal stay to allow it to continue to operate over the next 90 days while it prepares a case to bring to the US Supreme Court was provided by the San Francisco Chronicle (1/29, Egelko, 2.88M) and the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (1/28, 156K).

Bureau of Land Management:

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES LAND BILL. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (1/28, 165K) reports that "after being consolidated with six other land bills, the Lyon County Economic Development and Conservation Act was part of an omnibus bill that was reported favorably out of the US House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources following a hearing Jan. 28." The article notes that "one of the other bills included in the package was Fernley Economic Self-Determination Act, which would allow the city to purchase federal land within the city limits." According to the artgicle, "the bill would allow the city of Yerington to acquire 10,400 acres of federal land east of Yerington now under the Bureau of Land Management."

ECOTERRORIST SENTENCED TO READ BOOKS. The Los Angeles Times (1/28, Kellogg, 3.07M) reports that "ecoterrorist Rebecca Rubin was sentenced Monday to five years in prison – and to read a book by Malcolm Gladwell." Rubin "admitted in her plea agreement to freeing horses at a Bureau of Land Management facility and failed attempts to set fire to a US Forest Industries facility in Medford, Ore., and to buildings and ski lifts in Vail, Colo." US District Court Judge Ann Aiken "ordered Rubin to read two books: Gladwell's 'David and Goliath' and 'Nature's Trust' by Mary C. Wood." According to the article, "Gladwell is on her reading list, the judge explained, because it would help Rubin learn nonviolent means to protest against systems she perceives as unjust."

RETIRED BIOLOGIST ARGUES FOR BENEFITS OF GRAZING, PREDATOR CONTROL. In an op-ed for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/29, 22K), Mike Laughlin, a retired federal wildlife biologist, writes that today's biologists "have no clue what happens when you take large numbers of predators out of the equation." He claims that "they also do not know that range domestic sheep were a buffer between the predators and mule deer." Laughlin urges citizens to "flood the Governor's office with letters and phone calls, contact your congressional representatives and ask them to work on this predator problem" and "to de-list the raven from the Federal Migratory Protection Bird List."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

LAWMAKERS ASK FWS TO ADD MORE GIANT SNAKES TO BAN LIST. The AP (1/29) reports that "eighteen representatives signed a bipartisan letter sent Monday" to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking for the FWS to "add boa constrictors, reticulated pythons and three species of anacondas to the ban." FWS spokesman Ken Warren said that "the agency appreciates the lawmakers' interest." Warren said, "We're working toward a final decision on the remaining five large constrictor snakes, which is pending."

AP coverage was also picked up by the San Francisco Chronicle (1/29, 2.88M), the Daytona Beach (FL) News-Journal (1/28, 190K), and the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (1/28, 18K).

SEN. HELLER REAFFIRMS OPPOSITION TO SAGE GROUSE LISTING. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (1/28, 165K) reports that Sen. Dean Heller "recently confirmed his strong stance against the listing of the greater sage grouse or its cousin, the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment that includes southern Lyon County, from listing as threatened or endangered according to the Endangered Species List." Heller said he and Sen. Harry Reid "both oppose the listing, but there is also a federal lawsuit that means Nevada must have a plan to combat this action."

SPENDING BILL ALLOCATES FUNDS FOR FISH HATCHERIES. The Johnson City (TN) Press (1/29, 76K) reports that "the operations of national fish hatcheries throughout the country" are "secure through the remainder of the 2014 federal fiscal year as previously promised with the recent passage of an omnibus spending bill." According to the article, "funding to keep the hatcheries afloat through the rest of the year is spelled out in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014." The article notes that the "$1.1 trillion bill includes more than $50 million for national fish hatchery operations."

RESULTS OF CAPTIVE BREEDING OF WOOD RATS COULD INFLUENCE FUTURE PROGRAMS. Yahoo! (1/29, Conniff, 17.91M) reports that the FWS "began taking wood rats from the wild in 2002, to establish the first captive breeding colony of the species, at Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa." However, "when 41 wood rats born in captivity were released back into the wild over a two-year period, they almost immediately fell victim to cats and other predators." The FWS could use these results when "it decides whether to establish a captive breeding program in the Everglades for the Florida grasshopper sparrow."

ACTIVISTS PLAN TO SUE IF NEW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY NOT CONDUCTED FOR PURPLE LINE. The Gaithersburg (MD) Gazette (1/28, Blum, 131K) reports that environmental lawyer and activist John Fitzgerald claims the FTA "failed in its obligation to conduct a biological assessment of the" Purple Line's impact "on two small shrimp-like creatures, called amphipods, in the area." According to the article, Fitzgerald, the nonprofit Center for Sustainable Economy and "some Chevy Chase residents" are planning to file a lawsuit if a new environmental impact study is not conducted, and "the 'Record of Decision' is filed." Later, the report notes that "Fitzgerald disputes the claims of" a letter the US Fish and Wildlife Service sent to the FTA earlier this month, which indicates that the Purple Line project "would not hurt the amphipods."

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS URGED TO PROTECT GRASSLAND SPECIES. In an op-ed for the Emporia (KS) Gazette (1/29, 17K), Brandy Nance criticizes the support by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach of "a state Senate bill that would exclude the lesser prairie chicken from federal protection and give the state the authority to charge federal officials if they try to enforce federal laws pertaining to the rare bird." According to Nance, "without protections, this species could be lost forever," and "other species will undoubtedly follow." She argues that "to preserve these rapidly declining species, conservation programs must be put into place."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM PROPOSES MOJAVE PROJECT TO RESTORE HABITAT. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/29, 705) reports that the BLM is "hoping the solar industry can help mend the ecological wounds" in "a desert ripped several years ago by wildfires that charred native plants, fragmented critical tortoise habitat and created a foothold for noxious weeds." The plan is for "solar companies that build power plants at the Dry Lake solar energy

zone 30 miles west of here" to "agree to pay a mitigation fee for every acre of habitat they destroy." The BLM would "use that cash to restore lands of similar character at the Gold Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern." The article notes that "Interior's landscape-scale mitigation effort, piloted by former Secretary Ken Salazar and expanded by Secretary Sally Jewell, signals a shift in public land management in the West."

MARYLAND DEVISES OFFSHORE WIND RULES. The reNews (1/29) reports that the Maryland Public Service Commission is "conducting stakeholder consultation as it develops regulations to implement the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013." The measure, "which requires utilities to buy offshore renewable energy credits (ORECs), is designed to spur wind energy development in Maryland's coastal waters." The BOEM "expects to auction off a 1.45GW offshore wind lease area in early 2014."

Onshore Energy Development:

KANSAS RESIDENTS, SCIENTISTS WONDER IF INCREASE IN EARTHQUAKES IS LINKED TO FRACKING. The Chicago Tribune (1/28, Hendricks, 2.32M) reports that "a swarm of tremors" last fall that shook "south-central Kansas sporadically over a couple of months" has some wondering if the earthquakes are linked to hydraulic fracking. The article notes that USGS scientists "think that the frequency of earthquakes increases when wastewater floods fault zones, causing pieces of Earth's fractured crust to slip more often than they might otherwise." The USGS "points to a steep increase in the number of earthquakes in the last few years in regions of the country where oil and gas production through fracking has ramped up."

TOP OIL COMPANIES STRUGGLING TO OPEN NEW PRODUCTION ECONOMICALLY. In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (1/29, A1, Gilbert, Scheck, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Chevron, Exxon Mobil and Royal Dutch Shell spent about $120 billion last year looking to boost oil and gas output, but they have not had a great deal of success. All three are expected to report that profits fell in 2013 compared to 2012, despite high oil prices. One of the big problems, the Journal says, is that many of the megaprojects they are pursuing are seeing their costs soar. The three companies have mostly missed out on the shale-oil boom, leaving them to seek replacements for depleted wells elsewhere.

NORTH DAKOTA LOOKING TO INCREASE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN SOME DRILLING DECISIONS. The Wall Street Journal (1/29, Dawson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that while North Dakotans are generally in favor of oil drilling in their state, there is a new effort underway to protect historic sites from encroachment by the petroleum industry. As part of that, state regulators are looking to create a system that includes increased public input into drilling decisions.

Offshore Energy Development:

JUDGE REFUSES TO DISMISS MANSLAUGHTER CHARGES AGAINST BP WELL MANAGERS IN DEEPWATER HORIZON EXPLOSION. Reuters (1/29, Stempel) reports that US District Judge Stanwood Duval rejected efforts by Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine, former site managers of BP 's Macondo well, to have charges of manslaughter in the 11 deaths on the Deepwater Horizon rig dismissed. Kaluza and Vidrine argued that there was no clear standard which they violated. Judge Duval wrote that the defendants should have known that "general negligent conduct," particularly "grossly negligent conduct," would be "sanctioned." They are accused of having failed to oversee practices on the well as well as failing to notify BP of danger signs. Their trial is scheduled for June 2.

US SAYS BAN ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS FOR BP SHOULD CONTINUE. Bloomberg News (1/29, Calkins, 1.91M) reports on a suit in which "BP is fighting a 2012 ban imposed on 20 affiliates by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which prevents all BP entities from bidding on any new government supply contracts or oil leases," but government attorneys argue that the ban "should continue because" BP "hasn't demonstrated it's a responsible contractor." BP has pleaded guilty to "11 counts of felony seaman's manslaughter, two pollution violations and one count of lying to Congress" in the Deepwater Horizon explosion and spill, as well as a felony air pollution violation "after a 2005 explosion at its Texas City, Texas, refinery killed 15 workers."

EPIDEMIOLOGIST SAYS GULF COAST RESIDENTS HAVE CHEMICAL EXPOSURES SIMILAR TO THOSE

OF US AS A WHOLE. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (1/29, Alexander-Bloch, 700K) reports that Dale Sandler, chief of the Epidemiology Branch of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, said that "Gulf Coast residents in areas affected by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill don't appear to have higher chemical exposure than others across the nation." She said that while area residents "worry about health symptoms," blood tests show that they have "levels of benzene, toluene, and other oil-related volatile organic compounds" like those of the US population as a whole. Sandler was speaking at the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: KURE BEACH MAYOR RECEIVES BACKLASH FOR SUPPORT OF SEISMIC TESTING. Additional coverage of the protest against Kure Beach Mayor Dean Lambeth's support of seismic testing was provided by the AP (1/29), which was also picked up by the Charlotte (NC) Observer (1/28, 713K) and the Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (1/29, 422K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

REPUBLICANS FAIL IN BID TO INSERT CALIFORNIA DROUGHT MEASURE IN FARM BILL. The San Francisco Chronicle (1/27, 2.88M) reports that "House Republicans failed in their last-minute effort to insert a policy rider into the farm bill that would have diverted water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to parched farms in the Central Valley." The legislators "may still seek out another legislative vehicle or attempt to move a stand-alone bill."

BILL COULD RAISE SPENDING LIMIT FOR BOR DAM SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS. The Hydroworld (1/29, 151) reports that "a bill introduced to the Senate this past week would adjust the spending cap on dam safety improvements for infrastructure managed" by the BOR. Senate Bill 1946 would amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978. according to the article, "changes made by S.B. 1946...would allow for additional spending should dam safety projects require money than the operator might be able to contribute."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOR COULD SEIZE WATER FROM SAN LUIS RESERVOIR. Additional coverage that the BOR could seize water from the San Luis Reservoir was provided by the Fresno (CA) Bee (1/28, 327K) and the Hanford (CA) Sentinel (1/29, 25K). Also providing coverage is the AP (1/29), which was also picked up by the Denver Post (1/29, 949K), the Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (1/29, 90K), and KOVR-TV Sacramento, CA (1/28, 47K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR PINE RIDGE, MAKAH RESERVATION LAND BUY-BACK OFFERS. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/28, 21K) reports that "owners of fractioned land interests at the Pine Ridge and Makah reservations have until January 29, 2014...to participate in the first round of purchase offers in the Department of the Interior's voluntary Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations." Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, said, "We have been working closely in partnership with the Oglala Sioux Tribe to provide fractionated interest holders within the Pine Ridge Reservation the opportunity to participate in the DOI's Land Buy-Back for Tribal Nations Program. If you wish to participate in this program, the deadline for this first wave of purchase offers for interest holders within the Pine Ridge Reservation is January 29, 2014. By taking advantage of this opportunity you will be contributing to the greater good of the Oglala Sioux people for generations to come."

Also reporting on the story is the Native American Times (1/29, 337).

EFFORTS TO REDUCE CRIME ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS SEES SUCCESS. The Governing (1/29, 2K) reports on the efforts of the Interior Department to reduce crime on reservations. To begin, the Interior Department "focused on reducing violent crime on four reservations: the Sioux Standing Rock Reservation, the Chippewa-Cree Tribe's Rocky Boy's Reservation in Montana, the Mescalero Apache Tribe's Reservation in New Mexico, and the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribes' Wind River Reservation in Wyoming." Despite budget constraints and "short-staffing of the BIA's teams," the four reservations "achieved an astounding 35 percent cut in crime." According to the article, "part of the improvement came from strategic investment—not to saturate the streets with cops but simply to bring staffing levels up to the national averages." The article notes that "the central part of the story,

however, was the careful work of Charles Addington, the BIA's associate director for field operations, whose crime-fighting strategy made him a finalist for a Partnership for Public Service Sammie award."

RULING LAUDED AS VICTORY FOR MECHOOPDA. In an editorial, the Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (1/29, 90K) lauds "the federal government's reaffirmation of the Mechoopda Indians' right to having a few hundred acres of land held in trust." The paper hopes that a letter by Kevin K. Washburn, assistant secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, "and the research behind it will finally put to rest one of the most shameful acts of Butte County's government in the last few years."

Top National News:

OBAMA PREVIEWS "YEAR OF ACTION" IN HIS FIFTH STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS. Coverage of last night's State of the Union address tended to cast it as a reflection of the President's diminished political standing in early 2014. Much of the analysis of the address indicates that Obama implicitly acknowledged that he is unlikely to achieve anything on the scale of the Affordable Care Act for the rest of his term due to Congressional obstinacy, and that, instead, he has been reduced to working towards "modest" achievements. In a front-page analysis, for example, the New York Times (1/29, A1, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) called the speech "a study in scaled-down ambition," while the AP (1/29, Pace) says his proposals "were slim and largely focused on old ideas."

On all three networks last night, the commentary immediately following the address focused on the President's tribute to Sgt. First Class Cory Remsburg. As the President acknowledged applause from his audience last night, NBC News' (1/29, 6.79M) Brian Williams said it was the President's "quote that 'we must move off a permanent war footing' which brought us to easily the emotional high point of the evening." Just as the President concluded, CBS News' (1/29, 3.87M) Scott Pelley noted the President's "rousing tribute to" Remsburg, "who the President met when he was able-bodied and then met again after...Remsburg's tenth deployment – tenth deployment – when he was wounded by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan." Bob Schieffer added, "Clearly the highlight of this speech was seeing that young sergeant stand up. ... I mean, that is what people will take away from this speech. The rest of it? We'll see how it works out." As the audience was still clapping, ABC News' (1/29, 3.68M) Diane Sawyer said, "It was so moving...when he talked about...Remsburg's tenth deployment for the US military – so severely injured – and he got a one minute and 34 second standing ovation."

While the President was still shaking hands from behind his lectern, MSNBC's (1/28, 7.96M) Chris Matthews said the President had delivered "a masterful address...that I believe reminds many people why they voted for him." Matthews went on to say that "the greatness of the speech, I believe, was the ability...deliver a center-left proposal for lots of government action in the language of the center-right." Al Sharpton agreed that the President gave a "a masterful speech."

Immediately following the President's address on Fox News (1/28, 6.72M), Bret Baier said the President "vowed to act 'whenever and wherever' he can with a series of executive actions," but, according Baier, "his orders are mostly rather modest."

CNN's (1/29, 14.53M) Wolf Blitzer said the President had been "telling members of Congress...'let's work together,'" but, "in effect, 'we can do this the easy way or the hard way' – pass legislation...otherwise, I'll take unilateral action on my own." Jake Tapper added, "We've already heard grumbling from Republicans, people taking issue with his approach, with the discussion of doing things through executive order, taking action if he cannot find bipartisan compromise."

This morning's coverage emphasizes the President's insistence that he will use his executive authority whenever possible to advance his priorities. Representative of this morning's coverage is the lead sentence from the Chicago Sun-Times' (1/29, Korecki, 1.15M) report on the address. The Sun-Times says, "From lifting the minimum wage to overhauling immigration to closing Guantanamo Bay once and for all," the President "put forth...a sweeping call for a 'year of action.'" Reuters (1/29, Holland), in a report titled, "Obama Warns Divided Congress That He Will Act Alone," quotes the President as saying, "I'm eager to work with all of you, but America does not stand still – and neither will I. So wherever and whenever I can take steps without legislation to expand opportunity for more American families, that's what I'm going to do."

Under the front-page headline, "Obama Taking Up Economic Issues On His Authority," the New York Times (1/29, A1, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the President "declared independence from Congress...as he outlined a series of limited initiatives on jobs, wages, retirement and the environment that he will take without legislative approval." However, the Times adds that "the defiant, go-it-alone approach was more assertive than any of the individual policies he advanced." According to the Washington Times (1/29, Boyer, 417K), the President "hasn't used his presidential pen as often as his predecessors," but "new White House counsel John Podesta, an advocate of executive authority," says the President "has 'warmed up' to the idea."

According to McClatchy (1/29, Clark, Kumar, 95K), the President "offered a mix of new and old ideas...calling for a 'Year of Action' and saying he wants to work with Congress but will act on his own when he can, if necessary." McClatchy goes on to say that despite having been in office for more than five years, the President "worked to tie economic woes to a long tide of history rather than his own record."

The Wall Street Journal (1/29, A1, Lee, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in a front-page article titled, "Obama Seeks To Jump-Start Stalled Plans," reports that Sen. John Thune said the President "ought to work with us on bipartisan measures," including approving the Keystone XL pipeline, but, "instead, he's talking about taking unilateral action on a whole range of things." Roll Call (1/29, Sanchez, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) notes that the President "didn't mention the Keystone XL oil pipeline" during his address. The Wall Street Journal (1/29, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial this morning, claims that the Keystone pipeline would help those Americans looking for work more than an extension of lapsed Federal jobless benefits.

Under the headline, "Obama Plans To Use Executive Powers To Drive 'Year Of Action,'" the Washington Post (1/29, Nakamura, Fahrenthold, 4.28M) reports that the President "sought...to restore public confidence and trust in his presidency after a dispiriting year, pledging to use his White House authority with new force to advance an agenda that Congress has largely failed to support." The Post says the President "sketched out more than a dozen ways in which he intends to use executive powers to try to boost the economy on his own," which "seemed to be a recognition...that he is running out of time to achieve his goals in the face of hardened Republican opposition." Politico (1/29, Epstein, 464K) says the President "took on a more pragmatic tone than in previous State of the Union addresses, acknowledging that getting his agenda past House Republicans was unlikely and therefore he would use his power to do what he can on his own."

On Tuesday night, the networks' anchors highlighted the President's remarks about the minimum wage and the gender pay gap. NBC News' (1/29, 6.79M) Brian Williams said, "A lot of things will perhaps be remembered from this speech, including the call for the middle class to finally make headway as the president declares 'war on income inequality'" and "the President's quote about doing away with workplace policies that belong in a 'Mad Men' episode." CBS News' (1/29, 3.87M) Pelley said, "The President's speech had an optimistic tone; it was sort of a can-do speech coming at a time when much of the country is in a doubtful mood, having recently watched the government shutdown and the troubled rollout of the Affordable Care Act's web site." ABC News' (1/29, 3.68M) George Stephanopoulos also said the President was "trying to strike a note of optimism" by "talking up the economy at the beginning of the speech – something he had been reluctant to do through the campaign – giving the American people credit for that." Stephanopoulos added that the President got a "huge reaction – we're already starting to see this online and Facebook – when he talked about raising the minimum wage, 'give America a raise,' and equal pay for equal work for women."

The Hill (1/29, Parnes, Sink, 194K) reports that "throughout the speech, Obama stressed that the government should work to provide 'opportunity for all,'" and that the White House "decided on that theme after speaking to a wide-swath of people on policy, including lawmakers up for reelection in 2014." According to The Hill, "While White House officials maintained the strategy" was "born out of a sincere desire to advocate for the poor and middle class," they also "admitted they wanted to demonstrate their commitment to act to a public frustrated by stagnation in Washington."

USA Today (1/29, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that "one theme of the speech" was "income inequality," and notes that the President "promoted the idea that the federal government can help create economic opportunity through job training and college education programs."

Bloomberg News (1/29, Talev, Dorning, 1.91M) reports that the President "said he supports lowering the

corporate tax rate and curtailing tax breaks," but, according to Bloomberg, "that plan is stalled in Congress" due to "a partisan dispute over whether wealthy individuals should pay more."

Roll Call (1/29, Sanchez, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) also reports that "areas where [Obama] believes Democrats and Republicans can work together include the farm bill, overhauling immigration laws, restoring expired unemployment insurance, an overhaul of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, a patent overhaul and trade promotion authority." However, McClatchy (1/29, Lightman, 95K) says the President's executive actions "probably will chill further his relations with" Congress. McClatchy also says "the Senate's center-left Democrats are inching away from a president highly unpopular in their states."

The Detroit Free Press (1/29, Spangler, 794K) covers the President's speech under the headline, "President Obama: Let's Find Common Ground, But I'll Act On My Own If Needed." Similarly, the Detroit News (1/28, 619K) titles its report, "Obama Pushes For Economic Action, But Vows To Act On His Own If Congress Doesn't."

The AP (1/29, Pace) reports that the President "unveiled an array of modest executive actions that included increasing the minimum wage for some federal contract workers and making it easier for millions of low-income Americans to save for retirement." According to the AP, "the address was...aimed at convincing an increasingly skeptical public that he still wields power in Washington," but his "proposals for action...were slim and largely focused on old ideas that have gained little traction over the past year."

Carl Hulse, in a front-page analysis piece for the New York Times (1/29, A1, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) titled, "Executive Order May Be Only Option, But It Comes With Limits," says Tuesday night's address "represented a study in scaled-down ambition." Hulse says the President "entered the White House yearning for sweeping achievements," but is now "essentially acknowledging both the limits of his ability to push an agenda through Congress and the likelihood that future accomplishments would be narrow."

Susan Page, writing for USA Today (1/28, Page, 5.82M), also says the President's address "reflects a political journey from the aspirational to the achievable." According to Page, the President's "ability to get big things through Congress is demonstrably limited, and he's more likely to lose clout than gain it" in the remaining years of his second term.

Likewise, CBS News' (1/29, 3.87M) Scott Pelley said the President "talked about the numbers of areas where he would act if Congress would not, but it really reminded many people of the limits of presidential power." CBS News political director John Dickerson agreed that "absolutely, it was a very modest list of things that he can do himself," and "very small bore stuff compared to the claims the President's...aides have been making."

Appearing on Fox News (1/28, 6.72M) after the speech, Charles Krauthammer said, "There wasn't a lot in the speech – of course, he's playing a very weak hand." Krauthammer then quipped, "I was impressed by the fact that he delivered it with conviction, because, again, there and wasn't a lot in it." USA Today's Kirsten Powers said, "The speech was definitely oversold by the White House in the sense that we were told to expect sort of this 'urgency,' and I really did not hear any urgency."

The Washington Post's (1/29, A1, 4.28M) Scott Wilson, in a front-page article titled, "Obama Prepared To Avoid Congress, Go It Alone On Carrying Out Modest Initiatives," says, "This wasn't the presidency Barack Obama had in mind," as the "areas he identified for possible cooperation with a divided Congress have shrunk, leaving an agenda filled out by a growing number of modest initiatives that he intends to carry out alone." According to Wilson, the President's speech "reflect[ed] the White House's conclusion that Obama spent too much time last year in conflict with recalcitrant lawmakers." But Wilson adds that the President "risks further antagonizing Congress and resting part of his legacy on executive actions that do not have the permanence, or breadth, of major legislation."

The AP (1/29, Benac), in an analysis under the headline, "Obama's Agenda More Bite-sized Than Bold" describes the President's address as "an amalgam of modest proposals," and adds, "an executive order on job training...doesn't have the zing of an $800 billion stimulus plan or a historic overhaul of the health care system."

Paul Davidson, in an analysis for USA Today (1/28, Davidson, 5.82M), says while the President "vowed...to use as many executive powers as possible to push his agenda" if Congress blocks his progress, "those

powers...don't always work as quickly as presidents think." Likewise, William Galston, in a column for the Wall Street Journal (1/29, Galston, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) under the headline, "Obama and the Limits of Unilateral Action," emphasizes the relatively limited range of executive actions available to the President, and says that it is impossible for a president to achieve substantial policy victories without the acquiescence of Congress.

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (1/29, 4.28M), says the President's address "was an implicit acknowledgment that his once-grand legislative ambitions are over," but "instead of" welcoming "his admission of legislative defeat, congressional Republicans either complained that he wasn't engaging with them, mocked him for being out of ideas or accused him of constitutional violations." Likewise, the Washington Post (1/29, Board, 4.28M), in an editorial, says if the President's "proposals for executive action did not live up to the hype, they also did not justify the fear-mongering."

Progressives Welcome Obama's Iran Sanctions Veto Threat. On Tuesday night, MSNBC's (1/28, 7.96M) Chris Matthews praised the President for saying "he would veto any attempt to screw up his attempt to avert a war with Iran." Al Sharpton also praised the President for vowing to veto additional sanctions on Iran.

At 10:04 PM EST, Andrew Sullivan (1/28, 27K) wrote: "Obama is now channeling his inner Eisenhower who understood better than any neocon the limits of American force. This is why I supported him in 2008." Sullivan quotes the President as saying, "If John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan could negotiate with the Soviet Union, then surely a strong and confident America can negotiate with less powerful adversaries today."

The Washington Times (1/29, Swarts, 417K) reports that the President's "claim that American diplomacy had 'halted the progress of Iran's nuclear program' has been challenged from an unusual source – the Iranian government itself." The Times notes that just last week, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said, "We did not agree to dismantle anything," which "call[s] into question whether or not American and Iranian leaders are on the same page when it comes to the arms agreements."

USA Today (1/28, Board, 5.82M), in an editorial, says, "the nuclear talks with Iran could result in a huge breakthrough — or yet another war in the world's most volatile region."

Obama Directs Treasury To Offer "MyRAs" To Encourage Saving. USA Today (1/28, Korte, 5.82M) reports that on Tuesday night, President Obama announced "a new savings plan will allow Americans to buy savings bonds in a starter retirement account that 'guarantees a decent return with no risk of losing what you put in.'" According to USA Today, the President "said he would direct the Treasury Department to create new 'MyRA' accounts to allow people to more simply invest in Treasury bonds," calling it a "new savings bond that encourages folks to build a nest egg."

The Wall Street Journal (1/29, Paletta, Tergesen, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the President is expected to discuss his "MyRA" plan in more detail on Wednesday during an event in Pittsburgh. The Journal reports that Secretary Lew, who will direct the effort for the President, will also be in Pittsburgh Wednesday.

AP Fact Check: Obama Minimum Wage Order Covers Just "A Sliver Of The Workforce." In a "Fact Check" analysis, the AP (1/29, Woodward) says the President is "ordering a higher minimum wage for a sliver of the workforce, which affects no one now and not many later" because "it doesn't apply to existing federal contracts, only new ones." The AP notes that "most employees of federal contractors already earn more than $10.10."

However, under the headline, "Obama's Pitch Is Aimed At November," the Wall Street Journal (1/29, O'Connor, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that an NBC News/WSJ poll released Tuesday found that 51% of respondents said raising the minimum wage ought to be a priority of the President's this year.

Cruz, WSJournal Criticize Obama's Minimum Wage Hike Order. Sen. Ted Cruz, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (1/29, Cruz, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) titled, "The Imperial Presidency Of Barack Obama," argues that the President's decision to raise the minimum wage for Federal contractors is more evidence that the Administration does not respect the Constitution's separation of powers. Cruz goes on to detail instances in which the President unilaterally modified aspects of the Affordable Care Act. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/29, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) blasts the President's decision to raise the minimum wage for

government contractors as an abuse of power and predicts that it will cause the few Federal contractors who have minimum-wage workers to eliminate positions.

Obama's Relatively Brief Remarks On The ACA Noted. David Nather, in a piece for Politico (1/29, Nather, 464K), notes that the Affordable Care Act "didn't show up in the State of the Union address until over halfway through, and it encompassed all of nine paragraphs in an hour-plus stemwinder." However, Nather adds that those passages represented "the biggest sales pitch Obama has made in a State of the Union address since the law passed."

Politico (1/29, Gerstein, Samuelsohn, 464K) also reports that during his address, the President said, "More than 9 million Americans have signed up for private health insurance or Medicaid coverage." According to Politico, "a casual listener could get the impression that all those people got health coverage for the first time because of Obamacare," but "it's not yet clear how many of those people were uninsured – and gained coverage for the first time – and how many were just replacing old insurance, such as policies that were canceled because they didn't meet Obamacare standards."

The Washington Times (1/29, Boyer, 417K) notes that the President "didn't mention the program's troubled start in October or the continuing concerns about it." Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (1/29, Munro, 422K), says the President's speech "included Obama's familiar condescension toward Republicans' opposition to Obamacare."

According to the Washington Times (1/29, Howell, 417K), "Rather than dwell on the law's struggles," the President "rebuked House Republicans for holding dozens of votes to repeal all or part of his main domestic achievement." The Times adds that the President "also doubled down on his vision of health reform by pointing to the likes of Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, a Democrat who leads the only Southern state to both expand Medicaid and set up its own health exchange."

AP Analysis: McMorris Rodgers Offers A "Gentler" More "Hopeful" GOP Message. The AP (1/29, Cassata) reports that in her response to the President's address, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) "offered a gentler, more hopeful vision of Republicans who are determined to empower Americans and close the gap 'between where you are and where you want to be.'"

Politico (1/29, Everett, 464K) says McMorris Rodgers "delivered the promise of a 'hopeful' agenda from the Republican Party aimed at closing the opportunity gap, expanding school choice and lowering taxes." Politico adds that "rather than offering specific policy prescriptions," McMorris Rodgers "presented a sweeping GOP vision and a gaffe-free delivery."

The Washington Post (1/29, Costa, Kane, 4.28M) notes that Sens. Mike Lee and Sen. Rand Paul, "two tea party favorites, also delivered high-profile responses," while Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), "an ally of" Speaker Boehner, "delivered...much of McMorris Rodgers's leadership-approved speech in Spanish."

Republican House Member Calls Obama A "Socialist Dictator." The Huffington Post (1/28, Wing, 11.54M) noted that prior to the President's address, Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX) "took to Twitter to let everyone know that he was getting impatient, while simultaneously becoming the first GOP congressman on Tuesday to call the president a 'socialistic dictator.'" Weber tweeted: "On floor of house waitin on 'Kommandant-In-Chef'... the Socialistic dictator who's been feeding US a line or is it 'A-Lying?'"

The New York Times (1/29, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that on Twitter, "Congressional Republicans rallied around hashtags like #CloseTheGap, to push their message of reducing income inequality, and #YearOfAction" although "after the president called for a 'year of action' in his address, the #YearofAction took off among Republicans and Democrats alike."

Top Republicans Appear With "Duck Dynasty" Stars. The Washington Times (1/29, Klimas, 417K) reports that Rep. Vance McAllister (R-LA) "brought...Willie Robertson" of Duck Dynasty "as his guest to the State of the Union." The Times notes that Robertson "endorsed Mr. McAllister leading up to the special election in Louisiana." The Times adds that "several GOP lawmakers, including Rep. Paul Ryan, snapped photos or got autographs from" Robertson, whose wife was a guest of Sen. Lindsay Graham.

More Commentary On Obama's Speech. Appearing on MSNBC (1/28, 7.96M) about half an hour after the President finished speaking, White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett said the President is "going to take action on his own" and "look for other opportunities for executive actions." Jarrett added that the President, while "still working with Congress," is not "going to put all of his eggs in one basket."

CNN's (1/29, 14.53M) Candy Crowley commented that what "struck" her "the most was none of these are new issues," and, "in fact, if you go back through the last State of the Union addresses...you will hear all of these issues again." Newt Gingrich said it was "a very good speech" that "had real power to it."

Roger Simon, in his column for Politico (1/29, 464K), says the President "couldn't give a bad speech if he tried, but he did his best Tuesday night." Simon criticizes the President for having "devoted" just "67 words to gun control, offering no specifics in a speech that was stuffed with specifics on other issues."

The New York Times (1/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, chides the President for having "left out an executive ban on discrimination by contractors against employees based on sexual orientation and gender identity," which the Times says "would have made a strong statement about fairness in spending taxpayer money."

Appearing on MSNBC (1/28, 7.96M) following the President's address, Steve Schmidt, who managed John McCain's 2008 campaign, said, "the tone of the speech was very conciliatory." Addressing Mathews, Schmidt said, "I agree with you completely. He proffered a center-left agenda, but with center-right rhetoric." Rachel Maddow added, "I thought the President was surprisingly – and I don't mean this in a bad way, to say I was surprised – but I was struck by how energetic he was, almost playful. ... He seemed comfortable in his own skin."

In a piece for Politico (1/29, Purdum, 464K), Todd Purdum says the President "acquitted himself with the requisite dignity on Tuesday night, speaking in mostly upbeat — if none too ambitious — terms."

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS EXPECT QUICK FARM BILL PASSAGE. Reuters (1/28, Beech) reports that both House and Senate leaders are confident that the farm bill will pass both chambers. House passage, though, is expected to be a bit more difficult than Senate passage. In a call with reporters on Tuesday, House Ag Chair Frank Lucas said that there are a number of opponents of the bill on the right and the left, but that a coalition of moderates from both sides will push the bill through.

Bloomberg News (1/29, Bjerga, Bykowicz, 1.91M) reports that a "coalition spanning grocer Kroger Co. to Iowa soybean growers" is "on the verge" of significant win in the farm bill. The bill, "which lawmakers estimate will save $23 billion over 10 years, reflects the clout of urban-rural allies who hung together even when the House of Representatives split them apart, as well as lots of lobbying money." Overall, groups spent $100 million lobbying on the bill in just the first nine months of last year.

Bill Includes Pilot Hemp Program. The Washington Times (1/28, Dinan, 417K) reports that the farm bill "includes a pilot program that would allow universities and state agricultural departments to legally grow industrial hemp." Marijuana advocates have "long pushed for hemp legalization," but "industrial hemp's production has been illegal under federal controlled substances laws, since it is a cultivar of the same plant species that produces marijuana." While some states have allowed hemp production, growers "have still had to face the federal ban," including obtaining a permit from the DEA.

Conservatives Felt "Steamrolled" During Debate. Roll Call (1/29, Newhauser, Dumain, 87K) reports that a "new narrative against taking up an immigration overhaul is forming in House conservative circles: Just look at the farm bill." Some conservative Republicans "feel they were steamrolled" by the farm bill conference report and it is "now giving them pause about passing immigration bills in the House."

In an editorial entitled, "A Bipartisan Taxpayer Raid," the Wall Street Journal (1/29, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) is highly critical of the farm bill, saying that its bipartisan authors are highlighting its savings, which the paper argues are very minor. Among its complaints, the Journal takes issue with the failure to split food stamps out into separate legislation, along with the lack of reform in the program. The Journal also says that the end of

the direct payment programs to farmers has been replaced by a shallow-loss insurance that is likely to be equally costly.

POSITIVE NEWS ON HOME PRICES, CONSUMER CONFIDENCE. Tuesday saw a series of positive economic reports, including a rise in home prices and an unexpected boost in consumer confidence, while the stock market broke its losing streak. The only sour note was the drop in durable goods orders.

The Wall Street Journal (1/28, Madigan, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the new edition of the S&P/Case-Shiller home price index shows that prices rose 13.8% in the 10-city index and 13.7% in the broader 20-city index over the 12 months ending November 2013. The indexes show that home prices have now risen to levels similar to mid-2004. The Journal says that the increase is good for the economy, as higher home values boost new home construction and boosts homeowners' ability to spend.

Bloomberg News (1/29, Peralta, 1.91M) reports that the Conference Board's consumer confidence index rose to 80.7 in January from 77.5 in December. Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expected the index to come in a 78.0. The reading is a five-month high, as "optimism about the economy and labor market improved." However, December's reading was revised downward from an originally-reported 78.1.

Durable Goods Orders Down Unexpectedly. Bloomberg News (1/29, Stilwell, 1.91M) reports that durable goods orders "unexpectedly slumped" last month by the "most in five months." This reflects "a broad-based retreat that raises the risk business investment will cool in early 2014." According to Commerce Department data released on Tuesday, durable goods orders fell 4.3% in December following a 2.6% rise in November "that was smaller than previously reported." Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expected orders to rise 1.8%. The report is "the first to indicate that the slowdown in growth last month went beyond the unusually cold temperatures."

Economists Expect Q4 Growth To Come In At 3.2% Rate. Reuters (1/28, Mutikani) reports that increased household spending combined with exports likely pushed the US economy ahead at a solid pace during the 4th quarter. Analysts surveyed by Reuters expect that the economy grew at a 3.2% annualized rate, down from the 3rd quarter's 4.1% rate. Reuters said that despite the drop, the drivers behind the Q4 growth are considered more stable than the inventory boom that boosted Q3's numbers.

Stocks End Losing Streak. NBC Nightly News (1/28, story 6, 0:10, Williams, 7.86M) reported, "This was for what it's worth a good day on Wall Street in New York. The Dow was up more than 90 points, the NASDAQ gained more than 14. S&P 500 was almost 11 points higher at the end of trading."

The Wall Street Journal (1/28, Kiernan, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that stocks broke their five-session streak of declines on Tuesday, with investors pausing to await this week's Fed action. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 90.68 points to 15928.56, while the S&P 500 rose 10.94 points to 1792.50. The Nasdaq Composite Index rose 14.35 points to 4097.96.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Diminished State Of The Union."*** The New York Times (1/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial chides the President for having "left out an executive ban on discrimination by contractors against employees based on sexual orientation and gender identity," which the Times says "would have made a strong statement about fairness in spending taxpayer money."

"Argentina On The Brink." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/29, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that Argentina's current financial crisis was "caused largely by misguided government policies." Noting President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner's recent efforts to "preserve the country's dwindling foreign reserves," the Times says that Argentina "needs to do a lot more to address inflation and other underlying economic problems that have led investors and ordinary citizens to bet against the peso." Kirchner, the Times argues, "will have to take much bolder steps to repair the damage."

"Roadblocks On Health Reform." The New York Times (1/29, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes in support of a Federal judge in Missouri who has blocked "onerous" restrictions imposed by the state "on federally

approved counselors who help people understand and enroll in health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act." The Times argues that although the ruling "applies only to Missouri, its reasoning applies to similar laws or regulations adopted by more than a dozen Republican-led states that are doing their best to sabotage health care reform," and urges consumer advocates "to challenge such laws in other states."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Obama's Muted 'Call To Action.'"*** The Washington Post (1/29, Board, 4.28M), in an editorial, says if the President's "proposals for executive action did not live up to the hype, they also did not justify the fear-mongering."

"Justice For Criminals." The Washington Post (1/29, 4.28M) editorializes that Texas "hasn't been living up to its lock-'em-up reputation for a while now; it is one of many states that has been looking for safe ways to reduce the number of people behind bars – saving money and wasted lives." The Post notes that state lawmakers, mindful of budget constraints, "crafted an alternative to perpetually feeding money into prison construction to warehouse non-violent offenders, rather than investing in drug treatment or better parole programs." Texas "offered more power to specialized drug courts" and "revamped parole to swiftly punish violations without automatically sending people back to jail for long terms." The Post urges other states to follow Texas' lead in such matters.

"Dwindling Options." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/29, 4.28M) is concerned that the District of Columbia is struggling to determine what to do with the 380 students at the troubled Options Public Charter School, as they were the students "no other school wanted." In the long run, the Post says school officials "must address whether locating needy, high-risk students at a school of last resort is the best way to serve them, or whether it simply gets them out of sight."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"A Bipartisan Tax Payer Raid."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/29, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) is highly critical of the farm bill, saying that its bipartisan authors are highlighting its savings, which the paper argues are very minor. Among its complaints, the Journal takes issue with the failure to split food stamps out into separate legislation, along with the lack of reform in the program. The Journal also says that the end of the direct payment programs to farmers has been replaced by a shallow-loss insurance that is likely to be equally costly.

"Republican National Nonsense." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (1/29, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) decries an RNC resolution condemning NSA surveillance as an unconstitutional "dragnet" program "against its own citizens," and calling on Republican lawmakers to demand an investigation into the "extent of this domestic spying." The Journal argues that the RNC would be better served by raising money and learning how to use social media in order to avoid the embarrassment it suffered in 2012.

"Obama's Sixth Year Pitch." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/29, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) blasts the President's decision to raise the minimum wage for government contractors as an abuse of power and predicts that it will cause the few Federal contractors who have minimum-wage workers to eliminate positions.

"The Wages Of Power." The Wall Street Journal (1/29, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial this morning, claims that the Keystone pipeline would help those Americans looking for work more than an extension of lapsed Federal jobless benefits.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Turkey Gets Aggressive On Rates
Obama Seeks To Jump-Start Stalled Plans
Big Oil Companies Struggle To Justify Soaring Project Costs
US Banks Steer Clear Of Sensitive Customers

New York Times:
In State Of The Union Address, Obama Vows To Act Alone On The Economy

Executive Order May Be Only Option, But It Comes With Limits
Rebels In Syria Claim Control Of Resources
Pete Seeger, A Folk Revivalist Who Used His Voice To Bring Out A Nation's
Sign Of A Chill: EU Doesn't Set Table For Putin
Super Bowl Fans, Do Not Forget: It's New Jersey

Washington Post:
A Frustrated President, Going It Alone
Folk Singer Wanted Everyone To Be Heard
A Culture Of Toxic Military Leaders
Md. Board Overhauls Discipline In Schools

Financial Times:
Turkey And India Lead EM Central Bank Fight Back
Obama To Call For 'Year Of Action'
Vodafone And Liberty Locked In Cable War
Honda Is Net Exporter Of Cars From US
Winklevosses Want Virtual Currency Sheriff
Yahoo Suffers From Alibaba Slowdown
Correction Would Counter Risk-Taking

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; State Of The Union Address; State Of The Union Address-Agenda; Cruise Ship Illness; Painkiller Study; England-Royal Family Finances; Traffic Cameras.
CBS: Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Danger; Severe Weather-Budgets; State Of The Union Address; Paul Ryan-State Of The Union Address Response; Ukraine-Violence; Vermont-Drug Use; England-Royal Family Finances.
NBC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; State Of The Union Address; State Of The Union Address-Agenda; State Of The Union Address-Public Response; Economy-Dow Up; England-Royal Family Finances; Pope Francis-Rolling Stone Magazine.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: State Of The Union Address; State Of The Union Address-GOP Response; Severe Weather; Morris Turner Obit.
CBS: State Of The Union Address; Severe Weather; Colorado-Cantaloupe Farmers Sentenced; House-Farm Bill; Germany-Barn Explosion; Economy-Dow Up.
FOX: State Of The Union Address; State Of The Union Address-GOP Response; Severe Weather; Sports-NFL Super Bowl Media Day; Ohio-Columbus Schools' Test Cheating Scandal; Economy-Dow Up; Grammys.
NPR: State Of The Union Address; New Jersey-Newark Paid Sick Days; Severe Weather; California-Drone Crash Investigation; Northwestern-Players' Union; Colorado-Cantaloupe Farmers Sentenced; Syria-Peace Talks.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Travels to Lanham, MD; Pittsburgh, PA; and Milwaukee, WI.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Travels to Rochester, New York to visit Monroe Community College and discuss education and workforce development.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Travels to Los Angeles and San Francisco, California.
US Senate: 10 a.m. — Following one hour of morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1926, the Flood Insurance bill post cloture. At 12:00noon, all post cloture time will be deemed expired.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Business meeting to consider the nominations of Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, James Cole, Jr., of New York, to be General Counsel, James H. Shelton III, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary, Theodore Reed Mitchell, of California, to be Under Secretary, and Ericka M. Miller, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, all of the Department of Education, France A. Cordova, of New Mexico, to be Director of the National Science Foundation, David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, and Steven Joel Anthony, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=4fe9cc69-5056-a032-52cb-958d4b9d0d96 Location: TIME AND LOCATION CHANGE – NOW TIME IS TBD – in conjunction with votes. LOCATION: Off the Floor.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Business meeting on S. 1486, Postal Reform Act of 2013. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-1/29/2014 Location: 342 Dirksen.

10 a.m. INTELLIGENCE — Open Hearing: Current and Projected National Security Threats Against the United States. Witnesses: Director of National Intelligence James Clapper; CIA Director John Brennan; FBI Director James Comey; Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn; National Counterterrorism Center Director Matthew Olsen. Location: Room changed to 216 HART.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Oversight hearing on the Department of Justice with Attorney General Eric Holder. Location: 226 Dirksen. (ROOM NUMBER CORRECTED)

10 a.m. RULES AND ADMINISTRATION — Hearings to examine S.1728, to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters. http://www.rules.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=CommitteeHearings&ContentRecord_id=e07caaca-5d57-4ffc-8257-7bdb82c99a0e&ContentType_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_id1983a2a8-4fc3-4062-a50e-7997351c154b Location: 301 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS — Business meeting to consider S.1448, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and the nomination of Vincent G. Logan, of New York, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S.919, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes. Location: 628 Dirksen.

3:30 p.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Economic Policy hearings to examine the annual report and oversight of the Office of Financial Research. Witness: Dr. Richard Berner, Director, Office of Financial Research, U.S. Department of the Treasury. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=a94d96f9-cd80-45dc-b271-d4d730cb8c19 Location: 538 Dirksen.
US House: 9:30 a.m. PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS – SOTU REAX — Congressional Progressive Caucus co-chairs response to the State of the Union. Participants: US Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus; US Representative Keith Ellison (D – MN), Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus; Federally contracted low wage workers; Amy Traub, Demos. RSVP AND RECEIVE DIAL IN INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT Olamide Noah at olamide.noah@berlinrosen.com or (202) 800-8688

9:30 a.m. SOTU – THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE — The Peoples Response: Press Conference Call with Reps. Grijalva and Ellison, economic expert and federally contracted low wage workers. Speakers: US Representative Razl Grijalva (D-AZ), Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus; US Representative Keith Ellison (D – MN), Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus; Federally contracted low wage workers; Amy Traub, Demos. RSVP to receive DIAL IN INFORMATION: Olamide Noah at olamide.noah@berlinrosen.com or (202) 800-8688

11 a.m. LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT HEARING — Democratic Steering & Policy Committee Hearing: 'When Women Succeed, America Succeed: Moving Forward on the Five-Year Anniversary of Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act'. Participants: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Congressman Rob Andrews, Co-Chair, Democratic Steering & Policy Committee; Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Co-Chair, Democratic Steering & Policy

Committee; Congresswoman Donna Edwards, Chair, Democratic Womens Working Group; Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Vice-Chair, Democratic Womens Working Group; Members of House Democratic Caucus; Lilly Ledbette. http://www.democraticleader.gov/Women_Succeed Location: 340 Cannon.

11 a.m. STOP RESOLUTION — News Conference Reps Tom Rice, Scalise, Candice Miller et al on the STOP resolution. Location: House Triangle.

1:15 p.m. HOUSE DEMOCRATS – TRADE — Leading House Democrats will hold a telephone press conference to address the trade elements of President Obamas State of the Union speech saying "Fast Track authority and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) would undermine the presidents priorities of enabling more Americans to increase their wages and increasing income mobility". CALL IN INFO: 1-877-366-0711; PASSCODE: 54842826

1:45 p.m. PELOSI WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE — House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi holds her weekly press conference. (access thru HVC 117) Location: HVC Studio A.

2 p.m. BRIEFING ON ABA PROPOSED STANDARD 316 — The National Bar Association in conjunction with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus, and Congressional Progressive Caucus briefing on ABA Proposed Standard 316 and will present a detailed analysis of the ABA Standards Review Committee proposal. Media should RSVP to Ayofemi.Kirby@mail.house.gov. Location: 1629 Longworth.

9 a.m. — The House will meet for legislative business. First and last votes expected: 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Military Personnel Hearing, "Religious Accommodations in the Armed Services." Witnesses: Brigadier General Charles R. Bailey, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army; Douglas L. Carver, North American Mission Board; Rev. James B. Magness , Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, Washington National Cathedral; Brigadier General Bobby Page , Deputy Chief Chaplain, U.S. Air Force; Virginia Penrod , Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy, Department of Defense; Rear Admiral Lower Half Mark L. Tidd , Chief of Navy Chaplains, U.S. Navy. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_id=A30BBBC3-D54F-43D5-98E8-F4E1F03E421A Location: 2118 Rayburn.

9:30 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Full committee markup: H.R. 938, To strengthen the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/markup/markup-hr-938-strengthen-strategic-alliance-between-united-states-and-israel-and-other Location: 2172 Rayburn.
Other: Jan. 27 – 29. CHEA 2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE — Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) annual conference. 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Keynote: Accreditation and the Higher Education Act: Perspectives from the U.S. Senate Speaker: Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), Chair, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. 12:45 p.m. Jamienne Studley, acting under secretary of education delivers remarks. Location: Capital Hilton Hotel, 1001 16th Street NW.

Jan. 28 – 29. CBI'S PHARMACEUTICAL COMPLIANCE CONGRESS — PCC 2014 11th Pharmaceutical Compliance Congress. http://www.cbinet.com/conference/pc14001. UufWO5Uo7L8 9:20 a.m. Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division Stuart F. Delery remarks at the CBI Pharmaceutical Compliance Congress Media interested in attending must RSVP to Kelly Rose at kelly.rose@cbinet.com. Location: Ritz Carlton, 1150 22nd Street, NW.

POLITICO – POST STATE OF THE UNION — 8 a.m. POLITICOs post-State of the Union event with reactions to the presidents address and a 2014 preview from the 113th Congress. Speakers: Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.); Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.); Rep. Susan Brooks (R-Ind.); Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.); Rep. James Lankford (R-Okla.); Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.); Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.); Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.); Jennifer Palmieri, Assistant to the President and Director of Communications; Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan.); Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio); Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.); Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla; others.https://www.eventfarm.com/tokens/event/7fff5387-0000-452d-ae8f-fd0bac4734d8/?trVmITsnTrJ5aeLDqGqHbZBYT2aF7ax5aSSjbK6uCg0cUbfKi6RTwTiP&trVmITsnTrJ5aeLDqGqHbZBYT2aF7ax5aSSjbK6uCg0cUbfKi6RTwTiP Location: Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St., NW.

REPS. HOYER, SCHOCK – STATE OF THE UNION DEBRIEF — 8 a.m. Confirmed speakers to date include Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX), House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL). Molly Ball, Staff Writer for The Atlantic; Ronald Brownstein, Senior Editorial Director of Atlantic Media; and Steve Clemons, Editor-at-Large of The Atlantic, will moderate the event. The morning's discussions will examine the President's address and will forecast how the policies and issues he raises will impact the nation moving forward. ADDED SPEAKERS: Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO), Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE), and Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) join Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX). Location: Newseum Knight Broadcast Studio (C Street Entrance), 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

U.S. CHAMBER – 2014 INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INDEX — 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. The U.S. Chamber of Commerces Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) will host an event to unveil its 2014 International Intellectual Property Index. Speakers: Orrin Hatch (R-UT), United States Senate; Mark Elliot, Executive Vice President, Global Intellectual Property Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Aaron Brickman, Deputy Executive Director, SelectUSA; Douglas Lippoldt, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; David Torstensson, Senior Consultant, Pugatch Consilium. RSVP: Trinh Nguyen at tnguyen@uschamber.com or 202-463-5379 for more information. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Hall of Flags, 1615 H Street, NW.

CRIMINAL DIVISION AWARDS CEREMONY – HOLDER — 2 p.m. Attorney General Eric Holder, Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole and Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Mythili Raman will deliver remarks at the Criminal Division Awards Ceremony. All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a drivers license) as well as valid media credentials. Media must RSVP to Stephen Ratner at 202-514-2007 or Stephen. Ratner@usdoj.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Media must enter the department at the visitors entrance on Constitution Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets. Media may begin arriving at 1:00 p.m. EST. All cameras must be pre-set by 1:45 p.m. EST. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007. Location: Department of Justice, Great Hall, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: [Referring to President Obama's State of the Union Address] "This was a very important speech for the President tonight and he gave it at a time when he's losing support from his own party. In fact, congressional Democrats were warned tonight that if they didn't applaud the President's speech, he would go out and campaign for them."

Jay Leno: "Here's a little bit of State of the Union trivia. Did you know the State of the Union speech is also called 'date night' on Capitol Hill? Senators and House members pair up as dates. They pair up with someone with the other party and sit next to each other during the President's speech. They try to sit next to someone who is the complete opposite of what they are. For example, Harry Reid sat with someone who is alive."

Conan O'Brien: "President Obama's chief speechwriter said the President started working on his State of the Union address around Thanksgiving. Yeah. In a related story, today, Joe Biden finished giving a speech he started around Thanksgiving."

Jimmy Fallon: "During a speech yesterday, Hillary Clinton said she still doesn't know if she's running for president in 2016. You know. Just like I don't know if I'm going to be having a beer on St. Patrick's Day."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, January 30, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jan 30, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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+ Interior, EPA Lost Employees Even As Overall Federal Employment Increased.
+ List Ranks Most Memorable Politician-Reporter Confrontations.
+ President's Climate Action Plan Seen As "Fatally Flawed."
+ Additional Coverage: Farm Bill Includes PILT Payments.

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+ Haleakala National Park Plan Advances.
+ Arizona Withdraws Plan To Expand Terminal At Airport Near Grand Canyon.
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+ BLM Criticized For Wild Horse Policy.

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+ FWS Director Ashe To Speak At North American Whitetail Summit.
+ Endangered Fish May Prevent Raising Lake Cumberland To Normal Summer Level.
+ FWS Awards Grant To Middle Bay Wetlands Partnership.
+ FWS Removes Shipwreck Debris From Pacific Refuges.
+ Residents Weigh In On Removal Of Wild Cattle.
+ Court Grants Extension On Deadline For Jaguar Critical Habitat Determination.
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SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

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+ Deepwater Horizon Spill Seen As Reason For Greater Cooperation Among Government, Industry, And Scientists.
+ Residents, Activists Meet To Discuss Seismic Airgun Testing Along North Carolina Coast.

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+ Interior Releases Indian Country Labor Force Report.
+ Federal Appeals Court Rejects Challenge To Amador Casino.
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TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
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+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL INTERVIEWED BY EARTH MAGAZINE. In an interview with Earth Magazine (1/30), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell talked "about transitioning from the private to the public sector; the challenges inherent in leading an agency charged with both conserving and developing the nation's natural resources; and inspiring the next generation of geoscientists." Jewell also discussed the importance of the "21st Century Conservation Corps." She noted that "we have a lot of deferred maintenance and we need people to roll up their sleeves and help us take care of these public lands." Also, Jewell said that "there is also no shortage of young people who want to get to work on public lands — either with a minor stipend or as a volunteer — and I want to leverage that excitement and energy to put these young people to work."

Secretary Jewell Calls For Public-Private Partnership At Outdoor Retailer. The Outdoor Retailer Daily (1/23) reported on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's appearance at the Outdoor Retailer, where she called for a "public-private partnership" to create "educational, volunteer and work opportunities" on public lands for "members of the millennial generation." Jewell's vision is for the "Civilian Conservation Corps 2.0." and she's "not going to wait for Congress to act." While Jewell is "asking for private companies from the outdoor industry to get involved," she will also "make sure" the Interior Department has "volunteer coordinators and projects ready for these youth corps."

INTERIOR BLAMES COMMUNICATIONS BREAKDOWN FOR CONTROVERSIAL GROUSE MEET. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/30, 73K) reports that the Interior Department "blamed a "breakdown in communications" for an incident last week in which Interior Secretary Sally Jewell barred reporters from attending a public meeting in Craig." Interior Department communications director Kate Kelly "wrote to a newspaper and the Colorado Press Association that the department will 'redouble our efforts' to work with local governments and respect press freedoms." Kelly wrote that Jewell "attended what our office had understood to be a small meeting with community leaders. It appears there was a breakdown in communications with the (Moffat) County commissioners about the parameters of the meeting."

The Craig (CO) Daily Press (1/29, 10K) reports that the letter added, "The misunderstanding was also unfortunate because it has distracted from the original purpose of the Secretary's visit: to highlight the work that is being done on the ground through private landowners and at all levels of government on these critical sage grouse efforts." Craig Daily Press Managing Editor Noelle Leavitt Riley was "satisfied with the correspondence from the Department of the Interior, believing they will improve on similar visits in the future." Leavitt Riley said, "I'm very pleased with the Secretary of Interior's response. Not only does she and her staff acknowledge that the situation was handled poorly, but they said they'll strive to do better in the future. This situation is an example of how the press and federal officials can solve breakdowns in communication and work together in getting important news to the community."

Also reporting on the story is the Steamboat (CO) Pilot & Today (1/29, 30K).

Meanwhile, the Daily Caller (1/30, Campbell, 422K) reports that "a bill that would have strengthened protections for journalists and their sources was killed in committee by Colorado Democrats." The article notes that "the bill was killed during a period of tension between Colorado Democrats and the media." On Monday, the Colorado Press Association sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "complaining that her barring the media from a public meeting in Colorado caused local officials to violate the state's open meetings laws and it trampled on the barred reporter's First Amendment rights."

OBAMA INTENDS TO USE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY ON CONSERVATION. The Washington Times (1/30, Boyer, 417K) reports that in his State of the Union address Tuesday night, President Barack Obama "included land conservation in a long list of issues on which he intends to use his executive authority without input from Congress." Obama said, "I'll use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations." The sentence "set off alarm bells for lawmakers such as Rep. Rob Bishop, Utah Republican." Bishop said, "It's almost surreal to have someone say he wants to work with you as long as you're willing to do it his way, and if you don't, then he'll do it anyway. He needs to get local input before taking that route. Congress has to be a player in that."

For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/30, Morgan, 11.54M), Ann Morgan, Executive director of the National Wildlife Federation regional office in Boulder, Colorado lauded Obama's vow to protect more public lands. She notes that "Congress has before it more than three dozen land protection bills with broad public support, yet none have passed." Since "the process is broken," Morgan urges Obama to "use his authority under the Antiquities Act to create new national monuments to protect the iconic lands identified in the bills languishing before Congress." Morgan looks "forward to Interior moving forward on responsible decision making so that our air and water will be protected, wildlife can safely migrate across their historic ranges and hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers, hikers and others can continue to enjoy our public lands for generations to come."

INTERIOR, EPA LOST EMPLOYEES EVEN AS OVERALL FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT INCREASED. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/30, 705) reports that the Interior Department and the EPA "saw their workforces shrink between 2004 and 2012, even as the overall number of federal employees increased by 14 percent, according to a new report from the Government Accountability Office." The article notes that "the report tackles trends in civilian employment and compensation as Congress looks for places to save money."

LIST RANKS MOST MEMORABLE POLITICIAN-REPORTER CONFRONTATIONS. For "The Fix" blog of the Washington Post (1/29, Sullivan, 4.28M), Sean Sullivan picks eight of the most memorable confrontations between politicians and the media. Of note, former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's run-in with reporter Dave Phillips is ranked third.

PRESIDENT'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SEEN AS "FATALLY FLAWED." In the National Review (1/30, White, 805K), Texas Public Policy Foundation Distinguished Senior Fellow Kathleen Hartnett White writes a highly critical 1,500-word piece about "the fatal flaws in President Obama's current climate policies." Despite scientific evidence that climate change might not be anthropogenic, she says, "the president doubles down on what he calls the 'unequivocal' dictates of science" by pursuing "broad executive action without a congressionally legislated foundation." In her view, the Administration's Climate Action Plan is incoherent, "futile, wasteful, and redundant," and if the Environmental Protection Agency's "unachievable" emissions regulations foreshadow the agency's "future CO2 agenda, expect energy scarcity in this country." In conclusion, White suggests that the US replace the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with a body that would pursue observational research instead of imposing dogma.

Study: Climate Change Directly Impacting Seabirds. The New York Times (1/29, Fountain, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that a long-term study of Magellanic penguins "is one of the first to show a direct impact of climate change on seabirds." Lead author P. Dee Boersma with the University of Washington said the number of breeding pairs in the colony at Punta Tombo, Argentina has fallen 24 percent since 1982. Researchers found that, in addition to predation and starvation, Magellanic chicks must now contend with higher temperatures, as well as intense storms that can lead to deadly hypothermia. The Times notes the study "showed that the mortality caused by storms was in addition to those from other causes." The study was published online Wednesday in the journal PLoS ONE.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FARM BILL INCLUDES PILT PAYMENTS. Additional coverage that the farm bill includes a one-year extension of PILT payments was provided by the AP (1/29), which was also picked up by the Washington Times (1/30, Daly, 417K).

The AP (1/30, Barnard, 417K) notes that "the bill passed the House on Wednesday and goes to the Senate."

The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (1/28, 110K) editorializes that "there's no question Congress should help pay for the impact of federal land on local communities."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES WILDERNESS BILL MOVES FORWARD. The AP (1/30) reports that "a bill that would designate 32,000 acres of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore as wilderness is moving closer to congressional approval." The bill "won unanimous backing this week from the House Committee on Natural Resources," but "a floor vote has not been scheduled."

HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARK PLAN ADVANCES. The AP (1/30) reports that Haleakala National Park is "implementing a plan to cut back on the number of commercial visitors that aims to ensure preservation of the resources at the park." The plan also "seeks to ensure high-quality experiences in the next 10 to 15 years." Under the plan, "commercial bicycle tours will continue to be prohibited," and "other offerings, including horseback riding and astronomy tours, will be limited." The NPS "last month made a finding of no significant impact for the plan and accompanying environmental assessment."

ARIZONA WITHDRAWS PLAN TO EXPAND TERMINAL AT AIRPORT NEAR GRAND CANYON. The AP (1/30) reports that Arizona has decided to withdraw "a plan to expand the existing terminal at the airport just south of Grand Canyon National Park." The article says the state's decision comes after the FAA told Arizona's Department of Transportation "that it would need an environmental assessment before adding 2,000 square feet to the terminal." According to the AP, state Department of Transportation spokesman Ryan Harding said Arizona "determined that the assessment wasn't worth the effort or money."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO GIVEN MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR SUPREME COURT. Additional coverage that the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. has been granted a legal stay to allow it to continue to operate over the next 90 days while it prepares a case to bring to the US Supreme Court was

provided by the AP (1/30), which was picked up by the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/30, 80K), the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (1/30, 731K), the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (1/29, 126K), the Humboldt Beacon (1/30, 13K), and KFMB-TV San Diego (1/30, 15K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS TO HOLD MEETING ON PROPOSED MALL METERS. Additional coverage that the NPS is planning "to install parking meters at various points around the National Mall later this year" was provided by the Washington Post (1/29, Thomson, 4.28M) and the Washingtonian Magazine (DC) (1/30, 338K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SEEKS SHOOTER AFTER TWO WILD BURROS KILLED IN ARIZONA. The Arizona Republic (1/29, 1.19M) reports that the BLM is searching for the suspects in the shooting of two wild burros in Arizona. Rem Hawes, the BLM's Hassayampa field manager, said the bureau is "committed to the protection and management of wild burros and horses and is asking for any information regarding the illegal shootings."

Also reporting on the story is KTVK-TV Phoenix (1/30, 88K).

BLM CRITICIZED FOR WILD HORSE POLICY. In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/30, 22K), Thomas Mitchell writes that "when it comes to carrying out the instructions from Congress on the management of wild horses and burros under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the BLM is so bold and so brazen as to write on its own website that it doesn't care one whit what the law says." According to Mitchell, "under a section of its website labeled Myths and Facts the BLM denies that it is selling or sending wild horses to slaughter," and "in another 'Fact' the agency admits there are 14,000 too many horses currently roaming the West." Mitchell claims that "these are just two of the myriad misdeeds by the federal land management agency revealed in a recent federal lawsuit filed by the Nevada Association of Counties and the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation against the Department of Interior, the BLM, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and others."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

INTERIOR TO RELEASE PLAN FOR GROWING REFUGE SYSTEM. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/30, 705) reports that the Interior Department will "soon release a draft policy to guide the growth of the National Wildlife Refuge System in the face of climate change, ecological threats and tight budgets." According to the article, "the agency tomorrow will announce the release of a draft strategic growth policy that will spell out how the system prioritizes land acquisitions and the conservation of endangered species, migratory birds and waterfowl." The agency said in a Federal Register notice to be published tomorrow, "This draft policy instructs the Refuge System to focus its protection measures on priority conservation features in order to ensure that our limited resources are directed to make the greatest contribution to the conservation of species in a strategic, cost-effective, and transparent manner."

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE TO SPEAK AT NORTH AMERICAN WHITETAIL SUMMIT. The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (1/30, 339K) reports that "declining deer herds and other threats to North America's deer-hunting heritage will be the focus of the first North American Whitetail Summit being convened by the Quality Deer Management Association March 3-6 at Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, Mo." The group has "invited leaders and stakeholders from the entire whitetail community, including deer hunters, state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, the hunting industry, media, universities and landowners." Notably, "featured speakers will include internationally acclaimed conservationist Shane Mahoney; Dan Ashe, director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service; and Dan Forster, president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies."

ENDANGERED FISH MAY PREVENT RAISING LAKE CUMBERLAND TO NORMAL SUMMER LEVEL. The AP (1/30) reports that an endangered fish in the headwaters of Lake Cumberland has "federal officials trying to decide what to do about the lake's water level, which was due to rise this year after dam repairs kept the water lowered the last few years." The FWS and the Army Corps of Engineers and are "delaying an increase until determining how to minimize the effect on the duskytail darter." Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell "said in a news release Wednesday the local economy has been hurt by the lower water level and resulting decline in visitors and he wants the agencies to reconsider the delay."

Also reporting on the story are the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (1/29, 320K), the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (1/29, Bruggers, 449K), and WKYT-TV Lexington, KY (1/30, 69K).

FWS AWARDS GRANT TO MIDDLE BAY WETLANDS PARTNERSHIP. The Falmouth (ME) The Forecaster (1/29, 60K) reports that the FWS has "awarded $1 million to a local effort seeking to preserve more than 86 acres of coastal wetlands around Middle Bay." According to the article, "the Middle Bay Wetlands Partnership was one of 26 conservation projects across the country – and the only one in Maine – that shared $26.5 million in grants" from the FWS. The article notes that "funding from the grant and some local sources will help the Harpswell trust buy nearly 14 acres of land off Harpswell Neck Road from the Lowell family."

FWS REMOVES SHIPWRECK DEBRIS FROM PACIFIC REFUGES. The AP (1/30) reports that the FWS says it's "removed nearly one million pounds of decades-old shipwreck debris from two remote national wildlife refuges in the Pacific." The service said Wednesday said the "removal is the first phase of coral reef restoration work at Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef National Wildlife Refuges." According to the article, "the iron in the wrecked ships was fueling the growth of invasive organisms that were smothering once-healthy, diverse coral."

RESIDENTS WEIGH IN ON REMOVAL OF WILD CATTLE. KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK (1/30) reports that on January 15, the FWS "held an open house in Sand Point as part of a public process to address unauthorized wild cattle herds." Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge manager Steve Delehanty said, "To learn what the perspectives are of the people who live right here in Sand Point and are closer to the issue and know a lot about it. We haven't made any decision about what we're doing [with] these two islands. They're called Chirikof and Wosnesenski."

COURT GRANTS EXTENSION ON DEADLINE FOR JAGUAR CRITICAL HABITAT DETERMINATION. The Willcox (AZ) Range News (1/30, 11K) reports that the FWS "requested and recently received an extension of the deadline to reach a final determination on critical habitat for the jaguar." According to the article, "the previous settlement agreement date for publishing a final decision was December 16; the new publication date is February 14, 2014."

IDAHO CALLS OFF HIRED HUNTER TO KILL WOLVES IN WILDERNESS. Reuters (1/29, Zuckerman) reports that Idaho has called off a professional hunter hired to kill wolves in a federally protected wilderness area because he had succeeded in reducing the population enough to protect the elk prized by hunters. The hunter killed nine wolves since mid-December, but none since mid-January.

SAGE GROUSE EIS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/30, 22K), Ralph R. Sacrison, a senior mining engineer and member of the Elko County Natural Resources Management Advisory Commission, criticizes the EIS following the Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment/Environment Impact Statement for failing to "show clear and specific closure with consistency proscriptions of the Federal Land Planning and Management Act (43 USC 1712)." According to Sacrison, "if they cared about protecting the sage grouse, they would take measures against its predators," but "they are willing to prolong the slaughter of 1.4 million embryos and nestlings every year in order to enact their habitat control." Sacrison claims that "they have allowed that slaughter for decades, yet continue to blame ranchers, miners, and energy and land developers for the most severe problems which face the sage grouse."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

RECREATIONAL ANGLERS EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOUT BLOCK ISLAND WIND FARM. For the Warwick (RI) Beacon (1/30, 31K), Capt. Bellavanc and Capt. Dave Monti discuss the Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) that serves as a federally recognized coastal management and regulatory tool. According to the authors, "overall anglers were very supportive of the SAMP program," but "they expressed concerns about the five turbine wind project being built by developer Deepwater Wind three miles off the south coast of Block Island." They conclude that "Deepwater Wind, government officials and regulators just have to keep the process transparent and open and keep the information flowing to recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other stakeholders."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM OIL, GAS LEASES IN NORTH DAKOTA NETS $17.5 MILLION. The AP (1/30) reports that the BLM says "its most recent sale of oil and gas leases in North Dakota totaled more than $17.5 million." The bureau says "40 federal leases were sold Wednesday."

AP coverage was picked up by KXMC-TV Minot, ND (1/30, 1K) and additional coverage was provided by KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (1/30, 1K).

Offshore Energy Development:

US SIGNS AGREEMENT ON OIL SPILLS WITH MEXICO, CUBA, BAHAMAS, AND JAMAICA. The Tampa (FL) Tribune (1/29, Guzzo, 520K) reports on the "Tampa roots" of a new US-Cuba agreement on oil spills. That agreement, the Multi-Lateral Technical Operating Procedure, was also signed by Mexico, the Bahamas, and Jamaica. The paper credits "Al Fox of Tampa, who has worked from here to encourage normalization of relations with Cuba through his Alliance For Responsible Cuba Policy Foundation." The article offers a detailed history of the agreement.

DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL SEEN AS REASON FOR GREATER COOPERATION AMONG GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND SCIENTISTS. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (1/30, Alexander-Bloch, 700K) reports that at the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference in Mobile, Alabama, panelists said that "the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill showed scientists that they need to get better at landing funding for on-the-ground research sooner after environmental disasters, so they can better measure its impact." They also said that there needs to be greater cooperation among "academic scientists, government agencies and oil and gas industry officials."

RESIDENTS, ACTIVISTS MEET TO DISCUSS SEISMIC AIRGUN TESTING ALONG NORTH CAROLINA COAST. The Wrightsville (NC) Lumina News (1/30, 16K) reports that during a Kure Beach Town Council meeting, "about 150 community members and activists" convened to discuss "Mayor Dean Lambeth's Dec. 19 letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in support of seismic airgun testing along the North Carolina coast." While "environmentalists argue the testing could kill or injure thousands of marine mammals," API senior policy advisor Andy Radford "said the message being touted by environmentalists was overblown." Radford commented, "Those are estimates of numbers of animals that the tests could potentially be exposed to. Decades of seismic surveys all over the world have shown no impact to marine life."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

PRESIDENT OBAMA CALLS GOV. BROWN FOR CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE. The San Francisco Chronicle (1/29, 2.88M) reports that President Barack Obama called California Gov. Jerry Brown "regarding the drought situation facing California." Obama "reinforced his commitment to providing the necessary federal support to the state and local efforts."

LAWMAKERS WARN BOR AGAINST HALTING WATER DELIVERIES. The Porterville (CA) Recorder (1/30, 27K) reports that San Joaquin Valley congressmen Kevin McCarthy, Devin Nunes, David Valadao and Jim Costa released a "joint statement in reaction to reports that the Bureau of Reclamation may refuse to provide rescheduled water for farmers from California's San Joaquin Valley." The statement read: "If the Bureau of Reclamation were to refuse to provide rescheduled water, these responsible farmers would be devastated. … In the midst of a severe drought created by the government itself, this action would be like throwing gasoline on a fire. To withhold by government fiat hundreds of thousands of acre feet of water that these growers had already paid for, without compensation to those affected, would be an injustice that is impossible to ignore. If the bureau takes this unprecedented action, which smacks of an attempt to manufacture a crisis, we would call for a full investigation, including requests to see all internal communications of the officials responsible for making this decision."

CALIFORNIA SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT SUPPORTS BAY DELTA CONSERVATION

PLAN. In an op-ed for the Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/30, 749K), Betty Jo Toccoli, president of the California Small Business Association, writes that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan is needed because "the water system is broken and long overdue for an upgrade." She notes that "California is entering the third, critical year of a severe drought," and "water shortages affect every kind of business, small and large. Without water, consumers won't be able to count on getting the fresh produce grown to California's exacting standards." Toccoli concludes that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan "as part of the broader state water plan represents a reasonable path forward."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR BEGINS IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. On the website of Karnopp Petersen (1/30), Lauren Lester writes that the Interior Department has begun to implement the land consolidation requirements contained in the Cobell Settlement. Interior "entered into its first cooperative agreement in December with the Oglala Lakota Nation, and has made purchase offers on the Pine Ridge Reservation and the Makah Indian Reservation."

Meanwhile, on the website of Galanda Broadman (1/30), Gabriel "Gabe" Galanda writes that he visited the University of Arizona College of Law in Tucson for a speech at the 2nd Annual Tribal Lands Conference, and a Professorship in Residence at the Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy Program. Gabe "explained that 'while Interior's plan disclaims any facilitation of forced sales under 25 U.S.C. 2204(a), the $1.55 Billion in 'buy back' monies will catalyze controversial intra-tribal forced sales." He "further explained how any such forced sale could violate various federal laws, including the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the United States' trust fiduciary duty at common law, as well as international human rights law, including Articles 1 and 10 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Article 11 of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen."

INTERIOR RELEASES INDIAN COUNTRY LABOR FORCE REPORT. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/29, 21K) reports that the Interior Department has "published the latest report on the American Indian population and labor force, updating and improving on the previous report that was published in 2007 with data from nine years ago." The 2013 American Indian and Labor Force Report "presents findings from the 2010 Labor Force Survey of American Indians and Alaska combined with statistics produced by the 2010 US Census–the most recent year for which adequate statistics were available." The article highlights "some of the report's main findings." It notes that "approximately 28.1 percent of the Native population is below 16 years of age, with slightly more boys than girls," and "about 50 percent of all the Native Americans studied, who are 16 years or older, are employed either full or part time in civilian jobs." Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn said "he hopes the report, together with other data, will be useful in determining relative needs for resources in different regions across Indian country."

FEDERAL APPEALS COURT REJECTS CHALLENGE TO AMADOR CASINO. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/29, 749K) reports that a federal appeals court has "rebuffed an Amador County citizens group challenging federal recognition of a tribe seeking to build a casino near Ione." The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals "upheld a lower court ruling affirming that the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians is a federally recognized tribe."

Also providing coverage is the Modesto (CA) Bee (1/29, 208K).

SEN. MURKOWSKI URGES EXPANSION OF TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE OVER PUBLIC LANDS IN ALASKA. The Alaska Business Monthly (1/30) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski has called on the NPS and the FWS to "recommit themselves to advocate and advance self-governance agreements with Alaska's regional tribal organizations in order to strengthen Alaska Native participation in the management of public lands surrounding their communities." During a hearing of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs discussing the "Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2013," Murkowski said, "Indian Self-Determination has been, in my mind, the most successful federal Indian policy, given the difficult history of our Nation's indigenous people. When our tribes can manage their own programs, they are better equipped to address the disparities that exist within our Native populations. Many of our Native communities live next to and within the boundaries of public lands, national parks and wildlife refuges. As Ranking Member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee with oversight responsibility of public lands in Alaska, I would like to see self-governance agreements supported and expanded by the Administration."

Top National News:

ON SOTU FOLLOW-UP SWING, OBAMA CALLS ON CONGRESS TO "GIVE AMERICA A RAISE." On Wednesday evening, all three broadcast network newscasts covered President Obama's stops in Maryland and Pennsylvania where he reiterated some of the themes he emphasized in Tuesday's State of the Union address. Reports last night and this morning noted that in addition to calling on Congress to increase the Federal minimum wage, as he did Tuesday, the President also signed a memo establishing a new program making it easier for working-class Americans to begin saving for their retirements.

While immediate reaction to Tuesday's speech suggested that the President had implicitly acknowledged the realistic limits of his ambitions for the remainder of his term, this morning's coverage, focused as it is on two broadly popular initiatives, portrays the President in a much more positive light.

On ABC World News (1/29, story 3, 1:40, 7.43M), George Stephanopoulos reported that "more than 30 million of us tuned in to" the President's State Of The Union address, "a high stakes speech at the low point of his presidency that he used to confront Congress and demand, what he called 'a raise for America.'" Jonathan Karl went on to report that on Wednesday, the President "was out there hitting that 'Give America A Raise' theme hard...in campaign-style events, both in Pennsylvania and Maryland." According to Karl, the White House "believes this is a win/win issue for the President even if he cannot get Congress to go along with an increase to the minimum wage" because Democratic candidates "will have a campaign issue for the fall."

The Wall Street Journal (1/30, Lee, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) quotes the President as saying, "Give America a raise. ... If you put in a hard day's work, you deserve decent pay for it. That's a principle everybody understands, that everybody believes."

In a brief segment for NBC Nightly News (1/29, story 4, 0:35, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that on Wednesday, President Obama "went on the road...and quickly made good on part of what he promised" in his State of the Union address. Williams noted that the President "signed a presidential memo to create the 'myRA' retirement program he mentioned in his speech," and "then at a Costco in suburban Maryland, he said he would sign an executive order in coming weeks raising the minimum wage to over $10 for new Federal contract workers."

On the CBS Evening News (1/29, story 5, 2:15, Pelley, 5.58M), Nancy Cordes reported that just "sixteen hours after the President's address," Senate Majority Leader Reid "vowed to quickly bring a bill to the floor that raises the Federal minimum wage by nearly three dollars from $7.25 an hour to $10.10 an hour." Cordes added that "the White House thinks this...will be a political winner," and noted that "according to the most recent CBS News poll...72% of Americans believe it's a good idea to raise the Federal minimum wage...including 48 percent of Republicans."

Under the headline "Barack Obama's Forget-Me-Not Tour," Politico (1/30, Brown, Epstein, 464K) reports that on Wednesday, the President tried to "remind voters he isn't a lame duck yet." Politico says that "as part of a postmortem on what went wrong last year, senior administration officials concluded that" the President "got wrapped up in issues that weren't the top priorities of voters." Politico says that in an effort to heed that analysis, the President "plans to travel outside Washington at least once a week and to unveil dozens of new executive actions in the coming months."

Likewise, the New York Times (1/30, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the President's aides says he "want[s] to escape the shackles of being a virtual prime minister, absorbed by what Congress is doing, and demonstrate a broader leadership less dependent on the legislative process." However, according to the Times, on Wednesday in Maryland, the President "quickly conceded that gridlock in Washington may prevent progress on his economic agenda."

McClatchy (1/30, Kumar, 95K) reports that on Thursday, the President "will give speeches in Milwaukee and Nashville," and then on Friday, he will meet with CEOs "to talk about an initiative to secure commitments from major corporations not to discriminate against the long-term unemployed during hiring."

The Washington Post (1/30, Branigin, 4.28M) reports that on Wednesday in Maryland, "before an enthusiastic crowd in a suburban county where the local government recently passed legislation to raise the minimum wage," the President "said he would lead by example" and "sign an executive order requiring new federal contractors to pay their workers a minimum wage of $10.10 an hour."

USA Today (1/30, Jackson, 5.82M) notes that the President "endorsed a proposed congressional bill" sponsored by Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. George Miller (D-CA) "that would increase the minimum wage from $7.25 per hour to $10.10 over time." However, according to USA Today, "some economists said an increase in the minimum wage will discourage businesses from taking on entry-level employees." USA Today adds that Republicans "also criticized Obama's emphasis on executive orders."

The Washington Post (1/30, Hicks, 4.28M) reports that while "labor and civil rights groups celebrated...when" the President "said he would require a $10.10 minimum wage for new federal contracts," the Professional Services Council, which "advocates for government contractors, said the administration seems to have singled out federal contractors among the nation's employers." The Post says it is anticipated that "the wage increase is likely to affect only a small subset of companies that do business with the government."

USA Today (1/30, O'Donnell, McElhaney, 5.82M) reports that Costco CEO Craig Jelinek "has been an outspoken proponent of a minimum wage increase," and that "labor union officials" contend that "other retailers, such as Walmart, could learn from the way Costco treats its workers." However, according to USA Today, "others say" Costco has "such a different business model and customer base that Costco can't be compared with other retailers." Richard Berman, who USA Today says "runs a business advocacy group opposed to a minimum wage increase," points out that Costco "has half the number of employees per square foot (of Walmart), is a much smaller company, its stores are only in affluent areas and people are buying in bulk."

The Washington Times (1/30, Wolfgang, 417K) notes that while the President "had plenty of nice things to say about Costco," he "left the store...without buying anything, even though he'd promised to walk out with some of the bulk items Costco is famous for."

Obama Signs Memorandum Establishing Savings Program. The AP (1/30, Superville, Pickler) reports that at a US Steel plant near Pittsburgh on Wednesday, the President "signed a presidential memorandum to create the 'myRA' program, which he told employees would go toward 'making sure that after a lifetime of hard work you can retire with some dignity.'" The AP adds that the President then gave the memorandum to Treasury Secretary Lew, whose "initial task is to set up a pilot program with accounts available through some employers by the end of the year." The AP quotes Lew as saying afterwards, "We think this fills a space that, very importantly, we can do by our own authority."

Under the headline "Obama Promotes Retirement Savings Plan On State Of Union Road Trip," Reuters (1/30, Mason) quotes the President as saying, "If you worked hard all your life, you deserve a secure retirement."

According to the New York Times (1/30, Bernard, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), the myRA program is "in keeping with [Obama's] theme of providing financial relief to the middle class to try to bridge what is widely acknowledged as a growing income equality gap." The Times says the Treasury Department's "goal is to get people saving, particularly lower-income workers, who otherwise might not save at all."

However, Bloomberg News (1/30, Rubin, 1.91M) says the establishment of the myRA program is just "a limited step," that "lack[s] the broader investment options and employer match of workers' 401(k) retirement accounts." Bloomberg also notes that the program "is a narrower version of the automatic IRA proposal he has included in his budget," which "would have cost the government an estimated $17.6 billion in forgone revenue over 10 years."

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (1/30, Wereschagin, 636K) notes that the President "touted the...steel plant's retirement options." According to the Tribune-Review, US Steel "offers employees 401(k) plans and most union workers are eligible for a defined-benefit pension – something Obama acknowledged Tuesday most workers don't have."

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (1/30, O'Toole, 725K) reports that at the West Mifflin, Pennsylvania plant, the President was "greeted by US Steel President & CEO Mario Longhi, United Steelworkers International President

Leo Gerard and Anthony Bridge, the firm's vice president of engineering, research and development." The Post-Gazette says that on a tour of the plant, the President "conducted conversations with a handful of plant workers before heading back to a makeshift stage where plant employees in orange and white hard hats formed a backdrop."

Polls Find Overwhelming Support For Obama's SOTU Address. The Christian Science Monitor (1/30, Grier, 540K) reported that in "a snap CNN/ORC survey, 44 percent of viewers who'd watched Mr. Obama said they had a 'very positive' response to his SOTU address," while 32% "said they had a 'somewhat positive' response, and 22 percent disliked it." The Monitor adds that a "CBS poll shows 83 percent of responding viewers said they approved of the proposals outlined in the speech," while just "17 percent disapproved."

SOTU Television Audience Was Obama's Smallest. USA Today (1/30, Jackson, 5.82M) reported that Tuesday night's speech "drew 33.3 million television viewers," which was "slightly less than the 33.5 million who tuned into last year's State of the Union," and "the smallest audience he has had" since taking office.

Obama Chided By Allies For Failing To Use Executive Orders More Liberally. The AP (1/30, Pace), in an article titled "Obama Executive Omissions Leave Some Allies Angry," reports that "gay rights advocates are seething over Obama's refusal to grant employment discrimination protections to gays and lesbians working for federal contractors." Fred Sainz, vice president of Human Rights Campaign, said, "In the absence of congressional action, an executive order that prohibits discrimination by contractors is a tailor-made solution to the president's expressed aims." According to the AP, Sainz says "his frustration with the White House's inaction...was 'growing by the day.'" The AP add that, for their part, "some immigration overhaul supporters were disappointed that he did not act on his own to halt deportations" of illegal immigrants. Ben Monterroso, executive director of Mi Familia Vota, is quoted as saying, "The president said he is going to use executive orders to act where Congress fails, and we expect him to do the same with immigration reform."

USA Today (1/30, Madhani, 5.82M) also reports that the President is "taking flak from some LGBT advocates for failing to address stalled legislation that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation by federal contractors." According to USA Today, Heather Cronk, co-director of GetEQUAL, "said she was 'disappointed, saddened and offended' by the omission."

The Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M), in an editorial, says of Tuesday's address, "sadly there was not one word about how people who live in the nation's capital...are denied their basic rights as US citizens."

Veterans Groups Upset Obama Did Not Demand Restoration Of Benefits. The Washington Times (1/30, Klimas, 417K) reports that "veterans' groups criticized" the President "for not demanding a full repeal of cuts to military retirement benefits" in his State Of The Union address. The Times notes that the recently passed "budget deal included a provision to reduce working-age military retirees cost-of-living adjustment to one percent below inflation until a retiree reaches age 62." Daniel M. Dellinger, the American Legion's national commander, said, "The American Legion is disappointed that President Obama did not show more leadership in dealing with the COLA issue." Dellinger added, "He promised us, back in August 2011 at our national convention, that he would not balance the federal budget on the backs of America's veterans, but that is exactly what he is allowing Congress to do."

Obama EITC Expansion Proposal Is Similar To Rubio Plan. The AP (1/30, Kuhnhenn) reports that "the only new legislative proposal in Obama's State of the Union" his suggestion to "expand the earned-income tax credit to childless workers, broadening benefits that now mainly go to low-income working parents." The AP notes that Sen. Marco Rubio "has put his own spotlight on the tax credit," and "has called for replacing the earned income tax credit with a 'wage enhancement' tax credit that would incorporate both low-income working families and more childless workers."

House Republicans Object To The President's Use Of Executive Actions. McClatchy (1/30, Lightman, 95K) reports that on Wednesday, House Republicans "headed to a Maryland retreat...looking to shape a unified message on immigration, debt and health care that could offer voters an alternative rather than just persistent opposition to" President Obama's agenda. According to McClatchy, the President "gave Republicans new ammunition...Tuesday night, as he vowed to use his executive power to implement policies Congress won't." Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), chairman of the Republican Study Committee, is quoted as saying, "Rather than

trying to write laws from the Oval Office, he should put down his pen, pick up the Constitution, and start working with Congress to solve the problems facing our nation."

The Wall Street Journal (1/30, Hook, 5.91M) reported that on Wednesday, Rubio said, "All presidents get frustrated with Congress [but] this president seems to have extra frustration, and he reacts to it with unilateral actions that are unproductive and, in my option, borderline unconstitutional."

Politico (1/30, Gibson, 464K) reported that some House Republicans are "pushing a resolution to bring legal action against" the President "for overstepping his authority in executive orders." According to Politico, Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC) has sponsored the "STOP (Stop This Overreaching Presidency) resolution," which "targets Obama for allowing a year extension health care policies that were ended because of Obamacare; delaying the employer mandate for one year; deferring the deportation of illegal immigrants...and waiving part of the welfare work requirement."

The Daily Caller (1/30, Pappas, 422K) reported that Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN) said, "He may think he's a king, he may declare himself king, but that's not what he is under our Constitution."

Costa Praises McMorris Rodgers' SOTU Response. Robert Costa, in an analysis for the Washington Post (1/30, Costa, 4.28M) titled "Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers Comes Through For GOP In SOTU Response," says Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) "had one of the more difficult tasks in politics, delivering the official Republican response to" the State Of The Union address, and "to the surprise of many insiders," she "largely succeeded – mixing plain-spoken platitudes with tenderly told stories about her children and her blue-collar roots." According to Costa, McMorris Rodgers displayed an "easygoing populism and an emphasis on jobs and her family, which includes a son with Down syndrome and a Navy veteran husband."

Tribute To Injured Ranger Acclaimed As High Point Of Address. George Stephanopoulos, on ABC World News (1/29, story 9, 2:40, 7.43M), reported that on Tuesday night there was "a rare moment of absolute unity in Washington" following President Obama's "deeply personal tribute to Army Ranger Cory Remsburg, drawing the longest ovation of the night from Democrats and Republicans." ABC's Martha Raddatz added, "If the nation remembers nothing else from last night, we will remember Cory Remsburg." The tribute to Remsburg was also briefly noted on the CBS Evening News (1/29, story 6, 0:35, Pelley, 5.58M).

Former Bush Speechwriter Says Tuesday's Speech Was Similar To Bush's 2007 Address. Politico (1/30, Gold, 464K) reports that Washington Post columnist Marc Thiessen, who was a speechwriter for President George W. Bush and "the lead writer on Bush's 2007 State of the Union address, said he found Obama's speech Tuesday night 'eerily familiar.'" Thiessen is quoted as saying, "Barack Obama has gone from blaming George W. Bush to plagiarizing George W. Bush." According to Thiessen, "There were lines like 'Our job is to help Americans build a future of hope and opportunity, a future of hope and opportunity begins with a growing economy, a future of hope and opportunity requires that all citizens have affordable and available healthcare, extending opportunity and hope depends on a stable supply of energy,' all of that came from the 2007 State of the Union from George W. Bush."

More Commentary On Tuesday's Address. Clan Berman, vice president of the American Foreign Policy Council, in an op-ed for USA Today (1/30, 5.82M), claims that the Tuesday's address "included a number of blatant mischaracterizations of just what the White House has (and has not) done on the foreign policy front." Berman goes on to say that while the President asserted that Israel "knows America will always be at their side," in fact, "no president has presided over a steeper decline in bilateral ties than Obama," whose "choices...have significantly, and adversely, affected Israeli security."

In a Politico Magazine (1/30, 464K) piece, National Review's Rich Lowry says, "The fight against inequality...was supposed to be a generation-defining struggle and consume the rest of...Obama's presidency as of a couple weeks ago." However, according to Lowry, the President only "used the word 'inequality' three times." Lowry suggests that the President's "pollsters...let him in on the fact that Americans don't naturally resent other people's good fortune."

Charles Blow, in a column for the New York Times (1/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) titled "The Incredible Shrinking Presidency," says that on Tuesday night, the President "outlined goals that didn't ask America to

dream as much as adjust to the paralysis, abandoning big moves for smaller ones."

E. J. Dionne, in his column for the Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M) reports that the President intends to "demonstrate that government can take sensible steps – on wages, job training and income supplements, on infrastructure, savings, pensions and education – and encourage voters to ask Republicans why they would prevent such initiatives from being enacted on a larger scale."

Daniel Henninger, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (1/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), claims the President's willingness to use executive action stems from his general antipathy to the Constitution's separation of powers.

Karl Rove, in a column for the Wall Street Journal (1/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) titled "Channeling Valerie Jarrett," imagines White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett's inner monologue following Tuesday's address.

FED CUTS BOND PURCHASES BY ANOTHER $10 BILLION. The Federal Reserve announced on Wednesday that it is continuing to ease away from its bond-buying program, as expected by the financial community. Still, the markets resumed their decline on the news, something noted by most media coverage.

The CBS Evening News (1/29, story 8, 0:20, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that the Fed announced that it is "going ahead with plans to ease up on its economic stimulus. It will cut monthly bond purchases starting next month from $65 to $10 billion. Wall Street didn't like that much. The Dow lost 189 points today to close at 15,738."

The New York Times (1/30, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Federal Reserve, at its last meeting chaired by Ben Bernanke, announced on Wednesday that it would reduce its monthly bond-buying program by another $10 billion in February to $65 billion. The Fed attributed the decision to "growing underlying strength in the broader economy." The statement "reflected the optimism of Fed officials that the economy is finally poised for faster growth after years of false starts and setbacks." The Fed Open Market Committee members were unanimous in backing the move, the first such decision since 2011.

The Christian Science Monitor (1/30, Trumbull, 540K) reports that the Fed is still, "on balance," attempting to use its policies to "stimulate economic growth amid high unemployment and the protracted recovery that has followed the deep recession that ended in 2009." The Fed, noting improvements in the economy, said, "Household spending and business fixed investment advanced more quickly in recent months." However, it warned that government "fiscal policy is restraining economic growth, although the extent of restraint is diminishing."

Bloomberg News (1/30, Zumbrum, Ito, 1.91M) reports that that the unanimous backing of the move by the FOMC members shows that the tapering "strategy has brought together policy makers concerned the Fed's record $4.1 trillion balance sheet risks causing asset price bubbles with those who, like Vice Chairman Yellen, say more needs to be done to reduce unemployment."

Reuters (1/30, Spicer, Lange) reports that the recent market downturn and weak December jobs report did not deter the Fed from continuing to taper its bond-buying.

Stocks Fall After Fed Announcement. The Wall Street Journal (1/30, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that in the wake of the Fed announcement, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 189.77 points to 15,738.79, while the S&P 500 fell 18.30 to 1,774.20. The Nasdaq Composite Index, for its part, fell 46.53 points to 4,051.43.

Reuters (1/30, Valetkevitch) reports that the market decline was broad-based. In addition, the piece notes that the S&P 500 is down 4% for the month, a sharp change from 2013, when the index rose 30%.

Markets Shift Focus As Fed Makes Its Move. In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (1/30, A1, Lauricella, Martin, Stubbington, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that a month into 2014, investors worldwide are seeing stock markets dropping sharply. The end of the Fed's massive stimulus program that has been boosting the world financial markets is complicating already difficult economic situations in many emerging markets, particularly with sliding currency values. In addition to fleeing those markets, investors are also exiting

to US stock market to some extent, with much of that money heading for US Treasuries.

Bernanke's Legacy Debated. In an editorial, USA Today (1/30, 5.82M) says that Bernanke has proven to be "the right man at the right time." Along with the Treasury, the Bernanke-led Fed was able to halt the damage from the financial crisis. While the ultimate impact of the taper may change things, from "today's vantage point," Bernanke "looks like a clear candidate for the top ranks of the 14 men who have run the Fed in its 100-year history."

In an opposing op-ed for USA Today (1/30, Schiff, 5.82M), Peter Schiff, an author and CEO of Euro Pacific Capital, writes that the idea that Bernanke "deserves credit for saving the nation from an economic catastrophe omits two possibilities: that we haven't really recovered from anything, and that his policies have laid the foundation for even bigger problems ahead." Schiff warns that Bernanke was "lucky that the inflation he unleashed pushed up asset prices far more noticeably than it did consumer prices," but "eventually," that inflation will "hit consumers hard."

FARM BILL EASILY CLEARS HOUSE, HEADS FOR SENATE. Bloomberg News (1/30, Bjerga, 1.91M) reports that on Wednesday, the House easily passed the farm bill on a 251-166 vote. Bloomberg News says that rural Republicans and urban Democrats "overcame objections about farm subsidies and food-stamp cuts." The measure now moves on to the Senate, where Senate Majority Leader Reid said the measure will be taken up shortly, perhaps this week.

The Washington Post (1/30, O'Keefe, 4.28M) reports that the legislation was opposed by liberals, "who said that the food stamp cuts go too far," and conservatives, who were "concerned that the legislation failed to further curtail government spending." The Post says that the Senate is expected to pass the bill on Friday and send it to President Obama's desk. The votes "cap more than three years of negotiations on a new five-year agreement."

The Los Angeles Times (1/30, Memoli, 3.07M) says that conservatives "had stymied efforts to pass a farm bill in the House last year, arguing in part that agriculture subsidy programs should be considered separately from food stamps," while some "also called for a controversial work requirement to be included for food stamp recipients."

McClatchy (1/30, Doyle, 95K) says that the bill is "huge," as it will "cost $956 billion over 10 years," according to the CBO. The legislation "trims nutrition spending by $8 billion over 10 years, primarily by tightening certain eligibility standards" for food stamps "in some states."

Politico (1/30, Rogers, 464K) reports that the bill was "given up for dead just months ago." Unlike the Post, Politico says that the bill is likely to clear the Senate sometime before the middle of next week. The "giant" bill "combines a landmark rewrite of commodity programs together with bipartisan reforms and savings from food stamps."

Gannett News Service (1/30, Doering, 7K) reports that the 20-year-old "direct-payment subsidy program for farmers, which doles out $5 billion annually regardless of need, would end, and some of the savings" will go to expand crop insurance programs, while an additional $6 billion "would be saved by combining 23 conservation programs into 13."

Reuters (1/30, Beech) reports Senate Agriculture Chair Debbie Stabenow said that the bill "eliminates unnecessary subsidies, creates a more effective farm safety-net and strengthens our commitment to conservation of land and water." She was on the House floor after the vote. For his part, House Speaker Boehner said, "All Americans stand to benefit in some way from this farm bill. This is an improvement over current law, and there are no earmarks."

The Washington Times (1/30, Klimas, 417K) reports that 89 Democrats and 162 Republicans backed the legislation. House Agriculture Chairman Frank Lucas said, "While everyone may not agree with every word, every line, every policy in it, this bill reflects how it should be done. ... I hope this reflects a change in how we do our business here across the board, but I'm proud of what we've done and I'm proud of how we've done it."

Pryor Hits Cotton Over Vote Against Bill. Roll Call (1/30, Trygstad, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports Arkansas Sen. Mark Pryor "intends to make the farm bill a driving issue in his competitive re-election race" against Republican Rep. Tom Cotton. Just after Wednesday's vote, Pryor called Cotton's opposition to the bill

"reckless and irresponsible." Pryor "noted that Cotton was the only member of the state's all-Republican House delegation to oppose the legislation." Pryor is "battling his own ties to an unpopular president," but his campaign is highlighting the vote "as evidence that Cotton would be an unpalatable alternative."

Major Overhaul Of Dairy Policy Included. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/30, Barrett, 798K) reports that Wisconsin farmers are "hopeful" that the "long fight" over Federal dairy subsidies "has ended with the biggest overhaul of the milk pricing system in a generation." The new system consists of "subsidized insurance that would pay farmers when the difference between milk and feed prices shrinks too much." Dairy farmers "would pay insurance premiums based on the level of risk they chose."

WPost Urges Veto Of Bill. In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M) is disdainful of the farm bill, saying that the President should veto it. The Post says that the legislation "gives to the rich and takes from the poor." The Post says that the cut to food stamps, while "both modest and justified," is "hard to swallow" when "attached to so much corporate welfare."

In contrast, the New York Times (1/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) has tentative praise for the bill, which "makes some of the most significant reforms to wasteful agriculture subsidies in many years," and "contains dozens of important provisions designed to increase employment in rural areas and save lives with farsighted crop research." The Times says that if the Senate or the President were to reject the farm bill, it would mean "rolling the dice that the next Congress will do a better job" and in "today's environment, that's a tough bet."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Secrecy Behind Executions."*** The New York Times (1/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that while it is "bad enough that the death penalty is barbaric, racist and arbitrary in its application," it is also "becoming less transparent as the dwindling number of death-penalty states work to hide the means by which they kill people." A Federal appeals court last week denied a condemned Missouri inmate's "constitutional claim that he is entitled to basic information about the drugs that would be used to put him to death." The Times says the secrecy is due to a shortage in execution drugs, which "often means turning to compounding pharmacies, which exist in a largely unregulated world."

"The Farm Bill Could Have Been Worse." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) offers tentative praise for the farm bill, which "makes some of the most significant reforms to wasteful agriculture subsidies in many years," and "contains dozens of important provisions designed to increase employment in rural areas and save lives with farsighted crop research." The Times says that if the Senate or the President were to reject the farm bill, it would mean "rolling the dice that the next Congress will do a better job" and in "today's environment, that's a tough bet."

"President Karzai's Perfidies." An editorial in the New York Times (1/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues that Afghan President Hamid Karzai appears to believe there is "something to be gained in destroying his relationship with the United States," and while his behavior "may serve his interests, it does not serve his long-suffering country's." The Times calls on the CIA to "quickly rethink — and possibly stop — the regular cash deliveries it has been making to Mr. Karzai for more than a decade." The Times adds that the candidates running to succeed Karzai "owe voters a vision of how they will improve governance, reduce corruption and work more productively with the United States and its allies."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Out Of Step On Afghanistan."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M) notes the President's "commitment to leave behind U.S. trainers and logistical support to assist the Afghan army, as well as a counterterrorism force to 'pursue any remnants of al-Qaeda' – which presumably would involve military action," and takes issue with his claim in the State of the Union address that "we will complete our mission there by the end of this year." The Post says that if the President wants public support and Congressional funding for a continued US mission in Afghanistan, he must "make the case why it is in the national interest for troops to remain." By doing "virtually the opposite," the Post argues, the President is "complicit with Mr. Karzai in undermining a major national security interest."

"A Rotten Farm Bill." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M) is disdainful of the farm bill, saying

that the President should veto it. The Post says that the legislation "gives to the rich and takes from the poor." The Post says that the cut to food stamps, while "both modest and justified," is "hard to swallow" when "attached to so much corporate welfare."

"An Unmentioned Problem." The Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M), in an editorial, says of Tuesday's State of the Union address, "sadly there was not one word about how people who live in the nation's capital...are denied their basic rights as U.S. citizens."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Perkinsnacht."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) examines the backlash against venture capitalist Tom Perkins after the newspaper printed a recent letter by Perkins defending the rich and warning of what he called rising hatred against the wealthiest. The Journal says that in their harsh condemnation of Perkins, his liberal critics proved his point.

"Immigration Breakout." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the GOP is correct to pursue immigration reform. The most important reason, the WSJ says, is that immigration laws need to be reformed to boost economic growth and prosperity. The Journal says reform would allow the US to compete for the world's best human capital.

"Harry Reid's Trade Veto." The Wall Street Journal (1/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, notes that Senate Majority Leader Reid's declaration of opposition to fast track is a bad sign for one of the President's professed 2014 pro-growth priorities. The Journal suggests that Reid's comments may have been a calculated move which enables the President to appeal to corporate CEOs while Democrats delay action and collect election year campaign funds from business.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Investors Look Toward Safer Options As Ground Shifts
Reid Deals Body Blow To Obama On Trade
As Film Production Scatters, So Do Hired Hands
Google Sells Handset Business To Lenovo

New York Times:
US Says Russia Tested Missile, Despite Treaty
Obesity Is Found To Gain Its Hold In Earliest Years
After Big Bet, Google Is To Sell Motorola Unit
How Pressure Mounted For Development In Hoboken
Life Story Of Wendy Davis Swings From Strength To Flash Point In Texas Campaign
Touring States, Obama Pushes Modest Agenda
Atlanta Officials Gamble On Storm And Lose, And Others Pay The Price

Washington Post:
Clinton Holds Big Democratic Lead
European Combatants In Syria War Alarm West
Republicans' Overtures Aimed At Middle Class
Probe Focuses On D.C. Firehouse
A Textbook Political Dilemma Of Alliances

Financial Times:
Sell-Off In EM Currencies Continues
Federal Reserve Sticks With $10Bn Taper
Reid Threatens Obama's Trade Agenda
Facebook Trounces Earnings Forecasts
Google Sells Motorola For $3Bn To Lenovo

Investors Flock To US Floating Rate Debt
Central Bankers Fail To Heed Dark Side Lesson

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather-Georgia; Weather Forecast; State Of The Union Address; Congressman Michael Grimm Incident; Cruise Ship Illness; Sochi Olympics-Corruption Charges; Skydiver Rescue Video; Justin Bieber-Assault Charges; State Of The Union Address-Army Ranger Tribute.
CBS: Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Georgia-Atlanta Mayor; Severe Weather-Georgia; Severe Weather-Georgia-Woman Gives Birth; State Of The Union Address; State Of The Union Address-Army Ranger Tribute; Congressman Michael Grimm Incident; Federal Reserve-Economic Stimulus; Health-Testosterone Supplements; Super Bowl Security; Cruise Ship Illness; Pope Francis.
NBC: Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Alabama; Weather Forecast; Obama-Retirement Programs, Minimum Wage; Congressman Michael Grimm Incident; Health-Employee Work Habits; New York-Nine Year Old's Funeral.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Weather-Georgia; Congress-Farm Bill; Obama-myRA Program; Missouri-Execution.
CBS: Severe Weather-Georgia; Clapper-Senate Hearing; Obama-Minimum Wage; Politics-Immigration Reform; Wall Street.
FOX: Severe Weather-Alabama; Severe Weather-Georgia; Target-Data Breach; Justin Bieber-Assault Charges; Super Bowl-Gambling; Health-Testosterone Supplements; Clapper-Senate Hearing; Monarch Butterfly Population Threatened.
NPR: Obama-myRA Program; Clapper-Senate Hearing; Congressman Michael Grimm Incident; Holiday Data Breach; Severe Weather-Georgia; Israel-Palestinian Man Killed; Ukraine-Violent Protests.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – In-town pool call; President departs the White House en route Joint Base Andrews, South Lawn, open press; departs Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives Milwaukee, Wisconsin, General Mitchell International Airport, open press; tours General Electrics Waukesha Gas Engines, Waukesha, Wisconsin, pooled press; delivers remarks at General Electrics Waukesha Gas Engines, open to pre-credentialed media; departs Milwaukee, Wisconsin, General Mitchell International Airport, Wisconsin Air National Guard 128th Air Refueling Wing, open press; arrives Nashville, Tennessee, Berry Field Air National Guard Base, open press; delivers remarks at McGavock High School, open to pre-credentialed media; departs Berry Field Air National Guard Base, open to pre-credentialed media; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives White House South Lawn, open press. Notes: Press secretary Jay Carney will gaggle aboard Air Force One en route Milwaukee. All times are local.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – Meets with senior advisers.

MICHELLE OBAMA – The First Lady visits Los Angeles and San Francisco, through Friday, Jan. 31.
US Senate: SENATE DEMOCRATIC WOMEN – MINIMUM WAGE – 2:15 p.m. Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Patty Murray (D-WA), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) hold a press conference to discuss the importance to women of raising the minimum wage. Location: Senate Radio/TV Gallery.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES – 9:30 a.m. Hearing on explore opportunities and challenges associated with lifting the ban on US crude oil exports. Witnesses: Harold Hamm, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Continental Resources, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK; Graeme Burnett, Senior Vice President, Fuel Optimization, Delta Air Lines, Atlanta, GA; Amy Myers Jaffe, Executive Director of Energy and Sustainability, Graduate School of Management, Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Davis, CA; Daniel J. Weiss, Senior

Fellow, Director of Climate Strategy, Center for American Progress. Location: 366 Dirksen. Notes: New Start ti

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS – 9:30 a.m. Committee on Environment and Public Works, and Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, will convene a joint hearing to discuss the Nuclear Regulatory Commissions (NRC) progress on implementing the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force recommendations and other safeguards related to nuclear facilities. Witnesses: Allison M. Macfarlane, Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Kristine L. Svinicki, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; George Apostolakis, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; William D. Magwood, IV, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; William C. Ostendorff, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Location: 406 Dirksen. Notes: NEW Start Time.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard will hold a hearing titled "West Coast and Western Pacific Perspectives on Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization." The hearing will examine progress made to-date and the ongoing challenges faced in transitioning to sustainable fisheries management along the contiguous west coast and in the Western Pacific since the Act was last reauthorized in 2007. Testimony from managers, fishermen, academics, and other stakeholders is expected to address impacts of the most recent reauthorization on US fisheries and the communities that rely on them, and explore potential legislative changes to the law. Witness Panel one: Will Stelle, Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service; Donald McIssac, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council; Arnold Palacios, Chair, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Mel Moon, Director of Natural Resources, Quileute Nation. Witness Panel 2: Michael Goto, Fish Auctioneer, United Fishing Agency, Ltd.; Ray Toste, President and General Manager, Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermens Association; Joe Dazey, Executive Director, Washington Trollers Association; Mike Gravitz, Policy and Legislative Director, Marine Conservation Institute; Dr. Trevor Branch, Assistant Professor, Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, University of Washington. Location: 253 Russell.

FINANCE – 10 a.m. Hearings to examine the nomination of Karen Dynan, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Richard G. Frank, of Massachusetts, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. Location: 215 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 10 a.m. Hearing on Section 123: Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreements. Witnesses: Panel one: Thomas M. Countryman, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, US Department of State; Daniel B. Poneman, Deputy Secretary of Energy, US Department of Energy. Panel Two: Marvin S. Fertel, President and CEO, Nuclear Energy Institute; Sharon Squassoni, Director and Senior Fellow, Proliferation Prevention Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Henry D. Sokolski, Executive Director, Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, Arlington, VA. Location: 419 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY – 10 a.m. Executive Business Meeting on S.619, Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013; S.1410, Smarter Sentencing Act of 2013; S.1675, Recidivism Reduction and Public Safety Act of 2013; more. Location: 226 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – 2:30 p.m. Shutdown: Examining Federal Government Closure Impacts on the District of Columbia. Witnesses: Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congresswoman for the District of Columbia; Tom Davis, Former Chairman, House Government Reform Committee; Allen Lew, City Administrator, The District of Columbia; Robert Vogel, Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service. Location: 342 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE – 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: Not in session.
Other: WASHINGTON AUTO SHOW – Jan. 21 – Feb. 2. Annual auto show and related events, including Public Policy Preview Days which offer registered members of the media access to industry executives, legislators, Administration officials and automotive technology innovators plus a sneak peek at the latest models and technology advancements. Show opens to the public on Jan. 23. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW (unless otherwise noted). Contacts: Barbara Pomerance (bp@pomeranceassociates.com), 800-697-7574.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ISSUES CONFERENCE – Jan. 29 – 31. Congressional Institutes 2014 "Congress of

Tomorrow Issues" Conference will be held in Cambridge, MD. Reporters wishing to cover the event must have a Congressional press ID and complete this registration form no later Thursday, January 23rd. Location: Cambridge, MD. Contacts: Nate Hodson 202-226-9000 (202-360-2042)

VOTING AND ELECTIONS SUMMIT – The US and Overseas Vote Foundation and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law co-sponsor the Eighth Annual Voting and Elections Summit. Location: George Washington University, Jack Morton Auditorium, 805 21st St. NW. Contacts: Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat (susan@overseasvotefoundation.o), 202-470-2480. Stacie Royster (sroyster@lawyerscommittee.org), 202-662-8317.

AEI – SCHOOL CHOICE – 9 a.m. – 2:50 p.m. "School choice: Encouraging new and better schools." As a part of National School Choice Week, this conference will look at how school choice works and in what capacities. AEI's Michael McShane will convene leading education thinkers and practitioners to discuss a series of new papers and to explore how policy, practice, and research can better facilitate and support vibrant school choice marketplaces. Andy Smarick (Bellwether Education Partners), Kara Kerwin (Center for Education Reform), Patrick Wolf (University of Arkansas), Matthew Chingos (Brookings Institution), and Robert Enlow (Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice) are among the participants. Location: Wohlstetter Conference Center, 12th floor, AEI, 1150 17th St. NW. Contacts: AEI, mediaservices@aei.org, 202-862-5829

CSIS- TRANSATLANTIC CYBERSECURITY DIALOGUE – 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Speakers: Thomas A. Dukes, Senior Cyber Policy Advisor, US Department of State; Francois Rivasseau, Deputy Head of the European Delegation to the US. Discussants: Dr. James A. Lewis, Director and Senior Fellow, Strategic Technologies Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies. Moderator: Heather A. Conley, Director and Senior Fellow, Europe Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. Contacts: Clara Fritts ((202) 775-3175)

GQ – NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT 2014 COUNTDOWN – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. With Peter Mollema, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Joan Rohlfing, President and COO, Nuclear Threat Initiative. Location: Lindner Family Commons, Room 602, 1957 E St NW.

WILSON CENTER – LATIN AMERICA – 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Discussion with: Chile – Roberto Brodsky, Georgetown University; Honduras – Manuel Torres Calderon, National University of Honduras (UNAH); Venezuela – Francisco Monaldi, Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administracion and Harvard University; Brazil – Maria Cristina Fernandes, Valor Economico; Colombia – Mauricio Vargas, El Tiempo; El Salvador – Cristina Eguizabal, National Development Foundation (Funde); Uruguay – Rafael Pineiro, Universidad Catolica del Uruguay. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

CORRUPTION & ABUSE – SOCHI OLYMPICS – 9:30 a.m. News conference, "Olympic Abuses: Russia Before the Sochi Games." Speakers: Boris Nemtsov, Russian opposition leader, former Deputy Prime Minister of Russia; Leonid Martynyuk, Russian journalist and opposition activist from the Krasnodar Region; David J. Kramer, President of Freedom House, former US Assistant Secretary of State; Vladimir Kara-Murza, Senior Policy Advisor, Institute of Modern Russia. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Vladimir Kara-Murza, vkm@imrussia.org, 202-530-8562

EPA – WATER QUALITY GRANTS – 9:30 a.m. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will announce EPA funding for research institutions working to improve water quality during a keynote address to the 14th Annual National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy and the Environment. McCarthy will also announce an updated EPA tool for calculating stormwater runoff. Location: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, Va. Contacts: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

HARKIN – RETIREMENT CRISIS – 10 a.m. Newsmakers Press Conference to Unveil USA Retirement Funds Legislation to Rebuild Private Pension System; live audio available at Press.org/Harkin Speakers: US Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee; Mary Kay Henry, President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU); Denise Bowyer, Vice President, American Income Life and National Income Life Insurance Companies; Herb Perone, National Press Club Newsmakers Chair. Location: National Press Club, Zenger Room, 529 14th St., NW, 13th Floor.

NASA'S 2013 ASTRONAUT CANDIDATES – SMITHSONIAN STEM EVENT – 10 a.m. NASA Television will provide live coverage at 10 a.m. EST Thursday, Jan. 30 of an educational event at the Smithsonians National Air and Space Museum in Washington featuring the agency's 2013 astronaut candidate class. Speakers: Gen. J.R. "Jack" Dailey, director, National Air and Space Museum; Roger Launius, associate director, National Air and Space Museum; Leland Melvin, associate administrator for education, NASA. Candidates: Lt. Cmdr. Josh A. Cassada, US Navy; Lt. Cmdr. Victor J. Glover, US Navy; Lt. Col. Tyler N. Hague, US Air Force; Christina M. Hammock, station chief, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Maj. Nicole Aunapu Mann, US Marine Corps; Maj. Anne C. McClain, US Army; Jessica U. Meir, assistant professor of anesthesia, Harvard Medical School; Maj. Andrew R. Morgan, US Army. CONTACTS: Allard Beutel Headquarters, Washington, 202-358-2191, allard.beutel@nasa.gov; Alison Mitchell, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, 202-633-2376, MitchellAC@si.edu. Location: National Air and Space Museum, Independence Avenue at Sixth Street S.W.

BPC – HOUSING OUTLOOK – 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Forum on the 2014 outlook for the US economy and housing market. Panelists will include Beth Ann Bovino, US Chief Economist for Standard & Poor's, Mike Fratantoni, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President at the Mortgage Bankers Association, and Lawrence Yun, Chief Economist at the National Association of Realtors. Richard Smith, a member of the BPC Housing Commission and Chairman, CEO, and President of Realogy Holdings, will moderate the panel. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 'Eye' Street NW. Contacts: Ashley Berrang, aberrang@bipartisanpolicy.org, 202-637-1456

NAM, KERR – SOFTWARE PIRACY – 10:30 a.m. National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and Harvard economist Bill Kerr study unveiling and roundtable on Economic Impact of Global Software Theft on US Manufacturing Competitiveness and Innovation. Speakers: Brian Raymond, director of technology and domestic economic policy, NAM; Bill Kerr, associate professor of business administration, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, Mass.; Drew Greenblatt, president and owner, Marlin Steel Wire Products, Baltimore, Md., NAJI chairman and NAM board member; Daniel Abdun-Nabi, president and CEO, Emergent Biosolutions, Rockville, Md., and NAM board member; Michael Sigourney, president and CEO, AVTECH Software Inc., Warren, R.I., and NAJI member. DIAL IN: 1-877-918-6725 Passcode: 7415152. RSVP to Matt Lavoie at (202) 637-3085 or mlavoie@nam.org. Location: NAM Headquarters, 733 10th Street NW, Suite 700.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM – PUBLIC MEETING – 10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Public meeting. The National Research Council will conduct a study of alternative approaches that could be used to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the National Flood Insurance Program, as mandated in Section 236 of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. The study committee will hold its first meeting to gather information and hear from experts. Location: Room 125 of the National Academy of Sciences building, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW. Contacts: Anita Hall ahall@nas.edu (202 334-3422). Notes: Closed session is being held on Friday, Jan. 31.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY PROJECT – POLLUTION TELECONFERENCE – 11 a.m. The Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) holds a telephone news conference to discuss its new analysis showing that roughly 400 oil and gas extraction industry sites in six key states – Colorado, Louisiana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wyoming – are emitting tens of thousands of pounds of toxic chemicals to the air, well above the reporting thresholds of the Federal Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). But due to a government loophole, the industry is not required to report that pollution to the TRI. Contacts: Ailis Aaron Wolf (aawolf@hastingsgroup.com), 703-276-3265. Notes: To join the live phone-based news conference (with full, two-way Q&A) , dial 877-270-2148. Ask for the "TRI Petition Update" news event.

MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES MEDIA CALL – 11 a.m. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will hold a media call regarding Accountable Care Organizations and the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative. Participants: Jon Blum, CMS principal deputy administrator, and Dr. Patrick Conway, CMS deputy administrator for innovation and quality and chief medical officer. Contacts: CMS Media Relations (press@cms.hhs.gov), 202-690-6145. Notes: Toll-Free Dial-in: 877-415-5282. Conference ID: 5570020.

THE RACE IS ON – WEB EVENT – 11 a.m. Congressional Quarterly – CQRCs midterm election webinar with Stuart Rothenberg, Shira Center and David Hawkings as they predict what will unfold this spring and summer when the campaign seasons heats up. The webinar will answer the following questions: Has Mitch McConnell got primary trouble?; How many Democratic senators will fall and who are they?; Where will the 'Obama Factor

become a wedge issue?

GW – SOCHI – THREATS – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Terrorist Threats and Risks to the Sochi Winter Olympics . Panelists: Tom Ridge, Former Secretary, US Department of Homeland Security, President and CEO, Ridge Global; Matt Bettenhausen, Vice President and Chief Security Officer, AEG Worldwide; Dr. Bruce Hoffman, Director of Center for Peace and Security Studies Program, Georgetown University. Moderator: Frank J. Cilluffo, Director, Homeland Security Policy Institute. Location: Cloyd Heck Marvin Center, Dorthy Betts Marvin Theatre, Main Level, The George Washington University, 800 21st Street, NW. Contacts: hspi@gwu.edu (202-994-2437)

LABOR SECRETARY – MINIMUM WAGE EVENT – 11:30 a.m. US Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez holds discussion with workers on the need to raise the minimum wage during tour of the store. Media Contacts: Contact: Jason Surbey , surbey.jason@dol.gov; 202-693-4668; Xochitl Hinojosa, 202-617-4645, hinojosa.xochitl@dol.gov. Location: 5th Street Ace Hardware, 1055 5th St. NW.

CDC – INFECTIONS DISEASES TELEBRIEFING – 12 p.m. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hosts a telebriefing with CDC Director Tom Frieden to discuss improvements in disease detection and response that may serve as a model for fighting infectious disease throughout the world. Contacts: CDC Media Relations, 404-639-3286. Notes: Media dial-in: 888-795-0855. Passcode: CDC MEDIA. Please dial in 10 to 15 minutes before the start of the press conference.

US CHAMBER – US – BRAZIL – 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Brazil-US Business Council to Host Brazilian Attorney General Luis Inacio Lucena Adams. Location: US Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW. Contacts: Tyler Hernandez hernandez@uschamber.com

HEALTH IT 101 – 12 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. "Health Information Technology 101: An Overview of PHRs, EMRs, eRX, HIEs, Home Monitoring, Telehealth, and More – for new and returning Congressional Staff. Steve Redhead, a Specialist in Health Policy, Congressional Research Service Library of Congress will serve as the moderator . Other invited panelists will be representatives of: HIMSS, ATA, HIT Now, AHIMA, eHI, CHIME etc. – to provide a "level-setting overview of the issues for new and returning health and telecom LAs. Location: B-340, Rayburn. Contacts: asimmons@e-healthpolicy.org

HEALTH ROCKS! YOUTH AMBASSADOR SUMMIT – 12:45 p.m. – 3 p.m. The National 4-H Council presents the Health Rocks! Youth Ambassador Summit in celebration of National Drug Facts Week. Keynote speaker is David Mineta, White House deputy director of demand reduction for the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Youth representatives from eight states that have implemented the Health Rocks! program will present on substance abuse issues most affecting their community. Teens and young adults will also participate in a panel discussion and Q&A with NIDA scientists about the effects of drug, alcohol, and tobacco issues on the body. During the event, National 4-H Council will also launch a new game app that promotes drug, alcohol and tobacco use prevention. Location: National 4-H Youth Conference Center, 7100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy, Chase, Md. Contacts: Kimberly West (kwest@4-h.org), 301-951-3078

FACES OF FRACKING – 1 p.m. Environment America Research & Policy Center will present Shalefield Stories, a booklet written by people on the frontlines of fracking telling their own experiences of damage from "dirty drilling". WHO: John Rumpler, Senior Attorney, Environment America; Marilyn Hunt, West Virginia resident who found toxic chemicals in her water from a nearby drilling site; Jill Kriesky, Associate Director of the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project. Contact: John Rumpler, Senior Attorney, Environment America 617-747-4306 office, 617-997-8296 cell JRumpler@EnvironmentAmerica.org DIAL IN: 800-298-6863, 212-479-1702, Conference ID: 5735556, Password: 341765. Location: Call: 800-298-6863, 212-479-1702, Conference ID: 5735556, Password: 341765.

WV COAL CHEMICAL DISASTER – 1 p.m. Sixty groups will mount a new push for White House leadership to protect water resources from problem energy extraction and production by urging the enactment of a draft Executive Order. They groups will highlight 10 recent US "sacrifice zones," where, as in the most recent West Virginia case, "irresponsible energy industry practices have compromised water resources, including drinking water". Participants: Janet Keating, executive director, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Huntington, WV; Tracy Carluccio, deputy director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Bristol, PA; Grant Smith, senior energy analyst, Civil Society Institute, Newton, MA; Bob Arrington, retired mechanical engineer, board member of the Western

Colorado Congress, and a resident of a Battlement Mesa, CO, retirement community, which faces oil & gas development, and has been the site for studies considering the health impacts of fracking. DIAL IN: 1-877-418-4267. Ask for the "West Virginia/energy sacrifice zone" news event. CONTACT: Will Harwood, (703) 276-3255, or wharwood@hastingsgroup.com.

SAIS – KOREAN PENINSULA – 2 p.m. "Thinking the Unthinkable on the Korean Peninsula: Nuclear North Korea and Reunification" with M.J. Chung, member of the Korean National Assembly and a SAIS graduate. Location: Kenney Auditorium, Nitze Building, 1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW. Contacts: Francesca Di Marco SAIS (fdimarco@jhu.edu)

WILSON CENTER – ARAB UPRISINGS – WOMEN – 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Arab Spring or Arab Autumn: Womens Political Participation in the Arab Uprisings and Beyond. Panelists: Stephenie Foster, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Global Womens Issues, State Department; Sherine Ibrahim, Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and Eastern Europe, CARE; Maryam Jamshidi, Founder, Muftah.org, and Author, "The Future of the Arab Spring: Civic Entrepreneurship in Politics, Art, and Technology Startups". Moderator: Haleh Esfandiari, Director, Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 6th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

SAIS – US OIL AND GAS BOOM – 4:30 p.m. "International Consequences of the US Oil and Gas Boom" with Michael Levi, David M. Rubenstein senior fellow for energy and environment at the Council on Foreign Relations. Francesca Di Marco in the Office of Communications at 202.663.5644 or fdimarco@jhu.edu. Location: Room 500, Bernstein-Offit Building, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Did any of you watch President Obama's State of the Union Address last night? Why don't I believe any of you? President Obama said the state of the union is strong, which is something the President says every year. Just once I would like to hear a president say the state of the union is dope. We could use some dopeness."

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to incident in which Congressman Michael Grimm threatened a reporter] "That's not appropriate behavior for a public servant. You don't threaten them. You close a bridge in their town. That's how you do it."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to President Obama's State of the Union Address] "Obama said other stuff too, but the real highlight of every State of the Union is the Republican response. And last night was so historical. The Republicans brought their A-game, as in a lot of people talking. You had your Mike Lee for the tea partiers, Rand Paul for the other tea partiers and Cuban American Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen for Los Party Grande del Tea. No matter what kind of Republican you are, there was a speech for you, like your own personal sleep number, but for rage."

Jon Stewart: [Referring to President Obama's State of the Union Address] "So, to sum up the 2014 State of the Union: a litany of vague pledges, a justified venting of frustration with Congress, and capping it, the world's [expletive] Republican open-mike night."

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night, of course, was the State of the Union Address. And during his speech, President Obama promised to focus on economic growth, education, and healthcare. Or as people tuning in put it, 'Oh, crap. It's a rerun.'"

Jay Leno: "Hey, as you know, President Obama gave his State of the Union address last night. I thought he had a very good speech. Very good speech. President Obama said he wants to give America a raise. Just waiting, of course, for final approval from China. As soon as they say it's okay, then we'll move ahead."

Jay Leno: "The President said that unemployment is dropping, but critics claim it doesn't include people who

have left the work force. Hey, how about people who are asked to leave the work force like me?"

Jay Leno: "During an interview after President Obama's speech last night, New York Republican Congressmen Michael Grimm threatened to throw a reporter over the Capitol balcony when the reporter asked him about an investigation of campaign finances. He swore at the guy and he threatened to throw him over the balcony. See, I don't think the reporter has anything to worry about. When is the last time a congressman kept his word?"

Jay Leno: "It was a pretty impassioned speech last night. President Obama asked the Americans to pitch in and help those who are most down on their luck. Like the Lakers. I think he mentioned them by name."

Conan O'Brien: "A former speechwriter for George W. Bush accused President Obama of plagiarizing one of the speeches. He denied the claim and so did his speechwriter, Shia Labeouf."

Conan O'Brien: "In a new interview that just came out, Jerry Springer said that he would want President Obama as a son. In response, Obama said, 'Thanks, but I'll stick to not having a dad, ok? I'm good.'"

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Jewell, Sally (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, January 30, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jan 30, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL INTERVIEWED BY EARTH MAGAZINE. In an interview with Earth Magazine (1/30), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell talked "about transitioning from the private to the public sector; the challenges inherent in leading an agency charged with both conserving and developing the nation's natural resources; and inspiring the next generation of geoscientists." Jewell also discussed the importance of the "21st Century Conservation Corps." She noted that "we have a lot of deferred maintenance and we need people to roll up their sleeves and help us take care of these public lands." Also, Jewell said that "there is also no shortage of young people who want to get to work on public lands — either with a minor stipend or as a volunteer — and I want to leverage that excitement and energy to put these young people to work."

Secretary Jewell Calls For Public-Private Partnership At Outdoor Retailer. The Outdoor Retailer Daily (1/23) reported on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's appearance at the Outdoor Retailer, where she called for a "public-private partnership" to create "educational, volunteer and work opportunities" on public lands for "members of the millennial generation." Jewell's vision is for the "Civilian Conservation Corps 2.0." and she's "not going to wait for Congress to act." While Jewell is "asking for private companies from the outdoor industry to get involved," she will also "make sure" the Interior Department has "volunteer coordinators and projects ready for these youth corps."

INTERIOR BLAMES COMMUNICATIONS BREAKDOWN FOR CONTROVERSIAL GROUSE MEET. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (1/30, 73K) reports that the Interior Department "blamed a "breakdown in communications" for an incident last week in which Interior Secretary Sally Jewell barred reporters from attending a public meeting in Craig." Interior Department communications director Kate Kelly "wrote to a newspaper and the Colorado Press Association that the department will 'redouble our efforts' to work with local governments and respect press freedoms." Kelly wrote that Jewell "attended what our office had understood to be a small meeting with community leaders. It appears there was a breakdown in communications with the (Moffat) County commissioners about the parameters of the meeting."

The Craig (CO) Daily Press (1/29, 10K) reports that the letter added, "The misunderstanding was also unfortunate because it has distracted from the original purpose of the Secretary's visit: to highlight the work that is being done on the ground through private landowners and at all levels of government on these critical sage grouse efforts." Craig Daily Press Managing Editor Noelle Leavitt Riley was "satisfied with the correspondence from the Department of the Interior, believing they will improve on similar visits in the future." Leavitt Riley said, "I'm very pleased with the Secretary of Interior's response. Not only does she and her staff acknowledge that the situation was handled poorly, but they said they'll strive to do better in the future. This situation is an example of how the press and federal officials can solve breakdowns in communication and work together in getting important news to the community."

Also reporting on the story is the Steamboat (CO) Pilot & Today (1/29, 30K).

Meanwhile, the Daily Caller (1/30, Campbell, 422K) reports that "a bill that would have strengthened protections for journalists and their sources was killed in committee by Colorado Democrats." The article notes that "the bill was killed during a period of tension between Colorado Democrats and the media." On Monday, the Colorado Press Association sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "complaining that her barring the media from a public meeting in Colorado caused local officials to violate the state's open meetings laws and it trampled on the barred reporter's First Amendment rights."

OBAMA INTENDS TO USE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY ON CONSERVATION. The Washington Times (1/30, Boyer, 417K) reports that in his State of the Union address Tuesday night, President Barack Obama "included land conservation in a long list of issues on which he intends to use his executive authority without input from Congress." Obama said, "I'll use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations." The sentence "set off alarm bells for lawmakers such as Rep. Rob Bishop, Utah Republican." Bishop said, "It's almost surreal to have someone say he wants to work with you as long as you're willing to do it his way, and if you don't, then he'll do it anyway. He needs to get local input before taking that route. Congress has to be a player in that."

For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/30, Morgan, 11.54M), Ann Morgan, Executive director of the National Wildlife Federation regional office in Boulder, Colorado lauded Obama's vow to protect more public lands. She notes that "Congress has before it more than three dozen land protection bills with broad public support, yet none have passed." Since "the process is broken," Morgan urges Obama to "use his authority under the Antiquities Act to create new national monuments to protect the iconic lands identified in the bills languishing before Congress." Morgan looks "forward to Interior moving forward on responsible decision making so that our air and water will be protected, wildlife can safely migrate across their historic ranges and hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers, hikers and others can continue to enjoy our public lands for generations to come."

INTERIOR, EPA LOST EMPLOYEES EVEN AS OVERALL FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT INCREASED. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/30, 705) reports that the Interior Department and the EPA "saw their workforces shrink between 2004 and 2012, even as the overall number of federal employees increased by 14 percent, according to a new report from the Government Accountability Office." The article notes that "the report tackles trends in civilian employment and compensation as Congress looks for places to save money."

LIST RANKS MOST MEMORABLE POLITICIAN-REPORTER CONFRONTATIONS. For "The Fix" blog of the Washington Post (1/29, Sullivan, 4.28M), Sean Sullivan picks eight of the most memorable confrontations between politicians and the media. Of note, former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's run-in with reporter Dave Phillips is ranked third.

PRESIDENT'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SEEN AS "FATALLY FLAWED." In the National Review (1/30, White, 805K), Texas Public Policy Foundation Distinguished Senior Fellow Kathleen Hartnett White writes a highly critical 1,500-word piece about "the fatal flaws in President Obama's current climate policies." Despite scientific evidence that climate change might not be anthropogenic, she says, "the president doubles down on what he calls the 'unequivocal' dictates of science" by pursuing "broad executive action without a congressionally legislated foundation." In her view, the Administration's Climate Action Plan is incoherent, "futile, wasteful, and redundant," and if the Environmental Protection Agency's "unachievable" emissions regulations foreshadow the agency's "future CO2 agenda, expect energy scarcity in this country." In conclusion, White suggests that the US replace the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with a body that would pursue observational research instead of imposing dogma.

Study: Climate Change Directly Impacting Seabirds. The New York Times (1/29, Fountain, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that a long-term study of Magellanic penguins "is one of the first to show a direct impact of climate change on seabirds." Lead author P. Dee Boersma with the University of Washington said the number of breeding pairs in the colony at Punta Tombo, Argentina has fallen 24 percent since 1982. Researchers found that, in addition to predation and starvation, Magellanic chicks must now contend with higher temperatures, as well as intense storms that can lead to deadly hypothermia. The Times notes the study "showed that the mortality caused by storms was in addition to those from other causes." The study was published online Wednesday in the journal PLoS ONE.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FARM BILL INCLUDES PILT PAYMENTS. Additional coverage that the farm bill includes a one-year extension of PILT payments was provided by the AP (1/29), which was also picked up by the Washington Times (1/30, Daly, 417K).

The AP (1/30, Barnard, 417K) notes that "the bill passed the House on Wednesday and goes to the Senate."

The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (1/28, 110K) editorializes that "there's no question Congress should help pay for the impact of federal land on local communities."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES WILDERNESS BILL MOVES FORWARD. The AP (1/30) reports that "a bill that would designate 32,000 acres of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore as wilderness is moving closer to congressional approval." The bill "won unanimous backing this week from the House Committee on Natural Resources," but "a floor vote has not been scheduled."

HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARK PLAN ADVANCES. The AP (1/30) reports that Haleakala National Park is "implementing a plan to cut back on the number of commercial visitors that aims to ensure preservation of the resources at the park." The plan also "seeks to ensure high-quality experiences in the next 10 to 15 years." Under the plan, "commercial bicycle tours will continue to be prohibited," and "other offerings, including horseback riding and astronomy tours, will be limited." The NPS "last month made a finding of no significant impact for the plan and accompanying environmental assessment."

ARIZONA WITHDRAWS PLAN TO EXPAND TERMINAL AT AIRPORT NEAR GRAND CANYON. The AP (1/30) reports that Arizona has decided to withdraw "a plan to expand the existing terminal at the airport just south of Grand Canyon National Park." The article says the state's decision comes after the FAA told Arizona's Department of Transportation "that it would need an environmental assessment before adding 2,000 square feet to the terminal." According to the AP, state Department of Transportation spokesman Ryan Harding said Arizona "determined that the assessment wasn't worth the effort or money."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO GIVEN MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR SUPREME COURT. Additional coverage that the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. has been granted a legal stay to allow it to continue to operate over the next 90 days while it prepares a case to bring to the US Supreme Court was

provided by the AP (1/30), which was picked up by the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/30, 80K), the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (1/30, 731K), the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (1/29, 126K), the Humboldt Beacon (1/30, 13K), and KFMB-TV San Diego (1/30, 15K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS TO HOLD MEETING ON PROPOSED MALL METERS. Additional coverage that the NPS is planning "to install parking meters at various points around the National Mall later this year" was provided by the Washington Post (1/29, Thomson, 4.28M) and the Washingtonian Magazine (DC) (1/30, 338K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SEEKS SHOOTER AFTER TWO WILD BURROS KILLED IN ARIZONA. The Arizona Republic (1/29, 1.19M) reports that the BLM is searching for the suspects in the shooting of two wild burros in Arizona. Rem Hawes, the BLM's Hassayampa field manager, said the bureau is "committed to the protection and management of wild burros and horses and is asking for any information regarding the illegal shootings."

Also reporting on the story is KTVK-TV Phoenix (1/30, 88K).

BLM CRITICIZED FOR WILD HORSE POLICY. In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/30, 22K), Thomas Mitchell writes that "when it comes to carrying out the instructions from Congress on the management of wild horses and burros under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the BLM is so bold and so brazen as to write on its own website that it doesn't care one whit what the law says." According to Mitchell, "under a section of its website labeled Myths and Facts the BLM denies that it is selling or sending wild horses to slaughter," and "in another 'Fact' the agency admits there are 14,000 too many horses currently roaming the West." Mitchell claims that "these are just two of the myriad misdeeds by the federal land management agency revealed in a recent federal lawsuit filed by the Nevada Association of Counties and the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation against the Department of Interior, the BLM, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and others."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

INTERIOR TO RELEASE PLAN FOR GROWING REFUGE SYSTEM. The Environment & Energy Publishing (1/30, 705) reports that the Interior Department will "soon release a draft policy to guide the growth of the National Wildlife Refuge System in the face of climate change, ecological threats and tight budgets." According to the article, "the agency tomorrow will announce the release of a draft strategic growth policy that will spell out how the system prioritizes land acquisitions and the conservation of endangered species, migratory birds and waterfowl." The agency said in a Federal Register notice to be published tomorrow, "This draft policy instructs the Refuge System to focus its protection measures on priority conservation features in order to ensure that our limited resources are directed to make the greatest contribution to the conservation of species in a strategic, cost-effective, and transparent manner."

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE TO SPEAK AT NORTH AMERICAN WHITETAIL SUMMIT. The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (1/30, 339K) reports that "declining deer herds and other threats to North America's deer-hunting heritage will be the focus of the first North American Whitetail Summit being convened by the Quality Deer Management Association March 3-6 at Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, Mo." The group has "invited leaders and stakeholders from the entire whitetail community, including deer hunters, state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, the hunting industry, media, universities and landowners." Notably, "featured speakers will include internationally acclaimed conservationist Shane Mahoney; Dan Ashe, director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service; and Dan Forster, president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies."

ENDANGERED FISH MAY PREVENT RAISING LAKE CUMBERLAND TO NORMAL SUMMER LEVEL. The AP (1/30) reports that an endangered fish in the headwaters of Lake Cumberland has "federal officials trying to decide what to do about the lake's water level, which was due to rise this year after dam repairs kept the water lowered the last few years." The FWS and the Army Corps of Engineers and are "delaying an increase until determining how to minimize the effect on the duskytail darter." Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell "said in a news release Wednesday the local economy has been hurt by the lower water level and resulting decline in visitors and he wants the agencies to reconsider the delay."

Also reporting on the story are the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (1/29, 320K), the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (1/29, Bruggers, 449K), and WKYT-TV Lexington, KY (1/30, 69K).

FWS AWARDS GRANT TO MIDDLE BAY WETLANDS PARTNERSHIP. The Falmouth (ME) The Forecaster (1/29, 60K) reports that the FWS has "awarded $1 million to a local effort seeking to preserve more than 86 acres of coastal wetlands around Middle Bay." According to the article, "the Middle Bay Wetlands Partnership was one of 26 conservation projects across the country – and the only one in Maine – that shared $26.5 million in grants" from the FWS. The article notes that "funding from the grant and some local sources will help the Harpswell trust buy nearly 14 acres of land off Harpswell Neck Road from the Lowell family."

FWS REMOVES SHIPWRECK DEBRIS FROM PACIFIC REFUGES. The AP (1/30) reports that the FWS says it's "removed nearly one million pounds of decades-old shipwreck debris from two remote national wildlife refuges in the Pacific." The service said Wednesday said the "removal is the first phase of coral reef restoration work at Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef National Wildlife Refuges." According to the article, "the iron in the wrecked ships was fueling the growth of invasive organisms that were smothering once-healthy, diverse coral."

RESIDENTS WEIGH IN ON REMOVAL OF WILD CATTLE. KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK (1/30) reports that on January 15, the FWS "held an open house in Sand Point as part of a public process to address unauthorized wild cattle herds." Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge manager Steve Delehanty said, "To learn what the perspectives are of the people who live right here in Sand Point and are closer to the issue and know a lot about it. We haven't made any decision about what we're doing [with] these two islands. They're called Chirikof and Wosnesenski."

COURT GRANTS EXTENSION ON DEADLINE FOR JAGUAR CRITICAL HABITAT DETERMINATION. The Willcox (AZ) Range News (1/30, 11K) reports that the FWS "requested and recently received an extension of the deadline to reach a final determination on critical habitat for the jaguar." According to the article, "the previous settlement agreement date for publishing a final decision was December 16; the new publication date is February 14, 2014."

IDAHO CALLS OFF HIRED HUNTER TO KILL WOLVES IN WILDERNESS. Reuters (1/29, Zuckerman) reports that Idaho has called off a professional hunter hired to kill wolves in a federally protected wilderness area because he had succeeded in reducing the population enough to protect the elk prized by hunters. The hunter killed nine wolves since mid-December, but none since mid-January.

SAGE GROUSE EIS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (1/30, 22K), Ralph R. Sacrison, a senior mining engineer and member of the Elko County Natural Resources Management Advisory Commission, criticizes the EIS following the Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment/Environment Impact Statement for failing to "show clear and specific closure with consistency proscriptions of the Federal Land Planning and Management Act (43 USC 1712)." According to Sacrison, "if they cared about protecting the sage grouse, they would take measures against its predators," but "they are willing to prolong the slaughter of 1.4 million embryos and nestlings every year in order to enact their habitat control." Sacrison claims that "they have allowed that slaughter for decades, yet continue to blame ranchers, miners, and energy and land developers for the most severe problems which face the sage grouse."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

RECREATIONAL ANGLERS EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOUT BLOCK ISLAND WIND FARM. For the Warwick (RI) Beacon (1/30, 31K), Capt. Bellavanc and Capt. Dave Monti discuss the Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) that serves as a federally recognized coastal management and regulatory tool. According to the authors, "overall anglers were very supportive of the SAMP program," but "they expressed concerns about the five turbine wind project being built by developer Deepwater Wind three miles off the south coast of Block Island." They conclude that "Deepwater Wind, government officials and regulators just have to keep the process transparent and open and keep the information flowing to recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other stakeholders."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM OIL, GAS LEASES IN NORTH DAKOTA NETS $17.5 MILLION. The AP (1/30) reports that the BLM says "its most recent sale of oil and gas leases in North Dakota totaled more than $17.5 million." The bureau says "40 federal leases were sold Wednesday."

AP coverage was picked up by KXMC-TV Minot, ND (1/30, 1K) and additional coverage was provided by KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (1/30, 1K).

Offshore Energy Development:

US SIGNS AGREEMENT ON OIL SPILLS WITH MEXICO, CUBA, BAHAMAS, AND JAMAICA. The Tampa (FL) Tribune (1/29, Guzzo, 520K) reports on the "Tampa roots" of a new US-Cuba agreement on oil spills. That agreement, the Multi-Lateral Technical Operating Procedure, was also signed by Mexico, the Bahamas, and Jamaica. The paper credits "Al Fox of Tampa, who has worked from here to encourage normalization of relations with Cuba through his Alliance For Responsible Cuba Policy Foundation." The article offers a detailed history of the agreement.

DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL SEEN AS REASON FOR GREATER COOPERATION AMONG GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND SCIENTISTS. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (1/30, Alexander-Bloch, 700K) reports that at the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference in Mobile, Alabama, panelists said that "the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill showed scientists that they need to get better at landing funding for on-the-ground research sooner after environmental disasters, so they can better measure its impact." They also said that there needs to be greater cooperation among "academic scientists, government agencies and oil and gas industry officials."

RESIDENTS, ACTIVISTS MEET TO DISCUSS SEISMIC AIRGUN TESTING ALONG NORTH CAROLINA COAST. The Wrightsville (NC) Lumina News (1/30, 16K) reports that during a Kure Beach Town Council meeting, "about 150 community members and activists" convened to discuss "Mayor Dean Lambeth's Dec. 19 letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in support of seismic airgun testing along the North Carolina coast." While "environmentalists argue the testing could kill or injure thousands of marine mammals," API senior policy advisor Andy Radford "said the message being touted by environmentalists was overblown." Radford commented, "Those are estimates of numbers of animals that the tests could potentially be exposed to. Decades of seismic surveys all over the world have shown no impact to marine life."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

PRESIDENT OBAMA CALLS GOV. BROWN FOR CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE. The San Francisco Chronicle (1/29, 2.88M) reports that President Barack Obama called California Gov. Jerry Brown "regarding the drought situation facing California." Obama "reinforced his commitment to providing the necessary federal support to the state and local efforts."

LAWMAKERS WARN BOR AGAINST HALTING WATER DELIVERIES. The Porterville (CA) Recorder (1/30, 27K) reports that San Joaquin Valley congressmen Kevin McCarthy, Devin Nunes, David Valadao and Jim Costa released a "joint statement in reaction to reports that the Bureau of Reclamation may refuse to provide rescheduled water for farmers from California's San Joaquin Valley." The statement read: "If the Bureau of Reclamation were to refuse to provide rescheduled water, these responsible farmers would be devastated. … In the midst of a severe drought created by the government itself, this action would be like throwing gasoline on a fire. To withhold by government fiat hundreds of thousands of acre feet of water that these growers had already paid for, without compensation to those affected, would be an injustice that is impossible to ignore. If the bureau takes this unprecedented action, which smacks of an attempt to manufacture a crisis, we would call for a full investigation, including requests to see all internal communications of the officials responsible for making this decision."

CALIFORNIA SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT SUPPORTS BAY DELTA CONSERVATION

PLAN. In an op-ed for the Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/30, 749K), Betty Jo Toccoli, president of the California Small Business Association, writes that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan is needed because "the water system is broken and long overdue for an upgrade." She notes that "California is entering the third, critical year of a severe drought," and "water shortages affect every kind of business, small and large. Without water, consumers won't be able to count on getting the fresh produce grown to California's exacting standards." Toccoli concludes that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan "as part of the broader state water plan represents a reasonable path forward."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR BEGINS IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. On the website of Kampopp Petersen (1/30), Lauren Lester writes that the Interior Department has begun to implement the land consolidation requirements contained in the Cobell Settlement. Interior "entered into its first cooperative agreement in December with the Oglala Lakota Nation, and has made purchase offers on the Pine Ridge Reservation and the Makah Indian Reservation."

Meanwhile, on the website of Galanda Broadman (1/30), Gabriel "Gabe" Galanda writes that he visited the University of Arizona College of Law in Tucson for a speech at the 2nd Annual Tribal Lands Conference, and a Professorship in Residence at the Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy Program. Gabe "explained that 'while Interior's plan disclaims any facilitation of forced sales under 25 U.S.C. 2204(a), the $1.55 Billion in 'buy back' monies will catalyze controversial intra-tribal forced sales." He "further explained how any such forced sale could violate various federal laws, including the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the United States' trust fiduciary duty at common law, as well as international human rights law, including Articles 1 and 10 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Article 11 of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen."

INTERIOR RELEASES INDIAN COUNTRY LABOR FORCE REPORT. The Indian Country Today Media Network (1/29, 21K) reports that the Interior Department has "published the latest report on the American Indian population and labor force, updating and improving on the previous report that was published in 2007 with data from nine years ago." The 2013 American Indian and Labor Force Report "presents findings from the 2010 Labor Force Survey of American Indians and Alaska combined with statistics produced by the 2010 US Census–the most recent year for which adequate statistics were available." The article highlights "some of the report's main findings." It notes that "approximately 28.1 percent of the Native population is below 16 years of age, with slightly more boys than girls," and "about 50 percent of all the Native Americans studied, who are 16 years or older, are employed either full or part time in civilian jobs." Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn said "he hopes the report, together with other data, will be useful in determining relative needs for resources in different regions across Indian country."

FEDERAL APPEALS COURT REJECTS CHALLENGE TO AMADOR CASINO. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/29, 749K) reports that a federal appeals court has "rebuffed an Amador County citizens group challenging federal recognition of a tribe seeking to build a casino near Ione." The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals "upheld a lower court ruling affirming that the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians is a federally recognized tribe."

Also providing coverage is the Modesto (CA) Bee (1/29, 208K).

SEN. MURKOWSKI URGES EXPANSION OF TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE OVER PUBLIC LANDS IN ALASKA. The Alaska Business Monthly (1/30) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski has called on the NPS and the FWS to "recommit themselves to advocate and advance self-governance agreements with Alaska's regional tribal organizations in order to strengthen Alaska Native participation in the management of public lands surrounding their communities." During a hearing of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs discussing the "Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2013," Murkowski said, "Indian Self-Determination has been, in my mind, the most successful federal Indian policy, given the difficult history of our Nation's indigenous people. When our tribes can manage their own programs, they are better equipped to address the disparities that exist within our Native populations. Many of our Native communities live next to and within the boundaries of public lands, national parks and wildlife refuges. As Ranking Member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee with oversight responsibility of public lands in Alaska, I would like to see self-governance agreements supported and expanded by the Administration."

Top National News:

ON SOTU FOLLOW-UP SWING, OBAMA CALLS ON CONGRESS TO "GIVE AMERICA A RAISE." On Wednesday evening, all three broadcast network newscasts covered President Obama's stops in Maryland and Pennsylvania where he reiterated some of the themes he emphasized in Tuesday's State of the Union address. Reports last night and this morning noted that in addition to calling on Congress to increase the Federal minimum wage, as he did Tuesday, the President also signed a memo establishing a new program making it easier for working-class Americans to begin saving for their retirements.

While immediate reaction to Tuesday's speech suggested that the President had implicitly acknowledged the realistic limits of his ambitions for the remainder of his term, this morning's coverage, focused as it is on two broadly popular initiatives, portrays the President in a much more positive light.

On ABC World News (1/29, story 3, 1:40, 7.43M), George Stephanopoulos reported that "more than 30 million of us tuned in to" the President's State Of The Union address, "a high stakes speech at the low point of his presidency that he used to confront Congress and demand, what he called 'a raise for America.'" Jonathan Karl went on to report that on Wednesday, the President "was out there hitting that 'Give America A Raise' theme hard...in campaign-style events, both in Pennsylvania and Maryland." According to Karl, the White House "believes this is a win/win issue for the President even if he cannot get Congress to go along with an increase to the minimum wage" because Democratic candidates "will have a campaign issue for the fall."

The Wall Street Journal (1/30, Lee, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) quotes the President as saying, "Give America a raise. ... If you put in a hard day's work, you deserve decent pay for it. That's a principle everybody understands, that everybody believes."

In a brief segment for NBC Nightly News (1/29, story 4, 0:35, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that on Wednesday, President Obama "went on the road...and quickly made good on part of what he promised" in his State of the Union address. Williams noted that the President "signed a presidential memo to create the 'myRA' retirement program he mentioned in his speech," and "then at a Costco in suburban Maryland, he said he would sign an executive order in coming weeks raising the minimum wage to over $10 for new Federal contract workers."

On the CBS Evening News (1/29, story 5, 2:15, Pelley, 5.58M), Nancy Cordes reported that just "sixteen hours after the President's address," Senate Majority Leader Reid "vowed to quickly bring a bill to the floor that raises the Federal minimum wage by nearly three dollars from $7.25 an hour to $10.10 an hour." Cordes added that "the White House thinks this...will be a political winner," and noted that "according to the most recent CBS News poll...72% of Americans believe it's a good idea to raise the Federal minimum wage...including 48 percent of Republicans."

Under the headline "Barack Obama's Forget-Me-Not Tour," Politico (1/30, Brown, Epstein, 464K) reports that on Wednesday, the President tried to "remind voters he isn't a lame duck yet." Politico says that "as part of a postmortem on what went wrong last year, senior administration officials concluded that" the President "got wrapped up in issues that weren't the top priorities of voters." Politico says that in an effort to heed that analysis, the President "plans to travel outside Washington at least once a week and to unveil dozens of new executive actions in the coming months."

Likewise, the New York Times (1/30, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the President's aides says he "want[s] to escape the shackles of being a virtual prime minister, absorbed by what Congress is doing, and demonstrate a broader leadership less dependent on the legislative process." However, according to the Times, on Wednesday in Maryland, the President "quickly conceded that gridlock in Washington may prevent progress on his economic agenda."

McClatchy (1/30, Kumar, 95K) reports that on Thursday, the President "will give speeches in Milwaukee and Nashville," and then on Friday, he will meet with CEOs "to talk about an initiative to secure commitments from major corporations not to discriminate against the long-term unemployed during hiring."

The Washington Post (1/30, Branigin, 4.28M) reports that on Wednesday in Maryland, "before an enthusiastic crowd in a suburban county where the local government recently passed legislation to raise the minimum wage," the President "said he would lead by example" and "sign an executive order requiring new federal contractors to pay their workers a minimum wage of $10.10 an hour."

USA Today (1/30, Jackson, 5.82M) notes that the President "endorsed a proposed congressional bill" sponsored by Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. George Miller (D-CA) "that would increase the minimum wage from $7.25 per hour to $10.10 over time." However, according to USA Today, "some economists said an increase in the minimum wage will discourage businesses from taking on entry-level employees." USA Today adds that Republicans "also criticized Obama's emphasis on executive orders."

The Washington Post (1/30, Hicks, 4.28M) reports that while "labor and civil rights groups celebrated...when" the President "said he would require a $10.10 minimum wage for new federal contracts," the Professional Services Council, which "advocates for government contractors, said the administration seems to have singled out federal contractors among the nation's employers." The Post says it is anticipated that "the wage increase is likely to affect only a small subset of companies that do business with the government."

USA Today (1/30, O'Donnell, McElhaney, 5.82M) reports that Costco CEO Craig Jelinek "has been an outspoken proponent of a minimum wage increase," and that "labor union officials" contend that "other retailers, such as Walmart, could learn from the way Costco treats its workers." However, according to USA Today, "others say" Costco has "such a different business model and customer base that Costco can't be compared with other retailers." Richard Berman, who USA Today says "runs a business advocacy group opposed to a minimum wage increase," points out that Costco "has half the number of employees per square foot (of Walmart), is a much smaller company, its stores are only in affluent areas and people are buying in bulk."

The Washington Times (1/30, Wolfgang, 417K) notes that while the President "had plenty of nice things to say about Costco," he "left the store...without buying anything, even though he'd promised to walk out with some of the bulk items Costco is famous for."

Obama Signs Memorandum Establishing Savings Program. The AP (1/30, Superville, Pickler) reports that at a US Steel plant near Pittsburgh on Wednesday, the President "signed a presidential memorandum to create the 'myRA' program, which he told employees would go toward 'making sure that after a lifetime of hard work you can retire with some dignity.'" The AP adds that the President then gave the memorandum to Treasury Secretary Lew, whose "initial task is to set up a pilot program with accounts available through some employers by the end of the year." The AP quotes Lew as saying afterwards, "We think this fills a space that, very importantly, we can do by our own authority."

Under the headline "Obama Promotes Retirement Savings Plan On State Of Union Road Trip," Reuters (1/30, Mason) quotes the President as saying, "If you worked hard all your life, you deserve a secure retirement."

According to the New York Times (1/30, Bernard, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), the myRA program is "in keeping with [Obama's] theme of providing financial relief to the middle class to try to bridge what is widely acknowledged as a growing income equality gap." The Times says the Treasury Department's "goal is to get people saving, particularly lower-income workers, who otherwise might not save at all."

However, Bloomberg News (1/30, Rubin, 1.91M) says the establishment of the myRA program is just "a limited step," that "lack[s] the broader investment options and employer match of workers' 401(k) retirement accounts." Bloomberg also notes that the program "is a narrower version of the automatic IRA proposal he has included in his budget," which "would have cost the government an estimated $17.6 billion in forgone revenue over 10 years."

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (1/30, Wereschagin, 636K) notes that the President "touted the...steel plant's retirement options." According to the Tribune-Review, US Steel "offers employees 401(k) plans and most union workers are eligible for a defined-benefit pension – something Obama acknowledged Tuesday most workers don't have."

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (1/30, O'Toole, 725K) reports that at the West Mifflin, Pennsylvania plant, the President was "greeted by US Steel President & CEO Mario Longhi, United Steelworkers International President

Leo Gerard and Anthony Bridge, the firm's vice president of engineering, research and development." The Post-Gazette says that on a tour of the plant, the President "conducted conversations with a handful of plant workers before heading back to a makeshift stage where plant employees in orange and white hard hats formed a backdrop."

Polls Find Overwhelming Support For Obama's SOTU Address. The Christian Science Monitor (1/30, Grier, 540K) reported that in "a snap CNN/ORC survey, 44 percent of viewers who'd watched Mr. Obama said they had a 'very positive' response to his SOTU address," while 32% "said they had a 'somewhat positive' response, and 22 percent disliked it." The Monitor adds that a "CBS poll shows 83 percent of responding viewers said they approved of the proposals outlined in the speech," while just "17 percent disapproved."

SOTU Television Audience Was Obama's Smallest. USA Today (1/30, Jackson, 5.82M) reported that Tuesday night's speech "drew 33.3 million television viewers," which was "slightly less than the 33.5 million who tuned into last year's State of the Union," and "the smallest audience he has had" since taking office.

Obama Chided By Allies For Failing To Use Executive Orders More Liberally. The AP (1/30, Pace), in an article titled "Obama Executive Omissions Leave Some Allies Angry," reports that "gay rights advocates are seething over Obama's refusal to grant employment discrimination protections to gays and lesbians working for federal contractors." Fred Sainz, vice president of Human Rights Campaign, said, "In the absence of congressional action, an executive order that prohibits discrimination by contractors is a tailor-made solution to the president's expressed aims." According to the AP, Sainz says "his frustration with the White House's inaction...was 'growing by the day.'" The AP add that, for their part, "some immigration overhaul supporters were disappointed that he did not act on his own to halt deportations" of illegal immigrants. Ben Monterroso, executive director of Mi Familia Vota, is quoted as saying, "The president said he is going to use executive orders to act where Congress fails, and we expect him to do the same with immigration reform."

USA Today (1/30, Madhani, 5.82M) also reports that the President is "taking flak from some LGBT advocates for failing to address stalled legislation that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation by federal contractors." According to USA Today, Heather Cronk, co-director of GetEQUAL, "said she was 'disappointed, saddened and offended' by the omission."

The Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M), in an editorial, says of Tuesday's address, "sadly there was not one word about how people who live in the nation's capital...are denied their basic rights as US citizens."

Veterans Groups Upset Obama Did Not Demand Restoration Of Benefits. The Washington Times (1/30, Klimas, 417K) reports that "veterans' groups criticized" the President "for not demanding a full repeal of cuts to military retirement benefits" in his State Of The Union address. The Times notes that the recently passed "budget deal included a provision to reduce working-age military retirees cost-of-living adjustment to one percent below inflation until a retiree reaches age 62." Daniel M. Dellinger, the American Legion's national commander, said, "The American Legion is disappointed that President Obama did not show more leadership in dealing with the COLA issue." Dellinger added, "He promised us, back in August 2011 at our national convention, that he would not balance the federal budget on the backs of America's veterans, but that is exactly what he is allowing Congress to do."

Obama EITC Expansion Proposal Is Similar To Rubio Plan. The AP (1/30, Kuhnhenn) reports that "the only new legislative proposal in Obama's State of the Union" his suggestion to "expand the earned-income tax credit to childless workers, broadening benefits that now mainly go to low-income working parents." The AP notes that Sen. Marco Rubio "has put his own spotlight on the tax credit," and "has called for replacing the earned income tax credit with a 'wage enhancement' tax credit that would incorporate both low-income working families and more childless workers."

House Republicans Object To The President's Use Of Executive Actions. McClatchy (1/30, Lightman, 95K) reports that on Wednesday, House Republicans "headed to a Maryland retreat...looking to shape a unified message on immigration, debt and health care that could offer voters an alternative rather than just persistent opposition to" President Obama's agenda. According to McClatchy, the President "gave Republicans new ammunition...Tuesday night, as he vowed to use his executive power to implement policies Congress won't." Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), chairman of the Republican Study Committee, is quoted as saying, "Rather than

trying to write laws from the Oval Office, he should put down his pen, pick up the Constitution, and start working with Congress to solve the problems facing our nation."

The Wall Street Journal (1/30, Hook, 5.91M) reported that on Wednesday, Rubio said, "All presidents get frustrated with Congress [but] this president seems to have extra frustration, and he reacts to it with unilateral actions that are unproductive and, in my option, borderline unconstitutional."

Politico (1/30, Gibson, 464K) reported that some House Republicans are "pushing a resolution to bring legal action against" the President "for overstepping his authority in executive orders." According to Politico, Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC) has sponsored the "STOP (Stop This Overreaching Presidency) resolution," which "targets Obama for allowing a year extension health care policies that were ended because of Obamacare; delaying the employer mandate for one year; deferring the deportation of illegal immigrants...and waiving part of the welfare work requirement."

The Daily Caller (1/30, Pappas, 422K) reported that Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN) said, "He may think he's a king, he may declare himself king, but that's not what he is under our Constitution."

Costa Praises McMorris Rodgers' SOTU Response. Robert Costa, in an analysis for the Washington Post (1/30, Costa, 4.28M) titled "Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers Comes Through For GOP In SOTU Response," says Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) "had one of the more difficult tasks in politics, delivering the official Republican response to" the State Of The Union address, and "to the surprise of many insiders," she "largely succeeded – mixing plain-spoken platitudes with tenderly told stories about her children and her blue-collar roots." According to Costa, McMorris Rodgers displayed an "easygoing populism and an emphasis on jobs and her family, which includes a son with Down syndrome and a Navy veteran husband."

Tribute To Injured Ranger Acclaimed As High Point Of Address. George Stephanopoulos, on ABC World News (1/29, story 9, 2:40, 7.43M), reported that on Tuesday night there was "a rare moment of absolute unity in Washington" following President Obama's "deeply personal tribute to Army Ranger Cory Remsburg, drawing the longest ovation of the night from Democrats and Republicans." ABC's Martha Raddatz added, "If the nation remembers nothing else from last night, we will remember Cory Remsburg." The tribute to Remsburg was also briefly noted on the CBS Evening News (1/29, story 6, 0:35, Pelley, 5.58M).

Former Bush Speechwriter Says Tuesday's Speech Was Similar To Bush's 2007 Address. Politico (1/30, Gold, 464K) reports that Washington Post columnist Marc Thiessen, who was a speechwriter for President George W. Bush and "the lead writer on Bush's 2007 State of the Union address, said he found Obama's speech Tuesday night 'eerily familiar.'" Thiessen is quoted as saying, "Barack Obama has gone from blaming George W. Bush to plagiarizing George W. Bush." According to Thiessen, "There were lines like 'Our job is to help Americans build a future of hope and opportunity, a future of hope and opportunity begins with a growing economy, a future of hope and opportunity requires that all citizens have affordable and available healthcare, extending opportunity and hope depends on a stable supply of energy,' all of that came from the 2007 State of the Union from George W. Bush."

More Commentary On Tuesday's Address. Clan Berman, vice president of the American Foreign Policy Council, in an op-ed for USA Today (1/30, 5.82M), claims that the Tuesday's address "included a number of blatant mischaracterizations of just what the White House has (and has not) done on the foreign policy front." Berman goes on to say that while the President asserted that Israel "knows America will always be at their side," in fact, "no president has presided over a steeper decline in bilateral ties than Obama," whose "choices...have significantly, and adversely, affected Israeli security."

In a Politico Magazine (1/30, 464K) piece, National Review's Rich Lowry says, "The fight against inequality...was supposed to be a generation-defining struggle and consume the rest of...Obama's presidency as of a couple weeks ago." However, according to Lowry, the President only "used the word 'inequality' three times." Lowry suggests that the President's "pollsters...let him in on the fact that Americans don't naturally resent other people's good fortune."

Charles Blow, in a column for the New York Times (1/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) titled "The Incredible Shrinking Presidency," says that on Tuesday night, the President "outlined goals that didn't ask America to

dream as much as adjust to the paralysis, abandoning big moves for smaller ones."

E. J. Dionne, in his column for the Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M) reports that the President intends to "demonstrate that government can take sensible steps – on wages, job training and income supplements, on infrastructure, savings, pensions and education – and encourage voters to ask Republicans why they would prevent such initiatives from being enacted on a larger scale."

Daniel Henninger, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (1/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), claims the President's willingness to use executive action stems from his general antipathy to the Constitution's separation of powers.

Karl Rove, in a column for the Wall Street Journal (1/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) titled "Channeling Valerie Jarrett," imagines White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett's inner monologue following Tuesday's address.

FED CUTS BOND PURCHASES BY ANOTHER $10 BILLION. The Federal Reserve announced on Wednesday that it is continuing to ease away from its bond-buying program, as expected by the financial community. Still, the markets resumed their decline on the news, something noted by most media coverage.

The CBS Evening News (1/29, story 8, 0:20, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that the Fed announced that it is "going ahead with plans to ease up on its economic stimulus. It will cut monthly bond purchases starting next month from $65 to $10 billion. Wall Street didn't like that much. The Dow lost 189 points today to close at 15,738."

The New York Times (1/30, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Federal Reserve, at its last meeting chaired by Ben Bernanke, announced on Wednesday that it would reduce its monthly bond-buying program by another $10 billion in February to $65 billion. The Fed attributed the decision to "growing underlying strength in the broader economy." The statement "reflected the optimism of Fed officials that the economy is finally poised for faster growth after years of false starts and setbacks." The Fed Open Market Committee members were unanimous in backing the move, the first such decision since 2011.

The Christian Science Monitor (1/30, Trumbull, 540K) reports that the Fed is still, "on balance," attempting to use its policies to "stimulate economic growth amid high unemployment and the protracted recovery that has followed the deep recession that ended in 2009." The Fed, noting improvements in the economy, said, "Household spending and business fixed investment advanced more quickly in recent months." However, it warned that government "fiscal policy is restraining economic growth, although the extent of restraint is diminishing."

Bloomberg News (1/30, Zumbrum, Ito, 1.91M) reports that that the unanimous backing of the move by the FOMC members shows that the tapering "strategy has brought together policy makers concerned the Fed's record $4.1 trillion balance sheet risks causing asset price bubbles with those who, like Vice Chairman Yellen, say more needs to be done to reduce unemployment."

Reuters (1/30, Spicer, Lange) reports that the recent market downturn and weak December jobs report did not deter the Fed from continuing to taper its bond-buying.

Stocks Fall After Fed Announcement. The Wall Street Journal (1/30, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that in the wake of the Fed announcement, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 189.77 points to 15,738.79, while the S&P 500 fell 18.30 to 1,774.20. The Nasdaq Composite Index, for its part, fell 46.53 points to 4,051.43.

Reuters (1/30, Valetkevitch) reports that the market decline was broad-based. In addition, the piece notes that the S&P 500 is down 4% for the month, a sharp change from 2013, when the index rose 30%.

Markets Shift Focus As Fed Makes Its Move. In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (1/30, A1, Lauricella, Martin, Stubbington, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that a month into 2014, investors worldwide are seeing stock markets dropping sharply. The end of the Fed's massive stimulus program that has been boosting the world financial markets is complicating already difficult economic situations in many emerging markets, particularly with sliding currency values. In addition to fleeing those markets, investors are also exiting

to US stock market to some extent, with much of that money heading for US Treasuries.

Bernanke's Legacy Debated. In an editorial, USA Today (1/30, 5.82M) says that Bernanke has proven to be "the right man at the right time." Along with the Treasury, the Bernanke-led Fed was able to halt the damage from the financial crisis. While the ultimate impact of the taper may change things, from "today's vantage point," Bernanke "looks like a clear candidate for the top ranks of the 14 men who have run the Fed in its 100-year history."

In an opposing op-ed for USA Today (1/30, Schiff, 5.82M), Peter Schiff, an author and CEO of Euro Pacific Capital, writes that the idea that Bernanke "deserves credit for saving the nation from an economic catastrophe omits two possibilities: that we haven't really recovered from anything, and that his policies have laid the foundation for even bigger problems ahead." Schiff warns that Bernanke was "lucky that the inflation he unleashed pushed up asset prices far more noticeably than it did consumer prices," but "eventually," that inflation will "hit consumers hard."

FARM BILL EASILY CLEARS HOUSE, HEADS FOR SENATE. Bloomberg News (1/30, Bjerga, 1.91M) reports that on Wednesday, the House easily passed the farm bill on a 251-166 vote. Bloomberg News says that rural Republicans and urban Democrats "overcame objections about farm subsidies and food-stamp cuts." The measure now moves on to the Senate, where Senate Majority Leader Reid said the measure will be taken up shortly, perhaps this week.

The Washington Post (1/30, O'Keefe, 4.28M) reports that the legislation was opposed by liberals, "who said that the food stamp cuts go too far," and conservatives, who were "concerned that the legislation failed to further curtail government spending." The Post says that the Senate is expected to pass the bill on Friday and send it to President Obama's desk. The votes "cap more than three years of negotiations on a new five-year agreement."

The Los Angeles Times (1/30, Memoli, 3.07M) says that conservatives "had stymied efforts to pass a farm bill in the House last year, arguing in part that agriculture subsidy programs should be considered separately from food stamps," while some "also called for a controversial work requirement to be included for food stamp recipients."

McClatchy (1/30, Doyle, 95K) says that the bill is "huge," as it will "cost $956 billion over 10 years," according to the CBO. The legislation "trims nutrition spending by $8 billion over 10 years, primarily by tightening certain eligibility standards" for food stamps "in some states."

Politico (1/30, Rogers, 464K) reports that the bill was "given up for dead just months ago." Unlike the Post, Politico says that the bill is likely to clear the Senate sometime before the middle of next week. The "giant" bill "combines a landmark rewrite of commodity programs together with bipartisan reforms and savings from food stamps."

Gannett News Service (1/30, Doering, 7K) reports that the 20-year-old "direct-payment subsidy program for farmers, which doles out $5 billion annually regardless of need, would end, and some of the savings" will go to expand crop insurance programs, while an additional $6 billion "would be saved by combining 23 conservation programs into 13."

Reuters (1/30, Beech) reports Senate Agriculture Chair Debbie Stabenow said that the bill "eliminates unnecessary subsidies, creates a more effective farm safety-net and strengthens our commitment to conservation of land and water." She was on the House floor after the vote. For his part, House Speaker Boehner said, "All Americans stand to benefit in some way from this farm bill. This is an improvement over current law, and there are no earmarks."

The Washington Times (1/30, Klimas, 417K) reports that 89 Democrats and 162 Republicans backed the legislation. House Agriculture Chairman Frank Lucas said, "While everyone may not agree with every word, every line, every policy in it, this bill reflects how it should be done. ... I hope this reflects a change in how we do our business here across the board, but I'm proud of what we've done and I'm proud of how we've done it."

Pryor Hits Cotton Over Vote Against Bill. Roll Call (1/30, Trygstad, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports Arkansas Sen. Mark Pryor "intends to make the farm bill a driving issue in his competitive re-election race" against Republican Rep. Tom Cotton. Just after Wednesday's vote, Pryor called Cotton's opposition to the bill

"reckless and irresponsible." Pryor "noted that Cotton was the only member of the state's all-Republican House delegation to oppose the legislation." Pryor is "battling his own ties to an unpopular president," but his campaign is highlighting the vote "as evidence that Cotton would be an unpalatable alternative."

Major Overhaul Of Dairy Policy Included. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/30, Barrett, 798K) reports that Wisconsin farmers are "hopeful" that the "long fight" over Federal dairy subsidies "has ended with the biggest overhaul of the milk pricing system in a generation." The new system consists of "subsidized insurance that would pay farmers when the difference between milk and feed prices shrinks too much." Dairy farmers "would pay insurance premiums based on the level of risk they chose."

WPost Urges Veto Of Bill. In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M) is disdainful of the farm bill, saying that the President should veto it. The Post says that the legislation "gives to the rich and takes from the poor." The Post says that the cut to food stamps, while "both modest and justified," is "hard to swallow" when "attached to so much corporate welfare."

In contrast, the New York Times (1/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) has tentative praise for the bill, which "makes some of the most significant reforms to wasteful agriculture subsidies in many years," and "contains dozens of important provisions designed to increase employment in rural areas and save lives with farsighted crop research." The Times says that if the Senate or the President were to reject the farm bill, it would mean "rolling the dice that the next Congress will do a better job" and in "today's environment, that's a tough bet."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Secrecy Behind Executions."*** The New York Times (1/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that while it is "bad enough that the death penalty is barbaric, racist and arbitrary in its application," it is also "becoming less transparent as the dwindling number of death-penalty states work to hide the means by which they kill people." A Federal appeals court last week denied a condemned Missouri inmate's "constitutional claim that he is entitled to basic information about the drugs that would be used to put him to death." The Times says the secrecy is due to a shortage in execution drugs, which "often means turning to compounding pharmacies, which exist in a largely unregulated world."

"The Farm Bill Could Have Been Worse." In an editorial, the New York Times (1/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) offers tentative praise for the farm bill, which "makes some of the most significant reforms to wasteful agriculture subsidies in many years," and "contains dozens of important provisions designed to increase employment in rural areas and save lives with farsighted crop research." The Times says that if the Senate or the President were to reject the farm bill, it would mean "rolling the dice that the next Congress will do a better job" and in "today's environment, that's a tough bet."

"President Karzai's Perfidies." An editorial in the New York Times (1/30, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues that Afghan President Hamid Karzai appears to believe there is "something to be gained in destroying his relationship with the United States," and while his behavior "may serve his interests, it does not serve his long-suffering country's." The Times calls on the CIA to "quickly rethink — and possibly stop — the regular cash deliveries it has been making to Mr. Karzai for more than a decade." The Times adds that the candidates running to succeed Karzai "owe voters a vision of how they will improve governance, reduce corruption and work more productively with the United States and its allies."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Out Of Step On Afghanistan."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M) notes the President's "commitment to leave behind U.S. trainers and logistical support to assist the Afghan army, as well as a counterterrorism force to 'pursue any remnants of al-Qaeda' – which presumably would involve military action," and takes issue with his claim in the State of the Union address that "we will complete our mission there by the end of this year." The Post says that if the President wants public support and Congressional funding for a continued US mission in Afghanistan, he must "make the case why it is in the national interest for troops to remain." By doing "virtually the opposite," the Post argues, the President is "complicit with Mr. Karzai in undermining a major national security interest."

"A Rotten Farm Bill." In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M) is disdainful of the farm bill, saying

that the President should veto it. The Post says that the legislation "gives to the rich and takes from the poor." The Post says that the cut to food stamps, while "both modest and justified," is "hard to swallow" when "attached to so much corporate welfare."

"An Unmentioned Problem." The Washington Post (1/30, 4.28M), in an editorial, says of Tuesday's State of the Union address, "sadly there was not one word about how people who live in the nation's capital...are denied their basic rights as U.S. citizens."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Perkinsnacht."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) examines the backlash against venture capitalist Tom Perkins after the newspaper printed a recent letter by Perkins defending the rich and warning of what he called rising hatred against the wealthiest. The Journal says that in their harsh condemnation of Perkins, his liberal critics proved his point.

"Immigration Breakout." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the GOP is correct to pursue immigration reform. The most important reason, the WSJ says, is that immigration laws need to be reformed to boost economic growth and prosperity. The Journal says reform would allow the US to compete for the world's best human capital.

"Harry Reid's Trade Veto." The Wall Street Journal (1/30, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, notes that Senate Majority Leader Reid's declaration of opposition to fast track is a bad sign for one of the President's professed 2014 pro-growth priorities. The Journal suggests that Reid's comments may have been a calculated move which enables the President to appeal to corporate CEOs while Democrats delay action and collect election year campaign funds from business.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Investors Look Toward Safer Options As Ground Shifts
Reid Deals Body Blow To Obama On Trade
As Film Production Scatters, So Do Hired Hands
Google Sells Handset Business To Lenovo

New York Times:
US Says Russia Tested Missile, Despite Treaty
Obesity Is Found To Gain Its Hold In Earliest Years
After Big Bet, Google Is To Sell Motorola Unit
How Pressure Mounted For Development In Hoboken
Life Story Of Wendy Davis Swings From Strength To Flash Point In Texas Campaign
Touring States, Obama Pushes Modest Agenda
Atlanta Officials Gamble On Storm And Lose, And Others Pay The Price

Washington Post:
Clinton Holds Big Democratic Lead
European Combatants In Syria War Alarm West
Republicans' Overtures Aimed At Middle Class
Probe Focuses On D.C. Firehouse
A Textbook Political Dilemma Of Alliances

Financial Times:
Sell-Off In EM Currencies Continues
Federal Reserve Sticks With $10Bn Taper
Reid Threatens Obama's Trade Agenda
Facebook Trounces Earnings Forecasts
Google Sells Motorola For $3Bn To Lenovo

Investors Flock To US Floating Rate Debt
Central Bankers Fail To Heed Dark Side Lesson

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather-Georgia; Weather Forecast; State Of The Union Address; Congressman Michael Grimm Incident; Cruise Ship Illness; Sochi Olympics-Corruption Charges; Skydiver Rescue Video; Justin Bieber-Assault Charges; State Of The Union Address-Army Ranger Tribute.
CBS: Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Georgia-Atlanta Mayor; Severe Weather-Georgia; Severe Weather-Georgia-Woman Gives Birth; State Of The Union Address; State Of The Union Address-Army Ranger Tribute; Congressman Michael Grimm Incident; Federal Reserve-Economic Stimulus; Health-Testosterone Supplements; Super Bowl Security; Cruise Ship Illness; Pope Francis.
NBC: Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Alabama; Weather Forecast; Obama-Retirement Programs, Minimum Wage; Congressman Michael Grimm Incident; Health-Employee Work Habits; New York-Nine Year Old's Funeral.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Weather-Georgia; Congress-Farm Bill; Obama-myRA Program; Missouri-Execution.
CBS: Severe Weather-Georgia; Clapper-Senate Hearing; Obama-Minimum Wage; Politics-Immigration Reform; Wall Street.
FOX: Severe Weather-Alabama; Severe Weather-Georgia; Target-Data Breach; Justin Bieber-Assault Charges; Super Bowl-Gambling; Health-Testosterone Supplements; Clapper-Senate Hearing; Monarch Butterfly Population Threatened.
NPR: Obama-myRA Program; Clapper-Senate Hearing; Congressman Michael Grimm Incident; Holiday Data Breach; Severe Weather-Georgia; Israel-Palestinian Man Killed; Ukraine-Violent Protests.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – In-town pool call; President departs the White House en route Joint Base Andrews, South Lawn, open press; departs Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives Milwaukee, Wisconsin, General Mitchell International Airport, open press; tours General Electrics Waukesha Gas Engines, Waukesha, Wisconsin, pooled press; delivers remarks at General Electrics Waukesha Gas Engines, open to pre-credentialed media; departs Milwaukee, Wisconsin, General Mitchell International Airport, Wisconsin Air National Guard 128th Air Refueling Wing, open press; arrives Nashville, Tennessee, Berry Field Air National Guard Base, open press; delivers remarks at McGavock High School, open to pre-credentialed media; departs Berry Field Air National Guard Base, open to pre-credentialed media; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives White House South Lawn, open press. Notes: Press secretary Jay Carney will gaggle aboard Air Force One en route Milwaukee. All times are local.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – Meets with senior advisers.

MICHELLE OBAMA – The First Lady visits Los Angeles and San Francisco, through Friday, Jan. 31.
US Senate: SENATE DEMOCRATIC WOMEN – MINIMUM WAGE – 2:15 p.m. Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Patty Murray (D-WA), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) hold a press conference to discuss the importance to women of raising the minimum wage. Location: Senate Radio/TV Gallery.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES – 9:30 a.m. Hearing on explore opportunities and challenges associated with lifting the ban on US crude oil exports. Witnesses: Harold Hamm, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Continental Resources, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK; Graeme Burnett, Senior Vice President, Fuel Optimization, Delta Air Lines, Atlanta, GA; Amy Myers Jaffe, Executive Director of Energy and Sustainability, Graduate School of Management, Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Davis, CA; Daniel J. Weiss, Senior

Fellow, Director of Climate Strategy, Center for American Progress. Location: 366 Dirksen. Notes: New Start ti

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS – 9:30 a.m. Committee on Environment and Public Works, and Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, will convene a joint hearing to discuss the Nuclear Regulatory Commissions (NRC) progress on implementing the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force recommendations and other safeguards related to nuclear facilities. Witnesses: Allison M. Macfarlane, Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Kristine L. Svinicki, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; George Apostolakis, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; William D. Magwood, IV, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; William C. Ostendorff, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Location: 406 Dirksen. Notes: NEW Start Time.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard will hold a hearing titled "West Coast and Western Pacific Perspectives on Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization." The hearing will examine progress made to-date and the ongoing challenges faced in transitioning to sustainable fisheries management along the contiguous west coast and in the Western Pacific since the Act was last reauthorized in 2007. Testimony from managers, fishermen, academics, and other stakeholders is expected to address impacts of the most recent reauthorization on US fisheries and the communities that rely on them, and explore potential legislative changes to the law. Witness Panel one: Will Stelle, Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service; Donald McIssac, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council; Arnold Palacios, Chair, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Mel Moon, Director of Natural Resources, Quileute Nation. Witness Panel 2: Michael Goto, Fish Auctioneer, United Fishing Agency, Ltd.; Ray Toste, President and General Manager, Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermens Association; Joe Dazey, Executive Director, Washington Trollers Association; Mike Gravitz, Policy and Legislative Director, Marine Conservation Institute; Dr. Trevor Branch, Assistant Professor, Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, University of Washington. Location: 253 Russell.

FINANCE – 10 a.m. Hearings to examine the nomination of Karen Dynan, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Richard G. Frank, of Massachusetts, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. Location: 215 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 10 a.m. Hearing on Section 123: Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreements. Witnesses: Panel one: Thomas M. Countryman, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, US Department of State; Daniel B. Poneman, Deputy Secretary of Energy, US Department of Energy. Panel Two: Marvin S. Fertel, President and CEO, Nuclear Energy Institute; Sharon Squassoni, Director and Senior Fellow, Proliferation Prevention Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Henry D. Sokolski, Executive Director, Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, Arlington, VA. Location: 419 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY – 10 a.m. Executive Business Meeting on S.619, Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013; S.1410, Smarter Sentencing Act of 2013; S.1675, Recidivism Reduction and Public Safety Act of 2013; more. Location: 226 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – 2:30 p.m. Shutdown: Examining Federal Government Closure Impacts on the District of Columbia. Witnesses: Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congresswoman for the District of Columbia; Tom Davis, Former Chairman, House Government Reform Committee; Allen Lew, City Administrator, The District of Columbia; Robert Vogel, Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service. Location: 342 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE – 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: Not in session.
Other: WASHINGTON AUTO SHOW – Jan. 21 – Feb. 2. Annual auto show and related events, including Public Policy Preview Days which offer registered members of the media access to industry executives, legislators, Administration officials and automotive technology innovators plus a sneak peek at the latest models and technology advancements. Show opens to the public on Jan. 23. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW (unless otherwise noted). Contacts: Barbara Pomerance (bp@pomeranceassociates.com), 800-697-7574.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ISSUES CONFERENCE – Jan. 29 – 31. Congressional Institutes 2014 "Congress of

Tomorrow Issues" Conference will be held in Cambridge, MD. Reporters wishing to cover the event must have a Congressional press ID and complete this registration form no later Thursday, January 23rd. Location: Cambridge, MD. Contacts: Nate Hodson 202-226-9000 (202-360-2042)

VOTING AND ELECTIONS SUMMIT – The US and Overseas Vote Foundation and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law co-sponsor the Eighth Annual Voting and Elections Summit. Location: George Washington University, Jack Morton Auditorium, 805 21st St. NW. Contacts: Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat (susan@overseasvotefoundation.o), 202-470-2480. Stacie Royster (sroyster@lawyerscommittee.org), 202-662-8317.

AEI – SCHOOL CHOICE – 9 a.m. – 2:50 p.m. "School choice: Encouraging new and better schools." As a part of National School Choice Week, this conference will look at how school choice works and in what capacities. AEI's Michael McShane will convene leading education thinkers and practitioners to discuss a series of new papers and to explore how policy, practice, and research can better facilitate and support vibrant school choice marketplaces. Andy Smarick (Bellwether Education Partners), Kara Kerwin (Center for Education Reform), Patrick Wolf (University of Arkansas), Matthew Chingos (Brookings Institution), and Robert Enlow (Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice) are among the participants. Location: Wohlstetter Conference Center, 12th floor, AEI, 1150 17th St. NW. Contacts: AEI, mediaservices@aei.org, 202-862-5829

CSIS- TRANSATLANTIC CYBERSECURITY DIALOGUE – 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Speakers: Thomas A. Dukes, Senior Cyber Policy Advisor, US Department of State; Francois Rivasseau, Deputy Head of the European Delegation to the US. Discussants: Dr. James A. Lewis, Director and Senior Fellow, Strategic Technologies Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies. Moderator: Heather A. Conley, Director and Senior Fellow, Europe Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. Contacts: Clara Fritts ((202) 775-3175)

GQ – NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT 2014 COUNTDOWN – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. With Peter Mollema, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Joan Rohlfing, President and COO, Nuclear Threat Initiative. Location: Lindner Family Commons, Room 602, 1957 E St NW.

WILSON CENTER – LATIN AMERICA – 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Discussion with: Chile – Roberto Brodsky, Georgetown University; Honduras – Manuel Torres Calderon, National University of Honduras (UNAH); Venezuela – Francisco Monaldi, Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administracion and Harvard University; Brazil – Maria Cristina Fernandes, Valor Economico; Colombia – Mauricio Vargas, El Tiempo; El Salvador – Cristina Eguizabal, National Development Foundation (Funde); Uruguay – Rafael Pineiro, Universidad Catolica del Uruguay. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

CORRUPTION & ABUSE – SOCHI OLYMPICS – 9:30 a.m. News conference, "Olympic Abuses: Russia Before the Sochi Games." Speakers: Boris Nemtsov, Russian opposition leader, former Deputy Prime Minister of Russia; Leonid Martynyuk, Russian journalist and opposition activist from the Krasnodar Region; David J. Kramer, President of Freedom House, former US Assistant Secretary of State; Vladimir Kara-Murza, Senior Policy Advisor, Institute of Modern Russia. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Vladimir Kara-Murza, vkm@imrussia.org, 202-530-8562

EPA – WATER QUALITY GRANTS – 9:30 a.m. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will announce EPA funding for research institutions working to improve water quality during a keynote address to the 14th Annual National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy and the Environment. McCarthy will also announce an updated EPA tool for calculating stormwater runoff. Location: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, Va. Contacts: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

HARKIN – RETIREMENT CRISIS – 10 a.m. Newsmakers Press Conference to Unveil USA Retirement Funds Legislation to Rebuild Private Pension System; live audio available at Press.org/Harkin Speakers: US Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee; Mary Kay Henry, President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU); Denise Bowyer, Vice President, American Income Life and National Income Life Insurance Companies; Herb Perone, National Press Club Newsmakers Chair. Location: National Press Club, Zenger Room, 529 14th St., NW, 13th Floor.

NASA'S 2013 ASTRONAUT CANDIDATES – SMITHSONIAN STEM EVENT – 10 a.m. NASA Television will provide live coverage at 10 a.m. EST Thursday, Jan. 30 of an educational event at the Smithsonians National Air and Space Museum in Washington featuring the agency's 2013 astronaut candidate class. Speakers: Gen. J.R. "Jack" Dailey, director, National Air and Space Museum; Roger Launius, associate director, National Air and Space Museum; Leland Melvin, associate administrator for education, NASA. Candidates: Lt. Cmdr. Josh A. Cassada, US Navy; Lt. Cmdr. Victor J. Glover, US Navy; Lt. Col. Tyler N. Hague, US Air Force; Christina M. Hammock, station chief, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Maj. Nicole Aunapu Mann, US Marine Corps; Maj. Anne C. McClain, US Army; Jessica U. Meir, assistant professor of anesthesia, Harvard Medical School; Maj. Andrew R. Morgan, US Army. CONTACTS: Allard Beutel Headquarters, Washington, 202-358-2191, allard.beutel@nasa.gov; Alison Mitchell, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, 202-633-2376, MitchellAC@si.edu. Location: National Air and Space Museum, Independence Avenue at Sixth Street S.W.

BPC – HOUSING OUTLOOK – 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Forum on the 2014 outlook for the US economy and housing market. Panelists will include Beth Ann Bovino, US Chief Economist for Standard & Poor's, Mike Fratantoni, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President at the Mortgage Bankers Association, and Lawrence Yun, Chief Economist at the National Association of Realtors. Richard Smith, a member of the BPC Housing Commission and Chairman, CEO, and President of Realogy Holdings, will moderate the panel. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 'Eye' Street NW. Contacts: Ashley Berrang, aberrang@bipartisanpolicy.org, 202-637-1456

NAM, KERR – SOFTWARE PIRACY – 10:30 a.m. National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and Harvard economist Bill Kerr study unveiling and roundtable on Economic Impact of Global Software Theft on US Manufacturing Competitiveness and Innovation. Speakers: Brian Raymond, director of technology and domestic economic policy, NAM; Bill Kerr, associate professor of business administration, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, Mass.; Drew Greenblatt, president and owner, Marlin Steel Wire Products, Baltimore, Md., NAJI chairman and NAM board member; Daniel Abdun-Nabi, president and CEO, Emergent Biosolutions, Rockville, Md., and NAM board member; Michael Sigourney, president and CEO, AVTECH Software Inc., Warren, R.I., and NAJI member. DIAL IN: 1-877-918-6725 Passcode: 7415152. RSVP to Matt Lavoie at (202) 637-3085 or mlavoie@nam.org. Location: NAM Headquarters, 733 10th Street NW, Suite 700.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM – PUBLIC MEETING – 10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Public meeting. The National Research Council will conduct a study of alternative approaches that could be used to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the National Flood Insurance Program, as mandated in Section 236 of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. The study committee will hold its first meeting to gather information and hear from experts. Location: Room 125 of the National Academy of Sciences building, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW. Contacts: Anita Hall ahall@nas.edu (202 334-3422). Notes: Closed session is being held on Friday, Jan. 31.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY PROJECT – POLLUTION TELECONFERENCE – 11 a.m. The Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) holds a telephone news conference to discuss its new analysis showing that roughly 400 oil and gas extraction industry sites in six key states – Colorado, Louisiana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wyoming – are emitting tens of thousands of pounds of toxic chemicals to the air, well above the reporting thresholds of the Federal Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). But due to a government loophole, the industry is not required to report that pollution to the TRI. Contacts: Ailis Aaron Wolf (aawolf@hastingsgroup.com), 703-276-3265. Notes: To join the live phone-based news conference (with full, two-way Q&A) , dial 877-270-2148. Ask for the "TRI Petition Update" news event.

MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES MEDIA CALL – 11 a.m. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will hold a media call regarding Accountable Care Organizations and the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative. Participants: Jon Blum, CMS principal deputy administrator, and Dr. Patrick Conway, CMS deputy administrator for innovation and quality and chief medical officer. Contacts: CMS Media Relations (press@cms.hhs.gov), 202-690-6145. Notes: Toll-Free Dial-in: 877-415-5282. Conference ID: 5570020.

THE RACE IS ON – WEB EVENT – 11 a.m. Congressional Quarterly – CQRCs midterm election webinar with Stuart Rothenberg, Shira Center and David Hawkings as they predict what will unfold this spring and summer when the campaign seasons heats up. The webinar will answer the following questions: Has Mitch McConnell got primary trouble?; How many Democratic senators will fall and who are they?; Where will the 'Obama Factor

become a wedge issue?

GW – SOCHI – THREATS – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Terrorist Threats and Risks to the Sochi Winter Olympics . Panelists: Tom Ridge, Former Secretary, US Department of Homeland Security, President and CEO, Ridge Global; Matt Bettenhausen, Vice President and Chief Security Officer, AEG Worldwide; Dr. Bruce Hoffman, Director of Center for Peace and Security Studies Program, Georgetown University. Moderator: Frank J. Cilluffo, Director, Homeland Security Policy Institute. Location: Cloyd Heck Marvin Center, Dorthy Betts Marvin Theatre, Main Level, The George Washington University, 800 21st Street, NW. Contacts: hspi@gwu.edu (202-994-2437)

LABOR SECRETARY – MINIMUM WAGE EVENT – 11:30 a.m. US Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez holds discussion with workers on the need to raise the minimum wage during tour of the store. Media Contacts: Contact: Jason Surbey , surbey.jason@dol.gov; 202-693-4668; Xochitl Hinojosa, 202-617-4645, hinojosa.xochitl@dol.gov. Location: 5th Street Ace Hardware, 1055 5th St. NW.

CDC – INFECTIONS DISEASES TELEBRIEFING – 12 p.m. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hosts a telebriefing with CDC Director Tom Frieden to discuss improvements in disease detection and response that may serve as a model for fighting infectious disease throughout the world. Contacts: CDC Media Relations, 404-639-3286. Notes: Media dial-in: 888-795-0855. Passcode: CDC MEDIA. Please dial in 10 to 15 minutes before the start of the press conference.

US CHAMBER – US – BRAZIL – 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Brazil-US Business Council to Host Brazilian Attorney General Luis Inacio Lucena Adams. Location: US Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW. Contacts: Tyler Hernandez hernandez@uschamber.com

HEALTH IT 101 – 12 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. "Health Information Technology 101: An Overview of PHRs, EMRs, eRX, HIEs, Home Monitoring, Telehealth, and More – for new and returning Congressional Staff. Steve Redhead, a Specialist in Health Policy, Congressional Research Service Library of Congress will serve as the moderator . Other invited panelists will be representatives of: HIMSS, ATA, HIT Now, AHIMA, eHI, CHIME etc. – to provide a "level-setting overview of the issues for new and returning health and telecom LAs. Location: B-340, Rayburn. Contacts: asimmons@e-healthpolicy.org

HEALTH ROCKS! YOUTH AMBASSADOR SUMMIT – 12:45 p.m. – 3 p.m. The National 4-H Council presents the Health Rocks! Youth Ambassador Summit in celebration of National Drug Facts Week. Keynote speaker is David Mineta, White House deputy director of demand reduction for the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Youth representatives from eight states that have implemented the Health Rocks! program will present on substance abuse issues most affecting their community. Teens and young adults will also participate in a panel discussion and Q&A with NIDA scientists about the effects of drug, alcohol, and tobacco issues on the body. During the event, National 4-H Council will also launch a new game app that promotes drug, alcohol and tobacco use prevention. Location: National 4-H Youth Conference Center, 7100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy, Chase, Md. Contacts: Kimberly West (kwest@4-h.org), 301-951-3078

FACES OF FRACKING – 1 p.m. Environment America Research & Policy Center will present Shalefield Stories, a booklet written by people on the frontlines of fracking telling their own experiences of damage from "dirty drilling". WHO: John Rumpler, Senior Attorney, Environment America; Marilyn Hunt, West Virginia resident who found toxic chemicals in her water from a nearby drilling site; Jill Kriesky, Associate Director of the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project. Contact: John Rumpler, Senior Attorney, Environment America 617-747-4306 office, 617-997-8296 cell JRumpler@EnvironmentAmerica.org DIAL IN: 800-298-6863, 212-479-1702, Conference ID: 5735556, Password: 341765. Location: Call: 800-298-6863, 212-479-1702, Conference ID: 5735556, Password: 341765.

WV COAL CHEMICAL DISASTER – 1 p.m. Sixty groups will mount a new push for White House leadership to protect water resources from problem energy extraction and production by urging the enactment of a draft Executive Order. They groups will highlight 10 recent US "sacrifice zones," where, as in the most recent West Virginia case, "irresponsible energy industry practices have compromised water resources, including drinking water". Participants: Janet Keating, executive director, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Huntington, WV; Tracy Carluccio, deputy director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Bristol, PA; Grant Smith, senior energy analyst, Civil Society Institute, Newton, MA; Bob Arrington, retired mechanical engineer, board member of the Western

Colorado Congress, and a resident of a Battlement Mesa, CO, retirement community, which faces oil & gas development, and has been the site for studies considering the health impacts of fracking. DIAL IN: 1-877-418-4267. Ask for the "West Virginia/energy sacrifice zone" news event. CONTACT: Will Harwood, (703) 276-3255, or wharwood@hastingsgroup.com.

SAIS – KOREAN PENINSULA – 2 p.m. "Thinking the Unthinkable on the Korean Peninsula: Nuclear North Korea and Reunification" with M.J. Chung, member of the Korean National Assembly and a SAIS graduate. Location: Kenney Auditorium, Nitze Building, 1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW. Contacts: Francesca Di Marco SAIS (fdimarco@jhu.edu)

WILSON CENTER – ARAB UPRISINGS – WOMEN – 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Arab Spring or Arab Autumn: Womens Political Participation in the Arab Uprisings and Beyond. Panelists: Stephenie Foster, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Global Womens Issues, State Department; Sherine Ibrahim, Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and Eastern Europe, CARE; Maryam Jamshidi, Founder, Muftah.org, and Author, "The Future of the Arab Spring: Civic Entrepreneurship in Politics, Art, and Technology Startups". Moderator: Haleh Esfandiari, Director, Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 6th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

SAIS – US OIL AND GAS BOOM – 4:30 p.m. "International Consequences of the US Oil and Gas Boom" with Michael Levi, David M. Rubenstein senior fellow for energy and environment at the Council on Foreign Relations. Francesca Di Marco in the Office of Communications at 202.663.5644 or fdimarco@jhu.edu. Location: Room 500, Bernstein-Offit Building, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Did any of you watch President Obama's State of the Union Address last night? Why don't I believe any of you? President Obama said the state of the union is strong, which is something the President says every year. Just once I would like to hear a president say the state of the union is dope. We could use some dopeness."

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to incident in which Congressman Michael Grimm threatened a reporter] "That's not appropriate behavior for a public servant. You don't threaten them. You close a bridge in their town. That's how you do it."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to President Obama's State of the Union Address] "Obama said other stuff too, but the real highlight of every State of the Union is the Republican response. And last night was so historical. The Republicans brought their A-game, as in a lot of people talking. You had your Mike Lee for the tea partiers, Rand Paul for the other tea partiers and Cuban American Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen for Los Party Grande del Tea. No matter what kind of Republican you are, there was a speech for you, like your own personal sleep number, but for rage."

Jon Stewart: [Referring to President Obama's State of the Union Address] "So, to sum up the 2014 State of the Union: a litany of vague pledges, a justified venting of frustration with Congress, and capping it, the world's [expletive] Republican open-mike night."

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night, of course, was the State of the Union Address. And during his speech, President Obama promised to focus on economic growth, education, and healthcare. Or as people tuning in put it, 'Oh, crap. It's a rerun.'"

Jay Leno: "Hey, as you know, President Obama gave his State of the Union address last night. I thought he had a very good speech. Very good speech. President Obama said he wants to give America a raise. Just waiting, of course, for final approval from China. As soon as they say it's okay, then we'll move ahead."

Jay Leno: "The President said that unemployment is dropping, but critics claim it doesn't include people who

have left the work force. Hey, how about people who are asked to leave the work force like me?"

Jay Leno: "During an interview after President Obama's speech last night, New York Republican Congressmen Michael Grimm threatened to throw a reporter over the Capitol balcony when the reporter asked him about an investigation of campaign finances. He swore at the guy and he threatened to throw him over the balcony. See, I don't think the reporter has anything to worry about. When is the last time a congressman kept his word?"

Jay Leno: "It was a pretty impassioned speech last night. President Obama asked the Americans to pitch in and help those who are most down on their luck. Like the Lakers. I think he mentioned them by name."

Conan O'Brien: "A former speechwriter for George W. Bush accused President Obama of plagiarizing one of the speeches. He denied the claim and so did his speechwriter, Shia Labeouf."

Conan O'Brien: "In a new interview that just came out, Jerry Springer said that he would want President Obama as a son. In response, Obama said, 'Thanks, but I'll stick to not having a dad, ok? I'm good.'"

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Strategic Plan

Haze, Pam <pam_haze@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jan 30, 2014 at 7:25 PM
To: "Jewell, Sally" (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Fay Iudicello <Fay_Iudicello@ios.doi.gov>

Dear Secretary: Fay Iudicello has given Erin a red-line version of the Strategic Plan for your review. I am told that you plan to review the Plan is on your plane ride tomorrow night.

In order to assist you in your review - attached are two versions that you can use on the plane ride. The "Strategic Plan (final clean...)" file is the plan with all changes incorporated. This is probably the easiest one to look at. The "Strategic Plan (final comments...)" file includes the line-in and line-out edits based on the reviews of the Assistant Secretaries, bureau and office directors and OMB.

We welcome all of your comments, but suggest you focus on pages 16-21, where we identify the actions plans for priority initiatives. This is the new section in the plan that reflects the work that Mike Connor has been doing with the Assistant Secretaries to develop a focused set of actions to achieve your goals. Mike took one last look at this on Tuesday and gave us comments.

As to the rest of the Plan, we had your leadership surname the document to make sure we had thier attention. We tried to develop a plan that addresses your comments, with a balance in the number of strategies and metrics and with goals for 2018 that sustain or exceed current performance.

Please feel free to email comments or questions. I'll be monitoring email. As to timing, the GPRA Modernization Act directs that we issue a new strategic plan on the first Monday of February of the year following the year the term of the President commences. That date is February 3.

Although I'm sure this is by far the most fun you could have on a plane ride on a Friday night, I really appreciate your time and attention on this. Thank you.

2 attachments

Strategic Plan (final clean to Sec Jewell) 01292014 (1).doc
1903K

Strategic Plan (final comments to Sec Jewell) 01292014.doc
1943K

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

(REVIEW DRAFT 1/29/2014)

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 – 2018



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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

I am pleased to present the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan for FY 2014-2018. The DOI's broad mission responsibilities span the Nation, from the northern tip of Maine and the Arctic Ocean in Alaska to the southern tip of Florida, west to east, the lands we manage stretch from Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean to the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. We manage 500 million acres of lands primarily located in the western states and 1.7 billion acres on the Outer Continental Shelf. The activities of DOI are an economic engine. In 2012, DOI's programs contributed an estimated $371 billion to the U.S. economy and supported 2.3 million jobs in activities including outdoor recreation and tourism, energy development, grazing and timber harvesting.[1]

The DOI's programs contribute to the quality of life for many people and communities across the Country and help to advance goals for stewardship and energy independence. Nearly every American lives within an hour's drive of lands or waters managed by DOI. In 2012, there were 417 million visits to DOI managed lands. Recreational visits to DOI's lands had an economic benefit to local communities, particularly in rural areas, contributing an estimated $45 billion in economic activity in 2012. The DOI oversees the responsible development of 23 percent of U.S. energy supplies, is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 Western States, maintains relationships with 566 federally recognized tribes, and provides services to more than 1.7 million American Indian and Alaska Native peoples.

The context for this Plan reflects the complex mission of DOI and how it affects the lives of all Americans. The DOI's 70,000 employees work in partnership with other Federal agencies, states, tribes, industry, and a rich diversity of stakeholders to preserve and interpret the Nation's rich heritage and history; manage diverse Federal lands, waters, and wildlife and fishery resources; provide world-class science that protects us from hazards and provides the public with critical information on the earth, energy, water, and resource conservation; ensure the conservation and delivery of water for diverse users; and deliver a suite of programs for American Indian and Insular communities.

Developed with input from our stakeholders, the Plan demonstrates how we integrate and align diverse and geographically dispersed programs and projects to effectively and efficiently deliver services to the American public.

Effective management of DOI requires dynamic and modern strategies to confront major trends including the likelihood of continued and increasingly constrained funding resources, the changing demographics of the population that is becoming more urban, diverse, and technologically advanced, and a changing climate that will continue to have impacts on land, water, wildlife, and tribal communities.

In early FY 2014, I realigned DOI's strategic goals to guide and focus DOI's efforts in FY 2014 and beyond. The Plan presents these priorities in 6 mission areas that capture responsibilities administered by 10 bureaus and multiple offices.

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[1] U.S. Department of the Interior Economic Report FY 2012; July 29, 2013; available at http://www.doi.gov/ppa/economic_analysis/upload/FY2012-DOI-Econ-Report-Final-2013-09-25.pdf

- Celebrating and Enhancing America's Great Outdoors. The DOI's efforts included in this mission area foster the intrinsic link between healthy economies and healthy landscapes with goals and strategies to increase tourism and outdoor recreation in balance with preservation and conservation. Collaborative and community-driven efforts and outcome-focused investments will focus on preserving and enhancing rural landscapes, urban parks and rivers, important ecosystems, cultural resources, and wildlife habitat. The goals and strategies incorporate the best available science, a landscape-level understanding, and stakeholder input to identify and share conservation priorities.

- Strengthening Tribal Nations. The goals and strategies build upon progress made over the past 4 years to establish strong and meaningful relationships with tribes, strengthen the government-to-government relationships, deliver services to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and advance self-governance and self-determination. The DOI efforts in this mission area restore tribal homelands, fulfill commitments for Indian water rights, develop energy resources, expand educational opportunities, and assist in the management of climate change.

- Powering Our Future and Responsible Use of Our Resources. The DOI plays a significant role in the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy to secure an energy future for the Nation that is cleaner and more sustainable The goals and strategies take a landscape-level approach to energy development, modernizing programs and practices, improving transparency, streamlining permitting, and strengthening inspection and enforcement.

- Engaging the Next Generation. To address the growing disconnect between young people and the outdoors, the goals and strategies in this area to promote public-private partnerships and collaborative efforts across all levels of government to connect young people with the land and inspire them to play, learn, serve, and work outdoors. The DOI efforts encompassed by the goals and strategies include the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to leverage public investment and private philanthropy to build job skills, improve national parks and public lands, create opportunities for veterans, and create connections to the land for the next generation.

- Ensuring Healthy Watersheds and Sustainable, Secure Water Supplies. The DOI's efforts in this mission area recognize the importance of water as the foundation for healthy communities and healthy economies and the challenges resulting from climate change, drought conditions, and increasing demand. The goals and strategies position the Department to work with states in managing water resources, raising awareness and support for sustainable water usage, maintaining critical infrastructure, promoting efficiency and conservation, supporting healthy rivers and streams, and restoring key ecosystems.

- Building a Landscape-Level Understanding of Our Resources. This mission area includes DOI's efforts to harness existing and emerging technologies and elevate understanding of resources on a landscape-level by advancing knowledge in the fields of ecosystem services and resilience, energy and mineral resource assessments, hazard response and mitigation, water security, sacred sites, climate change adaptation, and environmental health. Landscape-level approaches to management hold the promise of a broader based and more consistent consideration of development and conservation. This mission area includes goals and strategies that advance this approach including applied and basic scientific research and the development of science products to inform decision making by DOI's bureaus and offices and local, state, national, and international communities. The DOI's science agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, generates essential scientific information and data that is used as the basis for decision making, including earth observation satellite imagery and stream gage and seismic data. The DOI leverages its role as the managing partner for the National Geospatial Platform to turn vast amounts of data into

usable information and advance broader-based and more consistent landscape and resource management, aligning the scientific programs to complement each other and other agencies to better support the Nation's research and development priorities.

This Strategic Plan presents our vision, emphasizing the areas where we will focus our efforts over the next 4 years and allow the American public to hold us accountable. The Plan complies with the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010, presenting the goals, strategies, and performance measures that will be used by DOI's employees to achieve desired outcomes and gauge the performance of contributing programs and their personal performance. The Plan informs our actions, guides resource allocations, and is the basis to assess progress and inform the public about our priorities.

You will note that the Plan is reformatted to more clearly present our principles and focal areas. A new section in the Plan, *Highlighted Initiatives to Achieve Secretarial Priorities*, displays detailed action plans for achievement of goals in each of the mission areas. This section includes DOI's Agency Priority Goals that track with Presidential commitments as reported on www.performance.gov. To complement the Plan, the DOI's Annual Performance Plan and Report will accompany the President's budget to identify annual performance increments, funding investments consistent with DOI's program inventory, and a comprehensive assessment of performance across all the mission areas with trend data for prior years.

I hope you will read the Plan and follow our progress in the Annual Performance Plan and Report as we continue to work toward accomplishment of the ambitious goals we have set for DOI. You can follow our progress on www.doi.gov or www.performance.gov.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

MISSION AND ORGANIZATION

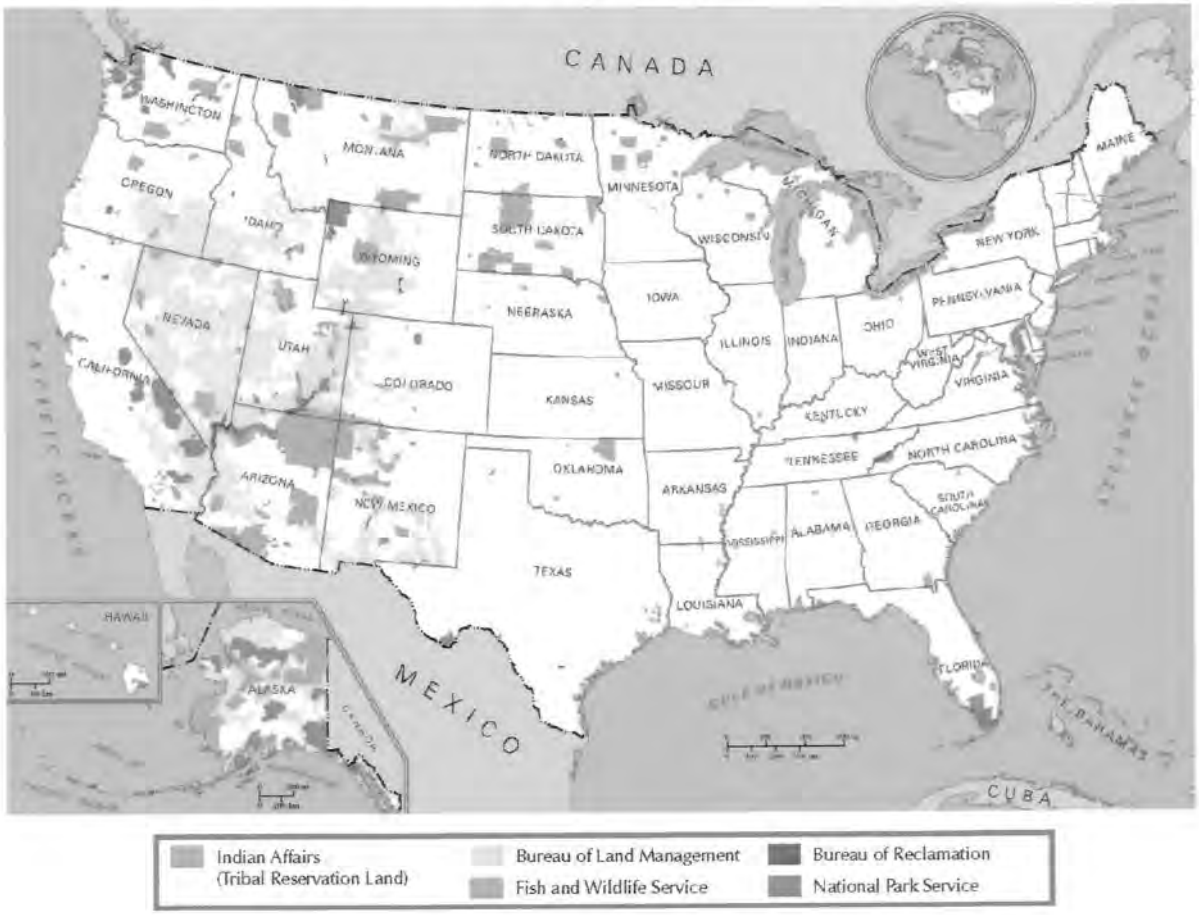
Mission

The DOI protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

History

In 1849 President Polk signed the bill creating the Home Department. The DOI was charged with managing a wide variety of programs, which included overseeing Indian Affairs, exploring the western wilderness, directing the District of Columbia jail, constructing the National Capital's water system, managing hospitals and universities, improving historic western emigrant routes, marking boundaries, issuing patents, conducting the census, and researching the geological resources of the United States. As the Country matured during the last half of the 19th Century, so did the Department and its mission began to evolve as some of these functions moved to other agencies.

Surface Lands Managed by the Department of the Interior

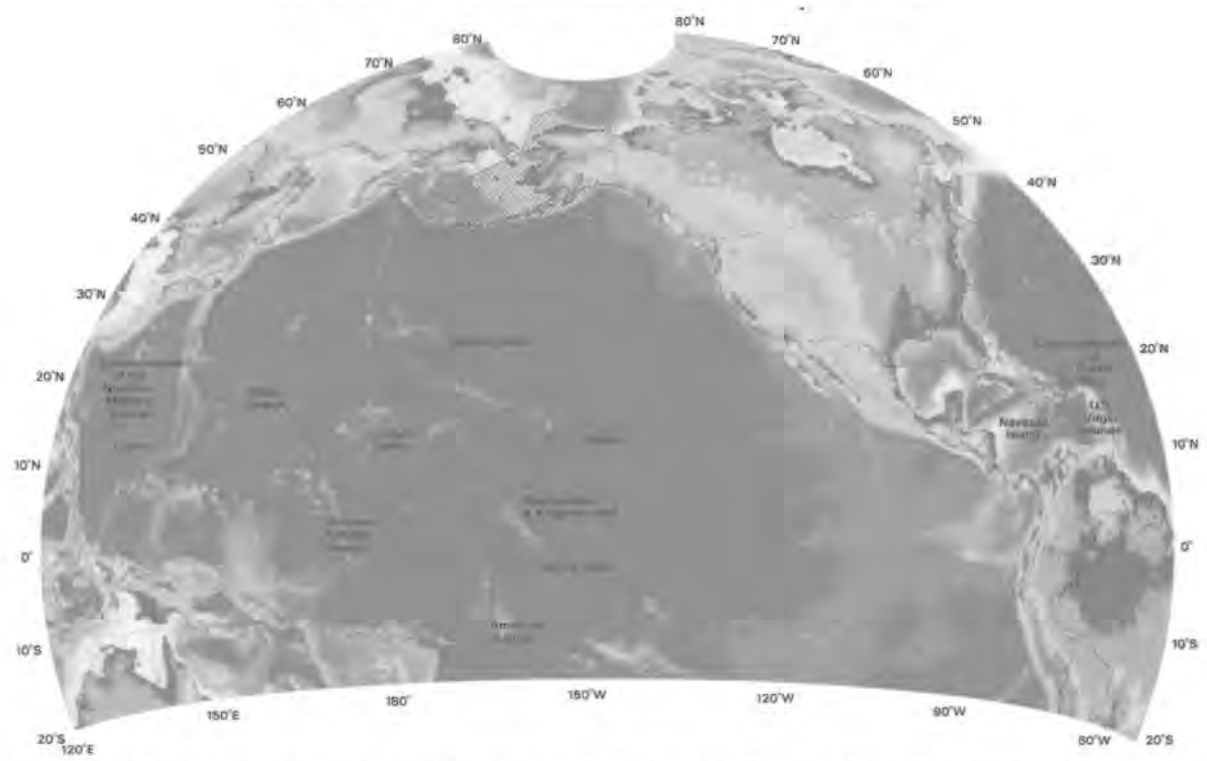


Following Theodore Roosevelt's conservation summit and the conservation movement at the beginning of the 20th Century, there was an increasing urgency and expanding congressional mandate to protect and more effectively manage the Country's natural resources. Accordingly, DOI's mission shifted to focus on the preservation, management, understanding, and use of public lands, natural and cultural resources,

responsible management of energy and water resources, and responsibilities related to Indian nations and scientific discovery.

Today, DOI manages the Nation's public lands and minerals, including providing access to more than 500 million acres of public lands, 700 million acres of subsurface minerals, and 1.7 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf. The DOI is the steward of 20 percent of the Nation's lands, including national parks, national wildlife refuges, and public lands; manages resources that supply 23 percent of the Nation's energy; supplies and manages water in the 17 Western States and supplies 17 percent of the Nation's hydropower energy; and upholds Federal trust responsibilities to 566 federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Natives. The DOI is responsible for migratory bird and wildlife conservation; historic preservation; endangered species conservation; surface-mined lands protection and restoration; mapping, geological, hydrological, and biological science for the Nation; and financial and technical assistance for the insular areas.

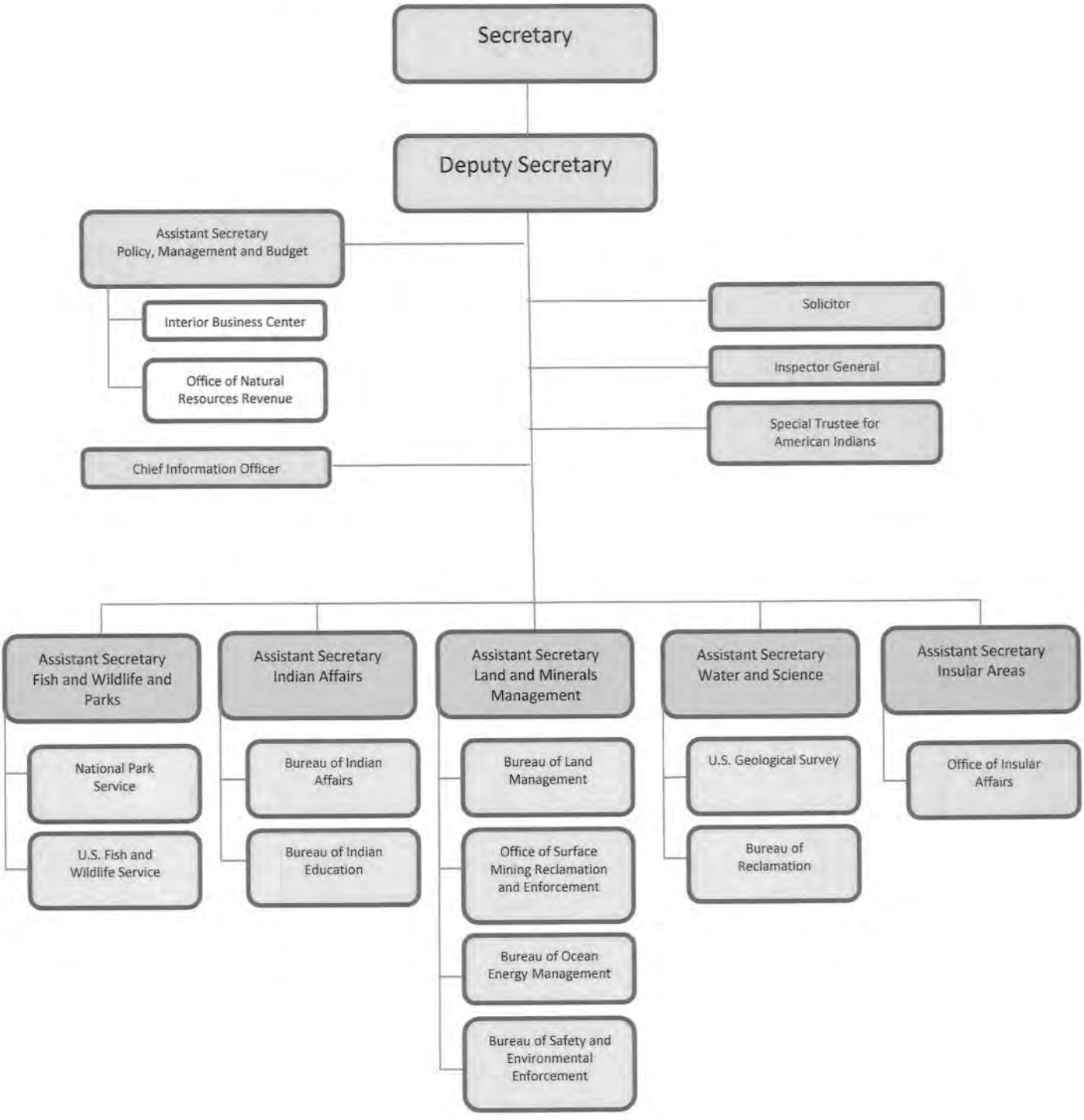
United States Continental Shelf Boundary Areas



Robert Utley and Barry Mackintosh, *The Department of Everything Else: Highlights of Interior History*, 1988, pp. 1-2.

The DOI's programs encompassed in this Strategic Plan cover a broad spectrum of activities that are performed by 10 bureaus and multiple offices and are captured in the following presentation of each entity's unique mission and set of responsibilities. The Strategic Plan's 6 mission areas capture the vitality, inventiveness, and potential of the bureaus and offices and the Department's 70,000 dedicated and skilled employees. Along with employees, almost 280,000 volunteers contribute their time in support of bureau and office missions, bringing unique local knowledge to park operations, assisting in recovery from natural disasters, and participating in environmental education, among other activities.

U.S. Department of the Interior Organization



Bureau and Office Summary

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- Manages and conserves resources for multiple use and sustained yield on approximately 248 million acres of public land, and an additional 700 million acres of subsurface federal mineral estate, including the following:
  - Renewable and conventional energy and mineral development
  - Forest management, timber and biomass production
  - Wild Horse and Burro management
  - Management of diverse landscapes for the benefit of wildlife, domestic grazing, and recreational uses
  - Resource management at sites of natural, scenic, scientific, and historical value including the National Landscape Conservation System

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- Manages access to renewable and conventional energy resources of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)
- Administers over 6,400 active fluid mineral leases on approximately 35 million OCS acres
- Issues leases that provide 24 percent of domestic crude oil and eight percent of domestic natural gas supply.
- Oversees lease and grant issuance for off-shore renewable energy projects

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

- Promotes safety, protects the environment, and conserves resources offshore through regulatory enforcement of offshore oil and gas facilities on the 1.7 billion acre US Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)
- Oversees oil spill for US facilities in state and federal waters and operates the Ohmsett National Oil Spill Response Research test facility
- Supports research to promote the use of best available safest technology for oil spill response

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)

- Protects the environment during coal mining through Federal programs, provides grants to states and tribes, and oversight activities
- Ensures the land is reclaimed afterwards
- Mitigates the effects of past mining by pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mine lands

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

- Conducts scientific research in ecosystems, climate and land use change, mineral assessments, environmental health, and water resources to inform effective decision making and planning
- Produces information to increase understanding of natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and landslides
- Conducts research on oil, gas, and alternative energy potential, production, consumption, and environmental effects
- Leads the effort on climate change science research for the Department
- Provides access to natural science information to support decisions about how to respond to natural risks and manage natural resources

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

- Manages, develops, and protects water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public
- Largest wholesale supplier of water in the Nation
- Manages 476 dams and 337 reservoirs
- Delivers water to 1 in every 5 western farmers and more than 31 million people
- America's second largest producer of hydroelectric power



Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

- Manages the 150 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System primarily for the benefit of fish and wildlife
- Manages 70 fish hatcheries and other related facilities for endangered species recovery and to restore native fisheries populations
- Protects and conserves:
  - Migratory birds
  - Threatened and endangered species
  - Certain marine mammals
- Hosts approximately 47 million visitors annually at 561 refuges located in all 50 states and 38 wetland management districts



National Park Service (NPS)

- Maintains and manages a network of 401 natural, cultural, and recreational sites for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people
- Manages and protects over 26,000 historic structures, over 44 million acres of designated wilderness, and a wide range of museum collections and cultural and natural landscapes
- Provides outdoor recreation to over 286 million annual park visitors
- Provides technical assistance and support to state and local natural and cultural resource sites and programs, and fulfills responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act



Indian Affairs (IA)

- Fulfills Indian trust responsibilities
- Promotes self-determination on behalf of 566 federally recognized Indian tribes
- Funds compacts and contracts to support natural resource education, law enforcement, and social service programs that are delivered by tribes
- Operates 182 elementary and secondary schools and dormitories, providing educational services to 42,000 students in 23 states
- Supports 29 tribally controlled community colleges, universities, and post-secondary schools

Note: IA includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education



Departmental Offices

- Immediate Office of the Secretary and Assistant Secretaries
- Policy, Management and Budget provides leadership and support for the following:
  - Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition
  - Public Safety, Resource Protection and Emergency Services
  - Natural Resources Revenue Management
  - Human Capital and Diversity
  - Technology, Information and Business Services
  - Policy and International Affairs
  - Natural Resource Damage Assessment
  - Wildland Fire Management
  - Central Hazardous Materials Management
- Office of Inspector General
- Office of the Solicitor
- Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians
- Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas and the Office of Insular Affairs

DEPARTMENT-WIDE PRINCIPLES

The DOI operates based on a set of key principles and tenets that guide the efforts of 70,000 employees, volunteers, and other stakeholders that deliver a broad spectrum of services and programs. These principles serve as the standard of operations throughout DOI and ensure achievement of the highest of ideals while performing the mission.

Stewards of the Nation's Natural, Cultural, and Heritage Assets

The DOI is committed to being an outstanding steward of approximately 500 million acres of public lands and 700 million subsurface acres including magnificent vistas, unique ecosystems, and treasured natural, cultural, and heritage assets. The management and oversight of these resources require a dedicated cadre of employees, the contributions of volunteers, and the input of stakeholders to inform decision making. The challenges of managing for a diverse constituency while meeting national goals for energy development and sustaining high levels of recreation and access require technical expertise, the best available science, and a landscape-level understanding of the balance of development and conservation.

Effective and Efficient Operations



Department of the Interior Headquarters, Washington, DC

The DOI is committed to achieving effective and efficient management. Executives and managers rely extensively on collaboration and partnerships that leverage resources. The DOI utilizes an extensive framework of internal controls to protect against fraud and waste and implements recommendations from the Government Accountability Office and the Office of Inspector General. On an annual basis, DOI reviews program activities for opportunities to eliminate lower priority programs, re-engineer under-achieving programs, and investigate new ideas to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of program delivery. Through the President's SAVE awards program and other efforts that incentivize creative cost cutting, DOI is focused on specific management initiatives, which are described in greater detail in the Appendix.

Financial Integrity and Transparency

The DOI is committed to effective financial operations and accountability including high quality and timely reporting, robust internal controls, clean audits, and effective follow-up on audit and internal control findings. The DOI utilizes the Financial and Business Management System for the integration of business functions including budget execution, finance, acquisition, and others with single sign on, improved internal controls, a secure information technology environment, and a community of business innovation, efficiency, and transparency.

Ensuring High Ethical Standards

Key to maintaining public trust and confidence in the integrity of government is the adherence of high ethical standards and ensuring that government business is conducted with impartiality and integrity. The DOI embodies this principle, follows the law and holds people accountable. Accountability is a key theme – DOI expects to be held accountable. The DOI does not tolerate lapses that detract and distract from good, honest service to the American people. Decisions are based on sound science and the best interest of the public. The Department promotes and supports transparency, accountability, and

efficiency.

Making DOI the Best and Most Inclusive Place to Work in America

The DOI is committed to making the Department the best and most inclusive place to work. Changing demographics of the population, generational shifts, increased urbanization, and increased use of technology makes the management of a changing cadre of employees challenging. The DOI will foster an environment that is open and accepting of individual differences and encourages employees to maximize their potential and to provide quality public service. The DOI will ensure that policies, practices, and systems do not benefit any one group over another and that the differences that each employee brings to the Department are respected and can enhance the organization's capacity, service, and adaptability.

Safety, Security, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

One of DOI's top priorities is to focus on safety, security, and preparedness activities. The DOI will uphold its responsibilities for protecting lives, resources, property, and the environment through a wide variety of program areas, including law enforcement, health and safety, security, aviation, environmental compliance and emergency management. The DOI will provide technical expertise and capability for interagency preparedness, response and recovery activities as defined in Presidential Policy Directive 8 and the five National Frameworks (Protection, Prevention, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation), and as required by other interagency plans such as the *National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan*. The DOI resources are frequently called upon for wildland fire and oil spill response, public works and engineering activities, search and rescue operations, protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties expertise, rebuilding after storm and hazard events, and law enforcement missions. Interior has the third largest contingent of Federal law enforcement officers in the Executive Branch with 3,500 officers that patrol vast acres of federal lands, national parks, wildlife refuges, and Indian communities. To ensure DOI is prepared to meet its preparedness, response, and recovery obligations, the Department and Bureaus maintain plans for all-hazards to safeguard the environment.

Respecting Tribal Self-Governance

The DOI recognizes the importance of the nation-to-nation relationship with tribes and will continue to encourage tribal management of resources and self-determination; consultation and support for effective management of the tribal trust; and the need to uphold commitments to tribes and Indian communities. Building coalitions will be an important aspect of these principles, including respect for the viewpoints of the 566 Indian tribes and the importance of maintaining strong tribal communities.

Consultation is a key component of respecting Tribal self-governance and supporting the nation-to-nation relationship. The DOI upholds the principles set forth in the President's *Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*. All of DOI's bureaus and offices operate under a policy consistent with the Executive Order that considers the impacts of policies, processes, rulemaking, and legislation regarding tribes and tribal communities.

International Engagement and Leadership

The DOI participates in the United States' efforts to address climate change; protect biodiversity; sustainably manage energy, water, and natural resources; empower indigenous communities; protect cultural heritage; and ensure sound science as the basis for decisionmaking. The resources for which DOI is responsible cross jurisdictional boundaries and DOI is a key player in the international community confronting the exploitation of natural resources, trade in wildlife, spread of invasive species, the arctic,

and in a multiplicity of scientific issues. The DOI is committed to maintaining its relevance and will engage in international efforts as a core mission responsibility, consistent with its unique expertise and mandate.

Increasing Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience

The DOI's responsibilities for management of lands, waters, and wildlife provide first-hand experience of the impacts of a rapidly changing climate. Impacts observed by Federal resource managers include drought, severe flooding, interrupted pollination of crops, changes in wildlife and prey behavior, warmer rivers and streams, and sea level rise. The DOI will bring the best science to bear to understand these consequences and will undertake mitigation, adaptation, and enhancements to support natural resilience and will take steps to reduce carbon pollution, including through the responsible development of clean energy. The DOI will be a national leader in integrating preparedness and resilience efforts into its mission areas, goals, strategies, and programs; identifying vulnerabilities and systematically addressing these vulnerabilities; and incorporating climate change strategies into management plans, policies, programs, and operations.

CLIMATE CHANGE - THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The DOI is committed to adaptively manage resources to mitigate the impacts of climate change, consider climate change on a landscape-level to improve resiliency, and work across agency lines to develop and provide data, information and decision support tools. The Strategic Plan utilizes goals, strategies, and metrics that support DOI's integrated approach to climate change as demonstrated by the following examples:



MISSION AREA #1 CELEBRATING AND ENHANCING AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Climate change can act as a stressor and impacts efforts to protect America's landscapes, sustain fish and wildlife species, and protect cultural and heritage resources. The occurrence of wildland fire is exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Fire managers implement a comprehensive strategy that aligns Federal, state, tribal, and local efforts in preparedness, suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, and habitat restoration programs that consider the impacts of climate change.

MISSION AREA #2 STRENGTHENING TRIBAL NATIONS AND INSULAR COMMUNITIES

Climate change has a particular impact on American Indians and Alaska Natives that rely on resources for subsistence and economic development. The Strategic Plan includes goals, strategies and measures to gage the effective management of agriculture, grazing, timber, hunting, and fishing. The DOI resource managers consider the impacts of climate change in the management of these programs.

MISSION AREA #3 POWERING OUR FUTURE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE NATION'S RESOURCES

The DOI's Strategic Plan includes goals, strategies and metrics that promote the development of energy and sustainable management of timber, forage, and non-energy minerals. Climate change is a factor that is considered in the planning and management of resources for utilization of energy, timber, and forage.



MISSION AREA #4 ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

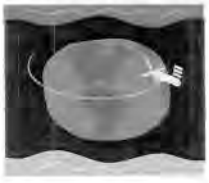
The DOI is committed to increasing the engagement of youth as active stewards of the environment and to promote youth employment, education, community service, and volunteerism. The DOI Strategic Plan include goals and strategies to gage performance of these efforts, which incorporate activities focused on climate change.



MISSION AREA #5 ENSURING HEALTHY WATERSHEDS AND SUSTAINABLE, SECURE WATER SUPPLIES

Water is a precious commodity that is increasingly impacted by climate change. The DOI's strategies for healthy watersheds and sustainable water supplies considers these impacts, promoting water conservation and partnerships for the responsible management of water supplies.

MISSION AREA #6 BUILDING A LANDSCAPE-LEVEL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RESOURCES



The DOI is committed to assessing climate change impacts on a landscape scale, incorporating collaborative approaches and leveraging efforts with others to inform decisionmaking. The DOI Strategic Plan includes goals and strategies that promote data availability and use, leveraging the DOI's role in management of the geospatial platform.

Throughout the performance of its mission areas, DOI is a responsible steward for the significant land, water, and wildlife resources for which DOI is entrusted. The DOI has an obligation to ensure the sustainability of its own operations to promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases and the carbon footprint. The Strategic Plan promotes fulfillment of DOI's commitment to these efforts reducing its potential contributions to the causes of climate change.



HIGHLIGHTED INITIATIVES FOR ACHIEVING SECRETARIAL PRIORITIES

The following initiatives are highlighted as select activities considered particularly important to help fulfill the priorities that have been identified by the Secretary of the Interior. While this list is not all inclusive of the full range of activities being conducted throughout the DOI, these are identified to provide emphasis on select programmatic initiatives that are considered to play significant roles in furthering the DOI mission over the timeframe of this Strategic Plan (FY 2014-2018) especially for those priority areas identified by the Secretary in her letter. These highlighted initiatives have been arranged according to the corresponding mission areas and strategic goals which are more fully discussed later in the Plan. Embedded within the set of initiatives are the DOI's "Agency" Priority Performance Goals that are further highlighted in www.performance.gov.

MISSION AREA #1 CELEBRATING AND ENHANCING AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Protect America's Landscapes and Species: Initiatives under this goal protect and restore America's large landscapes; conserve and restore wildlife populations; and improve efforts to manage lands and resources for resiliency.

- Climate change and resilience
  - Incorporate climate change projections into analyses of resource threats, trends, data, and monitoring needs, future planning needs, and other resource needs of National park Service foundational planning documents.
  - Increase climate change resiliency and green infrastructure by implementing 30 storm mitigation projects in the Northeast and work collaboratively to prioritize science driven restoration projects to conserve the Gulf of Mexico watershed.
  - *PRIORITY GOAL.* Demonstrate a "maturing" level of implementation of climate change adaptation, as scored when implementing strategies in the Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan by September 30, 2015.
- Conserve sage-grouse
  - Conserve Greater Sage-Grouse and the sagebrush ecosystem it occupies by amending or revising Resource Management Plans and implementing restoration actions that address the needs of the sage-grouse.
- Restore the Everglades
  - Restore the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water to the Everglades; preserve and restore native Everglades habitats and species; and foster compatibility of built and natural systems in and affecting the Everglades by:
    - Initiating efforts to plan for and construct the Tamiami Trail 2.6-Mile Bridge in cooperation with the State of Florida and others.
    - Initiating development of an operations plan for the Modified Water Deliveries Project to provide more natural water delivery to Everglades National Park.
    - Developing a framework for detection and early response to invasive exotic species.
- Restore bison populations
  - Restore and sustain three ranging bison populations in collaboration with states, tribes, private landowners, and other public land management agencies in:
    - Great Sand Dunes National Park/Preserve and Baca National Wildlife Refuge in southern Colorado
    - The South Unit of Badlands National Park on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota
    - Public and State lands near Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona
- Combat wildlife trafficking

- Finalize and begin implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, in cooperation with the Departments of State and Justice.

Protect America's Cultural and Heritage Resources: Initiatives will advance historic preservation and understanding of the Nation's heritage.

- Prepare for the NPS Centennial
  - Improve the condition of 469 of the National Park Service highest priority facilities in preparation for the NPS Centennial in 2016.
- Enhance historic preservation
  - Complete implementation of the Report on the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program recommendations to promote economic development and community revitalization, especially in urban areas.
- Enhance management of Indian cultural interests
  - Develop a revised FWS Native American Policy in collaboration with tribal representatives from across the Nation.
  - Finalize a rule to allow members of federally recognized Indian tribes to gather plants and minerals for traditional cultural purposes within units of the National Park System.

Enhance Recreation and Visitor Experience: Initiatives will improve outdoor recreation access and increase opportunities for public enjoyment of Federal lands, waters, and shorelines, and help connect urban populations to parks and green spaces.

- Recreation on public lands
  - Develop a strategy to expand recreational opportunities on national wildlife refuges, BLM conservation lands, and national parks.
- Urban Recreation
  - Increase the number of close-to-home outdoor recreational and wellness programs:
    - Facilitate 300 or more community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects in over 800 communities.
    - Increase the number of Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships.

MISSION AREA #2 STRENGTHENING TRIBAL NATIONS AND INSULAR COMMUNITIES

Initiatives will improve the nation-to-nation relationships with tribes and fulfill the United States' trust responsibilities through partnerships to build stronger economies and safer Indian communities.

- (b)(5)
- Economic opportunity
  - Promote economic opportunity by converting 500,000 acres from fee to trust.

MISSION AREA #3 POWERING OUR FUTURE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE NATION'S RESOURCES

Initiatives will promote responsible development of domestic energy resources.

- Ensure environmental compliance and safety
  - Finalize OSMRE's Stream Protection Rule, BOEM/BSEE Alaska standards, and BSEE Production Safety Rule and Blowout Preventer Rule.
  - Modernize offshore leasing and diligence requirements for deepwater Gulf of Mexico.
- Develop renewable energy potential

(b)(5)

- Improve hydropower plant efficiency with software upgrades, new turbines, and pumping station operation flexibility.

- Responsibly develop conventional energy potential
  - Automate onshore Application for Permit to Drill tracking and processing.
  - Develop ePlans and ePermits for offshore exploration and development.
  - Develop and publish the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022.
- Manage energy production and revenue
  - Finalize the Hydraulic Fracturing Rule, Onshore Order 9 (waste prevention, venting, and flaring), and revisions to onshore oil and gas royalty rates.

(b)(5)

MISSION AREA #4 ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

Initiatives will promote the engagement of young people as active stewards of the environment.

- Play:
  - Develop or enhance outdoor recreation partnerships in a total of 50 cities to create new, systemic opportunities for outdoor play for over 10 million young people.
- Learn:
  - Provide educational opportunities to at least 10 million of the Nation's K-12 student population annually.
- Serve:
  - Attain 1,000,000 volunteers annually on public lands.
- Work:

(b)(5)

MISSION AREA #5 ENSURING HEALTHY WATERSHEDS AND SUSTAINABLE, SECURE WATER SUPPLIES

Manage Water and Watersheds for the 21st Century: Initiatives will support reliable delivery of water for multiple purposes, help balance competing water resource goals, and build collaborative partnerships with Federal and non-Federal stakeholders.

- Basin studies
  - Complete 17 basin studies to develop strategies for managing watersheds, including adapting to the effects of climate change.
- California water resources
  - Complete CALFED feasibility storage studies for potential enlargement of two major California river basins (Shasta and Upper San Joaquin) while continuing work on other storage studies, and begin San Joaquin River construction projects addressing water supply and fishery needs.

(b)(5)

- Colorado River basin management
  - Publish a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Colorado River Basin long term experimental and management plan.
  - Extend the current five-year Colorado River Basin agreement by renegotiating and implementing "Minute 319" and implemented related drought strategies.
- Restore urban rivers
  - Promote the current eighteen pilot locations of the Urban Water Federal Partnership and examine ways to strengthen the existing program and provide additional opportunities to other cities and towns as appropriate.
- Manage water and related resources in the Columbia River
  - Provide support for negotiations to renew Treaty.

(b)(5) [redacted]

- Elwha River
  - Create an adaptive management decision support tool for Elwha River Restoration.
- Klamath Basin
  - Finalize and begin implementation actions consistent with Klamath Basin Restoration and related agreements and applicable Federal legislation.
- USGS National Water Census and Environmental Flows
  - Provide data to inform decisions on water delivery for multiple use

Extend Water Supplies Through Conservation: The WaterSmart (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) program assists communities in stretching water supplies while improving water management and increasing the efficient use of water.

- Enable water conservation capability

(b)(5) [redacted]

Enhance Availability of Water to Tribal Communities: The Department ensures the availability of water to tribal nations by implementing Indian water rights settlements, providing technical assistance to tribes, and undertaking tribal ecosystem restoration and rural water projects consistent with the goal of strengthening tribal nations.

- Indian water settlements

(b)(5) [redacted]

  - Begin water deliveries to Navajo Nation through the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project.

MISSION AREA #6 BUILDING A LANDSCAPE-LEVEL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RESOURCES

Provide Shared Landscape-Level Management and Planning Tools: Initiatives will leverage data and capability to improve decision making.

- Geospatial Platform
  - Develop high priority landscape-level applications in the areas of climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable resource management.

- Landsat Data and Science
  - Provide biological carbon sequestration capacity for the lower 48 states, Alaska, and Hawaii through a visualization tool.
  - Make available Nationwide natural resource management products for wildfire burned area, surface water extent, and snow covered area.
  - Update the National Land Cover Database 30-meter resolution information on urban, agriculture, forested, and impervious areas, including tree canopy.
- Inventory and Monitoring
  - Make Fish & Wildlife Service Inventory and Monitoring Program data available to partners, state and local governments, academia, and other resource management groups, to further conservation efforts .
  - Complete BLM Rapid Eco-regional assessments including integrating shrub and grassland vegetation monitoring protocols and survey strategy with the Natural Resource Conservation Service.
  - Complete the Tennessee Land Unsuitability Petition for mining.

Provide Science to Understand, Model, and Predict Ecosystem, Climate, and Land Use Change: Initiatives will assist Federal, state, local, and tribal entities by monitoring water quality and quantity; analyzing energy and mineral resources potential and environmental effects of their extraction and use; and analyze and monitor changes to the land and ocean environments.

- Mississippi River
  - Update the Nutrient transport/transformation model for the Mississippi River Basin (SPARROW) to reduce hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Sacramento- San Joaquin River Delta
  - Produce a 3-D Geologic Framework and Seismic Velocity Model for use across the Sacramento- San Joaquin River Delta.
- Chesapeake Bay
  - Assess water quality and wildlife including: factors affecting health of fisheries, ground water-quality and conditions resulting from management actions, effects of hydro-geochemical processes on water nutrients and quality, biogenic duck habitat model and effects of toxic contaminants on fish-eating birds, and combined effects of land and climate change on streamflow.
- Sage Grouse
  - Support Landscape Science and Conservation planning providing:
    - Evaluation of the impacts of energy development on sage grouse.
    - Better understanding the threat of altered fire regimes, spread of invasive plants, and climate change.
    - Analysis of population and habitat connectivity.
    - Updating geospatial mapping of sagebrush landscape.
    - Developing a comprehensive database of research and monitoring data.
- DOI Climate Science Centers (CSC)
  - Complete an ecosystem model to understand climate impacts on Alaskan natural resources.
  - Integrate scenarios for future climate, hydrology, and vegetation for the Northwest.
  - Assess climate sensitive ecosystems in the Southeastern US.
  - Develop regional drought impact scenarios for the North Central and South Central CSC's to facilitate planning of adaptation actions.

Provide Scientific Data to Protect, Instruct and Inform Communities: The USGS will lead the scientific research on the environment and natural hazards and provide information to partners and stakeholders for use in making decisions that will protect lives.

- Coastal resiliency
  - Update forecasts of erosion vulnerability to hurricanes for the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts including topography and bathymetry, analysis of shoreline changes due to Hurricane Sandy, modeling coastal change scenarios, and restoring sand deposits on the south island of the Chandeleur Islands.
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC)
  - Develop adaptation strategies that identify alternative management approaches for identified conservation priorities
  - Produce spatially-explicit conservation designs that reflect the ability of current and future landscapes to support priority resources.
  - Deliver decision support information and tools to various decision makers that influence landscape conditions relevant to priority resources.
  -
- Support for Energy Resource Planning
  - Integrate landscape-level perspective into energy resource planning for:
    - Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan developed with mitigation strategies for the Western Solar Energy Plan.
    - Conventional energy siting through development of Master Leasing Plans by BLM.
    - Transmission Planning for BLM to revise its "Section 368" corridor study.
    - Development of a BLM "Planning 2.0" framework allowing for more effective response to environmental and social changes at multiple scales.

OVERVIEW OF THE FY 2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

The DOI's FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan provides the framework for the programs and activities that are performed by 10 bureaus and multiple offices, and take place at approximately 2,400 locations throughout the Nation.

The Strategic Plan facilitates the integration of programs, the allocation and alignment of resources, and collaboration and coordination with stakeholders to achieve key goals. A set of 6 mission areas, 24 goals, 38 strategies, and 117 performance measures will guide the DOI's activities for the next 4 years. These mission areas reflect the Secretary of the Interior's priorities, while the goals and strategies describe the means by which those priorities will be achieved.

The mission areas, goals, and strategies that compose the Strategic Plan are displayed in the Strategic Plan Framework , followed by a description of the mission areas, goals, and strategic objectives, and performance measures. An FY 2018 goal is provided for each performance measure that reflects a desirable annual level of achievement that DOI aspires to by FY 2018 assuming the availability of a reasonable level of resources. The anticipated level of performance for these measures on an annual basis beginning in FY 2014 in consideration of actual resource levels will be reported in the DOI's Annual Performance Plan and Report, to be released with the FY 2015 President's budget and available at www.doi.gov/bpp.

The Strategic Plan was developed based on collaboration among personnel of the DOI, in collaboration with tribes and other stakeholders. There is a high degree of continuity of performance measures from the FY2011-2016 Strategic Plan, in order to ensure an ongoing ability to gage trends in performance and assist decision makers to assess the likely impact of program changes. Trends in performance related to funding and programmatic plans are available in the DOI's FY 2014 Annual Performance Plan and Report available at www.doi.gov/bpp.

STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK

Mission Area 1 Celebrating and Enhancing America's Great Outdoors

Goal 1: Protect America's Landscapes

- Improve land and water health by managing wetlands, uplands, and riparian areas
- Sustain fish, wildlife, and plant species
- Manage wildland fire for landscape resiliency, strengthen the ability of communities to protect against fire, and provide for public and firefighter safety in wildfire response

Goal 2: Protect America's Cultural and Heritage Resources

- Protect cultural and historical assets and related resources

Goal 3: Enhance Recreation and Visitor Experience

- Enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage

Mission Area 2 Strengthening Tribal Nations and Insular Communities

Goal 1: Meet Our Trust, Treaty, and Other Responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives

- Protect reserved Indian treaty and subsistence rights
- Fulfill fiduciary trust

Goal 2: Improve the Quality of Life in Tribal and Native Communities

- Support self-governance and self-determination
- Create economic opportunity
- Strengthen Indian education
- Make communities safer

Goal 3: Empower Insular Communities

- Improve quality of life
- Create economic opportunity
- Promote efficient and effective governance

Mission Area 3 Powering Our Future and Responsible Use of the Nation's Resources

Goal 1: Secure America's Energy Resources

- Ensure environmental compliance and safety of energy development activities
- Develop renewable energy potential
- Manage conventional energy development
- Account for energy revenue

Goal 2: Sustainably Manage Timber, Forage, and Non-Energy Minerals

- Manage timber and forest product resources
- Provide for sustainable forage and grazing
- Manage non-energy mineral development

Mission Area 4 Engaging the Next Generation

Goal 1: Create new, systemic opportunities for outdoor play

- Develop or enhance outdoor recreation partnerships that provide outdoor play

Goal 2: Provide educational opportunities

- Reach the Nation's K-12 population

Goal 3: Provide volunteers on public lands

- Enable the ability to engage more young volunteers

Goal 4: Develop the next generation of lifelong conservation stewards and ensure our own skilled and diverse workforce pipeline

- Provide conservation work and training opportunities for young people

Mission Area 5 Ensuring Healthy Watersheds and Sustainable, Secure Water Supplies

Goal 1: Manage Water and Watersheds for the 21st Century

- Improve reliability of water delivery
- Better ensure the future of watersheds against the impacts of climate change

Goal 2: Extend Water Supplies Through Conservation

- Expand water conservation capabilities

Goal 3: Availability of Water to Tribal Communities

- Protection of tribal water rights
- Improve infrastructure and operational efficiency of tribal water facilities

Mission Area 6 Building a Landscape-level Understanding of Our Resources

Goal 1: Provide Shared Landscape-Level Management and Planning Tools

- Ensure the use of landscape-level capabilities and mitigation actions

Goal 2: Provide Science to Understand, Model and Predict Ecosystem, Climate and Land Use Change

- Identify and predict ecosystem changes at targeted and landscape-levels (biota, land cover, and Earth and ocean systems)
- Assess and forecast climate change and its effects

Goal 3: Provide Scientific Data to Protect, Instruct, and Inform Communities

- Monitor and assess natural hazard risk and resilience
- Provide environmental health to guide decisionmaking

Goal 4: Provide Water and Land Data to Customers

- Monitor and assess water availability and quality
- Generate geologic maps
- Assess national and international energy and mineral resources

DESCRIPTION OF MISSION AREAS

(WITH SUPPORTING GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES)

MISSION AREA 1 CELEBRATING AND ENHANCING AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

GOAL #1 Protect America's Landscapes

We will ensure that America's natural endowment – America's Great Outdoors – is protected for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. Through collaborative, community-driven efforts, and outcome-focused investment, we will work to preserve and enhance rural landscapes, urban parks and rivers, important ecosystems, and essential wildlife habitat.

STRATEGY #1 Improve land and water health by managing the wetlands, uplands, and riparian areas that comprise our national parks, wildlife refuges, and BLM lands.

The Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation are stewards of the lands and waters managed by the Department. These Bureaus maintain and restore uplands, wetlands, and streams through efforts that include controlling invasive plants and animals, restoring land to a condition that is self-sustaining, and ensuring that habitats support healthy fish and wildlife populations. The DOI's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration program works with the bureaus to assess the impacts of oil spills and hazardous waste sites and coordinates restoration efforts.

Annually, Bureaus administer resource protection programs on more than 400 million acres of upland, wetland, and aquatic lands within their jurisdiction. Many of these lands have special status as national parks, seashores, monuments, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, or wild and scenic rivers. They are protected because of their important and often unique ecological characteristics, physical geography, or historical features. The DOI manages these lands on a landscape-scale basis because of increasing stressors such as climate change, habitat fragmentation, exotic invasive species, and other broadly influencing factors. The DOI also works in partnership with others by providing and leveraging resources for conservation activities on non-Federal lands.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BLM, FWS, NPS	Percent of DOI acres that have achieved desired conditions where condition is known and as specified in management plans.	325 million DOI managed acres (74%)	335 million DOI managed acres (76%)
BLM, FWS	Percent of DOI riparian (stream/shoreline) miles that have achieved desired condition where condition is known and as specified in management plans.	444 thousand DOI managed stream/shoreline miles (94%)	444 thousand DOI managed stream/shoreline miles (94%)
BLM, BOR, FWS, NPS	Percent of baseline acres infested with invasive plant species that are controlled.	330 thousand acres controlled (1%)	350 thousand acres controlled (1%)
FWS, NPS	Percent of invasive animal species populations that are controlled.	298 invasive animal populations controlled (10%)	409 invasive animal populations controlled (14%)
OSMRE	Number of Federal, tribal, and private land and surface water acres reclaimed or mitigated from the effects of natural resource degradation from past coal mining.	11,347 acres reclaimed	14,000 acres reclaimed
FWS, BOR	Number of non-DOI acres restored, including through partnerships, as specified in plans or agreements that involve DOI.	640,000 non-DOI acres restored (annual avg	640,000 non-DOI acres restored (annual avg

		excluding AK)	excluding AK)
FWS	Number of non-DOI acres managed or protected to achieve desired condition, including through partnerships, as specified in plans or agreements that involve DOI.	1.7 million non-DOI acres managed (annual avg excluding AK)	1.7 million non-DOI acres managed (annual avg excluding AK)
FWS	Number of non-DOI riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships, as specified in plans or agreements that involve DOI.	411 non-DOI stream /shoreline miles restored	900 non-DOI stream /shoreline miles restored
FWS	Number of non-DOI riparian (stream/shoreline) miles managed or protected to achieve desired condition, including through partnerships, as specified in plans or agreements that involve DOI.	1,665 non-DOI stream /shoreline miles managed or protected (annual avg excluding AK)	1,665 non-DOI stream /shoreline miles managed or protected (annual avg excluding AK)
BIA, BLM, BOEM, BOR, FWS, NPS, OSMRE, USGS	Priority Goal = Demonstrate maturing implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in the DOI Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan	NEW	200 points achieved on scorecard by end of FY 2015

STRATEGY #2 Sustain fish, wildlife, and plant species by protecting and recovering the Nation's fish and wildlife populations in cooperation with partners, including states.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is tasked with the conservation and protection of populations of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. The FWS conducts these activities in partnership with others including NPS, BLM, Reclamation, and state and local agencies. The strategy to sustain species focuses on identifying and implementing corrective actions that will lead to species recovery.

The DOI's responsibility to protect fish, wildlife, and native plants transcends jurisdictional boundaries, and includes efforts that affect almost 1,500 species with special status under the Endangered Species Act and more than 1,000 migratory birds that receive Federal protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The DOI is instrumental in combating domestic and international wildlife trafficking by improving enforcement of domestic laws, strengthening international cooperation and global enforcement, and helping to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
FWS	Percent of threatened and endangered (T&E) species that have improved based on the latest 5-year status review recommendation.	48 T&E species improved (4%)	51 T&E species improved (5%)
FWS	Percent of threatened and endangered (T&E) species recovery actions implemented.	24,285 T&E species recovery actions implemented (68%)	24,300 T&E species recovery actions implemented (68%)
BLM, FWS, BOR	Number of threatened and endangered species (T&E) recovery activities implemented.	3,290 T&E species recovery activities implemented (annual avg)	3,463 T&E species recovery activities implemented
FWS	Percent of migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels.	726 migratory bird species healthy & sustainable (72%)	726 migratory bird species healthy & sustainable (72%

FWS	Percent of fish species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected states, tribes, and others, as defined in approved management documents.	39 fish species of management concern at self-sustaining levels (annual avg) (21%)	39 fish species of management concern at self-sustaining levels (21%)
FWS	Number of international species of management concern whose status has been improved in cooperation with affected countries.	247 international wildlife species improved	247 international wildlife species improved

STRATEGY #3 Manage wildland fire for landscape resiliency, strengthen the ability of communities to protect against fire, and provide for public and firefighter safety in wildfire response.

The Department's Office of Wildland Fire coordinates fire programs across four Bureaus (BLM, FWS, NPS, and BIA) that manage and operate wildland fire programs along with the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. The DOI Bureaus deploy strategies to mitigate the effects of wildland fire and restore burned acres, support communities that are at highest risk from fire by assisting in the development of fire action plans, and respond quickly when fire strikes. The DOI strives to achieve a technically effective fire management program that meets resource and safety objectives, while minimizing the cost of suppression and damage to resources.

Ensuring resilient landscapes and fire-adapted communities depends on the implementation of a broad-based, intergovernmental, collaborative, and national cohesive strategy to better address the mounting challenges of escalating fire behavior, increased risk to responders, greater home and property losses, and increased threats to communities. The DOI is a leading agency in this collaborative approach with the Forest Service and other Federal, state, tribal, and local governments and stakeholders. Three supporting performance measures were developed to demonstrate and evaluate progress in achieving the national goals to restore and maintain resilient landscapes, promote fire-adapted communities, and respond to wildfires.

Office Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
OWF	Percent of DOI-managed landscape acres that are in a desired condition as a result of fire management objectives.	160,066,449 acres managed in desired condition (36%)	171,310,000 managed acres in desired condition (38%)
OWF	Percent of DOI-managed treatments that reduce risk to communities that have a wildland fire mitigation plan.	1,597 treatments (76%)	1,597 treatments (76%)
OWF	Percent of wildfires on DOI-managed landscapes where the initial strategy(ies) fully succeeded during the initial response phase.	6,330 wildfires successfully managed (98%)	6,525 wildfires successfully managed (99%)

GOAL #2 Protect America's Cultural and Heritage Resources

We will ensure that our Nation's rich cultural heritage and abundant historic and prehistoric resources are preserved for the enjoyment and enlightenment of current and future generations.

STRATEGY #1 Protect and maintain the Nation's most important historic areas and structures, archaeological sites, and museum collections.

A cornerstone of DOI's mission is the protection of America's cultural heritage and resources for future generations and the obligation to honor and protect cultural resources of tribal communities. The Department maintains over 29,000 historic structures among 5 Bureaus – NPS, BLM, BOR, FWS, and BIA. The largest portion of historic structures on DOI lands is found in the National Park System. The Department also protects many of the Nation's most important cultural heritage sites. They range in size from pioneering homesteads to the massive granite carvings of Mount Rushmore. The DOI is the steward of millions of cultural and natural artifacts, including those from the earliest days of North American occupation over 15,000 years ago through colonial and westward expansion settlements to those from monuments commemorating recent heroic events, such as the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania. These valued collections tell the history of the Nation. These Bureaus work closely with Native American tribes, Alaska Native corporations, and Native Hawaiian communities to help ensure respect for and preservation of the sacred cultural sites of our native peoples, as well as repatriation of Native American cultural items.

The Department, universities, historians, and others use America's cultural and heritage resources to expand understanding of our culture. They remind us of who we are and where we came from.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS	Percent of historic structures in DOI inventory in good condition.	15,390 historic structures in good condition (53%)	16,175 historic structures in good condition (56%)
BIA, BOR, BLM, FWS, NPS	Percent of collections in DOI inventory in good condition.	1,214 collections in good condition (46%)	1,225 collections in good condition (46%)
BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS	Percent of archaeological sites in DOI inventory in good condition.	107,814 archeological sites in good condition (64%)	108,000 archeological sites in good condition (64%)
NPS	Number of completed historic rehabilitation tax credit projects (since 1976)	39,662	43,600

GOAL #3 Enhance Recreation and Visitor Experience

We will encourage the appreciation and use of our lands by facilitating visitor use and recreational experiences. We will support tourism and outdoor recreation—powerful economic engines that bolster communities across the Nation. We will strive to provide visitors with beneficial physical, mental, and social opportunities, including those that result from outdoor recreational experiences.

STRATEGY #1 Enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage by creating opportunities for play, enlightenment, and inspiration.

About 417 million Americans and foreign visitors traverse public lands each year. The Bureaus that provide recreational opportunities – BLM, FWS, and NPS – are particularly dedicated to ensuring that visitors have the best possible experiences through interpretive guides, displays, videos, and other materials, in addition to the spectacular land, water, wildlife, and cultural features themselves.

In a national dialogue about America's Great Outdoors, citizens reiterated the importance of open spaces

and recreation to their quality of life, health, and commitment to conservation. National parks, FWS refuges, and BLM public lands provide recreation experiences that include many forms: camping or hiking; catch and release trout fishing; canoeing; bird watching; biking, swimming, and many other activities. Many water-related recreational activities are also available as a result of Bureau of Reclamation projects. These Bureaus make special accommodations to address the need for accessibility to public lands and to better engage underserved communities, especially in response to the increasing urbanization and shifting demographics of America's population. This requires focused research and close coordination with existing partners, as well as cultivating new partnerships with organizations representing diverse constituents.

By focusing on visitor services, increasing volunteer opportunities, and ensuring access for recreation, education, and contemplation, the Department ensures that the public is offered valuable, high-quality experiences at our sites.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BLM, FWS, NPS	Percent of visitors satisfied with the quality of their experience.	94% visitors satisfied	94% visitors satisfied
BLM, NPS	Percent of satisfaction among visitors served by facilitated programs.	95% participating visitors satisfied	95% participating visitors satisfied

MISSION AREA 2 STRENGTHENING TRIBAL NATIONS AND INSULAR COMMUNITIES

GOAL #1 Meet Our Trust, Treaty, and Other Responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives

We will restore the integrity of nation-to-nation relationships with tribes and work diligently to fulfill the United States' trust responsibilities. We will work in partnership with tribes to build stronger economies and safer Indian communities.

STRATEGY #1 Protect reserved Indian treaty and subsistence rights.

The DOI will assist American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives in developing the most effective practices for responsible and successful use of subsistence resources and treaty reserved rights to natural resources. For the purposes of this measure, subsistence means the gathering and harvest, processing, consumption, and use of all wild resources – birds, mammals, fish, and plants – from all the varied environments found throughout tribal communities.

For American Indians and Alaska Natives, subsistence use embodies a culturally significant lifestyle and is an important component of Indian communities. Subsistence resources are important to these economies and for the continuation of traditions and practices that are a part of these diverse cultures. The term "customary and traditional" is included in the Code of Federal Regulations to describe the historic and current use of wildlife and fisheries resources for subsistence by residents of rural communities.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BIA	Percent increase in the number of federally-recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native organizations involved with studies and projects to improve Federal and tribal management of treaty reserved rights and subsistence resources.	17 Tribes supported (4%)	100 Tribes supported (44%)

STRATEGY #2 Fulfill Fiduciary Trust

The DOI has ongoing responsibilities for timely reporting of Indian trust ownership information to its beneficiaries. We will ensure that trust and restricted Federal Indian-owned lands are managed effectively and accurately account for revenues in a timely and efficient manner. The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians and Bureau of Indian Affairs oversee fiduciary trust activities.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BIA	Percent of active, supervised Individual Indian Monies (IIM) case records reviewed in accordance with regulations.	710 IIM case records reviewed (98%)	861 IIM case records reviewed (100%)
OST	Percent of financial information initially processed accurately in trust beneficiaries' accounts.	(b)(5)	
OST	Percent of oil and gas revenue transmitted by ONRR recorded in the Trust Funds Accounting System within 24 hours of receipt.	$628 million transmitted efficiently (99%)	$635 million transmitted efficiently (100%)
OST	Percent of timeliness of financial account information provided to trust beneficiaries.	(b)(5)	

		(b)(5)

GOAL #2 Improve the Quality of Life in Tribal and Native Communities

With self-governance and self-determination as our North Star, the Department will work to restore tribal homelands, settle Indian water rights claims, increase opportunities for renewable and conventional energy on Indian lands, expand educational opportunities for Native American youth, and protect natural and cultural resources in the face of climate change.

STRATEGY #1 Support self-governance and self-determination.

The DOI is strengthening the nation-to-nation relationship between the Federal Government and tribal nations because self-determination, sovereignty, self-government, and self-reliance are the tools that will enable tribal nations to shape their collective destiny. Tribes have also assumed an expanded role in the operation of Indian programs through Public Law 93-638 contracting. Tribes contract with the Federal Government to operate programs serving their tribal members and other eligible persons.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BIA	Percent of P.L. 93-638 Title IV contracts/compacts with clean audits.	79 compact tribes with clean audits (71%)	138 compact tribes with clean audits (100%)
BIA	Percent of Single Audit Act reports submitted during the reporting year for which management action decisions on audit or recommendations are made within 180 days.	405 audit reports addressed in time (99%)	405 audit reports addressed in time (99%)

STRATEGY #2 Create economic opportunity.

The DOI assists Indian Nations in developing capacity and infrastructure needed to attain economic self-sufficiency on reservations to enhance their quality of life. One critical path is economic development and job creation. The BIA coordinates development of comprehensive tribal programs with the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services. The DOI offers programs and financial services that encourage start-ups and help position Indian businesses and individuals to compete in today's economy. The Department supports tribal communities in increasing opportunities to develop conventional and renewable energy resources (e.g. solar and wind) and non-energy mineral resources on trust land.

An integral part of building stronger economies within American Indian and Alaska Native communities is developing conservation and resource management plans that ensure sustainable use of trust land. Income is derived from leasing the land for timber and forest biomass harvests, grazing, and farming. These plans are reviewed by BIA to help safeguard the income-generating assets that sustain the economy of communities.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BIA	Total average gain in earnings of participants that obtain unsubsidized employment through Job Placement employment, training, and related services funding, in accordance with P.L. 102-477.	$10.40 average gain in earnings of participants	$11.00 average gain in earnings of participants

BIA	Loss rates on DOI guaranteed loans.	$28,912 loan losses	$28,000 loan losses
BIA	Fee to trust: Increase in the percentage of submitted applications with determinations.	TBD	1,025 applications processed
BIA	Percent of grazing permits monitored annually for adherence to permit provisions, including permittee compliance with requirements described in conservation plans.	3,387 grazing permits monitored / inspected (24%)	8,943 grazing permits monitored / inspected (64%)
BIA	Percent of active agricultural and grazing leases monitored annually for adherence to lease provisions, including lessee compliance with responsibilities described in conservation plans.	9,154 leases monitored / inspected (35%)	17,078 leases monitored / inspected (69%)
BIA	Percent of range units assessed during the reporting year for level of utilization and/or rangeland condition/trend.	1,247 range units assessed (32%)	2,646 range units assessed (74%)
BIA	Percent of sustainable harvest of forest biomass utilized for energy and other products.	2 million tons of biomass harvested (50%)	3.4 million tons of biomass harvested (85%)

STRATEGY #3 Strengthen Indian education.

The DOI is allocating funds to improve its Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) funded schools, and improve the learning environment of BIE students. Improving performance in BIE schools is a challenge the DOI is addressing through initiatives aimed at increasing student achievement with a focus on reading and math. Schools are assessed for their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) which is defined by each state based on judging reading and mathematics proficiency along with attendance for elementary and middle schools, and graduation rates for high schools.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BIE	Percent of BIE schools achieving AYP (or comparable measure).	45 schools achieving AYP (26%)	66 schools achieving AYP (38%)
BIE	Percent of BIE school facilities in acceptable condition as measured by the Facilities Condition Index.	147 facilities in acceptable condition (81%)	164 facilities in acceptable condition (90%)

STRATEGY #4 Make communities safer.

The DOI will strengthen law enforcement in Indian Country by putting more officers on the streets, bolstering tribal courts, and helping fight violent crime and drug abuse. Crime control, however, is only one component of a safe community. New construction, renovation, and maintenance of facilities, including detention facilities and roads and bridges, also contribute to the safety and well-being of the tribal populace.

Tribal justice systems are an essential part of tribal governments, which interface with BIA and tribal law enforcement activities. Congress and the Federal courts have repeatedly recognized tribal justice systems as the appropriate forums for adjudicating disputes and minor criminal activity within Indian Country. It is important that the BIA and tribal law enforcement activities complement the operations of the tribal courts to ensure that justice in the tribal forums is administered effectively.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BIA	Percent of law enforcement facilities that are in acceptable condition as measured by the Facilities Condition Index (FCI).	46 facilities in acceptable condition (92%)	50 facilities in acceptable condition (100%)
BIA	Percent of BIA funded tribal judicial systems receiving an acceptable rating under independent tribal judicial system reviews.	77 tribal justice systems rated acceptable (42%)	173 tribal justice systems rated acceptable (92%)
BIA	Part I violent crime incidents per 100,000 Indian Country inhabitants receiving law enforcement services. [redacted]	442 violent crimes per 100,000 residents	At or below national average (387 per 100,000 residents)
BIA	Percent of miles of road in acceptable condition based on the Service Level Index.	5,048 miles of roads in acceptable condition (17%)	5,200 miles of roads in acceptable condition (17%)
BIA	Percent of bridges in acceptable condition based on the Service Level Index.	622 bridges in acceptable condition (68%)	622 bridges in acceptable condition (68%)

GOAL #3 Empower Insular Communities

The Department empowers insular communities by improving the quality of life, creating economic opportunity, and promoting efficient and effective governance. The U.S.-affiliated insular areas include: the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The DOI also administers and oversees Federal assistance provided to the three Freely Associated States: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out these responsibilities on behalf of the Secretary.

STRATEGY #1 Improve quality of life.

The DOI will assist the insular areas to improve the quality of life by pairing access to financial resources for capital improvements and public services with robust oversight, and by improving interagency coordination on insular issues. We will also pursue sustainable, indigenous energy strategies to lessen dependence on oil imports and provide more reliable and affordable energy. In addition, we are working with other partners, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, to improve the quality of healthcare across the insular areas.

Office Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
OIA	Percent of Community Water Systems (CWS) that receive health-based violation notices from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.	28 community water systems out of 148 water systems (19%)	No more than 9% of systems with health-based violations
OIA	Residential cost per kilowatt hour for power compared to the national average.	3X the national average	2X the national average
OIA	Percent of schools in acceptable condition based on specified safety and functionality standards.	701 schools in acceptable condition (37%)	750 schools in acceptable condition (40%)

STRATEGY #2 Create economic opportunity.

The DOI will help create economic opportunity by forging partnerships that bolster tourism and attract industry by promoting the unique island cultures, natural resources, and by preparing the next generation of business leaders. We will pursue economic development initiatives that encourage private sector investment in the insular areas.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
OIA	Real mean GDP per capita in the 4 US Territories compared to the real mean GDP per capita for the US.	Real mean GDP per capita of 4 US territories ($20K) compared to real mean versus national GDP ($43K) (47%)	Real mean GDP per capita of 4 US territories ($24K) compared to real mean versus national GDP ($43K) (55%)

STRATEGY #3 Promote efficient and effective governance.

The DOI will work with the insular areas to ensure that local and Federal funding is being used efficiently and effectively by improving insular government financial policies and procedures, financial management systems, and technical planning abilities. We will also strive to equip insular area leadership with the statistical tools necessary for informed decisionmaking.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
OIA	Number of insular governments with on-time and unqualified single audits.	4 (of 7 insular area governments)	5 (of 7 insular area governments)

MISSION AREA 3 POWERING OUR FUTURE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE NATION'S RESOURCES

GOAL #1 Secure America's Energy Resources

As manager of one-fifth of the Nation's landmass and energy resources on 1.7 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), the Department plays a central and essential role in powering America's future through the responsible development of our Nation's abundant domestic energy resources. Through early planning, thoughtful mitigation, and the application of sound science, DOI can ensure that the Administration's "all-of-the-above" energy strategy includes not only traditional sources, but also the further development of new, cleaner resources to help mitigate the causes of climate change. Included in this development is a reliable, resilient, and well-planned energy transmission system that forms the backbone of the Nation's energy economy and is crucial to bringing both conventional and renewable energy to households across America. By modernizing practices, leveraging technology, and looking across the government and industry for best practices, DOI is improving the transparency and timeliness of the resource development permitting process while providing greater certainty to industry and strengthening inspection and regulatory enforcement programs.

STRATEGY #1 Ensure environmental compliance and the safety of energy development.

One of the keys to further expanding safe and responsible energy development is maintaining the public's confidence that this activity can be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner and is subject to strong oversight. The DOI is pressing forward with a reform agenda, both onshore and offshore, and is bolstering oversight and inspections. The DOI is focused on risk and is appropriately devoting limited oversight resources based on robust assessments of risk.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
OSMRE	Percent of active coal mining sites that are free of off-site impacts.	6,568 mining sites free of off-site impacts (89%)	6,665 mining sites free of off-site impacts (90%)
OSMRE	Percent of coal mine acreage reclaimed.	5.1 million acres reclaimed (76%)	5.6 million acres reclaimed (77%)
BLM	Percent of oil and gas acres reclaimed to appropriate final land condition.	1,661 acres reclaimed (24%)	2,000 acres reclaimed (25%)
BLM	Percent of producing fluid mineral cases that have a completed inspection during the year. [redacted]	10,204 cases inspected (37%)	10,715 cases inspected (39%)
BSEE	Amount (in barrels) of operational offshore oil spilled per million barrels produced.	<1 barrel spilled per million produced	< 1 barrel spilled per million produced
BSEE	Number of recordable injuries per 200,000 offshore man hours in DOI-regulated activities.	0.3 injuries per 200,000 offshore workhours	< 0.3 injuries per 200,000 offshore workhours

STRATEGY #2 Develop renewable energy potential.

The DOI is working to move America to a clean and sustainable energy future and, as called for in President Obama's Climate Action Plan, will re-double efforts on renewable energy as we transition to a landscape-level approach to wind, solar, geothermal, and hydropower energy development. Standing up new sources of clean energy generation and facilitating the construction of new or upgraded transmission networks are helping to create new industries and supply chains, driving economic growth and job creation. Connecting renewable energy projects to the grid and key markets is central to making renewable energy generation projects viable. Through partnerships and close coordination, the DOI works to site renewable energy projects in the right places where potential environmental and social conflicts can be minimized and potential effects mitigated, consistent with landscape-level planning.

Hydropower is the Nation's largest renewable energy resource, and the Bureau of Reclamation is the second largest hydropower producer in the United States. Our 53 power plants generate more than 40 billion kilowatt hours annually, enough electricity to serve 3.5 million homes. Over the next 12 years, Reclamation is initiating major rehabilitation and upgrades to many of its large hydropower assets which will yield over 250 Megawatts of additional capacity via increased efficiencies. These actions may affect peak availability of units in a given year during this period.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BOR	Percent of hydropower facilities in good condition as measured by the Facility Reliability Rating.	45 facilities (82%) in good condition	45 facilities (82%) in good condition
BOR	Percent of time that BOR hydroelectric generating units are available to the inter-connected western electrical system during daily peak demand periods.	85% operational during peak periods	85% operational during peak periods
BLM, BOEM	Number of megawatts of approved capacity authorized on public land and the OCS for renewable energy development while ensuring full environmental review (cumulative). (b)(5)	(b)(5)	

STRATEGY #3 Manage conventional energy development.

The DOI oversees vast resources that, when developed the right way and in the right places, support "all of the above" energy strategy that expands the production of energy at home, promotes energy security, and helps drive the economy and job growth.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BOEM	Number of offshore lease sales held consistent with the Secretary's 5-Year Oil and Gas Program (2012-2017; lease sales subject to change under Section 18(e) of the OCS Lands Act).	5 lease sales held (cumulative 2012-2013)	15 lease sales held (cumulative 2012-2017)
BLM	Percent of coal lease applications processed.	6 applications processed (15%)	6 applications processed (15%)
BLM	Percent of pending fluid minerals Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) which are processed.	4,892 applications processed (60%)	5,135 applications processed (62%)

STRATEGY #4 Account for energy revenue.

The DOI is committed to providing reasonable assurance that it is collecting every dollar due from Federal and Indian lands leased for energy development. The Department will fulfill its role by accurately and efficiently collecting, accounting for, analyzing, auditing, and disbursing revenues associated with offshore and onshore energy production. Revenues generated from these activities are distributed to states and tribes, fund land protection and historic preservation, and are deposited in the U.S. Treasury. The DOI also is committed to working with industry, as well as public and non-governmental entities, as part of the international Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which offers a voluntary framework for governments to disclose revenues received from oil, gas, and mining assets, with parallel disclosure by companies of what they have paid governments in royalties, rents, bonuses, taxes and other payments. The Department is working diligently towards obtaining compliance with the international EITI standards and in December 2013 submitted the U.S. Candidacy Application to the International EITI Board.

Office Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
ONRR	Percent of Federal and Indian revenues disbursed on a timely basis per statute.	99% (of $2.5B annual avg 2009-2012)	99% (of $2.5B annual avg 2009-2012)
ONRR	Percent of Payors and Operators covered by a completed ONRR Compliance Activity.	90% (of 3,400 payors and operators)	90% (of 3,000 payors and operators)

GOAL #2 Sustainably Manage Timber, Forage, and Non-energy Minerals

STRATEGY #1 Manage timber and forest product resources.

The DOI's forests or woodlands are managed by BLM for the benefit of the American public. The BLM maintains a permanent source of timber supply, which supports the production of commodities such as lumber, plywood, and paper, while also protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational opportunities.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BLM	Percent of allowable timber sale quantity offered for sale consistent with applicable resource management plans.	162 million board feet of timber (80%)	162 million board feet of timber (80%)
BLM	Volume of wood products offered consistent with applicable management plans.	243 million board feet of wood products offered	243 million board feet of wood products offered

* million board feet of timber

STRATEGY #2 Provide for sustainable forage and grazing.

The BLM manages livestock grazing on over half of its public lands. The BLM's overall objective is to ensure the long-term health and productivity of these lands. The BLM uses a variety of methods to accomplish this objective – periodic rest or deferment of grazing in pastures in specific allotments during critical growth periods; vegetation treatments; and projects such as water development and fences. The terms and conditions for grazing on BLM managed lands, such as stipulations on forage use and season of use, are set forth in the permits and leases issued by the Bureau to public land ranchers.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BLM	Percent of grazing permits and leases processed as planned consistent with applicable resource management plans.	1,344 grazing permits and leases processed (21%)	3,500 grazing permits and leases processed (60%)

STRATEGY #3 Manage non-energy mineral development.

Non-energy minerals development on DOI lands and waters, such as gold, zinc, lead, copper, iron, salt, sand, potassium, phosphate, stone, gravel, and clay, support a broad array of uses, including medical applications, computer production, coastal restoration, automobile production, and highway construction and maintenance. The DOI is committed to sustaining mineral development in an environmentally

responsible way by ensuring the reclamation of areas that have been mined and minimizing environmental impacts during the mining process.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BLM	Percent of non-energy mineral exploration and development requests processed.	114 requests processed (24%)	114 requests processed (24%)
BLM	Number of mined acres reclaimed to appropriate land condition and water quality standards.	2,279 acres reclaimed	2,300 acres reclaimed
BOEM	Number of sand and gravel requests processed for coastal restoration projects	NEW	10

MISSION AREA 4 ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

"For the health of our economy and our public lands, it's critical that we work now to establish meaningful and deep connections between young people – from every background and every community – and the great outdoors."

Secretary Sally Jewell
October 31, 2013

The future of our public lands depends upon young people serving as active stewards of the environment throughout their lives. However, there is a growing disconnect between young people and the great outdoors – and it's a gap that DOI has the power to help bridge. The Department has a unique opportunity to harness the strong spirit of community service and volunteerism that is alive within our Nation's youth, and encourage them to use their time, energy, and talent to better our natural and cultural treasures. Through public-private partnerships and in conjunction with all levels of government, DOI will expand its efforts to inspire millions of young people to play, learn, serve, and work outdoors.

GOAL #1 Play Develop or enhance outdoor recreation partnerships in a total of 50 cities over the next 4 years to create new, systemic opportunities for outdoor play for over 10 million young people.

By participating in recreation opportunities on public lands, our youth strengthen their ties to America's backyard. However, nearly 80 percent of the United States' population lives in cities. The DOI can leverage our experience and expertise to help communities engage more young people on all public lands. To increase the number of youth who play outside, we must overcome the major obstacles including a lack of access in communities, a lack of interest from children, and a lack of time for young adults. To address these problems, DOI will develop or enhance outdoor recreation partnerships in 50 cities with the goal of creating new systemic opportunities for outdoor play for over 10 million young people.

This goal will build upon the National Park Service's plan for the Centennial. As part of the NPS Call to Action for the Centennial, the NPS has committed to developing proactive Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Programs and collaborative park-based programs in the 50 largest urban areas and those with the least access to parks. The NPS is also establishing 50 formal partnerships with health and medical providers across the Country.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
(b)(5)	Number of young people in 50 cities that participate in an outdoor plan activity on public lands	NEW	10 million participants since after FY 2013

GOAL #2 Learn In 4 years, provide educational opportunities to at least 10 million of the Nation's K-12 student population annually.

Our public lands and waters are our outdoor laboratories, and by getting students–from grammar school to graduate school–to learn about our public lands and waters, we can develop their interest in nature and the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education fields that are essential to our future. There are approximately 50–55 million K-12 students in the US. The DOI currently reaches at least 3 million students a year through its education programs. With new online education resources, we have the ability to reach more teachers and students than those that can come for an in-person visit.

Leveraging the NPS' newly launched teacher portal, DOI will provide educational opportunities to at least 10 million of the Nation's K-12 student population annually.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
(b)(5)	Number of K-12 students who participate or access educational materials or opportunities provided by the Department of the Interior	NEW	10 million participants after FY 2013

GOAL #3 Serve In 4 years, attain 1,000,000 volunteers annually on public lands.

Currently 332,000 volunteers provide 9.6 million hours of service annually valued at $209 million per year. We know that many more people are interested in volunteering but there is insufficient volunteer coordination and management capacity. By prioritizing volunteer management and coordination positions as part of our efforts to expand youth work opportunities and leveraging the expertise of partners like the Corporation for National and Community Service, we will expand volunteer opportunities across DOI's public lands.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
(b)(5)	Number of people volunteering on DOI managed lands	NEW	1 million volunteers annually

GOAL #4 Work Provide 100,000 work and training opportunities to young people over the next 4 years.

To develop the next generation of lifelong conservation stewards and ensure our own skilled and diverse workforce pipeline, DOI will provide 100,000 work & training opportunities to young people (ages 15 to 25) over 4 years. In order to achieve the goal, we will utilize public-private partnerships to leverage additional resources and provide additional work and training opportunities than those we could do on our own. Our work and training opportunities will support the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) which is a multi-agency effort to provide work and training opportunities in stewardship of our public lands to young people and veterans, helping them develop skills to serve both the Nation's natural and cultural resources, but also their own futures. The other 21 CSC Federal agency partners are Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Environmental Protection Agency, Army, Council on Environmental Quality, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Bureaus Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
(b)(5)	Number of work and training opportunities provided to young people (b)(5)	15,546 Participants in FY 2013	80,000 opportunities after FY 2013

MISSION AREA 5: ENSURING HEALTHY WATERSHEDS AND SUSTAINABLE, SECURE WATER SUPPLIES

Healthy watersheds provide sustainable, secure water that is the foundation for healthy communities and economies, but water supplies are challenged by climate change, record drought conditions, and increasing demands. Recognizing the states' primary role in managing water resources, the Department will work as a partner to increase reliability of water supplies, for the benefit of the people, the economy, and the environment by providing better tools for water management, promoting water conservation and efficiency, and wisely maintaining and improving infrastructure. To achieve this goal it will be critical to inculcate these concepts in the next generation of water managers.

GOAL #1 Manage Water and Watersheds for the 21st Century

We deliver water in the 17 Western States for agriculture, municipal and industrial use, and providing flood control and recreation for millions of Americans. To achieve these goals, BOR balances water supply demands, promotes water conservation, improves water management, and protects the environment through the safe and effective performance of our facilities. The Department has a role in developing innovative approaches to meet water needs and anticipate future challenges.

STRATEGY #1 Improve reliability of water delivery

The BOR and its managing partners operate and maintainits water facilities in a safe, efficient, economical, and reliable manner, and assure that systems and safety measures are in place to protect the facilities and the public. The BOR's Facility Reliability Rating (FRR) system was established to score and provide a general indication of BOR's ability to maintain the reliability of its facilities. The BOR uses FRR data, on both reserved and major transferred facilities, to focus on activities that help ensure water storage and delivery for its customers. Approximately 40% of the total facilities subject to FRR are managed by Reclamation's water partners. These partnerships create significant operational efficiencies but will also require close coordination to effectively utilize available Federal and non-Federal resources needed to achieve the stated goal.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BOR	Percent of water infrastructure in good condition as measured by the Facility Reliability Rating.	274 facilities rated in good condition (79%)	275 facilities rated in good condition (79%)

STRATEGY #2 Better ensure the future of watersheds against the impacts of climate change

The BOR is currently conducting assessments of existing and future water supply demand imbalances in watersheds within its 17 Western States through Basin Studies and Impact Assessments. When completed, these studies will analyze the risks and impacts of climate change to water resources and identify actions to adapt to the potential effects of climate change. To address projected imbalances in supply and demand, the studies identify adaptation strategies, including strategies for non-structural and structural changes. A wide range of Federal and non-Federal stakeholders participate in the basin studies, which are selected through a competitive process using established criteria.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BOR	Percent of basin studies that have been completed.	4 basin studies completed (20%)	17 basin studies completed (89%)

GOAL #2 Extend the Supply of Water through Conservation

STRATEGY #1 Expand Water Conservation Capabilities

The American West is now the fastest growing region of the Country and faces serious water challenges. Competition for finite water supplies is increasing as a result of population growth, agricultural demands, and water for environmental needs. An increased emphasis on domestic energy development will place additional pressure on limited water supplies, as significant amounts of water may be required for unconventional and renewable energy development.

Impacts of climate change, as evidenced by increases in temperature, decreases in precipitation and snowpack, extended droughts, and depleted aquifers and stream flow in several Reclamation river basins are reducing water supplies. Water is vital for the environment and the economies of rural and urban communities in the west. The DOI will "increase" water supplies through BOR's Priority Goal conservation programs.

Office Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BOR	Acre feet of water conservation capacity enabled through Reclamation's Priority Goal conservation programs. (b)(5)	734,851 acre-feet of water conservation capacity grants approved	1,000,000 acre-feet of water conservation capacity grants approved

GOAL #3 Availability of Water to Tribal Communities

STRATEGY #1: Protection of tribal water rights

The BIA water program functions are divided into two distinct but overlapping elements. The Water Rights Negotiation/Litigation Program defines and protects Indian water rights and settles claims through negotiations if possible, or alternatively, through litigation. The Water Management Program assists tribes in managing, conserving, and utilizing trust water resources.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BIA	Annual percent of projects completed in support of water management, planning and pre-development	36 projects completed (39%)	71 projects completed (77%)

STRATEGY #2 Improve infrastructure and operational efficiency of tribal water facilities

The BIA Irrigation, Power and Safety of Dams program operates and manages irrigation, power, and dam infrastructure. The program sets high standards for maintenance, collaboration with stakeholders, and effective water and power distribution. The BIA manages facilities to ensure they do not present an unacceptable risk to downstream lives and property; and are managed in an economically, technically, environmentally, and culturally sound manner.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
BIA	Number of linear miles of functional BIA irrigation project canals servicing irrigated lands.	3,927 linear miles of irrigation canals	4,570 linear miles of irrigation canals
[redacted]			

MISSION AREA 6 BUILDING A LANDSCAPE-LEVEL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RESOURCES

To effectively carry out its mission, the Department of the Interior must understand and make decisions at the landscape-level. Decisions affecting the siting of energy development, water resource management, recreation, the conservation of habitat for sensitive flora and fauna, the identification of transmission line rights-of-way, mitigation for development activities, and other land uses are increasingly interconnected with one another on an ever changing, climate-impacted landscape.

The Department conducts science to inform these decisions; develops tools to analyze, visualize, translate, and extrapolate science; and is leading efforts to apply it at multiple scales and across multiple landscapes and jurisdictions to inform land and resource planning, policy, mitigation, and management. Additionally, as the managing partner for the Geospatial Platform, DOI can leverage 21st Century Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to transform vast amounts of data regarding our landscapes and resources into useful information to inform decisions about powering our future and ensuring healthy landscapes and sustainable supplies of water.

GOAL #1 Provide Shared Landscape-level Management and Planning Tools

Harnessing emerging technologies, tools, and methodologies, DOI works with partners to elevate understanding of resources on a landscape-level. The DOI will leverage these partnerships and its role as the managing partner for the National Geospatial Platform to turn vast amounts of data into usable information and advance broader based and more consistent landscape and resource management.

STRATEGY #1 Ensure the use of landscape-level capabilities and mitigation actions.

Landscape-level approaches to management hold the promise of a broader-based and more consistent consideration of both development and conservation, as opposed to a piecemeal approach. Over the last few decades, ecologists and conservationists have increasingly worked at larger geographic scales to improve their ability to characterize and combat complex threats and stressors such as habitat fragmentation and human population growth. When conservation is planned for and carried out at these larger scales, it is often easier to detect ecological patterns and population dynamics than with conservation undertaken within smaller units of habitat, improving the ability of conservationists to address limiting factors and achieve long-term benefits to species. The rigorous science underlying our landscape-scale databases, tools, and methodologies provides the foundation for a new generation of citizen scientists, professional experts, and organizations to better understand and care for our landscapes. By improving coordination with partner agencies, a landscape-level understanding of resources will be available for these needs.

Strong science based evidence will allow DOI to make strategic decisions relative to conservation priorities and maximize our conservation investments to achieve the best possible outcomes, while learning from our experience and new evidence on changing conditions. Changes in ecosystems and habitats in the face of changing climatic conditions require that future conservation strategies include vulnerability assessments, scenario planning, and explicit statements of expected biological outcomes. This information can be used to identify conservation targets and objectives that best represent our desired outcomes and then to develop landscape conservation designs, long-term strategies, and forward-looking resource management decisions to achieve them. Implementation occurs using a collection of tools and methodologies including the Geospatial Platform, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives,

Climate Science Centers, (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Mapping and imagery tools facilitate sound planning and management, ensuring the functionality of entire ecosystems, the resiliency of species and the predictability of decisions for industry. The Geospatial Platform offers an Internet-based tool for sharing trusted geospatial data. It provides services and applications for use by the public, government agencies, and partners to meet their mission needs. This resource facilitates landscape-level planning by providing a platform for integrated data from Federal and non-Federal partners (e.g., universities, private organizations, and tribal, state, and local governments). By centralizing such critical inputs as habitat characteristics, risk vulnerabilities, mineral resources, energy potential, conservation priorities, cultural resources, water resources, surface elevation, and property ownership, these tools will provide policy and decision makers from Federal and state governments, local communities, businesses, and non-profit organizations with reliable, transparent, science-based information to effectively manage the resources and enable integrated early analysis in a programmatic way.

The National Map, a collection of geospatial data of the Nation's topography, natural landscape and built environment is also available. Updating high-resolution geospatial databases such as surface water and elevation data and topographic map images on a 3 year cycle supports public purposes such as resource management, climate and environment, infrastructure and human services, energy, disaster response, and public safety.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
USGS	Number of communities on the Geospatial Platform that provide information relevant to landscape level decision making.	NEW	TBD
USGS, OSMRE	Number of tools registered on the Geospatial Platform that can be used to support landscape level decision making.	NEW	TBD
FWS, NPS	Number of landscape conservation designs available to inform management decisions	NEW	TBD
FWS	(b)(5)	NEW	TBD
FWS, BLM, BOR, OSMRE BOEM, BIA	Number of landscape- level mitigation strategies and actions that provide for the conservation of natural resources occurring before, during, or after development activities.	NEW	TBD
USGS	Percent of the lower 48 states, Hawaii, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico published as high resolution geospatial databases.	35,789 topographic map cells published (67%)	38,652 topographic map cells published (72%)

GOAL #2 Provide Science to Understand, Model, and Predict Ecosystem, Climate, and Land Use changes at targeted and landscape-levels (biota, land cover, and Earth and ocean systems)

We will support scientific research to assess, understand, model, and forecast the impacts of climate change and other environmental drivers on our ecosystems, natural resources, and communities. Our Bureaus will develop and construct strategies for adapting to climate change based on

scientific analysis. The DOI will assist Federal, state, local, and tribal entities by monitoring water quality and quantity; analyzing energy and mineral resources potential and environmental effects of their extraction and use; and analyzing and monitoring changes to the land and ocean environments.

STRATEGY #1 Identify and predict ecosystem and land use change

The DOI will conduct ongoing research to support and inform decisions related to ecological systems for land, water, and fish and wildlife population management. Climate and land use changes are the key drivers of changes in ecosystems, and strategies for protecting climate-sensitive ecosystems will be increasingly important. The USGS uses satellite data such as Landsat to detect, analyze, and monitor changes on the land, study the connections between people and the land, and provide society with relevant science information to inform public decisions. These data are necessary to provide a baseline composite of the characteristics and geographic variability of land cover, such as seen in the National Land Cover Database. Terrestrial and aquatic populations and their habitats are studied to understand their condition and function within ecosystems and provide information to improve management and conservation actions. Managing and protecting the biological and physical components that support ecosystem services and processes is a priority of the DOI, especially as it relates to the impacts of climate change.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
USGS	Percent of targeted fish and aquatic populations and their habitats for which information is available regarding limiting factors such as migratory barriers, habitat, and effects of disturbance (fire, flood, nutrient enhancement).	51 of 118 fish and aquatic populations supported (43%)	60 of 118 fish and aquatic populations supported (51%)
USGS	Percent of targeted wildlife populations for which science information is provided for management decision making to inform and improve conservation.	216 of 354 wildlife populations supported (61%)	240 of 354 wildlife populations supported (67%)
USGS	Percent of targeted species for which monitoring and decision support information on their status and trends are available.	187 of 645 species supported (29%)	190 of 645 species supported (29%)
USGS	Percent of critical science information products available for successful control and management of targeted groups of invasive species.	27 of 60 critical science information products (45%)	30 of 60 critical science information products (50%)
USGS	Percent of targeted ecosystems with information products forecasting ecosystem change.	3 of 9 ecosystems supported (33%)	5 of 9 ecosystems supported (56%)
USGS	Percent of U.S. surface area with contemporary land cover data needed for major environmental monitoring and assessment programs.	354 total path/rows from 2011 dataset complete (78%)	377 total path/rows from 2016 dataset complete (83%)

STRATEGY #2 Assess and forecast climate change and its effects

The extent to which U.S. communities and ecosystems may be affected by climate change will depend on the nature of the impacts and the sensitivity of the ecosystem to the changes. Successful adaptation to climate change will depend on access to a variety of options for effective management responses. The DOI will support research and monitoring initiatives of carbon, nitrogen, and water cycles, and their effects on ecosystems. The USGS will provide tools for managers to develop, implement, and test

adaptive strategies, reduce risk, and increase the potential for ecological systems to be self-sustaining, resilient, and adaptable to environmental changes. The DOI also considers the application of traditional knowledge when making decisions affecting tribal communities. The Department and the USGS strategies and measures align to achieve the goals of the Climate Action Plan.

The USGS will, through its existing scientific assets and the DOI Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and Climate Science Centers, implement partner-driven science to improve understanding of past and present land use change, develop relevant climate and land use forecasts, and identify lands, resources, and communities that are most vulnerable to adverse impacts of change from the local to global scale.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
USGS	Number of natural resource and cultural habitat, population, or ecosystem models, assessments, or major datasets developed by scientists and in cooperation with land managers.	10 models, assessments, or datasets developed	20 models, assessments, or datasets developed
USGS	Percent of Climate Research & Development Program products cited/used within 3 years of publication.	354 R&D products cited/used within 3 years (94%)	354 R&D products cited/used within 3 years (94%)

GOAL #3 Provide Scientific Data to Protect, Instruct, and Inform Communities

We will support scientific research to improve the resilience of communities to natural hazards and wildlife diseases in order to preserve the quality of life and reduce the likelihood of fatalities and economic losses. The USGS will lead the scientific research on the environment and natural hazards and provide information to partners and stakeholders for use in making decisions that will protect lives.

STRATEGY #1 Monitor and assess natural hazards risk and resilience

The DOI's monitoring and assessments provide information and the scientific understanding that will help protect communities by significantly reducing the vulnerability of millions of people to natural hazards. For example, USGS, working with many partners, collects accurate and timely data from modern earth observation networks and surveys, analyzes those data to assess areas that are at risk due to natural hazards, and conducts focused research to improve hazard predictions.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
USGS	Percent completion of earthquake and volcano hazard assessments for moderate to high hazard areas.	76 assessments completed (38%)	80 assessments completed (40%)
USGS	Percent implementation of optimal earthquake and volcano monitoring for moderate to high hazard areas.	68 measurement sets completed (34%)	78 measurement sets completed (39%)
USGS	Percent of regional and topical ocean and coastal studies that cite USGS products within 3 years of study completion.	20 studies cited (80%)	20 studies cited (80%)

STRATEGY #2 Provide environmental health science to guide decisionmaking

Human health is often related to the health of the environment and wildlife. The emergence of diseases from exposure to environmental contaminants and diseases transferred between animals and humans is a

growing concern. The DOI is taking a leadership role in providing the natural science information needed by health researchers, policy makers, and the public to safeguard public health by monitoring the quality of the environment and wildlife disease reservoirs, by identifying emerging environmental quality concerns and emerging threats from disease transmitted from animals to humans, and by providing critical knowledge that helps guide actions to manage, mitigate, and prevent adverse impacts on the environment, wildlife, and human health.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
USGS	Number of knowledge products on the quality and health of the environment that inform the public and decision makers.	224 products produced (80%)	238 products produced (85%)

GOAL #4 Provide Water and Land Data to Customers

The Department, through USGS, will lead the effort to provide water and land data to customers for their various uses. The USGS will gather and present data at targeted and landscape-levels to advance and refine our understanding of the earth and its geologic and ecologic systems. Three dimensional models of ground water aquifers and energy and mineral deposits in the subsurface will be generated to help identify prospective areas for exploration and utilization. We will produce vegetation maps and data to support and inform risk management of wildland fires, wildlife, and other natural resources. We will deliver high resolution geospatial databases and topographic map images to support public purposes and enhance resource management.

STRATEGY #1 Monitor and assess water availability and quality

The Nation faces an increasing set of water resource challenges. The DOI will continue to monitor and conduct research to generate a more precise estimate of water availability and use for meeting current and future human, environmental, and wildlife requirements. These research and monitoring activities will help identify water resources for use by humans and the environment while also developing tools to forecast likely outcomes for landscape-level planning needs including water use and quality, and aquatic ecosystem health affected by changes in land use and land cover, natural and engineered infrastructure, water use, and climate. State and local governments rely heavily on the monitoring data that is provided by USGS monitoring systems that operate across the Country.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
USGS	Percent of U.S. with current groundwater quality status and trends information.	1,369 well networks inspected (7%)	8,500 well networks inspected (45%)
USGS	Percent of U.S. with groundwater availability status and trends information.	8 studies completed (20%)	12 studies completed (20%)
USGS	Percent of U.S. with current streamwater quality status and trends information.	1,546 site visits (3%)	9,600 site visits (16%)
USGS	Percent of USGS planned streamgages that are fully operational by the National Streamflow Information Program.	446 streamgages fully operational (9%)	666 streamgages fully operational (14%)
USGS	Number of water monitoring sites supported jointly with state, local or tribal cooperators.	18,500 monitoring sites	19,425 monitoring sites
USGS	Percent of U.S. with completed, consistent water availability products.	none	1,056 water availability

			products (50%)

STRATEGY #2 Generate geologic maps

As the DOI's science arm, USGS produces accurate geologic maps and three-dimensional geologic frameworks that provide indispensable data for sustaining and improving the quality of life and economic vitality of the Nation. Geologic maps and research are foundational for exploring, developing, and preserving mineral, energy, and water resources; evaluating and planning for land management and environmental protection; supporting DOI's land management decisions, reducing losses from natural hazards, including earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, and other ground failures; mitigating effects of coastal and stream erosion; placement of critical infrastructure and facilities; and conducting basic earth science research. The geologic maps and interpretive products produced through the USGS and its state partners are served through the National Geologic Map Database, which is an authoritative and landscape-level data source for the general public, scientists, and decision makers.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
USGS	Percent of the U.S. that is covered by at least one geologic map available to the public through the National Geologic Map Database.	1,814,735 square miles covered by geologic maps (51%)	2,000,000 square miles covered by geologic maps (57%)

STRATEGY #3 Assess national and international energy and mineral resources

The Nation faces increasing demands for energy and mineral resources, particularly in light of concerns about our dependence on resources imported from other countries. The DOI's energy and mineral resources research, assessments, and information will improve our understanding of resource occurrence, distribution, quality, and supply and foster multidisciplinary analyses of the broad economic, environmental, and societal consequences of resource extraction and use. The outcomes of these activities will inform decision making with respect to such issues as natural resource protection, environmental health, economic vitality, and responsible resource management on DOI and other lands.

Bureau Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Goal
USGS	Number of times USGS Energy Resources Program products were (successfully) accessed online (millions)	4.8 million products accessed	5.5 million products accessed
USGS	Number of times USGS Mineral Resources Program products were (successfully) accessed online (millions)	20.5 million online hits to USGS products	22.5 million online hits to USGS products

APPENDIX
MANAGEMENT
INITIATIVES

BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Department's vision for a 21st Century workforce is one that includes highly skilled and diverse staff reflective of the Nation and is effectively and efficiently managed. Attainment of the Department's strategic goals will be facilitated by the cross-cutting efforts that are highlighted here.

Goal #1 Build a 21st Century Workforce

The DOI's vision for a 21st Century includes a highly skilled and engaged workforce that reflects the diversity of the Nation and ensures that the Department achieves its mission area goals. Success will be assessed through the Best Places to Work rating that is based on the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. This measure is strategic and comprehensive and is a nationally recognized measure of the quality and satisfaction of the workforce.

Our organization meets the needs of the Nation, with a significant number of employees and volunteers at the local level and a variety of models for service delivery that are unique to DOI's 10 bureaus and multiple offices. Over 70,000 employees, plus a cadre of seasonal employees, and over 300,000 volunteers perform a spectrum of duties that require highly skilled individuals in unique disciplines able to conduct specialized activities such as firefighting, inspection of oil and gas operations, management of wild horse and burros, migratory bird aerial surveys, wildlife disease necropsy, and others.

The DOI benefits from a workforce that is passionate about the mission, dedicated to public service, highly skilled, and knowledgeable. A workforce, reflective of the diversity of the Nation, is the Department's greatest asset. Differences in background, thought, education, and experience contribute to the varied perspectives in the workplace and create a synergy for higher performance and success in the achievement of DOI's mission goals. The DOI is challenged by factors which include an aging workforce, need for technology, requirement to transfer knowledge, and improving workforce management and planning. The Department is focused on improvement in these key areas through strengthening human capital processes and tools and strategies that can be utilized at all levels of the Agency to ensure the growth and sustainment of a 21st Century workforce. This includes knowledge of current and future workforce requirements, marketing and branding to attract skilled talent at all levels, and ensuring employees are proficient to perform their jobs and managers and employees have the tools and resources required to be successful in supporting the Department's mission.

Strategies for achieving this Goal are outlined in the Department's Human Capital Plan as well as in supporting documents at the Agency and bureau level.

Office Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Target
PHR	Improvement in the National Best Places to Work Rating (Partnership for Public Service), as compared to the 2012 baseline.	Index Score = 59	Index Score = 64

Goal #2 Sustainability of Interior's Operations

The DOI completed its fourth Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan in 2013, mapping out strategies to reduce its environmental footprint with a goal to integrate sustainable practices into day-to-day operations and more effectively utilize resources and protect the environment.

The DOI is complying with the requirements of *Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance* by aligning sustainability goals with mission goals and focusing on strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build and rehabilitate facilities based upon

sustainability principles, and reduce water consumption. The Department's Sustainability Council links the efforts of employees with those of senior management to modify policies and practices for best results such as cooperative efforts (e.g., inviting employees to submit their ideas for improving sustainable practices) that will foster an inclusive and transparent process to promote sustainability.

Offices Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Target
PEP/PAM	Reduction in direct and indirect GHG emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by DOI and from consumption of purchased electricity, heat or steam (i.e. 20% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 2020)*	-18.2%	-16%
PEP/PFM	Reduction in indirect GHG emissions from sources including transmission and distribution losses, business travel, employee commuting, contracted wastewater treatment and contracted solid waste disposal (i.e. 9% reduction in Scope 3 GHG emissions by 2020)*	- 18.1%(E)	-20%

*Cross Agency Priority Goals

Goal #3 Dependability and Efficiency of Information Technology

Information technology is a key tool that supports the accomplishment of mission goals; technology can significantly advance the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and help employees to be more productive. Information technology can also help DOI to address increasingly complex challenges in managing a large and geographically dispersed organization. The DOI's vision is developing and providing the right mix of information technology products and services at a lower cost while delivering greater service to employees and customers.

The DOI is implementing a series of technology innovations and efficiencies to deliver improved services at a lower cost, including consolidation of infrastructure and shifting commodity technology services from in-house delivery mechanisms to capable external providers. These efforts will yield benefits in improved sustainability, reduced carbon footprint, and energy and efficiency savings.

Office Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Target
(b)(5)	Percentage of the 95 DOI committed data centers consolidated.*	62% (59 consolidated / 95 data centers)	100%

(b)(5)

Goal #4 Improve Acquisition and Real Property Management

The Department relies on the skills and services of the private sector for effective mission delivery, with approximately $4 billion expended annually for contracted goods and services. Over 50 percent of the Department's annual prime contract awards are made to small businesses. The mission goals of the Department are significantly advanced through effective management of contracts in a manner that reduces risk, and achieves desired results that cost less. Through a combination of innovative procurement methods, the Department is focused on the achievement of goals that will leverage purchasing power, promote efficient business practices, and focus on development and retention of a skilled acquisition workforce.

The Department of the Interior's real property portfolio includes approximately 43,000 buildings and 75,000 structures, valued at more than $240 billion, as well as nearly every type of asset found in a local community. Interior's assets are treasured for their cultural and historic significance; scenic, recreational, and environmental values; functional purposes like hydroelectric power and water management; and in some cases the revenues they provide. The Department's asset management program focuses on appropriate stewardship, maintenance, and capital investment for these assets in support of mission goals.

Program achievements are tracked utilizing both industry standard performance metrics and through initiatives to promote cost savings and the effective operation and management of facilities, such as space consolidation and the disposal of excess assets.

Office Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Target
PAM	Percentage of actions processed through existing contract sources (includes Federal Supply Schedule, Government-wide Acquisition Contracts, Indefinite Delivery Vehicles, and Blanket Purchase Agreements).	44%	44%
PAM	Percentage of acquisitions for IT hardware and land mobile radios made through Department-wide strategic sourcing vehicles.*	NEW	95%
PAM	Percent change from FY 2012 square footage baseline for buildings predominantly used as Offices and Warehouses	1.5% (E)	4.5%
PAM	Overall condition of buildings and structures, that are mission critical (based on the Asset Priority Index (API), as measured by the Facility Condition Index (FCI)	0.038	0.035

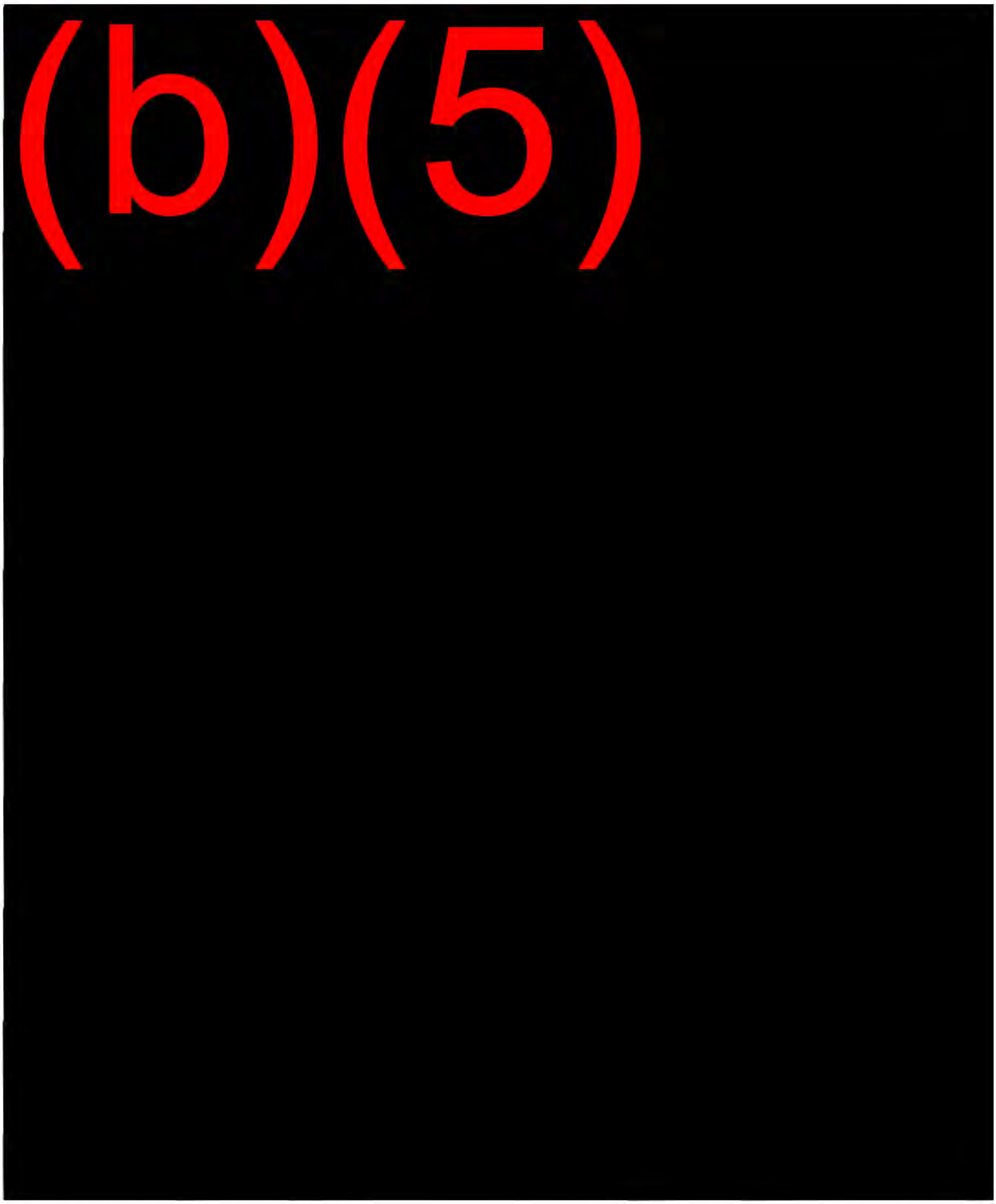
*Cross Agency Priority Goal

Goal #5 Promote Small and Disadvantaged Business

The DOI promotes small and disadvantaged businesses in the execution of $4 billion in annual contract awards, and awards over 50 percent of its prime contract awards to small businesses annually. . The DOI's program managers, acquisition specialists, and small business advocates promote the use of small businesses; conduct outreach with small businesses to inform them of upcoming contracting opportunities; and provide advice and counseling about the contracting process.

Office Reporting	Supporting Performance Measures	2013 Actual	2018 Target
PSD	Percentage of total prime contract awards made to small businesses.*	53%	60%

(b)(5)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ACRONYMS

BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BIE	Bureau of Indian Education
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
BSEE	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
DOI	Department of the Interior
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
GPRA	Government Performance and Results Act
IA	Indian Affairs
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
NPS	National Park Service
OIA	Office of Insular Affairs
ONRR	Office of Natural Resources Revenue
OSMRE	Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
OST	Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians
PAM	Office of Acquisition and Property Management
PEP	Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
PHR	Office of Human Resources
PIO	Chief Information Officer
PMB	Office of Policy, Management and Budget
PNH	Office of Native Hawaiian Relations
PSD	Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
PWF	Office of Wildland Fire
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
YPS	Office of Youth Services

For further information, visit the Department of the Interior Web site at:

www.doi.gov/bpp

or contact

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BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, January 31, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Jan 31, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SHELL TO SUSPEND ARCTIC OIL EXPLORATION. The Washington Post (1/30, Mufson, 4.28M) reports Royal Dutch Shell says that, "despite having made extensive preparations with upgraded rigs and support vessels," it doesn't plan to drill in Alaska's Arctic waters this year. Shell spokesman Curtis Smith "blamed 'uncertainty'" stemming from a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that the Post says challenged the validity of the lease sale in the Chukchi Sea. However, some analysts say the move is consistent with new CEO Ben van Beurden's plans to invest in projects with more immediate payoffs following recent setbacks that caused the company to write down projects' values.

The Wall Street Journal (1/31, Scheck, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that van Beurden says he's moving the company from a focus on increasing production to cost reduction. He added that, after the court's ruling that the Federal government used inadequate information to award exploration licenses for the Arctic, "The lack of a clear path forward means that I am not prepared to commit further resources for drilling in Alaska in 2014."

The Los Angeles Times (1/30, Vartabedian, 3.07M) notes that Shell has suffered "enormous technical and weather-related problems" over the past few years of Arctic oil exploration.

The AP (1/31, Sterling) casts the announcement as "a setback" to the "rush" to discover reserves in the arctic, adding that "Shell's troubles may indicate that the difficulties outweigh the potential economic benefits" of drilling in Arctic waters.

The FuelFix (1/30, Dlouhy, 7K) reports the company's move "effectively removes some heat from the politically sensitive issue of Arctic drilling during a midterm election year."

McClatchy (1/31, Cockerham, 95K) reports that "environmental groups hailed Shell's decision to suspend the

effort." Meanwhile, Sen. Lisa Murkowski said "she was disappointed that Shell wouldn't be going ahead this year." Sen. Mark Begich "blamed 'judicial overreach' for the situation." Begich said, "I'll be talking with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today, and expect her agency to move quickly to address the court's questions and concerns and do everything possible to get this process back on track." Coverage by McClatchy was also picked up by the Chicago Tribune (1/30, Cockerham, 2.32M) and the Everett (WA) Herald (1/30, 152K).

For the Los Angeles Times (1/30, Martelle, 3.07M), Scott Martelle writes that "Shell's decision to give up on Arctic Ocean oil drilling for 2014 is good news for the environment." He notes that "Shell announced Thursday that it was scrapping plans to drill this year after a Jan. 22 ruling by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which said the government violated the law when it opened the Arctic to drilling in the first place." According to Martelle, "though the decision doesn't preclude Shell and other oil companies from ultimately drilling on leases they bought from the federal government, maybe the court's ruling will lead the Obama administration to revisit its head-scratching conclusion that such efforts are safe."

Also covering this story are Bloomberg News (1/30, Swint, 1.91M), Reuters (1/31), the National Journal (1/31, Geman, Subscription Publication, 427K), the AP (1/31), the Environment & Energy Publishing (1/31, 705), the FuelFix (1/30, 7K), CNN (1/30, Smith, 14.53M), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (1/30, 768K), the Alaska Journal of Commerce (1/31, 14K), the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (1/30, 198K), the Alaska Business Monthly (1/31), the Alaska Business Monthly (1/31), Yahoo! Finance (UK and Ireland) (1/31, 5K), the Oil and Gas Journal (1/31, 1K), the Rigzone (1/31, 12K), the Marine Link (1/31, 1K), and the Pipeline Magazine (ARE) (1/31).

GROUP PRESSES SECRETARY JEWELL ON CLIMATE ACTIONS, METHANE LEAKS. Politico (1/31, Guillen, 464K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "needs to do more than her predecessors to tackle climate change, make oil and gas drilling safer and mitigate the impacts of development, the Center for Western Priorities says in a report out today making recommendations for Jewell's tenure." The group "recommends she increase onshore oil and gas royalty rates, utilize more master leading plans on federal lands, write rules for oil and gas producers on plugging methane leaks and give more protections to certain conservation areas."

BUSINESS, ENERGY COALITION TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST ADMINISTRATION'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN. The Washington Post (1/30, Eilperin, 4.28M) reports in its "Post Politics" blog, on the Partnership for a Better Energy Future and its aim to campaign against the Obama Administration's climate action plan. The coalition of energy, business and farm advocates which includes the US Chamber of Commerce's Institute for 21st Century Energy along with 77 other organizations, said in a news release that "it will present 'a unified strategy and message' in order to combat upcoming greenhouse gas regulations." National Association of Manufacturers spokesman Jamie Hennigan said that "members of the coalition collectively plan to dedicate millions of dollars towards this issue."

Reuters (1/31, Volcovici) reports that the coalition is led by NAM and the US Chamber of Commerce's Institute for 21st Century Energy and it plans to lobby lawmakers at all levels while educating the public on the regulations consequences on the economy. Institute for 21st Century Energy president and CEO Karen Harbert said the coalition will allow for a nationwide effort that is amplified and unified as there will be focus via grassroots networks and in Washington.

The Hill (1/30, Goad, 194K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that Harbert said that the coalition has "agreed to dedicate necessary resources to 'vigorously participate' in every facet of President Obama's effort to tackle climate change through regulation." "We plan to be present every step of the way," she said, adding, "We do this because we want a better outcome . . . Not because we want to throw obstacles in the way."

The Indianapolis Star (1/31, Groppe, 603K) quotes Harbert as saying, "We will block anything that is not in the interest of the American economy." Harbert "said the coalition will try to influence the regulatory process and seek congressional intervention" and will resort to litigation if necessary. "There's always the ultimate end game of litigation," she said, "There's not a tool that is off the table."

Environmental Groups Criticize Administration On Global Warming. The AP (1/31, Cappiello, 1.26M) reports that the President's State of the Union address shows that he is "sticking to a fossil-fuel dependent energy policy," and so rejecting "a monthslong, behind-the-scenes effort by nearly every major environmental group to convince the White House that the policy is at odds with his goals on global warming." The groups argue

that there is "a contradiction in increased American production of energy from oil and natural gas at the same time the government is attempting to reduce the pollution blamed for global warming." A letter sent to the White House January 16 is being seen as a significant change in the public stance of the groups, now said to be "united" as well as being "sharply critical" of the Administration. Leaders of various environmental groups are quoted criticizing the Administration.

UTAH GOV HERBERT ASSERTS STATE SOVEREIGNTY DURING STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS. The St. George (UT) News (1/30, 3K) reports that during the State of the State address Wednesday, Gov. Gary Herbert identified "three primary challenges" facing Utah: growth, asserting state sovereignty, and expanding the economy. On the topic of state sovereignty, Herbert "touched on public lands." He said, "More effective management of our public lands is also critical to our state. At no time was this more evident than during the federal government shutdown. Our national parks were closed, tourists were turned away and the livelihoods of Utah business owners were put in peril. Yet we were told by many in Washington there was nothing we could do to solve this problem." Herbert continued, "We do a lot of things well in Utah, but 'doing nothing' is not one of them. I was determined to open the parks, and I told Interior Secretary Sally Jewel we simply had to find a way – and that's exactly what we did. It took a little common sense and a lot of hard work. It took people of good will, including Representative Brad Dee, and legislators on both sides of the aisle working together to find the solution. ... As the opening of our national parks proved, Utah is in the best position to optimize the use of our public lands."

Additional coverage was provided by KCSG-TV St. George, UT (1/31, 43).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR APOLOGIZES FOR CLOSED MEETING ABOUT SAGE GROUSE. Additional coverage of Interior's "letter of regret over miscommunications that led to Craig Daily Press reporter Erin Fenner twice being asked to leave" while Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "met with Gov. John Hickenlooper, Moffat County commissioners and other officials on Jan. 22" was provided by the AP (1/31), which was picked up by the Washington Times (1/31, 417K), the Columbus (IN) Republic (1/31, 80K), and KGWN-TV Cheyenne, WY (1/31, 519).

The Loveland (CO) Reporter-Herald (1/31, 52K) editorializes that it is not Jewell "who broke the law." Rather, "it was the county commissioners," because "they are the ones bound by statute to conduct their business in public, and they failed to do so." According to the paper, if elected officials "are being told a federal official will not meet with them unless it's private, their choice is clear: they must avoid the meeting." The paper concludes that "it's unfortunate the public was denied observation of important public policy issues," and "it's more unfortunate that it was their federal government who had the hand that pulled the curtain on the window of transparency."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NEW MEXICO PROPOSES SALE OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. The AP (1/31) reports that "a Western outpost made famous by the Buffalo Soldiers and the US military's campaign to capture Geronimo is up for sale, one of a number of landmarks nationwide facing the wrecking ball amid tight budgets and a shift in Washington about what history is worth saving." According to the article, "Fort Bayard has become a drain on New Mexico's coffers and the state is desperate for ideas as historic preservation has lost funding under the Obama administration." The article notes that "historic preservation was championed during the Clinton and Bush years, first with Hillary Clinton's founding of the Save America's Treasures program and later through Laura Bush's support for a program focused on preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage." But the Obama Administration "pointed to the two programs for elimination in 2010, saying the benefits were unclear."

AP coverage was also picked up by the Washington Times (1/31, Bryan, 417K).

DOG OWNERS CRITICIZE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA RESTRICTIONS. The San Francisco Chronicle (1/31, Jones, 2.88M) reports that "the Bay Area's dogs should not see their off-leash zones shrunken to benefit birds and other wildlife in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, an overflow crowd of about 120 dog owners told park officials Thursday morning." Rep. Jackie Speier "hosted the forum at the Stern

Grove clubhouse for the public to sound off on the National Park Service's plan to restrict dogs in the park, which spans 18,000 acres along the San Mateo, San Francisco and Marin county coasts." Martha Walters of the Crissy Field Dog Group, one of the panelists at Thursday's event, said, "Everyone needs socialization and exercise. Being able to run freely, it's called having a healthy dog and a healthy human. For a lot of us, dogs are the fabric of our families, and we want to treat them well."

NPS WORKS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (1/31, 11.54M), the National Trust for Historic Preservation offers a "primer" on "who does what in the preservation world." For the NPS, the trust says that "parks and sites are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Park Service's work in preservation." The agency is also "responsible for the National Register of Historic Places, preservation grant programs, the certification program for federal historic tax incentives, and management of the certified local government program (more on this last one later)."

WOLF-WATCHING IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK TOUTED. For the "Travel" section of the Washington Post (1/31, Mishev, 4.28M), Dina Mishev, the editor in chief of Jackson Hole magazine, writes about the "wonders" of wolf-watching in Yellowstone National Park Mishev "saw pups playing, the pack feeding on an unidentified carcass and even the alpha pair mating." The experience left Mishev "addicted."

Bureau of Land Management:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS LINE UP AGAINST OREGON LOGGING BILL. The AP (1/31) reports that "environmental groups are lining up against Sen. Ron Wyden's bill to promote logging on federal forests in Western Oregon to help struggling timber counties." According to the article, "leaders from 10 national environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council, signed a letter urging members of the Senate to oppose the bill." The groups "say its measures to streamline environmental reviews threaten the foundations of laws like the Endangered Species Act."

BLM TO FURTHER ANALYZE 16 PARCELS. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/31, 288K) reports that the BLM is "deferring for further analysis 16 parcels nominated for oil and gas leasing in eastern Rio Arriba County, totalling about 13,300 acres of federal mineral estate near Cebolla." This move "follows an information gathering by the BLM and its cooperators to understand potential conflicts, including a 45-day public scoping period."

NEW MEXICO PANEL SUPPORTS STUDY ON BID TO ACQUIRE BLM LANDS. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (1/31, 288K) reports "the State Land Office's request for $250,000 to study whether it makes sense for New Mexico to acquire federal lands as a moneymaker for education was endorsed Thursday by a Senate committee." The Conservation Committee "unanimously approved the bill sought by Land Commissioner Ray Powell, sending it next to the Finance Committee."

BLM FINING HIKERS WHO IGNORE LAND CLOSURES. The AP (1/31) reports that BLM rangers are "issuing $275 tickets to people who break the rules by entering winter refuges for mule deer and elk around Durango, saying it's interfering with the animals feeding habits." According to the AP, "the low-elevation areas are closed to the public in the winter to give elk and mule deer alternatives to find food when they come down from heavy snow in the highlands." BLM spokeswoman Shannon Borders said Wednesday that "better weather is bringing more people outdoors, but the rules still stand."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Denver Post (1/31, 949K). Also reporting on the story is the Durango (CO) Herald (1/29, 28K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

COUNCIL ADVISES MONTANA TO LIMIT DEVELOPMENT IN SAGE GROUSE HABITAT. The AP (1/31) reports tha "a governor's council recommends Montana restrict new development in sage grouse habitat to avoid federal protections that would lead to tighter rules." The Greater Sage Grouse Advisory Council "outlined its recommendations in a 73-page report given to the governor on Wednesday." According to the article, "the groups' recommendations include a 'no surface occupancy' zone within one mile of active sage grouse breeding grounds and a quarter-mile buffer zone in less critical habitat." The council also "recommended the state fund a program

to give landowners incentives for habitat conservation and that state firefighting crews make immediate suppression of wildfires a priority in sage grouse habitat."

AP coverage was also picked up by the Washington Times (1/31, 417K), the Rapid City (SD) Journal (1/31, 103K), and the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (1/31, 731K).

SPACEX IDENTIFIES TEXAS CITY AS FINALIST FOR ORBITAL LAUNCH SITE. NPR (1/31, Burnett, 465K) reports that "the space company SpaceX has identified a remote spot on the southern tip of Texas as its finalist for construction of the world's newest commercial orbital launch site." However, the NPS is "concerned that rocket launches will disturb the "viewshed" of nearby Palmito Ranch Battlefield, the site of the last land battle of the Civil War." Also, the FWS "owns a wildlife refuge on the fence line of the proposed launch site." FWS spokesperson Lesli Gray said "the tidal flats, thorn scrub and adjacent Gulf waters are home to 10 endangered species, 'including the ocelot and the aplomado falcon and Kemp's Ridley sea turtle. We obviously are looking at what the potential impacts are, and we've been working with SpaceX to minimize any impact from the SpaceX facility being there.'"

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

NEW LAWS BOOST HYDROPOWER. The Bloomberg BNA (1/31, 7K) reports that "a pair of bills signed by President Barack Obama to streamline the approval process for small hydropower facilities has led to an increase in project investment and calls by proponents for more legislative fixes." According to Matt Nocella, assistant manager of strategic communication for the National Hydropower Association, "the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act (P. L. 113-23) and the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act (P. L. 113-24) will speed up the approval process for small hydropower projects, which typically can involve dozens of state and federal agencies and take up to five years." However, "a conservation group has warned the industry against assuming the new laws indicate broad public support for all new hydropower, regardless of impacts."

WIND ENERGY CONSTRUCTION AT ALL-TIME HIGH, BUT FUTURE MAY DEPEND ON RENEWING TAX CREDIT. Bloomberg News (1/31, Martin, 1.91M) reports that according to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), "more than 12,000 megawatts of U.S. wind farms were under construction at the end of 2013," yet just 1,084 megawatts were put online last year, which was attributed to a "halt" in construction due to Congress having "let the production tax credit lapse briefly at the start of last year." In 2012, 13,131 megawatts was brought online. Of the construction going at the end of 2013, 10,900 megawatts was started in the fourth quarter. The reason for that was that the tax credit applied to construction begun before the end of the year.

Gannett News Service (1/30, Doering, 7K) also reports that "wind energy construction in the United States is at an all-time high," yet further construction "is uncertain" due to Congress' failure so far to extend the production tax credit. AWEA CEO Tom Kiernan said that a "stable tax policy" was necessary to "avoid the boom-bust cycle" and help the industry to "thrive."

Onshore Energy Development:

PROTESTERS DEMAND BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA WATER QUALITY REGULATIONS. The Charleston (WV) Daily Mail (1/31, Constantino, 75K) reports that "a group of more than 50 demonstrators converged upon West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's front office Thursday to deliver a petition asking for better enforcement of water quality regulations." The West Virginia Citizen Action for Real Enforcement (CARE) Campaign "gathered more than 2,000 signatures from West Virginia residents," and "the petition was given to Becky Neal, director of intergovernmental affairs for the Tomblin administration, and Senate President Jeff Kessler, D-Marshall." Johanna de Graffenreid, coordinator for CARE, said, "It is requesting the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement intervene with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection mining program to ensure real enforcement of surface mining regulation and protect our communities and our clean drinking water."

Offshore Energy Development:

ENVEN WORKING TO KILL WELL FLOWING OUT OF CONTROL OF LOUISIANA COAST. The AP (1/30) reports that the US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said that the crew of an EnVen Energy Ventures "natural gas well being drilled off the Louisiana coast" was evacuated, and EnVen COO Jonathan Garrett said that "gas, water and sand are flowing," but that "gas is being vented off the rig while crews work to kill the well." The Coast Guard said that there was no "sheen" on the water.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (1/31, Schleifstein, 700K) reports, "The well is located at Vermilion Block 356, about 108 miles south of Lafayette." The well was being drilled from the Rowan rig "Louisiana."

Bloomberg News (1/30, Wethe, Chediak, 1.91M) cites Garrett saying that "there has been no fire, explosion or oil spill," and no injuries have been reported. Garrett said, "We are circulating seawater to try to get it under control," adding, "We're very concerned about a fire and taking all the precautions we can to keep that from happening."

AP coverage was picked up by the Washington (DC) Times (1/31, 417K), Yahoo! (1/31, 17.91M) , and ABC News (1/31, 3.68M). Also providing coverage are NBC News (1/31, 6.79M), the Lafayette (LA) Daily Advertiser (1/30, 111K), Rigzone (1/31, 12K), Marine Link (1/31, 1K), KATC-TV Lafayette (LA) Lafayette, LA (1/31, 16K) , and KLFY-TV Lafayette (LA) Lafayette, LA (1/31, 6K).

PAPER WARNS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH COULD UNNERVE ANWR OIL SUPPORTERS. The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (1/31, 44K) editorializes that President Obama's statement that he will use his "authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations" during his State of the Union speech "may have unnerved many development-minded Alaskans." According to the paper, the line "will most certainly raise alarm — and rightly so — among those who hope that Congress will someday authorize oil production in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." The paper concludes that doing so would "be unfortunate for our state and for our energy-hungry nation."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA DEALING WITH DROUGHT. The Huffington Post (1/30, 11.54M) reports that California is dealing with its "driest year since the state started measuring rainfall in 1849." The article note sthat "Gov. Jerry Brown has declared an emergency, President Barack Obama has pledged his support, and state and federal officials are stepping in to protect the state's most vulnerable groups. Californians of various faiths have taken to holding prayer sessions, looking to the heavens for rain."

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/28, 749K) reports that "San Joaquin Valley congressional Republicans took aim this week and missed their stated goal of helping California cope with drought." Now, "having unsuccessfully tried a long-shot, last-minute farm bill maneuver, the GOP lawmakers are regrouping." According to the article, "their next steps are unclear, though some are certainly on the way."

Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the San Francisco Chronicle (1/31, Fimrite, 2.88M) and the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (1/30, 126K).

BOR Decides To Give Westside Farmers Banked Water. The Merced (CA) Sun-Star (1/30, 86K) reports that the BOR has decided to give Westside farmers the water they had banked in San Luis Reservoir. However, BOR "leaders also had been considering seizing water now in Millerton Lake, another part of the federal Central Valley Project," and "no announcement has been made on that water."

The Imperial Valley (CA) News (1/31, 1K) reports that Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer both "praised" the BOR "for its decision to preserve rescheduled water supplies that Central Valley Project farmers have banked as a hedge against dry conditions." Feinstein said, "I commend Reclamation Commissioner Michael Connor for his decision to preserve rescheduled water for CVP contractors who invested in additional supplies. With farmers already suffering from extraordinary drought conditions, it would be unfair to take away water they set aside at great expense and upon which they are depending to get through this year. I fully support Reclamation's decision to stand with these farmers." Boxer said, "I am so pleased that the Bureau of Reclamation has heeded our call

and honored its commitment to Central Valley Project contractors. These contractors prudently saved water during wetter years and today's announcement will ensure that they are able to use those resources as promised during this unprecedented drought."

The Fresno (CA) Bee (1/30, 327K) applauds the "display of the bipartisanship that is needed to keep our country moving forward." According to the paper, the "power of bipartisanship — three Democrats and three Republicans — signing their names to the same letter" pleading with BOR Commissioner Michael Connor carried "considerable weight."

Also reporting on the story are the Hanford (CA) Sentinel (1/31, 25K) and the Southern California Public Radio (1/30, 57K).

Additional Coverage Of Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The Vacaville (CA) Reporter (1/31, 57K) reports that Congressman John Garamendi has reaffirmed that "he's doing everything to stop the Bay Delta Conservation Plan that calls for constructing two very large tunnels in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to transfer water south."

BOR PROVIDES REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS FOR CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT. The Red Bluff (CA) Daily News (1/31, 20K) reports that "in preparation for the Bureau of Reclamation's initial water year 2014 water allocation announcement in late-February, Reclamation is providing information on water supply conditions for the federal Central Valley Project." According to the article, "the CVP's carryover storage from WY 2013 into WY 2014 was 5.1 million acre-feet, which is 43 percent of capacity and 75 percent of the 15-year average for Oct. 1 in six key CVP reservoirs Shasta, New Melones, Trinity, Folsom, Millerton and the federal portion of San Luis."

NEGOTIATORS NEAR SETTLEMENT ON LAWSUIT OVER TRINITY RIVER FISH HATCHERY OPERATIONS. The Two Rivers Tribune (1/31) reports that "a host of negotiators with a stake in Trinity River fish, including the Hoopa and Yurok Tribes, are reportedly close to settling a lawsuit over hatchery operations." The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) sued the BOR, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife over how the Trinity River Hatchery was being run. EPIC claimed that "the facility was being run without a Hatchery Genetic Management Plan (HGMP), which is a violation of Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations." Gary Hughes, EPIC's executive director, said, "There was a settlement conference and the parties arrived at an agreement in principle. The terms were agreed on, but it still needs to be approved by the respective councils."

BOR OFFICIALS ATTEND IDAHO WATER USERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION. The Idaho Business Review (1/30, 35K) reports that "the 77th annual convention and general meeting of the Idaho Water Users Association was Jan. 21-23 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise." The article notes that "the three-day gathering featured an array of speakers and panels examining a wide range of water and environmental topics," including BOR Commissioner Michael Connor and Lorri Lee, Pacific Northwest regional director for the BOR.

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR REACHES Land BuybackAgreements With Montana Tribes. The AP (1/31) reports that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have signed cooperative agreements as part of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations. According to Chairman Ronald Trahan, on the Salish and Kootenai's Flathead Reservation, "tribal leaders plan to buy more than 38,000 acres of trust land." Northern Cheyenne President Llevando Fisher said "the program offers a chance to acquire property that will preserve the tribe's homeland for future generations." AP coverage was also picked up by the Helena (MT) Independent Record (1/31, 45K), the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (1/30, 90K), the Flathead (MT) Beacon (1/31, 15K), the Montana Kaimin (1/31, 11K), the Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (1/31, 31K), the Kansas City (MO) Star (1/30, 1.11M), and the Miami Herald (1/31, 806K).

The Missoulian (1/31, 104K) reports that the announcement of the agreements was made by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Jewell said "Interior intends to deliver purchase offers at the Flathead and Northern Cheyenne reservations later this year."

KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (1/31, 1K) reports that Jewell said, "We hope it's a catalyst for the tribes to sign on to help bring those resources that you have to bear – to reach out to members of your tribe no matter where they live."

An editor's comment for the Round House Talk (1/31) says "this isn't really significant." According to the comment, "these tribes don't have highly fractionated interest as other tribes in Indian Country." Also, it says that "DOI and BIA aren't tackling the highest fractionated Indian land yet and that's what the Cobell Settlement was intended to do."

Also reporting on the story are KECI-TV Missoula, MT (1/31, 2K), the Nation Sun News (1/31), the Native American Times (1/31, 337), and the Native News Online (1/31).

ANOTHER ROUTE PROPOSED FOR "A YEAR OF ACTION" IN INDIAN COUNTRY. For the Indian Country Today Media Network (1/30, 21K), Mark Trahant, the 20th Atwood Chair at the University of Alaska Anchorage, writes "in a year of action there needs to be another route forward." Trahant notes that the NCAI said, "However, the trend in funding for Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior does not reflect Indian self-determination as a priority in the federal budget." But he says that "it's not the Interior Department." Rather, "it's all of government and especially the Congress." Trahant proposes that "President Obama, when he visits Indian country this year, partners with tribal leaders to raise private money for tribal colleges."

Top National News:

OBAMA ORDERS REVIEW OF JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS. President Obama's post-State Of The Union stops in Wisconsin and Tennessee generated very light national media coverage. For instance, on Wednesday, all three network newscasts covered the President's appearances in Maryland and Pennsylvania to push themes from his Tuesday speech, but none of the three mentioned his appearances on Thursday.

Some of the print coverage this morning emphasizes the perception that the President's current set of agenda priorities is much less expansive than the ideas he pitched upon first taking office. The Los Angeles Times (1/31, Parsons, 3.07M) calls the job-training order signed by the President on Thursday "decidedly smaller bore," Peter Baker, in an analysis for the New York Times (1/31, A17, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the President is "advancing relatively small or incremental ideas," and David Brooks, in his column for the New York Times, asserts that "the legislating phase of [Obama's] presidency is now pretty much over."

In an interview with Jake Tapper for CNN's The Lead (1/31, 568K), President Obama said, "My big push is making sure we're focused on opportunity, making sure that every single day all of us in Washington are trying to think about ways that we can help folks get good jobs, make sure that they are trained for the good jobs that are out there, make sure that those jobs pay, make sure our kids are getting a great education."

The AP (1/31) reports from Waukesha, Wisconsin that on Thursday, President Obama, "stressing the importance of having job-training programs that work...ordered a 'soup to nuts' review of federal workforce training initiatives and pledged to copy the most successful ones." The AP says that while he was at a GE engine plant, "he signed a presidential memo directing Vice President Joe Biden to lead the review," which "will be applied later in the year to a competition to award $500 million in existing funds to design programs that pair community colleges with industry." The AP adds that House Speaker Boehner claimed "Biden's review was duplicative because the Government Accountability Office identified redundancies in a comprehensive review it completed in 2011."

The New York Times (1/31, A17, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that House Republicans "called the training review an example of Mr. Obama's go-it-alone refusal to work with them, noting that they have already passed legislation intended to overhaul job training programs, but that the bill has not been taken up in the Senate." The Times adds that the White House dismissed that criticism, arguing that "the Republican bill would ultimately mean less money for training programs and therefore was not acceptable."

In an article titled "On Policy Tour, Obama Pledges To Revamp Job Training," Reuters (1/31, Mason) reports that in Waukesha, the President said, "We've got a lot of programs, but not all of them are doing what they should be doing to get people filled for jobs that exist right now." The President added, "We've got to move away from what

my labor secretary calls 'train and pray.' You train workers first, and then you hope they get a job."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/31, Glauber, 798K) reports from Waukesha that the President "showed a serious, fiery side" as he "returned to what has become a central theme of his presidency: 'Restoring opportunity to every single person.'" The Journal Sentinel adds that the President also "made a pitch for Congress to increase the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour," and "spoke about the need for wage equality among women," saying, "If a woman is getting cheated, that's a family issue for the whole family."

Bloomberg News (1/31, Runningen, 1.91M) notes that the President "spoke hours after the Commerce Department reported that" the US economy "expanded at a 3.2 percent pace in the fourth quarter, following a 4.1 percent advance in the previous three months." According to Bloomberg News, the President said, "the economy's growth, while a positive sign that the recovery is accelerating, hasn't been evenly distributed." The President is quoted as saying, "Most folks' wages haven't gone up in over a decade."

The Washington Times (1/31, Wolfgang, 417K) reports that the President said he is "fully willing to work with Congress to spur economic growth and aid a struggling middle class, but he's done waiting for lawmakers to get on board." The President is quoted as saying, "Wherever I can take steps to expand opportunity to help working families, that's what I'm going to do, with or without Congress."

According to the Washington Post (1/31, Eilperin, 4.28M), "The entire scene – complete with cheering, well-paid industrial workers...was aimed at conveying the president's central message this year: that he can accomplish a range of policies outside Congress with the help of the private sector." The Post says "the stops on Obama's two-day trip have embodied not just the specific policies he is arguing will improve the lives of middle-class Americans, but the kind of communal approach to politics he has espoused from the start of his career." The Post adds that White House Press Secretary Jay Carney says the President is "determined to broaden the political conversation on economic and social issues."

However, the Los Angeles Times (1/31, Parsons, 3.07M) says the President's "jobs proposal was decidedly smaller bore," and reports that he "acknowledged as much" on Thursday. The Times also says the President's "order illustrates how limited his power is to affect the job market."

Obama Meeting With CEOs At The White House Today. Bloomberg News (1/31, Runningen, 1.91M) reported that on Friday, the President is "convening a meeting of company chief executive officers at the White House tomorrow to advance a program he laid out in his State of the Union address." According to Bloomberg News, Wal-Mart, Apple and Ford "are among about 300 companies that have pledged to take part in an initiative to help the long-term unemployed find jobs."

In his interview with Jake Tapper for CNN's The Lead (1/31, 568K) that was taped on Thursday, the President said, "Tomorrow is a great example of something that we are doing that doesn't involve legislation or funding. We know that one of the biggest problems right now in the jobs market is the long-term unemployed. Because they have been unemployed for some long, people are being looking for a gap in the resume and they are weeding them out before they get a chance for an interview. So what we have done is gathered together 300 companies, just to start with, including some of the top 50 companies in the country – companies like Wal-Mart and Apple and Ford and others – to say, 'let's establish best practices.' Do not screen people out of the hiring process just because they have been out of work for a long time."

Regarding the President's efforts on behalf of the long-term unemployed, Ed Schultz, on MSNBC's Ed Show (1/30, 449K), said, "I think this is one of the best things the President has done." Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) said, "I agree," and "I like the idea that the President is going directly to these companies and saying, 'we can do better, and it's in your best interests for all of our workers to do better.'"

NYTimes Analysis: Obama Has Adopted Clintonian Strategy He Once Derided. In an analysis for the New York Times (1/31, A17, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) under the headline "Obama Once Disdained Clinton's Small Steps and Now Takes His Own," Peter Baker says that in 2009, President Obama was quoted as saying, "I wasn't sent here to do school uniforms." According to Baker, the President's "implication was clear: He did not want to govern like" former president Clinton, but now the President "has a new appreciation for Mr. Clinton's style of leadership." Baker continues, "Much as" Clinton "adjusted his approach after running into

roadblocks in Congress, so is" the President "advancing relatively small or incremental ideas in hopes of circumventing opposition and making change one step at a time."

David Brooks, in his column for the New York Times, says the President now has "the opportunity to build what he himself....an Opportunity Coalition" that can "formulate, lobby for, fund and promote opportunity and social mobility agendas for decades to come."

Obama Draws Attention To Nashville High School's Achievements. The Tennessean (1/31, Gang, 417K) reports that at Nashville's McGavock High School, President Obama "pushed his plan for expanding early childhood education...and praised Nashville and Tennessee for the educational gains made." According to the Tennessean, McGavock was "selected for [Thursday's] speech in part because" it is "among the top schools in the state for student growth and has combined college-preparatory courses with work- and project-based learning." The President is quoted as saying, "If Nashville can bring schools, teachers, business and parents together for the sake of our young people, then other places can."

The Washington Times (1/31, Wolfgang, 417K) notes that in Nashville, the President "repeated his promise to put wireless internet access at every school in America and said more schools should focus on the kind of real-world job training that prepares students for careers in the 21st century." According to the Times, the President "highlighted McGavock's system of 'academies,' partnerships with local businesses that allow students to pick specialty areas such as aviation, health science, digital design and communication, and others."

Politico (1/31, Epstein, 464K) reported that on Thursday, the President "met...with the family of the Tennessee teenager who was shot and killed by a classmate Tuesday," and "briefly acknowledged the shooting death...during his remarks at...McGavock High School," but "made no further reference to gun control, or to changing gun laws."

Perez Touts Minimum Wage Hike At Hardware Store. Melinda Henneberger, in a piece for the Washington Post (1/31, Henneberger, 4.28M), notes that Labor Secretary Perez visited Ace Hardware in Washington's Mount Vernon Square, "where all employees are paid more than the minimum wage," in order to "highlight President Obama's State of the Union message about raising the federal minimum wage." Perez is quoted as saying, "Paying folks a fair wage is the essence of growing a small business." According to Henneberger, Perez "disputed a reporter's question about how unlikely it is that a Republican-controlled Congress will pass legislation to raise the wage," saying, "People in red states and blue states understand no one who works full-time should live in poverty."

Lew: MyRAs Offer Workers Without A Retirement Plan A Way To Save. In an op-ed for McClatchy (1/31, Lew, 95K) under the headline "The Difference With A MyRA," Treasury Secretary Lew notes that "only about half of all workers have access to an employer-based retirement plan, such as a 401(k)," and when "left on their own, few workers save." Lew says that with this in mind, the Administration "has designed a new way for working Americans to start saving for the future," myRA or My Retirement Account, which is "designed to help low- and middle-income workers...begin saving for retirement." Lew notes that "contributions are made through automatic payroll deductions, making them hassle-free," and "there are no fees."

The Wall Street Journal (1/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, says that if it is true that that myRA accounts have no fees associated with them, then the money that it will take to administer them will have to come from Treasury's budget although Congress never appropriated any funds for the program, which did not exist until this week.

Federal Unions Have Suggestions For More Executive Actions. Joe Davidson, in his column for the Washington Post (1/31, Davidson, 4.28M) reports that "Federal labor leaders" have "a wish list waiting for presidential action." According to Davidson, NTEU president Colleen Kelley "wants Obama to propose a 3.3 percent pay raise for federal workers," while AFGE, "the largest federal union, has a top 10 list of actions," including "align local pay boundaries for blue-collar and white-collar feds," and "enforce the annual cap on taxpayer subsidies for contractor compensation."

Marcus: Obama Needs To Address Debt Crisis. Ruth Marcus, in her column for the Washington Post (1/31, Marcus, 4.28M), criticizes the President for failing to address "the intertwined issues of dealing with the debt and

controlling entitlement spending" during the State Of The Union address. According to Marcus, the President "once...promised to stop kicking the can down the road," but "now...acts as if there is no can."

Obama Quip About The Value Of An "Art History Degree" Draws Criticism. Politico (1/31, Epstein, 464K) reports that on Thursday in Wisconsin, the President said, "I promise you that folks can make a lot more potentially with skilled manufacturing or the trades than they might with an art history degree. Now, there's nothing wrong with an art history degree; I love art history, so I don't want to get a bunch of emails from everybody." Politico notes that in response, Linda Downs, the executive director and CEO of the College Art Association, called the President's comment "just awful."

BOEHNER OFFERS IMMIGRATION REFORM PRINCIPLES THAT INCLUDE PATH TO LEGAL STATUS, BUT NOT CITIZENSHIP. House Speaker Boehner raised the touchy issue of immigration reform with the House Republican caucus at its annual retreat, offering a one-page list of principles for reform. While none of the broadcast networks covered the outline, major newspapers did, with their focus mainly on the House GOP leadership's proposal for a path to legal status, though not citizenship, for those who are in the US illegally. Several reports call this a major shift in GOP messaging on immigration as midterm elections loom – and one that could further fracture the party's divisions. The language of the coverage is generally upbeat, saying that the statement of principles represents real movement on the key issue.

The AP (1/31) reports House Republicans "wrestled" with the immigration issue, "sharply divided" over both the issue itself "and the political wisdom of acting on it in an election year." Boehner outlined several principles toward reform, "the most divisive" of which is a proposal for a "pathway to legal status for millions of adults who live in the U.S. unlawfully and would be required to pay back taxes as well as fines to come out of the legal shadows." Reuters (1/31) says that while Boehner was seeking unity, a source said the principles are open to change.

USA Today (1/31, Davis, Gomez, 5.82M) reports that according to "a source who attended the retreat," Boehner said, "I believe these standards represent a fair, principled way for us to solve this issue, beginning with securing our borders and enforcing our laws. We will address this issue in a step-by-step, common sense fashion that starts with securing our nation's borders and enforcing our nation's laws." Boehner said he opposed a single comprehensive bill of the sort passed in the Senate last year.

The New York Times (1/31, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the one-page document was careful to point out that those in the country illegally would be offered "a path to legal status – but not citizenship." The Times says the principles are intended to help Boehner "gauge the [GOP] conference's willingness to embark" on immigration legislation. Roll Call (1/31, Newhauser, Subscription Publication, 87K) says while the leadership has been discussing the issue "for months," the document is their first draft for how they "want to take on the contentious issue, which is splitting their party" at the retreat.

The Washington Post (1/31, Nakamura, Kane, 4.28M) says that it was the first time the House Republican leadership has said it was open to legal status. The principles also include "increased border security, new workplace hiring verification and changes to the current visa programs for foreign workers and families." The Los Angeles Times (1/31, Bennett, Memoli, 3.07M) says those brought to the US as children "would be allowed to apply for legal residence and citizenship."

The Hill (1/31, Berman, 194K) reports that "according to a person in the room," Boehner warned that the GOP would not go beyond legal status. Boehner reportedly said, "These standards are as far as we are willing to go. Nancy Pelosi said yesterday that for her caucus, it is a special path to citizenship or nothing. If Democrats insist on that, then we are not going to get anywhere this year."

McClatchy (1/31, Lightman, 95K) looks at the principles from a political perspective, saying the document is "aimed at helping the party overcome suggestions that it's intolerant," though threatening "to further divided an already-torn Republican party." The Washington Times (1/31, Dinan, 417K) similarly says party leaders "have a tricky needle to thread" in trying "to tamp down on harsh rhetoric they believe hurt them" with Latino voters in 2012 while avoiding "a vicious split within the party that could prompt primary challenges" and keep the base at home this fall.

The Christian Science Monitor (1/31, Kiefer, 540K) considers the timing, writing that while "some Republicans say the House is simply picking up where it left off last year," others fear raising the issue during the midterm election season. Those "in the 'move now' faction" say winning Latino support is important this year, and argue that the usually Republican business community, and the US Chamber of Commerce in particular, want action on reform. The Daily Caller (1/31, Munro, 422K) says business groups "lauded" the document.

The Huffington Post (1/31, Foley, 11.54M) says the single-page document is considered "a jumping-off point for discussion."

McCain: "I Will Support Everything They're Doing." The Hill (1/31, Bolton, 194K) reports Sen. John McCain, the co-author of the Senate bill that Boehner and other House Republicans have criticized, "praised" the House leadership for issuing the principles. McCain said, "I think they're fine. I will support everything they're doing and certainly will not take shots from the sidelines."

Cruz Says House GOP Should Not "Support Amnesty." The Hill (1/31, Trujillo, 194K) reports in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that Sen. Ted Cruz said at a Bloomberg News breakfast, "I think it would be a mistake if House Republicans were to support amnesty for those here illegally." He added, "In my view we need to secure the borders, we need to stop illegal immigration. And we need to improve and streamline legal immigration."

Evangelicals Run Pro-Reform Ads On Conservative Websites. Politico (1/31, Kim, 464K) reports that the National Association of Evangelicals is also pressing for immigration reform through the Evangelical Immigration Table, which launched new online ads on conservative websites Thursday after running a full-page ad in USA Today earlier this week.

Many Immigration Reform Advocates Pleased By GOP Shift. The Washington Post (1/31, Constable, 4.28M) says many immigration reform advocates responded "positively" to the "new Republican overtures," signaling that they "may back off on their longtime insistence that legislation must include a 'special path' to citizenship." While some "said they would continue to insist on a full path to citizenship," Boehner's principles "seemed to signal a sea change in the party's stance, and many major immigrant advocate groups seemed eager to respond in kind." Clarissa Martinez of the National Council of La Raza said, "To see the Republicans moving from self-deportation to legalization is a major shift."

Union Says CIS Would Not Be Able To Handle Workload From Legal Status Applications. The Washington Times (1/31, Dinan, 417K) reports that the National Citizenship and Immigration Services Council, the labor union representing US Citizenship and Immigration Services employees, said Thursday that CIS cannot "handle the workload" that would come from granting legal status to 11 million people, "and said the change would guarantee criminals and others would be approved to remain in the country." Union President Kenneth Palinkas said in a letter to House Judiciary Chairman Robert Goodlatte, "USCIS is not equipped to handle this workload, and due to political interference in its mission, is not empowered to deny admission to all those who should be denied due to ineligibility."

Survey Shows Many Latinos Believe Strongly In American Dream. The Washington Post (1/31, Constable, Clement, 4.28M) reports that a recent national poll by the Post and the University of Virginia's Miller Center indicates that in many cases, Latinos' "faith in the American Dream exceeds that of whites and African Americans – an optimism that contrasts sharply" with the group's economic status. The Post says the poll shows that many Latinos have a "determination to succeed and faith that education and work" will "lift their families from humble circumstances."

NYTimes Sees Boehner's Principles As Step In Right Direction. The New York Times (1/31, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that "principles are no substitute for actual legislation, and we're still a great distance from a deal" on immigration, but Boehner's list is welcome "after years of stalemate." Proposing legal status "is a big step away from neo-nativism," and the principles "also acknowledge that children should not be punished for their parents' acts." But the Times says "any legalization plan has to include the real possibility of immigrants' becoming Americans." The Times also criticizes President Obama as "the deporter-in-chief," writing that his Administration "has expelled nearly two million people, breaking up thousands of the families the president has repeatedly promised to protect."

More Commentary. Columbia University professor of history and Asian-American studies Mae Ngai writes in a New York Times (1/31, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) op-ed that the principles are "a welcome sign that seven months after the Senate passed a comprehensive bill...there might be movement on the issue this year." Ngai writes that even the call for legal status "is likely to raise hackles among conservatives," but they "are blind to the lessons of history. The United States has a long track record not only of legalizing illegal immigrants...but also of pairing legalization with a grant of permanent residency, the prerequisite for naturalization."

ECONOMIC NEWS GENERALLY POSITIVE ON THURSDAY. In general, the economic news out on Thursday is being seen as positive by the media, particularly the strong GDP numbers. However, there was some concern about the drop in an index of pending home sales and by the unexpected increase in new jobless claims, though media coverage tended to discount the latter.

GDP Grew At 3.2% Annual Rate In Fourth Quarter Of 2013. The CBS Evening News (1/30, story 5, 1:45, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that in "good news," the economy "grew 3.2 percent in the last three months of last year, not gangbusters, but economists consider it healthy," and "Wall Street liked it." CBS (Mason) says that the economy "may finally be gaining momentum. The growth rate in the second half of last year, 3.7 percent, was the strongest in a decade."

The New York Times (1/31, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the US economy "finished 2013 on a healthy note," with the GDP rising at a 3.2% annual rate during the 4th quarter, according to data released Thursday by the Department of Commerce. While the Q4 growth "was a deceleration from the pace of expansion in the summer," it was "still well above the anemic rate of growth in the first half of 2013."

In a front-page story, the Washington Post (1/31, A1, Mui, 4.28M) reports that "unprecedented spending cuts and the first government shutdown in nearly two decades significantly slowed economic growth at the end of 2013 even as the private sector proved surprisingly resilient." The Post says that the "pace of growth would have been a percentage point higher without the political chaos on Capitol Hill."

The Wall Street Journal (1/31, Portlock, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the economy closed the last six months of 2013 with one of its best periods of growth in the past decade as consumer spending was solid, backed by an increase in business investment and exports soared. The Journal says that the 3.2% rate was in line with the expectations of economists it had surveyed.

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the economy has now grown at 2.5% or better for the past three quarters. The Journal says that it good news, and better news is that the growth come almost entirely from the private sector, as public sector spending dropped sharply during recent months. The Journal says that fact is a rebuke to Keynesians, who argued that a drop in spending by the government would cripple the economy.

Pending Home Sales Down Sharply. The Wall Street Journal (1/31, Timiraos, Hudson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the National Association of Realtors index of pending home sales fell 8.7% in December, hitting its lowest rate in two years. Over the past 12 months, sales are down 8.8%. A pending home sale is one for which a contract has been signed by the deal not yet closed, and the index covers existing homes, not new construction. The Journal says that the index is a sign that the market has cooled significantly in recent months, under the combined impact of rising mortgage rates, rising prices and limited inventory.

Bloomberg News (1/31, Woellert, 1.91M) reports that in December, "tight inventory" and "unusually cold weather discouraged prospective buyers, according to the group." Bloomberg News says that addition gains in "hiring, household wealth and consumer confidence would help boost the housing recovery and the economy."

Jobless Claims Rose Last Week. Bloomberg News (1/30, Smialek, 1.91M) reports that first-time claims for jobless benefits rose 19,000 for the week ending January 25 to 348,000, according to new data out from the Department of Labor. Economists surveyed by Bloomberg News expected claims to come in at 330,000. Claims are at their "highest level in more than a month, partly reversing a post-holiday slump." The four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, rose 750 to 333,000.

The AP (1/31) reports that the four-week average "is close to pre-recession levels and suggests that, despite last

week's rise, layoffs remain low" but "hiring will need to pick up to cut the still-high 6.7% unemployment rate."

Mortgage Rates Down This Week. The AP (1/30) reports that the rates on fixed mortgages "slipped this week." According to data released by Freddie Mac on Thursday, the average rate for a 30-year loan fell to 4.32% from 4.39% the prior week. The average rate on a 15-year loan fell to 3.40% from 3.44%. The AP says that rates are up "about a full percentage point" since "hitting record lows roughly a year ago." The rise was "driven by speculation that the Federal Reserve would reduce its $85 billion a month in bond purchases."

Bloomberg News (1/30, Gopal, 1.91M) reports that the rates "fell to a two-month low, cutting borrowing costs for homebuyers prior to a Federal Reserve move to further scale back stimulus measures that have helped keep loans inexpensive."

Consumer Confidence Down Last Week. Bloomberg News (1/31, Peralta, 1.91M) reports that its Consumer Comfort Index "dropped last week to the lowest level in two months as more Americans said it was not a good time to shop." The index fell to minus 31.8 for the week ending January 26 from minus 31.0 the prior week. Bloomberg News says that falling stock prices "are probably damping sentiment among upper-income groups, while higher gasoline costs at the pump hurt the nation's lowest earners."

Stocks Rallied On Thursday. The Wall Street Journal (1/31, Dieterich, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that stocks bounced back on Thursday, boosted by stronger than expected earnings reports. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 109.82 points to 15,848.61, while the S&P 500 rose 19.99 points to 1,794.19. The Nasdaq Composite Index rose 71.69 points to 4,123.13.

Tech Bubble Said To Be Building. USA Today (1/31, Swartz, 5.82M) reports that the "tech bubble is alive and, well, expanding." The "latest upswing, unlike its predecessor in the late 1990s, is benefiting from speculation and real revenue and profits." Charles King, principal analyst for market researcher Pund-IT, said, "It's deja vu all over again, but this time we have thriving markets for smartphones, social media, cloud computing and e-commerce. Before, it was just pure speculation about e-commerce's promise."

US Banks Easing Lending Standards. In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (1/31, A1, Tracy, Chaudhuri, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that big US banks are starting to loosen their lending standards, potential easing the path for consumers and businesses to borrow. That, in turn, could provide a significant economic boost. The OCC on Thursday released data showing that banks started to relax their lending standards for businesses and consumers during the 18 months prior to July, 2013.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Fixing Immigration, In Principle."*** The New York Times (1/31, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that principles for immigration reform offered by House Speaker Boehner "are no substitute for actual legislation, and we're still a great distance from a deal" on immigration, but Boehner's list is welcome "after years of stalemate." Proposing legal status "is a big step away from neo-nativism," and the principles "also acknowledge that children should not be punished for their parents' acts." But the Times says "any legalization plan has to include the real possibility of immigrants' becoming Americans." The Times also criticizes President Obama as "the deporter-in-chief," writing that his Administration "has expelled nearly two million people, breaking up thousands of the families the president has repeatedly promised to protect."

"A New Day For New Yorkers." The New York Times (1/31, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that New York Mayor Bill de Blasio "closed a divisive chapter in New York City history" by his announcement that the city will settle a stop and frisk lawsuit, and notes that the city "can now set about taking the corrective steps that Judge Scheindlin ordered," which "should help to bring police policies fully in line with the Constitution."

"Football, Pain And Marijuana."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Obama's Free-Trade Hurdle."*** The Washington Post (1/31, 4.28M), in an editorial, says that while Senate Majority Leader Reid "sounded as if he were rejecting" Trade Promotion Authority "that might be a stretch." The Post notes that Reid "has never been much for free-trade deals," but "has nevertheless

permitted such legislation to move through the Senate in the past, and he stopped short of an explicit threat to block it this time."

"Argentina's Coming Collapse." The Washington Post (1/31, 4.28M), in an editorial, argues that Argentina appears headed toward another financial bust as a result of "the populist policies pursued in recent years by President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner." The Post calls it "good news" that "the economic slide contributed to a defeat for Ms. Kirchner's faction in elections last fall, meaning that she will be forced to leave office when her presidential term expires at the end of next year," and notes that Kirchner and her economic team should "use this status to take measures that could set the stage for a future recovery," but instead their strategy "appears aimed at avoiding an immediate default rather than addressing the economy's underlying problems."

"Callous Disregard."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Barack's New Bond Fund."*** The Wall Street Journal (1/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, says that if it is true that that myRA accounts have no fees associated with them, then the money that it will take to administer them will have to come from Treasury's budget although Congress never appropriated any funds for the program, which did not exist until this week.

"Assad's Chemical Charade." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that is not surprising that once Syrian President Assad was given a role in his chemical disarmament, he would take every opportunity to delay and deceive. The Journal dismisses the State Department's comments on the matter as mild and argues that the Obama Administration is unlikely to raise the issue at the UN or to follow through on the President's pledge to use military action "if diplomacy fails."

"Less Government, Faster Growth." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/31, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the economy has now grown at 2.5% or better for the past three quarters. The Journal says that it good news, and better news is that the growth come almost entirely from the private sector, as public sector spending dropped sharply during recent months. The Journal says that fact is a rebuke to Keynesians, who argued that a drop in spending by the government would cripple the economy.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Waxman Retirement Ends Era
Potential Successors Line Up
US Says Syria Is Playing For Time On Arms
Voices Rising As Song Drops From Oscar Contention
Just Keeps Cooking

Wall Street Journal:
US Says Syria Delaying Disarmament
US Starts To Hit Growth Stride
Team Sports Don't Make The Cut With American Kids
Selloff In Europe Is Sign Of Broad Fear

New York Times:
Mayor Says New York City Will Settle Suits On Stop-And-Frisk Tactics
US Is Seeking Death Penalty In Boston Case
In Landrieu Races, Obama Helps And Hinders
NSA Choice Is Navy Expert On Cyberwar
Another Super Bowl Ad Fest, This Time On The Cellphone
Its Great Lake Shriveled, Iran Confronts Crisis Of Water Supply
Talks Stall As President Of Ukraine Calls In Sick

Washington Post:
Economy Had Solid Gains At Year-End
Some States Customize Education Overhaul
Md. Officer Killed Son While Trying In Vain To Defend Wife, Police Say
A Crumbling Investment

Financial Times:
India's Central Bank Chief Hits Out At US
Danish Coalition On Brink In Goldman Drama
Amazon Reviewing Its Prime Numbers
Microsoft Cloud Chief Tipped For Top Role
Google Held Back By Motorola Unit Losses
Blackstone To Pursue Retail Investors
Investors Should Avoid Casting Their Net Too Wide In EM Pool

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Italy-Amanda Knox Case; Italy-Amanda Knox Case-Analysis; Severe Weather; California-Drought; Sochi Olympics Tsarnaev Case; Cruise Ship Illness; Boat Rescue; Gun Safety; Skydiver Rescue; NASA-Eclipse Photos; Rutgers University-Politicizing Beyonce Course.
CBS: Severe Weather-Georgia; Severe Weather-Abandoned Cars; Severe Weather-Minnesota; Tsarnaev Case; US Economy; Congress-Henry Waxman Retiring; Ukraine-Violent Protests; Syria-Chemical Weapons; Syria-Toddler Rescue Video; California-Drought-Nevada Reservoirs; Kentucky-House Fire.
NBC: Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Alabama; California-Drought; Kentucky-House Fire; Tsarnaev Case; Italy-Amanda Knox Case; Air Force Cheating Scandal; Congress-Henry Waxman Retiring; Super Bowl Security; Utah-School Lunch Incident; Sports Memorabilia Lawsuit; Iraq And Afghanistan Wars Survey; Transportation-Eastern Airlines; Laura Bush-Presidential Spouses; Severe Weather-Good Samaritans.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Yahoo-Security Breach; Tsarnaev Case; Italy-Amanda Knox Case; Severe Weather-Georgia; Montreal-Deadly Subway Escalator Incident.
CBS: Tsarnaev Case; Italy-Amanda Knox Case; Yahoo-Security Breach; Air Force Cheating Scandal.
FOX: Italy-Amanda Knox Case; Keystone Pipeline Review; Congress-Oil Exports Ban; Yahoo-Security Breach; Sports-NFL Counterfeit Crackdown; Kentucky-House Fire; Justin Bieber Case;
NPR: Tsarnaev Case; Congress-Flood Insurance Program; Syria-Chemical Weapons; Congress-Henry Waxman Retiring; Stroller Recall; Severe Weather-Georgia; Health-Vodka Study.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – In-town pool call; receives the Presidential Daily Briefing with the Vice President, Oval Office, closed press; the President and Vice President meet with CEOs, State Dining Room, stills only, pool spray; the President delivers remarks outlining new efforts to help the long-term unemployed, the Vice President also attends, East Room, open press; the President participates in a virtual road trip across the country via Google+ Hangouts to discuss his State Of The Union address, Roosevelt Room, live streamed on WhiteHouse.gov, YouTube.com/whitehouse and the White House Google+ page. Notes: 12:30 p.m. press briefing by Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing with the President, Oval Office, closed press; the President and Vice President meet with CEOs in the State Dining Room, stills only, pool spray; attends the President's East Room speech on efforts to help the long-term unemployed, open press.

MICHELLE OBAMA – Michelle Obama visits Los Angeles and San Francisco.
US Senate: Not in session.
US House: 3 p.m. – House meets in pro-forma session.

Other: WASHINGTON AUTO SHOW – Jan. 21 – Feb. 2. Annual auto show and related events, including Public Policy Preview Days which offer registered members of the media access to industry executives, legislators, Administration officials and automotive technology innovators plus a sneak peek at the latest models and technology advancements. Show opens to the public on Jan. 23. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW (unless otherwise noted). Contacts: Barbara Pomerance (bp@pomeranceassociates.com), 800-697-7574.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ISSUES CONFERENCE – Jan. 29 – 31. Congressional Institute's 2014 "Congress of Tomorrow Issues Conference." Reporters wishing to cover the event must have a congressional press ID and complete registration form no later Thursday, Jan. 23. Location: Cambridge, Md. Contacts: Nate Hodson 202-226-9000 (202-360-2042)

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ROUNDTABLE – 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Network for Excellence in Health Innovation (NEHI) and Prescriptions for a Healthy America host a roundtable discussion on the potential of Health Information Technology to improve patient care, outcomes, safety and to lower costs through improved medication management and adherence. Location: The Americas Room, Pew Conference Center, 901 E St. NW. Notes: To RVSP or schedule media interviews please contact Nick King of NEHI at nking@nehi.net, 617-225-0857 or Sloane Salzburg for Prescriptions for a Healthy America at sloane.salzburg@cahc.net, 202-618-3797.

HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGES – 9 a.m. Media-Only Breakfast on "Health Insurance Exchanges – Where We Are Now? State of Exchanges and Enrollment." Speakers: Christine Ferguson, Director, Rhode Island Health Benefits Exchange Audrey Haynes, Secretary, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Heather Howard, Director, State Health Reform Assistance Network; Mila Kofman, Executive Director, DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority; Peter Lee, Executive Director, Covered California. RSVP to: Genevieve Rupp at grupp@gymr.com, 202-745-5118. Location: National Press Club, Fourth Estate Room, 529 14th St NW. Contacts: Virginia Bader vbader@gymr.com (202-745-5059)

NASA – CHALLENGER CEREMONY – 9 a.m. NASA will pay will tribute to the crews of Apollo 1 and space shuttles Challenger and Columbia, as well as other NASA colleagues, during the agency's Day of Remembrance on Friday, Jan. 31. NASA's Day of Remembrance honors members of the NASA family who lost their lives while "furthering the cause of exploration and discovery". NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and other agency senior officials will hold an observance and wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery Friday morning. There will be several locations in Arlington National Cemetery beginning at 9 a.m. Location: Arlington National Cemetery. Contacts: Allard Beutel allard.beutel@nasa.gov (202-358-2191).

SAIS – WESTERN BALKANS – 10 a.m. "A Fresh Perspective on the Western Balkans" with Jonathan Moore, director for the Office of South Central European Affairs at the US Department of State; Edward Joseph, senior fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations (CTR), and Sasha Toperich (moderator), senior fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations. Location: Room 500, Bernstein-Offit Building, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., NW. Contacts: Francesca Di Marco SAIS (fdimarco@jhu.edu)

CONSUMER DATA BREACHES – PRESS CALL – 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. ABA, CBA, FSR, ICBA to Host Background Call on Recent Consumer Data Breaches – the American Bankers Association (ABA), the Consumer Bankers Association (CBA), the Financial Services Roundtable (FSR), and the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) will host a joint background conference call for members of the media on the recent data breaches at retailers such as Target, Nieman Marcus and Michaels. This call, which is for background purposes only, will focus on the shared responsibility between banks and merchants for securing consumer data. Speakers: Kenneth Clayton, Executive Vice President and Chief Counsel, ABA; Paul Smocer, President of BITS – Financial Services Roundtable; Viveca Ware, Executive Vice President , Regulatory Policy – ICBA. RSVP Tom Crosson at tcrosson@cbanet.org to receive the conference call number and passcode. Contacts: Tom Crosson tcrosson@cbanet.org ((703) 869-1246)

K-12 EDUCATION ISSUES IN 2014 BRIEFING – 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Capitol Hill briefing on the California School Boards Association on K-12 Education issues in 2014. The briefing will be presented by Dennis Meyers, Assistant Executive Director for Governmental Relations, and Erika Hoffman, Legislative Advocate, of the California School Boards Association. It will cover Governor Brown's state budget proposal and its implications for K-12 education, the state's new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and issues regarding the Federal

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization. RSVP to sullivan@calinst.org or 202-785-5456. Location: B369 Rayburn.

MEI – USAID SHAH – SYRIA – 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. The Middle East Institute will host Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, for a keynote discussion on USAID efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Location: The National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW, 13th Floor. Contacts: information@mei.edu (202) 785-1141

ANNUAL SILVER ARCHER AWARDS – 6 p.m. 3rd Annual Silver Archer – USA Awards Ceremony. Among invited guests are representatives of the diplomatic mission of Russia in the US, Trade Representation of the Russian Federation in the US, Russian center for science and culture in Washington, D.C., Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, journalists and communications professionals. Location: National Press Club, Ballroom, 529 14th Street NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Once again this year, President Obama will grant an interview to a journalist from the network broadcasting the game [Super Bowl]. The game is on FOX this year, so Bill O'Reilly is going to do the interview. That makes sense, because, you know, Super Bowl Sunday, most people just want to get together with their friends, eat nachos, drink beers and watch people fight about healthcare reform. I'm taking O'Reilly with the points."

David Letterman: "You know, President Obama – by the way, I wouldn't give that guy's troubles to a monkey on a rock. They had the State of the Union address, and the ratings were very low for the State of the Union address. And I gave this some thought. I think I know why the ratings were low. Because it's the State of the Union address. That's why. Next year it will be presented by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler."

Jimmy Fallon: "And I just read this today. The [Denver] Broncos safety Mike Adams, you guys know that guy? He says that if his team wins the Super Bowl, he's going to walk 12 miles to his hometown in Paterson, New Jersey, after the game. That's pretty good. Thanks to Chris Christie, it's probably the fastest way to get there anyway."

Jimmy Fallon: "Did you guys hear about this? NSA leaker Edward Snowden was just nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. Yeah. When Snowden asked where he could pick up the award, the organizers said, 'Um, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue? Come alone. Come alone.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Some more political news this week. Joe Biden said that Hillary Clinton's decision to run for president won't affect his decision to launch a campaign. While Hillary says Joe Biden's decision to run for president won't affect her becoming president."

Jay Leno: "Well, folks, I want to say – oh, my God. Our hearts go out to the people in the South. This terrible storm just crippled that part of the country, pretty bad. Atlanta came to a standstill. You probably saw this. Roadways were blocked, thousands of abandoned cars all over the highway. A lot of people are blaming the mayor. But today, an email surfaced from a Chris Christie aide that said, 'Time for weather problems in Atlanta.' So I don't know."

Jay Leno: "Well, this week in New Orleans, Hillary Clinton said she still doesn't know if she's running for president in 2016. Isn't that unbelievable? There are 315 million Americans. What are the odds? She's the only one in the country who doesn't know she's running for president in 2016. It's amazing."

Jay Leno: "And Hillary Clinton spoke to the Automobile Dealers Association the other day, and she told them she has not driven a car in 18 years. You know what else is an amazing record? The [Los Angeles] Lakers haven't driven to the basket in over two months. You know that?"

Jay Leno: "Well, this has become a huge story. After the President's State of the Union address, Republican Representative Michael Grimm of New York got into some hot water after he threatened to throw a reporter off a balcony. He said, 'I'll throw you off the effing balcony.' That's what he said. This happened after the reporter questioned him about alleged misuse of campaign funds. So, the good news – any injuries suffered by the reporter would be covered under Obamacare. So that worked out okay."

Jay Leno: "According to 'The New York Post', New York Governor Andrew Cuomo is cracking down on welfare recipients who use their government credit cards for things like strip clubs, alcohol, and gambling. Cuomo was very clear. He said, 'You want to use taxpayer money for that kind of thing, you become a congressmen, okay? That's what you do.'"

Jay Leno: "You probably heard about this. A petition to have Justin Bieber deported got over 100,000 signatures, which means the White House now has to legally rule on it. So, finally a chance for Obama to issue an executive order that both Republicans and Democrats can agree on. Finally, this could be the thing that brings the country together."

Conan O'Brien: "The Super Bowl this year will be played in Governor Chris Christie's home state of New Jersey. It's a state that lately has gotten used to 300-pound guys blocking things."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR NOMINEES TO APPEAR BEFORE SENATE PANEL HEARING. The Environment & Energy Publishing (2/4, 705) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will consider two of President Obama's nominations to the Interior Department: Rhea Suh as assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife Parks and Janice Schneider to be assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management. They both "appeared before the committee in December, but Republicans requested a second hearing to ask additional questions about federal land management in Alaska and coalmining regulations, among other topics." The article notes that "committee ranking member Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) has made no secret of her reservations about Suh, who since 2009 has been Interior's assistant secretary for policy, management and budget."

Also reporting on the story are Politico (2/4, Guillen, 464K), the National Journal (2/4, Subscription Publication, 427K), the "Ballot Box" blog of The Hill (2/4, 194K) and the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (2/4, 194K).

BILL SETS FEES TO SHOOT IN NATIONAL PARKS. Bloomberg News (2/3, 1.91M) reports that "in the era of user fees helping to pay the government's way, film companies and commercial photographers could be charged $200 a year to shoot in national parks, under legislation headed to the House floor this week." However, the fee would be "$250 — per month — if the Obama administration had its way." The bill, HR 3590, "also covers other fees such as those for hunting and fishing on federal lands and the duck stamp program."

TWO AGENCIES FAULT GE HUDSON-DREDGING REPORT AS MISLEADING. Bloomberg News (2/3, 1.91M) reports that General Electric Co.'s "report on its cleanup of contaminants in New York's Hudson River was called

misleading and inaccurate by two US agencies involved in monitoring the project's progress." The Interior Department and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said "GE didn't recognize damage to fish and waterfowl from the chemicals it dumped in the river and wasn't accurate about recommendations for expanded dredging." In a letter to the company, Thomas Brosnan, the Hudson River trustee for NOAA, and Kathryn Jahn, the Hudson River case manager for the Interior Department, wrote, "We believe it is important for the public to understand our disagreement with a number of statements in the report."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION URGED TO BALANCE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WITH CONSERVATION. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (2/4, Cizik, 11.54M), Rev. Richard Cizik, President, The New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good, writes that he has "faith in the president's commitment to using his executive authority to protect 'our air, our water, our communities.'" He notes that in his State of the Union address, President Obama "heeded the call of more than a dozen Evangelical faith leaders and others who have asked that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and his Administration to take steps to balance energy development with conservation of our public lands." Cizik urges the president "to get more engaged in making sure this happens."

Meanwhile, in an op-ed for the Washington Examiner (2/4, 319K), Simon Lomax, western director of Energy In Depth, an industry advocacy group, writes that environmentalists are fuming over President Obama's State of the Union because of his support of fracking and fossil fuel production. However, Lomax claims that "the problem for anti-fracking activists is the facts just don't support their political ideology." He notes that "even the Obama administration – which opposes the oil and gas industry politically on issues like taxation, the role of federal regulation and developing energy on public lands – accepts the consensus that hydraulic fracturing is fundamentally safe."

PAPER SUPPORTS BAN ON SALE OF INVASIVE SNAKES. The Miami Herald (2/4, 806K) editorializes that "large, exotic snakes have infested the Everglades, decimating its native mammal population and discouraging the less adventurous from visiting the national park." But "unlike so many other problems plaguing the Everglades ecosystem," the paper argues that "controlling, if not yet eradicating, the increasing snake population there has an easy solution: a federal ban on the sale of nine nonnative invasive snakes called constrictors." The editorial notes that "eighteen members of Congress, including many from South Florida, have sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking that the US Fish and Wildlife Service extend its ban on sales of four types of constrictors to include five more: reticulated pythons, DeSchauensee's anacondas, green anacondas, Beni anacondas and boa constrictors."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS TO ASSIST 350 COMMUNITIES WITH CONSERVATION AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PROJECTS. The Asheville (NC) Mountain Xpress (2/4, 51K) reports that the NPS has "announced that it will help more than 350 communities improve local parks, establish trails, access, and protect special places through its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program this year." NPS Director Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program helps all Americans get outdoors. This year, we're connecting youth with national parks in Alaska, planning a community trail system for mountain biking in Michigan, and getting people paddling on Texas rivers."

Also reporting on the story are KCSG-TV St. George, UT (2/4, 43) and WOWT-TV Omaha, NE (2/4, 104K).

BILL INTRODUCED TO CREATE NATIONAL PARK IN PULLMAN'S HISTORIC DISTRICT. The Columbia (IL) Chronicle (2/4) reports that Sens. Mark Kirk and Dick Durbin and Rep. Robin Kelly have "introduced legislation in Congress to create a national park in Pullman's historic district near the 95th/Dan Ryan Red Line stop in hopes that it will create jobs and preserve the neighborhood's place in US history." Congress is expected to vote on the bill during its Feb. 3 session. According to Lorraine Brochu, president of the Pullman Civic Organization, "most Pullman residents are supportive of the possible designation."

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK OFFICIALS SAY CONCESSIONS CONTRACT NOT YET FINALIZED. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (2/3, 166K) reports that "federal officials have yet to sign a final contract with a concessions

vendor for Maine's only national park, which has raised concerns about whether the park's gift shops and restaurant will open on time this summer." Officials with Acadia National Park told members of the park's advisory panel Monday that the NPS has "yet to sign a final contract with Dawnland LLC, the firm that has been selected to take over the park's concessions contract from Bar Harbor-based Acadia Corp." Officials said that the "contract issue threatens to delay opening of gift shops at Cadillac Mountain, Thunder Hole and Jordan Pond, and of the Jordan Pond House restaurant, all of which usually open their doors in May."

NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE NAMED. KIII-TV Corpus Christi, TX (2/4, 11K) reports that Mark Spier, a 36-year veteran of the NPS, has been named the new superintendent of the Padre Island National Seashore, and will begin duties on Feb. 9.

ANNIVERSARY OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK CREATION CELEBRATED. In an editorial, the Loveland (CO) Herald-Reporter (2/4, 731K) celebrates the birthday of Rocky Mountain National Park, which "officially begins Sept. 4, the 99th anniversary of the opening ceremony of the park."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM PROPOSES TO ADD SAGE GROUSE PROTECTIONS. The Wyoming Public Media (2/4) reports that the BLM is "proposing to cap the amount of disturbance that can happen on public land where" the sage grouse "lives, and to impose other rules designed to protect sage grouse habitat." The BLM's Lisa Solberg Schwab said "part of their plan involves adopting the core area strategy that Wyoming has already established." Schwab said, "It's not duplicating; it's utilizing those tools, and it's adding to them. It's a whole host of management actions over our different program areas that we manage." The bureau has "released a draft Environmental Impact Statement on the plan and is hosting a series of public meetings across the state, beginning Monday."

BLM AND FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCE 2014 GRAZING FEE. The Sioux Falls (SD) Tri-State Neighbor (2/4, 79K) reports that "the Federal grazing fee for 2014 will be $1.35 per animal unit month (AUM) for public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and $1.35 per head month (HM) for lands managed by the US Forest Service." The article notes that "the 2014 fee is the same as last year's."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS TAKES OFF OREGON CHUB FROM ENDANGERED LIST. The AP (2/4) reports that "a tiny minnow that lives only in Oregon backwaters is the first fish ever taken off U.S. Endangered Species Act protection because it is no longer threatened with extinction." The FWS "was to announce Tuesday that the Oregon chub was recovered, 21 years after it went on the endangered species list." The service will "monitor the fish for nine years to make sure populations continue to grow."

WATER DELIVERIES TO SAN LUIS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX CUT OFF. The Merced (CA) Sun-Star (2/3, 86K) reports that the wetlands at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex and the Merced National Wildlife Refuge are "drying up." According to the article, "last week, refuge officials said they were told the Merced Irrigation District would be cutting off water deliveries to the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex, East Bear Creek unit." San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex "still receives water from the Grassland Water District and the San Luis Canal Company."

IF DELISTED, GRIZZLY BEARS COULD GET PROTECTIONS SHOULD PROBLEMS ARISE. The Cody (WY) Enterprise (2/4, 20K) reports that "if delisted this year, grizzly bears in Wyoming could get protection status again if problems arise." Chris Servheen, FWS grizzly bear recovery coordinator, said, "If there was some unforeseen problem, like a rapid population decline that threatened the grizzly bear population, the Endangered Species Act provides the US Fish and Wildlife Service with authority to emergency list them by publishing a notice doing so in the Federal Register."

ARIZONA LAWMAKER PUSHING BILL ALLOWING SHOOTING TO MEXICAN GRAY WOLVES. The AP (2/4, Christie) reports that an Arizona lawmaker is "pushing a bill allowing the state agriculture department or a rancher to shoot any Mexican gray wolves they believe have killed livestock regardless of any federal law protecting the endangered species." The legislation "targeting grey wolves was prompted by the reintroduction of the animal in

Arizona and New Mexico and a proposal to allow their numbers to increase." Sen. Gail Griffin "said her push-back against the federal wolf recovery efforts is needed to protect people and livestock in rural Arizona."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GRAY WOLF POPULATION GROWING. Additional coverage of the FWS survey that found an increase in the number of Mexican gray wolves roaming eastern Arizona and western New Mexico was provided by the Cronkite News (2/4).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FWS APPROVES MEASURES TAKEN BY WIND PROJECT TO REDUCE BAT DEATHS. The Baltimore Sun (2/3, Wheeler, 812K) reports that Exelon Generation, which owns and operates the 28-turbine Criterion wind project built in 2010 in Garrett County, has formalized conservation measures to avoid and minimize effects of the wind project on endangered Indiana bats and other wildlife. The firm "also has agreed to install a protective gate over a bat cave in a neighboring state as mitigation for its turbines possibly killing one or more Indiana bats." Julie Slacum of the FWS said "bird kills have come down dramatically by turning off lights on the turbines and outbuildings at night."

Also reporting on the story is the Cumberland (MD) Times-News (2/4, 71K).

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR PROPOSED GAS PROJECT. The Deseret (UT) News (2/4, 274K) reports that the BLM is "extending the public comment period to review the Monument Butte Draft environmental impact statement and submit written comments until March 5." Juan Palma, BLM Utah state director, said, "We remain committed to facilitating oil and gas development on public lands in Utah using a balanced approach that ensures we are managing BLM Utah lands with full public input and participation."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GROUP SUES TO GAIN ACCESS TO FRACKING DOCUMENTS. Additional coverage of the lawsuit by Montana Environmental Information Center seeking documents concerning Attorney General Tim Fox's joining other states in protesting BLM plans to regulate hydraulic fracturing on federal land was provided by the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (2/4, 54K), the Flathead (MT) Beacon (2/4, 15K), the Montana Standard (2/4, 41K), and KECI-TV Missoula, MT (2/4, 2K).

Offshore Energy Development:

SHELL STOPPED FROM ARCTIC DRILLING BY NATURE AND COURT. The Environment & Energy Publishing (2/4, 705) reports that "in the years since Shell acquired its oil-rich Chukchi leases, the need for a comprehensive federal Arctic policy has become increasingly obvious." Now, after "the Circuit Court ruling in January invalidated the 2008 lease sale that launched Shell's six-year Arctic drilling program," the Interior Department's "Arctic drilling program may have to start from scratch." According to the article, "if the administration decides not to challenge the court decision, regulators will face the long and controversial task of rewriting the environmental impact statement that was used to support the nation's first Arctic oil development program in 30 years."

The Seattle Times (2/4, 1M) editorializes that Shell has been impeded from drilling in offshore Alaska in 2014 by "Mother Nature" and the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals. According to the paper, "Shell and others in the industry with drilling aspirations for coastal Alaska are getting some serious reality checks."

LEAKING GULF OF MEXICO WELL CAPPED. Bloomberg News (2/4, Wethe, 1.91M) reports that workers have successfully "halted the flow of natural gas from a blowout well in the Gulf of Mexico" after Rowan Companies "lost control while drilling in shallow waters." The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said on February 1 that a plan by EnVen Energy Ventures, "the owner of the well, to pump weighted drilling fluids into the well had been successful."

INDUSTRY OFFICIAL ARGUES FOR OPENING VIRGINIA TO ENERGY EXPLORATION. In an op-ed for the Roanoke (VA) Times (2/4, 259K), Jason Nye, a Roanoke native and senior VP for Statoil, writes that Virginia needs to open up its offshore territory to energy exploration. He says that an API and National Ocean Industries Association study finds that "opening up access off Virginia's coast could generate thousands of new jobs and contribute $1.9 billion in cumulative revenue to the commonwealth's economy by 2035."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA GOV. BROWN WANTS REPUBLICANS TO BACK OFF DROUGHT PROPOSAL. The Los Angeles Times (2/3, Megerian, 3.07M) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown said Monday that a Republican effort in Congress to address California's unprecedented drought an "unwelcome and divisive intrusion" in the state's efforts to address the crisis by pitting water users against one another. The Republican proposal, HR 3946, "would send some of the state's water to farmers in the Central Valley." Brown wrote, "It would override state laws and protections, and mandate that certain water interests come out ahead of others. It falsely suggests the promise of water relief when that is simply not possible given the scarcity of water supplies."

The AP (2/4, Williams) reports that Brown sent the letter to "leadership of the House Committee on Natural Resources and California's entire congressional delegation asking them to oppose HR3964, which is scheduled to be taken up this week." However, the House Majority Whip, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, said the "Brown administration's decision puts unsustainable pressure on already dangerously low reservoirs and groundwater reserves," and he "urged the governor to relax state environmental regulations, such as those that protect fish, to allow more water to flow to the parched Central Valley."

Meanwhile, the Environment & Energy Publishing (2/4, 705) reports that "as California's record-breaking drought continues, organic farmers are facing shortages that could jeopardize their production of beef, milk and cheese."

Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the Richmond (CA) Confidential (2/3) and the Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (2/3, 465K).

Drought Raises Stakes For Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Bloomberg News (2/3, 1.91M) reports that "California's worsening drought is raising the stakes for a $15 billion plan endorsed by Governor Jerry Brown to build two 30-mile (48-kilometer) water tunnels under an ecologically sensitive river delta east of San Francisco Bay."

The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (2/4, 206) reports that "digging two massive 35-mile-long water tunnels to siphon Sacramento River water into the state and federal irrigation systems will violate air pollution standards, says tunnels critic Burt Wilson of Sacramento." Also, Wilson said that "the real reason for the water tunnels has nothing to do with saving farmers from the drought." Wilson said, "Very nearly on, it became clear to me that the water they wanted to send south was going to be used for fracking purposes."

Commentary. In an editorial, the Los Angeles Times (2/4, 3.07M) criticizes Republicans for bringing "a tired political tactic barely, and laughably, disguised as a remedy for the lack of rainfall." In particular, the paper criticizes the term "man-made California drought" that "House Republicans use to describe the state's current dry condition, as if it were somehow the hand of humankind, environmentalists or, even worse, Democrats that has stopped the snowfall over the Sierra and kept the dams that store water for fields, orchards and homes from being replenished." The Times concludes that "California has a plan — the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan — that has brought together representatives of the competing interests who recognize that they must work together to sustain one another with limited supplies of water," and "the Republican bill would undermine that effort by demonstrating that any agreement can be broken at any time by legislation."

In an op-ed for the Highland (CA) Community News (2/3, 38K), Rick Manning, vice president of public policy and communications for Americans for Limited Government, urges lawmakers "to put partisan wrangling aside and pass legislation that stops the waste of water while still protecting" the Delta smelt. He notes that "the House of Representatives is considering action to help deal with this emergency by considering a measure that would provide for alternative ways of protecting the Delta smelt – a fish that a federal Court has ruled must be protected even at the cost of the state's vast food production capacity." According to Manning, "without Congressional

action to allow the water to return to irrigate crops, the current drought puts the agricultural infrastructure in California at risk."

BOR ANALYZING DEMAND FOR RESORTS AT LAKE BERRYESSA. The Napa Valley (CA) Register (2/4, 36K) reports that "as it prepares to line up long-term contractors for the resorts at Lake Berryessa," the BOR will be analyzing the figures "to gauge the potential tourist demand for recreation at the lake." However, "if the financial analysis isn't favorable," the bureau will "consider shuttering some resorts and focusing on providing great recreational services at the others," according to Peggi Brooks, chief of the agency's Recreation Resources Division.

BOR TO SHUT DOWN SAN JOAQUIN RIVER WATER RELEASES. The Merced (CA) Sun-Star (2/4, 86K) reports "federal authorities are shutting down water releases for the San Joaquin River restoration, making the water available for 30,000 people in small communities who face the possibility of summer with dry taps."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR FILES MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT IN FREEDMEN CASE. The AP (2/3) reports that the Interior Department is "asking a federal court to grant tribal citizenship rights to certain descendants of black slaves once owned by members of the Cherokee Nation." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "filed the motion Friday in federal court in the longstanding case between the descendants, known as freedmen, and the Cherokees." The Interior Department "believes the federal court should declare that the Treaty of 1866, signed between the US government and the Cherokees, gives certain freedmen and their descendants the same rights of native Cherokees."

AP coverage was also picked up by the Washington Times (2/4, 417K), the Fresno (CA) Bee (2/3, 327K), the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (2/4, 866K), the U-T San Diego (2/3, 647K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (2/4, 1.14M), the Ravalli (MT) Republic (2/4, 19K), ABC News (2/4, 3.68M), Yahoo! (2/4, 17.91M) , and KAAL-TV Austin, MN (2/4, 1K).

COMPACT BETWEEN MASSACHUSETTS, MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE TO TAKE EFFECT AS FEDERAL LAW. The Taunton (MA) Gazette (2/3, 36K) reports that the BIA on Monday "officially posted notice in the federal register that the gambling compact between the state and the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe is going into effect." Tribal Chairman Cedric Cromwell said in a statement, "It's now official. Today is a day of great significance for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. The Tribal State Compact was officially placed in the Federal Register today and will now take effect as federal law. This is another important step towards the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe bringing Project First Light destination resort Casino to the Great City of Taunton, creating much needed jobs, and a tremendous economic uplift for the people of Southeastern Massachusetts, City of Taunton and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe."

TRIBE, FAMILY IN DISPUTE OVER SEWER PUMP. The U-T San Diego (2/3, 647K) reports that "members of a family on the Pala Indian Reservation say the tribe put a large sewer pump on their property without their knowledge or permission." According to the article, "Vincent Marruffo, whose family owns a 2-acre property north of state Route 76, said the pump was built on the land seven years ago but no one contacted the family for permission." Now, "the tribe and the family are talking about how to resolve the problem." Doug Elmets, a spokesman for Pala, said tribal leaders are working with the BIA to reach an agreement with the family.

NATIVE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS SEEK CHILD WELFARE PROBE. The AP (2/4, Wozniacka) reports that "four national Native American organizations on Monday asked the US Department of Justice to launch an investigation into the treatment of American Indian and Alaska Native children in the private adoption and public child welfare systems, saying civil rights violations there are rampant." The organizations "also called for the federal government to take a stronger role in enforcing compliance of the Indian Child Welfare Act."

Also reporting on the story is the New York Times (2/4, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 9.61M).

COBELL LAND BUY BACK PLAN CRITICIZED AS "FLAWED". For the Indian Country Today Media Network (2/3, 21K), Jay Daniels writes that the "present Cobell Land Buy Back Program is very flawed." Daniels raises

questions about the recent offers "issued to acquire interest on the Pine Ridge and Makah reservations." He claims that "they most likely conducted a market analysis which doesn't value property which should be based on improvements individually on each tract such as utilities and access." Daniels argues that "if this program can be salvaged, BIA needs to place folks in those positions who have worked for years in the land acquisition program to make the processfaster and smoother."

The piece is excerpted at the Nation Sun News (2/4).

Top National News:

LEW WARNS CONGRESS THAT THE DEBT CEILING MUST BE RAISED WITHIN WEEKS. Treasury Secretary Lew's Monday comments on the need for Congress to approve an increase in the debt ceiling no later than the end of the month generated print and online coverage but were not covered on any of the network newscasts Monday evening – nor did Lew prompt much discussion about the related issues on cable news.

Lew's comments were the subject of a segment on Fox News' Special Report (2/4, 2.15M). Fox's Bret Baier said, "We are less than 100 hours away from another deadline over the Federal budget," and "this time it's the debt ceiling, which once again is hanging over the government's head." Correspondent Mike Emanuel went on that on Monday, Lew said "failure to extend the debt ceiling is not an option." Lew was shown saying, "It's not acceptable, and frankly, it's not acceptable to the leadership on either side, which is why I am confident it will be addressed." Several reports this morning interpret that remark as a sign that, despite his warnings about the impact of a sovereign default, Lew is relatively optimistic about the eventual outcome of the process.

On Bloomberg TV's Taking Stock (2/4), Bloomberg chief Washington correspondent Peter Cook reported that "both Republicans and Democrats say they do not have an appetite for another showdown...but no one, so far, has come up with a deal that would allow...the Administration to increase the debt ceiling, yet still give Republicans something in return, something to show for their efforts."

USA Today (2/4, Korte, 5.82M) reports that on Monday during a speech at the Bipartisan policy Center, Lew "renewed his call for Congress to extend the debt limit before it 'can cause harm to our economy, rattle financial markets and hurt taxpayers.'" Lew warned that Treasury "expect[s] our outlays over the coming weeks to exceed our net inflows." According to USA Today, House Republicans "have been using the debt limit as a bargaining chip," but "appear to be less likely to force the issue this time around." The Los Angeles Times (2/4, Puzzanghera, 3.07M) quotes Lew as saying, "The fact is, simply delaying action on the debt limit can cause harm to our economy, rattle financial markets, and hurt taxpayers."

Bloomberg News (2/4, Katz, Klimasinska, 1.91M) noted that Lew "said some measures that the Treasury has previously used to remain under the debt limit aren't available this time," and reiterated that "no administration should have to 'pay a ransom so that the United States can pay its bills.'" Bloomberg reported that Lew also made the case that the economy is "poised for growth in 2014." Under the headline, "Treasury's Lew Warns That U.S. Default Could Happen Quickly," Reuters (2/4, Lange) reports that Lew said Monday, "I'm not sure this is the year for the long-term fiscal challenge to be dealt with. .. We have a little time to deal with the longer term." AFP (2/4) has a report on Lew and the debt ceiling, and the AP (2/4, Crutsinger) also briefly notes Lew's BPC speech.

NPR (2/4, Memmott, 465K) reported that in an interview for NPR's All Things Considered on Monday, Lew said Treasury "can make adjustments to its accounts that allow the government to keep paying its bills a bit beyond this week — but only through the end of the month at most." NPR says Lew was "optimistic that an agreement to raise the debt limit above its current level – approximately $17.2 trillion – will be reached soon," but also "pointed to what he believes is the flaw in the argument by some lawmakers that the limit should not be increased unless equivalent spending cuts are made." Lew said, "Just a few weeks ago, Congress enacted a budget — a two-year blueprint. Just a few days ago, Congress enacted an appropriations bill pursuant to that two-year budget. Now the question is, will we pay the bills that that budget calls to be racked up? I think that the notion that after Congress passes a budget, to then demand additional budget cuts in order to pay the bills that were already incurred, doesn't make any sense."

The Wall Street Journal (2/4, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an article titled, "Treasury's Lew Says

'Time Is Short' For Debt-Ceiling Fix," also reports that Lew says he objects to twinning any sort of budget negotiations with Congress's periodic votes on raising the debt ceiling.

The Washington Post (2/4, Yang, 4.28M) reports that in regards to the debt ceiling, "Congress...is moving at a relatively glacial pace." The Post adds that last week, House Republicans "emerged from their annual policy retreat without a strategy for raising the debt limit," but "the most popular option under discussion...would combine a one-year extension of the debt limit with a ban on 'bailouts' for health insurance companies under the Affordable Care Act."

On Fox News' Special Report (2/4, 2.15M), correspondent Mike Emanuel reported that on Sunday, Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) said the Administration "shouldn't be surprised lawmakers want something in exchange" for raising the debt ceiling. Rep. James Lankford (R-OK) was shown saying, "We should bring Harry Reid and the President and the House of Representatives to the table and say how do we get our nation out of debt? This is the moment to talk about this."

The Los Angeles Times (2/4, Puzzanghera, 3.07M) reports that on Sunday, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said, "I'm hopeful that the president and the Senate will work with us in the House to actually do what has typically been done with debt ceilings, which is making some progress toward addressing the spending problem in Washington, making some progress toward trying to grow the economy around the debt ceiling."

Bloomberg News (2/4, Katz, Klimasinska, 1.91M) noted that last week, Sen. John Thune said, "I suspect that with Democrats, there are probably enough Republicans in the Senate that would vote for a clean debt limit increase."

TIME's (2/4, 21.77M) Charlotte Alter says a "debt stand-off" last year "caused a plummet in consumer confidence and rattled financial markets." But Mark Trumbull, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (2/4, Trumbull, 540K) titled, "Oh No! US Is Near Debt Ceiling Again. So Why Isn't Anyone Panicking?" says that "whatever else investors are worried about...it's not fear that the US will default on its national debt."

PRESIDENT SAYS HE IS AWAITING KERRY'S INPUT ON KEYSTONE XL. Reuters (2/4, Rampton, Holland) reports that in a Fox News interview, President Obama stressed that he would make the final decision on the Keystone XL pipeline, while also downplaying the number of jobs the project was likely to create. He also suggested that he was waiting for the Secretary of State's input. On Fox News Channel's The O'Reilly Factor, the President said, "The process now goes: agencies comment on what the State Department did, public's allowed to comment, Kerry's going to give me a recommendation."

Politico (2/4, Guillen, 464K) reports that Bill O'Reilly "said the proposed pipeline would create 42,000 jobs, but Obama cut in." Obama said, "First of all, it's not 42,000. That's not correct. It's a couple thousand to build the pipeline." However, the final Environmental Impact Statement released on Friday by State "concluded that building the pipeline would support 42,100 jobs during construction." Still, "critics of the proposed pipeline have long pointed out that those jobs are short lived."

IMF Says New Pipelines Key To Boosting Canada's Economy. AFP (2/4) reports that an IMF report released Monday predicted that Canada's economy will gain strength in 2014, but "it is crucial for growth that new pipelines are built to transport its oil to new markets." The IMF said, "Broadening market access to Canada's energy resources are key to boost growth potential," adding, "The energy sector could be a source of both downside and upside risks, largely depending on progress in addressing infrastructure bottlenecks."

Producers Develop More Options, Reducing Demand For Keystone. Bloomberg News (2/4, van Loon, Penty, 1.91M) says that now that the Federal government "has cleared" the pipeline "of any dire environmental impact," attention is turning to the economic reasons for its creation. However, after waiting five years for approval, the need for the pipeline "isn't as urgent" for companies such as Suncor Energy, Cenovus Energy, and Canadian Natural Resources. Producers have become "less reliant" on the pipeline as "new rail terminals increase their ability to ship oil on trains, said Todd Kepler, an analyst at Cormark Securities Inc."

State Department Report Highlighted Risk Of Oil Trains. Reuters (2/4, Leff, Rampton) reports that if Keystone is not built, the surge of oil trains from Canada may result in an average of six additional rail-related deaths each

year, according to the State Department report. The report said that shipping the Keystone crude via trains "would result in an estimated 49 additional injuries and six additional fatalities for the No Action rail scenarios compared to one additional injury and no fatalities" if the pipeline was built.

STOCKS TANK ON WEAK MANUFACTURING REPORT. The sharp drop in the stock market was by far the leading economic story of the latest news cycle. NBC Nightly News (2/3, story 2, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M) reported that Monday "was the worst day of our still new year on Wall Street" in what "has so far been a bad year already." NBC says that "All of this will be on the mind of Janet Yellen, sworn in today as the new head of the Federal Reserve."

The CBS Evening News (2/3, story 3, 1:55, Pelley, 5.58M) also reported that the "stock market has had its worst day in more than seven months." CBS (Christoforous) added that the drop "followed a weaker-than-expected manufacturing report that said growth in orders from machinery and other large factory goods dropped by the most 33 years." In addition, "slower growth in China and in other developing economies added to investor pessimism." The piece did feature an analysts saying that the drop was a "healthy thing," as "we can't have the markets always moving up in one direction. There has to be a two steps forward one step back approach to our market."

ABC World News (2/3, story 3, 1:50, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported on the "stock market falling," and ABC (Jarvis) added, "Driving the big drop, news, today, that American factories are turning out products at their weakest pace in eight months." Also impacting the markets is "the weather," with "cold and snow grinding businesses to a halt," which has "investors worried it will have a spillover effect on jobs."

The New York Times (2/4, Popper, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "disappointing" economic data on Monday pushed the stock market to "its worst day in an already bad year." Stocks started the day "up slightly" but "fell steadily after a closely watched survey of sentiment in the manufacturing sector fell much more than expected in January, setting off fears that the broader economy may be weaker than anticipated."

The Wall Street Journal (2/4, Strumpf, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 326 points, or 2.1%, to 15,373, while the S&P 500 was down 40 points, or 2.3%, to 1,742. The Nasdaq Composite Index dropped 107, or 2.6%, to 3,997.

McClatchy (2/4, Hall, 95K) calls the decline "an auspicious start of Janet Yellen's first day on the job as chair of the Federal Reserve." Stocks "dipped sharply after a weak report on manufacturing, coming on the heels of other recent soft data and a dismal December jobs report." The data together "puts a heightened expectation on January hiring numbers," expected from the Department of Labor on Friday. Monday "marked the seventh time since the start of 2014 that stocks posted triple-digit daily losses."

The Washington Post (2/4, Schneider, 4.28M) reports that the markets "continued a dreary 2014 with another broad decline as investors hedged against the possibility that the economic recovery is on shaky ground." The drop on Wall Street and "in other major trading centers come at a delicate time for U.S. and world economies," as the Fed has begun to taper its stimulus programs, "leaving investors guessing about how the transition to more normal monetary policy will work and what weaknesses it might expose in countries or companies that have become dependent on easy money."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writes that stocks soared last year, up about 30% including dividends, so the 5% selloff last month seems like normal profit taking. However, the sharp drop on Monday suggests that something else may be at work. However, the Journal says that it expects the economy to continue to grow modestly, but warns that government taxes and regulations are hindering productivity and business growth.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (2/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Edward C. Prescott and Lee E. Ohanian, both professors of economics, write that the President said that Washington needs to do more to boost small businesses and entrepreneurs, and they argue he should begin by reviewing his own policies. The argue that the slowdown in productivity growth in recent years is likely to have long-term effects on standard of living, and could cause serious harm if the trend continues. In addition, they write that the nation needs more business startups, but many government policies favor existing businesses, crowding out newcomers.

Manufacturing Sector Growth Slowed Sharply In January. Bloomberg News (2/4, Stilwell, 1.91M) reports that the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index fell to 51.3 in January from 56.5 in December, a far sharper decline than the drop to 56.0 expected by economists. Still, a reading above 50.0 indicates that the sector is still expanding. The drop, Bloomberg says, came as "older-than-usual winter weather slowed demand and production, bringing a halt to recent momentum in US manufacturing."

Weather Blamed For Poor January Auto Sales. The New York Times (2/4, Trop, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that on Monday, automakers reported "sharp declines" in US sales in January as "a harsh freeze and winter storms thwarted purchases across much of the country." GM sales fell 12% last month, while Ford reported a 7% decline. However, Chrysler reported its sales rose 8% "for its best January sales performance in six years." The Times says that "automakers and analysts blamed the extreme weather for the drop, explaining January's performance as a blip unlikely to dampen the automotive recovery."

The Wall Street Journal (2/4, Ramsey, Kell, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) also says that the weather was behind the drop in sales. In addition to the three US automakers, Toyota, Honda and Volkswagen sales also fell. Overall, auto sales were down 3.1% in January from a year earlier.

Bloomberg News (2/4, Trudell, 1.91M) reports that industry "trailed analysts' estimates that had called for the eking out of a sales increase during the coldest January in the contiguous US states since 1994, according to Commodity Weather Group LLC." Still, the top 3 US brands, GM, Ford and Toyota "have forecast a fifth straight year of rising deliveries in 2014 after the industry totaled 15.6 million in 2013, its best annual result since 2007, according to researcher Autodata Corp."

Reuters (2/4, Klayman, Woodall, Seetharaman) also reports that analysts believe that January's drop is simply a bump in the road.

Fed Says Banks Eased Lending Standards Towards End Of Last Year. The Wall Street Journal (2/4, Leubsdorf, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that US banks at the end of last year made it easier for businesses to borrow, while companies also sought more loans. Business borrowing for capital expenditures was up in Q4 2013, while the demand for commercial real-estate loans was also up. However, the consumer lending was mixed.

Business Revenue Hit By Falling Prices. The Wall Street Journal (2/4, Francis, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that US companies are seeing the prices on a number of their key products fall, limiting their revenue growth. Companies ranging from GE to Kimberly-Clark to McDonald's said that a combination of lower demand, stiffer competition and pressure from penny-pinching consumers are responsible.

Tax Changes May Be Setting Markets Up For Volatile Year. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (2/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Red Jahncke, president of the Townsend Group, writes that the sharp drop in the markets so far this year may presage a volatile year. While the slowdown in US manufacturing and trouble in emerging markets play a part, the activity is also being driven by tax code changes. Jahncke writes that near the end of the 2012, many investors sold off long-term positions to take advantage of Bush-era 15% long-term cap gains tax rate, which rose to 23.8% in 2013. Consequently, as the market surged last year, a higher-than-normal portion of investments were short-term positions. Given the far higher tax rates on those investments, investors were hesitant to sell them. Throughout this year, those investments will cross the 12-month threshold to be considered long-term investments, allowing investors to realize their gains at a lower tax rate, and likely to spur selling.

USA Analysis: Tech Jobs Driving American Dream. USA Today (2/3, Shinal, 5.82M) reports that a new report from the National Bureau of Economic Research "calculated how likely it was for a US family to go from the bottom fifth in annual income to the top fifth in one generation." The top two locations for that to happen were in San Jose and San Francisco, where 12.9% and 12.2% of people respectively made the advance. What the top ten list of cities in that study all have in common is "a lot of high-paying tech jobs, according to separate data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics." The number three city was Washington DC and the number six was New York, the only metro areas that had "even more tech workers than San Jose, as of 2010."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Mayor And The Unions."*** The New York Times (2/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) in an editorial writes on Mayor Bill de Blasio's coming budget. Key to the success of his plans is "negotiating new contracts with nearly all the city's labor unions." The unions in question are seeking "retroactive pay totaling more than $7 billion." The Times says that if de Blasio is hoping to preserve any money for his policy goals, he will have to "take the lead to demand more of his friends by changing work rules and extracting savings in runaway health care and pension costs." The paper suggests that to succeed, he must "be bold to the point of confrontational, to endure name-calling, resentment and lower poll numbers."

"Democracy In Thailand, Interrupted." In an editorial, the New York Times (2/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) decries the disruption of Thailand's election by protesters which means that the country "will remain in a limbo for months as election authorities try to conduct elections in those districts where protesters prevented a vote from taking place." The Times notes that indefinite delay of the elections would make Thailand's "deep divisions" worse "and the continuing political strife would further undermine Thailand's already shaky economy." The Times adds that if the opposition is serious about "reducing corruption and strengthening the democracy, it should end the protests and propose clear and detailed reforms that voters can accept or reject."

"A Chill On Speech." An editorial in the New York Times (2/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues against a bill in the New York Legislature to "bar state financing for academic groups that have taken official action to boycott higher-education institutions in Israel," calling it "would trample on academic freedoms and chill free speech and dissent."

"Firearms' Toll Among The Young." The New York Times (2/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes about gun violence, noting that while the "world at large heard instantly about the school massacre in Newtown, Conn., where 20 youngsters were murdered in 2012 in a terrifying spree of gunfire," less notices "but no less horrific is the unending toll from the more routine bursts of gunfire that each day send an average of 20 American children and adolescents to hospitals, many of them for long-term treatment." The Times concludes that "the wounding and death of youngsters is a national health crisis that deserves far more attention — no easy task when the gun lobby continues to block research and data collection about guns."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A Syrian Reset."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (2/4, 4.28M) says that if reports that Secretary of State Kerry acknowledged that the Administration's Syria policy is failing are true, "he would deserve credit for finally recognizing realities that he and President Obama have glossed over for too long." The Post argues that the Administration should reconsider its Syria policy and suggests that as a start, it "could join an effort by allies on the U.N. Security Council to win passage of a resolution that calls on Syria to cooperate with the delivery of humanitarian supplies and authorizes U.N. agencies to operate in areas outside government control."

"An Opportunity For Va. Dreamers." In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/4, 4.28M) criticizes Virginia for not allowing illegal immigrants to attend public universities at "heavily subsidized" in-state rates. The state, "having invested heavily in educating undocumented students through high school, squanders their potential by making college prohibitively expensive." The Post says that Republicans in Richmond "face a moment of self-definition," with an opportunity to "embrace the new tolerance" that Boehner "advocated in urging immigration reform, including opportunity for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children through no choice of their own."

"Too Many Cooks." The Washington Post (2/4, 4.28M) in an editorial criticizes Washington, DC Council member and mayoral candidate David A. Catania (I-At Large), who, it says works by identifying "something that is working reasonably well and offer proposals that threaten to undo that success." As an example, the Post says his recent proposal for "a new program of college scholarships," may threaten the existing and "popular D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program" which is funded by the Federal government. Catania argues that his plan "will supplement, not supplant, the federal program." The Post urges the DC Council to reject the plan and develop one "that doesn't risk" harming the TAG program.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Great Chinese Internet Crash."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (2/4,

Subscription Publication, 5.91M) cites an attempt by China to keep Chinese Internet users from accessing websites which help users evade firewalls which accidentally crashed Internet service in China and argues that an appropriate US response to the Chinese government's crack down on foreign media might be to increase government support government support for the kind of firewall-circumvention tools the Chinese were trying to suppress. The Journal notes that doing so could help breach China's firewall, or even bring it down altogether.

"The 2014 Selloff." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writes that stocks soared last year, up about 30% including dividends, so the 5% selloff last month seems like normal profit taking. However, the sharp drop on Monday suggests that something else may be at work. However, the Journal says that it expects the economy to continue to grow modestly, but warns that government taxes and regulations are hindering productivity and business growth.

"Voting Rights Rewind." The Wall Street Journal (2/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that liberals in Congress are trying to play racial politics with some states by introducing a bill to revise a section of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that was struck down by the Supreme Court last year. The section required that electoral changes in states with a history of racial bias in voting had to be pre-approved by the Justice Department. The new law would reinstate that requirement for Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Georgia for what the lawmakers argue is evidence of racial bias in those states' voting laws. The Journal argues that this is simply another example of the political abuse of the Obama Administration, and urges Congress to vote it down.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Factory Weakness Hits Stocks
Splits Emerge Between Obama, His Party
Firms Pinched By Pressure To Hold Down Prices
Rival Companies, NIH Form Pact In Search For New Drugs

New York Times:
Karzai Arranged Secret Contacts With The Taliban
Preschool Push Moving Ahead In Many States
Hoffman's Heroin Points To Surge In Grim Trade
Ethics Questions Arise As Genetic Testing Of Embryos Increases
At Four Seasons, Picasso Tapestry Hangs On The Edge Of Eviction
First Event Of Sochi Olympics: The Hotel Construction Sprint

Washington Post:
Va May Help Get Gay Marriage To High Court
Obama Is Squeezed In Border Debate
Expanding The Mission
End In Sight On Long Road To A Farm Bill
Star's CEO: Easy Charm, Big Promises And Soured Deals

Financial Times:
Scottish Financial Industry Fears Bill For Regulation
HP Details Autonomy Allegations
Elliott In Line For Windfall From Game IPO
Lloyds PPI Provisions Rise To 10 Bn Pounds
US Carmakers Raise Doubts Over Auto Boom
Malone In Talks With CVC Over F1 Stake
Tech Sector Between Rock And A Hard Place

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Economy-Stock Market; Michigan-Escaped Convict; Gun Safety-

Children; Car Radio Transmitters; Former Second Lady Death; Kate Middleton-British Newspaper
CBS: Philip Seymour Hoffman-Heroin Overdose; American Drug Use; Economy-Stock Market; Severe Weather; Propane Prices; Senate-Farm Bill; Michigan-Escaped Convict; FDA-Colonoscopy Alternative; Car Radio Transmitters; Former Second Lady Death
NBC: Severe Weather; Economy-Stock Market; American Heroin Use; Syria-Violence; Former Second Lady Death; Car Crashes-Technology; Sochi-Olympic Snow

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Hoffman-Overdose; Escaped Convict Captured; Christ Christie Bridge Scandal Interview; California-Girl Scout Assault
CBS: Army Recruiter-Fraud Investigation; Winter Weather; Stock Market; California School Administrator-Sexual Abuse Allegations; Escaped Convict Captured; Mexican Boxer Death
NPR: Senate-Farm Bill; American Sugar Intake-Heart Disease; Super Bowl-Broadcast Record; Winter Weather; Car Radio Transmitters; Sochi Olympic Preparations; Escaped Convict Captured; Hoffman-Heroin Overdose; Indonesia-Earthquake
FOX: Chris Christie-Bridge Scandal Interview; Economy-Stock Market; Michigan-Escaped Convict; Disney Interactive-Lay Offs

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; visits Buck Lodge Middle School in Adelphi, Maryland to tour a classroom and deliver remarks detailing progress toward his ConnectED goal of connecting 99 percent of students to next-generation broadband and wireless technology within five years; delivers remarks on ConnectED, Buck Lodge Middle School; meets the Vice President for lunch; meets with the Department of Defense leadership on Afghanistan, Oval Office, closed press; meets with House Democratic Caucus, The East Room, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets the President for lunch; meets with the Department of Defense leadership on Afghanistan, Oval Office, closed press; meets with House Democratic Caucus, The East Room, closed press.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION — Ahead of a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on a recent spate of data breaches, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and U.S. Senator Ed Markey (D-Mass.) will introduce the Personal Data Protection and Breach Accountability Act, a bill that would help protect consumers' personal and financial information from hackers by taking a multi-pronged approach to combating the risks associated with data breaches. Location: Senate Radio-TV Gallery.

10:30 a.m. MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY RESTORATION ACT OF 2014 — Senator Bernie Sanders and leaders of veterans service organizations hold news conference on the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014 (S. 1950). http://www.sanders.senate.gov/download/0203vet1pager?inline=file Location: Room 412, Russell Senate Building.

11 a.m. CLEVELAND CLINIC – BRAIN HEALTH – REID, MCCAIN — Cleveland Clinic will announce it has received ongoing support to continue its Professional Fighters Brain Health Study from boxing entities Golden Boy Promotions and Top Rank Boxing and mixed martial arts programs Ultimate Fighting Championship and Spike TVs Bellator MMA and GLORY kickboxing. They will be joined by Senators Harry Reid (D-NV) and John McCain (R-AZ). Additional speakers: Toby Cosgrove, MD, President & Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Clinic; Jeffrey Cummings, MD, Director, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health; Charles Bernick, MD, Assoc. Medical Director, CCLRCBH, principle investigator of the study; Introduced by Larry Ruvo, Chairman, Keep Memory Alive and Senior Managing Director, Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada; Todd duBoef, President, Top Rank Lorenzo Fertitta, Chairman and CEO, Ultimate Fighting Championship; Kevin Kay, President, Spike TV (Bellator MMA, GLORY kickboxing); Richard Schaefer, Chief Executive Officer, Golden Boy Promotions; Bellator MMA Lightweight Champion Michael Chandler; IBF Light Heavyweight Champion Bernard Hopkins; UFC Light Heavyweight Champion Jon Jones; UFC Light Heavyweight Glover Teixeira. CONTACTS: Megan F. Pruce,

216.312.3602, prucem@ccf.org Douglas Richardson, 202.414.6178, douglas.richardson@rrpartners.com (for the Cleveland Clinic) Location: Senate – S. 115 The Capitol .

12 p.m. KEYSTONE SUPPORTERS — Sens. John Hoeven (R-N.D), Mary Landrieu (D- La.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) along with a bipartisan group of colleagues from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, will hold a press conference in response to the U.S. State Department's fifth and final Keystone XL environmental impact statement (EIS). The senators will press for the immediate approval of the Keystone project. Location: 192 Dirksen.

FINANCE — Hearing on nominations. http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=261ddbc1-5056-a032-52c2-730a254080f1

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — To receive a closed briefing on the situation in Afghanistan. Witnesses: Jennifer C. Walsh, Principal Director, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia Office of the Secretary of Defense; Brigadier General Robert P. White, USA , Director, Pakistan/Afghanistan Coordination Cell, J-5 Joint Staff; Gregory L. Ryckman, Defense Intelligence Officer for South Asia Defense Intelligence Agency or Kent A. Breedlove, Senior Defense Intelligence Analyst for Afghanistan Defense Intelligence Agency; Jarrett Blanc, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Department of State. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/the-situation-in-afghanistan Location: SVC-217.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — Nominations hearing on Rhea S. Suh, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; Janice M. Schneider, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior. http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings? ID183c169f-2439-4bd9-a1a8-18ed45206960 Location: 366 Dirksen.

10 a.m. ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife hearings to examine the safety and security of drinking water supplies following the Central West Virginia drinking water crisis. Witnesses: Panel I: Natalie E. Tennant, Secretary of State, West Virginia; Randy C. Huffman, Cabinet Secretary, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection; Erik D. Olson, Senior Strategic Director for Health and Food, Natural Resources Defense Council; Brent Fewell, Vice President of Environmental Compliance, United Water; Michael W. McNulty, General Manager, Putnam Public Service District, West Virginia; Justin A. Savage, Partner, Hogan Lovells US, LLP; R. Peter Weaver, Vice President of Government Affairs, International Liquid Terminals Association. http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_id=8ccdaff7-cdc6-8a6f-ca6e-a7017498083c Location: 406 Dirksen.

10 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearings to examine negotiations on Iran's nuclear program. Panel One: Wendy Sherman, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, U.S. Department of State; David S. Cohen, Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financing, U.S. Department of Treasury. Panel Two: David Albright, President, Institute for Science and International Security; Mark Dubowitz, Executive Director, Foundation for Defense of Democracies. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/negotiations-on-irans-nuclear-program Location: 419 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight hearings to examine fraud and abuse in army recruiting contracts. Witnesses. Panel I: Lt. Gen. William T. Grisoli, Director of the Army Staff, U.S. Army; Maj. Gen. David E. Quantock, Commanding General, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command and Army Corrections Command; Joseph P. Bentz, Principal Deputy Auditor General, U.S. Army Audit Agency. Panel II: Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn (Ret.), Former Director, Army National Guard; Col. Michael L. Jones (Ret.), Former Division Chief, Army National Guard Strength Maintenance Division; Philip Crane, President, Docupak; Lt. Col. Kay Hensen (Ret.), Corporate Compliance Officer, Docupak, Former Contracting Officer, National Guard Bureau. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/fco/hearings/fraud-and-abuse-in-army-recruiting-contracts Location: 342 Dirksen.

10:15 a.m. JUDICIARY — Hearing on "Privacy in the Digital Age: Preventing Data Breaches and Combating Cybercrime." Panel I: Delara Derakhshani, Policy Counsel, Consumers Union, Washington, DC; Michael R. Kingston, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, The Neiman Marcus Group, Dallas, TX; John J. Mulligan, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Target Corporation, Minneapolis, MN; Fran

Rosch, Senior Vice President, Security Product and Services, Endpoint and Mobility, Symantec Corporation, Mountain View, CA. Panel II: Edith Ramirez, Chairwoman, Federal Trade Commission; William Noonan, Deputy Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigative Division, U.S. Secret Service; Mythili Raman, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=138603a26950ad873303535a6300170f Location: 226 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. BUDGET — Hearings to examine moving from constant crises to broad-based growth, focusing on the 2014 outlook. Witnesses: Dr. Mark Zandi, Chief Economist, Moodys Analytics; Robert Greenstein, President, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; David A Rosenberg. Chief Economist and Strategist, Gluskin, Sheff and Associates, Inc.

http://www.budget.senate.gov/ Location: 608 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Hearings to examine the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Massachusetts, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=7f4d5e03-5056-a032-5246-3fe3e2ebe224 Location: 430 Dirksen.

12 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Business meeting. S. Res. 333, A resolution strongly recommending that the United States renegotiate the return of the Iraqi Jewish Archive to Iraq; S. Res. 270, A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Polio Day and commending the international community and others for their efforts to prevent and eradicate polio. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-02-04-14 Location: S-116 Capitol Building.

3 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Nominations hearing: Bathsheba Nell Crocker of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs; Michael Anderson Lawson of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization; Robert A. Wood of New York, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament.
http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/nomination-02-04-2014 Location: 419 Dirksen.
US House: 9:30 a.m. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT — The Endangered Species Act (ESA) Congressional Working Group, led by Reps. Doc Hastings and Cynthia Lummis, will hold a press conference to unveil its final report and recommendations. Location: Capitol Visitors Center, HVC Studio B (Access through HVC 117).

9:30 a.m. HOYER – PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol

10 a.m. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — Time approximate. Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC). Location: HC-8.

10 a.m. — House meets for Morning Hour debate and at 12 p.m. for legislative business. First and last votes expected: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE — Subcommittee on Workforce Protections "OSHAs Regulatory Agenda: Changing Long-Standing Policies Outside the Public Rulemaking Process." Witnesses: Maury Baskin, Shareholder, Littler Mendelson P.C., Washington, D.C. – Testifying on behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers and the Associated Builders and Contractors; Bradford Hammock, Shareholder, Jackson Lewis P.C., Reston, VA – Testifying on behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Randy Rabinowitz, Attorney at Law; Scott VanderWal, President, South Dakota Farm Bureau, Huron, SD. http://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=367882 Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy hearing on "Testing of Chemicals and Reporting and Retention of Information under TSCA Sections 4 and 8". Witnesses: Dr. Beth Bosley, President, Boron Specialties, LLC, On behalf of the Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates; Charles Drevna, President, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers; Dr. Brent Grazman, Vice President, Quality Assurance, Viasystems Group, Inc., On behalf of the IPC – Association Connecting

Electronics Industries; Robert Matthews, McKenna Long & Aldridge, LLP, On behalf of the Consumer Specialty Products Association; Dr. Catherine Willett, Director, Regulatory Toxicology, Risk Assessment, and Alternatives, The Humane Society of the United States; Dr. Jerry Paulson, Chairperson, Council on Environmental Health, Department of Federal Affairs, American Academy of Pediatrics; Dr. Jennifer Sass, Senior Scientist, Natural Resources Defense Council. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/testing-chemicals-and-reporting-and-retention-information-under-tsca-sections-4-and-8 Location: 2123 Raybum.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance hearing on "The Federal Insurance Offices Report on Modernizing Insurance Regulation. Panel I: Michael McRaith, Director, Federal Insurance Office; Thomas Leonardi, Commissioner, Connecticut Insurance Department. Panel II: Anthony Cimino, Interim Head of Government Affairs and Vice President for Insurance & Trade, The Financial Services Roundtable; Paul Ehlert, President, Germania Farm Mutual Insurance Association, on behalf of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies; Gary Hughes, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, American Council of Life Insurers; Jon Jensen, President, Correll Insurance Group, on behalf of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America; Franklin W. Nutter, President, Reinsurance Association of America; Robert Restrepo, Jr., President, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, State Auto Insurance Companies, on behalf of the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America; Scott Sinder, Partner, Steptoe & Johnson, on behalf of The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers; J. Stephen "Stef Zielezienski, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, American Insurance Association. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=368079 Location: 2128 Raybum.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee Hearing: The Importance of Human Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy. Witnesses: Panel I: Uzra Zeya, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State. Panel II: Christopher J. Griffin, Executive Director, The Foreign Policy Initiative; Daniel Calingaert, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Freedom House. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-importance-human-rights-us-foreign-policy Location: 2172 Raybum.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security hearing on Future of the Homeland Security Missions of the Coast Guard. Witness: Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-future-homeland-security-missions-coast-guard Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. INTELLIGENCE — Hearing on World Wide Threats. http://intelligence.house.gov/hearing/world-wide-threats Location: HVC210 The Capitol.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Full committee hearing Examining Recommendations to Reform FISA Authorities. Witness Panel 1: James M. Cole, United States Department of Justice; Peter P. Swire, Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technology; David Medine, Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. Witness Panel 2: Steven G. Bradbury, Dechert, LLP; Dean Garfield, Information Technology Industry Council; David D. Cole, Georgetown University Law Center. http://judiciary.house.gov//index.cfm/2014/2/examining-recommendations-to-reform-fisa-authorities Location: 2141 Raybum.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Full Committee Legislative Hearing on H.R. ____ Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=367382 Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation hearing on Finding Your Way: The Future of Federal Aids to Navigation. Panel I: Rear Admiral Joseph Servidio, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, United States Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Gerd F. Glang, Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Jim Hannon, Chief, Operations and Regulatory Division, United States Army Corps of Engineers. Panel II: Dana Goward, President, Resilient Navigation and Timing Foundation; Dr. Larry Mayer, Professor and Director, Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping/Joint Hydrographic Center; John Palatiello, Executive Director, Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors, Captain Lynn Korwatch, Executive Director, Marine Exchange of the San Francisco Bay Region. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=366184 Location: 2253 Raybum.

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Hearing on the "State of al-Qaida, its Affiliates, and Associated Groups: View from Outside Experts." Witnesses: Bill Braniff, Executive Director, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, University of Maryland; Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, Senior Fellow, Foundation for Defense of Democracies, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Georgetown University's Security Studies Program; Dr. Seth Jones, Associate Director, International Security and Defense Policy Center, RAND Corporation; Dr. Christopher Swift, Adjunct Professor of National Security Studies, Georgetown University. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_idF754C1E6-F88A-4C17-92CC-D51B071AEA03 Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10:15 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Markup of H.R. 2575, the "Save American Workers Act of 2013, and H.R. 3979, the "Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act. http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=368451 Location: 1100 Longworth.

1:30 p.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Government Operations Subcommittee Hearing to Examine Administrations Marijuana Policy. http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/mixed-signals-administrations-policy-marijuana/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade hearing on Terrorist Groups in Latin America: The Changing Landscape. Witnesses: Panel I: Gino Costa, Ph.D., President, Ciudad Nuestra, (Appearing via teleconference). Panel II: Celina B. Realuyo, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, Professor of Practice of National Security Affairs, National Defense University; Douglas Farah, Senior Associate, Americas Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Michael Shifter, President, Inter-American Dialogue. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-terrorist-groups-latin-america-changing-landscape Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. RULES — Hearing on H.R. 3964Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act; H.R. 2954To authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance. Location: H-313 The Capitol.

2 p.m. SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — Subcommittee on Space hearing on "Necessary Updates to the Commercial Space Launch Act." Witnesses: Dr. George Nield, Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration; Alicia Cackley, Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment Team, Government Accountability Office; Dr. Henry Hertzfeld, Research Professor of Space Policy and International Affairs, Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University. http://science.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-space-hearing-necessary-updates-commercial-space-launch-act Location: 2318 Rayburn.
Other: Feb. 3 – 4. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE — 9 a.m. National Commission on Forensic Science meets. 11 a.m. Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole will deliver remarks. All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a drivers license) as well as valid media credentials. Media must RSVP to Stephen Ratner at 202-514-2007 or Stephen. Ratner@usdoj.gov. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007. Location: Office of Justice Programs, 3rd floor ballroom, 810 7th St. NW.

NYS SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION — 8 a.m. Acting Deputy Secretary of Education Jim Shelton will give remarks and participate in a question and answer session at the New York State School Boards Association's Congressional Breakfast. (The breakfast is being hosted by New York's U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.) Location: Kennedy Caucus Room, 325 Russell.

BLOOMBERG – REPRESENTATIVE SHUSTER — 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Bloomberg Government Event February 4th vAmerica on the Move: Investing in U.S. Infrastructure. Speakers: Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; Victor Mendez, Acting Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation; Governor Ed Rendell, Co-Chair, Building Americas Future; Secretary Ray LaHood, Co-Chair, Building Americas Future. Media Credentials: contact Lindsay Bomar at lbomar1@bloomberg.net Location: Bloomberg Government, 1101 K St. NW Suite 500.

UI BENEFITS — 9:30 a.m. U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka will lead a press conference call to help rally support for renewing unemployment insurance (UI), just before an expected

vote on a straight-forward continuation of UI for three months, retroactive to December 28. Also with Americans United for Change President Brad Woodhouse.

POLICY LINK – POVERTY SOLUTIONS — 10 a.m. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and White House Domestic Policy Director Cecilia Munoz participate in Policy Links panel discussion "Going Local: Place-Based Solutions to Combat Poverty." The discussion will focus on Promise Zones, the presidents initiative to bring together local communities and businesses to create jobs, increase economic security, expand educational opportunities, increase access to affordable housing and improve public safety. Location: Columbus Club, Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

BPC – FOREIGN POLICY – CONGRESS — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. On Leadership: Foreign Policy in Congress. John Hempelmann President, Henry M. Jackson Foundation. Panel discussion featuring: Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), President, The Lugar Center; Congressman Norm Dicks (D-WA), Senior Policy Advisor, Van Ness Feldman. Moderator: John Fortier, Director, BPC's Democracy Project. http://bipartisanpolicy.org/events/2014/02/leadership-foreign-policy-congress Location: 1225 Eye St. NW.

USDA – CALIFORNIA PRODUCERS — 12:45 p.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Congressman Jim Costa and California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross will host a media conference call to announce additional USDA assistance for California producers affected by the prolonged west-coast drought.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jay Leno: [In reference to the Denver Broncos' Super Bowl performance] "In fact, the team was so ineffective, today they were invited to join the Obama Administration."

Jay Leno: [Referencing the bridge scandal] "And while he was at the game, Governor Chris Christie was up to his old tricks. Turns out he blocked three lines at the concession stand. Yeah, people couldn't get around."

Jay Leno: "Well, before the game yesterday, President Obama was interviewed by Bill O'Reilly. And when asked about the IRS scandal, President Obama told O'Reilly there wasn't even a smidgen of corruption at the IRS. You know what that means? Even the President of the United States is afraid of the IRS. Okay, how scary is that?"

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BISON CONNECT

Re: new blm deputy

Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Wed, Feb 5, 2014 at 9:54 PM
To: "Kelly, Katherine" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>

Will do - nobody flagged for me yet. Thanks! SJ

On Feb 5, 2014, at 7:31 PM, "Kelly, Katherine" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Sally - might be nice to send a congratulatory note to Steve at your convenience... (sorry if Neil or Ben already flagged for you)
>
> sellis@blm.gov

New deputy director known as 'solid problem solver'

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter
Published: Wednesday, February 5, 2014

The Bureau of Land Management today named Steve Ellis as its deputy director for operations, the agency's second-highest post.

Ellis, who has served as acting deputy director since July, previously spent more than three years as BLM's state director in Idaho, a post that oversees nearly 12 million acres in the Gem State.

PEOPLE

An Illinois native, Ellis has served more than three decades in the federal government, including posts with BLM and the Forest Service in Idaho, Alaska, Oregon, Nevada and Washington, D.C.

"He will bring to his new position not only a tremendous work ethic, but also 21 years as a line officer in both the Forest Service and the BLM," Neil Kornze, the agency's nominated director, said in an email this morning to BLM employees. "Steve brings with him a passion for the land and a love of the outdoors learned at an early age growing up on the family farm in Illinois."

Ellis is BLM's first permanent deputy director since Mike Pool retired in February 2012 after leading the office for nearly three years.



Steve Ellis has worked 21 years as a line officer both for BLM and the Forest Service, including in Idaho, Alaska, Oregon, Nevada and Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of BLM.

Ellis joined BLM after leaving graduate school in 1979, serving as a forester in Burley, Idaho. While in college, he served as a seasonal wildland firefighter, and he has also worked as budget officer in BLM's headquarters.

In his tenure as Idaho state director, Ellis oversaw tough policy decisions, including protecting sage grouse from energy developments like wind farms – an issue BLM is now grappling with on a national scale.

Ellis also oversaw the controversial siting of the 1,000-mile-long Gateway West transmission line and the renewal of 68 grazing permits under order of a federal district court. BLM reduced grazing levels in southwest Idaho, drawing the ire of some public land ranchers.

Craig Gehrke, regional director for the Wilderness Society, called Ellis a "very solid problem solver" who doesn't get caught up in ideology.

"Steve is one of the best directors we've had here," said Gehrke, who also worked with Ellis on off-highway vehicle issues when Ellis was supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Oregon. "I appreciate his candor and open-door policy."

As deputy director, Ellis will now oversee the day-to-day activities of an agency that controls about 250 million acres and nearly one-third of the nation's mineral estate. BLM has approximately 10,000 employees and is funded at just above $1 billion.

He will help oversee BLM's efforts in Western states to prevent an Endangered Species Act listing of the greater sage grouse, amid concerns that those steps could stifle other land uses.

BLM is also in the midst of finalizing a sweeping hydraulic fracturing rule designed to strengthen wellbore integrity and assuage public concerns over the chemicals injected underground in the development of oil and gas.

Ellis earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from Southern Illinois University and a master's degree in geography from Northern Illinois University.

He enjoys riding and packing horses in western Idaho and eastern Oregon and has adopted one BLM wild horse, Saylor. He and his wife, Linda, a nurse practitioner, have raised three children.

–

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BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, February 6, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Feb 6, 2014 at 7:05 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

OREGON TO GET FIVE FLOATING WIND TURBINES. The AP (2/6, Wozniacka) reports that Seattle-based Principle Power has announced plans to build five floating windmill turbines off the Oregon coast which would be the first offshore wind farm on the West Coast. The was announced at a press conference by Gov. John Kitzhaber, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau. This is a pilot project that is "not going to be economic out of the gate" according to Beaudreau. Belinda Batten, director of the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center at Oregon State University, says that the initial prices of energy produced on the wind farm will be more expensive than the hydropower from Oregon's dams, but she believes that could change in the future saying "as we learn how to deploy and maintain them, the price will come down." The turbines are expected to be 15 miles off shore in 1,400 feet of water and be 600 feet high.

Bloomberg News (2/5, 1.91M) reports that Jewell said, "There are no floating offshore wind-energy projects in the

United States. How they interact with the fishing industry, how they interact with the marine ecosystem, all of these things need to be understood."

The Oregon Public Broadcasting (2/6, 4K) reports that Jewell said, "Here in the Pacific you have tremendous wind. I have flown kites myself on the Oregon coast, and it gets even windier as you get offshore. ... This pioneering project would demonstrate floating wind turbine technology capable of tapping the rich wind energy resources in deep waters offshore Oregon."

The Los Angeles (CA) Times (2/5, Vartabedian, 3.07M) reports that Principle Power's Vice President for business and government affairs Kevin Banister said that they expect the turbines to operate at "40 percent of their maximum potential generating capacity" which compares to 20-30 percent for California land-based wind farms. The Times also quoted the Sierra Club's western director for its Beyond Coal campaign Bill Corcoran who said "Offshore wind in the right locations is a very promising technology."

Additional coverage by the AP was picked up by the Washington Post (2/5, Press, 4.28M), the Washington Times (2/6, Wozniacka, 417K), the Seattle Times (2/6, 1M), The Oregonian (2/6, 888K), the Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (2/6, 172K), the Lebanon (OR) Express (2/6, 285K), the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (2/6, 214K), the Everett (WA) Herald (2/6, 152K), the Bend (OR) Bulletin (2/6, 94K), the Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (2/6, 172K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (2/6, Wozniacka, 1.14M), the Durango (CO) Herald (2/5, 28K), the Dubois (PA) Courier-Express (2/6, 1K), the Hanover (PA) Evening Sun (2/6, 38K), the Prince Albert (CAN) Daily Herald (2/5), ABC News (2/6, 3.68M), Yahoo! (2/6, Wozniacka, 17.91M), Yahoo! News Canada (2/6, 76K), Yahoo! Singapore News (2/6, 14K), the Huffington Post (2/5, 11.54M), and KATU-TV Portland, OR (2/6, 105K).

Additional coverage was provided by the reNews (2/6), the Recharge News (2/6, 633), the North American Windpower (2/6, 43K), the Power Engineering (2/6).

SECRETARY JEWELL SUGGESTS PRIZE TO MAKE BETTER WILD HORSE BIRTH CONTROL. The East Oregonian (2/6, 24K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell calls the nation's wild horse crisis an "intractable problem." During an appearance in Portland, Jewell "suggested that the government needs to offer a big prize to get drug companies to make better birth control for wild horses." At a news conference, Jewell said, "We'd love to have an effective birth control method, we're thinking of sort of an 'X-Prize' type of thing to inspire the pharmaceutical industry to come up with an effective birth control method for horses."

Also reporting on the story are the Centralia (WA) Chronicle (2/6, 41K) and the Oregon Public Broadcasting (2/6, 4K).

BACKCOUNTRY SKIING COULD BENEFIT FROM MODERN-DAY CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS. The Boston Globe (2/6, Thornton, 1.75M) reports that the modern-day Civilian Conservation Corps proposed by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell could boost backcountry skiing and Alpine touring. The article notes that the first CCC "planted the infrastructure for recreational skiing in the Northeast." David Goodman, a ski historian, said, "The ski industry in the Northeast really owes its origin to the Great Depression. It's a very unusual link that people might not be aware of. Were it not for the CCC, we would not have what are now the iconic ski areas of the Northeast."

INTERIOR NOMINEES GRILLED BY REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS DURING HEARING. The Environment & Energy Publishing (2/6, 705) reports that "in her second round of vetting before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee," Rhea Suh, Interior's assistant secretary for policy, management and budget, was "challenged over grants for energy projects issued by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, her previous employer, and her positions on thorny land management decisions facing Interior in Alaska." According to the article, "while Suh is supported by Democrats including committee Chairman Ron Wyden of Oregon and more than a dozen conservation, environmental and sportsmen's organizations of various political persuasions, her responses yesterday did not appear to assuage concerns from Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) or ranking member Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)."Republican lawmakers also "pressed Janice Schneider, the president's pick to become Interior assistant secretary for land and minerals management, on how she would assess the job impacts of a forthcoming agency regulation to protect streams."

INTERIOR SHARES BEST PRACTICES FOR FEDERAL USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA. The Fierce Mobile Government (2/6) reports that Tim Fullerton, digital strategy director at the Interior Department, "spoke last fall

during a DigitalGov University webinar about the benefits of Instagram for federal agencies." According to the article, "picking up more than 130,000 followers since June 2012, DOI is considered something of an Instagram power user in the government space. Instagram is the department's most-followed social account." Fullerton suggests "agencies getting started 'follow back' the first users to follow the account up to a certain point, to grow the accountm," and "he also said agencies should post content that is unique and not available elsewhere, and use relevant and timely hashtags to drive the audience."

SEN. MURKOWSKI WANTS PRESIDENT OBAMA TO "PERSONALLY RECONSIDER" IZEMBEK DECISION. Politico (2/6, Guillen, 464K) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski wants President Barack Obama to "personally reconsider" the Interior Department's "rejection of a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to provide emergency access to a rural community."

USDA TO CREATE REGIONAL "CLIMATE HUBS." The AP (2/6, Lederman) reports Agriculture Secretary Vilsack said Wednesday that climate change "is already hurting American farmers and rural residents," citing recent storms, droughts, and extreme cold. Vilsack said, "The combination of all those factors convinces me that the climate is changing, and it's going to have its impact, and will have its impact, and is having its impact on agriculture and forestry."

The New York Times (2/6, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the USDA is creating "seven regional 'climate hubs' aimed at helping farmers and rural communities respond" to the problem. The hubs will be located in Ames, Iowa; Corvallis, Oregon; Davis, California; Durham, New Hampshire; El Reno, Oklahoma; Fort Collins, Colorado; and Raleigh, North Carolina.

Reuters (2/6, Mason) says the purpose of the hubs will be to provide information and offer risk aid. The Los Angeles Times (2/6, Hennessey, 3.07M) and Washington Times (2/6, Boyer, 417K) also have reports.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's roundtable discussion on climate change at the University of Washington was provided by the Sierra (CA) Sun Times (2/6), KUOW-FM Seattle (2/6, 15K), and KPLU-FM Tacoma, WA (2/6, 16K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND WALNUT CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT REJECTED. The AP (2/6, 417K) reports that the NPS and the Forest Service have rejected a proposed expansion of Walnut Canyon National Monument. Federal officials "concluded that cultural resources in the proposed expansion area don't meet federal requirements for natural significance." The decisions by the agencies "have left expansion supporters hoping for congressional action."

Also covering the story is the Arizona Republic (2/5, 1.19M).

FAA TO PERMIT MORE AIR TOURS AT GRAND CANYON. The AP (2/5, Press, 4.28M) reports that "air tour operators that use aircraft with quiet technology will be able to fly more people over the Grand Canyon." The Federal Aviation Administration said "it plans to release 1,721 flight allocations this year that had been abandoned to those commercial tour operators, as long as their active fleet doesn't increase noise in the park overall."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (2/6, Fonseca, 417K) and the Columbus (IN) Republic (2/6, 80K).

NPS CELEBRATING ST. LOUIS' 250TH ANNIVERSARY. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (2/6, 866K) reports that "on Saturday, February 15, in celebration of the city of St. Louis' 250th anniversary, the National Park Service will host free special events to recognize the rich history of the city and the deep passion of its early founders." Ann Honious, Chief, Museum Services and Interpretation, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, said, "We are

ecstatic to celebrate St. Louis' 250th anniversary, and are committed to retelling the story of St. Louis' founders and the early days of the city. In conjunction with events organized by stl250, we encourage residents and visitors alike to take this time to learn about St. Louis' fascinating beginnings."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ARIZONA TO BE REIMBURSED FOR GRAND CANYON REOPENING. Additional coverage of Interior Department Assistant Secretary Rhea Suh's commitment that Arizona will be reimbursed for money spent reopening the Grand Canyon during the government shutdown was provided by KTAR-FM Glendale, AZ (2/6, 17K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: RENOVATION OF ST. LOUIS ARCH DELAYED. Additional coverage of the delay in the renovation project on the Gateway Arch in St. Louis was provided by the AP (2/6, 417K).

Bureau of Land Management:

NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS FOR BLM NAMED. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (2/6, 56K) reports that Steve Ellis is the BLM's deputy director of operations. Neil Kornze, the BLM's principal deputy director and acting director, wrote in a letter to staff, "He will bring to his new position not only a tremendous work ethic but also 21 years as a line officer in both the Forest Service and the BLM." Tim Murphy will continue to act as BLM Idaho State Director.

Also reporting on the story is the Idaho Statesman (2/5, 205K).

BLM EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON RIO GRANDE DEL NORTE NATIONAL MONUMENT PLAN. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (2/6, 288K) reports that the BLM has extended the public comment period on a management plan for the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in Taos County until March 6.

UTAH LOSES FEDERAL FIRE TRAINING MONEY. The Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (2/5, 147K) reports that "faced with the loss of federal revenue, the state forester is asking the Legislature to consider picking up the $75,000 cost to maintain a training program for local fire departments." The article notes that "the yearly training has been funded with money" from the BLM.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

NEVADA PANEL WEIGHS IN ON SAGE GROUSE OPTIONS. The AP (2/6, Chereb, 417K) reports that "a state panel appointed by Gov. Brian Sandoval to try to head off protections for sage grouse asserts that a course of action preferred by two federal agencies contradicts mandates to manage public lands for multiple use." According to the article, "the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, in a Jan. 24 response to the federal government, also says a draft environmental impact statement should address beneficial aspects of livestock grazing and predator control." The article notes that a preferred option identified by the BLM and Forest Service would, "among other things, exclude or restrict new recreational facilities, wind and solar energy development, and mineral development in sage grouse habitat." Council Chairman J.J. Goicoechea said, "This appears to be regardless of sage grouse population density, consideration of seasonal habitat requirements or importance of habitat to individual populations." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Houston Chronicle (2/6, Chereb, 2.26M) and WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (2/6, 117K).

The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (2/6, 22K) reports that Sen. Dean Heller "on Tuesday defended a bipartisan plan based off Gov. Brian Sandoval's sagebrush ecosystem council's recommendations to keep sage grouse off the endangered species list in Nevada." According to the article, "Heller said Tuesday on a conference call with rural reporters he didn't agree sage grouse warranted a listing, but added he believes they will be." Heller said "he'd rather put Nevada land decisions in the hands of Sandoval with input from the sagebrush ecosystem council."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CLAIM WATER NEEDS OF MINNOW NOT MET. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (2/6, 288K) reports that "the federal agencies overseeing the Rio Grande have repeatedly failed to meet their legal requirement to ensure river flows and habitat for the Rio Grande silvery minnow, the environmental group WildEarth Guardians claimed in legal notices filed this week." The group alleged "violations of the federal Endangered Species Act" and the notices started "a 60-day clock ticking toward possible litigation."

EXPERT FAULTS FWS' ENFORCEMENT OF BIRD LAW. KCET-TV Los Angeles (2/6, 15K) reports that "there's a problem with the way" the FWS enforces The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, according to a new article in the William and Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review. In his article "Dying For A Solution: Incidental Taking Under The Migratory Bird Treaty Act," environmental attorney and law professor Andrew Ogden claims that the agency "doesn't enforce the law across the board," and instead, it "relies on the discretion of its in-house law enforcement staff to select which MBTA violations it will pursue" Ogden argues "that selective enforcement of the MBTA not only lets many violators off scot-free, but the agency's lack of public oversight into its enforcement decision-making may violate some of the country's most important environmental laws."

KANSAS OFFICIAL EXPECTS FEDERAL ACTION TO PROTECT LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. The Lawrence (KS) Journal World (2/5, 102K) reports that "despite grousing from Gov. Sam Brownback and many legislators, Kansas will face some kind of federal action to protect the Lesser Prairie Chicken, according to the state's top wildlife official." Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Secretary Robin Jennison told a legislative committee that the FWS will "either put in place a rangewide conservation plan to protect the bird, or list the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act." Jennison said, "Kansas would be far better off with the rangewide plan than to have it listed."

CHIRIKOF CATTLE COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED. The Alaska Dispatch (2/5, 7K) reports that "people concemed about the future of cattle abandoned on two remote Alaska islands will have additional time to come up with ideas about how to manage the animals and the damage they are inflicting on the natural habitat." The manager of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Steve Delehanty, "has extended to Feb. 20 a deadline for public suggestions about possible solutions to the problems posed by an estimated 800 cattle on Chirikof Island and another 200 on Wosnesenski Island."

HAYING, GRAZING INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW. The Muscatine (IA) Journal (2/6, 20K) reports that the FWS at Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge has announced that "draft compatibility determinations assessing the use of haying and grazing on refuge lands are available for public review and comment."

COAL-ASH SPILL AT DUKE FACILITY NOT YET CONTAINED. The AP (2/6, Biesecker, 4.28M) reports that Duke Energy crews were still working "to plug a hole in a pipe at the bottom of a 27-acre" coal-ash pond that had already allowed about "27 million gallons of contaminated water" to enter the Dan River. On Wednesday, Federal and state regulators, including the FWS, and Duke Energy personnel collected samples for safety tests, writes the AP, noting that coal ash contains many "toxic chemicals, including lead, arsenic, mercury and radioactive uranium." The company's Dan River facility switched from coal to natural gas in 2012. In a statement Wednesday Duke said "We are committed to closing the ash basins at many of our retired coal plants across North Carolina." In the meantime, Duke insists that the ponds are safe, though critics warn of "the potential for calamity."

Bloomberg News (2/6, Polson, 1.91M) reports that environmental groups accused Duke of doing "nothing to contain the spill," but spokeswoman Meghan Musgrave affirmed that stopping the leak was a priority. She said, "The rate of spillage declined yesterday after the pond emptied and has fluctuated since then because of rain and repairs." A Danville city spokesman told reporters that initial testing had detected no arsenic or other heavy metals. State Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary John Skvarla said treated water would be safe to drink. The piece notes that the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to issue coal-ash regulations soon.

Editorial: Delaying Coal-Ash Cleanup Is Negligent. A Charlotte (NC) Observer (2/6, 713K) editorial calls on Duke Energy to clean up its unlined coal-ash ponds, because no amount of monitoring can prevent the unexpected. The clean up will be expensive, "but it's nowhere near the legal and financial cost of a coal ash failure that contaminates a water supply." The Observer points out that two large lagoons near Duke's Riverbend plant hold much more coal ash than the Dan facility pond, and a leak from those lagoons would threaten the drinking water of 800,000 people in the Charlotte area. Duke has said it will clean up the ponds at some point, the piece notes, "But it's becoming negligent to wait."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OREGON CHUB. Additional AP coverage of the Oregon chub was provided by the Christian Science Monitor (2/5, Barnard, 540K) and the Yamhill Valley (OR) News-Register (2/6, 33K). The

Oregon Herald (2/6) and the Mother Nature Network (2/6, 93K) also reported on the story.

US Geological Survey:

USGS SAYS EARTHQUAKE ACTIVITY AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK NOT UNUSUAL. The Newsroom America (2/6) reports that the USGS "says a story circulating across the Internet over the past few days reporting abnormally strong earthquake activity in Yellowstone National Park is wrong." The agency says "earthquake activity in Yellowstone has been at normal levels for the past several months."

USGS SAYS HELICOPTER WILL BE FLYING LOW TO SURVEY GEOLOGY IN MISSOURI. The AP (2/6) reports that the USGS says "it will be sending a low-flying helicopter over portions of eastern Missouri to survey the region's geology." The agency says "the helicopter will be surveying rock layers and mineral deposits under sections of Washington, Franklin and Crawford counties later this month." According to the article, "the survey is expected to lead to maps that will help USGS researchers understand the geology and concealed deposits of important iron-oxide, copper, cobalt, gold and rare earth elements."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

FORMER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SPEAK IN FAVOR OF KEYSTONE. ABC News (2/6, Weinberg, 3.68M) reports in its "The Note" blog that "several former White House officials are" speaking out in favor of the Keystone XL pipeline. Former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar joined the ranks Wednesday while speaking at an energy conference. The piece says FuelFix.com quoted him: "At the end of the day, we are going to be consuming that oil. So is it better for us to get the oil from our good neighbor from the north, or to be bringing it from some place in the Middle East?" ABC News notes that former national security adviser Tom Donilon expressed tentative support for the project in January, and former Energy Secretary Steven Chu told the Oil & Gas Journal this Monday, "I don't have a position on whether the Keystone pipeline should be built. ... But I will say that the decision on whether the construction should happen was a political one and not a scientific one."

The Hill (2/6, Sink, 194K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog on the comments made by Salazar and Chu, placing more emphasis on the White House's rejection of the premise that the Keystone decision will be a political one. It says Press Secretary Jay Carney responded to Chu by saying, "The process is designed to be insulated from politics. ... That doesn't prevent people from trying to politicize it."

Separately, The Hill (2/6, Barron-Lopez, 194K) writes in its "E2 Wire" blog, "Salazar told the Associated Press that the pipeline has the potential to be a 'win-win' project," in terms of both conservation and energy security, as long as the "operator was required to meet environmental standards and pay for conservation programs along its route." The Hill also notes Chu's comment, and it adds that Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper characterized President Obama's vagueness on the matter as "punting," though Harper said he remains confident the project will eventually proceed.

The AP (2/6, Daly) and FOX News (2/5, 6.72M) also covers this story.

Salazar Believes Fracking Is Safe. FuelFix (2/6, Holeywell, 7K) reports that former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, speaking at the North American Prospect Expo, said, "I believe hydraulic fracking is, in fact, safe." He also said that there is "not a single case" in which fracking "created an environmental problem for anyone." Salazar said that the energy boom created by fracking is "creating a secure world for ourselves and for our children." Natural Resources Defense Council senior attorney Kate Sinding said, "His comments are a disservice to the people around the country who continue to report problems when fracking comes to town," citing problems with drinking water, property values, population, and "even exploding homes." Salazar also said that he believes the Keystone XL pipeline should be built.

The Washington Examiner (2/6, Schow, 319K) reports that, in his comments, Salazar reaffirmed his support for fracking, "pointing out that there has not been 'a single case where hydraulic fracking has created an environmental problem for anyone.'"

The Daily Caller (2/6, Bastasch, 422K) also quotes Salazar, as well as Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who said regarding the energy boom brought on by fracking, "The biggest revolution equal to the Internet is the energy independence in the United States."

ENZI TOUTS GAO REPORT AS EVIDENCE COAL IS GOOD FOR ECONOMY. The "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (2/6, 194K) reports that on Tuesday, Sen. Mike Enzi said that a report from the Government Accountability Office "shows his 'anti-coal' colleagues that coal is needed to generate federal revenue." He stated, "Some of my anti-coal colleagues requested a report on the coal leasing program and when the report showed that each year it adds around $1 billion to the treasury, the coal opponents concentrated on misleading people into thinking the program is not competitive." The report on the coal-leasing program of the Bureau of Land Management "found that more than 40 percent of U.S. coal production in 2012 came from federal leases, which generate revenue."

Additional coverage of the GAO report was provided by the SNL Financial (2/6, 22K) and the Billings (MT) Gazette (2/6, 206K).

WATER DEMAND ASSOCIATED WITH FRACKING RAISING CONCERNS. USA Today (2/6, Schmit, 5.82M) reports fracking is "increasing demands on water supplies already under pressure from drought and growing populations," according to a new report from Ceres, a "green investment group." The "water-intensive process" has "required almost 100 billion gallons of water to drill more than 39,000 oil and shale gas wells in the U.S. since 2011." The report says that 55% of those wells were in "drought-stricken areas, and nearly half were in regions under high or extremely high water stress, such as Texas."

Offshore Energy Development:

SALAZAR TOUTS SAFETY OF OFFSHORE DRILLING. The Oil & Gas Financial Journal (2/6, 425) reports that fromer Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, speaking at the North American Prospect Expo, said he expects foreign oil imports to "fall to 25% by 2016." He also said that he believes that, following the Deepwater Horizon incident, the Gulf of Mexico is "now one of the safest places to operate in the world."

Also reporting on the story is the Upstream Online (2/6, 20K).

ACTIVISM HINDERING SHELL EXPLORATION, US ENERGY DOMINANCE. Author and consulting meteorologist Anthony J. Sadar writes in an op-ed for the Washington Times (2/6, Sadar, 417K) that "activist environmentalists and activist courts" are preventing Americans from benefiting from Alaska's bountiful oil resources. Despite the establishment of "a successful balance between energy needs and a clean environment," an unspecified decision by the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals is forcing Royal Dutch Shell to postpone plans for "exploratory drilling in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast." Sadar says Shell is up to the challenge of working in such a hostile environment, but the ideological opposition from activists could threaten US potential as an energy supplier to the world.

PUBLIC CITIZEN BACKS EPA AGAINST BP SUSPENSION SUIT. National Journal (2/6, German, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that Public Citizen, an advocacy group, is fighting BP's effort to "end its suspension from receiving new federal contracts, a sanction that stems from the oil giant's 2010 Gulf of Mexico spill." The group filed a brief on Tuesday in defense of the EPA in BP's suit "against the agency to overturn the suspension." The amicus brief says that Public Citizen "believes that EPA's suspension decision reflects an appropriate exercise of EPA's express statutory and regulatory authority and will have the effect of protecting the public by preventing expenditures of government funds to benefit an enterprise whose history demonstrates that its corporate practices create ongoing threats to the environment, to U.S. workers, and to the public at large."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE ANOTHER $14 MILLION FOR CALIFORNIA DROUGHT. The AP (2/5, Press, 4.28M) reports that "federal officials on Wednesday pledged more money to help California cope with its severe drought as state fishing regulators shut down recreational angling on portions of two water-starved rivers because of concerns about the survival of salmon and steelhead trout." The BOR and Natural Resources

Conservation Service "announced another $14 million for water management improvements in the state, a day after Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack committed $20 million."

Also reporting on the story is Bloomberg News (2/5, 1.91M), FOX News (2/5, 6.72M), KFSN-TV Fresno, CA (2/6, 2K), and KTVU-TV San Francisco (2/6, 128K).

House Passes Legislation To Allocate More Water For Irrigation. Bloomberg News (2/5, 1.91M) reports that "the US House passed legislation that would allocate more water for irrigation in parts of California to help ease a worsening drought, a measure opposed by President Barack Obama's administration." According to the article, "the legislation is part of a longstanding fight in California over water rights that pits farmers against fishermen." The Obama Administration said in a statement that the House measure would "undermine years of collaboration between local, state and federal stakeholders to develop a sound water quality control plan."

Also reporting on the story is the McClatchy (2/5, Doyle, 2.32M).

Additional Coverage Of Drought. Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the Fresno (CA) Business Journal (2/6, 160K) and the Visalia (CA) Times-Delta (2/5, 42K).

CONTRACTOR WORKING TO CLEAR ELEPHANT BUTTE RESERVOIR CHANNEL OF SEDIMENT. The AP (2/6, 417K) reports that the BOR and the Interstate Stream Commission are "working with a contractor to clear sediment from a 20-mile-long channel that leads to Elephant Butte Reservoir." According to officials, "having the channel clear allows for more water to make it to southern New Mexico farmers and for the state to meet its water delivery obligations to Texas." The maintenance is expected to continue through March.

Also reporting on the story is the Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (2/5, 596K).

Additional coverage by the AP was picked up by the Columbus (IN) Republic (2/6, 80K).

LEWIS & CLARK WATER PROJECT WAITING ON FUNDING. The Sioux Falls (SD) Tri-State Neighbor (2/6, 79K) reports that the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System is "playing a waiting game this month to see whether it will receive any additional funding from the federal government so that construction can resume on water pipelines." The article notes that "a bill approved last month as part of the government's budget for this year provides $3.2 million for project construction, but Troy Larson, the system's executive director, said that's far short of what's needed to resume construction." Instead, project officials are hoping "on obtaining more funding from an additional $27 million that was included in the budget bill."

BOR TO REDUCE FLOWS FROM PALISADES RESERVOIR. KIFI-TV Idaho Falls, ID (2/6, 23K) reports that the BOR is cutting flows from Palisades Reservoir starting Wednesday. According to the article, "flows on the South Fork of the Snake River will be decreased from 1200 cubic feet per second to 900 cfs through Saturday."

BOR ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS FOR BLACK CANYON DAM PARK FACILITIES. The Emmett (ID) Messenger-Index (2/6, 22K) reports that the BOR is now "accepting reservations for the gazebos and shelter facilities at the five parks near Black Canyon Dam in advance of its summer season from May 19 to Sept. 1." Supervisory park ranger Doug Goff said, "We are thinking ahead to warm summer days and getting ready to assist people who want to reserve the park facilities. Anyone who would like to reserve the gazebos in advance is invited to contact us for help."

BOR TESTING CHANGES TO CANYON FERRY LAKE CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS. KXLH-TV Helena, MT (2/6, 1K) reports that the BOR is "going to test a new reservation system on Hellgate and Court Sheriff campgrounds and all their recreation shelters." To begin, "about half of all sites at both Court Sheriff and Hellgate will remain first-come-first-served," according to the BOR. If the system is successful, the bureau "will look at implementing it for all their campgrounds."

Also reporting on the story is KBZK-TV Butte, MT (2/6, 785).

Empowering Native American Communities:

FEDERAL AGENCIES PROVIDE REPORTS TO USET. The Cherokee One Feather (2/6, 8K) reports that "reports on the status of Indian Budget, gaming, tax reform, and Indian programming through the US Department of Interior, Farm Bill, and Housing Bill are a few updates the USET Board of Directors received from federal agencies on Tuesday, Feb. 4." Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn. Said Indian programs in the BIA "may have received a boost in the 2014 budget compared to 2013, but some issues are still lingering to place a strain on the budget." Washburn explained, "So, if we fully fund contract support costs we have to get that money from somewhere. We will have to find the money in the budget and we are going to have to move things around a bit."

MENOMINEE TRIBE CONTINUING TO WORK WITH WALKER ADMINISTRATION ON KENOSHA CASINO. The Milwaukee Business Journal (2/5, Subscription Publication, 12K) reports that the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin said Wednesday that "it continues to work with Gov. Scott Walker's administration toward an approval of its proposed $800 million casino on the former Dairyland Greyhound Park property in Kenosha." Menominee spokesman Michael Beightol said in a statement, "We wish to see the decision made in the most expeditious manner possible so that the state benefits from a large-scale construction project, the creation of thousands of new jobs on the Wisconsin side of the border with Illinois, and new income to help the Menominee along the path of self-determination."

Top National News:

CBO'S ELMENDORF: ACA "CREATES A DISINCENTIVE FOR PEOPLE TO WORK." For a second day, on Wednesday, Republicans and Democrats sought to put forth their own characterizations of a Congressional Budget Office report released Tuesday, which forecast that the Affordable Care Act would cause the equivalent of more that two million full-time employees to leave the US workforce in the next decade. While the debate generated a great deal of partisan analysis from both sides, and CBO Director Elmendorf's appearance before the House Budget Committee was widely noted, the volume of coverage diminished substantially from the previous news cycle. For instance, on Tuesday evening, all three network newscasts devoted segments to the report, but on Wednesday, none of the three aired continuing coverage, nor did they cover any aspect of the broader healthcare reform debate.

As was the case on Tuesday, it is generally accepted by media analysts that Republicans are the chief political beneficiaries of the CBO's report. According to McClatchy (2/6, Lightman, 95K), in the "political world," the CBO's analysis "was largely a gift for Republicans," who are "buoyed...by ongoing skepticism about the law." Likewise, USA Today (2/6, Moore, 5.82M) says Republicans "are leaping on [the CBO's] new report...as a weapon to argue the health insurance overhaul will hurt the economy." USA Today notes that Republican Dan Sullivan, who is challenging Sen. Mark Begich, released a statement reading: "BegichCare is a job killer." In what might have been the most cited piece on the controversy Wednesday, the Washington Post's (2/6, 4.28M) Chris Cillizza wrote, "the Republican message is cleaner, simpler and more digestible than the Democratic one," and "it's not close."

In the lead story for Fox News' Special Report (2/5, 2.15M), Shannon Bream reported that on Wednesday, Washington was still "reverberating from the [CBO's] prediction" that the ACA "will result in more than 2 million people not working full-time." Elmendorf was shown saying, "By providing heavily subsidized health insurance to people with very low income, and then withdrawing those subsidies as income rises, the act creates a disincentive for people to work." White House correspondent Ed Henry went on to report that "after a day on defense over the report, Democrats went on offense" Wednesday, "pushing back hard on Republican charges [that] the CBO was confirming the law is killing jobs." Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD): "When the media immediately takes the Republican talking points and prints them, it does a great disservice to the public."

The Washington Post (2/6, Branigin, 4.28M) reports that Democrats "countered what has emerged as a key GOP talking point by eliciting testimony from" Elmendorf "that the [ACA] would reduce unemployment over the next few years by boosting overall demand for goods and services." The Post says Van Hollen "cited the CBO's finding that the law will 'boost overall demand for goods and services over the next few years.'" Van Hollen asked Elmendorf, "When you boost demand for labor in this kind of economy, you actually reduce the unemployment rate, because those people who are looking for work can find more work, right?" Elmendorf replied, "Yes, that's right."

Chris Hayes drew attention to this exchange in the lead segment for MSNBC's All In (2/6, 510K) Wednesday night. According to Hayes, "the real effect of Obamacare on the labor market will actually be the opposite of those initial sloppy false reports" suggesting that the CBO forecast that it would lead to the elimination of more than 2 million "jobs" over the next decade.

Calvin Woodward, in a "Fact Check" piece for the AP (2/6), says "some Republicans picked their words more carefully than others in reacting to" the CBO's report. Woodward notes that House Speaker Boehner, "for example, said the report backs up Republican arguments that Obamacare 'hurts take-home pay,'" which Woodward says is a "plausible point as far as it goes."

The Hill (2/6, Wasson, 194K) reports that during the House Budget Committee hearing Wednesday, Republicans said the CBO report "shows the healthcare law is making the 'poverty trap' worse, while Democrats countered that the GOP is completely misreading the CBO's findings." The Wall Street Journal (2/6, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) quotes House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan as saying, "These changes...disproportionately affect low-wage workers. ... Translation: Washington is making the poverty trap worse."

The Hill (2/6, Wasson, 194K) says Van Hollen was "visibly angered by Ryan's argument," and countered that the CBO report "really finds that workers will have increased choices after 2017," adding, "That is not a bad thing. It's a good thing." But The Hill notes that the CBO's Elmendorf confirmed that the report "does find that the healthcare law creates a disincentive for working," saying, "The act creates a disincentive to work relative to the case were the law not in place."

According to the Wall Street Journal (2/6, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Van Hollen said, "More Americans will be able to voluntarily, choose – choose – to work fewer hours or not take a job because they don't depend on that job any more for the provision of health insurance. ... Before the Affordable Care Act, if you lost your job, you lost your health insurance."

Under the headline, "Why The CBO Report Is (Still) Bad News For Democrats," the Washington Post's (2/6, 4.28M) Cillizza said Republicans are more likely to score political points with their characterization of the CBO report because while the "Republican ad on this CBO report writes itself," the "Democratic one is WAY more complicated as it relies on explaining the idea that a decline in the labor market isn't the same thing as job losses and that all of this could well wind up being a good thing for the public." Similarly, the Washington Times (2/6, Boyer, 417K) says "reviving the argument over the perils of an entitlement program in Obamacare is the last thing Democrats want in this election year."

E.J. Dionne, in his column for the Washington Post (2/6, 4.28M), says, "Too often, the media go along by highlighting" the "political impact" of a report like the one released by the CBO on Tuesday "rather than focusing on what it actually says."

Perez: CBO Confirmed ACA Will Ease "Job Lock." When asked, on NPR's Diane Rehm Show (2/6), about the CBO's report, Labor Secretary Perez noted that since the ACA's passage, the US economy has added 8.1 million private-sector jobs. Perez added, "What the CBO report points out is that, in the long run, people are going to have choice" due the ACA, including "a lot of people who are in what economists call 'job lock,'" meaning "they are in a job because they need the healthcare." Echoing Perez's point, Chris Matthews, on MSNBC's Hardball (2/6, 689K), said the ACA "is not leading to mass layoffs, it's giving people the freedom to leave jobs they are in only because those jobs...provide health insurance."

Likewise, Michael Hiltzik, in his column for the Los Angeles Times (2/6, 3.07M), contends that "it's now becoming plain that the CBO finding creates a problem for" Republicans "because relieving millions of Americans of 'job-lock,' which is what the CBO is talking about, is something the GOP has favored for years." Hiltzik notes that in 2009, Ryan said the "key question that ought to be addressed in any healthcare reform legislation is, are we going to continue job-lock or are we going to allow individuals more choice and portability to fit the 21st century workforce?"

National Review's Rich Lowry, in a piece for Politico Magazine (2/6, 464K), acknowledges that "there is a little something to" the "job lock" argument from the Administration and its allies, but Lowry adds that "the main

problem with Obamacare" is that it has "created a vast apparatus of subsidies, penalties and taxes that is effectively anti-work."

Similarly, the Wall Street Journal (2/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, says Democrats are mistaking the genuine "job lock" phenomena, which keeps workers from taking new jobs because of the benefits tied to their existing position, with what it says is an ACA-generated phenomena of workers choosing not to work at all because they are better off collecting government benefits.

Elmendorf Says ACA Is Contributing To "Central Factor In Slowing Economic Growth." Byron York, in a piece for the Washington Examiner (2/6, York, 319K), says that at Wednesday's House Budget Committee hearing, "there were plenty of lawmakers, Republican and Democrat, who wanted to make points about Obamacare," but those "points had been pretty much exhausted by the time" Rep. Diane Black (R-TN) asked the CBO's Elmendorf: "What effect [will] the reduced labor force participation have on the economy?" According to York, Elmendorf's reply was "simple, short, and devastating." Elmendorf said, "It is the central factor in slowing economic growth." According to York, "the fact is," the CBO believes the ACA is "slowing down the key measure of health in the American economy for a long time to come."

HOUSE GOP REPORTEDLY WILL NOT TIE KEYSTONE OR ACA CHANGES TO DEBT CEILING. According to Bloomberg News (2/6, Wallbank, Rowley, 1.91M), the House Republican leadership is "giving up efforts to couple a U.S. debt-limit increase with measures backing the Keystone XL pipeline or revoking" the Affordable Care Act's "risk corridors." Citing an anonymous "Republican aide," Bloomberg News says "a debt-ceiling increase without conditions hasn't been ruled out," but "it's difficult to identify the 30 Republicans needed to join Democrats to pass a 'clean' debt limit increase." Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) "said his party could get enough support for a debt-ceiling increase 'if you address the underlying problem' of long-term spending," but, "short of that...it's tough to get the votes."

The AP (2/6, Taylor) reports that the House Republican leadership is now "exploring another idea: repealing a recent cut to the pensions of working age retirees of the military." According to the AP, that option "appears aimed at winning the support of both Democrats and GOP conservatives." The Washington Post's (2/6, Costa, 4.28M) Robert Costa reports that it is House Speaker Boehner who is "encouraging" his caucus to "demand a restoration of recently cut military benefits." Costa says Boehner "did not formally endorse the idea as his own," but "did ask his lieutenants to test it among rank-and-file Republicans."

Politico (2/6, Sherman, 464K) reported that Boehner is "considering attaching a whole laundry list of provisions to the debt ceiling that do precious little to decrease the deficit," including "attach[ing] a nine-month patch of the Sustainable Growth Rate," or "doc fix," which is "the formula by which the federal government reimburses doctors who treat Medicare patients." Politico goes on to say that all the options under consideration represent a "massive departure from the trillions of dollars" Boehner and President Obama "cut in 2011."

The Hill (2/6, Berman, Schroeder, 194K) reported that on Wednesday, House Majority Leader Cantor "told Senate Republicans at their policy retreat to expect the House to send over a bipartisan debt ceiling bill." According to The Hill, an unidentified Republican senator "stood up to propose structuring the expansion of borrowing authority in such a way that would shift the entire responsibility for the vote to Democrats – a move that some House conservatives have advocated in recent days." However, The Hill says Cantor "shot down the proposal, noting that Republicans control the House and have to vote for the debt-limit increase."

USA Today (2/6, Page, 5.82M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Mike Lee said he would like to see some offset paired with an increase in the debt ceiling, but added, "I think there won't be this time around." The Washington Times (2/6, Hill, 417K) reports that on Wednesday, Moody's Investors Service, "one of Wall Street's three top credit raters," said "it expects Congress ultimately to raise the legal debt ceiling after the Treasury runs out of borrowing authority but before it exhausts other extraordinary measures it can take to keep paying the government's bills."

Despite the numerous reports in recent days suggesting that House Republicans are unlikely to provoke a showdown over the debt ceiling this year, Ed Schultz used the lead segment of MSNBC's Ed Show (2/5, 449K) to denounce Republicans for "again...planning to hold our nation hostage with the debt limit." Schultz said, "After a credit downgrade for the same stunt back in 2011, it's amazing John Boehner would think about risking it

again." Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) also maintained that Republicans "seem to be up to their same old games, which is trying to hold the economy, trying to hold the full faith and credit of the United States, hostage."

The Washington Post (2/6, Costa, 4.28M) reported that on Tuesday, Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI) said, "It's going to end up being clean anyway. I don't see anything they can put on the table that I would support as some sort of trade-off." Likewise, according to he Huffington Post (2/6, Siddiqui, 11.54M), on Wednesday, Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID) said, "I don't want a ruse, I don't want us to just claim we're fighting for something and then capitulate in the end." On the other hand, the Washington Times (2/6, Sherfinski, 417K) reports that Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) "said passing a clean debt ceiling extension would be 'capitulation.'" The Times says Barton calculated that only about "50 or 60" House Republicans would back a "clean" increase.

WEAK ADP JOBS REPORT WEIGHS ON STOCKS. Media coverage of the economy was generally downbeat, with news outlets, as well as traders, given more weight to the disappointing ADP jobs report than to the solid ISM service sector report.

ADP Private Sector Payroll Report Disappoints. Bloomberg News (2/6, Chandra, 1.91M) reports that ADP said on Wednesday that private sector employers added 175,000 jobs in January, less than the 185,000 expected by economists. In addition, December's originally-reported gain of 238,000 was revised downward to 227,000. Bloomberg News says that companies "added fewer workers than projected in January as colder-than-normal weather limited progress in the U.S. job market." The Department of Labor will release the data for the full economy on Friday.

Service Sector Growth Accelerated In January. Reuters (2/6) reports that the Institute for Supply Management's Non-Manufacturing Index, a measure of service sector economic activity, rose to 54 in January from 53 in December. That indicates that the sector is expanding at a more rapid rate. ISM's NMI had fallen for the prior two months.

Stocks Little Changed On Wednesday. The Wall Street Journal (2/6, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the Dow Jones Industrial Average was little changed on Wednesday, fallen 5,01 points to 15,440.23, while the S&P 500 fell 3.56 points to 1,751.64. The Nasdaq Composite Index, meanwhile, fell 19.97 points to 4,011.55. The Journal says that ADP's December report had a dampening effect on the markets.

Bloomberg News (2/6, Wang, Taborek, 1.91M) reports that stocks were tepid as the ADP report showed "companies added fewer jobs than forecast overshadowed acceleration in service industries."

Analysts Say Severe Winter Has Cost Economy $10 Billion. The CBS Evening News (2/5, story 3, 2:15, Pelley, 5.58M) reported, that analysts "estimate that the weather this season has cost the economy about $10 billion," which includes "lost productivity, workers who just can't get to work, and money going to heating bills instead of down to the corner restaurant." CBS (Reynolds) adds that the weather this winter "could slow national economic growth by half a percent this quarter– a significant snowball in an economy that grew only 2.7 percent last year."

USA Today (2/6, Jones, 5.82M) reports that the weather that has "pounded the U.S. and led to the delay or cancellation of thousands of flights this year have taken a financial toll not only on those in the business of flying but also on those dependent on a plane ride to get them to the next business meeting." In January, 49,000 flights were canceled by US carriers, "more than four times the number canceled in January 2013," according to data from masFlight, while "another 300,000 failed to take off on time." The flight problems "disrupted plans of roughly 30 million fliers and cost them over $2.5 billion in lost work time and out-of-pocket costs."

More Than One-Sixth Of Prime Working Age Men Out Of A Job. In a front-page story entitled "More Men In Prime Working Ages Don't Have Jobs," the Wall Street Journal (2/6, A1, Peters, Wessel, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that 10.4 million men in prime working ages, more than 1-in-6, don't have jobs. The Journal says it is partly a symptom of the slow recovery of the US economy, but it is also a chronic condition that shows the problems that can result from globalization and the growth of technology.

Atlanta Fed's Plosser Pushes For Quicker Taper. Reuters (2/6, Hughes, Spicer) reports Philadelphia Fed President Charles Plosser is pushing for the Fed to wind-down its bond-buying program faster than it currently

plans to and complete the process by the middle of this year. However, new Fed Chair Yellen is seen as unlikely to be moved by the argument, particularly as the current pace of the taper was publicly backed by Atlanta Fed Chair Dennis Lockhart on Wednesday.

In addition, Bloomberg News (2/6, Matthews, 1.91M) reports that Lockhart, a "consistent supporter of record stimulus," also argued that the unemployment rate is not the best indicator of the health of labor markets, and suggested that the Fed should commit to keeping interest rates low until a broader picture of labor market health emerges.

Regulators Consider Easing Volcker Rule On Collateralized Loan Obligations. The Wall Street Journal (2/6, Ackerman, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Fed Governor Daniel Tarullo to the House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday that regulators are considering easing a provision of the Volcker rule that impact collateralized loan obligations, which are securities consisting of a group of loans made to companies with poor credit ratings. Members of both parties had pressed Tarullo for action on CLOs during the hearing.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Detroit's Immigration Solution."*** The New York Times (2/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that while Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's "unusual plan" to offer 50,000 high-skilled worker visas to those settling in Detroit is "appealing on a gut level," there is "something unsettling about it. ... There's something oddly defeatist about saying: Our citizens have been done wrong for so long, let's bring in Chinese and Indians." It also "seems strange" to tie Federal immigration policy "to one well-meaning municipal project: Why just Detroit? Why not Baltimore or Brownsville, Tex.?" The Times credits Snyder for proposing the idea, but says the immigration reform bill that passed the Senate last year is a better option.

"A Missing Argument On Contraceptives." The New York Times (2/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, notes that next month, the Supreme Court is "scheduled to hear two cases brought by secular, for-profit corporations whose owners want an exemption, based on their religious beliefs, from the requirement that employers' health plans cover the full range of contraceptive services without a co-payment." The Times goes on to says that, "oddly, the Justice Department has relegated to a footnote what may be the strongest single argument against allowing the two companies to deny their workers contraceptive coverage that they would otherwise be entitled to," which is, according to the Times, "the Constitution's establishment clause...barring government from favoring one religion over another or nonbelievers."

"The U.N. Confronts The Vatican." The New York Times (2/6, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that a UN panel's findings that the Roman Catholic Church shielded priests who have sexually abused tens of thousands of children worldwide were "a well-deserved judgment, particularly as Vatican officials continue to insist the many thousands of cases of child rape and abuse by clergy were a matter outside their domain," and "went to the heart of the matter in rejecting the church officials' claims that they were responsible" for enforcing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child "only within the geographical limits of Vatican City."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Common Sense With Keystone."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/6, 4.28M) says a State Department report on the Keystone XL pipeline "largely confirms" other independent examinations of the impact of the pipeline. The Post writes that environmentalists have "drawn a line in the sand" on the pipeline, but it is "the wrong line in the wrong sand, far away from any realistic assessment of the merits." The piece says it is "past time" for President Obama to "set aside politics and resolve this bizarre distraction of an issue."

"Options On Syria." An editorial in the Washington Post (2/6, 4.28M) argues that despite the President's view, the US "has a number of options for action in Syria that would be more robust than the current policy but fall well short of the use of U.S. ground forces." The Post argues that while US "inaction over the past three years has left the administration with more difficult options," options "still exist" and it is "not too late to stand against the regime's atrocities and the growing terrorist threat."

"A Bad Deal For D.C. Charters." In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/6, 4.28M) says that a new study on District of Columbia school funding "validates the long-held suspicion that public charter school students have not been funded equitably compared with their peers in the traditional school system," which is "contrary to DC law."

The Post praises the District's public charter school system, and argues for rapidly equalizing funding.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Obama's IRS 'Confusion.'"*** The Wall Street Journal (2/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes that though President Obama argues that IRS targeting of nonprofits was due to the confusing nature of relevant tax law, a Wednesday hearing of a House Ways and Means subcommitee showed this to be false. The Journal says IRS Commissioner John Koskinen should postpone implementation of new rules until congressional hearings are complete.

"Turkey's Tribulations." The Wall Street Journal (2/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, argues that while Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's AK Party did much to help Turkey's economy since it came to power, but Erdogan's recent actions and conspiracy theories are threatening those advances. The Journal adds that Erdogan's disregard for the rule of law and treatment of his rivals as enemies is putting Turkey's economy at risk.

"ObamaCare's New Theory Of Employment." The Wall Street Journal (2/6, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, says Democrats are mistaking the genuine "job lock" phenomena, which keeps workers from taking new jobs because of the benefits tied to their existing position, with what it says is an Affordable Care Act-generated phenomena of workers choosing not to work at all because they are better off collecting government benefits.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US To Curb Pakistan Drone Program
Insurers Face New Pressure Over Limited Doctor Choice
More Men In Their Prime Are Out Of Work And At Home
Google Reaches EU Settlement

New York Times:
Jihadist Return Is Said To Drive Attacks In Egypt
Ukraine Chief Loses Support In Stronghold
Tech Industry Flexes Muscle In California Race
Racing To Save The Stray Dogs Of Sochi
Subdued Send-Off, But Jay Leno Is Exiting On Top
A Rough Final Winter For New York's Sanitation Chief
Pussy Riot Members Take Tour To New York

Washington Post:
GOP Weighs A New Strategy As Debt Limit Looms Again
A New Kind Of Handout
Vatican Blasted By UN On Abuse UN Blasts Vatican On Abuse
CVS Ending Tobacco Sales
High Above, An All-Seeing Eye Watches For Crime

Financial Times:
NY Regulator Opens Currency Probe
Twitter Shares Slide On Slowing Growth
CVS Stubs Out $2bn Tobacco Business
Google And EU Agree To Settle Search Row
US Shale Under Fire Over Thirst For Water
Shadow Banks Lure Mid-Market US Groups

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Sochi Olympics-Terror Warning; Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Analysis; Florida-Movie Theater

Shooting; Hoffman-Heroin Overdose Investigation; CVS-Tobacco Products; Subway-Food Changes.
CBS: Sochi Olympics-Terror Warning; Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Economy; CVS-Tobacco Products; Hoffman-Heroin Overdose Investigation; Syria-Chemical Weapons; Baghdad-Deadly Bombings; Sergeant Cory Remsburg Interview.
NBC: Severe Weather; Severe Weather Forecast; Sochi Olympics-Terror Warning; Sochi Olympics; CVS-Tobacco Products; Vatican-Sexual Abuse Scandal; Hoffman-Heroin Overdose Investigation.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Sochi Olympics-Terror Warning; Severe Weather-Flight Cancellations; Severe Weather; Nuclear Repository Fire;
CBS: Sochi Olympics; Sochi Olympics-Terror Warning; Severe Weather; West Virginia-Chemical Spill Aftermath; CVS-Tobacco Products; Virginia-Metal Object Crashes Into Home.
FOX: Iraq-Violence; Sochi Olympics-Terror Warning; Sochi Olympics; Severe Weather-Flight Cancellations; Severe Weather; Wall Street; Economy-Jobs; Politics-Oil Exports Ban Debate; Hoffman Tribute; CVS-Tobacco Products; West Virginia-Chemical Spill Aftermath.
NPR: Severe Weather; IRS-Tea Party Controversy; West Virginia-Chemical Spill Aftermath; California-Drought; Texas-Execution; Sochi Olympics-Euthanization Of Dogs Report; Sochi Olympics.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Attends the National Prayer Breakfast with the first lady and the vice president and delivers remarks, Washington Hilton, pooled press; holds a bilateral meeting with President Martelly of Haiti, Oval Office, pool spray at the top. Notes: In-town poll call. Briefing by Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington. Delivers remarks at an event in Philadelphia highlighting the importance of infrastructure investment. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx will also attend. Open press.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. — The Senate convenes and resumes consideration of S.1845, the Unemployment Insurance Extension bill.

SENATOR WARREN – FEDERAL BENCH DIVERSITY — 9:30 a.m. Senator Elizabeth Warren, D-MA to keynote forum on professional diversity on the Federal branch. The Alliance for Justice will release report on professional backgrounds of Obama judicial nominees. RSVP to: press@warren.senate.gov. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center (SVC 203-2). Notes: (Please arrive early for security)

DISTRACTED DRIVING SUMMIT — 10 a.m. U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Chairman John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV will host a daylong summit titled, "Over-Connected and Behind the Wheel: A Summit on Technological Solutions to Distracted Driving." Location: 253 Russell. Notes: Summit runs through the Afternoon.

AFGHANISTAN RESOLUTION NEWS CONFERENCE — 11 a.m. Sens. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., Mike Lee, R-Utah, Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Rand Paul, R-Ky., hold a press conference to discuss the introduction of their resolution that would require congressional approval for any military mission in Afghanistan after 2014. Location: Senate Radio/Television Gallery.

KAINE – PRESS AVAILABILITY — 11:30 a.m. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern, Southern and Central Asian Affairs, holds press availability following meeting with survivors of Syrian chemical weapons attacks. Location: S-116, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Room.

MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT – NEWS CONFERENCE — 11:30 a.m. A bipartisan group of senators, survivors of sexual assault in the military and advocates call for passage of the Military Justice Improvement Act ahead of an expected Senate vote next week. Location: 485 Russell. Contacts: Bethany Lesser, 202-224-3873

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — 9:30 a.m. Hearings to examine S.1784, to improve timber management on Oregon and Califomia Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road grant land, and S.1966, to provide for the restoration of the economic and ecological health of National Forest System land and rural communities. Location: 366 Dirksen.

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. An oversight hearing to examine financial stability and data security. Witnesses: Panel 1: Mary J. Miller, Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, U. S. Department of the Treasury; Daniel K. Tarullo, Governor, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Martin J. Gruenberg, Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Thomas J. Curry, Comptroller of the Currency, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; Mary Jo White, Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission; Mark Wetjen, Acting Chariman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Location: 538 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on Supporting Children and Families through Investments in High-Quality Early Education. Panel one: Dr. Hirokazu Yoshikawa , Courtney Sale Ross University Professor of Globalization Education at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, New York University, New York, NY; John White, State Superintendent for Louisiana Department of Education, Baton Rouge, LA; Danielle Ewen, Director of the Office of Early Childhood Education, District of Columbia Public Schools; Charlotte M. Brantley , President and CEO of Clayton Early Learning, Denver, CO. Location: 430 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Business meeting to consider S. 1486, the Postal Reform Act of 2013. Location: 342 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY — 10 a.m. Business meeting to consider S.1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, S.149, to provide effective criminal prosecutions for certain identity thefts, and the nominations of Indira Talwani, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, James D. Peterson, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin, Nancy J. Rosenstengel, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, and Debo P. Adegbile, of New York, and John P. Carlin, of New York, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. Location: 226 Dirksen.

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — 10:30 a.m. Business meeting to consider H.R.1206, to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, S.741, to extend the authorization of appropriations to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2017, S.212, to approve the transfer of Yellow Creek Port properties in luka, Mississippi, S.864, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, H.R.724, to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles, S.51, to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, S.970, to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under the Act, S.898, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation, S.969, to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act, S.1077, to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to provide for the reauthorization of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, S.1865, to amend the prices set for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users, S.1451, to provide for environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or shipment of quagga mussels, S.1080, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship, and the nominations of Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Chief Financial Officer, Thomas A. Burke, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator, and Kenneth J. Kopocis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator, all of the Environmental Protection Agency, Roy K. J. Williams, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, Richard J. Engler, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, and proposed resolutions relating to the General Services Administration. Location: 406 Dirksen.

FINANCE — 11 a.m. Open Executive Session to consider favorably reporting the nomination of Karen Dynan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Janice Eberly. Location: S-216.

ARMED SERVICES AND INTELLIGENCE — 2:30 p.m. Closed hearing to hear testimony on counterterrorism policy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Location: Office of Senate Security, Capitol Visitor Center (SVC-217).

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 2:30 p.m. Hearings to examine the nominations of Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Jamaica, John L. Estrada, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, all of the Department of State. Location: 419 Dirksen.
US House: 9 a.m. — House meets for legislative business, with last votes expected no later than 3 p.m.

WAXMAN, SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS — 9:30 a.m. Rep. Henry A. Waxman and members of the Safe Climate Caucus will announce Thursday their new initiative to take action to respond to the threat of climate change. They will discuss the climate change and environmental issues facing Congress and the country in the coming year.. Participants: Rep. Henry A. Waxman; Rep. Julia Brownley; Rep. Lois Capps; Rep. Lloyd Doggett; Rep. Ben Ray Lujan; Rep. Scott Peters; Rep. Chris Van Hollen and other members of the Safe Climate Caucus. Location: Capitol Visitors Center, HVC Studio B (access thru HVC 117). Contacts: Karen Lightfoot (202) 225-5735

PELOSI – NEWS CONFERENCE — 10:45 a.m. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi holds her weekly press conference. Location: Capitol Visitor Center, HVC Studio A.

BOEHNER BRIEFING — 11:30 a.m. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, holds an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A.

CBC DAY OF PRAYER — 1 p.m. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and faith leaders from around the country will gather on the Capitol Hill East Lawn for the first national CBC Day of Prayer to End Poverty and Income Inequality. Participants include Chairwoman Marcia L. Fudge, Congressional Black Caucus; Chair Emeritus, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Congressional Black Caucus; Mayor Vincent Gray, Washington, D.C.; Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives; Bishop Martin Holley, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Washington; Reverend Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director of Refugee & Immigration Ministries; Imam Mohamed Magid, President, Islamic Society of North America; Reverend Jim Wallis, President, Sojourners & Facilitator, Faith Table of Progressive Evangelical Leaders; Rabbi Fred N. Reiner, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Sinai; Dr. Rajwant Singh, Chairman, Sikh Council on Religion and Education; Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore, President, Progressive National Baptist Convention; Voices of Hope, Community of Hope AME. Location: Capitol Hill East Lawn/House Triangle. RAIN LOCATION: H-137, The Capitol Building. Contacts: Ayofemi Kirby, Ayofemi.kirby@mail.house.gov, 202-226-9776.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

INTELLIGENCE — 9 a.m. Business Meeting. (Open, will close.). Location: HVC-304.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs holds a hearing titled "The IRS Targeting Investigation: What is the Administration Doing?" Location: 2154 Rayburn.

HOMELAND SECURITY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency hearing on Examining Challenges and Wasted Taxpayer Dollars in Modernizing Border Security IT Systems. Witnesses: David Powner, Director, Information Technology Management Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Charles Armstrong, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Information and Technology, Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Thomas Michelli, Chief Information Officer, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Location: 311 Cannon.

SMALL BUSINESS — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade holds a hearing on "Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation in Federal Financial Assistance Programs." Witnesses: William B. Shear, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, United States Government Accountability Office, Washington,

DC; Ann Marie Mehlum, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access, United States Small Business Administration, Washington, DC; Lillian Salerno, Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. Location: 2360 Rayburn.
Other: DRONE PROTEST — Feb. 3 – 7. Citizen activists from the east coast to the west coast will be in court this week defending their actions protesting the United States Military and Central Intelligence Agency weaponized drone program. (Beale AFB case), US Courthouse, 501 I St., Sacramento, CA, (Hancock AFB case) Courthouse at 400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse, NY, (CIA case) U.S. District Court, 401 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA. CONTACTS: Contacts: Beale AFB defendants: Robin Ryan 415-517-5856; Martha Hubert; 415-722-3321; Toby Blome, 510-541-6874; Hancock AFB defendants: Ed Kinane, 315-478-4571; Mary Anne Grady Flores, 607-273-7437; CIA defendants: Malachy Kilbride 571 501-3729, Max Obuszewski 410 366-1637 Joy First 608 239-4327.

ADOBE DIGITAL GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY — More than 500 senior level government and industry IT leaders are expected at the 5th Annual Adobe Digital Government Assembly. Highlights: 10 a.m. Science & Technology Directorate (S&T) Cyber Security Division Program Manager Luke Berndt (Department of Homeland Security) will participate in a panel discussion entitled "Engage Anywhere at Anytime on Any Device." Location: Ritz-Carlton-Pentagon City, 1250 S. Hayes St., Arlington, VA.

HCI-DC 2014 — 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. The Gary and Mary West Health Institute (WHI) and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) are co-hosting HCI-DC 2014: Igniting an Interoperable Healthcare System. Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street NW. Contacts: Andrew Sousa a.sousa@togorun.com (202.828.5069)

TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM ON COLLEGE RATINGS SYSTEM — 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. U.S. Department of Educations National Center For Education Statistics (NCES) to Host Technical Symposium on College Ratings System. Speakers: John Easton, director, Institute of Education Sciences (IES), U.S. Department of Education, National experts on college ratings systems. Location: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, N.W., 8th Floor Conference Center. Contacts: Press Office press@ed.gov ((202) 401-1576).

2014 NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST — Feb. 4 – 7. 7 a.m. National Prayer Breakfast, an annual event held on the first Thursday of February in its 61st year, brings together over 3,200 people from all 50 US states and 140 countries. Taking place in Washington, D.C. and highlighted by an address by the President of the Unites States. Full day of events including the National Prayer Breakfast, hosted by Members of the Congressional fellowship groups, a National Leadership Seminar, breakout sessions with International guests, and the Family Dinner. Location: Hilton Hotel.

POLITICO – ENERGY POLICY — 8 a.m. POLITICO's "Energy & the 113th Congress," presented by Our Energy Moment. With Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas), Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee; Frances Beinecke, President, Natural Resources Defense Council; Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.), Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee; Ross Eisenberg, Vice President of Energy and Resources Policy, National Association of Manufacturers; David L. Goldwyn, President, Goldwyn Global Strategies, LLC; Rep. Gene Green (D-Texas), Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee; Sarah Ladislaw, Director and Senior Fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies Energy and National Security Program; Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.), Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee; Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Location: Hyatt Regency, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW. Notes: RSVP to booking@politico.com

NATIONAL JOURNAL – FCC CHAIRMAN — 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. National Journal LIVE holds "Dialing In on the IP Transition" policy summit. featuring keynote remarks from FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, to explore the challenges facing American communications in the 21st century. Location: Newseum, 3rd Floor, Knight Broadcast Studio, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Contacts: Kori Anderson, kanderson@atlanticmedia.com, 202-266-7578

INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE – COSTA RICA — 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Inter-American Dialogue and the Center for Inter-American Policy and Research at Tulane University host a discussion on the results and implications of the first round of Costa Ricas elections on Feb. 2. Participants: Kevin Casas-Zamora, Organization of American

States, and Constantino Urcuyo, Centro de Investigacion y Adiestramiento Politico Administrativo. Moderated by Manuel Orozco, Inter-American Dialogue. Location: Inter-American Dialogue, 1211 Connecticut Ave. NW. Contacts: Michael Shifter (meetings@thedialogue.org), 202-822-9002. Notes: Portions of the session will be in Spanish.

CDDA – CRIME AND CORRUPTION IN VENEZUELA — 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The Center for Democracy and Development in the Americas (CDDA) presents a panel of experts, academics and former Venezuelan diplomatic officials to discuss the relationship between state corruption and organized crime in Venezuela. Moderated by Fermin Lares, former counselor at the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington and the author of the forthcoming book "The Dark Side of Chavismo." Panelists: Carlos Tablante, former Venezuelan governor and congressman, and author of the book "Delinquent State: How Organized Crime Operates in Venezuela"; Jesus Ollarves, human rights activist and law professor at the Central University of Venezuela; Ari Chaplin, professor of comparative politics and author of the book "Chavez's Legacy: The Transformation from Democracy to a Mafia State"; and Sergio Dahhbar, the publisher of El Librero and a columnist at the leading Venezuelan newspaper El Nacional. Closing remarks by Leopoldo Martinez, the founder of CDDA who served as a congressman in Venezuela between 2000 and 2005. Location: National Press Club, Conference Room (Main Level), 529 14th St. NW. Contacts: Chris DeVito, 212-362-1307. Notes: RSVP: venezuela_initiative@cddamericas.org

IP TRANSITION – FCC CHAIRMAN WHEELER — 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. National Journal LIVE's "Dialing In on the IP Transition". Speakers: Chairman Tom Wheeler, Federal Communications Commission; Kathleen Abernathy, Executive Vice President, External Affairs, Frontier Communications; Harold Feld, Senior Vice President, Public Knowledge; Barry Ohlson, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Cox Enterprises Inc.; Chip Pickering, Chief Executive Officer, COMPTEL; Robert Quinn, Senior Vice President, Federal Regulatory and Chief Privacy Officer, AT&T; Bruce Gottlieb, President, National Journal. Contacts: Kori Anderson kanderson@atlanticmedia.com ((202) 266-7578)

GALLUP – RUSSIA – MEDIA TRENDS — 9 a.m. The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and Gallup host research briefing on media use in Russia. Speakers: Chris Stewart, Partner, Gallup; Bruce Sherman, Director, Office of Strategy and Development, BBG; Neli Esipova, Director of Research, Global Migration and Regional Director, Gallup; Paul Tibbitts, Director, Market Insight and Evaluation, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; Scott Michael, Research Analyst, International Broadcasting Bureau. Location: Gallup World Headquarters, The Gallup Building, 901 F Street, NW. Contacts: Register at: bbggalluprussia.eventbrite.com. Notes: Rescheduled from Jan. 22.

NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MEETING — 9 a.m. Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Karol V. Mason will deliver remarks at the National Indian Education Association meeting. Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, Salon 4, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, Va. Notes: All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a drivers license) as well as valid media credentials. Media inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Krista Thompson at kthompson@niea.org or 202-544-7290.

CSIS – WORKING WITH USAID — 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Paving the Way for Development: Working with the Office of Transition Initiatives with Karma Lively, Chief, Operations and Management, Office of Transition Initiatives, U.S. Agency for International Development. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 9th Floor, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. Contacts: Christina Perkins ((202) 775-3236)

NIH – GENOMIC RESEARCH – GLOBAL HEALTH — 10 a.m. The Role of Genomic Research in Global Health; Thomas Lehner , NIH/NIMH; Mark Guyer , NIH/NHGRI; Joana Carneiro de Silva , University of Maryland; Paul Brindley , George Washington University; Julia Oh, NIH/NHGRI; Thomas Gross , NIH/NCI; James Fielding Hejtmancik, NIH/NEI; Matthew Brown, Office of Global Affairs/HHS; James Herrington, Director, Division of International Relations, NIH/Fogarty International Center; Francis Collins, Director of National Institutes of Health; Building 45 (Natcher Building); Ruth Kirschstein Auditorium; Contact Info: jessica.taaffe@nih.gov. Location: National Institutes of Health; Building 45, Natcher Building, Bethesda, Maryland, 20892. Contacts: Emily Coates emily.coates@nih.gov. Jessica Taaffe jessica.taaffe@nih.gov

WILSON CENTER – UKRAINE – TELECONFERENCE — 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Discussion on the complex situation facing Ukraine with prominent experts and Kennan Institute alumni on the ground in Kyiv and the broader region. Participants: Balazs Jarabik, Senior Fellow, Central European Policy Institute; oversaw civil

society and independent media development projects in Ukraine for the international NGO Pact; Oleksiy Semeniy, Director of the Institute for Global Transformations and former Chief Advisor to former President Yushchenkos Department of Foreign Affairs; Kateryna Smagliy, Country Consultant, European Endowment for Democracy; former Kennan Institute Fulbright scholar; currently based in Kyiv. Moderator: Matt Rojansky, Director, Kennan Institute, The Wilson Center. Toll-Free Conference Line: 888.947.9018 (Toll Free/Domestic). Conference Line: 517.308.9006 (Toll/International). Passcode: 13304.

BROOKINGS – 'BEIRUT TO BAGHDAD' — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Saban Center at Brookings will host an event, "The Arc of Crisis: Beirut to Baghdad" to examine the rising tension and violence kindled by the Syrian war and offer recommendations on what the United States can do to counteract these trends. Panelists will include Fellow Salman Shaikh, director of the Brookings Doha Center; Senior Fellow Kenneth M. Pollack; and Roger Hertog Senior Fellow Michael Doran. Brookings Senior Fellow Michael O'Hanlon, director of research for Foreign Policy, will provide introductory remarks and moderate the discussion. Location: Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Contacts: Brookings Communications (events@brookings.edu), 202-797-6105

FREEDOM HOUSE – TURKEY —10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Democracy in Crisis: Corruption, Media, and Power in Turkey. Opening Statement: David J. Kramer, President, Freedom House. Panelists: Steven A.: Cook, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations; Susan Corke, Director of Eurasia Programs, Freedom House; Andrew Finkel, Co-founder of P24, an NGO supporting independent journalism in Turkey. Moderator: Carla Anne Robbins, Clinical Professor of National Security Studies, Baruch College, City University of New York. Location: Knight Conference Center, 8th floor conference level, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW.

BROOKINGS – CHINA – CLEAN ENERGY — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The John L. Thornton China Center at Brookings hosts a panel discussion to evaluate Chinas changing energy priorities and policies, their implications for U.S.-China energy cooperation and the growing demand and prospects for Chinas energy future. Location: The Brookings Institution, Saul/Zilkha Rooms, 1775 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Contacts: RSVP, 202-797-6105

USDA – FOREST HEALTH — 10:15 a.m. Under Secretary Robert Bonnie hosts a media conference call to announce a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk. Contacts: USDA, 202-720-4623. Notes: Dial in number: 800-475-0220 Passcode: NRCS (Given Verbally) Trouble number: 202-720-8560

EMPACT AMERICA – IRANIAN NUCLEAR — 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Ambassador and former Director of Central Intelligence R. James Woolsey, and Center for Security Policy's Frank Gaffney will host a panel discussion entitled, "American Security and the Iranian Bomb: Analyzing Threats at Home and Abroad." Location: Reserve Officers Association, Minuteman Ballroom, One Constitution Avenue, NE. Contacts: Emily Cashel, ecashel@sbpublicaffairs.com, 703-739-5920. Notes: INFO & RSVP: HomelandThreats.com.

REAGAN – WREATH LAYING — 10:45 a.m. Wreath presentation ceremony at the statue of Ronald Reagan at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in honor the anniversary of former president's 103rd birthday. The event is being sponsored by the Illinois State Society. Larry Krakover, the treasurer of the Illinois State Society, will conduct the ceremony. Media should RSVP for the February 6 event to Fran Griffin of Griffin Communications at griffin@griffnews.com or by calling 202-643-1048. Location: park in short-term parking and gather in the historic lobby of Terminal A Reagan NAtional Airport. Contacts: Fran Griffin 202-643-1048.

LOYALSOCK FOREST – NATURAL GAS — 11 a.m. Save the Loyalsock Coalition — a group of organizations working to protect the Loyalsock State Forest in north-central Pennsylvania — will issue a report critical of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, which is trying to introduce large-scale natural gas development into some of the forest, during a live, phone-based news event. With Greg Vitali, minority chair, House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Pennsylvania House of Representatives; Adam Kron, attorney and report author, Environmental Integrity Project; Mark Szybist, staff attorney, PennFuture; and Barbara Jarmoska, vice president and treasurer, Responsible Drilling Alliance. Contacts: Patrick Mitchell, pmitchell@hastingsgroup.com, 703-276-3266. Notes: Join the live phone-based news conference (with full, two-way Q&A) by dialing 1-877-270-2148. Ask for the "Loyalsock Forest/Anadarko" news event.

WAXMAN – CARBON POLLUTION STANDARD – POWER PLANTS — 11 a.m. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., joins representatives from coal country and the Latino community outside the EPA Headquarters in support of a

carbon pollution standard for new power plants. Speakers: Representative Henry A. Waxman, California 33rd District; Nick Mullins, Fourth Generation Coal Miner, Berea, KY; Roger Rivera, President, National Hispanic Environmental Council. Location: Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, 1201 Constitution Ave, NW.; Event will be outside, at the comer of 12th and Constitution NW. Contacts: bentonstrongcac@gmail.com Benton Strong (206-856-2309). lauren.randall@sierraclub.org Lauren Randall, Sierra Club (781-608-1485). Notes: Inside the building, the EPA will be hearing comments from the public on the carbon pollution standard.

MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT – NEWS CONFERENCE — 11:30 a.m. A bipartisan group of senators, survivors of sexual assault in the military and advocates call for passage of the Military Justice Improvement Act ahead of an expected Senate vote next week. Location: 485 Russell. Contacts: Bethany Lesser, 202-224-3873

CAP ACTION FUND – MIDDLE CLASS — 12 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. The Center for American Progress Action Fund will host a discussion with Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Mayor Bill Peduto of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Hector Figueroa, president of 32BJ Service Employees International Union, or SEIU, about what cities can do to increase mobility, strengthen the middle class, and get the country back on track to broadly shared prosperity. Joel Rogers, director of the Center on Wisconsin Strategy, or COWS, will also present a new report, titled "Cities at Work: Progressive State Policies to Rebuild the Middle Class." Location: 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor. Contacts: Katie Peters, 202-741-6285.

ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS – TRENDS — 1 p.m. Teleconference on The last decade has seen an erosion of the United States long-standing predominance in science and technology (S&T), as several Asian nationsparticularly China and South Korearapidly increased their innovation and competitive capabilities. These trends are outlined in a new report that will be released February 6 by the National Science Board, the policymaking body for the National Science Foundation and an independent advisor to the President and Congress. Participants: Dan Arvizu, Chairman, National Science Board, (Director and Chief Executive of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory); Kelvin Droegemeier, Vice Chairman, National Science Board, (Vice President for Research, University of Oklahoma); Ray Bowen, Chairman, National Science Boards Committee on Science and Engineering Indicators. DIAL IN: 866-844-9416, code NSBSEI

SAIS – CHINA AND MARITIME SECURITY — 4:30 p.m. Andrew Erickson, associate professor in the Strategic Research Department at the U.S. Naval War College and founding member of the China Maritime Studies Institute (CMSI) at the U.S. Naval War College. RSVP to the Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at reischauer@jhu.edu. Location: Room 806, Rome Building, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

GEORGETOWN LAW – ASYLUM ADJUDICATION — 5 p.m. Georgetown University Law Center presents a discussion of Lives in the Balance: Asylum Adjudication by the Department of Homeland Security, a new book by Georgetown Law Professor Philip G. Schrag and Visiting Professor Andrew I. Schoenholtz, and Temple Law Professor Jaya Ramji-Nogales. Media RSVP: mediarelations@law.georgetown.edu. Location: Georgetown University Law Center, Gewirz Student Center, 12th Floor, 120 F Street, NW.

CNAS – UNCONVENTIONAL ENERGY – NATIONAL SECURITY — 5:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Center for a New American Security hosts remarks on energy and national security by former National Security Advisor Thomas E. Donilon and the rollout of a major new report of the CNAS Unconventional Energy and U.S. National Security Task Force, Energy Rush: Shale Production and U.S. National Security. Location: Willard InterContinental Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW.

SFS – SOCHI — 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The Center for a Secure Free Society hosts discussion on Are the Sochi Olympics Safe? Analyzing security threats in the North Caucasus. Speaker: Dr. Evgueni Novikov, SFS Senior Fellow, former senior official in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and author of the new book Rethinking the Reset Button: Understanding Contemporary Russian Foreign Policy; Ilan Berman, Vice President of the American Foreign Policy Council, author of the new book Implosion: The End of Russia and What it Means for America. Moderator: Bryan Bender , Defense correspondent, The Boston Globe, author of You Are Not Forgotten: The Story of a Lost World War II Pilot and a 21st Century Soldiers Mission to Bring him Home. Location: 509 C Street N.E.

ST. ALBAN'S LECTURE – GLOBAL TRENDS — 7 p.m. Speaker: Scott Aughenbaugh, Multimedia Manager with the Seven Revolutions Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Topic: Seven Resolutions:

Global Trends That Will Change the Way We Work, Think, and Live. Location: Trapier Theater, Marriott Hall, St. Albans School. Contacts: Molly Meinhardt rsvp@cathedral.org ((202) 537-5582).

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "The office of Governor Chris Christie is extremely displeased with the sloppy reporting displayed by 'The New York Times' in their coverage of the accusations made by former Port Authority Chief David Wildstein. The Governor would also like to take this opportunity to highlight a few other things he believes are sloppy: meatloaf with gravy, nachos, barbecue ribs, meat lover's pizza, buffalo wings, hot fudge sundaes, and chili dogs."

David Letterman: "Yeah, the Russians are not ready. You heard it here first. They are not ready for the Olympics. The Russians are not ready. You know, I'm blaming it on Obamacare."

Stephen Colbert: "Oh, nobody believed me when I said Obamacare was a job killer. And now it is. It's only a matter of time before they roll out the death panels and elder catapults."

Stephen Colbert: "...Obamacare gives people healthcare options allowing them to work less if they choose. But what looks better on a bumper stick: 'Obamacare job killer. Vote GOP.' Or 'Obamacare's estimated reduction in the workforce stems almost entirely from a net decline in the amount of labor that workers choose to supply rather than from a net drop in businesses' demand for labor. Vote Democrat.' Besides, besides, people should be chained by their need for insurance to jobs they hate. That is what built this country. You think anyone wanted to be a pilgrim? No! But they stuck it out for the buckle insurance."

Jay Leno: "Well, the Olympics start on Friday as you know and Russia's implementing the most intensive security in Olympic history. During the [Winter] Games, the government will monitor every email. They will monitor every social media message and they listen in on every phone call. In fact, people now comparing Russia to the United States. That is how bad it is."

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Re: Information Memo regarding Questions for the Record following the HNR hearing on 7 17 13

Jewell, Sally (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> Sat, Feb 8, 2014 at 10:40 AM
To: "Walls, Erin" <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Christopher Salotti <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_Neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

Dear Chris -

Attached are the QFRs, with comments and a few edits. I know the hearing was long ago, and some of the answers reflect sequestration in the present vs. past tense. Also, I have noted where it appears our answers have gaps. I appreciate how hard you have been working with all of our nominees and the interminable lists of QFRs on all of them. Feel free to let me know if you want to discuss any of these.

Thanks,

Sally

On Fri, Feb 7, 2014 at 9:52 AM, Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Hi Sally,

I am re-sending this for you to take a look at. OCL would like to get this back from you by Monday if possible.

Thanks,
Erin

——— Forwarded message ———
From: **Ossowski, Elizabeth** <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Jan 24, 2014 at 6:45 PM
Subject: Information Memo regarding Questions for the Record following the HNR hearing on 7 17 13
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached is an Information Memo from OCL regarding Questions for the Record following the House Natural Resources Committee on July 17, 2013. This has been uploaded to Google Drive in your Information Memos folder.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: January 23, 2014
FROM: Chris Salotti, Legislative Counsel, OCL (202)208-7619; Sarah Neimeyer, Director, OCL (202)208-7693
SUBJECT: Responses to Questions for the Record following the House Natural Resources Committee hearing on July 17, 2013

Attached for your review are responses to Questions for the Record (QFRs) that we received following your appearance before the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 17, 2013. These have been reviewed internally and reviewed and cleared by the Office of Management and Budget, and we can make any additional changes that you would like to make following your review before submitting to the Committee.

You testified at three oversight hearings in 2013. This is the last of the three hearings for which QFRs will be submitted. You previously reviewed responses to the Senate Energy and Indian Affairs Committees.

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Questions from Rep. Lamborn

1. In reviewing permits, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife duplicate the efforts of state agencies. Shouldn't Federal Fish and Wildlife avoid duplication and waste of taxpayer resources by delegating permit review to state agencies? State Fish and Wildlife agencies are in the best position to understand what is appropriate for their state.

Response: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's permit issuance and review is carried out in accordance with federal laws and therefore in most cases cannot be delegated to states. The FWS works closely with local, state, and federal government partners to ensure that review processes are conducted in a timely manner, making the best use of taxpayer resources. The Department agrees that it is important to seek ways to increase efficiencies, including by institutionalizing best practices and strengthening collaboration with local and state stakeholders, as well as tribes.

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Questions from Rep. DeFazio

Drilling Safety

2. Secretary Jewell, in February 2012, the House natural Resources Committee Democratic staff released a report that examined safety and environmental violations that occurred relating to oil and gas drilling on federal lands over a decade beginning in the late 1990s. The report indicated that significant and potentially dangerous activities were occurring on federal lands without consistent or adequate federal oversight and enforcement. Since this report was issued what policies has the Department put in place to strengthen the inspection, oversight and enforcement program for onshore oil and gas activities?

Response: The Bureau of Land Management places a high priority on the oil and gas Inspection and Enforcement program. In July 2012, the BLM issued policy and guidance requiring additional oversight of the inspection and enforcement program. The BLM's Fiscal Year 2013 oil and gas inspection and enforcement strategy uses a risk-based system that identifies high priority drilling wells for technical inspection. In addition, the BLM is drafting comprehensive replacement regulations for Onshore Oil and Gas Orders 3 (site security), and 4 (oil measurement). The replacement regulations will update the minimum operating requirements as consistent with current law, technologies, and industry best management practices. Additionally the BLM is preparing a new Onshore Oil and Gas Order 9 (waste prevention) to establish standards to minimize the amount of venting and flaring of natural gas that takes place on oil and gas production facilities on federal and Indian lands. The BLM is also updating internal automation technologies, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of inspection staff. In addition, the BLM is drafting a final rule regulating hydraulic fracturing that will establish a baseline standard for safety and environmental protection across all federal and Indian trust lands throughout the country.

3. Secretary Jewell, the report indicated that monetary penalties for safety violations were almost never issued, and when they were issued, they were issued inconsistently and amounted to very little. Over the thirteen year period evaluated in the report the average fine was only $135 per violation for an industry where the top 5 companies made $119 billion last year. That is not a real deterrent for these companies.

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The fines that BLM can levy on oil and gas companies who violate regulations are set by a 30 year old law that has not been updated. The Interior Department and the American Petroleum Institute have both agreed that these low fines are not a sufficient financial deterrent for companies who violate the law. Former BLM Director Bob Abbey agreed that fine amounts are too low, and former Secretary Salazar committed to reviewing and evaluating ways the Department could increase the dollar amounts of fines. Do you agree that these fines are too low and has the DOI instituted any changes to provide additional deterrents for bad behavior?

Response: The BLM shares your concern over safety violations. The BLM is revising regulations relating to hydrocarbon measurement and accountability and these regulations would establish minimum standards to ensure hydrocarbons are accurately measured and reported. Onshore Order 4 was last updated in 1989, and since then changes in technology have allowed for more accurate fluid measurement.

(b) (5)

Fracking Rule

4. Secretary Jewell, isn't it true that there is currently a wide variety in the stringency and efficacy of state regulations with respect to drilling or hydraulic fracturing on state lands? For example:

Wyoming requires pre-fracking disclosures of all hydraulic fracturing chemicals, no other state requires pre-frack disclosure of everything (some states have more limited disclosure requirements).

Colorado and West Virginia require advanced notice of fracking to landowners and/or residents, no other state has this requirement.

Wyoming has strong rules for surface casing setting depth and protecting drinking water and Texas has good rules for intermediate and production casing cementing. Other states do not have these prescriptive requirements. Furthermore, the existence of these requirements hasn't hindered oil and gas development in CO and TX.

Colorado and New Mexico have tight restrictions on the use of wastewater pits, New York has proposed rules require that all flowback be collected in tanks rather than pits. Other states do not have these requirements.

Despite the claims of the Majority, isn't it true that the revised draft proposed BLM hydraulic fracturing rule would not be a duplicative layer of regulation but would rather

be implemented by individual state BLM offices in a way that dovetails with existing state standards not on top of them?

Response: The BLM's proposed regulations are expected to integrate with existing state standards for hydraulic fracturing by establishing consistent standards for wellbore integrity, chemical disclosure, and flowback fluid management on public lands. While certain states have an established regulatory framework addressing hydraulic fracturing, a number of states with federal oil and gas leases do not. BLM is coordinating with the appropriate state regulatory agencies to minimize duplication and redundancy in the regulatory processes and to provide clarity to the industry.

(b) (5)

5. Secretary Jewell, the discrepancies in state standards are why a federal standard, to act as a floor, is needed. But the revised draft rule BLM recently issued is weaker in a number of important ways that the draft rule issued last year. For example:

In the revised draft rule, cement evaluations don't have to be submitted until after the well is fracked (vs before in the last rule).

In the revised draft rule, operators don't have to provide BLM with information (depth, volume of fluids, chemicals, water source, size of fracturing) about each well and instead can just use one packet of generic information to be submitted for all "similar wells"

In the revised draft rule, disclosure of fracking chemicals would not have to be disclosed until after a well is drilled and could be done using the website Frac Focus, which, while it is undergoing changes, remains a database not run by the federal government that has been criticized for preventing easy access, aggregation, and download of data.

The waiver provisions (called variances) have been expanded to allow entire areas or states to be exempt from some requirements.

I am concerned that despite the fact that a number of Democratic Members wrote to then-Secretary Salazar calling for the initial draft rule to be strengthened, the revised draft rule appears to have been weakened in these critical ways. I would hope that as you continue to work through this rulemaking process you incorporate suggestions of Members of t his Committee and the public to strengthen the rule to protect public health and the environment.

Response: The Department and the BLM have made clear that it is important that the public has confidence that the right safety and environmental protections are in place. The revised

proposed rule will modernize BLM's management of hydraulic fracturing operations and help to establish baseline environmental safeguards for these operations across all public and Indian lands.

BLM believes that the post-fracturing disclosures and certifications contained in the revised proposal would provide adequate assurances that fracking operations protect public health and safety and protect federal and Indian resources, and will ensure that the public is informed about the specifics of the actual fracking operations which are ultimately performed.

The BLM proposed for comment that where the cement evaluation log (CEL) data for a "type well" shows no indications of cement problems, the operator could construct the other wells in an approved group within the same field using the same well design and construction without getting prior approval for the other wells. However, the operator would be required -- for all wells -- to monitor and record the flowrate, density, and treating pressure, when cementing well casings and to submit a cement operation monitoring report to the BLM. The required monitoring data would provide important indications of problems with the cementing of casings and would help to verify the results of a CEL and for wells where no CEL is required and will provide the primary assurance that cementing operations conformed to those of a proven type well. If the monitoring information provides indications of an inadequate cement job, the operator would also be required to notify the BLM within 24 hours, submit a written report within 48 hours, and to certify that the inadequate cement job had been corrected and that usable water zone isolation had been achieved prior to starting hydraulic fracturing operations.

The BLM took comment on all aspects of the rule including whether this approach is sufficient to determine adequate cementing to protect usable water aquifers.

Regarding the use of FracFocus, BLM recognized and understood that FracFocus is in the process of improving the database with enhanced search capabilities to allow for easier reporting of information when including submission of data through this system. Moreover, information submitted to the BLM through FracFocus will still be required to comply with this federal rule, including its requirements that the operator must certify the information submitted is correct. For operators and the public, FracFocus provides a consistent venue that allows for ease of reporting and accessing data.

Finally, as noted in the question, the revised proposed rule would allow the BLM to approve a variance that would apply to all lands within a field, a basin, a state or within Indian lands and that would be based on the BLM's determination that it will meet or exceed the objectives of the regulation. The variance process would allow the BLM to work with states or tribes to appropriately adapt the regulatory requirements to the unique geology of an area or defer to a

standard, technology, or process required or allowed by state or tribal government, as long as application of the standard, technology, or process meets or exceeds the objectives of the hydraulic fracturing rule. The BLM would issue the variance in cooperation with the state or tribe. The variance would apply only to the requirements of the hydraulic fracturing regulations, and all requirements of the Mineral Leasing Act, or the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands, other federal statutes and other all regulations, would continue to apply to all lessees and operators.

(b) (5)

Mining Reform

6. As you know, the Mining Law of 1872 – a law signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant – allows free hardrock mining on federal public lands.

Oil and gas companies have to pay the American taxpayers a royalty when extracting oil and gas from federal lands. Coal companies have to pay a royalty when mining coal on federal lands. But if you are mining for gold, silver, copper, uranium and other valuable hardrock minerals – you pay nothing.

Of course, states, tribal nations, and private landowners aren't foolish enough to give away their hardrock minerals for free – they all charge a royalty – some as high as 12 percent.

We also have the issue of abandoned hardrock mines. According to the GAO there are more than 160,000 abandoned mines in the West alone – some estimates put that toal as high as 500,--- mines and each can cost tens of millions of dollars to clean up.

Secretary Jewell, would your department support – and will you commit to working with this committee on – real mining reform that includes royalties as a source of income for the U.S. Treasury and abandoned mine reclamation?

Response: Yes, the Department looks forwarding to working with the Congress on reform of the mining law. The Administration supports legislative efforts to address the problem of abandoned hardrock mine lands, and has proposed creating a program similar to that for coal mines for abandoned hardrock sites. The Administration also supports efforts to provide a fair return to the taxpayer from hardrock production on federal lands, and has proposed developing a leasing program under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 for certain hardrock minerals including gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, uranium, and molybdenum, currently covered by the General Mining Law of 1872.

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Oil and Gas Development

7. The Majority has brought a number of bills to the floor to require new oil and gas leases on lands under your jurisdiction. These efforts have included bills to require leasing off the West Coast, Atlantic Coast, and in sensitive areas like Bristol Bay – home of the most productive salmon fishery on the planet.

But the truth is that a substantial portion of federal lands – both onshore and offshore – are already under lease for oil and gas development. As I mentioned in my opening statement, there are currently 25 million acres onshore and 30 million acres offshore – for a total of 55 million acres – already under lease that are not producing a drop of oil and gas.

Would your department and President Obama support legislative action to incentivize the development of existing oil and gas leases? In other words, do you believe we should be pushing the industry to use what it already has – 55 million acres – or giving them access to more access to federal land?

Response: Yes. The Administration has proposed legislative reforms to bolster and backstop administrative actions being taken to reform the management of Interior's onshore and offshore oil and gas programs, with a key focus on improving the return to taxpayers from the sale of these federal resources. This includes proposals to encourage the diligent development of oil and gas leases (e.g., requirements for shorter primary lease terms, stricter enforcement of lease terms, and monetary incentives to get leases into production).

Pebble Mine

8. As you know, a Canadian mining corporation is proposing to develop "Pebble Mine," which would be the largest open pit gold-copper mine in North America in the headwaters of two of the most critical wild salmon producing drainages in the world that help support a $2 billion per year sustainable fishery.

Although the Department of the Interior is not directly involved in the approval process of the proposed mining operation, I would strongly encourage you to engage with the EPA and to get involved in this issue. The sheer size of the mine has implications for BLM holdings along the potentially impacted rivers and tributaries of the region as well as the fish and wildlife – like moose, caribou, ducks, geese, and other migratory birds.

And, if the native salmon populations are impacted you potentially have repercussions for the many wildlife species in the food change that salmon support. If you haven't already, I

would encourage you to have a conversation with Gina McCarthy – if and when the Senate does its job and confirms her – and stay active on this issue.

Response: This is an important issue for the Department. While the proposed development is on land owned and managed by the State of Alaska and the watershed assessment is being carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency, the assessment does include some lands managed by Departmental agencies. As such, the Department and its agencies will continue to monitor the process closely.

Public Lands/Wilderness

9. In 2011 DOI issued a report highlighting 18 backcountry areas deserving congressional protection as Conservation Lands or Wilderness, including two of my bills in Oregon – the Rogue Wilderness Area Expansion Act and Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act.

At that time, former Secretary Salazar noted the local and bipartisan support for these proposals and challenged the 112th Congress to pass them, stressing the importance of balancing land conservation with energy development. Unfortunately, not a single one of these bills passed either the House or the Senate – the first time Congress failed to protect a single acre of wilderness in seven decades.

The Obama Administration has been under pressure from the Majority over its use of the Antiquities Act. But I assume the President would much prefer to sign bipartisan conservation bills – passed by Congress – into law instead of using the Antiquities Act as the sole means available in the last two years to preserve and protect sensitive areas and landscapes.

Response: The Administration has testified in support of both the Devil's Staircase and Rogue Wilderness Expansion Acts, and we encourage the Congress to move these bills forward. The Administration is committed to engaging local citizens and getting public input; to understanding how communities feel; and to connecting with local communities in an effective way so that local sentiments about these spectacular places inform decisions about recognizing American treasures. The monument designations the President has made under Antiquities Act authority have followed this community-based approach. It is also worth noting that the Antiquities Act has been used by 16 presidents, from both parties, to recognize the importance of such areas as the Grand Canyon and the Statue of Liberty.

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Endangered Species

10. I am concerned about the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species list throughout the United States. Before the proposal was released, I organized a letter signed by more than 50 of my House colleagues to Service Director Dan Ashe urging him to keep protections for wolves in place as they continue to rebound. The lack of sound scientific evidence to support the Service's claim that the wolf is recovered, even though it only exists in a small portion of its historic range, indicates that a decision has been made to shift the goalposts and declare a victory. What are you doing to review this decision? Will you require the Service to produce additional scientific evidence to prove that wolves no longer warrant protection under the ESA?

Response: The Fish and Wildlife Service evaluated the classification status of gray wolves currently listed in the contiguous United States and Mexico under the Endangered Species Act. Based on that evaluation, and consistent with the ESA, the FWS published two proposed rules on June 13, 2013, to remove the gray wolf from the List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife but to maintain endangered status for the Mexican wolf by listing it as a subspecies. These actions are proposed because the best available scientific and commercial information indicates that the currently listed entity is not a valid species under the ESA and that the Mexican wolf is an endangered subspecies.

On September 30, 2013, the FWS announced that it has reinitiated a scientific peer review process to obtain an independent and objective peer review of the science behind the proposal. The peer review process will be sponsored and conducted by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, a respected interdisciplinary research center at the University of California – Santa Barbara. The center will vet prospective reviewers to verify that they are able to provide an objective review and have no conflict of interest, culminating in the selection of 5 or 6 well-qualified scientists with professional qualifications and relevant experience.

The Department recognizes the significant public interest in this issue and is focused on ensuring that all interested parties have the opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed rule. With that in mind, FWS extended the public comment period on the proposed rule for a second time. In addition, to provide a forum for additional stakeholder input, the FWS also held five public hearings on the proposal, including in Sacramento, CA, Denver, CO, Albuquerque, NM, Pinetop, AZ, and Washington, DC.

Additional details of the proposed rules and public hearings, and links to submit comments to the public record can be found here: www.fws.gov/graywolfrecovery062013.html.

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Questions from Rep. Hanabusa

11. Madame Secretary, since 2009 Indian country's highest legislative priority has been passage of a legislative fix to the Carcieri v. Salazar decision. I introduced bipartisan legislation in the House this year that would provide a clean fix to that misguided decision.

a. It has been suggested that a clean Carcieri fix is impossible, due to concerns related to so-called "off reservation" gaming. Does the Administration continue to support a clean Carcieri fix – that is, restoring Secretarial authority to place land into trust for any federally recognized Indian tribe, regardless of when that tribe was federally recognized?

Response: A *Carcieri* fix is a top priority for the Administration. The Department believes that this decision frustrates the U.S.'s trust responsibility to Indian tribes by hindering the Department's ability to take land into trust for some tribes. The President's 2014 Budget included language that, if enacted, would resolve the issue. The Department stands ready to assist Congress in passing legislation to fix the decision.

b. What administrative measures has the Department taken to ensure that tribal homelands are restored pending Congressional action?

Response: Despite the *Carcieri* decision, which has placed unnecessary and substantial administrative burdens on the Department and tribes and has significantly increased litigation risks, the Department over the last four years has processed more than 1,100 separate applications and acquired over 205,000 acres of land in trust on behalf of Indian tribes and individuals.

The Department is also currently engaged in both federal court and administrative litigation regarding the Secretary's authority to acquire land in trust pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 following the *Carcieri* decision.

c. What steps has the Administration taken or proposed to take in order to work with Congress on passing a clean fix in the 113th Congress?

Response: The Administration continues to support a legislative solution to address the negative impacts and increased burdens on the Department and on Indian Country resulting from this decision. The President included in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget language that, if enacted, would resolve this issue.

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12. Last month, President Obama signed an executive order establishing the White House Council on Native American Affairs, furthering this Administration's already firm commitment to greater engagement and collaboration with Indian tribes. The National Congress of American Indians lauded the establishment of the Council, which you will chair as Secretary of the Interior.

a. The executive order establishing the Counsel states that the Council "shall improve coordination of federal programs and the use of resources available to tribal communities." As Council chair, how do you intend to achieve this purpose? What specific goals would you like to see achieved?

(b) (5)

Response: The Executive Order, signed by President Obama on June 26, is further evidence of this Administration's commitment to advancing self-determination. As noted in the question, the intent is to improve interagency coordination, efficiency, and expand efforts to leverage federal programs and resources available to tribal communities.

The Council will convene at least three times a year and will work collaboratively toward advancing five priorities that mirror the issues tribal leaders have raised during previous White House Tribal Nations Conferences, including promoting sustainable economic development; supporting greater access to and control over healthcare; supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of tribal justice systems; expanding and improving educational opportunities for Native American youth; and protecting and supporting the sustainable management of Native lands, environments, and natural resources.

b. How could Council recommendations impact reservation-level conditions, such as greater access to and control over tribal nutrition and healthcare and tribal justice systems, as well as protecting tribal lands, environments and natural resources?

Response: As noted in the testimony for this hearing, the Council will include more than 30 federal departments and agencies and will work across governments and executive departments, agencies, and offices to develop policy recommendations and expand efforts to leverage federal programs and resources available to tribal communities. The goal is that the Council, through this improved coordination and use of resources will focus on key activities, such as promoting sustainable economic development; supporting greater access to and control over healthcare; improving the effectiveness and efficiency of tribal justice systems; expanding and improving educational opportunities for Native American youth; and protecting and supporting the

sustainable management of Native lands, environments, and natural resources, will have a positive impact on issues of importance to tribes.

13. This Committee has received extensive testimony on the important distinction between federally-owned public lands and Indian country held in trust by the federal government. The recently revised BLM regulations on hydraulic fracturing now allow for a "variance" that enables tribes to be the relevant authority in hydraulic fracturing decisions, after a showing that the tribal regulations are at least as stringent as federal standards.

a. Does this inclusion in the regulation stem from outreach from the tribes? Have you received feedback on this specific provision from tribes? Do you think that this provision adequately distinguishes tribal lands from public lands and respects tribal sovereignty?

Response: The variance provision in the BLM's proposed hydraulic fracturing rule was informed by tribal consultations. The BLM contacted over 180 tribal governing bodies and had significant exchanges with over 30 tribes in multiple states during the drafting of the rule. The BLM fully embraces the statutes, Executive Orders, and other statements of governmental or departmental policy in favor of promoting tribal self-determination and control of resources. The Indian Mineral Leasing Act, however, subjects all oil and gas operations on trust or restricted Indian lands to the Secretary's regulations and does not authorize the Secretary to allow tribes to opt out of regulatory oversight. This rule applies to Indian lands so that these lands and communities receive the same level of protection provided on public lands.

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Questions from Rep. Grijalva

14. The New York Times recently repoared that one of the poorest tribes in the country, the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian reservation, is ending its low income housing program due to sequestration cuts even though over 1500 tribal families are in need of and awaiting basic housing on the reservation. The tribe is cutting back on Headstart, healthcare and programs for the elderly. Ninety (90) percent of the tribe's annual budget is comprised federal funds, so the mandatory cuts due to sequestration are indeed devastating to this tribe. But this is just one example of many real stories about sequestration's impacts on the First Americans

When you hear about Oglala and other tribes struggling to survive sequestration, do you believe that this administration is doing everything in its power to fulfill the fiduciary obligations it has to tribal nations? Furthermore, what steps are you and this administration going to take to address the increasing cuts in the country's already poorest areas, including tribal reservations?

Response: Poor communities often suffer worse when tightening the fiscal belt. The sequestration's impacts are indiscriminate as applied under the law. Indian Country already experiences needs that exceed the ability to meet them, and these communities are arguably the least equipped to absorb the losses sequestration is imposing. At the Department we are trying to prioritize and find a way forward. President Obama also signed Executive Order 13647 in June establishing the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which will be chaired by the Secretary of the Interior and will include more than 30 federal departments and agencies.

The Council will work across governments and executive departments, agencies, and offices to develop policy recommendations and expand efforts to leverage federal programs and resources available to tribal communities. The goal is that the Council, through this improved coordination and use of resources will focus on key activities, such as promoting sustainable economic development; supporting greater access to and control over healthcare; improving the effectiveness and efficiency of tribal justice systems; expanding and improving educational opportunities for Native American youth; and protecting and supporting the sustainable management of Native lands, environments, and natural resources, will have a positive impact on issues of importance to tribes.

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15. The Department of the Interior is one several federal agencies that entered into an MOU with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to improve the protection of and tribal access to Indian sacred sites through enhanced interagency coordination. What role is the DOI taking in order to enforce the goals of this MOU? Beyond this MOU, what steps, if any, are being taken by this administration to support tribal nations in their efforts to protect and preserve their sacred sites and objects?

Response: The Departments of the Interior, Energy, Defense, and Agriculture, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on November 30, 2012. This action was in response to tribal requests to improve the protection of and tribal access to Indian sacred sites through improved interdepartmental coordination and collaboration. Implementation of the MOU is through a three-tiered group approach: an interagency executive group, a core group of interagency staff coordinating work, and five subgroups of subject-matter experts that work on different aspects of implementing the MOU. During the first two years of this MOU, the Department of the Interior is the chair of both the core working group and the subgroup working on confidentiality standards for sacred sites.

The agencies are working together on strategies for sacred sites protection, including the creation of: a training program for federal staff; guidance for best practices, a public outreach plan, and recommendations for the confidentiality of and tribal access to sacred sites. The agencies are also working to establish mechanisms for the collaborative stewardship of sacred sites with tribes; identifying impediments and making recommendations to address the protection of sacred sites; and building tribal capacity. This interagency effort is being accomplished using the existing resources within each of the agencies.

16. Tribal consultation is a major component in the relationship between tribal nations and the federal government. What steps is this administration taking in order to uphold their responsibility in consulting with tribes for any federal, state, and corporate initiatives that will impact tribes and their homelands which may extend beyond reservation borders?

Response: This Administration has taken its responsibility to ensure consultation with Indian tribal governments on policies that have tribal implications seriously. Early in the Administration, the President signed a Presidential Memorandum on tribal consultation that made the importance of meaningful and regular consultation clear and directed agencies to submit a plan for implementing the policies and directives contained in Executive Order 13175, on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.

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The Department's official consultation policy was announced in December 2011, and it was developed in close coordination with tribal leaders. It sets out detailed requirements and guidelines for Interior officials and managers to follow to ensure they are using the best practices and most innovative methods to achieve meaningful consultation with tribes. And, as indicated in a previous response, in June the President signed Executive Order 13647, establishing the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which will be chaired by the Secretary of the Interior. The intent of the Council is to improve interagency coordination, efficiency, and expand efforts to leverage federal programs and resources available to tribal communities. In signing the Executive Order, the President noted that greater engagement and meaningful consultation with tribes is of paramount importance in developing any policies affecting tribal nations.

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Questions from Rep. Gosar

17. Grand Canyon Air Tours

The one year anniversary of the passage of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21, P.L. 112-141), recently passed. Senator McCain and I have inquired several times about the delay in the implementation of the law as it pertains to the quiet technology incentive requirements of the Act. As of March of this year, we were told that the National Park Service and the FAA were still working to identify options to implement these incentives. I believe a year is more than enough time. Coming from the private sector, I am sure you would not have stood for this type of delay. I know I wouldn't have in my dental practice.

Can you please tell me when my colleagues and I can expect to hear from the NPS and the FAA that the incentives are ready for implementation? We have been very patient but our patience is running thin. These incentives are critical to the long term economic health of Northern Arizona and Southern Nevada.

Response: Effective January 1, 2014, the NPS has implemented air tour fee adjustments as an initial incentive for operators conducting air tours at Grand Canyon National Park to convert to the use of quiet technology aircraft. These fee adjustments will also be made available to air tour operators who already have converted to the use of quiet technology aircraft. The FAA plans to announce a second incentive that would release FAA held allocations for the use of quiet technology aircraft in time for the busy part of 2014 tourist season. The NPS and FAA are continuing to work together on additional incentives that will require noise analysis to ensure compliance with the mandate set forth in MAP-21 that the impact of increased operations resulting from the incentives does not increase noise at Grand Canyon National Park.

18. Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) for Glen Canyon Dam

My question is about the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) for Glen Canyon Dam that is being undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service as co-lead agencies.

My understanding is that Reclamation currently has ten years of NEPA compliance for Glen Canyon operations – from two Environmental Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact issued just last year. Given this, and given that the endangered humpback chub population in the Grand Canyon is continuing to increase and currently

exceeds recovery goal requirements ....why is the Department proceeding with another EIS at this time?

Response: The 2012 Environmental Assessments and associated Findings of No Significant Impact focused on specific aspects of the operations of Glen Canyon Dam, including high flow experiments and nonnative fish management through 2020. In contrast, the Long Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP) announced by the Secretary in December 2009 will update a 1996 Record of Decision and considers potential modification of many aspects of Glen Canyon Dam operations beyond those considered in the 2012 Environmental Assessments. The LTEMP will incorporate scientific information developed by the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. The resulting Record of Decision from the LTEMP will allow the Secretary to meet statutory responsibilities for protecting and improving Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park resources and values, as well as statutory responsibilities under the Law of the River and the Endangered Species Act.

The President's budget contains $3.5 million for the Glen Canyon Dam LTEMP EIS. Given today's fiscal struggles, why would Interior spend $3.5 M on an EIS that basically is unnecessary since 1) BOR has NEPA compliance for the next 10 years; 2) USFWS has issued a fresh biological opinion showing current Glen Canyon operations are not jeopardizing the endangered Humpback Chub?

Response: As noted in the response to the previous question, the LTEMP EIS is a separate process focused on a different aspect of Glen Canyon Dam operations.

19. National Monument Designations via Antiquities Act authority in Arizona

I want to quickly ask about National Monuments. While I am not opposed to monuments, I firmly believe any designation should go through a public process and ultimately be codified by Congress.

I have introduced legislation, the Arizona Land Sovereignty Act, which would ensure a public process for monument designations. I know there are groups in my state urging the department to declare parts of my district as monuments. Does the Administration have any plans or are you considering any proposals to designate a National Monument in Arizona, under Antiquities Act authority?

Response: At a hearing in June 2013, the Administration strongly opposed efforts to weaken Antiquities Act authority, which has been used by 16 presidents from both parties to recognize

the importance of such areas as the Grand Canyon and the Statue of Liberty. While there are no current plans to designate monuments in Arizona under this authority, it is worth noting that this Administration is committed to engaging local citizens and getting public input; to understanding how communities feel; and to connecting with local communities in an effective way so that local sentiments about these spectacular places inform decisions about recognizing American treasures. The monument designations the President has made under Antiquities Act authority have followed this community-based approach.

Questions for Secretary Jewell
House Natural Resource Committee
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Questions from Rep. Napolitano

20. Madam Secretary, last week the House passed its version of the Energy and Water Appropriations. As you know, the legislation guts the WaterSMART program by 53%, including the elimination of all funding for WaterSMART grants. These grants have helped conserve over 600,000 acre-feet in the past three years.

a. Where does the money go?

b. Why is WaterSMART a priority for the department, and what would the cuts, if enacted, mean to program?

Response to a. and b.: As competition for water resources grows for crop irrigation, growing cities and communities, energy production, and the environment, the need for information and tools to aid water resource and land managers grows. WaterSMART is a Department of the Interior initiative that leverages and directs existing expertise and resources within the USGS and the Bureau of Reclamation towards addressing complex, national and regional-scale water challenges. WaterSMART uses scientific and financial tools to promote collaborative efforts to help balance water supply and demand.

(b) (5)

Over the last three years, the WaterSMART program has enabled the Department to act aggressively in response to near term and immediate water shortages and apply scientific findings to plan for longer term needs. Funded at $35.4 million, WaterSMART promotes sustainable solutions and economic productivity in the western United States. It addresses current and future water shortages; degraded water quality; increased demands for water from growing populations and energy needs; amplified recognition of environmental water requirements; and the potential for decreased water supply availability due to drought and climate change.

Cuts of that magnitude would significantly hinder actions under the WaterSMART program that could help address water supply shortages in the Colorado River Basin and elsewhere, and would undermine the government's ability to partner with local communities on improving resilience against climate-related impacts that threaten a range of economic and environmental interests.

21. The Natural Resources Committee is the authorizing committee for the Department of the Interior. As part of the Energy and Water Debate, programs and authorizations that

were vetted by House and enacted into law are now being defunded by the appropriators despite being requested by the Administration.

a. Energy and Water zeros out funding for Indian Water Rights Settlements. Why is it important that we prioritize Indian Water Rights Settlements?

Response: Water settlements secure tribal water rights helping to fulfill the United States' promise to tribes that Indian reservations will provide Indian people with permanent homelands. Indian water rights settlements are also consistent with the general federal trust responsibility to American Indians and with federal policy promoting Indian self-determination and economic self-sufficiency. The certainty that Indian water settlements provide is, in the words of the Western Governors Association, "a crucial element of effective water supply planning and management in the West." Achieving certainty through negotiated settlement is far superior to decades of expensive and disruptive litigation. Congress has agreed with tribes, states and non-Indian water users about the value of Indian water rights settlements by enacting 23 settlements spanning a period of over 30 years.

b. What would be the effects of zeroing out the San Joaquin "Settlement"?

Response: The Settlement's two primary goals are to restore and maintain fish populations and restore and avoid adverse water impacts. Eliminating funding for the Settlement creates an uncertain future for more than just river restoration but also for traditional water delivery operations from Friant Dam and the San Joaquin River. The Settlement effectively ended 18 years of litigation associated with water deliveries from the San Joaquin River. Eliminating funding risks encouraging the settling parties to return to court to pursue other avenues and disrupt the underlying long-term goals of restoring the San Joaquin River according to the processes and timelines spelled out in the Settlement.

(b) (5)

c. What do these cuts mean for Reclamation's traditional construction budget, which majority claims to support?

Response: The elimination of funding for the Indian Water Rights Settlements and the San Joaquin Settlement would jeopardize ongoing construction activities, including the construction of seepage mitigation projects on the San Joaquin River or the construction of water supply projects to Tribes who have settled long-standing disputes through negotiated settlement.

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22. As part of the sequestration, several of USGS's streamgages have been discontinued. Why is it important that we support the streamgage system?

Response: Streamgages are critical and vital for meeting federal responsibilities associated with forecasting floods, tracking flows in major river basins, and assessing long-term climatic, land-use, and human impacts on streamflow and water quality. Increasing the number of streamgages is a high priority for the USGS. We look forward to working with you to explore possibilities for restoring recently discontinued USGS streamgages throughout the nation and to take steps to help make the network more stable so that water-resource managers have the streamflow information they need to make informed decisions.

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Questions from Rep. McClintock

23. Madam Secretary, you may be aware that FWS recently proposed a rule for Categorical Exemption from NEPA mandates regarding "Injurious Wildlife Listings" under the Lacey Act. This Committee understands well the challenges in dealing with invasive species, however, I am concerned that exempting the FWS from addressing the environmental, economic and social impacts of proposed additions to the list could be extremely damaging to small business; as several of the species FWS seems to be targeting are widely traded and would have a significant economic impact. I'd like your commitment to look into this matter and get back to me before the service finalizes their rule making on this issue. Do I have that commitment?

Response: A final determination on this proposed rule will be made once the public comments received are analyzed and addressed. Regardless of whether or not a categorical exclusion is finalized and applied to the listing of injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to carry out the analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws applicable to federal regulatory action, including the Lacey Act itself, the Administrative Procedures Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review. These laws account for much of the analyses made when carrying out the regulatory listing process.

The proposed categorical exclusion would give FWS the flexibility to forego the preparation of an Environmental Assessment under NEPA when, absent extraordinary circumstances, listing a species as injurious under the Lacey Act. The proposed categorical exclusion meets the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines, which provide that a categorical exclusion may apply to actions that are administrative and repetitive in nature and for which Environmental Assessments continually result in "Findings of No Significant Impact."

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Questions from Rep. Lowenthal

24. How can and will the BLM guarantee that FracFocus and all of its current and historic data will exist in perpetuity if it is a private website?

Response: The Bureau of Land Management's revised hydraulic fracturing rule would require operators to disclose the chemicals used in the fracturing process and provide that information to the BLM after the fracturing operation is completed. Operators may submit this information to the BLM through FracFocus, which is already used by some states for reporting mandatory chemical disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals as a single reporting location. FracFocus was initiated as a project with the Department of Energy and managed by the Ground Water Protection Council and Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. It was endorsed in the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board 90-day report of best practices. Use of this website allows an operator to provide the information to the BLM, as well as the public and state and tribal regulators. This approach also has the benefit of reducing reporting burdens for oil and gas operators by avoiding duplicative reporting requirements and administrative duties for the BLM in many instances. The data submitted to FracFocus is managed by the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) and in partnership with the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission; the data is provided to the BLM and other regulators on a regular basis, and BLM would also maintain permanent possession of a set of this data.

25. How can the BLM ensure that FracFocus has all of the proper data search, sort, and aggregation tools – which we have heard from other witnesses before this committee it still does not have, thus making it nearly impossible to effectively use?

Response: The FracFocus website was launched in April 2011 by the GWPC, a private nonprofit organization governed by state drilling and water quality officials. As states have expanded requirements for disclosure, FracFocus has evolved into a standardized, easily accessible repository of public information. FracFocus 2.0 was recently released with the added data search capability from a XML database platform. Users have the option of using the GIS mapping technology to identify chemicals used in the wells, as well as search and develop reports by date ranges, chemical names or Chemical Abstract Service numbers. The BLM will continue to work with GWPC to improve the FracFocus website to meet the expectations of the final BLM hydraulic fracturing rule.

26. BLM's Revised Draft Rule ambiguously states, "The BLM understands that the [FracFocus] database is in the process of being improved and will in the near future have enhanced search capabilities and allow for easier reporting of information." The BLM's

draft rule specifically references FracFocus as an acceptable compliance repository of data for oil and gas operators. What does it mean for the BLM to "understand" that FracFocus will provide additional tools? Has FracFocus provided written commitment to BLM to do so much? If so, please provide this documentation to the committee. Does the BLM have any recourse if FracFocus does not do what BLM "understands" that it will do?

Response: The BLM's proposed regulation (§3162.3-3(i)) requires submission of the data through FracFocus or another database specified by the BLM. The GWPC has a successful track record in development of similar risk-based data management systems reliably used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and other state agencies. FracFocus 2.0 was developed with a number of additional tools, such as dashboard access for individual users and configuration module for XML file download. The BLM has met on numerous occasions with the GWPC regarding FracFocus, and will continue meeting with the GWPC in the future as the final rule is being completed.

27. What is the oversight process for ensuring that operators are using the trade secret exception to chemical disclosure properly? In other words, what is the cross-check verification of whether these chemicals are in fact trade secrets? Will there he an internal BLM verification that those chemicals are in fact trade secrets? And will Congress and the public be excluded from providing oversight to the trade secret process? Please explain how the BLM and the public will not be relying on the world of operators without verification of the legitimacy of operators' trade secret exception claims? Do you think the BLM's broadening of the trade secret exception may erode the public's confidence and trust in hydraulic fracturing?

Response: The BLM must follow the Trade Secrets Act (TSA). Although operators may have their own list of chemicals that could fall under the TSA, the BLM would have the authority to validate the trade secret determinations. The BLM can issue a notice to the operator and move forward with the disclosure of the chemicals considered invalid for protection under the TSA if the operator does not appeal such a decision within 10 days of receipt of the notice.

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Questions from Rep. Sablan

28. As you are aware, the United States and the Republic of Palau signed an agreement on September 10, 2010, to extend the financial terms of the Compact of Free Association between our two nations until 2024. Since then, there has been little success in securing ratification of the agreement by Congress, largely due to the inability to find a suitable offset. After a recent visit to Washington by newly elected Palau President Tommy Remengesau, you joined Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, and Secretary of State John Kerry in sending a letter to Senate President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner in support of the ratification of the Compact Review Agreement. In the letter, you and your fellow cabinet members pointed out that "approving the results of the Agreement is of import to the national security of the United States, to our bilateral relationship with Palau, and to our broader strategic interests in the Asia-Pacific region." Madam Secretary, what update can you give us regarding your department's efforts to secure passage of the Palau agreement?

Response: As noted in the question, approving the results of the Agreement is of critical importance to the national security of the United States, to our bilateral relationship with Palau, and to our broader strategic interests in the Asia Pacific region. As such, the Administration transmitted legislation to Congress that would approve the Agreement and has worked with the Committee to try to identify appropriate offsets for funding the Agreement. The Administration stands ready to work with Congress to approve this critically important piece of legislation.

29. I commend DOI on its ongoing development of a 15-year Management Plan for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, which was established by then-President Bush in 2009. Please explain what other proposals your agency intends to take or is currently undertaking to support the monument?

Response: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, including the Trench Unit and the Volcanic Unit, as National Wildlife Refuges under Secretarial Order 3284, dated January 16, 2009. Management activities include convening the Marianas Trench Monument Advisory Committee, consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service on their responsibilities for fisheries-related issues, and coordinating with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on monument planning. On an operational basis, the Service fulfills its primary management responsibility by issuing special use permits that allow scientists and explorers like James Cameron's historic expedition to the trench. The FWS routinely consults and coordinates with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Defense, and the Friends of the Trench.

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30. In January 2012, President Obama signed an Executive Order and announced new initiatives to significantly increase travel and tourism in the U.S. Back in October 2011, the Department of the Interior released a 50-state report outlining some of the country's most promising ways to reconnect Americans to the natural world. Unfortunately, the U.S. territories were left out. And then DOI rolled out the improved Recreation.gov website and the website did not include treasures such as the American Memorial Park managed by the National Park Service or the Marianas Trench National Monument Volcanic and Trench units managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, your staff worked with our office for months to update the website to reflect these areas. I am asking for your commitment to include the U.S. Territories when applicable in all reports, promotions, etc. This will complement the President's initiatives to increase travel and tourism in every state and territory.

Response: Yes, the Administration is committed to the empowerment and economic growth of US-affiliated insular communities.

(b) (5)

31. The illegal international trade in timber and wildlife has skyrocketed in recent years, and has been linked to organized crime syndicates and terrorist groups. While the Lacey Act has proven successful in keeping these criminal elements out of the United States, forests and wildlife in other countries are being decimated. Will you work with other federal agencies, foreign governments, and the conservation community to fight illegal trafficking of wildlife and timber?

Response: In addition to being one of the lead federal agencies enforcing the Lacey Act, the FWS works closely with the other land managing agencies within the Department that enforce the Lacey Act across hundreds of millions of acres of public and tribal lands, as well as with other Departments and foreign governments. The FWS also enforces many other U.S. laws that protect wildlife, including the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The FWS will continue to work with its partners to ensure the success of the Lacey Act.

In July of this year, President Obama signed Executive Order 13648 on Combating Wildlife Trafficking that establishes a cabinet-level Task Force, led by the Attorney General and the Secretaries of State and Interior. Under the terms of that Executive Order, the Administration is developing a comprehensive program to work with African nations to combat wildlife poaching; prioritizing the targeting and prosecution of international syndicates engaged in illegal trafficking of wildlife for sale in consumer countries; and working with receiving countries to

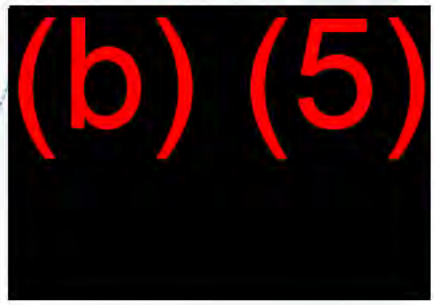
stop the transshipment and sale of ivory and other illegal wildlife parts. The Task Force is in the process of developing a National Strategy to address this problem. The first meeting of the Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking, which will make recommendations to the task force, was held December 16, 2013.

32. From the brown tree snake on Guam and the Mariana Islands, to pythons in the everglades, to Asian carp in the Mississippi River, invasive species cost the United States over $120 billion a year. What are your thoughts on the severity of our problems with invasive species, and how will you work to minimize the damage they cause? What additional tools do you need?

Response: Addressing invasive species is a high priority for the Department. The Department requested an overall increase of about $23 million for invasive species prevention, management, control, and coordination in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget. Invasive species impact the Department's mission and purposes for which we manage public lands and their resources in myriad ways, including the services these lands offer, such as recreation, hydropower, water supplies, agriculture, and ranching. They also impact ecosystem functions including pollination, water filtration, climate stability, pest control, and erosion protection, wildfires, and other natural hazards. The environmental, economic, and social impacts of invasive species and their control or eradication can be costly, controversial, and complex. Prevention of their introduction, establishment, and spread is the most cost effective and least disruptive approach to managing the threats these species pose to the nation's public trust resources.

The Department has forged strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and other federal agencies in order to manage invasive species impacts on the resources it manages. The Department addresses a wide variety of invasive species through prevention, Early Detection and Rapid Response, control and management, restoration, research, and education and public awareness. This has resulted in tangible improvements in water quality, species recovery, habitat restoration, and overall invasive species management in ecosystems.

The Department is also working on several new tools to more effectively address the threat of invasive species through preventative and management efforts. These include an ongoing effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regulations and regulatory processes used to implement our existing authorities to address invasive species. We are developing an MOU with several key industry and state partners that will lead to voluntary actions to better manage the risks associated with harmful non-native species. We continue to improve our ability to detect, assess, and control key invasive species through research and environmental modeling. We have also become more effective at assessing the risk of invasive species more rapidly while



maintaining scientific accuracy and public transparency. The Department is also reviewing several other options for improving its ability to prevent invasive species introductions, and we appreciate Congressional interest in this issue. We look forward to working with Congress and other stakeholders and partners to tackle the significant problems that invasive species cause.

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Questions from Rep. Wittman

33. Do you see any inherent conflict between the development of the five-year OCS leasing plan as mandated by the OCS Lands Act and the National Ocean Policy (NOP) and its call for regions to develop marine spatial plans that you as Secretary are subsequently bound to follow per the Executive Order establishing National Ocean Policy? What impact would NOP have on permitted activities like energy development?

Response: Neither the National Ocean Policy nor marine planning creates or changes existing regulations or statutory authorities under which ~~that~~ the Department's bureaus operate ~~under~~. The final Implementation Plan for the NOP was developed with extensive stakeholder input and gives states and communities greater input in federal decisions, among other things. The Implementation Plan supports voluntary regional marine planning, which will bring together ocean users to share information to plan how we use, sustain and better understand our ocean resources.

34. Do you support the goal of wetland restoration and would you support continued authorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act?

Response: The Department supports the goal of wetland restoration and reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. The Department testified in strong support of H.R. 2208, the North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act, at a hearing before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, on August 2, 2013. The Department also supports legislation to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp, funding from which is also critical to protecting wetlands that offer breeding, feeding, and resting areas for migratory waterfowl.

35. In June the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (WHHCC) federal advisory council sent a letter to you asking for the creation of a dedicated spot for hunting and recreational shooting on the Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Councils (RACs). What is your position on providing sportsmen with this opportunity to have a dedicated voice in policy decision impact federal lands?

Response: The Bureau of Land Management takes seriously the work of the Resource Advisory Councils, which provide an opportunity for individuals from a wide-range of backgrounds and

interests to have a voice in the management of public lands. Under BLM regulations, each RAC must include balanced representation of the following three broad categories: Commercial/commodity interests; Environmental/historical groups (including wild horse and burro and dispersed recreation); and state and local government, Indian tribes, and the public at large. Hunting and recreational shooting interests may be represented in any of the three categories (as noted on the RAC application):

- Category 1: Developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;
- Category 2: Dispersed recreation interests
- Category 3: Public at large

One-third of RAC member positions become open each year, generally between January and March. The BLM's senior management will continue to consider changes to categories or the addition of special subcategories for interests like hunting and shooting sports. The Department recognizes that sportsmen and women care deeply about the public lands and we encourage them to apply for RAC appointments.

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Questions from Rep. Young

36. As you know, the State of Alaska recently submitted a very comprehensive Exploration Plan and Special Use Permit Application to the Department pursuant to Section 1002(e) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act or "ANILCA." Section 1002(e) is very clear on what must happen when such a plan is submitted, including a requirement that the Secretary of the Interior "shall promptly publish notice of the application and the text of the plan in the Federal Register and newspapers of general circulation in the State." When do you anticipate publishing this notice?

37. Section 1002(e) also states that "the Secretary shall hold at least one public hearing in the State for purposes of receiving the comments and views of the public on the plan." When do you anticipate holding such a hearing (or hearings)?

Response to 36 and 37: Based on long-standing legal interpretation, FWS has found that the underlying statute and its 1983-84 implementing regulations bar the Service from considering the exploration plan and permit application.

38. In June 2013, during a speech, former Deputy Secretary, David Hayes, announced that the Interior Department will soon be asking the general public to identify areas that should and should not be open to oil and gas leasing. While listening and receiving feedback from the public is important, without access to extensive data and teams of biologists, geophysicists, engineers, and geologists, what level of importance will be placed on an individual's suggestions in determining where is most appropriate for oil and gas leasing? Can you provide more information regarding this change in policy?

Response: The Department, as steward of our public lands and waters and through rigorous dialogue with stakeholders, must strike the right balance of meeting the interests of local communities and public owners of the resources as the President's "all of the above" energy strategy is advanced. The Department's management actions will continue to be developed and implemented in accordance with applicable law and regulations and supported by the best available science.

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Questions from Rep. Bordallo

39. Given the current fiscal climate, priorities need to be made. In general, where do you place invasive species prevention and mitigation in your list of priorities? Specifically, the brown tree snake is responsible for many bird extinctions, loss of pollinating bats and increased power outages on our island. In response, the Refuge has installed the Multispecies Barrier Fence to keep out them out of 125 acres of the refuge. Unfortunately, with only six full time refuge staff we cannot do any intensive invasive species removal inside the fence. The refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan entails removal of the brown tree snake and eventual reintroduction of our birds. Do you foresee continued funding and support for brown tree snake mitigation?

Response: Addressing invasive species is a high priority for the Department. The Department's FY 2014 Budget Request sought an overall increase of about $23 million for invasive species prevention, management, control, and coordination. The USGS requested an increase of $500,000 to address the highest priority needs for control and management of brown tree snake, including research on the development of landscape scale methods to suppress or eradicate snakes on Guam and to detect and eradicate incipient populations of snakes accidentally transported to other islands such as Hawaii and the Northern Mariana Islands.

While the budget request reduces FWS's invasive species control and management funding by $507,000, the FWS will dedicate a small portion of Aquatic Invasive Species funding to continue to support the program. We intend to continue to provide funding for this effort, but priorities have shifted with growing concerns about the spread of continental aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp.

The FWS also continues to work closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services' brown tree snake program on Guam. Since its implementation, the rate of snake captures associated with cargo shipped to Hawaii has declined dramatically. The growth in United States military presence on Guam is causing increased air and sea traffic between Guam and other regions in the Pacific, including the continental United States. As a result, the Department of Defense's responsibility for brown tree snake control and interdiction at military and commercial facilities related to the military build-up on Guam was a component of a recently completed ESA Section 7 consultation with the FWS.

40. Guam is a beautiful island for both residents and our many tourists. It is also strategically important for the U.S. military. Recently, the Interior announced the Sentinel Landscape Partnership, a Public-Private collaboration aimed at preserving agricultural

lands, assisting military readiness and protecting wildlife habitat. I believe Guam may be a prime candidate for the program and am very interested in seeing how the pilot program fares at Base Lewis-McChord. Is this integrated approach something we may see more of from the Interior and what is the timeline for expansion of the program?

(b) (5)

Response: This pilot program is a great example of coordination and collaboration between federal and local governments while showing how Farm Bill programs help support agriculture, rural America, the environment and national defense. Military readiness and wildlife habitat protection can go hand-in-hand with interagency, local government and private collaboration. The Sentinel Landscapes pilot will preserve the land's natural character and permanently protect critical habitat for declining species that could be listed under the Endangered Species Act, which is important for national defense, local economies and the conservation of natural resources. The goal is to restore and permanently protect critical habitat for three species that are proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, protect private and agricultural lands from development, and enable DoD's training mission to continue.

41. In Guam, the U.S. War in the Pacific National Historical Park houses some of our most beautiful places but more importantly it commemorates the WWII battles held in the Pacific Theatre. In response to sequestration there have been hiring freezes and program cutbacks. Like you mentioned in your statement and in addressing a similar question by Congresswoman Tsongas, these are unsustainable actions. If we do not solve the whole of sequestration will we be looking at permanent closure of some of our National Parks and refuges?

Response: The sequester was designed to be inflexible, damaging, and indiscriminate, and it is. The process put in place by the sequestration undermines the work that needs to be done on many fronts, and we will continue to see impacts across the country in all our bureaus during the coming months. The Department faces challenges across our bureaus to deal with the impacts of the sequestration. The short term steps that we will take –freezing hiring, eliminating seasonal positions, and cutting back on our programs and services – are not sustainable, as these actions which are eroding our workforce, shrinking our summer field season, and deferring important work cannot be continued in future years without further severe consequences to our mission.

(b) (5)

42. The budget also affects the maintenance and improvement of our refuge. The roads in the refuge are in deplorable condition with potholes so extensive that traffic has moved to the dirt shoulder. The refuge has yet to be connected to an outside source of water and operations are dependent on roof rainwater collection and trucking in water during the dry

season. Needless to say, visitation has decrease by 10% due to these factors. How will the Interior keep up with maintenance of the current parks and refuges?

Response: We have to balance addressing the most urgent needs, including for recreation; species and habitat conservation; and preservation of landscapes and historic and cultural resources with addressing the deferred maintenance backlog. The deferred maintenance backlog of the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as challenges faced by other bureaus, will only increase as a consequence of the sequester. The NPS is prioritizing capital investment funding to address its most important assets, such as mission-critical infrastructure and historic buildings and is removing non-essential assets, which reduces the number of structures that contribute to the backlog. The FWS is continuing to refine its condition assessment process, using maintenance action teams, actively pursuing local partnerships, carefully prioritizing budgets, and disposing of unneeded assets.

(b) (5)

43. On Guam, there is already increased pressure on our resources due to global climate change. Steps need to be taken to both address the causes of climate change and prepare for climate change impacts. The refuge recently connected an 84 solar panel array to the grid to both offset the 40% rise in electric rates this fall and to help decrease carbon emissions. I commend you for your commitment to massive renewable energy projects in Nevada and Arizona but global climate change is a problem for everyone. What plans does the Interior have to expand its alternative energy infrastructure in more local settings to decrease our carbon footprint? Does the Interior have plans to seek partnerships either public or private to accomplish this goal?

Response: Interior is working broadly to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy at all levels. On Guam, the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) assisted the Guam Energy Task Force in developing a strategic energy plan that sets a goal of reducing Guam's dependence on fossil fuels by 20% by the year 2020 ("20x20 goal"). With continued funding from OIA and with the support of NREL staff, the Guam Energy Task Force recently completed an energy action plan that identifies near-term strategies that will likely have the greatest impact on reducing Guam's fossil fuel energy consumption. Through a partnership with the NREL, the Department is supporting the design, development, and ultimate deployment of small-scale, modular, renewable energy/diesel hybrid systems that harness local renewable energy resources and will reduce dependence on expensive diesel fuel in remote communities around the world.

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DRAFT

Questions from Rep. Cramer

44. Secretary Jewell, as you know, the development of oil and gas is important for our energy security and high standard of living, not just in North Dakota, but the entire nation. Many of my constituents are justifiably concerned about the Interior Department's actions relating to the greater sage grouse, which would affect more than 800 square miles in three southwestern counties in North Dakota. I am greatly concerned about the Bureau of Land Management amending resource management plans to include "priority habitat areas" in resource management plans, which have a statutory responsibility to ensure multiple use activities, including mining, grazing, energy development, and agriculture. I understand that the BLM has already delayed or cancelled many projects tin several western states as a result of this process. Can you assure me that your Department will follow its multiple-use mandates under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Multiple-Use and Sustained Yield Act with regard to sage grouse under other ESA activities?

Response: The Department and the Bureau of Land Management are fully committed to sustainably managing public lands for multiple uses both now and in the future. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 defines multiple-use as "the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people." Conservation of fish and wildlife habitat are important uses for which the Bureau of Land Management manages the public lands, as are mining, grazing, energy development, and many other uses. The land use planning process helps us determine the best use of resources on a local level.

The BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service are currently working through the unprecedented task of amending resource management plans in several western states to identify and incorporate appropriate conservation measures to conserve, enhance, and restore greater sage-grouse habitat by reducing, eliminating, or minimizing threats to habitat. In North Dakota, the BLM is working in close cooperation with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in developing the draft Environmental Impact Statement covering sage-grouse population areas within the state. The goals of this effort are to provide better protections for greater sage-grouse while continuing to support the use of public lands for mineral extraction, recreation, and other uses.

45. Secretary Jewell, within the Endangered Species Act "The Secretary may exclude any area from critical habitat if he determines that the benefits from such exclusion outweigh the benefits of specifying such area as part of the critical habitat, unless he determines,

based on the best scientific and commercial data available, that the failure to designate such area as critical habitat will result in the extinction of the species concerned." In making a determination to exclude certain areas as critical habitat will you give considerable weight to not only private landowner interests, but the interests of individuals and employees of industries utilizing our nation's vast resources? Will you take this ability to exclude certain areas seriously?

Response: Under the Endangered Species Act, the FWS and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service designate critical habitat for each listed species; these are areas that are needed for the species' conservation and recovery. Critical habitat does not create a refuge nor necessarily restrict development. It only affects federal lands or lands where there is a federal nexus such as the issuance of a permit or federal funding. Along with the benefits to listed species, the Services must also consider the economic impacts, the impacts on national security, and other relevant potential impacts in making designations of critical habitat. Probable economic impacts resulting from the designation of critical habitat are assessed in an economic analysis.

On August 28, 2013, the Services published a final rule to revise the regulations implementing the ESA so that a draft economic analysis of the probable impacts of a critical habitat designation is completed and made available for public comment at the same time the critical habitat proposal itself is published. Publishing a proposed critical habitat rule and making available the associated economic analysis at the same time means that public stakeholders will have more information at the time they are reviewing critical habitat proposals.

Under the new regulations, a summary of each economic analysis will be published in the Federal Register along with the proposed critical habitat designation, while the analysis itself will be made available on the Web (www.regulations.gov and other appropriate venues). The final rule also codifies standard Services' practices for assessing the likely impacts of proposed critical habitat designations.

The Services are also planning to publish a proposal in the near future that will provide more clarity on the process for excluding lands from critical habitat designation. We recognize that understanding this process is important for the public, and we will request public input on the proposal. This proposal represents one important part of our efforts to improve the implementation of the ESA.

46. Secretary Jewell, on June 13, 2013, the Fish & Wildlife Service issued a Federal Register notice proposing to de-list (remove from the Endangered Species Act list) the gray

wolf in most areas of the United States, an action I agree with – and I want to confirm you stand by this action. Do you? I understand this rule is expected to be finalized in September, correct? If the Fish & Wildlife Service is sued by environmentalists, will you defend the agency's actions on this delisting?

Draft Response: The actions that were published in June 2013 – to remove the gray wolf from the List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife but to maintain endangered status for the Mexican wolf by listing it as a subspecies – were proposed because the best available scientific and commercial information indicates that the currently listed entity is not a valid species under the ESA and that the Mexican wolf is an endangered subspecies.

(b) (5)

The Department is committed to ensuring that the public is well informed about the agency's actions related to the gray wolf and has the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed rule. On September 30, 2013, the FWS announced that it has reinitiated a scientific peer review process to obtain an independent and objective peer review of the science behind the proposal. The peer review process will be sponsored and conducted by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, a respected interdisciplinary research center at the University of California – Santa Barbara. The center will vet prospective reviewers to verify that they are able to provide an objective review and have no conflict of interest, culminating in the selection of 5 or 6 well-qualified scientists with professional qualifications and relevant experience.

Because of the significant public interest in this issue, it is important to ensure that all interested parties have the opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed rule. With that in mind, FWS extended the public comment period on the proposed rule for a second time. In addition, to provide a forum for additional stakeholder input, the FWS also held five public hearings on the proposal, including in Denver, CO, Albuquerque, NM, Pinetop, AZ, and Washington, DC.

47. On April 2, 2013, OSM Director Joe Pizarchik responded to a letter from Chairman Hastings stating that since 2009 OSM has spent approximately $8.6 million in developing a new stream buffer zone rule. The 2008 rule that has yet to be implemented took five years to complete, including 40,000 public comments, two proposed rules, and 5,000 pages of environmental analysis from 5 different agencies. Is such a comprehensive rewrite of OSM regulations justified or warranted at this time?

Response: While the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 has resulted in significant improvements in contemporary mining, recent studies have substantiated that adverse environmental impacts continue in certain situations long after mine reclamation has been

completed. Streams have been adversely affected biologically from continuing water-quality discharges from reclaimed mines. In some cases, streams have been dewatered due to underground mining activities. Forest lands that sustain water quality and habitat have been fragmented or lost. Therefore, the Department, through the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, has undertaken this rulemaking initiative, which is using the best science to modernize the bureau's rules in order to better protect streams from adverse effects of surface coal mining. OSM is currently developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the rule that will analyze alternatives to address the impacts of burying and mining through streams, including the protection of aquatic communities in streams located on, adjacent to, and downstream from coal mining operations. The draft will also analyze alternatives to provide for the restoration of native forests eliminated during future mining. Finally, it will consider alternatives to further enhance restoration of mined lands to their approximate original contour in accordance with SMCRA.

48. The 2008 stream buffer rule has never been implemented nationwide since OSM agreed to rewrite the rule as part of a settlement agreement. A legal challenge to OSM's existing rule was recently reinstituted. Do you plan to defend OSM's existing rule against legal challenge, or allow anti-coal groups to "sue and settle" the case as they did in 2010?

Response: The Federal government has filed motions for summary judgment in this litigation (*National Parks Conservation Ass'n v. Jewell* and *Coal River Mountain Watch et al. v. Jewell*), requesting, among other things, that the court vacate the 2008 Stream Buffer Zone Rule, reinstate the prior regulations, and remand the matter for further rulemaking because the defendants confessed legal error in failing to conduct consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

49. In BLM's proposed rule governing the use of hydraulic fracturing on public lands, trade secret information can be withheld from disclosure rather than being submitted to BLM. However, the rule requires operators to make trade secret claims and provide the required justification for those claims. The rule even indicates that one of the tests for determining whether something is a trade secret is whether the disclosure of the information would harm the operator's competitive position. In fact, isn't it true that typically it is the service companies actually performing a hydraulic fracturing job that would hold the trade secret information, rather than the operators? Why did the BLM choose not to give service companies or other trade secret holders the opportunity to make and support their own claims? Does the BLM care about harm to a service company's competitive position? States like Colorado, upon which BLM based its rule, allow service companies to make and substantiate their own trade secret claims.

Response: The BLM holds the operator as the responsible party for any of the oil and gas operations and activities approved and permitted by the BLM in its name.
The personnel and service companies that the operator chooses for their operation have to meet the same conditions of the permit. The operator as the permitted party is responsible to fulfill the terms of the permit, but may claim trade secret protection on behalf of its suppliers and subcontractors, assuming that the information constitutes a trade secret.

50. In its cost-benefit analysis for the hydraulic fracturing rule, BLM estimates the likelihood of an incident resulting from a fracturing operation is 0.03 percent for a major incident and 2.70 percent for a minor incident. BLM does not indicate what it considers to be "major" or "minor" incidents. Would you be able to clarify in order to help us to determine whether these estimates are consistent with the findings of other organizations, such as the Groundwater Protection Council and the American Petroleum Institute that have also studied the environmental risks from fracturing operations?

Response: The BLM used those figures to illustrate the likelihood of possible risks associated with hydraulic fracturing. The BLM reviewed an Energy Institute survey of violations that occurred on shale wells and tight sands and shales in Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, and Texas. According to the BLM, data in the Energy Institute survey do not distinguish between minor versus major impacts across the hydraulic fracturing risks that the BLM's rule is intended to address. Nonetheless, the BLM looked at the violations classified as surface spills of fracturing fluids, casing and cementing, fracturing, groundwater contamination complaints, and characterized them as minor or major incidents. For purposes of the BLM rule, a major incident means noncompliance which causes or threatens immediate, substantial, and adverse impacts on public health and safety, the environment, production accountability, or royalty income. A minor incident means noncompliance which does not rise to the level of a major violation. The agency will continue to examine impacts cited by other groups, including the Groundwater Protection Council and the American Petroleum Institute.

Questions for Secretary Jewell
House Natural Resource Committee
July 17, 2013

DRAFT

Questions from Rep. Daines

51. Sage Grouse and Resource Management Plans:

As you know, Montana is heavily reliant on our resource management pretty heavily – for economic development, including for resource extraction, and outdoor recreation and tourism. I share your vision that these two goals (resource development and outdoor recreation) can co-exist. Another vital piece component of land management in Montana is local involvement. Land management decisions are best made right at home in Montana instead of here in Washington.

As you know, recently, the Bureau of Land Management issued three Resource Management Plans for public comment. The comment periods for these plans – Billings, Miles City, and the Hi-Line – were short. Both of our Montana Senators and I requested an extension of the comment period, as well as many of our constituents, due to the serious implications for resource management outlined in the RMPs, especially on Greater Sage Grouse conservation planning, outlined in the RMPs. Much of the proposed boundaries for priority concern and the Bureau's restrictions on activities in these areas have potential to impact the livelihoods of many Montanans. We're learning development is projected to increase and bring more economic benefits to our communities and grazing continues to be a central part of life throughout proposed Greater Sage Grouse habitat. Conserving this species is a high priority for our state and local communities. They have a lot to say about it and have much to contribute to your Department's planning process.

On May 22, 2013, I sent my a letter to you requesting a 120 day extension on the comment period for the Billings-Pompeys Pillar, Hi-Line, and Miles City Resource Management Plans on May 22, 2013. And did not receive a response until later in the day on July 17th. Why is that?

Can you explain why the Bureau refused to extend the comment period?

Response: The Department and the BLM apologize for the delay in the response. We appreciate the importance of these plans as they relate to the economies of local communities and states. For this reason, the BLM has emphasized participation by the public, partners, and other agencies. In accordance with planning regulations, all of the draft plans were made available for public review and comment for a full 90 days, with administrative review copies available to cooperating agencies at various times throughout the planning process. While we acknowledge the large scope of the documents, the 90-day public comment period could not be extended without jeopardizing the BLM's commitment to addressing greater sage-grouse habitat conservation in the time-frame necessary to inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's

Endangered Species Act listing decision which must be completed by the court-mandated date of September 30, 2015.

In addition to the formal 90-day comment period, the BLM held 34 formal public scoping meetings, conducted five community economic workshops, and provided numerous briefings for cooperating agencies, user groups, environmental organizations, industries, county commissions, tribes, congressional staffs, other agencies, and the BLM's Resource Advisory Councils. Collectively, the Montana plan revisions involved 57 cooperating agencies, including counties, state and federal agencies, tribes and grazing/conservation districts. Our managers and planning teams addressed and incorporated public scoping comments and issues submitted throughout the planning process and have provided newsletters and website updates to keep our stakeholders informed of our progress. We value public input and will continue to accept substantive comments throughout the process.

In the mega-settlement which you had referenced in a response letter to my constituents as the reason you could not extend the comment period, was just only the timing of the listing of the GSG species agreed to in that settlement? Or was the timing and issuance of proposed RMPs part of the settlement?

Response: The issuance of the proposed RMPs was not specifically part of the settlement of the ESA Deadline Multi-District Litigation filed against the Fish and Wildlife Service, but it is a critical component in the larger effort to conserve greater sage-grouse and potentially avoid the need for a listing at the time of the required decision.

Moving forward with Sage Grouse conservation in Montana, how closely is the BLM going to rely on state data?

Response: Sage-grouse conservation in Montana and the Dakotas is a multi-jurisdictional challenge due to fragmented land ownership patterns across large portions of sage-grouse habitat, making a collaborative approach essential. The BLM has been working with state fish and wildlife agencies, local working groups, and other organizations throughout the BLM's National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy process. The BLM has a long history of working cooperatively with the State of Montana, including using their data and mapping of sage-grouse habitat in the BLM plans. The Montana/Dakotas BLM is also involved in the Montana Governor's Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Advisory Council, and we will consider the final state management plan when we formulate our proposed management actions for each land use plan.

Questions for Secretary Jewell
House Natural Resource Committee
July 17, 2013

DRAFT

52. Sage Grouse and Hard Rock Mining:

Madame Secretary: I have a quote from the HiLine Draft Resource Management Plan and this is what it says:

"The management of wildlife resources and habitat outside of special designations would seldom prevent locatable mineral development, but in order to avoid significant impact to wildlife, special conditions and possible relocation of exploration or mining development could occur. This relocation, as well as any additional mitigation, would create time delays and further expenses for locatable mineral development if not closing the area to mineral entry through withdrawal."

It's my understanding that the determining factor in the location of mineral deposits is the geology of an area. So if that's the case how do you propose to relocate [mineral] "exploration or mining development" in a manner that's practical and consistent with that does not seem like a practical solution to me nor does it seem to be consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976?

Did you have any economic (mining) geologist or mining engineers work on this document? If there had been, I don't understand how doubt the preceding s type of statement could would have been included in the Resource Management Plan.

Response: The BLM uses an interdisciplinary team, including solid minerals specialists, in the development of its RMP revisions and amendments. Information in the RMP is used to guide activities on BLM lands. When a Notice or Plan of Operations for a mine is filed with the BLM, the proposed exploration or mining of locatable minerals is reviewed to confirm that the operations conducted will comply with the RMP and not cause unnecessary or undue environmental degradation. If necessary, conditions or mitigating measures may be applied. Such measures, as referenced in the RMPs, could include relocation of infrastructure such as access routes, power lines, tailings impoundments, or leach pads. As analyzed in the quoted RMP section, these conditions of approval or modifications may be more likely in areas identified as valued wildlife habitat. Therefore, mineral development in wildlife habitat may be delayed or modified to include more prescriptive mitigation measures.

BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Feb 11, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

WOOLRICH INC. LOOKS TO SUPPORT 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS. The Lock Haven (PA) Express (2/11, 26K) reports that Woolrich Inc. executives say "they are committed to finding ways to get today's youth engaged in outdoor activities." The company is "going so far as to partner with federal officials to seek help from the private sector to create new opportunities for young people and veterans on public lands." Recently, Nick Brayton, president of clothing and outdoor accessory manufacturer Woolrich, met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "discuss Jewell's youth initiative that she had outlined to the National Press Club last October, emphasizing the importance of the outdoors for disconnected young people." Brayton said, "Secretary Jewell and I are very aligned in our goal to find ways to get our youth engaged in the outdoors as a whole. As a father of young children, I realize more every day the need to get our children back outside and unplugged. We plan to spend more time with the Secretary's office in the coming months to help drive this initiative home locally."

BOOTSTRAPS PROGRAM RECEIVES 2013 PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD. The Prairie (MT) Star (2/11) reports that the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Bootstraps Program has been recognized with the 2013 Partners in Conservation Award from the Interior Department. According to the article, the Bootstraps Program "gives at-risk young adults, ages 18 to 25, the opportunity to be involved in natural resource

project work, such as restoring sage-grouse habitat." Aaid at a January awards ceremony, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "The Department of the Interior is proud to recognize the accomplishments of those who are innovating and collaborating in ways that address today's complex conservation and stewardship challenges. These partnerships represent the gold standard for how Interior is doing business across the nation to power our future, strengthen tribal nations, conserve and enhance America's great outdoors and engage the next generation."

SECRETARY JEWELL APPROVES NORTHERN RÍO GRANDE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA PLAN. The Taos (NM) News (2/11, 31K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has approved the management plan for Northern Río Grande National Heritage Area. The article notes that "the approval makes the heritage area eligible to receive a large increase in federal funds, up to $300,000 each year through the National Park Service."

SECRETARY JEWELL MAKES APPOINTMENTS TO BLM-ALASKA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL. The Delta (AK) News Web (2/10) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "made appointments to fill four vacancies on the 15-member Bureau of Land Management Alaska Resource Advisory Council (RAC)."

SEN. LANDRIEU'S ENERGY PANEL ASCENSION WELCOMED BY INDUSTRY LOBBYISTS. Bloomberg News (2/11, Litvan, 1.91M) reports that Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu (D) is set to take the gavel of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, joining Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R), the ranking member. They are from "two of the nation's top oil-producing states" and are "about to begin a partnership that has environmentalists uneasy and industry lobbyists counting on a shift in energy policy." While little pro-energy action is expected while the Democrats control the Senate, "analysts say the two lawmakers could jump-start discussion on some issues that could come to fruition after 2014." The piece notes that both back the Keystone pipeline and look favorably on lifting the ban on crude exports.

USA Today (2/11, Moore, 5.82M) reports that Landrieu accession to the chairmanship "could be good news for her re-election bid this fall, considered one of the Democrats' toughest challenges." It could "give her some ammo" for her bid, but she "still faces a battle to win in a state that President Obama lost by 17 percentage points." Landrieu is gaining the post because of the shuffle following Max Baucus' move to be the new Ambassador to Japan.

New Cruz Legislation Looks To Expand Domestic Energy Production. The Hill (2/11, Goad, 194K) reports in its "Regwatch" blog that Texas Sen. Ted Cruz (R) "detailed a plan to expand domestic energy production by beating back a slate of Obama administration regulations that he says are standing in the way of a national oil and gas boom." The plan "contains provisions that would block forthcoming federal regulations on hydraulic and power plants" and would "also require approval from Congress for the most costly government rules." Cruz, a potential 2016 candidate, "has devoted much of his time to gun rights and healthcare issues" and by "pivoting to energy, the conservative firebrand is expanding his policy portfolio."

SEN. MURKOWSKI BLASTS WHITE HOUSE ON ARCTIC POLICY LEADERSHIP. The E&E Daily (2/10) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski "accused" the Obama Administration of "dragging its feet in crafting an action plan for the nation's upcoming two-year chairmanship of the Arctic Council." Speaking Friday at the Seattle University Law School's Arctic symposium, Murkowski said "she was particularly disappointed in the White House's recent Arctic strategy implementation plan and dismissed the paper as a 'snapshot of existing programs.'" She said, "There's nothing here that demonstrates leadership in the Arctic, particularly leading up to our chairmanship."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PILT FUNDING. The Taos (NM) News (2/11, 31K) reports that Taos County will benefit from the PILT funding included in the Farm Bill. The county could have lost "12 percent of its budget for next year." However, the article notes that New Mexico is "expected to receive" $34 million in 2014, which is "nearly $700,000 less...than it did it 2013."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP PUSHES FOR RESTORING BREACHED POND AT JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE. The New York Times (2/11, Foderaro, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that after Hurricane Sandy broke through a berm on Oct. 29, 2012, the NPS, which manages the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge as part of Gateway National Recreation Area, has been debating "what to do with West Pond." According to the article, "some contend that the federal government should leave it alone, citing the pond's artificial provenance, as well as the risk of more breaches in the future with rising sea levels associated with climate change," but "a growing chorus of birders and environmentalists is arguing just the opposite." The article notes that "New York City Audubon will release a report on Tuesday that makes the case for restoring at least a portion of the pond to freshwater."

ASHLAND BREAKWATER LIGHTHOUSE MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE. The Ashland (WI) Daily Press (2/11, 18K) reports that Congress could transfer the Ashland Breakwater Light from the Coast Guard to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore "if bills sponsored by Senator Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Sean Duffy pass." Duffy said, "It's important that the great history of our community and the lakes are preserved. And to include that lighthouse into the National Park is really important. I'm honored that Senator Baldwin wants to work with me."

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK CONDUCTS PRESCRIBED BURN. The AP (2/11) reports that the Everglades National Park is "burning about 2,475 acres as part of its resource management." The prescribed burn will be conducted Tuesday and Wednesday along the eastern boundary of the park.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE NAMED. The AP (2/11, 417K) reports that Paul Labovitz, the superintendent at the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, has been named the next superintendent at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Labovitz will begin at the Dunes Lakeshore on May 18. Save the Dunes executive director Nicole Barker said her organization is "energized by the announcement." Barker said the group is "hoping for a stronger and more collaborative connection between the park and local communities."

Also reporting on the story is the Times of Northwest Indiana (2/11, 283K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FUNDING APPROVAL FOR SMOKIES HISTORY AND ARCHIVE FACILITY. Additional coverage of the approval of a $4.3 million archive of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was provided by the AP (2/11, 417K), which was also picked up by the Kingsport (TN) Times-News (2/11, 110K) and the Bristol (TN/VA) Herald Courier (2/11, 81K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON PROPOSED WHITEWATER PARK ON COLORADO RIVER. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (2/11, 27K) reports that the BLM is seeking public input on its environmental assessment of the proposed Gore Canyon Whitewater Park at the Pumphouse Recreation Site on the upper Colorado River. According to the article, "Grand County was recently awarded historic water rights for constructing this water park," and "the County has submitted a right of way application with the BLM to build the feature across the full width of the river upstream of the Pumphouse boat launch 2." BLM Kremmling Field Manager Stephanie Odell said, "The project would provide a unique recreational experience for the 60,000-70,000 people that visit the area each year. It would also provide permanent protection for water flows supporting recreational floatboating."

BLM INVITES PUBLIC TO VIEW AERIAL SEEDING. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (2/11, 22K) reports that the BLM, Elko District Office, is "completing Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation work on 2013 fire areas within the district, and on Wednesday is offering the public an opportunity to view aerial seeding of lands near Lee that were impacted by the Smith Ranch Fire." According to the article, "seeding treatments include both rangeland drills and aerial application, and focus on the rehabilitation of greater sage-grouse and other critical wildlife habitat, such as Lahontan cutthroat trout, mule deer and pronghorn."

BLM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR RAPTOR SURVEY IN UTAH. The Deseret (UT) News (2/11, 274K) reports that the BLM is seeking volunteers to help conduct the annual Raptor Inventory Nest Survey this spring in Utah.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS COMMENDS FRANCE FOR IVORY CRUSH. The AllAfrica (2/11, 18K) reports that the FWS has commended France for "destroying 3 tons of illegal ivory seized by customs and law enforcement officials between 1987 and 2007 as a step in reducing the demand for ivory that threatens the existence of African elephants." In a statement, FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "France now joins the United States, China, Kenya, Gabon and the Philippines in sending a message to wildlife traffickers and poachers that their ivory is worthless. If African elephants continue to be killed at current rates to fuel the demand for ivory, their extinction in the wild is inevitable in just a matter of a decade or two." He added, "The survival of the African elephant can only be assured with the support of every nation to halt both the demand for and the supply of ivory. I am greatly encouraged that the first European Union country has now underscored that support with this symbolic event, and I hope that others will follow."

FWS FLOATS REVISED RECOVERY PLAN FOR WYOMING TOAD. The E&E Daily (2/10) reports that the FWS has released a proposed update to its recovery plan for the Wyoming toad. According to the article, "the proposed draft, which has been in the works for the past couple of years, lays out a 10-year plan that includes finalizing a conservation area in the southern Laramie River, as well as creating reintroduction and habitat management protocols." The article notes that "in the fourth and fifth years of the plan, three self-sustaining populations would be established at Wyoming's Mortenson Lake and along the Laramie River," and "the final years of the plan call for three more reintroduction sites and populations."

CALIFORNIA'S LACK OF RAIN THREATENS COHO SALMON. The E&E Daily (2/10) reports that "California's ongoing drought has prevented coho salmon from following their regular migratory routes." Jonathan Ambrose, a National Marine Fisheries Service biologist, said last week, "This is the first animal that will feel the impacts of the drought. It's going to take a lot of rain to bust this thing open. And if they can't get in by the end of February or March, they're gone."

FOUR WHOOPING CRANES SHOT IN RECENT MONTHS. The E&E Daily (2/10) reports that that "in recent months, four whooping cranes have been shot, hampering efforts to rehabilitate the population," according to wildlife officials. Most recently, "two cranes were found shot last week in southwestern Louisiana." The article notes that "one of the birds died, and another was scheduled for surgery."

PUBLIC RESTRICTED FROM ACCESSING CAT ISLAND CHAIN. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (2/11, 798K) reports that "officials from local, state and federal agencies who are coordinating" project to re-create a chain of barrier islands in Green Bay have "decided to prohibit public access to the Cat Island chain because the land is a sanctuary for wildlife." Gary VanVreede, a biologist from the FWS, one of the agencies managing the project, said, "The idea of this whole project is for bird habitat. It was never designed for public recreation." He explained, "If we open it to birders, then are we going to open it up to cyclists and for hiking. If we let one group out there, then we pretty much have to open it to everyone."

MULTINATIONAL OPERATION ENSNARES POACHERS. The China Daily (2/11, 31K) reports that "a multinational operation – in which China played a leading role – resulted in the arrests of hundreds of wildlife poachers and was of global significance for the intelligence it gathered," experts said. Edward Grace, deputy chief of the FWS' office of Law Enforcement said that "the operation, Cobra II, involved 28 countries from Asia, Africa and North America and sent a powerful message to poachers and smugglers." The article notes that "more than 400 suspects were arrested and tons of products were seized in the month-long operation that sent poachers a clear signal of China's zero-tolerance policy toward traffickers."

NEW WILDLEAKS WEBSITE INVITES WHISTLE-BLOWERS ON WILDLIFE CRIME. The National Geographic (2/11, 40.49M) reports that "the first secure, online whistle-blower platform dedicated to wildlife and forest crimes, called WildLeaks," was launched on February 7. the article ntoes that "wildlife law enforcement officers around the world welcome this new tool." Patrick Bosco, special agent with the FWS, said, "Anything created to encourage others to provide information on wildlife crime, regardless of its ultimate usefulness, is a good idea."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REVIEW PANEL REBUKES FWS PROPOSAL TO DELIST GRAY WOLF. Additional coverage of a peer review committee's conclusion that science does not support the plan to delist

wolves was provided by the Huffington Post (2/11, Huta, 11.54M), the Oregon Public Broadcasting (2/11, 4K), and the Prairie (MT) Star (2/11).

OVERHAUL OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT URGED. In an op-ed for the Hawaii Reporter (2/11, 8K), Sydney Ross Singer claims that the Endangered Species Act is more concerned about the quantity of species, rather than the quality. Singer asserts that losing species with "no special qualities will not make the world a worse place." Singer concludes that "it's time to revisit the ESA and end its bloody mandate."

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (2/11, 288K) editorializes that the law "has had very limited success, resulting in just 2 percent of protected species being taken off the list." In light of this, the paper argues that "relying on it to save the Rio Grande silvery minnow, sans science and a rational balance of environmental and human needs, likely has as much promise as ESA-driven efforts to save the northern spotted owl." It concludes that "forty years after the act was signed into law, a review of what has worked and what hasn't is long overdue."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROJECT QUALIFIES FOR TAX CREDIT WITH TURBINE SUPPLY AGREEMENT. The E&E Daily (2/10) reports that "a offshore wind farm being developed off the coast of Rhode Island has qualified for a lucrative federal tax credit by signing a turbine purchase contract." The Block Island project being developed by Deepwater Wind will use "five 6 MW turbines supplied by French manufacturer Alstom," the companies have announced. The purchase should allow Deepwater to "qualify for the federal investment tax credit (ITC), which would cover 30 percent of its costs," according to Jeffrey Grybowski, the company's CEO.

Onshore Energy Development:

CONSERVATION GROUPS APPLAUD BLM DECISION TO DEVISE OIL, GAS PLAN FOR COLORADO AREA. The E&E Daily (2/10) reports that that the BLM has "agreed to conduct a long-term plan for managing oil and natural gas development in a pristine area of south-central Colorado, drawing cheers from sporting and conservation groups that have long championed such an effort." BLM officials say "they have committed to develop a master leasing plan (MLP) for the South Park region, which is renowned among outdoors groups for its world-class fisheries and pronghorn, mule deer and elk herds." Environmental groups, "including the Colorado Wildlife Federation and National Wildlife Federation, along with leaders in Park County, argued that offering the parcels in the February lease sale would likely harm sensitive wildlife habitat in the region."

INVESTOR SAYS MLPS FACE "TEMPORARY HEADWIND" FROM RISING RATES. The E&E Daily (2/10) reports that "rising interest rates will take some of the shine off midstream investments in 2014, according to a leading fund manager in the space." However, "they'll still be profitable, especially relative to other investment options," said Kayne Anderson. Kevin McCarthy, who heads Kayne's four publicly traded funds, wrote in a letter to shareholders last month, "While we expect that rising interest rates could lead to higher yields for MLPs (which would reduce total returns), we believe this will be a temporary headwind. Ultimately, the sector's attractive yields and prospects for many years of distribution growth will lead to a continuation of strong returns."

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON OIL, GAS LEASES. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (2/11, 22K) reports that the BLM Battle Mountain District is "making available for public review an environmental assessment on 139 parcels of public land nominated for lease in the July 2014 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale." The bureau "received nominations for 166 parcels of public land to offer for leasing, totaling more than 285,000 acres," and it "deferred several of the nominated parcels to protect sage-grouse habitat."

Offshore Energy Development:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SHELL HALTS ARCTIC OFFSHORE DRILLING PLANS. Additional coverage of Shell's decision to shelve its Arctic offshore drilling plans was provided by the Cordova (AK) Times (2/11, 2K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

STORM EASES CALIFORNIA DROUGHT. The CBS Evening News (2/11, 111) reported, "A phenomenon known as the pineapple express brought moisture from Hawaii" to relieve the West Coast's "historic drought." CBS (Blackstone) added this was the first rain in 14 months. Mike Swayze, watershed manager at Marin County's Mount Tamalpais reservoirs, said, "We saw a 25 percent increase in the water in our reservoirs out of this storm which is saving our bacon." However, Blackstone notes that the storm also caused flooded roads and heavy snow for some. Meanwhile, in California "rainfall totals statewide are still only about 40 percent of normal."

The San Francisco Chronicle (2/10, 2.88M) reports that "the gully washer that swept through California left a heaping of powdery snow in the Sierra, but it fell far short of filling the state's depleted reservoirs." According to water officials, "the downpour was a good thing, but California is still in the midst of a drought and the water supply situation is abysmal." The article notes that "the state's reservoirs are, for the most part, well below normal for this time of year despite the weekend storm."

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (2/10, 749K) reports that the BOR was "able to take advantage of increased runoff from the wet weekend storms to boost water diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." The bureau "tripled its diversions from the Delta on Sunday and expects to increase that pumping a little more on Tuesday."

Reuters (2/11, Gorman) reports that Louis Moore, a spokesman for the BOR, said, "We'd need another one of these storms weekly for the next several weeks to get back to where we want to be with our water supply."

President Obama Expected To Offer Financial Aid. The Fresno (CA) Bee (2/10, 327K) reports that when President Barack Obama visits Fresno on Friday, he is "expected to talk about the federal government's role in coping with the drought." According to the article, "many water experts say they expect Obama to offer some kind of financial aid and cooperation of federal agencies with state and local authorities."

Drought Causing Spike In Early California Wildfires. Bloomberg News (2/11, Chediak, 1.91M) reports that the drought in California has led to an early start to what could become a "devastating wildfire season," noting that there have been 487 wildfires so far in 2014, "compared with only two for the same period a year ago." Bloomberg notes that state utilities "are implementing plans normally reserved for high-fire season, such as stepping up patrols of electrical lines and bringing fire crews along for routine repairs." Edison International CEO Ted Craver said that the utility "will need to be extra vigilant if the dry conditions continue," stating in a telephone interview, "You can't say there wouldn't be some combination of events, a heat storm and a fire that takes out a transmission line." Craver did note that new gas generation and network upgrade will help "the grid to be able to withstand the shocks." This story was also carried by Bloomberg BusinessWeek (2/11, Chediak, 4.93M).

Low Rainfall Will Lead To Coal, Gas Use In Western States. In his column in Reuters (2/11), John Kemp argues that lower than average rain and snowfall in the western half of the United States will limit the use of hydropower in the region and force states to increase their coal and natural gas use this year. Kemp says that some paths out from the Columbia River can generate up to 12 percent of the peak power demand in California, but this year the Columbia River Basin has seen its precipitation drop by 30 percent of its annual average. He says the lack of precipitation has been especially bad in California where a state of emergency was declared due to drought conditions. He concludes by saying that the western states will likely have to look to coal to offset the lack of hydropower and the increasing price of natural gas.

Additional commentary on water issues was provided by the Bakersfield Californian (2/11, 140K), the Orange County (CA) Register (2/11, 675K), the Marysville (CA) Appeal-Democrat (2/11, 70K), and the Imperial Valley (CA) News (2/11, 1K).

HOUSE SET TO REAUTHORIZE FEDERAL DROUGHT INFORMATION PROGRAM. The E&E Daily (2/10) reports that "with all eyes on the entrenched Western drought," the House is "set to vote tonight on a bill to reauthorize a federal drought information program." Rep. Ralph Hall's H.R. 2431 would extend the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) through 2018, "authorizing a $13.5 million annual budget." The Senate has approved a similar measure (S. 376) from Sen. Mark Pryor, "amended to cut the program's budget to $12 million a year."

BOR NAMES NEW SCIENCE ADVISER. The E&E Daily (2/10) reports that the BOR has "named an engineer with a background in climate change and water management to be its scientific adviser." BOR Commissioner Michael Connor "tapped David Raff for the post, which includes serving as the agency's scientific integrity officer." In a statement, Connor said, "Science and the scientific process are important at Reclamation. Dave's experience and understanding of climate change and its influences on hydrology will be a great benefit as Reclamation and its partners confront widening imbalances between water supply and demand throughout the West."

BOR SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON WATER SUPPLY STRATEGIES FOR EASTERN IDAHO. KIFI-TV Idaho Falls, ID (2/11, 23K) reports that the BOR is seeking input on how to improve water supply to the upper valley in Idaho. According to the article, "the Henry's Fork Basin study was released Monday and includes 12 ways to help water supply."

Empowering Native American Communities:

UPDATED FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES LIST PUBLISHED. The Indian Country Today Media Network (2/10, 21K) reports that BIA published a notice January 29 in the Federal Register announcing this year's updated list of federally acknowledged tribes. Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said, "The Bureau of Indian Affairs notice in the Federal Register of Indian entities recognized and eligible to receive services from the BIA is the official listing of all federally recognized tribes in the United States. The publication of this list is vital to the United States for its government-to-government relationship with the federally recognized tribes, to Indian Affairs and other agencies who work with them, and to inform the general public of who they are. The BIA works diligently with all of the listed tribal entities to ensure each name is accurate and complies with the tribes' governing documents."

BILL WOULD ALLOCATE MONEY TO FIGHT RULING THAT RIVERTON IS ON WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (2/11, 90K) reports that "state lawmakers introduced legislation that would earmark money for the state of Wyoming to fight the federal government over the Environmental Protection Agency's recent ruling that Riverton is part of the Wind River Indian Reservation." The bill, House Bill 78, "expands the state's ability to fight federal regulating agencies in court." The Northern Arapaho Tribe "slammed the bill as unnecessary saber rattling." Mark Howell, a spokesman for the tribe, said, "The bill can be described as the state of Wyoming's war powers act against the tribes in its efforts to attack the EPA. If it's passed, they are really declaring war against the tribes on the Wind River Reservation."

Top National News:

EMPLOYER MANDATE ONCE AGAIN DELAYED FOR SOME BUSINESSES. The announcement from the Administration on Monday that enforcement of the Affordable Care Act's employer mandate will be delayed by another year received a great deal of coverage, including front-page articles in this morning's Washington Post (2/11, A1, Eilperin, Goldstein, 4.28M) and New York Times (2/11, A1, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), as well as mentions on all three network newscasts Monday evening. In a very brief, 25-second item for NBC Nightly News (2/10, story 4, 0:25, Pelley, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that the Administration had "announced...it is delaying another part of the President's healthcare law." Williams said "medium-sized businesses – that means those with between 55 and 99 employees...will not have to provide health insurance for full-time employees until 2016," one year "later than previously announced."

Much of this morning's coverage reflects the perception that the White House was trying to insulate Democratic candidates from criticism in a midterm election year. On the CBS Evening News (2/10, story 5, 1:20, Pelley, 5.58M), Scott Pelley described the delay as "an election year concession to some businesses," and Major Garrett said, "In a midterm election year...the White House simply did not need any more healthcare headaches." Likewise, the AP (2/11, Alonso-Zaldivar) says the Administration was "trying to limit election-year damage on health care."

The Washington Post (2/11, A1, Eilperin, Goldstein, 4.28M) reports that "by offering an unexpected grace period...administration officials are hoping to defuse another potential controversy" ahead of "this year's midterm

election." Bloomberg News (2/11, Wayne, 1.91M) notes that as a result of the Administration's decision, "many small businesses won't have to worry about complying with the law's requirement next fall, about the same time voters are going to the polls in congressional elections." The Washington Times (2/11, Howell, 417K) says the delay "is sure to renew political recriminations among Republicans who feel the White House is protecting Democratic allies in a key election year."

Reports also suggest that the Administration's decision is further evidence that the ACA remains in need of policy tweaks. George Stephanopoulos, in a brief segment for ABC World News (2/10, story 4, 0:25, Stephanopoulos, 7.43M), said "after all of those glitches, all of those false starts," there is "a new delay for Obamacare," and McClatchy (2/11, Pugh, Subscription Publication, 95K) reports that Monday's announcement was the "the latest in a series of revised, delayed or discarded provisions that have characterized the tortured rollout of the contentious health law." At the opening of Fox News' Special Report (2/11, 2.15M), Bret Baier said, "Another day, another delay: President Obama slamming the brakes on another key part of his namesake healthcare law."

Republicans were quick to argue that ordinary Americans deserve relief from the individual mandate. Business Insider (2/11, LoGiurato, 1.39M) reported that Speaker Boehner said, "Once again, the president is giving a break to corporations while individuals and families are still stuck under the mandates of his health care law." Brendan Buck, a spokesman for Boehner, tweeted (2/11): "I'm old enough to remember when the House voted to delay the employer mandate, and the White House threatened to veto it."

The AP (2/11, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that "in one of several concessions in a complex Treasury Department regulation...companies with 50 to 99 employees will have an additional year to comply with the coverage mandate," although for employers "with 100 or more employees the requirement will still take effect in 2015." The AP says "some major business organizations were quick to praise" the announcement, and quotes Neil Trautwein, vice president of the National Retail Federation, as saying, "These final regulations secured the gold medal for greatest assistance to retailers, and other businesses, and our employees." On the other hand, USA Today (2/11, A1, Kennedy, 5.82M) reports that Republicans, "many of whom co-sponsored a bill asking that the employer mandate be delayed...immediately denounced the move and called for the delay to be extended to individuals." House Majority Leader Eric Cantor is quoted as saying, "Much like the individual mandate, the business mandate is bad for middle-class families and will harm economic growth, but the answer to this problem is not random unilateral changes, stoking uncertainty."

Echoing Boehner's and Cantor's complaints, Politico (2/11, Norman, Nather, 464K) says "now that businesses are getting another break, the Obama administration will have to brace for the return of a huge political problem: the demands for regular people to get a break from" the individual mandate, which "will be a major test of the new White House congressional operation." House Majority Whip Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) is quoted as saying, "It's time we give every American the same relief from the law that the President has granted to businesses by working toward a legislative solution to delay Obamacare for everyone."

The Washington Examiner (2/11, Hughes, 319K) reports that as "this is the second time the administration has delayed the employer mandate," it has "stok[ed] GOP charges that the White House wasn't prepared to implement President Obama's signature domestic achievement." The Examiner notes that Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said, "The White House seems to have a new exemption from its failed law for a different group every month."

Under the front-page headline, "Health-Law Mandate Put Off Again: No Fines For Most Employers Until 2016 As Firms Pressure White House In Wake Of Troubled Rollout," the Wall Street Journal (2/11, A1, Radnofsky, Francis, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Administration officials insist that the decision to delay the employer mandate once again was made in response to the concerns of the business community, rather than as a result of political considerations.

Roll Call (2/11, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 87K) reported that also on Monday, Sens. Tom Coburn, Lamar Alexander, Jeff Sessions, John Cornyn, John Barrasso and Jerry Moran "wrote...to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen questioning how the IRS plans to enforce the individual mandate." Roll Call says the senators noted that the ACA "restricts the ways in which the IRS enforces tax compliance," writing, "under the law, the IRS does not have the authority to file a notice of federal tax lien or bring forth criminal prosecutions in order to

enforce the tax payment."

Robert Pear, in a front-page article for the New York Times (2/11, A1, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), writes that on Monday, the Treasury Department "laid out a three-tier approach." Pear says that "for larger employers with 100 or more employees...seventy percent of employees must be offered coverage in 2015, and in later years at least 95 percent of employees must be offered coverage," while "employers with 50 to 99 employees...will have an extra year," and "small businesses with fewer than 50 employees...will not be required to provide coverage or fill out any forms in any year." Pear adds that in response to those who "asked how the president could unilaterally waive provisions of the law," J. Mark Iwry, Deputy Assistant Treasury Secretary for Health Policy, "said the administration had broad 'authority to grant transition relief' under a law that directs the Treasury secretary to 'prescribe all needful rules and regulations for the enforcement' of tax obligations."

Sarah Kliff, in a Wonkblog piece for the Washington Post (2/11, Kliff, 4.28M), noted that "there had been some tussling on Capitol Hill over whether certain volunteers – mostly volunteer firefighters – would count as full-time employees, for purposes," and that on Monday, Treasury "clarifie[d] that they do not count as employees – which eliminates any incentives to get rid of volunteer positions" in order to escape the employer mandate.

Bloomberg News (2/11, Wayne, 1.91M) reports that Mark Mazur, Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, released a statement reading: "While about 96 percent of employers are not subject to the employer responsibility provision, for those employers that are, we will continue to make the compliance process simpler and easier to navigate."

According to The Hill (2/11, Goad, 194K), an anonymous "senior Treasury Department official stressed that the new language on the mandate was not meant to influence decisions about hiring or downsizing." The Hill also reports that the International Franchise Association, "which represents the owners of popular chains such as McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts, accused the administration of 'picking winners and losers.'" IFA CEO Steve Caldeira said, "This announcement is just another delay that while positive in the short term for some franchises, only postpones the inevitable and demonstrates the Affordable Care Act remains a significant problem for employers to implement."

The Wall Street Journal (2/11, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, argues that the Administration does not have the power to make such unilateral changes to a law written by Congress, and notes that many of the Administration's changes to the ACA have benefited corporations, not individual Americans. As did many conservative outlets, the Washington Times (2/11, Wolfgang, 417K) noted that earlier on Monday, during a tour of Monticello with French President Francois Hollande, President Obama had been quoted as saying, "That's the good thing as a president. I can do whatever I want."

DEBT LIMIT BILL TIED TO MILITARY PENSION CHANGE EMERGING AS GOP PREFERENCE. The likely GOP vote on Wednesday on a debt-ceiling increase is drawing significant attention, particularly as a sign of the significant change in strategy by the GOP leadership in not attaching significant cuts. In addition, there is some doubt expressed in the coverage about whether or not the legislation can draw enough Democratic support to pass it.

The Washington Post (2/11, Costa, Kane, 4.28M) reports that House GOP leaders spent Monday working to rally members behind a "proposal that ties a debt-ceiling increase to a plan to restore full pension benefits for some military veterans." House Speaker John Boehner called a "special conference meeting:" to try to find "the right policy mix that would attract enough Republican and Democratic support for the measure to be approved, possibly as soon as Wednesday." However, Republicans "stressed that Boehner's team had made no final decision and that the proposal's fate remained uncertain."

In a piece posted later, The Hill (2/11, Berman, Wasson, 194K) reports that House Republican leaders are "pushing for a Wednesday vote" on the debt ceiling and military pension bill. The bill "suspends the debt ceiling until March 15, 2015," which would "allow the government to continue borrowing without limit, and the new debt ceiling would be whatever the debt is at the end of that date." The bill "represents a remarkable shift" for the GOP leadership, who "once demanded deep spending cuts in exchange for raising the nation's debt limit."

Politico (2/11, Sherman, 464K) reports that if the plan does pass, "it could increase pressure on the Senate to

take up the bill, despite objections from Democratic leaders there to attaching any policy to legislation that raises the debt ceiling." However, if the House rejects the bill, it could allow Boehner to "pivot to a clean debt ceiling bill — one without attached policy — just days before the nation is set to run out of borrowing authority."

Roll Call (2/11, Dumain, Fuller, Newhauser, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports the deal is "designed to attract Democratic support, which became necessary when GOP leaders found last week that none of their plans could garner 218 votes from Republicans alone."

The Wall Street Journal (2/11, Hook, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) also says that it is not clear if the legislation will draw sufficient support from Democrats.

The Washington Post (2/11, Costa, Kane, 4.28M) reports that if no legislation if passed by Wednesday, the House "is not slated to return for legislative action for nearly two weeks, just days before" Treasury Secretary Lew's deadline. The Post notes that the "benefits for retired military personnel were reduced in last year's bipartisan budget agreement, which cut $6 billion in payments to veterans over the next 10 years."

USA Today (2/11, Davis, 5.82M) reports that Republicans would offset the cost of the military pension rollback "would pay for it by extending certain mandatory spending cuts, known as the sequester, through 2024." The pension cuts "have sparked outrage from lawmakers in both parties as well as veterans' groups who say the cut breaks a fundamental promise made to military veterans."

The New York Times (2/11, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Senate "voted Monday evening to take up a bill that reverses the same spending cut." The move by both chambers "starkly illustrate how difficult it will be to wring savings from automatic government programs — like pension and health care 'entitlements' — which are swelling with an aging population but remain politically untouchable."

White House Won't Commit To Signing Bill. The AP (2/11, Taylor) reports that White House spokesman Jay Carney "sidestepped a question" about whether the President would sign the House proposal, "reiterating the White House position that Obama would not negotiate on raising the borrowing limit." Carney said, "I'm not going to get into a `what if this were in the bill or that were in the bill. Our position has not changed. It hasn't changed for a long, long time. We're not negotiating over Congress' responsibility to pay its bills."

Cruz Calls Debt Increase Without Cuts "Irresponsible." The Washington Post (2/11, Blake, 4.28M) reports in its "Post Politics" blog that Sen. Ted Cruz (R) said on Monday that it would be "irresponsible" for House GOP leaders to "allow for a debt ceiling increase without "significant" progress toward reducing spending." Cruz said, "I think that's irresponsible. I hope the House doesn't go down that road."

US Chamber Calls On House To Quickly Raise Debt Ceiling. The Hill (2/11, Bogardus, 194K) reports in its "On The Money" blog that the US Chamber of Commerce on Monday "called on the House to raise the debt ceiling, increasing pressure on Republicans to move a bill forward." Bruce Josten, the Chamber's "chief lobbyist," wrote that increasing the debt ceiling "would eliminate the threat of default and allow credit markets to function properly" and would also "allow the economy to 'finally to achieve some long-awaited momentum.'"

Investors Betting Debt Ceiling Increase Gets Through. Bloomberg News (2/11, McCormick, 1.91M) reports that Treasury bill rates "suggest that investors are betting US lawmakers will agree to raise the nation's borrowing limit and avoid the budget logjam that resulted from last year's partial US government shutdown." The one-month rates "dropped about four basis points to 0.06 percent, even after the Feb. 7 expiration of an agreement that suspended what's known as the debt ceiling."

WHITE HOUSE: OBAMA IS NOT TO BLAME FOR STALLED IMMIGRATION REFORM. The Washington Times (2/11, Wolfgang, 417K) reports that on Monday, White House press secretary Jay Carney said that "if the House doesn't take action on immigration, the chamber's Republican leadership shouldn't use a lack of trust in President Obama as an excuse." Carney is quoted as saying, "I don't think it stands up to scrutiny that the troubles Republicans have on this issue are the president's fault. Nor could they be attributed to a lack of trust." The Times notes that Carney's "comments come amid growing" concern that the President "cannot be trusted to enforce tough new border security measures."

The Hill (2/11, Sink, 194K) notes that Carney noted, "When comprehensive immigration reform came up as an issue in 2006, when President George W. Bush was in office, Republicans killed it because of their internal divisions."

Eugene Robinson, in his column for the Washington Post (2/11, 4.28M), says the President "has done everything humanly possible to make it easier for Republicans to support sensible reform."

Cruz's Campaign Against Boehner's "Amnesty" Push Noted. Humberto Sanchez, in a piece for Roll Call (2/11, Subscription Publication, 87K), says Sen. Ted Cruz "continues to do" Speaker Boehner "no favors – and some of Boehner's allies think the tea party Texan should mind his own business." According to Sanchez, "as Boehner unveiled his leadership team's immigration principles at the House GOP's retreat two weeks ago, Cruz and his staff simultaneously torched the push for an immigration overhaul this year...immediately playing the 'amnesty' card." Cruz is quoted as having said, "Anyone pushing that right now should go ahead and put a Harry Reid for majority leader bumper sticker on the back of their car."

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (2/11, Milbank, 4.28M), says "even" former senator Jim DeMint, the president of the Heritage Foundation, "says he wants immigration reform — but not now, because he doesn't trust Obama." DeMint is quoted as saying, "With this president, what he's done with Obamacare...to give the president the authority that would come with this giant amnesty bill just does not make sense."

Kristol: Schumer May Have Inadvertently Help Kill Immigration Reform. In a piece published Monday, the Weekly Standard's (2/11, Kristol, 736K) Bill Kristol wrote that Sen. Chuck Schumer, "an author of the Senate immigration bill, may have succeeded in helping Republicans kill his own bill" when he suggested on Sunday that its implementation could be delayed until 2017 in order to assuage Republican concerns that President Obama would use executive actions to dilute its enforcement provisions. Kristol said, "in other words," Schumer, "who has previously pretended immigration reform is urgently important, is acknowledging that in fact there is no urgency to act."

Immigration Activists Plan To "Punish" Congressional Republicans. According to Politico (2/11, Palmer, Kim, 464K), "Immigration reform advocates are done playing nice," and now, "after holding their fire...at the urging of the Obama administration, several immigration reform groups now plan to unleash their anger at the right." Politico reports that on Tuesday, "these groups say they will begin confronting Republican lawmakers at public appearances, congressional hearings and events back in home districts." Politico adds that activists "plan to target House Republicans in swing districts with a wide section of Latino voters -- even if they've expressed support for immigration reform before" – which "means that lawmakers such as Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Calif.), who has gone as far as to sign onto a Democratic-backed comprehensive bill, aren't safe from the wrath of the pro-reform groups." Kica Matos, a spokeswoman for the Fair Immigration Reform Movement, is quoted as saying, "What we are now doing is to switch tactics from persuasion to punishment."

Study: Food Prices Would Rise If Immigration Laws Were More Strictly Enforced. The New York Times (2/11, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that a study commissioned by the American Farm Bureau, the "largest farm lobby organization," concluded that "immigration reform that focuses solely on enforcement would cut agriculture production and cause a sharp rise in food prices" due to "a lack of workers to harvest crops." According to the AFB-commissioned study, border enforcement "would cost the agriculture sector as much as $60 billion over" five years.

USA Today (2/11, Doering, 5.82M) notes that the report forecast that, "under an enforcement-only scenario, fruit production would plummet in the United States by 30% to 61%, vegetable output by 15% to 31%." USA Today says "farmers are pushing to overhaul H-2A visas, which allow the agriculture industry to hire temporary workers" who are not US citizens.

Nebraska Town Voting On Whether Or Not To Retain Restrictions On Illegal Immigrants. The AP (2/11, Funk) reports "almost four years after" Fremont, Nebraska "tried to crack down on illegal immigration," it is "having second thoughts about requiring all renters to swear that they have legal permission to be in the United States." The AP adds that on Tuesday, "voters in Fremont will have a chance to repeal the housing restrictions, which critics say are less effective and more costly than anyone expected and damaging to the city's image."

Nearly Three-Quarters Of Babies Born In US Territory Of Saipan Have Chinese Parents. On ABC World News (2/10, story 6, 2:35, Stephanopoulos, 7.43M), George Stephanopoulos reported that Saipan, a "US territory...3,700 miles west of Honolulu, has become the hot destination for more and more families from China" who want their children to be US citizens. Gloria Rivera went on to report that visitors to Saipan, which is "just four hours by plane from China," do not need a visa, which makes it attractive for "pregnant Chinese women have what they call an ABC – an American-born Chinese baby." According to Rivera, "Full packages start around $27,000, promising Social Security cards, birth certificates and, most importantly, an American passport." Rivera reported that "a full 71 percent of babies born in Saipan are ABC's."

WPost Blasts Virginia Republicans Who Oppose In-State Tuition Rates For Illegal Immigrants. The Washington Post (2/11, 4.28M), in an editorial, writes, "Even if undocumented students grow up in Virginia and graduate from a high school in the state, Republican leaders in Richmond insist that they pay out-of-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities." The Post notes that "legislation that would allow these students to pay in-state rates recently cleared the Education Committee in the House of Delegates with broad bipartisan support," but, according to the Post, William Howell, the speaker of Virginia's House of Delegates, "saw to it that the bill was sent to die in the Appropriations Committee."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Gay Rights And The Justice Department."*** The New York Times (2/11, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that since the Supreme Court ruling striking down DOMA, "the Justice Department has been helping federal agencies change their practices," and now the department "is adjusting its own policies and programs, bringing significant advances for gay couples and American justice." The Times notes that under the new policies, "in court cases and criminal investigations, same-sex couples will be covered for the first time by the 'spousal privilege,' a rule that prevents spouses from being forced to testify against each other," and that same-sex "spouses of police officers or firefighters killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty will be eligible for a special benefits program the Justice Department administers." The Times expresses disappointment with the Administration for "hesitating to move forward with another important anti-discrimination measure: barring federal contractors from refusing to hire workers on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity."

"The Message From Homes." In an editorial, the New York Times (2/11, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues that while it is a "long shot," a "political solution leading to a transitional government remains the best outcome" in Syria. The Times adds that such a solution "is not out of the question if some right choices are made." The US, the Times argues "should drop its opposition to including Iran, which supplies arms and other assistance to Mr. Assad, in the negotiations." Russia "could send a powerful message to Mr. Assad by suspending its arms deliveries." Saudi Arabia and Qatar "could send the same message to Mr. Assad's opposition by ending weapons deliveries to the rebels." Meanwhile, Turkey "could close its border to the foreign fighters that have turned Syria into a cauldron of extremist elements that threaten the entire region."

"The State Of Mr. De Blasio's City." In an editorial, the New York Times (2/11, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's State of the City speech had "a few promising specifics" on housing, education, and wages, but the mayor's "societal critique and statements of noble ambitions" crowded out from the speech "details of a broader agenda," such as what he will do on "parks, sanitation, transportation, the arts, infrastructure and climate change."

"Army Auditors' Shock And Awe." In an editorial, the New York Times (2/11, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) calls the recruiting bonus fraud, in which suspects are accused of claiming rewards for rewards for recruiting men and women who had already planned to enlist, "seems especially shameful." The paper calls for "the fullest accounting of this blot on the home front, however war-weary the nation is."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Oppressed In Nigeria."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (2/11, 4.28M) describes Nigeria's new law against homosexuality as "extraordinarily repressive," and notes that it appears "to violate Nigeria's constitution, which, as Secretary of State John F. Kerry has pointed out, guarantees freedom of assembly." The Post argues that the US and Britain "should be aggressively using their leverage to protect the vulnerable gay community," starting with letting President Goodluck Jonathan "know he and his government will

be unwelcome in Washington and London until the law is repealed."

"Bring On The Chip-And-PIN." In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/11, 4.28M) writes that transitioning to chip-and-PIN technology "involves costs that stores, card companies and banks have been reluctant to bear." The paper concludes that consumers "ought to be angry at the industry's lag."

"Where Dreams Go To Die." The Washington Post (2/11, 4.28M), in an editorial, writes, "Even if undocumented students grow up in Virginia and graduate from a high school in the state, Republican leaders in Richmond insist that they pay out-of-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities." The Post notes that "legislation that would allow these students to pay in-state rates recently cleared the Education Committee in the House of Delegates with broad bipartisan support," but, according to the Post, William Howell, the speaker of Virginia's House of Delegates, "saw to it that the bill was sent to die in the Appropriations Committee."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Obama Rewrites ObamaCare."*** A Wall Street Journal (2/11, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorial criticizes the Administration's delay of the ACA's employer mandate, decrying the move as hypocritical. The Journal asserts that liberals initially dismissed arguments that the provision would hurt job creation and the economy, but now have come to embrace that logic, using it as justification for the delay. The editorial also questions the legality of the White House's actions, saying that Congressional approval is needed to make such changes and suggesting that the President disregards the law when he pleases.

"Wisconsin Punch Back." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/11, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the Wisconsin prosecutors conducting a secret probe of conservative groups were warned last month that their actions might draw a Federal lawsuit, and on Monday, it did. The suit was filed on behalf of the Wisconsin Club for Growth and lays out the partisan motivations behind the investigation, which is apparently looking into illegal aid to Gov. Scott Walker (R). The suit argues that the point of the investigation is to silence conservative political groups during the 2014 election campaign. The Journal says that as a first move, the Federal judge should unseal the records of the investigation.

"Big Labor's Quickie Election Gambit." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/11, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the NRLB last week rolled out a proposal to speed up union elections. The Journal says that the proposal had failed once before and that the new version is no better. Under the new proposal, a company is required to give a union the full list of contact information for its employees and also cuts the time before a vote. The WSJ says that the point of the new rule is to limit workers' freedom to debate unionization.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Obama Delays Insurance Mandate For Firms Again
Frustrated By Karzai, US Shifts Exit Plans
Icahn Ends Apple Buyback Campaign
Tightfisted New Owners Put Heinz On Diet

New York Times:
De Blasio Plans To Lift Wages And Offer IDs
Further Delays For Employers In Health Law
Heroin's Small-Town Toll, And A Mother's Grief
US Debates Drone Strike On American Terrorism Suspect In Pakistan
In West Bank Settlements, Israeli Jobs Are Double-Edged Sword
Impatience Has Its Reward: Books Are Rolled Out Faster

Washington Post:
Christie Has History Of Pushing Limits
Sam's Announcement Causes Ripples In NFL
Employers Get New Reprieve From Health Law

Summertime At The Winter Games
Al-Qaeda Expulsion Stirs Debate Over US Law

Financial Times:
Icesave Dispute Resurrected In Court
Government Was Told Of Risk To Flood Defences
Portugal Tries Its Luck With Tax Lottery
UBS Suspends Two Bankers In Hiring Probe
Icahn Drops Apple Buyback Demand
BYD To Launch All-Electric London Taxis
The Double Death Of Decoupling
Russia Prepares Crackdown On Bitcoin

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Terrorism Threat; Highway Car Crashes; Healthcare-Employer Mandate; Hilary Clinton-Book; Saipan-American Born Chinese
CBS: Severe Weather; Winter Weather; West Coast Drought Relief; ACA-Employer Mandate; FBI-Terror Suspect Captured; AOL-Employee Health Benefits; Obama-French President Visit; Syria-UN Rescue Envoy; Iraq-Accidental Bombing
NBC: Syria-UN Rescue Envoy; Terrorist Captured; Severe Winter Weather; Healthcare-Employer Mandate; Obama-French President Visit; Hilary Clinton-Book

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Winter Weather; North Carolina Hospital-Medical Contamination; Healthcare-Business Mandate; Oklahoma-Gay Marriage Ban
CBS: Severe Winter Weather; Georgia-Shooting; Healthcare-Business Mandate; House Agenda-Military Pensions; Terrorism Threat; Olympic Updates
NPR: Severe Winter Weather; Corruption Trial-Former New Orleans Mayor; Olympics-Empty Seats; Olympic Medal Count; Oklahoma-Gay Marriage Ban; Cyber Attacks-Global Economy Implications; New Hampshire-Gas Explosion
FOX: Severe Winter Weather; Coal Spill-Settlement; New Hampshire-Oil Rig Explosion; Olympic Medal Count

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Welcomes President Hollande of France to the White House. South Lawn.; holds a bilateral meeting with President Hollande, Oval Office; holds an expanded bilateral meeting with President Hollande and Official U.S. and Official French Delegations, Cabinet Room, closed press; holds a joint press conference with President Hollande, The East Room; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press; meets with senior advisors; takes official photo with President Hollande and the First Lady, Grand Staircase; attends the State Dinner with the First Lady and President Hollande, South Lawn; attends the State Dinner Reception with the First Lady and President Hollande, South Lawn.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Swears in John Walsh as Senator of Montana at the U.S. Capitol, hosts a lunch with Secretary of State Kerry in honor of President Hollande at the Department of State.
US Senate: 10 a.m. — The Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to S.1963, the Military Retirement Pay bill.

9 a.m. JUDICIARY — Hearing to examine certain nominations. Panel I: Robin Rosenbaum, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit. Panel II: Bruce Hendricks, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina; Mark Mastroianni, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts; Leslie Caldwell, to be Assistant Attorney General. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=138603a26950ad873303535a631f7cbb Location: 226 Dirksen.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Full committee hearing on "Current and Future Worldwide Threats," with Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr. and Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn, USA, director, Defense Intelligence Agency. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/current-and-future-worldwide-threats- Location: G50 Dirksen.

10 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearing to examine prospects for Democratic reconciliation and workers' rights in Bangladesh. Witnesses: Panel One: Nisha Desai Biswal, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Eric Biel, Acting Associate Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor. Panel Two: Ellen Tauscher, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety; Kalpona Akter, Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity, Dhaka, Bangladesh. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/prospects-for-democratic-reconciliation-and-workers-rights-in-bangladesh Location: 419 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Full committee examines the nominations of Christopher P. Lu of Virginia to be Deputy Secretary of Labor and Portia Y. Wu of the District of Columbia to be Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=ee8d85cd-5056-a032-5238-d485af211bc6 Location: 430 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. BUDGET — Hearing to examine the budget and economic outlook for fiscal years 2014-2024 with Dr. Douglas W. Elmendorf, Director, Congressional Budget Office. http://budget.senate.gov/democratic Location: 608 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS — Media Availability with Democratic Caucus Chair Becerra, Rep. Crowley. Location: HVC-210 Alcove.

10 a.m. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — Time approximate. With Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Representative Brad Wenstrup (R-OH). Location: RNC Lobby.

10:30 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: H-144 U.S. Capitol.

12 p.m. 'PROSPERITY, NOT MORE AUSTERITY' — Rally by the American Federation of Government Employees union tol protest "reckless" cuts to government services, compensation, and jobs. Event features members of Congress: Rep. Keith Ellison (Minn.); Rep. Raul Grijalva (Ariz.); Rep. Donna Edwards (Md.); Rep. Jim Moran (Va.); Sen. Ben Cardin (Md.). Location: West Front Lawn, U.S. Capitol.

12 p.m. NSA PROTEST — A coalition of grassroots groups across the nation's capital area will host a press conference on Capitol Hill about the National Security Agency's "dragnet assault" on the fundamental rights of Americans. The press conference will support "The Day We Fight Back," a national day of online action and calls to Congress promoting the USA FREEDOM Act introduced by Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), the chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. With Rep. Rush Holt, Jr. (D-NJ), former Chair, House Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, others. Location: House Triangle.

4:30 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS – KING OF JORDAN — Committee Chairman Ed Royce and panel members host King Abdullah II of Jordan. Location: H-137.

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. 'ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE' — "Vagina Monologues" author Eve Ensler will join Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), and Gwen Moore (D-WI) for the international One Billion Rising for Justice Campaign DC kick-off. One Billion Rising is an annual, worldwide action held on February 14 to demand freedom from political, economic, legal, sexual and gender based violence around the world. Location: B339 Rayburn.

12 p.m. — The House will meet for legislative business.

9 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Full committee markup: H.R. 4011, Alaska Bypass Fair Competition Act, introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA); H.R. 3308, the Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2013, introduced by Rep. Billy Long (R-MO); H.R. 2804, the All Economic Regulations are Transparent Act of 2013, introduced by Rep. George Holding (R-NC. http://oversight.house.gov/calendar/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. BUDGET — Full committee markup on H.R. 1872 Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014 and H.R. 1869 Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act of 2014. http://budget.house.gov/hearingschedule2014/hearing2112014.htm Location: 210 Cannon.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training holds a hearing, "Serving Seniors Through the Older Americans Act." Witnesses: Carol V. OShaughnessy, Principal Policy Analyst, National Health Policy Forum; Lynn Kellogg, chief Executive Officer, Region IV Area Agency on Aging, St. Joseph, MI; Dr. Yanira Cruz, President and CEO, National Hispanic Council on Aging; Denise Niese, Executive Director, Wood County Committee on Aging, Inc., Bowling Green, OH. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations holds a hearing on the status of the Department of Energys clean coal programs. Witnesses: Julio Friedmann, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Clean Coal, Department of Energy ; Accompanined by: Scott Klara, Acting Director for the National Energy Technology Labratory, Department of Energy. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/department-energy-oversight-status-clean-coal-programs Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Full committee hearing entitled "Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy." Panel I: Janet L. Yellen, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Panel II: Dr. John B. Taylor, Mary and Robert Raymond Professor of Economics, Stanford University; Dr. Mark A. Calabria, Director, Financial Regulation Studies, Cato Institute; Abby M. McCloskey, Director, Economic Policy, American Enterprise Institute; Dr. Donald Kohn, Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, Brookings Institution. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=368855 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations holds a hearing on "The Persecution of Christians as a Worldwide Phenomenon." Witnesses: The Most Reverend Francis A. Chullikatt, Permanent Observer, The Holy See Mission at the United Nations; Elliott Abrams, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom;: John Allen, Associate Editor, The Boston Globe; Tehmina Arora, Attorney, Alliance Defending Freedom-India; Benedict Rogers, Team Leader for East Asia, Christian Solidarity Worldwide; Jorge Lee Galindo, Director, Impulso 18; Khataza Gondwe, Ph.D., Team Leader for Africa and the Middle East, Christian Solidarity Worldwide. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-persecution-christians-worldwide-phenomenon Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications hearing on "Bioterrorism: Assessing the Threat." Witnesses: Dr. Robert Kadlec, former Special Assistant and Senior Director for Biodefense Policy for President George W. Bush; Dr. Tom Inglesby, CEO and Director, University of Pittsburg Medical Center, Center for Health Security. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/bioterrorism-assessing-threat Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security Hearing: Asylum Fraud" Abusing America's Compassion?" http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2014/2/asylum-fraud-abusing-america-s-compassion Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Full committee hearing on "DC Navy Yard Shooting: Fixing the Security Clearance Process." http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/dc-navy-yard-shooting-fixing-security-clearance-process/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY — Subcommittee on Environment hearing on "Ensuring Open Science at EPA." Witnesses: John Graham, Dean, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University; Dr. Louis Anthony Cox, Jr., Chief Sciences Officer, Next Health Technologies, Clinical Professor, Biostatistics and Informatics, Colorado Health Sciences Center, and President, Cox Associates; Dr. Ellen Silbergeld, Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; Raymond Keating, Chief

Economist, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Markup of Legislation to Prohibit Cell Phone Calls on Planes, Reauthorize the U.S. Coast Guard, & Other Measures: H.R. 3676, Prohibiting In-Flight Voice Communications on Mobile Wireless Devices Act of 2013; H.R. 4005, Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014; H.R. 1378, to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse." http://transport.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=369298 Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Full committee hearing on "United States Security Policy and Defense Posture in the Middle East." Witnesses: Vice Admiral Frank Pandolfe, Director for Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5), The Joint Staff, Department of Defense; Ambassador Anne Patterson, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State; Elissa Slotkin, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International, Security Affairs, Department of Defense. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display ? ContentRecord_id=59B38626-F545-4274-8722-20E98F0F5965 Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10:15 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Markup of: H.R. 3865, "Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014." http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=369336 Location: 1100 Longworth.

10:30 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Communications and Technology hearing on "Lessons Learned from the Broadband Stimulus." http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/lessons-learned-broadband-stimulus Location: 2322 Rayburn.

1 p.m. JUDICIARY — Full committee hearing: Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome Act of 2014. Witnesses: Sam Batkins, Director of Regulatory Policy, American Action Forum; Professor Ronald M. Levin, Williams R. Orthwein Distinguished Professor of Law, Washington School of Law; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center, George Mason University. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2014/2/h-r-the-searching-for-and-cutting-regulations-that-are-unnecessarily-burdensome-act-of-2014 Location: 2141 Rayburn.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Full committee hearing on "Building on the Wireless Revolution: Opportunities and Barriers for Small Firms." Witnesses: Michael Feldman, Vice President of Engineering, BigBelly Solar, Newtown, MA; Brian Marshall, Owner, Marshall Farms, Maysville, MO – Testifying on behalf of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation and the National Farm Bureau Federation; Leo A. McCloskey, Senior Vice President, Technical Programs, Intelligent Transportation Society of America; Darrell West, Vice President, Governance Studies, Director Center for Tech Innovation, Brookings Institution. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=364944 Location: 2360 Rayburn.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence hearing on "Al-Qaida's Expansion in Egypt: Implications for U.S. Homeland Security." Witnesses to be announced. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-al-qaedas-expansion-egypt-implications-us-homeland-security Location: 311 Cannon.

2:30 p.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Panel on Public-Private Partnerships holds a roundtable policy discussion on "Case Studies in Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)." Members will hear from a toll road developer and operator, a state legislator and a consulting and construction firm that has been involved in a number of P3s. Participants: eg Kelly, Global Chief Operating Officer, Parsons Brinckerhoff; Jennifer Aument, Group General Manager North America, Transurban; Teri Austin, State Representative, Indiana General Assembly. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=369204 Location: 2167 Rayburn. Other: Feb. 10 – 11. PRESIDENT HOLLANDE — Official visit of French President Hollande to Washington.

FRENCH PRESIDENT – ARLINGTON CEMETERY — 3 p.m. French President Francois Hollande and Maj. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, commanding general, U.S. Army Military District of Washington, lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and present the Legion of Honor Medal to the World War II Unknown. This year commemorates the 70th Anniversary of the Allied Forces' D-Day landing in Normandy. Immediately following the Arlington National Cemetery ceremonies, President Hollande will proceed to the Fort Myer Officers Club where he will present the Legion of Honor to six WWII veterans. A reception will be held for the veterans and their families at

the Officers Club.

Location: Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery, and Fort Myer Officers Club, Bldg. 214, Koran Room, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va.

Feb. 10 – 12. SO/LIC SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBITION — Theme: "Seamless SO/LIC: Government and International Partnerships, Supported by Industry, for Global Employment." http://www.ndia.org/meetings/4880/Pages/default.aspx 8:15 a.m. U.S. Special Operations Command Commander Navy Adm. William McRaven delivers remarks on "Enabling SOCOM Partnership." 1:15 p.m. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict Michael Lumpkin delivers remarks on "New Policy, Strategy and Resources for Global Posturing."

SMART ON CRIME – HOLDER — 8:15 a.m. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver remarks at the Georgetown University Law Center criminal justice forum, where he will discuss the departments "Smart on Crime" initiative and strategies to remove barriers to reentry for formerly incarcerated individuals. This is a Bipartisan symposium on criminal justice reform with policymakers, advocates, and thought leaders featuring Attorney General Eric Holder, Senator Mike Lee (R-UT), Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and leaders from the ACLU, Heritage Foundation, Justice Fellowship, and Aleph Institute. Event is sponsored by The Leadership Conference Education Fund and the Vera Institute of Justice. All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a drivers license) as well as valid media credentials. Media must RSVP to Scott Simpson at Simpson@civilrights.org or 202-466-2061 no later than 12:00 p.m. EST on MONDAY, Feb. 10, 2014. Registered media will receive an email including further logistical information. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Scott Simpson at Simpson@civilrights.org or 202-466-2061. Location: Georgetown University Law Center, Gewirz Student Center, 10 F St., N.W.

FIRST RESPONDER TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION — 8:30 a.m. Science & Technology Directorate (S&T) Acting Under Secretary Daniel Gerstein will deliver remarks to welcome representatives from across the homeland security enterprise, first responder community, and emergency management practitioners at the S&T First Responder Technology Demonstration. Location: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Headquarters, 500 12th St., SW.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – US – CUBA — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The Atlantic Council hosts a discussion of poll results on American public opinion toward Cuba, with Sens. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.; CNN political analysts Paul Begala and Alex Castellanos; Paul Maslin, Democratic pollster, FM3 Strategies; Glen Bolger, Republican pollster, Public Opinion Strategies; moderated by Enrique Acevedo, anchor, Fusion. Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St. NW, 12th Floor.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH – HOLDER — 11 a.m. Attorney General Eric Holder, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Director B. Todd Jones, Bureau of Prisons Director Charles E. Samuels and U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Loretta Lynch will deliver remarks at the departments African American History Month event. All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a drivers license) as well as valid media credentials. Media must RSVP to Stephen Ratner at 202-514-2007 or Stephen. Ratner@usdoj.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. EST, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014. Media must enter the department at the visitors entrance on Constitution Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets. Media may begin arriving at 10:00 a.m. EST. All cameras must be pre-set by 10:45 a.m. EST. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007. Location: Department of Justice, Great Hall, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

US CHAMBER – EGYPTIAN TRADE MINISTER — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. The U.S. Chamber of Commerces U.S.-Egypt Business Council hosts Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry Mounir Fakhry Abdel Nour at an event highlighting the importance of growing the economic relationship between the United States and Egypt. During remarks, Minister Abdel Nour will discuss specific Egyptian government investments that could provide opportunities for U.S. companies to participate in Egypts economy. Speakers: H.E. Mounir Fakhry Abdel Nour, Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry; Mohamed Tawfik, Egyptian Ambassador to the United States; Khush Choksy, Vice President of Turkey and Middle East Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St. NW.

SOLAR INDUSTRY JOB CENSUS — 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) hosts a briefing on The Solar Foundation's National Solar Jobs Census 2013, which found record growth in the U.S. solar industry. Since the start of the annual census in 2010, U.S. solar industry employment has increased 53 percent and now employs more than 142,000 Americans. Speakers: Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, D-Calif.; Andrea Luecke, president and executive director, The Solar Foundation; Amit Ronen, director, GW Solar Institute, professor, GWU Trachtenberg School of Public Policy; Jason Walsh, senior adviser, Energy Department Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Location: 2226 Rayburn.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jon Stewart: [Referring to the conditions of hotels in Sochi] "One, that doesn't really address the curious and apparently dangerousness of the yellowness of the water. And number two, when you're mounting a defense of your country's Olympic preparations, I would leave out the part where you say you have cameras in everyone's bathroom."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to Russia's anti-gay policies] "Now last year, President Putin took a hard line against this threat by banning all gay propaganda. Protesters can now face jail time [for] promoting anything pro-gay, from a pride flag to a reclaimed barn-wood coffee table."

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BISON CONNECT

Fwd: Utah lawmakers seek $2 million to lobby against grouse listing

Ashe, Dan <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> Mon, Feb 17, 2014 at 3:18 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Rhea Suh <Rhea_Suh@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Komze <nkomze@blm.gov>, Jim Lyons <James_Lyons@ios.doi.gov>

FYI. Very interesting.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Noreen Walsh** <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Feb 17, 2014 at 10:29 AM
Subject: Utah lawmakers seek $2 million to lobby against grouse listing
To: Gary Frazer <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>

This in addition to the $1M sought by Governor's Public Lands Policy office to prepare for litigation.

http://shar.es/Fmy3V

A federal decision whether to list greater sage grouse as a protected species is at least 18 months away, but some Utah lawmakers are angling for $2 million in state money to crank up a lobbying campaign to get the federal government to delay listing for 10 years. This request comes on top of another $1 million the state Public Lands Policy Coordination Office is seeking to gather data and ...

This message was sent using ShareThis (http://www.sharethis.com)

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Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Feb 19, 2014 at 7:03 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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+ World Politics Could Hinder Alamo Designation.
+ North Dakota Gov. Dalrymple Plans To Meet With Secretary Jewell.
+ New Zealand Energy Minister Plans To Meet With Secretary Jewell.
+ EPA's McCarthy: Obama Will Not Wait For Congress To Address Climate Change.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

National Park Service:
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+ Retired NPS Manager Recalls Map In Fight Over Boston Restaurant.
+ Zion National Park Proposes To Manage Bighorn Sheep.
+ Rocky Mountain National Park Begins Osprey Satellite Transmitter Tracking Project.
+ New Superintendent Named For Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.
+ Carnegie Library Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
+ LATimes Pushes For Wildlife Crossing At Ventura Freeway For Mountain Lions.

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+ Lawsuits Could Lead To Changes At Fish Hatcheries.
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Onshore Energy Development:
+ Group Claims FWS Officials Skewed Data To Benefit Keystone XL Pipeline.
+ Governors Push For States To Take Lead On Drilling Regulations.
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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR SEEKS $7 MILLION IN OVERPAYMENTS FROM THREE MONTANA SCHOOL DISTRICTS. The AP (2/19, Volz, 417K) reports that the Interior Department is "seeking the return of $7 million paid over the last 37 years to three Montana school districts near Yellowstone National Park, saying they were overpayments from a program that should have ended decades ago." According to Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw, "officials only recently learned of the overpayments, and the department is legally obligated to recover the money." However, "Montana's congressional delegation is seeking a waiver, saying the schools will be unable to repay that amount." Interior officials said "they are working with the delegation and the schools to find a solution."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (2/19, 1.26M), the San Francisco Chronicle (2/19, Volz, 2.88M), and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (2/19, 768K). Also reporting on the story is the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (2/19, 54K).

SECRETARY JEWELL ASKED TO RECONSIDER ROAD PROPOSAL AFTER MEDEVAC. KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (2/19, 4K) reports that "a recent medical emergency has reignited the debate over a proposed road between the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay." Proponents of the road, "which would run through

part of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, say a medevac flight in dangerous weather conditions proves the necessity of the road for emergency scenarios." However, "opponents of the road, bolstered by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's December rejection of a land swap to facilitate the project, claim construction isn't the best option." Sen. Lisa Murkowski sent Jewell "a letter on Tuesday, once again urging her to reverse her decision." A spokeswoman for Jewell said in an email that "her office has attempted to schedule a meeting with Murkowski, but would not comment on whether Jewell would reconsider."

WESTERN LAWMAKERS PUSH LEGISLATION TO FREE UP FUNDS TO PREVENT WILDFIRES. USA Today (2/18, Kelly, 5.82M) reports that "with record droughts fueling fears of devastating wildfires in the West, members of Congress from the region are trying to boost chronically underfunded federal fire prevention efforts." Sen. Ron Wyden is working with Sen. Mike Crapo to "offer a bill that would stop the vicious cycle of federal agencies raiding fire prevention funds to pay for emergency firefighting efforts." The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, "which was also introduced in the House this month, would create a special disaster fund to fight huge 'mega-fires', which make up about 1% of wildfires but use up 30% of fire suppression funds." According to "the funding change would free up as much as $412 million a year in the Forest Service and Interior Department budgets to prevent fires by thinning the overgrown tree stands and underbrush that fuel the blazes."

WORLD POLITICS COULD HINDER ALAMO DESIGNATION. KCEN-TV Waco, TX (2/19, 922) reports that "world politics may get in the way" of the Alamo's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Fund site. The article notes that "last fall, UNESCO, a United Nations international agency, recognized Palestine as a state, and the US stopped paying its UNESCO dues, which help support the World Heritage Fund," and "as a result, the US lost its voting rights in the organization." Rep. Joaquin Castro "tried to include a provision in spending legislation that would allow the US to pay World Heritage Fund dues without having to pay the larger UNESCO fees," but "the omnibus bill passed in January did not include the provision."

NORTH DAKOTA GOV. DALRYMPLE PLANS TO MEET WITH SECRETARY JEWELL. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (2/19, 15K) reports that Gov. Jack Dalrymple will visit Washington, D.C., "on Thursday for the National Governors Association's annual winter meeting." According to Jeff Zent, a spokesman for the governor, Dalrymple "also plans to meet with administrators, agency heads and possibly some Cabinet members, including Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy."

NEW ZEALAND ENERGY MINISTER PLANS TO MEET WITH SECRETARY JEWELL. Yahoo! (2/19, 17.91M) reports that Energy and Resources Minister Simon Bridges is leaving "for Norway, the United States and Canada to meet ministerial counterparts and industry experts." In the US, he will meet Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "and other senior officials in Washington, before heading to Houston."

EPA'S MCCARTHY: OBAMA WILL NOT WAIT FOR CONGRESS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE. Appearing on MSNBC's All In (2/19, 510K), EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said, "The President's been very clear that he's eager to work with Congress, but he's not waiting. We're going to take action, and there's a lot of ability for the Administration...when we work with businesses and the industries and the states, to actually make a significant dent in carbon emissions." McCarthy added, "We're going to get international action moving forward, and we're going to be working to make this a significant benefit to the economy of the US" because, "after all, climate change isn't just an environmental challenge, it's a serious economic challenge."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

INVESTIGATION QUESTIONS BROWN FOUNDATION SPENDING. The AP (2/19, 417K) reports that the Office of Inspector General/US Department of the Interior has found numerous instances of "unallowable, unreasonable and unsupported" spending by the Brown Foundation of Education Equity, Excellence and Research. The probe "began after an audit last year questioned nearly $620,871 in spending by the foundation, which used to receive most of its funding from the National Park Service, from October 2008 to September 2011." However, "investigators said it was impossible to conduct a complete review of the Brown Foundation's spending because of poor financial management, commingling of funds and missing documentation to justify expenses."

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (2/18, 194K) reports that "the Brown Foundation, represented by Topeka attorney Clint Patty, issued a statement Tuesday saying the OIG report identified 'only a small fraction of the initial 'questioned expenses' as not in compliance with applicable federal rules and guidelines.'" The foundation said "the report confirms its position that 'reimbursements and expenditures involving federal dollars received the prior approval of the National Park Service.'"

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (2/18, 194K) reports that "the financial position of the Brown Foundation rapidly eroded in recent years as it relied on cash advances from its founder to stay afloat." According to the article, "audits posted on the website of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research and publicly available tax forms showed the foundation's expenses had already begun to deplete before the National Park Service ended its contract related to the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site on Sept. 30, 2011."

Also providing coverage are summaries by the Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (2/18, 194K) and the Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (2/18, 194K).

RETIRED NPS MANAGER RECALLS MAP IN FIGHT OVER BOSTON RESTAURANT. The Boston Globe (2/19, Murphy, 1.75M) reports that the Boston Redevelopment Authority was "so close to realizing its vision of a restaurant on the tip of Long Wharf that you could almost smell the fried clams." However, "it seems that BRA officials, in their zeal to promote waterfront dining, failed to take into account an old map outlining the edge of Long Wharf as protected space." A retired NPS manager, Edward Rizzotto "reading about the controversy in the Globe, remembered the map and made a call." According to the article, the NPS "found the 1980s map in a federal archive in Philadelphia, prompting a state judge to put the restaurant plans on hold in late December and leaving the BRA with ketchup on its face."

ZION NATIONAL PARK PROPOSES TO MANAGE BIGHORN SHEEP. The Deseret (UT) News (2/19, 274K) reports that Zion National Park has "proposed to manage bighorn sheep within the park in conjunction with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources." According to the article, "since the core population exists both within and outside the park, DWR will perform management actions both inside and outside of the Park; however, the proposal will focus on management actions within the Park."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BEGINS OSPREY SATELLITE TRANSMITTER TRACKING PROJECT. The Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette (2/19, 13K) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park has "begun a three year joint project between the park, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO), and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests that allows school children and the public to follow the migration path of osprey from their breeding grounds to their wintering grounds." The data will "help biologists learn about the birds' migration routes, stopover sites and winter ranges to further our coordination with other landowners in the conservation of this species."

NEW SUPERINTENDENT NAMED FOR CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (2/19, Simmons, 366K) reports that "Sula Jacobs, formerly the assistant superintendent at Biscayne National Park in South Florida, has been named the new superintendent of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park." Jacobs, who "begins her new post at the end of the month," replaces Mark Woods, "who served as superintendent at Cumberland Gap for 16 years before taking over as superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway last year."

CARNEGIE LIBRARY ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Lake County (IL) News-Sun (2/19, 42K) reports that the Carnegie Library in Illinois has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

LATIMES PUSHES FOR WILDLIFE CROSSING AT VENTURA FREEWAY FOR MOUNTAIN LIONS. The Los Angeles Times (2/19, Board, 3.07M) editorializes that the "isolation" of the mountain lions that live in the Santa Monica Mountains "imperils their long-term survival." The paper notes that research by the NPS has "shown that L.A.'s roads and sprawl not only make it nearly impossible for young male cats to move into new terrain to avoid clashes with larger males, but also that they lead to inbreeding." The editorial argues that "the solution is to build a wildlife crossing at the Ventura Freeway, which would benefit many kinds of animals but especially mountain lions."

Bureau of Land Management:

VIDEO SHOWS KILLING OF MAN AFTER SCUFFLE WITH AUTHORITIES. The AP (2/18, Press, 4.28M) reports that "dramatic witness videotape shows federal land management rangers and a Nevada Highway Patrol trooper scuffled with a 20-year-old man before he was shot dead during a confrontation on a road outside Las Vegas." According to the article, the cellphone video recording "shows a man trying to open the door of an NHP vehicle before he is shot and killed about noon Friday on State Route 159 near Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area." The video shows the confrontation evolving slowly, with two BLM rangers confronting D'Andre Berghardt Jr. "standing in the highway and one apparently squirting Berghardt with pepper spray with little apparent effect."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (2/19, 417K), ABC News (2/19, 3.68M), the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (2/19, 22K), and the Huffington Post (2/19, Moye, 11.54M). Also reporting on the story is the Daily Mail (UK) (2/19, 2.92M).

INTERIOR SPENDS $76 MILLION ANNUALLY ON WILD HORSE ROUNDUPS. In a list of "20 Things The Government Buys With Your Money" the Deseret (UT) News (2/19, 274K) notes that the Interior Department "spends $76 million annually on rounding up wild horses on public land." The BLM "spends more money on maintaining temporary corrals than actually catching the horses."

BLM TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR SAN PEDRO RESOURCE PLAN. The Sierra Vista (AZ) Herald (2/17, 30K) reports that the BLM will "hold two more meetings on the Resource Management Plan for the San Pedro Riparian Conservation Area, as well as a field trip to get more input from concerned residents." The "meetings in February and March will be a chance for the public to give input on the range of activities that would be allowed along the river trails and within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area." Vi Hillman, the new field manager for the Tucson office, said, "These meetings are an opportunity for the public to work with the BLM on developing strategies to address issues identified during scoping."

BLM, FOREST SERVICE TO APPLY FOR OFF-ROAD FUNDING. The Victorville (CA) Daily Press (2/19, 3K) reports that the BLM and the Forest Service, "which are in play for off-highway motor vehicle recreation grants," will "host public workshops on Wednesday as they prepare to submit applications for the funding by March 3."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

NC OFFICIALS ORDER DUKE TO SEAL SECOND PIPE LEAKING COAL ASH. The Charlotte (NC) Business Journal (2/19, Downey, Subscription Publication, 45K) reports in its "Power City" blog that the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources has ordered Duke Energy to halt discharges from a second, smaller leak from a stormwater pipe containing coal ash. Director of the N.C. Division of Water Resources Tom Reeder said, "Given what we've seen, we're concerned that this second stormwater pipe on site may also be leaking water contaminated with coal ash pollutants into the Dan River." The state, Reeder notes, continues to test water downstream as arsenic levels in the river did not pose a threat to aquatic life or drinking water downstream. Duke is working to plug the leak, according to DENR, but could not be reached for comment.

The AP (2/19, Biesecker) adds that Duke "had downplayed concerns water flowing from the pipe was contaminated." In a separate article, the AP (2/19) reports that Duke's director of environmental and legislative affairs George Everett, when asked by state legislators whether ratepayers or shareholders would pay for cleanup costs, said, "We're focused on stopping the discharge and initiating the remediation of the river. But when costs do come into play, when we've had a chance to determine what those costs are, it's usually our customers who pay our costs of operation."

The Los Angeles Times (2/19, Zucchino, 3.07M) also reports the story.

Regulators And Duke Energy Brief North Carolina Officials On Coal Ash Spill. The AP (2/18, Biesecker, 333K) reports that North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary John Skvarla briefed North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory about the Feb. 2 Duke Energy coal ash spill. The AP reports that Duke had settled with the state for $99,000 in October over Duke's handling of their coal ash ponds, but the state has "put its proposed settlement on hold" since the spill. The AP extensively lists McCrory's ties to Duke Energy, reporting that they were his previous employer, contributed more than $1.1 million to his gubernatorial campaign, and that he has "gained authority to make numerous decisions that could affect Duke's bottom line."

The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (2/17, Murawski, 475K) reports that a Duke Energy executive and state

environmental regulators told North Carolina lawmakers that the coal ash spill "poses no immediate threat to public health." State Rep. Ruth Samuelson said that the federal government has requested four years of communications between Duke and the NCDENR which could help lawmakers determine how to proceed.

McCrory Denies Involvement In Duke Coal Ash Settlement. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (2/18, 1.26M) reports that Gov. McCrory denied on Friday that he participated in talks with Duke Energy executives or lobbyists about his administration's failed deal to settle Duke Energy's coal ash violations. Although McCrory previously worked at Duke for 28 years, disclosures that his investment portfolio includes Duke stock valued in excess of $10,000, and the fact that he has the authority to make decisions effecting Duke's bottom line, McCrory said on Friday that "he sees no conflict of interest in his role as elected official and corporate shareholder."

UTAH GOV. HERBERT WARNS OF COSTS FROM SAGE GROUSE LISTING. The Deseret (UT) News (2/19, 274K) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert "kicked off a two-day sage grouse summit Tuesday, bringing together hundreds of people throughout the state who have been working nearly two decades to restore the imperiled bird's habitat." Herbert said that "despite assurances in 2011 from then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar that federal government preferred a states-based solution to saving the bird, Utah's plan and several other state efforts have been rejected out of hand." Herbert "added that an indication that Utah's on-the-ground conservation efforts are working should be the welcome news that the bird's population actually increased last year and more than 350,000 acres of habitat have been improved."

Also providing coverage is KSL-TV Salt Lake City (2/19, 242K).

LAWSUITS COULD LEAD TO CHANGES AT FISH HATCHERIES. The AP (2/18, Press, 4.28M) reports that "the practice of populating rivers with hatchery fish rather than making greater efforts to restore wild runs is facing a battery of court challenges in Oregon, California and Washington state." According to the article, "the disputes illustrate a crucial tension in the Pacific Northwest, where salmon and steelhead are iconic fish — of enormous cultural and nutritional significance to tribes, job creators for commercial fishermen and big draws for recreational anglers."

FWS PROPOSES REMOVING PROTECTIONS FOR IO UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The West Hawaii Today (2/19, 26K) reports that "the io population is secure so this revered Hawaiian hawk can be removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species," the FWS said in a proposal "that's ruffling feathers with some residents." According to the article, "under its delisting proposal, FWS stated all protections provided by the Endangered Species Act would be removed, but the io would remain protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a federal law prohibiting the killing, selling or otherwise harming migratory birds, their nests or eggs." The agency "would also be required to monitor the io for not less than five years," and "if at any time during this monitoring period data indicates ESA protection should be reinstated, FWS can initiate listing procedures, including an emergency listing."

FWS URGED TO REVERSE COURSE ON WOLVES. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (2/19, Clark, 11.54M), Jamie Rappaport Clark, President & CEO, Defenders of Wildlife, argues that "the recent peer review report on wolf delisting from a panel of independent scientists" shows that "the delisting proposal is premature and shortsighted, and above all, based on bad and incomplete science." Clark, who was director of the FWS from 1997 -2001, argues that "the gray wolf delisting proposal represents a disappointing and flawed departure from the scientific standards that we embraced when I used to work for the Service." Clark notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and FWS Director Dan Ashe have "repeatedly asserted that the Service will base decisions on the status of wolves only on the best available science." Clark concludes that "in light of this damning peer review report on wolves, the Service should withdraw its current delisting proposal, and instead chart a sustainable recovery path for wolves that is truly based upon the best science on the subject."

IVORY-TRADE REGULATIONS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Washington Times (2/19, Bandow, 417K), Doug Bandow, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute and a former special assistant to President Reagan, criticizes preparations by the Obama Administration to ban "the sale of all ivory objects." Bandow argues that "doing so will weaken conservation efforts and enrich those engaged in the illegal ivory trade." He concludes that "the administration's new regulations will divert enforcement resources, and push owners of legal ivory into the illegal trade, meaning more elephants are likely to die."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DOMINION RESOURCES TO BID ON MARYLAND OFFSHORE WIND SITE. The AP (2/18, 4.28M) reports that on Tuesday, Dominion Resources announced that it had filed with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "to be among the bidders for the nearly 80,000 acres off the coast of Maryland" that is set aside for wind farm development. Dominion said that the site has up to 1,450 megawatts of potential wind power. The AP notes that the area "will be auctioned in two separate leases," with the auction expected to take place this year. Mary Doswell, senior vice president for Dominion's Alternative Energy Solutions unit, is quoted as saying in a press release, "Offshore wind shows the most promise for building utility-sized renewable energy projects in the mid-Atlantic region. ... Given the proximity to our leased area off of Virginia and the excellent port in Hampton Roads, there should be economies of scale that could benefit both regions."

WVEC-TV Hampton Roads, VA (2/18, 5:36 p.m. EST, 57K) broadcast, "Dominion Power is looking to the skies for energy. Dominion plans to bid on a lease for 80 thousand acres of ocean off Maryland's coast. The energy company wants to develop wind farms there. So far an auction date hasn't been set, but is expected to happen this year. Dominion says the site would be 10 to 30 miles east of Ocean City." WBOC-TV Salisbury, MD (2/18, 11:02 p.m. EST, 20K) and News Channel 8 (DC) (2/18, 2:47 p.m. EST, 2K) also covered this story in their broadcasts.

Onshore Energy Development:

GROUP CLAIMS FWS OFFICIALS SKEWED DATA TO BENEFIT KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE. The International Business Times (2/19, 237K) reports that "senior government officials inaccurately portrayed the habitat range of an endangered beetle living along the proposed Keystone XL pipeline path and retaliated against colleagues who objected, according to claims in a report released this month by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)." FWS "scientists filed a complaint in May 2012 against two managers in the agency, Dixie Porter and Luke Bell, under the Department of Interior's scientific integrity policy, according to summary reports obtained this month by PEER through Freedom of Information Act requests." Jeff Ruch, PEER's executive director, said Tuesday, "The FWS has been under pressure from a lot of different angles, pressure that causes them to be less protective of wildlife than [people] would say is their statutory responsibly. In many cases, the wild life service has skewed science."

Native American Tribes Organizing Against Keystone. The Chicago Tribune (2/19, Hotakainen, Subscription Publication, 95K) reports that Native American tribes in South Dakota "are busy preparing for nonviolent battle" against TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline, over concerns about the pollution and crime they expect it to bring. Some tribe members welcome the pipeline: Winner, SD Mayor Jess Keesis sees it as an economic boon. The Tribune notes, however, that "the economic argument is a hard sell for many tribal members in South Dakota, where history is still raw." Both Administration officials and TransCanada representatives are working with tribes likely to be impacted by Keystone, reports the Tribune, but pipeline opponents "hope that they have the ultimate trump card with a president who just happens to be an adopted Indian," a reference to "Barack Black Eagle, who was formally adopted by Hartford and Mary Black Eagle of Montana's Crow Indian Tribe in 2008."

GOVERNORS PUSH FOR STATES TO TAKE LEAD ON DRILLING REGULATIONS. Bloomberg News (2/19, 1.91M) reports that "a dozen US governors are pushing for states, not the federal government, to lead regulation of oil and gas drilling." The governors "argue they know their territories best, even as environmentalists question whether they're doing enough – or doing the industry's bidding." According to the article, "with federal rules on hydraulic fracturing pending, the bipartisan group created the States First initiative to promote states as the 'primary and appropriate regulators,'" and "they've started a website to publicize their efforts and programs to share expertise such as a regulatory exchange and certification for inspectors."

EARTHQUAKES IN OKLAHOMA MAY BE RESULT OF FRACKING. TIME (2/19, Nicks, 21.77M) reports that 115 earthquakes have been recorded in Oklahoma this week, and the frequency of the earthquakes is leading some to question whether the cause is hydraulic fracturing used in oil and gas drilling. Austin Holland, a research seismologist with the Oklahoma Geologic Survey, says "we do know there have been some earthquakes caused by oil and gas activity in the state. The hard part is figuring out which is which." Eric King, an attorney who works with the oil and gas industry, says that people in the business "are of the opinion that [fracking] is not causing the earthquakes."

In a separate article on the subject, TIME (2/19, Walsh, 21.77M) reports that the process of injecting fracking

wastewater into the ground at high pressures "may nudge previously dormant faults out of their locked position," and notes that research in Ohio and Oklahoma have raised such concerns. Time also reports that Kansas, Arkansas, and Texas have experienced similar earthquakes in areas of intensive drilling.

Offshore Energy Development:

STUDY TO BE CONDUCTED FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING IN VIRGINIA. The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (2/19, 422K) reports that "drilling for gas and oil off Virginia's coast is still forbidden, but proponents hope a federal study due within two weeks will let them at least start looking for places to set up drilling rigs." The article notes that "industry officials are seeking federal permits to conduct seismic testing – using airguns to bounce sound waves off the ocean floor and deeper formations – to explore anomalies that could indicate the presence of oil and gas deposits." According to the BOEM, "a long-awaited environmental impact statement needed in advance of the testing will be released this month."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT SEEKS TO SAVE SALTON SEA. The National Geographic (2/19, 40.49M) reports on the challenges facing the Imperial Irrigation District in its efforts to save the Salton Sea. The article notes that "the sea's decline will accelerate dramatically in 2018, when the IID must stop sending 'mitigation water' to the lake as part of a pact known as the Quantification Settlement Agreement, or QSA." According to the article, "citing fears that California's grand plan will not be adequately funded, the IID and other groups are drafting their own schemes for smaller-scale restoration projects that are aimed at saving ecologically important parts of the sea." However, "as with its push for improved on-farm water efficiency, the biggest challenge the IID faces with its plans for the Salton Sea is time."

BOR RELEASES DRAFT STUDY FOR IDAHO'S HENRYS FORK BASIN. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (2/18, 113K) reports that the BOR has "released a draft study outlining a dozen options for increasing storage and better conserving water throughout eastern Idaho's Henrys Fork Basin." John Redding, spokesman for BOR's Snake River area office, said, "We're heading into an era where there's closer attention being given to intense water usage. It now falls to the State of Idaho to decide which way they want to go on a pathways forward."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR APPROVES MECHOOPDA'S TRUST LAND FOR GAMING. The Indian Country Today Media Network (2/18, 21K) reports that "on January 24, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn approved a request by the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria to acquire 626 acres in trust in Butte County, California, near the city of Chico for gaming purposes." The tribe will "construct and operate a modest gaming facility on 91 acres of the site." Washburn said, "The Mechoopda Tribe has pursued this initiative for more than a decade. The acquisition of the land into trust for the purpose of establishing a class III gaming establishment will result in substantial financial benefits to the tribe and help stimulate economic development."

REP. YOUNG WELCOMES BIA-IHS DECISION TO NO LONGER DENY FULL FUNDING FOR SERVICES RENDERED. The National Journal (2/19, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that Rep. Don Young has "welcomed the decision by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Services (IHS) to no longer deny full funding for Contract Support Costs (CSC) of American Indian and Alaska Native organizations that provide healthcare services to tribal members on behalf of the federal government." Young said, "The agencies' decision represents much more than a victory for the many tribal healthcare providers who will receive full compensation for Fiscal Year 2014, it also represents a large step forward for improving the health and well-being of our nation's first peoples. For far too long, the federal government has failed its obligation to allocate the financial resources that these providers are due, which has meant that many American Indians and Alaska Natives have been shortchanged when it comes to receiving the high quality healthcare that they are entitled to. Tribal health programs have always been underfunded, and it is time for our federal government to hold up its end of the bargain. The BIA and IHS spending plan is an important step in upholding the Supreme Court's Ramah decision."

SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL URGED TO STAY OPPOSED TO AIRWAY HEIGHTS CASINO. The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (2/19, 214K) editorializes that the Spokane City Council "should not reverse its opposition to construction of the Spokane Tribe's proposed casino in Airway Heights." According to the paper,

"asserting that the city should be neutral in the face-off between the Spokanes and the Kalispel Tribe, owners of the Northern Quest Casino & Resort, ignores what should be the paramount interest of the council and all city officials: What is best for the city of Spokane."

Top National News:

OBAMA: NEW TRUCK FUEL STANDARDS WILL HELP THE ECONOMY AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENT. President Obama's appearance on Tuesday in Maryland to announce new fuel-efficiency standards for commercial trucks received relatively light national media coverage, and was not mentioned on any of the three network newscasts Tuesday evening. The President's remarks were noted on a handful of cable news shows, which cast them as part of an election-year effort to remind voters of the Administration's commitment to addressing climate change.

Several reports this morning note that the President framed the new rules as part of his increasing reliance on executive action to move priorities of his that are stalled in Congress. In a front-page article titled, "Obama Orders New Efficiency For Big Trucks," the New York Times (2/19, A1, Baker, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Tuesday's event was part of "what aides say will be an increasingly muscular and unilateral campaign to tackle climate change through the use of the president's executive power." The Times says it was "the latest in a series of actions intended to cut back on greenhouse gases without the sort of comprehensive legislation the president failed to push through Congress in his first term."

Likewise, the Washington Post (2/19, Eilperin, 4.28M) says the new fuel-efficiency standards are "part of an ongoing effort to use his executive authority to address climate change and spur domestic manufacturing." Frank O'Donnell, president of Clean Air Watch, is quoted as saying, "What the president plans is a classic example of using executive power to make further reductions in greenhouse gases from one of the most notorious emission sources."

In a segment for MSNBC's The Ed Show (2/19, 449K) mostly devoted to discussion of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, Ed Schultz said the President had spent the day "working...to solidify his Democratic base by taking a strong stance on the environment." However, on Fox News' Special Report (2/19, 2.15M), Charles Krauthammer argued that "the idea that [the Administration is] going to pivot to climate change as a way to save...Senate seats is quite insane." According to Krauthammer, "The people who care about climate change" are "not found in the states which the Democrats have to hold on to win the Senate."

The AP (2/19, Anderson) reports that on Tuesday, the President "link[ed]...reduced fuel consumption and climate change" as he announced that "his administration will issue tougher fuel-efficiency standards for delivery trucks by March 2016." According to the AP, the President "said helping these vehicles use less fuel would have the triple benefit of making the U.S. less dependent on imported oil, keeping more money in consumer pockets and reducing...greenhouse gas emissions." The AP notes that the President emphasized that "heavy-duty trucks make up just 4 percent of the vehicles on the nation's roadways...but are responsible for about 20 percent of the climate-changing gases that are spewed into the atmosphere by the transportation sector."

On MSNBC's The Ed Show (2/19, 449K), President Obama was shown saying, "Improving gas mileage for these trucks are going to drive down our oil imports even further. That reduces carbon pollution even more, cuts down on businesses' fuel costs, which should pay off in lower prices for consumers. So it's not just a win-win, it's a win-win-win. You got three 'wins.'" Joe Romm of Climate Progress praised the President's announcement, said afterwards, "There is nothing like fuel efficiency, lowering oil consumption, reducing pollution, saving people money."

On MSNBC's All In (2/19, 510K), Chris Hayes said, "Something pretty remarkable is happening in American politics right now; we are seeing – right now and for the first time in a long time – some real forward momentum on climate change." Hayes noted that the President's announcement on Tuesday "follows some provocative comments from Secretary of State John Kerry...over the weekend." According to Hayes, "What Kerry said, which is 1,000% absolutely true, is that climate change is its own weapon of mass destruction."

According the New York Times (2/19, A1, Baker, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), "experts" believe that "cumulatively...the à la carte approach should enable Mr. Obama to meet his target of cutting carbon pollution in the United States by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020," although he "would still be far short of his goal of an 80 percent reduction by 2050."

On Fox News' Special Report (2/19, 2.15M), correspondent Carl Cameron reported that the President's "use of executive orders to fight climate change instead of letting Congress legislate ensures his unilateral action and climate change will both be feisty campaign issues this year." Cameron noted that in 2009, "the last time Congress voted on climate change, the Democrats lost the House majority the next year." Ron Bonjean, a Republican strategist, was shown saying that vulnerable Senate Democrats are "going to have to distance themselves from that executive order big time in order to prevent some of the damage, but it's really too late."

Echoing a line of attack from Republicans on Tuesday, the Washington Times (2/19, Wolfgang, Boyer, 417K) says the President's "visit to suburban Maryland...to announce new fuel-efficiency standards for trucks was anything but efficient, as the commander-in-chief took a 15-vehicle caravan on an hour-long round trip just to deliver a 17-minute speech."

Reuters (2/19, Beech) notes that EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx joined the President, who said, "Everybody who says you can't grow the economy while bringing down pollution, it's turned out they've been wrong." Reuters notes that the President added, "The goal we're setting is ambitious, but these are areas where ambition has worked out really well for us so far. Don't make small plans, make big plans."

USA Today (2/19, Madhani, 5.82M) says the President's announcement "follows his State of the Union pledge last month to set new fuel standards for trucks 'so we can keep driving down oil and imports and what we pay at the pump.'" USA Today goes on to report that the President "ordered the Environmental Protection Agency and Transportation Department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to develop and issue new...standards by March 31, 2016." USA Today also notes that the Administration "is offering tax credits to manufacturers of heavy-duty alternative fuel vehicles as well as to companies that are building infrastructure, so vehicles that running on alternative fuels have places to fill up."

Bloomberg News (2/19, Talev, Plungis, 1.91M) reported that the President claimed that the "new standards will mean 'thousands of dollars in savings every year' for truck operators." Bloomberg notes that the President was speaking at "a Safeway Inc. distribution center today in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, where he was highlighting the grocery chain's efforts to improve truck efficiency." According to Bloomberg, Safeway "participates in a partnership with" the EPA "that includes investing in trucks that get better mileage." Bloomberg also reports that the American Trucking Association, which "supported an earlier round of efficiency standards," called on the Administration "to proceed cautiously."

The Wall Street Journal (2/19, Lee, Stevens, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association went further, with its executive VP Todd Spencer saying, "Shock and awe may be the best way to describe what's happening to the vast majority in trucking with these proposed regulations."

According to the Los Angeles Times (2/19, Hennessey, 3.07M), the President's announcement on Tuesday "was the latest in a series of efforts to show he won't be hemmed in by a Congress unable to find consensus on how – or whether – to tackle climate change." However, Politico (2/19, Martinson, 464K) notes that while the President said the Administration will be "offering new tax credits...for companies that manufacture heavy-duty alternative-fuel vehicles," those credits would actually "require the approval of Congress." The Los Angeles Times (2/19, Hennessey, 3.07M) also reports that the President "plans to ask Congress to create a $2-billion energy security trust fund to support research and development of more fuel-efficient vehicles," and that he "made a similar request last year but was rebuffed by Congress."

The Baltimore Sun (2/19, Fritze, 812K) notes that Tuesday's appearance in Upper Marlboro was "the fourth time Obama has spoken in Maryland in as many weeks." The Sun goes on to report that "Republicans pounced on the administration's decision to visit a Safeway site, noting that a union representing many of the grocer's workers had lobbied against a company proposal to force its employees to purchase health insurance through exchanges set up under" the Affordable Care Act.

The National Journal (2/19, German, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that in addition to his appearance on Tuesday, the President also "personally promoted...his climate-change agenda" on Friday in California, where he "touted a proposal to create a $1 billion 'Climate Resilience Fund' to help communities and farmers prepare for extreme weather that's expected to be worsened by global warming."

David Unger, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (2/19, Unger, 540K), says that while "truck fuel economy may not have the technological sheen of solar photovoltaics, or the geopolitical repercussions of North America's shale gas boom," it has nevertheless "played a big role in reducing foreign oil imports and cutting US

carbon emissions." Unger adds that the President is taking advantage of "a rare, largely uncontroversial opportunity for Obama to advance both his environmental and economic goals."

Appearing on Fox News' Special Report (2/19, 2.15M), NPR's Mara Liasson maintained that if the President "agrees to the Keystone pipeline, it won't matter that he raised the fuel efficiency standard for trucks." According to Liasson, "the most important thing" Obama could do for Democratic candidates is "approve the Keystone pipeline – that's going to help [Sen.] Mary Landrieu."

EPA's McCarthy: Obama Will Not Wait For Congress To Address Climate Change. Appearing on MSNBC's All In (2/19, 510K), EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said, "The President's been very clear that he's eager to work with Congress, but he's not waiting. We're going to take action, and there's a lot of ability for the Administration...when we work with businesses and the industries and the states, to actually make a significant dent in carbon emissions." McCarthy added, "We're going to get international action moving forward, and we're going to be working to make this a significant benefit to the economy of the US" because, "after all, climate change isn't just an environmental challenge, it's a serious economic challenge."

Gingrich: Kerry's View On The Threat Of Climate Change Is "Delusional." Asked on CNN's The Situation Room (2/18, 554K) about his tweet, "Every American who cares about national security must demand Kerry's resignation – a delusional secretary of state is dangerous to our safety," Newt Gingrich derided Kerry for having said in Jakarta last weekend that "the greatest threat is global climate change." According to Gingrich, "The secretary of state ought to be held to a standard of seriousness that this speech totally falls short of." Gingrich paraphrased Kerry as saying, "everybody who disagrees" with his view on climate change "should be kicked out of the room" and that climate change is "more dangerous than a nuclear war." Gingrich added, "that's a delusional statement ," and "it is dangerous to have a person who believes that as secretary of state."

High Court To Consider EPA Emission Rules. The Wall Street Journal (2/19, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the Supreme Court, in a case scheduled for oral arguments next week, will consider whether the Environmental Protection Agency has overstepped its authority in applying new emissions rules. The court ruled seven years ago that the EPA was authorized to regulate greenhouse gases, but the extent of the agency's authority has been challenged by businesses who argue that the EPA is going too far. The case to be heard is one of two major Clean Air Act cases on the court's docket, and focuses on the agency's 2010 greenhouse gas rules imposing pollution control requirements on facilities that are expanded or modernized.

CBO: MINIMUM WAGE HIKE COULD ELIMINATE 500,000 JOBS, LIFT 900,000 OUT OF POVERTY. A new report from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office released on Tuesday found that the President's plan to raise the minimum wage would lead to a significant loss of jobs, but also raise many out of poverty. While the consensus in the coverage is that the report contains ammunition for both sides, the stories also indicate the report may have provided the GOP with a strong political argument for opposing the increase.

The CBS Evening News (2/18, story 4, 1:20, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that on Tuesday, "We got a fascinating report today on one of the President's top priorities," as the CBO "looked at what would happen if the minimum wage was raised to $10.10." The report "said that nearly one million people would be lifted from poverty," but "another half a million would lose their jobs altogether." CBS (Cordes) adds that Republicans argued that the report "is evidence that raising the minimum wage will lead to fewer jobs, something they say the economy just can't afford right now." Democrats and the White House "chose to highlight some of the more favorable aspects, like the fact that 16.5 million Americans would see their wages increase."

USA Today (2/19, Davis, 5.82M) reports that the CBO report estimates that President Obama's plan to raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour "could help lift 900,000 workers out of poverty, but at a cost of as many as 500,000 jobs." Democrats "took issue with the politically sensitive report" and argued that the findings are "inconsistent with the prevailing view among economists that raising the minimum wage does not impact employment."

Reuters (2/19, Cowan) reports that White House Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Jason Furman said that the report failed to consider that a higher wage would lead to higher productive activity from workers, saving businesses money through things such as lower absenteeism. Meanwhile, however, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner said, "With unemployment Americans' top concern, our focus should be creating, not destroying, jobs for those who need them most."

The Hill (2/19, Wasson, 194K) reports in its "On The Money" blog that the White House and left-wing economic

groups "immediately pushed back at the CBO's conclusions on jobs" while also hailing findings on poverty. For example, Furman wrote in a blog post, "CBO's estimates of the impact of raising the minimum wage on employment does not reflect the current consensus view of economists. The bulk of academic studies, have concluded that the effects on employment of minimum wage increases in the range now under consideration are likely to be small to nonexistent."

The Washington Times (2/19, Dinan, Boyer, 417K) reports White House press secretary Jay Carney "said the country shouldn't accept a minimum wage that leaves workers below the poverty level." Carney said, "There are far greater economic minds than this one who can attest to the fact that raising the minimum wage, certainly in the way that has been proposed and the president supports, is the right thing to do for the economy and that does not have a significant impact on jobs."

The Washington Post (2/19, Goldfarb, 4.28M) says that while the report "confirmed the arguments of both sides, the report appeared to put the White House on the defensive." The President "his senior aides have argued that boosting the minimum wage would not cause employers to cut jobs."

The Los Angeles Times (2/19, Puzzanghera, Hennessey, 3.07M) reports that the new projections "set off a flurry of statements and analyses. People on both sides of the issue quickly pointed to evidence in the report to back up their arguments."

The AP (2/19, Fram) says the report contains "ammunition" for both supporters and opponents of the President's plan to raise the minimum wage. The study was released as the Senate prepares to debate legislation next month from Sen. Tom Harkin (D) to increase the minimum wage to $10.10 by 2016 by increasing it in three steps. The report "put authoritative weight behind longtime GOP claims that increasing the minimum wage would cost jobs by forcing companies to spend more on wages, putting Democrats on the defensive."

Politico (2/19, Faler, 464K) reports that both parties "seized on the findings to make their case." Sen. John Cornyn (R) said the report shows "yet again what we know to be true of government overreach in the marketplace: raising the minimum wage would slash jobs and harm an already fragile workforce." Meanwhile, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said, "No matter how the critics spin this report, the CBO made it absolutely clear: raising the minimum wage would lift almost one million Americans out of poverty, increase the pay of low-income workers by $31 billion and help build an economy that works for everyone."

The New York Times (2/19, Lowrey, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that the "complicated, nuanced analysis provides fuel for both supporters and critics of the policy, which would affect millions of low-wage workers and businesses — showing it might lead to fewer jobs, but also higher incomes." The Times also reports that some Democrats criticized the analysis, such as Rep. George Miller (D), who called it "outdated."

The Wall Street Journal (2/19, Morath, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the study also examined a smaller increase in the minimum wage to $9 per hour, which would cut employment by 100,000 but lift 300,000 out of poverty. The Journal adds that the report's conclusions are in line with other academic studies.

Roll Call (2/19, Fuller, Subscription Publication, 87K) says that the CBO report said of those impacted, "Most of them would receive higher pay that would increase their family's income, and some of those families would see their income rise above the federal poverty threshold. But some jobs for low-wage workers would probably be eliminated, the income of most workers who became jobless would fall substantially, and the share of low-wage workers who were employed would probably fall slightly." Democrats have looked at the issue as a "winning election-year" argument, but Republicans "now have the talking point they've been looking for on raising the minimum wage: it will cost jobs, and the CBO says so."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the CBO is run by Democrats, which makes the report particularly stinging for the Administration and Congressional Democrats. The Journal says that the President is selling the minimum wage increase as a matter of economic justice, but the report shows that for many of the poor, it will do significant harm.

HOUSING MARKET INDEX RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. Reuters (2/19, Lange) reports that the National Association of Home Builders announced on Tuesday that its Housing Market Index fell 10 points in February to 46. While the group said that weather contributed to the decline, rising prices also kept many out of the market. Overall, Reuters says that the data is the latest weak report among many, raising concerns that the economy is beginning to slow.

Old Foreclosure Problems Now Emerging From Servicers. The New York Times (2/19, A1, Silver-Greenberg, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports on its front page that a rising number of homeowners looking to prevent foreclosure "are confronting problems on a new front as the mortgage industry undergoes a seismic shift." Some of the "same abuses" that "dogged" the nation's largest banks and resulted in a $26 billion settlement with the Federal government in 2012 are "now cropping up among the specialty firms that collect mortgage payments." These servicers "have great power in deciding whether homeowners can win a mortgage modification or must hand over their home in a foreclosure" and the companies have been "buying up servicing rights at a voracious rate." Now, some state and Federal regulators "are worried that the rapid growth could create new setbacks like stalled modifications for millions of Americans just as many were getting back on track from the housing crisis."

Household Debt Up Sharply. In a piece of good news for the economy, the Wall Street Journal (2/19, Shah, Chaudhuri, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Americans are starting to take advantage of easier lending conditions to increase their borrowing, according to new data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The data shows that in the fourth quarter of 2013, household debt rose $241 billion to $11.52 trillion compared to the prior quarter, and was up $180 billion from the same period in 2012. The Journal says that the borrowing may provide a prop for the economy as it faces new headwinds.

The New York Times (2/19, Dewan, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) is more undecided on whether the report is good for the economy. Wilbert van der Klaauw, senior VP and economist at the New York Fed, asked if the report is good or bad for the economy, said, "Good or bad, it's hard to say. In a steady state you would expect, in nominal terms, household debt to grow." The Times says it was a "measured statement that glossed over the complexity of the report." The Times says that while a willingness to borrow "can be an indication that households are more confident in their economic futures, it can also indicate that they are struggling to maintain spending levels in the face of high unemployment and stagnant wages."

Labor Department Set To Roll Out Revamped Producer Price Index. Bloomberg News (2/19, Chandra, 1.91M) reports that the Department of Labor is set to release its first edition of a revamped Producer Price Index on Wednesday. The PPI, a measure of prices at the wholesale level, is getting its "first major overhaul of the gauge since 1978" which "more than doubles its reach and provides a more comprehensive view of U.S. inflation at the wholesale level." The new PPI will "include prices received for goods, services, government purchases, exports and construction, encompassing 75 percent of the economy." The old version "reflected the costs of goods alone, representing about a third of all production."

Stocks Mixed On Tuesday. The Wall Street Journal (2/19, Kiernan, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that stocks were mixed on Tuesday, as investors paused after a strong week and considered a new batch of relatively weak economic reports. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 23.99 points to 16130.40, while the S&P 500 rose 2.13 points to 1840.76. The Nasdaq Composite Index rose 28.76 points.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Change The Rules On Secret Money."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (2/19, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) argues that the liberal 501(c)(4) groups have now joined conservative groups in opposing proposed IRS regulations on them. They are "afraid that they will be caught in the same crackdown, and will be unable to engage in political activity." The Times says that the "best thing" the IRS can now do is "to ignore both sides and proceed swiftly ahead, making its proposed rules even stronger to squeeze the influence of money out of politics."

"What Next For Syria?" In an editorial the New York Times (2/19, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) notes that while the President "has asked his advisers to review old and new options for bolstering opposition forces and easing the desperate humanitarian crisis" in Syria, so far, "no one has come up with surefire remedies or even new ideas that would not draw the United States into war." The Times notes that the President "has resisted being pushed into a war by critics who seem to believe that force is the ultimate sign of leadership." Leadership, the Times argues, "sometimes means not going to war," adding that in this case, it also means "persisting in the frustrating search for a peaceful solution and, short of that, some means of lessening the misery of the Syrian people."

"Gov. Cuomo's Bold Step On Prison Education." The New York Times (2/19, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that one of the biggest obstacles "to reducing America's enormous prison population is the stubbornly high rates of recidivism," and the Times argues that "one solution has long proved to be both reliable

and cost-effective: education behind bars." The Times notes that New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on Sunday "took a bold step to restore some common sense to this contorted debate, announcing new funding for college classes in 10 state prisons." The Times notes that "several Republican legislators are opposing" Cuomo's plan, "calling it a 'slap in the face' to law-abiding New Yorkers," but, the Times argues, more than 700,000 inmates "walk out of state and federal prisons across the country every year, and it is in everyone's interest to make sure they stay out."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Ukraine Boils Over."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (2/19, 4.28M) argues that despite Tuesday's violence in Ukraine, "a political settlement may still be possible — if only because it is the only solution to the crisis" in Ukraine. Tuesday's violence, the Post notes, showed again "that Ukraine will be ungovernable unless Mr. Yanukovych accepts reasonable opposition demands for political and economic reforms." If Yanukovych does not accept that "and pull back his security forces, Western governments should be prepared to apply the sanctions they have been threatening."

"A Fair Shake Getting A Job." The Washington Post (2/19, 4.28M) editorializes that some 60,000 residents of Washington, DC, "about 10 percent of the population, have a criminal history." Many of these are unemployed, and are hindered in their efforts to find a job by a question on many employment applications about previous convictions for crime. The Post notes that legislation to prohibit that question "is pending before the D.C. Council and deserves thoughtful consideration." The Post concedes that it is "important that the council be careful in calibrating this legislation so as not to subvert the ability of employers – who have a duty to protect their businesses and workplaces – to make informed judgments about their workers," and urges the council to consider the bill carefully "as it works to open the workplace to people who pose no danger, have paid their debt to society and now only want to be productive."

"Venezuela Unravels." In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/19, 4.28M) criticizes Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, noting that "the extremists in Venezuela are not the opposition leaders or students, but Mr. Maduro and his regime." The Post argues that the deteriorating situation in Venezuela "should be a frightening sight to neighbors such as Brazil, which has stubbornly supported Mr. Maduro and his predecessor Hugo Chavez even as they wrecked what was once Latin America's richest country." Arguing that the Obama Administration "has little leverage," the Post calls on Venezuela's neighbors "to use their influence, before the chaos becomes uncontainable."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Hurting The 0.3%."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the CBO is run by Democrats, which makes yesterday's minimum wage report particularly stinging for the Administration and Congressional Democrats. The Journal says that the President is selling the minimum wage increase as a matter of economic justice, but the report shows that for many of the poor, it will do significant harm.

"Fixing the 'Doc Fix.'" In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/19, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that Congress should move ahead and end the "sustainable growth rate," which automatically cuts payments to doctors from Medicare by 25%. The Journal points out that its a farce, as it is overridden every single year, and it would be better just to acknowledge the true cost of Medicare.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Produce Trucks Feed A Need
Kiev Erupts In Deadly Unrest
Payout Closes Priest Abuse Saga
Voters Could Decide Malpractice Cap
Fracking Foes Shaking Things Up In Britain

Wall Street Journal:
Fiery Street Battles Mark Deadliest Day In Ukraine
Ukraine Clashes Raise Stakes In Renewed East-West Contest
Inside Target, CEO Struggles To Regain Shoppers' Trust
Raising Minimum Wage Seen Reducing Jobs, Poverty
Feud Over Netflix Traffic Leads To Video Slowdown

New York Times:
Kiev Protesters Turn Square Into Fiery Ring To Thwart Police
Obama Orders New Efficiency For Big Trucks
Loan Complaints By Homeowners Rise Once More
Obama's Vote-Getting Tactics Struggle To Find The Uninsured
The Harder They Fall: Shared Slopes Take Bigger Toll On Women

Washington Post:
'The iPhone Of Guns' Could Transform Firearms Industry
Ukraine Protests Explode Into Deadly Violence
Brown Leading In Contest For Md. Governor
DHS Seeks System To Track Cars' License Tags
Dark US Political Drama Plays Well In Beijing

Financial Times:
Listings Worth $8bn Lined Up In IPO Flurry
'Candy Crush' Creator Files For NYSE IPO
Riot Police Storm Ukraine Protest Camp
Actavis Buys Forest Labs For $25bn
Peugeot Board Approves Dongfeng Deal
D'Aloisio invests In Web Store Developer
Story Stocks Tell Tall Tales

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: United Airlines Turbulence; Winter Weather; Ukraine-Protests; FDA-Commercial Drug Side Effects; Marijuana Legalization-Theft; Pope Renews Passport.
CBS: Ukraine-Violent Protests; Severe Weather; United Flight Turbulence; Congressional Budget Office-Minimum Wage Increase; JPAC-Finding Missing Soldiers; College Entrance-Standardized Exams.
NBC: Ukraine-Violent Protests; Thailand-Protests; Venezuela-Protests; Severe Weather; Russia-Band Members Questioned; Navy Ship Inspection; United Airlines Turbulence; Asteroid Sighting.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Jordan Davis Case-Juror Interview; Ukraine-Violent Protests; Cathay Pacific Flight Turbulence; United Airlines Turbulence; Congressional Budget Office-Minimum Wage Increase.
CBS: Congressional Budget Office-Minimum Wage Increase; Ukraine-Violent Protests; Obama-Truck Mileage Standards; Fort Hoot Shooting Building Torn Down; Food-Hot Pocket Recall.
FOX: Ukraine-Violent Protests; Venezuela-Opposition Leader Arrest; Pennsylvania-Craiglist Murder Case; Obama-Truck Mileage Standards; Bob Casale Obit; Severe Weather; Food-Hot Pocket Recall; Apple-Tesla Meeting.
NPR: Ukraine-Violent Protests; Congressional Budget Office-Minimum Wage Increase; University Of Georgia-Statue Vandalism Investigation; Los Angeles Archdiocese-Abuse Settlement; US Border Patrol Incident; Y-12 Security Complex-Protesters Sentenced.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Travels to Toluca, Mexico, to participate in the North American Leaders Summit. At the Summit, the President will discuss a wide range of issues including economic competitiveness and citizen security with Mexican President Pena Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Harper.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Travels to Granite City, Illinois, to visit Americas Central Port. The Vice President's visit will mark the fifth anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and former Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood will also attend.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: 9 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS – FIELD HEARING — Subcommittee on Human Resources FIELD hearing on Washington States efforts to prevent child sex trafficking and protect youth in foster care from becoming victims of this crime. www. WaysandMeans. House. Gov Location: Council Chambers of the Auburn

City Hall, 25 West Main Street in Auburn, Washington.
Other: BEYOND THE DOT — 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Conference on what will come after .com, bringing together innovators, policymakers, students, business leaders, academics to discuss what's beyond the Dot. Keynote by President Obama's 2012 campaign advisor Jim Messina. Visit www.beyondthedot.com to learn more about new gTLDs. https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llrlhgd5amab&oeidka07e8mvryk45f74987f Location: Newseum, Knight Conference Center – 7th floor, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Feb. 19 – 21. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The first of three negotiated rulemaking sessions being convened by the U.S. Department of Education, which will focus on Program Integrity and Improvement. The purpose of the committee will be to assist the Department in developing proposed regulations that deter fraud and ensure proper use of Federal Student Aid program funds, especially within the context of current technologies. 9 a.m. Opening remarks by Acting Under Secretary Jamienne Studley. Location: 1990 K Street, NW, Eighth Floor Conference Center.

NPC – SECRETARY MONIZ — 12:30 p.m. NPC Luncheon with Secretary Ernest Moniz, U.S. Department of Energy. Secretary Moniz will address the challenges posed by unprecedented domestic supplies of energy and the demands in some quarters to push for more exports. This is a ticketed event. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

CSIS – DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE BURNS — 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. The Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) Middle East Program will host Deputy Secretary of State Ambassador William J. Burns for a Gulf Roundtable luncheon discussion on the future of the U.S.-Gulf partnership. Credentialed members of the press who would like to attend must RSVP to aschwartz@csis.org Location: Second Floor Conference Center, CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave. NW.

NASA – SUPERNOVAS – TELECONFERENCE — 1 p.m. NASA will host a news teleconference to announce new observations from its high-energy X-ray mission, the Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR). Participants: Paul Hertz, director of NASA's Astrophysics Division in Washington; Fiona Harrison, NuSTAR principal investigator, California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Pasadena, Calif.; Brian Grefenstette, astronomer, Caltech; Robert Kirshner, astronomer, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, Mass. DIAL IN: media should email their name, affiliation and telephone number to J.D. Harrington at j.d.harrington@nasa.gov by noon Feb. 19th. For more information: http://www.nasa.gov/press/2014/february/nasa-hosts-media-teleconference-about-supernovas/.Uv0QBPldWGw

BROOKINGS – CYBERSECURITY FRAMEWORK — 2 p.m. -3:30 p.m. Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity: The Cybersecurity Framework and Beyond. Moderator: Ian Wallace, Visiting Fellow, Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence, The Brookings Institution. Panelists: Patrick D. Gallagher, Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and Director of NIST, U.S. Department of Commerce; Cameron Kerry, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Governance Studies, The Brookings Institution; Dean Garfield, President and CEO of the Information Technology Industry Council. Location: The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW.

SCHOOLKIDS – INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION — 2:02 p.m. Ft. Belvoir Elementary School children to have radio contact with the International Space Station, where astronaut Dr. Koichi Wakata of Japan will answer a variety of questions. This event is coordinated through Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS), a cooperative venture of NASA, the American Radio Relay League, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, and other international space agencies that schedule radio contacts between astronauts and schools.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Conan O'Brien: "It's been reported in the news that President Obama asked HBO for copies of the upcoming season of 'Game of Thrones.' You know things are bad in this country when even the White House can't afford HBO."

Conan O'Brien: "Two former members of the Russian punk band 'Pussy Riot' were detained by police in Sochi. If found guilty, they could sentenced to two weeks in a Sochi hotel room."

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EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL PREP FOR WGA BREAKFAST

DATE: February 21, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 3:00PM – 3:45PM

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION BREAKFAST

DATE: February 23, 2014
LOCATION: U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Green Room, 3rd Floor
TIME: 7:00AM – 9:10AM
FROM: John Blair, Terri Johnson, Francisco Carrillo, OIEA

I. PURPOSE

You will attend the WGA Breakfast on Sunday, February 23 in Washington, D.C. Gov. Hickenlooper is the WGA Chairman and Gov. Sandoval is the WGA Vice Chairman. Each year, the Governors are hosted by one of the Federal agencies- last year DOI hosted the breakfast and the year prior USDA hosted it. You participated in the WGA Winter Meeting in Las Vegas, NV this past December and the Annual Meeting in Park City, Utah in June, 2013.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Governors
Governor Jan Brewer, AZ
Governor Lolo Moliga, AS
Governor John Hickenlooper, CO
Governor Steve Bullock, MT
Governor Brian Sandoval, NV
Governor Susana Martinez, NM
Governor Jack Dalrymple, ND
Governor Eloy Inos, CNMI
Governor Mary Fallin, OK
Governor John Kitzhaber, OR
Governor Dennis Daugaard, SD
Governor Gary Herbert, UT
Governor Jay Inslee, WA
Governor Matt Mead, WY

Cabinet Officials
Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Ernest Moniz, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Department/Agency Staff
Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce and Acting NOAA Administrator
Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator, EPA
Mark Rupp, Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations, EPA
Jack Bowles, Director, State & Local Government, EPA
Janet McCabe, Office of Air and Radiation, EPA (likely)
Shaun McGrath, EPA Region 8 Administrator, EPA (likely)
Nancy Stoner, EPA, Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water (tentative)
Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary, USDA
Meryl Harrell, Chief of Staff to Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, USDA
Jennifer Yezak, Director, Office of External & Intergovernmental Affairs, USDA

Michelle Wyman, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, US DOE
Roger Pulwarty, NOAA
Linda D. Belton, Policy Advisor for Intergovernmental Affairs and Tribal Liaison, NOAA
Dan Ashe, Director, Fish & Wildlife Service, DOI
Tommy Beaudreau, Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management & Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, DOI
Neil Kornze, Principle Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, DOI
Michael Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, DOI
Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, DOI

WGA Staff
James Ogsbury, Executive Director
Holly Propst, Policy Director
Laura Wilkeson, Manager of Federal Relations

Pending
Chuck Hagel, Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense
Governor Sam Brownback, KS
Governor Dave Heineman, NE
Governor Butch Otter (ID) – unlikely

III. AGENDA

7:00AM	Breakfast Available
7:15AM – 7:25AM	**Welcome, Introductions**
	Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. EPA
7:25AM – 7:45AM	**Opening Remarks**
	Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
	You
	Ernie Moniz, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
	John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado & WGA Chair
	Brian Sandoval, Governor of Nevada & WGA Vice Chair
7:45AM – 9:00AM	**Open Dialogue on Western Issues**

Floor will be open for Governors' questions for Cabinet officials, comments, and discussion on issues.

9:00AM – 9:10AM **Wrap Up, Next Steps**
Governor Hickenlooper will summarize any follow up needed on issues discussed.

IV. TALKING POINTS

- Thank yous to: Chairman John Hickenlooper and Vice Chairman Brian Sandoval for invitation to participate in the annual WGA breakfast, Gina McCarthy for hosting the breakfast
- It was great to be with so many of you at the Winter Meeting this past December- thank you Gov. Sandoval for hosting us in your state.
- I joined Gov. Hickenlooper just this past January to visit with private landowners in CO that are developing conservation efforts for Sage Grouse.
- Earlier this month, Gov. John Kitzhaber and I announced the first offshore wind project on federal waters off of the West Coast.
- DOI is working tirelessly to develop renewable and traditional sources of energy, and last year I met with Gov. Jack Dalrymple as I toured his state to witness the responsible development of oil and gas in the Bakken Formation.
- Droughts and wildfires are having a tremendous impact on the people, infrastructure and economies of your states. Last summer, Gov. Jan Brewer and I attended the memorial service for 19 firefighters who gave their lives fighting fires in AZ.
- Our natural resources are critical to the economies of our nation, and I was pleased to attend the Outdoor Retailers Winter Market last month in UT and also meet with Gov. Gary Herbert.
- I look forward to having an opportunity to visit with all of you in your states- thank you Gov. Lolo Moliga for inviting me to your 114th Flag Day celebration, and I was glad to join you at the Pacific Islands Forum last September.

V. HOT TOPICS

Key issues we expect to be raised at this event are detailed in the attached Information Memo on WGA Issues of Interest.

VI. BACKGROUND

Western Governors' Association

The Western Governors' Association was established in 1984 and is an independent, nonprofit organization representing the Governors of 19 states and three US-Flag Pacific islands. Through their Association, the Governors identify and address key policy and governance issues that include natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, intergovernmental relations and international relations. The current chairman of is Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, who was elected in June 2013.

Current initiatives of the Association are energy generation; regional transmission expansion; weather and climate risk; water: supply, transfers, and drought; forest health; outdoor recreation and tourism; and wildlife corridors and crucial habitat.

Gov. Jan Brewer: In her State of the State Address, Gov. Brewer identified the high water demand of her state and linked it to job creation, capital investment and promoting a sustainable future. She also discussed the challenges of preparing young people for the competitive workforce. Gov. Brewer has developed a new program, "Student Success Funding" that will reward improved student performance.

Gov. John Hickenlooper: In his State of the State, Gov. Hickenlooper mentioned his work with you around Sage Grouse conservation efforts. He also highlighted how Colorado developed the nation's strongest frack fluid disclosure rule in 2011. The Governor also said he plans to make the penalties for violating oil and gas development rules higher in the future. He also discussed the state's water and drought plans.

Gov. Steve Bullock: In January of this year, Gov. Bullock signed an executive order that called for the establishment of the Greater Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Advisory Council. "It's important that the State of Montana maintain control over the management of the Greater Sage-Grouse. Our state wildlife managers know how to do this and we can do a better job of ensuring the viability of the species because our people live and work in Montana every day," said Bullock.

Gov. Brian Sandoval: The Governor sent you a letter on January 17 requesting an extension of public comment period for the Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan. He highlighted that Nevada has undertaken substantial initiatives to protect the Greater Sage Grouse. More on this issue is contained in the attached info memo.

Gov. Susanna Martinez
In her State of the State address, the Governor discussed how NM is dealing with the drought. She is encouraging the state to invest 60% of capital dollars on critical water projects throughout the state. Information on the drought in NM is contained in the attached info memo.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple
The Governor sent a letter to you and OMB Director Sylvia Burwell regarding Mineral Leasing Act payments to North Dakota. (OMB is responding to the letter) The Governor recently announced the start of a project to develop a 375-mile natural gas pipeline set to raise take-away capacity. The pipeline, which can transport a total 400 million cubic feet each day, will cover a route stretching all the way from western North Dakota to eastern North Dakota where the region is filled with industrial, commercial, and residential clients.

Gov. Mary Fallin
Gov. Fallin serves as the Chair of the National Governors Association. Last month, the Governor requested that the Administration approve the Keystone XL Pipeline project. "The Keystone pipeline project is important to our nation's energy security as well as the individual

economies of our states," said Fallin. "In Oklahoma alone, the pipeline represents a billion dollar investment with the potential to create thousands of jobs."

Gov. John Kitzhaber
Governor Kitzhaber publicly announced this past month a drought emergency that four counties are currently dealing with. "We are already seeing the effects of the ongoing and prolonged drought in southern Oregon counties, with snowpack in the Klamath Basin only 20 percent of normal," said Governor Kitzhaber. "We face these severe water shortages after a dry year in 2013. The drought will not be resolved without prolonged, substantial snow and rainfall."

Gov. Dennis Daugaard
The Governor plans to thank you for working with his state to re-open Mount Rushmore Park. In his State of the State Address, the Governor discussed the actions he is taking to make sure the young people of South Dakota are educated, trained, and prepared to enter the workforce. The South Dakota Workforce Initiative, or South Dakota WINS, was enacted to provide programs meant to inform and help young people with choosing their career path.

Gov. Gary Herbert
In his State of the State Address, Governor Herbert talked about the state's current agenda for environmental conservation especially their use of water resources and how his state maintains good air quality. Governor Herbert also discussed how education offered in Utah classrooms should match what is required in the present workforce, stating that students must be equipped with knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math. He is working towards funding these specific areas of education, "Last year we provided $10 million to the STEM Action Center, and my budget this year calls for another $4.5 million" said Herbert.

Gov. Jay Inslee
Gov. Inslee discussed climate change in his State of the State address and the need for WA state to reduce its carbon pollution. Gov. Inslee has also established a STEM Education Innovation Alliance. You will be provided with a separate briefing memo for your meeting with him.

Gov. Matt Mead
In his State of the State Address, Governor Mead highlighted how Wyoming has the cleanest air in the country and acknowledges how they have developed a state energy strategy. One project in particular he is asking for support for is a test center for carbon capture and sequestration research. "We need to develop commercially viable uses for CO2. We want to assure that we have a complete mix of energy sources in the future – and coal should be a big part of that future"

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Information Memo on WGA Issues of Interest

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: February 20, 2014
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, OS, (202)208-6726; Michael Bean, AS-FWP office (202) 208-7400; Letty Belin, Counselor to the D/S (202) 208-6291; John Blair, Director, OIEA (202) 208-1923 James Lyons, Counselor, ASLM (202) 208-4318; Neil Kornze, BLM; Mike Conner, BOR; Libby Washburn, BOR; Dionne Thompson, BOR (202)513-0570; Anne J. Castle, A/S W&S; Neil Kornze, BLM
SUBJECT: Western Governors Association (WGA) Issues of Interest

In preparation for the upcoming 2014 Western Governors Association breakfast, below are western issues of interest to the Governors planning to attend.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN DROUGHT

The Colorado River Basin drought that began in 2000 is one of the worst in more than a thousand years. While demand for water continues to grow, drought and climate change are causing supplies to dwindle. Over the last 14 years, the water in the reservoirs has declined from nearly full to about half of capacity. Entities that rely on the River are concerned about the ongoing drought, declining reservoirs, the potential for the first ever shortages in the Lower Basin (earliest projection is water year 2016) and the potential for loss of hydroelectric generation at Lake Powell (earliest projection is water year 2016).

Despite these dry conditions, Reclamation was able to make the required delivery commitments, including environmental releases, in the Upper Basin (Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico) in water year 2013 and anticipates meeting those commitments in 2014. In accordance with the 2007 Interim Guidelines for the coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, the annual release from Lake Powell will be 7.48 million acre-feet (maf) in water year 2014. This is the first time since the filling of Lake Powell that its annual release will be less than 8.23 maf. In the Upper Basin, junior priority water users in sub-basins above major Reclamation reservoirs have experienced local shortages throughout the drought.

In water year 2014, snowpack in the Upper Basin has been tracking near average (111% of median on February 12). The probable forecast for inflow into Lake Powell is currently 96% of average. At this point, significant uncertainty still exists regarding the 2014 water supply. The current forecast for inflow into Lake Powell ranges from 73 to 124% of average, with a projected total Basin storage ranging from 45 to 56% of capacity for end of water year 2014.

Throughout history, there has never been a shortage condition determined in the Lower Basin (Nevada, Arizona and California). A shortage is deemed to occur when Lake Mead reaches elevation 1075 feet. The elevation is currently around 1106 feet, but is forecast to reach 1084 feet by next October. Reclamation met all water orders from U.S. water users in the Lower Basin and Mexico in 2013, and all delivery orders in the Lower Basin will be met in 2014. However, over the next 5 years, the potential for a Shortage Condition exists, with probabilities ranging from less than 1% in 2015, to 44% in 2016, 54% in 2017, and 53% in 2018.

In June 2013, you met with Basin States water representatives at the WGA meeting in Park City, and they committed to work together to identify solutions. Since that time, the Basin States have been actively engaged in a process to identify actions to avoid reaching critical elevations in Lakes Powell and Mead should drought conditions continue. Reclamation has been providing technical expertise and support. The workgroup has identified broad categories of actions targeted at generating volumes of water to protect critical elevations in Lakes Powell and Mead including conservation, temporary demand reduction, and increased system efficiency.

Although the Basin States remain committed to continuing discussions, there does not yet appear to be a consensus on which actions should be pursued at this time. The Basin States agree that DOI is a key partner in each and every action under consideration, and privately some would concede that a push from DOI might help move things forward. Your team believes that we must accelerate contingency planning and be ready to implement actions in 2014 designed to avoid reaching critical elevations in Lakes Mead and Powell and putting at risk the system's ability to meet water delivery obligations and continue to generate needed hydropower. Our goal is to have a consensus plan that the Basin States support, but a plan is required regardless.

Minute 319

Implementation of the historic Minute 319 agreement between the U.S. and Mexico on the Colorado River is well underway. Significant effort is currently focused on planning for a potential environmental pulse flow in the spring of 2014 to benefit the riparian ecosystem in the Colorado River Delta. This is a joint effort involving the governments, scientists, and NGOs from both countries to design, execute, and monitor the ecological response to an unprecedented one-time pulse flow (i.e., simulated flood). All water for the pulse flow will be generated in Mexico through conservation and deferred delivery under Minutes 318 and 319; DOI will provide funding to generate 50 percent of that water. While we are working to finalize necessary approvals for a pulse flow in 2014 (the Minute anticipates but does not require the flow take place next year), there are still issues to be resolved with Mexico and within the U.S. We strongly believe that a pulse flow in March/April 2014 is the best option. Negotiating an extension of Minute 319 by December 2016 is a high priority, and we believe a successful pulse flow will help pave the path to reaching an agreement.

Management of Glen Canyon Dam

The second high flow experimental release from Glen Canyon Dam under the new multi-year protocol took place in November. This is a significant achievement, one that has the support of a very wide spectrum of interests. In addition, there is continued progress in developing the Long Term Experimental and Management Plan for Glen Canyon, the first comprehensive planning effort in eighteen years. Reclamation and NPS are serving as co-leads for the LTEMP Environmental Impact Statement in keeping with their respective authorities for dam operations and park management.

SAGE GROUSE

The effort to complete Federal land management plans and state conservation plans continues. Meetings are occurring in the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain regions this month to address plan criteria and ensure harmony among plans in each region. The most recent Sage Grouse

Task Force meeting was held in Denver on February 5-6. Topics covered included: the FWS metrics for measuring conservation, mitigation strategies, adaptive management and fire. The most heated conversation occurred around states' concerns with the metrics proposed by the FWS. Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, and Nevada would like an additional few months to take Wyoming's system and tweak it to be applicable to other states. There was also frank discussion about the state of the science. Anticipated questions include:

What do you have to say about legislative efforts?
Suggested Response: I think we are best off to focus our energy and resources on something that we can control - using this collaborative process between states and the feds to put in place strong, science-based, legally defensible measures to conserve the Greater sage grouse. That said, I and my team are happy to review any legislative efforts which bolster our efforts to conserve the species. I am very concerned any effort to delay the deadline could be counterproductive. Kicking the can down the road could leave us in a situation where the habitat and the bird are in worse shape than they are today.

I understand the FWS intends to ask the states to supply data on conservation efforts that the states believe may be incomplete or misleading. Will you direct FWS to accommodate the concerns of the states?
Suggested Response: Beginning last July, FWS has been working with the 11 sage grouse states to develop a set of metrics or common measures by which to quantify on-the-ground conservation efforts. A common means of reporting will enable FWS to aggregate these collective conservation efforts in a more meaningful way than if FWS gets data reported in eleven different ways. FWS believes this information will ensure that the states are getting appropriate credit for the on-the-ground activities that help the sage grouse. In addition to these measures, the FWS welcomes additional information from the states about other aspects of the implementation of their sage grouse plans and regulatory measures and will continue working with the states to ensure that such information is effectively captured.

Why the delay in releasing the Lander resource management plan?
Suggested Response: The Lander resource management plan is the first greater sage grouse plan. It is also one of the most significant. Given that, we want to make sure we get this plan right and be sure it makes sense with our other plans. We are working to review all of the plans to be sure that the cumulative conservation effort of the Federal agencies as well as what we know of the state and voluntary efforts on private lands add up to a conservation strategy that will conserve the bird. Since we know each plan is likely to be litigated, we believe this comprehensive analysis will put us on more solid legal ground for when we begin rolling out final plans. We know the delay is frustrating, but hope for your patience.

How can we best cooperate in addressing the threat of fire to sage grouse habitat?
Suggested Response: I am very encouraged to see the introduction of bipartisan bills in the Congress that would address the very real problem that the costs of fighting fires often eat up the budgets for preventing fires. Senators Wyden and Crapo have introduced a bill that would treat certain large scale fires the same way we treat other major disasters – as emergencies that are funded separately from normal smaller scale firefighting efforts. There are practical steps that can be taken to make both our forests and our sagebrush landscapes less likely to be lost to fire.

But in order to take those steps, we must have secure budgets that are not drained away be the costs of fighting a few monster fires. If we can halt the cycle of loss of sagebrush habitat to fires and associated cheatgrass invasion, we will have addressed a major threat to the sage grouse.

(Possible Questions from Governor Sandoval): Given the work done on the bi-state population of the sage grouse by so many, especially the State of Nevada, what will you accomplish by listing this bird other than alienating all the groups that have been working to conserve it?
Suggested Response: We appreciate all the hard work that has been done by so many, and I point out that FWS has yet to make a final decision on the listing. However, the ESA requires that the listing determination be made on 5 threat factors at the time of the decision, not at a future date. Despite the good work and good intentions of all the parties that have contributed to conservation efforts, last September FWS determined that the threats to the bi-state population were still too great and that listing is warranted.

However, FWS also proposed a special rule that would exempt from ESA regulation any impacts to sage-grouse in the bi-state population incidental to implementing these ongoing conservation efforts. We acknowledge the good work of those partners and want to avoid any disincentive for those partners continuing their conservation efforts.

MITIGATION

You issued Secretarial Order 3330 on October 31, 2013, to improve the mitigation policies and practices of DOI by making mitigation decisions more consistent, transparent, and efficient, while improving environmental outcomes. Your address to the WGA meeting in Las Vegas on December 12 generally described the Order and the purposes behind it. Although your Order directed the Department's Energy and Climate Change Task Force to report back to you within 90 days (i.e., by January 31), you have given the Task Force a few more weeks in order to expand its outreach to state and federal agencies and affected interests.

On January 21, the WGA sent a letter enclosing a list of 30 questions about Secretarial Order 3330 and BLM's related mitigation policy. The group designated by the Task Force to work on the Secretarial Order discussed these questions with WGA staff on February 7. The Governors' letter made two principal points about DOI's mitigation policy efforts:

(1) They should be developed in cooperation with the Governors; and
(2) Mitigation requirements should be clearly defined and predictably implemented so that reasonable mitigation can be included in project planning.

The specific questions enclosed with the Governors' letter emphasized the first of these points in several different ways by asking: (1) whether state mitigation strategies would inform DOI's review of mitigation practices, (2) whether states would be engaged early in the process of mitigation planning, (3) what role states will have in determining mitigation sites, and (4) how DOI mitigation policies would affect state-recognized water rights.

Suggested talking points to respond to these questions include:

- Thank WGA for submitting questions about DOI's efforts to revise and improve its mitigation policies – **they were among the most useful comments we have received thus far.** DOI staff have discussed them with WGA staff and plan to continue to engage with WGA to work through key issues.
- Remind the Governors that you joined them in Las Vegas last December in announcing the availability of **WGA's West-wide CHAT** (crucial habitat assessment tool) to help steer development toward areas of little or no environmental conflict and away from areas of high conflict. **These are precisely the goals of any intelligent mitigation policy**, and we anticipate that our forthcoming mitigation policies will reinforce and complement the efforts of the Western states through their CHATs.
- DOI wants to learn from States' experiences in crafting effective mitigation policies. **Oregon** has been a leader in improving mitigation outcomes. It dramatically cut mitigation costs associated with bridge modernization by developing rigorous baseline information and performance standards that were integrated into project planning. **California** has extensive experience with wetland and endangered species mitigation banking from which DOI can learn.
- We are working with the various sage grouse states to ensure that state and Federal plans for conserving the species **effectively protect the most sensitive areas** (the "core areas" and/or "priority habitat" or PACs) **and offset adverse impacts that are not avoided.** The BLM will work closely with states to ensure that state-led compensatory mitigation programs, where they are consistent with agreed-upon principles, may be utilized to offset impacts occurring on BLM lands.
- As the Governors know, we are engaged in efforts to develop a comprehensive sage grouse conservation strategy to conserve the species. Continued coordination among the Federal land management agencies, the states, and the FWS is critical to our success.
- Although your Secretarial Order called for an initial report within 90 days, you wanted to ensure that the task force charged with responding to the Order had an opportunity to reach out broadly to state and Federal agencies and other affected interests.
- You are expecting to receive within the next week or so a draft report outlining the principles that will guide DOI's effort to modernize its mitigation policies and practices, as well as the specific deliverables to be accomplished over the coming months. This initial draft report is only a first step. DOI will be doing more outreach with WGA and individual states and other stakeholders as we continue to develop new mitigation policies and practices.

MINERAL LEASING ACT FUNDS

The Federal government collects royalties and lease payments for energy development on public lands. By law, these revenues are shared with states. Western Governors believe these shared revenues should not be treated as Federal expenditures, subject to sequestration.

PMB's Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) collects and disburses Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) and other revenue payments to States and others. In FY 2013, ONRR disbursed over $14.2 billion in revenue generated from energy production on public lands and offshore areas, a $2 billion increase over the prior year. In FY 2013, Mineral Leasing and other revenue payments were subject to sequester at a rate of 5.1%.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 eliminated the sequester of discretionary funds, but did not impact the legally required sequester of mandatory funds. In 2014, MLA payments are subject to sequester at a rate of 7.2%, consistent with the "OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2014" and "OMB Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions for Fiscal Year 2014" issued May 20, 2013. In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Deficit Reduction Act of 1985 Mineral Leasing Act, funds are not exempted from sequester. MLA funds totaling $101 million that were sequestered in FY 2013 were disbursed in the first payments made in FY 2014.

UTAH

San Rafael Land Swell withdrawal

In November 2013, the BLM-UT deferred a total of 99,960 acres comprised of 57 parcels in the Price and Vernal Field Offices from the Nov. oil and gas lease sale. The deferral would provide additional time to address concerns including cultural resources, sensitive species, potential impacts to the Old Spanish Trail, and lands with wilderness characteristics.

1.1 million acres of land nominated for leasing by industry were evaluated for wilderness, wilderness study areas, occupied sage grouse habitat, areas included in proposed Master Leasing Plans and to ensure statutory availability for leasing. A preliminary list of 664,756 acres (407 parcels) was sent to the Green River District, which considered workloads and determined that the Environmental Assessments (EAs) would analyze 143,981 acres (82 parcels) for potential leasing. The EAs were posted for public comment in June 2013 and received 11. The BLM-UT posted responses to the comments concurrently with the proposed final parcel list on Aug. 16, 2013. Posting the proposed final list and the Notice of Competitive Lease Sale initiated a 30-day public protest period that closed on Sept. 16, 2013. The BLM-UT received 431 timely filed protests from groups and individuals, including the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Rocky Mountain Wild. Protests stated concerns with air quality, climate change, sensitive species, lands with wilderness characteristics, visual resources, and the Nine Mile Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

In November, the BLM-UT offered 35 parcels covering 44,021—three parcels covering 743 acres in the Vernal Field Office and 32 parcels covering 43,278 acres in the Price Field Office. The BLM-UT sold 29 of the 35 offered parcels, grossing $3,399,486 in total receipts.

Environmental groups and concerned citizens who opposed the proposed parcel list posted on Aug. 16, 2013, were generally satisfied with BLM-UT's Nov. 14 deferral decision. However, industry, some county governments, and the Western Energy Alliance were critical of the decision to defer these lands, as well as lands deferred earlier in the oil and gas leasing process. The Utah Congressional delegation was also critical of the deferral decision.

On Jan. 9, 2014, the Western Energy Alliance and Castle Valley Holdings appealed BLM-UT's Nov. 14 deferral decision with the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The appeal is particularly focused on the deferral of 10 parcels nominated by Castle Valley and deferred due to cultural resources concerns raised by the Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA). The appeal

notes that the URARA letter identifying concerns with impacts to rock art was received on Nov. 7, 2013, well after the close of the protest period on Sept. 16, 2013.

Applications for permit to drill (APD) pilot office reauthorization

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Section 365) established the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project, with the intent to improve the efficiency of processing oil and gas use authorizations and environmental stewardship on Federal lands. It designated 7 pilot project offices: Miles City, Montana; Buffalo and Rawlins, Wyoming; Vernal, Utah; Grand Junction/Glenwood Springs, Colorado; and Farmington and Carlsbad, New Mexico. These offices accounted for roughly 60% of the BLM drilling permit approvals during FY 2013.

As part of this pilot project, the Permit Processing Improvement Fund was established to support the project for 10 years. The provision directs 50% of the income derived from Federal onshore oil and gas lease rental payments outside of Alaska to the Fund. Amounts are approximately $15 million annually. For FY 2006-FY 2015, the Fund is available to the BLM for expenditure without further appropriation to process oil and gas use authorizations on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the designated pilot project offices. This was the first time Congress enabled a portion of the revenues generated be used to support the onshore program.

It also authorized the transfer of monies to the FWS, BIA, FS, EPA, Army Corps, and the states of Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. These transfers have provided resources dedicated to assisting the BLM in processing the use authorizations.

The agencies have made significant progress:

- Additional personnel have enabled an increase in the pace of permitting and completing environmental reviews, particularly given the complex resource issues involved.
- The time for interagency consultations has been reduced due to improved communication and through programmatic streamlining efforts, which have been used in multiple projects and permits.
- The BLM has increased inspection and enforcement capability as a result of the hiring of additional skilled specialists. The increase has led to better compliance by the industry and a reduction in major violations due to the increased number of inspectors. It has allowed the BLM to identify issues early; intervene in developing violation situations; and improve interim reclamation work.

Section 365 prohibits the BLM from establishing cost recovery fees for processing applications for oil and gas permits. The BLM is prohibited from beginning the process of preparing the regulations, which will be needed to implement cost recovery once the provision expires or is repealed. Congress has implemented permit fees through appropriations language for the last several years. These flat fees are paid by applicants when submitting their application.

The President's 2015 Budget Request includes a proposal to extend and revamp the Pilot Office authority by granting BLM the flexibility to re-designate pilot offices as needed based on changing permitting demands, and a proposal to repeal the prohibition on establishing cost recovery fees for processing applications for oil and gas permits to drill. The proposal assumes that upon repeal of the prohibition on cost recovery fees, the BLM will engage in a rulemaking

process to establish the procedures for collecting cost recovery fees. These fees would ultimately replace the termination of the Fund, which is set to expire in 2015. Once the Administration's budget proposals are enacted, or by October 1, 2015, when the Fund expires, the BLM will begin the process of writing regulations to establish cost recovery. This process typically takes from 18 months to two years to complete.

States and local communities understand that the Pilot Office program helps foster jobs, the economy and adds revenues from leasing and royalties. Industry is supportive and realizes the benefits of the added capacity for these offices. They support extension of the Act, especially for areas that experience exploration and development activity; although they continue to demand more permits approved with faster processing times. The BLM has 6,711 approved drilling permits available to industry, and are developing the new automated permitting database module pilot that would use electronic submittal of permits to improve efficiency. The NGOs and other groups recognize that BLM needs stronger inspection capacity to provide oversight of the ongoing field operations. The Administration position, while supportive of the Pilot Office concept, has been to replace the legislated funding mechanism with one funded through cost recovery process.

The Omnibus Appropriation Act of 2014 expanded the scope of the Pilot Office program to include Casper (WY) and Dickinson (ND) offices that are linked to the Niobrara and Bakken Shale, respectively. The broadened geographic scope is allowing the BLM to address the increased demands placed upon these two offices.

Antiquities Act legislation

The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorizes the President to designate national monuments by way of public proclamation in order to protect historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest. The Act has been used by 16 Presidents to designate 103 national monuments administered by six Federal agencies, mostly in the NPS.

The BLM administers 19 national monuments (17 designated by proclamation, two by Acts of Congress), which cover about 5.1 million acres of public lands in 9 states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. The oldest -- Grand Staircase-Escalante in southern Utah -- was designated in September 1996, by President Clinton, and the newest -- Rio Grande del Norte in northern New Mexico and San Juan Islands off the northwest coast of Washington State -- were designated on March 2013 by President Obama.

Several bills regarding the Antiquities Act are currently before Congress, including H.R. 1459 sponsored by Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT). Bishop's bill would make several changes in the Antiquities Act, including: (1) requiring the President to consider proposals for national monument designation subject to NEPA, (2) allowing for designations of less than 5,000 acres to expire after 3 years unless enacted into law, and (3) limiting the President to one declaration per State during any 4-year term of office without an express Act of Congress. Application of NEPA to a discretionary decision by the President would be unprecedented and extraordinary because the President is not a Federal agency.

Use of the Antiquities Act was addressed in listening sessions on America's Great Outdoors in 2010, and the public voiced strong support. One of the recommendations in the AGO report, issued in February 2011, was to implement a transparent and open approach in new monument designations. The Administration has supported conducting an open, public process that considers input from local, state, and national stakeholders before any sites are considered for designation. National monument designations respect valid existing rights on Federal lands and any other relevant provisions of law.

The Antiquities Act was the first U.S. law to provide general protection for objects of historic or scientific interest on Federal lands. It set a precedent by asserting a broad public interest in the preservation of natural and cultural resources on Federal lands. The law provided much of the legal foundation for cultural preservation and natural resource conservation and created the basis for the Federal government's efforts to protect archeological sites from looting and vandalism. Most recently, President Obama used the Act to establish 5 national monuments in 2013. In these cases, DOI engaged in discussions with national, state, local, and Tribal stakeholders, and each monument enjoyed a broad spectrum of enthusiastic support.

NEW MEXICO

Drought in New Mexico

New Mexico is in an extended drought with below average runoff for several years. Water supplies continue to decline, resulting in shortages for irrigation districts along the Rio Grande and Pecos. Reclamation continues to struggle to meet ESA requirements in both the Rio Grande and Pecos basins in New Mexico. Runoff projections currently range from 30 to 50% of average for the Middle Rio Grande and 30 percent for the Pecos. Reservoir storage on the Rio Grande is extremely low after three years of drought. Depending on runoff, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District could cease operations for irrigators as early as June. Then they would operate primarily to meet the needs of the six Middle Rio Grande pueblos, which could be difficult given current conditions. On the Rio Grande Project, irrigation districts are forecasting for an allocation to farmers that is 20 to 30 percent of average. Heavy rains in September 2013 helped to fill reservoirs on the Pecos. The Carlsbad Irrigation District will likely issue an allotment of at least three acre-feet of water per acre, which they have not done since 2010.

- Reclamation continues work with partners and the Minnow Action Team under the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program to develop options to meet flow targets and create a silvery minnow spawn.
- Reclamation has worked out an exchange whereby water stored to meet the needs of the six Middle Rio Grande pueblos was exchanged with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's San Juan-Chama Project water intended to be moved to Elephant Butte Reservoir to augment a spring peak. If a spring peak does not occur naturally, Reclamation plans to move the 12,000 acre-feet of San Juan-Chama Project water to Elephant Butte Reservoir to augment natural flows.
- San Juan-Chama Project supplies also face a shortfall, which could impact the amount of supplemental water available to meet the flow requirements of the Middle Rio Grande biological opinion. Without additional sources, current supplemental water supplies to meet the flow requirements range from 24,000 to 40,000 acre-feet, depending on actual

runoff volumes. Demand could exceed 65,000 acre-feet. Reclamation will be working with FWS to ensure compliance with the permitted incidental take for the 2014 irrigation season. Reclamation will continue working with Collaborative Program partners on the new consultation and implementation of a Recovery Implementation Program.

- Reclamation will continue to work closely with stakeholders and the Service to meet demands and ESA requirements in another dire water year.

NORTH DAKOTA

Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Project

NAWS is a municipal and rural water project authorized by the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act of 1986 and the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000, and construction of project features began in April 2002. When complete, the project would deliver water from the Missouri River to communities and rural water systems in North Dakota located in the Hudson Bay Basin.

In October 2002, the Province of Manitoba, Canada, filed a legal challenge in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., to compel DOI to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the project. In February 2005, the case was remanded to Reclamation for completion of additional environmental analysis. The Court allowed construction to continue on project features that would not prejudice future decisions on water treatment. In 2006, Reclamation initiated preparation of an EIS to evaluate water treatment techniques to further reduce the risks of a project-related transfer of non-native species from the Missouri River Basin into the Hudson Bay Basin. On January 15, 2009, Reclamation signed a Record of Decision. In February 2009, the Province of Manitoba filed a Supplemental Complaint arguing that the final EIS was insufficient. The State of Missouri filed a complaint against DOI and the ACOE in the same U.S. District Court over concerns about Missouri River water withdrawals. The Court combined the Missouri suit with the Manitoba suit. In March 2010, the Court issued an order in favor of Manitoba and Missouri. Once again, the case was remanded to Reclamation to take a "hard look" at (1) cumulative impacts of water withdrawal on the water levels of Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River, and (2) consequences of biota transfer into the Hudson Bay Basin, including Canada. However, the Court allowed construction to continue on features that would not prejudice future decisions on water treatment.

Construction continues on the Minot Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project. On March 1, 2013, Judge Collyer issued a ruling on the issue of whether to allow further work to be bid for continued construction of distribution facilities. The ruling will allow completion of the upgrades at the Minot Water Treatment Plant. However, the modified injunction "will not permit new pipeline construction or new pipeline construction contracts."

Progress continues on the preparation of the draft SEIS. The cooperating agencies completed their review of the Alternatives chapter and Reclamation is reviewing the comments and revising the draft chapter as appropriate. Cooperating agencies include the EPA, ACOE, State of North Dakota represented by the State Water Commission, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, and the City of Minot.

The analysis of the potential consequences of the No Action Alternative, as well as the potential impacts associated with the proposed action alternatives has been completed. The analyses are documented in the draft Environmental Impacts chapter which has been provided to the cooperating agencies for review. An overview of the impacts was presented to the cooperating agencies at a meeting on January 29, 2014. The scope of comments provided by the cooperating agencies will influence the schedule of releasing the draft SEIS to the public. Reclamation will work collaboratively with the cooperating agencies to incorporate their input and publish the draft SEIS for public review in a timely manner. A late spring/early summer publication of the draft SEIS is anticipated.

Red River Valley Water Supply Project

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is a proposed municipal, rural, and industrial bulk water supply designed to meet water quantity and quality needs in the Red River Valley in North Dakota and Minnesota. Studies predict that present water supplies in the region would be inadequate during a severe drought.

Reclamation and the State of North Dakota completed the Red River Valley Water Supply Project Final Environmental Impact Statement in 2007, identifying an alternative that would import treated water from the Missouri River. Because Congress has not authorized the preferred alternative, a Record of Decision has not been signed. The State of North Dakota is considering building the Red River Project without Federal funding or using Federal facilities. Minnesota, Missouri, Province of Manitoba, and the Canadian Federal Government are opposed to the project.

Background: The preferred alternative identified in the Final EIS would import water from the Missouri River basin into the Hudson Bay basin, which extends into Canada. Authorizing legislation, Dakota Water Resources Act, requires explicit Congressional approval of a Missouri River import alternative. The Province of Manitoba, Canadian government, and the State of Minnesota oppose transfer of aquatic invasive species into Hudson Bay basin. The State of Missouri is concerned that Project withdrawals would deplete the Missouri River and subsequently impact Missouri and Mississippi river shipping. In January 2009, Secretary Kempthorne signed a formal determination finding that the proposed water treatment for the importation of Missouri River water for the project was adequate under applicable Federal law and treaty provisions. Water treatment was developed in close consultation with EPA and the Department of State, as required by Dakota Water Resources Act. The preferred biota treatment alternative identified in the final environmental impact statement meets or exceeds treatment goals proposed by the Province of Manitoba.

Current Status: In March, the North Dakota State Water Commission is contracting for a value engineering study of the Red River Project to identify an alignment to complete the Red River Project as a State funded project. The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, another State agency, has acquired option agreements for 76% of the original preferred alternative right-of-way. The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District wants Reclamation to sign the Record of Decision.

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH GOVERNOR INSLEE

DATE: February 23, 2014
LOCATION: EPA – WJCN-3428
TIME: 9:15AM – 9:35AM
FROM: John Blair, Director, OIEA (202)208-6649; Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director, OIEA (202)208-5541

I. PURPOSE

You are meeting with Gov. Inslee to discuss a number of issues in which he has been in communication with DOI, including the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resources Plan, the Pacific Northwest Regional Infrastructure Team, Sage Grouse, climate, and the ESA/Gray Wolf. We were unable to find a time for you to meet with the Governor on your last trip to Washington State because of the distance between your events and his residence.

You had a phone call with Gov. Inslee on September 23, 2013, to discuss the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan. You also had a call with the Governor in May 22, 2013 to discuss fire preparedness and the Gray Wolf delisting for which we were seeking his support.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Governor Inslee
- Trudi Inslee, spouse
- Sam Ricketts, Director, D.C. Office of Governor Inslee
- Joby Shimomura, Chief of Staff, Governor Inslee
- DOI Staff: Nikki Buffa, Francisco Carrillo

III. HOT TOPICS

Sage Grouse: There are only about 1,000 sage-grouse in all of Washington State. They occur in three small populations: (1) the largest is in Douglas County (712 birds) where they are mostly on private land and are utilizing grassland enrolled in USDA's Conservation Reserve Program; (2) on the Army's Yakima Training Center (221 birds, and declining); and (3) in Lincoln County where a small population (65 birds) has been established through reintroductions on BLM and WDFW lands.

BLM lands are relatively insignificant for the sage-grouse in Washington, comprising only about 4% of priority habitat. Because of this fact, the BLM Resource Management Plan is not being revised as part of the overall sage-grouse conservation effort. Rather, it is being revised on its own separate schedule and will not be completed in time to affect the 2015 listing decision.

Because the birds in Washington are isolated from other populations, they may comprise a "distinct population segment," the listing status of which could be different from that of greater sage-grouse elsewhere. FWS will have to address this issue when it makes its 2015 listing decision.

Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IP): Governor Inslee invited you to attend an event on October 29, 2013, to recognize the Manastash Creek Project. Given the pressure for substantial Federal funding, Anne Castle recommended that you not participate in this event because it would set unrealistic expectations. Tom Iseman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science, participated in this event.

The Washington State Legislature passed a policy bill supporting the IP which calls for a 50/50 cost-share with Federal, local, and private organizations for the entire IP project and a 2013-2015 state budget that includes $132 million for the IP. The State is providing $26M to Reclamation to continue exploration and refinement of infrastructure projects. For example, Reclamation is continuing its commitment to study and implement juvenile and adult fish passage at Cle Elum Dam, with the potential to open nearly 30 miles of spawning/rearing habitat to native species, including ESA listed Steelhead. Continued cost-share with the State will be critical to successful implementation of fish passage at Cle Elum Dam. Governor Inslee is particularly interested in increased federal funding to complement current and expected future State funding contributions to the IP.

Odessa Project, Columbia Basin Project: The Odessa Project will provide surface water to approximately 70,000 acres of land currently irrigated with groundwater. Reclamation, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District are coordinating implementation of the Odessa Project. With Reclamation's approval, the State continues work on the Odessa Project, including expansion of the East Low Canal, a feature of the Columbia Basin Project. This work will maintain agriculture in the area while providing relief to the declining Odessa Aquifer from groundwater pumping.

Climate: Gov. Inslee was appointed to President Obama's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience on Nov. 1, 2013 where he, along with other state and local leaders, will be responsible for advising the Administration on how the Federal Government can respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change.

Gray Wolf Delisting: FWS proposed in June 2013 to remove the gray wolf from the list of threatened and endangered species. The proposal came after a comprehensive review confirmed its successful recovery following management actions undertaken by Federal, state and local partners following the wolf's listing under the ESA over three decades ago. FWS concurrently proposed to maintain protection and expand recovery efforts for the Mexican wolf in the Southwest, where it remains endangered.

Under the proposal, state wildlife management agency professionals would assume responsibility for management and protection of gray wolves in states where wolves occur. It focuses the protection of the ESA on the Mexican wolf, the only remaining entity that warrants protection under the Act, by designating the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies. FWS's proposal

was supported by governors and state wildlife agency leadership in each of the states with current wolf populations, as well as those that will assume responsibility for managing wolves dispersing into their states, such as Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Utah and North Dakota.

FWS knows of no issues that Governor Inslee may raise regarding gray wolf conservation in Washington State. The state has been very supportive of the Service's delisting proposal and is implementing their own gray wolf conservation strategy designed to establish and maintain a secure wolf population throughout the state. At the time of the delisting proposal, the State offered the following quote for the press release:

"The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is firmly committed to the long-term persistence of wolves in Washington," said Miranda Wecker, Chair of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. "The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission believes the state should be responsible for the management of wolves and supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's consideration of delisting gray wolves under the federal Endangered Species Act. By publishing the proposed rule, the Service ensures this important consideration can take place in an open and public process."

Pacific Northwest Regional Infrastructure Team: On May 24, 2013, you signed a Declaration of Cooperation with the States of Oregon and Washington to expedite the review and permitting of energy generation, power transmission and other vital infrastructure development in the Pacific Northwest. On May 21, 2013, Governors Inslee and Kitzhaber (OR) sent you a letter regarding their commitment to work with DOI on the Pacific Northwest Regional Infrastructure Team, which was established through Presidential Executive Order 13605 on *Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects.*

Proposed Washington State – Yakama Nation PL 280 Retrocession (*if raised*): In 1963, pursuant to a Congressional act called Public Law 280, Washington received a Federal delegation of criminal and civil jurisdiction over Indian reservations within the state. As a result, state and county agencies (rather than the BIA, FBI and federal officials) have been handling some of the criminal matters on the Yakama Indian Reservation for the past 50 years. (Federal officials had retained jurisdiction over trust lands within the reservation.)

The Yakama Nation has maintained concurrent criminal jurisdiction, but that jurisdiction was limited to misdemeanors crimes by Indians until two recent laws broadened that authorization (to lesser felonies over Indians in the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and to non-Indian domestic violence offenders in the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization Act).

On July 17, 2012, the Yakama Nation petitioned Governor Kristine Gregoire to retrocede jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation and ceded lands to the Yakama Nation (excluding mental illness and civil commitment of sexually violent predators as well as non-Indian defendants). Governor Gregiore discussed the petition requesting the retrocession in Government-to-Government meetings, but left office before acting.

Governor Jay Inslee continued the discussions and, after a six-month extension, issued Proclamation 14-01, granting the retrocession of civil and criminal jurisdiction to the Yakama

Tribe within the Exterior Boundaries of the Yakama Indian Reservation. The Governor did NOT retrocede jurisdiction outside the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Indian reservation retaining the jurisdiction it assumed in 1963 over the Yakama Nation's off-reservation Indian lands.

The next step is the Secretarial determination as to whether to accept the retrocession. In making that determination, we are required to consult with the Department of Justice. We have reached out informally to Mike Ormsby, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington in Spokane, to begin these discussions. This may be a decision that is within the broad delegation to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs. (These occur only about once a decade, so we do not have well-beaten path for these kinds of decisions).

III. TALKING POINTS

Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IP)

- The IP's balanced approach and broad stakeholder involvement is the right strategy.
- The Manastash Creek Project is a great example of an IP project that provides multiple benefits and is cost-shared by multiple stakeholders, including Reclamation and the State.
- Implementation of the IP will require funding partnerships across Federal, state, local and private and non-governmental organizations.
- To date, the Department has provided $3.8M for IP activities.
- The 2014 President's budget requested, and the Omnibus provided, $1M to Reclamation for IP activities, part of an overall investment of $8M in the Yakima River Basin. However, Reclamation is attempting to identify additional fiscal year 2014 funding for IP activities, including for the Manastash Creek Project.
- In addition, the Department demonstrates its commitment to the IP by spearheading ongoing efforts to coordinate among Federal agency regional and national leadership, including Reclamation, FWS, BLM, NRCS, USFS, NOAA and BPA, to collectively identify potential funding sources and creatively provide in-kind contributions.
- At the suggestion of the ASWS, the Yakima Basin Implementation Committee hosted a Funding Opportunity Workshop in October with various Federal and non-governmental stakeholders to explore other funding opportunities and encourage IP contributions from other stakeholders.
- Given the Federal presence in the Yakima River Basin, we are committed to continuing the cooperative relationship with the State to collaboratively further the goals of the IP. However, our contributions are likely to continue to be constrained to near current levels by Federal budget realities.

Gray Wolf Delisting

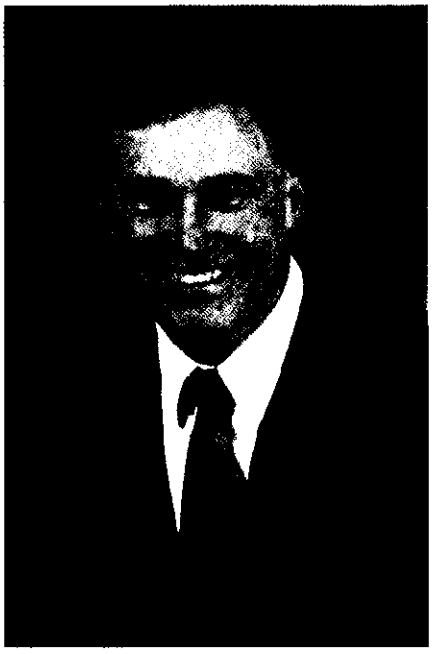
- As you may know, the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) has been coordinating with your state wildlife agency for some time now on wolf management issues, and they are appreciative of the hard work that has been done in WA to develop comprehensive wolf management plans.

- Given the successful recovery of the gray wolf in the western Great Lakes and the Northern Rocky Mountains, FWS removed the gray wolf from the Endangered Species

Act list throughout the U.S., including in WA. FWS will continue federal protection and expand recovery efforts for the Mexican wolf in the Southwest.

- Although we know that some in the NGO community will be concerned about this announcement, we think it is a great success story for the ESA, and our close work together highlights how the federal government and states can combine forces to protect and recover endangered species in the U.S.

IV. BIOGRAPHY



Jay Inslee is a fifth-generation Washingtonian who grew up in the Seattle area. His father, Frank, was a high school teacher and coach. His mother worked as a sales clerk at Sears & Roebuck. Jay worked his way through college and graduated from UW with a degree in economics before earning his law degree at Willamette University. He and his wife, Trudi, then moved to Selah where Jay worked as a prosecutor and they raised their three sons.

Jay first became involved in public service in 1985 when he and Trudi helped lead the effort to build a new public high school in Selah. Motivated to fight against proposed funding cuts for rural schools, Jay went on to represent the 14th Legislative District in the state House of Representatives. He continued serving communities in the Yakima Valley when he was elected to Congress in 1992. The Inslees later moved back to the Puget Sound area where Jay was elected to Congress in 1998, serving until 2012.

During his time in Congress, Jay became known as a forward-thinking leader, especially on issues of clean energy and the environment. He co-wrote a book, "Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean-Energy Economy," about the job-creating potential of the clean tech industry. As governor, Jay's top priority is growing Washington's innovative industries such as clean energy, IT and life sciences, and strengthening existing industries such as aerospace, agriculture, maritime and military.

To grow these industries, Jay knows we must strengthen our schools so we can better equip our children to compete for these good-paying jobs. And we must bring a new culture of efficiency and performance to state government to more efficiently serve the people and businesses throughout Washington state. Jay and Trudi are proud grandparents to two toddlers. Besides writing and illustrating books for his grandchildren and sketching scenes from around Washington, Jay is an avid cyclist and charter member of Hoopaholics.

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: February 21, 2014
FROM: Letty Belin, Counselor to the Deputy Secretary (202) 208-6291
James Lyons, Counselor, ASLM (202) 208- 4318
Michael Bean, Counselor, ASFWP (202) 208-7400
Joel Clement, Director, Office of Policy Analysis (202) 208-3295
SUBJECT: Requested Talking Points regarding mitigation SO and Report

The purpose of this memo is to provide talking points on the Mitigation Report for your coming meetings with Governors and other stakeholders. You also asked for a few examples to illustrate the principles described in the report.

TALKING POINTS AND EXAMPLES

- **Project-by-project planning and development is inefficient, can slow down the permitting process and create undue operational uncertainty.** Studies show the benefits of coordinated landscape approaches to mitigation, both in terms of planning and permitting efficiencies and in more coordinated conservation efforts. The goal of modernizing DOI's approach to mitigation is to be more strategic about mitigation investments; improve collaboration and coordination with states and other stakeholders, and provide more timely, effective, and durable outcomes.

- **We are committed to ensuring that this modernization strategy will not add bureaucratic layers or processes**; we have heard loud and clear that additional processes will stifle opportunity. The intent of this reform is to make existing processes smarter, to improve certainty for project proponents, and to ensure that we're being as effective as possible with mitigation efforts and investments in conservation.

- **Developing this new approacb is an ongoing process tbat does not stop with the publication of this first report.** Not only will there be ongoing policy deliverables to implement this approach, there will be ongoing outreach and communication among the many partners with whom we work.\

- **We recognize the key role played by state agencies and other stakeholders in getting this right, and will seek their ongoing counsel throughout the process.** In particular, we seek to work closely with states in compiling the information and tools that will be necessary to ensure that mitigation efforts are supported by the best available science. Our ongoing work in California on the DRECP and across the western states to develop a conservation strategy for sage grouse is evidence of the partnership approach we seek.

- **The foundation of this landscape-scale mitigation approach is geospatial data and tools assembled in collaboration with federal and state agencies, academic institutions and others**. Much of this work has already been done (e.g., CHATs, USGS products, etc.) and needs only to be compiled and organized so that it can be used to identify existing and potential resource conservation priorities and development opportunities nationwide.

- **DOI's mitigation initiative will do the following:**
  - Leverage use of mapping technologies and capabilities
  - Establish an over-arching mitigation **strategy** for DOI --- not a new **planning requirement**
  - Allow DOI and other agencies to work with local communities to conserve priority areas while also developing available resources
  - Provide incentives for pre-application collaboration among developers and agencies to identify best opportunities to advance proposed project while appropriately protecting natural and cultural resources

- **DOI's mitigation initiative will not do the following:**
  - Create additional levels of NEPA requirements
  - Establish "zoning" requirements for federal lands

EXAMPLES OF STATE-SPONSORED LANDSCAPE-SCALE MITIGATION SHOWN TO WORK WELL:

- **Advance Permitting for Bridge Modernization in Oregon.** In 2003 the Oregon State Legislature enacted the third Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA III), an infrastructure and economic stimulus law that established a State Bridge Delivery Program requiring advance permitting and environmental mitigation planning prior to design and construction. In 2008 the Oregon Department of Transportation conducted a cost/benefit comparison of a traditional project permitting approach with the programmatic process developed for the OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program. The analysis noted that "the expected need for mitigation as a result of bridge construction has been a fraction of what was anticipated at the beginning of the program due to the avoidance of resources during the development process by having baseline information and performance standards for the design teams to work with at the beginning of the project development process."

- **The Maryland Water Resources Registry (WRR)** is a collaborative effort by multiple federal and state agencies to streamline permitting processes while simultaneously enhancing ecological outcomes. The stated objective of the WRR is to "map natural resource areas that are a priority for preservation" and to "identify sites best-suited for ecosystem preservation and restoration". The WRR interagency team worked in partnership to 1) Integrate agency conservation priorities associated with the Clean Water Act; 2) Develop criteria for prioritizing areas suitable for conservation and restoration; and 3) Publish a web site where mitigation "opportunities" can be explored via a Geographic Information System. The WRR uses science-based criteria to measure ecological health. Published mitigation opportunities include the protection or restoration of wetlands, uplands, streamside areas, and storm water infrastructure areas. The interactive-mapping tool uses a scoring system to rate mitigation

opportunities with the goal of attracting developers towards mitigation opportunities with the highest ecological value. The benefits of the WRR include the following:

- *Permit applicants can easily identify priority mitigation opportunities during the planning phase, before the review process is initiated.*
- *Private developers can guide their land use and mitigation decisions based on multi-agency priorities.*
- *Public land trusts and wetland bankers can target areas for purchase and preservation.*
- *Local and County planners can inform resource protection, zoning, and land use plans. The Registry Web site is http://www.watershedresourcesregistry.com.*

- **North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program.** In North Carolina, the state's Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP), an in-lieu fee program that provides offsite compensatory wetland and stream mitigation offsets, has allowed the state's Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to integrate their transportation planning with landscape-level watershed planning in order to streamline the overall mitigation process. In doing so, the EEP has reduced wetland mitigation expenses, as a percent of NCDOT project costs, from 8 percent to less than 3 percent, representing an annual cost savings of $32.5 to $65.0 million. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources reports that, since 2003, the EEP has allowed the NCDOT to advance nearly $14 billion in transportation projects without a single delay due to mitigation permitting (from: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/eep/why-eep-matters).

EXAMPLES OF DEPARTMENTAL LANDSCAPE –SCALE MITIGATION INITIATIVES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

- **Dry Lake Pilot Regional Mitigation Plan**

  In conjunction with the Western Solar Energy Plan, the BLM developed a pilot mitigation strategy for solar energy projects that may occur in the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone. The Solar Energy Plan calls for the development of mitigation plans for each solar energy zone (SEZ) to identify opportunities for compensatory mitigation to offset the impacts of projects on resource values in the SEZ. Through the development of these mitigation plans, project proponents will have a better understanding of the mitigation measures required, and the associated costs, for compensatory mitigation actions in conjunction with development in the particular SEZ. Lessons learned from the Dry Lake Pilot Regional Mitigation Plan will be used to inform the development of future mitigation strategies for other solar energy zones.

- **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.** The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is a comprehensive and coordinated State/Federal effort to provide effective protection and conservation of California's desert ecosystems while guiding

the development of appropriate renewable energy projects throughout the region (over 22,585,000 acres).

Goals and objectives for the DRECP: Provide for the long-term conservation and management of Covered Species; preserve, restore, and enhance natural communities and ecosystems; build on the Competitive Renewable Energy Zones identified by previous studies; further identify the most appropriate locations for utility-scale renewable energy projects; provide a framework for a more efficient process for regulatory authorization resulting in greater conservation than project-by-project or species-by species reviews can obtain; provide durable and reliable regulatory assurances; identify and incorporate climate change adaptation research, management objectives, and/or policies into the final plan document.

- **Landscape Planning and "Advance Mitigation" for Species Trending Toward ESA Listing.**

  Greater Sage Grouse

  In conjunction with the development of a conservation strategy for the **Greater Sage Grouse**, federal and state land management agencies are developing guidance for measures to mitigate the effects of development activities that may pose a threat to the species continued existence. This strategy will apply to all management actions on BLM, Forest Service, and state lands within the remaining range of the species while providing each state the flexibility to develop tools (e.g., mitigation banks, fee structures) to meet the desired mitigation outcomes.

  Lesser Prairie Chicken

  The five states with lesser prairie-chickens (CO, KS, NM, OK, and TX) have developed a rangewide conservation plan that relies heavily on a mitigation program in which agricultural landowners will be paid to undertake conservation measures on their lands. Funds for these payments will come from assessments on oil and gas and other development activities. Under the special 4(d) rule proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, development activities that result in the taking of prairie-chickens will be authorized, provided that those development activities are covered by the mitigation program. Thus, even if the prairie-chicken becomes a federally listed threatened species, the state-developed rangewide conservation plan and its mitigation program will effectively leave the states with the authority to continue to manage and conserve the species.

BUILDING A LANDSCAPE LEVEL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RESOURCES

Today we have an unprecedented opportunity, using science and technology, to create a better understanding of landscapes than ever before, to advance important conservation goals and achieve our development objectives together. It's not an either/or. It can't be. We're already seeing this approach work, as we seek to meet President Obama's goal of approving 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy on public lands by 2020.

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
October 31, 2013

The complexity of natural resource issues and the rates of change to landscapes, both naturally and human induced, are increasing faster than anyone could have predicted just a decade ago. The Department of the Interior recognizes in order to effectively carry out its mission and priorities it must understand and make decisions at the landscape, rather than local scale. Interior provides applied and basic scientific research, monitoring, information, and tools to inform decisionmaking by Interior bureaus and offices as well as local, tribal, State, national, and international communities.

Interior conducts basic and applied science to inform these decisions. It develops the tools to analyze, visualize, translate, and extrapolate science, and is leading efforts to apply science at multiple scales and across multiple landscapes to inform land and resource planning, policy, mitigation, and management. Interior employs some of the Nation's premier scientists. The U.S. Geological Survey and the scientists of the Department's land and resource management agencies provide baseline information regarding the health of our ecosystems and environment, natural hazards, and the impacts of climate change. This expertise is shared and leveraged with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribes, and communities.

As the managing partner for the Geospatial Platform, Interior leverages 21st century geographic information system tools to transform vast amounts of data on landscapes and resources into useful information to inform decisions to help power the future, ensure healthy landscapes, and achieve sustainable supplies of water. Decisions affecting the siting of energy development, water resource allocations, recreation, conservation of habitat, identification of transmission line rights-of-way, mitigation for development activities, and other land uses are increasingly interconnected on an ever changing, climate-impacted landscape.

Interior's landscape level understanding of the Nation's resources is focused on tools and technologies to gather and deliver data and information, develop a scientifically-

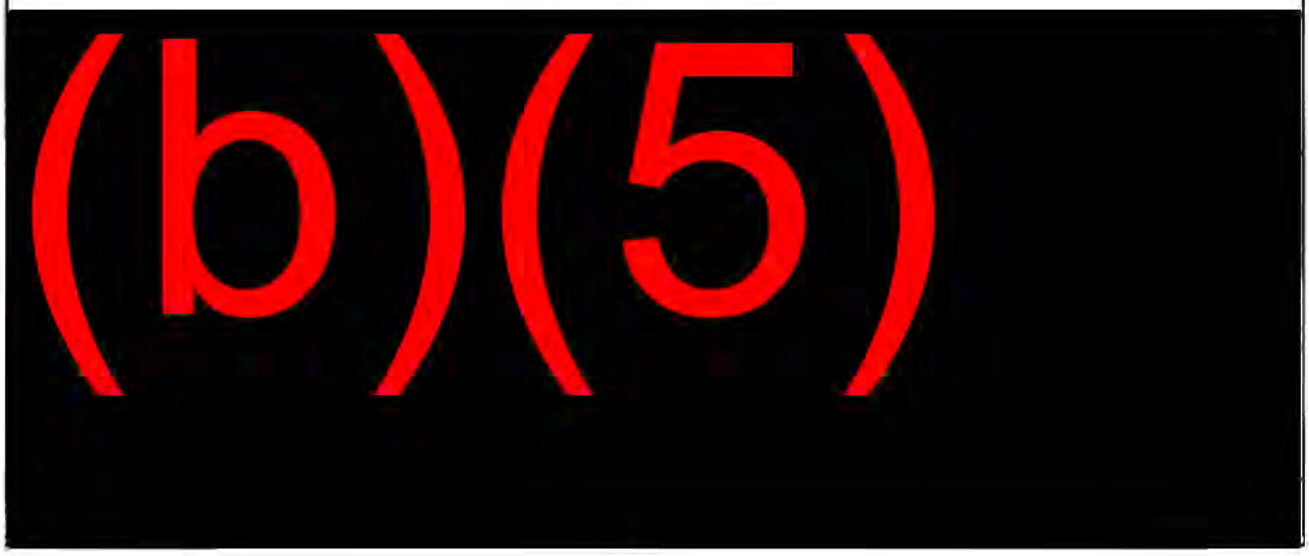
robust foundation for landscape understanding, and apply science to support Interior responsibilities.

Developing and Sharing the Scientific Tools for Landscape Level Understanding

Interior's science programs provide an array of tools for analyzing management and resource trade-offs, and understanding the long-term impacts of management decisions. Interior is incorporating the use of tools such as geospatial data, remote sensing, predictive modeling, scenario development, forecasting and simulation into land management activities.

The 2015 budget includes $888.7 million for research and development activities throughout the Department, an increase of $61.0 million from the 2014 enacted level. Activities supported by this funding range from scientific observations of the earth, streams, and wildlife populations, to applied research in the field to better address the impacts of a changing climate on Interior's lands and address species-specific problems such as white nose syndrome in bats. Complementing this request are two components of the President's Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative. The Initiative proposes an investment of $140 million for Interior research and development as part of a government-wide effort to jumpstart growth spurred by scientific discovery. The Initiative also includes funding for investments to address climate resilience. This effort proposes funding for additional research to better understand and project the impacts of climate change to better prepare communities and infrastructure, and breakthrough technologies and resilient infrastructure to help the Nation become more prepared in the face of a changing climate.

Research and Development
(dollars in thousands)



The following examples are but a few of the many landscape-scale data sets, research, and tools supported by Interior.

The Geospatial Platform – The Geospatial Platform facilitates landscape-level planning by integrating data from Federal agencies and partners such as universities, private organizations, and tribal, State, and local governments. This data integration increases the applicability and value to identify potential land-use conflicts up front, saving time, resources, and litigation expenses, while allowing Interior to make better and timelier management decisions.

Landsat Data and Science Inform Resource Management and Climate Change Response – The USGS has 41 years of high resolution Landsat data that is used to document over time natural phenomena, such as drought and wildfire, and human activities, such as agriculture and urban development. The USGS uses Landsat data to examine land use and land cover change with significant benefits to land resource managers. In 2014 and 2015, USGS will release important new products providing scientific data coverage of the United States. Examples of these products include: an assessment and visualization tool that can be used to help guide the national biological carbon sequestration assessment; Landsat datasets to illustrate wildfire burned areas, surface water extent, and snow covered areas for monitoring current and predicting future drought and fire conditions; and the National Land Cover Database to provide modelers and researchers the ability to estimate potential impacts of land management decisions.

SPARROW-Informing Landscape Nutrient Management Decisions – The USGS SPARROW decision support system allows modelers and water resource managers to experiment with hypothetical scenarios and develop science-based estimates of the effects specific contaminant sources or changes may have on water quality across landscapes. This tool will be available over the Internet in a user friendly interface. The SPARROW model of the Mississippi River basin will be used to inform decisions related to hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. Over the next three years, USGS will initiate watershed studies to better understand nutrient transport and transformation and conduct regional stream-water quality studies to better inform models.

Three Dimensional Geologic Framework and Seismic Velocity Model – The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is a critical locus of water resources and endangered/threatened species. The ecosystem and the water resources are strongly affected by an extensive set of levees enclosing artificial islands created for agricultural use. Over the next three years, a landscape-scale 3-D geologic map and 3-D seismic velocity model will be completed for the entire Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. This information will enable a broad range of stakeholders to make landscape decisions with better

information about possible impacts to water quality and quantity, earthquake hazards, the protection of lives and property, and the overall economic vitality of the region.

Department of the Interior Climate Science Centers Research Support Decisionmaking – The CSCs provide science and technical expertise to help improve understanding of climate impacts on fish, wildlife, and landscapes. The CSCs provide meaningful linkages between research and specific decisions that Tribes, Federal, State, and local agencies make at a landscape scale. The Northeast and Southeast CSCs have begun research to evaluate coastal flooding impacts to migratory water birds along the eastern seaboard while considering the complex needs of local landowners, jurisdictions, and resource managers. In 2015, the North Central and the South Central CSCs will work with stakeholders to develop regional drought impact scenarios, create a common understanding of likely futures in the region, and coordinate adaptation actions.

Applying Science and Analysis at the Landscape Level

A landscape level approach allows Interior bureaus and offices to work more efficiently and effectively together and with other resource managers. Sharing information at this scale promotes collaboration to evaluate resource conditions and trends, identify potential opportunities and conflicts associated with conservation and resource development goals, and use this information to better inform and guide policy and management decisions.

The Mitigation Secretarial Order – Secretarial Order No. 3330 establishes a Department-wide mitigation strategy that focuses on mitigation opportunities at the landscape level. The Order is part of a larger effort required by President Obama's May 17, 2013, memorandum for all Federal agencies to reduce by half the aggregate timelines for major infrastructure projects by modernizing Federal infrastructure review and permitting policies, promoting interagency coordination and planning, and enhancing both efficiency and predictability for project applicants.

Order No. 3330 is intended to encourage early integration of mitigation measures in project design and planning, a landscape-scale approach to conservation, transparency and consistency of mitigation measures, and recognition of the effects of climate change on the environment. The Order is aimed at increasing permit efficiencies and financial predictability for developers while improving state and Federal regulatory agencies' ability to plan for long term and large-scale conservation investments. The Order's emphasis on landscape-scale mitigation is intended to allow agencies to more efficiently target mitigation resources to support critical, existing conservation goals at the landscape scale, rather than identify and fund smaller mitigation projects on a piecemeal basis as has been done in the past.

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Sage Grouse Landscape Planning Pilot – In support of the work of the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage the sagebrush landscape, USGS in collaboration with partners recently completed a sage grouse National Research Strategy defining high priority science needs for landscape scale decisionmaking. Over the next few years, USGS will conduct a pilot project to use geospatial information on a landscape level to aid in the refinement of the interagency sage grouse strategy and will serve to assist FWS in making its upcoming listing decision.

Coastal Vulnerability – Decision makers require tools to forecast the vulnerability of coastal resources and communities to erosion and the increasing impacts of climate change and sea level rise. In 2014, USGS will document topography and bathymetry and analyze shoreline changes due to Hurricane Sandy that will inform future response and recovery actions. The USGS will also begin to model coastal change scenarios in 2014 and work to create a conservation plan in collaboration with FWS to use offshore sand deposits in the Gulf of Mexico as a source for replenishing the south island of the Chandeleur Islands as a way to decrease storm energy and enhance protection of coastal habitats.

Factors Affecting Water Quality and Wildlife in Priority Ecosystems – Improving our knowledge to facilitate planning and effective management of ecosystems is critical to the well-being of the Nation. Coastal and marsh ecosystems like the Everglades and the Chesapeake are nurseries for a diverse number of fisheries and support uses that are a

significant contributor to local economies. To understand the dynamics of these ecosystems and better predict the impacts of changes, Interior bureaus are implementing cross-agency strategies to pilot locally managed, public-private projects to restore ecosystem functions.

[Text Box]

Landscape Level Collaboration in the Chesapeake Bay

Interior has a key role in implementing the President's Chesapeake Bay Executive Order. The FWS and USGS are using landscape level science to investigate the relationships between habitats, water-quality conditions, and fish and wildlife in the Bay ecosystem in order to improve management regimes for habitat that is essential to sustain natural systems and local communities. The NPS and USGS are working with partners to expand a watershed-wide system approach for landscape and local level collaboration on resource conservation. In 2014, USGS will identify factors affecting the health of fisheries in the Bay watershed; analyze groundwater response to water-quality conditions and management practices; and investigate the natural processes affecting nutrients and implications for water-quality improvements. In 2015, USGS will implement and test a duck habitat model and the effects of toxic contaminants on fish-eating birds. The USGS will also analyze the combined effects of land and climate change on streamflow in the Bay watershed.

[End text box]

Global Warming Impacts on Key Natural Resources — Studies to collect data and understand the impacts of global climate change are funded by grants from Interior's regional CSCs and support President Obama's Climate Action Plan. The studies focus on how climate change will affect natural resources as well as management actions that may be taken to help mitigate such impacts. The research will help guide managers of parks, refuges and other cultural and natural resources to plan ways to better help species and ecosystems adapt to climate change.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives — The LCCs integrate scientific data and knowledge about the implications of management actions to improve understanding of climate change and other landscape scale management challenges. The 22 LCCs bring together Federal, State, and local governments along with Tribes, non-governmental organizations, universities, and interested public and private organizations to share information and collaboratively identify adaptive landscape-scale strategies. For example, the five LCCs in Alaska are working to update Alaska's National Hydrography Dataset to meet the needs of managers and guide infrastructure development and protect fish and wildlife populations.

The FWS employs its Science Investment and Accountability Schedule, comprised of eight interrelated Conservation Activity Areas and associated benchmarks, to guide its support for individual LCCs. Using a strategic habitat conservation framework, SIAS facilitates an iterative process of adaptive management, including biological planning, conservation design, delivery of conservation actions, decision-based monitoring, and assumption-driven research.

National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program — The I&M Program provides NPS managers with a broad-based understanding of the status and trends of natural resources under their purview. The NPS inventories natural resources under its stewardship and integrates the results into planning and resource management decisions. Over the next three years, NPS will complete vegetation-mapping inventories across the United States. This will assist park managers in the control of invasive species, restoration of natural habitats, and efforts needed to sustain wildlife populations.

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan — Federal, State, and local land managers are developing the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, a major component of California's renewable energy plan, to provide for renewable energy development and conservation of desert ecosystems. This planning effort incorporates information about the potential distribution of habitat of selected endangered species to guide conservation efforts and site solar energy development. For example, a new desert tortoise habitat model is targeted for publication in May 2014, and is expected to help forecast desert tortoise habitat as it might exist in 30 and 80 years. The model will produce information to guide adaptive management based on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and will inform BLM and FWS decisions.

National Park Service Call to Action — The NPS will manage its natural and cultural resources to increase resilience in the face of climate change and other stressors and collaborate with other land managers and partners to create, restore, and maintain landscape-scale connectivity. These efforts are guided by *A Call to Action*, the NPS vision for its second century. One goal of this strategy is to expand the NPS Migration Conservation Initiative to create a service-wide structure for conserving migratory species. Landscape-scale conservation of migratory wildlife requires the collaboration of national and international agencies and organizations to develop new and innovative technologies to identify key migration routes, and to design and implement scientifically valid monitoring and research projects to conserve migratory species habitat.

Implementing the Western Solar Energy Plan – Landscape level planning that guides siting and permitting decisions increases certainty for project developers, their investors, and utilities. At the same time, planning on a landscape-scale improves efforts to avoid, reduce, and mitigate resource risks and thereby serves as a better process to ensure conservation success. These efforts allow Interior and its bureaus to avoid litigation and streamline permitting.

The Solar Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision signed in October 2012, which aimed to identify solar energy zones to facilitate future utility scale solar energy development while reducing other resource conflicts, reflects the principle of pursuing resource conservation and mitigation at the landscape level. This document required the development of mitigation plans for each solar energy zone.

The Mitigation Strategy for the Dry Lake SEZ is the first mitigation plan that was completed by BLM under the solar EIS. Under this plan, solar companies that build power plants at the Dry Lake SEZ, which is 15 miles northeast of Las Vegas, would agree to pay a mitigation fee to compensate for degraded habitat. The fee would be usedto restore lands of similar character at the Gold Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern, a desert area imapcted several years ago by wildfires that charred native plants, fragmented critical tortoise habitat, and created a foothold for noxious weeds. The BLM would plant native creosote-bursage vegetation on burn scars and abandoned roads, beat back noxious weeds, mitigate future wildfires, and bolster ranger patrols. The project has been developed in concert with conservation and sportsmen's groups, the solar industry, and Las Vegas-area officials. The regional mitigation plan could offer more certainty for developers while yielding better conservation.



Burn scars from 2005 are still visible at Gold Butte. Mitigation fees from solar development would help BLM restore native vegetation.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, February 24, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Feb 24, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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OBAMA'S NEXT ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST TO CONGRESS TO INCLUDE SHIFT IN WILDFIRE FUNDING.
According to the New York Times (2/23, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Administration officials

said, "President Obama's annual budget request to Congress will propose a significant change in how the government pays to fight wildfires," which is "a move that they say reflects the ways in which climate change is increasing the risk for and cost of those fires." According to the Times, officials said that the proposal will include asking "Congress to pay the costs of fighting extreme wildfires in the same way it finances the Federal response to disasters like hurricanes and tornadoes." The Times reports that, "on Monday, Mr. Obama plans to describe his proposal at a meeting in Washington with governors of Western states that have been ravaged recently by severe drought and wildfires."

Also reporting on the story is the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (2/23, 343K).

Meanwhile, the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (2/23, 56K) urges lawmakers to pass the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act.

GAO REPORT POINTS TO PAY GAP FACING INTERIOR'S OIL, GAS PROGRAMS. Politico (2/22, Guillen, 464K) reports that the Interior Department is "facing major hurdles in hiring and retaining oil and gas oversight staff, like petroleum engineers and geologists, because of a slow hiring process and lower pay compared to the industry," according to the Government Accountability Office. The GAO says that "Interior is not doing everything it can to bridge the public-private salary gap." The report stated, "We recognize that the use of these incentives comes at a cost to other programmatic efforts. However, in the event that Interior applies for special salary rates for key oil and gas positions in the future... demonstrating that it has fully utilized its existing authorities can help support its request for such salary rates." The GAO recommends Interior "explore the bureaus' expanded use of recruitment, relocation, retention, and other incentives and systematically collect and analyze hiring data."

Also commenting is John Kemp for Reuters (2/21). Paying higher salaries is not a panacea. Skill shortages are plaguing both the public and private sectors as soaring oil and gas production has outstripped the number of experienced petroleum engineers and geologists. But unless federal salaries become competitive, regulatory agencies will continue to suffer staffing problems, and the backlog of drilling applications and inspections will act as a bottleneck to the expansion of oil and gas production.

NORTH DAKOTA GOV. DALRYMPLE MEETS WITH CABINET MEMBERS. KMOT-TV Minot, ND (2/24) reports that North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple met with members of President Obama's cabinet "to discuss issues that are important to North Dakota." Dalrymple urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "recognize North Dakota's rights to the natural flows of the Missouri River and abandon any plans proposed by the U.S. Army Core of Engineers to restrict or charge a fee for access to the river." In addition, "tribal court and law enforcement issues were also addressed...including the need for stable tribal courts and the need to improve the sharing of information between tribal law enforcement, and local and state law enforcement agencies."

Also reporting on the story is KFYR-TV Bismarck, ND (2/24, 1K).

AUDIT FIND NUMEROUS FEDERAL LAWS BROKEN BY UDALL FOUNDATION. The Arizona Daily Star (2/23, 335K) reports that "more details are available about wasteful spending and financial management problems at the Tucson-based Udall Foundation," according to an audit report. Documents from Interior Department's Office of the Inspector General show that auditors discovered "numerous violations of federal laws and rules from 2006 through 2012 — some of which they believed could be criminal."

VIRGIN ISLANDS TO RECEIVE $60.5 MILLION ADVANCE OF RUM COVER-OVER TAX REVENUES. The Virgin Islands Daily News (2/23, 49K) reports that "federal officials have reconsidered a decision about the territory's advance on rum excise tax revenues and are planning to release additional funding soon that could help the territory bridge an anticipated budget shortfall for Fiscal Year 2014." The funds that the Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs has "decided to release, though, will only partially address the territory's projected $70.5 million Fiscal Year 2014 budget gap, likely amounting to less than half of what is needed to close the shortfall." According to a spokeswoman for the Interior Department, Insular Affairs has approved a $60,841,505 payment.

REP. BISHOP PRAISES LEGISLATURE ON PUBLIC LANDS STANCE. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (2/23, 343K) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop "told the Utah Legislature Friday he hopes to be named as chairman of the US House Committee on Natural Resources to help protect Utah's lands for the next session of Congress." He also "commended lawmakers for a strong stance on public lands in recent years and criticized the federal

government for its lands policy." Bishop said, "You've shown not only that the state of Utah cares about public lands, but the state of Utah has the ability to use those lands and protect those lands better than the federal government can do."

US, CANADA, AND MEXICO TO COLLABORATE ON CLIMATE ACTION. Bloomberg News (2/22, Adragna, 1.91M) reported that President Obama said that the US, Canada, and Mexico will "work together to adopt and meet new fuel efficiency standards for heavy-duty trucks" and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and called for "immediate action" to help mitigate the devastating impact climate change will have on the economy and environment.

Environmentalists Vow To Emphasize Climate Change In Midterm Elections. The Washington Post (2/24, Eilperin, 4.28M) reported wealthy environmentalists have vowed to emphasize climate change in the midterm elections and threatened to withhold money from candidates supporting the Keystone XL oil pipeline, but adds that "the Democratic Party's relationship with the environmental movement remains...tom between fervent believers and centrists reluctant to go against traditional energy industry interests that play a major role in their state's economies." Republicans say that climate change is a losing issue for Democrats, "who will be seen as siding with environmental extremists."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR APPROVES TWO SOLAR PROJECTS. Additional coverage of the Interior Department's approval of two large-scale solar power projects in California and Nevada was provided by the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (2/23, 110K).

HECHO DIRECTOR: LATINOS SUPPORT OUTDOOR RECREATION. In an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (2/23, 288K), Rod Torrez, Director, HECHO (Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hiking, and Outdoors), notes that "43 percent of us (and more than half of all male Latinos) consider ourselves a hunter, angler or both, and enjoy public lands and outdoor recreation." In fact, according to Colorado College's bipartisan Conservation in the West "Latinos are more likely than other ethnic groups to vote for candidates who favor conservation and to vote against those who don't." He concludes that most Latinos "will vote to protect" the outdoors.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

CONSEQUENCES OF INVESTIGATION ON BROWN FOUNDATION REMAINS UNCERTAIN. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (2/22, 194K) reports that "the consequences the Brown Foundation of Education Equity, Excellence and Research may face as a result of a federal investigation that found financial irregularities and 'unallowable, unreasonable and unsupported' spending by the foundation remains uncertain." The US Attorney's Office for the District of Kansas has "declined to prosecute the case, but an administrative referral is being made to the National Park Service for appropriate action." David Smith, superintendent at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, said, "The National Park Service is still reviewing potential administrative actions."

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (2/22, 194K) editorializes that "the recent federal report findings questioning spending of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research should not detract from the legacy of the landmark 1954 US Supreme Court case overturning school segregation, nor from the important work that has been done to share the case's story and significance." According to the editorial, "while it doesn't excuse any spending that might not meet the stipulations of the cooperative agreement, the park service has a duty to follow up with the required oversight." It adds that the NPS "also must address a climate that has employees viewing grantees such as the foundation as 'untouchable.'"

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS TO SPEAK MARCH 4. The My Eastern Shore MD (2/23) reports that NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis will "visit Washington College on Thursday, March 4, to talk about the mission of the NPS and its role in shaping national identity." Jarvis' presentation, "History, Heritage and the National Parks: Promoting the Relevance of the American Narrative," will be followed by a reception.

SEN. SCHUMER PUSHES FOR JAMAICA BAY FUNDING. The Forum (NY) (2/21) reports that "saying the

government needs to do more to better protect Jamaica Bay and the Rockaway peninsula from future storms," Sen. Chuck Schumer "urged federal officials to support five separate projects totaling $17.5 million that he said would prove crucial during future weather events like Superstorm Sandy." Schumer is asking the Interior Department to "funnel millions into projects that would make the bay a more effective buffer against future coastal storms, as well as making Rockaway's coastline more resilient, the lawmaker announced last week." The article notes that "the projects Schumer is supporting include the Sunset Cove salt marsh and maritime forest restoration, Rockaway East resiliency preserve, Spring Creek salt marsh and coastal upland restoration, Jamaica Bay head of bay oyster restoration, and Jamaica Bay bathymetric and sediment model."

NPS, DCTO DISCUSS FUTURE OF CIRCULATOR BUS SERVICE. In its "Dr. Gridlock" blog, the Washington Post (2/21, Thomson, 4.28M) reports that "managers of the D.C. Circulator bus system will talk about potential new routes, including the one planned for the National Mall, and a possible fare increase at a forum Tuesday." According to the article, "topics for discussion at the forum include the location of stops for the Mall route," and "possibilities for further expanding the system also will be discussed, as will the question of whether it should maintain its schedule of service every 10 minutes on all routes or vary that to meet different demands on different routes."

NPS REVEALS PROPOSAL FOR NEW VISITOR CENTER AT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK. The AP (2/23, 417K) reports that the NPS has "unveiled its proposal for a new visitor center in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park." According to Park Superintendent Valerie Naylor, the NPS is "moving as quickly as possible on the new project."

ZION NATIONAL PARK SEEKS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE POPULATION OF DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP. The Deseret (UT) News (2/24, 274K) reports that "what began as a dozen desert bighorn sheep reintroduced into Zion National Park in 1973 has now become the largest and possibly healthiest herd of bighorn sheep in Utah." On Feb. 14, Zion National Park "announced a proposal to partner with DWR in managing bighorn sheep in and outside the park to ensure a sustainable and healthy population."

WEATHER PREVENTS RANGERS FROM CHECKING WISCONSIN ICE CAVES. The AP (2/21, 417K) reports that NPS rangers have been "unable to check Lake Superior's ice to determine if it's safe for people to hike to the popular ice caves near the Apostle Islands." According to the NPS, "rangers were unable to go out Friday because of high winds and white-out conditions."

MONROE COUNTY COMMISSION CRITICIZES PROPOSED FISHING LIMITS IN BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK. The Key West (FL) Keynoter (2/22, 34K) reports that the Monroe County Commission told Biscayne National Park's superintendent Wednesday to "shrink or move a proposed limited-fishing zone" in the park. Commissioners decided "to send a resolution to the National Park Service that states the county board's opposition to Alternative 6, apparently the preferred option for Biscayne National Park's updated management plan."

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG SHUTTLE TO BE SHUT DOWN. The AP (2/23, Press, 4.28M) reports that a free shuttle service that transported passengers from the Colonial Williamsburg Regional Visitor Center to Jamestown, Yorktown, Busch Gardens and Water Country will be discontinued. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation "assumed the financial and operating responsibility for the bus service to Jamestown and Yorktown in 2012." However, "the foundation said this week that it's not feasible to continue the service in the future given its other priorities and financial pressures."

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK RECEIVES $150,000 GRANT. The AP (2/23, 2.88M) reports that the Voyageurs National Park Association has announced a three-year, $150,000 grant for the park. The article notes that "the Landmark Grant kicks off three years of projects in celebration of Voyageurs and is meant to usher in the next 50 years." According to Voyageurs Superintendent Mike Ward, "the grant will help the park serve the public and protect its resources where its own budgets are lacking." The money will be "used to continue and jump start projects involving land preservation, site restoration, research, education, youth engagement and visitor services."

PUBLIC SUPPORT SOUGHT FOR NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. The Portland (ME) Press Herald (2/23, 279K) reports that "the recently dubbed Katahdin Woods and Waters Recreation Area, the parkland owned and recently

opened to more user groups by Roxanne Quimby and her children, went on Facebook in the last month." Also, "in January, Elliotsville Plantation, the nonprofit agency that manages the land," launched its website, www.katahdinwoods.org. Elliotsville Plantation's new spokesman, Ian Grady said "the hope is to build use, to welcome a wide range of users and then take it from there – the end goal being the national park Quimby has wanted to build on the land for a decade."

KING: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FLUBS MOVE OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES FOR BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORY. Colbert I. King writes in his Washington Post (2/22, 4.28M) column that the National Park Service may be "clueless" for its decision to relocate the collection of the National Archives for Black Women's History to a Maryland suburb and out of the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site in the District of Columbia. King points out that "when it comes to African American women, it's hard to come up with a more storied 20th-century figure than Mary McLeod Bethune," and the park service appears to be particularly clueless for getting into "an ironically timed struggle" over the archives during African American History Month. As a result, "it's cleanup time."

WOLVES OF ISLE ROYALE COULD MOVE THROUGH ICE BRIDGE. The Chicago Tribune (2/24, 2.32M) editorializes that "possible savior has intervened" for the wolves at Isle Royale, "in the form of the polar vortex." According to the paper, "a bitterly cold winter has created a rare ice bridge connecting Minnesota and Ontario to Isle Royale — the first one since 2008," and "wolves, which are far more numerous on the mainland, now have an avenue to make the move offshore."

Bureau of Land Management:

WILD HORSE AND BURRO DIVISION CHIEF WARNS OF CONSEQUENCES WITHOUT "DRASTIC CHANGES". The AP (2/23, Press, 4.28M) reports that "in a strongly worded internal memo" to an assistant director of the BLM, Wild Horse and Burro Division Chief Joan Guilfoyle "warned last summer that it is headed for financial collapse unless 'drastic changes' are made in the decades-old roundup policy she said could be setting US rangeland-improvement goals back 20 years." Guilfoyle "recommended suspending all roundups until thousands of mustangs currently in federal corrals are sold or adopted." Guilfoyle also said "sterilization should be considered, and she recommended for the first time euthanizing wild horses on the range 'as an act of mercy if animals decline to near-death condition as a result of declining water and forage resources.'"

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (2/23, Sonner, 417K), Yahoo! (2/23, Sonner, 17.91M) , the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (2/22, 165K) , the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (2/23, 343K) , the Bend (OR) Bulletin (2/23, 94K), and the Dubuque Telegraph Herald (2/23, 88K).

BLM CREATING FULL-TIME BURNING MAN POSITION. The AP (2/21, 417K) reports that the BLM is "creating its full-time position dedicated to the annual Burning Man event in northern Nevada's Black Rock Desert." BLM officials say they "plan to hire someone to oversee contracts, coordinate law enforcement and maintain safety at the week-long counterculture festival leading up to Labor Day."

2,000 ACRES IN WASHOE VALLEY PROTECTED THROUGH TRANSFER TO BLM. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (2/23, 165K) reports that the Washoe County Board of Commissioners has "received confirmation that nearly 2,000 acres of land in Washoe Valley known as Winters Ranch has been officially preserved for public open space through a transfer to federal ownership under the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Jan. 17, 2014." Chairman David Humke said, "The land is now protected and that makes a lot of people throughout the County happy."

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GOSHUTE RESERVATION JOINS LAWSUIT AGAINST BLM. The Indian Country Today Media Network (2/23, 21K) reports that the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation has joined the Great Basin Water Network's recent lawsuit against the BLM and the Interior Department. The lawsuit "challenges BLM's decision to grant a right-of-way for a water pipeline that would destroy irreplaceable cultural and natural resources." CTGR Tribal Chairperson Madeline Greymountain said, "We cannot look the other way when the future of our people and homelands are in the hands of those who have their priorities mixed up. The federal government has failed in its trust responsibility, therefore CTGR has no recourse but to file suit against BLM for failure to protect our interests, which is a legal and moral obligation of the highest fiduciary standard."

FEDERAL AGENCIES CRITICIZED FOR SHOWING LITTLE CONCERN FOR NEVADA. The Ely Daily Times (2/21, 776) editorializes that the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, "appointed by Gov. Brian Sandoval to try to stop the greater sage grouse from being listed under the Endangered Species act, has accused" the BLM and Forest Service of "creating an action plan that contradicts federal law mandates to manage public lands for multiple use." The council said the two federal agencies "largely ignored the concept of predator control as a means of keeping the grouse population viable, as well as the positive impact on the sagebrush ecosystem that comes from livestock grazing." The paper argues that "the federal land agencies are showing no concern for the welfare of Nevadans who have already been hard hit by the Great Recession."

REP. LABRADOR SUPPORTS GRAZING IMPROVEMENT ACT. In an op-ed for the Idaho Statesman (2/23, 205K), Rep. Raul Labrador writes in support of the Grazing Improvement Act. He argues that the Grazing Improvement Act will "help ranchers across Idaho who are increasingly burdened with red tape by providing them a streamlined permitting process by extending the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service (BLM) livestock grazing permits from 10 to 20 years." According to Labrador, "this will preserve ranching jobs and give ranchers better economic security," and "it will also provide relief to federal land managers who battle a growing backlog of pending permits, largely delayed due to endless litigation often generated by environmental groups."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS GRANTS PROTECTION FOR TWO TEXAS SALAMANDERS. The AP (2/21, 417K) reports the FWS announced Friday the granting of protections for the Georgetown salamander and the Salado salamander. The agency "says the small amphibians are endangered by habitat degradation and changes in the flow and quality of water in the springs where they live." The FWS also "proposes adopting a new Georgetown city ordinance aimed at reducing contamination from spills and creation of buffer zones around the salamanders' habitat."

Also reporting on the story are the Austin (TX) American Statesman (2/23, 456K), the Killeen (TX) Daily Herald (2/23, 40K), and KWTX-TV Waco, TX (2/23, 48K).

DESERT REFUGE VISITORS CENTER CELEBRATED. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (2/23, 437K) reports that the new Corn Creek visitor center at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge was celebrated on Friday. According to the article, FWS Director Dan Ashe was excited for the education about wildlife conservation the new visitor center will bring. In her opening speech refuge manager Amy Sprunger said, "This is really one of the best days of my life."

FWS TO STUDY "SWIMMING ABILITIES" OF FISH. The Washington Times (2/23, Elizabeth Harrington —, Beacon, 417K) reports that the FWS will "spend $175,000 for a study on the 'swimming abilities' of fish in the Northern Rockies, the agency announced on Thursday." Montana State University's (MSU) Department of Ecology will administer the study in conjunction with the FWS Bozeman Fish Technology Center in Montana.

DUKE ENERGY SEALS SECOND NORTH CAROLINA COAL ASH SPILL. The Los Angeles Times (2/22, Zucchino, 3.07M) reported that North Carolina's Department of Environment and Natural Resources said on Friday that Duke Energy has managed to seal a second ruptured pipe that has been spilling toxic coal ash into the Dan River with a concrete plug. The state environmental agency reported on Friday that latest tests of river water show levels of aluminum and iron at levels exceeding state surface water standards, although levels are continuing the drop.

Federal Officials Probe Relationship Between North Carolina Regulators, Duke Energy. The Christian Science Monitor (2/22, Jonsson, 540K) reported that the EPA and US attorneys are now scrutinizing the relationship between Duke Energy and North Carolina regulators in light of claims that "regulators went easy on Duke Energy with regards to its inventory of aging and seeping coal ash lagoons." The North Carolina Department of Energy and Natural Resources maintains that they have "done nothing wrong" and "are actively pursuing fixes and fines from Duke," which says that "it's cooperating fully with the federal probe;" however, environmental groups say that they have had to push the agency to pursue action against Duke Power's coal ash holdings.

This story is also reported by the AP (2/22) and the State (SC) (2/22, Fretwell, 280K).

REFORM OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT DEBATED. In an op-ed for the Salem (OR) Capital Press (2/20, 113K), Rep. Doc Hastings argues for reforming the Endangered Species Act. He note sthat the ESA Congressional Working Group pointed out "four key areas where improvements could be made to make the law more effective for species and helpful for our communities." According to Hastings, "the first is to restore the goal of species recovery and ensure greater transparency and prioritization of ESA decisions;" the second is "ESA litigation and settlement reform;" the third is "to empower states, local governments, tribes and private property owners on ESA decisions that affect them, their citizens, and their land;" and the fourth "is transparency and accountability of ESA data and science."

On the other hand, in an op-ed for the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (2/23, 54K), Dave Chadwick, the executive director of the Montana Wildlife Federation, argues that "the ESA isn't broken," since "over the last 40 years, the law has functioned as intended to protect species that face imminent extinction." According to Chadwick, "if our elected officials really want to improve how the law works, they would finish their promise to fund preventive conservation programs like the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and State Wildlife Grants."

FWS FACES DECISION ON GRAY WOLF. For the "Wild Things" blog of Slate Magazine (2/21, 9.37M), Lance Richardson writes that "the gray wolf is one of the most hotly contested symbols in the conservation debate today." He notes that "this month, following a brief hiatus, arguments have reignited with the release of an independent review paper from the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis at the University of California-Santa Barbara," which found that the "delisting proposal is not, in fact, based on the 'best available science.'"

PLANS TO BUILD SPACEPORT IN MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CRITICIZED. For the Florida Times-Union (2/22, 427K), Ron Littlepage criticizes the plan to build a private launch site in the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. He notes that Space Florida is "planning for 24 launches a year from a 200-acre site within the refuge," but that would "require shutting down access to parts of the refuge in advance of each launch and would impact Mosquito Lagoon and Canaveral National Seashore, which generates another $67 million in local economic impact." Littlepage suggests that "a workable alternative would be for Space Florida to work from the NASA launch sites within the Kennedy Space Center, which have worked well in coordination with the refuge for decades."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WILDLIFE GROUPS OPPOSE EAGLE PERMIT RULE. The Watertown (NY) Daily Times (2/23, 63K) reports that "concerned about the bald eagle population that nests along the St. Lawrence River, three conservation groups have joined together to oppose a federal rule allowing wind turbine operators to have a 30-year license to kill or injure the birds without penalty." According to the article, "Save the River and 1000 Islands Land Trust, both of Clayton, and the Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative of Ontario endorsed a Feb. 18 letter sent to the US Department of Interior that urges the agency to withdraw its rule approved last December."

In a column for the Oklahoma Daily (2/23, 32K), Corbin Brown criticizes the Interior Departments decision to allow "wind farms permits to kill eagles, without legal ramifications, for up to 30 years." Brown claims that "the grossly corrupt ties between the wind industry and the US federal government extend to other areas." For instance, "in addition to issuing five-year-long, and now decades-long, licenses to kill numerous formerly protected bird species in the name of 'clean' energy, our government has provided the wind industry with tax credits worth tens of billions of dollars." Brown concludes that "crony capitalism such as this demonstrates the federal government's disregard for much of its environmental protectorate and the deadly influence of political favoritism."

SOLAR PLANTS LEAD TO BIRD DEATHS. The Orange County (CA) Register (2/24, Danelski, 675K) reports that 380 birds were found dead on the grounds of three California solar farms during 2013, with 100 having died in October during migration. The Register reports that they do not have data on the amount of dead birds that would be found in a similarly sized stretch of desert land. Roger Johnson, California Energy Commission deputy director

for transmission and environmental protection, suggests that one solution may be a sonic signal at the edge of the farms that deters the birds from flying over the solar plant. The Register cites statistics from the American Bird Conservancy that 573,000 birds are killed annually by US wind farms, and between 300 million and one billion birds die due to glass windows.

Onshore Energy Development:

BUSH-ERA WATER RULES FOR COAL MINES STRUCK DOWN. The Environment & Energy Publishing (2/23, 705) reports that a D.C. federal judge has struck down controversial water regulations that rolled back stream protections near mountaintop removal coal mining sites, finding that the federal government violated the Endangered Species Act by ignoring evidence that the rule put critical habitats at risk. US District Judge Barbara J. Rothstein rejected the National Mining Association's arguments that the rule must be remanded to the OSM for consultation with the FWS. Rothstein found that OSM had failed to consult with the FWS before issuing the new standards.

Also reporting on the story is the Law 360 (2/23, 18K).

FORMER SECRETARY SALAZAR AT ODDS WITH OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OVER FRACKING RULES. The SNL Financial (2/23, 22K) reports that "in a speech that put him at odds with the department he used to run," former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar "on Feb. 21 suggested that environmental concerns about new oil and gas drilling techniques are overstated and warned that attempts to rein in the shale boom could endanger the US economy." In his keynote address, Salazar "dismissed fracking fears." The article notes that "Salazar's views on fracking safety are markedly different from other former Obama administration officials who have begun to publicly question the benefits of increased natural gas drilling."

BLM: MOST COLORADO GAS LEASING IS ON PRIVATE LAND. The AP (2/23, Harmon, 417K) reports that "leasing for natural gas in Colorado is a largely private affair, though it is less so in the northwest corner of the state," according to the BLM. BLM spokesman David Boyd said that "ninety percent of drill-permit applications in Colorado in 2012, the most recent year available, were on other than federal lands," and "the remaining 10 percent were on federal lands."

PLANS FOR EVERGLADES OIL EXPLORATION RAISES ENVIRONMENTALIST CONCERNS. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (2/20, Gibson, 690K) reported that preparations to explore vast oil deposits at the western edge of the Everglades has raised concern among environmental activists that drilling will threaten endangered wildlife and pose a hazard to drinking water. Although leases obtained by energy companies for seismic exploration have not raised objections from state or Federal agencies, the EPA has scheduled a public hearing on March 11 to hear public concerns prior to issuing a permit for the construction of an injection well.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM LOOKS TO INCREASE CAP ON OIL SPILL LIABILITIES. FuelFix (2/21, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has proposed that the government increase the amount companies would have to pay for economic damage from oil spills from $75 million to $134 million. FuelFix reports that the liability cap has not been raised administratively since 1990. FuelFix reports that the liability cap "is waived entirely if there was gross negligence, willful misconduct or other violations" and that "companies also are required to pay the entire cost of cleaning up after offshore spills."

Also reporting on the story are The Hill (2/22, Devaney, 194K), the New Orleans Times-Picayune (2/23, 700K), the Law 360 (2/23, 18K), and the Upstream Online (2/23, 20K).

BP ECHOES FBI'S FREEH ON DISPUTED OIL SPILL CLAIM. The AP (2/21, Mcgill) reported BP is urging a Federal court to disallow a $7.9 million Gulf oil spill claim awarded to Andry Law Firm, saying approval of the claim would undermine the integrity of the claims process. BP's filing in New Orleans on Friday cited a report by FBI director Louis Freeh alleging attorney Jon Andry and others tried to corrupt the settlement process, using a lawyer on the staff of claims administrator Patrick Juneau to expedite their firm's claims. Andry and his lawyers maintain his innocence, countering that Freeh had a conflict of interest in the case stemming from his connection

to a law firm that represents BP.

BP Said To Have "Buyer's Remorse" Over Claims Process. In a column for the Los Angeles Times (2/22, Hiltzik, 3.07M), Michael Hiltzik suggested that BP is having "buyer's remorse" regarding the terms of its oil spill damage claims process. Hiltzik asserts that the company has "mounted a frontal assault on the settlement," during "a time when one would expect it to display maximum agreeability and contrition." He argues that BP, who expected fraudulent claims, need not "upend the entire claims process" by asking judges for its complete halt, pointing out that a claims appeal process exists and that the company has "vigorously" taken advantage of it already.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR TELLS CALIFORNIA FARMERS NOT TO EXPECT FEDERAL WATER DELIVERIES. The CBS Evening News (2/21, story 2, 2:10, Pelley, 5.58M) reported, "The Federal government essentially told California farmers, 'You're on your own. Don't expect any water from Federal lands.' That could be devastating. Nearly 95 percent of California is in a drought. The state had already told farmers it had no water to share." Carter Evans added, "Scott, this is the first time California's central valley has been denied water from the Federal government's resources of reservoirs and canals. California's farmers grow half of America's produce."

The AP (2/23, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "without a lot more rain and snow, many farmers caught in California's drought can expect to receive no irrigation water this year from a vast federally controlled system of rivers, canals and reservoirs interlacing the state, federal officials say." The BOR "released its first outlook of the year on Friday, saying the agency would continue to monitor rain and snowfall, but current levels confirmed that the state was in one of its driest periods in recorded history." The article notes that "farmers who rely on the federally run Central Valley Project received only 20 percent of their normal water allotment last year and were expecting bad news this year."

The Los Angeles Times (2/21, Boxall, 3.07M) reports that the BOR "even plans to give districts with the most senior water rights only 40% of their contract supply – the deepest cut ever for that group." As a result, "farm groups estimate that more than a half million acres of crop land will remain unplanted this year for lack of water." BOR spokesman Louis Moore said "if storms expected in Northern California next week and in early March improve conditions, the allocations could go up."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (2/21, Press, 4.28M), the Boston Herald (2/23, 643K), the Denver Post (2/23, Press, 949K), and USA Today (2/21, Ap, 5.82M).

Also reporting on the story is Bloomberg News (2/21, 1.91M), the San Francisco Chronicle (2/24, Alexander, 2.88M), the U-T San Diego (2/21, 647K), Reuters (2/21, 2.32M), the MarketWatch (2/22, 967K), and the Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times (2/22, 162K).

Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the Los Angeles Times (2/21, Boxall, 3.07M), the New York Times (2/23, Revkin, 9.61M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (2/22, 749K), and the Santa Clarita Valley (CA) Signal (2/23, 13K).

DELTA TUNNELS REVIEW PERIOD EXTENDED BY 60 DAYS. The Fresno (CA) Bee (2/21, 327K) reports that state and federal officials have announced that the public will have more time to review and comment on immense documents describing Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed twin tunnels project. Instead of ending on April 13, as originally planned, the public comment period will be extended through June 13.

Also reporting on the story is the Stockton (CA) Record (2/22, 123K).

Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (2/23, 731K) and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (2/20, 749K).

BOR FORECASTS FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS FLOWS. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (2/23, 94K) reports that the BOR has "estimated a banner year for Fryingpan-Arkansas flows — with a disclaimer." Roy Vaughan, BOR's

manager for the Fry-Ark Project, said, "The forecast is based on average conditions for the rest of the spring. We've seen it continue to snow and rain, and we've seen everything stop in March."

Empowering Native American Communities:

ALTURAS ROCKED BY DEADLY SHOOTING AT TRIBAL MEETING. The Los Angeles Times (2/21, Willon, Dolan, Gold, 3.07M) reports that the killing of four people in Alturas has "left residents reeling and trying to understand the motive." According to the article, "the suspect, Cherie Lash Rhoades, 44, previously had been chairwoman of the small Northern Paiute tribe, but the meeting where the four were shot to death was being held to evict her and her son from the rancheria." The article notes that "the dead included Rhoades' brother and the current tribal chairman, Rurik Davis, 50; her niece Angel Penn, 19; and nephew Glenn Calonicco, 30. Lynn Russo, 47, the tribal administrator, also was killed."

The AP (2/22, Press, 4.28M) reports that the BIA "sent a team to Alturas on Saturday to provide grief counselling for anyone wanting it," according to agency spokeswoman Nedra Darling.

The Los Angeles Times (2/23, Willon, 3.07M) reports that "Rhoades' temper was well known among the many small Indian tribes settled in Modoc County, tribal members say."

Also reporting on the story is the Christian Science Monitor (2/23, Knickerbocker, 540K).

CHUKCHANSI DISPUTE HOLDS UP $1 MILLION IN FUNDS. The AP (2/23, 417K) reports that "a dispute about tribal leadership is holding up about $1 million in donations to Madera County schools, animal welfare agencies, tribal organizations and veterans groups." The Chukchansi tribe is "obliged to donate $1 million annually to local groups under a contract with the county," but "a legal tussle between two factions of the tribe has brought its leadership and the funds into question." However, the BIA "last week said it intends to recognize seven members of the 2010 tribal council, including the second group's leader."

Also reporting on the story is the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (2/21, 86K).

GRAND RIVER TRIBAL RECOGNITION BEING "ACTIVELY CONSIDERED". The MLive (2/23, 334K) reports that the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians were "notified by the Office of Federal Acknowledgment in a Dec. 12 letter to the tribal chairman that its 1994 request for federal recognition was being 'actively considered.'" The BIA will decide by Dec. 1 a "proposed finding" to determine if the tribe has "met seven criteria to allow department Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn to move toward a final decision." If Washburn "were to grant the tribe federal recognition, it would move forward plans of a development group to put an Indian casino at the Harbor 31 business park development on Muskegon Lake."

Top National News:

RICE WARNS RUSSIA NOT TO INTERVENE IN UKRAINE. The crisis in Ukraine continues to dominate front-page headlines in the nation's major dailies. In fact, several papers, including the Wall Street Journal, New York Times and Washington Post, have multiple front-page stories on the latest developments. However, only one of the two network news broadcasts that aired Sunday night reported the story.

As an interim government was sworn in Sunday, NBC Nightly News (2/23, story 3, 0:55, Holt, 7.86M) reported, the US said it "stands on the side of the Ukrainian people and...it will be a big mistake for Russia to intervene militarily in the crisis." NBC (Welker) added National Security Adviser Susan Rice, appearing exclusively on "Meet the Press" Sunday morning, "rejected the idea that Washington and Moscow were returning to Cold War-style tensions, saying they both agree Ukraine should remain unified, but strongly cautioned Russia not to get engaged militarily." Rice was shown saying: "That would be a grave mistake. It's not in the interest of Ukraine or of Russia or of Europe or the United States to see the country split. It's in nobody's interest to see violence return and the situation escalate."

Rice said on NBC's Meet The Press (2/23, Gregory), "From the US point of view, our interests have been clear all along. We want to see a de-escalation of the violence, constitutional change, we want to see democratic

elections in very short order. And the opportunity for the people of Ukraine to come together in a coalition."

The Washington Post (2/24, Hicks, 4.28M) quotes Rice as saying, "This is not about the US and Russia. This is about whether the people of Ukraine have the opportunity to fulfill their aspirations and be democratic and be part of Europe, which they choose to be." Regarding President Viktor Yanukovych's whereabouts, she said he "left Kiev...in an orderly fashion," taking his personal possessions with him.

The AP (2/24) reports Rice also said that in coming weeks, the Administration "will cooperate with Europe and international organizations to help the Ukrainian economy, which she described as fragile." Bloomberg News (2/24, Lerman, 1.91M) quotes Rice as saying, "They need to reform and they need financing," but "the United States will play a role, along with our partners in Europe." Rice's remarks are also reported by AFP (2/24), the Washington Times (2/24, Richardson, 417K), and The Hill's (2/24, Devaney, 194K) "Global Affairs" blog.

The Wall Street Journal (2/24, A1, Solomon, Mock, Fidler, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports on its front page this morning that the Administration has already begun working with the EU on a bailout for Ukraine, but asked Moscow to participate in the effort as well. Treasury Secretary Lew reportedly discussed the issue with Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Australia. And according to senior Administration officials, President Obama and other US officials have spoken with Russian President Vladimir Putin and his top aides over the weekend.

The AP notes that Secretary of State Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov agreed during a phone call Saturday "on the need to resolve the situation without violence." Reuters (2/24, Dunham, Krasny) notes that Kerry has also been in touch with some of Ukraine's opposition leaders and Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns will travel to Kiev this week.

Another Reuters (2/24, Zinets, Prentice) report says EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton is expected to arrive in Kiev later today to discuss a possible bailout. And AFP (2/24, Jean-Robert) reports that the interim leadership "made clear it will revive plans Yanukovych scrapped to push Ukraine closer to the European Union."

On NBC Nightly News (2/23, story 2, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M), Richard Engel went on to report that "a new government is now being formed," and, "in a series of rapid-fire votes, parliament made its speaker interim president and issued an arrest warrant for" Yanukovych's arrest. But Engel added that "the challenges ahead may already be emerging," and noted that in the eastern part of the country, "there were marches in support of Yanukovych and Moscow."

The Washington Post (2/24, A1, Booth, 4.28M) reports on its front page that the opposition took "swift, bold action" on Sunday to "consolidate power and transform the government, sacking ministers, freeing jailed protesters and announcing detentions of former officials, even as ordinary Ukrainians confessed they weren't really sure who was running the country or where it was headed."

The Kyiv Post (2/24, Forina, 73K) reports the nation's parliament "did a lot over the weekend," but "big issues remain, including finding a new prime minister and forming a new government as well as renewing negotiations with the European Union over an association and free trade agreement that Yanukovych shelved."

In a front-page story, the New York Times (2/24, A1, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) too says Ukrainian lawmakers "moved swiftly" to "assert control" and "restore calm" amid "sudden fears that the country might fall into civil war." Parliament speaker Oleksandr V. Turchynov was granted "the authority to carry out the duties of the president of Ukraine," and he later addressed the nation, seeking to "soothe any remaining fear of the police and security services." But Yanukovych's whereabouts "remained unknown," and Russia's Lavrov "continued to insist that Ukrainian opposition leaders had 'seized power' illegally" as Moscow recalled its ambassador to Kiev.

USA Today (2/24, Dorell, 5.82M) reports the country "remains on a precarious cusp and vulnerable to separatist elements and Russian intervention."

The AP (2/24, Heintz, Charlton) says Russia's "next moves in the crisis were not immediately clear, but Washington warned Moscow not to intervene militarily." In a second, front-page story this morning, the

Washington Post (2/24, A1, Englund, 4.28M) says Yanukovych's ouster is a "big setback" for the Kremlin, but Putin "will play the hand he has now been dealt and is unlikely to waste time or energy regretting the ones he lost." Analysts say it is not "in Russia's interest to keep Ukraine chuming."

In a front-page analysis, the New York Times (2/24, A1, Myers, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says Yanukovych's ouster has "for now delivered a profound setback" to Putin's "strategy to deepen political and economic ties with the country and thus keep it from embracing Europe." Now, he "faces the task of reasserting Russia's influence," raising "fears that Russia would use the disenchanted populations there as a pretext to intervene."

Future Role For Tymoshenko Uncertain. The Wall Street Journal (2/24, Marson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports former Ukrainian prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko was released from prison on Saturday and addressed crowds later that night in Kiev's Independence Square. Aides said Tymoshenko now plans to seek medical treatment outside Ukraine, and she said Sunday that she won't seek the office of prime minister.

AFP (2/24, Savochenko) says Tymoshenko "has remained coy about her political future" since being released Saturday, while Bloomberg News (2/23, Krasnolutska, Arkhipov, 1.91M) notes that her time in prison "has taken a toll" on her health and "may have been a factor in her request yesterday not to be considered for prime minister."

The New York Times (2/24, A1, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in a front-page story, notes that while Tymoshenko was greeted Saturday with enthusiasm, some protesters may be "reluctant to automatically accept as a leader someone who was not with them in the streets." And while she said she is not interested in being prime minister, some believe she may instead be eyeing May's presidential election.

Details Of Yanukovych's Lavish Lifestyle Emerge. The New York Times (2/24, A1, Higgins, Erlanger, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports on its front page that even though President Viktor Yanukovych had agreed to a peace deal on Friday, by late afternoon "hundreds of riot police officers guarding the presidential compound and nearby government buildings had vanished." By the end of the day, Yanukovych was on a plane to the eastern city of Kharkiv.

The Wall Street Journal (2/24, A1, Cullison, Marson, Kolyandr, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports on its front page that Yanukovych never arrived in Kharkiv after having been abandoned by his closest allies. While he appeared determined to stay in office as recently as late Thursday, the Journal says even the Kremlin appeared caught off guard by his sudden departure.

AFP (2/24, Delany) reports that new evidence of Yanukovych's "pampered lifestyle and paranoia emerged on Sunday" as journalists "sifted through a trove of documents found hastily discarded when protesters seized" his residence on Saturday after he fled. While opposition activists "kept a close guard over the property to safeguard against looting, a team of Ukrainian journalists worked non-stop to scour the reams of documents for proof of possible corruption or eye-watering spending."

According to the AP (2/24, Danilova), the documents uncovered "lavish spending in an economy that is teetering on the verge of default."

US Lawmakers, Commentators Weigh In On Crisis. Senate Majority Whip Durbin said on Fox News Sunday (2/23, Wallace), "It was quite a relief yesterday. Yulia Tymoshenko has been in prison for two and a half years, but I've been working for almost two years for her release, and she was finally released by a unanimous vote in their parliament. I spoke to her just after she had addressed the crowd in the square. She sounded tired and looked frail on the reports that we'd seen, but she assured me that she's looking for a peaceful resolution to the problems in Ukraine, to follow the constitution and the law."

Sen. Kelly Ayotte said on Fox News Sunday (2/23, Wallace), "They need to focus on forming a unity government. Yanukovych needs to step aside, and I will say this: Now that the Olympics are over, we need to watch the behavior of the Russians. And I believe the President needs to up his game and send a clear unequivocal public message to Putin not to interfere in what is happening in Ukraine to let the Ukrainian people determine their future, to ensure that there is no interference in their sovereignty." The Washington Times (2/24, Eldridge, 417K)

also reports her remarks on Fox.

Sen. John McCain said on CBS' Face The Nation (2/23, Schieffer, 2.64M), "There's a sobering reality here that they recognize. ... Their economic situation is so dire that literally the economy is on the verge of collapse. They're going to need help immediately. The second issue I think that is not clear is, what does Vladimir Putin do? The eastern part of Ukraine is especially with older people more pro-Russian. Putin's major naval installation is there and what does Putin do here? I think the message has to be sent to him, let the Ukrainian people determine their own future."

David Brooks said on NBC's Meet The Press, "The crucial battlefield right now is in Putin's mind. He's just seen an autocrat fall on his border. He's got to be thinking about himself. So he's thinking this guy felt that he was a day late and a dollar short – he was not tough enough. So Putin is probably going to want to crack down more possibly sparking a counter-reaction. ... 'Do I let Ukraine break up? No, I don't. I do, if I have to, what I did in Georgia.'"

Thomas Friedman said on ABC's This Week (2/23, Raddatz, 2.73M), "I think the good news is the fact that this happened from the bottom up. The West didn't do this. The United States didn't do this. The EU didn't do this. The Ukrainian people did this. That's, I think, very, very important to remember. But what do we learn from experiences like Egypt, for instance, where we also saw bottom-up ousting of a long-time dictator? ... It's not about the morning after, it's all about the morning after the morning after."

William Kristol said on ABC's This Week (2/23, Raddatz, 2.73M), "Ten years ago, there was the Orange Revolution in Ukraine. It was one of the first color revolutions. ... We didn't do as much as we could have to help the newly democratic Ukraine. It was very corrupt, oligarchs have facilitated the corruption. Putin did not help at all. And so we ended up where we were. And now the people of the Ukraine have done it again."

Chris Matthews said on NBC's Meet The Press (2/23, Gregory), "We spent the entire Cold War avoiding a face-to-face military conflict with the Soviet Union. We did not want to fight them and I think we're on that same tricky slope right now. Make our values clear, our sympathies clear, but don't let it get too political. ... Don't let it become that because that means real trouble."

George Will said on Fox News Sunday (2/23, Wallace), "The President may not look upon this as a Cold War chessboard, but Putin clearly does, and it's going to be interesting when the Olympic flame is extinguished later today, and Putin is free from his public relations exercise at the Olympics, what is he going to do? The real danger is the dismemberment of the Ukraine, because the eastern Ukraine is Russian-speaking and associated culturally and historically with Russia, Western Ukraine much more close to Europe."

Fareed Zakaria said on CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS (2/23, 456K), "Everything we know about these kinds of revolutions is that this is the thrilling moment which is often followed by turmoil, tension, violence, and chaos. This is going to be particularly true in Ukraine, which is riddled with corruption and in many ways is on the brink of economic collapse. The opposition will have to act with wisdom and include those whom it despises including the supporters of Yanukovych. Russia will not allow Ukraine to slip from its grasp."

Ukrainian Children In US Follow Revolution In Their Parents' Homeland. The New York Times (2/24, Correal, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports on children at the Ukrainian American Youth Association in Manhattan, noting that they have been "following the political crisis growing in their parents' homeland." The Times notes that as Yanukovych fled Kiev on Saturday, the children "printed out photos of anti-government protesters killed in clashes last week" and created a memorial outside, "taping the slain protesters' photos on a wall of the building."

More Commentary. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/24, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that a successful democracy in Ukraine could inspire reformers in Russia, and as a result, Russia is likely to attempt to destabilize Ukraine's new government. The Journal argues that the US and the EU should combat those efforts with diplomatic attention, financial aid and the hope of closer economic ties to the West.

In an op-ed for the New York Times (2/24, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Ulrich Speck, a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe, the European center of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, writes that the West

must first "send unequivocal messages to Moscow that any support by Russia for the southern and eastern regions of Ukraine to break away from the rest of the country would be met harshly, and result in a general reconsideration of relations with Russia on all levels." They must also "make sure that their own resources, and those of the European Union institutions in Brussels, are available to political leaders in Kiev to assist them in their transition to a new regime," and they must "work with the International Monetary Fund to provide a financial lifeline to Kiev and to prepare longer-term economic-assistance programs," and "be ready to give direct emergency aid by themselves, if needed."

In an op-ed for the New York Times (2/24, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) Dmitri Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, takes a different view of Russia's intentions, arguing that it is unlikely to interfere in Ukraine. Trenin writes that Russia "has far less influence on it than is commonly appreciated," and that it is a "popular myth" that Yanukovych "has been but a puppet of President Vladimir V. Putin." Moscow, he writes, "is unlikely to try bringing about the breakup of Ukraine in order to annex its southern and eastern parts," because it would "mean civil war next door, and Russia abhors the idea." Trenin adds that Moscow's best option "is to stand back and wait, while quietly favoring decentralization in Ukraine."

OBAMA MEETING WITH GOVERNORS AT THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY. The Washington Post (2/24, Balz, Tumulty, 4.28M) reports that on Monday at the White House, President Obama" will host the nation's governors...with all signs pointing to Republicans and Democrats talking past each other as they lay the groundwork for this year's midterm elections." According to the Post, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) "set the tone for the meeting," when he said, "The president's going to try to lecture us on the same themes he's been campaigning on across the country, and our response is that his policies are actually making that division worse." The Post notes that on Thursday, the President "explicitly criticized Republican governors during remarks at a Democratic Governors Association fundraiser," claiming "They're pursuing the same top-down, failed economic policies that don't help Americans get ahead."

Governors Say They Can Show Congress How To Get Things Done. The Gannett News Service (2/24, Gaudiano, 7K) reports that governors attending the National Governors Association winter conference this weekend argued that Washington politicians can learn from them "as they collaborate on issues such as workforce development, transportation and public safety." For example, Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin (R), said, "We don't have the luxury of inaction as we see many times here in Washington. Governors are expected to solve problems, expected to address issues that face our states, which in turn, I believe helps our nation." Meanwhile, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) said, "Unlike what you see in Congress ... we love to share and steal ideas from each other and see them improved. And then we steal them back."

WTIMES: OBAMA LIKELY TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER MIDTERMS TO DECIDE ON KEYSTONE PIPELINE. According to the Washington Times (2/24, Wolfgang, 417K), President Obama "appears willing to put off a decision on the Keystone XL oil pipeline at least until the midterm elections have passed," and "analysts say a court ruling last week — invalidating the pipeline's route through Nebraska and essentially putting the entire project on hold for the foreseeable future — means an ultimate decision...could be delayed another year or longer." The Times says that prior to the ruling, the President "was expected to make his decision this spring or early summer."

65 Miles Of Mississippi River Closed Following Oil Spill. The AP (2/23, 3.07M) reports that a 65-mile section of the Mississippi River, "including the Port of New Orleans, was closed to all water traffic Sunday as crews cleaned up oil that spilled from a barge after it ran into a towboat between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, the Coast Guard said." While officials don't know the extent of the spill, "only a sheen was reported on the river after the collision, which happened Saturday afternoon."

WSJournal Study Finds Heightened Risks From Shipping Bakken Crude By Rail. The Wall Street Journal (2/24, B1, Gold, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that an analysis by the paper has found that crude oil from North Dakota's Bakken Shale region contains significantly more combustible gases than other crude, raising concerns about the safety of shipping it by rail. The Journal says that Federal investigators are attempting to determine whether those vapors were responsible for the explosions of crude-filled rail cars in Canada last summer. Sarah Feinberg, chief of staff at DOT, said, "Given the recent derailments and subsequent reaction of the Bakken crude in those incidents, not enough is known about this crude. That is why it is imperative that the petroleum industry and other stakeholders work with DOT to share data so we can quickly and accurately

assess the risks."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Second Front In The Privacy Wars."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (2/24, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) notes that the President has tapped special adviser John Podesta "to take another look at privacy and big data (the millions of records that businesses are collecting and using to increase sales and improve operations) and produce a fresh report in 90 days." The Times argues that the President and the public need Podesta to provide "not only a thorough description of how businesses are collecting private data but also specific legislative proposals to give consumers more control of that information."

"Let The E.P.A. Do Its Job." The New York Times (2/24, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) in an editorial notes that the Clean Air Act "didn't take greenhouse gases into account," but argues that the EPA's position is must be correct if it is "to remain effective," praising the Supreme Court's 2007 ruling finding that the agency has the "regulatory flexibility" to apply new "scientific developments." The Times characterizes the dispute before the High Court this week as being "between the bottom-line economic concerns of business and the government's reasonable efforts to protect human health and the environment," adding that though it favors an updating of the Clean Air Act by Congress, in the meantime the EPA is acting "well within its authority to interpret the law."

"Locked Away In Immigration Jails." In an editorial, the New York Times (2/24, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) is critical of immigration detention policies, where detainees are "held inexplicably for years without criminal charges or bond hearings." However, rulings by a Federal district judge and the Ninth Circuit US Court of Appeals reflect "the growing understanding — in the federal courts, if not at Immigration and Customs Enforcement — that the constitutional guarantee of due process demands that a detainee have a hearing within a 'reasonable' time and that more than six months is not reasonable by any definition."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Clearing The Air."*** The Washington Post (2/24, 4.28M) in an editorial says that "the EPA has a better case than the critics," arguing that its greenhouse gas emissions rule being considered by the Supreme Court this week is "closer to what Congress desired when it passed the Clean Air Act" than is the critics' argument that the thresholds set in the act demonstrate that Congress could not have intended to regulate greenhouse gases as pollutants. While the Post acknowledges that Congress "didn't anticipate" the threat from greenhouse gases, the EPA, it says, is acting according to Congress' intent, while "the real villains" are recent Congresses that have failed to act on greenhouse gas emissions.

"How To Deal With Sugar." In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/24, 4.28M) says the getting rid of price supports to agricultural industries "is the right thing to do economically," and, with regard to sugar, the right thing to do for public health. The Post says that eliminating the subsidies for corn (the source of corn syrup) would be a good start, but eliminating the protections for the sugar industry would actually lower the price. The Post instead endorses a tax on sugary products.

"Dying At The Firehouse Door."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The 'Absurd Results' Power Grab."*** The Wall Street Journal (2/24, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) endorses the view that a case before the Supreme Court this week is a major challenge to the Administration's greenhouse gas efforts, and argues that the rule of law requires that the EPA not be allowed simply to set a new regulatory threshold for carbon emissions because the act's threshold for pollutants would be unworkable or absurd when applied to carbon. It argues that the Administration must persuade Congress to give it the power to regulate carbon emissions differently from other pollutants, something the Congress has so far refused to do.

"Fannie's Fake Victory Lap." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/24, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have now repaid the Federal government more than they were given in their bailout. However, the Journal says that doesn't even come close to making up for the damage they did during the financial crisis. In addition, their continued existence as the dominant force in the mortgage markets, the Journal says, raises the specter of another round of bad mortgage writing that could end up in another housing bubble.

"Aiding Ukraine's Democrats." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/24, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that a successful democracy in Ukraine could inspire reformers in Russia, and as a result, Russia is likely to attempt to destabilize Ukraine's new government. The Journal argues that the US and the EU should combat those efforts with diplomatic attention, financial aid and the hope of closer economic ties to the West.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Netflix To Pay To Keep Stream Smooth
These Patients Are A Virtue
Some Libraries Too Quiet
Editor Guided The Expansion Of The Times

Safe And Sanitized

Wall Street Journal:
West Rushes To Stabilize Ukraine
As Ukrainian President Flailed, Allies Jumped Ship
Netflix To Pay Comcast For Speed
How Mexico Nabbed A Drug Kingpin

New York Times:
Ukraine Rushes To Shift Power And Mend Rifts
As His Fortunes Fell In Ukraine, A President Clung To Illusions
Fresh From Prison, A Former Prime Minister Returns To The Political Stage
Deeply Bound To Ukraine, Putin Watches And Waits For Next Move
Pentagon Plans To Shrink Army To Pre-World War II Level
How A Kingpin Above The Law Fell, Incredibly, Without A Shot
A Four-And-A-Half-Ring Circus Ends, And A Relieved Russia Roars
In The Demint Era At Heritage, A Shift From Policy To Politics

Washington Post:
Catching 'El Chapo' Took Tech And Troops
For Young Senate Candidate, A Campaign With Star Power
In Ukraine, Fast Transition Comes With Uncertainty
Despite Setbacks, Russia Is Unafraid To Use Its Leverage
Obamacare Politics Flare In Richmond

Financial Times:
West Scrambles To Find Ukraine Rescue Plan
Open House At Yanukovich's Fabled Palace
Iraq Red Tape Threat To Key BP Oilfield
L&G Plans To Begin Lending To Larger Smes
European Companies Limp Out Of Recession
Telefónica Deal Faces Antitrust Hurdle
Dividend Payouts Surpass $1tn Mark

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Mexican Drug Lord Arrested; Restaurant Carbon Monoxide Leak; Winter Weather; Kerry Kennedy-Drug Trial
CBS: Preempted by sports
NBC: Olympic Review-Security; Ukraine-Turmoil; Ukraine-US Perspective; Benghazi-Susan Rice; Mexican Drug Lord Arrested; Carbon Monoxide Leak; Olympics-Russian Profile

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Winter Weather; Mexican Drug Lord Arrested; Ukraine-Temporary President; Jason Collins- First Openly Gay Basketball Player
CBS: Mexican Drug Lord Arrested; Ukraine-President Overthrown; Israel-American Prisoner Killed; Oldest Holocaust Survivor Death; Olympic Closing Ceremony; Daytona 500-Winner; Jason Collins- First Openly Gay Basketball Player
NPR: Ukraine-Temporary President; Obama-Wildfire Management Funding Proposal; Israel-American Prisoner Dead; Olympic Closing Ceremony; Restaurant Carbon Monoxide Leak; California-Forecasted Rain; Movie Ratings
FOX: Winter Weather; California-Rain Forecast; Daytona 500-Winner; Gas Price Hike

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Meets with the National Governors Association.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Travels to New York City to make an appearance on the first episode of "Late Night with Seth Meyers."

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Delivers remarks at a screening of "The Trip to Bountiful."

US Senate: 2:30 p.m. SEN. MIKULSKI – NIH — Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, will continue her Maryland Jobs Tour at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Sen. Mikulski will be joined by NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Clinical Center Director Dr. John Gallin and Dr. W. Marston Linehan in touring a kidney cancer research laboratory at the National Cancer Institute. Location: NIH Clinical Research Center, 10 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD. — Following the prayer and pledge, Senator King will be recognized to deliver Washingtons Farewell Address. Upon conclusion of the reading, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: Feb. 21 – 24. 2014 NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING — Winter meeting of the nations current and former governors, Administration and legislative officials, business and academic leaders. Registration: http://meetings.nga.org/cms/home/wm14/gen/r3x/index.html SATELLITE FEEDS: Saturday 22nd – Feed Time: 1600 – 1630 / 4:00 – 4:30 PM EST AND Sunday 23rd – Feed Time: 1600 – 1630 / 4:00 – 4:30 PM EST Satellite: AMC 15 (Ku) Dig, Transponder: 04-Ch. A9, Downlink Freq: 11766.5 (H), Orbital Slot: 105: WL Symbol Rate: 6.1113, FEC: ¾ 10:30 a.m. Governors only meeting with the president at the White House. 12:15 p.m. News Conference. Location: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Feb. 23 – 25. NABE ECONOMIC POLICY CONFERENCE — 30th Annual National Association for Business Economics Economic Policy Conference. http://nabe.com/pc2014 8 a.m. Remarks by former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, Harvard University professor and president emeritus. 8:45 a.m. A Conversation with Alan Greenspan; Michael McDonough, Head of Economics and Chief Economist, Bloomberg LP, moderator; Alan Greenspan, former Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. 10:30 a.m. Fiscal Policy Choices – Jack Kleinhenz, Chief Economist, National Retail Federation, presiding; Douglas Elmendorf, Director, Congressional Budget Office. 2:25 p.m. How to Revitalize the Private Secondary Market without Reliving 2003-2006 with John E. Silvia, Chief Economist, Wells Fargo Bank, moderator; Christopher Killian, Managing Director, SIFMA Securitization Group ; David H. Stevens, President and CEO, Mortgage Bankers Association. 2:25 p.m. Immigration Reform: Shaping the Future (presented by AUBER and the Regional Roundtable) with: Lynn Reaser, Chief Economist, Point Loma Nazarene University, moderator; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, President of American Action Forum and former Director of the Congressional Budget Office; Jennifer Hunt, Chief Economist, US Department of Labor; Frederick R. Treyz, CEO and Chief Economist of Regional Economic Models, Inc. Location: Marriott Crystal Gateway, Salon III, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Va.

Feb. 24 – 26. ARPA-E ENERGY INNOVATION SUMMIT — The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) will host its fifth annual Energy Innovation Summit. The Summit brings together leaders from across

the energy industry to discuss "cutting-edge issues and facilitate relationships that help move technologies into the marketplace." Featured speakers at this year's Summit include U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, White House Counselor John Podesta, BASF Managing Director Dr. Stefan Blank, Waste Management Recycle America President Bill Caesar and North Bridge Venture Partners General Partner Carmichael Roberts. http://www.arpae-summit.com/ Location: Gaylord National Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD.

GW – TWITTER EVOLUTIONS — 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Blogs & Bullets III: Twitter Evolutions: Understanding the Changing Role of Social Media in War and Protest; PJ Crowley, Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs; Senior Fellow, Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication, GW; Marc Lynch, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs; Director, Institute for Middle East Studies; Director, Middle East Studies Program, GW; Zeynep Tufecki, Assistant Professor, UNC – Chapel Hill; Joshua Tucker, Professor of Politics, NYU; Adel Iskander, Adjunct Instructor of Communication, Culture, and Technology, Georgetown University. RSVP: http://go.gwu.edu/blogsandbullets

KAISER MEDIA BREAKFAST – GOV. BEEBE — 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Kaiser Health News and Health Affairs will host a journalists-only Health Policy Newsmaker Breakfast with Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe. The on-the-record conversation will feature Gov. Beebe answering journalists' questions about his state's experiences under the Affordable Care Act. Kaiser Health News Senior Correspondent Mary Agnes Carey will moderate; Health Affairs Founding Editor John K. Iglehart will give a brief introduction.. The breakfast is only open to credentialed print, broadcast and online media. RSVP (mandatory) Tiffany Ford Fields at TFordFields@kff.org or (202) 347-5270. Location: Barbara Jordan Conference Center, Kaiser Family Foundation, 1330 G St. NW.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE — 10 a.m. The Special 301 Subcommittee will hold a public hearing for interested parties, including representatives of foreign governments. (The U.S. Chamber's Global Intellectual Property Center Executive Vice President Mark Elliot will testify.) Location: 1724 F St. NW.

U.S. CHAMBER – RUSSIAN MINISTER — 11:05 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. The U.S. Chamber will host Russian Minister of Economic Development Alexey Ulyukaev for a discussion on where the Russian economy is going and opportunities for growth. Following brief remarks, there will be a question-and-answer session. Location: U.S. Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW.

NPC LUNCHEON – REP. MCKEON — 12:30 p.m. NPC Luncheon with Congressman Buck McKeon, (R – Calif.) Chair, House Armed Services Committee. http://press.org/events/npc-luncheon-congressman-buck-mckeon-r-calif-chair-house-armed-services-committee Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

PENTAGON – SECRETARY HAGEL — 1 p.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey deliver remarks. Location: Pentagon Briefing Room (2E973).

NATIONAL JOURNAL – STATES POLICY SUMMIT — 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. National Journal LIVE's "State of the States Policy Summit". Speakers: Gov. Pat Quinn, (D-IL); John R. Boule II, P.E., Vice President, Senior Manager for Priority Project Delivery, Parsons Brinckerhoff; Matt Mayer, Chief Operating Officer, The Liberty Foundation of America; Frank Nutter, President, Reinsurance Association of America; Zach Rosenburg, Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder, St. Bernard Project; Alex Seitz-Wald, Political Correspondent, National Journal. Location: Newseum, Knight Broadcast Studio, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW.

SCHOOL PRIVACY ZONE SUMMIT -SECRETARY DUNCAN — Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will address Common Sense Media's School Privacy Zone Summit Monday in Washington. The summit will bring together more than 100 key stakeholders for a national conversation about respecting and safeguarding student privacy while leveraging technology to improve learning opportunities. Location: Pew DC Conference Center, 2nd Floor, 901 E St., NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "During a town hall meeting yesterday, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie – he's our pal, very funny guy, very quick guy. Well, he was at this town hall and he was asked about the slow pace of his weight loss. And he said, quote, 'Rome was not unbuilt in a day.'"

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Briefing Materials for Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Feb 25, 2014 at 4:58 PM
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6)ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are your briefing materials for Wednesday, February 26. These have also been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

4 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1, 3, & 4)

2 26 14_10am_Meeting with New Zealand Minster Simon Bridges.pdf
81K

2 26 14_1pm_Meeting with the Conference of Western Attorneys General.pdf
126K

2 26 14_230pm_Meet and Greet with Trout Unlimited Youth Essay Contest Winners.pdf
1417K

2 26 14_1130am_Lunch with Neil Nicoll, President and CEO, YMCA of the USA.pdf
67K

ATTORNEY CLIENT COMMUNICATION – Confidential & Privileged

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH THE CONFERENCE OF WESTERN ATTORNEYS GENERAL

DATE: February 26, 2014
LOCATION: Main Interior Building, Room 5160
TIME: 1:00PM – 2:00PM
FROM: Hilary Tompkins, Solicitor (202)208-4423; John Blair, Director, OIEA (202)208-6649

I. PURPOSE

The Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) has met with past Secretaries on an annual basis when they are in Washington, D.C., for their spring meeting. The meeting will be in the format of a meet and greet. The Attorneys General appreciate the opportunity to meet you for the first time and highlight a few of their priorities.

This year, you are meeting with 11 AGs and CWAG staff.

II. BACKGROUND

The CWAG is a bipartisan group comprised of the chief legal officers of 15 western states and three Pacific territories. CWAG provides a forum for Western Attorneys General to address emerging legal topics along with focusing on common areas of interest to the west: water, fish and wildlife, public lands, minerals, environmental protection, and Indian law.

CWAG consists of 18 Western States and territories in the Pacific and 12 associate member States from across the country: Alaska, America Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington, Wyoming.

Associate members include: Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Maryland, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia.

III. PARTICIPANTS

DOI:
Laura Davis, Chief of Staff
Hilary Tompkins, Solicitor
Jack Haugrud, Acting Principal Deputy Solicitor
John Blair, Director of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

CWAG:
Michael C. Geraghty, AK Attorney General
Lawrence Wasden, ID Attorney General
Sherm Furey, ID Chief Deputy Attorney General
Gary King, NM Attorney General

Wayne Stenehjem, ND Attorney General
Sean Reyes, UT Attorney General
Parker Douglas, UT Chief Deputy Attorney General
Dustin McDaniel, AR Attorney General
Ross Dunn, AR Chief of Staff
Pam Bondi, FL Attorney General
Tyler Cathey, FL Chief Deputy Attorney General
Jim Hood, MS Attorney General
Ellen Rosenblum, OR Attorney General
David Louie, HI Attorney General
John Suthers, CO Attorney General
Scott Pruitt, OK Attorney General

CWAG Staff:
Karen White, CWAG Executive Director
Chris Coppin, CWAG Legal Director
Janine Knudsen, CWAG Meeting Manager and Event Coordinator

IV. AGENDA

This event will be closed press.

1:00pm - 1:15 pm	**Welcome, Introductions**, You give introductory remarks, Hilary Tompkins gives introductory remarks
1:15pm – 1:30pm	**CWAG Remarks** – Attorney General John Suthers (CO)
1:30pm – 1:50pm	**Open Dialogue on Western Issues** Floor will be open for Attorneys General questions for you, comments and discussion on the issues
1:50pm – 2:00pm	**Wrap Up, Next Steps** You will summarize any follow-up needed on issues discussed.

V. TALKING POINTS

- Thank you Attorneys General, CWAG staff for setting up this meeting.
- I look forward today to hear about the issues you are facing in your roles as chief legal counsel for your respective states/territories.
- One of the first things I quickly realized as Secretary was how almost everything we do at Interior ends up in court.
- We share the same challenge of making tough decisions both at the state and Federal level regarding:
    - management of our water resources in extreme drought conditions

- conservation efforts regarding the sage grouse
- development of both renewable and conventional resources (onshore and offshore)
- impacts of climate change, mitigation, and adaptive management

- I recently had the pleasure of meeting with all of your Governors at WGA.
  - One of the things I told them was how important it was that we in the Federal government work closely with our state partners.
  - You have an open invitation to talk with me or my senior team on any critical issues you may be facing with the Department.

VI. HOT TOPICS

Mineral Leasing Act Funds – Sequestration
ONRR collects royalties and lease payments for development on public lands. The Mineral Leasing Act mandates that the United States share these funds with states. The sequestration law provides for across-the-board cuts to this mandatory spending. In 2013, Congress reached a compromise that eliminated across-the-board cuts for discretionary spending in FY 2014 and 2015, but not mandatory spending. The cuts will apply to FY 2015. In FY 2013, there was a sequester rate of 5.1%. In FY 2014, the sequester rate is 7.2%.

Texas v. New Mexico Supreme Court litigation
The Supreme Court granted Texas' motion to sue New Mexico alleging violations of the Rio Grande Compact for failure to deliver sufficient water to Texas. The United States supported Supreme Court review and is supportive of the Texas position.

Sage Grouse Conservation
BLM, along with Forest Service, is in the process of amending 98 land use plans. The goal is to incorporate conservation measures by the end of FY 2014 into the plan amendments so minimize impacts to the species and habitat, which in turn may prevent a listing of the species under the ESA. NEPA documents have been released to the public. The states are pushing BLM to adopt their alternative as the preferred alternative in many of these plans.
FWS must make a listing decision by the end of FY 2015.

R.S. 2477 (Utah)
Utah and certain counties have filed 31 lawsuits asserting ownership to over 12,000 rights-of-way crossing public lands. We are litigating a limited number of these cases and have stayed the rest. The State, Iron county, enviros, and BLM are in conversations to attempt to resolve RS 2477 claims to avoid litigation.

Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
BLM is in the process of reviewing the last round of comments (1.35 million). BLM has taken into consideration the request of states and tribes to not supplant their authority. The last proposal by BLM included a "meet or exceed" provision to allow for adoption of state/tribal laws. Variances could be obtained by operators to operate under state or tribal standards that meet or exceed the federal rule. DOI anticipates issuing a final rule in late 2014.

Drought
Western states, particularly CA, CO, OR, and NM, are suffering record droughts. ESA litigation is in the backdrop in CA, OR, and NM. Reclamation is working on all fronts to address issues regarding water allocations, shortage and carryover provisions, contract delivery obligations, refuge water needs, and endangered species act compliance.

Klamath Agreements (OR)
Under Senator Wyden's leadership, the Department is close to finalizing an agreement with federal and state entities, the Klamath Tribe, and local water users to address water usage and conservation measures in the Upper Klamath Basin. This would be the last piece to legislation that would approve the KBRA and KHSA authorizing dam removals and water rights claims.

Alaska Issues

- **Lease Sale 193 Chukchi Sea Litigation** - the State joined this case on our side against environmental and Alaskan Native plaintiffs who claim NEPA deficiencies with the lease sale. We just lost in the 9th Circuit on our oil production estimate for understating environmental impacts. We are considering whether to appeal during a 45 day time period.

- **Izembek Road** – Senator Murkowski has sought a reconsideration of our decision. Litigation has not been filed but is anticipated.

- **ANWR** – On September 20, FWS Director Dan Ashe denied Alaska Governor Parnell's appeal for a special permit to conduct seismic exploration in ANWR. This follows an earlier rejection of the permit from the FWS Alaska Regional Director based on the regulations promulgated by FWS for the ANILCA 1002 area during the Reagan Administration. Our position is that new exploratory activity is "prohibited by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and would require Congressional authorization." Alaska has not filed litigation.

- **Government Shut Down Refuge Closure Law Suit** - Alaska sued the Department for the closure of refuges in Alaska during the government shut down last fall. The United States recently filed a motion to dismiss the case as moot. The response of the State is not yet due.

- **Alaska Subsistence – Katie John Litigation** – This week, the United States filed its opposition to the State of Alaska request to the Supreme Court to hear an appeal of the 9th Circuit decision upholding the Department of the Interior and Agriculture regulations governing federal jurisdiction over navigable waters adjacent to parks and refuges under the federally run rural subsistence priority program in Alaska under ANILCA.

Hawaii Issues

- **Federal Rulemaking by DOI to implement the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (1921) and the Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act (1995) –**

- Native Hawaiians receive housing and land benefits under these laws. Interior has administrative responsibilities to oversee land exchanges and approval/disapproval of amendments to eligibility criteria.

- A 1983 Task Force recommended that Interior adopt processes to help implement these laws. This was reinforced in a 1995 law.

- We are in the process of preparing a proposed rule for public comment. It contains procedures and timelines to streamline and standardize Interior's exercise of its review and approval authority.

- Interior has a trust responsibility to the Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

- **Critical Habitat Designation in Kona, Hawaii** – On October 2, 2012, the Service published a Proposed Rule to designate critical habitat for three plant species in the Big Island. The proposed critical habitat designation consists of 18,766 acres (55% is already designated for other species). The Proposed Rule identifies several areas as "under consideration for exclusion" from the designation. The extended public comment period closed September 3, 2013.

    - Overall, approximately 64 percent of the proposed designation is owned by the State of Hawaii; approximately 34 percent is privately-owned; approximately 2 percent comprises Federal land managed by the National Park Service; and less than 1 percent is owned by the County of Hawaii.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Attorneys General Bios by State

ARKANSAS – Dustin McDaniel



Dustin McDaniel became the 55th Attorney General of Arkansas in 2007. He was sworn in to his second term in January 2011 after being re-elected with strong support from across the state. As Attorney General and the state's top consumer advocate, Dustin works tirelessly to protect the rights of Arkansas consumers. A lifelong Arkansan, Dustin was born in Fayetteville, grew up in Jonesboro, and attended public school there. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and received his law degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law. He was a uniformed patrol officer with the Jonesboro Police Department prior to entering law school. Upon graduation, he practiced law at his family's law practice, McDaniel and Wells in Jonesboro, before being elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 2004. Dustin is co-chairman of the National Association of Attorneys General's Tobacco Committee. Dustin is married to Bobbi McDaniel and has one daughter and two stepchildren. In his free time, he enjoys being with his family. He is an avid hunter, a private pilot and owns a farm in Craighead County.

ALASKA - Michael Geraghty



Prior to his appointment as Alaska's Attorney General, Michael C. Geraghty was a partner in the Anchorage law firm DeLisio Moran Geraghty & Zobel, PC. Geraghty and began working at the firm in 1979 with a practice devoted exclusively to litigation and appeals before state and federal courts. Born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska, Geraghty's private practice focused on areas and industries including natural resources, oil and gas, and construction. Geraghty has appeared before the Alaska Supreme Court in numerous cases involving sovereign immunity, administrative law, insurance and bad faith, attorney-client privilege, OSHA regulations, contract claims, shareholder disputes, products liability, and premises-landowner liability.

Geraghty received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Hawaii. He graduated with a JD *Cum Laude* from the University of Santa Clara. Geraghty and his wife Mishel have lived in Anchorage for 30 years and have five children. He and his wife have been active in Special Olympics for many years. Geraghty was one of the founding directors on the board of Life Alaska Donor Services, Alaska's only tissue and organ donor program."

COLORADO – John Suthers



John W. Suthers is a lifetime resident of Colorado. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in Government in 1974 and from the University of Colorado Law School in 1977. On July 30, 2001, Mr. Suthers was nominated by President George W. Bush to be the United States Attorney for the District of Colorado. He was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. As U.S. Attorney, Mr. Suthers represented the United States in all criminal and civil matters within the District of Colorado. On January 4, 2005, Mr. Suthers was appointed Attorney General of Colorado. After serving as Attorney General for nearly two years, in November 2006, the voters of Colorado elected Mr. Suthers by a large margin to serve a four-year term. Mr. Suthers was again re-elected in 2010 by the biggest margin or any statewide race that year. As Attorney General, he represents and defends the interests of the people of the state of Colorado and is chief legal counsel and adviser to state government and its many state agencies, boards and commissions. John and his wife, Janet, have been married for 35 years and have two daughters.

FLORIDA – Pam Bondi



A native of Tampa, Pam Bondi became Florida's 37th Attorney General after being elected on November 2, 2010. Attorney General Bondi was sworn in to office January 4, 2011. AG Bondi is a graduate of University of Florida and Stetson Law School and has served as a front-line prosecutor for more than 18 years. As an assistant state attorney for the 13th judicial district, her investigative and courtroom experience includes the successful prosecution of numerous first-degree murder cases and two capital cases. Attorney General Bondi is focused on protecting Floridians and upholding Florida's laws and the Constitution. Some of her top priorities are: defending Florida's constitutional rights against the federal health care law; strengthening penalties against pill mills; aggressively investigating mortgage fraud and Medicaid fraud; and ensuring Florida is compensated for Gulf Horizon oil spill losses. Transparency and openness in government have been important throughout her career, and Attorney General Bondi continues to support Florida's Sunshine laws.

HAWAII - David Louie



Mr. Louie graduated from Occidental College (cum laude) in 1973 with an A.B. in Sociology, and received his J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1977. From 1977 to 1988, Mr. Louie was an attorney at Case & Lynch, practicing in the areas of civil litigation, personal injury, insurance defense, commercial litigation, contract disputes and construction defect litigation. From 1988 through 2010, Mr. Louie was the managing partner of the [Roeca Louie & Hiraoka] law firm, practicing in the areas of civil litigation, insurance defense, construction defect litigation, commercial litigation, legal malpractice, directors and officers liability, prison litigation, product liability, and aviation litigation. He served as a Lawyer Representative for the United States Court of Appeals (Ninth Circuit)(2005-2008). He was the Northwest Regional Governor for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) (2008-2010) and has served in various capacities as the President, Treasurer, and Director of the NAPABA Hawaii Chapter (1995 to present). He served as a Director (1998-2006) and the Chair (1999-2005) of the State of Hawaii Aloha Tower Development Corporation. He served as the Vice Chair of the Hawaii Supreme Court Rule 19 Special Committee on Judicial Performance (1999-2010). Mr. Louie has been married for 24 years to Johanna Chen Chuan. They have two grown children.

IDAHO – Lawrence Wasden



Lawrence Wasden is Idaho's 32nd Attorney General. He was elected to a third term on November 2, 2010 and is Idaho's longest-serving Attorney General. Attorney General Wasden, a 23-year veteran of the Office of the Attorney General, previously served as Chief of Staff to the Attorney General, Deputy Chief of Staff and as a Deputy Attorney General representing the Idaho State Tax Commission. He also served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Canyon County, Idaho, and as Prosecuting Attorney for Owyhee County, Idaho. Attorney General Wasden is Past Chair of the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG). Attorney General Wasden obtained his J.D. from the University of Idaho and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1985. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Brigham Young University in 1982. Lawrence and Tracey Wasden were married in 1980. They live in Nampa, Idaho, and are proud parents of four children.

MISSISSIPPI - Jim Hood

"Attorney General Hood is a passionate champion of children. He works tirelessly to prevent children from being abused and exploited, and to rescue those who have already fallen prey to those who do them harm.



As Attorney General, Jim Hood has established a Vulnerable Adults Unit, a Domestic Violence Unit, an Identity Theft Unit, and a Crime Prevention and Victims Services Division… He has launched initiatives to prevent workplace and school violence, and stalking and domestic assault. Attorney General Hood has also placed emphasis on protecting the utility ratepayers of Mississippi by ensuring that public utilities that hold monopolies on power operate with the utmost transparency so that consumers are not overcharged. He received his J.D. from the University of Mississippi in December 1988. After graduation he served as a clerk with the Mississippi Supreme Court, as an Assistant Attorney General for five years, and as District Attorney for the Third Judicial District for eight years. He was educated in the public schools of Chickasaw County. He is a fifth generation Mississippian and an avid outdoorsman and hunter.

NEW MEXICO - Gary King



Dr. King attended New Mexico State University and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. He received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Colorado University at Boulder. He then attended law school at the University of New Mexico, where he received his J.D. In 1984, Gary formed the law firm of King and Stanley in Moriarty, where he carried out the general practice of law. In 1990, he assumed the position of Corporate General Counsel and Senior Environmental Scientist with Advanced Sciences, Inc., an environmental consulting firm. Gary served for 12 years in the New Mexico State Legislature. During 10 years as the Chairman of the Consumer and Public Affairs Committee, Gary used his leadership position to work vigorously on health care, environmental and civil rights issues. In 1998, Gary became the Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in Washington, D.C. Within a year, he became the Department's Director of the Office of Worker and Community Transition. While at the DOE, he developed and implemented a program fostering cooperation between federal, state, local and Native American governments to enhance cleanup activities.



NORTH DAKOTA – Wayne Stenehjem

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem was born in Mohall, North Dakota. He graduated from the University of North Dakota and received his law degree from the UND School of Law in 1977. He is married to Beth Bakke Stenehjem and has a son, Andrew. Stenehjem was elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives in 1976, serving for two terms until his election to the ND Senate in 1980. He served for twenty years in the Senate until his election to the Office of Attorney General. Stenehjem served on the Judiciary Committee throughout his tenure in the Legislature, and was Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1995-2000. He was elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the 1999 Legislative Session. In January 2001, Stenehjem was sworn in as the State's 29th Attorney General. He was reelected in 2004, 2006 and 2010.

OKLAHOMA – Scott Pruitt



Attorney General E. Scott Pruitt was elected as the 17th Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma on November 2, 2010. He is the second Republican in the history of the state to hold the office, which oversees 80 attorneys. He is dedicated to fighting corruption, protecting Oklahoma's vulnerable citizens, championing public safety measures to reduce violent crime and advocating excellence in the

administration of the law, justice and protecting the interests of the Great State of Oklahoma and its citizens. Before being elected Attorney General, Pruitt served Broken Arrow, Coweta and Tulsa in the Oklahoma State Senate where he served for eight years, four of those as Assistant Republican Floor Leader. In the Senate, he was the leading spokesman for workers' compensation reform, lawsuit reform and greater accountability for government spending. He championed traditional, faith-based legislation that included allowing faith-based organizations to partner with the state in helping prisoners successfully re-integrate into society after their sentences were fulfilled. Pruitt grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, where he graduated high school and earned a scholarship to play baseball as a second baseman at the University of Kentucky. He earned a bachelor's degree in communications and political science at Georgetown College before being accepted to the University of Tulsa College of Law. After working his way through law school and earning a Juris Doctorate, Pruitt ventured into private practice, specializing in constitutional and employment law. The Attorney General and his wife of 22 years, Marlyn, are raising two children, McKenna and Cade, in Tulsa.

OREGON – Ellen Rosenblum



Ellen Rosenblum was elected Oregon's 16th Attorney General in November, 2012. She is the first woman to serve as Oregon Attorney General. Ellen's priorities as Attorney General include advocating for and protecting Oregon's most vulnerable, including especially our families and children, our seniors, Oregonians whose first language is not English, and students who have incurred significant education-related debt. She is committed to continuing the AG's office long time practice of assisting district attorneys in prosecuting crime and has made internet and other crimes against children her highest priority. Ellen previously served in private practice, as a federal prosecutor, and as a state trial and appellate court judge. She has been active in local and national organizations of lawyers, judges and attorneys general and currently co-chairs the American Bar Association's only committee devoted exclusively to state AG issues.

UTAH - Sean Reyes



Sean Reyes is among the most dynamic and successful young professionals in the country today. He has been recognized nationally and locally for his legal skills and professionalism, local and national Bar leadership and unparalleled commitment to public service. He has lent his legal expertise to media outlets ranging from Fox National Business News to the Economist. After graduating summa cum laude from Brigham Young University in 1994, Sean earned his law degree with honors from U.C. Berkeley in 1997. He practiced for nearly fourteen years at Parsons Behle & Latimer, the largest law firm in the State, where he became one of the first minority lawyers to make partner at a major Utah firm. While there, Sean represented clients on some of the largest and most high profile litigation cases in the history of the State. He argued or briefed cases before state and federal courts throughout the country, including the Utah Supreme Court and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. For years, Sean has maintained an "AV" rating, the highest ranking possible as determined by peer ratings. In the legal community, Sean has served for over a decade as a small claims judge and spent two years serving on the governing body of the Utah State Bar. He was President of the Utah Minority Bar for which he received state and national honors and served in leadership for the Young Lawyers Division. Sean has lectured at both law schools, presented at numerous legal conferences and mentored countless students. His legal volunteer endeavors have included community education projects, free legal clinics, fundraising for pro bono legal services, clothing drives and service on various task forces and commissions.

BISON CONNECT

Fwd: thank you

Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> Wed, Feb 26, 2014 at 12:33 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Suzette M Kimball <suzette_kimball@usgs.gov>

Sally, just wanted you to see the note below, and express my appreciation to Suzette and her team!

Dan,

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
> **Date:** February 26, 2014 at 11:41:36 AM EST
> **To:** Carol Schuler <cschuler@usgs.gov>, Anne Kinsinger <akinsinger@usgs.gov>
> **Cc:** Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
> **Subject: thank you**
>
> Carol and Anne,
>
> I'm sitting here listening to Justin Welty give a presentation to the FWS sage-grouse team about the sage-grouse Conservation Effects Database that he has been working with us on.....and I just want to say THANK YOU for making this happen. Your support for his time to work with us on this is what made this possible and it is really shaping up nicely. I am impressed with the beta version and with his presentation.
>
> Much appreciation,
>
> Noreen
>
> Noreen Walsh
> Regional Director
> Mountain-Prairie Region
> U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, February 27, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Feb 27, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR SET TO RELEASE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS ON ATLANTIC DRILLING. The Environment & Energy Publishing (2/27, 705) reports that the Interior Department is set to release a final environmental analysis this week that could help pave the way for the first seismic studies off the Atlantic Coast. The article notes that "a key lawmaker and an environmentalist today said the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management appears poised to open waters from Delaware to Florida to high-intensity air gun surveys used to reveal the depth and size of oil and

gas off the East Coast." House Natural Resources Committee ranking member Peter DeFazio said, "Unfortunately, I think they are going to move forward." He added, "We wanted to have an intensive study of the potential for wildlife, particularly marine mammal impacts. I don't know why we would go ahead with seismic testing at this point in time without knowing for certain that it isn't going to cause irrevocable harm to protected marine mammals." Meanwhile, Matthew Huelsenbeck, a marine scientist for the environmental group Oceana, said "sources at BOEM say the final plan will allow air gun surveys but with slightly enhanced buffers to protect endangered right whales."

FuelFix (2/26, 7K) reports that "going forward without considering the acoustic guidelines still being developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service could mean underestimating the auditory injuries to dolphins, whales and other sea life from the blasts of compressed air used in the seismic studies, 102 scientists and biologists said in a letter to President Barack Obama." Also, "nine senators underscored the scientists' concerns in their own missive to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Wednesday." According to the article, "led by Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., and Ed Markey, D-Mass., the group insisted that the coming environmental analysis should be put on hold until 'all of the best available science can be incorporated.'"

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK AT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CONFERENCE. The West Hawaii Today (2/27, 26K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be among the special guest speakers scheduled for the National Association of Counties conference in Washington, D.C.

Also reporting on the story is the Hawaii Tribune-Herald (2/27, 63K).

SEN. BOXER TO HOST CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ON SALTON SEA. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (2/26, 110K) reports that "in hopes of raising the Salton Sea's profile among federal leaders," Sen. Barbara Boxer on Thursday is "hosting a congressional briefing about the need to revitalize California's largest lake and the related potential to develop renewable energy." The briefing will "feature a panel of five local, state and federal officials who are stakeholders in the long-discussed restoration," including Interior Department Assistant Secretary Anne Castle, "who joined Boxer at the Salton Sea in April 2013."

POINT ARENA-STORNETTA PUBLIC LANDS COULD BE PROTECTED UNDER PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY. The Pew Charitable Trusts (2/27) reports that the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands is "among the federal lands in numerous states that politicians and conservationists say are overdue for special protected status." The article notes that President Barack Obama's during his State of the Union speech said he would "use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations" and Point Arena-Stornetta is "teed up as a likely place for the president to use his authority."

DRONES COULD REVOLUTIONIZE OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE. For Outside (2/27, 55K), Eric Hansen writes that "camera-equipped flying robots have quickly become a staple of the adventure world, filming first ascents and nailing poachers." Now, "affordable consumer drones will revolutionize how we experience the outdoors. "

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON TRACK TO MEET SMALL-BUSINESS CONTRACTING GOAL. The Washington Post (2/27, Harrison, 4.28M) reports that "it appears the federal government has fulfilled its annual contracting promise to small businesses for the first time in seven years — and perhaps just in the nick of time, as lawmakers are looking to raise the bar going forward." According to government data, "federal agencies spent $83.2 billion at small companies last fiscal year, representing slightly more than 23 percent of the $355 billion in prime federal contracts officials consider viable for small firms." The article notes that "more than a quarter of the contracts were awarded by the Defense Department, while the SBA, Federal Communications Commission and Interior Department each spent most of their contracting dollars at small businesses, according to the federal government's online small business dashboard, which tracks government spending by agency."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF INTERAGENCY GROUP ON INSULAR AFFAIRS. Additional coverage of the annual meeting of the Interagency Group On Insular Affairs was provided by the Saipan Tribune (2/27, 641), the Caribbean News Now! (2/27) , and the National Journal (2/27, Subscription Publication, 427K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS. Additional coverage of the essay contest winners who were scheduled to meet Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Wednesday was provided by the Great Falls (MT)

Tribune (2/27, 90K) and the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (2/27, 90K).

CHANGE IN WILDFIRE FIGHTING FORMULA WELCOMED. In an editorial, the Corvallis (OR) Gazette-Times (2/27, 31K) welcomes a proposal by President Barack Obama is to change to the way the federal government pays for fighting the nation's biggest wildfires. According to the paper, "removing...big fires from the regular budget could free up to $412 million for agencies to use to fund fire prevention and fuel reduction projects – a small step, considering the amount of work to be done in our forests, but a significant one nonetheless."

Also covering the proposal is the "Govbeat" blog of the Washington Post (2/26, Wilson, 4.28M) and the Visalia (CA) Times-Delta (2/26, 42K).

SEN. MURKOWSKI PUSHES FOR ROAD THROUGH IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. In an op-ed for the Indian Country Today Media Network (2/26, 21K), Alaska Sen. Linda Murkowski writes that a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge "is common sense and desperately needed," but "to the federal government, it is not worth building." Murkowski claims that "a better understanding of what is at stake – and at risk – shows the breathtaking absurdity of Secretary Jewell's decision." She notes that "over the past 30 years, 19 deaths have been attributed to the lack of a road, either because of plane crashes or residents' inability to reach medical treatment in time," and the Aleut have "stewarded that area for thousands of years before the federal government came along." Murkowski concludes that "the federal government doesn't need to protect the area from them." Rather, "it should learn from the Aleut's example, and respect them by allowing the road to be built."

Also covering the issue are the Nation Sun News (2/27) and FOX News (2/26, 6.72M).

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO KEEP PROMISE TO FULLY FUND LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. In an op-ed for Roll Call (2/27, Mott, Subscription Publication, 87K), Jared Mott, policy director of the Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance, urges President Barack Obama to keep his promise to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund by 2014. According to Mott, "for American sportsmen and women, the conservation of wildlife, habitat and access to public lands are our highest priorities." He warns that "if we do not fully fund and reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we stand to lose one of our defining characteristics as a nation."

US URGED TO PAY UNESCO DUES. In an op-ed for the San Antonio Express-News (2/27, 746K), Suzanne Dixon, the Texas regional director for the National Parks Conservation Association, writes that "the San Antonio Missions nomination will be considered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in the summer of 2015." According to Dixon, "while our standing with UNESCO should not jeopardize the missions' nomination, it's smart to do all we can to ensure we resume paying World Heritage dues so there is zero chance for politics to enter into a decision that should not be political." Dixon writes, "moving forward, we continue to support a waiver that allows the United States to pay its dues to UNESCO's World Heritage program."

INTERIOR'S SAGE GROUSE EFFORTS CRITICIZED. In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (2/27, 22K), Thomas Mitchell criticizes federal efforts to save the greater sage grouse habitat for being inefficient by "canceling out one objective with another." Mitchell notes that "a study in the January issue of The Condor: Ornithological Applications. Authors Kristy Howe of the Wildlife Conservation Society and Idaho State University, Peter Coates of the US Geological Survey, and David Delehanty of Idaho State University found that in southeastern Idaho the number of ravens has increased eleven-fold between 1985 and 2009." According to Mitchell, "ravens are one of the primary sage grouse predators." Mitchell observes that "it is richly ironic that at the same time the US Fish and Wildlife Service is pressing to list the greater sage grouse as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act that the Interior continues to encourage renewable energy projects such as wind turbines and solar panels in remote areas that must be connected to the grid via power lines that become sniper nests from which ravens can dispatch sage grouse eggs and hatchlings."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS TO PROCEED WITH RELOCATING ARCHIVES FROM BETHUNE HOUSE. The Washington Post (2/27,

Ruane, 4.28M) reports that the NPS says it will move forward with "a controversial plan to relocate a black women's history archive from Washington's Mary McLeod Bethune house but is taking more time to explain the move." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis wrote in a letter submitted Tuesday to The Washington Post: "A survey by our museum professionals found this irreplaceable collection at high risk. . . . The building has neither fire protection nor adequate temperature and humidity controls." He continued, "Sixty percent of the Bethune archive has been [at the Museum Resource Center] for nearly a decade. It's the best place for the full archive to remain safe and accessible to researchers while we determine if the Council House can be fitted with necessary protective systems." However, "critics said the Park Service has known for years that the carriage house was inadequate," and "they argue that moving the collection would isolate the archive from a site that is holy ground to students of Bethune and the history of African American women."

TIGHTENING RULES ON THE MALL COULD THREATEN SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL. The Washington Post (2/27, Parker, O'Connell, 4.28M) reports that "tightening of National Park Service restrictions on the use of the Mall for festivals and other activities potentially threatens the annual summer Smithsonian Folklife Festival, according to Smithsonian officials." According to the article, "though the festival will still be held on the Mall this year, in a letter this month to the National Park Service obtained by The Washington Post, Smithsonian Secretary Wayne Clough recounted years-long Smithsonian efforts to minimize the festival's impact on the Mall, but raised concerns about its viability there in the future." The Feb. 6 letter stated, "We are disappointed to learn that the final plans for the Mall incorporate too few of the accommodations that had been discussed for us to stage future Folklife Festivals in any form that would be recognizable to our patrons, fundamentally changing the character of this uniquely American Festival."

ATTORNEY: BROWN FOUNDATION PROBE LACKS "CONTEXT". The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (2/26, 194K) reports that "an attorney representing the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research says a recent federal investigation that found numerous instances of questionable spending by the foundation is 'lacking context.'" Clint Patty, an attorney with Frieden, Unrein and Forbes who represents the foundation, also alleges the NPS "had engaged in a 'long-term effort' to oust the Brown Foundation and Cheryl Brown Henderson, the foundation's president and CEO, from the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, which housed the foundation's office." Patty said, "There were some veiled and not-so-veiled threats (for them) to leave the Brown site."

NEW GLACIER NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT FACES CHALLENGES. The Ravalli (MT) Republic (2/27, 19K) reports that after spending 21 of the last 25 years in Alaska, Jeff Mow has become the new superintendent of Glacier National Park, replacing Chas Cartwright, who retired in December. He "takes over at a critical time for Glacier." The article notes that "the park is in the process of producing a corridor management plan that addresses the traffic and congestion on its iconic highway, Going-to-the-Sun Road." Meanwhile, "sequestration has forced cuts in visitor services, and Mow must run a million-acre national park that draws roughly 2 million visitors annually on a $12.5 million budget." Also, "Glacier's spectacular but creaking hotels are at or nearing their 100th year of operation," and "the concessionaire that ran them for the past 30 years, Glacier Park Inc., has been replaced by a new company after a bidding process." Finally, "the glaciers that are Glacier's namesake are rapidly disappearing in the face of a warmer world."

NPS REJECTS DAFT PUNK PROPOSAL FOR DEVILS TOWER. The Billings (MT) Gazette (2/27, 206K) reports that the NPS said Tuesday that it has rejected a proposal by Daft Punk to host a show on private land adjacent to Devils Tower National Monument. Reed Robinson, superintendent for Devils Tower National Monument, said "the park consulted with six American Indian tribes about the proposal, all of which generally agreed that it would be a disrespectful use of one of the country's most sacred American Indian sites." Robinson said, "No event is going to be occurring in Devils Tower. Anything that was proposed is a non-starter, is considered an adverse action according to the National Historic Preservation Act, and goes against the Park Service management approach."

NPS OPPOSES BILL TO RENAME YOSEMITE PEAK AFTER 19TH CENTURY PRESERVATIONIST. The Los Angeles Times (2/27, Simon, 3.07M) reports that Congress is considering a bill to rename a Yosemite peak for Jessie Benton Fremont, wife of John C. Fremont. However, the NPS is opposed. Victor Knox, the park service's associate director for park planning, facilities and lands, said at a congressional hearing Wednesday, "Though Jessie Benton Fremont was an important figure in the advocacy for and establishment of the Yosemite Grant, there is no direct or long-term association between her work and Mammoth peak." Rep. Tom McClintock, "the

bill's author, dismissed the National Park Service position as ''absolutely laughable' and 'rank partisanship.'"

D.C. CIRCULATOR CONSIDERING NEW ROUTES, NEW FARES. In its "Dr. Gridlock" blog, the Washington Post (2/26, Thomson, 4.28M) reports that "managers of the D.C. Circulator bus system are set to re-introduce a route around the National Mall in 2015, but they also will consider other new routes and expansions of existing routes." According to D.C. transportation planner Circe Torruellas,, "the original intent of the city's bus system was to connect activity centers and that remains a top priority." Torruellas said DDOT is working with the NPS to "design Circulator stops for easy ingress and egress, something that should limit traffic difficulties along Madison and Jefferson drives, which are part of the planned Mall route."

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES 95TH ANNIVERSARY. KPTV-TV Portland, OR (2/27, 57K) reports that Grand Canyon National Park is celebrating its 95th anniversary. The article notes that "earlier this month, Arizona's largest public utility donated $1 million to benefit trails at the Grand Canyon." Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga said "the money from Arizona Public Service Co. will help reduce a backlog of trail maintenance that has topped $40 million."

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK PROPOSES MINOR CHANGES TO RECREATION FISHING REGULATIONS. The Peninsula (WA) Daily News (2/27, 41K) reports that Olympic National Park is "proposing minor changes to recreational fishing regulations within the park." According to the article, the "proposed changes apply to non-tribal, recreational fisheries within the boundaries of Olympic National Park." The proposed changes would "clarify and simplify park regulations near the river mouths, improve consistency of the park's regulations regarding non-retention of wild fish, and eliminate the need for annual changes to gear and hatchery limits since they would conform to state regulations in those areas."

Bureau of Land Management:

SEN. REID THREATENS TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FOR TULE SPRINGS MONUMENT BILL OVER AMENDMENT. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (2/27, 437K) reports that Sen. Harry Reid threatened to pull his support for the Las Vegas Valley Public Lands and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Act after last-minute changes to the measure by House Republicans Wednesday. Reid criticized what he called an effort by the House Natural Resources Committee to gut the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (2/27, 437K) reports that House leaders agreed to delay committee votes Thursday on the bill.

BLM BACKS MESQUITE'S REQUEST FOR MORE TIME FOR FEDERAL LAND BUYS. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (2/27, 437K) reports that a request by Mesquite leaders for more time to buy federal land received support from the BLM Wednesday. A bill by Rep. Steven Horsford would extend the deadline to November 2021. Michael Nedd, a BLM assistant director, told the House public lands subcommittee that the bureau supported the extension.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PROPOSES DELISTING TWO DEATH VALLEY PLANTS. The Los Angeles Times (2/26, Sahagun, 3.07M) reports that on Wednesday, the FWS proposed that the Eureka Valley evening primrose and Eureka dune grass be "removed from" the endangered species list because "their populations have stabilized in a region that became part of Death Valley National Park in 1994." According to the article, "environmentalists were cautiously optimistic about the proposal announced in the Federal Register." Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity, said, "This is an example of what can happen when off-road vehicles are no longer crushing rare desert plant species and habitat under their wheels." Curry added, "Beyond that, these two unique California plants join a growing number of vulnerable species saved from extinction by the Endangered Species Act, which has been hard at work for 40 years now."

A MEXICAN GRAY WOLF TO BE CAPTURED ALIVE FROM GILA NATIONAL FOREST. The Silver City (NM) Sun-News (2/27, 24K) reports that the Department of Fish and Wildlife Services "put out an order on Feb. 12 to capture an uncollared Mexican gray wolf in the area where the Fox Mountain Pack roams, south of Quemodo

near Fox Mountain in the Gila National Forest." According to the article, "the reason for the live capture of this endangered species is because of five reported livestock deaths within the past year." However, Michael Robinson, conservation advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity, said, "They're not likely to catch the animal that did the killing. This is an imprecise way of addressing livestock deprivation." In response, Maggie Dwire, assistant Mexican wolf recovery coordinator for the FWS, said, "Because wolves feed and kill as a pack, it is often difficult to distinguish which individual wolves are involved in the depredation. Given the background of the Fox Mountain Pack, we assume that all wolves within the pack may have been involved in depredations in the past."

SOME RESIDENTS DISAGREE WITH FWS ON HYDE COUNTY LAKE'S FUTURE. The AP reports that some residents disagree with the UFWS on the management of a Hyde County lake. According to the article, "a local business owner says managers of the Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge have allowed the water levels to decline too much over the past decade." Mark Carawan "leads an effort called 'Save Mattamuskeet Lake,' and worries that fishing is drying up on the 40,000 acre lake."

BREEDERS' LAWSUIT OVER REPTILE BAN CRITICIZED. In his column for the Miami Herald (2/27, Grimm, 806K), Fred Grimm criticizes the lawsuit by the United States Association of Reptile Keepers over the ban by the FWS on the sale and import of four kinds of giant constrictors. Grimm claims the snakes "can't be stopped" because the Everglades is "too vast and too similar to their native habitat." According to Grimm, "the damage being wreaked by discards of the exotic pet trade hereabouts incalculable," which "makes the lawsuit filed by the reptile keepers association, complaining about the economic damage members are suffering from a ban on the import and interstate sale of certain constrictors, seem utterly audacious."

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY TIES DROP IN POWDER RIVER WATER QUALITY TO METHANE PRODUCTION. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (2/27, 90K) reports that "water quality deteriorated at some sites along the Powder River after the boom in coal-bed methane production, according to a new government study." The USGS "found elevated levels of sodium at three testing sites downstream from the town of Arvada." The article notes that "those sites also registered higher alkalinity, which could indicate elevated bicarbonate levels, and increased sodium absorption rates between 1980 and 2010."

USGS RELEASES WATERSHED MAPS THAT CROSS U.S.-CANADA BORDER. The Ravalli (MT) Republic (2/27, 19K) reports that the USGS has "released a 'harmonized' set of maps of the watersheds that cross the U.S.-Canada border." The maps include 120 areas from the Alaska-Yukon to the Maine-New Brunswick border edges.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CAPE WIND RECEIVES LOAN COMMITMENT FROM DANISH CREDIT AGENCY. The New York Times (2/27, Seelye, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports Cape Wind said yesterday "that it had received a new loan commitment that would allow it to finish its financing this fall and begin producing power by 2016." In an email, Cape Wind spokesman Mark Rogers said, "We expect to complete project financing in Q3. ... We will begin construction (on land) shortly thereafter. We will begin ocean construction in 2015 and commission the project in 2016." The "timetable" is the most recent "in a series of projected target dates from the company since it first proposed the wind farm in 2001." The project "still faces various hurdles, and opponents question whether it will be able to meet this new deadline."

The AP (2/27) reports that EKF, a Danish export agency, has granted approval to "a $600 million loan to the Cape Wind offshore energy project, the project's president announced Wednesday." Cape Wind President Jim Gordon said, "EKF is a very knowledgeable and experienced investor in the offshore wind industry and they recognize that Cape Wind makes sense both economically and environmentally."

The Boston Herald (2/27, 643K), the Wall Street Journal (2/27, Bomsdorf, Subscription Publication, 5.91M),

Reuters (2/27, Valdmanis) and Bloomberg News (2/26, Doom, 1.91M) also provide coverage of this story.

BIA TO FILE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR MOAPA SOLAR PROJECT. The Renewable Energy World (2/27, 2K) reports that the BIA "intends to file a final environmental impact statement for the proposed RES Americas Moapa Solar Energy Center on the Moapa River Indian Reservation in Clark County, Nevada." The BIA said "in a notice to be published in the Feb. 14 Federal Register that it is the lead agency on this review process, along with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Park Service (NPS), and the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians."

STUDY SUGGESTS OFFSHORE WIND FARMS COULD LESSEN IMPACT OF HURRICANES. WWAY-TV Wilmington, NC (2/26, 7K) reports that "a new study shows offshore wind farms could actually tame beastly storms, making them less deadly and less expensive." Mark Jacobson, an engineering professor at Stanford University, "and his team used complex modeling to figure out the impacts large wind farms would have had on three mega-storms: Sandy, Isaac, and Katrina." The researchers "found that more than 80,000 50ft wind turbines off the east coast could have reduced Sandy's winds up to 87 miles per hour and its storm surge up to 34%."

Onshore Energy Development:

ONRR ISSUES CIVIL PENALTY TO CHESAPEAKE OVER ROYALTY REPORTS. The Oklahoman (2/27, 345K) reports that the Department of the Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue has assessed Chesapeake Energy Company a $428,400 civil penalty for "knowing or willful submission" of inaccurate royalty reports. ONRR Director Greg Gould said, "It is imperative that companies file accurate and timely reports required by existing law so ONRR can ensure American Indian and taxpayer assets are protected. It is simply unacceptable that a company continues to file inaccurate reports after an audit order instructed the company to make the necessary corrections."

Offshore Energy Development:

FORMER BP EXECUTIVE TRIAL DELAYED. The AP (2/27) reports that US District Judge Kurt Englehardt has thrown out obstruction-of-Congress charges for David Rainey, former BP vice president of exploration for the Gulf of Mexico during the 2010 spill, but prosecutors have appealed and brought a new indictment on the same charges. Englehardt has ruled that it is "not clear that the obstruction law applies to subcommittees and that the indictment failed to allege that Rainey knew of the pending congressional investigation he was charged with obstructing." The AP reports that the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeal has scheduled arguments for the week of April 28th.

BP FORCED TO CONTINUE SEAFOOD PAYMENTS. Bloomberg News (2/26, Feeley, 1.91M) reports that BP PLC will have to continue its $1.3 billion in payments to seafood workers on the Gulf Coast affected by the oil spill. US District Judge Carl Barbier has rejected BP's argument that fraud allegations against Mikal Watts should lead to a suspension of payments. Bloomberg reports that Barbier told BP that he did not want to "hold up everyone else...until we sort out your case against Mr. Watts."

The AP (2/27, Mcgill) also reported on the story.

NO INJURIES IN LOUISIANA GAS WELL BLOWOUT. The AP (2/27) reports that there were no injuries in a Tuesday gas blowout at a Black Creek Drilling site in Acadia Parish, Louisiana.

OCEANA WELCOMES SHELL'S DECISION TO DROP ARCTIC DRILLING FOR 2014. For the Huffington Post (2/27, Danson, 11.54M), Oceana's Andrew Sharpless and Ted Danson the decision by Shell not to pursue exploration drilling in the Arctic Ocean in 2014 is "great news for the Arctic ecosystem – home to vast expanses of important habitat for marine life, including many species of fish." They claim that "Alaska has already seen more than its fair share of oil disasters, and drilling in the Arctic will inevitably bring another spill." The authors also urge the US government to "stop and fully evaluate the potential risks and benefits of Arctic drilling," because "when they do so, it will be clear that energy companies are not prepared to carry out oil and gas activities safely in the Arctic Ocean."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

PROPOSED WATER CUTS IN SACRAMENTO VALLEY PROTESTED. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (2/26, 749K) reports that "the strain on water supplies in this serious drought year was evident this week, as major landowners in the Sacramento Valley protested the federal government's forecast that it will deliver only 40 percent of usual water supplies." According to the article, "the protests are coming from a range of interests: the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, which distributes water to farmers in the Sacramento Valley; the Conaway Preservation Group, which owns farmland in the Yolo Bypass; and the city of Redding." BOR spokesman Louis Moore said, "We know this is unprecedented. We know that it is difficult. But we really just don't have the resource available."

Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the Baltimore Sun (2/27, 812K) and the Southern California Public Radio (2/26, 57K).

SENS. UDALL, HEINRICH SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO SECURE WATER RESOURCES IN NEW MEXICO. KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM (2/27, 5K) reports that Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich are supporting "legislation to conserve water resources and promote sustainability." According to the article, "the SECURE Water Amendments Act of 2014 would expand grants and increase funding for water conservation and drought projects, and provide resources for better data collection and analysis of water supply and use." The bill will receive a hearing on Thursday.

Empowering Native American Communities:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO PAY 2015 TRIBAL CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS IN FULL. The Indian Country Today Media Network (2/26, 21K) reports that "soon after the White House confirmed last week that 2014 tribal contract support costs would be fully funded, administration officials are confirming this week that the president's 2015 budget also calls for full funding in this area." The article notes that "the decision is a dramatic reversal from the White House's plan last year to cap tribal contract support costs owed to tribes." A White House official said, "While the discretionary funding caps in FY 2015 required tough decisions, the administration has given priority to Native American programs."

For the Indian Country Today Media Network (2/26, 21K), Mark Trahant, the 20th Atwood Chair at the University of Alaska Anchorage, writes that "President Obama's next budget, due to be released soon, will be good news for Indian country." Although austerity won't "end in Indian country," Trahant notes that the "budget is a new approach – and it will have many implications in Indian country."

CONNECTICUT GOV. MALLOY OPPOSES TRIBAL RECOGNITION PROPOSALS. The AP (2/27) reports that Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy on Monday delivered a letter to President Barack Obama expressing opposition to certain revisions to tribal recognition rules being considered by the BIA. Malloy said that "the proposals as written would unfairly affect the state of Connecticut because of criteria that would appear to benefit three tribes that already have lost bids for recognition." Malloy said "consequences of approval for those tribes would be 'devastating' because they have pending claims to vast areas of fully developed land."

Also reporting on the story are the New London (CT) Day (2/26, 76K) and the Norwich (CT) Bulletin (2/26, 47K).

ARIZONA EDUCATORS LAUD BIE EARLY-CHILDHOOD PROGRAM. The Cronkite News (2/27) reports that "Arizona educators Wednesday praised a Bureau of Indian Education program that gets Native American parents actively engaged in the education of their children from birth until kindergarten." The article notes that "Arizona has eight of the nation's 43 Family and Child Education, or FACE sites, which assist tribal families in home-based, early childhood and adult education, and job training." Jacquelyn Power, the superintendent and principal of Blackwater Community School, a school on the Gila River Indian Reservation, said, "The FACE model recognizes that education begins at birth and parents are the first and most important teacher of their child." Power was "one of five witnesses who testified at a Senate Indian Affairs Committee oversight hearing on the progress of early childhood development and education in Indian Country."

SEN. BEGICH DISCUSSES INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CONCERNS. In an interview with the Indian Country Today Media Network (2/26, 21K), Alaska Sen. Mark Begich discussed Alaska Native and American Indian

issues. Begich talked about "how he is now turning his sights on achieving a 100 percent clean Carcieri fix to the controversial 2009 Supreme Court decision that negatively impacts tribal trust lands, fixing the broken justice system for Alaska Natives, and he vows not to be partisan in considering the nomination of Cherokee Nation citizen Keith Harper to become a UN human rights ambassador."

Top National News:

IN ST. PAUL, OBAMA MAKES HIS CASE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS. President Obama's appearance in St. Paul to make the case for increased Federal infrastructure spending was not covered by any of the three network newscasts Wednesday evening, nor was it a major topic of discussion on cable news. This morning's coverage emphasizes that the President proposed to pay for transportation projects with savings from tax reform, rather than a hike in the Federal gas tax, which some analysts say gives it a better a chance in Congress.

Bertha Coombs of CNBC (2/26, 1.52M) reported that the President "proposes paying for this spending with what we calls ' pro-growth business tax reform,' In other words...closing tax loopholes." However, Coombs also reported that while the President "says the spending will stimulate the economy and create jobs...he knows it has little chance of happening this year with Republicans in control of the House." President Obama was shown saying, "Infrastructure didn't used to be a partisan issue. ... Unfortunately time and again over the past few years there's been some Republicans in Congress who have refused to act on common-sense proposals to create jobs and grow our economy." On Fox News' Special Report (2/26, 2.15M), Bret Baier briefly noted that the President had been in Minnesota "to push for more spending on infrastructure repairs."

The AP (2/27, Pickler) reports that on Wednesday, the President said he "will ask Congress for $300 billion to update aging roads and railways, arguing that the taxpayer investment is a worthy one that will pay dividends by attracting businesses and helping put people to work." The AP adds that "funding for surface transportation programs expires later this year, and the White House says 700,000 jobs could be at risk." The President is quoted as saying, "At a time when companies are saying they intend to hire more people this year, we need to make that decision easier for them."

Under the headline "Obama Pitches Plan To Fix Crumbling U.S. Roads, Bridges," Reuters (2/27, Rampton) quotes the President as saying, "If Congress doesn't finish a transportation bill by the end of the summer, we could see construction projects stop in their tracks, machines sitting idle, workers off the job." Reuters notes that the President added, "Nobody knows better than Minnesotans, when we've gone through a winter like this – roads are wrecked, full of potholes, all across the country." The Los Angeles Times (2/27, Hennessey, 3.07M) reports that Transportation Secretary Foxx, "who traveled with the president, dubbed the deadlines the 'transportation cliff.'"

The New York Times (2/27, A15, Shear, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the President "urged lawmakers to overhaul corporate and business taxes to pay for repairing and replacing the nation's aging roads, rails, bridges and tunnels." The Times goes on to note that the President "avoided the politically treacherous solution that most transportation experts say is necessary in the short term: raising the federal gas tax that has been frozen at 18.4 cents per gallon for the past two decades." The Times says the President "opposes a gas-tax increase," and, "instead...offered a stopgap proposal for fixing some of the nation's crumbling infrastructure that White House officials hope will appeal to" some Republicans.

The Washington Post (2/27, Eilperin, 4.28M) notes that also on Wednesday, House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp "unveiled his own plan to rework the U.S. tax code, with a proposal that would dedicate $126.5 billion to fund highway and infrastructure investment," and, according to the Post, "the dueling proposals suggested the two parties might reach some sort of accord on the highway bill before funding expires in September." The Post adds that House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster "issued a statement praising Camp's plan," but said he is "willing to look at Obama's proposal as well."

According to the Los Angeles Times (2/27, Hennessey, 3.07M), on Wednesday in St. Paul, the President "offered cautious praise for" Camp's "tax reform effort that could help foot the bill for major infrastructure investments." The Bloomberg News (2/27, Keane, 1.91M) reports that "business groups have said infrastructure

spending is needed to boost U.S. economic growth," and that "transportation funding was one of the subjects that Obama discussed Tuesday during a private meeting at the White House with" House Speaker Boehner.

The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Favole, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on Wednesday in Washington, Boehner said, "We've got to find the funding mechanism to fund our infrastructure needs, and so the hunt has been under way for the last year and a half to find that funding source. I wish I could report to you that we've found it, but we haven't."

The Washington Times (2/27, Wolfgang, 417K) notes that also on Wednesday in St. Paul, the President "proposed another $600 million in competitive grant funding through" the Transportation Department's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program (TIGER), "which began as a part of the president's 2009 stimulus package."

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune (2/27, Mitchell, 1.14M), "the grant program has been generous to Minnesota" and "provided $35 million to help fund the renovation of" St. Paul's Union Depot, but has also "been a popular target for Republican lawmakers looking to trim the federal budget." The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (2/27, Salisbury, 540K) reports that "long lines formed early" at the Union Depot, and that the President "toured the Metro Transit Light Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility in St. Paul before making his speech." According to the Pioneer Press, "the Union Depot seemed a natural spot for the speech" since it "recently underwent a $243 million makeover in hopes of creating a transportation hub."

In another article, the Pioneer Press (2/27, Melo, 540K) reports that former Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak said, "Facing the worst economic crisis since the Depression, the president brought money here to St. Paul, and you see that today. He took massive grief for it, but he led." The Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Business Journal (2/27, Black, Subscription Publication, 13K) notes that the President "was greeted at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport by St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges."

FEDERAL JUDGE STRIKES DOWN TEXAS BAN ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. The New York Times (2/27, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Federal Judge Orlando Garcia of the US District Court for the Western District of Texas on Wednesday struck down Texas' ban on same-sex marriage, "ruling that the laws restricting marriage to a man and a woman violated the United States Constitution." The ruling hands "gay-rights advocates a major legal victory in one of the nation's biggest and most conservative states." Garcia said, "Without a rational relation to a legitimate governmental purpose, state-imposed inequality can find no refuge in our United States Constitution."

USA Today (2/27, Stanglin, Winter, 5.82M) reports Garcia "rejected the argument by the office of Texas Attorney General said each state has the right to define marriage as best fits the traditions of its citizens." Texas "also argued that traditional marriage best supports the state's interest in the area of procreation and child rearing."

ABC World News (2/26, story 4, 0:20, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported that in Texas, "a Federal judge struck down the Texas ban on same-sex marriage. No marriages can take place until the appeals court rules. But if it holds, Texas will join this map – 17 other states and the District of Columbia – where gay marriage is legal in America."

The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Koppel, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, who is running for governor, is expected to appeal the ruling, though he didn't immediately comment. However, Gov. Rick Perry said, "Texans spoke loud and clear by overwhelmingly voting to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman in our [state] Constitution, and it is not the role of the Federal government to overturn the will of our citizens. We will continue to fight for the rights of Texans to self-determine the laws of our state."

The Los Angeles Times (2/27, Hennessy-Fiske, 3.07M) reports that the gay couple who were among those that filed the suit said, "Ultimately, the repeal of Texas' ban will mean that our son will never know how this denial of equal protections demeaned our family and belittled his parents' relationship. We look forward to the day when, surrounded by friends and family, we can renew our vows in our home state of Texas."

NYTimes/CBS News Poll Finds 40% Of Republicans Now Back Same-Sex Marriage. The New York Times (2/27, Martin, Thee-Brenan, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that its latest poll with CBS News finds that

"Republican support for same-sex marriage is on the rise. In the fall of 2012, just 24 percent of Republicans backed legalizing the unions; now 40 percent of Republicans do so."

BREWER VETOES CONTROVERSIAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BILL. Arizona Gov. Janet Brewer on Wednesday vetoed a bill that would have allowed business owners to deny service to others on religious grounds, which was widely viewed as targeting gays and lesbians. She had come under pressure not just from the left, but also from numerous prominent Republicans.

The Arizona Republic (2/27, Sanchez, 1.19M) reports that facing "intense pressure from political and business interests," coupled to a "growing public outcry," Brewer on Wednesday vetoed Senate Bill 1062, "the divisive right to refuse service legislation." She said that bill "was unnecessary legislation that threatened the state's recovering economy by driving away high-profile events such as next year's Super Bowl and corporations looking to relocate to Arizona." The veto "capped a week of escalating furor over the bill that once again catapulted Arizona's political into the national spotlight."

The AP (2/27, Christie) reports that "loud cheers erupted outside the Capitol building" after Brewer announced her veto. Brewer said at a news conference, "My agenda is to sign into law legislation that advances Arizona. I call them like I seem them despite the tears or the boos from the crowd. After weighing all the arguments, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1062 moments ago." Brewer warned that the bill "could divide Arizona in ways we could not even imagine and no one would ever want." The GOP-backed bill was "designed to give added protection from lawsuits to people who assert their religious beliefs in refusing service to gays," but critics said it was "an open attack on gays that invited discrimination."

The Washington Post (2/27, Blake, 4.28M) reports that Brewer said at her press conference that the bill "does not address a specific or pressing concern," adding, "I have not heard of one example in Arizona where business owners' religious liberty has been violated. The bill is broadly worded, and could result in unintended and negative consequences." The Post says that the legislation was "passed in response to a ruling by the New Mexico state Supreme Court against a wedding photographer who declined to work for a couple's same-sex wedding."

The Washington Times (2/27, Richardson, 417K) reports Brewer "defended her record on religious liberty," saying, "I have protected religious freedoms when there is a specific and present concern that exists in our state, and I have the record to prove it."

The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Audi, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports the decision earned plaudits from gay-rights groups, who argued that it would have allowed businesses to discriminate against gay and lesbian customers.

In a story written before the veto, the Arizona Republic (2/27, Sanchez, 1.19M) reports that Brewer's office "has been flooded with more than 20,000 e-mails, letters and phone calls from Arizonans and people across the USA" looking to influence her decision.

The AP (2/27, Christie) reports that Brewer held meetings with both opponents and proponents of the bill before her announcement on Wednesday.

All three network news programs broadcast coverage of the issue prior to Brewer's veto. In its lead story, the CBS Evening News (2/26, lead story, 1:55, Pelley, 5.58M) ran a lengthy overview and reported that "rarely has an impending decision by a state governor gotten so much national attention."

NBC Nightly News (2/26, story 9, 0:30, Williams, 7.86M) reported that the bill "would essentially allow business owners to turn away gays or lesbians or just about anyone for that matter based on their religious beliefs." ABC World News (2/26, story 3, 0:35, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported that "a lot of big names, like John McCain and Mitt Romney," warning Brewer "not to sign that bill," and adds that more than 65,000 "have joined the push, signing a petition, urging Brewer not to sign the bill."

Prominent Republicans Saw Bill As Distraction, Harmful. The New York Times (2/27, Santos, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports calls for a veto from "prominent Republicans," such as Romney and Ari Fleischer, "appeared on Twitter, among the thousands of posts on the microblogging site." Among those that Brewer met

with on Wednesday was state Sen. Steve Pierce, "who voted for the measure, approved on Thursday on a 17-13 party line vote, and then regretted it, joining two colleagues in a letter to the governor urging her to reject the bill."

Politico (2/27, Weinger, Mccalmont, 464K) reports that Sens. McCain and Jeff Flake, both Republicans, called on Brewer to veto the bill, while the "line from many national Republicans on the Arizona law was clear: Make it go away." The "firestorm" over the legislation "was taking critical time away from issues such as health care and the economy that those in the party would rather emphasize, several members of Congress told POLITICO earlier this week."

Some Conservatives Back Legislation. The Huffington Post (2/27, Ashtari, 11.54M) reports that while many Republicans nationally opposed the legislation, the Heritage Foundation "maintained support for the bill in a blog post on Tuesday." In addition, National Review ran an editorial on Monday backing the bill.

Other States Considering Similar Legislation. Politico (2/27, Drusch, Kopan, 464K) reports that other states have "moved toward similar measures within their own borders." For example, a Missouri state senator on Monday introduced a bill similar to Arizona's, while in Georgia "two versions of a similar bill in the state House and Senate are moving quickly through the Legislature." And in Kansas, "a similar bill already passed Republican-led House earlier this month." Other states considering such bills include Ohio, Mississippi, Idaho, South Dakota, Tennessee and Oklahoma.

Poll Shows Growing Support For Gay Marriage, Even Among Religious Americans. The Christian Science Monitor (2/27, Swan, 540K) reports that a new survey conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute shows that "support for gay marriage may have reached a tipping point, even among religious Americans, who have been traditionally opposed to the idea." In a Pew Survey ten years ago, "roughly one-third" of Americans supported gay marriage, but in the new survey, 53% said that "they believe gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to marry." However, the poll shows "that levels of support vary drastically by region, state, generation, and education level." The Monitor says that "what is surprising is that religion seems to play a much smaller role than it did a decade ago in how individuals decide where they stand on gay marriage."

More Commentary. In her column for the New York Times (2/27, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Gail Collins writes that Brewer "is an erratic politician, but she's not crazy," and it "would have been hard to ignore the pressure." Noting that the business community was heavily opposed to the legislation, Collins writes that this "has been building up for a long time." Arizona's "old order" has "been fuming because it's been elbowed out of political control by people who are less interested in economic development than arresting illegal immigrants, exposing Barack Obama as a Kenyan and combating the scourge of same-sex marriage."

In his column for the New York Times (2/27, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Charles Blow writes that the "backlash" to the bill was "swift and strong," but "the damage to the Republican brand has already been done." History, Blow writes, "doesn't look kindly on those who stand against equality," but that is "where conservatives have chosen to stand, much to my dismay and their detriment."

In his column for the Washington Post (2/27, 4.28M), E.J. Dionne writes that "social and religious conservatives should have been the first to oppose" the bill because pushing "conscience exemptions" "beyond reasonable limits threatens a long-standing American habit of having government go out of its way to accommodate the commitments of religious people." He adds that using conscience exemptions "to facilitate backdoor resistance to social change takes something precious and turns it into a cheap political tactic."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Simpler Tax Plan, Not A Better One."*** The New York Times (2/27, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp's tax overhaul plan "ensures that there will be no tax reform in the near future. It refuses to ask for greater sacrifice from the rich to bring in desperately needed revenue for rebuilding the country and improving education. ... Hard-line conservatives, on the other hand, insist that changing the tax code should include slashing revenue, which the proposal avoids." The Times says "the goal should not be a system that leaves the wealthy undertaxed, doing nothing to reduce income inequality."

"Better Lawyering For The Poor." The New York Times (2/27, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, praises Jonathan Lippman, the Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, for "starting...a new program [that] will let third-year law students take the bar exam in February instead of July, in exchange for spending their last semester doing free legal work for the poor." According to the Times, Lippman "is also seeking to have more non-lawyers assist unrepresented litigants in housing, consumer debt and other cases."

"Liar's Jackpot."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Dead On Arrival."*** The Washington Post (2/27, 4.28M) editorializes that "in a properly functioning Washington," House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp's tax overhaul proposal "would kick off a major debate over how to fix the federal government's inefficient system of revenue collection. ... In the actual Washington, alas, Mr. Camp's proposal has basically no chance of passage, or even of being acted upon this year." While the Post says "not everything" in the "fine print strikes us as sensible," Camp's "proposal is a serious approach to a serious problem."

"China's Uncharged Prisoners." In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/27, 4.28M) decries China's persecution of the families of dissidents, citing the house arrest of Liu Xia, wife of Liu Xiabo, who is serving an 11-year prison term "on charges of subversion for his role in co-authoring and distributing Charter 08, a call for democratic freedoms in China." The Post argues that while the Obama Administration treats human rights as "something to be mentioned but not allowed to interfere with the important work of bilateral relations," the "'new model of great-power relations' that China envisions cannot succeed as long as its rulers are silencing their own citizens."

"Shunning Voters In Virginia." In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/27, 4.28M) decries the fact that Republicans in Virginia have "been shunning primaries in recent years," and the "effect has been a string of losses in general elections by unimpeachably conservative candidates." Now, the state's Democrats "seem to be following suit – at least" in the open VA10 race. The Democrats "announced that, for two weeks starting March 29, it will hold something called 'unassembled caucuses' to select delegates affiliated with candidates, after which the delegates will hold a convention in late April to choose the party nominee." The Post says that the convoluted process will likely drive away "thousands of potential voters."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Tax Reform For Growth."*** The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp spent three years working on his tax overhaul plan and has crafted a proposal that would be more fair, more efficient, and promote economic growth over redistribution of wealth. The Journal says the weaknesses in the plan are mostly in Camp's attempts to win Democratic support.

"Who Stabbed Kevin Lau?" An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (2/27, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) urges a investigation into the stabbing, in Hong Kong, of journalist Kevin Lau, who has been critical of the Hong and Chinese governments. The Journal argues that the widespread speculation that the attack was politically motivated is justified, and expresses hope that Hong Kong's chief executive, Leung Chun-ying, who called the attack a "savage act," will seek the attacker and any accomplices even if the search leads to mainland China.

"Ray Kelly Was Right." The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, welcomes the move by Federal Judge William Martini to throw out a lawsuit over the New York Police Department's anti-terrorism surveillance. The Journal notes that in response to the plaintiffs claim that Muslims were unfairly targeted, Martini wrote that the NYPD focused on the Islamic community in an effort "to locate budding terrorist conspiracies" because it was Muslim terrorists who perpetrated the attacks on the September 11, 2011 and the "surveillance of the Muslim community began just after the attacks." The Journal points out that Martini added that the NYPD "could not have monitored New Jersey for Muslim terrorist activities without monitoring the Muslim community itself."

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
China Guides Yuan Lower
Hopeful Signs On Home-Supply Crunch
Tensions In Asia Stoke Nationalism In Japan
Cities Slow Down On Red-Light Cameras

New York Times:
Warlords With Dark Pasts Battle In Afghan Election
Turkish Leader Disowns Trials That Helped Him Tame Military
Pivotal Point Is Seen As More States Consider Legalizing Marijuana
GOP, Though Deeply Split, Has Election Edge, Poll Shows
Arizona Governor Vetoes Bill On Refusal Of Service To Gays
Cuomo, Up For 2nd Term, Tries To Steer GOP As It Picks His Rival

Washington Post:
As Ukraine Churns, Focus On Crimea
In Washington, Homes Fit For Hollywood
Court Voids Texas's Ban On Gay Marriage
How Many Calories Is It? New Labels Ease The Math
Republicans Too Focused On Health Care, Some Fear

Financial Times:
Putin Puts Armed Forces On Alert
US Senators Rebuff Credit Suisse Stance
China Dismisses Concern On Renminbi Fall
Allianz Shareholders Urge Action On Pimco
Blackstone Nears Deal To Buy Into Versace
Elliott Management Takes 11% Stake In F&C
Rouble Trouble Makes Russia Inviting

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Extreme Weather; Sex Trafficking; Arizona-Religious Freedom Bill; Texas-Same-Sex Marriage Ban; Delta-Frequent Flyer Program Changes; Ukraine Crisis; China-Air Pollution; Health-Child Birth Study; Kerry Kennedy Trial.
CBS: Arizona-Religious Freedom Bill; Extreme Weather; Weather Forecast; Extreme Weather-California; Politics-CBS News/NYT Poll; Ukraine Crisis; Syria-Civil War; NASA-Spacesuit Leak Investigation; Health-Prenatal Screening Study; Pope Francis Image; Winter Weather-Salt Mines.
NBC: Ukraine Crisis-Russia; Ukraine Crisis-US; Health-Child Birth Study; Child Birth Study-Analysis; Extreme Weather-California; Weather Forecast; NASA-Spacesuit Leak Investigation; Colorado-Marijuana; Arizona-Religious Freedom Bill; Target-Profits Decrease; Delta-Frequent Flyer Program Changes.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Arizona-Religious Freedom Bill Vetoed; Texas-Same-Sex Marriage Ban; FDA-Food Nutrition Labels; Target-Profits Decline; Extreme Weather-California; Jim Lange Obit.
CBS: Arizona-Religious Freedom Bill Vetoed; Extreme Weather-California; Target-Profits Decline; JCPenney-Profit Increase; FDA-Food Nutrition Label Changes; Delta-Frequent Flyer Program Changes; American Airlines-Bereavement Program Canceled.
FOX: Arizona-Religious Freedom Bill Vetoed; Politics-Tax Overhaul Proposal; Extreme Weather-California; Economy-Home Sales; Texas-Same-Sex Marriage Ban; Ukraine Crisis-Russia; Consumer Report's Auto Report; Jim Lange Obit.
NPR: Arizona-Religious Freedom Bill Vetoed; Texas-Same-Sex Marriage Ban; House-IRS Targeting Bill; NTSB-GM Recall; Wall Street; ITT Services Lawsuit; Nigeria-Violence.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets with foundation and business leaders, State Dining Room, stills only pool spray; delivers remarks on the My Brother's Keeper initiative, the East Room, open to pre-credentialed media; President and the Vice President meet with Secretary of the Treasury Lew, Oval Office, closed press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will drop by a meeting of the Association of State Democratic Chairs. The Vice President's remarks at this meeting will be pooled for television and open to credentialed correspondents and photographers. The Vice President will attend an event for the Democratic National Committee. This event is closed press. The Vice President will travel to Phoenix, Arizona.

MICHELLE OBAMA – The First Lady will make an announcement regarding proposals 'to help parents and other consumers make healthier choices'. This event is in the East Room and is open press. Following the event, the First Lady will join Rachael Ray for an interview. This interview will air the following week on The Rachael Ray Show. First Lady will travel to Bowie, Maryland for an announcement with a local child care facility. This event is pooled press. Following her event at a local child care facility, the First Lady will join Jenna Bush Hager for an interview with the Today Show. This interview will air the following day.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. – The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. Thereafter, senators resume consideration of S.1982, the Veterans Benefits bill.

2ND GLOBE CLIMATE LEGISLATION SUMMIT – Feb. 27 – 28. Legislators from over 50 countries will convene for the 2nd GLOBE Climate Legislation Summit in Washington DC. Location: Kennedy Caucus Room 325 Russell. Notes: Press must RSVP to Eben Burnham Snyder at Eben_BS@markey.senate.gov or 202-224-2742.

VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE – 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Senate Law Enforcement Caucus and House Victims Rights Caucus Joint Briefing: "Children's Advocacy Centers and the Victims of Child Abuse Act – How Trained Forensic Interviewers and Multi-Disciplinary Teams Support Law Enforcement and Child Victims". Participants: Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.), Founder/Co-Chair, Senate Law Enforcement Caucus; Senator Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), Founder/Co-Chair, Senate Law Enforcement Caucus; Congressman Ted Poe (R-Texas), Co-Chair of the House Victims Rights Caucus; Congressman Jim Costa (D-Calif.), Co-Chair of the House Victims Rights Caucus; Dr. Jerry Dunn, Executive Director of the St. Louis Childrens Advocacy Centers; Diane Klecan, Program Director for Client Services, Childrens Advocacy Center of Delaware and a forensic interviewer who has conducted over 2300 forensic interviews; Capt. Martin Bartness, Baltimore Police Department. Location: Capitol Visitors Center: SVC 212-10. Contacts: Jamie Serlin Jamie_Serlin@coons.senate.gov. (202-224-5042)

PNND RECEPTION – MARKEY, UMAROV – 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Reception with Senator Ed Markey, Co-President of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and H. E. Kairat Umarov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United States of America. Special guest: Karipbek Kuyukov, Honorary Ambassador of the ATOM Project (Abolish Testing Our Mission) and 2nd generation victim of Soviet nuclear tests,"acclaimed armless artist". Location: 325 Russell. Notes: Reception is by invitation only.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARMED SERVICES – 9:30 a.m. Meets to receive testimony on U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: Admiral Cecil D. Haney, USN, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command; General Keith B. Alexander, USA, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command. Location: G50 Dirksen.

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. "The Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress". Witness: Janet L. Yellen, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Location: 538 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS ROUNDTABLE – 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on "Promoting College Access and Success For Students With Disabilities". Witnesses: Panel I: Will Farrior , Student, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC; Laysha Ostrow , Student, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD; Dana Fink , Assistant Project Coordinator, Institute for Educational Leadership,

Washington, DC; Liz Getzel , Director of Postsecondary Education Initiatives, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA; Katherine Myers, Associate Director, Office of Disability Services, Wright State University, Dayton, OH; Melissa Emrey-Arras , Director of Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Boston, MA . Location: 216 Hart.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. Hearing on Recycling Electronics: A Common Sense Solution for Enhancing Government Efficiency and Protecting Our Environment. Witnesses: Panel I: Kevin Kampschroer, Director, Office of Federal High Performance Green Buildings, Office of Governmentwide Policy, U.S. General Services Administration; Thomas G. Day, Chief Sustainability Officer, U.S. Postal Service. Panel II: Brenda Pulley, Senior Vice President of Recycling, Keep America Beautiful; Walter Alcorn, Vice President, Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability, Consumer Electronics Association; Stephen Skumac, President, Sims Recycling Solutions. Location: 342 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY – 10 a.m. Executive Business Meeting on pending nominations. and bills: NOMINATIONS: Steven Paul Logan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; John Joseph Tuchi, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; Diane J. Humetewa, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; Rosemary Marquez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; Douglas L. Rayes, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; James Alan Soto, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. BILLS: S.1675, Recidivism Reduction and Public Safety Act of 2013 (Whitehouse, Portman); S.149, STOP Identity Theft Act of 2013 (Klobuchar, Sessions). Location: 226 Dirksen.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION – 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard will hold a hearing on North Pacific Perspectives on Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization. This hearing is the fourth in a series of regionally-focused hearings regarding the upcoming reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Witness Panel 1: Dr. James W. Balsiger, Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service; Chris Oliver, Executive Director, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Tim Andrew, Director of Natural Resources, Association of Village Council Presidents. Panel 2: Joseph Plesha, Chief Legal Officer, Trident Seafoods; Lori Swanson, Executive Director, Groundfish Forum; Linda Behnken, Executive Director, Alaska Longline Fishermens Association; Ricky Gease, Executive Director, Kenai River Sportsmen's Association; Michael LeVine, Pacific Senior Counsel, Oceana; Julianne Curry, Executive Director, United Fishermen of Alaska. Location: 253 Russell.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 11:15 a.m. Hearing on International Parental Child Abduction. Panel One: Susan Jacobs, Special Advisor for Childrens Issues, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S Department of State, Washington, DC; Panel Two: Ernie Allen, President and Chief Executive Officer, International Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Washington, DC; David Goldman, Cofounder and Director, Bring Sean Home Foundation, Lincroft, NJ; Patrick Braden, Chief Executive Officer, Global Future: The Parents Council on International Childrens Policy, Los Angeles, CA; Dr. Noelle Hunter, Parent of an Abducted Child, Morehead, KY. Location: 419 Dirksen.

ARMED SERVICES – 2:30 p.m. To resume closed hearings to examine responses to questions from the open session on current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States. Witnesses: James R. Clapper, Jr., Director of National Intelligence; Lieutenant General Michael T. Flynn, USA, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency. Location: SVC-217.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES – 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Water and Power hearings to examine S.1419, to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, S.1771, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, S.1800, to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets, S.1946, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to modify the authorization of appropriations, S.1965, to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services, S.2019, to reauthorize and update certain provisions of the Secure Water Act, and H.R.1963, to amend the Water Conservation and Utilization Act to authorize the development of non-Federal hydropower and issuance of leases of power privileges at projects constructed pursuant to the authority of the Water Conservation and Utilization Act. Location: 366 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE – 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. – The House will meet for morning hour and at noon for legislative business. First votes expected: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Last votes expected: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY – CRENSHAW – 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) will present Congressman Ander Crenshaw with a 2014 Champion of Change Award. The organization will recognize Crenshaw for his focus on advancing the nations commitment to people with Down syndrome through the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE Act – H.R. 647/S. 313). Location: 2168 Rayburn (Gold Room). On the Net: www.crenshaw.house.gov

DEMOCRATIC LEADER NANCY PELOSI – 10:45 a.m. Holds her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP – BETANCOURT, JACKSON-LEE – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Women in Leadership: Litmus Test for Democracy in the Middle East and Iran. Panelists: Ingrid Betancourt, a Colombian presidential candidate, former senator and anti-corruption activist who was kidnapped for 6 years by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC); Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, a Senior Member of the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees; Ruth Wedgewood, Professor & Edward B. Burling Chair in International Law and Diplomacy at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University; Antonia Felix, New York Times bestselling author, Adjunct Professor, Hamline University; Donna Hughes, Professor & Chair of Womens Studies at Rhode Island University and a leading international researcher on human trafficking. Location: 339 Rayburn. Contacts: John Cpin 202.261.4000 (www.mercuryllc.com)

HOUSE SPEAKER JOHN BOEHNER – 11:30 a.m. Holds an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114. Contacts: Kevin Smith, 202-225-0600

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ROUNDTABLE – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Aviation roundtable policy discussion with Michael Whitaker, Deputy Administrator and Chief NextGen Officer, Federal Aviation Administration; Matt Hampton, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Aviation, Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General; Captain Steve Dickson, Co-Chair, RTCA NextGen Advisory Committee. Location: 2167 Raybum.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs Hearing, "The Administration's Proposed Restrictions on Political Speech: Doubling Down on IRS Targeting." Location: 2247 Raybum.

APPROPRIATIONS – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Oversight Hearing – Federal Investments in Neuroscience Research. Witnesses: Dr. John P. Holdren, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; Dr. John C. Wingfield, Assistant Director, Directorate of Biological Sciences, National Science Foundation. Location: H-309 Capitol.

APPROPRIATIONS – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Oversight Hearing – House Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise. Witnesses: Dr. George W. Korch Jr. Ph.D., Senior Science Adviser to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response; Dr. Robin Robinson, M.D., Director, Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority; Dr. Dan Sosin, M.D., Deputy Director, Office of the Public Health Preparedness and Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Dr. Luciana Borio, M.D., Assistant Commissioner, Counterterrorism Policy, Food and Drug Administration; Dr. Michael Kurilla, M.D., Director, Office of Biodefense Research Resources and Translational Research, National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Health. Location: 2358-C Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES – 10 a.m. Full Committee Hearing, "The Posture of the U.S. Special Operations Command and U.S. Transportation Command." Witnesses: General William M Fraser III USAF, Commander, U.S. Transportation Command; Admiral William H McRaven USN, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command. Location: 2118 Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity examines the effectiveness of VAs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program. Location: 334 Cannon.

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education and the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training Joint Hearing, "Exploring Efforts to Strengthen the Teaching Profession." Location: 2175 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on Understand Growing, Changing Threat of Counterfeit Drugs. Witnesses include: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center Director Lev Kubiak. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. Full committee markup: H.R. 2548, Electrify Africa Act of 2013. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

HOMELAND SECURITY – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Legislative Hearing: H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. Witnesses: Panel I: NPPD Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection Caitlin Durkovich; Stephen L. Caldwell, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, U.S. Government Accountability Office: Marcia Hodges, Chief Inspector, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. PANEL II: Clyde Miller, Director for Corporate Security, BASF North America, Incoming Vice Chair, American Chemistry Council Security Committee; Kate Hampford Donahue, President, Hampford Research, Inc., Member, Board of Governors, Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA); Anna Fendley, Legislative Representative, United Steelworkers. Location: 311 Cannon.

INTELLIGENCE – 10 a.m. Closed meeting on Ongoing Intelligence Activities. Location: HVC-304.

JUDICIARY – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' Use of Storefront Operations. Witness: Thomas Brandon, Deputy Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES – 10 a.m. Full Committee Markup on H.R. 1103, H.R. 1259, H.R. 2015, H.R. 3110, and H.R. 3605. Location: 1324 Longworth.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on National Security Hearing, "Afghanistan: Honoring the Heroes of Extortion 17." Location: 2154 Rayburn. Notes: Families represented by Freedom Watch plan to hold a news conference after the hearing at the Independence Ave. exit of the Raybum building. For more information, contact Freedom Watch at daj142182@gmail.com or (424) 274-2579.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY – 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on Mars Flyby 2021: The First Deep Space Mission for the Orion and Space Launch System? Witnesses: Dr. Scott Pace, Director of the Space Policy Institute, George Washington University; General Lester Lyles (ret.), Independent Aerospace Consultant and former Chairman of the Committee on "Rationale and Goals of the U.S. Civil Space Program" established by the National Academies; Doug Cooke, Owner, Cooke Concepts and Solutions and former NASA Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Mission Directorate; Dr. Sandra Magnus, Executive Director, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Highways and Transit hearing on Improving the Nation's Highway Freight Network. Witnesses: Mark Gottlieb, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation; on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; Gerald Bennett, Mayor, Palos Hills, Illinois; on behalf of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Henry Maier, President and Chief Executive Officer, FedEx Ground; Susan Alt, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, Volvo Group North America. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

VETERANS AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity holds a hearing to review the effectiveness of VAs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program. Witnesses: Panel 1: Daniel Bertoni,

Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Heather Ansley, Esq., MSW, Vice President of Veterans Policy, VetsFirst; Paul Varela, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans. Panel 2: Jack Kammerer, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Location: 334 Cannon.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 10:15 a.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Power hearing series on "Benefits of and Challenges to Energy Access in the 21st Century". Witnesses: Panel I: Edward S. Finley, Jr., Chairman, North Carolina Utilities Commission; Todd Moss, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Fellow Center, Global Development; Bruce Biewald, Chief Executive Officer, Synapse Energy Economics; Mel Coleman, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Arkansas Electric Cooperative; Karen Kerrigan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council; Paul O'Brien, Vice President for Policy and Campaigns, Oxfam America. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES – 1:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 3105, "Aquaculture Risk Reduction Act"; H.R. 3280, "Lacey Act Clarifying Amendments Act"; H.R. 3324, "The Lacey Act Paperwork Reduction Act"; H.R. 4032, "North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act." Location: 1334 Longworth.

NATURAL RESOURCES – 1:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 3105 (Crawford), To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to exempt from such Act invasive animals accidentally included in shipments of aquatic species produced in commercial aquaculture, and for other purposes. "Aquaculture Risk Reduction Act; H.R. 3280 (Fleming), To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to limit the application of such Act to certain finished plant products importer after May 22, 2008 and finished plant products, and for other purposes. "Lacey Act Clarifying Amendments Act; H.R. 3324 (Harris), To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to reduce burdensome paperwork, and for other purposes. "The Lacey Act Paperwork Reduction Act; H.R. 4032 (Hall), To exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes. "North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act. Witnesses: Panel I: William C. Woody, Chief, Office of Law Enforcement, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (H.R. 3105, H.R. 3280, H.R. 3324 & H.R. 4032); Michael Watson, Executive Director of Plant Health Programs, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, (H.R. 3280 & H.R. 3324). Panel II: Andy Buchsbaum, Regional Executive Director, Great Lakes Region, National Wildlife Federation, (H.R. 3105); Harrison Pittman, Director of the Natural Agriculture Law Center, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, (H.R. 3105); Mike Freeze, President, National Aquaculture Association, (H.R. 3105); Tom Talbot, CEO and Founder, Glen Oak Lumber and Milling, (H.R. 3280 & H.R. 3324); Erik O. Autor, President and CEO, Autor Global Strategies, Testifying on Behalf of Lacey Act Coalition, (H.R. 3280 & H.R. 3324); Michael Rickman, Deputy Executive Director, North Texas Municipal Water District, (H.R. 4032). Location: 1334 Longworth.

ARMED SERVICES – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces Hearing, "Seapower and Projection Forces Capabilities to Support the Asia Pacific Rebalance." Witnesses: David Berteau, Senior Vice President and Director of International Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Dr. Thomas Mahnken, Professor of Strategy, Jerome Levy Chair of Economic Geography and National Security, U.S. Naval War College; Dr. Ely Ratner, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the Asia-Pacific Security Program, Center for a New American Security; Admiral Patrick Walsh USN (Ret.), Senior Fellow, Tower Center, Southern Methodist University. Location: 2212 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing: "Obama Administration Oversight: GAO Report – Interior Hiring and Retention Challenges." Location: 1324 Longworth.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Healthcare and Entitlements Hearing, "Examining the Endangered Species Act." Location: 2154 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 4:30 p.m. Markup of H.R. 1281, "The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act, H.R. 3548, "The Improving Trauma Care Act, H.R. 4080 "The Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act, and H.R. 1528, "The Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act. Location: 2123 Rayburn. Notes: Time changed from 3 p.m.
Other: MYANMAR EMBASSY PROTEST – Members of the Rohingya-American and the American Burmese

Muslim community and their supporters will hold a rally outside the embassy of Myanmar to protest "the ongoing persecution of the Rohingya and Burmese Muslim minority in that nation." Later in the day, a news conference will be held on Capitol Hill to call for congressional action on the issue. Highlights: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Rally at Embassy of Myanmar, 2300 S Street NW. 3 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. News conference at House Triangle with Rep. Dana Rohrabacher. Contacts: Yusuf Iqbal, yusufmisrah@gmail.com, 503-545-2901

NTEUS 2014 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE – Feb. 26 – 28. The 2014 Legislative Conference of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU). Highlights: 12 p.m. Capitol Hill rally scheduled for the West Front of the U.S. Capitol. Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel. Contacts: Media RSVP: Dina Long dina.long@nteu.org. Notes: RSVP for the media briefing and Friday luncheon to Dina Long at dina.long@nteu.org

OAS – CYBER CRIME – Feb. 27 – 28. The Organization of American States (OAS) will host two day meeting of national authorities and other governmental experts from the Americas on international legal cooperation to fight cyber crime. The inauguratal event will be launched by the Secretary General of the Organization, Jose Miguel Insulza. Location: Padilha Vidal Room, General Services Building of the OAS, 1889 F Street, NW. Contacts: OASPress@oas.org (202-370-5437)

DNC WINTER MEETING – Feb. 27 – March 1. The Democratic National Committee holds their 21014 Winter Meeting. Contacts: 202-863-8000

CARE INNOVATION SUMMIT 2014 – 8 a.m. The Aspen Institute and The Advisory Board Company host the Care Innovation Summit 2014. Speakers include: HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius (12:15p); Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, National Institutes of Health; Patrick Conway, MD, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Senator Thomas Daschle, former Senate Majority Leader; Senator William Frist, MD, former Senate Majority Leader; Farzad Mostashari, MD, The Brookings Institute; Peter Orszag, PhD, MsC, Citigroup. RSVP: Pete Simpkinson with the Advisory Board at simpkinp@advisory.com or 202-266-6645. Location: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave, NW. Notes: Streamed at: www.aspeninstitute.org/live

HEALTH REFORM CONFERENCE – 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Forum on "Fresh ideas and a new vision for health reform" – How can we get true market-based reform? Speakers: Rep. Diane Black (TN), Rep. Michael Burgess (TX), Senator Richard Burr (NC), Rep. Tom Price (GA), Rep. Phil Roe (TN), and Rep. Steve Scalise (LA). Douglas Holtz-Eakin (American Action Forum) will moderate the discussion. Second panel, "How do the policy recommendations work?" The experts weigh in, features Jeff Anderson (2017 Project), Joseph Antos (AEI), James Capretta (EPPC and AEI), John Goodman (National Center for Policy Analysis), Hadley Heath (Independent Womens Forum), Chris Holt (American Action Forum), Paul Howard (Manhattan Institute), Merrill Matthews (Institute for Policy Innovation), Thomas Miller (AEI), and Nina Owcharenko (The Heritage Foundation). Grace-Marie Turner (Galen Institute) will moderate the discussion. The luncheon debate will feature Avik Roy (Manhattan Institute and Forbes) and Ezra Klein (Project X), who will talk about key health policy issues in the 2014 and 2016 elections. Location: National Press Club, ballroom, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Grace-Marie Turner gracemarie@galen.org (703 299-8900). Tyler Hartsfield tyler@galen.org (703 299-8900).

TEA PARTY PATRIOTS 5TH ANNIVERSARY – 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tea Party Patriots Five-Year Anniversary Celebration. Participants: Jenny Beth Martin, Co-founder of Tea Party Patriots Mark Levin, host of "The Mark Levin Show"; Sens. Mike Lee (R-UT), Rand Paul (R-KY), and Ted Cruz (R-TX); Reps. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Louie Gohmert (R-TX); Jim Jordan (R-OH), Steve King (R-IA); Jim Bridenstine (R-OK), Mark Meadows (R-NC); Matt Salmon (R-AZ); Craig Shirley, Reagan biographer and Reagan Scholar at Eureka College; Catherine Engelbrecht, Founder of King Street Patriots. Location: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave NW. Contacts: Mike Rudin (703) 739-5920 ((800) 536-5920). On the Net: www. TeaPartyPatriots.org. Notes: For an itinerary, the full list of speakers, or to receive press credentials, please contact mrudin@sbpublicaffairs.com.

FEDSCOOP – MOBILEGOV SUMMIT – 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The 4th Annual MobileGov Summit will bring government and industry IT leaders together to "share current issues, trends and best practices on how to create the next generation mobile government workforce." Highlights: 8:35 a.m. Department of Defense Chief Information Officer Teri Takai delivers remarks on the status of DoD's mobility programs. Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

POLITICO – SENATOR CRUZ – 8:30 a.m. POLITICO's Chief White House Correspondent Mike Allen hosts a

Playbook live morning conversation with Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas). Location: The Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Contacts: @POLITICOEvents (PlaybookBreakfast). Notes: To register a camera: booking@politico.com The event will also be streamed at: POLITICO.com/Live

ULTRA PRESS CONFERENCE – 9 a.m. Members of the Oruh family, Ultra Home Health Agency and supporters hold a press conference to "expose years of targeting and marginalization" by the DC Department of Health (DCDOH) and now the Federal Bureau of Investigations of a small African immigrant family business that has been in operation since 2004 – Ultra HHA. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street, NW 13th Floor. Contacts: Chioma Oruh 202-697-3529. On the Net: www.ultraint.com

CAP – COLOMBIA – MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE – 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. The Center for American Progress will host a discussion with Juan Carlos Pinzon Bueno, Colombias minister of national defense. Before participating in the U.S.-Colombia High-Level Strategic Security Dialogue, Minister Pinzon will join us to discuss the Colombian armed forces ongoing efforts against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, and the future roles and missions of Colombias armed forces in a potential post-conflict scenario. Welcome: Neera Tanden, President, Center for American Progress Keynote remarks: Juan Carlos Pinzsn Bueno, Minister of National Defense of Colombia. Moderator: Dan Restrepo, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress. CONTACT: Anne Shoup at ashoup@americanprogress.org or at 202.481.7146. Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE – TAX REFORM – 9:30 a.m. John Engler, President of Business Roundtable, will hold a teleconference to respond to the comprehensive tax reform discussion draft released by House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp, and will outline policies needed to drive greater investment, economic growth and job creation. Contacts: Amanda DeBard, 202-496-3269. Notes: Dial-in telephone number: (800) 230-1074. Passcode: Roundtable. Callers will be asked for their name and media outlet before they are admitted to the call. If you encounter any problems, please call (202) 496-3289.

OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL – 9:30 a.m. The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) will hold a special meeting. Location: Simon Bolmvar Hall, Organization of American States, 7th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW. Contacts: 202-370-5437

U.S. IMMIGRATION SYSTEM – CHILD MIGRANTS – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The Migration Policy Institute hosts discussion on A Treacherous Journey: Child Migrants Navigating the U.S. Immigration System. Speakers: Elizabeth Dallam, National Legal Services Director, Kids In Need of Defense (KIND); Lisa Frydman, Associate Director and Managing Attorney, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, UC Hastings. Moderator: Kathleen Newland, Director, Refugee Protection Program, MPI. Media Contact: Michelle Mittelstadt, 202-266-1910, mmittelstadt@migrationpolicy.org. Location: Migration Policy Institute, 1400 16th St. NW, Suite 300.

U.S. PIRG – CONSUMER COMPLAINTS – 10 a.m. U.S. PIRG Education Fund will release a report analyzing consumers complaints about debt collection, including the most common problems, the companies causing the most headaches for consumers, and how complaints are resolved. This is the fifth report in a series from the U.S. PIRG Education Fund that analyzes complaints in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureaus public Consumer Complaints Database. Contacts: Laura Murray lmurray@pirg.org (202-461-3830). On the Net: www.uspirgedfund.org. Notes: There will be no press event. This is the time the report will be posted to the www.uspirgedfund.org website.

WOMEN OF THE SENATE – 10 a.m. The third annual Allegheny College Prize for Civility in Public Life will be awarded to the "Women of the Senate". President James H. Mullen, Jr. will award the 2014 Prize. U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), the ranking Republican and Democrat members of the women of the Senate, will accept the award on their colleagues behalf. Tom Ridge will also deliver remarks. States Represented by Women of the Senate are: Alaska: Lisa Murkowski (R); Califomia: Barbara Boxer (D) and Dianne Feinstein (D); Hawaii: Mazie Hirono (D); Louisiana: Mary Landrieu (D); Maine: Susan Collins (R); Maryland: Barbara Mikulski (D); Massachusetts: Elizabeth Warren (D); Michigan: Debbie Stabenow (D); Minnesota: Amy Klobuchar (D); Missouri: Claire McCaskill (D); Nebraska: Deb Fischer (R); New York: Kirsten Gillibrand (D); New Hampshire: Kelly Ayotte (R) and Jeanne Shaheen (D); North Carolina: Kay Hagan (D); North Dakota: Heidi Heitkamp (D); Washington: Maria Cantwell (D) and Patty Murray (D); Wisconsin: Tammy Baldwin (D). Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Pam Higham, phigham@allegheny.edu, 814-

332-3576.

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION – CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Event, "Connected Communities in an Age of Digital Learning." Opening Remarks: Reed Hundt, CEO, Coalition for Green Capital, Former Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Featured Speakers: Richard Culatta, Director, Office of Educational Technology, U.S. Department of Education; Susan Hildreth, Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services; Melanie Huggins, CEO, Richland Library, South Carolina; Pam Moran, Superintendent, Albemarle County Public Schools, Virginia; Greta Byrum, Senior Field Analyst, New America's Open Technology Institute. Location: 1899 L Street NW Suite 400.

AAF – ADMINISTRATIONS 2015 BUDGET PREVIEW – 10:30 a.m. Senator Rob Portman, AAFs President Douglas Holtz-Eakin, and Maya MacGuineas will preview the Obama Administrations 2015 budget during an event hosted by the American Action Forum. Location: American Action Forum Offices, 1747 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, 5th Floor.

BROOKINGS – MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. A Conversation with Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Location: The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW. Contacts: 202.797.6105

KIND-CGRS – IMMIGRATION – CHILDREN – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Center for Gender and Refugee Studies (CGRS) and the Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) release New Report on Reforming the U.S. Immigration System for Unaccompanied Children Important Changes Required to Ensure Protection for Growing Numbers of Kids Coming to the United States Alone. DIAL IN: 877-594-8353. Passcode: 52599217. CONTACTS: Julia Epstein – (415) 581-8835; epsteinj@uchastings.edu; Megan McKenna, (202) 824-8687; mmckenna@supportkind.org.

ABA – HESSE – 12 p.m. Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division Renata B. Hesse will participate in a panel hosted by the American Bar Associations Section of Antitrust Laws Economics Committee on the topic, "Vertical and Complementary Products Mergers". NOTE: Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Alisha Cybulski at 202-662-1097 or Alisha. Cybulski@americanbar.org. Location: 51 Louisiana Ave., N.W.

MEI – U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONS IN 2014 – 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. The Middle East Institute's Louis R. Hughes Lecture Series hosts Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States H.E. Jalil Abbas Jilani for a conversation about the opportunities and challenges facing U.S.-Pakistan relations today. Location: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Contacts: information@mei.edu (202)785-1141

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS – PRESS CALL – 1:15 p.m. The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) will release the results from a new mayoral energy survey with key Conference energy and climate leaders. Specifically, the survey reports on the many benefits to cities made possible by the availability of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding. Participants: Gresham, OR Mayor Shane Bemis, Chair, Energy Committee; Bridgeport, CT Mayor Bill Finch, Co-Chair, Energy Independence and Climate Protection Task Force; Carmel, IN Mayor Jim Brainard, Co-Chair, Energy Independence and Climate Protection Task Force. DIAL IN: 1-888-539-3612, Passcode: 6169839. Contact: Elena Temple 202-861-6719 5/8 etemple@usmayors.org; Lina Garcia 202-861-6113, lgarcia@usmayors.org; Karen Hinton 703-798-3109, karen@hintoncommunications.com.

VETERANS HOMELESSNESS – 1:30 p.m. A public forum to announce the initial results of a city-wide effort to end homelessness among U.S. military veterans in D.C. Veterans NOW is a team of D.C. government, Federal government, and community agencies, united in an effort to end veteran homelessness in Washington, D.C., by the Federal goal of 2015. Participants in the effort include: The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, The Department of Veterans Affairs, the D.C. Housing Authority, the Department of Human Services, Miriams Kitchen, Pathways to Housing DC, and Friendship Place. Location: The Hill Center, 921 Pennsylvania Ave., SE. Contacts: Tom Murphy Miriams Kitchen (202-368-8571). Notes: The D.C. Group says they housed 207 Homeless Veterans in 100 days.

ASIA-PACIFIC CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM – 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. The Overseas Private Investment Corporation

(OPIC), the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) will host a roundtable discussion highlighting the official launch of the Asia-Pacific Clean Energy Program. Representatives speaking at the event will include Carlos Pascual, the State Department's Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs, Scott Marciel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of State, Mimi Alemayehou, Executive Vice President, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and Enoh Ebong, General Counsel, U.S. Trade and Development Agency. Location: OPIC headquarters, 1100 New York Avenue. Notes: RSVPs are strongly encouraged. To RSVP or for press inquiries, please contact Jenifer Joyce, ENR Press Officer at joycej@state.gov or 202-647-7959.

SAIS – JAPAN – ABENOMICS – 4:30 p.m. Discussion on "Abenomics: The Missing Arrow – Reform of Japan's ICT Sector" with Jim Foster, professor at Keio University Graduate School of Media and Governance, director of the Keio International Project on the Internet and Society, and former economic counselor and political minister at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Location: Room 806, Rome Building, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW. Contacts: Francesca Di Marco SAIS (fdimarco@jhu.edu)

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Stephen Colbert: "Nation, I am so glad, I am so glad to hear that you are happy, because I used to be happy. But I learned something today that shook me to my core. And once my core is shaken, don't come a knocking. Here's the deal. Remember that one time I mentioned in passing that Obama is plotting to radically alter the founder's vision for America? He is. Ben Franklin would be horrified by Obamacare. It doesn't even cover leech-craft or bone-purging for female hysteria."

Stephen Colbert: "But folks, what is most insidious about Obama's agenda is how it's now brainwashing our children. Take Michelle Obama's 'Let's Move' campaign to combat childhood obesity. [Video of Kim Jong-Un appears] Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. No, that's North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un. It's so easy to mistake the two. They both look great in pant suits."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to recent childhood obesity report] "[Childhood obesity rates have dropped] over 40 percent in a decade. Nation, I believe the children are the future. And thanks to Mrs. Obama, America now has 40 percent less tomorrow. That's just math."

Stephen Colbert: "I don't understand a First Lady accomplishing something. Everything they do is supposed to be a symbolic waste of time. Like Nancy Reagan's war on drugs or Laura Bush's fight to end presidential illiteracy."

Stephen Colbert: "Thanks to Mrs. Obama, instead of care-free chubsters, we are now...breeding a generation of body-conscious tots doing tricycle spin classes desperately trying to get back to their birth weight."

Stephen Colbert: "Worst of all, this is bad news for the GOP. They need to reach out to the preschool demo. And it won't be easy, since the Republicans are on record as trying to deport Dora and they condemn SpongeBob as a form of birth control. Plus, preschool itself is a left-wing, socialist training camp. Sharing toys, snack handouts, premarital napping, not to mention wasteful infrastructure projects."

Jimmy Fallon: "Ralph Nader is now calling on super-rich people like Oprah to run for president. Yeah, President Oprah. A lot of people say this is an interesting idea, while Hillary calls it 'that dream where I wake up screaming. That's not real, right? That's not real? Oh, my God. Please don't tell me that's real.'"

Seth Meyers: "Well, the next presidential election is still two years off, but speculation is already underway. A 'New York Times' poll says that eight out of ten Democrats want Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016. The same poll also shows that ten out of ten Democrats want Chris Christie to run against her."

Seth Meyers: "President Obama has announced that four million people have signed up for Obamacare. Obama said he wants to hit seven million users by the end of March, at which point he'll sell it to Facebook for $10

billion."

Seth Meyers: "The Arizona state legislature passed a law that made it legal for businesses to deny service to gay customers. And Tucker Carlson told Fox News this week, 'If I don't want to bake you a cake for your gay wedding, that's called tolerance. But when you try and force me to bake a cake for your gay wedding, and threaten me with prison if I don't, that's called fascism.' I think the more important issue is, who is asking Tucker Carlson to bake all these wedding cakes?"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 3, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Mar 3, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL HIKES CHIMNEY TOPS TRAIL TO OBSERVE TRAIL RESTORATION PROJECT. The Maryville (TN) Daily Times (3/3, 64K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "appeared in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Sunday afternoon to hike the steep, two-mile long Chimney Tops Trail, and observe progress on the restoration work the trail is undergoing." Jewell "expressed interest in learning more about the key partnerships the Park has had with groups such as Friends of the Smokies and others, in order to continue to protect, preserve, restore and honor the Park's resources and history." Jewell heard about the park's work to restore the trail and learn about its partnerships to help preserve it.

Secretary Jewell To Discuss Joint Curatorial Collections Facility. The Chattanoogan (3/2, 17K) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander and Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr., announced Friday that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "join them at an event with Smokies partners and conservation groups on Monday, to discuss the future of the recently-approved Joint Curatorial Collections Facility that will house more than 800,000 historical artifacts and archival records from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and four other Tennessee national park units."

The Maryville (TN) Daily Times (3/2, 64K) reports that "Alexander, Duncan and descendants of those whose artifacts will be displayed will join Jewell for a press conference."

HOUSE PANEL HOLDS HEARING ON HIRING CHALLENGES FACED BY INTERIOR. The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (3/2) reports that on February 27, the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held an oversight hearing on the hiring challenges faced by the Interior Department. At the hearing, Frank Rusco, Director of Natural Resources and Environment, at the Government Accountability Office testified, "Interior and its three bureaus – BLM, BOEM, and BSEE – have taken some steps to address hiring and retention challenges but could do more. Interior has used special salary rates and incentive programs to increase hiring and retention of key oil and gas positions, but use of these incentives has been limited." He added, "BSEE officials told us that fewer or less-thorough inspections may mean that some offices are less able to ensure operation compliance with applicable laws and regulations and, as a result, there is an increased risk to human health and safety due to a spill or incident."

RIVERSIDE COUNTY SEEKS MONEY TO RESTORE SALTON SEA. The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (2/28, 465K) reports that "money to revive the ailing Salton Sea is a priority in the federal wish list approved by Riverside County supervisors Tuesday, Feb. 25." According to the article, "the annual platform, which spells out what supervisors want legislatively from Washington, includes a request to retain language in a recently passed Senate bill that could help the sea get millions of dollars for restoration." The platform read, "Legislative initiative coordinated by Riverside County may well determine whether the Sea devolves into an ecological and economic disaster, or whether the Sea is transformed into a healthy, attractive environment as America's renewable energy powerhouse."

IVORY DISCUSSED DURING MEETING OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. For the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (2/28, 198K), Mike Dunham examines the minutes of a meeting of the Federal Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking held on Dec. 16. He notes that "ivory was the hot-button issue, the item most talked about," but "every mention appeared to specifically refer to African elephant ivory." Dunham "found no direct statement whatsoever regarding walruses or mammoths and no hint that the ivory of marine mammals or extinct species was ever under discussion."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS. The Arizona Daily Sun (3/2, 33K) reports that "a group of young outdoor enthusiasts...met Feb. 26 with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to discuss the importance of public lands to America's heritage and economy." The "youths traveled to Washington, D.C., from across the country after winning an essay contest sponsored by Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development." Jewell said that "engaging young people in conservation and nurturing their connection to the outdoors are critical to the health, economic and social benefits of conserving public lands."

Also covering the story is the Roanoke (VA) Times (3/2, 259K).

NEW MEXICO WELL-REPRESENTED AT INTERIOR. For the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (3/2, 288K), Michael Coleman writes that the confirmation of Mike Connor as Deputy Secretary, Kevin Washburn as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and Hilary Tompkins as the solicitor general means that "these are heady days for New Mexico at the Department of the Interior." According to the article, "Connor, Washburn and Tompkins belong to a rare set of Washington power players: They're humble, genuine people who others actually enjoy working with."

Additional coverage of Connor's confirmation was provided by the Albuquerque (NM) Business First (3/2), the Indian Country Today Media Network (2/28, 21K), the Penn Energy (3/2, 128), and the Hydroworld (3/2, 151).

WHITE HOUSE'S WILDFIRE PROPOSAL PRAISED. In an editorial, the Denver Post (3/1, 949K) praises a

White House proposal that the US Forest Service and Interior Department be allowed to use a Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster fund for money to put out the most extreme wildfires. According to the paper, the move that would ease pressure on funds used for projects such as thinning dead forests, maintaining forest roads and creating buffer zones around homes vulnerable to wildfires. The paper concludes that it's time that wildfire disasters get the same consideration as other cataclysmic events.

SECRETARY JEWELL CRITICIZED OVER KING COVE ROAD DECISION. For the FrontPage Magazine (3/2, 18K), Daniel Greenfield writes that "in one of Alaska's most remote outposts, where a thousand hardy souls make their homes, the Obama administration has put the fate of birds and bears above the lives of people, blocking construction of an 11-mile gravel trail connecting a tiny fishing hamlet to a life-saving airport."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS DEFENDS DECISION TO MOVE BETHUNE ARCHIVES. In a letter to the Washington Post (2/28, 4.28M), NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis writes in response to Colbert I. King's Feb. 22 op-ed column, "Black women's history gets shipped out." Jarvis writes that "the Bethune archives belong at the Bethune House, but not at the expense of losing them." He argues that the new facility is "the best place for the full archive to remain safe and accessible to researchers while we determine if the Council House can be fitted with necessary protective systems without damaging the historic building." Jarvis concludes that "if we cannot physically return the archives to the Council House, we will do so digitally, to ensure that the voices of these African American women inspire future generations."

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AWARDS $525,000 TO PROTECT FOUR CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS. The National Journal (3/2, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis has "announced more than $525,000 in grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to help preserve more than 120 acres of land at four of America's threatened Civil War battlefields." According to the article, "the grant projects are at the Mill Springs (Ky.), Bentonville (N.C.), Appomattox Courthouse (Va.), and Aldie (Va.) battlefields." Jarvis said, "America's Civil War battlefields are places where we can learn about democracy, sacrifice, heroism and hope in the very places where those concepts shaped our history. These grants will allow future generations to walk these hallowed grounds and understand the sacrifice of former generations that helped define us as a nation and a people today."

DEATH OF ISLE ROYALE WOLF ADDS TO DEBATE. The Los Angeles Times (2/28, Dave, 3.07M) reports that "a female gray wolf's demise has added to the debate about whether authorities should try to save the wolves of Isle Royale National Park." Researchers want the NPS to "import fertile wolves from robust neighboring populations," but the proposal is "controversial," and the NPS has "not decided what to do." If the NPS "decides to let nature take its course and the wolves die out, researchers warn, the moose population could boom and destroy the park's ecosystem." Phyllis Green, Isle Royale's park superintendent, said "officials are summarizing the more than 1,000 public and expert comments they've gathered in the last two years," and "she expects to release a report in the late spring."

NEW EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL EARNS PRAISE FROM GUIDES, ANGLERS. The Miami Herald (3/2, Cocking, 806K) reports that "working with skiff guides, anglers and conservation groups," Everglades National Park has "revised its draft general management plan to provide more access for boating, fishing and paddling in Florida Bay than what it proposed a year ago." The new "preferred alternative" for "long-term management of park waters was generally well-received at a meeting of park officials and fishing guides Friday in Islamorada." At Friday's meeting, park superintendent Dan Kimball told guides, "We're trying to protect the resource but provide reasonable and appropriate access, and that's what you have helped us with. We've really listened to you. We've really incorporated that a lot in our plan."

WOLF KILLINGS BY ALASKA AGENCY ANGERS NPS. The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (3/2, 44K) reports that NPS officials are "fuming about the elimination of an Eastern Interior wolf pack by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game last week, including a pair that were wearing radio collars." On Feb. 21, the state agency "shot all 11 members of the Lost Creek pack near Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve." Yukon-Charley Superintendent

Greg Dudgeon said "the shootings are a setback for a long-term study of wolf behavior that began roughly 20 years ago."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (3/3).

TOURISTS STILL FLOCKING TO ICE CAVES NEAR APOSTLE ISLANDS. The AP (3/2) reports that "the ice caves near the Apostle Islands in northern Wisconsin are still proving to be very popular." According to the NPS, "nearly 78,000 people visited the caves along Lake Superior from Jan. 15 through the end of February." The article notes that "the last time the ice was thick enough for people to walk on to see the caves was in 2009, but only about 8,400 visited in January and February." Julie Van Stappen, with the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, has said "social media is playing a bigger role this year in getting the word out."

WILDFIRE BURNS IN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK. WHSV-TV Harrisonburg, VA (3/2, 6K) reports that the Rocks Mountain Fire in Shenandoah National Park has "grown to over 100 acres." Firefighters are "working along the park boundary to prevent the fire from leaving the park." The article notes that "currently 58 personnel are working to contain the fire."

YOSEMITE OPENS LOTTERY SYSTEM FOR HALF DOME. The AP (3/2) reports that Yosemite Park rangers say "hikers can now apply for permits to ascend the summit of Yosemite National Park's iconic Half Dome." According to the article, "the lottery system will end March 31, but about 50 additional permits per day will be available through a two-day-in-advance lottery during the hiking season."

LATIMES PRAISES NEW YOSEMITE PLAN. The Los Angeles Times (3/2, 3.07M) editorializes that the NPS's "latest proposal for the valley does more to balance tourism and conservation." According to the paper, "the plan, which will be reviewed at a public meeting on Thursday, does a far better job of preserving recreational activities in the valley than the draconian draft from a year ago that would have banned such environmentally friendly pastimes as bicycle and raft rentals." Although "the plan isn't perfect," the Times notes that the NPS was "under pressure from the public and some politicians to keep maximizing its concessions." It concludes that "given the lobbying from both sides, the service did a good job of balancing tourism with conservation."

MORE WORK TO PRESERVE D.C.'S TREES URGED. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (2/28, Hunter, 4.28M), Robert E. Hunter warns about "the destruction of much" of D.C.'s "canopy by the spread of invasive species and, hence, the slow erosion of the habitat of the fauna." He notes that "groups of volunteers, from time to time, hack away at the intruders, but they fight a largely losing battle." According to Hunter, "their efforts are not enough, and the National Park Service, which has authority over much of Washington's parkland, is too strapped for cash to mount the kind of large, sustained effort that would be necessary to turn the tide."

Bureau of Land Management:

INVESTIGATORS PUZZLED WILD BURRO MURDERS. NPR (3/2, O'Dowd, 465K) reports that "in the desert outside of Phoenix, there have been 18 shootings" of wild burros "in the last five years, a series of mysteries that has stumped federal investigators." The article notes that "people don't eat burro, and it doesn't look like anyone was harvesting the meat." The BLM "believes the motive is nothing more than target shooting."

PETITION SEEKS TO BLOCK LAND EXCHANGE BETWEEN BLM, TEXAS BILLIONAIRES. The Billings (MT) Gazette (3/2, 206K) reports that "some Montana advocates of public lands access seem to be in no mood to negotiate with Texas billionaire brothers Dan and Farris Wilks over land exchange or access deals in central and north-central Montana." According to the article, "petitions are circulating asking the Bureau of Land Management's state director to halt any talks about an exchange that would give the Wilkses possession of a landlocked parcel called the Durfee Hills, surrounded by their N Bar Ranch south of Lewistown, and to build a road around the Wilks' Anchor Ranch in Blaine County to access 50,000 acres of BLM lands in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument." The article notes that "rumors have circulated in the region for two years about deals the BLM and Wilks brothers have discussed to come to an agreement, but since no formal proposal has been made, the process hasn't been open to any public scrutiny or comment." According to Ron Moody, a Lewistown resident and former Montana Fish and Wildlife commissioner, "that prompted the petition."

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW URGED FOR WILD HORSE PROGRAM. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (3/2, 165K) editorializes that "the federal government's wild-horse management is an expensive, ineffective mess that should be put out of its misery." The paper notes that "in 2012, the number of horses and burros in holding corrals around the country surpassed the number of 'wild' horses and burros on the range." It also notes that the BLM's Joan Guilfoyle, Wild Horse and Burro Division director, said "last summer that the program is in crisis and warned that without 'drastic changes' it's heading for financial collapse." The editorial concludes that "in this day of budget-cutting, when even the Pentagon is facing significant decreases in spending, Congress cannot long tolerate a program that is taking an increasing chunk of the budget while providing little of value in return."

SCIENTIST ARGUES SNWA PIPELINE WOULD HARM SAGE GROUSE. In an op-ed for the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (3/2, 165K), Rob Mrowka, senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity in North Las Vegas, highlights "the inevitable harm" that the Southern Nevada Water Authority pipeline project will "pose for the increasingly rare sage grouse." He notes that "the sage grouse requires large areas of sagebrush for its survival throughout all four seasons," which is "why it's so disturbing that the Bureau of Land Management estimates that more than 200 square miles of sagebrush and related shrub habitat could disappear because of this misguided project." Mrowka claims that the "groundwater development project could be the final threat to push the grouse into the protections of the Endangered Species Act."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

NORTH CAROLINA CITES DUKE FOR POLLUTION FROM COAL ASH PONDS. The New York Times (3/1, Gabriel, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reported that under increasing attention on a deal between the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources and Duke Energy over pollution from coal ash ponds, the department announced on Friday that Duke will be cited "for two formal notices of violating environmental standards in connection with the spill." The department has denied accusations that they "made some smoky back-room deal" with Duke.

The Los Angeles Times (3/1, Zucchino, 3.07M) also reports the story.

North Carolina Resists Coal Ash Recycling, Cites Environmental Concerns. The AP (3/1, 4.28M) reported that there has been growing interest in recycling coal ash for use in concrete, asphalt, and other building products. The EPA is set to issue rules on the disposal of coal ash in December, but North Carolina Environmental Secretary John Skvarla said that it would be "unwise...to force the removal of Duke's leaky coal ash pits without long and careful study." The AP noted that state officials were unable to provide an example showing that the removal of coal ash has harmed the environment.

DIVISIONS REEMERGE IN NEVADA SAGE GROUSE PLANS. The AP (3/2, Chereb) reports that "deep divisions in Nevada's approach to sage grouse have resurfaced in the state's fragile attempt to keep the bird off the list of endangered species and avoid economic consequences for ranching, mining and alternative energy development across large swaths of land." According to the article, "at issue is whether the state's course emphasizes protecting industry interests over ensuring the bird's survival."

FWS SAYS BALD EAGLES DON'T HAVE TO DELAY BRIDGE REPAIR NEAR LONGMONT. The AP (3/2) reports that Boulder County doesn't necessarily have to delay a multimillion-dollar bridge replacement project because of the presence of nesting bald eagles in the neighborhood, according to FWS officials. County Transportation director George Gerstle said Thursday that the start of construction of a new East County Line Road bridge over the St. Vrain River might be postponed until August or September in order to protect the eagles and their hatchlings until the young birds have finally dispersed from the nesting territory. However, the FWS said Friday that under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, "the Service has the ability to issue ... permits for projects where appropriate."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (2/28) and the Longmont (CO) Times-Call (3/2, 66K).

GROUP SEEKS PROTECTION FOR PUFFINS. Salon (3/2, 613K) reports that the Natural Resources Defense Council has filed a petition with the FWS, "requesting that tufted puffins of the Lower 48 receive protections under the Endangered Species Act." The article notes that "in just 30 years, tufted puffin populations in Washington,

Oregon, and California have plummeted as much as 90 percent, thanks to habitat destruction, fishing practices, and troubles with invasive species."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

HYDROPOWER GENERATION TO RESUME AT MT. ELBERT POWER PLANT. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (3/2, 94K) reports that "hydropower generation will resume at the Mt. Elbert Power Plant next week, creating unstable ice on Twin Lakes." According to the article, "water entering the power plant from the Mt. Elbert Forebay and water exiting the plant into Twin Lakes might create unsafe conditions for winter activities like ice fishing on the lakes, located south of Leadville." Scott Wik, Mt. Elbert Power Plant manager, said, "Our concern is that once we start operating the power plant, ice in the Forebay up above and ice right below the plant in Twin Lakes might become unstable."

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO SET UP RULE FOR STREAM BUFFER ZONE RULE BILL. Politico (3/1, Guillén, 464K) reports that the House Rules Committee will "meet on Monday to set up a rule for H.R. 2824, which blocks the administration from instituting a new stream buffer zone rule, a major coal mining regulation." The bill would "require the implementation of the now-vacated rule, and stop Interior from implementing any new version of rule until the agency conducts a five-year assessment and submits a report to Congress."

BLM TRIES TO KEEP UP WITH PERMIT APPLICATIONS. The Jamestown (ND) Sun (3/2, 850) reports that the BLM's North Dakota field office is "inundated with permit applications for drilling on federal lands." The bureau has "gotten creative to try to keep up with the workload — bringing in 'strike teams' to the Miles City district headquarters, using teleworkers from around the country and even securing land for employee housing to help recruitment for its base in Dickinson." The article notes that "one of the more simple solutions has been to have the oil industry — which both created the backlog and would benefit most from winnowing it down — pay for more staff."

TRIBES IN SOUTH DAKOTA PREPARING TO BLOCK PIPELINE'S DEVELOPMENT. McClatchy (3/2, Hotakainen, Subscription Publication, 95K) reported, "In South Dakota, home to some of the nation's poorest American Indians, tribes are preparing for nonviolent battle with 'resistance training' aimed at TransCanada, the company that wants to develop" the Keystone XL pipeline. Organizers, according to McClatchy, are "considering vigils, civil disobedience and blockades to thwart the moving of construction equipment and the delivery of materials." McClatchy added that company spokesman Terry Cunha "said TransCanada is now working with 17 tribes in South Dakota, Montana and Nebraska, where the company needs" President Obama's approval to build.

EPA SEEKING TO BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OF ALASKA COPPER MINE. The New York Times (3/1, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Environmental Protection Agency is seeking "to block the development of a giant open-pit copper mine" in southwestern Alaska. The Friday decision on Pebble Mine "was not an outright death blow to the project," but it "left little room for the mine and its supporters to persuade the agency otherwise." EPA Administrator McCarthy said that the mine as proposed "would cause 'significant and irreversible negative impacts'" to the Bristol Bay watershed.

The Washington Post (3/1, Eilperin, 4.28M) says Sen. Lisa Murkowski "accused the EPA of issuing a 'preemptive veto' that could set a dangerous precedent," while Pebble Limited Partnership CEO "issued a statement calling the move 'a major overreach onto an asset of the state of Alaska.'" McClatchy (3/1, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 95K) also has a report.

NYTimes Hails Administration's Decision On Alaska Mining Project. In an editorial, the New York Times (3/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) hails the Administration's decision on Friday to put "the brakes on a massive gold and copper mine proposed for the headwaters of Alaska's Bristol Bay while it decides whether to prohibit it permanently." The Times says that this "sounds like the death knell for a project, known as the Pebble Mine, that by any measure is an environmental disaster waiting to happen."

TEXAS CONSIDERING WHETHER NATURAL GAS DRILLING DISPOSAL WELLS CAUSE EARTHQUAKES. According to the Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (3/2, Fuquay, 596K), the Texas Railroad Commission is "grappling with whether wastewater disposal wells used in natural gas drilling cause earthquakes." Arkansas, meanwhile, "permanently closed four injection wells after a swarm of quakes in 2011, and Ohio's governor stepped in to order a well in Youngstown shut down after it was linked to quakes." According to the Star-Telegram, a recent rise in the number of US quakes "coincides with increased underground disposal of wastewater associated with hydraulic fracturing, the oil and natural gas production technique that has boosted US output but has had environmental effects."

Offshore Energy Development:

MARINE SCIENTIST OPPOSES SEISMIC TESTING. In an op-ed for USA Today (2/28, Huelsenbeck, 5.82M), Matthew Huelsenbeck, amarine scientist at Oceana, argues that "seismic testing could use intense sound to hurt marine life." He notes that "the science on how sound impacts marine life is far from settled," but BOEM is "going rogue," by "looking to rush forward with their environmental review without using this new science because of an arbitrary political timeline." Huelsenbeck claims that "there is no rush to finish this environmental review or permit seismic airgun testing, since offshore drilling lease sales in the Atlantic are not available until at least 2017." Therefore, he argues, BOEM "should require that the best science be incorporated before any decision about seismic airgun testing is ever made."

Carolina Beach Officials United In Opposition Of Seismic Testing. The AP (3/1, 713K) reports that the Carolina Beach Town Council at a special meeting Friday evening unanimously passed a resolution opposing seismic testing off the North Carolina coast, a day after a federal agency endorsed the process along the eastern seaboard.

Also reporting on the story is the Wilmington (NC) Star News (2/28, 123K).

Additional Coverage. Also reporting on the story are the Greenville (SC) News (2/28, 204K), the Outer Banks (NC) Voice (3/1), the Guardian Liberty Voice (3/3, 64K), the UPI (2/28), the UPI (2/28), the Offshore Magazine (3/3, 143K), the Grist (3/3, 25K), the Scientific American (3/3, 2.8M), and the National Geographic (3/3, 40.49M).

BP FIGHTS LEGAL PAYOUTS FROM MACONDO SPILL. The Washington Post (3/1, Mufson, 4.28M) reports that court-appointed special master Patrick A. Juneau, who is responsible for administering payouts from the BP fund, "defends the process" by which his office has deemed claims eligible for payouts. BP argues that the New Orleans legal establishment is "taking unfair advantage of the settlement terms and years of close relationships."

JUDGE: BP NOT ENTITLED TO SEE DOCUMENTS USED BY GULF OIL SPILL CLAIMS INVESTIGATOR. On Friday, according to the AP (2/28, McGill), US District Judge Carl Barbier ruled that BP is "not entitled to see confidential documents used by" Louis Freeh. The former FBI director is a "court-appointed investigator who has alleged that some attorneys acted improperly in the claims process arising from the 2010 Gulf oil spill." Barber ruled, "BP has not established that it is more qualified to conduct the investigation than Mr. Freeh and the Freeh Group. This is a Court-supervised settlement program. If BP's relief is granted, there is risk it will become a BP-supervised settlement program."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SEN. UDALL SEEKS TO RAISE AUTHORIZATION CEILING FOR WATERSMART PROGRAM. The Durango (CO) Herald (3/1, 28K) reports that the WaterSMART program is authorized to spend only $200 million on grants, and "without raising the funding cap, the program will end in the near future." Legislation "introduced Feb. 12 to the Senate and co-sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., would raise the authorization ceiling for the water-conservation grants through 2023," but "funds still would need to be requested through the normal budgetary process." Udall said in a statement last week, "Population growth and widespread drought are forcing us to do more with less water. Now more than ever, it's essential that we make every drop count. These programs are helping our communities develop the technology we need to conserve water, save energy and cut costs."

CALIFORNIA COULD MAKE WITHDRAWAL FROM LAKE MEAD WATER BANK. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (3/2, 437K) reports that the extreme drought in California could force the state to make a large withdrawal from a virtual water bank in Lake Mead this year, even as the reservoir shrinks closer to an all-time low. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is considering a withdrawal that could cause the surface of the reservoir to decrease two feet and the shoreline to recede by as much as 60 feet.

SPANISH FLAT AREA AT LAKE BERRYESSA CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE. The Vacaville (CA) Reporter (3/2, 57K) reports that Spanish Flat Recreation Area at Lake Berryessa is closed through March 7 for maintenance and upgrades to facilities. The BOR's Central California Area Office and Lake Berryessa concessionaire, Pleasure Cove Marina, said "the closure is to prepare the area for public use in summer by installing new picnic tables, fire rings and upright barbecue grills."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Washington Post (2/28, Wilson, 4.28M) and the National Review (3/2, 805K).

OP-ED: SAVE WATER IN ORDER TO SAVE ENERGY. In an op-ed in the Los Angeles Times (3/3, Wolfram, Zetland, 3.07M), UC Berkeley professor Catherine Wolfram and Simon Fraser University visiting lecturer David Zetland that water conservation efforts undertaken by customers not only save water, but also save energy. The two note that "80 percent of the operating costs of a typical water utility are energy-related," and that if Los Angeles residents dropped their average daily water consumption from 152 gallons per person currently to 80 gallons, the energy saved would be roughly the equivalent of a medium-sized power plant. Wolfram and Zetland suggest using dynamic pricing for water in order to drive conservation efforts and "encourage lawmakers to adopt policies that reflect our water scarcity and prompt people to use less water and less energy."

Empowering Native American Communities:

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES SEE $7.3 MILLION FOR BUYBACK. The Nation Sun News (3/2) reports that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana "expect to see $7.3 million as part of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations." The tribe expects offers from the Interior Department to be made from April through June.

WISCONSIN GOV. WALKER SEEKS ADDITIONAL 6 MONTHS TO MAKE DECISION ON KENOSHA CASINO. The AP (2/28, Bauer) reports that Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has asked the BIA to grant him a six-month extension for a decision on the Menominee Nation's proposal to build a Hard Rock casino in Kenosha. If granted, the deadline for the governor's action would move from Aug. 23 to Feb. 19, 2015, which "would push his deadline to beyond the November election." Walker and tribal chairwoman Laurie Boivin said in a letter to the BIA that more time is needed to "develop and analyze independent data, and facilitate discussions with the interested parties."

Also reporting on the story are the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (3/2, 798K), the Kenosha (WI) News (3/2, 64K), and the Racine (WI) Journal Times (3/2, 85K).

CONNECTICUT GOV. MALLOY SEEKS BLOCK NEW TRIBAL RECOGNITION. The Connecticut Post (3/2, 298K) reports that Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy is asking President Barack Obama to "block proposed changes in the criteria for federally recognizing Indian tribes that could hand three Connecticut tribes permission to build casinos." The BIA is "considering a rule change that almost guarantees the Golden Hill Paugussett Indians in Trumbull, the Schaghticoke Indians in Kent and the Eastern Pequots in Stonington would gain recognition and the ability to offer gambling on reservation land." In the letter, Malloy said, "For Connecticut, the consequences would be devastating." He also said, "All of the petitioning groups have expressed interest in developing casinos and pursuing land claim lawsuits if they obtain federal recognition. I need your help in incorporating our proposed changes."

SEN. BEGICH URGES CONGRESS TO PAY NATIVE AMERICANS. In an op-ed for the The Hill (3/3, 194K), Sen. Mark Begich writes that "the president has finally submitted to Congress a plan to pay in full the nation's service contracts with Indian tribes." Begich points out the decades that American Indians and Alaska Natives

have fought to have these contracts honored. He says that "in order to fully close this chapter, tribes need to be fully compensated for the suffering they have endured over the years."

Top National News:

KERRY PREPARES TO TRAVEL TO UKRAINE AS PUTIN IGNORES US WARNING ON CRIMEA OCCUPATION. The crisis in Ukraine continues to be the dominant story in the US news media, and the three network newscasts devoted more air time to reports on Ukraine than to all the rest of the day's news combined on Sunday evening. Secretary of State Kerry's appearances on television Sunday morning generated a great deal of coverage, and his planned trip to Kiev late Monday is widely noted, but reports this morning reflect widespread skepticism in the media regarding the leverage that Kerry claims the Administration possesses as it urges the Russian government to curtail its military intervention in Crimea.

On NBC Nightly News (3/3, 6.79M), Lester Holt said, "There was plenty of tough talk about the situation in Ukraine," but, "so far, it is only talk." According to NBC's Kristen Welker, the Russian government is "ignoring US warnings," and Kerry's "tough talk contrasts with" his "vague descriptions of how far the US is prepared to go." Kerry was shown saying, on NBC's Meet The Press (3/2, Gregory), "The last thing anyone wants is a military option in this kind of situation."

Similarly, on ABC World News (3/2, story 3, 1:35, Muir, 7.43M), Martha Raddatz reported that while Kerry insisted on Sunday that President Obama is "currently considering all options," so far "none of the [Administration's] warnings seems to have done any good." Raddatz added, "So right now you have the Russians occupying Crimea and what the US and allies have done in response is basically just cancel several meetings," which "doesn't seem to scare...Putin." NBC's Chuck Todd, on NBC's Meet The Press (3/2, Gregory), said, "This is not the first time with Putin – Putin acts, Obama warns. Putin acts, Obama warns. This is a pattern...he can't afford to stay in here and just continue to warn."

The AP (3/3, Pace) reported that Administration officials "indicated that the US was not weighing military action to counter Russia's advances, saying the Obama administration's efforts were focused on political, economic and diplomatic options." Politico (3/3, Ewing, 464K) also reports that while Kerry said Sunday that "all options" are "on the table," an anonymous "senior administration official" later clarified that Kerry "was describing the American 'menu' of non-military options," and that the Administration is "focused on political and economic and diplomatic and economic options."

According to the New York Times (3/3, A9, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), the Administration's "strategy has been to present a united Western front with NATO and avoid casting the dispute as being mainly between Washington and Moscow." The Times adds that "the tangible steps the Obama administration has taken so far are very limited," and that some NATO members "were initially reluctant about condemning Russia."

On ABC's This Week (3/2, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), Kerry said, "What has already happened is a brazen act of aggression, in violation of international law. ... Russia is engaged in a military act of aggression against another country, and it has huge risks. It's a 19th-century act in the 21st century." In a notably critical editorial this morning titled, "President Obama's Foreign Policy Is Based On Fantasy," the Washington Post (3/3, 4.28M) says that since he took office, President Obama's foreign policy has been "based more on how he thinks the world should operate than on reality." The Post charges that the Administration "often responds" to critics by "accusing" them of "being warmongers who want American 'boots on the ground' all over the world and have yet to learn the lessons of Iraq." The Post goes on to write that "as long as some leaders play by what Mr. Kerry dismisses as 19th-century rules, the United States can't pretend that the only game is in another arena altogether."

In one of the more widely repeated assessments of the situation, House Intelligence Committee chairman Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI) said on Fox News Sunday (3/2, Wallace), "Putin is playing chess and we are playing marbles." On CNN's State Of The Union (3/2, Crowley), Sen. Lindsey Graham said, "We have a weak and indecisive president that invites aggression." While many Republicans are extremely critical of the President's "leadership," they also acknowledged that the Administration has no viable military options at this point and that all of the potential non-military sanctions are unlikely to prompt Putin to change course. The AP (3/3, Jakes)

reports that Sen. Marco Rubio, "discussing the potential of US military strikes against Russian troops in Crimea," said, "I don't think anyone is advocating for that." Rubio added that Putin has "weighed the costs of doing what he's done, and...clearly he has concluded that the benefits far outweigh the costs." According to Rubio, the US "need[s] to endeavor to change that calculus."

McClatchy (3/3, Clark, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 95K) says the President "now faces the greatest foreign policy challenge of his presidency," and adds that a "standoff with Russia evoking memories of the Cold War is scarcely the global legacy that Obama has sought." Former NATO ambassador Nicholas Burns, now on the Atlantic Council Board of Directors, says, "By any standard this is the most difficult, the most complex international crisis he's faced," because, according to Burns, "if Putin gets away with launching a military offensive, then Europe risks being divided."

Peter Baker, in a front-page article for the New York Times (3/3, A1, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says that over the weekend, President Obama "approved a series of diplomatic and economic moves intended to 'make it hurt,' as one administration official put it," but he also "found himself besieged by advice to take more assertive action." Baker says the President "has left the harshest condemnations" of Putin to Kerry. Baker also writes that "the Russian occupation of Crimea has challenged Mr. Obama as has no other international crisis," and that the President must answer the implicit question from observers of the standoff: are you "tough enough to take on the former K.G.B. colonel in the Kremlin?"

On the CBS Evening News (3/2, lead story, 2:45, Glor, 5.58M), Jeff Glor said the situation involving Russian troops in Crimea is open to differing interpretations, and that while the Ukrainian Prime Minister "calls it a declaration of war," and the Administration says it is "an invasion," the Russian government "says it's protecting its people." Nevertheless, according to Glor, the White House "says Russian forces...appear [to be] preparing an occupation," and the EU and NATO agree that Russia "is violating international law." CBS's Charlie D'Agata reported from Kiev that Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk "warned that Russia's military intervention in Crimea has brought Ukraine to the 'brink of disaster,'" and his "newly formed government...called on men of fighting age, hundreds of thousands of reservists to be ready to take up arms" although Ukrainians are "well aware the Ukrainian forces don't have the firepower or hardware to match the Russian military."

According to Politico's (3/3, Epstein, 464K) Reid Epstein, Kerry "took great pains Sunday to say that the Ukrainian crisis isn't a replay of the Cold War, even as he described the situation and its implications in terms reminiscent of that era." Epstein added that Kerry's "attempt to walk a fine rhetorical line is more evidence of the problem faced by the United States: There are few good options to beat back Vladimir Putin's encroachment." Epstein also reported that State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said that in Kiev, Kerry "will reaffirm the United States' strong support for Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and the right of the Ukrainian people to determine their own future, without outside interference or provocation."

USA Today (3/3, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that the State Department "announced that Victoria Nuland, assistant secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs was heading to Vienna on Sunday to meet with senior officials of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to discuss the Ukraine situation."

The Los Angeles Times (3/3, Loiko, Williams, 3.07M) reports that NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen says Russia has "violated the UN charter with its military action in Ukraine." The Times notes that NATO "isn't obliged to defend Ukraine, which is not a member, but Kiev has taken part in NATO military exercises, and the country's new leaders are known to want eventual membership in the Western military alliance — a prospect that has unsettled Russia."

Ukrainian Ambassador to the UN Yuriy Sergeyev said on CNN's State Of The Union (3/2, Crowley), "Yesterday, we demanded the Security Council at United Nations have its meeting...and we declared that what is going on in Ukraine is an act of aggression from the Russian side against Ukraine."

Michael Singh, who worked on the Security Council during the George W. Bush Administration and now is managing director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, in an op-ed for the Washington Post (3/3, 4.28M) titled, "The US Makes Crises In Ukraine And Syria Worse By Not Planning For Them," says that in regards to the crisis in Ukraine, "the key moment for forethought passed us by in November, when then-President Viktor Yanukowych declined to sign an association agreement with the European Union." According to Singh, the

US and EU "had no response to the Russian gambit, high-mindedly wanting to avoid a 'bidding war' with Moscow or engage in geopolitical games."

Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) said on Fox News Sunday (3/2, Wallace), "We're 48 hours into an international crisis. I would hope Americans would focus on condemning the actions of Putin rather than knee-jerk criticizing the President of the United States. Let's stand together on this."

US Reportedly Offering Putin "Off-Ramp" To Allow Russian Troops To Return To Their Bases. The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Kendall, Dooren, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that on ABC's This Week (3/2, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), Secretary Kerry said President Obama has "made it clear that we are prepared to work with Russia" on the future of Ukraine, but added, "You just don't invade another country on phony pretexts in order to assert your interests."

According to the New York Times (3/3, A9, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), the Administration has also "been trying to provide Mr. Putin with an 'off-ramp' by suggesting that international observers could take the place of Russian troops in Crimea to protect the rights of the Russian-speaking population there." USA Today (3/3, Madhani, 5.82M) is also reporting that "White House officials spoke to Moscow about an off-ramp to end the crisis, according to three senior administration officials."

Likewise, Politico (3/3, Ewing, 464K) says that "even as it threatened to isolate and sanction Moscow," the Administration "said it wanted to leave the door open for Putin to resolve the crisis through diplomacy." Politico adds that an anonymous "senior administration official" said Putin "had not completely 'closed the door' to diplomacy in his phone call with" the President on Saturday.

Kerry said on CBS' Face The Nation (3/2, Schieffer, 2.64M), "The President asked Mr. Putin, in fact told Mr. Putin, it was imperative to find a different path to roll back this invasion, and undo this active aggression."

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (3/3, 4.28M), William Taylor, who served as US ambassador to Ukraine from 2006 to 2009 and now works at the United States Institute of Peace; Steven Pifer, who was the US ambassador in Kiev from 1998 to 2000 and is now at the Brookings Institution; and John Herbst, who was the American ambassador from 2003 to 2006 and now directs the Center for Complex Operations at National Defense University, offer advice to the Ukrainian government. The Ambassadors urge the government in Kiev to "leave an opening for Putin to back down," while "continu[ing] to make clear that there is no threat to...Russian speakers in Ukraine," and "bring[ing] in moderate politicians from the east, including members of the Party of Regions who have disowned Viktor Yanukovych."

Analysts: US Options For Retaliation Against Russia Limited To Mostly Economic Measures. Bloomberg News (3/3, Lerman, Ellis, 1.91M) reported that over the weekend, President Obama "contacted overseas leaders, including Germany's Angela Merkel and the United Kingdom's David Cameron, on how to respond to Russia's incursion." According to Bloomberg, President Obama's "suspension of meetings to prepare for the Russian-hosted G-8 summit in June...represented his first concrete public action on the Ukrainian crisis and suggests the US could boycott the gathering altogether." Bloomberg also notes that Sen. Lindsey Graham "called for suspending Russian membership in the groups of industrialized nations known as the G-8 and G-20 for at least a year."

The Miami Herald (3/3, Caputo, 806K) reports that on NBC's Meet The Press (3/2, Gregory), Sen. Marco Rubio "suggested the US should help bolster Ukraine's military capability...and urged a restart of a missile-defense shield plan that has troubled Russia and, before it, the Soviet Union for decades." However, the Washington Times (3/3, Klimas, 417K) reports that on Fox News Sunday (3/2, Wallace), Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI), the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, cautioned that "the time to use military intervention has passed and sending Navy ships to the Black Sea isn't the best strategy."

McClatchy (3/3, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 95K) reports that on Sunday, "many of the specific ideas mentioned by Republicans were also embraced by some Democrats," including "admit Georgia to NATO" and "impose economic sanctions" on Russia. McClatchy adds that "six Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee...joined six Democrats Friday in writing a letter to Obama pledging bipartisan cooperation in developing policy, and outlined specific steps."

The Washington Post (3/3, A1, Gearan, 4.28M) reports that an anonymous "Administration official" said "actions against Russian banks are a possible avenue," saying, "This will have a cost on the Russian economy," and while "some of those costs will be imposed by the United States; some of that Russia has already invited on itself." The Washington Times (3/3, Klimas, 417K) reports that on ABC's This Week (3/2, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) "said he expected Congress would work closely with the president to send a strong message that Russia is a 'pariah state' through economic sanctions on Russia and aid to the Ukrainian people." But The Hill (3/3, Berman, 194K) said "it was unclear Sunday if Putin cared or was even listening to the condemnation."

The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Fidler, Torry, Benoit, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Kerry's suggestion that Russia could be kicked out of the G8 is already encountering opposition. The Journal notes that German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said, "I'm really with those who say that the G-8 is the only format in which we from the West can still directly speak with Russia." As for sanctions against Russia, the Journal reports that Rolf Mützenich, a German Social Democrat legislator from Chancellor Merkel's governing coalition, said, "Sanctions are currently not the right option," and Philipp Missfelder, a Christian Democratic Union MP, adds, "Economic sanctions against Russia would damage Germany itself" because "sanctions are always bad for Germany as an export-driven nation."

Reid Epstein, in an analysis for Politico (3/3, Epstein, 464K), says Putin is not likely to be overly concerned about Russia's G8 membership, and that Putin "hardly places the emphasis on his international esteem as did Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev." Epstein adds, "So when Kerry warned that Russia's behavior in Ukraine does not befit a G-8 nation," his "message is intended as much for the other G-8 countries as it is for Putin."

Ben Judah, in a piece for Politico Magazine (3/3, Judah, 464K), writes, "Once upon a time the Kremlin feared a foreign adventure might trigger...economic sanctions where it hurts: export bans on key parts for its oil industry, even being cut out of its access to the Western banking sector," but "no more." Judah adds that "Russia's elites have exposed themselves" in that "everything they hold dear is now locked up in European properties and bank accounts," which, "theoretically...makes them vulnerable." However, according to Judah, rich Russians, "time and time again...have watched European governments balk at passing anything remotely similar to the US Magnitsky Act, which bars a handful of criminal-officials from entering the United States."

Eliot Cohen, who served as counselor of the State Department during the George W. Bush Administration, in an op-ed for the Washington Post (3/3, 4.28M), says while "Putin is not Hitler," the "precedents being set are ones that will haunt us for decades to come unless the US administration can act decisively and persistently against Russia." The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, suggests that the Pentagon send ships to the Black Sea as a warning to the Russian government.

Michael O'Hanlon of the Brookings Institution said on CBS' Face The Nation (3/2, Schieffer, 2.64M), "As bad as what Putin may be, he hasn't killed people, and I think he's trying to show force in way that gets specific task done." O'Hanlon added, "We do have pretty strong set of potential economic sanctions and Putin knows it."

Senate Majority Whip Durbin said on CNN's State Of The Union (3/2, Schieffer), "Vladimir Putin and the Russians just spent $50 billion on this Sochi charm offensive to try to redefine Russia in the 21st century. That Sochi charm offensive died on the streets of Sevastopol when he moved in thousands of troops days after the closing ceremony."

"Strong Popular Support For Russia" Among Crimeans Noted. The Christian Science Monitor (3/3, Ayres, 540K) reports that "by late Sunday it appeared the Russian military had silently taken control of" Crimea "with little objection from the pro-Russia population." On ABC World News (3/2, story 2, 2:45, Muir, 7.43M), correspondent Terry Moran reported that among the citizens of Crimea, "there is strong popular support for Russia." Moran also noted that Crimea is "where the Russian navy has based ships for two centuries."

Likewise, on the CBS Evening News (3/2, story 2, 1:40, Glor, 5.58M), Jeff Glor said that "the Russian forces are consolidating a grip of a largely friendly local population." Elizabeth Palmer, reporting from Crimea's capital, Simferopol, said that apart from "there are small pockets of resistance," much of the "Ukrainian security forces have switched sides, including the head of the navy here, who was only appointed by Kiev" on Saturday, but on

Sunday "announced, in essence, he would join the Russians." However, Palmer added, "Of course, there are thousands of residents of Crimea who are not happy to see the Russian soldiers...but for the moment, they're keeping their heads down."

AFP (3/3, Zaks) reported that "the biggest blow to the new Kiev leaders came when Ukrainian Navy Commander Denis Berezovsky announced a day after his appointment that he was switching allegiance to the pro-Russian authorities in Crimea after gunmen surrounded his building and cut off its electricity." AFP added that the new Crimean government "immediately named Berezovsky as head of" its "own independent navy."

The Washington Post (3/3, A1, Booth, Englund, 4.28M) reports that "at the Ukrainian military base at Perevalnoe...Ukrainian soldiers stood guard while soldiers whom locals described as Russian commandos milled around outside the walls" as "the Ukrainians refused to surrender their weapons."

The Los Angeles Times (3/3, Loiko, 3.07M) reports that in Simferopol, "Russian troops mostly kept a low profile Sunday." According to the Times, Crimean parliament speaker Vladimir Konstantinov said the Russian government is "expected to render economic assistance" to the citizens of Crimea. The Times notes that Crimea's parliament, which is "dominated by a Russian majority," has scheduled "a referendum on the future status of Crimea" for March 30.

On NBC Nightly News (3/3, 6.79M), Bill Nealy reported from Crimea that "Russia's takeover of Crimea is nearly complete...without firing a single shot," and that "there has been no sign so far that the Ukrainian soldiers are going to put up a fight."

The New York Times (3/3, Higgins, Smale, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "without a shot being fired, Russia and its allies in Crimea have already secured what would seem to be a prime objective: a thorough purge of Ukrainian authority from a region that Russia considers its own, having...lost it only in 1954 when the Soviet leader at the time, Nikita Khrushchev, himself partly of Ukrainian origin, gave it to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic as a gift."

Concerns Deepen Over Potential Unrest In Other Russian-Speaking Ukrainian Regions. On NBC Nightly News (3/3, 6.79M), Lester Holt noted that "while the Crimea region may be the closest tied to Russia, it is not the only part of Ukraine where Russian sympathies run deep." NBC's Ian Williams, reporting from Kharkiv, said, "There are fears that Eastern Ukraine could be the next region for Russian intervention."

The Christian Science Monitor (3/3, Ayres, 540K) reports that in Kharkiv, "pro-Russian demonstrators dragged opponents of ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych from the regional government building they had occupied for the past week." According to the Monitor, such incidents "indicated that Kiev's new government," along with the situation in Crimea, is "also facing a growing crisis in the east, where a disenfranchised, mostly Russian-speaking population was becoming increasingly frustrated."

The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Kolyandr, Coker, Alpert, Entous, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Putin told President Obama on Saturday that "if the violence spreads further in the eastern regions of Ukraine and Crimea, Russia reserves the right to defend its interests and those of the Russian-speaking population that lives there."

The Washington Post (3/3, A1, Booth, Englund, 4.28M) reports that in Kharkiv, described as "a hotbed of pro-Russian activists in eastern Ukraine," some "few thousand protesters joined a rally Sunday to denounce the Russian move into Crimea." According to The New York Times (3/3, Erlanger, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in Kharkiv, there is "a sprawling pro-Russian protest camp occupied the central square, and Russian flags were on display."

The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Alpert, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that Dmitri Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, says, "At this point, Mr. Putin has secured Crimea, and I don't think an invasion, quote-unquote, is something is that is being contemplated." Trenin adds, "I think they felt if there had been resistance to Kiev in Crimea, it could have led to a civil war, into which they would have been drawn, but on someone else's terms, so Mr. Putin probably views this as conflict prevention."

The Wall Street Journal's (3/3, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) Matthew Kaminski, in an op-ed from Donetsk, Ukraine, maintains that for various strategic reasons, Putin is likely to work to split eastern Ukraine from Kiev, but Kaminski predicts that it will not be as easy a task as the occupation of Crimea. Kaminski says polling has never picked up a substantial secessionist tendency among eastern Ukrainians. The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), has an editorial this morning that largely echoes Kaminski's analysis of the situation in eastern Ukraine and Putin's intentions in the region.

New Government In Kiev Appoints Two Billionaires To Provincial Governorships. The New York Times (3/3, Erlanger, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "Ukraine's besieged interim government raced to head off violence that might set off a Russian invasion of its eastern provinces...recruiting wealthy eastern businessmen to become provincial governors in an effort to dampen secessionist sentiment there." The Times says Ukrainian President Turchynov "announced the two appointments on Sunday of two billionaires – Sergei Taruta in Donetsk and Ihor Kolomoysky in Dnipropetrovsk – and more were reportedly under consideration for positions in the eastern regions." According to the Times, the appointments are a "recognition that the oligarchs represent the country's industrial and business elite, and hold great influence over thousands of workers in the east."

Under the headline, "Ukraine Turns To Its Oligarchs For Political Help," Andrew Kramer of the New York Times (3/3, Kramer, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the "Ukrainian news media" is reporting that the decision to "recruit...the country's wealthy businessmen, known as the oligarchs, to serve as governors" was the work of Yulia Tymoshenko, the former prime minister who was imprisoned until recently. According to the Times, on Saturday, Tymoshenko met with Turchynov and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk. The Times notes that the "oligarchs" will serve in areas that served as the base of "what had been the country's largest political party," former president Yanukovych's Party of Regions.

Will Englund, in an analysis for the Washington Post (3/3, 4.28M), says, "The new, pro-European government...has given those Ukrainians who opposed the protests" that toppled the previous government "very little reason to have confidence in it." Englund adds that the Yatsenyuk government's "swift downgrading of the status of the Russian language made it appear to many that this was just another case of one clan taking power from another – and probably getting ready to snatch the spoils."

Lew Says US Is Prepared "To Provide As Much Support As Ukraine Needs." Bloomberg News (3/3, Klimasinska, 1.91M) reports that on Sunday, Treasury Secretary Lew, after speaking with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, said, "the United States is prepared to work with its bilateral and multilateral partners to provide as much support as Ukraine needs." According to Bloomberg, Lew also said the new Ukrainian government "is ready to undertake 'urgently needed market reforms' to help restore financial stability and strengthen its economy." Under the headline, "Washington Could Give 'As Much Support As Ukraine Needs': Treasury's Lew," Reuters (3/3, Lange) also briefly notes Lew's statement.

On NBC Nightly News (3/3, 6.79M), Kristen Welker reported that on Sunday, Secretary of State Kerry "called on Congress to put together an economic package for the Ukraine, on top of a billion dollar proposed loan." Bloomberg News (3/3, Mazneva, Bierman, 1.91M) reports that OAO Gazprom, described as "Russia's gas-export monopoly," warned on Saturday that it "may end last year's agreement to supply Ukraine at a cheaper rate unless it's paid $1.55 billion owed for fuel." According to Bloomberg, that was "the first time...that Russia has directly used its position as Ukraine's dominant energy supplier to pressure the new regime," which "can little afford to meet Gazprom's demand for back payment as it tries to negotiate a $15 billion bailout with the International Monetary Fund."

The New York Times (3/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial this morning, says the US and the EU "have few effective levers short of military force, which is not an option, to compel" Putin "to back down." But the Times adds, "whatever else they do, the Western powers must provide prompt and substantial assistance to the Kiev government, whose treasury" has been "left bare" by the previous government.

Russian Media Casts New Ukrainian Government As "Fascist." The AP (3/3, Mills) reports from Moscow that on Sunday, "thousands marched freely...in support of Russia using military force in neighboring Ukraine, while at an anti-invasion protest nearby dozens were detained." According to the AP, "Russian state television ratcheted up its pro-invasion rhetoric over the weekend and showed what it claimed were buses full of refugees pouring

across the Ukrainian border, fleeing what anchors call the 'fascist thugs'" who overthrew the democratically elected government of Viktor Yanukovych. The AP goes on to report that among "at least 10,000 people...in central Moscow" celebrating the Russian troop movement, "some dressed in Soviet military uniforms and shouted slogans like 'Fascism will not pass!'"

Georgetown's Charles King, in an op-ed for the New York Times (3/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says "an estimated 58 percent of the population of two million" in Crimea "is ethnic Russian, with another 24 percent Ukrainian and 12 percent Crimean Tatar." King adds that "many of [Crimea's] inhabitants, regardless of ethnicity, are actually Russian citizens or dual-passport holders." King notes that a poll conducted last month "by the independent, Moscow-based Levada Center, 43 percent of Russians called the overthrow of Mr. Yanukovych a violent coup," and "a plurality...saw the entire affair as an orchestrated attempt by the West to draw Ukraine into its geopolitical orbit."

OBAMA'S BUDGET WILL NOT INCLUDE ENTITLEMENT SPENDING REFORM. USA Today (3/3, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that President Obama's budget for the next fiscal year, which he will introduce on Tuesday, will "disappoint" those "hoping to see a renewal of broad talks to cut the nation's debt" because the President has signaled that he "will step back from his earlier attempt to persuade Republicans to accept a grand bargain to reduce the soaring national debt that would include entitlement changes (something liberals abhor) and raising tax revenues (something conservatives hate)." USA Today also notes that the President "will take off the table what is known as 'chained-CPI', a proposal that would lead to less generous increases in Social Security benefits annually." Regarding the "chained CPI," On Fox News Sunday (3/2, Wallace), Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) the ranking minority member on the House Budget Committee, said, "The president included that in last year's budget, as part of an agreement...where he said 'Republicans you should join me in at least closing some tax loopholes,' even one for the purpose of reducing our long-term deficit," but "Republicans could not even identify a single tax loophole they would close."

Reuters (3/3, Felsenthal, Lawder) reports that as a result of the 2011 Budget Control Act, 2015 discretionary spending will be essentially the same as it is this year. Jason Furman, who chairs the White House Council of Economic Advisers, is quoted as saying, "We're on track to having discretionary spending the lowest as a share of the economy since we started recording discretionary spending in 1962," and "with that comes a lot of choices that we'd rather not be making." However, Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) counters that "if we actually got entitlement reform that saved money over the course of a decade, there's no reason some of that savings couldn't flow toward infrastructure, or back toward the military, and still move us down the road on long-term deficit reduction."

Joe Davidson, in his column for the Washington Post (3/3, 4.28M), notes that the President's budget is expected to include funding for "federal employee training," although the Administration "isn't saying how large its initiative is."

PERSONAL INCOME GROWTH DRAWING CONCERN. The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Jakab, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that one-time factors are likely to distort this week's personal income and spending data. The Journal says that the personal income data is likely to show a significant improvement over similar data a year ago. However, the data may hide some troubling trends – the most important of which is that personal income is rising at a far slower rate than at any similar point in post-World War II recoveries.

Western States Leading Nation In Job, Wage Growth. USA Today (3/3, Davidson, 5.82M) reports that seven of the 10 states with fastest job growth this year "will be in the West," a region that has benefited from "a stronger housing recovery and continued gains in its bread-and-butter energy, technology and tourism industries, according to forecasts by IHS Global Insight." Western states also lead the nation in payroll growth. However, many Western states "still trail the nation in recouping jobs lost in the recession."

Housing Boom Has Potential For Problems In San Francisco. In a blog entry for the New York Times (3/3, Bilton, 9.61M), Nick Bilton writes that the continued tech boom is driving housing prices through the roof in San Francisco. It's being driven by a lack of inventory, and with the city surrounded by water on three sides, there is little room for new housing. The problem is that "as more people move in, the city will also need more public-school teachers, police officers and firefighters," and living in there "on a city salary is difficult if not impossible." Bilton adds, "Even some tech entrepreneurs and programmers say they are being priced out."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Where Have All the Raises Gone?"*** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes that wages "typically fall or stagnate in recessions, and the Great Recession was particularly severe, exerting a drag on pay that persists to this day." However, "that is only a partial explanation, because declining and stagnant wages predate the latest downtum." The Times says that one study shows that since 2000, college-education Americans have been taking jobs that did not require a college education. The Times says that increasing wages requires "policies like a higher minimum wage; trade pacts that foster high labor and regulatory standards; and more support for union organizing." The Times says it also requires more vigorous government spending.

"A Reprieve for Bristol Bay." In an editorial, the New York Times (3/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) hails the Administration's decision on Friday to put "the brakes on a massive gold and copper mine proposed for the headwaters of Alaska's Bristol Bay while it decides whether to prohibit it permanently." The Times says that this "sounds like the death knell for a project, known as the Pebble Mine, that by any measure is an environmental disaster waiting to happen."

"Russia's Aggression." The New York Times (3/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial this morning, says the US and the EU "have few effective levers short of military force, which is not an option, to compel" Putin "to back down." But the Times adds, "whatever else they do, the Western powers must provide prompt and substantial assistance to the Kiev government, whose treasury" has been "left bare" by the previous government.

"Frustration With Afghanistan." The New York Times (3/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) in an editorial says that the threat by President Obama and NATO to "withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by year's end," is "understandable," yet "theatrical," because neither "wants to leave." The Times says it has become "obvious" that a security agreement with Afghanistan must wait "until after Mr. Karzai leaves office," and all probable successors "have signaled that they would sign the accord." The Times concludes by saying there are "serious questions" as to "whether the country will ever be able to stand on its own."

"Mr. Abe's Dangerous Revisionism." The New York Times (3/3, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) in an editorial says that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "brand of nationalism" is turning into a "threat to Japan's relations with the United States." Abe "wants to shed what he calls the self-effacing postwar regime and recreate a renewed patriotism." The problem, says the Times, is that Abe "whitewashes the history of the war" denying the reality of "the Nanjing massacre" as well as the enslavement of Korean women by Japanese soldiers.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Hacking At A Free Press?"*** The Washington Post (3/3, 4.28M) in an editorial describes an attack on Kevin Lau Chun-to, former chief editor of the Chinese-language daily Ming Pao, "by a man wielding a meat cleaver" and comments that it may have been "an assault on the free press in Hong Kong." It notes that Ming Pao had been part of an International Consortium of Investigative Journalists story on "how the world's super-rich, including thousands of Chinese, have embraced the use of global tax havens," and his removal as editor was generally believed to be under pressure from China, which also exerted pressure on Bloomberg and "withheld visas from some New York Times reporters." The Post says that the attack on Mr. Lau was intended to "spread fear and deter journalists" but "mustn't be allowed to maim or kill the spirit of Hong Kong."

"President Obama's Foreign Policy Is Based On Fantasy." The Washington Post (3/3, 4.28M) says that since he took office, President Obama's foreign policy has been "based more on how he thinks the world should operate than on reality." The Post charges that the Administration "often responds" to critics by "accusing" them of "being warmongers who want American 'boots on the ground' all over the world and have yet to learn the lessons of Iraq." The Post goes on to write that "as long as some leaders play by what Mr. Kerry dismisses as 19th-century rules, the United States can't pretend that the only game is in another arena altogether."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Putin Declares War."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, suggests that the Pentagon send ships to the Black Sea as a warning to the Russian government.

"The FDA's Black Lung." In a scathing editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/3, Subscription Publication, 5.91M)

says that the FDA is blocking a drug that can slow the progression of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, from which about 200,000 people suffer. The Journal says the FDA rejected the drug pirfenidone in 2010, claiming it was not effective. However, the Journal says even more research has now shown that it is, and that the FDA rejected its approval simply to exercise its power.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US, Europe Threaten To Punish Putin
How Moscow Orchestrated Crimean Events
Student Loans Used For More Than School
Soaring Prices Test Wealthy's Will To Pay

New York Times:
Pressure Rising As Obama Works To Rein In Russia
Putin Engages In Test Of Will Over Ukraine
Democrats Try Wooing Ones Who Got Away: White Men
New Law's Demands On Doctors Have Many Seeking A Network
The Airport Chaplain, Now Offering Earthly Aid
In New York City, Making Strip Clubs Go Dry, Then Go Away

Washington Post:
GOP Budget Will Focus On Welfare Reform
Putin's Intent Unclear Amid Armed Faceoff
'Mommy Lobby' Pushes For Medical Marijuana
US Threatens Sanctions Over Russian Foray
On Cusp Of Departure, Karzai Says He Feels Betrayed By US

Financial Times:
World Rounds On Russia Over Crimea Move
Soldiers At The Gate As Life Goes On
S&P's Rise Underpinned By Borrowed Money
Britain To Scrap VAT On Bitcoin Trades
Deflation Fears Depress Eurozone Yields
China Overtakes Europe On 4G Mobile
Investor Calls For Ecobank Chief To Resign
Ukraine Peace Deal Faces First Challenge

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Winter Weather; Ukraine-Russia Conflict; Ukraine-Secretary Kerry; Bin Laden Son In Law-Terrorism Trial
CBS: Ukraine-Russia Conflict; Ukrainian Citizens; Winter Weather
NBC: Ukraine-Russia Conflict; Ukraine-Russia Military Action; Ukraine-US Response; Winter Weather

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Oscar Awards; Merkel-Putin Communication; Kerry-Ukraine Trip; LA-Mudslide Threat Over; Winter Weather-Flight Cancellations; North Korea-Missile Release
CBS: Oscar Awards; Ukraine-Russia Conflict; North Korea-Missile Release; Winter Weather
NPR: Russia-Ukraine-US Pressure; Putin-Merkel Phone Call; Pakistani Judge Killed; SCOTUS-Death Penalty; Winter Weather; LA-Mudslide Threat Over; French Filmmaker Dies; Oscar Awards
FOX: Russia-Ukraine Conflict US Response; Putin-Obama Phone Call; Winter Storm; Oscar Awards

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Hosts Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House to discuss progress in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, developments in Iran and other regional priorities.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Meets with Prime Minister Iurie Leanca of Moldova.
US Senate: 2 p.m. — The Senate convenes and begin a period of morning business.
US House: 12 p.m. — House will meet for morning hour and at 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

2 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Hearing Examining Concerns Regarding FDA's Proposed Changes to Generic Drug Labeling. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/examining-concerns-regarding-fdas-proposed-changes-generic-drug-labeling Location: 2123 Rayburn.

5 p.m. RULES — H.R.2641 – Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act of 2013; H.R.2824 – Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America. Location: H-313.
Other: 12:30 p.m. NATIONAL PARKS-ECONOMY — Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will hold a press teleconference call to release a new report detailing the economic impact of national parks.

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER — Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, will hold various meetings in Washington. President Obama will host Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu at the White House. Time TBA. 1 p.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome Prime Minister Netanyahu to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance. Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Parking Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the cordon. 3:45 p.m. Senators Harry Reid (D-NV) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu. There will be a brief photo opportunity at the top of the meeting. Please be advised that no remarks will be given during the photo opportunity. S-219. 4:45 p.m. Photo opportunity and remarks with the Prime Minister of Israel, House Speaker John Boehner, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and other Members of Congress prior to a bipartisan meeting. Camera crews may access the room no earlier than 2:30 p.m. ET. All gear must be in place by 3:45 p.m. ET for security sweep. All media must be credentialed through the appropriate media gallery. The Rayburn Room, H-207.

March 2 – 4. AIPAC 2014 — The annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference is the largest gathering of the pro-Israel movement. http://www.aipac.org/act/attend-events/policy-conference Afternoon session: Secretary of State John Kerry; Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY); House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD). Morning Session. Senator John McCain (R-AZ). Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW.

March 2 – 4. INTERNATIONAL BANKERS CONFERENCE — The Institute of International Bankers hosts their 25th Annual Washington conference. Confirmed government speakers include: Mary John Miller, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Treasury and Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, who will give the opening keynote address; Mark Wetjen, Acting Chairman of the CFTC, who will give the keynote luncheon address; Comptroller of the Currency Thomas Curry; FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg; SEC Commissioner Daniel Gallagher; New York State Superintendent of Financial Services Benjamin Lawsky; and Elke Koenig, President of Germany's Federal Financial Supervisory Authority. Confirmed private-sector speakers include: Irene Dorner, President and CEO, HSBC USA; Karen Shaw Petrou, Managing Partner, Federal Financial Analytics; and political analyst Charlie Cook, who will discuss the outlook for the 2014 midterm elections. https://m360.iib.org/event.aspx?eventID82930 8:45 a.m. Acting Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary for Domestic Finance Mary Miller delivers remarks. Open press. Interested media may contact William Goodwin at wgoodwin@iib.org. Location: Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

March 3 – 4. FAHS 2014 ANNUAL PUBLIC POLICY CONFERENCE — Annual public policy conference of the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH). The FAHs Annual Public Policy Conference provides attendees with an overview, updates and insight about the most topical and salient health policy issues of interest to FAH members, hospital leaders, private investor-owned hospitals, suppliers, buyers, sponsors and stakeholders.

Speakers: Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), Chairman, House Budget Committee; Marilyn Tavenner, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), Vice Chairman, Senate Republican Conference; Sen. Patrick J. Toomey (R-PA), Member, Senate Finance Committee; James H. Hinton, Chairman, American Hospital Association; General Michael V. Hayden (USAF Ret.), Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency; Former Director, National Security Agency. 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. General Michael V. Hayden (USAF Ret.), Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency; Former Director, National Security Agency (NOTE: General Haydens presentation is off-the-record, and audio and/or video recording is prohibited.) Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road, N.W.

March 3 – 4. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL SPACE SCIENCE WEEK — The standing committees of the National Research Council's Space Studies Board and Board on Physics and Astronomy will convene to discuss issues and advances in the fields of astronomy and astrophysics, earth sciences and applications from space, astrobiology and planetary science, and solar and space physics. 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. Plenary session will focus on international programs and planning in space science, with a keynote presentation on NASA Science Mission Directorate activities from Associate Administrator John Grunsfeld. Location: National Academy of Sciences building, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW.

U.S. CHAMBER – IRAQ – DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER — 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Business Investment Climate and Opportunities in Iraq Forum. Speakers: H.E. Rowsch Shaways, Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Iraq; H.E. Dr. Khairullah Hasan Babakir, Minister of Trade, Republic of Iraq; Dr. Sami al-Araji, Chairman, National Investment Commission of Iraq; Dr. Thamir Ghadhban, Chairman, Prime Ministers Advisory Council; H.E. Lukman Faily, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States; Khush Choksy, Vice President of Turkey and Middle East Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Media RSVP: press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St. NW.

MEDICARE PART D TELECONFERENCE — 11 a.m. A media teleconference to discuss proposed changes to Medicare prescription drug coverage and potential impact on patients. With U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), vice chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee; former U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, an advocate for accessible mental health coverage; Andrew Sperling, director of federal advocacy, National Alliance on Mental Illness; Mary R. Grealy, president, Healthcare Leadership Council. (The Healthcare Leadership Council is hosting the teleconference.)

SECRETARY DUNCAN – TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS — 5 p.m. Education Secretary Duncan will participate in a panel discussion during a meeting with finalists for the 2014 National Teacher of the Year. The discussion will focus on teaching and teacher leadership, as well as other topics raised by the audience and Secretary Duncan. The four finalists are: Dorina Sackman, Florida Teacher of the Year; Sean McComb, Maryland Teacher of the Year; Melissa Ann Porfirio, Virginia Teacher of the Year; and Ryan Devlin, Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. Location: Council of Chief State School Officers, One Massachusetts Ave. NW, 7th Floor/DuPont Room.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Just saw that Mitt Romney and Chris Christie raised one million dollars last night at a fundraiser for the Republican Governor's Association. Well, Christie raised about $1,000 dollars and Mitt accidentally left his wallet behind. But still, technically, it's a million dollars."

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BISON CONNECT

Fwd: NACO TPs

Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Mon, Mar 3, 2014 at 8:42 PM
To: Kershaw Jessica L <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Jessica -

The TPs for NaCo weren't with the other docs you printed for me earlier today. If you have access to a printer at the hotel, will you please print me a copy? It is easier to work from paper. If possible, it would be helpful if they are in 14 pitch font with a space between bullets (perhaps this is just how it looks on my iPad). If you can't print easily, please ask whomever is meeting me at the event to provide a copy (although having it before the flight would be way more helpful).

Thanks,

Sally

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Kelly, Katherine" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>
> **Date:** March 3, 2014, 12:26:30 PM EST
> **To:** Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>
> **Cc:** Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, "Androff, Blake J" <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, emily_beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, laura davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Pam Haze <pam_haze@ios.doi.gov>
> **Subject: NACO TPs**
>
> Sally -
>
> Attached are the suggested TPs for the NACo remarks tomorrow.
>
> They are long - in part because there is about 1.5 pages of 'fast facts' that should be quick to read out to the audience if you want to do so. If there are any sections to shave down, I might suggest doing a brief-er overview of the youth initiative.
>
> We'll work with the briefing book team to get these uploaded.
>
> Let me know if there's anything else we can do/provide to support your appearance tomorrow.
>
> My apologies these weren't ready to go last night.
>
> Kate
>
> –
>
> Kate Kelly

Director of Communications
Department of the Interior
(202) 208 2409
kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov

03-04-13 NACO TPs v2.docx
31K

Talking Points for Secretary Jewell
National Association of Counties Legislative Conference
Tuesday, March 4, 2014
Washington, D.C.

Suggested length: 15-20 minutes

I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (1 min)

- **Sallie Clark,** NACo Second Vice President and Commissioner, El Paso County, CO (*introduces you*)

- Transportation Secretary **Anthony Foxx** (*speaks immediately before you*)
  Note: You can thank Foxx for his help with reframing the Interior portion of the new Highway Bill – per your recent phone call and email.

- NACo (*you will meet many in green room before*)
  - President **Linda Langston** (Supervisor, Linn County, IA) and the officers and members of the NACo Board
  - **Mike Murray**, Chair of the Public Lands Steering Committee
  - **John Martin**, President of the Western Interstate Region Board
  - All the members of NACo who are tackling many of the complex natural resource and public land issues we share

- **Cynthia Moses-Nedd**, Interior's stellar Liaison to State & Local Governments

- From my roles past and present, I have a **great appreciation** for what you as County Officials and executives do on a daily basis on behalf of your communities

- I know that your work has an **incredible impact** on American's quality of life; **thank you for your public service**

II. BACKGROUND ON SALLY JEWELL + INTERIOR (3 min)

- Oil and gas engineer → Banking → REI CEO → Interior Secretary

- Interior has vast portfolio that intersects with economies and communities across the country

Interior Fast Facts:

- Manages more than **530 million acres** (about 20 percent of the land in U.S.); **700 million acres** of subsurface minerals; **1.7 billion acres** of the Outer Continental Shelf

- Together, those lands and offshore areas produce **21 percent of nation's energy** – both conventional and renewable

- **401** National Parks, **562** National Wildlife Refuges, **247 million acres** in the National System of Public Lands

- **70,000 employees** in approximately **2,400 locations** across the U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and Freely Associated States

- Largest supplier and manager of water in the **17 western states**; Reclamation manages 476 dams and 337 reservoirs that deliver water and power – including irrigation water to **one out of every five western farmers**

- Upholds trust responsibilities to the **566 federally recognized tribes**, including education services to nearly **41,000 students** through the Bureau of Indian Education

- Provides unbiased, multidisciplinary science to understand our earth, including through: **8,000 streamgages, 2,700 earthquake sensors**, and **15 million satellite scenes** downloaded from Landsat since the archives were made available at no cost to the public

- Funds and oversees reclamation of **322,000 acres of abandoned coal mine** sites

- **Economic impact:**

- Estimated revenue collection in 2015 is **$14.9 billion** (grazing, energy, minerals, land sales, timber). This money is shared with Federal, State and local governments to meet a variety of needs, including school funding, infrastructure improvements and water conservation projects

- Interior's programs contributed an estimated **$371 billion** to the U.S. economy and supported **2.3 million jobs** in 2012

- That funding includes **$45 billion** generated from the more than **417 million visits** to Interior's public lands – for outdoor recreation and tourism

III. PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (1 min)

- Want to touch briefly on this program as I understand its importance to many of you – especially to rural, western counties where it can comprise a significant portion of your budget

- Pleased that the **Farm Bill** included authorization to make PILT payments in 2014

- PILT is **not subject to sequester this year**; the authorization came after the President's sequester order was issued. The estimated total for payments is $432 million

- We are working on a tight schedule to get data from the states to calculate the payments, and **hope to complete payments in June**

- As always, we will issue and post information about the payments publicly to ensure maximum transparency

IV. PILT program is a good example of the way in which the **Federal government can be a good neighbor to local communities**, and we will continue to **work with Congress on reauthorization**

THREE FACTORS

Will spend rest of time talking about some of the top challenges facing Interior – and really all of us – and some of the things we're doing about it

1. Constrained resources (2 min)

- Governments at every level grappling with constrained resources – examples present every time I visit Interior teams around the country

- President is proposing a budget for fiscal year 2015 later this morning

- Will show how we can invest in the things we need to grow our economy, create jobs, increase skills training and improve education – while continuing long term deficit reduction

- Importantly, it continues to dig us out of the ditch caused by sequester, gets back to regular order and helps provide certainty for the economy

- Look forward to working with Congress to implement the budget

- Will continue to look for opportunities to partner with businesses, better align our work, find efficiencies, and examine practices to ensure they are effective and consistent with our priorities

- Will want to work with you on the **PILT reauthorization**, in conjunction with authorization of **Secure Rural Schools** payments and the much needed

permanent authorization of the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

2. **Climate Change (5 min)**

- Defining issue of our time

- Has major impacts on our land, water, wildlife, tribal communities and economy

- See real effects everywhere I travel: Alaska, Marshall Islands, California and Colorado River Basin, hotter, drier fire seasons

- **President's Climate Action Plan** – we have a moral obligation to act now to cut carbon pollution, prepare communities and business for impacts, and slow the effects of climate change

- **Interior's role:**
    - Build a better understanding – for example, Climate Science Centers

    - Build resilience – for example, Hurricane Sandy funding to strengthen coastal resilience and natural barriers

    - Develop homegrown, clean energy
        - Goal: approve 20 MW of renewable energy on public lands by 2020
        - Approved the 50th project in February. Incredible progress from 2009, when there were zero solar project permitted on public lands
        - Together, the 50 wind, solar and geothermal projects would generate 14,000 MW, enough to power 4.8 million homes, and support 20,000 construction and operations jobs

- **Mitigation**

- Under my leadership, we are taking the long view at Interior **to balance development and conservation**

- In October of last year, I issued my first **Secretarial Order** to develop a department-wide strategy to strengthen our mitigation practices

- The Order aims to ensure that we mitigate impacts by using tools such as **landscape-level planning**

- By guiding development to the areas of highest resource value and lowest environmental concern, we can **reduce the likelihood of conflict**, costly delays and litigation

- Important to me, coming from the business community, that the Order improve **certainty for all interests** that depend on public lands – energy, mining, agriculture, recreationists, hunters and fisherman, and communities

- **Stakeholders need to know** what's expected of them up front when they use or impact public lands. And we need to improve our ability to work with them to help ensure that **development and conservation goals can be achieved in a more efficient, predictable, and cost-effective way**

- That way, we spend less time on the analysis of individual projects and more time trying to **identify the right places to develop** in advance of committing critical resources – including private capital – to projects

3. Engaging the Next Generation (5 min)

- Next generation of Americans is more urban and diverse; more connected through technology, but less connected to the natural world

- We need to reflect these realities in our workforce and in our practices if we are to stay effective and relevant
    - Nearly one-third of DOI workforce retirement eligible in next 5 yrs

- We must seek ways to **protect our nation's outdoor heritage** and **create opportunities** to develop next generation of outdoor stewards

- Launched ambitious youth initiative to inspire millions to **Play, Learn, Serve, Work** outdoors

  To develop the next generation of lifelong conservation stewards and ensure our own skilled and diverse workforce pipeline, Interior will provide **100,000 work & training opportunities** to young people and veterans within our bureaus and through public-private partnerships

- Campaign to raise **$20 million** from private partners that will help stand up the **21st Century Conversation Service Corps** to support youth work and training opportunities

- It's a **win-win-win**: develops lifelong connection to the outdoors, creates jobs, and helps our public lands

V. CONCLUSION (1 min)

- Appreciate your partnership on these complex challenges

- Examples of where engagement is making a difference:
  - **Moab County** (UT) officials in developing Master Leasing Plans
  - **King County** (WA) officials engaged on climate change
  - **Garfield County** (CO) officials utilizing conservation funding to hire local youth to rebuild trails, clear brush and learn principles of conservation
  - Counties throughout the West working to conserve sage grouse habitat

- You – more than anyone – know that these issues **do not stop at political boundaries. We must all work together** – across party lines, across state lines, at all levels of government, including with tribal communities

- Thank you for collective efforts to advocate on behalf the American public

BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Mar 4, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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+ Interior Signs Memorandum Of Understanding With Salton Sea Authority.
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+ Obama Administration Officials Call For End To Illegal Wildlife Trafficking On World Wildlife Day.
+ King Cove Decision Criticized.
+ Paper Argues Politics Should Be Kept Of Sage Grouse Habitat Protection.
+ Colorado Efforts Seen As Solution To Sage Grouse Issue.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

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+ Research Reveals Underground Forts, Tunnels At Alcatraz.
+ New Hampshire's Beach Club of Rye Beach Added To National Register.

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Offshore Energy Development:
+ Federal Court Rules BP Must Adhere To Agreement On Deepwater Horizon Spill.
+ Industry's Claims Of Atlantic Potential Questioned.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:
+ California Receives Rain, But Not Enough To Ease Historic Shortfall.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:
+ Indian Tribes With Casinos Seek To Prevent New Entrants.
+ Attorney Criticizes Interior's Buy-Back Plan.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
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+ Obama's Election-Year Budget Aims For "Unity Among Democrats."
+ US Manufacturing Activity Accelerated Last Month.

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LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

INTERIOR RELEASES NPS REPORTS ON ECONOMIC BENEFITS, SHUTDOWN COSTS. The National Journal (3/4, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that "boosted by an additional 4 million visitors in 2012, national parks across the country continued to be important economic engines, generating $26.75 billion in economic activity and supporting 243,000 jobs, according to a peer-reviewed report released today by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis." Jewell said, "National parks like Yellowstone and Gettysburg are places of unimaginable beauty and powerful history that help tell America's story while connecting us with nature. At the same time, our national parks help propel our nation's economy, drawing hundreds of millions of visitors every year who are the lifeblood of the hotels, restaurants, outfitters, and other local businesses that depend on a vibrant and reliable tourism and outdoor recreation industry supported by our public lands." Jarvis said, "In 2012, the National Park Service welcomed more than 280 million visitors to their national parks. For nearly 100 years we have helped people discover places to explore, learn from and enjoy. These places of history, culture and natural wonder offer unparalleled experiences and return $10 for every $1 American taxpayers invest in the National Park Service. That's a successful formula we can all embrace as we prepare for the next 100 years of the National Park Service."

The AP (3/4, Daly) reports that in a separate report, "the government shutdown last fall resulted in nearly 8 million fewer visitors to national parks, costing the parks and surrounding communities an estimated $414 million in lost visitor spending, the Interior Department said Monday." Jewell said "the 16-day shutdown was a striking reminder that national parks are a powerful economic engine for local economies across the country." She said, "The very unfortunate government shutdown of October had one silver-lining: Communities realized just how much benefit they get from the parks being open. Let's hope we never have to go there again." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (3/3, 226K), the Belleville (IL) News-Democrat (3/3, 167K), KPIX-TV San Francisco (3/3, 51K), KPBS-TV San Diego (3/3, 14K), and KSJR-FM Collegeville, MN (3/3, 34K).

Additional coverage was provided by the AP (3/4), the Washington Times (3/4, Dinan, 417K), the Washington Examiner (3/4, 319K), ABC News (3/4, 3.68M), NPR (3/4, Peralta, 465K), the Huffington Post (3/4, Sheppard, 11.54M), the US News & World Report (3/3, 620K), Government Executive (3/4, 28K), the Denver Post (3/4, Blevins, 949K), the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (3/4, 54K), NBC News (3/4, 6.79M), KULR-TV Billings, MT (3/4, 2K), WEVO-FM Concord, NH (3/4, 2K), and KUOW-FM Seattle (3/4, 15K).

Alabama. The AP (3/4) reports that "the national parks in Alabama had nearly 718,000 visitors in 2012" and "the visitors spent $26.5 million," according to an NPS report.

Arizona. The AP (3/4) reports that "Arizona communities that serve as gateways to the Grand Canyon lost out

on $17 million during last year's partial government shutdown," according to an NPS report. The report "found that Grand Canyon visitors typically spend $37.6 million during October on gas, food, lodging, souvenirs and other things," but "that figure fell to $20.6 million as Congress wrangled over the federal budget, forcing the closure of national parks." In total, "Arizona lost out on about $27 million during the 16-day shutdown, coming in second to California." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Arizona Republic (3/4, 1.19M). Also reporting on the story is the Cronkite News (3/4),

KCSG-TV St. George, UT (3/4, 43) reports that "over 4.4 million visitors to Grand Canyon National Park in 2012 spent $454 million in communities near the park." According to the report, "that spending supported 6,010 jobs in the local area." Superintendent Dave Uberuaga said, "Grand Canyon is proud to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world. We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides, and to use the park as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy- returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service- and it's a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities."

KVOA-TV Tucson, AZ (3/4, 7K) reports that "in 2012, 634,286 visitors to Saguaro National Park spent $37.5 million in communities near the park," and "that spending supported 526 jobs in the local area." Superintendent Darla Sidles said, "Saguaro National Park is proud to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world. We are happy to share the story of the iconic saguaro cactus, the diversity of the Sonoran desert, and the experiences the park provides to all visitors."

California. The Fresno (CA) Bee (3/3, 327K) reports that "the federal government shutdown last October cost communities near Yosemite National Park an estimated $6.7 million in reduced spending by visitors," according to an NPS report. Jarvis said the "timing of the shutdown was especially bad for businesses because 'October is a very important month for park visitation.'" Coverage was also picked up by the Modesto (CA) Bee (3/3, 208K).

Also covering the story are the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (3/3, 86K), the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (3/3, 110K), the Fresno (CA) Business Journal (3/4, 160K) and the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (3/4, 206).

Colorado. KWGN-TV Denver (3/3, 1K) reports that "tourism to Colorado's national parks brought in $347 million in economic benefits," according to an NPS report. Sue Masica, director of NPS's Intermountain Region, said, "From Mesa Verde to Dinosaur National Monument, the national parks of Colorado attract millions of visitors a year from across the country and around the world. This new report confirms that national park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service. This reality makes parks tourism an important factor in Colorado's economy as well."

Also reporting on the story are the Longmont (CO) Times-Call (3/4, 66K), the Loveland (CO) Reporter-Herald (3/4, 52K), and the Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette (3/4, 13K).

DC. The AP (3/4) reports that "visitors to parks in and around the nation's capital spent nearly $929 million in surrounding communities in 2012," according to an NPS report. The report found that "visitor spending supported more than 12,000 jobs in Washington, Maryland, northern Virginia and West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle."

Florida. The AP (3/4) reports that "national parks in Florida received 10.6 million visitors and supported 8,064 jobs in the state in 2012," according to an NPS report. The report said that "visitors to national parks in Florida spent $572.6 million."

Georgia. The AP (3/4) reports that "the more than 7.3 million people visited Georgia's national parks in 2012, and the tourism generated an economic benefit of more than $343 million," according to an NPS report.

Hawaii. The AP (3/4) reports that "Hawaii's seven national parks drew 5.1 million visitors in in 2012," according to an NPS report. The report found "visitors spent $314.5 million in the areas around the attractions, which include active volcanoes, lush trails and historic sites," and "that helped support more than 3,700 jobs."

KHON-TV Honolulu (3/3, 30K) reports that "the 1,483,928 visitors to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park spent $113,376,400 in communities near the park," and "that spending supported 1,353 jobs in the local area." Park

superintendent Cindy Orlando said, "It's always exciting to share how much of a positive impact our national and international visitors have on the economic viability of our island community. On the same note, it's also worth contemplating what the park means to our Hawaii Island residents. That's difficult to define with a dollar amount."

Hawaii Reporter (3/4, 8K) reports that Regional Director Chris Lehnertz said, "The national parks of Hawai`i attract visitors from across the country and around the world. Whether they are out for an afternoon, a school field trip, or a month-long family vacation, visitors come to have a great experience, and end up spending a little money along the way. This new report shows that national park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy – returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service – and a big factor in Hawai`i's economy as well, a result we can all support."

Iowa. The Des Moines (IA) Business Record (3/4, 9K) reports "that 207,352 people visited its two sites in Iowa in 2012, spending $11.5 million in area economies and supporting 176 jobs," according to an NPS report.

Maine. The AP (3/4) reports that "park visitors spent $201 million and supported 3,138 jobs in Maine in 2012," according to an NPS report. Mike Caldwell, the park service regional director, said that "the report shows that national park tourism is a significant economic driver – returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service."

The Bangor (ME) Daily News (3/3, 166K) reports that Acadia National Park "lost almost 200,000 visits and $16 million in visitor spending from the 16-day federal government shutdown in October 2013," according to an NPS report.

Also reporting on the story are the Portland (ME) Press Herald (3/4, 279K) and WCSH-TV Portland, ME (3/4, 21K).

Maryland. The Baltimore Sun (3/3, Sherman, 812K) reports that "almost 7 million people visited national parks in Maryland in 2012, generating some $217.2 million in spending and 2,770 jobs," according to an NPS report. The article notes that Fort McHenry National Monument and Shrine "drew more than 744,000 visitors, who spent about $40 million and sustained about 526 jobs."

Massachusetts. The New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (3/3, 54K) reports that "the impact of Massachusetts' national parks is $503 million." The article notes that "the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park is an $18 million economic boost for the SouthCoast."

The Lowell (MA) Sun (3/4, 142K) reports that Lowell National Historical Park "brought an estimated $29 million in spending to the Lowell area in 2012, and Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord and Lexington attracted $54 million in spending," according to an NPS report.

Michigan. ABC (3/4, 6.46M) reports that "more than two million Michigan visitors spent a combined $181.7 million in State Parks in 2012, supporting close to 3,000 jobs," according to an NPS report. NPS Midwest Regional Director Michael Reynolds said the "data is a clear indication that tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning $10 for $1 invested." Reynolds also said that "the funding generated by National Parks has a swift and direct positive impact on local economies in Michigan."

Minnesota. The AP (3/4) reports that "Minnesota's national parklands drew over 600,000 visitors who spent over $34 million and supported over 500 jobs in the state in 2012," according to an NPS report.

Montana. The Ravalli (MT) Republic (3/4, 19K) reports that "national parks drew almost 4.5 million people to Montana in 2012, and they spent more than $400 million in the state," according to an NPS report. Glacier National Park "accounted for nearly 2.2 million visitors and $172 million spent in communities near the park, the report says." Also picking up coverage is The Missoulian (3/4, 104K).

The Flathead (MT) Beacon (3/4, 15K) reports that Superintendent Jeff Mow said, "We are honored and proud to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world to Glacier National Park. Glacier is a special place and many times visitors travel to Montana specifically to visit Glacier, and are introduced to the many other wonderful amenities that Montana, and Northwest Montana have to offer."

Nebraska. WOWT-TV Omaha, NE (3/4, 104K) reports that "304,046 visitors to national parks in Nebraska spent $13.2 million and supported 200 jobs in the state in 2012," according to an NPS report.

Nevada. The AP (3/4) reports that Lake Mead National Recreation Area "saw a 43 percent decline in average visitation during the 16-day government shutdown last fall," according to an NPS report. The report found "the number of visitors to the reservoir on the Colorado River near Las Vegas fell to about 267,000 in October, down from a three-year monthly average of 473,000." According to the article, "that decline resulted in a drop of $8.4 million in visitor spending, to $10.9 million from $19.3 million."

New Hampshire. The AP (3/4) reports that the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Site in Comish "pumped $1.5 million into the state's economy in 2012," according to an NPS report.

New York. The AP (3/4) reports that "New York state's 22 national parks drew more than 12.6 million visitors who spent $446.4 million in 2012," according to the report. It also said that "national parks in the state supported 4,885 jobs in New York two years ago."

North Carolina. The AP (3/4) reports that visitors to NPS sites "at both ends of North Carolina drew visitors who spent a lot of money in 2012," according to an NPS report. The article notes that "the report shows there were 15.2 million visitors to the Blue Ridge Parkway who spent $902 million in the communities near the park." Also, "more than 3 million people visited Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and Wright Brothers National Memorial," and "those visitors spent $175 million in the vicinity of the park sites to support nearly 2,500 jobs."

Oregon. The Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (3/3, 104K) reports that "about 875,000 people visited Oregon's national parks in 2012, spending about $58.5 million and supporting 924 jobs," according to an NPS report.

Pennsylvania. The Main Line (PA) Media News (3/3, 2K) reports that "8,768,869 visitors to national parks in Pennsylvania spent $444.4 million and supported 6,848jobs in the state in 2012," according to an NPS report. Mike Caldwell, NPS Northeast Regional Director said, "The national parks of Pennsylvania attract visitors from across the country and around the world. Whether they are out for an afternoon, a school field trip, or a family vacation, visitors come to have a great experience, and end up spending a little money along the way. This new report shows that national park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy – returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service – and a big factor in our state's economy as well, a result we can all support."

South Carolina. The AP (3/4) reports that "almost 890,000 visitors" to sites in South Carolina "pumped an estimated $48 million into the local economy during 2012," according to an NPS report. The report "found that the nearly $48 million spent in the local area by park visitors supported almost 700 jobs locally."

Tennessee. WRCB-TV Chattanooga, TN (3/4, 34K) reports that "8,414,094 visitors to national parks in Tennessee spent $541 million and supported 7,868 jobs in the state in 2012," according to an NPS report. Stan Austin, NPS Southeast Regional Director said, "Tennessee has become a world player in tourism. Beyond its beauty and recreation, the state has been home to presidents and poets. Some of the most ferocious fighting of the American Civil War occurred in the forests of Tennessee."

WBIR-TV Knoxville, TN (3/3, 43K) reports that Jewell said, "In this park, you generated $741 million dollars in visitor spending and support more than 10,900 jobs locally just because this park is here. So you are a model here in the Smokies for public, private partnerships, for working together as a community to take care of this resource."

Texas. KTSM-TV El Paso, TX (3/4, 970) reports that "the 3,939,160 visitors to Texas national parks in 2012 spent $188.1 million and supported 2,592 jobs in the state," according to an NPS report. Sue Masica, director of the NPS's Intermountain Region, said, "From Big Bend to Padre Island National Seashore, the national parks of Texas attract millions of visitors a year from across the country and around the world. Whether these park visitors are out for an afternoon, on a school field trip or taking a long family vacation, they come for a great experience – and they end up spending a little money along the way, too. This new report confirms that national park tourism

is a significant driver in the national economy, returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service. This reality makes parks tourism an important factor in the Texas economy as well. It's a result we all can support."

Utah. The AP (3/3) reports that "Utah's decision to dip into state funds and spend nearly $1 million to reopen national parks during the partial government shutdown last fall paid off, according to a federal report released Monday." According to the report, "visitors to national parks in the state spent about $10 for every $1 the state paid the US government to reopen nine parks along with monuments and recreation areas during a six-day period in October." The article notes that "during that time, there were 154,000 visits that led to an estimated $9.95 million in visitor spending." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by Yahoo! (3/4, Mccombs, 17.91M) , ABC News (3/4, 3.68M), the Washington Times (3/4, Mccombs, 417K), the Deseret (UT) News (3/4, 274K), and the Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/4, Mccombs, 1.14M).

KCSG-TV St. George, UT (3/4, 43) reports that Sue Masica, director of NPS's Intermountain Region said, "From Zion and Bryce Canyon to Golden Spike National Historic Site, Utah's national parks attract more than 9 million visitors a year from across the country and around the world. Whether these park visitors are out for an afternoon, on a school field trip or taking a long family vacation, they come for a great experience – and they end up spending a little money along the way, too. This new report confirms that national park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service. This reality makes parks tourism an important factor in Utah's economy as well. It's a result we all can support."

Also reporting on the story are the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (3/4, 343K), the Deseret (UT) News (3/4, 274K), and the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (3/3, 147K).

Vermont. The AP (3/4) reports that "Vermont's Ione National Park had $1.7 million in economic impact in the state, creating 25 jobs," according to an NPS report. The report "found there were 32,403 visitors to the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/4, 1.14M) and Yahoo! (3/4, 17.91M).

Virginia. The AP (3/3) reports that "Virginia's national park sites yielded nearly $1 billion in economic benefits with more than 23 million visits in 2012," according to an NPS report. The report said that "visitors in Virginia spent $926.3 million while visiting national parks in 2012, supporting more than 13,250 jobs in Virginia." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said, "Virginia is a significant state in terms of its total visitation and visitors love to see these great parks in Virginia."

Also reporting on the story are the Roanoke (VA) Times (3/4, 259K) and the Newport News (VA) Daily Press (3/4, 206K).

Washington. The AP (3/3) reports that "the average number of visitors to Olympic National Park dropped 24 percent during the government shutdown last October," according to an NPS report. The article notes that "the 16-day partial government shutdown resulted in about 42,000 fewer visitors to the park on Washington's Olympic Peninsula." That "resulted in a loss of about $3.4 million in visitor spending in communities that surround the parks." Meanwhile, "a separate National Park Service report" showed "in Washington state, 7.5 million people who visited national park lands spent a total of about $419 million in 2012." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (3/4, 417K) and KOMO-TV Seattle (3/4, 237K).

The Business Examiner (3/4, 39) reports that "just over one million visitors to Mount Rainier National Park in 2012 spent $36.8M in communities surrounding the park," according to an NPS report. Park Deputy Superintendent Tracy Swartout said, "Mount Rainier National Park is an icon of the Pacific Northwest, and serves as inspiration today, as it has for centuries. The mountain attracts visitors from across the US and around the world. While their destination may be the park, they also spend time and money in our local communities."

Additional coverage was provided by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (3/3, 768K).

Wisconsin. WITI-TV Milwaukee (3/3, 45K) reports that "273,933 visitors to national parks in Wisconsin spent $28.4 million and supported 422 jobs in the state in 2012," according to an NPS report. NPS Midwest Regional Director Michael T. Reynolds said, "The national parks of Wisconsin attract visitors from across the country and

around the world and provide premiere historical, cultural, natural, and recreational experiences. This new report shows that national park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy – returning $10 for every $1 invested – and funding generated by national parks has a swift and direct positive impact on local economies in Wisconsin as well."

West Virginia. The AP (3/4) reports that "just over 1.5 million people visited West Virginia's national park sites in 2012," according to an NPS report. The visitors "spent about $63 million visiting the sites – spending that supported 863 jobs in West Virginia." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Charleston (WV) Gazette (3/4, 154K).

Also reporting on the story is the Beckley (WV) Register-Herald (3/4, 63K).

Wyoming. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/4, 90K) reports that "Wyoming's national parks and monuments create thousands of jobs and generate more than $700 million in tourism spending in Wyoming," according to an NPS report. The state's "6,194,752 national park visitors in 2012 spent $721 million and supported 9,372 jobs in the state, according to the report."

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES FUNDING OF SMOKIES HISTORY AND ARCHIVE CENTER. The Chattanoogan (3/4, 17K) reports that "at an event on Monday at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center," Sen. Lamar Alexander welcomed Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "for the unveiling of construction plans of the Joint Curatorial Collections Facility that will house more than 800,000 historical artifacts and archival records." Alexander said, "East Tennesseans feel like we own the park because many of our families did. This is an opportunity to celebrate the way of life of those mountain families who once lived here. This is great news for everyone who loves the Great Smoky Mountains, and I thank Secretary Jewell for making this happen. Her efforts, combined with the commitment of park service employees and generosity of friends of the Smokies, ensures that we will be able to preserve the history of those families."

WVLT-TV Knoxville, TN (3/4, 8K) reports that Jewell announced that "she'd secured the funds to build" the Joint Curatorial Collections Facility for the Great Smoky Mountains. Jewell said, "It's really important that we not just have these artifacts but that we take care of them because we won't have them for generations to come if we don't." Jewell said "half the $4.3 million comes from the federal government and the other half comes from private funds." She said, "National Parks don't operate by themselves they operate as a community. Public-private partnerships used to be the margin of excellence now it's the margin of survival."

The Maryville (TN) Daily Times (3/4, 64K) reports that Jewell said, "The construction bids will be going out immediately. We expect the contract to be awarded this summer. The goal is to have the facility completed sometime in the fall of 2015."

Also reporting on the story are the Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (3/4, 366K), WBIR-TV Knoxville, TN (3/3, 43K), and WATE-TV Knoxville, TN (3/4, 36K).

INTERIOR SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SALTON SEA AUTHORITY. The Southern California Public Radio (3/3, 57K) reports that "local political leaders and their Washington counterparts are uniting to save the Salton Sea." The Interior Department announced "it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Salton Sea Authority." The MOU is a "commitment to find collaborative solutions to resource challenges, to share available technical and scientific information and expertise, and to prioritize partnerships to improve resource conditions in and around the Sea."

FEDERAL AGENCIES SPENT MILLIONS ON UPGRADED FLIGHTS. The Washington Examiner (3/4, 319K) reports that "the federal government spent millions of dollars on thousands of upgraded flights for employees in 2012 and 2013, paying many times more for business and first-class seats than the same flights would have cost in coach or the government-contracted rate." Premium travel expenses are reported to the General Services Administration each year, and the reports were obtained by the Washington Examiner through Freedom of Information Act requests. The article notes that Interior Department "flew to such exotic locations as Costa Rica, Denmark, Japan and South Africa in 2012." Also, it notes that "then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar took an April 2012 trip to Brazil for a 'special agency mission' that cost more than $3,800 each way instead of the $3,000 coach fare round-trip."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS CALL FOR END TO ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ON WORLD WILDLIFE DAY. In an op-ed for the National Geographic (3/4, 40.49M), John Kerry, Secretary of State, Eric Holder, Attorney General of the United States, and Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior, call for an end to illicit trade in wildlife trafficking to celebrate the first ever World Wildlife Day. They note that the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking is "leading the President's whole-of-government fight against wildlife trafficking by pursuing a three-pronged strategy: strengthening domestic and global enforcement; reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife at home and abroad; and strengthening partnerships internationally and domestically with local communities, NGOs, private industry, and others to combat wildlife poaching and illegal trade."

KING COVE DECISION CRITICIZED. For the National Review (3/4, 805K), Wesley J. Smith writes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's King Cove decision is an example of how "anti-humanism has poisoned the environmental movement." According to Smith, "if it were Jewell's loved ones at threat, if it were the swells who attend Davos or fly private jets all over the world to urge we 'save the planet,' the Obama Administration would demand that a paved highway be built to provide shovel-ready jobs." However, he claims that "they don't care enough about the powerless people of King Cove to give them a better chance to live when they become seriously ill."

PAPER ARGUES POLITICS SHOULD BE KEPT OF SAGE GROUSE HABITAT PROTECTION. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (3/4, 165K) editorializes that "the easiest way to ensure that the sage grouse in Nevada ends up on the list of endangered species, a result that few in Nevada want to see occur, is for the process of developing a plan to protect the bird's habitat to become enmeshed in state and local politics." According to the paper, "if the state is to avoid that fate — which could do serious damage to some of Nevada's most important industries, including mining, agriculture and energy development — it must convince federal officials of its credibility, that it is serious in its quest to develop a science-based plan that will ensure the long-range viability of the state's sage grouse population." It adds that "politics has no place in that process."

COLORADO EFFORTS SEEN AS SOLUTION TO SAGE GROUSE ISSUE. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (3/4, 73K) editorializes that "it sounds counter-intuitive, but enacting federal measures to" protect the sage grouse "could cause more harm than good." According to the paper, "it would likely unravel the coalition-building and spirit of cooperation that has taken place thus far in an effort to thwart a listing." The paper warns that "the synergy among county commissions, ranchers, energy companies, environmental groups and state officials could give way to indifference about the fate of the birds."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS TO PREDICT DC CHERRY BLOSSOM DATES. The AP (3/4) reports that on Tuesday, the NPS is "expected to announce the predicted peak bloom dates for the trees."

RESEARCH REVEALS UNDERGROUND FORTS, TUNNELS AT ALCATRAZ. The Houston Chronicle (3/4, Christian, 2.26M) reports that "what started as repair of a tripping hazard at Alcatraz Island led to research that is revealing an old network of underground tunnels and fortifications." According to the article, "early results appear to indicate that a 'caponier,' or part of an original fortified wall, still lies buried underground on the notorious island in San Francisco Bay." The article notes that "the research began in 2010 when the National Park Service, which manages the former federal prison site, asked the Concrete Industry Management program at California State University, Chico, to fix a gaping hole in what was once the prison recreation yard."

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S BEACH CLUB OF RYE BEACH ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER. The AP (3/4) reports that New Hampshire's Beach Club of Rye Beach has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS FINALIZES AGREEMENT TO PROTECT LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN FROM DRILLING. The Environment & Energy Publishing (3/4, 705) reports that the FWS has "finalized a voluntary agreement designed

to protect the lesser prairie chicken and its dwindling habitat from oil and gas drilling activity as the deadline approaches for the service to decide whether to list the colorful bird as threatened." The FWS and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies "announced late Friday that they had signed the formal agreement, called the Range-wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement With Assurances." According to the article, "landowners and companies that enroll in the Candidate Conservation Agreement With Assurances (CCAA) through WAFWA agree to take steps to protect lesser prairie chicken habitat and to pay a mitigation fee if their actions harm the bird's habitat," and "in exchange, the service agrees not to impose any further restrictions or mandates on the participants if the bird is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act." FWS Director Dan Ashe said in a statement, "This landmark agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies shows how cooperation between federal and state government agencies and private landowners can help advance conservation objectives while considering the economic needs of the nation. It is also another example of how flexibility in the Endangered Species Act helps us address the complex issues often associated with protecting our rarest wildlife and their habitats."

Also reporting on the story are the Lubbock (TX) Avalanche-Journal (3/3, 160K) and KAMC-TV Lubbock, TX (3/4).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

OFFSHORE WIND STRATEGY EXAMINED. The Maritime Executive (3/3, 21) reports on the Interior Department "Smart from the Start" strategy to streamline renewable energy projects. The article examines how a federal agency could "propose measures that would greatly increase the risk of collisions, allisions, and environmental damage while also increasing the cost of tens of thousands of commercial vessel movements each year." It concludes that "as is usually the case in government, the reasons are many and complicated," and "while there are no villains in this story, America's essential commerce continues to be threatened by well-intentioned people and a process that considers the impact on maritime transportation last."

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS PUSHES THREE BILLS TO LIMIT ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION. The Environment & Energy Publishing (3/4, 705) reports that House Republicans say "this week's three planned votes to limit environmental regulation would benefit working Americans and the economy that supports them." In a message to members on Friday, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor's office said that "this week's votes to curtail US EPA rules for greenhouse gas emissions, constrict environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act and ease permitting for coal mines would help 'build an America that works.'" According to the article, "this week's debate is likely to center on" an Interior Office of Inspector General report that "found that OSM indeed told former contractors to use a different formula for calculating the economic impacts of an early version of the rule but didn't do so with political or nefarious motivations."

Additional coverage of the Stream Buffer Zone was provided by WFPL-FM Louisville, KY (3/4, 5K).

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDERAL COURT RULES BP MUST ADHERE TO AGREEMENT ON DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL. The New York Times (3/4, B1, Robertson, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports on the front of its second section that Judge Leslie H. Southwick in writing for the Fifth US Circuit Court of Appeals dealt a "setback" to BP by ruling that it must "stick to its agreement and pay some gulf businesses for economic damage without their having to prove it was caused by the spill." The judge ruled that it "was bound by the agreement it had signed," finding that it was not "fundamentally unreasonable." In a "forceful dissent", Judge Edith Brown Clement argued that the agreement has been interpreted to exclude "causation" though that had been "a critical part" of the agreement.

Reuters (3/3, Stempel) reports that by a 2-1 vote, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's ruling rejecting BP's effort to block some businesses from receiving payouts from the 2010 Gulf spill settlement

fund even if they couldn't link their economic losses to the disaster. In the majority opinion, Circuit Judge Leslie Southwick wrote, "The settlement agreement does not require a claimant to submit evidence that the claim arose as a result of the oil spill." The terms, she added, "are not as protective of BP's present concerns as might have been achievable, but they are the protections that were accepted by the parties and approved by the district court."

The Wall Street Journal (3/4, Fowler, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that BP believes many claimants are receiving payments despite not suffering financial losses. A BP spokesman said that the company is considering its options for appealing.

INDUSTRY'S CLAIMS OF ATLANTIC POTENTIAL QUESTIONED. The Bloomberg BusinessWeek (3/3, 4.93M) asks if President Obama is "really" opposed to oil and gas drilling. Noting that the Department of Interior announced on Thursday that companies would be allowed to conduct seismic explorations off the Eastern seaboard, Bloomberg says that "pretty much puts us back to where we were in March 2010," when the President "decided to open up vast tracts of the Atlantic Ocean to oil drilling," only to have the idea quashed after the Deep Horizon explosion three weeks later. The piece notes that API says that the Atlantic is a "potential gold mine" of oil and gas reserves, to which the piece says "maybe. We have almost no idea what's down there."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA RECEIVES RAIN, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO EASE HISTORIC SHORTFALL. The Environment & Energy Publishing (3/4, 705) reports that California received "some much-needed precipitation over the weekend, but not nearly enough to ameliorate the state's persistent drought," according to weather and water experts. The article notes that "long-awaited storms in Northern and Southern California dumped several inches of snow and rain on parched mountains, fields and cities." However, "state and federal water managers cautioned that much of the state is still so far below normal that there is almost no way to recover this year." Meanwhile, "federal officials managing other parts of the state's water infrastructure, however, said that the storms could allow them to send more water to farmers grappling with record-low projected supplies."

Additional coverage of California water issues was provided by the Los Angeles Times (3/3, Boxall, 3.07M) and the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (3/3, 126K).

Water Rights Holders Claim Contract Violation. The Western Farm Press (3/4, 2K) reports that "in a shot across the bow, several Sacramento River Settlement (SRS) contractors fired off a letter to David Murillo, regional director of the US Bureau of Reclamation regarding the USBR's decision to provide SRS contractors with a 40 percent water allocation in the wake of California's epic drought." According to the article, "the letter does not threaten legal action, though it is a stern recognition that the federal government is violating its contract with water rights holders." The letter "does ask for a conversation between the federal government and SRS contractors 'to address the current situation,' which on the surface seems to be how the government will honor its contractual obligations."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INDIAN TRIBES WITH CASINOS SEEK TO PREVENT NEW ENTRANTS. The New York Times (3/4, Lovett, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that in California, the North Fork band of Mono Indians, is seeking to open a casino and the "Chukchansi Indians, with their own thriving casino just 30 miles away," are seeking to stop it. To do that, they and their investors "have spent more than $2 million" for a ballot initiative to prevent the new casino, which has already been approved by Federal and state authorities. In California, there are already over 60 casinos owned by Indian tribes, and "six more tribes have applied to open new casinos, while 78 groups have applied for federal tribe recognition." Casino profits are said to be "stalling," which is blamed for the effort by tribes with casinos to stop new casinos being built. In addition, while the Bush Administration opposed casinos too distant from the tribe's reservation, the Obama Administration "has approved five off-reservation casinos" and that has led to increased competition among tribes for desirable sites.

ATTORNEY CRITICIZES INTERIOR'S BUY-BACK PLAN. For the Indian Country Today Media Network (3/3, 21K), Gabriel S. Galanda, the managing partner at Galanda Broadman, PLLC, writes that the Interior

Department's Indian Land Buy Back Program "now lifts off in hurried fashion at Makah and Pine Ridge, the program dishonors both the letter and spirit of Cobell." According to Galanda, "injustice to individual Cobell class members aside, assuming that financially supporting a tribe will benefit that tribe's members, one would hope that the buy-back wealth would be spread throughout Indian Country," but "it has recently come to light that Interior has limited the lion's share of the $1.9 billion in buy back funding to only 40 tribes." Also, Galanda argues that "in all, the buy back process is simply not designed to obtain 'truly informed consent' from tribal member landowners." He concludes that "it is designed to serve federal interests – and it dishonors Cobell."

Top National News:

US PREPARING SANCTIONS TARGETING RUSSIAN INTERESTS IN RETALIATION FOR CRIMEA OCCUPATION. The crisis in the Ukraine continues to be the dominant story in the US news media. On Monday evening, the three network newscasts devoted more than a third of their airtime to reports on various aspects of the situation, and both the CBS Evening News (3/3, lead story, 3:25, Pelley, 5.58M) and NBC Nightly News (3/3, lead story, 3:05, Williams, 7.86M) led with segments on Crimea. In an indication of the emphasis on Ukraine, President Obama's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu at the White House earlier on Monday did not get any coverage from the networks. As was the case on Sunday, most of the coverage indicates that the Administration will respond to the Russian military occupation of Crimea with nothing more than targeted sanctions, although several reports this morning state that even sanctions could be difficult to implement due to hesitancy on the part of several European governments, most notably Germany.

In the lead segment for the CBS Evening News (3/3, lead story, 3:25, Pelley, 5.58M), Scott Pelley reported that Secretary of State Kerry "is heading to Ukraine...to show support for the country at the center of the biggest US-Russian face-off since the Cold War." According to Pelley, the Russian government "has been sending troops across the border into Ukraine's Crimea region in continuing defiance of President Obama's warnings and threats of sanctions." Correspondent Elizabeth Palmer went on to report that, "without firing a shot, the Russians are now in control of Crimea," and that "the pro-Russian population has welcomed the soldiers." Palmer added that "it's estimated there are 20,000 Russian troops" in Crimea, and "US intelligence says that troop buildup is continuing, which fuels fears that Vladimir Putin plans to extend this invasion into eastern Ukraine."

At the opening of NBC Nightly News (3/3, lead story, 3:05, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams said, "It is very clear that Vladimir Putin is not troubling himself with what the rest of the world has to say," and "has moved into the Crimea region...of Ukraine, making sure that, in case there were any doubts, he considers it part of Russia by heritage." Andrea Mitchell reported from Andrew Air Force Base, where she was preparing to accompany Secretary Kerry to Ukraine, that the Administration is "considering tough economic sanctions against Russia," but "the question is – is Vladimir Putin even paying attention?" According to Mitchell, "the toughest of the sanctions would require approval of all 28 of the" European Union members, "and Europe is not united on how to punish Russia."

On ABC World News (3/3, story 2, 2:25, Sawyer, 7.43M), correspondent Terry Moran reported from Ukraine that Putin is "claiming he is defending ethnic Russians in Crimea," and that there is "fear...that the Ukrainian military...will try to stop him, touching off a bloody war." Moran added, "That's why...Kerry is racing to the region, making sure they hold their fire."

The AP (3/4, Lavender) reports that at the White House on Monday, President Obama said the Russian government is "'on the wrong side of history" in regards to Ukraine, and "told reporters in the Oval Office...that the United States is considering economic and diplomatic options that will isolate Russia." Politico (3/4, Sinderbrand, 464K) noted that the President, appearing with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, said, "I think the world is largely united that the steps Russia has taken are a violation of international law," and added, "over time, this will be a costly proposition for Russia." The Wall Street Journal (3/4, Lee, Favole, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) quotes the President as saying, "What cannot be done is for Russia with impunity to put its soldiers on the ground and violate basic principles that are recognized around the world."

According to a front-page story in the New York Times (3/4, A1, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), the Administration is "prepar[ing]...to impose sanctions on high-level Russian officials involved in the military occupation of Crimea," and has already "suspended military ties to Russia, including exercises, port visits and

planning meetings, just a day after calling off trade talks." The Times adds that Administration officials are warning that "if Moscow does not reverse course...they will ban visas and freeze assets of select Russian officials in the chain of command as well as target state-run financial institutions." The Times also reports that members of Congress have "signaled that they would follow with sanctions of their own, plus quickly approve economic aid for the fragile new pro-Western government in Ukraine."

However, Politico (3/4, Raju, Everett, 464K) reported that on Monday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "said Congress should let the situation play out for 'a while' before trying to impose any new sanctions on Russia," saying, "The most important thing is for us – the United States – to make sure that we don't go off without the European community." Reid added, "Their interests are really paramount if we are going to do sanctions of some kind," so "we have to have them on board with us."

On CNN's The Situation Room (3/3, 554K), correspondent Jim Sciutto reported that there has been "no decision made yet on whether to impose those sanctions or, indeed, which sanctions to impose." According to Sciutto, "The possible sanctions include freezing the overseas assets of Russian individuals and companies, banning travel for Russian leaders and businessmen, and – at the more extreme end – blocking some Russian banks from the international financial system, an enormously costly scenario for Russia." But Sciutto added that "all of these require unity within the western powers," and that it is far from clear that will be possible to achieve. In fact, Reuters (3/3, Maclellan) reports that the BBC photographed a senior UK official entering Prime Minister David Cameron's residence with a paper visible that read, according to the BBC, "The UK should not support for now trade sanctions or close London's financial center to Russians."

Politico (3/4, Bradner, 464K) reports that Treasury Secretary Lew, British Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne and French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici have "agreed to seek an International Monetary Fund package that would help stabilize Ukraine, which is facing massive debts." Under the headline, "US Suspends Trade And Investment Talks With Russia," the Wall Street Journal (3/4, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that the office of US Trade Representative Michael Froman issued a statement reading: "Due to recent events in Ukraine, we have suspended upcoming bilateral trade and investment engagement with the government of Russia that were part of a move toward deeper commercial and trade ties."

However, according to the AP (3/4, Jakes), "Critics said administration efforts were too little, too late after years of pressing for friendlier relations with Moscow." The AP adds that French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius "said Russia's control of Crimea would not be easy to reverse," and drew attention to "how limited the options were for the US and Europe." Similarly, McClatchy (3/4, Hall, Subscription Publication, 95K) says the Administration is "scrambl[ing] to find meaningful ways to sanction a nation that does relatively little U.S. business and exports primarily energy products that allies in Europe badly need." McClatchy notes that Russia "isn't among the top two dozen export markets for US products" nor is it "among the top 12 nations from which the United States imports."

The Washington Times (3/4, Boyer, Sen, 417K) reports that State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the Administration is "actively preparing sanctions as a response to Russian provocations," and that "it is likely that we will put those in place." On Monday, Psaki said, "We are far more forward on this than we were even yesterday."

On the CBS Evening News (3/3, story 3, 1:45, Pelley, 5.58M), Major Garrett reported that the President "knows that economic sanctions against Russia are the west's best weapon at this stage, but European nations are not yet ready to go down that road," and German Chancellor Merkel "has told the President she fears provoking an even bigger military response from Moscow." Garrett added that "despite a weekend of criticism that he has appeared weak, President Obama believes it is Putin who is playing the weak hand," and that his "invasion of Crimea" is "a desperate attempt to give Russia some role in Ukraine's new political future."

Also on the CBS Evening News (3/3, story 4, 1:50, Pelley, 5.58M), former CIA deputy director Mike Morell said that for the Administration, "There is no military option," while "some of the diplomatic options that are out there simply are not strong" and "are not going to get Putin's attention." Morell added, "The only option that would get his attention, economic sanctions, has potentially a huge downside for Europe and the United States."

Howard LaFranchi, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (3/4, Lafranchi, 540K), wrote, "It was not clear

Monday what concrete measures of support for Ukraine...Kerry would take with him to Kiev." According to LaFranchi, "Among Kerry's options" is "offer[ing] some immediate economic support for the crisis-laden government of President Oleksandr Turchynov and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk."

Robert Kimmitt, who served as deputy secretary of Treasury in the George W. Bush Administration, and Stephen Myrow, managing partner of Beacon Policy Advisors, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (3/4, Kimmitt, Myrow, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), make the case that a $20 billion aid package would be sufficient to bolster the Ukrainian government. Kimmitt and Myrow also suggest that the US and the EU put restrictions on Russia's natural gas exports in an effort to shut down Moscow's access to currency. The Wall Street Journal (3/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, echoes Kimmitt and Myrow's suggestion that the allies of the newly established government in Kiev ought to hinder Russia's ability to report natural gas because that could starve the Russian treasury of foreign reserves.

The Hill (3/4, Pecquet, 194K) reported that the State Department's Psaki maintains that the US "believes political and economic pressure can force the Kremlin to back off." Psaki is quoted as saying, "We believe political steps, and sending a political message in coordination with the international community, will be effective in cooperation and in partnership with economic steps."

Nuland Proposes Stationing OSCE Monitors In Crimea. The Washington Post (3/4, DeYoung, 4.28M) reports that at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna, the US officials and their allies "threatened Russia with further isolation while offering what they described as a face-saving solution." Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland said, "There is a way out of this situation," and, according to the Post, "the 'way out' included an OSCE monitoring mission sent Monday night to Ukraine to provide what Nuland called 'neutral facts [and] make a true assessment of the situation on the ground.'" Nuland is quoted as saying, "This monitoring mission can go first and foremost to Crimea to de-escalate tensions and can provide an out for the Russian Federation if it so chooses."

On Fox News' Special Report (3/3, 2.15M), correspondent Wendell Goler reported that "Russian officials say their troops are protecting ethnic Russians in Crimea," but Ambassador Samantha Power "said there's a better way to protect them." Power was shown saying, "We have proposed, and wholeheartedly support, the immediate deployment of international observers and monitors from the UN."

WSJournal A1: US Ceded Responsibility For Ukrainian Negotiations To The EU. The Wall Street Journal (3/4, A1, Entous, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in a front-page article titled, "Behind The West's Miscalculations In Ukraine: US Had Let Europe Take Lead in Guiding Westward Drift of Former Soviet Republic," reports that the Administration had relied on the EU to negotiate with the now-deposed government of Viktor Yanukovych, and suggests that the relative distance from events on the ground undermined US influence in the region. According to the Journal, Vice President Biden did have a good relationship with Yanukovych. However, the Journal says Yanukovych nevertheless rejected a proposed EU aid deal late last year even after Biden signaled that the US would add more assistance in the future in an effort to convince Yanukovych to decline Putin's proffered loans.

Germany's Dependence On Russian Oil And Its High Level Of Trade With Russia Detailed. The New York Times (3/4, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that from "importing fuel from Gazprom" to "selling Mercedes-Benz to billionaire oligarchs," Germany's "trade with Russia has played an important role in" its "emergence as an economic superpower over the last decade." The Times adds that Germany "is now heavily reliant on Russia for its energy needs," and "import[s] more natural gas from Russia than any other country in Europe." However, the Times also reports that Chancellor Angela Merkel "has also shown a willingness to take a hard line with Mr. Putin," and "has been particularly forceful on human rights issues."

Reuters (3/4, Rohde) reports that Fiona Hill, a former National Intelligence Officer for Russia and Eurasia at the National Intelligence Council, says Germany's reliance on Russian natural gas makes it unlikely that the Merkel government would agree to really tough sanctions on the Russian government. Reuters (3/4, Kelly, De Carbonnel) reports that German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva on Monday.

Edward-Isaac Dovere, in a piece for Politico (3/4, Dovere, 464K), reported that on Monday, a day after Secretary

Kerry "began floating the idea of kicking Putin out of the G-8, the German finance minister told a German news service Monday that he wasn't sure this was a good idea."

John Vinocur, the former executive editor of the International Herald Tribune, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (3/4, Vinocur, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), says it was Merkel who was behind the rejection of Ukraine's, and Georgia's, application to become a NATO candidate in 2008. Reuters (3/4, Kelly, De Carbonnel) notes that Merkel is a fluent Russian speaker.

US Athletes Will Compete In Sochi Paralympic Games, But Presidential Delegation Will Stay Home. The New York Times (3/4, Shpigel, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the US has "canceled its presidential delegation to the Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia, citing Russia's intervention in Ukraine," but "the decision...will not affect the 80 American athletes scheduled to compete in the Games, which begin with Friday's opening ceremony."

OBAMA'S ELECTION-YEAR BUDGET AIMS FOR "UNITY AMONG DEMOCRATS." The budget proposal the President will unveil today is generally portrayed in print media as an election-year document aimed at addressing a number of Democratic agenda items in the run up to November's midterm elections.

The AP (3/4, Taylor) reports that the President on Tuesday will unveil "an election-year budget" that strives for "unity among Democrats rather than compromise with Republicans." The almost $4 trillion plan "drops earlier proposals to cut future Social Security benefits and seeks new money for infrastructure, education and job training." The AP notes that the plan "is likely to have a short shelf life," coming "just three months after Congress and the White House agreed to a two-year, bipartisan budget pact that has already set the parameters for this election year's budget work."

The Washington Times (3/4, Wolfgang, Dinan, 417K) reports that the President's budget "bows more to political realities than it does to the government's fiscal picture, as the White House looks to do no harm to fellow Democrats in the run-up to November's elections." The document "will tick off a laundry list of Democratic agenda items." The Times notes that the President "is expected to argue that the deficit is now less than half what it was his first year in office, and so the federal government can afford to spend more on education, infrastructure, scientific and medical research, and manufacturing."

The Washington Post (3/4, A1, Goldfarb, Costa, 4.28M) reports in a front-page story that the President's budget "will set the stage for an election-year debate over government's role in creating economic opportunity." The President, the Post notes, "will make the case that government has the potential to help millions of Americans prosper." His budget request marks a return "to the populist, bread-and-butter themes that helped him win reelection and have played to Democrats' advantage for years."

The New York Times (3/4, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the President will "grab his best opportunity of the year to show, in one comprehensive package of hard numbers and precise detail, how he would have the government address what he has called 'the defining challenge of our time' — economic inequality." The Times notes that along with the "perennial proposals on education, job training, research and more," the President "is adding one with echoes of Republicans' own ideas," and will "propose expanding a longstanding tax break to better benefit workers who are childless." By including the proposal and "emphasizing its limited Republican pedigree, Mr. Obama is underscoring his struggle to set an agenda that stands a chance to become law, at least in part — in this case, to try to reduce inequality of incomes and economic opportunity."

The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that the President will propose larger tax credits for childless workers, an increased minimum wage, a revamped military and the elimination of some tax breaks for upper-income Americans, each of which has been proposed before or telegraphed for weeks, but have lacked momentum in Congress. While the budget will adhere to spending caps put in place in December, it will also propose $56 billion in additional spending priorities, divided between military and domestic programs.

The Los Angeles Times (3/4, Hennessey, 3.07M) reports that the President "will propose a series of changes to the tax code" that would "shift benefits from top earners to middle- and lower-income Americans." The President "will propose expanding or making permanent tax credits aimed at the working poor, families with young children,

and college students." In addition, the plan would "expand access to retirement savings for people who do not have an employer-sponsored retirement plan." The cost of the new tax breaks "would be offset by eliminating tax rules that have benefited top earners."

USA Today (3/4, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that the President's budget "will include a proposal to expand the earned-income tax credit for 13.5 million low-income Americans by closing tax loopholes benefiting certain fund managers and high-income, self-employed workers." USA Today notes that with the expansion, the incomes of about 500 million people will be "lifted above the poverty line, and about 3.3 million young workers — ages 21 to 24 — would become eligible." In addition, the proposal "calls for expanding the EITC to workers ages 65 and 66 — currently ineligible for the tax credit." That expansion is expected to "affect about 300,000 workers in the older age group."

US MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY ACCELERATED LAST MONTH. Reuters (3/4, Mutikani) reports that the Institute for Supply Management's Manufacturing Index rose to 53.2 in February from 51.3 in January, which was its weakest reading since May 2013. A reading above 50.0 indicates that the sector is expanding. Reuters says that the strong report should encourage the Fed to continue tapering its stimulus program as expected.

Bloomberg News (3/4, Woellert, 1.91M) reports that the index shows that the economy is "making headway in emerging from the harsh winter weather that has slowed growth in early 2014." Bloomberg adds that the increase "would have been stronger if not for a slump in production caused by a shortage of parts, a sign orders will improve in coming months to replenish stockpiles."

The Wall Street Journal (3/4, Madigan, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that economists it surveyed expected the index to come in at 52.5.

Consumer Spending Posts Solid Gain For January. The Wall Street Journal (3/4, Portlock, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that consumer spending rose 0.4% in January, driven by a 0.9% increase in spending on services, according to data released Monday by the Department of Commerce. That more than offset a drop in spending on goods. However, December's originally reported increase of 0.4% was revised sharply downward to a 0.1% gain. However, several experts cited by the Journal indicate that the harsh weather that enveloped much of the nation in January makes drawing solid conclusions from this and other data difficult.

Automakers Report Tepid February New Vehicle Sales. The New York Times (3/4, Trop, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the harsh winter weather "stalled new-vehicle sales" last month, "even as sales of some trucks and sport utility vehicles remained strong, automakers reported on Monday." Sales fell 1% at GM and 6% at Ford, the second consecutive month of declines. However, Chrysler said that its sales were up 11% "for its best February performance in seven years, in part on the strength of its Jeep brand, which gained 47 percent for the month."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Frustration With Afghanistan."*** An editorial in the New York Times (3/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that while the President's and NATO's "frustration" with Afghan President Hamid Karzai over his refusal to sign the bilateral security agreement is "understandable," but their threats to withdraw all troops by year's end is "theatrical" because neither the Administration nor NATO "wants to leave completely, and many neighboring countries want them to stay. So do many Afghans." The Times notes that concerns about Afghanistan's future, including "the possibility that the country would again become a haven for terrorists," if foreign troops do not remain, "would make it hard, politically and strategically, for this nation's leaders to simply walk away." While it "seems possible, even likely," that the President "will find a way to retain a limited force there this year, serious questions remain about whether the country will ever be able to stand on its own."

"Mr. Ryan's Small Ideas On Poverty." An editorial in the New York Times (3/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) opines that with his report on anti-poverty programs, Rep. Paul Ryan "provides polished intellectual cover for his party to mow down as many antipoverty programs as it can see." The report, the Times notes, gives congressional Republicans "a high-minded excuse" to "eviscerate programs like Medicaid, Head Start and food stamps." The Times argues that while it is easy "to find flaws or waste in any government program," the "proper

response is to fix those flaws, not throw entire programs away as Mr. Ryan and his party have repeatedly proposed."

"Florida's Unconstitutional Death Penalty." The New York Times (3/4, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that while the Supreme Court "categorically banned the execution of people with intellectual disabilities as unconstitutional in 2002," some states, such as Florida, "continue to defy that principle by interpreting the court's words as narrowly as possible." The Times argues that Florida's aim "is not to comply with the Supreme Court's ruling, but to execute its death-row inmates whether or not they are intellectually disabled." The Times urges the court to once again reject that practice, "for those states that missed the message the first time."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Ukrainian After Shocks."*** The Washington Post (3/4, 4.28M), in an editorial, says the Russian government's "blatant violation of the European borders it pledged to respect following the Cold War raises especially pressing concerns for countries that used to be Soviet republics, such as Moldova and Georgia," as well as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which "are members of NATO and have substantial Russian minority populations that the Kremlin has sought to manipulate in the past." According to the Post, "Whether Mr. Putin seeks to replicate his Ukrainian adventure in these nations will depend...on how strongly the West responds to the Crimean invasion" and "whether it visibly strengthens other borders against Russia."

"The Fat Trap." In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/4, 4.28M) argues that despite a recent report which showed an improvement in the childhood obesity rate, "obesity remains a daunting problem that demands more effort — from Americans and their government." In addition to suggesting several steps the government can take to combat obesity, the Post says that health insurers "should continue looking for ways to reward people who improve their lifestyles."

"D.C. Schools' Next Steps." The Washington Post (3/4, 4.28M) in an editorial offers its ideas for continuing the progress that has been made in the District's schools. It urges candidates not to "waver now from the course of reform established" under Michelle A. Rhee, and her successor Kaya Henderson. Specifically, the Post urges support for Henderson's plans to focus attention on lagging schools and students with longer school days and school years and greater help for English-language learners, as well as "new rigor" for middle and high schools. In addition, the Post calls for supporting public charter schools and urges improvements for "the problem-plagued Office of the State Superintendent of Education, the mission-challenged University of the District of Columbia and the city's social services agencies."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Putin's Achilles' Heel."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, suggests that the allies of the newly established government in Kiev ought to hinder Russia's ability to report natural gas because that could starve the Russian treasury of foreign reserves.

"Flood Warning For The GOP." The Wall Street Journal (3/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) in an editorial criticizes Republican leaders in the US House with respect to the National Flood Insurance Program. It argues that the Biggert-Waters act to reform the program fell short in applying actuarially sound rates for flood insurance unevenly, but that a Senate vote to delay implementing those rates for four years and a new Cantor-Waters proposal would both end by repealing the effort to put the program on a sound basis. The Journal suggests that the Congress should reject the proposal and then recess until after the fall elections.

"Terror In Kunming." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (3/4, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) warns if Muslim Uighur separatists were responsible for Saturday's deadly attack at a train station in Kunming, it would mark an escalation by the Uighurs, who have long protested China's policies in Xinjiang. The Journal argues that China does not help itself by melding legitimate political protest with acts of terrorism. The Journal adds that rather than targeting Uighur scholar Ilham Tohti or exiled World Uighur Congress leader Rebiya Kadeer, Beijing should focus on catching the perpetrators of Saturday's attack as quickly and transparently as possible.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Sanctions Threat Roils Russia Markets
Blowout Haul For Buyout Tycoons
Behind The West's Miscalculations In Ukraine
Transformers Expose Limits In Securing Power Grid

New York Times:
Top Russians Face Sanctions By Us For Crimea Crisis
From Russia, 'Tourists' Stir The Protests
Cities Mobilize To Help Those Threatened By Gentrification
Holder And Republicans Unite To Soften Sentencing Laws
In Job, Appointee Profits And Christie Gains Power
They'll Wish They All Could Be California Hens
For Runner With MS, No Pain While Racing, No Feeling At The Finish

Washington Post:
Tensions Rise In Crimea Amid Finger-Pointing
Getting Used To It This Winter
For Walker, Image Was A Priority
Shades Of Cold War In Leaders' Words
Obama Budget Sets Up A Debate On Poverty
For Chavez's Chosen One, Tough Going

Financial Times:
War Fears Decimate Russian Stocks
Cameron Denies Putting City Ahead Of Crisis
Private Equity Chiefs Share $2.5Bn Payday
Reynolds Eyes Lorillard Tobacco Bid
Kickstarter Site Passes $1Bn In Pledges
Forex Investigations Push Trading Online
Ideas For Hurting Russia Are Pointless

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Russia-Ukraine; Russia-US Response; Smart Phone Crime Target; "Real Money" The Sharing Economy; Forbes List
CBS: Russia-Ukraine Conflict; Ukraine-Crimea Response; Russia-Former CIA Deputy Director Analysis; Ukraine Crisis-Financial Impact; Severe Winter Weather; Winter Weather; Army Museum
NBC: Russia-Ukraine Secretary Kerry Visit; Ukraine-Crimea; Russia-Expert Analysis; Winter Weather; Kerry Kennedy-Trial

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Russia-US Response; Oscar Pistorius-Trial; Cellphone-Killswitch Proposal; China-Train Stabbings; Forbes List-Bill Gates
CBS: Russia-US Response; Obama-Budget Plan; Severe Winter Weather; Montana Avalanche Survivor Death; Duke Energy-Power Plant Citations; EPA-Gasoline Sulfur Content
NPR: Kerry-Ukraine Visit; Russia-Ukraine Conflict; BP-Oil Spill Appeal Loss; Severe Winter Weather; Asian Stocks Down; Imprisoned Children Settlement; Montana Avalanche Survivor Death; Tennessee Judge Censured
FOX: Russia-Ukraine Conflict; Russia-US Response; C-Section Birth-Obesity Study; EPA-Gasoline Sulfur Levels; Cars Retrieved From Sinkhole

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Holds an event on the FY2015 budget and his plan to "expand opportunity for all" in

Washington, DC; attends a DSCC event in the Washington, DC area.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events.
US Senate: 8 a.m. PHOTO-OP – SENATE PRESIDENT'S 2015 BUDGET DELIVERY — Photo opportunityDelivery and Distribution of the Presidents Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. Budget expected to be delivered at 8:00 AM ET with a 7:30 AM ET Set up (Early arrival recommended, in the event of an early budget delivery) Location: 608 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

5:30 p.m. AMERICAN SMALL MANUFACTURERS COALITION RECEPTION — Senator Coons will speak about manufacturing jobs at the American Small Manufacturers Coalition 'Hill Day Opening Reception. The reception will kick off ASMCs annual 'Hill Day event and celebrate attendees manufacturing achievements. Senator Coons will discuss his work to grow American manufacturing as the leader of the Senates Manufacturing Jobs for America campaign. Location: Capitol Visitors Center, SVC 212-10.

2 p.m. — The Senate convenes and begin a period of morning business.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Confirmation hearing on Dr. Stanley Fischer To be a Member and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Jerome H. Powell To be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Lael Brainard To be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar to be an Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; J. Mark McWatters, To be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=adc83227-bf93-4387-9922-08d62b25930a Location: 538 Dirksen.

3 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs hearings to examine strengthening United States alliances in Northeast Asia. Witnesses: Panel One: Daniel Russel, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State; David F. Helvey, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia, U.S. Department of State. Panel Two: Dr. Sheila Smith, Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations; Dr. Michael Auslin, Resident Scholar, Director of Japan Studies, American Enterprise Institute. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/strengthening-us-alliances-in-northeast-asia Location: 419 Dirksen.
US House: 8 a.m. HOUSE BUDGET DELIVERY — The President's FY 2015 budget is delivered to the House. Location: 210 Cannon.

11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. No cameras allowed. Location: H-144 in the U.S. Capitol.

1:45 p.m. REP. CROWLEY – REITREMENT SAVINGS — Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Queens, the Bronx), Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus, will deliver remarks at the Aspen Institutes "Working Towards a Secure Retirement: Strengthening Our Nations Savings System congressional briefing." Location: B-318 Rayburn.

2 p.m. — the House will meet at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. 1) H.R. 4076 – The Home Heating Emergency Assistance Through Transportation (HHEATT) Act of 2014 (Sponsored by Rep. Bill Shuster / Transportation and Infrastructure)

10 a.m. AGRICULTURE — Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology and Foreign Agriculture Public Hearing To Review the Smith-Lever Act on its 100th Anniversary. Witnesses: Panel I: Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.; Tess Hammock, National 4-H Council Board of Trustees, Youth Class, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia; Dr. A. Scott Reed, Vice Provost, University Outreach and Engagement & Director, Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis, Oregon; Delbert T. Foster, Acting Vice President, Land-Grant Services, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, South Carolina. http://agriculture.house.gov/hearing/review-smith-lever-act-its-100th-anniversary Location: 1300 Longworth.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Budget Hearing – Government Printing Office. Witnesses: Davita Vance-Cooks, Public Printer, Government Printing Office. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370372 Location: HT-2 The Capitol.

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — The Posture of the U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Strategic Command. Witnesses: Admiral Cecil D. Haney, USN, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command; Admiral Samuel J. Locklear, USN, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=101825 Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Hearing on Keeping the Promise: How Better Managing Medicare Can Protect Seniors. Witnesses: Kathleen King, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; James Cosgrove, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Robert Vito, Regional Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/keeping-promise-how-better-managing-medicare-can-protect-seniors Location: 2123 Raybum.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Oversight and Investigations Hearing entitled "The Growth of Financial Regulation and its Impact on International Competitiveness." Witnesses: Louise Bennetts, Associate Director, Financial Regulation Studies, Cato Institute; Alon Hillel-Tuch, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, RocketHub; Peter J. Wallison, Arthur F. Burns Fellow in Financial Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute; Dr. Christopher Brummer, Professor of Law, Georgetown Law. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370894 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Joint Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa hearing on Irans Support for Terrorism Worldwide. Witnesses: Pete Hoekstra, Shillman Senior Fellow, The Investigative Project on Terrorism, (Former Chairman of the U.S. House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence); Matthew Levitt, Ph.D., Director and Fromer-Wexler Fellow, Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy; J. Matthew McInnis, Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/joint-subcommittee-hearing-iran-s-support-terrorism-worldwide Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security Hearing: The Arizona Border Surveillance Technology Plan and its Impact on Border Security. Witnesses: Mark Borkowski, Assistant Commissionerm, Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition, Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Rebecca Gambler, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation legislative hearing on: H.R. ___ (Bishop), To amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to improve consistency and accountability in the collection and expenditure of Federal recreation fees, and for other purposes; H.R. 2743 (Nugent), To make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to certain veterans. "Veterans Eagle Parks Pass Act; H.R. 3976 (Ruiz), To provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes. "Wounded Veterans Recreation Act. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370652 Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Oversight Hearing on "Domestic Transmission and Pipelines: Moving America's New Energy Resources Across Federal Lands". http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=369791 Location: 1334 Longworth.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — "Can Technology Protect Americans from International Cybercriminals?" Witnesses: Dr. Charles H. Romine, Director, Information Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology; Bob Russo, General Manager, Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council, LLC; Randy Vanderhoof, Executive Director, Smart Card Alliance; Justin Brookman, Director, Consumer Privacy, Center for Democracy & Technology; Steven Chabinsky, Senior Vice President of Legal Affairs, CrowdStrike, Inc.; Former Deputy Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation – Cyber Division. Location: 2318 Raybum.

10:30 a.m. JUDICIARY — Full committee Hearing: Exploring Alternative Solutions on the Internet Sales Tax Issue. Witness Panel 1: Chris Cox, Counsel, NetChoice, Partner, Bingham McCutchen LLP; Joe Crosby, Principal, MultiState Associates Incorporated; Stephen P. Kranz, Partner, McDermott Will & Emery; William E.

Moschella, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLC; Andrew Moylan, Outreach Director and Senior Fellow, R Street Institute; James H. Sutton Jr., Shareholder, Moffa, Gainor, & Sutton, P.A. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2014/3/exploring-alternative-solutions-on-the-internet-sales-tax-issue Location: 2141 Rayburn.

12 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Legislative Branch Budget Hearing – Congressional Budget Office. Witness: Dr. Doug Elmendorf, Director, Congressional Budget Office. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370374 Location: HT-2 The Capitol.

1:30 p.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Mixed Signals: The Administration's Stance on Marijuana, Part Two. http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/mixed-signals-administrations-stance-marijuana-part-two/ Location: 2247 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and the Census – Alaska Bypass Mail Delivery: A Broken System. http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/alaska-bypass-mail-delivery-broken-system/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

2 p.m. AGRICULTURE — Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology and Foreign Agriculture Hearing To Review the Smith-Lever Act on its 100th Anniversary.

Location: 1300 Longworth.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs will hold an oversight hearing on "National Fish Hatchery System: Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report." http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370649 Location: 1324 Longworth.

3 p.m. RULES — Full committee Hearing: H.R.4118 – Suspending the Individual Mandate Penalty Law Equals Fairness Act. http://rules.house.gov/bill/113/hr-4118 Location: H-313 The Capitol.

4 p.m. RULES — Hearing: H.R.3826 – Electricity Security and Affordability Act. http://rules.house.gov/bill/113/hr-3826 Location: H-313 The Capitol.
Other: TREASURY-BUDGET — A senior official of the U.S. Department of the Treasury will host a pen-and-pad briefing and release the General Explanations of the Administrations FY 2015 Revenue Proposals (the "Greenbook"), a companion document to the Administrations FY 2015 Budget Proposal. No cameras or recording devices allowed. Embargoed copies of the Greenbook will be available to members of the media in the Treasury Media Room (4121) beginning at 12:15 EST. Location: Treasury Department, Media Room 4121, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW

March 1 – 5. NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE — The National Association of Counties holds its 2014 Legislative Conference. http://www.naco.org/meetings/participate/legislativeconference/pages/default.aspx Location: Washington Hilton & Towers, 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW.

March 2 – 4. AIPAC 2014 — The annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference is the largest gathering of the pro-Israel movement. http://www.aipac.org/act/attend-events/policy-conference Morning Session. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ); Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW.

March 2 – 4. INTERNATIONAL BANKERS CONFERENCE — The Institute of International Bankers hosts their 25th Annual Washington conference. Confirmed government speakers include: Mary John Miller, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Treasury and Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, who will give the opening keynote address; Mark Wetjen, Acting Chairman of the CFTC, who will give the keynote luncheon address; Comptroller of the Currency Thomas Curry; FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg; SEC Commissioner Daniel Gallagher; New York State Superintendent of Financial Services Benjamin Lawsky; and Elke Koenig, President of Germany's Federal Financial Supervisory Authority. Confirmed private-sector speakers include: Irene Domer, President and CEO, HSBC USA; Karen Shaw Petrou, Managing Partner, Federal Financial Analytics; and political analyst Charlie Cook, who will discuss the outlook for the 2014 midterm elections. https://m360.iib.org/event.aspx?eventID82930 Location: Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

March 3 – 4. FAHS 2014 ANNUAL PUBLIC POLICY CONFERENCE — Annual public policy conference of the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH). The FAHs Annual Public Policy Conference provides attendees with an overview, updates and insight about the most topical and salient health policy issues of interest to FAH members, hospital leaders, private investor-owned hospitals, suppliers, buyers, sponsors and stakeholders. Speakers: Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), Chairman, House Budget Committee; Marilyn Tavenner, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), Vice Chairman, Senate Republican Conference; Sen. Patrick J. Toomey (R-PA), Member, Senate Finance Committee; James H. Hinton, Chairman, American Hospital Association; General Michael V. Hayden (USAF Ret.), Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency; Former Director, National Security Agency. 7:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Speakers: Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), Chairman, House Budget Committee; Marilyn Tavenner, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), Vice Chairman, Senate Republican Conference; Sen. Patrick J. Toomey (R-PA), Member, Senate Finance Committee; James H. Hinton, Chairman, American Hospital Association. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road, N.W.

GEORGETOWN – CYBER CONFERENCE — Georgetown University Institute for Law, Science and Global Security. International Engagement on Cyber: Developing International Norms for a Safe, Stable & Predictable Cyber Environment. 8:15 a.m. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island. 8:45 a.m. Michael Daniel, Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator, The White House. 9:15 a.m. Panel on National Cyber Strategies: Are We Making Progress? with Director General Seong Ju Kang Director General, Ministry of Science and Technology, ICT and Future Planning of Korea, and Vice Chair, OECD Public Governance Committee, January 2013 – Present; Nemanja Malisevic Cyber Security Officer, OSCE Secretariat, Transnational Threats Department, Austria; Yoko Nitta, Fellow, Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society, Japan Science and Technology Agency; James Quinault, Director, National Cyber Security Programme, Cabinet Office, United Kingdom; Major General Mihaly Zala, President, National Security Authority, Hungary. 10:40 a.m. General Keith B. Alexander, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service. 11:10 a.m. Internet Governance: Foreign Policy, National Security and the Ongoing Tension Between Sovereignty and the Multistakeholder Model. 1 p.m. Discussion with representative from the Department of Homeland Security 0TBA) and a second panel discussion on Cybercrime with: Moderator: Cheri McGuire, Vice President, Global Government Affairs and Cybersecurity Policy, Symantec. Panelists: Dr. Yuejin Du, Director of National Institute of Network and Information Security and Deputy CTO, National Computer Emergency Response Team and Coordination Center, China; Troels Oerting Joergensen, Assistant Director, Head of European Cybercrime Center (EC3), Europol; Dr. Madan M. Oberoi, Director, Cyber Innovation & Outreach, INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation; Nickolas B. Savage, Cyber Supervisory Special Agent, Washington Field Office, FBI.

BPC – GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS — 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Speakers: Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) @GinaEPA; Colette Honorable, President and Chairman, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). Contact: Rosemarie Calabro Tully rcalabrotully@ bipartisanpolicy.org, (202) 641-6209 @RCalabroTully. Location: The National Press Club, Ballroom, 529 14th St. NW, 13th Floor.

NPC – GEORGE MITCHELL — 10 a.m. Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell will address ongoing negotiations in world hot spots and the current state of politics and policy in Congress. Contact: Bob Weiner, National Press Club Newsmakers Committee 301-283-0821 (office), 202-306-1200 (cell) weinerpublic@comcast.net Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

U.S. CHAMBER – ENERGY SECURITY — 10 a.m. U.S. Chambers Energy Institute to Reveal 2013 International Energy Security Risk Rankings. Conference Call – Please RSVP for Dial-In Information to: Matt Letoumeau – mletourneau@uschamber.com

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS – SCHROEDER — 2 p.m. In celebration of Womens History Month, the Law Library of Congress will host a discussion with former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder. Law Librarian of Congress David S. Mao will interview Schroeder about her career as the first woman elected to Congress from Colorado, as former president and chief executive officer of the Association of American Publishers and her current career. Location: Room 119 of the Thomas Jefferson Building, located at 10 First Street S.E.

SECRETARY JEWELL – PRESIDENT'S 2015 BUDGET — 2 p.m. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will provide an overview of the Presidents fiscal year 2015 budget for the Department of the Interior in a 2:00 p.m. EST teleconference. The Secretary will be joined by newly-confirmed Deputy Secretary Michael Connor and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn. Speakers: Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior; Michael Connor, Deputy Secretary of the Interior; Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. All credentialed news organizations are invited to participate in the news media teleconference by dialing 1-888-810-3953 and providing the access code INTERIOR. News media will have an opportunity to ask questions following the presentation. Callers will be asked for their name, affiliation and phone number. DIAL IN: 1-888-810-3953 and providing the code INTERIOR.

SECRETARY SEBELIUS – HHS BUDGET — 2 p.m. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, joined by heads of HHS agencies, will present the President's HHS budget for FY 2015 at a press conference. The FY 2015 HHS Budget in Brief document will be available online at 2:00 PM (EST), Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at www.hhs.gov/budget Speakers: HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Will Present the President's HHS Budget for FY 2015 WHAT: HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, joined by heads of HHS agencies, will present the President's HHS budget for FY 2015 at a press conference. The FY 2015 HHS Budget in Brief document will be available online at 2:00 PM (EST), Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at www.hhs.gov/budget WHO: Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; Ellen Murray, Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Heads of HHS Agencies. Location: Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave., SW. First Floor Auditorium (credentialed press only) Great Hall (live monitor for non-press)

SECRETARY DUNCAN – EDUCATION BUDGET — 2:30 p.m. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan along with senior Department officials will host a conference call for members of the media to discuss the FY 2015 Education Budget. DIAL-IN: 800-619-7423 PASSCODE: BUDGET

SECRETARY VILSACK – @015 BUDEGT PRESS CALL — 3:15 p.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will host a media conference call to discuss President Obama's FY15 budget. DIAL-IN: 877-924-1746. PASSCODE: USDA (given verbally). Trouble number – 202-720-8560.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Of course, the world is still focused on the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine. And over the weekend, Sarah Palin reminded everyone that during the 2008 election, she predicted Russia would invade the Ukraine. Then John McCain said, 'Well at least one of us made a good call.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "And get this – Secretary of State John Kerry went on 'Meet the Press' yesterday, and actually criticized Russia for its action in the Ukraine. He said, quote, 'You don't just invade another country on phony pretext in order to assert your interest.' Then he said, 'I mean, we stopped doing that, like, months ago. Okay? We don't do that anymore.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "And while all of this is going on [Russian troops entering Ukraine], President Obama is staying very busy. That's right. On Friday, President Obama took a selfie with Bill Nye the Science Guy and astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson."

David Letterman: "So, the Russians are at it again. Over the weekend, they – you know, the Olympics are done, they have nothing to do – so they invade Crimea. And so President Obama is steamed. And he says to Putin, he said, 'Look, pull your troops out of Crimea or the US will not attend the next G-8 summit.' And I said, 'Well that will show him. By God, that will teach him. Wait a minute. Putin will think twice about it now. Last thing he wants to do is offend the United States so they stay home from a summit meeting. That looks pretty bad on your record.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Mar 5, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2014 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR'S BUDGET WOULD INCREASE TO $11.7 BILLION. In its "Federal Eye" blog, the Washington Post (3/4, Fears, 4.28M) reports that "President Obama requested $11.7 billion for the Interior Department in fiscal 2015, a slight increase from the year before." The article notes that "the spotlight will be on the $1 billion designated for the president's climate resilience plan, for research into the impacts of climate change, a touchy partisan subject in Congress."

McClatchy (3/5, Doyle, Subscription Publication, 95K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told reporters at a budget briefing, "This is a solid budget. It's responsible."

Also covering the story are the AP (3/5), Reuters (3/5), the Wall Street Journal (3/5, 5.91M), Bloomberg News (3/5, 1.91M), and Politico (3/5, Epstein, 464K).

Office Of Insular Affairs. The Pacific News Center (3/5) reports that "President Obama has proposed a fiscal year 2015 budget of $678.1 million for the Office of Insular Affairs." The article notes that "the budget request includes $92.2 million in annual appropriations and $585.9 million in permanent and indefinite appropriations for fiscal payments mandated by law to US Territories and Freely Associated States." Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Lori Faeth said, "The 2015 budget request demonstrates President Obama's continued commitment to the US insular areas. In the face of fiscal austerity, the President's proposal will enable OIA to continue to work toward building local government capacity, including skills, training, and education, and leverage resources in order to improve the quality of life in insular communities."

The Pacific (GUM) Daily News (3/5, 61K) reports that "President Obama's proposed budget for fiscal 2015 includes $65 million that would go into the government of Guam pocket as a result of taxes withheld from military and federal government personnel working on Guam, a federal agency announced." The Office of Insular Affairs

stated, "It is estimated Guam would receive $65.3 million for taxes collected in the territory via the IRS 'mirror' tax code that are by law transferred to the government of Guam to support its public safety, health care, education and other public services and operations."

NPS. The Environment & Energy Publishing (3/5, 705) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "touted an Obama administration plan to invest more than $1.2 billion improving parks and public lands ahead of the National Park Service's centennial in 2016." Jewell "defended the Centennial Initiative as part of the Interior Department's overall $11.9 billion fiscal 2015 budget request to Congress, a roughly 2.5 percent increase over current funding levels." Jewell called the initiative a "critical need" that will "enable the National Park Service to attract and host more visitors, leverage additional private philanthropy, and help build the institutional capacity to maintain the parks for the next 100 years."

The Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (3/4, 147K) reports that the "budget request for 2015 includes $2.6 billion for the critical conservation, preservation, and recreation mission of the National Park Service (NPS) as it approaches its 100th anniversary." The proposal "boosts the Park Service's essential programs and operational needs by $38.5 million and adds $16.6 million for fixed cost increases." NNPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "As we prepare for our centennial, the President's budget request recognizes the importance of investing in an historic effort to attract and host more visitors, leverage additional private philanthropy for the parks, and help build the institutional capacity to maintain the parks for the next 100 years. The budget supports our core mission and proposes a comprehensive Centennial Initiative to help preserve these treasured lands and icons for this and future generations."

KXTV-TV Sacramento, CA (3/4, 25K) reports that Jewell said "$30 million of proposed budget increase would be for the park service to operate the 401 parks, monuments, battlefields and other sites under its control." She said, "That (money) largely goes to beefing up the people side. We've had significant cuts to things like seasonal ranger programs and other visitor services because the budgets have been tightened."

BLM. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (3/5, 73K) reports that the BLM is "proposed to spend $1.1 billion in 2015, on projects including preserving sage grouse in Colorado and other states, and increases spending by $20 million on oil and gas."

The Alaska Business Monthly (3/5) reports that BLM Principal Deputy Director Neil Komze said, "This balanced and responsible proposal will advance the BLM's mission of multiple use and sustained yield of the public lands at a time of tight budgets. The BLM continues to be a major economic engine for many communities across the West and this budget makes smart investments that provide for a secure energy future, expanded outdoor recreational opportunities and thoughtful resource management."

FWS. The Washington Examiner (3/5, 319K) reports that the budget request "would hike duck stamp fees by $140 million over the next decade." The article notes that "the additional federal revenue raised by duck stamp sales is intended for funding conservation efforts." It adds that "the White House budget proposal did not say how much the stamps would cost after the increase, but a group of Democratic senators proposed a $10 increase in January, the first in 20 years."

Energy. The National Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that the budget proposal "highlights conservation as a priority while laying the groundwork for expanded oil and gas drilling on public lands, reflecting an administration belief that it can promote energy development without sacrificing environmental protection." The proposal would "provide permanent funding" for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. As Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "pointed out during a press call on Tuesday, 'ever since the fund has been around, with the exception of one year, it has been shorted in the appropriations process.'"

The Wall Street Journal (3/5, 5.91M) reports that the Interior's budget allocates $95 million to prioritize the development of renewable-energy projects on public lands. Also, budget plan calls to eliminate certain payments related to oil, natural gas, coal and other mineral development on public lands, which would save $2.7 billion over 10 years, according to the plan.

Platts (3/5, 2K) reports that "Obama also reiterated his request for a $2 billion alternative fuels research effort to be funded through royalties from oil and gas development on federal land." Also, the proposal "includes new

inspection fees totaling $48 million for onshore oil and gas drilling on federal lands that would be used to reform and speed permitting for the Bureau of Land Management's oil and gas program and strengthen oversight and enforcement."

The Maritime Executive (3/4, 21) reports that the BOEM would receive $169.8 million. BOEM director Tommy P. Beaudreau said, "BOEM's priorities fully support the administration's vision for creating growth and opportunities as we pursue our mission. Our modest increase in the president's request reflects careful analysis of the resources needed to advance renewable and conventional energy, manage non-energy OCS mineral resources and invest in what's needed to grow the economy."

The Washington Examiner (3/5, 319K) reports that Obama "recommended a spending reduction" for the BSEE. The bureau "would get $205 million under the 2015 proposal, compared with the $222 million Obama proposed the previous year."

Lewis And Clark Regional Water System. The AP (3/5) reports that the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System will get an additional $5.2 million in federal funding from the BOR. Lewis and Clark executive director Troy Larson said "the project still needs millions more in federal funds, but the additional money will allow about 5 more miles of pipeline to be built."

Also reporting on the story is the Worthington (MN) Daily Globe (3/5, 26K) and KELO-AM Sioux Falls, SD (3/5).

Salton Sea. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (3/4, 110K) reports that the budget request "seeks a fraction of the $1 million that two local congressmen had sought for a Salton Sea restoration project." The proposal "seeks $200,000 for the US Army Corps of Engineers to continue studying issues with the Salton Sea." The BOR "requested no funding for the Salton Sea for fiscal 2015, which begins Oct. 1."

BIA, OST. The Nation Sun News (3/5) reports that the budget request asks "Congress to provide $2.4 billion" for the BIA. The article notes that "the amount represents only a small increase from 2014," but "it marks a big improvement from 2013, when the BIA took a big hit." However, "the $2.4 billion for 2015 still falls below the $2.5 billion that went to the BIA in 2012 and the nearly $2.6 billion from 2011."

KUNM-FM Albuquerque, NM (3/5) reports that Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, explained, "That funding includes $90 million for the ongoing Navajo/Gallup water supply project which, when completed, will have the capacity to deliver clean running water to a potential future population of approximately 250,000 people."

The Nation Sun News (3/5) reports that the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians will "see $139 million under the fiscal year 2015 budget proposal that President Barack Obama released." Principal Deputy Special Trustee Michele F. Singer said, "OST is the premiere public service organization dedicated to the Indian Fiduciary Trust. The President's carefully crafted budget will allow us to continue our cost efficiency and program strengthening initiatives and provide consistent and effective service to Indian trust beneficiaries."

CONGRESS ADDS PART OF LAKE MICHIGAN SHORELINE TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS AREAS. The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that yesterday the Congress approved the first addition to national wilderness areas in five years, adding Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, which was made a national park in 1973 and now will have development prohibited under the wilderness designation, to the existing 110 million acres of designated wilderness. The measure had no opposition. The park consists of an area noted for its large sand dunes along Lake Michigan.

Also reporting on the story is the Washington Post (3/4, Bernstein, 4.28M).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK MARCH 14 AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY. KBZK-TV Butte, MT (3/5, 785) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell Sen. Jon Tester will "discuss a range of issues related to conservation, public lands and natural resources in the Rocky Mountain West at 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 14, in Linfield Hall 125 on the Montana State University campus."

INTERIOR INCLUDED AMONG TOP TEN WASHINGTONIANS TO FOLLOW ON INSTAGRAM. In a list of "10 of the best Washingtonians to follow on Instagram," for 94.7 Fresh FM (3/4), Tommy McFly picks the Interior

Department. He notes that the agency "contributes beautiful shots that make you shout 'yeah, America!' at least once a day."

INTERIOR ENGAGES TRAVELERS WITH TWITTER. Skift (3/4) lists the Interior Department among the tourism boards that "have sent at least two tweets a day during the past 14 days and reply to tweets in at least two hours."

PODESTA TAKES LEAD ON OBAMA'S ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA. According to the Washington Post (3/5, Eilperin, 4.28M), "New White House counselor John Podesta is playing a central role in pushing the Obama administration to adopt a more aggressive posture on environmental policies...including rules that would provide greater protections for public lands, support for state and local efforts to cut carbon emissions and stricter oversight of mining near pristine waterways." The Post says Podesta's "role...provides the clearest indication yet that President Obama and his top aides are increasingly focused on cementing a presidential legacy on the environment during his remaining time in office." The Post adds, "That focus was on full display...in the administration's budget proposal, which asked for $1 billion to cope with global warming's impacts...and proposed funding to redesign infrastructure projects to cope with rising sea levels."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORTS ON NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the reports on the economic benefits of national parks, and the shutdown's impact, was provided by the National Review (3/5, 805K) and CNBC (3/5, 1.52M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S VISIT TO GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to Great Smoky Mountains National Park was provide by the Knoxville (TN) Daily Sun (3/5), the Sevierville (TN) Mountain Press (3/5, 28K), and the Cherokee One Feather (3/5, 8K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS: CHERRY BLOSSOMS TO REACH PEAK BLOOM IN EARLY APRIL. The Washington Post (3/5, Svitek, 4.28M) reports that Washington's cherry blossom trees are expected to reach peak bloom between in April, the NPS said Tuesday. At a news conference at the Newseum, James Perry, chief of resource management for the NPS, "sought to assure a winter-weary crowd that the resilient trees braved the elements and should reach peak bloom between April 8 and 12." Perry said, "My message this morning is relax and let Mother Nature take her course. This has not been the coldest winter on record or the snowiest, and these trees have been around for 102 years. We know pretty well how they're going to react and what Mother Nature might have in store for us."

The AP (3/4) reports that "Perry made the bloom prediction as organizers announced plans Tuesday for this year's National Cherry Blossom Festival."

Also reporting on the story are the "Going Out Guide" blog of the Washington Post (3/4, Baldinger, 4.28M), the Washington Times (3/5, Somers, 417K), USA Today (3/4, Clark, 5.82M), and the Washingtonian Magazine (DC) (3/5, 338K).

NPS, GOOGLE HELD EXTENSIVE BARGE TALKS. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (3/5, 731K) reports that Google "held extensive talks" with the NPS "about bringing its mysterious barge and floating tech exhibition studio to San Francisco's historic Fort Mason Center last fall, until the project was put on hold because of construction delays, according to documents obtained Tuesday." Discussions "began last March, when Google representatives met with park service officials including Frank Dean, superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area." According to the article, "over the next several months, federal officials toured the barge at nearby Treasure Island, held a series of meetings and phone consultations with Google, and exchanged proposed drafts of a multipage special use permit that would let Google use one of the piers at Fort Mason." However, "the project was postponed twice and went into 'temporary hibernation' last September, according to Steve Kasierski, a park service property manager, who notified other officials that constructing the barge and obtaining Coast Guard permits was taking 'much, much ... longer than anticipated.'"

BEARS TAKING FEWER PICNIC BASKETS AT YOSEMITE. The Christian Science Monitor (3/4, Oskin, 540K) reports that "the black bears at Yosemite National Park are relying less on human food and garbage, thanks to more stringent food storage rules," according to researchers. A new study found that "the park's stringent food storage rules slashed the amount of human food eaten by black bears by 63 percent." Jack Hopkins, lead study author and a wildlife ecologist at the University of California, Santa Cruz, said, "What we found was that the diets of bears changed dramatically after 1999, when the park got funding to implement a proactive management strategy to keep human food off the landscape. This suggests that the bear's diets are likely going back to their natural diet."

Also reporting on the story are Reuters (3/4) and the Los Angeles Times (3/4, Boxall, 3.07M).

COMPANY UPGRADED VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AT STATUE OF LIBERTY. The Professional Security (UK) (3/5) reports that as part of the refurbishment of the Statue of Liberty, "Total Recall designed, installed and maintained the CCTV as a donation by the company." The firm "migrated from analogue CCTV to in IP-based digital video, building a command centre for the NPS and US Park Police so that the park could cover areas with video surveillance that they could not reach before, such as the security screening facilities." Capt. Gregory Norman, Commander of Liberty District, US Park Police, said, "The National Park Service and Statue of Liberty National Monument greatly appreciate the comprehensive security system donated by Total Recall."

TIMBER THIEVES HACKING CALIFORNIA'S REDWOOD GIANTS. For the "Dot Earth" blog of the New York Times (3/5, Revkin, 9.61M), Andrew C. Revkin writes that "the United States has seen waves of timber thievery of late, with a particularly awful example being night-time raids in California's extraordinary redwood forests." According to Revkin, "timber thieves have been hacking burls — valuable growths with beautiful grain — from giant trees in Redwood National and State Parks in northern California."

Bureau of Land Management:

JUDGE REJECTS LAWSUIT CHALLENGING THINNING PROJECT. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (3/4, 113K) reports that a lawsuit over thinning on BLM land in Oregon has been tossed out by a federal judge. US District Judge Anna Brown has agreed with a magistrate judge's holding that BLM complied with environmental laws. US Magistrate Judge John Acosta "found that thinning isn't precluded by the snag deficit and the project is consistent with plans for the area."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DESIGNATES HABITAT IN SOUTHWEST FOR JAGUAR. The AP (3/4) reports that the FWS Service on Tuesday designated critical habitat for the jaguar in New Mexico and Arizona. The habitat includes more than 764,000 acres across Hidalgo County in southwestern New Mexico and in Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise counties in Arizona. The FWS also said "the designation will not affect border security, including routine patrols by law enforcement." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (3/5, Bryan, 417K) and the Arizona Republic (3/4, 1.19M).

The Cronkite News (3/5) reports that Jeff Humphrey, an FWS spokesman, said, "It serves as a yellow flag for federal agencies that now have an additional responsibility to protect the habitat." However, Michael Robinson, a conservation advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity, said "it isn't enough." Robinson said "the designation should have included the Chiricahua Mountains in southeastern Arizona and the Mogollon Rim."

Also reporting on the story are the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (3/5, 288K) and the Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (3/5, 1K).

FWS ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF FINAL REVISED RECOVERY PLAN FOR PALLID STURGEON. KXLO-FM Lewiston, MT (3/5) reports that the FWS is "announcing the availability of the Pallid Sturgeon Revised Recovery Plan." Noreen Walsh, Mountain-Prairie regional director, said, "In order to keep pace with the rapidly changing and heavily used rivers the pallid sturgeon calls home, we updated its recovery plan to better meet the conservation challenges. It's our goal to conserve and protect this 'living dinosaur' from extinction for future generations of Americans."

FWS COMPLETES POST-SANDY CLEAN-UP AT LIDO BEACH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA. The Long Island (NY) Exchange (3/5, 1K) reports that the FWS has "completed a major cleanup effort of post-Hurricane Sandy coastal debris at the Lido Beach Wildlife Management Area." According to the article, "the operation will continue to Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge this week, and ultimately clean up 8 of the national wildlife refuge units on Long Island."

PADDLEFISH RETURN TO TEXAS LAKE. The AP (3/5) reports that "decades after the paddlefish was almost completely wiped out, it's coming back to Caddo Lake." The fish will "be closely tracked by scientists, researchers and students in 20 schools as part of a broad collaboration between private, state and federal agencies attempting to revitalize a long-damaged ecosystem by changing the water releases from a nearby dam." The FWS has "inserted transmitters into the paddlefish, which can grow to be 7-feet long and 200 pounds."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BIRD GROUPS CONCERNED OVER SIX WIND TURBINES IN GREAT LAKES BIRD MIGRATION CORRIDOR. The Surfbirds News (3/4) reports that "American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) charge that millions of migrating and federally protected birds, including an active Bald Eagle nest, will be threatened by an Ohio wind development currently under construction." According to the February 26 letter to FWS Director Dan Ashe, "... this wind energy project is being built by the developer, SUREnergy, with no Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ever being conducted, and with no consultation whatsoever with any state or federal natural resource agency. ABC and BSBO are concerned that this project represents an even greater threat to our public trust resources than the turbine that was planned for Camp Perry, and encourages the Service to look into this project in more detail, and take decisive action as appropriate."

Onshore Energy Development:

APPEALS COURT REJECTS TRIBE'S CHALLENGE ON GAS-DRILLING ROYALTIES. The Environment & Energy Publishing (3/5, 705) reports that "federal appellate judges today dismissed a Native American tribe's challenge to an Interior Department ruling that the tribe claimed robbed it of natural gas royalties." The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit "tossed out the Jicarilla Apache Nation's challenge to a 2007 Interior Board of Land Appeals ruling." The article notes that "the case involves Merit Energy Co.'s gas development on the tribe's northwest New Mexico reservation from February 1993 to September 1995."

HOUSE PASSES FLATHEAD PROTECTION BILL. The AP (3/5) reports that the House "passed legislation Tuesday to prevent mining and oil and gas drilling on federal lands along the North Fork of the Flathead River." The bill "now goes to the Senate, where it has the backing of Montana's Democratic senators." The legislation "would withdraw federal lands from mineral and geothermal leasing in the area west of Glacier National Park."

Offshore Energy Development:

APPELLATE COURT RULES BP MUST HONOR BUSINESS CLAIMS RELATED TO 2010 GULF SPILL. Bloomberg BusinessWeek (3/4, Barrett, 4.93M) reports that "for the second time in two months" a US court has ruled that BP is "stuck with the multibillion-dollar deal it made with plaintiffs' lawyers to settle one portion of its enormous liability stemming from the April 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill." The article points out the court's basic ruling that the company's legal team "agreed to a loosely worded settlement ... and now the company has to keep paying, even when there is no clear evidence—or any evidence at all—that business losses were related to the spill."

Reuters (3/4, Stempel) reports that the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals panel was split 2-1 in its ruling, with Judge Leslie Southwick writing in the majority opinion that "the settlement agreement does not require a claimant to submit evidence that the claim arose as a result of the oil spill." Judge Edith Brown Clement gave the

dissenting opinion, claiming for her part that the agreement is flawed because it gives damages to those who had "absolutely nothing to do with Deepwater Horizon or BP's conduct."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

US, MEXICO PLAN TO COLLABORATE ON PLAN TO RESTORE COLORADO RIVER DELTA. The U-T San Diego (3/4, 647K) reports that the United States and Mexico "plan to collaborate this month on a pilot project aimed at restoring wetlands in the Colorado River delta in Baja California through a one-time high-volume delivery of river water, a move hailed as historic by environmental groups on both sides of the border." According to the BOR, "the release at Mexico's Morelos Dam on the border west of Yuma is expected to start on March 23, and continue for about eight weeks." BOR spokesman Jack Simes said that "a binational ceremony celebrating the delivery is scheduled for March 27."

DELTA TUNNEL OPPONENTS SAY MAP SHOWS WATER WOULD BE USED FOR FRACKING. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (3/5, 206) reports that "a new map shows that the peripheral tunnels pushed by Gov. Jerry Brown to take fresh water from the Sacramento River actually would mainly serve oil and gas basins that could be fracked, along with the largest agricultural users of Bay-Delta water exports, say two groups opposing the project, Restore the Delta and Food and Water Watch." Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of RTD, said, "This map shows a remarkable overlay of where our water is going, how the public subsidizes unsustainable crops on drainage-impaired lands, selenium concentrations that pose a threat to the public, and underlying oil deposits that could be fracked with water from the governor's tunnels."

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS HELP SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DURING DROUGHT. The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports infrastructure improvements are responsible for Northern California residents being required to ration water, while Southern California residents face only a voluntary call to conserve. The Journal notes this is a reversal of past droughts, when the south was considered a drain on the state's water supplies. The Journal also highlights that the consequences of the drought reach beyond state borders, because the impact on California's agricultural sector could lead to higher produce prices.

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA CHIEF EXPRESSES RELUCTANCE IN INTERVENING IN TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP DISPUTES. In an interview in the Indian Country Media Today (3/4, 21K), Interior's assistant secretary for Indian affairs, Kevin Washburn, suggested that once Interior decides to override tribal sovereignty and take on tribal membership or other issues, controversies might never end. Washburn said, "I think the question is, should tribes always be sovereign and self-governing? Or are there times when the United States should trample over their sovereignty and self-governance for some other purpose – the principle of justice or equity or something like that?" He continued, "One can make a solid argument that the United States never has any business trampling on tribal sovereignty and self-governance, but that's not satisfying to everyone because we all see occasionally a tribe doing something that well-thinking people outside the tribe disagree with. These are just agonizing decisions and I'm not convinced that the United States is better at making these decisions on average than tribes are at making them themselves ... We often get entreaties from both sides to get involved, but once we get involved how do we not get involved in the future?"

Also reporting on the story is the Bellingham (WA) Herald (3/4, 113K).

TRIBAL LEADER BLASTS CONNECTICUT GOV. MALLOY OVER STANCE ON FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The AP (3/5) reports that "a review that is expected to produce new US rules for recognizing American Indian tribes as early as this summer is stirring up heat in Connecticut, where the governor is leading efforts to block changes that could open the door to more tribal casinos." Gov. Dannel P. Malloy "argued in a letter he delivered last week to President Barack Obama that proposals under consideration could hurt the state by aiding tribal claims to vast areas of fully developed land." Alan Russell, the leader of one faction of the Schaghticoke tribe in Kent, has criticized Malloy "in a statement asking whether Malloy is a 'lapdog' for wealthy land owners in Litchfield County." Meanwhile, Nedra Darling, a spokeswoman for the BIA, said "Tuesday that it is still reviewing comments on the proposed regulations and revised rules are not likely to be made public, in the federal register, until this summer or later."

Top National News:

ANALYSTS: OBAMA'S FY'15 BUDGET IS MEANT TO BOOST DEMOCRATS AHEAD OF MIDTERMS.
Coverage of the introduction of President Obama's fiscal year 2015 budget plan was much lighter than might have been expected absent the media's continuing focus on the crisis in Ukraine.

Among the three network newscasts, only the CBS Evening News (3/4, story 7, 2:05, Pelley, 5.58M) covered the President's plan, and that was just a brief mention in an introduction to a segment on unemployed veterans. Scott Pelley said the President had "sent Congress a $3.9 trillion budget for next year" that "includes tax increases on the wealthy and spending on things like roads and job training." Pelley added, "Little of it will pass the Republican House." Pelley went on to report that the President's budget "would also shrink the armed forces," and correspondent Mark Strassmann then described the challenges of veterans re-entering the workforce.

On the other hand, the budget request was covered on the front pages of the New York Times (3/5, A1, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), the Washington Post (3/5, Goldfarb, 4.28M) and the Wall Street Journal (3/5, A1, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.91M). In an editorial titled, "Obama Budget Avoids Needed Entitlement And Tax Reform," the Washington Post (3/5, 4.28M) has some praise for aspects of the President's plan, but criticizes him for avoiding a debate over the future of "expensive entitlements." On the other hand, the New York Times' (3/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorial board says that "virtually every section" of the President's budget "is an important illustration of how many national goals – in particular, reducing inequality and rebuilding the economy – could be achieved if Congress would end unnecessary and unfair tax breaks for the rich."

Analysis this morning, from partisan and non-partisan sources alike, casts the budget plan as an attempt by the President to give Congressional Democrats populist proposals to campaign on this year. David Espo, in an analysis for the AP (3/5, Espo) titled, "Obama Budget Tries To Have It Both Ways," says the President "paid faint lip service to reducing federal deficits, then piled on about $1 trillion in tax increases and hundreds of billions in higher spending designed to appeal to economically squeezed voters rather than congressional foes of red ink." According to Espo, the President's "objective is political rather than legislative."

In a front-page article titled, "Obama's Budget Is Populist Wish List And An Election Blueprint," the New York Times (3/5, A1, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) calls the President's FY'15 budget "a platform for Democrats to run on in this election year," which is "full of policies intended to invite contrasts with Republicans rather than offer compromises as he did last year, without success." The Times says the President "seeks to energize Democratic voters with populist proposals like a more generous tax credit for the working poor, paid for with higher taxes on the rich," and notes that Republicans "were quick to condemn the...proposed spending and tax increases."

The Washington Post (3/5, O'Keefe, 4.28M) reported that on Tuesday, Sen. Charles Schumer said, "Everybody realizes that both sides are going to continue to put out their message documents to show what they would do if they gained seats in the House or Senate."

The AP (3/5) reports that the President "announced his $3.9 trillion fiscal 2015 budget...that would boost taxes on the wealthy and expand tax credits for workers." According to the AP, the President "is pitching his budget proposal as 'a roadmap for creating jobs.'" In a front-page article, the Wall Street Journal (3/5, A1, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) quotes the President as saying, "Even in the midst of recovery, too many Americans are working more than ever just to get by – let alone get ahead. And too many still are not working at all."

On Fox News' Special Report (3/5, 2.15M), correspondent Mike Emanuel reported that on Tuesday, Republicans "quickly pounced, saying the President's budget would increase spending by $791 billion over ten years...and would add $8.3 trillion to our debt in the neck decade."

Under the headline, "Obama's Budget Eyes $1 Trillion Hike In Tax Revenue," USA Today (3/5, Korte, 5.82M) reports that the President wants to "raise more than $1 trillion over 10 years through changes in the tax code by closing loopholes, raising some taxes and cracking down on enforcement." However, USA Today adds that his

budget "also cuts taxes for some taxpayers, most notably an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit for 13.5 million low-income Americans."

Politico (3/5, Epstein, 464K) reported that "very little" of the budget proposal "is expected to become law — or even be seriously considered...on Capitol Hill" — and, according to Politico, the White House "isn't even pretending that this year's budget is a governing document." Politico adds that Republicans "labeled Obama's budget unserious as soon as he finished speaking," and Speaker Boehner derided it as "his most irresponsible budget yet."

The Washington Post (3/5, Goldfarb, 4.28M) emphasizes that the President "pledges to tame the national debt by raising taxes on the wealthy," while also "slashing payments to health providers and overhauling the nation's immigration laws." The Post describes the budget request as "a smorgasbord of liberal policy ideas" that "includes some targeted spending cuts, but relies primarily on more than $1 trillion in new taxes." The Post adds that "while some of the proceeds would go toward deficit reduction," the budget plan "also calls for more than $55 billion in new spending on defense, roads and bridges, universal preschool education and expanded tax credits for the poor."

USA Today (3/5, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that "after floating the idea of implementing 'chained CPI' — a less generous calculation for annual cost-of-living increases to Social Security...in last year's proposal, Obama, as expected, downplayed deficit cutting this year and offered a budget that will be far more palatable to Democrats running for re-election." USA Today says the President "would pay for half of his new spending by...cap[ping] tax-preferred saving on retirement funds for individuals who have already accumulated enough to finance an annual income of more than $200,000 per year in retirement, or more than $3 million per person," and "the rest would be paid for through a series of spending changes, including reducing subsidies to the federal crop insurance program...raising TSA passenger fees...and preventing individuals from collecting unemployment insurance and disability Insurance at the same time."

According to Roll Call (3/5, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 87K), the President's proposed budget "lives within the two-year deal reached last year" by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan and Senate Budget Chairwoman Patty Murray, but also "includes a $56 billion sidecar wish list that would add spending to domestic and defense accounts." Roll Call adds that Senate Democrats "aren't planning to bring a budget resolution to the floor."

Politico (3/5, Kim, 464K) reported that Ryan was "highly critical of Obama's budget document," saying, "This budget isn't a serious document; it's a campaign brochure," while Murray "said she 'strongly' supported" the plan.

Under the headline, "Obama Proposes Budget, Democratic Playbook For Election," McClatchy (3/5, Kumar, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 95K) reports that "Obama and his signature domestic achievement – the contentious new federal health care law – have become toxic for many in their party." McClatchy goes on to say that the President's budget "now becomes a roadmap for many of those Democrats, full of new spending and tax increases on the wealthy." McClatchy notes that Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said, "The president has once again opted for the political stunt – for a budget that's more about firing up the president's base in an election year than about solving the nation's biggest and most persistent long-term challenges."

The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, criticizes the President for introducing new spending requests while simultaneously advocating reducing Pentagon funding as a percent of GDP from 3.4% in 2015 to 2.3% in 2023.

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (3/5, Milbank, 4.28M), notes that on Tuesday, as White House press secretary Jay Carney joined "a quartet of President Obama's top advisers...for the annual rollout of the budget...only 40 of the room's 120 seats were occupied – and several of the reporters there had come to ask Carney about Ukraine."

Obama Seeks $100 Billion From Multinationals Over 10 Years. Bloomberg News (3/5, Rubin, 1.91M) reported that the President has "proposed raising about $100 billion in revenue over the next decade through new taxes and restrictions on US multinational companies." According to Bloomberg, "The changes...would affect digital goods, deductions for "excessive" interest and so-called hybrid arrangements that can lead to income that isn't

taxed in any country." Bloomberg adds that the President "also wants to make it tougher for US-based companies to move to other countries."

The AP (3/5, Taylor) reports that the President said on Tuesday, "As a country, we've got to make a decision, if we're going to protect tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans or if we're going to make smart investments necessary to create jobs and grow our economy and expand opportunity for every American."

The Wall Street Journal (3/5, McKinnon, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that the tax reform plan introduced by Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI), the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, last week also included new revenues from corporations. Former Treasury official Michael Mudica is quoted as saying that when it comes to revenue, "It does seem the first place both parties are looking is on the business side rather than on the individual side." Business Roundtable president John Engler released a statement on Tuesday reading: "The president's international tax proposals would move the U.S. economy in the wrong direction, placing U.S. companies in a worse competitive position than they face today."

According to McClatchy (3/5, Hall, Subscription Publication, 95K), "For all [their] major differences over the federal budget," the President and Republicans in Congress "might be tiptoeing toward common ground and the first major overhaul of the tax code in almost three decades." McClatchy reports that an anonymous "senior Treasury Department official" acknowledged that "the Obama budget has a 'significant amount of overlap' with Camp's plan." McClatchy notes that "both Camp's plan and the White House proposed budget would close a tax loophole that lets some Wall Street investment managers pay taxes at a much lower rate than managers of similar rank in other businesses."

White House Expects 3.1% GDP Growth This Year. Bloomberg News (3/5, Klimasinska, 1.91M) reports that the President's budget plan forecasts that the US economy "will grow this year at its fastest pace since 2005, helping reduce the annual average unemployment rate for a fourth straight year even as market borrowing costs rise." Bloomberg says the White House expects GDP to "expand [by] 3.1 percent in 2014 after rising 1.9 percent last year," and the unemployment rate to "average 6.9 percent this year, compared with 7.4 percent last year, and average 6.4 percent in 2015."

The AP (3/5, Raum) reports that the White House expects the unemployment rate to fall to "5.4 percent by 2018," but "projects a 6.7 percent unemployment rate for 2015." According to the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Sparshott, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Presidential budgets tend to overestimate GDP growth.

Obama Wants To Expand The Earned Income Tax Credit. David Nather, in a piece for Politico (3/5, 464K), says Democrats "have been talking for years about expanding" the Earned Income Tax Credit "to do more for childless workers, since they don't get much out of it right now." Nather says the President's budget "would do that by doubling the maximum credit from $500 to $1,000 and making it available to young adults starting at age 21 (the minimum age is 25 now)." Nather adds that while "a beefed-up EITC is a central part of Democrats' proposals for addressing inequality," it also "has some appeal to Republicans," including Paul Ryan, who "has praised it as a successful antipoverty program."

The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that an expanded EITC has also been championed by Sen. Marco Rubio and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp.

In an op-ed for Politico Magazine (3/5, Lew, 464K), Treasury Secretary Lew advocates raising the Earned Income Tax Credit as set out in President Obama's latest budget proposal, saying it "has the power to raise living standards and lift millions of working Americans out of poverty." Lew points out that the EITC has a bipartisan pedigree and "has been one of the most effective anti-poverty programs we have seen," because it encourages work while bolstering the finances of working families.

Budget Request Includes Additional Funding For Regulatory Enforcement. According to The Hill (3/5, Goad, 194K), the President's FY'15 budget request "contains hundreds of millions of dollars to further a broad array of regulatory initiatives in the waning years of his administration." The Hill says the President proposes to "bolster [his] climate change initiative with additional funding and manpower, and add to the coffers of Wall Street regulators whose responsibilities have grown in the years since the Great Recession." The Hill adds that it would also "devote tens of millions of dollars more to regulations governing the nation's chemical plants and food safety

system."

Senate Republicans Reportedly Want Ryan To Avoid Provoking Debate On Antipoverty Spending. According to Roll Call (3/5, Shiner, Subscription Publication, 87K), "Democrats instead are looking to set a political trap for Republicans on income inequality issues and hoping the GOP takes the bait." Roll Call goes on to report that "some Republicans, especially on the Senate side, are reluctant to have" House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan "push forward with his annual budget framework, which he telegraphed this week would focus on the federal government's antipoverty programs." According to Roll Call, Senate Republicans, "several of whom are caught between primary challengers on the right and Democratic upstarts on the left, would rather" not be "forced to contend with issues better suited to the Democratic party line."

According to the Washington Post (3/5, O'Keefe, 4.28M), "GOP aides said there are no current plans to hold votes on Ryan's budget plan."

Federal Workers Scheduled To Get A 1% Raise Next Year. Joe Davidson, in his column for the Washington Post (3/5, 4.28M), says that "when it comes to federal pay, ignoring President Obama's proposed 1 percent pay raise is the same as passing it." According to Davidson, the pay hike "will take effect in January by default if no law setting a different figure is enacted," which is what "happened this January, when workers also received a 1 percent hike."

IN KIEV, KERRY OFFERS $1 BILLION IN AID, WARNS PUTIN AGAINST FURTHER INCURSION. Coverage of the crisis in Ukraine continues to dominate the media, with all three networks leading their broadcasts with the story and dedicating just under 19 minutes of combined airtime to the latest developments. While President Obama made brief remarks on Ukraine during an event Monday, Secretary of State Kerry's visit to Kiev and Russian President Vladimir Putin's remarks to reporters on the crisis are dominating coverage. The focus of much of the reporting on Kerry is a visit he made to a memorial in the Kiev's main square for those who were killed during protests last month.

Noting his visit to the square, the AP (3/5, Jakes) says Kerry's made a "a somber show of US support for Ukraine's new leadership," and "made a pointed distinction between the Ukrainian government and Putin's," saying, "The contrast really could not be clearer: determined Ukrainians demonstrating strength through unity, and the Russian government out of excuses, hiding its hand behind falsehoods, intimidation and provocations. In the hearts of Ukrainians and the eyes of the world, there is nothing strong about what Russia is doing."

NBC Nightly News (3/4, lead story, 3:40, Williams, 7.86M), On Andrea Mitchell said Secretary Kerry made a "show of solidarity with the Ukrainian people" on Tuesday, paying an emotional visit to the memorial in Kiev's Independence Square. Announcing $1 billion in economic aid for Ukraine, Kerry also warned, "I think that it is clear that Russia has been working hard to create a pretext for being able to invade further." But back in Washington yesterday, Mitchell said President Obama "tried to give Putin a way out," saying, "There have been some reports that President Putin is pausing for a moment and reflecting on what's happened."

The CBS Evening News (3/4, story 3, 1:50, Pelley, 5.58M) showed the President saying, "There is a strong belief that Russia's action is violating international law. I know President Putin seems to have a different set of lawyers, making a different set of interpretations."

Martha Raddatz reported on ABC World News (3/4, story 2, 1:05, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported that there "are negotiations going on" and on Wednesday, Kerry will be meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Paris.

The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says the aid announced Tuesday by Kerry marked the first tangible step taken by the Administration to aid the new government, but the Secretary also signaled to Putin that a diplomatic solution is still possible as he prepares to meet with Lavrov later today.

Kerry, USA Today (3/5, Jackson, 5.82M) reports, said Russia could "de-escalate the situation" by pulling its soldiers back "to the barracks."

The CBS Evening News (3/4, story 3, 1:50, Pelley, 5.58M) reported Kerry said during his "short" and "incredibly

moving" visit to Kiev that "while he condemned Russia's act of aggression...it is still possible for Ukraine to have a peaceful political transition." He "promised the US would provide $1 billion in loan guarantees, help Ukraine get its finances in order, and bring sanctions against Russia in the coming days." But he "also had a message for President Putin: back off." Kerry was shown saying: "It is not appropriate to invade a country and at the end of a barrel of a gun, dictate what you are trying to achieve."

But the New York Times (3/5, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says Kerry's visit and the promise of aid signaled both "support for Ukraine's fledgling government and a new swipe at Russia." And while Kerry told a woman during his "emotional visit" to Independence Square that he hoped Russia would "respect" upcoming elections here, the Times says "there was no indication that Russia was prepared to reverse its intervention in Crimea." Kerry himself even "later warned that...Putin might be preparing to expand the scope of his country's military operation into eastern Ukraine."

Still, the AP (3/5, Baetz) reports the US and EU continue to prepare sanctions against Russia. Kerry warned in Kiev that Russia must pull back or "our partners will have absolutely no choice but to join us to continue to expand upon steps we have taken in recent days in order to isolate Russia politically, diplomatically and economically."

According to another AP (3/5, Jakes) report, President Obama "spoke for more than an hour" Tuesday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and "US officials traveling with Kerry...said the Obama administration is considering slapping Russia with economic sanctions as soon as this week."

But Edward-Isaac Dovere reports for Politico (3/5, Dovere, 464K) that "senior administration officials told reporters Tuesday evening" they have "worked out the contours of what they're calling an 'off-ramp,' with Merkel taking a leading role in lobbying Moscow" to accept a deal that calls for international monitors, "de-escalating troop presence in the region," recognition of the interim government in Kiev, and international mediation.

According to McClatchy (3/5, Allam, Subscription Publication, 95K), US officials are "struggling to get Europe on board" with sanctions as officials there see "high risks for the continent and very little to suggest that any such action would sway a defiant Putin."

On the CBS Evening News (3/4, 6:32 p.m. EST, story 4, 2:20, Pelley, 5.58M), Anthony Mason reported that the threat of economic sanctions may not keep Russia "from taking a tighter hold on Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula." He noted that two-thirds of Europe's natural gas travels in pipelines from Russia through Ukraine, and "the US has little economic leverage, only two percent of its trade is with Russia." Instead, "the West's most effective move is to pump billions in economic aid into the new government in Kiev."

Politico (3/5, McCalmont, 464K) notes that in a joint statement with the White House, Treasury Secretary Lew said the $1 billion aid package unveiled yesterday "will work in parallel with an international assistance package" coordinated by the IMF. And a Treasury official, Bloomberg News (3/5, Rastello, 1.91M) reports, said Tuesday that the Administration plans to include legislation increasing IMF "resources" in an aid package for Ukraine.

Congress, Politico (3/5, Everett, Kim, 464K) reports, is "poised to move quickly to provide Ukraine with economic assistance while lawmakers debate ways to punish Russia."

But in a report titled "High Stakes Limit Bid To Cow Putin," the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Kamitschnig, Williams, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that sanction threats by the US and EU are unlikely to sway Russia, because they would suffer as well. Putin himself made this point at a press conference Tuesday saying, "Those who are thinking of imposing the sanctions should be the ones first of all to think about their consequences. I think in the modern world, when everything is so interconnected and everyone depends on everyone else in one way or another, it's of course possible to do some damage to one another, but it will be mutual damage."

According to the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), the EU is ready to impose sanctions on former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych and 17 other officials. And the AP (3/5, Jahn) reports that on Tuesday, the OSCE formed an observer mission at the request of Ukraine to monitor the situation in Crimea.

In Brussels, the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Fidler, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports, NATO said it would continue cooperation with Russia, but called for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Ukraine. In a statement, the body said: "Russia continues to violate Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to violate its international commitments."

New York Times Praises Administration's Response. In an editorial, the New York Times (3/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) praises the Administration, saying that "leadership and credibility in a crisis mean reacting coolly and rationally, not rattling sabers, or rushing into economic warfare that allies may or may not support, or painting 'red lines' that the other side can cross with impunity." To that end, the Times says the West should exert economic pressure on Russia, and these "are exactly the buttons Mr. Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry are pushing — threatening further isolation if Mr. Putin does not back down, and cooperation if he does, while rallying allies and pledging substantial assistance to the new authorities in Ukraine." So far, the Times says, Obama "is on the right track."

More Commentary. In his column for the New York Times (3/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Thomas Friedman writes that there is "much nonsense" now being written about how Putin is "tougher" than Obama and how the Administration "needs to demonstrate his manhood." Friedman said that this "is how great powers get drawn into the politics of small tribes and end up in great wars that end badly for everyone." He endorses economic and diplomatic actions instead.

In his column for the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Holman W. Jenkins writes that once the furor over the seizure of Crimea settles down, Western governments will likely work to reaffirm Putin's international standing. In particular, Jenkins says that no one should be surprised if the June G-8 summit in Sochi takes place in some form. However, if the West is serious, Jenkins says that the EU should focus on anti-trust charges against Gazprom and withdraw support for pipelines Russia wishes to build. In addition, the US should rapidly expand it trade pacts with Europe and Asia, which would allow them to import US LNG, while Western governments should also let Western oil firms looking to work in Siberia and Russia's arctic know that their efforts are not acceptable.

McCain Raps Kerry For Frequent Travel. Al Kamen reports in his Washington Post (3/5, 4.28M) "In the Loop" column that Sen. John McCain has "taken of late to smacking his 'friend' Secretary of State John Kerry for being an overly frequent flier." But Kamen says a "look at the travel data" shows McCain "does a pretty solid amount of traveling himself," and while Kerry's trips "are hugely expensive...working on deals on Mideast peace, Syria's chemical weapons and Iran's nukes might be worth going an extra mile or two."

GLOBAL MARKETS SHAKE OFF UKRAINE CONCERNS; US STOCKS SOAR. Stock markets across the globe bounced back on Tuesday from their Monday declines, which the media almost universally credited to easing concerns about the situation in Ukraine.

ABC World News (3/4, story 3, 0:15, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported that the Ukraine situation is "causing a trampoline effect on the markets here at home. Last night, stocks were in a freefall. Tonight, a giant rally. The Dow up 227 points. The single-best day on Wall Street all year, reportedly based on a sense that the crisis is, for the moment, not moving closer to war in Ukraine."

The CBS Evening News (3/4, story 5, 0:15, Pelley, 5.58M) reported, "Financial markets rallied today. The Dow, which gave up more than 150 points during the crisis yesterday bounced back, posting a gain of 227 point, or 1.4%. That is the best showing of the year."

The New York Times (3/5, Jolly, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that global markets on Tuesday "calmed" on "hopes of a cooling of tensions between Russia and Ukraine, helping stocks recover some of their losses from a sell-off on Monday." Stocks in the US, Europe and Asia "turned higher," while oil and natural gas prices "eased." In addition, the Russian Micex index rose 5% after dropping 10.8% on Monday.

The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Kieman, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that in the US, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 227.85 points to 16,395.88, the biggest single-day increase since December. The S&P 500 rose 28.18 points to 1873.91, while the Nasdaq composite Index was up 74.67 points to 4351.97.

The AP (3/5, Freed) reports that with investors moving back to "riskier assets," the prices for "safe-play investments" such as gold and bonds fell. The "yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.68 percent from 2.60 percent late Monday."

USA Today (3/5, Shell, 5.82M) reports that the markets were calmed by the apparent Russian moves to de-escalate the Ukraine situation, along with the US decision "decision to put together a $1 billion loan package for the Ukraine," which "reduced fears of a financial crisis in the beleaguered country."

Gold Traders Expect Prices To Rise. Bloomberg News (3/5, Roy, 1.91M) reports that gold traders are expecting gold to hit $1,400 per ounce, "a price not reached since September, as the worst standoff between the West and Russia since the end of the Cold War increases demand for the metal as a haven." The "most-traded bullion option" on the Comex yesterday "was a call giving owners the right to buy at $1,400 by April, with an estimated 4,547 lots changing hands." Investors are again moving to gold, "leaving prices poised for the biggest quarterly gain since 2007."

Crimea Crisis Generating Support For LNG Exports. Bloomberg News (3/4, Wingfield, Buurma, 1.91M) reports the Russia's seizure of Crimea is "bolstering the case for easing restrictions on exports of the U.S.'s booming natural gas production, according to energy analysts and industry groups." Increased access to US supplies would "blunt the ability of Russia to use energy as a weapon, according to supporters of lifting export curbs." House Speaker John Boehner said, "One immediate step the president can and should take is to dramatically expedite the approval of U.S. exports of natural gas."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Rational Response To Ukraine's Crisis."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) praises the Administration response to the crisis in Ukraine, saying that "leadership and credibility in a crisis mean reacting coolly and rationally, not rattling sabers, or rushing into economic warfare that allies may or may not support, or painting 'red lines' that the other side can cross with impunity." To that end, the Times says the West should exert economic pressure on Russia, and these "are exactly the buttons Mr. Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry are pushing — threatening further isolation if Mr. Putin does not back down, and cooperation if he does, while rallying allies and pledging substantial assistance to the new authorities in Ukraine." So far, the Times says, Obama "is on the right track."

"The What-Might-Have-Been Budget." The New York Times' (3/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorial board says that "virtually every section" of the President's budget "is an important illustration of how many national goals – in particular, reducing inequality and rebuilding the economy – could be achieved if Congress would end unnecessary and unfair tax breaks for the rich."

"Setting Up A Better Domino Plan." The New York Times (3/5, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) in an editorial comments on New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's handing of a developer's plans for the "old Domino Sugar refinery in Brooklyn." The developer had agreed to include "660 apartments for low- and middle-income tenants, an unusually generous commitment," but the de Blasio Administration asked for "another 50,000 square feet of affordable housing." That caused some to fear that "de Blasio was putting the deal at risk," but Monday a new deal was announced including "about 700 affordable apartments." The Times sees this as an accomplishment for the mayor.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Mr. Putin's Closed Mind."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/5, 4.28M) says that Russian President Vladimir Putin's "rambling performance at a hastily arranged news conference Tuesday did support one disturbing observation: The Russian ruler's speech has become indistinguishable from the propaganda of his state television network." Putin's "bizarre performance vividly demonstrated how the political system he has created has insulated him from the truth about events both abroad and at home."

"Budget Comes Up Short." In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/5, 4.28M) has some praise for aspects of the President's budget plan, but criticizes him for avoiding a debate over the future of "expensive entitlements."

"Comeback Convicts." The Washington Post (3/5, 4.28M) editorializes that voters should not "be expected to embrace" the candidacies of Julius Henson and Tiffany Alston for the Maryland General Assembly, after both individuals were convicted of criminal charges in 2012. The Post notes that Henson was convicted of suppressing African American votes and Alston of theft for "using state funds to pay an employee of her law firm and diverting campaign money to cover her wedding expenses." The Post says, "a little memory should go a long way toward putting their electoral ambitions to rest."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Back To Pelosi Budget."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial criticizes the President for introducing new spending requests while simultaneously advocating reducing Pentagon funding as a percent of GDP from 3.4% in 2015 to 2.3% in 2023.

"Legal Fraud Of The Century." The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes in support of Judge Lewis A. Kaplan's ruling that a legal effort to punish Chevron was tainted by fraud and corruption, arguing that attorney Steven Donziger engaged in legal fraud and praising Chevron for setting an example for other companies who are targeted by dishonest litigation.

"The Wages Of Yen Depreciation." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) writes that although base pay and nominal aggregate labor income in Japan appear to be on the rise, the country's rate of inflation has risen faster than wage growth, hitting a five-year high in January of 1.3% year-on-year excluding food. The Journal adds that real aggregate labor income fell 1.6% year-on-year in the last three months of 2013, after accounting for a quarter's worth of price increases. In addition, business capital spending excluding software declined 0.3% quarter-on-quarter at the end of 2013 after having dropped in the third quarter as well. The Journal concludes with a recommendation to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to implement dramatic policy reforms to stimulate productivity-boosting investment in order to deliver on his promise of making Japanese votes better off.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
After Heated Debate, LA Restricts E-Cigarette Use
US, Russia In A War Of Words Over Ukraine
Garcetti Passes The Spanish Test
Climate Control Efforts Gather Steam
Home-Court Advantage

Wall Street Journal:
Putin, Obama Talk Tough On Ukraine
Obama Scales Back Budget Goals
Beijing Signals New Worry On Growth
A Ratings War In Mexico Pits Nielsen Against TV Giants

New York Times:
Putin, Flashing Disdain, Defends Action In Crimea
No Easy Way Out
CIA Inquiry Is Set In Clash On Detentions
Some Who Fled Cuba Are Returning To Help
E-Cigarettes, By Other Names, Lure Young And Worry Experts
Obama's Budget Is Populist Wish List And An Election Blueprint

Washington Post:
The Last Casualties: As A Long War Ends, Risks Still Prove Real
Putin Defends Ukraine Stance, Cites Lawlessness
Two European Views Of Russia Muddy The Debate
Obama Sends Congress A $3.9 Trillion Budget Plan

Council Votes To Relax Pot Rules

Financial Times:
US Presses For Full Russian Withdrawal
Putin: Clever, Tough And Deeply Cynical
Politics Pays For China's Parliamentarians
BP Creates US Onshore Oil And Gas Unit
Moelis IPO Filing Bets On M&A Revival
China Heads For First Corporate Bond Default
ECB Left To Ponder Onset Of Stealth Tightening

Washington Times:
Reid Hits Kochs For Putting Money In Politics (3/5, Dinan, 417K)
Ecologist Who Questions Climate Change Says He Can Stand The Heat (3/5, Richardson, 417K)
US, Russia Assert Claim Of Interest In Ukraine (3/5, Boyer, 417K)
CPAC To Test 26 Candidates For President (3/5, McLaughlin, 417K)
Crist Vs Crist In Contest For Governor (3/5, Howell, 417K)
DC Council Approves Pot Decriminalization (3/5, Noble, 417K)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Russia-US Response; Secretary Kerry-Ukraine Visit; Ukraine-Economic Effects; Severe Winter Weather; Health-Anger Effects; Airline-Carry On Sizes; New Jersey Explosion; Jurassic Virus Thawed.
CBS: Ukraine-Russia Conflict; Russia-Missile Launch; Secretary-Ukraine Visit; Russia-Economic Sanctions; Economy-Financial Markets; GM-Internal Review; Obama Proposed Budget-Military Veterans; Severe Winter Weather.
NBC: Ukraine-Russia Conflict; Former US Ambassador To Russia-Analysis; Winter Weather-Flight Cancellations; New Jersey Explosion; Financial Responsibility-Baby.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Ukraine-Military Observers Invited; Secretary Kerry-Ukraine Visit; Texas-Primary Election Results; Health-Anger Effects; South Carolina-Identify Theft Case; New Orleans-Mardi Gras.
CBS: Secretary Kerry-Ukraine; Russia-US Response; GM-Internal Review; Texas-Primary Election Results; Labor Statistics Report; New Orleans-Mardi Gras.
FOX: Texas-Primary Election Results; Ukraine-Russia Conflict; Ukraine-Military Observers Invited; Secretary Kerry-Ukraine; China-Passenger Bus Fire; Economy-Financial Markets; Chicago-First America Bank Data Breach; Congress-Flood Insurance Reforms; "Citizen Kane" Script Auctioned; Education-SAT Upgrade.
NPR: Congress-Russia; Economy-Financial Markets; Congress-Flood Insurance Reforms; Alabama-Abortion Bill Debate; GM-Internal Review; China-Economic Reforms.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Departs the White House; departs Joint Base Andrews; arrives in Hartford, Connecticut; delivers remarks on raising the minimum wage; departs the Hartford, Connecticut, Central Connecticut State University; arrives in Boston, Massachusetts; attends a DNC event; delivers remarks and answers questions at a DNC dinner, Artists for Humanity EpiCenter; departs Boston, Massachusetts; arrives at Joint Base Andrews; arrives at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends meetings at the White House.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Participates in a conversation with Robin Roberts at the Leading Women Defined Summit, hosted by BET Networks. The discussion will be around the Affordable Care Act and a personal reflection on health and wellness; visits a health center to highlight the work that hospitals, doctors and clinics are doing to educate their patients about the Affordable Care Act and how patients can get insurance.

US Senate: 10 a.m. VETERANS' AFFAIRS — Full committee. 2014 legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Witnesses: William Thien, Commander In Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Karen Nigara, Chairman, National Legislative Committee, VFW; Raymond Kelley, Director, National Legislative Service, VFW; Robert Wallace, Executive Director, Washington Office, VFW; and William Bradshaw, Director, National Veterans Service, VFW. http://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/2014-legislative-presentation-of-the-veterans-of-foreign-wars Location: Dirksen G50

11 a.m. SEN. BROWN, OTHERS – MINIMUM WAGE — Press call with Sen. Sherrod Brown, Michael Reich, Neera Tanden to Discuss How Increasing the Minimum Wage Will Reduce Federal Safety Net Expenditures. DIAL IN INFORMATION: Toll Free: 888-500-6950 Conference ID: 6577615 TO RSVP for the call please contact Katie Peters at 202.741.6285 or kpeters@americanprogressaction.org Please note, this call will be recorded. By participating in the call, you consent to being recorded.

2:15 p.m. WOMEN'S DAY – MINIMUM WAGE — Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) will join religious leaders, women's advocates, and minimum wage workers at a press conference to urge Republicans to support raising the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour. With Sister Simone Campbell, NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby Executive Director; Reverend Jennifer Butler, Faith in Public Life CEO; Nancy Duff Campbell, National Women's Law Center Co-President; Chris Owens, National Employment Law Project Executive Director; Kathy Saile, Interfaith Worker Justice Board Member; Nyah Potts, Restaurant Worker. Location: S-120.

10 a.m. — The Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to consider the nomination of Debo P. Adegbile of New York to be an Assistant Attorney General.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Meets to receive testimony in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: Charles T. Hagel, Secretary of Defense; General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Location: 216 Hart.

9:30 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine the nominations of L. Reginald Brothers, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and Francis Xavier Taylor, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, both of the Department of Homeland Security. Location: 342 Dirksen.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Department of Defense hearings to examine national security space launch programs. Witnesses: Cristina Chaplain Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office; Michael Gass, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Launch Alliance; and Elon Musk, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Designer Space Exploration Technologies Location: 192 Dirksen.

10 a.m. SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP — Business meeting to consider the nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration. http://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/ Location: 428a Russell.

10 a.m. U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION — U.S. Helsinki Commission to Hold Hearing on Developments in the Western Balkans and Policy Responses. Witnesses: Hoyt Yee, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Tanja Fajon, Member (Slovenia), European Parliament; Kurt Volker, Executive Director, the McCain Institute for International Leadership. Location: 106 Dirksen.

10 a.m. VETERANS' AFFAIRS — Full committee. 2014 legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Witnesses: William Thien, Commander In Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Karen Nigara, Chairman, National Legislative Committee, VFW; Raymond Kelley, Director, National Legislative Service, VFW; Robert Wallace, Executive Director, Washington Office, VFW; and William Bradshaw, Director, National Veterans Service, VFW. http://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/2014-legislative-presentation-of-the-veterans-of-foreign-wars Location: Dirksen G50

10:30 a.m. BUDGET — Hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015. Witness: Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Director, Office of Management and Budget. http://www.budget.senate.gov/

Location: 608 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. FINANCE — Hearing to examine the administration's fiscal year 2015 budget. The Committee will hear testimony from Treasury Secretary Jack Lew. http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=59fe2ff4-5056-a032-5240-bc8e40c66949 Location: 215 Dirksen.

2:15 p.m. AGING — Hearings to examine income security and the elderly, focusing on securing gains made in the war on poverty. Witnesses: Tricia Neuman, Sc. D, Senior Vice President, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation; Barbara Bovbjerg, Managing Director, Education Workforce and Income Security, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Joan Entmacher, Vice President and Director of Family Economic Security, National Womens Law Center; Dixie Shaw, Director of Hunger and Relief Services, Catholic Charities Maine. http://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/income-security-and-the-elderly_securing-gains-made-in-the-war-on-poverty Location: 562 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Strategic Forces meets to receive testimony on nuclear forces and policies in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: M. Elaine Bunn, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy; Lieutenant General Stephen W. Wilson, USAF, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command; Major General Garrett Harencak, USAF, Assistant Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration; Vice Admiral Terry J. Benedict, USN, Director, Strategic Systems Programs. Location: 222 Russell.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Executive Session to consider legislation and nominations. Agenda: 1. S. 1014, Youth Sports Concussion Act; 2. S. 1406, Prevent All Soring Tactics Act (PAST Act); 3. S. 1468, Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2013; 4. S. 2022, the Forensic Science and Standards Act of 2014; 5. S. 2028, the Sport Fish Restoration and Recreational Boating Safety Act of 2014; 6. S. 2049, Transparency in Assertion of Patents Act; 7. H.R. 2052, Global Investment in American Jobs Act; 8. S._____, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy of Visitors Enhancement Act; 9. Nomination of Kelly R. Welsh to be General Counsel of the United States Department of Commerce; 10. Nomination of Kathryn B. Thomson to be General Counsel of the United States Department of Transportation; 11. Nomination of David Arroyo to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; 12. Nominations for Promotion in the United States Coast Guard. Location: 253 Russell.
US House: 10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of Agriculture. Witnesses: Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, Department of Agriculture; Karen Ellis, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Department of Agriculture; Gil Harden, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Department of Agriculture. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370567 Location: 2362-A Rayburn.

10 a.m. DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS — House Democrats to hold press availability after Democratic Caucus meeting. Time approcximate. Subject: "House Republicans' 50th Vote To Undermine and Repeal the Affordable Care Act." With Democratic Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra (CA-34); Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Joe Crowley (NY-14). Location: HVC-210 alcove stakeout location.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Hearing, "Threats to Israel: Terrorist Funding and Trade Boycotts." Witnesses: Edwin Black, author; David Pollack, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Steven Peries, senior partner, Peries Law Firm P.C. Event link: http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-threats-israel-terrorist-funding-and-trade-boycotts Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — Participants: Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Representative Doug Collins (R-GA). CONTACT: Conference Communications Office 202-226-9000 conferencepress@mail.house.gov Location: RNC Lobby.

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. PROMOTINGPRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE — The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, Canada, Dr. Ann Cavoukian, will speak on issues relating to how privacy is essential to both freedom and innovation, in a presentation to the Congressional Bi-Partisan Privacy Caucus this week. The event will be co-hosted by Representatives Joe Barton and Diana DeGette, co-chairs of the Congressional Bi-Partisan Privacy

Caucus. Location: 2218 Rayburn.

12 p.m. — The House will meet for legislative business. The House is expected to consider H.R. 4118 – Suspending the Individual Mandate Penalty Law Equals Fairness Act (Rep. Jenkins – Ways and Means) (Subject to a Rule). The House is also expected to begin consideration of H.R. 3826 – Electricity Security and Affordability Act (Rep. Whitfield – Energy and Commerce) (Subject to a Rule)

9:30 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — "The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs." http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/irs-targeting-americans-political-beliefs/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.,

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of Agriculture. Witnesses: Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, Department of Agriculture; Karen Ellis, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Department of Agriculture; Gil Harden, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Department of Agriculture. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370567 Location: 2362-A Rayburn.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Budget Hearing – Library of Congress. Witnesses: Dr. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress; Robert Dizard, Deputy Librarian of Congress. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370375 Location: HT-2 The Capitol.

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — The Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Budget Requests from the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command. and ADDED: Pacific Command. Witnesses: Witnesses: General Lloyd J. Austin III, USA, Commander, U.S. Central Command; General David M. Rodriguez, USA, Commander, U.S. Africa Command. ADDED: Admiral Samuel J. Locklear, USN, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=101826 Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10 a.m. EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE — Full Committee Hearing: "Culture of Union Favoritism: The Return of the NLRBs Ambush Election Rule." Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Reauthorization of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act. Witnesses: Marci Burdick, Senior Vice President of Broadcasting, Schurz Communications, Inc.; Michael Powell, President and CEO, National Cable and Telecommunications Association; Mike Palkovic, Executive Vice President, Services and Operations, DIRECTV; Matt Zinn, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer, TiVo. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/reauthorization-satellite-television-extension-and-localism-act Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Hearing entitled "Data Security: Examining Efforts to Protect Americans Financial Information." Panel I: William Noonan, Deputy Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigation Division, Cyber Operations, United States Secret Service; Larry Zelvin, Director, National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Panel II: Troy Leach, Chief Technology Officer, PCI Security Standards Council; Greg Garcia, Advisor, Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center; David Fortney, Senior Vice President, Product Management and Development, The Clearing House Payments Company; Edmund Mierzwinski, Consumer Program Director, U.S. PIRG. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371096 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Hearing, "Threats to Israel: Terrorist Funding and Trade Boycotts." Witnesses: Edwin Black, author; David Pollack, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Steven Peries, senior partner, Peries Law Firm P.C. Event link: http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-threats-israel-terrorist-funding-and-trade-boycotts Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Overview of Public-Private Partnerships for Highway and Transit Projects. UPDATED WITNESS LIST: Joseph Kile, Assistant Director for Microeconomic Studies, Congressional Budget Office; James M. Bass, Interim Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer, Texas Department of Transportation; Phillip Washington, General Manager, Regional Transportation District; Richard A. Fierce, Senior Vice President, Fluor; on behalf of Associated General Contractors of America.

http://transport.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370773 Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — The Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a roundtable policy discussion on Wednesday to review how the Federal Aviation Administration can best utilize the data from the six unmanned aircraft system test ranges. Location: 2255 Rayburn.

10:30 a.m. JUDICIARY — Markup of H.R. ____, The "Executive Needs to Faithfully Observe and Respect Congressional Enforcements (ENFORCE) Act"; H.R. 3732, The "Immigration Compliance Enforcement (ICE) Act"; H.R. 3973, The "Faithful Execution of the Law Act of 2014." http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings? ID=55965D95-7C7C-43E6-B094-C1C718AD5550 Location: 2141 Rayburn.

11 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Budget Hearing – Government Accountability Office. Witness: Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370376 Location: HT-2 The Capitol.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Committee on Small Business will hold markups on: H.R. 2432, "Women's Procurement Program Equalization Act of 2013." The legislation's original sponsor is Ms. Velazquez (D-NY). http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371339 H.R. 4121 "Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2014." The legislation's original sponsor is Ms. Velazquez (D-NY). http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371343 H.R. 4093, "Greater Opportunities for Small Business Act of 2014." http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=364948 H.R. 776 "Security in Bonding Act of 2013." http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371336 H.R. 2882, "Improving Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses Act of 2013." The Legislation's original co-sponsors are Mr. Coffman, (R-CO), Chairman Sam Graves, (R-MO), Mr. Miller, (R-FL), Mr. Flores, (R-TX), Mr. Hanna, (R-NY), and Mr. Connolly, (D-VA). http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371335 H.R. 4094, "Contracting Data and Bundling Accountability Act of 2014." http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371313 H.R. 2751, "Commonsense Construction Contracting Act of 2013." The legislation's original co-sponsors are Mr. Hanna, (R-NY), Chairman Sam Graves, (R-MO), Ms. Meng, (D-NY). http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371332 Location: 2360 Rayburn.

2 p.m. COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET — Full committee hearing on The President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. Witness: Sylvia M. Burwell, Director, Office of Management and Budget. http://budget.house.gov/hearingschedule2014/hearing352014.htm Location: 210 Cannon.

2 p.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Oversight and Investigations subcommittee hearing entitled "The Growth of Financial Regulation and its Impact on International Competitiveness." Witnesses: Louise Bennetts, Associate Director, Financial Regulation Studies, Cato Institute; Alon Hillel-Tuch, Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer, RocketHub; Peter J. Wallison, Arthur F. Burns Fellow in Financial Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute; Professor Michael S. Barr, Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370894 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

3 p.m. RULES — H.R.2641 – Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act of 2013; H.R.2824 – Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America. Location: H-313.

10 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs will hold an oversight hearing on "National Fish Hatchery System: Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report." http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=370649 Location: 1324 Longworth. Other: March 4 – 6. GLOBAL VACCINE AND IMMUNIZATION RESEARCH FORUM — Leading scientists, vaccine developers and public health officials from more than 40 countries will gather at the Global Vaccine and Immunization Research Forum to set priorities and assess progress in research and development for vaccines to prevent diseases that threaten public health worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO), the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are co-hosting the meeting, and leaders from each organization will be presenting a keynote lecture on each day of the conference. http://www.dovcollaboration.org/action-plan/ CONTACT: Kathy Stover, NIAID, at (301) 402-1663 or stoverk@niaid.nih.gov 8:30 a.m. NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. will present the opening keynote lecture on, "Vaccine Research and Development: Challenges and Opportunities."

WHO Director-General Margaret Chan, M.D., will present the keynote lecture, "Research for Universal Health Coverage". Location: Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, 7400 Wisconsin Ave. Bethesda, Md.

March 4 – 6. NATIONAL ADVOCACY CONFERENCE — 2014 National Advocacy Conference. For more information: http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/advocacy/events/national-advocacy-conference.page AGENDA: http://www.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/nac/nac-agenda.pdf 10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. From the Administration with Marilyn Tavenner, Administrator, Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, U. S. Department of Health and Human Service. Location: Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H St. NW.

March 5 – 6. CARE NATIONAL CONFERENCE — The 2014 CARE National Conference & International Women's Day Celebration. http://www.care.org/get-involved/care-national-conference-international-womens-day-celebration 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Luncheon Plenary with Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank. 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Dinner Celebration. Keynote Address: Senator (ret.) Richard Lugar, "Delivering Lasting Change Award." Location: Washington Hilton & Towers, 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW.

POLITICO – HEALTH CARE — 7:30 a.m. Breakfast briefing about the issues driving health care policy in Washington D.C. With Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.), Chairman, Democratic Caucus; Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-N.C.), Member, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health; Andrew D. Hyman, Senior Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Stephen T. Parente, Ph.D., Minnesota Insurance Industry Chair of Health Finance. Location: The Ritz Carlton Hotel, 1150 22nd St. NW.

HOLDER, WEST – DOJ DIVERSITY — 11 a.m. Attorney General Eric Holder and Associate Attorney General Tony West will deliver remarks at the Department of Justice Diversity and Inclusion speaker series. NOTE: All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a drivers license) as well as valid media credentials. Media must RSVP to Stephen Ratner at 202-514-2007 or Stephen. Ratner@usdoj.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 4, 2014. Media must enter the department at the visitors entrance on Constitution Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets. Media may begin arriving at 10:00 a.m. EST. All cameras must be pre-set by 10:45 a.m. EST. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007. Location: Department of Justice, Great Hall, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

DOJ POLICE DOG TRAINING LAUNCH — 12 p.m. The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), in collaboration with the National Canine Research Council (NCRC) and Safe Humane introduce a new video training series for law enforcement agencies across the country. Police & Dog Encounters: Tactical Strategies and Effective Tools to Keep Our Communities Safe and Humane is the nation's very first video training series meant to help officers protect, serve, and stay safe when they encounter a dog while on duty. Remarks by the new director of the COPS office, Ronald L. Davis, the executive director of the NCRC, Stacey Coleman and the president of Safe Humane, Cynthia Bathurst. http://press.org/events/launch-doj-police-dog-encounters-video-training-series Location: National Press Club, Bloomberg Room, 529 14th Street NW.

KIDNEY ACTION DAY — 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. The American Kidney Fund's annual Kidney Action Day on the Hill marks the beginning of month-long activities in honor of National Kidney Month. With Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), Congressional Kidney Caucus Co-Chair; Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL), Congressional Kidney Caucus Member; LaVarne A. Burton, President and CEO of the American Kidney Fund; American Kidney Fund Patient-Advocates. Location: Rayburn House Office Building Foyer.

PENTAGON – AIR FORCE SPACE BUDGET — 1 p.m. Under Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning; Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for Space Troy Meink and Director of Space Programs Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert McMurry conduct a media roundtable on the Air Force space budget. Location: Pentagon (4E815).

U.S. CHAMBER – SOUTH AFRICA — 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. U.S. Chambers U.S.-South Africa Business Council to Host Public Forum. The U.S. Chambers U.S.-South Africa Business Council (USSABC) will host former U.S. Ambassador to South Africa and Chair of the USSABC, Donald Gips, and South Africas Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Ebrahim Rasool for a "candid discussion" moderated by Scott Eisner, the Chambers vice president for Africa. TOPIC: the state of U.S.- South Africa commercial relations as the two ambassadors touch on the future of U.S. – South Africa relations, the upcoming national election in South Africa, opportunities for investment, and South Africa's inclusion within the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Chamber press contact: Lisa Burgess – lburgess@uschamber.com Location: U.S. Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW.

HOLDER – BLACK HISTORY —4:30 p.m. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver remarks at a Black History Month event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 hosted by Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Richard Roberts. NOTE: All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a drivers license) as well as valid media credentials. Media interested in attending must RSVP to Sheldon Snook at Sheldon_Snook@dcd.uscourts.gov no later than 3:00 p.m. EST, TUESDAY, March 4, 2014. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Sheldon Snook at Sheldon_Snook@dcd.uscourts.gov. Location: U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, 333 Constitution Ave., N.W.

COALITIONS FOR AMERICA DINNER – PAUL — 6 p.m. Keynote by Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) at the annual Weyrich Awards Dinner hosted by Coalitions for America. For a full list of finalists of the numerous awards, please email mrudin@sbpublicaffairs.com. Location: Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown, 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, House Speaker John Boehner referred to Vladimir Putin as a thug, then called on President Obama to stand up to him. Which is sort of like throwing your drink on a big guy at a bar and then being like, 'My friend here will take you.' I personally wouldn't mess with him."

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, Senator John McCain said that the situation in Ukraine is the result of a feckless foreign policy by the White House. The guy he was talking to asked for a handkerchief to wipe off his face. He was like, 'All right, come on. Don't say it again.' Frankly, I'm fed up. That's right, McCain said it's the result of Obama's feckless foreign policy. Then Obama was like, 'What the feck did you say about my foreign policy?'"

Conan O'Brien: "Today, Washington, DC voted to decriminalize marijuana. Yeah. And we're already seeing the effects at the Lincoln Memorial. The statue of Lincoln is now sitting on a beanbag chair."

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BISON CONNECT

Re: Conversations in UT

Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> Fri, Mar 7, 2014 at 6:24 AM
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Cc: Sally Jewell, (b)(6) ios.doi.gov" Sally Jewell, (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, "jpalma@blm.gov" <jpalma@blm.gov>, "erin_walls@ios.doi.gov" <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, "Tommy.Beaudreau@boem.gov" <Tommy.Beaudreau@boem.gov>, "Laura_davis@ios.doi.gov" <Laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, "rachel_jacobson@ios.doi.gov" <rachel_jacobson@ios.doi.gov>

Wow! All that, and Don Peay!! Lots to discuss.



Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

> On Mar 6, 2014, at 8:41 PM, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov> wrote:
>
> Sally:
>
> It's kind of you to offer this readout. You definitely met some of the
> notables in the Utah natural resources world.
>
> Juan has more depth on the Red Cliffs land acquisition and HCP issue, but
> I can assure you that it's getting attention from our team.
>
> The BLM leadership team spent quite a bit of time on wild horse issues
> this week. A long-term approach is coming into view. The next handful of
> years are going to be hard regardless of what we try, but I do think
> there's some hope for the medium and long-term horizons. The drought will
> not be kind to the horses, the range, or our management efforts this
> summer.
>
> Neil
>
> ---- Original Message ----
> From: Sally Jewell [mailto:(b)(6) ios.doi.gov]
> Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 03:23 PM
> To: Palma Juan <jpalma@blm.gov>; Kornze Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>; Ashe Dan

> <D_M_Ashe@fws.gov>
> Cc: Walls Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>; Beaudreau Tommy
> <tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov>; Davis Laura <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>;
> Jacobson Rachel <rachel_jacobson@ios.doi.gov>
> Subject: Conversations in UT
>
> Juan, Neil and Dan -
>
> At my speech today at Weber State U in Ogden, several people collared
> me on various issues. Here is a quick run-down for you, as most
> related to BLM and FWS:
>
> 1. Alan Gardner, WA County Commissioner, said he had spoken recently
> to both of you about the land exchanges - 1,400 Ac., yet to be
> acquired, with the HCP running out in 23 months. He asked for my
> support in ensuring this happened before the expiration date,
> referencing that Bruce Babbitt insisted on weekly reports on land
> exchanges from the BLM to make sure there was movement. I don't need
> weekly reports, but want you to know about the conversation. He also
> gave me a bound book on the topic which I'll have Erin pass along to
> Neil.
>
> 2. Wild horses... I heard from a photographer, John Steele, at the
> speech who is against gathers until we deal with the holding pens. I
> heard from a county commissioner and rancher who said the opposite.
> So...there you have it. I'm really ready for a long term solution, as
> I know you both are!
>
> 3. Sage grouse - there were several questions and some pleas to
> support the state plans. Tremendous fear about a listing that runs
> very deep, and a lot of constructive support from land managers,
> ranchers and local electeds who want to be part of the solution. I
> encouraged them all to stay at the table and told them about the
> process, the deadlines and the laws that we needed to follow. I
> discussed the importance of measures that didn't rely on voluntary
> compliance and new habitat creation. With all of the local
> commitment, I remain hopeful that everyone will work on a constructive
> path forward to preclude the need for a listing.
>
> 4. Wolves - One fellow (could be Don Peay?) who represented sportsmen
> engaged in conservation spoke about both sage grouse and wolves and
> brought up the importance of predator control (mostly raptors) in
> protecting sage grouse. He is clearly of the mind that wolf control
> is also necessary and he applauded the proposal to de-list. I didn't
> choose to discuss the peer review as I didn't have all day...
>
> 5. Prairie dogs - One of the county commissioners/ranchers who spoke
> to me about the wild horse problem also shared that he didn't
> understand why we didn't count prairie dogs in the ESA count that were
> present on private land. He brought up the issue of fat prairie dogs
> on golf courses, and of course, the issue of cemeteries... A quick
> primer on this issue - e.g. how we decide which critters count in an
> ESA listing/de-listing decision and how it relates to land ownership.
>
> There was more, but that's what I remember...
>
> Our jobs are full of conflict, but keep the faith!

>
> Sally
>
> Sent from my iPad

BISON CONNECT

Re: Conversations in UT

Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov> Fri, Mar 7, 2014 at 2:40 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Komze Neil <nkomze@blm.gov>, Ashe Dan <D_M_Ashe@fws.gov>, Walls Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Beaudreau Tommy <tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov>, Davis Laura <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Jacobson Rachel <rachel_jacobson@ios.doi.gov>

Dear Secretary Jewell - Sally,

As you know Utah, is a magnificent state that has been blessed with beautiful landscapes and abundant resources. The people dimension is what makes my job so fascinating here in Utah. Neil, put together a high quality BLM Leadership Team meeting here in Albuquerque - I am headed back to Utah via the Navajo Reservation and southern Utah. As I travel these roads, and watch this world as I drive, I ponder the breath of responsibilities we and you have - to add value to people's lives.

I hope you or your staff were able to use my government car from the office. My son (b)(6) was telling me last night that you were in Ogden (which I knew from last week). I do know most of the players that you mentioned and have and will continue to work with them to solve the issues they visits with yourself about.

I visit with Alan Gardner once or twice a week and have talked to him today. The private lands within the Red Cliffs we are poised to do some land exchanges this issue is to protect Desert Tortoise habitat that was agreed to 17 years ago in a Habitat Conservation Plan with the County and Fish and Wildlife Service. The BLM was asked to acquire the private properties within the HCP. There is one private land owner that has been a hold out for many years and Senator Hatch is unhappy that we are not resolving him, but I believe we have made it abundantly clear to him that this constituent does not want to do a land exchange or sell the property to a third party. Mr. Hatch has made it clear that we need to solve that issue and Alan is working hard to let the Senator know we are doing all we can with (b)(6) property.

I have called for a meeting of all the key players in Utah for the Sage Grouse issue. I will host them at the BLM office for two days starting this coming Thursday.

Thanks for all you do - and will keep the faith.

-Juan
cell (b)(6)

Sent from my iPad

> On Mar 6, 2014, at 4:23 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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>
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> speech who is against gathers until we deal with the holding pens. I
> heard from a county commissioner and rancher who said the opposite.
> So...there you have it. I'm really ready for a long term solution, as
> I know you both are!
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> support the state plans. Tremendous fear about a listing that runs
> very deep, and a lot of constructive support from land managers,
> ranchers and local electeds who want to be part of the solution. I
> encouraged them all to stay at the table and told them about the
> process, the deadlines and the laws that we needed to follow. I
> discussed the importance of measures that didn't rely on voluntary
> compliance and new habitat creation. With all of the local
> commitment, I remain hopeful that everyone will work on a constructive
> path forward to preclude the need for a listing.
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> 4. Wolves - One fellow (could be Don Peay?) who represented sportsmen
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> is also necessary and he applauded the proposal to de-list. I didn't
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> There was more, but that's what I remember...
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> Our jobs are full of conflict, but keep the faith!
>
> Sally

>

> Sent from my iPad

Re: Conversations in UT

Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov> Sat, Mar 8, 2014 at 11:25 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Komze Neil <nkomze@blm.gov>

Dear Sally,

Glad to hear you are taking a little R & R in the great state of Utah. (b) (6) [redacted]. If there is anything I can do, please give me a call. Glad to hear Dan will be around tomorrow - as you know we love that bundle of energy.

-Juan
cell (b)(6) [redacted]

Sent from my iPad

> On Mar 8, 2014, at 9:16 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> Dear Juan -
>
> Thanks for the response and for taking a trip back through some of the
> most important and challenging country that you oversee. A Navajo
> woman came to the health care press conference I held in the SLC
> library and asked a question about water rights and getting clean
> drinking water to her people - an issue that I know Reclamation is
> working on.
>
> Thank you for the use of your vehicle. I spent today with Mike and
> will be with Dan Love tomorrow. It is nice to actually have a weekend
> off to enjoy your state!
>
> Safe journey and thanks for being on top of so many challenging
> issues. I am proud of the progress BLM is making in thoughtfully
> managing landscapes.
>
> Warmly,
>
> Sally
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
>> On Mar 7, 2014, at 12:40 PM, Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov> wrote:
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>> Dear Secretary Jewell - Sally,
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>>> 5. Prairie dogs - One of the county commissioners/ranchers who spoke
>>> to me about the wild horse problem also shared that he didn't
>>> understand why we didn't count prairie dogs in the ESA count that were
>>> present on private land. He brought up the issue of fat prairie dogs
>>> on golf courses, and of course, the issue of cemeteries... A quick
>>> primer on this issue - e.g. how we decide which critters count in an
>>> ESA listing/de-listing decision and how it relates to land ownership.
>>>
>>> There was more, but that's what I remember...
>>>
>>> Our jobs are full of conflict, but keep the faith!
>>>
>>> Sally
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPad

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Mar 11, 2014 at 6:58 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

PRESIDENT OBAMA WILL EXPAND PROTECTIONS ALONG CALIFORNIA COAST. The Environment & Energy Publishing (3/11, 705) reports that President Obama will on Tuescay "add 1,665 acres of public lands," known as the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands, to the California Coastal National Monument, "a signal that the White House is seeking to protect more lands as conservation bills stall in Congress." According to a White House official, "the expansion, made possible under the 1906 Antiquities Act, will protect coastal bluffs, tide pools, inland dunes, coastal prairies, and the mouth and estuary of the Garcia River." The monument will be managed by the BLM and "should offer an economic jolt to communities along the Mendocino County coast, including the city of Point Arena just to the south."

KQED-FM San Francisco (3/10, 13K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will visit with community members Wednesday to celebrate the designation.

Also reporting on the story is the Antioch (CA) Herald (3/11, 81K).

SECRETARY JEWELL, MAYOR GARCETTI ANNOUNCE URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGE PARTNERSHIP. The Southern California Public Radio (3/10, 57K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti was scheduled to "announce a new program for urban youths at 2 p.m. at the Los Angeles State Historic Park."

The Echo Park-Silver Lake (CA) Patch (3/11) reports that "a mobile visitor center for the Los Angeles River is getting support from the federal government as part of an initiative to teach Los Angeles youth about nature." The article notes that "the River Rover, which is funded and operated by the nonprofit Friends of the Los Angeles River, is one of eight pilot projects around the country benefiting from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative." Jewell said the partnership with the Friends of the Los Angeles River "will allow us to bring young people to the river and the river to young people."

SECRETARY JEWELL SELECTS COBELL SCHOLARSHIP TRUSTEES. The Cherokee (OK) Phoenix (3/11, 442) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "on Jan. 15 announced Dr. Jean O'Brien from the University of Minnesota and Pamela Agoyo from the University of New Mexico as the secretary's appointees to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund board of trustees." Jewell said, "It is with great pleasure that I announce the selection of these two outstanding educational leaders whose accomplishments have opened the doors of higher education to all American Indians and Alaska Natives. Their experience and expertise will be exceptionally valuable to the board of trustees as the scholarship fund helps students across Indian Country access the higher education they need to succeed in today's world. The fund will help strengthen Indian communities, advance tribal progress and secure a better future for Native Americans, honoring Eloise Cobell's vision and perseverance."

INTERIOR BUSINESS CENTER DIRECTOR WARD INTERVIEWED. The Federal Times (3/10, 120K) interviewed Joseph Ward Jr., director of the Interior Business Center (IBC). The article notes that "after three years on the job," Ward has "pared the center's lines of business from eight to three to keep it focused on its core strengths: financial management, human resources management and acquisition services." He also "established a philosophy called ACT, which stands for accurate, courteous and timely service." During the interview, Ward "discussed his priorities."

INTERIOR'S CIO MAZER ON 2014 FEDERAL 100 WINNERS LIST. The Federal Computer Week (3/10, 263K) picks Bernard Mazer, CIO at the Interior Department, to be on the 2014 Federal 100 Winners List. According to FCW, "Mazer developed Interior's pioneering 10-year, $10 billion Foundation Cloud Hosting Services contract, which supports multiple Obama administration initiatives" Also, Mazer "led Interior's migration of more than 90,000 email users to a secure cloud-based collaboration platform in less than three months and brought nine bureaus under one IT roof by using his collaborative leadership style to bridge Interior's distributed environment."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORTS ON NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the reports on national parks was provided by the Los Angeles Times (3/10, Martin, 3.07M) and Yahoo! (3/11, Oskin, Writer, 17.91M).

FORMER INTERIOR SECRETARY BABBITT SUPPORTS IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ROAD DECISION. In an op-ed for the Los Angeles Times (3/11, 3.07M), Bruce Babbitt, who was secretary of the Department of the Interior from 1993 to 2001, supports Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's decision not to allow a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Babbitt says that it was "a bad idea" when he headed the Interior Department, and it is still one now. According to Babbitt, "despite pledges and promises to the contrary, the real purpose for building the road is the same as it ever was: moving fish and workers to and from King Cove's canneries." He also notes that under a 1998 agreement, "US taxpayers have already accommodated alternative solutions to King Cove's concerns about medical emergencies, with the clear understanding that the road would therefore not be built."

However, the Alaska Business Monthly (3/11) finds irony in the FWS' conclusion that "fall waterfowl hunting is spectacular" at the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. According to the Monthly, "this goes down as yet another example of how Interior's logic on the King Cove road simply doesn't add up." That is: "We can't build an 11-mile, one-lane, gravel road because it might disturb some birds – but if you want to go out and shoot them, by all means, it's 'spectacular.'"

BUDGET CHANGE FOR WILDFIRES LAUDED.. In an editorial, the Seattle Times (3/11, 1M) lauds a proposal by the Obama Administration for "changes in federal budget procedures in the Interior and Agricultural departments that would treat...devastating wildfires the same as hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters." It notes that "current budgetary regulations fuel a raid on the funds intended to make federal land more resistant to fire and climate change."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE DESIGNATED NATIONAL LANDMARK. The Montgomery (AL) Advertiser (3/11, 109K) reports that NPS Director Jon Jarvis joined "mayors of three historic Alabama cities met Monday to help designate the Edmund Pettus Bridge — the scene of a violent assault by state troopers on peaceful marchers in 1965 — as a national landmark." In his remarks, Jarvis said "the peaceful protest that had been scattered by law enforcement officers became 'a watershed event in the civil rights movement.'" Jarvis said, "The violence of 'Bloody Sunday' did not stop the marchers from their ultimate destination. In fact, it sped the country toward one of the most important pieces of civil laws ever passed by the U.S. Congress."

INTERNAL E-MAILS REVEAL NPS KNEW WORLD WAR II VETERANS WOULD BE LOCKED OUT. For the National Review (3/11, 805K), Jillian Kay Melchior, a Thomas L. Rhodes Fellow for the Franklin Center, writes that the Interior Department "knew beforehand that two groups of aging veterans would be visiting the World War II Memorial as the partial government shutdown began on Oct. 1 but decided to barricade the site anyway, according to e-mails obtained by National Review Online." The records also show NPS "employees busily monitoring the news for any bad publicity and making shutdown exceptions for their co-workers."

SOME HOTELS UTILIZE FEDERAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM. The New York Times (3/11, Zipkin, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "as the hotel industry shakes off recession doldrums and new hotels are being built," some hotels are being "repurposed from existing buildings like offices, warehouses and hospitals." The article notes that "some chains turn to the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Program of the National Park Service, administered with the Internal Revenue Service." For example, "one developer who has used the program is Mehul Patel, chief executive of NewcrestImage, a developer in Irving, Tex." Patel "converted the Fisk Medical Arts Building in Amarillo, Tex., to a Marriott Courtyard in 2010."

LAWSUIT SEEKS TO BLOCK WELCOME CENTER AT VANDERBILT MANSION. The AP (3/10, Press, 4.28M) reports that "neighbors of The Breakers estate in Newport are suing to block a new welcome center that's planned for the site of the mansion." The neighborhood association filed the lawsuit Friday in Newport Superior Court against the Preservation Society of Newport County. In its lawsuit, the neighbors group claims that "the plan violates a number of provisions of the city zoning ordinance, including because it is in a residential neighborhood and a museum and because it would house what the group says is a restaurant."

NPS SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR GUIDED TOURS IN YELLOWSTONE. The AP (3/11, 2.88M) reports that the NPS is seeking "proposals from businesses that are interested in providing guided interpretive vehicle snow tours and maintaining a skiers' camp in Yellowstone National Park." According to the article, "one new 10-year contract will be awarded next winter season, replacing the current contract for snowcoach tours and skiers' camp that expires in April."

WOLVES TRANSFORM RIVERS IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The Indian Country Today Media Network (3/10, 21K) reports that "wolves are changing not only the wildlife of Yellowstone National Park since being reintroduced after a 70-year absence, but also the geography—namely, the rivers." A video narrated by investigative journalist George Monbiot shows the "trophic cascade" effect that wolves have had Yellowstone's geography. The article also notes that "two studies by researchers at the Oregon State University in the past couple of years have documented the transformation of wildlife as a result of the resurgence of the wolf at Yellowstone."

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK MOVES FORWARD WITH CAMPSITE RESERVATION, FEE SYSTEM. The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (3/11, 540K) reports that "after years of deliberations and public outreach, officials at Voyageurs National Park will move ahead in April with the park's first campground fee and reservation system." According to the article, "the new system will set aside 51 campsites this summer for advance reservations, allowing people to guarantee a site before they make the trip to the park near International Falls."

CEREMONY TO UNVEIL ARIZONA MEMORIAL POSTAGE STAMP. The AP (3/11, 417K) reports that the USS Arizona Memorial will be commemorated in the form of a US postage stamp. According to the NPS, "the priority

mail express stamp will be unveiled on Thursday."

LINK UNCOVERED BETWEEN SCIENTOLOGY FOUNDER AND MOUNT RAINIER TRAILS. The AP (3/11, Plog, 417K) reports that "four years of research and the discovery of a wooden sign have uncovered a historical link between Tacoma, the first trails at Mount Rainier and L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of the Church of Scientology." Carl Fabiani, a former NPS employee who retired in 2010 after 45 years working at Mount Rainier, "found a wooden sign about seven years ago while doing trail maintenance work just off the Wonderland Trail loop near Longmire." According to the article, "the sign turned out to be a key in the narrative that Issaquah resident Chris Finn has pieced together in the past four years," which linked Hubbard as "one of the 13 Scouts responsible for those first trails."

Bureau of Land Management:

CASCADE-SISKYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT ADDS 900 ACRES. The AP (3/11, 417K) reports that the Cascade-Siskyou National Monument has expanded by more than 900 acres, following the transfer of property from The Land and Water Conservation Fund to the BLM. The AP notes that the transfer is "part of a continuing effort to buy parcels within the monument held by the Hancock Timber Resource Group." The article adds that "the timber group still owns another 2,900 acres within the monument."

Also reporting on the story is the Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (3/10, 67K).

BLM PALEONTOLOGIST REMAINS HOPEFUL THAT STOLEN UTAH DINOSAUR FOOTPRINT IS STILL INTACT. The Deseret (UT) News (3/11, 274K) reports that "a fossilized dinosaur footprint that was illegally pried out of the ground near Moab may still be intact, despite having been dumped in the Colorado River," according to a paleontologist with the BLM. BLM district paleontologist ReBecca Hunt-Foster said Monday, "Instead of being just a pure sandstone, it has a limestone layer in it, which is a little harder than the sandstone itself. Its chemical compound is just a little bit different, which makes it a little more resistant (to erosion)."

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DAMAGING CULTURAL SITE. The Inyo (CA) Register (3/11, 18K) reports that Howard Walters has plead "guilty to one charge of misdemeanor vandalism and was ordered to pay $3,823 in restitution to the Bureau of Land Management after he damaged a cultural site in the Chalfant area." BLM Field Office Manager Steve Nelson said "law enforcement caught Walters digging in a known historic site and had illegally collected artifacts in his possession."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WINNER OF DALLAS SAFARI CLUB RHINO PERMIT DECIDES TO GO AHEAD WITH HUNT. The Dallas Morning News (3/11, Writer, 1.13M) reports that the winner of an auction held by the Dallas Safari Club' for a permit to kill an endangered African black rhino has decided to go ahead with the hunt. Meanwhile, the Humane Society International is still trying to convince the FWS to deny Corey Knowlton "the permit that will let him ship his 'trophy' back home."

LISTING OF SAGE GROUSE OPPOSED. In an op-ed for the Las Vegas Sun (3/10, 155K), Terry Murphy, the president of Strategic Solutions, claims that listing the sage grouse will have a greater impact than when the FWS listed the desert tortoise as an endangered species in 1989. Murphy notes that "although the desert tortoise inhabits only a small portion of Southern Nevada, sage grouse habitat spans a whopping 20 million acres across the state." Furthermore, Murphy warns that "the economic effects of a threatened listing for sage grouse are mind boggling."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR, TRIBES COLLABORATE ON OIL, GAS OPERATIONS. The Riverton (WY) Ranger (3/11, 167) reports that the Interior Department and the Arapaho and Shoshone signed a memorandum of understanding Feb.

25 in Fort Washakie. Through the agreement, "the parties said they will engage in a cooperative environmental program to promote compliance on oil and gas properties by lessees and operators on the Wind River Indian Reservation." BIA acting Rocky Mountain regional director Darryl LaCounte said, "This MOU is a good opportunity for all of us to start fresh, to be on the same page and to work toward the same goals." BLM Wyoming state director Don Simpson said, "We look forward to working collaboratively with the Arapaho and Shoshone tribes, as well as with the BIA, to manage oil and gas activities on the Wind River Indian Reservation."

FWS SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON PROPOSAL TO DRILL IN OURAY REFUGE. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (3/11, 343K) reports that the FWS is seeking "public comment on two oil and gas exploration drilling projects inside Utah's Ouray National Wildlife Refuge." The agency "on Monday released separate draft Environmental Assessments for a nine-well proposal by Ultra Resource Inc. and a two-well proposal by Thurston Energy Operating Co."

WSJOURNAL WARNS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT COULD END OIL AND GAS BOOM ON PRAIRIES. The Wall Street Journal (3/11, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes on possible action by the Interior Department to declare the greater sage grouse and the lesser prairie chicken endangered species. The Journal fears that such a declaration could have a major impact on land use on the prairie, particularly oil and gas production. It's chief concern is that private land that has been the site of most of the booming oil and gas production on the plains could become subject to extensive regulation under the Endangered Species Act, possibly ending further oil and gas development in the Permian Basis of Texas and North Dakota's Bakken Shale. The Journal notes that leaders in states that would be affected by such a listing including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid are proposing alternative strategies to improve the situation of the birds.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM OUTLINES GULF OF MEXICO LEASE SALE OFFER. The Offshore Magazine (3/11, 143K) reports that the Interior Department will "offer more than 40 million acres for oil and gas exploration and development in the Gulf of Mexico in March lease sales." Lease Sale 231 in the Central Planning Area and Lease Sale 225 in the Eastern Planning Area will be held consecutively in New Orleans, Louisiana, on March 19. the article notes that "in addition to opening bids for these two sales, BOEM will open any pending bids submitted in Western Planning Area Sale 233 for blocks located or partially located within three statute miles of the maritime and continental shelf boundary with Mexico (the Boundary Area)."

ALASKA ARCTIC POLICY COMMISSION CO-CHAIRS MEET WITH OFFICIALS IN DC. The Alaska Business Monthly (3/11) reports that the Co-Chairs of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission (AAPC), Senator Lesil McGuire and Representative Bob Herron, "met with several high-level federal officials," including BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau, "in Washington, DC to promote Alaska's vision of the Arctic." Herron said, "These meetings are critical to not only ensure Alaska's voice is heard as the United States crafts its Arctic Policy, but that our great state leads the nation in forming a strategy which will benefit Alaskans and Americans as opportunities in the Arctic present themselves. I want to thank the White House staff and senior federal agency participants who engaged in these conversations. I look forward to continued collaboration as the United States prepares for its role as Chair of the Arctic Council in 2015."

ATTORNEY URGES TAMPA MAYOR TO JOIN BP LAWSUIT. The Tampa (FL) Tribune (3/10, Wiatrowski, 520K) reports that attorney Steven Yerrid is urging Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn "to sign on to lawsuit by states, counties and municipalities trying to recover tax revenue lost in the wake of the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." Yerrid noted that "together, the variety of governments and quasi-governmental agencies have claims in the billions of dollars," but that without concerted effort may not see a courtroom anytime in the near future.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DECISION ON ATLANTIC SEISMIC TESTING. Additional coverage the BOEM's decision on seismic testing in the Atlantic was provided by the New Jersey (3/11, 694K), the New Bern (NC) Sun Journal (3/11, 47K), and the Offshore Magazine (3/11, 143K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

COLORADO RIVER DAM OPENING FOR "PULSE FLOW EVENT". The AP (3/10, Press, 4.28M) reports that

beginning March 23, the gates of Morelos Dam on the Colorado River will open its gates to unleash "a man-made flood." The "pulse flow event" is scheduled to last eight weeks and send more than 100,000 acre-feet of water to the river's delta. Conservationists in both the US and Mexico "applauded the opening of the dam gates, which is expected to send water all the way to the Gulf of California once again, at least temporarily."

Also reporting on the story is the Las Vegas Review-Journal (3/11, 437K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

JUDGE DISMISSES LAWSUIT AGAINST BIA OVER LNG LEASE. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (3/11, 166K) reports that "a federal judge has dismissed a Maine Indian group's lawsuit against the Bureau of Indian Affairs over the leasing of Passamaquoddy tribal land for a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal but harshly criticized the way the agency conducted the process." However, US District Court Judge John Woodcock called the BIA's "handling of the case 'unskillful' and said that in the future he expects the bureau 'to proceed in a manner consistent with its special expertise and solemn charge.'" According to the article, "the judge's decision, if it withstands appeal, would send questions over the approval of the lease to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals." Woodcock said that the panel should have reviewed the BIA's "decision before the lawsuit was filed, as is stipulated in the bureau's rules."

JUDGE DISMISSES RESTRAINING ORDER REQUEST IN CHUKCHANSI MONEY DISPUTE. The Fresno (CA) Bee (3/10, 327K) reports that "a US District Court judge in Fresno dismissed a restraining order request in the continuing battle for control of the Chukchansi tribe after one group accused a competing faction of taking $316,017 that should have gone into a casino bank account overseen by both sides." Judge Anthony Ishii held Friday that his court "does not have jurisdiction" over "a restraining order filed by the Reggie Lewis faction, which said that money was illegally taken by the other faction led by Tex McDonald." Ishii also said "he does not view the Lewis group as rightful leaders of the tribe even though the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs last month recognized a 2010 council election that included Lewis and four allies to lead the tribe."

TREASURY ISSUES TAX GUIDANCE ON PER CAPITA TRIBAL PAYMENTS. The Yuma (AZ) News Now (3/11) reports that the US Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service have "issued interim guidance regarding per capita distributions made to members of Indian tribes from funds held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior." According to the article, "in response to feedback from tribal nations, the guidance clarifies that, generally, these per capita payments will not be subject to federal income tax."

AFTER MORE THAN 100 YEARS, TRIBES, GOVERNMENT STILL DISPUTING PIECE OF OKLAHOMA LAND. Politico (3/10, Rogers, 464K) reports that the farm bill asserts that the USDA holds the rights to a chunk of contested formal tribal land in Oklahoma, reopening wounds that go back more than a century. The land is the last piece of "a nearly 15-square mile tract" that was carved out of reservation lands to create Fort Reno in 1883. Oklahomans "are arguing still over who rightfully owns the Native American lands, now within miles of the state capital." The piece looks at the politics surrounding the fate of the land, and notes that Rep. Frank Lucas (R) believes that the current agricultural research station is the best use of the property.

INTERIOR TO DECIDE ON NEW MEXICO GAMING. In an editorial, the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (3/11, 288K) acknowledges that New Mexico and the Pojoaque Pueblo both have valid arguments regarding gaming. It notes that "New Mexico's gaming tribes are sovereign nations with a responsibility to their people to become/remain economically viable." Also it recognizes that "in New Mexico gambling and booze have serious consequences." But since "the state and tribes have" not "been able to negotiate a compromise," all eyes will be directed "on Interior to see if it can balance the odds, and in whose favor."

Top National News:

KERRY DECLINES MEETING WITH PUTIN AS RUSSIA CONTINUES TO ADVANCE IN CRIMEA. Media coverage of the crisis in Ukraine continues to decline as the mystery surrounding the disappearance of a Malaysian airliner deepens. Many of today's reports note Secretary of State Kerry's decsion to decline an invitation to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss Ukraine and Crimea. Also widely reported is Russia's continued military advance in Crimea ahead of this weekend's referendum. Two out of three network

newscasts last night reported on the crisis, and only the CBS Evening News (3/10, story 4, 2:30, Pelley, 5.58M) mentioned Kerry's decision not to visit Russia. Calling it "another major story developing," Kerry turned down the invite "apparently" because he "wants Putin to respond to some unspecified questions first."

The New York Times (3/11, Gordon, Myers, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says the Administration's "effort to solicit Russia's help to defuse the crisis in Ukraine appeared to hit a roadblock" when Kerry turned down the invite and the two sides "issued dueling accounts of their recent diplomacy." In what the Times calls "an effort to portray the United States as the intransigent party," the Kremlin "took the unusual step of televising a brief exchange" between Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, "in which they complained that Mr. Kerry had spurned an invitation to come to Russia for consultations." The State Department responded by "rushing out a statement saying that it was the Russians who were not prepared to engage in discussions on the United States' proposals." Spokesman Jen Psaki stated, "We are still awaiting a Russian response to the concrete questions that Secretary Kerry sent Foreign Minister Lavrov on Saturday in this regard."

Reuters (3/11, Mohammed, Holland) reports the State Department said it was still possible the two sides could meet this week, but said it "needs to see concrete evidence that Russia is prepared to engage on the diplomatic proposals we have made to facilitate direct dialogue between Ukraine and Russia and to use international mechanisms like a contact group to deescalate the conflict," Psaki said.

According to the Washington Post (3/11, DeYoung, 4.28M), Administration officials said the US is also insisting that Russia "stop their military advance in Crimea" before such a meeting will take place.

McClatchy (3/11, Allam, Subscription Publication, 95K) reports a "State Department official" said there is "no way would Kerry travel all the way to Russia just to 'have them say, 'No, no, no,' to everything.'" The official added, "We're not just going to go there and be rolled."

In a report titled "Putin Dismisses US Proposal On Ukraine," the Wall Street Journal (3/11, Solomon, Alpert, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says Putin has rejected a US proposal to ease tensions in Ukraine, which led Kerry to delay plans to visit Russia. Nevertheless, US and Russian officials stressed Monday that talks are ongoing, and the State Department didn't rule out a visit by Kerry later this week.

But the AP (3/11, Danilova, Heintz) reports the Kremlin said Monday that it is "drafting counterproposals" to the US plan, "denouncing" the new Ukrainian government as "an unacceptable 'fait accompli'" and claiming that parts of eastern Ukraine "have been plunged into lawlessness." In a televised briefing with Putin, Lavrov said proposals made by Kerry are "not suitable" and Russia "decided to prepare new proposals of its own, though he did not say what they were."

Despite warnings from the US and EU, the Washington Post (3/11, Morello, Constable, 4.28M) reports Russia "seized control of more Ukrainian military bases and facilities in Crimea on Monday," signaling its "intention to play a significant role in the country's future." According to the Post, "at least four Ukrainian military bases, including one stocked with missiles, were overrun by armed men in uniforms who say they are members of local self-defense units, which are typically under the command of Russian military officers." In addition, the headquarters of the Ukrainian navy "had its electricity cut."

The New York Times (3/11, Chivers, Sneider, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports from Chornomorskoye that "Russian forces raided a Ukrainian naval missile base" in the city early Monday, according to the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense. The Times says the base's "seizure was one of a series of swift but thus far bloodless escalations as Russia tightened its grip on Crimea." It also notes that Russian forces yesterday "infiltrated" an air base in Novofedorivka, "took over a military hospital" in Simferopol, and "moved onto a Ukrainian base used by a motorized battalion" in Bakhchysaray.

Bloomberg News (3/11, Choursina, 1.91M) and Reuters (3/11, Osborn) also report on the Russian advances.

Celestine Bohlen, in a piece for the New York Times (3/11, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), says the "scale of Russia's propaganda effort" regarding the status of Ukraine and Crimea "has been breathtaking, even by Soviet standards," and "seems strangely anachronistic in a time when access to the Internet was supposed to undercut the influence of state-controlled media," but nevertheless "seems to be working." According to Bohlen, a poll from

last week "taken...by the state-sponsored VCIOM agency showed that 71 percent believe that it is necessary to protect Russian-language speakers in Crimea more vigorously."

The AP (3/11, Danilova, Heintz) reports Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Deshchytsya said Monday that his country "was practically in a state of war with Russia," and "is counting on help from the West." The Los Angeles Times (3/11, Chu, Loiko, 3.07M) reports Ukrainian officials are "prepared to campaign in the United States this week for more international support" when Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk visits the White House on Wednesday. He will also address the UN Security Council on Thursday.

On CNN's The Situation Room (3/10, 554K), Wolf Blitzer reported that "the pro-Russian Crimean parliament has appointed its prime minister commander-in-chief...clearing the way for him to form an army for the autonomous Republic of Crimea." On Fox News' Special Report (3/10, 2.15M), correspondent Amy Kellogg reported from Kiev that "most of the occupying soldiers in Crimea are believed to be Russian, despite Kremlin denials." According to Kellogg, "Russia says they are protecting Crimeans against a 'fascist invasion.'"

In an interview with USA Today (3/11, Dorell, 5.82M), Ukrainian lawmakers Pavlo Pizanenko warned Ukraine "may have to arm itself with nuclear weapons" if Russia doesn't withdraw its troops. "We gave up nuclear weapons," and "now there's a strong sentiment in Ukraine that we made a big mistake," he said.

Amid the Russian military movements, Reuters (3/11, Osborn, Zinets) reports the US began a previously planned military exercise in the Black Sea with Romanian and Bulgarian warships. And NBC Nightly News (3/10, story 4, 0:40, Williams, 7.86M) reported briefly that on Monday, "NATO announced it will start reconnaissance flights" to monitor "the Ukraine border." Although Ukraine "is not a NATO member...Russia's actions have alarmed countries that are part of the alliance and were once part of the Soviet Union."

According to the AP (3/11), the NATO aircraft will fly over Poland and Romania, and will not enter into either Ukrainian or Russian airspace. The alliance said the decision "was taken by the ambassadors of NATO's 28 member states Monday to intensify the assessment of the possible threat the crisis poses to the alliance."

Reuters (3/11, Croft) quotes a NATO spokesman as saying, "These flights will enhance the alliance's situational awareness and all will take place solely over alliance territory."

In his opening monologue for Fox News' Special Report (3/10, 2.15M), Bill O'Reilly said that, "to be fair, President Obama should be given some time to formulate an effective plan against Putin" because "it's not easy, and...our allies are cowardly." O'Reilly argued that "the way to hurt Russia is to diminish its currency, the ruble...by imposing banking sanctions" and "ordering US financial institutions not to accept the Russian currency." Responding to O'Reilly's remarks, Karl Rove said President Obama deserves "credit" for having "taken three concrete steps," which are providing "economic aid to the Ukrainian government," sending "US Navy vessels into the Black Sea" and "allow[ing] air defense exercises with the Baltic nations to go forward." According to Rove, "All three of these send a signal that the United States is active when the strategy that show control concrete prices."

The Washington Times (3/11, Klimas, 417K) reports that on MSNBC Monday, Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY) "lashed out at former Vice President Dick Cheney, who said Sunday...that...Putin sees President Obama as weak," saying, "Dick Cheney should just keep his mouth shut and stay at home" because "diplomacy is the only option here."

On Fox News' Special Report (3/10, 2.15M), Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer said former Defense Secretary Gates was correct when, on Sunday, he said the US has "no way of getting Putin out of Crimea." Krauthammer added, "I think it's likely that within a week or two, it will be a part of Russia." However, Krauthammer added, "If [Putin] is thinking about going west to Odessa or north to Kharkiv – Russian-speaking areas – we have to make it plain that he's got to stop where he is."

Regarding the US response to the annexation of Crimea, National Journal's Ron Fournier, appearing on Fox News' Special Report (3/10, 2.15M), said, "This is an Administration that likes to see the world as they want it to be rather than as it is." Fournier said President Obama "likes to think...'I'm right about this, and if I lecture Putin enough, Putin will understand.' Well, that's not how people like Putin work."

Politico (3/11, Glueck, 464K) reports that in a speech on Monday in Delaware, former President Clinton "jabbed Russian President Vladimir Putin," saying, "Some people, including the Russian president...think of Ukraine as a giant, important piece on the international chessboard," while "the people underneath get lost."

US Seeks To Build Support For Isolating Russia; EU Moves Towards Sanctions. The AP (3/11, Lee, Pace) reports the Administration is "stepping up its attempts to court China's support for isolating Russia" over its military intervention in Ukraine. While "official comments from China appearing studiously neutral" since the crisis began, President Obama spoke to Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday "in a bid to get Beijing off the fence." But it "remained unclear" whether China would side with the US or with Moscow.

Reuters (3/11, Holland) and the Washington Times (3/11, Wolfgang, 417K) also report on the call, while the Daily Caller (3/11, Munro, 422K) says Obama's "outreach" to Xi "yielded nothing useful," citing Chinese state media accounts of the call. But the Daily Caller said the "White House's description of the conversation, however, painted a rosy picture," saying the two leaders "affirmed their shared interest in reducing tensions and identifying a peaceful resolution to the dispute."

According to another AP (3/11) report, the President also spoke Monday with Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev "seeking to show a united front with world leaders on Ukraine."

Meanwhile, in Brussels on Monday, Reuters (3/11, Baker) reports, the EU moved closer to imposing travel bans, freezing assets and enacting other restrictions on Russia. While a final decision is not expected until a meeting Monday of the EU foreign ministers, an EU official said the moves are likely to be approved.

The New York Times (3/11, Barry, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that with the threat of sanctions looming, some Russian business leaders are "now contemplating the damage that the crisis could inflict on Russia's economy." According to the Times, the "prospect of losing access to Western finance is a frightening thought for Russian business leaders," and some have "wondered whether Mr. Putin had been warned clearly about the magnitude of the possible damage to the economy."

SENATE DEMOCRATS TO HOLD ALL-NIGHT "TALKATHON" TO DRAW ATTENTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The AP (3/11, Daly) reports that a group of "at least 28" Democratic senators are planning to keep the Senate "in session all night to talk about global warming." However, "several Democrats who face tough re-election fights in the fall will not be there," including Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu and Arkansas Sen. Mark Pryor. Despite the move, the AP notes that Senate Democrats have "no plans" to bring climate change legislation to the floor.

The New York Times (3/11, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the "talkathon" was scheduled to go from 6:30 pm on Monday to 9:00 am on Tuesday. The move if the "latest effort" by the group to "elevate the issue of global warming," though they "know that serious climate change legislation stands no chance of passage" in the current Congress, "where many lawmakers in the Republican-majority House deny the science of human-caused global warming."

The Los Angeles Times (3/10, Clozel, 3.07M) says that you "could look at it as a filibuster without the bill." While "some call it a political stunt," the Climate Action Task Force, which organized the event, "insist" it will "raise public awareness about global warming and how to stem it."

Politico (3/11, Goode, 464K) reports that the talkathon "is meant to show that the chamber's Democrats have reached a consensus on the urgent need to address climate change." However, it "also highlights the long odds against achieving legislation on the issue anytime soon."

Reuters (3/11, Ferraro, Volcovici) reports that 32 members of the Democratic caucus have signed up to participate. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, a leading member of the task force, said, "It's time for Congress to wake up and get serious about addressing this issue." He added that the event was the "opening salvo" of an effort to force action on climate change.

The Washington Times (3/11, Klimas, 417K) reports Sen. Bernie Sanders (I) said on MSNBC, "I think what we're trying to do now in terms of tonight is to make the American people aware that the debate about climate change really is over, that the scientific community is virtually unanimous in agreeing that climate change is real, that it is caused by human activities." Meanwhile, Brendan Buck, House Speaker John Boehner's press secretary, tweeted on Monday, "Can't wait to sleep tonight while Democratic senators are talking to themselves."

Roll Call (3/11, Shiner, Subscription Publication, 87K) reports that in addition to Landrieu and Pryor, other "vulnerable" senators up this year that will not speak include Mark Begich of Alaska, Kay Hagan of North Carolina, and John Walsh of Montana. Roll Calls says that "several moderate Democrats" said on Monday "suggested they were not invited to contribute to the event, while GOP campaigns hit Senate Democrats generally for staging such a stand on the floor."

The Huffington Post (3/11, Sheppard, 11.54M) says that the push is "notable," as it was the "Democratic-led Senate that killed climate legislation in 2010, after the House had passed a major cap-and-trade bill the previous year." At the time, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said the measure "didn't have enough votes to move forward," but he has "been taking a more aggressive stance on climate recently."

White House Backs Event. The Hill (3/11, Sink, 194K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that White House spokesman Jay Carney said on Monday that the Administration "absolutely" backs the "talkathon." He added, "We commend those who are participating because it's a very important subject that the president, as you know, is concerned about and has a climate action plan dedicated to addressing."

Milbank Mocks Democrats. In his column for the Washington Post (3/11, 4.28M), Dana Milbank writes that "this may be the first time in the history of the Senate that somebody has filibustered himself." While Milbank says that "seeking action on global warming is a worthy endeavor," the talkathon is "a peculiar way to go about it." Milbank says that if Reid really wants action on the issue, "all he has to do is bring a climate-change bill to the floor." The problem, however, is that "such legislation doesn't have majority support in the Senate."

Keystone Opponents Praise Kerry In Hopes Of Swaying His Decision. Bloomberg News (3/10, Snyder, 1.91M) reports that environmentalists are "praising" Secretary of State John Kerry, hoping that it will persuade him to block the Keystone XL pipeline. Former Obama press secretary Bill Burton, who is aide to a coalition opposed to the project, called Kerry "one of the great climate leaders of his generation," while Dan Weiss, climate strategy director for the Center for American Progress, "put Kerry on par with environmental icons like the naturalist John Muir and anti-pollution writer Rachel Carson." Bloomberg said that the "accolades are piling up" as Kerry "takes a more direct role in Keystone's review."

Heating Prices Expected To Rise As Federal Regulations Force Coal Plant Shuttering. The New York Times (3/11, Wald, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that with the end of the "harshest winter in recent memory" approaching, Americans are receiving their growing natural gas and electricity heating bills. The Times says that "there might not be relief in future winters, as the coal-fired power plants that utilities have relied on to meet the surge in demand are shuttered for environmental reasons." While the "sticker shock" has been particularly severe in the Northeast, with its limited natural gas supplies, it has "spread to other regions of the country, including the Midwest, where utilities have had to draw on more expensive reserves to meet the demand." With coal plants shutting down due to Federal regulations, there could be even "bigger price increases" next year.

USCOC, RELIGIOUS GROUPS PRESSURE HOUSE TO PASS IMMIGRATION REFORM. Politico (3/11, Kim, 464K) reports that conservative groups are "intensifying pressure" on the House GOP to pass immigration reform this year. In "recent weeks," the US Chamber of Commerce, joined by a "broad coalition of Christian leaders," have "flooded Capitol Hill with letters stressing the urgency of immigration reform." While that is the sort of "grassroots lobbying" that would under normal circumstances "delight" immigration activists, but "with an overhaul seeming less likely with each passing day, liberal immigration groups say their allies on the right aren't going far enough." Now, the tension is "deepening" in the "diverse coalition," "threatening to upend the unusual alliance of advocates on the left and right that at one time seemed to ensure that some type of overhaul was inevitable."

Rubio Backs Path To Citizenship. Politico (3/11, Everett, 464K) reports that Sen. Marco Rubio (R), a potential 2016 candidate, speaking at Google's DC headquarters about the economy, was asked by CNSNews about creating a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants. Rubio said, "That's just a fundamental decision the country

will have to make." From his own perspective, Rubio said, "I don't think it's good for the country to have people that are forever permanently barred, who are legally here at this point but are permanently barred as citizens." Rubio "also emphasized that allowing future legal immigrants into the country based on merit rather than family unification will help" spur the economy.

NYTimes Critical Of Suffolk County's Treatment Of Immigrants. In an editorial, the New York Times (3/11, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that a Suffolk County, New York, police officer has been charged with robbing Latino men on Long Island after pulling them over. The Times says that the "accusation is another blot on a county with an ugly record of anti-immigrant hatred and violence." While "immigrant workers in the suburbs, especially the undocumented, are accustomed to low wages and scarce jobs," when "the armed man who steals from them is a police officer — this is a deeper and more disturbing form of rot."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Democrats Stand Up To The Kochs."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/10, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) praises the Democratic offensive against the Koch brothers, saying they have "for too long been passive in the face of vast amounts of corporate money." Democrats have decided "they should at least try to counter the tycoons with some low-cost speech of their own. Democrats may never have the same resources at their disposal — no party should — but they can use their political pulpits to stand up for a few basic principles."

"Harassment Of Troubled State Exchanges." The New York Times (3/11, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), in an editorial, takes issue with Republicans for "their criticisms" regarding the "several states that are experiencing problems enrolling people on their state-run exchanges." The Times says the Republicans' "attacks would be more credible if they showed the slightest desire to help fix the problems" instead of trying "to scare people away from the state websites and to discredit the health care reform law itself."

"Waiting For The Black Box." An editorial in the New York Times (3/11, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that questions surrounding the disappearance of the Malaysia Airlines flight "could remain a mystery until the recovery of the plane's 'black box,'" which raises the question of why black-box data is not "transmitted in real time." The Times notes that the technology to transmit live data via satellite exists but companies have not adopted it due to "the rarity of in-flight disasters, as well as the expense associated with equipment upgrades and more satellite connections."

"Immigrants, Robbed By The Police." In an editorial, the New York Times (3/11, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says that a Suffolk County, New York, police officer has been charged with robbing Latino men on Long Island after pulling them over. The Times says that the "accusation is another blot on a county with an ugly record of anti-immigrant hatred and violence." While "immigrant workers in the suburbs, especially the undocumented, are accustomed to low wages and scarce jobs," when "the armed man who steals from them is a police officer — this is a deeper and more disturbing form of rot."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"New Pressure On Mayor Gray."*** The Washington Post (3/11, 4.28M) editorializes that despite Washington, DC Mayor Vincent Gray's reaction that the latest allegations are "lies," the "weight of evidence suggests that the person not telling the truth is Mr. Gray, who has consistently refused to answer questions, from prosecutors or reporters, about the scheme that helped subvert the 2010 election in which he defeated then-Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (D)." Federal prosecutors "have spent three years in a painstaking probe of the campaign" and have "obtained guilty pleas from eight people, including three longtime friends of Mr. Gray." The Post argues that "there can be no dispute that Mr. Gray's election was tainted" and notes that DC voters "will have to weigh the evidence that has emerged, and that continues to emerge, and decide who is lying and who isn't – and who deserves to be mayor, and who doesn't."

"Syria's Forgotten War." The Washington Post (3/11, 4.28M), in an editorial, says that the Ukraine crisis has benefited Syria's Bashar al-Assad and "diverted attention from the bankruptcy" of the Administration's Syria policy. As evidence the Post points to Syria's "merciless offensive" on Yabroud, as well as its siege of Yarmouk, and its "missing deadlines on the promised destruction of his chemical weapons arsenal." The Post concludes by saying that the situation in Crimea "does not lessen the critical threat to U.S. interests in Syria or excuse the

president's continuing passivity."

"New York's Charter Clash." The Washington Post, (3/11, 4.28M) in an editorial, criticizes New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio for his opposition to charter schools, specifically his decision to expel Success Academy Harlem 4 from "its building, leaving hundreds of parents wondering where their children will attend classes next fall." While the Post agrees with de Blasio in saying that Charter schools "aren't the silver bullet to fixing public education," it says that they can "play an important role, and it's illogical to deny them the support merited by their importance to poor and traditionally neglected students."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Sage Grouse Rebellion."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/11, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) editorializes on possible action by the Interior Department to declare the greater sage grouse and the lesser prairie chicken endangered species. The Journal fears that such a declaration could have a major impact on land use on the prairie, particularly oil and gas production. It's chief concern is that private land that has been the site of most of the booming oil and gas production on the plains could become subject to extensive regulation under the Endangered Species Act, possibly ending further oil and gas development in the Permian Basis of Texas and North Dakota's Bakken Shale. The Journal notes that leaders in states that would be affected by such a listing including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid are proposing alternative strategies to improve the situation of the birds.

"The Medicare Drug Benefit Revolt." The Wall Street Journal (3/11, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, makes the case that Medicare Part D, which was Championed by the Bush Administration, has a more sustainable funding model than the Affordable Care Act, and notes that it has cost approximately 45% less that was initially anticipated in 2003.

"The Paranoid Style In Turkish Politics." The Wall Street Journal (3/11, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial on Turkey and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's efforts to restrict access to the Internet in order to combat his opponents' use of social media such as YouTube and Facebook, says that these efforts are moving Turkey closer to authoritarianism, and making it more like Iran than like its fellow NATO members. The Journal urges President Obama to urge Erdogan not to follow this path to becoming more like Iran.

"Khodorkovsky In Kiev." The Wall Street Journal (3/11, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, welcomes the visit to Kiev from billionaire Russian oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who has emerged as among the Putin government's fiercest critics since being released in December from a Russian jail after serving a ten-year sentence for tax fraud. The Journal says Khodorkovsky told a crowd in Kiev that "Russian propaganda has been telling lies, as always," and insisted that "there aren't any fascists or Nazis here." The Journal also notes that Khodorkovsky asserted that "Russia and Ukraine have a common, shared European path of development."

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Lead Is Found In Soil Near Exide
Missing Plane Defies Search Methods
At Crossroads After Killings
Cartel Boss Had Mystic Persona, Large Following
Pacific Palisades Hoping Change Won't Kill Charm

Wall Street Journal:
Congress To Investigate GM Recall
Stolen Passports Show Gaps In Air Security Around Globe
Muni Bond Costs Hit Investors In Wallet

New York Times:
For Families Of Missing On Airliner, Memories Mix With Fading Hope
Faulting Army, Judge Puts Off Assault Case

Even Before Fort Lee Lane Closings, Port Authority Was A Christie
Titans in Russia Fear New Front In Ukraine Crisis
Yen-Pinching Undercuts Japan's Push Against Years of Deflation
For Hateful Comic In France, Muzzle Becomes A Megaphone

Washington Post:
Smithsonian Picks Its Next Leader
Bailed Out On Loans, But Still Buried
As Primary Nears, The Race Becomes A Referendum
Hunt For Missing Airliner Widens Missing Plane Search Widened
Prosecutors: Vincent Gray Knew
Eastern Ukraine Is In "Chaos," Russia Says

Financial Times:
Balls Plans £6Bn Tax Raid On Wealthy
Jardines Seeks To Demote London Listing
Fyffes-Chiquita Deal Forges Banana Leader
Imperial Fires Up E-Cigarette Legal Battle
Seplat Plans IPOs In London And Lagos
Explosive Growth At Alibaba's Online Fund
Bull Run Stretched And Primed For A Fall

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Malaysian Flight Disappearance; Malaysian Flight-Details; Malaysian Flight-Cause; Califomia Earthquake; Sandy Hook Shooter-Father Interview; Negative Word Campaign-"Bossy"
CBS: Malaysian Flight Disappearance; Malaysian Flight-Possible Causes; Malaysian Flight-Analyst; Secretary Kerry-Putin Invitation; Sandy Hook Shooter-Father Interview; Health-Alzheimer's Predictive Blood Test; Colorado Marijuana Sales; Florida-Stand Your Ground Law; NASA-Space Effects On Human Body
NBC: Malaysian Flight Disappearance; Malaysian Flight Analysis; Malaysian Flight-Passenger Families; Ukraine Crisis; Syria-Humanitarian Crisis; Sandy Hook Shooter-Father Interview; Malaysian Flight-Technology

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: President Obama-Ukraine Crisis; World Cup-Possible Russia Exclusion; Malaysian Flight Disappearance; NHL Game Postponed-Player Collapsed
CBS: Malaysian Flight Disappearance; NASA-ISS Astronauts Return; EU-Russia Pipeline Talks Halted; Senate-Military Assault Bill; Colorado-Marijuana Profits; Sbarro-Bankruptcy
NPR: Malaysian Flight Disappearance; EU-Russian Gas Pipeline Talks Halted; Pope Francis-Youth Retreat In South Korea; Dow Up; Boston Marathon Security Increase; 2012 Columbia Gas Pipeline Explosion Cause; Military Assault Charges Plea Deal
FOX: Senate-Military Assault Bill; Malaysian Flight Disappearance; UN Security Council Meeting-Ukraine; NHL-Hockey Player Collapse

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; designates the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands as a national monument, Oval Office; departs the White House en route Joint Base Andrews; arrives New York. John F. Kennedy International Airport; attends a DNC event, New York, New York; delivers remarks and answers questions at a DSCC Event; departs New York. John F. Kennedy International Airport; arrives Joint Base Andrews; arrives the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Meets with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia; travels to the National Congress Building in Valparamso, Chile; attends the Inauguration of Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet; travels to Cerro Castillo; attends a lunch hosted by President Bachelet; departs Santiago, Chile.

US Senate: March 10 – 11. 10 p.m. SENATORS – CLIMATE CHANGE — Senators from the Senate Climate Action Task Force will be holding the Senate floor to urge action on climate change. A significant number of Senators are expected to participate throughout the night. Participants: Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.; Senator Dick Durbin, D-Ill.; Senator Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.; Senator Patty Murray, D-Wash.; Senator Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii; Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I.; Senator Barbara Boxer, D-Calif.; Senator Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.; Senator Ron Wyden, D-Ore.; Senator Bill Nelson, D-Fla.; Senator Maria Cantwell, D-Wash.; Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md.; Senator Bernard Sanders, I-Vt.; Senator Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.; Senator Mark Udall, D-Colo.; Senator Tom Udall, D-N.M.; Senator Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H.; Senator Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.; Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; Senator Al Franken, D-Minn.; Senator Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.; Senator Chris Murphy, D-Conn.; Senator Martin Heinrich, D-N.M.; Senator Angus King, I-Maine; Senator Tim Kaine, D-Va.; Senator Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Senator Edward J. Markey, D-Mass.; Senator Cory Booker, D-N.J.

12 p.m. MIKULSKI, BURR, HARKIN, ALEXANDER – CHILD CARE — Joined by advocates and families, Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Richard Burr (R-NC), Tom Harkin (D-IA), and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) will hold a news conference to urge Senate passage of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014, a bipartisan reauthorization that will "expand access to and improve the quality of child care for the more than 1.5 million children who benefit from the federal child care subsidy program". Cathy Rivera, working mother of two, Washington, D.C.; Margaret Williams, Executive Director, Maryland Family Network. Location: U.S. Capitol, S-115.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Meeting to consider the nominations of: General Paul J. Selva, USAF for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States Transportation Command; and Vice Admiral Michael S. Rogers, USN to be admiral and Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Services/Commander, United States Cyber Command. (The nominees will be present.) Location: G50 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee Hearing, "Finding the Right Capital Regulations for Insurers." Witnesses. Panel 1: Susan Collins (R-ME), United States Senator. Panel 2: Michael W. Mahaffey, Chief of Risk Officer, Nationwide Insurance; Virginia M. Wilson, Chief Financial Officer, TIAA-CREF; H. Rodgin Cohen, Senior Chairman, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP; Aaron Klein, Director, Financial Regulatory Reform Initiative, Bipartisan Policy Center. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=9974bd4e-f8ab-4e9a-940e-bfa8def6e737 Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging hearing on Access and Cost: What the US Health Care System Can Learn from Other Countries. Witnesses: Panel I: Tsung-Mei Cheng, MA , Health Policy Research Analyst, Woodrow Wilson School of Public Health, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ; Ching-Chuan Yeh, MD , former Minister of Health for Taiwan; Professor, School of Public Health, College of Medicine, Tzu-Chi University, Hualien City, Taiwan; Sally C. Pipes , President and CEO, Pacific Research Institute, San Francisco, CA; Danielle Martin, MD, MPP , Vice-President Medical Affairs & Health System Solutions, Women's College Hospital, Toronto, Canada; Jakob Kjellberg, MSc, Professor, Program Director for Health, KORA-Danish Institute for Local and Regional Government Research, Copenhagen, Denmark; David Hogberg, PhD , Health Care Policy Analyst, National Center for Public Policy Research, Washington, D.C; Victor G. Rodwin, PhD, MPH , Professor of Health Policy and Management, Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, New York University, New York, NY. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=8acab996-5056-a032-522e-e39ca45fcfbe Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: — Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight hearings to examine whistleblower retaliation at the Hanford nuclear site. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/fco/hearings/whistleblower-retaliation-at-the-hanford-nuclear-site Location: 628 Dirksen.

10:15 a.m. JUDICARY — "Open Government and Freedom of Information: Reinvigorating the Freedom of Information Act for the Digital Age." Witnesses: Panel I: Melanie Pustay, Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC; Miriam Nisbet, Director, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. Panel II: Amy Bennett, Assistant Director, OpenTheGovernment.org, Washington, DC; Dr. David Cuillier, Director, Associate Professor, The University of Arizona School of Journalism, President, Society for Professional Journalists, On behalf of The

Sunshine in Government Initiative, Tucson, AZ; Daniel J. Metcalfe, Adjunct Professor of Law, Executive Director, Collaboration on Government Secrecy, American, University Washington College of Law, Washington, DC. Location: 226 Dirksen.

2 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed Hearing onIntelligence Matters. Location: 219 Hart.

2:15 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on emerging threats and capabilities meets to receive testimony on U.S. Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: Admiral William H. McRaven, USN, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command; Michael D. Lumpkin, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/us-special-operations-command_03/11/2014 Location: 222 Russell.

2:15 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Business meeting to consider Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing, done at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in Rome, Italy, on November 22, 2009 (the "Agreement") (Treaty Doc.112-04) Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, done at Auckland, New Zealand, November 14, 2009 (Treaty Doc.113-01), Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, done at Tokyo on February 24, 2012, and signed by the United States on May 2, 2012 (Treaty Doc.113-02), Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, adopted on September 28, 2007, at the twenty-ninth Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) (Treaty Doc.113-03), S.Res.361, recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression in the People's Republic of China and urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to take meaningful steps to improve freedom of expression as fitting of a responsible international stakeholder, S.Res.365, deploring the violent repression of peaceful demonstrators in Venezuela, calling for full accountability for human rights violations taking place in Venezuela, and supporting the right of the Venezuelan people to the free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy, original Ukraine legislation, and the nominations of Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs, Robert A. Wood, of New York, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Jamaica, John L. Estrada, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Mark Gilbert, of Florida, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa, and Matthew H. Tueller, of Utah, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen, all of the Department of State. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-03-11-2014 Location: S-116.

2:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Legislative Branch Subcommittee Hearing, "FY 2015 Budget Requests for the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office." Witnesses: Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General, United States Government Accountability Office; Dr. Douglas Elmendorf, Director, United States Congressional Budget Office. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/events.cfm?date=3/11/2014 Location: 192 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce hearing on A More Efficient And Effective Government: Improving the Regulatory Framework. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/fpfw/hearings/a-more-efficient-and-effective-government-improving-the-regulatory-framework Location: 419 Dirksen.
US House: 12 p.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED. Location: H-144, The Capitol.

1 p.m. NEWTOWN – GUN VIOLENCE — Members of Congress will hold a press event welcoming Team 26, a group of cyclists who will be riding from Newtown, CT, to Washington, D.C. Team 26 is riding in honor of victims of gun violence from Newtown and across the country and to urge Congress to act to prevent gun violence. The cyclists include parents of children who attend or attended Sandy Hook Elementary School, Omar Samaha who lost his sister Reema at the Virginia Tech shooting, and professional and top amateur cyclists from the U.S. National Team and Junior World Championships National Team. They will be joined by Rev. Gary Hall, the Dean of the National Cathedral. Location: West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

12 p.m. — The House will meet morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules: 1) H.R. 311 – The Farmers Undertake Environmental Land Stewardship (FUELS) Act (Sponsored by Rep. Rick Crawford / Transportation and Infrastructure Committee) 2) H.R. 1814 – Equitable Access to Care and Health (EACH) Act (Sponsored by Rep. Aaron Schock / Ways and Means Committee) 3) H.R. 3474 – Hire More Heroes Act of 2013 (Sponsored by Rep. Rodney Davis / Ways and Means Committee) 4) H.R. 3979 – Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Lou Barletta / Ways and Means Committee) 5) H.R. 4160 – Keep the Promise to Seniors Act of 2014 (Sponsored by Rep. Renee Ellmers / Energy and Commerce Committee / Ways and Means Committee) 6) H.R. 3675 – Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2013, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Greg Walden / Energy and Commerce Committee) 7) H.Res. 499 – Condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Ed Royce / Foreign Affairs Committee / Ways and Means Committee / Judiciary Committee)

8) H.Res. 506 – Honoring the life and legacy of Vaclav Havel by directing the House of Representatives Fine Arts Board to provide for the display of a bust of Vaclav Havel in the United States Capitol (Sponsored by Rep. Ed Royce / House Administration Committee)

11 a.m. SMALL BUSINESS – FIELD HEARING — Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce will hold a field hearing titled, Underserved Small Businesses: Providing Access to Federal Programs. Witnesses: Bill Imada, Chairman and CEO, IW Group, West Hollywood, CA – Testifying on behalf of the Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship (ACE); Joyce Moy, Executive Director, Asian American and Asian Research Institute, Queens College, New York, NY; Michele Chang, Acting Chief of Staff, United States Small Business Administration, Washington, DC. The hearing will be held at Queens College, Rosenthal Library, Room 230, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Queens, NY. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=369291

1:30 p.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – FIELD HEARING — Hearing on Modernizing the Aviation System: Leveraging the Assets of the FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center. Witnesses: Panel I: Michael Whitaker, Deputy Administrator and Chief NextGen Officer, Federal Aviation Administration; Dennis Filler, Director, William J. Hughes Technical Center, Federal Aviation Administration. Panel II: Cynthia Castillo, President and CEO, CSSI, Inc.; Melvin Davis, National Representative for NextGen, National Air Traffic Controllers Association; Pete Dumont, President and CEO, Air Traffic Control Association; Ben Gielow, General Counsel and Senior Government Relations Manager , Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International. IMPORTANT: RSVPs for media and the general public are being handled by Representative LoBiondos office in Mays Landing: (609) 625-5008 or (800) 471-4450. For security reasons, RSVPs are required with a deadline of 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 7th. Those who RSVP must arrive between 12:00 noon and 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11th. The public will enter and check-in at Gate 18/Amelia Earhart Boulevard, just prior to the Security Operations Center (SOC) building. The media reports to the Security Operations Center (SOC), just prior to the main gate of the William J. Hughes facility to check-in. A valid U.S. government issued picture ID is required for access. Those who do not RSVP are not guaranteed access to the federal facility. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=369763 Location: William J. Hughes Technical Center, Egg Harbor Township, NJ.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Joint Subcommittee (Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations; Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats) Briefing and Hearing: The Northern Ireland Peace Process Today: Attempting to Deal with the Past. Witnesses: Panel I: Richard N. Haass, Chair, Panel of Parties in the Northern Ireland Executive. Panel II: Geraldine Finucane, Wife of slain human rights attorney Patrick Finucane; Eugene Devlin, Victim of the Military Reaction Force; Julia Hall, Expert on Criminal Justice and Counter-Terrorism in Europe, Amnesty International. BRIEFER: The Baroness Nuala O'Loan, Former Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (Appearing via videoconference). http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/joint-subcommittee-briefing-and-hearing-northern-ireland-peace-process-today-attempting-deal Location: 2172 Rayburn.

4 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Homeland Security Budget Hearing, Department of Homeland Security. Witness: Jeh Johnson, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security. http://appropriations.house.

gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371296 Location: 2359 Rayburn.

4 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Homeland Security subcommittee Budget Hearing – Department of Homeland Security. Witness: Jeh Johnson, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

5 p.m. RULES — Full committee hearing on H.R. 3973Faithful Execution of the Law Act of 2014; H.R. 4138ENFORCE the Law Act of 2014. http://rules.house.gov/news/announcement/meeting-announcement-hr-3973-and-hr-4138 Location: H-313 The Capitol.
Other: March 8 – 12. NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE — National League of cities holds their 2014 Congressional City Conference. Keynote Speaker : Gov. Ed Rendell, former Governor of Pennsylvania, Building America's Future Presentation of Findings, Tech Jobs, Opportunity and Metro Growth: Michael Mandel, Chief Economic Strategist, PPI, Infrastructure Investment and Economic Growth: Diana Carew, Economist, PPI, Investing for Growth: A Mayors Perspective; Chris Coleman, President of the National League of Cities, Mayor of St. Paul; Mick Comett, Mayor of Oklahoma City; Scott Smith, Mayor of Mesa, Arizona. Moderator: Fawn Johnson, National Journal. http://www.nlc.org/build-skills-and-networks/education-and-training/event-calendar/congressional-city-conference 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. "Investing in Jobs and Infrastructure: Twin Keys for Metro Growth". Keynote Speaker : Gov. Ed Rendell, former Governor of Pennsylvania, Building America's Future Presentation of Findings, Tech Jobs, Opportunity and Metro Growth: Michael Mandel, Chief Economic Strategist, PPI, Infrastructure Investment and Economic Growth: Diana Carew, Economist, PPI, Investing for Growth: A Mayors Perspective; Chris Coleman, President of the National League of Cities, Mayor of St. Paul; Ralph Becker, Second Vice President of the National League of Cities, Mayor of Salt Lake City; Mick Comett, Mayor of Oklahoma City; Scott Smith, Mayor of Mesa, Arizona. Moderator: Fawn Johnson, National Journal. Contacts: Steven Chlapecka, schlapecka@ppionline.org, 870.456.0398 or Cody Tucker, ctucker@ppionline.org, 949.874.5074. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. Washington.

March 10 – 11. 2014 APTA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE — 2014 American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legislative Conference. Speakers include: Anthony Foxx, secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC; Therese McMillan, deputy administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Washington, DC; Joseph C. Szabo, administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, Washington, DC; Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC; Bill Shuster (R-PA), chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives. Register with: to APTA Director-Media, Virginia Miller, at vmiller@apta.com 9 a.m. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committees Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, will speak. Location: JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.

March 10 – 11. IBTTA LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT — The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) holds their "Summit on Legislation, Policy and Infrastructure Finance" with Gov. Ed Rendell, Co-Chair, Building Americas Future to Address Summit; Tolling Advocates and Experts to Lobby Capitol Hill and Hear from Members of Congress, other Transportation Leaders. http://www.ibtta.org/events/summit-legislation-policy-infrastructure-finance CONTACT: Kristofer Eisenla, LUNA+EISENLA media kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com 5/8 202.670.5747 (mobile) Location: The Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel, 415 New Jersey Avenue, NW.

March 10 – 12. 2014 AFCEA HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE — 2014 AFCEA Homeland Security Conference "4th Generation DHS: Remaining Ever-Vigilant". AGENDA: http://www.afcea.org/events/homeland/14/schedule.asp For more information: http://www.afcea.org/events/homeland/14/ 10:15 a.m. Panel: Role of Laboratories in Homeland Security with Dr. Daniel Gerstein, Acting Under Secretary, Science & Technology, Department of Homeland Security. Moderator: Ira Reese (confirmed), Executive Director, Laboratories and Scientific Services Bureau, Customs and Border Protection. 4 p.m. Panel: Continuous Diagnostics Monitoring. Moderator: John Streufert (invited), Director, Federal Network Resilience, Department of Homeland Security. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Atrium Ballroom.

March 11 – 13. 2014 NCAI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WINTER SESSION — The National Congress of American Indians hold their 2014 Executive Council Winter Session. http://www.ncai.org/events/2014/03/11/2014-ncai-executive-council-winter-session For full agenda: http://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/ncai-events/2014_Agenda_Draft_2_20_14.pdf 10:30 a.m. Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Mark Mazur Remarks at

the 2014 National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council Winter Session Location: The Westin Washington City Center, 1400 M Street Northwest.

March 11 – 13. WITH SYRIA – 3RD ANNIVERSARY EVENTS — Global coalition of over 50 NGOs, charities, civil society, humanitarian and human rights organizations from more than thirty countries including Save the Children, Oxfam, MercyCorps, Care International, Amnesty, International Rescue Committee, World Vision and many more. Bansky, Edis Alba, Elbow, Bill Melendez, Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) ; others. Events held by WithSyria to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the Syrian conflict. 8 p.m. WithSyria in Candlelight at the White House. 8:30 a.m. – 4:10 p.m. SYMANTEC GOVERNMENT SYMPOSIUM — "Resilient Security for Today's World." http://symantecgovsymposium.com/2014/ 9 a.m. Keynote Address: Leon Panetta, Secretary of Defense (2011-2013), Director, CIA (2009-2011) & Co-founder, Panetta Institute for Public Policy. 11:25 a.m. Principal Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division's Computer Crime & Intellectual Property Section Richard Downing will participate in a panel discussion on "Fighting Cybercrime in a Borderless World." 3:15 p.m. National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Under Secretary Suzanne Spaulding will deliver remarks on current cybersecurity challenges. Location: Renaissance Washington Hotel, 999 9th St. NW.

AIR FORCE BREAKFAST – MARTIN — 7 a.m. – 9 a.m. March AFA Air Force Breakfast Series with Major General James F. Martin, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller. http://www.afa.org/AFA/EVENTS/AFAAFBreakfastProgram Location: Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204.

NPC – REP. WALDEN — 10 a.m. U.S. Representative Greg Walden (R-OR), Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, will discuss the political climate ahead of the 2014 Congressional election at a National Press Club Newsmakers new conference. Location: National Press Club, Zenger room, 529 14th Street NW.

CNP – SENATOR DURBIN — 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) will give a speech on how America can maintain its competitive edge in biomedical research and scientific innovations at the Center for National Policy. Contact: Stephanie Dreyer, Media Relations Director, Truman National Security Project & Center for National Policy. Cell: 914.715.6087, Office: 202.216.9723 ext 2320. Location: Center for National Policy, 1250 I St NW, Suite 500.

CFR – CIA DIRECTOR — 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. On the record event: John O. Brennan, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, will discuss challenges and opportunities for the American intelligence community and reflect on his first year as CIA director. Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F Street NW.

NPC – HONOR VIOLENCE — 2 p.m. In an effort to draw attention to the prevalence of honor violence — including forced marriage, disfigurement and female genital mutilation (FGM) — and to promote passage of the International Violence Against Women Act now pending in the U.S. House of Representatives, Muslim women and human rights activists will address the issue at a National Press Club Newsmakers news conference. Speaking will be author Raheel Raza, president of the Council for Muslims Facing Tomorrow and founder of Canada' Forum 4 Learning, and Manda Zand Ervin, an Iranian political refugee who is dedicated to publicizing the plight of Iranian women under the Islamic Sharia laws. They will be joined by Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), sponsor of the bipartisan International Violence Against Women Act, (IVAWA), and Kiersten Stewart of Futures Without Violence. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

HERITAGE – ASIA — 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. "ASIA 2014: The View from Capitol Hill." Featuring Jamie Fly, Counselor for Foreign and National Security Affairs, Senator Marco Rubio; Nilmini Gunaratne Rubin, Senior Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Brett Doyle, Legislative Assistant, Senator Pat Toomey. Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE

PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK SCREENING — 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. HBO, The Shriver Report, and CAP to Host Exclusive Premiere Screening of 'Paycheck to Paycheck. Speakers: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). Opening remarks: Karen Skelton, CEO and editor-in-chief, The Shriver Report; Nancy Abraham, senior vice president of documentary programming, HBO. Panelists: Katrina Gilbert, subject of the film; Phil Acord, executive director, Childrens Home/Chambliss Shelter; Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, executive director, Moms Rising. Moderator: Neera Tanden, president, Center for American Progress. Location: Landmarks E Street Cinema, E Street between 10th

and 11th Streets, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "That's right, [Russian President Vladimir] Putin is really freaking everybody out right now. In fact, there's kind of a standoff with Russia over the situation in Ukraine. And on Saturday, President Obama called the leaders of Britain, France and Italy to talk about the crisis. Which also marked the first time ever that world leaders actually knew Obama was listening to them on the phone."

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, Ukraine's interim Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk will travel to the US this week to talk about what's going on in his country. And also to, you know, buy a house and move here with his family."

Jimmy Fallon: "During her speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference, Sarah Palin reworked Dr. Seuss' 'Green Eggs and Ham' to make it a parody of Obamacare. Now, of course, this upset President Obama. But the one person it really upset – Sam I Am. He was so annoyed that she quoted Dr. Seuss that he issued a rebuttal of his own. Yep, he said, 'I do not like the speech you spoke. The speech you spoke was quite a joke. I found your words were lacking taste, you first hit copy then hit paste. I would not like this on a beach, so next time write your own [expletive] speech.'"

David Letterman: "US is talking about imposing sanctions on Russia. Vladimir Putin, here's what he had to say about the sanctions. He said if the United States imposes sanctions on Russia, they will hit back like a boomerang. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie said, 'Meringue, did I hear someone say meringue?"

David Letterman: "Another evil dictator, Kim Jong-un – they held an election in North Korea, Kim Jong-un was reelected and it was a squeaker. He received 100 percent of the vote. And they say when the absentee ballots are counted, that percentage could even go higher. No one has ever won North Korea without winning Ohio. And he humiliated his opponent, Mitt Jong Romney."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 13, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Mar 13, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS NEWLY DESIGNATED NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Federal News Radio (3/12, 11K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was scheduled to visit the Point Arena-Stornetta, a day after President Obama designated the "1,600 acres along the Mendocino County coast as a national monument."

The Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (3/12, 156K) reports that "about 300 people gathered atop an ocean bluff in Point Arena on Wednesday to celebrate the country's newest national monument and applaud the community whose advocacy helped persuade President Barack Obama to ensure the coastal expanse was protected

forever." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "attended the celebration with a host of local advocates, land conservation representatives and federal officials." Jewell, "wiping tears from her eyes, sang and clapped along with the audience during the students' rendition of 'This Land is Your Land.'" Asked about it later, Jewell said, "Kids. Beautiful landscape. Our future. Powerful stuff."

The Lake County (CA) News (3/13, 530) reports that Jewell said, "The rugged coastline of Point Arena-Stornetta is simply breathtaking and a deserving addition to the California Coastal National Monument. President Obama is supporting the community's vision to confserve this landscape and, in doing so, strengthening the local economy through increased tourism and outdoor recreation."

Also reporting on the designation are the New York Times (3/11, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), the Mendocino (CA) Beacon (3/13), the Fort Bragg (CA) Advocate-News (3/13, 16K), the Willits (CA) News (3/13, 10K), and the Environment News Service (3/12, 1K).

Amateur Photographer Credited With Sparking California Coastline Protection Drive. The CBS Evening News (3/12, story 11, 2:40, Pelley, 5.58M) ran a feature on Bob Wick, who gets "much of the credit" for President Obama's declaration this week of the California Coastal National Monument. CBS' Bill Whitaker said the Bureau of Land Management wilderness specialist "moonlights as an amateur photographer," and his "powerful images propelled the 2 1/2-year grassroots campaign to protect this rugged stretch of Mendocino County coastline."

SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS WATER PLANT, MEETS WITH FARMERS TO DISCUSS DROUGHT. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (3/13, 731K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "toured a federal water storage and pumping plant in Byron...to get a firsthand look at a key piece of California's water infrastructure as the state grapples with a historic drought." Jewell was joined by California Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird and UBOR Acting Commissioner Lowell Pimley during the afternoon tour of the C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant. Jewell "reiterated the administration's commitment to work with the state to provide relief and fiscal support as the drought continues." The story was also picked up by the Contra Costa (CA) Times (3/13, 302K) and the Inside Bay Area (CA) (3/13, 47K).

The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (3/13, 206) reports that Jewell "met behind closed doors with water contractors – the organizations that buy water from the federal irrigation project – but not with representatives of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, she met with reporters in an outdoor press conference in front of the incoming Mendota Canal." According to the article, "the closest protesters from the Delta environmental group Restore the Delta got were at the front gate showing their Save the Delta and other twin tunnel protest signs as the Jewell cavalcade of cars entered the pumping station."

The Bay Area (CA) Indymedia (3/12, 2K) reports that Jewell "affirmed" the Obama Administration's "support for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan to build the peripheral tunnels – and failed to meet with Delta advocates protesting the tunnel plan." Jewell said, "The Administration is committed to long-term water supply improvements and environmental restoration in California. We are working closely with the state to complete the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and take other important actions that will achieve the dual goals of a reliable water supply for California and a healthy Bay Delta ecosystem that supports the state's economy."

Also reporting on the story is the Antioch (CA) Herald (3/13, 81K).

LOUISIANA REPUBLICANS PRESSURE SEN. LANDRIEU TO OPPOSE NOMINATION OF RHEA SUH. Politico (3/13, Guillén, 464K) reports that Sen. David Vitter and Rep. Bill Cassidy are "pressuring" Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Mary Landrieu against advancing the nomination of Rhea Suh to be assistant Interior secretary for fish, wildlife and parks. The two have "been working to paint a potential Landrieu vote for Suh as a vote against Louisiana." According to the article, "in a letter Tuesday to the state's Republican lawmakers, Vitter says that the best chance to stop Suh's nomination is at the committee level, since Democrats changed the rules last year for nomination votes on the floor."

LAS CRUCES BUSINESSES USE PROPOSED MONUMENT NAME IN MARKETING EFFORTS. KDBC-TV El Paso, TX (3/13, 139) reports that "Las Cruces vendors and merchants have begun using the branding opportunities of the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument." For instance, Beck's Coffee, El Luchador, Milagro Coffee and Happy Dog are "using the monument name to market special coffee roasts and

food." Lucas Herndon, executive director of Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, said, "We're really hoping we see something positive coming out very soon." However, the National Association of Conservation Districts has sent a letter to President Obama and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "stating the monument would threaten the ability to implement and maintain conservation initiatives to improve watershed function – which could ultimately jeopardize public health and the natural resource base."

INTERIOR, EPA CRITICIZE KEY PART OF PROPOSED ILLINANA EXPRESSWAY. The Crain's Chicago Business (3/12, 158K) reports that the Interior Department and the EPA "want changes in a key portion of the proposed Illiana Expressway, a stance likely not enough to kill the already controversial road but one that could complicate its finances and spark a legal fight." In separate comments filed this week, the two Federal agencies "objected to a proposed Illiana interchange with State Route 53 in Will County." Both agencies said the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie would be "jeopardized" by the big road, and "both recommended the state instead 'choose Design Option 6,' which calls for no intersection with State Route 53 at all."

FEDERAL OFFICIALS APPROVE WETLANDS PERMIT FOR ROAD CONNECTING ALPINE OIL FIELD TO NUIQSUT. The Alaska Dispatch (3/12, 7K) reports that Federal officials have approved "a wetlands permit for the 6-mile gravel ribbon that will connect the village of Nuiqsut with ConocoPhillips' Alpine oil field near the eastern edge of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska." Isaac Nukapigak, president of the Kuukpik Corp., said that "the Alaska Native village corporation for the Inupiaq village will build the gravel road – at a cost of $10 million to $13 million – to improve hunting for caribou and reaching fishing sites in the summer, and to access jobs in the oil patch, said Nukapigak." Sen. Mark Begich "issued a press release that noted that he'd pushed for the road, including meeting with EPA administrator Gina McCarthy and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell."

CACI WINS $95 MILLION INTERIOR CONTRACT. The Washington Technology (3/12, Hoover, 118K) reports that CACI International has "won a $95 million contract to continue providing operations and maintenance services to the Interior Department's Business Integration Office." Under the terms of the agreement, CACI will "provide O&M support for the SAP-based Financial and Business Management System run by DOI's Business Integration Office, which incorporates the majority of DOI's financial management functions into one system."

SEN. MURKOWSKI CRITICIZED FOR SUPPORT OF KING COVE ROAD. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (3/13, Starr, 11.54M), Mark Starr, Program Director, Vet Voice Foundation, criticizes Sen. Lisa Murkowski for pushing for the King Cove road. Starr notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "agreed with prior common-sense assessments by Congress and the Department of the Interior: a new road would simply be too damaging to Izembek's habitat and our conservation heritage." He suggests that Murkowski's "energy would be better spent advocating for investments that benefit all Americans, such as an enhanced military investment and force structure in Alaska, or the conservation of our natural resources."

FEDERAL LAND DESIGNATIONS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (3/12, 90K), Ron Poertner, secretary of the Missouri River Stewards, warns against "the preservation mania we see in Washington, especially because every designation represents new financial obligations in perpetuity for taxpayers." He argues that "it makes little sense to add to America's $17 trillion dollar debt and to further encumber our federal land-managing agencies with more obligations while they struggle with multibillion-dollar maintenance backlogs."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

JACKSONVILLE MAYOR BROWN APPOINTED TO NPS ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE. WJXT-TV Jacksonville, FL (3/13, 112K) reports that Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown was "appointed to a newly-formed committee" of the NPS Advisory Board Wednesday. According to the article, the Federal agency "wants to be more involved in urban communities and hopes the new committee will help its efforts by offering new strategies to better serve cities and figure out funding on the local level." Brown said, "Jacksonville's partnership with the National Park Service is very important and I am honored by this appointment. In Jacksonville, we appreciate the special value of our parks to our community. They are vital to our quality of life and they help define Jacksonville as one of America's great cities." NPS Superintendent Barbara Goodman said, "Mayor Brown will provide valuable input to the Urban Committee, which will help the National Park Service to more effectively engage the

country's diverse urban populations as the park service plans for its centennial in 2016."

LAKE SUPERIOR ICE CAVES TO CLOSE. The AP (3/13) reports that the NPS announced Wednesday that it will close access to the ice caves on Lake Superior near the Apostle Islands due to ice melt. According to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Superintendent Bob Krumenaker, "access to the caves will close for the season no later than Sunday night." While the NPS "anticipates conditions to allow access through this weekend, rangers will monitor conditions very closely and close the area sooner if necessary."

Also reporting on the story are the St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (3/13, 540K) and the MinnPost (3/13, 6K).

NILE CROCODILES REMOVED FROM EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (3/12, 210K) reports that Everglades National Park, and "partners including the University of Florida, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Swamp Apes (a volunteer organization), worked together over the weekend to capture a Nile crocodile that was reported in Everglades National Park, in the Chekika area of the park, which is currently closed to the public." Superintendent Dan Kimball said, "Exotic reptiles continue to challenge the health of south Florida ecosystems we are charged with protecting. Unfortunately federal and state agencies in Florida spend over 80 million dollars a year to remove invasive plants and animals to protect our natural resources. Our ongoing partnership with federal and state agencies and volunteers to remove exotic plants and animals from protected areas is essential!"

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PLAN. The Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (3/12, 305K) reports that Olympic National Park will "have six public meetings to review its next steps in its Wilderness Stewardship Plan, the park announced Wednesday." Park superintendent Sarah Creachbaum said, "The public's review and comment at this key stage of the planning process will ensure that we are developing the best possible future for the Olympic Wilderness. Moreover, we want to ensure that we have accurately heard and addressed the public's comments as we move forward in developing the plan."

WILLIAMSBURGH SAVINGS BANK RESTORED. The New York Times (3/13, Dunlap, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Williamsburgh Savings Bank has "been turned into an event space." According to the article, an incentive for the developers of "abjectly decrepit building" is "a credit against federal and state income taxes of an amount equaling up to 40 percent of their qualifying construction costs." The article notes that "this tax policy is intended to encourage substantial rehabilitation of commercial properties, like this one, that are on the National Register of Historic Places."

ST. AUGUSTINE WATERWORKS PUMPING STATION ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER. The Florida Times-Union (3/12, 427K) reports that the St. Augustine Waterworks Pumping Station at 184 San Marco Ave. has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SENATORS INTRODUCE BILL TO REPAY STATES AFTER SHUTDOWN. Additional coverage of the bill introduced to repay states for funds used to open national parks during the government shutdown was provided by the St. George (UT) News (3/12, 3K) and the Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (3/13, 94K).

PROTECTION URGED FOR NATIONAL PARKS. In a piece for the Pacific Standard (3/13), Casey N. Cep writes that "as their centennial approaches, it's time to remember why the National Parks are so worth protecting." Cep claims that "one of the reasons the NPS needs additional staff is to protect the parks from those of us who would enjoy them in our own perverse ways, whether it's carving and painting graffiti on 150-year-old cactuses in Arizona's Saguaro National Park or poaching the burls and bunions of 1,000-year-old redwoods in California's Redwood National and State Parks." Moreover, Cep argue sthat "there are also economic reasons to establish such parks." Cep notes that the NPS "returns 10 dollars for every dollar of taxpayer investment, not only collecting admission and camping fees, but filling surrounding hotels and restaurants while emptying the shelves of local grocery stores and sporting goods outfitters."

"ECONOMIC ENGINES" OF NATIONAL PARKS TOUTED. In an op-ed for the Middlesex County (NJ) Home News Tribune (3/12, 134K), Michele S. Byers, the executive director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, writes that "parks — non-commercial by their very nature — are also powerful economic engines, contributing millions of dollars to local economies." According to a new study by the NPS, Byers notes, "national parks

across the country drew more than 280 million visitors in 2012, generating $26 billion in economic activity in 'gateway' communities and supporting 243,000 jobs." According to Byers, "without national parks, these business sectors would suffer, as demonstrated by the federal government shutdown last October."

TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT URGED. In a piece for the Madison (VA) Eagle (3/13, 8K), Christian Trejbal, the open government chairman of the Association of Opinion Journalists, argues that government "functions best under public scrutiny." However, Trejbal warns that in recent years, transparency is "on the defensive against government agencies and lawmakers who fear disclosure and seek to allow greater secrecy." For instance, "when a writer for National Review Online asked the National Park Service for public records related to closing George Washington's Mount Vernon home during the recent federal government shutdown, she hit a wall." According to Trejbal, the Interior Department "ran a black marker over the most interesting passages."

Bureau of Land Management:

MAN INDICTED FOR THEFT OF DINOSAUR TRACK. FOX News (3/12, 6.72M) reports that a Utah man has been indicted on charges relating to the theft and damaging of a fossilized dinosaur track allegedly taken from an area administered by the BLM. Jared Ehlers is "facing up to 20 years in prison on the most serious of four counts."

Also reporting on the story are KSL-TV Salt Lake City (3/13, 242K), KSTU-TV Salt Lake City (3/12, 42K), and LiveScience (3/13, 670K).

BLM OFFERS ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM. The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (3/13, 44K) reports that the BLM will "host an artist for a week in April at the Wickersham Creek Trail Shelter in the White Mountains north of Fairbanks." Eastern Interior Field Manager Lenore Heppler said, "The lands managed by the BLM in Alaska have unique and special qualities. We're hoping that an artist's fresh perspective might help us shine more light on some of these local treasures like the White Mountains."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SCOTT AIKIN APPOINTED NEW NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN LIAISON. The Bloomberg BusinessWeek (3/13, 4.93M) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe has announced the appointment of Scott Aikin as the agency's new national Native American Liaison. Ashe said, "Indian country encompasses more than 100 million acres of the best remaining wildlife habitat in North America, stewarded by people who understand the value of their natural heritage. It's vital that we expand and our relationships with Tribes across the nation to ensure that they have a strong voice in wildlife conservation. Scott Aikin brings a wealth of experience and contacts to this role, and I'm excited for the opportunity to work together across the landscape to ensure that our shared wildlife legacy endures for future generations."

BIOLOGISTS MOVE RED-LEGGED FROG EGGS IN EFFORT TO EXPAND RANGE. The Los Angeles Times (3/13, Sahagun, 3.07M) reports that federal biologists "this week moved hundreds of red-legged frog eggs from a San Fernando Valley stream to carefully selected wetlands 10 miles away in the first attempt to expand the threatened species' range in Southern California." According to the article, "five hundred eggs transported from the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve to the Santa Monica Mountains are expected to hatch any day." When they hatch, "they will reintroduce red-legged frog tadpoles to historic haunts that are free of predatory fish, snails and crayfish that could tear them apart."

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON PLAN TO KILL MOSQUITOES. The Florida Keys Citizen (3/13, 36K) reports that "federal wildlife refuge and Florida Keys Mosquito Control District officials are asking for the public's input on a draft of plan for killing mosquitoes in the greater Big Pine Key area." The five-year plan, developed by the FWS and Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, is "designed to implement a program to kill mosquitoes, but not harm federally-listed endangered fish and wildlife species and their habitats." The article notes that "the plan was written to specifically address concerns about the Florida leafwing and Bartram's scrub-hairstreak butterflies, which are being proposed for listing on the Endangered Species List."

PROTECTION FOR MANATEES URGED. The Miami Herald (3/13, 806K) editorializes that "before the Miami-

Dade Commission considers changing one word of the county's 1995 manatee-protection plan, it should consult with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which both must approve any revision." The paper claims that "those wanting to loosen the restrictions" are using "backward logic" when they "point to the fact that deaths of manatees from boating collisions are down, and the overall manatee population is up." According to the editorial, "the reason there are fewer boat-related deaths of the slow-moving sea cows is precisely because of the state's regulations as they are written and enforced now."

GRAY WOLF DELISTING CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (3/13, 1K), Lori Udall, a program director for the Sacharuna Foundation, writes that "the gray wolf is an example of a species that is coming back but has not yet made it back, and yet now is caught in political limbo." Udall argues that "a single species can be delisted through legislation in Congress instead of scientific study of its recovery sets a dangerous precedent for the future of all protected species." She notes that "already, other members of Congress are following suit and have introduced amendments to defund recovery for the Utah prairie dog, the greater and Gunnison sage grouse, preventing a listing of prairie chickens, as well as other amendments to weaken the Endangered Species Act."

FWS PROPOSAL FOR CANADA LYNX HABITAT CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Columbia Falls (MT) Hungry Horse News (3/13), Larry Wilson writes that the FWS' "proposed critical habitat for Canada lynx is finally out, but the final rule will not be out until September 2014, and the financial assessment in April 2015 along with the environmental assessment." According to Wilson, "their broad-brush restrictions stop or slow management concerns and needs, especially as regards thinning and fuels management."

US Geological Survey:

USGS: ASIAN CARP EGGS FOUND IN UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER. WHBL-AM Sheboygan, WI (3/12, 432) reports that USGS scientists have found Asian carp eggs in water samples collected in 2013 from the Upper Mississippi River. According to the agency "carp eggs were recently collected as far north as Lynxville in southwest Wisconsin."

COTTONWOOD TREES UNLIKELY TO THRIVE IN MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS. The Billings (MT) Gazette (3/13, 206K) reports that "the odds are against cottonwood seedlings that sprout along the Missouri River in the badlands of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument." According to Greg Auble, an aquatic systems research ecologist with the USGS, "only about one in a million seedlings will survive their first year to grow to maturity."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MIT STUDY ON SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT. Additional coverage of the study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory on the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project was provided by the Albuquerque (NM) Business First (3/13).

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM GRANTS LEASE TO EXPAND COAL MINE IN NEW MEXICO. The AP (3/13) reports that the BLM has "issued a lease allowing for more than 9 million tons of coal to be mined in western New Mexico." The bureau said Tuesday it "issued the 640-acre lease to Peabody Natural Resources Co. after considering an appeal that stemmed from a lease sale in August 2013." The BLM said "it weighed potential environmental effects and determined there would be no significant impacts."

TENNESSEE LAWMAKERS SHELVE BILL GIVING OVERSIGHT OF SURFACE MINING TO STATE AGENCY. The Tennessean (3/13, 417K) reports that Tennessee's Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday "halted a bill giving regulatory oversight of surface mining to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation." Environmentalists "praised that move." Ann League, Tennessee campaign coordinator for Appalachian Voices, said the committee took a "sound course of action today on this

ill-conceived bill."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO ISSUE FEDERAL ENERGY PERMITS FASTER. In an editorial, the Washington Examiner (3/13, 319K) criticizes the "chronically glacial pace" of energy permits issued by the Obama Administration. According to Institute for Energy Research President Thomas Pyle, the "permatorium" has "led to a 15 percent drop in oil and natural gas production on federal lands since 2010." The paper concludes that "opening federal lands to speedier energy access will undoubtedly upset Obama's Big Green allies, but it's just common sense for most Americans."

Offshore Energy Development:

BRADLEY BEACH OPPOSES OFFSHORE SEISMIC TESTING. The New Jersey (3/13, 526K) reports that Borough Council of Bradley Beach "unanimously passed a resolution opposing the use of seismic airgun testing in the Atlantic Ocean Basin at its meeting on Tuesday evening." The borough's resolution "cites concems from ocean protection organizations, both local, like Clean Ocean Action, and international, like Oceana, that drilling may injure sensitive marine mammals."

Additional coverage of seismic testing was provided by WTEV-TV Jacksonville, FL (3/13, 22K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

COLORADO RIVER EXPERT TO LEAD BOR'S PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT OUTREACH. The Environment & Energy Publishing (3/13, 705) reports that "an Interior Department veteran with extensive experience in Colorado River issues has been chosen to lead the Bureau of Reclamation's public and government outreach." Jennifer Gimbel, who "has most recently been serving as counselor to Interior's assistant secretary for water and science, was named today by acting Reclamation Commissioner Lowell Pimley as the agency's deputy commissioner for external and intergovernmental affairs." Pimley said, "An important component of carrying out Reclamation's mission is working with its customers, stakeholders and the public. Jennifer's experience working in the water community at the state, regional and federal level will be a valuable asset as we continue to work alongside our partners in the West to confront widening imbalances between water supply and demand."

HOUSE TO DEBATE WATER RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT. The Denver Post (3/13, Blevins, 949K) reports that the Water Rights Protection Act will be debated on the US House of Representatives floor Thursday. Rep. Jared Polis, was an early supporter of the legislation but said changes during its revision in committee "have caused the bill to snowball into an effort to hurt our nation's river health and destroy recreational opportunities." Polis said he was introducing an amendment to the legislation that would ensure that any new directive from the Forest Service does not condition ski area permits on the transfer of water rights or require ski areas to acquire water rights in the name of the United States.

The Durango (CO) Herald (3/12, 28K) reports that the White House on Thursday threatened to veto the legislation.

BOR RELEASES FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT-FRIANT PUMPING DOCUMENTS. The Fresno (CA) Business Journal (3/13, 160K) reports that the BOR has "released for public review a draft environmental assessment and draft finding of no significant impact for a proposed temporary pumping facility to introduce water from the Fresno Irrigation District's Gould Canal into Reclamation's Friant-Kern Canal." Gary Serrato, general manager of Fresno Irrigation District, said "the Environment Assessment comment period will last about two weeks and if no objections are filed, the district could begin pumping water into Friant-Kern Canal before the end of March."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR ADDRESSES CARCIERI LAND-INTO-TRUST DECISION IN LEGAL OPINION. The Nation Sun News (3/13) reports that the Interior Department "released a long-awaited legal opinion on Wednesday that addresses the US Supreme Court decision in Carcieri v. Salazar." A legal opinion by Solicitor Hilary Tompkins "explains how recently recognized tribes, or tribes whose status was in doubt in 1934, can still follow the land-into-trust

process."

LAND PUT INTO TRUST FOR KAW TRIBAL CASINO. The AP (3/13) reports that Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn has announced that "21 acres in Kay County is being put into trust for" the Kaw Nation to build a small casino in north-central Oklahoma. Washburn said that "the project will provide significant opportunities for economic development in the Kaw Nation."

INDIAN POLYTECHNIC RECEIVES "INITIAL ACCREDITATION". The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (3/13, 288K) reports that "Albuquerque's Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute has been awarded 'initial accreditation' status by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the US Department of the Interior said Wednesday." According to the article, "the institute's status was upgraded from 'candidate for accreditation' after a rigorous review."

ATTORNEY ARGUES BUY BACK VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS. In an op-ed for the Indian Country Today Media Network (3/12, 21K), Gabriel S. Galanda, the managing partner at Galanda Broadman, PLLC, argues that the Cobell Buy Back Program "runs counter" to United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international human rights laws. Galanda notes that "the most troublesome part of the program is that it will facilitate the forced sale of tribal members' allotted or restricted fee lands, and, in turn, forcibly and permanently remove individual Indians from their ancestral lands." Under international laws, Galanda asserts, "American indigenous peoples enjoy an inviolable and sacred right to full enjoyment of their allotted or restricted fee lands," but, "critically, unlike non-indigenous peoples' property rights, lands owned by indigenous peoples cannot simply be taken 'for public use' or when 'demanded by public necessity.'"

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE FEDERAL RECOGNITION PROCESS CRITICIZED. The Norwich (CT) Bulletin (3/13, 47K) editorializes that "with all the benefits that come with federal recognition, it should be a demanding process." However, "the proposed changes make it far less so." According to the paper, "if granted federal recognition, land claims will be filed seeking to take large tracts into trust, many of the parcels already developed," and "that could cloud title to hundreds of properties and remove thousands of acres from tax rolls."

Top National News:

OBAMA: US WILL NOT HEED CRIMEAN REFERENDUM. President Obama's White House meeting with interim Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk on Wednesday generated remarkably little coverage given the media's intense focus on the situation in Crimea as of last week. Only two of Wednesday's network newscasts mentioned the meeting, and those two segments combined totaled just 43 seconds of air time. With few exceptions, the larger story regarding the status of Ukraine and Crimea, and Russia's intentions in the region, is no longer a major topic of conversation on the most-watched cable news shows.

However, the ongoing situation remains on the front pages of the Washington Post (3/13, A1, Constable, 4.28M), which has a feature on the plight of the Crimean Tatars, and the Wall Street Journal (3/13, A1, Lee, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), which suggests that President Obama has moved closer to accepting the likelihood that Crimea will no longer be part of Ukraine no matter what the US or the EU does from here on out.

Likewise, on Fox News' O'Reilly Factor (3/12, 2.53M), Ed Henry, Fox's chief White House correspondent, reported that White House officials had been "telling us privately in recent days that... 'as long as [Russian President Vladimir] Putin doesn't extend beyond Crimea, then, fine, he is not escalating the situation.'" According to Henry, that was "a direct signal that they are not going to do anything to stop [Putin] from keeping Crimea." Henry went on to say that Administration officials have "already sent a tacit signal that Putin can have Crimea" and "they are not going to do anything to take it back as long as he doesn't escalate beyond that." Bill O'Reilly characterized that as "a big win for Vlad."

David Ignatius, in his column for the Washington Post (3/13, 4.28M), also says the next few days of diplomacy are "unlikely to stop the planned referendum Sunday in which Crimeans are almost certain to vote to break away from Ukraine." Ignatius adds that while it is a possibility that Putin will "encourag[e] unrest" in eastern Ukraine, "that risky course is unlikely."

Scott Pelley, in a 30-second item for the CBS Evening News (3/12, story 6, 0:30, 5.58M), reported that at the White House on Wednesday, President Obama "sent a warning to Russia as he met...with Ukraine's new interim prime minister." According to Pelley, the President "said the US and its allies will 'be forced to apply a cost,' meaning economic sanctions, if Russia splits Crimea from the rest of Ukraine." Pelley also noted that Secretary of State Kerry testified before a House panel on Wednesday that "it can get ugly fast if the wrong choices are made."

In a segment that was just 13 seconds long, Ann Curry, on NBC Nightly News (3/12, story 5, 0:15, 7.86M), described the President's meeting with Yatsenyuk as a "show of solidarity." Curry also noted that Sen. John McCain "plans to lead a delegation of lawmakers to Ukraine tomorrow."

According to the AP (3/13, Pace, Klapper), the President "expressed a glimmer of hope...that a referendum on the future of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula can be halted." The AP says the President added that "if the vote does occur...the US will 'completely reject' its results," and "urged Congress to quickly approve the $1 billion loan guarantee to help Ukraine's fledgling government."

According to the New York Times (3/13, A12, Baker, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Obama and the "pro-Western" Yatsenyuk "opened the door on Wednesday to a political solution that could lead to more autonomy for Crimea if Russian troops withdraw." The Times says the President "hinted at a formulation that could be the basis for the coming talks between" Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that would "recogniz[e] Moscow's interest in helping the Russian-speaking population in Crimea while affirming that it is part of Ukraine." The Times adds that at the Atlantic Council following his White house meeting, Yatsenyuk "expressed willingness to consider concessions to Crimea," saying, "We the Ukrainian government are ready to start a nationwide dialogue how to increase the rights of autonomous Republic of Crimea, starting with taxes and ending with other aspects like language issues."

McClatchy (3/13, Clark, Allam, Subscription Publication, 95K) reports the President said on Wednesday that Ukraine's interim government "is willing to talk with Russia and engage in a process that he said 'could lead to different arrangements over time' for the Ukrainian region of Crimea," but added, "that's not something that can be done with the barrel of a gun pointed at you." According to USA Today (3/13, Madhani, 5.82M), Yatsenyuk also "urged Russia to start a dialogue with the new Ukrainian government."

On CNN's Situation Room (3/12, 554K) Jim Acosta reported that the President "reassured" Yatsenyuk "that the United States will oppose the upcoming referendum," which is "not legitimate in the eyes of the Obama Administration." According to Acosta, the President "said that he hopes in the days ahead that there will be a rethinking on the part of the Russians when it comes to this referendum."

On MSNBC's Last Word (3/12, 984K), Lawrence O'Donnell said the Administration is "maintaining if you're going to have this vote, it has to be all of Ukraine, but in Puerto Rico, for example, they are allowed to have their own vote whether they want statehood, commonwealth status [or] independence, and we don't say for them to get statehood, the entire United States would have to vote on it."

On Fox News' Special Report (3/12, 2.15M), correspondent Doug McKelway reported that Yatsenyuk, whom he described as "defiant in the face of Russian aggression," on Wednesday "received a promise of support from President Obama, one that lacked military muscle in favor of negotiation and the threat of sanctions."

Politico (3/13, Epstein, 464K) reported that as he peremptorily dismissed the vote to be held this weekend in Crimea, the President "praised Yatsenyuk and 'the courage of the Ukrainian people standing up on behalf of democracy.'" Politico notes that the President's meeting with Yatsenyuk was also attended by Vice President Biden, Kerry, and Treasury Secretary Lew, and that prior to the meeting, Kerry "hosted Yatsenyuk at the State Department."

The Washington Times (3/13, Wolfgang, 417K) reports that "it's unclear exactly what the White House and its allies are prepared to do" in response to the Crimean referendum.

Kerry Set To Meet With Russian Foreign Minister In London. On Fox News' Special Report (3/12, 2.15M), correspondent Doug McKelway reported that on Wednesday, Kerry offered "another reassuring take on

sanctions." Kerry was shown saying, "It can get ugly fast if the wrong choices are made – and it can get ugly in multiple directions." McKelway noted that on Thursday, Kerry will travel to London "for a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov...only two days before Crimea votes on whether or not to secede." According to the AP (3/13), Kerry and Lavrov will meet in London on Friday.

According to McClatchy (3/13, Clark, Allam, Subscription Publication, 95K), Kerry and Lavrov's "hastily called summit...appears to be an 11th-hour attempt to get Putin to accept the White House's offer of an 'offramp' to ditch the secession referendum and open talks with the Ukrainians."

On CNN's Situation Room (3/12, 554K) Jim Acosta noted Kerry's upcoming meeting with Lavrov comes after the State Department "had said earlier this week that Kerry would not make such a trip unless Russia was showing concrete steps in terms of being open to a diplomatic path forward." According to Acosta, an anonymous "senior Administration official" confirmed that Kerry "would not be making that trip unless they saw those steps being taken."

Offering a similar take, Ali Weinberg, in a blog post for the ABC News (3/13, Weinberg, 3.68M) website, says, "It's possible Russia has sent signals that Kerry would not leave empty-handed...if he did meet Lavrov" because Kerry "presumably wouldn't be getting on a plane without the assurance of at least some progress."

Offering an alternative analysis, Ed Henry, on Fox News' O'Reilly Factor (3/12, 2.53M), noted that the State Department said Kerry would "not...meet with his Russian counterpart...unless there is 'concrete evidence' that Russia is, in fact, pulling back," but Henry added that while "there hasn't been any real concrete evidence of that," Kerry is nevertheless "meeting with Lavrov."

Michael Gordon, in an article for the New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), reports that on Saturday, the State Department "sent Mr. Lavrov a series of questions that were intended to probe whether the Kremlin was receptive to the American proposals," and "on Monday night, the Russians responded, but the answers did not signal a shift toward the Western position."

USA Today (3/13, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that at a House hearing on Wednesday, Kerry said, "In my discussions with Minister Lavrov, I have made it clear that there are many reasons for Russia to choose a path of de-escalation and of political solution here. We believe that interests can be met and that most importantly, the desires of the people of Ukraine can be respected, and that the international law can be respected."

According to McClatchy (3/13, Schofield, Subscription Publication, 95K), "Technically," this weekend's referendum "won't necessarily align Crimea with Russia," but it will "loosen" Crimeans' "ties to Ukraine." McClatchy reports that on Sunday, Crimeans "will have the option of checking one of two boxes," one of which "will indicate a vote in favor of Crimea joining the Russian Federation," while the other "will indicate a desire to return to Crimea's 1992 constitution." McClatchy says that under that 1992 constitution, Crimea "made its own foreign and trade policies," an was "essentially an independent republic."

G-7 Leaders Vow To Ignore Outcome Of Referendum. USA Today (3/13, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that on Wednesday, the "member countries of the Group of 8 – minus Russia – reiterated their opposition to the Crimea referendum...calling the vote illegal and vowing 'further action' if Russia annexes the peninsula."

According to the AP (3/13), "A statement from the seven nations released from the White House...calls on Russia 'to cease all efforts to change the status of Crimea contrary to Ukrainian law and in violation of international law.'"

The Los Angeles Times (3/13, Williams, 3.07M) notes that Russia "was admitted to the exclusive clique of powerful nations in 1998." However, the Times adds that "the G-7 leaders have sidelined Russia in confronting its intervention in Ukraine and suspended planning for a Russian-hosted summit in June."

Merkel Has Failed To Convince Putin To Rethink His Attitude Towards Ukraine. The Wall Street Journal (3/13, A1, Lee, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that German Chancellor Angela Merkel's government has concluded that there is no longer any chance of convincing the Putin government to pull back in Crimea.

The New York Times (3/13, A13, Smale, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that Merkel "literally speaks [Putin's] language and, arguably, understands his view of the world better than any other European leader touched by the Ukrainian crisis. According to the Times, "Since the first Russian forces infiltrated Crimea, Merkel and Putin have spoken "at least four times on the phone." The Times goes on to report that Merkel "appears exasperated by [Putin's] unwillingness to avoid further provocative steps...and her government is increasingly signaling a willingness to depart from its preferred approach of consensus building and lead Europe toward a harder line on sanctions and other steps to pressure and isolate Russia."

Yatsenyuk Seeking $35 Billion Aid Package As He Prepares To Sign Deal With The EU. AFP (3/13, Collinson) reports that while in the US, Yatsenyuk hopes to "iron out details of a $35 billion aid package he says his nation's teetering economy needs to stay afloat over the coming two years." AFP also reports that on March 20 "European leaders" will attend a "summit to witness the signing of what German Chancellor Angela Merkel said would be an historic EU-Ukraine association agreement."

Robert Samuelson, in his column for the Washington Post (3/13, 4.28M), says the Russian government "may acquire Crimea," but it "may not be able to keep Ukraine in Moscow's economic orbit," and, instead, "the crisis may have accelerated efforts to reorient Ukraine westward."

NYTimes Profile: Yatsenyuk's Government Experience Helps Him Abroad, But Not Among Ukrainians. In a profile of Yatsenyuk titled "Leading Ukraine, A Technocrat Encircled By Problems," the New York Times (3/13, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that "for three months, throughout the uprising and upheaval in Kiev," Yatsenyuk "appeared regularly on stage in Independence Square, but often seemed out of his element." According to the Times, Yatsenyuk, who has served as "foreign minister, economics minister, speaker of Parliament and acting central bank chief," is "more at home in boardrooms, and in the corridors of power, than on the barricades." The Times says Yatsenyuk was "derided as an uninspiring technician during a failed presidential campaign in 2010," and "faces suspicion from a public that is deeply wary of his past service in the Ukrainian government, long known as a cesspool of corruption and mismanagement."

OBAMA TO EXPAND OVERTIME PAY PROTECTIONS. The news that President Obama will today direct the Labor Department to begin strengthening overtime pay protections by raising the pay level above which overtime must be offered is seen as significant in print coverage, but received coverage on just one broadcast network newscast. Print reports say the change will help millions, but tend to focus on industry criticisms of the plan as detrimental to hiring and economic recovery. Reports also note that this is the latest election-year example of the President making a change using executive authority that does not require the consent of Congress.

The CBS Evening News (3/12, story 7, 1:25, Pelley, 5.58M) reported the President "will expand overtime pay to millions of Americans who aren't currently getting it." Obama "intends to use his executive authority" to change Federal labor rules on overtime "without going through Congress." The AP (3/13) similarly says that the President, "bypassing Congress," intends to "order changes in overtime rules so employers would be required to pay millions more workers for the extra time they put in on the job."

The Washington Post (3/13, Goldfarb, Hicks, 4.28M) reports the White House said the President will direct Labor Secretary Perez to begin strengthening the overtime protections. The White House said "millions of salaried workers have had to work 50 or 60 hours a week without being paid overtime – and, in some cases, 'making barely enough to keep a family out of poverty.'" House Speaker Boehner said, "The President's policies are making it difficult for employers to expand employment," while Sen. John McCain "dismissed Obama's plans as another example of the president's unwillingness to engage with Congress."

USA Today (3/13, Davidson, Jackson, 5.82M) says "business groups and corporate lawyers assailed" the plan. Marc Freedman of the US Chamber of Commerce said, "We understand the Administration is looking for ways to put more money in people's pockets, but the only way to do this is to grow the economy and create more jobs. Adding more burdens to employers will not accomplish that goal." Bloomberg News (3/13, Coy, 1.91M) says International Franchise Association spokesman Matt Haller similarly said, "Raising the minimum wage is only going to impact jobs. We view this through the same lens. At the end of the day you're just layering additional costs to business owners."

The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Paletta, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that currently, many businesses are not required to offer overtime pay to certain salaried workers earning more than $455 per week. It is unclear how much the Labor Department will raise that threshold. The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (3/13, Harwell, 78K) says the liberal Economic Policy Institute, which seeks a boost to all workers earning less than $50,000 per year, would benefit "about 10 million Americans." The Kansas City (MO) Star (3/13, 1.11M) says in a headline that the change "could be a seismic shift."

Politico (3/13, Epstein, 464K) says the Labor Department set a threshold of $250 per week in 1975, which was raised to $455 in 2004. California and New York "have set higher thresholds – $640 and $600 per week, which are due to rise to $800 and $675 weekly in 2016." Reuters (3/13, Rampton, Becker) and the Huffington Post (3/13, Berman, 11.54M) also have reports.

More Commentary. The New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that "for the first 40 years of its existence, a worker's right to time-and-a-half for overtime, established by federal law in 1938, operated as intended," but "the last meaningful update was in 1975." The Times says that "by reasserting a meaningful right to overtime," the President's directive "could lift pay for an estimated five million workers a week and, in the process, help to mitigate the wage stagnation and income inequality that increasingly plague the American economy."

The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that Obama's plan is timed for political impact as the midterm election season heats up, but that it will hurt the economic recovery and discourage the business model that has resulted in creativity and innovation in Silicon Valley and elsewhere, where workers are encouraged to think of themselves as owners with a vested interest in the company, and instead encourage more salaried employees to think like hourly wage earners.

OBAMA MEETS WITH DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS TO DISCUSS WOMEN'S ECONOMIC ISSUES. USA Today (3/13, Madhani, 5.82M) reports President Obama has launched "a new effort...to highlight economic issues facing women, a key voting bloc whose turnout will be crucial to Democrats chances in the November mid-term elections," meeting with "several House and Senate Democrats who are focused on issues particularly resonant with women – including raising the minimum wage, the pay disparity between men and women, as well as the availability of affordable child care and early education programs."

The AP (3/13, Pickler) says the meeting came as the Council of Economic Advisers "issued a report decrying a gender wage gap. The report highlights that full-time working women continue to earn less than men, despite surpassing men in obtaining college degrees and making inroads into traditionally male-dominated occupations."

The Washington Post (3/13, Henderson, 4.28M) "She The People" blog reports the President said at the meeting, "We know that women continue to be disproportionately represented in low-wage professions, which means that something like an increase in the federal minimum wage is going to have a disproportionate impact on them. And women are still the ones that are carrying the greatest burden when it comes to trying to balance family and work." House Minority Leader Pelosi, who attended the meeting, praised Obama "for putting those issues at the forefront of his agenda."

Bloomberg News (3/13, Talev, Runningen, 1.91M) notes that Senate Intelligence Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein, "one of the most senior women in Congress," did not attend. Bloomberg News notes that Feinstein and the Obama Administration "are at odds over her committee's investigation" of the CIA's treatment of detainees during the Bush Administration.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Extra Pay For Extra Work."*** The New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that "for the first 40 years of its existence, a worker's right to time-and-a-half for overtime, established by federal law in 1938, operated as intended," but "the last meaningful update was in 1975." The Times says that "by reasserting a meaningful right to overtime," President Obama's overtime directive "could lift pay for an estimated five million workers a week and, in the process, help to mitigate the wage stagnation and income inequality that increasingly plague the American economy."

"China Moves On Banking Reforms." The New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes on China's announcement this week that government limits on banks' interest rates for deposits would be removed "sometime in the next two years" as well as the decision to let private operators to open more banks. The Times says that these moves "could significantly shake up the financial system" depending on their execution, citing the dominance of state banks and little-regulated "shadow banking system." The editorial examines the current interest rates on deposit and the possible effects, both good and bad, of the new policies. According to the Times, China must find a balance in its reform, as moving too quickly to slow lending by both shadow and state banks "could precipitate a crisis," while moving too slowly could increase the vulnerability of the financial system.

"High Mortality From Alzheimer's Disease." The New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes on a study from Chicago's Rush University Medical Center which claims that Alzheimer's disease was responsible for more deaths than initially estimated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study, published recently in the journal Neurology, said the disease "was the underlying cause in more than 500,000 deaths in 2010 that were often attributed to" complications and conditions caused by Alzheimer's, according to the Times. The Times concludes that Alzheimer's will become "more of a burden" as the population ages, which "makes it imperative to intensify research into ways to treat and prevent the disease."

"Welcomed Aboard, As Someone Else." The New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorializes that the disappearance of a Malaysian Airlines flight illustrates "serious flaws in passenger identity procedures amid what has become a booming world market in stolen and counterfeit passports." The Times says the problems "deserve remedial attention" because of the "risks they present to traveling."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"China's Defense Spending."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/13, 4.28M) examines China's 12.2% increase in defense spending over the last year to nearly $132 billion, questioning why the Asian nation needs such a high defense budget and what its "intentions and capabilities" could be. The Post points out China's increasingly aggressive posturing on its territory which raise "the uneasy prospect of a military conflict," and development of new weapons systems, which "pose asymmetric threats to the United States and its allies." The editorial expresses a desire for increased transparency from China in order to ease concerns over the spending increase, and says that as the US reduces defense spending and moves focus toward Asia, China "will be a challenge to the United States and its allies for years to come."

"Curbing Drug Abuse." The Washington Post (3/13, 4.28M) discusses Attorney General Holder's Monday address on an "urgent and growing" health issue, the abuse of prescription opioids. Federal and state officials have attempted to reduce illicit opioid abuse, and while critics say the more stringent regulation is forcing abusers to turn to heroin, Holder countered that the rise in heroin use was a "symptom of the significant increase in prescription drug abuse that we've seen over the past decade." The Post argues that with a higher rate of prescriptions for opioids and higher death rates from overdoses, "government had no choice but to act in the face of an epidemic," and if efforts continue, addiction levels of both heroin and prescription drugs should decline.

"Dividing The District." The Washington Post (3/13, 4.28M) editorializes on Tuesday's State of the District address by District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray, which he began by asking residents to reject claims that he was implicit in malfeasance during his first election. "To some in our city, I'm just another corrupt politician from the other side of town," Gray said in what the Post calls an "unmistakable reference to the whiter areas of the city" west of his native Ward 7. The editorial states that while Gray is within his rights to deny allegations of wrongdoing, "his not-so-subtle references to race insult every voter" and tarnish his own image. The Post states that Gray must be more transparent with campaign details from 2010 if he wants public trust, and that his refusal rather than race or geography spurred the paper's endorsement of Councilmember Muriel Bowser.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Riding The 2014 Wave."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that the outcome of the FL13 race shows that the Affordable Care Act is likely to hurt Democrats in competitive races this fall, but for the GOP to further capitalize on the issue, Republicans should draw up legislation that both highlights and remedies perceived flaws in the law. The goal for the GOP, says the Journal, should be to craft legislation that the Republican-held House would approve, thereby putting pressure on the Democratic-controlled Senate.

"Moscow Malware Attack." The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), in an editorial, contends that the findings of the UK's BAE Systems, which has tracked cyberattacks targeting unspecified Ukrainian sites starting early last year to Russia, is evidence that the Putin government has been planning to annex Crimea for some time.

"The President Goes To Overtime." The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that Obama's overtime pay plan is timed for political impact as the midterm election season heats up, but that it will hurt the economic recovery and discourage the business model that has resulted in creativity and innovation in Silicon Valley and elsewhere, where workers are encouraged to think of themselves as owners with a vested interest in the company, and instead encourage more salaried employees to think like hourly wage earners.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Fate Of Ukraine Is Out Of Its Hands
SAT Presents Colleges With A Tough Question
Potent Threat
Finding Liberty In Hard Labor
Storm Clouds For Christie

Wall Street Journal:
US Investigators Suspect Missing Airplane Flew On For Hours
US Pushes Last-Ditch Effort To Ease Ukraine Crisis
US Grid Vulnerable To Sabotage
From London, A Test Case For World's Central Bankers

New York Times:
At Least 3 Killed As Gas Explosion Hits East Harlem
How A Military Sexual Assault Case Foundered
Theories Grew Without Facts On Lost Plane
Signals On Radar Puzzle Officials In Hunt For Jet
Debate On Bourbon St.: Should The Good Times Roll Less Loudly?
Huge Recall By GM Sets Of Painful Questions On Crashes

Washington Post:
Public Blowup Had A Long, Slow Fuse
Holder: Shorten Drug Terms
Md. Mall Shooter "Knew He Was Sick"
A "Nightmare" For Crimea's Tatars

Financial Times:
Herbalife Hit By US "Pyramid" Probe
US To Release Oil From Strategic Reserve
YouTube Grants UK "Super" Security Powers
Bankruptcy Risk Rises For Energy Future
Candy Crush Seeks $7.6Bn Value In IPO
Panasonic Offers China Staff Pollution Pay
Copper Flashes Red

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight-Satellite Photos; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Severe Weather; New York-Neighborhood Explosion; Colorado-Carjacking Spree Video; Prescription Drug Dangers; GM-Recall Investigation.

CBS: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight-Satellite Photos; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight-Sullenberger; New York-Neighborhood Explosion; Severe Weather; White House-Ukraine Conflict; Obama-Overtime Pay; GM-Recall Investigation; Colorado-Carjacking Spree Video; Pope Francis; California Coastal National Monument.
NBC: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight-Satellite Photos; New York-Neighborhood Explosion; San Francisco-Apartment Building Fire; Obama-Ukraine Conflict; Syria-Refugees; Colorado-Carjacking Spree Video; Severe Weather; Korean War Vet's Obit.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; New York-Neighborhood Explosion; South Africa-Oscar Pistorius Trial; White House-Ukraine Conflict.
CBS: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; New York-Neighborhood Explosion; White House-Ukraine Conflict; Holder-Drug Traffickers Sentencing Proposal; GM-Recall Investigation.
FOX: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Montana-Avalanche; Severe Weather; California-Earthquake; Sports-Hockey Player Hospitalized; FTC-Herbalife Investigation; Arizona-Governor Brewer; Social Media Study-Positive Posts.
NPR: Obama-Overtime Pay; Crimea Referendum-EU; FTC-Herbalife Investigation; Severe Weather; Hawaii-Manhunt For Terror Suspect; New York-Neighborhood Explosion; GM-Recall Investigation.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing; delivers remarks and signs a Presidential Memorandum on modernizing overtime protections, East Room, open press; the President and the Vice President meet with Secretary of the Treasury Lew, Oval Office, closed press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will meet with Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk of Ukraine at the White House. This meeting is closed press. The Vice President will deliver remarks to The American Ireland Fund's 22nd Annual National Gala at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, DC. The Vice President's remarks at this event will be pooled for television and open to credentialed correspondents and photographers.
US Senate: SENATOR BOXER, NURSES – KEYSTONE XL – 10 a.m. Speakers: Senator Barbara Boxer; Karen Higgins, RN, National Nurses United Co-President, Boston, Massachusetts; Kari Columbus, RN Kansas City, Kansas; Rolanda Watson, RN, Chicago, Illinois; Brenda Prewitt, RN, Houston, Texas; Katy Roemer, RN, Oakland, California. RSVP to Nathan McCray at Nathan_mccray@epw.senate.gov. Location: 406 Dirksen, EPW Hearing Room.

FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL SECURITY – 11 a.m. Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change to Host Forum on National Security Impacts of Climate Change. The current co-chairs are Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Rep. Bobby L. Rush, Sen. Ben Cardin, Rep. Earl Blumenauer, and Sen. Ed Markey. Participants: Brigadier General Gerald Galloway, United States Army (Retired), Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and an Affiliate Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland; Brigadier General Stephen Cheney, USMC (Retired), Chief Executive Officer of the American Security Project (ASP); Fmr. Captain Jon Gensler, US Army, Cambridge Leadership Associates Consultant. Location: Room SC-4, US Capitol. Contacts: Seth Larson (Whitehouse) (202) 228-6291. Karen Lightfoot (Waxman) (202) 225-5735

GRASSLEY – JAPAN'S TPP OFFER – PRESS CALL – 12 p.m. Senator Grassley and Agriculture groups hold press call to urge the Administration to reject Japan's TPP offer. Speakers: Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa; American Farm Bureau Federation; National Cattlemen's Beef Association; National Pork Producers Council; National Oilseed Processors Association; US Wheat Associates. DIAL IN: 866-238-1640 (Media Only), Conference ID: 1634813. Contact: Dave Warner, National Pork Producers Council: 202-347-3600, warnerd@nppc.org.

FIGHTING WORKPLACE HARASSMENT – 2 p.m. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Congressman George Miller (D-CA) and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) will hold a press conference to discuss new legislation to give American workers the opportunity to succeed free of workplace harassment, the Fair Employment Protection Act. Location: S-115. Contacts: Brian Levin (Rep. Miller), 202-226-0853. Leah Hunter (Sen. Baldwin), 202-224-5653. Sara Lonardo (Rep. DeLauro), 202-225-3661

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARMED SERVICES – 9:30 a.m. Meets to receive testimony on US Northern Command and US Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., USA, Commander, US Northern Command and Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command; General John F. Kelly, USMC, Commander, US Southern Command. Location: G50 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS – 9:30 a.m. Full Committee Hearing – Protecting the Public Health: Examining FDA's Initiatives and Priorities. Witness: Margaret Hamburg, M.D. , Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, United States Department of Health and Human Services, Silver Spring, MD. Location: 430 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY – 9:30 a.m. Executive Business Meeting on pending nominations: Gregg Jeffrey Costa, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit; Tanya S. Chutkan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia; M. Hannah Lauck, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia; Leo T. Sorokin, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts; John Charles Cruden, to be an Assistant Attorney General. Location: 226 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – 9:55 a.m. Business meeting to consider the nomination of L. Reginald Brothers, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Science and Technology. Location: 342 Dirksen.

APPROPRIATIONS – 10 a.m. Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee Hearing, "FY 2015 Budget Request for the Department of Transportation." Witness: Anthony Foxx, Secretary, Department of Transportation. Location: 138 Dirksen.

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. Confirmation hearing on Dr. Stanley Fischer To be a Member and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Jerome H. Powell To be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Lael Brainard To be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar to be an Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; J. Mark McWatters, To be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board. Location: 538 Dirksen. Notes: Rescheduled from March 4.

FINANCE – 10 a.m. Hearing, titled "Innovative Ideas to Strengthen and Expand the Middle Class." Witnesses: . George Packer, Staff Writer, The New Yorker Magazine and author of "The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America," Brooklyn, N.Y.; Dr. William C. Dunkelberg, Chief Economist, National Federation of Independent Business, Washington, D.C.; Diane Swonk, Chief Economist and Senior Managing Director, Mesirow Financial, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Lawrence B. Lindsey, President and CEO, The Lindsey Group, Fairfax, Va.; Dr. Leonard E. Burman, Director, Tax Policy Center, The Urban Institute, Washington, D.C. Location: 215 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. The Homeland Security Departments Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2015. Witness: Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson. Location: 342 Dirksen.

INDIAN AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. An oversight hearing to examine tribal transportation, focusing on pathways to infrastructure and economic development in Indian country. Witnesses: Panel 1: Michael S. Black, Director-Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Department of the Interior; Bob Sparrow, Director-Tribal Transportation Program, Federal Highway, Administration, US Department of Transportation, Washington, DC. Panel 2: Dana Buckles, Tribal Executive Board Member-Assiniboine & Siox Tribes of The Fort Peck Reservation, Poplar, MT; Wes

Martel, Member-Joint Business Council of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes of the Wind River Indian Reservation, Fort Washakie, WY – Accompanied by Mr. John Smith, Director-Transportation Department, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes of the Wind River Indian Reservation, Fort Washakie, WY; Edward K. Thomas, President-Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Juneau, AK. Location: 628 Dirksen.

APPROPRIATIONS – 10:30 a.m. State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee Hearing, "FY 2015 Budget Request for the Department of State." Witness: John F. Kerry, Secretary, Department of State. Location: ROOM CHANGED TO 216 Hart.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION – 11 a.m. Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security hearing on The US Aviation Industry and Jobs: Keeping American Manufacturing Competitive. Witness Panel 1: Dennis Muilenburg, Vice Chairman, President and Chief Operating Officer, Boeing Commercial Airplanes; Marion C. Blakey, President and Chief Executive Officer, Aerospace Industries Association; Nicholas E. Calio, President and Chief Executive Officer, Airlines for America; Ed Wytkind, President, Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO. ADDS: Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA). Location: 253 Russell.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 11:15 a.m. Hearing on Keystone XL and the National Interest Determination. Witnesses: Karen Harbert, President and CEO, Institute for 21st Century Energy, US Chamber of Commerce; Dr. James Hansen, Director of the Program on Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions, Adjunct Professer, Columbia University Earth Institute, New York, NY; Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club, San Francisco, CA; General James L. Jones, Jr. USMC (Ret.), President, Jones Group International, Washington, DC. Location: 419 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE – 2 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovemmental Relations, and the District of Columbia hearing on The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2015. Witness: FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. Location: 342 Dirksen.

APPROPRIATIONS – 3:40 p.m. Agriculture Appropriations Chairman Mark Pryor (D-AR) and Ranking Member Roy Blunt (R-MO), along with other members of the subcommittee, will join Bill Gates of the Gates Foundation for a discussion about "the importance of strengthening American agriculture by making smart investments in agricultural research." (The meeting is closed to the public but Pryor and Blunt will take a few questions from credentialed reporters at the top of the meeting.). Location: 257 Dirksen.
US House: 10 a.m. – The House will meet for morning hour and noon for legislative business. The House is expected to complete consideration H.R. 3973 – Faithful Execution of the Law Act of 2014 (Rep. DeSantis – Judiciary). The House is also expected to consider H.R. 3189 – Water Rights Protection Act (Rep. Tipton – Natural Resources/Agriculture) (Subject to a Rule).

DEMOCRATIC LEADER NANCY PELOSI – 10:45 a.m. Holds her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616

SPEAKER BOEHNER – 11:30 a.m. Holds an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114.

FRIENDS OF IRELAND LUNCHEON – DEPARTURE – 1:25 p.m. Photo Opportunity of Departure Ceremony. Participants: House Speaker John Boehner; President Barack Obama; Vice President Joe Biden; Taoiseach Enda Kenny of Ireland. Media covering the entertainment portion in the Rayburn Room will be escorted to the House steps from upper House door immediately following the conclusion of the performance. Unilateral media crews covering only departure must gather outside at base of South Door ramp no later than 12:45 p.m. ET for security sweep. Permanent Congressional Media Credentials Required. Contact your appropriate media gallery for coverage details. Location: East Front House Steps, United States Capitol.

WOMENS HISTORY MONTH – 5 p.m. Time approximate. Following last votes, Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and other House members will highlight historic women from their states and call for a

National Women's History Museum that would chronicle their accomplishments. Maloney and Blackburn are the cosponsors of H.R. 863, legislation that would establish a commission to study the building of a National Women's History Museum. Location: House Floor. Contacts: Mike Morosi (Rep. Maloney), 202-225-7944. Mike Reynard (Rep. Blackburn), 202-225-2811.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY – 9 a.m. Subcommittee on Research and Technology Markup of: H.R. 4186, Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science, and Technology Act of 2014. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY – 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet hearing on Section 512 of Title 17 (of the Online Copyright Infringement Liability Limitation Act). Witness Panel 1: Sean O'Connor, Professor of Law, University of Washington School of Law; Annemarie Bridy, Professor of Law, University of Idaho College of Law; Katherine Oyama; Senior Copyright Policy Counsel, Google Inc.; Paul Doda, Global Litigation Counsel, Elsevier Inc.; Maria Schneider, GRAMMY-Winning Composer/Conductor/Producer, Member of The Recording Academy's New York Chapter Board of Governors; Paul Sieminski, General Counsel, Automattic Inc. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BRIEFING – 9:30 a.m. Dealing with the Past to Build a Just and Peaceful Future: Promise and Challenges of the Peace Process in Northern Ireland. Specifically, the panelists will offer an update on accountability for human rights abuses committed during the three decades of political violence, assess progress toward peace made in sixteen years since the Good Friday Agreement and outline gaps in victims' access to truth, justice, and support. The panelists will also discuss a comprehensive approach to addressing Northern Ireland's past in the context of the recent inter-party political talks, chaired by former US diplomat and now the President of the Council on Foreign Relations, Richard Haass. Opening remarks: Congressman Jim McGovern; Alice Wyss, Researcher, European Union Team, Amnesty International; Brian Gormally, Director, Committee on the Administration of Justice; member of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Consortium; Sean Pender, Relatives for Justice, USA advisory board; State President for the New Jersey Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH); Member of the National Board of the AOH; Anne Cadwallader, Caseworker, Pat Finucane Centre, author of the 2013 book "Lethal Allies: British collusion in Ireland". Moderator: Dr. Leah Wing, Dispute Resolution Faculty (Legal Studies/Political Science Department), University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Member, Healing Through Remembering, Belfast. CONTACT: Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission at 202-225-3599 or tlhrc@mail.house.gov. Location: 2255 Rayburn.

AGRICULTURE – 10 a.m. Full Committee Business Meeting to consider: Budget Views and Estimates Letter of the Committee on Agriculture for the agencies and programs under jurisdiction of the Committee for FY 2015; H.R. 935, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2013; H.Con. Res. 86, Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the nationwide Cooperative Extension System. Location: 1300 Longworth.

APPROPRIATIONS – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Defense Budget Hearing – Department of Defense. Witnesses: Chuck Hagel, Secretary, Department of Defense; General Martin Dempsey, USA Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Robert Hale, Undersecretary of Defense, Comptroller. Location: 2359 Rayburn.

APPROPRIATIONS – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Homeland Security Budget Hearing – United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Witnesses: Daniel Ragsdale, Deputy Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; James Dinkins, Executive Associate Director, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Thomas Homan, Executive Associate Director, Enforcement and Removal Operations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Location: 2362-A Rayburn.

APPROPRIATIONS – 10 a.m. UPDATED: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing with Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services. Location: 2358-C Rayburn. Notes: The hearing on Budget Hearing – Future of Biomedical Research is POSTPONED.

ARMED SERVICES – 10 a.m. Full Committee Recent Developments in Afghanistan. Witnesses: General Joseph Dunford, USMC, Commander, International Security and Assistance Force. Location: 2118 Rayburn.

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, H.R. 3633, "Protecting Healthcare Providers from Increased Administrative Burdens Act." Location: 2175 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Health Hearing, "Keeping the Promise: Allowing Seniors to Keep Their Medicare Advantage Plans If They Like Them." Witnesses: Panel I: Dennis A. Ross (FL-15); Erik Paulsen (MN-3); Jeff Denham (CA-10); Jackie Walorski (IN-2); Keith J. Rothfus (PA-12). Panel II: Mitchell Lew, M.D., CEO and Chief Medical Officer, Prospect Medical Systems; Glenn Giese, Principal, Oliver Wyman Consulting Actuaries; Frank Little, Medicare beneficiary with a Medicare Advantage plan; Judith Stein, Executive Director, Center for Medicare Advocacy. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL SERVICES – 10 a.m. Full committee Markup of H.R. 3623, the Improving Access to Capital for Emerging Growth Companies Act; H.R. 4164, the Small Company Disclosure Simplification Act; H.R. 4167, the Restoring Proven Financing for American Employers Act; H.R. 2672, the CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction Act; H.R. 3584, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act of 2013; and the Committees Views and Estimates on the Presidents FY15 Budget Submission. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE – 10 a.m. Full committee CLOSED: Ongoing Intelligence Activities. Location: HVC304 Capitol.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – 10 a.m. Markup on: Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Views and Estimates of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure H.R. 3678 – To redesignate the lock and dam located in Modoc, Illinois, commonly known as the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam, as the "Jerry F. Costello Lock and Dam", and for other purposes H.R. 3786 – To direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska H.R. 3998 – Albuquerque, New Mexico, Federal Land Conveyance Act of 2014 H. Con. Res. 88 – Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby H. Con. Res. ___ – Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. Full Committee Hearing, "US Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015." Witness: Eric Shinseki, Secretary, US Department of Veterans Affairs. Location: 334 Cannon.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 10:15 a.m. Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Hearing on "Improving Sports Safety: A Multifaceted Approach." Witnesses: Richard Cleland, Assistant Director, Division of Advertising Practices, Federal Trade Commission; William Daly III, Deputy Commissioner, National Hockey League; Dr. Timothy Gay, Professor of Atomic, Molecular & Optical Physics, University of Nebraska – Lincoln; Dr. Gerard Gioia, Ph.D., Division Chief, Neuropsychology, Children's Medical Hospital; Dr. Robert Graham, Chair, Committee on Sports Related Concussion in Youth, Institute of Medicine; Scott Hallenbeck, Executive Director, USA Football; Ian Heaton, High School Athlete; Dr. James Johnston, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Dr. Dennis L. Molfese, Ph.D., Director, Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior, University of Nebraska Lincoln; David Ogrean, Executive Director, USA Hockey; Briana Scurry, Former Professional Goalkeeper, US Women's National Soccer Team; Martha Shenton, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Radiology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES – 10:30 a.m. Full Committee Markup on: H.R. 1192, To redesignate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park as "Mount Jessie Benton Fremont"; H.R. 1501, "Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Preservation Act"; H.R. 3222, "Flushing Remonstrance Study Act"; H.R. 3366, To provide for the release of the property interests retained by the United States in certain land conveyed in 1954 by the United States, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to the State of Oregon for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon; H.R. 4032, "North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act of 2014." Location: 1324 Longworth.

SMALL BUSINESS – 1 p.m. Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access hearing on Made in the USA: Small Businesses and a New Domestic Manufacturing Renaissance. Witnesses: Shirley Mills, Director, The Boston Company, Boston, MA; Robert Hitt, Secretary, South Carolina Department of Commerce,

Columbia, SC; Kevin Harberts, President/CEO Kryton Engineered Metals, Inc., Cedar Rapids, IA. Location: 2360 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 1:30 p.m. Hearing: "Advancing US Interests Abroad: The FY 2015 Foreign Affairs Budget." Witness: John F. Kerry, Secretary of State. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 1:30 p.m. Subcommittee on National Security Hearing, "Status of US Foreign Assistance to Afghanistan in Anticipation of the U.S Troop Withdrawal." Witnesses: Donald L. Sampler, Assistant to the Administrator, Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, US Agency for International Development; Charles M. Johnson, Director, International Affairs and Trade, US Government Accountability Office. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 1:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, US Postal Service and the Census Hearing, "At a Crossroads: the Postal Service's $100 Billion in Unfunded Liabilities." Witnesses: Frank Todisco, Chief Actuary, US Government Accountability Office; Jeffrey Williamson, Chief Human Resources Officer and Executive Vice President, US Postal Service; Robert Moss, Chief, Budget and Resource Management, Defense Health Agency; Joel Sitrin, Chief Actuary, Office of the Actuary, US Department of Defense. Location: 2247 Rayburn.

APPROPRIATIONS – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of Housing and Urban Development. Witness: Shaun Donovan, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development. Location: 2358-A Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats & Capabilities hearing on The Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the US Special Operations Command and the Posture of US Special Operations Forces. Witnesses: Michael D. Lumpkin, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Admiral William McRaven, USN, Commander, US Special Operations Command. Location: 2212 Rayburn.

HOMELAND SECURITY – 2 p.m. The Presidents FY 2015 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security with Jeh Johnson, Secretary, US Department of Homeland Security. Location: 311 Cannon.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE – 2:30 p.m. Hearing on "The Economic Report of the President 2014". Witness: Jason Furman, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers. Location: 1100 Longworth.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – 2:30 p.m. Surface Transportation Reauthorization Roundtable to Gather Input from Non-Federal Partners. In addition to Members of the Committee, roundtable participants will include: Frederick G. "Bud" Wright, Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO); Michael Melaniphy, President and CEO, American Public Transportation Association (APTA); DeLania Hardy, Executive Director, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO); Matthew Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties (NACo). Location: 2167 Rayburn. Other: WILSON CENTER – LATIN AMERICA-INNOVATION – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars' Latin American Program in connection with the State Departments Western Hemisphere Chief of Missions meeting hosts a discussion on making Latin America's economies more competitive. With: Cynthia Arnson, director, Wilson Latin American Program; James Thessin, Ambassador to Paraguay; Phyllis Powers, Ambassador to Nicaragua; Julissa Reynoso, Ambassador to Uruguay; and Lisa Kubiske, Ambassador to Honduras. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 5th floor conference room, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

2014 NCAI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WINTER SESSION – March 11 – 13. The National Congress of American Indians hold their 2014 Executive Council Winter Session. Location: The Westin Washington City Center, 1400 M Street Northwest. Notes: Credentialed media planning to attend must RSVP to Sarah Beccio at sbeccio@NCAI.org or 202.466.7767 ext 230.

EDUCATORS – VIRTUAL CONFERENCE – March 11 – 13. Share My Lesson, the largest online community of American educators sharing lesson plans and other teaching materials, will host a virtual conference of 24 webinars for educators and parents, ranging from creative ways to teach the arts and natural sciences, proactive

and positive behavior management tips, and ways to cultivate innovative thinkers. CONTACT: Natalie Dean, Share My Lesson, natalie.dean@sharemylesson.com 202-756-0291.

WITH SYRIA – 3RD ANNIVERSARY EVENTS – March 11 – 13. Global coalition of over 50 NGOs, charities, civil society, humanitarian and human rights organizations from more than thirty countries including Save the Children, Oxfam, MercyCorps, Care International, Amnesty, International Rescue Committee, World Vision and many more. Bansky, Edis Alba, Elbow, Bill Melendez, Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) ; others. Events held by WithSyria to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the Syrian conflict. Highlights: 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Senate Congressional Briefing "Shining a Light on Syria's Humanitarian Crisis" in Dirksen 419. 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Vigil of solidarity at Capitol Reflecting Pool, near 3rd & Independence SW, look for the red balloons. (between Pennsylvania and Independence on 3rd st, West side of the Capitol) Speakers include: Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), con-sponsor of resolution on Syria; Rep. Jim Mc-Govern (D-MA), Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission; Rajaa Altalii, Cofounder and Co-director of the Center for Civil Society and Democracy in Syria (CCSDS); Dr. Rim Turkmani, astrophysicist at the imperial College and civil society pioneer in Syria; Paul O'Brien, Vice President of Policy and Campaigns, Oxfam America (emcee). Contact: John Bagwell, (202) 360 – 8176 ; Jazmin Rumbaut – (202) 870 – 3134, jazmin@wearemovementmedia.com. Contacts: Jazmmn Rumbaut jazmin@wearemovementmedia.com ((202) 870.3134).

PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHIER AMERICA 2014 – March 12 – 14. Building a Healthier future 2014 summit. PHA Honorary Chair First Lady Michelle Obama is scheduled to keynote the PHA-hosted event on the 14th, which will also feature PHA honorary vice chairs, US Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and the Honorable William H. Frist, M.D., former US Senate Majority Leader. Highlights: 12:30 a.m. Childhood Obesity Solutions Showcase. Speakers: Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, Senior Vice President For Global Partnering, Physicians Leadership Development and "Healthy 100", Florida Hospital, Orlando, Member, Mission: Readiness; Michael Jacobson, Co-Founder And Executive Director, Center for Science in the Public Interest; The Honorable Michael A. Nutter, Mayor, City of Philadelphia. 8:30 a.m. Health Equity for All Communities . Moderator: Mary Jordan, editor, The Washington Post Speakers: Roslyn Brock, Chairman, National Board Of Directors, NAACP; Gail Christopher, DN, Vice President For Program Strategy, W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Janet Murguia, JD, President and CEO, National Council of La Raza; Robert Ross, MD, President and CEO, The California Endowment. Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW. Contacts: news@ahealthierAmerica.org.

NCRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE – March 12 – 15. The National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) will hold its annual conference, bringing together hundreds of community organizations from across the nation. This year's conference theme is "A Just Economy: Ideas, Action, Impact." Highlights: 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Keynote Address: Shaun Donovan, Secretary, US Department of Housing and Urban Development. 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Congressional Luncheon (Kennedy Caucus Room, Russell Senate Office Building) Special Award Presentation: Senator Tom Harkin, US Senator for Iowa. Keynote Address: Senator Elizabeth Warren, US Senator for Massachusetts. Location: Capital Hilton, 16th and K Sts. NW (except where otherwise noted). Contacts: Maria Guex, maria@hintoncommunications.com, 703-608-2260

CORPORATE COUNSEL INSTITUTE – March 13 – 14. Georgetown Law CLE presents the 18th Annual Corporate Counsel Institute, planned by a national Advisory Board of general counsels and senior partners at law firms. Highlights: 9 a.m. Keynote Address – "An Insider's Perspective on the Office of the Solicitor General." Donald B. Verrilli Jr., US Solicitor General. 10:35 a.m. Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division Denis McInerney will participate in an Enforcers' Roundtable discussion. 1:30 p.m. Chief of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section Jeffrey Knox will participate in a panel discussion on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. 4:25 p.m. Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division David Gelfand will participate in a panel on antitrust enforcement. Location: Georgetown University Law Center, McDonough Hall, 600 New Jersey Ave. NW.

NASBE ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY FORUM 2014 – March 13 – 14. The National Association of State Boards of Education 2014 legislative policy forum. Location: Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City Hotel, 1250 South Hayes St., Arlington, Va.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES – March 13 – 15. 2014 Midyear Meeting and Leadership Conference. Location: Westin Grand Hotel, 2350 M St. NW.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION – 9 a.m. Public hearing on proposed amendments to sentencing

guidelines. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver remarks. Location: Mecham Conference Center, The Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle, NE. Notes: All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a driver's license). Media must RSVP to Jeanne Doherty at 202-502-4502 or jdoherty@ussc.gov no later than 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 12. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Jeanne Doherty at jdoherty@ussc.gov or 202-502-4502.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – LATIN AMERICA – ECONOMICS – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Latin America's Economic Integration and Inclusion? A discussion with Mari Carmen Aponte, US Ambassador to El Salvador; Jonathan Don Farrar, US Ambassador to Panama; Adam E. Namm, US Ambassador to Ecuador; Jay N. Anania, US Ambassador to Suriname; Larry Palmer, US Ambassador to Barbados. Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor. Contacts: RSVP to press@AtlanticCouncil.org

WILSON CENTER – LATIN AMERICA-INNOVATION – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars' Latin American Program in connection with the State Departments Western Hemisphere Chief of Missions meeting hosts a discussion on making Latin America's economies more competitive. With: Cynthia Arnson, director, Wilson Latin American Program; James Thessin, Ambassador to Paraguay; Phyllis Powers, Ambassador to Nicaragua; Julissa Reynoso, Ambassador to Uruguay; and Lisa Kubiske, Ambassador to Honduras. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 5th floor conference room, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

NASA ADMINISTRATOR – HIGH SCHOOLERS – 9:30 a.m. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden will address high school students participating in the 2014 United States Senate Youth Program. The discussion will focus on the intersection of public service and US leadership in space exploration. Bolden will deliver the keynote remarks followed by a 20-minute question and answer session. Students then will have the opportunity to speak live with the crew of Expedition 39, currently aboard the International Space Station. Location: NASA Headquarters, 300 E Street, SW. Contacts: Karen Northon, karen.northon@nasa.gov, 202-358-1540

CANNABIS INDUSTRY – 10:30 a.m. Three members of Congress will join the National Cannabis Industry Association, industry leaders, and pollster Celinda Lake in the Cannon House Office Building to hold a briefing on "Marijuana: Growing Support and Growing Economies." With Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA); Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR); Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO). Location: 210 Cannon. Contacts: Taylor West, taylor@thecannabisindustry.org, 888-683-5650

US CHAMBER – IRISH PRIME MINISTER – 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The US Chamber of Commerce will host Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny for a discussion on Ireland's economic recovery and opportunities for increased investment and trade with the United States. Location: US Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW. Contacts: Sally-Shannon Birke (sbirkel@uschamber.com). Notes: Credentialed members of the media are invited to participate. To register, email press@uschamber.com or call 888-249-NEWS.

DOJ – WOMENS HISTORY MONTH – 11 a.m. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver remarks at the department's 2014 Women's History Month Commemorative Program. Location: Department of Justice, Great Hall, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Notes: Media must RSVP to Stephen Ratner at 202-514-2007 or Stephen.Ratner@usdoj.gov no later than 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 12. Media must enter the department at the visitors entrance on Constitution Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets. Media may begin arriving at 10:00 a.m. All cameras must be pre-set by 10:45 a.m. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007.

NEMA 40TH POLICY AND LEADERSHIP FORUM – March 9 – 14. 'NEMA 2014 Mid-Year Emergency Management Policy & Leadership Forum'. Location: Hilton Alexandra Mark Center Hotel, Plaza C, 500 Seminary Rd., Alexandria, Va.

PETERSON – IMF PAPER – 12 p.m. he Peterson Institute for International Economics will cohost with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the release of an important and timely new IMF paper titled "Fiscal Policy and Income Inequality". Mr. David Lipton, the IMFs First Deputy Managing Director, will present the paper and its conclusions, followed by discussion from Dr. Nancy Birdsall, President of the Center for Global Development; and Prof. Robert Z. Lawrence, PIIE non-resident Senior Fellow. Location: Bergsten Conference Center, Peterson Institute, 1750 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Contacts: RSVP to Yvonne Priestley meetings@piie.com

STATE HEALTH EXCHANGE OFFICIALS TELECONFERENCE – 12 p.m. Teleconference for State Exchange Officials to Share Their Experiences Working toward 2014 Enrollment Goals and the March 31 Deadline under the Affordable Care Act. Participants: Peter V. Lee, Executive Director, Covered California; Patty Fontneau, Executive Director and CEO, Connect for Health, Colorado; Kevin Counihan, Chief Executive Officer, Access Health CT; Bill Nold, Deputy Executive Director, Office of the Kentucky; Health Benefit Exchange; Lisa Sbrana, Counsel, New York State of Health; Richard K. Onizuka, PhD, CEO, Washington Health Benefit Exchange; Ron Pollack, Executive Director, Families USA. Dial in toll-free: 888-337-8198. Confirmation code: 7991390. Contacts: Dave Lemmon, Bob Meissner Bob Meissner ((202) 628-3030)

ADVAMED – DIABETES – 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. AdvaMed will hold a Capitol Hill briefing on "how innovative medical devices and diagnostics are helping patients better manage diabetes, improving their quality of life and reducing overall healthcare costs associated with the disease." With Richard Price, Senior Vice President, AdvaMed; Dr. Larry Hirsch, Worldwide Vice President, Medical Affairs, BD, & Type 1 Diabetes Patient; Jeff Hitchcock, Founder, Children with Diabetes; Martha Rinker, Chief Advocacy Officer, American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE). Location: B-340 Raybum. Notes: To cover the event, contact Danielle Blake at dblake@advamed.org.

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE – 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. The Tenth Annual State of Personalized Medicine Address Luncheon hosted by the Personalized Medicine Coalition. Patrick Conway, M.D., Deputy Administrator for Innovation and Quality and Chief Medical Officer, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will discuss CMS' perspective on innovation and quality healthcare reform. Location: National Press Club Ballroom, 529 14th Street, NW. Contacts: Stacey Gross, sgross@spectrumscience.com, 202-955-6222

AEI – DEFENSE SPENDING – REP. FORBES – 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Do defense plans and budgets add up? The Quadrennial Defense Review in context. 12:15 PM. Introduction: Christopher J. Griffin, Foreign Policy Initiative. Discussants: Steven Bucci, Heritage Foundation; Mackenzie Eaglen, AEI; J. Randy Forbes, US House of Representatives (R-VA); Todd Harrison, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. Location: 2226 Rayburn. Notes: Changes location of event from AEI to Rayburn.

HOBBY LOBBY BRIEFING – 1 p.m. Teleconference: "Supreme Court Birth Control Cases Call" with: Jane Perkins, Legal Director, National Health Law Program; Susan Berke Fogel, Director of Reproductive Health, National Health Law Program; Hal C. Lawrence III, MD, Executive Vice President and CEO, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists ; Adam Sonfield, Senior Public Policy Associate, Guttmacher Institute; Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, Executive Director, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health. DIAL IN: 1-800-428-6220 Conference Code: 967619. Contacts: RSVP aabbas@veng-group.com

DOD BRIEFING – 1:30 p.m. Marine Corps Gen. John F. Kelly, commander, US Southern Command, will provide an update to the press in the Pentagon Briefing Room (2E973). Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no later than 45 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort into the building.

MAYORS-CELEBRATE-CDBG – 2 p.m. Newton, MA Mayor Setti Warren, US Conference of Mayors Community Development and Housing Committee Chair, will lead a delegation of US Mayors to celebrate the success of the Community Development Block Program (CDBG) and to explain the importance of the Grants by providing specific examples of how they are used in their communities. CONTACT: Elena Temple, etemple@usmayors.org, 202-286-1100; Lina Garcia, lgarcia@usmayors.org 202-341-6113; Karen Hinton Karen@hintoncommunications.coms, 703-798-3109. Location: USCM HQ, 1620 I St, NW, 4th Floor.

PENTAGON – AFGHANISTAN – 3 p.m. International Security Assistance Force and US Forces-Afghanistan Commander Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. briefs the media to provide an update on the Afghanistan campaign. Location: Pentagon Briefing Room (2E973). Notes: Cameras will not be permitted in this media roundtable. Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no later than 45 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort into the building.

SYRIA BRIEFING – 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Briefing on the humanitarian crisis in Syrian on the third anniversary of

the conflict with Representatives from Care, MercyCorps, Oxfam America, Save the Children, UNICEF and World Vision. Speakers: Dr. Rim Turkmani, Syrian activist, astrophysicist at the Imperial College, senior fellow at the Civil Society and Human Security Research Unit at the London School of Economics; Lisa Szarkowski, Vice President for Humanitarian Emergencies at the US Fund for UNICEF; Michael Klosson, Vice President of Policy and Humanitarian Response, Save the Children; Keith Proctor, Senior Policy Researcher, MercyCorps. Location: 419 Dirksen. Contacts: Francine Uenuma fuenuma@savechildren.org ((202) 450-9153)

WORLD BANK INFOSHOP – EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA – JOBS – 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Speakers: Moderator: Ana Revenga, Acting Vice-President, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, World Bank Group. Authors: Carolina Sanchez Sector Manager, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Europe and Central Asia, World Bank Group; Omar S. Arias Lead Economist, Europe and Central Asia, World Bank Group. Discussants: Hans Timmer Chief Economist, Europe and Central Asia, World Bank Group; Arup Banerji Sector Director, Social Protection and Labor, World Bank Group; William F. Maloney Lead Economist, Development Economics Research Group, World Bank Group. RSVP to infoshopevents@worldbank.org. Location: World Bank infoshop, Auditorium J1-050, 701 18th Street, NW.

WOMEN AND GIRLS LEAD GLOBAL EVENT – 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. US Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Rajiv Shah will participate in a panel discussion highlighting Women and Girls Lead Global, a public-private partnership between USAID, CARE, the Ford Foundation and the Independent Television Service (ITVS). Location: Meridian's White-Meyer House, 1624 Crescent Place, NW. Notes: Press interested in attending, please RSVP to: rsvp@itvs.org

CSIS – US FOREIGN ASSISTANCE – 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development presents "Aid Effectiveness and the US Foreign Assistance Agenda." Keynote Remarks: US Rep. Ted Poe, Texas' 2nd Congressional District. Panel Discussion: Sheila Herrling, Vice President, Department of Policy and Evaluation, Millennium Challenge Corporation; Amb. John Simon, Founding Partner, Total Impact Advisors and Former US Ambassador to the African Union; J. Edward Fox, Principal, Fox & Associates and Former Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs, US Agency for International Development; Porter DeLaney, Founding Partner, Kyle House Group; Gregory Adams, Director of Aid Effectiveness, OXFAM America. Location: 9th Floor Board Room, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Notes: RSVP to PPD@csis.org.

INSA LEADERSHIP DINNER – 5:30 a.m. The Intelligence and National Security Alliance hosts a leadership reception and dinner program. Keynote speaker: NSA Director, General Keith Alexander. For registration questions or assistance please contact Toya Forman at tforman@insaonline.org. Location: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA. Contacts: (703) 224-4672. Notes: Rescheduled from March 3.

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL GALA – 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development; H.E. Mauro Vieira, Ambassador of Brazil to the United States; Dr. John DeGioia, President of Georgetown University; and CBS News will be the honorees at the World Affairs – HONORS Global Education Gala. Marillyn Hewson, Chairman, President and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation, will deliver the keynote address. Location: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 1150 22nd St. NW. Contacts: Gabby LaVerghetta, glaverghetta@worldaffairsdc.or, 202-293-1051

AMERICAN IRELAND FUND – BIDEN – 6:30 p.m. The American Ireland Fund 22nd Annual National Gala to Honor Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and UBS Americas CEO Robert McCann. Participants: The American Ireland Fund 22nd National Gala WHO: An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D.; Rt. Hon. Peter Robinson MLA, Honorary Chair; Martin McGuinness, MP MLA, Honorary Chair; H.E. Anne Anderson, Honorary Chair; Sir Peter Westmacott, Honorary Chair; Representative Peter King and Representative Richard Neal, Honorary Congressional Chairs. For More Information Contact: Washington, DC: Susan O'Neill & Associates at AIFGala@ONeillEvent.com / +1 301/320-8232 USA : Rachel Alabiso at ralabiso@irlfunds.org / tel. +1 617.901.2466 Ireland: Caitriona Fottrell at cfottrell@irlfunds.org / tel. +353. 86. 381 .7397. Location: The Ronald Reagan Building and International, Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Notes: Because of the Secret Service requirements, any camera equipment MUST be in the Building and set up by 1:00 p.m. Note that this only applies to your equipment and whoever is shooting or setting up.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES – CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP – WOMEN – 7 p.m. The National Archives hosts the

Seventh Annual McGowan Forum on Women in Leadership. This year's special program "Women in Congressional Leadership" includes remarks from House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. A panel discusses their personal journeys and advice they would offer to young women entering the field. Moderated by New York Times journalist Jackie Calmes, panelists include former Members of the House of Representatives Connie Morella (R-MD), Barbara Kennelly (D-CT), and Mary Bono (R-CA), and former Senators Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL) and Blanche Lincoln (D-AR). Contacts: programs line 202-357-5000, public affairs 202-357-5300.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: [Refeming to President Obama's trip to New York] "And then, during the day, President Obama went shopping at the Gap. I'm telling you, there hasn't been so much security at the Gap since the time Lindsey Lohan showed up."

David Letterman: [Refeming to John McCain's trip to New York] "And earlier today, John McCain, who was also in town, was seen shopping at the really Old Navy."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to President Obama's interview with comedian Zach Galifianakis] "No one has signed up for Obamacare, give or take 4.2 million people, and our President has gotten so desperate that he appeared on this website 'Funny or Die'. By the way, funny or die is also the ultimatum you get from Obama's death panel. Now, this show he went on, 'Between Two Ferns,' it went viral, which is all part of Obama's sinister plan – spread a virus, then watch everyone scramble for signing up for healthcare."

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, by going on that Web show, Barack Obama undermined the authority of the presidency, and that is FOX News' job."

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, President Obama and Joe Biden met with the Ukrainian prime minister to show their support for his government. That's nice. The prime minister said, 'You guys should visit Ukraine sometime.' Obama said, 'Biden would love to.' Biden was like, 'What? I was watching the door. What's going on?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that President Obama...was in New York and he went shopping at a Gap store. ... The President ended up buying a sweater for each of his daughters and a workout jacket for the First Lady, because, you know, whenever someone visits New York, the one souvenir people really want is something from the Gap."

Seth Meyers: "There are new developments every day in the Ukraine, every single day. And new reports show that the Crimean vote to join Russia on Sunday did not include an option for 'no.' There were only two boxes on the ballot. One for 'yes' and one for 'murder my family.'"

Seth Meyers: "Some bad news today for the President. It looks like Obamacare will miss its enrollment target of seven million people by March 31st, as only four million...have signed up so far. Republicans haven't been this excited since the invention of khakis."

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BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for March 17 (Idaho), March 18, and March 19, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Mar 14, 2014 at 7:38 PM
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are briefing materials that have been uploaded to Google Drive in your March 17, 18, and 19 folders. They will be printed out in hard copy and delivered to you.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

12 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1, 4, 5-12)

3 19 14_5pm_Periodic Intel Briefing.pdf
7K

3 19 14_930am_Internal ESA Discussion.pdf
1672K

3 18 14_12pm_TALKING POINTS Environmental Law Institute Luncheon with John Cruden.docx
32K

3 17 14_830am MDT_Meeting with Cecil Andrus.pdf
10K

3 17 14_930am MDT_Meeting with the Idaho Congressional Delegation.pdf
14K

3 17 14_830am MDT_Briefing with DOI and FS Regional Fire Directors at NIFC.pdf
398K

3 17 14_1030am MDT_TALKING POINTS NIFC Event with Senators Crapo and Wyden.docx
21K

3 18 14_9am_Champions of Change for Engaging the Next Generation of Outdoor Enthusiasts.pdf
351K

3 18 14_330pm_DRAFT ORAL STATEMENT Internal Budget Hearing Prep.docx
29K

3 18 14_330pm_DRAFT WRITTEN TESTIMONY Internal Budget Hearing Prep.doc
86K

3 18 14_330pm_Internal Budget Hearing Prep.pdf
165K

3 18 14_2pm_Principals Meeting on Ladders of Opportunities.pdf
16K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL ESA DISCUSSION

DATE: March 19, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 9:30AM – 10:30AM
FROM: Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, Region 6; Dan Ashe, Director, FWS (202)208-4717; Noreen Walsh, Regional Director, Region 6, (303) 236-4579; Matt Hogan, Deputy Regional Director, Region 6; Gary Frazer, Assistant Director-Endangered Species

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss with you the status of Final Listing Determination for the Gunnison Sage Grouse and the Lesser Prairie Chicken, as well as (1) the range-wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Lesser Prairie-chicken, and (2) Conservation efforts for the Lesser Prairie-chicken.

II. BACKGROUND

Final Listing Determination for Gunnison Sage-grouse (GUSG)

On September 15, 2010, FWS determined that listing the GUSG as a threatened or endangered species was warranted but precluded by higher priority listing actions, and the species was added to the candidate list. Proposed rules to list the GUSG as endangered and to designate critical habitat were published on January 11, 2013. A six-month extension was obtained for completion of the final documents. Subsequent to that, an additional 6 week extension was obtained. The final determination is due to the Federal Register by May 12, 2014.

The current range of GUSG is limited to seven widely scattered and isolated populations in southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah, with an estimated rangewide population of 4,700 individuals. Of the estimated 940,000 acres (ac) (380,000 hectares [ha]) of rangewide occupied habitat, approximately 54 percent occurs on Federal lands; 41 percent occurs on private lands; and 5 percent occurs on state lands.

The Gunnison Basin GUSG population contains approximately 87 percent of the total number of birds and 63 percent of rangewide occupied habitat for the species. The remaining six satellite populations are much smaller than the Gunnison Basin population.

During the public comment period we received information indicating substantial scientific disagreement regarding the interpretation of scientific literature, literature that we may have overlooked, GUSG population trends, the scope of Gunnison County's legal authority to address threats to GUSG, projections about the extent and pattern of future residential development within the range of the species, and what constitutes historical habitat and important current habitat for the species.

In terms of next steps, FWS is finalizing the rulemaking for GUSG. This includes a recommendation for a final rule to list the species as threatened, a final critical habitat designation, and a proposed special rule under section 4(d). The special rule would exempt take for certain practices associated with the Gunnison County development regulations, practices associated with grazing and ranching, and some activities under the Range Wide Conservation Strategy. The Service is considering delaying the effective date of the listing by six months to provide time to finalize the 4(d) rule.

In addition, the Service is working with partners to better articulate the actions necessary to reduce the remaining threats to the satellite populations. This may in turn include amending the Range Wide Conservation Plan for GUSG completed in 2005. A Biology Team has been established to determine the Targets and Actions that will provide sufficient confidence that, when they are achieved, a not warranted finding would result. Should the GUSG be listed, the completion of these actions would likely lead to a proposed delisting.

Biology Team Objectives:

1. Identify population and/or habitat targets within each sub-area that, if achieved, will increase FWS confidence in GUSG conservation. The population and habitat targets will be objective, measurable, and science-based.
2. Identify the Conservation Actions that will address the most important threats to the most important populations that can fulfill the population and habitat targets, sufficient that GUSG will be conserved.
3. In the event of a Threatened finding, to ensure continued conservation and provide input on a possible 4(d) rule.

The Service has asked for the assistance of Colorado Parks and Wildlife to review the 4(d) for clarity and completeness. Subsequent to the biological information being completed the Service will engage local partners on how to develop implementation programs to achieve the biological targets and objectives.

Time Line:

The Biology Team will complete recommendations for internal review by March 21, 2014. The final determination will be published May 12, 2014.

Final Listing Determination for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Below is background on the Service's final determination to list the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species, with a 4(d) special rule. [Note: see attached for map of historical and current range]

The lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) - a species of prairie grouse that currently occupies a five-state range including Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado - has been a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act since 1998. The LPC requires large expanses of

relatively intact native grasslands and prairies to maintain self-sustaining populations. The life history and ecology of the lesser prairie-chicken make it exceptionally vulnerable to changes on the landscape, especially at its currently reduced numbers. This vulnerability to habitat impacts results from the species' lek breeding system which requires males and females to be able to hear and see each other over relatively wide distances, the need for large patches of habitat that include several types of microhabitats, and the behavioral avoidance of vertical structures.

There has been a substantial decrease in the range of the LPC primarily as a result of habitat loss and fragmentation - the primary threat to the species (see attached map of historical and current range). Land use changes related to oil and gas activities, wind energy, transmission development, and agricultural conversion of native prairie, in combination with the potential loss of Conservation Reserve Program acres, present conservation challenges for the species. These ongoing threats, coupled with reduced population size due to the recent severe drought, makes the species especially vulnerable to continuing impacts on the landscape. The vast majority of LPC habitat occurs on private lands across its range and therefore partnerships are critical to conservation of the species.

The range-wide LPC population last year was a record low of roughly 17,600 birds, a nearly 50% decline from the previous year's estimate and likely due to the recent severe drought, habitat loss and fragmentation.

Discussion:

A number of voluntary conservation efforts for LPC have been developed in recent years (see attached summary of LPC Conservation Efforts). The most significant of these have been the LPC Range-wide Plan developed by the 5 state fish and wildlife agencies, under the auspices of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), and the NRCS' Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative, which targets their conservation program funding toward implementing management practices beneficial to the LPC.

While implementation of these conservation efforts will produce a net conservation benefit to the species, the positive benefits of those efforts will largely be demonstrated in the future rather than now at the time of our listing decision. For example, even with the significant enrollment in the RWP in the short term, it will still take several years for habitat improvement practices to take effect. Complicating the issue of conservation delivery is the role of continued drought on the landscape. If there is rain, the improved management on agricultural lands could result in a quick upturn in the status of the species. However, if the drought continues, the habitats will likely not rebound to create additional usable habitat as quickly or at all, and the LPC population will likely not be able to successfully reproduce and grow, despite the efforts of enrolled landowners.

In light of the current precarious status of the population and the ongoing threats it faces, including the severe drought, the Service has concluded that the LPC warrants listing as a threatened species, i.e, one that is in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

The 4(d) special rule that will accompany this listing determination is designed to encourage participation in voluntary conservation efforts, empower the state fish and wildlife agencies to continue to play the lead role in conservation of the LPC, and to remove ESA regulation from activities that are not significant threats to the bird.

Specifically, the 4(d) rule will exempt take of LPC that is incidental to implementing the WAFWA Range-wide LPC Conservation Plan. This plan covers a wide range of development and conservation activities, will be administered by the states through WAFWA, and will provide a vehicle for ESA compliance for all participating landowners. It will provide for an unprecedented state-federal cooperative partnership in managing a listed species.

Similarly, the 4(d) rule will exempt take incidental to implementing the conservation practices agreed to between NRCS and participating landowners through their Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative. We expect that giving NRCS the ability to tell participating ranchers and farmers that ESA compliance is assured if they manage their operations using those conservation practices will encourage more voluntary conservation.

The 4(d) rule will also exempt take incidental to routine agricultural activities on existing cultivated land.

In terms of next steps, the final listing determination and 4(d) rule will be delivered to the *Federal Register* by March 31, 2014. The Service has developed a comprehensive outreach plan and will be working with the Department and other agencies to polish and deliver our message.

Range-wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Lesser Prairie-chicken

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) will administer the CCAA and enroll oil and gas properties under the permit through certificates of inclusion. Region 6 issued an Enhancement of Survival Permit WAFWA on February 28, 2014, for the Range-wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Lesser Prairie-chicken (CCAA).

The CCAA is a voluntary agreement intended to address the effects of oil and gas activities on the lesser prairie-chicken (LEPC) and its habitat in the species' five-state range in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. The CCAA will be administered by WAFWA with oversight by the Service. The CCAA was designed to help implement the conservation strategy of the Lesser Prairie-chicken Rangewide Conservation Plan (RWP), which is a comprehensive conservation plan developed by the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Interstate Working Group of WAFWA. While the RWP addresses the suite of development activities that impact the LEPC, the CCAA focuses on oil and gas impacts. Oil and gas operators can voluntarily enroll their properties in the CCAA to implement avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. In return, the Service provides them regulatory certainty through incidental take coverage and assurances that no more restrictions or commitments would be imposed should the species be listed. The conservation strategy is designed to incentivize oil and gas development in areas already impacted or of lower importance to LEPC. However, where LEPC may be

affected, participants would implement measures to minimize impacts and pay mitigation fees that will fund conservation efforts at a 2:1 ratio of acres of equal or greater habitat quality in important focal and connectivity areas. WAFWA would use the mitigation funds to contract willing landowners to implement habitat improvement practices, such as prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, and brush removal. When fully implemented, this CCAA will provide for the conservation and management of the LEPC and its habitat by reducing and/or eliminating threats to this species associated with non-Federal mineral development.

In terms of next steps, as of the date of this briefing paper, WAFWA is currently processing enrollment into the CCAA for about 500,000 acres for oil and gas properties with more expected soon. These numbers will likely change due to frequent requests for additional signups. WAFWA is also considering applications from landowners for habitat improvements on about 300,000 acres so far.

Conservation Efforts for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

The final 4(d) special rule provides that take incidental to activities conducted by a participant enrolled in, and operating in compliance with the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Interstate Working Group's Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan (rangewide plan) will not be prohibited. The Service has included this provision in the final 4(d) special rule in recognition of the significant conservation planning efforts of the five state wildlife agencies within the range of the lesser prairie-chicken.

On October 23, 2013, the Service endorsed the WAFWA Range-Wide Plan. The rangewide plan is a voluntary conservation strategy that establishes a mitigation framework which is administered by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) for the purpose of allowing plan participants the opportunity to mitigate any unavoidable impacts of a particular activity on the lesser prairie-chicken and provides financial incentives to landowners who voluntarily participate and manage their property for the benefit of the lesser prairie-chicken. The rangewide plan:

(1) Identifies rangewide and sub-population level goals for the lesser prairie-chicken.

(2) Identifies desired habitat amounts and conditions to achieve the population goals.

(3) Uses a decision support tool that identifies focal areas and connectivity zones where lesser prairie-chicken conservation actions will be emphasized to produce the habitat conditions required to conserve the species at sustainable levels.

(4) Enhances programs and cooperative efforts to encourage and expand voluntary landowner cooperation in the development and maintenance of the desired habitat conditions.

(5) Promotes agreements designed to avoid and minimize impacts to lesser prairie-chicken habitat from various development activities and, where avoidance is not possible, mitigate impacts.

(6) Establishes a mitigation framework administered by WAFWA that could be used by any entity to offset impacts to lesser prairie-chicken habitat with offsite mitigation.

(7) Identifies research needs and implements monitoring.

(8) Develops an adaptive management framework that will incorporate monitoring and new information into future adjustments to the conservation strategy to maximize benefits to the lesser prairie-chicken.

(9) Addresses input and suggestions from agencies, organizations, landowners, industries, other stakeholders, and the general public on the conservation plan for the lesser prairie-chicken.

The mitigation framework used in the rangewide plan incentivizes avoidance and minimization of impacts to lesser prairie-chicken habitat. Developers agree to pay higher mitigation fees for impacts in high priority locations and in higher quality habitat, thereby incentivizing avoidance of areas important for lesser prairie-chickens. Developers can minimize or eliminate mitigation fees by locating new impacts in marginal habitat or by co-locating with existing developments. Developers agree to implement conservation measures to further minimize impacts to lesser prairie -chickens when developments do occur. For example, seasonal and daily timing restrictions on potentially disruptive activities, burying of power lines near leks, and and surveys to determine presence or absence of lesser prairie -chickens are required by industry participants

Mitigation dollars will be offered to landowners within the lesser prairie-chicken range for voluntarily implementing conservation practices that benefit the species. Conservation practices are generally equivalent to practice standards defined by the NRCS, although some practices under the range-wide plan are more conservative to further benefit lesser prairie-chickens.

To incentivize conservation in the best places for lesser prairie-chickens landowners are paid under a performance-based system for producing high-quality habitat. Landowners receive increase payments as habitat quality increases. For example, landowners in high priority locations with optimal habitat will be paid 125 percent of the standard cost of implementing the needed conservation practice, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Additionally, landowners receive sign-up incentive payments based on habitat quality to further incentivize enrollment of high quality habitat.

The rangewide population goal, based on an annual spring average over a 10-year time frame, is set at 67,000 birds.

In concert with the RWP, an associated oil and gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) was issued by the Service on February 28, 2014, to WAFWA. Oil and gas companies can enroll in the CCAA and receive incidental take coverage for development activities within the range of the LPC if it is listed. As the master permit holder, WAFWA is currently processing enrollment for about 500,000 acres of oil and gas properties under

Certificates of Inclusion (CI). CI holders will pay mitigation fees and implement avoidance and minimization measures. WAFWA also has received applications from landowners for contracts to implement conservation practices funded by mitigation fees for about 300,000 acres.

Other Provisions of the 4(d) Special Rule for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken:

Agricultural Activities Conducted in Accordance with NRCS's Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative and Related NRCS Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conservation Activities: The final 4(d) special rule provides that take of the lesser prairie-chicken will not be prohibited provided the take is incidental to the conditioned conservation practices that are carried out in accordance with a conservation plan developed by NRCS in connection with NRCS's Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (LPCI) and related NRCS activities focused on lesser prairie-chicken conservation consistent with the provisions of the November 22, 2013, conference opinion that was developed in coordination with the Service.

Continuation of Routine Agricultural Practices on Existing Cultivated Lands: The draft final 4(d) special rule provides that take of the lesser prairie-chicken will not be prohibited provided the take is incidental to activities that are conducted during the continuation of routine agricultural practices on cultivated lands that are in row crop, seed-drilled untilled crop, hay, or forage production. These lands must meet the definition of cropland as defined in 7 CFR 718.2, and, in addition, must have been cultivated, meaning tilled, planted, or harvested, within the previous 5 years. Thus, this provision does not include take coverage for any new conversion of grasslands into agriculture.

Other LPC Conservation Efforts:

Candidate Conservation Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAs/CCAAs) have been in place for several years in three of the five LPC states - Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. CCAAs are voluntary and provide non-Federal landowners and developers the opportunity to implement conservation practices that address specific threats with assurances that, if the species is listed, they can continue to manage their land as outlined in their agreements with no additional requirements. Enrollment in a CCAA may only occur until the effective date of a listing.

In Texas, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) holds the section 10 permit issued on November 2, 2006, for private landowner use and issues Certificates of Inclusion to participating landowners who are voluntarily implementing management plans for LPCs. Currently, 84 certificates covering 614,250 acres are enrolled in the CCAA; TPWD is currently processing other requests for enrollment.

In New Mexico, both a CCA and CCAA were issued on December 8, 2008, for surface and mineral activities and for private landowners for grazing activities. There are currently 31 oil and gas companies with a total of 883,000 mineral acres and the participating Federal agency is the BLM. In addition, 51 New Mexico ranchers have enrolled in the agreements, representing 1,750,000 enrolled acres. Partners in the New Mexico CCAA/CCA include BLM, Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (non-profit third party to manage restoration,

reclamation and funding), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and several oil and gas companies. On March 1, 2012, the New Mexico State Land Office enrolled all LPC habitat on state Trust lands in conservation pursuant to these agreements. Applications for enrollment have recently increased and we expect these numbers to change in the near future.

Oklahoma, under the leadership of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), developed a CCAA for ranching activities. The CCAA was approved January 25, 2013. Currently, 16 certificates covering 18,649 acres are enrolled and ODWC is processing additional enrollments.

The USDA's NRCS is implementing the LPC Initiative (LPCI). The LPCI is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to landowners and operators for enhancing and maintaining chicken habitat in high priority areas and reducing threats to the species. The primary focus for the LPCI is upland wildlife habitat management. The LPCI participants can receive technical and financial assistance for a number of actions including brush management, prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, range planting and restoration of habitat. On November 22, 2013, the Service issued a conference opinion for the NRCS's LPCI and associated procedures, conservation practices, and conservation measures.

The USDA's Farm Services Agency's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has provided short-term protection and enhancement of millions of acres within the range of the LPC. CRP is a voluntary program that allows eligible landowners to receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to remove land from agricultural production and establish vegetative cover for the term of the contract. Contract terms are for 10 to 15 years. Farm Bill programs such as the CRP have provided funding that has resulted in millions of acres of habitat improvements across most of the range of the LPC. In particular, in the State of Kansas enrolled lands were planted in native grasses as the cover type, resulting in a considerable benefit to LPC conservation.

In January 2013, Farm Services Agency engaged the Service in a collaborative effort to develop a Conference Opinion (CO) to address CRP implementation on lands occurring within the estimated occupied range of the lesser prairie-chicken (OK, TX, NM, CO, and KS). The CO is intended to evaluate the cumulative landscape level effects of CRP implementation on the lesser prairie-chicken, prescribe conservation measures to avoid or minimize any adverse effects of CRP implementation, and if appropriate, provide incidental take coverage to CRP participants who adhere to the conditions in the CO. The target date for completion of the conference opinion is the end of March.

The Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is voluntary and provides financial and technical assistance for activities such as grazing management, upland restoration, and wetland enhancement.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Map of historical and current Lesser-Prairie Chicken range

TALKING POINTS (20 minutes)

Environmental Law Institute – March 18, 2014

- Thank you John and ELI for inviting me.
- Thanks also, John, for your commitment to public service in your years in the Army and at the Department of Justice.
- Good luck on a speedy confirmation as Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division.

YOUR Observations as the 51st Secretary of the Interior (2 Items)

1. Public service

- no higher calling than public service – these are tough jobs but I believe we can **make a difference**
- **Moral obligation** to the next generation to leave our land, water, and wildlife better than we found it.
- We need to take the **long view**, particularly in the face of climate change and a growing population.

2. Budgetary Constraints

- Something new in this job is dealing with the absurd world of sequestration and government shutdown.
- Not only does the public suffer from loss of vital, critical govt services, but local economies also suffer.
- We need sustainable budgets that support our public lands. The American public wants to see common sense and bipartisanship.

- Recently announced Proposed FY 2015 Budget – highlights include:
    - Mandatory funding ($900 million) for the **Land and Water Conservation Fund** in 2015.
    - **National Parks Centennial Initiative in 2016** ($1.2B total permanent funding over 3 years)– celebrate "America's Best Idea" where lands are set aside for everyone.
    - Supports the **President's Climate Action Plan** to move the economy toward clean energy sources, cut carbon pollution.
        - Interior by 2020 – **20,000 Megawatts** of renewable energy (6 million homes)
        - $1 billion govt-wide **Climate Resilience Fund** – finding solutions to climate change in technology and applied research

NOTE: The proposed FY 2015 Budget also includes **Legislative proposals.** The following EXAMPLES would generate $2.5 B to Treasury from 2015 to 2024:

- royalty reforms (minimum rates, repealing mandatory royalty relief)
- diligent development of oil and gas leases (shorter lease terms, incentives to produce)
- improved revenue collection (simplified valuation process; repeal of in-kind payments)

Most Pressing Issues Facing Interior (4 Items)

1. Mitigation

- October 31, 2013, I signed a **Secretarial Order** that calls for a Department-wide mitigation strategy.
    - Good government – reduce conflicts and delays

- Simpler, more straightforward approach for businesses
- Provides certainty and clarity
- Instead of ad-hoc, project-by-project mitigation

- We have the tools to ensure that conventional and traditional energy development occurs in **the right place in the right way.** Examples include:

  - Work with **local communities** to learn their regional conservation priorities
  - Integrate mitigation considerations **early** in project planning
  - Make sure mitigation measures are **durable.**
  - Improve the **resiliency** of our Nation's resources in the face of climate change.

- I look forward to receiving the report from the Task Force in the near future

[NOTE: The Task Force relied on ELI studies of compensatory mitigation programs to learn from the experiences of the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.]

2. Landscape Level Planning

- My belief is that to serve as good stewards, we must take a **global, birds-eye view.**

- Conservation and development can both occur – it doesn't have to be an **"either or"** proposition

- At Interior, we have the **geospatial tools and data** to see what makes sense where.

- I just announced in February the **First National Interactive Map of Onshore Wind Turbines.**

- USGS map showed more than 47,000 wind turbine locations across the US

- Help improve siting of future projects and aid land managers

- In December, I met with western governors in Nevada. I emphasized the need to redouble our efforts on **Sage Grouse Conservation Planning** (also reaffirmed at WGA meeting in Feb)

    - We are working in a **holistic approach, across the landscape**—state, federal and private

    - Task Force consists of **11 states,** FWS, BLM, US Forest Service.

    - **98 land management plans** – amending to address sage grouse conservation. Final amendments by end of this year

    - Deadline of **Sept, 2015** for listing decision

- Other examples – Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan; Alaska National Petroleum Reserve

3. Drought in the West

- I recently visited California which is suffering from the **worst drought** since the 1970s.

    - I witnessed firsthand the dire situation talking to **agricultural water users** in the San Joaquin Delta

- We must use a **balanced and coordinated approach** to providing water for all needs – agriculture, business, power, and the environment.

- We must confront the **realities** of a changing climate, increasing population, and diminishing supply.

- The Administration is committed to an "**all in**" approach to federal response to drought conditions in the West.

- We are working closely with the State on the **Bay Delta Conservation Plan.**

- **WaterSMART** projects and funding (FY 2015 $66.5 m) has a goal to increase by 840,000 acre-feet by 2015 the water supply for agricultural, municipal, industrial, and environmental uses in the west.

[NOTE: The 9th Circuit (CA) just issued a largely favorable ruling in the delta smelt litigation that upheld the FWS Biological Opinion, admonished the lower court judge for allowing the case to become a battle between the parties' experts, and reaffirmed that judges should defer to the federal agency's expertise.]

4. Engaging the Next Generation

- **Millennial Generation (18 to 33 yrs old)** – larger, more urban, more diverse

    - Disconnected from the outdoors. These are our future stewards of our public lands.

    - **Time to UN-PLUG!**

- **PLAY, LEARN, SERVE & WORK**

    - By 2017, develop partnerships in **50 cities** to create outdoor recreation opportunities for more than **10 million** young people.

    - Annually provide **educational** opportunities to **10 million** young people

    - Engage **1 million** volunteers on our public lands by 2017

- Provide **100,000** work and training opportunities for youth over the next 4 years

- **White House Champions of Change Event** – Engaging the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

  - This morning, I participated in this important event that recognizes the amazing work of 14 young people who are connecting their peers with the outdoors, volunteering in our leading conservation organizations, and elevating the importance of protecting our natural spaces.

- **21st Century Conservation Service Corps Initiative**

  - In January, **American Eagle Outfitters** announced a $1 million

  - **Camelback** $100,000 commitment

How Do You Get Things Done in Washington DC (3 Items)

1. We cannot wait for Congress

- **National Monuments** – Antiquities Act authority

  - 10 national monuments under Obama (e.g., Rio Grande del Norte, Cesar Chavez, Harriet Tubman)

  - Just last week, **Point Arena- Stornetta** - 1,665 acres of a significant and spectacular stretch of public lands along the Mendocino coastline in Northern California.

  - Will continue to talk with communities and evaluate opportunities to protect our nation's stories and landscapes.

- I applaud President Obama and Congress for designating wilderness in the **Sleeping Bears Dune National Lakeshore** (Michigan).

- Our 50th national park with wilderness

- It has been 5 years since Congress has taken steps to protect our precious landscapes

- I encourage Congress to pass other conservation proposals awaiting action

2. Public-private partnerships

- Last week, I announced with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti that LA has been selected as one of 8 pilot cities under the FWS' **Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative** to connect urban youth with the great outdoors

- In February, I joined Senator Lamar Alexander on a visit to the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** to focus on public-private partnerships in the region.

- I just got back from a trip to Montana where I met with ranchers who are leading collaborative efforts to conserve the **Crown of the Continent ecosystem** (includes LCWF conservation easements)

3. Highlight the economic benefits of conservation/outdoor recreation

- In 2012, Interior contributed an estimated $371 billion to the economy and supported an estimated 2.3 million in American jobs.

- This month, I announced a peer-reviewed report showing that National Parks across the country generated $26.75 billion in economic activity and support 243,000 jobs.

I am happy to take any questions at this time.

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH THE IDAHO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

DATE: March 17, 2014
LOCATION: National Interagency Fire Center, Boise, ID
TIME: 9:30AM – 10:00AM MDT
FROM: Tim Murphy, Acting BLM Idaho State Director (208)373-4001

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to meet with the Idaho Congressional delegation regarding Greater Sage-Grouse issues in the State.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Senator Jim Risch
- Senator Mike Crapo
- Rep. Mike Simpson (tentative)

III. BACKGROUND

In 2011, the BLM and the Forest Service joined forces to develop, analyze and incorporate coordinated, long-term conservation measures and actions for the Greater Sage-Grouse to be in their LUPs. These planning measures must be incorporated into LUPs by the end of 2014 to give the FWS time to evaluate them before making a court-ordered, final listing decision in 2015.

Discussion

As part of the joint effort, the BLM and FS issued a draft LUP amendment and draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on November 1, 2013, that would amend BLM and FS land management plans covering Idaho and Southwestern Montana. The draft was developed through a coordinated effort between BLM, FS, USFWS, State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Office of Species Conservation, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the National Resources Conservation Service, and local cooperating agencies, including the National Park Service, Department of Defense, Idaho National Laboratory, and multiple counties in Idaho and Montana.

The Draft LUP Amendment/EIS would amend 21 BLM resource management plans and 8 Forest Service land management plans covering BLM and NF lands in Idaho and Southwestern Montana. Within this Sub-region are a total of 11 million acres of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat area, of which approximately 9 million acres are managed by the BLM and 2 million acres are managed by the FS. The Final Plan Amendment and EIS for the Great Basin Region Idaho and Southwestern Montana Sub-region is on schedule to be released in the summer of 2014, with the Record of Decision to be signed in the fall of 2014.

Throughout this effort, the BLM and FS have diligently coordinated and worked collaboratively with all interested parties. Through this, the BLM and the FS have identified Alternatives D (Idaho and Southwest Montana sub-regional alternative) and E (Idaho Governor's Alternative) as co-Preferred Alternatives for the purposes of public comment and review. BLM and Forest Service officials agree that portions of the management guidance described within each of these two alternatives respond best to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat threats within the Idaho and Southwestern Montana sub-region.

Next Steps

As we move towards crafting the proposed plan and final decision, the BLM and FS continue to work with FWS, the states of Idaho and Montana, and the other local cooperating agencies, particularly the Idaho Governor's Sage-Grouse Task Force. This includes working on a weekly basis with the State of Idaho to refine and further define the approach with the overall goal that we can all move forward in support of the final outcome. In support of this, we are working from the field and technical level to the manager and decision level.

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The purpose of this meeting is to discuss with you the status of Final Listing Determination for the Gunnison Sage Grouse and the Lesser Prairie Chicken, as well as (1) the range-wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Lesser Prairie-chicken, and (2) Conservation efforts for the Lesser Prairie-chicken.

II. BACKGROUND

Final Listing Determination for Gunnison Sage-grouse (GUSG)

On September 15, 2010, FWS determined that listing the GUSG as a threatened or endangered species was warranted but precluded by higher priority listing actions, and the species was added to the candidate list. Proposed rules to list the GUSG as endangered and to designate critical habitat were published on January 11, 2013. A six-month extension was obtained for completion of the final documents. Subsequent to that, an additional 6 week extension was obtained. The final determination is due to the Federal Register by May 12, 2014.

The current range of GUSG is limited to seven widely scattered and isolated populations in southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah, with an estimated rangewide population of 4,700 individuals. Of the estimated 940,000 acres (ac) (380,000 hectares [ha]) of rangewide occupied habitat, approximately 54 percent occurs on Federal lands; 41 percent occurs on private lands; and 5 percent occurs on state lands.

The Gunnison Basin GUSG population contains approximately 87 percent of the total number of birds and 63 percent of rangewide occupied habitat for the species. The remaining six satellite populations are much smaller than the Gunnison Basin population.

During the public comment period we received information indicating substantial scientific disagreement regarding the interpretation of scientific literature, literature that we may have overlooked, GUSG population trends, the scope of Gunnison County's legal authority to address threats to GUSG, projections about the extent and pattern of future residential development within the range of the species, and what constitutes historical habitat and important current habitat for the species.

In terms of next steps, FWS is finalizing the rulemaking for GUSG. This includes a recommendation for a final rule to list the species as threatened, a final critical habitat designation, and a proposed special rule under section 4(d). The special rule would exempt take for certain practices associated with the Gunnison County development regulations, practices associated with grazing and ranching, and some activities under the Range Wide Conservation Strategy. The Service is considering delaying the effective date of the listing by six months to provide time to finalize the 4(d) rule.

In addition, the Service is working with partners to better articulate the actions necessary to reduce the remaining threats to the satellite populations. This may in turn include amending the Range Wide Conservation Plan for GUSG completed in 2005. A Biology Team has been established to determine the Targets and Actions that will provide sufficient confidence that, when they are achieved, a not warranted finding would result. Should the GUSG be listed, the completion of these actions would likely lead to a proposed delisting.

Biology Team Objectives:

1. Identify population and/or habitat targets within each sub-area that, if achieved, will increase FWS confidence in GUSG conservation. The population and habitat targets will be objective, measurable, and science-based.
2. Identify the Conservation Actions that will address the most important threats to the most important populations that can fulfill the population and habitat targets, sufficient that GUSG will be conserved.
3. In the event of a Threatened finding, to ensure continued conservation and provide input on a possible 4(d) rule.

The Service has asked for the assistance of Colorado Parks and Wildlife to review the 4(d) for clarity and completeness. Subsequent to the biological information being completed the Service will engage local partners on how to develop implementation programs to achieve the biological targets and objectives.

Time Line:

The Biology Team will complete recommendations for internal review by March 21, 2014. The final determination will be published May 12, 2014.

Final Listing Determination for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Below is background on the Service's final determination to list the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species, with a 4(d) special rule. [Note: see attached for map of historical and current range]

The lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) - a species of prairie grouse that currently occupies a five-state range including Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado - has been a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act since 1998. The LPC requires large expanses of

relatively intact native grasslands and prairies to maintain self-sustaining populations. The life history and ecology of the lesser prairie-chicken make it exceptionally vulnerable to changes on the landscape, especially at its currently reduced numbers. This vulnerability to habitat impacts results from the species' lek breeding system which requires males and females to be able to hear and see each other over relatively wide distances, the need for large patches of habitat that include several types of microhabitats, and the behavioral avoidance of vertical structures.

There has been a substantial decrease in the range of the LPC primarily as a result of habitat loss and fragmentation - the primary threat to the species (see attached map of historical and current range). Land use changes related to oil and gas activities, wind energy, transmission development, and agricultural conversion of native prairie, in combination with the potential loss of Conservation Reserve Program acres, present conservation challenges for the species. These ongoing threats, coupled with reduced population size due to the recent severe drought, makes the species especially vulnerable to continuing impacts on the landscape. The vast majority of LPC habitat occurs on private lands across its range and therefore partnerships are critical to conservation of the species.

The range-wide LPC population last year was a record low of roughly 17,600 birds, a nearly 50% decline from the previous year's estimate and likely due to the recent severe drought, habitat loss and fragmentation.

Discussion:

A number of voluntary conservation efforts for LPC have been developed in recent years (see attached summary of LPC Conservation Efforts). The most significant of these have been the LPC Range-wide Plan developed by the 5 state fish and wildlife agencies, under the auspices of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), and the NRCS' Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative, which targets their conservation program funding toward implementing management practices beneficial to the LPC.

While implementation of these conservation efforts will produce a net conservation benefit to the species, the positive benefits of those efforts will largely be demonstrated in the future rather than now at the time of our listing decision. For example, even with the significant enrollment in the RWP in the short term, it will still take several years for habitat improvement practices to take effect. Complicating the issue of conservation delivery is the role of continued drought on the landscape. If there is rain, the improved management on agricultural lands could result in a quick upturn in the status of the species. However, if the drought continues, the habitats will likely not rebound to create additional usable habitat as quickly or at all, and the LPC population will likely not be able to successfully reproduce and grow, despite the efforts of enrolled landowners.

In light of the current precarious status of the population and the ongoing threats it faces, including the severe drought, the Service has concluded that the LPC warrants listing as a threatened species, i.e, one that is in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

The 4(d) special rule that will accompany this listing determination is designed to encourage participation in voluntary conservation efforts, empower the state fish and wildlife agencies to continue to play the lead role in conservation of the LPC, and to remove ESA regulation from activities that are not significant threats to the bird.

Specifically, the 4(d) rule will exempt take of LPC that is incidental to implementing the WAFWA Range-wide LPC Conservation Plan. This plan covers a wide range of development and conservation activities, will be administered by the states through WAFWA, and will provide a vehicle for ESA compliance for all participating landowners. It will provide for an unprecedented state-federal cooperative partnership in managing a listed species.

Similarly, the 4(d) rule will exempt take incidental to implementing the conservation practices agreed to between NRCS and participating landowners through their Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative. We expect that giving NRCS the ability to tell participating ranchers and farmers that ESA compliance is assured if they manage their operations using those conservation practices will encourage more voluntary conservation.

The 4(d) rule will also exempt take incidental to routine agricultural activities on existing cultivated land.

In terms of next steps, the final listing determination and 4(d) rule will be delivered to the *Federal Register* by March 31, 2014. The Service has developed a comprehensive outreach plan and will be working with the Department and other agencies to polish and deliver our message.

Range-wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Lesser Prairie-chicken

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) will administer the CCAA and enroll oil and gas properties under the permit through certificates of inclusion. Region 6 issued an Enhancement of Survival Permit WAFWA on February 28, 2014, for the Range-wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Lesser Prairie-chicken (CCAA).

The CCAA is a voluntary agreement intended to address the effects of oil and gas activities on the lesser prairie-chicken (LEPC) and its habitat in the species' five-state range in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. The CCAA will be administered by WAFWA with oversight by the Service. The CCAA was designed to help implement the conservation strategy of the Lesser Prairie-chicken Rangewide Conservation Plan (RWP), which is a comprehensive conservation plan developed by the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Interstate Working Group of WAFWA. While the RWP addresses the suite of development activities that impact the LEPC, the CCAA focuses on oil and gas impacts. Oil and gas operators can voluntarily enroll their properties in the CCAA to implement avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. In return, the Service provides them regulatory certainty through incidental take coverage and assurances that no more restrictions or commitments would be imposed should the species be listed. The conservation strategy is designed to incentivize oil and gas development in areas already impacted or of lower importance to LEPC. However, where LEPC may be

affected, participants would implement measures to minimize impacts and pay mitigation fees that will fund conservation efforts at a 2:1 ratio of acres of equal or greater habitat quality in important focal and connectivity areas. WAFWA would use the mitigation funds to contract willing landowners to implement habitat improvement practices, such as prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, and brush removal. When fully implemented, this CCAA will provide for the conservation and management of the LEPC and its habitat by reducing and/or eliminating threats to this species associated with non-Federal mineral development.

In terms of next steps, as of the date of this briefing paper, WAFWA is currently processing enrollment into the CCAA for about 500,000 acres for oil and gas properties with more expected soon. These numbers will likely change due to frequent requests for additional signups. WAFWA is also considering applications from landowners for habitat improvements on about 300,000 acres so far.

Conservation Efforts for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

The final 4(d) special rule provides that take incidental to activities conducted by a participant enrolled in, and operating in compliance with the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Interstate Working Group's Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan (rangewide plan) will not be prohibited. The Service has included this provision in the final 4(d) special rule in recognition of the significant conservation planning efforts of the five state wildlife agencies within the range of the lesser prairie-chicken.

On October 23, 2013, the Service endorsed the WAFWA Range-Wide Plan. The rangewide plan is a voluntary conservation strategy that establishes a mitigation framework which is administered by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) for the purpose of allowing plan participants the opportunity to mitigate any unavoidable impacts of a particular activity on the lesser prairie-chicken and provides financial incentives to landowners who voluntarily participate and manage their property for the benefit of the lesser prairie-chicken. The rangewide plan:

(1) Identifies rangewide and sub-population level goals for the lesser prairie-chicken.

(2) Identifies desired habitat amounts and conditions to achieve the population goals.

(3) Uses a decision support tool that identifies focal areas and connectivity zones where lesser prairie-chicken conservation actions will be emphasized to produce the habitat conditions required to conserve the species at sustainable levels.

(4) Enhances programs and cooperative efforts to encourage and expand voluntary landowner cooperation in the development and maintenance of the desired habitat conditions.

(5) Promotes agreements designed to avoid and minimize impacts to lesser prairie-chicken habitat from various development activities and, where avoidance is not possible, mitigate impacts.

(6) Establishes a mitigation framework administered by WAFWA that could be used by any entity to offset impacts to lesser prairie-chicken habitat with offsite mitigation.

(7) Identifies research needs and implements monitoring.

(8) Develops an adaptive management framework that will incorporate monitoring and new information into future adjustments to the conservation strategy to maximize benefits to the lesser prairie-chicken.

(9) Addresses input and suggestions from agencies, organizations, landowners, industries, other stakeholders, and the general public on the conservation plan for the lesser prairie-chicken.

The mitigation framework used in the rangewide plan incentivizes avoidance and minimization of impacts to lesser prairie-chicken habitat. Developers agree to pay higher mitigation fees for impacts in high priority locations and in higher quality habitat, thereby incentivizing avoidance of areas important for lesser prairie-chickens. Developers can minimize or eliminate mitigation fees by locating new impacts in marginal habitat or by co-locating with existing developments. Developers agree to implement conservation measures to further minimize impacts to lesser prairie -chickens when developments do occur. For example, seasonal and daily timing restrictions on potentially disruptive activities, burying of power lines near leks, and and surveys to determine presence or absence of lesser prairie -chickens are required by industry participants

Mitigation dollars will be offered to landowners within the lesser prairie-chicken range for voluntarily implementing conservation practices that benefit the species. Conservation practices are generally equivalent to practice standards defined by the NRCS, although some practices under the range-wide plan are more conservative to further benefit lesser prairie-chickens.

To incentivize conservation in the best places for lesser prairie-chickens landowners are paid under a performance-based system for producing high-quality habitat. Landowners receive increase payments as habitat quality increases. For example, landowners in high priority locations with optimal habitat will be paid 125 percent of the standard cost of implementing the needed conservation practice, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Additionally, landowners receive sign-up incentive payments based on habitat quality to further incentivize enrollment of high quality habitat.

The rangewide population goal, based on an annual spring average over a 10-year time frame, is set at 67,000 birds.

In concert with the RWP, an associated oil and gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) was issued by the Service on February 28, 2014, to WAFWA. Oil and gas companies can enroll in the CCAA and receive incidental take coverage for development activities within the range of the LPC if it is listed. As the master permit holder, WAFWA is currently processing enrollment for about 500,000 acres of oil and gas properties under

Certificates of Inclusion (CI). CI holders will pay mitigation fees and implement avoidance and minimization measures. WAFWA also has received applications from landowners for contracts to implement conservation practices funded by mitigation fees for about 300,000 acres.

Other Provisions of the 4(d) Special Rule for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken:

Agricultural Activities Conducted in Accordance with NRCS's Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative and Related NRCS Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conservation Activities: The final 4(d) special rule provides that take of the lesser prairie-chicken will not be prohibited provided the take is incidental to the conditioned conservation practices that are carried out in accordance with a conservation plan developed by NRCS in connection with NRCS's Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (LPCI) and related NRCS activities focused on lesser prairie-chicken conservation consistent with the provisions of the November 22, 2013, conference opinion that was developed in coordination with the Service.

Continuation of Routine Agricultural Practices on Existing Cultivated Lands: The draft final 4(d) special rule provides that take of the lesser prairie-chicken will not be prohibited provided the take is incidental to activities that are conducted during the continuation of routine agricultural practices on cultivated lands that are in row crop, seed-drilled untilled crop, hay, or forage production. These lands must meet the definition of cropland as defined in 7 CFR 718.2, and, in addition, must have been cultivated, meaning tilled, planted, or harvested, within the previous 5 years. Thus, this provision does not include take coverage for any new conversion of grasslands into agriculture.

Other LPC Conservation Efforts:

Candidate Conservation Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAs/CCAAs) have been in place for several years in three of the five LPC states - Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. CCAAs are voluntary and provide non-Federal landowners and developers the opportunity to implement conservation practices that address specific threats with assurances that, if the species is listed, they can continue to manage their land as outlined in their agreements with no additional requirements. Enrollment in a CCAA may only occur until the effective date of a listing.

In Texas, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) holds the section 10 permit issued on November 2, 2006, for private landowner use and issues Certificates of Inclusion to participating landowners who are voluntarily implementing management plans for LPCs. Currently, 84 certificates covering 614,250 acres are enrolled in the CCAA; TPWD is currently processing other requests for enrollment.

In New Mexico, both a CCA and CCAA were issued on December 8, 2008, for surface and mineral activities and for private landowners for grazing activities. There are currently 31 oil and gas companies with a total of 883,000 mineral acres and the participating Federal agency is the BLM. In addition, 51 New Mexico ranchers have enrolled in the agreements, representing 1,750,000 enrolled acres. Partners in the New Mexico CCAA/CCA include BLM, Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (non-profit third party to manage restoration,

reclamation and funding), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and several oil and gas companies. On March 1, 2012, the New Mexico State Land Office enrolled all LPC habitat on state Trust lands in conservation pursuant to these agreements. Applications for enrollment have recently increased and we expect these numbers to change in the near future.

Oklahoma, under the leadership of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), developed a CCAA for ranching activities. The CCAA was approved January 25, 2013. Currently, 16 certificates covering 18,649 acres are enrolled and ODWC is processing additional enrollments.

The USDA's NRCS is implementing the LPC Initiative (LPCI). The LPCI is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to landowners and operators for enhancing and maintaining chicken habitat in high priority areas and reducing threats to the species. The primary focus for the LPCI is upland wildlife habitat management. The LPCI participants can receive technical and financial assistance for a number of actions including brush management, prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, range planting and restoration of habitat. On November 22, 2013, the Service issued a conference opinion for the NRCS's LPCI and associated procedures, conservation practices, and conservation measures.

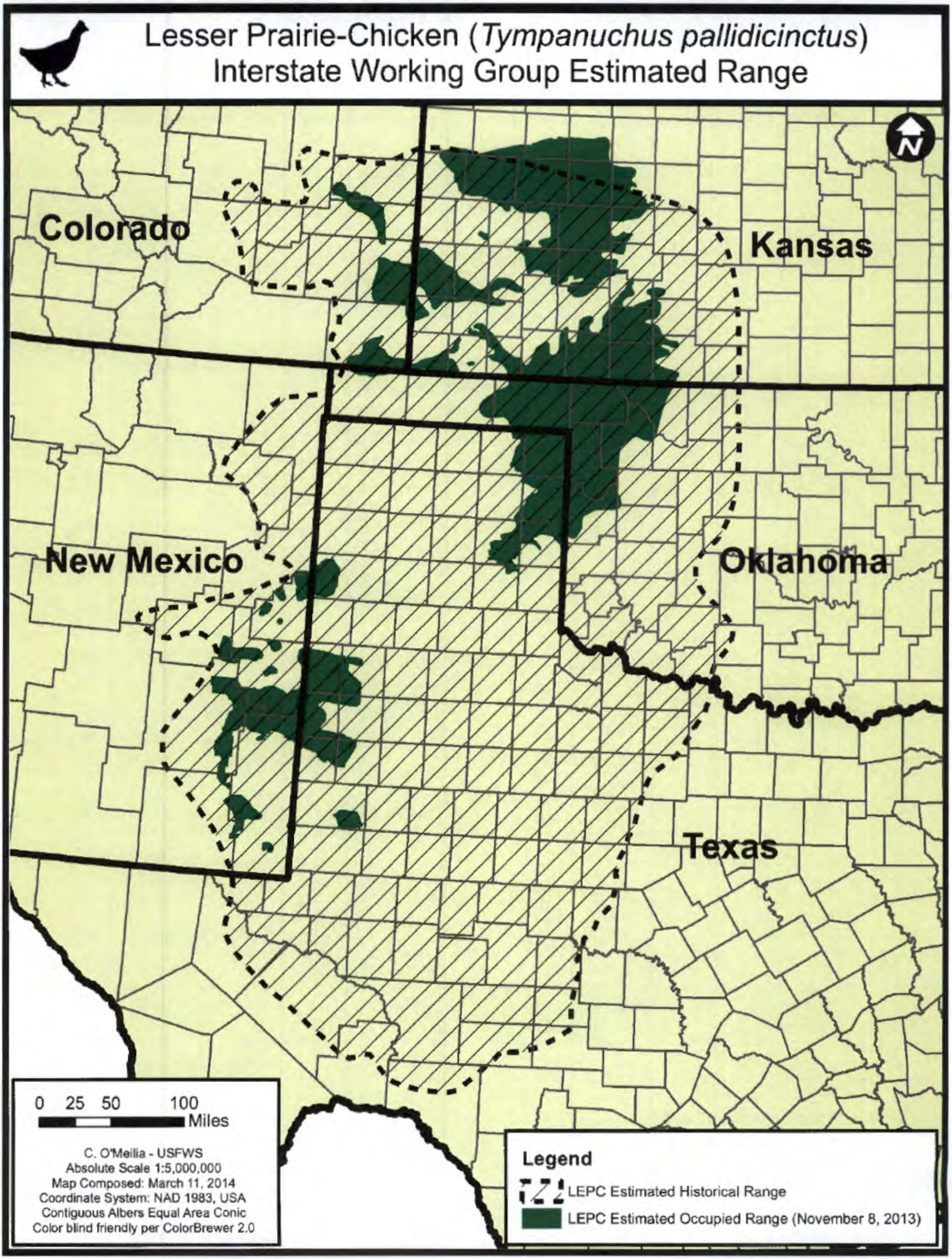
The USDA's Farm Services Agency's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has provided short-term protection and enhancement of millions of acres within the range of the LPC. CRP is a voluntary program that allows eligible landowners to receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to remove land from agricultural production and establish vegetative cover for the term of the contract. Contract terms are for 10 to 15 years. Farm Bill programs such as the CRP have provided funding that has resulted in millions of acres of habitat improvements across most of the range of the LPC. In particular, in the State of Kansas enrolled lands were planted in native grasses as the cover type, resulting in a considerable benefit to LPC conservation.

In January 2013, Farm Services Agency engaged the Service in a collaborative effort to develop a Conference Opinion (CO) to address CRP implementation on lands occurring within the estimated occupied range of the lesser prairie-chicken (OK, TX, NM, CO, and KS). The CO is intended to evaluate the cumulative landscape level effects of CRP implementation on the lesser prairie-chicken, prescribe conservation measures to avoid or minimize any adverse effects of CRP implementation, and if appropriate, provide incidental take coverage to CRP participants who adhere to the conditions in the CO. The target date for completion of the conference opinion is the end of March.

The Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is voluntary and provides financial and technical assistance for activities such as grazing management, upland restoration, and wetland enhancement.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Map of historical and current Lesser-Prairie Chicken range


Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*)
Interstate Working Group Estimated Range
N
Colorado
Kansas
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas
0 25 50 100
Miles
C. O'Meilia - USFWS
Absolute Scale 1:5,000,000
Map Composed: March 11, 2014
Coordinate System: NAD 1983, USA
Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic
Color blind friendly per ColorBrewer 2.0
Legend
LEPC Estimated Historical Range
LEPC Estimated Occupied Range (November 8, 2013)

STATEMENT OF SALLY JEWELL, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES,
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
ON THE 2015 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST

March 25, 2014

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am pleased to present the 2015 President's Budget for the Department of the Interior.

One of the first things I did on becoming Interior Secretary, was to meet with this subcommittee on the 2014 budget. This subcommittee remains an important partner in the accomplishment of Interior's mission and I appreciate our excellent working relationship, which allows us to resolve challenges and take advantage of opportunities. I appreciate the efforts of the Subcommittee in the development of 2014 appropriations that reversed the sequester and minimized legislative riders.

Today, I have the privilege of appearing before you, Chairman Calvert, at one of your first hearings as Chair of this Subcommittee and to extend my congratulations on the record. I am pleased this year the budget has resumed more "business as usual" circumstances and we can discuss 2015 in the context of an enacted 2014 Appropriation.

This budget is balanced and responsible and supports Interior's pivotal role as a driver of jobs and economic activity in communities across the country. It enables us to carry out core mission responsibilities and commitments. This budget allows Interior to uphold trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives, provides a new approach for responsibly budgeting for wildland fire suppression needs, invests in climate resilience, continues smart and balanced all-of-the-above energy development on and offshore, and bolsters our national parks and public lands in advance of the National Park Service's 100th anniversary in 2016.

Interior's programs and activities serve as economic engines in communities across the Nation, contributing an estimated $371 billion to the economy in 2012 and supporting an estimated 2.3 million American jobs. Of this total, energy and mineral development on Interior-managed lands and offshore areas generated more than $255 billion of this economic activity and supported 1.3 million jobs. Recreation and tourism on Interior lands contributed $45 billion to the economies of local communities and supported nearly 372,000 jobs. Water supply, forage and timber activities, primarily on public lands in the West, contributed more than $50 billion and supported 365,000 jobs.

The President's 2015 budget for the Department of the Interior totals $11.9 billion, an increase of 2.4 percent from 2014, which includes a cap exemption for fire emergencies. Without this exemption, Interior's budget totals $11.7 billion, a 0.3 percent increase, essentially level with last year's funding.

This budget features three key legislative proposals: a new framework to fund wildland fire suppression requirements; additional investment in the infrastructure and visitor experience at our National Parks and public lands; and full and permanent funding for the Land and Wildlife Conservation Fund. Each of these proposals will significantly enhance our ability to conserve and manage the Nation's public lands.

The budget proposes to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to provide stable funding for fire suppression, while minimizing the adverse impacts of fire transfers on other Interior programs, and allowing Interior to reduce fire risk, manage landscapes more comprehensively, and increase the resiliency of public lands and the communities that border them. In this proposed new framework, $268.6 million, or 70 percent of the funding need for suppression response is funded within the discretionary spending limits and $240.4 million is available as an adjustment to the budget caps.

In advance of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, the 2015 budget proposes a comprehensive Centennial Initiative investment in the parks and public lands. The funding would provide targeted increases for a multi-year effort to recommit to the preservation of these special places, to invest wisely in the park system's most important assets, to use parks to enhance informal learning, engage volunteers, provide training opportunities to youth, and enhance the National Park Service's ability to leverage partnerships to accomplish its mission.

Finally, the President's budget continues to support full, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of the Nation's most effective tools for expanding access for hunting and fishing, creating ball fields and other places for children to play and learn, protecting historic uses, and protecting Civil War battlefields. The 2015 budget proposes total funding of $900.0 million for LWCF in Interior and the U.S. Forest Service. Within this total, $350.0 million is requested as current funding and $550.0 million as part of a permanent funding proposal. Starting in 2016, the proposal would provide $900.0 million annually in permanent funding.

Complementing the 2015 budget request is $346.0 million identified for Interior programs as part of the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative to spur economic progress and promote opportunity. If approved, these investments will enable significant progress to address long-term needs in the national parks and other public lands, research and development, infrastructure and permitting support, climate resiliency, and education and economic development in Indian Country.

2015 Budget

The 2015 budget request includes $10.6 billion in current funding for programs under the jurisdiction of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee. This is a $104.9 million, or a one percent increase, compared to 2014. Total funding for the Department includes $1.0 billion requested for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Central Utah Completion Act which are under the jurisdiction of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

In addition to the proposals already discussed, the 2015 request sustains support for essential requirements and allows for targeted increases above the 2014 enacted level. Within the overall

increase for 2015, $54.4 million covers unavoidable fixed cost increases for such things as Federal pay and rent. Reflecting the need to prioritize budget resources, this request includes $413.3 million in proposed program reductions to offset other programmatic requirements.

Interior programs continue to generate more revenue for the American people than the Department's annual current appropriation. In 2015, Interior will generate estimated receipts of nearly $14.9 billion, a portion of which is shared with State and local governments to meet a variety of needs, including school funding, infrastructure improvements and water-conservation projects. Also included with this request are revenue and savings legislative proposals estimated to generate more than $2.6 billion over the next decade.

Putting this budget in context, Interior's complex mission affects the lives of all Americans. Nearly every American lives within an hour's drive of lands or waters managed by the Interior Department. In 2012, there were 417 million visits to Interior-managed lands. The Department oversees the responsible development of over 20 percent of U.S. energy supplies, is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western States, maintains relationships with 566 federally recognized Tribes, and provides services to more than 1.7 million American Indian and Alaska Native peoples.

Celebrating and Enhancing America's Great Outdoors

Throughout American history, the great outdoors have shaped the Nation's character and strengthened its economy. The 2015 budget requests the resources and authorities to care for our public lands and prepare for the future. The budget invests in efforts to upgrade and restore national parks and other public-lands areas, while engaging thousands of Americans, including youth, and veterans. The budget strengthens the President's commitment to the America's Great Outdoors initiative with a request of $5.1 billion in current funding for programs that include operation of public land management units in BLM, NPS and FWS; the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and grants and technical assistance to States and others. This is an increase of $127.1 million compared to the 2014 enacted level.

Coupled with these efforts is a historic commitment to America's natural and cultural heritage through Land and Water Conservation Fund programs. The budget includes a combined request of $672.3 million for Interior's LWCF programs that conserve lands and support outdoor recreation. Of this, the request in current funding for Interior's LWCF programs is $246.0 million. In current funding, the request for land acquisition is $147.9 million, with $39.5 million identified for Collaborative Landscape Planning projects. A total of $98.1 million is requested in current funding for LWCF conservation grants, including $48.1 million for LWCF Stateside grants.

I could not highlight our stewardship efforts without discussing the upcoming centennial of the National Park Service. Through a combination of current and permanent funding and investments identified in the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative, the budget proposes a Centennial Initiative with a total investment of $1.4 billion over three years. This effort will bolster our national parks and public lands as the National Park Service heads toward its second century and will ensure 20 percent of priority park assets are restored to good condition.

The request for the Centennial Initiative proposes a $40 million increase in current appropriations in 2015, plus an additional $400 million in permanent funding each year for three years. That funding includes $100 million for a Centennial Challenge to match private philanthropy, $200 million for National Park Service facilities improvements, and $100 million for a Centennial Land Management Investment Fund to competitively allocate funds to meet conservation and maintenance needs among Interior's land-management agencies and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service. The President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative identifies investments of $100 million for National Park Service deferred maintenance and an additional $100 million for the Centennial Land Management Investment Fund.

Strengthening Tribal Nations

Sustaining the President's commitment to tribal sovereignty and self-determination and honoring Interior's trust responsibilities to the 566 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and more than 2 million people served by these programs, the 2015 budget for Indian Affairs is $2.6 billion, an increase of $33.6 million above the 2014 enacted level. The budget invests in advancing tribal self-determination and nation-to-nation relationships, supporting and protecting Indian families and communities, sustainable stewardship of energy and natural resources, and improving education in Indian Country.

Recognizing this commitment to tribal self-governance and self-determination, the budget fully funds contract support costs Tribes incur as managers of the programs serving Native Americans. The budget requests $251 million, a $4.0 million increase over the 2014 enacted level, to fully fund estimated contract support needs in 2015.

Supporting families and communities, the 2015 budget launches the Tiwahe Initiative, with an increase of $11.6 million in social services and job training programs to address the interrelated problems of child and family welfare, poverty, violence and substance abuse in tribal communities. Tiwahe is the Lakota word for "family." Through this initiative, social services and job training programs will be integrated and expanded to provide culturally appropriate programs to assist and empower families and individuals through economic opportunity, health promotion, family stability, and strengthened communities.

Promoting public safety and tribal community resilience, the 2015 budget request includes resources to build on BIA Law Enforcement's recent successes in reducing violent crime. A pilot program will be implemented to lower repeat incarceration rates in tribally operated jails on three reservations – Red Lake in Minnesota, Ute Mountain in Colorado and Duck Valley in Nevada – with a new Priority Goal to lower repeat incarcerations by a total of 3 percent by Sept. 30, 2015. The Alternatives to Incarceration Strategy will seek to address underlying causes of repeat offenses, such as substance abuse and social service needs, by using alternative courts, increased treatment opportunities, probation programs and intergovernmental and interagency partnerships.

The 2015 budget request is complemented by a proposal in the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative to further invest in economic development and education to promote strong, resilient tribal economies and improve educational opportunities in Indian Country.

Powering Our Future

As part of the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy to expand safe and responsible domestic energy production, the 2015 budget provides $753.2 million for conventional and renewable energy programs, an increase of $40.7 million above the 2014 enacted level. The budget includes measures to encourage responsible, diligent development and a fair return for American taxpayers.

Funding for conventional energy and compliance activities totals $658.4 million, an increase of $37.5 million over the 2014 level. Spending from fees and permanent funding related to onshore oil and gas activities increase $49.1 million from the 2014 level, primarily reflecting a proposal to expand onshore oil and gas inspection activities and to offset the Bureau of Land Management' inspection program costs to the taxpayer with fees from industry.

The budget includes $169.8 million for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and $204.6 million for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to support domestic energy production, including strong safety oversight of offshore operations, enhanced environmental enforcement functions, and expanded training and electronic inspection capabilities.

The 2015 budget includes $94.8 million for renewable energy activities, a $3.2 million increase over the 2014 level. This funding maintains the Department's emphasis on strategic investments to advance clean energy and meet the President's goal to approve 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy on public lands by 2020.

Engaging the Next Generation

The 2015 budget supports a vision to inspire millions of young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors by expanding volunteer and work opportunities for youth and veterans. The budget proposes $50.6 million for Interior youth programs, a $13.6 million or 37 percent increase from 2014.

A key component of the Department's efforts will be partnering with youth organizations through the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps. The proposed funding includes an increase of $8.0 million to expand opportunities for youth education and employment opportunities across the National Park Service; an additional $2.5 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service's Urban Wildlife Refuges Partnership; and a total of $4.2 million in Indian Affairs for youth programs including $2.5 million to engage youth in natural sciences. Support for the National Park Service Centennial will create thousands of jobs, and engage more than 10,000 youth in service and training opportunities and more than 265,000 volunteers.

Ensuring Healthy Watersheds and Sustainable, Secure Water Supplies

The 2015 budget addresses the Nation's water challenges through investments in water conservation, sustainability, and infrastructure critical to the arid Western United States and its fragile ecosystems.

The budget includes $66.5 million for WaterSMART programs in Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey, nearly a 17 percent increase from 2014, to assist communities in stretching water supplies and improving water management. In addition to $1 billion requested for the Bureau of Reclamation within the jurisdiction of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, the budget also requests $210 million for the U.S. Geological Survey's water programs to provide scientific monitoring, research, and tools to support water management across the Nation. This funding supports the Department's goal to increase by 840,000 acre-feet, the available water supply for agricultural, municipal, industrial, and environmental uses in the Western United States through water-conservation programs by the end of 2015.

Interior extends this commitment to Indian Country, honoring Indian water settlements with investments totaling $172 million in Reclamation and Indian Affairs, for technical and legal support for water settlements. This includes $147.6 million to bring reliable and potable water to Indian communities, more than a 9 percent increase from 2014. Among the investments is $81 million for the ongoing Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, which, when completed, will have the capacity to deliver clean running water to a potential future population of approximately 250,000.

The drought in California and other Western States underscores the importance of improving the resilience of communities to the effects of climate change. The President s Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative includes a $1 billion government-wide Climate Resilience Fund to invest in developing more resilient communities, and finding solutions to climate challenges through technology development and applied research.

Building a Landscape Level Understanding of Our Resources

The 2015 budget fosters the sustainable stewardship of the Nation's lands and resources on a landscape level. Funding includes increases for scientific monitoring, research and tools to advance our understanding and ability to manage natural resources more effectively, while balancing important conservation goals and development objectives. Reflecting the President's ongoing commitment to scientific discovery and innovation to support decision making for critical societal needs and a robust economy, the budget proposes $888.7 million for research and development activities across the Department, an increase of $60.4 million over 2014. This funding will increase understanding of natural resources and the factors impacting water availability, ecosystem and species resiliency, energy development, hazards mitigation, and climate resilience, among others.

Complementing this budget request are two components of the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative: an investment of $140 million for Interior research and development as part of a government-wide effort to jumpstart growth spurred by scientific discovery; and investments to address climate resilience to better prepare communities and infrastructure, and enable them to build greater resilience in the face of a changing climate.

In ecosystems across the Nation, Interior will continue to work with local communities to leverage its efforts to improve resiliency and achieve improved environmental and economic outcomes.

Major Changes in the 2015 Request

Bureau of Land Management – The 2015 request is $1.1 billion, a decrease of $5.6 million from the 2014 enacted level. The 2015 request assumes the use of $54.5 million in proposed offsetting fees, which when included provides a program $48.9 million above 2014. The 2015 request includes $954.1 million for the Management of Lands and Resources account, and $25.0 million in current appropriations for Land Acquisition, including $2.0 million to improve access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreation. The budget proposes $104.0 million for Oregon and California Grant Lands, which includes a $4.2 million decrease in Western Oregon Resource Management Planning reflecting expected completion of six revised plans in June 2015.

To advance America's Great Outdoors, the request includes $3.5 million in program increases for recreation, cultural resources, and the National Landscape Conservation System to address the needs of recently designated units, implement travel management plans, improve visitor services, and address a backlog in cultural resources inventory and stabilization needs. The budget request also includes $4.8 million for Youth programs, an increase of $1.3 million from 2014, to put more young Americans to work protecting and restoring public lands and cultural and historical treasures.

The BLM continues to support the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy on the public lands including an initiative to encourage smart renewable energy development. The 2015 budget includes $29.2 million, essentially level with 2014, for renewable energy to continue to aggressively support wind, solar, and geothermal energy development on BLM lands. Complementing this is a $5.0 million increase in the Cadastral, Lands and Realty Management program for identification and designation of energy corridors in low conflict areas to site high voltage transmission lines, substations, and related infrastructure in an environmentally sensitive manner.

The 2015 request for Oil and Gas Management, including both direct and fee-funded appropriations, totals $133.7 million, an increase of $20.3 million in available program funding from 2014. In 2015, the budget proposes to shift the cost of oil and gas inspection and enforcement activity from current appropriations to inspection fees charged to industry, allowing for a reduction of $38.0 million in requested appropriations. The proposed inspection fees will generate and estimated $48.0 million, providing for a $10.0 million increase in BLM's inspection and enforcement capability. The request for Oil and Gas programs supports increases of $5.2 million for ongoing rulemaking efforts and to strengthen operations at BLM units; and $4.6 million for oversight and permitting to better keep pace with industry demand and fully implement leasing reforms.

In 2015, BLM will release six rapid eco-regional assessments, in addition to four planned for 2014. The BLM will conduct training on the use of the data from these assessments and will work with a number of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to begin development of regional conservation strategies. The budget includes an increase of $5.0 million for Resource Management Planning to implement BLM's enterprise geographic information system and address high priority planning. The 2015 budget maintains a $15.0 million increase to implement sage grouse conservation and restoration measures to help prevent the future listing of the species for protec-

tion under the Endangered Species Act.

Other program increases include $2.8 million in the Wild Horse and Burro program to implement recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences regarding population control; and $2.8 million in Abandoned Mine Lands to implement remediation plan efforts at Red Devil Mine in Alaska. The request includes $19.0 million for the Alaska Conveyance program. Although a decrease of $3.1 million from 2014, this funding coupled with efficiencies from an improved cadastral method, plots a course to complete all surveys and land transfers in ten years.

A proposed grazing administration fee will enhance BLM's capacity for processing grazing permits. A fee of $1.00 per animal unit month, estimated to provide $6.5 million in 2015, is proposed on a pilot basis. This additional revenue more than offsets a decrease of $4.8 million in appropriated funds in Rangeland Management, equating to a $1.7 million program increase to help address the grazing permit backlog.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management – The 2015 operating request is $169.8 million, including $72.4 million in current appropriations and $97.3 million in offsetting collections. This is a net increase of $3.4 million in current appropriations above the 2014 enacted level.

The 2015 budget maintains a strong offshore renewable energy program at essentially the 2014 level of $23.1 million for the total program. In 2013, BOEM held the first competitive OCS renewable energy lease sales, issued five other non-competitive commercial offshore wind energy leases, and approved the construction and operations plan for the Cape Wind project offshore Massachusetts.

Offshore conventional energy programs also remain essentially level with 2014, with a total of $49.6 million in 2015. In 2013, BOEM held three sales generating over $1.4 billion in high bids and three additional lease sales are scheduled during calendar year 2014. The request of $65.7 million for Environmental Programs includes an increase of $2.5 million for work on a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the next Five-Year Program for 2017-2022.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement – The 2015 budget request is $204.6 million, including $81.0 million in current appropriations and $123.6 million in offsetting collections, an increase of $2.0 million from 2014. The request for offsetting collections continues to assume $65.0 million from offshore oil and gas inspection fees. The 2015 request allows BSEE to continue to strengthen regulatory and oversight capability on the OCS and maintain capacity in regulatory, safety management, structural and technical support, and oil spill response prevention.

The budget includes $189.7 million for Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement, an increase of $2.4 million in current appropriations. Included within this total is $8.3 million for Environmental Enforcement activities. The request also includes $0.9 million to evaluate and test new technologies and update regulations to reflect improved safety and oversight protocols. Funding for Oil Spill Research is maintained at the 2014 level of $14.9 million.

Office of Surface Mining – The 2015 budget request for the Office of Surface Mining is $144.8

million, a decrease of $5.3 million from the 2014 enacted level. This includes a decrease of $13.4 million in grants to States and Tribes to encourage these regulatory programs to recover a larger portion of their costs from fees charged to the coal industry, and an increase of $4.0 million to provide additional technical support to State and tribal regulatory programs. The budget also includes an increase of $1.9 million for applied science to advance reclamation technologies. This request proposes $116.1 million for Regulation and Technology funding, $28.7 million for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund activities, and an additional $1.9 million in offsetting collections from recovered costs for services.

U. S. Geological Survey – The USGS budget request is $1.1 billion, $41.3 million above the 2014 enacted level. The President's budget reflects the Administration's commitment to investments in research and development to support sound decision making and sustainable stewardship of natural resources. This includes science, monitoring, and assessment activities critical to understand and manage the ecological, mineral, energy, and water resources which underlie the prosperity and well-being of the Nation. The budget includes increases for priorities in ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, invasive species, environmental health, and earth observations. Funding provides increased support to enhance sustainable energy development, address water resource challenges, increase landscape level understanding of the Nation's natural resources, and the Scientists for Tomorrow youth initiative.

The USGS budget includes investments in important science programs to help meet societal needs. A program increase of $6.4 million above 2014 for WaterSMART will support State water use grants to develop regional water availability models, integrate and disseminate data through online science platforms, and support the National Groundwater Monitoring Network. The budget includes increases of $2.4 million in Groundwater Resources for the National Groundwater Monitoring Network and $1.2 million for the National Streamflow Information Program for streamgages to strengthen the Federal backbone at high priority sites sensitive to drought, flooding, and potential climate change effects.

Funding for the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center/Department of the Interior Climate Science Centers is funded at $35.3 million, an increase of $11.6 million from 2014. This includes an increase of $3.0 million for grants focused on translational and applied science needed by resource managers for decision making. An increase of $2.3 million supports coordination with other Federal climate science activities and ensures scientific results and products are available to the public in a centralized, web-accessed format. Program increases of $2.5 million will support applied science and capacity-building for tribal climate adaptation needs in the CSC regions, and $3.0 million will support additional research in drought impacts and adaptive management.

Program increases in the National Geospatial Program include $5.0 million for the 3-Dimensional Elevation Program to collect Lidar data to enhance science and emergency response activities, resource and vulnerability assessments, ecosystem based management, and tools to inform policy and management. An increase of $1.9 million is requested for modernization of The National Map, which provides critical data about the Earth, its complex processes, and natural resources. The 2015 budget includes a $2.0 million increase for the Big Earth Data initiative to improve access to and use of data from satellite, airborne, terrestrial, and ocean-based Earth

observing systems. These investments will provide benefits in natural resource management and hazard mitigation, by improving access to critical information.

The budget includes $40.7 million supporting conventional and renewable energy programs, $8.1 million above the 2014 enacted level. A program increase of $1.3 million will be used to study geothermal resources and build on ongoing work on wind energy impacts. The request includes $18.6 million, $8.3 million over 2014, to support the interagency effort to better understand potential impacts of energy development involving hydraulic fracturing. Work will address issues such as water quality and quantity, ecosystem, community, and human health impacts, and induced seismicity. Funding for other conventional energy programs, including oil, gas, and coal assessments, totals $15.6 million.

The 2015 budget includes $162.0 million for Ecosystems activities, $9.2 million above the 2014 enacted level. Program increases include $2.0 million for research on new methods to eradicate, control, and manage Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi River Basin and prevent entry into the Great Lakes. Total increases of $2.5 million are provided for priority ecosystem restoration work in the Chesapeake Bay, California Bay-Delta, Columbia River, Everglades, and Puget Sound. Another $2.0 million will support the science and integration of ecosystems services frameworks into decision making and implement efforts to assess and sustain the Nation's environmental capital. Program increases totaling $1.8 million will address native pollinators, brown treesnakes, and new and emerging invasive species of national concern.

The budget provides $128.3 million for Natural Hazards activities, which is essentially level with 2014. This activity provides scientific information and tools to reduce potential fatalities, injuries, and economic loss from volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides, among others. The 2015 budget includes an increase of $700,000 in Earthquake Hazards for induced seismicity studies related to hydraulic fracturing.

Fish and Wildlife Service – The 2015 Fish and Wildlife Service budget includes $1.5 billion in current appropriations, an increase of $48.8 million above the 2014 level. This includes America's Great Outdoors related increases of $71.7 million in the Resource Management account. Within this increase is $2.5 million to establish an Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership program. This effort will encourage city dwellers to enjoy the outdoors by creating stepping stones of engagement to connect them to the outdoors on refuges and partner lands, through experiences which build on one another.

Funding for FWS grant programs, with the exception of State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, remain level with 2014. In 2015, funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants totals $50 million. The request also includes $55.0 million for Land Acquisition and $15.7 million for Construction. In addition to direct appropriations, an estimated $1.3 billion will be available under permanent appropriations, most of which will be provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation.

The budget proposes $16.7 million, an increase of $2.5 million, for activities associated with energy development. Of this increase, $1.4 million supports scientific research into the impacts of energy transmission and development infrastructure on wildlife and habitat. The research will

identify potential impacts associated with the development of energy infrastructure and strategies to minimize the impacts on habitat and species. An increase of $1.1 million will support assessments of renewable energy projects proposed for development.

The budget request for the Resource Management account continues support for key programs and program increases of $65.8 million above 2014. The request provides $252.2 million in Ecological Services to conserve, protect, and enhance listed and at-risk species and their habitat, an increase of $30.3 million. Within this request are increases of $4.0 million to support conservation of the greater sage grouse across 11 western States and $10.5 million to implement other species recovery actions.

The request includes funding within Law Enforcement and International Affairs to combat wildlife trafficking. The budget provides $66.7 million for the law enforcement program to investigate wildlife crimes, enforce the laws governing the Nation's wildlife trade, and expand technical forensic expertise, with program increases of $2.0 million over 2014.

The budget includes $138.9 million for Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation, a program increase of $8.2 million. Within this request is $48.6 million for operation of the National Fish Hatchery system to address top priorities, an increase of $1.9 million for fish hatchery maintenance, and $4.4 million to prevent the spread of Asian carp in the Missouri, Ohio, and upper Mississippi Rivers.

Funding for Cooperative Landscape Conservation activity is $17.7 million, an increase of $3.2 million, and funding for Science Support is $31.6 million, an increase of $14.4 million. The budget supports applied science directed at high impact questions to mitigate threats to fish and wildlife resources, including $2.5 million to address white nose syndrome in bats, and an increase of $1.0 million to study biological carbon sequestration.

The 2015 budget proposes a reduction of $13.2 million for National Wildlife Refuge Fund payments to counties. An estimated $8.0 million in permanent receipts collected and allocated under the program would remain available to counties. The budget also proposes cancellation of $1.4 million in prior year balances from the Landowner Incentive and Private Stewardship Grant programs, which have not received new budget authority in several years.

National Park Service – The 2015 budget request for NPS of $2.6 billion is $55.1 million above the 2014 enacted level.

In 2015, a total of $2.5 billion is requested for NPS as part of America's Great Outdoors. This includes $2.3 billion for park operations, an increase of $47.1 million over 2014. Within this increase is $30.0 million to support the NPS Centennial Initiative. The Centennial increase includes $16.0 million for repair and rehabilitation projects throughout the parks, $8.0 million in competitively managed funds to support enhanced visitor services in the areas of interpretation and education, law enforcement and protection, and facility operations, $4.0 million to engage youth in service and conservation projects, and $2.0 million to support expanded volunteer opportunities at the parks. Across these Centennial increases, the budget provides an $8.0 million increase for youth engagement and employment opportunities, and continues the NPS' efforts to

attract qualified veteran candidates to fill Federal positions. The request for Park Operations also includes increases of $15.7 million to maintain park base operating levels in the face of increased fixed costs, and $2.0 million to support new responsibilities at park units.

Also in preparation for the Centennial anniversary of the parks, the 2015 request includes $10.0 million in a separate account for Centennial Challenge projects. This funding will provide a Federal match to leverage partner donations for signature projects and programs at the parks. This program will be instrumental in garnering partner support to prepare park sites across the country for the centennial and through the second century of the NPS.

The 2015 request for the Historic Preservation Fund is $56.4 million, level with 2014. Of this total, $46.9 million is requested for grants-in-aid to States and Territories, $9.0 million for grants-in-aid to Tribes, and $500,000 to be awarded competitively to address communities currently underrepresented on the National Register of Historic Places. The budget includes $52.0 million within the National Recreation and Preservation account, which includes $10.0 million for the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, essentially level with 2014, and $1.2 million for American Battlefield Protection Program assistance grants, also level with 2014. The request includes a program reduction of $9.1 million from Heritage Partnership programs to encourage self-sufficiency for these non-Federal organizations.

Programs funded out of the Land and Water Conservation Fund are a key component of America's Great Outdoors. The budget requests $104.0 million for the Land Acquisition and State Assistance account, an increase of $5.9 million. This includes $48.1 million for the State Conservation Grants program, level with 2014, and $55.9 million for NPS Federal land acquisition, a programmatic increase of $5.8 million. Of this amount, $13.2 million supports Collaborative Landscape projects in the California Southwest Desert and areas within the National Trails System.

Funding for Construction totals $138.3 million, essentially level with 2014. Of this amount, the budget includes $61.7 million for line-item construction projects, a $1.1 million increase compared to 2014. The request includes $6.7 million to reconstruct the historic cave tour trails in Mammoth Cave National Park and $3.9 million to stabilize and repair exterior walls of the historic Alcatraz prison cell house at Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Indian Affairs – The 2015 budget includes $2.6 billion for Indian Affairs programs, an increase of $33.6 million from the 2014 enacted level. This includes an increase of $33.8 million for Operation of Indian Programs; and level funding of $35.7 million for Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements, $109.9 for Construction and $6.7 million for the Indian Guaranteed Loan program.

Within Operation of Indian Programs, the budget includes full funding of $251.0 million for Contract Support Costs and the Indian Self-Determination Fund, an increase of $4.0 million from 2014. Consistent with the treatment of Contract Support Costs in 2014, the 2015 request provides the full amount based on the most current estimated need. The availability of contract support cost funding is a key factor in tribal decisions to assume responsibility for operating Federal programs important to the furtherance of self-governance and self-determination. In a further effort to facilitate Tribal 638 Contracting, the budget includes an additional $1.2 million to increase services from the Department's Office of Indirect Cost Negotiations which negotiates in-

direct cost rates with non-Federal entities, including tribal governments. Consistent with Subcommittee direction, the Department held its first formal tribal consultation to discuss long-term solutions to Contract Support Cost issues on March 11. The Department remains committed to resolving this issue.

The 2015 budget for Indian Affairs includes an increase of $11.6 million for the Tiwahe or "family" Initiative. The initiative takes a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the interrelated problems of poverty, violence, and substance abuse in Indian communities. The budget proposes a $10.6 million program increase to build on social services, Indian child and family welfare, and job training programs. In recognition that adequate housing is essential to building stronger Indian families, the budget maintains the 2014 level for the Housing Improvement program. The goal of the Tiwahe initiative is to empower American Indian individuals and families in health promotion, family stability, and strengthen tribal communities as a whole. To better target funding and evaluate outcomes in meeting social service needs in Indian Country, the budget includes $1.0 million as part of the initiative.

The budget proposes program increases of $3.7 million for the sustainable stewardship of natural resources. Overall funding for trust land management and real estate services is essentially level with 2014 to assist Tribes in the management, development, and protection of Indian trust land and natural resources. An increase of $2.0 million is provided for science and technical support for the sustainable stewardship and development of natural resources. Funding supports development of natural resource information tools including geospatial technologies, for application in energy and minerals, climate, oceans, water rights protection, and endangered and invasive species. The budget also includes a program increase of $1.6 million for deferred maintenance on Indian irrigation projects to help address drought issues in Indian Country.

The budget request for the Bureau of Indian Education is $794.4 million, an increase of $5.6 million from 2014. The request includes an increase of $500,000 for Johnson O'Malley Education Assistance Grants to support a new student count in 2015 and funding to address the projected increase in the number of eligible students. The budget includes $1.0 million to support the ongoing evaluation of the BIE school system to improve educational outcomes. Within education construction, an increase of $2.3 million supports site development at the Beatrice Rafferty School for which design funding was provided in 2014. The budget also includes $2.3 million in increases for BIE funded post-secondary programs including $1.7 million for post-graduate opportunities in science fields, and $250,000 for summer pre-law preparatory scholarships.

Departmental Offices and Department-wide Programs – The 2015 request for the Office of the Secretary is $265.3 million, an increase of $1.3 million from the 2014 enacted level. Of this, $122.9 million is for the Office of Natural Resources Revenue programs, an increase of $3.5 reflecting increases for an onshore pilot and data integration in production verification and meter inspections. Other changes include the proposed transfer of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board from the Office of the Secretary to the Bureau of Indian Affairs of $1.3 million, a decrease of $865,000 reflecting a shift from direct appropriations to fee for service for Indirect Cost Negotiations, and a program decrease of $266,000 in Valuation Services.

The budget request for the Office of Insular Affairs is $92.2 million, a decrease of $10.2 million

from the 2014 enacted level. The budget includes an increase of $3.0 million to address urgent, immediate needs in the insular areas, and $1.8 million to improve safety conditions in insular school facilities. A decrease of $500,000 reflects completion of an aerial bait system for brown treesnake control. Compact Impact is funded at $1.3 million, a decrease of $1.7 million from 2014, and is supplemented by $30.0 million annually in permanent Compact Impact funding. Funding of $13.1 million for the Palau Compact Extension is not requested for 2015 as it is expected the Compact will be authorized and funded from permanent appropriations in 2014.

The Office of Inspector General request is $50.0 million, a decrease of $784,000 from 2014. The budget includes a decrease of $2.0 million reflecting completion of an effort to reduce OIG's physical footprint. Increases of $423,000 and $355,000 are included to support the council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency and provide additional FTE for information security audits, respectively. The Office of the Solicitor request is $65.8 million, equal to the 2014 enacted level.

The Office of the Special Trustee request is $139.0 million, $648,000 below the 2014 enacted level. The 2015 budget decreases Business Management funding by $1.6 million reflecting $922,000 in efficiencies from the transfer of some mailing and printing services to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, a reduction of $500,000 in litigation support, and a decrease of $200,000 in funding for the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

The 2015 request for the Department-wide Wildland Fire Management program is $794.0 million without the proposed fire cap exemption, and $1.0 billion with it included. The request includes $268.6 million for Suppression within the current budget cap, which is 70 percent of the 10 year suppression average spending. This base level funding ensures the cap adjustment of $240.4 million would only be used for the most severe fires. The new budget framework for Wildland Fire Management eliminates the need for additional funds through the FLAME Act. The 2015 budget includes a program increase of $34.1 million for Preparedness activities to enhance readiness capabilities. The budget includes $146.3 million for Fuels Management activities, formerly known as Hazardous Fuels Management. This is equal to the 2014 enacted level with an increase of $1.3 million for fixed costs. Complementing this request is $30.0 million for Resilient Landscapes, a new component of the Wildland Fire Management program, to support treatments that improve the integrity and resilience of forests and rangelands.

The 2015 request for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund is $7.8 million, a program increase of $1.5 million. The increase includes $1.0 million for a Department-wide onshore Oil Spill Preparedness plan, and additional resources for Restoration support. The budget includes $10.0 million for the Central Hazardous Materials Fund, an increase of $412,000 from 2014 to support additional cleanup work.

The Department's 2015 request for the Working Capital Fund appropriation is $64.3 million, an increase of $7.3 million from the 2014 enacted level. Within this request is $53.9 million for the operation and maintenance of the Financial and Business Management System, an increase of $1.0 million to continue support of the Department's Cultural and Scientific Collections Management initiative, a decrease of $1.0 million from the Department's Service First initiative, and

an increase of $8.4 million to support Interior's Office Consolidation strategy in the D.C metropolitan area.

Mandatory Proposals

The 2015 budget includes 15 legislative proposals affecting spending, revenue and available budget authority, which require action by the Congressional Authorizing Committees. Revenue and savings proposals will generate more than $2.6 billion over the next decade. The 2015 budget includes four spending proposals estimated at $9.9 billion in outlays over the next decade.

Land and Water Conservation Fund – The 2015 budget proposes $900.0 million in current and permanent funding in 2015 and permanent authorization of $900.0 million in mandatory funding for LWCF programs in the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture beginning in 2016. During a transition to permanent funding in 2015, the budget proposes $900.0 million in total LWCF programs funding, comprised of $550.0 million permanent and $350.0 million current funding, shared by Interior and Agriculture.

Centennial Initiative – The Centennial Initiative includes a legislative proposal to authorize $1.2 billion in permanent funding over three years beginning in 2015 in the following areas: $300.0 million at $100.0 million a year for a National Park Service Centennial Challenge fund to leverage private donations; $600.0 million at $200.0 million a year for NPS deferred maintenance; and $300.0 million at $100.0 million a year for a Centennial Land Management Investment Fund to competitively award grants to Interior land management agencies and the U.S. Forest Service for deferred maintenance and conservation projects.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes – The Agricultural Act of 2014 included a one-year extension of permanent PILT funding through 2014. The 2015 budget proposes to extend authorization of the program an additional year through 2015, while a sustainable long-term funding solution is developed for the PILT Program. The PILT payments help local governments carry out vital services, such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search and rescue operations. The cost of a one-year extension is estimated to be $442.0 million in 2015.

Palau Compact – On September 3, 2010, the U.S. and the Republic of Palau successfully concluded the review of the Compact of Free Association and signed a 15-year agreement that includes a package of assistance through 2024. The 2015 budget assumes authorization of permanent funding for the Compact occurs in 2014. The cost for this proposal is estimated at $178.3 million for 2015 through 2024.

Federal Oil and Gas Reforms – The budget includes a package of legislative reforms to bolster and backstop administrative actions being taken to reform the management of Interior's onshore and offshore oil and gas programs, with a key focus on improving the return to taxpayers from the sale of these Federal resources. Proposed statutory and administrative changes fall into three general categories: 1) advancing royalty reforms, 2) encouraging diligent development of oil and gas leases, and 3) improving revenue collection processes. Collectively, these reforms will generate roughly $2.5 billion in net revenue to the Treasury over ten years, of which about $1.7 bil-

lion would result from statutory changes. Many States will also benefit from higher Federal revenue sharing payments.

Return Coal Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fees to Historic Levels – The budget proposes legislation to modify the 2006 amendments to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, which lowered the per-ton coal fee companies pay into the AML Fund. The proposal would return the fee to 35 cents a ton, the same level companies paid prior to the 2006 fee reduction. The additional revenue, estimated at $362 million over ten years, will be used to reclaim high priority abandoned coal mines and reduce a portion of the estimated $3.9 billion needed to address remaining dangerous coal AML sites nationwide.

Discontinue AML Payments to Certified States – The budget proposes to discontinue unrestricted payments to States and Tribes certified for completing their coal reclamation work. This proposal terminates all such payments, with estimated savings of approximately $295 million over the next ten years.

Reclamation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines – To address the legacy of abandoned hardrock mines across the U.S. and hold the hardrock mining industry accountable for past mining practices, the Department will propose legislation to create a parallel Abandoned Mine Lands Program for abandoned hardrock sites. A new AML fee on hardrock production on both public and private lands would generate an estimated $1.8 billion to reclaim the highest priority hardrock abandoned sites on Federal, State, tribal, and private lands.

Reform Hardrock Mining on Federal Lands – Interior will submit a legislative proposal to provide a fair return to the taxpayer from hardrock production on Federal lands. The legislative proposal will institute a leasing program under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 for certain hardrock minerals including gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, uranium, and molybdenum, currently covered by the General Mining Law of 1872. The proposal is projected to generate revenues to the U.S. Treasury of $80 million over ten years, with larger revenues estimated in following years.

Geothermal Energy Receipts – The Department proposes to repeal Section 224(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The repeal of Section 224(b) will permanently discontinue payments to counties and restore the disposition of Federal geothermal leasing revenues to the historical formula of 50 percent to the States and 50 percent to the Treasury. This results in savings of $4 million in 2015 and $42 million over ten years.

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act – The Department proposes to reauthorize this Act to allow Federal lands identified as suitable for disposal in recent land use plans to be sold using this authority. The sales revenues would continue to fund the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands and administrative costs associated with conducting the sales.

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps – Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, or Duck Stamps, are the annual Federal license required for hunting migratory waterfowl. The receipts generated from the sale of these $15.00 stamps are used to acquire important migratory bird areas for migration, breeding, and wintering. The Depart-

ment proposes legislation to increase these fees which have not increased since 1991, to $25.00 per stamp per year beginning in 2015. This increase will add an estimated $14 million for migratory bird conservation.

Bureau of Land Management Foundation – The budget proposes legislation to establish a congressionally-chartered National BLM Foundation. This Foundation will provide an opportunity to leverage private funding to support public lands, achieve shared outcomes, and focus public support on the BLM mission.

Recreation Fee Program – The Department of the Interior proposes to permanently authorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which will expire in December 2015. The Department currently collects over $200 million in recreation fees annually under this authority and uses them to enhance the visitor experience at Interior facilities.

Fire Suppression and the Discretionary Budget Cap

The 2015 budget proposes to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act to establish a new framework for funding Fire Suppression Operations to provide stable funding for fire suppression while minimizing the adverse impacts of fire transfers on the budgets of other programs. Under this new framework, the 2015 budget request covers 70 percent of the 10-year suppression average within the domestic discretionary cap. Extreme fires requiring emergency response, fires threatening urban areas, or requirements of an abnormally high fire season, would be permitted to be funded through the adjustment to discretionary spending limits. The cap adjustment does not increase overall current spending, as it reduces the ceiling for the existing disaster relief cap adjustment.

Offsetting Collections and Fees

The budget includes the following proposals to collect or increase various fees, so industry shares some of the cost of Federal permitting and regulatory oversight.

New Fee for Onshore Oil and Gas Inspections – Through appropriations language, the Department proposes to implement an inspection fee in 2015 for onshore oil and gas activities subject to inspection by BLM. The proposed fee is expected to generate $48.0 million in 2015, $10.0 million more than the corresponding $38.0 million reduction in requested appropriations, thereby expanding the capacity of BLM's oil and gas inspection program. The fee is similar to one already in place for offshore operations and will support Federal efforts to increase production accountability, human safety, and environmental protection.

Grazing Administrative Fee – The 2015 budget proposes a new grazing administrative fee of $1 per animal unit month. The BLM proposes to implement this fee through appropriations language on a three-year pilot basis. The provision will generate an estimated $6.5 million in 2015, to assist BLM in processing grazing permits.

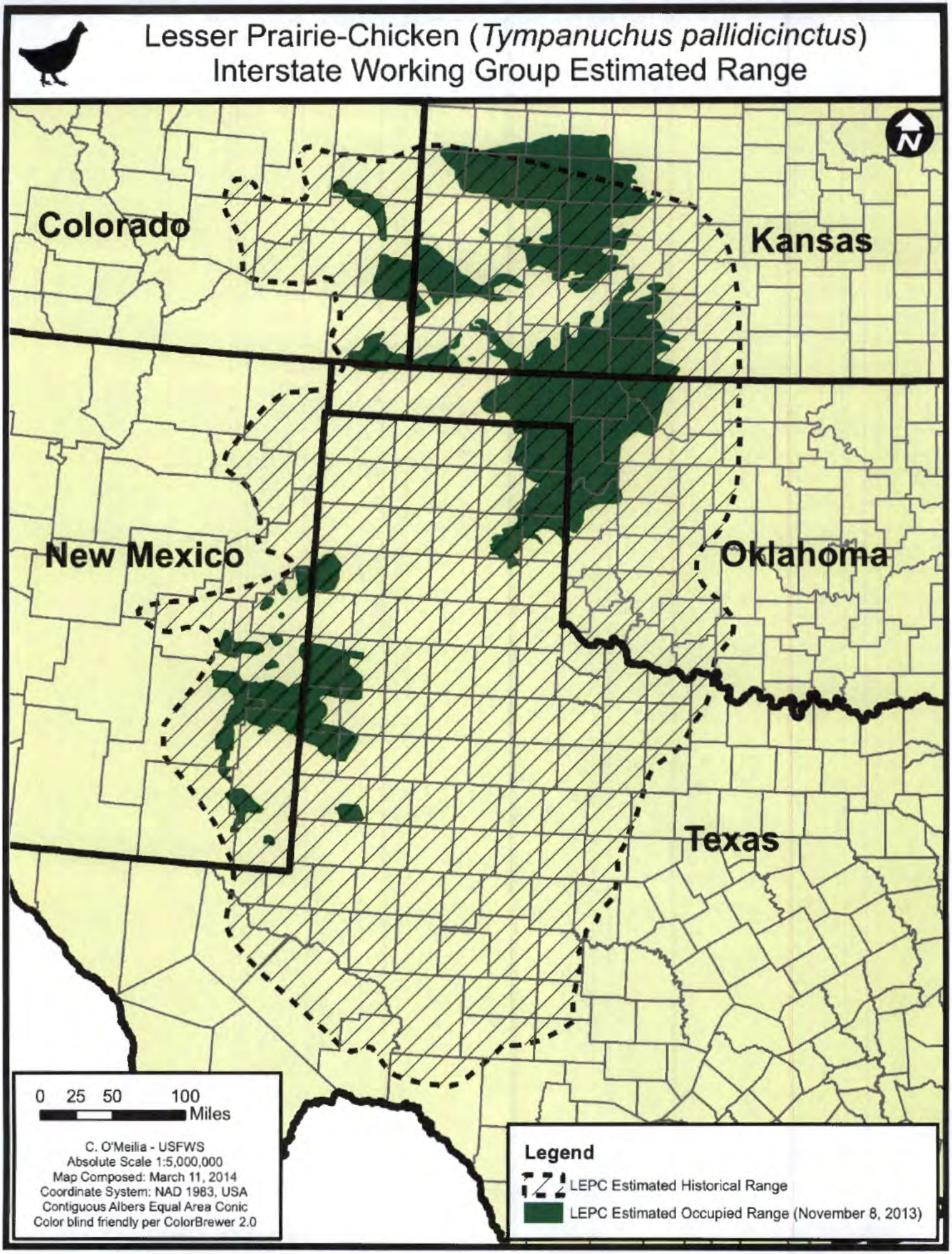
National Wildlife Refuge Damage Cost Recovery – The budget proposes appropriations language to authorize the Fish and Wildlife Service to pursue and retain recoveries from responsible

parties, to be used to restore or replace damaged National Wildlife Refuge resources.

Cost Recovery for Nontoxic Shot Approvals – The budget proposes appropriations language to allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to retain and use fees collected for the review of nontoxic shot products for approval. Nontoxic shot is a substitute for lead shot, banned for waterfowl hunting since 1991.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the President's 2015 budget request for the Department of the Interior. This budget is responsible, and proposes to maintain core capabilities with targeted investments to advance the stewardship of lands and resources, renewable energy, oil and gas development and reforms, water conservation, youth employment and engagement, and improvements in the quality of life in Indian communities. I thank you again for your continued support of the Department's mission. I look forward to answering questions about this budget. This concludes my written statement.


Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*)
Interstate Working Group Estimated Range
N
Colorado
Kansas
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas
0 25 50 100
Miles
C. O'Meilia - USFWS
Absolute Scale 1:5,000,000
Map Composed: March 11, 2014
Coordinate System: NAD 1983, USA
Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic
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Legend
LEPC Estimated Historical Range
LEPC Estimated Occupied Range (November 8, 2013)

Jewell, Sally (b) (6) @ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, September 19, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Sep 19, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK ON CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES IN CALIFORNIA. The Hill (9/19, Barron-Lopez, 241K) reports that the Obama Administration is preparing a "full-court press" ahead of a UN climate summit next week. Notably, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be in California to promote the White House climate agenda.

Also providing coverage is the National Journal (9/19, Subscription Publication, 626K).

Obama To Urge World Leaders To Be Ambitious On Climate Change Treaty. The AP (9/18, Lederman) reports that the President will attend a UN climate summit next week "where he will urge fellow heads of state to be as ambitious as possible as they negotiate a make-or-break global treaty to be finalized next year in Paris." According to White House officials, the President will "announce new contributions by the U.S. to help other nations become more resilient to changing temperatures, aiming to increase pressure on countries like India and China to show they're not laggards in the global campaign against climate change."

Reuters (9/18, Volcovici) reports that senior Administration officials say in his address to the summit, the President will emphasize US advances on climate change. Senior adviser John Podesta said the summit will provide the US with an opportunity "to showcase actions we are taking across the government and across the country."

Bloomberg News (9/18, Yoon, Martin, 1.94M) reports that next week's summit marks the start of "a new phase" in UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon's "strategy to forge a global climate agreement by 2015." Ban, who is

"turning up pressure for an international agreement to reduce emissions blamed for global warming," said Thursday, "Investing wisely in climate change or the environment will help all spectrum of lives and, policies of national governments. ... That will be my consistent message at this time." Next week's meeting "is a prelude to talks in Lima in December and Paris next year, when leaders will attempt to hammer out a pact on cutting emissions."

The Hill (9/19, Barron-Lopez, 241K) also provides coverage of this story.

Scientists Argue Reefs Threatened By Overfishing And Climate Change. In a New York Times (9/18, Jackson, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) op-ed, Waitt Institute executive director Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Jeremy Jackson, scientific director of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and emeritus senior scientist of the Smithsonian Institution and Scripps Institution of Oceanography call for the defense of key fish species, the prevention of climate-change-induced ocean acidification, and better regulation of coastal developments to preserve predominately Caribbean coral reefs.

Krugman: Fighting Climate Change Is Cheap And Easy. Than In his column for the New York Times (9/19, Krugman, Subscription Publication, 9.9M), Paul Krugman notes that "two new reports on the economics of fighting climate change," say that "strong measures to limit carbon emissions would have hardly any negative effect on economic growth, and might actually lead to faster growth." Krugman calls the "idea that economic growth and climate action are incompatible" a "fuzzy-minded misconception," and argues that if we "get past the special interests and ideology that have blocked action to save the planet, we'll find that it's cheaper and easier than almost anyone imagines."

OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS RECOVERY OF FOX SQUIRREL AT BLACKWATER WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Hill (9/19, Barron-Lopez, 241K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, FWS Director Dan Ashe, Sen. Ben Cardin and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley will travel to Maryland's Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on Friday to announce "a milestone in the recovery of the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel."

In an article focusing on the work of Guy W. Willey Sr., the Baltimore Sun (9/18, Wheeler, 857K) notes that "a formal proposal to de-list the animal is expected to follow."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (9/19). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (9/19, 4.9M) and the San Antonio Express-News (9/19, 904K).

OFFICIALS PUSH FOR PILT PAYMENTS. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (9/19, 479K) reports that local officials convened "in Washington this week to lobby Congress to fully fund a program that has doled out hundreds of millions of dollars since 1976 but is again, possibly on the chopping block." Rep. Chris Stewart "promised county leaders to do everything in his power to make it happen." Stewart said, "This is money that is absolutely essential. I will do everything I can to put this on more permanent funding [status], so we don't have to go year-to-year."

The Helena (MT) Independent Record (9/19, 37K) reports that "talks with representatives of Congress and their staff members are giving Lewis and Clark County Commissioner Mike Murray hope that the federal government will continue its payment in lieu of taxes to counties." Murray said that "there was support for another one-year bill to fund PILT at its full level and that this federal payment is not seen as a partisan political football." Murray noted that Sen. Ron Wyden has "two bills for PILT," and added that "one was a one-year measure and the other was to provide permanent funding."

Also providing coverage is the Cronkite News (9/19).

FLORIDA LAWMAKERS PRESS FOR EVERGLADES MONEY. The Miami Herald (9/19, 711K) reports that "hoping to hasten chronically delayed Everglades restoration, Florida lawmakers filed bipartisan legislation Thursday to authorize money for a $1.9 billion suite of projects." The article notes that "the move comes after a plan to revive flows to the Central Everglades was derailed in April when the US Corps of Army Engineers balked at approving it — despite letters urging support from Gov. Rick Scott, US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and several members of Congress."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: RHEA SUH TO BECOME NRDC'S NEW PRESIDENT. Additional coverage that Rhea Suh, an assistant secretary of the Interior Department, will become president of the Natural Resources Defense Council in January, was provided by the Environment & Energy Publishing (9/19, 705), Politico (9/19, Guillén, 977K), the Honolulu Star-Advertiser (9/19, 347K), the Washington Free Beacon (9/19, 81K), the Daily

Caller (9/19, Bastasch, 475K), and Inside Climate News (9/17).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WILDFIRES. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the Washington Post (9/18, Berman, 4.9M).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

GROUP AIMS TO REHAB NEGLECTED SITE ON NATIONAL MALL. The AP (9/18) reports that "lakeside gardens, model boats and fine dining overlooking the nation's monuments could one day redefine a site on the National Mall that has languished for years with fetid water, dying fish and crumbling walkways." According to the article, "after holding a design competition to improve spaces on the mall in 2011, the nonprofit Trust for the National Mall selected the little-known Constitution Gardens for a major rehabilitation over the next five years." The article notes that "designers are still refining the concept but are developing an ambitious project whose budget totals about $150 million."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Charlotte (NC) Observer (9/18, 572K), the Houston Chronicle (9/19, Zongker, 2.47M), the Miami Herald (9/19, 711K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/18, 646K), ABC News (9/19, 5.02M), WJLA-TV Washington (9/19, 119K), and WRC-TV Washington (9/19, 367K).

CELEBRATION TO MARK 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF C&O CANAL HIKE. The Washington Post (9/18, Sullivan, 4.9M) reports that this week, Cathy Douglas Stone "returned to Washington to help commemorate the 60th anniversary of a C&O Canal hike and 'raise funds for the canal's continued upkeep.'" Stone will "help headline a 'Park after Dark' celebration and fundraiser on Saturday at the historic Great Falls tavern along the towpath." According to Mike Nardolilli, president of the nonprofit C&O Canal Trust, "money raised will go to maintain the park."

NPS PLANS PUBLIC MEETING FOR DENALI TRANSPORTATION PLAN. The AP (9/19) reports that NPS officials say "a public meeting is scheduled to take place next week to discuss the long-range transportation plan for Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve." The meeting "next Wednesday is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the McKinley Village Community Center on the Parks Highway." Officials say "planners will be providing information about the plan and they also will seek public input."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (9/19, 51K) and the Houston Chronicle (9/19, 2.47M).

HUNTERS FACE CHARGES AFTER KILLING MOOSE INSIDE DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE. The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (9/19, 44K) reports that "two Alaska hunters reportedly shot and killed a moose nearly a mile inside the boundaries of Denali National Park and Preserve, according to a news release from the park." Park rangers were "notified on Sept. 14 by a hunter in the Stampede Trail corridor that two men on an off-road vehicle had crossed the boundary into the park, and had shot a moose." According to the article, "the men, both from the Matanuska Valley, said they did not know they were inside the park."

DENALI ROAD OPEN TO PRIVATE VEHICLES AT SEASON END. The AP (9/19) reports that "visitors can now drive their private vehicles into Denali National Park and Preserve, weather permitting." The park says "the 92-mile road will be open to private vehicle traffic up to mile 30, the Teklanika Rest Area." However, "park officials urge visitors to call ahead for conditions because weather this time of year can change quickly."

HOLYOKE DESIGNATED AS CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT. The Springfield (MA) Republican (9/19, 358K) reports that Holyoke now is a Certified Local Government. The designation by the NPS and the Massachusetts Historical Commission "qualifies the city to apply for certain grants previously unavailable," according to Olivia Mausel, Holyoke Historical Commission chairwoman.

GROUPS CALL FOR AGOURA HILLS WILDLIFE CROSSING. The Los Angeles Times (9/19, Groves, 4M) reports that "with the Griffith Park mountain lion as their poster puma, the National Wildlife Federation and the Santa Monica Mountains Fund have joined forces to raise money for a wildlife crossing at the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills." The "Save L.A. Cougars" campaign will "kick off Friday at a public rally featuring legislators and schoolchildren at the site of the proposed crossing near Liberty Canyon Road, about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles." According to the article, "the crossing, long on the wish list of scientists and

transportation officials, would link protected habitat on either side of the freeway to give cougars, bobcats and other wildlife safe passage through the dense urban landscape to find food and mates."

PETITION SEEKS TO STOP REMOVE OF YELLOWSTONE BISON. KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (9/19, 1K) reports that "an emergency rule-making petition has been filed to stop the possible removal of 900 Yellowstone National Park bison." The petition is asking for the NPS "to consider new scientific advancements in their bison management plan."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER REOPENS. Additional coverage of the reopening of the White House Visitor Center was provided by the Los Angeles Times (9/19, Levine, 4M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS ANNOUNCES 2014 DIRECTOR'S PARTNERSHIP AWARDS. Additional coverage of the 2014 Director's Partnership Awards was provided by the Pagosa (CO) Daily Post (9/19).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM WANTS DRONES KEPT AWAY FROM WILDFIRES. The AP (9/19) reports that BLM officials in Nevada are "warning drone pilots to keep their aircraft away from wildfires." The bureau says "it's counted at least four instances this year when a drone has flown in or near a wildfire zone where flights were temporarily restricted." BLM officials say "pilots who interfere with firefighting efforts could face fines or criminal charges."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by KLAS-TV Las Vegas (9/19, 136K) and KTNV-TV Las Vegas (9/19, 59K).

Also reporting on the story is the Nevada Appeal (9/19, 49K).

GROUP PROTESTS WILD HORSE ROUNDUP PLAN. KLAS-TV Las Vegas (9/19, 136K) reports that the BLM "plans to roundup 80 percent of the horses" in Cold Creek in the winter. But "one group of wild horse advocates showed up at Thursday's BLM advisory meeting in Las Vegas to oppose the idea." President of the Spring Mountain Alliance Arelene Gawne said, "We have got a phenomenal tourist attraction. And if Las Vegas learned anything in 2008, we need to diversify our tourist draw." Gawne "wants to gather and sterilize most of the horses then release them back."

BLM PROPOSES IMPROVEMENTS FOR BRUNEAU CANYON OVERLOOK. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (9/19, 54K) reports that the BLM is proposing to make the Bruneau Canyon Overlook "safer and more accessible." According to the article, "improvements at the overlook in Owyhee County will include enhanced trail access to the canyon rim, additional educational signs, restrooms and more railings."

WOMAN CLAIMS BUNDY'S CATTLE CAUSED CAR CRASH. The Talking Points Memo (9/19, 218K) reports that "a woman sued Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy for negligence since a cattle he let roam on public land caused her to crash her car." In April, the BLM "let Bundy use federal land for his cattle even though he hasn't paid grazing fees in years after an intense standoff between the rancher's militia and the federal government." Just two days after the bureau "released Bundy's cattle, multiple cows wandered onto an interstate highway, where one collided with a car."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FIVE CHARGED IN MAY ATV RIDE. Additional coverage of the charges filed against five men for their role in planning an illegal ATV ride in Utah was provided by PBS (9/19, 688K), the Las Vegas Review-Journal (9/19, 386K), the Cache Valley (UT) Daily (9/19, 639) and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (9/19, 1.07M).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DECIDES NOT TO LIST GEORGIA ASTER. The AP (9/18) reports that "federal wildlife officials say conservation efforts have helped keep the Georgia aster from being listed as endangered." FWS officials say "the aster, a purple-flowering plant found in Georgia, Alabama and the Carolinas has been a candidate for federal endangered species status since 1999." Officials say "the decision not to list the plant as endangered was based on a review of the number, size and health of aster populations, along with an appraisal of imminent threats to the plant."

Also reporting on the story is the Asheboro (NC) Courier-Tribune (9/19, 16K).

FWS PROVIDES $300,000 FOR ZIMBABWE ELEPHANT, RHINO CONSERVATION. The RadioVop (ZWE) (9/19) reports that in 2014, the FWS "provided over $300,000 for elephant and rhinoceros conservation in Zimbabwe, pushing the amount that the agency has donated in Zimbabwe since 2002 over the $1 million mark to $1.25 million." The article notes that "this year's contributions were matched with funds from other donors and non-governmental organizations for a total of over $750,000 for conservation activities in Zimbabwe."

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS WORKING ON SOFTWARE TO VISUALIZE EVACUATION SCENARIOS. Government Computer News (9/18, 1K) reports that "researchers and developers working with the US Geological Survey have been developing geographic information system software to assist pedestrian evacuation from disasters zones." According to the article, "researchers' recent efforts have focused on a 'path distance modeling approach that incorporates travel directionality, multiple travel speed assumptions and cost surfaces that reflect variations in slope and land cover.'"

Also providing coverage is KQED-FM San Francisco (9/18, 20K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

UPDATE ON SUNZIA TRANSMISSION LINE PROVIDED FOR LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. The Ruidoso (NM) News (9/19, 40K) reports that "representatives from all sides of the SunZia transmission line project updated Lincoln County commissioners Tuesday on a compromise routing of the line that may open the way for work to move forward toward a 2018 commercial operation date." BLM project director Adrian Garcia, Mark Matthews from the Socorro field office and Chuck Schmidt from the Roswell field office "led off the update for commissioners, because their agency is the lead on the SunZia project."

The story also appears at the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (9/19, 39K).

Onshore Energy Development:

GREEN GROUPS ASK OBAMA TO TARGET METHANE LEAKS. Bloomberg News (9/18, Snyder, 1.94M) reports the Obama Administration is being asked by environmental groups "to beef up its climate plan by targeting methane leaks in the web of valves, pipes and pumps drillers use to produce and deliver natural gas." Although "companies have a vested interest in keeping methane bottled up on its way to customers, some gas inevitably seeps out" and that is "worrisome because methane – the primary component of gas – is 25 times more potent than carbon at trapping heat." Clean Air Task Force advocacy director Conrad Schneider "said the U.S. won't meet its own climate commitment to reduce greenhouse gases by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020 without targeting methane." He stated, "It's a very potent global warming pollutant," and that regulating it "could be the great capstone to their climate efforts."

Also reporting on the story is the FuelFix (9/18, 7K).

USGS SAYS WASTE-WATER INJECTIONS CAUSED EARTHQUAKE.. KUSA-TV Denver (9/18, 226K) reports that the USGS says "waste-water injections done by the oil and gas industry" are to blame for "a 5.3 magnitude earthquake" that "rattled Southern Colorado three years ago near Trinidad." Arthur McGarr, a USGS Researcher, said, "We weren't very surprised. The earthquakes coincided pretty much with the time and history of the waste water injection in some fairly high volume wells."

HOUSE PASSES DOMESTIC ENERGY BILLS. The "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (9/19, Marcos, 241K) reports the House yesterday "passed a consolidated package of bills it has already passed to boost domestic energy." The bills include "previously approved measures such as allowing construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, expediting natural gas exports and limiting environmental regulations." Further, the package "includes the text of bills such as requiring the Department of Energy to study the impact of thermal insulation in federal buildings and prohibiting the Environmental Protection Agency from implementing regulations that are estimated to cost more than $1 billion." House Republicans contend "the consolidated legislation would help keep energy costs low and spur the economy."

JONAH FIELD IN WYOMING IS BEING REVITALIZED UNDER NEW FIRM. The AP (9/18, Storrow) reports that Jonah Energy bought assets in Jonah Field last May from Encana Corp., and has been working to revitalize production in the field. According to Jonah Energy's regulatory director, Paul Ulrich, the company has focused solely on its Wyoming assets, and is "planning on continued drilling, enhanced drilling, other initiatives to grow our current base production."

Offshore Energy Development:

SEISMIC SURVEYING OFF EAST COAST MAY BEGIN NEXT YEAR. McClatchy (9/18, Subscription Publication, 27K) reports that as soon as Spring 2015, seismic surveying may begin along the East Coast. The "American Petroleum Institute said the seismic blasts are safe and are being overly restricted by the government." In a statement, the group explained, "Operators already take great care to protect wildlife, and the best science and decades of experience prove that there is no danger to marine mammal populations."

Coverage was also picked up by the Columbia (SC) State (9/18, 327K), the Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (9/18, 489K), and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/18, 646K).

Seismic Testing Supported. In an op-ed for the Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (9/19, 295K), Cathy Novinger, Executive Director, Palmetto AgriBusiness Council, writes that "with the initial approval of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for seismic testing off the Atlantic states, South Carolina is presented with a unique opportunity to evaluate our available resources in an environmentally responsible manner." She asserts that "we must not let misinformation cause us to bypass this opportunity which could lead to creating thousands of jobs and boosting our state's economy." Novinger says "we need up-to-date and accurate information using the latest technology in order to assess what resources are off our coasts, which has not been done extensively in 40 years." She concludes that "we can continue to preserve our land, air and water resources, while at the same time explore our assets for the economic benefit of all South Carolinians."

COURT UPHOLDS DECISION TO ALLOW INVESTIGATION INTO ROLE OF TRANSOCEAN IN 2010 OIL SPILL. The AP (9/18, McGill) reports that a Federal appeals court in New Orleans upheld a lower court's ruling in a 2-1 decision allowing a Federal safety board's right to investigate the role of Transocean Deepwater Drilling Corp. in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CONGRESS CONTINUES DISCUSSION ON CALIFORNIA WATER BILL. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/18, 646K) reports that "secret California water bill negotiations have a '55 percent to 60 percent chance' of success during the fast-fading 113th Congress, Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer said Thursday." According to the article, "in her first extended public comments on the closely held water talks, Boxer voiced cautious optimism even as she criticized House Republicans for trying to exclude Northern California Democrats." Boxer said, "I'm very hopeful. I would say the discussions are going well."

TRIBES PERFORMS WAR DANCE AGAINST SHASTA DAM RAISE. The Indian Country Today Media Network (9/18, 78K) reports that "the Winnemem Wintu performed a War Dance at the Shasta Dam, their second in 10 years, September 11-14 to seek guidance from their ancestors as they try to stop a federal plan to raise the Shasta Dam 18.5 feet, which would submerge or damage about 40 sites integral to the tribe's religion, according to a 2012 study from the Stanford Center on Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity." The BOR is "currently finalizing a feasibility study and environmental impact statement on an 18.5-foot raise of the dam, which would increase statewide water storage by 1.5 percent and increase water of agriculture and metropolitan uses by 0.2 percent." Tribal members said "the War Dance was not about violence but about connecting with the spirit world and gaining strength and unity for the struggle ahead."

Empowering Native American Communities:

NATIVE AMERICANS RECEIVING FINAL SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS. The AP (9/19, Volz) reports that "hundreds of thousands of Native Americans across the nation have started receiving the final cash payments this week from one of the largest government settlements in US history." According to the article, "checks ranging from $869 to nearly $10 million were sent beginning Monday to more than 493,000 people by the administrators of the $3.4 billion settlement."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (9/18, 4.9M), the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (9/18, 77K), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (9/18, 572K), the Houston Chronicle (9/19, Volz, 2.47M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/18, 646K), and the Missoulian (MT) (9/19, 83K).

Also reporting on the story are the Indian Country Today Media Network (9/18, 78K), KXLF-TV Butte, MT (9/19, 2K), and KFOR-TV Oklahoma City (9/18, 130K).

BIA INVESTIGATING TODDLER'S DEATH. The Cortez (CO) Journal (9/18, 646) reports that the BIA is "investigating what is believed to be the drowning death of an 11-month-old in Towaoc." According to BIA Police Chief Mike McCoy, "the toddler was at a residence with the father when the death occurred on the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 12." McCoy said, "It's all preliminary at this time, but it appears to have been a drowning. We're waiting the autopsy report."

Top National News:

SENATE OKS TRAINING SYRIAN REBELS DESPITE BIPARTISAN SKEPTICISM ABOUT OBAMA'S WAR PLAN. While the 78-22 Senate vote on providing training and arms to militias in Syria fighting to overthrow the Assad regime, as well as ISIL, was not close – the New York Times (9/19, Weisman, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) calls it "overwhelming" – much of the coverage this morning focuses on those Senators who opposed the measure and what is perceived to be the half-hearted support it received from many of those who eventually backed it. For instance, McClatchy (9/19, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 27K) says the Senate "grudgingly approved" the measure after "several senators questioned the viability of Obama's strategy." McClatchy notes that even Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said, "It is not perfect, that's for sure." But McClatchy also reports that President Obama "called it a victory nonetheless."

The Los Angeles Times (9/19, Mascaro, 4M) says the "vote...upended party allegiances and hardened opposition to the administration's strategy." The Times notes that "nine Democrats, 12 Republicans and one Independent voted no." Sen. Mark Begich is quoted as saying, "I disagree with my president."

Likewise, according to the Washington Post (9/19, O'Keefe, Kane, 4.9M), the vote "exposed a deep rift...among Democrats over waging war, with a large bloc of liberals staunchly opposed to the modest mission, fearing another long-term engagement in Iraq." The Post notes that "several of the party's rising stars, including" Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Kirsten Gillibrand "rejected the proposal, while in the House, Obama's proposal won approval only because a vast majority of Republicans backed him." The Post notes that Sen. Rand Paul also "voted no and used a combative floor speech to blast Obama and congressional colleagues for not holding a fuller war debate before the elections." The Post notes that Sen. Ted Cruz, who, like Paul, is expected to seek the GOP's presidential nomination in 2016, also opposed the measure, while Sen. Marco Rubio backed it.

USA Today (9/18, Davis, Today, 5.6M) points out that the authorization "sunset[s] on Dec. 11, ensuring that Congress will revisit" the debate after the midterm election. USA Today also reports that in the Senate, "resistance among Democrats in conservative-leaning states was notable" as Sens. Mark Begich, Jon Tester and Joe Manchin "all opposed the measure."

Scott Pelley reported on the CBS Evening News (9/18, story 3, 1:40, Pelley, 5.08M) that "a majority of senators have now voted to approve the President's plan" before moving on to a segment about the foiled terrorist plot hatched by ISIL sympathizers in Australia, and, on NBC Nightly News (9/18, story 2, 0:10, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams briefly noted the Senate vote in a ten-second aside.

The AP (9/19) reports that the President "says [the] bipartisan Senate vote...shows the world that Americans are united in combating the Islamic State group." The Wall Street Journal (9/19, Peterson, Crittenden, Subscription Publication, 5.62M) reports that on Thursday evening, the President said, "The strong bipartisan support in Congress for this new training effort shows the world that Americans are united in confronting the threat from ISIL."

The New York Times (9/19, Weisman, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) reports that the Senate "gave overwhelming approval" to the President's plan "then fled the Capitol...sidestepping the debate over the extent of American military action until the lame-duck session." The Times goes on to say that "the broader debate over Congress's role in blessing or expanding a new military campaign in the Middle East was one that few on Capitol Hill wanted six weeks before...elections." But the Times notes that Sen. Paul signaled his firm stance

on the larger issue when he said, "I'm not sending your son, your daughter, over to the middle of that chaos." Paul added, "Amid the interventionists' disjointed and frankly incoherent rhetoric, the only consistent theme is war. These barnacled enablers have never met a war they didn't like."

The Wall Street Journal (9/19, Peterson, Crittenden, Subscription Publication, 5.62M) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is reportedly mulling a presidential bid, voted against the measure, and said, "I worry very much that getting involved in that area could open the door to the United States once again being involved in a quagmire, being involved in perpetual warfare."

The Hill (9/18, Shabad, Cox, 241K) reported that some who voted "no" are "fearful that it could be difficult, if not impossible, for the administration to ensure the weapons do not end up in the wrong hands." Under the headline, "Conflicted Congress Passes Obama's New War Funding," the Huffington Post (9/18, Mcauliff, 11.54M) reported that the Senate was "voting to fund what amounts to the start of a new war without an actual war vote."

Bloomberg News (9/18, Hunter, 1.94M) says that "when lawmakers return in mid-November for a post-election session, they plan a broader – and likely far messier – debate over the use of military force to combat" ISIL. According to Bloomberg, "Senators in both parties said...the promise to hold that debate persuaded them to support the more narrow authority now." Sen. John Cornyn said on Tuesday, "We should be having this debate right now, not in December, and I think there are senators on both sides of the aisle who agree with me."

Politico (9/18, Everett, 977K) reported that after the midterm election, "the administration will have to sell lawmakers on a longer-term strategy and potentially even win congressional backing for a full-blown Authorization for the Use of Military Force, a much trickier proposition." According to Politico, Democrats are "worried that even the narrow Syrian rebel language approved by Congress on Thursday builds a slippery slope that could eventually commit significant U.S. spending to the Middle East and put more American lives at risk." Politico adds that Sen. Dick Durbin said his fellow Democrats' "reticence to loudly cheer for the president's plan stems from lingering distaste surround the long-term consequences of previous war authorizations — and fear that those same mistakes may be repeated." The New York Times (9/18, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) reported that ahead of Thursday's vote, Sen. Tammy Baldwin said, "I worry about an open-ended conflict."

The Christian Science Monitor (9/18, 426K) reports that the House Republican leadership "has indicated it's moving toward an overall authorization debate after the elections," and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez "is working on authorization legislation to fight [ISIL] but 'without an open-ended check.'"

The New York Times (9/19, Savage, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) reports that "legal specialists are saying that even legislative inaction could create a precedent leaving the executive branch with greater war-making powers." According to the Times, these "legal specialists" contend that "because Congress was on notice about how the executive branch was interpreting its 2001 and 2002 statutes, any failure to challenge that theory — especially as it enacted other legislation in connection with Islamic State policy — could be interpreted as ratifying it."

WPost A1: Generals Do Not Think Obama Should Have Ruled Out "Boots On The Ground." In a front-page article titled, "Rift Widens Between Obama, U.S. Military Over Strategy To Fight Islamic State," the Washington Post (9/19, Whitlock, 4.9M) reports that "a series of military leaders have criticized the president's approach against" ISIL, and on Thursday, retired Marine Gen. James Mattis "became the latest high-profile skeptic...telling the House Intelligence Committee that a blanket prohibition on ground combat was tying the military's hands." Mattis is quoted as saying, "Half-hearted or tentative efforts, or airstrikes alone, can backfire on us and actually strengthen our foes' credibility." The Post also reports that Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA), the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, has "suggested that Obama should listen more closely to his commanders."

The New York Times (9/19, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) notes that when the President addresses the UN next week, "it will be the third time in three weeks that he makes the case for military action against the Islamic State — a remarkable sales campaign for a reluctant warrior." But the Times adds that "far from clarifying the war plan, the White House's public-relations blitz...has muddied several key issues, not least whether the offensive will require American ground forces." According to the Times, "the more the president and his aides have talked, the more confusion they have sown."

Bret Baier, on Fox News' Special Report (9/18, 1.53M), said the President and his advisers "continue to face skepticism about their strategy, their commitment, and their semantics." Correspondent Ed Henry added that

while "the President and his aides continue to stress US troops will not be part of a combat mission, they're fuzzier about whether they will be in a combat zone."

Bloomberg News (9/18, Dorning, 1.94M) notes that on Wednesday, the President "again drew a hard line on sending U.S. forces into 'another ground war in Iraq,'" but, according to Bloomberg, "that pledge may not preclude having American warriors coming under fire next to Iraqi troops as they root out Islamic State militants." Bloomberg says there could be "small groups of commandos operating in the shadows of Iraqi army units, giving advice and calling in airstrikes." And Bloomberg reports that on Thursday, White House press secretary Josh Earnest "acknowledged U.S. military personnel may be deployed 'in an advise-and-assist capacity.'"

Eugene Robinson, in his column for the Washington Post (9/19, 4.9M), says that even though the President has been "adamant that the war against [ISL] will not escalate to the use of U.S. ground troops," he "fear[s] that 'mission creep' – even if the president resists it – is baked in from the start." Robinson adds that "it is not hard to imagine the sequence: more trainers, more weapons, more support staff, more combat-like roles, more troops to execute missions beyond the capacity of our less-than-impressive proxies."

Peggy Noonan, in a column for the Wall Street Journal (9/19, Noonan, Subscription Publication, 5.62M) titled, "The Unwisdom Of Barack Obama," contends that the President has failed to inspire the public to enthusiastically back the war against ISIL and faults him for stating that his initial goal is to "degrade" the Sunni terrorists, which Noonan contends is insufficiently specific.

Dempsey: It May Take Year To Train Syrian Rebels To Fight ISIL. Ed Henry reported on Fox News' Special Report (9/18, 1.53M) that Gen. Martin Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, had "made more news" on Thursday when he said "it may take up to a year to fully train the Syrian rebels." The AP (9/18, Burns) reports that Dempsey "cautioned...that it may be a year before the Syrian rebel force that" President Obama "calls a key element of his strategy for destroying" ISIL "is ready for action." According tot he AP, Dempsey "said it will take three or four months to begin the $500 million training program" because, "before training can start, the U.S. and certain allies must screen potential candidates in Syria for competence and loyalty." The AP says Dempsey also said "once training is underway, it will be necessary to figure out how the rebels would be linked to a political entity inside Syria...referring to this as the most difficult of the current unknowns."

In a front-page article, the New York Times (9/19, A1, Hubbard, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) reports that in Turkey, "intelligence agents from the United States and its allies are laying the groundwork for what they hope will become an effective force of Syrian rebels," but "even...the rebels themselves acknowledge that turning this relatively small group into a force that can challenge the well-funded and well-armed Islamic State is a challenge that will require tremendous support from its foreign backers." According to the Times, "At present the rebels are a beleaguered lot, far from becoming a force that can take on the fanatical and seasoned fighters of the Islamic State." The Times also reports that "while they long for greater international support and hate" ISIL, "ousting Mr. Assad remains their primary goal, putting them at odds with their American patrons."

AFP (9/18) reports that on Thursday, Abdel Ilah al-Bashir, identified as "the commander of moderate Syrian rebels," released a statement reading: "I hereby reaffirm the Free Syrian Army's continued commitment to removing the twin terrorists Bashar al-Assad and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from Syrian soil."

Paul: US Should Be "Destroying" ISIL, Not Arming "Feckless" Syrian Rebels. The Daily Caller (9/19, Pappas, 475K) reported that in his speech announcing his opposition to the President's plan to train and arm some Syrian militias, Sen. Rand Paul said, "Let's not compound the problem by arming feckless rebels in Syria who seem to be merely a pit stop for weapons that are really on their way to ISIS." Paul added, "I warned a year ago that involving us in Syria's civil war was a mistake, that the inescapable irony is that someday the arms we supply would be used against us or Israel." According to Paul, "That day's now" as "we are now forced to fight against our own weapons, and this body wants to throw more weapons into the mix."

In an article titled, "Rand Paul Adjusts Foreign Policy Stance," the Wall Street Journal (9/19, Reinhard, Subscription Publication, 5.62M) notes that while Paul opposes arming the militias in Syria fighting the Syrian military and ISIL, he is in favor of US strikes against ISIL. On Thursday, Paul Said, "ISIS is now a threat. Let's get on with destroying them."

HOLDER ANNOUNCES FEDERAL PROGRAM AIMED AT BUILDING TRUST BETWEEN POLICE, COMMUNITIES. The Los Angeles Times (9/19, Serrano, 4M) reports that Attorney General Eric Holder on Thursday "announced a federal initiative Thursday to study racial bias and build trust between law enforcement

agencies and the communities they serve." Holder "cited growing divisions between police and residents as a topic of national importance since the protests" in Ferguson, MO, "sparked by the slaying of Michael Brown, an unarmed black man who was shot by a white police officer." Holder said "he hoped the program, supported by a $4.75-million grant in five pilot communities, would help defuse future confrontations. 'The events in Ferguson reminded us that we cannot allow tensions, which are present in so many neighborhoods across America, to go unresolved,' Holder said. 'As law enforcement leaders, each of us has an essential obligation and a unique opportunity to ensure fairness, eliminate bias, and build community engagement,' he said."

DOJ Also To Review Police Force Bias. The Washington Times (9/19, Chumley, 373K) reports that Holder also announced on Thursday a "new campaign" that "puts the federal government in control of checking for bias within law enforcement agencies around the nation." Holder's announcement comes as the Justice Department conducts a review of the Ferguson police force "and whether that department's majority white composition – in a largely black community – drove biased policing." Holder said "his three-year campaign will look at five separate 'major activities' police perform in as-yet unnamed American cities," and "funding the initiative will be taxpayers, to the tune of a $4.75 million grant."

NYTimes Urges Congressional Action On Police Militarization. The New York Times (9/19, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) editorializes that police forces "have become increasingly militarized in the last 40 years, many getting free Pentagon war-surplus material, supposedly to use against drug dealers and terrorists." At a hearing last week, lawmakers "questioned why local police needed the 11,959 bayonets distributed by the Pentagon since 2006, and why 13 local police forces with fewer than 10 officers are now equipped with anti-mine-and-ambush vehicles designed for the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan." Congress "first approved war-surplus materials for civilian police in the 1970s – no small coup back then for those interested in law-and-order politicking and currying favor with defense contractors." The Times notes "bipartisan proposals to have Congress take the lead in demilitarizing the police," and urges Congress to "move swiftly on these measures so that police forces don't become standing armies."

NYTimes Endorses Recording Of Police Interrogations. The New York Times (9/19, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) editorializes that confessions "are among the most compelling and critical pieces of evidence in a criminal trial," but "false or coerced confessions are disturbingly common," and although "law enforcement officials have long resisted recording interrogations," that "resistance is ebbing as the benefits become clear." Recording interrogations "is insurance against claims of coercion or mistreatment," and for prosecutors, "it saves resources by encouraging plea deals." It can prevent wrongful convictions of innocent defendants, and "it protects the public by ensuring that the right people are charged and convicted."

FED: CONSUMER BORROWING, HOUSEHOLD WEALTH UP SHARPLY IN Q2. The Wall Street Journal (9/19, Shah, Subscription Publication, 5.62M) reports that US household wealth rose $1.4 trillion in the 2nd quarter to $81.5 trillion, a new record high, according to data released by the Federal Reserve. The report also showed that consumer borrowing rose at a 3.6% annual rate during the quarter, the fastest increase since Q2 2008. Economists hope that higher household wealth combined with more willingness to borrow will spur consumer spending, a major component of the economy.

Yellen Says Poor Americans Still "Vulnerable." Bloomberg News (9/18, Kearns, 1.94M) reports that in prepared remarks, Fed Chair Janet Yellen "said a large share of American families with few assets to fall back on remain 'extraordinarily vulnerable,'" even deep into the economic recovery. Yellen said, "We have come far from the worst moments of the crisis, and the economy continues to improve. But the effects of the recession are still being felt by many families, particularly those that had very little in savings and other assets beforehand." Yellen cited a Fed report that "showed the median net worth reported by the bottom fifth of households by income was just $6,400 last year."

WPost Bemoans Asset Inequality. In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/19, 4.9M) says that the Fed's data shows that the "resurgent wealth" is "anything but equally shared." The Post says that "the rich are getting richer — and everyone else, not so much," and government and the private sector "need innovative approaches to help ensure opportunities for people at all income levels to save and profitably invest."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Murder In The Mediterranean."*** An editorial in the New York Times (9/19, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) calls on Western countries to honor their promises to take in refugees "fleeing wars and conflict in Syria, Gaza and Africa," and to "set up asylum and refugee application centers in Egypt and Libya."

Crimea.

Estonian President Toomas Ilves said on CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS (3/16, Zakaria, 456K), "We have received assurances from President Obama and from Vice President Biden and certainly I think what has come home to all of us is the idea that...the security situation in Europe is not resolved in the way that we thought with the peace dividend in the 1990s."

Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski said on CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS (3/16, Zakaria, 456K), "Once you start using the argument used in 1938 to annex the Sudetenland, no borders in Europe are secure anymore. ... We are all reluctant to impose sanctions because Russia will probably respond and we'll all suffer as a result, but Russia is leaving us no choice."

Karl Rove said on Fox News Sunday (3/16, Wallace), "We should not be saying to the Ukrainians, don't bother us about weapons. The question ought to be what kind of assistance do you need and we should be willing to provide it. But it shouldn't be military only. If we have specific sanctions that are being authorized, let's go after specific individuals. Let's have a plan, a strategy to ramp those up, if something happens in Crimea today, there ought to be an action relatively soon, if they take further steps there ought to be continuing reactions. But we don't seem to have a strategy and a plan."

George Will said on Fox News Sunday (3/16, Wallace), "I would be surprised, given [Putin's] temperament and his actions so far, that he wanted to stop where he is with Crimea. ... When Lavrov met with John Kerry, it was clear he had no latitude to negotiate. He's not interested in an off-ramp. ... Hillary Clinton got in a lot of trouble for saying, correctly, that this is just what Hitler did with the Sudeten Germans, and then with the Germans in the Polish city of Danzig. So, we've seen this movie before."

Judy Woodruff said on Fox News Sunday (3/16, Wallace), "It has been jarring to see this reversion to what we thought of Cold War, or even pre-Cold War, scenario with tanks moving down country roads, with people disappearing who were critical of the regime, either in Ukraine or in Moscow, but, I think what's happening now, is no one knows for sure what Putin's going to do."

Fareed Zakaria said on CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS (3/16, 456K), "The crisis in Ukraine was produced by two sets of blunders, neither emanating from Washington. The European Union's vacillations, and most significantly, of course, Russia's aggression produced the problem. But it will now be up to President Obama to show the strength and skill to resolve it."

Lawmakers Criticize Vote, Call For Sanctions. Bloomberg News (3/17, Lerman, Giroux, 1.91M) reports lawmakers from both parties on Sunday criticized Sunday's referendum in Crimea and called for sanctions on Russia, as well as "military assistance for Ukraine."

The Los Angeles Times (3/17, Mascaro, 3.07M) reports Sen. John McCain said Sunday that the US needs a "fundamental reassessment" of its relationship with Putin. "No more reset buttons," McCain said on CNN's State Of The Union. "Treat him for what he is. That does not mean re-ignition of the Cold War, but it does mean treating him in the way that we understand an individual who believes in restoring the old Russian empire," he added.

The Huffington Post (3/17, Edwards-Levy, 11.54M) also reports his comments.

Senate Majority Whip Durbin said on NBC's Meet The Press (3/16, Gregory), "This is the single most serious act of aggression since the Cold War. He ended up the final ceremony at the Sochi Olympics...trying to make it a charm offensive for the world that this is a modern Russian nation, and within hours invading one of his neighbors sending the same troops protecting the athletes at Sochi into the Crimea. Now, are we going to stand by and say this is acceptable conduct? Because this isn't the end of his ambition."

Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Robert Menendez said on Fox News Sunday (3/16, Wallace), "President Putin has started a game of Russian roulette, and I think that the United States and the West have to be very clear in their response, because he will calculate about how far he can go. So that means they're having very robust sanctions ready to go, starting with the Crimea vote and moving onward depending upon Russia's continued actions after the Crimea vote."

House Intelligence Chairman Mike Rogers said on CBS' Face The Nation (3/16, Schieffer, 2.64M), "We've seen this movie before. We should be cautious. ... Right now Russia is feeling a unique set of pressures other than the international community, it's their economy starting to suffer. Russia is so dependent on energy as the propping up their economy, any disruption in that cash flow has serious and real consequences."

Sen. Bob Corker said on Fox News Sunday (3/16, Wallace), "We do have to show resolve. The European community has stepped up, and made commitments to do some things that they have never done before. The sanctions that we passed out of the Foreign Relations Committee the other day are very biting, one of a kind. We've never done this before where economic extortion and corruption are a part of those. ... This will be a major miscalculation on behalf of Putin if he were to move in to eastern Ukraine."

Sen. Jeff Flake said on NBC's Meet The Press (3/16, Gregory) that Ukraine's "military has been hollowed out over the past couple of years. They have, according to some Ukrainians, nothing that shoots, runs, or flies. It's because the Russians have had such close ties with the previous government that they hauled the military out. So they need a lot of help. But nothing that we can do will help the Ukraine withstand what Russia is going to do if they decide to go in."

Sen. Chris Murphy, who is in Ukraine, said on ABC's This Week (3/16, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "The mood is tense. ... This sham referendum isn't fooling anyone. You see additional troops being mustered by the Russians on the eastern border. ... I think as soon as we get back to Washington, you'll see the Senate and the House pass an economic aid package, along with sanctions. I think there are a lot of ways that we can assist in the resistance. I'm not sure that we're to the point of providing arms, but they need all sorts of non-lethal assistance, like MREs, that we can put on the ground."

GOP'S FL13 WIN ATTRIBUTED TO POOR DEMOCRATIC TURNOUT, OBAMA'S WEAK POLL NUMBERS. E.J. Dionne, in his column for the Washington Post (3/17, 4.28M), warns that a "fog of nasty and depressing advertising" from the GOP and its allies "threatens to reduce the electorate to a hard core of older, conservative voters eager to hand the president a blistering defeat." According to Dionne, Democrat Alex Sink's loss in the FL13 special election last week "owed to many factors, but one of them is disaffection in Democratic ranks." Dionne notes that last week's NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found that the President disapproval rating is now at 20% among Democrats.

Discussing Republican David Jolly's special election win in Florida's 13th district, RNC Chairman Reince Priebus, on CNN's State Of The Union (3/16, Crowley), said Jolly "had a position on Obamacare, which was obviously positive for him," but also "had a positive message besides Obamacare." However, also on CNN's State Of The Union (3/16, Crowley), Priebus added, "Obamacare is complete poison out there in the field and so the lesson is going to be, number one, you have to hit your main target, which is Obamacare."

Pollster Matthew Dowd, on ABC's This Week (3/16, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), said of FL13, "everything was lined up...in this district for the Democrats to pull out this victory – they had the better candidate, better name ID, they actually had more money in this. And the Republican candidate actually was very flawed, a former lobbyist." According to Dowd, "This wasn't about some big pro-Republican candidate, it is the President's job approval."

Judy Woodruff, on Fox News Sunday (3/16, Wallace), noted that David Plouffe, who managed President Obama's 2008 campaign, "said this week this is a screaming siren warning to Democrats that turnout is going to be a much bigger problem than they have even anticipated."

BUSINESS OPTIMISM RISING. The Wall Street Journal (3/17, Cronin, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that while businesses remain concerned about the Crimea situation and the potential for an economic slowdown in China, business optimism is on the rise. The Journal says that the Economic Policy Uncertainty Index, created by a Stanford professor, has now fallen to levels last seen at the start of the recession, down from a record high following the debt-ceiling battle in August 2011. The Journal credits the drop to an easing of partisan tensions in the Federal government.

Yellen To Address Fed's Direction This Week. USA Today (3/16, Davidson, 5.82M) reports that Fed Chair Janet Yellen "faces an important test" on Wednesday, as "her first news conference coincides with an anticipated

change in the central bank's guidance related to short-term interest rates." The Fed is expected to continue tapering its stimulus policy at its two-day meeting that begins Tuesday, but "less certain" is "how a Fed post-meeting statement and Yellen will convey that rates will stay low despite unemployment that's fallen faster than expected."

Samuelson Delivers Mixed Verdict On Stimulus. In his column for the Washington Post (3/17, 4.28M), Robert J. Samuelson delivers a post-mortem on the 2009 economic stimulus bill, which he says "remains controversial and divisive" five years later. While Samuelson says that the White House Council of Economic Advisers argues that the stimulus, along with follow on measures, "helped stop the free fall and propel recovery," but he argues that there is reason to doubt that. Samuelson accepts that the stimulus measures helped keep the economy from collapsing, but perhaps not much beyond that, and he concludes that "more stimulus won't cure underperformance and may perversely contribute to it."

Lazear Says Jobs Report Should Raise Concerns. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (3/17, Subscription Publication, 5.91M), Edward Lazear, a professor and chair of the Council of Economic Advisers for President Bush, writes that while many commentators viewed the February job report, which showed a gain of 175,000 jobs, as a positive sign, he sees worrying signs in it. In particular, he notes that since September, the total hours worked by the labor force has fallen by 3/10ths an hour per worker. He argues that this actually represents the equivalent of the loss of several hundred thousand jobs.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Hard Turn."*** The New York Times (3/17, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) writes in an editorial that New Yorkers can expect "lurching and bumps" as Mayor De Blasio figures out how to effectively manage his new position. The paper recounts his efforts with the "quixotic quest" of his pre-k initiative that just got proposed funding in the budget, but not his proposed tax, from leaders in Albany. The paper also says that the new mayor has faced setbacks of a "substantive," "symbolic," and "silly" nature, and has been "outmaneuvered" by Governor Cuomo on several issues.

"Charter Schools." The New York Times (3/17, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) editorial board also comments on the state of charter schools in New York following Mayor de Blasio's comments on them. The Times urges de Blasio to look at the "most important dimension: educational quality," when evaluating the state of schools. The paper argues that the city should "shut down failing schools and allow only the best charter operators to expand" and that de Blasio should "reconsider" his proposal of charging charter schools rent for space in public schools. The Times concludes that as the debate over the state of charter schools continues, advocates should set aside their "hyperbole about being under siege" and that de Blasio should "renounce divisive rhetoric" that cast charter schools as "alien institutions."

"The Flute, The Flute Is Calling."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Posturing Over The Holocaust."*** A Washington Post (3/16, 4.28M) editorial chides Maryland lawmakers and asks them to "stand down" on "posturing aimed at" Keolis North America. The paper finds the behavior of lawmakers "baffling" since Keolis and the French government have already apologized and made reparations for their involvement in transporting French Jews to Germany during WWII, and observes that foreign diplomats are working on reparations to the small number of Jewish families located in the United States. Never the less, Annapolis lawmakers are in a "state of high dudgeon" over the company's involvement and that the "symbolic stance" has been "torpedoing the Purple Line." The paper asks that reparations remain "in the realm of diplomacy, not in legislative corridors in Annapolis."

"A Tortured Debate." In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/17, 4.28M) says that the "heart of the dispute" between the Senate Intelligence Committee and the CIA is Leon Panetta's internal review of the "use of torture in the interrogation of suspected terrorists." The Post says that the CIA should allow the Senate to use the Panetta report in its review of the issue. The Post also says that it hopes that the move will aid to bringing the debate back around to the actions of President Bush.

"Muriel Bowser For Mayor." The Washington Post (3/17, 4.28M) editorial board urges readers to elect DC

Council member Muriel Bowser (D-Ward 4) as the new Mayor of Washington, DC. The paper hails Bowser as a "fresh start" because of her prior efforts and the "professionalism" of her campaign where she "articulated an agenda that promotes continued economic growth but doesn't ignore the challenges and inequities that growth can bring." The board also criticizes current Mayor Vincent Gray for the recent campaign scandal and say the he "would be a poor choice."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Consumer Financial Cover-Up."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/17, Journal, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) notes that in a letter to Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Richard Cordray, Rep. Jeb Hensarling concludes that the Bureau will not reveal how it determines when employers unintentionally discriminate against minorities. The Journal notes the damage a charge of racism can do to a business and adds that lenders cannot defend themselves if they do not know which practices the bureau believes are illegal. The Journal adds that while the House has voted to subject the bureau to Congressional funding and to replace the director with a five-member commission, the White House and Cordray know Senate Democrats will block the measure, so they will continue to and the White House know that Senate Democrats will block it, so they will continue to coerce lenders into settling claims.

"Death In Chinese Custody." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/17, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says the case of Cao Shunli, a Chinese political prisoner who died last week after medical neglect, should be raised at this week's meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Journal notes that since the Obama Administration justifies its membership on the Human Rights Council as a means of engaging oppressive regimes, it should engage on Cao's case and the issue of China's treatment of North Korean refugees.

"Welcome To The 19th Century." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (3/17, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) argues that the result of the Crimea vote was a foregone conclusion and that Putin may now have his eye on eastern Ukraine, as the West has so far offered only threats of "consequences" that Putin sees no reason to take seriously. The Journal argues for measures designed to push back against Putin's aggression, including economic sanctions that give banks a choice between doing business with the US or doing business with Russia and a military deterrent in the form of military aid to Ukraine and the deployment of US and European forces to Poland, the Baltic states and other nearby NATO nations.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Search For Jet Expands Across Asia
Ample Water Amid Drought
Crimea Voters Appear Ready To Split
Big Endeavour: Getting Parts From Scuttled Shuttles
Mad For The Underdogs

Wall Street Journal:
Crimea Votes To Join Russia
Adjustable-Rate Mortgages Make A Comeback
Search For Flight 370 Enters Daunting New Phase
Iraqi Officer Takes Dark Turn To Al Qaeda

New York Times:
Timing Of Report By Flight's Pilot Focuses Inquiry
Army General Reaches Deal On Sex Counts
Obama's Policy Is Put To The Test
Unskilled And Destitute Are Hiring Targets For Fukushima Cleanup
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Washington Post:

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Financial Times:
Crimea Poll Leaves Moscow Isolated
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Jimmy Choo Owner Eyes London Listing
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Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Malaysian Missing Flight; Malaysian Missing Flight-Search; Malaysian Missing Flight-Analyst; Malaysian Missing Flight-FBI; Severe Weather; Ukraine-Crimea Vote; Warren Buffet-March Madness
CBS: Preempted by sports
NBC: Malaysian Missing Flight; Malaysian Missing Flight-Passenger Families; Ukraine-Crimea Vote; Russia-Paralympics; Severe Weather; Tornado Preparation

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Ukraine-Crimea Vote; Malaysian Missing Flight; Toronto Mayor-Embarrassing Citizen; Anti-Gay Reverend Health Problems
CBS: Ukraine-Crimea Vote; President Obama-Putin Phone Call; Malaysian Missing Flight; Healthcare-Citizen Survey; Severe Weather
NPR: Ukraine-Crimea Vote; Malaysian Missing Flight; NY Senator-Passport Check Legislation; Canada Flight-Emergency Landing; Army General-Sexual Assault Plea Deal; March Madness-Seed List; Box Office List
FOX: Malaysian Flight Disappearance; Ukraine-Crimea Vote; March Madness-Seed List

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Welcomes Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Travels to Poland, followed by Lithuania.
US Senate: 1 p.m. JUDICIARY – FIELD HEARING — hearing, "Community Solutions to Breaking the Cycle of Heroin and Opioid Addiction." http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=f00b2bec76ceca7ac77335d8aa1ffd63 Location: Franklin Conference Center at the Howe Center, 1 Scale Avenue, Rutland, VT.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS – MEDIA DAY – DOD — Media availabilities for the Medal of Honor recipients who will be honored at the White House on the 18th. The U.S. Army will conduct a media day on Monday, March 17th for media who would like to interview the recipients or those representing the posthumous award recipients. For scheduling requests, please contact Jennifer Donegan at 678-421-6804 or jdonegan@dvidshub.net For more information on the recipients, please go to: http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/valor24/

March 16 – 18. CCSS0 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE — The council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) will host 40 state education leaders at the annual legislative conference. 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Plenary Discussion Session with Secretary Arne Duncan . Grand Ballroom. Location: Washington Marriott at Metro Center: 775 12th St. NW.

March 17 – 19. CONNECT ID CONFERENCE — The International Biometrics & Identification Association (IBIA) and Science Media Partners (SMP) present the connect: ID exhibition and conference. http://ibia.org/newsevents/events/details/?id=742 12:45 p.m. National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Acting Deputy Director for Office of Biometric Identity Management Kenneth Gantt will deliver remarks on the Department of Homeland Security's past, present, and future of use of biometric identity services. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

IAFF (FIREFIGHTERS) LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE — 8:55 a.m. The International Association of Fire Fighters hold their legislative conference. peakers include: Morning Session: General President Harold Schaitberger; Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO); Terry McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia; Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA); Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security; Mike Ross, Candidate for Governor of Arkansas; Michael Steele, Former Chairman, Republican National Committee; Tom Perez, Secretary of Labor. Afternoon Session: D. Michael Collins, Mayor of Toledo, Ohio; Representative Donna Edwards (D-MD); Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Democratic Whip; Charlie Cook, National Political Pundit. 10:30 a.m. DHS Secretary Johnson will deliver remarks. Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue N.W.

KAISER – HEALTH DIPLOMACY — 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. "U.S. Global Health Diplomacy and the Role of Ambassadors." The Kaiser Family Foundation is hosting a panel discussion of U.S. Ambassadors, featuring Ambassador to Malawi Jeanine Jackson, Ambassador to Haiti Pamela White, and Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu Walter North. The event will also feature remarks from Ambassador Leslie Rowe, acting special representative in the Secretary's Office of Global Health Diplomacy and former U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique and to Papua New Guinea, on the role of the new office. Jen Kates, Kaiser Family Foundation's vice president and director of global health and HIV policy, will provide opening remarks and moderate the panel discussion. Location: Barbara Jordan Conference Center, Kaiser Family Foundation Offices, 1330 G St. NW.

GEORGETOWN LAW – JUSTICE KAGAN — 4 p.m. Georgetown University Law Center presents the inaugural Dean's Lecture to the Graduating Class: A Conversation with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, moderated by Dean William M. Treanor. Location: Georgetown University Law Center, Hart Auditorium, McDonough Hall, 600 New Jersey Ave.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: [Refeming to the political unrest in Ukraine] "It just keeps getting more and more tense. And now, Vladimir Putin has moved 10,000 troops to the Russian-Ukrainian border. Russia says the troops are only there for a training exercise. When asked what they're training for, Russian officials are like, 'Invading Ukraine.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "It seems like everybody is on Obama's case right now. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg apparently called the President directly to complain about the NSA and how it spies on ordinary Americans. The guy who runs Facebook got mad at the NSA for spying on people. Talk about the pot unfriending the kettle."

Seth Meyers: "The situation in Crimea continues to develop. Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters today that America won't recognize Crimea's vote to secede from Ukraine. Which makes sense, since most Americans wouldn't recognize Crimea on a map."

Seth Meyers: "Well, the Obama Administration announced it is going to require colleges and vocational schools to demonstrate they're properly preparing students for jobs after college. Yeah. So don't be surprised if your next chemistry class is all about how to make a cappuccino."

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BISON CONNECT

Additional Briefing Materials for March 18, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Mar 17, 2014 at 2:14 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are additional briefing materials for tomorrow, March 18. These have been uploaded to Google Drive, and Q&A for your Internal Budget Hearing Prep is also available in word docs in a folder within your March 18 folder.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

2 attachments Non-responsive (attachment 1)

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24K

3 18 14_330pm_Q&A Internal Budget Hearing Prep.pdf
203K

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The Budget in General

Question: Please provide a short description of your 2015 budget.

Response:

- This is a responsible budget that conforms to the caps established by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.
  - Interior's total request is $11.9 billion, a 2.4% increase from 2014.
  - Without the fire cap exemption, the request is $11.7 billion, a 0.3% increase or essentially level with 2014.
- It includes $413 million in program reductions to make room for $54 million in unavoidable fixed costs such as pay and rent, and higher priority activities and program increases of $428 million.
  - Increases are included for youth engagement; science to inform land management and resource issues; full Contract Support Cost funding for Tribes; water conservation and sustainability; and smart, safe and environmentally responsible energy activities.
- The 2015 budget maintains core capabilities, particularly in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the land management bureaus, paying close attention to maintenance needs across the Department.

Major Initiatives:

- The budget includes several reformative proposals that address critical needs for the Nation.
  - LWCF - $246 million for LWCF programs as part of a legislative strategy to achieve full funding of $900 million in the future.
  - Centennial - The budget includes $40 million to gear up for the Centennial Anniversary of the National Park Service, complementing another legislative priority, the Centennial Initiative, to provide $1.2 billion for the parks and other public lands over three years.
  - Fire - The budget confronts the escalating issue of fire suppression costs, head on, by proposing legislation to treat big fire costs consistently with other disaster costs.
    - Extreme fire emergencies, fires threatening urban areas, or abnormally peak fire seasons would be addressed through an existing budget cap adjustment.
    - With this proposal, the 2015 budget includes 70% of the 10-year average of fire suppression costs, $269 million.

- It invests $146 million in pro-active fuels management activities to reduce future fire risk, and includes an additional $30 million to restore native habitat for resiliency.

Revenue and Partnerships:

- The Department expects to collect $14.9 billion in revenue in 2015.
  - This includes $3.9 billion from onshore oil and gas leasing, and $8.2 billion in offshore oil and gas revenues.
  - Recreation Fee programs generate $219 million annually, including $179 million that NPS expects to collect.
- A significant portion of this will be shared with States and counties in payments.
  - Including $2 billion in Mineral Revenue Payments that will be paid out to States in 2015. This is an increase of $72 million or nearly 4% over 2014 payment levels.
- A total of $4.8 billion in grants and payments will be made to States, counties and others in 2014.
  - This includes the proposed one-year authorization of PILT payments of $442 million.

Fee Proposals:

- To ensure a fair return to the American taxpayer, the 2015 budget proposes fees:
  - $48 million to be collected by the imposition of a fee for the inspection of oil and gas leases on public lands (including Indian lands).
  - $6.5 million to be collected by the imposition of an administrative fee on grazing.

The Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative

Question: What is this Initiative?

Response:

- The President's budget includes this Initiative to show in tangible ways, how additional investments in 2015 can spur economic progress and promote opportunity.
- The proposal is fully paid for through a combination of spending cuts and closure of tax loopholes to demonstrate that additional pro-growth investments are affordable without increasing the deficit.

Question: What is proposed in the Initiative for Interior?

Response:

- The proposal includes $346 million in investments for Interior programs. This components of this are:
    - Centennial Initiative - $100 million for National Park Service deferred maintenance, and $100 million to address conservation and maintenance in Interior's land bureaus and the U.S. Forest Service on a competitive basis.
    - Research and Development - $140 to address natural resource challenges such as water sustainability, and the impacts of energy and mineral development.
    - Historic Preservation Fund program - $6 million to digitize records and streamline permitting processes.
- Additional investments – without specific dollar levels – in Indian education and economic development, and climate resilience.
    - Investments in Indian education will include incentives and improvements for schools funded through BIE to improve childhood education and educational outcomes.
    - The Initiative also supports economic development and job growth in Indian Country, particularly for income vulnerable populations. Investments will target workforce development, economic development grants, and infrastructure development projects.
    - The climate resilience would be targeted to assist communities plan and invest in infrastructure to make them more resilient. Examples include breakthrough technologies to advance in

water treatment technologies to mitigate drought limited water supplies.

Question: Is the funding in the Initiative part of your budget request, is it real?

Response:

- The funding complements but is not included in the request for appropriations.
- Interior's budget is within the existing budget caps negotiated last year.
- Investments in the President's Initiative would be funded only if enacted with offsetting reductions as the President has proposed.

PILT

Question: The authorization for mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program expires with the payments made in 2014. What is the 2015 budget proposal for this program?

Response:

- The 2015 budget includes a proposed one year extension for mandatory funding.
- If enacted by Congress, this would allow us to make a payment in 2015.
- The estimated payments total $442 million.
- The budget also recommends we work with you to develop a longer-term solution for PILT.
- PILT pays over 1,800 counties each year as they are not able to tax Federal lands. PILT payments are provided in lieu of taxes and fund important services like emergency response, roads, and schools.

Question: Given the late reauthorization of the PILT program, what is your schedule for making the 2014 payments?

Response:

- We are planning to make the payments before July 1, as we normally would.
- The program was reauthorized for 2014 in the Farm bill.
- We would normally begin the process to formulate the payment amounts in the fall, but the program was not reauthorized until February 7.
- We are working on a very compressed schedule.

- The timing will depend on how quickly the data is submitted by the States. We asked for PILT data to be furnished by March 14, 2014.
- If the States were able to meet this deadline, we expect to ensure timely payments.

Question: Will the 2014 PILT payments be reduced for sequestration?

Response:

- No, PILT payments will not be sequestered in 2014.
- Our estimate of the payments totals $432 million.
- The payments will not be sequestered in 2014 because the program was authorized after the issuance of the President's 2014 sequester order.

Secure Rural Schools

Question: The authorization for mandatory funding for the Secure Rural Schools program expires with the payments made in 2014. What is the 2015 budget proposal for Secure Rural Schools?

Response:

- The 2015 President's budget proposes to reauthorize Secure Rural Schools payments for five years, with all funding going through USDA's Forest Service.
- In this proposal, appropriations start with payments for 2014 that will be made in 2015.
- Interior would no longer make payments under this proposal, they would be consolidated in the Forest Service.
- The 2015 payments would total $251 million and would decline over the succeeding years, ending with a payment of $101 million in 2018.
- The proposal also revises the allocation split between the three portions of the program to emphasize forest ecosystems, restoration, and land health improvements.

Question: What is the timing of the 2014 Secure Rural Schools payments?

Response:

- The 2014 Secure Rural Schools payments were authorized in the Helium Bill enacted in September 2013.

- Payments will be made in the coming weeks. We are finalizing the payment calculations – the necessary information from the counties was recently received.

Question: Will the Secure Rural School payments be sequestered?

Response:

- No. The 2014 Secure Rural Schools payments were authorized in the Helium Bill enacted in September 2013.
- The payments would not be sequestered because the program was authorized after the President issued the 2014 sequester order.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Question: What are you requesting for the Land and Water Conservation Fund?

Response:

- For both Interior and the Forest Service, the budget proposes $900 million for LWCF in 2015, of which $350 million is subject to appropriations and $550 million is part of a legislative proposal.
- For Interior only, the request is $246 million in appropriations, an increase of $34 million from 2014, and $426 million in a legislative proposal.

Question: What is the rationale for a $900 million annual investment in the LWCF?

Response:

- The program's history has a rich legacy of conservation and recreation benefits, protecting land in every State and supporting over tens of thousands of State and local projects.
- **This is a smart investment** yielding 4 to 1 in returns for every dollar invested in LWCF.
- There are **tangible economic benefits to communities** across the country.
  - Nationally, visitation, tourism, and jobs related to nearby public lands contribute $730 billion annually and support 6.5 million jobs.
  - Timely acquisition of important natural areas can avoid higher future costs from natural disruptions from fire or to water supplies. In 2012, more than 8 million acres burned in the U.S., resulting in $1.9 billion in total economic losses.
    - For example, the request would expand a manageable fire buffer along the northwestern edge of Georgia's **Okefenokee Swamp**, helping to protect private lands, provide an economic benefit to the community, and streamline future fire-fighting activities.
- Communities benefit from **improved access to public lands for hunting, fishing and recreation.**
  - For example, the request would safeguard access to a heavily used trail along New York's **Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River** attracting over 255,000 recreational visitors in 2012. The project will maintain a key river access and recreational hiking opportunities.
- It enables smarter and more efficient management of the public lands.

- For example, the request would allow us to consolidate parcels in California's **Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument** which will improve the efficiency of BLM management activities, resulting in overall long term savings.

- It is the best tool we have to **protect areas in imminent danger** from industrial or residential development.
  - NPS acquisition of 46.8 acres of undeveloped forested land in the heart of the Jackson Flank Attack Zone in Virginia's **Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park** will protect the property from imminent development. The tract, a part of a larger piece of land, has recently been acquired by a developer.

    Development or subdivision of this property will irrevocably scar one of the park's most important battlefield landscapes. The Civil War Trust, an active partner with NPS in Civil War areas, is working with the developer to acquire the lands inside the Federal boundary to facilitate preservation of this landscape through future Federal acquisition. NPS will only be able to acquire the portion of the land that lies inside the Battlefield's boundary, which will then preserve a significant landscape inside the park unit.

Question: Your budget includes a proposal for full, mandatory funding for LWCF. Why put this proposal forward now in a time of constrained budgets?

Response:

- The unpredictability of the 2013 budget cycle with sequestration reinforces the need for this legislative proposal.
- Full and mandatory funding would provide a more reliable source of funding for this important conservation program, and allow certainty for planning and negotiations with landowners.
- The 2014 levels are consistent with 2013, but are significantly below those we had planned in the budget. We will have to pare back our plans and turn back many willing sellers who want to sell their lands, and may instead have to sell to developers.

Question: What role do you envision the Congress and appropriators would have in the oversight and decision making process?

Response:

- We want to work with you on the legislative proposal to ensure there is a continuing role for the Congress and appropriators.

- We have examined several models, such as the creation of an advisory body that would have input on the overall program direction and the prioritization of program components.
- There are very effective programs funded through mandatory dollars to use as models --such as the Migratory Bird Conservation Account, that uses duck stamp revenues to acquire easements to protect migratory bird habitat.

The Centennial Initiative

Question: What is the Centennial Initiative?

Response:

- The budget proposes a three-pronged Centennial Initiative to realize the opportunity of the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016.
- Through a combination of budget and legislative proposals, the Initiative seeks $1.4 billion over three years.
- The funding will incentivize private support; address deferred maintenance needs; support youth hires and visitor services; and create a competitive fund open to all of Interior's land management bureaus and the U.S. Forest Service for conservation and infrastructure needs.
    - This investment would restore 1,700 or 20% of priority park assets to good condition and provide thousands of jobs.
    - It will provide over 10,000 work and training opportunities to young people and engage more than 265,000 volunteers.

Question: Where is the funding requested?

Response:

- Funding is requested in three ways:
    - $40 million in the annual request for appropriations;
    - $400 million in a legislative proposal, for three years; and
    - $200 million in the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative (OGSI).

Question: What would the request buy?

Response: Initiative funding supports the following outcomes:

- $30 million to address deferred maintenance, **youth and veterans hiring**, youth partnership programs, **enhanced visitors services**, and **volunteer coordination.**
    - $8 million in competitively-managed funds would enhance visitor services in interpretation and education, law enforcement and protection, and facility operations focusing on the recruitment of youth and veterans;
    - $4 million would support 21CSC youth work opportunities to educate and engage;
    - $2 million would support volunteer opportunities for young people; and,
    - $16 million would be used to improve the condition of priority assets such as visitor use facilities, historic structures and trails.
- $310 million to **leverage non-federal, philanthropic investment** in the national parks through Challenge projects (including $10 million current and $100 million permanent for 3 years).
- $700 million to address **deferred maintenance needs** in the national park system (including $200 million permanent for 3 years and $100 million OGSI).
    - This supplements the $579 million in the 2015 budget for park maintenance and construction.
    - The NPS backlog is $9-13 billion including $4-5 billion in facilities and $5-8 billion in roads, bridges and trails.
    - Transportation program in DOT (MAP-21) authorizes an additional $240 million annually.
- $400 million for a competitive **Centennial Land Management Investment Fund**, open to all of Interior's land management bureaus and the U.S. Forest Service, to address conservation and infrastructure needs (including $100 million permanent for 3 years and $100 million OGSI).

Examples of Outcomes:

21CSC Partnerships

- Provide new opportunities to youth related to the preservation of historic structures, sites, artifacts, and landscapes incorporating regional heritage education.

- Youth would learn to stabilize historic structures and preserve cultural assets to qualify for sub-journey or journey level trades.

- An example is the Southwest Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps program that connects tribal youth at the Pueblo of Acoma with the national park site near their home.

- The National Park Service Historically Black Colleges and Universities Internship program is a partnership between NPS and the Greening Youth Foundation. Interns gain a better understanding of the important role African Americans played in the development of the country by taking part in oral history projects, giving interpretive talks and tours, and participating in park operations.

Improving Facilities/Assets

- NPS owns and maintains nearly 8,700 assets (excluding roads and bridges) which are considered high priority resources. Over one-half have deferred maintenance needs.

- Examples of projects:

    - Rehabilitation of the Old Stone House at Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. Reconstruction of the foundation and walls; rehabilitation of 19 windows; replacement of shutters and doors; upgrade of the HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems; plaster, painting and repointing; and addition of a fire suppression system.

    - Rehabilitation of Station Camp Creek Trail at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Tennessee. Stabilization of this heavily used trail will reverse erosion, improve safety and protect aquatic habitat.

Leveraged Investments

- In FY 2008, the NPS implemented $51 million in Centennial projects funded with an appropriation of $24.6 million. Projects included:

- Expansion of the Junior Ranger program to a year-round basis at the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. The program offered education opportunities to children to learn about the park resources.
- Improvement of the condition of the cultural landscape and the park's ability to convey the story of Japanese American internment during World War II at Manzanar National Historic Site in California.
- Construction of a multi-use accessible trail at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Georgia.

Grazing Administrative Fee

Question: Why is the BLM proposing to add a fee for livestock grazing permit applicants?

Response:

- The BLM maintains about 18,000 grazing permits and leases for 22,000 allotments on over 155 million acres of pubic rangelands.
- Each permit is typically issued for 10 years. Under our budget proposal, the BLM would charge an administrative fee of $1.00 per Animal Unit Month (AUM), which would be collected along with current grazing fees.
- The proposed administrative fee of $1.00 per AUM would enable BLM to recover a portion of the costs of administering the permits and leases of the grazing program from the permittees who benefit from their use of public lands and resources.
- Requiring permittees of public lands and resources to support administration of the programs from which they benefit is common.
- Onshore Applications for Permits to Drill fees paid by the oil and gas industry is a prime example in which the users pay for services on the public lands.

Question: Would this fund the entire grazing program?

Response:

- This would fund about 25% of the costs to manage the grazing program.
- The total budget for the BLM Rangeland Management program is $75 million.

Question: Does this impact the current grazing fee?

Response:

- No. This is a separate administration fee. The grazing fee for public lands – including BLM and Forest Service lands - in 2014 is the same as 2013.
- It is $1.35 per Animal Unit Month (AUM). An AUM is the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month.
- The fee would not be changed by this proposal. It is based on a formula that is set in law (the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978) and is adjusted annually. It cannot fall below $1.35 per AUM.

Question: Why should Congress support this new fee?

Response:

- It would allow BLM to recover a portion of its costs for administering the grazing program and accelerate the issuance of grazing permits.
- In FY 2014, 1,318 expiring permits are expected to add to a total of 5,216 unprocessed permits, leaving 6,534 permits to be processed as part of the grazing permit workload in addition to 700 to 900 transfers of grazing preference.
- It would also allow BLM to invest resources to ensure grazing allotments are meeting land health standards.

Indian Affairs

Question: What is in this budget for Indian Affairs?

Response:

- As Chair of the White House Council on Native American Affairs, a strong 2015 budget for Indian Affairs is very important to me.
- This budget provides $2.6 billion, $34 million above 2014.
- Most importantly, the budget includes $251 million for full funding of estimated Contract Support Costs.
    - This will allow federally recognized Tribes that contract with the United States the full funding they need to deliver federally-funded programs.
- The budget includes an increase of $11.6 million for a new *Tiwahe* or Family initiative to address the interrelated problems of poverty, violence and substance abuse faced by Indian communities.
    - It includes an increase of $5.6 million to help meet the educational and job training needs of our students.
- The budget maintains strong support to fulfill the terms of legislated water settlements with Native Americans. A total of $147.6 million, a $12.3 million increase from 2014, is included in the Reclamation and Indian Affairs budgets for tribal water settlements.
- The request is complemented by a proposal for education and economic development in Indian Country as part of the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative.

Question: The budget for Indian Affairs does not increase as much as NPS. Why?

Response:

- The budget request for Indian Affairs is an increase of 1.3%.
- You can favorably compare this to the DOI request for current funding, which is an increase of 0.3%.
- Or compare this to the request for the bureaus and programs funded in the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill (excluding Reclamation and CUPCA) which is an increase of 1%.

Response – Interior-wide Funding for Indian programs:

- Interior's FY 2015 budget includes $612 million for programs in other bureaus in support of Native Americans and Tribes.

- This is an increase of 7.4% from 2014 enacted levels, primarily due to increases in the Wildland Fire program.
- Added together with the Indian Affairs budget, the total request for Indian programs is an increase of 2.5% from 2014 enacted levels.

Contract Support Costs

Question: The Committee directed Interior and HHS to submit a work plan to solve Contract Support Cost issues. How is this progressing?

Response:

- We are paying full contract support in 2014 – we appreciate the support of the appropriations committees in funding this important need.
- The budget also includes $1.2 million to increase support for the negotiation of indirect cost rates with tribal governments.
- We are committed to working with the Indian Health Service and the Tribes to simplify and improve the management of contract support.
- The first formal consultation and open dialogue with the Tribes was held on March 11 as part of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council Winter Session.
- Consistent with the Committee's direction, my staff also had an initial meeting with the Subcommittee staff on March 14.
- As requested, we are working closely with IHS, OMB, Tribes and Congress and we will submit our consultation plan to you by the May deadline.

Question: The 2015 budget includes level funding for energy programs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs while providing significant increases ($21.6 million) for BLM. Can you explain?

Response:

- It is important to know that when there are increases for BLM's energy programs, there are direct benefits to Tribes.
- BLM provides direct support to Tribes in the permitting and inspection of tribal oil and gas leases.
- As of September 2013, there were 30,705 oil and gas cases (a collection of leases and units) in BLM's portfolio. This includes 4,154 cases on Indian lands or 13.5% of the total.
- The increases in the BLM budget for the oil and gas program will benefit Tribes with increases in the following areas:

- Increased funding for leasing, oversight and environmental studies;
- Increased inspection through a fee-based program;
- Better production accountability with rulemaking that will improve tracking of BTU content which is the basis for royalty determinations on gas;
- New metering technologies that are more efficient to manage; and,
- Accelerated processing with improvements to BLM's information technology that supports the oil and gas program.

Question: What is in the budget for law enforcement?

Response:

- The 2014 appropriations include a total of $191 million for Criminal Investigations and Police Services, an increase of $13.7 million or 7.7 percent above the 2013 level.
- The BIA will have increased funding to devote to criminal justice issues in 2015 based on the President's budget. For FY 2015, there is a $1.7 million increase in the BIA's budget for Criminal Investigation and Police Services.
- This continues the robust funding support this Administration has provided for law enforcement programs in Indian Country. This has allowed us to achieve significant reductions in violent crime with our Priority Goal that tracked our efforts in community policing at four sites.
    - The funding for Indian Affairs Public Safety and Justice Services is 44% above the 2008 funding level.

BIE Education

Question: Where are we with efforts to improve Indian Education?

Response:

- The Administration is committed to improve educational outcomes for Indian students.
- We concur with the recommendations of the September GAO Report on BIE programs and are working to identify and implement true reform.
- Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and I co-chair an Interagency Working Group on American Indian and Alaska Native Education.
    - The group includes representatives from BIE, Education, leading academics and the Department of Defense educational system.

- The group held seven listening sessions across the U.S. to discuss the GAO recommendations.
- A team of educators and other experts is working with Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and Doctor Roessel, the BIE Director, to develop options for improved education programs in BIE.
- The group is about to hold tribal consultations to discuss BIE reform against a framework of five pillars including:
  - Organization and Management
  - Human Capital and Workforce
  - Budget Development and Execution
  - Instruction
  - Partnerships

Background: The GAO report "Better Management and Accountability Needed to Improve Indian Education" issued in September 2013, cited the following statistics.

Based on estimates from a 2011 study using national assessment data, in 4th grade, BIE students on average scored 22 points lower for reading and 14 points lower for math than Indian students attending public schools. The gap in scores is even wider when the average for BIE students is compared to the national average for non-Indian students.

Additionally, the high school graduation rate for BIE students in 2011 was 61 percent, placing BIE in the bottom half among graduation rates for Indian students attending public schools in States where BIE schools are located.

BIE Funding

Question: What is in the budget for BIE Education?

Response:

- The 2015 budget includes $794.4 million for BIE programs.
- The request for BIE programs is an increase of $5.6 million to support:
  - a new student count and an anticipated increase in grants for Johnson O'Malley education assistance ($500,000);
  - ongoing evaluation of the BIE school system to improve education outcomes ($1 million);
  - growing enrollment needs at BIE-funded tribal technical colleges; and
  - fellowship and training opportunities in science and pre-law scholarships ($1.9 million).

- There is another $55.6 million requested for Education Construction, which is essentially level with 2014.

BIE Replacement School Construction

Question: The Committee provided funding for design work on the next BIE replacement school. Can you update me on the status?

Response:

- The $954,000 funded in the 2014 bill provided for design of the next replacement school on the list, the Beatrice Rafferty School in Perry, Maine.
- Planning for the school has concluded. BIE owes a response to the school regarding the school's waiver request to re-evaluate the enrollment projections to increase allowable space.
- BIE is establishing the capital budget for design funding and the project manager is working with Maine Indian Education on the design statement of work. The Beatrice Rafferty design will be performed under a P.L. 93-638 contract modification anticipated within the next 30 days.
- The 2015 budget for Education Construction includes $2.3 million to conduct the first phase of construction, site development, to keep the project moving.

Question: What is the status of a new replacement school construction project list?

Response:

- We have the Negotiated Rule-making Group's recommendations for a new formula/methodology to prioritize to prioritize BIE school replacement and repair from December 2012.
- Currently, Indian Affairs is working to validate the inventory and deferred maintenance needs for all 182 school locations, which we expect will be completed by September 30.
- After validation, Indian Affairs will work to develop the list with tribal consultation.
- For this reason, it is difficult to estimate when a new list will be completed.

Land Into Trust – Carcieri Decision

Question: What is included in the budget relating to the *Carcieri v. Salazar* decision?

Response:

- The 2015 budget proposes appropriations language to fix the issues raised in the *Carcieri* decision.
- It would allow any federally recognized Tribe to submit fee-to-trust applications to the Secretary of the Interior regardless of when the Tribe was acknowledged.
- The Supreme Court decision upset the settled expectations of both the Department and Indian Country, and led to confusion about the scope of the Secretary's authority to acquire land in trust for all federally recognized Tribes.
- Since the *Carcieri* decision, the Department must conduct a very workload intensive and complex analysis.
    - Interior examines whether Tribes seeking to have land acquired in trust under the Indian Reorganization Act were "under Federal jurisdiction" in 1934.
    - This analysis is done on a Tribe-by-Tribe basis; is time-consuming and costly for Tribes, even for those Tribes whose jurisdictional status is unquestioned.
    - It often entails considerable legal and historical research and analysis and has engendered new litigation.
    - Overall, it has made the Department's consideration of fee-to-trust applications more complex.
- Without enactment of the Department's proposed fix in the 2015 budget, both the Department and Indian Tribes will continue to face this burdensome process.
- On March12, the Solicitor issued an M-Opinion that defined the meaning of "under Federal jurisdiction" for Tribes that seek to take land into trust.

Question: Does your Solicitor's recent M-Opinion alleviate the need for Congressional action to address this problem?

Response:

- No, it does not eliminate the need for a legislative fix.
- The M-Opinion formally institutionalizes the legal test developed by the Solicitor's Office to make the determinations since Carcieri was decided.

- The M-Opinion states the Department's interpretation of what it means for a Tribe to have been "under Federal jurisdiction" in 1934, which was not made clear by the Supreme Court.
- The M-Opinion actually demonstrates the need for legislation to avoid the highly fact intensive legal hurdles posed by the Carcieri decision and clarify the Secretary has authority to take land into trust under the Indian Reorganization Act for all federally recognized Tribes.

Background: Since Carcieri, the Department uses a two-part inquiry to determine eligibility to take lands into trust. Can the federally recognized Tribe show 1) in or before 1934, the Tribe had some course of dealings with the Federal government reflecting there were Federal obligations to or authority over the Tribe; and 2) that the Tribe remained under the authority or responsibility of the Federal government in 1934.

Energy

Question: Would you describe what is in the 2015 budget for energy?

Response:

- The budget continues to support the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy to expand safe and responsible energy production. Total funding for energy related activities, including development, oversight, and revenue collection, is $753.2 million, an increase of $40.7 million or 5.7%.
- Within this is $658.4 million in fees, permanent, and current funding for **conventional energy** activities.
    - This is an increase of $37.5 million, the majority of which supports onshore oil and gas inspection and reforms.
    - The budget also begins the underlying science and environmental work associated with the next Five-Year Plan for the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).
    - The budget increases USGS scientific work in hydraulic fracturing and energy resource assessments; improvements in production oversight; and the capability to keep pace with emerging offshore technologies.
- This budget continues to aggressively support the President's goals to move the economy toward clean energy sources, reduce carbon pollution, and create jobs through renewable energy development.
- Total funding for **renewable activities** is $94.8 million.
    - This is an increase of $3.2 million or 3.5%, supporting consultation and planning for development, and research on potential impacts of wind energy and energy transmission on wildlife and habitat.
    - The budget continues robust funding levels for renewables. Since 2009, the budget has increased more than ten-fold for renewable programs.

Renewable Energy

Question: What progress have you made on renewable energy development?

Response:

- Interior is ahead of its goal to produce 10,000 megawatts of non-hydro renewable energy on public lands by 2015.
    - Our goal is to achieve 18,000 megawatts by the end of September, 2015.
    - Interior has approved 50 onshore renewable energy projects with the potential to provide more than 13,300 megawatts.
    - BLM is developing regulations to establish competitive leasing for solar and wind development in designated areas which we anticipate will be out sometime this year.
- Offshore we are moving ahead with leasing.
    - Last year we held the first two competitive offshore wind lease sales for wind energy areas offshore Virginia and Rhode Island/Massachusetts.
    - We announced a proposed auction for Maryland to be held later this year. We expect to announce additional auctions for Wind Energy Areas offshore New Jersey and Massachusetts later this year.
- Most importantly, we are pursuing this development smartly to mitigate impacts.
    - The Fish and Wildlife Service and USGS are engaged in energy planning and review to avoid and otherwise mitigate energy development impacts on fish and wildlife.
    - The FWS released onshore wind energy guidelines to help developers avoid and minimize impacts of land-based wind projects on wildlife and their habitats.

Question: What are you doing to protect eagles and other birds from wind energy development?

Response:

- The FWS and the USGS provide assistance and tools to developers to minimize wind energy impacts to birds and bats.
- The FWS released onshore wind energy guidelines to help developers avoid and minimize impacts of land-based wind projects on wildlife and their habitats.
    - These guidelines were developed through an intensive collaborative process with industry, States, and wildlife conservation groups.

- The FWS also helps to develop permit applications for eagle take that cannot be avoided.
    - FWS is processing about 13 applications at this time, and is working with over 100 energy projects to minimize impacts.
- USGS has developed innovative tools and techniques to get better and more timely information about the impacts to wildlife.
    - USGS has developed software and training to assist managers to apply findings, and is working directly with partners to solve challenges related to golden eagles in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Pan area of California and Nevada.

Conventional Energy – Offshore

Question: What is the status of the current Five-Year Plan for the OCS?

Response:

- The current 2012-2017 Program includes 15 potential lease sales in 6 offshore areas and includes those with the highest resource potential of any OCS areas.
- We've held three of 12 lease sales scheduled for the Gulf.
    - They generated over $1.4 billion in bonus revenue.
    - On March 19, we held a sale of two areas in the Central and Eastern Gulf which brought in __ in bonus bids. *(to be updated after sale)*
    - Another sale in the Western Gulf is on track for August.
- In 2013, BOEM offered a total of 59.3 million offshore acres for sale.
- In 2013, production from the Gulf averaged 39 million barrels a month.
    - As of February, there were 55 rigs in the Gulf, compared to 41 rigs in the Gulf in January of 2010.
- The Program calls for three potential sales offshore Alaska in 2016 and 2017.
    - BOEM continues to review the Ninth Circuit's decision on the 2008 Chukchi sale.
    - Any potential exploration in the challenging and sensitive environment of the Arctic must be done cautiously and with the highest regard for safety and environmental standards.
    - BOEM did not receive any nominations from industry in response to the Call for proposed Lease Sale 237 (Chukchi) issued in September 2013.

- Although the Program did not include any Atlantic sales, BOEM continues to expedite and facilitate updated resource evaluation to support future leasing decisions.

Background: For the Gulf, the March sales are Eastern Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 225 and Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 231. The sale scheduled for August is Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 238.

For Alaska, Sale 237 in the Chukchi and Sale 244 in the Cook Inlet are scheduled for 2016. Sale 242 in the Beaufort Sea is currently scheduled for 2017.

Onshore

Question: What is the status of onshore production on Federal lands?

Response:

- In 2013, onshore Federal oil production increased 15% compared to 2012.
- In 2013, the BLM held 31 lease sales, selling 1,444 parcels covering 1.1 million acres, with over $202 million in total revenue shared with the States.
    - BLM processed 4,892 applications for permits to drill and approved 4,472 in 2013.
- Industry interest in nominating parcels on Federal lands has increased since 2006. Between 2006 and 2013, expressions of interest increased by 64%.
- In 2013, the BLM postponed 6 lease sales:
    - 4 in California due to sequester, where inspection and enforcement for existing leases and processing applications for permits to drill (APD) were prioritized.
    - One in Nevada because the parcel proved ineligible.
    - One in New Mexico due to the government shutdown.

Background: Information is provided by DOI Office of Policy Analysis derived from information provided by BLM, BOEM and sales information from ONRR. Rig count information was provided from Baker Hughes.

Question: Your 2015 budget proposes to impose an onshore inspection fee for oil and gas inspections. What will this allow you to do?

Response:

- The 2015 budget, like the 2014 budget, proposes to impose an inspection fee for oil and gas programs managed by BLM.
- The fee charges industry for the costs we incur to inspect their facilities, operations, and production.
- The estimated collections to be generated from the fee are $48 million.
- This proposal aligns onshore inspection costs consistent with offshore inspections by shifting them to the industry. This shift is appropriate as these programs are dedicated to the oversight of oil and gas production
- The fee proposal allows us to reduce the request for appropriations by $38 million.
- The fee proposal enables a $10 million increase in the onshore inspection program which will allow us to increase efforts to address GAO concerns, and ensure safe and environmentally compliant leasing on public lands and fair returns to the American taxpayers.

Question: How do you determine the onshore inspection fee?

Response:

- The fee schedule is based on the number of oil and gas wells per lease:
  - $700 for each lease or agreement with no active or inactive wells, but with surface use, disturbance or reclamation;
  - $1,225 for each lease or agreement with 1 to 10 wells;
  - $4,900 for each lease or agreement with 11 to 50 wells; and
  - $9,800 for each lease or agreement with more than 50 wells.

Question: What is the return on investment for the oil and gas programs? Is the American public getting a fair return on the use of public lands?

Response:

- We think the American public is getting a fair return for the use of the public lands. We've done some analysis of the collections contrasted with the amounts we spend.
- For FY 2013, Interior collected approximately $13.3 billion in oil, gas, and coal revenues.
- Collecting those revenues and carrying out monitoring, enforcement, and environmental protection activities cost Interior about $480 million.
- For each dollar Interior spent, we collected about $28. In addition, the public also receives some non-monetary returns in the form of environmental protection, and increased workplace safety.

Question: You have experience working in the oil and gas area. What is your philosophy on oil and gas reforms?

Response:

- The key aspect of these efforts is to ensure that as part of a diverse all-of-the-above energy strategy, expanded onshore oil and gas development takes place through responsible management, ensuring safe and environmentally responsible operations.
- Continued implementation of these reforms is needed to provide a more orderly, open, and environmentally sound process for developing oil and gas on the public lands.
- These reforms are improving protections for land, water, and wildlife and reducing conflicts which lead to costly and time-consuming protests and litigation of leases.

Question: Are the reforms effective?

Response:

- I believe we are going in the right direction with our reforms.
- Besides improving the management and operations, we are reforming our procedures, processes, and regulatory framework to streamline and improve effectiveness and timeliness.
- For example, onshore we have significantly reduced the time it takes to approve a complete drilling permit. In FY 2006, it took an average of 127 days to approve an application, whereas in FY 2013, it took 95 days.
- By doing more of the work on the front end, we have reduced the protests of parcels offered for sale from 33% in 2008 to 18% in 2012.

Question: What is in the budget to implement oil and gas reform?

Response:

- The budget includes an increase of $20.3 million in BLM's Oil and Gas program [including the inspection fee].

- This will fund increased leasing, oversight and environmental studies, rulemaking, and reforms.
  - BLM is currently working on rules for site security of facility production vessels and oil and gas measurement practices and metering.
  - In 2014, BLM will initiate a rule to regulate venting and flaring and royalty recovery for natural gas.
  - BLM is incorporating practices from the offshore program - that will allow them to establish variable royalty rates.

Question: What is in the package of legislative Federal oil and gas reforms proposed in the budget?

Response:

- The budget proposes a package of reforms including:
  - *Royalty Simplification* – To standardize and simplify transportation and processing deductions for both on and offshore production.
  - *Interest on Royalty Overpayments* – To eliminate interest paid by the Department on industry's royalty overpayments similar to the IRS' approach.
  - *Fee on Non-Producing Leases* – Similar to last year's proposal to encourage energy production on Federal lands and waters, it would charge a $6.00 per acre fee for non-producing leases. The fee would apply to all new leases and would be indexed annually.
  - *Repeal Legislatively Mandated Royalty Relief* – Repeals Section 344 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that mandated royalty incentives for certain "deep gas" production on the OCS.
  - *Royalty-in-Kind* – Would permanently repeal Interior's authority to accept in-kind payments for royalties.
  - *Permit Processing Pilot Office Authority* – Would amend Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act to extend permit processing pilot office authority beyond 2015 and provide flexibility with regard to the location of offices. *Note: The Permit Processing Fund established in Section 365 would expire and BLM would need to issue a rule for cost recovery.*
- To further improve the return to taxpayers, the Department is evaluating other reforms in royalties and efforts to encourage diligent oil and gas development.
- These administrative actions will not, in themselves, generate revenue; however, the associated reforms contained in new rules, when combined with

monetary incentives to get leases into production, would generate another $800 million over the next ten years.

- *Royalty reforms include*: evaluating minimum royalty rates for oil, gas, and similar products; adjusting onshore oil and gas royalty rates; and analyzing a price-based tiered royalty rate.
- *Reforms to encourage diligent development include:* shorter primary lease terms, and stricter enforcement of lease terms such as limiting when lease suspensions are approved.

General Oil and Gas Facts

- In 2013, net crude oil imports represented about 33% of total U.S. supplies, down from 60% in 2004-2008.
- Total U.S. natural gas production has sent new records every year since 2007. In FY 2013, the U.S. produced an estimated 30 trillion cubic feet, a 15% increase over FY 2008.
- Production from Interior lands and waters accounts for 23% of the total for U.S. oil production, and 16% of total U.S. gas production.
- Production of "tight oil" from shale and other "tight" formations increased from 0.6 million barrels per day in 2008 to a forecasted 3.5 million barrels per day in 2014 and 4.8 million barrels per day in 2021.

Background: Information is provided by DOI Office of Policy Analysis derived from DOE's Energy Information Administration.

Hyrdraulic Fracturing

Question: I see you are requesting an $8 million increase for Hydraulic Fracturing research. What is this for?

Response:

- The 2015 budget for the USGS includes $18.6 million for hydraulic fracturing research, an $8.3 million increase from 2014.
- USGS collaborates with the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to better understand the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing.
    - BLM estimates about 90% of wells currently drilled on Federal and Indian lands are stimulated by these techniques.
- USGS is cataloging earthquakes induced by human activities.

- USGS is studying earthquake potential in relation to wastewater disposal by deep injection, geothermal power generation, and carbon sequestration.
- USGS is analyzing injection-disposal sites to guide changes in practices to inform development of new wells and injection methods.

Question: What is the status of the proposed rule on hydraulic fracturing?

Response:

- BLM published a revised proposed rule last May and received 1.35 million comments.
- BLM is analyzing comments and addressing them as it drafts the final regulation, which we expect will be published later this year.

Youth

Question: What is in this budget for youth oriented programs?

Response:

- It's critical that we work now to establish meaningful and deep connections between young people from every background to the great outdoors.
- I have set ambitious goals for the Department and our partners to inspire young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors.
- The budget includes $51 million to support partnership programs, hiring, and educational opportunities aimed at youth and veterans between the ages of 18-25. This is an increase of $13.6 million from 2014.
- This includes $21.5 million for the National Park Service, an $8 million increase from 2014 as part of the Centennial Initiative.
- NPS would be able to support an additional 800 new opportunities for youth and veterans to work and learn in the outdoors while preserving historic structures, sites, artifacts, and landscapes.
- There's a $2.5 million increase in the Fish and Wildlife Service budget to strengthen their new Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership which reaches out to the many young people living in cities.

Question: Can you give me some examples of projects?

Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership:

- I recently announced the selection of eight pilot cities under the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership which provide great examples of the type of engagement we want to support.

New Haven, Connecticut

- Schoolyards, vacant lots, city parks and front yards on public and private lands in New Haven will provide habitat for migratory birds and other species as part of an Urban Oases project.
- The project has been taking place in the city between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Audubon Connecticut, and other partners, and aims to use these lands to create a network of wildlife-friendly habitat oases and improvements throughout the city.
- The partnership is working to provide environmental education programs to students and establish wildlife-friendly habitat sites throughout New Haven.

Chicago, Illinois

- In Chicago, a project with the Forest Preserves of Cook Country, Audubon, and Eden Place Nature Center is creating a ladder of nature learning and engagement opportunities that starts in urban neighborhoods and expands to the forest preserves, and ultimately, the refuges.
- The project aims to connect with new audiences through nature presentations, guided bird and nature walks, field trips, outdoor activities, and restoration workdays, with the help of youth hires from communities to conduct outreach activities and work in restoration projects.

Providence, Rhode Island

- Working with the Providence park system, the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex and the Southern New England/New York Bight Coastal Program of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are partnering with organizations to develop and implement an inclusive and cohesive environmental awareness and education program by bringing messages to over 100 parks, schools, and the Roger Williams Park Zoo.
    - Partners include the Partnership for Providence Parks, the Roger Williams Park Zoo, The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island, Urban Pond Procession, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and other conservation organizations.

Hurricane Sandy – NY Harbor Conservation and Resiliency Corps:

- As part of the response to Hurricane Sandy, I announced the National Park of New York Harbor Conservation and Resiliency Corps, a partnership with the City of New York and the Student Conservation Association.
- This project provided about 200 jobs for young people last year and enabled them to participate in Hurricane Sandy recovery and cleanup efforts.
- This pilot will serve as a blueprint for what is expected to be a multi-year program for young adults from around the region to help clean up the damage to the national parks, refuges and partner sites in New York City and New Jersey.
- The initial focus will be on Gateway National Recreation Area and adjoining New York City parklands at Jamaica Bay.

San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps:

- Another great example is the San Joaquin River Weed Management and Jobs Creation Project, a partnership with River Partners and the San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps to employ local youth, ages 18 to 25, in invasive species mapping, monitoring and management along the San Joaquin River in Merced County, California.

- The objective was to restore a self-sustaining population of native fish to the highly degraded San Joaquin River. This area reports high unemployment and poverty rates, as well as high rates of childhood obesity and asthma – maladies linked to lack of access and exposure to the outdoors.
- This effort was supported with $72,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation and $50,000 in non-Federal funds including Wells Fargo.

Question: What goals do you have in youth engagement?

Response:

- Interior's programs targeting young people run the gamut from K-12 to post-graduate internships. This multi-faceted approach is critical.
- We have goals to increase youth engagement through activities that include play, learn, serve and work.
    - Play. DOI will develop or enhance outdoor recreation partnerships in a total of 50 cities over the next four years, to create new, systemic opportunities for outdoor play for over 10 million young people.
    - Learn. In four years, DOI will provide educational opportunities to at least 10 million of the Nation's K-12 student population annually.
    - Serve. In four years, DOI will attain one million volunteers annually on public lands.
    - Work. DOI will provide 100,000 work and training opportunities to young people and veterans over four years within our bureaus and through public-private partnerships. In support of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, within four years, 60% of work opportunities provided will be via corps partners – tripling the current amount of work performed by the corps.
- Our priority goal focuses on youth employment with the objective to provide 40,000 work and training opportunities to individuals ages 15 to 25 during 2014 and 2015.
- The sequester set us back and we found that when funds are tight, youth programs are among the first to be deferred.
    - Our 2013 youth employment numbers dropped almost 19 percent from 2012.
    - In 2012 we hired 19,175 young people, and in 2013 it dropped to 15,546.
- This request will help to turn this around.

Water Funding

Question: How does this budget address water issues?

Response:

- The 2015 budget includes $66.5 million for WaterSMART, an increase of $9.5 million or 16% for activities in the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey.
- The WaterSMART program is focused on securing and stretching water supplies.
  - We work in partnership with States, cities, water districts and others to match funds and promote water conservation, water reuse and recycling.
  - We also conduct basin studies and cooperative watershed management to assist in improved management of water supplies on a landscape scale.
- In 2015, we will directly target drought response and resilient infrastructure needs, and expand State water use grants through the USGS to collect, disseminate and model water use and availability data.
- Through 2013, 730,000 acre-feet of water savings was achieved – about the amount of water needed for household use in Denver, Colorado and the surrounding metropolitan area each year.
  - For 2015, the goal is increased to achieve 840,000 acre-feet in water savings through 2015.

Drought

Question: What are you doing about the drought?

Response:

- Parts of the West are experiencing extreme drought. California is facing a historic drought, with estimates that are some of the worst in history.
- The Bureau of Reclamation, with the assistance of other Interior bureaus, is working with partners to increase the flexibility for water managers and users, providing assistance in planning, fast-tracking projects, and streamlining water transfers.
- Reclamation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are making funds available for water districts and associated farmers to promote water conservation and management, including modernizing infrastructure.
- The USGS is working with communities to provide water availability information, evaluating groundwater availability and withdrawal, and monitoring impacts of drought.

Question: What is in the budget for drought?

Response:

- The 2015 budget proposes investments to promote longer-term resilience.
- The budget for the Bureau of Reclamation includes an increase of $3.0 million for two new efforts to address drought, and help communities to become more resilient in the face of increasing water challenges.
    - The **Resilient Infrastructure Program** will identify resilient infrastructure investments and support for healthy watersheds ($1.5 million).
    - The **Drought Response Program** funds drought planning and implementation actions that address water shortages ($1.5 million).
- The 2015 budget funds enhanced monitoring needed for both near and long term drought response.
- Funding increases are for groundwater monitoring, additional streamgages, and State water use grants.
- USGS is also starting a pilot study to characterize drought in all regions, and will apply methods and tools to estimate drought streamflow during low-flow summer months based on previous time intervals.

Rural Water Project Funding

Question: The funding level for currently authorized rural water projects will result in unacceptable delays. Rural water projects are critical to get potable water supplies to communities, including Indian communities. The program takes a disproportionate reduction in the President's 2015 budget. Why?

Response:

- The President's 2015 budget includes $34.1 million for rural water projects.
- This is a reduction of $33.1 million below the 2014 enacted level of $67.1 million.
- This was a difficult decision.
- With the constrained budget and in order to meet legal requirements, new construction is slowed in projects throughout the Bureau of Reclamation.
- The budget sustains an ongoing construction budget of $16.3 million for rural water projects to make progress toward safe, reliable sources of drinking water for rural residents.

Question: What is the criteria for allocating funds for Rural Water projects?

Response:

- The Bureau of Reclamation uses a set of criteria to prioritize projects according to six elements:
  - Resource commitment,
  - Urgent need for water,
  - Economic impacts,
  - Size of watershed and population served,
  - Promotion of other goals including water conservation and energy efficiency, and
  - Native American Tribes served.
- Funds are allocated according to these priorities, and the ability of project sponsors to complete segments to deliver water or other project benefits.

Research and Development

Question: What is in this budget for research and development?

Response:

- The 2015 budget includes $888.7 million for research and development which includes basic science conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and applied science which the bureaus require.
- This is an increase of $60 million from the 2014 level, demonstrating the need we are seeing within Interior from our land managers as well as resource managers at the State and local levels.
- A key element in our mitigation strategy to balance conservation and development is greater understanding of natural resources, and impacts upon them at a landscape rather than a local level.
- Scientific understanding and tools are vital to accomplishing our mission.
- USGS - The majority of this increase, $35.6 million, is in the request for the U.S. Geological Survey to support work in invasive species such as the Asian Carp, contaminant biology, water availability and water quality, and the work conducted by the Climate Science Centers and the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center.
    - Funding for the NCCWSC and the eight Climate Science Centers is proposed to increase $11.6 million in 2015. The increase primarily targets the need to translate current scientific research to address real world requirements affecting resource managers.
- FWS - The request for the FWS includes an increase of $19.5 million to address specific high impact scientific questions to address threats to fish and wildlife.
    - The request for FWS includes increases to research the white nose syndrome and identify mitigation strategies for energy transmission corridors in the West.

Question: Can you give me an example of R&D activities?

Response:

- An example of work in the Climate Science Centers – in two of the CSC regions they are working to merge historical land change data which is pre-settlement with modern Landsat-based satellite data, to better understand the consequences of long-term land change.
    - This will be helpful in the Florida Everglades where water management practices have significantly reduced lakes and wetlands; and,
    - In the Colorado River Basin where water supply, demand and drought are key issues.

- Combining historical data with modern land change data will inform management of changes in the hydrology and ecology of both regions.

Question: Can you give me an example of where the land management bureaus are working to apply science in the field?

Response:

- An important example is the work BLM, FWS and USGS are doing together to manage the sagebrush landscape.
- The USGS, in collaboration with partners, recently completed a sage grouse National Research Strategy which defines high priority science needs for landscape scale-decisionmaking.
- USGS will conduct a pilot project to use geospatial information on a landscape level to aid in the refinement of the interagency sage grouse strategy, and assist FWS in making its upcoming listing decisions.
- This work supports significant efforts underway regarding sage grouse, which continues in the 2015 budget.
    - The BLM request includes $15 million targeted toward sage grouse management using science to focus land treatments and limit impacts to key habitat.
    - The FWS request includes a $4 million increase to help design, implement and align conservation efforts to meet the range-wide needs of the species.

Question: Can you provide an example of how science is helping to implement your mitigation strategy?

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- A great example is the work taking place in the California desert through the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. This Plan is the work of Federal, State, and local lands managers to provide for renewable energy development and conservation of desert ecosystems.
- This work is taking information about the distribution of habitat of selected endangered species to guide conservation efforts and site solar development.
- A new desert tortoise habitat model to be completed in May of this year is expected to help forecast desert tortoise habitat as it might exist in 30 and 80 years.
- This model will produce information to guide adaptive management and inform BLM and FWS decisions.

Transmission Projects

- Another example is in BLM where they are using landscape approaches to site transmission projects.
- They are incorporating the use of geospatial data at the landscape level to improve their analysis, planning, and decisions about specific development projects.
- The BLM budget includes an increase of $5.0 million to support this type of work.

Climate Change

Question: What is in this budget for climate change?

Response:

- As land and resource stewards, the changing climate is one of the greatest challenges this agency faces.
- The effects are pervasive. We confront these impacts daily.
    - With expanded seasons, severity and costs in our Wildland Fire program;
    - The damages to the Northeast from Hurricane Sandy where we are helping communities to rebuild for resiliency; and
    - Managing the extreme drought conditions in California.
- In 2015, $176 million is budgeted for specific climate related work throughout Interior. Of this,
    - $72 million supports climate variability science in the U.S. Geological Survey, and
    - $104 million supports adaptive management programs in the bureaus.

Question: Can you give me an example of what a Landscape Conservation Cooperative does?

Response:

- A good example of work the LCCs are doing is on the Lower Missouri River – The Big Muddy, from Omaha, Nebraska to St. Louis, Missouri.
- The project is a "hydro-geomorphic" study which will enable local resource managers to understand the historical attributes of the floodplain.
- Two LCCs, Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers, are working with FWS and other partners, so that land managers can visualize the river in its pre-settlement state to help set conservation and management objectives for the future.

- Knowing the geology, soils, elevations, and flooding patterns, managers can get a sense of the plant communities and, in turn the diversity of wildlife, that were historically there.
- If we can understand the attributes, their distributions, and the physical features, we can apply that knowledge and model how to manage to sustain and or improve conditions for wildlife and communities.
- Refuge managers like Tom Bell of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Missouri, will physically be able to see where surface topography will either promote or hinder wetland restoration, enabling better decisions on restoration activities and locations.

Wildland Fire Management

Question: What is the fire outlook for this season?

Response:

- The wildfire outlook for significant fires though May 2014 is above normal for California, below normal for the South, and normal elsewhere.

- The Forest Service has already been involved in multiple fires this season.
  - In December they battled a fire at Big Sur that claimed 15-20 homes.
  - There have been red flag warnings throughout southern California in March due to dry conditions and gusty winds.
  - The exceptional to severe drought conditions throughout the West are a concern as are predictions of a weak El Nino this summer.

- The budget projection for 2014 indicates a median for wildfire suppression expenditures of $336 million.

- The 2014 appropriation for fire suppression funds the ten year average of $377.9 million.

- In 2012, fire spending was 23 percent above the ten-year average.

- Over the last ten years the two agencies have spent one-third again as much as was budgeted for firefighting.

Question: Would you describe the "new framework" for fire funding in the budget?

Response:

- Modeled on the current disaster cap that funds FEMA, and other disaster programs, the budget would include a cap adjustment to fund emergency fires – these are the most severe one percent of fires.

- Fire seasons are now longer and more intense. The President's budget proposes to change how fire suppression costs are budgeted to treat the requirements of extreme fire seasons in the same way as other emergency disaster needs.

- We budget for fire costs using a ten-year average of fire suppression costs; but in a peak season with catastrophic fires, we are forced to move funding from programs across the Department to meet the increased costs of wildfire suppression.

    - For example, in 2012, Interior's fire suppression costs were 23 percent higher than the ten-year average calculation.

    - The Department took funds from other fire accounts – including fuels management and non-fire program accounts.

    - In 2013, the two agencies – Interior and the Forest Service – redirected or borrowed over $650 million to fund increased firefighting costs.

- The proposal is in line with legislative proposals sponsored by Senators Wyden and Crapo (S.1875) and Representatives Simpson and Schrader (H.R. 3992) with Representatives DeFazio and Labrador as cosponsors.

- It allows for a balanced suppression and pro-active fuels management and restoration program, with flexibility to accommodate peak fire seasons but not at the cost of other Interior missions or by adding to the deficit.

Question: Would you describe the details of the proposal and how it would work?

Response:

- The request includes $1.034 billion for the Wildland Fire program including a wildfire suppression cap adjustment of $240.4 million.

    - The cap adjustment is a ceiling for spending that can only be used for firefighting.

- The amount is based on the forecast made by scientists using weather, climate, and drought data and evaluating historical expenditure data.
- Only extreme fires that require emergency response, are near urban areas, or occur during abnormally active fire seasons, which rightly should be considered disasters, would be permitted to be funded through the adjustment to the discretionary spending limits.
- Under this new framework, the 2015 budget request for suppression covers 70 percent of the ten-year suppression average within the domestic discretionary cap.
- Interior and the Forest Service would continue to be accountable for fire costs and track costs per fire, ensure elevation of spending approvals based on set protocols, and report on the results.
- The cap adjustment does not increase overall discretionary spending, as it would be taken from the existing disaster cap.

Question: Will this increase the amount spent on fighting fires?

Response:

- No.
- First the "cap adjustment" for fire will be taken from the existing disaster cap ceiling established by the Congress. We will not increase the size of the overall cap adjustment.
- Second, we will continue to be as efficient as possible in managing the costs of fighting wildfires. This approach simply provides a mechanism for protecting our regular program budgets from the effects of extraordinary fire costs.
- We will be accountable in how we spend all of our fire funds.

Question: What do you need in 2015 to fund the ten-year average?

Response:

- The total amount needed in 2015 to fund the ten-year average is $383.7 million.
- The budget includes 70% of the ten-year average or $268.6 million. The balance of the amount needed for the ten-year average is $115.1 million.

- The cap adjustment of $240.4 million includes the $115.1 million and additional "head room" in case emergency fire funding needs exceed the ten-year average.

Question: Why 30% of the ten-year average for the cap exemption?

Response:

- The budget proposes a cap exemption based on 30% of the ten-year average – this is appropriate given the history of fire spending.
- One percent of the fires equate to 30% of the fire spending. That is, one percent of fires are the large, most costly emergency fires that consume 30% of the firefighting budget.
- In the last ten years, firefighting spending by Interior and the Forest Service has been about 35% above the amounts budgeted.
- The amounts spent by the two agencies for firefighting that are in excess of the budget and require borrowing, vary from year to year and between the agencies.
- In 2012, Interior's fire suppression costs were 23 percent higher than the ten-year average calculation. In 2013, suppression costs were nearly 15% above the amount available for suppression.

Question: Why weren't all the funds available from the cap exemption put into the Fuels budget?

Response:

- The 2015 budget includes $146.3 million for Fuels Management, an increase of $1.3 million (for fixed costs) and an additional $30.0 million for a Resilient Landscapes program.
- Together these programs fund a level of $176.3 million for improved management of habitats to reduce fire risk.
- At this funding level, the program is roughly comparable with the funding levels in 2011 and 2012.

Question: Why weren't all the funds available from the cap exemption put into the Wildland Fire budget?

Response:

- Interior's 2015 Wildland Fire budget is $126 million higher than the 2014 President's budget, which was our point of reference during the budget formulation process. Using this comparison, more than the $115 million made available by the cap exemption is reinvested in the Wildland Fire budget.
- The entire amount made available by the cap exemption in comparison to the 2014 enacted budget, $115 million, is not put back into the fire budget as we needed to set priorities within a flat budget.

Question: Where were the funds allocated?

Response:

- The 2015 budget includes increases of $70.3 million or 15.4 percent above the 2014 level for fire activities excluding suppression.
- The increases consume about 61% of the amount that was "freed up" by the reduction in suppression for the cap exemption.
- Given the constrained budget environment, this is a significant increase and compares favorably with the total Interior budget, which is 0.3% above the 2014 level (excluding the fire cap exemption).

Question: What else is in the Wildland Fire budget?

Response:

- Without the cap adjustment, the 2015 budget is $794.0 million.
- Included within the request are increases totaling $70 million for fixed costs, preparedness, burned area rehabilitation, and a new resilient landscape component to complement fuels management.
- The request for fuels management including the resiliency request is $176 million, an increase of $31 million above the 2014 amount for hazardous fuels.

The 2014 budget includes the following:

  - **Suppression $268.6 million, a reduction of $17.3 million** to fund 70 percent of the inflation-adjusted ten-year suppression average to address the normally anticipated range for fire response.

- **Preparedness $319.0 million, an increase of $37 million for investments** in firefighters (BIA workforce, Veterans), aviation, and strengthening tribal capacities.
- **Burned Area Rehabilitation $18.0 million, an increase of $2 million for post-fire treatments** to strengthen our capacity to begin restoration of fire damaged lands that cannot recover naturally.
- **Fuels Management (previously called Hazardous Fuels; this term changed in 2015) $146 million, an increase of $1.3 million** to work with communities and others to reduce wildfire risk by eliminating fuel build up and promoting effective management of wildfire risk.
- **Resilient Landscapes, $30 million for a new program** to conduct treatments that improve the integrity and resilience of forests and rangelands, including areas outside the wildland-urban interface. The treatments will be coordinated with and supported by the resource management programs of the four Interior wildland fire management bureaus, and supported by bureau matching funds.

  Resilient landscape projects will address long-term restoration and maintenance of forest and rangeland health to increase resiliency to fire, improve habitat, protect watersheds, mitigate invasive species, and similar goals. These projects reduce the risks of fire but also incorporate other land and resource management objectives.

BISON CONNECT

Fwd: Bruce Babbitt speech this evening

Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Mar 17, 2014 at 3:00 PM
To: Jewell Sally (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kelly Kate <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Date: March 17, 2014 2:59:33 PM EDT
To: Beaudreau Tommy <tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov>, komze neil <nkomze@blm.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Buffa Nikki <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Kelly Kate <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, L Kershaw Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, "llance@blm.gov" <llance@blm.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Ashe Dan <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Subject: Bruce Babbitt speech this evening

All-
I just got a heads up that former Secretary Bruce Babbitt is speaking tonight at CU, topic BLM. Expectation is that he will hit his ongoing theme that BLM is behind in terms of keeping up with o&g development, that despite our efforts major structural and systemic challenges remain, and additional significant reform/overhaul is needed. The three issues he will hit on:

Conoco-Phillips in NPR-A: the draft EIS does not provide enough protective measures in particular not enough thinking about a roadless development approach

Roan Plateau: more on the layer cake monument theory

Sage grouse: the BLM state plans are inadequate to the task, falling short of what is needed to protect the SG, and a comprehensive, nationwide plan of approach is needed to address what is needed

He may call for a Commission a la oil spill commission to suggest needed reforms.
Laura

Sent from my iPad

BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Mar 18, 2014 at 4:16 PM
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are your briefing materials for Wednesday, March 19. These have also been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

7 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 2-7)

3 19 14_930am_Internal ESA Discussion.pdf
1672K

3 19 14_12pm_Press Call on Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Lease Sales.pdf
32K

3 19 14_12pm_VERSION 2 TALKING POINTS Gulf Lease Sale Press Call.docx
27K

3 19 14_12pm_Q&A LEASE SALE 225 Gulf Lease Sale Press Call.doc
56K

3 19 14_12pm_Q&A LEASE SALE 231 Gulf Lease Sale Press Call.doc
84K

3 19 14_12pm_PRESS RELEASE Gulf Lease Sale Press Call.docx
135K

3 19 14_2pm_Periodic Intel Briefing.pdf
7K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL ESA DISCUSSION

DATE: March 19, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 9:30AM – 10:30AM
FROM: Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, Region 6; Dan Ashe, Director, FWS (202)208-4717; Noreen Walsh, Regional Director, Region 6, (303) 236-4579; Matt Hogan, Deputy Regional Director, Region 6; Gary Frazer, Assistant Director-Endangered Species

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss with you the status of Final Listing Determination for the Gunnison Sage Grouse and the Lesser Prairie Chicken, as well as (1) the range-wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Lesser Prairie-chicken, and (2) Conservation efforts for the Lesser Prairie-chicken.

II. BACKGROUND

Final Listing Determination for Gunnison Sage-grouse (GUSG)

On September 15, 2010, FWS determined that listing the GUSG as a threatened or endangered species was warranted but precluded by higher priority listing actions, and the species was added to the candidate list. Proposed rules to list the GUSG as endangered and to designate critical habitat were published on January 11, 2013. A six-month extension was obtained for completion of the final documents. Subsequent to that, an additional 6 week extension was obtained. The final determination is due to the Federal Register by May 12, 2014.

The current range of GUSG is limited to seven widely scattered and isolated populations in southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah, with an estimated rangewide population of 4,700 individuals. Of the estimated 940,000 acres (ac) (380,000 hectares [ha]) of rangewide occupied habitat, approximately 54 percent occurs on Federal lands; 41 percent occurs on private lands; and 5 percent occurs on state lands.

The Gunnison Basin GUSG population contains approximately 87 percent of the total number of birds and 63 percent of rangewide occupied habitat for the species. The remaining six satellite populations are much smaller than the Gunnison Basin population.

During the public comment period we received information indicating substantial scientific disagreement regarding the interpretation of scientific literature, literature that we may have overlooked, GUSG population trends, the scope of Gunnison County's legal authority to address threats to GUSG, projections about the extent and pattern of future residential development within the range of the species, and what constitutes historical habitat and important current habitat for the species.

In terms of next steps, FWS is finalizing the rulemaking for GUSG. This includes a recommendation for a final rule to list the species as threatened, a final critical habitat designation, and a proposed special rule under section 4(d). The special rule would exempt take for certain practices associated with the Gunnison County development regulations, practices associated with grazing and ranching, and some activities under the Range Wide Conservation Strategy. The Service is considering delaying the effective date of the listing by six months to provide time to finalize the 4(d) rule.

In addition, the Service is working with partners to better articulate the actions necessary to reduce the remaining threats to the satellite populations. This may in turn include amending the Range Wide Conservation Plan for GUSG completed in 2005. A Biology Team has been established to determine the Targets and Actions that will provide sufficient confidence that, when they are achieved, a not warranted finding would result. Should the GUSG be listed, the completion of these actions would likely lead to a proposed delisting.

Biology Team Objectives:

1. Identify population and/or habitat targets within each sub-area that, if achieved, will increase FWS confidence in GUSG conservation. The population and habitat targets will be objective, measurable, and science-based.
2. Identify the Conservation Actions that will address the most important threats to the most important populations that can fulfill the population and habitat targets, sufficient that GUSG will be conserved.
3. In the event of a Threatened finding, to ensure continued conservation and provide input on a possible 4(d) rule.

The Service has asked for the assistance of Colorado Parks and Wildlife to review the 4(d) for clarity and completeness. Subsequent to the biological information being completed the Service will engage local partners on how to develop implementation programs to achieve the biological targets and objectives.

Time Line:

The Biology Team will complete recommendations for internal review by March 21, 2014. The final determination will be published May 12, 2014.

Final Listing Determination for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Below is background on the Service's final determination to list the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species, with a 4(d) special rule. [Note: see attached for map of historical and current range]

The lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) - a species of prairie grouse that currently occupies a five-state range including Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado - has been a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act since 1998. The LPC requires large expanses of

relatively intact native grasslands and prairies to maintain self-sustaining populations. The life history and ecology of the lesser prairie-chicken make it exceptionally vulnerable to changes on the landscape, especially at its currently reduced numbers. This vulnerability to habitat impacts results from the species' lek breeding system which requires males and females to be able to hear and see each other over relatively wide distances, the need for large patches of habitat that include several types of microhabitats, and the behavioral avoidance of vertical structures.

There has been a substantial decrease in the range of the LPC primarily as a result of habitat loss and fragmentation - the primary threat to the species (see attached map of historical and current range). Land use changes related to oil and gas activities, wind energy, transmission development, and agricultural conversion of native prairie, in combination with the potential loss of Conservation Reserve Program acres, present conservation challenges for the species. These ongoing threats, coupled with reduced population size due to the recent severe drought, makes the species especially vulnerable to continuing impacts on the landscape. The vast majority of LPC habitat occurs on private lands across its range and therefore partnerships are critical to conservation of the species.

The range-wide LPC population last year was a record low of roughly 17,600 birds, a nearly 50% decline from the previous year's estimate and likely due to the recent severe drought, habitat loss and fragmentation.

Discussion:

A number of voluntary conservation efforts for LPC have been developed in recent years (see attached summary of LPC Conservation Efforts). The most significant of these have been the LPC Range-wide Plan developed by the 5 state fish and wildlife agencies, under the auspices of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), and the NRCS' Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative, which targets their conservation program funding toward implementing management practices beneficial to the LPC.

While implementation of these conservation efforts will produce a net conservation benefit to the species, the positive benefits of those efforts will largely be demonstrated in the future rather than now at the time of our listing decision. For example, even with the significant enrollment in the RWP in the short term, it will still take several years for habitat improvement practices to take effect. Complicating the issue of conservation delivery is the role of continued drought on the landscape. If there is rain, the improved management on agricultural lands could result in a quick upturn in the status of the species. However, if the drought continues, the habitats will likely not rebound to create additional usable habitat as quickly or at all, and the LPC population will likely not be able to successfully reproduce and grow, despite the efforts of enrolled landowners.

In light of the current precarious status of the population and the ongoing threats it faces, including the severe drought, the Service has concluded that the LPC warrants listing as a threatened species, i.e, one that is in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

The 4(d) special rule that will accompany this listing determination is designed to encourage participation in voluntary conservation efforts, empower the state fish and wildlife agencies to continue to play the lead role in conservation of the LPC, and to remove ESA regulation from activities that are not significant threats to the bird.

Specifically, the 4(d) rule will exempt take of LPC that is incidental to implementing the WAFWA Range-wide LPC Conservation Plan. This plan covers a wide range of development and conservation activities, will be administered by the states through WAFWA, and will provide a vehicle for ESA compliance for all participating landowners. It will provide for an unprecedented state-federal cooperative partnership in managing a listed species.

Similarly, the 4(d) rule will exempt take incidental to implementing the conservation practices agreed to between NRCS and participating landowners through their Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative. We expect that giving NRCS the ability to tell participating ranchers and farmers that ESA compliance is assured if they manage their operations using those conservation practices will encourage more voluntary conservation.

The 4(d) rule will also exempt take incidental to routine agricultural activities on existing cultivated land.

In terms of next steps, the final listing determination and 4(d) rule will be delivered to the *Federal Register* by March 31, 2014. The Service has developed a comprehensive outreach plan and will be working with the Department and other agencies to polish and deliver our message.

Range-wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Lesser Prairie-chicken

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) will administer the CCAA and enroll oil and gas properties under the permit through certificates of inclusion. Region 6 issued an Enhancement of Survival Permit WAFWA on February 28, 2014, for the Range-wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Lesser Prairie-chicken (CCAA).

The CCAA is a voluntary agreement intended to address the effects of oil and gas activities on the lesser prairie-chicken (LEPC) and its habitat in the species' five-state range in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. The CCAA will be administered by WAFWA with oversight by the Service. The CCAA was designed to help implement the conservation strategy of the Lesser Prairie-chicken Rangewide Conservation Plan (RWP), which is a comprehensive conservation plan developed by the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Interstate Working Group of WAFWA. While the RWP addresses the suite of development activities that impact the LEPC, the CCAA focuses on oil and gas impacts. Oil and gas operators can voluntarily enroll their properties in the CCAA to implement avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. In return, the Service provides them regulatory certainty through incidental take coverage and assurances that no more restrictions or commitments would be imposed should the species be listed. The conservation strategy is designed to incentivize oil and gas development in areas already impacted or of lower importance to LEPC. However, where LEPC may be

affected, participants would implement measures to minimize impacts and pay mitigation fees that will fund conservation efforts at a 2:1 ratio of acres of equal or greater habitat quality in important focal and connectivity areas. WAFWA would use the mitigation funds to contract willing landowners to implement habitat improvement practices, such as prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, and brush removal. When fully implemented, this CCAA will provide for the conservation and management of the LEPC and its habitat by reducing and/or eliminating threats to this species associated with non-Federal mineral development.

In terms of next steps, as of the date of this briefing paper, WAFWA is currently processing enrollment into the CCAA for about 500,000 acres for oil and gas properties with more expected soon. These numbers will likely change due to frequent requests for additional signups. WAFWA is also considering applications from landowners for habitat improvements on about 300,000 acres so far.

Conservation Efforts for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

The final 4(d) special rule provides that take incidental to activities conducted by a participant enrolled in, and operating in compliance with the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Interstate Working Group's Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan (rangewide plan) will not be prohibited. The Service has included this provision in the final 4(d) special rule in recognition of the significant conservation planning efforts of the five state wildlife agencies within the range of the lesser prairie-chicken.

On October 23, 2013, the Service endorsed the WAFWA Range-Wide Plan. The rangewide plan is a voluntary conservation strategy that establishes a mitigation framework which is administered by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) for the purpose of allowing plan participants the opportunity to mitigate any unavoidable impacts of a particular activity on the lesser prairie-chicken and provides financial incentives to landowners who voluntarily participate and manage their property for the benefit of the lesser prairie-chicken. The rangewide plan:

(1) Identifies rangewide and sub-population level goals for the lesser prairie-chicken.

(2) Identifies desired habitat amounts and conditions to achieve the population goals.

(3) Uses a decision support tool that identifies focal areas and connectivity zones where lesser prairie-chicken conservation actions will be emphasized to produce the habitat conditions required to conserve the species at sustainable levels.

(4) Enhances programs and cooperative efforts to encourage and expand voluntary landowner cooperation in the development and maintenance of the desired habitat conditions.

(5) Promotes agreements designed to avoid and minimize impacts to lesser prairie-chicken habitat from various development activities and, where avoidance is not possible, mitigate impacts.

(6) Establishes a mitigation framework administered by WAFWA that could be used by any entity to offset impacts to lesser prairie-chicken habitat with offsite mitigation.

(7) Identifies research needs and implements monitoring.

(8) Develops an adaptive management framework that will incorporate monitoring and new information into future adjustments to the conservation strategy to maximize benefits to the lesser prairie-chicken.

(9) Addresses input and suggestions from agencies, organizations, landowners, industries, other stakeholders, and the general public on the conservation plan for the lesser prairie-chicken.

The mitigation framework used in the rangewide plan incentivizes avoidance and minimization of impacts to lesser prairie-chicken habitat. Developers agree to pay higher mitigation fees for impacts in high priority locations and in higher quality habitat, thereby incentivizing avoidance of areas important for lesser prairie-chickens. Developers can minimize or eliminate mitigation fees by locating new impacts in marginal habitat or by co-locating with existing developments. Developers agree to implement conservation measures to further minimize impacts to lesser prairie -chickens when developments do occur. For example, seasonal and daily timing restrictions on potentially disruptive activities, burying of power lines near leks, and and surveys to determine presence or absence of lesser prairie -chickens are required by industry participants

Mitigation dollars will be offered to landowners within the lesser prairie-chicken range for voluntarily implementing conservation practices that benefit the species. Conservation practices are generally equivalent to practice standards defined by the NRCS, although some practices under the range-wide plan are more conservative to further benefit lesser prairie-chickens.

To incentivize conservation in the best places for lesser prairie-chickens landowners are paid under a performance-based system for producing high-quality habitat. Landowners receive increase payments as habitat quality increases. For example, landowners in high priority locations with optimal habitat will be paid 125 percent of the standard cost of implementing the needed conservation practice, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Additionally, landowners receive sign-up incentive payments based on habitat quality to further incentivize enrollment of high quality habitat.

The rangewide population goal, based on an annual spring average over a 10-year time frame, is set at 67,000 birds.

In concert with the RWP, an associated oil and gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) was issued by the Service on February 28, 2014, to WAFWA. Oil and gas companies can enroll in the CCAA and receive incidental take coverage for development activities within the range of the LPC if it is listed. As the master permit holder, WAFWA is currently processing enrollment for about 500,000 acres of oil and gas properties under

Certificates of Inclusion (CI). CI holders will pay mitigation fees and implement avoidance and minimization measures. WAFWA also has received applications from landowners for contracts to implement conservation practices funded by mitigation fees for about 300,000 acres.

Other Provisions of the 4(d) Special Rule for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken:

Agricultural Activities Conducted in Accordance with NRCS's Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative and Related NRCS Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conservation Activities: The final 4(d) special rule provides that take of the lesser prairie-chicken will not be prohibited provided the take is incidental to the conditioned conservation practices that are carried out in accordance with a conservation plan developed by NRCS in conneetion with NRCS's Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (LPCI) and related NRCS activities focused on lesser prairie-chicken conservation consistent with the provisions of the November 22, 2013, conference opinion that was developed in coordination with the Service.

Continuation of Routine Agricultural Practices on Existing Cultivated Lands: The draft final 4(d) special rule provides that take of the lesser prairie-chicken will not be prohibited provided the take is incidental to activities that are conducted during the continuation of routine agricultural practices on cultivated lands that are in row crop, seed-drilled untilled crop, hay, or forage production. These lands must meet the definition of cropland as defined in 7 CFR 718.2, and, in addition, must have been cultivated, meaning tilled, planted, or harvested, within the previous 5 years. Thus, this provision does not include take coverage for any new conversion of grasslands into agriculture.

Other LPC Conservation Efforts:

Candidate Conservation Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAs/CCAAs) have been in place for several years in three of the five LPC states - Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. CCAAs are voluntary and provide non-Federal landowners and developers the opportunity to implement conservation practices that address specific threats with assurances that, if the species is listed, they can continue to manage their land as outlined in their agreements with no additional requirements. Enrollment in a CCAA may only occur until the effective date of a listing.

In Texas, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) holds the section 10 permit issued on November 2, 2006, for private landowner use and issues Certificates of Inclusion to participating landowners who are voluntarily implementing management plans for LPCs. Currently, 84 certificates covering 614,250 acres are enrolled in the CCAA; TPWD is currently processing other requests for enrollment.

In New Mexico, both a CCA and CCAA were issued on December 8, 2008, for surface and mineral activities and for private landowners for grazing activities. There are currently 31 oil and gas companies with a total of 883,000 mineral acres and the participating Federal agency is the BLM. In addition, 51 New Mexico ranchers have enrolled in the agreements, representing 1,750,000 enrolled acres. Partners in the New Mexico CCAA/CCA include BLM, Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (non-profit third party to manage restoration,

reclamation and funding), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and several oil and gas companies. On March 1, 2012, the New Mexico State Land Office enrolled all LPC habitat on state Trust lands in conservation pursuant to these agreements. Applications for enrollment have recently increased and we expect these numbers to change in the near future.

Oklahoma, under the leadership of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), developed a CCAA for ranching activities. The CCAA was approved January 25, 2013. Currently, 16 certificates covering 18,649 acres are enrolled and ODWC is processing additional enrollments.

The USDA's NRCS is implementing the LPC Initiative (LPCI). The LPCI is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to landowners and operators for enhancing and maintaining chicken habitat in high priority areas and reducing threats to the species. The primary focus for the LPCI is upland wildlife habitat management. The LPCI participants can receive technical and financial assistance for a number of actions including brush management, prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, range planting and restoration of habitat. On November 22, 2013, the Service issued a conference opinion for the NRCS's LPCI and associated procedures, conservation practices, and conservation measures.

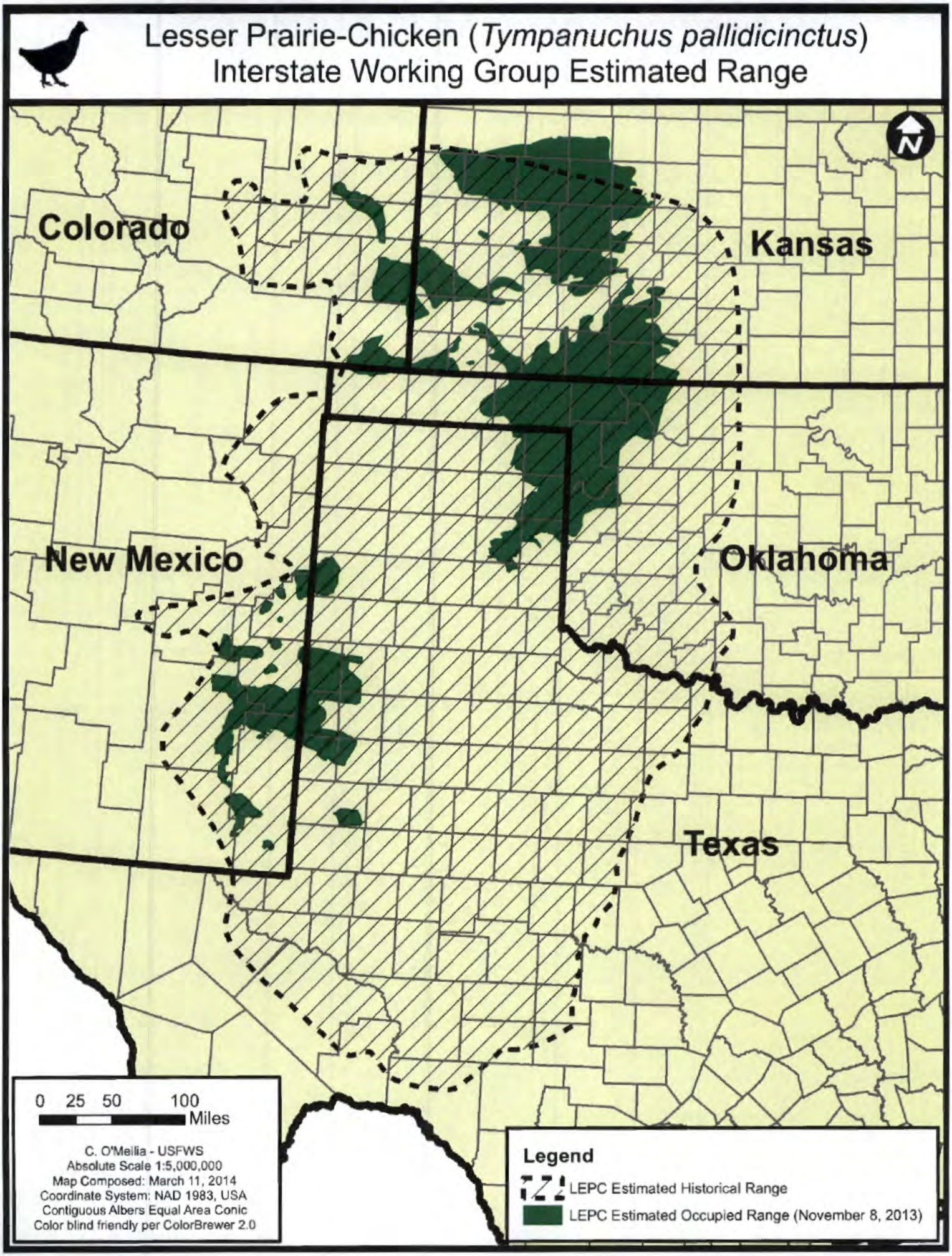
The USDA's Farm Services Agency's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has provided short-term protection and enhancement of millions of acres within the range of the LPC. CRP is a voluntary program that allows eligible landowners to receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to remove land from agricultural production and establish vegetative cover for the term of the contract. Contract terms are for 10 to 15 years. Farm Bill programs such as the CRP have provided funding that has resulted in millions of acres of habitat improvements across most of the range of the LPC. In particular, in the State of Kansas enrolled lands were planted in native grasses as the cover type, resulting in a considerable benefit to LPC conservation.

In January 2013, Farm Services Agency engaged the Service in a collaborative effort to develop a Conference Opinion (CO) to address CRP implementation on lands occurring within the estimated occupied range of the lesser prairie-chicken (OK, TX, NM, CO, and KS). The CO is intended to evaluate the cumulative landscape level effects of CRP implementation on the lesser prairie-chicken, prescribe conservation measures to avoid or minimize any adverse effects of CRP implementation, and if appropriate, provide incidental take coverage to CRP participants who adhere to the conditions in the CO. The target date for completion of the conference opinion is the end of March.

The Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is voluntary and provides financial and technical assistance for activities such as grazing management, upland restoration, and wetland enhancement.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Map of historical and current Lesser-Prairie Chicken range


Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*)
Interstate Working Group Estimated Range
N
Colorado
Kansas
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas
0 25 50 100
Miles
C. O'Meilia - USFWS
Absolute Scale 1:5,000,000
Map Composed: March 11, 2014
Coordinate System: NAD 1983, USA
Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic
Color blind friendly per ColorBrewer 2.0
Legend
LEPC Estimated Historical Range
LEPC Estimated Occupied Range (November 8, 2013)

Fwd: Bruce Babbitt speech this evening

Davis, Laura <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Mar 19, 2014 at 3:48 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6)@ios.doi.gov>

He hits it pretty hard in his "Alaska" section. All in text below.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Kelly, Katherine** <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Mar 19, 2014 at 8:02 AM
Subject: Re: Bruce Babbitt speech this evening
To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Beaudreau Tommy <tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov>, komze neil <nkomze@blm.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Buffa Nikki <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Ashe Dan <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>

Remarks For Delivery by Bruce Babbitt

University of Colorado Law School

March 17, 2014

Thank you.

I am pleased to return to the University of Colorado Law School to give the inaugural Getches-Wilkinson Center Distinguished Lecture. This school, and especially the Getches Wilkinson Center, have played a key and essential part in shaping our knowledge and understanding of evolving Western issues.

My topic today is the production of oil and gas on public lands. And that necessarily leads directly to the Bureau of Land Management, the agency that manages approximately 250 million acres of our public lands.

Let me begin with my conclusion. The BLM is not currently capable of managing our fossil fuel resources in a responsible manner. To put it succinctly, BLM is completely over matched by the resources and technical expertise of the oil and gas industry, by the pace of the energy boom, and by the overwhelming political pressure exerted by the industry. As a consequence, there is nobody effectively guarding the public interest in our public lands.

Nowhere is it more clear how outgunned the BLM is than here in Colorado. The ongoing expansion of exploration and development is running at record rates for all types of fossil fuels —coal bed methane in southwestern Colorado, shale oil in the northeast, fracking along the Front Range, oil and gas throughout the state, oil shale on the West Slope, and even the beginning of tar sands development - not in Canada - but along the Colorado Utah border.

The effects upon the land and water of this onrushing development are everywhere to be seen, with still more to come. In Wyoming, the Casper Star Tribune projects at least 20,000 new wells in the next decade. In Colorado, in Garfield County alone, officials are projecting at least another 3000 new wells, a pattern occurring throughout the state.

As an agency, the BLM is simply does not have the technical expertise, resources or independence to effectively regulate and oversee this energy boom.

Every week and every month across the West and in Alaska BLM is revising resources management plans, drafting environmental impact statements and issuing leases and permits that bear witness to a deference to the demands of the oil and gas industry. Buried within thousands of pages of documents, these decisions go largely un-analyzed and unremarked by the

public. Taken together, these disparate decisions demonstrate a pervasive failure to protect the public interest.

We have seen what happens when the regulator fails to keep pace with the industry it is supposed to regulate. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 exposed a Minerals Management Service that - like the BLM - was torn by the conflicting demands of promoting oil and gas production and policing the industry. And like the BLM today, the MMS was entirely outmatched by industry, unable to account for the scale of risk, to independently verify industry practices, or to assure adequate environmental safeguards.

Everyone shares some responsibility for the fact that BLM is decades behind where it should be today. I will be the first to acknowledge that, in the administration in which I served, we did not do enough to break the industry's grip on the agency. The subsequent administration then turned back the clock even further, pushing the BLM to become a rubber stamp for industry. And although the current administration has launched some reforms, fundamental systemic and structural problems remain.

For its part, the Congress has long served as a channel for oil and gas lobbyists to prevent BLM from becoming the regulator is should be. Western legislators, in particular, continually pressure the agency to acquiesce to industry demands.

For all its travails, I cannot fail to emphasize that there are many fine, dedicated public servants within the agency which I once had the honor to lead. BLM even in the best of times would still have the most difficult management task of any federal land management agency, that of balancing conservative imperatives with Congressional mandates for energy development.

ALASKA

I would like to discuss today three specific examples that illustrate

regulatory failures within BLM. The first is from Alaska, where BLM administers the largest remaining block of wild, unfragmented public land in American, the 20 million acres of the Arctic Slope stretching from the Colville River westward to the shores of the Bering Sea, known as the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPRA).

In the 1960s, oil and gas companies began exploring westward along the Arctic Slope from the original discoveries at Prudhoe Bay. In 1990, Atlantic Richfield, by then known as ARCO, made a major discovery at the Alpine field near the Colville River, which marks the boundary of the NPRA.

ARCO then made a farsighted decision to develop the Alpine field to the highest environmental standards. Here is an excerpt from a Company press release dated August 26,1999:

> "Because of Alpine's small footprint design, the field's surface development will encompass only about 97 acres, about two tenths of one percent of the 40,000 acre field. To minimize impact, Alpine was developed without permanent roads. Temporary ice roads, constructed during winter, are used to move construction equipment, production facilities, drilling rigs and drilling supplies to the site; access the rest of the year is limited from the air."

ARCO's innovations opened a hopeful new era in the far north. Industry experts hailed roadless development as the wave of the future. Members of the Alaska delegation arranged a Congressional hearing to showcase the ARCO development model.

Then it all came to an end. In 2001, the ConocoPhillips Company acquired the Alpine Field and began exploring westward from there across the Colville River into the NPRA.

ConocoPhillips rejected the roadless development model and then announced its intention to begin building a bridge across the Colville river and

plowing a road network into the pristine expanses of the NPRA.

In 2012, ConocoPhillips applied to BLM for a permit to expand road building into a tract called Moose's Tooth, located within the NPRA.

And just recently, in March 2014, BLM released its pre-decision environmental analysis for the Moose's Tooth permit. The agency summarily rejected the roadless alternative. Why? Because in the words of BLM a permanent bridge and a road network are necessary "to achieve economic and production goals" of the company.

What BLM is really saying is: "Conoco has told us it would be inconvenient and more expensive to use the roadless model. And it is our policy to accept the company's word without question." The BLM analysis does not even discuss the successful experience in adjacent Alpine Field, pioneered as a sustainable model by ARCO and now, ironically, operated by Conoco.

The six words "to achieve economic and production goals" used by BLM to rationalize its permit decision, are a revealing glimpse into the institutional lassitude that prevails within the BLM. The BLM template for leasing decisions in Alaska has no place for a careful consideration of the public interest or of the successful ARCO experience at the Alpine Field.

BLM in Alaska is coming perilously close to acting as a leasing agent of the ConocoPhillips Company.

ROAN PLATEAU

Let us next consider a current case closer to home, about which I have previously written: the Roan Plateau, a majestic mountain wilderness towering above the river valleys of western Colorado.

The heart of the Roan Plateau consists of some 33,000 acres of BLM land. In 2005, the BLM issued a permit to the Barrett Corporation to drill up to 3000 wells atop the Plateau, approximately one well on every ten acres. When combined with a maze of roads, pipelines and other facilities attendant to drilling and production, the Roan Plateau would be effectively transformed into yet another "sacrifice zone," its wildlife and natural values to vanish forever.

Last year, a Federal Court in Denver temporarily halted the leasing program, ruling that the agency had failed to do a proper environmental analysis. However, the Court made clear that it lacks the legal authority to direct BLM to modify its leasing program; it held only that BLM must dot the i's and cross the t's on its proposal before proceeding.

BLM officials have stated their intention to clean up the paperwork and to proceed to leasing by year-end. Given the extent of public outcry over the original proposal, it may well be that the agency will return with a reduction in the number of permitted wells.

However, just reducing the number of wells is not a sufficient plan to protect this incredible resource. Modern technology now makes it possible to access the entire gas resource without drilling a single well atop the Plateau.

The BLM lands on the Roan Plateau lie within a rectangle that measures less than eight miles north to south and about seven miles east to west. With a technology called ultra-extended reach drilling, it is possible to drill wells that reach outward below ground for a horizontal instance of at least five miles, a distance that is being continually extended by advancing technology. (The record is more than seven miles, and wells in the Alaska Arctic are now extending out four to five miles.) That means every acre of BLM land on the Plateau can be reached by drilling from outside that land and below the rim.

Why hasn't BLM considered mandating the use of ultra extended-reach drilling? The answer, here as in Alaska, is that the Barrett Corporation does

not wish to use that technology, and, deferring to the company, BLM is hesitant to even consider extended reach drilling. The Company will, of course, claim that extended reach drilling is not practicable and that in any event it is too expensive. And BLM will leave it at that, deferring to these self-serving opinions without serious independent inquiry.

Independent economic analysis would perhaps show some additional incremental expense attendant to extended-reach drilling. But since when is it the mission of the BLM to assign little or no value to public land and water resources so as to minimize costs and increase profits to oil and gas companies? And, in a proper analysis, BLM might even factor in that federal oil and gas leases are heavily subsidized by a below-market federal royalty of only twelve and one half percent. (Texas by comparison charges a royalty rate of 25% on its oil and gas lands).

The Roan Plateau would be a good place for this administration to back its rhetoric about responsible oil and gas regulation and to begin charting a new course for BLM. President Obama could use his power under the Antiquities Act to cut through the current legal and bureaucratic tangle by declaring the surface of the Plateau a National Monument, permanently off-limits to drilling.

With the surface of the Plateau thus secured, the President could then direct BLM to get on with leasing the subsurface resource, available by extended-reach drilling from outside the Monument boundaries. The result would be to establish the Roan Plateau as a "layer cake" National Monument, both protecting the surface and allowing subsurface energy production.

THE SAGE GROUSE

Finally, let's examine a case from northwestern Colorado. The subject is the greater sage grouse, an iconic bird that inhabits the remaining

sagebrush expanses

of the intermountain west.

The sage grouse is a candidate for the endangered species list. The cause of its peril, as with so many species, is the loss of habitat from multiple forms of development including mining, agricultural clearing, oil and gas and coal exploitation, damming of rivers, utility corridors and road building.

In 2008, the Fish and Wildlife Service identified the greater sage grouse as a candidate for listing. Litigation ensued, and, in a court settlement, the Service agreed to make a decision by September of 2015. Eager to avoid a listing, BLM and the Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to work with seven affected states to assess and take steps to manage sage grouse habitat so as to avoid a listing. Colorado, with more than four million acres of sagebrush habitat, mostly in the northwestern part of the state, agreed to join in the effort.

In Washington, the Fish and Wildlife Service gathered together a group of experts to consider conservation standards for habitat protection. The resulting document, known at the NTT report, laid out standards for the protection of those areas of land dominated by sagebrush.

What the report failed to recognize, however, is the actual nature of sagebrush lands in the west, many of which are and patchy and discontinuous, interspersed among other habitat types and barren expanses. The report, by focusing almost exclusively on sagebrush patches, ignores a fundamental premise of ecology, namely that to protect wildlife, including endangered species, landscapes must be managed as a whole. Sagebrush patches, arrayed like the spots on a Dalmatian, are not likely to sustain the sage grouse if the rest of the land matrix is left to be chopped up and degraded.

The ultimate result of this habitat partitioning approach is that oil and gas companies are left free in many areas to drill as many wells as they please, and to build as many roads and production facilities as they choose.

What follows next is a tale of avoidance and evasion by the Bureau of Land Management, with the Fish and Wildlife Service in passive acquiescence.

Rather than transforming the NTT recommendations, inadequate as they are, into uniform national standards for BLM management in sagebrush country, the agency simply passed the buck down to BLM state directors to decide what to do. And in Colorado, the State director then passed the buck down to its district offices.

At that point, the district office for Northwest Colorado, here being examined, prepared an environmental impact statement to assess the alternatives for management of lands within its administrative jurisdiction. The draft environmental impact statement has now been issued and is awaiting decision.

The draft EIS, more than a thousand pages long, with fifteen appendixes, is hardly an example of organization or clear expository prose. But it is possible to pick through the verbiage to discern the main outlines of the "preferred alternative" for management oil and gas resources.

And that "preferred alternative" is simply to let local managers decide whether to follow recommended management standards.

The preferred alternative does give lip service to the Dalmatian style emphasis on protection just for sagebrush patches. But this "preferred alternative" is overlain with a blanket of "Exceptions, Modifications, and Waivers," giving local managers discretion to relax standard requirements upon concluding that a local sage grouse population is "healthy and stable," without regard to the larger reality of overall population trends.

What started out as something resembling a national plan with some semblance of standards has been progressively watered down to incoherence, outsourced as far as possible from any overall accountability.

It may be objected that BLM does not have the resources or the sophisticated tools to do detailed land use planning. It is surely the case that BLM lacks the resources to match the firepower of the energy industry. However, it could make much better use of the geospatial data and software now widely available to both government and non profit groups, accessible even to students who might want to examine management alternatives. If you are interested, you can begin by going to ESRI.com to see the remarkable tools available from one public spirited company.

CONCLUSION

The examples I have discussed today of BLM submissiveness in the presence of overwhelming industry and Congressional pressure are not just isolated incidents.

These pending decisions in Alaska, on the Roan Plateau, and on the future of the sage grouse are just a few examples of many management decisions made each month across the West where BLM facilitates the wishes of the energy industry. Often these decisions come in increments, buried in thousands of pages of documents that typically go unnoticed and unremarked, but that nonetheless have important long-range cumulative consequences.

These practices extend back to a time when the lower elevation desert lands administered by BLM were considered of little public value, whether for wildlife, recreation or simply because they are beautiful, transcendent open spaces. Located far from population centers, these lands went largely unnoticed even by wilderness advocates. All too often they were written off as "sacrifice areas."

The BLM is, to be sure, a multiple use land management agency where there will always be a place for an extensive oil and gas leasing program.

However, the production of fossil fuels does not require that industry be given license to always use the least cost methods, that environmental values be devalued and subordinated to company demands, and that oil and gas resources lands be allowed to become to sacrifice zones.

What is needed now is high level attention to reform of the Bureau of Land Management. The actions taken by the Administration in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill provide an instructive precedent for BLM reform.

In the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, President Obama appointed a National Commission to investigate not only that incident, but also to pursue reform of offshore drilling regulation by the Interior agency then known as the Minerals Management Service. The ensuing Commission report has prompted major reforms in the oversight and regulation of offshore drilling practices.

It is now time for comparable attention to reform of *onshore* drilling regulation. There need not be a single disaster event to prompt such a thorough going review of industry and of agency practices in the leasing and regulation of public lands. President Obama could set a comparable reform process in motion by appointing a national commission to investigate and reform the regulation of energy production on public lands by the Bureau of Land Management.

The time is at hand to begin.

On Mon, Mar 17, 2014 at 3:24 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
The speech is tonight at 7:30 (presumably local, central MST time) at the Univ of Colorado Law School:

7:30 p.m. — Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt gives a lecture titled "Are Colorado Public Lands Becoming a Sacrifice Zone for Oil and Gas?" Livestream: http://bit.ly/1eGF3hx. Boulder, Colo.

On Mon, Mar 17, 2014 at 3:13 PM, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
I think it's all the same thing - so I may have been told the wrong date. We shall see...

Thanks Linda.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 17, 2014, at 3:07 PM, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov> wrote:

> I'm in Denver and understand he's speaking at law school in boulder
> Thursday. Probably same themes.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Mar 17, 2014, at 12:59 PM, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>>
>> All-
>> I just got a heads up that former Secretary Bruce Babbitt is speaking
>> tonight at CU, topic BLM. Expectation is that he will hit his
>> ongoing theme that BLM is behind in terms of keeping up with o&g
>> development, that despite our efforts major structural and systemic
>> challenges remain, and additional significant reform/overhaul is
>> needed. The three issues he will hit on:
>>
>> Conoco-Phillips in NPR-A: the draft EIS does not provide enough
>> protective measures in particular not enough thinking about a roadless
>> development approach
>>
>> Roan Plateau: more on the layer cake monument theory
>>
>> Sage grouse: the BLM state plans are inadequate to the task, falling
>> short of what is needed to protect the SG, and a comprehensive,
>> nationwide plan of approach is needed to address what is needed
>>
>> He may call for a Commission a la oil spill commission to suggest
>> needed reforms.
>> Laura
>>
>>
>>
>> Sent from my iPad

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Jessica Kershaw
Press Secretary, U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
O: 202-208-6416
C: 202-669-0968

--

Kate Kelly
Director of Communications
Department of the Interior
(202) 208 2409
kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 20, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Mar 20, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR'S LEASE SALE MARKS BP'S RETURN TO GULF OF MEXICO. The AP (3/20, Mcconnaughey) reports that Wednesday, the Interior Department announced that 50 companies placed bids for 326 blocks of offshore central Gulf of Mexico acreage. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "The Gulf is a critical component of our nation's energy portfolio and holds vital energy resources that spur economic opportunities for Gulf producing states as well as further reduce our dependence on foreign oil." According to BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau, four states in the Gulf will share in the revenues from nine of the leases. Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) said the states will earn $2.2 million from the sale as well as 37.5% of royalty revenues.

Bloomberg News (3/20, Carroll, Snyder, 1.91M) reports that 326 blocks were offered in Wednesday's sale, with winning bids totaling $851 million. BP won 24 of the blocks up for auction, paying $41.6 million. In a BP spokesman Brett Clanton said, "BP is very pleased at the prospect of adding to our leading leasehold position in this key U.S. offshore region." However, Bloomberg notes that the blocks BP won may not begin producing crude until about 2025.

The Washington Post (3/20, Mufson, 4.28M) reports that Wednesday's auction was the first since 2012 in which BP was allowed to participate, following an agreement it reached with the EPA last week to lift a ban on BP's ability to participate in government contracts. The Post notes that the highest single-block bid during Wednesday's sale was $68.8 million, submitted by Freeport McMoran.

US News & World Report (3/20, Neuhauser, 620K) said BP's "timing could not have been better," as it settled with the EPA "six days before bidding opened" on this latest Gulf of Mexico lease sale. US News notes that both BP and the EPA "declined to comment on this confluence of events."

The National Journal (3/20, Foran, Subscription Publication, 427K) reports that BP submitted 31 bids in total during Wednesday's auction. However, 7 of the bids submitted were not successful.

FuelFix (3/20, Dlouhy, 7K) notes that the last time BP bid in a Gulf auction, in June 2012, it paid a total of $47.9 million for 43 blocks. Eight of the bids BP won on Wednesday are blocks in the Mississippi Canyon area, which is near the site of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill. In a statement BP said, "As the nation's largest energy investor, BP is committed to the deep-water Gulf of Mexico, where we have been an active player for a quarter century and have a multi-billion dollar investment program underway."

The Washington Examiner (3/20, Colman, 319K) notes that overall, Wednesday's lease sale spanned "1.7 million acres of the central Gulf of Mexico, generating more than $872 million for the federal government."

FuelFix (3/19, 7K) reports that during Wednesday's Interior Department auction for Gulf of Mexico drilling rights, the oil industry demonstrated its "enthusiasm for offshore development," with 50 companies filing bids of $1.1 billion for central Gulf drilling rights. American Petroleum Institute upstream and industry operations director Erik Milito urged the Interior Department to auction drilling rights off the Atlantic Coast in its next five-year outer continental shelf plan. Milito said, "Every lease sale held in the U.S. strengthens our hand as an energy superpower."

Also reporting on the story are the Environment & Energy Publishing (3/20, 705), the New York Times (3/20, Reed, Subscription Publication, 9.61M), Bloomberg News (3/20, 1.91M), Bloomberg BusinessWeek (3/19, 4.93M), Reuters (3/20, Hays), the San Francisco Chronicle (3/20, Dlouhy, 2.88M), the New Orleans Times-Picayune (3/20, 700K), the Lafayette (LA) Daily Advertiser (3/19, 111K), the Houston Business Journal (3/19, Subscription Publication, 91K), the Daily Telegraph (UK) (3/20, Trotman, 3.22M), the International Business Times (3/20, 237K), the Marine Link (3/20, 1K), the Offshore Magazine (3/20, 143K), the Penn Energy (3/20, 128), the Oil and Gas Journal (3/20, 1K), and the E&P Magazine (3/20).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (3/20, 4.28M), the Miami Herald (3/20, Mcconnaughey, 806K), the Macon (GA) Telegraph (3/19, 187K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/20, Mcconnaughey, 1.14M), and Yahoo! Finance (3/20, 9.7M).

LAWMAKERS PRESS SECRETARY JEWELL TO KEEP GRAY-WOLF PROTECTIONS. The AP (3/20) reports that seventy-four House members "pressed" Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "on Wednesday to drop the administration's plan to end federal protections for gray wolves across most of the Lower 48 states." The lawmakers "signed onto a Wednesday letter to Jewell that cited a peer-review panel's recent conclusion the government relied on unsettled science to make its case that the wolves have sufficiently recovered." They "wrote that taking the animals off the endangered species list and putting them under state management would 'stifle gray wolf recovery' and undermine decades of restoration efforts." In the letter, the lawmakers also "criticized Interior for resurrecting a dormant government journal to publish a study from its own employees that justified the findings about the eastern wolf."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by Yahoo! (3/20, Brown, 17.91M) , the Washington Times (3/20, Brown, 417K) , the Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/20, Brown, 1.14M) , the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (3/20, 76K) , the Idaho Statesman (3/19, 205K) , the Myrtle Beach (SC) Online (3/19, 70K) , the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (3/20, 82K) , the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (3/19, 90K), The Missoulian (3/20, 104K), KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (3/20, 1K), and WMGM-TV Wildwood, NJ (3/20, 2K).

Also reporting on the story are The Oregonian (3/20, 888K), the Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (3/19, 104K), the Salinas Californian (3/19, 27K), and KXTV-TV Sacramento, CA (3/19, 25K).

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE BOARD APPROVES US APPLICATION FOR CANDIDACY. The Wall Street Journal (3/19, 5.91M) reports that the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) board approved the United States' application for candidacy in the international organization. The Interior Department said it will move to produce its first report within the next two years.

The Oil and Gas Journal (3/20, 1K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This achievement marks another significant milestone on the road to US EITI implementation. In addition to global leadership by example, our goal in pursuing US EITI implementation complements the Obama administration's commitment to reforming and modernizing management of domestic natural resources overseen by the US Department of the Interior."

TOWN HALL PARTICIPANTS PAN PROPOSED SENATE BILL ON ORGAN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (3/20, 59K) reports that "Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to Las Cruces earlier this year apparently sparked what turned out to be a standing-room-only public meeting Wednesday to talk about federal legislation that could lead to Organ Mountains, and possibly other peaks in Doña Ana County, being designated as a national monument." According to the article, "the auditorium at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum was filled to capacity and an overflow crowd of as many as 100 more spilled into the museum hallway to talk about markedly different pieces of legislation that have been introduced into the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, respectively, aimed at protecting the Organ Mountains." The article notes that "at the core of many of the concerns voiced at Wednesday's town hall was the vast difference in the size" of the national monuments proposed by the Senate and the House legislation.

The story also appears at the Silver City (NM) Sun-News (3/20, 24K) and the El Paso (TX) Times (3/20, Ramirez, 247K).

INTERIOR FACES DEADLINE TO CONVEY MINERAL RIGHTS TO CNMI. The Saipan Tribune (3/20, 641) reports that Gov. Eloy S. Inos said "yesterday that his administration has been reviewing a US Department of the Interior's draft patent conveying to the CNMI oil, gas, and mineral deposit rights." The department has "until this week to convey to the CNMI all rights, titles, and interests of the United States in deposits of oil, gas, and other minerals in the 3-mile submerged lands surrounding nine of its 14 islands."

KING COVE ROAD PRESSURE INCREASES WITH MEDEVACS. KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (3/20, 4K) reports that "three U.S. Coast Guard medevacs from King Cove, including a father and son's during flights on one day, have escalated a clash between state and federal officials over what critics call a road to nowhere." According to the article, "last week, blizzard-like weather conditions prevented two medevacs in a single day from getting to the all-weather airport in Cold Bay." Those pushing "for a road say this incident only strengthens the argument that a road needs to be built."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WILDFIRE BRIEFING ATTENDED BY SECRETARY JEWELL. Additional coverage of the wildfire briefing at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise attended by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Monday was provided by NPR (3/20, Rott, 465K) and the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (3/20, 56K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S VISIT TO MONTANA. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to Montana was provided by the Glasgow (MT) Courier (3/19, 7K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE AWARD RECIPIENTS. Additional coverage of the Champions of Change Award recipients was provided by the Ravalli (MT) Republic (3/20, 19K) and the Arizona Public Media (3/20, 2K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW URBAN TRAILS APP. Additional coverage of the new urban trails app developed by UCLA and California State Parks was provided by the Los Angeles Magazine (3/19, 488K).

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FLAWED COAL LEASING. The Billings (MT) Gazette (3/20, 206K), Walter Archer, a member of the Western Organization of Resource Councils, writes that "two recent congressional investigations point to the loss of millions of dollars to the public due to flaws in the way the Bureau of Land Management

manages federal coal, including large holdings in the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming." Archer raises concerns about "the fact that local and state governments are short-changed when the BLM gives away public coal at below market value." He argues that "these findings point to the need for Secretary Jewell to put the brakes on federal coal leases until the deep and pervasive problems can be thoroughly analyzed and reforms put in place to be good stewards of the public's assets."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF THURSDAY. CNN (3/19, Imam, Cnn, 14.53M) reports that "this year's National Cherry Blossom Festival starts in Washington on Thursday." According to the article, "the festival is starting on the first day of spring, as always, but peak bloom is predicted to be later this season because of the brutal winter in the D.C. area." The NPS "says peak bloom, the day when 70% of the blossoms of the Yoshino cherry trees around the Tidal Basin are open, is forecast to fall between April 8 and 12."

CREWS WORKING TO REPAIR SEWER LINE IN VALLEY FORGE PARK. The AP (3/20) reports that "crews are working to replace a broken pipe at Valley Forge National Historical Park that has caused millions of gallons of raw sewage to flow into an environmentally sensitive creek that's a magnet for trout fishermen." According to the article, "the 30-inch sewer main owned by the Tredyffrin Township Municipal Authority burst Wednesday morning." After the main broke, "a torrent of sewage spilled" for hours "into Valley Creek at a rate estimated at around 5,000 gallons per minute." The NPS said "all roads in the park will remain closed until the main is repaired."

SAGUARO PARK OFFICIALS SEEK PERSON OF INTEREST IN CAR BREAK-INS. The Arizona Daily Star (3/20, 335K) reports that the NPS is "asking the public for help in identifying a person of interest in connection with thefts from vehicles at Saguaro National Park West." According to Andy Fisher, a Saguaro National Park spokeswoman, "a woman captured in a photo may have information regarding break-ins into unattended vehicles in late February and early March." Chief Ranger Paul Austin said, "We are asking for our community's assistance to identify this person of interest so that the perpetrator of this crime is held accountable."

NPS OPENS BIDDING ON GLACIER CHALET CONTRACT. The Missoulian (3/20, 104K) reports that Sperry Chalet and Granite Park Chalet, "two seasonal backcountry lodging chalets inside" in Glacier National Park, "will have a new concessions contract awarded later this year." The NPS "on Wednesday released a prospectus for the awarding of the new 10-year concessions contract for the chalets, currently held by Belton Chalets Inc."

JUDGE RULES IN FAVOR OF NPS ON ACADIA NATIONAL PARK'S CONCESSIONS CONTRACT. WLBZ-TV Bangor, ME (3/20, 2K) reports that "a judge ruled in favor of the National Park Service, paving the way for Dawnland, LLC, owned by New Mexico-Based Ortega Family Enterprises, to become the next concessioner to provide food and beverage service at Acadia National Park."

DELAWARE WATER GAP PARK RANGER EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION. The Pocono (PA) Record (3/19, 46K) reports that Michelle Schonzeit, a park ranger in the Resource Protection and Visitor Management Division of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, has been selected as the 2014 recipient of the Harry Yount Award for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service (NPS). Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Superintendent John J. Donahue said, "We are all extremely proud of Ranger Schonzeit and her accomplishments. She is a highly valued member of our team and is very deserving of this honor. Everything she does to serve the American public is in the highest tradition of the NPS."

Also reporting on the story is WFMZ-TV Allentown, PA (3/20, 71K).

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASK NPS FOR CHANGES. The Star of Grand Coulee (WA) (3/19, 169) reprints a letter by Lincoln County commissioners to NPS Director Jon Jarvis requesting "a modification to the National Park Service Contingency Plan that becomes effective upon a lapse in appropriation from congress." They argue that "the application of a blanket policy that treats all 401 units of the National Park System identical in the event of a government shutdown just does not make good fiscal sense and in fact costs even more money,

all the while damaging local economies." According to the commissioners, the Superintendent of each specific National Park Unit "knows best know how to manage their own unique area and has far better access to the local community and leaders to make the most pragmatic decision possible."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM APPROVES NEW ROAD TO ACCESS DISCOVERY SKI AREA FROM NORTH. The Ravalli (MT) Republic (3/20, 19K) reports that the BLM has "given its OK for a road connecting the town of Philipsburg to Discovery Ski Area." The bureau "issued a decision record and finding of no significant impact Wednesday for building a road across a 160-acre parcel of public land three miles south of Philipsburg." According to the article, "the road would connect the existing Rumsey Road to another private road that leads to Discovery."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

AGENCIES, RANCHERS WORK TO PROTECT PRIVATE SAGE GROUSE IN 11 STATES. The Chicago Tribune (3/19, Barker, 2.32M) reports that "federal and state officials have concentrated their management strategy on the 5 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management." However, when the FWS "decides in 2015 whether to list the grouse as a threatened creature under the Endangered Species Act, it will be looking at the contribution private lands play in the survival of the bird." For this reason, "a partnership led by the Natural Resources Conservation Service is working with landowners to protect more than 25 million acres of private grouse habitat across 11 states."

IDAHO TO KILL THOUSANDS OF RAVENS TO PROTECT GREATER SAGE-GROUSE. Reuters (3/20, Zuckerman) reports that Idaho is planning to kill thousands of ravens to protect the greater sage-grouse. The ravens will be killed by baiting them with poisoned chicken eggs, shooting them and destroying a number of their eggs and nests, according to Idaho wildlife managers. The article notes that ravens are protected by federal law, and the FWS recently granted Idaho a permit to kill 4,000 ravens in four areas of the state over two years.

BIOLOGISTS EXCITED BY DISCOVERY OF RARE OCELOT KITTEN IN TEXAS. The Houston Chronicle (3/18, Parker, 2.26M) reports that "wildlife biologists in deep South Texas barely could control their excitement earlier this month when they saw the photo." Hilary Swarts, a wildlife biologist for the FWS, said, "We all jumped up and down and screamed." According to the article, "the scientists were admiring a black-and-white trail camera image of a two-month-old baby ocelot at the Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge, which houses one of only two breeding populations of the mid-sized wild cats in the United States." The article notes that "the new kitten meant that the group of 11 free-ranging ocelots at the refuge in Cameron County had grown nearly 10 percent to 12."

OP-ED: PELICANS NEED MONITORING. In an op-ed for the Los Angeles Times (3/20, Harmon, 3.07M), Andrew Harmon, communications director for International Bird Rescue in California, writes that "this year marks the five-year anniversary of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's removal of the brown pelican from the endangered species list." However, "delisting a species is not the final step in its recovery." He notes that "by law, wildlife officials are required to monitor formerly threatened or endangered species for a minimum of five years to ensure they don't return to a fragile state."

US Geological Survey:

USGS LAUNCHES NEW VERSION OF WEBSITE. The Federal Computer Week (3/19, 263K) reports that the USGS "launched a beta version of its new website March 19 that combines modern design and improved access to scientific information for users to explore from any device." According to the article, "the new site is part of a two-year effort to ensure that consistent navigation, a positive user experience and mobile-friendly design become prominent fixtures in the agency's Web presence." USGS Social Media Lead Scott Horvath said "the beta site is just the tip of the iceberg, and a simplified design, mobile-responsiveness, improved navigation and search capabilities, and an enhanced user experience are still to come, likely by May or June."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

NPS OBJECTS TO SOLAR PROJECT NEAR MOJAVE PRESERVE. The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (3/19, 465K) reports that the NPS has "lodged strongly worded objections to a proposed 6.5-square-mile solar development about a half-mile from the Mojave National Preserve, saying the project would harm wildlife and suggesting that it be built elsewhere." Preserve Superintendent Stephanie Dubois "submitted an eight-page letter to the US Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the public land where the Soda Mountain solar project is planned and which is handling the environmental analysis of the development." Dubois' letter said the BLM "failed to adequately examine the project's potential to harm groundwater, threatened and endangered species, and scenic views, among other issues."

NEW JERSEY REGULATORS REJECT WIND FARM OFF THE COAST OF ATLANTIC CITY. The AP (3/20, Parry, 417K) reports that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities on Wednesday rejected a $188 million proposal by Fishermen's Energy to build an offshore wind farm near Atlantic City, "deciding it placed too much potential risk of soaring electric bills for ratepayers." The AP notes that the proposed project consisted of five turbines expected to generate roughly 25 megawatts, "but depended on a mixture of subsidies and federal grants to make sure ratepayers didn't get stuck with sky-high bills." Environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, were critical of the decision.

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM WORKING ON LAND USE PLAN IN MANCOS SHALE AND GALLUP SANDSTONE FORMATIONS. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (3/20, 46K) reports that the BLM "wants to amend its resource management plan in northwest New Mexico to better accommodate a potential oil boom in the Mancos Shale and Gallup Sandstone formations." The BLM is "hosting a series of scoping meetings in northwest New Mexico, and the first one was Wednesday night at San Juan College." The bureau's "resource management plan was last amended in 2003," but "with expectations the area will increase oil production, the office is now trying to amend the plan to be more inclusive of land south of US Highway 550."

Also reporting on the story is KOB-TV Albuquerque, NM (3/20, 59K).

OIL INDUSTRY GROUP PUSHES BACK AGAINST CLAIMS LINKING FRACKING TO EARTHQUAKES. The Los Angeles Times (3/19, Reyes, 3.07M) reports the Western States Petroleum Association has "blasted a push by several members of the Los Angeles City Council to investigate whether hydraulic fracturing and other forms of oil well stimulation played any role in the earthquake that rattled Los Angeles on Monday, calling the move 'appallingly irresponsible.'" In a written statement yesterday, the association's president Catherine Reheis-Boyd said, "It does not surprise us that the handful of extremist environmental organizations ... would attempt to make an entirely unfounded connection between hydraulic fracturing and the earthquake." She went on to say, "But when three members of the Los Angeles City Council make similar statements, despite an overwhelming amount of scientific and other evidence that contradicts their assertions, it is time for responsible leaders to say, 'Enough.'"

Offshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR DELAYS PROPOSED RULE TO INCREASE OIL SPILL LIABILITY CAP. In its "RegWatch" blog, The Hill (3/20, 194K) reports that the Interior Department is "delaying a rule that would raise the penalties on offshore facilities that are responsible for oil spills amid pressure from industry groups." According to the article, "the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) and National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) both wrote to the Interior Department requesting an extension of the comment period, which the agency granted Tuesday, so these groups will have more time to review and respond to the rule." The agency will "give the industry more time to respond by extending the comment period by another month, through April 25."

OFFICIALS REVIEW INFORMATION ON "LINGERING EFFECTS" OF EXXON VALDEZ. The AP (3/20) reports Alaska state and Federal government officials informed a Federal judge that they are reviewing information from studies on the "lingering effects" of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill and will decide how to proceed in an ongoing legal case. The 1991 consent decree that resolved claims related to environmental damages contained a

"reopener" clause that allows the government "to seek additional work for restoration projects."

An updated article by the AP (3/20) included a discussion of the spill's impact on the oil industry, fishing, and wildlife in the region.

The AP (3/20) also reprints a 1989 report covering the spill.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA FARMERS RALLY IN OPPOSITION TO REGULATIONS LIMITING WATER SUPPLIES. FOX News (3/19, 6.72M) reports that "thousands of farmers in drought-stricken California are rallying this week in opposition to regulations that have frozen water supplies across the state." According to the article, "at issue is a Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals ruling last week that upheld federal guidelines limiting water deliveries from the northern part of the state to the southern part of the state – to protect an endangered fish called the Delta smelt." Environmentalists "fought to preserve those guidelines, but farmers say they're preventing vital water supplies from reaching the areas that need it most."

WATER AGENCIES RELAX DELTA FLOW REQUIREMENTS. The Hanford (CA) Sentinel (3/20, 25K) reports that "in the wake of public outcry, key water agencies announced Tuesday that they are dialing back on emergency pumping restrictions that could have eliminated all agricultural water pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta through the end of summer." According to the article, "Tuesday's decision, announced by a conference call involving the State Water Resources Control Board, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources, still holds back significant amounts of water in reservoirs and limits delta exports to 1,500 cubic feet per second." However, "the announcement accomplishes a critical change sought by agricultural interests — allowing some of that water to flow to crop use."

BOR RELEASES CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN. The Red Bluff (CA) Daily News (3/20, 20K) reports that the BOR has "released the final report on the Central Valley Project Integrated Resource Plan." The bureau "investigated climate change impacts on water supplies and demands in the CVP service area and performed an exploratory analysis of potential adaptation strategies to address these impacts."

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEATH OF MAN IN FORT TOTTEN BEING INVESTIGATED. The AP (3/20) reports that "federal agents are investigating the death of a man whose body was found in Fort Totten." According to an FBI spokesman, "an autopsy has been scheduled." The article notes that "law enforcement officials with the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are also participating in the investigation."

CROW TRIBE RECEIVES $300,000 GRANT FOR BUS SERVICE. The Billings (MT) Gazette (3/20, 206K) reports that the Crow Tribe will "receive a $300,000 federal grant to keep tribal transit buses running for another year." Sen. Jon Tester announced the grant Wednesday. Tester had "written the Federal Transit Administration last June asking that funding continue so that Crow Tribe bus service across the fifth-largest reservation in the United States could continue."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF TRIBAL LAND BUY-BACK STARING ON PINE RIDGE RESERVATION. Additional coverage of the land buyback offers sent to owners of parcels on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota was provided by the Nation Sun News (3/20), KOTA-TV Rapid City, SD (3/20, 890), and KCSR-AM Chadron, NE (3/20, 227).

Top National News:

OBAMA SAYS US WILL NOT INTERVENE MILITARILY IN UKRAINE; BIDEN REASSURES ALLIES. Coverage of the Ukraine crisis focuses primarily on comments from President Obama in local news interviews and by Vice President Biden in Eastern Europe, and on the continued deliberations in Washington and Europe over how to respond. Analyses and commentary pieces paint the US as in a difficult position over what steps to next pursue, with some in Congress calling for more action but no consensus on what that should be. Meanwhile, Ukraine's

announcement of withdrawal from Crimea is being interpreted as a de facto surrender of the region to Russia. The three broadcast networks gave the situation just under seven minutes of cumulative coverage, none at the top of their broadcasts.

The CBS Evening News (3/19, story 6, 2:20, Pelley, 5.58M) reported, "In the East/West standoff over Ukraine, President Obama said the US will not get involved militarily in Russia's annexation of the Crimea peninsula. The head of Ukraine's national security council said Ukrainian troops will be evacuated from the Crimean basis, which are surrounded by Russian forces."

NBC Nightly News (3/19, story 4, 2:50, Williams, 7.86M) reported President Obama, appearing on KSDK-TV St. Louis, "apparently tried to dial back the rhetoric." President Obama: "Look, obviously, you know, we do not need to trigger an actual war with Russia. The Ukrainians don't want that. Nobody would want that." Russian President Vladimir Putin, "having taken Crimea, says he does not intend to go any further into Ukraine. But many are worried tonight he will do just that."

President Obama said on KSDK-TV St. Louis (3/19, 100K), "We do not need to trigger an actual war with Russia. The Ukrainians don't want that. Nobody would want that. What we can do is stand up for principles, stand by the Ukrainian people. One of the most important things we can do is have Congress pass a piece of legislation that's working its way through the Senate and House that would allow to us give some critical aid and assistance to Ukraine right now."

Politico (3/20, Epstein, 73K) reports President Obama told KNSD-TV San Diego that the US will not get involved militarily in the crisis. He said, "We are not going to be getting into a military excursion in Ukraine. What we are going to do is mobilize all of our diplomatic resources to make sure that we've got a strong international coalition that sends a clear message, which is that Ukraine should decide their destiny." The Washington Times (3/20, Boyer, 417K) reports White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said the President "is looking instead at imposing further economic sanctions" against Russia. The Los Angeles Times (3/20, Richter, Loiko, 3.07M) reports the US will announce "stiffer economic punishments as early as Thursday."

The Hill (3/20, Herb, 194K) says the US "has not provided military aid requested by the Ukrainian government beyond military rations." However, the AP (3/20) reports the Defense Department said the US will again participate in the Rapid Trident multinational military exercise in Ukraine this year. Pentagon spokesman Col. Steven Warren says it "is the only Ukraine exercise the U.S. military plans to participate in this year."

In an analysis, Julie Pace of the AP (3/20) writes that the Russian annexation of Crime "is testing central tenets" of Obama's "foreign policy philosophy: his belief in the power of direct diplomacy, his preference for using economic sanctions as punishment and his inclination to proceed cautiously in order to avoid creating larger long-term problems." The Administration is now faced with the question of what to do next given that such efforts "have done little to stop Russia" in Crimea.

Biden Says US Will Stand By Allies In Eastern Europe. Reuters (3/20, Rampton) reports Vice President Biden met with the leaders of Latvia and Lithuania and Latvia on a trip to reassure US allies that the US will stand with them. Ed Henry reported on Fox News Special Report (3/19, 2.15M) that the Vice President "spent his second day reassuring a NATO ally, this time, Lithuania, and said there will be military action if Russia expands what he called naked aggression into other Baltic states."

The Washington Post (3/20, Wilson, 4.28M) says Biden's "we're-all-in-this-together tour of Eastern Europe...highlighted not only the growing regional anxieties over Russia's designs on Ukraine – but also how much work the Obama administration has to do to convince allies of its support." Biden said, "President Obama and I view Article 5 of the NATO Treaty as an absolutely solemn commitment which we will honor. We will honor." The Washington Times (3/20, Boyer, 417K) reports Biden also warned "that Moscow would pay a price for 'naked aggression.'"

The New York Times (3/20, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says Biden "found himself in a fraught but familiar place...holding the hands of American allies fearful of being bullied by a larger, aggressive neighbor." Three months ago, Biden attempted to reassure Japan and South Korea, "unnerved by China's sudden imposition of an air defense zone in the East China Sea." While the cases differ in many ways, both China and Russia are

"ambitious powers, riding a tide of nationalism and nursing grievances over historical slights at the hands of the West."

The Washington Times (3/20, Chumley, 417K) writes that Biden "uncorked his latest head-scratcher while visiting Warsaw" earlier this week, saying he "used his chairman post on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to lead Poland to join NATO." Poland joined NATO in 1999, but Biden did not become committee chair until 2001. However, Biden did "take the reins on bringing Democrats into the fold" to sign onto a treaty resolution crafted by then-Chairman Jesse Helms.

NATO's Rasmussen: Ukraine Crisis "Gravest Threat" To Europe Since Cold War. The New York Times (3/20, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, speaking at the Brookings Institution Wednesday, said the Russian invasion and annexation of Crimea "was the 'gravest threat' to European security since the end of the Cold War." He said, "We had thought that such behavior had been confined to history, but it's back and it's dangerous because it violates international norms of accepted behavior."

The Washington Post (3/20, DeYoung, 4.28M) says Rasmussen called Russian aggression "a 'wake-up call' for the Atlantic military alliance and other international institutions." The Post says the crisis is a test for NATO that could determine "whether the challenges that have plagued the alliance almost since its inception," such as US dominance, defense budget issues, and disagreements over burden-sharing in NATO's post-Cold War military operations, "are eased or aggravated."

West Has "All But Kicked Russia Out" Of G8. The Washington Times (3/20, Wolfgang, 417K) says "Russia's relatively brief foray into the world's most exclusive club of rich nations has been undone in just a few weeks," as Western economic powers "have all but kicked Russia out" of the G8. The seven remaining powers – the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the UK – will meet next week.

The New York Times (3/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that "expelling Russia from the Group of 8...is the wrong way to punish" Putin for annexing Crimea. Within the group, "Putin comes face to face with the leaders of top democracies; expelled by them, he would retreat into his trademark claim that the West has always held Russia in disdain." The Times urges the seven nations that will meet next week to put forth "a unified front against Mr. Putin's arrogance and contempt for international law."

Congress Divided Over How US Should Respond. McClatchy (3/20, Mascaro, Subscription Publication, 95K) says that while "lawmakers are hammering" the President "for a stronger U.S. response," Congress "has so far been unable to provide a unified course of action." While Republicans want to step up natural gas exports to Europe, Democrats want the IMF to have greater loan-making authority "and are pushing for tougher enforcement actions against Russia in the World Trade Organization for previous rule violations."

Rubio Says Russia Must Face Consequences. In a Washington Post (3/20, 4.28M) op-ed, Sen. Marco Rubio writes that Putin's "annexation of Crimea is a direct challenge and long-term threat to the post-World War II international order for which the United States and our allies have made great sacrifices over the past seven decades." Rubio says if Putin is allowed to succeed in the annexation, "the precedent could have global repercussions, including in Asia." Rubio calls for broadening "visa and financial sanctions on Russian officials" to include Putin himself "and his network of political and business allies," and to immediately bar Russia "from every international forum not essential to resolving this crisis, including the Group of Eight."

Five House Members Urge Hagel To Terminate Contracts With Russian Arms Exporter. Reuters (3/20, Strobel) reports Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Keith Ellison (D-MN), Elizabeth Esty (D-CT), Kay Granger (R-TX), and James Moran (D-VA) have written to Defense Secretary Hagel urging him to suspend contracts with Russian arms firm Rosoboronexport. They wrote, "Given Russia's recent actions that violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including its support of the illegal referendum for Crimean separation, we strongly urge you to terminate these contracts."

Shell Withdraws From Black Sea Oil Exploration Negotiations. The Wall Street Journal (3/20, Scheck, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports Royal Dutch Shell has withdrawn from negotiations over an offshore oil exploration agreement in the Black Sea. A spokesman said the decision to pull out was made in January, before

the current crisis.

More Commentary. The Washington Post (3/20, 4.28M), which has repeatedly editorialized that President Obama's response to the Ukraine crisis has been weak and disconnected from reality, does so again this morning, writing that "Western officials seem to be betting that Mr. Putin won't dare to extend his aggression beyond Crimea. But then, just last week they were saying they did not expect Moscow to move quickly on Crimean annexation." The US and Europe "have been too slow to grasp that Mr. Putin is bent on upending the post-Cold War order in Europe and reversing Russia's loss of dominion over Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia."

Daniel Henninger writes in his Wall Street Journal (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) column that Putin had to wait out the Bush Administration and the post-9/11 military conflicts in order to begin to assert himself, and that Obama's different approach to foreign affairs along with US fatigue with international affairs worked to Putin's advantage.

E.J. Dionne writes in his Washington Post (3/20, 4.28M) column that the crisis "has exposed the paradoxes in U.S. attitudes toward foreign policy. Congress has been unusually united in condemning the Russian leader's aggression and calling for his isolation," a Pew poll "found that by a margin of 56 percent to 29 percent, Americans said it was more important that the United States "not get too involved" in the Ukrainian situation than to 'take a firm stand against Russian actions.'" Dionne says the crisis gives Obama the opportunity to rebuild "a foreign policy consensus that has vanished."

Russian opposition politician Alexey Navalny, currently under house arrest, writes in a New York Times (3/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) op-ed that the West "could deliver a serious blow to the luxurious lifestyles enjoyed by the Kremlin's cronies who shuttle between Russia and the West. This means freezing the oligarchs' financial assets and seizing their property." He also says the West "must investigate ill-gotten gains from Russia within their jurisdictions."

ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES ONLINE CLIMATE CHANGE INFO SYSTEM. The Christian Science Monitor (3/20, Swan, 540K) reports that with Congress "shunning" legislation to fight global warming, President Obama launched The Climate Data Initiative, "a new online resource to help businesses, citizens, and communities plan for climate change." The program "aims to ease access to federal data on climate issues including rises in sea level, storm surges, extreme heat, and drought," with the idea the population will use it for better preparedness. However, the CSM says that the site "is a work in progress," and partially incomplete.

The Hill (3/20, Cama, 194K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that White House adviser John Podesta told reporters that the Administration is looking to "leverage open data resources and other data sets to make communities more resilient." The initial data set "maps expectations for changes in coastal flooding and sea levels in an attempt to help localities prepare, Podesta said."

The Washington Post (3/20, Eilperin, 4.28M) reports that the effort "includes making federal data more accessible through climate.data.gov and launching a design competition to demonstrate the extent to which Americans are vulnerable to coastal flooding." The Administration "is enlisting Google, Esri and other private firms to distribute and store data." Podesta said, "This begins to make clearer what the risks are of inaction."

President Seen Facing Catch-22 On Keystone. Bloomberg News (3/20, Goldman, 1.91M) reports that President Obama's "advisers are lining up against" Keystone XL, "top" Democratic donors oppose the pipeline, and the President himself "dismisses claims that it will create many jobs." However, there remains "one big obstacle to the president saying no to Keystone: election-year politics." Bloomberg says that if the President rejects the pipeline, "it might sink Democratic candidates in states with big energy industries, such as Louisiana and Alaska," which could cost his party control of the Senate. Charlie Cook, of the Cook Political Report, said that if the President "approves the pipeline, he alienates environmentalists and the left; if he rejects it, he really hurts a number of endangered Democratic senators. The path of least resistance would be to continue to punt the decision until after the midterm election."

FED STAYS COURSE ON TAPER, SUGGESTS EARLIER RISE TO INTEREST RATES. Following the conclusion of the two-day Fed Open Market Committee meeting on Wednesday, the central bank announced

that it would continue tapering its bond-buying, as expected. However, it also suggested that interest rates could begin to rise sooner than expected by many investors, riling the stock and bond markets.

NBC Nightly News (3/19, story 5, 0:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported that Yellen "hinted at a hike in the interest rates sooner than some had expected. The markets didn't exactly cheer that news. The Dow fell over 100 points. NASDAQ, S&P were down, as well."

The CBS Evening News (3/19, story 7, 2:00, Pelley, 5.58M) reported that Yellen "said that interest rates will remain near zero" and also "revealed that the fed won't rely so much on the unemployment rate when deciding when those rates should rise again." CBS (Andrews) reports that Yellen said that the Fed "will be to keep interest rates near zero at least into 2015, and if needed, even longer."

The New York Times (3/20, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) reports that the Fed "further curtailed its economic stimulus" as expected on Wednesday, announcing that it would drop its monthly bond purchases to $55 billion in April from $65 billion in March "because of the progress of the economic recovery." However, the Fed "emphasized" that it expected to continue "the suppression of short-term interest rates," announcing that they would remain at their current level "for a considerable time."

Reuters (3/20, Saphir, Hughes) reports that Fed Chairwoman Janet Yellen said that the central bank would likely wind-up its bond buying this fall, and could begin raising interest rates around six months.

Bloomberg News (3/20, Kearns, 1.91M) reports that Yellen, after her first time leading a Fed Open Market Committee meeting, said, "We know we're not close to full employment, not close to an employment level consistent with our mandate, and unless inflation were a significant concern, we wouldn't dream of raising the federal funds rate target."

The Washington Post (3/20, Mui, 4.28M) reports that Fed on Wednesday "began laying the groundwork" for the first rise in interest rates "since the Great Recession upended the economy." The Fed "said it will consider a broad swath of indicators to determine the moment of liftoff, including job market data, inflation expectations and financial developments." The statement "was a retreat from the blanket assurances that rates would remain untouched, which have dominated the Fed's message for the past five years."

The Washington Times (3/20, Hill, 417K) reports that the Fed "said in a statement that the U.S. economy grew more slowly this winter in part because of unusually cold and snowy weather in much of the country." However, the Fed "said the outlook for better growth and continuing job improvement was otherwise the same as it was late last year when the central bank first began paring back its stimulus."

The Wall Street Journal (3/20, Mcgrane, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that a 13-3 majority of Fed officials expects to be raising short-term interest rates in 2015. Of the dissenters, one expected interest rates to begin to rise this year, while two expected them to begin to rise in 2016.

McClatchy (3/20, Hall, Subscription Publication, 95K) reports that that in announcing the continued taper, Yellen said that there is "sufficient underlying strength to support ongoing improvement in the labor market." McClatchy says that the markets "watched Yellen's first news conference closely for signs of daylight between her policies and those of her predecessor, Ben Bernanke," but "didn't like what they heard, or thought they heard, on the timing of future Fed actions."

Politico (3/20, White, 73K) reports that Yellen will "probably avoid much partisan criticism from either side following a performance in which she expertly wrapped some fairly significant policy changes in the kind of soothingly gauzy language that is the hallmark of successful central bankers." Politico adds that there were concerns among some Republicans and "moderate" Democrats that Yellen "would err heavily on the side of bringing down the long-term jobless rate even if that meant risking higher inflation," but that is "not happening."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) expresses its pleasure that Yellen ditched the idea of forward guidance, which has issued definitive economic targets in the past. The Journal says that the Fed has now given itself the ability to do whatever they see fit for whatever reasons they want, which the paper says it has always done anyway, regardless of what kind of guidance it has given.

Stocks Fall On Fed Moves. The Wall Street Journal (3/20, Scaggs, Zeng, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) reports that stock and bond prices fell sharply on Wednesday after Yellen suggested that the Fed could begin raising interest rates earlier than expected. While the markets managed to recover some of their losses by the close of trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 114.02 points to 16,222.17, while the S&P 500 fell 11.48 points. The Nasdaq, meanwhile, fell 25.71 points to 4,307.60. The benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell 25/32 to a yield of 2.770%.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Russia And The Group Of 8."*** The New York Times (3/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) says in an editorial that "expelling Russia from the Group of 8...is the wrong way to punish" President Vladimir Putin for annexing Crimea. Within the group, "Putin comes face to face with the leaders of top democracies; expelled by them, he would retreat into his trademark claim that the West has always held Russia in disdain." The Times urges the seven nations that will meet next week to put forth "a unified front against Mr. Putin's arrogance and contempt for international law."

"Hurricane Sandy And New Jersey's Poor." An editorial in the New York Times (3/20, Subscription Publication, 9.61M) criticizes Gov. Chris Christie and his Administration, noting that "the recovery effort following Hurricane Sandy was mismanaged from the start and, worse, has consistently shortchanged poor and minority victims." The Times notes that HUD Secretary Donovan told Sen. Bob Menendez during a recent Senate hearing that "the Christie administration had assured him that it would adopt new procedures and take steps to reach families that may have been wrongly denied aid," and adds that Donovan "should take nothing for granted."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A New Russian Order."*** The Washington Post (3/20, 4.28M), which has repeatedly editorialized that President Obama's response to the Ukraine crisis has been weak and disconnected from reality, does so again this morning, writing that "Western officials seem to be betting" that Russian President Vladimir Putin "won't dare to extend his aggression beyond Crimea. But then, just last week they were saying they did not expect Moscow to move quickly on Crimean annexation." The US and Europe "have been too slow to grasp that Mr. Putin is bent on upending the post-Cold War order in Europe and reversing Russia's loss of dominion over Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia."

"Sense In Sentencing." In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/20, 4.28M) praises efforts by Attorney General Holder and the US Sentencing Commission to "reform how the federal government punishes drug offenders," but notes that Congress "is best situated to reform sentencing policy; the law must change before the commission can do much more, and there are limits to the discretion Mr. Holder can or should use as chief prosecutor."

"Readjusting The Balance Of Power." An editorial in the Washington Post (3/20, 4.28M) praises efforts by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley to reform Maryland's correctional system in the wake of the Baltimore County Detention Center scandal. In particular, the Post notes that the O'Malley Administration has offered a measure to "at least partially restore the management prerogatives" that the "correctional officers' bill of rights" (COBR) "unwisely ceded." The COBR, the Post argues, has "tipped the balance of power within the prison hierarchy too far in favor of officers and their union."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"A Gas Export Strategy."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says in an editorial that opponents of exporting US natural gas are now citing the Ukraine crisis in their favor, saying that it is too late to save Crimea, but the argument does not make economic sense. Increasing production of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for export will reduce European dependence on Russia for its energy needs, the Journal says, and cites JCS Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey's assertion before Congress last week that "we've got to pay more and particular attention to energy as an instrument of national power." The Journal says President Obama has been told this, but that he is too beholden to environmental interests to act.

"Non-Guidance Fed Guidance." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) expresses its pleasure that Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen ditched the idea of forward guidance, which it has issued definitive economic targets in the past. The Journal says that the Fed has now given itself the ability to do whatever they see fit for whatever reasons they want, which the paper says it has always done anyway,

regardless of what kind of guidance it has given.

"An Illinois Referendum." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.91M) says that Republican Bruce Rauner captured the GOP gubernatorial nomination in Illinois by vowing to reform the state's public pension system, take on organized labor – which has long had a stranglehold on the state's politics – and oppose tax hikes. The Journal adds that Rauner, as governor, would bring a fresh approach to tackling the state's fiscal woes, while Quinn, if reelected, would simply continue with the status quo.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Toyota Says It Deceived Consumers
The Resurrection Of A Stealthy Giant
Border Security Outlay A Boon To Business
West Aims To Turn Up Heat On Putin
Heart Of Madness

Wall Street Journal:
Yellen Debut Rattles Markets
Ukraine Abandons Its Military Bases in Crimea
Slumping Fertility Rates In Developing Countries Spark Labor Worries
US Alleges Inside Traders Used Spycraft

New York Times:
Two States Win Court Approval On Voter Rules
Paul, Warning About Spying, Faults Obama
Paying Price, 16 Years Later, For An Illegal Entry
Administration Plays To Young In Health Push
Tempered Cheers In Ukraine For Ex-Premier, Tied To Past
At Trial, Relative Recalls A Cave Meeting With Bin Laden On 9/11

Washington Post:
Yellen Sets The Stage For An Eventual Fed Rate Hike
Ukraine Pulls Back In Crimea
500 Pounds Of Pure Freakishness
Toyota Accepts Fine Of $1.2 Billion Over Accelerator Problem
Truth About Jet Elusive As Theories Converge, Diverge

Financial Times:
Yellen Rate-Rise Stumble Dampens Asian Markets
UK Urges End To Reliance On Russian Energy
Damning Report On Zuma Personal Spending
Starbucks Seeks $100bn Market Cap
Kerviel's €4.9bn Repayment Struck Down
Toyota To Pay $1.2bn Over Safety Issues
Brave Should Return To EM Government Bonds

Washington Times:
Goodbye, Russia; Hello Again, Cold War-Era Group Of Seven
Ruling Lets States Require Proof Of Citizenship
Feds Flying In Style
Fraudster Helped Craft Sweeping Air Quality Rule At EPA
Aura Of Chavez Stirs Discontent In Venezuela
Get Used To It: Economic Growth Is Stuck In Low Gear

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight-Families; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight-Analysis; DOJ-Toyota Settlement; Ukraine Conflict; Alzheimer's Disease-Women; Weather Forecast; Portugal-Missing UK Girl.
CBS: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight-Timeline; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight-Analysis; DOJ-Toyota Settlement; Abu Ghaith Trial; Ukraine Conflict; Yellen-Interest Rates; Health-Colon Cancer; South Africa-Oscar Pistorius Trial; President Obama-NCAA Tournament Bracket; Starbucks-Gift For Vets.
NBC: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight-Families; DOJ-Toyota Settlement; Ukraine Conflict; Yellen-Interest Rates; Alzheimer's Disease-Women; Weather Forecast; FAA-Boeing 787; West Coast-Tumble Weed Problem; President Obama-NCAA Tournament Bracket.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Obama-Ukraine Conflict; Ukraine Conflict-Crimea; Yellen-Interest Rates;
CBS: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Ukraine Conflict-Ukraine Military Troop Withdrawal; DOJ-Toyota Settlement; Yellen-Interest Rates; Politics-Robert Strauss Obit.
FOX: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight-FBI; Politics-Robert Strauss Obit; Voter ID Laws; Abu Ghaith Trial; Yellen-Interest Rates-Wall Street; DOJ-Toyota Settlement; Sony-3D Headset.
NPR: Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight; Ukraine Conflict-EU; Abu Ghaith Trial; Voter ID Laws; Delaware-Ban On Guns In Public Housing Case; DOJ-Toyota Settlement; Yellen-Interest Rates-Wall Street.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President will travel to Orlando, Florida for an event on the economy. Following this event, he will travel to Miami, Florida to attend DNC and DCCC events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – No public schedule.

MICHELLE OBAMA – The First Lady will travel to China.
US Senate: Not in session.
US House: CONCORD COALITION – FEDERAL BUDGET PROCESS – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The non-partisan Concord Coalition and Rep. Reid Ribble of Wisconsin, a member of the House Budget Committee, will host a panel discussion on the breakdown of the Federal budget process and offer possible solutions that could put the country on a more responsible fiscal path. Speakers: Jim Kessler, senior vice president for policy of Third Way; Ed Lorenzen, senior advisor for The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget; Robert L. Bixby, executive director of The Concord Coalition; Gordon Gray, director of fiscal policy at the American Action Forum; Steve Bell, senior director of economic policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center. Location: 210 Cannon. Contacts: Ben Ritz, Concord Coalition britz@concordcoalition.org ((831) 334-5673).

PELOSI WEEKLY BRIEFING – 9:45 a.m. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center, The Capitol.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE – FIELD HEARING – 9 a.m. Full Committee, "Reviving Our Economy: Supporting a 21st Century Workforce." Location: Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus, Student Union – Cooley Ballroom B, 7001 East Williams Field Road, Mesa, AZ.

HOMELAND SECURITY – FIELD HEARING – 9 a.m. Combating Human Trafficking in Our Major Cities. Witnesses: PANEL I: Brian M. Moskowitz, Houston Special Agent in Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, US Department of Homeland Security; Steve McCraw, Director, Texas Department of Public Safety; Sheriff Adrian Garcia, Sheriffs Office, Harris County, Texas; Ann Johnson, Attorney, Office of the District

Attorney, Harris County, Texas. PANEL II: Dr. Robert "Bob" Sanborn, President, Children At Risk; Reena Isaac, M.D., Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Childrens Hospital; Cheryl Briggs, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Mission at Serenity Ranch; Kathryn Griffin-Townsend, Founder, Weve Been There Done That. Location: Auditorium Room 116, Roderick R. Paige Education Bldg, College of Education, Texas Southern Univ Houston, TX 77004.

SMALL BUSINESS – FIELD HEARING – 10 a.m. Small Business Subcommittee on Health and Technology, "Expanding Broadband Access and Capabilities to Small Businesses in Rural New York." Witnesses: Mark Meyerhofer, Director, Government Relations of Northeast-Western New York, Time Warner, Lancaster, NY; Jill Canfield, Director, Legal & Industry and Assistant General Counsel, NTCA, The Rural Broadband Association, Arlington, VA; Robert Smith, General Manager, Frontier Communications, New York, Dansville, NY; Kendra Lamb, Owner, Lamb Farms Inc., Oakfield, NY – Testifying on behalf of the New York Farm Bureau. Location: Orleans County Legislature, 3 South Main Street, Albion, NY.
Other: OAS ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION – March 17 – 21. The Twenty-Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) of the Organization of American States (OAS) will take place. Location: Padilha Vidal Room, OAS General Secretariat Building, 1889 F Street, NW. Contacts: 202-370-5437.

COSN ANNUAL CONFERENCE – March 19 – 22. The CoSN 2014 Annual Conference is designed for education leaders to better understand their changing roles in creating the new face of learning. Location: Washington Hilton & Towers, 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW. Contacts: Jennifer Cummings jcummings@cosn.org (202-496-2131). Michael Kaplun michaelkaplun@cosn.org (202-496-2120)

INSA SECURITY POLICY REFORM 2014 – INSAs Security Policy Reform Council for Security Policy Reform 2014: Maintaining Momentum for Transformational Change at the SI Organization in Chantilly, VA. This unclassified, but sensitive Symposium will be off the record. Stephanie OSullivan, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence to Deliver Keynote Address. TOPICS: View from Capitol Hill: Legislative trends in the year ahead; Snowden, Alexis and Mannings Impact on Security Reform; Reviewing the issues and considerations associated with the Presidents 120 Day Review and related studies; Fixing the Disconnects: Private sector input on reciprocity and metrics; Leveraging Emerging Technologies in the Security Clearance Process: Government insight and perspective on technological enhancements for background investigations and eligibility determinations; Future Technologies and the Art of the Possible: Discussing the average day of an IC security officer in 2020. Highlights: 8:15 a.m. Stephanie OSullivan, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence. 9:45 a.m. Impact of Government Plans for Continuous Evaluation: John Fitzpatrick, Director, Information Security Oversight Office, NARA Alex Joel, Civil Liberties Protection Officer, Civil Liberties Privacy Office, ODNI; Stephen Lewis, Deputy Director of Security, Department of Defense; Brian Prioletti, Director, Special Security Division, National Counterintelligence Center (NCIX); Stan Sims, Director, Defense Security Service, DSS. 1 p.m. Perspectives from Agency Security Directors: Kemp Ensor, Director of Security, NSA; Mary Rose McCaffrey, Director of Security, CIA; Steve Norton, Director of Security, DIA; Brian Prioletti, Director, Special Security Division, NCIX. Location: The SI Organization, 15050 Conference Center Dr., Chantilly, VA. Contacts: Toya Forman tforman@insaonline.org.

CFA – CONSUMER ASSEMBLY – March 20 – 21. The consumer Federation of America holds their annual Consumer Assembly conference. Media may register (complimentary) by contacting Peter Kitchen at peter@jagillis.com. Highlights: 9:15 a.m. Pew Research, Scott Keeters Latest Research on Consumer Priorities of Americans. 10:00 a.m. Alan Rosenblatt, Turner Strategies – How Social Media Can Empower Consumers. 11:00 a.m. Deceptive and Unconscionable Auto Sales Practices Should Consumer Data Brokers be Regulated? Pitfalls and Success of Government Databases with Consumer Incident Information. 12:30 p.m. Norm Ornstein, American Enterprise Institute and Author of Its Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism 2:00 p.m. How Prepaid Cards Can be Made Even More Consumer Friendly Mandatory Arbitration and Other Seller Restrictions on Consumer Remedies The Role of Government in Ensuring the Safety of New Technologies and Products. 3:30 p.m. How Improved Efficiency Can Reduce Consumer Energy Use and Costs. 8:45 a.m. Representative Chris Van Hollen – Congressional Priorities. Location: Embassy Suites Convention Center, Washington, D.C. 900 10th St. NW. Contacts: Anna Marie Lowery alowery@consumerfed.org) (202-939-1005)

GLOBAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONGRESS – March 20 – 21. Conference on "Ever Changing International Anti-

Corruption & Anti-Bribery Landscape." This event is sponsored by Momentum is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. Highlights: 10:45 a.m. Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Mythili Raman will deliver the keynote address. NOTE: All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a drivers license) as well as valid media credentials. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Sarah Horner by calling 202-296-0891 or via email at sarah.horner@kimptonhotels.com. Location: Hotel Monaco, 700 F St., N.W.

GW – CYBERSECURITY – 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. "Cybersecurity – The Much Admired Problem." Featured Speaker: Leonard M. Napolitano, Jr., Director, Computer Sciences and Information Systems, Sandia National Laboratories with Frank J. Cilluffo, Director, Homeland Security Policy Institute, Director, Cybersecurity Initiative, George Washintgton University. Location: City View Room, 7th Floor, The George Washington University, 1957 E Street NW.

CSIS – STATE OF THE EU – OBAMA'S TRIP – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Discussion on President Obama's upcoming trip to Europe as well as US and European perspectives on the future of the EU. Speakers: Roger Cohen Columnist, New York Times; Dr. Josef Joffe, Publisher/Editor, Die Zeit; Gideon Rachman, Chief Foreign Affairs Columnist, Financial Times. Moderator: Heather A. Conley Director and Senior Fellow, CSIS Europe Program. Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION – 9:30 a.m. 2014: A Critical Year for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Speakers: John F. Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Moderator: Shuja Nawaz, Director, South Asia Center, Atlantic Council. Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor.

EXXON VALDEZ 25TH ANNIVERSARY – 9:30 a.m. Oil spill, climate and offshore drilling experts will discuss the lingering impacts of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Speakers: Gene Karpinski, president, League of Conservation Voters; Dune Lankard, board president and founder, Eyak Preservation Council, Cordova resident; Rick Steiner, professor, international oil spill expert, leader in Exxon Valdez oil spill response and restoration, Anchorage; Cindy Shogan, executive director, Alaska Wilderness League; Athan Manuel, director, Sierra Club Lands Protection campaign. Location: National Press Club, Zenger Room, 529 14th Street, NW. Contacts: Virginia Cramer Sierra Club (804-225-9113 x 102)

NOAA – SPRING OUTLOOK, FLOOD RISK – 11 a.m. NOAA will host its annual Spring Outlook media teleconference to discuss the spring flood potential across the country, and deliver the temperature, precipitation and drought outlooks for April through June. Speakers: Jon Gottschalck, acting chief, Operational Prediction Branch, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center; Robert Hartman, acting director, NOAA's Office of Hydrologic Development. Additional experts available during Q&A: Deke Arndt, chief, Climate Monitoring Branch, NOAA's National Climatic Data Center; Brad Rippey, meteorologist, US Department of Agriculture. The outlook will also coincide with NOAA's National Flood Safety Awareness Week, March 16-22. DIAL IN: For reporters only. To obtain the call-in number and passcode, contact Maureen O'Leary, maureen.oleary@noaa.gov, 301-427-9000.

CONTRACEPTION COVERAGE PRESS CALL – 12 p.m. Representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, and NARAL Pro-Choice America will host a press conference call to discuss the upcoming cases to be heard at the US Supreme Court on March 25 brought by corporations challenging the Affordable Care Act's requirement that employers provide coverage for contraception as part of an employee's health plan. Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Action Fund; Marcia Greenberger, Co-President of the National Women's Law Center; Louise Melling, Deputy Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union; Ilyse Hogue, President of NARAL Pro-Choice America. Contacts: Robyn Shepherd, media@aclu.org, 212-519-7829. Planned Parenthood Action Fund, 212-261-4433 .Rachel Perrone (National Women's Law Center), 202-525-6262. Samantha Gordon, sgordon@prochoiceamerica.org, 202-973-3032. Notes: Members of the media who wish to join this call should RSVP for dial-in information.

HERITAGE – WISCONSIN – LT. GOV. KLEEFISCH – 12 p.m. Advancing Sound Policy Reforms: Wisconsins Success Story. Location: Lehrman Auditorium, 214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Contacts: (202) 546-4400.

NRDC – CARBON POLLUTION – 12 p.m. The Natural Resources Defense Council releases analysis which says

far more carbon pollution can be eliminated than originally projected under the "innovative approach" for Federal action outlined in December 2012 by NRDC. With Peter Lehner, executive director, Natural Resources Defense Council; Dan Lashof, director, Climate and Clean Air program, Natural Resources Defense Council; Richard Caperton, director, National Policy and Partnerships, Opower (Arlington, VA); Rob Gramlich, senior vice president, Public Policy, American Wind Energy Association; Dallas Burtraw, Darius Gaskins senior fellow, Resources for the Future. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Ailis Wolf, aawolf@hastingsgroup.com, 703-276-3256. Jake Thompson, jthompson@nrdc.org, 202-289-2387

WILSON CENTER – STATE OF THE FUTURE REPORT – 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Report Release: 2013 – 2014 State of the Future. Jerome Glenn, CEO, The Millennium Project, Dennis Bushnell, Chief Scientist, NASA Langley Research Center, and Paul Werbos, Program Director, National Science Foundation, will explore global strategic prospects and strategies drawn from the 2013-14 State of the Future report and the online Global Futures Intelligence System. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 5th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

USDA – HEALTHIER MEALS – 2 p.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will host a national media call to discuss progress being made in the implementation of healthier meal standards for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program made possible by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The Secretary will be joined by Jessica Donze Black, Director of the Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project – a collaboration of The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Contacts: USDA Communications, 202-720-4623. Notes: Audio Bridge Number: 800-369-1187. PASSCODE: Pew (Given Verbally). Trouble number – 202-720-8560. Callers will be joined to the conference in listen-only mode. To join the Q&A portion of the meeting, press (star)1 on your touch-tone phone.

AU – NATO – SHEA – 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. The American University hosts a discussion on "What Does the United States Still Need to Do in Europe" with Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges of NATO. RSVP to J. Paul Johnson, American University Communications at 202-885-5943 or via email at jjohnson@american.edu. Location: American University School of International Service, Abramson Family Founders Room (Intersection of New Mexico and Nebraska Aves., NW).

INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE – HAITI – 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Conversation with the head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), Ambassador Sandra Honore. Location: 1211 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 510. Contacts: 202-822-9002.

GW – BRAZIL-US RELATIONS – VIEIRA – 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. GW's Elliott School of International Affairs presents Brazil's Global Moment: Brazil-US Relations with Mauro Vieira, Ambassador of Brazil to the United States. Media should RSVP to Angela Olson at olsona@gwu.edu. Location: Elliott School of International Affairs, Harry Harding Auditorium, Room 213, 1957 E Street NW.

CIVIL LIBERTIES – US BORDERS – 6:30 p.m. Panel to Examine 'Civil Liberties Dead Zone' at US Borders. Speakers: Moderator Marc Rotenberg, executive director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center; Frank Smyth, senior adviser for journalist security at the Committee to Protect Journalists; Neema Guliani, legislative counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union; Steven Bradbury, partner, Dechert LLP, and former head of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, 2005-2009. Location: National Press Club, 5First Amendment Lounge, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Rachel Oswald rachelm.oswald@gmail.com. Notes: This is a ticketed event.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "As is now the tradition, President Obama revealed his [NCAA Basketball Tournament] picks today. He has Florida, Arizona, Louisville and Michigan State in the final four, with Michigan State beating Louisville to win it. But I would take his picks with a grain of salt. He also picked Louie Anderson to win 'Splash.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Here's what everyone is talking about. Of course, it's the standoff in Ukraine. It seems like it just

keeps getting worse, and now listen to this. There's a new poll that shows that Vladimir Putin's approval rating has actually gone up 10 percent since he's sent troops into Crimea. When he heard that, Obama just shrugged and sent troops to invade Canada. And he's like, 'I mean it worked for Putin.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "It seems everybody is weighing in on the whole situation out there. In fact, Senator John McCain has released a list of 11 steps he thinks the White House should take to punish Russia. Of course, usually when McCain takes 11 steps, he just uses a stair lift."

Jimmy Fallon: "March Madness starts tomorrow. Obama is predicting that Michigan State will beat Louisville to win the national championship and, going by Obama's past predictions, I want to congratulate Louisville on their big win."

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, let's look at the rest of Obama's bracket. He picked Florida, Arizona, Michigan State and Louisville to make the Final Four. Just out of curiosity, can we see Joe Biden's? He picked the Knicks, Lakers, Globetrotters, whatever team Air Bud is playing for."

Jimmy Fallon: "It's been a brutal winter here, a lot of crazy weather. Some say it's because of climate change. I guess that's why the White House just unveiled a new interactive website to warn the public about the dangers of global warming. When they heard that website was designed by the White House, the polar bear said, 'Well you had a good run. What are you going to do?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Lawmakers here in New York are considering a plan to bring slot machines to LaGuardia. Of course, there's always the other way to gamble at LaGuardia – checking a bag."

Seth Meyers: "Well, President Obama released his March Madness bracket this morning, picking Michigan State to win the tournament. In response, Vladimir Putin started moving his troops into Gonzaga."

Seth Meyers: "In congressional news, Texas Representative Louie Gohmert used his time on the floor of Congress to defend Sarah Palin's 2008 quote about seeing Russia from Alaska. Oh, Louie, she's not going to go out with you, man. You have got to move on. She's got a first dude."

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Opening Remarks and Formal Testimony

Haze, Pam <pam_haze@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Mar 20, 2014 at 12:36 PM
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Here is the pared back opening remarks and the formal, written testimony with OMB edits and our acceptance of the OMB edits.

2 attachments

Opening remarks House condensed.docx
27K

HIERA Secretary Written Testimony for March 25 OMB comments.doc
118K

STATEMENT OF SALLY JEWELL, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENTAND RELATED AGENCIES,
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
ON THE 2015 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST

March 25, 2014

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am pleased to present the 2015 President's Budget for the Department of the Interior.

One of the first things I did on becoming Interior Secretary was to meet with this subcommittee on the 2014 budget. This subcommittee remains an important partner in the accomplishment of Interior's mission and I appreciate our excellent working relationship, which allows us to resolve challenges and take advantage of opportunities. I appreciate the efforts of the Subcommittee in the development of 2014 appropriations that alleviated the need for indiscriminate sequester of discretionary funds and minimized legislative riders.

Today, I have the privilege of appearing before you, Chairman Calvert, at one of your first hearings as Chair of this Subcommittee and to extend my congratulations on the record. I am pleased this year the budget has resumed a more "normal business" process and we can discuss 2015 in the context of an enacted 2014 Appropriation.

This budget is balanced and responsible and supports Interior's pivotal role as a driver of jobs and economic activity in communities across the country. It enables us to carry out core mission responsibilities and commitments. This budget allows Interior to uphold trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives, provides a new approach for responsibly budgeting for wildland fire suppression needs, invests in climate resilience, continues smart and balanced all-of-the-above energy development on and offshore, and bolsters our national parks and public lands in advance of the National Park Service's 100th anniversary in 2016.

Interior's programs and activities serve as economic engines in communities across the Nation, contributing an estimated $371 billion to the economy in 2012 and supporting an estimated 2.3 million American jobs. Of this total, energy and mineral development on Interior-managed lands and offshore areas generated more than $255 billion of this economic activity and supported 1.3 million jobs. Recreation and tourism on Interior lands contributed $45 billion to the economies of local communities and supported nearly 372,000 jobs. Water supply, forage and timber activities, primarily on public lands in the West, contributed more than $50 billion and supported 365,000 jobs.

The President's 2015 budget for the Department of the Interior totals $11.9 billion, an increase of 2.4 percent from 2014, which includes a cap exemption for fire emergencies. Without this exemption, Interior's budget totals $11.7 billion, a 0.3 percent increase, or nearly level with last year's funding.

This budget features three key legislative proposals: a new framework to fund wildland fire suppression requirements; additional investment in the infrastructure and visitor experience at our National Parks and public lands; and full and permanent funding for the Land and Wildlife Conservation Fund. Each of these proposals will significantly enhance our ability to conserve and manage the Nation's public lands.

The budget proposes to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to provide stable funding for fire suppression, while minimizing the adverse impacts of fire transfers on other Interior programs, and allowing Interior to reduce fire risk, manage landscapes more comprehensively, and increase the resiliency of public lands and the communities that border them. In this proposed new framework, $268.6 million, or 70 percent of the 10-year average for suppression response is funded within the discretionary spending limits and $240.4 million is available as an adjustment to those limits. In addition, it does not increase overall discretionary spending, as it would reduce the ceiling for the existing disaster relief cap adjustment by an equivalent amount as is provided for wildfire suppression operations.

In advance of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, the 2015 budget proposes a comprehensive Centennial Initiative investment in the parks and public lands. The funding would provide targeted increases for a multi-year effort to recommit to the preservation of these special places, to invest wisely in the park system's most important assets, to use parks to enhance informal learning, engage volunteers, provide training opportunities to youth, and enhance the National Park Service's ability to leverage partnerships to accomplish its mission.

Finally, the President's budget continues to support full, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of the Nation's most effective tools for expanding access for hunting and fishing, creating ballfields and other places for children to play and learn, protecting historic uses, and protecting Civil War battlefields. The 2015 budget proposes total funding of $900.0 million for LWCF in Interior and the U.S. Forest Service. Within this total, $350.0 million is requested as current funding and $550.0 million as part of a permanent funding proposal. Starting in 2016, the proposal would provide $900.0 million annually in permanent funding.

Complementing the 2015 budget request is $346.0 million identified for Interior programs as part of the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative to spur economic progress and promote opportunity. If approved, these investments will enable significant progress to address long-term needs in the areas of national parks and other public lands, research and development, infrastructure and permitting support, climate resiliency, and education and economic development in Indian Country.

The drought in California and other Western States underscores the importance of improving the resilience of communities to the effects of climate change. The President s Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative includes a $1 billion government-wide Climate Resilience Fund to invest in developing more resilient communities, and finding solutions to climate challenges through technology development and applied research. This Fund includes about $240 million for Interior programs that invest in research and development, assist Tribes and local communities in planning and preparing for extreme weather conditions and events, and support public land managers in landscape and watershed planning to increase resiliency and reduce risks.

2015 Budget

The 2014 budget request includes $10.6 billion in current funding for programs under the jurisdiction of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee. This is a $104.9 million, or a one percent increase, compared to 2014. Total funding for the Department includes $1.0 billion requested for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Central Utah Completion Act, which are under the jurisdiction of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

In addition to the proposals already discussed, the 2015 request sustains support for essential requirements and allows for targeted increases above the 2014 enacted level. Within the overall increase for 2015, $54.4 million covers fixed cost increases for such things as Federal pay and rent. Reflecting the need to prioritize budget resources, this request includes $413.3 million in proposed program reductions to offset other programmatic requirements.

Interior programs continue to generate more revenue for the American people than the Department's annual current appropriation. In 2015, Interior will generate estimated receipts of nearly $14.9 billion, a portion of which is shared with State and local governments to meet a variety of needs, including school funding, infrastructure improvements, and water-conservation projects. Also included with this request are revenue and savings legislative proposals estimated to generate more than $2.6 billion over the next decade.

Putting this budget in context, Interior's complex mission affects the lives of all Americans. Nearly every American lives within an hour's drive of lands or waters managed by the Interior Department. In 2012, there were 417 million visits to Interior-managed lands. The Department oversees the responsible development of over 20 percent of U.S. energy supplies, is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western States, maintains relationships with 566 federally recognized Tribes, and provides services to more than 2 million American Indian and Alaska Native peoples.

Celebrating and Enhancing America's Great Outdoors

Throughout American history, the great outdoors have shaped the Nation's character and strengthened its economy. The 2015 budget requests the resources and authorities to care for our public lands and prepare for the future. The budget invests in efforts to upgrade and restore national parks and other public-lands areas, while engaging thousands of Americans, including youth, and veterans. The budget strengthens the President's commitment to the America's Great Outdoors initiative with a request of $5.1 billion in current funding for programs, including the operation of public land management units in BLM, NPS and FWS; the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and grants and technical assistance to States and others. This is an increase of $127.1 million compared to the 2014 enacted level.

Coupled with these efforts is a historic commitment to America's natural and cultural heritage through Land and Water Conservation Fund programs. The budget includes a 2015 combined request of $672.3 million ($246.0 million discretionary and $426.3 million mandatory) for Interior's LWCF programs that conserve lands and support outdoor recreation. In current funding,

the request for land acquisition is $147.9 million, with $39.5 million identified for Collaborative Landscape Planning projects. A total of $98.1 million is requested in current funding for LWCF conservation grants, including $48.1 million for LWCF Stateside grants.

I could not highlight our stewardship efforts without discussing the upcoming centennial of the National Park Service.
Overall, the Centennial Initiative—including mandatory, discretionary, and Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative resources— will allow NPS to ensure that 1,700 (or 20 percent) of the highest priority park assets are restored to good condition. The effort creates thousands of jobs over three years, provides over 10,000 work and training opportunities to young people, and engages more than 265,000 volunteers in support of public lands.

The request for the Centennial Initiative proposes a $40 million increase in current appropriations in 2015, plus an additional $400 million in permanent funding each year for three years. That funding includes $100 million for a Centennial Challenge to match private philanthropy, $200 million for National Park Service facilities improvements, and $100 million for a Centennial Land Management Investment Fund to competitively allocate funds to meet land conservation and deferred maintenance needs among Interior's land-management agencies and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service. The President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative identifies investments of $100 million for National Park Service deferred maintenance and an additional $100 million for the Centennial Land Management Investment Fund.

Strengthening Tribal Nations

Sustaining the President's commitment to tribal sovereignty and self-determination and honoring Interior's trust responsibilities to the 566 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and more than 2 million people served by these programs, the 2015 budget for Indian Affairs is $2.6 billion, an increase of $33.6 million above the 2014 enacted level. The budget invests in: advancing nation-to-nation relationships and tribal self-determination, supporting and protecting Indian families and communities, sustainable stewardship of energy and natural resources, and improving education in Indian Country.

Recognizing this commitment to tribal self-governance and self-determination, the budget fully funds contract support costs Tribes incur as managers of the programs serving Native Americans. The budget requests $251 million, a $4.0 million increase over the 2014 enacted level, to fully fund estimated contract support needs in 2015.

Supporting families and communities, the 2015 budget launches the Tiwahe Initiative, with an increase of $11.6 million in social services and job training programs to address the interrelated problems of child and family welfare, poverty, violence and substance abuse in tribal communities. Tiwahe is the Lakota word for "family." Through this initiative, social services and job training programs will be integrated and expanded to provide culturally appropriate programs to assist and empower families and individuals through economic opportunity, health promotion, family stability, and strengthened communities.

Promoting public safety and tribal community resilience, the 2015 budget request includes re-

sources to build on BIA Law Enforcement's recent successes in reducing violent crime. A pilot program will be implemented to lower repeat incarceration rates in tribally operated jails on three reservations – Red Lake in Minnesota, Ute Mountain in Colorado, and Duck Valley in Nevada – with a new Priority Goal to lower repeat incarcerations by a total of 3 percent by September 30, 2015. Through an Alternatives to Incarceration Strategy, this pilot will seek to address underlying causes of repeat offenses, such as substance abuse and lack of adequate access to social service support, through intergovernmental and interagency partnerships.

The 2015 budget request is complemented by a proposal in the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative to further invest in economic development and education to promote strong, resilient tribal economies and improve educational opportunities in Indian Country.

Powering Our Future

As part of the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy to expand safe and responsible domestic energy production, the 2015 budget provides $753.2 million for conventional and renewable energy programs, an increase of $40.7 million above the 2014 enacted level. The budget includes measures to encourage responsible, diligent development and a fair return for American taxpayers.

Funding for conventional energy and compliance activities totals $658.4 million, an increase of $37.5 million over the 2014 level. Spending from fees and permanent funding related to onshore oil and gas activities increase $49.1 million from the 2014 level, primarily reflecting a proposal to expand onshore oil and gas inspection activities and to offset the Bureau of Land Management's inspection program costs to the taxpayer with fees from industry, similar to what the offshore industry now pays.

The budget includes $169.8 million for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and $204.6 million for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to support domestic energy production, including new leasing, strong safety oversight of offshore operations, enhanced environmental enforcement functions, and expanded training and electronic inspection capabilities.

The 2015 budget includes $94.8 million for renewable energy activities, a $3.2 million increase over the 2014 level. This funding maintains the Department's emphasis on strategic investments to advance clean energy and meet the President's goal to approve 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy on public lands by 2020 (relative to 2009 levels).

Engaging the Next Generation

The 2015 budget supports a vision to inspire millions of young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors by expanding volunteer and work opportunities for youth and veterans. The budget proposes $50.6 million for Interior youth programs, a $13.6 million or 37 percent increase from 2014.

A key component of the Department's efforts will be partnering with youth organizations through the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps. The proposed funding includes an in-

crease of $8.0 million to expand opportunities for youth education and employment across the National Park Service; an additional $2.5 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service's Urban Wildlife Refuges Partnership; and a total of $4.2 million in Indian Affairs for youth programs including $2.5 million to engage youth in natural sciences. Support for the National Park Service Centennial will create thousands of jobs, and engage more than 10,000 youth in service and training opportunities and more than 265,000 volunteers.

Ensuring Healthy Watersheds and Sustainable, Secure Water Supplies

The 2015 budget addresses the Nation's water challenges through investments in water conservation, sustainability, and infrastructure critical to the arid Western United States and its fragile ecosystems.

The budget includes $66.5 million for WaterSMART programs in Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey, nearly a 17 percent increase from 2014, to assist communities in stretching water supplies and improving water management. In addition to $1 billion requested for the Bureau of Reclamation within the jurisdiction of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, the budget also requests $210.4 million for the U.S. Geological Survey's water programs to provide scientific monitoring, research, and tools to support water management across the Nation. This funding supports the Department's goal to increase by 840,000 acre-feet, the available water supply for agricultural, municipal, industrial, and environmental uses in the Western United States through water-conservation programs by the end of 2015.

Interior extends this commitment to Indian Country, honoring Indian water settlements with investments totaling $171.9 million in Reclamation and Indian Affairs, for technical and legal support for water settlements. This includes $147.6 million for implementation of authorized settlements to bring reliable and potable water to Indian communities, more than a 9 percent increase from 2014. Among the investments is $81 million for the ongoing Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, which, when completed, will have the capacity to deliver clean running water to a potential future population of approximately 250,000 people.

Building a Landscape Level Understanding of Our Resources

The 2015 budget fosters the sustainable stewardship of the Nation's lands and resources on a landscape level. Funding includes increases for scientific monitoring, research and tools to advance our understanding and ability to manage natural resources more effectively, while balancing important conservation goals and development objectives. Reflecting the President's ongoing commitment to scientific discovery and innovation to support decision making for critical societal needs and a robust economy, the budget proposes $888.7 million for research and development activities across the Department, an increase of $60.4 million over 2014. This funding will increase understanding of natural resources and the factors impacting water availability, ecosystem and species resiliency, sustainable energy and mineral development, climate resilience, and natural hazard mitigation, among others.

Complementing this budget request are two components of the President's Opportunity, Growth,

and Security Initiative: an investment of $140 million for Interior research and development as part of a government-wide effort to jumpstart growth spurred by scientific discovery; and investments to address climate resilience to better prepare communities and infrastructure, and enable them to build greater resilience in the face of a changing climate.

In ecosystems across the Nation, Interior will continue to work with local communities to leverage its efforts to improve resiliency and achieve improved environmental and economic outcomes.

Major Changes in the 2015 Request

Bureau of Land Management – The 2015 request is $1.1 billion, a decrease of $5.6 million from the 2014 enacted level. The 2015 request assumes the use of $54.5 million in proposed offsetting fees, which when included provides an effective increase of $48.9 million above 2014. The 2015 request includes $954.1 million for the Management of Lands and Resources account, and $25.0 million in current appropriations for Land Acquisition, including $2.0 million to improve access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreation. The budget proposes $104.0 million for Oregon and California Grant Lands, which includes a $4.2 million decrease in Western Oregon Resource Management Planning, reflecting expected completion of six revised plans in June 2015.

To advance America's Great Outdoors, the request includes $3.5 million in program increases for recreation, cultural resources, and the National Landscape Conservation System to address the needs of recently designated units, implement travel management plans, improve visitor services, and address a backlog in cultural resources inventory and stabilization needs. The budget request also includes $4.8 million for Youth programs, an increase of $1.3 million from 2014, to put more young Americans to work protecting and restoring public lands and cultural and historical treasures.

The BLM continues to support the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy on the public lands including an initiative to encourage smart renewable energy development. The 2015 budget includes $29.2 million, essentially level with 2014, for renewable energy to continue to aggressively support wind, solar, and geothermal energy development on BLM lands. Complementing this is a $5.0 million increase in the Cadastral, Lands and Realty Management program for identification and designation of energy corridors in low conflict areas to site high voltage transmission lines, substations, and related infrastructure in an environmentally sensitive manner.

The 2015 request for Oil and Gas Management, including both direct and fee-funded appropriations, totals $133.7 million, an increase of $20.3 million in available program funding from 2014. In 2015, the budget proposes to shift the cost of oil and gas inspection and enforcement activity from current appropriations to inspection fees charged to industry. The proposed inspection fees will generate and estimated $48.0 million, providing for a $10.0 million increase in BLM's inspection and enforcement capability and allowing for a net reduction of $38.0 million in requested BLM appropriations. The request for Oil and Gas programs includes increases of $5.2 million for ongoing rulemaking efforts and to strengthen operations at BLM units and $4.6 million for oversight and permitting to better keep pace with industry demand and fully implement leasing reforms.

In 2015, BLM will release six rapid eco-regional assessments, in addition to four planned for 2014. The BLM will conduct training on the use of the data from these assessments and will work with a number of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to begin development of regional conservation strategies. The budget includes an increase of $5.0 million for Resource Management Planning to implement BLM's enterprise geographic information system and address high priority planning. The 2015 budget maintains a $15.0 million increase to implement sage grouse conservation and restoration measures to help prevent the future listing of the species for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Other program increases include $2.8 million in the Wild Horse and Burro program to implement recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences regarding population control; and $2.8 million in Abandoned Mine Lands to implement remediation plan efforts at Red Devil Mine in Alaska. The request includes $19.0 million for the Alaska Conveyance program. Although a decrease of $3.1 million from 2014, this funding coupled with efficiencies from an improved cadastral method, plots a course to complete all surveys and land transfers in ten years.

A proposed grazing administration fee will enhance BLM's capacity for processing grazing permits. A fee of $1.00 per animal unit month, estimated to provide $6.5 million in 2015, is proposed on a pilot basis. This additional revenue more than offsets a decrease of $4.8 million in appropriated funds in Rangeland Management, equating to a $1.7 million program increase to help address the grazing permit backlog.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management – The 2015 operating request is $169.8 million, including $72.4 million in current appropriations and $97.3 million in offsetting collections. This is a net increase of $3.4 million in current appropriations above the 2014 enacted level.

The 2015 budget maintains a strong offshore renewable energy program at essentially the 2014 level of $23.1 million for the total program. In 2013, BOEM held the first competitive Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) renewable energy lease sales, issued five other non-competitive commercial offshore wind energy leases, and approved the construction and operations plan for the Cape Wind project offshore Massachusetts.

Offshore conventional energy programs also remain essentially level with 2014, with a total of $49.6 million in 2015. In 2013, BOEM held three sales generating over $1.4 billion in high bids, and three additional lease sales are scheduled during calendar year 2014. The request of $65.7 million for Environmental Programs includes an increase of $2.5 million for work on a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the next Five-Year Program (2017-2022) for oil and gas leasing on the OCS.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement – The 2015 budget request is $204.6 million, including $81.0 million in current appropriations and $123.6 million in offsetting collections, an increase of $2.0 million from 2014. The request for offsetting collections continues to assume $65.0 million from offshore oil and gas inspection fees. The 2015 request allows BSEE to continue to strengthen regulatory and oversight capability on the OCS and maintain capacity in regulatory, safety management, structural and technical support, and oil spill response preven-

tion.

The budget includes $189.7 million for Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement, an increase of $2.4 million in current appropriations. The request includes a program increase of $0.9 million to evaluate and test new technologies and update regulations to reflect improved safety and oversight protocols. Funding for Oil Spill Research is maintained at the 2014 level of $14.9 million.

Office of Surface Mining – The 2015 budget request for the Office of Surface Mining is $144.8 million, a decrease of $5.3 million from the 2014 enacted level. This includes a decrease of $13.4 million in grants to States and Tribes to encourage these regulatory programs to recover a larger portion of their costs from fees charged to the coal industry, and an increase of $4.0 million to provide additional technical support to State and tribal regulatory programs. The budget also includes an increase of $1.9 million for applied science to advance reclamation technologies. This request proposes $116.1 million for Regulation and Technology funding, $28.7 million for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund activities, and an additional $1.9 million in offsetting collections from recovered costs for services.

U. S. Geological Survey – The USGS budget request is $1.1 billion, $41.3 million above the 2014 enacted level. The President's budget reflects the Administration's commitment to investing in research and development to support sound decision making and sustainable stewardship of natural resources. This includes science, monitoring, and assessment activities critical to understanding and managing the ecological, mineral, energy, and water resources which underlie the prosperity and well-being of the Nation. The budget includes increases for priorities in ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, invasive species, environmental health, and earth observations. Funding provides increased support to enhance sustainable energy development, address water resource challenges, increase landscape level understanding of the Nation's natural resources, and the Scientists for Tomorrow youth initiative.

To support sustainable management of water resources, the USGS budget includes increases totaling $6.4 million for WaterSMART programs. This includes increases for State water information grants, regional water availability models, and the integration and dissemination of data through online science platforms. The budget includes increases of $2.4 million to support implementation of the National Groundwater Monitoring Network and $1.2 million for the National Streamflow Information Program for streamgages to strengthen the Federal backbone at high priority sites sensitive to drought, flooding, and potential climate change effects.

To better understand and adapt to the potential impacts of a changing climate, the USGS budget invests in research, monitoring, and tools to support resilient decision making. The National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center and DOI Climate Science Centers are funded at $35.3 million, an increase of $11.6 million from 2014. This includes an increase of $3.0 million for grants focused on applied science and information needed by resource managers for decision making at regional levels. An increase of $2.3 million will enhance the leveraging of these investments with other Federal climate science activities and make the scientific information and products developed through these programs available to the public in a centralized, web-accessed format. Program increases of $2.5 million will support applied science and capacity-building for

tribal climate adaptation needs in the CSC regions, and $3.0 million will support additional research in drought impacts and adaptive management.

The USGS Budget invests in providing critical data and tools to promote understanding and managing resources on a landscape-scale. Program increases in the National Geospatial Program include $5.0 million for the 3-Dimensional Elevation Program to collect Lidar data to enhance science and emergency response activities, resource and vulnerability assessments, ecosystem based management, and tools to inform policy and management. An increase of $1.9 million is requested for modernization of The National Map, which provides critical data about the Earth, its complex processes, and natural resources. The 2015 budget includes a $2.0 million increase for the Big Earth Data initiative to improve access to and use of data from satellite, airborne, terrestrial, and ocean-based Earth observing systems. These investments will provide benefits in natural resource management and hazard mitigation, by improving access to critical information.

To support the sustainable development of energy resources, the USGS budget includes $40.7 million for conventional and renewable energy programs, $8.1 million above the 2014 enacted level. A program increase of $1.3 million will be used to study geothermal resources and build on ongoing work on wind energy impacts. The request includes $18.6 million, $8.3 million over 2014, to support research and development to better understand potential impacts of energy development involving hydraulic fracturing. Conducted through an interagency collaboration with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency, this work addresses issues such as water quality and quantity, ecosystem, community, and human health impacts, and induced seismicity. Funding for other conventional energy programs, including oil, gas, and coal assessments, totals $15.6 million.

Supporting the sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems, the 2015 budget includes $162.0 million for Ecosystems science activities, $9.2 million above the 2014 enacted level. Program increases include $2.0 million for research on new methods to eradicate, control, and manage Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi River Basin and prevent entry into the Great Lakes. Increases of $2.5 million are provided for ecosystem restoration work in the Chesapeake Bay, California Bay-Delta, Columbia River, Everglades, and Puget Sound. Another $2.0 million will support the science and integration of ecosystems services frameworks into decision making and efforts to assess and sustain the Nation's environmental capital. Program increases totaling $1.8 million will address native pollinators, brown treesnakes, and new and emerging invasive species of national concern.

Supporting understanding, preparedness, and mitigation of the impacts of natural hazards, the budget provides $128.3 million for Natural Hazards activities, which is essentially level with 2014. This activity provides scientific information and tools to reduce potential fatalities, injuries, and economic loss from volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides, among others. The 2015 budget includes an increase of $700,000 in Earthquake Hazards for induced seismicity studies related to hydraulic fracturing.

Fish and Wildlife Service – The 2015 Fish and Wildlife Service budget includes $1.5 billion in current appropriations, an increase of $48.8 million above the 2014 level. This includes America's Great Outdoors related increases of $71.7 million in the Resource Management account.

Within this increase is $2.5 million to establish an Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership program. This effort will encourage city dwellers to enjoy the outdoors by creating stepping stones of engagement to connect them to the outdoors on refuges and partner lands, through experiences which build on one another.

Funding for FWS grant programs, with the exception of State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, remain level with 2014. In 2015, funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants totals $50 million. The request also includes $55.0 million for Land Acquisition and $15.7 million for Construction. In addition to direct appropriations, an estimated $1.3 billion will be available under permanent appropriations, most of which will be provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation.

The budget proposes $16.7 million, an increase of $2.5 million, for activities associated with energy development. Of this increase, $1.4 million supports scientific research into the impacts of energy transmission and development infrastructure on wildlife and habitat. The research will identify potential impacts associated with the development of energy infrastructure and strategies to minimize the impacts on habitat and species. An increase of $1.1 million for the Ecological Services Planning and Consultation program supports assessments of renewable energy projects proposed for development.

The budget request for the Resource Management account continues support for key programs with program increases of $65.8 million above 2014. The request provides $252.2 million in Ecological Services to conserve, protect, and enhance listed and at-risk species and their habitat, an increase of $30.3 million. Within this request are increases of $4.0 million to support conservation of the greater sage grouse across 11 western States and $10.5 million to implement other species recovery actions.

The request includes funding within Law Enforcement and International Affairs to combat wildlife trafficking. The budget provides $66.7 million for the law enforcement program to investigate wildlife crimes, enforce the laws governing the Nation's wildlife trade, and expand technical forensic expertise, with program increases of $2.0 million over 2014.

The budget includes $138.9 million for Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation, a program increase of $8.2 million. Within this request is $48.6 million for operation of the National Fish Hatchery system to address top priorities, an increase of $1.9 million for fish hatchery maintenance, and $4.4 million to prevent the spread of Asian carp in the Missouri, Ohio, upper Mississippi Rivers, and other high priority watersheds.

Funding for Cooperative Landscape Conservation activity is $17.7 million, an increase of $3.2 million, and funding for Science Support is $31.6 million, an increase of $14.4 million. The budget supports applied science directed at high impact questions to mitigate threats to fish and wildlife resources, including $2.5 million to address white nose syndrome in bats, and an increase of $1.0 million to study biological carbon sequestration.

The 2015 budget proposes to eliminate the current funding contribution to the National Wildlife Refuge fund, a reduction of $13.2 million below 2014. An estimated $8.0 million in permanent

receipts collected and allocated under the program would remain available to counties. The budget also proposes cancellation of $1.4 million in prior year balances from the Landowner Incentive and Private Stewardship Grant programs, which have not received new budget authority in several years.

National Park Service – The 2015 budget request for NPS of $2.6 billion is $55.1 million above the 2014 enacted level.

In 2015, a total of $2.5 billion is requested for NPS as part of America's Great Outdoors. This includes $2.3 billion for park operations, an increase of $47.1 million over 2014. Within this increase is $30.0 million to support the NPS Centennial Initiative. The Centennial increase includes $16.0 million for repair and rehabilitation projects to improve high priority projects throughout the parks, $8.0 million in competitively managed funds to support enhanced visitor services in the areas of interpretation and education, law enforcement and protection, and facility operations, $4.0 million for 21 CSC youth work opportunities to engage youth in service and conservation projects, and $2.0 million to support expanded volunteer opportunities at the parks. Across these Centennial increases, the budget provides an $8.0 million increase for youth engagement and employment opportunities, and continues the NPS' efforts to attract qualified veteran candidates to fill Federal positions. The request for Park Operations also includes increases of $15.7 million for increased fixed costs, and $2.0 million to support new responsibilities at park units.

Also in preparation for the Centennial anniversary of the parks, the 2015 request includes $10.0 million in a separate account for Centennial Challenge projects. This funding will provide a Federal match to leverage partner donations for signature projects and programs at the parks. This program will be instrumental in garnering partner support to prepare park sites across the country for the centennial and through the second century of the NPS.

The 2015 request for the Historic Preservation Fund is $56.4 million, level with 2014. Of this total, $46.9 million is requested for grants-in-aid to States and Territories, $9.0 million for grants-in-aid to Tribes, and $500,000 to be awarded competitively to address communities currently underrepresented on the National Register of Historic Places.

The budget includes $52.0 million within the National Recreation and Preservation account, which includes $10.0 million for the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, essentially level with 2014, and $1.2 million for American Battlefield Protection Program assistance grants, also level with 2014. The request includes a program reduction of $9.1 million from Heritage Partnership programs to encourage self-sufficiency for these non-Federal organizations.

Programs funded out of the Land and Water Conservation Fund are a key component of America's Great Outdoors. The budget requests $104.0 million for the Land Acquisition and State Assistance account, an increase of $5.9 million. This includes $48.1 million for the State Conservation Grants program, level with 2014, and $55.9 million for NPS Federal land acquisition, a programmatic increase of $5.8 million. Of this amount, $13.2 million supports Collaborative Landscape projects in the California Southwest Desert and areas within the National Trails System.

Funding for Construction totals $138.3 million, essentially level with 2014. Of this amount, the budget includes $61.7 million for line-item construction projects, a $1.1 million program increase compared to 2014. The request includes $6.7 million to reconstruct the historic cave tour trails in Mammoth Cave National Park and $3.9 million to stabilize and repair exterior walls of the historic Alcatraz prison cell house at Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Indian Affairs – The 2015 budget includes $2.6 billion for Indian Affairs programs, an increase of $33.6 million from the 2014 enacted level. This includes an increase of $33.8 million for Operation of Indian Programs; and level funding of $35.7 million for Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements, $109.9 for Construction, and $6.7 million for the Indian Guaranteed Loan program.

Within the Operation of Indian Programs, the budget includes full funding of $251.0 million for Contract Support Costs and the Indian Self-Determination Fund, an increase of $4.0 million from 2014. Consistent with the 2014 Operating Plan, the 2015 request provides full funding based on the most current estimated need. The availability of contract support cost funding is a key factor in tribal decisions to assume responsibility for operating Federal programs important to the furtherance of self-governance and self-determination. To further facilitate Tribal 638 Contracting, the budget includes an additional $1.2 million to increase services from the Department's Office of Indirect Cost Negotiations which negotiates indirect cost rates with non-Federal entities, including tribal governments. Consistent with Subcommittee direction, and in collaboration with the Indian Health Service (IHS), the Department held its first formal consultation on March 11, 2014 with tribes to discuss long-term solutions to Contract Support Cost issues. The Department remains committed to working with IHS, tribes, and Congress to develop a long-term strategy for addressing this important issue.

The 2015 budget for Indian Affairs includes an increase of $11.6 million for the Tiwahe or "family" Initiative. The initiative takes a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the interrelated problems of poverty, violence, and substance abuse in Indian communities. The initiative builds on and expands social service, Indian child and family welfare, and job training programs. In recognition that adequate housing is essential to building stronger families, the budget maintains the 2014 level for the Housing Improvement Program. The goal of the Tiwahe Initiative is to empower American Indian individuals and families in health promotion and family stability, and to strengthen tribal communities as a whole. To better target funding and evaluate outcomes in meeting social service needs in Indian Country, the budget includes $1.0 million as part of the initiative.

The budget provides strong support for the sustainable stewardship of land and resources in Indian Country, sustaining funding for trust land management and real estate services at 2014 levels and proposing program increases of $3.6 million for the stewardship of natural resources. Funding supports the development of natural resource science, information, and tools for application in the development and management of energy and minerals, water, forestry, oceans, climate resilience, and endangered and invasive species. Demonstrating the Administration's commitment to resolving tribal water rights and ensuring that tribes have access to meet their water needs, $171.9 million is provided across the Department for implementation of, and technical and legal support for, Indian water rights settlements, an increase of $13.8 million over 2014. A program increase of $1.0 million is also provided in Indian Affairs for deferred maintenance on Indian

irrigation projects to help address drought issues in Indian Country.

The budget supports improving educational outcomes in Indian Country, providing $794.4 million for the Bureau of Indian Education, an increase of $5.6 million from 2014. The request includes an increase of $500,000 for Johnson O'Malley Education Assistance Grants to support a new student count in 2015 and funding to address the projected increase in the number of eligible students. The budget includes $1.0 million to support ongoing evaluation of the BIE school system to improve educational outcomes. Within education construction, an increase of $2.3 million supports site development at the Beatrice Rafferty School for which design funding was provided in 2014. The budget also includes $2.3 million in increases for BIE funded post-secondary programs including $1.7 million for post-graduate opportunities in science fields, and $250,000 for summer pre-law preparatory scholarships.

Departmental Offices and Department-wide Programs – The 2015 request for the Office of the Secretary is $265.3 million, an increase of $1.3 million from the 2014 enacted level. Of this, $122.9 million is for the Office of Natural Resources Revenue programs, an increase of $3.5, reflecting increases to strengthen production verification and meter inspections activities, including implementing an onshore production verification pilot and funding related data integration. Other changes include the proposed transfer of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board from the Office of the Secretary to the Bureau of Indian Affairs of $1.3 million, a decrease of $865,000 reflecting a shift from direct appropriations to fee for service for Indirect Cost Negotiations, and a program decrease of $266,000 in Valuation Services.

The budget request for the Office of Insular Affairs is $92.2 million, a decrease of $10.2 million from the 2014 enacted level. The budget includes an increase of $3.0 million to address urgent, immediate needs in the insular areas, and $1.8 million to improve safety conditions in insular school facilities. A decrease of $500,000 reflects completion of an aerial bait system for brown treesnake control. Compact Impact is funded at $1.3 million, a decrease of $1.7 million from 2014, and is supplemented by $30.0 million annually in permanent Compact Impact funding. Funding of $13.1 million for the Palau Compact Extension is not requested for 2015 as it is expected the Compact will be authorized and funded from permanent appropriations in 2014.

The Office of Inspector General request is $50.0 million, a decrease of $784,000 from 2014. The budget includes a decrease of $2.0 million reflecting completion of an effort to reduce OIG's physical footprint. Increases of $423,000 and $355,000 are included to support the council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency and provide additional FTE for information security audits, respectively. The Office of the Solicitor request is $65.8 million, equal to the 2014 enacted level.

The Office of the Special Trustee request is $139.0 million, $648,000 below the 2014 enacted level. The 2015 budget decreases Business Management funding by $1.6 million reflecting $922,000 in efficiencies from the transfer of some mailing and printing services to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, a reduction of $500,000 in litigation support, and a decrease of $200,000 in funding for the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

The 2015 request for the Department-wide Wildland Fire Management program is $794.0 mil-

lion without the proposed fire cap adjustment, and $1.0 billion including the adjustment. The request includes $268.6 million for Suppression within the current budget cap, which is 70 percent of the 10 year suppression average spending. This base level funding ensures the cap adjustment of $240.4 million would only be used for the most severe fires, since it is one percent of the fires that cause 30 percent of the costs. The new budget framework for Wildland Fire Management eliminates the need for additional funds through the FLAME Act. The 2015 budget includes a program increase of $34.1 million for Preparedness activities to enhance readiness capabilities. The budget includes $146.3 million for Fuels Management activities, formerly known as Hazardous Fuels Management. This is equal to the 2014 enacted level with an increase of $1.3 million for fixed costs. Complementing this request is $30.0 million for Resilient Landscapes, a new component of the Wildland Fire Management program, to support treatments that improve the integrity and resilience of forests and rangelands. Resilient landscape projects will receive bureau matching funds. The budget request also includes a $2.0 million increase for the Burned Area Rehabilitation program to address greater post-fire rehabilitation needs caused by the 2012 and 2013 fire seasons.

The 2015 request for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund is $7.8 million, a program increase of $1.5 million. The increase includes $1.0 million for a Department-wide onshore Oil Spill Preparedness Program, and additional resources for Restoration support. The budget includes $10.0 million for the Central Hazardous Materials Fund, an increase of $412,000 from 2014 to support additional cleanup work.

The Department's 2015 request for the Working Capital Fund appropriation is $64.3 million, an increase of $7.3 million from the 2014 enacted level. Within this request is $53.9 million for the operation and maintenance of the Financial and Business Management System, an increase of $1.0 million to continue support of the Department's Cultural and Scientific Collections Management initiative, a decrease of $1.0 million from the Department's Service First initiative, and an increase of $8.4 million to support Interior's Office Consolidation strategy in the D.C metropolitan area.

Mandatory Proposals

The 2015 budget includes 15 legislative proposals affecting spending, revenue and available budget authority, which require action by the Congressional Authorizing Committees. Revenue and savings proposals will generate more than $2.6 billion over the next decade. The 2015 budget includes four spending proposals with an estimated $9.9 billion in outlays over the next decade.

Land and Water Conservation Fund – The 2015 budget proposes $900.0 million in current and permanent funding in 2015, and proposes permanent authorization of $900.0 million in mandatory funding for LWCF programs in the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture beginning in 2016. During a transition to permanent funding in 2015, the budget proposes $900.0 million in total LWCF programs funding, comprised of $550.0 million permanent and $350.0 million current funding, shared by Interior and Agriculture.

Centennial Initiative – The Centennial Initiative includes a legislative proposal to authorize

$1.2 billion in permanent funding over three years beginning in 2015 in the following areas: $300.0 million ($100.0 million a year for 3 years) for a National Park Service Centennial Challenge fund to leverage private donations; $600.0 million ($200.0 million a year for 3 years) for NPS deferred maintenance; and $300.0 million ($100.0 million a year for 3 years) for a multiagency Centennial Land Management Investment Fund to competitively award grants to Interior land management agencies and the U.S. Forest Service for deferred maintenance and conservation projects.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes – The Agricultural Act of 2014 included a one-year extension of permanent PILT funding through 2014. The 2015 budget proposes to extend authorization of the program an additional year through 2015, while a sustainable long-term funding solution is developed for the PILT Program. The PILT payments help local governments carry out vital services, such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search and rescue operations. The cost of a one-year extension is estimated to be $442.0 million in 2015.

Palau Compact – On September 3, 2010, the U.S. and the Republic of Palau successfully concluded the review of the Compact of Free Association and signed a 15-year agreement that includes a package of assistance through 2024. The 2015 budget assumes authorization of permanent funding for the Compact occurs in 2014. The cost for this proposal is estimated at $178.3 million for 2015 through 2024.

Federal Oil and Gas Reforms – The budget includes a package of legislative reforms to bolster and backstop administrative actions being taken to reform the management of Interior's onshore and offshore oil and gas programs, with a key focus on improving the return to taxpayers from the sale of these Federal resources. Proposed statutory and administrative changes fall into three general categories: 1) advancing royalty reforms, 2) encouraging diligent development of oil and gas leases, and 3) improving revenue collection processes. Collectively, these reforms will generate roughly $2.5 billion in net revenue to the Treasury over ten years, of which about $1.7 billion would result from statutory changes. Many States will also benefit from higher Federal revenue sharing payments.

Return Coal Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fees to Historic Levels – The budget proposes legislation to modify the 2006 amendments to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, which lowered the per-ton coal fee companies pay into the AML Fund. The proposal would return the fee to 35 cents a ton, the same level companies paid prior to the 2006 fee reduction. The additional revenue, estimated at $362 million over ten years, will be used to reclaim high priority abandoned coal mines and reduce a portion of the estimated $3.9 billion needed to address remaining dangerous coal AML sites nationwide.

Discontinue AML Payments to Certified States – The budget proposes to discontinue unrestricted payments to States and Tribes certified for completing their coal reclamation work. This proposal terminates all such payments, with estimated savings of approximately $295 million over the next ten years.

Reclamation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines – To address the legacy of abandoned hardrock

mines across the U.S. and hold the hardrock mining industry accountable for past mining practices, the Department will propose legislation to create a parallel Abandoned Mine Lands Program for abandoned hardrock sites. A new AML fee on hardrock production on both public and private lands would generate an estimated $1.8 billion to reclaim the highest priority hardrock abandoned sites on Federal, State, tribal, and private lands.

Reform Hardrock Mining on Federal Lands – Interior will submit a legislative proposal to provide a fair return to the taxpayer from hardrock production on Federal lands. The legislative proposal will institute a leasing program under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 for certain hardrock minerals including gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, uranium, and molybdenum, currently covered by the General Mining Law of 1872. The proposal is projected to generate net revenues to the U.S. Treasury of $80 million over ten years, with larger revenues estimated in following years.

Geothermal Energy Receipts – The Department proposes to repeal Section 224(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The repeal of Section 224(b) will permanently discontinue payments to counties and restore the disposition of Federal geothermal leasing revenues to the historical formula of 50 percent to the States and 50 percent to the Treasury. This results in estimated savings of $4 million in 2015 and $42 million over ten years.

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act – The Department proposes to reauthorize this Act to allow Federal lands identified as suitable for disposal in recent land use plans to be sold using this authority. The sales revenues would continue to fund the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands and administrative costs associated with conducting the sales.

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps – Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, or Duck Stamps, are the annual Federal license required for hunting migratory waterfowl. The receipts generated from the sale of these $15.00 stamps are used to acquire important migratory bird areas for migration, breeding, and wintering. The Department proposes legislation to increase these fees which have not increased since 1991, to $25.00 per stamp per year beginning in 2015. This increase will add an estimated $14 million for migratory bird conservation annually.

Bureau of Land Management Foundation – The budget proposes legislation to establish a congressionally-chartered National BLM Foundation. This Foundation will provide an opportunity to leverage private funding to support public lands, achieve shared outcomes, and focus public support on the BLM mission.

Recreation Fee Program – The Department of the Interior proposes to permanently authorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which will expire in December 2015. The Department currently collects over $200 million in recreation fees annually under this authority and uses them to enhance the visitor experience at Interior facilities.

Fire Suppression and the Discretionary Budget Cap

The 2015 budget proposes to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of

1985, as amended, to establish a new framework for funding Fire Suppression Operations to provide stable funding for fire suppression while minimizing the adverse impacts of fire transfers on the budgets of other programs, as well as reduce fire risk, manage landscapes more comprehensively, and increase the resiliency of public lands and the communities that border them. Under this new framework, the 2015 budget request covers 70 percent of the 10-year suppression average within the domestic discretionary caps and a portion is funded in a budget cap adjustment. Extreme fires requiring emergency response, fires threatening urban areas, or requirements of an abnormally high fire season, would be permitted to be funded through the adjustment to discretionary spending limits. The cap adjustment does not increase overall current spending, as it reduces the ceiling for the existing disaster relief cap adjustment.

Offsetting Collections and Fees

The budget includes the following proposals to collect or increase various fees, so industry shares some of the cost of Federal permitting and regulatory oversight.

New Fee for Onshore Oil and Gas Inspections – Through appropriations language, the Department proposes to implement an inspection fee in 2015 for onshore oil and gas activities subject to inspection by BLM. The proposed fee is expected to generate $48.0 million in 2015, $10.0 million more than the corresponding $38.0 million reduction in requested appropriations, thereby expanding the capacity of BLM's oil and gas inspection program. The fee is similar to one already in place for offshore operations and will support Federal efforts to increase production accountability, human safety, and environmental protection.

Grazing Administrative Fee – The 2015 budget proposes a new grazing administrative fee of $1 per animal unit month. The BLM proposes to implement this fee through appropriations language on a three-year pilot basis. The provision will generate an estimated $6.5 million in 2015 to assist BLM in processing grazing permits.

National Wildlife Refuge Damage Cost Recovery – The budget proposes appropriations language to authorize the Fish and Wildlife Service to pursue and retain recoveries from responsible parties, to be used to restore or replace damaged National Wildlife Refuge resources.

Cost Recovery for Nontoxic Shot Approvals – The budget proposes appropriations language to allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to retain and use fees collected for the review of nontoxic shot products for approval. Nontoxic shot is a substitute for lead shot, banned for waterfowl hunting since 1991.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the President's 2015 budget request for the Department of the Interior. This budget is responsible, and proposes to maintain core capabilities with targeted investments to advance the stewardship of lands and resources, renewable energy, oil and gas development and reforms, water conservation, youth employment and engagement, and improvements in the quality of life in Indian communities. I thank you again for your continued support of the Department's mission. I look forward to answering questions about this budget. This concludes my written statement.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 24, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Mar 24, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR LEADERSHIP SHUFFLING MAY ALLOW SEN. LANDRIEU TO AVOID VOTE ON CONTROVERSIAL NOMINEE. The Environment & Energy Publishing (3/23, 705) reports that "a major leadership shuffle at the Interior Department could help resolve a political impasse over a top nominee while aiding a key Senate Democrat's re-election campaign." The announcement that Tommy Beaudreau will become Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's new chief of staff in April "means he'll be withdrawing his nomination to become Interior's assistant secretary for policy, management and budget, the post now held by Rhea Suh." The change "means Suh could keep her job if her nomination for assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks remains stalled in the Senate." This would also spare Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Mary Landrieu "from having to cast an awkward vote in favor of Suh, whom Landrieu's political opponents are portraying as a threat to

Louisiana's energy industry, a major constituency in the Bayou State."

Also reporting on the story are the New Orleans Times-Picayune (3/23, 534K) and the Bayou Buzz (LA) (3/23, 4K).

Additional Coverage Of Promotion Of Beaudreau To Chief Of Staff. The Alaska Native News (3/23, 245) reports that Sen. Mark Begich released the following statement: "Tommy Beaudreau has deep Alaskan ties and continues to be a great resource to our state at the Department of the Interior. He has done good work in his current position at Interior and I am confident his knowledge of Alaska's unique conditions and needs will carry over into his new role as chief of staff. Tommy has been a fair advocate for responsible oil and gas development so I hope his influence will be broad in his new position."

Also covering the story is the Penn Energy (3/23, 128).

MONTANA AREAS CONSIDERED FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. The Helena (MT) Independent Record (3/23, 45K) reports that "Montana's congressional delegation has two wilderness bills pending at the Capitol." The Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and awaits a floor vote. Sen. Jon Tester's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act has also passed the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and "would authorize 637,000 acres of new wilderness in three regions of Montana and another 360,000 acres of recreation area, combined with commitments to commercially log or thin about 100,000 acres of public land over 15 years."

NRA, MUSICIANS DECRY IVORY REGULATIONS. The AllGov (3/23, 1K) reports that new rules seeking to block the sale of ivory in the United States "have sparked outrage from a coalition of musicians, gun owners and others who say the ban unfairly restricts the sale of their own possessions that feature ivory elements." According to the article, "many owners of ivory-inlaid goods say they sympathize with the plight of the elephants, but say the regulations unfairly punish them." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "We are seeing record high demand for wildlife products that is having a devastating impact, with species like elephants and rhinos facing the risk of significant decline or even extinction. A commercial ban is a critical element in the President's strategy to stop illegal wildlife trafficking and to shut down criminal markets that encourage poaching."

Hunter Files Complaint Over Seizing Of Ivory Tusks. KXTV-TV Sacramento, CA (3/22, 25K) reports that "a big-game hunter from Folsom is trying to stop the federal government from destroying a prize pair of elephant tusks." According to the article, "the tusks were taken legally during a hunting safari in Africa, but they were shipped to the US without the proper permit."

BOR SEEKS TO RECRUIT WORKERS FOR HOOVER DAM. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (3/23, 437K) reports that about two-fifths of the workforce at the Hoover Dam will be eligible to retire within five years, leaving the BOR scrambling to recruit and train skilled workers at the facility. Terry Fulp, who heads up the BOR's Lower Colorado River region said, "It's certainly something we're concerned about. We are an aging workforce. There's no doubt about it." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell noted the problem in a December speech to Colorado River water users meeting in Las Vegas. Jewell said, "That's not so good. We need to make sure that we are back-filling."

DOCUMENTS SOUGHT REGARDING CLOSURES OF PRIVATE FIRMS DURING SHUTDOWN. For the Examiner (3/23, 1.05M), Hans Bader writes that he "filed a series of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests with agencies that carried out...closures" of or "blocked cases to" private business during October 2013 government shutdown. Also, he notes that House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings has sent letters to the FWS Director Dan Ashe and US Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell "regarding the Obama Administration's actions to unnecessarily and arbitrarily restrict public access to wildlife refuges and Forest Service lands during the government shutdown."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EXPANSION TO CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage of the addition of the Pt. Arena-Stornetta public lands to the California Coastal National Monument was provided by the Santa Cruz (CA) Sentinel (3/23, 151K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE" AWARD RECIPIENTS. Additional coverage of the

"Champions Of Change" Award recipients was provided by the Hendersonville (NC) Lightning (3/23).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE CREATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ACT CRITICIZED. For the Los Angeles Times (3/21, Martelle, 2.38M), Scott Martelle criticizes the Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act According to Martelle, "the bill, House Resolution 1459, effectively strips the president's authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to move with speed — not Congress' strong suit — to preserve lands that are deemed of public interest." Martelle asks, "Why is Congress wasting so much time and energy on petulance, at the cost of doing something meaningful about creating jobs, fighting global warming, protecting privacy and a host of other A-level issues?"

Also criticizing the bill is Tom McKay for the PolicyMic (3/23, 229K).

SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT URGED. In an op-ed for the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (3/23, 59K), Billy G. Garrett, chairman of the Doña Ana County Commission, Ken Miyagishima, mayor of Las Cruces, and Nora Barraza, mayor of Mesilla, write that "local input and extensive public dialog are primary reasons to support the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument." They argue that "the most recent monument proposal by Senators Udall and Heinrich offers a reasonable plan for the protection of our cultural history, scenic beauty and traditional land uses."

SUPPORT FOR WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING ACT URGED. In an op-ed for The Oregonian (3/23, 819K), Tom Insko, inland region manager of Boise Cascade company, and Mark Stern, forest conservation director of The Nature Conservancy, urges support for efforts by our Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Kurt Schrader "to bring a new bipartisan solution to the problem of funding forest wildfire suppression." According to the authors, "their Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S. 1875 and H.R. 3992) would provide a reliable funding structure for the cost of suppressing the wildfires that have become all too common on federal forests throughout Oregon, without changing policies on whether or how we fight those fires."

FULL FUNDING FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND URGED. In an op-ed for the Charlotte (NC) Observer (3/22, 495K), Tim Gestwicki, CEO of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, and Ben Gregg, Executive Director of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, call for "full and dedicated funding" for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. According to the authors, "for the last half century LWCF has created and helped protect some of the finest recreational, historic, and public places across the country, all without using a single taxpayer dollar." They argue that "as the stewards of this remarkable inheritance, we must be vigilant in its upkeep and support full funding for LWCF, to ensure that we leave these lands in better condition than when we found them."

REP. BISHOP URGED TO SUPPORT WILDERNESS. In an editorial, the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (3/23, 260K) notes that the Center for American Progress' new study "concludes that political maneuvering by Republicans in Washington has prevented passage, or even debate, on dozens of bills to create wilderness across the country." The paper argues that Rep. Rob Bishop "could be in a position to help restart the stalled process," because he "soon could become chairman of the critical House Natural Resources Committee, where conservation bills are first heard." However, "considering Bishop's history on public lands and conservation, a more sure bet is that no additional wilderness would be designated under his chairmanship." The paper argue sthat "wild lands have value beyond exploitation for energy or motorized recreation," and urges Bishop should to "protect that value, which Utah has in abundance."

Additional coverage was provided by the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (3/24, 260K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

COMMISSION OPPOSED TO SCOPE OF KILLDEER MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD STUDY. The AP (3/23, 230K) reports that "county commissioners who represent an area in North Dakota near the historic Killdeer Mountain Battlefield say they are opposed to the scope of a study by historians." Dunn County Commissioner Daryl Dukart said that "he made the motion to get the county in front of any potential impact to its ability to develop roads or do other public work in the 17,000-acre study area."

NPS TO CLOSE BACK-ROAD ENTRANCE TO CHICKAMAUGA BATTLEFIELD. The Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (3/23, 219K) reports that NPS employees on Monday will "close a back road into Chickamauga Battlefield that they believe has served as a short-cut for thieves responsible for car break-ins and vandals who damage monuments that commemorate Civil War soldiers." Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park officials have "decided to close the Long Hollow Road Extension directly west of the Wilder Brigade Monument – but the park will still allow pedestrian and bicycle access." Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Superintendent Cathy Cook said, "We've had an increase in car burglaries, so we think that's used [by burglars] as a quick access out of the park. We're [also] concerned about vandalism to the monuments."

BUSINESSES CONCERNED ABOUT FATE CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE FERRY. The AP (3/21, Jackson, 230K) reports that "the operating contract for the vendor who has provided the ferry service" to Cumberland Island National Seashore "for the past 25 years is about to expire, and one potential bidder wants visitors to depart to the national seashore from Fernandina Beach, Fla." According to one business owner, the hange "would have a catastrophic impact on his business and others in the city dependent on Cumberland Island tourists."

NPS HOLDS HEARINGS ON PROPOSED SPORT HUNT RESTRICTIONS. The Dutch Harbor (AK) Fisherman (3/23, 2K) reports that the NPS "held hearings this month to gather public opinion on a few proposed restrictions to sport hunting on preserve lands in Alaska." According to spokesperson John Quinley, "the restrictions...are in response to the Alaska Board of Game offering more sport hunting effort aimed at predator control, specifically for bears, wolves, and coyotes." Quinley said, "We've asked the board to exempt national preserves from these liberalizations of hunting regulations. On more than one occasion they've suggested that if we wanted restrictions, we should do them ourselves."

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY ATTRACTIONS REOPENING. The AP (3/23, Press, 2.33M) reports that "several Blue Ridge Parkway attractions that were closed last year because of federal budget cuts are reopening this spring." According to the article, "some of the facilities will be open on a limited basis."

TEN NORTH CAROLINA SPOTS ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The AP (3/23, 65K) reports that "ten North Carolina properties and districts ranging from a cotton mill to an estate are now part of the National Register of Historic Places." The article notes that "the newly named properties include the Eureka Manufacturing Co. Cotton Mill in Lincolnton and the Flat Top Estate near Blowing Rock. Other properties are in Alamance, Brunswick, Durham, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Nash and Henderson counties."

COMMISSIONER CRITICIZES OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK'S WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PLAN. In an op-ed for the Peninsula (WA) Daily News (3/23, 41K), John M. Calhoun, a Port of Port Angeles commissioner, criticizes Olympic National Park's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. According to Calhoun, "the preliminary draft alternatives offered by ONP are bad news for those working to enhance tourism on the Olympic Peninsula." He also claims that "they offer nothing but the false choice between encouraging visitors to the park and saving the wilderness from the influence of mankind."

Bureau of Land Management:

GRAND CANYON-PARASHANT NATIONAL MONUMENT RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL NIGHT SKY PROVINCE DESIGNATION. The St. George (UT) News (3/22, 3K) reports that the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument was "heralded on March 21 by the International Dark Sky Association, or IDA, for the unspoiled quality of its pristine and breathtaking night skies." The monument "received the official IDA designation as 'Parashant International Night Sky Province,' joining other international Night Sky Places." BLM Principal Deputy Director Neil Kornze said, "IDA's recognition is an ideal match with the Monument's focus on conserving pristine natural resources. BLM's National Conservation Lands, including the Monument, comprise a natural scientific laboratory that attracts scientists from around the world." Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Manager Pam McAlpin said, "We celebrate this prestigious designation which recognizes what visitors to the Monument have known and treasured since its inception – that the Parashant's flawless night skies represent another portion of the impeccable, cherished, cultural and natural resources tied directly to the management of these public lands."

FEDERAL OFFICIALS CLOSE BOAT LAUNCHES ON UPPER MISSOURI. The AP (3/21, 230K) reports that "flooding and ice jams have prompted federal officials to close most boat launches along a 149-mile stretch of the Upper Missouri River in central Montana." According to the article, "floods that began in early March pushed ice blocks up to 4 feet high into campgrounds and recreation areas overseen by the US Bureau of Land Management." BLM spokesman Jonathan Moore said Friday the "ice has blocked the launches and could delay campground openings later this spring."

TIMBER INDUSTRY FILES TWO NEW LAWSUITS. The Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (3/23, 104K) reports that "Oregon's timber industry has filed two new federal lawsuits, one following up on a court victory last year and the other renewing a battle the industry began two decades ago." According to the article, "both lawsuits, filed in US District Court in Washington, D.C., have the goal of forcing the Bureau of Land Management to increase logging on Oregon & California Railroad trust lands." Both lawsuits "allege the BLM has failed to carry out the 1937 O&C Act, which makes timber production a priority, said Ann Forest Burns, vice president of the American Forest Resource Council, a plaintiff in the case."

JURY SELECTION FOR NEW MEXICO POTASH PLANT'S LAWSUIT TO BEGIN. The AP (3/23, 230K) reports that "jurors will be chosen starting Monday to hear arguments in a 2010 lawsuit filed by Mosaic Potash against Devon Energy Production Co." Mosaic officials say Devon Energy "trespassed on two sections of land that fall into the boundaries of a mineral lease held by them." Mosaic claims that "despite moving the drilling location under the orders of the Bureau of Land Management, Devon still drilled in the original area."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSED MONTANA LAND EXCHANGE. Additional coverage of the proposed land exchange by brothers Dan and Farris Wilks was provided by the Billings (MT) Gazette (3/23, 132K).

ETHICS OF ELIMINATING WILD HORSES EXAMINED. For the Magazine of the New York Times (3/21, Klosterman, Subscription Publication, 5.41M), Chuck Klosterman argues that "wild horses have become part of the environment itself," so "horses alter the ecological landscape, but we'd be altering the landscape by eliminating the horses." Klosterman claims that "it's unethical to protect wild horses (which are currently not categorized as endangered) if our only reasoning is that we happen to like horses and believe they deserve preferential treatment." He adds that "our policy and criteria for horse populations should be the same as our policy for pronghoms or coyotes or any other mammal," and "none of these species should be radically culled unless they pose a direct threat to human well-being, which does not appear to be the case."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

AGREEMENT REACHED TO RESTORE PROVO RIVER DELTA. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (3/24, 260K) reports that "agencies plan to acquire 310 acres where the Provo River meets Utah Lake and restore braided river channels in hopes of saving the endangered June sucker, a native fish that lives in Utah Lake and its tributaries." Under a compromise local landowners reached with the Interior Department, "the preferred plan now targets a smaller tract of pasture to the north of the Robins property."

RANCHERS CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT OF PROTECTING GREATER SAGE GROUSE. The Bend (OR) Bulletin (3/23, 94K) reports that "federal protection for the greater sage grouse, a chicken-sized bird found on the rangeland east of Bend, could put restrictions on ranching, which ranchers say would make doing business difficult." However, Angela Sitz, a FWS biologist and a sage grouse protection advocate, is hopeful "that a balance can be found between raising cattle and restoring sage grouse." The service has "been working with ranchers in Harney County on managing the range for the betterment of sage grouse while keeping cattle on it, she said."

FWS ALLOWING SOUTH DAKOTA HUNTERS TO SHOOT SNOW GEESE THIS SPRING. The AP (3/23, 65K) reports that a FWS "conservation order is allowing hunters to shoot snow geese this spring." In South Dakota, the conservation order "runs from Feb. 15 through May 4, 2014." The order is "specific to snow and blue geese as well as Ross' geese."

WILDLIFE OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING DEATH OF SECOND RED WOLF IN 2014. The AP (3/21, 230K)

reports that "state and federal wildlife officials are looking into the death of a red wolf in northeastern North Carolina, the second found dead in 2014." The FWS said Friday "the radio-collared red wolf was found with an apparent gunshot wound on March 11 southwest of Creswell in Washington County."

FWS URGED TO REWRITE PROPOSAL TO DELIST GRAY WOLVES. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (3/23, 555K), Paul Paquet, senior scientist at Raincoast Conservation Foundation, and Bob Ferris, executive director of Cascadia Wildlands, write that the UFWS has recently "shown contempt" for science and innovation "when it comes to the recovery of gray wolves." They base this "assessment" from "the peer review of the service's 2013 proposal to strip Endangered Species Act protections from most wolves in the West." The authors "wholeheartedly agree with the peer reviewers' troubling conclusions, and we are disappointed that the service pursued political expediency rather than abiding by the lawful provisions of the ESA."

For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (3/21, Peterson, 11.54M), novelist Brenda Peterson criticizes the proposal to delist gray wolves.

PARTNERSHIP LOOKS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN ISSUE. In an op-ed for the Juneau County (WI) Star Times (3/23, 9K), Robert Bonnie, Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, writes that "as part of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative, the agency is partnering with Pheasants Forever, a national wildlife conservation organization, to jointly invest $5 million over three years to support technical assistance, including hiring non-federal field conservationists to help farmers and ranchers voluntarily maintain and improve lesser prairie chicken habitat in the Southern Great Plains." Also, Bonnie notes that the Conservation Service and the FWS "recently finalized a plan that can provide regulatory predictability for farmers and ranchers improving lesser prairie-chicken habitat, should the species be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act." According to Bonnie, "the partnership between the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Pheasants Forever, state fish and wildlife agencies and others is will provide crucial tools and resources for voluntary conservation on lands that can benefit the lesser prairie-chicken."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LAWSUIT OVER "SUE-AND-SETTLE" TACTICS. In an editorial, the Oklahoman (3/24, 387K) calls the lawsuit "a worthy fight." According to the paper, "if nothing else," the lawsuit "highlights the complete absence of logic involved when federal officials make far-reaching regulatory decisions."

Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed over "sue-and-settle" tactics was provided by Marita Noon in the Town Hall (3/23, 44K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

INTERIOR TO EVALUATE INTEREST DEVELOPING WAVE ENERGY OFF OREGON COAST. The Environment & Energy Publishing (3/23, 705) reports that the Interior Department has "announced it will evaluate whether there's competitive interest in developing federal waters off the Oregon coast where a university is proposing to test wave energy." The BOEM is "allowing one month to gauge public interest in the waters about 5 miles off Newport, Ore., as well as the proposal's potential environmental impacts." BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau said in a statement, "Today's announcement marks an important milestone in siting a national grid-connected research facility to support the testing of commercial-scale marine hydrokinetic devices. We look forward to our continuing partnership with Oregon and key stakeholders to support the advancement of promising offshore renewable energy technologies."

Also reporting on the story are the FuelFix (3/21, 7K) and the reNews (3/23).

SENATORS CALL FOR RENEWAL OF WIND PRODUCTION, INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS. Roll Call (3/22, Lesniewski, 67K) reported that 26 senators sent a letter to Finance Chairman Ron Wyden and Orrin G. Hatch calling the renewal of the wind production tax credit and the investment tax credit. The senators wrote that "the American wind industry's growth, its cost competitiveness and its creation of American jobs have been partially driven by successful, bi-partisan federal tax policy, namely the PTC and the ITC," arguing that without stability

"we once again risk losing many of the jobs, infrastructure and investment that the wind industry has created."

The Hill (3/22, Cama, 76K) also reports the story in its "E2 Wire" blog.

NEW JERSEY FALLING BEHIND ON OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY. The Press of Atlantic City (NJ) (3/23, 178K) reports that New Jersey "may have missed being a national leader in offshore wind energy as neighboring states move forward with their projects." According to the article, "despite Gov. Chris Christie's signing of legislation in 2010 that would have positioned the state as a hub for the new industry — complete with a port on the Delaware River where windmill components would be developed — the state is no closer to its goal of generating 1,100 megawatts per year from wind farms off its coast." Advocates "blame the state's flagging resolve — the energy market for the new industry has yet to be established — and the rise of inexpensive natural gas from fracking in neighboring states."

OFFICIALS BREAK GROUND ON NEW SOLAR PROJECT IN MOAPA. KTNV-TV Las Vegas (3/23, 19K) reports that "energy industry leaders broke ground on Friday on the 250 Megawatt solar project in Moapa." The article notes that "the project is the first ever utility-scale solar power plant to be built on tribal land. It's being constructed on the Moapa River Indian Reservation." Officials from the Department of Energy, the BLM and the BIA, along with Nevada Senator Harry Reid participated in the event.

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON OIL, GAS LEASE SALES. The St. George (UT) News (3/22, 3K) reports that the BLM, Utah West Desert District, is seeking public input on "two environmental assessments (EA) analyzing the BLM's proposal to offer a total of 66,673 acres comprised of 35 parcels at the August 2014 oil and gas lease sale." The article notes that "the Salt Lake Field Office proposes to offer 64,610 acres comprised of 33 parcels and the Fillmore Field Office proposes to offer 2,063 acres comprised of two parcels."

Offshore Energy Development:

NEW EMAILS SHED LIGHT ON ANADARKO ROLE IN BP OIL SPILL. Bloomberg News (3/22, Feeley, Calkins, 392K) reports that the DOJ lost its effort to have US District Judge Carl Barbier in New Orleans to consider emails from Anadarko calling on BP to drill deeper into the Macondo well, even after the latter said that proceeding would not be safe in recently divulged emails. Judge Barbier stated that the emails did not show that Anadarko faced any "heightened culpability" for the 2010 oil spill, given the "lack of direct operational involvement." Anadarko is still potentially liable under the Oil Pollution Act and the Clean Water Act, and the technical details, as well as concerns over safety, revealed in the email shows "Anadarko was more than just a passive investor," according to David Uhlmann, a University of Michigan law professor and former head of the Justice Department's environmental crimes division. Anadarko has already paid $4 billion for its liability in private-party suits.

NEW INTEREST IN ONCE-SPURNED GULF LEASES. Starr Spence writes in Platts (3/24, 2K) "Barrel Blog" that while recycling in Gulf of Mexico leases "is nothing new," bids on abandoned leases there have been at "premium prices in recent years," well above the prices previously paid for those tracts. Furthermore, operators sometimes are bidding on tracts they previously leased. Charlie Miller, chief technology officer with offshore consultants Waring & Associates, said that previously unseen targets could be reveled by improved seismic data. Spence goes on to detail some of these bids.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

MORELOS DAM GATES TO BE OPENED. The National Geographic (3/23, 42.25M) reports that "thanks to a landmark agreement between the United States and Mexico, the parched Colorado River Delta will get a rejuvenating shot of water this spring for one of the first times in five decades, just in time for World Water Day on March 22." The article notes that "on March 23, 2014, the gates of Morelos Dam on the Arizona-Mexico border will be lifted to allow a 'pulse flow' of water into the final stretch of the Colorado River." According to the article, "officials and scientists hope the water will help restore a landscape that has long been arid but that once supported a rich diversity of life."

NEW MEXICO HEADS INTO NEW YEAR OF SEVERE DROUGHT. The AP (3/21, Bryan, 230K) reports that the worst-case drought scenario – dry March winds – is eating into New Mexico's already meager snowpack, state and federal officials were told at a Friday meeting of the state's Drought Monitoring Working Group. Raymond Abeyta with the BOR, said, "It's terrible. We're looking at the snowpack levels and they're just blowing away. What has us concerned is the soil moisture levels." However, the drought team also heard the first good news in a while – the growing chance of an El Niño, a shift in the weather patterns that could finally bring a wetter winter of 2014-15.

Also reporting on the story is the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (3/23, 281K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

HOUSE TO HOLD HEARING ON HANDLING OF COBELL SETTLEMENT. KHQ-TV Spokane, WA (3/23, 30K) reports that the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs will hold a hearing on April 3 to see how the Interior Department is handling the Cobell Settlement. Rep. Steve Daines said that "the government has been slow to implement the settlement and Montana's Native American tribes deserve more." Daines said, "Our Montana tribes deserve transparency from the Department of Interior as it relates to this land buyback program and how it is being implemented."

Top National News:

IN TRIP TO EUROPE, OBAMA TO SEEK UNITED FRONT AGAINST RUSSIA. As President Obama heads to Europe, media reports cast his talks with European allies this week as an attempt to forge a united front against Russia in the wake of its annexation of Crimea. Coverage of the crisis in Ukraine, meanwhile, continues to dwindle. Only one of the two networks that aired Sunday night mentioned the President's trip. Print coverage is also lighter than it was in weeks past. Reports this morning focus largely on Russia's capture of a Ukrainian military base in Crimea, and on a NATO general's warning that Russia also poses a threat to Moldova's breakaway region of Transnistria.

Alex Marquardt reported on ABC World News (3/23, story 7, 1:40, Muir, 7.43M) that the President is traveling to Europe "looking to form a united economic front against Russia and to comfort Eastern European allies, nervous" that Russian President Vladimir Putin "isn't finished yet." While top Russian officials, including Putin, "have repeatedly insisted they have no plans to invade eastern Ukraine," after "Russia's takeover here in Crimea, there is very little trust between Washington and Moscow."

The New York Times (3/24, Shear, Smale, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) similarly says the President and the US' allies in Europe will meet in The Hague "in an effort to develop a strong, united response despite their diverging interests in dealing with the Kremlin." National security adviser Susan Rice "acknowledged that the president's weeklong trip...would be overshadowed by Ukraine," but "expressed confidence" that the G7 meeting on Monday would "deepen" coordination. The Times, however, says "it may be difficult for Mr. Obama to bring along European allies."

The Washington Post (3/24, Wilson, 2.33M) quotes Rice as saying, "What will be clear for the entire world to see is that Russia is increasingly isolated and that the United States is leading the international community in supporting the government of Ukraine and the people of Ukraine, and in imposing costs on Russia for its aggression against Ukraine."

Bloomberg News (3/24, Krasnolutska, Kudrytski, 392K) reports G7 leaders are "seeking to mobilize opposition to Russia's incursion into Crimea," and Reuters (3/24, Pawlak) says they will seek to coordinate possible additional sanctions against Russia, as well as discuss an upcoming G8 meeting planned for June in Sochi, Russia.

The President, Politico (3/24, Harris, 73K) reports, has made "a series of statements and warnings, combined with economic sanctions, designed to show how seriously he takes Putin's incursion," but he "risks looking irrelevant unless he follows up this week with even more dramatic gestures."

Josh Gerstein writes in another piece for Politico (3/24, 73K) that Obama's "official dealings with Europe have been surprisingly rocky," and "it's unclear how much the US and Obama really value the European Union as an institution to begin with."

Deputy national security adviser Tony Blinken, the AP (3/24) reports, didn't rule out Sunday the possibility that Russia could invade eastern Ukraine. Blinken told CNN's "State of the Union" that "Russia seems to be trying intimidate Ukrainians by massing thousands of troops along the border," saying, "It's possible they are preparing to move in."

Blinken said on CNN's State Of The Union (3/23, Crowley), "It's deeply concerning to see the Russian troop buildup along the border. It creates the potential for incidents, for instability. It's likely that what they are trying to do is intimidate the Ukrainians. It's possible that they are preparing to move in. ... And what we've seen the President do in recent weeks, and what we'll see him do this week, is bring the world together in support of Ukraine."

ABC World News (3/23, story 7, 1:40, Muir, 7.43M) reported that "around 20,000 Russian troops have massed along the border with eastern Ukraine. Ukraine's acting foreign minister" told ABC's "This Week" that the "chances of war are very high." Foreign Minister Andrii Deshchytsia was shown saying, "We don't know what Putin has in his mind and what will be his decision. That's why this situation is becoming even more explosive than it used to be a week ago."

Deshchytsia said on ABC's This Week (3/23, Raddatz, 2.73M), "We are very much concerned about this development and deployment of Russian troops on our eastern borders. We are ready to respond. And as you know, the Ukrainian government is trying to use all their peaceful means and diplomatic means to stop Russians. But the people are also ready to defend their homeland."

Bloomberg News (3/24, Lerman, 392K) and the New York Daily News (3/24, Edelman, 3M) also report the comments by Blinken and Deshchytsia.

Over the weekend, the Washington Post (3/24, Morello, Englund, 2.33M) reports, "Russian forces in armored personnel carriers...broke through the walls of one of the last Ukrainian military outposts in Crimea, then quickly overpowered Ukrainian troops armed only with sticks." According to the Post, the "fall of the Belbek air base, along with the loss of a second Ukrainian air base Saturday near the Crimean town of Novofedorivka, removed one of the last barriers to total Russian control of the Crimean Peninsula."

The AP (3/24, Heintz) reports that Col. Yuliy Mamchur, commander of the Belbek Air Force base, is "being held...by pro-Russian forces," and Ukraine President Oleksandr Turchynov called for his release Sunday. The Los Angeles Times (3/24, Loiko, 2.38M) also reports on Col. Mamchur's capture.

The Wall Street Journal (3/24, Shishkin, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) reports on the non-violent vigils by Ukrainian troops stationed in Crimea, noting that one by one their bases are being overrun by Russian troops. And AFP (3/24, Trukhan) reports that Tatars have begun fleeing Crimea since Russia's annexation.

Another Wall Street Journal (3/24, Norman, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) report notes NATO's supreme allied commander, US Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, warned Sunday that Russia's "very sizeable" force positioned along Ukraine's eastern border that could easily seize Moldova's breakaway region of Transnistria.

The Washington Post (3/24, Morello, DeYoung, 2.33M) reports that both US and Ukrainian officials warned Sunday that Russia "may be poised to expand its territorial conquest into eastern Ukraine and beyond." The Post notes comments Sunday by Ukraine's Deshchytsya and Gen. Breedlove, who it quotes as saying, "There is absolutely sufficient force postured on the eastern border of Ukraine to run to Transnistria if the decision was made to do that, and that is very worrisome." Such a move, the Post says, "would mark an extraordinary deepening of Russia's military thrust into former Soviet territory and sharply escalate tensions with the West."

Breedlove, Bloomberg News (3/24, Wishart, 392K) reports, said, "We need to think about our allies, the positioning of our forces in the alliance and our readiness of our forces in the alliance, such that we can be there to defend against them if required." USA Today (3/24, Bacon, 5.82M) and the Christian Science Monitor (3/24,

Murphy, 384K) also report Gen. Breedlove's comments.

Elsewhere on Sunday, AFP (3/24) reports, Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel "voiced their support for an OSCE observer mission to Ukraine, in a telephone conversation on Sunday, the Kremlin said." Reuters (3/24, Gutterman) notes that Russia agreed Friday to a six-month OSCE mission in Ukraine, but said it had no mandate in Crimea. Germany, however, rejected Russia's assertion.

The New York Times (3/24, Smale, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) reports that OSCE monitors have begun "assembling" in Kiev and "will start fanning out across the troubled region on Tuesday, a spokeswoman said Sunday."

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the Wall Street Journal (3/24, Torry, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) reports, also warned Sunday that Russia faces additional sanctions if it moves into eastern Ukraine or other parts of the former Soviet Union. "We're not at that point [of annexations of further regions] and I hope that it won't come to that, but one thing is clear: should Russia reach beyond Crimea, we in Europe will pass decisive measures—even if we have to accept economic damage for that," Steinmeier said in an interview with Germany's Welt am Sonntag.

In a column in the Washington Post (3/24, 2.33M), Fred Hiatt writes that the invasion of Crimea "is not Obama's fault," but it shows that this is not the world Obama expected to deal with when he was elected. The President's policies pulled back from foreign intervention and focused on domestic improvements, but, "as the United States retrenched, the world became more dangerous," with a Chinese military buildup, continued North Korean nuclear buildup, and the Syrian civil war. Hiatt warns that while the Administration may be tempted to continue its current strategy in response to political opponents seeking to "use overseas setbacks to score points," the US no longer can "choose between nation-building at home and leadership abroad; it has to do both."

In an op-ed in the New York Times (3/24, McFaul, Subscription Publication, 5.41M), former Ambassador Michael A. McFaul writes that the invasion of the Crimea ended the post-Cold War era in Europe and the sense the Russia was moving towards joining the international order. Based on the previous conflict with Moscow, McFaul urges "selective containment and engagement." Mcfaul calls for making sure Ukraine succeeds as "a democracy, a market economy and a state"; militarily protecting other states on our side; and isolating Russia. While Putinism doesn't have international appeal, Russia lacks allies, and its military is reduced, the US is currently disengaged in world affairs and lacks the moral authority it had before the invasion of Iraq. McFaul calls for restoring "the United States as a model" and using "a sober, realistic strategy" to deal with Russia.

NYTimes Analysis: US Now Trying To Counter Putin, Rather Than Work With Him. In an analysis piece titled "3 Presidents And A Riddle Named Putin," Peter Baker writes for the New York Times (3/24, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) that former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and now President Obama have tried varying approaches to dealing with President Vladimir Putin, but the Russian leader has "confounded" all three American presidents "as they tried to figure him out, only to misjudge him time and again." After Russia's annexation of Crimea, Baker says, the debate has "shifted from how to work with Mr. Putin to how to counter him."

MILLIONS WILL REMAIN UNINSURED DESPITE ACA ENROLLMENT PUSH. The AP (3/24, Cass) reports that despite this week's "final, frenzied push" to enroll people for health coverage under the ACA, millions of people "will remain uninsured." Many, the AP notes, "just don't know much about the health overhaul and its March 31 deadline for enrolling in plans that can yield big discounts, researchers say." According to an Associated Press-Gfk poll, "only one-fourth of the uninsured had tried to sign up through the state or federal insurance marketplaces." However, "the complexities of the Affordable Care Act can stymie even the well-informed." The AP provides several examples of people "who will remain on the sidelines of Obama's big enrollment push."

Fear Of Financial Penalty Could Be Motivating Late ACA Enrollments. The Wall Street Journal (3/24, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) reports that concerns about financial penalties appear to be motivating many people to enroll for coverage as the final deadline to sign up approaches. The Journal notes that polls indicate that people are more familiar with the potential penalties than other features of the law, and pollsters have said that enrollment could be stronger if groups made explicit mention of the penalty.

Analysts Say Few Will Use ACA's Hardship Exemption. The Washington Times (3/24, Klimas, 230K) reports that while Republicans have "seized on a new hardship exemption to Obamacare, saying it punches a hole in President Obama's health law," analysts "expect relatively few people to actually use it." The exemption "excuses Americans from the individual mandate requiring them to have health coverage if they 'experienced another hardship in obtaining health insurance.'" The Times notes that House Majority Leader Cantor said that the exemption's "loose wording essentially excludes everyone from the individual mandate." Despite "analysts' assurances that the exemption would be limited, Mr. Cantor stood by his claim it could apply to almost everyone."

SUPREME COURT TAKES UP KEY ACA CHALLENGE THIS WEEK. The AP (3/24, Reilly, 11.54M) reports that the Obama Administration "and its opponents are renewing the Supreme Court battle over" healthcare reform "in a case that pits the religious rights of employers against the rights of women to the birth control of their choice." The court will hear arguments on Tuesday "in a religion-based challenge from family-owned companies that object to covering certain contraceptives in their health plans as part of the law's preventive care requirement." Under the ACA, employers must offer healthcare plans offering a range of services at no extra cost, "including all forms of birth control for women that have been approved by federal regulators." The AP notes that the firms involved in the cases at bar "are willing to cover most methods of contraception, as long as they can exclude drugs or devices that the government says may work after an egg has been fertilized."

The Christian Science Monitor (3/24, Richey, 384K) reports that the court "is set to hear two consolidated cases in which business owners are seeking a religious exemption from the ACA's requirement that large employers provide their workers cost-free contraceptives." The Monitor notes that the Administration "has granted a complete exemption to churches and other houses of worship," and "has offered a special accommodation to non-profit religious-affiliated groups – including those organized as corporations," but government attorneys "insist that for-profit corporations are not entitled to exercise religious rights and must comply with the full terms of the ACA's contraception mandate."

The Washington Times (3/24, Howell, 230K) reports that that court "consolidated two cases for Tuesday's arguments, with each side chalking up a win at the circuit court level." Hobby Lobby, "an Oklahoma-based crafts supplies company, found favor before the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver last summer, but the government trumped Conestoga Wood Specialties – owned by Mennonites in Pennsylvania – before the 3rd Circuit in Philadelphia."

Personal Religious Views Of Justices Examined. The Washington Post (3/24, Barnes, 2.33M) reports on its front page that the court this week "weighs religious conviction versus legal obligation in the latest challenge to the Affordable Care Act." Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito "are devout Catholics" and Justice Clarence Thomas "is a former seminarian who says God saved his life." Justice Antonin Scalia "is the most outspoken," as he has "urged fellow intellectuals to be 'fools for Christ' and used an interview last fall to underscore his belief in the existence of the Devil, whose latest maneuver, he said, 'is getting people not to believe in him or in God.'" Justice Elena Kagan, "not religious like the others, nonetheless has reminded Jewish groups she undertook years of three-days-a-week religious instruction as a child." The Post notes that the current court has "six Catholics and three Jews," and "is the first without a Protestant member."

Cases Discussed On Sunday Shows. Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) said on ABC's This Week (3/23, Raddatz, 2.73M) that the cases were "about the free exercise of religious beliefs in your business. They follow these precepts in terms of not opening their businesses on Sunday, that sort of thing. ... I think they have a strong argument. They won at the district level. I think they'll win at the Supreme Court."

Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) said on ABC's This Week (3/23, Raddatz, 2.73M), "Do we want a corporation to have religious views and impose them on its employees? What would that mean for the separation of church and state and for individual liberty? What would it mean about corporate personhood? This is scary territory and the people need to win."

Dan Senor said on ABC's This Week (3/23, Raddatz, 2.73M), "I think the Administration's case is weak and I think it has enormous political implications. If Hobby Lobby chooses to avoid providing this coverage for four contraceptives out of the 20 they are required to, they will get fines of half a billion dollars a year. ... All the selective implementation of ObamaCare combined with huge fines for business that are actually employing

Americans, I think is terrible for the overall debate over ObamaCare."

More Commentary. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (3/24, Subscription Publication, 4.25M), Robert P. George, a professor of jurisprudence at Princeton University and a board member of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which is representing Hobby Lobby, and Hamza Yusuf, co-founder and president of Zaytuna College in Berkeley, CA, write that the religious exemptions in the ACA are vital to the protection of religious liberty, and they urge the court to side with the challengers in these cases.

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (3/24, 2.33M), attorney Walter Dellinger writes that the cases "implicate equality of access to effective methods of family planning," and he argues that the court has ruled "that any accommodation of religion 'must be measured so that it does not override other significant interests,' especially those of third parties." Dellinger contends that giving "legal force to corporations' objections to covering the use of contraceptives by their employees would deny to thousands of women affordable access to the most effective methods of birth control – a benefit that those women, or the female dependents of employees, earn as part of their employment compensation package."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Willfully Endangering Drivers."*** The New York Times (3/24, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) editorializes that the delayed recalls "of millions of defective cars by Toyota and General Motors put the American public at risk and shows glaring deficiencies in enforcement of auto safety regulations." Toyota last week agreed to pay $1.2 billion "to settle a four-year-long federal criminal investigation that found the company had concealed information from regulators and the public in 2009 and 2010 about" a sudden acceleration defect, and GM "recently recalled 1.6 million cars to replace ignition switches that the company, for more than a decade, knew to be faulty." The Times notes that Congress failed in 2010 to pass the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, "a sensible measure" that faced "opposition from the auto industry and Republican lawmakers" that would have given the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration greater power to investigate auto defects and make that information publicly available. The Times urges Congress to give NHTSA the resources it needs to police automobile safety.

"Urbanizing China." An editorial in the New York Times (3/24, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) note that while China's plan "to move more people from the countryside to cities could help raise the standard of living for millions of people," it "does not go far enough to protect migrants and farmers." The Times argues that China's urbanization plan is "intriguing," but China "has a lot more work to do to make sure its ideas are designed and carried out in ways that benefit its people."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A 21st-Century D.C."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/24, 2.33M) bemoans the unanimous vote by the DC city council to oppose raising the "Height Act," which limits the size of buildings in DC. The Post says that the city is expanding, and lacks sufficient affordable housing, and the "obvious answer is to let the city become denser, with care to ensure that it is walkable and bikeable, allowing more people to live and work where and how they want to."

"The Tarnished Silver Line."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"ObamaCare's Latest Legal Challenge."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/24, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) editorializes that the DC Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday will hear another ACA challenge in Halbig v. Sebelius, in which the plaintiffs are asking the court to order the Obama Administration to execute the plain language of the statute with regard to insurance exchanges. The Journal notes that the best way to change the ACA is through congressional action, but it urges the court to remind the Administration that it must stick to the language of the statute as enacted.

"California's Pension Mugging." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/24, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) bemoans the demise of a California ballot measure designed to allow municipalities to limit pension reforms. The measure was proposed by San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed (D), but he dropped the measure after state Attorney General Kamala Harris wrote the language for the measure in a manner that Reed viewed as designed to make it unpalatable. The Journal says that the major impact is that Democratic politicians in the state are suborning the

ballot initiative process to protect their interests and allies.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Apple, Comcast Discuss Streaming-TV Service
US Scurries To Shore Up Spying on Russia
Inside Fed Statement Lurks Hint On Rates
Hedge Fund Bets Iran Will Pay For Terror Attack

New York Times:
From De Blasio, Gentler Words About Charter Schools
Japan To Let US Assume Control Of Nuclear Cache
Beneath Cities, A Decaying Tangle Of Gas Pipes
Inquiry Is Said To Clear Christie, But That's His Lawyers' Verdict
Selling A Poison By The Barrel: Liquid Nicotine For E-Cigarettes
3 Presidents And A Riddle Named Putin

Washington Post:
Deeper Russian Push Is Feared
Foreign Policy Shift Runs Up Against Old Foe
Obama Boosts Effort To Find Kony
Justices' Faith Is On Many Minds In Religious Cases
Social-Media Battles For Medical Care Face Backlash
A Week Out, All Eyes Suddenly Appear To Be On Bowser

Financial Times:
Top NATO General In Russian Troops Alert
NHS Needs An Extra £2Bn, Says Chief
Regulators Warn As Risky Loans Soar
Nasdaq Rethinks Amazon Cloud Partnership
Europe's Periphery In Fundraising Rush
Heseltine Takes Full Control Of Haymarket
CFTC Steps Up "Exchange For Futures" Probe

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Washington-Mud Slide; Mud Slide-Weather; Weather Forecast; Barge Collision-Oil Spill; Malaysian Missing Flight; Malaysian Flight-Analysis; Russia-Ukrainian Base; China-First Lady; Hilary Clinton-Public Appearance; Rising Grocery Prices-Cause.
CBS: Preempted By NCAA Basketball.
NBC: Washington-Mud Slide; Malaysian Missing Flight; Malaysian Flight-Satellite Images; Barge Collision-Oil Spill.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Malaysian Missing Flight; Washington-Mud Slide; President Obama-European Summit; Presidential Election Prediction
CBS: Washington-Mud Slide; Uganda-Warlord Search; Malaysian Missing Flight Search; Malaysian Flight-Emergency Landing; Russian Presence-Ukraine; Asian Markets Up
NPR: Washington-Mud Slide; Barge Collision-Oil Spill; Ukraine-Financial Stimulus; NATO-Nuclear Weapons Conference; Malaysian Missing Flight; Democratic Representative Replacement-Rhode Island; Califomia-Employment Labor Market Up
FOX: Washington-Mud Slide; Malaysian Missing Flight; President Obama-European Trip; Gas Prices Up; NCAA-March Madness

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Tours the Rijksmuseum and holds a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Rutte of the Netherlands; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Xi Jinping of China at the U.S. ambassador's residence; participates in the Nuclear Security Summit at the World Forum; attends a G-7 leaders meeting on Ukraine at Catshius; joins King Willem-Alexander for dinner at the Royal Palace.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Visits China.
US Senate: 3 p.m. NORTH KOREAS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS — The Foreign Policy Initiative hosts a public forum on North Korea's Human Rights Violations -What Next After the UN Report? Opening Remarks: Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ), Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) invited. Panel I: Hyeonsoo Lee, Speak North Korean Defector. Moderator: Melanie Kirkpatrick, Hudson Institute. Panel II: Roberta Cohen, Speak The Brookings Institution; Greg Scarlatoiu, Speak Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. Moderator: Christopher J. Griffin, Foreign Policy Initiative. RSVP at: https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1702439-HYoQQcxB1f For more information: http://www.foreignpolicyi.org/content/north-koreas-human-rights-violations-what-next-after-un-commission-inquiry-report Location: 106 Dirksen.
US House: 12 p.m. — The House meets for Morning Hour debate and at 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

3 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Financial Services and General Government budget hearing for the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Witness: Michael Botticelli, Deputy Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373112 Location: 2359 Rayburn.

4:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Legislative Branch hearing on United States Capitol Police. Witness: Chief Kim Dine, United States Capitol Police. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373113 Location: HT-2 The Capitol.

4:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Ongoing Intelligence Activities, Closed. Location: HVC-304.

5:30 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Markup to consider draft legislation to reauthorize the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act. The subcommittee will convene for opening statements only Location: 2123 Rayburn.

Other: March 22 – 25. GIFTED CHILDREN SYMPOSIUM — The Wallace Research and Policy Symposium, a "premiere scholarly conference at which the latest research findings and policy implications for gifted education and talent development are addressed." http://www2.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/Researchers/wallace/ 1:30 p.m. Remarks by Deb Delisle, assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education, U.S. Department of Education. Location: Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, 2800 South Potomac Ave., Arlington, Va.

March 23 – 24. URBAN SCHOOLS LEGISLATIVE/POLICY CONFERENCE — Council of the Great City Schools Annual Legislative/Policy Conference, a gathering of the nations urban school leaders – superintendents, board members and senior administrators – focusing on education legislation, funding and policies. Conference agenda: http://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/22/CGCS%20Leg%20Conf%202014.pdf 8 a.m. Breakfast remarks by Assistant Secretary Deb Delisle. 12 p.m. Luncheon remarks by Representative DeLauro and Representative Miller. Location: Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW.

March 24 – 25. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY EVENTS — National Medal of Honor Day activities from SCOTUS to Arlington National Cemetery. Contact: Janet Donovan, creative.enterprises.int@gmail.com Office: 202-822-9318. Cell phone: (202) 904-1035. http://cmohfoundation.org/citizen-honors/community-service-awards/ 6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Premiere of The Medal of Honor: A History

followed by a dinner with The Supreme Court – Producer Ed Hooper; Joe Thompson; Ronald Rand, CEO of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation; Tom Wilkerson, recent CEO of CMOH Foundation and recipients of Citizen Honors. 1 First St NE, Washington, DC – Interviews will be allowed on the lawn of the Supreme Court but must be confirmed in advance. Directions: http://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/visitorservices.aspx.

March 24 – 26. NASA RECENTLY RETURNED ASTRONAUTS — Two astronauts recently returned from the International Space Station will be in Washington for a series of events, which are open to the media, March 24-26. 3 p.m. Nyberg will participate in a NASA Social to answer questions and share her experience being an astronaut, engineer, artist, fitness lover and mother. The event will take place at NASA Headquarters, 300 E St. SW. http://www.nasa.gov/social

ACS PANEL – IMMIGRATION — 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Speakers: Introduction: Caroline Fredrickson, President, American Constitution Society; Del. Ana Sol Gutierrez (D-Montgomery), Maryland House of Delegates, Sponsor of the Maryland Law Enforcement TRUST Act. Panel moderator: Angela Maria Kelley, Vice President, Immigration Policy, Center for American Progress. Panelists: Kamal Essaheb, Immigration Policy Attorney, National Immigration Law Center; Pratheepan Gulasekaram, Associate Professor of Law, Santa Clara University; Lorella Praeli, Advocacy & Policy Director, United We Dream; Karthick Ramakrishnan, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of California, Riverside. https://www.acslaw.org/node/923815561 Location: SEIU Conference Center, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue NW.

U.S. CHAMBER – PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES – HEALTH CARE — 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Achieving Meaningful Transparency: Better Information on Quality and Cost. Speakers: Randy Johnson, Senior Vice President of Labor, Immigration, and Employee Benefits, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Mark McClellan, Director, Engelberg Center for HealthCare Reform; Senior Fellow, Economic Studies; Leonard D. Schaeffer Chair in Health Policy Studies, The Brookings Institution; Tessie Abraham, Legislative Counsel, Office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey; Larry Becker, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Alliances and Analytics, Xerox; Nick DiCarlo, Legislative Assistant, Office of U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin; Bill Kramer, Executive Director for National Health Policy, Pacific Business Group on Health; Jane Lucas, Health Policy Counsel, Office of U.S. Senator John Thune; Becky Lyons, Director of Health and Wellness, Wegmans Food Markets; Katie Mahoney, Executive Director of Health Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Chere Parton, President, WellMatch; Joel White, Executive Director, Council for Affordable Health Coverage. RSVP Credentialed members of the media are invited to attend. To register, email press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682. https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/documents/files/USCCHealthCareSolutionsCouncilReport_0.pdf Location: U.S. Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H Street, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "During a speech on women's economic issues yesterday, President Obama said that our country's policies would be different if men were having babies. And Biden said, 'How would that work? Would the baby come from the butt?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "It's been a tough week for the President. Get this: 'Fortune' magazine – you know that magazine, right? They just released a list of this world's 50 greatest leaders which includes Angelina Jolie, Derek Jeter, and Bono, but not President Obama."

Seth Meyers: "This is unfortunate. Delaware's basketball coach Monte Ross accidentally ignored a phone call from Vice President Joe Biden Wednesday morning because he doesn't answer the phone on game days. 'I'm totally going to start using that,' said President Obama."

Seth Meyers: "Rush Limbaugh – this is great news for Rush Limbaugh. Rush Limbaugh is a finalist for author of the year, from the Children's Book Counsel. Said Limbaugh, 'It was meant for adults!"

Seth Meyers: "White House Press Secretary Jay Carney is denying allegations that he rehearses his daily

question-and-answer session with the White House press corps. Said Carney, 'These allegations are absolutely – line?"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Mar 25, 2014 at 7:03 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ FWS Targets Conservation In Prairie Pothole Region.
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+ Nene Geese On Oahu Spotted In Wild For First Time Since 1700s.
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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO DEFEND INTERIOR BUDGET BEFORE HOUSE AND SENATE PANEL. The Environment & Energy Publishing (3/25, 705) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "this week will defend her agency's $11.9 billion fiscal 2015 budget before the House and Senate in hearings sure to spark debate over the Obama administration's energy and conservation agendas." Jewell will appear on Tuesday before the House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, and on Wednesday "before the Senate panel of the same name." according to the article, "both hearings will give lawmakers a chance to debate an Interior budget that's heavy on conservation and that contains familiar, but so far unsuccessful, proposals to raise $2.5 billion in new fees from oil and gas and mining on federal lands."

King Cove Residents To Attend Senate Appropriations Meeting. KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK (3/25) reports that "ever since the Interior Department turned down a request to build a road through a federal wildlife refuge in December, the village of King Cove has been lobbying hard to keep the proposal alive." According to the article, "a group of King Cove residents and tribal officials" have "traveled to the nation's capital so they can attend a Senate appropriations meeting on Wednesday." Sen. Lisa Murkowski said she will "grill" Interior Secretary Sally Jewell about the proposed road.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the Nation Sun News (3/25), the "In The Loop" blog of the Washington Post (3/24, Itkowitz, 2.33M), the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (3/25, 76K), the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (3/25, 76K), and Bloomberg News (3/24, 392K).

GROUP LAUNCHES ADS AGAINST BILL SEEKING TO LIMIT NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATIONS. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (3/25, 76K) reports that the League of Conservation Voters "launched ads on Monday urging lawmakers to vote against a bill seeking to limit national monument declarations." The group "launched the web ads pressing 18 Republican and Democratic members of Congress spanning 12 states to vote no on Rep. Rob Bishop's (R-Utah) bill, H.R. 1459, which will head to the House floor on Wednesday." The conservation group claims "the bill creates unnecessary red tape that prevents new parks from being created."

Additional coverage was provided by the International Business Times (3/25, 496K) and the Huffington Post (3/25, Sheppard, 11.54M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORT ON LAND CONSERVATION BILLS. Additional coverage of the report released by the Center for American Progress on ten stalled land conservation bills was provided by the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (3/25, 56K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITES FOR 2016 CENTENNIAL,. The Oregonian (3/25, 819K) reports that the NPS will "make the centerpiece of its 2016 Centennial a broad public engagement campaign to reintroduce the work of the National Park Service to a new generation of Americans, according to the park service's partner, the National Park Foundation." According to the article, "the two-year effort will begin in 2015 and run throughout the National Park Service's 100th anniversary year in 2016." Also, the NPS and National Park Foundation "both launched Centennial web pages today, the start of a robust communications effort that will kick into high gear in early 2015 across all digital platforms to invite engagement in Centennial activities."

The AdWeek (3/25, 399K) reports that the NPS has updated its log. According to the article, "it's all part of a new campaign rolling out in the next two years called 'Find Your Park,' meant to expose the national park system to millennials and multicultural communities." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said, "The centennial is the perfect time to completely align our two organizations, and with partners throughout the parks community, introduce—or reintroduce—the national parks and the National Park Service's work with communities to every American."

NPS GIVING MONEY TO PAIR OF WEST MICHIGAN PARKS. The AP (3/25) reports that the NPS is "giving money to a pair of West Michigan parks to increase accessibility for people living with disabilities and expand and improve facilities." According to the article, "the funding for Cutler Park in Byron Center and Meinert Park in Muskegon was recently announced by U.S. Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin." The article notes that "the $98,785 for Cutler Park and the $31,284 for Meinert Park are courtesy of the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund."

BILL WOULD GIVE MAINE LEGISLATURE LAST WORD ON ALLOWING ANOTHER NATIONAL PARK. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (3/24, 166K) reports that "new legislation put forward by Gov. Paul LePage appears to take aim at proponents of a national park in Maine by giving the Legislature final say on large federal projects that would require the acquisition of state land." Rep. Doug Thomas, who is sponsoring "An Act To Limit Consent Regarding Land Transfers to the Federal Government," said "the bill would require state approval for federal projects exceeding 5 acres." The legislation "amends the blanket consent the state allows the federal government to acquire lands required for government purposes."

CHERRY BLOSSOMS ENTER SECOND STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT. In its "Going Out Guide" blog, the Washington Post (3/24, Ely, 2.33M) reports that the peak bloom of the cherry blossoms is a little more than two weeks away, according to the NPS. The trees are now in their second stage of bud development.

Also reporting on the story is WJLA-TV Washington (3/25, 118K).

YELLOWSTONE DECIDES AGAINST USING "BIOBULLETS" FOR BISON. The AP (3/25) reports that the NPS has "decided against shooting wild bison with vaccine-laced 'biobullets' to prevent the spread of an animal disease." NPS Regional Director Sue Masica "signed a record of decision earlier this month that leaves in place

the occasional syringe vaccination of bison calves and yearlings that are captured outside the northern boundary of the park."

Also reporting on the story is the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/25, 90K).

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK'S ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET ENDANGERED BY EROSION. The AP (3/25, Ollikainen) reports that "a four-foot section of the iconic Enchanted Valley Chalet hangs precariously over the bank of the East Fork of the Quinault River in the heart of Olympic National Park." Park officials said "there is little they can do to protect the 84-year-old structure against the forces of nature because of its remote location within a designated wilderness." Olympic National Park Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum said, "Within what is technically and economically feasible, we continue to do our very best to protect the area's natural and cultural resources and its wilderness character. Our options are limited, however, given the size and force of the river and the valley's remote location within the Olympic wilderness."

Also reporting on the story is The Oregonian (3/25, 819K).

BURNSIDE BRIDGE REOPENS. The AP (3/24) reports that the NPS says "a stone bridge that played a key role in the Civil War Battle of Antietam near Sharpsburg has reopened to pedestrians after a two-month closure." Battlefield Superintendent Susan Trail said Monday that "a chain-link fence running down the center of Burnside Bridge will keep people away from the damaged wall on the upstream side." Trail said "repairs and an engineering assessment will begin in April."

NPS CLOSING TUNNEL ALONG MEADOW RIVER. The AP (3/25) reports that the NPS says "a tunnel along the Meadow River isn't safe and will be closed." The agency said Monday that "an inspection last fall found that" the Carnifex Tunnel's "ceiling is crumbling."

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT RETIRING. The AP (3/25) reports that Dan Kimball, Everglades National Park's superintendent, will be "retiring this month after three decades in the National Park Service." The deputy director of the park service's southeast region will serve as acting superintendent.

ZION NATIONAL PARK FINDS BODY OF MISSING BASE JUMPER. The AP (3/24) reports that The body of a missing BASE jumper has been found in Zion National Park, officials said Monday. It is the second such fatality in the park in just over a month and the third in Utah in two months.

Also reporting on the story are the Los Angeles Times (3/24, Muskal, 2.38M) and Reuters (3/25, Dobner).

SIX NEW SITES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The AP (3/25) reports that Beattie's Prairie, "a site where Cherokee Indians disbanded following the Trail of Tears," is "among six new properties on the National Register of Historic Places." The other sites are the Logan Apartments in Norman, the Woodward Park and Gardens Historic District in Tulsa, Bartlesville's Washington County Memorial Hospital, the Masonic Temple and the First Methodist Episcopal Church, both in Muskogee.

FORMER NEW JERSEY GOVERNORS WARN OF THREAT TO THE PALISADES. In an op-ed for the New York Times (3/25, Byrne, Kean, Florio, Whitman, Subscription Publication, 5.41M), Brendan T. Byrne, Thomas H. Kean, James J. Florio, and Christine Todd Whitman, all former governors of New Jersey, warn that the Palisades are "under threat" by plans from consumer electronics maker LG Electronics USA "to construct a towering headquarters building along the Hudson River north of the George Washington Bridge, breaking the natural sweep of parkland and scenic vistas." They argue that "the project would set an unfortunate precedent for the construction of more high-rises along the ancient cliffs." The authors note that they "not alone in calling for LG to choose a low-rise design." Notably, NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis "recently wrote to the planning board in Englewood Cliffs that LG's plan 'threatens the nationally significant, historic scenic integrity of the Palisades in a major way' and would 'introduce a massive incompatible feature that will be visible for miles along the river.'"

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM RELEASES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COLORADO RIVER VALLEY. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post

Independent (3/25, 27K) reports that the BLM on Monday "released its proposal for the first revision of the Resource Management Plan for the Colorado River Valley in 30 years." According to the article, "the plan will eventually guide management decisions on 505,200 surface acres and 707,200 acres of subsurface mineral estate administered by the BLM's Colorado River Valley Field Office in Eagle, Garfield, Mesa, Pitkin, Rio Blanco and Routt counties for about two decades." Steve Bennett, field manager for the Colorado River Valley Field Office in Silt, said, "The extensive involvement from the public as well as our local, state and federal cooperating agencies for the past six years has been critical to developing this Resource Management Plan. We have developed a plan that balances protection of sensitive resources with resource use."

Also reporting on the story is the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (3/25, 73K).

BLM BEGINS COUNTDOWN ON BUNDY "RANGE WAR". The St. George (UT) Spectrum (3/24, 48K) reports that "in the latest and most intense salvo in the Cliven Bundy/Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 'range war,' the federal government Monday started a one-year countdown during which it plans to impound the rancher's cattle from several areas in Southern Nevada." According to the article, "Bundy, in turn, filed three notices including a 'Range War Emergency Notice and Demand for Protection' directed toward numerous county, state and federal officials including Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie, county commissioners and district attorney; Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, state attorney general, Department of Agriculture and legislature, and US representatives in Nevada."

MONTANA SPORTSMEN OPPOSE DURFEE HILLS LAND EXCHANGE. The Lewistown (MT) News-Argus (3/24, 12K) reports that Central Montana sportsmen are opposed to a proposed land exchange between the BLM and Texas billionaire brothers Dan and Farris Wilks. A group of sportsmen called the Central Montana Hunters for Public Access has "created a petition that asks the Montana office of the Bureau of Land Management to 'cease any effort or involvement in any land exchange proposal that would result in the loss of public ownership and management control of what is known as the Durfee Hills BLM Land Parcel located in southern Fergus County.'"

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ADVOCATES SEEK PROTECTION FOR GRAY WOLF. The Missoulian (3/25, 92K) reports that "a dozen wolf advocates gathered at Caras Park on Monday to plead for restored Endangered Species Act protection for the predator, while their colleagues in Helena and five other state capitals demanded the attention of their respective governors with civil disobedience efforts." Missoula protest organizer Seth Hogue of the recently formed Wolf and Wildlife Group said "similar protests were set for capitals in Idaho, Wyoming, Minnesota, Minnesota and Wisconsin, with supporting rallies in four more states, Germany and South Africa." Hogue "argued that returning gray wolves from the brink of extinction to a viable population 'should be a cause for celebration, not a reason to open hunting season again.'"

Also reporting on the story is KPLU-FM Tacoma, WA (3/25, 16K).

FWS WANTS TO EXPAND HANFORD REACH. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (3/24, Cary, 100K) reports that the FWS has notified the Department of Energy that "it wants to look into opportunities to expand the Hanford Reach National Monument with newly cleaned-up Hanford nuclear reservation land." However, "that concerns the Tri-City Development Council, which said Fish and Wildlife control of the land could mean it would remain largely off-limits to the public." The article notes that "it also could interfere with efforts to create a new Manhattan Project National Historical Park that would include Hanford's historic B Reactor and other historic Hanford sites."

FWS TARGETS CONSERVATION IN PRAIRIE POTHOLE REGION. The Progressive Farmer (3/25, 1K) reports that the FWS is "partnering with conservation groups to highlight problems with grassland conversions to crop production in the Prairie Pothole Region." The agency announced the "Prairies Conservation Campaign" on Monday to "note that grasslands and wetlands are being converted to crop production in the upper Plains states at levels not seen since the 1920s or 1930s." Noreen Walsh, Regional Director for the Mountain-Prairie Region of the FWS, said, "More than 50 percent of North American migratory waterfowl depend upon the mix of wetlands and grasslands found in the prairie pothole region. This area is called America's 'duck factory' because it is the most productive area for nesting waterfowl on the continent, perhaps the world. These prairies and all the wildlife that they support are currently stressed by many factors acting together to threaten our natural heritage. By

joining together as stewards, we can shed light on this problem and find solutions."

REPORT DETAILS EFFORTS BY ELEVEN STATES TO PROTECT SAGE GROUSE. The Deseret (UT) News (3/25, 276K) reports that "a new report by the Western Governors' Association details notable conservation efforts undertaken in 2013 by 11 western states that have populations of the bird, including Utah." The governors' association report notes that "2013 saw a tremendous amount of work undertaken by the states on sage grouse issues and also notes what is happening on the federal level." The article notes that "in addition to the individual state plans, the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are in the midst of revising 98 land use plans, with final proposals slated to be released throughout the summer and fall of this year."

REWARD STILL BEING OFFERED FOR MONTEREY OTTER KILLERS. The San Francisco Chronicle (3/24, 1.47M) reports that a reward of $21,000 still stands for information on "the shootings of three sea otters on the Monterey Peninsula." Rebecca Roca, an agent with the FWS, said, "We're still working on it. I can't release any details on our progress." She added, "The reward still stands."

Also reporting on the story is the SFist (3/24, 59K).

NENE GEESE ON OAHU SPOTTED IN WILD FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1700S. The AP (3/25, Mcavoy) reports that "endangered Hawaiian geese have been spotted in the wild on Oahu for the first time in centuries, a federal agency said Monday." According to the FWS, "a pair of nene nested and successfully hatched three goslings at a national wildlife refuge near Kahuku on the North Shore." Ken Foote, a spokesman for the FWS, said that "the nene pair at the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge near Kahuku found their own way to Oahu and weren't transported by humans."

VIETNAM CONSIDERING DESTRUCTION OF ITS ILLEGAL IVORY, RHINO HORN AND TIGER BONE. The LiveScience (3/25, 206K) reports that Vietnam "could be the latest country to destroy its stockpiles of illegal wildlife products." According to the Wildlife Conservation Society, "officials with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam say they are considering crushing rhino horn, elephant ivory and tiger bone." The article notes that "Vietnam would join other countries that have recently destroyed their stockpiles of confiscated illegal wildlife items," including the US.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: RANCHERS CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT OF PROTECTING GREATER SAGE GROUSE. Additional coverage of the concerns raised by Oregon ranchers about protecting the greater sage grouse was provided by the AP (3/25).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Offshore Energy Development:

ALASKA STATE SENATE PANEL HEARS EXXON VALDEZ FUNDING RESOLUTION. The AP (3/25, Bohrer) reports that on the 25th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez spill on Monday, Alaska's Senate Judiciary Committee heard a resolution urging the state and Federal governments to seek additional funds for restoration. No action occurred on the resolution yet.

BSEE Director Salerno Wants To Create "Safety Culture." NPR (3/25, Brady, 260K) reports that "while BSEE sets rules for offshore drillers, director Brian Salerno says he's also focused on changing the culture of oil companies." Salerno said, "Regulations will only get you so far. We have to do more." He added that he "wants every oil company to create a 'safety culture."

Oil Spill Consultant Says Area Still Not Restored 25 Years After Exxon Valdez Spill. Al Jazeera America (3/25, Lak, 79K) reports on the 25th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Seward, AK. Exxon has noted that it spent $1 billion cleaning up the spill and has paid out twice that to settle "other legal claims" since the spill. However, University of Alaska scientist and oil spill consultant Rick Steiner calls the term "clean-up" problematic. He showed "a small jar of greasy pebbles," which he said is Elanor Island beach gravel, still "covered in oil from the Exxon Valdez" after 25 years. Though he said Alaska's oil industry "takes the possibility of spills much more seriously than it used to," he cautioned that "there are no better guarantees," and that "once oil has

spilled, you cannot clean it up, you cannot restore an oil-injured ecosystem and you can't adequately rebuild human communities that are unravelled by these big industrial disasters."

Additional coverage was provided by the Huffington Post (3/25, Sheppard, 11.54M).

RESEARCH TEAM PROBES GULF OIL SPILL'S IMPACT. The Environmental Protection (3/24, 293) reports that "a research team that includes Chris Horrell, a Historic Preservation Officer and Senior Marine Archaeologist for the federal Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, has been visiting Gulf of Mexico shipwreck sites this month as its members try to determine how oil spilled after the Deepwater Horizon explosion in 2010 is affecting organisms living on them." The article notes that "all six shipwrecks – three wooden-hulled sailing ships dating to the 19th century (Ewing Bank wreck, Viosca Knoll wreck, and Mica wreck) and three World War II-era steel-hulled vessels (Halo, Anona, and U-166) – are relatively close to the Macondo well site where the spill occurred, and they all were discovered and examined before the spill by archaeologists."

NOAA Study: Deepwater Horizon Spill Left Area Fish Embryos With Heart Defects. The Washington Post (3/25, Fears, 2.33M) reports that according to a new study led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, young tuna and other fish exposed to oil from the BP Deepwater Horizon spill "developed heart defects that are likely to limit their ability to catch food." According to NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center ecotoxicology program head Nat Scholz, fish that were embryos in the northern Gulf of Mexico in April 2010 and exposed to oil from the spill are "not going to be able to survive" as they become adult fish. The article notes that studies following the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill reported "similar findings," but the population exposed to oil was smaller. The New York (NY) Times (3/25, Wines, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) also covers the story.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

MORELOS DAM GATES OPENED. The Inland News Today (CA) (3/25, 102) reports that "the gates of the Morelos Dam at the border have been opened to create a man-made flood." Jack Simes of the BOR said, "The intent is to replicate a major spring storm that will re-germinate willow and cottonwood trees. There is a lot of science work engaged in this." The article notes that "the experimental flow toward the Gulf will continue for the next 8-weeks."

OFFICIALS URGE CAUTION AS SNAKE RIVER FLOWS INCREASE. The Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (3/24, 146K) reports that the BOR will "increase flows along the Upper Snake River this week as part of normal reservoir operations to prepare for spring runoff and irrigation deliveries. People are advised to exercise caution near rivers and canals." Roland Springer, Upper Snake Field Office manager for the BOR said, "As melting snow and water delivered for irrigation raises water levels, we want people to be careful around riverbanks and canal systems. Late winter precipitation points to a good water supply for Snake River water users, and increases the potential for flooding so we want everyone to keep safety in mind."

The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (3/25, 56K) reports that John Redding, the bureau's public affairs officer, said, "We want to make sure that people are aware of the potential dangers when they are near the riverbanks either fishing or recreating and that they need to use caution. The same is true for canal banks as they are being charged up. They can be very dangerous, and caution needs to be used there as well."

BOR TO INCREASE RELEASES FROM BOYSEN DAM. The AP (3/25) reports that "flows on the Bighorn River will increase this week as the Wyoming Game and Fish Department takes action to improve conditions for trout." The BOR will increase releases from Boysen Dam starting Tuesday. According to the article, "the flows will fluctuate from 475 cubic feet per second up to 5,000 cfs this week."

BOR'S FACEBOOK PAGE OFFERS INFORMATION ON SPRING RUNOFF. The Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette (3/25, 13K) reports that the BOR has "started a new Facebook page to offer information about the upcoming spring runoff and its effects on Olympus Dam and Lake Estes."

Empowering Native American Communities:

HOUSE TO HOLD HEARING ON HANDLING OF COBELL SETTLEMENT. The Nation Sun News (3/25) reports

that the House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs will "hold an oversight hearing next week to discuss the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations." The hearing will examine how the Interior Department has been handling the program. Rep. Steve Daines said, "Since the authorization of the Cobell settlement passed Congress, tribes have dealt with needless uncertainty and delays, and are rightly concerned that the program is being designed without transparency and input from those in Indian country."

DESERT WATER AGENCY APPEALS LAWSUIT DISMISSAL. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (3/24, 86K) reports that Desert Water Agency is "appealing a judge's decision to dismiss its lawsuit" against the Interior Department "over regulations on Indian land it fears could cost it millions of dollars." The water authority filed an appeal Friday to the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The article notes that "the action comes two months after US District Court Judge Dolly Gee dismissed the lawsuit because she believed DWA failed to prove that the federal regulations were harming its operations."

TRIBES IN EVERGLADES TRY TO PRESERVE WAY OF LIFE. USA Today (3/24, Gillis, 5.82M) reports that "Indian life was uprooted" in the "mid-1900s when state and federal agencies learned how to efficiently drain South Florida's massive wetlands and subtropical forests." According to the article, "unlike the past, when children were taught to stay away from Americans and other cultures, Indians today are increasingly communicating with the outside world." They say that "it's their last resort to save the Everglades and their way of life."

Top National News:

G-7 LEADERS SUSPEND RUSSIA, WARN OF ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS. Media coverage of the crisis in Ukraine picked up again as leaders of the G-7 nations held an emergency meeting Monday in The Hague, where they voted to suspend Russia. Leaders also warned that Moscow would face additional sanctions if it moved into eastern Ukraine. The move is receiving heavy media coverage, including reports on all three networks last night, but it was not the top story on any of the broadcasts.

NBC Nightly News (3/24, story 6, 0:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported briefly that "the G-8 is going back to the G-7" after leaders "voted to kick Russia out," and ABC World News (3/24, story 6, 1:35, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported President Obama and other world leaders "turn[ed] the heat up on Russia," and "pledged to stand with Ukraine." The President was shown saying, "Europe and America are united in our support of the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian people."

The CBS Evening News (3/24, story 5, 1:15, Pelley, 5.58M) reported the G-7 leaders also "scuttled" a G-8 summit scheduled for June in Sochi, Russia. Major Garrett reported from The Hague that the G-7 nations "will now hold their own summit in Brussels in June, excluding Russia from all economic talks until the standoff over Crimea is resolved." They also "agreed that any new economic sanctions against Russia would hit its arms, energy and finance industries and would be tied directly to any new military moves into Ukraine," but will not take further action at this time.

USA Today (3/25, Dumalaon, Dorell, 5.82M) reports G-7 leaders met "to solidify their resolve to isolate Russia." The AP (3/25, Pace) too says Monday's moves were aimed a further isolating Russia. In a statement, the leaders said, "Today, we reaffirm that Russia's actions will have significant consequences." They also discussed "plans for increasing financial assistance to Ukraine's central government," and "vowed to launch coordinated sanctions on key sectors of the Russian economy" if Putin presses further into Ukraine. According to US officials, Obama "managed to win support for those potentially bruising sanctions from European leaders, who have been wary."

British Prime Minister David Cameron, the Wall Street Journal (3/25, Winning, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) reports, said Monday, "We need to send a very clear message to the Russian government and to President Putin that it would be completely unacceptable to go further into Ukraine and that would trigger sanctions from the EU, from the US, from other countries as well, and we need to be very, very clear about that."

But another Wall Street Journal (3/25, A1, Lee, Dalton, Troianovski, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) report notes that the G-7 leaders didn't specify exactly what actions they would take if Russia continued its current course, though a US official said any future sanctions would be more biting than those already imposed. According to AFP (3/25, Zaks), the G-7 will "intensify" what it called "coordinated sectoral sanctions that will have an

increasingly significant impact on the Russian economy, if Russia continues to escalate" the situation.

Bloomberg News (3/25, Neuger, 392K) reports the leaders' warnings "focused on potential military moves by the Kremlin into Russian-speaking areas of eastern and southern Ukraine, leaving open whether the West hopes to dislodge Putin's forces from Crimea."

Monday's actions, the New York Times (3/25, Shear, Smale, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) reports, were "intended as another signal of the West's condemnation of Russia's actions," but leaders said they represented "only part of a series of punishments that might still escalate if Russia refuses to turn back its aggressions."

Politico (3/25, Brown, Kopan, 73K) calls Monday's actions "yet another bid to punish...Putin for annexing part of Ukraine," while The Hill (3/25, Sink, 76K) says it is a "rebuke to Moscow."

The Washington Post (3/25, A1, Wilson, Morello, 2.33M) says the moves "followed a push by President Obama for a united stand," but Russia "dismissed" them "as unimportant." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters in The Hague, "The G-8 is an informal club. No one hands out membership cards, and no one can be kicked out of it."

Reuters (3/25, Holland, Vasovic) similarly says Lavrov played down the move, while McClatchy (3/25, Clark, Subscription Publication, 13K) quotes him as saying Russia's expulsion from the G-8 would be no "great tragedy."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/25, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) hails the move to keep Russia out of the G-7, though it argues an outright expulsion (not just a suspension) would have been even more effective. The Journal also proposes that G-7 nations pull out of the 2018 World Cup, which Russia will host.

Lavrov Demands Ukraine Grant More Autonomy To Its Regions. The AP (3/25, Mills, Leonard) reports that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met with his Ukrainian counterpart Andriy Deshchytsia on Monday in the Hague to demand "more autonomy for Ukraine's regions." The "unexpected" meeting was "the highest level" one "yet between the Russian government and a representative of the new Ukrainian government that Moscow has opposed vociferously over the past month."

The Wall Street Journal (3/25, Troianovski, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) notes Lavrov also met with Secretary of State Kerry on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit. For their part, the AP (3/25) reports, Kerry and Deshchytsia expressed concern about Russia's military buildup along its border with eastern Ukraine.

Reuters (3/25, Deutsch) reports Kerry expressed "strong concern" about the buildup of Russian troops during his meeting with Lavrov, a senior State Department official said.

Breedlove: Moldova's Transnistria Could Be Russia's Next Target. ABC World News (3/24, story 6, 1:35, Sawyer, 7.43M) reported Russia continues to mobilize "tens of thousands of troops" along its border with Ukraine. Jonathan Karl said there are "now 30,000 Russian forces there, 10,000 added just over the past week." President Vladimir Putin says the troops "are there for military exercises and nothing more, but officials don't believe that. As one official put it, we have every reason to be skeptical about what the Russians are saying."

The Washington Post (3/25, Englund, 2.33M) notes that over the weekend, the commander of NATO forces in Europe, US Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove expressed concerns that Moldova's breakaway province of Transnistria "will very soon become Europe's next crisis point." The Post also notes that there's a "Russian army base in Transnistria, with 1,200 soldiers."

NYTimes Analysis: Putin's Actions Rooted In Sense Of West's Betrayal, Dislike Of US Unilateralism. The New York Times (3/25, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) analyzes Russia's motivation in the current Ukraine crisis, and points that to Vladimir Putin and many Russians the conflict stems from the West's actions in the aftermath of the Cold War – "drawing into Europe's fold not just former Eastern bloc nations like Poland and Bulgaria, but the ex-Soviet republics...in the Baltics." Moreover, "Putin and many Russians believe that the Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev had received assurances that the NATO alliance would not extend

beyond a reunited Germany," and thus "consider it a betrayal that NATO now includes the Baltics, reaching Russia's borders." Moreover, adds the Times, "Putin has been maneuvering for some time to thwart what he views as American unilateralism in global affairs, especially after what he has said were serious mistakes in Iraq, Libya, Egypt and Syria. But only in the Syria case, Putin's supporters say, did Russia gain footing, outmaneuvering President Obama."

Bret Stephens, in the Wall Street Journal (3/25, Subscription Publication, 4.25M), criticizes liberals and "realists" who, according to him, are lending their support to Putin's moves. In effect, says Stephens, neither NATO's expansion nor historical claims account for Russia's actions. Instead, Putin is pursuing his self-interest a leader of a corrupt economy rich in commodities.

Richard Cohen, in the Washington Post (3/25, 2.33M), notes the key role played by nefarious individuals in the violent tragedies of the 20th century, and argues that "this is why the study of Vladimir Putin is so important." While "Russian nationalism is an indigenous force, and Russian grievance is somewhat the same...another leader may not have fanned either one."

DeWayne Wickham, however, in his column for USA Today (3/25, 5.82M) likens Putin's actions to "the series of events that brought about the creation of Panama in 1903." Panama had been a province of Colombia, and when its government "rejected a treaty that would have allowed the United States to build a canal across its territory to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, a plot was hatched to make Panama an independent nation." The US sent warships "to stop Colombia from reinforcing its beleaguered troops in its Panama province," and a newly independent Panama "responded by quickly giving America the treaty it sought." Wickham adds that "Panama is in the geopolitical backyard of the USA. It's inside America's sphere of influence, just as Crimea is inside Russia's."

Sanctions Already Hurting Russia By Creating "Panic" Among Investors. The Washington Times (3/25, Hill, 230K) paints a dire picture of the effect of the crisis on Russia's economy, with "financial markets crashing, economic growth falling, and foreign investors and citizens pulling money out of the country at a frenetic pace." The "limited sanctions imposed by the US and European Union...have helped create panic that has prompted investors and businesses to pull $70 billion out of the country in the first quarter after having withdrawn $63 billion in all of 2013."

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR RELIGIOUS CHALLENGE TO ACA'S CONTRACEPTIVE MANDATE. Reuters (3/25, Hurley) reports that on Tuesday, the Supreme Court will consider whether business owners can object to the ACA's contraceptive mandate on religious grounds. The Court will consider whether those challenging the mandate have a case under the 1993 Federal law called the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and the First Amendment to the US Constitution, which ensures the free exercise of religion. The Court is expected to rule by the end of June.

Opinion pieces this morning generally oppose the corporations' attempt to be exempted form the mandate. An editorial in the Washington Post (3/25, 2.33M) argues that the firms seeking exemptions form the contraceptive mandate are wrong because "no one's religious practices are being burdened to a 'substantial' degree." Moreover, The Post argues that it is "not feasible for a corporation to easily opt out of any generally beneficial law that happens to offend its owners."

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (3/25, Fluke, 2.33M), social justice attorney Sandra Fluke, who is a candidate for California State Senate, casts the cases before the Supreme Court as a threat to women's rights, arguing that if "religious rights are extended to corporations, it puts us on a slippery slope where any private company could argue that religious beliefs prevent it from offering vital employee protections." The outcomes of these cases, she writes, "could deny millions of women coverage of any or all forms of birth control, limiting women's ability to control their reproductive health, plan their pregnancies and manage their lives."

In an op-ed for USA Today (3/25, Robinson, 5.82M), Rev. V. Gene Robinson, the IX Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire and a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, writes that "most American women, regardless of what religion they are, use contraception at some point in their lives." Robinson argues that Christianity "should be about more love, not less; more dignity, not less." He argues that a decision in favor of Hobby Lobby in this case "would not be a victory for religious freedom, but a victory for discrimination and a

repudiation of the vital progress the court has made in securing equal justice for all."

APPROVAL OF LNG EXPORT PROJECT MET WITH MIXED REACTION ON HILL. The Wall Street Journal (3/25, Harder, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) reports that the Administration has given conditional approval for the construction of the Jordan Cove liquid natural gas export project, a move that drew praise from Democrats on the Hill but was seen as insufficient by House Speaker Boehner. Jordan Cove, which would export LNG from Oregon, is the seventh project that has gotten the go-ahead from the DOE to begin development, though, like five of the others, it has not received final approval from FERC. While Colorado Sen. Mark Udall (D), who is facing a tough reelection bid and whose state is home to significant energy resources, praised the move, a spokesman for Boehner said that while it was welcome, it took two years and there are many similar projects that need swift Administration action.

McClatchy (3/25, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 13K) reports that Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu (D), who chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and is facing a tough reelection bid in an energy-industry-heavy state, praised the move as a way to counter Russia. However, McClatchy adds that it is "questionable how much increased American exports" of LNG "could hurt" Russian President Putin, "since most are destined for Asia, not Europe, and are years from reality."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/25, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) says that the approval of Jordan Cove is a positive step, but barely sufficient, as there are still 24 more proposals awaiting action. The Journal portrays the move as an attempt to forestall Congressional action to boost LNG exports.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Lethal Liquid Nicotine."*** An editorial in the New York Times (3/25, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) says the Obama Administration is "asleep at the switch" as "makers of electronic cigarettes and liquid nicotine, which is extracted from tobacco, are expanding rapidly with no meaningful regulatory oversight." The Times argues that the FDA should be allowed "to propose rules and begin taking public comment." Proposed rules should include limiting "the amount of liquid nicotine in any container sold to consumers," banning Internet sales, requiring childproof packaging, and banning "labels and flavorings that appeal to children." In addition, the Times argues for prohibiting "the sale of liquid nicotine in very high concentrations; 10 percent and 7.2 percent solutions are widely available on the Internet and are lethal even in small quantities."

"Under The Streets, A Lurking Danger." In an editorial, the New York Times (3/25, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) says that while investigators have yet to determine the cause of the gas explosion that killed 8 in East Harlem earlier this month, "there is more that can be done to make New York and other cities safer, starting now." The Times says that Congress should back two Senate bills from Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey (D), "which seek to hasten the replacement of old, leaking natural-gas pipelines nationwide." In addition to preventing explosions, the Times says that a "a concerted effort to repair obsolete gas pipes would also help reduce emissions that worsen climate change and save money, because when gas disappears, customers pay for it anyway."

"Egypt's Miscarriage Of Justice." In an editorial, the New York Times (3/25, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) calls the conviction and death sentences for 529 supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi "a uniquely shocking example of a judicial system run amok" and "an outrageous escalation of the military-led government's ruthless crackdown against the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamist supporters of...Morsi." The Times adds that "inexplicably," the US and UK "issued separate, similarly weak statements" which are "unlikely to have much effect on Egypt's military and a population that largely seems willing to tolerate its abuses."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A 'Compelling' Interest."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (3/25, 2.33M) argues that the firms seeking exemptions form the contraceptive mandate are wrong because "no one's religious practices are being burdened to a 'substantial' degree." Moreover, The Post argues that it is "not feasible for a corporation to easily opt out of any generally beneficial law that happens to offend its owners."

"Flawed Military Justice." In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/25, 2.33M) argues that the Sinclair and Midshipman Joshua Tate cases "show why trained, independent prosecutors, not commanding officers with

competing concerns, should be in charge of deciding which cases come to trial," and goes on to offer support for "legislation championed by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) that would have brought about this critical reform" and "got 55 votes in the Senate this month, a clear majority but unfortunately five short of the 60 needed to overcome a filibuster." Congress, concludes the Post, "needs to revisit this issue."

"A Malaysian Catastrophe." In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/25, 2.33M) criticizes the Malaysian government saying it has been "ham-handed in its dealings with grieving families and the global glare of attention." While the situation would be difficult for any government, the Malaysian government, the Post argues, "has shown signs of a deeper malaise that comes from a half century of rule without challenge or transparency." The Post calls on Malaysia's rulers "to draw lessons from their unsteady performance of recent weeks and commit themselves to transparency and openness."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"NATO's Military Decline."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/25, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) criticizes Western governments' military cuts since the end of the Cold War, with only four members of NATO (US, UK, Greece and Estonia) spending more than 2% of their GDP on defense. Russia, meanwhile, has increased defense spending by 79% in the last 10 years, says the Journal.

"One Down, 24 To Go." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/25, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) says that the approval of the Jordan Cove LNG export project is a positive step, but barely sufficient, as there are still 24 more proposals awaiting action. The Journal portrays the move as an attempt to forestall Congressional action to boost LNG exports.

"Putin Gets The Boot." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/25, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) hails the move to keep Russia out of the G7, though it argues an outright expulsion (not just a suspension) would have been even more effective. The Journal also proposes that G7 nations pull out of the 2018 World Cup, which Russia will host.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
World Leaders Shun Russia, Raise Pressure
Missing Malaysia Plane Declared Lost In Remote, Forbidding Seas
Madoff Ex-Employees Found Guilty Of Fraud

New York Times:
Obama To Call For End To NSA's Bulk Data Collection
Russia Is Ousted From Group Of 8 by US And Allies
Carmaker Misled Grieving Families On A Lethal Flaw
Jet Fell Into Ocean With All Lost, Premier Says
Egypt Sentences 529 To Die In Police Officer's Killing
US Accuses Rikers Officer Of Ignoring Dying Plea

Washington Post:
A Vigil Of Loving Hope Gives Way To Grief
Flight 'Ended' In Indian Ocean
US, Key Allies Move To Isolate Putin
Pushing Her Limits To Find Relief
Cantor Attempts To Rebrand The House GOP, And Himself

Financial Times:
Russia Braced For $70Bn In Outflows
Inmarsat Helps Solve MH370 Mystery
US Loses Edge As Employment Powerhouse
US Judge Calls For End To Activist "Deluge"

Box Reveals Losses As It Seeks $250M IPO
Co-Op Bank Seeks To Raise Further £400M
Latecomers Feel The Pain

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Malaysian Missing Flight-Indian Ocean; Malaysian Flight-Family Reaction; Malaysian Flight-Analysts; Washington-Mud Slide; Weather Forecast; Russian Troop Mobilization-US Response; Health-New Melanoma Drugs
CBS: Malaysian Flight-Indian Ocean; Malaysian Flight-Evidence; Malaysian Flight-Debris; Washington-Mud Slide; US-G-7 Meeting- Russia; Egypt-President Morsi Supporters Sentenced; Texas-Oil Spill; Wall Street Ponzi Scheme Convictions; Chicago-Train Derailment
NBC: Malaysian Missing Flight-Indian Ocean; Malaysian Flight-Family Reaction; Malaysian Flight-Debris Search; Washington Mud Slide-Devastation; President Obama-G-7 Summit; Chicago-Train Derailment; Texas-Oil Spill; Weather Forecast; First Lady-China

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Washington-Mudslide; Texas-Oil Spill; G-7-Russian Exclusion; Malaysian Missing Airline-Indian Ocean
CBS: Malaysian Missing Airline-Indian Ocean; Washington-Mudslide; G-7 Summit-Russian Exclusion; Egypt-Morsi Supporters Sentenced To Death; Dow Down
NPR: Washington-Mudslide; JP Morgan Chinese Investment Banker Retires; Malaysian Missing Flight-Indian Ocean; Africa-Hunt For Kony; Egypt-Morsi Supporters Sentenced To Death; Weather Forecast
FOX: Washington-Mudslide; Malaysian Missing Flight-Indian Ocean; Bodies Found-Colorado Plane Crash

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Meets with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakstan, US Ambassador's residence, The Netherlands, closed press; arrives at the World Forum at the Hague to participate in the Nuclear Security Summit, The World Forum; attends the leaders-only plenary session, The World Forum, The Hague; participates in a working lunch with plenary discussion, The World Forum, The Hague, closed press; attends the closing session, The World Forum, The Hague, closed press; holds a joint press conference with Prime Minister Rutte, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, The Netherlands, open press; hold a bilateral meeting with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates, US Ambassador's residence, The Netherlands, closed press; holds a trilateral meeting with President Park Geun-Hye of the Republic of Korea and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, US Ambassador's residence, The Netherlands; meets and greets with Embassy personnel, US Ambassador's residence, The Netherlands; departs The Netherlands en route to Brussels, Belgium.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Visits a NH Works Center in Nashua, New Hampshire with the Secretary of Labor.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Visits Chengdue from March 25-26.
US Senate: 11 a.m. BORLAUG STATUE UNVEILING – HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS — The unveiling of a new statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection of Iowan Norman Borlaug. on the 100th anniversary of Borlaugs birth. Borlaug is one of only five people to have been honored with the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Medal of Honor. Participants: House Speaker John Boehner; Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Governor of Iowa Terry Branstad; Members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation.

11:30 a.m. DEMOCRATIC WOMEN – MINIMUM WAGE — Joint Economic Committee Senate Chair Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) will hold a press conference to highlight "the importance of raising the minimum wage for women and the economy." Location: S-120.

10 a.m. — The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. Thereafter, senators resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.2124, the Ukraine Aid bill.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Meets To receive testimony on U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, USN, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USA, Commander, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/us-pacific-command-and-us-forces-korea_03/25/2014 Location: G50 Dirksen.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies meets on the overview on the Department of Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request to Congress. Witnesses: Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs. Accompanied by: Robert A. Petzel, MD, Under Secretary for Health; Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits; Steven L. Muro, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs; Stephen Warren, Executive in Charge for Information and Technology; Helen Tierney, Executive in Charge for the Office of Management and Chief Financial Officer. Location: 124 Dirksen.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — Hearing "Importing Energy, Exporting Jobs Can it be reversed?" Witnesses: Adam Sieminski, Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration; Jaroslav Neverovic, Minister, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania; Dr. David Montgomery, Senior Vice President, NERA Economic Consulting; David L. Goldwyn, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Energy Security Initiative at the Brookings Institution; Edward C. Chow, Senior Fellow, Energy and National Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies. Location: 366 Dirksen.

10 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Witness: John F. Kerry, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/national-security-and-foreign-policy-priorities-in-the-fy-2015-international-affairs-budget/032514 Location: 419 Dirksen.

Notes: Secretary Kerry's official schedule still has him on foreign travel – Secretary Kerry accompanies President Obama on foreign travel to The Hague, Rome, Vatican City, and Riyadh. https://usaive.ap.org/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/03/,Danalnfowww.state.gov+223813.htm

2:15 p.m. ARMED SERVICES – CLOSED — Meets to receive a briefing on challenges to maintaining U.S. military technology superiority. Witnesses: Frank Kendall III, Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense; Alan R. Shaffer, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense, Research and Engineering, Department of Defense. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/challenges-to-maintaining-us-military-technology-superiority Location: Room SVC-217, Capitol Visitor Center.

2:30 p.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Hearing on "Teacher Preparation: Ensuring a Quality Teacher in Every Classroom." Witnesses: Dr. Edward Crowe, Senior Advisor of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Princeton, NJ; Dr. Mary Brabeck, Gale and Ira Drukier Dean and Professor of Applied Psychology, New York University, New York, NY; Dr. Mari Koerner, Professor and Dean of the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ; Timothy Daly, President of The New Teacher Project, Brooklyn, NY; Dr. Jeanne Burns, Associate Commissioner of Teacher and Leadership Initiatives, Louisiana Board of Regents, Baton Rouge, LA. Location: 430 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia hearing on Transparency and Training: Preparing our First Responders for Emerging Threats and Hazards. Witnesses: Mike King Acting Director of National Training and Education, Superintendent of the Center for Domestic Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Tim McLean, Chief, Casselton Fire Department, Wheatland, North Dakota; Lisa Stabler, President, Transportation Technology Center, Inc. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/emdc/hearings/transparency-and-training-preparing-our-first-responders-for-emerging-threats-and-hazards Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearing on Intelligence Matters. Location: 219 Hart.

3:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch hearing on FY 2015 Budget Requests for the U.S. Capitol Police, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and the Secretary of the Senate. Witnesses: Chief Kim Dine U.S. Capitol Police; Terrance Gainer, Senate Sergeant at Arms; Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the Senate. Location: 192 Dirksen.

US House: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. HOUSE STEEL CAUCUS — Five steel company CEOs, members of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) will testify at a hearing of the House Steel Caucus. The executives will discuss the state of the steel industry and how policies on trade, tax, energy, environment and infrastructure are impacting business. The hearing is hosted by Steel Caucus Chair Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) and Vice-Chair Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-IN). The United Steel Workers (USW), the Steel Manufacturers Association (SMA), Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA), and the Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports (CPTI) will also participate. Participants: Steel producing company CEOs- John Ferriola, Chairman, President, and CEO Nucor Corporation; Mario Longhi, President and CEO, U.S. Steel Corporation; Michael Rehwinkel, Executive Chairman, EVRAZ North America; Michael Rippey, President and CEO, ArcelorMittal USA; Charles Schmitt, President, SSAB Americas. Also expected to testify are Leo Gerard, International President of the United Steelworkers; Carl Moulton, Senior Vice President International, Allegheny Technologies Incorporated; John Stupp, President, Stupp Corporation; Richard Dick Teets – President & COO Steel Operations, Steel Dynamics, Inc. Location: 2218 Raybum.

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES — Empowering Pacific Islander Communities and Asian Americans Advancing Justice host the launch of A Community of Contrasts: Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the United States, 2014. This report compiles the latest data on more than 20 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups throughout the United States, providing insight into the diversity of NHPI communities as well as how policymakers can address the needs of this growing, yet often invisible group. Welcome by Rep. Judy Chu, D-California; Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii . Speakers: Tana Lepule, Executive Director, EPIC; Joanna Lee, Senior Research Analyst, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles; Dr. Alek Sripipatana, US DHHS Native Hawaiian and Pacific, Islander Health Advisor and Liaison; Sefa Aina, Board Chair, EPIC; Fahina Tavake-Pasi, Executive Director, National Tongan American Society; JoAnn Tsark, Research Director, Papa Ola Lokahi. CONTACT: Nicole Duran, 202-499-7027 x. 112, comrequests@advancingjustice-aajc.org Location: Capitol Visitors Center, HVC 200, First St. SE.

10 a.m. DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS — Time approximate. Press availability with Democratic Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra (CA-34) and Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Joe Crowley (NY-14) following Caucus meeting. Topic: "The Importance of Fixing Our Broken Immigration System." Location: HVC-210 alcove stakeout location.

10 a.m. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — Time approximate. Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Representative Bradley Byrne (R-AL). Location: HC-8.

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. LOW INCOME TAX CREDIT — The Institute for Womens Policy Research holds a briefing "Improving Tax Credits for New Mothers and Reducing Marriage Penalties for Low-Income Americans" Location: 2175 Rayburn

11 a.m. BORLAUG STATUE UNVEILING – HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS — The unveiling of a new statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection of Iowan Norman Borlaug. on the 100th anniversary of Borlaugs birth. Borlaug is one of only five people to have been honored with the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Medal of Honor. Participants: House Speaker John Boehner; Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Governor of Iowa Terry Branstad; Members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation.

11 a.m. REP HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing in his U.S. Capitol office). NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED. Location: H-144.

12:15 p.m. REP. BLACK – HHS MANDATE — Representative Diane Black (R-TN-06) will hold a press conference at the House Triangle following Supreme Court oral arguments in the landmark cases Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood v. Sebelius. Congressman Black is the author of H.R. 940, the Health Care Conscience Rights Act. Speakers: Rep. Diane Black (R-TN); Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN); Rep. Michele

Bachmann (R-MN); Rep. Vicki Hartzler (R-MO); Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC); Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX); Rep. James Lankford (R-OK); Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA); Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA). Location: House Triangle at the Capitol. (Location subject to change due to weather).

2 p.m. PRO-CHOICE CAUCUS – HOBBY LOBBY — Press conference on Hobby Lobby oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court. With Rep. Louise Slaughter and Rep. Diana DeGette, Co-Chairs of Pro-Choice Caucus. Location: House Radio and Television Gallery Studio A.

4:50 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. HOYER, MCGOVERN, HUTLGREN, DAVIS, KING – FEEDING AMERICA — Press Conference on Capitol Hill to announce the "largest" donation ever made ($1 million over three years) by the Dunkin Donuts & Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation (DDBRCF). Participants scheduled to participate include: Representative Steny Hoyer, D-MD; Rep. Jim McGovern, D-MA; Rep. Randy Hutlgren, R-IL; Rep. Rodney Davis, R-IL; Rep. Peter King, R-NY. Location: 1309 Longworth.

10 a.m. — The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies subcommittee budget hearing on Department of Energy, Applied Energy Funding. Witnesses: David Danielson, Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; Dr. Pete Lyons, Assistant Secretary, Nuclear Energy; Christopher Smith, Acting Assistant Secretary, Fossil Energy; Patricia Hoffman, Assistant Secretary, Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373115 Location: 2362-A Rayburn.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Homeland Security Budget Hearing – Transportation Security Administration. Witness: John Pistole, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373117 Location: 2359 Rayburn.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Defense subcommittee Budget Hearing – Navy and Marine Corps. Witnesses: Ray Mabus, Secretary, United States Navy; Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy; General James F. Amos, Commandant, United States Marine Corps. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373116 Location: H-140 The Capitol.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – United States Department of Agriculture Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. Witnesses: Kevin Concannon, Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, United States Department of Agriculture; Audrey Rowe, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture; Michael Young, Budget Officer, United States Department of Agriculture. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373131 Location: 2362-A Rayburn.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Public and Outside Witness Hearing. Witnesses: Charles J. Baird, Chairman, Coal Operators and Associates, Inc.; Jody Barr, Connecticut State University Office of Administrative Faculty; Cynthia F. Bearer, Board Chair, Children's Environmental Health Network; Robert Blancato, National Coordinator, Elder Justice Coalition; David Bradley, Executive Director, National Community Action Foundation; Lucreda Cobbs, Senior Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs, Catholic Charities; Dr. John E. Courtney, Chief Executive Officer, The American Society for Nutrition; Jamitha S. Fields, Vice President, Community Affairs, Autism Speaks; Dr. James Fortenberry, Pediatrician in Chief, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta; Cynthia Frisina, Executive Director, Reaching for the Stars. A Foundation of Hope for Children with Cerebral Palsy, Accompanied by Dr. Lisa Thornton; Gary Goosman, President, National Senior Corps Association; Katie Jones, President, National Domestic Violence Hotline; Samir N. Khleif, M.D., Director, Georgia Regents University; Dr. Vivian S. Lee, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., University of Utah; Jonathan S. Lewin, M.D., President, Academy of Radiology Research; Robert I.L. Morrison, Executive Director, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors; David A. Pickler, President, The National School Board Association; Daniel Raymond, Policy Director, Harm Reduction Coalition; Dr. Charles Robinson, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Community Affairs, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville; Rebecca Salay, Director of Government Relations, Trust for America's Health; Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D., President, Spelman College on Behalf of UNCF; Pam Wells, Wells Wonder World. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371685 Location: 2358-C Rayburn.

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Full Committee hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of the Army. Witnesses: John McHugh, USA, Secretary of the Army; General Raymond T. Odierno, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=101955 Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10 a.m. COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET — Full committee hearing on Members' Day. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=101872 Location: 210 Cannon.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, "The Foundation for Success: Strengthening the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program." Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Full Committee hearing on "Why Debt Matters." Witnesses: David M. Cote, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Honeywell International Inc.; Alice Rivlin, Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, Brookings Institution; Dr. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, President, American Action Forum; Dr. Jared Bernstein, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373382 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Markup on: (updated) H.R. 4278, (Mr. Royce/Mr. Engel) the Ukraine Support Act

H. Res. 494, (Mr. Royce) Affirming the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act

H. Res. 418, (Mr. McGovern) Urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/markup/markup-h-res-494-and-h-res-418 Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications hearing on The Federal Emergency Management Agencys FY2015 Budget Request: Ensuring Effective Preparedness, Response, and Communications. Witness: W. Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-federal-emergency-management-agency-s-fy2015-budget-request-ensuring Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Overview of Public-Private Partnerships for Water Supply and Treatment. Participants: Deborah Robertson, Mayor of the City of Rialto, California; Bruce Tobey, Partner, Pannone Lopes Devereux & West; Dan Sugarman, Vice President, United Water; Sandra Sullivan, President-Elect, National Center for Public-Private Partnerships; Mitch Jones, Program Director, Food & Water Watch. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373518 Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. VETERANS' AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3593 and other Draft Legislation. Panel 1: Stella S. Fiotes, Executive Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction, Department of Veterans Affairs. Accompanied by: Tom Leney, Executive Director, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Department of Veterans Affairs. Panel 2: Gregory Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Raymond Kelley, Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Diane Zumatto, National Legislative Director, AMVETS; James H. Binns, Chairman, Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses; Louis Celli, Legislative Director, The American Legion; Frank Wilton, Chief Executive Officer, American Association of Tissue Banks. http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/legislative-hearing-on-hr-3593-and-other-draft-legislation Location: 334 Cannon.

10:30 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — The subcommittee will reconvene markup on draft legislation to reauthorize the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act to vote. Markup began with opening statements on the 24th at 5:30 p.m. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

11 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management hearing on Disaster Response and Preparedness: Defense Support of

Civil Authorities. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371225 Location: 2253 Rayburn.

12:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Budget Hearing – Department of Treasury, International Programs. Witness: Jack Lew, Secretary of the Treasury. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373118 Location: 2358-A Raybum.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Markup of its Views and Estimates on the Fiscal Year 2015 budget for the Small Business Administration (SBA). Location: 2360 Raybum.

1:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of the Interior. Witness: Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373119 Location: 2359 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Energy and Power Subcommittee, "H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act." http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/hr-6-domestic-prosperity-and-global-freedom-actsthash.dReouiMP.dpuf Location: 2123 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing on The First One Thousand Days: Development Aid Programs to Bolster Health and Nutrition. Witnesses: Panel I: Tjada D'Oyen McKenna, Acting Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Food Security, U.S. Agency for International Development. Panel II: Kent Hill, Senior Vice President of International Programs, World Vision; Henry Perry, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Associate, Health Systems Program, Department of International Health, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; Carolyn Wetzel Chen, Chief Grant Development Officer, Food for the Hungry, Inc.; Sophia Aguirre, Ph.D., Chair, Integral Economic Development Management Program, Catholic University of America. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of Energy, Science. Witness: Dr. Patricia Dehmer, Acting Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373120 Location: 2362-B Raybum.

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Financial Services and General Government Budget Hearing – Federal Communications Commission. Witnesses: Tom Wheeler, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; Ajit Pai, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373121 Location: B-308 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. Witnesses: Otto J. Reich, President, Otto Reich Associates, LLC; Ilan I. Berman, Vice President, American Foreign Policy Council; Mauricio Claver-Carone, Executive Director, Cuba Democracy Advocates; Michael Shifter, President, Inter-American Dialogue. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-us-disengagement-latin-america-compromised-security-and-economic Location: 2255 Rayburn.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Water and Power oversight hearing: "Examining the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Spending, Priorities and the Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Four Power Marketing Administrations and the U.S. Geological Surveys Water Program." http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=372595 Location: 1324 Longworth.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Legislative Hearing on H.R. 863 (C. Maloney), To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes. "Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013 H.R. 3006 (Calvert), To authorize a land exchange involving the acquisition of private land adjacent to the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona for inclusion in the refuge in exchange for certain Bureau of Land Management lands in Riverside County, California, and for other purposes." H.R. 4017 (Heck), To designate a peak located in Nevada as "Mount Reagan." H.R. 4120 (Hoyer), To amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date. H.R. 4253 (Bishop), To permanently withdraw, reserve, and transfer Bureau of Land Management lands used for military purposes in Alaska, Nevada, and New Mexico to the appropriate Secretary of the military

department concerned. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373193 Location: 1334 Longworth.

2 p.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment hearing on The Role of Water Quality Trading in Achieving Clean Water Objectives. Witnesses: Peter Tennant, Executive Director, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission; on behalf of the Ohio River Basin Trading Project and the Association of Clean Water Administrators; James J. Pletl, Ph.D., Director of Water Quality Hampton Roads Sanitation District; on behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies; Dr. Richard H. Moore Professor, School of Environment and Natural Resources, The Ohio State University; Executive Director, OSU Environmental Sciences Network; Associate Director of Academics, OSU Office of Energy and the Environment; Carl Shaffer, President, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau; on behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation; Brent Fewell, Partner, Troutman Sanders LLP; on behalf of the National Water Quality Trading Alliance; Ann Pesiri Swanson, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373351 Location: 2167 Rayburn.

2 p.m. VETERANS' AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2942; H.R. 3056; H.R. 3614; H.R. 4031; H.R. 4037; H.R. 4038; H.R. 4147; H.R. 4150; and H.R. 4151. http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/legislative-hearing-on-hr-2942-hr-3056-hr-3614-hr-4031-hr-4037-hr-4038-hr-4147-hr-4150-and Location: 334 Cannon.

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Military Personnel hearing on Military Personnel Overview. Witnesses: Lieutenant General Howard B. Bromberg, Deputy Chief of Staff , G-1, U.S. Army; Lieutenant General Samuel D. Cox, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, U.S. Air Force; Vice Admiral William F. Moran, Chief of Naval Personnel and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Manpower, Personnel, Training and Educaiton, U.S. Navy; Sheryl E. Murray, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; Jessica L. Wright, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=101943 Location: 2212 Rayburn.

3 p.m. RULES — Meets to consider H.R. 1459Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act. http://rules.house.gov/news/announcement/meeting-announcement-hr-1459 Location: H-313 The Capitol.

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Strategic Forces hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 Missile Defense Hearing. Witnesses: Elaine Bunn, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense, Nuclear and Missile, Defense Affairs, Department of Defense; Lieutenant General David L. Mann, U.S. Army, Commander, United States Strategic Command, Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense; Vice Admiral James D. Syring, U.S. Navy, Director, Missile Defense Agency. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=101945 Location: 2118 Rayburn.
Other: March 24 – 25. AAPA 2014 SPRING CONFERENCE — American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) will host experts and luminaries addressing transportation, infrastructure, security, environmental, energy and U.S. election issues at AAPAs 2014 Spring Conference event. Speakers will include: U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee; U.S. Rep. Bill Shuster, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; U.S. Acting Deputy Secretary of Transportation Victor Mendez; Canadian Transport Minister Lisa Riatt; and M. Gen. John W. Peabody, deputy commanding general for Civil and Emergency Operations at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Media credentialing: Aaron Ellis, aellis@aapa-ports.org For more information: http://www.aapa-ports.org/Programs/seminarschedule.cfm?itemnumber=19238 Location: The Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel, 999 9th Street NW.

March 24 – 26. NASA RECENTLY RETURNED ASTRONAUTS — Two astronauts recently returned from the International Space Station will be in Washington for a series of events, which are open to the media, March 24-26.

March 25 – 26. NACD SPRING FLY IN — NACD is hosting its 2014 Spring Fly-In March 25 and 26 in Washington, D.C. On Tuesday, attendees will hear insight from federal agency representatives on Farm Bill implementation and attend a reception in the House Agriculture Committee Room with Members of Congress and staff. On Wednesday, members will visit with their Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill to discuss

conservation policy priorities. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. General Session: 9:00 am Krysta Harden, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; 10:00 am Jason Weller, NRCS Chief; 10:45 a.m. Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief of Forest Service; 11:15 am-12:00 pm Farm Bill Implementation Panel. LOCATION: Hyatt Arlington 1325 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Capitol Hill Reception. Confirmed Speaker Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK). Location: House Agriculture Committee Room, 1300 Longworth House Office Building.

March 25 – 26. NTSB – CRUISE SHIP SAFETY — The National Transportation Safety Board today announced it will hold a public forum on cruise ship safety and oversight -Cruise Ships: Examining Safety, Operations and Oversight. http://www.ntsb.gov/news/events/2014/cruiseshipforum/index.html.

March 25 – 27. USHCC 2014 LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT — The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce holds their 24th Annual Legislative Summit. Speakers will include: Senator John cornyn, R-TX; Representative Xavier Becerra; Rep. Nancy Pelosi; Representative Mario Diaz-Balart, R-FL; Mickey Ibarra, director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; Reince Priebus, Chairman, Republican National Committee; Rep. Paul Ryan, R-WI; Senator John McCain; R-AZ; Senator Mary Landrieu, D-LA; Martin O'Malley, Governor of MD; Rep. Jeff Denham, CA; Rep. Tony Cardenas, CA; others.http://www.ushcclegislative.com/ Location: Capital Hilton, 16th and K Sts. NW.

WOMEN RULE SERIES — 8 a.m. POLITICO, Google & the Tory Burch Foundation for the first event of the 2014 Women Rule series, How Women Run: Power, Perception and Reality on women and political campaigns. Speakers: Beau Willimon, Screenwriter, playwright and creator of House of Cards @BeauWillimon; Rep. Martha Roby (R-Ala.) @RepMarthaRoby; Leticia Van de Putte, State Senator (D-Texas) @leticiavdp; Robbie Myers, Editor-in-Chief, ELLE Magazine @robbie_ELLE; Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) @SenGillibrand; Kellyanne Conway, President and CEO of the polling company, inc. & Woman Trend @KellyannePolls. Location: The Willard Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW.

ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM – CONESTOGA WOOD SPECIALTIES V. SEBELIUS — 10 a.m. Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys representing the Hahn family and Conestoga Wood Specialties will be available to media following Supreme Court oral arguments in Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Sebelius. Contacts: Greg Scott, (480) 710-1965, or Kerri Kupec, (202) 568-1545; outside of Washington: (480) 444-0020 or www.adfmedia.org/home/contact http://www.adfmedia.org/News/PRDetail/8451 Location: Outside U.S. Supreme Court, 1 First St. NE.

CAP – TEACHERS UNIONS – STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT — 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. How Working Together Improves Student Achievement. Introductory Remarks: Carmel Martin, Executive Vice President for Policy, Center for American Progress Presentation: Saul Rubinstein, Director, Program on Collaborative School Reform, Rutgers University Panelists: Ray Gaer, President, ABC Federation of Teachers; Brad Jupp, Senior Program Advisor, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education; Mary Sieu, Superintendent, ABC Unified School District. Moderator: Jenny DeMonte, Associate Director for Education Research, Center for American Progress. http://www.americanprogress.org/events/2014/03/19/85998/teachers-unions-and-management-partnerships/ Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

NATIONAL PASTORS – STAND YOUR GROUND — 2:30 p.m. Dr. R.B. Holmes, pastor of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida, will announce the formation of a 40 member National Pastors' Task Force to have "Stand Your Ground" laws repealed or amended in all states. Other speakers: civil rights Attorney Benjamin Crump (FL); United States Congresswoman Corinne Brown (D-FL); Judge Glenda Hatchett, Reverend Dr. Jamal Bryant (MD); Rev. Dr. Cullian Hill (MI), the parents of the late Travon Martin, Jordan Davis, Michael Jiles, Robert Champion, and pastors and community leaders from across America. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Everyone's talking about the situation in Ukraine, still. And over the weekend, Vladimir Putin ordered fireworks to go off in Moscow to celebrate Crimea joining Russia. And also the fact that he had Stanford

beating Kansas in his March Madness bracket."

Jimmy Fallon: "Seems like everyone's weighing in on the situation in Ukraine. In a new interview, Mitt Romney criticized President Obama for being naive, unprepared and using bad judgment. Which is also how people describe Romney when he's buying jeans."

Jimmy Fallon: "But Obama has other things to worry about. Today, he was in the Netherlands for a nuclear summit with 50 other world leaders. Not saying Obama's unpopular right now, but every time he puts down his tray in the cafeteria, all the other leaders move to another table."

Jimmy Fallon: "Oh, Edward Snowden is in the news again. I can't believe this guy. Now, intelligence officials are accusing Snowden of helping the Russian government get around NSA surveillance. Snowden said, 'Look, what I do with my computer on my time with your information is nobody's business but mine, okay?'"

David Letterman: "But President Obama is meeting with the G-7 leaders and it must be fun for him now to put faces with the voices on the wiretaps."

David Letterman: "Let's talk about your March Madness – do you know what I'm talking about with March Madness? It starts out with 68. Then it goes to 32. And then it drops to 16. You know what it's like? It's like President Obama's approval rating."

Seth Meyers: "On Sunday, Mitt Romney suggested that he had a power to see into the future and could have stopped Russia from invading Crimea, if he had been elected this 2012. Though if he could really see the future, he wouldn't have run for president in 2012."

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BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Apr 1, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO DEFEND 2015 BUDGET AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/1, 705) reports that Interior Department officials will this week defend the Obama Administration's 2015 budget request before House lawmakers at several hearings. The Natural Resources Committee will hear Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "defend the department's $11.9 billion budget request, a proposal heavy on conservation and that contains familiar, but so far unsuccessful, proposals to raise $2.5 billion in new fees from oil and gas and mining on federal lands." Also, the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee will hear from the heads of the NPS, FWS, BLM, BSEE, and BOEM.

Also covering the story are the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (4/1, 76K) and the "In The Loop" blog of the Washington Post (4/1, Itkowitz, 2.33M).

HOUSE PANEL TO CONSIDER REAUTHORIZATION OF RECREATION FEES. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/1, 705) reports that House lawmakers on Friday will "consider ways to reauthorize the law that allows the Interior Department and the Forest Service to charge user fees for properties with restrooms, picnic tables or other facilities." The Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation will "discuss a draft bill by panel Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), as well as two other measures."

REPUBLICANS HOPE TO MAKE SEN. LANDRIEU'S RHEA SUH VOTE AN ELECTION ISSUE. The Washington Examiner (4/1, 247K) reports that Louisiana Republicans are "angling to make" Rhea Suh "a problem in a key Senate race." Sen. Mary Landrieu, "one of the most vulnerable Democrats in the upper chamber, voted last week to confirm Suh as assistant secretary of fish, wildlife and parks in the Department of the Interior." Republicans "looking to oust her hope to make that vote a liability."

SEN. HAGAN APPLAUDS FUNDS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION. The Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times (3/31, 162K) reports that Sen. Kay Hagan has "applauded the announcement of $1 million for North Carolina for outdoor recreation." Hagan said, "North Carolina's sportsmen and women pay an excise tax to fund projects that enhance outdoor recreation, conserve wildlife habitats and provide hunting and boating safety education. These funds are a major reason our state is among the best places to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors in the country, and I am pleased this vital money will be released to North Carolina to help keep it that way."

Also reporting on the story is the Jacksonville (NC) Daily News (4/1, 1K).

SUPREME COURT REJECTS ALASKA APPEAL OVER FISHING RIGHTS. The AP (4/1) reports that the Supreme Court has "turned away an appeal by the state of Alaska in a long-running fight over the control of rivers and the fishing and hunting rights of Alaska Natives." The court on Monday "declined to review a federal appeals court ruling that upheld US Interior Department rules enforcing the fishing and hunting rights on some rivers that otherwise would be under state control."

Also reporting on the story is the Alaska Dispatch (3/31, 4K).

OIA OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHC, RESERVATIONS ON CUC. The Saipan Tribune (4/1, 641) reports that "visiting officials of the US Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs walked away impressed with the progress and changes seen at the public hospital, while admitting that they have a number of questions about the islands' utilities company." Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Area Lori Faeth and OIA Director Nik Pula said "last week that besides the Executive Branch, they also had a series of meetings on Thursday and Friday with other agencies that OIA has aided: the Public School System, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., among others." Faeth said, "I would say that we're encouraged by the progress they have made in the public hospital and we've seen the commitment to continue to go forward at this time."

US OIL PRODUCTION CONCENTRATED IN A FEW STATES. The "Real Time Economics" blog of the Wall Street Journal (3/31, Madigan, 4.25M) reports that preliminary Energy Information Administration data show that 74 percent of all oil produced in the US in 2012 was in Texas, North Dakota, California, Alaska, and the Federal Gulf of Mexico. Texas along produced 35 percent of all oil, and North Dakota's production has risen 177 percent over the last three years.

NEW APPROACH IN FUNDING FIGHT AGAINST WILDFIRES SUPPORTED. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (4/1, 90K) editorializes that "it's time for a fresh approach to how we fund the fight against wildfires." The paper supports "a new funding model currently garnering bipartisan support in Congress," and calls "on Wyoming's delegation to champion it in the House and Senate."

DUE DILIGENCE URGED FOR ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT PROPOSAL. In an op-ed for the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (4/1, 59K), Jerry G. Schickedanz, a former dean of New Mexico State University's College of Agriculture and Home Economics, writes that the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument is "equivalent to a massive federal land zoning change without due diligence." According to Schickedanz, "our two US senators are promoting the idea of effectively making a major zoning change on 489,815 acres of land in Doña Ana County without the data to support or deny a change in land use designation." By asking President Obama to permanently designate a land use designation, Schickedanz argues

that "they are attempting to make an end run around the democratic process of input and debate that has served this nation well for over 200 years."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

REPUBLICANS CALLS FOR REVIEW OF NPS SPENDING. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (3/31, 76K) reports that Sens. Lisa Murkowski, Mike Enzi, and Tom Coburn are calling on the called on the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the NPS' administrative structure and spending habits. In a letter to the GAO on Monday, the senators said "the growing backlog of maintenance projects raises questions about the efficiency and priorities of the park service." They "want the GAO to investigate inefficiencies, identify solutions for reducing the current maintenance backlog, including a look at improving revenue streams and review the recreational fee program."

Also reporting on the story is the National Journal (4/1, Subscription Publication, 505K).

COURT ORDERS NPS TO REVIEW CLAIMS OVER LAND SOLD FOR FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL. The Washington Times (4/1, Mcelhatton, 230K) reports that a Federal judge has ordered the NPS "to review a scrap dealer's claims that the federal government shortchanged his company when buying land for the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania." On Friday, US Court of Federal Claims Judge Charles F. Lettow "put the case on hold, despite a move by the Park Service to have the lawsuit tossed on procedural grounds." Instead, Lettow ordered the NPS to review the Rollock Company's claims for six months.

FRIENDS OF MARIE ZIMMERMAN CUTS TIES WITH NPS. The Pocono (PA) Record (4/1, 46K) reports that "the Marie Zimmerman House in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area will be closed this year, and the nonprofit group that restored it is ending its relationship with the National Park Service." The Friends of Marie Zimmerman terminated a five-year agreement with NPS in January. The agreement, signed in 2010, should have gone to 2015. NPS spokeswoman Kathleen Sandt said, "Further improvements to the site to meet legal requirements, such as accessibility, will be pursued before the site reopens to the public."

MINT TO ISSUE QUARTER HONORING SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK. The AP (4/1) reports that the US Mint is "issuing a quarter honoring Shenandoah National Park this week." According to the article, "the launch ceremony is set for 10 a.m. Friday at Skyline High School in Front Royal."

NPS RANGERS LEARNING RESCUE TECHNIQUES AT MARYLAND PARK. The AP (4/1) reports that NPS rangers are "rigging up at Catoctin Mountain Park near Thurmont to learn how to rescue people in the mountains." According to the article, "about 30 rangers and partner agency members are participating in five days of basic technical rescue training, starting Monday." The agency says "participants will learn basic rigging and rappelling techniques indoors."

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK'S INTERIM CHIEF NAMED. The AP (4/1) reports that Shawn Benge, "who managed the agency's response to the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has been appointed acting superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas national parks." Beginning Monday, Benge will "lead the parks for 90 days." Benge is "taking over for Dan Kimball, who is retiring after 10 years as the parks' superintendent."

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO BEGIN PRESCRIBED FIRES IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK. The AP (4/1) reports that the NPS is set to begin prescribed fires in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The agency says "nearly 3,000 acres could be burned between April and May."

Also reporting on the story is the Bismarck (ND) Tribune (4/1, 10K).

THREE SOUTH DAKOTA PROPERTIES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The AP (4/1) reports that the Sievers School in rural Faulk County, the Nansen Store in Howard and Iron Nation's Gravesite on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation in Lyman County in South Dakota have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Bureau of Land Management:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP PLANS TO SUE BLM OVER SPECIES PROTECTION. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (4/1, 86K) reports that environmental groups have notified the BLM that "they plan to file a lawsuit over what they call a failure to adequately protect desert tortoises and other threatened species in the California desert." The Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, and Desert Survivors "sent two letters to federal agencies on Monday, accusing the BLM of violating the Endangered Species Act by failing to submit annual reports about impacts to tortoises and other species from off-road vehicles and cattle grazing." The groups said "the BLM is supposed to provide those reports to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for conservation areas in the Mojave and Colorado deserts, but hasn't submitted the reports for the past seven years."

BLM PLANS ROCK SPRINGS WILD HORSE ADOPTION EVENT. The AP (4/1) reports that the BLM "plans a wild horse adoption event May 2-3 at its Rock Springs horse holding facility." According to the article, "horses gathered from the Salt Wells Creek herd Management Area will be available for preview and adoption."

In a separate story, the AP (4/1) reports that about 800 horses will be available for adoption.

MESA COUNTY APPROVES ROAD RESOLUTION. The AP (4/1) reports that the Mesa County Commission is "planning to assert control over roads and rights of way in a potential confrontation" with the BLM. The bureau is "studying proposed changes to the Grand Junction office's resource management plan, including transportation on more than 1 million acres it manages in Mesa County and in some adjoining counties." A county resolution "calls on Congress to develop legislation to improve procedures for respecting rights-of-way and road access."

KJCT-TV Grand Junction, CO (4/1, 2K) reports that Mesa County Commissioners and the BLM are "cooperating to make sure public roads stay open for recreation, while also protecting the environment." According to the article, "the commissioners unanimously approved the resolution Monday morning, reaffirming the county's authority to help manage federal roads."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPUBLICANS RENEW ATTACK ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (3/31, 506) reports that the Republican "anti-environment cadre in the House is once again taking aim at the Endangered Species Act by introducing legislation that would make it even harder for federal agencies to protect animals and plants that are at risk of going extinct." According to the article, "two of the bills, H.R. 4316 and H.R. 4318, would limit the ability of citizens to challenge government decisions in court." The "measures are also ostensibly aimed at reducing the government's legal costs associated with responding to endangered species lawsuits, but conservation advocates said that is an ideological red herring." The article notes that "government data shows that the Department of Interior has spent far more money responding to frivolous demands for documents than on settling lawsuits."

In an editorial, the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (3/31, 146K) supports changes to the Endangered Species Act. In particular, it agrees with Rep. Chris Stewart that the act "could do with a small change in how species are counted." It argues that "animals have to be counted on public and private lands; otherwise the numbers are tainted and subject to dispute."

FWS TAKES LIZARD OFF THREATENED LIST. The AP (4/1) reports that the FWS on Monday said that "a tiny lizard found only on Southern California's Channel Islands has been removed from the federal list of threatened species after 37 years." The agency said that "the island night lizard is no longer subject to its threatened status under the Endangered Species Act." According to the article, "the move came after recovery efforts that included removing non-native species like goats and feral cats from the three islands the lizard calls home."

WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION REPORT DETAILS MONEY SPENT ON SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (4/1, 90K) reports that a new report by the Western Governors Association inventories "the efforts of 11 western states to protect the bird and its habitat." The article notes that

"in Wyoming, the state spent $7.9 million to create the Game and Fish sage grouse program, support local sage grouse working group projects like habitat treatment, enhanced population monitoring and applied research, the report said." Meanwhile, "Utah, by comparison, spent $8.8 million on improvements to sage grouse habitat in 2013 alone."

FWS TO FUND $1.6 MILLION BEACH RESTORATION ALONG DELAWARE BAY. WMGM-TV Wildwood, NJ (4/1, 2K) reports that the FWS will be "funding a $1.65 million beach restoration project on the Delaware Bay." The work "aims to restore five beaches along the bay in Cape May County." It "intends to make coastline more resilient to storms and flooding while restoring seasonal spawning grounds for endangered horseshoe crabs."

FWS PLANS TO RELEASE WATER TO BENEFIT WHOOPING CRANES. KOLN-TV Lincoln, NE (4/1, 27K) reports that the FWS "plans to release water from their Environmental Account (EA) to benefit the endangered whooping cranes." The article notes that "whooping cranes use the Platte River in Nebraska as a stopover site during their migration in the Central Flyway north to Canada for the summer," and "additionally, hundreds of thousands of other migratory birds, including over half a million sandhill cranes, use the Platte River to roost and feed during the months of March and April."

PAPER ARGUES PUBLIC ACCESS KEY TO HANFORD REACH NATIONAL MONUMENT. In an editorial, the Tri-City Herald (WA) (3/31, 100K) raises concerns that the FWS "sees itself as legally obligated to consider bringing additional Hanford lands under its stewardship." According to the paper, "that has alarm bells sounding for local leaders, who already see too much public land in the monument that is off limits." The paper suggests that "as it pursues its obligations, Fish and Wildlife must take care not to appear as if it's attempting to make an end run around stakeholders," and "its next step ought to be some fence-mending with the community."

US Geological Survey:

USGS WARNS OF HOAX EARTHQUAKE LETTER IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. The Los Angeles Times (4/1, Lopez, 2.38M) reports that USGS officials were "advising Southern California residents Monday evening about a hoax letter that is warning of an 'impending large quake.'" According to the article, "the letter with the agency's logo was apparently being sent to residents in Orange County, urging them to be prepared for a large quake."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

UTILITY FILES LAWSUIT CLAIMING FRAUD IN MONTANA WIND FARM DEAL. The AP (4/1, Brown) reports that "a California utility that invested in a Montana wind farm has accused the developer of fraudulently concealing that federal wildlife officials recommended the project get a permit in case it harms eagles." According to the article, "San Diego Gas & Electric and a subsidiary of Spanish wind developer NaturEner filed dueling lawsuits in California and Montana stemming from a dispute over the wind farm near Cut Bank." At issue is whether NaturEner "followed through on contractual obligations to protect eagles and other birds that nest near the 126-turbine Rim Rock wind farm."

GOVERNORS FROM FOUR STATES URGE CONGRESS TO EXTEND WIND ENERGY TAX CREDITS. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (4/1, Barron-Lopez, 76K) reports, "A bipartisan group of governors is calling on congressional leaders to pass a multi-year extension of tax credits for the wind energy industry." In a letter sent to Congress on Monday, governors from Iowa, Oregon, South Dakota, and the state of Washington "urged lawmakers to extend" the credit, which expired at the end of 2013. The letter from the Governors of the Wind Energy Coalition stated, "The livelihood of our citizens should not be sacrificed while longer-term, economy-wide tax code solutions are debated." But, notes The Hill, wind energy tax credit opponents "say the renewable source has grown enough to survive on its own in a competitive market."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM EXTENDS LIFE OF THOMPSON DIVIDE LEASES. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (4/1,

27K) reports that the BLM on Monday said "it would extend gas leases held by two energy companies in the disputed Thompson Divide area south of Glenwood Springs for another two years, while the agency works to remedy an admittedly 'deficient' environmental analysis that resulted in the leases being issued 11 years ago." The article notes that "the decision, which was expected to be formally announced by the BLM today, went against the wishes of several local governments and conservation groups that had objected to SG and Ursa requests for the lease extensions." On the other hand, "two energy industry groups said in a joint statement issued Monday afternoon that the BLM made the right decision."

Also reporting on the story is the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (4/1, 73K).

OIL IMPACT ON THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK TO BE DOCUMENTED. The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (4/1, 10K) reports that the National Parks Conservation Association will "team up with oil and gas data mappers FracTracker to document the oil boom experience of Theodore Roosevelt National Park." The group is "looking for up to 20 volunteers willing to spend an expense-paid weekend in the park documenting how oil and gas development affect the park to help educate the nation."

POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF COAL-MING AT FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT CONCERNS CONSERVATIONISTS. The Cronkite News (4/1) reports that "conservation groups are worried that a proposed expansion of coal-mining at the Four Corners Power Plant could reverse recent environmental gains at the plant that last year was on a list of dirtiest in the country." However, "officials with Arizona Public Service, which is a majority owner in the plant, said the proposal is a step forward for the plant both economically as well as environmentally."

Offshore Energy Development:

COURT DISMISSES ENVIRONMENTALISTS' CHALLENGE TO GULF OF MEXICO LEASE SALE. The Charlotte (NC) Observer (3/31, 495K) reports that "a federal judge on Monday rejected environmentalists' challenge to a Gulf of Mexico lease sale." Oceana and the Natural Resources Defense Council had "joined with other groups in fighting what they described as the 'first new lease sale since the Deepwater Horizon disaster,' in which some 200 million gallons of oil spilled into the Gulf in April 2010." But "in a 64-page decision, US District Judge Rudolph Contreras sided with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's handling of Lease Sales 216/222 and 218." According to the article, "among many other arguments, Contreras said it was not unreasonable that the National Marine Fisheries Service won't have its Biological Opinion assessing the lease sale finished until March 2015."

Also reporting on the story is the Law 360 (4/1, 18K).

BOEM EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR OIL, GAS TESTING. The AP (4/1) reports that the BOEM has "added 30 more days for the public to weigh in on its guidelines for seismic testing in Atlantic waters for oil and gas reserves." The bureau says "the public now has until May 7 to comment on the rules."

WORKSHOPS PLANNED ON OFFSHORE VOLUNTARY NEAR-MISS REPORTING SYSTEM. The Oil and Gas Journal (4/1, 1K) reports that "workshops will be held Apr. 22 in Los Angeles and Apr. 24 in Houston to discuss the federal government's new voluntary near-miss reporting system for oil and gas producers," the BSEE announced in a Mar. 31 Federal Register notice. According to the article, "the workshops will give producers, drilling contractors, service and supply companies, other stakeholders, and the general public opportunities to discuss the system and contribute to its development, it indicated."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

MOST NEW MELONES LAKE RECREATION FACILITIES TO OPEN APRIL 1. The Stockton (CA) Record (4/1, 123K) reports that "most recreation facilities at New Melones Lake will be open to the public on April 1," according to the BOR's Central California Area Office.

9TH CIRCUIT DECISION ON DELTA SMELT LAUDED. In an op-ed for the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (4/1,

555K), Trip Van Noppen, the president of Earthjustice, and Barbara Barrigan-Parilla, the executive director of Restore the Delta, applaud the ruling handed down by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which upholds protections for the Delta smelt. They claim that "our efforts to improve flows through the Delta for the smelt have beneficial effects on the entire ecosystem and the complex web of life it supports." They conclude that "the Delta smelt decision doesn't just protect a fish so tiny it's not even used as bait. It protects people and their very way of life."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INDIAN EDUCATION STUDY GROUP SEEKS INPUT. The Indian Country Today Media Network (3/31, 16K) reports that "the Department of the Interior, in conjunction with the US Department of Education (ED), will conduct a series of consultation sessions with Indian tribes to review and provide feedback on the draft actionable recommendations prepared by the American Indian Education Study Group." According to the article, "the study group previously engaged with tribal leaders and Indian educators in six listening sessions on improving Indian education for BIE to develop draft actionable recommendations," and "based on input from these listening sessions, the study group has identified a framework for reform with a goal of high-achieving tribally controlled schools."

INFANT'S DEATH ON WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION UNDER INVESTIGATION. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (4/1, 90K) reports that the FBI is assisting the BIA and the Fremont County Coroner "in an investigation into the death of an infant on the Wind River Indian Reservation, the FBI reported Monday." According to Special Agent Chris Calarco of the FBI, "an infant died on the reservation on or around Wednesday and that an autopsy was conducted Friday."

Top National News:

HEALTHCARE.GOV "GLITCHES" MAR FINAL-DAY ACA ENROLLMENT SURGE. The last day of open enrollment for Affordable Care Act coverage garnered a great deal of media attention, including almost eight minutes of coverage form the three network newscasts Monday evening. Much of the coverage reflects the Administration's recent optimism regarding the expected enrollment totals. On the CBS Evening News (3/31, story 3, 1:15, Pelley, 5.58M), for example, Scott Pelley reported that the Administration "expected seven million would sign up by today," and President Obama now anticipates that the total will be "just short of that." CBS also played a clip of the President detailing the progress that has been made in regards to the ACA's implementation from an interview the President sat for with Pelley last week. However, the Administration's efforts to draw attention to the surge of enrollees were overshadowed somewhat by HealthCare.gov's persistent technical problems, which caused the site to be offline for several hours on Monday morning and prevented applications from being submitted later in the day.

In a report for NBC Nightly News (3/31, story 5, 2:25, Williams, 7.86M), correspondent Peter Alexander said that "a few months ago, there were real questions whether or not the law would work at all," but on Monday, "the White House...tout[ed] a new flood of sign-ups." The AP (4/1, Alonso-Zaldivar, Lederman) reports that according to unidentified "government officials," the ACA is "on track to sign up more than 7 million Americans for health insurance," which the AP says is a "target...thought to be out of reach by most experts." Likewise, under the headline, "Health Sign-ups Surge Toward 7M," USA Today (4/1, O'Donnell,, Madhani, Locker, 5.82M) reports that by "late Monday," an anonymous "government official" said "the administration is on track to sign up 7 million people by the midnight deadline."

At the opening of MSNBC's The Ed Show (3/31, 449K), Ed Schultz predicted that the President will extend the enrollment period "again" in order to get as many people signed up as possible. According to Schultz, "estimates reveal that 13 million people gained health care" as a result of the ACA's passage "if you factor in the young people under 26 staying on their parents' policy."

On MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show (3/31), Rachel Maddow contended that the last-minute crush of uninsured online and at enrollment centers is proof that that the ACA will not collapse into a "death spiral" as predicted by many of the law's critics. According to Maddow, "This is not too few people signing up; this is too many people trying to sign up." Maddow then made the case that Republicans' midterm strategy "to crow about the obvious failure of health reform" is no longer viable because "health reform isn't failing."

On NBC Nightly News (3/31, story 5, 2:25, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that "with the last minute surge and people rushing to beat the clock today came new glitches with the website." Peter Alexander went on to report that "for a while today it seemed like the healthcare.gov website may finish the way it started – offline briefly this morning due to a software bug, and again this afternoon preventing new applicants from logging in."

On ABC World News (3/31, story 2, 2:10, Sawyer, 7.43M), correspondent Jon Karl reported that there are "still glitches" hampering healthcare.gov, which was "down for hours" on Monday. Karl also reported that "many questions are still unanswered, including how many people have actually paid to enroll," and "how many of those who have signed up have actually paid?"

At the opening of Fox News' Special Report (3/31, 2.15M), Bret Baier said, "The same type of failures, glitches, and misinformation that have haunted the [ACA] from day one are still lurking, even today."

The site's "glitches" were covered by all three networks on Monday, and many print and online reports reference the technical problems in their headlines. For instance, the Washington Post (4/1, A1, Goldstein, Sun, 2.33M) has a front-page article titled online, "HealthCare.gov Stumbles On Deadline Day As Consumers Race To Sign Up For Insurance." The AP (4/1, Alonso-zaldivar) uses the headline, "Glitches Slow Health Care Sign-ups," and the Wall Street Journal (4/1, Ante, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) titles its report, "HealthCare.gov Glitch Prevents Users From Creating New Accounts." The online version of a front-page piece in this morning's New York Times (4/1, Pear, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) is headlined, "Health Website Failures Impede Signup Surge As Deadline Nears," but the print edition uses, "On Final Day, Health Signups Reach Frenzy." Notably, like the New York Times, the print edition of the Washington Post also uses a shorter, less critical headline employing the word "frenzy" in its print edition – in the Post's case, it is "HealthCare.gov Hiccups Amid Deadline-Day Frenzy."

On the CBS Evening News (3/31, story 2, 1:55, Pelley, 5.58M), Scott Pelley reported that "since Saturday, healthcare.gov has had more than four million visits," which "overwhelmed the site," causing it to go "down twice" on Monday. Correspondent Vincente Arenas reported from an "enrollment center" in Miami established by insurance agent Odalis Arevalo where "people started lining up...at 3:30 this morning," and "by noon more than a thousand had come...to try to sign for Obamacare." Arevalo was shown saying, "It's very difficult. ... We've had very angry people...lined up since very early and walking away with just nothing."

The AP (4/1, Alonso-zaldivar) reports that "deadline day...brought long, frustrating waits and a new spate of website ills." According to the AP, "at times" on Monday, "more than 125,000 people were simultaneously using HealthCare.gov, straining it beyond its capacity," and so "for long stretches...applicants were shuttled to a virtual waiting room where they could leave an email address and be contacted later." The AP also reports that healthcare.gov "stumbled early in the day – out of service for nearly four hours as technicians patched a software bug" – and then "another hiccup in early afternoon temporarily kept new applicants from signing up."

Politico (4/1, Kenen, Cheney, 73K) also focuses on HealthCare.gov's "glitches," reporting that the site "endured renewed technical problems on Monday, creating serious obstacles for people trying to sign up before the midnight deadline and stirring up bad memories of the botched October launch." According to Politico, "The website was down six hours early in the day," and then "around noon...people trying to start accounts for the first time couldn't do so."

In an article titled, "HealthCare.gov Falters, But Enrollments Continue As Official Sign-up Period Ends," McClatchy (4/1, Pugh, Subscription Publication, 13K) also reports that HealthCare.gov "faltered several times on Monday due to problems from heavy usage." On Monday, The Hill (3/31, Easley, 76K) reported that the Administration was "taking to Twitter to tell those experiencing problems that they'll be accommodated in the case that they don't make it through on Monday."

The Washington Post (4/1, A1, Goldstein, Sun, 2.33M) reports that HealthCare.gov "faltered on and off throughout the day." However, according to the Post, "The outpouring of last-minute interest reinforced arguments by the Obama administration and its allies...that [the ACA] would become popular once Americans had a chance to get the new health plans that it spawned – and, in most cases, with federal subsidies to help pay for them." Likewise, according to the Huffington Post (4/1, Young, 11.54M), "evidence appears to be mounting that what

started as a disaster may turn out a success."

Carney: "No One Expected Us To Come Back From The Brink." On NBC Nightly News (3/31, story 5, 2:25, Williams, 7.86M), correspondent Peter Alexander reported that the White House says "substantially more than six million people have signed up," but "it will be a couple of weeks before we get the final enrollment numbers" and "may be a couple of years before we truly know how well the law works." According to Jon Karl, on ABC World News (3/31, story 2, 2:10, Sawyer, 7.43M), the White House "says six million have signed up, but they haven't been able to say how many of them were previously uninsured."

Robert Pear, in a front-page analysis for the New York Times (4/1, Pear, Subscription Publication, 5.41M), reports that on Monday, the White House "embarked on a kind of victory lap," and that "Administration officials" are "confident that they would reach their original goal of having seven million people sign up for private health plans." However, according to Pear, "the end of the open enrollment period, which began six months ago with the disastrous debut of" healthcare.gov, "starts a new phase likely to be defined by the economics of health insurance as well as by politics."

Similarly, the Washington Times (4/1, Howell, 230K) reports that White House Press Secretary Jay Carney "did a victory lap of sorts Monday and said the law's foes are 'grasping' for criticism when they say the administration cooked up its enrollment numbers." Carney is quoted as saying, "If we were cooking the books, don't you think we would have cooked them in October and November? We could have saved ourselves a lot of pain."

McClatchy (4/1, Wise, Subscription Publication, 13K) notes that on Sunday, Sen. John Barrasso said he "didn't believe the enrollment numbers released by the administration," and alleged that the Administration is "cooking the books."

Reuters (4/1, Morgan) reports that on Monday, Carney said, "We're looking at a number substantially larger than 6 million people enrolled." According to Reuters, Carney added, "No one expected us to come back from the brink, but we have – and I think that merits noting in your reports."

Mark Trumbull, in an analysis for the Christian Science Monitor (4/1, Trumbull, 384K), says that as for "Obamacare's central stated goal of reducing the number of uninsured Americans, the law is having an impact but maybe not as fast as hoped." Trumbull adds, "don't assume that all the enrollees are people who were previously uninsured," and notes that a "survey by the consulting firm McKinsey found in February that only about 1 in 4 enrollees came from the ranks of the uninsured."

Sebelius Claims That 80 To 90% Of Enrollees Have Paid Premiums. McClatchy (4/1, Pugh, Subscription Publication, 13K) notes in an interview Monday, HHS Secretary Sebelius "estimated that '80, 85, some say as high as 90 percent,' of new enrollees have paid their premiums."

Aaron Blake, in a online piece for the Washington Post (4/1, Blake, 2.33M) reports that on Oklahoma City's KWTV, Sebelius said, "What we know from insurance companies ... tell(s) us that, for their initial customers, it's somewhere between 80, 85, some say as high as 90 percent, have paid so far."

The Hill (3/31, Easley, 76K) reported that in the same interview, Sebelius "declined to respond" when a reporter said that "at last check, 64 percent of Oklahomans aren't buying into the healthcare plan, they don't like ObamaCare, and they've been pretty vocal about it." According to The Hill, "The reporter didn't ask a question, and Sebelius didn't respond to the criticism, leading to several moments of dead air."

The Daily Caller (3/31, May, 135K) says Sebelius "did not respond, instead staring blankly into the camera for about six seconds without saying a word," which caused the reporter to "question...if the audio had gone out on her end." Sebelius replied, "I can hear you, but I — thanks for having me."

Biden Urges The Uninsured To "Get In The Queue." On NBC Nightly News (3/31, story 5, 2:25, Williams, 7.86M), Peter Alexander noted that on Monday "on daytime TV, Vice President Joe Biden tried to reassure those who waited," and "the First Lady even enlisted help to make a pitch." On ABC World News (3/31, story 2, 2:10, Sawyer, 7.43M), Jon Karl also reported that Biden "visited an enrollment center in Washington and made a last-minute pitch with Rachael Ray." Biden: "Any young person listening, if you don't need this for your peace of

mind, do it for mom. Do it for your dad. Get health coverage, do it for mom."

USA Today (3/31, Madhani, 5.82M) reported that Biden "appeared in a pre-taped video call on the Rachael Ray Show," and "underscored that any Americans who are in process of signing up for health care as of midnight will be eligible to sign up even if they aren't able to complete enrollment by the end of the day." Biden is quoted as saying, "It's a little bit like people when the polls close at 8 and there are 100 people waiting, they get to vote. ... Get in the queue. There is still time today."

In his opening monologue for Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (4/1, 2.53M), Bill O'Reilly said that, in practice, "there is no deadline" for ACA enrollment because the law's "rollout" is in "complete chaos, so sign up when you want – just tell the IRS you had trouble with the web site, everybody does, that's all you got to do."

The Daily Caller (3/31, Hurtubise, 135K) noted that "while Monday is technically the final day of the open enrollment...the Obama administration will allow anyone who checks a box claiming technological problems while signing up to enroll until an unspecified date in mid-April."

The AP (4/1, Lederman, 11.54M) reports that at the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School, "a few miles from the White House," Biden also "told people waiting at the school that once they have health care, they won't have to stay in a job they don't like."

Enrollment Period In Oregon Extended Through The End Of April. In an article published Monday morning titled, "Obamacare In Oregon: A Failed Exchange," Politico (3/31, Haberkorn, 73K) reported that while Oregon "had all the right ingredients for a sparkling Obamacare success story," including "a Democratic doctor as governor," the state nevertheless "ended up with Obamacare's biggest technological disaster." According to Politico, CoverOregon.com is "the only insurance exchange in the country on which people still cannot buy coverage," and its "flaws are so deep that Gov. John Kitzhaber concedes the state may give up on its own exchange and move to the federal HealthCare.gov next year." Politico notes that Oregon's "challenges were so persistent that the state received federal permission to add a full month to its open enrollment season."

LATimes Analysis: California's Enrollment Extension Is "Essentially On The Honor System." The Los Angeles Times (4/1, Terhune, Levey, Karlamangla, 2.38M) reports that on Monday, California officials "overrun by last-minute demand for Obamacare coverage...gave many consumers until April 15 to enroll." According to the Times, "anyone who tried to enroll by Monday and faced difficulties now has until April 15 to finish an application," and "no proof is required, so it's essentially on the honor system."

Celebrities, Planned Parenthood Assist Last-Day Signup Campaign. The Los Angeles Times (4/1, Reston, 2.38M) reports that on Monday, "longtime Obama allies in Hollywood and the music industry, including John Legend, Kerry Washington, Connie Britton, Zooey Deschanel and Sarah Silverman took to Twitter" to urge their followers to seek coverage via the ACA exchanges. The Times reports that also on Monday, Planned Parenthood "said its 600 canvassers had been knocking on an average of 29,000 doors a day, armed with tablets that allowed families to complete their applications online right then."

Several States' Incomplete Enrollment Totals Noted. The Miami Herald (4/1, Chang, Borns, 667K) reports that HHS has reported that "of the more than 6 million Americans who selected health plans through February, more than 440,000 were Floridians — exceeding every other state relying on the federally-run insurance exchange" – and "an additional 125,000 Floridians were assessed eligible for Medicaid."

Politico (3/31, Haberkorn, 73K) reported that the state of Washington "had enrolled more than a half-million people as of March 20 — more than 125,000 of whom who got private insurance coverage in the exchange, (plus another 66,000 who have chosen a plan but not yet paid) and about 380,000 newly enrolled in Medicaid."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (4/1, Boulton, 604K) reports that "through February, 71,443 people in Wisconsin had picked a health plan sold on the federal marketplace, with 90% of them eligible for subsidized coverage," while "an additional 68,655 people were found to be eligible for BadgerCare Plus, the state's largest Medicaid program."

GOP HAMMERING OBAMA'S "IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY" AHEAD OF MIDTERM ELECTIONS. The New York

Times (4/1, Parker, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) reports, "If Republicans have a rallying cry" to fire up their base ahead of this year's elections, it's the party's "unified anthem" charging that President Obama "is presiding over an 'imperial presidency' that is exercising power that verges on dictatorial." For the GOP, says the Times, it's a rallying cry "that encapsulates their criticisms about government overreach through Mr. Obama's prolific use of executive action." The slogan "not only captures existing voter frustration over the Affordable Care Act and turns it, Republicans believe, into a broader referendum on" Obama's presidency, "but also reflects an underlying conservative philosophy about the appropriate role of government."

Study: Administration Skirting Congressional Review Of Regulations. The Washington Times (4/1, Boyer, 230K) reports that the Obama Administration "is skirting congressional review of some major federal regulations by failing to designate the rules as economically significant, according to a study" set for release today by the American Action Forum, "a center-right nonprofit group." The organization says in its report that "it found at least eight administration regulations that have an annual economic impact of $100 million or more, but which were not designated as 'major' rules by the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) and therefore don't fall under the Congressional Review Act." However, White House Office of Management and Budget spokesman Frank Benenati "disputed the study's accuracy," saying that "even the most cursory read [of the report] shows that it is deeply flawed. For example, some of the rules it cites were clearly identified as 'major' rules on reginfo.gov."

YELLEN SUGGESTS THAT STIMULUS EFFORTS TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME. Reuters (4/1, Spicer) reports that Fed Chair Janet Yellen on Monday publicly defended the central bank's easy money policies during a stop in Chicago. Yellen highlighted the struggles of three Americans during her speech, as she sought to show the impact of the current economy on the jobs prospects of everyday people. It was Yellen's first public speech in her new role.

Bloomberg News (4/1, Kearns, Torres, 392K) reports that at a community development conference, Yellen, "easing investor concern that interest rates may rise earlier than previously forecast," said that the economy will continue to need the Fed's stimulus efforts for a considerable time. Yellen said, "This extraordinary commitment is still needed and will be for some time, and I believe that view is widely shared by my fellow policy makers. The scars from the Great Recession remain, and reaching our goals will take time." Bloomberg adds that the large number of unemployed Americans, stalled wage growth, a drop in labor-force participation and long periods of unemployment show that "there remains considerable slack in the economy and the labor market," Yellen said.

The New York Times (4/1, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) reports that Yellen "devoted more than an hour last week talking by telephone with three Chicago area residents struggling to find jobs," and on Monday, "made their stories the centerpiece of the first public speech in her new job." She delivered "a strong statement about her concern over unemployment, her conviction that the Fed has the power to help, and her determination to do so."

The Wall Street Journal (4/1, Costa, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) describes Yellen's speech as unusually personal for a Fed chair. The Journal reports she said, "While there has been steady progress, there is also no doubt that the economy and the job market are not back to normal health. The recovery still feels like a recession to many Americans, and it also looks that way in some economic statistics." Yellen followed her speech with a tour of a local community college.

Stocks Rally, Post Solid Gains On Final Day Of Quarter. On the final day of a quarter that saw the markets churn, the Wall Street Journal (4/1, Strumpf, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) reports that stocks rose strongly. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 135 points to 16458, while the S&P 500 rose 15 points to 1872. The Nasdaq Composite Index rose 43 points to 4199. For the quarter, the Dow was down 0.7%, while the S&P 500 was up 1.3%.

Feldstein Says Fed Needs To Enunciate Inflation Response Plan. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (4/1, Feldstein, Subscription Publication, 4.25M), Harvard professor Martin Feldstein argues that Yellen needs to make it clear what the Fed will do if inflation exceeds its target of 2%. Feldstein says that history has shown that inflation can rise rapidly and unexpectedly. In the current situation, it could arise if banks begin to loan substantial sums to businesses, leading to inflationary increases in demand. Feldstein says Yellen need to assure the nation that, should this occur, the Fed will move rapidly and decisively to curb inflation.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Climate Signals, Growing Louder."*** An editorial in the New York Times (4/1, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) calls a UN panel's report on climate change the "most powerful and sobering assessment so far" and notes that its conclusions "mirrored those of a much shorter but no less disturbing report issued two weeks ago by the American Association for the Advancement of Science." The studies "suggest virtually no disagreement" and advocates hope "that the latest show of scientific solidarity will clear up any confusion about the causes and consequences of climate change and the need for action."

"Leading The Country On Pre-K." In an editorial, the New York Times (4/1, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) says that NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio "has every right to call the agreement between Gov. Andrew Cuomo and legislative leaders in Albany to finance a vast expansion of prekindergarten in New York City a major victory," both for the mayor politically and for "tens of thousands of children who will be put on a path to a better future." Now, the city is "poised to make a commitment to preschool on a larger scale than any city in the country."

"Prime Minister Erdogan's Revenge." An editorial in the New York Times (4/1, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) calls Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's response to Sunday's election results "deeply disturbing and undemocratic," noting that his "postelection threats were particularly ominous, as he told thousands of supporters that his enemies will be 'brought to account' and 'we will enter their lair.'" His response, notes the Times, "shows how far Mr. Erdogan has departed from democratic principles that allow dissent." Erdogan "seems determined to crush anyone or anything who crosses him — a strategy almost certainly guarantees more dangerous political polarization and instability in Turkey."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Shutting Out Ukraine."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (4/1, 2.33M) argues that the Obama Administration approach to seeking a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine crisis "is unbalanced." The Administration "should insist that Ukraine's representatives be present in all meetings and that Crimea be put back on the agenda." In addition, as negotiations move forward, "so should work on sanctions."

"Back In The Breakdown Lane." In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/1, 2.33M) says that for GM, "still struggling to shake off the 'Government Motors' stigma, the [recall] fiasco is a reminder that, despite much progress, its renaissance is incomplete." CEO Mary Barra "must use her testimony before Congress on Tuesday to demonstrate credibly that she is on top of the company's quality problems, past and, more important, future."

"The Post's Endorsements."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Definition Of Insanity."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/1, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) excoriates the actions of Samhsa, arguing it uses its $3.6 billion annual budget to undercut the effective treatment of the mentally ill. The Journal says that instead of backing traditional drug treatment, psychiatric care and related treatments, Samsha backs alternative treatments based on the recovery model. While the Journal acknowledges that the recovery model can aid those with minor mental illnesses, it says that is basically useless for treating serious mental disorders. The Journal says that if Congress can't find a way to abolish Samsha, it should at least pass legislation to provide greater oversight.

"Decamping Congress." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/1, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) says that Rep. Dave Camp's (R) retirement is a major loss for Congress, as he has been a serious and thorough proponent of needed tax reform. The Journal also bemoans the retirement of Rep. Mike Rogers (R), who announced last week he would not seek reelection, saying that Congress needs his seriousness on intelligence issues.

"Erdogan Marches On." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/1, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) notes that in the wake of his Justice and Development Party's (AKP) victories in Sunday's municipal elections, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared that "tomorrow there may be those who have to flee. But we will go into their caves. They will pay the price." The Journal says that Erdogan has polarized Turkey as he has become more willful and authoritarian, and notes that Erdogan is demonstrating that populist democracy can lead to sectarian autocracy.

"Pakistan Punts On India Trade." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/1, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) argues that Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif should reconsider his decision not to extend most-favored-nation trade status to India, noting tat doing so would help to improve Pakistan's economy.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Yellen Assures Markets On Interest Rates
New Technical Woes Hobble Health Sign-Ups At Zero Hour
Google, Others Blast Turkey Over Internet Clampdown

New York Times:
US Is Weighing Release Of A Spy For The Israelis
Health Website Failures Impede Signup Surge As Deadline Nears
Leader Of China Aims At Military With Graft Case
An 8th Grader, A Gun And A Bus Rider In The Way
Cobalts Were Seen As Lemons From Start, State Data Shows
Want Guns With That? Chefs Find Politics Hotter Than Kitchen

Washington Post:
Report Alleges CIA Misled On Interrogation
Girl's Suspected Abductor May Be Dead
Healthcare.gov Hiccups Amid Deadline-Day Frenzy
US Considers Release Of Israeli Spy Pollard
Conservatives In France May Be Brewing Le Tea Party

Financial Times:
Swiss And UK Step Up Forex Probes
Darling Disowned Over Sterling Union "Plebiscite"
Hollande Fires French Prime Minister
FCA Chief Says Zombie Probe "Not Finest Hour"
GM Recalls Mount By Another 1.3M Vehicles
Triple A Sovereign Ratings Deposed
Japanese Sales Tax Rise Is Unlikely To Force Up Inflation

Washington Times:
Blessed Are Films That Tell Stories Of Religion
CIA Officer Debunked False Benghazi Story Before Rice Went On TV
Michigan Vote Could Prompt Amendment To The Constitution
US Weapons In Standoff With Russia More Likely To Shed Treasure Than Blood
Glitch Fixed, But May Not Be Last For Obamacare
Immigrant Ruling To Bolster Gun Rights Cases

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: General Motors-Recall; Healthcare Deadline; UN Climate Change Report; Malaysian Flight Search; Health-Measles Outbreak; Veteran Caregivers
CBS: General Motors-Recall; Healthcare Deadline; Healthcare-Government Expectations; Russia-Ukraine Troop Withdrawal; JPAC-Restructuring; Malaysian Flight Search; UN-Climate Change Report; California Earthquake; Rear-View Vehicle Cameras; UN-Japan Whaling Industry
NBC: UN-Climate Change Report; California Earthquake; Washington-Mud Slide; Malaysian Flight Search; Healthcare Deadline; General Motors-Recall; Rear-View Vehicle Cameras; South Korea-Military Exercises; Afghanistan-No Military Deaths; Health-Diabetes Weight Loss; King Abdullah Photos; Albuquerque-Protests; University Of Arizona Riot-NCAA's; College Basketball-Final Four

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Healthcare Deadline; General Motors-Recall; Washington-Mudslide; Washington-Nuclear Plant Workers Sick

CBS: Healthcare Deadline; General Motors-Recall; Russia-Ukraine Troop Withdrawal; Washington Mudslide; Malaysian Flight Search; Dow Up

NPR: Healthcare Deadline; General Motors Recall; Washington-Mud Slide; JPAC-Restructuring; Kerry-Netanyahu Meeting

FOX: Healthcare Deadline; Washington Mud Slide; Washington-Natural Gas Facility Explosion; Albuquerque-Police Shooting Protest; University Of Arizona-Riot

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; honors the 2013 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox, South Lawn; meets with House Democratic Leader Pelosi for lunch, Private Dining Room, closed press; meets with Secretary of Commerce Pritzker, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets with Secretary of Commerce Pritzker, Oval Office, closed press.

US Senate: April 1 – 4. LANDMINE AWARENESS — The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) along with Senator Patrick Leahy and the reception hosted by Senator Bob Casey with remarks planned from Senator Leahy (VT), Senator Bob Casey (PA), Congressman Jim McGovern (MA), and Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Rose Gottemoeller hosts exhibit on Capitol Hill to celebrate its 25th anniversary and honor the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, MAG America. Surviving the Peace: Landmines, Mortars and Munitions -25 Years of Humanitarian Mine Action. NOTE: Reception and speakers on the 2nd at 4p.m. Contact: Patricia Loria, MAG America (202)531-6513 5/8 patricia.loria@magintemational.org 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Reception and remarks by Senators, Congressmen, and State Department officials. Location: The Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building.

10 a.m. IGNITION SWITCH – FAMILIES — Families of victims of the GM ignition switch problem hold a press conference in advance of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Hearing, "The GM Ignition Switch Recall: Why Did It Take So Long?" (Hearing begins at 2 p.m. in 2123 Raybum House Office Building – GM CEO Marry Barra and NHTSA Acting Administrator David Friedman to testify). Press conference speakers: Joan Claybrook, President Emeritus of Public Citizen, and former Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Senator Edward Markey (D-MA); Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT); Rosie Cortinas (Idaho) Mother of Amador Cortinas (Homedale, ID) who was killed on October 18, 2013, while driving a friend home in a Chevy Cobalt. Amador lost control of the car, and his air bags did not deploy.

Terry DiBattista (South Carolina) and Laura Christian (Maryland) Mother and birth mother of Amber Marie Rose (Marbury, MD), killed on July 29th, 2005 when the car she was driving struck multiple trees. Her airbags did not deploy. Emergency medical personnel have indicated that she would still be alive if her air bags had worked. The car was in the accessory position.

Ken and Jayne Rimer (Wisconsin) and Douglas Weigel (Minnesota) Parents of Natasha Weigel (Albert Lea, MN), killed on October 24, 2006, when she was riding in the car with two of her friends. The driver, who suffered brain damage as a result of the crash, lost control of the car and hit a tree. The airbags did not deploy; Mary and Leo Ruddy (Pennsylvania) Parents of Kelly Erin Ruddy (Scranton, PA), killed on January 10, 2010, when she burned alive after losing control of her vehicle. It is unknown whether her car was in the accessory position, as GM took possession of the black box and will not retum it or share the information found on it; Clarence Ditlow, Executive Director of the Center for Auto Safety. Location: Senate Swamp, in front of the U.S. Capitol Building, Senate side.

10:15 a.m. 'PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT' — Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD), a senior member of the Senate

Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, will be joined at a press conference by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Sens. Mary Landrieu (D-LA.), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) along with representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) to urge the Senate to take up and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, legislation which will "help close the wage gap between women and men working equivalent jobs." Location: Mike Mansfield Room (S-207).

5 p.m. – 7 p.m. SENATE AEROSPACE CAUCUS RECEPTION — Senate Aerospace Caucus Reception "Defending Innovation: Modern Life Redefined." Senate Aerospace Caucus Co-Chairs: Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.); Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.); Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Director of DARPA; Marion C. Blakey, AIA President and CEO. Location: 902 Hart Senate Office Building, Constitution Ave, between First and Second Streets, NE.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Committee hearings to examine U.S. European Command and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: General Philip M. Breedlove, USAF Commander, U.S. European Command/ Supreme Allied Commander, Europe; General William M. Fraser III, USAF, Commander, U.S. Transportation Command. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/us-european-command-and-us-transportation-command_04/01/14 Location: G50 Dirksen

9:30 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Hearing, "Caterpillar's Offshore Tax Strategy." The Subcommittee will continue its examination of the structures and methods employed by multinational corporations to allocate income outside of the United States and how such activities are affected by the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations. Witnesses will include representatives of Caterpillar Inc. and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as well as tax experts: Witnesses: PANEL ONE: Bret Wells, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center, Houston, TX; Reuven Avi-Yonah, Irwin I. Cohn Professor of Law, The University of Michigan School of Law, Ann Arbor, MI. PANEL TWO: Steven Williams, Managing Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, McLean, VA; James Bowers, Tax Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Dallas, TX; Thomas Quinn, Tax Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Chicago, IL. PANEL THREE: Robin Beran, Chief Tax Officer, Caterpillar Inc., Peoria, IL; Rodney Perkins, Former Senior International Tax Manager, Caterpillar Inc., Peoria, IL; Julie Lagacy, Vice President, Finance Services Division, Caterpillar Inc., Peoria, IL. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/investigations/hearings/caterpillars-offshore-tax-strategy Location: 106 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BUDGET — Committee hearings to examine opportunity, mobility, and inequality in today's economy. Witnesses: Joseph Stiglitz, PhD., University Professor of Economics, Columbia University; Raj Chetty, PhD., William Henry Bloomberg Professor of Economics at Harvard University; Keith Hall, PhD., Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center. http://www.budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/hearing-schedule?ID=e0eb88a8-56e8-4f6d-856d-92a5a019ab43 Location: 608 Dirksen

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Committee hearings to examine certain nominations. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/judicial-nominations-2014-04-01 Location: 226 Dirksen

2:15 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities hearings to examine proliferation prevention programs at the Department of Energy and at the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session. Witnesses: Anne M. Harrington Deputy Administrator For Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation National Nuclear Security Administration Department Of Energy; Rebecca K. C. Hersman, Deputy Assistant Secretary Of Defense For Countering Weapons Of Mass Destruction Department Of Defense; Kenneth A. Myers III, Director Of The Defense Threat Reduction Agency Department Of Defense, Director of the U.S. Strategic Command Center For Combating Weapons Of Mass Destruction Department Of Defense. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/proliferation-prevention-programs-at-the-department-of-energy-and-at-the-department-of-defense_04/01/14 Location: 222 Russell

2:15 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Business meeting to consider Protocol Amending the Convention between the and the Swiss Confederation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation; Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the Avoidance of

Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion; Convention between the Government of the US and the Government of the Republic of Hungary for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion; Convention Between the Government of the US and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion; Protocol Amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-04-01-14 Location: S-116

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet hearings to examine reauthorization of the "Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act". Witness Panel 1: William T. Lake, Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission; Gordon Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Broadcasters; Michael W. Palkovic, Executive Vice President, Operations, DirecTV; Michael K. Powell, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Cable & Telecommunications Association; Thomas S. Rogers, President and Chief Executive Officer, TiVo, Inc.; Matt Wood, Policy Director, Free Press. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=23352a01-e1a7-47b0-9a56-27e88e76e378&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a Location: 253 Russell

2:30 p.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Committee hearings to examine equal pay with the "Paycheck Fairness Act." Witnesses: Professor Deborah Thompson Eisenberg , Associate Professor of Law, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Baltimore, MD; ReShonda Young , Operations Manager, Alpha Express, Inc., Waterloo, IA; Kerri Sleeman , Mechanical Engineer, Houghton, MI; Camille Olson , Partner, Seyfarth Shaw, Chicago, IL. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=f5239448-5056-a032-52ba-0aa8f38ca69f Location: 430 Dirksen

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/ Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — Democratic Whip Hoyer holds regular pen and pad briefing. No cameras allowed. Location: H-144 in the U.S. Capitol.

2 p.m. REP. VAN HOLLEN – GO ATLANTIC COUNCIL – SEN. WARNER – DEFENSE INDUSTRY — Budgets & the Future of America's Defense Industry. Speakers: Mark Warner, Senator (D-VA), @MarkWarner; Welcome remarks by Jon M. Huntsman Jr., Chairman, Atlantic Council @JonHuntsman; Introduction by MajGen Arnold Punaro, USMC (Ret.), Chairman, National Defense Industrial Association. http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/senator-mark-warner-budgeting-for-the-us-defense-we-need Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor.

P BUDGET — Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, will hold a pen and pad briefing to discuss the Republican budget. NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED. Location: Democratic Leader's Office, H-204 Conference Room.

12 p.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules: 1) Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 4152 – To provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine (Sponsored by Rep. Harold Rogers / Appropriations Committee / Foreign Affairs Committee) 2) S. 2183 – United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions (Sponsored by Sen. Mitch McConnell / Foreign Affairs Committee) 3) H.R. 2413 – The Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2014, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Jim Bridenstine / Science, Space, and Technology Committee) 4) H.R. 4005 – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Duncan Hunter / Transportation and Infrastructure Committee) 5) H.Con. Res. 92 – A bill to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (Sponsored by Rep. Lou Barletta / Transportation and Infrastructure Committee) 6) H.Con. Res. 88 – A bill to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (Sponsored by Rep. Steny Hoyer / Transportation and Infrastructure Committee) 7) S. 1557 – Childrens Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Sponsored by Sen. Robert Casey / Energy and Commerce Committee)

2 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing: "The GM Ignition

Switch Recall: Why Did It Take So Long?" Witnesses: Mary Barra, CEO, General Motors; David Friedman, Acting Administrator, NHTSA. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/%E2%80%9C-gm-ignition-switch-recall-why-did-it-take-so-long%E2%80%9D Location: 2123 Rayburn

3 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government budget hearing on Securities and Exchange Commission. Witness: Mary Jo White, Chair Securities and Exchange Commission. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373851 Location: 2359 Rayburn

3 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Health hearing: Examining Concerns Regarding FDA's Proposed Changes to Generic Drug Labeling. Witnesses: Janet Woodcock, M.D.,Director Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (FDA); Michael D. Shumsky, Partner Kirkland & Ellis LLP; Ralph G. Neas, President and CEO Generic Pharmaceutical Association; Allison M. Zieve, General Counsel Public Citizen. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/examining-concerns-regarding-fdas-proposed-changes-generic-drug-labeling Location: 2322 Rayburn

4:30 p.m. PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE — Full Committee CLOSED-Ongoing Intelligence Activities. http://intelligence.house.gov/hearing/ongoing-intelligence-activities-55 Location: HVC304 Capitol.

5 p.m. RULES — Business Meeting: H.R. 2575Save American Workers Act of 2014. http://rules.house.gov/news/announcement/meeting-announcement-hr-2575 . Location: H-313 The Capitol. Other: ATLANTIC COUNCIL – SEN. WARNER – DEFENSE INDUSTRY — 8:30 a.m. Budgets & the Future of America's Defense Industry. Speakers: Mark Warner, Senator (D-VA), @MarkWarner; Welcome remarks by Jon M. Huntsman Jr., Chairman, Atlantic Council @JonHuntsman; Introduction by MajGen Arnold Punaro, USMC (Ret.), Chairman, National Defense Industrial Association. http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/senator-mark-warner-budgeting-for-the-us-defense-we-need Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor.

CFR – JIM YONG KIM — 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. The Council on Foreign Relations hosts a conversation with World Bank President Jim Yong Kim. Location: Council on Foreign Relations 1777 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20006

MILITARY CAREGIVERS — 11 a.m. RAND Corporation and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation will release results of the "largest-ever study" of military and veteran caregivers. The study includes an environmental scan of services available, a gap analysis, and recommendations from which government, private sector, nonprofit, and faith leaders can develop sound policies and programs to ensure the long-term well-being of military caregivers who support the nation's wounded warriors. Speakers: Sen. Elizabeth Dole, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation; Terri Tanielian, RAND Corporation; Rajeev Ramchand, RAND Corporation. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

FAMILIES USA – HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT — 12 p.m. Families USA will hold a teleconference to recommend ten changes in outreach and enrollment practices to expand health coverage pursuant to the Affordable Care Act's private coverage opportunities and the Medicaid expansion. With Ron Pollack, Executive Director, Families USA; Rachel Klein, Enrollment Program Director, Families USA.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: [Referring To NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament] "Actually, Connecticut beat Michigan State, the team that President Obama had picked to win the whole tournament. Obama picked them to win. Completely busted his bracket. Which explains why today Connecticut got a fruit basket from Vladimir Putin saying, 'You're welcome to Crimea any time.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that this weekend was the four-year anniversary of President Obama's 'Race to the Top' program to help schools boost their performance. The President says he's pleased with the program, while students were like, 'It gone good.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Apr 2, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES CONTRACT FOR NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER PROJECT. The AP (4/2) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced that the federal government has "awarded a nearly $20 million construction contract to a Wyoming company to build the first pumping plant for the Navajo-Gallup pipeline project." The contract was awarded to Moltz Constructors Inc. According to Jewell, "the pipeline will bring drinking water to tribal and rural communities along the Arizona-New Mexico border."

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (4/2, 281K) reports that Navajo President Ben Shelly said, "The current pumping plant will help many Navajo families east of Gallup, NM, get near-term groundwater for domestic use before the San Juan River water comes."

SECRETARY JEWELL DISCUSSES CLIMATE CHANGE DURING INTERVIEW. On MSNBC (4/2, 950K), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell talked with Andrea Mitchell about "a landmark new UN report about the global impact of climate change." Jewell said, "We play a role in regulating methane emissions and working alongside states and companies to reduce methane emissions, whether that's from oil or gas production or other sources of methane emissions. We need to work collectively with industry, with state partners and policymakers. The other thing i would mention is renewable energy. We are working alongside states to stand up projects. We have 50 that have been permitted on public lands since 2009. And those are done in states where they have renewable energy standards. So the states are creating a market, facilitating public lands and companies step in with projects that make sense for them."

HOUSE REPUBLICANS INTRODUCE BUDGET PLAN. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/2, 705) reports that "government energy spending on programs without defense purposes would fall by nearly half under a budget House Republicans unveiled today that also slashes climate change and advanced scientific research programs while promoting more oil and gas drilling on federal land." House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan's fiscal framework also "would limit the lands Interior Department agencies can purchase under an expired law that uses proceeds from Bureau of Land Management land sales." The proposal would "stipulate that Interior may use no more than 30 percent of the proceeds from lands sales under the expired Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act to purchase high-quality habitat, a break from current law that allows all the money for that purpose."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE PRESSURE ON ICELAND TO END WHALE HUNTING. Bloomberg News (4/2, Valdimarsson, 392K) reports that President Barack Obama "directed US officials to continue pressuring Iceland's government to abide by the International Whaling Commission's moratorium on whaling." In a memo to his cabinet officers, Obama wrote that "senior officials and delegations meeting the representatives of the north Atlantic island's government should be notified that cooperation with the US is based 'on the Icelandic government changing its whaling policy.'" The article notes that "the presidential memo follows a Jan. 31 statement from the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in which she expressed concern over Iceland's whaling."

COAST GUARD MEDEVACS INJURED FISHERMAN FROM KING COVE. The Ketchikan (AK) SitNews (4/2) reports that the US Coast Guard "medevaced a 58-year old fisherman from King Cove yesterday (March 31, 2014) during stormy conditions after he was injured on board a Seattle-based processor near Unimak Island in the North Pacific Ocean." The fisherman injured his eye when he was accidentally sprayed with a high-pressure hose at about 1 a.m. It's the fifth such incident in the King Cove area where Coast Guard assistance was required to transport a severely injured individual for treatment, King Cove officials noted.

Meanwhile, the Alaska Public Radio Network (4/1, 2K) reports that "a group of tribal and government officials from King Cove are back from a week of lobbying in Washington, D.C. — and they've come home with a new assignment." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has asked them to provide "suggestions from the people that live in the area on what alternatives would be potentially viable to them if a road does not go through." Laura Tanis of the Aleutians East Borough said that "local officials will put together information on road alternatives and send them to the Interior Department within the next two weeks." The story also appears at KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK (4/2).

Also reporting on the story are the Alaska Business Monthly (4/2) and KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (4/2, 4K).

DIRECTOR OF INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S PACIFIC ISLANDS CLIMATE SCIENCE CENTER TO MAKE PRESENTATION. The Pacific News Center (4/2) reports that David Helweg, the newly selected director of the Interior Department's Pacific Islands Climate Science Center will be presenting on the "Vision and Framework of Science at the Department of Interior Pacific Islands Climate Science Center" at 3:00 p.m. today at the University of Guam Water and Environmental Research Institute Tomorrow, Helweg will also be meeting with the Lt. Governor and other officials this week.

Also reporting on the story is the Pacific (GUM) Daily News (4/2, 61K).

OPPONENTS OF BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS DESIGNATION CRITICIZED. For the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (4/2, 56K), Chris Carlson criticizes "the many Republicans who think they can make a politically-winning issue out of the president using his authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to declare the Boulder-White Clouds a national monument." According to Carlson, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "cares too much about the views of Sen. Risch, Gov. Otter and Rep. Raul Labrador, all of whom viscerally hate the president."

SUPREME COURT'S REFUSAL TO HEAR KATIE JOHN CASE CRITICIZED. For he Anchorage (AK) Daily News (4/1, 136K), Mike Dingman criticizes the Supreme Court for declining what has become known as the Katie John Case. According to Dingman, "by celebrating the defeat of Alaska's self-determination we are doing more harm than the good that comes from Katie John."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

PROPOSAL UNVEILED TO TURN COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT INTO NATIONAL PARK. The Denver Post (4/2, Lofholm, 770K) reports that the effort to turn the Colorado National Monument into a national park moved forward Tuesday when Sen. Mark Udall and Rep. Scott Tipton unveiled a proposal that could lead to legislative action on the change this year. Udall said, "It is never too late. There is a broad cross section of western Colorado that still believes John Otto's vision was the correct vision." The proposal would not only upgrade the monument to park status, but it would also give it a new name: Rim Rock Canyons National Park.

DETAILS RELEASED IN SHOOTING BY NPS RANGER. The AP (4/2) reports that "newly released court documents say a National Park Service ranger fired on an occupied boat near Kettle Falls last September after his partner was shoved from a gangplank into the water, and the ranger heard 'pops' that sounded like gunfire." According to the article, "Michael Sublie, the owner of the boat, has been charged with assaulting a federal agent and obstructing justice stemming from the incident at a campground on the Kettle River last Sept. 14." Boat passenger Casey Hartinger was shot in the side by a bullet fired by NPS Ranger Matthew Phillipson. Court documents "filed Tuesday by the government lists Phillipson as the shooter and Joshua Wentz as the ranger shoved by Sublie, who was approached for playing music too loud on his houseboat after quiet hours."

Also reporting on the story is the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (4/1, 208K).

CRITICS BLAME TOUR COMPANIES FOR ARIZONA MEMORIAL TICKET HOARDING. The AP (4/2) reports that "officials say more tickets to visit the USS Arizona Memorial are being picked up online in bulk orders of 65." Tour companies are being blamed by critics, and "they say no tickets are left by the time individual visitors try to reserve them." The NPS "issues 4,500 tickets each day to visit the memorial to sailors and Marines killed in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack."

NPS SAYS 106 DEER REMOVED FROM ROCK CREEK PARK SINCE BEGINNING OF YEAR. The DCist (4/2, 21K) reports that "as part of a controversial plan to manage the deer population in Rock Creek Park," the NPS says "106 of the animals were shot 'safely and without incident' between January and March 31." The article notes that "all suitable venison will be donated to the a D.C. food bank."

PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE BEACHES CLOSED TO ALLOW FOR OIL CLEANUP. KIII-TV Corpus Christi, TX (4/2, 11K) reports that the NPS is "taking some precautions in hopes of keeping the Padre Island National Seashore clean after last week's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." Beginning Tuesday, "they have temporarily closed the park's beaches to drivers."

NPS SCHEDULES BURNS AT TWO VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR SITES. The AP (4/2) reports that the NPS has scheduled prescribed burns at two areas of the Richmond National Battlefield Park over the next week. According to the article, "the first burn involves about 40 acres of park property at Malvern Hill in suburban Richmond," and "the other burn entails about 20 acres in Cold Harbor, which is located in Hanover County."

NPS-SPONSORED PROGRAM TO HONOR MAINE REGIMENT. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (4/1, 166K) reports that "during a National Park Service-sponsored event titled 'Reverberations — Commemorating the

Overland Campaign,' Maine will honor a battle-shattered Civil War regiment as part of 11 observances taking place across the United States on Saturday, May 24." Ann Blumenschine, a park ranger and the public information officer at Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia, said, "The purpose of this Civil War 150th event is to help people understand that the suffering on the battlefields in Virginia led to suffering in the communities, North and South, where the soldiers hailed from."

PHILADELPHIA SEEKS WORLD HERITAGE DESIGNATION. The Philly (4/2, 1.06M) reports that Global Philadelphia Association, "in conjunction with Mayor Nutter's administration, is pressing the city's case that it should be added to the list of World Heritage Cities, a designation seen as a further boost to Philadelphia as an attraction for international tourists." Philadelphia is "pressing on two fronts." According to the article, "one is the traditional path, which requires the National Park Service first to promote the city's candidacy to the US Department of the Interior, which in turn must advance it to the State Department." The other is through the Organization of World Heritage Cities.

Bureau of Land Management:

IRON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUPPORT NEVADA RANCHER IN FIGHT WITH BLM. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (4/1, 48K) reports that "Clark County rancher Cliven Bundy has been fighting a range war with the federal government for nearly 20 years, but this time around, he's getting help from unexpected sources located about 85 miles away in Iron County." In a notice sent Tuesday directed to BLM deputy director Neil Kornze and the Nevada BLM state director Amy Lueders, the Iron County Commissioners and Sheriff Mark Gower "warned that any action taken by the BLM to gather and confiscate Bundy's cattle currently grazing on Clark County public lands would warrant Iron County to begin immediately taking steps to reduce the number of feral horses in Southern Utah."

Also covering the dispute is the Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/2, 437K).

SHEEP BACK GRAZING ON FORT ORD NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Sierra (CA) Sun Times (4/2) reports that "more than 600 ewes and their lambs are back at work, grazing on the Bureau of Land Management's Fort Ord National Monument in Monterey County." The article notes that "the grazing program is part of a cooperative strategy to improve rangeland conditions in this ecologically unique area." Eric Morgan, BLM's Fort Ord monument manager, said, "The sheep grazing program at Fort Ord National Monument has a proven track record at reducing wildfire hazards, and stimulating native plant regeneration. The sheep have also been effective in controlling invasive thistle populations."

MOTOCROSS EVENT TO KICK OFF AT BLM'S DUNES OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATION AREA The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (4/2, 46K) reports that "two days of motocross mania will kick at 10 a.m. Saturday with the New Mexico Restart Enduro race at the Bureau of Land Management's Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, an 800-acre area south of Farmington."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON EVENT AT THREE PEAKS SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA. The St. George (UT) News (4/1, 3K) reports that the BLM's Cedar City field office is seeking public input on "an environmental assessment analyzing the potential impacts of a proposed competitive off-road event at the Three Peaks Special Recreation Management Area."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP PLANS TO SUE BLM OVER SPECIES PROTECTION. Additional coverage that "four environmental groups are taking legal action" against the BLM, "contending the agency has failed to track the consequences of off-roading and cattle grazing on at-risk species on public land in Southern California's deserts" was provided by the Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (4/1, 398K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE DEFENDS TRADE CONTROLS ON IVORY. In a letter to the New York Times (4/2, Subscription Publication, 5.41M), FWS Director Dan Ashe responds to critics of the FWS' "decision to tighten United States trade controls on African elephant ivory to address the poaching crisis" in the March 27 op-ed titled "The Wrong Way to Protect Elephants." Ashe notes that "one of the Op-Ed writers represents the International

Ivory Society, a trade group with a vested interest in keeping commercial ivory flowing." Ashe adds that "adjusting trade controls is just part of a government strategy to combat wildlife trafficking," and "includes working with the international community to protect wild populations, arrest traffickers and reduce consumer demand for ivory and other products."

FWS PARTICIPATING IN COMMERCIAL TARGETING AND ANALYSIS CENTER. The Yuma (AZ) News Now (4/2) reports that US Customs and Border Protection has announced the addition of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to the Commercial Targeting and Analysis Center (CTAC) in Washington, D.C. The agencies "are partnering with US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and seven other participating federal agencies, to enhance targeting efforts on commercial imports posing a threat to the health and safety of the American public or other border management goals such as conservation of species." The agreement was finalized on March 15. FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "Broadening the scope of CTAC to encompass illegal wildlife trade and other management issues helps support the Nation's high-priority fight against wildlife trafficking. Participating in the CTAC will give our law enforcement officers access to new intelligence and increased opportunities to partner with Customs and other Federal counterparts in keeping our borders closed to illegal products of all types."

FWS LOOKING INTO LAW CREATING IDAHO WOLF DEPREDATION CONTROL BOARD. The Idaho Statesman (4/2, 163K) reports that the FWS is "looking into whether a new law creating the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board violates" the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act "by transferring hunting and fishing license dollars to a fund used for the killing of wolves." The legislation, "signed into law last week by Gov. Butch Otter, requires the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to transfer $110,000 annually to the fund, which will be overseen by a board appointed by the governor." The FWS said that "it is working with Fish and Game to make sure that funds provided to the state through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program meet the federal criteria."

ELKS CAPTURED FROM SAN LUIS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND RELOCATED. The Merced (CA) Sun-Star (4/1, 71K) reports that the FWS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife have "completed the capture of 36 tule elk from the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge near Los Banos," the departments announced Tuesday. The article notes that "the weekend's capture was the first of its kind since 2005."

Also reporting on the story is the Modesto (CA) Bee (4/1, 192K).

FWS TO HOLD LOTTERY FOR HANFORD REACH WILDFLOWER TOUR SEATS. The Walla Walla (WA) Union-Bulletin (3/31, 38K) reports that the FWS is "trying something new on its popular spring wildflower tours on the normally closed portion of the Hanford Reach National Monument." This year, "the seats on the tour will be filled using a lottery." Also, the agency is "doubling the number of tours to eight, with 20 seats on each bus that heads out to the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve on the monument."

FWS ASKS FOR INFORMATION ON THREAT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE IN HATCHIE RIVER. WBBJ-TV Jackson, TN (4/2, 1K) reports that "the possibility of industrial waste being dumped in the Hatchie River has several Haywood County residents protesting" and the FWS "stepping in." According to the article, "last week, after several residents protested," the FWS "wrote to Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) with concerns about the possible pollution to the Hatchie." The federal agency "asked TDEC for more detailed information about how the permit would affect the many species of wildlife in the river."

SQUAW CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MANAGER TO RETIRE. The Nodaway (MO) News Leader (4/2, 9K) reports that Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge Manager Ron Bell will retire on April 3, "concluding a 40-year career" with the FWS. According to the article, "to celebrate his career, the many friends he has made and the projects he has been a part of, an open House reception will be from 1 to 4 pm, Thursday April 3."

ATTACKS AGAINST "SUE-AND-SETTLE" STRATEGY LAUDED. In his column for the Washington Examiner (4/2, 247K), Ron Arnold lauds Oklahoma attorney general Scott Pruitt's lawsuit over "Big Green's outrageously destructive sue-and-settle attacks using endangered species as a weapon to obliterate America's burgeoning oil and gas production." Arnold urges "every state with standing to sue...to come and stand beside these heroes — they're up against a defiant Goliath that scoffs at the rule of law and will resort to any scheme to cheat and bully its citizens." Arnold also notes that "Congress has also formed ranks against Big Green's 'sabotage by species'

scam with four bills drafted to 'update the Endangered Species Act' — framed narrowly enough that bipartisan support is possible — including one with the title, Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act, aimed directly at sue-and-settle arrangements."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS TAKES LIZARD OFF THREATENED LIST. Additional coverage that the island night lizard has been taken off the list of federally endangered species was provided by the Los Angeles Times (4/2, Sahagun, 2.38M).

MONTANA LAWMAKER: LISTING SAGE GROUSE WOULD HURT ECONOMY. In an op-ed for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (4/2, 22K), Montana state Rep. Nicholas Schwaderer, writes sage grouse has become the "the spotted owl of the prairie." He argues that listing the bird under the Endangered Species Act would "dramatically impact Montana's economy." Schwaderer claims that "the duplicity shown by the Obama administration in applying the law underscores the point that the ESA is more about politics than it is protecting and restoring endangered animals."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM TO HOLD MASSACHUSETTS OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALES. The Recharge News (4/2, 633) reports that the BOEM "expects to hold commercial competitive lease sales for offshore wind energy off of Massachusetts towards the end of this year or in early 2015," according to director Tommy Beaudreau. He said, "We're finalizing the proposed sale notice and trying to finalize what we think the leasing configuration should be. How to diwy that up in terms of how many leases should be issued."

BOEM PUBLISHES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR GEORGIA OFFSHORE WIND RESEARCH. The Recharge News (4/2, 633) reports that the BOEM has "published its environmental assessment (EA) of an area offshore Georgia that Southern Company wants to lease for wind and other met-ocean research." Southern Company would "like to lease an area covering three outer continental shelf blocks three to 11 nautical miles (5.5 to 20.3km) facing the coast of Tybee Island."

Also reportgin on the story is the reNews (4/2).

Onshore Energy Development:

OSMRE RAISES MINING VIOLATION PENALTIES TO MATCH INFLATION. The Law 360 (4/2, 18K) reports that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has "increased penalties for mining violations, releasing a final rule Tuesday that raises fines by as much as 45 percent to account for inflation over the past 17 years." The agency "hiked civil monetary penalties as part of a four-year review process, according to a final rule scheduled for publication in the Federal Register on Wednesday."

BLM BEGINS REVIEW OF 65 OIL, GAS LEASES. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (4/2, 73K) reports that the BLM will "likely hear plenty at three upcoming meetings as it launches a retroactive environmental review of 65 existing oil and gas leases, an action that potentially could result in leases being voided." The article notes that "the leases include ones in what's known as the 220,000-acre Thompson Divide area southwest of Glenwood Springs, where the Thompson Divide Coalition and other entities are trying to keep drilling from occurring." The bureau "on Tuesday said it is beginning a 30-day public scoping period for an environmental impact statement analyzing the leases."

REVIVAL OF NORTHERN CHEYENNE COAL SWAP SOUGHT. The AP (4/2, Brown) reports that "leaders of Montana's Northern Cheyenne tribe on Tuesday sought to revive a three-way coal swap involving the federal government and a Texas company after an earlier proposal stumbled in Congress." According to the article, "the swap would fix a mistake made in 1900, when the government expanded the reservation but failed to acquire the underlying minerals." A proposal "introduced on behalf of the tribe by US Rep. Steve Daines calls for the government to turn over an estimated 112 million tons of publicly-owned coal to Houston-based Great Northern Properties," and "in exchange, Great Northern would transfer to the tribe an estimated 117 million tons of coal

lying beneath its reservation, according to representatives of the tribe."

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON NEW CASTLE-AREA DRILLING PLAN. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (4/2, 27K) reports that the BLM is seeking public input "on a plan by Bill Barrett Corp. to develop up to 127 natural gas wells southwest of New Castle, part of which would be on BLM land." The Jackson Gulch Master Development Plan "proposes drilling from new well pads in eight locations, and construction of up to 4.9 miles of new access roads and 4.2 miles of new pipelines."

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON PLAN TO GUIDE MANCOS SHALE DEVELOPMENT. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (4/2, 46K) reports that officials from the BLM's Farmington Field Office "briefed the San Juan County Commission on Tuesday about a plan to guide development of the Mancos Shale and Gallup Sandstone formations on BLM land." BLM Farmington District Manager Dave Evans "told the commission development of the formation is certain." Evans "encouraged commissioners to submit any comments concerning the plan's revision to BLM."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: THOMPSON DIVIDE LEASES EXTENDED TWO MORE YEARS. Additional coverage that the BLM is "extending gas leases for two energy companies in the disputed Thompson Divide area for another two years while the agency works to resolve environmental issues" was provided by the AP (4/2).

"REGULATORY ASSAULT" AGAINST FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY CRITICIZED. For Forbes (4/1, 6M), David Blackmon writes that "while the Obama Administration frequently touts its commitment to an 'all of the above' energy policy, its ongoing devotion to handing out massive subsidies (wind, solar) and demand quotas (ethanol, biofuels) to some forms of energy while ramping up taxes and heavy-handed regulations on others reveals this commitment to be highly qualified and selectively applied." According to Blackmon, "nowhere is the downside of this picking-and-choosing approach to energy policy more evident than as it relates to the oil and gas industry, upon which the Administration's ongoing withering regulatory assault continued last week on several fronts." One example that Blackmon points to is the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE SEEKS INDUSTRY'S PARTICIPATION IN TRACKING PROGRAM. FuelFix (4/1, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that eight months after the BSEE first pledged to create a tracking system for oil and gas industry "near-miss incidents" that could suggest larger offshore safety issues, Federal regulators are asking the industry to participate. Though reports are confidential, the program is voluntary, meaning "industry buy-in is essential to making it work."

PROFESSOR SAYS OFFSHORE DRILLING COULD CREATE UP TO THOUSANDS OF JOBS. The Wilmington (NC) Star News (4/1, 123K) reports that "a N.C. State University professor Tuesday said drilling off the coast of North Carolina could create anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand jobs." Michael Walden, who "provided a presentation to a group of state lawmakers in Raleigh titled 'The Economic Potential for Developing North Carolina's On-shore and Off-shore Energy Resources,'" said, "If I took the most pessimistic and optimistic combination focusing on jobs this is the range of jobs you get." He said that "environmental impacts are also difficult to quantify." Walden said, "Oil spills happen. But if you look at the research the probability of an oil spill happening is relatively small. They don't happen that often."

SENTENCING OF FORMER BP EMPLOYEE DELAYED UNTIL AUGUST. The AP (4/1, 7K) reports on former BP engineer Kurt Mix, who "has been granted a delay in his sentencing on an obstruction of justice charge related to the 2010 Gulf oil spill." The article notes that Mix requested sentencing after July 30, as his lawyers argue that "it would enable Mix to seek temporary employment." US District Judge Stanwood Duval approved the delay, setting the sentencing for August 6.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA WATER MANAGERS EASE DELTA PUMPING LIMITS. The Los Angeles Times (4/2, Boxall, 2.38M) reports that "officials announced Tuesday that they are temporarily waiving an endangered species

protection to enable water managers to send more Northern California water south." According to the article, "the changes are unlikely to help most of the state because the additional exports will either be kept in storage south of the delta as a hedge against another dry year, or they will go to irrigation districts with senior water rights." The article notes that "most growers supplied by the federal Central Valley Project have been told they won't get any deliveries this year." David Murillo, regional director of the BOR, said, "We don't see that those numbers would go up from zero."

Empowering Native American Communities:

STUDY ON YOUTH WELL-BEING FIND SOUTH DAKOTA WORST FOR INDIAN KIDS. The AP (4/2, Crary) reports that "a new report on child well-being, measured by state and race, has turned an unflattering spotlight on some places not used to being at the bottom of such lists, including Wisconsin, with a worst-in-the-nation ranking for its black children, and South Dakota, with abysmal results for its American Indian youth." According to the article, "the report, released Tuesday by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, detailed nationwide racial disparities that put Asian and white children in a far more advantageous position than black, Latino and American Indian children." The article notes that "in the Casey index for American Indian children, the South Dakota score of 185 was the lowest of any racial group in any state — a result of the deep poverty that prevails on many of South Dakota's Indian reservations."

TRIAL SET FOR MAN ACCUSED OF ASSAULTING BIA POLICE OFFICER. The Riverton (WY) Ranger (4/2, 167) reports that "a Northern Arapahoe man is charged with assault on a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer." Kevin Paul Brown pleaded not guilty March 31. Brown was "released on a $10,000 unsecured bond and faces trial June 2."

Top National News:

MEDIA: DESPITE ENROLLMENT SURGE, QUESTIONS REMAIN ABOUT ACA'S VIABILITY. President Obama's announcement that the Administration has surpassed its initial goal of 7 million Affordable Care Act signups by the end of March generated a great deal of coverage echoing the President's contention that the recent enrollment surge is evidence that "Obamacare," as he referred to the ACA on Tuesday, is proving to be a success. However, many reports last night and this morning, including those on all three network newscasts, indicate that the enrollment total may not be an accurate gauge of the law's success, and note that some unknown portion of the 7.1 million cited by the President lost the health insurance they had previously as a result of the ACA's rules, and some of those who signed up will not actually pay for their coverage.

On ABC World News (4/1, story 2, 1:45, Sawyer, 7.43M), Diane Sawyer said the President "took a kind of victory lap" after having "beat[en] the goal the White House had set" for ACA enrollment, and Jon Karl said, "in the four years since the Affordable Care Act passed, when it comes to healthcare, this is the best day that Democrats have had." Likewise, USA Today's (4/2, A1, Madhani, 5.82M) front page reads: "Health Care's Comeback Kid: Obama Exults In 7M Enrollment Mark."

The New York Times (4/2, A1, Shear, Pear, Subscription Publication, 5.41M), in a front-page article under the headline, "Obama Claims Victory in Push for Insurance," says the enrollment total announced by the President is "somewhat remarkable considering the bureaucratic and technical nightmare that surrounded [healthcare.gov's] debut last October." The Times adds that on Tuesday, the President "proclaimed himself mystified by the continuing assault on the law, and said the enrollment figures should finally put an end to the repeated attempts by Republicans to repeal it."

Under the headline, "Behind The Obamacare Surprise," Politico (4/2, Dovere, Brown, 73K) reports that "the story of how the administration turned around a historic management failure surprised even many of the people involved." Politico goes on to give "a lot" of the credit to the President's appearance on the online comedy show "Between Two Ferns" last month. In its "In The Loop" column, the Washington Post (4/2, Kamen, Itkowitz, 2.33M) reports that on Monday, White House Chief Technology Officer Todd Park "counted down until the midnight Obamacare deadline and celebrated surpassing 7 million enrollments with a champagne toast."

After playing several minutes of the President's remarks form the Rose Garden on Tuesday, Rachel Maddow, on

MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show (4/1), said, "We do not often see this side of the President or of this administration: taking credit for something that they have done, that they are proud of and wanting credit for it."

On the other hand, in a report for NBC Nightly News (4/1, story 2, 2:35, Williams, 7.86M), Chuck Todd said that while there was a "sense of relief at the White House," there is "a lot we don't know about these enrollment figures, including how many people were previously uninsured versus how many had coverage before this law." Todd also said there remains the potential that "premiums for all of us could skyrocket next year."

Similarly, on ABC World News (4/1, story 2, 1:45, Sawyer, 7.43M), Jon Karl said the President's appearance on Tuesday "looked like a victory celebration," but "there are still big unanswered questions," including, "how many signs up were previously uninsured, and how many signed up because their old plans were canceled?" Karl added that despite "all the celebrating here at the White House, Republicans haven't backed off one bit," and "argued again today that Obamacare is killing jobs and causing premiums to rise."

On the CBS Evening News (4/1, story 2, 2:35, Pelley, 5.58M), Major Garrett also said, "questions remain," including "how many enrollees have paid for a policy?" According to Garrett, "we don't know how many people enrolled after having their original policy canceled under Obamacare rules." Sam Stein, in a report for the Huffington Post (4/1, 11.54M), says "questions remain about the law's viability," and notes that "the number of people who have paid their first month's premium, for one thing, is unknown."

The AP (4/2, Pace, Lederman) also reports that the Administration "hasn't said how many of those people have closed the deal by paying their first month's premiums," or "how many were previously uninsured – the real test of Obama's health care overhaul." The AP also notes that the Administration "hasn't yet released an updated demographic breakdown of enrollees, such as the number of younger people whose participation is critical to the law's success."

According to Roll Call (4/1, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 67K), at the White House press briefing on Tuesday, "reporters...questioned how many would actually pay for their coverage and how many were forced onto the exchanges because their old plans were canceled," but White House press secretary Jay Carney replied that "those are numbers the White House doesn't yet have."

The Huffington Post (4/1, 11.54M) reports that Republicans in Congress "weren't impressed" by the 7.1 million total, and quotes Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell as saying, "We don't know, of course, exactly what they have signed up for, we don't know how many have paid." McConnell added, "What we do know is that all across the country our constituents are having an unpleasant interaction with Obamacare."

Politico (4/2, Kenen, 73K) reported that Sen. Lamar Alexander maintained that "the news is not the number of enrollees – the news is the number of policies being canceled, the number of co-pays and deductibles going up and the enormous dissatisfaction with the Health Care Act." Bloomberg News (4/2, Talev, Keane, 392K) notes that WellPoint, "the largest exchange insurer, has warned it may propose 'double-digit plus' premium increases for the next enrollment period, which begins in November." Politico (4/2, Dovere, Brown, 73K) reports that Administration officials "know May 1 is going to be a whole new kind of trouble trying to educate the newly insured on how to use the plans they've now got."

At the opening of Fox News' Special Report (4/1, 2.15M), Bret Baier said, "Like an athlete snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, President Obama is celebrating what is being presented as a big, last-second win for his healthcare law." Baier said that on Tuesday, the President "basked in the spotlight, mocked and chastised his critics, and declared the debate over repealing the law is 'over.'" However, chief White House correspondent Ed Henry went on to report that "White House aides...struggled to explain how many people getting insurance had previously been uninsured, versus how many were booted from their plans and are moving to the exchanges."

On NBC Nightly News (4/1, story 2, 2:35, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that on Tuesday, President Obama "referenced the disastrous start of the website," and "conceded future fixes." Chuck Todd went on to report that the President "was in a feisty mood against his Republican foes," although "Republicans still believe an anti-Obamacare message is a political winner." According to Todd, President Obama "wants to make sure Democrats don't run away from healthcare."

On the CBS Evening News (4/1, story 2, 2:35, Pelley, 5.58M), Scott Pelley reported that "a late surge has pushed enrollment in Obamacare over the top." Major Garrett went on to report that "the enrollment surge...reflects a White House media campaign that targeted the 20 cities with the highest number of uninsured residents." The CBS Evening News (4/1, story 3, 1:50, Pelley, 5.58M) also had a segment on the enrollment process in California where the signup deadline has been extended to April 15.

The Wall Street Journal (4/2, Favole, Nelson, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) reports that the President's defense of the ACA on Tuesday was more forceful than those he has offered in remarks on the topic since healthcare.gov's rollout in October. The Hill (4/1, Sink, 76K) reported that on Tuesday, the President "was clearly buoyed by the enrollment figures and challenged Republicans to 'explain why we should go back to the days when seniors paid more for their prescriptions, or women had to pay more than men.'"

The Huffington Post (4/1, 11.54M) reported that the President "also hit back at critics of the law, saying the problems they predicted haven't come to pass." The President is quoted as saying, "There are still no death panels, Armageddon has not arrived." USA Today (4/2, Jackson, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that the President said the enrollment figure mean "the Affordable Care Act is here to stay," and "denounced Republican attacks on the new system." According to USA Today, the President contended that "if the GOP continues to pursue to repeal," they "will have to explain to millions of newly insured Americans why they want to take away their policies." USA Today adds that the President went on to "urge...Republicans to work with him...to improve the law where needed, including expansion of Medicaid in states that have resisted the plan."

The Los Angeles Times (4/2, Parsons, 2.38M) also reports that "while previously uninsured Americans are getting used to their new access to healthcare, the White House wants to drive home the message that the benefits may be at risk" if Republicans get their way. The Times reports that Jay Carney said on Tuesday, "Now there are at least 7,040,000 Americans who have enrolled through the marketplaces for affordable quality health insurance, and those who run against it, who run on repeal and offer nothing in return but the old status quo, are going to have some explaining to do to those millions of Americans who now have the security of affordable health insurance."

Politico (4/2, Kenen, 73K) reported that "with special enrollment, extra special enrollment, slightly extended state enrollment and very extended state enrollment, the sign-up tally will keep climbing beyond...7.1 million." Politico also notes that the 7.1 million total "doesn't account for Medicaid," and "a few recalcitrant states may yet take up the Obamacare Medicaid expansion," something New Hampshire "decided to do so just last week."

McClatchy (4/2, Pugh, Wise, Subscription Publication, 13K) noted that on Tuesday, Jay Carney said, "I think it's fair to say we surpassed everyone's expectations." The Hill (4/1, Sink, 76K) reports that Carney also reiterated that the President "has had and has confidence in" HHS Secretary Sebelius. On Fox News' Special Report (4/1, 2.15M), Ed Henry noted that in his Rose Garden appearance Tuesday, "there was no shout-out for" Sebelius although he singled out several others for praise.

However, Politico (4/1, Epstein, Dovere, 73K) says that "while the president did sound like he was enjoying a victory lap...he made clear that some bumps still lie ahead," and, according to Politico, "White House officials pushed back ahead of time on the notion that the event was a victory lap." Politico adds that "Republicans have made clear that they aren't giving up on dismantling the law," and Speaker Boehner "reiterated Monday that he will continue to push to repeal it."

According to the New York Times (4/2, A1, Shear, Pear, Subscription Publication, 5.41M), the "milestone" hailed by the President on Tuesday "may be more significant politically than for what it says about the law's potential impact on the American health system, which remains unclear."

The Washington Post (4/2, A1, Goldstein, Eilperin, 2.33M) says "the six-month sign-up period achieved results that congressional budget analysts had first anticipated — and more recently had thought would be impossible." According to the Post, "As surprise about the high total rippled among the Obama administration's friends and foes alike, they agreed that the law had met the threshold test of whether it could attract large numbers to...[the] marketplaces."

Bloomberg News (4/2, Talev, Keane, 392K) reports that on Tuesday, "Republicans questioned how many of those

who signed up have actually paid premiums for coverage," and "cited the continued rise in health-care costs and the cost to businesses." According to Bloomberg, "Attention now will turn to the quality of coverage Obamacare enrollees receive" and "their access to medical services."

The Washington Times (4/2, Howell, 230K) says that on Tuesday, the President "rattled off anecdotes about a bartender and other people who found a path to affordable coverage under his law, but Republican critics are sure to hit back with stories of rising premiums in their districts." According to the Daily Caller's (4/1, 135K) Neil Munro, the President was "suggest[ing] to his supporters that people oppose the law because they don't like him personally" when he said, "Regardless of your politics or your feelings about me," the ACA is "good for our economy, and it's good for our country."

Vulnerable Democrats Remain Wary Of Embracing ACA. Politico (4/1, Hohmann, 73K) reports that on Tuesday, Democrats "outlined plans...to step up attacks on Republicans for wanting to repeal the health care law." However, according to Politico, "Democrats on the ballot this year continue to tread cautiously," and those who supported the ACA "but have distanced themselves" from the law in recent months "have no plans to suddenly embrace it," planning instead to "continue emphasizing the ways they want to 'fix it' and 'make it work.'"

The AP (4/2, Pace, Lederman) also says "the late enrollment surge may do little to change the political dynamics heading into the midterm elections, particularly for Democrats running in conservative states where the health law and the president himself remain deeply unpopular." The AP reports that on Tuesday, "in a preview of his party's midterm messaging," the President "declared...that while the health law isn't perfect, it is 'here to stay.'"

However, the Daily Caller (4/1, Bordelon, 135K) reported that also on Tuesday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi "appeared hesitant" to make the ACA "the central plank in her party's push to win in 2014, telling reporters that 'while we're proud of the Affordable Care Act, we now pivot to jobs.'" According to the DC, when asked on Tuesday "whether this represented 'vindication' and a 'turning of the tide' on the unpopular law, she stopped short of declaring Obamacare a winning issue," saying, "We'll see. ... I think the fight for the election — elections are always about jobs. So I think that while we're proud of the Affordable Care Act, we now pivot to job creation."

Roll Call (4/1, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 67K) notes that Pelosi, "who took on the most congressional responsibility for delivering Democratic votes to pass the legislation — and lost the speaker's gavel as a result"– had lunch with the President on Tuesday and then "spoke to reporters outside of the West Wing for a celebratory press conference of her own." Pelosi is quoted as saying, "It never for one instant occurred to me that the Affordable Care Act would collapse."

The Washington Post (4/2, A1, Goldstein, Eilperin, 2.33M) reports that Sen. Mary Landrieu, "one of the most vulnerable" incumbent Senate Democrats up for re-election in November, released a statement reading: "Today's enrollment announcement confirms what I have said since day one – the Affordable Care Act holds great promise and is getting stronger every day."

The Wall Street Journal (4/2, Subscription Publication, 4.25M), in an editorial, makes the case that vulnerable Democrats' reluctance to campaign as champions of the ACA's reforms is evidence that they do not believe the optimistic narrative from the White House regarding the progress made in implementing the law. The Journal notes several of the Senate Democrats facing tough campaigns are actively touting their support for plans to fix some of what are perceived to be the ACA's flaws.

RYAN UNVEILS HOUSE REPUBLICANS' 2015 BUDGET. House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan on Tuesday unveiled the House Republican 2015 budget, which seeks to reduce Federal spending by $5 trillion. Print reports this morning almost universally cast the plan as a political document which lays out Republican priorities ahead of the midterm elections, and note that it stands no chance of being enacted into law.

Politico (4/1, French, 73K) reports that the proposal seeks to "shave federal spending by $5 trillion by offering changes to social welfare programs, ending government ownership of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and repealing Obamacare." Politico notes that while the budget "is little more than a political document to serve as an outline of Republican priorities going into the November election," it could "set off a round of intraparty squabbling due to the House Budget Committee chairman's broad proposed changes to Medicare, including a controversial proposal

subsidizing private health insurance for those 54 and younger." Ryan said that the measure "serves to show voters that Republicans are not just an 'opposition party.'"

The AP (4/2, Bondioli) reports that the plan would "slash $5.1 trillion in federal spending over coming decade and promises to balance the government's books with wide-ranging cuts in programs like food stamps and government-paid health care for the poor and working class." In addition, it would "cut Pell Grants for low-income students and pensions for federal workers, while steering away from cuts to benefits for senior citizens, at least in the short term." While the plan is likely to "skate through the Budget Committee on Wednesday," it "faces challenges on the floor next week since it endorses a bipartisan pact — negotiated by Ryan and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash., in December — to increase agency operating budgets this year and next."

The Washington Post (4/1, O'Keefe, 2.33M) reports that while Ryan and senior GOP leadership aides predicted that the plan "will eventually pass the House with sufficient Republican support because it is similar to the one passed last year," Democrats dismissed it "as unrealistic and signaled that they would once again use it to draw contrasts for voters before November's midterm elections." Meanwhile, the White House rejected the plan, saying in a statement that it "would slow the economy, stack the deck against the middle class and threaten the guaranteed benefits seniors have paid for and earned."

USA Today (4/2, Davis, 5.82M) reports that the plan "is not expected or really even intended to become law." Rather, "it is designed to outline Republican priorities and goals for taxes and spending over the long term."

The New York Times (4/2, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) reported that the measure "will serve more as a 2014 Republican campaign manifesto than a legislative agenda."

Bloomberg News (4/1, Wallbank, 392K) describes the proposal as "a declaration of party priorities seven months before the midterm election," and notes that Ryan called it a "blueprint for the country's future."

The Washington Times (4/2, Dinan, 230K) reports that the plan, which is "likely Mr. Ryan's last one as the head of the committee," is seen "as one final test of the GOP's 2012 vice presidential nominee." Ryan said his plan "marks a rejection of the last five years under President Obama, who championed tax hikes and higher government spending as a way to stabilize the economy."

McClatchy (4/1, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 13K) reports that the proposal has "no chance of winning approval."

The Washington Post (4/2, Davidson, 2.33M) reports in it "Federal Diary" column that the Federal employee unions "unanimously denounced" the Ryan plan. The plan, the Post notes, "repeats previous proposals to increase the amount federal employees would pay toward retirement, with no increase in benefits," which "would be a pay cut." Rep. Elijah Cummings said that Republicans "want 'to squeeze more from hard-working, middle-class federal employees,'" adding that the proposal "unfairly targets federal employees who have been used repeatedly over the past three years as the Republicans' piggy bank for deficit reduction."

More Commentary. An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/2, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) says Ryan's budget demonstrates his priorities and reaffirms House Republicans' desire to balance the budget via spending restraint and entitlement reform. The Journal contrasts this with Democrats, noting that they plan to go through the election without informing voters of their tax and spending plans.

A New York Times (4/2, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) editorial is less complimentary, noting that because Ryan's proposal "will never come close to being law," it "doesn't have to pretend to be serious." The plan, the Times argues, is "designed solely to be reduced to a few bullet points so House Republicans can have something to show their most antigovernment voters." The Times says the Ryan plan is "destructive to the country's future" and urges voters to "look closely at the details to see if they would choose the same course."

An editorial from Bloomberg View (4/1) is also critical of the plan, calling it "a partisan wish list, comforting Republican constituencies and upsetting Democratic ones," which "stands in stark contrast to the bold tax-reform plan produced in February by [Rep. Dave] Camp, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, which spread its

pains and gains more equitably." Bloomberg notes that it is "hard to see how cuts to income support and social services in the midst of a weak labor market will improve many lives."

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY, AUTO SALES UP LAST MONTH. Reuters (4/2, Mutikani) reports that the Institute for Supply Management announced on Monday that its manufacturing activity index rose to 53.7 in March from 53.2 in February, indicating that the sector's expansion accelerated last month. The increase came despite a harsh winter, and Reuters says that data raises hopes that the economy will grow stronger as spring sets in.

The Wall Street Journal (4/2, Leubsdorf, Madigan, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) is a bit more negative on the data, saying that the increase is short of what many forecasters expected by this time this year. It also notes that the employment growth portion of the index fell to its lowest level since June 2013, a potential troubling sign.

The Wall Street Journal (4/2, Rogers, Kell, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) also reports that most major automakers posted solid US sales gains in March, setting the industry on course for renewed growth this year following a slump this past winter. Fiat Chrysler reported that its sales were up 13%, while GM's rose 4% and Ford's were up 3.3%. Toyota saw its sales rise 4.9%, while Nissan's were up 8.3%. however, Honda's sales fell 2%. The numbers are all over March 2013. The data eases the concems of many in the industry who feared that new car sales were going to taper off after several strong years.

The New York Times (4/2, Ruiz, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) says that the "auto market rebounded in March from a harsh winter that had stunted steady sales gains in the United States." The Times says that many "brands and models had double-digit declines in January, and overall industry sales for that month dropped by more than 3 percent, to about one million vehicles." Sales continued to be "sluggish" in February, with "a total 1.2 million vehicles sold and top automakers like Ford and General Motors posting a second straight month of declines."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Mr. Ryan's Faith-Based Budget."*** A New York Times (4/2, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) editorial notes that because House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's proposal "will never come close to being law," it "doesn't have to pretend to be serious." The plan, the Times argues, is "designed solely to be reduced to a few bullet points so House Republicans can have something to show their most antigovernment voters." The Times says the Ryan plan is "destructive to the country's future" and urges voters to "look closely at the details to see if they would choose the same course."

"Bad Move On Jonathan Pollard." The New York Times (4/2, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) editorializes that the use of Jonathan Pollard as "a bargaining chip" is a sign of "America's desperation to keep" the Israelis and Palestinians engaged in negotiations. The Times says peace between the parties "can be achieved only if they want it for themselves," and recent actions indicate that is "in doubt." The Times argues that freeing Pollard is "a bad idea and would do nothing to advance progress on the core issues." The Times says it "might conceivably be worth relapsing him early" if it helped encourage Israel to make "a truly big decision, like a final peace agreement."

"Albany's Perilous Oil Boom." The New York Times (4/1, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) editorializes that oil "tank cars are accidents waiting to happen" and regulators should "take all possible steps to reduce the risks." The Times argues that the US should phase out old tank cars and "should follow through" on proposed rules to force oil shipments to "avoid populated areas," and regulate oil like "other toxic materials," requiring "more security, better spill-response plans and assurances the cargo is properly identified."

"Keeping Track: April 2, 2014." The New York Times (4/2, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) has launched a new feature on its editorial page called "Keeping Track," which provides "updates on issues and subjects we follow." In this edition, the Times examines Arizona's abortion law, the enforcement of pay rules, and the Senate's passage of the so-called "doc fix."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Diplomatic Quid Pro Quo."*** The Washington Post (4/2, 2.33M) editorializes that the reason the US is "in the position of offering its own concessions," such as the release of Jonathan Pollard, "rather

than brokering compromise" between Israel and the Palestinians is Secretary of State Kerry "has failed to persuade either to budge" from their views. The Post argues that releasing Pollard "looks like a way to buy time – and avoid admitting defeat." The Post says that until the Israelis and Palestinians display "a genuine willingness...to compromise," the US should "refrain from its own extraordinary gestures."

"0 Percent Of Precincts." In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/2, 2.33M) criticizes the D.C. Board of Elections over the slow reporting of voting totals in Tuesday's election, saying, "It really shouldn't be too much to expect that an agency whose job is to tabulate and report results will do so in a more expeditious manner." Over "two hours after polls closed, only a few thousand votes had been tabulated and reported," says the Post, which isn't "the kind of performance to inspire confidence in the democratic process."

"Metro's Failing Grade."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The ObamaCare Copperheads."*** The Wall Street Journal (4/2, Subscription Publication, 4.25M), in an editorial, makes the case that vulnerable Democrats' reluctance to campaign as champions of the ACA's reforms is evidence that they do not believe the optimistic narrative from the White House regarding the progress made in implementing the law. The Journal notes several of the Senate Democrats facing tough campaigns are actively touting their support for plans to fix some of what are perceived to be the ACA's flaws.

"Meltdown In Palestine." The Wall Street Journal (4/2, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) editorializes that while President Obama has been ambitious in dealing with the Middle East during his second term, he has not been very successful. The Journal notes the Syria talks did not produce a favorable outcome and the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks are on the verge of collapse. The Journal argues that diplomacy should focus on realistic solutions, rather than implausible outcomes.

"The Ryan Priorities." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/2, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) says that House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's budget demonstrates his priorities and reaffirms House Republicans' desire to balance the budget via spending restraint and entitlement reform. The Journal contrasts this with Democrats, noting that they plan to go through the election without informing voters of their tax and spending plans.

"Righting Hollande." The Wall Street Journal (4/2, Subscription Publication, 4.25M) editorializes the French government should implement policies that stop negatively impacting foreign investors and the wealthy. The Journal says that if the appointment of Prime Minister Manuel Valls indicates the government is moving towards the right, then the Socialist Party might receive more support in the next election, than it did in last weekend's municipal votes.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Health Law Overcomes Big Hurdle
Figures Skew Number Obama Deports
Nutritious But Uneaten
A Dry Spell For Dodgers Bars
Charles Keating Jr., 1923-2014

Wall Street Journal:
GM's Barra Criticizes Failure To Fix Switch
US Gambit On Mideast Peace Talks Falters
Southwest Airlines, Once A Brassy Upstart, Is Showing Its Age
Overdraft Fees At Banks Hit A High, Despite Curbs

New York Times:

Abbas Takes Defiant Step, And Mideast Talks Falter
Obama Claims Victory In Push For Insurance
Afghan Women Seeing Hope In The Ballot Box
Steelhead Drive Is Gone, Along With So Many Lives Lived On It
Police Confront Rising Number Of Mentally Ill
Bishops Follow Pope's Example: Opulent Is Out

Washington Post:
7.1 Million Sign Up For Health Plan By Deadline
A Cornucopia Of College Scholarship Money
GM Chief On Hill: Apologies, Little Else
A Slow Day At The Polls

Financial Times:
French Growth Plan Reopens Eurozone Rift
End Of Goldman Era On The NYSE Floor
Steve Jobs Promised 'Holy War' On Google
Barra Survives Ordeal By Committee
Pimco Fund Dive Puts Pressure On Gross
Shell Seeks To Cut Costs In US Shale Race
The Art Of Talking Down Earnings

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: General Motors Trial; Healthcare Enrollment; Washington Mudslide Search; Missing Malaysia Flight; Veteran Caregivers; American Clergy-Spending; Soda Purchasing Decrease.
CBS: General Motors Trial; Healthcare Enrollment; Healthcare-Enrollees; Secretary Kerry-Middle East Peace Talks; Missing Malaysia Flight; Washington Mudslide Search; American Clergy-Spending; President Obama-Boston Red Sox.
NBC: General Motors Trial; Healthcare Enrollment; Washington Mudslide Search; Missing Malaysia Flight; Afghanistan Election Violence; Medical-Mammogram Effectiveness; President Obama-Boston Red Sox; Atlanta Archbishop-Spending.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Chile-Tsunami Warning; General Motors Trial; Healthcare Enrollment; Washington DC- Democratic Primary.
CBS: Chile-Deadly Earthquake; General Motors Trial; Auto Sales; Charles Keating Obit; Congress-Ukraine Aid Bill Passes; Wall Street; Biden-Poland Visit; Toyota Settlement Negotiations; Mega Millions Lottery Results.
FOX: Chile-Deadly Earthquake; Washington Mudslide Search; Healthcare Enrollment; Study-Caregivers Of Military Veterans; Texas-Execution Drug Lawsuit; Charles Keating Obit; General Motors Trial; California-USGS Hoax.
NPR: Chile-Deadly Earthquake; General Motors Trial; Congress-Ukraine Aid Bill Passes; Washington DC-Democratic Primary; Pew Study-Working Women; PG&E Indicted; Charles Keating Obit.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; departs the White House; departs Joint Base Andrews; arrives in Michigan; delivers remarks at the University of Michigan; departs Michigan; arrives in Chicago; attends a DNC event; delivers remarks and answers questions at a DNC dinner, private residence; departs Chicago; arrives at Joint Base Andrews; arrives at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Joins FoodCorps leaders and local students to plant the White House Kitchen Garden for the sixth year in a row.
US Senate: April 1 – 4. LANDMINE AWARENESS — The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) along with Senator Patrick Leahy and the reception hosted by Senator Bob Casey with remarks planned from Senator Leahy (VT), Senator Bob Casey (PA), Congressman Jim McGovern (MA), and Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Rose Gottemoeller hosts exhibit on Capitol Hill to celebrate its 25th anniversary and honor the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, MAG America. Surviving the Peace: Landmines, Mortars and Munitions -25 Years of Humanitarian Mine Action. NOTE: Reception and speakers on the 2nd at 4p.m. Contact: Patricia Loria, MAG America (202)531-6513 5/8 patricia.loria@maginternational.org Location: The Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building.

10:15 a.m. ENERGY SECURITY ACT — Republican Senators will hold a press conference to discuss the Energy Security Act and other "job-creating energy amendments" they plan to offer as part of the Unemployment Insurance Extension bill. With Republican leader McConnell, Sens. Thune, Barrasso, Blunt, Murkowski, Vitter, Hoeven. Location: Senate Radio TV Studio.

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. U.S.-INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL — Co-chairs Senator Mark Warner (VA) and Senator John Comyn (TX); House India Caucus Co-chairs Representative Peter Roskam (IL) and Representative Joseph Crowley (NY); along with Ambassador of India to the United States Dr. S. Jaishankar – India's 2014 National Elections and Why They Matter to the United States. Speakers: Senate India Caucus Co-chairs Senator John Cornyn (TX) and Senator Mark Warner (VA); House India Caucus Co-chairs Representative Joseph Crowley (NY) and Representative Peter Roskam (IL). Ambassador of India to the United States Dr. S. Jaishankar. http://www.usibc.com/node/1414/register Location: SVC 202-203.

9 a.m. — The Senate will convene and resume consideration of H.R.3979, the legislative vehicle for the unemployment insurance extension.

9:15 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Seapower will receive testimony on Marine Corps modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: General John M. Paxton, Jr., USMC, Assistant Commandant, United States Marine Corps; Lieutenant, General Kenneth J. Glueck, Jr., USMC, Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration/ Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, United States Marine Corps. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/marine-corps-modernization_04/02/2014 Location: 222 Russell.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support will receive testimony on military construction, environmental, energy, and base closure programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request. Witnesses: John C. Conger, Acting Deputy Under Secretary Of Defense Installations And Environment; Sharon E. Burke, Assistant Secretary Of Defense, Operational Energy Plans And Programs; Katherine G. Hammack, Assistant Secretary Of The Army Installations, Energy And Environment; Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary Of The Navy Energy, Installations And Environment; Kathleen I. Ferguson, Acting Assistant Secretary Of The Air Force Installations, Environment And Logistics. for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/military-construction-environmental-energy-and-base-closure-programs Location: 232-A Russell.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Airland will receive testimony on tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: Lieutenant General Christopher C. Bogdan, USAF Program Executive Officer, F-35 Lightning II Joint Program http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/tactical-aircraft-programs_04/02/2014Office; Lieutenant General Charles R. Davis, USAF, Military Deputy To The Assistant Secretary Of The Air Force For Acquisition; Vice Admiral Paul A. Grosklags, USN, Principal Military Deputy To The Assistant Secretary Of The Navy For Research, Development, And Acquisition; Lieutenant General Robert E. Schmidle, Jr., USMC, Deputy Commandant For Aviation. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/tactical-aircraft-programs_04/02/2014 Location: 562 Dirksen.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Overview on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request to Congress. Witness: The Honorable Shaun Donovan, Secretary Department of Housing and Urban Development. Location: 138 Dirksen

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Department of Defense hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Air Force. Witnesses: Deborah Lee James, Secretary, U.S. Air Force; General Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force; General Frank J. Grass, Chief, National Guard Bureau; Lieutenant General Stanley E. Clarke III, Director, Air National Guard; Lieutenant General James F. Jackson, Chief, Air Force Reserve Location: 106 Dirksen

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, The Fiscal Year 2015 budget request for NIH. Witnesses include: Francis S. Collins, M.D., Director, National Institutes of Health; Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Location: 192 Dirksen.

10 a.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance, "Examining the GM Recall and NHTSA's Defect Investigation Process." Witness Panel 1: David J. Friedman, Acting Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Calvin L. Scovel III, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation. Witness Panel 2: Mary T. Barra, Chief Executive Officer, General Motors Company. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=878092ca-3da8-4a43-8948-6f50822a1938&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a Location: 253 Russell.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Committee hearings to examine data breach on the rise, focusing on protecting personal information from harm. Panel I: Edith Ramirez, Chairwoman Federal Trade Commission; William Noonan, Deputy Special Agent in Charge Criminal Investigative Division, Cyber Operations Branch, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Gregory C. Wilshusen Director, Information Security Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Panel II: Tim Pawlenty, Chief Executive Officer, Financial Services Roundtable; Sandra L. Kennedy, President Retail Industry Leaders Association; Tiffany O. Jones, Senior Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer iSIGHT Partners, Inc. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/data-breach-on-the-rise-protecting-personal-information-from-harm Location: 342 Dirksen

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence and its administration and enforcement of sanctions. Location: 138 Dirksen

2:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior. Witnesses: The Honorable Lowell Pimley, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation; The Honorable Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior; The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary, Army for Civil Works; The Honorable Thomas P. Bostick, Lieutenant General, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. http://appropriations.senate.gov Location: 192 Dirksen

2:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Strategic Forces will receive testimony on ballistic missile defense policies and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: M. Elaine Bunn, Deputy Assistant Secretary Of Defense Nuclear And Missile Defense Policy, Department Of Defense; J. Michael Gilmore, Director, Operational Test And Evaluation, Department Of Defense, Vice Admiral James D. Syring, USN, Director, Missile Defense Agency, Department Of Defense; Lieutenant General David L. Mann, USA, Commander, U.S. Army Space And Missile Defense Command/ Army Forces Strategic Command And Joint Functional Component Command For Integrated Missile Defense; Cristina T. Chaplain, Director, Acquisition And Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/ballistic-missile-defense-policies-and-programs_04/02/14 Location: 222 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine S.1474, to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforcement of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, S.1570, to amend

the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2-fiscal-year budget authority, S.1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S.1622, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and an original bill entitled, "The Native American Children's Safety Act". http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/legislative-hearing-receive-testimony-following-bills Also Business meeting on: S. 161, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes; S. 1074, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; and S. 1219, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes. http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/business-meeting-consider-following-legislation-will-not-be-webcast Location: 628 Dirksen

3 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army. Witnesses: Panel I: The Honorable Mike McCord, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Department of Defense; John Conger, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations & Environment, Department of Defense. Panel II: The Honorable Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, & Environment, United States Army; Major General Al Aycock, Director of Operations, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, United States Army; Brigadier General Michael Bobeck, Special Assistant to the Director, United States Army National Guard; Mr. James Balocki, Command Executive Officer, United States Army Reserve. Location: 124 Dirksen
US House: 10 a.m. DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS — Time approximate. Democratic Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra (CA-34) and Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Joe Crowley (NY-14) hold a press availability following the Democratic Caucus Meeting. Topic: "The Affordable Care Act 7MillionAndCounting" Location: HVC-210 alcove stakeout location.

10 a.m. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — Time approximate. Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Representative Todd Young (R-IN). Location: HC-8.

10 a.m. — The House will meet Morning Hour debate and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. The House is expected to begin consideration of H.R. 2575 – "Sabotage American Workers Act of 2014" (Rep. Young (IN) – Ways and Means) (Subject to a Rule).

9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Budget hearing – United States Forest Service. Witness: Tom Tidwell, Chief United States Forest Service. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373868 Location: B-308 Rayburn

9:30 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Full committee hearing on "Undercover Storefront Operations: Continued Oversight of ATFs Reckless Investigative Techniques." http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/undercover-storefront-operations-continued-oversight-atfs-reckless-investigative-techniques/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Commerce, Justice, Science subcommittee hearing on Panel 1 DEA FY 2015 Budget Request, DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart. Panel 2: State of Research on Drug Abuse in American Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373858 Location: H-309, The Capitol.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies subcommittee Budget hearing – Department of Agriculture Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Witnesses: Ed Avalos, Under Secretary Marketing and Regulatory Programs; Kevin Shea, Administrator Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; Anne Alonzo, Administrator Agriculture Marketing Service; Larry Mitchell, Administrator Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration; Mr. Michael Young, Budget Officer. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373857 Location: 2362-A Rayburn

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Budget Hearing – Department of Treasury. Witness: Jacob Lew, Secretary

Department of the Treasury. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373860 Location: 2359 Raybum

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies subcommittee Budget Hearing – Department of Energy. Witness: Ernest Moniz, Secretary Department of Energy. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373859 Location: 2362-B Raybum

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Homeland Security subcommittee Budget hearing – United States Customs and Border Protection. Witness: R. Gil Kerlikowske, Commissioner United States Customs and Border Protection. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373861 Location: 2358-A Raybum

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Committee hearing: The Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Budget Requests from U.S. Forces Korea, and U.S. Strategic Command. Witnesses: Admiral Cecil D. Haney, USN, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command; General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USA, Commander, U.S. Forces Korea. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_id=A7F233BE-2B05-4EB6-B3E5-DE64FFEA81D4 Location: 2118 Raybum

10 a.m. COMMITTEE ON INTELIGENCE — The Benghazi Talking Points and Michael J. Morells Role in Shaping the Administrations Narrative. http://intelligence.house.gov/hearing/benghazi-talking-points-and-michael-j-morell%E2%80%99s-role-shaping-administration%E2%80%99s-narrative Location: TBA.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — Full Committee, "Keeping College within Reach: Meeting the Needs of Contemporary Students." http://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374147 Location: 2175 Raybum.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Energy and Power hearing: The Fiscal Year 2015 EPA Budget. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy and Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz will appear. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/fiscal-year-2015-epa-budget Location: 2123 Raybum

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing "Allegations of Discrimination and Retaliation within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau". http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374299 Location: 2128 Rayburn

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Committee hearing: "Taking Down the Cartels: Examining United States – Mexico Cooperation." Witnesses include: James Dinkins, Executive Associate Director, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; John Feeley, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Christopher Wilson, Associate, Mexico Institute, The Wilson Center. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/hearing-taking-down-cartels-examining-united-states-mexico-cooperation Location: 311 Canon

10 a.m. PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE — Full committee hearing on The Benghazi Talking Points and Michael J. Morell's Role in Shaping the Administrations Narrative. http://intelligence.house.gov/hearing/benghazi-talking-points-and-michael-j-morell%E2%80%99s-role-shaping-administration%E2%80%99s-narrative Location: HVC210 The Capitol.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment hearing: The President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: Administration Priorities for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Witnesses: Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the ArmyCivil Works; Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, Chief of Engineers, United States Army Corps of Engineers. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374199 Location: 2167 Raybum

10:15 a.m. JUDICIARY — Markup: H.R. 4292 the Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act; and H.R. 4323 To reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004 and for other purposes. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10:15 a.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, "VA & Human Tissue: Poor

Practice and Lack of Tracking Endangers Veterans." Witnesses: Panel 1: Philip Matkovsky, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Administrative Operations, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs Accompanied by: Dr. William Gunnar, M.D., National Director of Surgery, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs Dr. Michael Icardi, M.D., National Director of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs. Panel 2: Marcia Crosse, Director, Health Care, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Panel 3: Frank Wilton, Chief Executive Officer, American Association of Tissue Banks. Location: 334 Cannon.

10:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies subcommittee Budget Hearing – Department of Labor. Witness: Thomas E. Perez, Secretary Department of Labor. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373862 Location: 2358-C Rayburn

10:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Budget hearing – Request for the United Nations and International Organizations. Witness: Samantha Power, United States Ambassador to the United Nations. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373863 Location: H-140 Capitol

10:30 a.m. COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET — Markup: the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget For Fiscal Year 2015. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102092 Location: 210 Cannon.

10:30 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Communications and Technology hearing: Ensuring the Security, Stability, Resilience, and Freedom of the Global Internet. Witnesses: Panel I: Larry Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information Administration, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; Fadi Chehade, President and CEO, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers; David A. Gross, Partner, Wiley Rein, LLP. Panel II: Steve DelBianco, Executive Director, NetChoice; Carolina Rossini, Project Director, Latin American Resource Center, Internet Governance and Human Rights Program, New American Foundation. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/ensuring-security-stability-resilience-and-freedom-global-internetsthash.5DSiQ15G.dpuf Location: 2322 Rayburn

10:30 a.m. HOUSE ADMINISTRATION — Markup: H.R. 863, "Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013." http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102080 Location: 1310 Longworth.

10:30 a.m. HOUSE ADMINISTRATION — The National Zoo of Today and Tomorrow – an Innovative Center Focused on the Care and Conservation of the Worlds Species. Witnesses: Dennis Kelly, Director, Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park; Jim Maddy, President and CEO, Association of Zoos and Aquariums; Dr. Steven Monfort, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Smithsonian Institution. http://cha.house.gov/hearing/hearing-%E2%80%9C-national-zoo-today-and-tomorrow-innovative-center-focused-care-and-conservation Location: 1310 Longworth.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Full committee hearing – &8203;Bitcoin: Examining the Benefits and Risks for Small Business. Witnesses: Jerry Brito, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center, George Mason University; Adam White, Director of Business Development and Sales, Coinbase; Mark Williams, Executive-in-Residence, Master Lecturer, Boston University School of Management.; L. Michael Couvillion, Associate Professor of Economics, Plymouth State University, College of Business Administration, Plymouth, NH. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373094 Location: 2360 Rayburn

1:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Budget Hearing – Defense Health Program. Witnesses: Dr. Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense Health Affairs; Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho, Surgeon General, United States Army; Vice Admiral Matthew L. Nathan, Surgeon General, United States Navy; Lieutenant General Dr. Thomas W. Travis, Surgeon General, United States Air Force. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373866 Location: 2359 Rayburn

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Committee hearing: Oversight Hearing – Public Housing. Witness: Shaun Donovan, Secretary Department of Housing and Urban Development. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374108 Location: 2358-A Rayburn

2 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces hearing: Fiscal Year 2015 Ground Force Modernization Programs. Witnesses: Lieutenant General James O. Barclay III, USA Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, G8, Department of the Army; Tom Dee Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Expeditionary Programs and Logistics Management, Department of the Navy; Lieutenant General Glenn M. Walters, USMC Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, Department of the Navy; Major General Michael E. Williamson, USA Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), Department of the Army. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display?ContentRecord_idE5229C6B-3D52-40C2-A485-3594119134C8 Location: 2212 Raybum

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade hearing: The Crude Truth: Evaluating U.S. Energy Trade Policy. Witnesses: Panel I: Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate. Panel II: Michael Jennings, Chief Executive Officer and President, HollyFrontier Corporation; Erik Milito, Director, Upstream and Industry Operations, American Petroleum Institute; Kenneth B. Medlock III, Ph.D., Senior Director, Center for Energy Studies, James A Baker III Institute for Public Policy; Deborah Gordon, Senior Associate, Energy and Climate Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-crude-truth-evaluating-us-energy-trade-policy Location: 2172 Raybum

2 p.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet hearing: Preservation and Reuse of Copyrighted Works. Witnesses: Gregory Lukow, Chief, Packard Campus for Audio Visual Conservation, The Library of Congress; Richard Rudick, Co-Chair, Section 108 Study Group; James Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian, Columbia University; Jan Constantine, General Counsel, The Authors Guild; Michael C. Donaldson, Partner, Donaldson Callif, LLP; Jeffrey Sedlik, President and Chief Executive Officer, PLUS Coalition. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings? ID=ED90F495-04B3-4972-ABCB-01837D6ADEBA Location: 2141 Raybum

2 p.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, entitled "Examining Issues for Hazardous Materials Reauthorization". Speakers: Cynthia Quarterman, Administrator, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration; William F. Downey, Executive Vice President and Chief Security Officer, Kenan Advantage Group, Inc.; on behalf of the American Trucking Association; Thomas E. Schick, Senior Director, Regulatory and Technical Affairs, American Chemistry Council; Stephen Pelkey, Chairman, Transportation Committee, American Pyrotechnics Association; Kevin O'Connor, Assistant to the General President, International Association of Fire Fighters. http://transport.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374285 Location: 2167 Rayburn.

2 p.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Subcommittee on Human Resources hearing on the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=374274 Location: 1100 Longworth

3:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces hearing: Air Force Projection Forces Aviation Programs and Capabilities related to the 2015 Presidents Budget Request. Witnesses: Major General James J. Jones, USAF Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements; Dr. William A. LaPlante, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition; Major General John F. Thompson, USAF Air Force Program Executive Officer for Tankers, Tanker Directorate, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_idFE2CED09-940A-4DD9-9F00-BC3C1271B477 Location: 2118 Rayburn
Other: April 2 – 3. MEMA LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT — The Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association holds its 2014 Legislative Summit. 11:45 a.m. Remarks by U.S. Rep. John Dingell of Michigan. 3 p.m. Remarks by Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz. Location: W Hotel, 515 15th St. NW.

FEDSCOOP SECURITY THROUGH INNOVATION SUMMIT — The Security Through Innovation Summit will bring together over 1000 IT leaders and innovators from the Gov IT community to collaborate and discuss top trends in technology. Topics will include: Innovation, Mobility, Big Data Analytics, Virtualization, Cloud and CyberSecurity. Speakers will include: Roberta Stempfley, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, DHS; Steve VanRoekel, CIO, Executive Office of the President; Teri Takai, CIO, DoD; Don Good, Chief, Cyber Division, FBI; Michael DeCesare, President, McAfee; Malcolm Harkins, VP & Chief Security and Privacy Officer, Intel. http://fedscoop.com/securityinnovationsummit/ 10:35 a.m. NPPD CS&C Senior Strategist and Chief Architect Brian Done will participate in a panel discussion entitled "Advanced Threat

Detection." 1 p.m. NPPD CS&C Acting Assistant Secretary Roberta Stempfley will deliver remarks on the Departments cybersecurity initiatives and programs. Location: Ritz Carlton, 1150 22nd St., NW.

CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM REPORT RELEASE — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The nonprofit Partnership for Public Service will release a comprehensive report calling for major reforms to the federal governments decades-old civil service system, "laying out a plan to modernize areas that include the outdated pay and hiring policies" .- Building the Enterprise: A New Civil Service Framework report release and panel discussion. Speakers: Moderator: Max Stier, president and CEO, Partnership for Public Service. Panelists include: The Honorable Edward Kaufman, former U.S. Senator (DE); The Honorable Anthony Miller, former deputy secretary and chief operating officer, Department of Education; and Robert Tobias, former president, National Treasury Employees Union. Location: Partnership for Public Service, 1100 New York Ave, NW, Suite 200 East.

NPC NEWSMAKER – STEVE ISRAEL — 10 a.m. Rep. Steve Israel, Democratic Congressional Campaign Chair, to discuss state of play in 2014 congressional races. Location: National Press Club, Zenger Room.

MANAGING CLIMATE RISKS IN THE SOUTHWEST — 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Environmental and Energy Study Institute EESI hosts a briefing on Drier and Hotter: Managing Climate Risks in the Southwest. Speakers: Eleanor Bastian, Legislative Director, Office of Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO); Patrick Gonzalez, Ph.D., Climate Change Scientist, U.S. National Park Service; Chris Treese, External Affairs Manager, Colorado River District; Margaret Bowman, Acting Environment Program Director, Walton Family Foundation; Louis Blumberg, Director, California Climate Change Program, The Nature Conservancy. Webpage: www.eesi.org/040214southwest RSVP: www.eesi.org/040214southwestRSVP Livecast: www.eesi.org/040214southweststream Location: 340 Cannon.

BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR ROUNDTABLE — 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Media kickoff event for the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure. With Josh Morgan, Former Washington Redskin, Susan G. Komens Global Race Ambassador; Shyrea Thompson, Komen grantee, Executive Director, Capital City AHEC (DC Pink Divas); Dr. Michelle Gaskins Craig, DC Pink Diva and Susan G. Komen 2013 Survivor of the Year; Rep. Aaron Schock, Global Race for the Cure Honorary Co-Chair; Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Global Race for the Cure Honorary Co-Chair; Malaak Compton-Rock, Founder, Angel Rock Project; Dr. Judy Salerno, President and CEO, Susan G. Komen. Location: Brown Memorial AME Church, 14th & North Carolina Avenues, NE.

U.S. CHAMBER – TUNISIA PM — 2:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The U.S. Chamber's Africa Business Initiative (ABI) will host a public forum focused on a new era of economic cooperation between the U.S. and Tunisia with a keynote address by Tunisian Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa. Speakers: H.E. Mehdi Jomaa, Prime Minister of Tunisia; Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; H.E. Hakim Ben Hammouda, Tunisian Minister of Economy & Finance; H.E. Taoufik Jelassi, Tunisian Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and ICT. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, yesterday was the big deadline to sign up for Obamacare and the White House seems very happy. They said that seven million people have signed up. When asked how many people tried to sign up, they were like, 'Thirty million.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "That's right, the White House said that it surpassed its goal for people enrolled in Obamacare. It's amazing what you can achieve when you make something mandatory and fine people if they don't do it. And then keep extending the deadline for months. It's like a Cinderella story. It's just a beautiful thing."

Jimmy Fallon: "Isn't it great how many people did it [signed up for Obamacare]? But if you still haven't enrolled, you might have to pay a penalty called the 'individual shared responsibility payment,' which is one percent of your salary. Then Americans said, 'Man, good thing I don't have a job.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Of course, Obama still got his hands full with Russia, and get this – officials in Finland say that the Russian army is now conducting drills on its border. Or as Putin calls it, 'Window shopping.'"

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BISON CONNECT

Additional Memo for April 3, 2014

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Apr 2, 2014 at 8:15 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6) @ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Sally--

This briefing memo for tomorrows Committee Hearing came in as well. I have also uploaded it to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Zaina

04 3 14_10am_HNR Committee Hearing Potential Questions from Members.pdf
91K

INFORMATION/ BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

HNR COMMITTEE HEARING – POTENTIAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

DATE: April 3, 2014
LOCATION: 1324 Longworth HOB
TIME: 10:00AM – 12:30PM
FROM: OCL

OVERVIEW:

Sally—These are the questions we have heard from House Natural Resources Committee staff may be asked by members. Of course it is not a complete list, but does provide a sense of what some of the parochial issues for the Democratic side. I would also note that the Majority has solicited questions online, but has only received 7 suggestions, the majority of which are on the Merced River Plan in Yosemite NP. Finally, 178 bipartisan members including 25 Republicans signed onto a letter supporting LWCF, including 4 HNR Republicans – Daines, Runyan, Benishek and Tipton.

QUESTIONS:

Rep. DeFazio:

How will the BLM comply with Judge Leon's court order to increase harvest volumes if the O&C budget is reduced as included in the President's budget request?

- There are a number of things mixed in with the O&C budget.
- A $4.2 million decrease reflects lower funding needs as the Western Oregon Resource Management Planning program moves to complete the six revised RMPs in in June, 2015.
- BLM is working on a sustained yield level for Oregon and has a plan in place to cut 200 million board feet a year.
- The BLM expects increased salvage timber sales resulting from 2013 fires, temporarily increasing the volume offered in 2014.
- While the President's budget request includes a reduction in appropriated funding of $4.4 million, the proposal is accompanied by a plan to draw funding from two permanent appropriations supporting timber and forest health to sustained approximately 200 MMBF, a level comparable with 2012 and 2013 program activities.
- The BLM plans to spread the proposed FY 2015 reductions in appropriated funding to those program components that have the least near-term impact to forest management, multiple resource use benefits, and services to the local communities and broader public, while continuing to manage these lands for sustained yield.

***Support for LWCF and oversight investigations MAY come up, but the Ranking member's main question will be O&C.**

Rep. Garcia:

C-111 South Dade Canal Project:

- The Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (Modified Water Deliveries) and C-111 South Dade projects are federal projects designed and constructed to restore more natural hydropatterns to Everglades National Park.
- Both projects are nearing completion of the construction phase; both efforts are pre-requisites to implementing several key components of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration program (CERP), including current Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP).
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead Federal agency. The USFWS and NPS serve as federal partners. Key non-federal partners are the South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Everglades Restoration: The Administration has a sustained commitment to restoring and protecting the Everglades. Federal leadership in the effort has been reinvigorated, investing $1.7 billion in Everglades projects and initiatives that will make a measurable impact on the ground. The strong partnership we have with the State of Florida, Tribes and other stakeholders is instrumental in achieving these goals. The FY15 budget supports continued bridging of the Tamiami trail and efforts to restore this critical ecosystem while creating jobs and strengthening Florida's economy.

- I've visited the Everglades twice, most recently in January to get a first hand look at our restoration efforts there and met with key stakeholders in the region.
- Some big ticket accomplishments since last year include:
- Securing a $90 million commitment from Florida for the implementation of the next 2.6 mile bridge on the Tamiami trail. Our budget proposal outlines our strategy for how we will secure the necessary federal share of this project and we expect to move forward on a design build contract with the Florida department of transportation this fall to get this project started
- We are working closely with the Army Corps as it completes its plans, including a Chief's Report that will be forward to congress his summer to secure and authorization for the central Everglades plan that will provide the capacity to increase water supplies for the environment while meeting water related needs for others users. This is a huge step forward and responds directly to the national Academy of Sciences recommendations to focus on the remaining natural Everglades
- We are working closely with private landowners to implement the Everglades headwaters national wildlife refuge and conservation area. Appraisals are underway and we are in active discussions with landowners and securing the necessary easements from willing sellers

Del. Sablan:

Marianas Trench National Monument Co-Management: If asked for the current status of negotiations between Interior and NMFS regarding the co-management of submerged lands around the Islands Units in Marianas Trench Marine National Monument?

- First of all, I would like to thank you for your efforts surrounding passage of legislation to transfer three miles of submerged lands surrounding the CNMI.
- We were pleased that most of these lands were conveyed to CNMI on January 16, 2014, and that on March 26, 2014, CNMI accepted a patent conveying oil, gas and other minerals underlying the submerged lands to CNMI.
- I believe we must expeditiously develop an agreement for coordination of management that ensures the protection of the resources of the Monument and have asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and our counterparts at the National Marine Fisheries Service to expeditiously complete the agreement.

Existing Leases/Mineral Rights on Submerged Lands: If asked if the mineral rights in the submerged lands surrounding CNMI are subject to any lease, permit, or interest previously granted by the U.S.?

- It is my understanding that the Department is not aware of any outstanding lease, permit, or interest previously granted by the U.S. for mineral rights in the submerged lands now owned by CNMI.

Northern Marianas Islands Being Added to OCSLA: If asked for your views on amending the OCSLA to include CNMI:

- It is my understanding that attorneys in our Solicitor's office have been looking into the legal issues associated with issue, and I will be happy to follow-up with you once further analysis has been conducted.

Insular ABC Initiative: If asked for your views on OIA's ABC report initiative:

- It is my understanding that OIA commissioned a study by the U.S. Army Corps titled, "Assessment on Buildings and Classrooms", which identified the needed repairs and renovations of school facilities in insular areas.
- I know OIA is focusing on ensuring healthy and safe environments for schoolchildren, and it is our hope that each insular government will join us in that effort.
- It is my understanding that OIA's CIP funding is available for this initiative.

Technical Assistance Grants: If asked for your opinions on the value of technical assistance grants to U.S. territories:

- OIA's $17.5 million in technical assistance activities (up $3 million from FY 14 enacted) have always been considered its most effective tool to implement Administration

policy, and to achieve mutually desired improvements in the insular areas.

- Many of the technical assistance activities are evolving from application-based grant programs, which reacted to problems identified, to programs that rely on the implementation of result-oriented plans.

Palau: The Administration has indicated strong support for the approval of the new financial agreement under the Palau Compact of Free Association. However, the Administration has refused to provide an offset to the agreement that Congress can accept. What are you doing to ensure the authorization of the Palau financial agreement?

- The Administration continues to strongly support approval of the Palau financial agreement, and looks forward to continuing the United States partnership with Palau.
- Although the Administration has proposed several offsets, I look forward to working within the Administration and with Congress to identify an appropriate offset to ascertain approval of this important agreement.

Rep. Lowenthal:

Is the BLM working with the Ground Water Protection Council to make FracFocus comply with the President's Executive Order Supporting Safe and Responsible Development of Unconventional Domestic Natural Resources?

- Yes. In compliance with the President's Executive Order Supporting Safe and Responsible Development of Unconventional Domestic Natural Gas Resources, the BLM is working together with the Groundwater Protection Council and FracFocus to assure fracking fluid chemical disclosure transparency.
- The model being developed is similar to Colorado's, by requiring public disclosure to the FracFocus website, while allowing companies to use an affidavit asserting trade secret protection for certain information.
- The BLM will maintain authority to require disclosure of that information.

Rep. Horsford:

Sage Grouse

- I remain committed to the principle that collaboration is the key to these difficult issues, and am committed to having FWS and BLM continue to work with state and local governments and landowners to take action that will hopefully avoid the need to list the species.
- I am aware that good work has been accomplished through these existing partnerships, for example on state grazing plans, which are important for healthy rangeland, and we hope we can continue that momentum forward.
- The FY 2015 President's Budget requests $15 million to implement BLM's planning

strategy, continue large-scale habitat assessment, and improve sage grouse habitat.

- The FWS request includes a $4 million increase to help design, implement and align conservation efforts to meet the range-wide needs of the species.
- The 2015 request also supports an important collaboration between BLM, FWS and the USGS to manage the sagebrush landscape.
- The BLM has incorporated state-proposed plans into the alternatives considered in draft EISs.
- All 15 EIS drafts were released for public comment in 2013.
- The BLM did not extend the comment periods because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was under court-appointed deadlines in regard to potential listing of sage grouse.
- BLM plans to issue final EISs in the Summer/Fall of 2014, with RODs to be signed by the end of the calendar year.
- The Department has collaborated with 11 governors of sage-grouse states through the Western Governors' Sage Grouse Task Force.

Rep. Costa:

Water and the Bay Delta: In California, severe dry conditions in 2013/2014 are considered the worst in 160 years of record keeping, even surpassing the previous driest years of 1976-1977 when California's population was 22 million; today the population is 38 million.

What are you doing right now to address the drought?

- The Administration will continue to work closely with the state to ensure a balanced approach to providing for the water needs of people, agriculture, businesses, power, and the environment.
- Reclamation, with the assistance of other Interior bureaus, is working with partners to increase the flexibility for water managers and users, providing assistance in planning, fast-tracking projects, and streamlining water transfers.
- Reclamation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are making funds available for water districts and associated farmers to promote water conservation and management, including modernizing infrastructure.
- The USGS is working with communities to provide water availability information, evaluating groundwater availability and withdrawal, and monitoring impacts of drought.

ESA - tricolor blackbirds:

- The Tricolored Blackbird is not listed as a T&E species under the ESA, but is considered a "species of conservation concern".
- This status acknowledges that the FWS is aware of population reductions.
- The bird is fully protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and is protected under California law.

Rep. Grijalva:

Wild Horses and Burros:

- The 2015 budget includes $80.2 million for the program, an increase of $2.8 million from 2014.
- This increase, plus another $2 million in the 2014 appropriation, allows BLM to aggressively implement the National Academy of Sciences recommendations including expanding ongoing research on population control methods.
- If left unmanaged, wild horse and burro populations will double in size every four years. It makes sense that we look to research to provide answers and offer management options.

Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary: 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. What are you doing to mark this important milestone?

- The 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act provides an important opportunity to commemorate our legacy and celebrate the importance of its continued preservation for future generations.
- Surveys indicate that 12 million Americans take between 16 and 35 million trips to wilderness each year, either on their own or with a guide.
- To local economies and members of the outdoor industry, Wilderness equals jobs. Parks, monuments, and wilderness areas are the infrastructure for the outdoor industry, which generates $646 billion annually to the economy, supports 6.1 million jobs and generates nearly $80 billion in federal, state and local taxes.
- The three Interior agencies who manage wilderness, the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service, are participating in Wilderness50, a diverse and growing national coalition of government agencies, non-profit organizations, and academic institutions that have come together to plan and conduct 50th Anniversary celebration events and activities.
- A wide variety of commemoration events are being planned in communities throughout the country to raise public awareness of this historic year so that more people understand and appreciate wilderness, its values, and its benefits. I plan to be involved in many of these.
- One of our key goals is to engage youth and underserved communities; and foster wilderness stewardship by better connecting the broad wilderness network.
- We continue to highlight the importance of Wilderness, and to stress that Wilderness is relevant to all Americans, as it supports diverse lifestyles, boosts local economies, and helps to keep our air and water clean.
- DOI Agencies and Wilderness
    - BLM 221 wilderness units comprising nearly 9 million acres
    - FWS 71 wilderness units comprising over 20 million acres
    - NPS 61 wilderness units comprising approximately 44 million acres

Oil and Gas Spill in Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument: There have been news

reports about a serious oil spill in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. What is the BLM doing to address the spill, get it cleaned up, and avoid future such spills?

- The Department and the BLM are taking this matter very seriously. A special interoffice interdisciplinary team has been assembled to address the situation.
- Oil and Gas production in the Upper Valley oil field predates the establishment of the GSENM. There are five production wells and two injection wells within the GSENM. This is the only oil and gas production within the boundaries of the GSENM.
- After an initial on-the-ground inspection the BLM suspects that the vast majority of the spill may be as much as three decades old.
- A small nearby pipeline appears to have leaked from time to time with perhaps as much as 10 barrels of oil having leaked fairly recently. That has been repaired and the leak has stopped.
- The BLM is currently reviewing best options for ensuring safe rehabilitation and restoration of both the recent small leak as well as the older spill.
- The BLM in Utah is conducting a complete inspection of the entire oil field with experts brought in from other Utah BLM offices.
- The company that operates the Upper Valley oil field has been very cooperative and immediately shut the well down and is working with the BLM to determine best next steps.
- I would be happy to have the BLM keep you and your staff informed of any further updates.

IPCC report: Regarding the IPCC report, these are the top level talking points prepared for you for Tuesday's interview with Andrea Mitchell:

CONSISTENT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- The report reflects scientists' confidence that climate change will have growing adverse impacts on human health, livelihoods, ecosystems, and economies.
- The major findings of this report further strengthen the case for many of the policies and steps described in the President's Climate Action Plan

STRENGTHENING THE CASE FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

- Observed impacts of climate change are widespread and consequential.
- People, societies, and ecosystems around the world are vulnerable and exposed to climate change, in different ways.
- Large magnitudes of warming increase the likelihood of severe and pervasive impacts that may be surprising or irreversible.
- Effective climate-change adaptation can help build a richer, more resilient world in the near-term and beyond

U.S. LEADERSHIP

- Since the 1990 passage by Congress of the Global Change Research Act—and across

four Administrations—the Federal Government has supported world class research to understand how the planet is changing; how humans are contributing to climate change; the impacts of climate change on people, communities, and ecosystems; and ways to address and minimize those impacts.

- Of the 300+ lead authors and review editors who produced this report, more are from the U.S. than from any other nation (almost 20%) and over a dozen are U.S. Federal scientists

Ruiz:

Salton Sea is his top priority (he has an appropriations letter circulating on this topic at the moment.)

The Salton Sea is a shallow, saline, closed-basin lake located in Southern California. The primary concerns are air quality issues related to exposed land as the Sea recedes and the continued increase in the sea's salinity, which will eventually result in habitat unsuitable for the remaining fish and loss of habitat for migratory birds. Rep. Ruiz has expressed an interest in Federal funding to support Salton Sea restoration efforts. On April 26, 2013, Rep. Ruiz hosted a day-long meeting with federal officials, including Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Anne Castle, to discuss Salton Sea habitat restoration projects, salinity control, proposed legislation, and renewable energy production.

If asked for your support for Salton Sea restoration:

- It is my understanding that the Administration's FY15 budget requests funding for the Bureau of Reclamation to continue water quality monitoring and oversight of other activities including wetlands development and monitoring, geothermal desalinization feasibility studies, and technical support to stakeholders.
- We have a common interest in this ecosystem and I pledge to you the full support for moving forward and finding real, common-sense solutions to the myriad of challenges facing the Salton Sea.
- DOI is entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Salton Sea Authority (Authority) to facilitate collaboration and exchange of technical and scientific information regarding the resources of the Sea.
- The Department of the Interior (DOI) committed to find funding and partners for the Red Hill Bay project, expected to cost approximately $3.5 million, and designated Assistant Secretary Castle as the lead departmental official.

Tsongas:

Wild and Scenic Designation for the Nashua River: Rivers that may be included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers program are normally first studied for their suitability. Rep. Tsongas introduced legislation to authorize NPS to study whether the Nashua River and two of its tributaries in Massachusetts and New Hampshire are worthy of "wild and scenic" river designation.

- I understand that we have testified in support of this bill
- The NPS is currently working on approximately 30 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress.
- If enacted, we look forward to working with you to implement this study.

Rep. Carol Shea Porter

Are we developing oil and gas on public lands responsibly?

- Federal lands are an important part of America's energy security.
- We must produce oil and gas in a responsible manner that returns fair value to the taxpayer and make smart choices up front about where we develop.
- In that effort, last week the President rolled out a Strategy, as part of the Climate Action Plan, to reduce Methane Emissions.
- As part of the Strategy, DOI will lead efforts to reduce methane emissions from coal mining operations and capture of methane from venting and flaring during oil and gas development on public lands.

Rep. Bordallo

Illegal Fishing: Del. Bordallo has expressed concern about illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing around Guam and other Pacific Islands. Bordallo has introduced legislation (HR 69) to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop these activities, noting that illegal fishing threatens the economic and social infrastructure of fishing communities, and the security of the United States and our allies around the world, by decreasing opportunities for legitimate and conscientious fishermen.

If asked for help from the Department of the Interior to stop illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices:

- It is my understanding that the Administration is aware of the problems and challenges posed by illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the Pacific.
- It is also my understanding that the U.S. Coast Guard is the lead agency charged with combating this destabilizing activity.
- We stand ready to assist in any way we can, within our existing authorities.

Rep. Jason Smith

NPS unit in MO: The NPS is revising its General Management Plan (GMP) for the Ozark

National Scenic River (NSR). The preferred alternative would establish more formal horse trails, set zones for motorboats, and review lands for wilderness characteristics. Smith opposes the preferred alternative, and submitted detailed comments on the GMP to the NPS on 2/4/14. Smith has sponsored legislation to return the park to state management and supported an amendment to another bill requiring the NPS to continue managing the park according to existing, pre-GMP policies. Smith asserts that the NPS should give greater weight to the comments and desires of local residents for access and recreation activities. The NPS Superintendent will meet with Rep. Smith on April 2, 2014.

If asked whether you believe that the interests of the local residents should be given greater weight in determining the management of the national scenic river:

- I understand that the NPS is currently in the process of reviewing the public comments received on the draft GMP, including your submitted comments.
- The NPS is balancing the needs for diverse recreational opportunities and access to support visitor enjoyment with the need to preserve the specialness of the Ozark NSR for generations to come
- NPS anticipates completing this process early next year.

White River Blueways designation: Representative Smith sent a letter to you on June 6, 2013, requesting that you rescind the Blueways designation for the White River. He also sent a letter regarding the Blueways program with other members of the Missouri and Arkansas congressional delegations. The Department did not respond in writing to either letter as the action taken to rescind the designation was viewed as the response by the Department. In addition, the leads on the second letter responded in writing they did not need a follow up letter. Rep. Smith's staff called on Wednesday, April 2nd to ask why he never received a response to his June 6th letter and OCL provided our answer.

If he raise this during the hearing,

- The Department did not respond to the letters on this issue individually, but rather by rescinding the designation as requested by the delegation and stakeholders.

If asked to discuss the decision to rescind the National Blueways System and what "lessons were learned" about public involvement that could be applied to limit federal overreach:

- The program was initiated to recognize and support locally-led efforts to sustain the economic, recreational, and natural values of rivers and watersheds of national significance
- The decision to dissolve the program was made after careful review of the program.
- The Department will continue to encourage collaborative, community-based watershed partnerships that support sustainable and healthy water supplies.

Del. Pierluisi: He is concerned about securing funding for the NPS Centennial for New Spain/Puerto Rican heritage, specifically funding to support old San Juan Fort. And other historic structures in old San Juan. What is in your proposed Centennial Budget for Old San Juan? What are you doing to support the development of the Porsayo Del Moro National Recreation trail?

- The President's budget includes a proposal for funding to celebrate the NPS' Centennial.
- I understand that NPS is in the process of completing a special resource study that was authorized in 2009 regarding the feasibility of adding Fort San Geronimo to the San Juan National Historic Site.
- The Porsayo del Moro Trail was designated a National Recreation Trail in 2011. The NPS has entered into a partnership with the Pureto Rico Tourism Company for security, maintenance and landscaping. NPS is continuing to work with the Commonwealth on the management plan for this trail.
- With respect to the issues related to the National Recreation Trail, I look forward to learning more about this trail and working with you on it.

Rep. Holt

Offshore Wind: Secretary Jewell, the Department's budget request includes $33.4 million for the Renewable Energy activity within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management which will be used to support development of offshore commercial wind projects and implementation of a renewable energy leasing program. The Department has done a good job of prioritizing offshore wind, but there are still significant obstacles to the development of wind energy in the Atlantic. For example, in my home state of New Jersey, even as the Department looks to proceed with lease sales off our coast, the Christie Administration has failed to develop the criteria necessary to support the actual development of these projects. Most recently, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities rejected a proposal by Fishermen's Energy that would have allowed for construction of a small demonstration project of the coast of New Jersey.

My question is, how has DOI been working with the State of New Jersey to ensure that offshore areas are not simply leased, but are ultimately developed?

- Since 2009 BOEM has held five Task force meetings to coordinate with federal, state, local and tribal governments on this development.
- In April 2011 BOEM published the Call for Nominations for commercial leasing for Wind Power on the OCS offshore New Jersey. They received 11 commercial indications of interest to obtain a commercial lease.
- On Feb. 3, 2012, BOEM published in the Federal Register a Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for commercial wind lease issuance and site assessment activities on the Atlantic OCS offshore New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

- Based on comments received to the "Call," BOEM has determined that competitive interest exists for wind energy development offshore New Jersey. BOEM is working to publish in the near future a "Proposed Sale Notice," which will provide proposed lease terms and conditions, as well as details regarding how the lease sale could be conducted.

Oil and Gas Trends: Secretary Jewell, within this Committee and particularly on the Energy Subcommittee there has been an ongoing debate about the status of oil and gas production on federal lands in the United States. My colleagues are quick to say that production is down as a result of President Obama's secret agenda against fossil energy, but in my analysis the facts simply do not support these conclusions.

I'll acknowledge that offshore production is down slightly–understandable considering it is four years ago this month when the BP Deepwater Horizon explosion led to one of the worst environmental disasters in history. Of course, even offshore, EIA has projected increases in production in the coming years. Onshore oil production on federal and Indian lands is up by, even as much natural gas production has shirted to private lands where more ample reserves can be developed.

Could you please settle this debate for us today? What is the status of production on federal lands and what is the Administration doing to develop an "all of above" energy plan for federal lands and offshore?

- **Total oil production from Federal and Indian lands** (onshore and offshore) was 652 million barrels in FY 2013, an increase of 4% over FY 2012 and an increase of 13% over FY 2008.
    - **Onshore federal oil production** was 133 million barrels in FY 2013, an increase of 7% over FY 2012 and an increase of 30% over FY 2008.
    - **American Indian oil production** was 45.5 million barrels in FY 2013, an increase of 47% over FY 2012 and an increase of 80% over FY 2008.
    - Together, **Federal and Indian onshore oil production** increased 15% in FY 2013 compared to FY 2012 and increased 37% compared to FY 2008.
    - **Oil production from the federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)** was 473 million barrels in FY 2013, a decrease of 1% compared to FY 2012 and an increase of 2% compared to 2008.

- **Total natural gas production from Federal and Indian lands** (onshore and offshore) was 4 billion cubic feet in FY 2013, a decrease of 10% compared to FY 2012 and a decrease of 30% compared to FY 2008.
    - **Federal onshore natural gas production** was 2.7 billion cubic feet in FY 2013, a decrease of 9% from FY 2012 and a decrease of 13% from FY 2008.
    - **American Indian gas production** was 0.2 billion cubic feet in FY 2013, a decrease of 5% from FY 2012 and a decrease of 14% from FY 2008.
    - **Together, Federal and Indian onshore natural gas production** decreased 9% in FY 2013 compared to FY 2012 and decreased 14% compared to FY 2008.
    - **Federal offshore natural gas production** was 1.2 billion cubic feet in FY 2013, a decrease of 13% from FY 2012 and a decrease of 53% from FY 2008.

And what role do the economics of the energy markets play in these trends?

- As someone who started their career in the oil and gas industry I can tell you the market and the location of the resource drives development. For example the low price of Natural gas today (which was $4.37 mbtu as of 5pm 4.2.14) has changed where many companies are investing their resources today and shifting from natural gas to oil.

Briefing Materials for Friday, April 4, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Apr 3, 2014 at 4:58 PM
To: [redacted]@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are your briefing materials for Friday, April 4. These have also been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

6 attachments [redacted]

4 4 14_1pm_Internal Briefing on Fracking.pdf
113K

4 4 14_4pm_VERSION 2 Mitigation Taping.pdf
22K

4 4 14_10am_Internal Briefing on Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.pdf
20K

4 4 14_315pm_Internal Prep for Meeting with Citizens Coal Council.pdf
35K

4 4 2014_11am_Interview with Salt Lake Tribune Reporter Tommy Burr.pdf
64K

4 4 14_230pm_Personnel Discussion.pdf
33K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERVIEW WITH SALT LAKE TRIBUNE REPORTER TOMMY BURR

DATE: April 4, 2014
LOCATION: Theodore Roosevelt Island
TIME: 11:00AM – 12:00PM
FROM: Jessica Kershaw, Press Secretary, OCO 202-669-0968
Emily Beyer, Press Assistant, OCO 202-205-5205

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this interview is to give you an opportunity to provide insight to Tommy Burr for a year in review article that he writing both for the Salt Lake Tribune and the Denver Post. We expect the article to be published to coincide with your confirmation date of April 12.

This interview will focus on your view of what you've accomplished during your first year as Secretary, as well as what you intend to focus on for the balance of your term. You will have an opportunity to react to what other sources quoted in the article have to say about your tenure so far and we recommend you use this opportunity to discuss your pragmatic approach to your responsibilities, drawing upon your experience from the business world and to provide examples of how you've done that in your first year as part of the Obama Administration.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Tommy Burr
- Jessica Kershaw

III. AGENDA

11:00 AM	Burr meets you, Jessica at Main Interior Building
11:05 AM	Burr, you, Jessica depart MIB en route Teddy Roosevelt Island
11:10 AM	Arrive Teddy Roosevelt Island
11:15-:50AM	You, Burr have an on the record conversation re: your first year Note: Jessica will staff
12:00PM	Burr, you, Jessica depart en route to MIB

IV. BACKGROUND

Background on Tommy Burr

Tommy Burr is the senior Washington D.C. correspondent for *The Salt Lake Tribune*, covering Utah's congressional delegation and all relevant federal agencies including Interior. He currently serves as a member of the National Press Club Board of Governors,



and was appointed to the Gridiron Club in 2013, making him the group's youngest member.

In 2012, he covered former Governor Mitt Romney's presidential campaign for the *Tribune*. Prior to this, Burr served as a senior reporter and also worked for the paper as a community reporter and stringer. In 2011, for the second year in a row, he received the National Press Club Award for Best Regional Reporting. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Southern Utah University. ***Note: You met Tommy at the NPC speech on 10/31/13 where he moderated the discussion and Q/A.***

Expected Major Topics of Conversation, Suggested Answers

- **Discussion of the major differences between CEO of REI to Secretary of DOI**
  - Personal Reflection
  - Dedicated public servants, working with a less than full political team
  - Extreme Budget Constraints/Shutdown
- **Your views of what you think are your most significant accomplishments to date**
  - Pragmatic Approach to Development, Conservation
    - Ex: Landscape level approach to planning, mitigation strategy, wildlife conservation (sage grouse)
  - Rely on Strong Business Background for Sound Decisions
    - Youth Initiative, Upcoming Fracking/Safety Regs, MLPs
  - Trust the Science, Make Informed Decisions
    - Rely on the experts, lift up their work (USGS, FWS, etc)
- **Your view of what you think you'd like to focus on in year 2 and beyond**
  - Continue to work on President's Climate Action Plan
  - Continue to stand up the 21st CSC
  - Continue to strengthen our trust relationships with Native Americans
  - Balanced approach to development and conservation
- **Discussion around your decision to re-open parks during the shutdown – pragmatic approach**
  - Made good economic sense – 10 to 1 analogy
  - Willing to work with Governors, listen to states
  - Honest about payback
- **Antiquities Act: How do you deal with Bishop? What do you want to see?**
  - Note – we're on TR Island – TR brought Antiquities Act into existence
  - Strongly stated – Administration will act where Congress does not – been used 16 Presidents
  - Rely on strong local and public support; point to Stornetta Public Lands NM
- **Youth Initiative and Leveraging Private Dollars for Public Good**
  - Rely on business background to help raise funds in constrained budget times
  - Build the next generation of outdoor stewards
- **Colorful Insights**
  - Use of Walk and Talk Meetings
  - Stairs over elevators

- How you spend your free time (what nearby parks/lands/refuges have you visited)

Articles of Note

House passes Bishop's bill on creating monuments

March 26, 2014

Washington – A proposed national monument would first have to go through an environmental review under legislation approved Wednesday by the House.

The House voted largely along party lines — 222 to 201 — to pass Utah Rep. Rob Bishop's legislation that would restrict a president's unilateral power to protect large swaths of public land without congressional approval.

Bishop said this approach is necessary to allow public input into monument designations that currently are done with a stroke of a pen and without environmental review. The bill, which would mark the first major change to the 1906 Antiquities Act in decades, now heads to the Democrat-controlled Senate, where passage is less likely.

Bishop, R-Utah, said good intentions were associated with the original act, but in recent times it's been used as a "political weapon, a gotcha effort, a power play," done to appease presidential supporters.

"The way it has been used has changed radically," Bishop said. President Barack "Obama has already used it eight times and counting."

Rep. Chris Stewart said a thorough environmental review is a good idea and that any valid designation would withstand scrutiny.

"You have to twist yourselves into pretzels in order to object to this bill," said Stewart, R-Utah, whose district includes the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Its creation in 1996 raised the ire of some Utahns.

Democrats countered that Bishop and Republicans were simply trying to hamper a president's ability to protect sensitive areas and slow down — or kill — the power to designate public lands as monuments. About half of America's national parks began as monuments under the Antiquities Act, including four of Utah's five national parks.

Arizona's Rep. Raul Grijalva, a Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee, said Bishop's legislation was another GOP attempt to stall protection of public lands. He noted that only one bill to set aside wilderness has passed Congress in recent years.

Grijalva called the bill "another feather in the anti-environment cap," and said environmental reviews of monuments aren't needed.

"I hate to break it to the majority, but the conservation and the establishment of national monuments don't have the same footprint as open-pit mines and oil wells," he said.

Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., called Bishop's bill "horrible legislation," and said that while there have been some more controversial monuments — like the Grand Staircase — there hasn't been legislation to repeal it.

"No one — no one has proposed legislation to repeal that designation by President Clinton," DeFazio said. "Perhaps because it enjoys tremendous popular support."

A 2011 poll of Utahns found that 69 percent of voters felt the Grand Staircase monument was "very good" or "somewhat good," as opposed to 16 percent who said it was "somewhat bad" or "very bad."

Environmentalists were dismayed by Wednesday's vote. Craig Obey, senior vice president for government affairs of the National Parks Conservation Association, called the action shortsighted.

"This is a sad day for our national parks, which are universally appreciated throughout our country and the world," Obey said. "The parks, including those added via the Antiquities Act, enjoy overwhelming public support, which makes action to reduce presidential authority to protect such places under the Antiquities Act all the more mystifying."

Democrats also tried Wednesday to hijack the conversation about the Antiquities Act to push comprehensive immigration reform and to raise the minimum wage.

One after one, Democratic House members asked for consent to bring up the immigration reform package — one that would allow a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million people in the country illegally — while Bishop tried to talk about his Antiquities Act legislation. Bishop objected several times, and then the acting speaker began objecting for Bishop.

"I would be happy to talk about the bill that is before us because it's a wonderful bill," Bishop said about his legislation, visibly annoyed at the Democrats' attempts.

Later on, before final passage of the bill, Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., tried to attach a measure to raise the minimum wage to Bishop's bill. It was defeated 193-227.

Bishop's bill would require a president to go through a study under the National Environmental Policy Act before designating a national monument. The president can do that now without any study.

The measure does let a president name a small monument in an emergency, without a review. But without a congressional endorsement, the designation would expire in three years.

Utah's CUP doesn't runneth over in Obama's budget

March 4, 2014

Washington – President Barack Obama is proposing $5 million toward a construction project to bring water from the Wasatch Back to the populated areas in Salt Lake and Utah counties — a fourth of what the government spent two years ago.

Obama's fiscal 2015 budget, released Tuesday, suggests $5 million, plus another $1 million in administrative costs, for the Central Utah Project, a line item that has been targeted for cuts in previous Obama budgets. In 2008, the project was tagged at $40 million in the budget but has seen steady decreases since.

"Of course we're disappointed to see that level," says Christine Finlayson, CUP's government-affairs director. "Every year we delay adds a cost increase. When we have to ratchet back our construction projects, it becomes more difficult and extends that time line out."

Officials behind the decades-old project had hoped to complete its mission of bringing water from the Uinta Basin to Utah's metropolitan areas by 2021, though funding cuts could hamper that goal. While the system's main components are largely built, major pieces tying it together remain under construction.

The CUP has created many waterways and man-made lakes in Utah, including Strawberry reservoir, which was built during the initial incarnation of the project.

CUP is estimated to receive about $7 million this fiscal year, ending Sept. 30, about a third of the $20 million it got in the previous cycle.

In addition to the CUP, Obama's budget tweaks the amount of money it proposes for the removal of uranium tailings near the Colorado River in Moab.

The current fiscal year projects about $38 million be spent on the removal, while Obama's spending plan proposes $35.8 million. That's more than the effort received in fiscal 2013, when it got $31.48 million.

On an unrelated line item, the president's budget proposes about $7.8 million to renovate the Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building in downtown Salt Lake City.

Of course, Obama's budget is mainly symbolic these days. Congress isn't likely to take it up in part or in whole. The spending plan hit with a thud on Capitol Hill.

"A full month late, and the president's budget recycles the same old spending surges, tax hikes and budgetary smoke and mirrors that have repeatedly failed to right the nation's economic ship and provide financial security and prosperity for Americans across the

country," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. "It's no wonder Washington has already dubbed this plan dead on arrival."

The spending blueprint did excite some sectors. It calls for fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which takes money from oil and gas extraction to buy up new lands to preserve across the country.

"The president's budget is a significant victory for the conservation of America's shared outdoor heritage," said Alan Rowsome, a senior official with The Wilderness Society.

Less enthusiastic were House Republicans, who have tried to tamp down the fund, arguing that the nation already has an $11 billion maintenance backlog for its national parks and doesn't need more land to manage.

"That probably won't happen," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah.

What will happen, Chaffetz said, is that he and other members of Utah's delegation will make sure that the CUP receives the money it needs to prevent cost increases and blown deadlines. The House and Senate included the $7 million for CUP construction in fiscal 2014 in its budget deal last year.

"We'll obviously have to do the same this time," Chaffetz said. "We get good support from both sides of the aisle for these projects."

As it has for several years, Obama's budget calls for bringing the CUP under the auspices of the federal Bureau of Reclamation, a move that local officials have rejected. Congress had separated the program from the bureau in 1992, charging that the federal government was taking too long to complete the water system.

Interior's Jewell: no partisan motive in closing monuments

October 31, 2013

Washington – Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Thursday there was "absolutely no political motive" in erecting barriers around some of Washington's most iconic monuments during the government shutdown despite Republican critics who say the White House wanted to make the closure sting more for Americans.

"The people of the National Park Service did not want to barricade the monuments, but the monuments don't take care of themselves," Jewell said at the National Press Club. "The barricades protect the resources, and we worked as best as we could" to accommodate groups, like veterans' Honor Flights, who came to Washington during the shutdown to visit memorials.

Jewell, in her first public remarks since the 16-day partial government closure, said that federal law prohibited her from employing park rangers to staff the monuments or

national parks, both of which became the public face of the shutdown when Republican members of Congress helped push through the barriers around the World War II Memorial for veterans to visit.

In wide-ranging remarks, Jewell also said members of Congress who say the Interior Department can repay states for re-opening national parks during the shutdown are spreading "misinformation," and that in the 1995-96 shutdown, the department didn't send a check to states, either.

"We had to do some digging in historical records to understand that, but our records are going to be much more helpful should this crazy thing ever happen again," she said.

Pressed on a new report by Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., arguing that the National Park Service shouldn't buy new tracts of land when it has a burgeoning maintenance backlog on sites it already owns, Jewell said that was a "common refrain" from critics.

"I will say that these are the same people that squeeze our budget, so we end up with a larger maintenance backlog," Jewell said. "You can solve the maintenance backlog by taking care of the maintenance backlog; it's not that complicated. As a business person that's what we did on a regular basis; that's what kept the economy going."

Jewell called on Congress to pass a regular budget instead of temporary, stopgap measures, and she said the "real test" of supporting conservation isn't when the cameras are rolling but when "you fight for it in budget conferences."

The Interior secretary said that Congress should act to preserve some treasured landscapes supported by local communities but that President Barack Obama would step in and use the Antiquities Act, which gives him unilateral power to name monuments if the legislative branch doesn't. Jewell added that controversial monuments are not a priority.

"I guess I haven't seen anything yet where everybody agrees on everything, but certainly where there is a groundswell of support we will focus our energies," she said. "We won't be focusing our energies where there is a tremendous amount of conflict."

V. ATTACHMENTS

- Background Summary of Accomplishments (provided to Burr in advance of interview)

Secretary Jewell

After having served 35 years in the private sector as a successful businesswoman, Sally Jewell has entered public service as President Obama's Secretary of the Interior.

Jewell has moved quickly to fully understand the complex issues facing Interior, to get to know the resources and to support the more than 70,000 employees at the Department – especially during the challenging time of sequester and the government shutdown.

In the year she's been on the job, Jewell has traveled to 32 states to see firsthand our nation's public lands and held dozens of meetings with employees and stakeholders to hear directly about local challenges and opportunities (including to separate visits two Colorado and three visits to Utah).

Early on, Jewell **outlined priorities** for the Department that include celebrating and enhancing America's great outdoors; strengthening tribal nations; powering our future; engaging the next generation; assuring healthy watersheds and sustainable, secure water supplies; and building a landscape-level understanding of our resources.

When it comes to building on the **President's strong conservation agenda,** Jewell is off to a running start. As she underscored in her remarks to the National Press Club, Jewell believes that we have a moral obligation to the next generation to leave our land, water, and wildlife better than we found it. To that end, Jewell laid out a conservation vision that includes:

- Calling on Congress to pass **sustainable budgets** for land management agencies and to adopt President Obama's proposal to **enact mandatory, full-funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund**. Jewell has been instrumental in getting the FY15 budget proposal to include a **new framework for funding fire suppression** operations.
- **Protecting the places that Americans care about most**. This includes encouraging Congress to pass the dozens of locally-supported land conservation bills – introduced by both Republicans and Democrats. Jewell made clear that President Obama is ready and willing to step up where Congress falls short.
    - In March, Secretary Jewell joined federal, state and community leaders in celebrating President Obama's designation of the Point Arena-Stornetta Unit of California Coastal National Monument. The event marked the culmination of years of work from Point Arena community and businesses for increased protection of the significant and spectacular stretch of public lands along the Mendocino coastline in Northern California.
- **Encouraging balanced energy development** in the right way and in the right places – and recognizes that some places are too special to develop. Her first Secretarial Order ensures that whenever public lands or resources are impacted by development activity, that we are also considering how to mitigate those impacts at a landscape level through strategic conservation and restoration.
- **Launching an ambitious youth initiative** to engage millions of young people on our nation's public lands. Jewell will work to expand education, employment and volunteer opportunities for youth – in part, by **strengthening public-private partnerships.**
    - In March, the Secretary issued her second Secretarial Order to formalize the initiative across the Department. The Order calls for the expansion of recreational, educational, volunteer and career opportunities for millions of youth

and veterans on the nation's public lands, including partnerships with businesses and youth organizations to support the Obama Administration's 21st Century Conservation Service Corps.

- **Implementing the President's Climate Action Plan** to slow the effects of climate change. Jewell is working to meet the President's goal of permitting 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy on public lands by 2020. For example, Jewell oversaw the nation's first-ever offshore wind lease sales that could help to power more nearly two million homes along the eastern seaboard and has overseen the permitting of several onshore renewable energy projects, including wind, solar and geothermal, bringing the total of renewable and associated transmission projects to 50 since the beginning of the Obama Administration.

Jewell has continued to make inroads on upholding our sacred trust and treaty obligations to Native Americans. One of the first meetings she held as Secretary of the Interior was with tribal leaders, in recognition of the President's commitment to upholding a nation-to-nation relationship with tribal governments.

Jewell has been tapped to serve as chair of the recently established White House Council on Native American Affairs, where she is working to strengthen tribal self-determination and self-governance and promote prosperous and resilient tribal nations. Jewell has already held three meetings of the Council, including hosting the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference, which was attended by President Obama and thirteen members of the Cabinet.

The Interior Department has a number of complex issues before it – from potential exploration and development in the Arctic exploration, to implementing common sense guidance for hydraulic fracturing; to executing the Cobell settlement for Indian Country. Already, Jewell has demonstrated that she is a practical leader that takes the long-view. She makes decisions guided by science and after having considered all the facts and merits of the case.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, April 4, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Apr 4, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Foundation Stones To Be Moved To New Home.
+ Moose Population Grows While Wolves Struggle On Isle Royale.
+ Additional Coverage Of BioBlitz.

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+ BLM Responds To Deadly Shooting Near Red Rock.
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LAST LAUGHS:
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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL APPEARS BEFORE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. Politico (4/4, Guillén, 73K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was scheduled to "testify before the House Natural Resources Committee on Interior's budget at 10 a.m. in Longworth 1324."

Rep. Young Berates Secretary Jewell Over Izembek Road. The Alaska Dispatch (4/3, 7K) reports that a "furious" Rep. Don Young "laid into" Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Thursday "about her decision to reject a potentially life-saving road through an Alaska refuge." Young also chided Jewell and "another top Interior official for what he believes are their evasive answers." Young added that Jewell "should be ashamed of herself when

someone dies in King Cove." Also reporting on the story is the Alaska Public Radio Network (4/3, 2K).

Coast Guard Estimates Air Base Would Cost Over $100 Million. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/4, 705) reports that the Coast Guard "estimates it would cost well over $100 million to build a year-round air station in Cold Bay, Alaska, far more than what the Interior Department estimates it would cost to build a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge." According to the agency, "short of an air station, it would cost up to $583,000 annually for the Coast Guard to provide year-round search-and-rescue staff at its Cold Bay forward operating location (FOL)." The article notes that "the estimates adds fodder to the debate over whether Interior Secretary Sally Jewell should allow a road through the refuge to allow King Cove residents better access to Cold Bay's airport."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the road was provided by the Alaska Business Monthly (4/4).

SECRETARY JEWELL SAYS INTERIOR HAS NO GLOBAL-WARMING LITMUS TEST. The National Journal (4/4, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that at a congressional hearing, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's 2013 remark that "I hope there are no climate-change deniers in the Department of Interior" was brought up. Questioned by Louisiana Republican and climate skeptic John Fleming, Jewell responded, "There is no litmus test [on climate change] for people at the Department of the Interior."

SECRETARY JEWELL SAYS INTERIOR WORKING ON FRACKING RULE. The Houston Chronicle (4/4, 2.23M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "told lawmakers on Thursday that regulators are still sifting through more than a million public comments on a proposal to stiffen mandates for oil and gas drilling on public land, which suggests the final regulation could be a long way off." Testifying before the House Natural Resources Committee, Jewell "stressed the importance of getting the mandates right." Jewell said the BLM is "combing through the comments lodged on the proposal and making progress in addressing concerns with the rule."

IG REPORT FINDS AGENCY'S INJECTION WELLS A "THREAT TO THE NATION'S DRINKING WATER". The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/4, 705) reports that the Interior Department has "thousands of mismanaged injection wells on federal lands, threatening the nation's underground supply of drinking water, according to a newly released inspector general report." Interior's agencies also have "inconsistent guidelines on how to comply with US EPA's underground injection rules and have not effectively tracked or managed their wells, the IG report found." The report said, "With hundreds of thousands of acres under the management of the department's bureaus, the possible impact of non-compliance with EPA's safe drinking water regulations is significant."

LAWMAKERS PRESS SECRETARY JEWELL ON PUBLIC LAND USE. The Public News Service (4/4, 306) reports that state lawmakers from the West asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "for more balance for public lands development." Specifically, they asked Jewell to "issue a Secretarial Order to ensure that conservation, recreation and wildlife habitat are considered equally with energy development."

COLORADO WILDERNESS BILLS LOST IN PARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL GRIDLOCK. The Boulder (CO) Weekly (4/4, 104K) reports that "after the budget battles of the last few years, it's clear that Congress is fiscally dysfunctional, but our elected lawmakers also face challenges in other areas — including finding the political will to support public land preservation bills that have local bipartisan support." The article notes that "that includes several proposals in Colorado, where the Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act, the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act and the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act are all stalled in the fog of partisan gridlock." According to the article, "the San Juan bill has been reported out of committee and is on the Senate calendar, while the Hermosa Creek bill has been heard in the House and Senate, but hasn't been reported out of committee yet." Meanwhile, "the Browns Canyon bill has been introduced, but not heard in committee yet."

DIRECTOR OF INTERIOR'S CLIMATE SCIENCE CENTER VISITS GUAM. The Pacific News Center (4/4) reports that the newly selected Director of the US Department of Interior's Pacific Islands Climate Science Center David Helweg is visiting Guan to establish a partnership with the University of Guam and members of the administration. Helweg said "chunks of federal funds are ready to be given to UOG for more research and looks forward to the work that will be done."

PROTECT OUR TREASURE OF NATIONAL PARKS, MONUMENTS. In an editorial, the Bellingham (WA) Herald

(4/4, 113K) criticizes legislation introduced by Rep. Rob Bishop to limit the use of the Antiquities Act. The paper notes that "it's a curious bill for a Republican from Utah, a state that benefits economically from five national parks, seven national monuments, two national recreation areas and the Golden Spike National Historic Site – the place where the Union and Central Pacific railroads joined to complete a transcontinental link." The paper claims that "Bishop's bill also contradicts the Republicans' desire to cut federal spending," because "the bill would cost taxpayers $2 million over four years."

SCHOLAR SAYS ENERGY BOOM HAS WIDESPREAD BENEFITS. In an op-ed for USA Today (4/4, 5.82M), Mark P. Mills, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, writes that superficial knowledge about the US energy "boom" is common, but that some myths persist. For example, he says that the profits aren't "all going to Big Oil." Instead, the boom benefits "more than 20,000 small and midsize oil and gas firms in America, with a median size of 15 employees." He also says that energy isn't "an old dirty business," but part of an ongoing "tech boom" leading to new production methods. Finally, he argues that new jobs "reach far beyond hard-hat work in a few obvious states such as Texas and North Dakota." Mills says that the Federal government should work to extend the boom by allowing natural gas exports and "resist the temptation to layer job-killing federal regulations on top of state efforts."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

SENATORS WANT REVIEW OF NATIONAL PARK SPENDING. The Billings (MT) Gazette (4/4, 174K) reports that Sens. Mike Enzi, Tom Cobum, and Lisa Murkowski "want to put the National Park Service's budget under a microscope." The senators "sent a letter to the Government Accountability Office to request a review of the park service's spending in hopes of finding ways to pay for the park service's maintenance backlog, an estimated $11.5 billion worth of necessary repairs and maintenance upgrades." They "hope an overview of the park service's spending will shine light on a solution."

PROGRAM TEACHES MOUNTAIN RESCUE SKILLS. The Washington Post (4/4, Ruane, 4.22M) reports that on Wednesday, students and instructors were "dangling from, or clinging to, the jagged gray cliffs of Maryland Heights as part of the National Park Service's mountain rescue training." According to the article, "the annual week-long program, called basic technical rescue training, teaches students how to reach and rescue victims who have fallen or are trapped in rugged terrain."

OFFICIALS CALM FEARS SURROUNDING YELLOWSTONE BISON-ON-RUN VIDEO. The Los Angeles Times (4/4, Sahagun, 3.46M) reports that "a brief video of bison purportedly 'running for their lives' to escape a pending eruption of Yellowstone National Park's 'super-volcano' had federal officials scrambling Thursday to allay fears in the region recently rattled by a spate of earthquakes." According to Leo Leckie, a sales associate of the nonprofit Yellowstone Assn., an educational partner of Yellowstone National Park, "the spreading anxiety was caused by baseless rumors and deliberate misrepresentations of what those bison were actually doing in the video." Leckie said, "Those bison were running for the sake of running. There was nothing chasing them. There was no mudslide. They were just running." Also, Al Nash, a spokesman for Yellowstone National Park, said, "We've seen no signs to suggest that Yellowstone's volcano is about to erupt."

BISON HYBRIDS TRAMPLING GRAND CANYON PARK LANDS, SACRED SITES. The Christian Science Monitor (4/4, Fonseca, 566K) reports that the herds of bison roaming in the Grand Canyon are being seen by officials as a nuisance. According to the article, the Grand Canyon bison have "traveled into Mexican spotted owl habitat, knocked over walls at American Indian cliff dwellings below the North Rim, defecated in lakes and left ruts in wetlands." Federal and state officials are "looking at methods to manage the estimated 350-450 bison in a way that rids them from the park and allows for a free-ranging population that can be hunted on nearby forest land." On Wednesday, officials "announced a trio of public meetings to be held in southern Utah and Arizona and a 60-day scoping period."

CAPE HATTERAS LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION STONES TO BE MOVED TO NEW HOME. The AP (4/4) reports that "the former foundation stones of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse now threatened by erosion should have a new home near the beacon by Memorial Day." NPS spokeswoman Cyndy Holda said Thursday that "staff

will put material between the stones that will keep grass from growing but that's also soft enough for people to walk on."

MOOSE POPULATION GROWS WHILE WOLVES STRUGGLE ON ISLE ROYALE. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (4/4, 893K) reports that "wildlife researchers who spent the winter on an island in Lake Superior report that Isle Royale's moose population is booming while wolf numbers remain near an all-time low." According to the article, the relationship between predator and prey has "tipped clearly in favor of moose, whose population the biologists said has been increasing at an annual rate of more than 20% in each of the past three years." The dwindling "population has sparked a debate about human intervention: Should wolves be imported to the island to boost the genetic pool?"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BIOBLITZ. Additional coverage of BioBlitz, held at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, was provided by the Half Moon Bay (CA) Review (4/4, 22K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM ACTING DIRECTOR NEIL KORNZE TO APPEAR BEFORE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. In its "On The Money" blog, The Hill (4/4, 237K) reports that the House Appropriations Committee will continue "its efforts on Friday to shake out spending priorities for next year" in a hearing with BLM Acting Director Neil Kornze.

IRON COUNTY WANTS BLM TO REMOVE WILD HORSES. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (4/4, 470K) reports that Iron County commissioners have presented the BLM "an ultimatum: Come up with an immediate plan to remove hundreds of wild horses from the area or residents will it do it themselves." A March 30 letter signed by Commissioner David Miller and Iron County Sheriff Mark Gower stated, "Inaction and no-management practices pose an imminent threat to ranchers who are being pushed to reduce their allotments by 50 percent thereby damaging the value of their private rights." The letter, addressed to BLM Principal Deputy Director Neil Komze, gives the bureau "until noon Friday to present a plan for removing horses by a 'time acceptable to mitigate the threats and adverse conditions' in Iron County."

Also covering the story is the Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/4, 437K).

COURT DENIES MOTION BY RAGS OVER THE ARKANSAS RIVER. The Canon City (CO) Daily Record (4/4, 22K) reports that US Senior District Judge John L. Kane on Friday "denied a motion by Rags Over the Arkansas River, a group formed to oppose OTR, to supplement the extensive Bureau of Land Management analysis of bighorn sheep in the Evironmental Impact Statement administrative record." In his ruling, Judge Kane held, "the attack on the BLM's methodology is mild" and "does not show that the BLM failed to consider important impacts." The decision states that ROAR's expert appears "to do no more than challenge the BLM's wisdom and to inject [his] personal views about the project's social utility."

BLM RESPONDS TO DEADLY SHOOTING NEAR RED ROCK. KTNV-TV Las Vegas (4/4, 19K) reports, The BLM is "now responding to Congressman Steven Horsford, in connection with a deadly officer-involved shooting near Red Rock." Horsford has "demanded answers from the BLM about what led up to the Valentine's Day shooting." In a letter, the BLM said "it will not comment on the case since it's an ongoing investigation." However, the BLM is "offering to provide information on its use of force policy."

BLM ASKS PUBLIC TO RESPECT WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES. The Durango (CO) Herald (4/3, 28K) reports that the BLM wants the public to "hold off for two weeks before going into areas closed as winter habitat for elk and deer." According to BLM spokeswoman Shannon Borders, "the closures will be vacated April 15." Borders said, "Law enforcement officers are still finding people hiking or walking their dog in the areas. It's normal to want to get out when it's warm and there are long hours of daylight, but the animals need the additional time."

BLM SIGNS RECORD OF DECISION FOR WATERTON'S HOLLISTER MINE. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (4/4, 22K) reports that the BLM Tuscarora Field Office "issued a record of decision on the final environmental impact statement for Waterton Global Mining Company's Hollister Underground Mine Project."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DISPUTE BETWEEN BLM AND NEVADA RANCHER. Additional coverage of the

dispute between the BLM and Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy was provided by the St. George (UT) News (4/3, 3K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR DAN ASHE INTERVIEWED. In an interview with Outdoor Life Magazine (4/4, 1.12M), FWS Director Dan Ashe discussed wolves, hunting, and open lands. The magazine notes that "Ashe has almost universally supported every single instance in which Refuge lands were recommended to be opened for hook-and-bullet pursuits." According to the article, "perhaps it's because he understands the importance of hunting and fishing to a sound, science-based management plan," or "perhaps it's because he's actually a hunter himself."

TEXAS, NORTH CAROLINA WORRY ABOUT IMPACT OF RED KNOT PROTECTIONS. The Wilmington (DE) News Journal (4/3, 288K) reports that "so many people visit Delaware each May to catch a glimpse of the red knot shorebird – a bird that federal officials are considering for threatened species status – that state officials view the annual migration as an eco-tourism bonanza." However, in North Carolina and Texas, "some local and state officials worry about a potential negative impact from federal protections that endangered species listing might afford the robin-sized birds." On Tuesday, the FWS "reopened the public comment period for the rufa red knot threatened species listing proposal, after they received three requests last year to hold public hearings on the threatened species listing plan." Federal officials will also "hold two public hearings next month: one in Morehead City, N.C., and the other in Corpus Christ, Texas," and "they will allow additional written comments to be included in the record through May 19."

UNIFIED VISION URGED FOR FUTURE OF HANFORD REACH. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (4/3, 115K) editorializes that Ridges to Rivers has "long been vocal about its interest in the fate of cleaned lands at the Hanford site as they are transitioned out of Department of Energy control." The paper notes that "most recently it sent a letter to Sen. Patty Murray, pushing for the transfer of newly cleaned land to the Hanford Reach National Monument, putting it under the management of the US Fish and Wildlife Service." However, the editorial thinks Ridges to Rivers is "overstating its clout when it indicates it's the voice of the community, especially considering another Tri-City consortium has being working on a proposal for the land as well, requesting public input on how the community would like to see those specific lands used." It notes that the Tri-City Development Council has "taken the lead in making it clear to the federal government that the public wants access to that land." According to the paper, "the two groups have similar goals but are not working together," and "that's a problem."

US Geological Survey:

REPORT FINDS SAGE GROUSE LOSING HABITAT TO FIRE. The Science Daily (4/4, 104K) reports that "as fires sweep more frequently across the American Great Basin, the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been tasked with reseeding the burned landscapes to stabilize soils." The bureau's "interventions have not helped to restore habitat for the greater sage grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) reported scientists from the US Geological Survey (USGS) and US Forest Service in the Ecological Society of America's journal Ecosphere last week, but outlier project sites with good grouse habitat may yield clues to successful management scenarios." Author Robert Arkle, a supervisory ecologist for the USGS Forest & Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center at the Snake River Field Station in Idaho, said, "The most common species, big sagebrush, doesn't re-sprout from the stump. After it burns, it's dead and it has to reseed, and it's not very good at dispersing seeds long distance. Seeds aren't viable very long. Some years they don't reproduce at all, without the right spring conditions. Getting sage established out in the middle of these big burned areas is a difficult task."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTES TO RESTORE WIND TAX CREDIT. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (4/4, Cama, 237K) reports that the Senate Finance Committee yesterday approved "a package of tax break extensions that restores the production tax credit (PTC) for wind energy, which expired in 2013." By a voice vote, the committee voted "to send the bill to the full Senate." The legislation "would extend the PTC for two years, along with numerous provisions that incentivize alternative fuels and energy efficiency for vehicles and homes."

Bloomberg News (4/4, Rubin, Bender, 2.76M) reports the committee "voted to revive almost all of the 55 tax breaks that expired Dec. 31, providing benefits for wind energy, U.S.-based multinational corporations and motor sports track owners." Chairman of the committee, Sen. Ron Wyden, said that "he supports the package of U.S. tax breaks totaling more than $86 billion while adding that he wants to avoid future temporary extensions. Instead, he said, Congress should revamp the entire tax code." Wyden said, "This will be the last tax extenders bill the committee takes up as long as I am the chairman."

Former Pennsylvania DEP Secretary Says Wind Tax Credit Increases Carbon Emissions. Mike Krancer, former secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, writes in an op-ed Roll Call (4/4, Krancer, Subscription Publication, 76K) that Production Tax Credit subsidies for the wind industry will increase carbon emissions. Krancer contends that the subsidy encourages production even when not needed and "crowds out other low-carbon generation sources, particularly nuclear," with Krancer noting the premature closure of the Vermont Yankee and Kewaunee nuclear plants. Noting that nuclear power is declining nationwide, he cites a study by Third Way that says shutting down a third of U.S. nuclear power capacity would increase carbon emissions by eight percent. He also argues that deactivating and reactivating coal and gas power plants is worse for the environment than continuously running them. Krancer concludes by saying the PTC is "costly and inefficient," calling it a "wolf in lamb's clothing."

Onshore Energy Development:

POLL SHOWS AMERICANS BACK OPENING FEDERAL LAND FOR OIL EXPLORATION. FuelFix (4/3, 7K) reports that a Gallup poll released on Wednesday shows that Americans support "opening federal land for oil exploration, but generally prefers energy policy focused on conservation." In the survey, 58% said they favored opening Federal land to oil exploration, while 41% were opposed. The survey also showed that 57% "said the nation's energy problems are best addressed by emphasizing consumer conservation of existing energy resources," while 34% "said they favored a focus on mining more oil, gas and coal."

LEGISLATION TO PROTECT NORTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER BLOCKED IN SENATE. The AP (4/4) reports that Sen. Pat Toomey objected on behalf of Republican Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Tom Coburn of Oklahoma of "a floor vote on legislation to protect the North Fork Flathead River." Sens. Jon Tester and John Walsh called for the vote Thursday afternoon. Tester and Walsh are sponsoring the bill, "which would bar mining and oil and gas development on hundreds of thousands of acres of federal land west of Glacier National Park."

JUDGE TOSSES OUT CHALLENGES TO WYOMING MINING. The Courthouse News (4/3, 7K) reports that "coal-mining leases in Wyoming's Powder River Basin did not come at the expense of protecting an elk herd and other natural resources, a federal judge ruled." US District Judge Barbara Rothstein granted the government summary judgment Friday. Rothstein held, "Given the crucial importance of security habitat to the viability of the elk herd, it was reasonable for BLM to focus on loss of security habitat in the southern range ... because that is the type of habitat 'necessary for maintaining the herd."

Offshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE SUBPANEL. In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (4/4, 237K) reports that on Friday, a House Appropriations subpanel will hold a hearing on the 2015 budget request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). Tommy Beaudreau, director of the Interior Department's BOEM, will testify along with Brian Salerno, director of BSEE. According to the article, "the discussion could turn to the possibility of Interior opening up the Atlantic to offshore oil-and-gas exploration."

COAST GUARD REPORT FINDS NUMEROUS PROBLEMS LED TO SHELL RIG GROUNDING. The AP (4/4, D'oro, 1.48M) reports that a Coast Guard report finds that "poor risk assessment and management were factors that led to the grounding of a Shell oil drilling rig in the Gulf of Alaska in 2012." The report, released Thursday, also said that Alaska's "tax laws influenced the decision to tow the Kulluk to Seattle." Shell "believed the drill vessel would have qualified as taxable property on Jan. 1, 2013, if it was still in Alaska waters." The report says that "sufficient evidence exists" for authorities to issue penalties, though service spokeswoman Lisa Novak

indicated that the report is a "fact-finding" report and does not issue direct penalties. Shell spokeswoman Kelly op de Weegh said that "we appreciate the US Coast Guard's thorough investigation into the Kulluk towing incident and will take the findings seriously."

McClatchy (4/4, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 23K) says that the report found that a "disregard for the risk, possible negligence, inexperience and equipment problems led to the grounding of a Shell drilling rig in a winter storm off the Alaska coast." The report said Shell's towing plan was "inadequate," particularly as it relied on only a single towing vessel despite the potential for severe weather, while the crew of the towing vessel lacked "enough experience" for the environment.

The Los Angeles Times (4/3, Ganga, 3.46M) reports that the Coast Guard report "blasted" Royal Dutch Shell for "legal violations, poor management and taking undue risks."

The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (4/3, Demer, 251K) reports that in addition to the poor decisions by Shell, the review found "potential violations of law or regulation by Aiviq officers and crew" and "numerous deficiencies in pre-voyage inspections." The coast guard recommends that several members of the crew of the towing vessel, the Aiviq, "be evaluated for possible actions against their Coast Guard licenses."

Bloomberg News (4/4, Snyder, 2.76M) quotes the report, "A complex series of events contributed to the error chain that resulted in the grounding. The most significant factor was the decision to attempt the voyage during the winter in the unique and challenging operating environment of Alaska." While Shell "has spent billions of dollars in its effort to drill for oil Alaska's Beaufort and Chukchi seas," the company "hasn't resumed work in Alaska waters, and said in January that it didn't plan to return to the Arctic this year."

BSEE FUNDING OIL SPILL RESPONSE RESEARCH. The Marine Link (4/4, 1K) reports that the BSEE has "announced that it is investing up to $600,000 for targeted oil spill response research in drift ice conditions." In a Broad Agency Announcement released on the federal government's business opportunities website, the bureau "called for white papers on new mechanical technologies for cleaning up oil spills in drift ice conditions that could be found in an Arctic environment." The BSEE will "select up to three designs for prototype development and testing at Ohmsett, the bureau's National Oil Spill Research and Renewable Energy Test Facility."

DEEPWATER HORIZON FINES TO FUND LA BEACH RESTORATION. The AP (4/4) reports that $144.5 million from the foundation overseeing the use of fines from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill has been approved to restore nearly 7.5 miles of beachfront near Grand Isla, LA, according to The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The project will create about 490 acres of habitat by "pumping more than 5 million cubic yards of sand from the Gulf of Mexico through a pipeline," the AP writes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY ON NEW "NEAR MISS" TRACKING SYSTEM. Additional coverage of the BSEE's new "near-miss" tracking system was provided by Loren Steffy for Forbes (4/3, 6.28M). Steffy writes that "the industry claims it has an excellent safety record, and if that's true, it should be confident that compiling near-miss data would prove the point." But "instead, it prefers to wrap itself in the blanket of self-delusion, as if the absence of disaster is a synonym for safety."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SEN. FEINSTEIN APPLAUDS DECISION TO PUMP MORE WATER IN CENTRAL VALLEY. The Salinas Californian (4/3, 27K) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein on Wednesday "applauded a decision by federal and state officials to release more water in the Central Valley, and pushed for much more supplies to be made available to the parched farming region." According to the article, "at a Senate appropriations subcommittee hearing that she presided over, the California Democrat said the latest fish surveys show a negligible number of deaths among endangered species like chinook salmon and the Delta smelt." Feinstein argued that "diverting more of the water meant to shore up fish habitats for human use makes sense...given that the region's farmers are currently getting no water from the federal Central Valley Project."

Handling Of Drought Relief Criticized. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (4/4, Finley, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Allysia Finley writes that the increase of water exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin

Valley River Delta is too little and too late. According to Finley, almost all of this additional water will go toward building up the San Luis Reservoir to prepare for the inevitable future shortages when pumping is again restricted to protect fish. In conclusion, Finley blames government imprudence.

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Salem (OR) Capital Press (4/3, 113K), Bruce Colbert, executive director of the Property Owners Association of Riverside County, writes that "the joint state and federal Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement does not meet its goals and not be funded." Colbert claims that "though the goals of the plan are to restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem and to secure California water supplies, the plan fails to secure California water supplies." Colbert concludes that "since the plan cannot meet its goals, it does not warrant further investment."

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBAL LEADERS CRITICIZE LAND-BUYBACK PROGRAM. The AP (4/4) reports that "tribal leaders from Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon and Washington state told a congressional panel Thursday that they feel shut out of decisions being made in a $1.9 billion land-buyback program managed" by the Interior Department. The Interior Department is "identifying parcels, entering into cooperative agreements to purchase the land and turning the parcels over to the tribes." The tribal leaders said "they know the land and their people, so they want to be more involved in identifying parcels, approaching landowners and shaping cooperative agreements." Lawrence Roberts, the deputy assistant secretary for Indian affairs in the Interior Department, said the agency is "looking to streamline the process after hearing complaints of it being burdensome and complex."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (4/4, Volz, 455K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (4/4, Volz, 1.48M), the Bellingham (WA) Herald (4/3, 113K), the Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (4/3, 595K), the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (4/4, 85K), the Tri-City Herald (WA) (4/3, 115K), The Missoulian (4/4, 122K), and Yahoo! (4/4, Volz, 17.91M) .

Also reporting on the story is KECI-TV Missoula, MT (4/4, 2K).

BIA WORRIES ABOUT UPCOMING BLACKFEET ELECTION. The Flathead (MT) Beacon (4/4, 15K) reports that "with two months until the June primary, the divided Blackfeet Tribal Business Council has yet to seat an election board and officials with the Bureau of Indian Affairs are now worried that the upcoming election is in 'jeopardy.'" In a letter to Blackfeet Chairman Willie Sharp, the acting superintendent of the BIA Blackfeet Agency said "if the full tribal council does not agree on an election board on or before April 3, it will be hard for the government to organize and run a fair election on June 3, as required by the Blackfeet Constitution and election rules." Acting Superintendent Thedis Crowe wrote, "Failure to do so puts the 2014 Tribal Election in jeopardy. This timeframe leaves the Tribal Election Board with a compressed schedule of approximately 60 days to coordinate, organize, advertise, certify candidates, order ballots, and schedule the primary election to occur on June 3."

TRIBE CONSIDERS HUNTING BISON INSIDE YELLOWSTONE. Reuters (4/3) reports that some Nez Perce tribal leaders want to revive the practice of hunting bison in Yellowstone National Park. Nez Perce Chairman Silas Whitman said, "Before there was a park, there was a tribe. Some of our members already feel we have the right to hunt in the park, but it hasn't been exercised because we feel it would be remiss in going forward that way."

Top National News:

SURVEY ESTIMATES THAT 5.4 MILLION PREVIOUSLY UNINSURED AMERICANS GOT COVERAGE SINCE SEPTEMBER. Media coverage of the progress in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act has dropped precipitously from earlier this week, and on Thursday evening, none of the three network newscasts included a segment on any aspect healthcare reform. Also, notably, the ACA enrollment figures announced by President Obama and touted by the Administration and its allies throughout the week were not covered in depth on MSNBC's Rachel Maddow Show, All In, or The Last Word.

On the other hand, Al Sharpton opened MSNBC's Politics Nation (4/3, 894K) with a segment on the "GOP freakout" following the news that "millions of Americans are getting insured under the President's healthcare law."

Sharpton said, "You'd think all those who predicted failure would be pretty embarrassed, but instead, the success has driven them completely off the rails." Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) said his Republican colleagues "don't know what to do" because "it's turned out exactly as [HHS Secretary] Sebelius predicted." According to McDermott, "They have lost and they can't admit it."

Likewise, on MSNBC's Hardball (4/3, 689K), Chris Matthews said, "For months, conservative critics have predicted the total failure of the President's healthcare law, so when the President announced this week the law had enrolled over seven million people into the healthcare exchanges," they "flat out accused the White House...of lying." Salon's Joan Walsh said the reaction from the right is "a new firm of birtherism," and added, "these guys loved the numbers when the Administration was admitting in October and November those numbers were low."

Earlier on Thursday, National Journal (4/4, Ritger, Subscription Publication, 561K) reported that "the latest Health Reform Monitoring Survey, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, an organization focused on public health, and conducted by the Urban Institute," found that "5.4 million uninsured Americans have gained health coverage since September, the first estimate of how many of the nation's uninsured are benefiting from Obamacare," while "the percent of uninsured Americans fell to 15.2 percent in March from 17.9 percent in September." National Journal notes that the survey also found that "states that expanded Medicaid had lower uninsured rates than states that did not," with "some 12.4 percent of residents in states that expanded Medicaid remain[ing] uninsured, compared with 18.1 percent in states that did not."

In a post for PBS' (4/4, Kane, 1.22M) The Rundown blog, Jason Kane notes that "most of the survey was completed by March 6 – before the final open enrollment surge took place – meaning the final insurance tally could be even higher."

Michael Hiltzik, in his column for the Los Angeles Times (4/4, 3.46M), says that "if all those newly insureds were among those who signed up on the individual exchanges, that would mean that of the 7.1 million enrollees, 77% were previously uninsured," but "the researchers say...that their figures include people who will receive their insurance from Medicaid."

In an article for the New Republic (4/4, 195K) titled "Urban RWJF Report: Ted Cruz Wrong, Obamacare Helping Uninsured," Jonathan Cohn says the "lack of hard, reliable data has made settling this debate difficult, although that hasn't stopped the likes of Ted Cruz from suggesting that the net effect of the law will be to increase the number of people without coverage." Cohn says the study released Thursday "shows pretty clearly that Cruz is wrong," and that, instead, "the number of Americans without health insurance is almost certainly falling." However, Cohn concedes that "in order to match the progress that the experts predicted for 2014, the number of uninsured Americans would still have to fall by a lot more," and, according to Cohn, "it's a very open question whether that will happen."

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (4/4, Alpert, 678K) reports that on Thursday, Rep. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), who is challenging Sen. Mary Landrieu and "is basing a good part of his run...on his opposition to health law," said, "Until the President releases more enrollment information, we cannot evaluate the claim that 7.1 million people have signed up for Obamacare." According to Cassidy, "We need more information before the President declares this law a success."

Paul Krugman, in his column for the New York Times (4/4, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), says "you don't find many Obamacare opponents admitting outright that 7.1 million and counting signups is a huge victory," but, according to Krugman, "their reaction to the results – It's a fraud! They're cooking the books! – tells the tale." Krugman contends that "Republican political strategy were based entirely on the assumption that...Obamacare's rollout would be an unremitting tale of disaster," and so "they have no idea what to do now that it's turning into a success story."

The Washington Post (4/4, 4.22M), in an editorial, says, "this week's news is among the first of what we hope will be many signs that the health-care law is working toward its primary goal: enrolling many Americans into decent, comprehensive plans in sustainable marketplaces." However, the Post notes that "tens of millions of people, including undocumented immigrants, will still be uninsured."

Networks Reportedly Nixed Plans For Obama To Deliver Primetime Address On ACA Signups. On Thursday afternoon, BuzzFeed (4/4, McMorris-Santoro, 10.34M) reported that the White House "sought valuable primetime air for a rare, impromptu Tuesday night address to tout the accomplishment of signing up more than 7 million people under the Affordable Care Act," but "network officials refused," so President Obama was "left instead cutting into the much smaller audiences of Ellen and other daytime shows." BuzzFeed noted that the White House "rarely asks for primetime broadcast TV time for Obama," and, according to BuzzFeed, "the Oval Office message is one of the traditional venues for presidential communications Obama's team has shunned in favor of digital and nontraditional media tools."

On Fox News' Special Report (4/3, 2.15M), Ed Henry reported that Congressional Republicans contend that the decision by the networks "shows the President has got less clout."

Eighteen House Democrats Join Republicans On Vote To Redefine "Full-Time" Work. The AP (4/4, Werner) reports that on Thursday, Republicans in the House "renewed their election-year assault" on the Affordable Care Act, and that "their opposition [is] undimmed just days after" the White House "celebrated news that more than 7 million Americans had signed up for coverage under the law." The AP says the House "voted 248-179 to change the law's definition of full-time work from 30 hours a week to 40 hours a week." According to the AP, the CBO has concluded that if the definition were changed "hundreds of thousands more people would be uninsured."

The Washington Post (4/4, O'Keefe, 4.22M) notes that "eighteen House Democrats voted with Republicans...to change the definition of full-time work," including some of those "most at risk of losing reelection this year," such as Reps. Ron Barber (D-AZ), Ami Bera (D-CA), Patrick Murphy (D-FL), and Nick Rahall (D-WV).

According to the Washington Times (4/4, Howell, 455K), "Critics say the 30-hour threshold...will harm workers in the food service industry and other sectors because it incentivizes employers to slash hours and avoid the costs of providing health coverage." The Times notes Sen. Joe Donnelly, a Democrat, "has worked with Sen. Susan Collins, Maine Republican, on a bill in the upper chamber to change the Obamacare definition from 30 hours to 40 hours."

The Wall Street Journal (4/4, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that along with Donnelly, Sen. Joe Manchin has also said he supports changing the ACA's definition of dull-time work, and Sen. Mark Begich has indicated he might be open to something along those lines.

The Hill (4/3, Kasperowicz, 237K) reported that the sponsor of the pill that passed in the House on Thursday, Rep. Todd Young (R-IN), "said some workers could see up to a 25 percent cut in their hours," and House Majority Leader Cantor "went further by saying Democrats are trying to offset the lost ObamaCare wages with the minimum wage hike."

According to the Christian Science Monitor (4/4, Khadaroo, 566K), "already a number of colleges have said that they are cutting the hours and course loads of many of their adjunct staff because they won't be able to afford the insurance or the government fines for not covering those who work more than 30 hours."

Gibbs Predicts ACA's Employer Mandate Will Never Be Enforced. Politico (4/4, McCalmont, 73K) reported that on Wednesday, "during a speech at the 2014 Benefits Selling Expo in Colorado Springs," former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs "predicted...that the employer mandate will be 'one of the first things to go,' during lengthy remarks on Obamacare." Gibbs is quoted as saying, "I don't think the employer mandate will go into effect. It's a small part of the law. I think it will be one of the first things to go."

The Hill (4/3, Sink, 237K) reported that in response to Gibbs' remarks, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney insisted that Gibbs "was wrong to predict that the administration would not implement the employer mandate," and pledged that the Administration "would not again delay the penalty on businesses who do not offer their employees healthcare."

On Fox News' Special Report (4/3, 2.15M), Ed Henry reported that President Obama "was on defense today over healthcare, but not from Republicans." Instead, the White House was forced to respond to "friendly fire from a former press secretary, forcing the current man at the podium to insist there will be no further delays to the

employer mandate." Carney was shown saying, "The final rules were put out in February and this will be phased in starting next year in accordance with the final rules."

Also on Fox News' Special Report (4/3, 2.15M), the Daily Caller's Tucker Carlson said he agreed with Gibbs' prediction, and added, "Once you fail to enact or repeal the corporate mandate, then you can't...defend the individual mandate once," and "at that point, the whole system falls apart because, unless you compel healthy people to buy in, they won't, and when they don't buy in, that means insurance companies will be unable...to turn a profit." Carlson added, "This is the beginning of the end for the entire Obamacare law." On the other hand, Juan Williams disagreed with Carlson's analysis and said Gibbs "was...just talking about common sense tweaks that they can make to improve the law."

House Members Ask State Officials To Account For Funds Spent On Broken ACA Exchanges. The Los Angeles Times (4/4, Reston, 3.46M) reports that in testimony before the House Oversight Committee, "directors of troubled state insurance exchanges said Thursday that they could fix continuing Obamacare glitches with grant money they have already received and would not ask for federal bailouts." However, according to the Times, "Hawaii signaled an urgent need for financial assistance next year" after having "signed up about 7,596 people in private plans" so far.

The New York Times (4/4, A14, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Tom Matsuda, "the interim executive director of the Hawaii exchange, said that it had received $205 million in federal grants and enrolled only 7,600 people," which "works out to an average of $27,000 for each person enrolled."

According to the Los Angeles Times (4/4, Reston, 3.46M), on Thursday, House Republicans "focused considerable attention...on Maryland, which received $180 million in federal grant funds but ultimately dismissed its primary contractor."

The Washington Post (4/4, Johnson, 4.22M) reports that Joshua Sharfstein, Maryland's secretary of health, "kept facing questions about how much the state spent on its troubled health insurance marketplace," and "did not always have firm answers to those questions." According to the Post, Maryland "has spent about $129 million on its exchange," and "hopes that it can salvage some of the current system's hardware and software" but "only plans to keep $8 million worth."

According to the AP (4/4, Witte), "Maryland auditors who examined the state's badly flawed health exchange website were given redacted documents." The AP reports that Thomas Barnickel, "the state's legislative auditor, wrote that about 26 percent of the documents were redacted," and noted that "procurement documents were 'heavily redacted.'"

The Wall Street Journal (4/4, Dooren, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that the Oregon exchange still does not allow the uninsured to purchase plans, so the state has extended its open enrollment period for another month and is considering its exchange in favor of healthcare.gov for next year's open enrollment.

The Oregonian (4/4, Budnick, 992K) reports that at the hearing on Thursday, Greg Van Pelt, "an advisor to Gov. John Kitzhaber, had something going for him that helped deflect committee members' hostile grilling to other states: he didn't know the answers to their questions" because he "didn't join the effort until after the state realized its problems were worse than thought, and turned to hiring workers to process applications by hand."

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (4/4, Davis, 656K) reports that on Thursday, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) shot his first question to MNsure interim CEO Scott Leitz, asking why the state would pay nearly $27,000 in bonuses to people responsible 'for a blotched website?'" According to the Pioneer Press, MNsure "launched...with numerous website and other problems, including wait times at the telephone call center of up to an hour, after which customers were disconnected.

The St. Cloud (MN) Times (4/4, Neely, 77K) notes that Leitz testified that he "he took immediate action after he became interim chief executive in December," and reported that "software problems have been resolved, and call center wait times came way down by the time open enrollment closed Monday."

MSNBC's Schultz: ACA Is "The First Step" Towards A Single-Payer System. In a brief item for MSNBC's Ed

Show (4/3, 449K), Ed Schultz said, "I'll guarantee you every Democrat in the House wants single-payer," and "that's why the Republicans are fighting so hard to defeat Obamacare." Schultz continued, "Incrementally, [the ACA] is the first step...to eventually get to single-payer." According to Schultz, "Consumers are going to see how good the Affordable Care Act is, they'll want state exchanges everywhere, they'll go to the next stage, it will evolve, and, yes, single-payer will be a reality."

ALLEGED FORT HOOD SHOOTER'S BACKGROUND SHOWED NO INDICATION OF LIKELY VIOLENCE. The Wednesday shootings at Fort Hood, Texas that left four dead – including alleged shooter Spc. Ivan Lopez – and 16 injured led all three broadcast network newscasts Thursday evening. Most reports focus on the emerging details about Lopez, particularly the lack of indicators of potential violence in his military and psychiatric backgrounds. There are also stories about the ease in bringing a weapon onto the premises of Fort Hood, as well as on regulations that prohibit soldiers from arming themselves on base.

ABC World News (4/3, lead story, 5:20, Sawyer) reported, "We're learning new details about the moment of crisis at Fort Hood...where the war veteran picked up a gun and started shooting, and we also know more tonight about his mental state." ABC (Muir) added that Lopez was "a father of three, a husband, a soldier...with a clean record." He served in Iraq for four months in 2011, but "the Pentagon says he never saw combat." Martha Raddatz said on ABC World News (4/3, story 2, 1:55, Sawyer) that the 34-year-old "spent nearly half his life in the Army, serving as a peacekeeper in the Sinai, an infantry man in the deserts of Iraq, first joining the guard in his native Puerto Rico, where his former supervisor, today, had nothing but praise." Command Sgt. Maj. Nelson Bigas of the Puerto Rico National Guard was shown saying: "He was an outstanding and disciplined soldier."

On the CBS Evening News (4/3, lead story, 3:10, Pelley), Anna Werner reported that Lopez "used a semiautomatic handgun in his attack." Commanding general Lt. Gen. Mark Milley "says there is no signs yet that he had specific targets." A neighbor of Lopez's at the apartment where he moved a few weeks ago said she "saw him yesterday at lunchtime." Shanice Banks: "He looked fine. He didn't look, you know, anxious or, you know... there's no signs of it could have been him. That's why it was so mind-boggling." Bob Orr said on the CBS Evening News (4/3, story 2, 2:15, Pelley), "Investigators have been told the gunman may have been upset that the Army refused to grant him personal leave and witnesses say Ivan Lopez argued with another soldier just before those shootings, but investigators cannot yet say if any of that prompting the attack." His "military career was unremarkable."

NBC Nightly News (4/3, lead story, 3:45, Williams, 7.86M) reported that "while there's still no known motive, we're learning more about his mental health history. This is, of course, the second tragedy, the second mass shooting, in five years at Fort Hood." Jim Miklaszewski reported on NBC Nightly News (4/3, story 2, 2:40, Williams, 7.86M) that officials describe Lopez "as an underachiever who in 15 years of military service went largely unnoticed until now." After his return from Iraq, "Lopez did suffer depression, anxiety and sleep deprivation. But a psychiatric exam at Fort Hood last month raised no red flags."

The New York Times (4/4, Montgomery, Fernandez, Williams, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Secretary of the Army John McHugh told the Senate Armed Services Committee that Lopez was being evaluated for PTSD and "had been examined by a psychiatrist within the last month...but showed no signs that he might commit a violent act." McHugh said, "The plan forward was just to continue to monitor and treat him as deemed appropriate." The Wall Street Journal (4/4, A1, Barrett, Barnes, Koppel, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that officials were reviewing Lopez's records for any disciplinary actions linked to mental health problems, but had yet to find any.

The Washington Post (4/4, A1, Whitlock, Leonnig, Goldman, 4.22M) reports that McHugh, who did not mention Lopez by name, "said the investigation was still unfolding and did not comment on a possible motive." The Washington Times (4/4, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that White House Press Secretary Jay Carney also said Thursday that it is "too early to speculate on the cause" of the Wednesday shooting, but "said there is 'work that remains to be done' to ensure the nation's veterans have the care and treatment they need."

The Washington Post (4/4, Londoño, 4.22M) reports Defense Secretary Hagel said Thursday "that the Pentagon will be looking for 'any new lessons learned' from the latest Fort Hood shooting." Hagel, in Honolulu for a summit of Asia-Pacific defense leaders, told reporters, "We need to let investigators do their work and help us understand how this happened."

The AP (4/4, Weissert, Weber) also reports that Lopez had no previous signs of violence, while Politico (4/3, Wright, 73K) reported that McHugh and others said he had no apparent ties to any radical organizations, though that possibility was still being investigated.

Guns Easy To Bring Into Fort Hood. USA Today (4/4, Hughes, 5.82M) writes that "an unsettling sense of deja vu has descended" on the Fort Hood community after the shooting. One restaurant worker told USA Today, "You figure that since it happened before, they'd be more prepared." However, the New York Times (4/4, Fernandez, Schmitt, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that nearly five years after the last shooting incident at Fort Hood, "it remained easy for a soldier and even a visitor to bring in a firearm." The base's "weapons rules for soldiers who are not police officers rely in large part on the honor system."

The Los Angeles Times (4/4, Hennessy-Fiske, Simon, 3.46M) says the two shooting incidents "are stoking debate over whether Congress should repeal a two-decade-old ban on carrying personal firearms on military bases," which was intended "to protect military personnel against accidental or indiscriminate shootings" but has some saying it prevents soldiers from self-defense in such situations. After the shootings at the Washington Navy Yard last year, Rep. Steve Stockman (R-TX) introduced legislation to lift the ban. It "has languished," but is "drawing new interest" following the latest incident.

Politico (4/3, Wright, 73K) reported Senate Minority Whip Cornyn said Thursday at Fort Hood that he is "'confident' there'll be a 'thorough review' of the Pentagon's policies on concealed weapons." But the Huffington Post (4/3, Siddiqui, 11.54M) reported Senate Majority Leader Reid had a different reaction, calling for Congress "to reconsider legislation to expand background checks." Reid said, "This young man bought his gun a day or two before he killed these people. Couldn't we at least have background checks so that people who are ill mentally, or who are felons, shouldn't be able to buy guns?"

The Hill (4/4, Berman, 237K) reported House Speaker Boehner said Thursday that there is "'no question' that mentally ill people should be prevented from buying guns." Roll Call (4/4, Newhauser, 76K) reported that Boehner said Thursday that Congress had recently "passed a provision to address whether people with mental health issues have access to weapons," but the author of the measure, Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA), said his mental health bill did not do that. Murphy said, "It's a whole different issue. I think he confused that."

Politico (4/4, Bade, 73K) wrote that after the shooting, President Obama, Defense Department officials "and others in Washington agreed more must be done to spot 'insider threats' before they strike. But what almost no one is saying: change gun laws." Politico says the shooting is the "latest in a string of mass shootings...where the response from Washington has shifted from guns – to the shooters who wield them."

Counselor Killed In Shooting Profiled. The Washington Post (4/4, Hamburger, Itkowitz, 4.22M) has a feature on Fort Hood counselor Timothy Wayne Owens, who was killed after being "shot five times after trying to calm Lopez in a post parking lot." Military officials have not released the names of the victims, "but friends of Owens said the account provided by his family fits the man they knew."

Combat Stress' Impact On Post-Service Violence Examined. The Christian Science Monitor (4/4, Knickerbocker, 566K) has a story on the correlation between "combat stress and violence," highlighting "the rising incidence of suicide and attacks on family members" among veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

WSJournal Says Shooting Differs From Past Incidents. The Wall Street Journal (4/4, A12, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that Wednesday's Fort Hood shooting seems to have little in common with the 2009 shootings there, which were an act of terrorism, or the Washington Navy Yard shootings, whose perpetrator had a history of violence. Rather, Lopez seems to have snapped, which again shows the need for better services for mental illness.

SERVICE-SECTOR GROWTH ACCELERATED IN MARCH. The Wall Street Journal (4/4, Madigan, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the Institute for Supply Management's Non-Manufacturing Index for March came in at 53.1 on Thursday, up from 51.6 in February, showing that service-sector economic activity accelerated last month. However, economists surveyed by the Journal expected the index to come in at 53.5. ISM's Anthony Nieves said, "The index may be below expectations but is still holding steady."

Bloomberg News (4/4, Smialek, 2.76M) reports that the increase in service-sector activity is a sign that the "biggest part of the U.S. economy began to recover from the unusually harsh winter weather, showing growth will speed up in the second quarter." March's increase "was paced by a rebound in hiring as companies from retailers to construction firms and government agencies filled vacancies," which is "bolstering expectations" that the March jobs report, due out from the Department of Labor Friday morning, will "show the labor market improved."

The AP (4/4, Rugaber) calls the ISM report "a positive sign the economy is rebounding after an unusually cold winter." Further, the AP says that many companies that participated in the index "said that weather still weighed on their business, particularly earlier in the month," which "suggests business could improve further in April."

Jobless Claims Up Modestly Last Week. The Wall Street Journal (4/4, Portlock, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that, according to Department of Labor data released on Thursday, first-time claims for new jobless benefits rose 16,000 for the week ending March 29 to 326,000. However, it was the fifth straight week of a reading coming in below 330,000, a good sign for the economy. The four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, edged up to 319,500, a gain of 250.

Trade Deficit Expanded Sharply In February. The AP (4/4) reports that the trade deficit rose 7.7% in February to $42.3 billion "as demand for American exports fell while imports increased slightly," according to the Department of Commerce. Exports fell 1.1% to $190.4 billion "as sales of commercial aircraft, computers and farm goods fell," while imports rose 0.4% to $232.7 billion, "reflecting gains in imports of autos and clothing, which offset a drop in crude oil to the lowest level in more than three years." The AP says that the February increase "prompted some economists to reduce their estimate for overall economic growth for the January-March quarter."

The Wall Street Journal (4/4, House, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the report prompted Macroeconomic Advisers to lower its expected Q1 GDP growth rate to 0.9% from its previous forecast of 1.4%, while Morgan Stanley dropped its forecast from 1.5% to 1.2%. The Journal notes that economists it surveyed expected the trade deficit to come in at $42.3 billion in February.

Mortgage Rates Edged Up Last Year. The AP (4/3) reports that Freddie Mac announced on Thursday that mortgage rates "rose slightly this week but remained near historically low levels." The average rate on a 30-year fixed loan rose to 4.41% from 4.40% the prior week, while the average rate on a 15-year loan rose to 3.47% from 3.42%.

Bloomberg News (4/4, Gopal, 2.76M) reports that rates rose "as investors awaited this week's jobs report and signs that the economy is rebounding after the disruption caused by harsh winter weather." Bloomberg said that rising home prices and higher borrowing costs, combined with "poor weather" across much of the nation, "have contributed to a slowdown in home purchases in recent months."

Consumer Confidence Rebounded Last Week. Bloomberg News (4/4, Chandra, 2.76M) reports that consumer confidence rose last week "from an almost two-month low, paced by improving perceptions of personal finances and the buying climate that signal shoppers will return to U.S. retailers as temperatures warm." The Bloomberg Consumer Comfort Index "rose to minus 30 in the period ended March 30 from minus 31.5 which was the weakest since early February."

Stocks Tepid On Thursday As Traders Await Jobs Report. The Wall Street Journal (4/4, Dieterich, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the major stock indices were mixed on Thursday, with the Dow and S&P 500 essentially flat, but the Nasdaq Composite Index falling. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.45 points to close at 16,572.55, while the S&P 500 fell 2.13 points to 1,888.77. However, the Nasdaq was down nearly one percent, falling 38.72 points to 4,237.74. The Journal says that traders were cautious, awaiting Friday's jobs report from the Department of Labor.

Bloomberg News (4/4, Ciolli, Costa, 2.76M) reports that stocks fell "after benchmark indexes climbed to records, while Treasuries rose before the government releases its monthly jobs report."

USA Today Reviews Top CEO Compensation. USA Today (4/4, 5.82M) runs a pictorial review of the top 10

CEOs among the 200 S&P 500 companies "that filed proxy statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission between Jan. 1 and March 27, 2014." Including cash, "plus the value of exercised options and vested stock in 2013 that was awarded in previous years," Gilead Science's John Martin comes in at the top of the list at $169 million.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"How To Squeeze The Political Parties."*** The New York Times (4/4, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that political donors "will now have a wide array of choices in where to spend their political dollars," as a result of the Supreme Court's McCutheon v. FEC decision, and can now "give as much as $3.6 million to joint fund-raising committees set up by the parties, which can be used to benefit individual candidates." The Times says Chief Justice Roberts, "showing insincere naïveté," does not see the "purchase of access to be corruption, which he apparently detects only in bribery. But the donors know that American politics is now for sale, and they are ready to buy."

"Europe Moves Ahead On Internet Rules." An editorial in the New York Times (4/4, A26, board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) praises Europe for "taking the lead in protecting what makes the Internet great: its openness," noting that the European Parliament has voted for rules "that would restrict Internet service providers from blocking or slowing down services like Skype and Netflix on their networks." The Times adds that Congress "has refused to enact strong anti-blocking rules and courts have twice struck down the Federal Communications Commission regulations in this area," and argues that "lawmakers and regulators in Washington could learn something from their European counterparts."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Obamacare's Solid Start."*** The Washington Post (4/4, 4.22M), in an editorial, says that this week's news that the Affordable Care Act met its enrollment target "is among the first of what we hope will be many signs that the health-care law is working toward its primary goal: enrolling many Americans into decent, comprehensive plans in sustainable marketplaces." However, the Post notes that "tens of millions of people, including undocumented immigrants, will still be uninsured."

"Burma's Unspeakable Violence." The Washington Post (4/4, 4.22M) editorializes that current violence against Burma's Rohingya population have taken a "discouraging turn at a time when Burma...appeared to be making strides toward openness, democracy and modernization." The Post says while Burma "has earned applause for its tentative opening toward democracy," the "progress is threatened" by the ethnic divisions and violence. Burma's leadership needs to "come to grips with the volatile situation and conduct credible investigations into the violence," according to the Post.

"Bailing Out A Broken System." The Washington Post (4/4, 4.22M) in an editorial argues for reform of Maryland's bail bond program. Maryland lawmakers are considering "reforming a bail bond system in such a shambles that a state court has ordered it overhauled," and the state Senate "has embraced legislation that would establish a new agency that would employ computer modeling to decide which defendants can go home to await trial." The Post says the Senate plan "makes sense to us," noting that while there "may be no perfect system for setting pretrial limits on the liberty of defendants," the "current method seems imperfect in the extreme."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Culture Of General Motors."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/4, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that many of the lawmakers who attacked the "culture" at General Motors during hearings with GM CEO Mary Barra supported the 2009 Federal intervention that enabled that culture to continue. If the government had not intervened, the Journal argues, the culture those lawmakers lamented might have been corrected or eliminated entirely. The Journal further argues that the GM and Chrysler bankruptcies were designed to protect union jobs and benefits, adding that keeping companies alive in service of a political agenda is not good for consumers.

"Mass Murder Returns." The Wall Street Journal (4/4, A12, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that Wednesday's Fort Hood shooting seems to have little in common with the 2009 shootings there, which were an act of terrorism, or the Washington Navy Yard shootings, whose perpetrator had a history of violence. Rather, Lopez seems to have snapped, which again shows the need for better services for mental

illness.

"Japan's VAT Ratchet." The Wall Street Journal (4/4, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, notes that just this week, Japan increased its value-added tax rate from 5% to 8%, and plans to hike the VAT to 10% in 2015. The Journal predicts that the increases will slow Japan's economic growth.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Case Cut Back In Patients' Deaths
Bringing Early Spring To Fenway Park A Big Task
Thousands Honor Fallen Firefighter At West Roxbury Church
For Scott Brown, Another Tilt Against A Female Candidate
White House Objects To Ortiz-Obama Selfie

Los Angeles Times:
In Campaign, Democrats Target Kochs
Dodgers Hope Stadium Is Ready For Home Opener
Motive Sought After Ft. Hood Attack
Silicon Satire Nails The Culture, Geeks Say

Wall Street Journal:
Accused Gunman Was In Treatment
CEO Quits Under Fire For Stance On Gay Marriage
Drastic Stimulus On Table In Europe
Long Dry Spell At NCAA Tournament Has Tipplers Crying Foul
Bitcoin's Boosters Struggle To Shore Up Confidence

New York Times:
Soldier's Attack At Base Echoed Rampage In 2009
Gunman Had 'Clean Record,' With No Violent Sign, Officials Say
Karzai Is Trying To Keep His Sway After Term Ends
3 Decades In, Letterman Says He Will Sign Off
Mozilla's Chief Felled By View On Gay Unions
Talk Of Freeing A Spy For Israel Stirs Old Unease For US Jews

Washington Post:
Gunman Wasn't Seen As A Threat
Peddling Their Futures?
Fading Dream Tests Faith Of Prominent D.C. Congregation
With Report Of A Sea, Saturn Moon Makes A Splash
With Peace Talks At Impasse, Kerry's Image May Be At Risk

Financial Times:
ECB Says It Is Prepared To Embrace QE
Anadarko To Pay $5.15bn In Pollution Case
Chinese Tourists Steer For Seoul
Mylan Mulls Move For Swedish Rival Meda
Citi Forecast To Miss Internal 2015 Goal
M Stanley Hits Back Over Flash Boys Row
Draghi Needs To Move From Words To Action

Washington Times:
Voters In Afghanistan Prepare For First Democratic Transition, Vote Set For Saturday

Ben Carson, Republicans Huddle In Search Of Obamacare Replacement
House GOP Sets First Vote To Hold Lois Lerner In Contempt Over IRS Targeting
Golden Hammer: Agencies Stock Up On Scientists With Superpay
Five Former Virginia AGs Want Case Against Ex-Governor Bob Mcdonnell Dismissed

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Fort Hood Shooting; Fort Hood Shooting-Shooter's Background; Fort Hood Shooting-Investigation; Severe Weather; Lebanon-Syria Refugees; SCOTUS-Campaign Contributions Ruling; Queen Elizabeth-Pope Francis Meeting.
CBS: Fort Hood Shooting; Fort Hood Shooting-Shooter's Background; Severe Weather; Afghanistan-Presidential Election; Missing Malaysia Flight; Boston-Firefighter's Funeral; Distracted Driving Campaign; Houston-SUV Crash Video; Pope Francis-Queen Elizabeth Meeting.
NBC: Fort Hood Shooting; Fort Hood Shooting-Shooter's Background; Severe Weather; Cuban Social Media Campaign Controversy; Boston-Firefighter's Funeral; FDA-Naloxone; George W. Bush Presidential Library.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Missing Malaysia Flight; Fort Hood Shooting; Sports-Paternity Leave Debate; Ukraine Crisis-US Aid.
CBS: Fort Hood Shooting; CIA Terror Interrogations Report; Cuban Social Media Campaign Controversy; DOJ-Anadarko Petroleum Settlement; March Jobs Report.
FOX: Fort Hood Shooting; March Jobs Report; Missing Malaysia Flight; Columbian Author Hospitalized; Sports-NCAA Toumament; Pennsylvania-Mother Tries To Drown Children; Cereal Design Study.
NPR: March Jobs Report; Senate-Jobless Benefits; Fort Hood Shooting; Cuban Social Media Campaign Controversy; Missing Malaysia Flight; Washington-Mudslide Victims; David Letterman To Retire.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing; the President and the Vice President meet with Secretary of the Treasury Lew, oval office, closed press; the President meets with Tunisian Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa, the Vice President also attends, oval office, pool spray at the top; the President hosts a reception for Greek Independence Day, the Vice President also attends, East Room, closed press. Notes: Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Josh Eamest, 12:30 p.m.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – No public schedule.
US Senate: LANDMINE AWARENESS – April 1 – 4. The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) along with Senator Patrick Leahy and the reception hosted by Senator Bob Casey with remarks planned from Senator Leahy (VT), Senator Bob Casey (PA), Congressman Jim McGovern (MA), and Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Rose Gottemoeller hosts exhibit on Capitol Hill to celebrate its 25th anniversary and honor the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, MAG America. Surviving the Peace: Landmines, Mortars and Munitions -25 Years of Humanitarian Mine Action. NOTE: Reception and speakers on the 2nd at 4p.m. Contact: Patricia Loria, MAG America (202)531-6513 5/8 patricia.loria@magintemational.org. Location: The Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE – 9:30 a.m. JEC Hearing: "The Employment Situation: March 2014" with Erica L. Groshen, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor. Location: 216 Hart.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – FIELD HEARING – 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia, "Fifty Years Since the Great Alaska Earthquake: The Role of First Responders in Catastrophic Disaster Planning." Witnesses include W. Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency. Location: South Anchorage High School, 13400 Elmore Rd, Anchorage, AK.
US House: 9 a.m. – The House will meet for legislative business. H.R. 1874 – Pro-Growth Budgeting Act of 2013

(Subject to a Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. Tom Price / Budget Committee / Rules). First votes expected: 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Last votes expected: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

REP. ELLISON – WALL STREET TAX – 10 a.m. Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) will hold a press conference urging a vote on The Inclusive Prosperity Act (H.R. 1579), also known as the Financial Transaction Tax or Wall Street Sales Tax. Location: House Triangle. Contacts: Mike Casca, 202-225-4755

PAWS FOR LOVE – REP. MORAN – 12 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Representative Jim Moran, Northern Virginia Democrat and Co-Chair of the House Animal Protection Caucus, will join the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) for Paws for Love. Location: Cannon Caucus Room. Contacts: Thomas Scanlon (202) 225-4376 office ((202) 957-8645 cell)

REP. GUTIERREZ – IMMIGRATION – 12 p.m. America's Voice will hold its latest "Office Hours" press briefing featuring Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL); Kevin Appleby, Director of Migration and Public Affairs for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; Tania Unzueta, Not1More Campaign Organizer for the National Day Laborer Organizing Network; a representative from United Farm Workers; and Frank Sharry, Executive Director of America's Voice. Contacts: Katy Green, 650-464-1545. Notes: DIAL: 866-952-1907; Passcode: IMMIGRATION

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

APPROPRIATIONS – 9 a.m. Commerce, Justice, Science subcommittee hearing on the Department of Justice FY 2015 Budget Request with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. Location: 2359 Rayburn.

APPROPRIATIONS – 9 a.m. Defense subcommittee Member Hearing Day. Location: H-140 The Capitol.

HOMELAND SECURITY – 9 a.m. Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security hearing on Passport Fraud: An International Vulnerability. Witnesses: Alan Bersin, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; John Wagner, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Brenda Sprague, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Passport Services, U.S. Department of State; Shawn A. Bray, Director, INTERPOL Washington, United States National Central Bureau. Location: 311 Cannon.

JUDICIARY – 9 a.m. Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security markup on H.R. 306 For the Relief of Corina de Chalup Turcinovic. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

RESCHEDULED

NATURAL RESOURCES – 9 a.m. Public Lands & Environmental Regulation Subcommittee to Hold Legislative Hearing on Three Bills. Location: 1324 Longworth.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS – 9 a.m. Health Subcommittee, Markup of Pending Legislation. Location: 334 Cannon.

APPROPRIATIONS – 9:30 a.m. Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies subcommittee hearing on budget Bureau of Land Management. Witness: Neil Komze, Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management. Location: B-308 Rayburn.

RESCHEDULED

NATURAL RESOURCES – 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing on "Energy Independence: Domestic Opportunities to Reverse California's Growing Dependence on Foreign Oil." Location: 1334 Longworth.

APPROPRIATIONS – 10 a.m. Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. Witnesses: Doug O'Brien, Deputy Under Secretary, Rural Development; Lillian Salerno, Administrator, Rural Business Cooperative Services; Tony Hernandez, Administrator, Rural Housing Service; John Padalino, Administrator, Rural Utilities Service; Michael Young, Budget Officer. Location: 2362-A Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES – 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities, "Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for Intelligence Activities." Witnesses updated: Dr. Michael G. Vickers, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Lieutenant General Michael T. Flynn, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency; Letitia A. Long, Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; Richard H. Ledgett, Jr., Deputy Director, National Security Agency. Location: 2212 Raybum. Notes: The open portion of the hearing will be limited to opening statements only. Immediately following the hearing, the Subcommittee will hold a closed classified briefing on DoD intelligence activities.

APPROPRIATIONS – 11 a.m. Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies subcommittee budget hearing on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Witnesses: Panel 1: Tommy Beaudreau, Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Biography. Panel 2: Brian Salerno, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Location: B-308 Rayburn.
Other: CHIEFS AND CITIZENS OF THE CHEROKEE PEOPLE – April 3 – 5. 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The Smithsonians National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., presents Cherokee Days, a free three-day festival featuring storytelling, films, dance, music, family activities and demonstrations from citizens of the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Participants include: Chief Bill John Baker of the Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma; Chief Michell Hicks, of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee, N.C. Ernestine Berry and Della Wolfe, from the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Tahlequah, Okla.; and the cultural presenters of the three Cherokee bands. Location: Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, 4th and Independence Avenue, S.W. Contacts: Media: Leonda Levchuk levchukl@si.edu ((202) 633-6613). Eileen Maxwell maxwelle@si.edu (202-436-6805). Notes: Two films screened daily: "Trail of Tears: A Cherokee Legacy "and "Indian Country Diaries: Spiral of Fire".

DWINDLING FORESTS – INDIGENOUS PEOPLE – April 4 – 6. Speakers include: Marina Silva, former Environment Minister, Brazil John H. Knox, UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and the Environment; Edwin Cisco, Firestone Agricultural Workers Union of Liberia; Aunty Joan Hendriks, Aboriginal Leader and Educator, Australia; ; Norman Jiwan, Transformation for Justice, Indonesia; Chief Liz Logan, Fort Nelson First Nation, Canada; Godfrey Massay, Land Rights Research and Resources Institute, Tanzania; Raimundo Mendes de Barros, Federation of Agricultural Workers of Acre, Brazil; Cristian Otzin, Association of Mayan Lawyers and Notaries, Guatemala; Cristhian Prado Andrade, San Sebastian Indigenous Community, Ecuador; Gomercindo Rodrigues, Associate of Chico Mendes, Human Rights Attorney, Brazil; Hiparidi Toptiro, Mobilization of Indigenous Peoples of the Cerrado, Brazil; Ernesto Tzi, Maya Q'eqchi Indigenous Community, Guatemala; Tek Vannara, NGO Forum, Cambodia; Taily Terena, Indigenous Youth Movement of Brazil; Franco Viteri, Governing Organization of the Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon. The planning committee of the eventChico Viveconsists of Eve Bratman (American University), Janet Chernela (University of Maryland); John Garrison (World Bank), Laura R. Graham (University of Iowa), Christine Halvorson (Rainforest Foundation); Thomas Lovejoy (Heinz Center); Biom Maybury-Lewis (Cambridge Institute for Brazilian Studies), Andrew Miller (Amazon Watch),; Andrew Revkin (New York Times), and Gomercindo Rodrigues (attorney, Acre, Brazil); Linda Rabben (American University/Rainforest Foundation) is the conference organizer. Location: American University School of International Service, 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW. Contacts: Treici Schwengber treicibs@gmail.com. Notes: Media interviews, please contact Susan Tonassi at 626 487 9681 or stonassi@ bumesscommunications.com

GEORGETOWN LAW – CONSUMER SYMPOSIUM – 9 a.m. – 5:35 p.m. The Consumer Law Society at Georgetown University Law Center and Citizen Works present "Making the Fine Print Fair – Consumer Law Symposium," featuring keynote addresses by Edith Ramirez, Chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission, Meredith Fuchs, General Counsel of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and consumer advocate Ralph Nader. Location: Georgetown University Law Center, Gewirz Student Center, 12th Floor, 120 F Street, NW. Notes: Media interested in attending should email mediarelations@law.georgetown.edu.

AEI – ECONOMICS – CORPORATE INCOME TAX – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Major surgery needed: A call for structural reform of the US corporate income tax. Introduction: David Wessel, Brookings Institution. Presenters: Eric Toder, Urban Brookings Tax Policy Center; Alan D. Viard, AEI. Commentators: Pamela Olson, PricewaterhouseCoopers; Martin A. Sullivan, Tax Analysts. Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

U.S. CHAMBER – BRAZILIAN MINISTER OF PORTS – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. U.S. Chambers Brazil-U.S.

Business Council to Host Discussion with Brazilian Minister of Ports – Minister of Ports Antonio Henrique Pinheiro Silveira on the new regulatory framework designed to modernize port infrastructure and logistics in Brazil. During an open discussion, Pinheiro Silveira will explore how this new legal framework, as well as the second phase of Brazils national dredging program, could impact business and investment opportunities in the country. Chamber press contact: Tyler Hernandez – thernandez@uschamber.com. Location: U.S. Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN IMPASSE – 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. The Washington Institute hosts discussion on the current round of negotiations and discuss the future of Israeli-Palestinian peace. What went wrong? How can the obstacles be overcome? Speakers: Dennis Ross, the Institute's William Davidson Distinguished Fellow, served in the Obama Administration as senior director for the central region on the National Security Council; Robert Satloff is the Institute's executive director and Howard P. Berkowitz Chair in U.S. Middle East policy. Location: Washington Institute, 1828 L Street NW, Suite 1050. Contacts: RSVP 202-452-0677. Notes: Media wishing to cover the event with cameras should call 202-230-9550.

INTEGRATED CARE – 10 a.m. "Benefits of Integrated Care." The American Psychiatric Association brings together a diverse group of leaders in Washington, D.C., for a special breakfast and roundtable discussion hosted by the American Psychiatric Association on the promise of integrated behavioral and primary care models. Michael F. Hogan, PhD, Former Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health will provide keynote remarks. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Caroline Campbell, ccampbell@gymr.com, 202-745-5062

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS – PUBLIC ACCESS – 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Congressional Data Coalition Launches to Strengthen Public Online Access to Legislative Process. Witnesses: Daniel Schuman, Policy Director, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW); Director, Congressional Data Coalition (opening remarks) Jim Harper, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; Global Policy Counsel, Bitcoin Foundation; (Moderator); Steve Dwyer, Senior Policy Advisor and Digital Director, Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer; Kirsten Gullickson, Senior Systems Analyst, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; Nick Schaper, Senior Vice President, Engage; former Director of Digital Media, Speaker John Boehner; Josh Tauberer, Founder, Govtrack.us. Location: 1310 Longworth. Contacts: Derrick Crowe 202.408.5565 (dcrowe@citizensforethics.org).

LANTOS COMMISSION – INDIA – 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. "The Plight of Religious Minorities in India." Witnesses: Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, Vice Chair, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; John Sifton, Asia Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch; Robin Phillips, Executive Director, The Advocates for Human Rights; John Dayal, Member, National Integration Council, Government of India. Location: 2322 Raybum. Notes: For any questions, please contact the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission at 202-225-3599 or tlhrc@mail.house.gov.

FPI- AFGHANISTAN – CONFERENCE CALL – 11 a.m. The Foreign Policy Initiative holds Conference Call: Is Afghanistan Ready for April 5th Elections? Participants: David S. Sedney, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia; Hamid Arsalan, Program Officer, Middle East and North Africa, National Endowment for Democracy; Robert Zarate, Policy Director, Foreign Policy Initiative. Contacts: Questions in advance – info@foreignpolicyi.org. Ryan Richardson rrichardson@foreignpolicyi.org (202-360-6959)

WORLD HEALTH DAY – 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. A press briefing on a "call to action to step up the fight against vector-borne diseases in the Americas." Participants will urge international collaboration to control the threats from these diseases. With Dr. Tom Frieden, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Rear Adm. Tim Ziemer, U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator; Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, Secretary for Health Surveillance of Brazil; Dr. Fenton Ferguson, Minister of Health of Jamaica; Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, Director, PAHO/WHO. Location: PAHO/WHO headquarters, 525 23rd St. NW. Contacts: Donna Eberwine-Villagran, eberwind@paho.org, 202-974-3122

DOE – JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH – 11:30 a.m. The Department of Education celebrates Jazz Appreciation Month Celebration wth a Jazz Performance Orchestrated by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. Speakers: The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Educator; Dr. J.B. Dyas Jazz Recording Artist, Trumpeter and Educator; Terell Stafford Newarks Arts High School Jazz Combo; Acting General Counsel Phil Rosenfelt, U.S. Department of Education. Location: U.S. Department of Education, LBJ Building (Auditorium), 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.

Contacts: Press Office press@ed.gov ((202) 401-1576)

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION – PCAST SPECTRUM – 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. "Implementing the PCAST Spectrum Sharing Report: A Citizens Broadband Service and Beyond." Featured Speakers: Jason Furman, Chair, President's Council of Economic Advisors; John Leibovitz, Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Spectrum Advisor to the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; Craig Mundie, Member, President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and Senior Advisor to the CEO, Microsoft Corporation; Mark Gorenberg, Member, President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and Founder and Managing Director, Zetta Venture Partners; Milo Medin, Vice President of Access Services, Google Inc., and Invited Expert, PCAST. Location: 1899 L Street NW, Suite 400. Contacts: Kirsten Holtz, holtz@newamerica.org, 202-735-2806

DISASTERS AND DISPLACEMENT – Disasters and Displacement: Challenges, Solutions and Linkages. Moderator: Elizabeth Ferris, Senior Fellow and Co-Director, Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, The Brookings Institution. Panelists: Chaloka Beyani, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, Co-Director, Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, Brookings Institution; Ambassador Claude Wild, Head of Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Switzerland; Walter Kdlin, Nonresident Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, Envoy, Chairmanship of the Nansen Initiative; Jane McAdam, Nonresident Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, Director, Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law. Location: The Brookings Institution, Saul/Zilkha Rooms, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW. Contacts: 202.797.6105

CUA KARL HERZFELD MEMORIAL LECTURE – 4 p.m. "From New Jersey to Stockholm and the Beginning of the Universe. The 33rd Annual Karl Herzfeld Memorial Lecture will feature John C. Mather, 2006 Nobel laureate in physics and project scientist for the James Webb Space Telescope at the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Mathers talk is titled "From New Jersey to Stockholm and the Beginning of the Universe. For more information, visit physics.cua.edu or call 202-319-5315. Location: The Catholic University of America, Karl Herzfeld Auditorium in Hannan Hall (Room 108), 620 Michigan Ave., N.E.

MLK MEMORIAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL – 7 p.m. The Memorial Foundation, Inc., the builders of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, will host a candlelight vigil to honor and remember the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. Remarks, prayers and a participatory song will honor Dr. Kings legacy. The event will conclude with a wreath laying at the Monuments Stone of Hope. Speakers to include: Vincent Gray, Mayor of the District of Columbia; Bob Vogel, National Park Service Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks; Robert Stanton, Sr. Advisor to the Secretary of the Department of Interior Sally Jewel; The Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins, Senior Pastor to the Historic 19th Street Baptist Church, Washington, DC; Jeff Johnson, Columnist; Harry E. Johnson, Sr., President and CEO, Friends of the Memorial Foundation. Contact: llee@thememorialfoundation.org 202-737-5420. Location: Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, 1964 Independence Avenue SW.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPLES – DUNCAN – 7 p.m. Secretary Duncan will deliver remarks at the National Association of Secondary School Principals National Assistant Principal of the Year Program Awards Gala. Location: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Ballroom ABCD, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Va. Contacts: Press Office press@ed.gov ((202) 401-1576)

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "Well, Chris Christie. What a guy... He closes, allegedly closes, down the George Washington Bridge. Everybody goes crazy. There's investigations, there's subpoenas, and he says, 'I'll handle this. I'm going to investigate myself.' So, he investigates himself. He finds out that he, in fact, is innocent. He came up with a classic defense – 'If the pants don't fit you must acquit.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Now, nation, everybody knows I'm a huge fan of the five conservative Justices on the Supreme Court. They're like a judicial version of 'One Direction' in that all their rulings go in one direction. But two years ago, I was betrayed by the cute one, Chief Justice John Roberts, because, in an act of judas-prudence, he voted

to uphold Obamacare, and that broke my heart. And even worse, under Obamacare, I am covered for cardiac breakage."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to the Supreme Court's decision on campaign contribution limits.] "Now, the case in question is McCutcheon v. FEC, and in a 5-4 decision, the court eliminated the $123,200 cap on the total amount you can donate, which is great for all of us, if by 'us' you mean the 591 people who gave the maximum allowable donation in 2012. And if you're not one of us, you really should be."

Jimmy Fallon: "The big news is that House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan just released his budget proposal for 2015 and a lot of people are criticizing it. For example, during a speech yesterday, President Obama referred to the budget as a 'stink-burger' and a 'mean-wich.' Ryan called Obama immature, while Chris Christie called to see if they had any more of those 'stink-burgers' or 'mean-wiches.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The Russian government just confirmed that Vladimir Putin has finalized his divorce from his wife of 30 years. You can tell Putin's depressed, because today he invaded a Haagen-Dazs factory."

Jimmy Fallon: "Putin is out there dating again and you can tell he's single because he's already working on his pickup lines. First, there's, 'Do your legs hurt? Because you've been running from my military all night.' Next we have, 'Is your father a baker? Because I would wait in breadline for three days for you.' And then here's the last one, 'Are you an angel? Because I thought I had you killed months ago.'"

Seth Meyers: "Unfortunately, I feel bad that I have to start us off tonight with a little bit of sad news. I'm afraid the Kremlin announced yesterday that Vladimir Putin and his wife have officially divorced. Yeah. Over their 30-year marriage, the couple shared two daughters, several homes, and one laugh."

Seth Meyers: "On tomorrow's 'Today' show, former President George W. Bush will unveil 24 portraits he's painted of world leaders. This is true, and if the 'Today' show likes them, they'll put them up on their refrigerator."

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Briefing Materials for Monday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Apr 4, 2014 at 3:02 PM
To: [redacted]ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are your briefing materials for Monday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 8. These have been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

7 attachments [redacted]

- **4 7 14_1pm_Meeting with Citizens Coal Council.pdf** 35K
- **4 7 14_215pm_Internal Greater Sage Grouse Briefing.pdf** 408K
- **4 7 14_1015am_Internal Prep for the President's Interagency Task Force (PITF) to Monitor and Combat Trafficking.pdf** 39K
- **4 7 14_1015am_TALKING POINTS Internal Prep for the President's Interagency Task Force (PITF) to Monitor and Combat Trafficking.docx** 20K
- **4 8 14_1230pm_Lunch with OPM Director Katherine Archuleta.pdf** 16K
- **4 8 14_1130am_Meet and Greet with Doug Leen and Brian Maebius.pdf** 23K
- **4 8 14_10am_Internal Discussion on Industry Day.pdf** 33K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL GREATER SAGE GROUSE BRIEFING

DATE: April 7, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 2:15PM – 3:15PM
FROM: James Lyons, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals
Michael Bean, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Sarah Greenberger, Senior Advisor to the Secretary (202)219-2140

PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the status of Greater Sage Grouse (GSG) planning efforts, provide you with an update on key activities, and provide relevant Colorado Trip background information. This memo provides an update on the status of the Department's work on GSG conservation strategy including: (1) progress on key issues/activities since January; (2) an update on key activities over the next 3 months; and (3) a potential opportunity to address make an important announcement and address key issues at the WGA summer meeting on June 9-11 in Colorado Springs, CO.

DISCUSSION

Progress Since January

BLM, FWS, and the Forest Service (FS) continue to work together to improve understanding of and help revise the draft sage grouse conservation strategies embodied in the remaining 14 subregional plans developed by the two land management agencies (the Lander plan has been essentially completed and is awaiting release). In total, these plans will revise or amend 98 BLM regional management plans (RMPs) and 21 FS land and resource management plans (LRMPs).

The BLM has issued – and the comment periods have closed on – all of their draft plans. In addition, the FWS has commented on each of the drafts providing their assessment – in writing and through the creation of so-called "stop light matrices"-- of the extent to which each draft plan addresses threats to the GSG.

The BLM, FWS, and FS convened two "Federal family meetings" to review the draft plans and discuss the FWS comments on the plans. These meetings revealed that the BLM state directors sometimes approached the same issues in different ways. For example, some draft plans left areas with low potential for mineral resource development open, while other plans closed such areas, reflecting different responses to a perceived low risk.

The meetings also made clear that there was still confusion between the agencies on how BLM planning actions translate into protection on the ground. One important outcome of these meetings was the recognition of the need to create a common vocabulary for land use allocations and further clarity regarding how individual plans were developed. To address this issue, BLM

has decided to write a narrative description of the conservation strategy reflected in each plan and how it addresses the threats affecting each population as described in the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) report.

Through the family meetings, BLM, FS, and FWS leadership identified issues that remain to be resolved (and are currently being discussed). These issues include:

- Land use allocations, definitions, and descriptions (e.g., for oil and gas, minerals, solar and wind energy development, transmission and pipeline rights of way);
- Disturbance caps (i.e., how much land disturbance will be permitted in each PAC or population and how is disturbance defined);
- Mitigation;
- Monitoring;
- Adaptive management; and
- Fire (prevention and post-fire restoration).

Key Activities over the Next Three Months

Metrics for Assessing Conservation Efforts

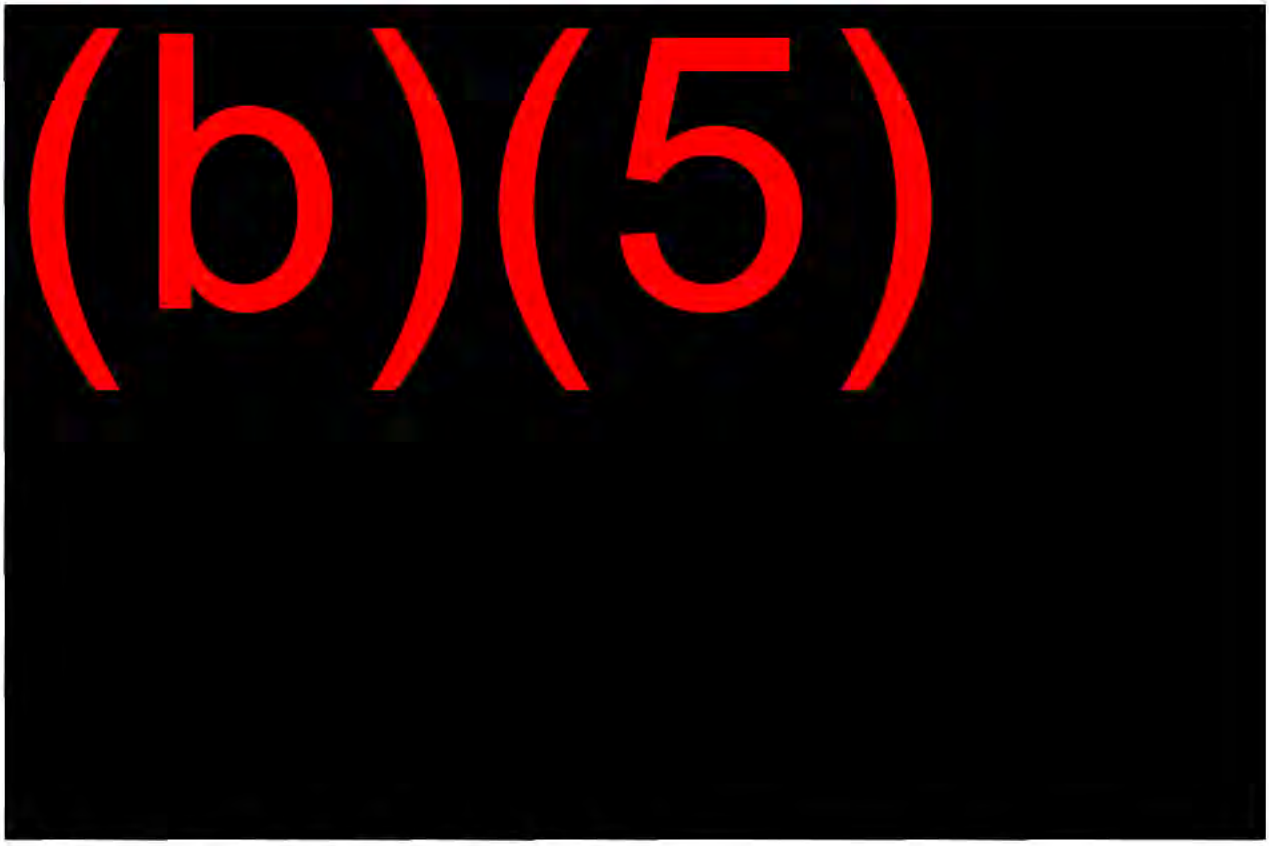
The FWS has led an effort, in collaboration with the states, to develop a common set of metrics for measuring conservation actions in response to COT-identified threats across the range of the SGS. Efforts are continuing to bring closure to this discussion and agree on the key metrics to be used. FWS is working with USGS to provide a geospatial display of the conservation efforts captured by these metrics.

Resolution of Identified Issues

Bureau and departmental staff continue to meet to resolve the issues identified above. Another meeting is scheduled for this week. Any remaining issues will be resolved by the agency leadership.

Finalizing Plans





An Opportunity at the WGA meeting in mid-June

The WGA summer meeting will occur June 9-11 in Colorado Springs, CO. The main focus of the meeting will be on water and fire issues. Mike Conner has been invited to discuss water management issues at the meeting. You spoke at the WGA winter meeting in Las Vegas and co-convened a meeting with the Governors to discuss the status of the collaborative GSG conservation efforts over lunch. You could build on that discussion.

Opportunities to consider include:



(b)(5) [redacted]

ATTACHMENTS

- Grand Junction, CO, Daily Sentinel article from March 28, 2014: "Hickenlooper: Bird listing ominous"

- Cars

Search

Brews and Cruise Festival

Gran Fondo Bike Ride
Beer Garden
Street Dance
Festival

Hickenlooper: Bird listing ominous

By Gary Harmon
Friday, March 28, 2014

A listing of the prairie chicken as threatened bodes ill for efforts on the West Slope to forestall similar listings for the Gunnison and greater sage-grouse, Gov. John Hickenlooper said Friday.

On the other hand, Hickenlooper told the Club 20 board of directors on Friday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell seemed to have been influenced by the cooperation she saw in Moffat County when she earlier this year visited a ranch managed to preserve the greater sage-grouse.

"She walked away very impressed by what we are doing with the sage-grouse," Hickenlooper said to an audience that has said listing the grouse species as threatened or endangered could harm local economies as well as ultimately boomerang on efforts to preserve the bird.

Hickenlooper spoke in the Colorado Mesa University Center.

Jewell, who closed a town hall meeting in Craig to the press, was trying to encourage debate by doing so, Hickenlooper said.

"She in no way was trying to close things off," he said. "She wasn't trying to be evil or anything."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency of the Interior Department that Jewell heads, is considering the status of both birds.

The Gunnison variety, the smaller of the two birds, is further along in the process and has been the subject for decades of cooperative conservation efforts in 11 counties that involve local governments, landowners and others.

That effort might keep the Gunnison sage-grouse from being listed, he said.

If not, the state would file an amicus brief in any court challenge to a listing, Hickenlooper said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service on Thursday listed the prairie chicken as threatened, but there had been no cooperative effort to help that bird as there has been with preserving the grouse, Hickenlooper said.

The spring meeting of Club 20 continues today in the university center.

BISON CONNECT

Weekly Look Ahead

Iacobucci, Francis <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov> Sun, Apr 6, 2014 at 7:09 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Attached is the weekly scheduling look ahead for tomorrow's 8:30am. Highlighted are (1) important items for the week (2) items you have requested follow-up on, and (3) bigger items scheduled for the next 30 days.

Have a great night.

Booch

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Scheduling - Weekly Look-Ahead

Week of April 7, 2014

Monday		
External:	1:00pm:	Meeting with Citizen's Coal Council (60 minutes)
Comms:	3:30pm:	SIPI Commencement Address Discussion (60 minutes)
Other:	2:15pm:	Internal Greater Sage Grouse Briefing (60 minutes)

Tuesday		
External:	11:30am:	Courtesy Visit with DOI Museum Artists (20 minutes)
	3:15pm:	President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking (75 minutes)
Comms:	Sisseton Cooperative Agreement Announcement	
Other:	12:30pm:	Lunch with Katherine Archuleta (60 minutes)

Wednesday		
External:	9:00am:	Meeting with Northern California Representatives (60 minutes)
	11:00am:	Remarks at the 75th Anniversary of Marian Anderson's Concert Event (45 minutes)
	1:30pm:	Conservation Group Leaders Meeting on Mitigation Report (50 minutes)
	5:30pm:	Call with Secretary Pritzker regarding the Restore Council (15 minutes)
Comms:	2:30pm:	National Wildfire Strategy Press Call (30 minutes)
Other:	3:00pm:	Meet and Greet with Point Arena Students (30 minutes)

Thursday		
External:	12:00pm:	Courtesy Visit with Peter Goldmark (30 mins)
	2:00pm:	Principals Meeting on Climate and Energy (60 mins)
	6:30pm:	Remarks at the TRCP BBQ
Comms:	Mitigation Report	
Other:	N/A	

Friday		
External:	N/A	
Comms:	N/A	
Other:	8:00am:	Visit to NCTC for the USFWS Director's Forum and Meeting

Next 30 days

April 12	National Youth Leadership Council Day of Service
April 14	Meeting with Assistant Secretaries and Bureau Directors
	Internal Prep for White House Council on Native American Affairs
April 17	BIE Commencement Address in Albuquerque (Additional Prep set for April 15)
April 18	Klamath Signing Ceremony in Oregon (Mike Connor will <u>not</u> participate)
April 19	National Park Week kickoff in Oregon (Jon Jarvis will participate)
April 24	Tribal Summit in Washington
April 25	Kokanee Salmon Release with USFWS in Washington
April 28	Youth MOU Signing in Minnesota

April 30	Cabinet Ladies Dinner
May 1	White House Council on Native American Affairs Principals Meeting on Indian Education
May 3	White House Correspondents Association Dinner

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, April 7, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Apr 7, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL DISCUSSES CLIMATE CHANGE REMARK, FRACKING REGULATIONS. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/6, 705) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Thursday at a House Natural Resources Committee budget hearing that "agency employees face no 'litmus test' for their views on global warming but argued that anyone who has visited federal lands will see that climate change is real." She "defended a speech she delivered last July to Interior employees in which she said, 'I hope there are no climate change deniers in the Department of Interior'" and "invited any skeptics to view the impacts of droughts, wildfires, storms and coastal erosion on federal lands." Jewell said "her remarks were taken out of context and that she also said in the speech that her visits to Interior lands and waters make it 'very difficult' to 'deny that climate change is going on.'"

The FuelFix (4/5, 7K) reports that Jewell told lawmakers that "regulators are still sifting through more than a million public comments on a proposal to stiffen mandates for oil and gas drilling on public land, which suggests the final regulation could be a long way off." Jewell said the BLM is "combing through the comments lodged on the proposal and making progress in addressing concerns with the rule." She added that "she expects a final proposal before the end of the year."

Additional coverage of the hearing was provided by the Durango (CO) Herald (4/5, 28K).

KING COVE ROAD DISPUTE HAS LONG ROOTS. Politico (4/4, Restuccia, 73K) reports that "in the fall of 1998, Frank Murkowski took to the Senate floor to make an impassioned plea for the authority to build a one-lane gravel road from the isolated southwestern Alaska village of King Cove to a neighboring community with an all-weather airport." Now, "more than 15 years later, his daughter, Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, is still fighting for the road, insisting it's the only viable way to ensure that King Cove's 965 largely native Alaskan residents have access to emergency medical care."

King Cove Road Decision Criticized. The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (4/6, 44K) editorializes that Jewell "apparently doesn't understand Alaska." It also argues that "the issue of the King Cove road should be seen as a statewide issue and not just an issue for the small community in the Aleutians East Borough," because "if a misplaced emphasis can happen there, it can happen in the Interior and elsewhere." The paper urges Alaska's state and federal officeholders "to keep up the pressure on the Interior secretary and even the president to get a reconsideration of the road decision."

In an editorial, the Alaska Journal of Commerce (4/6, 14K) calls the decision "reckless." The paper argues that "the opposition to the King Cove road is not because Jewell or anybody else really believes it is going to destroy waterfowl habitat." The editorial asserts that "it's not about conservation; it's about preservation of a precedent that no road has ever been built through a national wildlife refuge."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the Alaska Journal of Commerce (4/6, 14K) and the Alaska Dispatch (4/6, 7K).

ILLINOIS WETLAND PROJECT AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT. The AP (4/6) reports that "a northern Illinois environmental group is getting a $50,000 grant to help restore habitat for waterfowl and marsh birds." The article notes that "the funding for the Putnam County project comes from the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission." The Wetlands Initiative applied for the grant for the Oak Ridge Wetland Restoration at Hennepin and Hopper lakes.

SECRETARY JEWELL WELCOMES CHERRY BLOSSOM RUN PARTICIPANTS. WRC-TV Washington (4/7, 312K) reports that "a lack of blooming cherry blossoms did not deter the enthusiasm of the thousands of runners taking part in the 42nd running of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell welcomed 15,000 runners to the National Mall and sounded the horn to start the elite women's and men's races.

INTERIOR OFFICIALS SAYS GUAM LIKELY WON'T BE PAID BIG COMPACT CHECK. The Pacific (GUM)

Daily News (4/5, 61K) reports that "in this era of congressional budget cuts, it's unlikely that the government of Guam will be paid hundreds of millions of dollars for hosting immigrants from the Micronesia region," according to acting Assistant Secretary Lori Faeth, with the Department of the Interior's Insular Affairs section. Faeth said: "The migrants also bring positive things to your community; they are workers, they will be ... leaders, so it's looking from both sides of the equation." Faeth added that the federal government "is certainly fiscally constrained, ... and I certainly don't see an opportunity that Congress is suddenly gonna come up with hundreds of millions of dollars."

CONSERVATION GROUPS CLAIM TWO KEY VICTORIES IN FARM BILL. The AP (4/6) reports that "wildlife and environmental groups are claiming victory for conservation practices in the new farm bill," which includes "two of their top priorities." The bill requires farmers "to use good conservation practices on highly erodible lands and protect wetlands to qualify for crop insurance subsidies," and also "requires 'sodsaver' protections to discourage farmers from plowing up native grasslands in several Plains and Midwest states." The bill also creates a Regional Conservation Partnership Program for resource protection "in areas such as the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River basin and Chesapeake Bay." There are some limitations – $4 billion less for conservation programs overall in 10 years – but otherwise "I think we're going to get a quite a lot of bang for the buck," said Bill Wenzel of the Isaak Walton League America.

REPORT FINDS FIGHTING FIRES CUTS FOREST SERVICE FUNDS FOR OTHER PROGRAMS. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (4/6, 86K) reports that "the escalating costs of fighting wildfires is forcing the Forest Service to raid other programs, including fire prevention work, to make up the difference." The article notes that "a move to treat the most destructive, expensive wildfires as natural disasters, funded through a separate budget, would allow the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to protect the funding for other programs."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CALL TO DEVELOP FERAL CAT POLICY. Additional coverage of the petition sent to the Interior Department asking "the agency to develop a policy for how to deal with the nation's tens of millions of feral cats" was provided by the U-T San Diego (4/5, 648K) and the Summit (CO) Daily News (4/6, 37K).

COOPERATION ON COLORADO RIVER PROGRESS FLOWS TOUTED. In an op-ed for the Arizona Republic (4/6, 1.45M), Sally Jewell, is US Secretary of the Interior, and Juan José Guerra Abud, Mexico's secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, write that "innovative and improved partnerships are the best approach to addressing Colorado River challenges." They note that "last month, the Colorado River began to flow once again toward the Gulf of California as part of an unprecedented agreement to improve the riparian environment of the river and the Colorado River Delta." However, they write that "even more important than the riparian-area restoration and scientific studies that will result from this effort is that the action is part of a new and historic agreement between Mexico and the United States."

WPOST CALLS FOR NEW RULES ON METHANE GAS EMISSIONS. The Washington Post (4/5, 4.22M) editorializes that President Obama's recently announced strategy to regulate methane gas emissions is "not perfect," and fails to account for possible necessary improvements to natural gas transportation networks, even though some are known to be "extremely leaky." The Post argues that new rules "tightening up drilling and transportation so that less methane escapes on its way from the ground to power plants" are "critical to making natural gas a decent alternative to coal in the emissions-heavy electricity sector."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION URGED TO CONSIDER ALL USERS FOR ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT PLAN. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (4/6, 59K) editorializes that "the visit by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in January to tour the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument suggests the Obama administration is looking seriously about using its powers under the Antiquities Act to declare the monument." The paper asserts that "a national monument, with provisions for grazing, law enforcement and flood control, would provide permanent protection for and draw renewed attention to some of our most prized areas." In conclusion, it urges "the president to act, but also to ensure that any designation include clear provisions that allow for machinery needed for flood control, watershed maintenance and ranching."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS SUFFERS $12 BILLION MAINTENANCE BACKLOG. WJLA-TV Washington (4/6, 118K) reports that the NPS has "a $12 billion maintenance backlog, but according to its conservation spokesperson John Garder, 'the National Park Service is a huge return on investment,' and that 'every dollar invested returns $10 in economic activity.'"

PANEL REJECTS DESIGN FOR EISENHOWER MEMORIAL. The AP (4/6) reports that "a federal commission that oversees plans for monuments in the nation's capital voted Thursday to reject the current design for a memorial honoring President Dwight D. Eisenhower, sending the concept back to its architects for revisions." The National Capital Planning Commission "voted 7-3 to endorse its staff's report opposing the current design." The article notes that "the objections focus primarily on the scale and placement of columns that would hold large stainless steel tapestries framing a memorial park honoring Eisenhower."

MAINE LAWMAKERS HOPS TO SAVE BILL TARGETING QUIMBY'S EFFORT FOR A NATIONAL PARK. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (4/5, 166K) reports that state Sen. Doug Thomas "hopes to rescue legislation put forward by Gov. Paul LePage targeting the Quimby family's efforts to create a northern Maine national park." Thomas said, "I am sad. I am disappointed. It is an important bill and we need to make people understand how important it is that the state of Maine has some say when land is acquired by the federal government. Once it is acquired, we lose all jurisdiction. If they don't want us to snowmobile, hunt, or fish on that property, that is the end of it."

ROAD REPAIRS TO BEGIN IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK. The AP (4/6) reports that "crews plan to begin making emergency road repairs in the north unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park." Officials say that "several wet years have resulted in a small but substantial road failure and continued erosion of a major slope onto the roadway on the north unit's scenic drive." According to the article, "repairs will include excavating the entire width of the road above the closure gate at the Caprock Coulee parking area and rebuilding the embankment slope."

SHARPSHOOTERS KILL 156 DEER IN CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK . The AP (4/6) reports that the NPS says "government sharpshooters killed 156 white-tailed deer in the fifth year of a herd-reduction program at Catoctin Mountain Park near Thurmont." Park Superintendent Mel Poole said that the "tally is close to the agency's goal of culling 160 deer from the herd."

HEAVY RAINFALL AROUND OHIO PROMPTS FLOOD WARNINGS. The AP (4/6) reports that "flooding concerns in northeast Ohio led the National Park Service to temporarily close the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Cuyahoga (ky-uh-HOH'-guh) Valley National Park."

NEW GLACIER CONCESSIONAIRE PREPARES FOR SEASON. The AP (4/6, Mann) reports that "gearing up for a busy summer in Glacier National Park in just a matter of a few months has been a big challenge for Marc Ducharme, but being the general manager of the Glacier Division for Xanterra Parks and Resorts also comes with promising opportunities." Ducharme said, "It was a great career opportunity for me, a big step up. The sky is the limit. We have all kinds of different businesses." Ducharme was "brought on board in December, and the few months since then have been spent preparing to operate five lodging facilities in the park, along with retail, food and beverage outlets and the park's iconic fleet of red buses."

Also providing coverage on Xanterra is the Ravalli (MT) Republic (4/7, 19K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YELLOWSTONE FIGHTING ONLINE SUPERVOLCANO RUMORS. Additional coverage of the rumors generated by a video showing bision fleeing a possible explosion of a "supervolcano" in Yellowstone National Parkw was provided by the AP (4/6) and the Washington Post (4/4, 4.22M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GRAND CANYON MULLING BISON ISSUE. Additional coverage that Grand Canyon National Park managers are working on a plan to manage bison was provided by the Arizona Republic (4/6, 1.45M).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR KORNZE LAYS OUT FIVE AGENCY PRIORITIES. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/6, 705) reports that Neil Kornze, the BLM's principal deputy director was prepares to "lay out five priority items that BLM wants to focus attention on in the coming year" during his appearance before House appropriators to defend the agency's proposed fiscal 2015 budget. Among the priorities for the agency are a non-profit foundation, a fee system to cover BLM's oil and gas inspection and enforcement activities, fertility control for wild horses and burros, an updated online data and mapping system, and Sage-Grouse habitat conservation. Celia Boddington, BLM spokeswoman in Washington, D.C., ssaid, "It's our overarching vision of some of the areas we want to focus attention. These areas provide focus on some of the key areas of where we want to go as an agency."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (4/7).

BLM RESPONDS TO IRON COUNTY ULTIMATUM. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (4/4, 48K) reports that "after receiving an ultimatum from the Iron County Commission this week about the confiscation of a Nevada rancher's cattle," officials from the Utah office of the BLM "responded Friday with short note promising to work to develop a plan that will remove wild horses off the western range." Utah BLM State Director Juan Palma, "who met with the Iron County commissioners Thursday, sent an email to Commissioner Dave Miller stating he is committed to working with the county in developing a plan to reduce the number of wild horses currently on the west desert in Iron County." Palma wrote, "Both the BLM and Iron County have a shared interest in the well-being of the range and all who rely in its health, additionally, our shared interest in the well-being of sustainable populations of our wild horses. With these shared interests this email is to state that Utah BLM will work with Iron County to more fully develop the concept plan we discussed yesterday at the meeting."

The St. George (UT) News (4/5, 3K) reports that Iron County officials and the BLM "reached a resolution Friday concerning the county's ongoing feral horse problems." According to the article, "while the BLM will need time to formalize things on its end in relation to dealing with the feral horses and burros, Iron County has opted to go ahead with its original plan of action."

Also reporting on the story are the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (4/6, 470K) and the St. George (UT) News (4/4, 3K).

BLM BEGINS ROUNDUP OF CATTLE. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (4/4, 48K) reports that "a host of federal employees — including Bureau of Land Management (BLM) law enforcement and other personnel, National Park Service representatives, private contractors and others — have spread out across about 600,000 acres surrounding Mesquite in preparation to impound between 500 and 900 cattle owned by Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy." Kirsten Cannon, BLM Southern District public affairs specialist, said the BLM is "withholding the exact number of federal authorities participating in the cattle roundup or the estimated cost of the effort, but Bundy said both are sizable."

The AP (4/6) reports that Bundy said, "These people are thieves. I haven't even started fighting yet. You think I'm going to lay down and just give up. I'm going to fight for the Constitution and state sovereignty."

Meanwhile, NBC News (4/7, 7.5M) reports that "a son of Mesquite rancher Cliven Bundy has been arrested by Bureau of Land Management rangers." Dave Bundy was "arrested about 4:30 p.m. Sunday as he was in a car parked along State Route 170 near Mesquite." Bundy said, "He was there to do some filming when about 11 federal agents pulled up and arrested him. They said he was outside of the First Amendment area and they took him down. We don't know where he is now."

Also reporting on the story are the Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/6, 437K) and KLAS-TV Las Vegas (4/6, 36K).

WILD HORSES POSE CHALLENGES FOR BLM. The Santa Fe New Mexican (4/6, 58K) reports on the challenges posed by wild horses. Tom Gorey, spokesman for the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program said, "There's no quick fix. There's no magical solution waiting to be had or waiting in the wings. We wish there were. We wish there was a fertility control method that would resolve things." Gorey acknowledged, "we're in a tough situation and Congress needs to be involved. People with constructive ideas need to be involved."

BLM HOLDS MEETINGS FOR INPUT ON LAND USE PLAN IN THE MANCOS AND GALLUP PLAY AREAS. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (4/6, 46K) reports that the BLM "wants to amend its resource management plan in northwest New Mexico to better accommodate a potential oil boom in the Mancos Shale and Gallup Sandstone formations." The BLM is "hosting a series of scoping meetings in northwest New Mexico, and the first one was Wednesday night at San Juan College." The scoping period for amendments to the plan ends May 28.

BLM ASSISTANT FIELD MANAGER RECEIVES SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT AWARD. The Billings (MT) Gazette (4/6, 174K) reports that BLM Assistant Field Manager Mike Phillips has "received the prestigious Trail Boss Award from the Society for Range Management." The award recognizes Phillips for "his outstanding, long-term contributions and promotion of the art and science of range management."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE WANTS CONGRESS TO WORK WITH ADMINISTRATION ON ESA IMPROVEMENTS. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/6, 705) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe told lawmakers on Thursday that "Congress should work with the administration to update the Endangered Species Act, but he expressed skepticism that such an exercise in bipartisanship was possible." Ashe told the House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, "I believe it is appropriate for Congress to look at the law. My fear is that in this environment, it's very difficult to do that because taking up a law like the Endangered Species Act requires building consensus around objective, and I'm not certain there is consensus around objective." At the hearing, Ashe said "his agency was willing to work with the panel on reforming the act on a 'bipartisan basis.'" He said, "I think we could find some opportunities to make incremental improvements."

2013 NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOLF POPULATION NUMBERS RELEASED. The Denver Post (4/6, Noon, 940K) reports that a report on the 2013 Northern Rocky Mountain (NRM) Gray Wolf Population numbers suggests wolf populations have recovered to a point that they no longer need to be protected by the Endangered Species List. As of December 31, 2013, there were at least 78 breeding pairs and 1,691 wolves in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Washington and Oregon. The wolf population remains well above the recovery levels identified by FWS and partner biologists in the recovery plan.

Also reporting on the story are the AP (4/6), KCSG-TV St. George, UT (4/6, 43), and KSTU-TV Salt Lake City (4/4, 42K).

In an editorial, the Denver Post (4/7, 940K) trusts the FWS to intervene, as it promises, "if relisting is ever warranted."

GROUPS SUE OVER BULL TROUT RECOVERY PLAN. The AP (4/6) reports that "conservation groups have filed a lawsuit demanding" the FWS "finish developing recovery plans for bull trout, a threatened species that has gone 15 years without a blueprint for saving it from extinction." Michael Garrity of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies says the agency "produced draft recovery plans about 10 years ago, but has not finished any of them." FWS spokesman Brent Lawrence says "the agency plans to offer new draft recovery plans this year."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (4/6).

FWS SAYS PROPOSED MINE IN MONTANA WON'T HARM THREATENED SPECIES. The AP (4/6) reports that "a silver and copper mine proposed for northwestern Montana won't harm grizzly bears or other threatened or endangered species in the area, federal wildlife officials have found." The FWS on Monday "issued its final biological opinion on the proposed Montanore Silver-Copper Project about 17 miles south of Libby." The FWS said the proposed mine by Mines Management Inc. "could lead to the loss of one federally protected grizzly bear." However, "it said required mitigation – including the purchase of 5,000 acres of grizzly habitat at risk for development – will make up for the loss."

PALM BEACH COUNTY MINE EXPANSION COULD KILL PROTECTED SNAKES. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (4/4, 779K) reports that "the expansion of a rock mine in southwestern Palm Beach County could kill up to a dozen federally protected eastern indigo snakes, the longest native snake in North America, according to a

wildlife agency report." According to the article, "the Star Ranch is seeking permission from the Army Corps of Engineers to expand its limestone mine by 1.4 square miles to produce construction materials for roads, Everglades restoration and other projects." The FWS says the project could "crush indigo snakes, their nests and eggs," killing up to 12 of the 23 that may live there.

GRASSROOTS EFFORT COULD REVIVE GRAND KANKAKEE MARSH. The AP (4/6, Bierschenk) reports that the FWS "once hoped a refuge in Northwest Indiana might provide some additional habitat for such birds and other local wildlife, but the proposal was viewed as an unwelcome intrusion by some deep-rooted residents of the area who have turned much of the wetlands into productive farmland." According to the article, "restoration of the restoration effort may depend on a grassroots effort and changed attitudes by both sides." Tom Larson, chief of the division of conservation planning for the FWS, said, "We definitely have not dropped our interest in the area."

FATE OF GREERS FERRY NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY UP IN THE AIR. The Heber Springs (AR) Sun Times (4/4, 17K) reports that "the fate of the Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery is a topic of discussion once again." Petitions have been circulated "for locals to express their concerns about the possible closing of the Hatchery." The article notes that "Arkansas State Senator for District 19, Missy Irvin, collected around 500 signatures of support and the petitions will be sent to Arkansas' Congressional delegation."

LA QUINTA URGED TO BUILD FENCE TO PROTECT BIGHORN. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (4/5, 111K) reports that "three bighorn ram deaths and regular golf course sightings at SilverRock, PGA West and The Quarry of La Quinta have spurred state and federal wildlife agencies to demand an 8-foot-high fence be built within two years near the base of the mountain range to keep the sheep off the courses and away from predators and unnatural plants." The article notes that "the fence could cost as much as $2 million." Jane Hendron, spokeswoman for the FWS, said, "It's like a smorgasbord — the lush green grass — but that poses risk. We don't want sheep to get used to people. Sheep need to be wild. It's healthier for them. It's better for them."

FWS SEEKS COMMENTS ON RED KNOT PROPOSAL. The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (4/5, 210K) reports that the FWS has opened a comment period on its proposal to list red knots as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The article notes that "during the comment period, which runs through May 19, Fish and Wildlife officials are particularly interested in learning about the public's observations of red knots."

EXOTIC ANIMAL TRAFFICKING THRIVES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. NPR (4/6, Hajek, 519K) reports that "exotic animal trafficking is big business, and Southern California is a hub." FWS agent Erin Dean says "there are many ways to traffic wildlife in Southern California." Dean says "smuggling avenues include LAX, the sixth-busiest airport in the world; the Port of Los Angeles, the busiest port in the nation; and the Mexican border." She said, "Currently we have 207 special agents and 126 wildlife inspectors around the country. So we're a very small law enforcement agency with a big job."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ISLAND NIGHT LIZARD DELISTING. Additional coverage of the delisting of the island night lizard was provided by the Christian Science Monitor (4/6, Swan, 566K).

LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN LISTING CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Amarillo (TX) Globe News (4/5, 133K), Dennis Palmitier writes that the listing of the lesser prairie-chicken "places a damper on the region's two most important drivers of our economy — agribusiness and oil/gas." Palmitier claims that the FWS is "a classic example of federal government overreach and immense power — made all the more despicable by individuals with agendas contrary to the well-being of their true employer, the American taxpayer." He concludes that "something is inherently wrong when an animal's wellbeing is more important than mankind."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND POWER RECEIVES "DOUBLE BLOW," BUT MAY STILL SEE TAX CREDIT RENEWED. Bloomberg News (4/6, Martin, 2.76M) reports that wind power recent received a "double blow": cheap natural gas "unleashed" by the fracking "revolution" and the "death" of the Federal wind Production Tax Credit that made it the "most competitive of all renewable energy sources in the US." Still, Bloomberg News reports that the Production Tax

Credit is part of a package of 50 lapsed tax breaks the Senate Finance Committee "agreed on April 4 to extend." Bloomberg News casts the credit as appealing to Democrats and Republicans alike "in places that have strong wind resources such as South Dakota and Texas, as well as those with turbine and blade factories," but notes that the Republicans in the House may block the tax credit ahead of the November midterm election.

Onshore Energy Development:

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE HITS W&T OFFSHORE WITH PENALTY. Politico (4/6, Guillén, 73K) reports that the Office of Natural Resources Revenue has "slapped W&T Offshore with a $2.333 million civil penalty for the knowing or willful submission of inaccurate royalty payments, the agency said Thursday." ONRR said the company was "warned about improper deductions for transportation costs on Gulf of Mexico leases in 2010, but the company continued to make the deduction in the years after."

Also reporting on the story is the Law 360 (4/6, 18K).

SEISMOLOGISTS: OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES MAY BE LINKED TO OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION. Reuters (4/6, Gillam) reports a series of earthquakes in Oklahoma on Saturday have put the state on track for record quake activity in 2014. Some seismologists believe the quakes may be linked to oil and gas work underground, which "can alter pressure points and cause shifts in the earth."

AUTHOR HIGHLIGHTS SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING FRACKING SAFER. In an opinion piece for the Wall Street Journal (4/5, Gold, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Russell Gold, author of "The Boom: How Fracking Ignited the American Energy Revolution and Changed the World," suggests that since fracking will continue whether we "like it or not," steps should be taken to make the process "safer for people and the planet." Gold highlights three suggestions that he deems "eminently reasonable," including stopping methane leaks, implementing more testing procedures to ensure that fracking is not contaminating groundwater, and constructing better gas wells.

Offshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR SAYS SURVEYS FOR ATLANTIC DRILLING COULD BEGIN THIS YEAR. The Hill (4/5, Devaney, 237K) reported in its "E2 Wire" blog that a Tommy Beaudreau, director of the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, said on Friday that the department has received several applications from companies to conduct seismic testing in the Atlantic to determine the feasibility of drilling and what impact it may have on the environment. Beaudreau added that it is possible that the first survey could begin as early as this year.

REPORT: SHELL'S POOR ASSESSMENT, RISK MANAGEMENT CONTRIBUTED TO 2012 ARCTIC RIG GROUNDING. The Hill (4/5, Barron-Lopez, 237K) reported in its "E2 Wire" blog that a new US Coast Guard Report blamed Royal Dutch Shell's "poor assessment and management of risks" for the grounding of one of Shell's Arctic rigs in 2012. The report said that the "single most significant factor" in the grounding was the decision to move the vessel "during the winter in the unique and challenging operating environment of Alaska" in order to avoid state taxes in Alaska.

The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (4/5, 251K) editorializes that the report "gives evidence that Shell is not fully prepared for Arctic operations." Although "all-ahead slow – with unblinking oversight – still makes sense in the long run for Arctic oil and gas exploration," the paper argues that "Shell and any other operators need to make clear that they have both learned and applied the hard-earned lessons of the Kulluk grounding." It concludes that "Coast Guard's Kulluk report provides reason to stop and reassess Arctic operations."

ATLANTIC DRILLING OPPOSED. In an op-ed for the LiveScience (4/6, 612K), Chase Martin, a media relations intern for US Campaigns at Oceana, write that "even after four years, trash from the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster is still washing ashore and devastating coastal environments and communities." He notes that "policymakers, especially many powerful officials in Washington, D.C., are inclined to believe the Gulf has fully recovered and things are more or less back to 'normal,'" and "with the BP disaster still rearing its oily head, the nation could soon be faced with similar disasters." Recently, the BOEM "released a final proposal to allow

controversial seismic airgun blasting for locating oil and gas deposits off the Atlantic coast." Martin urges officials "to consider the BP explosion not merely as an unfortunate accident, but as a reminder and a lesson learned. "

BEINECKE: WE MUSTS DEMAND INVESTMENT IN OIL-SPILL SAFEGUARDS AND CLEAN-UP TECHNOLOGY. In an op-ed in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (4/6, 614K), Natural Resources Defense Council president Frances Beinecke uses the Exxon Valdez and BP Deepwater Horizon oil spills to frame his argument that, in light of Shell Oil's plans to drill in the Arctic Ocean, "our country can learn from experience" to preserve "marine riches for generations to come." Beinecke argues that we must demand Congress enact better safeguards for offshore drilling and that the oil industry invest in better technology to clean up spills.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SEEK TO STOP ROLLING BACK DELTA PROTECTIONS. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (4/6, 206) reports that "a group of environmental organizations says it's time for the Department of Water Resources and the federal government to stop knuckling under to political pressure from farmers in the San Joaquin Valley." In a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, California Natural Resources Agency Secretary John Laird, Commerce Department Secretary Penny Pritzker and California EPA Secretary Matt Rodriguez, the groups said, "Ignoring scientific evidence of potential environmental impacts during the drought due to the political demand of South of Delta agricultural interests, will make it far more difficult to reach an effective long-term solution in the Delta." The letter notes that "state and federal authorities have rolled back environmental protections, citing the need to pump more water out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta."

Also reporting on the story is the Fresno (CA) Business Journal (4/6, 160K).

FEDERAL BIOLOGISTS STUDYING DROUGHT'S IMPACT ON SAN JOAQUIN. The Fresno (CA) Bee (4/5, 352K) reports that over the last few weeks, biologists have "trucked nearly 900 young fall-run salmon to where the Merced River empties into the San Joaquin and reconnects this long river to the Pacific Ocean." Biologists have "scrambled to get a close look at how the river and the fish react to this extreme dry time." Federal biologists Don Portz and Charles Hueth "are studying survival numbers, water temperature and flow, habitat condition, diet of the young fish and other factors involved in the restoration program." Portz said, "This is an important year to learn about the river. We need to see how this looks in a critically dry time."

PLAN FOR PALLID STURGEON PASSAGE ON YELLOWSTONE RIVER UNVEILED. The Billings (MT) Gazette (4/6, 174K) reports that "creating a twisting, 3-mile-long channel around Intake Diversion Dam on the lower Yellowstone River to allow endangered pallid sturgeon and other native fish to swim around the dam would cost an estimated $58.9 million and the moving of more than a million cubic yards of dirt and gravel while adding hundreds of tons of rock to protect the work from flood waters, large chunks of ice and debris." The details are "found in the US Army Corps of Engineers' draft supplement to its 2010 environmental assessment released last week." Jerry Benock, BOR project manager, said in a statement, "This supplemental EA results from an extensive, collaborative effort from the stakeholders and interested parties that have focused their energy on the goal of finding the most acceptable solution that will benefit the pallid sturgeon, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District and the local economy."

BOR MAKES CHARGING STATIONS AVAILABLE AT NEW MELONES RESERVOIR. The Calaveras (CA) Enterprise (4/6, 18K) reports that "New Melones Reservoir is now the site of a groundbreaking effort by the Bureau of Reclamation to test the waters of green energy use." Beginning Tuesday, April 1, the BOR "made two state-of-the-art charging stations available to the public in order to charge electric vehicles that may visit the reservoir." Margaret Gidding, spokeswoman for the bureau, said, "New Melones was proactive in agreeing to take on this project. We asked for two units similar to a pilot project to see how much use (and) interest we get."

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBAL LEADERS CRITICIZE LAND-BUYBACK PROGRAM. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/6, 705) reports that American Indian leaders and House lawmakers on Thursday "criticized the Interior Department for its slow implementation of a multibillion-dollar land deal." At a House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs yesterday, tribal leaders said "they are still waiting for payments more than one year

after the agreement was finalized." At the hearing, Lawrence Roberts, Interior's principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, "cited the program's size and scope in explaining why the settlement hasn't moved any faster." Roberts said, "The department hopes to enter into as many cooperative agreements with tribes as [soon as] possible."

The Nation Sun News (4/6) reports that Rep. Don Young, the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, said "he was open to extending the time-frame for the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations."

LIVESTOCK BREEDER SUING BIA OVER HORSE SEIZURE. The AP (4/6) reports that livestock breeder James Leachman of Billings is suing several officials with the BIA "over the seizure and sale of more than 800 horses that he failed to relocate and care for after he lost his ranch in a foreclosure sale." Leachman filed a complaint in US District Court on Wednesday seeking $2.2 million in damages. Leachman's complaint said the BIA "seized 820 of his horses southeast of Billings in April 2011 and sold them at auction without his consent." The BIA said "it seized the horses because they were trespassing on tribal land."

Also reporting on the story is the Billings (MT) Gazette (4/6, 174K).

SPIRIT LAKE STILL HAS VACANCIES FOR FOUR SOCIAL WORKER POSTS. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (4/6, 10K) reports that "the Spirit Lake social service program still has vacancies for social workers filled by personnel brought in to serve temporary stints." According to Russell McDonald, the tribe's chairman, "social service programs at the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation were taken over by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on Oct. 1, 2012, but the agency has yet to fill four social work slots." To try to fill the positions, the Spirit Lake Tribal Council "recently waived the BIA's American Indian hiring preference, McDonald said."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NAVAJO-GALLUP PROJECT CONTRACT. Additional coverage of the $19.6 million construction contract awarded to build the Tohlakai Pumping Plant was provided by the Indian Country Today Media Network (4/4, 45K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR MAKES FIRST TRANSFER FOR COBELL SCHOLARSHIPS. Additional coverage that Interior Department announced that "quarterly transfers of nearly $580,000 are set to begin this week to the American Indian College Fund" was provided by the Indian Country Today Media Network (4/6, 45K).

Top National News:

OBAMA TO SIGN EXECUTIVE ORDERS ADDRESSING GENDER WAGE GAP. The announcement that on Tuesday, President Obama will sign two executive orders meant to address gender disparities in compensation for Federal contractors did not generate a great deal of national coverage. On Sunday evening, for example, none of the three network newscasts covered the story, while the Washington Post is running an AP (4/7, Kuhnhenn) report inside its A section. What coverage there is this morning emphasizes the political aspect of the gender compensation issue.

According to CNN (4/7, Acosta, Merica, 77.95M), the "executive orders are just as much about politics as policy" because Democrats "feel that equal pay is a winning issue in the 2014 midterm elections." CNN goes on to report that "Democratic strategists...see equal pay as a way to galvanize the base and raise money." In the second-to-last paragraph in an article on the Senate's progress on a jobless benefits extension, the New York Times (4/7, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Democrats "are trying to shift their focus away from issues like unemployment and the minimum wage to matters with broader appeal," including "pay equity, which they will paint not only as a women's issue but as a middle class concern, since so many dual-income homes are affected."

The AP (4/7, Kuhnhenn) reports that the President, "lacking congressional support to raise wages or end gender pay disparities...is again imposing his policies on federal contractors." The AP says that on Tuesday, the President "will sign an executive order Tuesday barring federal contractors from retaliating against employees who discuss their pay with each other," an another "direct[ing] the Labor Department to adopt rules requiring federal contractors to provide compensation data based on sex and race." The AP says the orders are "in

keeping with presidents' tradition of exerting their powers on a fraction of the economy they directly control."

Politico (4/6, Dovere, 73K) noted that the President will sign the executive orders "as Senate Democrats move for a show-vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act – launching Democrats' first large-scale coordinated message effort ahead of this year's midterms." Politico reports that the President "will make a speech calling on Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act." And, according to Politico, Democrats "say their polls and focus groups are showing them that pressing Republicans on their opposition to the bill is quickly ticking up to be one of their most effective negative messages for persuadable voters this year."

Bloomberg News (4/7, Mattingly, 2.76M) reports that "a White House official" says that "while the executive order prohibiting federal contractors from retaliating against employees for discussing pay wouldn't require workers to discuss their pay, it may provide a tool for workers and groups looking to address pay transparency." According to Sam Frizell, in a post for TIME (4/7, Frizell, 24.1M),"the aim...is to make it easier for underpaid women to discover unfair differences in pay." Frizell also notes that "the measures would only apply to federal contractors, not to women in the broader workforce."

The Los Angeles Times (4/7, Parsons, 3.46M) reports that Deborah Vagins, the ACLU's senior legislative counsel and co-chair of the National Paycheck Fairness Coalition, said, "This is a huge victory for the one in five American workers employed by federal contractors," and "we're one step closer to achieving pay equity thanks to this White House." The Times notes that the President "plans...to appear with Lilly Ledbetter, whose suit over pay disparities became the center of a Supreme Court case and then the inspiration for a new law."

According to the Huffington Post (4/6, Bassett, 11.54M), Ledbetter "worked for nearly 20 years at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. before discovering that men in her same job with equal or lesser experience were earning significantly more money than she was." The Huffington Post notes that research from the American Association of University Women has concluded that after having "taken into account factors...including industry, education, college major and location...men get paid 7 percent more than women."

CNN (4/7, Acosta, Merica, 77.95M) quotes an unidentified "White House official" as saying, "If women do not even know that they are underpaid, they cannot take steps to remedy the pay gap." The "White House official" went on to note that Ledbetter "was paid less than her male co-workers for decades without realizing it until someone took a risk and slipped her an anonymous note."

The Hill (4/6, Goad, 237K) notes that Tuesday is "Equal Pay Day," which is "the name given to the point in the year at which an average woman's pay catches up to what a man doing the same job made in the previous year." The Hill also reports that on Sunday, Rep. Laura DeLauro (D-CT) said, "This is not just about women; it is about ensuring families, who are more reliant on women's wages than ever, are not being shortchanged." DeLauro added, "Collecting data is a necessary step if we are to identify and end patterns of pay disparity."

NPR (4/7, Chappell, 519K) reported that in a statement released on Saturday, the RNC said the "misleadingly named" Paycheck Fairness Act will "reduce flexibility in the workplace, and make it far easier to file frivolous lawsuits that line the pockets of trial lawyers." Reuters (4/7, Mason) previews the President's plans for Tuesday under the headline, "Obama To Launch Executive Actions On Equal Pay For Women."

Daily Caller: Women On White House Staff Are Paid 11.8% Less Than Men. Caroline May, in a piece for the Daily Caller (4/6, May, 408K), says that "according to...[an] analysis of '2013 Annual Report to Congress on White House Staff,' the most recent available data on White House pay, the White House paid women an estimated 11.8 percent less than men in 2013." The DC adds that in 2012, the "White House paid women 13 percent less than men — and in 2011, according to the Free Beacon, women were paid 18 percent less."

PRESIDENT, FIRST LADY TO ATTEND MEMORIAL SERVICE AT FT. HOOD WEDNESDAY. ABC World News (4/6, story 3, 1:50, Muir) reported that the President and First Lady "will attend a memorial for victims of the Ft. Hood shooting this week." NBC Nightly News (4/6, story 6, 2:00, Potter, 7.86M) also noted that the President on Wednesday "will return to Fort Hood for a memorial service."

The AP (4/7) reported that a spokesman for Ft. hood "confirms there will be a remembrance ceremony that day, and presidential adviser Dan Pfeiffer tells CBS' 'Face the Nation' that Obama will be there."

USA Today (4/7, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that on CBS' "Face the Nation," Pfeiffer said, "It's a terrible tragedy what happened at Fort Hood." Pfeiffer said on CBS' Face The Nation (4/6, Schieffer, 2.64M), "It's clear from what happened at Fort Hood we have to do more to ensure that our men and women feel safe when they come home. It is a tragedy what happened at Fort Hood. The President and the First Lady send their thoughts and prayers to the people on the base."

Lawmakers Call For Reevaluation Of Military's Mental Health Treatment. The New York Times (4/7, Blinder, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on the Sunday political talk shows, members of Congress "emphasized the need to re-evaluate mental health treatment in the military." Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) said on CNN, "We have this crazy standard in the United States that says unless a person is on the verge of holding a knife to their own throat or someone else, we're not going to step in. ... We need to understand the dynamics of mental illness for in the military and outside the military."

Murphy said on CNN's State Of The Union (4/6, Crowley), "It could have happened anywhere. There are special concerns on a military base but really all throughout the nation the concern is how do we handle mental illness. Quite frankly, we're not doing a very good job of it. The military has beefed up a lot of their support but there is a lot of questions involved with how this happens or how any family deals with this."

Rep. John Carter (R-TX) said on ABC's This Week (4/6, Raddatz, 2.73M), "The issue of the mental health among service members is critical. ... We have to provide more resources both at the DOD level and at the VA level, and that transition needs to be smooth, because these folks, and...you can have posttraumatic stress in an ordinary job. It depends on the level of stress you can carry. Some can carry tons, others can carry none."

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) said on CNN's State Of The Union (4/6, Crowley), "You're dealing with a conversation about dramatic troop cutbacks and what effect that is having on people, wondering if they are going to have an ability to provide for their families. ... It is important to make sure that people don't automatically assume that because someone is seeking help that that is an automatic correlation to violence and taking action in that way. We've got to take away that stigma."

Mullen Says Number Of Veterans Confronting Mental Health Issues Is Likely To Grow. The Washington Times (4/7, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen said Sunday that "the nation must prepare for growth in the number of veterans dealing with mental health issues and other challenges as they return from Iraq and Afghanistan." Mullen said that "it will be critical in the coming years for the U.S. to do all it can to help the nation's fighting men and women transition back into society," telling NBC's "Meet the Press," "I think our force, because it has been away so much, has not had to deal with those [mental health and other issues] as directly as they may have in the past and now that we're going to be home more, I think we're going to actually see an increased number of challenges associated with that. ... We all need to wrap our arms around the force to help us deal with those."

Mullen said on NBC's Meet The Press (4/6, Gregory, 3.08M), "I think we need to certainly take a look at securing our bases for our people. Right now, in our 13th year of war, it's a time of great stress for our military. We've been through a lot. And as we come out of these wars and come back home, I think just what I've seen in this particular example indicates the mix of characteristics and issues that are associated with that stress."

General Says Most Returning Vets Do Not Suffer From Mental Disorders. Gen. Peter Chiarelli said on ABC's This Week (4/6, Raddatz, 2.73M), "It's a horrible, horrible tragedy. I think even a bigger tragedy would be if the public at large came to the conclusion that everyone who returns from Iraq or Afghanistan, who served in the military, has these issues. We've got to understand that the vast majority of our servicemen and women have been on multiple deployments, multiple deployments, and returned home unscathed."

McCaul Supports Allowing Military Members To Carry Concealed Weapons On Base. Politico (4/6, Parti, 73K) reported in its "Politico Live" blog that during an appearance on "Fox News Sunday," House Homeland Security Committee chairman Mike McCaul "continued to push for legislation to allow members of the military to carry concealed weapons on base." McCaul said, "We should be looking at the idea of senior leadership at these bases, give them the ability to carry a weapon. ... They defend us overseas and defend our freedom abroad, so the idea that they are defenseless when they come on our home bases, I think, Congress should be looking at

that and having a discussion with the bases about what would be the best policy." McCaul added that he is "also pushing for Congress to take action to require a mental health evaluation in addition to a physical for when soldiers enlist."

McCaul said on CBS' Face The Nation (4/6, Schieffer, 2.64M), "Our hearts go out to the families and the victims. ... We do know that Mr. Lopez applied for leave of absence. He appeared to be a disgruntled employee. But at the end of the day you are dealing with a mental health illness issue, not unlike what we saw at the Navy Yard shooting. I'm disturbed about the uptick in shootings and violence at our military installations across the nation."

McCaul said on Fox News Sunday (4/6, Wallace), "Can we stop this in the future? I don't think you can ever 100% secure a military base from something like this happening. But I do think it requires a review, re-analysis of the force protection policies that we have at our military installations to see how can we better secure them? We also need to look at the possibility of whether we can hire more military police at these installations."

Kaine: Military Leaders Should Decide Whether Guns Are Allowed On Base. The Washington Times (4/7, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that Sen. Tim Kaine argued on "Fox News Sunday" that military leaders should decide whether military personnel can carry weapons on bases. Kaine said, "I trust the military leadership on this. I don't live on a military base, and I don't serve in the military. ... For those of us in Congress to say 'here's what they should do,' I worry that it would be a little political rather than really about safety or security." Kaine said that "if the military reviews the issue and determines more personnel should be armed, he would support that decision."

Kaine said on Fox News Sunday (4/6, Wallace), "Some of the recent shootings, there is always an element from the outside world coming on to the base. The two Fort Hood shootings were guns purchased out in the community and brought on in this instance, this week, against regulation, the gun that was used. ... Perimeter security is probably a place that we definitely should look. Mental health we should look. ... We do need to acknowledge that our military after 13 years of war, that's a stress."

Mental Health Experts, Soldiers Take Issue With PTSD Label For Ft. Hood Shooter. The Christian Science Monitor (4/7, Knickerbocker, 566K) reported that in the wake of last week's shooting, "many were quick to label the shooter as a soldier with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)." But to soldiers and mental health experts, "this snap judgment stigmatizes combat veterans diagnosed with this signature ailment of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and it's a simplified and short-hand reading of a far more complicated issue." US Marine Sgt. Dakota Meyer, "who struggled with post-traumatic stress after returning from Afghanistan and who once contemplated suicide," said, "PTSD does not put you in the mind set to go out and kill innocent people. ... The media label this shooting PTSD, but if what that man did is PTSD, then I don't have it."

General Who Recently Returned From War Zone Finds Himself Comforting Victims Of Ft. Hood Shooting. The Washington Post (4/7, A1, Jaffe, 4.22M) reports in a front page story on Lt. Gen Mark A Milley, who spent more than a decade visiting hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan "to check in on his wounded troops and offer words of encouragement." Milley had just retumed to Ft. hood after a one-year tour in Afghanistan and eleven days later, the Ft. Hood shootings occurred. As a result, Milley found himself visiting the victims of the shooting and their families. The Post notes that Milley's staff called the day "battlefield circulation," which is "the same phrase that Army commanders, including Milley, routinely used in Afghanistan and Iraq to describe a day spent moving around those war zones." For Milley, "the time spent with the wounded was almost exactly the same: The same words of encouragement. The same simple gestures intended to show kindness, compassion and care."

JOBLESS BILL EXTENSION FACES UNCERTAIN FATE IN HOUSE. The New York Times (4/7, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Monday, the Senate is expected to "easily approve" a bill to renew extended jobless benefits that expired in December through June 1, which will send the legislation "to a divided House where Republicans favor starkly different approaches to the issue." In the House, seven Republicans are planning to send House Speaker John Boehner a letter "coinciding with Senate passage to urge him to take up the Senate bill or a similar measure." However, other Republicans are pushing to attach the Senate bill to "what they call job-creation measures," including building the Keystone XL pipeline, consolidating job training programs, or "raising employer-mandated health care coverage to employees who work 40 hours a week."

Private-Sector Employment Hit New Record In March. The CBS Evening News (4/6, story 8, 1:50, Glor)

reported that the jobs market "hit a milestone in March," as businesses added 192,000 jobs, "finally regaining all the jobs lost in the great recession." Private sector jobs "are now at a record high 116 million." CBS (Schlesinger) said, "I think is great news but we lost a lot of government jobs. So in order to get back to total payroll employment where we were before the recession we have to add over 400,000 more position, so we still do have a ways to go."

Temp Jobs Becoming Increasingly Common. The Wall Street Journal (4/7, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that temp jobs are undergoing a boom, accounting to more than 10% of all job growth since 2009. While temp employment tends to accelerate during economic downturns, the fact that the trend has continued during the recovery is considered by economists to be a sign that it is the new normal. The Journal says that the change comes as companies discovered during the recession that they could save money on wages and benefits by using temps, as well as boost their flexibility.

Krugman Blames Class Issues For Push For Lower Inflation. In his column for the New York Times (4/7, Krugman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), Paul Krugman writes that the IMF's World Economic Outlook "makes a compelling case for raising inflation targets above 2 percent, the current norm in advanced countries." However, Krugman says that the "conventional wisdom" prevents the IMF from arguing for higher inflation. Krugman argues that only the "0.1%" of top earners would oppose such a policy, as they would be the only ones to really suffer from an inflation rate of about 4%.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Mentally Ill, Behind Bars."*** The New York Times (4/7, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and his new correction commissioner, Joseph Ponte "have inherited a city jail system in which nearly 40 percent of the 12,000 inmates have mental illnesses – up from about a quarter just seven years ago," and yet "despite the stark shift, the system has not been redesigned to serve the complex needs of inmates with mental illnesses." The Times urges de Blasio and Ponte "to focus on three area: improving mental health care behind bars; ensuring that all mentally ill inmates are enrolled in Medicaid before they are released, so they have access to care and medication; and encouraging the growth of an important new program that steers mentally ill people who present no danger to the public into mental health programs instead of jail."

"Abusive And Frivolous Patent Suits." The New York Times (4/7, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that "abusive and frivolous lawsuits brought by holders of patents are costing the American economy billions of dollars," but a "large bipartisan majority in the House approved a bill last year that would reduce such litigation" and the Senate, "where a similar bill is being negotiated, may soon follow." The Times contends that providing judges "more freedom to award fees in patent cases can reduce the number of abusive cases," but argues that Congress "should be careful not to adopt a standard that is so tough that it effectively closes the courthouse door to small inventors, universities and other patent holders."

"Behavior Detection Isn't Paying Off." In an editorial, the New York Times (4/7, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) argues that the TSA's "multiyear experiment in behavior detection" is not paying off and is "only worsening" the agency's "reputation for wastefulness." In November, the GAO told Congress "that T.S.A. employees could not reliably single out dangerous passengers and that the program was ineffective" and "urged Congress to limit future funding." The Times calls on Congress to "take the G.A.O.'s advice."

"A Rush To Overbuild Downtown." In an editorial, the New York Times (4/7, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) decries a package devised by developer Larry Silverstein and his allies at the Port Authority to double the level of Port Authority support Silverstein receives to build a second skyscraper at the World Trade Center site, arguing that the "rush to subsidize the next tower makes little sense at this time." Such a move "could easily create a glut of office space" when the "104-story 1 World Trade Center — is about half-leased." The Times notes that Port Authority commissioners "are divided over whether to give Mr. Silverstein a new deal," and argues that the "wisest course, for now, is to stick with the present one."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The Right Call In Cuba."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (4/7, 4.22M) argues that critics who "object to the fact that the administration operated the Cuba [ZunZuneo] program under the auspices

of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), an institution ill-suited for such a politically sensitive operation," may have a point. However, it is "one thing to question the administration's methods in Cuba and quite another to trash its goals." The Post calls the effort "an updating of the United States' admirable past efforts to pierce the Iron Curtain, and a rather innovative one at that." The Post adds that critics of the program should "spare come outrage" for the Castros, who "insist on a level of political control that has gone out of style everywhere except Havana and Pyongyang."

"Missile Malaise." In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/7, 4.22M) that the cheating on routine tests by officers at the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base "is inexcusable," but could not "happen without a larger context." The Post criticizes the "intense" pressure that make missileers believe they needed to always score perfectly on over 50 tests a year. The Post concludes that the incident shows "the Air Force needs to train effective stewards of the nuclear arsenal" who will have "integrity and a sense of mission, rather than distracted duty officers playing on their smartphones, just dying to get out of the silos."

"Blunting Special Interest Cash." In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/7, 4.22M) notes that Montgomery County, Maryland is considering a system of public financing for local elections, "aiming to use taxpayers' money to offset the clout of special-interest cash in campaigns and to promote competitive races." The Post says that while the details "may shift as the all-Democratic County Council grapples with it," the "concept deserves support." The Post says that the proposal "seems to strike the right balance," as it "offers a decent chance of blunting the influence of unions, developers and other special interests to some degree."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Second Climate Thoughts."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/7, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report on the impact of climate change is generating a lot of headlines, but the paper says that many dire predictions are being toned down as past predictions have failed to play out. While the Journal welcomes those changes, it takes exception to the call for significant payments by wealthier countries (in the $70 to $100 billion range per year) to poorer countries to help them adapt to climate change.

"Afghans Step Up For Democracy." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/7, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues that while there were some problems with Saturday's vote in Afghanistan, the overall achievement should not be understated. The Journal notes that the leading candidates are moderates who favor forming a pro-Western government, and the US has an opportunity to start anew with a leader who will sign the bilateral security agreement.

"Blacklisted At Mozilla." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/7, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) writes that Mozilla co-founder and CEO Brendan Eich's resignation is bad for corporate governance and tolerance, adding that it vindicates the paper's warning about the left personally vilifying opponents. The Journal argues this is an example of the problem with campaign-finance disclosure laws. The Journal concludes by noting that Southern racists sought to subpoena NAACP membership lists during the Jim Crow era.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Lawsuit Targets NSA Wiretap
Social Service Zone Omits Poorest
A Crude Energy Puzzle
Death Raises New Alarms Over Pot
Celebrated Child Actor Of The 1930s And '40s

Wall Street Journal:
Clinton's Phantom Campaign Presence Freezes Other Candidates
Afghan Elections Point To Runoff
Crimean Separatist Dodges Western Sanctions
Yahoo Makes New Push Into Video

New York Times:
More Deportations Follow Minor Crimes, Data Shows
Cities Are Fighting Income Inequality
Facing His Torturer As Spain Confronts Its Past
Us Tries Candor To Assure China On Cyberattacks
Young, Rich And Ruling Radio, Country Walks A Broader Line
Catholic Schools Court Chinese, And Their Cash

Washington Post:
Afghan Voters Cling To Loyalties
Republican Hopefuls Reach Out, Study Up
For Fort Hood General, War's Echoes At Home
On Paper, Reading Skills Look Worse
Heroin Surging North Out Of Mexico Spreads In US

Financial Times:
BlackRock Lays Ground For Life After Fink
Cement Merger Tries To Head Off Regulators
Chinese Developers Beef Up Bank Stakes
Ecclestone Seeks To Regain Grip On F1
Copper Miners Under Pressure
Hunter Sells House Of Fraser Stake To Ashley
Stand-Off Over $2.2bn Ukraine Gas Bill

Washington Times:
Profiling Charges Help Target Arizona's Illegals Law
Military Hits Breaking Point On Mental Health Problems
Leadership In Karzai's Shadow
Some Gays Fear Activists Becoming Intolerant
Developing Economies Fed Up With US Politics
Military Sex Assault Stats Exceed US, Raise Methodology Doubts

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Malaysian Flight Search; Malaysian Flight-Sounds; Fort Hood Shooting; Severe Weather
CBS: Malaysian Flight Search; Air Travel-Security; University Of California-Riot; Royal Family-Travel; Severe Weather; General Motors Repairs; Government-Texting While Driving Ads; Job Market-Recovery; NASA-Flare Video; Children Of War Foundation-Afghan Child
NBC: Malaysian Flight Search; Malaysian Flight-Families; Malaysian Flight Pings; Santa Barbara-Riot; Detroit-Motorist Attack; Fort Hood Shooting; Climate Change Documentary; NCAA-Final Two

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Malaysian Missing Flight-Pings; Fort Hood-Memorial Service; Mickey Rooney Death; General Motors Recall Investigation
CBS: Mickey Rooney Death; Malaysian Flight Search-Pings; Oscar Pistorius-Murder Trial; Fort Hood Memorial
NPR: Malaysian Flight Search-Pings; Mickey Rooney Death; Pakistan-Taliban Prisoner Release; Gasoline Price Increase; Libyan Oil Agreement; Fort Hood Memorial Service; Ukrainian Protests; Country Music Awards-George Strait; Box Office Numbers
FOX: Mickey Rooney Death; Malaysian Missing Flight-Pings; Gasoline Price Increase

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Travels to Prince George's County Maryland to host an event on the economy, meets

France; Senior Fellow, New America Foundation; Jed Ober Director of Programs, Democracy International; Moderated by Caroline Wadhams Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress. Location: 2212 Raybum.

3 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee, Budget Hearing – Internal Revenue Service. Witness: John A. Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service. Location: 2359 Raybum.

3 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Health, "Improving Predictability and Transparency in DEA and FDA Regulation." Witness: H.R. 4299, the "Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act" H.R. 4069, the "Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act" H.R. 4250, the "Sunscreen Innovation Act". http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/hearing-notice-subcommittee-healthsthash.5PcbHazH.dpuf Location: 2123 Raybum.

5 p.m. RULES — Meeting: H. Con. Res. __Establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102116 Location: H-313 The Capitol. Other: April 5 – 7. MEDICAL MARIJUANA CONFERENCE — Medical marijuana advocacy group, Americans for Safe Access (ASA) hosts its second annual Unity Conference, "Navigating Medical Cannabis in the Mainstream." Speakers include: Some of the featured speakers at the conference include: Sebastopol Mayor Robert Jacob, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia Executive Director Roy Upton, Pediatrician Dr. Stephen Com, M.D., cannabis researcher Dr. Jahan Marcu, PhD., University of Massachusetts Amherst Botany Professor Lyle Craker, Center for Regulatory Effectiveness Director Jim Tozzi, author Martin Lee, Criminal Justice Policy Foundation President Eric Sterling. Media RSVP: http://www.safeaccessnow.org/request_unity_press_pass CONTACT: ASA Executive Director Steph Sherer 510-872-7822 or ASA Media Spokesperson Kris Hermes 510-681-6361. 11 a.m. ASA hosts a press conference on the Capitol grounds, which will be followed by a briefing for Hill staff from Noon-1pm, and a lobby day to bring the issues of medical marijuana to Members of Congress. Location: The Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW.

April 5 – 8. AACC CONVENTION — More than 2,000 community college presidents and other senior leaders are expected to attend the 94th Annual Convention of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The 2014 theme is "Great Expectations: Implementing a 21st-Century Student Success Agenda." 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Keynote address by Vice President Joe Biden. PRESS PRE-SET TIME: 5-5:30 a.m. RESTRICTED ACCESS: 6-8 a.m. PRESS ARRIVAL TIME: 8:30-9:30 a.m. FINAL MEDIA ACCESS TIME: 9:30 a.m. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. NW.

HERITAGE – HEALTH CARE – CONGRESS — 12 p.m. Special Treatment: The Presidents Unlawful Health Care Handout to Congress. Speakers: Special Treatment The Presidents Unlawful Health Care Handout to Congress with Keynote Address by Ron Johnson (R-WI), United States Senator. http://www.heritage.org/events/2014/04/special-treatment Followed by a Panel Discussion with Andrew Kloster, Legal Fellow, The Heritage Foundation; Joseph Morris, General Counsel of the United States Office of Personnel Management, 1981-1985. Hosted b Robert Moffit, Senior Fellow, Center for Health Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation. Location: 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE.

BPC – LONG-TERM CARE — 1 p.m. The Bipartisan Policy Center's (BPC) Health Project's Long-Term Care Initiative (LTCI) will release a white paper identifying the major challenges to the financing and delivery of long-term services and supports for seniors and individuals with disabilities under 65. (A final report of LTC policy recommendations will be released in late 2014.) With Sen. Tom Daschle, Co-chair, BPC Health Project; Sen. Bill Frist, Co-chair, BPC Health Project; Dr. Alice Rivlin, former White House Budget Director and Co-chair, BPC Long-Term Care Initiative; Dr. Bruce Chernof, President and CEO, The SCAN Foundation; Jason Grumet, BPC President. Location: 1225 'Eye' Street NW Suite 1000, 10th floor.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama invited the US Olympic team to the White House yesterday to congratulate

them on their performance in Sochi. Of course, it got awkward when Biden told the biathletes, 'I won't rest until you guys can get married.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "And Hillary Clinton was in the news yesterday. She made some very strong remarks about the media. She said that the media treats powerful women with a double standard. Or, as it got reported in most places, 'Hillary Clinton shows off sassy new hair cut.'"

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BISON CONNECT

(b)(6)

Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Mon, Apr 7, 2014 at 6:27 PM
To: noreen_walsh@fws.gov

Dear Noreen –

Dan passed along your message. (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Your team is continuing to do a terrific job, and the sage grouse briefing today was very helpful – lots of progress being made on all fronts.

Take care,

Sally

Jewell, Sally (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, September 25, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Tengasco Challenges Fine Over Missing Safety Records.

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+ Delta Farmers May Need To Measure Water.
+ Klamath Fish Monitoring Continues Following Release Of Trinity Water.

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+ Indian Education Summit To Be Held This Weekend.

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+ In UN Speech, Obama Points To Ferguson To Note Racial Tensions In US.
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LAST LAUGHS:
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DOI in the News:

US TO PAY $554 MILLION TO NAVAJO NATION TO SETTLE CLAIMS OVER MISMANAGED FUNDS.
The Los Angeles Times (9/24, Lee, 4M) reports that the Obama Administration "has agreed to pay the Navajo Nation $554 million to finalize a lawsuit stemming from claims of mismanaged funds on the reservation that date back several decades." The agreement, "which marks the largest settlement with an American tribe in U.S. history, brings to an end a long-standing dispute, with some of the claims dating back more than 50 years. 'This landmark resolution ends protracted and burdensome litigation. It will provide important resources to the Navajo Nation. And it fairly and honorably resolves a legal conflict over the accounting and management of tribal resources,'" Attorney General Eric Holder said in a statement on Wednesday. Obama Administration officials "are scheduled to join members of the Navajo Nation on Friday in Window Rock, Ariz., to sign and finalize the settlement."

The Washington Post (9/24, Horwitz, 4.9M) reports that the settlement "resolves a long-standing dispute

between the Navajo Nation and the U.S. government, with some of the claims dating back more than 50 years." The "sprawling Navajo reservation, located in parts of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, is the largest and most populous Indian reservation, with 14 million acres of trust lands, which are leased for farming, grazing, and oil, gas and other mineral extraction," and the land "is also leased for businesses, rights-of-way, easements and housing." Holder said in a statement that the settlement "demonstrates the Justice Department's firm commitment to strengthening our partnerships with tribal nations." Under the agreement, the Navajo Nation "will dismiss its current lawsuit and forgo further litigation against the U.S. government for its historic management and accounting of Navajo funds and resources held in trust by the government."

The New York Times (9/25, Turkewitz, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) reports that the settlement "is the latest agreement made between the Obama administration and Indian tribes that say the government did not act in their best interests when managing their natural resources." The funds "the Navajos will receive exceeds agreements with other tribes by more than $170 million; the arrangement will be formally announced Friday at the Navajo Nation headquarters in Window Rock, Ariz."

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (9/25, 234K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "visiting the Navajo Nation to announce and sign a $554 million settlement on Friday." Jewell will "travel to Window Rock, Ariz., to participate in a signing ceremony with tribal officials for a major tribal trust settlement agreement with the tribe."

Also providing coverage are the Wall Street Journal (9/25, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 5.62M), Reuters (9/25, Gorman), the Cronkite News (9/25), the Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (9/25, 1K), the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (9/25, 479K), the South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/24, 739K), the Durango (CO) Herald (9/24, 28K), the Baltimore Sun (9/24, 857K), the Chicago Tribune (9/24, 2.26M), the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (9/25, 687K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/24, 646K), TIME (9/25, 23.35M), and KOB-TV Albuquerque, NM (9/25, 59K).

DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN DRAWS CRITICISM. The E&E Daily (9/24) reports that "the draft of a sweeping new plan to guide renewable energy development in the Southern California desert has met with mostly positive reviews from conservation groups that have long argued that properly siting commercial-scale projects should be a priority." However, "while it will take weeks for most to thoroughly review the multivolume, 8,000-page draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) covering 22.5 million acres of public and private lands in the Mojave and Colorado deserts, some groups have already begun to question components of the proposed plan." The article notes that "among the concerns are that the plan does not appear to address three proposed renewable energy projects within the DRECP planning area that would be sited near national park units and that have drawn criticism from the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, US EPA and others." Also, "representatives of the California Wind Energy Association issued a strongly worded statement condemning the draft DRECP and its approach to wind power development in the desert."

Also providing coverage are the Modesto (CA) Bee (9/23, 174K), the Inland Valley (CA) Daily Bulletin (9/23, 99K), the High Country (CO) News (9/25, 74K), the Rutland (VT) Herald (9/24, 38K), the Durango (CO) Herald (9/24, 28K), the UPI (9/24), the Renewable Energy World (9/25, 14K), the CleanTechnica (9/24, 5K), and the Alternative Energy Magazine (9/24).

PRESIDENT OBAMA TO ANNOUNCE EXPANSION OF PACIFIC OCEAN PRESERVE THURSDAY. The AP (9/25, Lederman) reports that President Obama is expected to announce Thursday the expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument to "six times its current size." The expansion of the sanctuary "will make roughly 490,000 square miles off limits to drilling, fishing and other actions that could threaten wildlife."

The Washington Post (9/25, Eilperin, 4.9M) reports that the move will create "the world's largest fully protected marine reserve in the central Pacific Ocean." The effort, the Post says, demonstrates the President's "increased willingness to advance a conservation agenda without the need for congressional approval."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SEEKS $900 MILLION FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. The Hill (9/25, Cama, 241K) reports that the Obama Administration has "pushed Congress to triple the amount of money available for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which officials use to acquire land, build recreation facilities and maintain parks." According to the article, "the program is likely to be renewed before it expires next year, given the strong bipartisan support for conservation, but President Obama's push for a funding increase is meeting resistance." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "led the administration's promotional efforts for the fund, touring the country, joined at times by agency leaders, other federal officials, lawmakers, state or local officials." The article notes that "in addition to renewing the 50-year-old program, Jewell wants

access to the full $900 million annual budget it is supposed to have."

GLEN CANYON DAM TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY. The Arizona Daily Sun (9/25, 34K) reports that Glen Canyon Dam will call "attention to its 50th anniversary with a series of speeches, commemorative displays and music from noon to 4 p.m." Marie Memmer for the BOR said, "It'll be a community party. We will celebrate 50 years of power production and water management." The article notes that "anticipated featured speakers for Saturday's event at the crest of the dam" include Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary Anne Castle.

EPA UNVEILS NEW PLAN TO CONTINUE GREAT LAKES CLEANUP. The Science Recorder (9/25) reports that the EPA has "unveiled the second phase of a new plan to clean up the Great Lakes." In a press release, Gina McCarthy, the Administrator of the EPA, said that "the plan contained necessary steps to make sure that the future environment of the Great Lakes was secure." In the same press release, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science, Anne Castle, said that "her department is committed to the cleanup of the lakes." Castle said, "The Great Lakes are a key economic driver and Interior is committed to help restore healthy watersheds in the region."

Also providing coverage are the Latin Post (9/24), the Soundings (9/25, 15K), and the Trade Only (9/25).

FOREST SERVICE PROPOSES REQUIRING PERMIT FOR MEDIA FILMING. The AP (9/24) reports that the US Forest Service is "proposing permanent new rules that would require media organizations to obtain a permit to film and shoot photographs in more than 100 million acres of the nation's wilderness." Under the plan, the agency would "consider the nature of a proposed project before approving a special use permit then charge fees of up to $1,500 for commercial filming and photography in federally designated wilderness areas." However, Mickey H. Osterreicher, general counsel for the National Press Photographers Association, said "such rules would be a clear violation of the First Amendment and raises concems about press freedom, including whether denying a permit would amount to prior restraint."

Also reporting on the story are The Hill (9/25, Cama, 241K) and USA Today (9/25, Umess, 5.6M).

"NEW YORK DECLARATION ON FORESTS" SEEKS TO END DEFORESTATION BY 2030. The E&E Daily (9/24) reports that "an ambitious new commitment to halve global deforestation by 2020 and end it by 2030 was announced yesterday at the UN Climate Summit." Dubbed the "New York Declaration on Forests," it is "backed by a coalition of governments, agribusinesses, environmental groups and indigenous peoples organizations." The pledge also "commits to restore forests on 150 million hectares (about 370 million acres) of degraded lands by 2020."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WILDFIRES. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the AP (9/24), the AP (9/25), and the Los Angeles Times (9/25, Rocha, 4M).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

EISENHOWER MEMORIAL PLAN ADVANCES. The New York Times (9/25, Smith, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) reports that on Wednesday, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission "endorsed a design" for the former president's memorial "that Eisenhower family members have criticized as undignified and too costly." The panel "voted to present the design Oct. 2 to the National Capital Planning Commission, but the controversy is far from over" as the Commission is expected to be critical and legislators have been "withholding funding."

ELIZABETH DOLE CALLS FOR MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY ON MALL. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (9/24, Dole, 4.9M), former Sen. Elizabeth Dole (R) writes that women's role in US history needs to be recognized with the construction of a National Women's History Museum on the Mall. She writes, "Until we recognize the many achievements and contributions of women to our nation's history, gender will continue to be a key factor not only in career choices but in how women feel about themselves, how men perceive them and so much more."

GRAND CANYON MAKES CUTS TO REPAY $100 MILLION LOAN. The AP (9/25, Fonseca) reports that the Grand Canyon is "imposing millions of dollars in cuts to make a concessions contract more attractive to bidders." The article notes that "the cuts include cave monitoring, parking lot lighting, a children's nature program

and preventative search and rescue." According to Grand Canyon Superintendent Dave Uberuaga, "the money from those projects and others will help repay a $100 million loan from the National Park Service."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (9/24, 4.9M), the Houston Chronicle (9/25, Fonseca, 2.47M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/24, 646K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/25, Fonseca, 1.48M), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (9/24, 572K), and Yahoo! (9/25, Fonseca, 65.94M) .

AI WEIWEI BRINGS EXHIBIT TO ALCATRAZ. The AP (9/25) reports that "an exhibition by Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei has transformed the former island prison of Alcatraz into a tribute to the world's political prisoners, some famous and some forgotten." According to the article, "called '@ large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz,' the installation opens Saturday at the former maximum-security prison in the San Francisco Bay."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (9/24, 4.9M), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (9/24, 572K), the Houston Chronicle (9/25, 2.47M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/24, 646K), and the US News & World Report (9/24, 661K).

CANNON BACKFIRES AT FORT MCHENRY. The AP reports that the NPS said that "an iron reproduction historic cannon exploded during a celebratory firing Sept. 16 at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, launching a 100-pound mound of metal on the cannon's rear more than 300 feet afield and sending some other debris even further." According to the article, "the cannon was filled with powder and fired during a send-off for a fleet of tall ships that visited Baltimore for the Star-Spangled Spectacular, a weeklong celebration of the Star-Spangled Banner's 200th anniversary." The article notes that "no spectators were injured during the incident, though one crew member sustained minor flash burns and cuts during the explosion."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (9/24, 4.9M), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (9/24, 572K), the Houston Chronicle (9/25, Linderman, 2.47M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/24, 646K), and Newsday (9/25, 1.38M).

GERMAN MAN BANNED FROM YELLOWSTONE FOLLOWING DRONE CRASH. The AP (9/25) reports that "a German citizen who crashed a drone into a lake in Yellowstone National Park this summer has been banned from the park for a year and was ordered to pay $1,600 in fines and restitution." Andreas Meissner of Koenigswinter, Germany, was "charged with four federal misdemeanors after a drone he was using to shoot video of a charity bicycle ride through the park crashed into Lake Yellowstone on July 18."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (9/24, 4.9M), the Denver Post (9/25, 1.12M), the Houston Chronicle (9/25, 2.47M), and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/24, 646K).

JUDGES MOVES SUIT PITTING CATTLE AGAINST RARE CACTI IN CAPITAL REEF NATIONAL PARK. The Courthouse News (9/24, 7K) reports that "environmentalists' claims that grazing cattle decimated rare cacti in the Capital Reef National Park is a local dispute that belongs in the Beehive State rather than Washington, D.C., a federal judge ruled." According to the article, "in granting a motion to transfer the case filed by Secretary of Interior Sally Jewel and the National Park Service, US District Judge Christopher Cooper said on Tuesday that he was merely following the 'well-worn path of other courts.'" Cooper "cited similar rulings over the past decade, in which three separate cases were transferred by courts in his district to Utah."

MILITARY PILOTS FLY OVER NATIONAL PARKS. TIME (9/25, 23.35M) reports that "the military services regulate flights over national parks (Air Force, Army), but those rules don't always apply when the park is part of a military training range." The article notes that "while the FAA urges civilian aircraft to fly no lower than 2,000 feet—and orders them to stay above 500 feet—such altitude restrictions don't apply to military planes." The NPS says, "Congress and the FAA have given the military authority to deviate from standard flight regulations in the training complex."

NPS RANGERS TRAIN INTERNATIONAL PARK STAFF. The Sevierville (TN) Mountain Press (9/25, 23K) reports that "a group of 10 female park officials from Cambodia and Thailand have been in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park this week, training with local park rangers and national law enforcement officers." The article notes that "the training is the result of a partnership between the US State Department's Global Women's Issues Office, the Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation and ranger instructors from the National Park Service Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia." Jill Hawk, superintendent of the National Park Service Law Enforcement Training Center, said, "The National Park Service has an international role to play in sharing our expertise in conservation law enforcement. This program was designed, with our partners, to provide an opportunity for the women of the Lower Mekong countries in Southeast Asia to learn the concepts of law

enforcement and park management."

Also reporting on the story is WBIR-TV Knoxville, TN (9/24, 56K).

NPS NAMES NEW ZION SUPERINTENDENT. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (9/24, 45K) reports that the NPS has "named a new superintendent for Zion National Park, replacing longtime park Superintendent Jock Whitworth." Jeff Bradybaugh, "the superintendent at Bryce Canyon National Park since 2010 and a former Zion officer, will take over as the director of Zion's operations on Oct. 20." NPS Regional Director Sue Masica said, "Jeff is an effective communicator and manager with a proven ability as a consensus builder with external organizations and groups."

Bureau of Land Management:

COMMISSION FOR THE PUBLIC STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS HOLDS MEETING. The Deseret (UT) News (9/25, 538K) reports that the Commission for the Public Stewardship of Public Lands "held its meeting Wednesday at the Homestead Resort in Midway at the conclusion of the Utah Association of Counties' daylong session on public lands." According to the article, "tasked with crafting a management and stewardship plan should the state gain control of certain federal lands within its borders, the commission sought input from county leaders on what effective land management practices might look like in their particular area." Rural county leaders "begged" the commission "to do what they say the federal government is not — take an active management role on the lands and allow working families to make a decent living." The article notes that "rampant bark beetle kills in national forests, overpopulation of wild horses, reduced grazing permits and a federal government beholden to special interest groups were among the litany of complaints" paraded before the commission.

SECTION OF RED ROCK CLOSED TO PUBLIC. KLAS-TV Las Vegas (9/25, 136K) reports that "a section of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area will be closed for five years because of last year's Carpenter 1 fire," the BLM announced. The bureau said Wednesday "it will close more than 5,000 acres of land, including Harris Spring Road starting at where it intersects with State Route 157 and heading west for five miles to where US Forest Service jurisdiction starts." The BLM says "heavy rains and flash flooding in the section of land that was burned by the fire has caused washout and soil loss."

Also reporting on the story is Las Vegas (NV) Review-Journal (9/25, 386K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FIVE CHARGED IN MAY ATV RIDE. Additional coverage of the charges filed against five men for their role in planning an illegal ATV ride in Utah was provided by USA Today (9/24, Hughes, 5.6M) and the Moab (UT) Sun News (9/25).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

JUDGE PUTS WYOMING WOLVES BACK UNDER FEDERAL PROTECTION. The E&E Daily (9/24) reports that "Wyoming's wolf hunt set to begin next week is in jeopardy after a federal judge in Washington, D.C., yesterday reinstated Endangered Species Act protections for the iconic predator." The decision by US District Judge Amy Berman Jackson "found Wyoming provided no reasonable assurances that it would keep wolf numbers above a minimum threshold set by federal scientists when wolves were delisted in 2012." The FWS' "delisting rule was 'arbitrary and capricious,' she said."

The AP (9/25, Neary) reports that "responding to a stinging legal setback, the governor of Wyoming on Wednesday asked a federal judge to reverse an order ending state management of wolves and returning them to protections under the Endangered Species Act." Gov. Matt Mead "on Wednesday started the process of making the state's minimum wolf population pledge legally enforceable." Mead "signed and filed an emergency rule to that effect which could last up to 240 days."

Also providing coverage are KAML-FM Gillette, WY (9/25, 1K) and KGWN-TV Cheyenne, WY (9/25, 519).

FWS PRESENTING PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION. WTVA-TV Columbus, MS (9/25, 7K) reports that the FWS is "teaming up with Wildlife Mississippi and Mississippi State to present Partners for Conservation." According to the article, "people from all across the nation toured Amory today for the Partners for Conservation program to recognize Martha Dalrymple." Dalrymple's "been selected because of her efforts in conserving the land with the way she handles her trees and her cattle." The article notes that "the tour continues through Friday

which concludes the Mississippi section of Partners for Conservation."

SHORT'S BLADDERPOD ON ENDANGERED LIST. The AP (9/25) reports that the FWS announced recently protections for the Short's Bladderpod. The article notes that the "Short's Bladderpod is the third Indiana plant to be listed as federally endangered, joining Short's goldenrod and running buffalo clover."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SETTLEMENT WITH CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. Additional coverage of the settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity was provided by the AP (9/25).

BIOLOGIST DISMISSES COLLABORATING ON SAGE GROUSE. In an op-ed for the Missoulian (MT) (9/25, 83K), Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist with WildEarth Guardians, writes that "as pressure mounts on the oil and ranching industries to protect" the greater sage grouse "and the landscape it inhabits, some are arguing that collaboration – not the law and not the science – is the solution." But Molvar argues that "collaboration is the elixir of the status quo, giving veto power to each entrenched interest." He claims that "for the sage grouse, the status quo is a path to extinction, the result of ongoing habitat loss and populations declining toward zero."

US Geological Survey:

USGS' PATUXENT WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER RAISES WHOOPING CRANES. The Environment News Network (9/25, 260) reports that "four whooping crane chicks raised in captivity began their integration into the wild Saturday as part of the continuing effort to increase the wild population of this endangered species." The cranes, hatched and raised by their parents at the USGS' Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, were released on the FWS' Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. The article notes that "the chicks, about six-months old, are part of an experimental rearing and release method referred to as 'parent-rearing.'"

USGS STUDY SHOWS VALUE OF LANDSAT. The Directions Magazine (9/25, 114K) reports that "a recent White House-led assessment found that Landsat is among the Nation's most critical Earth observing systems, second only to GPS and weather." A new USGS study, "Landsat and Water — Case Studies of the Uses and Benefits of Landsat Imagery in Water Resources, provides examples of why Landsat is so valuable."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

LAWSUIT CHALLENGES BIA'S APPROVAL OF WIND PROJECT IN CALIFORNIA. The E&E Daily (9/24) reports that "a conservation group and two private landowners are suing the Interior Department and the agency's Bureau of Indian Affairs for approving the expansion of a California wind farm in alleged violation of environmental laws and despite objections from federal and state wildlife officials who warned of significant impacts to eagles." According to the article, "the group Protect Our Communities and the two landowners filed a federal lawsuit today in US District Court for the Southern District of California, claiming BIA's record of decision last year approving a lease that authorizes the second phase of the Tule Wind Energy Project in eastern San Diego County threatens golden eagles and other migratory birds, such as red-tailed hawks." The article notes that "the 33-page complaint – which names as defendants BIA Director Michael Black and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, among others – claims that BIA was obligated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to conduct additional environmental studies to evaluate new information about impacts to eagles that postdate the Bureau of Land Management's approval in 2011 of the 65-turbine first phase of the Tule Wind Energy Project."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM DRAWS CONTROVERSY FOR PROPOSED DRILLING SITES IN UTAH. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (9/25, 479K) reports that "the BLM's latest package of parcels up for oil and gas leasing encompasses much of the southern Utah town of Bluff and surrounding areas precious to the Hopi Indian Tribe, opening the agency up to claims of cultural insensitivity." The bureau "is taking public comment on the proposed sale of minerals administered by its Moab and Monticello field offices through Oct. 20." Hopi leaders have "warned public land managers the lease sale is jumping a step." Terry Morgart from the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office says "cultural resources in many of the parcels have not yet been sufficiently inventoried."

REPORT SAYS MINE PERMITTING SYSTEM IS "OUTDATED, INEFFICIENT". The E&E Daily (9/24)

reports that "the US has an 'outdated' and 'inefficient' mine permitting system that could be a barrier for economic development in downstream industries, according to a report released today by the National Mining Association." The article notes that "the report, prepared for NMA by SNL Metals & Mining, an arm of SNL Financial LC, is part of the lobby group's ongoing efforts at persuading Congress to reform mine permitting, particularly for hardrock mineral extraction on public lands." The report says, "A key finding of this report relates to a gross structural mismatch between domestic mineral supply and demand. Although the United States is a major mining country, it enjoys a much higher global ranking as a manufacturer than it does as a miner."

BLM MOVING FORWARD WITH NEW MINERAL RESOURCE REGULATIONS. The Hill (9/25, Devaney, 241K) reports that the BLM is "moving forward with new mineral resource regulations." The bureau is "raising the fees it charges for companies to participate in the minerals program."

REPORT: EAGLE FORD SHALE POISED TO OVERTAKE BAKKEN IN OIL PRODUCTION. The E&E Daily (9/24) reports that "the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas has become a magnet for 'the most capital investment of any shale field in the US,' according to an economic survey released yesterday." Researchers at the University of Texas, San Antonio say "oil and gas activity in the Eagle Ford is continuing to expand, equating to a huge economic impact to Texas counties in and around the giant shale oil, gas and condensates play." Thomas Tunstall, director of UTSA's Institute for Economic Development and "head of the Eagle Ford economic research project, said the pace of production growth has been so swift and strong in that region that it's reasonable to expect the Eagle Ford will soon overtake the Bakken Shale in terms of daily oil flow."

OIL EXPORT DEBATE CRITICIZED FOR NOT INCLUDING REFORM OF FEDERAL LAND LEASING. In an op-ed in The Hill (9/24, Zimmerman, 241K) Greg Zimmerman, policy director at the Denver-based Center for Western Priorities, writes that if the federal government is going to allow the export of US crude, it should also reform the rents and royalties it charges oil and gas companies for the right to drill on federal lands "in order to make sure taxpayers get a fair return." Zimmerman supports a policy shift to loosen energy export restrictions, however, he is against "giving oil and gas companies a sweetheart deal on public lands," particularly if they are going to export more and more oil and gas abroad.

Offshore Energy Development:

BIG OIL LOBBY WASHINGTON OVER ARCTIC DRILLING RULES. The National Journal (9/24, Geman, Subscription Publication, 626K) reports that efforts by "oil giants Royal Dutch Shell and ConocoPhillips" to shape upcoming standards for drilling operations in the Arctic Seas are part of a "high-stakes political and legal battle." The oil companies are concerned that the new federal regulations could be too rigid, and have requested that the White House and Interior Department "adopt performance standards rather than prescriptive technology standards." Environmental groups who oppose Arctic drilling have criticized Shell for its "call for leeway under the rules."

Also providing coverage the FuelFix (9/24, 7K) and the Anchorage (AK) Dispatch News (9/24, 146K).

JUDGE DENIES BP'S REQUEST TO RECOVER DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL CLAIM PAYOUTS. The New York Times (9/25, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) reports that on Wednesday US District Judge Carl Barbier denied a request by BP to recoup overpayments to some Deepwater Horizon spill claimants "under an old accounting method." Last year BP was successful in arguing that the old methods "were too generous," and Judge Barbier ordered claims processors to "adopt an accounting procedure more to the company's liking." However, Wednesday Judge Barbier ruled that the earlier claims "were paid under the settlement's terms as it was interpreted by the claims administrator and the court at that time."

TENGASCO CHALLENGES FINE OVER MISSING SAFETY RECORDS. The Law 360 (9/25, 18K) reports that "oil and gas company Tengasco Inc. has sued the US Department of the Interior, saying the agency unfairly upheld a $386,000 fine imposed after the company failed to turn over certain safety records following a 2011 platform inspection." The company "claims that the fine was unfair because the alleged infraction amounted to nothing more than a temporary record-keeping violation that posed no actual threat of harm, according to the complaint, filed Monday in Louisiana federal court."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR ENGINEERS INSPECT "SLOUGHING" OF STEINAKER DAM FACE. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (9/25, 479K) reports that BOR engineers were "dispatched to eastern Utah's Steinaker Dam on Wednesday to

investigate reports of sloughing on the 162-foot-high earthen structure's riprap facing was reported." The article notes that "the dam, located 3.5 miles north of Vernal, was not deemed in danger of failing." BOR spokesman Matt Allen "on Wednesday afternoon could not immediately detail what, if any repairs would be needed at the dam."

DELTA FARMERS MAY NEED TO MEASURE WATER. The Stockton (CA) Record (9/24, 121K) reports that "accused of stealing water released from upstream reservoirs, more than 1,000 Delta farmers may soon be required to report exactly how much water they've been diverting — a request that their attorneys argue could be burdensome and unnecessary." The government says "it merely wants a better accounting of how much water is being used by the farmers." Paul Fujitani with the BOR said, "I think additional information would be helpful for us to determine what is happening out there in the Delta." However, "attorneys for Delta farmers called for formal hearings to resolve the larger issue of whether the diversions are illegal, which could make the question of how much water those farmers are taking a moot point."

KLAMATH FISH MONITORING CONTINUES FOLLOWING RELEASE OF TRINITY WATER. The Weaverville (CA) Trinity Journal (9/25, 12K) reports that "the emergency release of a large volume of water to the Trinity River to avert fish die-off in the lower Klamath River is completed, and the release is back to normal for this time of year." According to the article, "after the ich parasite was found in chinook salmon in the lower Klamath, the federal Bureau of Reclamation started increasing the flows Sept. 16, building up from the normal release for this time of year of 450 cubic feet per second to 3,400 cfs the following day." On Sept. 22, the BOR "began reducing the flows to reach 450 cfs this morning, Sept. 24."

Empowering Native American Communities:

TREATY SEEKS FREE FLOW OF BISON BETWEEN US, CANADIAN TRIBAL LANDS. The E&E Daily (9/24) reports that "eleven American Indian tribes and Canadian First Nations yesterday inked the first inter-tribal treaty in more than a century to repopulate the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains with the bison that once sustained their forebears." According to the article, "at a daylong ceremony on Montana's Blackfeet Reservation, tribal leaders from Montana and Alberta signed the 'Buffalo Treaty,' which hopes to ultimately allow bison to traverse the international border."

INDIAN EDUCATION SUMMIT TO BE HELD THIS WEEKEND. The Yankton (SD) Press & Dakotan (9/25, 25K) reports that "the 2014 Indian Education Summit will be held Sept. 28-30 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Pierre." According to the article, "keynote speakers include Brian Frejo and John Gritts." The summit will "also feature a school board panel, student-led discussions and a speaker from the Bureau of Indian Education."

Top National News:

OBAMA URGES OTHER NATIONS TO JOIN FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. Media reports on the President's speech at the UN generally cast it as a significant departure from previous Obama rhetoric on foreign policy and terrorism. Particularly on print, the speech is said to represent a break from the President's long-held insistence that the US ought to shift to a more modest foreign policy focused on the employment of soft power rather than military might.

Typical of much of this morning's coverage is a front-page article in the New York Times (9/25, A1, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.9M), which reports that the President "charted a muscular new course for the United States in a...bluntly worded speech" and "spoke more like a wartime leader." The Times describes the President as a "once-reluctant warrior now apparently resolved to waging a twilight struggle against Islamic extremism for the remainder of his presidency." As do many other outlets, the Times says the President's rhetoric was "starkly different" from that which he used in his address to the UN General Assembly last year "two weeks after calling off a missile strike on Syria." The Times says a year ago, the President "offered a shrunken list of American priorities in the Middle East and showed little appetite for the charged rhetoric or interventionist policies of his predecessor, George W. Bush."

Again on Wednesday, all three networks led their newscasts with updates on the US war against ISIL, but only the CBS Evening News (9/24, lead story, 5.08M) covered President Obama's address to the UN in its lead story, while the other newscasts concentrated on new information regarding the threat from Khorasan. The three networks combined devoted about 22 minutes of air time to reports related to the US campaign in Syria, about 25% less than on Tuesday evening, and there was some notable disparity in the attention given to the war by the three networks. The CBS Evening News gave the first ten minutes of its broadcast, about half its air time,

to war reports, while NBC Nightly News gave those stories eight minutes and ABC World News moved on to other topics after only about four minutes.

Reuters (9/24, Holland) quotes the President as saying on Wednesday at the UN: "The only language understood by killers like this is the language of force. So the United States of America will work with a broad coalition to dismantle this network of death."

Dana Milbank, in a column titled, "In UN Speech, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Obama Makes Case For War" for the Washington Post (9/25, 4.9M) suggests that the President's phrase "network of death" is a "linguistic heir" to President Bush's 2002 reference to an "axis of evil." On CNN's The Situation Room (9/24, 554K), Jim Sciutto said the world was introduced to "a new and more aggressive foreign policy for a President until now defined by his decisions to end wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and avoid military action in others, including, until now, in Syria."

However, the AP (9/25, Pace, Lederer) notes that the President also "declar[ed] that he has no intention of sending US troops to occupy foreign lands," and "pressed Middle Eastern nations to look beyond military action and take steps to reject the ideology that has spawned groups like" ISIL.

In the lead story for the CBS Evening News (9/24, lead story, 5.08M), Scott Pelley said that as "the US and its Arab allies are keeping up the aerial assault on ISIS terrorists in Syria," the President "asked the world to join the war." Correspondent Major Garrett reported that on Wednesday at the UN, the President "warned ISIS soldiers to leave the battlefield while they can." According to Garrett, "Five Arab nations have joined the US...yet Mr. Obama pressed them to do more," and "scolded countries that have ignored or sometimes even facilitated extremist activities." Garrett went on to report that "the President's top advisers admit the President was at a crossroads...and he needed this speech to compensate, they say, for a summer of sometimes failing to project strong US leadership."

McClatchy (9/24, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 27K) also says the President "had been criticized for months for not having a strategy as one global problem after another erupted." McClatchy adds that "in recent weeks," the President "has taken a stronger role in foreign issues, earning praise from even some of his critics."

According to Bloomberg News (9/24, Runningen, 1.94M), "Any global leaders who arrived at the UN expecting to debate the merits of avoiding a conflict" in Syria "instead found themselves trumped by an American president who had already decided to strike."

About five-and-a-half minutes into NBC Nightly News (9/24, story 3, 2:35, Williams, 7.86M), after segments on the US airstrikes in Syria and the threat from Khorasan, Brian Williams reported that the President had "delivered a high stakes address to the world community...making the case for more nations to join in this fight." Correspondent Chris Jansing went on to say that "this was a very different President Obama than we saw just a year ago here at the UN, when he was talking about moving the US away from a perpetual war footing."

In the middle of an ABC World News (9/24, lead story, 4:00, 5.84M) segment on the US airstrikes in Syria, David Muir briefly noted that on Wednesday, President Obama was "chairing the U.N. Security Council meeting, calling ISIS and the terrorists being targeted killers who only understand force." Correspondent Martha Raddatz said the President was "using his toughest talk yet" about ISIL in his address to the UN.

The Washington Post (9/25, A1, Nakamura, 4.9M) says that on Wednesday, the President was "seeking to reassert American leadership abroad." The Post describes the President's address as a "forceful, and at times searing, critique of the threats to international order that he said required collective attention and action from the more than 150 countries assembled." The Post also says "the tone of the remarks contrasted sharply with Obama's address here last year when he said that 'the world is more stable than it was five years ago.'"

USA Today (9/24, Jackson, 5.6M) also reports that the President "called on the world's nations and religions – including Islam – to confront violent extremism among their citizens and adherents, calling it 'a cancer' that threatens all people." According to USA Today, the President said "the Muslim community must also address violent extremists who are perverting their religion."

The Huffington Post (9/24, Bendery, 11.54M) says the President "conveyed a strong message of collectivism," and notes that he "used the word 'collectively' four times; 'together' 12 times; and 'cooperation' four times." But the Washington Times (9/25, Boyer, 373K) notes that the President "was not interrupted once by applause" as "foreign heads of state showed no noticeable reaction and gave the president a brief, polite ovation at the end of

his 40-minute address."

According to Roll Call (9/24, Subscription Publication, 90K), because Congress has not taken action on a range of issues, "It's Obama's policies that will carry the day – or not – on Ukraine, Iran's nuclear ambitions, the Ebola epidemic, or fighting ISIS." But Roll Call says "this week, at least, the president's soaring rhetoric hasn't been clipped by the fact his agenda has crashed and burned in Congress again and again and again."

Author James Robbins, in an op-ed for USA Today (9/25, 5.6M), notes that in his UN address on Wednesday, the President "said the word 'war' more than 20 times without ever saying that the United States was at war" with ISIL. Robbins contends that "if Obama wants to continue to claim the vast array of powers that he has used to justify various aspects of his approach to counterterrorism...he should not distance himself from the idea that this is war."

The Drudge Report's Joe Curl, in his column for the Washington Times (9/25, 373K), takes issue with the President for saying on Wednesday that "Islam teaches peace." According to Curl, "Islam and the holy Koran on which Muslim militant groups like al Qaeda and the Islamic State base their actions...call for the extermination of all who do not follow Islam" and "demand that followers kill anyone who leaves the religion."

Britain Will Not Join Attacks On ISIL In Syria, But Will Vote On Strikes In Iraq. The Washington Post (9/25, Witte, Adam, 4.9M) reports that "after weeks of largely staying on the sidelines...Britain moved toward a more direct military intervention Wednesday when Prime Minister David Cameron recalled Parliament to debate airstrikes." According to the Post, the British Parliament "will probably" approve "British strikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq, following a request for assistance from the Iraqi government." However, the Post notes that MPs will not even "consider an expanded campaign that would also include targets in Syria."

Dutch To Launch Airstrikes Against ISIL In Iraq, Deploy 130 Military Advisers. The AP (9/25) reports that the Dutch government "is sending six F-16 fighter jets to strike at the Islamic State extremist group in Iraq," and "also will send about 130 military trainers to Iraq to school Iraqi and Kurdish fighters." However, Deputy Prime Minister Lodewijk Asscher said that the Dutch government "doesn't currently see an international mandate for joining airstrikes in Syria."

UNSC Approves Resolution Targeting Those Who Fund Or Otherwise Enable Terrorists. The AP (9/25, Pace, Lederer) reports that "in a rare move," the President "also chaired a meeting of the U.N. Security Council where members unanimously adopted a resolution requiring all countries to prevent the recruitment and transport of would-be foreign fighters preparing to join terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State group."

The Washington Post (9/25, Gearan, 4.9M) reports that the President "told the council in an unusual session that some 15,000 fighters from more than 80 nations have traveled to Syria and Iraq to join the Islamic State or the al-Qaeda affiliate known as Jabhat al-Nusra." The Post says the resolution approved by the UNSC "strengthens the legal framework for international action in response to the threat posed by foreign fighters," and "tells nations to take steps to prevent suspected foreign terrorist fighters from entering or passing through their territories."

Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said on CNN's Situation Room (9/24, 554K), "We have to reject the extremism, ideology, the financing, the sectarianism, that creates conditions for terrorism – that has been a consistent message" from the President.

The New York Times (9/24, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) reported that on Wednesday, Human Rights Watch "warned...that the adopted resolution risked 'repeating many of the mistakes of the post-September 11 era.'" and "does nothing to prevent governments from carrying out abusive counterterrorism policies and practices."

The New York Times (9/25, Subscription Publication, 9.9M), in an editorial, says the resolution "would give...political cover" to "American allies in the Middle East," including Turkey, which the Times says "needs to tighten controls on its border," as well as Saudi Arabia and Qatar, who "need to stop clerics and others from raising money for extremist groups." But the Times also says the "the potential for exaggerating the terrorism threat and overreaching with criminal laws that encourage the use of racial profiling to target some citizens, like Muslims, or persecution of adversaries is very real."

Obama Criticized For Praising Muslim Cleric. According to the Washington Free Beacon (9/25, Kredo, 81K), on Wednesday, the President "favorably quoted and praised" Sheikh Abdallah Bin Bayyah, "a controversial Muslim cleric whose organization has reportedly endorsed the terror group Hamas and supported a fatwa condoning the murder of US soldiers in Iraq." The Beacon quotes the President as saying, "Look at the new

Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies – Sheikh bin Bayyah described its purpose: 'We must declare war on war, so the outcome will be peace upon peace.'" The Beacon says that last year, "outrage ensued after [Bayyah] was reported to have met with Obama's National Security Council staff at the White House."

IN UN SPEECH, OBAMA POINTS TO FERGUSON TO NOTE RACIAL TENSIONS IN US. Politico (9/24, Epstein, 977K) reports that in a speech to the United Nations on Wednesday that dealt mainly with the ISIL threat, the President also spoke "about the need to reduce racial tensions and respect human rights." Obama "pointed to the shooting of" Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO last month "as an example of America's own failure to honor its moral values." In what Politico calls "an unusual reference to domestic US shortcomings during a speech devoted to international issues," Obama "noted that the death of 18-year-old African-American Michael Brown and the ensuing unrest had drawn worldwide attention even as major crises raged elsewhere on the planet."

Josh Gerstein of Politico (9/25, Gerstein, 977K) says the President "was so intent on avoiding the image of the US as a moral hegemon that he surprised many in the audience by bringing up the recent shooting and subsequent racial strife in Ferguson." According to Gerstein, a White House "aide" said the President "referenced Ferguson to make clear to his audience that 'we're not perfect.'"

Fresh Protests Rock Ferguson Over Memorial Fire. The Christian Science Monitor (9/24, Jonsson, 426K) reports that on Tuesday night, "some 200 protesters on West Florissant Avenue again pushed Ferguson, Mo., over the edge of anger and into looting, rock-throwing, and arrests," while several miles away "the members of the Ferguson City Council were wrestling with the very decisions that some say have pushed members of the city's black community into believing that they have no choice but to loot, throw rocks, and be arrested." The Monitor notes that one of the "three makeshift memorials for Michael Brown, the unarmed black teenager killed by a white cop last month, caught fire Tuesday," and the "immediate reaction of some residents was suspicion. 'We know it wasn't an accident,' one protester told KSDK-TV."

OBAMA SAYS "EVERY MAJOR POWER" MUST FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE, DURING UN ADDRESS WEDNESDAY. The Hill (9/24, Barron-Lopez, 241K) reports "President Obama said 'every major power' needs to battle climate change during his address to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on Wednesday." On the day "after his forceful speech during a U.N. climate summit on Tuesday, Obama wove the issue again into his remarks delivered to the general assembly." Obama stated, "America is pursuing ambitious reductions in our carbon emissions, and we have increased our investments in clean energy. ... We will do our part, and help developing nations to do theirs. But we can only succeed in combating climate change if we are joined in this effort by every major power. That's how we can protect this planet for our children and grandchildren."

Ban Touts Achievements At Climate Summit. Fox News (9/24, 6.72M) reports U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon praised "the achievements of world leaders attending the Climate Summit in New York this week, touting, in particular, initiatives around carbon pricing and cutting emissions." In his Chair's Summary of the event released late Tuesday, Ban said, "Today's Summit has shown that we can rise to the climate challenge." Ban said in the document "that world leaders committed to limit global temperature rise to less than 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels." He wrote, "Many leaders called for all countries to take national actions consistent with a less than 2 degree pathway and a number of countries committed to doing so."

Bachelet: Climate Change, Gender Equality Are Linked. The Christian Science Monitor (9/24, Anderson, 426K) reports that the head of UNWomen said this week that "women must take a greater leadership role in fighting climate change because its effects fall hardest on women." Executive director of the agency Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said, "Women are on the frontlines, bearing the brunt of climate change." Earlier this week, she spoke "at the start of a discussion focused on the needs of women in terms of climate policy." In her keynote remarks Chile's President Michelle Bachelet said that "climate change and gender equality are inextricably linked."

Indian Official Has No Plans To Offer Cuts To GHG Emissions At Next Year's Climate Summit. The New York Times (9/25, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) reports that "in a blow to American hopes of reaching an international deal to fight global warming," the new environment minister in India, Prakash Javadekar, "said Wednesday that his country would not offer a plan to cut its greenhouse gas emissions ahead of a climate summit next year in Paris." In an interview, Javadekar said "that his government's first priority was to alleviate poverty and improve the nation's economy, which he said would necessarily involve an increase in emissions through new coal-powered electricity and transportation." He went on to place "responsibility for what scientists call a coming climate crisis on the United States, the world's largest historic greenhouse gas polluter, and dismissed the idea that India would make cuts to carbon emissions."

Fein: Most UN Initiatives Are "Pointless." Columnist Bruce Fein writes in the Washington Times (9/24, Fein, 373K) that the UN "acts in a fantasy theater divorced from earthbound politics. Everything it does other than humanitarian endeavors — like giving a podium to endless blather by national leaders — are pointless" and "the current initiative to negotiate global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to diminish global warming is emblematic."

Van Noppen: Small Island States Most At Risk From Climate Change. Trip Van Noppen, president of Earthjustice, writes in a piece for USA Today (9/25, Van Noppen, 5.6M) "for the citizens of the nations represented by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), climate change is not an abstract threat" and "they face immediate danger today. Low-lying islands like Tuvalu and Vanuatu in the Pacific and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean are at risk of becoming uninhabitable as sea level rises in the coming decades." Van Noppen concludes that "global leaders must find the political will to act now, before it is too late — for all of us."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A New Focus On Foreign Fighters."*** The New York Times (9/25, Subscription Publication, 9.9M), in an editorial, says the UN Security Council resolution aimed at stemming the flow of foreign fighters "would give...political cover" to "American allies in the Middle East," including Turkey, which the Times says "needs to tighten controls on its border," as well as Saudi Arabia and Qatar, who "need to stop clerics and others from raising money for extremist groups." But the Times also says the "the potential for exaggerating the terrorism threat and overreaching with criminal laws that encourage the use of racial profiling to target some citizens, like Muslims, or persecution of adversaries is very real."

"Long Lines At Minority Polling Places." The New York Times (9/25, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) editorializes that some "of the longest lines on Election Day occur at polling places in black and Hispanic neighborhoods," and a new report by the Brennan Center for Justice "says that's not a coincidence." The report finds that in the three states "with the longest lines in 2012, precincts in minority neighborhoods were systematically deprived of the resources they need to make voting operate smoothly – specifically, voting machines and poll workers." The report's "data show the growing need for federal supervision of voting rights, though ensuring supervision is harder than ever since the Supreme Court removed the teeth from the Voting Rights Act of 1965 last year," and adds that many state and local officials "see voting as a partisan game they can manipulate and will continue to do so unless challenged in court, or until Congress steps in and makes voting a universal right that cannot be infringed."

"Warnings On Big Medical Bills." An editorial in the New York Times (9/25, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.9M) notes that it is "not an uncommon situation" for patients to receive unexpectedly high bills for medical services and argues that more states should follow New York's example and pass protections for consumers to guard against the problem.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Prioritizing The Fight Against Ebola."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/25, 4.9M) urges the government, researchers and the private sector to make the development of therapies and vaccines against Ebola "a high priority in case the worst-case scenarios come true."

"Obama Recommits To Democracy." An editorial in the Washington Post (9/25, 4.9M) argues that while "democracy has been in retreat around the world" for more than a decade, the President this week "sounded something like the beginning of a counterattack." In remarks to the Clinton Global Initiative and the UN General Assembly this week, the President "mentioned democracy sparingly," but he "left no doubt about his meaning when he pledged 'to stand with the courageous citizens and brave civil society groups who are working for equality and opportunity and justice and human dignity all over the world.'" The Post notes that the President's pledge that we "are heirs to a proud legacy of freedom, and we are prepared to do what is necessary to secure that legacy for generations to come," would be "a sound foundation for a reinvigorated, and more successful, foreign policy over the coming 28 months," and urges him to "act on his resolution when he meets with Egypt's dictator" on Thursday.

"The Goal Of Justice." The Washington Post (9/24, Board, 4.9M) editorializes that five times in the last five years, the Washington, DC US Attorney's office "has admitted to mistakes that resulted in wrongful convictions," so "it is a promising development that a special unit is being established to determine whether others have been similarly wronged" and to "come up with recommendations to fix the problems that cause wrongful convictions so as to prevent future miscarriages of justice." DC US Attorney Ronald C. Machen

announced the creation of a conviction integrity unit within his office earlier this month "that will identify and investigate cases in which there may have been wrongful convictions and recommend practices for police and prosecutors to avoid future errors." The Post notes that several cities "have established similar units," and that experts say the success of the units "depends on setting up rules that allow for the useful exchange of information and clear protocols on how cases will be reviewed and evidence evaluated."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Big Money Democrats"*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/25, Subscription Publication, 5.62M) says that the major untold story of this election cycle is the fact that Democrats are significantly outraising Republicans, boosted by the major donors and special interest they often decry. For example, the DSCC has brought in $111 million this cycle, $30 million more than the NRSC, while Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's Senate Majority super PAC has brought in $32 million, with two-thirds of its donations topping $500,000.

"The Latest Mideast Breakdown." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (9/25, Subscription Publication, 5.62M) blames the Administration's failure to oversee a peaceful transition in Yemen for the fact that the Iran-backed Houthi rebels have seized most of Sana'a, and argues that the US may be forced to help Saudi Arabia in its efforts to help Yemen's legitimate government retake power.

"Germany's Coal Binge." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/25, Subscription Publication, 5.62M) argues that Germany is on pace to miss its goal for reducing carbon emissions by 2020 as a result of its green energy mandates which have driven utilities to coal plants for power generation.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Presses World To Act Against Extremism
Chinese Leaders Discuss Replacing Central Bank Chief
Deal With Saudis Paved Way For Syrian Airstrikes
As Doctors Lose Clout, Drug Firms Redirect The Sales Call

New York Times:
President, At UN, Vows To Counter Extremist Threat
A Terror Cell That Avoided The Spotlight
Home Deaths Spread Circle Of Contagion
Miss Payment? Good Luck Moving That Car
Holder Backs Suit In New York Faulting Legal Service For Poor
At Second, Stealing A Prized Moment With Jeter

Washington Post:
Obama Pursues Broader Coalition
Longtime GOP Senator In Scramble To Hold His Seat
Murky Al-Qaeda Cell In Syria Is Dealt Blow But Not A Knockout, US Officials Say
FAA Poised To Approve Drones For Filmmaking
Like Its Biggest Hit Show, CBS Succeeds With A Proven Strategy

Financial Times:
Euro Weakness Strengthens Policy Makers
Obama Call To Confront "Network Of Death"
Blackberry Launches Square Smartphone

Washington Times:
US Airstrikes On Islamic State And Khorasan Group Insufficient, Critics Say
Porn-Peeping Federal Workers Rarely Face Time Or Attendance Fraud Charges
Church Network Offers Sanctuary To Illegal Immigrants Avoid Deportation
Make In India: Prime Minister Envisions Manufacturing Hub To Rival China
Obama Administration Approved Overpayments To GM, Ally Financial Execs, Audit Finds

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Foiled Khorasan Plot; ISIS/Khorasan-US Airstrikes; Virginia-Missing College Student; Severe Weather; Severe Weather Forecast; Home Depot Security Breach; NASCAR Driver-Grand Jury Ruling; Airport Baggage Theft; Pope Francis Image.
CBS: ISIS-Obama UN Speech; Khorasan Group; ISIS-President Rouhani Interview; North Africa-French Tourist Beheaded; Syria-US Airstrikes; US Airstrikes-Female UAE Pilot; NASCAR Driver-Grand Jury Ruling; SSA-Treasury Offset Program; iPhone Problems; India Mars Mission; ISS Photos; Education-Cyber Crime Training Program.
NBC: Terrorist Threat-Homeland; ISIS-US Airstrikes; ISIS-Obama UN Speech; NASCAR Driver-Grand Jury Ruling; iPhone Problems; Obama-Salute Photos.

Network TV At A Glance:
ISIS/Khorasan Threat – 22 minutes, 25 seconds
NASCAR Driver-Grand Jury Ruling – 5 minutes, 5 seconds
iPhone Problems – 2 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: ISIS/Khorasan-US Airstrikes; Khorasan Plot; North Africa-French Tourist Beheaded; Virginia-Missing College Student; Pennsylvania Manhunt.
CBS: ISIS/Khorasan-US Airstrikes; ISIS-Obama UN Speech; Boston-Marathon Bomber Trial; Virginia-Missing College Student; California Wildfires; Walmart-Green Dot Deal.
FOX: ISIS/Khorasan-US Airstrikes; ISIS-Obama UN Speech; Virginia-Missing College Student; iPhone Problems; California Wildfires; Boston-Marathon Bomber Trial; Reality Star Indicted; Home Depot Security Breach.
NPR: ISIS/Khorasan-US Airstrikes; ISIS-Obama UN Speech; ISIS-UN Security Council Resolution; Home Sales; Virginia-Missing College Student; Pennsylvania Manhunt; Exxon-Human Rights Abuse Cases.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President holds a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Travel Pool Spray at the Top. Delivers remarks on the Ebola epidemic, United Nations Building, travel pool coverage. Holds a bilateral meeting with President Abdel Fattah el-SiSi of the Arab Republic of Egypt, travel pool spray at the top. The President and the First Lady depart New York en route Andrews Air Force Base, open press. The President and the First Lady arrive at Andrews Air Force Base, out-of-town travel pool coverage. The President and the First Lady arrive at the White House, South Lawn, open press. Notes: Press Secretary Josh Earnest will gaggle aboard Air Force One.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President will meet with senior advisors. The Vice President will travel to New York City. The Vice President will hold a bilateral meeting with Turkish President Recep Erdogan at the Peninsula Hotel. There will be a pool spray at the top of the meeting. The Vice President will travel to Wilmington, Delaware, where he will remain overnight.
US Senate: Sept. 22 – Oct. 14. — The Senate is not scheduled to reconvene again until October 15th – for a pro forma session.
US House: Sept. 22 – Nov. 11. — The House stands in recess until 2 pm on Wednesday, November 12, 2014.
Other: INDONESIA PRESIDENTIAL VISIT — Sept. 25 – 26. His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, The President of the Republic of Indonesia, will be in Washington, DC. Highlights: 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will mark the inauguration of the Saraswati statue and officially present the statue to the people of Washington, DC. Speakers: Remarks by His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Budi Bowoleksono, the new Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the United States, and Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia / former Indonesian Ambassador to the United States. Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020 Massachusetts Ave NW. Contact: pressinfo@embassyofindonesia.org 202-775-5333, 202-775-5295. Location: Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020 Massachusetts Ave NW.

CBC – LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE — Sept. 24 – 27. Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 44th Annual Legislative Conference. www.cbcfinc.org/alc. Highlights: 9 a.m. National Town Hall – Voting for Change and Equal Opportunity: Midterm elections and the State of Black America. East Salon, Ballroom A. 1:30 p.m. – 4:30

p.m. Education Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Catherine E. Lhamon David Johns, executive director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans George Cooper, executive director, White House Initiative on HBCUs for "Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline with Lhamon as panelist Johns moderates "Strengthening HBCUs and Predominantly Black Institutions with Cooper as panelist. 2 p.m. Ivory Toldson, deputy director, White House Initiative on HBCUs – Panelist at "2% is Not Enough – How do we get more black male teachers in Americas classrooms." Room 144B. 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. NEW – Panel Discussion: "A Hidden Epidemic: Uterine Fibroids and African American Women" with Congresswoman Donna Edwards; Linda Blount, MPH; Stacey Ann Scheib, MD; Kara Odom Walker, MD, MPH; and C. Emmanuel Ayers, MD. Contacts: Dan Weber, (301) 461-0302; Ben Gerdes, (703) 328-0360. Location: Room 209 – B. 3:15 p.m. Deputy Attorney General James Cole will deliver a keynote address at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Criminal Justice Issues forum. 6 p.m. LEADERSHIP RECEPTION (IO) Honoring Rep. Marcia L. Fudge, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. (Pending) Arena Stage, 1101 6th Street, SW. 8 p.m. Rep. John Conyers, Jr., (MI), Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee and Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, will again serve as the honorary host of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Incorporated (CBCF) 44th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) Jazz Issue Forum and Concert. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW. (Except where otherwise noted.). Contacts: 877-585-6018. team@clarkepr.com.

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA — 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. "The Global Health Security Agenda: Non Governmental Perspectives on Addressing Emerging and Evolving Biological Threats." Non-governmental stakeholders will convene a one-day conference bringing together civil society organizations, foundations and government representatives to discuss their views on the GHSA and their efforts in GHSA implementation. Highlights: 9 a.m. Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs) Andy Weber addresses biosecurity at an NGO roundtable. Location: Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University, 950 New Hampshire Ave, NW. Notes: RSVP to http://smartglobalhealth.org/page/signup/global-health-security-agenda-ngo-conference.

MICROSOFT CONVERSATION ON EDUCATION — 8:30 a.m. Richard Culatta, director of the Office of Educational Technology (OET), will join a panel discussion to explore the future of learning at the @Microsoft Conversation on Education: Technology and Learning in the 21st Century. Speakers: Richard Culatta, director of the Office of Educational Technology, U.S. Department of Education; Jim Kohlenberger, president, JK Strategies and Education Superhighway; Elizabeth Rorick, deputy executive director of government affairs and communications, National PTA; Rahul Sandil, Project Spark program manager, Microsoft Studios. Location: Microsoft Innovation and Policy Center (11th floor), 901 K St., N.W. Contacts: Press Office press@ed.gov ((202) 401-1576)

BIRMINGHAM MAYOR — 9:30 a.m. Press conference with Mayor William Bell, Birmingham, Alabama. Contact: April Odom, 202-254-2368, april.odom@ci.birmingham.al.us http://press.org/events/mayor-william-bell-birmingham-alabama. Location: National Press Club, Murrow room, 529 14th Street NW.

STIMSON – GEN. PERKINS — 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Chairmans Forum With TRADOC Commander, General David G. Perkins. http://www.stimson.org/events/chairmans-forum-with-tradoc-commander-general-david-g-perkins-/ Location: The Stimson Center 1111 19th Street NW 12th Floor. Notes: The conversation is on the record.

EPA ADMINISTRATOR – CLIMATE CHANGE – ECONOMICS — 10 a.m. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy will give a keynote speech on the economic needs for acting on climate change at the Resources for the Future (RFF) Policy Leadership Forum. Webcast RSVP: http://www.rff.org/Events/Pages/WEBCAST-A-Conversation-with-EPA-Administrator-Gina-McCarthy.aspx. Location: RFF First Floor Conference Center, 1616 P St. NW. Contacts: Media RSVP: David Cohen dcohen@rff.org.

U.S. CHAMBER CONFERENCE CALL — 10 a.m. Patrick Kilbride, executive director of International IP for the Chamber's Global Intellectual Property Center, will join the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF) for a panel of industry leaders to provide perspective on the current U.S.-India business environment, and will discuss intellectual property issues as it relates to the new administration of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For the panel Kilbride will join ITIF Senior Analyst Stephen Ezell, American Enterprise Institute Resident Fellow and Wall Street Journal Columnist Sadanand Dhume, and National Association of Manufacturers Senior Director for International Business Policy Chris Moore. Contacts: Brian Noyes, bnoyes@uschamber.com. Notes: RSVP for call in information.

AIAA NCS LUNCHEON – FRAN ROSE — 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) NCS Monthly Luncheon with Frank A. Rose, U.S. Department of State. https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidka07e9sb4odia3e04220. Location: Army Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. Contacts: Michele McMurrer, AIAA-NCS aiaancs1@aol.com (301-325-0703). Notes: Registration is now closed.

DOD BRIEFING — 12 p.m. U.S. Pacific Command Commander, Adm. Samual Locklear briefs the media on U.S. Pacific Command's area of responsibility. Location: Pentagon, Press Briefing Room, 2E973, Arlington, Virginia.

HERITAGE – SUPREME COURT PREVIEW — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Supreme Court Preview of the 2014 Term. Speakers: Michael Carvin served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel and the Civil Rights Division, and has argued numerous cases before the Supreme Court, including last terms Susan B. Anthony List v. Driehaus. Paul Clement served as the 43rd Solicitor General of the United States and has argued over 70 cases before the Supreme Court, including last terms Hobby Lobby v. Burwell, ABC, Inc. v. Aereo, Inc., and Bond v. United States. http://www.heritage.org/events/2014/09/supreme-court-preview. Location: Heritage Foundation, Allison Auditorium, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE.

VILSACK – RISK MANAGEMNT PROGRAMS — 1 p.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will host a media conference call to unveil highly anticipated new programs to help farmers better manage risks, representing one of the most significant changes to U.S. farm programs in decades. DIAL-IN: 888-324-9687. PASSCODE: ARC-PLC (Given Verbally). Trouble number – 202-720-8560. Contact: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623.

NASA – ISS CREW LAUNCH — 3:30 p.m. NASA Television will provide extensive coverage of the Sept. 25 launch from Kazakhstan of three crew members of Expedition 41/42, as they begin their planned six-hour journey to the International Space Station. NASA Television coverage will start at 3:30 p.m. EDT and will include video of the pre-launch activities leading up to spacecraft boarding. http://www.nasa.gov/press/2014/september/nasa-television-coverage-set-for-next-space-station-crew-launch/.VBsECPldWMI. Notes: Launch windows subject to change.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "Here's something bad about autumn – how about the traffic. Did anybody have to get around town yesterday or today? I'll tell you, it's crazy. It's because the UN General Assembly is back in session. President Obama is in town. It's like Chris Christie – every major artery is clogged."

David Letterman: "The UN General Assembly is open – 135 representatives from countries all over the globe, from Great Britain, of course, David Cameron. From France, François Hollande. From North Korea, Dennis Rodman. They're all here."

David Letterman: "Did you see…this picture of President Obama getting off the helicopter? I think it's – is it Marine One? Is that what they call it, the helicopter? And he's got a cup of coffee in his hand, and there are the Marines, the guard there, waiting as he gets off, and he salutes the marine guards with a cup of coffee. And people are now…referring to it as 'The Starbucks Salute.' I think that's great. What other country – every time our president screws up, it's sponsored."

David Letterman: "But President Obama addressed the UN the same day, coincidentally, Chris Christie addressed the International House of Pancakes."

David Letterman: "It's quite a responsibility for the President of the United States, addressing the UN General Assembly. And yesterday he spoke on climate change. Today, he spoke on terrorism. And tomorrow he talks about how to buy real estate with no money down."

David Letterman: "I think the speech was well received. Obama's speech was interrupted 10 times for applause, three times for guys hopping the fence."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama, he is facing criticism over an incident yesterday, where he was holding a cup

of coffee in his hand and he used that same hand to salute a Marine. Though with all that's going on in the world, I'm surprised he didn't salute with a bottle of Jack Daniels and a cigarette in the other hand."

Jimmy Fallon: "Obama had a coffee cup in his hand while he was saluting a Marine, which got even worse when Biden did the same thing with a Capri Sun."

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, President Obama said that over 40 countries have offered to help the US fight ISIS. Yeah. Of course, they said it the same way your friends do when they promise to help you move."

Jimmy Fallon: "I also read that the Federal government is starting to plan for climate change by making extended forecasts that can help people plan for extreme weather, because what can go wrong when you combine the efficiency of the government with the accuracy of weathermen?"

Seth Meyers: "President Obama today addressed the UN General Assembly and asked young people to focus on education and innovation rather than religious extremism. And if there's one place to reach young people, it's the UN General Assembly."

Seth Meyers: "During the speech, President Obama said about the militant group ISIS, 'The only language understood by killers like this is the language of force.' So, I guess, talk to them like this, we will."

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with the commander-in-chief and executive director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Delivers remarks at the 94th Annual Convention of the American Association of Community Colleges, Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, open press; swears in Maria Contreras-Sweet as administrator of the Small Business Administration.
US Senate: 2 p.m. — The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. Thereafter, Senators resume consideration of H.R. 3979, the legislative vehicle for the unemployment insurance extension.
US House: 4:30 p.m. PELOSI BUDGET PRESS CONFERENCE — News Conference Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, et al. on Republican Budget's Impact on Seniors. (Crews must RSVP to the Radio-TV Gallery 202-225-5214). Location: Will Rogers.

12 p.m. — The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and at 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. Members are advised that the 6:30 p.m. vote series will include votes on the Motion to Recommit and passage of H.R. 1871. H.R. 1871 – Baseline Reform Act of 2013 (Rep. Woodall/Gohmert – Budget) Suspensions (3 bills) H.R. 3470 – Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014, as amended (Rep. Royce – Foreign Affairs) S. 404 – Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act (Sen. Murray – Natural Resources) H.R. 4323 – Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014 (Rep. Goodlatte – Judiciary) TU

9 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies hearing on American Indian and Alaskan Native Public and Outside Witness Hearing. Witnesses: Vernon Miller, Council Member, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska; Cyril Scott, Tribal President, Rosebud Sioux Tribe; Quinton Roman Nose, Executive Director, Tribal Education Departments National Assembly; Bryan Brewer, President, Oglala Sioux Tribe; Ervin Carlson, President, Inter Tribal Buffalo Council; Kevin Keckler, Sr., Tribal Chairman, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe; Tex Hall, Chairman, Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation; Dana "Sam" Buckles, Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board , The Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation; David Gipp, Chancellor, United Tribes Technical College; Ryan Wilson, President, National Alliance to Save Native Languages; Richard Morsette, Tribal Chairman, Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation of Montana; Harry Smiskin, Chairman, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; Ben Shelly, President, Navajo National; Walter Phelps, Chairman, Navajo Hopi Land Commission; Michael Chavarria, Governor, Santa Clara Pueblo; Fred Vallo, Sr., Governor, Acoma Pueblo. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=369744 Location: B-308 Rayburn.

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies hearing on American Indian and Alaskan Native. Witnesses: Angela Barney Nez, Executive Director, Dine Bi Olta School Board Association; Earl Apachito, Board President, Association of Navajo Community Controlled School Boards; Jeffrey Mike, President of the Board, Pinon Community School; Ronald Gishey, Member of the Board, Rough Rock Community Schools; Arthur Ben, Principal, Lukachukai Community School; Faye BlueEyes, Principal, Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community Grant School; Darnell Maria, Member of the Board, Ramah Navajo School Board; Pam Agoyo, President, National Indian Education Association; Nancy Martine-Alonzo, Secretary and Treasurer, Ramah Navajo Chapter; Jospeh Socobasin, Chief, Passamaquoddy Tribal Government; William Harris, Chief, Catawba Indian Nation; Colley Billie, Chairman, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; Brian Patterson, President, United South and Eastern Tribes; Nathan Small, Chairman, Fort Hall Business Council; Joel Moffett, Vice-Chairman, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee; Joel Moffett, Chairman, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; Dennis Smith, Sr., Tribal Chairman, Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Business Council; McCoy Oatman, U.S. Alternate Commissioner, Pacific Salmon Commission; Charles Clement, President, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium; Andy Teuber, Chair and President, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; Donna Galbreath, President, Southcentral Foundation; Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Executive Director, Chugach Regional Resources Commission; Angela Cox, Vice-President, Arctic Slope Native Association ; Elsie Sampson Vaden, Self Governance Coordinator, Norton Sound Health Corporation; Jessica Mata-Rukovishnikoff, Primary Care Services Regional Administrator, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association; Victor Joseph, Health Services Director, Tanana Chiefs Conference. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=369746 Location: B-308 Rayburn.

2 p.m. US-AFGHAN RELATIONS — The Alliance in Support of the Afghan People and Partnership for a Secure America present: Panel Discussion: Afghan Elections and the Future of US-Afghan Relations. Panel Featuring: Lisa Curtis Senior Fellow, Heritage Foundation; Omar Samad Former Afghan Ambassador to Canada and

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Apr 8, 2014 at 7:03 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Judge Denies Environmental Challenge To Proposed Wyoming Coal-bed Methane Project.
+ Lease Review By BLM Extends Beyond Thompson Divide.
+ OK Experiences 109th Earthquake Of Magnitude 3 Or Higher, Matching 2013 Total.

Offshore Energy Development:
+ BSEE Offers Grant For Arctic Oil Spill Response.
+ Murkowski Calls For US To Take Leadership Role In Arctic Development And Exploration.
+ Shell Moved Ill-Fated Rig In Part For Tax Purposes.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:
+ Support Grows For Change In Lake Berryessa Oversight.
+ Environmental Groups Claim Delta Tunnels Would Force Thousands To Relocate.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:
+ Mackinac Tribal Nation Seeks Recognition As Indian Tribe.
+ Sen. Tester Tackles Education, Health Care As New Indian Affairs Chairman.
+ New Director Of Compliance For National Indian Gaming Commission Takes Post.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
+ Obama Announces $107 Million In New Grants For High School Programs.
+ White House Responds To Claim That Women On Its Staff Make $8,000/Yr Less Than Men.
+ Senate Easily Approves Jobless Benefits Extension.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:
+ New York Times.
+ Washington Post.
+ Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:
+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

SAVE THE DATE:
+ POSTERity: WPA's Art Legacy and America's Public Lands.
+ Ranger of the Lost Art.
+ DOI Employee Social.
+ Wildlife Responds to Climate Change.
+ Lunchtime Lecture with Interior Museum Curator Tracy Baetz and Screen Printing Workshop.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:
+ Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

ALASKA TO SUE FOR ROAD THROUGH IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The AP (4/8) reports that "the state of Alaska announced Monday it will sue the federal government to open a road through" the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge "so that residents of a village will have improved access for emergency flights at an all-weather airport." Gov. Sean Parnell said the federal government's decision on the road was "unconscionable." In a statement, Parnell said, "In just the last several weeks, serious health-related evacuations have shown just how critical a road for medical evacuations is for residents." According to Parnell, "the grounds for the lawsuit...would be the Mining Act of 1866, which grants rights of ways based on historic use."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (4/7, 251K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (4/7, 687K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (4/8, 857K), the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (4/7, 18K), the Hilton Head (SC) Island Packet (4/7, 116K), and WHEC-TV Rochester, NY (4/8, 8K).

Also covering the story are the AP (4/8), the Alaska Dispatch (4/6, 7K), the Juneau (AK) Empire (4/7, 21K), the Nation Sun News (4/8), and KTVA-TV Anchorage, AK (4/8, 1K).

DEMOCRATS PUSH FOR AGENCY DECISIONS TO BOOST REELECTION BIDS. The Washington Post (4/8, Kane, 4.22M) reports that Democrats are pushing the Obama Administration for agency decisions that they thinks would boost their reelection chances. The article notes that "the biggest fights...come down to Alaska's push for more energy production, which often runs up against the Obama administration's liberal instincts to protect the environment." Another point of contention is "a road project connecting the remote town of King Cove to a nearby airport."

SECRETARY JEWELL TO COMMEMORATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARIAN ANDERSON'S CONCERT AT LINCOLN MEMORIAL. The Broadway World (4/8, 151K) reports that on April 9, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "will join the Washington Performing Arts Society and local high school and elementary school children on the plaza of the Lincoln Memorial to commemorate Marian Anderson's historic Easter Day concert in 1939."

REP. HASTINGS CRITICIZES INTERIOR FOR NOT CUTTING SPENDING IN BUDGET REQUEST. The Fierce Government (4/8, 224) reports House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings during an April 3 hearing "criticized the White House budget proposal for the Interior Department for not prioritizing programs or making spending reductions." Hastings said, "With a budget proposal that is higher than last year's enacted levels, I'm afraid the Interior Department's budget misses the mark." Hastings also "spoke out against full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

SECRETARY JEWELL PRESSED TO SPEED UP CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Saipan Tribune (4/8, 641) reports that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan "pressed" Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "speed up" the co-management agreement "governing federal and CNMI submerged lands in the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, three months after President Barack Obama signed a proclamation temporarily withholding the transfer to the CNMI of submerged lands around five islands that are either part of a national marine monument or under lease to the US military." Sablan raised the co-management issue during the US House Natural Resources Committee's hearing on the US Department of the Interior's fiscal year 2015 budget proposal.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NATIONAL PARK ADVOCATES WATCHING NPS BUDGET. The Public News Service (4/7, 306) reports that national park advocates are "watching carefully as Congress puts President Obama's budget under the microscope in April." Obama is "proposing an increase of $55 million in the National Park Service budget for 2015, including $10 million as a 'Centennial Initiative' to get the parks ready for the agency's 100th anniversary celebration in 2016." John Garder, budget and appropriations director for the National Parks Conservation Association, said "it is a promising start, after years of budget-trimming have taken a toll on park maintenance and staffing."

Also providing coverage is the Public News Service (4/7, 306).

NPS RELEASES NEW VIDEO TO PROMOTE NATIONAL PARK WEEK. The Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (4/7, 338K) reports that the NPS announced Monday the release of an internet video promoting National Park Week. According to the article, "the video shows visitors and rangers jumping in front of images from the 401 national parks."

CHICAGO MAYOR EMANUEL DECRIES PROCESS OF DESIGNATING PARK. In an interview with the New Republic (4/8, 195K), Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel compared the difference between the federal government and local government. Emanuel claims that the federal government suffers from "a diffusion of power," whereas

there is "a focus of power" in Chicago. As an example, he notes that "every playground in the city of Chicago" has been redone and they are "adding parks everywhere." On the other hand, the city is "trying to get the Interior Department to designate a local park to be a national designation, and it is like a three-year process." Emanuel added, "They have interest in doing it, but my God. In Chicago, I wanted to make sure every child in four years time was a ten-minute walk from a new park or playground. It's done. We are going to get there one year ahead of time."

DC'S CHERRY BLOSSOM BUDS NEARS PEAK BLOOM. In its "Capital Weather Gang" blog, the Washington Post (4/8, Samenow, 4.22M) reports "the buds on Washington, D.C.'s famed cherry trees today reached their final stage before bursting and reaching peak bloom." The NPS "declared the buds are 'puffy white', which on average signifies peak bloom is just 4-6 days away."

Also reporting on the story is WJLA-TV Washington (4/8, 118K).

BILL INTRODUCED TO UPGRADE DC'S GOLF COURSES. The AP (4/8) reports that Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton says "the public golf courses in the nation's capital are in desperate need of an upgrade." Norton "introduced a bill Monday calling for a study of the possibility of public-private partnerships to operate the three courses." The article notes that "the courses — East Potomac, Langston and Rock Creek — are owned by the National Park Service and operated through concession contracts."

MASSIVE AMOUNT OF ROCKS FALL IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The AP (4/8) reports that "officials at Yosemite National Park say a massive amount of rock has fallen from a cliff, closing a hiking trail." The NPS said Monday that "nobody was hurt when the 16,000 tons of rock fell 500 feet from a cliff near Hetch Hetchy Reservoir on March 31."

BEARS COME OUT OF HIBERNATION AT GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK. The AP (4/8) reports that "bears are out of hibernation at Grand Teton National Park and officials say both residents and park visitors should be alert for them." Staff workers at Grand Teton "recently received reports of a group of bears just east of the park's headquarters campus in Moose."

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK SEEKS "CITIZEN SCIENTISTS". The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (4/7, 111K) reports that "researchers are starting a long-term project to measure the impacts of climate change on the plants and animals in Joshua Tree National Park and are enlisting 'citizen scientists' who will participate in the research during a weekend class on Saturday and Sunday." According to the article, "participants also will help assess the long-term impacts of climate change on Joshua trees, collecting data on how the trees are faring at different elevations."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: PANEL REJECTS DESIGN FOR EISENHOWER MEMORIAL. Additional coverage of the National Capital Planning Commission's rejection of the current design for a memorial honoring President Dwight D. Eisenhower was provided by Roll Call (4/8, 76K).

Bureau of Land Management:

AUDIT FINDS BLM MISSED OUT ON MINERAL REVENUE. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/8, 705) reports that the BLM "lost almost $1 million in revenue from the improper management of mineral material, the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General said in a new report." According to the report, the bureau "may have missed out on more than $846,000 because of program deficiencies." The audit "faulted BLM for using outdated sales guidance and problems with calculating the materials' value."

Also reporting on the story is the Washington Times (4/8, Swarts, 455K).

NEVADA RANCHER'S SON FREED AS BLM ROUNDS UP CATTLE. The AP (4/8, Ritter) reports that "the son of a rural Nevada cattle rancher was freed from federal custody Monday, a day after Bureau of Land Management police arrested him amid a long-running family dispute with the government over cattle grazing in remote rangeland northeast of Las Vegas." Dave Bundy was "issued a court summons on criminal charges that he refused to disperse and resisted officers, said Natalie Collins, spokeswoman for the US attorney's office in Las

Vegas." Meanwhile, "about 100 protesters rallied Monday against the BLM roundup of cattle that Bundy's father, Cliven Bundy, says belong to him."

Additional coverage was provided by FOX News (4/7, 74.23M), ABC News (4/8, 3.58M), the Los Angeles Times (4/8, Glionna, 3.46M), the St. George (UT) Spectrum (4/7, 48K), the St. George (UT) News (4/7, 3K), the Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/8, 437K), KUTV-TV Salt Lake City (4/8, 7K), and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (4/8, 242K).

MAN AGREES TO RESTITUTION FOR VANDALIZING MONUMENT. The AP (4/8) reports that "a Minnesota man who carved the names of himself and his wife near the 1806 signature of explorer William Clark on a national monument in Montana has agreed to pay $4,400 in restitution and fines," the BLM said Monday. According to the article, "the fine came after the US attorney's office filed a misdemeanor vandalism charge against Cole Randall of Plymouth, Minn., for the carving in sandstone at Pompey's Pillar that reads 'Cole + Shpresa 10/10/2013.'" Randall "agreed to pay $3,400 in restitution and a $1,000 fine to settle the case."

Also reporting on the story are the Minneapolis Star Tribune (4/8, Walsh, 1.48M), the St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (4/8, 656K), the Chicago Tribune (4/8, Walsh, 1.48M), and the Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (4/8, 153K).

WILD HORSE ROUNDUP PROPOSED BY IRON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CRITICIZED. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (4/8, 470K) reports that "opponents of an emergency wild horse roundup proposed by Iron County Commissioners say the wrong animals are being targeted for reduction in the drought-stricken lands of western Utah." Suzanne Roy, director of the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, said that the county plan "is retaliation for the Bureau of Land Management saying they needed to reduce grazing levels. They are scapegoating, once again, wild horses for the problems created by the large number of livestock grazing on our public lands." Iron County Commission chair Dave Miller said Monday that "at least a partial roundup of the horses could happen this week."

In an op-ed for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (4/8, 22K), the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, and its founding organization, Return to Freedom, warned the BLM and the Iron County Commissioners that "any removal of wild horses from federal lands would be in violation of federal laws." At the same time, wild horse advocates "released BLM-based data that shows that wild horses are greatly outnumbered by livestock on public lands in Utah and Nevada."

DECISION OPENS NEW AREAS OF IMPERIAL SAND DUNES RECREATION AREA TO VEHICLES. The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (4/7, 435K) reports that "ending a 14-year closure, about 40,000 acres of the popular Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area will be opened to off-road vehicles this fall after a federal court judge overruled environmentalists' objections." The article notes that "the land had been placed off limits to protect the Peirson's milk vetch, a perennial herb listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act." The ruling by US District Judge Susan Illston of the Northern District Court of California in San Francisco "last week upholds a 2013 management plan adopted by the US Bureau of Land Management that includes lifting most of the milk-vetch closure."

Also reporting on the story is the Courthouse News (4/7, 7K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

MUSICIANS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED IVORY REGULATIONS. NPR (4/8, Ragusea, 519K) reports that "new Obama administration rules aimed at protecting African elephants are causing widespread anxiety in the music world." The proposed regulations would "place a near-total ban on anything made with ivory moving in and out of the US" Working musicians claim "the policy will make them think twice about touring abroad." Says Craig Hoover, who heads up the Wildlife Trade and Conservation Branch of the FWS, said, "The reason for that is ... we have seen, over the past five to 10 years, a dramatic, alarming and unprecedented increase in the slaughter of African elephants to supply the global ivory trade, and populations of both savannah elephants and forest elephants have dropped precipitously."

FWS Issues Temporary Ban Of Elephant Trophy Imports From Zimbabwe And Tanzania. The Nature World News (4/7) reports that "game hunters who've taken elephants as trophies in Tanzania and Zimbabwe are banned

from importing any of the animals into the US," according to new ruling by the FWS. The agency "announced it would suspend imports of all sport-hunted elephant trophies taken from the two African nations for the remainder of the 2014 calender year, citing poor regulations in Tanzania and Zimbabwe and a growing need to address the impact of illegal poaching on the countries' elephant populations."

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR NEW MEXICO MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE. In its "RegWatch" blog, The Hill (4/8, 237K) reports that the FWS "announced Monday a rule that would classify the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse as endangered and designate a critical habitat for it." The article notes that "the rule was originally announced last year, but the agency is now reopening the comment period for an additional 30 days so the public will have more time to comment."

COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED ON SAGE GROUSE. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (4/7, 166K) reports that the FWS on Monday "announced it would extend the public comment period on a proposal to designate the so-called 'bi-state' population of sage grouse as a threatened species by 60 days, with comment now being accepted until June 7." Also, the agency is "extending by six months its final determination as to whether the bi-state sage grouse should be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, with that decision now due on or before April 28, 2015." Ted Koch, Nevada state supervisor for the FWS, said, "Extending the comment period provides additional time for the public and other stakeholders to review the proposal and provide comments and information that will help inform our decisions about protections that may be needed to conserve this distinct population of greater sage grouse. This process helps ensure that any decisions made by the service are grounded in the best available science."

GROUP THREATENS LAWSUIT OVER ALABAMA'S SLENDERCLAW CRAYFISH. The Alabama Live (4/8, 75K) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity "announced Monday that it intends to sue the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for failing to add Alabama's slenderclaw crayfish to the list of federally-endangered species."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FWS REPORT LABELS IVANPAH SOLAR PROJECT A "MEGA-TRAP". The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (4/7, 111K) reports that "a new report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has labeled BrightSource Energy's Ivanpah project a 'mega-trap' for insects and birds that may get singed or in some cases, burned alive flying through the intense solar radiation reflecting off the thousands of mirrors surrounding three solar towers at the plant in eastern San Bernardino County." The Center for Biological Diversity "posted the report to the California Energy Commission website on Monday as part of its testimony opposing BrightSource's 500-megawatt Palen project, located east of the Coachella Valley, which would use similar technology — soaring solar towers surrounded by thousands of reflecting mirrors." The report said, "Although not analyzed in detail, there was also significant bat and insect mortality at the Ivanpah site, including monarch butterflies. It appears that Ivanpah may act as a 'mega-trap,' (original emphasis) attracting insect-eating birds, which are incapacitated by solar flux injury, thus attracting predators and creating an entire food chain vulnerable to injury and death."

WIND POWER SETS NEW JANUARY GENERATION RECORD. Bloomberg News (4/8, Randall, 2.76M) reports that in January wind power was responsible for 4.8 percent of US electricity generation, the highest January total ever, according to data from the US Energy Information Association. Bloomberg News casts the US's rising wind power as "unstoppable" because in many areas of the country wind has become cheaper than coal and natural gas. Bloomberg News also casts competition between wind and natural gas as "fierce," and writes that although wind power is currently able to compete due to a tax subsidy, even without it "wind prices are getting cheaper as technology improves."

Onshore Energy Development:

JUDGE DENIES ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE TO PROPOSED WYOMING COAL-BED METHANE PROJECT. The AP (4/8, Neary) reports that "a federal judge in Washington, D.C., has ruled against environmental groups that challenged the US Interior Department's plan to open the Fortification Creek area in northeastern Wyoming to coal-bed methane development." Judge Barbara J. Rothstein "on March 28 released a

42-page ruling against the National Wildlife Federation and two Wyoming groups: the Powder River Basin Resource Council, based in Sheridan; and the Wyoming Outdoor Council, based in Lander." The groups had sued in 2012, claiming the BLM "improperly analyzed how opening the area to development would affect the local elk herd." However, Rothstein held the BLM had "analyzed properly the cumulative effects of development on the 100,000-acre Fortification Creek Planning Area." Rothstein "rejected claims that the agency had failed to do an adequate job of considering the effects of development on the elk and on water and soil resources."

LEASE REVIEW BY BLM EXTENDS BEYOND THOMPSON DIVIDE. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (4/8, 27K) reports that "a new environmental analysis being undertaken by the Bureau of Land Management to review oil and gas leases issued on the White River National Forest south of the Colorado River over the past two decades extends well beyond the embattled Thompson Divide area." The bureau "recently announced that it plans to analyze a total of 65 leases issued under a 1993 US Forest Service Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which the Department of Interior Board of Land Appeals determined to be deficient." The review will "include 25 leases held by two energy companies, SG Interests and Ursa Resources Group, within the 221,000-acre Thompson Divide area southwest of Glenwood Springs."

OK EXPERIENCES 109TH EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 3 OR HIGHER, MATCHING 2013 TOTAL. Bloomberg News (4/8, Efstathiou Jr., 2.76M) reports that on April 6 Oklahoma experienced its 109th earthquake of a magnitude 3 or higher, "matching the total for all of 2013," according to Oklahoma Geological Survey research seismologist Austin Holland. Bloomberg News casts the quakes as having been "overwhelming" to state officials "who are trying to determine if the temblors are linked to oil and natural gas production." Bloomberg News writes that Holland said that it's "likely" Oklahoma has "cases of earthquakes being caused by different oil and gas activity," but that "evaluating those carefully can take significant amounts of time, especially when we're swamped." Bloomberg News also casts the recent uptick in earthquakes in Oklahoma as coming amid quakes "thought to be tied to wastewater disposal wells" in Azle, TX; Jones, OK; and northeastern Ohio.

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE OFFERS GRANT FOR ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE. The Upstream Online (4/8, 20K) reports that the BSEE is "offering grant money for research into developing technologies to respond to oil spills in icy Arctic conditions." The bureau said in a "broad agency announcement" on Friday that it is seeking "new and innovative mechanical technologies" for "cleaning up oil spills in drift ice conditions." The announcement added, "Collection systems should be able to efficiently collect oil while operating in drift ice conditions that might be found in an Arctic environment."

MURKOWSKI CALLS FOR US TO TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION. The "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (4/7, Barron-Lopez, 237K) reports that yesterday on the Senate floor, Sen. Lisa Murkowski pressed "the administration on Arctic development and exploration." Murkowski "has made the case for the U.S. to take a leadership role in the Arctic as new opportunities arise from its changing landscape." She indicated that "she is not optimistic the U.S. is on the same trajectory as other nations like China, Japan and Russia, which are already making headway in the uncharted region." Murkowski "stressed the untapped potential for further oil and gas exploration in the region, a contentious issue between industry and environmentalists, who say the Arctic should be left untouched as the impacts of climate change grow."

SHELL MOVED ILL-FATED RIG IN PART FOR TAX PURPOSES. Picking up on earlier news, Bloomberg News (4/8, Snyder, 2.76M) reports that Shell's decision to move a drilling rig from Alaska's waters to Seattle was driven, in part, by a "desire to avoid millions of dollars in Alaska state taxes," according to a Coast Guard report. Shell "had decided to move the Kulluk drill rig to Seattle for repairs because it might have been subject to a state property tax had it remained in Alaska waters beyond Jan. 1, 2013, according to the report released April 3 that offered eight recommendations to improve safety." The rig ultimately broke free of its tow and rand aground.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SUPPORT GROWS FOR CHANGE IN LAKE BERRYESSA OVERSIGHT. The Napa Valley (CA) Register (4/8, 36K) reports that "a bill from US Rep. Mike Thompson that would make sweeping changes to recreation at Lake Berryessa has built support in Congress and Napa County." The bill "proposes to take management of recreation

at the lake from the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), which has had that responsibility since Napa County relinquished it in the 1970s, and give it to the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM)." Thompson "announced last week that his bill has 60 bipartisan coauthors in the House of Representatives, and it has also received the Napa County Board of Supervisors' endorsement."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CLAIM DELTA TUNNELS WOULD FORCE THOUSANDS TO RELOCATE. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (4/8, 206) reports that "thousands of residents of Byron and possibly Discovery Bay and other communities might be forced from their homes because of health threats from construction to massive twin water tunnels, environmental groups charge Monday." Restore the Delta Executive Director Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla said, "The Brown Administration admits the tunnels would have '52 significant and unavoidable adverse impacts' on the Delta region, including permanently degraded groundwater quality, long-term reduction of navigation opportunities, and exposure to unhealthy air quality bad enough in Byron to require people to move in order to avoid an increased cancer risk. Hidden deep in the 40,000 page project proposal, and further buried in a footnote ... is the news that Byron area children, elderly and people with conditions like asthma will be so threatened by air toxins from the tunnels project that they would have to leave town. What about the thousands of people just up the road in Brentwood and Discovery Bay?"

Empowering Native American Communities:

MACKINAC TRIBAL NATION SEEKS RECOGNITION AS INDIAN TRIBE. The AP (4/8) reports that the Mackinac Tribal Nation has filed a lawsuit seeking federal recognition The tribe says "it filed a request March 20 seeking tribal jurisdiction and recognition for land claims, hunting and fishing rights, the protection of religious freedom and other treaty obligations under the Indian Reorganization Act."

Also reporting on the story are the Escanaba (MI) Daily Press (4/8, 1K) and the Nation Sun News (4/8).

SEN. TESTER TACKLES EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AS NEW INDIAN AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN. In an interview with the Flathead (MT) Beacon (4/8, 15K), the newly seated chairman of the US Senate's Indian Affairs Committee, Sen. Jon Tester "addressed a gamut of issues facing the Native American community, including the government turmoil on the Blackfeet Reservation and the controversy surrounding the Washington Redskins' name."

NEW DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE FOR NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION TAKES POST. The Muskogee (OK) Phoenix (4/8, 29K) reports that "Muskogee native Doug Hatfield, a former compliance manager for the Cherokee Nation Gaming Commission, is now the director of compliance for the National Indian Gaming Commission in Washington, D.C."

Top National News:

OBAMA ANNOUNCES $107 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS. President Obama's appearance at a Maryland high school, where he announced the disbursement of Federal grants meant to encourage innovative curricula that promise to prepare students for jobs thought likely to be in high demand in coming years, did not generate significant national media coverage, and was not mentioned by any of the three network newscasts Monday evening. MSNBC (4/8, 45.1M) did air about 20 minutes of the President's remarks during their 11 AM hour of programming.

The AP (4/8) reports that on Monday, the President "announced more than $100 million in grants for two dozen schools across the country that are helping students gain work experience for what he called the 'in-demand jobs of the future.'" According to the AP, "The money...comes from fees that companies pay for visas to hire foreign workers for specialized jobs." The AP notes that the President "announced the grants before cheering high school students" at Bladensburg High School, "one of three high schools in Washington's Maryland suburbs that have created a Youth CareerConnect Program that is the recipient of $7 million under the announcement."

The Hill (4/7, Sink, 237K) reported that on Monday, the President told the Bladensburg students: "We want an education that engages you, an education that equips you with the rigorous and relevant skills for college and your career." The President added, "Schools that have entered this competition have changed the way they

prepare their students for the better."

McClatchy (4/8, Schoof, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that "the $107 million grant program focuses on fields where jobs are in demand, such as information technology and health care." McClatchy says Bladensburg High "plans to expand its program that helps high school students earn industry-recognized certifications in nursing and pharmacy." The Washington Times (4/8, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that Bladensburg "biomedical students can earn college credit from the University of Maryland."

According to the Washington Post (4/8, Wiggins, 4.22M), the awarding of the grants "continues the president's pledge to use executive authority to move forward in areas where Republicans have not supported him." The Post adds that Youth CareerConnect grant recipients "include the Los Angeles Unified School District, which is receiving a $7 million grant to build career academies...that will focus on health care, biotechnology and other technology-related industries," and "the New York City Education Department, which is getting nearly $7 million to fund two 'early college' high schools where students can obtain associate's degrees."

In a brief article, the New York Times (4/8, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the White House "said it hoped the program would enhance job-shadowing and mentoring opportunities, make it easier for students to enter high-demand industries like information technology, health care and other science and technology sectors, and expand credits available for students working toward postsecondary degree certificates."

Bloomberg News (4/8, Runningen, 2.76M) says the "$107 million in grants" will "help schools revamp their curriculum to better prepare students for success in their chosen career." Bloomberg also reports that CareerConnect, "a competitive grants program run by the Departments of Education and Labor, entices schools to link their education programs with specific skills or experiences to help ensure success."

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (4/8, Koumpilova, 656K) reports that schools in St. Paul and Apple Valley, Minnesota "are among the winners of the Obama administration's latest national grant competition." According to the Pioneer Press, St. Paul "won $3.7 million...and Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan district lined up $3 million." The Toledo (OH) Blade (4/8, Sielicki, 241K) notes that the Toledo Public Schools were "awarded nearly $4 million by the Obama Administration as part of a national program to make students career-ready through rigorous academic and career-focused curriculum."

In an editorial, the Baltimore Sun (4/8, 925K) says the President's appearance at Bladensburg High "was an example of the president using his bully pulpit to urge states to do more to help young people prepare for the work world even if they aren't college bound." The Sun says the President is "recasting for contemporary use an idea that had its roots in the beginnings of the industrial age, namely that high schools should offer students the opportunity to learn a trade that enables them to support themselves and their families as productive members of society." The Sun adds that the President's remarks "should serve as a wake-up call to the state's school districts that it's not enough to just send the cream of their graduating classes off to college."

Obama: "We've Got To Make It Easier To Repay Student Loans." Neil Munro, in a post for the Daily Caller (4/7, 408K), noted that also on Monday, the President "suggested that's he'll pressure Congress to reduce voters' student-loan payments before the November elections" when he said, "We've got to make it easier to repay student loans."

Biden Announces New Apprenticeship Program For Community College Students. US News & World Report (4/8, 645K) reported that also on Monday, in a speech to the American Association of Community Colleges, Vice President Biden "announced the creation of a new apprenticeship consortium comprised of community colleges, businesses, labor unions and industry organizations." US News says that as part of the Registered Apprenticeship-College Consortium – "which is administered by the departments of Labor and Education – students will be able to earn college credit while being paid to learn a trade." Biden is quoted as saying, "Through training at a community college...folks can transition to become welders, truckers, pipefitters, or one of the more than 100 different jobs involved in working at a natural gas site."

According to USA Today (4/8, Bash, 5.82M), the Registered Apprenticeship College Consortium "will act as a way to bridge the gap for students coming from low- and middle-class families who have to decide whether to go straight to work or continue their education." USA Today adds that Biden noted that the consortium "includes

community colleges, businesses, labor unions and industry organizations, all committed to creating paid apprenticeships that would qualify for academic credit." USA Today goes on to report that on Monday, the RNC "fired back, blaming the employer mandate within the Affordable Care Act for forcing colleges to cut hours for professors." RNC spokesman Jahan Wilcox said, "Obamacare is literally crushing community colleges across the country."

Study: Teachers Getting More Experienced. The Wall Street Journal (4/8, Banchero, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that new research from the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania has found that in the 2011-12 school year, public school teachers were, on average, more experienced than they were as of 2007-08, reversing a trend. The Journal says researchers have found evidence to suggests that much of the cohort of new teachers who began work in 2007, as the unemployment rate began to pick up ahead of the recession, have kept on teaching, which also reversed a trend from the years previous.

WHITE HOUSE RESPONDS TO CLAIM THAT WOMEN ON ITS STAFF MAKE $8,000/YR LESS THAN MEN. The Washington Post (4/8, Eilperin, 4.22M) reports that on Tuesday, President Obama "will take two executive actions...aimed at narrowing the wage gap between men and women." The Post says the President will unilaterally "forc[e] federal contractors to let their workers discuss their earnings with each other" and "disclose more information about what their employees earn." According to the Post, the actions, which coincide with "National Equal Pay Day," are "part of a broader effort by Democrats to increase turnout among female voters during the 2014 midterm elections." White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett is quoted as saying, "Unfortunately, pay inequity is a real and persistent problem that continues to shortchange women, their families and our economy as a whole."

At the opening of Fox News' Special Report (4/8, lead story, 2.15M), Bret Baier said, "President Obama again advocates equal pay for women, but apparently that does not include his own White House." White House correspondent Ed Henry went on to report that on Monday, the President's "aides faced tough questions about why the President does not seem to be setting a good example since one recent study found that the median salary for females at the White house is 88 cents for every $1 a male staffer earns."

Under the headline, "As Obama Spotlights Gender Gap In Wages, His Own Payroll Draws Scrutiny," the New York Times (4/8, A14, Shear, Lowrey, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "critics of the administration are eager to turn the tables" and point to a "study released in January showed that female White House staff members make on average 88 cents for every dollar a male staff member earns" even as the White House and other Democrats "are trying to portray Republicans as insensitive to the concerns of women." The Times says the "recent study" from the "conservative American Enterprise Institute" found that "the median annual salary for women in the White House last year was $65,000, while the median annual salary for men was $73,729."

The Hill (4/7, Sink, 237K) reported that on Monday, White House press secretary Jay Carney "was peppered by questions from reporters about...[the] study that found the salary for the median female White House staffer was 12 percent lower than for a male staffer." Carney is quoted as saying, "What I can tell you is that we have, as an institution here, have aggressively addressed this challenge, and obviously, though, at the 88 cents that you cite, that is not a hundred, but it is better than the national average." According to the Hill, "The discrepancy is likely explained by concentrations of women in lower-paying jobs at the White House" and "more men holding higher-level positions."

USA Today (4/8, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that the executive orders represent the President's "latest effort to circumvent Congress and highlight an issue that he hopes can help fellow Democrats' chances at the polls in November." USA Today notes that the President's "latest foray into the issue also comes with the Senate set soon to consider the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would impose new regulations on how companies pay employees."

Republicans Plan Response To Obama's Messaging On Gender Pay Gaps. Politico (4/7, Palmer, 73K) reported that last week, "More than a dozen female Republican lawmakers gathered...with GOP operatives" for a "broad discussion on conservative ideas to empower female voters." According to Politico, "the GOP has spent the last year coming up with these new ideas to blunt a repeat of 2012, when key Senate races slipped through their fingers amid controversial Republican comments about rape," and their "strategy faces its first big test Tuesday, when a coalition of Republican committees will release its response to a Democratic push to make 'fair

pay; a campaign issue." Politico reported that the RNC, the NRSC and the NRCC "will blast a joint memo Tuesday on how the party supports equal pay for equal work and calling Democrats' tactics a 'desperate political ploy.'"

According to the Huffington Post (4/7, Bassett, 11.54M), "conservatives say Democrats are using the 'misleading' wage gap to galvanize women voters." AEI's Mark Perry and Andrew Biggs, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (4/8, Perry, Biggs, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) titled, "The '77 Cents On The Dollar' Myth About Women's Pay," claim that women who work at least 40 hours a week earn about 88% of what men who work 40 hours make, and unmarried women make 96% of what men take home.

Activists Want More Statues Of Women In The Capitol. The Los Angeles Times (4/8, Simon, 3.46M) reports that a group called Equal Visibility Everywhere "aims to promote gender parity in the symbols and icons of the United States," and "has been working to increase the number of women represented in the Capitol's collection" of statuary, "a popular tourist attraction." According to the Times, "Of the 100 statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection, nine are women."

SENATE EASILY APPROVES JOBLESS BENEFITS EXTENSION. The Senate's passage of an unemployment extension drew heavy print coverage, which generally portrayed the move as an election-year gambit that was unlikely to clear the House.

USA Today (4/8, Davis, 5.82M) reports that on Monday, the Senate voted 59-38 to extend expired long-term jobless benefits, "but the proposal faces opposition from House Republicans who say it doesn't do enough to spur job creation." The Senate bill would retroactively reauthorize benefits back to their expiration in December, and continue them through May. The "nearly $10 billion" price of the extension "would be paid for by extending custom user fees through 2024 and by allowing companies to change the way they pay in to their pension programs."

The Washington Times (4/8, Klimas, 455K) reports Democrats "had been trying for months to get unemployment benefits approved but struggled to come up with offsetting cuts." The Times says that "finally," they "cobbled together a package acceptable to a handful of Republicans, which helped them clear a GOP-led filibuster and waive budget rules."

Roll Call (4/7, Sanchez, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that the five Republicans "who helped negotiate the measure" joined the Democrats in backing the legislation. Roll Call adds that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "teed up the vote with another screed against the billionaire Koch brothers."

The AP (4/8, Espo) reports that the vote capped "a three-month struggle," and similarly says that it has received "a hostile reception in the House, where majority Republicans generally oppose it." The AP says the legislation is "the linchpin of a broader campaign-season agenda meant to showcase concern for men and women who are doing poorly in an era of economic disparity between rich and poor."

Politico (4/7, Everett, 73K) reported that the bill has "an uncertain future in the House." The "Democratic push on unemployment benefits is part of a broader election-year strategy to highlight income inequality."

The Huffington Post (4/7, Delaney, 11.54M) reported that Democrats hope that the vote "will increase pressure" on House Speaker John Boehner "to move the bill through his chamber." However, Boehner "has said the bill fails to create jobs and is 'unworkable,' partly because state unemployment agencies will have trouble finding all the people who've missed out on the benefits since they lapsed in December." On Monday night, Boehner spokesman Michael Steel said, "we are willing to look at extending emergency unemployment insurance as long as it includes provisions to help create more private-sector jobs – but, last week, Senate Democratic Leaders ruled out adding any jobs measures at all."

The Los Angeles Times (4/8, Mascaro, 3.46M) reports that after the Senate passage, a "beleaguered group of House Republicans from states with high unemployment rates" called on Boehner to "follow suit." However, the GOP lawmakers "are fighting an uphill battle against their leaders, and Boehner has shown little interest in passing an unemployment insurance extension, panning the Senate bill as unworkable."

Politico (4/7, French, 73K) reported that the "fate of expired unemployment benefits tied the Senate in knots for nearly four months," but the "response in the House: a nonchalant shrug." The legislation isn't "high on the House agenda this week," and "won't be much higher when the House returns from a two-week recess at the end of the month." There is "talk of amending the bill and sending it back to the Senate with provisions favored by Republicans — but even that seems to be on the back burner."

The Washington Post (4/8, Lowrey, 4.22M) reports that Democrats "intend to force the issue" in the House. The "starting point for Democrats" is enlisting the backing of a group of moderate Republicans who "in December signed a letter to Boehner asking the Republican House leadership to consider a temporary extension to the unemployment benefits."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Familiar Script In Ukraine."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (4/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) notes the similarities between events "taking place in Donetsk and elsewhere in eastern Ukraine" to "those that led up to the Russian annexation of Crimea." The Times notes that the US and Europe have warned that "further Russian aggression would prompt a stern and painful response," and argues that it is now time "to prepare it." The Times calls on the Europeans "to look beyond their internal problems and join Washington in agreeing to a package of extensive and strong sanctions that can be put in place immediately should that be necessary, including restricting the access of Russian banks and corporations to Western financial markets."

"Afghanistan's Vote." An editorial in the New York Times (4/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) calls it "good news" that "an estimated 60 percent of 12 million eligible voters in Afghanistan faced down Taliban threats and cast ballots in Saturday's presidential election," adding that it is "a further sign that the time has come to end America's combat role there after 13 years of conflict."

"Ten Cents A Bag? That's About Right."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"An Off-Base Idea."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/8, 4.22M) says that after any "mass shooting, a vocal faction in Congress insists that Americans would be safer if more people carried guns into restricted public places." The Post notes that several Republicans have called for allowing more military personnel to carry weapons on base, but "many current and former commanders disagree." The Post says that these officers are correct, and "lawmakers should not impose their views on those who run these military bases."

"India's Man With A Plan." An editorial in the Washington Post (4/8, 4.22M) argues that Bharatiya Janata Party leader Narendra Modi "may be as repellent to India's Muslims and secular liberals as he is attractive to the business community." Modi has "abandoned anti-Muslim rhetoric," he "has not apologized for or even explained his actions in the 2002 riots." Noting that while critics "had similar worries when the BJP's first government took office in 1998, they were mostly not borne out," the Post argues that the Obama Administration, "which in February broke its freeze-out of Mr. Modi, is right to bet that he will follow through on his promise to build the economy rather than picking sectarian fights."

"Undoing A Blunder." The Washington Post (4/8, 4.22M) editorializes that a Federal judge's ruling last week that Washington, DC "won't have to pay millions of dollars in extra labor costs for the massive CityCenterDC complex, which is under construction at the downtown site of the former convention center," is "a model of lucidity and common sense that could spare not only the District but also other jurisdictions a lot of hassle and expense." A Labor Department officials ruled in 2011 that CityCenterDC "was subject to the Davis-Bacon Act," which requires builders to pay "a kind of super-minimum wage to construction workers on federally funded public works projects and all public projects in the semi-federal nation's capital." Last week's ruling by US District Judge Amy Berman Jackson "vindicates all those who thought that the administration was blatantly distorting the Davis-Bacon Act's language and purpose; the law was meant to apply to post offices and other clearly public facilities, not hotels."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Putin's Latest Escalation."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that Russian President Vladimir Putin is on the offensive again in his effort

to undercut Ukraine's post-revolutionary democracy and preclude alignment with the West. The Journal argues that while the President warned last month that if Russia continues its aggression, sanctions "will expand, and the toll on Russia's economy, as well as its standing in the world, will only increase." since then the US and Europe have done next to nothing to show Putin that the threat had any meaning.

"The IRS Reconsiders." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that IRS Commissioner John Koskinen last week revealed that his agency would back off its proposed limits on political activity by 501(c)(4) organizations. The Journal says that the fact that the IRS didn't reconsider the proposal until liberal groups joined conservative groups in objecting is a sign of concern.

"Off The ObamaCare Deep End." The Wall Street Journal (4/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, contends that the only reason conservatives opposed lifting a $2000 deductible limit for insurance plans sold to small businesses is that they want the Affordable Care Act to cause as much pain for Americans as possible in furtherance of their goal of repealing the law. The Journal says it supports inevitable repeal, but urges Republicans to support moves to make the ACA work better for consumers in the meantime because voters will appreciate that the GOP is on their side as they deal with the downsides of "Obamacare."

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Nuclear Deal Not Giving Iranians Respite
Officers Tamper With In-Car Devices
Minds Are On The Gutters
Students Shrug As Quiet Settles On Rowdy Haven
Pistorius Offers Tearful Testimony

Wall Street Journal:
Ukraine Talks Revived Amid Fresh Unrest
Kerry, Military Clash On Approach To Syria's Rebels
Corporate Cash Alters University Curricula
AT&T Experiment Would Cut Landline In Alabama Town

New York Times:
In East Ukraine, Protesters Seek Russian Troops
Wish for Change Animates Voters In India Election
Hackers Lurking In Vents and Soda Machines
Tax Preparers Targeting Poor With High Fees
Two Tots, A Sailboat And A Storm Over Parenting
Operatic Drama Swells In Labor Talks At The Met

Washington Post:
Fears Of Russia Fuel A European Push For Fracking
Tension Soars In Eastern Ukraine
Senators And White House In Awkward Dance
Retailers And Shoppers Look For Gold In A Box
A Competition For Paying Patients

Financial Times:
Data Shake-Up Turns UK Into Nation Of Savers
Ukraine Fears Being Torn By Separatists
Barclays Settles Care Home Claim
Holcim And Lafarge Outline Merger Deal
Altice Claims Victory In Bid War For SFR
Ashley Cuts Stake In Sports Direct By £200M

Risks Of Cheap Money And Biotech IPOs

Washington Times:
Marxists Take Town Bogota Forgot
US Pays $700M Tab For Coalition's Food And Laundry
Illegals Arrested For Sit-In On Capitol Hill
Charities Still Feel Squeeze From Recession
Lerner Handling Makes Laywers Cringe
Alaska To Sue Interior For Road To Reach Medical Aid

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Malaysian Flight Search; Severe Weather; Lake Superior; Ukraine-Riots; Health-Preemclampsia; Royal Family Travel
CBS: Malaysian Flight Search; Malaysian Flight-Pings; Afghanistan-Election; Vessel Rescue Payment; Severe Weather; Navy-Weapon Development; Royal Family Travel
NBC: Malaysian Flight Search; Malaysian Flight-Families; Severe Weather; American Heroin Abuse; Prince George Appearance

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: NCAA-UConn Win; Malaysian Flight Search; Senate-Jobless Benefits; Suspect Arrested-Motorist Beating
CBS: NCAA-UConn Win; Senate-Restores Unemployment Benefits; Obama-Equal Pay Laws; Former IRS Lead Possible Crime; Fort Hood Shooting Details; Crash Test Results;
NPR: Malaysian Flight Search; NATO-Russia Restriction; SCOTUS-Wedding Photographer Appeal Denied; Senate-Jobless Benefits; Fort Hood Shooter Details; NCAA-UConn Win; California Family Sea Rescue
FOX: NCAA-UConn Win; Severe Weather; Malaysian Flight Search; Senate-Emergency Unemployment Benefits Restored

Save The Date:

POSTERITY: WPA'S ART LEGACY AND AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS. From 1938 to 1941, the National Park Service employed artists via the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to produce silk screened promotional posters for national park sites. The U.S. Department of the Interior Museum has united for the first time six WPA originals and a full complement of the contemporary designs by Doug Leen which follow the tradition of the WPA poster project, for this visually stunning retrospective. Featured are nearly 50 classic posters associated with 36 national parks, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Interior Museum. On view April 8, 2014 – Spring 2015. Museum hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

RANGER OF THE LOST ART. Learn about rediscovery of the WPA/Federal Art Project poster series and the continued tradition today. Artists Doug Leen and Brian Maebius will discuss the history of the program and how, using one surviving poster and photographs found through 20 years of research, they painstakingly reconstructed the original set. Today over 30 national parks are represented through their contemporary designs. Tuesday, April 8.1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Yates Auditorium.

DOI EMPLOYEE SOCIAL. The Interior Museum is reopening with the temporary exhibit, Posterity: WPA's Art Legacy & America's Public Lands. Use the same method as the WPA artists to pull your own screen-printed canvas bag or poster at our booth or join us for a brief Curator-led tour of the new exhibit. Thursday, April 10. 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Bison Bistro

WILDLIFE RESPONDS TO CLIMATE CHANGE. the American pika (Ochotona princeps) as a model, scientists are illustrating the nuanced ways by which climate changes are already affecting wildlife and some of the most protected, but least understood ecosystems in the western United States. U.S. Geological Survey Research Ecologist Dr. Erik Beever will discuss the collaborative effort that has collected data on wildlife and microclimate across western mountains for 21 years. Wednesday, April 16. 12:15pm – 1:15pm. Rachel Carson Room
*Presented in collaboration with the US Geological Survey

LUNCHTIME LECTURE WITH INTERIOR MUSEUM CURATOR TRACY BAETZ AND SCREEN PRINTING

WORKSHOP. Special Assistance – For those in need of special assistance (such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired) or inquiries regarding the accessible entrance, please notify museum staff at (202) 208-4743 in advance of the program. Special needs will be accommodated whenever possible. Wednesday, May 7. 12:15pm – 1:15pm. Rachel Carson Room RSVP required, 202-208-4743 or Diana_Ziegler@ios.doi.gov

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; delivers remarks at an event marking Equal Pay Day where he will announce new executive actions to strengthen enforcement of equal pay laws for women, East Room, open press; meets the Vice President for lunch; meets with Secretary of State Kerry, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Meets President Obama for lunch, meets with Secretary of State Kerry, Oval Office, closed press; meets with Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic of Montenegro at the White House, closed press.
US Senate: 12:30 p.m. SEN. GILLIBRAND – 'EQUAL PAY DAY' — Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand will "continue her fight to ensure more working women have a fair shot at earning financial security by closing the pay gap and raising the minimum wage" on a conference call.

2:15 p.m. MENENDEZ – ISRAEL FM — Chairman Robert Menendez hosts working coffee with Avigdor Lieberman, Foreign Minister of Israel. Media can take photos at the top of the meeting. Location: S-116 the Capitol.

2:15 p.m. SEN. MIKULSKI – PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT — Time approximate. Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Dean of the Senate women and a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, will be joined by Senate Democratic women in speaking out on the Senate floor to urge passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

2:40 p.m. LANDRIEU – JONES ACT — Press conference to announce benefits of the Jones Act for Louisianas Economy with Sen. Mary L. Landrieu, D-La.; Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-La.; Robert Clemons, Chair of Offshore Marine Service Association (OMSA). Location: 366 Dirksen.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Hearings to examine Army Active and Reserve force mix in review of the Defense Authorization. Location: G50 Dirksen.

9:45 a.m. AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY — Business meeting to consider S.1294, to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, and the nominations of Timothy G. Massad, of Connecticut, to be Chairman, Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, and J. Christopher Giancarlo, of New Jersey, all to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

http://www.agriculture.senate.gov/ Location: 328A Russell.

10 a.m. AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY — Hearing, "Advanced Biofuels: Creating Jobs and Lower Prices at the Pump". Witnesses: Richard Childress, CEO; Richard Childress Racing, LLC, Welcome, NC; Jan Koninckx, Global Business Director for Biorefineries, DuPont Industrial Biosciences, Wilmington, DE; Brooke Coleman, Executive Director, Advanced Ethanol Council, Boston , MA; Dr. Sumesh Arora, Vice President, Innovate Mississippi; Director of Strategic Biomass Solutions, Ridgeland , MS; Nancy Young, Vice President, Environmental Affairs, Airlines for America, Washington, DC. http://www.ag.senate.gov/hearings/advanced-biofuels_creating-jobs-and-lower-prices-at-the-pump Location: 328A Russell.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=e060c7a9-a03f-

40cb-8b3e-73a57a1b4428 Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — Hearings to examine the nominations of Janet Garvin McCabe, of the District of Columbia, and Ann Elizabeth Dunkin, of California, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Manuel H. Ehrlich, Jr., of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. Location: 406 Dirksen.

10 a.m. FINANCE — Hearing titled "Protecting Taxpayers from Incompetent and Unethical Return Preparers," Witnesses: Panel One: John A. Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service; Nina E. Olson, National Taxpayer Advocate, Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC; Panel Two: James R. McTigue Jr., Director, Tax Issues, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; Wayne A. McElrath, Director, Investigative Services, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; William Cobb, President & CEO, H&R Block, Kansas City, MO; Janis Salisbury, Chair, Oregon Board of Tax Practitioners, Oregon City, OR; Dr. John Barrick, Associate Professor, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT; Chi Chi Wu, Staff Attorney, National Consumer Law Center, Boston, MA; Dan Alban, Attorney, Institute for Justice, Arlington, VA. http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=331dea1b-5056-a032-5215-1df389f40a67 Location: 215 Dirksen.

10 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearings to examine the President's proposed international affairs budget request for fiscal year 2015 for national security and foreign policy priorities. Witnesses: John F. Kerry, Secretary of State; U.S. Department of State. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/national-security-and-foreign-policy-priorities-in-the-fy-2015-international-affairs-budget-4-8-14 Location: 419 Dirksen.

10:15 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs hearing on FY 2015 Budget Request for the United States Agency for International Development. Witness: Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/state-foreign-operations-subcommittee-hearing-fy15-usaid-budget Location: 138 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. BUDGET — Hearings to examine supporting broad-based economic growth and fiscal responsibility through a fairer tax code. Witnesses: John L. Buckley, J.D., former Chief Tax Counsel, House Committee on Ways and Means, former Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation; Jane G. Gravelle, Ph.D., Senior Specialist in Economic Policy, Congressional Research Service; Diana Furchtgott-Roth, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. http://www.budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/hearing-schedule? IDbf5ad42a-8585-4922-9cc1-e6642312157c Location: 608 Dirksen.

2:15 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities meets to receive testimony on the role of the Department of Defense science and technology enterprise for innovation and affordability in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: Alan R. Shaffer, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering; Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; Mary J. Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology; Mary E. Lacey, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation; David E. Walker, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology, and Engineering. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-04-08-the-role-of-the-department-of-defense-science-and-technology-enterprise-for-innovation-and-affordability Location: 222 Russell.

2:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Legislative Branch subcommittee hearing on FY 2015 Budget Requests for the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the Open World Leadership Center. Witnesses: Panel I: Stephen T. Ayers, Architect of the Capitol, United States Capitol. Panel II: Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress, The Library of Congress; Ambassador John OKeefe, Executive Director, Open World Leadership Center. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/legislative-branch-subcommittee-hearing-aoc-loc-and-owlc-fy15-budget-requests Location: 138 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Full Committee nominations hearing. Panel I Vice Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. Panel II: Elliot F. Kaye, to be Chairman and a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission; Joseph Mohorovic, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=c0e8d5ad-e65a-4a7f-b624-2da65f4d421e&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed Hearing: Intelligence Matters. Location: 219 Hart.

2:30 p.m. JUDICARY — Full Committee Executive Business Meeting, S..1720, "Patent Transparency and Improvements Act of 2013." Location: 106 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. JUDICARY — Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, "Economic Espionage and Trade Secret Theft: Are Our Laws Adequate for Today's Threats?" Location: 226 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. JUDICIARY — Executive Business Meeting. S.1720, Patent Transparency and Improvements Act of 2013. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/executive-business-meeting-2014-04-08 Location: 106 Dirksen.

3:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Airland hearing on Tactical Aircraft Programs . Witnesses: Lieutenant General Christopher C. Bogdan, USAF Program Executive Officer F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office; Lieutenant General Charles R. Davis, USAF,, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition; Vice Admiral Paul A. Grosklags, USN, Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition; Lieutenant General Robert E. Schmidle, Jr., USMC, Deputy Commandant for Aviation. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-04-08-tactical-aircraft-programs Location: 232A, Russell.
US House: 9 a.m. BRIEFING ON CHINESE CHICKEN IMPORTS — Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Food & Water Watch will be hosting a briefing on the USDAs decision to approve the import of processed chicken products from China and concerns about these products in the National School Lunch Program.. Panelists: Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) Bettina Siegel, Barbara Kowalcyk and Nancy Huehnergarth, whose online petition opposing Chinese chicken imports has been signed by more than 300,000 so far. Siegel is also responsible for initiating a petition to remove "Pink Slime from school lunches".; Dr. Peter Li, Associate Professor of East Asian Politics at the University of Houston-Downtown; Tony Corbo, Food & Water Watch senior lobbyist; Terry Safranek of Animal Parents Against Pet Treats and Food Made in China. Location: B369 Rayburn.

10 a.m. DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS — Time approximate. Members of the Caucus hold a press availability following their meeting. Topic: "Equal Pay for Equal Work." Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA-34), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus; Rep. Joe Crowley (NY-14), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus; Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-03), Ranking Member of the Labor, Health, Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee; Rep. Donna F. Edwards (MD-04), Chair of the Democratic Women's Working Group; Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-06), Vice Chair of the Democratic Women's Working Group. Location: HVC-210 alcove stakeout location.

11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Budget Committee Ranking Member Chris Van Hollen (MD-08) will join Whip Hoyer to discuss the House Democratic Budget Alternative for Fiscal Year 2015. NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED. Location: Hoyer's office, U.S. Capitol office (H-144).

11:30 a.m. SYRIAN CHRISTIANS AND ARMENIANS — Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) will host a press conference to highlight dangers faced by Christians and Armenians in Syria, discuss the latest attack in Kessab, and discuss ways to help safeguard and assist Syrian Christians who have been affected by the Syrian civil war. Schiff will be joined by other Members of Congress, including Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), and also the Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Aram Hamparian. Location: House Triangle.

2 p.m. DEMOCRATS – UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE — House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) will join House Democrats, unemployed Americans, and labor leaders at a press conference to urge House Republicans to take action on the bipartisan Senate-passed legislation to renew emergency unemployment insurance. Location: House Triangle.

2:30 p.m. REP. MCKEON – UKRAINE — Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, (R-CA), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces as well as the Chairman of the U.S. Delegation to the North Atlantic Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA), will discuss legislation to counter Russian aggression towards Ukraine and NATO allies by

enhancing U.S. military posture and capabilities in Europe and reassuring U.S. regional allies and partners. Location: CVC Studio A.

3:30 p.m. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK DISCUSSION — "The Reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank: A Panel Discussion on Creating and Sustaining Jobs," hosted by Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee. The event will be attended by Members of Congress including Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitors' Center, Room HVC-215.

10 a.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and noon for legislative business and consider H.R. 1871 – Baseline Reform Act, Begin Consideration of H.Con. Res. 96 – Establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

9 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies hearing on American Indian and Alaskan Native Public and Outside Witness Hearing . Multiple witnesses. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=369747 Location: B-308 Rayburn.

9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies subcommittee two part hearing. Panel one- Security at NASA: Richard Thomburgh. EDITORS NOTE: Last year, at the request of the CJS subcommittee, NASA asked the National Academy of Public Administration to assemble a team of security experts to conduct a comprehensive review of security at NASA centers. "The final report found significant security concerns across NASA". Former Attorney General Richard Thornburgh led the review team. Panel Two- NASA FY 2015 Budget Request: NASA Administrator Charles Bolden. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374537 Location: 2359 Rayburn.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Defense CLOSED: Budget Hearing – United States Africa Command. Witness: General David M. Rodrigues, Commander, United States Africa Command. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374540 Location: H-140 the Capitol.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies budget hearing on Department of Energy, Environmental Management. Witness: Dave Huizenga, Acting Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management, Department of Energy. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374541 Location: 2362-B Rayburn.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of Agriculture Field Agencies. Witnessses: Michael Scuse, Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services; Juan Garcia, Administrator, Farm Service Agency; Phil Karsting, Administrator, Foreign Agriculture Service; Brandon Willis, Administrator, Risk Management Agency; Jason Weller, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Michael Young, Budget Officer, Department of Agriculture. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374539 Location: 2362-A Rayburn.

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Full Committee, "Russian Military Developments and Strategic Implications." http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_id08CD7F6B-847B-495B-B80E-AC3CD7B3746F Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — Full Committee Markup of H.R. 4366, "Strengthening Education through Research Act" and H.R. 10, "The Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act." Location: 2175 Raybum.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, "Trolling for a Solution: Ending Abusive Patent Demand Letters." Witnesses: Rheo Brouillard, President and CEO, Savings Institute Bank and Trust Company, on behalf of American Bankers Association; Mark Chandler, Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer, Cisco Systems Incorporated. Dr. Michael Dixon, President and CEO, UNeMed Corporation; Jason Schultz, Associate Professor of Clinical Law, New York University School of Law; Dennis Skarvan, Deputy General Counsel, Intellectual Property Group, on behalf of Caterpillar Incorporated; William Sorrell, Attorney General, State of Vermont. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/hearing-notice-subcommittee-commerce-manufacturing-and-tradesthash. DoUwQk4I.dpuf Location: 2123 Raybum.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Full committee Hearing entitled "Whos in Your Wallet: Examining How Washington Red Tape Impairs Economic Freedom." Witness: Meredith Fuchs, General Counsel, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Richard J. Osterman, Acting General Counsel, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Scott G. Alvarez, General Counsel, Federal Reserve Board; Michael McKenna, General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration; Amy Friend, Senior Deputy Comptroller and Chief Counsel, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374904 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa hearing on Lebanons Security Challenges and U.S. Interests. Witnesses: Lawrence Silverman, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Matthew Spence, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle East Policy, U.S. Department of Defense. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-lebanon-s-security-challenges-and-us-interests Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security hearing on Authorizing Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Witnesses: Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Daniel D. Ragsdale, Acting Director, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-authorizing-customs-and-border-protection-and-immigration-and-customs Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice. Witness: Eric H, Holder Jr., Attorney General, United States Department of Justice. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2014/4/hearing-oversight-of-the-u-s-department-of-justice Location: 2141 Raybum.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Full committee Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4315 (Hastings of WA), To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes. "21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act"; H.R. 4316 (Lummis), To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to improve the disclosure of certain expenditures under that Act, and for other purposes. "Endangered Species Recovery Transparency Act; H.R. 4317 (Neugebauer), To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act, to ensure use of information provided by State, tribal, and county governments in decisionmaking under such Act, and for other purposes. "State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act; H.R. 4318 (Huizenga), To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to conform citizen suits under that Act with other existing law, and for other purposes. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374401 Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Full Committee, "The President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal for the Postal Service." Location: 2154 Raybum.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Business meeting on The International Experience with Public-Private Partnerships. Witnesses: John Delaney, United States Representative, Maryland; Dr. Larry Blain, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Partnerships British Columbia; David Morley, Vice President, Business and Government Strategy, Infrastructure Ontario; Cherian George, Managing Director – Americas, Global Infrastructure & Project Finance, Fitch Ratings; Dr. Matti Siemiatycki, Associate Professor, Geography and Program in Planning, University of Toronto. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374815 Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. VETERANS' AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations "Markup of H.R. 3593, H.R. 4261, H.R. 4281, and other Draft Legislation." http://veterans.house.gov/markup/markup-of-hr-3593-hr-4261-hr-4281-and-other-draft-legislation Location: 334 Cannon.

10 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Hearing on those expired business tax provisions that would be extended by the tax reform discussion draft released on February 26, with a particular emphasis on how permanent tax policy can promote certainty for American businesses and generate additional economic growth. http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374899 Location: 1100 Longworth.

10:15 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Health, "Examining the Implementation of the Tobacco Control Act." Witness: Marcia Crosse, Ph.D. Director, Health Care U.S. Government Accountability Office. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/examining-implementation-tobacco-control-actsthash.bw8eb8Ap.dpuf Location: 2322 Rayburn.

10:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of Education. Witness: Ame Duncan, Secretary, Department of Education. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374542\ Location: 2358-C Rayburn.

11 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Homeland Security CLOSED: Budget Hearing – Cybersecurity. Witnesses: Suzanne Spaulding, Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate; Dr. Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Undersecretary for Cybersecurity, National Protection and Programs Directorate; Larry Zelvin, Director of National Cybersecurity Communication Integration Center, National Protection and Programs Directorate. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374544 Location: HVC-301 The Capitol.

1 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Budget Hearing – United States Agency for International Development. Witness: Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374545 Location: H-140 The Capitol.

1 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — American Indian and Alaska Native Public and Outside Witness Hearing. Multiple witnesses: http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=371189 Location: B-308 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Defense CLOSED MEMBERS ONLY: Budget Hearing – United States Special Forces Command. Witness: Admiral William H. McRaven, United States Special Forces. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374546 Location: H-405 The Capitol.

1:30 p.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Full Committee, "Reducing Waste in Government: Addressing GAO's 2014 Report on Duplicative Federal Programs." Witness: Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office. http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/reducing-waste-government-addressing-gaos-2014-report-duplicative-federal-programs/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Budget Hearing – General Services Administration. Witness: Dan Tangherlini, Administrator, General Services. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374547 Location: H-309 the Capitol.

2 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats & Capabilities hearing on The FY15 Budget Request for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the Chemical Biological Defense Program: Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Changing Global Environment. Witnesses: Rebecca K. C. Hersman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, Department of Defense; Kenneth Myers, Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency; Carmen Spencer, Joint Program Executive Officer for Chemical and Biological Defense, Department of Defense; Andy Weber, Assistant Secretary for Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs, Department of Defense. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_idFDD452D4-95C2-42DB-8997-AEF0A5C741BF Location: 2212 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade hearing on Is al-Qaeda Winning? Grading the Administration's Counterterrorism Policy. Witnesses: Panel I: Joseph Lieberman, (Former United States Senator). Panel II: Seth Jones, Ph.D., Associate Director, International Security and Defense Policy Center, RAND Corporation; Frederick W. Kagan, Ph.D., Christopher DeMuth Chair and Director, Critical Threats Project, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research; Benjamin Wittes, Senior Fellow, Governance Studies, The Brookings Institution. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-al-qaeda-winning-grading-administrations-counterterrorism-policy Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Oversight Hearing on "American Energy Jobs: Opportunities for Women and Minorities." http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373322 Location: 1334 Longworth.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 187, To correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit L06, Topsail, North Carolina; H.R. 277, To revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Sachuest Point Unit RI-04P, Easton Beach Unit RI-05P, Almy Pond Unit RI-06, and Hazards Beach Unit RI-07 in Rhode Island; H.R. 1810, To revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Gasparilla Island Unit in Florida; H.R. 1811, To remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System areas included in Florida System Unit P-16, and for other purposes; H.R. 2057, To remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System the areas comprising Bay County Unit P-31P in Florida; H.R. 3226, To remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; H.R. 3227, To remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; H.R. 3572, To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in North Carolina; H.R. 4222, To correct the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System in Gulf County Florida, and for other purposes. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373987 Location: 1324 Longworth.

2 p.m. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS — Economic Opportunity Subcommittee "Markup of Pending Legislation: H.R. 2942, H.R. 3056, H.R. 3614, H.R. 4037, H.R. 4038, H.R. 4147, H.R. 4150 and H.R. 4151." http://veterans.house.gov/markup/markup-of-pending-legislation-11 Location: 334 Cannon.

2 p.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing on the implications of the recently released final regulations implementing the employer mandate and employer information reporting requirement provisions of the Affordable Care Act. http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374855 Location: B-318 Rayburn.

3:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, "Fiscal Year 2015 Atomic Energy Defense and Nuclear Forces." Witnesses: Vice Admiral Terry Joseph Benedict, U.S. Navy, Director, Strategic Systems Programs; M. Elaine Bunn, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy, Department of Defense; Major General Garrett Harencak, U.S. Air Force, Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, U.S. Air Force; Edward Bruce Held, Acting Administrator and Acting Undersecretary for Nuclear Security, National Nuclear Security Administration; David G. Huizenga, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Management; Admiral John M. Richardson, U.S. Navy, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; Andrew C. Weber, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs, Department of Defense; Dr. Peter S. Winokur, Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_id31CD0F47-6015-4D76-A80A-8BDE886CD89B Location: 2118 Raybum.

4 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Energy and Power subcommittee meeting. Opening statements only on markup of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act. http://energycommerce.house.gov/markup/markup-notice-subcommittee-vote-lng-exports-bill-next-week Location: 2123 Rayburn.
Other: April 7 – 9. SEA-AIR-SPACE EXPOSITION — Hosted by The Navy League, the event is billed as "the largest maritime exposition in the U.S." 9 a.m. Naval Sea Systems Command Commander Vice Adm. William H. Hilarides and Naval Air Systems Command Commander Vice Adm. David Dunaway deliver remarks during "Innovation and Supporting the Warfighter" panel. 12 p.m. U.S. Fleet Forces Command Commander Navy Adm. William E. Gortney delivers remarks. 3 p.m. Navy Quadrennial Defense Review Director Rear Adm. Kevin M. Donegan and Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Rear Adm. James G. Foggo III deliver remarks at "Peace and Prosperity in the Maritime Domain" roundtable. 3 p.m. Navy Staff Director Vice Adm. Scott H. Swift delivers remarks at "Rebalancing the Sea Services' Team for the 21st Century Pacific" roundtable. 6 p.m. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert delivers remarks at the Sea-Air-Space Convention reception and banquet. 8 p.m. U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert Papp Jr. will be presented the Navy Leagues highest honor: the Admiral Arleigh Burke Leadership Award. Location: Gaylord National Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD.

April 8 – 9. SAVE THE CHILDREN ADVOCACY SUMMIT — Youth from across the country will be gathering in

Washington, D.C. to advocate for children's issues. Speakers include Secretary Arne Duncan (4:30 p.m. 8th); Disney Channel star and singer Bridgit Mendler, Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA), Congressman Richard Hanna (R-NY), MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell, CNN's Stephanie Cutter, others. 4:30 p.m. Education Secretary Arne Duncan remarks. Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW.

April 8 – 10. NDIA – TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE — The National Defense Industrial Association holds its 15th Annual Science & Engineering Technology Conference/Defense Tech Exposition. Theme: "Leveraging the DoD Science and Technology Program to Create Future Warfighting Capabilities Through Rapid Prototyping and Emerging Concept Demonstration." 8:15 a.m. Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Frank Kendall delivers remarks on technological superiority. 10:30 a.m. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Rapid Fielding Earl Wyatt delivers remarks on the Path for Emerging Concept and Capability Prototyping. Location: College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center.

NATIONAL JOURNAL LIVE – 'NEXT AMERICA' — 8 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. The latest event in National Journal's "Next America" series, which explores how America's changing demography impacts the national agenda, "The Next America: Points of Leverage" will discuss the types and timing of successful education interventions. Keynote remarks by Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, RSVP: njnextamerica.eventbrite.com Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street NW.

CSIS – TRADE – SEN. HATCH — 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. "Making Trade Work for America." Keynote Address by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance. Panel: Ambassador Ira Shapiro, General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (former); Timothy J. Keeler, Chief of Staff, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (former). Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, Second Floor Conference Center, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

CAP – MINORS – SEX TRAFFICKING — 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. OSen. Klobuchar, Panelists to Discuss Strategies to Combat Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States. pening remarks: Neera Tanden, President of the Center for American Progress, Counselor to the Center for American Progress Action Fund. Panelists: Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN); Malika Saada Saar, Executive Director, Human Rights Project for Girls; John Temple, Attorney-in-Charge, New York County District Attorneys Office Human Trafficking Program. Moderator: Chelsea Parsons, Associate Director for Crime and Firearms Policy, Center for American Progress Action Fund. Contact Anne Shoup at ashoup@americanprogressaction.org or 202.481.7146. http://www.americanprogressaction.org/events/2014/03/31/86796/combating-sex-trafficking-of-minors-in-the-u-s/?evlcrsvp Location: Center for American Progress Action Fund, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

FAST FOR FAMILIES – REP. WOLF'S OFFICE — 11:30 a.m. "Fast for Families Bus Tour" Arrives in Herndon, VA and will hold a press conference outside Office of Congressman Frank Wolf (VA-10) to "urge him to show leadership on immigration reform". Participants: Virginia community fasters, faith leaders, labor, and elected officials including: Eliseo Medina, former Secretary-Treasurer at SEIU and "Fast for Families" leader; DJ Yoon, NAKASEC and "Fast for Families" leader; Jaime Contreras, 32BJ SEIU; Virginia Kase, CASA in Action; Hector Sanchez, LCLAA; Tefere Gebre, Executive Vice President, AFL-CIO; Larry Cohen, President of the Communication Workers of America; Local Elected Officials: Herndon Councilmember Grace Han Wolf and Walter Tejada member of the Arlington County Board (Virginia). and Delegate Mark Keam; Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. CONTACTS: Susana Flores, 240-706-2624, sflores@casadeva.org; Julie Karant, 646-584-9001, jkarant@seiu32bj.org; Beatriz Lopez, 202-412-7396, beatriz.lopez@seiu.org Location: Congressman Frank Wolf office – 13873 Park Center Rd Ste. 130., Herndon, VA 20171.

PENTAGON – AFRICA — 1:30 p.m. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs Amanda Dory and the Commander of U.S. Africa Command General David Rodriguez will conduct a briefing in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room (2E973).

STEM4US! — 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. Speakers include: Dr. Nicol Turner Lee, STEM4US! Chairwoman. Welcoming Remarks from Congressional Host; Senator Mary Landrieu, Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (invited); Congressional Leaders Remarks (Invited); Senator Tim Scott; Congressman Bobby Scott; Congressman Cedric Richmond. Tech and industry leaders: Fred Humphries, Microsoft; Tanya Lombard, ATT; Marne Levine, Facebook Global Public Policy; Larry Bock, USA Science & Engineering Festival; Kyle B.

Isakower, API; Dan Turton, Entergy; Donna Cooper, Pepco; Michael Blake, Green for All. Entertainment leaders: David S. Weaver, NASA Associate Administrator for the Office of Communications; Ted Leonsis, SnagFilms; Percy Miller (Master P), Record Industry Executive; Dr. Gracie Lawson-Borders, Dean, Howard University School of Communications; Lynne Robinson, TV Producer, Black Robin Media. Closing remarks: Talib I. Karim – STEM4US! Executive Director. Location: US Capitol VisitorsCenter, Room SVC201.

HELPING TEENS GRADUATE — 2 p.m. The Taco Bell Foundation for Teens and Boys & Girls Clubs of America unveil a "groundbreaking partnership" to make a "profound and measureable impact" on the lives of more than half a million teens – enabling them to graduate from high school and be college or career-ready. With House Speaker John Boehner; Kelly Rowland, Grammy Award Winning Singer and Actress; Brian Niccol, President, Taco Bell U.S., and Chairman, Taco Bell Foundation for Teens; Jim Clark, President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of America; Kiana Knolland, 2013-2014 Boys & Girls Clubs of America Youth of the Year. Location: Cannon Caucus Room, 3rd Floor

MILITARY MENTAL HEALTH – BURR, STAVENOW — 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Give an Hour to Host A Celebration of Service Honoring Senators Burr and Stabenow. A Celebration of Service. Give an Hour, a national nonprofit providing free mental health services to members of military, veterans, and their families, hosts VIP Reception and Performance of Water by the Spoonful. U.S. Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and, USMC veteran Brendan OToole to be honored with "Commitment to Service award." RSVP to: Lauren Itzkowitz at litzkowitz@giveanhour.org or at 240-533-1669 Location: Studio Theatre. 1501 14th Street, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "David Ortiz is facing some backlash after he took a selfie with President Obama as part of a promotion using his Samsung phone. Take a look. It's a very famous selfie. Yep, and so because of this, the White House is considering banning the selfie. And it's not the first time they've had to do something like this. Just a few years ago, they had to ban planking after Joe Biden was caught doing it in the Oval Office."

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BISON CONNECT

(b)(6)

Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> Tue, Apr 8, 2014 at 1:45 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) gios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Thank you so much for your note. (b)(6) I was looking forward to visiting with you Monday about our sage-grouse efforts, but it means a great deal to know that I have your support and Dan's to (b)(6)

Sincerely,

Noreen

Noreen Walsh

Regional Director

Mountain-Prairie Region

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

303 236 7920

The Mountain-Prairie Region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *We provide conservation stewardship of some of America's most scenic lands, to ensure healthy fish and wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of all people.*

From: Sally Jewell [mailto (b)(6) ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 4:28 PM
To: noreen_walsh@fws.gov
Subject: (b)(6)

Dear Noreen –

Dan passed along your message. (b)(6) [redacted] (b)(6) [redacted] (b)(6) [redacted] Your team is continuing to do a terrific job, and the sage grouse briefing today was very helpful – lots of progress being made on all fronts.

Take care,

Sally

Briefing Materials for Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Apr 8, 2014 at 4:38 PM
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are your briefing materials for Wednesday, April 9. These have been uploaded to Google Drive.

In addition, talking points for Thursday's TRCP Barbecue event have been uploaded in your April 10 folder.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

13 attachments Attachments 1-4 and 6-13 are unavailable.

4 9 14_3pm_Meet and Greet with Point Arena California Students.pdf
17K

4 9 14_9am_Meeting with Representative Mike Thompson.pdf
75K

4 9 14_11am_VERSION 2 Event Honoring 75th Anniversary of Marian Anderson's Concert at the Lincoln Memorial.pdf
20K

4 9 14_11am_VERSION 2 TALKING POINTS Event Honoring 75th Anniversary of Marian Anderson's Concert at the Lincoln Memorial.docx
21K

4 9 14_130pm_Mitigation Stakeholder Meeting.pdf
36K

4 9 14_130pm_Q&A Mitigation Stakeholder Meeting.docx
29K

4 9 14_530pm_Call with Secretary Penny Pritzker re Restore Council.pdf
16K

4 9 14_1140am_Cherry Blossom Tour with Appointees.pdf
29K

4 9 14_230pm_TALKING POINTS National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy Press Call.docx
26K

April 2014 National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook.pdf
1374K

4 9 14_5pm_Courtesy Visit with Steve and Linda Ellis.pdf
1167K

4 10 14_630pm_TALKING POINTS Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership BBQ.docx
31K

4 9 14_230pm_National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy Press Call.docx
21K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MITIGATION STAKEHOLDER MEETING

DATE: April 9, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 1:30PM – 2:20PM
FROM: Letty Belin, Counselor to the Deputy Secretary (202)208-1671

I. PURPOSE

You will meet with leaders in the conservation community to discuss the release of the Mitigation Strategy in response to your Secretarial Order of October 31, 2013. The report itself will be released on the morning of Thursday, April 10. We will be doing additional briefings with various stakeholders and staff on the Hill later this week.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Jamie Rappaport Clark, President, Defenders of Wildlife
- Jeff Trandahl, Executive Director and CEO, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Laurel Angell, Director, Western Energy Project
- Larry Selzer, President and CEO, The Conservation Fund
- Sharon Buccino, Director, Land and Wildlife Program, NRDC (surrogate for Francis Beinecke)
- Dave Alberswerth, Senior Policy Advisor, Energy, The Wilderness Society (surrogate for Jamie Williams)
- Lynn Scarlett, Managing Director for Public Policy, The Nature Conservancy (surrogate for Mark Tercek)
- Ed Arnett, Director of the Center for Responsible Energy Development, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (surrogate for Whit Fosburgh)
- DOI Staff: Jim Lyons, Counselor, ASLM; Michael Bean, Counselor, ASFWP; Letty Belin, Counselor, Deputy Secretary

Note: Joel Clement and Ted Boling will be on travel at the time of this meeting.

III. AGENDA

- You will open meeting, conduct introductions (5 mins)
- You will provides opening remarks (5 mins)
- Mitigation team provides quick review of strategy and next steps (10 mins) – Letty will do a brief run through some highlights of the strategy and them Jim Lyons can do a few highlighting key next steps.
- SJ leads general discussion and Q and A (25-30 mins)
    - Suggested opening question: *I know you've only had the report for a few hours and may not have had a chance to review it in detail, but I'd be interested in your*

thoughts and what you see as important next steps for this Department to take as we implement it.

- You conclude the meeting

IV. TALKING POINTS

- **Thanks** to you (conservation leaders) for coming here today **and for helping us to develop and implement our mitigation strategy**. I know that **you have been working on these issues for a long time**, beginning well before I became secretary.

- I don't need to tell you why our mitigation strategy is so important -- you know as well as I do. **Shifting this department and its agencies to a landscape-scale mitigation approach is a huge undertaking.** And **it is a paradigm shift** – from our historic reactive, project-by-project and species-by-species approach to a more active and comprehensive approach that steers development to the best places while protecting the resources and areas most in need of preservation.

- **We have benefited hugely from all the wisdom and knowledge you have shared with our team on this much-needed new approach.**

- I'd like to **turn to members of our mitigation team** to run through key parts of our strategy, and to talk about our next steps. Then, we can answer questions and talk about what roles you all might play as we move forward.

[*Turn to Letty, Michael, Jim*]

WRAP UP:

- We are **counting on your continued help** -- and your **strong participation** in all of the many mitigation initiatives that the Department will be advancing.

- If you see good opportunities to advance this initiative that we might miss, let us know. **If you think we are making mistakes, let us know, and help us make it right.**

- This is both really important and really hard – we are counting on you to help usher this Department and hopefully our sister agencies into the next generation of active and thoughtful federal land use management.

V. Q&A

Q&A is attached as a separate document.

VI. BACKGROUND

- Your Secretarial Order directed the Department's Energy and Climate Change Task Force (which includes all Assistant Secretaries and Heads of Bureaus and is chaired by the

Deputy Secretary) to develop a coordinated Department-wide, science-based strategy to strengthen mitigation practices so as to effectively offset impacts of large development projects of all types through the use of landscape-level planning, banking, in-lieu fee arrangements, or other possible measures.

- The Task Force has written a report summarizing the above evaluation and the strategy for implementing improvements in the Department's mitigation practices and policies. An advance copy of the report and strategy is being provided to the above conservation leaders who have been most directly involved in promoting landscape-level mitigation.

- This briefing/discussion with key conservation stakeholders is in advance of the report's public release. Other stakeholders will be contacted by phone and through briefings.

Summary of Key Aspects of Mitigation Strategy

The report identified some **key Mitigation Challenges**:

- Natural and cultural resources are at increased risk due to growing pressures for development (e.g., oil and gas) and the cumulative impacts of that development
- Ensuring that we use the full mitigation hierarchy (emphasizing avoidance FIRST, then minimizing impacts, then compensating for unavoidable effects)
- Climate change is increasing uncertainty and redefining how we plan for mitigation, requiring us to consider how we build resilience into our mitigation strategies
- Better utilizing the wealth of existing science assessments information from public and private sources to improve mitigation planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Creating mitigation solutions that are durable (considering the science and legal limitations affecting agencies like the BLM)
- Ensuring that compensatory mitigation measures are additional – that they provide real benefits to offset development impacts and would not occur absent a specific mitigation requirement
- Determining what scale is appropriate to deciding what mitigation is needed to address the impacts of a project on cultural or natural resource values
- Providing that mitigation is implemented in a timely way – that will effectively offset project impacts when they occur
- Improving transparency and certainty in designing mitigation, and
- Emphasizing collaboration

In response, the Task Force recommended the following **Guiding Principles**:

1. **Landscape-scale**: *Use a landscape-scale approach in all facets of development, conservation, and mitigation planning.*
2. **Full Hierarchy:** *Utilize the full mitigation hierarchy - in project planning and review.*
3. **Promote Certainty:** *Improve operational certainty for project proponents and ensure greater certainty of conservation outcomes for environmental stakeholders.*
4. **Advance mitigation planning:** *Incorporate mitigation and landscape objectives into the design and development of projects from the beginning.*

5. **Science and Tools**: *Develop and utilize the scientific information and geospatial tools necessary to identify the most efficient and effective means of mitigating the effects of development and to inform monitoring and evaluation of mitigation efforts.*
6. **Foster Resilience**: *Identify and promote mitigation efforts that improve the resilience of our Nation's resources in a rapidly changing climate.*
7. **Durability**: *Mitigation measures need to be effective for the length of a project's impacts.*
8. **Transparency**: *Promote transparency and consistency in the development of mitigation measures and in providing clarity with regard to expected outcomes.*
9. **Collaboration**: *Coordinate with other federal and state agencies, tribes, and stakeholders in conducting assessments of existing and projected resource conditions, forming mitigation strategies, and developing compensatory mitigation programs.*
10. **Monitoring**: *Monitor and evaluate the results of mitigation over time to ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved and to guide adaptive management where they are not.*



BLM Dry Lake SEZ mitigation pilot

Recently the BLM released a mitigation plan for the Dry Lake SEZ in advance of announcing that it would be soliciting interest in developing solar projects in the SEZ. The Dry Lake mitigation plan is a pilot effort intended to explore ways of designing effective mitigation for solar development in solar zones and to provide prospective developers with a clear understanding of the costs of mitigating project impacts in solar zones. BLM will be participating in a workshop to receive public input that will help inform the development of mitigation plans for future solar energy zones.

Next Steps

- The report describes planned outcomes, next steps, and a number of near-term deliverables for the Department and its bureaus.

- Departmental bureaus are currently advancing this landscape approach to mitigation in various contexts, and the strategy will evolve over time.
- Examples include:

    - FWS is in the process of revising its mitigation policy.
    - BLM is implementing a draft Regional Mitigation Policy that will be updated and finalized to be consistent with the guidance contained in the Departmental report.
    - BLM recently released its first regional mitigation plan for the Dry Lake solar energy zone (SEZ) and will be planning a workshop to receive feedback and to aid in designing future SEZ regional mitigation plan.
    - BLM, FS, and FWS are working together to develop a mitigation strategy as a part of the larger Greater Sage Grouse conservation initiative.
    - BLM continues to develop the concept of Master Leasing Plans (MLPs) which are based on the concept of directing oil and gas development to low conflict areas – BLM released the EIS for the North Park MLP[1] last week.
    - BLM, FWS, NPS, and CA state officials continue work on development of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) which represents an innovative effort to plan for the development and conservation of 21 million acres in the Mojave Desert.

VII. BIOGRAPHIES

Jamie Rappaport Clark, President, Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) - Jamie Rappaport Clark has been with Defenders of Wildlife since February 2004, and began serving as the President in October 2011. Jamie came to Defenders after a 20-year career in conservation with the federal government, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). From 1997 – 2001, Jamie served as Director of FWS during the Clinton Administration. During her tenure as director, Jamie oversaw the establishment of 27 new refuges and the addition of over two million acres to the National Wildlife Refuge System and presided over the recovery of key endangered species such as the bald eagle, gray wolf and the Aleutian Canada goose.

Jeff Trandahl, Executive Director and CEO, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) - Jeff Trandahl joined NFWF in November 2005 and, as the Executive Director and CEO, he has been instrumental in making NFWF one of the world's largest conservation grant-makers. NFWF works with both the public and private sectors to protect and restore our nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats, and supports conservation efforts in all 50 states, U.S. territories and abroad. Their grants – more than 12,100 since their founding – are made through a competitive process and awarded to some of the nation's largest environmental organizations, as well as some of the smallest. He came to NFWF after serving on Capitol Hill for 23 years, where he served as Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, a post he held from 1998 to 2005.

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[1] The North Park MLP is one of 16 BLM is developing in Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming; none has been completed and put into place. The plans seek to identify large blocks of unleased federal lands with high mineral potential that also hold special importance to hunters, anglers, hikers, off-roaders and wildlife. To avoid conflicts, the MLPs would place some lands off limits to leasing while requiring that others be developed in phases, with tighter pollution controls or with a lower density of roads and well pads.

Larry Selzer, President and CEO, The Conservation Fund (the Fund) - As president and chief executive officer of the Fund since 2001, Larry Selzer leads an executive team that charts the organization's strategy and equips the staff to succeed. Under Larry's leadership, the Fund has brought an entrepreneurial spirit to conservation, launching efforts to seed small green business, manage working forests and better integrate economic and environmental goals. Prior to joining the Fund, Larry started his professional career at the Manomet Center for Conservation Science, conducting research on marine mammal and seabird populations. Today, he serves on the boards of the American Bird Conservancy, The Outdoor Foundation, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Sharon Buccino, Director, Land and Wildlife Program, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) - Sharon Buccino is a senior attorney and director of NRDC's land and wildlife program. Based in Washington D.C., Sharon has led NRDC's litigation, challenging oil and gas drilling in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. She is also leading NRDC's fight to stop new coal mining outside Bryce Canyon National Park. Her current work focuses on energy policy and transparent government. Prior to joining NRDC, Sharon practiced environmental and administrative law with a private firm in Washington, D.C. She also served as a law clerk for the Alaska Supreme Court.

Dave Alberswerth, Senior Policy Advisor - Energy, The Wilderness Society (TWS) - David Alberswerth joined TWS in 2001 and currently serves as a Senior Policy Advisor on energy matters. Prior to joining TWS, Dave served in various capacities within the Department of the Interior, including Director of the Department's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, and Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. Prior to joining the Interior Department in 1993, he was the Director of the National Wildlife Federation's Public Lands and Energy Program.

Ed Arnett, Director of the Center for Responsible Energy Development, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) - Ed joined TRCP in April 2012 after a career as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service and then for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge system. Ed is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Natural Resources Management at Texas Tech University, serves as an Associate Editor for The Wildlife Society Bulletin, is a scientific advisor for the American Wind and Wildlife Institute, and serves on the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' energy and wind energy committees. He served on a U.S. Department of Interior Federal Advisory Committee for guidelines for wind energy and wildlife, and also chaired The Wildlife Society's technical review committee on wind energy impacts on wildlife.

VIII. ATTACHMENTS

- Q&A (attached as a separate document)

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Apr 9, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SENATE CONFIRMS BLM DIRECTOR. The AP (4/9) reports that the Senate voted 71-28 Tuesday to confirm Neil Kornze as director of the BLM. Kornze joined the bureau "in 2011 and has been leading the agency as principal deputy director for the past year."

The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (4/9, 22K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement, "I'm thrilled that the Senate has confirmed Neil so that he can continue to serve at the BLM on behalf of the American people." She added, "With strong Western roots and a deep understanding of the issues, Neil for more than a decade has proven himself to be a creative and results-oriented professional, and has been a great asset to the Interior Department when it comes to promoting smart energy development and driving thoughtful landscape-level planning efforts. The BLM is one of the most complex federal land management agencies, and I know that Neil's practical and commonsense approach to problem solving will help the Bureau fulfill its multiple use and sustained yield mission."

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/9, 437K) reports that after the vote, Sen. Harry Reid said, "Neil is just perfect for this position. Neil really understands the role of public lands in rural America, and natural resources across the West. His expertise is going to be invaluable to the Bureau of Land Management. I have every bit of confidence that Neil Komze will be the best director we have ever had at BLM."

Also covering the story are the "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (4/9, 237K), the "In The Loop" blog of the Washington Post (4/9, Itkowitz, 4.22M), and KTVN-TV Reno, NV (4/9, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO DELIVER WHITMAN COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS. The Walla Walla (WA) Union-Bulletin (4/8, 38K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will deliver the 2014 Whitman College commencement address in Walla Walla, Wash. Jewell said, "I look forward to returning to the Northwest to celebrate this milestone with the Whitman Community. Whitman is widely known for its engaged, curious and vibrant student body, and I'm honored to deliver the commencement address to the class of 2014."

Also reporting on the story is KVEW-TV Kennewick, WA (4/8, 283).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO COMMEMORATE MARIAN ANDERSON'S CONCERT. The AP (4/9) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "joining a commemoration of Marian Anderson's concert at the Lincoln Memorial 75 years after the historic event." Jewell will "join the Washington Performing Arts Society and local school children at the memorial Wednesday."

SECRETARY JEWELL ENCOURAGES GROUPS TO ENGAGE NEW HUNTERS. For Outdoor Life Magazine (4/9, 1.12M), Ben Lamb provides highlights of his discussion with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on "conservation, access, and the imperative to bring new folks into our hunting and fishing ranks." The conversation also included "folks from Boone & Crockett Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Montana Wildlife Federation, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, and Trout Unlimited." Lamb notes that Jewell "challenged each group in the room to reach out beyond their memberships and to engage people whom have no concept of hunting or fishing."

INTERIOR RELIES ON FEDRAMP. The NextGov (4/9, 2K) reports that the Interior Department is "among the few agencies renting computer space in the commercial cloud without testing for security holes, according to Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program officials." The department is "throwing its trust behind FedRAMP, a cloud evaluation program that offers all agencies documentation showing that a vendor's storage, streaming video or other online service meets basic safeguards, including data backups." According to the article, "the intention is to cut acquisition costs by recycling security paperwork."

REPORT FINDS AGENCIES FAILED TO ASSESS SECURITY RISKS AT FEDERAL FACILITIES. The Fierce Government (4/9, McDermott, 224) reports that "agencies with large property holdings are failing to assess security risks at their combined 52,000 facilities across the country, a recently released Government Accountability Office report says." The GAO "doesn't state in a March 5 report that agencies are necessarily putting federal employees at risk by not following the security assessment guidelines," but "it does say that the group tasked with laying out the security guidance doesn't monitor agency compliance or have any authority to ensure it's followed." Notably, the GAO says the Interior Department, "which occupies almost 35,000 facilities, didn't follow any of the guidance laid out by the Interagency Security Committee for assessing security risks at federal facilities."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSED ROAD THROUGH IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. In an op-ed for the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (4/8, 251K), Jim Lieb, a wildlife biologist, argues that the Interior Department's issue with a road through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge has "little to do with disturbance of waterfowl." He asks, "If a gravel road through a small portion of Izembek has a significant impact on visiting waterfowl, wouldn't that mean that there was some visual and/or auditory stimuli from the road or use of such a road reaching the waterfowl on Izembek Lagoon – is that possible, 2 miles away?" Lieb notes that "most of the waterfowl using this refuge are exposed to much higher levels of disturbance on their nesting grounds to the north, where they and their eggs are taken by subsistence users, and to south on their wintering areas, adjacent to much greater number of roads, traffic and noise – plus hunting seasons."

Additional coverage of Alaska's intent to sue for a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge was provided by the Environment & Energy Publishing (4/9, 705) and the "Govbeat" blog of the Washington Post (4/8, 4.22M).

INITIATIVES TO RECONNECT YOUTH WITH NATURE SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the Asbury Park (NJ) Press (4/9, 372K), Michele S. Byers, the executive director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, writes in support of the "Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights," which was introduced recently in the New Jersey state Senate he notes that "Go outside and play" is "a message that's spreading across the nation." In March, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "announced an ambitious federal initiative to reconnect America's young people to the outdoors."

The piece also appears at the Morristown (NJ) Daily Record (4/9, 72K).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WARN AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE "SCARE TACTICS." In an op-ed for the New York Times (4/9, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) titled, "Global Warming Scare Tactics," Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger, chairman and president, respectively, of the Breakthrough Institute, "an environmental research organization," write that "if you were looking for ways to increase public skepticism about global warming, you could hardly do better than" Showtime's "forthcoming...series on climate change" titled, "Years of Living Dangerously," which is "replete with images of melting glaciers, raging wildfires and rampaging floods." According to the authors, "there is every reason to believe that efforts to raise public concern about climate change by linking it to natural disasters will backfire." They go on to note that since Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" helped "popularize...the idea that today's natural disasters are increasing in severity and frequency because of human-caused global warming," the percent of those "telling Gallup that the media was exaggerating global warming" has climbed to "42 percent...from about 34 percent."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS LOOKING AT CHERRY BLOSSOMS. WRC-TV Washington (4/9, 312K) reports that Tuesday was "originally predicted as the beginning of peak bloom for the cherry blossoms along the Tidal Basin," but "the trees aren't quite there yet." On Tuesday, the NPS "will be looking at trees to pinpoint exact peak, which is when 70 percent of the Yoshino Cherry treets along the Tidal Basin have bloomed."

JOSHUA TREE COUPLE MEETS WITH OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS NATIONAL PARK AIR QUALITY. The Hi-Desert (CA) Star (4/9, 23K) reports that "a Joshua Tree couple recently traveled to the nation's capital to voice their concerns over poor air quality in Joshua Tree National Park." Melissa and Peter Spurr "met with officials from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior on March 25." The couple "told lawmakers that poor air quality could harm the area's economy."

NPS, GUAM EPA TO LAUNCH PILOT PROJECT TO FIGHT INVASIVE SPECIES. The Pacific (GUM) Daily News (4/9, 61K) reports that in partnership with the NPS, the Guam EPA will "launch a pilot project using an air curtain bumer to dispose of green waste without spreading invasive species." According to the article, "the pilot project will begin 2 p.m. Monday at the War in the Pacific National Park in Asan with a demonstration using the are curtain burner and how it works."

Bureau of Land Management:

234 COWS CORRALLED IN NEVADA RANGE DISPUTE. The AP (4/9) reports that "officials say cowhands rounded up more cattle from federally controlled range land where a southern Nevada rancher claims a longstanding right to graze his herd." The BLM and NPS said Tuesday that "234 cows have been corralled since Saturday from a 1,200-square-mile area closed to the public for the operation about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas."

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times (4/9, Glionna, 3.46M) reports that "federal authorities were on the defensive Tuesday during the fourth day of their planned monthlong offensive to remove an outspoken rancher's cattle from

lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management." According to the article, "as dozens of protesters chanted slogans in designated 'First Amendment areas,' armed federal officials oversaw the roundup of hundreds of cattle belonging to Nevada cattle rancher Cliven Bundy, who for decades has thumbed his nose at Washington, refusing to pay grazing fees to run 900 cattle on federal land." Critics are "questioning the rationale of the cash-strapped BLM spending resources to round up the cattle."

Additional coverage was provided by the Deseret (UT) News (4/9, 610K) and KUTV-TV Salt Lake City (4/9, 7K).

BLM Backs Off Plan To Sell Seized Cattle In Utah. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (4/9, 470K) reports that "cattle seized from public land in Nevada were once headed to Richfield for auction — but federal officials have changed their plans after Utah leaders argued the animals would threaten the state's $1 billion livestock industry." Utah. Gov. Gary Herbert and "other Utah political leaders say the cows should remain in Nevada." In an April 2 letter, Herbert wrote, "There are serious concerns about human safety and animal health and well-being if these animals are shipped to and sold in Utah."

BLM Urged To Sell Land To Local Owners. In an editorial, the Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/9, 437K) criticizes the roundup. Instead, the paper suggests that the BLM should sell off more of its land holdings to local owners who would be far better caretakers.

IRON COUNTY TO BEGIN HORSE ROUNDUP ON THURSDAY. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (4/9, 470K) reports that Iron County officials and ranchers will begin "rounding up and moving horses Thursday from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) range in southwestern Utah." David Miller, chair of the Iron County Commission, on Tuesday said, "Rather than putting ourselves in a position to end up getting injunctions and lawsuits, we are going to stay in the clear and start by gathering horses on private land. We will focus on astray and feral horses so we don't get into a sticking point with state or federal laws." Miller said that "the roundup will focus on branded horses with 'no apparent owner.'"

The St. George (UT) Spectrum (4/8, 48K) editorializes that "the county is embarking on a big gamble." It notes that "it's easy to make strong statements about rounding up horses with or without the federal government's help. It's quite another matter, however, to commit taxpayers to a potentially expensive action."

Additional coverage was provided by the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (4/9, 470K).

FINNEY COUNTY COMMISSION WANTS INPUT ON PRAIRIE CHICKEN REGULATIONS. The AP (4/9) reports that Finney County commissioners are "asking the federal government to ensure they will have input into regulations for the lesser prairie chicken, which was designated last month as a threatened species." The commission sent a letter Monday to the BLM "asking for coordinating status while the agency revises its management plan for the lesser prairie chicken and its habitat." The BLM had "asked in a letter for input from Kansas counties affected by the decision, but commissioners were unhappy that the letter mentioned cooperation, rather than coordination."

LEGISLATION WOULD REQUIRE BLM TO UP WITH SAGE GROUSE HABITAT RESTORATION FUNDING. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (4/8, 166K) reports that Rep. Mark Amodei "introduced legislation Tuesday to ensure the federal agencies that manage the bulk of Nevada terrain populated by the greater sage grouse come through with funding for habitat restoration." Amodei said "his bill aims to prevent the state and private landowners from bearing the brunt of costs associated with restoring sagebrush habitat needed by grouse, which the US Fish and Wildlife Service could list as a threatened or endangered species by late 2015." Amodei said, "You own the land, you have responsibility. We're trying to wake up the federal land managers that they need to take care of their own property. They have our attention. We're trying to get theirs."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

INDIANA RECEIVES $17 MILLION FROM FWS FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS. The Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (4/9, 51K) reports that "the state of Indiana is receiving $17 million from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for conservation and recreation projects." The funds come "from excise taxes on fishermen, hunters and boaters."

HABITAT DEGRADATION COMPROMISES WATERS OF WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT. The New York Times (4/9, Santella, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "modern times have been hard" on the Westslope cutthroat trout, "which require cold, clean water to thrive." The article notes that "habitat degradation — in part from poor logging, grazing and mining practices — has compromised some cutthroat waters." Wade Fredenberg, a fishery biologist with the FWS, based in Kalispell, said, "The biggest threat to genetically pure westslope cutthroat is hybridization with rainbows. People like to catch rainbows, as they grow larger than the cutts. But when the rainbows breed with the native cutts, the resulting progeny" — called cutt-bows — "are not as well adapted to the ecosystem, and less likely to survive in the long run. Having rainbows and cutt-bows in these rivers is like finding feral pigs instead of mountain goats as you drive the Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier."

REP. HASTINGS ISSUES SUBPOENA FOR BLADDERPOD DOCUMENTS. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (4/8, 115K) reports that Rep. Doc Hastings has "issued a subpoena to try to get answers on the US Fish and Wildlife Service's recent decision to list the White Bluffs bladderpod as a threatened species." Hastings said in a statement, "This step is necessary to put an end to this deliberate stonewalling by the administration. Americans have a right to know what science and data went into a listing decision that could have serious economic impacts."

FWS FINALIZES LISTING OF FOUR WASHINGTON GOPHERS. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/9, 705) reports that the Interior Department has "listed four kinds of Mazama pocket gophers as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act while also issuing a special rule designed to protect farmers, ranchers and airports from new regulations." The FWS "listings include the Olympia, Roy Prairie, Tenino and Yelm pocket gophers in Washington state's Thurston and Pierce counties along the southern edge of Puget Sound." The agency "also designated 1,607 acres in Thurston as critical habitat for the Olympia, Tenino and Yelm gophers."

Also reporting on the story are the Tri-City Herald (WA) (4/9, 115K) and the Bellingham (WA) Herald (4/9, 113K).

HUNTERS URGED TO PREPARE OPINIONS ON TEAL SEASON DECISION. In his column for the St. Cloud (MN) Times (4/8, 77K), Jerry Carlson write that if the FWS "opens the option for a teal season, there will probably be an opportunity for hunters to share their thoughts with the DNR." He adds that "this is a good time to formulate opinions so ideas are ready if the time comes."

US Geological Survey:

STUDY FINDS NORTHERN SEA OTTERS INFECTED WITH FLU. In a press release, the USGS (4/9) announces that "northern sea otters living off the coast of Washington state were infected with the same H1N1 flu virus that caused the world-wide pandemic in 2009," according to a new USGS and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. According to the agency, "during an August 2011 health monitoring project, USGS and CDC scientists found evidence that the Washington sea otters were infected with the pandemic 2009 H1N1 virus, although the exact date and source of exposure could not be determined." The findings suggest that human flu can infect sea otters.

USGS: ABOVE-AVERAGE PRECIPITATION HELPED SPUR DEADLY WASHINGTON LANDSLIDE. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/9, 705) reports that "many unanswered questions remain surrounding last month's massive, deadly landslide in northwest Washington, but geologists are fairly certain that higher-than-average rainfall played an important role." Experts with the USGS say "precipitation in the region surrounding Oso during February and March was 150 to 200 percent of the long-term average, likely helping to destabilize the 10 million cubic yards of sediment that buried 30 homes on March 22." Jonathan Godt of USGS's Geologic Hazards Science Center in Denver, said, "It traveled exceptionally far and exceptionally fast, and that's why it was exceptionally destructive."

CONSERVATION GROUP SUES USGS FOR GRIZZLY INFORMATION. The AP (4/9) reports that a conservation group is suing the USGS "for information on threatened grizzly bears in northwestern Montana." The Alliance for the Wild Rockies says the USGS "failed to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request for reports and findings on the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear DNA Project."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SEN. REID ASKS FEDERAL AGENCIES TO WORK TOGETHER ON SUNZIA PROJECT LINE. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/9, 705) reports that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is "nudging the Defense Department to drop objections to a massive New Mexico-to-Arizona transmission line project near an Army missile testing range and to work with the Interior Department to devise a plan to get the power line built." Reid "recently submitted a two-page letter to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking DOD to work with Interior 'to find and deploy' a workable solution that 'provides for the rapid construction' of the proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Line Project."

BOEM HEARS CRITICISM OF OFFSHORE WIND LEASE. Newsday (4/9, 1.5M) reports that "tensions between ocean fishing interests and offshore-wind-energy planners were evident at a meeting in Montauk Tuesday as federal regulators set the stage for leasing hundreds of miles of the Atlantic for wind farms." BOEM representatives "got an occasional earful from local fishermen and -women who worry the plans could damage or close off large swaths of fishing grounds." Maureen Bornholdt, program manager for the bureau's renewable-energy programs, "emphasized that Tuesday's meeting was designed to address such concerns." Bornholdt "acknowledged more information is needed to understand the impacts and encouraged fishermen to stay in contact with the bureau as the leasing process proceeds."

Also reporting on the story is the North Fork (NY) East End Beacon (4/8).

FWS REPORT DOCUMENTS BIRD INJURIES AT CALIFORNIA SOLAR POWER PLANTS. KCET-TV Los Angeles (4/9, 15K) reports that a report by the FWS "documents a disturbing amount of bird injuries at three large California desert solar power plants, and says that there are no easy fixes to the issue." The report, compiled by the FWS's National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, "describes the results of examinations of 233 carcasses of birds found at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) south of Las Vegas, the Desert Sunlight facility near Joshua Tree National Park, and the Genesis Solar project west of Blythe in Riverside County." According to the article, "the occasionally gruesome report indicates that injuries from concentrated solar flux and from impact with mirrors or photovoltaic panels constitute the two largest solar facility threats to wild birds, and suggests that the limited scope of carcass surveys at solar projects may be obscuring the true magnitude of bird mortalities they cause."

Onshore Energy Development:

DATA SHOWS OBAMA ADMINISTRATION LEASED LOWEST AMOUNT OF FEDERAL LAND IN 25 YEARS. The Daily Caller (4/9, Bastasch, 408K) reports that the Obama Administration has "issued the lowest number of drilling leases since at least 1988," according to government data. The BLM said that "the total number of oil and gas drilling leases issued in 2013 reached a nearly three-decade lows." The agency "says it issued 1,468 drilling leases last year, totaling 1.17 million acres of federal land — the lowest figures since 1988, which is the oldest year for which the BLM has data." And "when it comes to actually approving drilling permits in 2013, the Obama administration approved the lowest number since 2002 — only 3,770 drilling permits."

STATE OFFICIALS INVESTIGATE LINK BETWEEN FRACKING, EARTHQUAKES. Drawing on a Bloomberg News article, The Hill (4/9, Cama, 237K) reports in its "E2 Wire" blog that officials in states with high natural gas production are looking in to whether fracking has caused a recent uptick in earthquakes. The Hill reports that the Bloomberg News story indicated that "between the beginning of the year and April 6, Oklahoma had more magnitude 3 or higher earthquakes than in all of 2013." The Hill casts research on the subject as "inconclusive," noting Oklahoma has stopped operations at two fracking sites while investigators look in to earthquakes in the area.

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE SAYS IT WILL PROPOSE RULES ON ARCTIC DRILLING SOON. A report online for the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (4/8, Cama, 237K) covers the anticipation surrounding Arctic drilling rules soon to be proposed by the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. According to BSEE Director Brian

Salerno yesterday on the agency's website, "This forthcoming rule will put important safeguards in place for future Arctic drilling operations," dealing with potential problems such as preparedness for oil spills. Salerno continued in his post online, "We hope to release the proposed rule shortly and open it for public comment, continuing an important dialogue on drilling operations in the Arctic that has already included numerous consultations and public meetings."

Also reporting on the story is the Law 360 (4/9, 18K).

REPORT SAYS DOLPHINS, TURTLES DYING IN RECORD NUMBERS IN GULF. The National Geographic (4/9, 42.25M) reports that "four years after the biggest oil spill in US history, several species of wildlife in the Gulf of Mexico are still struggling to recover, according to a new report released today." In particular, "bottlenose dolphins and sea turtles are dying in record numbers, and the evidence is stronger than ever that their demise is connected to the spill, according to Doug Inkley, senior scientist for the National Wildlife Federation, which issued the report." Inkley said, "The oil is not gone: There is oil on the bottom of the Gulf, oil is washing up on the beaches, and oil is still on the marshes."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BSEE OFFERS GRANT FOR ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE. Additional coverage that the BSEE is offering grant money for research into developing technologies to respond to oil spills in icy Arctic conditions was provided by the US News & World Report (4/9, Neuhauser, 645K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

GROUPS CLAIM AMERICAN RIVER FLOWS TOO SLOW, WARM FOR CHINOOK SALMON AND STEELHEAD. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (4/8, 687K) reports that "the federal government's operation of Folsom and Nimbus dams is harming fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead in the American River, several environmental and fishing groups allege in a complaint filed this week with the state." The groups are pressing the State Water Resources Control Board to amend the BOR's "permits to require colder and faster river flows from the two dams." Stephen Green, president of Save the American River Association, said, "We've got to have a guaranteed higher flow, and there have to be modifications to Folsom Dam that will allow them to tap the coldest (water) pool in the reservoir. When temperatures are high and flows are low, we know that fish are being killed, and it's not just this year. It's been going on for decades."

BOR TEMPORARILY LOWERS WATER LEVEL OF PINEWOOD RESERVOIR. The Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette (4/9, 13K) reports that "water managers lowered the water level in Pinewood Reservoir over the weekend to get ready for some maintenance work on a canal downstream." According to BOR spokeswoman Kara Lamb, the agency is permoring "routine maintenance this week on the Charles Hansen Feeder Canal, which takes water north to Horsetooth Reservoir."

HOUSEBOATS FROM NEW MELONES LANDING IN STOCKTON. KXTV-TV Sacramento, CA (4/8, 25K) reports that "the Stockton waterfront is becoming a busier spot because of California's drought and the low water level at New Melones Reservoir." The BOR has "told boat owners they need to remove their boats from the reservoir."

Empowering Native American Communities:

SISSETON-WAHPETON ENTERS LAND BUYBACK PROGRAM. The AP (4/9) reports that the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe has "agreed to enter a federal land buyback program that aims to help Native American tribes purchase parcels of reservation land that are owned by multiple people." The agreement will "help the tribe in the Lake Traverse Reservation, located in northeast South Dakota and southeast North Dakota, host outreach programs and solicit interest from owners in an effort to consolidate so-called fractionated interests." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement, "We know that Nation-to-Nation cooperation and collaboration is the key to successfully implementing this historic opportunity to reduce fractionation and strengthen tribal sovereignty." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Rapid City (SD) Journal (4/9, 141K), KOTA-TV Rapid City, SD (4/9, 890), and KELO-TV Sioux Falls, SD (4/9, 25K).

The Nation Sun News (4/9) reports that Chairman Robert Shepherd said, "The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation has been actively acquiring fractionated lands for over three decades in an effort to

reduce fractionation on the reservation. The Cobell Land Buy-Back Program will further our efforts to acquire more fractionated lands, increase the tribal land base and significantly decrease further fractionation for our children and future generations. Our previous and continued efforts are made in the spirit of our inherent tribal sovereignty and as a means of self-determination."

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES FIRST TRANSFER FOR COBELL SCHOLARSHIPS.. The Indian Country Today Media Network (4/6, 45K) reports that on April 2 the Interior Department that "quarterly transfers of nearly $580,000 are set to begin this week to the American Indian College Fund." Interior Solicitor Hilary Tompkins said, "The Scholarship Fund is an important tool to help students across Indian country pursue higher education opportunities imperative to their success in the workplace and to the creation of the next generation of Indian leaders."

Top National News:

OBAMA BLASTS REPUBLICANS FOR BLOCKING PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT. President Obama's appearance at the White House on Tuesday, during which he touted two executive orders meant to address the gender pay gap and called on Republicans to support the Paycheck Faimess Act, generated a substantial amount of very positive coverage for the Administration and Democrats in Congress. All three network newscasts had segments on the pay equity debate, including reports from NBC Nightly News (4/8, story 2, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M) and ABC World News (4/8, lead story, 2:40, Sawyer), which led with the story, that closely echoed the White House's narrative. On ABC World News (4/8, lead story, 2:40, Sawyer), Mara Schiavocampo noted that the Paycheck Faimess Act is "set to be considered by the Senate soon, but it is unlikely to get through the GOP-led House" where "the right" has "call[ed] it a 'bizarre obsession.'"

Much of the print and online coverage is critical of the statistics employed by the President and his allies, and casts the executive orders as part of a "concerted election-year push," as the AP (4/9, Kuhnhenn, Fram) puts it. Likewise, under the headline, "Democrats Hope Equal Pay Issue Will Mobilize Women Voters," McClatchy (4/9, Wise, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 23K) says the "Democratic blitz this week for new orders and laws promising equal pay for women is a key agenda item the party hopes will boost tumout this fall among its most loyal voters." McClatchy adds that "by reviving a familiar line of attack from the 2012 campaign – that Republicans are waging a 'war on women'...Democrats aim to capitalize on the party's longstanding edge among women voters," and "hope to force Republicans to oppose popular measures...thus alienat[ing] women voters."

On NBC Nightly News (4/8, story 2, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that "April 8th is an important date for women because they say for the average American woman to earn what the average American male was paid last year – she has to work all of 2013 plus all the way through today into 2014." Williams said that on Tuesday, "both parties staged events to show their support for women," and "the President issued executive orders." However, Williams added, "At the end of the day the protests nor the orders changed anything, American women still make an estimated 77 percent of what men do."

At the opening of ABC World News (4/8, lead story, 2:40, Sawyer), Diane Sawyer said "the explosive issue of equal pay for equal work is front and center in the news" as "President Obama said it's time to take action, signing an executive order aimed directly at a workplace secret – the gap in pay between men and women doing the same job." ABC's Mara Schiavocampo went on to report that on Tuesday, the President said it is "time to go on the attack." President Obama was shown saying, "I have two daughters and I expected them to be treated like anyone else's sons." According to Schiavocampo, "The White House hopes highlighting the issue of fair pay will help Democrats at the polls in November."

On the CBS Evening News (4/8, story 2, 3:10, Pelley), Scott Pelley said the President "signed an executive order designed to boost equal pay for women," which "makes it easier for women who work for Federal contractors who find out what their coworkers are paid." Pelley added that the President "says...the Census Bureau found that women make 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man," but, according to Pelley, "that is one of the more lopsided figures in an issue that is hotly debated," and "another Federal study...said disparity is more like 88 cents for every dollar." Correspondent Dean Reynolds went on to report that "while working mothers seek flexibility, corporations value long hours men put in," and "women...tend to hold jobs that pay less," including teaching positions.

The Daily Caller (4/8, Stafford, 408K) reported that at Tuesday's White House briefing, Reuters White House correspondent Jeff Mason noted that "outside economists say that the data that the president is citing, the 77 cents phrase, is wrong." According to the Daily Caller, White House press secretary Jay Carney replied, "Well that's absolutely not the case, there's some economists who have different views on what it means but to say 'economists,' I mean from Reuters I would expect something a little more precise." The Daily Caller says that "off hand barb at a well respected news agency brought boos and jeers from the assembled reporters." Mason, in his report for Reuters (4/9, Mason), notes that AEI's Andrew Biggs says, "The idea that there's a 23 percent pay gap between men and women based on discrimination is flat-out false."

USA Today (4/9, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that on Tuesday, the President "touted executive action he was taking to help narrow the gender pay gap, while pressing Republican lawmakers to get behind the proposed Paycheck Fairness Act," which USA Today says "has little chance in the GOP-controlled House." The President is quoted as saying, "I don't know why you would resist the idea that women should be paid the same as men and then deny that that's not always happening out there." The Wall Street Journal (4/9, Favole, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the President also said, "A woman's got to work about three more months in order to get what a man got, because she's paid less. That's not fair. That's like adding an extra 6 miles to a marathon."

Under the headline, "Democrats Use Pay Issue In Bid For Women's Vote," the New York Times (4/9, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "in a coordinated effort...that bracketed President Obama's signing of executive measures," Democrats "marched to the Senate floor to inveigh against pay inequity and their Republican counterparts." The Times notes that on Wednesday the Senate will vote on the Paycheck Faimess Act even though Democrats "know the legislation will fail." In fact, according to the Times, "that is part of the plan."

The AP (4/9, Kuhnhenn, Fram) notes that the President, "surrounded by women advocates and accompanied by Lilly Ledbetter, a woman whose namesake legislation on pay equity was the first bill Obama signed into law in 2009," said, "This is about Republicans seemingly opposing any efforts to even the playing field for working families."

Jennifer Epstein, in a piece for Politico (4/8, Epstein, 73K), says the President's actions "fit squarely into the playbook he's been executing this year: using executive orders in lieu of congressional action, arguing that Republican opposition shows just how out-of-touch they are with the needs of working Americans." In a blog post for TIME (4/8, Alter, 24.1M), Charlotte Alter notes that Republicans make the case that "the wage gap is a trumped-up issue Democrats are using to bolster female support."

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (4/9, 4.22M), says Democrats "are indeed making partisan attempts to embarrass Republicans on issues important to women," and adds that "when one side complains that the other is 'playing politics,' it's a safe bet that those doing the complaining are losing."

White House's Own Wage Gap Continues To Draw Media Attention. On ABC World News (4/8, lead story, 2:40, Sawyer), Mara Schiavocampo reported that Republicans "point...out that women in White House make 88 cents to a man's dollar." Notably, earlier on Tuesday, ABC's chief White House correspondent Jon Karl had long, contentious back-and-forth with White House press secretary Jay Carney on the White House's use of gender pay gap statistics and it's own 12% disparity, but ABC did not show any of that exchange, and Karl did not appear at all on ABC World News on Tuesday. RealClearPolitics (4/8, 182K) has posted a clip of Karl and Carney debating the data from the White House press briefing.

USA Today (4/9, Madhani, 5.82M) reports that on Tuesday, "Republicans dismissed Obama's executive action and Senate Democrats' push on the Paycheck Faimess Act as a 'desperate political ploy,'" and "noted that the White House has its own gender pay gap."

The New York Times (4/9, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Tuesday, the President "made no mention of a recent study that found that women in his own White House make 88 cents for every dollar men do." According to the Times, White House officials "have said women earn the same salary as men of the same rank but that there are more women in lower-paying jobs," which is "an explanation similar to that often given by private-sector employers." The Times adds that "critics have said both of those statistics are misleading because

they are averages of all men and women in all jobs, rather than apples-to-apples comparisons of men and women in equivalent jobs with equivalent experience."

Under the headline, "In Obama's White House, Women Earn 89 Cents On The Dollar," Vox's (4/8) Danielle Kurtzleben notes that "an analysis from the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute found" that "women working in the White House have a median pay of nearly $62,000, while the median pay for men is $70,000." Kurtzleben adds that "in his 2014 State of the Union, Obama called it an 'embarrassment' that women made 77 percent of what men made, meaning 89 percent might not exactly be a point of pride." Joe Coscarelli, in a post for New York's Daily Intelligencer (4/8, 710K) blog, also points out that some "say the White House is part of the problem, paying women, on average, 88 cents to a man's dollar."

Elizabeth Barber, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (4/8, 566K), says that on Tuesday, Carney "said that men and women who work the same White House jobs make the same salaries," and "the pay difference results from the fact that women outnumber men in the administration's lower-level jobs."

Melinda Henneberger, in an analysis for the Washington Post (4/9, Henneberger, 4.22M) titled, "Equal Pay Legislation – Desperate Political Ploy Or Good Politics?" says "conservatives continue to argue simultaneously that the wage gap is a myth and that the wage gap does exist – at the White House, that is."

The Washington Times (4/9, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that the RNC "released data Tuesday showing that a number of Senate Democrats pay their male staffers more than their female staffers." In another post, the Washington Times (4/9, Beacon, 455K) notes that "the average female salary is $11,505 lower than the average male salary in" Sen. Richard Durbin's office, and "four of the five highest paid staffers on Durbin's staff are men."

White House Economist Retracts Claim That Women Make 23% Less Than Men Who Have Same Jobs. Linda Feldmann, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (4/8, 566K), says one "lingering question is whether it's fair to say that women are paid 77 cents on the dollar compared with men." Feldmann notes that during a "conference call Monday, White House economist Betsey Stevenson had to correct herself on that point." Stevenson claimed that "women are stuck at 77 cents on the dollar...and we see it when men and women are working side by side doing identical work." However, according to Feldmann, "when asked for clarification...Stevenson corrected herself," saying, "If I said 77 cents was equal pay for equal work, then I completely misspoke."

Collins, Murkowski, Ayotte And Fischer Offer PFA Alternative. However, according to Roll Call (4/8, Sanchez, Subscription Publication, 76K), Senate Republicans "aren't sweating a ramped-up push...for new pay equity legislation," and are "pushing forward women Republicans to rebut charges they have a woman problem." Roll Cal notes that Republicans "offered a GOP alternative to the Democrats' bill, sponsored by Republican women senators" Deb Fischer, Susan Collins, Kelly Ayotte and Lisa Murkowski. Roll Call reports that Fischer "said her amendment would address issues Republicans have with the Democratic proposal, including negative effects to merit pay, rigid pay scales and removal of caps on punitive actions."

Similarly, Politico (4/8, Everett, 73K) reported that Senate Republicans "aren't worried about suffering a political backlash if they follow through with plans to block the Paycheck Fairness Act," despite "risking legions of negative headlines and coordinated Democratic attacks on the GOP as a party out of touch with women." Politico notes that Ayotte called the PFA "a trial lawyer's giveaway."

The Huffington Post (4/8, Mcauliff, 11.54M) reports that on Tuesday, Rep. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS) said, "Many ladies I know feel like they are being used as pawns, and find it condescending [that] Democrats are trying to use this issue as a political distraction from the failures of their economic policy."

Davidson: Obama Should Use Executive Action To Implement EDNA. Joe Davidson, in a Washington Post (4/9, 4.22M) Federal Diary column titled, "Obama's Actions On Equal Pay Are Good, But Not Enough," says "another executive order...seems to be languishing in the White House," the "proposed executive action would prohibit federal contractors from discriminating against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people." Davidson adds that "like the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (EDNA)...is stalled in Congress because of Republican opposition." Davidson says that the President "could take action to ban discrimination by contractors on the basis of sexual orientation and identification, just as he did to combat pay

discrimination against women," and adds, "why he won't is a mystery."

OBAMA, FORMER PRESIDENTS TO HONOR CIVIL RIGHTS ACT THIS WEEK. USA Today (4/9, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that President Obama and three of his predecessors will honor the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act with speeches at the LBJ library in Austin this week. At the opening of the summit on Tuesday, Jimmy Carter said that while the Act did many "wonderful things," the country is still "falling short" in some areas, "notably racial disparities in employment and education." Bill Clinton will speak on Wednesday, while George W. Bush will speak on Thursday. Obama will also give the keynote address on Thursday.

The New York Times (4/9, Montgomery, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Carter "targeted the mistreatment of women for the next front in the civil rights movement, calling for a multifaceted attack against abuses from pay discrimination in the workplace to rape on college campuses and global sex-trafficking." Carter argued that most sexual assaults at colleges and universities, as well as in the military, go unreported.

NYTimes, WPost Analyses: Democrats Increasingly Embracing LBJ. In a front-page analysis piece, the Washington Post (4/9, A1, Tumulty, 4.22M) reports that in the run-up to the 1992 election, Bill Clinton delivered a 20-minute address at the LBJ library, but "never once mentioned the name Lyndon B. Johnson." On Wednesday, the Post says, Clinton will "embrace Johnson and his legacy as a liberal reformer — as Democrats have finally begun to do." The Post says that the "new warmth" towards LBJ "comes as his party has moved to the left in recent years."

Also on its front page, the New York Times (4/9, A1, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Obama's limited actions on gender equality on Tuesday raise questions about whether it is "even possible for a president to do big things anymore." LBJ "represented the high-water mark for American presidents pushing through sweeping legislation," and no president since "has approached that level of legislative success, although there are people who argue that is a good thing because government should not be so intrusive." At this point, Obama "has become a symbol of liberal frustration over his inability to use government to bring about change."

IMF SEES INCREASED US GROWTH BOOSTING GLOBAL ECONOMY. Bloomberg News (4/9, Rastello, 2.76M) reports that the IMF said on Tuesday that rising US growth this year and next "will help the world economy withstand weaker recoveries in emerging markets including Brazil and Russia." The IMF said that the US is "providing a 'major impulse' to global growth that's still lumbering amid weakness in Japan and parts of Europe." The IMF also "urged emerging markets to prepare for flows of capital back to advanced economies," and called on the ECB to increase monetary easing to avoid deflation.

The New York Times (4/9, Lowrey, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the IMF sees the global economy growing 3.6% this year and 3.9% next year, up from 3% in 2013. The IMF projected that the US economy will grow about 3% both in 2014 and 2015, up from 1.9% in 2013.

EIA Projects No Jump In Gas Prices This Summer. The New York Times (4/9, Krauss, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the Energy Information Agency projects that this summer season, "average gasoline prices should actually be lower than current prices and close to or slightly below those of last summer." EIA "projected on Tuesday that a gallon of regular gasoline would cost $3.57 on average nationally, down a penny from last summer." According to AAA, the average price of a gallon of regular gas in the US on Tuesday was $3.59.

Stocks Up Slightly On Tuesday. The Wall Street Journal (4/9, Kilgore, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that US stock markets rose modestly on Tuesday as investors waited for the Q2 earnings to be released. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 10.27 points to 16256.14 following a day of volatile trading. The S&P 500 rose 6.92 points to 1851.96, while the Nasdaq Composite Index rose 33.23 to 4112.99.

Harsh Winter May Weigh On Earnings, Stocks. USA Today (4/9, Shell, 5.82M) reports that since the start of the year, stocks have been "dragged down" by the Ukraine crisis, a "mini-crash" in the Internet and biotech sectors, and concerns about the Fed's taper. Now, the paper says, "a potential new worry is the dearth of profit growth expected from companies in the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index in the first quarter, due in large part to business disruptions caused by nasty winter weather."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"After Rwanda's Genocide."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (4/9, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that in the two decades since the genocide by Hutu extremists, Rwanda "has done an impressive job of rebuilding its institutions and economy." However, the genocide "has left a legacy of unanswered questions and uncorrected failures." The Times calls on France "to open its records to public examination," noting that France "had close relations to the Hutu-dominated government that planned and incited the genocide." In addition, the Times says President Paul Kagame must be "be held accountable for abuses in Rwanda and outside its borders, where he has gone after critics in Uganda, Kenya, South Africa and Europe."

"Gov. Cuomo Drops The Ball." An editorial in the New York Times (4/9, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo seemed to be "caught off-guard" by state lawmakers' resistance to his plan "to provide public financing for basic college-education programs in state prisons." The Times argues that the opposition "was predictable wailing by upstate Republicans espousing retrograde views and trying to protect their valuable prison industry." The Times adds that while that Cuomo "insists the program will still begin this year, financed instead by as-yet-unnamed private donors and nonprofit organizations," for the program to "thrive and expand over the long term, it will need the stability of public financing."

"Keeping Track: April 9, 2014." In this week's edition of the New York Times' (4/9, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) "Keeping Track" feature on its editorial page, the Times examines House Speaker Boehner's refusal to hold a vote on extending jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed and the need for a financial transactions tax.

"Closing Ports To Stolen Fish"

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Increase The Pressure."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (4/9, 4.22M) argues that it is "not too late to prevent Russia from destroying Ukraine," but "the West must act quickly." The US and the EU "can counter the Russian strategy in the short term by fully backing the Ukrainian government in taking the necessary measures to restore order" and applying "meaningful new sanctions, not just against individual Russians but against sectors of the economy." During a congressional hearing on Tuesday, Secretary of State Kerry said that the President "has already approved such actions, adding that 'energy, banking, mining — they're all on the table,'" but also "spoke optimistically about a 'four-party' meeting Russia had agreed to attend next week." The Post argues that the chances that those talks "will lead to a genuine de-escalation of the crisis will be greater if, in the meantime, Russia is subjected to significant economic punishment."

"Deportation Costs." In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/9, 4.22M) reports that in FY13, the US "deported almost 370,000 immigrants, continuing a record-setting pace begun late in the Bush administration and sustained by the Obama administration." The Post says that it opposes such a policy, but says it is forced upon the President by the GOP. However, the Post says that since Republicans are not willing to pass immigration reform despite the President's deportation push, that push should end.

"Bottom Dollar." In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/9, 4.22M) argues that the Earned-Income Tax Credit "is one of the government's most effective poverty-fighting, work-encouraging tools," but its "Achilles' heel" is "implementation." The Post says that often the vast overpayments made by the program are the fault of paid tax preparers, and it backs regulating them to ensure a better outcome.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Putin Invades, Obama Dismantles."*** In an editorial the Wall Street Journal (4/9, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) criticizes the Pentagon announcement of nuclear force reductions, arguing that the President is moving the US toward nuclear deficiency compared to Russia. While the Cold War may be over, the Journal argues that Russia's recent actions are proof the old rivalries still exist, and questions the timing of the announcement given that Putin is considering what to do next in Ukraine and what the Western response might be.

"A Tale Of Two L.A.s." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/9, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that a new study by the UCLA Anderson School of Management finds that Los Angeles has lost 3.1% of its employment base since 1990, which is even worse than Detroit. The Journal says that other major cities, such

as Phoenix, Orlando, Houston and Dallas, have seen massive job gains during that period by being far friendlier to businesses.

"Jeb Bush's Immigration Heresy." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/9, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) praises Jeb Bush's remarks on undocumented workers, saying that the comments recalled Ronald Reagan in tone and philosophy. The Journal adds that Bush's message is much more appealing than that offered by anti-immigration Republicans in the 2012, which hurt the party in that year's elections.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Release Of Medicare Doctor Payments Shows Some Huge Payouts
Beef Prices Hit All-Time High In US
Rooney's Death Stirs Dissension

Wall Street Journal:
US, China Defense Chiefs Square Off
Technical Glitch Hits Trading At CME
Small Slice Of Doctors Account For Big Chunk Of Medicare Costs
Comcast Makes Case to Regulators for Merger
Small Town, Scene Of 1996 Film, Hopes To Cash In On "McConaissance"

New York Times:
Sliver Of Medicare Doctors Get Big Share Of Payouts
Banks Ordered To Add Capital To Limit Risks
Tearful Drama As Pistorius Says He Panicked
White House Memo: What Would Johnson Do?
Thought Safe, Websites Find The Door Ajar
Best, Brightest And Rejected: Elite Colleges Turn Away Up To 95%

Washington Post:
After The Wars: The Other Wounds
Data Uncover Nation's Top Medicare Billers
Secret Service Shakes Up Staff
Dramatic Climax In Lawmakers' Finale
With Democrats' Move To The Left Comes A New Appreciation For LBJ

Financial Times:
IMF Cuts Downturn Danger To Near Zero
Big US Banks Forced To Hold Extra $68Bn
Scientists Seek Climate-Friendly Cow
Coatue Returns $2Vn To Investors
"Heartbleed Bug" Threatens Web Traffic
Record $6bn Fine For Takeda Over Diabetes Drug
A Look Beyond Turbulent Sectors

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Obama-Equal Pay Order; Ukraine Crisis; Crash Test Results; Kansas-Motorist Shootings; Louisiana Congressman Scandal; Medical-Paralysis Technology; NASA-Mars Image.
CBS: Paralysis Treatment Technology; Obama-Equal Pay Order; Malaysian Flight Search; Secretary Kerry-Russia; Crash Test Results; Women In Combat; Ireland President-Great Britain; Microsoft Pulls XP; NASA-Auction.
NBC: Ukraine Crisis; Obama-Equal Pay Order; Malaysian Flight Search; Al Sharpton-FBI Informant; Heroin Epidemic; Crash Test Results; NASA-Mars Image; Medical-Spinal Cord Injury Breakthrough.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Malaysian Flight Search; North Carolina-Marine Shooting; Internet Security Breach; GM-NHTSA Fine; Kentucky-GM Plant Strike; Sports-NCAA Women's Tournament.
CBS: Malaysian Flight Search; North Carolina-Marine Shooting; Ukraine Crisis; GM-NHTSA Fine; Sports-NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament; Wall Street.
FOX: Malaysian Flight Search; Kansas-Motorist Shootings; California-LAPD Station Shooting; Sports-NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament; USAID-Cuban Twitter Program Wall Street; Archie Comics Ends; Internet Security Breach.
NPR: Malaysian Flight Search; North Carolina-Marine Shooting; Obama-Equal Pay Order; West Africa-Ebola Outbreak; Pakistan-Deadly Train Attack; EU-Telecom Data Collection Ruling; Sports-NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Departs the White House, South Lawn, open press; depart Joint Base Andrews; arrive in Killeen, Texas; attends a memorial ceremony, Sadowski Field, Fort Hood; departs Killeen, Texas; arrives in Houston, Texas; attends a DNC event; delivers remarks and answers questions at a joint DCC/DSCC dinner.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends meeting at the White House.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Departs the White House, South Lawn, open press; depart Joint Base Andrews; arrive in Killeen, Texas; attends a memorial ceremony, Sadowski Field, Fort Hood; departs Killeen, Texas; arrives in Houston, Texas.
US Senate: 1:30 p.m. REPUBLICANS – BENGHAZI — U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), Kelly Ayotte (R-New Hampshire) and John McCain (R-Arizona), along with Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-South Carolina), will detail some of the "unanswered questions" about the September 11, 2012 terrorist attack on the United States mission in Benghazi, Libya. Location: Senate Radio-TV Gallery, S-325.

2 p.m. DEMOCRATIC WOMEN – PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT — Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Patty Murray (D-WA), and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), along with Senate Democratic leaders and Democratic women Senators will hold a media availability to urge their Republican colleagues to join them in giving America's women "a fair shot at equal pay for equal work." Location: Senate Radio/Television Gallery.

6 p.m. KIDS FOR CASH — Viewing and Panel Discussion of "Kids for Cash." Kids for Cash is a documentary regarding a scandal that began in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. A local judge sentenced more than 3,000 children to prison for years, after they were found guilty of crimes as petty as creating a fake MySpace page. Following parental inquiries, it was revealed that the judge had received millions of dollars in payments from the privately-owned juvenile detention centers where the kids, many in their early teens, were incarcerated. Participants: Rep. Tony Caadenas; U.S. Sen. Robert Casey with be joined on the discussion panel by Marsha Levick of the Juvenile Law Center; Director Robert May, who directed "Kids for Cash" and two children from the film, Hillary Transue and Justin Bodnar. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center North Orientation Theater.

9:15 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies hearing on The Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request for The Environmental Protection Agency. Witness: Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency. ttp://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/interior-environment-subcommittee-hearing-epa-fy15-budget Location: 124 Dirksen.

9:15 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Airland meets To receive testimony on Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.. Witnesses: General John F. Campbell, USA, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army; Lieutenant General James O. Barclay III, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, United States Army; Major General (P) Michael E. Williamson, USA, Military Deputy and Director, Army Acquisition Corps, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for

Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-04-09-army-modernization Location: 232A Russell.

9:45 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Hearing: Railway Safety Subcommittee hearing on an assessment on how to keep our railways safe for passengers and communities. Witnesses: Panel I: Anthony Foxx, Secretary, Department of Transportation; Deborah Hersman, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board. Panel II: Barb Graff, Director, City of Seattle Office of Emergency Management; Tim Pellerin, Fire Chief, Town of Rangeley, Maine, Fire Department. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/transportation-housing-and-urban-development-hearing-railway-safety Location: 138 Dirksen.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Defense Subcommittee hearing on Defense Health Programs; Lieutenant General Patricia Horoho, Surgeon General of the United States Army; Vice Admiral Matthew L. Nathan, Surgeon General of the United States Navy; Lieutenant General Thomas W. Travis, Surgeon General of the United States Air Force; Christopher Miller, Program Executive Officer for Defense Healthcare Management System. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/defense-subcommittee-hearing-defense-health-programs Location: 106 Dirksen.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies hearing on The Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request for the Department of Labor. Witnesses: Thomas E. Perez, Secretary, United States Department of Labor. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/laborhhs-subcommittee-hearing-department-labor-fy15-budget Location: 192 Dirksen.

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Personnel hearing on Active, Guard, Reserve, and Civilian Personnel Programs. Panel I: Lieutenant General Howard B. Bromberg, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff (G-1) United States Army, Vice Admiral William F. Moran, USN, Chief of Naval Personnel/Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (N-1) United States Navy; Lieutenant General Samuel D. Cox, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services (A-1) United States Air Force; Lieutenant General Robert E. Milstead Jr., USMC, Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs United State Marine Corps. Panel II: Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, United States Army; Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Michael D. Stevens, United States Navy; Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody, United States Air Force; Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett, United States Marine Corps. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-04-09-active-guard-reserve-and-civilian-personnel-programs Location: 222 Russell.

10 a.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Subcommittee on Science and Space hearing to examine from here to Mars. Witnesses: William H. Gerstenmaier, Associate Administrator, Human Exploration and Operations, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); Susan Eisenhower, Chairman Emeritus, the Eisenhower Institute, President, the Eisenhower Group, Inc.; Dr. Leroy Chiao, Former NASA NASA Astronaut; Commander, International Space Station Expedition 10 , Special Advisor for Human Spaceflight, the Space Foundation; and Chairman, National Space Biomedical Research Institute User Panel 11: Jeffrey Manber, Managing Director, NanoRacks, LLC. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=1267a193-67e5-48be-b877-b5591cbd908b&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a Location: 253 Russell.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging hearings to examine addressing primary care access and workforce challenges, focusing on voices from the field. Panel I: Rebecca Spitzgo , Associate Administrator, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, MD. Panel II: Gary Wiltz, MD, Executive Director and Clinical Director, Teche Action Clinic, Franklin, LA; Stan Brock, Founder and President, Remote Area Medical, Rockford, TN; Joseph Nichols, MD, MPH , Family Medicine Resident, MedStar Franklin Square Family Health Center, Baltimore, MD; Margaret Flinter, APRN, PhD , Senior Vice President and Clinical Director, Community Health Center, Inc., Middletown, CT; Deborah Edberg, MD , Program Director, McGaw Northwestern Family Medicine Residency Program, Erie Family Health Center; Assistant Professor of Clinical Family and Community Medicine, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL; Allen Dobson Jr., MD , President and CEO, Community Care of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC; Linda Kohn, PhD , Director of Health Care, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; James Hotz, MD , Clinical Services Director, Albany Area Primary Care, Albany, GA. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=5ab814ee-

5056-a032-5231-08baebc7c8cf Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICARY — Hearing on "Examining the Comcast-Time Warner Cable Merger and the Impact on Consumers." Witnesses: David Cohen, Executive Vice President, Comcast Corporation, Philadelphia, PA; Arthur T. Minson, Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Time Warner Cable Inc., New York, NY; Gene Kimmelman, President and CEO, Public Knowledge, Washington, DC; James L. Bosworth, Jr., Chairman and CEO, Back9Network, Hartford, CT; Richard Sherwin, Chief Executive Officer, Spot On Networks, New Haven, CT; Christopher S. Yoo, John H. Chestnut Professor of Law, Communication, and Computer & Information Science, University of Pennsylvania Law, Philadelphia, PA. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/examining-the-comcast-time-warner-cable-merger-and-the-impact-on-consumers Location: Room changed to 216 Hart.

10 a.m. RULES AND ADMINISTRATION — Hearings to examine election administration, focusing on making voter rolls more complete and more accurate. http://www.rules.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=CommitteeHearings&ContentRecord_id=176559be-4fb9-46ab-9445-47cd0eda136c&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_id1983a2a8-4fc3-4062-a50e-7997351c154b Location: 301 Russell.

10 a.m. U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING — The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission) hearing on Ukraine: Confronting Internal Challenges and External Threats. Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Location: 215 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. RULES AND ADMINISTRATION — Business meeting to consider S.1728, to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, S.1937, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to develop contingency plans to address unexpected emergencies or natural disasters that may threaten to disrupt the administration of an election for Federal office, S.1947, to rename the Government Printing Office the Government Publishing Office, S.2197, to repeal certain requirements regarding newspaper advertising of Senate stationery contracts, and the nominations of Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, and Myrna Perez, of Texas, both to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission. Location: 301 Russell.

11 a.m. SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP — Hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Small Business Administration. http://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=1f7e5245-71a2-4787-a8c7-f00ed1b5d9d7&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_id43eb5e02-e987-4077-b9a7-1e5a9cf28964 Location: 428A Russell.

2:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies subcommittee hearing on Witnesses: Panel I: Dennis McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy; Vice Admiral William French, Commander, Navy Installations Command, Department of the Navy; Major General Juan Ayala, Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command, Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics, United States Marine Corps. Panel II: Kathleen I. Ferguson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Performing Duties as, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations, Environment, and Logistics), United States Air Force; Major General Maryanne Miller, Deputy Chief, United States Air Force Reserve; Brigadier General James Witham, Deputy Director, United States Air National Guard. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/military-construction-and-veterans-affairs-subcommittee-fy15-navy-air-force-budgets Location: 124 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Energy and Water Development subcommittee hearing on review of the Presidents Fiscal Year 2015 funding request and budget justification for the U.S. Department of Energy. Speakers: Ernie Moniz, Ph.D., Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy; Daniel B. Poneman, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/energy-and-water-development-subcommittee-hearing-department-energy-fy15-budget Location: 192 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Strategic Forces hearing on National Nuclear Security Administration Management of its National Security Laboratories and the Status of the Nuclear Security Enterprise. Panel I: Dr. Charles F. McMillan, Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory; Dr. Paul J. Hommert, Director, Sandia National Laboratories; Dr. William H. Goldstein, Deputy Director for Science and Technology, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Panel II: Norman R. Augustine, Co-chair of the Congressional Advisory

Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise, Institute for Defense Analyses; Admiral Richard W. Mies, USN (Ret.), Co-chair of the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-04-09-national-nuclear-security-administration-management-of-its-national-security-laboratories-and-the-status-of-the-nuclear-security-enterprise Location: 222 Russell.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Full committee executive session. 1. S. 429, Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education and Promotion Act of 2013; 2. S. 1014, Youth Sports Concussion Act; 3. S. 1406, Prevent All Soring Tactics Act (PAST Act) ; 4. S. 1275, Revitalizing the Economy of Fisheries in the Pacific Act; 5. S. 1468, Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2013; 6. S. 1793, Nicholas and Zachary Burt Memorial Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2013; 7. S. 1925, Driver Privacy Act; 8. S. 2022, Forensic Science and Standards Act of 2014; 9. S. 2028, Sport Fish Restoration and Recreational Boating Safety Act of 2014; 10. S. 2076, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act; 11. S. 2086, Reliable Home Heating Act; 12. S. 2140, To improve the transition between experimental permits and commercial licenses for commercial reusable launch vehicles; 13. H.R. 2052, Global Investment in American Jobs Act; 14. Nomination of Mr. David Arroyo, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; 15. Nomination of Mr. William Doyle, to be a Member of the Federal Maritime Commission (Reappointment); 16. Nominations for Promotion in the United States Coast Guard. Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS — An oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on Indian students in public schools, and cultivating the next generation. Witnesses: Panel 1: William Mendoza, Executive Director-White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC. Panel 3: Mandy Smoker Broaddus, Director of Indian Education-Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT; Daniel Hudson, Chairman-Wyoming State Impact Aid, Lander, WY, and Secretary, National Indian Impacted School Association, Lander, WY; Dr. Alberto Siqueiros, Superintendent-Baboquivari Unified School District No. 40, Sells, AZ; Brent Gish, Executive Director-National Indian Impacted Schools Association, Naytahwaush, MN. http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/oversight-hearing-receive-testimony-indian-education-series-indian-students-public-schools Location: 628 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE — Hearings to examine the economic impact of increased natural gas production. Witnesses: John Larson, Vice President and Global Leader, Big Data Analytics, IHS, Washington, DC; Jim Bruce, Vice President of Corporate Public Affairs, United Parcel Service, Washington, DC; Mark Brownstein, Associate Vice President and Chief Counsel for U. S. Climate and Energy, Environmental Defense Fund, New York, NY; Diana Furchtgott-Roth, Director of Economics21 and Senior, Fellow, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, New York, NY; J. Roe Buckley, Chairman US Oil and Gas Association Tyler, Texas. http://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=8ed91d60-2eee-4762-b037-b168e2db0599&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idcb5dcfe4-afee-419f-94ee-e51eb07de989 Location: 216 Hart.
US House: 9 a.m. FASTERS & IMMIGRATION REFORM ADVOCATES — House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, and Democratic Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra will welcome Eliseo Medina and immigration reform advocates to the Capitol. Leader Pelosi and the Democratic leaders will praise advocates' efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform and discuss the importance of H.R. 15. At the top of the meeting, Leader Pelosi and immigration reform advocates will hold a photo opportunity with brief remarks. Location: H-206.

10 a.m. TRUCK SAFETY REPORT – MCGOVERN — New Safety Report Shows Truck Size And Weight Increases Endanger Motorists. Findings from a recent report, An Analysis of Truck Size and Weight Issues, Phase I – Safety will be released. Conducted at Marshall University by the Multimodal Transportation and Infrastructure Consortium (MTIC), a University Transportation Center recognized by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), this report found a 15.5 percent higher fatal crash rate when double trailer trucks are involved in a crash compared to single trailer trucks, and a more than eight times higher fatal crash rate for trucks with six or more axles as compared to those with five axles. Speakers: U.S. Representative Jim McGovern (D-MA); Jacqueline Gillan, President, Advocates for Highway and Auto, Safety (Emcee); Georges Benjamin, MD Executive, Director, American Public Health, Association; Mark Burton (Knoxville, TN) Director, Transportation Economics for the Center for Transportation Research, University of Tennessee; Joan Claybrook, President Emeritus, Public Citizen and Former,

Administrator, NHTSA; Bruce Gower (Clyde, OH) Chief of Police; James P. Hoffa, General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Jennifer Tierney (Kemersville, NC), Board Member, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways, and Member, Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee – Her father was killed in 1983 in a truck crash in North Carolina. Location: 421 Cannon.

10:30 a.m. RYAN BUDGET – SMALL BUSINESSES — Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY), the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Small Business, will release a report detailing how the Ryan Fiscal Year 2015 Budget would affect the nation's small business sector Location: House Triangle.

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. TAX CODE – REP. CAMP — The Institute for Policy Innovation hosts a discussion on "A Tax code for the Modern Economy" with Rep. Dave Camp, Cahirman, U.S. house Ways and Means committee. Panel Discussion: Dorothy Coleman, National Association of Manufacturers Caroline Schellhas – Pfizer, Inc.; Miguel A. Martinez, Jr. Information Technology Industry Council (ITI); James P. Pinkerton, RATE Coalition; Bartlett D. Cleland, Institute for Policy Innovation (IPI). RSVP: contact Betty Medlock: bmedlock@ipi.org or (972) 874-5139 For more information and to register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-tax-code-for-the-modern-economy-registration-10954333707 Location: B-340 Raybum.

12 p.m. DEMOCRATS – JOB CREATION — House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) will be joined by House Democrats at a press conference to discuss "the harmful impact the Republican budget would have on job creation in the manufacturing sector" and "key investments in manufacturing" made in the Democrats' budget alternative. Rep/ Hoyer will also discuss the importance of reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank this year, and upcoming action by the Science & Technology Committee on GOP legislation to reauthorize the America COMPETES Act. Location: House Radio/TV Gallery, HVC-117 Studio A.

6 p.m. KIDS FOR CASH — Viewing and Panel Discussion of "Kids for Cash." Kids for Cash is a documentary regarding a scandal that began in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. A local judge sentenced more than 3,000 children to prison for years, after they were found guilty of crimes as petty as creating a fake MySpace page. Following parental inquiries, it was revealed that the judge had received millions of dollars in payments from the privately-owned juvenile detention centers where the kids, many in their early teens, were incarcerated. Participants: Rep. Tony Caadenas; U.S. Sen. Robert Casey with be joined on the discussion panel by Marsha Levick of the Juvenile Law Center; Director Robert May, who directed "Kids for Cash" and two children from the film, Hillary Transue and Justin Bodnar. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center North Orientation Theater.

10 a.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and noon for legislative business and continue consideration of H.Con. Res. 96 – Establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024. First and last votes expected: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

9 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — Subcommittee on Space Markup of H.R. _____, the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014." http://science.house.gov/markup/subcommittee-space-markup-hr-national-aeronautics-and-space-administration-authorization-act Location: 2318 Rayburn.

9:30 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Markup of: Referral to the Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois G. Lerner for possible criminal prosecution for violations of one or more criminal statutes based on evidence the Committee has uncovered in the course of the investigation of IRS abuses. http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=375722 Location: 1100 Longworth.

10 a.m. AGRICULTURE — Markup: H.R. 4413 Consumer Protection and End User Relief Act. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102136 Location: 1300 Longworth.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Full Committee Markup – FY 2015 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Bill, Legislative Branch Bill, and Report on the Interim Suballocation of Budget Allocations. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=375330 Location: 2359 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Full Committee, "National Defense Priorities from Members for the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act." http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display?

ContentRecord_id=E4BAF453-CFEB-4221-B89F-D184E4BAA858 Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — Full Committee Markup, H.R. 4320, "Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act" and H.R. 4321, "Employment Privacy Protection Act." Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Energy and Power Reconvene Markup of H.R. 6, the "Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act." Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Enhance Capital Formation for Small and Emerging Growth Companies." H.R. 2629, the "Fostering Innovation Act of 2014" H.R. 4200, the "SBIC Advisers Relief Act of 2014" H.R. ___, the "Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act of 2014" H.R. ___, the "Small Company Freedom to Grow Act of 2014" H.R. ___, a bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its rules so as to increase the threshold amount for requiring issuers to provide certain disclosures relating to compensatory benefit plans. H.R. ___, a bill to amend the securities laws to improve private market offerings, and for other purposes. H.R. ___, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the definition of a well-known seasoned issuer to reduce the worldwide market value threshold under the definition. Witness List: David R. Burton, Senior Fellow in Economic Policy, The Heritage Foundation; Professor John C. Coffee Jr., Adolf A. Berle Professor of Law, Director of the Center on Corporate Governance at Columbia Law School, Columbia Law School; Brian Hahn, Chief Financial Officer, GlycoMimetics, Inc., on behalf the Biotechnology Industry Organization; Tom Quaadman, Vice President. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=375104 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Hearing: "U.S. Foreign Assistance in FY 2015: What Are the Priorities, How Effective?" Witness: Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/hearing-us-foreign-assistance-fy-2015-what-are-priorities-how-effective Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — The Boston Marathon Bombings, One Year On: A Look Back to Look Forward. Speakers: Commissioner Edward F. Davis III, Fellow, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Edward P. Devau, Chief of Police, Watertown Police Department; Jeffrey J. Pugliese, Sergeant, Watertown Police Department. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/hearingthe-boston-marathon-bombings-one-year-look-back-look-forward Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Full Committee Markup on H.R. 503, H.R. 863, H.R. 2208, H.R. 2430, H.R. 3802, H.R. 4002, H.R. 4017, H.R. 4253, and H.R. 4309 http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=375254 Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — Subcommittee on Research and Technology Hearing, "Prizes to Spur Innovation and Technology Breakthroughs." Witnesses: Christopher Frangione, Vice President of Prize Development, XPRIZE; Donnie Wilson, Founder and CEO, Elastec American Marine; Dr. Sharon Moe, President, American Society of Nephrology; Narinder Singh, Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Appirio and President, TopCoder. http://science.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-research-and-technology-hearing-prizes-spur-innovation-and-technology Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS — Full Committee hearing on "A Continued Assessment of Delays in VA Medical Care and Preventable Veteran Deaths." Witnesses: Panel 1: Barry Coates, Veteran, Daniel M. Dellinger, National Commander, The American Legion Accompanied By: Edward Lilly, Senior Field Service Officer, The American Legion. Panel 2: Debra A. Draper, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office, John D. Daigh, Jr. M.D., Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Panel 3: Thomas Lynch, M.D., Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Accompanied By: Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D., Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Quality, Safety, and Value, Veterans Health, Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/a-continued-assessment-of-delays-in-va-medical-care-and-preventable-veteran-deaths Location: 334 Cannon.

11 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Markup of H.R. 524, To amend the Federal Water

Pollution Control Act to clarify that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency does not have the authority to disapprove a permit after it has been issued by the Secretary of the Army under section 404 of such Act; H.R. 4156, Transparent Airfares Act of 2014. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=375482 Location: 2167 Rayburn.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Full committee hearing on The Biggest Tax Problems for Small Businesses. David Kautter, Managing Director, Kogod Tax Center, Kogod School of Business, American University, Washington, DC; Tim Reynolds, President, Tribute, Inc., Hudson, OH. Testifying on behalf of the National Small Business Association; Rick Endres, President, The Washington Network, Inc., Alexandria, VA – Testifying on behalf of The ASCII Group; Donald Marron, Institute Fellow and Director of Economic Policy Initiatives, The Urban Institute, Washington, DC. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373095 Location: 2360 Rayburn.

1:15 p.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Subcommittee hearing on hearing on the trade implications of U.S. energy policy and the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG). The hearing will focus on the opportunities and trade implications created by recent developments in the U.S. energy sector related to LNG. http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=375102 Location: 1100 Longworth.

1:30 p.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements Subcommittee, "Examining Ways the Social Security Administration Can Improve the Disability Review Process." http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/examining-ways-social-security-administration-can-improve-disability-review-process/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. Department of Commerce FY 2015 Budget Request with Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker. Witness: Penny Pritzker, Secretary, Department of Commerce. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=374548 Location: H-309 Capitol.

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Financial Services and General Government Budget Hearing – Office of Management and Budget. Witness: Sylvia Matthews Burwell, Director, Office of Management and Budget. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374551 Location: 2362-A Rayburn.

2 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on Military Personnel, "Beneficiary and Advocacy Overview of the FY15 Presidents Budget." Witnesses: Michael F. Hayden Colonel, USAF (Ret)., Director, Government Relations, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); Rick Jones, Legislative Director, National Assoication for Uniformed Services. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display? ContentRecord_id=B4939547-34E4-442E-A728-E303A9E11E88 Location: 2212 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere hearing Advancing U.S. Interests in the Western Hemisphere: The FY 2015 Foreign Affairs Budget. Witnesses: Roberta S. Jacobson, Assistant Secretary, Bureau for Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Elizabeth Hogan, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Agency for International Development. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-advancing-us-interests-western-hemisphere-fy-2015-foreign-affairs Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS — Health Subcommittee "Markup of Pending Legislation." http://veterans.house.gov/markup/markup-of-pending-legislation-10 Location: 334 Cannon.

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HEARING — Hearing on World Bank Lending and Human Rights. Panel I: Barney Frank, Former Member of Congress & Chair of House Financial Services Committee. Panel II: Arvind Ganesan, Director for Business and Human Rights, Human Rights Watch; Nadejda Ataeva, President, Association for Human Rights in Central Asia; Yoni Rivas, Secretary General of the Movement of Unified Campesinos in Aguan and member of the Plataforma Agraria, Honduras; Delphine Djiraibe, Human Rights Attorney, Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights. Contact: 202-225-3599 or tlhrc@mail.house.gov Location: HVC-210.

3 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa hearing on U.S. Policy Toward

Morocco. Witnesses: William Roebuck, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Egypt and Maghreb Affairs, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Alina Romanowski, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for the Middle East, U.S. Agency for International Development. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-us-policy-towards-morocco Location: 2167 Rayburn.

4 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — The Subcommittee on Communications and Technology holds opening statements on markup of H.R. 4342, the Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters (DOTCOM) Act of 2014. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102134 Location: 2123 Rayburn. Other: April 5 – 10. NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE — Billed as the premier civic engagement opportunity for 4-H members (15-19 yrs.) who are actively engaged in 4-H programs across the U.S. and its territories. http://www.4-h.org/4-h-conference/ 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Congressman Tom Latham (R-IA), and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) will host the first 4-H Congressional Breakfast to spotlight "the importance of positive youth development programs in addressing urgent challenges facing America's youth." Dirksen Senate Office Building. Contact: Kinetra Joseph at kjoseph@4-h.org or (240) 380-0781 (mobile). Location: National 4-H Youth Conference Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD.

April 7 – 9. SEA-AIR-SPACE EXPOSITION — Hosted by The Navy League, the event is billed as "the largest maritime exposition in the U.S." 7:45 a.m. Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ships Allison Stiller delivers remarks on "Shipbuilding" at the Congressional Breakfast. 12 p.m. Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition Sean J. Stackley delivers remarks at the "Secretary of the Navy" luncheon. 1:45 p.m. U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Robert Day will participate in a panel discussion on "Information Dominance, Security and the Sea Services." 2:30 p.m. Naval Surface Forces Commander/U.S. Pacific Fleet Naval Surface Force Commander Vice Adm. Thomas H. Copeman III and Air Warfare Division Director Rear Adm. Michael Manazir deliver remarks at the Sea-Air-Space Convention "Ready to Fight and Win Today" roundtable. 2:30 p.m. Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance Mark D. Andress delivers remarks at the "Information Dominance, Security and the Sea Services" roundtable. Location: Gaylord National Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD.

April 8 – 9. SAVE THE CHILDREN ADVOCACY SUMMIT — Youth from across the country will be gathering in Washington, D.C. to advocate for children's issues. Speakers include Secretary Arne Duncan (4:30 p.m. 8th); Disney Channel star and singer Bridgit Mendler, Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA), Congressman Richard Hanna (R-NY), MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell, CNN's Stephanie Cutter, others. Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW.

FAST FOR FAMILIES – NATIONAL MALL — "Fast for Families Across America national bus tour completes journey at the National Mall. Closing rally, procession to Capitol, media availability. Contacts: Beatriz Lopez, Fast for Families – beatriz.lopez@seiu.org, 202-412-7396 Tyler Prell, SEIU – tyler.prell@seiu.org, 202-701-5796 Diana Ip, We Belong Together – dianaip@yahoo.com, 510-858-3302 10 a.m. "Fast for Families Across America buses arrive at 4th Street rally. 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Rally speaking program begins on National Mall. 11:20 a.m. Delegation proceeds to Capitol Hill for meetings with members, deliver letter to Speaker Boehner, meet with Senator Reid. 1:15 p.m. Delegation holds media availability with Senate Majority Leader Reid

April 9 – 10. MINSKY CONFERENCE — 23rd Annual Hyman P. Minsky Conference on the State of the U.S. and World Economies – "Stabilizing Financial Systems for Growth and Full Employment," is being organized by the Levy Institute with support from the Ford Foundation. Participants include Jason Furman, chairman, Council of Economic Advisers, Executive Office of the President; Daniel K. Tarullo, member, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Charles L. Evans, president and chief executive officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; Vmtor Constbncio, vice president, European Central Bank; Peter Praet, executive board member, European Central Bank; U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH); U.S. Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY, 12); Richard Berner, director, Office of Financial Research, U.S. Department of the Treasury; Willem H. Buiter, global chief economist, Citi; Bruce Kasman, chief economist and managing director of global research, J. P. Morgan; Anat Admati, professor of finance and economics, Stanford University; Denis MacShane, European Policy Counsel, and former U.K. minister for Europe; Mercedes Marcs del Pont, former president, Central Bank of Argentina; Frank N. Newman, chairman, Promontory Financial Group China, and former deputy secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury; Tom Redburn, economics editor, The New York Times; Jon E. Hilsenrath, chief economics correspondent, The Wall Street Journal; Binyamin Appelbaum, business and economics reporter, The

New York Times; Deborah Solomon, news editor, The Wall Street Journal; and James Politi, U.S. economics and trade correspondent, Financial Times. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW.

FARM FOUNDATION FORUM — 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. "Geopolitical Uncertainty in Agriculture and Energy Markets." Moderating this Forum will be Dan Glickman of the Aspen Institute, a former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Panelists will include: Vincent Smith, professor of agricultural economics at Montana State University, and a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute; Gary Blumenthal, President of World Perspectives, Inc.; Brian Oleson, professor of economics at the University of Manitoba; and Charles Doran, Andrew Mellon Professor of International Relations at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

WATER AND TOILETS — 9:30 a.m. WaterAid hosts a coffee and discussion event to learn how aid for water and toilets changes lives and improves US national security. Invited speakers include Congressman Judge Ted Poe (R-TX), original co-sponsor of the Water for the World Act; Lisa Schechtman, Director of Policy & Advocacy for WaterAid America, and Barbara Frost, Chief Executive of WaterAid International. Location: National Press Club, Zenger room, 529 14th Street NW.

CAP – SEN. LEVIN – TPP — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), Ranking Member on the Committee on Ways of Means, will discuss his views on the outstanding issues involved in the negotiations over a Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and how intensive Congressional involvement at this stage can s"trengthen the hand of U.S. negotiators to address the opportunities and challenges presented by the largest multi-party negotiation in 20 years". Contact: Katie Peters, 202.741.6285, kpeters@americanprogressaction.org RSVP: http://www.americanprogressaction.org/events/2014/04/01/86888/remarks-by-rep-sander-levin-on-trade/?evlcrsvp Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

CSIS – GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY — 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development hosts forum on Global Food Security and the American Interest: An Address by Senator Mike Johanns. Keynote Remarks: Mike Johanns, United States Senator, R-NE. Panel Discussion: Margaret Zeigler, Executive Director, Global Harvest Initiative; Peter McPherson, Former Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development; Jonathan Shrier, Acting Special Representative for Global Food Security, U.S. Department of State. Moderator: Daniel F. Runde, Director, Project on Prosperity and Development and William A. Schreyer Chair in Global Analysis, CSIS. Location: CSIS 2nd Floor Conference Center, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Seth Meyers: "The Tourism Minister of Crimea announced that foreign tourists can visit the country this year without a visa. And just when you thought visiting Crimea couldn't get any more enticing – no visas!"

Seth Meyers: "Today, more than 100 advocates came to Washington to lobby for the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes. While another 10,000 marijuana advocates thought it was next Tuesday."

Stephen Colbert: "Nation, it's been three weeks since Vladimir Putin annexed Crimea, and President Obama still refuses to intervene. We have got to invade before Putin's slave army vanquishes all of Europe on his way to Westeros. Full disclosure – I may have been flipping between Fox News and 'Game of Thrones' the other night, but I still say Putin has dragons!"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, April 11, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Apr 11, 2014 at 7:03 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR UNVEILS PLAN TO IMPROVE MITIGATION PRACTICES. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/11, 705) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell unveiled a strategy for improving mitigation policies and practices on Thursday. The mitigation strategy, outlines in a report developed by Interior's Energy and Climate Change Task Force, "includes four key objectives the department will work to implement in the coming months in an effort to take a broader approach to managing public lands." Jewell said, "This strategy outlines the key principles and actions we need to take to successfully shift from a reactive, project-by-project approach to more predictable and effective management of the lands and resources that we manage on behalf of the American public."

In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (4/11, Cama, 237K) reports that the strategy "emphasizes siting and design features in development to mitigate the impacts to federal lands, while seeking to protect or restore resources that must be harmed." Interior said "its policies with development will focus on four areas to determine the impacts to resources: geospatial assessments, landscape-level strategies, mitigation programs that compensate for impacts; and monitoring and evaluating projects as they proceed."

The Natural Gas Intelligence (4/11) reports that the American Gas Association said it supported the new plan "on the grounds that it would improve the permitting process for gas drilling and associated projects." AGA CEO Dave McCurdy said, "These reforms will give natural gas utilities more regulatory certainty as they plan infrastructure upgrades, reduce agency costs associated with project reviews and increase landscape-level habitat mitigation techniques that measurably improve environmental protection. These reforms will also help natural gas utilities

receive timely permits for projects that must be completed in a specific season to minimize environmental impacts, and projects that are time-sensitive for reliability and safety reasons. We look forward to working with the relevant agencies to implement these changes."

The Salem-News (OR) (4/11, 1K) reports that Steve Holmer, Senior Policy Advisor with American Bird Conservancy, said, "Though ABC supports individual project reviews, we're encouraged by these initiatives to avoid and minimize project impacts through advance planning. This is the best and, in some the cases, the only way to address cumulative impacts and to conserve declining populations of wide-ranging species such as the Greater Sage-Grouse and Marbled Murrelet."

Also reporting on the story are the Law 360 (4/11, 18K), the Energy Daily (4/11, 835), and KCSG-TV St. George, UT (4/11, 43).

SECRETARY JEWELL'S FIRST YEAR MARKED BY CHALLENGES. The Huffington Post (4/10, Sheppard, 11.54M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell entered office with an "ambitious agenda," but "much of her first year has been spent dealing with more basic problems – like how to pay for these ambitious projects." Jewell noted that "the biggest challenge of her new job has been so far" the budget. Jewell explained, "People expect us to do things for the long term. This is the longest-term focused job that I've had, and yet it's the shortest-term focused budget that I've ever operated under. That makes no sense." Besides the budget situation, "other challenges, such as the struggle to get the Senate to confirm her deputies and a House effort to cut off the administration's best tool for granting new protections for public lands, have been less visible, but no less significant."

REPORT QUESTIONS VIABILITY OF MARINE ALTERNATIVE TO ROAD THROUGH IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/11, 705) reports that "a marine landing craft would be a poor way to ferry sick or injured passengers from a remote Alaska city to medical help, according to a Seattle-based marine consultant." Glosten Associates Inc., said "such vessels struggle to perform in heavy waves such as those that separate the cities of King Cove and Cold Bay." The company's "independent assessment undercuts a key talking point Interior Secretary Sally Jewell used in her decision last December to reject a proposed road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO KEEP PRESSURING ICELAND ON WHALE HUNTING. The IceNews (ISL) (4/10) reports that President Barack Obama has "instructed officials to continue applying pressure on Iceland to comply with the whaling moratorium introduced by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 1986." Obama, "in a note to his cabinet officers, said senior delegations and officials meeting with the Icelandic government's representatives should remind them that if the North Atlantic nation wants to cooperate with the US then it must change its policy on whaling."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY. Additional coverage of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy was provided by the Salem (OR) Capital Press (4/10, 113K) and KWYB-TV Butte, MT (4/11).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

CHERRY BLOSSOMS REACH PEAK BLOOM. The Washington Post (4/11, Ruane, 4.22M) reports that the NPS on Thursday "declared Washington's famous Japanese cherry trees at peak bloom." The article notes that "this season's bloom is peaking at just the right moment for the culmination of the year's National Cherry Blossom Festival."

Also covering the story are the AP (4/11, Press, 4.22M), the AP (4/10, 687K), WRC-TV Washington (4/11, 312K), WBAL-TV Baltimore (4/11, 114K), and WTTG-TV Washington (4/11, 169K).

FUNDING FOR CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLAN RECEIVES KEY APPROVAL. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (4/10, 779K) reports that "a nearly $2 billion plan to help the Everglades and ease coastal pollution stayed alive

Thursday when the South Florida Water Management District agreed to potentially pay half of the steep cost." The Central Everglades plan "calls for getting more Lake Okeechobee water flowing south to the Everglades — like it used to before development and farming got in the way — instead of draining lake water out to sea and hurting coastal fishing grounds." According to the article, "the next tricky step involves persuading Congress to pay for the other half of the project so that a final deal can be OK'd by the district."

Everglades Foundation CEO Presses For More Funding. The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (4/11, 75K) reports that Eric Eikenberg, CEO of the Everglades Foundation, testifying before the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee, declared that "Everglades restoration is working" while "pressing $62.4 million in additional funding." Eikenberg said, "All authorized projects are underway. Several significant projects are in the final stages and we are seeing success. The endangered Florida Panther is returning to the Picayune Strand. Scientists report that the C-111 Western Project is already exceeding expectations – restoring freshwater prey fish and habitat for the American Crocodile and Roseate Spoonbill – just one year into operations."

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK RECEIVES $2.2 MILLION FROM ANONYMOUS DONOR. The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (4/11, Simmons, 382K) reports that the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has "received one of its largest cash donations ever in the form of $2.2 million provided by an anonymous donor." The funds will be directed through the Great Smoky Mountains Association. According to a memorandum of understanding between the donor and the GSMA, the money will be "used to pay off an existing construction loan taken out by the GSMA for the Oconaluftee Visitor Center, which opened in 2011, and toward a new loan secured by the organization to help construct the 13,000-square-foot Collections Preservation Center scheduled for completion in the fall 2015."

NPS TO SIFT THROUGH COMMENTS ON GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS PLAN. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (4/11, 282K) reports that officials at the NPS will be "sifting through comments from hikers, campers and other adventurers to shape the future of one of southeastern New Mexico's historic trails." The article notes that "the comment period ended this week on proposed changes at the Guadalupe Mountains National Park that lies south of Carlsbad and straddles the Texas-New Mexico border." Karl Pierce, spokesman for Guadalupe Mountains National Park, said, "At this point we have not determined the preferred alternative. It may turn out that we choose one alternative or some combination (of the four), or there may be some new ideas from the public scoping process that may be added as well, so we really don't know the outcome yet."

PROTECTION OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK URGED. In an op-ed for the Modesto (CA) Bee (4/10, 210K), Pam Clemensen, a former Bee visiting editor, notes that Yosemite National Park celebrates its anniversary this year. Clemensen reflects on how Yosemite "belongs to the ages" and argues that "we must continue to preserve it for ages to come."

Bureau of Land Management:

FEDERAL CATTLE SEIZURES SPARK CLASHES. The AP (4/11, 455K) reports that "tensions have escalated between protesters and federal police who used a stun gun on a son of a Nevada rancher fighting a roundup of cattle that he claims have historical grazing rights northeast of Las Vegas." According to the article, "no serious injuries were reported and no arrests were made," but family members said that rancher Cliven Bundy's "57-year-old sister also was knocked to the ground during a confrontation Wednesday involving dozens of protesters and several US Bureau of Land Management rangers." The son, Ammon Bundy, said that "he was hit with stun charges twice." He "acknowledged that he climbed on a dump truck, suspecting that it contained cattle that had been killed during the roundup."

CNN (4/11, Martinez, Cnn, 77.95M) reports that during a confrontation Wednesday, "a police dog was kicked and officers were assaulted," according to federal officials. The article notes that "the profanity-laced tussle was captured on a video posted on YouTube."

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/11, 437K) reports that the BLM dismantled its "First Amendment areas" in northeastern Clark County on Thursday. Meanwhile, state lawmakers from Arizona to Washington are headed for Nevada to rally alongside the Bundy family and its supporters. Several of the officials said they were drawn into the issue by video footage of Wednesday's clash between protesters and BLM rangers.

Utah's Congressional Delegation Urges BLM To Keep Cattle Out Of Utah. The Deseret (UT) News (4/11, 610K) reports that "Utah's congressional delegation weighed in Thursday on the Bureau of Land Management's shelved proposal to bring cattle seized from a Nevada rancher to the Beehive State for auction." In a joint statement, Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee joined Reps. Rob Bishop, Jason Chaffetz and Chris Stewart in urging BLM director Neil Kornze to keep the cattle out of Utah. The statement said, "We strongly support Gov. (Gary) Herbert and echo his concerns expressed in his April 2 letter. Going forward with the plan to transport the Nevada cattle to Utah may endanger the health of Utah herds and place Utah state employees and other Utah residents in danger."

Also covering the story is KSL-TV Salt Lake City (4/11, 242K).

Federal Government Accused Of Violating First Amendment. In an editorial, the Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/11, 437K) accuses the Interior Department of violating the Constitution. The paper argues that the First Amendment should allow for public protest, but denying a forum for expression allows pressure to build, making an explosion more likely.

Additional Coverage. Also covering the story are the Wall Street Journal (4/11, Phillips, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), FOX News (4/7, 74.23M), FOX News (4/10, 74.23M), FOX News (4/10, 74.23M), FOX News (4/10, 74.23M), USA Today (4/11, Durando, 5.82M), Reuters (4/11, Zuckerman), the Daily Caller (4/11, Bastasch, 408K), the Daily Caller (4/11, Soave, 408K), the Lebanon (PA) Daily News (4/11, 39K), The Inquisitr (4/11, 50K), the Examiner (4/11, 1.56M), KSAZ-TV Phoenix (4/10, 70K), KTNV-TV Las Vegas (4/11, 19K), KLTV-TV Tyler, TX (4/11, 36K), WTVR-TV Richmond, VA (4/10, 47K), KPTV-TV Portland, OR (4/11, 57K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV (4/11, 2K), and WNYW-TV New York (4/11, 68K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GROUPS CLAIM FEDS' PLAN WON'T KEEP LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN SAFE. The AP (4/11, 3.33M) reports that the federal government is not doing enough to protect the lesser prairie chicken, three environmental groups said Thursday. Defenders of Wildlife, the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians notified the FWS and the Interior Department on Friday that they intended to sue. The three wildlife groups said in their letter that science supports a determination that the prairie chicken "is currently threatened with extinction and should be listed as an endangered species."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Examiner (4/11, 335K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (4/10, 687K), the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (4/10, 81K), the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (4/10, 18K), KOAA-TV Colorado Springs, CO (4/11, 6K), and KMGH-TV Denver (4/11, 30K).

Also reporting on the story are the Lawrence (KS) Journal World (4/10, 82K) and the Houston Chronicle (4/11, 2.23M).

Paper Argues Lesser Prairie Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan Should Have Been Given More Time. In an editorial, the Lubbock (TX) Avalanche-Journal (4/10, 176K) argues that the Lesser Prairie Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan should have been given a chance to succeed "before declaring a status for the bird." It claims that "the opportunity to accept a committed compromise is always preferable to heavy-handed federal bureaucracy. And state and local control is likely to produce circumstances that will be more effective at protecting wildlife."

GROUP THREATENS LAWSUIT OVER SAN BERNARDINO FLYING SQUIRREL. The Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise (4/10, 435K) reports that "an environmental group has filed notice that it plans to sue the US Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to protect the dwindling population of the San Bernardino flying squirrel, a 5-ounce tree-dweller that uses flaps of skin to glide between trees." The Center for Biological Diversity says the FWS is "more than 2 1/2 years late issuing a decision on whether to list the animal under the Endangered Species Act."

FWS FINDS SPACEX LAUNCH SITE WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE WILDLIFE. The Rio Grande Valley (TX) Morning Star (4/11, Perez, 66K) reports that SpaceX is now closer to developing a private launch site in Cameron County

after the FWS found that the launch site "is not likely to jeopardize" local flora and fauna. It states, "We concur and understand that in order to protect these species, FAA will ensure precautions and education outreach efforts will be enforced." Cameron County Administrator Pete Sepulveda said the positive ruling is "great news" for the project and the region.

FWS EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CUCKOO. The AP (4/10, 687K) reports that the FWS is "giving the public more time to comment on a proposal to list the Western population of the yellow-billed cuckoo as threatened." The service "now is accepting comments through April 25."

Also reporting on the story is the Denver Post (4/11, Finley, 940K).

FWS EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR RED KNOT. The Shore (NJ) News Today (4/11) reports that on April 1, the FWS "reopened the public comment period for the rufa red knot threatened species listing proposal, after the agency received three requests last year to hold public hearings." Krishna Gifford, a biologist with the FWS, said, "We're reopening the public comment period until May 19. We're on schedule to make final decision on the listing of the red knot on Sept. 30, 2014."

SEN. HELLER SAYS NEVADA MUST STAY PROACTIVE ON SAGE GROUSE. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (4/11, 22K) reports that Sen. Dean Heller "reiterated his stance Wednesday that the state had to be proactive if it hoped to keep sage grouse off the endangered species list." Heller said "he didn't think litigation after the fact would be successful — an idea that the Elko County Commissioners have discussed — because the US Fish and Wildlife Service is under a court order to make a determination regarding sage grouses' status." He said, "I have a hard time believing we'd be successful suing the courts."

DEADLY BAT DISEASE SPREADS. The AP (4/10, 76K) reports that "a fungal disease that has killed millions of North American bats is spreading and now has been detected in half of the United States, officials said Thursday." Wildlife agencies in Michigan and Wisconsin said "they had confirmed diagnoses of white-nose syndrome in tested bats, further evidence of the ailment's rapid expansion since it first was documented in a cave near Albany, N.Y., in 2006." The article notes that "cases have turned up in most states east of the Mississippi River, with Georgia and Alabama joining the list in March, and as far west as Missouri and Arkansas."

US Geological Survey:

USGS RELEASES SIMULATION ON WASHINGTON LANDSLIDE. PBS (4/11, 1.22M) reports that a USGS "simulation shows how quickly the Washington landslide liquefied." The agency "released a computer simulation Thursday of the mile-wide Washington state mudslide, which left dozens dead and devastated at least 30 houses in March." According to the article, "for more on the Oso mudslide In USGS' simulation, an entire hillside near the town of Oso, Wash. collapses as about 10 million cubic yards of mud, trees and other debris slide down the slope and cover a neighborhood and parts of State Route 530 in 60 seconds."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

LACK OF ACTION ON WIND POWER SUBSIDY SLOWING INDUSTRY'S GROWTH. USA Today (4/11, Koch, 5.82M) reports that while it was once "a booming industry," domestic wind power "saw its growth plummet 92% last year as it wrestled with tax uncertainties and cheap natural gas." A report out Thursday from the American Wind Energy Association says that while the industry is still growing, it is much slower. US wind producers "added a record 13,131 megawatts of power in 2012 but the growth fell to only 1,087 MW last year – the lowest level since 2004." USA Today says that one reason "was investors' uncertainty that Congress would renew a federal wind tax subsidy." An extension of the subsidy, which expired in January, is "pending in the Senate."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM SEEKS FEEDBACK ON SAN JUAN ENERGY CONNECT PROJECT. The Durango (CO) Herald (4/8, 28K)

reports that the BLM "held an open house at the Sky Ute Event Center in Ignacio Tuesday afternoon to get public feedback on the San Juan Energy Connect project." The BLM is accepting public comments until April 28.

Offshore Energy Development:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ASKS TO REVISE EIS FOR 2008 CHUKCHI LEASE SALE. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/11, 705) reports that the Obama Administration is "asking a federal court judge to let the Interior Department rewrite a flawed environmental impact statement that regulators used to support the 2008 sale of oil leases in the Chukchi Sea." According to the article, "in a status report filed last week with the US District Court for the District of Alaska, the Justice Department proposed that the court remand the issue to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for further analysis." The article notes that the "request was backed by a separate plea from Royal Dutch Shell PLC, which said it would 'provide the best approach for a thorough, yet expeditious remand process that would preserve the possibility of a 2015 drilling season.'"

Also reporting on the story is the Natural Gas Intelligence (4/11).

BSEE DIRECTOR SALERNO: MANY COMPANIES HOLDING BACK INFO IN SAFETY AUDITS. The FuelFix (4/10, 7K) reports that "the first round of offshore safety audits under new federal regulations proved 'a mixed bag,' with some deep-water operators giving authorities few insights into how they handle vessel deficiencies and other issues," BSEE Director Brian Salerno said on Thursday. At the second annual Center for Offshore Safety Forum in Houston, Salerno said, "There are some companies that clearly get it. But we also found quite a few of the audits where information was quite limited. We really wondered if we got what we needed out of that in many cases." Salerno added, "But the net result of all that is we had limited information that allows us to establish a baseline of where we are in the safety culture of the industry. The next round, I think, will be a little bit more rigorous. But overall, the agency has to look at how it can make the program more effective."

COAST GUARD ADMIRAL: "WE'RE NOT WHERE WE NEED TO BE" ON OFFSHORE RIG SAFETY. On its website, FuelFix (4/11, Eaton, 7K) reports that at his keynote address at the second annual Center for Offshore Safety Forum in Houston, TX, US Coast Guard Rear Admiral Joseph Servido addressed continued safety issues on deep-water offshore drilling rigs. "We're not where we need to be" on safety implementation FuelFix reports Servido said. FuelFix reports that offline emergency generators, inoperable fire-detection systems and cracked rescue boats are some of the issues discovered on rigs, "even after oil companies have complied with rules for years and have anticipated inspections for months." Additionally, FuelFix reports that 60 percent of offshore supply vessels and half of mobile offshore drilling units do not have a safety management system in place.

BP CEO SAYS COMPANY HAS A "STRONG FUTURE" IN GULF. The Houston Business Journal (4/11, Blum, Subscription Publication, 91K) reports that as the fourth anniversary of the 2010 BP oil spill approaches, BP CEO Bob Dudley said at the company's annual general meeting in London that BP has "a strong future" in the Gulf of Mexico and the US shale boom. Additionally, the Journal reports that Dudley said he is "very aware" of the upcoming anniversary, noting that "we have looked to do the right thing by those who were affected by the accident and spill," while also doing "the right thing by our investors when it became clear that the system for compensating claimants was subject to a considerable number of unfounded claims." The Journal notes that Dudley's comments come as litigation over BP's civil penalties, which "could be as much as $18 billion," is still pending.

2010 OIL SPILL STUDY TO GIVE UPDATE DURING CONFERENCE CALL ON FRIDAY. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (4/11, Larino, 678K) reports that on Friday April 11 principle investigator with the National Institute of Environmental health Sciences Dale Sandler, who has led a study on the effects of the 2010 Gulf oil spill on the 33,000 clean up workers and volunteers, will give an update on the status of the research and discuss early findings during a noon conference call, according to a statement. Sandler will also urge the study's participants to continue to stay involved in the research, which, the Times-Picayune reports, is expected to continue for more than another decade.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SEN. FEINSTEIN DROPS $300 MILLION IN EMERGENCY SPENDING FROM DROUGHT-RELIEF

LEGISLATION. The AP (4/11, 51K) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein said Thursday "she has dropped $300 million in emergency spending from drought-relief legislation to try to improve prospects for getting the bill passed." The new bill will "continue a focus on regulatory relief." The legislation "mandates that federal agencies open channel gates on the Sacramento River as long as possible without endangering salmon populations."

Bill Calls For Expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (4/11, 696K) reports that Los Vaqueros Reservoir would "be tripled in size to provide Californians with more insurance against water shortages and drought, under a federal bill introduced Thursday." Reps. George Miller, D-Martinez, and Jim Costa "sponsored the bill for the expansion of the reservoir that the Contra Costa Water District just expanded in 2012 to meet local water quality and supply needs." The legislation "calls for a phased approach toward expansion with the help of the federal Bureau of Reclamation."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the drought and the water supply in California was provided by the Los Angeles Daily News (4/10, 347K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (4/11, 206), the Santa Barbara (CA) Independent (4/10, 119K), the Southern California Public Radio (4/10, 85K), the Grist (4/11, 18K), KCET-TV Los Angeles (4/11, 15K), KNBC-TV Los Angeles (4/11, 174K), and KESQ-TV Palm Springs, CA (4/11, 32K).

BOR WON'T ALLOW IRRIGATION WATER FOR MARIJUANA FARMS IN WASHINGTON AS LONG AS DRUG ILLEGAL. The AP (4/11) reports that the Kittitas Reclamation District has "been told it can't supply water to marijuana farms." The district's lawyer told commissioners the BOR "won't permit the water to be used while growing the drug remains a federal crime."

Also covering the story is the Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (4/11, 86K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA CHIEF WASHBURN APPROVES HEARTH ACT APPLICATIONS. The Native American Times (4/11, 337) reports that Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn has "approved leasing regulations submitted by four federally recognized tribes" to control the leasing of their trust lands and promoting their self-determination and economic development. Washburn said, "Thanks to the HEARTH Act, more tribes have been empowered to take over leasing on their lands. Tribal governments are the drivers of economic self-sufficiency and prosperity on their reservations and in their communities. The HEARTH Act restores their ability to directly control how their lands can and should be used for the good of their people, now and in the future." The article note sthat "the four tribes, submitted requests for Secretarial approval of their leasing regulations, are: Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians in California, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Washington State, Mohegan Indian Tribe of Connecticut, and Wichita and Affiliated Tribes in Oklahoma."

Also reporting on the story is the Pechanga (4/11).

Top National News:

OBAMA CHAMPIONS AN EXPANSIVE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS HE HONORS LBJ. President Obama's speech at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin on Thursday generated a modest amount of national media coverage, including segments on NBC Nightly News (4/10, story 4, 2:00, 7.86M) and the CBS Evening News (4/10, story 10, 0:50, 5.08M). Most analysts cast the President's remarks as an effort to spotlight the good that can be done when the power of the Federal government is expanded, as it was during Johnson's Administration.

For instance, under the headline "Obama Pays Tribute To LBJ, Hails Power Of Government To Effect Change," McClatchy (4/11, Wise, Subscription Publication, 23K) says the President's speech on Thursday "celebrated the power of government to effect change – and linked his own election to Johnson's legislative legacy." McClatchy says the President "said he rejects cynicism about government 'because I have lived out the promise of LBJ's efforts.'" McClatchy goes on to report that the President "took on the critics of that landmark Civil Rights Act and other 'big government' social programs championed by Johnson, including Medicare, Medicaid, the Voting Rights Act, the Immigration Act and the Fair Housing Act."

On NBC Nightly News (4/10, story 4, 2:00, 7.86M), Brian Williams said the President "paid tribute to [LBJ's] legacy...saying he himself lived out the promise of the Civil Rights Act passed by" Johnson. Chuck Todd went on to report that "the three-day celebration at the LBJ library brought together presidents, past and present, and a pantheon of civil rights heroes including Congressman John Lewis who still bears the scars of that struggle." Rep. John Lewis (D-GA): "President Obama would not be president if Lyndon Johnson didn't pass the Civil Rights Act of '64 and the Voting Rights Act of '65. He created the climate and made it possible for man of color to be elected president."

On the CBS Evening News (4/10, story 10, 0:50, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that the President and First Lady "went to the LBJ Library...to mark the 50th anniversary this year of the Civil Rights Bill of 1964." President Obama was shown saying, "Because of the civil right movement, because of the laws President Johnson signed, new doors of opportunity and education swung open for everybody. They swung open for you and they swung open for me. That's why I'm standing here today because of those efforts, because of that legacy." Pelley noted that former Presidents Carter and Clinton "addressed the Civil Rights Summit earlier this week," and former president George W. Bush was scheduled to speak Thursday night.

USA Today (4/11, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that on Thursday, the President said "Americans live in a world forged largely by predecessor Lyndon Johnson – not just in terms of civil rights, but the whole ongoing argument about government itself." According to USA Today, the President noted "that attacks on another LBJ program, Medicare, anticipated those made on" the Affordable Care Act. The Hill (4/10, Sink, 237K) also reported that the President claimed that "Johnson's Great Society program, including Medicare, had been criticized as socialist," which The Hill says was "an acknowledgment of claims about his own ObamaCare program."

Likewise, the AP (4/11, Lederman) says the President "lauded his Democratic predecessor's ability to grasp like few others the power of government to bring about change and swing open the doors of opportunity for millions of Americans." The AP adds that "against the backdrop of Obama's own troubled relationship with Congress, there have also been fresh bouts of nostalgia for Johnson's mastery of congressional deal-making."

The Dallas Morning News (4/11, Hoppe, 1.18M) notes that on Wednesday night "at a fundraiser in Houston," the President "criticized Voter ID laws passed in Texas and other states as a way to disenfranchise poor and elderly voters," but on Thursday, "he shied away from using...[the LBJ] event to address challenges to the Voter Rights Act." The Morning News adds, "Neither did he discuss issues such as gay marriage and immigration," although those were "billed at the summit as current civil rights battles."

Politico (4/10, Epstein, 73K) said that in his introduction before the President spoke, Lewis "also credited" the Civil Rights Act "for making possible Obama's presidency." Bloomberg News (4/11, Runningen, 2.76M) reports that Lewis said "while the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act helped take down the unholy 'order' of segregation," President Obama "knows there is 'much more work to do to redeem the soul of America.'" Bloomberg News notes that last year, "a divided U.S. Supreme Court threw out a core part of the 1965 Voting Rights Act...which opened the polls to millions of Southern blacks."

The San Antonio Express-News (4/11, Rauf, 718K) reports that Thursday's "crowd included many of the civil rights leaders of the 1960s...other U.S. civil rights figures in the decades since and most of Texas' minority lawmakers who have come into power, in part, because of Johnson's legislative achievements." Linda Feldmann, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (4/11, 566K), says the President "expanded the definition of civil rights in a way that Johnson...surely never imagined."

Peter Baker, in a piece for the New York Times (4/11, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), says the President "used most of Thursday's address to extol Johnson in what could be the most generous speech by any sitting president about the Texan since his funeral, one that all but ignored the Vietnam War." Baker also says the President "offered little of his own personal journey on race, which might not have connected to some in the room given that the president...was a child growing up in Hawaii and Indonesia during the civil rights movement."

According to the Huffington Post (4/10, Gentilviso, 11.54M), the President maintained that "Johnson's civil rights work showed he never forgot growing up in the face of poverty and racial hatred." The Wall Street Journal (4/11, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) quotes the President as saying, "If there's one lesson I hope that Malia and Sasha and young people everywhere learn from this day, it's that with enough effort and enough empathy and

enough perseverance and enough courage, people who love their country can change it."

According to the Washington Times (4/11, Boyer, 455K), "Some blacks have criticized Mr. Obama for doing too little to help minorities," and "there's some evidence in polls of disillusionment among minorities for Mr. Obama's policies." Reuters (4/11, Holland, Brooks) covers the President's speech in an article titled "Obama Wraps Himself In Civil Rights Legacy Of President Lyndon Johnson."

Bush Calls Education Reform "One Of The Unfinished Goals Of The Civil Rights Movement." The Washington Post (4/11, Tumulty, 4.22M) reports that in his address on Thursday night, ex-President George W. Bush made the case that "one of the unfinished goals of the civil rights movement is assuring that all children achieve in school." The Post reports that Bush said, "On the issue of education, we're dealing with the meaning of America, and the extent of its promise, and in this cause the passion and energy of Lyndon Baines Johnson still guides us forward."

The Austin (TX) American Statesman (4/11, 495K) notes that Bush "said there is a continued need for a federal role in education, 'not to dictate methods but to help educate poor, minority and special-education children.'" The Houston Chronicle (4/11, Fikac, 2.23M) also covers Bush's remarks.

Obama "Met Briefly" With Texas Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate Davis. The AP (4/11, Lederman) reports that on Thursday, President Obama "met briefly...with" Texas state Sen. Wendy Davis, who is running for governor this year, at the LBJ Library.

White House Correspondents Association Honors African-American Reporter It Once Discriminated Against. McClatchy (4/11, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that Harry S. McAlpin "made history in February 1944 when he became the first black reporter to cover a presidential news conference at the White House," despite the White House Correspondents' Association "doing all it could to block black reporters." McClatchy says the WHCA "is looking to make amends, dedicating a scholarship for journalism students in McAlpin's name."

SEBELIUS TO ANNOUNCE RESIGNATION; OBAMA WILL NOMINATE OMB'S BURWELL AS SUCCESSOR. The news that HHS Secretary Sebelius will announce her resignation Friday received only brief mention on the three broadcast network newscasts, since it was breaking news at the time of the shows, but all three called the introduction of the Affordable Care Act under her tenure "rocky." ABC World News (4/10, story 6, 0:15, Sawyer) said "she led the rocky introduction of Obamacare," the CBS Evening News (4/10, story 3, 0:15, Pelley, 5.08M) said she "has been under fire over the rocky roll-out," and NBC Nightly News (4/10, story 5, 0:30, Williams, 7.86M) said she is leaving "after five years on the job and following the rocky roll-out of President Obama's healthcare law."

Print, wire, and online coverage also focuses on the challenges with the roll-out. USA Today (4/11, A1, Schouten, Kennedy, Madhani, 5.82M) reports President Obama accepted Sebelius' resignation earlier this week, and "officials suggested Sebelius made the decision on her own to resign and was not forced out." USA Today says she is going out on a high note, telling the Senate Finance Committee Thursday "that 7.5 million people had enrolled in private health insurance plans – 500,000 more people more than Congressional Budget Office's initial projections." Reuters (4/11, Morgan) reports Sebelius told the committee, "We expect that to continue to grow."

The New York Times (4/11, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says Sebelius is departing after "a stormy five-year tenure marred by the disastrous rollout" of the Affordable Care Act. The Times says the timing of the exit comes "as the Obama administration tries to move beyond its early stumbles in carrying out the law, persuade a still-skeptical public of its lasting benefits, and help Democratic incumbents" this fall.

The Washington Post (4/11, A1, Eilperin, Goldstein, 4.22M) says Sebelius had a "tumultuous" tenure, and faced calls for her resignation during the ACA roll-out problems late last year. But she "remained a tireless promoter of the health-care law over the past six months." The Post says a White House official said Sebelius "notified Obama in early March that she planned to leave." The Wall Street Journal (4/11, Radnofsky, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports HHS spokeswoman Dori Salcido said in a statement, "As she closes this chapter, Secretary Sebelius is extremely thankful to President Obama and very proud of the historic accomplishments of this administration."

The Los Angeles Times (4/11, Parsons, 3.46M) says Sebelius, "once considered a rising star in the Democratic Party, oversaw the deeply flawed debut" of the healthcare exchanges. The Washington Times (4/11, Boyer, 455K) similarly says she "bore much of the criticism for the flawed Obamacare website's rollout." But Ezra Klein writes at Vox (4/11) that Sebelius can leave because "Obamacare has won." While the demands last year "that Sebelius to step down – or be fired – were as deafening inside" the White House as outside it, the enrollment successes reported this month have vindicated the law and Sebelius.

Bloomberg News (4/11, Wayne, Goldman, Armstrong, 2.76M) and The Hill (4/11, Viebeck, Sink, 237K) "Healthwatch" blog also have reports.

Obama To Nominate OMB's Burwell To Succeed Sebelius. The New York Times (4/11, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports President Obama will name OMB Director Burwell as Sebelius' successor. She "has spent much of the past year mired in Washington's fiscal fights, including the standoff that led to a 15-day government shutdown in early October," and if confirmed would "take over one of the largest and most unwieldy parts of the federal bureaucracy."

The Wall Street Journal (4/11, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that a senior Administration official said Burwell was the only candidate the President considered, seeing her strong management skills as essential in a new HHS chief. Her 96-0 confirmation as OMB director last April, during a time when many nomination fights were contentious, was also a factor.

Politico (4/11, White, Epstein, 73K) says "the theory among senior Democrats is that Burwell will be both hard for Republicans in the Senate to reject...and hard for them to demonize once she's in the job." They say her "relationships with Republicans on the Hill should help ease her confirmation, though administration officials are aware that Republicans will use the hearings as an opportunity to score points" on the ACA.

Republicans Use Resignation News To Again Slam ACA. The Wall Street Journal (4/11, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says Republicans used the announcement as an opportunity to again criticize the ACA. Senate Minority Leader McConnell said, "Regardless of the Administration's public explanation for the secretary's exit, Obamacare has been a rolling disaster and her resignation is cold comfort to the millions of Americans who were deceived about what it would mean for them and their families." Sen. Charles Grassley said, "Anybody put in charge of Obamacare would be set up to fail."

Gerald Seib writes in his Wall Street Journal (4/11, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) column that though Sebelius has become the public face of the ACA, her departure will not end the debate over the law. The problems with the law's introduction, he argues, were due to its complexity and a series of tight deadlines, and until its success or failure can be seen over the longer term, the arguing will continue.

Paul Krugman writes in his New York Times (4/11, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) column, "When it comes to health reform, Republicans suffer from delusions of disaster. They know, just know, that the Affordable Care Act is doomed to utter failure, so failure is what they see, never mind the facts on the ground." The Times says it is "clear that the number of uninsured Americans has already dropped significantly."

HOUSE PASSES RYAN BUDGET PLAN. In a largely party-line vote on Thursday, the House passed Budget Chairman Paul Ryan's budget plan, which includes an overhaul of safety net programs like Medicare and Medicaid, reduces spending by $5.1 trillion over 10 years, and repeals some parts of Affordable Care Act. Print coverage this morning focuses on the fact that while the plan will serve as a campaign manifesto for Republicans going into the midterm elections, it stands no chance of passage in the Senate.

The Wall Street Journal (4/11, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that the 219-205 vote was almost entirely along party lines, as every Democrat and 12 Republicans voted against it. The Journal calls the vote a strategic win for Republican leaders, but notes that it is largely symbolic since the measure has almost no chance of being passed or even considered in the Democrat-controlled Senate.

The AP (4/11, Taylor) reports that the GOP budget "takes a mostly symbolic swipe at the government's chronic deficits," as follow-up legislation "to actually implement the cuts isn't in the offing." The AP notes that the three

days of debate that preceded Thursday's vote "again exposed the hugely varying visions of the rival parties for the nation's fiscal future." The AP adds that the plan paints "a picture of what Republicans would attempt if they claim the Senate this fall and the White House in 2016."

Reuters (4/11, Lawder) reports that while the Senate is unlikely to take up the plan, Thursday's vote will help frame the debate going into the midterm elections. Reuters notes that while the plan will serve as a campaign document for Republicans as they seek to underscore their desire to reduce the Federal debt, it will also prove an opportunity for Democrats to attack them over its proposed spending cuts.

Similarly, the New York Times (4/11, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) notes that the plan "will go nowhere in the Senate," but will "become a central theme of this year's midterm campaigns, as Republicans use the vote to prove they are tough on fiscal matters," and Democrats "will pin on their opponents the deep cuts to education, food stamps and transportation, the transformation of Medicare and the tax rate cuts for the rich."

McClatchy (4/11, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that alternative budgets, including the President's budget plan, a Democratic plan, a conservative Republican plan, a Congressional Progressive Caucus budget, and a budget plan from the Congressional Black Caucus were all rejected by the House. McClatchy also notes that the Ryan budget is unlikely to win approval in the Senate, where Democrats "are not expected to offer their own plan this year."

Roll Call (4/10, Newhauser, 76K), in its "218" blog, examined the 12 Republican votes against the plan, breaking them down into several categories: the Georgia Senate Hopefuls, which include Reps. Paul Broun, Phil Gingrey, and Jack Kingston; the Committee Exiles, including Reps. Justin Amash and Walter Jones; the Conservative "Hell No" Caucus, which includes Reps. Rick Crawford, Thomas Massie, and Austin Scott; the Vulnerable Incumbents, including Reps. Chris Gibson and Ralph Hall; the Newbies, including Reps. Vance McAllister and Jon Runyan, who did not vote; and the Moderates, including Reps. David McKinley and Frank LoBiondo.

Van Hollen: Ryan Plan "Takes A Meat Axe To Federal Employees." The Washington Post (4/11, Davidson, 4.22M) reports in its "Federal Diary" column that the Ryan plan "would effectively cut the pay of federal workers and end their student loan reimbursement program, among other elements." The plan "would make the majority of federal employees pay 5.5 percentage points more toward their retirement program with no increase in benefits." Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), ranking Democrat on the Budget Committee, "called this 'a straight-out 5 percent pay cut.'" The plan would also "cut the federal workforce by hiring one new employee for every three who leave." Van Hollen said, "They come after federal employees with a vengeance in this budget. ... This House Republican budget takes a meat axe to federal employees."

With Budget Vote Behind Him, Ryan Must Decide On His Next Move. The Washington Post (4/11, Kane, 4.22M) reports that Thursday's vote brought to a close a "key chapter" in Ryan's "still-young career," setting up "several critical months in which he must decide his next political move." Ryan's term as chairman of the Budget Committee is set to expire and he must now "choose between running for president in 2016 or seeking to chair the Ways and Means Committee." The Post notes that Ryan "has kept his thinking private, making enough moves in each direction to keep even his close allies guessing about his plans." During the House recess, Ryan will visit Iowa. Meanwhile, Ryan "has been quietly attending events across the country to raise money for their campaigns," which could draw the attention of lawmakers "who will vote for the next Ways and Means chairman."

More Commentary. An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/11, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues that with House passage of the Ryan plan, Republicans have provided specific proof of their priorities. The Journal contrasts this with Democrats, who do not plan to offer a proposal and will not lay out their tax and spending plans until after the election, if ever.

In a piece for the Washington Times (4/11, Delay, 455K), former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay argues that "big government must be stopped and why a sense of individual responsibility and morality must be revived," and the Ryan budget plan "would be a major first step in that process."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Abusing Both Medicare And Politics."*** The New York Times (4/11, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says in an editorial that the case of Salomon Melgen, the Florida ophthalmologist who received $21 million in Medicare reimbursements in 2012 and who gave $700,000 to the Democratic-linked Majority PAC that same year, is at the intersection of political and Medicare malfeasance. Melgen's funds went mainly to help re-elect Sen. Robert Menendez, "a crony of Dr. Melgen," and the Times says there can be little doubt that "there is a quid pro quo in these payments? Yet it remains invisible to those tearing down campaign finance limits."

"For Greece, A Sign Of Stability." The New York Times (4/11, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes the "face that [Greece] can again borrow independently...is a sign of confidence" at a time when "political stability is critical for Greece and Europe as they emerge from the euro-zone crisis." The Times says despite the improvement, "a long and painful road lies ahead," but "even a modest sign of stability is welcome."

"Keeping Track: April 11, 2014." In the latest edition of the New York Times' (4/11, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) "Keeping Track" feature on its editorial page, the Times examines the United States Sentencing Commission's vote to reduce the guideline ranges for drug trafficking offenses and the SEC's proposed rules on crowdfunding.

"Mr. Cuomo's Gift To The Cynics."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"No Pass For The Military."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (4/11, 4.22M) argues that while Secretary of State Kerry is "eager to certify that the Egyptian regime of Gen. Abdel Fatah al-Sissi is 'taking steps to govern democratically,'" the government continues its efforts to restrict protesters and persecute journalists. Noting that an Egyptian court this week "upheld three-year sentences for three of the country's best-known political prisoners," the Post argues that this should not be "tolerated by Congress." The Post quotes Sen. Patrick Leahy, who said, "If the military continues its repressive tactics, arresting democracy activists, and does not hold free and fair elections, the certifications will not be possible and U.S. aid will be cut off," and says Kerry and Sissi "must be held to that standard."

"Fast Stocks, High Stakes." In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/11, 4.22M) says that high-speed trading is a questionable practice, and needs to be "examined." The Post says that it hopes that "investigations now underway will not only determine whether high-frequency trading has stepped over a legal line but also shed light on what, exactly, is happening in this black box of our economy." The Post concludes, "We can't slow down technology, but we should insist on rules to keep markets free, open and fair."

"Half A Hit." The Washington Post (4/11, 4.22M) says in an editorial that "Maryland's marijuana laws remain a work in progress." But the state is moving in the right direction, and "wisely, lawmakers demurred" from outright legalization. Allowing retail outlets "to sell the drug may turn out to be harmless, though we have our doubts. ... Better to watch the results from Colorado and Washington before following them blindly."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Live Free Or ObamaCare."*** The Wall Street Journal (4/11, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that though Sen. Jeanne Shaheen has been a vocal supporter of the Affordable Care Act, she is now seeking help from HHS in its implementation as she seeks re-election in New Hampshire. Just one insurer, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, has opted to participate in the state's exchange, creating a potential monopoly in a state that used to have a competitive insurance industry. HHS has since granted Massachusetts-based Minuteman Health, a non-profit, nearly $67 million to begin operations in New Hampshire. The Journal says HHS should instead deregulate.

"Ryan's Right Symbol." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/11, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues that with House passage of Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's budget plan, Republicans have provided specific proof of their priorities. The Journal contrasts this with Democrats who do not plan to offer a proposal and will not lay out their tax and spending plans until after the election, if ever.

"A Partial Victory For Taxpayers." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/11, A12, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) praises the move by Federal financial regulators to require the largest banks to hold more capital to protect against losses. The Journal says that this is a win for taxpayers, as they would have to pay out less and the shareholders more if one of these institutions collapses. However, the Journal expresses concern over the

FDIC's finalization of the Basel bank standards, which give regulators leeway to determine which banks are considered risky and which are safe, and therefore set their capital requirements.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Everett Landowner Resists Disclosure Pledge
Data-Driven Bus Service Set To Roll Out
Stephen Colbert A Wise Choice To Succeed David Letterman
Judge Decries Tactics Used By AIG In Personal Injury Suit
Mass. ACLU Seeks Federal Data On Bombing

Los Angeles Times:
La County Deputies Fatally Shoot Man By Mistake
Health Chief Kathleen Sebelius, Who Oversaw Obamacare Rollout, Resigns
Stephen Colbert Says He Has 'Huge Shoes To Fill' Replacing Letterman

Wall Street Journal:
Markets Hit By Tech Selloff
Sebelius To Exit Amid Turmoil From Health-Care Rollout
Sensitive Market Data Leaked After Government Phone Call
Sherman Who? Civil War Promoters Battle Apathy
With $4 Billion Bond Sale, Greece Moves Closer To Normal

New York Times:
Cuomo Caught Up In Rare Conflict With Prosecutor
Warily, Jordan Assists Rebels In Syrian War
Hoping For Asylum, Migrants Strain US Border
Sebelius Resigns After Troubles Over Health Site
Colbert Will Host 'Late Show' Playing Himself For A Change
Taking A Risk, Investors Snap Up Once-Shunned Greek Debt

Washington Post:
Attack Plane's Next Battle: Surviving Pentagon's Cuts
Thousands Losing Tax Refunds To Parents' Decades-Old Debts
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Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: FBI-North Carolina Man Rescued; Pennsylvania-High School Knife Attack; Wall Street; Oscar Pistorius Trial; Baby Rescued At Sea' Sebelius To Resign; Hillary Clinton; Michigan-Shoplifting Ring Bust.
CBS: GM Recall; Flu Medicine Study; Sebelius To Resign; Wall Street; Florida-Daycare Center Crash; Pennsylvania-High School Knife Attack; DOJ-Albuquerque Police Department Report; Missing Malaysia Flight;

FBI-North Carolina Man Rescued; Obama-Civil Rights Summit.
NBC: Pennsylvania-High School Knife Attack; Washington Mudslide Survivor's Story; Missing Malaysia Flight; Obama-Civil Rights Summit; Sebelius To Resign; Wall Street; Heroin Epidemic; Weather Forecast.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: California-Deadly Bus Crash; Missing Malaysia Flight; FBI-North Carolina Man Rescued; Sebelius To Resign.
CBS: California-Deadly Bus Crash; Sebelius To Resign; DOJ-Albuquerque Police Department Report; Florida-Daycare Center Crash; Wall Street.
FOX: Missing Malaysia Flight; California-Deadly Bus Crash; Sebelius To Resign; Boston Marathon Bombing Investigation; Wall Street; Pennsylvania-High School Knife Attack; Florida-Daycare Center Crash; Missouri-Motorist Shootings; Arizona-Jared Loughner Case; Princess Cruise Lines Announcement.
NPR: California-Deadly Bus Crash; Sebelius To Resign; DOJ-Albuquerque Police Department Report; Hillary Clinton; Missing Malaysia Flight; Chicago-Sinaloa Cartel Member Cooperates; California-Bell City Controversy; Michigan-Group Attacks Elderly Man.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President will travel to New York, NY to deliver remarks at the National Action Networks 16th Annual Convention.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – No public schedule.

MICHELLE OBAMA – As part of their Joining Forces initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden will host Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, Senator Elizabeth Dole, and military and veteran caregivers from across the nation to announce commitments that will strengthen the support provided to the friends and loved ones caring for our wounded warriors. East Room.
US Senate: 4 p.m. – The Senate convenes and resumes executive session to consider the nomination of Michelle Friedland to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE – 11:30 a.m. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) will hold a press teleconference call to discuss "new developments related to the harmful health impacts of the Keystone XL Pipeline." Notes: Please contact Nathan McCray at nathan_mccray@epw.senate.gov for dial-in information.
US House: April 11 – 27. – The House is not in session again until April 28th. State work period.
Other: 108TH ASIL ANNUAL MEETING – April 7 – 12. The American Society of International Law holds their 108th ASIL Annual Meeting and 76th International Law Association Biennial Conference. Speakers will include: former US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Singaporean Supreme Court Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, UK Supreme Court Justice Jonathan Mance, International Court of Justice (ICJ) President Peter Tomka, former Liberal Party of Canada Leader Michael Ignatieff, Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth, and former UN Under-Secretary General and Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict and Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Radhika Coomaraswamy. Highlights: A Conversation with Hudson Medal Winner Alain Pellet, University Paris Ouest; Discussant, President Peter Tomka, International Court of Justice. A Conversation with ICJ Judges Julia Sebutinde, Joan Donoghue, and Hanqin Xue. Gala Dinner: Speaker: Danilo Turk, former President, Slovenia; Honorees: Hudson Medal: Alain Pellet, University of Paris-Ouest; Butcher Medal: Cherif Bassiouni, DePaul University School of Law; Honorary Member: Fatou Bensouda, International Criminal Court. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Atrium Ballroom.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND / WORLD BANK MEETINGS – April 8 – 13. Thousands of government officials, journalists, civil society organizations, and invited participants from the academia and private sectors, are expected to gather in Washington DC for the Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank Group. Highlights: G-20 Ministerial Meeting. IMF HQ2, Conference Hall 1. Time still TBA. 8:15 a.m. – 9 a.m. IMF Press

Briefing: Asia and Pacific Economic Outlook. IMF HQ2-3-748. 9:15 a.m. IMF Press Briefing: European Department Press Conference. IMF HQ2-3-748. 10:15 a.m. IMF Press Briefing: Middle East and Central Asia Regional Economic Outlook. IMF HQ2-3-748. 11 a.m. Panel discussion, "Emerging Economies: Views from East and South." (in English with interpretation into Spanish). Opening Presentations by: Augusto de la Torre and Bert Hoffman, regional Chief Economists. MC 2-800, 700 18th Street NW. 12 p.m. G20 FAMILY PHOTO. Location: IMF HQ2 – Atrium. Contact G20FinanceMedia@treasury.gov.au. 12:15 p.m. IMF Press Briefing: Western Hemisphere Regional Economic Outlook. IMF HQ2-3-748. 1:15 p.m. – 2 p.m. G-20 Press Briefing. George Washington University, Jack Morton Auditorium. 1:45 p.m. Joint press conference with His Excellency Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister of Japan, Minister of Finance, and Minister of State for Financial Services; Haruhiko Kuroda, Governor of the Bank of Japan NOTE: The briefing will be conducted in Japanese (English interpretation is available. The number of interpretation ports in mult box for media is limited.) Washington Ball Room (B1F), The Westin Georgetown Hotel (2350 M Street, NW. 2 p.m. The Sanitation and Water for all 2014 High Level Meeting; Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank Group; Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF; H.E. John Kufuor, Chair, Sanitation and Water for all parternership ; Shantayanan Devarajan, Chief Economist, World Banks Middle East and North African Region; Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations; Sufian Ahmed, Minister, Finance and Economic Development, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; Judi W. Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Republic of Kenya. Follow the event with HLM2014. 6 p.m. US Secretary of Treasury Jacob Lew holds press conference. Location: The George Washington University Jack Morton Memorial Building- Auditorium. This event is open press. Media who wish to attend must RSVP to Stephanie Ma at Stephanie. Ma@treasury.gov by Thursday, April 10 at 4:00 p.m. Notes: Official meeting dates are April 11- 13, with a number of related events leading up to those meetings. There will be additions to the schedule as the event gets closer, particularly final press conferences by the delegations.

NYLC CONFERENCE – April 9 – 12. The National Youth Leadership Council's service-learning conference has convened over 48,000 youth and adults. The culminating event of MONUMENTAL, sponsored by The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, is Saturday, April 12 where an estimated 1,000 volunteers will provide 3,000 hours of service to the community during a MONUMENTAL Day of Service: A Celebration of Global Youth Service Day. CONTACT: Amy Meuers, Marketing and Communications Director, National Youth Leadership Council, (651) 999-7363, ameuers@nylc.org. Highlights: 5 p.m. Education Secretary Duncan will deliver remarks highlighting "the importance and benefits of young people's civic engagement and how national service can play a role in helping to strengthen the quality of public education." Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. Washington.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION – April 11 – 13. The TIA holds its Spring Policy Summit, bringing together ICT industry executives, influential members of Congress and policymakers from the FCC, State Department and other Federal agencies. Location: Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay, 100 Heron Boulevard, Cambridge, MD. Contacts: Farrah Kim, farrahkim@rational360.com, 202-568-8986

BROOKINGS – HEALTHCARE SPENDING – The Future of US Healthcare Spending: Why it Slowed and How to Sustain It. Location: The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW. Contacts: 202.797.6105

CSIS – PRESIDENT'S TRIP – 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. The Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) will host a press briefing to discuss President Obama's upcoming trip to Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Malaysia. With: Victor Cha, Senior Adviser and Korea Chair, CSIS; Matthew P. Goodman, William E. Simon Chair in Political Economy, CSIS; Michael Green, Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair, CSIS; Murray Hiebert, Deputy Director and Senior Fellow of the Sumitro Chair for Southeast Asia Studies, CSIS; Christopher Johnson, Senior Adviser and Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS.

PENTAGON – UNITED NATIONS – 10:30 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to the Pentagon. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance. Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the Pentagon River Pedestrian Bridge only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the cordon.

SAIS – IMF/WORLD BANK MEETINGS – 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. "Financial Prospects in Southern Europe",

Cristian Popa, Deputy Governor, Bank of Romania. Media RSVP: SAISPubAffairs@jhu.edu Media spots are reserved for members of the press with current credentials. To register a camera, contact SAISPubAffairs@jhu.edu. Location: Johns Hopkins SAIS, Rome Building Auditorium, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

US CHAMBER – EGYPTIAN FINANCE MINISTER – 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. The US-Egypt Business Council is hosting H.E. Hani Qadri Demian, Egypt's recently appointed Minister of Finance, for a luncheon. Location: US Chamber of Commerce Headquarters, Hall of Flags, 1615 H Street NW. Contacts: Tyler Hernandez thernandez@uschamber.com. Notes: Credentialed members of the media are invited to attend. To register, email press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682.

CFR – GERMAN FINANCE MINISTER – 1:15 p.m. A Conversation with German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble; Dr. Wolfgang Schduble will discuss the situation in Ukraine, a new regulatory regime for the European banking system, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, and the prospects for a broader transatlantic relationship. Speaker: Wolfgang Schduble, Minister of Finance, Federal Republic of Germany. Presider: Robert M. Kimmitt, Chairman, American Council on Germany. The meeting will also be streamed live at cfr.org/live. Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F Street NW. Contacts: Tricia Miller Klapheke DCPressRSVP@cfr.org (202.509.8525). Notes: Media Reply by: 12:00 p.m., Thursday, April 10, 2014 Reply to: dcpressrsvp@cfr.org Camera pre-set 10a.m. – 12p.m.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Guys, pay wages are a big issue right now and during a town hall yesterday, Chris Christie... said that he vetoed a higher minimum wage in New Jersey because it raised the rate by too much, too soon. Incidentally, 'too much, too soon' was also the weight on Christie's birth certificate."

Seth Meyers: "I'm going to start off tonight with some good news. This is good news for Hillary Clinton supporters. ... A super PAC urging Hillary Clinton to run for president says it raised $1.7 million in the first three months of the year. Said President Obama, 'I'll kick in another million if she is willing to start early.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Apr 15, 2014 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

FEDERAL OFFICIALS WORKING TO RESOLVE MATTER WITH NEVADA RANCHER. The AP (4/15, Sonner) reports that Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy said Monday "he's trying to determine if federal agents damaged his cattle when the animals were rounded up then released in a showdown with angry protesters over a decades-long dispute about rangeland rights." BLM spokesman Craig Leff said the bureau "will work to resolve the matter 'administratively and judicially' but planned no further public comment on Bundy's case." Meanwhile, the BLM's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board was "meeting in Sacramento on Monday on the broader issue fueling the conflict over how to divide the scarce forage on mostly dry lands across the West between livestock, wild horses and wildlife."

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/15, 437K) reports that Leff noted that the BLM did not participate in the negotiation moderated by Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie that de-escalated tensions on Saturday. Leff said, "The BLM and National Park Service did not cut any deal and negotiate anything." He added, "The door isn't closed. We'll figure out how to move forward with this."

Sen. Reid Vows Ranch Confrontation "Not Over." In its "E2 Wire" blog, The Hill (4/15, 237K) reports that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid weighed in Monday on the Nevada ranch standoff, warning that even though federal agents retreated over the weekend, "it's not over." Reid said, "We can't have an American people that violate the law and then just walk away from it. So it's not over."

The Washington Times (4/15, Richardson, 455K) reports that Reid has been "accused of attempting to shut down the ranch in order to move ahead with two nearby solar energy projects, an accusation denied Monday by the senator's press aide." Reid spokeswoman Kristen Orthman said that "there is no truth to the conspiracy theories that are being pushed by right-wing media outlets."

In an op-ed for the Washington Times (4/15, Phillips, 455K), Judson Phillips, the founder of Tea Party Nation,

raises questions about Reid's connection to the dispute. Phillips acknowledges that it is a "circumstantial, case," but "it is a case that merits investigation."

Also reporting on the story are USA Today (4/14, 5.82M), FOX News (4/14, 74.23M), the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (4/15, 166K), the Examiner (4/15, 1.56M), and the New American (4/15, 9K).

Bundy Wants Sheriffs To "Disarm" BLM. Politico (4/15, Kopan, 73K) reports that Bundy said Monday that "his standoff with the feds isn't just about cattle: It's about an 'overpowering' bureaucracy in the US that needs to be disarmed." On Glenn Beck's radio show on TheBlaze on Monday, Bundy said, "I only want to talk to one person in each county across the United States, and here's what I want to say: County sheriffs, disarm US bureaucracy. County sheriffs, disarm US bureaucrats." He added, "My Clark County sheriff, Doug Gillespie, didn't finish his job. What the mandate from we the people was, Saturday was to disarm the park service and BLM. And when he didn't do that, and his time was up, then we the people took it into our hands and had to do the sheriff's job and the governor of Nevada's job."

Reuters (4/15, Shurmur) reports that at a press conference on Monday, Bundy said, "Every sheriff across the United States of America, take away the guns from the United States bureaucrats." Also, Nevada state Assemblywoman Michele Fiore, said, "Understand it is because of each and every one of you standing here and each and every one of our Americans watching us and protecting us with our firearms why this did not turn into Waco massacre or a Ruby Ridge."

FOX News (4/14, 74.23M) reports that on Monday, Bundy's daughter, Bailey Logue, went On The Record to discuss the conflict between her father and agents from the BLM. Logue said, "It's about our freedom, it's about our state's sovereignty, and it's about people standing up for what's right."

Also reporting on the story are the Las Vegas Sun (4/14, 148K) and KTNV-TV Las Vegas (4/15, 19K).

Additional Commentary. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/15, 437K) editorializes that the BLM's decision to back off has made the situation worse. The paper argues that the decision does not resolve the issue, and emboldens Bundy and his supporters. Rob Mrowka, senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity, said, "The BLM is setting a dangerous precedent in announcing that it will pick and choose who has to follow federal laws and who it will reward for violating them."

Free speech, assembly are the right tools to balance powerful government.

In an op-ed for USA Today (4/15, Federman, 5.82M), Eli Federman, an executive at an e-commerce company, writes that "regardless of who may be right, citizens and media spotlighting this conflict represents much needed oversight over government." Federman argues that "the lesson is about caring citizens standing up for a cause, while openly criticizing and scrutinizing the government." He asserts that "freedom of speech and assembly are the central pillars of our democracy that have historically been instrumental in exposing wrongs and bringing about positive social change."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the dispute was provided by the Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/15, 437K), USA Today (4/15, Loomis, 5.82M), FOX News (4/14, 74.23M), NPR (4/15, Robbins, 519K), the Atlantic (4/15, Ford, 8.78M), MSNBC (4/15, 45.1M), the Canada Free Press (4/15, 1.14M), the New American (4/15, 9K), The Week (4/15, 1.85M), and the Examiner (4/15, 1.56M).

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. APPEALS TO SUPREME COURT. The San Francisco Chronicle (4/15, 3.33M) reports that the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. filed a petition Monday to take its fight to stay open to the US Supreme Court.

The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (4/15, 88K) reports that Kevin Lunny, owner of Drakes Bay Oyster Co., said in a statement, "If this judgment is not overturned, government agencies will have the power to deny a permit to any individual or business for any reason, without judicial review. Citizens must have recourse in the face of an arbitrary and capricious decision."

The Petaluma (CA) Argus Courier (4/14, 1K) reports that "the high court, which hears about 1 percent of the

10,000 cases it receives each year, is likely to decide on the oyster company's request in October," according to Peter Prows, a San Francisco attorney representing farm operator Kevin Lunny.

Also providing coverage are the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (4/14, 148K) and KQED-FM San Francisco (4/14, 13K).

Executive Director Of Environmental Action Committee Criticizes Drakes Bay Oyster Company. In an op-ed for the East Bay Express (4/14, 5K), Amy Trainer, the executive director of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, claims that "the oyster company's petition is full of false statements of fact and exaggerations." Trainer concludes that the Supreme Court would "serve the American people well by rejecting this specious petition and returning our only West Coast marine wilderness to all of us and future generations to enjoy."

OP-ED: "POLITICS" COULD RUIN ALASKA'S ENERGY FUTURE. In an op-ed for the Washington Examiner (4/15, 335K), Anthony J. Sadar, a certified consulting meteorologist, claims that the "US has the rich resources and the sophisticated and ethical ability to do right by the planet and its people." However, he notes that "politics" has proved to be an obstacle. Sadar notes that Royal Dutch Shell postpone its plans in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast because of a decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Also, the Interior Department has rejected "Alaska's plan for oil and gas exploration in a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

TRASH LEFT BEHIND AT CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL. The Washington Post (4/15, Rosenwald, 4.22M) reports that the NPS, "responding to criticism of its cleanup work at the Cherry Blossom Festival, said a confluence of factors — gorgeous weather, peak blossom blooms and not being ready enough for mammoth crowds — led to the mounds of trash on the Mall this past weekend." Carol Johnson, a spokeswoman for the NPS, said Monday that "it was clear that 'in retrospect, we wish we had brought on more staff.'" Robert Vogel, superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, "conceded Sunday evening that 'we did drop the ball a little bit.'"

D.C. ARTSHOW SPOTLIGHTS OLD NATIONAL PARK POSTERS. The Los Angeles Times (4/15, Reynolds, 3.46M) reports that "a new art show in Washington, D.C., spotlights national park posters from the Depression years, including the frothy falls of Yellowstone, the jagged mountains of Glacier and the native ruins of Bandelier National Monument." Titled "Posterity," the show at the US Department of the Interior Museum is "built around six original posters that date to the Depression years." The "Posterity" show, which opened April 8, is scheduled to run through spring 2015.

NPS RELEASES TAGGED RAZORBACK SUCKERS IN GRAND CANYON. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (4/15, 43) reports that on March 16th, NPS biologists "successfully released nine adult endangered razorback suckers (Xyrauchen texanus) in the Colorado River downstream of Lava Falls (River Mile 180)." According to the article, "by tracking the sonic-tagged fish that were released, biologists may be able to detect groups of other spawning razorback suckers, and assess their movements and habitat use." Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent David Uberuaga said, "We're extremely excited to release one of the Colorado River's iconic native fish species back into Grand Canyon. It is an important part of our efforts to protect the park's native fish species."

NPS WORKING TO STAFF CAPE HATTERAS SEASHORE WITH LIFEGUARDS. WUNC-FM Chapel Hill, NC (4/15, 15K) reports that the NPS is "trying to keep at least a few lifeguards on the Cape Hatteras Seashore this summer." Federal officials "cut the $200,000 program that staffed three beaches seven days a week during the summer." Now, Outer Banks Group Superintendent Barclay Trimble said "he wants lifeguard service contractors to offer bids that can accommodate a tighter budget."

SIX TENNESSEE SITES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The AP (4/15) reports that six Tennessee sites have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The new sites in

Tennessee are: the Grand Guitar in Bristol, the Tennessee Supreme Court Building in Nashville, Mead and Ross Marble Quarries in Knox County, the Martin-Dobyns House in Kingsport and the Blountville Historic District.

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM, IRON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGREE ON WILD HORSE SOLUTION. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (4/14, 48K) reports that the Iron County Commissioners signed an agreement with the BLM "on Monday during their bi-weekly commission meeting promising to combine efforts to trap feral horses on private property located on the western range." The agreement "authorizes the two agencies to work together to water and bait trap the feral horses on the range adjacent to the Bible Springs Horse Management Area Complex where the BLM has identified horse herds 'interfering with private land operations.'" The article notes that "the agreement between the two agencies lays out several responsibilities each side will have in this effort, including the expected treatment of the horses and procedures for appropriately handling them."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP DONATES COAST DAIRIES PROPERTY TO BLM. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (4/15, 696K) reports that the Trust for Public Land, a San Francisco environmental group, on Monday donated to the BLM "the Coast Dairies property – a pastoral expanse of rolling meadows, redwood forests and panoramic ocean views north of Santa Cruz." Rick Cooper, field manager with the BLM office in Hollister, said, "This property has redwood forests and creeks. It's a spectacular area for the public to get a true recreational experience, hiking up the terraces. And looking back over the ocean, it's a great view." According to Cooper, "by the end of this year, two trails should be open to the public for hiking."

BLM TO CLOSE STEAMBOAT MOUNTAIN TO VEHICLES. The AP (4/15) reports that the BLM says "it will temporarily prohibit vehicles on a mountain northeast of Rock Springs this spring." The objective is "to protect elk and deer while they're calving." Steamboat Mountain will be closed to vehicles between May 1 and June 30.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WHITE HOUSE PRESSED TO PROTECT MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. For the "Dot Earth" blog of the New York Times (4/15, Revkin, 9.65M), Andrew C. Revkin writes that "a letter sent on Monday to President Obama and relevant cabinet members by a group of scientists, educators, farmers, and other concerned citizens organized by the Xerces Society and other conservation groups" presses for a "rescue" of monarch butterflies. The letter "describes policies the administration could pursue on both public and private land along the butterfly's migratory path."

WHITE BLUFFS BLADDERPOD SUBPOENA COULD SHED LIGHT ON FWS DECISION-MAKING. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (4/15, 86K) reports that the White Bluffs Bladderpod has "become a symbol" for Rep. Doc Hastings and "his allies in Congress for much of what they believe is wrong with the Endangered Species Act." According to the article, "the underlying issue is really how" the FWS "can separate science from politics when it makes listing decisions." Hasting's subpoena "may shed some more light on how the agency weights and balances evidence, or it may find evidence of bias. For now, we will just have to wait and see."

WHITEFISH SHORTAGE CAUSING PASSOVER MEAL PROBLEMS. The AP (4/15, Flesher) reports that "a shortage of whitefish in the Great Lakes region resulting partly from the winter deep freeze is coming at an inconvenient time for Jewish families: the Passover holiday, when demand is high because it's a key ingredient in a traditional recipe." The article notes that "the whitefish shortfall is yet another ripple effect of the bitterly cold winter, which caused more than 90 percent of the Great Lakes surface area to freeze over." Chuck Bronte, senior fishery biologist with the FWS in Green Bay, Wis., said, "You have a lot of boats that can't get out to fish, even now."

REP. PEARCE HOSTS PRAIRIE CHICKEN MEETINGS. The AP (4/15) reports that Rep. Steve Pearce is "hosting a series of town halls to discuss the effects of the federal government's decision to list the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species." Pearce says officials with the FWS, the BLM, and the Department of Agriculture have been invited to the meetings.

SNOWY OWLS SPOTTED IN NEW ENGLAND. The Newsmax (4/14, 486K) reports that "snowy owls normally

found in the arctic have been spotted much further south across New England this spring, causing speculation about what's attracting them." According to the article, "the record number of snowy owls has delighted many nature lovers, while at the same time irritated native birds who see the new predators as competition." Donald Freiday with the FWS said, "We had about 2,000 cars come through so far in December, and that's two times the number we usually have for this same period." He continued, "It's actually pretty special to have snow owls in New Jersey. We normally in a given winter will have between none and three. This year, the whole state there are as many as 30."

WYOMING'S SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION STRATEGY LAUDED. In an editorial, the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (4/15, 90K) calls the $7.9 million Wyoming has spent "on its efforts to protect the greater sage grouse population since 2005" as "well spent." According to the paper, "those millions protected sage grouse, warded away the restrictive federal endangered species protection and allowed abundant energy development in the state worth millions more that likely would've been shut out if not for responsible management of the species." The paper dubs the strategy of allowing "the state to take ownership of a problem and forge its own solutions" as "the Wyoming way."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

GOGGIN: WIND PRODUCT TAX CREDIT ESSENTIAL TO RECENT WIND INDUSTRY SUCCESS. In an op-ed for Roll Call (4/15, Subscription Publication, 76K) responding to another Roll Call op-ed titled "A Warning to Congress: Renewal of Wind Energy Subsidies Will Lead to a Big Boost in Carbon Emissions," American Wind Energy Association senior electric industry analyst Michael Goggin writes that the previous column "deploys three myths to obfuscate wind energy's pollution savings and strikes out on all three." Refuting the previous article's claims, Goggin argues that the wind production tax credit is essential to wind's recent success, and that "changing course will reverse those gains by shutting down wind's domestic supply chain," costing "about 80,000 American jobs and 550 wind energy manufacturing facilities spread across 44 states."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM EXTENDS SCOPING PERIOD FOR GAS LEASE REVIEW. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (4/15, 27K) reports that "a public scoping period that begins with a series of meetings in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale and Aspen this week as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management starts its review of 65 existing oil and gas leases on the White River National Forest has been extended until May 16." The BLM is "conducting an Environmental Impact Statement to address deficiencies that were identified by the Interior Board of Land Appeals in a 1993 Forest Service EIS that was used as the basis for issuing the leases across an area extending from the embattled Thompson Divide region southwest of Glenwood Springs to an area just east of De Beque."

EXPERTS: UPTICK IN QUAKES SEEMS RELATED TO WASTEWATER, BUT MORE RESEARCH NEEDED. CNBC (4/15, David, 31.28M) reports that although experts have indicated that "the overall uptick in earthquakes in the continent seems to be related to" fracking wastewater injection wells, "even staunch fracking opponents have stopped short of drawing an outright connection," saying that there is a need for more research and data on the subject. "We have a need for energy, and if we are going to get it, we need to do it safely," CNBC reports Cornell University geophysicist Katie Keranen said in an interview, noting that "rather than putting a damper on the boom, it will force a drive for new technology and operations and practices."

"WASTEFUL" GOVERNMENT SPENDING CRITICIZED. In an editorial blasting "wasteful" government spending, the Washington Times (4/15, 455K) notes that "six Colorado-based Office of Natural Resources Revenue employees were tasked with preventing waste and fraud of tax dollars." But "they used taxpayer largesse to finance new scams, including a $13,000 vacation in Las Vegas." According to the paper, "rather than attend a fraud investigators conference in Denver like they were assigned to do, federal bureaucrats headed to Las Vegas and stayed there for an extra party day after the conference ended, at public expense."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM TO START WORKING ON NEXT FIVE-YEAR OFFSHORE LEASING PLAN. The National Journal (4/15, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that BOEM Tommy Beaudreau said that the agency will "soon start constructing its next five-year offshore leasing plan, which will cover 2017-2022." Beaudreau said, "The new five-year planning process for the period 2017-2022 will actually start this summer. One of the areas that we will be considering are those mid- and south-Atlantic planning areas."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ARIZONA'S RIGHTS TO COLORADO RIVER COULD SUFFER IF INTERIOR DECLARES SHORTAGE. The Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (4/15, 1K) reports that "if the Colorado River's flow continues to suffer," the Interior Department could "declare a shortage as early as 2017." The article notes that "under the agreement that established the CAP, Arizona's rights to the Colorado would take a hit before California loses a drop, triggering conservation steps that include reducing delivery to irrigated farms that use the majority of Arizona's water supply." However, "a 2011 report by Arizona State University's Morrison Institute for Public Policy said policymakers have avoided the topic because of the fear that it could create negative perceptions that could hinder growth."

WATER MANAGERS SAY DROUGHT STRENGTHENS ARGUMENT FOR LAKE POWELL PIPELINE. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (4/13, 48K) reports that "another year of drought shouldn't be enough to force any water restrictions this year for Washington County residents, but state managers say it is enough to make a case for tapping into the Colorado River by building the 140-mile Lake Powell Pipeline." Eric Millis, director of the Utah Division of Water Resources, said, "The pipeline makes it possible for surpluses on the Colorado River to compensate for drastic shortages in the Virgin River during extreme years such as this one." On the other hand, LeAnn Skzrynski, executive director of Citizens for Dixie's Future, "an advocacy group opposed to the pipeline, has argued that the ongoing drought is not a sign that the pipeline is needed but a sign that people should be learning to conserve more."

FULL-SCALE SECURITY EXERCISE PLANNED AT FOLSOM DAM. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (4/15, 206) reports that "a full-scale security 'exercise' is planned for Folsom Dam on Wednesday, April 23," by the BOR, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department/Folsom Dam Security Bureau, city of Folsom police and fire departments, California State Parks, Sacramento Office of Emergency Services, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Sacramento County Department of Technology. The exercise will simulate emergency response activities at Folsom Dam.

Empowering Native American Communities:

NEW MEXICO HIGH COURT ORDERS RECOGNITION OF FORT SILL APACHE. The AP (4/15, Massey) reports that "New Mexico's highest court on Monday ordered Gov. Susana Martinez to recognize the Fort Sill Apache as a New Mexico tribe." The decision by the Supreme Court will "force Martinez to invite the tribe to annual tribal-state summits called for under a 2009 law that requires sovereign government-to-government cooperation."

Top National News:

OBAMA PLEADS FOR AN END TO "INTOLERANCE" FOLLOWING TRIPLE MURDER BY WHITE SUPREMACIST. All three network newscasts led with reports on a triple murder that took place near Kansas City on Sunday. At the opening of NBC Nightly News (4/14, lead story, 4:10, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams said, "There's been another terrible outburst of violence, this time a shooting at a Jewish community center in a suburb of Kansas City." According to Williams, a "73-year-old man identified as a veteran of the Ku Klux Klan is accused of the shooting death of three people on the eve of Passover."

The AP (4/14, 783K) reports that on Monday, "during an Easter prayer breakfast at the White House," President Obama "vowed that the government would provide whatever is needed to support the investigation" and "urged Americans to stand united against 'religious-based' violence," saying, "No one should ever have to fear for their safety when they go to pray."

The Washington Times (4/15, Boyer, 455K) quotes the President as saying, "We see what happens around the world when this kind of religious-based or tinged violence can rear its ugly head." McClatchy (4/14, Wise, Subscription Publication, 23K) says the President "called on Americans to unite against intolerance." The President is quoted as saying, "We have to keep coming together across faiths to combat the ignorance and intolerance, including anti-Semitism, that can lead to hatred and to violence, because we are all children of God, all made in his image."

The Los Angeles Times (4/15, Hennessey, 3.46M) reports that on Monday, President Obama "noted that he had a connection to two of the victims," a "teenager and his grandfather...[who] attended the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection." According to the Times, "That church's pastor, Rev. Adam Hamilton, delivered the sermon at the prayer service...marking Obama's second inauguration and attended last year's prayer breakfast at the White House." The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (4/15, 177K) and Reuters (4/15, Felsenthal) also cover the President's remarks touching on this weekend's tragedy.

Linda Feldmann, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (4/15, Feldmann, 566K), notes that Reat Underwood, and his grandfather, William Corporon, were at the Jewish Community Center "for a singing competition." Feldmann reports that the third victim, Terri LeManno, "was an occupational therapist and mother of two."

USA Today (4/15, Bacon, 5.82M) provides a profile of Reat Underwood, "an Eagle Scout who enjoyed 'spending time camping and hunting with his grandfather, father and brother.'" According to Mindy Corporon, "Reat's mother and the daughter of William Corporon." USA Today also reports that Terri LaManno's family "are long-time parishioners at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Kansas City, where a rosary was said for LaManno after Monday morning Mass."

The New York Daily News (4/14, Larson, 4.36M) reports that on Monday, the President "welcomed 150 Christian leaders to the White House East Room for the fifth annual Easter Prayer Breakfast." The Daily News notes that Rev. Otis Moss, "who replaced the controversial Rev. Jeremiah Wright at Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ, delivered the sermon," and President Obama "asked Gene Robinson, the first openly gay Episcopal bishop, to deliver the closing prayer." The Daily News notes that MSNBC's Al Sharpton was in attendance.

USA Today (4/15, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that Obama, "like many of his predecessors, is very serious about reaching out to faith groups," and following the "Easter prayer service on Monday," he will "host...a now-annual Passover seder with family, aides and friends on Tuesday."

Murderer Founded His Own KKK Chapter, Was Imprisoned For "Stockpiling Illegal Weapons." On ABC World News (4/14, lead story, 2:45, Sawyer), it was reported that the murderer, "Frazier Glenn Cross, who goes by the last name 'Miller,'" is "a former grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan and lifelong and raging anti-Semite." On the CBS Evening News (4/14, lead story, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley noted that "all of the victims...were Christian."

Also on the CBS Evening News (4/14, story 2, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M), Bob Orr reported that "for nearly 40 years, the suspect, Frasier Glenn Miller, has pursued an agenda of intolerance and racism." Orr added that according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, Miller "founded his own chapter of the Ku Klux Klan." Orr went on to report that in 1987, "Miller and four other klansmen were arrested for stockpiling illegal weapons," and Miller "spent three years in prison" before "getting out early in exchange for testifying against fellow white supremacists."

The Los Angeles Times (4/15, Hennessy-fiske, Muskal, 3.46M) reports that Overland Park Police Chief John Douglass "confirmed that the evidence gathered in Sunday's shootings supports a hate crime presentation to a federal grand jury." The New York Times (4/15, Williams, Fitzsimmons, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) quotes Douglass as saying, "We believe this to be a hate crime. ... We believe his motivation was to attack a Jewish facility." USA Today (4/15, Johnson, Bacon, 5.82M) reports Barry Grissom, the U.S. Attorney for the district of Kansas, said on Monday, "We will be filing hate crime charges."

The Huffington Post (4/14, Walker, 11.54M) reported that in "video...taken by Kansas City news station KMBC," Miller can be heard, "after he was taken into custody...shout[ing] what sounded like 'Heil Hitler!'"

The Washington Post (4/15, Phillip, 4.22M) reports that in the 1980s, the Southern Poverty Law Center sued Miller "for operating an illegal paramilitary organization and using intimidation tactics against African Americans." According to the Post, Miller "later founded...the White Patriot Party, which put him in violation of the terms that settled the suit brought by the SPLC," and he was "found in criminal contempt in 1986 and served six months in prison."

According to the New York Times (4/15, Williams, Fitzsimmons, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), Miller "served three years in federal prison for weapons charges and for plotting robberies and the assassination of [Southern Poverty Law Center] founder, Morris Dees." The Times also notes that Miller "made several unsuccessful runs for public office, including a bid for the Senate in 2010."

USA Today (4/15, Jervis, 5.82M) reports that Mark Pitcavage, director of investigative research at the Anti-Defamation League, warns that "as groups like the Ku Klux Klan are aging and splintering, their former members often act as 'lone wolves' – willing to carry out violent attacks despite their age."

CBO: 2014 US DEFICIT ON TRACK TO BE JUST 2.8% OF GDP. Bloomberg News (4/15, Wallbank, 2.76M) reports that on Monday, the Congressional Budget Office announced that "the U.S. government's deficit will fall to $492 billion this year...a steeper drop than originally predicted from $680 billion in fiscal year 2013." Bloomberg notes that if the trends continue, this year's deficit "will be 2.8 percent of the economy," or "almost 32 percent below fiscal year 2013, when it was 4.1 percent." According to Bloomberg, President Obama "has often pointed to the declining deficit in making the case for his economic program, including greater spending on infrastructure and other items," while Republicans "have called for deeper cuts to balance the budget."

The Wall Street Journal (4/15, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the CBO's forecast that the Federal spending in 2014 will total $3.523 trillion, which is 20.4% of GDP. The Journal also notes the CBO anticipates that the deficit will begin to grow again as soon as 2016 as a result of increased entitlement spending.

Under the headline, "Obama's Shrinking Budget Deficits Silence Foreign Fiscal Critics," Bloomberg News (4/15, Katz, 2.76M) reported that just "six months ago, global finance officials," including the IMF's Christine Lagarde, "berated the U.S. for failing to put its fiscal house in order," but now they are "silent" as the CBO "is projecting the 2014 deficit will be the lowest in six years and down more than 60 percent from the record $1.4 trillion in 2009."

RETAIL SALES UP 1.1% IN MARCH. The Wall Street Journal (4/15, Morath, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports the Commerce Department announced that retail sales were up 1.1 percent in March over February, which is being presented as evidence of a recovering economy, though the first quarter was up only slightly over the fourth quarter of 2013. In addition to sales, hiring was also up in March as was factory production, and consumer sentiment was at its highest since July. In addition, sales were up across the board, with auto sales up 3.1 percent in March, though some analysts argue that March sales were the result of abnormally depressed sales earlier in the winter due to bad weather.

Bloomberg News (4/15, Timberlake, Townsend, 2.76M) reports that despite the growth in March, Moody's "cut its forecast for 2014 sales," and analysts reduced "estimates for retailers' first-quarter profits."

Stocks Rise On Retail Sales, Citigroup Earnings Report. The Wall Street Journal (4/15, Strumpf, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that stocks rose on Monday which was attributed to higher retail sales as well as Citigroup Inc.'s better-than-expected earnings report. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 146.49 points (0.9%) to 16173.24, while the Nasdaq Composite Index also gained 22.96 points (0.6%) to 4022.69, and the S&P 500 index was up 14.92 points (0.8%) to 1830.61. Despite Monday's gains, the averages are still down for the year with the Dow at -2.4%, the S&P 500 at -1%, and the Nasdaq Composite at -3.7%.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"In The Middle East, Time To Move On."*** An editorial in the New York Times (4/15, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) argues that the time has come for the Obama Administration "to lay down the

principles it believes must undergird a two-state solution, should Israelis and Palestinians ever decide to make peace," and the President and Secretary of State Kerry "should move on and devote their attention to other major international challenges like Ukraine." While the President "made the right decision to give it a second try last summer, with Mr. Kerry bringing energy and determination to the negotiations," after "nine months, it is apparent that the two sides are still unwilling to move on the core issues of the borders of a Palestinian state, the future of Jerusalem, the fate of Palestinian refugees and guarantees for Israel's security."

"Unmet Promise On Discrimination." The New York Times (4/15, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) in an editorial praises President Obama for signing "two orders requiring modest but important steps by federal contractors to narrow the wage gap between female and male employees." The paper then faults him for "his failure to honor a 2008 campaign pledge to ban discrimination by federal contractors based on sexual orientation or gender identity." The paper urges him to issue executive orders to do that.

"A Deadline For Grandfathered Weapons." The New York Times (4/15, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) carries an editorial on gun laws noting that New York's SAFE Act requires owners of "semiautomatic assault weapons" to register them "with State Police by midnight Tuesday." The Times says the requirement "should not be a big deal" comparing it to existing registration requirements for pistols.

"Preventing Painkiller Overdoses." An editorial in the New York Times (4/15, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) notes that broader use of a "a hand-held device that can quickly reverse the effects of an overdose and prevent deaths from opioid painkillers and heroin," which was recently approved by the FDA "could save some lives." The Times notes that the FDA announcement "was made in part to shift the focus of discussion" from its decision "to approve a prescription painkiller, Zohydro ER, which contains pure hydrocodone and is released over an extended period to relieve chronic pain." Noting that two state governors have moved to ban, or make it more difficult for doctor to prescribe Zohydro ER, the Times argues that they are "surely justified in taking steps to protect the public from a painkiller that could lead to more overdose deaths."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A Permanent Fix."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (4/15, 4.22M) notes that the CBO's prediction that "the national debt will grow by $286 billion less during the next decade" than had been projected "does not account for dozens of temporary tax breaks that expired at the end of 2013, but some or all of which Congress is likely to reenact as it has in the past." The Post argues that if Congress does adopt a "tax extender" bill, it should offset those costs in other tax policies. The Post adds that a "real solution" must "make sound policy permanent, discard special-interest fluff, end log-rolling and uncertainty and fully offset the budgetary costs."

"Watch Comcast-Time Warner." The Washington Post (4/15, Board, 4.22M) runs an editorial on the Comcast-Time Warner merger, saying that there are two common views of the matter: one, that it will give the new company more control of the market and subject customers to higher rates; or two, that without the merger the individual companies will be unable to compete with "online video services, wireless Internet providers and a cash-flush Google." The Post says it is "foggier" than that, and urges "regulatory caution" suggesting that the government allow the merger, but "make clear that regulators will respond if big industry players begin to violate basic principles of market fairness."

"The At-Large Race." The Washington Post (4/15, 4.22M) carries an editorial critical of the arrangement in the District of Columbia under which "two at-large seats on the 13-member council are reserved for non-majority party members." The Post says it has led to a charade in which Democrats shed their party label to seek the seats. The Post recommends adopting a different system, suggesting all party primaries or non-partisan elections as superior measures.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"What's The Matter With Illinois?"*** The Wall Street Journal (4/15, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) in an editorial argues that states in the Great Lakes region offer instructive comparisons based on their different policy models of late with respect to taxes and union regulation. Illinois has adopted higher taxes while other states in the region have reduced taxes and in some cases changed laws governing unions. The paper notes that Illinois has higher unemployment than do Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin, as well as a shrinking labor force, and lower income growth. It also notes several companies that are moving from Illinois to neighboring states.

"Putin Acts, Obama Assesses." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/15, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) criticizes President Obama's perceived diffidence and inaction in the face of Russian aggression towards Ukraine.

"El Presidente Tweets The Journal." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/15, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli responded directly, via Twitter, to columnist Mary O'Grady's column concerning his plans to circumvent the law and retain power for another five-year term. The Journal notes that Martinelli attacked O'Grady's motives, claiming that she is a friend of an adviser to Juan Carlos Varela, who is running to succeed him. The Journal denies the claim, and, noting that Martinelli is seeking to evade the constitution, which says he can't run again, by running his wife as a vice-presidential candidate, argues that if he wants to be a dictator, he should say so instead of hiding behind his wife's illegal candidacy.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
No Easy Fix To Power Grid's Security
LA Budget Plan Calls For 911 Overhauls
Cleaning House
Kansas Shooting Suspect Has Long History Of Hate
A Slice Of Pizza Heaven

Wall Street Journal:
Obama, Putin Talk As Unrest Roils Ukraine
Google Agrees To Buy Drone Maker Titan
Housing Trouble Grows In China
Brokers Who Fail Test Have Worse Records

New York Times:
Ukraine Asks UN To Help Control Insurgent East
Bullets, Blood And Then Cry Of 'Heil Hitler'
In US Cities, Rent Is Too High For The Middle Class
Marathon Bombing Suspect Waits In Isolation
Political Rifts Slow Us Effort On Climate Laws
Gefilte Fish Is Scarce This Passover. Taste Buds Are Ambivalent.

Washington Post:
As India Votes, Muslims Worry
Social Security Stops Seizing Tax Refunds To Pay Old Debts
Separatists Defy Threats By Ukraine Leadership
Heartbleed Bug's Fixes Threaten To Disrupt Web
Washington Post Wins Pulitzer Prize For NSA Spying Revelations

Financial Times:
Ukraine Raises Rates To Defend Economy
Firm Partners Rush To Beat Tax Crackdown
Fragile Middle: China's Urban Dilemma
Citi Earnings Rise On Narrower Credit Loss
Telefónica Seeks To Soothe Antitrust Fears
Temasek Widens Africa Footprint
The Strange Resilience Of Junk

Washington Times:
Afghan Tax Corruption Threatens Services
Nominee For HHS Got $1.2M At 'Zero' Salary Job

Red Tape In U.S. Ties Up Critical Gear For Ukraine
Defiant Reid Vows Ranch Confrontation 'Not Over'
Medicaid Work Sent Overseas In 11 States
Study: Little Hope For GOP On Immigrants

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Kansas Community Center Shooting; Severe Weather; Russia-US Tension; Pulitzer Prizes; Malaysian Flight Search; Google Drones; Postpartum Depression; Tax Filing
CBS: Kansas Community Center Shooting; Kansas Shooting Suspect; Russia-US Tensions; Malaysian Flight Search; California Bus Crash-NTSB Report; Tax Refunds-Debt Settlement; Pulitzer Prizes; Boston Marathon Bombing Anniversary
NBC: Kansas Community Center Shooting; Russia-US Tension; Russian Fighter Jet-US Ship; Nigeria-Bus Station Bombing; Chile-Fire; Malaysian Flight Search; Pulitzer Prize-NSA Story; Health-Ebola Outbreak; US Naval Ship; First Lady-Fisher Houses

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Russia-US Tensions; Malaysian Flight Search; Kansas Shooting Suspect; Parolees Tracked-Murder; Severe Weather
CBS: Russia-US Tensions; Kansas Shooting Suspect; Parolees Tracked-Murder; California Bus Crash Analysis; Mumps Outbreak
NPR: Russia-US Tensions; Kansas Shootings; Lunar Eclipse; ACA-CBO Benefit Predictions; Malaysian Flight Search; Herbalife-Class Action Suit; Anger-Hunger Correlation
FOX: Malaysian Flight Search; Severe Weather; Kansas Community Shooter; Tax Filing; Winter Weather

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with faith leaders, Oval Office, meets with senior advisors and observes a moment of silence, Oval Office, closed press; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press; marks the beginning of Passover with a Sedar at the White House, Old Family Dining Room.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Meets Secretary of State Kerry for breakfast at the Naval Observatory; attends a Tribute to those affected by the tragic events of April 15, 2013 at the Hynes Convention Center; delivers remarks.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: April 11 – 27. — The House stands in recess until April 28th. State work period.
Other: April 13 – 20. 8 a.m. NATIONAL CATHEDRAL – HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE — Washington National Cathedral hosts events Holy Week and Easter weekend, including a presentation of the St. John Passion, J.S. Bachs most poignant choral drama of the trial and crucifixion (or Passion) of Jesus. CONTACT: Meredith MacKenzie, West End Strategy, (202) 776-7700, meredith@westendstrategy.com

April 14 – 16. NATIONAL LOGISTICS FORUM — Presented by the National Defense Industrial Association. Theme: "Operationalizing the DoD-Industry Partnership: Realizing Better Buying Power and Joint Force 2020." http://www.ndia.org/meetings/4730/Pages/default.aspx 8:15 a.m. Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Frank Kendall and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Paul Peters deliver remarks on contracting and logistical issues. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

CSIS – CHINA — 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. China's Economic Policymaking at a Time of Transition with David Dollar, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, Former Treasury and World Bank Representative in China; Olin Wethington, Former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs and Special Envoy to China; Christopher K. Johnson, Senior Adviser and Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS; Matthew P. Goodman, William E. Simon Chair in Political Economy, CSIS; Kevin G. Nealer (moderator), Principal, The Scowcroft Group. And a conversation between; Henry M. Paulson, Jr., 74th Secretary of the Treasury and Chairman, Paulson Institute

and David Wessel, Director, Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy, Brookings Institution. http://csis.org/event/chinas-economic-policymaking-time-transition Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

PROGRESSIVES – TAX DAY — 10 a.m. The Progressive Change Campaign Committee (PCCC) will host candidates from the Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party and progressive Members of Congress for a national media call to discuss how progressives are going on offense on taxes. With Rep. Keith Ellison, Rep. Raul Grijalva, Senate candidate Shenna Bellows (ME), and congressional candidates Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12), Kelly Westlund (WI-7), Rob Zerban who is challenging Paul Ryan in WI-1, Stanley Chang (HI-1), Eloise Reyes (CA-31).

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All late-night talk shows were in rerun on Monday.

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Briefing Materials for NM, OR, WA, and MN Trips

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Apr 16, 2014 at 3:40 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are additional briefing materials for your trips to NM and OR, as well as materials for your trips to WA and MN. These have been uploaded to Google Drive in their respective trip folders for you to make them available offline on your ipad. Additional hard copy trip binders have been delivered to you.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

8 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1, 3-8)

Trip Schedule as of April 16, 2014.pdf
231K

BLM Oregon and Washington Hot Topics - SUPPLEMENTAL.docx
24K

4 24 14_12pm_Keynote Remarks at the 6th District of Washington Tribal Summit.docx
187K

4 28 14_10am CDT_MOU Signing between DOI, YMCA, and National League of Cities.docx
137K

4 28 14_10am CDT_TALKING POINTS MOU Signing between DOI, YMCA, and the National League of Cities.docx
27K

4 28 14_10am CDT_PRESS RELEASE MOU Signing between DOI, YMCA, and National League of Cities.docx
128K

4 25 14_12pm PDT_TALKING POINTS Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership Event and Kokanee Salmon Release.docx
26K

4 25 14_12pm PDT_PRESS RELEASE Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership Event and Kokanee Salmon Release.docx
133K

BLM Oregon/Washington Hot Topics - SUPPLEMENTAL
April 2014

Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

In March of 2012, the BLM in Oregon initiated resource management plans (RMP) revisions that will provide goals, objectives, and direction for the management of approximately 2.5 million acres of BLM-administered lands in western Oregon. The revisions to the existing RMPs will determine how the BLM will actively manage BLM-administered lands in western Oregon to further recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide clean water, to restore fire adapted ecosystems, to produce a sustained yield of timber products, and provide for recreation opportunities.

The Planning Criteria document was released in February 2014 with a comment period to collect input and insight to improve our analysis and methodology. In March 2014, a series of public meetings were held regarding the items to be considered in the full range of preliminary alternatives. Oregon/Washington BLM will now begin conducting the effects analysis for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Sage-grouse

On November 22, as part of a joint effort with the U.S. Forest Service to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat across 10 western states, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a 90-day public comment period.

The draft Oregon Sub-Regional Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment/EIS would amend the BLM land management plans covering the Andrews, Baker, Lakeview, Steens, Three Rivers, Brothers LaPine (east), Southeastern Oregon, and Upper Deschutes RMPs in Oregon. It considers six possible management alternatives for maintaining and increasing habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse on BLM-administered lands in Oregon.

Approximately 10 million acres of Oregon's Greater Sage-Grouse habitat is on BLM-administered lands. The decisions in this RMP Amendment apply only to BLM-administered lands in Oregon.Five counties, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, and US Fish & Wildlife Service are cooperating agencies on this project which will amend existing land use plans.

Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation

In 2010, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association approached the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the BLM requesting they develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for livestock grazing management on BLM lands in Oregon. The voluntary agreement will provide a mechanism for selecting, implementing, and monitoring conservation measures for the sage-grouse on BLM grazing allotments. This provides participating permittees a level of predictability regarding the rangeland management practices that are likely to be implemented on BLM allotments if sage-grouse become listed.

Maintaining and restoring sagebrush landscapes on public lands is the BLM's primary means of conserving sage-grouse populations and one of its most important current programs. The BLM is working in partnership with its sister agencies and the Western states to develop new or revised approaches to sage-grouse conservation through land-use plans. Working with our partners, we will use these land use plans to implement actions range-wide so we can conserve and restore the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat on BLM lands over the short term and the long term. Scoping is complete and the draft EIS will be published Nov. 22.

Five counties, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, and US Fish & Wildlife Service are cooperating agencies on this project which will amend existing land use plans.

Simultaneous with development of the CCA, the Harney County Soil and Water Conservation District and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service are preparing a Programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for Private Lands in Harney County, Oregon. While the BLM is not a signatory to the CCAA, it is participating in its development at the request of Harney County. Ongoing collaboration between the parties working on these agreements seeks to have the CCA and CCAA working together in concert. The CCA will likely be signed prior to signing the CCAA.

Ruby Pipeline

In November 2013, the BLM announced the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final SEIS) for the Ruby Pipeline Project.

The BLM received 31submissions from the public, agencies, tribes, organizations, and businesses during the comment period. Comments on the Draft SEIS received from the public and resulting from internal BLM review were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the Final EIS. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not significantly change the analysis or the proposed decisions.

The pipeline has been constructed and is currently operational. It includes an approximately 678-mile long, 42-inch diameter interstate natural gas pipeline that crosses 368 miles of federal land beginning near Opal, Wyoming, extends through northern Utah and northern Nevada, and terminates near Malin, Oregon.

Wind Energy

In Oregon, as of June 30, 2013, there were four authorized (44,960 acres) plus one pending (15,826 acres) wind testing ROWs in Oregon, for a total of 60,786 acres. This represents a 45% wind testing acreage decrease from February 2013. There were also three pending wind farm development ROWs (34,208 acres). This represents a 265% pending wind farm development acreage increase in Oregon from February 2013. There is also one authorized wind farm (108 acres) in Oregon, Lime Wind, which began operation in 2011.

In Washington there was one authorized wind testing ROW and one pending wind farm development ROW occupying the same project area, Saddle Mountain West (22,096 acres). So the net acreage change for wind testing and development between February 2013 and June 2013 in Washington is essentially zero.

North Steens Transmission Line

On March 16, 2012, the BLM issued a ROW (under Title V of the Federal Land Policy Management Act) to Echanis, LLC (the project proponent) for the North Steens Transmission Line Project. The BLM and Echanis, LLC then worked together to ensure the 10 plans necessary for the next step in the process–a Notice to Proceed authority given by the BLM–met the intent of the project's Record of Decision. The project is a 29-mile, 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would convey power generated from wind farms proposed for development on private land on the north side of Steens Mountain. The planned transmission line would cross BLM and private lands.

On April 5, 2012, the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) filed a complaint in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon alleging that Secretary Salazar's decision to authorize a ROW over BLM land for the North Steens Transmission Line project in southeastern Oregon violated the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000, FLPMA, and NEPA. On May 21, 2012, the BLM issued a limited Notice to Proceed that allows the project proponent to move forward with non-ground-breaking activities in preparation for construction.

On September 12, 2013, District Judge Michael W. Mosman found that BLM's decision was not arbitrary and capricious. BLM prevailed on this case which would provide transmission for an anticipated wind farm on private lands in the Steens Mountains. However, due to the delay caused by the litigation, the uncertainty of an appeal being filed, and changes in wind energy tax incentives, the project is on hold and the proponent is looking for a buyer.

Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline

The Jordan Cove Energy and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline Project was originally proposed as a LNG import facility and pipeline in 2006. That project was Certificated (authorized) by FERC December 17. 2009. BLM did not grant a right-of-way (ROW) for the proposed pipeline at that time and consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries was not completed for the proposed import project. With the change to an export facility, the FERC vacated its Certificate on April 16, 2012 and required the project proponent to re-apply. A new Environmental Impact Statement process was initiated. With the exception of the South Dunes Power Plant, the footprint of the current project is substantially the same as the previously proposed project

The Malin natural gas hub is where Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline would connect with the Gas Transmission Northwest (GTN) pipeline, the major north-south pipeline carrying natural gas from Canada to California. It is also the end point of the Ruby Pipeline carrying natural gas from the Rocky Mountains.

The official Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) schedule has a release date of April 4, 2014. FERC and the participating agencies recognize that an extension of the schedule is required. FERC has not yet released a revised schedule. However, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) release date in early summer 2014 is widely anticipated. Projected release of the DEIS will likely generate significant public interest, concern and controversy. The current Project analyzed in Draft EIS includes:

- Construction of a natural gas liquefaction and export facility located in Coos Bay, Oregon (Jordan Cove Energy). Peak capacity rated at 6 million metric tons per annum of liquefied natural gas (LNG).
- Construction of an access channel and marine berth.
- Construction of a 420-megawat natural gas–fired electric generating system (South Dunes Power Plant) in Coos Bay, Oregon. This generating system will provide electricity to the LNG facility.
- Construction of a 232-mile-long, 36 inch diameter underground welded steel pipeline. Rated at 1,060,000 dekatherms per day of natural gas from the existing hub in Malin, Oregon to the Jordan Cove Energy facility.
- Construction of ancillary LNG storage, transport, pipeline compression stations, and communications systems.

Approximately 40 miles of BLM-administered land is crossed by the proposed pipeline and 31 miles of USFS-administered lands is crossed by the proposed pipeline. Less than one mile of Bureau of Reclamation administered lands are crossed by the proposed pipeline. However easements and facilities associated with the Klamath Basin Project are crossed by the proposed pipeline.

The proposed ROW does not conform to the existing applicable land and resource management plans of the BLM and the USFS. Thus the DEIS contains proposals for amendment of these plans necessary to make provision for the proposed pipeline ROW grant. These proposed amendments to allow project-specific exceptions to the application of the core components of the Northwest Forest Plan could be controversial and potentially precedent setting.

Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement

Representatives of the Klamath Tribes, Upper Basin irrigators, the State of Oregon, and the United States have developed a Comprehensive Agreement for water management and restoration in the Upper Klamath Basin. Each party is currently reviewing the agreement, and will decide whether to sign it over the next thirty days.

In July of 2013, the Klamath Basin Task Force was convened "...to resolve the water, power and other resource management issues in the Klamath River Basin." The letter directed the Task Force to develop a settlement of water use and habitat restoration issues in the Upper Klamath Basin that results in:

- At least 30,000 acre feet of increased water inflows into Upper Klamath Lake through a voluntary program to reduce water usage;
- Permanent resolution and protection of significant riparian areas in the Wood River Valley and the Sprague, Sycan, and Williamson river basins sufficient to produce the habitat improvement needed for fisheries; and
- Regulatory assurances for water and land uses in the Upper Basin, including compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- In December of 2013, the parties reached an Agreement in Principle. On February 28, 2014 the parties completed work on the Proposed Agreement.

In addition, on February 14, 2014, Governor Kitzhaber declared a drought emergency in Klamath County. The drought declaration provides additional tools for managing limited water supplies. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has approved $750,000 in state funding for water use reduction, and federal agencies are contributing additional funds. The Governor's office is also working with state and federal agencies to bring additional assistance to the community.

BISON CONNECT

RE: ASLM/BOEM Update

Janice.Schneider@lw.com <Janice.Schneider@lw.com> Tue, Apr 22, 2014 at 2:27 PM
To: laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov, tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov, [redacted]ios.doi.gov
Cc: laura_davis@ios.doi.gov, benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov

One other data point is that we are not envisioning Brandi taking over Jim's existing portfolio (so sage grouse and landscape mitigation, for example, would stay with Jim). Rather, she is proposed to be taking over the counselor FTE.

Best, J.

From: Laura Marquez [mailto:laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 1:36 PM
To: Tommy Beaudreau; Sally Jewell
Cc: Laura Davis; Benjamin Milakofsky; Schneider, Janice (DC)
Subject: RE: ASLM/BOEM Update

Sally,

I have attached Brandi Colander's resume for your review. She comes highly recommended from CEQ as well as Jim Lyons and we were all very impressed with her during the interview process. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Laura

From: Beaudreau, Tommy [mailto:tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 1:31 PM
To: Sally Jewell
Cc: Laura Marquez; Laura Davis; Benjamin Milakofsky; Janice.Schneider@lw.com
Subject: Re: ASLM/BOEM Update

Sally,

This group - the Laura D., Laura M., Ben, Janice and I - is in agreement and alignment on each of these moves. I

agree it would be beneficial to talk through the key considerations with you when you have a moment. In the meantime, Laura M - can you send the Secretary Brandi's resume?

Thanks,

TPB

On Tue, Apr 22, 2014 at 1:01 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Laura -

There is a lot in this message that I would like to discuss, at least with Tommy, as I presume he has been central to the decisions. (b)(6)
(b)(6)

On the DAS positions, I am supportive. I know nothing about Brandi and we have some really important initiatives in process, from renewables to sage grouse to our conventional energy and mitigation strategies that Jim has been involved with. You say that she "will" backfill Jim's position, which suggests that an offer has been made and accepted. I have not seen a resume and have no sense of her background. It would be helpful to know more about that decision and her qualifications, and also some reassurance that both Tommy and Janice are aligned on this direction.

Please fill me in on the process when you have a minute.

Thanks,

Sally

On Apr 22, 2014, at 7:43 AM, Laura Marquez <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Sally,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

On a positive note, the ASLM front office team is shaping up very nicely. David Haines, the other BOEM candidate, has accepted a conditional offer to serve as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for ASLM. We are also planning to move Jim Lyons into the other DAS role and we will backfill his position with Brandi Colander, former Deputy General Counsel for CEQ. As the candidates get closer to finishing the vetting process, we will develop a rollout plan to announce the new team.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Laura

Laura R. Marquez

White House Liaison

Department of the Interior

Direct: 202-208-1694

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Latham & Watkins LLP

RE: ASLM/BOEM Update

Laura Marquez <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Apr 22, 2014 at 6:02 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Janice.Schneider@lw.com

Thanks, Sally. She has a great background and is going to fit in really well with the team.

Laura

From: Sally Jewell [mailto:(b)(6)@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 5:00 PM
To: Laura Marquez
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau; Laura Davis; Benjamin Milakofsky; Janice.Schneider@lw.com
Subject: Re: ASLM/BOEM Update

Laura -

Fantastic background. Thanks for sharing - I look forward to meetings Brandi.

Sally

On Apr 22, 2014, at 10:35 AM, Laura Marquez <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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>
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Laura R. Marquez

White House Liaison

Department of the Interior

Direct: 202-208-1694

<Colander Resume Feb 2014 2pg.pdf>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, April 25, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Apr 25, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL MEETS WITH TRIBES IN SUQUAMISH . The Kitsap (WA) Sun (4/24, 91K) reports that nine tribes met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Rep. Derek Kilmer for a tribal leadership summit in Suquamish on Thursday. Jewell said, "My goal is to take 500,000 acres of fee lands into trust, and I encourage the tribes to continue to submit their applications and emphasize this administration's commitment to processing these applications." According to Larry Roberts, an official with the BIA, "while it can sometimes take years for the federal government to move land into trust for tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is trying to speed up the process." Roberts said, "We have made it a high priority for our regional directors to prioritize fee to trust acquisitions. And in situations where there is a question or challenge to an application, we have put in a process where larger parcels are reviewed more quickly."

The Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (4/24, Carson, 338K) reports that the tribes told Jewell that "consequences of climate change are threatening their economies and cultures and that they need federal help to deal with intensifying climate-related problems." Jewell said the BIA is "helping prepare climate action plans that will include climate considerations in all federal Indian programs." The bureau "funded 19 tribal grants related to climate change in fiscal year 2013, she said, including several for tribes at the summit."

The Peninsula (WA) Daily News (4/25, 41K) reports that Jewell also "stressed the need to solidify the tribes' economic base." Jewell noted that "opportunities exist for Native students to graduate into industries that can protect the environments of reservations while strengthening the tribes' abilities to be self-sufficient."

CONSERVATION GROUPS URGE SECRETARY JEWELL TO CRAFT NATIONAL SITING PLAN FOR WIND-POWER PLANTS. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/25, 705) reports that conservation groups are asking Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to craft "a national plan for siting commercial-scale wind-power plants in locations

that cause the least amount of impacts to birds, bats and other sensitive wildlife." The coalition of "more than 70 groups...sent a four-page letter to Jewell arguing that a detailed plan is needed to highlight areas best suited for large-scale wind development and, perhaps more importantly, to identify areas where such development would cause too many natural resource conflicts." They ask Jewell to "follow the path the Interior Department forged several years ago for commercial-scale solar development on federal land in the Southwest."

INTERIOR'S MITIGATION PROPOSAL WORRIES REP. TIPTON. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (4/25, 73K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's "proposal for a 'landscape-scale mitigation' approach to environmental issues on federal land in the West has yet to take shape, and that could undermine its merits," Rep. Scott Tipton said Thursday. Duing a meeting with municipal and county leaders from northwest Colorado, Tipton "asked whether they had been consulted by Interior Department officials about the management of the public lands that surround them," but "no hands went up among the 20 or more members of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado meeting in the Mesa County Workforce Center." the article notes that Tipton's office also "wasn't consulted on Jewell's plan to visit Moffat County in February to learn about federal, state, local and private efforts to conserve the greater sage-grouse." Tipton said that "the lack of detail about the plan is troubling."

INTERIOR'S YOUTH INITIATIVE SEEKS TO GET KIDS OUTDOORS. For his blog at the Emmett (ID) Messenger-Index (4/25, 22K), Ken Levy writes that the Interior Department's Youth Initiative seeks "to get youngsters to play, learn and prepare for careers, and spend a little less face time with electronic devices." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said "this generation of kids is becoming less connected to nature than any other generation while getting more and more connected to technology." Interior "wants to balance this trend and keep kids interested in nature and the outdoors."

TEXAS TECH CLIMATE SCIENTIST ON TIME'S 100 INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE LIST. The Lubbock (TX) Avalanche-Journal (4/24, 176K) reports, Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist at Texas Tech has been named to the TIME 100, Time Magazine's list of influential people for 2014. At Texas Tech, Hayhoe serves as director of the Climate Science Center. The center, along with others under the banner of the Interior Department's South-Central Climate Science Center, "provides natural resource managers with tools to address the impacts of climate change." Hayhoe said "she feels she was chosen to represent a group that some may find paradoxical: Christian climate scientists."

Also covering the story is the Amarillo (TX) Globe News (4/24, 133K).

SPORTSMEN'S GROUPS URGE SUPPORT OF LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. The Deseret (UT) News (4/25, 610K) reports that "a coalition of more than 100 sportsmen's organizations is reminding Congress it needs to direct dollars to critical fish and wildlife habitats and preserve access on public lands." Groups from 11 states signed off on a letter Thursday urging support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF KING COVE ROAD. KTVA-TV Anchorage, AK (4/25, 1K) continues its series with a second part on the issues surrounding the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

FEDERAL STUDY FINDS MERCURY FISH AT NATIONAL PARKS. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (4/24, 687K) reports that "a federal study found small levels of the contaminant in rainbow trout and brown trout at three Grand Canyon creeks – Bright Angel, Havasu and Shinumo – as well as in fish at 20 other parks." While none of the levels found by the NPS and USGS "exceeded standards for mercury set by the Environmental Protection Agency, Colin Eagles-Smith, the lead author, said the findings provide the first comprehensive look at mercury levels in western national parks." Eagles-Smith said, "We often hear the negative side of the story with things like mercury. The positives from this study were that we studied a lot of parks and a lot of lakes and in the majority of those systems, mercury concentrations were low."

NPS CELEBRATES CHACO CANYON'S DESIGNATION AS AN INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK. The AP

(4/25) reports that the NPS is celebrating Chaco Canyon's designation as an International Dark Sky Park. According to the article, "the dark sky designation was made last fall, but the National Park Service had to put off the celebration until now due to the government shutdown."

Also covering Dark Sky Places recognized by the Dark Sky Association are USA Today (4/25, Loew, 5.82M) and the High Country (CO) News (4/25, 74K).

NPS PROVIDES ADVICE TO ARUBA'S ARIKOK PARK. The Curaçao (ANT) Chronicle (4/25) reports that a team from the NPS "traveled to Aruba March 24 – 29 to provide technical advice on the management of Aruba's Arikok National Park and a proposed system of more than a dozen smaller protected areas." NPS Chief of Planning Patrick Gregerson, Superintendent Pat Kenney with the Cape Lookout National Seashore, and Jon Putnam of the Office of International Affairs met with high-level Aruban governmental officials and management and board of Arikok National Park Foundation (FNPA) during their visit. The NPS is "preparing initial recommendations for FNPA, and there are plans for a follow-up workshop to help Arikok staff develop a management planning document."

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO HELP YOSEMITE SEQUOIAS. The New York Times (4/25, Pogash, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports on efforts to improve the health and protection of sequoias in Yosemite National Park, and details some aspects of a $36 million undertaking to do so. The National Park Service and Federal Highway Administration are each spending about $8 million, while the nonprofit Yosemite Conservancy will cover $20 million of the cost. Among the steps being taken are the rerouting of roads and parking lots, removal of additions like a tourist tram and gift shop, and the addition of elevated walkways. The Times highlights the importance of public-private partnerships in protecting national parks and natural treasures, especially in the wake of "the new fiscal reality."

NPS EXPANDS PARTNERSHIP WITH CONFLUENCE PROJECT AT FORT VANCOUVER. The Hispanic Business (4/25, 110K) reports that the NPS and Confluence Project have "entered into a new, innovative partnership to enhance programming at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site." The agreement will "create educational events annually at the Fort, including Confluence's Gifts from Our Ancestors program." Tracy Fortmann, Superintendent, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, said, "We are ecstatic with our newly expanded partnership with the Confluence Project. Through this partnership, our community, as well as the visitors who come from across the nation and around the world, will have the opportunity to experience more educational programs, exhibits, and tours right here in our national park."

MOUNT BALDY AT INDIANA DUNES TO REMAIN CLOSED INDEFINITELY. The Chicago Tribune (4/25, Lourgos, 2.3M) reports that Mount Baldy in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will "remain closed indefinitely as scientists investigate holes discovered in the terrain less than a year after a Sterling, Ill. boy was nearly killed in a sinkhole at the popular landmark." According to the article, "Mount Baldy, its parking lot, trail and beach will remain closed to vehicles and pedestrians as the investigation continues this summer and perhaps even into the fall." Acting Superintendent Garry Traynham said, "Mount Baldy is one of the most visited sites in the national lakeshore, attracting thousands of visitors each year. But the continued development of these holes in the dune surface poses a serious risk to the public. Our first obligation must be to the welfare of our visitors who are here for an enjoyable outing."

MAINE GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE DOESN'T RULE OUT A NATIONAL PARK. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (4/24, 166K) reports that "independent gubernatorial candidate Eliot Cutler promised Thursday to personally lead an effort to revitalize the northern Maine economy as governor that could include a Katahdin-region national park." After an informal afternoon meeting with the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, Cutler said, "The real issue is not are we for or against the national park. The real issue is what is the best way to capitalize on this area's tourism and recreation." He added, "I believe a national park and national recreation area could easily be among the components of a plan to develop the recreational and tourism potential of this area, and I would lead a process that would create that plan. But it is really important to me and the people of this region that the plan be one that they are closely involved in and support."

EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR JAMESTOWN'S 407TH ANNIVERSARY. The AP (4/24) reports that "a celebration of the 407th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, America's first permanent English settlement, is set for May 10." Jamestown Day will "feature a variety of entertainment and educational programs at two local

attractions."

NPS CANCELS SCOPING MEETINGS RELATED TO INTRODUCTION OF BISON AT BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK. The Rapid City (SD) Journal (4/25, 141K) reports that the NPS has "canceled all scoping and environmental assessment meetings related to the introduction of bison on the South Unit of Badlands National Park." Instead of the meetings, the agency will "accept comments on the proposed bison reintroduction plan online at go.nps.gov/bisoncomments."

Bureau of Land Management:

GOP, CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTERS DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM BUNDY. Coverage of the controversy over Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy's disagreement with the BLM shifted after the New York Times ran comments from Bundy on race and slavery. On Thursday, many of the Republican politicians and conservative media personalities who had been backing Bundy distanced themselves from him, though Bundy himself defended his remarks. The political shift over the issue was summarized by Andrew Kaczynski of Buzzfeed, who noted on Twitter that while Fox News had mentioned Bundy 458 times in April before Thursday, by 4:00 p.m. EDT Fox had mentioned Bundy just twice – while MSNBC had mentioned Bundy 26 times.

Of the three broadcast networks, only the CBS Evening News (4/24, story 6, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M) covered the story Thursday evening, saying that "high-profile supporters" of Bundy "are stampeding away from him" after his comments. Bundy "became a celebrity among some conservatives this month." CBS (Cordes) said Sen. Rand Paul "called Bundy's comments 'offensive.' Nevada Sen. Dean Heller, who had praised Bundy as a patriot, called the comments 'appalling and racist.'" But on Thursday afternoon, "Bundy defended his remarks." Bundy: "These people, they're not slaves no more. They seem to be slaves to the welfare system and this type of thing, but they have opportunity."

The Washington Post (4/25, Lowery, Blake, 4.22M) says Bundy's "GOP defenders...rapidly abandoned him on Thursday following reports of incendiary remarks that the white rancher made about minorities." The New York Times (4/25, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Paul said, "His remarks on race are offensive, and I wholeheartedly disagree with him."

The Washington Times (4/25, Richardson, 455K) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop said that Bundy's "remarks damaged his cause." Bishop said, "His comments are inaccurate and degrading, and I think they are sad. Unless I am missing something, I don't think it had any relevance to the situation he has, but the fact that he said them does not help his situation, does not help his case, does not help his credibility."

The New York Times (4/25, Curtis, Nagourney, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "commentators on Fox News, which had championed Mr. Bundy's cause, also expressed distress at his remarks." Fox News' Greta Van Susteren said on her website, "Let me make this plain: I condemn what Cliven Bundy said about African-Americans." Meanwhile, commentator Sean Hannity "reiterated his distress about government overreach — 'armed agents, sharpshooters, snipers, dogs, stun guns' — even as he denounced the leader of the standoff for his remarks."

On the other hand, Politico (4/25, Topaz, 73K) reports that "conservative radio host Dana Loesch said that the flare-up over Cliven Bundy's comments on race is missing the point." Loesch, who has "defended the Nevada rancher on her website and on Fox News, on Thursday suggested that The New York Times coaxed an unseasoned public figure into a tangential discussion about race."

Also covering the story are the Washington Post (4/24, 4.22M), the "Post Politics" blog of the Washington Post (4/24, 4.22M), the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (4/25, 237K), the US News & World Report (4/24, 645K), TIME (4/25, 24.1M), Reuters (4/25, Dobner, Gorman), the New York Daily News (4/25, 4.36M), and the Detroit Free Press (4/25, Camia, 1.02M).

Bundy Stands By Comments. The AP (4/25) reports that "on Thursday during an outdoor news conference near his ranch 80 miles from Las Vegas, he echoed the same sentiment: 'Are they slaves to charities and government subsidized homes? And are they slaves when their daughters are having abortions and their sons are in the

prisons? This thought goes back a long time.'"

Also reporting on the story is the "E2 Wire" blog of The Hill (4/25, 237K).

Reid Calls Bundy "A Hateful Racist." Politico (4/24, Topaz, 73K) reports that Senate Majority Leader Reid, who is from Bundy's state of Nevada, said in a statement, "Today, Bundy revealed himself to be a hateful racist. ... It is the height of irresponsibility for any individual or entity in a position of power or influence to glorify or romanticize such a dangerous individual, and anyone who has done so should come to their senses and immediately condemn Bundy."

The Huffington Post (4/24, Lavender, 11.54M) also reported on Reid's remarks.

Rep. Amodei Praises BLM Director Kornze. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (4/24, 166K) reports that Rep. Mark Amodei has "praised" BLM Director Neil Kornze's "leadership in the Bundy-BLM crisis, noting Komze's prudent behavior stopped the confrontation from getting out of hand." Amodei said, "I think I know the decisions on how to proceed and how this (standoff with Bundy) got started were probably made at the state-director level and not at the national director level. I can tell you that when I got a call from him (Kornze) that Saturday, saying we're going to suspend the operation, that shows me some leadership."

Utah Gov. Bundy Is Not "The Face For Public Lands Issues." The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (4/25, 470K) reports that utah Gov. Gary Herbert said Thursday that "national attention on the armed brinkmanship by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy with federal land managers could make Utah's fight to take control of federal public lands tougher." Herbert said, "Cliven Bundy should not be the face for public lands issues in Utah. Anytime you've got Americans lined up on one side and other Americans on the other side with guns pointed at each other, you've got a problem." Herbert does "not want such conflict to become the image in Americans' minds symbolizing fights over public lands, nor for Westerners to make him a hero." Instead he "calls for rational leaders to sit down to work through issues."

Also, the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (4/25, 470K) reports that the "anger...now spilling out in Nevada and Utah... could possibly extend further as the long-simmering debate over public-land use has flared into armed conflicts and ultimatums — including the tense standoff between Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, backed by militia members, and Bureau of Land Management officers." According to the article, "western leaders are afraid Bundy could become the image in Americans' minds symbolizing the fight over public lands."

Also covering the story are the AP (4/25, Knox) and the Deseret (UT) News (4/25, 610K).

More Commentary. USA Today (4/25, 5.82M) editorializes, "Wouldn't it be nice if we could all make up our own laws?" Bundy "has been doing that for 20 years, running his cattle on federal lands and refusing to pay the grazing fees that thousands of other ranchers do because he refuses to recognize the federal government's ownership. ... It's not hard to understand the frustration of a cattle rancher who is told – as Bundy was – that he can no longer run his cattle on federal grazing land because of harm to the protected desert tortoise. That decision deserves re-evaluation. But not at the point of a gun."

In a USA Today (4/25, 5.82M) op-ed, Bundy's son Ammon Bundy writes, "After over a hundred years of creating a pre-emptive right to the property through beneficial use of forage, water, access and range improvements, as recognized and protected by the state, the federal government claims that the land is not state land but US territory and theirs for the taking or charging of fees. ... Why did the federal government retain almost 90% of Nevada land after statehood?"

Additional commentary was provided by the New York Times (4/25, Barro, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), the Arizona Republic (4/24, 1.45M), Politico (4/25, Nather, 73K), the Christian Science Monitor (4/25, Jonsson, 566K), the US News & World Report (4/24, 645K), the National Journal (4/25, Subscription Publication, 561K), Slate Magazine (4/24, 14.77M), the New American (4/25, 9K), and PolitiFact (4/24, 9K).

Additional Coverage Of Bundy Ranch Showdown. Additional coverage was provided by the Los Angeles Times (4/25, Glionna, Simon, 3.46M), Politico (4/25, Topaz, 73K),

Additional Coverage Of Red River Dispute. Additional coverage of the Red River dispute was provided by the AP (4/25, Weissert, Blaney), the Washington Times (4/25, Chumley, 455K), FOX News (4/24, 74.23M), and FOX News (4/23, 74.23M).

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON STEPS TO REDUCE METHANE FROM MINING OPERATIONS ON PUBLIC LANDS. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (4/25, 43) reports that the BLM is seeking public comment on "a possible rulemaking that could reduce the waste of methane from mining operations on public lands." BLM Director Neil Komze said, "We welcome public input on ways in which we can both increase mine safety and improve the health of our environment. We will work with federal, state and local officials as well as with industry and nongovernmental organizations to explore ways to responsibly reduce methane emissions."

BLM TRYING TO REMOVE GEOCACHES FROM WILD PARTS OF CENTRAL OREGON. The AP (4/25) reports that the BLM is "trying to get geocaches removed from wilderness and environmentally sensitive areas in Central Oregon." The BLM's policy is "nationwide, and local bureau officials are working with geocachers to remove 84 of the containers, some seasonal." The point is "to keep man-made objects out of wild areas and avoid unplanned paths beaten to popular caching sites."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GROUPS FILE SUIT TO COMPEL FWS TO SUBMIT KLAMATH REFUGE PLANS. The AP (4/25) reports that "conservation groups want a court to order a federal agency to submit overdue plans for wildlife refuges in the Klamath Basin." The suit filed Thursday says "most of the nation's refuges complied with a 1997 law that required each to develop a 'comprehensive conservation plan' by October 2012, but the Klamath system has not." FWS spokesman Matt Baun said "tight budgets delayed the plans, but a draft is being readied for release."

GROUP FILES LAWSUIT TO CHALLENGE ELEPHANT BAN. The NewsDay (ZWE) (4/24, 289) reports that conservation organization SAFARI Club International has filed a lawsuit to challenge FWS' "reported abrupt and unwarranted ban on the importation of sport-hunted African elephants from Zimbabwe and Tanzania." The group "attacked the inadequacy of the information on which the USFWS based its decision and the department's failure to consider the beneficial impacts that US hunters and sport hunting have on African elephant conservation, including the economic deterrent to poaching that was funded by hunters."

LAWSUIT FILED TO STOP CENTRAL IDAHO GOLD-MINE EXPLORATION PROJECT. The AP (4/25, Ridler) reports that "a conservation group and the Nez Perce Tribe have filed a lawsuit against three federal agencies seeking to stop a central Idaho gold-mine exploration project by a Canadian company." The tribe and the Idaho Conservation League filed the lawsuit Tuesday in US District Court in Idaho against the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service. The lawsuit claims "the agencies didn't adhere to federal environmental laws in approving the three-year Golden Meadows Exploration Project proposed by Midas Gold Inc."

DEADLY BAT DISEASE ON THE MOVE. The AP (4/25, Sanz) reports that "white-nose syndrome is on the move, and wildlife biologists are worried." Wildlife biologists say "the threat is real, and no one knows how to stop the spread." Biologists said the "biggest impact of the disease – besides decimating entire colonies of bats in some caves – may be its impact on the agriculture industry."

FWS PLANS SEA LAMPREY CONTROL. The Midland (MI) Daily News (4/25, 28K) reports that FWS "personnel will apply lampricides to the Chippewa River, Pine River and Carroll Creek systems in Isabella, Gratiot and Midland counties to kill sea lamprey larvae burrowed in the stream bottom." The applications will be conducted between May 6 and May 15.

US Geological Survey:

USGS, CALTECH SELECT LONG BEACH AS TEST SITE FOR EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. The Long Beach (CA) Press-Telegram (4/24, 194K) reports that "the city of Long Beach was selected by Caltech and the US Geological Survey to serve as a test site for an earthquake early warning system, officials announced today." The California Integrated Seismic Network Earthquake Early Warning System uses "existing seismic

networks to detect temblors in order to send out a warning before destructive seismic waves reach areas outside of the epicenter." Deputy City Manager Reginald Harrison said, "The earthquake early warning system provides the city with another tool, in addition to CERT classes to prepare residents and all-hazards training to prepare staff, in the event of a disaster or major emergency. Once fully developed, this technology could literally save lives."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

OSMRE HOSTING PUBLIC MEETINGS ON FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT AND NAVAJO MINE ENERGY PROJECT. The Indian Country Today Media Network (4/24, 45K) reports that the OSMRE's Western Region is "hosting nine public meetings to address environmental impacts of" the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine Energy Project. Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, or Diné CARE, is "encouraging all Navajo citizens to attend a meeting." Colleen Cooley, Diné CARE's Four Corners energy outreach organizer, said, "We were trying to say wait to purchase the mine until this document came out. We were saying they should have waited and assessed what the potential impacts might have been. Instead, they rushed into it."

LEADING FRACKING FIRM WILL DISCLOSE CHEMICALS IT USES. USA Today (4/25, Winter, 5.82M) reports that "in a major shift quietly announced Thursday," Baker Hughes, a "leading hydraulic fracturing supplier," said it would begin "disclosing all of the chemicals used in so-called fracking without regard to trade secrets." The move comes a month after an Energy Department task force "recommended changes to improve transparency at FracFocus, where companies can voluntarily report the chemicals they use."

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OIL TAX REVENUE $184 MILLION SINCE JULY 1. The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (4/25, Dalrymple, 656K) reports that North Dakota's Three Affiliated Tribes have collected $184 million in oil tax revenue since July 1, 2013 primarily as a result of increasing shale oil production at Fort Berthold. The Pioneer Press reports that the tribes plan to use the increasing funds to spend $100 million rebuilding truck-worn roads, another $100 million on a bridge project and $65 million in housing for medical staff "as its clinic expands to a 24-hour ambulance service in response to an increased number of accidents."

Offshore Energy Development:

JUDGE'S DECISION IN AK ARCTIC DRILLING CASE SEEN AS "GOOD NEWS." The Los Angeles Times (4/25, Dave, 3.46M) reports US District Judge Ralph Beistline "adopted almost completely" a deal brokered by Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK) and Earth Justice attorney Erik Grafe to "redo an environmental impact study that underestimated the amount of recoverable oil and, potentially, the risks to delicate Arctic habitat" off the coast of Alaska. The Times reports Sen. Begich called the judge's ruling "good news," and Grafe "also hailed the decision" as a "good outcome." Once the new analysis has been completed, the Times writes, "the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will have to decide whether to move forward with or cancel the agreed-upon leases with Royal Dutch Shell, ConocoPhillips and other companies."

Also reporting on the story is the Alaska Dispatch (4/24, 7K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSION REVIEWS OPPOSITION TO PLACING MEDICINE TREE IN TRUST. The Ravalli (MT) Republic (4/25, 19K) reports that the Ravalli County Commission "took no further action Thursday on the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' request to place a parcel of sacred land into trust." Instead, county officials will wait for the Interior Department "to make a decision on the request to transfer title of the 58-acre parcel to the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

Also covering the story is The Missoulian (4/25, 122K).

Top National News:

OBAMA SAYS US WILL RETALIATE AGAINST CHINA IF IT SEIZES JAPANESE TERRITORY. Apart from passing mentions in segments on the Ukraine crisis, President Obama's trip to Japan was ignored by all three network newscasts Thursday evening. Print and online analysis focuses on the President's reiteration of US commitments to Japan in the context of its dispute with China over a group of islands. Several reports this morning, meanwhile – including a front-page article in the New York Times (4/25, A1, Landler, Rudoren, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) – indicate that a breakthrough on the Trans-Pacific Partnership is not likely to happen anytime soon, although that had been near the top of the President's agenda for his stay in Japan.

On Fox News' Special Report (4/24, 2.15M), Bret Baier reported that on Thursday, Obama "again warned Vladimir Putin that a new set of sanctions is 'teed up' if Russia does not live up to the Ukraine peace deal," but Baier added, "that deal took another hit today, and, with it, the President's quickly eroding standing among anxious Asian leaders." Correspondent Ed Henry reported that the President "quickly went from diplomacy to defense, growing agitated when a reporter pressed on whether his promises...to rush to Japan's defense if China makes an aggressive move for territory is merely another Syrian-style 'red line.'" Obama was shown saying, "First of all, the treaty between the United States and Japan proceeded my birth, so, obviously, this isn't a 'red line' that I'm drawing." Henry added, "With...Obama's credibility on the world stage on the line, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stressed he believes the US will back him up with military support if necessary." According to Henry, "questions about that trust have overshadowed...this trip."

Under the headline "Obama: US Would Defend Japan In Islands Dispute," the AP (4/25, Correspondent) reports that on Thursday, the President "show[ed] solidarity with Japan" when he "affirmed...that the US would be obligated to defend Tokyo in a confrontation with Beijing over a set of disputed islands." The AP says the President was "wading cautiously into a diplomatic minefield" when he "insisted the US takes no position on whether the islands in the East China Sea are ultimately in the dominion of China or Japan." According to the AP, "the dispute over the islands, called Senkaku by Japan and Diaoyu by China, has badly strained relations between" Japan and China, and "other US allies see the disputes through the broader lens of China's growing influence in Asia."

McClatchy (4/25, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K) also reports that the President "made it clear that the US isn't taking sides in the eventual resolution of the sovereignty of the islands." Nevertheless, McClatchy says Abe, "standing next to Obama...called the alliance between the two countries 'unwavering and indispensable' and said Obama has displayed 'tremendous enthusiasm' in the relationship." However, according to McClatchy, "Asian allies" of the US "who share the region with an increasingly assertive China were said to be rattled by U.S. reluctance to intervene deeply in Syria and Ukraine."

Likewise, Voice of America (4/24, Ramirez, 21K) said on its website that the President's trip to Asia "comes at a time when confidence is shaky among many Japanese who see the United States' failure to make good on its threats to attack Syria and its reluctance to provide lethal aid to Ukraine as signs that the US may not come to Japan's aid against China."

The Japan Times (4/25, Aoki, 16K) reports that "faced with the difficult task of reassuring Japan about America's military commitment in the region without inflaming Beijing," the President "stressed that this is the 'standard interpretation' of the treaty that past US administrations have maintained, and the position stands."

Reuters (4/25, Felsenthal, Sieg) reports that the President said, "We don't take a position on final sovereignty determinations with respect to Senkaku, but historically they have been administered by Japan and we do not believe that they should be subject to change unilaterally and what is a consistent part of the alliance is that the treaty covers all territories administered by Japan." Reuters also reports that, in response to the President's remarks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said, "The so-called US-Japan security treaty is a product of the Cold War era and it cannot be aimed at a third party and ought not to harm China's territorial sovereignty." In an analysis for the Japan Times (4/25, Yoshida, 16K), Reiji Yoshida calls the President's reiteration of US policy "significant."

The Wall Street Journal (4/25, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, praises the President's comments on US obligations to defend Japan in the event of territorial aggression from China. The Journal also applauds the President for having told a Japanese newspaper, "I commend Prime Minister Abe for his efforts to

strengthen Japan's defense forces and to deepen the coordination between our militaries, including by reviewing existing limits on the exercise of collective self-defense."

Trade Deal Breakthrough Continues To Elude Obama. According to the New York Times (4/25, A1, Landler, Rudoren, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), the President "encountered [a] setback...to" on of his "most cherished foreign-policy projects...as he failed to achieve a trade deal that undergirds his strategic pivot to Asia." The Times says the President "had hoped to use his visit" to Japan "to announce an agreement under which Japan would open its markets in rice, beef, poultry and pork, a critical step toward the trade pact," but Abe "was not able to overcome entrenched resistance from Japan's farmers in time for the president's visit." But the Times goes on to report that "the trade talks with Japan still hold some hope of yielding a landmark deal, since it is in the interests of both Mr. Abe and Mr. Obama."

The Washington Post (4/25, Eilperin, 4.22M) reports that as the President "called for 'bold steps' to reach an accord, he noted that both he and his Japanese counterpart faced domestic resistance to such a deal," saying, "I've been very clear and honest that American manufacturers and farmers need to have meaningful access to markets that are included under TPP, including here in Japan." The Post says that despite the persistent roadblocks, American and Japanese "negotiators worked into the night in an effort to make progress on the trade deal."

The AP (4/25, Superville) reports that "the top Japanese negotiator said Thursday that talks had come to a stop only to have a US official later say that discussions would continue."

According to the Japan Times (4/25, Aoki, 16K), the Us and Japan "have been at odds on Japan's tariffs on five agricultural product categories – rice, wheat, beef and pork, dairy products and sugar."

The Japan Times (4/25, Yoshida, 16K) reports that Akira Amari, Japan's fiscal and economic policy minister, and USTR Michael Froman "have engaged in marathon negotiations in the past weeks, but failed to show tangible results before the Obama-Abe summit." The Times notes that Amari, who "said he and Froman have already had talks totaling as long as 40 hours this month," on Thursday acknowledged that "if I was asked to serve a minister in charge of (the TPP talks) again, now I would say I don't want to take it."

According to Politico (4/24, Bradner, 73K), "The AFL-CIO, the Sierra Club, consumer advocates – most of the liberal groups that typically align with Obama – are ready to do battle with the president over the Trans-Pacific Partnership." Politico adds that "congressional sources say there are at most 60 or so Democrats who might support the pact."

The Wall Street Journal (4/25, Nelson, Hayashi, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that on Thursday, the President said, "Prime Minister Abe has got to deal with his politics; I've got to deal with min. All of us have to move out of our comfort zones and not just expect that we're going to get access to somebody else's market without providing access to our own."

Fareed Zakaria, in his column for the Washington Post (4/25, 4.22M), says, "It's fair to say that Obama has not given enough attention and energy to his own 'pivot' strategy." According to Zakaria, the President's "second-term team is conspicuously lacking in Asia experts." Zakaria also writes that in a "sad shift," the President's fellow Democrats have "long turned [their] back on the TPP."

Ahead Of Seoul Visit, Obama Calls Attention To China's Role In Containing North Korea. Justin McCurry, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (4/25, McCurry, 566K), says that on Thursday, "in an attempt to placate Beijing," the President "described China as a 'critical country not just to the region but to the world,'" before adding, "We want to encourage the continued peaceful rise of China."

AFP (4/25) notes on Thursday, the President also "described as 'critically important' China's role in keeping" North Korea, "its wayward ally in check after South Korea said heightened activity at the North's main nuclear test site could point to an imminent test – its fourth." AFP quotes the President as saying, "China's participation in pushing the DPRK (North Korea) in a different direction is critically important."

Bloomberg News (4/25, Kim, 2.76M) reports that "South Korean Defense Ministry officials said this week that

activity at North Korea's underground test site at Punggye-ri signaled it may soon detonate a fourth device," but left "open the possibility it may be a bluff."

The Korea Herald (4/25, 441K) says the "nuclear threats from North Korea, including the possibility of an additional nuclear test, will be a key topic when President Park Geun-hye holds talks with" President Obama "later this week." The Herald notes that the President "is scheduled to arrive in Seoul on Friday for a two-day visit amid growing concerns that Pyongyang could conduct its fourth nuclear test."

According to the New York Times (4/25, Sanger, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), "Almost everything American intelligence agencies...thought they understood two years ago about Kim Jong-un, the North's young leader, turns out to have been wrong." The Times adds that "the briefings given to President Obama after Mr. Kim inherited leadership said it was almost certain he would be kept in check by his more experienced uncle," but, "instead," Kim "had his uncle and dozens of others executed." The Times says that "as a result," while in South Korea, the President "will be confronting the question of whether his strategy of 'strategic patience' with the North has been overtaken by reality."

According to Yonhap (4/25, Lee, 441), President Obama "will inform" Park "of Washington's decision to 'reconsider' the current plan to hand over wartime operational control (OPCON) of South Korean troops to Seoul in 2015," which will "mark Washington's clearest signal yet that it's in favor of Seoul's request for another delay in the OPCON transfer."

North Korea May Be Planning Imminent Nuclear Test. AFP (4/25) reports President Obama arrived in Seoul Friday "to growing signs North Korea was defiantly readying another nuclear test. ... Satellite photos taken just two days ago showed additional activity at North Korea's Punggye-ri test site that is 'probably related to preparations for a detonation,'" the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University said. CNN (4/25, Brumfield, Acosta, Liptak, 77.95M) says on its website that while North Korea's "heightened activity at its nuclear test site was already known," a South Korean official said Thursday that the North "has closed off the entrance to the tunnel" at the site, the "final step needed" before an underground detonation can be performed.

Obama Meets With Relatives Of Japanese Abducted By North Korea. Japan Today (4/25, 4K) reports that on Thursday, President Obama "met with the three relatives of two Japanese citizens who were abducted by North Korea."

Obama Meets Japan's Emperor, Attends State Dinner. McClatchy (4/25, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that on Thursday at a state dinner, the President "toasted what he said was a strengthened alliance with Japan." McClatchy notes that Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko "received Obama at Japan's Imperial Palace," and that the President said he had "'very fond memories' of his last visit four years ago" when he "didn't have any gray hair." McClatchy says the emperor replied, "You have a very hard job."

Under the headline "In Japan, Obama Plays Soccer With A Robot And Warns Students Of Climate Change," the Washington Times (4/25, Wolfgang, 455K) report that "before addressing a group of 30 Japanese students – and warning them about the looming devastation of climate change – the president toured Tokyo's National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation and viewed a demonstration of an award-winning robot that can...kick a soccer ball."

Obama Visiting South Korea As It Grapples With Aftermath Of Ferry Disaster. The AP (4/25, Pace) reports that South Korea "is reeling from the ferry disaster that has left more than 300 dead or missing." The AP says "the tragedy has consumed South Korean President Park Geun-hye in the lead-up to Obama's visit and could distract from the security and economic agenda she had been expected to highlight during her meetings with the U.S. president." According to the AP, the President "probably will balance his expected statements – warnings against North Korean nuclear provocations and calls to lower tensions in regional territorial disputes – with words of condolence for the ferry victims and the people of South Korea."

The Korea Times (4/25, Kim, 165K) also reports that the President "is expected to express his condolences to the victims." According to NBC Nightly News (4/24, story 5, 0:25, Williams, 7.86M), "Divers have now recovered 175 victims."

US Seeks Part Of Proceeds From Sale Of House Owned By Former South Korean President. The Los Angeles Times (4/25, Kim, 3.46M) reports that on Thursday, "the U.S. government...filed a civil forfeiture claim in Los Angeles to seize more than $700,000 in alleged corruption proceeds from former South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan."

China Accused Of Making Grab For Indonesian Territory. Gen. Moeldoko, commander in chief of Indonesia's armed forces, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (4/25, Moeldoko, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), says that as a result of its claims in the South China Sea, China has effectively made the case that islands belonging to Indonesia are within their territory. Moeldoko says the Chinese claims have forced Indonesia to increase its military presence in the region.

Malaysian PM Says His Country Must Cooperate With Both US And China. Under the headline "Malaysia Prime Minister Aims To Set Fresh Diplomatic Course During Obama Visit," the Wall Street Journal (4/25, Hookway, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that ahead of President Obama's visit to Malaysia on Saturday, Prime Minister Najib Razak says he intends to tout his country's growing influence in the region. Najb is quoted as saying, "We are poised to play a bigger role." Najib goes on to say that "the key to the future stability and prosperity for the whole region" is "how to manage that relationship between the United States and China. ... We don't want to be in a position where we have to choose one over the other."

ADMINISTRATION EXPECTED TO PURSUE TWO-STEP DEPORTATION REFORM. Reuters (4/25, Edwards, Cowan) reports that the Administration may split the changes it plans for deportation policy into two separate parts, with several small steps in the near term followed by a second round of significantly stronger measures later this year. In the short term, DHS is expected to limit the deportations of illegal immigrants who have not committed serious crimes. Immigration advocates who have been in communication with the White House expect the Administration to act on issues such as work permits for some immigrants or government issued IDs.

GOP Senators Push Back. Meanwhile, USA Today (4/25, Gomez, 5.82M) reports that a group of 22 GOP senators sent a letter to the President on Thursday "urging him to abandon a review he ordered to find a way to conduct deportations 'more humanely.'" The Republicans "say that any proposals to weaken the deportation system in the U.S. would represent 'an astonishing disregard for the Constitution, the rule of law, and the rights of American citizens and legal residents.'"

The AP (4/25, Werner) reports that the letter also says that the changes the Administration is reportedly considering would amount to "near complete abandonment of basic immigration enforcement."

Politico (4/24, Kim, 73K) said that the letter "underscores the delicate political dynamics that major executive action on deportations – like the kind that is demanded from liberal activists and the Latino community – could have on Capitol Hill, as well as on immigration reform."

The Daily Caller (4/24, May, 408K) reported that the letter points out that, "according to the LA Times, since 2009 there has been a 40 percent decline in interior removals" In addition, based on ICE data, "essentially all the aliens removed from the United States were either convicted criminals or repeat border crossers – in fact, in 2013 ICE ended up releasing some 68,000 deportable criminal aliens back into the U.S."

MIXED ECONOMIC NEWS OVERSHADOWED BY HOUSING MARKET WEAKNESS. Thursday's economic news was fairly mixed, with durable goods orders rising, along with consumer confidence, but jobless claims up more than expected. However, overshadowing this were concerns that housing market weakness, demonstrated in several recent reports, was holding back the economy.

The New York Times (4/25, Irwin, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the while the housing market is "booming" in some major urban areas, outside of them "housing is nowhere close to pulling its economic weight." The Times says that investment in residential property "remains a smaller share of the overall economy than at any time since World War II, contributing less to growth than it did even in previous steep downturns," while building activity also remains far below its postwar average. The piece looks at the causes, such as a lack of new buyers despite population growth and a rise in the popularity of rented apartments.

In a similar piece looking at the issue, McClatchy (4/25, Hall, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that recent

economic reports suggest that "a speedier recovery of the housing market does not appear in the cards this year." Housing experts "are dialing back rosier projections in favor of another ho-hum year, where home sales are flat and prices climb to make ownership less affordable."

The AP (4/25) reports that durable goods orders rose 2.6 percent in March, up from a 2.1 percent increase in February, according to Commerce Department data released on Thursday. The two months of increases offset significant declines in December and January. The AP adds that demand for "core capital goods, considered a good guide for business investment plans, rose 2.2 percent in March after a 1.1 percent drop in February."

Bloomberg News (4/25, Chandra, 2.76M) reports that the increase points to "faster production that will help spur the economy." Economists surveyed by Bloomberg had expected overall orders to rise at 2.0 percent. The largest rise "in computers and electronics orders since November 2010 highlighted a broad-based pickup in demand that will help the economy rebound after a weather-plagued first quarter."

Reuters (4/25, Mutikani) says that combined with other reports, the durable goods data suggests that the economy began to accelerate at the end of the first quarter as the harsh winter weather receded.

Bloomberg News (4/25, Smialek, 2.76M) reports that first-time claims for jobless benefits rose 24,000 last week to 329,000 "as the Easter holiday period made it more difficult to adjust the data for seasonal variations." Economists surveyed by Bloomberg News expected claims to come in at 315,000. The four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, rose 4,750 to 316,750.

Mortgage Lending At Lowest Level In 14 Years. The Wall Street Journal (4/25, A1, Timiraos, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that during the first quarter of this year, mortgage lending fell to its lowest level in 14 years, bedeviled by rising interest rates. According to Inside Mortgage Finance, lenders originated $235 billion in mortgages during the first quarter, down 23% from the fourth quarter of 2013 and 58% over the first quarter of 2013. The Journal says that the drop in mortgage activity was almost all caused by a sharp drop in refinancing activity, which has become less attractive as rates have risen.

Consumer Comfort Hits Highest Level In Eight Months. Bloomberg News (4/25, Jamrisko, 2.76M) reports that its Consumer Comfort Index rose to minus 25.4 for the period ending April 20, the "the second-strongest level since January 2008, from minus 29.1 the prior week." Bloomberg says that market increases are "bolstering sentiment among wealthier Americans while an improving labor market boosts prospects for a broader swath of earners." However, further wage increases "may be needed to strengthen household budgets and keep a floor under confidence as the world's largest economy regains its footing."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Creating A Two-Speed Internet."*** The New York Times (4/25, board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says in an editorial that "dividing traffic on the Internet into fast and slow lanes is exactly what" the FCC "would do with its proposed regulations, unveiled this week. And no amount of reassurances about keeping competition alive will change that fact. ... Figuring out what is reasonable will be very difficult, and the commission will struggle to enforce that standard."

"A Questionable Decision On Egypt." An editorial in the New York Times (4/25, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) blasts the US decision to resume some military aid to Egypt, saying it "will come across as a vote of confidence in a military-dominated government with an authoritarian agenda and a track record of violent crackdowns on dissenters and political opponents." The Times argues that the Obama Administration must "be more honest about the unsavory choices it is making, including whether any support for a repressive army will ever bring stability and democracy."

"The Regeneration Of 'Degenerate Art.'"

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The High Cost Of Secrecy."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/25, 4.22M) criticizes Saudi Arabia's lack of transparency about the outbreak of the coronavirus known as MERS, arguing that reports about infections "have lacked details, and the kingdom does not encourage a free press to poke

around." Noting that "uncertainties about the MERS virus persist, including how it spreads, whether it has efficiently begun human-to-human transmission and whether its genetic makeup has evolved," the Post argues that "there must be a move to clarity, cooperation and transparency" from Saudi Arabia.

"Virginia Edges Toward The Abyss." In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/25, 4.22M) discusses Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's plan to expand Medicaid in the face of increasing intransigence by state GOP lawmakers and the threat of a shutdown. The Post calls McAuliffe "long on determination but short on strategies," and details the possible effects of a state shutdown if the stalemate continues. However, the editorial also criticizes Republicans for their actions, and says that "It's time for Republicans to negotiate in good faith," concluding that a shutdown would cause real harm to the state's citizens and "must be avoided."

"Clearing The Air." In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/25, 4.22M) discusses the FDA's decision to start evaluating the risk from e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, calling it a "welcome, if overdue" move. The Post argues that the risk from e-cigarettes especially needs to be evaluated, given the rising rates of youths using them as well as adult smokers consuming more nicotine. The regulation of e-cigarettes, the editorial says, will require the FDA to "determine how to keep e-cigarettes available to those who might benefit from them while minimizing their capacity to hook young people or encourage continued smoking."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Detroit's Bankruptcy Revival."*** The Wall Street Journal (4/25, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes on the bankruptcy deal in Detroit, saying that the actions of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and emergency manager Kevyn Orr, while often criticized, have been successful in advancing Detroit toward recovery. The Journal details the actions of Orr especially, noting the resistance he has encountered with each step as well as the improvements Orr's decisions have brought. The editorial also argues that although Treasury Secretary Lew will visit Detroit to underscore the Obama Administration's commitment to the city's recovery, Federal aid from Washington has only delayed the city's inevitable collapse, and it was Snyder and Orr's decision to declare bankruptcy which has had the most positive impact.

"Uncover Oregon." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/25, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) blasts the failure of the Oregon health insurance exchange website, saying it wasted $303 million in ACA grants. The Journal argues that the Federal takeover of the Oregon exchange is an effort to save the career of Sen. Jeff Merkley who may be in danger as a result of the growing scandal and his vote in favor of the ACA.

"Obama Stands With Abe." The Wall Street Journal (4/25, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, praises the President's comments on US obligations to defend Japan in the event of territorial aggression from China. The Journal also applauds the President for having told a Japanese newspaper, "I commend Prime Minister Abe for his efforts to strengthen Japan's defense forces and to deepen the coordination between our militaries, including by reviewing existing limits on the exercise of collective self-defense."

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Boston Firefighters Would See 18.8% Pay Hike
Hacker Group Anonymous Targets Children's Hospital
Warren Gets Wide Exposure, Friendly Questions On Book Tour
Demise Of 5 Cherished Ducks Brings A Trail Of Human Turmoil
Mass AG Hopeful Aided Online Gambling Venture

Boston Herald:
Jared Remy's Jailhouse Screed: Leave My Dad Out Of This

Los Angeles Times:
Foreign Deaths Rise In Afghan Attacks
'Citizen Soldiers' Drawn To Guard Nevada Ranch
Ukraine Official Mourned As Hero

Neutral Net May Be A Lost Cause
A New Dimension In Aid

Wall Street Journal:
Demand For Home Loans Plunges
Ukraine Halts Military Push
Amazon Tries Its Own Deliveries
Syria Civil War Forces Brutal Split In Aleppo

New York Times:
Obama Suffers Setbacks In Japan And The Mideast
Rand Paul and Wealthy Libertarians Connect As He Weighs Running
Lobbying Efforts Intensify After FCC Tries 3rd Time On Net Neutrality
In Florida Tomato Fields, A Penny Buys Progress
Trying To Bring Baldwin's Complex Voice Back To The Classroom
Americans Die In Grim Trend In Afghanistan
That Little Lost Boy in Red, Back With His Family

Washington Post:
Low-Level US Judges Limit Digital Evidence
Conceived With A Calculated Risk
GOP Breaks With Nevada Rancher Over Race Remarks
Russia Begins Drills On Border
Nighttime Talk Fest Keeps Hope For Relisha Alive On The Internet

Financial Times:
Kerry Launches Verbal Attack On Moscow
Nadella Sets Out Vision For Microsoft
Sotheby's Battle Framed By Artistic Taste
Zimmer Agrees $13.4bn Biomet Acquisition
GM Vows To Regain Customer Trust
Michael Dell Prunes Gardening Portfolio
Difficult Bet For Investors On Eurozone QE

Washington Times:
Republicans Take Identity Politics Approach To Court Minority Voters
NRA Gears Up To Mark A Year Of Victories At Convention In Indianapolis
Nevada Rancher's Racial Remarks Cost Him Range Of Support
US Warns Russia On Military Posturing; Russia Warns Ukraine On Killings
For Wizards, Game 3 Is Already A Charm For Fans, Franchise

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Afghanistan-Americans Killed; Ukraine Crisis; Measles Outbreak; Nevada-Rancher Controversy; East Coast Forest Fires; FDA-Electronic Cigarettes; FLOTUS-Q&A Session; McDonalds Mascot Makeover.
CBS: Afghanistan-Americans Killed; Ukraine Crisis-Kerry; Ukraine Crisis; Ukraine Crisis-Obama; FDA-Electronic Cigarettes; Nevada-Rancher Controversy; GM Profits; New Mexico-Nuclear Waste Leak; China-Sandstorm; FLOTUS-Q&A Session.
NBC: Measles Outbreak; Afghanistan-Americans Killed; Ukraine Crisis; Israel-Palestine Peace Talks; South Korea-Ferry Boat Disaster; Nevada-Rancher Controversy; Ambassador Kennedy Interview; FDA-Electronic Cigarettes; Califomia-Drought; FLOTUS-Q&A Session.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Obama-Asia Tour; Afghanistan-Americans Killed; Ukraine Crisis-Kerry; Envoy Airlines Flight Diverted;
CBS: Ukraine Crisis-Kerry; FDA-Electronic Cigarettes; NTSB-Oil Tanker Rail Safety; Oregon-Medical Waste Controversy; New Jersey-Forest Fires; Weather Forecast.
FOX: Ukraine Crisis-Kerry; Obama-Asia Tour; FBI-International Sexual Abuse Investigation; Miley Cyrus Released From Hospital; Nevada-Rancher Controversy; New Jersey-Forest Fire; Salmonella Outbreak; Ladies'

Home Journal Ends Monthly Publication.
NPR: Obama-Asia Tour; North Korea-Nuclear Tests; Israel-Palestine Peace Talks; DHS-Inspector General Relationship Criticized; Afghanistan-Americans Killed; Washington Loses NHLB Waiver; GM Profit; Netflix-Cable TV Deal.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – Meets and greets with Embassy personnel, Okura Hotel, Tokyo, Japan, closed press; participates in the farewell greet with the Emperor and Empress of Japan, limited pool spray at the top; departs Tokyo, Japan en route Seoul, Republic of Korea, open press; arrives Seoul, Republic of Korea, open press; participates in a naturalization ceremony, National War Memorial, Seoul, Republic of Korea, travel pool coverage; participates in a wreath laying ceremony, National War Memorial, Seoul, Republic of Korea, travel pool coverage; tours the Gyeongbok Palace, Seoul, Republic of Korea, travel pool coverage; participates in the official arrival Ceremony with President Park of the Republic of South Korea, Blue House Seoul, Republic of Korea, pre-set pool coverage; participates in the guest book signing and official photo with President Park of the Republic of South Korea, travel pool coverage; holds a bilateral meeting with President Park of the Republic of South Korea, travel pool spray at the top; delivers brief remarks with President Park on the return of cultural artifacts, travel pool coverage; holds a joint press conference with President Park of the Republic of South Korea, pooled for cameras and open to limited correspondents; participates in a working dinner with President Park of the Republic of South Korea, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – No public schedule.

US Senate: Not in session.

US House: Not in session.

VAN HOLLEN, CASTRO CONFERENCE CALL – 11 a.m. Budget Committee Ranking Member Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., and Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, hold a press conference call to discuss the impact of the Ryan Republican Budget on young Americans. Notes: RSVP to Jorge.aguilar@mail.house.gov to receive call-in information.

Other: NASA – EARTH DAY EVENTS – April 21 – 27. NASA celebrates the 44th anniversary of Earth Day with a variety of activities. Location: Various. Contacts: Steve Cole (stephen.e.cole@nasa.gov), 202-358-0918.

STEM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE – April 23 – 25. U.S. News STEM Solutions hosts The National Leadership Conference. Theme: "Where Employers and Educators Meet." Speakers include: Norm Augustine, former Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin; Nate Ball, Host, PBS Kids "Design Squad"; Kimberly Bryant, Founder, Black Girls Code; Mitchell Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Glenn DuBois, Ph.D., Chancellor, Virginia Community College; System; Joan Femini-Mundy, Ph.D., Assistant Director, National Science Foundation; Michael Gallagher, President and CEO, Entertainment Software Association; Linda Gojak, President, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; Wendy Hawkins, Executive Director, Intel Foundation; Gwenne Henricks, Chief Technology Officer, Caterpillar; Freeman Hrabowski III, Ph.D., President, University of Maryland-Baltimore County Cheryl Hyman, Chancellor, City Colleges of Chicago; Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D., President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Xiaochun Luo, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer, Avon; Col. Rich Morales, Executive Director, Joining Forces, The White House; Eduardo Padrsn, Ph.D., President, Miami Dade College; Hadi Partovi, Co-Founder and CEO, code.org; Kim Reynolds, Iowa Lieutenant Governor; Dara Richardson-Heron, M.D., CEO, YWCA USA; James Shelton, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education (4:15 p.m.); William Swanson, Chairman, Raytheon Company. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW. Contacts: Lucy Lyons llyons@usnews.com

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ANNUAL CONFERENCE – April 24 – 25. The conference will focus on the global business environment and prospects for growth. Business and government leaders will address export opportunities and challenges for American companies, the role of emerging markets, and the U.S. Trade Agenda. The Bank will also celebrate "80 years of promoting American jobs and exports." Highlights: U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker will speak on a panel moderated by John Podesta at the 2014 Ex-Im Bank Annual Conference in Washington, DC. She will discuss the Administrations trade agenda and the Commerce Department's "Open for Business Agenda." Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz will also participate in the conversation. Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. NW. Contacts: Matt Bevens, matthew.bevens@exim.gov. Notes: To RSVP, please email your name and media organization to meetings@cmpinc.net. On-site registration may be limited. For coverage of morning sessions, all cameras are asked to arrive by 8:00 a.m. Kerry's remarks corrected to Thursday.

ABI'S 32ND ANNUAL SPRING MEETING – April 24 – 27. Highlights: 10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. "Large Complex Trusts: A General Motors Case Study" Panel Discussion on General Motors bankruptcy case with an in-depth discussion about the issuance of public units in a major bankruptcy. The session will also include the challenges addressed by the trust such as liability claims. 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Keynote by Detroit Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr. Contacts: John Hartgen jhartgen@abiworld.org (703-894-5935)

USA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FESTIVAL FINALE EXPO – April 25 – 27. The USA Science & Engineering Festival. Highlights: 8 a.m. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden will join Marillyn Hewson, president and CEO of Lockheed Martin, NASA astronaut Rex Walheim, and members of the agency's Orion Program to announce the winning high school team in the Exploration Design Challenge. The winning team's radiation shield design will fly on the Orion spacecraft's first flight test, which is targeted for December. 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Media Sneak Peek Friday festival preview for press, school children and invited military families. 2 p.m. Google+ Hangout featuring a "Mars Virtual Field Trip" will be hosted by NASA and the U.S. Department of State in partnership with Google via NASAs Distant Learning Network (DLN). The collaborative, science based program will engage students from the U.S., Argentina and Nicaragua to help them better understand the need for strong skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW. Contacts: Shawn Flaherty, 703-554-3609. Media: Marc Schulman marc@usasciencefestival.org. Notes: Festival Expo is open to the public April 26-27 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

USA SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FESTIVAL – April 25 – 27. 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. USA Science and Engineering Festival, which hosts student teams from colleges and universities across the country who exhibit sustainable projects and compete for EPAs People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Award. Awardees will be recommended for a grant of up to $90,000 to further develop their projects and take them to the marketplace. This years P3 Competition and National Sustainable Design Expo is co-located with the USA Science and Engineering Festival at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The USA Science and Engineering Festival is the largest science festival in the United States and will feature a Sustainability Pavilion where EPAs P3 student teams will display their innovative projects alongside exhibitors from other organizations and businesses showcasing their work in sustainability. EPA Speakers at 12:30p. VIP media availability at 3p. Speakers: Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Lek Kadeli, Acting Assistant Administrator for EPAs Office of Research and Development; Bob Kavlock, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science for EPAs Office of Research and Development; Jim Johnson, Director of the National Center for Environmental Research, EPA Office of Research and Development. Sunday 27th – 4:00-5:30 PM EDT: Lek Kadelis presentation of the P3 Awards Ceremony, with remarks by Bob Perciasepe. Location: Sustainability Pavilion, located in Hall E of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place (between 9th and 7th Streets NW on L Street NW)

USIP – CHINA'S ROLES – 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The U.S. Institute of Peace and the Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service present "China's Roles in the World," a daylong conference designed to explore China's growing role in the global economic, military and political realms and implications for regional security and U.S. policy. Highlights: 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunchtime address on China and the Wider West with Sir Peter Westmacott, British Ambassador to the United States. Location: 2301 Constitution Ave. NW. Notes: Journalists should contact Allison Sturma at interviews@usip.org.

NASA – LOCKHEED MARTIN – DESIGN CHALLENGE WINNER – 8 a.m. NASA and Lockheed Martin announce the winning radiation shielding experiment for the Orion Exploration Design Challenge. The winners design will be

built and flown on Orion's upcoming Exploration Flight Test-1. Following the announcement, the students and subject matter experts from Lockheed Martin and NASA will be available for interviews. Location: USA Science and Engineering Festival, Lockheed Martin Booth, Washington Convention Center. Contacts: Al Black (ablack@qorvis.com), 202-683-3130

USCC – CLEAN ENERGY – 9 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission holds a public hearing on "U.S.-China Clean Energy Cooperation: Status, Challenges, and Opportunities." This hearing will examine, among other things, China's energy needs and clean energy policies, the recent developments in the U.S.-China clean energy cooperation, and the implications of such cooperation for the United States. Location: 608 Dirksen.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PRIVACY – 12 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. The Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee hosts a panel discussion on "Revising The Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA): Should Congress Require a Warrant?" Speakers: James X. Dempsey, Center for Democracy & Technology; Richard W. Downing, Principal Deputy Chief, Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section (CCIPS), United States Department of Justice; Nancy Libin, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP; Katie McAuliffe, Executive Director of Digital Liberty, Federal Affairs Manager for Americans for Tax Reform. Location: 2226 Rayburn.

WASHINGTON INSTITUTE – ISLAMISTS IN GOVERNMENT – 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. The Washington Institute hosts a Policy Forum exploring "Islamists in Government: Do They Moderate Once in Power?" with State Department official Haroon Ullah, who will be joined by Institute fellows Eric Trager and Vish Sakthivel. Location: Stern Library and Conference Room, The Washington Institute, 1828 L St. NW, Suite 1050. Contacts: Brittany Parker (Bparker@washingtoninstitute.org), 202-452-0650. Notes: RSVP to press@washingtoninstitute.org. Members of the media wishing to cover the event with cameras should call 202-230-9550.

ARLINGTON – ACTIVE DUTY BURIAL – 12:30 p.m. Burial service for U.S. Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Mark A. Mayo, who was shot aboard the USS Mahan in March. Open for media coverage. Meet on Memorial Avenue by 12:30 p.m. All media intending to cover the service must contact Melissa Bohan, Arlington National Cemetery public affairs, for an escort: melissa.bohan@us.army.mil or (703) 614-1091. Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. 22211.

WILSON CENTER – SOUTH ASIA NUCLEAR – 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. The Asia Program and the Los Alamos National Laboratory present a meeting of the Wilson Center's Nonproliferation Forum on "South Asia's Nuclear Competition in the New Era of Extremism, Militancy, and Terrorism." Speaker: Peter Lavoy, Partner, Monitor 360, former acting assistant secretary of defense and deputy director of national intelligence. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

EDUCATION TOWN HALL – 1 p.m. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and White House Director of Policy Cecilia Munoz take part in a town hall discussion with educators and teacher preparation experts on the importance of supporting high-quality teachers. Location: Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School, 101 N St. NW. Contacts: press@ed.gov, 202-401-1576.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The President is in Japan today. They invited him to the National Museum of Science and Innovation to show him, among other things, the robot that Honda developed. You may have seen incarnations of this. Now the thing can kick a soccer ball. It's cute watching the President interact with a prototype which will one day enslave us all, isn't it?"

David Letterman: "And today is bring your sons and daughters to work day. ... But if you think about it, take your kid to work day, that's how we ended up with George W. Bush, isn't it?"

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to the Supreme Court's decision to uphold Michigan's ban on the use of race in deciding college admissions.] "Finally, this decision ends the unfair practice of admitting students based on their

race and allows more students to be admitted based on if their parents went there."

Jimmy Fallon: "While he was in Japan today, President Obama visited a science museum, where he actually played soccer with a robot. Yeah. Biden is negotiating with the prime minister in Ukraine and Obama is playing soccer with a robot. It's like the White House version of 'Freaky Friday.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Of course, the situation in Ukraine still has a lot of people worried, and now the FAA is banning US airlines from flying near Crimea. So, if you were planning on a summer vacation to a place where families are torn apart by conflict, you'll have to stick with Disney World."

Seth Myers: "Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced plans to build the Barack Obama College Preparatory High School, which will open in 2017. The Obama school is expected to be very popular at first. And then, who knows?"

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Briefing Materials for Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Apr 28, 2014 at 5:20 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: dailybriefingbinder OS <dailybriefingbinder@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Attached are the briefing materials for Tuesday, April 29, as well as some additional materials for the week. These have been uploaded to Google Drive in their respective folders.

Thank you,

Zaina

7 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 2-7)

4 29 14_2pm_Internal Discussion with Anne Castle, Suzette Kimball, Tommy Beaudreau and Laura Davis.pdf
45K

4 29 14_9am_Interagency Senior Leaders Partnership Meeting (1).docx
30K

4 29 14_3pm_Taping for DOI Law Enforcement Ceremony.docx
18K

5 1 14_145pm_Meeting with the Colorado Forum.pdf
41K

4 30 14_330pm_VERSION 2 Internal Pre-Brief on Principals Indian Education Meeting.doc
62K

4 30 14_430pm_Internal Pre-Brief for White House Council on Native American Affairs Meeting.doc
59K

4 30 14_2pm_Meeting with Governor Terry McAuliffe.doc
103K

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL DISCUSSION WITH ANNE CASTLE, SUZETTE KIMBALL, TOMMY BEAUDREAU AND LAURA DAVIS

DATE: April 29, 2014
LOCATION: Anne Castle's Office – Room 6657
TIME: 2:00PM – 2:30PM
FROM: Anne Castle, A/S for Water and Science, 202-208-7211; Suzette Kimball, Acting Director, USGS, 703-648-4454

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the memorandum is to provide you with background information regarding USGS biological research support to the Department and, particularly, the USFWS.

II. BACKGROUND

In 1993, then Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt made a fundamental change in management of DOI biological research and monitoring programs by transferring capabilities from seven DOI bureaus into a new bureau, the National Biological Survey (NBS). Secretary Babbitt's vision was that creation of NBS would strengthen the credibility of science in DOI by separating the conduct of science from decision-makers it supports. This decision, effected by Secretarial Order, followed a series of adverse judicial rulings in which courts criticized a number of Interior's decisions, finding that the science underpinning ESA analyses lacked credibility. Secretary Babbitt's goal was to create science capacity to tackle complex, cross-jurisdictional ecological problems, to increase the credibility of and respect for that science, and to ensure that unbiased data would be provided to decisionmakers.

From the outset, NBS as a separate entity met opposition on multiple fronts, and after three years Congress eliminated funding for NBS in the FY1997 Interior budget and transferred its functions, personnel, and facilities to the USGS at a funding level of $137.0M; $42.4M (-24%) below the original FY1994 enacted level of $179.4M.

USGS Biological Research Capabilities: Since consolidation within the USGS seventeen years ago, DOI biological science has thrived with its original mission intact to deliver proactive, independent, and policy-neutral science for management of DOI trust resources. The USGS currently maintains a national network of 17 major science centers, 61 associated field stations, 40 Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units co-hosted with universities, and 5 major research vessels operating on the Great Lakes. Total replacement value of USGS owned facilities dedicated to biological research is approximately $169M with annual operating costs of $28M. The USGS maintains and continuously upgrades a full breadth of research capabilities at these facilities, including fish and wildlife species biology and ecology, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, wildlife disease, genetics and genomics, invasive species detection and control, landscape, fire, climate change, and coastal and wetlands ecology, advanced technology, adaptive management, and structured decision-making for natural resource management.

Biological science is leveraged in the USGS through integration with the physical and natural sciences expertise in the bureau, making the interdisciplinary, often landscape-scale, approach required by today's complex natural resource issues readily available. This integrated approach allows for far greater understanding of the dependencies and relationships within landscapes, resulting in more robust science that can support sustainable resource management decisions. One recent example is the USGS response to Hurricane Sandy, in which expertise in wetlands ecology, migratory waterfowl, remote sensing, coastal and marine geology, hydrology, contaminants, toxics, and natural hazards were integrated to assess damage to eastern National Parks, Seashores, and Wildlife Refuges and to build the scientific basis for understanding resiliency of DOI coastal assets to future extreme events and supporting the recovery effort.

USGS Fundamental Science, Scientific Integrity, and Peer Review Policies: USGS maintains a rigorous peer review process to ensure scientific integrity and objectivity, which is invaluable to the Department in making tough decisions. USGS is recognized for leadership in developing and implementing DOI's flagship scientific integrity policy, which was largely modeled on previously existing USGS policy. Through strict adherence to these institutional policies and practices, USGS has garnered public trust and is more readily perceived as unbiased by a wide variety of stakeholder groups including Congress, other federal and state agencies, non-governmental institutions, and private industry. Without at all undervaluing the expertise and independence of other scientists within the Department of the Interior, USGS's lack of regulatory or management responsibility provides a degree of *perceived* independence that cannot be replicated in bureaus with those responsibilities. USGS' reputation for independence gives the Department enhanced credibility when it makes difficult decisions and reduces the risk that opponents will challenge the scientific basis for the decision.

Research in Support of DOI Management Needs: The vast majority of the portfolio of the USGS Ecosystems Mission Area, the primary USGS biology program, is focused on science support for DOI land management and regulatory responsibilities. This approach not only provides financial savings over a model that distributes research assets across multiple bureaus, but ensures a more harmonized Departmental approach to the most challenging natural resource issues of our time. This has been a significant advantage to DOI at a time when so many issues cross organizational boundaries.

In FY2014, the Ecosystems Mission Area is allocating its appropriated science funds into the following lines of work (% of funding, $158M total):

Imperiled Species	17.6%
Ecological Stressors	17.1%
Ecosystem Ecology	15.2%
Landscape Science	13.7%
Species of Management Concern	10.4%
Application of Advanced Technologies	9.1%
Invasive Species	8.4%
Restoration Science	7.3%

These lines of work directly support the DOI Mission. In FY2013, the USGS Ecosystems Mission Area leveraged its Congressional appropriations of $155 million with an additional $93M in reimbursable funds from a diversity of Federal, State, and NGO partners to support these lines of work. This significant leveraging – increasing the total budget by 60 percent – enables USGS to greatly increase its ability to address high priority research topics.

As evidenced by the examples provided in the attached appendix, several of the DOI bureaus share common science needs that can best be addressed through one DOI science bureau rather than duplication and fragmentation of effort across multiple bureaus.

USGS Support for FWS: The primary mission of the USGS Ecosystems Mission Area is to provide research, monitoring, data, and tools for management of DOI trust lands and species. The Ecosystems Mission Area evolved out of the USGS Biological Resources Division, which evolved out of the NBS. The NBS was formed by transfer of $141M, 1,522 FTE, and facilities from seven DOI bureaus, with an addition of $38M and 77 FTE in new appropriations. The largest portion of NBS assets came from the FWS.

Since creation of USGS Biological Resources Division in 1996, service to DOI bureaus from the Ecosystems Mission Area has remained roughly proportional to the original funding contribution, based on the most recent comprehensive inventory conducted with FY2011 data. This comparison, however, does not include science support to DOI bureaus including FWS from other USGS Mission Areas, such as Core Science Systems, Environmental Health, Water, and Climate and Land Change. Because these Mission Areas have all contributed expertise to ecosystem science in support of DOI bureaus, the benefits provided to the bureaus is greater than a simple comparison to the funding for the Ecosystems Mission Area. In FY2014, these Mission Areas are anticipated to contribute $17 million to DOI ecosystem science, of which over $12 million was directly for FWS projects.

The largest change to research design since the creation of NBS has been the evolution of projects that serve multiple bureaus, as resource management issues have become more complicated and affect a larger number of Federal, State, Tribal, and private landowners. Thus, to provide the science needed to protect DOI trust resources, particularly at a landscape level, the USGS now consults with an ever increasing and more complicated mix of interests. The USGS works very closely with partners to plan and prioritize research to help address the most pressing, visible, and controversial DOI management issues, such as energy development, grizzly bear, sage grouse, polar bear, Asian carp, and White Nose Syndrome in bats. These issues, by nature, span the interests of more than one DOI bureau or stakeholder.

USGS Overhead: USGS collects overhead on all externally funded projects as part of the full cost recovery requirements for federal agencies. For science centers conducting ecosystems work, the current composite rate – which includes overhead costs at the science center and bureau plus facilities -- ranges from 26 to 46 percent. In recognition of our role as science provider for the Department, USGS applies a reduced overhead rate of 15% plus facilities charges for DOI bureaus. USGS is currently analyzing and evaluating a number of innovative options that balance the need to pay for our laboratories and scientists with the recognition of our unique role in supporting Departmental science needs by further reducing rates to our sister

bureaus. USGS has presented some of these options to the DAS-Budget and had favorable discussion about ways to achieve this goal along a realistic glide path.

Research Coordination within DOI: Science in USGS has yielded many returns to the DOI family, but the existing model sometimes creates a challenge for coordination to ensure priorities of all bureaus are addressed within a limited funding environment. The limitation on meeting all science needs is the dollars available, not bureau affiliation. The best approach in these challenging environments is a dynamic, collaborative model in which bureaus plan and work together to meet science needs, drawing upon investments in the scientific capabilities of the whole of the USGS, the management and regulatory bureaus, and other partners and producing respected peer reviewed science to support management decisions that will withstand challenges. USGS has recently worked with FWS to develop a more effective model for multi-bureau science. Characteristic examples include: (a) planning to meet energy and wildlife research and funding needs for bats and eagles; (b) provision of models and tools to support the upcoming FWS sage grouse listing decision; and (c) joint research on White Nose Syndrome in bats . The key elements of these efforts were parallel management and science processes that included a critical steps to jointly negotiate and reach consensus on what would be implemented. Led by senior advisers in both Bureaus, managers across the country identified a list of short and long term critical decisions, deadlines for these decisions, and science gaps to making those decisions. Consensus was then reached on what research to conduct given available technology, capabilities, state of science, priority, and financially feasible in that 3-5 year time frame. A funding plan was then developed with assets from both Bureaus to implement the priority research.

USGS strongly supports these efforts to strengthen the use of science in decision-making and believes any action to reverse the separation between independent science and regulatory function would be unwise and a disservice to the Nation, the Department, and its bureaus. USGS maintains a significant commitment of financial resources to maintain core facilities, scientists, and administrative support that enables work to happen.

Appendix 1. Examples of Science to Support DOI.

- ***Sage-grouse:*** USGS has a broad research program focused on the ecology and conservation of sage-grouse and sagebrush habitats to support the FWS 2015 listing determination. Focus is on life history and population trends, sagebrush ecosystem function, threats of landscape change, restoration and rehabilitation techniques, and adaptive management strategies. Beyond the broad research program, USGS provides structured decision support and is developing the conservation effects database.

- ***Energy and Wildlife***: USGS commits considerable resources to provide research and tools for science-based decisions related to conventional, non-conventional, and alternate energy development, with recent emphasis on effects of wind and solar development on eagles, bats, endangered species, and birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Research priorities are developed in close coordination with FWS regionally and nationally.

- ***Asian Carp:*** USGS supports FWS science needs for carp management through the Administration's Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC). Research focus is on improved eDNA sampling design and analysis with the new FWS Whitney Genetics Laboratory, improved sampling gears and methods, integrated pest management, and development of a toxin to selectively kill Asian carp, for which FWS has preliminarily agreed to be the registrant and will likely coordinate Federal use of the formulation.

- ***Grizzly Bears:*** USGS conducts research on genetics, habitat, population structure, and feeding ecology of grizzly bears to support FWS conservation efforts in the Greater Yellowstone, Northern Continental Divide, and Cabinet-Yaak ecosystems. The USGS recently completed a comprehensive analysis Yellowstone grizzly bear diet that will be used by FWS in their threats analysis for a proposed delisting rule, to be completed by the fall 2014.

- ***Arctic:*** USGS provides significant research support to FWS for management issues in the Arctic. Coordination occurs through the DOI Alaska Cooperative Planning Group, the Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable, and the Alaska North Slope Science Initiative. Current focus is on information needs related to an anticipated walrus listing decision in 2017, and monitoring impacts of climate change on polar bear populations.

* ***Golden Eagles:*** USGS provides long-term research to FWS for management of golden eagles. Current focus is on migration and occurrence maps relative to proposed wind development corridors, wintering information, and mortality estimation tools and monitoring design to estimate take associated with wind energy projects.

- ***Bats:*** USGS provides research support to FWS to establish guidelines for wildlife-friendly wind energy development. Wind energy is one of the fastest-growing energy industries in the world, and wind turbines are killing increasing numbers of bats in both North America and Europe. Current focus is on causes of bat collisions with turbines and assessment of potential consequences of turbines on susceptible bat populations.

- ***Klamath Basin:*** USGS supports FWS and other DOI bureaus in long term monitoring of federally listed suckers in the Klamath basin to determine reasons and pathways for failed recruitment over the past two decades. This information has contributed to the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and the Biological Opinion for recovery of endangered suckers. The USGS will be active in adaptive management through the dam removal process.

* ***Desert Tortoise:*** USGS conducts research and monitoring to support FWS recovery plans for the desert tortoise. Current focus is on habitat modeling, genetic connectivity analysis, and threats assessments to guide tortoise translocations during alternative energy development. The BLM Rapid Ecological Assessments also used the USGS tortoise habitat and connectivity models for the basis of ecoregional assessments for the Mojave and Sonoran deserts.

* ***Wildlife Disease:*** USGS provides national leadership for wildlife disease through surveillance and monitoring, outbreak investigations, emergency response, applied research and education, training and outreach. Current research focus is on avian influenza, chronic wasting disease, Brucellosis, sylvatic plague, white nose syndrome, and West Nile virus. Findings are provided to management agencies, such as FWS, to make timely, sound, science based wildlife management decisions.

* ***Fish Disease:*** USGS provides research and technical assistance to FWS National Fish Hatcheries and fisheries restoration programs for diseases affecting salmonids and other threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Current focus is on development of diagnostic and treatment methods, novel pathogens, susceptibility of Pallid sturgeon to viral hemorrhagic septicemia, Ichthyophonus infections in Yukon River Chinook salmon, disease in suckers and salmon in the Klamath Basin, infectious salmon anemia virus on the west coast, and emergence of infectious hematopoietic necrosis among steelhead on the Olympic Peninsula.

* ***Northern Spotted Owl:*** USGS works with FWS on competitive interactions between invasive barred owls and threatened northern spotted owls in the Pacific Northwest. This effort contributes to understanding of the effectiveness of barred owl removal on spotted owls' recovery, and is also relevant to a FWS critical habitat proposal for northern spotted owls. In addition, USGS research on genetics, population monitoring, and habitat requirements has been used in recovery planning for at least a decade.

• ***Invasive Snakes:*** USGS conducts research to support FWS, NPS, and the Office of Insular Affairs in efforts to detect and control invasive snakes. Examples include brown tree snakes in Guam and giant constrictor snakes in Florida. USGS assesses potential environmental and economic impact of various snake species to help inform FWS Lacey Act decisions.

* ***Black-footed ferrets:*** USGS is helping to develop a vaccine to protect black-footed ferrets and prairie dogs from sylvatic plague. The black-footed ferret is commonly regarded as the most endangered mammal in North America, and sylvatic plague is a major impediment to recovery. Controlling plague is considered critical in FWS recovery programs and conservation efforts for both prairie dogs and ferrets.

* ***Great Lakes:*** USGS provides scientific support to the FWS in the Great Lakes on a variety of high priority projects, including status and trends of lake trout populations, restoration of wetland functions in National Wildlife Refuges, restoration of lake sturgeon in the Huron-Erie Corridor, and recovery of the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. USGS maintains significant investment in deepwater fisheries monitoring that provides foundational assessments for management of Great Lakes fishery by FWS and state and Tribal management agencies.

* ***Southeastern US Adaptive Management:*** USGS works closely with the FWS to provide science to determine recovery status, population trends, and conservation strategies for T&E species in the southeast, including Gulf Sturgeon, Florida Manatee, Okaloosa Darter, and

American Crocodile. USGS also collaborates with FWS managers to evaluate reintroduction of endangered mussels, resolve taxonomic identities, and map genetic relatedness for mussel species throughout the Southeast.

* ***Joint Web Development Team:*** The USGS and FWS collaboratively staff a web applications development team to support the FWS Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS); a gateway website that provides access to data systems in the FWS Endangered Species and Fisheries and Habitat Conservation program areas, and LC-MAP, a collaborative workspace and tools allowing partners in a Landscape Conservation Cooperative to securely share, access, and analyze common datasets and information to further coordinated research, management, and resource conservation regardless of their agency affiliation.

* ***National Phenology Network:*** The USA National Phenology Network (NPN) hosted by the USGS is a national science and monitoring initiative focused on understanding how plants, animals, and landscapes respond to climatic variability and change. The NPN provides important capacity to DOI Bureaus through development of databases and user interfaces, standardized protocols, decision support tools, and education and outreach activities related to phenology and climate change. A key role of the NPN is to leverage DOI activities to other local, regional, and national partners.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Apr 29, 2014 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR TO PARTNER WITH CITIES, YMCA ON YOUTH INITIATIVE. The Environment & Energy Publishing (4/29, Estepa, 705) reports that the Interior Department announced plans on Monday to work with the National League of Cities and the YMCA of the USA to "get young people more involved with the outdoors." Department agencies will be "encouraged under the agreement to form relationships with NLC member cities and YMCAs to provide opportunities for local programs on federal lands." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "emphasized the need for collaborations, especially with partners that have histories with working with communities and young people." In a statement, Jewell said, "With this trifecta, I'm excited about the possibilities to leverage our existing resources and our collective expertise to inspire millions of young Americans to play, learn, serve and work in the great outdoors."

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (4/29, 656K) reports that Jewell, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, the president of the National League of Cities, and YMCA of America CEO Neil Nicoll "signed a three-way 'memorandum of understanding' at Harriet Island's Wigington Pavilion." The agreement "builds on a youth initiative created by Jewell's federal order in March." At the signing ceremony, Jewell "told the crowd that the current generation of tech-sawy young people is growing up highly scheduled and micromanaged by parents, leaving them limited opportunities to explore nature." Jewell said, "We have an opportunity to reconnect young people to the natural world, so they feel comfortable and safe there, and also competent and secure. My favorite classroom is the one that has no walls."

Also providing similar coverage is KSTP-TV Minneapolis-St.Paul, MN (4/29, 107K).

NEW MEXICO GOV. MARTINEZ INCREASES PRESSURE ON SUNZIA. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (4/29, 282K) reports that New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez is appealing directly to President Barack Obama and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "to develop an alternative plan for the proposed SunZia transmission line to avoid impacting White Sands Missile Range." Martinez wants the Interior Department "to either push the line farther north outside the extension area or bury sections of it." The article notes that "in a separate letter this month to Jewell and DOD Secretary Chuck Hagel, Martinez warned that the currently proposed route 'poses an unacceptable negative impact to critical test and evaluation missions.'" Martinez "implored Jewell to find another route or require the project proponents to bury sections of the line."

ST. CLAIR COUNTY SEEKS NATIONAL STATUS FOR CAHOKIA MOUNDS. The Belleville (IL) News-Democrat (4/28, 190K) reports that "the St. Clair County Board is calling on Congress to name Cahokia Mounds America's newest national park." According to a resolution unanimously approved Monday, Cahokia Mounds would become known as the Mississippian Culture National Historical Park. The measure also asks President Barack Obama to designate the site a National Monument under the Antiquities Act.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEWEST HISTORIC LANDMARKS. Additional coverage of the designation of the four new national historic landmarks was provided by PBS (4/29, 1.22M), the Albany (NY) Times Union (4/29, 522K), and Government Executive (4/29, 28K).

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC LANDS URGED. In an op-ed for the Denver Post (4/29, Metcalf, Morgan, 940K), Peter Metcalf, the CEO and president of Black Diamond Inc., and Ann Morgan, is the executive director of the National Wildlife Federation's Rocky Mountain Regional Center, criticize a proposal by Republicans to turn over control of public lands to states. They point out that surveys, economic reports, and public sentiment weigh against this idea. In conclusion, the authors call on the Republican National Committee to support public lands.

KLAMATH BASIN WATER PACT PRAISED. In an editorial, the Tri-City Herald (WA) (4/28, 115K) praises cattle ranchers and Native American tribes in Oregon's Upper Klamath Basin for "reaching an agreement last week to share access to rivers and cooperate on restoring habitat for endangered fish." The paper says that "if the tribes and ranchers want to put the lawsuits behind them and agree to share the water, the federal government ought to let them."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

CONTINUING COVERAGE: SEARCHERS COMBING CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK FOR MISSING FATHER, TWO KIDS. The AP (4/29) reports that searchers are still looking for a father and his two children who said they were lost in the Congaree National Park. Park spokeswoman Dana Sohen said search crews have checked about one-third of the 27,000 acres in the park east of Columbia. The family was last seen around 9:30 p.m. Saturday. The search will pause at dark but will continue Tuesday. Sohen says officials have closed the park until the family is found.

Providing similar coverage are NBC News (4/29, 7.5M), the Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (4/28, 317K), the Columbia (SC) Daily (4/28), the State (SC) (4/28, 299K), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (4/27, 585K), and WACH-TV Columbia, SC (4/29, 1K).

COURT RULES AGAINST UTAH IN OFF ROADS FIGHT. The Deseret (UT) News (4/29, 610K) reports that "the state of Utah and San Juan County may have lost a key fight over access to a road in Canyonlands National Park, but the roads war being waged against the US government is far from over." On Friday, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals held that "Utah and San Juan County failed to prove that Salt Creek Canyon Road was a 'public thoroughfare,' meaning the road remains off-limits to their rights-of-way claims under a Civil War-era statute." In their decision, justices "rejected the state's argument that uninterrupted periodic use over a 10-year period was sufficient to establish a claim to the dirt road — and therefore access by motorized vehicles." The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance lauded "the ruling as key to protecting valuable natural resources within Canyonlands."

TETON ROAD CONSTRUCTION DELAYS DURING PARK SEASON. The AP (4/29) reports that "several major

road projects will be under way during this travel season that will result in traffic delays in Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway." According to the NPS, "some projects will begin in early May and last through October or November."

NYTIMES OPPOSES PLAN FOR LG TOWER IN NEW JERSEY. In an editorial, the New York Times (4/29, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) expresses its opposition to LG's plans to build "a vastly oversized tower" on the Palisades along the Hudson River, and calls the rule change by officials in Englewood Cliffs, NJ to allow its construction "a shameful dismissal of the greater public good" which defies decades of protection for the cliffs. Despite the considerable public protest, the editorial says that LG is digging in its heels and going forward on the building, and argues that a better option for the company "would be to appreciate the public outcry for what it is: a protest against the potential degradation of a historic vista and corporate insensitivity by a remote multinational giant."

CORPS CRITICIZED FOR DELAYING APPROVAL OF CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT. In his column for the Miami Herald (4/28, Hiaasen, 822K), Carl Hiaasen criticizes the US Army Corps of Engineers for its delay of the approval of the Central Everglades Planning Project. According to Hiaasen, "because of the board's surprising decision not to act (which, naturally, happened on Earth Day), CEPP could be left out of the public water bill pending in Congress." He notes that "at immediate risk are the Indian River Lagoon, the St. Lucie estuary at the mouth of the Atlantic and the Caloosahatchee River emptying into the Gulf of Mexico."

Additional coverage was provided by the Bradenton (FL) Herald (4/29, 161K).

Bureau of Land Management:

CAPITOL POLICE INVESTIGATE THREATS AGAINST SEN. REID. Politico (4/28, Raju, 73K) reports that the US Capitol Police are "investigating threats made against Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid" for having called Cliven Bundy's supporters "domestic terrorists" and Bundy a "hateful racist." Capitol Police spokesman Shennell Antrobus said, "We are currently looking into threatening statements made against Sen. Reid as part of an ongoing investigation."

Also reporting on the story is the Las Vegas Review-Journal (4/29, 437K).

Rep. Amodei Praises BLM Chief Kornze. The Las Vegas Sun (4/28, 148K) reports that Rep. Mark Amodei has "praised new BLM chief Neil Kornze, saying his decision to abruptly halt the removal of Bundy's cattle from the range prevented a standoff from escalating into violence." Amodei also "chided two fellow members of Nevada's congressional delegation for their descriptions of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy's supporters." Amodei "took issue with Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's branding of them as 'domestic terrorists' and Republican Sen. Dean Heller's labeling of them as 'patriots.'"

Bundy Says He's "Just Like Rosa Parks". The Huffington Post (4/29, Mosbergen, 11.54M) reports that Bundy says he's actually 'just like' Rosa Parks. In a press release Friday, Bundy said "his fight against the government is similar to Parks' stand against segregation." Bundy's release stated, "I am standing up against [the federal government's] bad and unconstitutional laws, just like Rosa Parks did when she refused to sit in the back of the bus. She started a revolution in America, the civil rights movement, which freed the black people from much of the oppression they were suffering. ... I am doing the same thing Rosa Parks did – I am standing up against bad laws which dehumanize us and destroy our freedom."

Rep. Horsford Urges Sheriff Gillespie To Investigate Militia. KVVU-TV Las Vegas (4/29, 23K) reports that Rep. Steven Horsford, D-NV, on Monday sent a letter to Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie "conceming militia members who remain in Bunkerville following a standoff with the Bureau of Land Management earlier this month." Horsford said, "I am greatly concerned about the safety and well-being of my constituents after meeting with local community members this past week. I urge Sheriff Gillespie to investigate these reports, as this sort of intimidation cannot be tolerated."

Meanwhile, the St. George (UT) News (4/28, 3K) reports that the Mesquite Police Department have been "asked repeatedly about the safety of residents and visitors to the area." The Mesquite Police Department said in a

statement, "We too, have heard the reports, rumors, and innuendos, which have been circulating about our community and potential incidents taking place in Mesquite. Therefore, the Mesquite Police Department, would like to take this opportunity to put any concerns to rest."

Additional Commentary. In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/29, 4.22M) comments on recent remarks by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, the "loathsome racism" of which reflects the work that yet remains for the US to improve race relations. The Post cites comments by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who in arguing for affirmative action said "the use of racial preferences... will no longer be necessary." The editorial argues that remarks like those by Bundy and Sterling highlight the "the rationale for diversity that Justice O'Connor was defending," saying that "the country needs younger people of all races interacting, including in law schools" in order to end racism like that of Bundy.

For Politico Magazine (4/29, Ralston, 633K), Jon Ralston writes that he's "never heard so many loony conspiracy theories, or seen so many politicians pander to an obviously flawed lawbreaker despite the danger to civilians that they might be exacerbating and the awful precedent they might be enabling."

In an op-ed for The Hill (4/29, 237K), Bill Press, host of "The Bill Press Show," writes that "nothing demonstrates the ignorance and danger of the Tea Party movement more than its leaders' immediate, knee-jerk embrace of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy."

For the New York Daily News (4/29, 4.36M) Stanley Crouch writes that "those who'd made a hero of this sort of man had good reason to examine their consciences well before he spewed his mouthful of red meat."

For the New York Post (4/29, 2.77M) Robert A. George writes that Bundy's comments "make him a confused clown who shouldn't have been given a national platform in the first place."

Additional coverage was provided by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (4/28, 687K), the Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (4/28, 177K), the Reno (NV) News & Review (4/29, 75K), the Black Hills (SD) Pioneer (4/29, 11K), the Gustine (CA) Press-Standard (4/28, 4K), the Daily Caller (4/29, Butler, 408K), and the Vox (4/29).

BLM SEEKS TO SPEED LAND-USE PLANNING, ADDRESS LARGER LANDSCAPES. The E&E Daily (4/24) reports that the BLM is "looking for ways to revamp the land-use plans that govern energy development, wildlife protections and recreation on the agency's roughly 250 million acres of public lands." The initiative, called "Planning 2.0," could "mark a major shift in how BLM revises and maintains roughly 160 resource management plans (RMPs) that dictate nearly every decision the agency makes in the West." BLM spokeswoman Celia Boddington said, "We are starting a conversation about how to best move our planning towards a landscape-scale approach while making it a faster and more durable process."

MOUNT ST. HELENS AREA DRILLING PLAN STILL STALLED BY LAWSUIT. The Clark County (WA) Columbian (4/28, 95K) reports that "almost a year and a half after it was approved, a controversial mineral prospecting operation near Mount St. Helens remains stalled as opponents and the agencies who endorsed the plan continue to tangle in federal court." A federal judge is "set to hear oral arguments during a hearing in Portland on May 19." BLM spokesman Michael Campbell said, "We're just kind of in a holding pattern right now."

BLM FACING QUESTIONS ABOUT INACTION IN CARSON CITY. KRNV-TV Reno, NV (4/29, 2K) reports that the BLM is "at the center of controversy again in Nevada" over "a Carson City recreation spot." Neighbors surrounding the Prison Hill Recreation Center are "frustrated over what they say are the BLM's non-enforcement of issues plaguing the area." For instance, they claim "there is lots of illegal dumping." Another issue are motorized vehicles in unauthorized areas.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RED RIVER PROPERTY. Additional coverage of the Red River Management area was provided by the Gainesville (TX) Daily Register (4/29, 466), the Texas Tribune (4/28, 12K), and KFDX-TV Wichita Falls, TX (4/29, 2K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PARTNERS WITH PHI BETA SIGMA TO ENGAGE URBAN YOUTH IN OUTDOOR RECREATION. The New Pittsburgh Courier (4/28, 58K) reports that the FWS and leading African-American fraternity Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. signed an historic memorandum of understanding on Monday in Washington, DC, "establishing a partnership that will provide new opportunities for urban youth to experience the natural world and promote interest in conservation and the biological sciences." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "Many Americans find it difficult to experience nature in an increasingly urban America. This has profound implications for the health and well-being of our citizens and the future of our nation. Sigma – with its rich history of community leadership and deep connection to the legacy of Dr. Carver – is the ideal partner for the Service as we work to create meaningful connections between young people and the great outdoors."

FWS APPROVES $3.6 MILLION TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY BIRDS. The Bloomberg BusinessWeek (4/29, 4.91M) reports that "migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere will benefit from $3.6 million in grants for 29 collaborative conservation projects across the Americas," the FWS announced. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grants will leverage the FWS' "investment with nearly $12.1 million in additional private funds" at "more than 3-to-1 match." The article notes that "the projects will conserve migratory bird habitat, stimulate critical research into declining bird populations, and strengthen international relations, raising awareness of the importance of bird conservation."

FWS POSTPONES MEETINGS ON BISTATE SAGE GROUSE. The AP (4/29) reports that the FWS has postponed "two public hearings on its proposal to list a distinct species of sage grouse found along the Nevada-California line as threatened." According to agency officials, "hearings that were scheduled Tuesday in Minden and Wednesday in Bishop, Calif., will be rescheduled." New dates were announced.

FWS LEADS EFFORT TO ERADICATE NUTRIA FROM WICOMICO RIVER. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (4/28, 687K) reports on the effort to eradicate nutria from the Wicomico River in Maryland. The project, administered by the FWS and implemented by the US Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, has "cleared marshes up and down the Delmarva Peninsula over the last 12 years." The last surviving colony exists on the Wicomico River.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YUROK TRIBE WORKS TO PROTECT CALIFORNIA CONDOR. Additional coverage of the Yurok tribe's effort to restore the California condor to the northern Redwood Coast was provided by the Los Angeles Times (4/29, Romney, 3.46M).

CALL FOR "GOD SQUAD" REVIEW OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT WELCOMED. The Bellingham (WA) Herald (4/27, 113K) editorializes that the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association "recently asked Northwest governors to launch a little-used clause in the Endangered Species Act that could force the federal government to recognize improvements to salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia and Snake rivers." According to a letter that irrigators sent last week to the governors of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana., "the so-called 'God Squad' review by an Endangered Species Act committee could conclude that reasonable mitigation already has been completed, and it could exempt the rivers from any more mitigation." The paper argues that "a God Squad review is clearly justified by the expense to taxpayers of additional mitigation and evidence that efforts are already working."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN HEARINGS ON FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT AND THE NAVAJO MINE. In an editorial, the Durango (CO) Herald (4/28, 28K) encourages the public to participate in public hearings being held by OSMRE, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe and other federal agencies "to discuss and take public input on the draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning the Four Corners Power Plant and the Navajo Mine." According to the paper, "above all, and most especially for residents of Southwest Colorado, the issue is air quality and the power plant's effect on the region's environment and quality of life."

PITKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER ARGUES FOR CANCELLATION OF EXISTING LEASES. In an op-ed for the Aspen (CO) Daily News (4/29, 36K), Pitkin County Commissioner George Newman thanks the BLM for "proceeding with the EIS and the public forum you have convened throughout the Valley." He writes that "in the

case of illegal leases let, expiration of those leases suspended, and the consequences of future leases in the Thompson Divide, I join with the citizens who have spoken loud and clear, again and again and again, to the US Forest Service in comments to their draft EIS regarding land management in the Thompson Divide, and to you, the BLM, in regards to these leases and now your EIS scoping." Newman argues that "the only possible conclusion is to cancel the existing leases in the Pitkin County portions of the Thompson Divide."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM DIRECTOR BEAUDREAU: ATLANTIC DRILLING DECISION WILL NOT HINGE ON OUTPUT ESTIMATES. Platts (4/29, Scheid, 2K) reports that an Obama Administration decision on "future drilling in Atlantic waters will not hinge on how much oil upcoming seismic tests estimate may be recoverable off the US East Coast," the outgoing director of the BOEM said. BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau said in an interview, "There's no sort of tipping point or threshold we're looking for in terms of resource potential. It's one factor you look at to say 'Would this even be attractive to industry?' But there are lots of other factors as well." Beaudreau said the Administration will "not put more weight into the production potential of Atlantic waters than it will for other factors, particularly whether states support oil and gas leasing off their coasts, opposition from environmental groups and infrastructure and response capacity issues."

BSEE CONDUCTS UNANNOUNCED OIL SPILL RESPONSE DRILL. The Offshore Energy Today (4/29) reports that the BSEE "last week participated in a day-long Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise" involving Occidental Petroleum Corporation. According to the article, "the table top exercise, held in Huntington Beach, Calif., tested OXY's ability to respond to a simulated spill event in accordance with its Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP)."

DOJ ARGUES COURT SHOULD REJECT TRANSOCEAN CHALLENGE TO SUBPOENA. FuelFix (4/29, Eaton, 7K) reports that US Attorney Adam Goldman has asked a Federal appeals court to "reject Transocean's challenge to subpoenas for documents linked to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill." Transocean argues that the US Chemical Safety Board does not have the authority to investigate offshore accidents, and FuelFix notes that those are normally investigated by the NTSB. CSB said that they "look forward to presenting this vital information to the public, industry, Congress, and all others interested in fostering safety in the offshore drilling and production industry."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT SPURS BONDS FOR DELTA TUNNELS. Bloomberg News (4/29, Nash, 2.76M) reports that California water agencies "plan to sell the first $200 million in bonds toward a $25 billion project to bolster supplies for about 25 million people as the worst drought in a century threatens farms and cities." According to the article, "proceeds will be used to plan two tunnels, 40 feet wide and 30 miles (48 kilometers) long, to carry Sacramento River water to Southern California, home to about two-thirds of the state's population." The article notes that "voters haven't approved a water bond in California since 2006."

BENEFITS OF PROPOSED SAN JOAQUIN RIVER DAM QUESTIONED. In his column for the Stockton (CA) Record (4/27, 123K), Michael Fitzgerald questions the benefits of the Temperance Flat Dam, proposed for the San Joaquin River upstream of Friant Dam, would put a 665-foot-high cork in a Sierra river gorge. He notes that Louis Moore, a spokesman for the BOR, said, "We need additional water. This is one perspective for adding additional water to the system to support the growth of our population, the demands put on water for use in agriculture and for endangered species." However, Fitzgerald claims that the BOR is "ginning up the dam's supposed broad public benefits so the public will pay for it, not the politically powerful water hogs – excuse me, the beneficiaries."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA DIRECTOR BLACK TO KEYNOTE 23RD ANNUAL INDIAN COUNTRY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE. The National Journal (4/29, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that BIA Director Michael S. Black will "deliver the keynote address at the 23rd Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at the BIA Indian Police Academy in Artesia, N.M." The event is

also an "occasion for formally announcing the names of officers who will be added to the Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial monument at the academy." The article notes that "this year, two individuals will be added, bringing the total number of officers listed on the memorial to 103: Alaska State Trooper and Village Public Safety Officer Thomas O. Madole who on March 19, 2013, succumbed to bullet wounds while handling an altercation incident in the community of Manokotak, Alaska;" and "Sergeant Robert W. Baron of the Sandoval County, N.M., Sheriff's Office who on Dec. 6, 2013, succumbed to injuries he sustained the previous day after being struck by a vehicle on Interstate 25 near the Pueblo of San Felipe."

DISPUTE CLOSES CAYUGA NATION BUSINESSES IN NEW YORK. The Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard (4/29, 859K) reports that "Cayuga Nation businesses in Union Springs and Seneca Falls were closed after a confrontation Monday by opposing sides in a dispute over nation leadership." According to Joe Heath, a lawyer representing the Unity Council, the group "took over nation-owned gas stations in Union Springs and Seneca Falls." Heath said that "currently the nation's facilities are closed and there is an agreement for the two sides to sit down later this week to talk about the situation."

The Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard (4/29, 859K) reports that "the confrontations Monday at businesses owned by the Cayuga Nation stem from a dispute over leadership that has festered for a decade." The article notes that "the dispute came to a head in January when the Interior Board of Indian Appeals said that the Eastern Regional Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs had intruded in nation affairs when he ruled that Clint Halftown was no longer the nation's federal representative."

TRIBES' NEW NEGOTIATING POWER COSTS UTILITIES. The Wall Street Journal (4/29, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that tribes across the West are negotiating substantial payments from utilities and energy companies to renew right-of-way agreements. The article cites a federal law that prohibits the use of eminent domain to access Indian trust land for the tribes' increased bargaining power. According to the article, for years, the BIA negotiated such deals on behalf of tribes, which saw little in return. But now, tribes are leaving energy companies little choice but to pay the fees they request because rerouting power lines, pipelines and other infrastructure around reservations is prohibitively expensive.

Top National News:

US, PHILIPPINES SIGN 10-YEAR DEFENSE AGREEMENT. In a deal which media reports are casting as the most significant achievement of the President's Asia trip, the US and the Philippines have signed a 10-year defense agreement. Media reports almost universally note that the pact, known as the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, is likely to increase tensions with China despite the President's assurances that it is not an effort to contain China.

The Washington Times (4/29, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that the agreement "represents one of the most tangible accomplishments of his week-long Asia trip." The agreement "will provide for bilateral training exercises between the two nations," and will "involve sending more American planes and ships to the nation and will see more US service members rotating through the Philippines." The Times notes that "by boosting America's military presence in the Pacific even further," the agreement "may raise tensions with China."

The Washington Post (4/29, Eilperin, 4.22M) calls the agreement "the biggest policy achievement" of the President's Asia trip and "one of the clearest signs yet of renewed American engagement in the region at a time when tensions between China and its neighbors have been rising." While the pact "is likely to generate criticism from Chinese officials," it "may reassure several Asian countries embroiled in territorial disputes with China, especially in the South China Sea."

McClatchy (4/29, Leavenworth, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that the President "was careful to note it will not mean new US bases in the Philippines," saying, "I want to be absolutely clear – the new defense cooperation agreement that we are negotiating is not about trying to reclaim old bases or build new bases. Rather, any new agreement would give American service members greater access to Filipino facilities, airfields and ports, which would remain under the control of the Philippines."

USA Today (4/29, Maresca, 5.82M) reports that the President and Philippine President Benigno Aquino III said

that the goal of the agreement "is not to prevent China from expanding its influence but to ensure the region's disputes are handled fairly." The President said, "Our goal is not to counter China. Our goal is not to contain China. ... Our goal is to make sure that international rules and norms are respected. And that includes in the area of maritime disputes." USA Today notes that throughout the press conference, both leaders "frequently returned to the idea of engaging China constructively."

The Wall Street Journal (4/29, Nelson, Larano, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that while the President and Aquino said the deal would promote greater stability in the region, they were quick to note that it was not intended as a response to China. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told reporters, "Whether or not this trip is to contain China depends on what the US says and what it does. ... Both US President Obama and other officials said on different occasions that they have no intention of containing China. ... We believe China and the US have broad common interest in the Asia Pacific."

The Christian Science Monitor (4/29, Kirk, 566K) reported that the President "called the agreement an 'important new chapter' in the two countries' relationship and sought to counter criticism that it might add tension in the South China Sea, which China claims in its entirety." Obama and Aquino "were careful not to attribute the agreement directly to concerns about China's territorial claims." Likewise, they did not mention "the Philippines' claims to the Paracel islands, some of which are held by China, or China's takeover of the Scarborough shoal west of Subic Bay, a rich fishing ground that the Philippine says is within its territorial limits."

A blog post on the TIME (4/29, Rauhala, 24.1M) website noted that while, "this is not about China," has been the theme of the President's trip, China "loomed large over stops in Japan, South Korea and Malaysia," and in the Philippines, "China was front and center." While the President "insisted the deal was not about thwarting China's rise," China "begs to differ," seeing "US involvement in East Asia as unwelcome interference."

Reuters (4/29, Francisco, Felsenthal) reports that despite the President's comments, China sees the deal as an effort to contain it and to contain it and encourage Manila in its long-running territorial dispute with Beijing.

An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that China's growing aggression drove the Philippines to strengthen its alliance with the US, and argues that the development should demonstrate to Chinese leaders that rather than causing nations in the region to knuckle under to Beijing, their aggression has those nations turning to the US for stronger military partnerships.

The Philippine paper Balita Pinoy (4/29, 38) reports that the President said that "the goal of the new defense cooperation agreement is wide-ranging," noting that "both countries have maintained strong alliance for many decades and Monday's signing is an update on that partnership." He said the goal of the pact "is to build Philippine capacity in training and in coordination," adding that it "not only concentrates on maritime security, but also on enhancing the two countries' capabilities in responding to natural disasters." Noting that the agreement "is similar to the pact that the US signed with Australia," the President said, "I think this is going to be a terrific opportunity for us to work with the Philippines to make sure that our navies, our air force are coordinated; to make sure that there is information-sharing; to allow us to respond to new threats and to work with other countries – ASEAN countries, Australia, Japan."

The Philippine Daily Inquirer (4/29, Lee, 800K) reports that some "3,000 militants roared in anger as they protested the American head's visit to the Philippines." Bayan Muna Representative Neri Colmenares argued that "the US will merely replace China as the Philippines' 'bully,'" adding that the agreement "will justify the establishment of military bases of US troops in the country."

Other Philippine print media barely mention the agreement in their coverage of the President's visit. For example, BusinessWorld (4/29, 158K) notes the agreement, but focuses almost entirely on the President's efforts to get the Philippines to sign on to the Trans Pacific Partnership, which it describes as "part of a push to widen America's engagement in the region." The story notes that the TPP "has met with snags during Mr. Obama's Asia visit," as the President "failed to reach an agreement with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe last week on the deal," and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak saying that "his country was far from ready to sign given 'sensitivities.'" For his part, Aquino "said the Philippines 'is working to ascertain how participation in TPP can be realized.'" Similarly, a report in the Philippine paper the People's Journal (4/29, Dizon, 1.09M) describes the President's visit to Manila and makes only passing reference to the agreement.

McClatchy Analysis: Obama's Trip "Partly Successful." McClatchy (4/29, Leavenworth, Subscription Publication, 23K) notes that the President went to Asia with several goals, including advancing US trade interests, reassuring allies that "he'd back them in any serious confrontation with China," and rebutting "critics who dismissed his 'pivot to Asia' strategy as being less than pivotal," and he will return to Washington "partly successful," but it "remains to be seen whether Obama's good-will trip through Asia will do much to help him at home."

Chinese Media Cast Deal, Obama Trip In Negative Terms. Chinese media reports cast the deal and the President's Asia trip in general in largely negative terms. For example, the South China Morning Post (4/29, 8K) noted that amid tensions "over territorial disputes in the South China Sea, many analysts see the agreement as a form of US military backing to deter what Manila sees as China's coercion and intimidation in the area." The Post notes a Xinhua commentary which argued that "the move could embolden Manila in its dealings with Beijing."

A Xinhua (4/29, 29K) report on the agreement highlighted the President's assertion that the US "is not attempting to build military bases in the Philippines" and noted that the President told Aquino "that the US supports the Philippines' decision to pursue international arbitration in resolving the dispute over South China Sea."

An editorial in the People's Daily (4/29, 7.02M) focused on the President's visit to Japan, noting that the "US-Japan alliance targeted at China has been strengthened" as a result of the visit. The editorial argues that "the US is easing limits on Japan so that it can play a bigger role in constraining China, especially military roles," adding that the US's "pursuit of its own private interests at the expense of postwar peace is encouraging Japan's excesses." The editorial adds that Japan is "an American puppet" and "knows that if it does not perform in constraining China, it will gain no prestige with the America." It concludes that the US and Japan "will benefit nothing from stirring up trouble here."

OBAMA DEFENDS FOREIGN POLICY RECORD, CONTRASTS IT WITH "DISASTROUS" PREVIOUS DECADE. As his week-long trip to Asia comes to a close, the President on Monday defended his foreign policy record during a press conference in the Philippines. Print reports this morning describe the President's defense of his foreign policy record with adjectives such as "vigorous" and "full-throated." Several note that the President and his aides are growing increasingly frustrated by critics who link his decision not to intervene militarily in Syria with other foreign policy challenges.

The AP (4/29, Pace) reports that the President "vigorously" defended his record, "arguing that his cautious approach to global problems has avoided the type of missteps that contributed to a 'disastrous' decade of war for the United States." The AP notes that the Asia trip "exposed growing White House frustration with critics who cast the president as weak and ineffectual on the world stage," adding that the President and his aides "get particularly irked by those who seize on Obama's decision to pull back from a military strike in Syria and link it with virtually every other foreign policy challenge, from Russia's threatening moves in Ukraine to China's increasing assertiveness in Asia's territorial disputes."

The Washington Post (4/29, Eilperin, 4.22M) reports that the President "laid out an incremental, dogged approach to foreign relations that relies on the United States deploying every possible economic and institutional lever before resorting to armed force." The President said, "That may not always be sexy. That may not always attract a lot of attention, and it doesn't make for good argument on Sunday morning shows. ... But it avoids errors. You hit singles, you hit doubles; every once in a while we may be able to hit a home run. But we steadily advance the interests of the American people and our partnership with folks around the world." The Post notes that the White House is growing "frustrated with critics on Capitol Hill and in the media who have questioned why the president has been so reluctant to intervene abroad."

The Los Angeles Times (4/29, Parsons, Hennessey, Richter, 3.46M) reports that the President responded to the question of whether he has "gone too far in reducing America's historical role in global security," with "a challenge of his own: Haven't people heard of Iraq and Afghanistan?" The President said, "Why is it that everybody is so eager to use military force after we've just gone through a decade of war at enormous costs? ... And what is it exactly that these critics think would have been accomplished?" The Times notes that the President increasingly argues that "his foreign policy record will have to be judged historically," and during a news conference Friday in Seoul, "he repeatedly appealed for people to take the long view."

The Hill (4/28, Sink, 237K) reported that the President delivered "a full-throated defense of his foreign policy," and accused critics "who argue that he has not been aggressive enough on the world stage of failing to learn the lessons of the Iraq War." The Hill noted that his comments "appeared to be a direct rebuke to Republican lawmakers like Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who has repeatedly criticized the president over his handling of the crisis in Ukraine." In what The Hill called "some of his most expansive comments on his foreign policy views in recent months, Obama argued that his job as commander in chief was 'to deploy military force as a last resort, and to deploy it wisely,'" adding, "Frankly, most of the foreign policy commentators that have questioned our policies would go headlong into a bunch of military adventures that the American people had no interest in participating in and would not advance our core security interests."

The New York Times (4/29, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the President, has been "stung by criticism of his response to turmoil from Eastern Europe to the Middle East," and calls his comments "a rare insight into a second-term president already sizing up his legacy as a statesman." According to the President's advisers, when he returns to Washington on Tuesday, "he wants to regain the offensive with several speeches, most notably a graduation address at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., next month, in which he will try to place his decisions on Syria, Ukraine and other crises into a broader context."

FOX News' Special Report (4/28, Baier, 2.15M) that the President's critics say the Administration's foreign policy is "barely surviving." Fox (Henry) noted that the President "took a shot at Fox and said more positive stories are not getting attention." Obama was shown saying, "I doubt that I'm going to have time to lay out my entire foreign policy doctrine. And there are actually some complimentary pieces as well about my foreign policy, but I'm not sure you ran them." Fox added that the President added that "conservatives who pushed for war in Iraq are hitting him now because he does not back knee-jerk military action in hot spots such as Syria." Obama: "Many are proponents of what I consider to be a disastrous decision to go into Iraq. They haven't really learned the lesson of the last decade."

OBAMA ANNOUNCES EXPANDED SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA. Monday's announcement of another round of sanctions against a number of Russians and more than a dozen Russian companies is receiving widespread media attention. All three networks covered the story – though a string of deadly tornadoes in the southeastern United States led each network. As was the case when the initial round was announced, media reports cast doubt whether the sanctions will be effective in persuading Russian President Vladimir Putin to halt his interference in Ukraine.

Scott Pelley reported on the CBS Evening News (4/28, story 3, 3:10, Pelley, 5.08M) that the US "imposed new sanctions to punish Russia for stirring up trouble in Ukraine." The new sanctions include banning seven Russian officials from traveling to the US, and freezing their US assets. In addition, the assets of 17 Russian companies were frozen. Pelley noted that the President "made the announcement during his trip to the Philippines." President Obama was shown saying: "Russia has not yet chosen to move forward and these sanctions represent the next stage in a calibrated effort to change Russia's behavior. We don't yet know whether it's going to work."

The AP (4/29, Lee, Berry) says the latest measures "affect people close to the Kremlin," but "stopped short of targeting Russia's broader economy and it remained unclear if they would work." And in Moscow on Monday, "there was relief that the sanctions were not as far-ranging as feared." But officials in both the US and EU argued that they would "significantly boost the cost to Moscow of ignoring" an agreement signed earlier this month in Geneva to ease tensions in Ukraine.

Andrea Mitchell reported on NBC Nightly News (4/28, story 3, 2:05, Williams, 7.86M) that Putin "remains defiant. Critics say that's because the US and Europe hit 17 officials and 17 companies, but not the biggest banks and energy companies after pressure from BP and other companies with huge investments" in Russia. Mitchell added that the President "says he does not want to target Putin himself." President Obama was shown saying: "The goal here is not to go after Mr. Putin personally. The goal is to change his calculus." Mitchell added, "I asked the Treasury Secretary what happens next. What is the trigger point that would trigger tougher sanctions and would the US move without European ally if Russia invades?" Treasury Secretary Lew was shown saying: "The actions taken today says the situation has gotten considerably more worry some and trouble some even though we haven't seen an invasion. We've taken more and more action. We have more steps to take, we're prepared to take the steps."

The Washington Post (4/29, DeYoung, Birnbaum, 4.22M) says the Administration "ratcheted up its punishment of Russia...even as it acknowledged that a new round of economic sanctions is unlikely to bring an immediate change in Russian behavior." Some US lawmakers and Ukrainian politicians also "decried the actions as too weak and called for immediate, full-scale sanctions against the Russian banking and energy sectors." But a "senior Administration official" said the goal is to gradually increase pressure until "Russia sees the dead end that it's going down in Ukraine," and the President called the sanctions a "calibrated" response.

Reuters (4/29, Tsvetkova, Grove) reports the White House said Monday that in addition to the sanctions, the US will also deny export licenses for high-technology items to the Russian military and revoke any existing export licenses .

However, CNN's Situation Room (4/28, 554K) said the existing sanctions have "done little to slow the path of violence."

ABC World News (4/28, story 3, 1:45, Sawyer) reported that the sanctions "stopped short of hitting Putin's wealth, estimated in the tens of billions of dollars," and the New York Times (4/29, Landler, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that although the measures "do not explicitly target" Putin, US officials indicated that the choice of targets, including long-time Putin confidantes Igor I. Sechin and Sergei V. Chemezov, "was intended to send a message to him that any hidden assets he might have could ultimately be affected."

The Wall Street Journal (4/29, Solomon, Mauldin, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the sanctions fell short of the wide-reaching moves Ukrainian officials had hoped for. The Journal notes that while the US sanctioned Sechin and Chemezov, the EU did not amid fears of broader economic impact. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the US and EU have "been working in lock step from the beginning of this crisis," and noted that "our sanctions have not exactly matched before. We don't expect they will exactly match now. But they are complementary."

Another Wall Street Journal (4/29, Williams, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) report say the sanctions against Sechin, head of state-controlled oil firm Rosneft, could have implications for the UK-based BP, which holds a 19.75% stake in Rosneft. The New York Times (4/29, Kramer, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says Sechin is the "most prominent businessman targeted to date," and the list announced Monday is "creating headaches for compliance departments of Western companies." But the Times notes that the US did not sanction Rosneft, and Sechin "does not own a majority of the company, so American companies can still work with Rosneft."

Howard LaFranchi writes in the Christian Science Monitor that "critics of US policy argue that Washington should take the lead on imposing broader sanctions on whole sectors of the Russian economy," even amid reluctance in the EU.

Sen. Bob Corker, Reuters (4/29, Zengerle) reports, criticized the actions as "just a slap on the wrist," and said he plans to introduce legislation this week to strengthen NATO and impose "significant" additional sanctions on Russia.

Deputy national security adviser Tony Blinken was asked on CNN's Situation Room (4/28, 554K) about criticism that the "ratcheted-up sanctions are really sanctions-lite." Blinken said that the sanctions "taken even before today have had a significant impact on Russia and its economy. ... This has had an impact and it's going to have a greater impact." Asked when there will be sanctions on Putin himself, Blinken said that "the point is not to go after President Putin. It's to try to get him to change what he's doing." Putin's "compact with his people has been to deliver economic growth and in return they would remain politically compliant. That growth is drying up and the only answer for him is to integrate his economy with the world markets and to diversify it away from oil and gas and what he's doing now and what we've done in reaction is making it difficult for him to do that."

But the Washington Times (4/29, Boyer, 455K) reports that "even Mr. Obama expressed uncertainty about the effectiveness" of the sanctions on Monday, saying, "We don't yet know whether it's going to work."

Charles Krauthammer said on FOX News' Special Report (4/28, 2.15M) that the President "seems to think and he creates this straw man that the only alternative to the policy of total weakness he's been showing in Ukraine

is to land troops somewhere in Ukraine. There is nobody advocating that. He thinks all has to do is say the word Iraq and he's made an argument." Krauthammer added, "If he wants an example of how weapons have influenced Russian encroachment. In 1946, when the Turks and Greeks were losing the guerrilla wars against Soviet communists in their countries, what Truman did, with the Truman doctrine, he supplied arms and support, not American troops, and succeeded in containing the Soviet Union. That's the essence of containment which he thinks he's doing. His idea of containment is to let Russia swallow Ukraine after which he will think of containment."

Juan Williams said on FOX News' Special Report (4/28, 2.15M), "With regard to Russia...I think that the President has done exactly what's right. ... I think the Russian economy has suffered tremendously as a result of the sanctions already put in place not only on individuals but on one bank and the further sanctions now. You've seen capital flee that stock market. The reason it bumped up a little bit because it's down so low."

Russian Weapons Exporter Bypassed In Latest Round Of Sanctions. The Washington Times (4/28, Taylor, 455K) reports that Russia's main state-owned weapons exporter Rosoboronexport, was bypassed in the latest round of sanctions. The Times notes that the company is "currently being paid by the Pentagon to support US efforts in Afghanistan." Still, the Pentagon's relationship with Rosoboronexport is "prompting mounting frustration among a bipartisan" group of lawmakers, "who say the White House is giving an inexplicable pass to the company despite Moscow's land grab in Ukraine and its ongoing dealing with such US adversaries as Syrian President Bashar Assad."

Blinken: Ukraine Doesn't Need Weapons From US. Deputy national security adviser Tony Blinken was asked on CNN's Situation Room (4/28, 554K) if the Administration is prepared to provide weapons to Ukraine. Blinken said, "We've already provided a significant amount of nonlethal security assistance to Ukraine over the past few weeks. ... Second, they don't need more weapons. The fact of the matter is that as the President said today, even if we provided more weapons, it wouldn't make a difference in terms of standing up to the Russians. They need to professionalize their military. What we can do most effectively to deter and dissuade Russia is exactly what we're doing. That's to increase the economic pressure on Russia, working in coordination with our allies. The other thing that we can do is lead the international effort to support Ukraine, to support its economy."

Seib: Kerry Blames Putin Personally For Ukraine Crisis. In his column for the Wall Street Journal (4/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Gerald Seib writes that in an interview Monday after the President announced the latest round of sanctions against Russia, Secretary of State Kerry did not seem to believe the latest sanctions will be the last. Asked why the Administration is punishing individuals and single companies rather than entire sectors of the Russian economy, Kerry said, "We're inches away from that now. And if they continue on this path, that's where it's heading." Seib adds that Kerry blames Putin personally for the Ukraine crisis, saying that it is "obviously very personally driven in ways that I think are uniquely inappropriate to 21st century leadership. ... It's so divorced that it leaves you feeling badly for the consequences. I think the Russian people are going to pay a price for this."

Poll: Americans Support Sanctions, Not Arms For Ukraine. USA Today (4/29, Page, Breitman, 5.82M) reports that a USA TODAY/Pew Research Center Poll finds Americans support tighter economic sanctions on Moscow, but oppose "by more than 2-1 the idea of sending arms or military supplies" to Ukraine. The poll released Monday found that a "majority support across party lines" for sanctions, by 53%-36%. But "there is also strong bipartisan opposition to sending weapons, 62%-30%."

WPost, WSJournal See Sanctions As Inadequate. The Washington Post (4/29, 4.22M) in an editorial says that "Vladimir Putin's assault on Ukraine has been relentless and increasingly reckless," while "President Obama's response has been slow and excruciatingly measured." The Post asks why the US would not be seeking "an immediate change in Russian behavior" and pursuing policies that are likely to produce that. The Post faults President Obama for not recognizing the situation for what it is and acting accordingly.

The Wall Street Journal (4/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, says sanctions against Russia imposed by the US and the EU indicate that neither is serious in its efforts to prevent Russia from further aggression in Ukraine and that market response indicates investors are pleased with the lack of strong action.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Political Executions In Egypt."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (4/29, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) condemns the death sentences by an "out-of-control" Egyptian government, calling them "part of an organized state effort not just to crush its political opponents but to eliminate them." The Times calls the Administration's response "shockingly weak," adding that there "was no indication that the administration would reconsider last week's decision to provide the Egyptians with 10 Apache helicopters and more than $650 million in aid." The Times says that an Egyptian government "that persecutes its political opponents and denies them justice and any political role in society will produce only instability and violence."

"Troubling Student Loans" The New York Times (4/29, Editorial for the New York (NY), Times, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes on the need of Federal financial regulators to address borrowing terms for private student loans which can force borrowers into default. The Times examines some of the risks borrowers face from private loans, including variable interest rates which lead to higher-than-expected debt, few consumer protections, and sudden defaults due to the death of a co-signer. The editorial argues in favor of regulators implementing clearer terms for loans, greater consumer protection, and notification of risks of default, so that "in no case should a borrower in good standing be shoved into default."

"LG's Plan To Deface The Palisades." In an editorial, the New York Times (4/29, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) expresses its opposition to LG's plans to build "a vastly oversized tower" on the Palisades along the Hudson River, and calls the rule change by officials in Englewood Cliffs, NJ to allow its construction "a shameful dismissal of the greater public good" which defies decades of protection for the cliffs. Despite the considerable public protest, the editorial says that LG is digging in its heels and going forward on the building, and argues that a better option for the company "would be to appreciate the public outcry for what it is: a protest against the potential degradation of a historic vista and corporate insensitivity by a remote multinational giant."

"Why Did The N.B.A. Long Tolerate Sterling?" In an editorial, the New York Times (4/29, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that the lack of surprise over Clippers owner Donald Sterling's remarks is "perhaps the most disturbing aspect" of the scandal, noting that many have observed "that Mr. Sterling has a history of bigotry." The Times argues that given some of Sterling's past comments, the NBA ought to express its disapproval and sanction him. In addition to sending a message on such remarks, the editorial says "The league's top leadership tolerated and sheltered Mr. Sterling for much too long," and a sanction from commissioner Adam Silver would "make clear that there's no place in the league for owners with plantation attitudes," regardless of their context.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Stuck In The Past On Race."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (4/29, 4.22M) comments on recent remarks by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, the "loathsome racism" of which reflects the work that yet remains for the US to improve race relations. The Post cites comments by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who in arguing for affirmative action said "the use of racial preferences... will no longer be necessary." The editorial argues that remarks like those by Bundy and Sterling highlight the "the rationale for diversity that Justice O'Connor was defending," saying that "the country needs younger people of all races interacting, including in law schools" in order to end racism like that of Bundy.

"Secure In Their Phones." The Washington Post (4/29, 4.22M) editorializes on a case pending before the Supreme court, which will involve authorities' ability to search the contents of mobile phones on or near a person during an arrest without a warrant. Although the state of California is asking the Court "to refrain from a sweeping ruling," the Post says that given the access to Americans' information provided by smartphones, "the justices can and should provide updated guidelines to police, lawyers and defendants." The editorial examines how changing technologies often require changing interpretations of the Fourth Amendment, and the Court "must sort out how the Fourth Amendment applies to digital information now."

"More Half-Measures." The Washington Post (4/29, 4.22M) in an editorial says that "Vladimir Putin's assault on Ukraine has been relentless and increasingly reckless," while "President Obama's response has been slow and excruciatingly measured." The Post asks while the US would not be seeking "an immediate change in Russian behavior" and pursuing policies that are likely to produce that. The Post faults President Obama for not

recognizing the situation for what it is and acting accordingly.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Pfizer's Tax Takeover."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (4/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) discusses Pfizer's plan to buy the British AstraZeneca, noting that paying $100 billion to invest overseas would make more financial sense for the company, given the almost 40% business tax rate in the US. The Journal defends Pfizer's plan to buy the company and put its money into the UK rather than pay such high taxes, and argues that the aim of American tax policy should to be to spur domestic investment rather than seeking refuge overseas.

"Russia's Obama Rally." The Wall Street Journal (4/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) in an editorial says sanctions against Russia imposed by the US and the EU indicate that neither is serious in its efforts to prevent Russia from further aggression in Ukraine and that market response indicates investors are pleased with the lack of strong action.

"U.S. Return To The Philippines." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (4/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that China's growing aggression drove the Philippines to strengthen its alliance with the US, and argues that the 10-year defense agreement between the US and the Philippines should demonstrate to Chinese leaders that rather than causing nations in the region to knuckle under to Beijing, their aggression has those nations turning to the US for stronger military partnerships.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Her Arresting Lifestyle Choice
It's The NBA's Move
State's Grad Rate Passes 80%
Sterling's NAACP Ties Under Scrutiny
Obama Argues Against Use Of US Force

Wall Street Journal:
US, Europe Hit Russia With Fresh Sanctions
Error By BofA Scuttles Buyback
Pfizer Sees Tax Savings From AstraZeneca Deal

New York Times:
Ending Asia Trip, Obama Defends His Foreign Policy
Pfizer Proposes Marriage And Move, Easing Taxes
White House To Press Colleges To Do More To Combat Rape
A Deadly Fungus And Questions At A Hospital
New Guard Of Owners Could Be Key In Sterling's Fate
Militants Pose Threat On Eve Of National Elections In Iraq

Financial Times:
Pfizer Ignites Pharma Takeover Battle
Siemens And GE In Rival Push To Woo Paris
US Extends Sanctions To Putin Inner Circle
BG Chief's Resignation Sparks Bid Talk
Serco Issues Profits Warning
Higher Risk Of Being Fired For Women CEOs
Investors At Home On The Range – For Now

Washington Times:
Europe, Asia Plan To Spend Big On Drone Development
Obama Unsure If Sanctions Will Work

Primary Election Dissent A Good Sign For GOP
Medicaid Law Used As Weapon In Campaigns
Iraqi Voters Still Not Free From Violence

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Tornado Outbreak; Clippers' Owner-Racial Remarks; Obama-Russian Sanctions; Congressman-Tax Evasion; Health Effects-Stress.
CBS: Tornado Outbreak; Tornado Warnings; Tornadoes-Arkansas Governor Response; Weather Forecast; Clippers' Owner-Racial Comments; Obama-Russian Sanctions; Egypt-Death Sentences; Medical Marijuana-Health Effects; Computer Security; Education-Graduation Rates.
NBC: Tornado Outbreak Forecast; Tornado Outbreak; Malaysian Flight Search; Obama-Russian Sanctions; Clippers' Owners Racial Comments; Congressman-Tax Evasion; Vatican Visitors; Education-Graduation Rates.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Tornado Outbreak; Clippers' Owner Racial Comments; Obama-Russia Sanctions.
CBS: Tornado Outbreak; Clippers' Owner-Racial Comments; Obama-Russian Sanctions; Obama-Asia Tour; Craig Ferguson-Retirement.
NPR: Tornado Outbreak; Severe Weather Response; Obama-Russian Sanctions; Congressman-Tax Evasion; Louisiana Congressman-No Reelection; NAACP Returns Sterling Donations.
FOX: Tornado Outbreak; Obama-Asia Tour; Obama-Russian Sanctions.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Arrives in Anchorage, Alaska; departs Elmendorf Air Force Base; participates in the COMET electric vehicle Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, Manila, Philippines; delivers remarks to the troops, Fort Bonifacio, Manila, Philippines, open press; participates in a wreath laying ceremony, The Manila American Cemetery; departs Manila; arrives Joint Base Andrews; arrives at the White House, open press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events.
US Senate: 8 a.m. CAPITOL DOME ROTUNDA — The Architect of the Capitol, Stephen T. Ayers, will conduct a briefing for media on the reopening of the U.S. Capitol Dome Rotunda after completion of the safety netting installation and provide a status update on the Dome Restoration Project.

10:30 a.m. DEMOCRATS – MINIMUM WAGE — Chairman of the Senate HELP Committee Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) will hold a media availability to assert "the positive impact raising the minimum wage will have on our economy and the widespread support it enjoys among employers and employees alike." Location: S-115.

10 a.m. — The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. At 11 a.m., Senators will proceed to executive session to consider nominations.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Meets to receive testimony on the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Panel I: Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the U.S. Air Force; General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. Panel II: Lieutenant General Dennis M. McCarthy, USMCR (Ret.), Chair, National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force; Erin C. Conaton, Vice Chair, National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force; R. L. (Les) Brownlee, Member, National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force; Dr. Janine A. Davidson, Member, National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force; Dr. Margaret C. Harrell, Member, National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force; General Raymond E. Johns, Jr., USAF (Ret.), Member, National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-04-29-national-commission-on-the-structure-of-the-air-force Location: G50 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — Executive session to consider the following nominations: Dr. Stanley Fischer, to be a Member and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Jerome H. Powell to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Lael Brainard to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Nani Coloretti to be Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar to be an Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and J. Mark McWatters to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board; and to consider S. 1217, Housing Finance Reform and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2013. Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety Hearing: "Workers' Memorial Day: Are Existing Private Sector Whistleblower Protections Adequate To Ensure Safe Workplaces?" Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights entitled "Law Enforcement Responses to Disabled Americans: Promising Approaches for Protecting Public Safety." Witnesses: Witnesses: Panel I: Denise E. O'Donnell, Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC. Panel II: Alfonza Wysinger, First Deputy Superintendent, Chicago Police Department; Chicago, IL; A.D. Paul, Sergeant, Plano Police Department, Plano, TX; Jay M. Quam, Judge, Fourth Judicial District of Minnesota, Minneapolis , MN; Pete Earley, Author, Fairfax , VA; Patti Saylor, Frederick , MD. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/law-enforcement-responses-to-disabled-americans_promising-approaches-for-protecting-public-safety Location: 216 Hart.

1:30 p.m. SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — Markup of: H.R. 4412, the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014." http://science.house.gov/markup/full-committee-markup-hr-4412 Location: 2318 Rayburn.

2:30 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Hearings to examine driving innovation through Federal investments. Witnesses: John P. Holdren, Ph.D., Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President of the United States; Ernest Moniz, Ph.D., Secretary, Department of Energy; Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director, National Institutes of Health; France A. Cordova, Ph.D., Director, National Science Foundation; Arati Prabhakar, Ph.D., Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Defense. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/full-committee-hearing-driving-innovation-through-federal-investments Location: G50 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on emerging threats and capabilities and the select committee on intelligence CLOSED hearing to receive testimony on counterterrorism policy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses: Michael G. Vickers, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; Michael D. Lumpkin, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict; Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Lieutenant General Joseph L. Votel, USA, Commander, Joint Special Operations Command; Additional witnesses to be invited by the Select Committee on Intelligence. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-04-29-counterterrorism-policy Location: SVC-217.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Nomination of Julia A. Clark to be General Counsel, Federal Labor Relations Authority. Nominee will be present. Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed Hearing on Intelligence Matters. Location: Senate Visitors Center (SVC) 217.

US House: 8 a.m. CAPITOL DOME ROTUNDA — The Architect of the Capitol, Stephen T. Ayers, will conduct a briefing for media on the reopening of the U.S. Capitol Dome Rotunda after completion of the safety netting installation and provide a status update on the Dome Restoration Project. Contacts: Justin Kieffer, jkieffer@aoc.gov, 202-226-7102

10 a.m. DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING — Time approximate. Democratic Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra (CA-34) and Caucus Vice Chair Joe Crowley (NY-14) will hold a press availability following a meeting on "Building An Economy That Works For All Americans, Not Just the Wealthiest Few." Location: HVC-210 alcove stakeout location.

10 a.m. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — Time approximate. Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rogers (R-WA); Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-NC). Location: Republican National Committee Lobby, 310 First Street, SE.

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. RACIAL WEALTH GAP — Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Hispanic Caucus and Asian Pacific American Caucus will offer reactions to the new analysis of the latest data from U.S. Census Bureau about the racial wealth gap.. Speakers: Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.); Rep. Elijah Cummings (D.-Md.); Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-Calif.); Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.); Location: 121 Cannon.

11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: Hoyer's U.S. Capitol office (H-144).

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. SANCHEZ, LOFGREN – VIETNAM — Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-46) and Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-19), co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, will host a congressional briefing to discuss "Vietnam's oppressive media environment". ENGLISH MEDIA CONTACTS: Sanchez: Barb Solish, 202-226-8373, Barb. Solish@mail.house.gov; Lofgren: Duncan Neasham, 202-225-3072, Duncan. Neasham@mail.house.gov. VIETNAMESE MEDIA CONTACT: Lilly Nguyen, 714-204-6645, Lilly. Nguyen@mail.house.gov. Location: Cannon Caucus Room, room 345.

3 p.m. – 5 p.m. FPI – AFTER KARZAI — Public forum hosted by the Foreign Policy Initiative – After Karzai:, Assessing the Afghan Elections and Future of the U.S.-Afghan Relationship. Speakers: Congressman Jim Bridenstine OK-1 House Armed Services Committee; Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky, Harvard University; Dr. Seth G. Jones, RAND Corporation; David Sedney, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia; Hamid Arsalan, National Endowment for Democracy. Moderator: Robert Zarate, Foreign Policy Initiative. https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1724485-2W4tIFIBc5 Location: 2325 Rayburn.

4:30 p.m. LATVIAN PM PHOTO OP — Chairman Ed Royce and members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee hold a photo op with Latvian Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma. Location: H-137.

10 a.m. — The House will meets for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules: 1) H.R. 627 – National Park Service 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen / Financial Services Committee) 2) H.R. 4167 – Restoring Proven Financing for American Employers Act (Sponsored by Rep. Andy Barr / Financial Services Committee) 3) H.R. ___ – Gold Medal Technical Corrections Act of 2013 (Sponsored by Rep. John Lewis / Financial Services Committee) H.R. 4414 – Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014 (Subject to a Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. John Carney / Ways & Means Committee)

10 a.m. AGRICULTURE — Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture hearing to review current research and application of management strategies to control pests and diseases of pollinators. http://agriculture.house.gov/hearing/review-current-research-and-application-management-strategies-control-pests-and-diseases Location: 1300 Longworth.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Homeland Security CLOSED: Budget Hearing – Cybersecurity. Witnesses: Suzanne Spaulding, Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate; Dr. Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Undersecretary for Cybersecurity, National Protection and Programs Directorate; Larry Zelvin, Director of National Cybersecurity Communication Integration Center, National Protection and Programs Directorate. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=374544 Location: H-405 the Capitol.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Budget Hearing – Department of the Treasury. Witnesses: Jacob Lew, Secretary, Department of the Treasury. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373860 Location: 2359 Rayburn.

10 a.m. EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — Full Committee, "Reviewing the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal for the Department of Education." Witness: Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

http://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=376999 Location: 2175 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing entitled "Examining the Growing Problems of Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse." Witnesses: Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Department of Justice; Michael Botticelli, Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President; Dr. Daniel M. Sosin, Acting Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Dr. Nora D. Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health; Dr. H. Westley Clark, Director, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/examining-growing-problems-prescription-drug-and-heroin-abuse Location: 2322 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Full Committee Hearing entitled "Oversight of the SEC's Agenda, Operations, and FY 2015 Budget Request." Speaker: Mary Jo White, Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=377131 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa hearing on The Administration's FY 2015 MENA Budget Request: Priorities Objectives and Challenges. Witnesses: Anne W. Patterson, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Alina L. Romanowski, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for the Middle East, U.S. Agency for International, Development. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-administrations-fy-2015-mena-budget-request-priorities-objectives-and Location: 2200 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications hearing on Stakeholder Assessments of the Administrations National Preparedness Grant Program Proposal. Witnesses: Kris Eide, Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, State of Minnesota, Testifying on behalf of the Governors Homeland Security Advisory Council and the National Emergency Management Association; Steven M. Fulop, Mayor, Jersey City, New Jersey; Troy Riggs, Director, Department of Public Safety, City of Indianapolis; William R. Metcalf, EFO, CFI, FIFireE, Fire Chief, North County Fire Protection District, State of California, Testifying on behalf of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Randy Parsons, Director of Security, Port of Long Beach. Testifying on behalf of the American Association of Port Authorities. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/stakeholder-assessments-administration-s-national-preparedness-grant-program-proposal Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice hearing on The Original Meaning of the Origination Clause. Witnesses: Nicholas M. Schmitz, Stanford University; Paul D. Kamenar, Attorney at Law; Joe Onek, Principal, The Raben Group; Todd F. Gaziano, Executive Director of the D.C. Center, Pacific Legal Foundation. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2014/4/hearing-the-original-meaning-of-the-origination-clause Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10 a.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Oversight Hearing on "American Energy Jobs: Opportunities for Skilled Trades Workers." Witnesses: Mike Rowe, CEO, mikeroweWORKS Foundation; Robert Flurer, Vice President, Skeels Electric Company; Sean McGarvey, President, North America's Building Trades Unions; Monica Martinez, President and Secretary, Hispanics in Energy. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=376638 Location: 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment hearing on A Review of Recent United States Army Corps of Engineers Chiefs Reports and Post Authorization Change Reports. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=377192 Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS – JOINT HEARING — Transportation Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime and Froeign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere JOINT hearing on Confronting Transnational Drug Smuggling: An Assessment of Regional Partnerships. Witnesses: General John F. Kelly, USMC, Commander, Southern Command, U.S. Department of Defense; Admiral Robert J. Papp Jr., USCG,, Commandant, Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Luis E. Arreaga, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement

Affairs, U.S. Department of State. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=376354 Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10:15 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Environment and the Economywill continue its review of draft legislation, the Chemicals in Commerce Act (CICA). Witnesses: Panel 1: Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Panel 2: Calvin Dooley, President & CEO, American Chemistry Council; Dr. Beth Bosley, President, Boron Specialties, LLC, On behalf of the Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates; Mark Greenwood, Principal, Greenwood Environmental Counsel, PLLC; Dr. Len Sauers, Vice President, Global Sustainability, Proctor & Gamble Company; Steven Goldberg, BASF; Andy Igrejas, Campaign Director, Safer Chemicals and Healthy Families; Michael Moore. On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/chemicals-commerce-act-0 Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10:15 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Markup of: H.R. 4058, "To prevent and address sex trafficking of youth in foster care"; H.R. 4429, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the subpart F exemption for active financing income"; H.R. 4438, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit"; H.R. 4453, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations"; H.R. 4454, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain rules regarding basis adjustments to stock of S corporations making charitable contributions of property"; H.R. 4457, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes"; H.R. 4464, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the look-through treatment of payments between related controlled foreign corporations." Location: 1100 Longworth.

10:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Budget Hearing – United States Assistance in Africa. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=376716 Location: 2362-A Raybum .

1 p.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial, and Antitrust Law H.R. 1129 the Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act of 2013. Witnesses: Lori Brown, Director of Disbursements, CACI International, Inc., On behalf of the American Payroll Association; Jeffrey Porter, Founder and Owner of Porter & Associates, CPA, On behalf of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; Maureen Riehl Esq., Vice President, Government Affairs, Council on State Taxation (COST), On behalf of COST and the Mobile Workforce Coalition; Patrick Carter, Director, Delaware Division of Revenue, On behalf of the Federation of Tax Administrators. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2014/4/hearing-h-r-1129-the-mobile-workforce-state-income-tax-simplification-act-of-2013 Location: 2141 Raybum.

1:30 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Joint subcommittee: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade hearing on U.S.-Russia Nuclear Arms Negotiations: Ukraine and Beyond. Speakers: Anita E. Friedt, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear and Strategic Policy, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance, U.S. Department of State; Brent Hartley, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/joint-subcommittee-hearing-us-russia-nuclear-arms-negotiations-ukraine-and-beyond Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will meet in open session to consider a resolution authorizing the issuance of subpoenas to compel the testimony of: M. Stacey Bach, Assistant Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Employment, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB); Liza Strong, Director of Employee Relations, CFPB; and Benjamin Konop, Executive Vice President, National Treasury Employees Union Chapter 335. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=377435 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing on Effective Accountability: Tier Rankings in the Fight Against Human Trafficking. Speakers: Mark Lagon, Global Politics and Security Chair, Master of Science in Foreign Service Program, Georgetown University, (Former Ambassador-at-Large for Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State); Brian Campbell, Director of Policy and Legal Programs, International Labor Rights Forum. http://foreignaffairs.house.

gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-effective-accountability-tier-rankings-fight-against-human-trafficking Location: 2200 Rayburn.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation legislative hearing on H.R. 3687 (Issa), To amend the National Historic Preservation Act to provide that if the head of the agency managing Federal property objects to the inclusion of certain property on the National Register or its designation as a National Historic Landmark for reasons of national security, the Federal property shall be neither included nor designated until the objection is withdraw, and for other purposes. "Military LAND Act; H.R. 4458 (McCarthy), To make permanent the withdrawal and reservation of public land previously withdrawn and reserved to support the operations of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California, and to provide for the withdrawal and reservation of additional public land. "Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake Security Enhancement Act. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=377027 Location: 1324 Longworth.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular affairs hearing on "The Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs spending and the Presidents Fiscal Year 2015 budget request for the Office and the following bills: H.R. 4296 (Sablan), To amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands. H.R. 4402 (Bordallo), To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to establish a surface danger zone over the Guam National Wildlife Refuge or any portion thereof to support the operation of a live-fire training range complex. "Guam Military Training and Readiness Act of 2014. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/ Location: 1334 Longworth.

3 p.m. RULES — meets on H.R. 4486Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015; H.R. 4487Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2015. http://rules.house.gov/news/announcement/meeting-announcement-hr-4486-and-hr-4487 Location: H-313 The Capitol.

4 p.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Markup: H.R. 2689 the Energy Savings through Public-Private Partnerships Act; H.R. 4092 the Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2014; and H.R. 6 the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act. http://energycommerce.house.gov/markup/committee-consider-hr-6-hr-2689-and-hr-4092 Location: 2123 Rayburn.
Other: April 27 – 29. GRADNATION-SUMMIT — The annual event brings together more than 900 leaders in education, politics, business, and nonprofits with youth and community leaders from across the country to discuss progress and challenges in raising graduation rates. This year's Summit will include the release of the 2014 Building a GradNation Report, which will include the latest national and state graduation rates and what's behind the numbers. Opening remarks by America's Promise Chair Alma Powell. Additional speakers include: General Colin and Alma Powell, founding chairman and board chair, Americas Promise Alliance; Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education (Invited); Cory Booker, United States Senator from New Jersey; Dr. Pam Cantor, founder, president & CEO, Turnaround for Children; Darren Walker, president, Ford Foundation; John Gomperts, president and CEO, Americas Promise Alliance; John Bridgeland, president, Civic Enterprise; Dr. Robert Balfanz, Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Jonathan Zaff, director, Center for Promise, Tufts University, Americas Promise Alliance; Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO, Lumina Foundation; Youth spokespeople from across the nation. Credentialled media RSVP: RSVP, please contact: Paul Allvin, America's Promise Alliance, at press@americaspromise.org or (202) 657-0682. Location: Marriott Wardman Park, Marriott Ballroom – 2660 Woodley Place, NW.

April 28 – 29. ADL NATIONAL MEETING — Anti-Defamation League (ADL) annual meeting. Speakers include Secretary of Labor Tom Perez And FBI Director James Comey. Deputy Secretary of State William Burns and D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier to be honored for their service. Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director and other ADL leaders and experts will be available for interviews upon request. For more information or to schedule an interview, contact ADL Media Relations at (212) 885-7749 or adlmedia@adl.org. 8 a.m. A View From the Hill With Members of Congress. Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO). Location: Grand Ballroom. 12 p.m. When Hate Speech Goes Viral: Dealing with Bigotry Online. Panelists: Monika Bickert, Head of Global Policy Management, Facebook; Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO, National Constitution Center; Jennifer Hanley, Director, Legal & Policy, Family Online Safety Institute; Steven Freeman, ADL Associate Director of Civil Rights, Director of Legal Affairs. Location: Grand Ballroom. 1:30 p.m. Presentation of ADL William & Naomi Gorowitz Institute Service Award to Cathy L. Lanier, Chief, Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department. Location: Grand Ballroom. Location: Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW.

2014 HOMELAND SECURITY CONGRESS — Institute for Defense & Government Advancements 2014 Homeland Security Congress. 9:40 a.m. DHS Acting Chief Financial Officer Chris Fulghum will deliver remarks on managing the Department of Homeland Security budget, the process for allocating resources, and shared services. Location: Hilton Crystal City, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Va.

April 29 – 30. ATLANTIC COUNCIL CONFERENCE – EUROPE — Atlantic Council Conference: "Toward a Europe Whole and Free." Speakers include Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry, European Commission President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; former national security advisers Zbigniew Brzezinski, Stephen Hadley and Brent Scowcroft; and other prominent leaders and lawmakers. Conference agenda: http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/toward-a-europe-whole-and-free-april-29-30. 1:30 p.m. Keynote by Secretary of State John Kerry. Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor.

April 29 – 30. 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. LOW INCOME KIDS – SAVING FOR COLLEGE — Children's Savings Conference: From Aspirations to Achievement, sponsored by the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED). . Participants include Ray Boshara, Senior Adviser and Assistant Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; Reid Cramer, Director of the Asset Building Program, New America Foundation; Josi Cisneros, Treasurer, City and County of San Francisco; William Elliott, Director of the Assets and Education Initiative, University of Kansas; Ed FitzGerald, County Executive, Cuyahoga County, Ohio; Martha Kanter, former Under Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education; Andrea Levere, President, CFED; Michael Sherraden, Founder and Director of the Center for Social Development, Washington University; and Lauran Tuck, who founded Tuck's R.U.S.H. for Literacy with her husband Justin Tuck of the Oakland Raiders. http://cfed.org/programs/csa/conference/ for full agenda: http://cfed.org/assets/pdfs/Conference_Agenda_External_On_Letterhead.pdf Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, NW.

DATA TRANSPARENCY SUMMIT — The Data Transparency Summit will includes sponsors of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act), alongside tech industry leaders and administration officials in building a shared vision for implementing the landmark open government legislation. The DATA Act passed the United States Senate earlier this month via unanimous consent and is expected to eam swift approval in the House of Representatives following the congressional recess. Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Rob Portman (R-OH) will join with Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA) to discuss how they intend to ensure that the DATA Act delivers on its promise of transforming federal spending information into open data. 8:45 a.m. Welcome: Hudson Hollister, Executive Director, Data Transparency Coalition Don McCrory, Partner, PwC. 9 a.m. Legislative Panel: A Mandate for Data Transparency Transformation; Dean Garfield, President and CEO, Information Technology Industry Council (moderator); Rep. Darrell Issa; Sen. Mark Warner; Sen. Rob Portman. 10 a.m. Keynote: An Efficient, Effective, and Affordable Government; Jason Miller, Federal News Radio (host); Richard Ginman, Chair, Government Accountability and Transparency Board. 10:15 a.m. Industry Panel: Industry Implements the Data Transparency Transformation; Jason Miller, Federal News Radio (moderator); Dan Chenok, Executive Vice Chair, Industry Advisory Council (invited); Dan Mintz, President and Executive Director, Advanced Mobility Academic Research Center; Trey Hodgkins, Senior Vice President, Public Sector, Information Technology Alliance for Public Sector (invited). 11:30 a.m. Plenary Panel: Benefits of the Data Transparency Transformation; Don McCrory, Partner, PwC (moderator); Kathy Tighe, Chair, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board; Robert Shea, former Associate Director for Administration and Government Performance, White House Office of Management and Budget; Amy Haseltine, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary, Division of Grants, Department of Health and Human Services. 1:30 p.m. Track Discussions: Data-Driven Accountability, sponsored by WebFilings: Mike Starr, Director of Strategic Initiatives, WebFilings (moderator); David Williams, Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service; Dr. Shannon Sohl, Northern Illinois University; Dr. Hussein Issa, Rutgers Business School; Sean Moulton, Director, Open Government Policy, Center for Effective Government. Data-Driven Management: Pat Fiorenza, Senior Research Analyst (moderator); Christina Ho, Executive Director for Data Transparency, Treasury Department; Jonathan Kraden, Counsel, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee; Bill Beach, Chief Economist, Senate Budget Committee (invited). Data-Driven Compliance, sponsored by StreamLink Software: Adam Roth, CEO, StreamLink Software (moderator); Ramesh Advani, Director of Grants Management, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Cornelia Chebinou, Washington Director, National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers; Janet Schmidt, Fiscal/Operations Manager, ServeNebraska; Christopher Connor, Wisconsin Division of Budget and Finance. 3 p.m. Plenary Address: No Labels, Problem Solving, and the Data Transparency Transformation: Steve Goodrich, Vice Chairman, Government Transformation Initiative (host); Rep. Cheri Bustos. 3:30 p.m. Closing: Next Steps for the Data Transparency Transformation: Joe Kull, Director, Washington Federal Practice, PwC, Hudson Hollister,

Executive Director, Data Transparency Coalition. Location: Union Market, 1309 5th St NE.

INSURANCE REGULATORY MODERNIZATION – MCRAITH, ROYCE — 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. National Journal LIVE's "Insurance Regulatory Modernization: A Discussion Home and Abroad" . Speakers: Michael McRaith, Director, Federal Insurance Policy; Representative Ed Royce (R-CA); Robert Detlefsen, Vice President of Public Policy, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies; Tony Fratto, Partner, Hamilton Place Strategies; Aaron Klein, Director, Financial Regulatory Initiative, Bipartisan Policy Center; Barb Sulzenko-Laurie, Vice President, Policy & Senior Advisory, Policy Development, Insurance Bureau of Canada; Ethan Sonnichsen, Director, Government Relations, National Association of Insurance Commissioners; Peter Wallison, Arthur F. Burns Fellow in Financial Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute; Nancy Cook, Economic and Domestic Policy Correspondent, National Journal. RSVP: NJInsuranceModernization.eventbrite.com For more information: http://www.nationaljournal.com/events/insurance-regulatory-modernization-a-discussion-home-and-abroad-20140429 Location: The Hamilton, 600 14th Street, NW.

HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING IN AMERICA — 10 a.m. Human Sex Trafficking in America: New Survey Details Extent of Problem Panel to discuss federal and county response focused on protecting children. Panelists: Rep. Ted Poe (R-Texas), author, Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act(H.R.3530); Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair, Los Angeles County (Calif.) Board of Supervisors; Jessica M. Trafficking Survivor, Leader. Contacts: Patti Giglio, NPC Newsmakers Co-Chair, 202-903-7869, patti@psgcom.net ; Herb Perone, NPC Newsmakers Chair, 301-512-7636, herb@peronecomm.com http://press.org/events/human-sex-trafficking-america Location: National Press Club, Zenger Room, National Press Building, 529 14th St. NW,

SECRETARY PEREZ, SEN. BOOKER – MINIMUM WAGE – PRESS CALL — 11:45 a.m. Teleconference on raising the minimum wage with Secretary Thomas Perez, Sen. Cory Booker and national faith leaders. Speakers: Thomas Perez, United States Secretary of Labor; U.S. Senator Cory Booker, D-NJ; Fr. Larry Snyder, President, Catholic Charities USA; John Schmitt, Senior Economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research; Kim Bobo, Executive Director, Interfaith Worker Justice; Rev. Dr. James C. Perkins, Vice President, Progressive National Baptist Convention; Pastor, Greater Christ Baptist Church in Detroit, MI.

PENTAGON – CZECH REPUBLIC — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an honor cordon to welcome the Czech Republic's Minister of Defense Martin Stropnicky to the Pentagon.

GW – JAPAN, S. KOREAN LEGISLATORS —4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Legislators from Japan, South Korea and US Congress Discuss Contemporary Issues Michael Turner, Congressman, Ohio 10th (tentative) Jim McDermott, Congressman, Washington 7th, Co-Chair, US Delegation (tentative) Kuniko Inoguchi, House of Counsellors, Liberal Democratic Party Co-Chair, Japanese Delegation Masaharu Nakagawa, House of Representatives, Democratic Party of Japan, Co-Chair, Japanese Delegation Jin Ha Hwang, Saenuri Party, Co-Chair, South Korean Delegation, Korean National Assembly Soon Ok Chun, New Politics Alliance for Democracy Party Moderators Henry R. Nau, Co-Director of the U.S.-Japan-South Korea Legislative Exchange Program, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, GW Mike M. Mochizuki, Co-Director of the U.S.-Japan-South Korea Legislative Exchange Program, Associate Dean for Academic Programs. RSVP: http://go.gwu.edu/LEP Location: 1957 E Street NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Even President Obama is calling [Los Angeles Clippers owner] Donald Sterling's racist remarks incredibly offensive. And you know it's sad when even [Russian President Vladimir] Putin is like, 'I hate to say it, but I am with Obama on this one.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, here is some international news. With the US considering new sanctions against Russia, there are reports that Vladimir Putin has canceled any further communication with the White House. And the Republicans are like, 'Big deal. We did that years ago.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "A six-year-old Russian girl asked Vladimir Putin this question. She asked, 'If you were

drowning, do you think President Obama would save you?' Putin said, 'Yes, I think Obama would save me.' So, on Friday, Jon Karl of ABC News asked President Obama, 'Would you save him?' And Obama said, 'Yeah, I would save Putin if he was drowning.' He said, 'I would save anyone except Donald Sterling if they were drowning.'"

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BISON CONNECT

Fwd: Secretary's House Questions for the Record

Haze, Pam <pam_haze@ios.doi.gov> Fri, May 2, 2014 at 3:27 PM
To: "Jewell, Sally" (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Rhea Suh <Rhea_Suh@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Holley <Amy_Holley@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>

Dear Secretary: I understand that you want to see questions and answers that we are submitting to Congress as part of your hearing record. Attached to this email are the questions and answers from the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee hearing.

In the interest of giving you as much time as possible, I am sending them without having read and reviewed them. They do incorporate review by OMB and the Budget Office. I plan to do my review this weekend. In addition to any changes I would make we also need to make final formatting changes and general cleanup.

Please do not feel that you have to read them. We need your comments/changes back by Wednesday morning so we can clean them up and get them to the Subcommittee within a very constrained timeframe.

Please let me know if you have questions. thank you

FY 2015 IERA Subcommittee DOI QFRs MASTER.docx
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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Budget Hearing: U.S. Department of the Interior
March 25, 2014
2359 Rayburn HOB

Questions for the Record -- Secretary of the Interior

Questions from Mr. Calvert

Wildland Fire Management/Budget Cap Adjustment Proposal

Historically, this subcommittee has funded wildland fire suppression accounts at the 10-year average level. Based on the severity of recent fire seasons, this methodology has proven insufficient to fully address annual fire needs. This has led to the need to transfer funding from non-fire accounts to cover shortfalls in suppression funding. The total shortfall in fiscal year 2013 was about $28 million for your Department and $600 million for the Forest Service—and there is likely to be a similar shortfall for fiscal year 2014. Clearly, there is a need to develop a better model for providing wildland fire funding.

The FY 2015 budget proposes to establish a new budget framework for the Wildland Fire Management program. Within the Department's proposed budget, $268.6 million in discretionary funds (70 percent of the 10-year average for suppression costs) is requested for suppression. An additional $240.4 million is requested through a budget cap adjustment.

Calvert Q1: Can you explain in some detail how the budget cap adjustment funding level of $240.4 million is determined? Do you believe this calculation for determining fire suppression costs is more accurate than continuing to use the 10-year average?

Answer: The Administration routinely supports the use of 10-year averages as a viable method to determine funding needs, and other items, for programs with variable activity, such as wildfire suppression. To fund a variable item, like fire, within a budget, the 10-year average is the most reasonable method for developing funding needs. However, using the 10-year average is not a reasonable method for determining and budgeting for the total funding needs likely in a worst case scenario. Furthermore, using any method to determine the total funding needs likely in a worst case scenario is not a reasonable method for budgeting.

By contrast, the cap adjustment foresees budgeting for the likely worst case scenario, with the amount requested for the cap adjustment and the base suppression request combined representing the likely highest level of suppression spending in a worst case scenario. This amount was derived utilizing a methodology that provides a scientifically based 90 percent upper confidence level for the likely highest level of spending.

It is based on the work of Forest Service researchers who issued a paper in 2009 that provided forecast models for various timeframes, including 2 years out (ABT, K.L., J.P. Prestemon, and

K. Gebert "Wildfire suppression cost forecasts for the US Forest Service" Journal of Forestry 107(4): 173-178). The Budget uses this method to determine the upper limit of funding. Below is a short description of the model.

The 2-year out forecast is a time series regression model using historical expenditure data from 1977-2012. The variables in the model are time and expenditure lagged by three years (a statistical method to factor in the relationship between expenditures in a given year and three years prior). The costs and the time trend variable are assumed to also proxy for patterns in climate, fuels and management, for the years (the ones that are being forecasted) in which there are no forecasted values.

The DOI total estimated amount of $509 million is considered the "High 90" confidence interval for the anticipated expenditures for the year 2015. The $240.4 million is the difference between the estimated expenditures developed by Forest Service researchers and 70% of the 10-year average of inflation-adjusted suppression expenditures.

For comparison purposes, the average DOI obligations in excess of the requested 10-year average is $126.5 million with the highest being $210 million. The Budget requests $125 million above the 10-year average for DOI.

The 10-year average calculation will continue to be calculated each year and 70% of that 10-year average will be the level of funding requested in the Wildland Fire Management account for Suppression operations.

Calvert Q2: Is this calculation likely to change throughout the year, possibly before the Interior bill is enacted into law? If there is a change in the overall projected suppression costs necessary for FY 2015, will the Administration submit a budget amendment?

Answer: DOI will update its estimates of the amount needed in a cap adjustment periodically throughout the year so Congress can use the most up-to-date estimate in making appropriations decisions. Also note that the upper limit of the proposed cap adjustment would be set to allow for updated estimates.

Calvert Q3: There are, I believe, seven bipartisan members of this subcommittee who have signed onto Congressman Simpson's cap adjustment bill. Short of passing the Simpson bill, the only way we're able to be successful in adopting the budget cap adjustment proposal is to have the House and Senate Budget Committees (Paul Ryan and Patty Murray respectively) amend the Budget Control Act. Thus far, they don't seem inclined to support this effort.

Do you have any plans to meet personally with the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, Paul Ryan, or the Chairwoman of the Senate Budget Committee, Patty Murray, to press the case for amending the Budget Control Act?

Answer: It is our understanding that the Office of Management and Budget met with Paul Ryan and the House Budget Committee staff and with Patty Murray and the Senate Budget Committee staff to inform them about the budget cap proposal. The Department of the Interior and

USDA/Forest Service, in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), are meeting with appropriations and authorizing committees and other stakeholders to inform them about the proposal.

Calvert Q4: Practically speaking, if the proposal for this budget cap adjustment is agreed to, there must be set criteria for the Department to access these funds. For instance, in order for FEMA to access its portion of the disaster cap adjustment funding, there must first be a disaster declaration from the President.

Has the Department developed similar criteria for accessing the $240.4 million and how were those criteria developed? Who will make the decision about accessing this funding? Since timely decisions must often be made relating to fire suppression activities, how quickly would funding be able to be accessed and distributed under the cap adjustment?

Answer: Yes. Authorizing language will include specific triggers for accessing funding and Secretarial designations/ notifications that would be necessary prior to accessing the cap adjustment funds. To maintain transparency, the agencies would also be required to report on their use of cap adjustment funds after the end of the fire season.

A declaration by the Secretary concerned may be issued only if—

- an individual wildfire incident meets objective indicators of an extraordinary fire situation, to include:
    - the Secretary concerned determines that the fire requires an emergency Federal response based on the significant complexity, severity, or threat posed by the fire to human life, property, or resource; or
    - the fire covers 1,000 or more acres; or
    - the fire is within 10 miles of a major urban area (50,000 or more inhabitants); or,
- the cumulative costs of wildfire suppression operations, for the Secretary concerned will exceed, within 30 days, all of the amounts previously appropriated to the Secretary concerned for wildfire suppression operations.

The DOI Wildland Fire Management Program is committed to continue to frequently assess the suppression funding availability throughout the year, with increased scrutiny in the Department during the height of the wildfire activity. This monitoring and reporting will allow decision makers ample time to anticipate needs to access and distribute the funds available under the cap adjustment.

Drought, Delta Smelt, and the ESA

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals recently upheld a 2008 biological opinion by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that concluded that the Central Valley and State Water Projects - which provide water for more than 20 million people and seven million acres of agriculture - jeopardized the continued existence of the delta smelt and its habitat. The court acknowledged the "enormous practical implications" of its decision, but that it was prohibited by the Endangered Species Act "from making 'such fine utilitarian calculations' to balance the smelt's interests against the interests of the citizens of California." Resolution of that question, the court

said, falls to Congress, the agencies to which Congress has delegated authority, and the State of California.

Calvert Q5: While Congress wrestles with solutions, what flexibilities are you afforded under your authority to provide water for more than 20 million people in California and the hundreds of millions elsewhere who depend on California's produce, while at the same time meeting your ESA mandate to prevent the extinction of delta smelt?

Answer: Relative to providing more water while meeting ESA requirements, Reclamation has been engaging with both U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to exercise flexibility to operate while maintaining compliance with the Biological Opinions. The agencies will continue to work together to operate in a manner that protects species while delivering as much water as possible to meet our customers' needs.

Reclamation has been working with other Federal agencies and the State of California in developing a plan to optimize our limited water supply to meet the needs of our contractors and assure we are in a position to take advantage of any hydrologic events that might occur. In collaboration with our various stakeholders, we had previously developed over the past year a Central Valley Project Water Plan 2014 which will be useful should the hydrology improve.

Calvert Q6: How are your flexibilities limited by the resources at your disposal?

Answer: Reclamation has sufficient resources to continue to engage with all parties involved to exercise flexibility to operate while maintaining compliance with the Biological Opinions.

Calvert Q7: Much has been written about the inherent weaknesses of the ESA's single-species approach after so much has been learned in the past few decades about ecosystem science. In 2010, former Interior Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett wrote specifically about such weakness when applied to the Bay Delta.

In your opinion, should Congress and the Administration take up the issue of improving and modernizing the ESA?

Answer: Since 1973, the Service has demonstrated a clear record of success in preventing the probable extinction of hundreds of species across the Nation while working collaboratively with Federal agencies and other partners to balance the diverse impacts of their development actions with conservation actions that contribute towards species' survival and often to their recovery. The ESA contains a suite of tools that provide the flexibility needed to guide land development and aid species recovery. Working in partnership with other agencies and organizations is foundational for the Ecological Services program as the conservation of the Nation's biological heritage cannot be achieved by a single agency or organization.

The Service is committed to improving the implementation of the ESA. In response to Executive Order 13563 on "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review," the Department of the Interior prepared a Plan for Retrospective Regulatory Review in 2011. As part of that Plan, the Department (in cooperation with NOAA) committed to "revise and update … ESA implementing

regulations and policies to improve conservation effectiveness, reduce administrative burden, enhance clarity and consistency ... and encourage partnerships, innovation, and cooperation." Several specific regulatory improvement proposals have already been published and more will soon be ready for publication, including actions clarifying the scope and content of incidental take statements; clarifying the scope, purpose, and criteria for designating critical habitat; revising the definition of adverse modification of critical habitat; and clarifying critical habitat exclusions. These proposals, once finalized, will improve clarity and consistency in implementing the ESA which will be a benefit to proactive land use planning and conservation.

The Service would support constructive, broadly bipartisan legislative efforts to improve and update the ESA if a shared objective for that reform could be agreed upon.

Calvert Q8: Does our changing climate add a level of urgency to the issue?

Answer: The Service is exercising the administrative flexibility inherent in the Act to accommodate consideration of the effects of climate change in the legal and policy framework. We do expect that the effects of climate change will contribute to the risk of extinction for more species in the future.

Calvert Q9: Given ESA's documented weaknesses, why should Congress direct funding toward more listings when we could direct resources to recovery actions?

Answer: Both listing and recovery actions are important funding needs of the Service. Recovering species to the point at which they are no longer endangered or threatened is the ultimate goal of the Endangered Species Act, and it is a goal toward which we are making progress. In the last two months the Fish and Wildlife Service has delisted a fish species in Oregon and proposed to delist two California plants and another fish, all due to recovery. Altogether there are nine pending proposals to delist species due to recovery. When the Obama Administration began, there had been fewer than 20 delistings due to recovery; now there are 30 and, if all pending delisting proposals are finalized, this administration will have published more delisting rules on the basis of recovery than all prior administrations combined.

Important as they are, however, delistings tell only part of the story. We have made the future vastly more secure for California condors, Black-footed ferrets, Florida manatees, and Whooping cranes among many others. Although still endangered, these species all have a real shot at recovery, despite having once faced almost certain extinction. And that is success that should be acknowledged and celebrated. The funding increase requested for Conservation and Restoration activities is important, but will only provide the same buying power as our funding levels in 2010-2012, before sequestration and other budget cuts of the last few years. If we want to see continued progress toward recovery and delisting, we need to continue funding this program.

Listing a species is required under the ESA for species that meet the definition of threatened or endangered. The law allows citizens to petition to list a species, and there are very tight deadlines for making these decisions. Our inability to meet those statutory deadlines led to multiple lawsuits and eventually to a comprehensive settlement agreement that set an orderly schedule for making the overdue determinations. Information sought and compiled through the rule-making

process associated with the Listing program informs and streamlines conservation and recovery activities. In many ways, the Listing process sets the stage for recovery needs and objectives, which facilitates early response and implementation to stabilize and then recover species.

Greater Sage-grouse

In December, 2011, then-Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar met with leaders of eight western States and forged an agreement to work closely together to conserve greater sage-grouse so that an ESA listing is unnecessary. As it should be, States have significantly increased their efforts and investments and have been leading the way in the conservation of greater sage-grouse. They committed in 2011 to support "all reasonable management efforts necessary." But the conundrum is that so much of greater sage-grouse habitat resides on Interior lands. Lately we've been hearing from the western States that Interior is moving away from commitments made by former Secretary Salazar: that Interior is saying that conservation plans developed by States and Interior bureaus are not "good enough" to ensure that greater sage-grouse are conserved.

Calvert Q10: Madam Secretary, are you truly committed to working with the States to conserve greater sage-grouse so that an ESA listing is unnecessary?

Answer: Yes. The Department of the Interior is committed to the conservation of the greater sage grouse range-wide. The FWS, BLM and USGS are all contributing significant resources to address the threats identified in the 2010 warranted finding and achieve conservation. We have been reviewing and providing advice on State planning efforts as well as working closely with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. In addition, we continue to work closely with the Task Force that was established by former Secretary Salazar and the respective western Governors.

Calvert Q11: I'm told that the Wyoming BLM office has completed sage-grouse management plans for Wyoming BLM lands, but that approval to implement these plans is being held up in the BLM headquarters office.

Is this true, and, if so, what is the rationale?

Answer: The BLM is currently working on a number of Greater Sage-Grouse management plans in Wyoming, which include the Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision, Bighorn Basin RMP revision, Lander RMP revision, and the Wyoming 9-Plan Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Amendment. The Wyoming management plans are in varying stages of completion, but are on schedule to be completed by the end of 2014. Coordination on these plans is vitally important.

The BLM remains active in conserving sagebrush landscapes in Wyoming and across the West while the land use planning process is underway. In 2011, the State of Wyoming's "core area" strategy was formally approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and officially adopted by the BLM to provide interim guidance and immediate direction for conserving sage grouse habitat in Wyoming until the National Planning process is completed. We look forward to continuing our unprecedented collaboration with public stakeholders, industry, other Federal agencies, and the State of Wyoming as we finish amending our land use plans.

Calvert Q12: How can you tell States that it's worth their time and resources to do everything they can, while BLM, which holds the lion share of the lands where greater sage-grouse reside, is delaying the implementation of plans?

Answer: To ensure pragmatic sage grouse conservation strategies are implemented while the Greater Sage-Grouse National Planning Strategy is underway, in 2011, the BLM formally adopted interim sage grouse management policies to guide land use authorizations. These measures help the BLM and Forest Service (USFS) to determine whether to authorize or continue certain activities in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, and to ensure that Greater Sage-Grouse populations and habitats are maintained or improved with minimized habitat loss. Conservation efforts are also occurring across the BLM's many programs, including wildland fire management, vegetation restoration, and conventional and renewable energy development.

The BLM will continue to conserve sage grouse habitat under its interim guidance while the National Planning process is completed with the full involvement of State agencies and stakeholders across the West. All 15 Environmental Impact Statement drafts have been released to the public, and the BLM expects to sign Records of Decision by the end of this calendar year.

Calvert Q13: For every square inch of greater sage-grouse historic and current range, is there a conservation plan—State, Federal, or otherwise—that, if fully implemented, creates sufficient guarantees that a greater sage-grouse listing isn't necessary? If not, then please identify the specific part or parts of the range with insufficient conservation plans; and if not, please also identify specific changes that must be made to any insufficient plan in order for it to be sufficient.

Answer: All sage-grouse habitat under the BLM's jurisdiction is covered by a land-use plan, and as noted above, the BLM is revising or amending these plans to provide improved regulatory mechanisms which ensure the conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat. The plans rely on conservation objectives identified by the Federal and State partners, including FWS, in the Conservation Objectives Team Report, as well as robust mitigation, monitoring, and adaptive management components. The goal of the BLM through this planning process is to provide sufficient regulatory certainty to conserve sage-grouse habitat. Ultimately, the FWS will make the determination whether the plans are sufficient and whether to list the species under the Endangered Species Act.

Calvert Q14: More than half of all remaining sage-grouse habitat in the U.S. is found on BLM public lands, so it is fair to say that successful conservation on these lands will factor heavily in the imminent decision of whether or not to list sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This subcommittee has invested $30 million in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 in the BLM's National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy. The fiscal year 2015 budget proposes another $15 million to begin to implement those plans. If the decision is made to list the greater sage-grouse, I do not want to find out later that the BLM could have done more to improve and implement those plans.

When is FWS going to agree to the BLM plans that the two agencies have worked together produce? If FWS doesn't agree, then what was the point of spending so much time and money to collaborate?

Answer: BLM is scheduled to have administrative draft plans available by summer 2014 and final Records of Decision and Environmental Impact Statements completed by the end of 2014. The FWS continues to work closely with BLM to provide technical assistance and guidance to ensure the plans address the threats to the species and provide for conservation of the species habitat into the future. These plans will be valuable in guiding adaptive management of sage steppe habitat, which is critical to greater sage grouse conservation.

Calvert Q15: Does the $15 million proposed in fiscal year 2015 fully implement these plans? If not, what percentage of this plan does it fund? What percent of the improvement actions documented in these plans won't produce results until 2016 or beyond?

Answer: The $15 million proposed in the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request is designed to support the BLM's ongoing implementation of the National Planning Strategy process, as well as continued large-scale sage-grouse habitat assessment and improvement. Currently, no Decision Records have been signed for the 15 plan amendments and revisions. The BLM cannot project what funding will be needed to fully implement the conservation measures that will be adopted in the plans until the plans have been finalized, which will not occur until early in fiscal year 2015. Under its National Planning Strategy timeline, BLM intends to address these funding needs in its 2016 budget, to the extent that they cannot be fully implemented at the 2015 base funding level. Likewise, prior to signing Decision Records, it is unclear what percentage of the conservation measures will not produce results until 2016 or beyond.

A commitment to fund the plans is critical to providing certainty to the FWS that the conservation measures identified by the BLM in its land use plans will be implemented.

Calvert Q16: Are recent State and Federal efforts to conserve greater sage-grouse working? If so, provide a few examples of success stories and tell us how you're leveraging lessons, techniques, plans with others.

Answer: In December 2009, then Secretary Salazar convened a Sage-Grouse Task Force (SGTF) chaired by Governors Mead and Hickenlooper and the BLM Director. The SGTF's strategic mission is to identify and implement high priority conservation actions and integrate ongoing actions necessary to preclude the need to list the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act in 2015. Members of the SGTF include Governor's Office representatives from the 11 States within the range of the Greater Sage-Grouse, along with the Department, the BLM, the USFS, the FWS, and Natural Resources Conservation Service representatives. This unprecedented Task Force has provided a venue for improved cooperation and collaboration around the shared goal of sage-grouse conservation.

Many successful conservation measures are also being implemented on the ground with our Federal, State, and private partners. One exciting effort recently documented the combined efforts of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Squaw Valley Ranch and the BLM to restore

areas burned in 2005 by the 97,000 acre Esmeralda wildfire in the BLM's Elko District, Nevada. The area affected by the fire provided habitat for one of the highest documented sage-grouse population densities in Nevada. Greater Sage-Grouse were documented using the restored areas within 3 years of reseeding. By 2012, sage-grouse population levels were near pre-fire levels. These types of cooperative treatments and management of activities in sage-grouse habitat are occurring across the landscape and are an integral part of the BLM's plan revisions and amendments to meet the needs of Greater Sage-Grouse.

Calvert Q17: If State and Federal conservation efforts continue at current levels, will an ESA listing be necessary?

Answer: The FWS partnered with the States to define the conservation objectives for greater sage-grouse that, if met, would conserve the species into the future. This report is referred to as the Conservation Objectives Team report (http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/sagegrouse/COT/COT-Report-with-Dear-Interested-Reader-Letter.pdf). The BLM and U.S. Forest Service planning efforts will not be completed until this fall. The FWS continues to provide guidance to Federal and State agency efforts consistent with the objectives identified in this report. The FWS will consider these efforts in the current status review and will make an ESA determination by September 30, 2015, on whether an ESA listing proposal is still warranted.

Calvert Q18: What scientific basis is there for making a decision about whether or not to propose an ESA listing by September, 2015?

Answer: The FWS made a finding in 2010 that the greater sage grouse was warranted for listing, but that a listing determination was precluded by other higher priority listing actions. Based on the FWS listing priority guidance, the greater sage grouse was assigned a listing priority number (LPN) of 8 (out of 12; with 1 being the highest priority and 12 the lowest) based on the moderate imminency and moderate magnitude of the threats. The LPN for greater sage grouse has remained at eight in the Candidate Notice of Reviews published annually. Subsequent to the 2010 finding, the FWS finalized two settlement agreements in response to court-ordered petition deadlines and other lawsuits. The schedule for the agreements generally follows the species LPN, with listing determinations being made for species facing the highest degree of threats earlier than species facing a lesser degree of threats. These settlement agreements also resulted in the FWS prevailing in a separate lawsuit filed in September 2011, seeking to have FWS make a listing determination on greater sage grouse within 90 days. A finding of not warranted or a proposed rule to list the greater sage grouse is due by September 30, 2015.

The settlement agreements require FWS to make listing determinations under the ESA for 251 species on a workable and publicly available schedule. Between 2008 and 2010, FWS was engaged in litigation for missed deadlines on petition findings for approximately 895 species. Since the settlement agreements were approved and FWS made its work plan public, FWS's Listing Program has seen an almost 96 percent reduction in species subject to lawsuits filed for missed deadlines on petition findings.

The settlement agreements have accomplished our objectives of making our listing activities

more certain and predictable, and allowing the FWS to focus limited resources on actions that provide the most conservation benefit to the species that are most in need of help.

Calvert Q19: If Interior had more time, could it make a more informed scientific decision about whether or not an ESA listing is necessary?

Answer: The ESA directs FWS to make expeditious progress in completing listing determinations for candidate species and to use the best scientific and commercial data available to make a decision whether a species warrants listing under the Act. This determination will be based on the information that is available at the time a decision is or needs to be made.

The settlement agreements have given FWS an additional four years to work on conserving the greater sage grouse prior to a listing decision. We believe there will be able information on which to base a well-informed scientific decision regarding listing in 2015.

Calvert Q20: Does Interior's FY15 budget propose funding for enough staffing to fully engage in partnership programs with State agencies and private land owners to implement conservation plans?

Answer: Yes. This request supports additional capacity across three regions of the FWS and 11 States. The majority of these positions will provide on-the-ground support for conservation on private lands, and to provide technical assistance for State and Federal conservation planning and implementation.

Calvert Q21: Does Interior's FY15 budget propose funding for enough staffing to efficiently process necessary permits for landscape restoration projects on public lands that benefit the Greater Sage-grouse? How does Interior measure efficiency in this case?

Answer: The $15 million proposed in the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request is designed to support the BLM's ongoing implementation of the National Planning Strategy process, as well as continued large-scale sage-grouse habitat assessment and improvement. Currently, no Decision Records have been signed for the 15 plan amendments and revisions. The BLM cannot project what funding will be needed to fully implement the conservation measures that will be adopted in the plans until the plans have been finalized, which will not occur until early in fiscal year 2015. Under its National Planning Strategy timeline, BLM intends to address these funding needs in its 2016 budget, to the extent that they cannot be fully implemented at the 2015 base funding level. Likewise, prior to signing Decision Records, it is unclear what percentage of the conservation measures will not produce results until 2016 or beyond.

The BLM plans will include strategies for identifying priority areas for conservation and restoration within the range of the Greater Sage-Grouse. These priority areas will be identified through a collaborative process with Federal, State, and private partners, and will look at an "all lands approach." This approach will create opportunities to improve efficiencies by targeting priority areas that will provide the greatest benefit to the species and allow partners to leverage resources, thereby increasing the amount of conservation benefit that can occur on the ground.

Calvert Q22: Wildfire is a major threat to the Greater Sage-grouse and habitat. Are federal agencies prioritizing budgets for pre-suppression, suppression and post-fire rehabilitation in priority Sage-grouse habitat areas?

Answer: The DOI Wildland Fire Management program is highly aware of the important role that fire plays in sagebrush ecosystems. While firefighter and public safety is the top fire management priority, resource priorities are also a program consideration. In the BLM, for example, protecting, conserving and restoring sage-grouse habitat is one of their highest resource priorities and the Wildland Fire Management program contributes to that priority. The BLM issued policy several years ago reiterating each fire season that the BLM will continue to preposition fire suppression resources so that they can rapidly respond to fires in sage-grouse habitat, and provide fire crews access to sage-grouse habitat maps so that priority habitat can be emphasized during suppression. As an example, the BLM will emphasize the use of fire breaks, pinyon-juniper treatments, and non-native weed treatments to conserve and rehabilitate sagebrush habitat.

The DOI Burned Area Rehabilitation prioritization process ensures the highest priority needs are being met first and that funds are used in a consistent manner across all bureaus. The Department uses a rigorous process to rank BAR project proposals and allocate funds. One of the criteria includes: action is necessary to protect or enhance habitat for federally or tribally listed Threatened and Endangered (T&E) or candidate species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has until 2015 to make a final determination on listing the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Calvert Q23: Do feral horses and burros on the range have a negative impact on sage-grouse habitat, and, if so, why aren't more feral horses and burros being taken off the range?

Answer: Broadly, the BLM has seen no data that indicate feral horses have any greater or lesser effect on sage grouse habitat than other large herbivores, such as cattle. In some areas the impacts of grazing have been identified as having a negative impact on sage-grouse habitat. In response to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report, the BLM is exploring research and protocols for differentiating wild horse and burro environmental impacts from those of livestock and wildlife. In the meantime, the BLM will continue to aggressively monitor the range and utilization rates and make adjustments based on sound rangeland management practices and the best available science.

Calvert Q24: What budget investments are being made to control wild horse and burro populations to a level that is not detrimental to sage-grouse habitat?

Answer: In March, the BLM published a Request for Applications targeting the development of new and more effective fertility control methods. The BLM has increased the number of population inventory flights utilizing the methods developed by the U.S. Geological Survey and recommended by the NAS. The BLM is also developing partnerships with various non-profit organizations and prisons to train and adopt mustangs to well-qualified homes. The BLM has almost completed its review of the NAS recommendations that were part of a BLM requested

review of its Wild Horse and Burro Program and will implement the recommendations as funding permits.

Calvert Q25: What monitoring investment is being made to provide sufficient information as to the population trends of the species as well as habitat conditions?

Answer: In coordination with our State and Federal partners, the BLM is incorporating a robust monitoring strategy into its plans that will provide sufficient information to determine the status of the species populations and condition of its habitat. To help facilitate this monitoring effort, a Memorandum of Understanding is currently in development with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies that will facilitate the sharing of Greater Sage-Grouse population data gathered by the States with the Federal agencies.

Calvert Q26: Nevada is 87% managed by the Federal government, and 84% of greater sage-grouse habitat in Nevada is located on Federal lands. Therefore, the responsibility for sage-grouse habitat management in Nevada is almost entirely the Federal government's.

Does the President's FY15 budget request include sufficient sage-grouse habitat management appropriations and regulatory mechanisms for BLM lands in Nevada?

Answer: The $15 million proposed in the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request is designed to support the BLM's ongoing implementation of the National Planning Strategy process, as well as continued large-scale sage-grouse habitat assessment and improvement. Currently, no Decision Records have been signed for the 15 plan amendments and revisions. The BLM cannot project what funding will be needed in Nevada or elsewhere to fully implement the conservation measures that will be adopted in the plans until the plans have been finalized, which will not occur until early in fiscal 2015. Under its National Planning Strategy timeline, BLM intends to address these funding needs in its 2016 budget, to the extent that they cannot be fully implemented at the 2015 base funding level. It is the intent of the revision process that all BLM plans will provide improved regulatory certainty and conservation measures for the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat.

Calvert Q27: On November 29, 2013, Fish & Wildlife Pacific Southwest Regional Director, Ren Lohoefener, wrote to Governor Sandoval of Nevada stating, "while I appreciate your efforts and the State's efforts to conserve sagebrush ecosystems in Nevada, I am concerned that the efforts will not achieve the desired outcome."

Do you believe the Department of Interior is adequately managing habitat on federal lands to the expectations of the Fish and Wildlife Service to avoid a listing?

Answer: The BLM is taking every step possible to revise and amend land-use plans to protect, conserve, and restore the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat. All efforts have been and continue to be developed in close coordination with the FWS and other partner agencies and stakeholders. The BLM expects that implementation of the updated plans will protect and conserve Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat. Ultimately, the FWS will make its determination whether to list the Greater Sage-Grouse based on the cumulative sum of all the conservation

efforts across the range of the species.

Calvert Q28: Would you agree the vast majority of sage-grouse habitat management in Nevada is the responsibility of the federal government?

Answer: Yes. The land under Federal ownership in Nevada is the responsibility of the Federal government to manage. This responsibility also requires close coordination with the State of Nevada and other stakeholders and partners with interest in the management of our public lands.

LWCF FY15 Budget Request

The President's budget request for fiscal year 2015 includes $350 million in discretionary funding for projects through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and $550 million in permanent funding, for the total authorized level of $900 million for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. According to the Administration, starting in fiscal year 2016, the President will propose the fully authorized level of $900 million annually in permanent, mandatory funding. The legislative proposal supporting the $550 million in permanent funding has not yet been transmitted to Congress. The administration had a similar request in the fiscal year 2014 budget, but the legislative proposal for permanent funding was never transmitted to Congress.

Calvert Q29: When will the Administration submit a legislative proposal for $550 million in permanent funding to Congress? What is the proposed funding mechanism, or offset, to support the permanent request? What are the consequences of not providing permanent funding for LWCF?

Answer: The 2015 budget includes 14 DOI-related legislative proposals affecting spending and/or revenues that require action by the authorizing committees in Congress. These mandatory proposals address a range of Administration priorities, from investing in high-priority conservation and recreation programs to achieving a fair return to the American taxpayer from the sale of Federal resources and reducing unnecessary spending. The 2015 budget includes four DOI mandatory spending proposals, of which the largest is the Administration's proposal to provide full mandatory funding for DOI and USDA Land and Water Conservation Fund programs. In total, estimated outlays for these DOI spending proposals total $9.9 billion over the next decade. This spending is partially offset by DOI revenue and savings proposals that are estimated to reduce outlays from the Treasury by roughly $2.7 billion over the next decade.

The President's Budget includes a variety of other revenue and savings proposals that could be used to offset the cost of providing full mandatory funding for LWCF. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress on the details of legislation that would advance our LWCF proposal, including the necessary offsets for this new spending.

Consequences of Not Providing Permanent Funding

- Uncertainty about annual discretionary appropriations makes it more difficult for the agencies—and local and State partners – to engage in the multi-year planning that landscape conservation and effective collaboration with local communities requires.

Land available for acquisition from willing sellers far outstrips available LWCF funding, leaving many landowners, who wish to sell their properties to the government for the public's enjoyment, in limbo, sometimes for years.

- The lack of certainty and irregularity of annually appropriated funding also impacts the partner groups that work with agencies. The chronic uncertainty and funding LWCF at less than the fully authorized level has made it increasingly challenging for Federal, State and local managers to use this tool to deal with the development threats facing the lands and waters that provide communities with recreational access and preserve our history.

- The Administration proposes to address these challenges by pursuing full and mandatory funding for LWCF programs. Mandatory funding would increase financial certainty needed to build local and community partnerships in conservation and optimize valuable investments by leveraging other Federal and non-Federal funds. Ramping up to reaching the fully authorized level in mandatory funding beginning in 2016, as we propose in the President's Budget, also provides an opportunity to enhance existing administrative structures to maximize transparency, efficiency and effectiveness.

- Mandatory funding will also finally achieve the original intent of the LWCF Act: to dedicate a meaningful portion ($900 million) of the royalties private companies pay to access the Nation's offshore oil and gas reserves to preserving the Nation's lands and waters for the benefit of all Americans and future generations.

Energy Exploration & Development

Last month, DOI released the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, or "PEIS", for the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf which is an important step in the determination of whether to open up new areas of the Atlantic OCS to oil and natural gas exploration. This release has been a long time in the making, and it is a vital next step.

Calvert Q30: Since this is your first budget hearing before our subcommittee, can you speak to your vision for additional energy exploration and development. I think we all agree that it's important to "get it right" but what are your goals for accessing known oil and gas reserves and for additional expansion and energy independence?

Answer: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and other applicable laws set forth the careful process we follow in scheduling lease sales that will meet national energy needs in an environmentally responsible manner. The 2012-2017 Five Year Program supports the Administration's efforts to expand safe and responsible domestic oil and natural gas production as part of a comprehensive national energy policy.

The 2012-2017 Five Year Program includes 15 potential lease sales in six OCS planning areas – the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico (GOM), the portion of the Eastern GOM not currently under Congressional moratorium, and the Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea, and Cook Inlet planning areas offshore Alaska. These planning areas include the richest and most promising areas for oil and gas exploration and development on the OCS, and together they include more than 75 percent of the total undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and natural gas resources estimated

for the entire OCS.

Since approval of the Five Year Program, BOEM has held five lease sales. The first three lease sales in the Central and Western GOM resulted in over $1.4 billion in accepted bonus bid revenue on over 2.6 million leased acres. The most recent two sales in the Central and Eastern GOM, held on March 19, 2014, resulted in an additional $850 million in high bonus bids on 1.7 million acres, which are now undergoing review to ensure fair value for the American people prior to award of those leases.

BOEM will initiate the planning process for developing the next Five Year Program, for 2017-2022, this summer. The first steps in developing the next Program will be publishing a Request for Information and holding public scoping meetings. This will initiate the process of deciding how, when and where it is appropriate to offer oil and gas leases on the OCS. It is a detailed, carefully executed, and public process that is based on sound scientific analysis. A key part of safe and responsible development of our offshore oil and gas resources is tailoring consideration of leasing to specific regions and environments, engaging with States and local communities as well as industry, NGOs and other stakeholders, and addressing potential conflicts.

The energy policy outlined by the Administration includes support for conventional energy resources including exploration and development in the Arctic. It's an area rich with potential.

Calvert Q31: The energy policy outlined by the Administration includes support for conventional energy resources including exploration and development in the Arctic. It's an area rich with potential.

What specific actions has the Department taken to streamline Arctic energy development? Given the very short drilling season in the Arctic (approximately three months) and increased funding by industry to develop Arctic oil and gas resources, has any consideration been given to extending the terms of leases from 10 to 15 -- or 20 -- years?

Answer: The Department is committed to supporting safe and responsible offshore oil and gas exploration in the Arctic. The Arctic holds substantial oil and gas potential, but also presents unique environmental and operational challenges. Offshore exploration in the Arctic must proceed in a way that is safe, prepared for the unique challenging Arctic environment, and respectful of the Alaska Native communities that depend on the ocean for subsistence. The Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Planning in Alaska, established by Executive Order in July 2011 and chaired by the Department's Deputy Secretary, has taken the lead in coordinating the permitting of energy projects across the relevant federal agencies, which will lead to greater efficiency in the regulatory process.

BOEM and BSEE are developing new rules to govern exploratory drilling on the Arctic OCS. This rulemaking is designed to ensure safe, effective, and responsible exploration of Arctic OCS oil and gas resources, while protecting the marine, coastal, and human environments, and Alaska Natives' cultural traditions and access to subsistence resources. The new rules are expected to codify and further develop key standards for operating offshore on the Arctic OCS.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act limits an oil and gas lease to an initial lease period not to exceed 10 years, and as long after such initial period as oil or gas is produced from the area in paying quantities, or drilling or well reworking operations are occurring. The initial lease period is a key component for ensuring that companies diligently develop their leases. Under appropriate circumstances defined by regulation, a lessee may qualify to have the expiration of a lease suspended beyond the original lease period.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

The USGS provides research and scientific information to support the mission of the Department of the Interior and its science requirements. The USGS also works in collaboration with other Federal, State, and tribal cooperators to conduct research and provide scientific data and information concerning natural hazards and environmental issues. The USGS budget continues critical science programs that generate relevant, objective information for natural resource managers and for communities throughout the Nation. It also engages in partnerships with universities, research institutions, and major public and private laboratories.

The FY 2014 Omnibus bill included language supporting USGS' efforts to continue developing an earthquake early warning prototype system on the West Coast. The UC Berkeley Seismological Laboratory, the California Institute of Technology, and the University of Washington, funded by the USGS and a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, have been developing an earthquake early warning system since 2005.

Calvert Q32: What is the current status of this earthquake early warning system? Where are we after nine years of development?

Answer: Since January of 2012, a demonstration version of the earthquake early warning system, called *ShakeAlert*, has been sending test notifications to a small number of test users, including California emergency response organizations, utility providers, rail operators and a number of private companies. The demonstration system has successfully sent notifications for hundreds of quakes in California. Recently it proved itself by sending alerts in less than 5 seconds for the earthquakes in Encino (M4.4) and La Habra (M5.1). However, before public warnings can be issued, the system must meet quality, speed and reliability standards. The USGS completed a cost estimate and an implementation plan for a West Coast public warning system for use by Federal, State, and local governments and private entities that may wish to move forward with such a system.

Calvert Q33: How much funding has USGS contributed on an annual basis to the earthquake early warning system? What level of funding is in the base budget?

Answer: USGS began funding earthquake early warning (EEW) research and system development in 2003. Since this time, the annual base funding amount has varied considerably, with the USGS contributing a total of nearly $10 million in base funds since 2003, or an average of $1.0 million per year. This funding total includes $3.67 million to support EEW R&D activities at universities and $1.75 million through the USGS Multi-hazards project. Base funds were augmented with $4.4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

funding which was used to upgrade antiquated earthquake sensor equipment on the West Coast between 2009 and 2011 to support EEW. The 2014 Omnibus appropriation provided $850,000 for earthquake early warning development, which increased the base budget for EEW in 2014 to $1.45 million. These totals do not include an additional $600,000 in funding provided to the USGS between 2012 and 2014 by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for coordination of university R&D efforts contributing to EEW; this funding will end in late 2014. The budget request for EEW in 2015 is $1.45 million.

Calvert Q34: What more is needed, in terms of research, testing and/or funding, in order to move from the developmental phase to the operational phase?

Answer: The system has several components. To provide fast and reliable alerts for the West Coast, EEW plans call for adding 400 sensors to the Advanced National Seismic System in California and 250 in Washington and Oregon. Data communications from those sensors to processing centers must be upgraded to survive large damaging quakes and power failures. The processing center computers and software were developed in an academic R&D setting and must be engineered, implemented, and tested for fail-safe, public-facing operation. Finally, reliable delivery of alert messages via all available paths, both public and private, must be established and tested. These components can be completed within three to five years at a cost of $16 million per year.

Calvert Q35: Do you have any estimates on what it would cost to fully fund a public earthquake early warning system for the West Coast, operating the system continuously on a 24-hour, seven day a week basis?

Answer: According to the USGS implementation plan for earthquake early warning, the cost to construct and operate a fully implemented system on the West Coast is estimated to be $16 million per year.

Calvert Q36: Realizing that earthquakes take place all across the country, not just on the West Coast, what would it cost to operate a nation-wide earthquake early warning system?

Answer: FEMA has estimated that three-quarters of the national earthquake risk is on the West Coast. A strategy to extend EEW to the entire U.S. would need to evaluate the cost/benefit in lower risk areas, and focus first on those population centers with highest risk; which include New York City, Salt Lake City/Provo, Anchorage, San Juan PR, Memphis, St. Louis, Boston and Washington, D.C. This cost estimate has not yet been made. All of the development work for a West Coast system is transferrable at minimal cost to the ANSS regional seismic networks that now provides enhanced reporting of earthquakes in the intermountain west and the central and eastern U.S.

Calvert Q37: Grant funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation will not last forever, so has USGS investigated other potential partnerships with private organizations or industries that might be helpful in bringing the earthquake early warning system to the general public?

Answer: Moore Foundation funding to the universities for EEW research ends in late 2014 and

will not be renewed. The USGS already partners with many organizations, both public and private, to monitor earthquakes; e.g. utility providers, transit companies, telecommunication companies, and equipment manufacturers. Interest in EEW is opening new opportunities for public/private partnerships.

Based on the experience of the Japanese system, we anticipate the private sector will play a significant role in distributing alerts to the public. USGS and its university partners are working to establish partnerships with mass notification, telecommunications, social media, and other companies to maximize alert distribution and create new business opportunities based on EEW technology.

Calvert Q38: Within the Climate and Land Use Change mission area, there is a $17.1 million increase for FY 2015, of which, $3 million is requested for drought impacts and adaptive management. You know of my great concern about drought in California, so I'm eager to hear more about what type of actionable scientific research USGS is conducting in this area.

Can you explain in some detail the work being done with regard to drought impacts and adaptive management. How specifically would this proposed $3 million be used?

Answer: The USGS would use the proposed $3.0 million to develop a science-based decision process for understanding and managing the impacts of drought on various parts of the Central and Western United States, including California. Much research is available on the effects of drought on human systems, notably agriculture, but the ecological effects are not as well studied. As research continues to indicate that the future will hold more and longer droughts, it is critical to understand thresholds and tipping points and provide managers with early action options. USGS scientists are just now starting to understand a how multi-year drought impacts ecosystems and associated services. There are potential surprises with possible wholesale changes to major ecosystems and managers have little information to prepare for it due to lack of data and lack of ecological definition. The USGS's goal is to use one or two drought stricken regions as examples to understand the impacts and then develop a decisionmaking process for managing limited water supplies in places like central California and/or the South Central United States. The USGS would develop working groups, consisting of USGS scientists, partners, and regional stakeholder networks from places impacted by drought to identify the science needs. Scientists attached to these working groups will develop models that integrate the social and economic impacts from drought and the USGS will use our visualization facility (located in the Fort Collins Science Center) to allow the working groups to work through scenarios using different decision points. Results from this project would provide actionable information on the likely ecological impacts from drought, create a tool or process to address competing concerns, and inform resource managers' decisionmaking. By focusing on the ecological impacts of drought, this project complements ongoing activities focused on water availability/supply and the agricultural and municipal effects of drought such as those under the National Integrated Drought Information Systems, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation basin studies, and other partners.

National Park Service Centennial

The National Park Service marks its 100th anniversary, or centennial, in 2016. I understand that a national celebration of what historical filmmaker Ken Burns described as "America's best idea" is now in the early stages of development. The subcommittee will have a more in-depth conversation about the Centennial Initiative with Director Jarvis at the Park Service hearing next week. I understand that your budget request proposes a multi-dimensional approach to funding the Centennial Initiative, with $40 million in discretionary funding requested from our subcommittee and additional funds requested through legislative proposals before the authorizing committees of jurisdiction.

Calvert Q39: Can you provide us with a brief description of the Centennial Initiative—how the proposed funds would be used, the Department's plans to leverage Federal funding with non-Federal partners, and your overall specific goals for this 100th anniversary celebration?

Answer: The President's request includes a discretionary increase of $40.0 million to prepare for and celebrate the Centennial, comprised of $30.0 million for operations to support an expected influx of visitors and volunteers during the 2016 Centennial celebrations and to provide a stronger foundation for visitor services and infrastructure investments in its second century of preserving the parks for on-going usage and the future enjoyment of visitors. Of the $30.0 million increase for operations, $4.0 million would support 21st Century Conservation Service Corps youth work opportunities to educate and engage the next generation; $2.0 million would support volunteer opportunities for young people to expand the capacity of the NPS to manage volunteers in parks; $8.0 million in competitively managed funds would support enhanced visitor services in the areas of interpretation and education, law enforcement and protection, and facility operations; and $16.0 million would support improvement in the condition of high-priority park assets, such as visitor use facilities, historic structures, and trails. Across these Centennial increases, the budget provides an $8.0 million increase for youth engagement and employment opportunities, and continues the NPS' efforts to attract qualified veteran candidates to fill Federal positions.

Also, $10.0 million of the $40.0 million discretionary request is for the Centennial Challenge program, which would leverage federal funds with partner donations for signature projects and programs at national parks. Preference would be given to projects that have a clear and immediate visitor benefit as well as a higher partner match. The Challenge will require at least a one for one match from non-federal entities, with some projects leveraging more. This proposal reinvigorates the Centennial Challenge program, which received federal funds of $39.6 million between FY 2008 and FY 2010; the NPS leveraged those federal funds into more than $48.9 million in private donations, for a total benefit of $88.4 million.

Additionally, the Centennial Initiative includes a legislative proposal for mandatory funding of $400.0 million a year for three years, including $100.0 million a year for three years for Centennial Challenge projects to engage partners in leveraging Federal funds, $200.0 million a year for three years to support Second Century Infrastructure Investment projects which would make a meaningful and lasting impact on the NPS' deferred maintenance backlog by restoring priority park assets to good condition, and $100.0 million a year for three years to support a

multi-agency competitive Centennial Land Management Investment Fund. Multi-agency funding will be awarded competitively to Interior's public lands bureaus and the U.S. Forest service for conservation and maintenance projects.

The Administration's proposal for the government-wide Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative supports the Centennial Initiative, proposing an additional $100.0 million for the Second Century Infrastructure Investment, and $100.0 million for the multi-agency Centennial Land Management Investment Fund.

The NPS Centennial Initiative, including funding proposed through discretionary appropriations, the mandatory proposal, and the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative, will allow NPS to restore 1,700 or 20 percent of priority park assets to good condition. The effort will create thousands of jobs for youth, veterans, and others on projects to upgrade and restore national parks, will provide more than 10,000 work and training opportunities for young people, and will engage more than 265,000 volunteers in support of public lands.

The NPS also is engaging in a broad public campaign to reintroduce national parks and the work of the NPS to a new generation of Americans, supported by private funds from the National Park Foundation (NPF), the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service. The two-year effort will begin in 2015 and run throughout the National Park Service's 100th anniversary year in 2016. Plans for the campaign, entitled "Find Your Park," are underway in collaboration with the NPF.

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation will team up with partners to produce programs, events, and activities that will drive broad awareness, deepen engagement, and increase support for America's national parks, the work of the National Park Service, and its partners. In addition to making all 401 national parks go-to destinations, the campaign will highlight the historic preservation and outdoor recreation work the National Park Service does with communities across the country and the value it brings to Americans every day.

Calvert Q40: I appreciate that the president's proposed operations investment for National Parks includes covers fixed costs, and that the appropriated portion of the request includes a matching Centennial Challenge program that can leverage private dollars. But I'm also concerned about the deferred maintenance backlog which continues to grow each year. While the budget request includes a significant investment to address the maintenance backlog, it requires legislation in the authorizing committees of jurisdiction.

When will the administration be submitting its proposed legislation addressing the maintenance backlog to Congress?

Answer: We are working on the proposal and look forward to working with Congress on the Centennial Initiative.

Calvert Q41: Can you give me some specific examples of how the National Park operations shortfall has been impacting resource protection and visitor services?

Answer: The fundamental purpose of the National Park Service is to conserve park resources while providing a safe and enjoyable visitor experience for present and future generations. While every effort is made to provide the best possible care for America's unique resources and the best possible safety, convenience, and opportunity to millions of national park visitors, fiscal realities in 2013required the NPS to employ various strategies to operate within constrained budgets. Many parks reduced operating hours and limited use of certain areas, such as campgrounds and facilities during times of lower visitation, decreased the level of interpretation and education services provided, and deferred maintenance projects, further contributing to the backlog. Additionally, parks reduced the number of seasonal employees that are historically hired during peak visitation season. Reductions in seasonal hiring affect the frequency that NPS rangers are able to make contact with visitors, give general park information, maintain grounds and high-use facilities such as restrooms, and many other duties. The 2014 appropriation and the 2015 request allow park operations to operate more efficiently. The NPS remains dedicated to its mission, and will continue to prioritize the protection of America's natural and cultural resources and the safety of the millions of visitors seeking to enjoy them.

Stream Buffer Zone Rule

In February, the US DC District Court struck down the 2008 stream buffer zone rule on a technical point that the Office of Surface Mining failed to sufficiently consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service on impacts to endangered species.

Calvert Q42: Does the Department agree with the court's ruling that the Office of Surface Mining failed to properly consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service?

Answer: I understand that the Department does not agree with the court's ruling that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) failed to properly consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Calvert Q43: To develop the 2008 rule, the Office of Surface Mining relied upon the Fish and Wildlife's biological determination from 1996. The court did not strike down the 1996 determination. Rather the court stated that it was 'arbitrary and capricious' for the Office of Surface Mining to assume that the 1996 determination was protective absent interagency consultations.

Does the Department feel that the Fish and Wildlife Service's 1996 determination is flawed or inadequate? If so, please explain.

Answer: No. The 1996 Biological Opinion only applies to the review and approval of individual coal mine permit applications. The Opinion does not apply to the other federal actions, such as rulemakings.

Consequently, for the actions it covers, the Opinion adequately protects not only threatened and endangered species listed at the time of signature in 1996, but it also protects species listed after the date of signature and species that may be listed in the future. Moreover, it creates an efficient

process. There is no need to reinitiate consultation for the actions covered by the Opinion, nor would there be any benefit from doing so.

Calvert Q44: If OSM were to consult the Fish and Wildlife Service in a manner that would meet the procedural deficiencies identified by the court, would the 1996 determination continue to serve as the basis for a rule? Could OSM reissue the 2008 rule after checking the appropriate interagency procedural boxes?

Answer: To be clear, the 1996 Biological Opinion applies only to the review and approval of coal mining permit applications under State and Federal regulatory programs adopted pursuant to SMCRA. The Opinion does not apply to rulemaking or any other actions under SMCRA. As a result, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) must initiate consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for any new rule that may affect threatened and endangered species or critical habitat. The 1996 Biological Opinion is not to be used for rulemakings.

Reissuance of the 2008 Stream Buffer Zone (SBZ) Rule would require a new rulemaking effort, which would include the publication of a proposed rule and the receipt and evaluation of public comments. Such a new rulemaking effort would also include, but is not limited to, the appropriate consultation with the FWS and concurrence from the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, because of the time that has passed since 2008, OSMRE would need to update its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to reflect the current environmental and socioeconomic impacts and determine whether changes in the energy market over the last six years would necessitate the preparation of a Regulatory Impact Analysis.

While some may categorize these steps as procedural, substantive changes to the 2008 SBZ Rule may result from the updated analysis. For example, the consultation process under Section 7 of the ESA is more than a matter of checking procedural boxes. It requires consideration of the effects of the proposed action, the 2008 SBZ Rule, on threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitats. Depending on the nature of those effects, it may be necessary to modify the 2008 SBZ Rule to avoid or minimize adverse effects. Likewise, the updated NEPA analysis, regulatory impact analysis, or comments received from the public that would be received during a new rulemaking process may necessitate changes to what was proposed in 2008.

Calvert Q45: How does the Court decision impact OSM's work to re-write the 2008 rule?

Answer: OSMRE continues to develop its draft proposed Stream Protection Rule (SPR) and preamble. OSMRE will review and revise, as necessary, to reflect the Court's decision. In addition, all supporting documents related to the SPR, including the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Regulatory Impact Analysis, will be reviewed and revised as necessary to conform with the Court's decision. Specifically, because the Court vacated the 2008 SBZ Rule and reinstated the pre-2008 regulations, OSMRE will need to ensure that the alternatives analyzed in the DEIS, including the no action alternative, and, ultimately, the proposed rule reflect this change. OSMRE is working collaboratively with its contractor to ensure these changes are properly incorporated into the environmental and socioeconomic effects analysis of

the DEIS and other supporting documents.

Prior to the Court's ruling, OSMRE had made the decision that it would initiate consultation with the FWS pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA. The Court's ruling has not changed this decision.

American Indian Education

Madam Secretary, you testified last year before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee that "Indian Education is an embarrassment." This subcommittee was encouraged by that statement because we felt we had a partner leading Interior who was as committed to this issue as we are.

Calvert Q46: Please tell us specifically how your FY15 budget begins to turn the Indian Education system around. How are you going to measure success during your tenure?

Answer: I have collaborated with the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, in establishing an American Indian Education Study Group to visit schools, classrooms, Tribal Governments, and Indian Affairs employees to hear their concerns and look at ways to improve American Indian Education. The Study Group is charged with looking at improvements to the classroom and the learning environment for students attending BIE-funded school facilities. Foundational issues the group is evaluating include the creation of a relevant curriculum; the need for retention and recruitment of effective teachers; the application of appropriate teaching practices; and addressing the student achievement gap.

The Group has traveled the Country to listen to BIE and tribal school employees, parents, students, and Tribal leaders directly impacted by the BIE system. The Group, with the support of Tribal leaders, has encouraged a dialogue which supports tribal sovereignty. It is necessary to provide appropriate oversight to shape the education provided to students attending BIE-funded schools. This allows Tribes greater local control and flexibility in delivering educational programs for their children. The group will conduct official tribal consultations to gather tribal views and input on recommendations for improving educational outcomes in schools. The Agency will then start to work to implement the consensus recommendations as determined through tribal consultation.

My measures of success will be in providing a learning environment that facilitates Indian student achievement attending classes in BIE-funded schools, the students attending these schools graduate, and they are prepared to start careers or are accepted in college to earn a higher education degree. The Administration is committed to ensuring Indian communities benefit from academically rigorous, culturally appropriate education that will prepare them to be productive citizens and leaders in their communities and help build safer, stronger, healthier, and more prosperous Indian communities and economies.

Calvert Q47: As you know, there are only two federal school systems in the nation: one for American Indian children, and one for military children. Both systems contain more than 60 schools in poor condition or worse. However, whereas the Department of Defense is in the middle of a five-year, $3.7 billion effort to replace their schools, Interior, for four years in a row now, has proposed not to start any school replacement projects and funding for school

maintenance remains essentially flat.

When will we see Interior prioritize Indian schools and propose investments in these Indian children and their families the way DoD has?

Answer: Since 2000, BIA has spent over $2.4 billion, including $300 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, on school construction, improvement, and repair. In that time, BIA has completed or has under-construction 42 school replacements and 62 major renovations of BIE facilities. There are three schools on the BIE school replacement list that await funding. The FY 15 budget includes $3.2 million for site development at the Beatrice Rafferty School in Maine after receiving $1.0 million in FY 14 for planning and design. The two remaining schools on the list are the Little Singer Community School and the Cove Day School, both located in Arizona.

A new prioritized list of schools for replacement or renovation will be established after the conclusion of validation of the inventory and deferred maintenance needs for all 182 school campuses serving 183 BIE-funded schools, anticipated to be completed end of FY 2014. A listing of schools eligible to apply for the New School Replacement and Renovation Program is scheduled to be established by December 2014. Schools are eligible to be ranked for replacement or renovation if the school has an overall ranking of "poor" and/or are both 50 years old or older and educating 75 percent or more of students in portables as identified in the BIA facilities database. Eligibility is also based on criteria such as crowding, declining or constrained enrollment associated with facilities in "poor" condition, inappropriate education space, accreditation risk, and cultural space need, data which would be provided by the schools. Once designated as eligible, a school must make an application for replacement or renovation to be included in the prioritization process. A timeline for the next steps after December 2014 has not been determined at this time. During this process, schools will continue to receive Operations and Maintenance funding as well as Minor Improvement and Repair funding, based on established processes.

Calvert Q48: I know that you personally are interested in investing in America's youth and there are aspects of your budget request that reflect this priority. However, when it comes to investing in Native American youth, particularly with regard to education, I believe the Administration's budget request falls far short.

Is it right to spend $50 million to encourage children to get outside and pursue careers in science and conservation, as your budget proposes, while denying some of those same children a safe environment to learn basic reading, writing, and arithmetic?

Answer: One of the key priorities for this administration is the engagement of the public in Interior's mission, particularly America's young people. The future of the public lands depends upon young people becoming active stewards of the environment throughout their lives. Interior has a unique opportunity to harness the strong spirit of community service and volunteerism alive within the Nation's youth, and encourage them to use their time, energy, and talent to enjoy and conserve natural and cultural treasures.

When we spark a fire of passion for the outdoors in our children, we give them a lifelong gift of being able to enjoy nature and live healthier lives. We also lay the foundation for the next generation of conservationists, scientists, business leaders, teachers, and beyond that will understand the key role that national parks and public lands play in local communities, drawing visitors and boosting the economy.

The Administration is also committed to ensuring that Native American youth who attend Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools benefit from academically rigorous, culturally appropriate education that will prepare Indian students to be successful citizens and future leaders in their communities and help build safer, stronger, healthier, and more prosperous Indian communities and economies. Improving education and literacy in tribal nations is essential to vitalizing community life, stimulating economic development, increasing employment opportunities, and improving standards of living for future generations of Native Americans. A thriving educational system for American Indian students is a critical component of the broader initiative to strengthen tribal communities.

Indian Affairs owns or provides funding for a significant inventory of buildings and other facilities across the Nation, including education facilities in Indian Country. Currently, Indian Affairs funds facility programs at academic and resident-only campuses that serve the 183 BIE-funded units. From 2002 through 2014, over $2.0 billion, including $300 million of funding made available in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, has been provided for construction, improvement, and repair projects that have reduced the number of schools in "poor condition" from more than 120 of the 183 schools to 63 today. Appropriations for education construction over the last 15 years has funded 42 complete school replacements and 62 major renovations, which are either completed, funded or under construction.

There are still BIE schools that need major improvement and repair and many that need complete replacement. The budget supports progress in completing the 2004 Replacement School Construction priority list, on which three schools remain. The 2015 budget proposes $55.5 million for education facility construction including $3.2 million to fund site development at the Beatrice Rafferty School for which design funding was provided in the 2014 budget, and $52.3 million for facilities improvement and repair projects at education facilities and school employee housing.

Wildlife Trafficking / Ivory

Without exception we are all alarmed by the rapid increase in wildlife trafficking—in particular elephant ivory. In fact, this subcommittee recently increased funding for overseas efforts to stop it. Recently the Fish and Wildlife Service proposed a ban on all U.S. commercial trade of ivory—including ivory that has been in the lawful possession of U.S. citizens for generations. There are those who feel that banning the trade of ivory already in the U.S. amounts to an unlawful taking and will only increase demand for ivory on the black market.

Calvert Q49: Why do you feel that banning all U.S. commercial trade of ivory will save elephants?

Answer: The U.S. is one of the world's largest retail markets for products with elephant ivory with a large and generally unregulated domestic trade. A substantial amount of elephant ivory is illegally imported and enters the domestic market. It is extremely difficult to differentiate legally acquired ivory from ivory derived from elephant poaching. Our criminal investigations and anti-smuggling efforts have clearly shown that legal ivory trade can serve as a cover for illegal trade. As just one example, Service and State officers seized one ton of illegal elephant ivory from two New York City retail stores in 2012.

By imposing a near total ban on the domestic ivory trade, FWS can more effectively address the ongoing U.S. role in this trade. In addition, these actions better position the U.S. to work with other key ivory consumer countries to more strictly control other markets. These actions are just one component in the broader national strategy for combating wildlife trafficking. That strategy also includes working with the international community to protect wildlife populations; increased, coordinated law enforcement activity focused on the criminal syndicates that are increasingly responsible for wildlife trafficking around the world; and efforts to educate the public and reduce demand for ivory and other illegal wildlife products in consumer countries.

Questions from Mr. Joyce

LWCF and O&M Costs

Madame Secretary, I agree with you that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is essential to providing critical recreational access and sustaining the economies and the character of our communities. LWCF greatly benefits my home state, including the Cuyahoga Valley National Park which is located in my northeast Ohio district.

I support robust funding for LWCF, but am concerned that we continue to hear the argument that securing more conservation land would add unduly to federal land management and maintenance costs. A major share of LWCF goes to state and local grants programs, with the remainder being used for federal land easements that don't require additional management expenses.

Joyce Q1: Can you please provide us with a fuller understanding of the ways that land conservation through LWCF improves management and reduces operating expenses, including specific project examples where LWCF spending has reduced O&M costs, as well as the broader positive impacts of LWCF on O&M budgets?

Answer: The Department of the Interior LWCF programs work in cooperation with local communities, rely on willing sellers, and maximize opportunities to partner with private landowners on conservation easements where conservation and management objectives can be achieved without fee-simple acquisition. Proposed Federal land acquisition projects are developed with the support of local landowners, elected officials, and community groups.
Acquisition of inholdings does not generally require additional operating costs as no new staff or equipment are required to manage new lands within existing boundaries. Occasionally, agencies may incur up-front costs to remove existing improvements (fences, buildings, etc.) from an acquired property. By removing unwanted structures on newly acquired land, agencies avoid adding to ongoing O&M requirements.

In fact, acquisition of inholdings can greatly simplify land management for federal managers and neighboring landowners. Eliminating checkerboard ownership within federal units simplifies nearly every aspect of land management:

- Wildland fire managers can apply appropriate fuels reduction, planned burns, and fire suppression treatments more easily across an unfragmented landscape; fire management is more challenging and costly when private inholdings and developed properties are intermixed with federally-managed forests and public lands.
- Law enforcement and public safety personnel can more easily patrol and respond to emergencies when public ownership is consolidated. An unfragmented unit allows unified signage, road networks, and other infrastructure that will best enable safe public access and allow for the efficient movement of emergency personnel and vehicles to locations frequented by visitors.
- Recreation managers can more easily provide access for the public to enjoy their public lands. In some cases checkerboard ownership can cause confusion among the public about acceptable land uses, and can restrict the public's ability to access some areas of public land.

- Natural resource management is simplified in an unfragmented landscape. When checkerboard ownership is eliminated, biologists, geologists and other natural resource professionals can move freely across the land that they are responsible for surveying, and natural resource management actions can be applied more efficiently across a landscape in single ownership.

Examples of enhanced management resulting from land acquisition:

St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

St. Vincent NWR is an island off the panhandle coast of Florida in Apalachicola Bay, off the Gulf of Mexico. Acquisition of the 5-acre tract on the mainland of Apalachicola Bay provides permanent deep water mooring with launch site, secure parking and equipment storage. An important point is that dredging and channel maintenance are allowed in Apalachicola Bay, activities that are prohibited in other nearby areas. The lease at Indian Pass, the current deep water mooring and launch site, was ending and would not be renewed as the owners were looking to develop the mainland at the launch site. In addition, the upland portion of the leased Indian Pass site had been significantly reduced due to severe, continuing, and progressive erosion that the landowner failed to address.

As the refuge is only accessible by water, the new deep water mooring and launch site reduces staff travel time from the refuge office to transfer supplies and heavy equipment. Daily boat access for St. Vincent NWR staff is required 24/7 for all island management activities, such as sea turtle nest monitoring and protection, habitat management, prescribed burning, hunting and fishing management and protection, and response to visitor emergencies.

With the acquisition of the mainland deep water boat mooring and launch site, the Fish and Wildlife Service eliminates the annual $12,000 lease and has significant savings in fuel for vehicles. Staff traveling to and from the work site and hauling equipment to Apalachicola Bay from the refuge office had to travel 20 miles to Indian Pass, then travel by watercraft to St. Vincent Island. At the end of each day, traveling was reversed back to the refuge office. Adequate parking for heavy equipment and vehicles is available at the new site.

Prior to the acquisition of the deep water mooring and launch site, the Service conducted a critical review and analysis of deep water mooring and access options in the general vicinity of the refuge. Only two or three options were possible, with the acquisition of the acquired site being the most cost effective and safest for staff. The other sites involved longer nautical travel distances at nine miles, were more costly as public boat launch sites, and did not offer the security needed for refuge equipment.

Yukon Flats NWR

The Service acquired five tracts totaling 480 acres within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. One tract contains prime river frontage along the Porcupine River with cliffs containing important nesting habitat for peregrine falcon. The other tracts contain frontage along Beaver Creek, Rock Slough, and the Black River. Most of these properties contain high quality wetland complexes and were isolated inholdings surrounded by Refuge land. Acquisition of

these parcels greatly benefits Refuge wildlife management and provides a cost savings to the government due to decreased fire management expenses.

San Joaquin NWR, CA

In 2006, the FWS acquired a 371-acre tract at San Joaquin NWR, including riparian water rights. Along with other acreage acquired within the Refuge, 2,700 acres have been restored to riparian woodland habitat. After three years, irrigations for the riparian restoration ceased. The land acquired was cropland that used approximately 24,000 acre-feet of water every year. With the land restored to riparian woodland habitat, the 24,000 acre-feet of water is not used for irrigation on the Refuge; the water stays in the San Joaquin River and benefits in-stream flow, aquatic species, and downstream users. The use of riparian water rights via lift pump on the Stanislaus River has saved the refuge approximately $140,000 in the past seven years ($20,000 annually). Previously, water was acquired by paying for expensive pumped well water.

A majority of the riparian habitat was lost over the past century to cropland. With the riparian forest rehabilitation within the Refuge, the riparian brush rabbit population has returned from the brink of extinction due to habitat loss and degradation.

Questions from Mr. Serrano

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Your department is a lead agency for the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. Your predecessor came to the Harlem River in the Bronx to kick off the Urban Waters Federal Partnership several years ago. He said, and I agree with him, that reclaiming our urban waterways for the people couldn't be a more important use of our federal dollars and agency efforts. The reclaimed and restored Bronx River has been a transformative project in my community.

Serrano Q1: Would you please share how Interior is supporting--both in terms of staff and financial commitments--the Urban Waters Federal Partnership? Will Interior continue to be one of the four lead agencies on this effort?

Answer: The Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) initiative is an interagency effort to revitalize urban waters in communities where waterway revitalization is needed most. The goals of the initiative are to improve coordination among Federal agencies and collaboration with community-led revitalization partners to improve our Nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental, and social benefits.

The Bronx and Harlem River Watersheds are one of these UWFP pilots, and the Department of the Interior continues to be the Federal lead. Recently, the Department identified David Russ, USGS Northeast Regional Director, as the Departmental lead on this effort. Dr. Russ is planning a site visit this spring.

The Bronx and Harlem Rivers pilot stands uniquely apart from the other UWFP pilots because it encompasses two disparate water bodies with two distinct constituencies. This adds to the complexity of implementing the initiative and to the challenges of responding to local needs and balancing resources between the two watersheds. The Department has been working closely with community groups, including the Bronx River Alliance and Harlem River Working Group, city and State agencies, and the Federal partners to identify funding and opportunities to target collaborative efforts toward restoring waterways and water quality, increasing public access, and creating parks and greenways along the rivers.

Bronx River

The effort to revitalize the Bronx River has been underway for over two decades. These efforts have been supported through significant Federal investments such as NPS' Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program via technical assistance as well as other Federal, State and city agencies' assistance for greenway construction, fish passage, stream restoration, and park creation. The Bronx River Alliance has been the coordinating force behind the success. They are a mature organization with the capacity to coordinate complex projects and partnerships. The Department has been able to work with their staff to identify opportunities they felt could benefit from a Federal partnership. For example, the Alliance's highest priority was dealing with an impasse between the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and Amtrak on building a pedestrian overpass as part of the Bronx River Greenway. Through the UWFP, former Deputy Secretary David Hayes subsequently convened numerous

meetings between Amtrak and NYSDOT and great progress has been made. The two parties have worked to eliminate the obstacles and now work is underway to secure funding for the project. Planning, design, and permitting have been completed and the project is "shovel ready" pending the availability of funds. The NPS and partners are developing an application for a U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant for approximately $12 million and the City of New York has committed $12 million. Additionally, the Bronx River Alliance, with assistance from the NPS, developed a water trail for human powered boating that incorporates best management practices and design features that are an example for urban waterways. The Alliance also received Challenge Cost Share funding from NPS to expand their public canoe and kayak programing targeted at youth and their families. In recognition of these and many other efforts, Secretary Salazar designated the Bronx River Blueway as one of the first National Water Trails in 2012.

Harlem River

The effort to revitalize the Harlem River is an emerging effort and has not yet been the beneficiary of significant Federal investment. The Harlem River Working Group (HRWG), formed in 2009, is a coalition of approximately fifty organizations and is staffed by an all-volunteer staff. However, it does not yet have the same capacity to coordinate complex projects and partnerships as the Bronx River Alliance. The HRWG has identified its top three priorities as: developing a continuous waterfront greenway, increasing public access to the waterfront and out onto the river, and improving water quality in the river. The Department, through the USGS and NPS' RTCA program, has been working with the HRWG on a number of projects to address those priorities. For example, the USGS contributed funding in 2012 to support the HRWG's Watershed Protection and Partnership Action Plan and led the effort to collect, analyze, and report on available data of the current water quality status and condition of the Harlem River watershed. One of the activities engaging youth and the community included a partnership effort among the NPS, USGS, and Wilderness Inquiry where these three entities participated in an educational event on water quality during Harlem River Week in both October 2012 and 2013 which attracted hundreds of children and their teachers.

Urban Park & Recreation Recovery

Urban Park & Recreation Recovery was a very important tool that ceased to be funded in 2002. The Obama Administration has again asked for funding for the UPARR program – in the amount of $25 million for FY2015. Within the budget justification it says: "This proposal is also part of a broader, renewed focus by Interior to develop strategies to improve the integration of agency programs and park units to impact urban economies and the quality of life for urban residents through expanding opportunities for all." As a Member from a very urban district, this is a very important initiative.

Serrano Q2: Could elaborate for the committee your department's vision for urban parks and green spaces beyond what is in the budget justifications, and how this proposal would further that goal. Please detail staffing levels and criteria for distribution of resources.

Answer: Today, roughly 250 million Americans live in or near cities, and U.S. metropolitan areas are projected to grow in population by 32 percent or nearly 84 million people over the next three decades. Increasing urbanization has left millions of people without easy access to open spaces. As part of the America's Great Outdoors initiative, Interior is focusing on two major goals; creating easily accessible outdoor areas in urban settings, and restoring natural systems and greenspaces in cities.

Interior is embarking on an internal effort to inventory all of its programs, projects, and funding opportunities that are already or may impact metropolitan areas. As part of that process, Interior also is seeking to identify best practices in supporting urban recreation and greenspace preservation. For example, Interior is a signatory to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, which is working in 19 pilot cities across the country to restore urban rivers and the communities that surround them. A major emphasis of the partnership is to ensure communities are connected to their urban rivers through a network of trails, parks and greenspace. Through this partnership, Interior and 13 other Federal agencies are working to align and better leverage resources to meet these community priorities.

With regard to the President's budget request, urban programs will significantly benefit from the Administration's proposal for $900.0 million in discretionary and mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in FY 2015, building toward permanently authorizing $900.0 million in annual funding for LWCF programs beginning in FY 2016.

The FY 2015 budget request for NPS highlights several requests that support the Department's vision for urban parks and green spaces. The $25.0 million in mandatory authority requested for the NPS Urban Park Recreation and Recovery (UPARR) program via the LWCF proposal would revitalize a program that has not been funded since 2002, and would support 40-50 projects to improve existing recreational opportunities in economically distressed urban communities in 2015. Grants are intended to rehabilitate indoor and outdoor recreation facilities; demonstrate innovative ways to enhance park and recreation opportunities; and develop local Recovery Action Program Plans to identify needs, priorities, and strategies for revitalization of the total recreation system. Requests from eligible communities for grant funding would be rated by a national panel using established criteria that consider factors such as project cost and leveraging; the affected community; existing condition of an anticipated improvements in recreation services; new employment opportunities created; community and partner involvement; and long-term commitment to the projects. The administration of this program will require an estimated five full time equivalent positions.

The NPS LWCF State Conservation Grants program complements the UPARR program. The State Conservation Grants program uses funds to help bolster States' capacity to leverage other Federal and non-Federal investments in land and water conservation. Funds are also used for acquisition and development of the highest priority lands and waters for conservation and recreation purposes. This program directly supports partnerships with State and local agencies through grant funds for projects that help create and protect a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers and trails. The FY 2015 budget requests $48.1 million in discretionary funds for this program, level with 2014. Of this amount, $3.1 million is to administer the program, $42.0 million is to be awarded via the traditional formula allocation which is based on the LWCF Act

itself, and $3.0 million is for competitive grants, which could include grants to enhance recreation in urban areas. In 2015, the program will require an estimated 24 full time equivalent positions. The competitive component will be administered in conjunction with our long-term State partners, and an evaluation panel will score and rank proposals. In addition, the mandatory LWCF proposal includes an additional $52.0 million for the State Conservation Grants program in 2015.

Questions from Mr. Valadao

California Drought Crisis

Earlier this year, 2014 was on track to be the driest year on record, but some storms in in February and March brought enough precipitation to make 2014 only the second driest ever, behind 1977. Unfortunately, those storms did almost nothing to help the farmers of the San Joaquin Valley. Most of the water from those storms – more than 700,000 acre-feet -- went to the sea because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service insisted that the water was necessary to meet ESA requirements for the delta smelt and the salmon.

It seems fishery agencies are continuing to continue to adhere to delta outflow requirements that clearly are inappropriate for the current drought situation. I'm told by water managers in my district that somewhere between 200,000 and 450,000 acre feet of water that could have been pumped to farms and cities of the San Joaquin Valley without harm to the smelt or salmon had your department exercised the flexibility granted to it under ESA. Instead, it seems hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water have been WASTED while farms and livelihoods in the San Joaquin Valley dry up.

Valadao Q1: Madam Secretary, I know you have talked with irrigation district managers and farmers in the Valley and know the pain many of my constituents are feeling right now. The ESA gives you and the Secretary of Commerce the power to apply the ESA with flexibility and common sense during a drought emergency like this. Why haven't you used that power to its fullest extent?

Answer: Reclamation has been engaging with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to exercise flexibility to operate while maintaining compliance with the Biological Opinions (BiOps). Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources (DWR), via drought contingency planning efforts, modified operations as allowed within the BiOps and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) requirements to capture runoff from storm events in early 2014. On April 8, 2014, the 2014 Drought Operations Plan was transmitted to FWS and NMFS. The Plan describes the proposed drought response measures for April 2014 through November 15, 2014. The Plan is a result of collaboration and cooperation between DWR, Reclamation, FWS, NMFS, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and the State Water Board. The agencies will continue to work together to operate in a manner that protects species while delivering as much water as possible to meet our customers' needs.

In FY 2015, Reclamation will use $1.5 million to implement Drought Response and Comprehensive Drought Plans (Drought Response Program), a comprehensive new approach to drought planning and implementation actions to address water shortages. The new Drought Response Program will be based on a reformulation of the existing Drought Program. Funding for the Drought Response Program will be allocated through a competitive process using an empirical approach that emphasizes involvement from multiple stakeholders and the incorporation of climate change information.

Valadao Q2: At the time of this hearing, more rain is predicted for northern California this week. Will you use the power and implement the maximum flexibility ESA gives you to ensure that water isn't wasted from these storms too?

Answer: Senior technical staff from the 5 Federal and State agencies (NMFS, FWS, DFW, DWR, and Reclamation) worked together to develop the biological review of the overall 2014 Drought Operations Plan, released on April 8, 2014. Through these discussions, senior technical staff determined increasing exports to capture flow resulting from this storm event was consistent with the underlying analyses of the NMFS Biological Opinion and its reasonable and prudent alternatives.

San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement

Valadao Q3: I understand that some now estimate the San Joaquin River Restoration Program will now cost close to $2 billion to complete. At the current rate of appropriations and obligations by the program, how long will it take to complete the needed channel improvements and other restoration activities? Does the program's current authorization meet its projected costs?

Answer: In June 2012, Reclamation completed the *Working Draft Framework for Implementation* for the Restoration Program. The June 2012 Framework provided an updated schedule and budget for the Program's core projects assuming funding would be available when the individual projects were ready for implementation. The Program's funding needs are identified in Table 1 of the June 2012 Framework, which is available on the Program's website: http://restoresjr.net/program_library/02-Program_Docs/20120619_SJRRP_ Framework_ for_ImplDRAFT.pdf. The core projects to achieve the goals of the Stipulation of Settlement in *NRDC, et al.*, v. *Rodgers, et al.* will cost an estimated $892 million.

Reclamation is currently working with the parties to the Settlement to revise the Framework to reflect an anticipated rate of future appropriations for the Program. This update is in progress and is anticipated to be completed this year. This revised Framework will address how long it will take to complete the needed channel improvements, other restoration activities, and water management actions at the current level of appropriations and an anticipated rate of future appropriations.

Based on the June 2012 Framework, the Program's current authorization will meet its projected costs.

Valadao Q4: In light of the substantial increases in projected costs, which are now almost 10 times the amount that proponents of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement estimated the project could be completed for, what do you see as the path for success for this program? How do you see the program achieving success under its current authorization?

Answer: As part of the June 2012 Framework, the parties to the Stipulation of Settlement in *NRDC, et al.*, v. *Rodgers, et al.* identified a set of core activities that would achieve the goals of

the Settlement. The core projects are estimated to cost $892 million. Achievement of these core activities is expected to result in a successful Restoration Program and meet the requirements and obligations of the Stipulation of Settlement in *NRDC, et al.,* v. *Rodgers, et al.*, and Title X, Subtitle A of Public Law 111-11 (the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act).

Valadao Q5: At the time the San Joaquin River Restoration program was developed, it was believed that the required channel improvement projects would be completed by 2014 and that there would be fish starting to migrate up and down the San Joaquin River. Currently, the channel improvements have not been completed and the fish aren't migrating. In fact, taxpayers are sending millions to truck salmon up and down the San Joaquin River. If the trap and haul program that is currently underway continues for the indefinite future, wouldn't that suggest that the Restoration plan isn't working? Is it time to take a second look at the financial and water costs associated with the project?

Answer: Continuation of the annual trap and haul program that is currently underway for the indefinite future would not be consistent with the Restoration Goal in the Stipulation of Settlement in *NRDC, et al.,* v. *Rodgers, et al.,* that calls for naturally-reproducing and self-sustaining populations of salmon and other fish. As part of the revisions to the June 2012 Framework that are underway and will be completed this year, we will identify a target date for ending the current annual trap and haul program. However, we expect that some infrequent and limited trap and haul actions may be necessary in future very dry year conditions.

It should be noted that the dates in the Settlement were based on a series of assumptions that were agreed to by the parties to the Settlement. Some of the key assumptions, such as expeditious passage of the authorizing legislation and immediate access to lands, have taken longer than expected and delayed certain activities. In addition, Reclamation has taken a broad and inclusive approach to implementing the Settlement, working to engage both the parties to the Settlement, but also those potentially affected by the Settlement, including the downstream landowners and water districts. This more extensive outreach effort is intended to find creative solutions to implement the Settlement in a way that also considers the needs of landowners and water districts adjacent to the river. Overall, implementation was behind from the onset due to delays in the passage of legislation and approvals for land access and adjustments are and will continue to occur to provide for an open, transparent, and inclusive process.

Valadao Q6: When the San Joaquin River Restoration Program was developed, it was agreed there would be no involuntary impacts on third parties. In 2009, when California was going through its last drought, Regional Director Donald Glaser told the Exchange Contractors that Reclamation would honor the Exchange Contract by releasing water from Friant Dam ahead of making water available to the Restoration Program. Specifically, Director Glaser stated: "...[i]f. A situation were to occur where settlement flows conflicted with Reclamation making necessary deliveries under the contract with the Exchange Contractors, which as we discussed below is highly unlikely, Reclamation would make water available to meet the contractual requirements, consistent with the Contract."

On May 7, 2012, Reclamation filed its application to the State Water Resources Control Board to divert and release water for the Restoration Program and represented that there would be no

harm to the Exchange Contractors' water supply from the Restoration Program because, "Reclamation will ensure that sufficient Millerton Reservoir storage is maintained, and that available San Joaquin River channel capacity is not impeded by the presence of Interim or Restoration flows, in order to make releases of available storage from Millerton Reservoir in lieu of deliveries from the Delta Mendota Canal if such releases become necessary under the terms and conditions of the Exchange Contract and various water right and settlement adjustment contracts."

Do you agree that, if water is not available from the Delta or San Luis Reservoir, Reclamation must deliver San Joaquin River water to the Exchange Contractors ahead of the Restoration Program in order to avoid harm and remain consistent with the statements made by the Bureau of Reclamation in its 2009 letter and in the 2012 application to the Water Board? Has the Department's position changed in any way since it made those statements in 2009 and 2012?

Answer: Reclamation's position has not changed. Consistent with Public Law 111-11, Section 10004(j), nothing in the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act modifies or amends the rights and obligations under the Purchase Contract between Miller and Lux and the United States and the Second Amended Exchange Contract between the United States and the Central California Irrigation District, San Luis Canal Company, Firebaugh Canal Water District, and Columbia Canal Company.

Energy Development

Valadao Q7: BLM has been criticized for the delays on permitting, sometimes taking up to a year to approve a permit to develop oil and gas resources on public lands. The average, according to GAO, is 229 days. I understand that you are now in the process of finalizing rules related to hydraulic fracturing, which many believe will cause even more delays. Why are these rules needed given that States already regulate hydraulic fracturing and are doing a good job at it? What is the problem your Department is trying to solve? How much more delay do you anticipate if these rules go into effect? What are you planning to do to prevent fracking rules from causing additional permitting delays?

Answer: The BLM is continuing to make improvements and streamline the permitting process. At the end of fiscal year 2013 there were 6,711 Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) that had been approved and not yet utilized by industry. The average APD approval time in 2013 was 194 days nationwide, down from 228 days in 2012. Approximately 50% of APD approval time is spent working with operators to ensure that their applications are complete, and 50% is attributable to BLM processing. To further improve APD processing time, the BLM is developing an automated permit system which will improve the flow of data and enable operators to see what data may be missing from an application, as well as view the progress.

With regard to the proposed rule on hydraulic fracturing, the BLM has an important role to play in ensuring safe and effective use of hydraulic fracturing techniques on Federal and Tribal lands. The current rules covering these operations are 30 years old. The proposed rule would create a common set of minimum standards for operations on these lands across the country, including in States and on Indian reservations that are not regulating hydraulic fracturing. The BLM is

working with the State regulatory agencies and Tribes on an ongoing basis to eliminate duplication and promote efficiency. The BLM has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with many States to work together to enforce regulations in an efficient way, as they currently do in administering existing regulations covering oil and gas development. We do not expect the hydraulic fracturing rule to create any significant delays.

Valadao Q8: I understand that BLM held a meeting in Denver on venting and flaring of natural gas last week. Natural gas is a valuable commodity and it is in the best interest of energy producers to capture the gas and sell it. However, that is not always possible and a small percentage of it must either be vented of flared. What are the department's plans related to this activity? Are you planning to regulate venting and flaring?

Answer: The BLM is considering various options for addressing the venting and flaring of gas and the loss of gas through fugitive emissions from onshore Federal and Indian oil and gas leases. This includes preventing the waste of hydrocarbons, while promoting the conservation of produced oil and gas to also ensure a fair return to the American taxpayer.

The BLM operates a robust onshore oil and gas leasing program covering about 37 million acres of public lands with about 12.5 million of those acres producing 11 percent of the natural gas and 5 percent of the oil used in the U.S. The Government Accountability Office and DOI's Office of the Inspector General have identified the current venting and flaring rules, found in the Notice to Lessee and Operators No. 4A, as deficient and outdated. These regulations were written in 1979, and the industry and the technology it uses have changed a great deal since then.

The Department of the Interior and the BLM are undertaking this outreach to begin dialogue with Tribal and State governments and a large group of other stakeholders about the best ways to prevent loss of gas and maximize return to the taxpayers. The Denver outreach was the first of four sessions. Similar sessions will be conducted in Albuquerque, NM on May 7, Dickinson, ND on May 9, and in Washington D.C. on May 15.

Valadao Q9: Please describe what is different about the discussion of a proposed rule on venting and flaring, or what BLM is now considering with respect to the proposed rule, and EPA's "Quad O (OOOO) Rule" to reduce emissions from exploration and production operations for crude oil and natural gas. How do the Department and BLM plan to avoid duplicative regulation in this area? Do the Department and BLM plan an economic analysis to ascertain the effects of new regulations of venting and flaring on the administrative costs borne by the Department and by the companies that are seeking to produce energy resources from public lands?

Answer: The Department of the Interior and the BLM are aware of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Quad O" regulations, published August 16, 2012. The scope of our rules differ – – EPA established national standards, while BLM's requirements would address operations on lands and resources that we are directly responsible for managing on behalf of the American public. Based on these land management responsibilities, BLM needs to consider reasonable options for reducing flaring and venting from both ongoing and new operations. As part of our regulatory process, we will consider EPA's requirements and processes to see if there

are ways to conform certain BLM oversight requirements and processes to improve effectiveness and minimize operator compliance burdens. With regard to an economic analysis, it is a standard component of any rulemaking, and any rulemaking the BLM does in this area will include such an analysis.

Valadao Q10: What can you say about the timing for the development of new or revised BLM regulations on the measurement of oil and gas production from federal lands now covered under BLM Onshore Orders 3, 4 and 5? Can you describe the Department's objectives in pursuing changes to the current set of rules?

Answer: Recent audits have identified the need to update these Onshore Orders, which were originally written in the 1980s. The BLM response to those audits agreed with this finding, and to the need to update these Orders. These updates will address changes in technology and industry practices and the BLM anticipates publishing a draft rule for public comments in 2015.

Onshore Order 3 establishes minimum standards for ensuring that oil and gas produced from Federal and Indian (except the Osage Tribe) oil and gas leases are properly and securely handled, to prevent theft and loss, and to enable accurate measurement and production accountability. In revising the Order, the BLM expects to address the use of seals, by-passes around meters, documentation, reporting of incidents of unauthorized removal or mishandling of oil and condensate, facility diagrams, recordkeeping, facility measurement points, commingling, and off-lease measurement by operators, purchasers, and transporters.

Onshore Orders 4 and 5 establish minimum standards for accurate measurement and proper reporting of all oil and gas produced from Federal and Indian leases. These Orders include requirements for the measurement equipment and procedures needed to ensure accurate and verifiable measurement on which royalty is based. Industry measurement specialists and field technicians would primarily use these Orders, as well as BLM inspectors and engineers. The revisions will include consideration of current technology.

Valadao Q11: Please describe the Department's resource goals and objectives with respect to development of the Monterey Shale resources that are likely to be found on BLM lands in California. The existing goal for energy development in the Resource Management Plan for BLM's Hollister, California District "*balances resource conservation and ecosystem health with the production of commodities and with public use of the land.*" From a policy standpoint and in view of the language BLM uses to describe its multiple use mission in the discussion of Federal Land Policy and Management Act, how does the Department plan to achieve this balance in a manner that allows development of the Monterey as one of the multiple use goals?

Answer: In order to balance "resource conservation and ecosystem health with the production of commodities and with public use of the land", the Resource Management Plan for the BLM Hollister Field Office defines which public lands are suitable and open for leasing. Some of these lands that are open for leasing include areas of the "Monterey Shale". If companies nominate lands for leasing that encompass the "Monterey Shale", the BLM will evaluate those nominations for possible auction at lease sale. To further inform these processes and decisions, the BLM has chartered a peer-reviewed science report that is specific to California to assure the

BLM has a good, science-based foundation as it moves ahead.

Earthquake Early Warning

Valadao Q12: Secretary Jewell, you are no doubt familiar with the March 17 earthquake that struck the Los Angeles area. It is my understanding that this 4.4 magnitude earthquake is one of the strongest earthquakes to hit Southern California in recent years. I firmly believe that it is a matter of when, and not if, our next significant earthquake event will occur. Given the millions of lives and billions of dollars on the line, can you give me an update on the status of developing an earthquake early warning system for the West Coast?

Answer: Since January of 2012, a demonstration version of the earthquake early warning system, called *ShakeAlert*, has been sending test notifications to a small number of test users, including California emergency response organizations, utility providers, rail operators and a number of private companies. The demonstration system has successfully sent notifications for hundreds of quakes in California. Recently it proved itself by sending alerts in less than 5 seconds for the earthquakes in Encino (M4.4) and La Habra (M5.1). However, before public warnings can be issued, the system must meet quality, speed and reliability standards. The USGS completed a cost estimate and an implementation plan for a West Coast public warning system for use by Federal, State, and local governments and private entities that may wish to move forward with such a system.

Questions from Ms. McCollum

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is used to provide critical recreational access, conserve natural and historic lands, and support our economies and the character of our communities. I am glad to see the President's commitment to fully fund LWCF in FY15. I look forward to working with you to end the diversion of LWCF revenues and to secure funding for the program into the future.

I am concerned with the argument that obtaining more conservation land would add burden to Federal land management and maintenance costs.

McCollum Q1: Can you please provide a fuller understanding of the ways that land conservation through LWCF improves management and reduces operating expenses, including specific project examples where LWCF spending has reduced operations and maintenance (O&M) costs, as well as the broader positive impacts of LWCF on O&M budgets?

Answer: The Department of the Interior LWCF programs work in cooperation with local communities, rely on willing sellers, and maximize opportunities to partner with private landowners on conservation easements where conservation and management objectives can be achieved without fee-simple acquisition. Proposed Federal land acquisition projects are developed with the support of local landowners, elected officials, and community groups.

Acquisition of inholdings does not generally require additional operating costs as no new staff or equipment are required to manage new lands within existing boundaries. Occasionally, agencies may incur up-front costs to remove existing improvements (fences, buildings, etc.) from an acquired property. By removing unwanted structures on newly acquired land, agencies avoid adding to ongoing O&M requirements.

In fact, acquisition of inholdings can greatly simplify land management for federal managers and neighboring landowners. Eliminating checkerboard ownership within federal units simplifies nearly every aspect of land management:

- Wildland fire managers can apply appropriate fuels reduction, planned burns, and fire suppression treatments more easily across an unfragmented landscape; fire management is more challenging and costly when private inholdings and developed properties are intermixed with federally-managed forests and public lands.
- Law enforcement and public safety personnel can more easily patrol and respond to emergencies when public ownership is consolidated. An unfragmented unit allows unified signage, road networks, and other infrastructure that will best enable safe public access and allow for the efficient movement of emergency personnel and vehicles to locations frequented by visitors.
- Recreation managers can more easily provide access for the public to enjoy their public lands. In some cases checkerboard ownership can cause confusion among the public about acceptable land uses, and can restrict the public's ability to access some areas of public land.

- Natural resource management is simplified in an unfragmented landscape. When checkerboard ownership is eliminated, biologists, geologists and other natural resource professionals can move freely across the land that they are responsible for surveying, and natural resource management actions can be applied more efficiently across a landscape in single ownership.

Examples of enhanced management resulting from land acquisition:

St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

St. Vincent NWR is an island off the panhandle coast of Florida in Apalachicola Bay, off the Gulf of Mexico. Acquisition of the 5-acre tract on the mainland of Apalachicola Bay provides permanent deep water mooring with launch site, secure parking and equipment storage. An important point is that dredging and channel maintenance are allowed in Apalachicola Bay, activities that are prohibited in other nearby areas. The lease at Indian Pass, the current deep water mooring and launch site, was ending and would not be renewed as the owners were looking to develop the mainland at the launch site. In addition, the upland portion of the leased Indian Pass site had been significantly reduced due to severe, continuing, and progressive erosion that the landowner failed to address.

As the refuge is only accessible by water, the new deep water mooring and launch site reduces staff travel time from the refuge office to transfer supplies and heavy equipment. Daily boat access for St. Vincent NWR staff is required 24/7 for all island management activities, such as sea turtle nest monitoring and protection, habitat management, prescribed burning, hunting and fishing management and protection, and response to visitor emergencies.

With the acquisition of the mainland deep water boat mooring and launch site, the Fish and Wildlife Service eliminates the annual $12,000 lease and has significant savings in fuel for vehicles. Staff traveling to and from the work site and hauling equipment to Apalachicola Bay from the refuge office had to travel 20 miles to Indian Pass, then travel by watercraft to St. Vincent Island. At the end of each day, traveling was reversed back to the refuge office. Adequate parking for heavy equipment and vehicles is available at the new site.

Prior to the acquisition of the deep water mooring and launch site, the Service conducted a critical review and analysis of deep water mooring and access options in the general vicinity of the refuge. Only two or three options were possible, with the acquisition of the acquired site being the most cost effective and safest for staff. The other sites involved longer nautical travel distances at nine miles, were more costly as public boat launch sites, and did not offer the security needed for refuge equipment.

Yukon Flats NWR

The Service acquired five tracts totaling 480 acres within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. One tract contains prime river frontage along the Porcupine River with cliffs containing important nesting habitat for peregrine falcon. The other tracts contain frontage along Beaver Creek, Rock Slough, and the Black River. Most of these properties contain high quality wetland complexes and were isolated inholdings surrounded by Refuge land. Acquisition of

these parcels greatly benefits Refuge wildlife management and provides a cost savings to the government due to decreased fire management expenses.

San Joaquin NWR, CA

In 2006, the FWS acquired a 371-acre tract at San Joaquin NWR, including riparian water rights. Along with other acreage acquired within the Refuge, 2,700 acres have been restored to riparian woodland habitat. After three years, irrigations for the riparian restoration ceased. The land acquired was cropland that used approximately 24,000 acre-feet of water every year. With the land restored to riparian woodland habitat, the 24,000 acre-feet of water is not used for irrigation on the Refuge; the water stays in the San Joaquin River and benefits in-stream flow, aquatic species, and downstream users. The use of riparian water rights via lift pump on the Stanislaus River has saved the refuge approximately $140,000 in the past seven years ($20,000 annually). Previously, water was acquired by paying for expensive pumped well water.

A majority of the riparian habitat was lost over the past century to cropland. With the riparian forest rehabilitation within the Refuge, the riparian brush rabbit population has returned from the brink of extinction due to habitat loss and degradation.

United States Geological Survey Groundwater

Groundwater is a valuable resource for Minnesota and the nation. When parts of the country are experiencing drought, groundwater may be considered a part of the solution.

McCollum Q2: What can Congress do to support the USGS and States in their efforts to implement a national groundwater monitoring network to ensure we have the necessary data to understand the status and trends of this strategic resource?

Answer: The USGS appreciates the leadership that Representative McCollum has shown on this issue.
Groundwater is indeed a strategic resource important to every State. It is the source of drinking water for about half the Nation, nearly all of our rural population, and many urban residents. Groundwater is a critical resource for many industries, and irrigation from groundwater supports our Nation's agriculture. Groundwater also sustains flow in most rivers, streams, and wetlands and, as such, is important to many ecosystems. A resource of that importance must be monitored to be managed effectively. Current groundwater monitoring has many gaps and does not meet national needs. To address these national needs, a framework was developed for a National Groundwater Monitoring Network (NGWMN) in response to the SECURE Water Act (P.L. 111-11) Section 9507(b) to provide a systematic groundwater monitoring program for each major aquifer system in the United States. The proposed NGWMN is expected to fill these monitoring gaps.

The SECURE Act requires the USGS to develop the NGWMN in coordination with the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) Subcommittee on Groundwater (SOGW), and State and local water resources agencies. The SOGW--including more than 70 people from 54 organizations—designed the NGWMN, and volunteer State pilot projects in Illinois, Indiana,

Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, and Texas successfully demonstrated the feasibility of the network design. USGS developed and delivered a pilot data portal open to the public that demonstrates the value of the NGWMN by allowing data users to view the pilot NGWMN and to query Network groundwater data. The NGWMN is poised for successful implementation when funding is available. Congressional support for the FY 2015 budget request will allow the USGS to begin implementation of a collaborative NGWMN using the proposed national framework and taking advantage of existing monitoring done by Federal, State, tribal and local agencies.

McCollum Q3: The federal government and the nation look to USGS for basic scientific data, including groundwater level and quality data. How does the FY 2015 budget request for USGS address moving forward a national groundwater monitoring network?

Answer: The FY 2015 budget request will allow the USGS to begin implementation of the NGWMN as outlined in the SOGW report, "A National Framework for Ground-Water Monitoring in the United States". This report recommends that the USGS operate and manage the NGWMN through strong collaboration with the States. In 2015, the USGS will bring 10-15 States into the NGWMN, select an advisory board, solicit additional Federal, State and local data providers, and fund operation of data portal and collection at NGWMN backbone sites managed by Federal and non-Federal NGWMN partners.

When fully implemented, the NGWMN will support Federal and State interests and allow the USGS to meet the goals outlined in the USGS National Water Census. National water availability and use have not been comprehensively assessed in more than 30 years.

The FY 2015 budget request also will allow the USGS to begin to meet our obligations under the SECURE Water Act to "expand the Climate Response Network (CRN) to each climate division in order to improve the understanding of the effects of global climate change on groundwater recharge and availability." The CRN is designed to provide long term records from aquifers that are not affected by pumping or other outside influences so the water levels reflect climatic variability and not human influences.

Bureau of Indian Affairs—Johnson O'Malley

The Johnson O'Malley Indian Education (JOM) program provides valuable support for the academic, social, and cultural needs of Native American students outside of BIE schools. However, I have questions about the Department's management of the JOM program, and I am deeply concerned that the lack of an updated student count is undermining the program's effectiveness.

McCollum Q4: What plans have BIA/BIE developed to conduct a full, updated student count and report back to Congress, as directed in *FY2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act* (P.L. 113-76)? Please include details on the anticipated timeline with benchmarks, the proposed methodology, and who will be conducting the count.

Answer: Indian Affairs plans to publish a Federal Register Notice and issue a Dear Tribal Leader letter this spring announcing that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will conduct a Johnson O'Malley student count in fiscal year 2014. The announcement will be distributed to

the current JOM contractors, public schools, national tribal organizations, Alaska Native corporations and State Departments of Education, as well as being posted on the BIE's web page. To promote an accurate and timely count, BIE will provide technical assistance to aid tribes, tribal organizations, public schools and State Departments of Education during the student count process. Currently, BIE plans to have an early September deadline for submittal of self certified student counts. This will allow BIE time to review all data and prepare the final report. The report will be sent to Congress by September 30, 2014.

McCollum Q5: How does BIA/BIE plan on reaching out to those tribes and school districts that have eligible students but are not yet under contract? Will the contract application process be opened in conjunction with conducting a new student count?

Answer: The two primary outreach methods announcing the count will be a Federal Register Notice and a Dear Tribal Leader letter. Indian Affairs has found that Dear Tribal Leader letters are very effective in communicating with Tribal leaders. The announcement will also be distributed to the current JOM contractors, public schools, national tribal organizations, Alaska Native corporations and State Departments of Education. The BIE plans to begin issuing notices to these entities soon after the Federal Register Notice and Dear Tribal Leader letters are published. To promote an accurate and timely count, BIE will provide technical assistance to aid the various entities that have questions during the application process, with follow-up assistance as needed when the student counts are received.

It should be noted that the submission of the student count is voluntary. The contract application process will proceed once the student count process is completed. Additional information on the JOM student count and the contracting process can be found at 25 CFR 273.

Bureau of Indian Affairs—Domestic Violence

This budget represents the first opportunity for the Administration to support tribal courts in exercising the special jurisdiction over domestic violence that was established in the *Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013* (P.L. 113-322). While funding in the act was primarily designated to come from the Attorney General's office, I am interested to hear how the BIA is supporting tribal nations as they take on this new law enforcement challenge, as well as the ongoing work to prevent abuse and assault, and support Native women and families.

McCollum Q6: What resources and tools do tribal justice systems need as they prepare to take on their new domestic violence special authority?

Answer: The recent re-authorization of the Violence against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) expands Tribal court jurisdictional requirements and will have a significant impact on tribal justice systems and social service programs. The law amends, among other statutes, the Indian Civil Rights Act, 25 U.S.C. 1301; and the Federal Assault provisions under 18 U.S.C. 113, the Domestic Violence and Stalking Chapter, specifically addressing the full faith and credit given to tribal protection orders, under 18 U.S.C. 2265. Furthermore, the tribal court systems, through new provisions in the Tribal Law and Order Act, have increased sentencing authority as well as requirements to comply with a cadre of other mandates under the TLOA.

Tribal court systems are evolving to meet the demands of tribal communities, including the increasing demands pursuant to the enhancement provisions of the TLOA, as well as the newly re-authorized VAWA. These judicial systems address everything from violent crimes and drug use, to domestic and family issues, to all types of civil claims. Recent increases in appropriations have augmented the courts' capacity through increased staffing, acquisition of computers and software, training, and equipment. The appropriations proposed in FY 2015 will be used to continue the courts' capability to reduce caseloads, address the backlog of criminal cases, tort claims, tribal probate claims, and family law issues pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Has BIA planned for the additional training and support that tribal law enforcement officers and tribal courts will now need?

Answer: As a result of provisions contained in the reauthorized VAWA, the Bureau of Indian Affairs will develop and implement training for direct service program staff in the areas of law enforcement, social services, victim services, and courts. While nothing in the law requires Tribes to "opt in", the BIA will provide technical assistance and training to Tribes operating these programs under self-determination contracts and compacts which choose to adapt policies and procedures and rewrite codes to reflect provisions in the VAWA reauthorization. In addition, BIA is in the process of expanding tribal court advocacy training sessions to include assistance in jury selection with challenges for cause and preemptory challenges and how to submit a jury charge to the court.

The BIA is in the process of creating two public defender clinics for tribal courts. The focus of these clinics will be to train public defenders on how to meet with their client, discuss the case with client and prosecutor, and continue with the evidence-based training presently in the tribal court advocacy training sessions. The BIA is also in the process of developing training for judges to understand the mental health issues affecting domestic violence issues, along with training specific to victim responses to violence. Finally, training will be provided to tribal court personnel, including judges, on the services available for both the defendant and victim so that probation conditions can properly address the problem.

Additionally, the BIA expects to have webinars available for tribal judges in the near future, and expects to advertise additional trainings which will include Indian Country jurisdiction in general and VAWA, as well as the jurisdictional issues which focus on tribal protection orders and full faith and credit between State and tribal governments.

McCollum Q7: How will the BIA be working with the DOJ to make sure that all tribal courts can benefit from the experiences of those currently under the pilot project and those working toward taking on the special jurisdiction?

Answer: The BIA is presently working with DOJ on all VAWA issues and expects to continue to work on issues affecting tribal courts through the next several years. Presently, DOI meets at least once a week with DOJ to discuss VAWA pilot project applications and provide a progress

report on the three tribal courts with DOJ approval to exercise the special domestic violence jurisdiction. The BIA conducts round table discussions regarding tribal concerns with VAWA implementation and shares the reports with DOJ and will continue to do so. The BIA is also working with DOJ to provide additional assistance to Tribes in the form of additional victim specialists and training for tribal victim specialists.

The BIA is working with the DOJ-Office of Tribal Justice and with the Deputy Assistant Attorney General's Office regarding the pilot project applications. BIA will coordinate with DOJ to provide VAWA information to as many Tribes as possible regarding the VAWA application process. BIA is providing training and technical assistance and additional funding to those two Tribes presently in the queue awaiting approval of their VAWA application.

DOI/BIA works alongside DOJ in creating and coordinating a comprehensive training and technical assistance resource list which will include DOJ opportunities and opportunities provided by State, local, and non-profit groups focusing on VAWA matters. The BIA also works with the DOJ-Access to Justice (ATJ) Initiative for Public Defense. ATJ is a part of the tribal court trial advocacy training sessions, where over 300 tribal court personnel have been trained in trial skills. Another six sessions will be forthcoming in 2014 and 2015.

McCollum Q8: How will the $3.0 million in increased funding proposed in Social Services be used to help tribal nations and Indian families to address the crisis of violence against Native women?

Answer: The FY 2015 budget request proposed a $10.0 million increase to launch a new initiative to combat increasing rates of domestic and family violence in Indian Country. The BIA will develop a comprehensive plan for addressing the needs of Indian communities with high rates of domestic and family violence. The BIA Human Services program will partner with the BIA Law Enforcement program to create the comprehensive plan. The goals of the initiative are to address domestic and family violence in Indian Country to include: 1) expanded family services related to domestic and family violence; 2) improved teamwork between law enforcement and social services to more rapidly address instances of domestic and family violence; and 3) better coordination of services with other related domestic and family violence partners in Indian Country.

Tribal and BIA case workers are the first responders for child and family services on reservations and in Indian Country. In order for Tribes to effectively administer social services programs and mitigate risks associated with domestic and family violence, Tribes need capacity for their case workers to focus their skills and expertise on the development of comprehensive response systems. The $3.0 million in additional funding provided in FY 2014 supports 26 case worker positions (6 BIA; 20 tribal) which will decrease the client to staff ratios at the tribal level. The increase in case workers will provide Tribes with new resources to focus on the quality of services being provided to women, children, and families. The increase will allow case workers to shift their primary focus from crisis mode intervention to services that strengthen the family through prevention and reunification. In addition, this shift will also allow workers to begin developing service strategies that address the impact of domestic and family violence on the breakup of families.

Bureau of Indian Affairs—School Construction

My colleagues on the Interior subcommittee and I have been noting the backlog within Bureau of Indian Education school construction with this Department for years. I have visited dilapidated BIE schools that are certainly not a conducive learning environment, but, more importantly, they pose significant safety, fire and health risks for students, teachers and administrators.

McCollum Q9: Why has the Department chosen again to ignore the urgent need for replacement school construction funds within this budget? Why was funding not requested to finish out all the remaining schools on the 2004 list?

Answer: There are three schools remaining on the 2004 Replacement School Construction Priority List: Beatrice Rafferty in Maine, and the Little Singer Community and Cove Day schools, both in Arizona. The 2015 budget includes $3.2 million for site development at Beatrice Rafferty. Planning is concluding for the three schools remaining on the list and design funding was provided for Beatrice Rafferty in 2014. In addition, Indian Affairs has six major education projects in the construction phase which include academic and dormitory facilities. These six projects are funded through the Facilities Improvement and Repair program under the Education Construction activity.

While not all school facilities are in "good" condition, all schools provide students, teachers, and administrators with a school environment that is safe. The Indian Affairs IA construction program supports the education goals of providing an environment conducive to quality educational achievement and improved opportunities for Indian students.

Since 2000, BIA has spent over $2.4 billion, including $300 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, on school construction, improvement, and repair. In that time, BIA has completed or has under construction 42 school replacements and 62 major renovations.

McCollum Q10: What plans have BIA/BIE developed to issue a new BIA Education Facilities Replacement Construction Priority List? Please include details on the anticipated timeline with benchmarks, the consultation with tribal nations, the proposed methodology, and the factors that will be used to determine which schools are priorities for replacement.

Answer: In response to a No Child Left Behind Act requirement, Indian affairs convened a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, consistent with 25 U.S.C. 2018(b), to develop and recommend a New School Replacement and Renovation priority ranking formula. The NRC committee was comprised of 22 tribal and four federal representatives. Participants included tribal members whose children attend Bureau-funded schools and to the extent possible, reflected the proportionate share of students from Tribes served by the Bureau-funded school system according to geographical location, size, and type of school and facility, and who represented the interests of parents, teachers, administrators, and school board members as well. The Federal participants included representatives of the Bureau of Indian Education, BIA Office of Facilities Construction and Management, BIA Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, and the DOI Office of the Solicitor – Division of Indian Affairs.

In 2010, the NRC held seven multi-day meetings, during which they visited five Bureau-funded schools and received public comments from 12 tribal and school officials. The Committee also conducted five regional consultation sessions around the country, which were attended by more than 200 participants, and 16 Tribes, schools, or tribal organizations submitted written comments. The Committee reviewed extensive data from federal agencies and also submitted two data calls to Bureau-funded schools. The School Facilities and Construction NRC Final Report transmitted to Congress on December 13, 2012 includes recommendations for both a process and a formula for generating a prioritized list of schools.

Based on the recommendations developed by the NRC, schools are eligible to be ranked for replacement or renovation if the school has an overall ranking of "poor" and/or are both 50 years old or older and educating 75 percent or more of students in portables as identified in the BIA facilities database. Eligibility is also based on criteria such as crowding, declining or constrained enrollment associated with facilities in "poor" condition, inappropriate education space, accreditation risk, and cultural space need, data which would be provided by the schools.

After the conclusion of validation of the inventory and deferred maintenance needs for all 182 campuses serving 183 schools, anticipated to be completed by end of FY 2014, and additional data is provided by the schools, a list of schools eligible to apply for the new School Replacement and Renovation Program is scheduled to be established by December 2014.

A timeline for initiating the application and prioritization processes to establish a new prioritized list of schools for replacement or renovation has not been determined at this time. Schools which are ranked as eligible must make an application for replacement or renovation to be included in the prioritization process. Once the application process is complete, regional project evaluation committees will be formed and public meetings will be held to provide input into the prioritization of projects. During the development of the new ranking, schools will continue to receive Operations and Maintenance funding as well as minor improvement and repair funding, based on established criteria.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, May 6, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS KREIGER PEAK IN CALIFORNIA. The Contra Costa (CA) Times (5/6, Burgarino, 319K) reports that "making her second visit to East Contra Costa in less than two months," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell toured Kreiger Peak in Contra Costa County, Calif., on Monday. Jewell is visiting the lands preserved by the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan, "which was launched more than a decade ago to preserve wetlands, endangered species and open space while standardizing the collection of fees from developers." Jewell also commented on the East Bay Regional Park District's efforts to hold several programs for youths and creativity in its land use. The story also appears at the Inside Bay Area (CA) (5/6, 20K).

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (5/5, 696K) reports that Jewell also "hosted a roundtable discussion with Rep. Jerry McNerney and local leaders from the conservation and development communities who spearheaded the successful conservation plan."

SECRETARY JEWELL BLAMES "POLITICAL REALITIES" FOR REPUBLICANS' STANCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE. The Environment & Energy Publishing (5/6, 705) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell last Friday said that "'political realities,' not denial of human-caused climate change, have prevented Sen. John McCain

(Ariz.) and many other Republican lawmakers from taking a stand on the issue." During a question-and-answer session with attendees of the National Wildlife Federation's annual meeting, Jewell said, "As I talk to individual members of Congress from both sides of the political aisle, I would say that there is less debate on climate change, but we have a circumstance where it's not a popular topic in some parts of the country for people to bring up." According to Jewell, "today's Republicans are worried about being 'primaried' – or challenged by conservative members of their own party."

PRESIDENT SET TO PUT CLIMATE CHANGE AT TOP OF HIS AGENDA. The Wall Street Journal (5/6, Nelson, Mundy, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that President Obama will use a new climate assessment report to be released tomorrow to argue that action to combat climate change must be taken now. The Journal says that the move is part of the effort by the President to turn the focus of the national debate towards the issue. The Journal says that the problem for Obama is that global warming is low among the public's priorities and is a potential problem for Democrats with ties to the energy industry.

Politico (5/6, Goode, 73K) reports that the President "will be meeting with some of television's most popular celebrities — weather forecasters — to ratchet up the volume on the administration's latest scientific assessment of climate change." Among those present will be the Today Show's Al Roker, who "tweeted Monday that he was one of the local and national meteorologists to score a one-on-one interview with the president." Politico notes that the push comes "about a month before EPA is scheduled to issue its most ambitious climate regulation yet — a rule aimed at reducing greenhouse gas pollution from the nation's thousands of existing power plants."

South Florida Expected To Be Hit Hard By Climate Change. The Miami Herald (5/6, Staletovich, 822K) reports that according to the report to be released by the White House, South Florida "is getting hotter, stormier and saltier." The National Climate Assessment "carves the nation into 11 regions, with the Southeast, as well as the Caribbean, sitting squarely in the crosshairs of climate change." In the draft report, the scientists "call the area 'exceptionally vulnerable' to risks from man-made climate change including rising seas, more extreme heat and dropping water supplies."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS AWARDS $400,000 TO PROTECT THREE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS. The National Journal (5/6, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis on Monday "announced more than $400,000 in grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to help preserve more than 300 acres of land at three of America's Civil War battlefields threatened with damage or destruction by urban and suburban development." The grant projects are at the Mansfield (La.), Glorieta Pass (N.M.) and Bentonville (N.C.) battlefields. Jarvis said, "These grants help safeguard our nation's Civil War battlefields and allow Americans the opportunity to learn about democracy, sacrifice, heroism and hope in the very places where those concepts shaped our history. Preserving these sites for future generations is an important way to honor the courage and service of our nation's military, especially as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War."

Also covering the story is KTVE-TV El Dorado, AR (5/6, 1K).

ZION NATIONAL PARK SAYS DRONES POSE PROBLEMS. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (5/6, 470K) reports that "wildlife paparazzi" are "illegally harassing the sheep, Utah's first possible condor chick — and other visitors — by using drones" in Zion National Park. The article notes that "law enforcement rangers in Zion average up to four drone cases each week and there are other reports." Zion National Park spokesperson Aly Baltrus said, "It seems to have exploded recently. They are getting more affordable and now that you can put a camera on them they are more purposed. We have had visitor complaints from Angel's Landing and Canyon Overlook. Drones kept buzzing them."

NPS' Ban On Drones Criticized. For Forbes (5/5, 6.28M), Gregory S. McNeal, a professor specializing in law and public policy, criticizes the NPS' ban on drones as an "absurd interpretation of their regulations." He claims that the NPS is "threatening park visitors with jail time and substantial fines, but the agency hasn't written any

rules to make it clear to park visitors what is prohibited." According to McNeal, "the situation is so muddled that different parks within the National Park Service are issuing different statements, leaving park visitors confused as to what counts as a drone."

Additional coverage of the ban was provided by "The Switch" blog of the Washington Post (5/5, 4.22M), the Washington Times (5/6, Chumley, 455K), The Hill (5/6, Hattem, 237K), NPR (5/6, Staff, 519K), Salon (5/5, 688K), and Yahoo! Finance (5/6, 9.7M).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SUE OVER CATTLE GRAZING IN CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK. KXLY-TV Spokane, WA (5/6, 32K) reports that two environmental groups are suing the NPS over cattle grazing in Capitol Reef National Park in Utah. The Western Watersheds Project of Hailey and the Cottonwood Environmental Law Center want the NPS "to study the impact grazing is having on two cactus plants listed under the Endangered Species Act." The lawsuit accuses the agency of "breaking environmental law by failing to consider the impacts of cattle grazing on the threatened Winkler's pincushion and endangered Wright fishhook cactus."

NATIONAL PARK'S THURSDAY LECTURE TO FOCUS ON SALT RIVER. The Virgin Islands Daily News (5/6, 49K) reports that the Salt River will "be the focus as the National Park Service-St. Croix Lecture Series continues on Thursday." David Goldstein, chief of interpretation and education at the National Park Service sites on St. Croix, said, "The most striking feature of Salt River Bay is that human beings have been wanting to be living there, arguing and fighting over that site, that place, that bay, for hundreds of years. People have just wanted to be there, because it is a really important conjunction between freshwater and saltwater, because it offers a set of resources, of vistas, of landscape features that for human beings happen to be irrestible." The article notes that "Thursday's lecture by Joshua Torres, cultural resources manager for the National Park Service sites on St. Croix, is titled 'Hidden in Plain Sight: The Archaeological Resources of Salt River Bay National Historic Site and Ecological Preserve.'"

Bureau of Land Management:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF BUNDY RANCH STANDOFF. The Washington Times (5/6, Richardson, 455K) reports that "behind the hoopla surrounding Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy's standoff with the Bureau of Land Management is a growing resentment over the federal government's status as the largest landowner in the West." According to the article, "although Nevada has received most of the national attention since Mr. Bundy's clash last month with BLM agents, the heaviest push to wrest control of federal lands is coming from Utah." State officials argue that the federal agency is "herding rural Westerners off the land by tightening restrictions, many of them driven by the Endangered Species Act, as well as lax management."

Additional Coverage: Rep. Horsford Calls For Ejection Of Militia Members. Additional coverage of Rep. Steven Horsford's call on elected officials in the state to rid a town in his district of militia members who have rallied around rancher Cliven Bundy was provided by the Washington Times (5/6, Chumley, 455K), the New York Daily News (5/6, 4.36M), and Yahoo! (5/5, Morrison, 17.91M).

BLM TO REVIEW ITS PLANNING PROCESS. The Billings (MT) Gazette (5/6, 174K) reports that "after using the same basic planning approach for 38 years," the BLM has announced "it will review how it develops its Resource Management Plans." BLM Director Neil Komze said in a statement, "As I've met with elected leaders and citizens from across the West on BLM issues, I've consistently heard two things: first, the BLM needs to more effectively address landscape-level management challenges; and second, planning takes too long." The decision was praised by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership as a way to "modernize this approach and remedy its shortcomings."

BLM, IRON COUNTY BRING IN FIRST HERD OF WILD HORSES. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (5/5, 48K) reports that Iron County Commissioners "finally got an opportunity to see the fruits of their threats the last two months" when the BLM "brought the first bunch of wild horses — eight to be exact — off the range into Cedar City Monday." However, "with an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 wild horses overpopulating Iron County, eight horses aren't enough to stop the Iron County Commissioners from joining a recent lawsuit filed by local ranchers against the BLM." Iron County Commissioner Dave Miller said, "It is absolutely not enough for us to not continue with our plans to attach the county to the lawsuit. While we appreciate the BLM's efforts trapping horses, reducing the

numbers to the tune of 10 at a time will not get the job done."

BLM OFFERING 40 WILD HORSES FOR ADOPTION. KFVS-TV Cape Girardeau, MO (5/6, 28K) reports that the BLM will "offer approximately 40 wild horses ranging from yearling to five years old to potential adopters on May 17-18" in Ewing, Illinois. BLM-Eastern States Acting State Director, John Ruhs said, "While the adoption process is simple and straightforward, anyone considering adoption of a wild horse should remember that the animals are wild and require gentling and training."

BLM REISSUES CALL FOR WESTERN MONTANA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL NOMINATIONS. The Helena (MT) Independent Record (5/6, 45K) reports that the BLM in Montana has "reissued the call for nominations for five open positions on its Western Montana Resource Advisory Council." The BLM will consider the nominations until May 23.

WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT COORDINATOR: NO "RIGHT" TO GRAZE ON FEDERAL LANDS. in an op-ed for the Helena (MT) Independent Record (5/6, 45K), Josh Osher, the Montana coordinator for the Western Watersheds Project in Missoula, argues that there is no "right" to grazing on federal public land. Rather, Osher asserts, ranchers "enjoy a privilege to graze livestock according to applicable federal laws, conformance to the terms and conditions in their grazing permit and payment of grazing fees."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY. KXLO-FM Lewiston, MT (5/6) reports that the FWS is "once again a proud sponsor of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) and invites people to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation in their local communities and beyond." Clint Riley, Mountain-Prairie Assistant Regional Director for Migratory Birds and Special Programs, said, "We are proud to be celebrating International Migratory Bird Day with our partners and encourage everyone to participate in the festivities or simply bird watch. National Wildlife Refuges, most of which were established to protect wild places for birds, are great places for people to observe the diversity of migratory bird species."

PROVIDENCE RECEIVES $50,000 FOR YOUTH URBAN PARKS PROGRAMS. The Providence (RI) Journal (5/5, 415K) reports that on Monday, "officials gathered at Riverside Park to announce that $50,000 had been awarded to the National Wildlife Refuge Service in Rhode Island for the 'Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.'" Sen. Jack Reed said, "I am pleased Rhode Island's application was chosen for this competitive award and I applaud the Fish and Wildlife Service for its commitment to connecting more kids to nature. Providence is a bustling city with a diverse population and a diverse park system. This federal Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership Project funding will help boost recreation and environmental education opportunities for residents, particularly young people."

FWS DROPS PLANS TO SPRAY CHEMICAL PESTICIDES AT BANDON MARSH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The AP (5/6, Barnard) reports that "pressed by advocacy groups," the FWS has "dropped plans to spray chemical pesticides to kill mosquitoes breeding" on Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Instead, the service will "use a biological pesticide that poses less risk to the crabs, crawfish and worms that fish and wildlife depend on for food." The FWS said in a statement, "After evaluating public comments ... and discussion with mosquito experts, the Service determined that using Bti will effectively control mosquitoes on the Ni-les'tun Unit while posing a low risk to wildlife, their habitats, and the human environment."

The Ashland (OR) Jefferson Public Radio (5/6) reports that George Kimbrell, senior attorney with the Center for Food Safety, said, "We're pleased the Fish and Wildlife Service has done the right thing here and not gone forward with its previous plan which was to spray these toxic pesticides on the wildlife refuge. Better late than never, but it's too bad we had to explain to them that their proposed action was unlawful and hazardous."

Additional coverage was provided by the Oregon Public Broadcasting (5/6, 4K).

FWS RECONSIDERING PROPOSAL TO LIST GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE AS ENDANGERED. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (5/6, 73K) reports that the FWS is "reconsidering its proposal to list the Gunnison sage-grouse as endangered, weighing instead a threatened species designation that would provide greater flexibility in

how the bird is managed." In addition, the BLM has "agreed to update its resource management plans within the range occupied by the species 'to beef up protections,'" according to Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist with the conservation group WildEarth Guardians.

FWS LISTS KENTUCKY GLADE CRESS AS THREATENED. The AP (5/6) reports that "the small plant Kentucky glade cress is being listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act," and the FWS is "designating about 2,000 acres as critical habitat for the plant." The agency says "residential and commercial development and associated activities have destroyed or degraded the plant's natural glade habitats."

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER WINS NATIONAL HONOR. The Los Angeles Daily Breeze (5/5, 220K) reports that San Pedro High science teacher Jennifer Cheng has been chosen "as a faculty fellow to the 2014 Student Climate & Conservation Congress, a program of the Green Schools Alliance in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service." The article notes that "Cheng is among about 20 faculty fellows selected from across the United States to represent San Pedro High and California at Sc3 2014, hosted by the National Conservation Training Center of the US Department of the Interior, the nation's premier conservation training facility."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM DIRECTOR TOMMY BEAUDREAU INTERVIEWED. In an interview with Recharge News (5/6, 633), BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau discussed the future of offshore wind energy. Beaudreau noted that "there is demand around trying to find clean energy resources, especially along the east coast. Unlike the west, you don't have huge swathes of land to stand up a solar or wind project. You have to look offshore. I think that's what is underlying our process."

HAWAII'S WINDMILLS IMPACTING ENDANGERED ANIMALS. KITV-TV Honolulu (5/6, 13K) reports that "Hawaii's push toward green energy is having an impact on flying creatures who live next to wind farms or traverse the spinning turbines, some of which stand 493 feet tall at the highest blade tips." According to data provided by the FWS, "195 birds and bats and one moth were killed by five of the largest wind farms on Maui and Oahu since August 2007."

GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT GOES ONLINE. KCET-TV Los Angeles (5/5, Clarke, 15K) reports that the Genesis Solar Energy Project has "gone online in the eastern desert of Riverside County." The project, approved by the Interior Department and the California Energy Commission in 2010, "hit speedbumps ranging from lawsuits to wildlife illnesses to unanticipated archaeological discoveries on the path to Thursday's figurative ribbon-cutting." The article notes that "unlike the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System that formally went online in February, which uses thousands of huge flat mirrors to focus sunlight on boilers atop power towers, Genesis uses a far more thoroughly tested technology: parabolic trough-shaped mirrors that focus sunlight on a pipe running through each trough." As a result, Genesis "avoids causing the wildlife damage from concentrated solar flux increasingly seen at Ivanpah."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S "DOUBLE STANDARDS" ON ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS CRITICIZED. For the National Review (5/6, 879K), Robert Bryce, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, notes that the American Bird Conservancy, "on Thursday announced its intent to sue the Interior Department and the Fish and Wildlife Service over the agencies' plan to grant wind-energy companies permits to kill eagles for up to 30 years." Bryce writes that the lawsuit "exposes, yet again, the legal double standard that exists with regard to enforcement of two of America's oldest wildlife-protection laws, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (enacted in 1918) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (enacted in 1940)." According to Bryce, "over the past few decades, the Interior Department and the Fish and Wildlife Service have brought hundreds of suits against the oil and gas industry, as well as the electric-utility sector, for unauthorized bird kills," but "despite widespread evidence of bird kills by wind turbines, those agencies have brought only one enforcement action against the wind industry."

Onshore Energy Development:

PODESTA TOUTS ADMINISTRATION ENERGY ACHIEVEMENTS. The Washington Times (5/6, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that GOP critics and "some in the energy industry" have "often" accused President Obama of being "hostile to fossil fuels," but the White House on Monday "issued a strong endorsement of the domestic oil and gas boom and the controversial drilling technique that has made it possible." At a White House press briefing, John Podesta "said massive increases in U.S. oil and gas extraction — made possible by fracking — are helping to reduce carbon emissions and have had clear economic benefits." Podesta said that fracking and natural gas offers a "bridge, if you will, from a world in which there are still needs for fossil fuels to power our economy to a world in which we can get more from zero-carbon sources of energy. We think it's a practical and viable way to reduce emissions in the short run."

The "Post Politics" blog of the Washington Post (5/5, Eilperin, 4.22M) reports that Podesta said that "Democrats can run this fall on the fact they have bolstered the nation's oil and gas industry while tackling global warming." At the press briefing, Podesta stated, "In 2012 and 2013, it accounted for .22 and .24 percent of growth, which is the highest on record. ... We've added 133,000 jobs in the last three years in the oil and natural gas extraction sector, and those numbers are projected to continue to grow."

Politico (5/6, Goode, 73K) reports Podesta believes that "congressional attempts to trump EPA's climate rules will fail." He stated, "They'll find various ways, particularly in the House, to try to stop us from using the authority we have under the Clean Air Act. ... All I would say is that those have zero percent chance of working," he said. "We're committed to moving forward with those rules." The Washington Examiner (5/6, 335K) reports Podesta stated, "We're committed to maintaining the authority and the president's authority to ensure that the Clean Air Act is fully implemented." Roll Call (5/6, Dennis, 76K) reports Podesta said that "climate change is clear, and 'we need all hands on deck' to fight it to avoid the most catastrophic effects."

During the press briefing, The Hill (5/6, Barron-Lopez, 237K) reports, Podesta "indicated that President Obama would veto an energy efficiency bill set to be debated in the Senate this week if it is approved with 'unacceptable riders.'" He stated, "We hope that it passes, but if it passes with unacceptable riders, then it will be headed to the watery depths."

USGS: FRACKING CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASE IN OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES. NPR (5/6, Neuman, 519K) reports in its "The Two Way" blog that the USGS says "a dramatic spike" in Oklahoma earthquakes "is due in part to fracking and that it has increased the danger of a damaging quake in the central part of the state." A USGS report says, "The recent earthquake rate changes are not due to typical, random fluctuations in natural seismicity rates."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (5/6, Mcbride).

COURT DENIES MINING COMPANY PAYOUT FOR EXPECTED PROFITS. The AP (5/6) reports that "a federal court says a company's arguments that it lost out on up to $123 million in uranium mining revenue in northern Arizona are premature." VANE Minerals LLC filed the complaint after the Interior Department "instituted a 20-year ban on new mining claims around the Grand Canyon." The firm claimed that the ban is "an unconstitutional taking of property and that it's entitled to compensation for expected profit loss." But because VANE hasn't proved "sufficient quantity and quality of uranium ore" for "any of its 678 unpatented claims," the court "dismissed the complaint last week at the request of the federal government."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OPEN HOUSES ON FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT AND NAVAJO MINE. Additional coverage of the open houses being held to discuss the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine was provided by the Cortez (CO) Journal (5/5, 646).

Offshore Energy Development:

STUDY ESTIMATES TOTAL BIRD DEATHS FROM DEEPWATER HORIZON AT AROUND 800,000. The New York Times (5/6, Schrope, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports on a new study of bird deaths caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill produced for a law firm representing clients with claims against BP. While about 3,000 bird carcasses were found at the time, the study estimates total bird deaths of about 800,000 and an uncertainty range of 160,000 to 1.9 million. The study used two modeling techniques, one of which made use of

"daily winds and currents," and another that focused on the daily "locations of oil slicks," connected to "numbers and habits" of offshore birds. The study's authors explained that so few carcasses were found because winds and currents carried them away from the coast.

BP'S MINGE TALKS GULF DRILLING, US SHALE GAS. Platts (5/6, 2K) reports BP America CEO John Minge said yesterday that "four years after the Macondo oil spill, BP has 11 operated rigs running in the US Gulf of Mexico, the most the company has ever had there at one time." He added that the company plans to "spend $10 billion over the next five years in the deepwater US Gulf, which amounts to about 10% of its worldwide exploration and production budget and makes the company the largest investor in that arena." Minge stated, "Our business is back; it's strong and it's gaining momentum. ... It wasn't long ago when the common belief was that the region was played out, that deepwater wasn't going to work and it was better to head off to other places. But we had [employees] who said there's more there, and convinced the leadership to invest further."

The FuelFix (5/5, 7K) reports that it is difficult "for BP to compete in U.S. shale because it's a market unlike any other that Big Oil knows well." Minge said yesterday that "international oil companies are trying to make gains on private equity and smaller independent producers that can move rapidly." At the Offshore Technology Conference, Minge said, "I think the market is really different. ... It's very dynamic, lower-margin, lean business that's better suited for the independent style. It's hard for a super major to compete with that."

Also at the conference, the FuelFix (5/5, 7K) reports BP's head of technology and research David Eyton said that "most of the world's future oil and gas reserves won't come from new discoveries, but by finding ways to get more oil from regions the industry already has already developed." He stated, "We've probably reached the time, amazingly, when there's as much to be got extra out of the oil fields we have discovered as there is to be found in new fields."

Minge Expresses BP's Commitment To America. In a commentary for FuelFix (5/5, 7K), BP America CEO John Minge writes that "BP estimates that by 2035, the world will need around 40 percent more energy than it uses today" and "that is good news" because "energy means jobs, a higher standard of living, and fewer people living in poverty." As a company, Minge says "We've become a smaller, simpler, more focused company, playing to our strengths by returning to our roots as explorers and drillers, and emphasizing value over volume." Minge concludes, "Many challenges lie ahead, but BP is committed to America and is committed to the Gulf of Mexico. That combination is vital to helping meet the world's energy challenge."

ENERGY INDUSTRY CONFERENCE COVERS PUBLIC PERCEPTION, TECHNICAL CHALLENGES. The Houston Chronicle (5/6, Dlouhy, Eaton, Holeywell, 2.23M) reports on the Offshore Technology Conference. Former Assistant Energy Secretary James Slutz of Global Energy Strategies said that Federal policymakers often don't distinguish between "deep-water development, shallow-water drilling and hydraulic fracturing in unconventional plays," so issues in one area can affect other parts of the industry. Meanwhile, executives said that "oil and gas development presents big public perception challenges" and suggested "the industry needs to step up its game in minimizing risks and in communicating that work to the public." Meanwhile, technical challenges, such as recovering more oil from existing wells, "are the central topic at this week's conference."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SPRING RUNOFF BEGINS TO FLOW INTO BIG THOMPSON CANYON. The Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette (5/6, 13K) reports that "with runoff starting to increase in the Big Thompson Basin," the BOR increased "outflow from Olympus Dam, at the east side of Estes Park, into the river Monday morning." Kara Lamb, public information officer for the bureau, said "the flow was gradually increased through the day from 40 cubic feet per second to about 140 cfs." Lamb said, "The heat over the next few days will likely increase nightly runoff inflows to Lake Estes, which will pass on through Olympus Dam to the canyon. So far, runoff inflows have been typical for this time of year."

Also covering the story are the Fort Collins (CO) Coloradoan (5/5, 59K) and KMGH-TV Denver (5/6, 30K).

RIO GRANDE TO RECEIVE EXTRA WATER FOR SILVERY MINNOWS. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/6, 282K) reports that beginning Wednesday, the Rio Grande, "parched by drought, will get a shot of extra water, a

simulated spring runoff peak, to try to nurse along the dwindling population of endangered Rio Grande silvery minnows." The article notes that "river managers began releasing water Monday from Abiquiu Reservoir on the Rio Chama," and "by sometime late Wednesday night, the Rio Grande through Albuquerque is expected to be more than twice its current size." According to Mike Hamman, head of the BOR's Albuquerque office, "water managers hope the artificial runoff pulse will encourage whatever fish remain in the river to spawn."

BOR FORECASTS LOWER WATER RELEASE FROM LAKE POWELL TO LAKE MEAD FOR 2014. The Lake Powell (AZ) Chronicle (5/6, 7K) reports that "as part of its ongoing management of Colorado River reservoirs," the BOR has "determined that, based on the best available data projections of Lake Powell and Lake Mead reservoir elevations, under the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (2007 Interim Guidelines) a release of 7.48 million acre-feet (maf) from Lake Powell is required in water year 2014 (Oct. 1, 2013 – Sept. 30, 2014)." According to the article, "an annual release of 7.48 maf is the lowest release since the filling of Lake Powell in the 1960s. Lake Mead is projected to decline an additional eight feet during 2014 as a result of the lower Lake Powell annual release; however, Lake Mead will operate under normal conditions in calendar year 2014, with water users in the Lower Colorado River Basin and Mexico receiving their full water orders in accordance with the 2007 Interim Guidelines and the 1944 Treaty with Mexico." Upper Colorado Regional Director Larry Walkoviak said, "This is the worst 14-year drought period in the last hundred years. Reclamation's collaboration with the seven Colorado River Basin states on the 2007 Interim Guidelines is proving to be invaluable in coordinating the operations of the reservoirs and helping protect future availability of Colorado River water supplies."

FORMER ALCOVA SUPERINTENDENT SUES NATRONA COUNTY FOR DEFRAUDING BOR. KTWO-AM Casper, WY (5/6, 576) reports that "the former superintendent of Alcova Reservoir claims in a federal lawsuit that Natrona County's Road and Bridge Department filed false financial reports about Alcova, Pathfinder and Gray Reef reservoirs amounting to more than $1 million to the US Bureau of Reclamation, according to court records." According to Charles Loraas and the Wyoming US Attorney's office, "While creating the appearance that it was operating the Reservoirs at a loss, the County has for the most part actually operated the Reservoirs at a profit and has diverted those profits to county uses other than Reservoir maintenance and operation." The lawsuit was filed on Oct. 18, 2013, and US District Court Judge Alan Johnson unsealed the complaint on May 1.

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBAL RIGHTS PIONEER BILLY FRANK JR. DIES. The Kitsap (WA) Sun (5/5, 91K) reports that Billy Frank Jr., "a tribal fisherman who led the 'fish wars' that restored fishing rights and helped preserve a way of life for American Indians in the Northwest four decades ago, died Monday." In a statement released by the White House, President Barrack Obama said, "Billy never stopped fighting to make sure future generations would be able to enjoy the outdoors as he did, and his passion on the issue of climate change should serve as an inspiration to us all."

Also reporting on the story is the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (5/5, 857K).

JUDGE PROMISES QUICK DECISION IN CHEROKEE FREEDMEN CASE. The Oklahoman (5/6, 530K) reports that "after 11 years of sometimes contentious litigation, a federal judge said here Monday that he will soon decide whether the Cherokee Nation can bar citizenship to descendants of slaves who had been owned by tribal members." Senior U.S. District Judge Thomas F. Hogan "made the announcement after a hearing on the core issue in the case: whether an 1866 treaty between the tribe and the US government means Cherokee freedmen descendants must always have the same rights as native Cherokees." Hogan "voiced skepticism on Monday that the treaty allows the tribe to change its constitution to require tribal blood for citizenship."

Top National News:

OBAMA, BIDEN URGE HOUSE REPUBLICANS TO PASS IMMIGRATION REFORM. Remarks by the President and Vice President yesterday at Cinco de Mayo celebrations received little attention from English-language national media outlets. The comments were not covered by the network newscasts or mentioned on the top-rated cable news shows. Print coverage, meanwhile, highlighted the continued partisan split on the issue, and cast chances of an immigration package passing Congress this year as remote.

The AP (5/6) reported that at a gathering with "Latino lawmakers and Hispanic advocates," Obama urged them to "press House Republicans to act on a broad overhaul of immigration laws," saying, "Tell them to get on board." Justin Sink, in a blog entry for The Hill (5/6, 237K), notes that the President also "said he was 'convinced that America's prosperity and security' depended on passing an immigration bill, and accused House Republicans of refusing 'to allow meaningful immigration reform to move forward at all.'" Said Obama, "It's time for members of Congress and Republicans in the House to catch up to the rest of the country."

MSNBC's News Nation (5/5, 503K), meanwhile, showed Biden saying earlier in the day at a White House event, "When we pass immigration reform...we'll be saying: 'Hey, all these folks we treat with respect, view them as citizens, and they are as competent and capable and welcome as anybody else.'" In his comments, notes McClatchy (5/5, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K), Biden defended "his remarks that 11 million undocumented immigrants are 'already American citizens.'" Said Biden, "They are Americans. ... They may not be citizens, but they are Americans. In the definition of Teddy Roosevelt, he said Americanism is not a question of birthplace or creed or line of descent, it's a question of principles, idealism, and character. And I would argue that those 11 million folks who have been here breaking their neck, working hard, they are Americans." In a blog entry for The Hill (5/6, 237K), Julian Sink similarly said Biden "defended his comments in Miami earlier this year," while the Washington Times (5/6, Dinan, 455K) says he "backed away from his claim earlier this year that illegal immigrants 'are already American citizens.'"

TIME (5/6, Miller, 24.1M) reports on its website that Biden also "demanded...that House Speaker John Boehner 'stand up' to those in his party who oppose immigration reform," saying, "It's time for John – he's a good man, John Boehner – to stand up and other Republicans to stand up. ... Not for us to stand up. We've already stood up. We've been right there. We stood up. It's time for him to stand up, stand up at not let the minority – I think it's a minority – of the Republican Party in the House keep us from moving in a way that will change the circumstances for millions and millions of lives."

The Daily Caller (5/5, Bordelon, 408K) noted that Biden also "promised...the Obama administration would stop all deportations of illegal immigrants, telling a heckling" activist, "We'll do that too, kid, but let me get finished [sic] my speech."

Roll Call (5/5, Eldridge, 76K) reports that "among those in attendance at the Biden breakfast, according to pool reports, were Jill Biden, Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez, Girl Scouts CEO Anna Maria Chavez, Democratic Reps. Rubén Hinjosa of Texas and Xavier Becerra of California and the Small Business Administration's Maria Contreras-Sweet." House Minority leader Nancy Pelosi, meanwhile, issued a statement Monday saying, "Whether on Cinco de Mayo or on any other day, the time is now for comprehensive immigration reform. ... And the time is now for House Republicans to emulate the bravery demonstrated in the Battle of Puebla...and give us a vote."

In the National Journal (5/6, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 561K), Fawn Johnson writes that immigration reform "was once a real thing on Capitol Hill," but "the groups lobbying for" it "have failed to gain traction with their strategy of shaming Republicans into action, leaving advocates confused and conflicted about where to go next." Johnson adds that "for the next Congress, the advocacy strategy, such as it is, will depend almost entirely on the results of the midterms," and on whether "Latino voters can show they can swing at least a few elections."

Reporting on the GOP, McClatchy (5/6, Ordonez, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 23K) ties the House caucus' "struggle" with the immigration issue as a sign of the party's "identity crisis," as "the party's establishment wing is hinting it wants to vote on some aspect of the issue before the midterm elections" and "hardcore conservatives, angry with" Boehner "for mocking their tactics in a speech last month, have vowed to be vigilant against letting any kind of distasteful legislation slip through to the floor." Adds McClatchy, "The GOP's uncertainty over immigration reflects the mood of a party continuing to grapple with who it is and what it wants to become."

In an analysis piece, the Washington Times (5/6, Dinan, 455K) calls Boehner "the key figure of immigration reform legislation this year," and "he has sent dramatically mixed signals about whether Congress will approve a bill." As a result, "advocates and opponents of immigration reform now say they don't know where the House speaker stands on the issue."

The Washington Times (5/5, McLaughlin, 455K) also reports that "the GOP's Senate candidates are generally focusing on the enforcement side, calling for a crackdown," whereas "Republican presidential candidates have generally been to the left of their party on immigration, with George W. Bush and Sen. John McCain leading the pack."

On MSNBC's Martin Bashir (5/5, 615K), Brian Beutler of the New Republic said, "Republicans don't really have much substance to run on. They've returned to other scandals and are trying to goad the White House into overreaching on immigration reform, so they can tum that into an example of an unruly Obama administration. I think that is what's going on."

Reid: Immigration Reform Will Boost Tourism Industry. McClatchy (5/5, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 23K) notes the Senate "returned Monday for what could be a week of considering energy efficiency legislation," though "Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid wanted to talk about immigration." Said Reid, "The Senate immigration bill would make it easier for tourists to come to America by increasing the number of customs and border control agents who process international visitors."

Longoria, DNC Launch Latino Outreach Program. USA Today (5/6, Gomez, 5.82M) reports that yesterday, "a high-profile group led by actress Eva Longoria and Democratic National Committee finance chairman Henry Munoz III launched the Latino Victory Project to do just that," while "across the country, smaller groups are organizing citizenship and voter registration seminars to walk Hispanics through the complicated application process." However, some Latinos "simply aren't sure they want to stay in the USA," and "others can't afford the price of admission" with UCIS charging high fees to apply for citizenship. Moreover, "the biggest deterrent...is fear of the unknown," with some immigrants apprehensive about "what would happen if" an application for citizenship is rejected.

Supreme Court Rejects Challenge To Nebraska City's Immigration Ordinance. The AP (5/6) reported that the Supreme Court on Monday "rejected a challenge to a Nebraska city ordinance that bans renting homes to immigrants living in the country illegally," letting stand "an appeals court ruling that found the ordinance doesn't discriminate against Latinos or interfere with federal immigration laws."

Report Alleges Lack Of Discipline At CPB. The New York Times (5/6, Cave, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that according to an American Immigration Council review "of 809 abuse complaints" regarding agents of Customs and Border Protection near the Southwest border from 2009 to 2012, "only 13 led to disciplinary action," which was usually "counseling." The story also points out the lack of a "unified system for reporting complaints." Acting deputy commissioner Kevin McAleenan is quoted saying that the agency "is committed to" doing its work "while preserving the human rights and dignity of those with whom we come in contact." The story explains that in the cases reported, "at least 60" included "kicking or stomping on detainees," while another 45 included being hit "with objects," six alleged "sexual abuse and 14 of improper searches or touching." It suggests that CPB and the Department of Homeland Security suffer from a lack of training and discipline.

ADMINISTRATION, DEMOCRATS UNDECIDED ABOUT TAKING PART IN SELECT BENGHAZI COMMITTEE. Television coverage of the Benghazi investigation was much lighter Monday evening than it was at the end of last week. Fox News was the only outlet to cover the story, as neither CNN nor the network news broadcasts mentioned it.

Bret Baier reported on FOX News' Special Report (5/5, 2.15M) that as the House select committee to investigate the attacks takes shape, Democrats are left "with a dilemma: whether to cooperate or whether to essentially boycott the effort completely." Catherine Herridge noted that the Administration and Democrats in the House say they are "undecided about the select committee and whether they should get involved. Part of the calculus is that boycotting the panel would limit their ability to respond to Republican allegations in the run-up to mid-term elections."

The Hill (5/5, Sink, 237K) reported that the White House indicated Monday that it may not cooperate with the select committee. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said that while "the White House has 'always cooperated with legitimate oversight,'" the new probe is a "highly partisan effort to politicize" the attack. Carney sad, "If you look at even what some Republicans have said, it certainly casts doubt on the legitimacy of an effort

that is so partisan in nature. ... I don't think there are many people, including some Republicans... who believe that this is necessary after seven congressional committees and multiple investigations."

Jonah Goldberg said on FOX News' Special Report (5/5, 2.15M) that while there has been "an unlimited number of investigations," there have also been "a very limited number of answers from the White House." Goldberg added, "If they have got nothing to hide and this is all just sort of spinning wheels, why haven't they released that information to get the Republicans to call off the dogs?"

The Washington Times (5/6, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that the White House "bashed" the select committee and "hinted it won't cooperate with the effort." The Times notes that Carney "dodged questions on whether the administration will fully cooperate with the investigation and said Republicans' motivation is clearly political."

The Huffington Post (5/5, Bendery, 11.54M) reported that State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf described the select committee as a "waste of time and taxpayer dollars," adding, "It's not necessary."

USA Today (5/6, Davis, 5.82M) reports that House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said Monday that he will oppose creation of the select committee. Hoyer said, "We will urge members to vote 'no' on it." Nonetheless, "Republicans are expected to overcome Democratic opposition and approve its creation." Hoyer said "that Democratic leaders have not been contacted to discuss the panel, but he said it should have an equal number of members from both parties."

The Daily Caller (5/5, Pappas, 408K) reported that "some liberals don't want any Democrats to take part in the hearings." Liberal radio host Bill Press wrote on Twitter Monday, "Member of Congress told me she will urge Nancy Pelosi to appoint NO Democrats to Special Benghazi Committee. ... She's right!"

George Will said on FOX News' Special Report (5/5, 2.15M) that if Democrats "are clear thinking, they won't participate" in the select committee, adding, "I don't see what's in it for them and it will reduce the committee to being apparently a partisan enterprise. It will give the media an excuse not to cover it and again they will have the advantage of being able to say to the public we don't need a ninth committee hearing on this."

In an op-ed for USA Today (5/6, Rabin-havt, 5.82M), Ari Rabin-Havt, host of The Agenda on SiriusXM Progress 127 and author of The Benghazi Hoax, blasts Boehner's decision to form the select committee, calling the effort "nothing short of an in kind expenditure on behalf of the Republican National Committee, hoping to weaken Democrat's electoral chances." Similarly, Juan Williams said on FOX News' Special Report (5/5, 2.15M) that "this is a political issue" aimed at derailing Hillary Clinton's presidential aspirations.

The Hill (5/5, Berman, 237K) reported that the select committee is "shaping up to be an election-year spectacle that carries risks for both Republicans and Democrats heading into November." The "sudden shift to Benghazi threatens to take Republicans off what they said would be a laser-like focus on the economy and jobs, an issue central to the 2014 midterm election." Meanwhile, Democrats "say that most voters, with the exception of conservative activists, have moved on from the Benghazi debate." However, Julian Zelizer, a political analyst at Princeton University, said that if they decide to boycott the committee entirely, Democrats "would be giving up their seat at the table and would allow Republicans to make accusations without rebuttal in hearings that are likely to generate significant media attention."

Gowdy To Lead Select Committee Investigation. Reuters (5/6, Zengerle) reports that House Speaker Boehner has tapped Rep. Trey Gowdy to lead the select committee investigation, saying in a statement, "I know he shares my commitment to get to the bottom of this tragedy and will not tolerate any stonewalling from the Obama administration."

The Washington Times (5/6, Klimas, Dinan, 455K) describes Gowdy as an "up-and-coming member of the House GOP," who has "already gained a reputation as a relentless investigator."

Roll Call (5/5, Hawkings, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that before his election to Congress, Gowdy "spent a decade as the district attorney in his home town of Spartanburg, and for six years before that he went after federal crimes as an assistant U.S. attorney." In Congress, "he has developed a relatively unusual reputation for a Republican propelled into office by the tea party wave," winning praise "from many Democrats for his

lawyerly, principled and evenhanded approach to both legislating and investigations of the executive branch."

USA Today (5/6, Dorell, 5.82M) notes, however, that some Democrats say that Gowdy "may be far too partisan to chair a select committee in which he must handle the investigation with even-handedness."

Catherine Herridge reported on FOX News' Special Report (5/5, 2.15M) that documents reviewed by Fox News "show there may be other problems. Two emails from September 14th, 2012 were released as a result of a Federal lawsuit by the conservative group Judicial Watch. While most of the document was redacted, the names were not. But the same email sent to Capitol Hill had the names dropped." Herridge added that "the same pattern is found in the September 12th email. The Judicial Watch document has fewer redactions." Herridge added that "as part of its defense, the State Department cited the release of this September 2012 White House email that tried to shape the public opinion." State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf was shown saying: "Nothing was redacted form it when it was released to the Hill. I think actually there was been some inaccurate reporting."

In his column for the Washington Post (5/6, Thiessen, 4.22M), Marc A. Thiessen writes that if the President's claim that he was "only repeating what the intelligence community told him when his administration asserted that the attack in Benghazi began with a spontaneous protest inspired by an Internet video," the Administration should give the select committee "his daily intelligence briefings that show exactly what he was told." Congress, Thiessen writes, "should ask the president to follow precedent and release the PDBs he received in the days after the Benghazi attack."

Commentators Accuse Administration Of Secrecy On Benghazi. A pair of commentators cite what they see as the Administration's secrecy with regard to the Benghazi attacks as the reason for the ongoing Republican investigation.

Fox News senior political analyst Brit Hume said on FOX News' Special Report (5/5, 2.15M) that White House spokesman Jay Carney was correct when he said the facts will not change, but "the problem is we still don't know the facts," including "where Susan Rice came up with her assertion" that the attack "stemmed from a protest that got out of hand in reaction to an Internet video." Hume noted that video claim "did not fit the known facts, but it certainly fit the political needs of a President up for reelection and a Secretary of State hoping eventually to succeed him."

In his column for the Washington Post (5/6, Milbank, 4.22M), Dana Milbank is more critical of the investigation, but notes that if Republicans are able to gain traction from it, "the Obama White House can blame its own secrecy and obsessive control over information." Milbank argues that the Administration "unwittingly gave the matter new life by disobeying the first rule of crisis management: Get all information out there, quickly." Milbank writes that "Carney and his colleagues' opacity made their Benghazi problem worse."

WPost: Investigation Distracts From Administration's "Actual Failings In Libya." An editorial in the Washington Post (5/6, 4.22M) argued that while Republicans "have a potentially strong case to make against the Obama administration's handling of Libya," to the extent that the select committee probe "zeroes in on the behavior of White House aides and other U.S. officials in Washington following the Benghazi attack — as it appears likely to do," it will "address the least substantial and blameworthy aspect of the Libya record." The Post argues that while Republicans "may calculate that scandal-mongering about a Benghazi cover-up may rally the base before the fall's elections," their efforts will not "hold the Obama administration accountable for its actual failings in Libya."

Brock Urges CBS News To Reopen Probe Of Discredited "60 Minutes" Benghazi Report. The Huffington Post (5/5, Calderone, 11.54M) reported that David Brock, chairman of the progressive media watchdog Media Matters, is urging CBS News to reopen its "internal investigation over its discredited '60 Minutes' report on the Benghazi attack." In a letter to CBS News chairman and "60 Minutes" executive producer Jeff Fager and CBS News President David Rhodes, Brock wrote a New York magazine story "raises critical questions about the validity of CBS' investigation," adding, "Re-opening the investigation is warranted as it now appears that CBS' internal investigation was not thorough, was wrong on critical points, and omitted key facts – facts that would have revealed that Logan's report was tainted by partisanship and unprofessional conduct."

PEW, CNN POLLS SHOW GOP POSITIONED FOR BIG GAINS IN NOVEMBER. The Los Angeles Times (5/6,

Lauter, 3.46M) reports that a new Pew Research Center/USA Today poll released on Monday shows that Republicans "have a strong advantage which, if it holds up, would likely translate into significant gains in Congress." The poll shows that 47% of registered voters said they will vote for the GOP candidate or lean towards voting for the Republican, while 43% said the same of the Democrats. The Times adds that the GOP has "a particularly strong lead with groups of voters who tend to turn out in midterm elections," for example, leading 55%-37% among men 50 and older. In addition the GOP has a 50%-39% lead in the South, "where several of the most hotly contested US Senate races are taking place this year."

Politico (5/5, Topaz, 73K) reports that among independent voters, the GOP holds a 49%-33% lead in the generic ballot. Two months ago, a similar poll showed the Democrats with a 46%-44% lead on the overall generic ballot. The poll also suggests, Politico says, that the President "will likely be more of a liability for Democrats than he was in 2010." Meanwhile, a CNN poll released on Monday showed Republicans leading the generic ballot 46%-45% among registered voters. The Pew poll surveyed 1,501 adults from April 23-27 (the number of registered voters was not reported), while the CNN poll surveyed 911 registered voters from May 2-4.

The Christian Science Monitor (5/6, Feldmann, 566K) considers if the midterms are "really a referendum" on the President, and says that the Pew poll "suggests not." The Monitor adds that the poll shows that 54% of registered voters "say that Obama will not be a factor in their vote this fall," while 26% "do see their vote as a vote against him," and "only" 16% "see it as a vote for the president." The Monitor looks at the generic ballot and several other questions in the Pew survey, and says, "The real issue for Democrats is whether they can motivate their voters to show up at the polls."

Manchin Wouldn't Campaign With Obama If He Were Up This Year. Politico (5/5, Topaz, 73K) reports that West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin (D) isn't up for reelection this year, "but he sure knows that he wouldn't campaign with President Barack Obama if he were." On MSNBC's Morning Joe on Monday, Manchin "flatly said 'no' when asked if he would appear with the president at campaign rallies in his home state if he were in a race this year."

Warren Says President Chose Wall Street Over Ordinary Americans. The Huffington Post (5/5, Carter, 11.54M) reports that Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D) "discussed her relationship" with President Obama in an interview with HuffPost Live on Monday, "faulting his administration for being too close to big banks, but praising his support for Warren's brainchild, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau." Warren said, "I've made no secret about my disagreements with the administration's policies, particularly as they relate to the largest financial institutions. Like I say in the book, the president chose his economic team, and when there was only so much time and so much money to go around, his economic team chose Wall Street instead of American families who were in trouble."

Robinson Urges Democrats To Highlight Successes. In his column for the Washington Post (5/6, 4.22M), Eugene Robinson writes that Democrats should focus on the latest round of positive economic news, such as the drop in the unemployment rate, the strong job creation in April, and the rising stock market. Robinson says that "numbers prove that Obama is, in fact, a skillful capitalist who guided the economy out of its worst slump since the Great Depression." Robinson says that the ACA "is clearly a success and may soon be seen as a triumph." Because of Obama's policies, Robinson say, Democrats "now have a positive story they can tell in their campaign ads and speeches."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Mr. De Blasio's Moon Shot."*** The New York Times (5/6, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes on New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's affordable housing plan, noting that "the mayor and local pols exulted over the plan's breadth and ambition." It praises the plan for a number of ideas but says it still leaves many questions, particularly about what effects the plan for greater housing density would have on the feel of the city and the infrastructure of roads, subways, and schools. The Times sees the plan as big and ambitious and focuses on the "hard and fast number: 200,000 or bust."

"A Defeat For Religious Neutrality." In an editorial that calls the Supreme Court's ruling on prayer "lamentable," and says it "brushed past...core" Constitutional "values," the New York Times (5/6, Subscription Publication,

9.65M) states, "It was disappointing that the Justice Department urged the justices to uphold the prayer practice in the town hall meetings, which skirted the constitutional principle of religious neutrality and caused some residents to feel like outsiders."

"Protectionism Will Only Hurt France" An editorial in the New York Times (5/6, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) decries efforts by French President François Hollande's economy minister, Arnaud Montebourg, "to thwart General Electric's proposed acquisition of an energy business from the French industrial company Alstom," on the grounds that "it would be better for France if the Alstom division was owned and managed by another European company, Siemens." The Times says that GE should not be excluded "simply because it's based in Connecticut." Noting that GE "has been doing business in France for more than 40 years," the Times argues that "discriminating against it on grounds of national origin will only hurt France" because protectionism will "discourage non-European businesses from investing in France, further damaging a sluggish economy that already suffers from a 10.4 percent unemployment rate."

"Republicans Have A Grimm Problem." In an editorial, the New York Times (5/6, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) notes that the filing deadline in New York has passed for Republicans to replace Rep. Michael Grimm on the primary ballot, and the only way the party could legally have "a new candidate...placed on the ballot" would be if "the existing candidate dies or decides to seek another office." In this instance, "Grimm would first have to agree to step aside, then announce his intention to run for, say, a judicial position in the Bronx." Under New York law, a candidate "can't run for two offices simultaneously," so Grimm "would have to withdraw from the congressional race and" the GOP then "would choose another candidate to run in his place." The Times adds, "The law should be amended to make it far easier for candidates to remove themselves from the ballot on their own initiative."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Obama's Real Libya Failure."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (5/6, 4.22M) argued that while Republicans "have a potentially strong case to make against the Obama administration's handling of Libya," to the extent that the House select committee probe "zeroes in on the behavior of White House aides and other U.S. officials in Washington following the Benghazi attack — as it appears likely to do," it will "address the least substantial and blameworthy aspect of the Libya record." The Post argues that while Republicans "may calculate that scandal-mongering about a Benghazi cover-up may rally the base before the fall's elections," their efforts will not "hold the Obama administration accountable for its actual failings in Libya."

"Fix The Voting Rights Act Now." The Washington Post (5/6, 4.22M) editorializes on the Voting Rights Act, urging the Congress to act before the November elections in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling last year that "hollowed out one of the most powerful parts of the law." It endorses a proposal by Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-WI) and urges quick action to approve it.

"The Bugs Are Coming." The Washington Post (5/6, 4.22M) editorializes in response to the World Health Organization report that antibiotic resistance portends a world without effective antibiotics. The paper says past warnings have been "followed by silence and inaction." It hopes the forthcoming report by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology will be followed by "a serious effort to address the problem."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Feds Target Money Managers."*** The Wall Street Journal (5/6, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) in an editorial criticizes the Federal Financial Stability Oversight Council for its proposal to list large asset managers Blackrock and Fidelity as systemically important financial institutions. The move, says the Journal, would make them officially too big to fail. The Journal argues that this is inappropriate to the case as the firms do not hold deposits but only manage investments. The investors bear the risk of their investments, and other firms actually hold the money and financial instruments. The paper also argues that the move would increase risk to the financial system.

"Electoral Upset In Panama." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/6, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) lauds the upset victory by Juan Carols Varela in Panama's presidential election, noting that Panama's burgeoning democracy is the real winner. The Journal notes outgoing President Ricardo Martinelli's decision to add his wife to his party candidate José Domingo Arias' ticket and praises Panamanian voters for rejecting the tactic.

"Prayer In The Public Square." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/6, Subscription Publication, 5.51M)

backs the Supreme Court's ruling on prayer, though it expresses dismay that it was backed by just five justices. In conclusion, the Journal accuses the dissenting justices of seeking to overturn long-standing precedent.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Near Deal With Credit Suisse
Heavy Fighting Breaks Out In Slovyansk
Target's CEO Stands Aside Amid Flood Of Challenges
Supreme Court Permits Prayer At Town Meetings

New York Times:
Town Meetings Can Have Prayer, Justices Decide
Exoneration For 3 Convicted Of Murder
Obama Aides Tell Executives To Skip Forum
De Blasio Sets A 10-Year Plan For Housing
High-Tech Push Has Board Games Rolling Again
Chasing Death Camp Guards With New Tools

Washington Post:
Man's Simple Life Hampers The Search For His Killer
Justices Uphold Legislative Prayer
In NC, Hagan's Attack Ad Flips Script On Health Law
Gaga Or The NBA? Her Fans Insist The Show Must Go On.
Ukrainian Forces Suffer Setbacks In East

Financial Times:
AstraZeneca Wants UK Neutral On Bid
Loeb Secures Three Sotheby's Board Seats
Spy Agencies Recruit Corporate IT Staff
Fiat Chrysler Plans Alfa Romeo Drive
Holder Warns No Company 'Too Big To Jail'
Italy Set To Launch Privatisation Drive
Markit Eyes $2bn From US Offering

Washington Times:
Palantir Opponent Tops List To Be Military Spy Chief
High Court Upholds Open Prayer At Public Meetings
Toothless EPA Office Bristles At Oversight
With Eye On Ukrainian Elections, US Warns Russia To Quell Crisis
As Key To Immigration Reform, Boehner Sends Mixed Signals
Superlawyer Bopp Takes On Another McCain-Backed Law

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Nigerian Girls Kidnapped; SCOTUS-Religion Ruling; Oklahoma Wildfires; WHO-Polio; Clippers Owner Controversy; Housing Market Advice; Aging Research.
CBS: SCOTUS-Religion Ruling; Oklahoma Wildfires; Nigerian Girls Kidnapped; Russia-Ukraine Violence; Afghanistan-Landslide; Missouri-Prison Release Mix Up; WHO-International Public Health Emergency; Aging Process Research; California Air Show Crash.
NBC: Nigerian School Girls Kidnapped; SCOTUS-Religion Ruling; Oklahoma Wildfires; Russia-Ukraine Violence; Circus Accident; Health-Aspirin Use; MERS Virus; Target CEO Removed; Oregon State Coach Replaced.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: SCOTUS-Religion Ruling; Russia-Ukraine Violence; Nigerian School Girls Kidnapped; LA Bridge Fire.

CBS: Veteran Care-Officials Resignation; SCOTUS-Religion Ruling; Boehner-Benghazi Investigation; South Korean Ferry Diver Death; MERS Virus; Dow Up.
NPR: SCOTUS-Religion Ruling; MERS Virus; Connecticut Child-Rejected Health Proposal; Dow Up; Circus Accident; Bloomberg News-New Leadership; Flight Redirected; Tribal Fisherman Leader's Death.
FOX: SCOTUS-Religion Ruling; LA Bridge Fire; Nigerian Girls Kidnapped; Clippers NBA Win.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; participates in interview with local and national meteorologists participating in "Weather from the White House," The Rose Garden; meets with Secretary of State Kerry, oval office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; delivers remarks at the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Opening Ceremony at the US Department of the Interior; ceremonially swears in Puneet Talwar as Assistant Secretary of State, closed press; meets with President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry.
US Senate: 11:30 a.m. CARDIN, COHEN – PUSSY RIOT — Press Conference and Q&A with Cardin, Murphy, Cohen and Members of Pussy Riot. U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md), a senior member of the Senator Foreign Relations Committee and Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN9), a member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission will welcome Nadya Tolokonnikova and Maria Alyokhina of the Russian protest group Pussy Riot to the Capitol. The lawmakers and Pussy Riot members will give remarks followed by a question and answer session. Tolokonnikova and Alyokhina are visiting Washington to highlight the need for "prompt, full, and ongoing implementation of the Magnitsky Act;" which was authored by Senator Cardin. Location: Foyer of S-116, United States Capitol.

2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m. MOTHER'S DAY – DISCRIMINATION — gathering of mothers, children and Members of Congress meet to eat cake and sign an 8-foot tall Mothers Day card that spotlights the "hidden issue" of pregnant worker discrimination"forcing too many women to make an impossible choice between a job and a healthy pregnancy". Contact: Maria Patrick, mpatrick@nwlc.org, (202) 588-5180; Rebecca Wall, rwall@nwlc.org, (202) 588-5180. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, SVC Room 209-08.

10 a.m. — The Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to S.2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Hearing on Military Compensation. Panel I: General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; General Raymond T. Odierno, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army; Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force; General James F. Amos, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps; General Frank J. Grass, ARNG, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. Panel II: General Gordon R. Sullivan, USA (Ret.), President and Chief Executive Officer, Association of the United States Army; General Craig R. McKinley, USAF (Ret.), President, Air Force Association; General John H. Tilelli, Jr., USA (Ret.), Chairman of the Board, Military Officers Association of America; Vice Admiral John B. Totushek, USN (Ret.), Executive Director, Association of the United States Navy. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-05-06-military-compensation Location: 216 Hart.

10 a.m. FINANCE — Hearing, "New Routes for Funding and Financing Highways and Transits" to discuss options for funding and financing surface transportation infrastructure, including the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). Witnesses: Dr. Joseph Kile, Assisant Director for Microeconomic Studies Division, Congressional Budget Office, Washington, DC; Aubrey L. Layne, Jr., Secretary of Transportation, State of Virginia, Richmond, VA; Jayan Dhru, Managing Director, Corporate & Infrastructure Ratings, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, New York, NY; Samara Barend, Senior Vice President and P3 Development Director, AECOM Capital, New York, NY; Chris Edwards, Director, Tax Policy Studies, Cato Institute, Washington, DC. http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=cf26a684-5056-a032-52ec-09f777fb7a54 Location: 215 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. BUDGET — Hearing on The President's Fiscal Year 2015 Education Budget Request. Witness: Arne Duncan, Secretary Education.

http://www.budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/hearing-schedule? IDd677b881-8375-4ac3-be95-6182d2c5813f Location: 608 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce hearings to examine a more efficient and effective government, focusing on cultivating the Federal workforce. Witnesses: Panel I: Katherine Archuleta, Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management; Carol Waller Pope, Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority; Jeri L.Buchholz, Assistant Administrator for Human Capital Management, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Paige Hinkle-Bowles, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy, U.S. Department of Defense. Panel II: J. David Cox, National President, American Federation of Government Employees; Colleen M. Kelley, National President, National Treasury Employees Union; Carol A. Bonosaro, President, Senior Executives Association; Max Stier, President and Chief Executive Officer, Partnership for Public Service. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/fpfw/hearings/a-more-efficient-and-effective-government-cultivating-the-federal-workforce Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Closed hearing on Intelligence Matters. Location: 219 Hart.

3 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearing on Ukraine – Countering Russian Intervention and Supporting a Democratic State. Witnesses: Panel One The Honorable Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary Of State For European And Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Daniel L. Glaser, Assistant Secretary For Terrorist Financing, U.S. Department of Treasury; Evelyn N. Farkas, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary Of Defense For Russia/Ukraine/Eurasia, U.S. Department of Defense. Panel Two: Angela E. Stent, Ph.D., Director, Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies, Georgetown School of Foreign Service; David Kramer, President, Freedom House. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/ukraine_-countering-russian-intervention-and-supporting-a-democratic-state Location: 419 Dirksen.
US House: 3 p.m. HIGHER EDUCATION BILL — Congressman Tim Bishop will be joined by other Representatives, education advocates and students to discuss legislation he introduced last week to protect students who take out private loans from automatic default when a cosigner dies or declares bankruptcy. Location: House Triangle.

4 p.m. FREED VIETNAMESE SCHOLAR — Human rights and congressional leaders advocating for victims of widespread abuses, religious persecution and political repression at the hands of the Vietnamese Government will gather for a press conference in anticipation of upcoming annual dialogue between the U.S. and Vietnamese governments. The press conference participants will call for an end to Vietnam's "instruments of repression and the release of all prisoners of conscience." Particpants include Chairman Chris Smith, (NJ-04) Senior Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Dr. Cu Huy Ha Vu, Vietnamese constitutional scholar and recently released former prisoner of conscience. Location: 2255 Rayburn.

12 p.m. — The House meets for Morning Hour Debate and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules: 1) H.R. 3584 – The Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act of 2013, as amended(Sponsored by Rep. Steve Stivers / Financial Services Committee) 2) H.R. 2672 – CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Andy Barr / Financial Services Committee) 3) H.R. 4386 – Money Remittance Improvement Act of 2013 (Sponsored by Rep. Keith Ellison / Financial Services Committee) 4) H.R. 3329 – To enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes (Sponsored by Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer / Financial Services Committee) 5) H.R. 3468 – The Credit Union Share Fund Insurance Parity Act, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Ed Royce / Financial Services Committee) 6) H.R. 2919 – The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act (Sponsored by Rep. Cynthia Lummis / Judiciary Committee) 7) H.R. 4292 – The Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act (Sponsored by Rep. Steve Chabot / Judiciary Committee)

9 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – FIELD HEARING — Field Hearing: Impediments to Job Creation in Michigan. http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/field-hearing-impediments-job-creation-michigan/

Location: Plymouth Township Hall.

2:30 p.m. DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE — Hearing on Unemployment Insurance. Participants: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer; Congressman George Miller, Co-Chair, Democratic Steering & Policy Committee; Congressman Sander Levin, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means; Members of House Democratic Caucus; Americans Impacted by "Republican Refusal to Renew Unemployment Insurance". Location: 2175 Rayburn.

5 p.m. RULES — Full committee meeting on H.R. 4438American Research and Competitiveness Act of 2014 7 H. Res. 565- Calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative non-profit groups by the Internal Revenue Service 7 H. Res. __ (H. Rept. 113-415) – Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. http://rules.house.gov/news/announcement/meeting-announcement-hr-4438-h-res-565-h-res-h-rept-113-415 Location: H-313 The Capitol. Other: May 5 – 7. 11 a.m. UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE — Ukrainian presidential candidate, Dr. Valery Konovalyuk will travel to Washington, D.C., next week (Monday, May 5 – Wednesday, May 7) to meet with U.S. government leaders, including members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations as well as officials from the State Department and the Department of Defense. His visit is geared toward securing U.S. support for a unified Ukraine and will include a press conference on Wednesday, May 7 at 11:00am.

May 5 – 6. CRIME REDUCTION SYMPOSIUM — The National Attorneys General Training and Research Institute (NAGTRI), a branch of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), and the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) hold a national symposium on crime reduction. NAAG President and Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen and NDAA President and District Attorney Henry Garza will host. Location: Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver keynote remarks. Media interested in attending must RSVP to Rachel Stone at rstone@naag.org no later than 3:00 p.m. EDT, SUNDAY, May 4, 2014., The Westin Georgetown Hotel, 2350 M Street, NW.

May 5 – 7. MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION CONFERENCE — Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and political legacy Patrick Kennedy are among the 300 speakers at the 2014 National Council for Behavioral Health Conference and Hill Day. Contact: Heather Cobb, 202.684.7457 x277 HeatherC@TheNationalCouncil.org 10 a.m. Keynote Address by The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton; Don Berwick, Former CMS Administrator, "Promising Care: How We Can Rescue Health Care by Improving It"; Harold Koplewicz, President, Child Mind Institute, "Lessons from Sandy Hook". 2 p.m. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Administrator Robert L. Listenbee will deliver remarks on mental health and youth development. 2:30 p.m. HHS Secretary Sebelius will deliver remarks on the importance of mental health services for youth and young adult. Location: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD.

May 6 – 7. WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON THE AMERICAS — The 44th Annual Washington Conference on the Americas will focus on U.S. policy in the Western Hemisphere. Speakers include Secretary of State John Kerry; Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson; Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick; Sen. Tim Kaine; House Foreign Affairs Chairman Ed Royce. http://www.as-coa.org/events/44th-annual-washington-conference-americas 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Opening Reception for conference attendees, senior diplomats, and government officials. Mexican Cultural Institute, 2829 16th Street NW. Location: U.S. Department of State (except where otherwise noted).

AEI – GARRETT – SIFIS ANDFSCO — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Designation of Systemically Important Financial Institutions (SIFIs) by the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC). Speakers: Rep. Scott Garrett, Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee's Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Entities will give a keynote address. A discussion will follow, featuring Dan Gallagher (Commissioner, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission), Paul Kupiec (AEI) and Peter Wallison (AEI). RSVP online go to www.aei.org/events News media inquiries, email mediaservices@aei.org or call 202.862.5829 Location: NOTE LOCATION: 2226 Rayburn.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Of course, this weekend was the White House Correspondent's Dinner, and during his speech on Saturday, President Obama made fun of his low poll numbers, the botched Obamacare rollout, and Governor Chris Christie. If he's gonna do my job – ruined my whole weekend."

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, though, it was back to business for the President. And apparently, this morning he met with the President of the country Djibouti. Then Biden was like, 'Kim Kardashian's here?'"

David Letterman: "Let me be the first on behalf of the staff and crew here at CBS and 'The Late Show' to wish you a happy Cinco de Mayo, ladies and gentlemen. Earlier today, Joe Biden pardoned a burrito."

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BISON CONNECT

Judge granted 6-month ext on Gunnison

Greenberger, Sarah <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov> Tue, May 6, 2014 at 1:43 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Sally - wanted to be sure you know that the judge granted the FWS motion for a 6-month extension to make a final listing decision on the Gunnison sage-grouse. New date is Nov. 12.

Gives FWS the time they need to address new information in the record as well as propose and take comment on a 4(d) rule.

Sarah

Re: Judge granted 6-month ext on Gunnison

Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Tue, May 6, 2014 at 3:53 PM
To: "Greenberger, Sarah" <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Great news - thanks!

> On May 6, 2014, at 10:43 AM, "Greenberger, Sarah" <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> Sally - wanted to be sure you know that the judge granted the FWS motion for a 6-month extension to make a final listing decision on the Gunnison sage-grouse. New date is Nov. 12.
>
> Gives FWS the time they need to address new information in the record as well as propose and take comment on a 4(d) rule.
>
> Sarah

BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, May 8, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, May 8, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

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+ Poachers Cutting Down Redwoods In California Forests.
+ Commemoration To Mark Anniversary Of WWII's End To Be Held At Memorial On The Mall.
+ NPS To Adopt New Service Animal Rule.
+ Runner Loses Fight Over Parking During Shutdown.
+ NPS Accepting Applications For Smokies Superintendent.
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+ BLM Seeks Facilities To Care For Wild Horses, Donkeys.
+ BLM Seek Input On Steps Toward Horse Roundup.
+ Central Electric CEO Criticizes BLM Policies At House Hearing.
+ Additional Coverage Of Red River Dispute.

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+ US Reaches Agreement With Philippines On Global Wildlife Trafficking Prevention.
+ FWS Revises Mountain Caribou Status To Threatened.
+ Conservationists Criticize Desert Flower Plan.
+ Conservation Group Seeks Protection For Rare Salamanders, Frog.
+ Federal Court Grants Reprieve In Gunnison Sage Grouse Listing.
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+ States Consider Constitutional Amendments To Protect Hunting, Fishing Rights.
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+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIAN COUNTRY. The Nation Sun News (5/8) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell made announcements regarding energy development in Indian Country on Wednesday in Arizona.

Secretary Jewell Announces $700,000 In Tribal Energy Grants. The AP (5/8, Tang) reports that Jewell announced Wednesday $700,000 in grant funding for nine tribes to spur renewable energy development in Indian Country. The grants will "be awarded to federally recognized tribes and will pay for efforts to build their capacity

for energy and mineral resource development." The funds would also "enable tribes to develop their own regulations in working with power purchase agreements with utilities." Jewell said, "The objective of this administration is to make sure that we support a clean energy future. Part of that is working closely with Indian tribes where tremendous amount of energy potential exists, which drives economic opportunity for tribes."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Fresno (CA) Bee (5/7, 352K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/7, 687K), the Arizona Daily Star (5/8, 389K), the Arizona Daily Sun (5/8, 33K), KTVN-TV Reno, NV (5/8, 1K), and KTAR-FM Glendale, AZ (5/8, 17K).

Also reporting on the story are the Arizona Public Media (5/8, 2K) and KJZZ-FM Phoenix (5/8, 10K).

Secretary Jewell Announces Solar Project. The Arizona Republic (5/8, Randazzo, 1.45M) reports that Jewell also announced the approval of the 200-megawatt Moapa Solar Energy Center Project. Jewell said "it will generate about 500 construction jobs and about 10 permanent jobs."

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (5/8, Brean, 437K) reports that Kevin Washburn, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for Indian affairs, said, "This solar project is a tribute to the vision and determination of the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians as well as a great day for Indian Country as a whole."

Also reporting on the story is the KCET-TV Los Angeles (5/8, 15K),

INTERIOR WORKING WITH GSA TO RESOLVE CONCERNS ABOUT FEDERAL TRAVEL SYSTEM. The Federal Times (5/7, 120K) reports that the General Services Administration has "issued a 'notice of concern' about the stability and responsiveness of the Concur federal travel electronic booking system for federal agencies." The Interior Department, which is "experiencing problems with the implementation of the system, is working with GSA to make urgent system changes and fix current issues," according to Pam Haze, interior Department deputy assistant secretary. The Interior Department is also "reviewing obtaining compensation for costs incurred by problems in the system."

US BECOMES "CANDIDATE COUNTRY" FOR EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE. The World Bank (5/7, 11K) announces that the United States has decided to "become a 'candidate country' seeking to adhere formally to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "US EITI implementation underscores President Obama's continued and unwavering commitment to leading by example in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance, both domestically and globally. As stewards of the natural resources owned by every American citizen, the US Department of the Interior is proud to lead the USEITI effort to build on the existing transparency and accountability reforms to our natural resource management."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL WARNS SAN DIEGO TO PREPARE FOR "TOUGH" FIRE SEASON. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to San Diego to tout Wildfire Awareness Week was provided by the Christian Science Monitor (5/8, Goodale, 566K), the Sierra (CA) Sun Times (5/8), and KPBS-TV San Diego (5/6, 14K).

SEN. MURKOWSKI PRAISED FOR PUSHING FOR ROAD THROUGH THE IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Anchorage (AK) Daily News (5/7, 251K), John MacKinnon, executive director of the Associated General Contractors of Alaska, writes that Alaskans should thank Sen. Lisa Murkowski for "standing up for Alaskans and challenging Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's ill-informed decision rejecting a road in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge." MacKinnon doesn't understand "how the 40 miles of World War II road throughout the refuge haven't had an irreversible effect but 11 miles of new road would be environmentally devastating."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

BIOBLITZ BENEFITS NPS, KIDS. The National Geographic (5/7, 42.25M) reports on a recent BioBlitz event, which was "able to identify a record number of species in Golden Gate National Recreation Area." NPS Director

Jon Jarvis said, "We know that when you get a kid into the outdoors, this spark is ignited. And that spark can change their lives." However, Jarvis "acknowledges that, as much as BioBlitz is about the kids, the National Parks Service benefits from all of their eager eyes and ears absorbing everything around them." He said, "About 15 years ago, the National Parks Service launched the Natural Resource Challenge. And it was about, we need the baseline inventory of the natural resources that we're charged to manage. And then we need a routine monitoring program of those resources."

POACHERS CUTTING DOWN REDWOODS IN CALIFORNIA FORESTS. NBC Nightly News (5/7, story 10, 0:45, Williams, 7.86M) reported, "While we have a more extensive report on this next story in the days to come, we wanted to alert you to a nauseating sight in one of the most beautiful places, most breathe-taking places in our country. Someone sadly is poaching the giant redwoods in California, cutting into them with chainsaws, hacking into them for the burrowed sections of the wood, the out growths similar to large barnacles. They are prized for their wood-grain patterns. It's believed some of the poachers are meth addicts. The wood can sell for thousands of dollars. Our national treasures have paid a high price. These are thousand-year-old trees. Already, one has been killed and many of them have been permanently harmed."

COMMEMORATION TO MARK ANNIVERSARY OF WWII'S END TO BE HELD AT MEMORIAL ON THE MALL. The Washington Post (5/8, Ruane, 4.22M) reports that "Susan Eisenhower, the granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who served as the top allied commander in Europe during World War II, is set to lead a commemoration Thursday marking the 69th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe." The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. at the World War II Memorial on the Mall. It is sponsored by the NPS and the Friends of the National World War II Memorial.

NPS TO ADOPT NEW SERVICE ANIMAL RULE. The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (5/7, 382K) reports that the NPS "plans to update its rules regarding service animals, starting with a more concise definition of what is, and what isn't, a legitimate service animal."

RUNNER LOSES FIGHT OVER PARKING DURING SHUTDOWN. The AP (5/8) reports that "a runner ticketed for parking at Pennsylvania's Valley Forge National Historical Park during the federal government shutdown has been told to pay up." John Bell's "$100 ticket prompted supporters to hold a Patriot Run last fall on the public roads that cut through the park near Philadelphia." Bell's attorney says Bell will appeal Wednesday's decision by a federal judge.

NPS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SMOKIES SUPERINTENDENT. The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (5/8, Collins, 382K) reports that the NPS is accepting applications through May 17 for a new superintendent for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. NPS spokeswoman April Slayton said, "The selection of a superintendent for Great Smoky Mountains National Park is an important and complex process. The National Park Service is actively seeking the right candidate, who has the experience and leadership needed to lead one of the special and busiest parks in the nation and who can understand and embrace its communities, partners and important relationships." The new park superintendent will replace Dale Ditmanson, who retired in January.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NPS BAN ON DRONES. Additional coverage of drones in national parks was provided by the National Journal (5/8, Subscription Publication, 561K).

Bureau of Land Management:

HOUSE DEMOCRAT SAYS RESIDENTS WANT ARMED MILITIAMEN TO LEAVE BUNDY RANCH. The Los Angeles Times (5/8, Simon, Glionna, 3.46M) reports that Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV), "whose district includes the ranch of a cattleman battling the federal government over grazing rights on public land...wants the rancher's armed supporters to leave." According to the Times, "armed militiamen, some openly brandishing semi-automatic rifles, have been posted outside the Bunkersville ranch of Cliven Bundy for weeks." Horsford is quoted as saying, "The community wants them to go."

ATV RIDERS WANT BLM TO OPEN UTAH TRAIL TO VEHICLES. USA Today (5/8, Hughes, 5.82M) reports that "a narrow trail snaking through a remote southeastern Utah canyon dotted with cottonwood trees and Indian ruins is the latest battleground in a long-running dispute between Western residents and the federal government

over public use of land." Led by San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman, "dozens of ATV riders are planning to rumble through Recapture Canyon near Blanding, Utah, on Saturday to protest the continuing closure of the trail to vehicles." The BLM "closed the trail to motorized use in 2007, and declined to reopen it despite repeated requests and protests from local government officials." But now, "invoking the name of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy who fought with the BLM over cattle grazing, the ATV riders are planning a show of force." In a statement, BLM officials "reiterated the ATV protest is illegal, but declined to discuss how they planned to respond."

For the Daily Beast (5/6, 1.18M), Doug Peacock writes that San Juan County has "no special rights." As for "the laws closing those few wild areas to motor vehicle or ATV use," Peacock claims that "most public lands are far too open to vehicular use." He suggests that Recapture Canyon should be one of the "only several, mostly small areas where we have to walk the old- fashioned way."

BLM SEEKS FACILITIES TO CARE FOR WILD HORSES, DONKEYS. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (5/8, 10K) reports that the BLM is "soliciting bids for short-term hold facilities to house wild horses and donkeys." The bureau "needs to accommodate at least 200 animals for a one-year period, with a renewal option for four extensions." The BLM is looking for facilities in 17 states.

Also covering the story is KIFI-TV Idaho Falls, ID (5/8, 23K) and KTVN-TV Reno, NV (5/8, 1K).

BLM SEEK INPUT ON STEPS TOWARD HORSE ROUNDUP. The AP (5/8) reports that the BLM is "asking Utah residents and others to weigh in on a proposed wild horse roundup in Iron and Beaver counties." Officials say "they are studying how the potential roundup could affect plants and wildlife at the Bible Spring Complex."

CENTRAL ELECTRIC CEO CRITICIZES BLM POLICIES AT HOUSE HEARING. KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (5/8, 1K) reports that Dave Markham, CEO of Central Electric Cooperative in Redmond, "voiced criticism" of BLM policies in testimony on Capitol Hill Wednesday. Markham spoke at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing entitled "Keeping the Lights On and Reducing Catastrophic Forest Fire Risk: Proper Management of Electricity Rights of Way on Federal Lands." Markham "discussed examples of burdensome BLM delays on electricity rights of way and cited the agency's sage grouse proposal that could bankrupt utilities in Eastern Oregon."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RED RIVER DISPUTE. Additional coverage of the dispute over Red River property was provided by the Houston Chronicle (5/8, 2.23M).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS ANNOUNCES MORE THAN $16 MILLION IN GRANTS TO BOOST RECREATIONAL BOATING. The Scuttlebutt Sailing News (5/7) reports that the FWS announced on Wednesday "more than $14.27 million in Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program competitive grants to 10 states and the District of Columbia." The agency also will "provide approximately $2.48 million to 27 states, commonwealths and territories willing to match smaller, non-competitive grants dedicated to boating infrastructure projects." FWS Director Dan Ashe, said, "Anglers and boaters make these grants possible, helping communities build and enhance facilities that provide recreational opportunities while supporting jobs and economic growth. These funds pay for floating docks, fixed piers, mooring buoys, sewage pump-out stations and other infrastructure that benefits fish and wildlife habitat while providing access for outdoor recreation."

Also providing coverage are the AP (5/8) and the Asbury Park (NJ) Press (5/7, 372K).

US REACHES AGREEMENT WITH PHILIPPINES ON GLOBAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING PREVENTION. The National Journal (5/8, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that "a decade-long partnership between" the Interior Department and the Republic of the Philippines "began a new phase today with the signing of an agreement to help that country combat wildlife trafficking." FWS Director Dan Ashe "signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary, Analiza Teh, and the Director of the Bureau for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Asis Perez, to provide the Philippines Government with access to and use of the National Wildlife Forensics Laboratory." Under this agreement, "samples of wildlife and biota collected by Philippine law enforcement officials can be tested at the lab – results of which will be considered admissible evidence in Philippine courts – leading to greater success in the

prosecution of wildlife traffickers."

FWS REVISES MOUNTAIN CARIBOU STATUS TO THREATENED. The AP (5/8, Geranios) reports that the FWS on Wednesday "downgraded the protected status of the last remaining herd of mountain caribou in the Lower 48 states from endangered to threatened." Environmental groups "hailed the decision as good for the animals." The Center for Biological Diversity said the decision "means the animals will continue to get the protection they need."

Also covering the story are the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (5/7, 210K) and the Oregon Public Broadcasting (5/8, 4K).

CONSERVATIONISTS CRITICIZE DESERT FLOWER PLAN. The AP (5/8) reports that "conservationists are condemning a proposed deal between" the FWS and state and county officials in Utah "intended to keep two rare species of desert flowers off the federal list of endangered species." Environmentalists have been "trying for more than 30 years to win Endangered Species Act protection for the Graham's and White River beardtongue species of penstemon." The FWS "formally proposed listing of the plants last August," but the service "issued a draft conservation agreement on Monday in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management and others who say the deal would better protect the plants without the economic consequences a listing could have for oil exploration in northeast Utah and northwest Colorado."

CONSERVATION GROUP SEEKS PROTECTION FOR RARE SALAMANDERS, FROG. The AP (5/8) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity is threatening to sue the FWS to "force action on petitions to give Endangered Species Act protection to four kinds of salamanders and a frog found in the Northwest." The group filed a notice Wednesday of intent to sue. The notice says the FWS is "more than a year late in deciding on petitions to protect the Cascades frog, the Oregon slender salamander and three species of torrent salamander."

FEDERAL COURT GRANTS REPRIEVE IN GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE LISTING. The Deseret (UT) News (5/8, 610K) reports that "opponents of a potential listing of the Gunnison sage grouse in western Colorado and southeastern Utah are celebrating a brief reprieve granted by a federal court to delay a decision for six months." The extension, announced by the FWS, will "provide more time for the agency to assess the level of action necessary for the conservation of the species, which mostly lives on private land." The additional time will also "allow the public to weigh in on a special rule regarding the 'take' provisions that would accompany an endangered species listing."

FWS TO HOLD ENDANGERED SPECIES OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS ON SAIPAN AND GUAM. The Pacific News Center (5/8) reports that the FWS is holding open houses on Saipan and Guam. The meetings will "provide an opportunity for interested parties to learn about the process for proposing new threatened or endangered species under the US Endangered Species Act and proposing critical habitat." The FWS is "considering whether certain species in Guam and the CNMI warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act through listing and critical habitat."

STATES CONSIDER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO PROTECT HUNTING, FISHING RIGHTS. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/7, 687K) reports that eight states – Alabama, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia – "considering constitutional amendments to protect hunting and fishing rights." The Humane Society opposes all the amendments. However, "it concentrates on fighting those, such as the one under consideration in Missouri, that are worded so broadly it would be difficult for lawmakers or voters to approve any hunting restrictions."

OFFICIALS INVESTIGATE AFTER CALIFORNIA TREE TRIMMERS INJURE FIVE YOUNG BIRDS. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/7, 687K) reports that federal and state officials are investigating "after a contractor hired by the US Postal Service cut back trees in Oakland that are home to an endangered bird species, injuring five young birds – a possible violation of a federal law." The Postal Service "ordered the contractor to trim four trees on Saturday surrounding a parking lot at the downtown Oakland post office, where black-crowned night herons and snowy egrets have nested for years and defecate on mail trucks parked below." According to the article, "five black-crowned herons, an endangered species, had injuries consistent with falling from the tree and were taken to an International Bird Rescue in Fairfield."

FWS RESEARCHERS INVESTIGATING DROP IN HERRING POPULATION. WGGB-TV Springfield, MA (5/7, 3K) reports that FWS researchers are "trying to figure out what's causing a massive drop in the local blueback herring population." According to the article, "using a special boat that sends out electrical currents," the team "stunned the fish swimming near the boat, allowing them to float to the surface and into their nets." Jennifer Lapis, public relations for FWS, said, "It's a win-win situation for both of us because what we're doing is helping to keep the Connecticut River, as a watershed, clean and bring back fish. Also for people to enjoy it."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DOE AWARDS OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS. The New York Times (5/8, Cardwell, Wald, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "the long-promised potential of offshore wind development along" the coastlines of the US "took a step toward fruition on Wednesday as the Department of Energy pledged up to $47 million each to three projects it previously supported." The grants are designed "to help the projects, off the coasts of New Jersey, Oregon and Virginia, begin delivering electricity by 2017." In a statement Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said, "Offshore wind offers a large, untapped energy resource for the United States that can create thousands of manufacturing, construction and supply chain jobs across the country and drive billions of dollars in local economic investment."

The Hill (5/8, Cama, 237K) notes that Moniz also stated, "The Energy Department is working with public and private partners to harness this untapped resource in a sustainable and economic manner." While Bloomberg BusinessWeek (5/7, Doom, 4.91M) notes that "the funding is aimed at 'bringing more clean, renewable energy to our homes and businesses, diversifying our energy portfolio and reducing costs through innovation.'"

The Washington Times (5/8, Ernst, 455K) reports that New Jersey state regulators "ejected a Chinese-backed windmill project twice, but that didn't stop the Department of Energy." The Federal government "has awarded $47 million to sweeten the deal for a $188 million project the Garden State has deemed too risky for ratepayers." Fishermen's Energy is seeking to install five wind towers off the coast of Atlantic City, and its "leadership hopes the infusion of cash will sway the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, which up until this point has not been receptive to the project."

The AP (5/8, Parry) notes that the announcement by Moniz "did not mention that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has twice rejected the proposal, most recently in a vote last month." According to the board, Xiangtan Electric Manufacturing Group, the "Chinese company that would own 70 percent of the project" didn't "demonstrate financial integrity."

The Seattle Times (5/7, Song, 1.22M) reports that Principle Power of Seattle "will receive up to $47 million in federal grants for its proposed floating wind farm in Coos Bay, Ore., pushing it closer to generating the nation's first utility-scale electricity from West Coast winds." The project "would use novel, triangular floating platforms to anchor turbines in the deep waters off the West Coast." Gov. Jay Inslee "said Principle's federal grants could help the Pacific Northwest take the lead on a pioneering technology."

The AP (5/8, Szkotak) reports that Dominion Virginia Power "will receive $47 million over the next four years" from the Energy Department "to construct two wind turbines 26 miles off the coast for testing in ocean waters subject to hurricanes." The two 6-megawatt turbines will be adjacent to a lease area of 113,000 offshore acres Dominion successfully bid on in September. The AP notes that the turbines "use a U.S.-designed twisted jacket foundation to ensure that offshore turbines can withstand a harsh ocean environment," and Mary C. Doswell, senior vice president for retail and alternative energy solutions, said the turbines will use "innovative designs that will both lower the cost and lower the risk of future commercial scale offshore wind projects located in hurricane-prone regions."

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (5/8, 333K) quotes Doswell as saying, "This was a highly competitive process and we thank DOE for recognizing this demonstration project is using innovative designs that will both lower the cost and lower the risk of future commercial scale offshore wind projects located in hurricane-prone regions." The Times-Dispatch notes that the selection of Dominion Virginia Power's project drew praise from the

Sierra Club, Gov. Terry McAuliffe, and Sens. Mark Warner and Timothy Kaine. Warner is quoted as saying that the project has the potential "to make Virginia a real leader in offshore wind and create high-skill jobs in the commonwealth."

The Oregonian (5/8, 992K), the Cleveland Plain Dealer (5/8, Koff, 1.06M), the AP (5/8, Durkin), the Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (5/8, Friedman, 694K) and Reuters (5/8) also provide coverage.

WIND ENERGY TAX CREDIT CALLED A MISTAKE. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (5/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), former Sen. Lamar Alexander (R) writes that the Senate will be making a mistake if it renews the wind-production tax credit.

Onshore Energy Development:

US, OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS LINK DRILLING TO EARTHQUAKES IN STATE. The Washington Post (5/7, Wilson, 4.22M) reported in its "Govbeat" blog that "a record number of earthquakes shaking buildings in Oklahoma" led the US Geological Survey and the Oklahoma Geological Survey to issue "a rare joint statement" saying that "injecting wastewater deep into geologic formations in disposal wells is 'a likely contributing factor.'" From 1978-1999, the state averaged just 1.6 earthquakes above 3.0 on the Richter scale each year. Last year, there were 109, and in just the first four months of 2014, there have been 145.

North Carolina Called On To Consider Fracking-Related Earthquakes. Briana Mordick, a scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, writes in an op-ed in the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (5/7, 504K) that it is a fact that "natural gas extraction and related activities, including hydraulic fracturing and the underground injection of wastewater, can cause earthquakes," and if North Carolina allows fracking, then "the issue of induced seismicity must be further scrutinized." Mordick calls for lawmakers to "slow down the rule-making process to fully address the seismicity issue."

BLM TO TACKLE EMISSIONS FROM ENERGY EXPLORATION. The AP (5/8) reports that the BLM is "looking at updating decades-old regulations that govern venting and flaring across oil and gas country." The bureau is "hosting a public forum in Albuquerque on Wednesday to gather public comment on what the new rules should look like." The article notes that "the changes are aimed at limiting methane emissions from energy exploration."

BLM ADDRESSES COMPLICATIONS OF "CHECKERBOARD" AREA FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (5/8, 46K) reports that Esther Willetto, a BLM employee and translator, "spoke to oil and gas industry representatives about the challenges of drilling on the reservations during the 2014 Four Corners Oil and Gas Conference on Wednesday at the McGee Park Convention Center." Willetto "specifically addressed the complicated nature of the 'checkerboard' area stretching from Burnham to the Bisti Wildemess and Torreon."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM DIRECTOR BEAUDREAU INTERVIEWED. Platts (5/8, 2K) reports that when Tommy Beaudreau, who joined the Interior Department less than two months after the Deepwater Horizon disaster in April 2010, "began to oversee the reorganization of the former Minerals Management Service," he "soon pressed an aggressive response, calling for new safety and environmental standards." In an interview, Beaudreau said, "We are determined not to revert to that type of complacency." Notably, Beaudreau "stressed that BOEM has moved away from the revenue side of offshore leasing and become a 'recognized scientific agency,' focused on the work of geologists, geophysicists, environmental scientists and economists."

BSEE PLANNING HOUSTON TECHNOLOGY CENTER. FuelFix (5/7, 7K) reported that the BSEE "plans to establish a new technology center in Houston." The facility will focus on aiding BSEE in keeping pace "with the technology being developed and used by the offshore oil industry, as drilling moves into deeper waters and targets high-pressure reservoirs miles underground." BSEE Director Brian Salerno said "the technology center 'will be an internal resource for BSEE engineers and also a place for discussing new and emerging technology, reaching out to original equipment manufacturers, understanding what they are developing and incorporating that into our thinking.'"

INDUSTRY ROLLING OUT NEW EMERGENCY WELL CONTROL DEVICES. FuelFix (5/7, 7K) reports that "four years after the Deepwater Horizon disaster spotlighted shortcomings in the blowout preventers intended to safeguard offshore wells, government regulators are still drafting long-promised regulations meant to boost the reliability of those critical emergency devices." However, "the oil industry isn't waiting for the mandates, first promised just months after the April 2010 blowout of BP's Macondo well in the Gulf." According to the article, "manufacturers are rolling out new blowout preventer designs that can withstand bone-crushing forces at the bottom of the sea and promise to contain crude blasting out of high-pressure reservoirs, as oil companies march into deeper, more treacherous offshore terrain."

COMPANIES FOCUSING ON SAFETY, COST FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY TO REMOVE RIGS. FuelFix (5/7, 7K) reports that "the recent push to dismantle abandoned oil and gas infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico has created a $2.5-billion market for companies that supply the heavy lift boats and other salvage or demolition equipment." The article notes that "with the sharp rise in the number of removals is a new focus on safety and cost."

INDUSTRY RECOMMENDS FIXES IN BOEM'S SEISMIC SURVEYING ANALYSIS. EIN News (5/8, 1K) reports that API "objected to unnecessary restrictions on seismic surveys in comments submitted" to the BOEM on the "agency's final programmatic environmental impact statement for proposed surveys in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf." Erik Milito, API director of upstream and industry operations, said, "Seismic surveys are safe, highly regulated, and an essential step for exploring for oil and natural gas offshore. We support BOEM's plan to authorize seismic surveys to explore the Atlantic OCS but have serious concerns about the restrictions proposed."

ATTORNEY: GOVERNMENT HAS STEPPED UP OVERSIGHT OF OFFSHORE ENERGY. In an op-ed for the FuelFix (5/7, 7K), attorney Glenn Legge notes that "there's been a lot of debate lately about whether the federal government has gone far enough to prevent another disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." According to Legge, "from an industry perspective, exploration and production in the Gulf now is more challenging than ever, and it's safer than it was at the time of the Deepwater Horizon spill four years ago." He writes that "the government has dramatically stepped up oversight with a significant increase in the amount of fines and penalties," and "the number of regulatory investigations is rising, too."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS WORKING ON ANTI-DROUGHT BILL. McClatchy (5/8, Doyle, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that "beneath a placid surface, California lawmakers are furiously churning to keep an anti-drought bill afloat." According to the article, "for an hour Wednesday morning, half-a-dozen House Democrats convened privately with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., to discuss her anti-drought legislation." Feinstein's "immediate balancing act now is to modify her 28-page bill enough to secure the five Republican Senate votes probably needed to reach the 60-vote threshold for ending a filibuster, all while not alienating Democrats."

SETTLEMENT REACHED ON TRINITY RIVER FISH HATCHERY OPERATIONS. The Weaverville (CA) Trinity Journal (5/8, 12K) reports that the Environmental Protection Information Center and Western Environmental Law Center have settled a lawsuit with the BOR to "change the way the Trinity River Fish Hatchery will be run in the future." The article notes that "the hatchery will reduce the number of coho salmon and steelhead it raises and releases."

BOR HOLDING INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON JACKSON LAKE DAM. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (5/8, 90K) reports that the BOR is "holding an informational meeting to talk about streamflow forecasts and projected reservoir operations for Jackson Lake Dam and other Snake River Reservoirs."

MANY US DAMS SAID TO HAVE OUTLASTED THEIR USEFULNESS. Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard, executive producer of the new documentary "DamNation," writes in a New York Times (5/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) op-ed that "of the more than 80,000 dams listed by the federal government, more than 26,000 pose high or significant safety hazards. Many no longer serve any real purpose" and "only about 1,750 produce hydropower. ... Put simply, many dams have high environmental costs that outweigh their value."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR ASKS SENATE TO OVERTURN SUPREME COURT'S TRIBAL RULINGS. The Law 360 (5/8, 18K) reports that Kevin K. Washburn, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs, on Wednesday asked the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs "to pass a pair of bills that would effectively overturn US Supreme Court decisions limiting the government's ability to put land into trust for a tribe and allowing more litigation attacking a casino property deal."

Top National News:

OBAMA SURVEYS DAMAGE CAUSED BY DEADLY TORNADOES IN ARKANSAS. Much of the coverage of President Obama's stop in Vilonia, Arkansas on Wednesday to tour the damage from fatal tornadoes last month consists of relatively straightforward accounts of the President's comments and pledges of Federal assistance. But some reports suggest that there were inevitable political overtones on Wednesday as the President appeared with Sen. Mark Pryor (D-AR), who is in a close race in a state where the President's approval numbers are exceptionally low.

With few exceptions, the coverage does not tie the President's survey of tornado damage to his efforts earlier this week to draw attention to the Administration's proposals regarding climate change. However, following a report on extreme weather conditions threatening crops in Kansas and Oklahoma, Brian Williams, on NBC Nightly News (5/7, story 5, 0:25, 7.86M), said he had "one more note on all the severe weather we have been seeing," which was that on Wednesday, the President "was in Arkansas...taking a look at the destruction from the tornadoes that ripped through that state ten days ago now, killing 15." Williams said the President "pledg[ed] that the Federal government will be there until these communities are all rebuilt." In a similarly brief item for the CBS Evening News (5/7, story 10, 0:25, 5.08M), Scott Pelley also said the President "promised" those affected by the tornadoes "that the Federal government will help them rebuild."

The Hill (5/7, Trujillo, 237K) noted that although "the trip came a day after the White House released a report that found climate change is raising temperatures and contributing to" natural disasters, the President "did not address the report in his brief remarks Wednesday." On Wednesday evening, ABC World News (5/7, lead story, 2:30, Sawyer) led with a segment on the "wild shift in the nation's weather underway right now," but did not mention the President's trip to Arkansas, nor the Administration's renewed focus on combating climate change.

USA Today (5/8, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that on Wednesday, the President "met with affected families and first responders, and toured gutted neighborhoods on foot." USA Today notes that the President was accompanied by Gov. Mike Beebe (D), Pryor, and Rep. Tim Griffin (R-AR). The AP (5/8, Kuhnhenn) reports from Vilonia that the President "said he wanted to visit this small city...to make sure those grieving the loss of loved ones, their homes and treasured possessions know that they will not be forgotten." According to the AP, "After meeting privately with grieving families, emergency workers and local officials, Obama set out on foot through a section of Vilonia."

The Washington Post (5/8, Goldfarb, 4.22M) reports from Vilonia that "before beginning a three-day fundraising trip to California," the President "peered out the windows of Marine One at the wreckage inflicted on this Little Rock exurb, perhaps best known for being hit by a deadly hurricane three years ago." The Post also reports that FEMA Administrator Fugate, DHS Secretary Johnson, and ex-President Clinton "have all visited since the tornadoes hit."

The New York Times (5/8, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says the President's "visit...was in many respects just like the many others he has made to disaster-ravaged communities across the country, but this one came with a bit of political intrigue." The Times points out that "among those greeting Mr. Obama when he landed in Little Rock was" Pryor, who is facing a challenge from Rep. Tom Cotton (R-AK), and "has tried, until recently, to distance himself from Mr. Obama and other Democrats." The Times says that in Vilonia, the President "made sure to point out the senator's leadership role in the tornado recovery efforts."

The Arkansas News (5/8, 1K) reports that Pryor "invited Obama to come to Arkansas." Max Brantley, in a post for the Arkansas Times (5/7, 105K), said that on Wednesday, Cotton "was in Washington...giving a slashing condemnation of the president as virtually un-American, on the very day Obama was getting an enthusiastic

welcome in Arkansas." Reuters (5/8, Holland) covers the President's stop in Arkansas under the headline "Obama Tours Arkansas Tornado Damage With Key Senate Democrat."

The Christian Science Monitor (5/8, Huynh, 566K) reports that while the President Obama "has never fared well on Election Day in the central Arkansas community of Vilonia...residents expressed gratitude Wednesday when Obama toured the damage and spoke to those affected by last week's deadly tornado." According to the Monitor, in 2012, the President "lost the Faulkner County vote by a 2-1 margin." The Arkansas Democrat Gazette (5/8, Lesnick, 438K) covers the President's reception by Vilonia residents under the headline "Feelings Mixed On Obama Visit To Hard-hit Vilonia."

Sam Hall, in a post for the Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger (5/7, 206K) titled "Tornado Damage Not The Only Draw For Obama In Arkansas," said Mississippi lost the same number of residents to last month's tornadoes, but the President did not visit the state, and suggests the reason is that Mississippi does not have "a Democratic US Senator locked in a tight re-election fight."

Bloomberg News (5/8, Keane, 4.91M) notes that President Obama had not previously visited Arkansas as president and that Wednesdays' stop "comes at the start of a trip mostly focused on the midterm congressional elections." Bloomberg News says the President "added Arkansas to a previously planned three-day trip to California dominated by fundraising for Democratic House and Senate campaign committees and the national party." Among the other outlets with reports on the President's stop in Arkansas on Wednesday are the Los Angeles Times (5/8, Hennessey, 3.46M), the Washington Times (5/8, Wolfgang, 455K), TIME (5/7, Rhodan, 24.1M) and Voice of America (5/7, 21K).

HOUSE VOTES TO HOLD EX-IRS OFFICIAL LERNER IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS. While most major national newspapers covered the House vote to hold former IRS official Lois Lerner in contempt of Congress, television coverage was limited. The three broadcast networks ignored the vote, while MSNBC mentioned it only briefly during news updates and CNN not at all. Fox News and Fox Business gave the story more attention, with Fox News' Special Report leading with the story. Print and wire coverage generally focuses on the partisan divide over the contempt vote, as well as on what may come next.

Fox News' Special Report (5/7, Baier, 2.15M) opened by reporting that the House was voting "to hold a former IRS official in contempt of Congress and to push the Attorney General to get special help to investigate the IRS. ... Republicans say after a year of trying to get [Lerner] to talk about the targeting of conservative groups, she's now in contempt of Congress. Some Democrats say Lerner hasn't waved her Fifth Amendment right and opposed the measure."

The AP (5/8, Ohlemacher) reports the House voted 231-187 to hold Lerner in contempt and "also passed a nonbinding resolution calling on the Justice Department to appoint a special counsel to investigate the IRS." House Speaker Boehner said, "Who's been fired over the targeting of conservative groups by the IRS? No one that I'm aware of. Who's gone to jail for violating the law? When is the administration going to tell the American people the truth?" But Democrats called the vote "little more than an election-year ploy to fire up the GOP base."

USA Today (5/8, Korte, 5.82M) says that while just six Democrats backed the contempt measure, the nonbinding resolution passed 250-168. The Los Angeles Times (5/8, Memoli, 3.46M) says the six Democrats who voted for the contempt resolution are among "the most politically vulnerable" this year.

The Washington Post (5/8, Hicks, O'Keefe, 4.22M) reports that the contempt resolution means the US attorney for the District of Columbia can now "consider referring the matter to a grand jury for further review. It is unclear how the Justice Department will proceed." But the Wall Street Journal (5/8, McKinnon, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says the next steps are unclear, since even bringing the matter before a grand jury would not ensure an indictment. The Christian Science Monitor (5/8, Kiefer, 566K) writes that while "legally, the point of filing a contempt charge is to compel someone to testify," if a judge finds Lerner in contempt, "she could face a fine of up to $100,000 and jail time of up to 12 months."

Politico (5/7, Bade, 73K) reported that "House Republicans are daring the White House to ignore" the contempt vote. Some legal experts think the Justice Department "will refuse to take the citation to court," but others say that would be unprecedented and establish "a new tone that undermines Congress's contempt authority for

generations."

The New York Times (5/8, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) calls the Lerner votes "the first in a series of steps intended to spotlight what they are convinced is a pattern of cover-up and political whitewashing" by the Obama Administration, to be followed by a likely vote Thursday "to establish a select committee to investigate the 2012 attack on American facilities in Benghazi."

The Daily Caller (5/7, Howley, 408K) wrote that the Lerner votes "came just three days before the one-year anniversary of the IRS scandal" and "followed a highly divisive and emotional House floor session in which Republican lawmakers read stories of constituents who had been harassed, intimidated, and audited by the IRS and Democrats cited the McCarthy hearings to rail against their opponents in the House majority." David Weigel, also noting in his Slate Magazine (5/7, 14.77M) blog that "the start of the scandal" was one year ago this week, said, "It took an awfully long time to get to here."

Also reporting the story are Bloomberg News (5/8, Rubin, 2.76M), Reuters (5/8, Temple-West), McClatchy (5/8, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K), and the Washington Times (5/8, Dinan, 455K).

Rubio: "This Is A Legitimate Issue." Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) said on Fox News' Your World (5/7, Cavuto, 1.3M), "I think that, as a public official in such an important post, she has an obligation to share the truth with Congress and her role that she's played. And the bottom line is that she's refused to comply. In fact, the entire Administration has stonewalled this. This is a legitimate issue."

Desjarlais Says Holder "Has Not Been Forthcoming." House Oversight and Government Reform Committee member Rep. Scott Desjarlais (R-TN) said on Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight (5/7, Dobbs, 49K), "We're asking for a special prosecutor because the Attorney General himself has not been forthcoming with documents in past hearings. ... I don't think the American people have much confidence that this Administration is going to be forthcoming and that the Attorney General, who's supposed to be the highest authority for law enforcement in the land, has also not been forthcoming."

JUDICIAL WATCH SAYS ADMINISTRATION IS WITHHOLDING BENGHAZI DOCUMENTS. USA Today (5/8, Dorell, 5.82M) reports that the conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch claims that the Administration "continues to withhold documents that could shed light on how US officials produced its false narrative that the attack on the US Consulate in Benghazi arose from a non-existent protest over a video." The group said in a statement that the documents "reveal 'that the Obama administration is still refusing to provide the full details of how top officials arrived at the now-discredited talking points released to the public following the deadly assault on the US Mission in Benghazi, Libya,'" adding, "Though the State Department document repeatedly describes the material as 'Unclassified' or 'Sensitive But Unclassified,' it nonetheless justifies scores of extensive redactions and exemptions."

Clinton Suggests There Is A Political Motive Behind Benghazi Investigation. ABC World News (5/7, story 2, 2:45) reported that in an interview, former Secretary of State Clinton was asked about the House select committee investigating the Benghazi attack and said that "she sees no reason for another investigation because there have been several investigations." Robin Roberts of ABC News was shown saying: "Are you satisfied with the answers and are you content with what you know what happened?" Clinton: "Absolutely. I mean, of course, there are a lot of reasons why, despite all of the hearings, all of the information that's been provided, some choose not to be satisfied and choose to continue to move forward. But they get to call the shots in the Congress."

Investigators Likely To Examine Obama's Actions On Night Of Benghazi Attack. The Washington Times (5/8, Boyer, 455K) reports that House investigators are likely to examine what the President "did or didn't do on the night that the terrorist attack was unfolding 20 months ago." The White House "has largely ducked questions about Mr. Obama's actions during the crucial hours when US officials were debating how, or whether, to rescue the Americans under attack at US consulate in Libya." Questions about the President's actions "gained fresh prominence when a former White House national security aide, Tommy Vietor, said in a TV interview last week that Mr. Obama was not in the White House Situation Room around 10 p.m. on the night of the attack, when the president spoke by phone" to Clinton.

Gowdy: Investigation Could Continue Into 2016 Campaign. The Daily Caller (5/7, Treacher, 408K) cited a report from The Hill which noted that Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC), who will chair the select committee, told MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that the investigation "could continue into the 2016 campaign, when Hillary Clinton might be running for the White House." Gowdy said that "the length of his work would depend on the administration's level of cooperation," noting, "It would be shame on us if we intentionally dragged this out for political expediency. ... On the other hand, if an administration is slow-walking document production I can't end a trial simply because the defense won't cooperate."

In his column for the Washington Post (5/8, 4.22M), Dana Milbank notes Gowdy's comment that he "can't end a trial simply because the defense won't cooperate," and opines that Gowdy "intends to play prosecutor, proving the administration's guilt to the jury – in this case, the public." Milbank argues that Gowdy's assent in the GOP Caucus "is a key example of how the Republican Party has blunted the tea party threat in large part by co-opting the movement."

Democrats Are Reportedly Considering A Boycott Of Select Committee. Fox News' Special Report (5/7, Baier, 2.15M) reported that Democrats "are said to be considering a boycott of the committee after GOP leaders announced the makeup will be seven Republicans and five Democrats."

The Hill (5/7, Lillis, 237K) reported that Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) "made the case for such a boycott at a closed-door meeting of the Democratic Caucus in the Capitol Wednesday morning, a DCCC spokesperson said." Rep. James Clybum (D-SC), the third-ranking House Democrat, has urged his party "not to back a special committee unless Republicans and Democrats were equally represented, as they are on the Ethics Committee." The Hill noted that House Minority Leader Pelosi and House Minority Whip Hoyer "have not said whether they'd support a boycott of the panel." On Tuesday, Pelosi and Hoyer sent a letter to House Speaker Boehner "urging changes to the proposed committee, including equal representation between the parties."

Politico (5/7, Sherman, Palmer, 73K) reported that Pelosi told colleagues that she is "leaning toward boycotting" the panel. According to sources who attended Wednesday's meeting, while Pelosi "said she would listen to as many of her Democratic colleagues as possible before a decision is made," it was "was clear to several participants in the meeting that she was leaning against tapping Democrats to sit on the panel." Politico noted that Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) disagreed, arguing that "Democrats should sit on the Republican-controlled committee to combat Republicans."

Roll Call (5/7, Newhauser, Fuller, Subscription Publication, 76K) also noted the divisions within the Democratic caucus, reporting that "leaders and party members [are] vacillating between a symbolic boycott or begrudging participation." Roll Call notes that Democrats are unanimous in their belief that "the investigation is a political sham."

Meanwhile, the AP (5/8, Klapper) reports that Republicans brushed aside "Democratic concerns over the panel's scope and composition." Ahead of Thursday's vote to establish the panel, Boehner "vowed that the examination would be 'all about getting to the truth,'" adding, "This is a serious investigation." The AP notes that while the establishment of the committee "is assured in the GOP-run House," Republicans "expressed an interest in securing Democratic participation," as an "inquiry that can be presented as bipartisan would have greater credibility with voters beyond the conservative base."

Gowdy Disagrees With NRCC Using Benghazi Probe To Raise Funds. McClatchy (5/8, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that Gowdy appears to be "at odds with the National Republican Congressional Committee over using the attack and the committee's formation as a fund-raising tool." A post on the NRCC website titled "You Can Become a Benghazi Watchdog Right Now," urges viewers to make a "contribution to 'stop Democrats from controlling all of Washington.'" However, when Gowdy was asked on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" Wednesday "whether Republicans should pass on using the attack for fund-raising purposes, the former prosecutor said 'yes.'" Gowdy added, "Even (in) a culture of hyper-partisanship, certain things...ought to be above politics, like the murder of our four fellow Americans, and like whether you can trust what any administration, Republican or Democrat, tells you in the aftermath of a tragedy. That, to me transcends politics."

Reuters (5/8) reports that the NRCC did not indicate whether it would end the fundraising appeals. Reuters also

notes that White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters, "I think that the fact that the National Republican Congressional Committee is raising money off the creation of this committee is a pretty good indication of the political motivation that's at work here."

The Huffington Post (5/7, Stein, 11.54M) reported that Gowdy "called on the NRCC to stop fundraising off of the Benghazi select committee," telling CNN, "I cannot and will not raise money on Benghazi. ... I also advise my colleagues to follow suit." The Post noted that the disagreement between Gowdy and the NRCC "points to a problem that Republican leadership will likely encounter" during the investigation. The "temptation to rev up the base and raise money from it too could end up damaging the investigation's credibility even before it starts." Politico (5/7, Sherman, 73K) also reported on the NRCC fundraising appeal.

Capitol Police Investigating Threats Against Gowdy. The Washington Times (5/8, Chumley, 455K) reports that the Capitol Police are investigating email threats to Gowdy after reporters from Politico and other news outlets sad they "received at least two emails that threaten harm to Mr. Gowdy due directly to his leading role on the panel." While Capitol Police "refused to comment on the actual threats," they said that there is "an active, open investigation."

State Department Says Kerry Unavailable To Testify Before House Oversight Committee. The AP (5/8, Klapper) reports that the State Department said Wednesday that Secretary of State Kerry "would travel to Mexico later this month, making him unavailable to satisfy a subpoena for him to testify May 21 before the House Oversight Committee on its ongoing investigation into Benghazi."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Climate Disruptions, Close To Home."*** The New York Times (5/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that "the main reason neither Congress nor much of the American public cares about global warming is that, as problems go, it seems remote. Anyone who reads the latest National Climate Assessment, released on Tuesday, cannot possibly think that way any longer. ... The climate-change deniers in Congress and industry allies like Senator Mitch McConnell, who hails from a coal-producing state, will be ferocious. ... The surest antidotes are continued presidential resolve, backed by voters sensitized to climate warming's dangers."

"Amid Tensions, A Gesture From Putin." The New York Times (5/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says in an editorial that if Russian President Vladimir Putin "means what he said on Wednesday, the dangerous standoff over Ukraine could be moving toward a resolution. ... As of Wednesday evening, however, NATO officials said they saw no pullback of the 40,000 Russian troops who have been threateningly massed on the Ukrainian border for several weeks now. Yet there was reason to hope that, at this stage in the crisis, Mr. Putin does have compelling reasons to step back from confrontation and make room for negotiations. ... If this road to a federated structure is what the O.S.C.E., Ukraine, Russia, the United States and the European Union are discussing, the crisis may be nearing an end."

"The Lawyer Behind The Drone Policy." An editorial in the New York Times (5/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) argues that while the Administration's decision to allow senators to see memos authored by David Barron, the President's nominee for the US First Circuit Court of Appeals, justifying killing US citizens overseas with drone strikes "behind closed doors," will "probably be enough to ensure Mr. Barron's confirmation on a majority vote," it is "not enough for the public, which also has the right to evaluate one of the Obama administration's most important national security decisions, and the qualities of the people it is nominating to the bench."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A Bad Report Card."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (5/8, 4.22M) criticizes the District of Columbia for its third straight negative annual assessment of children's mental health programs by the Children's Law Center. While "there is no question that the District has made progress in mental health treatment since the era when dysfunctional agencies were placed under court control," the Post says there is a long way to go.

"Pfizer's Bitter Bill." In an editorial, the Washington Post (5/8, 4.22M) cites Pfizer's "$106 billion offer for

Britain's AstraZeneca, which could enable Pfizer to flag itself as a British company and pay taxes at Britain's 20 percent rate rather than this country's 35 percent," as proof of the need for corporate tax reform. noting that the President's solution and a plan from House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp share "common elements: an effort to close loopholes so that the government raises the same revenue even at a lower tax rate, an attempt to harmonize U.S. and foreign tax rules to discourage international rate-shopping and a sense that tax policy should support job-creating investment," the Post argues that there is "more common ground on corporate tax reform than many people realize," and adds that the proposed Pfizer deal should "be the wake-up call Washington needs to push for bipartisan tax reform."

"Venezuela In Free Fall." An editorial in the Washington Post (5/8, 4.22M) calls on the Obama Administration to impose sanctions on the government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to pressure Maduro "to agree to reforms that could break Venezuela's free fall." The Post argues that placing "a clear price on those officials who direct repression would be useful leverage."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Political Speech Wins In Wisconsin."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) praises Federal Judge Rudolph Randa's preliminary injunction to end an investigation into possible campaign finance violations involving conservative groups in Wisconsin and Gov. Scott Walker's campaign, arguing that liberals were using it as a weapon to silence their opponents.

"Disconnected In Massachusetts." The Wall Street Journal (5/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that the Affordable Care Act's new mandates led to the collapse of the Massachusetts "Connector" insurance exchange that had worked under then-Gov. Mitt Romney, even though the ACA was modeled on the state's program.

"Thailand's Aristocratic Dead-Enders." The Wall Street Journal (5/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial only a negotiated settlement will resolve the Thai political crisis, because new elections will likely reelect Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's party.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Putin Urges Delay On Ukraine Vote
Yellen Sees Growth, But Housing a Risk
Libya's Hunt For Gadhafi-Era Assets Leads It To UK Property Firm
FedEx To Charge By Package Size

New York Times:
NBC Extends Olympic Deal Into Unknown
Florida In Eye Of Storm Over Climate Change
Syrian Rebels Agree To Leave A Stronghold
Putin Hits Pause In Ukraine Crisis Amid Skepticism
Scientists Add Letters To DNA's Alphabet, Raising Hope And Fear
Public Library Is Abandoning Dispute Plan For Landmark

Washington Post:
Troubles Haunt From Beyond
Bipartisan Campaign Gives Boost To Adelson
Putin Softens Tone On Ukraine
Tea Party Faces Uphill Climb In Crowded Georgia Senate Primary
A Case Of Sticker Shock?

Financial Times:
Putin Calls For Delay In East Ukraine Vote
Yellen Warns On US Housing Market Risk

Mondelez And DE Master In Coffee Merger
Rivals Eat Away At Whole Foods' Niche
NBC Goes The Distance With Olympics Deal
Fed Stance Set To Fuel Risk-Taking

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Extreme Weather; Hillary Clinton; Nigeria-Kidnapped School Girls; Ukraine Crisis; Syria-Civil War; Education-High Schools Report; Senate-Cancer Research Hearing; Rhode Island-Circus Accident.
CBS: Nigeria-Kidnapped School Girls; Kidnapped Nigerian Girls-US; Kidnapped Nigerian Girls-Social Media; Veterans Affairs Scandal; Transportation-Crude Oil Trains; Ukraine Crisis; Syria-Civil War; Education-High Schools Report; GM Recall Investigation-NHTSA; Obama-Arkansas Visit.
NBC: Veterans Affairs Scandal-VA Secretary Interview; Nigeria-Kidnapped School Girls; Ukraine Crisis; Extreme Weather; Obama-Arkansas Visit; Synthetic Drugs Crackdown; North Carolina-Democratic Primary; New Mexico-Albuquerque Police Investigation; NASA-ISS Live Streaming Cameras; California-Forest Poachers.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Hillary Clinton-Kidnapped Nigerian Girls; Kidnapped Nigerian Girls-US; Obama-Arkansas Visit; House-Lois Lerner; Michigan-Cocaine Smuggler Sentenced.
CBS: Russian Troop Withdrawal Claim; Nigeria-Terrorist Attack; Kidnapped Nigerian Girls-US; House-Lois Lerner; Transportation-GM Recall;
FOX: Russian Troop Withdrawal Claim; Senate-Keystone Pipeline; Florida-Mansion Fire; Sports-NBA Playoffs; Senate-Student Loan Debt Proposal; Nigeria-Terrorist Attack; Wyoming-1970 Murder Case;.
NPR: House-Lois Lerner; House-Benghazi Committee Requests; FCC-Net Neutrality Debate; Nigeria-Terrorist Attack; Cuba-Exiles Arrested; Synthetic Drugs Crackdown.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President participates in a DNC Roundtable, the Beverly Hilton, closed press; departs Los Angeles, open to pre-credentialed media; arrives San Diego, open to pre-credentialed media; delivers remarks and answers questions at a DCCC event, print pool for remarks only; departs San Diego, open to pre-credentialed media; arrives San Jose, open to pre-credentialed media; participates in a DNC Roundtable, closed press; delivers remarks at a DNC reception, pooled press. Notes: Principal Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest will gaggle at the Beverly Hilton prior to departure.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will attend meetings at the White House.

MICHELLE OBAMA – At the White House, First Lady Michelle Obama will join Director Susan H. Hildreth and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to present the 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Ten institutions from across the country will attend the White House Ceremony to be recognized for outstanding service to their communities. In addition to the museum and library directors, a community member of each recognized institution will participate in the ceremony and share how the institution has impacted their lives. 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service recipients: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Chicago Public Library, Chicago, Ill.; The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Ind.; Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, Las Vegas, Nev.; Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, Mo.; Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, Conn.; North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, N.C.; Octavia Fellin Public Library, Gallup, N.M.; Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, Okla.; Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, Mass. Speakers: First Lady Michelle Obama; Director Susan H. Hildreth, Institute of Museum and Library Services; Medal Winner Institution Directors and Community Members; National Museum and Library Services Board.
US Senate: SHAHEEN, IMMIGRANT VISA BILL – 10:30 a.m. U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) will hold a press conference with Representatives Earl Blumenauer (OR-03) and Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) to introduce the bipartisan Afghan Allies Protection Extension Act. The legislation, sponsored by Senator Shaheen and John McCain (R-AZ) in the Senate and Representatives Blumenauer and Kinzinger in the House, will extend and reform the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program for Afghan civilians who risked their lives working with the U.S.

government, American media and non-profit organizations. MEDIA CONTACTS: Liz Kenigsberg (Shaheen) – (202) 224-5553; Patrick Malone (Blumenauer) – (202)225-4811. Location: Mansfield Room (S-207), Capitol Hill.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS – 9:30 a.m. Hearings to examine the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. Witness: Sylvia M. Burwell. Location: 106 Dirksen. Notes: Time changed from 10 a.m.

BUDGET – 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The U.S. Economic and Fiscal Outlook Janet L. Yellen Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Location: 608 Dirksen.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Tourism, Competitiveness, and Innovation, "The State of U.S. Travel and Tourism: Industry Efforts to Attract 100 Million Visitors Annually." Witnesses: Roger Dow, President and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Travel Association; Christopher L. Thompson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Brand USA: Mike McCartney, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Tourism Authority; Brad Dean, President and Chief Executive Officer, Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Location: 253 Russell.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES – 10 a.m. Hearings to examine the North American energy boom, focusing on realizing the opportunities and the challenges. Location: 366 Dirksen.

FINANCE – 10 a.m. Hearing to consider the nomination of Stefan Selig to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Darci L. Vetter, of Nebraska, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Islam A. Siddiqui; Henry J. Aaron, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2014; and for a term expiring September 30, 2020 (Reappointment); Lanhee J. Chen, of California, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2018, vice Mark J. Warshawsky, term expired; and Alan L. Cohen, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2016, vice Dana K. Bilyeu, term expired. Location: 215 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 10 a.m. Hearings to examine assessing Venezuela's political crisis, focusing on human rights violations and beyond. Witnesses: Panel One: Roberta S. Jacobson, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State; Uzra Zeya, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Department of State, Washington, DC; Panel Two: Patrick D. Duddy, Visiting Faculty, The Fuqua School of Business, Duke University, Durham, NC; Moises Naim, Senior Associate, International Economics Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Jose Miguel Vivanco, Executive Director, Americas Division, Human Rights Watch. Location: 419 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. Identifying Critical Factors for Success in Information Technology Acquisitions. Witnesses: Panel I: Daniel M. Tangherlini, Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration; Steven L. Vanroekel, U.S. Chief Information Officer, Office of Management and Budget; David A. Powner, Director of Information Technology Management Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Panel II: Daniel J. Chenok, Executive Vice Chair, Industry Advisory Council, American Council for Technology and Industry Advisory Council; Karen S. Evans, Partner, KE&T Partners, LLC. Location: 342 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY – 11:15 a.m. Executive Business Meeting. Nominations: Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; Darrin P. Gayles, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida; Paul G. Byron, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; Beth Bloom, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida. Bill: S.1720, Patent Transparency and Improvements Act of 2013. Location: S-216. Notes: Time changed from 10 a.m., room changed from 226 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE – 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – 3 p.m. Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight hearing on Waste and Abuse in Army Sponsorship and Marketing Contracts. Witnesses: Major

General Judd H. Lyons, Acting Director, Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau; Kathy A. Salas, Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting, National Guard Bureau. Location: 342 Dirksen.
US House: 10 a.m. – The House meets for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. The House is expected to consider the Republican Resolution Establishing a Select Committee on Benghazi. The House is also expected to begin consideration of H.R. 10 – Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act (Rep. Kline – Education and the Workforce) (Subject to a Rule). Additionally, the House is expected to consider H.R. 4366 – Strengthening Education through Research Act, as amended (Rep. Rokita – Education and the Workforce) – under suspension of the Rules.

RYAN BUDGET CONFERENCE CALL – 11 a.m. U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan (WI-02) and Budget Committee Ranking Member Chris Van Hollen (MD-08) will hold a conference call with reporters to discuss the impact of the budget proposed by Chairman Paul Ryan. Notes: RSVP to Alex. Nguyen@mail.house.gov.

SPEAKER BOEHNER – 11:30 a.m. On-camera press briefing with House Speaker John Boehner. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114. Contacts: Kevin Smith, 202-225-0600

HEALTH CARE – COURT CHALLENGE – REP. FRANKS – 4 p.m. Congressman Trent Franks (AZ-08), chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee and lead signer of the amicus curiae brief in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals case Sissel v. HHS, will be joined by the attorneys arguing on behalf of Sissel at a press conference discussing the beginning of oral arguments in the case. Sissel v. HHS is a challenge to the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) on the basis that it violates the Origination Clause of the Constitution. Speakers: Rep. Trent Franks; Rep. Ron Desantis; Timothy Sandefur, Principal Attorney, Pacific Legal Foundation; Todd F. Gaziano, Executive Director of Pacific Legal Foundation's D.C. Center; Paul J. Beard II, Principal Attorney, Pacific Legal Foundation's National Litigation Center; Paul D. Kamenar, Counsel to Signers of Amicus Brief. Location: House Triangle. Notes: to schedule an interview in advance, please contact Ben Carnes at ben.carnes@mail.house.gov or, by phone, at 202-579-0005.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS – 9 a.m. Full Committee Business Meeting with Update on Pheonix VA. Location: 334 Cannon.

JUDICIARY – 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial, and Antitrust Law hearing Oversight Hearing on "Competition in the Video and Broadband Markets: Proposed Merger of Comcast and Time Warner Cable". Witnesses: Robert D. Marcus, Chairman and CEO, Time Warner Cable; David L. Cohen, Executive Vice President, Comcast Corporation; Matthew M. Polka, President and CEO, American Cable Association; C. Scott Hemphill, Professor of Law, Columbia Law School; Allen P. Grunes Esq., Geyer Gorey LLP; Patrick Gottsch, Founder and Chairman, Rural Media Group; Dave Schaeffer, Founder and CEO, Cogent Communications; Craig Labovitz PhD, Co-Founder, CEO and President, DeepField Networks, Inc. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

APPROPRIATIONS – 10 a.m. Full Committee Mark Up – FY 2015 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill; and Report on the Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2015. Location: 2359 Raybum.

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE – 10 a.m. "Big Labor on College Campuses: Examining the Consequences of Unionizing Student Athletes." Witnesses: Ken Starr, President and Chancellor, Baylor University, Waco, TX; Bradford L. Livingston, Partner, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Chicago, IL; Andy Schwarz, Partner, OSKR, LLC, Emeryville, CA; Bernard M. Muir, Director of Athletics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA; Patrick C. Eilers, Managing Director, Madison Dearborn Partners, Chicago, IL. Location: 2175 Raybum.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 10 a.m. Full Committee Vote on H.R. 3301, The North American Energy Infrastructure Act; H.R. 4342, the Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters (DOTCOM) Act; H.R. 4572, the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act, Reauthorization. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL SERVICES – 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on "The Annual Testimony of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the International Financial System." Witness: Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew. Location: 2128 Raybum.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. Russias Destabilization of Ukraine witnesses Daniel Glaser, Assistant Secretary, Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, U.S. Department of the Treasury; Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

INTELLIGENCE – 10 a.m. Business Meeting. 1) Member Access Request; 2) Mark-up of H.R. 4291, The "FISA Transparency and Modernization Act"; 3) Mark-up of H.R. 3361, The "USA Freedom Act." Location: HVC-304.

NATURAL RESOURCES – 10 a.m. Full Committee Markup on: H.R. 3687, "Military Land and National Defense Act"; H.R. 4402, "Guam Military Training and Readiness Act of 2014"; H.R. 4458, "Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake Security Enhancement Act." Location: 1324 Longworth.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment hearing on Potential Impacts of Proposed Changes to the Clean Water Act Jurisdictional Rule. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will hold a hearing examining the current state of the GI Bill and the parameters used for defining the success of the students who use it. Witnesses: Panel 1: Michael Dakduk, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs, Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (APSCU); William Hubbard, Vice President of External Affairs, Student Veterans of America (SVA); Ricardo D. Torres, President and CEO, The National Student Clearinghouse; Thomas W. Ross, President, The University of North Carolina System, On behalf of: The American Council on Education (ACE) Ms. Melissa M. Vito, Ed.D., Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives and Student Success, The University of Arizona. Panel 2: Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Location: 334 Cannon HOB.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 1:45 p.m. Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, "The Palestinian Authority, Israel and the Peace Process: What's Next?" Witnesses: Jonathan Schanzer, Ph.D., Vice President for Research, Foundation for Defense of Democracies; James Prince, Co-founder and President, The Democracy Council; Robert Wexler, President, S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace, (Former Member of Congress). Location: 2172 Rayburn.

HOMELAND SECURITY – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies hearing on Electromagnetic Pulse EMP: Threat to Critical Infrastructure. Witnesses: PANEL I: RepresentativeTrent Franks, (AZ-08). PANEL II: Dr. Peter Vincent Pry, Congressional EMP Commission, Congressional Strategic Posture Commission, Executive Director of the Task Force on National and Homeland Security; Dr. Michael J. Frankel, Senior Scientist, Penn State University, Applied Research Laboratory; Dr. Chris Beck, Vice President, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, The Electric Infrastructure Security Council. Location: 311 Cannon.

JUDICIARY – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet hearing on Compulsory Video License of Title 17. Witnesses: William J. Roberts Jr., Acting Associate Register of Copyrights, U.S. Copyright Office; Stanton Dodge, Executive Vice-President and General Counsel, DISH Network; Marci Burdick, Senior Vice President, Schurz Communications; Matthew M. Polka, President and CEO, American Cable Association. Location: 2141 Rayburn.
Other: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS SUMMIT – May 8 – 9. Some of the country's top communications and public affairs officers are scheduled to speak at the 5th National Summit on Strategic Communications. Location: Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle.

ABA – TAX SECTION MEETING – May 8 – 10. The 2014 May Meeting. Highlights: 1:45 p.m. Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division Kathryn Keneally will participate on a Court Practice and Procedure panel addressing recent developments at the Department of Justice, IRS, Department of the Treasury, and in the U.S. Tax Court Antitrust Colloquium. Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street, NW. Contacts: Ty Hansen, ty.hansen@americanbar.org, 202-662-8673

U.S. CHAMBER – GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN SUMMIT – 8:30 a.m. – 4:40 p.m. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will bring together top government officials and business leaders to explore the global web of interconnected and

efficient supply chains and how they contribute to the competitiveness of global business. Participants include Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Ranking Member, Committee on Finance; R. Gil Kerlikowske, Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Location: 1615 H Street, NW. Notes: Credentialed members of the media are invited to attend. To register, email press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION CENTENNIAL CONVOCATION – 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act, the founding legislation of the national Cooperative Extension System. The National Cooperative Extension Centennial Convocation will celebrate Cooperative Extension's heritage and launch the next 100 years of extending knowledge and changing lives. Location: Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center Amphitheater, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

USAID MPEP SEMINAR – 9 a.m. Facilitation: How Much Does Context Matter? Facilitation is used as a means to incentivize behavior change and foster the adoption of new ideas by private sector actors. But does this method work across a wide range of contexts? Speakers: Bill Grant, Development Alternatives Inc.; Marina Krivoshlykova, Development Alternatives Inc. Location: The QED Group LLC., 1250 Eye Street, NW, 11th Floor.

PUBLIC SERVICE TOWN HALL – 9 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. The Partnership for Public Service their fourth annual Public Service Town Hall. Panelists: Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and OPM Director Katherine Archuleta will join moderator Cokie Roberts from ABC News for discussion about the "value of government service and the dedicated men and women who deliver that value on behalf of the American people every day". Contact: Jim Seymour at psrw@ourpublicservice.org or (202) 775-2758. Location: Partnership for Public Service, Conference Center, 1100 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200 East.

ITIF – BENEFITS OF CONNECTED CARS – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. ITIF, The Center for Clean Energy Innovation (CCEI), the Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC) and the Digital Energy and Sustainability Solutions Campaign (DESSC) will host a panel discussion which will identify and describe some of the most "promising intelligent vehicle technologies on the market and discuss how government policy can extend their benefits to our communities and our planet". Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, First and C streets NE (Room 562).

PRIESTS FOR LIFE PROTEST – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Rally for Religious Freedom organized by Priests for Life in protest of the HHS mandate. Speakers will include Father Frank Pavone, National Director; Sen. Ted Cruz; Reps. Diane Black, Paul Gosar, Tim Huelskamp; Josh Duggar, FRC Action; Carol Tobias, National Right to Life; Jeanne Monahan, March for Life, others. Location: 333 Constitution Ave. NW. Contacts: Leslie Palma, leslie@priestsforlife.org, 347-286-7277

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH – 9:30 a.m. 2014 Congressional Symposium for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Presented by members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and House Democratic Leadership. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium. Notes: RSVP to Chu. PressRSVP@Mail. House. Gov.

URBAN INSTITUTE – US IMMIGRATION POLICY – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The Urban Institute hosts a discussion on U.S. immigration policy with U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) and City of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. The discussion will be moderated by Jim Avila, senior national correspondent for ABC News and White House correspondent for ABC News/Fusion. Location: 2100 M Street, NW, 5th Floor. Notes: The event is by invitation only.

HOLDER, DUNCAN – EQUAL ACCESS – 10 a.m. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will hold a conference call to announce updated guidance designed to help schools understand their responsibilities under the U.S. Supreme Court's Plyler vs. Doe decision and Federal civil rights laws to ensure school districts are upholding their Federal and constitutional obligation to provide equal educational opportunities to all children. With Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Jocelyn Samuels; Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Catherine Lhamon; Acting General Counsel Philip Rosenfelt, U.S. Department of Education. Contacts: DOJ, 202-514-2007. Notes: Dial in 800-369-1938/Passcode: EDUCATION.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – UKRAINE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER – WEB EVENT – 10:30 a.m. Discussion with Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Danylo Lubkivsky. Moderated by Atlantic Council Executive Vice President

Damon Wilson. RSVP: press@AtlanticCouncil.org if you plan to tune in. HAVE A QUESTION FOR LUBKIVSKY? Email press@AtlanticCouncil.org or tweet to @AtlanticCouncil and we will try to get your question in during this webcast.

ATTORNEY GENERAL – AAPI MONTH – 11 a.m. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver remarks at the Justice Department's Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Program. Location: Department of Justice, Great Hall, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Notes: All media must present government-issued photo I.D. as well as valid media credentials. Media must RSVP to Stephen Ratner at 202-514-2007 or Stephen. Ratner@usdoj.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 7. Media must enter at the visitor's entrance on Constitution Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets. Media may begin arriving at 10:00 a.m. All cameras must be pre-set by 10:45 a.m. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007.

WWII MEMORIAL – WREATH LAYING – 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. The National Park Service (NPS) and Friends of the World War II Memorial (Friends) will commemorate the 69th anniversary of the Allied Forces Victory in the Atlantic and the end of World War II in Europe (V-E Day) with remarks and a wreath laying ceremony. Participants: Congressman Michael McCaul (Tx.) (whose father served as a B-17 Bombadier Navigator in the Army Air Corps during WWII.); Robert Vogel, Superintendent, National Mall & Memorial Parks; Mick Kicklighter, Chairman of the Board, Friends; Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower; MG Buster Howes, British Embassy; 16 WWII veterans with Old Glory Honor Flight of Wisconsin. Contact: Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles jenny_anzelmo-sarles@nps.gov 202-619-7177. Location: World War II Memorial.

VILSACK – LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS – 1:15 a.m. USDA Secretary Vilsack to host press call to announce "historic" USDA support for local and regional food systems. DIAL IN: 1-888-831-2982. Passcode (given verbally): RFA. Troubleshooting number: 202 720 8560. Contacts: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

CSIS – DOD UNMANNED SYSTEMS – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Sustaining the U.S. Lead in DoD Unmanned Systems. Speakers: Colonel Kenneth Callahan, USAF, Director, Air Force RPA Capabilities Division; Captain Chris Corgnati, USN, Deputy Director, ISR Capabilities, OPNAV N2/N6. Location: 2nd Floor Conference Center, CSIS 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW.

HUDSON INSTITUTE – LATIN AMERICA – 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. "Challenges to Democracy in Latin America" panel discussion. Hudson Institute's Center for Latin American Studies and the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis will host a discussion of the challenges to democracy in Latin America featuring Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary for Political Affairs at the Organization of American States and former Vice President of Costa Rica, Rene Leon, former Ambassador of El Salvador to the United States, and Hector Schamis, adjunct professor at Georgetown University and columnist for El Pais. Location: Hudson Institute, Betsy and Walter Stern Conference Center, 1015 15th Street, NW – 6th Floor.

BROADBAND COALITION FORUM – CULATTA – 1 p.m. Richard Culatta, director of the U.S. Education Departments Office of Educational Technology remarks to the annual conference of the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition. Location: Marriott Marquis Hotel, 901 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Contacts: Press Office press@ed.gov ((202) 401-1576)

CSIS – ELECTRICITY – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Electricity in Transition. Speaker: Melanie Kenderdine, Director of the Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis, U.S. Department of Energy. Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

C2ES WATER – ENERGY WEBINAR – 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions hosts a webinar: An overview of water/energy issues from national and Federal perspectives. Dr. Craig Zamuda from the Department of Energy will present key findings from DOE's recently released water/energy nexus report. Dr. Kristen Averyt, Director of the Western Water Assessment at the University of Colorado, will present her research regarding water-energy challenges now and in the future. Contacts: Laura Rehrmann, rehrmannl@c2es.org, 703-516-0621.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – IRAQ – POST ELECTIONS – 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Iraqs Post-Election Environment: A Preliminary Assessment – A discussion with; Amb. Feisal Istrabadi, Director, Center for Middle East Studies at

Indiana University, Former Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations; Amb. James F. Jeffrey, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Former US Ambassador to Iraq. Moderated by Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President, Atlantic Council. RSVP to press@AtlanticCouncil.org. Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Craig Ferguson: "Another thing Russia's doing is they've got a new blogger law. It forces people who write blogs to register with the government. Putting bloggers in jail? Maybe [Russian President Vladimir] Putin isn't so bad."

Craig Ferguson: [Referring to Russia's law banning curse words in arts and media] "For now, Putin is only banning four swear words. These four words will be banned from theater, concerts, and movies. So Russians, say dasvidaniya [good bye in Russian] to the works of Quentin Tarantino and to YouTube out-takes from 'Jeopardy.'"

Seth Meyers: "The Obama Administration announced new guidelines today that would require schools to provide equal education to all children, regardless of their immigration status. So, sorry illegal immigrants, you're getting an American education."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 9, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, May 9, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

USGS LAUNCHES WEB TOOL TO TRACK IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WATERSHEDS. The E&E Daily reports that the USGS on Thursday launched a new Web tool to assist communities and individuals map the impacts of climate change on their watersheds. The updated National Climate Change Viewer "maps changes in snowpack, soil moisture, runoff and evaporation across US watersheds." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This information will be valuable to the work of scientists, water and land managers, farmers and ranchers – as well as all interested citizens."

SECRETARY JEWELL PRAISED FOR LANDSCAPE-SCALE MITIGATION STRATEGY. The Freestone County (OR) Times (5/9, Crabtree) reports that the Center for Rural Affairs praised Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for the release a report on April 10, "outlining a landscape-scale mitigation strategy to encourage smarter development on public lands." According to the article, "strengthening Interior's commitment to science-based, landscape level planning will help avoid the gravest development impacts on our land, air and water."

INDUSTRY LEADERS PARTICIPATE IN OIL CLEANUP EXERCISE. WTOC-TV Savannah, GA (5/9, 18K)

reports that industry leaders are training on Hutchinson Island for an emergency spill on the Savannah River. The exercise is "to show industry leaders how to communicate better in the event of a spill." Glenn Degnitz, of the Interior Department said, "You've got different companies. You've got different technologies. So we've brought in some of the smarter guys available, and they've shown other people how to integrate all that so it's seamless."

The Savannah (GA) Morning News (5/7, Coleman, 226K) reports on a "dog food spill" in the Savannah River cleaned up by "trailing boom, an underwater robot hooked to a rope and even an aerial drone" in a demonstration of oil spill cleanup capacities. Coast Guard Capt. Claudia Gelzer said about the conference, "It enables our folks to join together with industry and the other agencies and NGOs to share best practices and talk about new ways of responding to oil spills."

INTERIOR'S USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA WINS FOLLOWERS. The Skift (5/8) reports that the use of social media during last October's government shutdown was "a rare, yet welcome turn by a government agency." The article also notes that Interior "actively uses social media to promote destinations and activities with an enthusiasm rarely seen in government agencies." According to the article, the agency's "content strategy seeks to motivate and inform the nature lover and adventure traveler with awe-inspiring photos and noteworthy news clips."

"WILD AND SCENIC" DESIGNATION CONSIDERED FOR HOUSATONIC RIVER. The Litchfield County (CT) Times (5/8, 15K) reports that "veterans of river management met with residents of the Northwest Corner at Housatonic Valley Regional High School Tuesday night" to explain the National Wild and Scenic River program and the benefits it provides. According to the article, "despite some sharp questioning from a healthy crowd" of supporters of the designation for the Housatonic River, the "potential benefits of the federal designation seem to far outweigh any deficits."

DECISION TO DEFER APPROVAL OF REPORT CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT DEFENDED. In an op-ed for the Key West (FL) Keynoter (5/7, 34K), Col. Alan Dodd, commander of the Jacksonville district of the US Army Corps of Engineers, defends the decision by the US Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Review Board to "defer approval of an implementation report on the Central Everglades Planning Project." According to Dodd, the decision was made to "enable the Corps to complete a full review of the almost 8,000-page document to ensure it complies with all applicable federal laws, regulations and policies." Dodd notes that failure to complete a review could "result in significant delays if problems or issues are identified later on that could have been discovered prior to releasing the report."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS PROPOSES TO MAKE HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP A MONUMENT OR HISTORIC SITE. The AP (5/9) reports that the NPS on Thursday "proposed making the former Honouliuli Internment Camp on Oahu either a monument or historic site." The agency "plans to hold meetings this month and next to get the public's feedback."

The Honolulu Civil Beat (5/9, 41) reports that "political leaders praised the report for recognizing the importance of the internment camps in US history." Sen. Colleen Hanabusa said, "We cannot forget Honouliuli and sites like it in Hawaii. We have a responsibility to remember and preserve our history. The internment of Japanese Americans in World War II was a dark time for our nation, but one that should serve as a reminder and a warning of what we are capable of when we fall victim to suspicion, hate, and intolerance." Gov. Neil Abercrombie also issued a press release in support of the plan.

BILL WOULD ALLOW PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO MORE EASILY PARTNER WITH NPS TO SUPPORT PARKS. The Hill (5/9, Barron-lopez, Cama, 237K) reports that Reps. Jared Huffman and Cynthia Lummis "introduced a bill Thursday that they said would make it easier for private organizations to partner with the National Park Service to support parks." They said their legislation would clarify NPS "rules for working with educational, philanthropic and volunteer organizations that want to help with parks."

NINE INJURED IN MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH AT GRAND CANYON. The AP (5/9) reports that "nine people are

hurt after a tour bus, a minivan and a sedan collided at the Grand Canyon," according to authorities. NPS officials say the tour bus had "a dozen people onboard when the crash occurred around 2 p.m. Thursday." The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Also providing similar coverage is the Arizona Republic (5/8, 1.45M).

SCIENTISTS STUDYING MOUNT BALDY. NPR (5/9, Smith, 519K) reports that Mount Baldy is closed for the summer while scientists "use ground-penetrating radar and GPS devices to peer beneath the surface." The NPS will also "plant new grass where it grew until the last century to try to stabilize the dune and prevent new holes."

NEW SEWAGE SPILL LOCATION INVESTIGATED BY NPS, DC WATER. WTOP-FM Washington (5/9, 172K) reports that "it might be another week or two until the Capital Crescent trail is open" according to the NPS, which says "yet another sewage spill from last week's storms is being investigated Thursday." NPS and D.C. Water staff are "investigating the third spill location, a man hole a quarter mile north of the previously reported lock 6 spill." Meanwhile, "crews are still working to clean a section of the Capital Crescent Trail where some of the sewage spilled over the trail and into the nearby woods and canal."

VOYAGEURS PARK MOOSE POPULATION STAYS STEADY. The AP (5/9) reports that the moose population at Voyageurs National Park remains steady. According to the article, "an annual winter aerial survey estimates the moose population on the Kabetogema Peninsula at 40."

Also providing coverage is the Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/9, Smith, 1.48M).

SHUTTLE SERVICE RESUMES BETWEEN GRAND CANYON, TUSAYAN. The AP (5/9) reports that free shuttle service between the Grand Canyon and the neighboring town of Tusayan will resume Saturday. The service started as a pilot project years ago. The NPS says "it will continue as funding allows."

TWO ZION NATIONAL PARK RANGERS RECEIVE VALOR AWARDS. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (5/9, 43) reports that Zion National Park Rangers Craig Thexton and Therese Picard are receiving Department of Interior Valor Awards. According to the article, "the incident that is being recognized took place on the evening of April 30, 2010, after Zion National Park dispatch received a report that a canyoneer was in distress on the final rappel of Pine Creek."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM WORKER THREATENED ON UTAH HIGHWAY. The AP (5/9, Mccombs) reports that the BLM is "warning its workers in Utah to be on alert after two men threatened an agency wrangler on the state's main highway by pulling out a weapon and holding up a sign that read, "You need to die."" According to BLM spokeswoman Megan Crandall, "the incident occurred Tuesday morning on Interstate 15 about 90 miles south of Salt Lake City." An investigation is underway, but there are no suspects.

Also reporting on the story are the Las Vegas Review-Journal (5/9, 437K) and Reuters (5/9).

Coverage by the AP was also provided by the Washington Post (5/9, 4.22M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/8, 687K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/9, Mccombs, 1.48M), the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (5/9, 85K), the Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (5/9, 31K), Yahoo! (5/9, Mccombs, 17.91M), the Epoch Times (5/9, 486K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV (5/9, 2K), WJBK-TV Detroit (5/9, 83K), and WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (5/9, 117K).

NEVADA SHERIFF SAYS FBI INVESTIGATING BUNDY RANCH STANDOFF. The AP (5/9) reports in brief coverage that Assistant Sheriff Joe Lombardo of Clark County said the FBI has been investigating the conduct of rancher Cliven Bundy's armed supporters during an April 12 standoff.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (5/9, German, 437K) reports that Sheriff Doug Gillespie on Thursday said the FBI has opened a criminal probe of the April 12 showdown between Bundy and his supporters and law enforcement, and claimed the agency interviewed him on April 28. According to the article, Gillespie said the FBI is looking into alleged assaults and threats against law enforcement at the scene, and the probe is just beginning.

In its coverage, KLAS-TV Las Vegas (5/9, Knapp, 36K) reports that that agency has also spoken with several Metro Police officers who were on the scene at Bundy's ranch, and notes that the FBI "does not confirm or deny the existence of any investigation."

OFFICIALS SIGN UTAH LAND SWAP AT FIRST OUTDOORS SUMMIT. The AP (5/8) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert "kicked off his first Outdoor Recreation Summit on Thursday by finalizing a long-awaited swap of state and federal lands in eastern Utah." Herbert, BLM state director Juan Palma and state trust lands director Kevin Carter "signed the agreement in front of more than 400 attendees at the daylong summit in Salt Lake City." The transaction "gives the federal government about 25,000 acres of wilderness mostly in Grand County for conservation and recreation," and "in return, Utah receives about 35,000 acres of energy-rich land, mostly in Uintah County."

Also covering the story is KCSG-TV St. George, UT (5/9, 43).

BLM UNLIKELY TO COMPLETE FERGUS COUNTY LAND SWAP. The AP (5/9) reports that BLM officials say they "likely won't complete a proposed land exchange between the federal agency and owners of a Fergus County ranch." The bureau had "planned to swap 12 parcels totaling 4,900 acres within the Wilks Ranch Montana Ltd. property in exchange for 5,200 acres," but "1,600 residents signed a petition opposing the deal." According to the article, "hunters want continued access to 2,700 acres in the Durfee Hills area that would have become private property under the swap."

BLM EXTENDS APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING WILD HORSE RESEARCH PROPOSALS. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (5/9, 43) reports that the BLM announced on Thursday that it is "extending to May 28, 2014, its application deadline for research proposals aimed at controlling the population growth of wild horses and burros that roam public lands in the West." Joan Guilfoyle, Division Chief of the Wild Horse and Burro Program, said, "We are looking for breakthrough methods of controlling population growth rates, which will lessen the need to remove animals from the range while saving taxpayers money."

NEW MANAGER FOR ARIZONA STRIP DISTRICT ANNOUNCED. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (5/9, 43) reports that the BLM has named Timothy J. Burke as the new district manager for the Arizona Strip District. Ray Suazo, BLM Arizona State Director, said, "Tim is a veteran land manager who has demonstrated the ability to deal with challenging issues. We are lucky to have him in Arizona and welcome him to our leadership team."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER PLANS ATV RIDE TO PROTEST BLM TRAIL CLOSURE. Additional coverage of San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman plans to lead a group of residents during an ATV ride to protest the BLM jurisdiction was provided by the Deseret (UT) News (5/9, 610K) and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (5/9, 242K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

RANCHERS HIGHLIGHT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SAGE GROUSE HABITAT TO SWAY FWS. The Environment & Energy Publishing (5/9, 705) reports that ranchers in northwest Colorado are highlighting their efforts to improve the sagebrush habitat of sage grouse. According to the article, "to a large extent," their efforts will "determine whether the bird receives protection under the federal Endangered Species Act." The article notes that while the FWS' "decision whether to propose listing the greater sage grouse next year is a scientific one, it will undoubtedly have social consequences that could deter landowners from continuing to conserve the bird."

FUTURE OF NORTH DAKOTA'S FISH HATCHERIES REMAINS UNCERTAIN. The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (5/9, 64K) reports that Rob Holm, manager at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery near Riverdale, and "his crews have been fighting what seems to be an upstream battle for funding at a time when the popularity of sportfishing is at an all-time high in North Dakota." Nationally, the FWS has "been on a push to close what it considers 'lower priority facilities.'" According to Holm, "with funding a big question from year to year, it's been a real juggling act to plan for the long term."

GUAM TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PARTIAL REFUGE CLOSURE. The AP (5/9) reports that "Guam's nonvoting

delegate in US Congress is moving to give the territory's community members a chance to weigh in on whether the Navy should close part of a wildlife refuge as part of a military buildup." Del. Madeleine Bordallo has "decided against attaching the proposed plan as an amendment to a larger defense spending bill, which passed a key House committee." Bordallo said, "I agree that our community should have the opportunity to discuss this issue and other concerns regarding the buildup."

Also covering the story is the Pacific (GUM) Daily News (5/9, 61K).

FWS COMPLETES BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT IN TIME FOR CRAB SPAWN, RED KNOT MIGRATION. The Philly (5/9, 1.64M) reports that "in time for the spawning season of the horseshoe crab and the subsequent spring migration of shorebirds like the ruddy turnstone and the red knot," the FWS has "completed a $1.65 million restoration project along five Cape May County bay beaches." Eric Schrader, a field supervisor for the service's New Jersey field office, notes that "it is the first of 31 such 'coastal resilience' projects focusing on rebuilding natural areas after Hurricane Sandy." Schrader said, "We're very happy that this project was completed so quickly. This is an important restoration project, not just for the horseshoe crab spawning but also for shorebirds foraging."

GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK REBOUNDS. KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (5/9, 1K) reports that "estimates show the Yellowstone ecosystem grizzly population at more than 700 – nearly a four-fold increase in just the past 40 years." Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk said, "There were times in the past where the population because of the way the park was managed and because of decisions we made the grizzly bear was a threatened species. We are very pleased with where that species is now not only in terms of Yellowstone National Park but the ecosystem overall." The article notes that the FWS is "conducting a threat assessment to see if the Yellowstone grizzly can be removed from the Threatened and Endangered Species List – something that shows how successful the work has been – and how adaptable the grizzly bear population is."

GROUPS CRITICIZE PROPOSAL TO DELIST BEETLE. KCET-TV Los Angeles (5/9, 15K) reports that the FWS is proposing to take the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle off the Endangered Species Act's Threatened list, but two leading environmental groups are charging that the move is based on politics rather than science. The Center for Biological Diversity and the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation on Tuesday urged the FWS to "abandon its move to delist" the beetle. The groups claim that "the scientific justification for the proposal to remove the beetle from ESA protection is flawed, based on shoddy and unsubstantiated records of the beetle's presence, as well as factually inaccurate statements from real estate developers in beetle habitat."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

COVERAGE CONTINUES OF DOE WIND GRANTS. In continuing coverage, the Philadelphia Inquirer (5/9, Bauers, 1.64M) reports that "a proposal to build an offshore wind farm about three miles east of Atlantic City could be back in the race to become the nation's first." The Energy Department on Wednesday "announced that the New Jersey project would receive up to $47 million in funding over the next four years – a quarter of the $188 million plan." The Inquirer notes "financial feasibility had been the main issue when, in March, the state Board of Public Utilities rejected the plan. Fishermen's Energy asked for a reconsideration, which was rejected" last month. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said, "Offshore wind offers a large, untapped energy resource for the United States that can create thousands of manufacturing, construction, and supply-chain jobs across the country, and drive billions of dollars in local economic investment."

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (5/9, Larino, 678K) notes that "Keystone Engineering will design and build the wind turbine foundations for two of the projects selected, the Fisherman's Energy project offshore Atlantic City, N.J. and the Dominion Virginia Power project offshore Virginia Beach, Va." According to a DOE statement, "both the New Jersey and Virginia projects were chosen because of the unique and inexpensive foundations they intended to use."

FuelFix (5/8, Tresaugue, 7K) also provides coverage of this story.

BLOCK ISLAND WIND FARM RECEIVES FIRST MAJOR PROJECT PERMITS. The Block Island (RI) Times (5/9) reports that Deepwater Wind has received important environmental approvals for the Block Island offshore wind pilot project. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management issued Deepwater Wind Water Quality Certificates, "deeming the Block Island Wind Farm and Transmission System in compliance with state water quality regulations and the Clean Water Act." Also, RIDEM issued the project "a Freshwater Wetland permit for certain onshore construction activities."

Also reporting on the story is reNews (5/9).

Onshore Energy Development:

INDIAN RIGHTS ATTORNEYS CONTEND TREATIES GIVE THEM A SAY ON PIPELINE ROUTE. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/9, Shaffer, 1.48M) reports that "in a new battlefront over energy policy, American Indian rights attorneys" made the case on Wednesday "before a Minnesota judge that historic treaties give tribes a say in where to build crude oil pipelines across land ceded by the Chippewa in the 19th century." Attorney for the group Honor the Earth, Frank Bibeau said, "Everybody has kind of forgotten what our rights are, and that is why we are here." The group "says the proposed $2.6 billion Sandpiper crude oil pipeline across northern Minnesota will produce 'inevitable oil spills and environmental degradation' on ceded lands" and that "spills could endanger Rice Lake near McGregor and Sandy Lake in Aitkin County where Indians gather wild rice." The "attorneys are arguing" for the first time in the state "that the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) lacks unilateral authority to approve pipelines."

Offshore Energy Development:

BEAUDREAU PRAISES INDUSTRY ON POST-MACONDO IMPROVEMENT. The Offshore Energy Today (5/9) reports that Tommy Beaudreau looked "back on the post-Macondo years during a talk titled 'The Latest Offshore Policy Developments in the Department of the Interior.'" When asked if Macondo is "now in the past," Beaudreau responded, "We carry the lessons with us every day. There is a need for constant vigilance to avoid complacency." Looking forward, Beaudreau "outlined several areas of continued development." He said, "The Gulf of Mexico will always be the centerpiece of the US offshore energy portfolio. It's one of the most mature basins in the world in terms of infrastructure and one of the most robust in terms of industry performance. Its here to stay and will be here for a long time."

Companies Say Collaboration On The Rise On Offshore Gulf Safety Issues. Platts (5/9, 2K) reports that "oil and natural gas producers operating in challenging offshore environments have learned to work more closely together to improve safety in the wake of the fatal 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident in the Gulf of Mexico, executives said on the sidelines of the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston on Thursday." The article notes that "in response to the disaster, the US reformed its offshore regulatory regime," creating the BSEE to police the industry, and "the accident also resulted in the creation of the industry-led Center for Offshore Safety, which opened in Houston in October 2011." Also," offshore operators themselves are working more closely together than had been the case before the accident and in its immediate aftermath."

OFFSHORE REGULATORS VOW TO KEEP WATCH ON SAFETY INFRACTIONS. The FuelFix (5/8, 7K) reports that maritime and drilling regulators pledged Thursday to keep a closer eye on oil firms and contractors they say are "consistently cutting corners on safety offshore." Brian Salerno, director of the BSEE, and the Coast Guard's assistant commandant for prevention policy, Rear Adm. Joseph Servidio, "delivered that message directly to oil industry representatives on the final day of the Offshore Technology Conference." Salerno said, "There are companies we have encountered that think they can cut corners or regard SEMS as just a plan on a shelf. In some tragic cases, lives have been lost — needlessly — for failure to follow established safety processes."

Also covering the discussion are the Marine Link (5/9, 1K) and the Rigzone (5/9, 8K).

INDUSTRY RAISES CONCERNS IN ATLANTIC OCS G&G COMMENTS. The Oil and Gas Journal (5/9, Snow, 1K) reports that the BOEM's "preferred alternative for new geologic and geophysical (G&G) activity on the

South and Mid-Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf contains arbitrary and unnecessary restrictions, three national oil and gas associations said on May 7." The American Petroleum Institute, National Ocean Industries Association, and International Association of Drilling Contractors "raised the objection in comments they jointly submitted on BOEM's final programmatic environmental impact statement for what would be the first G&G surveys on the Atlantic OCS since the 1980s." The associations said, "Because G&G activities have little documented impact on marine mammals, the mitigation measures endorsed by Alternative B employ speculation to impose potentially substantial operation and economic burdens on future G&G activities that undermine Congress's clear policy mandate that the Department of the Interior facilitate expeditious development of the OCS."

OP-ED: OFFSHORE RULES CAUSE SOME UNCERTAINTY. For the FuelFix (5/8, 7K), attorney George O. Wilkinson writes that as the BSEE "moves increasingly toward performance-based rules and policies for oil and gas exploration and production operators in the Gulf of Mexico, uncertainty is emerging." Wilkinson claims that "the standards are so broad and their expectations not yet fully defined, which leaves much unknown about what is required." According to Wilkinson, "while BSEE's expectations for operators under the new standards remain unclear at times," BSEE's "ultimate objective" is that Gulf of Mexico operators "implement internal policies, procedures and work practices so that work is conducted without safety or environmental incidents."

STUDY SAYS OIL INDUSTRY COULD WASTE OVER A TRILLION DOLLARS ON UNNECESSARY DRILLING PROJECTS. The Hill (5/9, Cama, 237K) reports that according to a new study by Carbon Tracker Initiative, "the oil industry could waste up to $1.1 trillion in the next decade on unnecessarily expensive drilling projects, such as those in the Arctic and deep water." According to Bloomberg News, "that's the total that oil explorers would have to spend through 2025 on projects that would require oil prices of at least $95 a barrel just to break even." The study says that oil companies don't "need to spend that money, because the amount of oil that the world could consume without warming the planet to dangerous levels is available from less expensive places that can be developed for $75 a barrel."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

REP. MCCLINTOCK CRITICIZES RELEASES FROM DAMS ON AMERICAN, STANISLAUS RIVERS. For Breitbart (5/8, 356K), Rep. Tom McClintock writes that on the House floor the release by the BOR of "more than 70,000 acre feet of water from dams on the American and Stanislaus rivers in Northern California was highlighted." According to McClintock, "the water releases were made to meet environmental demands that place fish above people." He claims that "these releases were made in spite of a devastating drought and dwindling water supply where the water will be desperately needed this summer."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR OPPOSES BILL TO END OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE. The Nation Sun News (5/9) reports that the Interior Department "opposes a bill to eliminate the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, an official said on Thursday." The article notes that "OST has gone without a leader for five and a half years." However, "getting rid of the agency will hinder trust reform efforts at the Interior Department, the administration said in testimony to the House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs."

Top National News:

OBAMA APPEARS AT A SERIES OF FUNDRAISERS HOSTED BY TECH EXECS IN CALIFORNIA. President Obama's appearances in California on Thursday generated relatively little national media coverage, and were not mentioned during any of the three network newscasts Thursday evening. Coverage this morning focuses on the President's relationship with tech executives in Silicon Valley and provides a preview of a speech the President will give today on climate change.

The San Francisco Chronicle (5/9, Marinucci, Williams, 3.33M) reports that on Thursday, President Obama "came to Silicon Valley in full campaign mode...warning guests at a downtown San Jose fundraiser that a Republican victory in the November midterm elections would be a disaster for the country."

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (5/9, Richman, 696K) reports that the President attended two fundraisers on

Thursday, including one at the Los Altos home of Google's Sergey Brin and his wife, Anne Wojcicki, "who is CEO of her own company, 23andMe, which sold genetic testing kits until barred from doing so by the Food and Drug Administration." According to the Mercury News, Wojcicki "hosted an exclusive tech round table for 20 – at $32,400 per head, a total haul of $648,000 for the Democratic National Committee --" but "the White House declined to even identify the high-rollers who sat around Wojcicki's table with the president." The Hill (5/8, Sink, 237K) reported that Wojcicki's 23andMe "recently stopped selling its $99 home DNA testing kit after" the FDA "issued a public warning letter cautioning false results could prompt users into taking unnecessary medical actions."

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (5/9, Richman, 696K) reports that the President appeared later at a "bigger gathering" in San Jose "co-hosted by Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer and Y Combinator president Sam Altman."

Reuters (5/9, Holland) covers the President's appearances in California on Thursday under the headline "Obama Turns To Tech Leaders For Cash For Democrats." In an analysis for the AP (5/9) titled "Obama Popular In Tech World, Policies Less So," Jim Kuhnhenn writes, "Silicon Valley recoils at the government's cyber data-gathering" and "bristles at new potential Internet rules," but President Obama "remains a popular political figure in Silicon Valley, and the wealthy tech entrepreneurs appear willing to part with their money to support the Democratic Party, especially if the president is making the pitch." Kuhnhenn notes that "Silicon Valley executives...have been pushing for an overhaul of immigration laws, partly to secure more H1B visas for high-tech workers."

Bloomberg News (5/9, Keane, 2.76M) reports that when "asked about fundraising...from technology industry executives who are seeking regulatory action from the Obama administration," Deputy White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest "defended the practice," saying, "There's no reason to think that that policymaking process is affected by the political activities of those involved."

U-T San Diego (5/9, Hall, 648K) reports that the President "visited La Jolla for a few hours Thursday for a lunchtime fundraiser at Qualcomm co-founder Irwin Jacobs' house." Bloomberg News (5/9, Keane, 2.76M) reports that at the La Jolla fundraiser, "guests paid as much as $32,400 per couple to hear Obama" and House Minority Leader Pelosi.

The Washington Post (5/9, Goldfarb, 4.22M) reports that in La Jolla on Thursday, the President "acknowledged that the executive actions he has been taking to work around an uncooperative Congress will only go so far in achieving his agenda, and said he needs to win control of the legislative branch." According to the Post, the President's "remarks...were striking because" he "has released high-profile executive actions every few weeks under a self-declared 'Year of Action,' meant to bypass" House Republicans.

The Los Angeles Times (5/9, Olivier, 3.46M) reports that on Wednesday, the USC Shoah Foundation "honored President Obama for his commitment to human rights." Director Steven Spielberg, the foundation's chairman, said, "In the face of acts of inhumanity, President Obama has not stood by. He has staked our claim on shaping a better world. He has said that as long as America can do something, be it military, economic through moral example or even grass-roots inspiration, we will do what we can."

The New York Times (5/9, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Wednesday evening, the President "spoke of the abductions of hundreds of girls by a terrorist group in Nigeria, and he mentioned the civil war in Syria and the suffering imposed on its people," but also "acknowledged that it was not clear how far he should go in using American power to respond to such atrocities." The President is quoted as saying, "Every day when I wake up, and I think about young girls in Nigeria or children caught up in the conflict in Syria – when there are times in which I want to reach out and save those kids – and having to think through what levers, what power do we have at any given moment." The Times says that was "an unusual confession for a president, and Mr. Obama made it at an event where he was receiving an award...for his efforts in fighting genocide around the world."

Obama To Give Speech On Climate Change At A Walmart In California Today. McClatchy (5/9, Cockerham, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that on Friday, President Obama "will seek to make the case...for the urgency of fighting climate change with a speech at a California Walmart, but he's faced with apathy among the public and hostility from congressional Republicans." According to McClatchy, "Just 29 percent...said in a Pew Research poll earlier this year that dealing with global warming is a top priority, ranking it second to last

among 20 issues polled." Nevertheless, McClatchy notes that the White House "expended considerable effort on the subject this week."

The New York Times (5/9, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in his speech on Friday, the President is expected to "announce...a handful of executive actions," which "will not amount to much in terms of energy policy or their impact on global warming." The Times says they are "part of a broader campaign to build public support for an Environmental Protection Agency rule that the White House will unveil in June," which would "limit carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants" and "create a major new market for zero-carbon energy from sources like wind and solar."

Eugene Robinson, in his column for the Washington Post (5/9, 4.22M), says the President "can still have transformational impact" by "working through" the EPA to take "major steps to limit carbon emissions." However, in an op-ed for USA Today (5/9, 5.82M), Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) writes that "in 2009, the American people made it clear that they didn't support the president's plan for more extreme regulations" to address climate change. Barrasso notes that Democrats "held 60 seats in the Senate, but the administration could not pass its climate agenda."

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (5/9, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Steven Hayward of the University of Colorado at Boulder and Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Public Policy, dismisses the National Climate Assessment released by the Administration in Tuesday and touted by President Obama as proof that Americans are already suffering as a result of man-made climate change. Likewise, in an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/9, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) contends that the NCA was crafted to manipulate public opinion rather than present the science on the subject straightforwardly.

USA Today Blames GOP Voters For Inaction On Climate Change. USA Today (5/9, 5.82M), in an editorial, says while "not all that long ago, leading Republicans took strong positions on climate change," today "it's difficult to find a Republican candidate willing to speak out in favor of doing something" because "anyone who does so risks defeat in GOP primaries, where ardent climate change skeptics hold sway."

White House Plans Messaging To Appeal To Democrats' Base. The Wall Street Journal (5/9, Lee, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the White House plans for the President to assist Democratic candidates in the months leading up to November's midterm election by targeting demographic constituencies that backed the Obama campaign in 2012, including minorities, younger voters and women.

HOUSE PANELS SUBPOENAS SHINSEKI OVER COVER-UP OF DELAYS AT VA CLINICS. The New York Times (5/9, Oppel, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Thursday, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs "voted...to subpoena the head of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki, and other top officials, stepping up scrutiny of the agency amid accusations that secret waiting lists were used to cover up long delays that veterans faced to see doctors." The Times says the panel "asked for all emails from April 9 to May 8 sent to or from Mr. Shinseki; Dr. Robert A. Petzel, the department's undersecretary for health; Will A. Gunn, the department's general counsel; and five other senior officials." According to the Times, "The accusations in Phoenix – and similar claims that have surfaced in Colorado and Texas – have snowballed into a new test for" Shinseki, and this week, the American Legion "called for Mr. Shinseki's resignation."

At the opening of the CBS Evening News (5/8, lead story, 2:25, 5.08M), Jeff Glor reported that Shinseki vowed that all of the "more than 1,700 veterans' medical centers across the country...will be visited and reviewed" in the wake of "claims [that] up to 40 veterans died waiting for care at a clinic in Phoenix." According to Glor, "Critics say backlogs are spread across the country, and the VA has been covering up the problem." Shinseki was shown saying, "I have directed the undersecretary for health to do a system-wide survey of scheduling practices to ensure we understand what's going on here."

In the lead segment for NBC Nightly News (5/8, lead story, 3:40, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that "there are calls for [Shinseki] to resign," but "he's trying to hang on and keep his job." Williams said Shinseki faces "charges of a shameful record of medical care for some of our returning vets including neglect and mistreatment – and in some cases veteran haves died as a result." Correspondent Jim Miklaszewski reported that Dr. Samuel Foote, who "works for the VA...was the first to allege that in an effort to improve records, hospital officials kept a secret unofficial list of veterans who sought medical care." Foote: "This was basically an elaborate scheme to

cover up patient wait times and cover up patients that we didn't have providers for. Again, the main problem was we had a huge demand and we had relatively limited supply of service."

On ABC World News (5/8, story 2, 2:05), Diane Sawyer also reported on "the growing national outrage about what has happened to American veterans inside VA hospitals." Correspondent Jim Avila went on to report that "it's not just Phoenix," and that the VA is "investigating 23 other deaths at 13 other VA hospitals nationwide."

The Washington Post (5/9, 4.22M) reports that on Thursday, House Veterans Affairs Chairman Jeff Miller "demanded to know why the VA took eight days to order the preservation of all potential electronic and paper evidence of the alleged cover-up after he requested the action at an April 9 hearing."

Reuters (5/9, Lawder) reports that on Thursday, Miller said, "The last few weeks have been a model of VA stonewalling, which precipitated the need for a subpoena." Reuters notes that Senate Minority Whip Comyn and Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) have also urged Shinseki to resign.

But the AP (5/9, Jelinek) reports that Shinseki "brushed aside calls for his resignation and got an unexpected political lifeline" from House Speaker Boehner, who said, "I'm not ready to join the chorus of people calling on him to step down." The AP says the controversy stems from the VA's "seemingly endless backlog and exceedingly long delays for treatment."

The Wall Street Journal (5/9, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee has scheduled a hearing on the controversy for next Thursday.

USA Today (5/9, Zoroya, 5.82M) notes that it "reported this week that an internal Veterans Affairs investigation uncovered how employees at a VA outpatient clinic in Fort Collins, Colo., had been trained to falsify records so that wait times for patients appeared to fall within the department's standard of 14 days."

The Christian Science Monitor (5/9, Mulrine, 566K) also points out that there have been "reports that...VA offices around the country falsified reports about how long patients are waiting to get appointments to see physicians."

HOUSE APPROVES RESOLUTION TO FORM SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI. Two of the three network news broadcasts, which have been largely silent on the House's inquiry into the attacks on the US Consulate in Benghazi, reported on the House vote late Thursday to form a select committee to investigate the attacks. While NBC's report was brief, CBS's report was longer and focused largely on Democratic objections to the probe and the NRCC's efforts to use the investigation as a fundraising tool. Much of the print coverage this morning focuses on Democrats' consideration of whether to boycott the panel.

Brian Williams reported on NBC Nightly News (5/8, story 6, 0:30, 7.86M) that the House has "voted to establish a select committee on Benghazi." The vote "was 232 to 186 along party lines. Republicans overwhelmingly supported it. Most Democrats were opposed."

Nancy Cordes reported on the CBS Evening News (5/8, story 4, 2:20, Glor, 5.08M) that even before the vote, "Democrats were threatening to boycott the new Benghazi committee." While Republicans "insist they are only trying to obtain information they believe is being withheld by the White House," that argument "is being complicated by a fund-raising plea on the website of the National Republican Congressional Committee. 'You can become a Benghazi watchdog right now,' it says for a minimum suggested donation of $25." Cordes noted that House Speaker Boehner "sidestepped a trio of questions about the fund-raising effort." Fox News' Special Report (5/8, 2.15M) also briefly reported on the House vote.

The Wall Street Journal (5/9, Crittenden, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the House vote has opened another front in the partisan fight over Benghazi.

In its "Floor Action" blog, The Hill (5/8, Marcos, Berman, 237K) reported that the vote set the stage "for what will likely be a contentious investigation this summer." The Hill also noted that the seven Democrats who voted in favor of the committee – Reps. Ron Barber (D-AZ), John Barrow (D-GA), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Patrick Murphy (D-FL), Collin Peterson (D-MD), Nick Rahall (D-WV), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) – all "serve in districts that lean Republican, and six are facing tough reelection races."

Similarly, Politico (5/9, French, 73K) reported that the "sharply partisan vote," set the stage "for a contentious summer full of hearings," adding that it "marks a comeback for an issue that Republicans have resurrected in recent weeks, further polarizing Congress ahead of the midterm elections."

Roll Call (5/9, Newhauser, 76K) reported that observers believe creation of the select committee "will keep the issue in the public eye well into next year."

The Washington Times (5/9, Sherfinski, McLaughlin, 455K) reports that the panel will "put the issue back into the headlines as lawmakers gear up for midterm elections," and notes that Democrats say "election politics was part of the Republicans' motivation and accused them of using the issue to raise campaign funds."

USA Today (5/9, Davis, 5.82M) reports that while Republicans accuse the Administration of "purposefully obfuscating the circumstances surrounding the attack because it occurred in the final weeks of President Obama's reelection campaign," Democrats argue that Republicans "are using the select committee to gin up their base ahead of the 2014 midterm elections," and cite an email solicitation sent Wednesday by the NRCC "that invoked the Benghazi attacks," as evidence of the GOP's "political motivations." USA Today notes that Boehner "avoided repeated questions by reporters on Thursday on whether the campaign operation was acting appropriately."

McClatchy (5/9, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that while members of both parties "have been critical" of the NRCC fundraising effort, Boehner "wouldn't give a direct answer Thursday when asked whether it's appropriate." The piece provides a transcript of Thursday's news conference during which Boehner replied to three separate questions about the appropriateness of the NRCC fundraising by saying the focus on the probe is getting answers for the families of those who were killed in the attack and for the American people.

The Huffington Post (5/8, McAuliff, 11.54M) noted that several Democrats "pointed out that GOP candidates and committees were already raising money off the probe." Republicans replied "that Democrats were already raising money off the probe, too, and disparaged them for criticizing the GOP."

The AP (5/9, Klapper, Cassata) reports that Democrats are "weighing a boycott," but are "divided" over the issue. While they are "concerned that their participation would grant legitimacy to what they believe will be a partisan forum," they "worry that if they avoid it they won't have the chance to counter GOP claims and defend potential witnesses – including [former Secretary of State] Clinton, a possible 2016 presidential candidate."

The Washington Post (5/9, Lowery, 4.22M) reports that Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) "has privately advised Democrats that it would be wise to boycott the committee, prompting calls from several prominent Democrats for the party to boycott the panel altogether." However, Democrats' "public rhetoric" has "softened as the week has progressed, with several prominent Democrats saying Thursday that they are open to participating on the panel, at least partly." Meanwhile, Republican aides, "who say that GOP House leaders want the committee to be perceived as legitimate and not overtly political, have continually insisted that they think the Democrats will take part in some way."

Politico (5/9, Sherman, 73K) reported that Democrats will meet Friday to discuss whether to participate on the committee. Politico noted that while House Minority Leader Pelosi "was thinking of boycotting the panel," in "Democratic circles – in private meetings, and conversations throughout the Capitol – the tide has turned," as Democrats "want to be there to respond to Republicans, and stand up for the administration." Democrats know Republicans are "certain to call" Clinton, and "if there are no Democrats present," she "would be walking into a minefield."

More Commentary. An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/9, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues that the creation of the select committee would not have been necessary if the Administration had been truthful about the attack from the start.

In an editorial, the New York Times (5/9, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) blasts the select committee, calling it an effort by Republicans to expose "nonexistent malfeasance on the part of the Obama administration," in an attempt to "rouse the most fervent anti-Obama wing of the party and keep it angry enough to deliver its donations

and votes to Republicans in the November elections." The Times argues that Democrats "shouldn't hesitate to skip" the committee, as their presence "would only lend legitimacy to a farce."

In a piece for Politico Magazine (5/9, 633K), Rich Lowry writes that Democrats "are in the grips of Benghazi denial," believing that "the Republican notion of a scandal is a complete hoax."

In an op-ed for USA Today (5/9, 5.82M), Richard Benedetto, who teaches politics and journalism at American University and in The Fund for American Studies program at George Mason University, tat Democrats need a Howard Baker-type figure who is "willing to stand up and ask, 'What did the president know, and when did he know it?'" Benedetto adds that while Republicans have repeatedly asked what the President knew, "the question cannot step from behind the shadows of political partisanship until a Democrat also asks." Without such a figure, Benedetto argues, "the major news media – except for Fox News – will continue to play the story that Obama and fellow Democrats are spinning."

In her column for the Wall Street Journal (5/9, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Peggy Noonan decries the media's argument that they are not covering the Benghazi probe because it is not a scandal like Iran-Contra. Noonan agrees that the scandals are not the same, and to make her case, compares the Reagan Administration's handling of Iran-Contra to the Obama Administration's handling of Benghazi.

In his column for the Washington Post (5/9, 4.22M), Charles Krauthammer writes that the select committee hearings "are a big political risk for Republicans" ahead of the midterm elections. Republicans "stand to benefit from the major issues – Obamacare, the economy, chronic unemployment – from which Benghazi hearings can only distract." On the other hand "botched" hearings "could backfire against the GOP." Nonetheless, "the country deserves the truth," and they will get it "it if the GOP can keep the proceedings clean, factual and dispassionate."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Center Ring At The Republican Circus."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (5/9, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) blasts the House select committee on Benghazi, calling it an effort by Republicans to expose "nonexistent malfeasance on the part of the Obama administration," in an attempt to "rouse the most fervent anti-Obama wing of the party and keep it angry enough to deliver its donations and votes to Republicans in the November elections." The Times argues that Democrats "shouldn't hesitate to skip" the committee as their presence "would only lend legitimacy to a farce."

"How To Fix The Mortgage Market." The New York Times (5/9, New York (NY), Times, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says in an editorial that "for all of its positive attributes," the Senate bill to replace Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac "is fatally marred by two provisions buried in the text." One "could shield most mortgage-market participants from liability for a broad range of transgressions," and another, "ostensibly aimed at preventing the government from meddling in the decisions of mortgage-market participants as to which loans to include in various mortgage securities," could lead to lending discrimination.

"A Coup By Another Name In Thailand." The New York Times (5/9, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that the removal of Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra from office by that nation's Constitutional Court "is almost sure to send the country deeper into crisis" and marks the third removal of the head of government by the court "using dubious legal reasoning" in the last six years. While "many of Ms. Shinawatra's troubles are of her own making," the Times says the removal only deepens and further politicizes divisions, and that what Thailand "needs now is compromise and reconciliation."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Betting On Alibaba's IPO."*** The Washington Post (5/9, 4.22M) says in an editorial that Chinese Internet giant Alibaba's future "depends on continued warm relations" with a Beijing government that has favored it and made it "impossible for competitors such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to operate freely and that, at times, mandate unfriendly regulatory treatment of U.S. firms." The Post says Alibaba's US IPO, "like the U.S.-China relationship more generally...poses a conflict between Americans' democratic values and their economic ambitions."

"On The Alert For Polio." The Washington Post (5/9, 4.22M) says in an editorial that even though "the polio

situation this year has been promising in some places," the World Health Organization has issued its second-ever declaration of an international public health emergency over the spread of wild poliovirus. The Post says WHO took the step due to "the fear that travelers are spreading the wild poliovirus, threatening to export it to nations where it does not now exist. ... The threat of polio spreading is very real and poses a danger not only for their own populations but also for peoples far beyond."

"Mr. Frosh For Attorney General." The Washington Post (5/9, 4.22M) editorial board endorses Maryland state Sen. Brian E. Frosh for the Democratic nomination as Maryland Attorney General, calling Frosh "among the most admired, intelligent, civil and hardworking lawmakers in Annapolis." The Post argues that his primary opponents, Dels. Jon S. Cardin and Aisha N. Braveboy, "are not in Mr. Frosh's league," but notes that Frosh "is not the heavy favorite" in the race, citing "the unpredictability of tiny-turnout elections, as the June 24 primary is expected to be," and noting that "one of his opponents," Cardin, a "lackluster lawmaker" whose uncle is Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), "happens to possess a famous name." The Post concludes that only Frosh "has the political sawy, command of policy and stature to be a superb attorney general."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Obama's Climate Bomb."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/9, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) contends that the National Climate Assessment released by the Administration this week was crafted to manipulate public opinion rather than present the science on the subject straightforwardly.

"Democrats Doth Protest Benghazi." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/9, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues that the House's creation of a select committee to investigate the Benghazi attack would not have been necessary if the Administration had been truthful about the attack from the start.

"China Answers Obama." The Wall Street Journal (5/9, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea near Vietnam this week are a clear response to President Obama's Asia tour, a sign from Beijing that China will continue to assert itself regardless of American opinion.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Omnicom And Publicis Call Off Merger
Stumbling Search Torments Nigerian Parents
Draghi Says ECB May Take Action In June
Apple In Talks To Buy Beats Electronics

New York Times:
Off The Record In A Chat App? Don't Be Sure
Medicaid Shift Fuels Rush For Profitable Clients
Ukraine Rebels Push For Vote, Defying Patron
Mayor's Budget Raises Spending Without Big Cuts
Recalled Used Cars Roam The Roads As Federal Legislation Stalls
Nicaragua Sugar Workers Fall To Illness That Baffles Experts

Washington Post:
Fight Over Mortgage Giants Hits Investors
Defiance On Vote In East Ukraine
Employment Tests Automate 1st Impressions
Anbar, A Deadly Iraqi Battleground, Rages Anew
GOP Leaders Are Calling, And Pence Is Listening

Financial Times:
Apple In Talks For $3.2bn Beats Deal

Publicis-Omnicom $35bn Ad Deal Unravels
Barclays Retreats From Investment Banking
Merkel Backs EU Telco Consolidation
Snapchat Settles Privacy Complaint
ICE Boss Wants To Simplify Stocks Trading
Draghi Dangles Hope Of Monetary Easing

Washington Times:
House Votes To Create Special Panel For Benghazi Investigation
Republicans' Secret Debate About Debates: RNC Panel Huddles To Devise Rules, Penalties
Cornhusker Clash: Nebraska Sees Nasty Fight In GOP Senate Primary
House Panel Snuffs Out Tobacco Ban For Military Bases
Golden Hammer: GSA Has No Idea How Much Fuel Its Fleet Is Wasting

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Extreme Weather; Veterans Affairs Scandal; NBA-Donald Sterling Scandal; Nigeria-Kidnapped School Girls; Ukraine Crisis; Mexico-Earthquake; Egypt-Sandstorm; Sperm Donor Custody Battle; Online Shopping Investigation; Health-Fruit.
CBS: Veterans Affairs Scandal; Extreme Weather; Nigeria-Kidnapped School Girls; Benghazi Investigation; 9/11 Museum-Unidentified Remains; Philadelphia-Cheating Scandal; Ukraine Crisis; Syria-Hotel Bombing; Health-DNA Breakthrough; NBA-Donald Sterling Scandal; FTC-Snapchat Settlement; Egypt-Sandstorm.
NBC: Veterans Affairs Scandal; Extreme Weather; Nigeria-Kidnapped School Girls; Syria-Hotel Bombing; Ukraine Crisis-Benghazi Investigation; Mexico-Earthquake; NBA-Donald Sterling Scandal; Weather-El Nino; Health-Anger Management.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Obama-San Jose Fundraiser; NBA-Donald Sterling Scandal; Nigeria-Kidnapped School Girls; Veterans Affairs Scandal.
CBS: Veterans Affairs Scandal; Benghazi Investigation; Ukraine Crisis; Oklahoma-Death Penalty Probe; CDC-Syphilis; Wall Street.
FOX: Veterans Affairs Scandal; Extreme Weather; Nigeria-Kidnapped School Girls; Afghanistan-CIA To Close Satellite Bases; Alaska-Suspected Murders Banished From Tribe; Sports-NBA Playoffs; HHS Secretary Nominee-Senate Hearing; Health-Fruit.
NPR: Benghazi Investigation; Nigeria-Kidnapped School Girls; Extreme Weather; Vermont-GMO Food Labeling Law; Sports-NBA Playoffs; Sports-NFL Draft.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President delivers remarks, Walmart, Mountain View, CA, open to pre-credentialed media; departs California en route Washington, DC, open to pre-credentialed media; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives the White House, South Lawn, open press. Notes: Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz will gaggle aboard Air Force One.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will attend an event for the South Carolina Democratic Party at the Capital City Club. This event is closed press. The Vice President will deliver the commencement address at the University of South Carolina. The Vice President's remarks at this event are open press.
US Senate: Not in session.
US House: 9 a.m. – House will meet for legislative business.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Government Operations, "Mixed Signals: The Administration's Policy on Marijuana, Part Three." Location: 2154 Rayburn. Notes: Rescheduled

from May 8.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – Markup: H.R. 4586, H.R. 4587, H.R. 4573, H. Res. 573. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY – 10 a.m. "Space Traffic Management: How to Prevent a Real Life Gravity." Witnesses: Lt Gen. John "Jay" Raymond, Commander, 14th Air Force, Air Force Space Command; and Commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command; George Zamka, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Commercial Space Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration; Robert Nelson, Chief Engineer, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission; P.J. Blount, Adjunct Professor, Air and Space Law, University of Mississippi School of Law; Brian Weeden, Technical Advisor, Secure World Foundation. Location: 2318 Rayburn.
Other: ROCKET CONTEST – May 9 – 10. Hundreds of middle and high school students from across the country travel to the nation's capital for the championship round of the Team America Rocketry Challenge. Highlights: 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Students will showcase their rockets on Capitol Hill during "Rockets on the Hill," TARC's third annual pre-event reception that brings teams together with STEM advocates and their elected representatives in Congress. 902 Hart. Notes: Day-of media contact: Ashley Gudzak, 904-651-2364 (cell), ashley.gudzak@aia-aerospace.org; Michal Miller, 703-963-6842 (cell), aiarockets@gmail.com

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS SUMMIT – May 8 – 9. Some of the country's top communications and public affairs officers are scheduled to speak at the 5th National Summit on Strategic Communications. Location: Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle.

U.S. CHAMBER – GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE – 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce along with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group; Rio Tinto; and the ONE Campaign will host, "Infrastructure Week Goes Global," an event that will explore ways in which infrastructure investment in developing countries can spur economic growth. Speakers: Sam Walsh AO, Chief Executive, Rio Tinto; Jin-Yong Cai, Executive Vice President and CEO, International Finance Corporation; Fred Hochberg, Chairman, U.S. Export-Import Bank; Mary Andringa, CEO, Vermeer; Michael Elliott, President and CEO, ONE Campaign. Credentialed media registration: email press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682. Location: IFC Auditorium, 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Notes: The event is part of Infrastructure Week 2014, a series of events focusing on the critical need to modernize the country's aging infrastructure.

FORUM ON DIGITAL INNOVATION – 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. D.C. "How USDA's Risk Management Agency has applied sophisticated data analytics to help produce a billion dollars in cost-avoidance after Congress mandated the use of a data warehouse and data-mining to improve crop insurance program compliance and integrity." Keynote speakers: David A. Lebryk, commissioner, U.S. Department of the Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service; Tom Dohrmann, director, McKinsey Center for Government. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. Contacts: Greg Muraski, gmuraski@rhsmith.umd.edu, 301-892-0972

U.S. CHAMBER – HEALTHCARE VALUE – 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. U.S. Chamber to highlight private sector efforts to realize greater value in healthcare. The second in a four-part series, this event will explore healthcare solutions proposed in the second chapter of the Chamber's Healthcare Solutions Council report, which was released in June of last year. Location: 1615 H Street, NW. Notes: Credentialed members of the media are invited to attend. To register, email press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682.

LABOR HALL OF HONOR – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez will formally induct into the Labor Hall of Honor approximately 12,000 Chinese immigrant laborers who worked on the Central Pacific Railroad between 1865 and 1869. The Chinese Railroad Workers are the first Asian Americans to receive such a tribute since the establishment of the Hall of Honor in 1988. Location: U.S. Department of Labor, Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Auditorium, 200 Constitution Ave. NW. Contacts: Jason Kuruvilla, kuruvilla.jason@dol.gov, 202-693-6587. Notes: Media should arrive by 11 a.m. at the guest entrance at Third and C St. NW and sign in at the press table.

PETERSON INSTITUTE – IMF OFFICIAL – 12 p.m. The Peterson Institute for International Economics will host the first public speech by Dr. Changyong Rhee, the new Director of the Asia and Pacific Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Dr. Rhee will present over luncheon the IMF's Spring Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook. Location: 1750 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Notes: RSVP to Yvonne Priestley by

replying to meetings@piie.com.

FUTURE OF GLOBAL HEALTH – 8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Interactive Reception & Discussion Forum. Global Health Council and the Global Health Fellows Program-II host an evening of discussion ("and dancing!") designed to foster communication and partnership between new and established members of the global health community. Location: The Hamilton, 600 14th St. NW. Contacts: Caitlin Holbrook, 716-225-0502.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, in here, out there, all around the world – nation, if you are watching the news you know that we are in the middle of the 2014 midterm primaries, where candidates are fighting for voters' approval so they can go to Congress and lose it immediately."

Stephen Colbert: "The first primary elections were this last Tuesday, and in Ohio, Indiana and North Carolina, tea party candidates lost to establishment Republicans. Folks, it looks like the country club Republicans are going to run everything. They certainly do in my country club."

Jimmy Fallon: "During his speech last night, President Obama said it's important for Democrats to win the midterm elections, because the GOP says 'no' to everything. Republican says, 'No, we . . . good one.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of Obama, a new report shows that the President has visited 45 states during his time in office. When he heard that, Biden was like, 'Wow. He's been to all of them?'"

Seth Meyers: "For the second time in three days, the White House has gone into lock-down after somebody threw an object over the fence. And finally today, President Obama took away Joe Biden's Frisbee."

Seth Meyers: "The situation in Ukraine continues and now NATO is disputing Russian President Vladimir Putin's claims that he withdrew forces from the Ukraine border, while Putin is disputing claims that Ukraine's border actually exists. 'All I see is Russia, baby.'"

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BISON CONNECT

Re: the rest of the answer to the question the Secretary asked on Kreiger Peak

Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> Fri, May 9, 2014 at 7:27 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) os.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov>

Hello Sally. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

A good topic for extended discussion sometime.

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On May 8, 2014, at 4:52 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Dan –
>
> Please read the message below from John Kopchik, leader of the local HCP effort in Contra Costa County. As noted, he feels it has been a great model, but is concerned about FWS backing away from these as a concept. I'd appreciate your thoughts.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Sally
>
> **From:** Walls, Erin [mailto:erin_walls@ios.doi.gov]
> **Sent:** Thursday, May 08, 2014 3:17 PM
> **To:** SRJ
> **Subject:** Fwd: the rest of the answer to the question the Secretary asked on Kreiger Peak
>
> Hi Sally,
>
> John Kopchik sent a follow up message for you.
>
> Thanks,

Erin

On Wed, May 7, 2014 at 7:59 AM, John Kopchik <John.Kopchik@dcd.cccounty.us> wrote:

Hi Jessica and Booch—

The Secretary asked what we thought US Fish and Wildlife Service was doing well with respect to HCPs and what we thought they were not doing so well. Our answer was a little muddled and careful. The full answer is probably worthy of a white paper (and our California HCP Coalition is working on one—though FWS participates in some Coalition activities so the written materials will also be politic). But there is one overall point that I should have made better while hiking back down. FWS was visionary in terms of inventing and promoting regional land use HCPs with local governments, realizing that the landscape approach was best for conservation and permitting and that partnering with locals to implement ESA on the ground was an effective way to leverage thin federal resources (and beat back attacks on ESA in Congress). I am not sure that regional land use HCPs remain a priority at levels higher than Jen's. Part of the problem is tight budget and that is obviously a Congressional issue. But regional HCPs no longer seem to be a high priority for staffing, grant funding and policy leadership. My perspective is admittedly narrow, but I think the HCP program is one of the most powerful tools we have for resolving conflicts between conservation and development and I hope FWS can renew its focus on it.

If you think it appropriate to pass this thought on to the Secretary I would appreciate it. Thank you.

–John

p.s. Bay Nature also published its article:

http://baynature.org/2014/05/06/interior-secretary-contra-costa-habitat-plan-national-model/

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BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, May 12, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, May 12, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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LAST LAUGHS:
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DOI in the News:

WASHINGTON MONUMENT TO REOPEN MONDAY. The Washington Post (5/11, Ruane, 4.22M) reports that on Monday, the Washington Monument will reopen to the public, 994 days after it was damaged by an earthquake. Tours will resume at 1:00 p.m.

CBS News (5/12, 5.21M) reports that "the biggest challenge was money," and "billionaire investor David Rubenstein gave it." Rubenstein "donated $7.5 million – half of the project's cost – to get the work done – and done right."

The AFP (5/12) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This enduring spirit of public-private partnerships has made it possible for visitors to once again enjoy the Monument and its unmatched view of Washington." Jewell will "attend a reopening ceremony attended by US celebrities, with accompaniment by the United States Navy Band."

Also covering the story are the AP (5/12), the Washington Times (5/12, Somers, 455K), the Los Angeles Times (5/12, Clozel, 3.46M), Reuters (5/12), the Orlando (FL) Sentinel (5/9, 850K), the DCist (5/11, 21K), and WJZ-TV Baltimore (5/9, 36K).

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITING ST. LOUIS TO VIEW ARCH PROJECT WORK. The AP (5/12) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is scheduled to visit St. Louis with Vice President Joe Biden. The two will be in St. Louis on Tuesday and will visit the CityArchRiver project at the Gateway Arch.

AP coverage was also picked up by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (5/11, 1.02M), the Fort Mill (SC) Times (5/10, 54K), KMOV-TV St. Louis (5/11, 91K), and KMOX-TV St. Louis (5/10, 15K).

Also reporting on the story is the St. Louis Public Radio (5/12) and KPLR-TV St. Louis (5/10, 2K).

SECRETARY JEWELL HANDS OUT DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR VALOR AWARDS. At an honors ceremony, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell handed out awards to 17 NPS employees and three private citizens for bravery. Coverage was provide by the Las Vegas Review-Journal (5/12, 437K), the Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (5/9, 338K), and the Deseret (UT) News (5/11, 610K).

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO VET INTERIOR NOMINATIONS. The National Journal (5/12, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will wade into confirmation hearings Tuesday. The panel will "convene to vet" the nominations of Suzette Kimball to become the director of the USGS and Estevan Lopez as commissioner of the BOR.

POVERTY POINT'S NOMINATION AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE IN DOUBT. The Monroe (LA) News Star (5/10, 107K) reports that Poverty Point Historic Site's nomination as a World Heritage Site has "suffered a serious blow following a recommendation that it be deferred, although state and federal officials believe they can overcome the recommendation." Sen. Mary Landrieu, who has "been lobbying for Poverty Point, didn't address the recommendation to defer, but did issue" a statement, saying: "I will continue to advocate aggressively on Poverty Point's behalf. I have asked the Department of Interior to send a high level government official to the World Heritage Convention ... so that Poverty Point gets the fair consideration it deserves. Poverty Point is a historic jewel for our state and nation, and I am very appreciative of all that local, state and our federal officials are doing on its behalf."

REP. BISHOP NEARS RELEASE OF "FRAMEWORK" FOR PUBLIC LANDS IN UTAH. The Environment & Energy Publishing (5/11, 705) reports that Utah Rep. Rob Bishop said last Thursday that "he plans to release a 'legislative framework' by late summer for a bill that would designate new wilderness and recreation areas, open new lands to drilling and swap federal and state lands in eastern Utah." Bishop said he "remains optimistic that conservationists, ATV and bicycle riders, energy companies, Utah, its counties and the Navajo Nation can agree on how to settle protracted land disputes in the region." In an interview, he said, "It surprises me that they're still optimistic and positive and willing to talk. I actually still think we're on the path to get something amazing accomplished."

SCOTUS ASKED TO RULE ON RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF MEMORIAL CROSS. In his "The High Court" blog for the Washington Post (5/12, 4.22M), Robert Barnes writes that the Supreme Court ruled last week that

"nonbelievers and those of other religions had no reason to be unduly disturbed if a government meeting opened with a Christian prayer," but Barnes adds that the court has been asked to rule on the religious significance of crosses, noting that some residents of San Diego "look to the hills of Mount Soledad and see a giant lighted cross that has been adopted by Congress as a national war memorial," while others "see it as a poke at their faith, or lack thereof, in direct conflict with the constitution's prohibition against government establishment of religion." Defenders of the cross, built in 1954 "and the subject of 25 years of litigation, have asked the Supreme Court to review a district court's decision that it must be dismantled."

Legal Group Celebrates Religious Court Victories. The New York Times (5/12, Eckholm, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports from Scottsdale, AZ about the Alliance Defending Freedom, with a $40 million annual budget, 40-plus staff attorneys, "and hundreds of affiliated lawyers," which "has emerged as the largest legal force of the religious right, arguing hundreds of pro bono cases across the country." The Alliance "has helped shift the emphasis of religious freedom enshrined in the Constitution." The Times notes that for decades, "courts leaned toward keeping religion out of public spaces," but now, "thanks to cases won by the alliance and other legal teams focused on Christian causes, the momentum has tilted toward allowing religious practices with fewer restrictions." Last week the Alliance "celebrated a major victory in the Supreme Court, where a client, the Town of Greece, N.Y., won the right to open council meetings with mainly Christian prayers."

DROUGHT EXTENDS FIRE SEASON IN CALIFORNIA. The CBS Evening News (5/11, story 2, 1:35, Glor, 5.08M) reported that the "chronic drought" in California has lead "officials to declare the start of the fire season in all but three counties this weekend." CBS (Evans) says that California's "fire season usually begins in July, but for southern California it never ended. In January, a wildfire destroyed five homes east of Los Angeles during what was supposed to be the rainy season. So far, California has seen 1,355 fires, nearly double a typical year and the forecast is bleak."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE VIEWER. Additional coverage of the National Climate Change Viewer was provided by the Imperial Valley (CA) News (5/11, 1K).

PROFESSOR LOOKS FORWARD TO SECRETARY JEWELL'S ADDRESS AT WHITMAN COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT. In an op-ed for the Walla Walla (WA) Union-Bulletin (5/10, 38K), Bob Carson, who teaches geology and environmental studies at Whitman College, agrees with the choice of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to be the speaker for Whitman College's 2014 Commencement on May 25. Carson lists how the agencies under Jewell's leadership impact the Northwest. He writes that "the land area is huge; the mineral and wildlife resources are critical; and these federal agencies are led by someone who could be anyone's hero: Sally Jewell." Carson concludes that "the greater Walla Walla community, especially Whitman seniors and their families, are fortunate to have her visit."

CONGRESS URGED TO REGAIN SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (5/11, Clark, 11.54M), Jamie Rappaport Clark, President & CEO, Defenders of Wildlife, claims that "stewardship of our natural heritage has gone missing in Congress." According to Clark, "instead of conserving and protecting America's natural resources, many members in Congress seem primarily focused on short term economic gain, regardless of the environmental consequences." Clark concludes that "instead of tired politicking, it would be refreshing to see conservation stewardship once again become the hallmark of our broken and dysfunctional Congress."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DOCUMENTS SHOW ILLEGAL NPS PROJECTS DAMAGE SACRED SITE. The AP (5/11, Foley) reports that NPS officials "approved $3 million in illegal construction projects over a decade that damaged one of the nation's most sacred American Indian burial sites, but few have been punished for the bureaucratic failure, records show." According to investigation documents posted this week on the park service's website, "Phyllis Ewing, the former superintendent of Effigy Mounds National Monument, and subordinate Tom Sinclair repeatedly ignored laws that required archaeological studies and input from tribes before building boardwalks, trails and a maintenance shed at the federally protected site in northeast Iowa." NPS employees "blamed Ewing and Sinclair for pursuing the

illegal developments in a misguided effort to make the site more accessible to those with disabilities."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (5/11, 4.22M), the Denver Post (5/12, 940K). FOX News (5/10, 74.23M), and the US News & World Report (5/10, 645K). Also providing coverage is the Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette (5/12, 147K).

NPS ESTABLISHES STRICT RULES FOR NATIONAL MALL TURF. The New York Times (5/12, Corasaniti, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "with the installation of exquisite, expensive new turf on a little less than half" of the National Mall, the NPS has "established strict rules that include limits on festivals and concerts, and even restrictions on when pickup softball and Frisbee games may be played." The article notes that "the requirements have created an identity crisis for the mall and set off a deeper debate." Bob Vogel, the mall's superintendent, said, "It should be used, and it should be heavily used. It's a place where democracy is in action. But change is difficult on everyone, including us."

OPPOSITION GROWS AGAINST LG HEADQUARTERS BESIDE THE PALISADES. In its "ArtsBeat" blog, the New York Times (5/12, Kimmelman, 9.65M) reports that "opposition keeps growing to a proposed new American headquarters for LG Electronics USA, the tech giant, beside Palisades Park in Englewood Cliffs, N.J." The National Trust for Historic Preservation will announce Monday that it has designated the Palisades as a National Treasure. The article notes that "LG has resisted pleas from, among others, four former New Jersey governors; an alliance of neighboring mayors; Governor Andrew Cuomo and other New York officials; national environmental agencies; and the director of the National Park Service, which administers the Palisades as a National Natural Landmark."

SURVEY FINDS VISITORS TO NATIONAL PARKS DON'T LIKE NOISE. The Los Angeles Times (5/10, Cart, 3.46M) reports that "visitors to remote areas in national parks consider noise from helicopters or planes an unpleasant intrusion," according to a study conducted jointly by the NPS, the Department of Transportation, and the Federal Aviation Administration, presented at the national meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Providence, R.I. The NPS is "well aware of the impacts of noise on visitor experience." The service has "a mandate to maintain a natural soundscape and in 2000 established a program that considers sound in all of its forms: the natural acoustic environment that includes sounds generated by wind and water as well as sound from battle reenactments or Native American ceremonies."

BICYCLISTS ANGERED OVER ROSSYLN'S "INTERSECTION OF DOOM". The Washington Post (5/11, Weiner, 4.22M) reports that an accident has "revived anger in Rosslyn over what cyclists call 'the intersection of doom' — the point where Lee Highway meets North Lynn Street, and bicyclists coming off the Custis Trail face off against two lanes of cars turning right off Interstate 66 onto the Key Bridge." According to the article, "redesigning the intersection is difficult for the same reason that crossing it is — a highway meets a local road and a national park trail." The article notes that "the Virginia Department of Transportation, the National Park Service and Arlington County all have to agree on a remedy."

RANCHERS WEIGH POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE RANCH PLAN. The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (5/11, 88K) reports that many West Marin ranchers who operate within the Point Reyes National Seashore view the "Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan/Environmental Assessment" as "the preservation of a way of life." The article notes that "longer leases for ranchers is the cornerstone of the plan." According to the article, "among the goals of the plan for the roughly two dozen ranches on 28,000 acres of land: articulate a clear vision for ranching; address concerns related to tule elk impacts; provide a streamlined process for review of proposed ranching activities; and define a process for maintaining ranching if a rancher decides to cease operations, among other issues."

POWER LINE THROUGH DELAWARE WATER GAP NEARLY COMPLETE. The Allentown (PA) Morning Call (5/11, 339K) reports that "construction of the controversial high-power transmission line through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is just about finished, but hard feelings still linger." The NPS' Kathleen Sandt, a spokeswoman for the Delaware Water Gap, said, "It has gone pretty well. They worked through one heck of a winter." However, New Jersey Sierra Club Director Jeff Tittel said, "It's everything we were concerned it would be — an ugly scar cut through [the park]."

DEDICATION SCHEDULED FOR ISLAND LOOP WATER TRAIL. The AP (5/12) reports that Sen. Debbie

Stabenow is "scheduled to speak during the dedication of the Island Loop National Water Trail in Michigan's Thumb region." The ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Bakers Field Park in Port Huron. Interior Department officials "announced last fall that St. Clair County's 10.2-mile-long Island Loop Water Trail had been selected as the first National Water Trail in the state."

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK OFFICIALS SEE GRAFFITI INCREASING. The AP (5/12) reports that "officials in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park say they are seeing an unprecedented increase in graffiti." The article notes that "the problem used to be concentrated along easily accessible trail sections," but trail managers said that "they are now seeing more graffiti in the backcountry including at shelters." Christine Hoyer, backcountry specialist for the Smokies, said, "We have a consistent issue with graffiti at historical structures throughout the park, especially in Cades Cove. What we've seen recently is a rise of graffiti along the Appalachian Trail. The challenge is how to deal with it. If we remove it, are we just providing another canvas?"

NPS TO OFFER TOURS OF CHARLES TOWN. The AP (5/12) reports that the NPS will soon "offer guided tours of sites in Charles Town related to abolitionist John Brown." The walking tours, provided by rangers from Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, will begin Memorial Day weekend.

CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL REOPENS AFTER SEWAGE SPILL. WRC-TV Washington (5/12, 312K) reports that "after five millions of gallons of raw sewage and rain water spilled into the C&O Canal last week, the Capital Crescent Trail has reopened." The article notes that "the trail was closed after last week's storms caused untreated sewer waste to overflow a manhole and enter the canal." The NPS says "the spill actually affected a larger portion of canal, reaching all the way to Sycamore Island above Lock 7."

Also reporting on the story are WUSA-TV Washington (5/9, 95K) and WJLA-TV Washington (5/12, 118K).

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE WILDFIRE. The Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times (5/9, 58K) reports that the Great Smoky Mountains National Park firefighters are "managing a low-intensity, 10-acre wildfire, located just above Rainbow Falls along Rainbow Falls Trail, on the Tennessee side of the park." According to the article, "the fire is slowly spreading, with flame lengths less than 3 feet high, through a pine-oak forest including a fire-dependent Table Mountain Pine stand." However, "firefighters anticipate that the fire will stay confined to the Rocky Spur area due to non-receptive fire fuels across the ridge along with predicted rain."

CLIMBER DIES ON MOUNT MCKINLEY. The AP (5/12, Joling, Le) reports that "a Washington state climber has died descending Mount McKinley after falling down a hard-packed stretch of mountain that has claimed 11 other lives." According to the article, "the body of Sylvia Montag, 39, of Tacoma, was spotted Wednesday night by a helicopter crew after strong winds subsided and allowed flights."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (5/12, 4.22M), USA Today (5/12, 5.82M), and Yahoo! (5/12, Joling, 17.91M) . Also providing coverage is Reuters (5/12, Kaminsky) .

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NAVAJO WOMAN'S RIGHT TO LIVE ON WUPATKI NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage of a Navajo woman's right to live at Wupatki National Monument was provided by NPR (5/12, Morales, 519K).

DECISION TO BAN DRONES AT YOSEMITE SUPPORTED. In an editorial, the Boston Globe (5/11, 1.62M) supports the decision to ban drones at Yosemite National Park. The paper argues that "technology doesn't change the rules of basic etiquette, and cluttering the park's airspace, not to mention its views, is no better than littering." According to the editorial, "this action should be understood in the same spirit as existing rules meant to preserve the park's natural character, not as mere resistance to new technology."

"CRUSADE" AGAINST DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. CRITICIZED. In his column for the Orange County (CA) Register (5/11, 642K), Carl M. Cannon criticizes the "crusade" against the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. Cannon claims that "the problem is that one side rigged the game and is employing guilt-by-association, one of the most despicable (and least authentically liberal) methods of argumentation in the public policy arena." He claims that "if the preservationists prevail they will have done so by Machiavellian motives and tactics (i.e., that the ends

justified the means), and they are not likely to stop at Point Reyes National Seashore."

Bureau of Land Management:

DOZENS OF PROTESTERS RIDE VEHICLES ON FEDERAL LAND IN UTAH YESTERDAY. The AP (5/11) reports that the San Juan County, Utah Sheriff is saying that between 40 and 50 people "rode their ATVs and motorcycles on an off-limits trail in southern Utah" on Saturday as part of a protest over the way the Federal government manages public lands. San Juan County Sheriff Rick Eldredge commented that "It was peaceful, and there were no problems whatsoever," and there were BLM officials present with other local authorities observing the protests.

The Los Angeles Times (5/11, Glionna, 3.46M) reports, "This was the latest challenge by citizens saying they are defending state and local rights against an increasingly arrogant federal government that has overstepped its role in small communities."

The Los Angeles Times (5/12, Glionna, 3.46M) reports that San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman said, "It feels great. That line I crossed was a pretty arbitrary thing." Lyman and "his supporters want the BLM to act more quickly on a years-old request for a public right-of-way through the area."

The Deseret (UT) News (5/11, 610K) reports that BLM Utah director Juan Palma said, "We know from the archaeological record left behind in Recapture Canyon that the area was previously occupied for at least 2,000 years. Illegal ATV use within Recapture Canyon may have damaged many of these archaeological resources — all of which hold the history and tell the story of the first farmers in the Four Corners region."

The Denver Post (5/12, Maffly, 940K) reports that Palma said, "As always, our first and most important priority is the safety of the public and our employees, and our actions today reflect that."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (5/12, 4.22M), the Washington Times (5/12, Griffith, Mccombs, 455K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/11, 687K), the Denver Post (5/12, 940K), the Las Vegas Review-Journal (5/12, 437K), the Arizona Republic (5/10, 1.45M), ABC News (5/12, 3.58M), the US News & World Report (5/10, 645K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (5/12, 83K).

Utah Gov. Herbert, Sen. Hatch Urge Protesters To Follow Laws During ATV Protest. The AP (5/12, Mccombs) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert said "he understands frustration around the issue, but urged people to uphold the law and not disrupt public safety during the protest."

The St. George (UT) News (5/9, 3K) reports that Sen. Orrin Hatch urged "that when the public uses the public land to strive to do so in a peaceful manner." He also encouraged the BLM to "make timely decisions regarding disputes in order to show elected officials and citizens that they are willing to work cooperatively with the public."

Also reporting on the story is the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (5/11, 470K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (5/12, 4.22M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/9, 687K), the Christian Science Monitor (5/12, Mccombs, 566K), the US News & World Report (5/9, 645K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (5/12, 83K).

Additional Coverage. Also providing coverage are the Los Angeles Times (5/12, Glionna, 3.46M), the Christian Science Monitor (5/12, Jonsson, 566K), FOX News (5/10, 74.23M), FOX News (5/10, 74.23M), USA Today (5/12, Hughes, 5.82M), and Reuters (5/12).

Commentary. In his column for the Denver Post (5/12, Willoughby, 940K), Scott Willoughby criticizes the protest.

ELKO COUNTY DECIDES TO INVITE BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE TO COMMISSION MEETING. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (5/11, 22K) reports that "in light of ongoing land conflicts, county commissioners want newly confirmed Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Komze, who grew up in Elko, back for a visit." However,

"members of the board seemed to disagree Wednesday with the tone the county should take in its invitation." Commissioner Grant Gerber "wrote a draft resolution that listed a number of contentious problems on public land and placed fault at the BLM," and "at the conclusion of the document, it invited and pleaded for Komze's participation at a future commission meeting."

BLM RELEASES WILD HORSE GATHER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. The St. George (UT) News (5/10, 3K) reports that the BLM has "released an environmental assessment for public comment pertaining to a wild horse gather in Southern Utah." If approved, the plan will "consist of wild horse gather, removal and fertility treatment in the Bible Spring Complex area over a 10-year period." Megan Crandall, Utah BLM spokesperson said, "It acknowledges that we do have wild horse populations that need adjustment. If we get to the point that the environmental assessment is signed and there's a decision record, that gives us the ability to act quickly when we receive approval to begin making some of those adjustments."

BLM SEEKS BIDS FOR NEW CORRALS FOR WILD HORSES. The AP (5/12, Griffith) reports that the BLM is "soliciting bids for new, short-term holding facilities for wild horses removed from Western rangelands under its ongoing program to thin what it calls overpopulated herds." According to the article, "bids will be accepted until June 2 from contractors interested in operating the corrals in 17 Western and Midwestern states."

BLM APPROVES MINE PROJECT IN NEVADA. The AP (5/12) reports that the BLM has "given final approval to plans for a major mine project in northeastern Nevada." The bureau "announced Friday it has issued a record of decision on the final environmental impact statement for Barrick-Dee Mining Venture's proposed Arturo Mine Project."

BLM TRUCK LIKELY CAUSE OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE. The AP (5/12) reports that "authorities suspect they've found the cause of a wildfire that burned nearly 150 buildings last summer in San Diego County." According to the article, "a state Cal Fire report concludes that the Chariot fire most likely started when a federal Bureau of Land Management Jeep ignited brush."

BLM, AUDUBON SHOWCASE RESCUED BIRDS. The AP (5/12, Heilman) reports that the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society and the BLM presented the second Migratory Bird Day event at the Blackwell Island Boat Launch on Saturday. According to the article, "the free event included several stations where people could learn about birds and discover them in their habitats along the Spokane River."

COMPROMISE REACHED IN DISPUTE BETWEEN MARINES, OFF-ROADERS. The AP (5/12) reports that the Marine Corps and "off-road vehicle enthusiasts will share a rugged patch of desert near the military base at Twentynine Palms under a compromise brokered by Congress." The article notes that "neither side got all it wanted in the nearly decadelong dispute over 200,000 acres of Johnson Valley adjacent to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in the Mojave Desert."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BUNDY RANCH SHOWDOWN. Additional coverage of the Bundy ranch showdown was provided by the Las Vegas Review-Journal (5/12, 437K), Forbes (5/9, 6.28M), and ABC News (5/11, 3.58M).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WESTERN STATES WORRY ABOUT DECISION ON SAGE GROUSE. In its "Govbeat" blog, the Washington Post (5/12, 4.22M) reports on the "years-long battle that pits environmentalists who want the sage grouse protected under the Endangered Species Act against ranchers, gold miners, energy producers and Western state governments that stand to lose billions of dollars in tax revenue and economic activity if tens of millions of acres are blocked off from development, exploration or use." The article notes that "the tension between the federal government and Westerners who want to use government-owned land garnered new attention last month, when the Bureau of Land Management moved to round up cattle owned by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy over more than $1 million in unpaid grazing fees." According to the article, "some state officials fear a decision to list the sage grouse, which would severely limit everything from grazing to energy development on a huge swath of land, could create a slew of new Bundys all over the rural West."

JUDGE ORDERS FWS OFFICIALS TO ACT ON LYNX. The AP (5/12, Brown) reports that "it could take two years or more to finish a long-delayed recovery plan for Canada lynx after a judge ordered the federal government to move forward with the work, a US Fish and Wildlife Service official said Friday." Agreeing with the plaintiffs, US District Judge Donald Molloy on Thursday "gave officials 30 days to propose a schedule for completing the recovery plan." Molloy said "the history of the case raised skepticism about the agency's ability to get the work done without court intervention."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (5/12, 857K) and the Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (5/12, 86K). Additional coverage was provided by The Missoulian (5/12, 122K) and the Ravalli (MT) Republic (5/12, 19K).

KANSAS GOV. BROWNBACK SIGNS BILL AIMED TO PREVENT FEDERAL REGULATION OF LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. The AP (5/12, Hanna) reports that Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback has signed a bill meant to prevent Federal regulation of the lesser prairie chicken. The "State Sovereignty over Non-migratory Wildlife Act" says Kansas has "the sole power to regulate the lesser prairie chicken — along with the larger, darker and more abundant greater prairie chicken — and their habitats within Kansas." The law "authorizes the attorney general or county prosecutors to sue over federal attempts to impose conservation measures."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (5/10, 177K). Also reporting on the story is the Kansas City (MO) Star (5/10, 1.48M).

AGREEMENT REACHED TO PROTECT PURPLE ASTER. The AP (5/12, Henry) reports that "a threatened flower called the Georgia aster that once flourished across the Southeast may find better protection now that a utility company, highway crews and local governments are promising steps to protect it." Federal officials reached a deal with groups including utility company Georgia Power, state highway officials and local government and landholders to agree to steps meant to help save the purple aster. Under the agreement, "those signing the agreement promise not to blanket areas with herbicides, which can kill the aster, and instead spray chemicals only where needed."

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HOSTS YOUTH GAME WARDEN CAMP. The AP (5/12, Mcchesney) reports that forty-two kids went to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge headquarters in Soldotna for the first Youth Game Warden camp. Representatives from the FWS, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the US Forest Service, Alaska State Parks and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "took the weekend to teach students about everything from anatomy, archery, boating safety and wildlife forensics to enforcement, conservation and fisheries management."

US Geological Survey:

USGS INSTALLS NEW SEISMOMETERS IN KANSAS. KWCH-TV Wichita, KS (5/11, 23K) reports that Steve Walter, a geologist with the USGS and geophysicist Jem Erdem "flew out from California May 5th to set up seismometers in Southeast Kansas." Walter said, "We're installing one of seven seismometers that we've put in the area. Earthquakes have seemed to follow the oil development in Kansas as the oil companies have come in and started producing, the earthquakes seemed to come with them from Oklahoma. So we are trying to pin down the relationship, are the earthquakes related to the oil production and if the are what part of it? Also, trying to figure out where these earthquakes are occuring."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CHANGES TO WIND TURBINES SEEN AS NECESSARY TO SAVE BATS. In an op-ed for the New York Times (5/12, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), Rodrigo Medellin, Don Melnick and Mary Pearl, professors of biology at various universities, write that disease and "heedless management of wind turbines" are harming North American bats, "with potentially devastating consequences for agriculture and human health." They write that across the US, wind turbines are "estimated to kill between 600,000 and 900,000 bats a year, according to a recent study in the journal BioScience." They argue that bats are a vital part of the ecosystem, and argue for better management

of wind turbines to reduce deaths.

Onshore Energy Development:

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR VISITS NORTH DAKOTA TO DISCUSS FLARING. The AP (5/11) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor visited Dickinson, North Dakota on Friday to "discuss venting and flaring on public lands with government, tribal and oil and gas officials." Connor's visit is a part of President Barack Obama's Climate Action Plan to create jobs and cut carbon pollution. Connor said "his goal is to have proposed new regulations passed by the end of this year."

The Jamestown (ND) Sun (5/11, 850) reports that Connor and BLM Deputy Director Linda Lance "repeatedly said the BLM will take into account existing regulations, on a federal level with the Environmental Protection Agency, and on a state level, including rules that will soon take effect to reduce flaring."

Also providing coverage is the Grand Forks (ND) Herald (5/11, 87K).

GAO REPORT FINDS THAT BLM FAILED TO INSPECT HIGHER-RISK OIL WELLS. The AP (5/12, Yen) reports that, according to a new GAO report, the BLM "has failed to inspect thousands of oil and gas wells it considers potentially high risks for water contamination and other environmental damage." The report "highlights substantial gaps in oversight by the agency that manages oil and gas development on federal and Indian lands." The GAO audit "also said the BLM did not coordinate effectively with state regulators in New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Utah."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (5/12, 4.22M), Yahoo! (5/12, Yen, 17.91M), PBS (5/12, 1.22M), the Las Vegas Sun (5/11, 148K), and the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (5/12, 22K).

EPA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON POTENTIAL FRACKING RULES. The AP (5/10, 455K) reports that the EPA is seeking public comment on methods to disclose information about the chemicals used in fracking. The AP notes that the comment period is "an advanced notice of proposed new rules, but is no guarantee that the regulations will become law," adding that "the EPA could also propose voluntary steps for energy companies to take."

Reuters (5/10, Volcovici) reports that the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking was a response to environmental group Earthjustice's petition for the EPA to require chemical manufacturers to publish detailed information about the content of the fluids used in fracking and for companies to submit all available health and safety studies on those mixtures.

The Wall Street Journal (5/10, Mundy, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the EPA said that it was open to a voluntarily system of disclosure and will consider keeping some information from reaching the public in order to protect companies' formulas. This story is also reported by Bloomberg News (5/10, Drajem, 2.76M) and The Hill (5/9, Goad, 237K).

Professors: EPA Underestimates Fracking's Impact On Climate Change. Bloomberg News (5/10, Childers, 2.76M) reports that Cornell University Professors Robert Howarth and Anthony Ingraffea said that the EPA has "significantly underestimates the amount and potency of methane emissions, which understates the climate impact of hydraulic fracturing." Ingraffea argues that "the global warming potential of methane is much higher than we thought it was, and the actual emission rates were much higher than we thought they were."

DRILLING NEAR EVERGLADES RAISES CONCERNS. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (5/10, 850K) reports that "a Texas company has been caught using fracking-like blasting methods to drill for oil near the Everglades, raising alarms from state officials and inflaming a long-simmering controversy over energy exploration in the midst of a cherished ecosystem." Sen. Bill Nelson has "urged federal officials to investigate." Also, Florida has fined the firm and "demanded a temporary halt to five new exploratory wells." Meanwhile, "the fracking-like episode drew widespread attention to an emerging oil rush at the western edge of the Everglades, rousing opposition from environmentalists across the state who worry about the impact on water quality and wildlife."

BLM SEEKS COMMENT ON OIL, GAS LEASING PLANS IN NEVADA. The AP (5/11) reports that the BLM is "seeking public comment on their proposal to nominate 193 parcels of public land for potential oil and gas leasing in eastern Nevada." The BLM's Ely District is "analyzing the parcels totaling 406,600 acres to identify potential impacts for an environment assessment." The public has until May 27 to comment.

SOUTH JERSEY INDUSTRIES TO SUBMIT REVISED PIPELINE PROPOSAL TO NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION. The Philadelphia Inquirer (5/10, Maykuth, 1.64M) reports that Edward J. Graham, CEO of South Jersey Industries Inc., said on Friday that the company's "$90 million Pinelands natural gas pipeline project" may be revived despite being rejected by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission (7-7) in January. Graham said that the firm would submit a revised proposal, adding that he hoped the pipeline would be operating by 2016.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT AND NAVAJO MINE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT MEETINGS. Additional coverage of the meetings on the Four Comers Power Plant and Navajo Mine energy project was provided by the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (5/12, 46K).

Offshore Energy Development:

OIL COMPANIES SEEKING ENGINEERS FOR OFFSHORE WORK. The Houston Chronicle (5/10, Adams, 2.23M) reports on employment opportunities for engineers in the field of offshore petroleum, involving exploration and development. Mentioned are engineers "who design the operation and then supervise drilling activities," as well as "environmental engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical and industrial engineers." The oil and gas industry is said to suffer from "critical shortages of engineers."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BEAUDREAU'S LEADERSHIP OF BOEM. Additional coverage of Tommy Beaudreau 's leadership of the BOEM was provided by the Houston Chronicle (5/12, 2.23M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BSEE DIRECTOR SALERNO'S ADDRESS TO OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE. Additional coverage of BSEE Director Salerno's remarks at the Offshore Technology Conference was provided by the Marine Link (5/11, 1K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA MOVES AHEAD WITH BUILDING TWIN TUNNELS. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (5/12, 206) reports that the California Department of Water Resources is "plunging ahead with setting up a design and construction office to oversee building two massive twin water tunnels to suck fresh water from the Sacramento River before it can flow naturally into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and divert it to the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project." According to the article, "the decision is revealed in a memo to DWR employees from department Director Mark Cowin, a copy of which was obtained by CVBT." The decision by DWR was criticized by the environmental group Restore the Delta.

BOR TO PERFORM ROAD GRADING AT BELLE FOURCHE RESERVOIR. The Rapid City (SD) Joumal (5/12, 141K) reports that the BOR will be "performing road grading on gravel roads around the Belle Fourche Reservoir this summer." Jeff Nettleton, chief of facility operation and maintenance and engineering services for the BOR's Dakotas Area Office, said, "Each blading is estimated to take approximately a week and should improve the roads around the reservoir for recreation."

ARIZONA URGED TO ACT ON WATER ISSUES. In an op-ed for the Arizona Republic (5/10, Kyl, Morrison, 1.45M), former Sen. Jon Kyl and Richard Morrison, chairman of the Morrison Institute for Public Policy board of advisers, write that "the economic and social disruption caused by the extreme drought in California has prompted increasing questions about the water future of the West." According to the two, "while there are still some conservation and management methods that can extend our current supplies, in the long run, Arizona is going to need additional water sources." They recommend that "a first order of business is for the state govemment to fully support the state stream adjudication process, ongoing now for 40 years." Also, they suggest that "the state and local governments, private parties, environmental groups and the federal govemment can work more closely and constructively on watershed management, including managing our state and national forests as recommended by the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR EXTENDS BUYBACK OFFERS FOR MAKAH NATION LANDOWNERS. The Nation Sun News (5/11) reports that the Interior Department has made "$1.6 million in buy-back offers to nearly 600 landowners on the Makah Nation in Washington." The offers were extended under the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations. Landowners have until May 30 to respond.

Meanwhile, KGOU-FM Norman, OK (5/12) reports on the "ongoing delays in payments." According to the article, "the same poor record keeping that prompted Eloise Cobell's initial lawsuit appears to be key in explaining" the delays.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN THINKS WASHINGTON REDSKINS SHOULD CHANGE NAME. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/11, 282K) reports that Kevin Washburn, the Interior Department's assistant secretary of Indian affairs, has spoken out against the Washington Redskins' name. Washburn said "the name of the professional football team based in the nation's capital is an affront to American Indians." In an interview, he said, "I think they should change the name. Football shouldn't be something that hurts people's feelings. If the Redskins' name is bothering people, there is just no reason to retain it."

PROFESSOR SUPPORTS TRUST RULE CHANGE FOR ALASKA TRIBES. For the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (5/9, 251K), Alan Boraas, a professor of anthropology at Kenai Peninsula College, writes that the BIA is "prepared to remove regulatory language that has prevented Alaska tribes from putting their lands into BIA trust." He notes that "the Parnell administration has objected to the concept of Indian Country in Alaska, in part because, if enacted, it would erode state authority and create a dual legal system on the small amount of tribal (vs. corporate) lands that would become Indian Country." However, Boraas believes "Indian Country in Alaska will give extra tools for villages to deal with abusers, rein in bootleggers and run bullies out of their villages."

Top National News:

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS OFFER PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BENGHAZI HEARINGS. The formation of a House select committee to probe the September 11, 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks was the subject of a great deal of discussion on the Sunday morning news shows. That debate generated several print and online reports on the two parties' strategies for that panel's hearings. Democrats on Sunday repeatedly asserted that the attacks were being politicized by Republicans to motivate their base, while Republicans insisted that many important questions about the attacks and the Administration's initial erroneous characterization of them remain unanswered. The New York Times (5/12, A12, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Sunday, "House Democrats...made it clear that they do not expect fair proceedings from the Republican-led panel newly tasked with investigating the 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya." The Times notes that on CNN's State Of The Union, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), who also serves as chair of the DCCC, maintained that "the panel's findings had been 'predetermined' by Republicans."

The Washington Post (5/12, 4.22M) reported that on CNN's State Of The Union, Wasserman Schultz and Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN) "traded barbs about the new House select committee." The Post says Wasserman Schultz claimed Republicans "clearly" established the panel in to "drive their turnout." According to the Post, Bachmann objected, saying, "What this committee is doing is taking a very careful look at a very deliberate pace to go through depositions of people on the ground to find out the truth of what's happened." The Daily Caller (5/11, Bordelon, 408K) noted that Bachmann alleged "it's really clear that the Democrats have tried to sabotage this process from the very beginning."

The Washington Post (5/12, 4.22M) reports that on Fox News Sunday, Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC), who is the chairman of the select committee, distanced himself from NRCC "fundraising appeals" that mention the controversy over Benghazi. According to the Post, Gowdy "said he thought the appeals were a bad idea," but added, "It would be helpful if our colleagues on the other side of the aisle did not have selective amnesia when it comes to what's appropriate to raise money off of and what's not." Gowdy said Democrats "raised money on Sandy Hook; they raised money on Katrina; they raised money on Iraq and Afghanistan."

According to The Hill (5/11, Berman, 237K), Democrats "have slammed the National Republican Congressional Committee for sending out a fundraising appeal mentioning the Benghazi panel," and "have argued it supports their claims that the select committee is politically motivated." Politico (5/11, Tau, 73K) reported that "some Republican organizations have moved full speed ahead with fundraising pleas off the attacks, accusing the Obama administration of a cover-up."

The Hill (5/11, Berman, 237K) reports that in an interview that aired on Fox News on Sunday, Speaker Boehner said he "has 'no idea' if the Benghazi select committee he created will subpoena former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton," and also said "there is 'no timeline' for the committee to report its findings." The AP (5/12, Thomas) mentions the renewed interest in Benghazi in an article titled, "For Hillary Clinton, A Re-airing Of Past Episodes."

In an article for the Huffington Post (5/12, Stein, 11.54M) titled, "Hillary Clinton Already Answered The Benghazi Question Trey Gowdy Has For Her," Sam Stein notes that on Sunday, Gowdy said he wants to ask former Secretary Clinton "Why were we still in Benghazi [in September 2012]?" Gowdy noted that in the preceding months, "the British ambassador was almost assassinated" and "our facility was attacked twice." Gowdy is quoted as saying, "We were the last flag flying in Benghazi, and I would like to know why." According to Stein, Clinton answered that question in her January 2013 Senate testimony on Benghazi when she said: "Our team, led by security professionals, but also including intelligence professionals and others, did not recommend, based on those incidents, abandoning Benghazi."

Reuters (5/12) notes Gowdy's questions about why Ambassador Chris Stevens was in Benghazi in September of 2012 under the headline: "New Benghazi Panel Head Asks Why Americans Were In Dangerous Libyan City."

The Washington Times (5/12, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that on Fox News Sunday, Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA), the chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, indicated that House Democrats "will take part in the latest investigation into the Sept. 11, 2012, Benghazi attack." According to the Times, Becerra said, "We've always said we're ready to participate ... based on a fair, balanced and open process. We'll call it the 'Fox standard.'"

The Hill (5/11, Berman, 237K) reported that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi "left for the weekend without naming any Democrats to the panel," after having "told reporters the caucus is split on whether to participate, with some lawmakers urging a boycott on the grounds that the committee is politically motivated and unnecessary."

Mark Sappenfield, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (5/12, 566K) says House Democrats' "biggest incentive to join would be to prevent...Clinton from getting trampled if she's called to testify." However, according to Sappenfield, "the vast majority of Democrats feel no pressure to join the investigation."

The Wall Street Journal (5/12, Hughes, 5.51M) reported on its "Washington Wire" blog that in an appearance on Fox News Sunday Morning Futures, Boehner said, "This is a serious investigation. I don't want theater; I don't want a sideshow. I want the members of this committee to find the facts for the four families who lost their loved ones, and the facts for the American people." The Wall Street Journal (5/12, Crittenden, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) also covers the House Republicans' decision to establish the select committee under the headline, "Benghazi Panel Shows House GOP Flexing Power Of The Probe."

Politico (5/11, French, 73K) reports that Rep. Patrick Meehan, described as "a moderate Pennsylvania Republican," is "still wondering about Clinton's role" in the events leading up to the terrorist attack. Meehan is quoted as saying, "[Clinton] very deliberately moved away the assets that were military and encouraged the ambassador to make a move toward Benghazi during a time that all of the information was showing that it was a very dangerous area and it was very likely American assets, including our own embassy could be a target." Politico goes on to report that Rep. Louis Gohmert (R-TX) says, "I had a private meeting with them Libyans who were initially involved in the ouster of [Qaddafi], and they said 'You Americans keep wanting to know who killed your ambassador, but you should be wanting to know why was he killed.'"

Jay Parini, in a piece for the Daily Beast (5/11, 1.18M) titled, "GOP Hypocrisy: Outraged Over Benghazi, Silent On Iraq," says that "in our fury over Benghazi we've almost forgotten a recent war that destroyed so many families, nearly bankrupted this country (and may yet), and led to a hugely destabilized Iraq that no longer serves as a buffer to Iran." Bloomberg View's Al Hunt, in an op-ed for the International New York Times (5/12,

Subscription Publication, 9.65M), says "the real lesson of Benghazi is how dangerous the aftermath of the overthrow of a foreign dictator can be."

Mickey Kaus, in a post for the Daily Caller (5/11, 408K), warns Republicans that they could undermine their chances to retake the Senate if they focus too much on Benghazi and compares the situation to 1998 when "the GOP seemed poised to make huge gains in the mid-terms," but instead "actually lost 5 seats in the House" because "enough voters...thought Republicans had gone overboard in pursuing" the scandals surrounding the Clinton Administration at the time. Kaus says he is "suggesting the White House is intentionally provoking Republicans over Benghazi," and adds, "the technical term for this maneuver...is 'gaslighting.'"

HAGEL BACKS SHINSEKI, BUT SAYS ACCOUNTABILITY VITAL FOR VA. The AP (5/12) reports that on ABC's This Week on Sunday, Defense Secretary Hagel said that he backs "beleaguered" VA Secretary Shinseki, but that the care from the VA is "not good enough." Hagel "acknowledges that problems with the VA began well before Shinseki took over the agency, but adds that if the allegations in Phoenix are true, 'accountability is going to have to be upheld.'"

In a story that quoted more fully from Hagel's interview, Politico (5/11, McCalmont, 73K) reports in its "Politico Live" blog Hagel also said that "the backlog is an issue that should have been looked at 'years ago.'" Asked about "the reported five-month average wait time for veterans," Hagel said, "It's not good enough; obviously, it has to be better." Still, Hagel supported Shinseki, saying, "no one understands accountability more than Shinseki. But there is no margin here. If this, in fact, or any variation of this, occurred all the way along the chain, accountability is going to have to be upheld here, because we can never let this kind of outrage, if all of this is true, stand in this country."

Reuters (5/12, Dunham) reports on Hagel's comments, and also notes that Rep. Mike Rogers (R), chair of the House Intelligence Committee, said on CBS' Face The Nation that the President is "going to have to make a decision on Mr. Shinseki." Rogers added, "If Mr. Shinseki can't come here and tell Congress how exactly he's going to change that culture there, I think we need to find somebody who's willing to go in and shake up the Veteran's Affairs so that their number one, two and third priority is taking care of the men and women who serve this country."

In a much more negative story vis-à-vis the Administration, the Washington Times (5/12, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that Hagel "admitted Sunday that the Obama administration and its predecessors 'missed' the warning signs around troubling delays for care and other problems at veterans' hospitals across the country."

On CNN's State Of The Union (5/11, Crowley, 862K), former Senator Rick Santorum claimed that the situation with the VA is "a structural problem and a leadership problem." Regarding whether Shinseki should step down, he stated: "I'm not going to make any comments about appointments. I think he should have to face the music. If he's proven to not have performed admirably, I think the Administration should do what's appropriate."

DEMOCRATS STRUGGLING TO MAKE ACA AN ADVANTAGE IN MID-TERM CONTESTS. Reuters (5/12, Cornwell) reports that while President Obama and Democrats in Congress are growing more confident that the ACA will be a political advantage rather than liability in the mid-terms, the piece uses the New Hampshire Senate contest as an example of the challenges of actually implementing that strategy. In that contest, challenger Scott Brown (R) is making the ACA a major issue, and polls show the law remains unpopular in the state.

Merits Of Repealing ACA Discussed. On CNN's State Of The Union (5/11, Crowley, 862K), Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the chair of the DNC, and Michele Bachmann (R) discussed a recent poll, in which 61% of respondents claimed that Congress should keep the Affordable Act, while 38% urged lawmakers to repeal the law. The lawmakers briefly debated the popularity of the Affordable Care Act and the merits of repealing the law.

On CNN's State Of The Union (5/11, Crowley, 862K), former Senator Rick Santorum weighed in on the poll, stating: "I think it's important that we focus on developing a health care system that works. This one isn't working." In contrast, Sen. Elizabeth Warren touts ACA on CBS' Face The Nation (5/11, Schieffer, 2.64M) and decried efforts by the House to repeal the law.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "This is kind of scary – the White House went on lockdown yesterday for the second time in three days after someone threw something over the fence. Security was like, 'Sorry, Hillary, you're going to have to wait two-and-a-half more years to move your stuff in. You can't just toss it over the fence.'"

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EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL PREP FOR TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE MEETING

DATE: May 12, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 3:30PM – 4:00PM

THIRD MEETING OF THE STATE, LOCAL AND TRIBAL LEADERS TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE – VERSION 4

DATE: May 14, 2014
LOCATION: World Food Prize Building, 100 Locust St., Des Moines, IA
TIME: 11:00AM – 12:00PM CDT
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, Counselor to the Secretary, 202-219-2140
Joel Clement, Director, Office of Policy Analysis, 202-208-3295

Note: Edits are highlighted below in yellow.

I. PURPOSE

This meeting of the State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience will focus on resilience to climate impacts in two of four areas of work for the Task Force: (1) natural resources, agriculture and (2) human health and community development.

You are there with other Administration leaders to discuss areas of focus for the Administration in natural resources and identify the Task Force priorities for Federal action in this area.

The Task Force will also discuss more broad "near term actions" that, in collaboration with the Administration, agencies could commit to by the next Task Force meeting in July, and do not need to wait for final Task Force recommendations to the President in the fall. You will arrive during this discussion.

II. AGENDA

(Earlier in the morning)
9:30am – 9:45am *Open Meeting*
Welcome Remarks, review meeting goals, agenda, set expectations, review Task Force progress since February meeting

9:45am - 11:00am *Near-term Action Discussion*
Discussion of near-term actions to support state and local climate preparedness.

(You arrive)
11:00am – 12:15pm Workshop on Natural Resources & Agriculture Recommendations

15 Min Task Force Subgroup presentation (Karen Diver & Collin O'Mara)

15 Min — Remarks from Administration Officials (4 min each)

- **You**
- Administrator Kathryn Sullivan, NOAA
- Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy, Army (Civil Works)
- Undersecretary Robert Bonnie, Department of Agriculture

45 min — Discussion (facilitated by co-chairs Boots and Agnew)

12:15pm – 1:00pm **Break for Lunch & Press Conference**

You will participate in a brief media availability before your departure. Press Conference participants meet at 12:25pm.

- Mayor Cownie will open and welcome Co-Chairs of the Task Force (Boots and Agnew)
- CEQ Acting Chair Boots (will name all principals present)
- David Agnew
- You
- Dr. Holdren will speak about NCA
- Gov. Quinn will wrap it up and then open it up for questions.

(After your departure)

1:00pm – 2:15pm *Workshop on Communities: Human Health & Community Development Recommendations*

15 Min — *Subgroup presentation (Governor Brown's staff)*

15 Min — *Remarks from Administration Officials (4 min each)*

- *Deputy Secretary Bob Perciasepe, Environmental Protection Agency*
- *Harriet Tregoning, Director of Economic Resilience, Department of Housing and Urban Development*
- *Stephene Moore, Region VII Director, Department of Health & Human Services*
- *George Luber, Center for Disease Control*

45 min — *Discussion (facilitated by co-chairs Boots and Agnew)*

2:15pm - 2:45pm *Briefing on National Climate Assessment*

- *Dr. John Holdren*

3:00pm *Close meeting*

III. KEY MESSAGES

Talking points are attached as a separate document.

- Conservation of our natural resources is a critical climate strategy that helps absorb harmful greenhouse gas pollution and builds community resilience to the effects of climate change.

- The natural resources that we manage, if kept healthy, can protect communities' water supply in times of increased drought, shorelines in the face of larger and more frequent storms, and infrastructure during longer more intense fire seasons.

- The President has charged federal agencies to develop a priority policy agenda that can best maintain the resilience of these landscapes.

- I hope that today we can get a clear sense of your priorities for our work.

IV. BACKGROUND

Executive Order 13653 – Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change
Executive Order 13653 addresses climate change adaptation, which is one of three primary strategies of the Climate Action Plan and the primary focus of the Department's current climate change efforts. The Department of the Interior has a number of activities underway to implement the President's Executive Order 13653.

State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force (and TF Subgroups)
The President's November 2013 Preparedness and Resilience Executive Order 13653 establishes the State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force to inform Federal efforts to support climate preparedness and resilience. The Task Force is co-chaired by Mike Boots, Acting Chair of CEQ, and David Agnew, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Deputy Assistant to the President. Members include State, local, and tribal leaders from around the Nation. The Task Force will prepare recommendations to the President and the Resilience Council on ways to improve climate resilience that are due to the President no later than November 1, 2014.

The Task Force will provide recommendations to the President on removing barriers to resilient investments, modernizing Federal grant and loan programs to better support local efforts, and developing the information and tools they need to prepare, among other measures. The Des Moines meeting is the third meeting of the Task Force and the first to focus on natural resources.

The Task Force consists of the following four subgroups:
- Disaster Recovery and Resilience;
- Built Systems: Transportation, Water, Energy, and Facilities Infrastructure;
- Natural Resources and Agriculture; and
- Communities: Human Health and Community Development.

Council on Climate Resilience and Preparedness (and Administration Working Groups)
Executive Order 13653 established the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience to lead Federal agency climate change adaptation coordination and to coordinate involvement with State, local and Tribal governments and other partners. The Council, which consists of senior officials (Deputy Secretary or equivalent officer) from several agencies, oversees four Working Groups charged with implementing key requirements of the Executive Order. DOI is the Co-Chair of one group – the Climate and Natural Resources Working Group – and is actively involved in all four

Working Groups. An organizational chart of the Executive Order's implementation is attached to this memorandum.

Climate and Natural Resources Working Group: The Climate and Natural Resources Working Group is co-chaired by Interior (Sarah Greenberger) and NOAA (Mark Schaefer) with additional members from agencies with land and water management responsibilities. A working committee, which was created to staff the Working Group, is also co-chaired by Interior (Joel Clement). Section three of Executive Order 13653 directs the agencies to complete an inventory and assessment of proposed and completed changes to agency land- and water-related policies, programs, and regulations necessary to make the Nation's watersheds, natural resources, and ecosystems, and the communities and economies that depend on them, more resilient in the face of a changing climate. *The Working Group is charged with developing a priority agenda of ten or so actions the Federal government should take to improve natural resources resilience to climate change.*

The Working Group has completed an initial inventory of proposed and completed changes to agency land- and water-related policies, programs, and regulations and is now in the process of refining a list of priority agenda items. The final Working Group report is due August 1.

Priority areas identified by the Working Group and supporting technical experts from the Agency align with the Local Leaders Task Force priorities and include:

1. Improved Water Resource Management
2. Landscape Conservation to support ecosystems, forests, wildlife
3. Natural/Green Infrastructure
4. Delivering Community Support (training, science, information, etc)
5. Unlocking private investment
6. Coastal Resilience

Climate Data and Tools Working Group: The Climate Data and Tools Working Group is co-chaired by NASA, NOAA, and OSTP. Section 4 of Executive Order 13653 directs the Working Group to develop and provide authoritative, easily accessible, usable, and timely data, information, and decision-support tools on climate preparedness and resilience to be available on "Data.gov". Implementation will occur in three phases extending into 2015.

The Working Group consists of six subgroups representing the following thematic areas, with DOI as the lead for one of them:

- Coastal Flooding Risks to Communities (NOAA Lead);
- Ecosystem Vulnerability (DOI Lead (USGS - Olivia Ferriter));
- Climate Change and Human Health Risk (HHS Lead);
- Transportation and Supply Chain Risks (DOT Lead);
- Food Production/Supply Vulnerability (USDA Lead); and
- Energy Supply Vulnerability (DOE Lead).

Agency Adaptation Working Group: The Agency Adaptation Working Group is chaired by the Environmental Protection Agency and is responsible for coordinating information sharing and communications for the development of agency climate change adaptation plans which are due to CEQ on June 30.

Resilient Infrastructure Working Group: The Resilient Infrastructure Working Group is co-chaired by the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Council. The general purpose of the Working Group is to develop, recommend, and coordinate interagency efforts on actions related to climate preparedness and resilience for the Nation's infrastructure, and to track implementation of interagency actions, including those described in Executive Order 13653.

Some Early Natural Resource Management Suggestions from the Local Leaders

The State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force, Natural Resources and Agriculture Subgroup, is developing recommendations for federal agencies. Although the final recommendations will likely evolve over the coming months, the following recommendations are currently being proposed as near term actions and could be discussed at the Des Moines meeting:

- Standard Collection, Provision of, and Access to Federal Data and Tools (inter-agency)
    - Standardizing collection, provision of, and access to Federal data and tools
    - Improving baseline data available for natural resources
    - Improving down-scaled climate models and tools to complete local vulnerability assessments
- Requiring Climate Considerations in Hazard Mitigation Planning (FEMA)
- Incorporating Climate Change into the NEPA Process (CEQ)
- Disaster Preparedness and Relief Funds for Natural Resources (FEMA)
- Incorporating incentives for Climate-Based Natural Resource and Agriculture Management into grant and other programs (inter-agency)
- Begin Piloting and Implementing the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Adaptation Strategy (inter-agency, DOI/NOAA lead)
- Finalize Promulgation of Federal Wetland and Stormwater Regulations (EPA)

Background on Notable Interior Efforts

Department Climate Adaptation Policy: In January and September of 2009, Secretary Salazar issued Secretarial Orders on climate change that required bureaus incorporate climate science into land management planning and decisions among other more specific directives and created the system of USGS Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. Those orders were institutionalized in the Departmental Manual in 2012 as the Department's Adaptation Policy.

Official Policy: It is the policy of the Department to effectively and efficiently adapt to the challenges posed by climate change to its mission, programs, operations, and personnel. The Department will use the best available science to increase understanding of climate change impacts, inform decision making, and coordinate an appropriate response to impacts on land, water, wildlife, cultural and tribal resources, and other assets. The Department will integrate climate change adaptation strategies into its policies, planning, programs, and operations, including, but not limited to, park, refuge, and public land management; habitat restoration; conservation of species and ecosystems; services and support for tribes and Alaska Natives; protection and restoration of cultural, archeological and tribal resources; water management; scientific research and data collection; land acquisition; management of employees and volunteers; visitor services; construction; use authorizations; and facilities maintenance.

National Drought Resilience Partnership: On November 15, 2013, as part of the Climate Action Plan, the Obama Administration announced the National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP), a new partnership between seven Federal agencies that will help communities better prepare for droughts and reduce the impact of drought events on families and businesses. Given the extreme drought affecting much of the Western US, the NDRP is already working with communities, businesses and farmers and ranchers to build on-the-ground drought resilience. For example, in California, BOR and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have committed $14M to water efficiency in drought-stricken areas, and the White House, Federal agencies and CA state agencies are coordinating in real time to stretch water supplies and mitigate the economic impacts of the drought. Lessons learned in California will inform Federal assistance for other drought-impacted communities nationwide.

Western Watersheds Enhancement Partnership: Mentioned in the Climate Action Plan, this federal, local and private partnership was brought to life by an MOU that you signed with Secretary Vilsack in Colorado in July 2013. It is intended to reduce the risks of wildfire to America's water supply in western states by working with local water users to identify and mitigate risks of wildfire to parts of our nation's water supply, irrigation and hydroelectric facilities. Flows of sediment, debris and ash into streams and rivers after wildfires can damage water quality and often require millions of dollars to repair damage to habitat, reservoirs and facilities. The partnership started with a pilot in the Upper Colorado Headwaters and Big Thompson watershed in Northern Colorado. The partnership includes the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and Colorado State Forest Service and builds off of past agreements between the Forest Service and municipal water suppliers, such as Denver Water's Forest to Faucets partnership. Additional pilots were initiated in:

- Salt River-CC Cragin project in Arizona;
- Boise River Reservoir in Idaho;
- Mid-Pacific Reclamation Region in California;
- Yakima Basin in Washington State; and
- Horsethief Reservoir/Flathead River in Montana

WaterSMART Initiative (West-wide Climate Risk Assessments, Basin Studies, LCCs): Reclamation's WaterSMART program is focused on improving water conservation and helping water and resource managers make wise decisions about water use, Reclamation's portion of the WaterSMART program is achieved through administration of **grants, scientific studies, technical assistance, and scientific expertise**.

The West-wide Climate Risk Assessments will assess impacts to water supplies and demands on a reconnaissance level and include a baseline risk and impact assessment. The assessments establish a foundation for more in-depth analyses and the development of adaptation options through Basin Studies, operations planning, or any other activity that can benefit from the assessments.

The Basin Studies develop adaptation options by partnering with basin stakeholders to conduct comprehensive studies to define options for meeting future water demands in river basins in the West. The desired outcomes are basin-specific plans recommending collaboratively developed solutions that will help meet water demands and foster sustainable development.

The Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, meanwhile, are focused on the development and communication of science at the landscape scale to inform resource conservation within a partnership

(federal, state, tribal, and local) framework. Along with Reclamation's Science and Technology Program, working with the USGS Climate Science Centers, the LCCs represent the primary source and communications avenue for climate change science to support climate change adaptation.

WaterSMART Grants: Reclamation administers a series of grant programs to support water efficiency and conservation efforts.

Hurricane Sandy $100 million Competition: Of the $340 million appropriated in the Sandy Supplemental to build storm resilience, the Department set aside $100 million for an external competition open to state, local and tribal governments as well as NGOs and universities to pursue resilience projects that make use of natural defense systems and green infrastructure. The request for proposals closed January 31, 2014. The Department received 378 applications requesting $568 million. The Department has developed resilience criteria based on the work of Departmental scientists and a landscape level conservation plan to focus projects in those areas where they can most impact communities and the important infrastructure. Interior will also invest in a comprehensive assessment of its internal and external Sandy resilience investments to ensure we can glean lessons on which approaches truly build community resilience and be in a position to broadly share that information. **Awards are expected in early June.**

Klamath Agreements: The Klamath Basin has been ground zero for disputes over water resources between farmers, fishermen, Indian Tribes, environmentalists, and a power company for over a decade. Since 2001 the Klamath Basin has seen water supplies shut off during an irrigation season and curtailed supplies during other years, a die-off of salmonids, the closure of a commercial fishery one year and the curtailment of that fishery in other years, and the ongoing closure of a tribal fishery. All of these diverse interests have looked at each other and decided that negotiation where everybody gets what they need instead of what they want is far better than ongoing litigation. Because of this commitment to share resources, these communities are on a path to rebuild their economies, restore their resources, and establish a strong social fabric.

This was done with the help of of NOAA colleagues who have been instrumental in finding creative solutions to providing certainty for water supplies while also meeting our legal obligations to recover and restore the salmon fishery.

The Department of Agriculture has pledged funding support necessary ($11 million over 5 years) to see the basin through the next few critical years while we work with Congress to implement the Klamath Agreements (you can thank Robert Bonnie). Senator Wyden is likely to introduce his legislation the week of May 12.

Tribal Climate Adaptation Grants: BIA has nearly $10 million in its budget to provide grants that will support tribal communities prepare for climate change including: capacity building through partnerships and training; supporting tribal participation in climate communities like LCCs; developing climate science and tools; engage in youth outreach and support internships; fund assessments, planning efforts, monitoring and pilot projects. The first awards will be made later this summer.

Fish Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy: In 2009, the United States Congress called for the development of a national, government-wide strategy to safeguard fish, wildlife, plants, and the natural systems upon which they depend. The FWS, NOAA and the New York Division of Fish,

Wildlife and Marine Resources co-chaired the strategy's development. The National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy was developed with input from a broad range of federal, state, and tribal partners, with active engagement with non-government organizations, industry groups, and private landowners. The strategy was released in March 2013. The FWS and NOAA are now chairing a group to develop an implementation plan. The Local Leaders Task Force staff identified implementation of this strategy as a priority.

Pacific Islands: Building Regional Capacity for Natural Resource Disaster Recovery and Restoration in the Pacific Islands: Several agencies and organizations (including NOAA, USGS, and USFWS) are currently working together in the Pacific Islands Region to address challenges associated with managing natural resources in the context of extreme events. This issue is of increasing importance to jurisdictions that are impacted by major and minor disasters as climate changes are expected to change the frequency and intensity of events. These agencies and organizations are working together through regional partnership efforts **to develop a regional handbook to document recent policy and capacity developments and lessons learned** for natural resource and emergency managers in the U.S. Pacific Islands.

Invasive Species: DOI bureaus address a variety of invasive species through prevention, early detection and rapid response (EDRR), control and management, restoration, research, and education and public awareness. This includes working closely with states, territories and the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) (you are co-chair) to enhance coordination and partnerships to reduce the impacts of invasive species.

In early January 2014, DOI finalized the U.S. Department of the Interior's Invasive Species Action Plan to better address and elevate invasive species within the Department. The Action Plan includes the following:

- The development of a multi-year strategy with annual operations plans.
- The development of a departmental policy in support of invasive species prevention, detection, rapid response, and control.
- Coordination of a departmental information management effort on invasive species to create efficiencies and eliminate duplication.
- The development of an EDRR framework for invasive species that outlines protocols and guidance for the allocation of resources.

NOTE: On March 8, 2014 Governor Abercrombie who sits on the Task Force wrote Chair Sutley a letter regarding Hawaii's work to control invasive species. The response has been tasked to DOI and is in the clearance process.

Integrated Arctic Management (IAM)/Native Alaskans: In April 2013, an interagency working group chaired by DOI released a report that calls for an integrated management strategy for the rapidly changing Arctic. IAM is the federal government's integrated approach to stewarding natural resources in the US Arctic at the landscape scale rather than project-by-project efforts that often fail to account for a changing climate and the cumulative impacts of these projects over time. A Report to the President in April, 2013 described the fundamentals of IAM, and DOI is committed to advancing these principles as we implement the National Strategy for the Arctic Region. **One of the major principles of Integrated Arctic Management is improving the integration of Alaska Native values and viewpoints into government processes.**

Working Lands for Wildlife: Working Lands for Wildlife is a partnership between USDA's National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and FWS to use agency technical expertise combined with over $30 million in financial assistance from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program to combat the decline of seven specific wildlife species (including Lesser Prairie Chicken and Greater sage-grouse) whose decline can be reversed and will benefit other species with similar habitat needs.

Through Working Lands for Wildlife landowners can voluntarily participate in an incentive-based efforts to:

- Restore populations of declining wildlife species.
- Provide farmers, ranchers, and forest managers with regulatory certainty that conservation investments they make today help sustain their operations over the long term.
- Strengthen and sustain rural economies by restoring and protecting the productive capacity of working lands.

This initiative is one of several USDA landscape initiatives which include separate initiatives to support sage grouse and lesser prairie chicken conservation.

Sentinal Landscapes Partnership: FWS, DOD and USDA are partnering to identify working lands near military installations where conservation can prevent development from encroaching installations impeding the training mission while conserving important wildlife habitat. Like the Working Lands for Wildlife partnership, through voluntary conservation measures paid for through Farm Bill and Defense Bill programs, ranchers and farmers gain certainty under the ESA. The first pilot was in Washington near Joint-Base McChord.

USGS Tools:

Climate Change Viewer (http://www.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/clu_rd/apps/nccv_viewer.asp) – used to access down-scaled historical and future climate for two carbon emission scenarios. The viewer provides a number of useful tools for characterizing climate change including maps, climographs (plots of monthly averages), and histograms that show the distribution or spread of the model simulations. (Publically available)

National Land Cover Database Evaluation Visualization and Analysis (http://www.mrlc.gov/eva/) – used to access and analyze land cover data of the US. NLCD EVA eliminates the need for desktop geographic information system software, or advanced technical expertise, by processing NLCD data for the user and providing easy access to that information. It also summarizes general land change trends as well as providing users with the option to specify and explore specific land change classes of interest (e.g., forest to urban). (Publically available)

LandCarbon Atlas (http://landcarbon.org/) – Used to access and analyze biological carbon sequestration data from the USGS Landcarbon project. Data available include the amounts of carbon currently sequestered, possible future amounts and the data used to develop these estimates. Products include maps, charts, and statistical analyses that summarize the results of the USGS assessment. (Completed but not yet released to the public – coming soon!)

NWF Climate Smart Adaptation Guide: On May 14, The National Wildlife Federation is releasing a new guide, *Climate-Smart Conservation*, on climate adaptation that was prepared in conjunction with USGS, NPS, FWS, and others (www.nwf.org/ClimateSmartGuide). The guide offers conservation practitioners and natural resource managers guidance on carrying out conservation in a changing climate. The 272-page guide is organized around a stepwise framework for adaptation planning and implementation, and addresses topics like:

- Assessing climate change vulnerability
- Reconsidering conservation goals in light of climate change
- Identifying, evaluating, and selecting adaptation strategies
- Tracking the effectiveness of adaptation actions
- Dealing with uncertainty

Colin O'Mara, their incoming President effective July 7, will be presenting on behalf of the states at your session Wednesday morning. He is currently the Secretary for Environment and Energy for Delaware.

V. ATTACHMENTS

1) Confirmed Administration and DOI Participants (+Topics Other Panelists Will Cover)
2) State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force Members
3) Fact Sheet – E.O. on Climate Preparedness
4) Background on Workshop on Natural Resources and Ag Recommendations and Subgroup
5) Media Advisory (attached separately)
6) Iowa Climate Change Fact Sheet (attached separately)

ATTACHMENT 1 – Administration and DOI Participants (plus topics we understand those on your panel - Sullivan, Darcy, Bonnie – will cover)

Administration Officials

DOI - Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
NOAA - Dr. Kathy Sullivan, Administrator
(staff say she will focus on Coastal Resilience, Green Infrastructure; Carbon Sequestration Potential in Wetlands, and Drought Preparedness)
USACE - JoEllen Darcy, Assistant Secretary, Civil Works
(staff say she will focus also on Coastal Resilience and a North Atlantic Study being conducted with Sandy funding, and the National Drought Resilience Partnership)
USDA – Robert Bonnie, Undersecretary
(staff say he'll discuss the fire budget fix, drought/fire nexus, USDA Climate Hubs providing information to farmers)
EPA - Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator
HHS - TBD
HUD - Harriet Tragoning, Director, Sustainable Housing and Communities
OSTP - Dr. John Holdren, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
IGA - David Agnew, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs
CEQ - Michael Boots, Acting Chair

DOI Participants

Sarah Greenberger, Counselor (Co-Chair of the Climate Natural Resource Working Group)
Joel Clement, Director, Office of Policy Analysis

ATTACHMENT 2 -- State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force Members

State Officials:

Governor Neil Abercrombie (HI)
Governor Jerry Brown (CA)
Governor Eddie Calvo (GU)
Governor Jay Inslee (WA)
Governor Jack Markell (DE)
Governor Martin O'Malley (MD)
Governor Pat Quinn (IL)
Governor Peter Shumlin (VT)

Local Officials:

Mayor Ralph Becker (Salt Lake City, UT)
Mayor James Brainard (Carmel, IN)
Commissioner Paula Brooks (Franklin County, OH)
Supervisor Salud Carbajal (Santa Barbara County, CA)
Mayor Frank Cownie (Des Moines, IA)
Mayor Bob Dixson (Greensburg, KS)
Mayor Eric Garcetti (Los Angeles, CA)
Mayor George Heartwell (Grand Rapids, MI)
Mayor Kristin Jacobs (Broward County, FL)
Mayor Kevin Johnson (Sacramento, CA)
Mayor Michael Nutter (Philadelphia, PA)
Mayor Annise Parker (Houston, TX)
Mayor Patsy Parker (Perdido Beach, AL)
Mayor Madeline Rogero (Knoxville, TN)
Mayor Karen Weitkunat (Fort Collins, CO)
Mayor Dawn Zimmer (Hoboken, NJ)

Tribal Officials:

Karen Diver, Chairwoman, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (MN)
Reggie Joule, Mayor, Northwest Arctic Borough (AK)

President Obama Establishes a Task Force on Climate

"We're going to need to get prepared. And that's why this plan will also protect critical sectors of our economy and prepare the United States for the impacts of climate change that we cannot avoid. States and cities across the country are already taking it upon themselves to get ready... And we'll partner with communities seeking help to prepare for droughts and floods, reduce the risk of wildfires, protect the dunes and wetlands that pull double duty as green space and as natural storm barriers." – President Barack Obama, June 25, 2013

Today, President Obama established a Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience to advise the Administration on how the Federal Government can respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change. The Task Force members include state, local and tribal leaders from across the country who will use their first-hand experiences in building climate preparedness and resilience in their communities to inform their recommendations to the Administration.

The President also signed an Executive Order that directs Federal agencies to take a series of steps to make it easier for American communities to strengthen their resilience to extreme weather and prepare for other impacts of climate change.

President Obama has said that we have a moral obligation to our children and future generations to leave them a planet that is not polluted or damaged. That is why in June, the President launched a Climate Action Plan to cut carbon pollution, prepare communities for the impacts of climate change, and lead international efforts to address this global challenge. The Climate Action Plan recognizes that even as we act to curb the carbon pollution that is driving climate change, we must also improve our ability to prepare for the climate impacts we are already seeing across the country. Across America, states, cities, and communities are taking steps to protect themselves from extreme weather and other climate impacts by updating building codes, adjusting the way they manage natural resources, investing in more resilient infrastructure, and planning for rapid recovery from damages that nonetheless occur.

The Federal Government has an important role to play in supporting community-based preparedness and resilience efforts by establishing policies and prioritizing investments that promote preparedness, protecting critical infrastructure and public resources, supporting science and research needed to prepare for climate impacts, and ensuring that Federal operations and facilities continue to protect and serve citizens in a changing climate.

State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience

State, local and tribal leaders across the country are already contending with more frequent or severe heat waves, droughts, wildfires, storms and floods, and other impacts of climate change. The Task Force will provide recommendations to the President on removing barriers to resilient investments, modernizing Federal grant and loan programs to better support local efforts, and developing the information and tools they need to prepare.

Task Force members comprise governors, mayors, county officials and tribal leaders, representing a diverse range of communities. The members of the Task Force include:

State Officials:

Governor Neil Abercrombie (HI)
Governor Jerry Brown (CA)
Governor Eddie Calvo (GU)
Governor Jay Inslee (WA)
Governor Jack Markell (DE)
Governor Martin O'Malley (MD)
Governor Pat Quinn (IL)
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Mayor Annise Parker (Houston, TX)
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Mayor Madeline Rogero (Knoxville, TN)
Mayor Karen Weitkunat (Fort Collins, CO)
Mayor Dawn Zimmer (Hoboken, NJ)

Tribal Officials:

Karen Diver, Chairwoman, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (MN)
Reggie Joule, Mayor, Northwest Arctic Borough (AK)

An Executive Order to Protect Our Communities

The Obama Administration has taken significant steps to strengthen the climate resilience of America's communities and economy. More than 30 Federal agencies developed their first-ever Climate Change Adaptation Plans, outlining strategies to protect their operations, programs, and investments to better serve communities and safeguard our public resources in the face of climate change. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the Administration has provided resources to rebuild the affected area to be more resilient than before, including support for more climate-resilient roads and infrastructure, and projects that protect drinking water and buffer communities from flooding. In addition, Federal agencies have partnered with states, cities, tribes, and the private sector to develop strategies to address the impacts of climate change on our freshwater resources, oceans and coasts, and wildlife. Agencies have also built new, data-driven tools to help decision makers and resource managers map and plan for future sea level rise. From Florida to Minnesota, and from Alaska to New

York, Federal agencies have partnered with communities to provide funding and technical assistance to address local climate impacts such as sea level rise, flooding, and water scarcity.

To build on this progress, the Executive Order (E.O.) "Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change," signed today directs Federal agencies to:

- **Modernize Federal programs to support climate-resilient investments:** Agencies will examine their policies and programs and find ways to make it easier for cities and towns to build smarter and stronger. Agencies will identify and remove any barriers to resilience-focused actions and investments– for example, policies that encourage communities to rebuild to past standards after disasters instead of to stronger standards – including through agency grants, technical assistance, and other programs in sectors from transportation and water management to conservation and disaster relief.
- **Manage lands and waters for climate preparedness and resilience:** America's natural resources are critical to our Nation's economy, health and quality of life. The E.O. directs agencies to identify changes that must be made to land- and water-related policies, programs, and regulations to strengthen the climate resilience of our watersheds, natural resources, and ecosystems, and the communities and economies that depend on them. Federal agencies will also evaluate how to better promote natural storm barriers such as dunes and wetlands, as well as how to protect the carbon sequestration benefits of forests and lands to help reduce the carbon pollution that causes climate change.
- **Provide information, data and tools for climate change preparedness and resilience:** Scientific data and insights are essential to help communities and businesses better understand and manage the risks associated with extreme weather and other impacts of climate change. The E.O. instructs Federal agencies to work together and with information users to develop new climate preparedness tools and information that state, local, and private-sector leaders need to make smart decisions. In keeping with the President's Open Data initiative, agencies will also make extensive Federal climate data accessible to the public through an easy-to-use online portal.
- **Plan for climate change related risk:** Recognizing the threat that climate change poses to Federal facilities, operations and programs, the E.O. builds on the first-ever set of Federal agency adaptation plans released earlier this year and directs Federal agencies to develop and implement strategies to evaluate and address their most significant climate change related risks.

To implement these actions, the E.O. establishes an interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, chaired by the White House and composed of more than 25 agencies. To assist in achieving the goals of the E.O., these agencies are directed to consider the recommendations of the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

11:00AM – 12:15PM

Overview

This discussion will provide an opportunity for Natural Resources & Agriculture Subgroup to outline and receive input on its current areas of focus and for all participants to engage directly on key questions related to improving the resilience and longevity of our Nation's natural resources and agricultural lands in the face of extreme weather, sea-level rise, extreme temperatures, drought and other impacts of climate change.

The Natural Resources and Agriculture Subgroup has identified five broad thematic areas where federal actions and investments can better support State, local, and Tribal efforts to build resilience within natural resource and agricultural systems. These areas include: Landscape Scale Conservation; Food System Security and Sustainability; Protecting Water Quality and Supply; Oceans and Coasts; and Green Infrastructure. Four additional themes spanning all of the Task Force subgroups have also been central components of related discussions and include: Data and Tools; Fully Integrating Tribal, Alaska Native, and Island Communities into Decision-Making Processes, Partnerships and Collaborative Initiatives Involving Shared Interests; Public Education; and International Collaboration and Partnerships. Recommendations are being developed in each of these areas.

Following the subgroup's presentation, Administration officials will provide remarks on their Department or Agency efforts to support climate change preparedness and resilience. Finally, there will be a discussion for all participants to allow for better understanding of the themes, recommendations and key questions being considered to improve preparedness and resilience in these areas.

Administration Participants

- David Agnew, Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Mike Boots, Acting Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality
- Secretary Sally Jewell, Department of Interior
- Administrator Kathryn Sullivan, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy, Army (Civil Works)
- Under Secretary Robert Bonnie, Department of Agriculture

Discussion Questions

- What federal programs do you view as most critical for supporting how best to address the impacts of climate change on natural resources?

- Which existing programs are most critical for addressing the needs of the agricultural community, and how should those programs be modified to address a changing climate?

- What guidance, tools, or programs other assistance would best support efforts to enhance climate preparedness and resilience from the perspective of natural resources and agriculture?

Subgroup Themes

NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE

The purpose of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Subgroup is to address the required outcomes by considering water resources, agriculture, forests, ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, as well as the impacts to human communities of changes in these systems. Participants should cover all aspects of natural resources and agriculture, especially the interactions and connectivity between these systems and among these systems and human communities and the built environment. Participants in this Subgroup should also consider long-term strategies to protect and restore natural resources and

systems and the ecosystem services they provide and to enhance overall resilience in the face of a changing climate.

Landscape Scale Conservation

The conversion or development of existing natural and agricultural lands vastly increases GHG emissions, weakens buffers against natural disasters, especially in coastal zones and floodplains, and is fragmenting continuous landscapes that wildlife call home. Such land-use changes often harm local and regional cultures and economies by impairing the ability of ecosystems to recover from climate-related impacts, while reducing their ability to provide the ecosystem services both natural and human systems rely on for necessities like clean air and water. Conservation of these lands is a cost-effective investment for both climate adaptation and mitigation.

These impacts will require updated and collaborative conservation plans and actions at all levels. Natural and working lands should be preserved and restored to be resilient to the impacts of climate change, so they can continue to provide the valuable goods and services neighboring communities rely on for robust economies and healthy citizens. Existing Federal land conservation programs should assist States, communities and Tribal nations with planning and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

Food System Security/Sustainability

The nation's food system is just as important as its transportation or energy infrastructure. Climate-related food shortages can result in price spikes, impact quality, and decrease supply due to impacts on production, transportation, and storage, especially to remote communities. Ensuring food security – access by all people, at all times to enough safe and nutritious food for an active, healthy life – is critical to building prosperous and sustainable communities. Many of the most vulnerable communities are not currently able to produce enough food locally to feed their communities, but local and regional food production can build more resilient communities less dependent on imported food with a co-benefit of improved local economies and public health.

Conserving existing agricultural lands while protecting them from the increased pressures of invasive plants, pests, and disease; extreme heat, precipitation, and droughts; as well as flooding, will be necessary in order to feed an expanding global population, while promoting local access to fresh, healthy food. Crop diversification will ensure that the food system is more resilient to climate change impacts by interrupting pest and weed lifecycles, reducing the amount of herbicides and pesticides entering the environment, and by encouraging diverse soil biota.

The Federal government can assist local communities in building food system security by helping farmers and other stakeholders understand climate impacts and adaption strategies and by providing resources and funding to support local and healthy food production in both rural and urban areas. This is particularly true for Tribal, Alaska Native, island and other place-based communities, whose food security is inextricably linked to resilient and sustainable ecosystems that produce the fish, wildlife and plants they rely on for both subsistence and cultural preservation.

Protecting Water Quality and Supply

Longer periods of drought, more evaporation due to higher temperatures, and variable precipitation patterns may impact a consistent supply of source water for drinking and irrigation purposes. Prolonged drought impacts have increased the use of drinking water for non-potable uses such as irrigation. Water recycling and reuse can be expanded in many sectors, including agriculture, residential, and commercial landscaping, as well as industry, as part of a comprehensive water conservation strategy.

Groundwater recharge and banking has the potential to supply a much needed reservoir for use when surface water is not available, especially in areas that, otherwise, do not have the ability to store excess

water. Increases in extreme precipitation events also create a serious concern for water quality as much of the nation's existing infrastructure is not designed to accommodate short duration, high intensity rain events. Design standards for stormwater and water infrastructure should take into account projected climatic changes, including sea-level rise and changes in precipitation patterns.

Oceans and Coasts

Sea-level rise, higher storm surges, and coastal erosion will cause many harmful economic, ecological, physical and social impacts that could threaten coastal ecosystems, water supplies, and both public and private coastal infrastructure. Consideration of projected sea-level rise and coastal flood impacts during project siting and design can lessen the damage to these critical systems. Additionally, increasing water temperatures along coasts and within estuarine systems, coupled with changes in salinity, are growing concerns among fisheries and resource managers.

The climate-related phenomena of ocean acidification and hypoxia also threaten ocean health and the communities that depend on them. The Federal government should work with State, Tribal, and local governments to synthesize information about impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on coastal and marine resources, and coordinate the development of a set of practical steps that can be taken now to plan for and adaptively manage fishery and marine resources as these changes occur.

Green Infrastructure

Natural defenses, also called natural or green infrastructure can provide risk reduction to life and property while meeting multiple needs of communities, public agencies, and private industry better than traditional "gray" infrastructure. Combining natural and gray infrastructure solutions for risk reduction can improve the bottom line of social, economic, and environmental benefits. Negative impacts to natural infrastructure should be avoided and green infrastructure investments should be evaluated and supported where they offer environmental benefits and cost-effective solutions.

Data and Tools

State, Tribal, and local communities must understand and assess their risk of exposure to varied hazards and potential impacts to local resources such as infrastructure, property, natural resources, and human populations. Local officials must have access to spatially explicit, accurate data, useful models and scenarios, and transparent depictions of uncertainties to analyze vulnerability and choose from a suite of risk reduction strategies for their specific location and threats.

This is an opportunity for federal agencies to provide the relevant data and tools, presented in an appropriate format and scale, to assist state and local agencies in those endeavors. Climate change adaptation based on accurate data can limit the government's fiscal exposure to risk by making it possible to implement proactive policies that prevent future damage to infrastructure. Applicable agencies should develop common data standards to ensure compatibility of data being collected on agriculture and natural resources and habitats by Federal agencies.

There have been numerous isolated studies and vulnerability assessments that identify the regional vulnerabilities of our national and regional forests and watersheds. However, there is no effort to review all of these studies to determine overlaps and gaps between the metrics, indicators, scale and affected habitats and species. There is an opportunity to review the existing and future studies to pull together these isolated studies to identify convergences and gaps in findings.

Fully Integrate Tribal, Alaska Native, and Island Communities into Decision-Making Processes, Partnerships and Collaborative Initiatives Involving Shared Interests

Tribal, Alaska Native and Island communities are experiencing the effects of a changing climate like other communities, as well as in ways unique to their specific circumstances, rights, interests and lifestyles. Extreme weather events, changing terrestrial landscapes and aquatic habitats, and increasing

threats to clean water and air all affect these communities through costly recovery and restoration efforts, especially Tribal governments that do not have access to a significant tax base, by burdening a relatively small infrastructure and personnel base, and by diminishing or degrading ecosystems that produce fish, wildlife and plants upon which they rely to meet subsistence, cultural, spiritual, medicinal and economic needs.

The natural resource and agricultural interests of these communities can only be protected by fully supporting self-governance and integrating them into all decision-making processes, partnerships and collaborative initiatives that involve jurisdictional overlap or shared interests with other governments or communities. This would include supporting and accepting the unique knowledge that these communities have, incorporating traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into plans and policy, and recognizing TEK's role in understanding the changing climate and its effects.

Public Education

An educated populace is essential to obtain the public support necessary for effective actions to occur and be sustained. When discussing the challenges and opportunities associated with climate preparedness it is important to understand there are several ways to achieve the same goals. Challenges posed by climate change can be addressed through a well thought-out, cooperative, and conscientious plan or design strategy. Concerted education efforts for all ages can help to bridge the gap between what is happening in the climate and how it impacts the daily lives of all Americans.

International Collaboration and Partnerships

The experiences of communities and countries already experiencing both the acute and long-term impacts of climate change offer good lessons and examples for how to build secure and sustainable systems of food supply, distribution, and storage, as well as natural resource and agriculture management, while combatting ocean acidification and other important issues of concern, as the impacts of climate change are increasingly felt throughout the world.

BISON CONNECT

Jewell, Sally (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>

For Your Reid File: WaPo on Sage Grouse//NYT on Mall Turf

1 message

Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> Tue, May 13, 2014 at 11:41 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>

Sally -

Wanted to flag two recent stories for your read file.

The first is a Washington Post piece on the sage grouse and the pending decision. The reporter, Reid Wilson, spent time out in several of the range states over the last few months and we worked to get FWS and BLM staff on the phone with him for background as well to help inform the piece.

The second is a New York Times story on National Mall turf and the ongoing efforts/need for repairs and new The NPS National Mall folks took the lead on this piece as far as background, information goes. You'll note that Vogel is quoted as well as Cunningham.

-Jessica

Washington Post: Western states worry decision on bird's fate could cost billions in development

By Reid Wilson, Published: SUNDAY, MAY 11, 5:09 PM ET



HANDOUT PHOTO: A pair of sage grouse at Tobar Flats in Clover Valley on March 24, 2014. (Photo by Joe Williams)

MINERAL COUNTY, Nev. – In the frozen chill of a high-desert morning, Tony Wasley, the director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, peers through a range finder down a dirt path and points out a group of birds strutting and preening among a low scrub brush. It's mating season for the sage grouse, and dozens of males are descending upon breeding grounds, called leks, to show off their plumage to the hens.

The 40 or so grouse at this lek near the Nevada-California border look ridiculous. They waddle around, occasionally heaving their bodies into flight, sometimes chasing off younger males and always trying to one-up each other. They are the avian equivalent of a club-goer showing off his shiny new coat.

They are also at the center of a years-long battle that pits environmentalists who want the sage grouse protected under the Endangered Species Act against ranchers, gold miners, energy producers and Western state governments that stand to lose billions of dollars in tax revenue and economic activity if tens of millions of acres are blocked off from development, exploration or use.

The tension between the federal government and Westerners who want to use government-owned land garnered new attention last month, when the Bureau of Land Management moved to round up cattle owned by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy over more than $1 million in unpaid grazing fees. Some state officials fear a decision to list the sage grouse, which would severely limit everything from grazing to energy development on a huge swath of land, could create a slew of new Bundys all over the rural West.

"Western states never welcome outsiders coming in and telling them how to do something," said Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D), who co-chairs a bipartisan task force working to conserve sage-grouse habitats and prevent its inclusion on a list of threatened animals.

The fight over the sage grouse is similar in many respects to the debate over the Northern spotted owl, which in 1990 was listed as threatened. That decision shut down timber operations across more than 24 million acres in Northern California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, contributing to the industry's precipitous decline.

The difference is that the sage grouse covers about 165 million acres, almost seven times the range of the spotted owl. The economic impact of virtually shutting down development in sage-grouse habitats could be orders of magnitude greater than what happened in the Pacific Northwest.

Environmentalists want the sage grouse protected under the Endangered Species Act. But rural ranchers, gold miners and energy producers argue that doing so would unnecessarily lock tens of millions of acres off from development, exploration or use.



Much of the sage-brush range already is being drilled for oil and natural gas, while thousands of new wells wait for permits. Renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind farms, dot the sage-brush range. Even a gold mine in rural eastern Nevada would be affected.

"It's going to affect agriculture, oil and gas, wind, all kinds of different industries," said Kathleen Sgamma, vice

president of government and public affairs at the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance. "We're talking about such a wide-ranging impact."

The sage grouse has a long history in the American imagination. They are represented in Native American traditional dance and artwork. Lewis and Clark brought back drawings of a bird they called the spiny-tailed pheasant. Conservationist Rachel Carson warned in her seminal work, "Silent Spring," that sage-brush habitat was being converted to grassland for livestock.

Sage grouse populations have "been declining significantly in numbers, and it's very susceptible to development," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a December interview with The Washington Post. "When you look at the Western landscapes and you look at what's happening, there isn't a state where there's this habitat that's not in some form of trouble."

The federal Fish and Wildlife Service, which ultimately is responsible for deciding whether to include an animal on the endangered-species list, has been considering the several subspecies of sage grouse for about 15 years. In 2005, the agency decided it would not list the grouse as threatened. Environmental groups filed a lawsuit, and a federal judge overturned the finding two years later. In 2010, the agency said the bird warranted protection.

Under an agreement between Fish and Wildlife and the environmental groups, the agency has until the end of September 2015 to propose rules governing the bird's habitat or to decide to change its mind.

Environmentalists say protecting the sage grouse and its habitat is crucial to saving many more species, such as the pronghorn and the pygmy rabbit, that call the high desert home.

"The sage grouse is an umbrella species, so it's sort of the canary in the coal mine," said Randi Spivak, the public-lands program director at the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the groups that initially sued the Interior Department to force it to recognize the sage grouse as threatened.

It's not just industry that wants to keep the sage grouse off the endangered-species list. States are working desperately to convince the federal government to decline to list the bird. The 11 affected states set up a bipartisan task force in 2011, co-chaired by Hickenlooper and Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R), aimed at working with Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies to coordinate conservation strategies and resource-management plans.

"The focus of all this is, how do we demonstrate that we're going to do a better job of creating a proactive strategy?" Hickenlooper said. "We can probably do a better job with our local programs and partnerships than Fish and Wildlife can, trying to regulate from afar."

The stakes involved in Fish and Wildlife's decision are huge. The bird's historic range covers 160 million acres across the Mountain West region, including huge swaths of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and Nevada, along with smaller parts of Washington, California, Utah, Colorado, South Dakota and North Dakota.

"The Fish and Wildlife Service . . . must follow the best available science, and it must make sure that whatever's being done is proven to be effective. And so we're trying to keep all governors at the table," Jewell said. "If one state doesn't play, it could impact all of them."

A listing decision could harm state conservation efforts, some officials said. Putting thesage grouse on threatened status "will be an incredible disincentive for states to develop voluntary conservation strategies," said Shawn Reese, Mead's policy director in Wyoming.

Estimates of the total economic impact depend on which conservation plans the government chooses. Plans calling for the strictest conservation measures could cost up to 31,000 jobs, up to $5.6 billion in annual economic activity and more than $262 million in lost state and local revenue every year, according to a **widely cited study** conducted by lawyer Lowell Baier that is accepted by interests on both sides of the debate.

Several members of Congress have urged the Interior Department to hold off on making a final determination. Last July, Sens. Michael F. Bennet (D-Colo.) and Mark Udall (D-Colo.) invited Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to their state to see the progress Colorado had made in protecting the Gunnison sage grouse. Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) and Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) have released a discussion draft of a bill that would address sage-grouse conservation. In February, 10 governors met with Jewell and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Daniel M. Ashe.

State land and wildlife managers almost uniformly believe the Fish and Wildlife Service will rule against them and list the sage grouse as threatened.

"They're leaning toward listing it as threatened," said John Harja, head of Utah's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office and a member of the multi-state Sage Grouse Task Force. "We have great concerns."

If the greater sage grouse is listed as threatened, the 11 states could be on the hook for as much as $1 billion in conservation costs. Adding to that burden, most states fund land programs through user fees, rather than out of general funds; declaring a species threatened makes it harder to generate those fees.

"If the hunters can't hunt, if the miners can't mine, if you don't have that capital, then you lose," said Leo Drozdoff, director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. A billion-dollar tab to save greater sage-grouse habitat, he added, "is almost insurmountable."

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NY Times: In Washington, Walk on the Grass, but Step Gently

WASHINGTON — It has played host to civil rights marches, presidential inaugurations, fireworks displays and decades of picnics. But in recent years the National Mall, envisioned more than a century ago as a lush carpet of green connecting the nation's most treasured monuments, has looked more like a West Texas dust bowl.

Now National Park Service officials are trying to teach the nearly 30 million people who gather here each year a difficult lesson: Tread softly or keep off the grass.

With the installation of exquisite, expensive new turf on a little less than half the mall, the Park Service has established strict rules that include limits on festivals and concerts, and even restrictions on when pickup softball and Frisbee games may be played. The requirements have created an identity crisis for the mall and set off a deeper debate.

Should the National Mall remain a utilitarian gathering place, rough and resilient and

welcoming to all? Or should it be a more pristine landscape, a monument to the nation's commitment to parks and preservation?

"It should be used, and it should be heavily used," said Bob Vogel, the mall's superintendent. "It's a place where democracy is in action. But change is difficult on everyone, including us."

The new lawn, on the portion of the mall closest to the Capitol, is part of a continuing $40 million restoration project that will eventually transform the entire length of the mall from its longtime state of weedy disrepair. The Park Service is enforcing the rules for the new portion of grass and, with exceptions, to the part of the mall that is not yet refurbished.

Festival organizers must pay for turf-friendly panels to protect the grass, event tents are subject to time limits, and stages and media towers have to meet strict weight-distribution restrictions.

A flag system similar to one used in New York's Central Park — a red flag indicates that a field is closed for maintenance or weather — determines whether pickup softball and Frisbee games may be played. Cleats are discouraged.

Members of Congress in both parties have sent letters to Jonathan B. Jarvis, the National Park Service director, expressing concerns and raising the potential for a turf war.

"While it is important to preserve the grounds of this national treasure, we must ensure that its spirit is not diminished," Representative Tom Latham, Republican of Iowa, wrote to Mr. Jarvis in April.

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, for one, says the restrictions might jeopardize its celebration, which has been held on the mall since 1967. "We feel very strongly that after 47 years, the N.P.S. should consider us a cultural resource, deserving the same protection as the

grass and the trees," said Michael Atwood Mason, the director of the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, which produces the festival.

The National Book Festival, on the mall for a decade, has picked up its stalls and is moving to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center because event organizers could not afford the staging costs caused by the regulations.

But for many of the softball and Frisbee players who dominate the mall on spring and summer weeknights, the new rules are a small price to pay for grass fields that are soft on the knees.

"The new turf is a dream; it's wonderful to lay out on," said Patrick Wolfe, 29, referring to diving horizontally for a Frisbee, with little regard for the landing. "You just slide right across — it's like a carpet."

The Mall's trustees, who like to say the expanse has been "loved to death," are hoping the public will adjust. "The turf was designed for heavy use, but we have to treat it differently," said Caroline Cunningham, president of theTrust for the National Mall.

The Park Service-administered National Mall and Memorial Parks encompass more than 1,000 acres between the Lincoln Memorial and the United States Capitol, along with West Potomac Park and Constitution Gardens. The mall itself is the mile-long stretch running from Third Street at the foot of the Capitol to 14th Street in front of the Washington Monument. The restoration plan calls for the eight panels of grass that make up this mile — each panel is a bit larger than a city block — to be replaced and a new irrigation system installed.

In the initial phase, three panels of grass — a combination of turf, bluegrass and fescue atop a

custom blend of sand and soil — have been installed between Third and Seventh Streets, on the east side of the mall near the Capitol. The five panels in the downtrodden, more heavily trafficked west end of the mall, between Seventh and 14th Streets, will be installed in two phases starting in August. The renovation is to take at least two years.

Before the restoration, the Park Service was lenient about how events were conducted on the mall. "You have a hard time saying, 'Get off my lawn,' when it looks like dust," said Michael Stachowicz, the mall's turf management specialist.

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–
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BISON CONNECT

Re: For Your Reid File: WaPo on Sage Grouse//NYT on Mall Turf

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Tue, May 13, 2014 at 8:37 PM
To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks. I think the WaPo sage grouse article is well done and both seem balanced. SJ

Sent from my iPad

On May 13, 2014, at 10:41 AM, "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Sally -

Wanted to flag two recent stories for your read file.

The first is a Washington Post piece on the sage grouse and the pending decision. The reporter, Reid Wilson, spent time out in several of the range states over the last few months and we worked to get FWS and BLM staff on the phone with him for background as well to help inform the piece.

The second is a New York Times story on National Mall turf and the ongoing efforts/need for repairs and new The NPS National Mall folks took the lead on this piece as far as background, information goes. You'll note that Vogel is quoted as well as Cunningham.

-Jessica

Washington Post: Western states worry decision on bird's fate could cost billions in development

By Reid Wilson, Published: SUNDAY, MAY 11, 5:09 PM ET



HANDOUT PHOTO: A pair of sage grouse at Tobar Flats in Clover Valley on March 24, 2014. (Photo by Joe Williams)

MINERAL COUNTY, Nev. – In the frozen chill of a high-desert morning, Tony Wasley, the director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, peers through a range finder down a dirt path and points out a group of birds strutting and preening among a low scrub brush. It's mating season for the sage grouse, and dozens of males are descending upon breeding grounds, called leks, to show off their plumage to the hens.

The 40 or so grouse at this lek near the Nevada-California border look ridiculous. They waddle around, occasionally heaving their bodies into flight, sometimes chasing off younger males and always trying to one-up each other. They are the avian equivalent of a club-goer showing off his shiny new coat.

They are also at the center of a years-long battle that pits environmentalists who want the sage grouse protected under the Endangered Species Act against ranchers, gold miners, energy producers and Western state governments that stand to lose billions of dollars in tax revenue and economic activity if tens of millions of acres are blocked off from development, exploration or use.

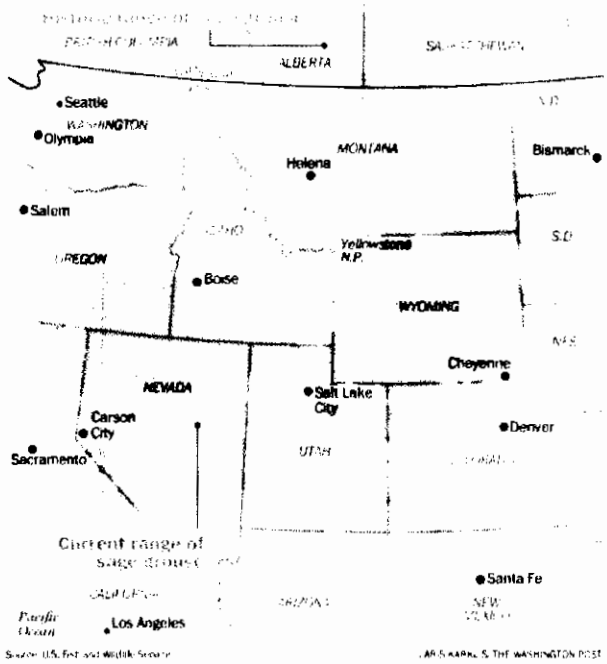
The tension between the federal government and Westerners who want to use government-owned land garnered new attention last month, when the Bureau of Land Management moved to round up cattle owned by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy over more than $1 million in unpaid grazing fees. Some state officials fear a decision to list the sage grouse, which would severely limit everything from grazing to energy development on a huge swath of land, could create a slew of new Bundys all over the rural West.

"Western states never welcome outsiders coming in and telling them how to do something," said Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D), who co-chairs a bipartisan task force working to conserve sage-grouse habitats and prevent its inclusion on a list of threatened animals.

The fight over the sage grouse is similar in many respects to the debate over the Northern spotted owl, which in 1990 was listed as threatened. That decision shut down timber operations across more than 24 million acres in Northern California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, contributing to the industry's precipitous decline.

The difference is that the sage grouse covers about 165 million acres, almost seven times the range of the spotted owl. The economic impact of virtually shutting down development in sage-grouse habitats could be orders of magnitude greater than what happened in the Pacific Northwest.

Environmentalists want the sage grouse protected under the Endangered Species Act. But rural ranchers, gold miners and energy producers argue that doing so would unnecessarily lock tens of millions of acres off from development, exploration or use.



Much of the sage-brush range already is being drilled for oil and natural gas, while thousands of new wells wait for permits. Renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind farms, dot the sage-brush range. Even a gold mine in rural eastern Nevada would be affected.

"It's going to affect agriculture, oil and gas, wind, all kinds of different industries," said Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government and public affairs at the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance. "We're talking about such a wide-ranging impact."

The sage grouse has a long history in the American imagination. They are represented in Native American traditional dance and artwork. Lewis and Clark brought back drawings of a bird they called the spiny-tailed pheasant. Conservationist Rachel Carson warned in her seminal work, "Silent Spring," that sage-brush habitat was being converted to grassland for livestock.

Sage grouse populations have "been declining significantly in numbers, and it's very susceptible to development," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a December interview with The Washington Post. "When you look at the Western landscapes and you look at what's happening, there isn't a state where there's this habitat that's not in some form of trouble."

The federal Fish and Wildlife Service, which ultimately is responsible for deciding whether to include an animal on the endangered-species list, has been considering the several subspecies of sage grouse for about 15 years. In 2005, the agency decided it would not list the grouse as threatened. Environmental groups filed a lawsuit, and a federal judge overturned the finding two years later. In 2010, the agency said the bird warranted protection.

Under an agreement between Fish and Wildlife and the environmental groups, the agency has until the end of September 2015 to propose rules governing the bird's habitat or to decide to change its mind.

Environmentalists say protecting the sage grouse and its habitat is crucial to saving many more species, such as the pronghorn and the pygmy rabbit, that call the high desert home.

"The sage grouse is an umbrella species, so it's sort of the canary in the coal mine," said Randi

Spivak, the public-lands program director at the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the groups that initially sued the Interior Department to force it to recognize the sage grouse as threatened.

It's not just industry that wants to keep the sage grouse off the endangered-species list. States are working desperately to convince the federal government to decline to list the bird. The 11 affected states set up a bipartisan task force in 2011, co-chaired by Hickenlooper and Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R), aimed at working with Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies to coordinate conservation strategies and resource-management plans.

"The focus of all this is, how do we demonstrate that we're going to do a better job of creating a proactive strategy?" Hickenlooper said. "We can probably do a better job with our local programs and partnerships than Fish and Wildlife can, trying to regulate from afar."

The stakes involved in Fish and Wildlife's decision are huge. The bird's historic range covers 160 million acres across the Mountain West region, including huge swaths of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and Nevada, along with smaller parts of Washington, California, Utah, Colorado, South Dakota and North Dakota.

"The Fish and Wildlife Service . . . must follow the best available science, and it must make sure that whatever's being done is proven to be effective. And so we're trying to keep all governors at the table," Jewell said. "If one state doesn't play, it could impact all of them."

A listing decision could harm state conservation efforts, some officials said. Putting thesage grouse on threatened status "will be an incredible disincentive for states to develop voluntary conservation strategies," said Shawn Reese, Mead's policy director in Wyoming.

Estimates of the total economic impact depend on which conservation plans the government chooses. Plans calling for the strictest conservation measures could cost up to 31,000 jobs, up to $5.6 billion in annual economic activity and more than $262 million in lost state and local revenue every year, according to a **widely cited study** conducted by lawyer Lowell Baier that is accepted by interests on both sides of the debate.

Several members of Congress have urged the Interior Department to hold off on making a final determination. Last July, Sens. Michael F. Bennet (D-Colo.) and Mark Udall (D-Colo.) invited Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to their state to see the progress Colorado had made in protecting the Gunnison sage grouse. Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) and Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) have released a discussion draft of a bill that would address sage-grouse conservation. In February, 10 governors met with Jewell and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Daniel M. Ashe.

State land and wildlife managers almost uniformly believe the Fish and Wildlife Service will rule against them and list the sage grouse as threatened.

"They're leaning toward listing it as threatened," said John Harja, head of Utah's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office and a member of the multi-state Sage Grouse Task Force. "We have great concerns."

If the greater sage grouse is listed as threatened, the 11 states could be on the hook for as much as $1 billion in conservation costs. Adding to that burden, most states fund land programs through user fees, rather than out of general funds; declaring a species threatened makes it harder to generate those fees.

"If the hunters can't hunt, if the miners can't mine, if you don't have that capital, then you lose," said Leo Drozdoff, director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. A billion-dollar tab to save greater sage-grouse habitat, he added, "is almost insurmountable."

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NY Times: In Washington, Walk on the Grass, but Step Gently

WASHINGTON — It has played host to civil rights marches, presidential inaugurations, fireworks displays and decades of picnics. But in recent years the National Mall, envisioned more than a century ago as a lush carpet of green connecting the nation's most treasured monuments, has looked more like a West Texas dust bowl.

Now National Park Service officials are trying to teach the nearly 30 million people who gather here each year a difficult lesson: Tread softly or keep off the grass.

With the installation of exquisite, expensive new turf on a little less than half the mall, the Park Service has established strict rules that include limits on festivals and concerts, and even restrictions on when pickup softball and Frisbee games may be played. The requirements have created an identity crisis for the mall and set off a deeper debate.

Should the National Mall remain a utilitarian gathering place, rough and resilient and welcoming to all? Or should it be a more pristine landscape, a monument to the nation's commitment to parks and preservation?

"It should be used, and it should be heavily used," said Bob Vogel, the mall's superintendent. "It's a place where democracy is in action. But change is difficult on everyone, including us."

The new lawn, on the portion of the mall closest to the Capitol, is part of a continuing $40 million restoration project that will eventually transform the entire length of the mall from its longtime state of weedy disrepair. The Park Service is enforcing the rules for the new portion of grass and, with exceptions, to the part of the mall that is not yet refurbished.

Festival organizers must pay for turf-friendly panels to protect the grass, event tents are subject to time limits, and stages and media towers have to meet strict weight-distribution restrictions.

A flag system similar to one used in New York's Central Park — a red flag indicates that a field is closed for maintenance or weather — determines whether pickup softball and Frisbee games may be played. Cleats are discouraged.

Members of Congress in both parties have sent letters to Jonathan B. Jarvis, the National Park Service director, expressing concerns and raising the potential for a turf war.

"While it is important to preserve the grounds of this national treasure, we must ensure that its spirit is not diminished," Representative Tom Latham, Republican of Iowa, wrote to Mr. Jarvis in April.

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, for one, says the restrictions might jeopardize its celebration, which has been held on the mall since 1967. "We feel very strongly that after 47 years, the N.P.S. should consider us a cultural resource, deserving the same protection as the grass and the trees," said Michael Atwood Mason, the director of the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, which produces the

festival.

The National Book Festival, on the mall for a decade, has picked up its stalls and is moving to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center because event organizers could not afford the staging costs caused by the regulations.

But for many of the softball and Frisbee players who dominate the mall on spring and summer weeknights, the new rules are a small price to pay for grass fields that are soft on the knees.

"The new turf is a dream; it's wonderful to lay out on," said Patrick Wolfe, 29, referring to diving horizontally for a Frisbee, with little regard for the landing. "You just slide right across — it's like a carpet."

The Mall's trustees, who like to say the expanse has been "loved to death," are hoping the public will adjust. "The turf was designed for heavy use, but we have to treat it differently," said Caroline Cunningham, president of theTrust for the National Mall.

The Park Service-administered National Mall and Memorial Parks encompass more than 1,000 acres between the Lincoln Memorial and the United States Capitol, along with West Potomac Park and Constitution Gardens. The mall itself is the mile-long stretch running from Third Street at the foot of the Capitol to 14th Street in front of the Washington Monument. The restoration plan calls for the eight panels of grass that make up this mile — each panel is a bit larger than a city block — to be replaced and a new irrigation system installed.

In the initial phase, three panels of grass — a combination of turf, bluegrass and

fescue atop a custom blend of sand and soil — have been installed between Third and Seventh Streets, on the east side of the mall near the Capitol. The five panels in the downtrodden, more heavily trafficked west end of the mall, between Seventh and 14th Streets, will be installed in two phases starting in August. The renovation is to take at least two years.

Before the restoration, the Park Service was lenient about how events were conducted on the mall. "You have a hard time saying, 'Get off my lawn,' when it looks like dust," said Michael Stachowicz, the mall's turf management specialist.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, May 15, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, May 15, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Office of Hawaiian Affairs Seeks Legal Opinion On Status Of Hawaii.
+ Open Source Software Discussed At FOSE Conference.
+ Wildfires Explode Across California.
+ President Obama Encouraged To Protect Public Lands.
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DOI in the News:

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE FINISHES IOWA MEETING. The AP (5/15) reports that State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience wrapped up a two-day meeting in Des Moines Wednesday as it works toward creating recommendations on ways the federal government can assist communities prepare for natural disasters. The State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience is expected to deliver final recommendations to President Obama by November. Several Obama advisers, including Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, were "among the officials to discuss the group's progress at a news conference held as the task force concluded its Iowa meeting." Jewell said "it's important to find ways to 'walk softer on the planet.'"

WHO-AM Des Moines, IA (5/15) reports that Jewell said, "Sustainability and addressing climate change is a team sport, so that's what this is all about. It's about sharing the knowledge and wisdom that we've all gained on the ground. It's about sharing the science we have, so that we have a single version of the truth, and its available to everyone. It's about listening to the perspective of those who are managing these lands, and in some cases

have been managing these lands in harmony with the environment for thousands of years."

KCCI-TV Des Moines, IA (5/15, 191K) reports that Jewell said, "No company, no individual can go it alone. If we are going to chart a course for our planet that is better than the one that we have giving, we must act now and must act as a team."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (5/15, 51K) and the Sioux City (IA) Journal (5/15, 15K).

Gov. Quinn To Appear On Climate Change Panel In Iowa. In an earlier story, the Chicago Tribune (5/15, Byrne, 2.3M) reports Gov. Pat Quinn will be in Iowa "to appear on a climate change panel he was appointed to by President Barack Obama." The governor will join Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and others in Des Moines for a meeting of the Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. According to Quinn's office, "the climate task force is part of Obama's federal efforts to address disasters caused by climate change."

BLM ACKNOWLEDGES NEED FOR INCREASED WELL INSPECTIONS. The AP (5/15, 455K) reports that on Wednesday the BLM admitted the need to improve drilling oversight. Spokesman Jeff Krauss said the BLM "has worked hard to keep up with the nation's energy boom, which has included the increased use of hydraulic fracturing." Krauss said the BLM hopes Congress will approve a budget request that would let it use $10 million from fees charged to gas and oil companies to pay for inspections. The article notes that this week Sen. Ed Markey in a letter asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to detail the department's efforts to boost well inspections. Wednesday the Interior Department said it was reviewing Markey's letter.

Also covering the story is Politico (5/15, Guillén, 73K). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (5/15, 1.36M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/14, 687K), the Toledo (OH) Blade (5/14, 241K), the FuelFix (5/14, 7K), the US News & World Report (5/14, 645K), the Huffington Post (5/15, Visser, 11.54M), and MinnPost (5/15, 5K).

INTERIOR TO ANNOUNCE NEXT STEPS FOR COBELL LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The Nation Sun News (5/15) reports that the Obama Administration is "holding a media call tomorrow to discuss the next steps for the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations." Deputy Secretary Michael Connor and Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn, the head of the BIA, will participate in the call. They will "discuss the implementation plan from now through the end of calendar year 2015."

REP. GRIJALVA SEEKS REVIEW OF PIPELINE SERVICE ROADS THROUGH WILDLIFE REFUGE. The Arizona Daily Star (5/15, 389K) reports that Rep. Raúl Grijalva has asked the Interior Department "to intervene in a controversial pipeline project that would carry natural gas from Tucson to Sasabe and into Mexico." Grijalva sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Monday "asking the department to challenge findings from a draft report released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the use of access roads in the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge for the Kinder Morgan Sierrita Pipeline project." Grijalva "questioned why the agency would let Kinder Morgan use roads in the refuge after it refused to let the company build its pipeline through the refuge in an existing corridor near Arizona 286."

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS SEEKS LEGAL OPINION ON STATUS OF HAWAII. The Hawaii Star Advertiser (5/11, 402K) reports that the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission has "all but completed its work," and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, "immersed in its Native Hawaiian nation-building efforts, erupted late last week in a dramatic conflagration." On Friday, OHA released on its website a letter, dated May 5, that Chief Executive Officer Kamana'o Crabbe sent to Secretary of State John Kerry, "seeking a legal opinion on the status of Hawaii under international law." According to the article, "citing recent presentations by pro-independence advocates that characterized federal and Hawaii state governments as 'illegal regimes,' Crabbe wrote that he would ask the trustees to delay further nationhood projects until OHA gets a reading from the US State Department on the legal status."

OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE DISCUSSED AT FOSE CONFERENCE. In its "Pulse" blog, Government Computer News (5/15, 848) reports that during FOSE's three-day conference and expo, an Interior Department employee asked the panelists, "What do you do when your agency is just hell bent on using [commercial off-the-shelf] software?" He said "his superiors seem hostile to the very idea of open-source solutions, even after he and his

team produced a cost/benefit analysis comparing in-house development to COTS integration."

WILDFIRES EXPLODE ACROSS CALIFORNIA. The extensive wildfires in southern California drew significant coverage on Wednesday's evening newscasts, which all lead with the story and covered the situation at length.

In its lead story, NBC Nightly News (5/14, lead story, 3:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported on "an emergency in the West," noting "100-degree temperatures, three percent humidity, give or take, and 50-mile an hour winds." Fires "have exploded" in Southern California "galloping across the land, jumping across canyons faster than firefighters can run and fueled by some of the worst possible conditions. Tonight entire neighborhoods and lives have been put on hold, traffic's been diverted and the Marines landed on the beach in hovercraft to fight a fire on their base."

In its lead story, ABC World News (5/14, lead story, 3:35, Sawyer) reported that "17 million people in two states have been given an urgent red flag warning about the risk of fire where they live. Some families are taking stock of the wreckage. Others fighting the fire with the garden hoses." ABC (Vega) provides extensive details on the efforts of locals to combat fires.

In its lead story, the CBS Evening News (5/14, lead story, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "A drought, a heat wave and strong winds are the elements for the disaster unfolding tonight in Southern California." CBS says that wildfires "are burning out of control in San Diego County." The piece focuses on the fire in Carlsbad, which has destroyed "at least" 30 homes.

The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 2, 1:15, Pelley, 5.08M) ran a second story. After receiving input from a local reporter detailing conditions, CBS (Pelley) adds, "Heat and drought have brought an early start to the wildfire season this year. Nearly all of the counties in California have now officially declared that fire season has begun, which allows them to hire more firefighters."

PRESIDENT OBAMA ENCOURAGED TO PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS. For the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (5/15, Nelson, 237K), Ryland Nelson, Southern Rockies Program Manager for Canadian nonprofit, Wildsight, argues that "Obama's environmental legacy does not hinge at all on what he decides about Keystone," but that "his real environmental legacy will be what he does to protect the United States' hugely popular national parks and monuments." As evidence, he points to "the strong negative reactions to park closures during the shutdown." In conclusion, Nelson urges Obama to "seize a great opportunity to cement a truly lasting legacy for the generations that come after us."

SEN. BLUNT TOUTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR NATIONAL PARKS. In an op-ed for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (5/15, 1.02M), Sen. Roy Blunt writes that "it was good to learn that Vice President Joe Biden and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell would be visiting the Arch." Blunt believes in "the use of public-private partnerships in the operation of land management agencies," including the NPS. He argues that "the CityArchRiver project can be a prototype for the next 100 years of how the national park system should work — through partners that have more invested than the government does."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DATA SHOW DECLINE IN CAMPING IN NATIONAL PARKS. The AP (5/15) reports that "the number of overnight camping stays in national parks has declined in the past 15 years." The article notes that "more than 9.2 million overnight camping stays were recorded in the national parks 15 years ago in 1998," but "the number dropped to 8.54 million five years later in 2003; 7.99 million five years after that in 2008, and 7.91 million last year, in 2013." NPS spokesman Jeffrey Olson said "the decline began in the mid-1990s but began to level out around 2004."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by ABC News (5/15, 3.58M) and the Anderson (SC) Independent-Mail (5/14, 78K).

In a piece for the AP (5/14), Solvej Schou writes about camping.

ELEVATOR HALTS AT REOPENED WASHINGTON MONUMENT. The Washington Post (5/15, Ruane, 4.22M) reports that "two days after the gala reopening of the Washington Monument, the elevator in the monument stopped working on Wednesday." The NPS said the elevator in the obelisk temporarily halted at 10:53 a.m. Then, "around 5 p.m., the operator was unable to get the elevator to leave the ground floor with a load of passengers."

Also reporting on the story is Reuters (5/15).

NPS DONATES DEER MEAT TO HELP HOMELESS. The New York Times (5/15, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the government sharpshooters inRock Creek Park shot 106 white-tailed deer by the end of this year's short killing season. According to he article, "to help the homeless and to make sure that the dead deer are not simply discarded — an action that would further outrage local residents — the National Park Service has the meat inspected and processed and then gives it to D.C. Central Kitchen." And "despite local protesters who say the killings are cruel, the goal remains culling the deer population down to no more than 20 deer per square mile, from 77 per square mile counted last fall."

SEN. MURKOWSKI WELCOMES APPROVAL OF SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES ON NPS LANDS IN ALASKA. The National Journal (5/15, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski welcomed the NPS' "decision to develop regulations recognizing the rights of subsistence users to collect wild berries, birch bark, seaweed, beach grass, and other renewable traditional foods and handcraft material in Alaska's national parks." Murkowski said, "This decision – while long overdue – is a small step in the right direction. It finally brings the National Park Service's rules into alignment with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act's goal of ensuring Alaskans can continue to live a subsistence lifestyle despite the prevalence of federally managed land in the state. The truth is that rural residents have been carrying out these activities on their traditional lands for generations, but it's important that federal regulations reflect and respect that reality. I thank the National Park Service for listening to me on this issue."

NPS TO MAP LAKE SUPERIOR'S FLOOR. The Spooner (WI) Advocate (5/15, 13K) reports that "Lake Superior's bottom will be scanned by sonar and laser beams around national parks this summer, as part of a US National Park Service project to map the lake floor." The NPS has been "doing a methodical grid scan of Lake Superior's floor for four summers." Project director Jay Glase in Ashland says the NPS is "mapping the lake's floor to help restore fish habitats and see the effects that artificial structures are having on things like spawning reefs."

NPS DEVELOPING BUFFALO RIVER LONG RANGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN. The Branson (MO) Daily News (5/15) reports that the NPS is embarking on a new Long Range Interpretive Plan for the Buffalo National River, and is seeking comments from the public. Spokesperson Caven Clark says the NPS "welcomes stories and experiences that people believe are key to the appreciation and understanding of the Buffalo River." The agency is "hosting a series of public meetings on the Long Range Interpretive Plan beginning May 20th."

CHESTNUT TREES TO BE PLANTED AT LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE. The AP (5/15) reports that "volunteers are being sought to help plant potentially blight-resistant American chestnut trees at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park." According to the article, "20 trees will be planted Saturday at the park's picnic area."

MAN FACES CHARGES IN CONNECTION WITH BURL POACHING. The North Coast Journal (5/14) reports that "an Orick man was arrested recently on suspicion of hacking burl out of redwood trees on public land a year ago and selling them to a nearby burl souvenir shop." Danny E. Garcia is "facing charges of grand theft, vandalism and receiving stolen property stemming from the discovery of a badly damaged tree in Redwood National and State Parks in April 2013."

OLYMPIC PARK CABIN ADDED TO STATE LIST OF MOST ENDANGERED HISTORICAL PROPERTIES. The AP (5/15) reports that "an 83-year-old log cabin teetering on the eroding bank of the Quinault River in Olympic National Park was added this week to the state list of most endangered historical properties." The Enchanted Valley Chalet is included in the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation's annual list.

GROUPS HOPE STATE DESIGNATION WILL HELP ASTRODOME. The AP (5/15) reports that "preservation groups and others said Wednesday that they're hopeful a pending application to designate the famed Houston

Astrodome as a 'state antiquities landmark' will help revitalize efforts to revamp the stadium and save it from potential demolition." The article noes that "the pending state antiquities designation comes after the National Park Service added the Astrodome to its National Register of Historic Places."

Bureau of Land Management:

OPERATION AMERICAN SPRING TO HOLD EVENT IN SUPPORT OF BUNDY. The Washington Times (5/15, Chumley, 455K) reports that the Operation American Spring, "a group of self-described revolutionary-style patriots with a million mobilized militia members," is holding an event on Friday in Bunerkville, Nev., "near cattle rancher Cliven Bundy's property and in support of his stand-off with the Bureau of Land Management over grazing fees."

Former Deputy Secretary Babbitt Defends BLM. In an op-ed for the Summit (CO) Daily News (5/15, 37K), former Interior Department secretary Bruce Babbitt defends the employees of the BLM. He writes that "BLM staffers are dedicated public servants who struggle with the unenviable task of juggling the conflicting demands of ranchers, miners, oil and gas companies, sportsmen and conservationists." Babbitt asserts that "they deserve our respect and our gratitude." Babbitt believes that "the whole sorry Bundy episode has given us an opportunity to renew our commitment to conservation." He suggests that "we can do that by calling on President Obama to take action to protect more of the special places on our public lands."

Professor Criticizes BLM. In an op-ed for the Washington Times (5/15, Codevilla, 455K), Angelo M. Codevilla, professor emeritus of international relations at Boston University, writes, that the Bundy dispute is an example that shows that "ordinary Americans have more reason to fear the US government than do our foreign enemies."

Additional Coverage. Providing continuing coverage of the dispute is the Washington Times (5/15, Chumley, 455K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF THE RECAPTURE CANYON PROTEST. Additional coverage of the Recapture Canyon protest was provided by the Daily Beast (5/14, 1.18M).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

US, PHILIPPINES SIGN ACCORD ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. The Philippine Daily Inquirer (5/15, 800K) reports that the United States and the Philippines have signed a deal to boost Manila's capacity to combat trafficking and other crimes against wildlife. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Director Dan Ashe of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, DENR Undersecretary Analiza Teh and the DA-BFAR Director Asis Perez. The agreement will "provide the Philippines with access to and use of the US National Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Oregon, considered to be the only laboratory in the world that is dedicated to crimes against wildlife," according to Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.

The ABS-CBN News (PHL) (5/15, 65K) reports that Ashe said, "The fight to prevent wildlife trafficking and halt its devastating impact on some of the world's most well-known and well-loved wild animals is going to take a global effort."

The Business Mirror (PHL) (5/15, 390) reports that Ashe added, "This [MOU] between our two countries exemplifies the sort of international cooperation that will help us win this fight and save species such as the African elephant and rhino."

Also providing similar coverage are the People's Journal (PHL) (5/15, 1.09M) and the Manila Standard Today (5/15, 20K).

MUSIC INDUSTRY CONCERNED ABOUT IVORY REGULATION. The Hill (5/15, Devaney, 237K) reports that "the music industry is concerned about a 'crippling' new regulation from the Obama administration that it says could end the careers of musicians and reduce the quality of performances around the world." Musicians claim the "order could keep them from traveling overseas, because they often perform with expensive antique instruments that contain ivory." The article notes that "the policy is particularly worrisome for orchestras, because many older stringed instruments such as violins and cellos contain small amounts of ivory, as do the bows used

to play them." The FWS says "it never intended to single out musicians with the rule, which is intended to discourage poachers from killing African elephants for their tusks."

For the National Geographic (5/14, 42.25M), Andrew Wyatt, a government affairs consultant, and Doug Bandow, a Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute, argue that the Obama Administration is "playing the politics of deception, or at least deliberate misinformation." They claim that FWS Director Dan Ashe and "others have been circulating misleading information on elephant deaths, poaching, and the illegal ivory trade to advance an ideological agenda rather than to protect elephants." The authors argue that their "proposals reflect a desperate misunderstanding of the illegal market and will only accelerate the slaughter of African elephants."

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY TO BE CELEBRATED. The Chattanoogan (5/15, 12K) reports that "the 9th annual national Endangered Species Day will be celebrated on Friday with special events and programs that recognize the nation's efforts to conserve and protect America's most imperiled species." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "Endangered Species Day offers us an opportunity to recognize the uncertain future faced by many of our nation's most iconic species and to work together to preserve our priceless natural heritage. For over 40 years, the Endangered Species Act has played an integral role in wildlife conservation and has ensured that future generations can continue to enjoy the species that surround us today."

WESTERN GROUSE COALITION LOBBIES HOUSE APPROPRIATORS TO DELAY LISTING. The Environment & Energy Publishing (5/15, 705) reports that "a group headquartered in Utah whose president is a D.C. lobbyist is pushing House lawmakers to include language in an upcoming spending bill that would force a one-year delay of the Interior Department's listing decision for the greater sage grouse." The Western Grouse Coalition, "led by a former Natural Resources Committee Republican aide turned lobbyist, said Western states need more time to implement conservation plans within their borders." The group said "it is also working with lawmakers on a bill to be introduced 'in the very near future' that would postpone the Fish and Wildlife Service's listing decision for an additional 10 years."

FWS TO WORK QUEBEC TOWN ON SEA LAMPREY BARRIER. The AP (5/15) reports that the FWS is "working with a town in Quebec to prevent sea lamprey from traveling up a tributary of Lake Champlain just north of the Vermont border." Sen. Patrick Leahy says the "barrier is on the Moprion Cree, a tributary of the Pike River in Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge, which flows into Lake Champlain's Missisquoi Bay." Leahy "worked to secure nearly $1.3 million for the barrier through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission."

FWS HISTORIAN PROFILED. The Environment & Energy Publishing (5/15, 705) profiles Mark Madison, the FWS historian, and "the only historian the agency has ever had." According to the article, "most of the illegal goods retained by FWS are shipped out to a repository near Denver, but Madison and his co-workers keep some in the basement archive for display in the training center museum upstairs." Madison "does the interpretation while the curator preserves all the objects and maintains the archive."

FOIA REQUEST SEEKS INFORMATION ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FWS AND ISLAND CONSERVATION. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (5/15, Sergio, 11.54M), conservationist Maggie Sergio writes that a Freedom of Information Act request has been filed to seek "information and details surrounding the business relationship between USFWS and the Santa Cruz based nonprofit, Island Conservation." According to Sergio, "since 2008, Island Conservation has been awarded lucrative, tax-free government contracts to conduct pest control on remote islands without any formal bid process, minimal regulatory oversight, and no accountability for past violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or EPA law." She notes that "Island Conservation's federal contracts to carry out highly controversial island eradication projects also include payment to write the environmental impact statements and/or assessments for the very projects they will carry out."

US Geological Survey:

SCIENTISTS SAY DEPLETION OF CENTRAL VALLEY'S GROUNDWATER COULD BE CAUSING EARTHQUAKES. The Los Angeles Times (5/15, Lin, 3.46M) reports that on Wednesday, "a group of scientists offered a new, intriguing theory" that the increase in the number of earthquakes in one part of Central Califomia are "triggered in part by the pumping of groundwater in the Central Valley, which produces crops that feed the

nation." USGS seismologist Susan Hough, "who was not affiliated with the study, said the idea that groundwater depletion can trigger earthquakes is very plausible." Hough also "went a step further than the researchers, saying it's possible that smaller earthquakes in the Parkfield area could eventually trigger larger earthquakes that head south toward Los Angeles."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND ENERGY TAX CREDIT BEING DEBATED BY SENATE. The "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (5/15, Cox, 237K) reports Sens. Jeff Flake and Lamar Alexander said yesterday "that it's long past time the government stopped subsidizing wind energy." Flake stated on the Senate floor, "Neither of us is saying there is no place for wind energy. There is an important place for it ... but it's time for the federal subsidy to end." The legislative body "is debating a bill to renew a set of expired tax breaks commonly called 'tax extenders,' the EXPIRE Act" which "would continue more than 50 tax credits for two years, including the wind production tax credit."

FuelFix (5/14, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that the bill's "path out of the chamber is far from clear, complicated by some Republicans' hopes to make changes, such as doing away with an existing medical device tax or dropping the renewable energy production credit altogether." Supporters of the bill "are hoping that the broad array of interests represented in the bill — from teachers to race track owners — will help it get past critics with objections to individual provisions."

USGS RELEASES PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WIND TURBINE MAP. The Midwest Producer (5/15) reports that the USGS has "created a publicly available national dataset and interactive mapping application of wind turbines." According to officials, "knowing the location of individual turbines, as well as information such as the make, model, height, area of the turbine blades, and capacity creates new opportunities for research, and important information for land and resource management."

Onshore Energy Development:

GROUPS APPEAL INTERIOR'S APPROVAL OF PEABODY MINE PLAN FOR NORTH ANTELOPE ROCHELLE. The SNL Financial (5/15, 21K) reports that "a pair of environmental groups on May 13 said they filed a petition for review of the US Department of the Interior's approval of a Peabody Energy Corp. mine plan authorizing the coal producer to mine the North Porcupine and South Porcupine federal leases in the Powder River Basin." In a filing in US District Court for the District of Wyoming, the Powder River Basin Resource Council and the Western Organization of Resource Councils claimed the Interior Department "did not properly consider reclamation status at the North Antelope Rochelle mine when issuing its approval March 14." The groups also said that Peabody has "failed to reclaim lands contemporaneously with mining operations, which is a requirement of the federal surface mining law."

DROUGHT GIVING NEW AMMO TO ANTI-FRACKING FORCES IN CALIFORNIA. The New York Times (5/15, Onishi, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that fracking opponents are arguing that California's current drought is a reason to end the water-intensive method of drilling for oil. The Times says that fracking a single well in California last year "took 87 percent of the water consumed in a year by a family of four." The drought "has provided the momentum for about a dozen local governments across California, the third-largest oil producing state, to vote to restrict or prohibit fracking in their jurisdictions, as concerns over environmental effects and water usage have grown." In addition, legislation that "would declare a statewide moratorium on fracking has been gathering support in the State Senate, a year after a similar effort failed."

OHIO RESEARCHERS LINKING FRACKING TO EARTHQUAKES. CBS News (5/15, 5.21M) reports that scientists in Ohio have drawn links between increased seismic activity and fracking. Researchers have documented "more than 100 mild quakes" in the state since they first started looking at a potential link between drilling and earthquakes 15 years ago. The state is now working on tougher regulations for new wells, however those won't affect wells currently operating. Still, the new regulations include a mandate that new drilling sites in the state within three miles of known fault lines will have to feature "seismic-monitoring equipment." ProPublica (5/15, Sadasivam, 6K) also details current fracking regulatory efforts in Ohio.

FRACKING-LIKE DRILLING NEAR EVERGLADES FOCUSES ATTENTION ON FLORIDA REGULATIONS. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (5/14, Gibson, 850K) reports that attention has been focused on drilling regulations in Florida after a Texas company was "caught using fracking-like blasting methods to drill for oil near the Everglades." Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) has called for a Federal investigation, while the state has enacted a temporary ban on "five new exploratory wells" in addition to fining the Dan A. Hughes Co. Last year the company had asked the state "for permission to use high-pressure injection of dissolving acids at a production well in Collier County." Although environmental officials told the company not to proceed, they recently discovered that the method was used on the well anyway.

INTERIOR CRITICIZED FOR IGNORING PUBLIC ON FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT/NAVAJO MINE ENERGY COMPLEX. For the Durango (CO) Herald (5/14, 28K), Dan Olson writes that the public's voice should be heard on the Four Corners Power Plant/Navajo Mine Energy Complex. He argues that the Interior Department has "a legal responsibility to engage the public as it prepares its analysis of the FCPP Complex," but "in the case of the FCPP Complex meetings, the DOI was overtly uninterested in recording and responding to public input." According to Olson, "rather than hosting a public meeting where comments can be aired publicly and recorded – a meeting in which community members can hear one another's concems – the DOI put on a finely honed dog-and-pony show."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR NOMINEE SUPPORTS YAKIMA BASIN WATER PROJECTS. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (5/15, 86K) reports that President Obama's pick "to take the helm" of the BOR "expressed support for funding the Yakima Basin's Integrated Plan for water management." The nominee, Estevan Lopez, is currently the director of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. At a nomination hearing at the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on Tuesday, Sen. Maria Cantwell, asked Lopez if "he would work to get more federal money committed to the plan, which includes projects ranging from fish passage to new storage reservoirs." Lopez said that "he saw the Yakima Basin plan as an 'outstanding example' of how collaboration can solve difficult water management problems and that he recognized that 'funding on the federal side has been insufficient.'" Lopez said, "I do commit that we would work with you if confirmed to try to assure that the federal government can contribute its fair share."

RIO GRANDE SILVERY MINNOWS SPAWNING. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/15, 282K) reports that endangered Rio Grande silvery minnows are "spawning in response to an increased flow in the river over the last few weeks, and cooperative weather means the environmental experiment can continue for a few extra days." According to BOR spokeswoman Mary Carlson, "with weather cooperating, the experiment has been extended a day." The article notes that "flows will be slowly reduced through the Albuquerque stretch of the river beginning tomorrow, but the gradual reductions mean the change will not likely be noticeable until early next week."

REP. GARAMENDI TO SPEAK AGAINST DELTA TUNNELS AT WATER SUMMIT. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (5/15, 206) reports that Rep. John Garamendi, "an outspoken opponent of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan's twin water tunnels, will make the case against Gov. Jerry Brown's project at the 7th annual O.C. Water Summit on Friday." Garamendi will "present his plan, which he says it more affordable, effective, and comprehensive." The plan, called "A Water Plan for All Califomia," would "create additional water for the entire state through water storage, conservation, and recycling, while relying on the best science and protecting water rights."

CITIES ENCOURAGED TO FIND WAYS TO REUSE WATER. The Dallas Morning News (5/15, 1.18M) editorializes that "it's smart water policy for additional cities to find more mentally acceptable reuses for the water that flows from our homes." The paper notes that Dallas is working with the Interior Department on "a reclaimed water feasibility study." It note sthat "one aspect of a changing climate is less rain and longer droughts for Texas." The editorial argue sthat "conserving this resource is important, but conservation alone isn't enough. Smarter use — and reuse — of water is essential, too."

Empowering Native American Communities:

COBELL CHECKS COULD BE DELAYED TO DECEMBER. The Nation Sun News (5/15) reports that "the seemingly endless wait for the release of the second Cobell payments to tribal beneficiaries seems to be getting longer as the courts sort through appeals and lawyers for the plaintiffs scramble to provide answers for the delay." In a response to the inquiry of a Sisseton Wahpeton Tribal member, Joe Bums, a Paralegal for Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, said, "Our current expectation is that the Trust Administration Class payments will be sent sometime between June and December of this year, after final court approval of those payments."

Top National News:

OBAMA URGES CONGRESS TO BACK NEW SPENDING ON INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. President Obama's remarks regarding the need to spend more on the nation's aging roads and bridges generated a modest amount of national media coverage, including a segment on the CBS Evening News (5/14, story 4, 2:20, 5.08M). Most of the coverage emphasizes the President's touting of moves made by his Administration to ease the Federal regulatory burden on infrastructure projects as well as his criticism of Congressional Republicans for opposing tax hikes to pay for transportation spending.

On the CBS Evening News (5/14, story 4, 2:20, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that the President "challenged Congress to rebuild America's crumbling bridges and roadways." Correspondent Jeff Pegues went on to report the CBO has warned that the Federal Highway Trust Fund, which is "financed by revenue from the gas tax," is being rapidly depleted because "spending from the fund has exceeded that revenue for more than a decade." Pegues added, "That couldn't come at a worse time" considering that "more than one in nine bridges are rated as structurally deficient, and 32% of America's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition." Pegues also noted that the Administration "has proposed a $300 billion transportation bill" paid for by tax hikes, but, according to Pegues, "in an election year, a tax increase of any kind is tough to swallow for Republicans and Democrats."

The AP (5/15) reports that "with New York's aging Tappan Zee Bridge looming behind him," the President "challenged congressional Republicans to spend more money on the nation's crumbling roads, see-through bridges and outdated ports or face losing businesses to other countries." According to the AP, the President "used the major Hudson River crossing point north of New York City and its $3.9 billion replacement project to illustrate a fast-track system he initiated that he said cut the permitting time from five years to 1 1/2 years." The AP also notes that the President "blamed Republicans for not authorizing more money for construction and repairs," and "accused Republicans of voting against additional spending even as they gladly show up at ribbon cutting ceremonies for projects they refused to finance."

Reuters (5/15, Rampton) quotes the President as saying, "If you want to tell them what you think about that, don't worry because usually they show up at ribbon cuttings of projects they refuse to fund."

According to the Washington Post (5/15, Wilson, 4.22M), the President's "remarks are the most public in a series of appearances that senior administration officials are making this week to highlight the need for new spending on languishing projects for highways, airports and more." But the Post goes on to report that Michael Steel, a spokesman for House Speaker Boehner, "questioned Obama's commitment to public works spending and job creation and cited the administration's more than five-year deliberation over whether to build" the Keystone XL pipeline.

Reuters (5/15, Rampton) reports that Senate Minority Leader McConnell released a statement on Wednesday reading: "It's a real challenge to listen to the president talk about reforming the permitting system when he's been sitting on the permit for the country's largest shovel-ready infrastructure program." The Wall Street Journal (5/15, Sparshott, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) also notes Republican objections to the President's characterization of their position on infrastructure projects.

Bloomberg News (5/15, Runningen, 4.91M) reports that the President warned that the US "risks its economic supremacy by neglecting...its transportation system," while "economic competitors such as European nations and China have been investing heavily." Bloomberg News notes that also on Wednesday, Vice President Biden "was delivering a similar message at a rail center in Cleveland." According to Bloomberg News, "business groups and labor unions" also "favor a boost in the gasoline tax to finance a long-term highway bill, even though lawmakers in both chambers say that can't clear Congress in an election year."

Newsday (5/15, Figueroa, 1.5M) reports that the President's trip to New York "include[d] two Democratic fundraisers Wednesday night and a speech at the Sept. 11 memorial Museum dedication in lower Manhattan Thursday." Newsday notes that on Wednesday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) introduced the President, "who said Cuomo's work in getting funding for the Tappan Zee project showed a 'can-do spirit.'"

The Los Angeles Times (5/15, Hennessey, 3.46M) reports that "in December, federal officials awarded the project a $1.6 billion-low-interest loan, the largest-ever award through the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program."

The Hill (5/14, Sink, 237K) reported that "under the new permitting guidelines, departments within the administration will be required to...reduce the amount of time the government takes to resolve interagency disputes," and urged to "undertake synchronized, simultaneous reviews of projects." According to the Christian Science Monitor (5/15, Swan, 566K), the President "proposes to expand a 'dashboard' to coordinate permit schedules and department reviews of proposed projects, including wind farms, ports, and pipelines." But the Monitor notes that the Keystone XL pipeline "would not be included in the dashboard, an exemption that Republican leaders have cited as a deal breaker."

The Washington Times (5/15, Boyer, 455K) reports that Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) "said executive action to reform the federal permit process is 'a step in the right direction,' but added that legislation is needed to increase certainty in the system." According to the Times, Portman said he is "sponsoring a bill to do just that."

According to the Lower Hudson Valley (NY) Journal News (5/15, Saeed, Juva-Brown, 339K), since Cuomo became governor, "the state approved a process that allows infrastructure project to be designed while construction begins," and Cuomo "has been praised for reviving the project, which had been stagnating for nearly a decade." The Journal News notes that "also in attendance, seated to the back, was Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino," who is expected to be Cuomo's Republican challenger in November.

The New York Times (5/15, A24, Berger, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the President's visit "appears to have been...planned on short notice." The Times notes that Drew Fixell, "the Democratic mayor of Tarrytown, did not learn about the trip until late last week."

The New York Daily News (5/15, Fermino, 4.36M) notes that the President "pointed out that Europe spends double what America does on roads and bridges, while China spends four times the US amount on its public works." The Daily News also reports that the President said his Administration's streamlining of the approval process "will help speed up mega-projects at Boston's South Station, the Pensacola Bay Bridge, and light-rail construction north and south of Seattle." According to the Daily News, the President "insisted that infrastructure expansion should be bipartisan, but took a few shots at Republicans...for pushing tax cuts on the wealthy instead of 'rebuilding America.'" The New York Observer (5/15, Barkan, 328K) covers the President's speech under the headline "Barack Obama Slams Republicans In Infrastructure Speech."

The Somers (NY) Daily Voice (5/15, LoPriore) reports that the President "thanked Cuomo for making the bridge project a reality and Democrat Congresswoman Nita Lowey for expediting the federal financing." The Daily Voice reports that Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) said on Wednesday that "it's time to get serious about investing in our country again and fight back against ideologues in Congress who want to hold our economy hostage by refusing to repair our crumbling infrastructure."

The Poughkeepsie (NY) Journal (5/15, Rauch, 149K) reports that on Wednesday, "several dozen construction workers, claiming that minorities were being systematically excluded from working on the new Tappan Zee Bridge, lined a nearby overpass, chanting, 'Obama, help us! We need jobs!'" Vinnie Torres, a member of the Laborers' International Union, is quoted as saying, "We're excited about the project, we're excited about the visit, but we want President Obama to know that we're not being recognized, that we're being shut out."

FOX POLL: 51% BELIEVE ADMINISTRATION LIED ABOUT BENGHAZI ATTACKS. Bret Baier reported on Fox News' Special Report (5/14, 2.15M) that more than half the respondents in a Fox News poll "believe President Obama and his aides purposely deceived the public about the Benghazi terror attacks." According to the poll, 51% believe that "the Administration knowingly lied in order to help the President get re-elected." However, Baier

also noted that "two-thirds say the Republican-led investigation into Benghazi is motivated by politics more than a desire to find the truth."

Pelosi Undecided Regarding Democratic Participation On Benghazi Select Committee. Asked on CNN's Situation Room (5/14, 554K) if Democrats will participate in the House select committee on Benghazi, House Minority Leader Pelosi said, "We'll see." Pelosi continued, "The point is, we want to show the public how unfair this process is – it should be evenly divided; they don't want it evenly divided." Pelosi also described the select committee as "unnecessary" because there have already been "six congressional hearings, one independent hearing at the State Department and the rest."

Rice Defends The Administration's Cooperation With Benghazi Investigations. The Daily Caller (5/14, Bordelon, 408K) reported that when asked by PBS's Judy Woodruff on Wednesday, in regards to the 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks, "What more is there that the administration has done or said that we're not aware of?" NSA Rice replied, "Dang if I know." According to the Daily Caller, Rice added, "We – the administration has produced, I think, 25,000 pages of documents or 25,000 individual documents. They have supported, participated in, contributed to the investigation of seven, I think, different committees."

According to the Washington Times (5/15, Sherfinski, 455K), "Wednesday's remarks were [Rice's] first extended comments following the decision by the House Republican leadership last week to create the select committee." Fox News' Special Report (5/14, 2.15M) also reported on Rice's remarks concerning Benghazi.

Progressive Group Sends Solicitation Letter Referencing Benghazi. The Daily Caller (5/14, Pappas, 408K) reported that People for the American Way, a "prominent left-wing organization...sent a fundraising email to donors on Wednesday about the 2012 attacks in Benghazi." According to the Daily Caller, "the fundraising letter from the organization's president, Michael Keegan," read: "The House GOP's latest Benghazi investigation is nothing more than the exploitation of the death of four Americans for political gain." The Daily Caller notes that the "solicitation comes as Democrats are busy accusing Republicans of inappropriately fundraising on the issue ahead of this year's elections."

VA REPORTEDLY KNEW OF WAIT-TIME FALSIFICATIONS AT LOCAL CLINICS IN 2010. On NBC Nightly News (5/14, story 4, 2:00, 7.86M), Brian Williams said, "We are learning a lot more...about a growing scandal involving patient waiting lists at this nation's VA hospitals." Williams noted that VA Secretary Shinseki will testify about the scandal on Thursday. Correspondent Kelly O'Donnell went on to report that "in a new development, NBC News reviewed a 2010 internal memo where VA officials ordered immediate action to stop local VA hospital staffers from falsifying appointment dates to make patient wait times seem shorter." According to O'Donnell, "The memo shows that senior officials knew of a number of schemes used by local VAs to report dramatically shorter wait times."

The New York Times (5/15, Oppel, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that "with new reports of alleged waiting-list manipulation emerging almost daily, some Republicans in Congress have joined the American Legion in calling for" Shinseki "to resign." The Times also reports that "in a move that underscored the political risks the administration could face from the waiting-list controversy, President Obama late on Wednesday assigned a top White House adviser, the deputy chief of staff Rob Nabors, to work with" the VA as it deals with the controversy. According to the Times, Shinseki's prepared testimony for Thursday's hearing "suggests that he may not respond in any detail to questions" and will instead say the VA IG "'has advised VA against providing information that could potentially compromise' the office's inquiry."

GAO: VA Has "Made Minimal Progress At Best." Under the headline "Little Progress At VA On Eve Of Shinseki's Testimony," the Wall Street Journal (5/15, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports the GAO says the VA has not made sufficient reforms in the wake of reports documenting the persistence of extended wait times for veterans seeking care.

VA IG Finds Veterans Are Routinely Overmedicated. On the CBS Evening News (5/14, story 8, 2:50, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that a "Federal investigation confirmed what we reported on this broadcast last year, that many veterans are being overmedicated in VA hospitals and some of the overdoses have been fatal."

Stephanie Hau of Chesapeake Environmental Management, Bel Air, MD; Valerie Bono and Maria Malloy of Golden Cannoli, Chelsea, MD; Michael Nevins of Full Spectrum Solutions, Jackson, MI; Kiran Gill of PARS International, Hamilton Township, NJ; Nancy Porter Ogburn of Tomato Palms LLC, Irmo, SC; Jennifer Merill of Merill, Inc, Cheyenne, WY; Tommy Ray Cornett of Bleed Blue Tattoo, Lexington, KY; Chris Licata of Blakes All Natural Foods, Concord, NH; Ralph Hardt of Jagemann Stamping Company, Mantiwoc, WI; Amria Varshovi of Green Technologies LLC, Gainesville, FL; Keith DuRousseau of Keiland Construction, Lake Charles, LA; Dean Atchison of Spectrum Aeromed, Fargo, ND. National Small Business Award Winners: Hensel Phelps Construction Company, Dallas, TX; International Trade Center, Small Business Development Center, San Antonio, TX; Vtech Eningeering Corp, Andover, MA; Veterans Business Outreach Center at Gulf Coast State College, Panama City, FL; Womens Business Center of North Carolina, Durham, NC; Baby Elephant Ears, Cambridge, MN; Riverside Company, New York, NY; Manducatis Rustica V.I.G., Long Island City, NY; FIKA, New York, NY; Indigo IT LLC, Reston, VA; Nobis Engineering, Concord, NH; Orange County Score, Santa Ana, CA. Location: 428A Russell.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

USCC HEARING: STABILITY IN CHINA — 8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Public Hearing on "Stability in China: Lessons from Tiananmen and Implications for the United States." 9:00a – 9:30a Congressional Perspectives, Representative Frank Wolf (VA-10); 9:30a – 11:00a Panel I: Tiananmen and Contemporary Economic, Political, and Social Challenges in China; Dr. Joseph Fewsmith, Professor of International Relations and Political Science, Boston University, Boston, MA; Xiao Qiang, Adjunct Professor at the University of California-Berkeley, Founder and Editor of China Digital Times, Berkeley, CA; Dr. Stephen Hess, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Bridgeport University, Bridgeport, CT. 11:15a – 12:45p Panel II: Expression of Dissent in China Today with Dr. Murray Scot Tanner, Senior Research Scientist, CNA, Alexandria, VA; Dr. Sophie Richardson, China Director, Human Rights Watch; Carl Minzner, Associate Professor of Law, Fordham University, New York, NY. 1:45p – 3:15p Panel III: Freedom of Expression and Media Control: Implications for the United States; Sarah Cook, Senior Research Analyst for East Asia, Freedom House, New York, NY; Delphine Halgand, U.S. Director, Reporters Without Borders; David Wertime, Senior Editor, Foreign Policy. http://www.uscc.gov/Hearings/hearing-stability-china-lessons-tiananmen-and-implications-united-states. Location: 608 Dirksen. On the Net: http://www.uscc.gov/

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — 9:30 a.m. Business meeting to consider S.2322, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs. http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/?CFID=128271676&CFTOKEN=69017020. Location: 406 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 9:30 a.m. Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Online Advertising and Hidden Hazards to Consumer Security and Data Privacy. Witnesses: PANEL ONE: Alex Stamos, Chief Information Security Officer, Yahoo! Inc., Sunnyvale, CA; George Salem, Senior Product Manager, Google Inc., Mountain View, CA; Craig Spiezle, Executive Director, Founder and President, Online Trust Alliance. PANEL TWO: Maneesha Mithal, ssociate Director, Division of Privacy and Identity Protection, Federal Trade Commission; Lou Mastria, Managing Director, Digital Advertising Alliance, New York, NY. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/online-advertising-and-hidden-hazards-to-consumer-security-and-data-privacy. Location: 342 Dirksen.

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Business meeting to resume consideration of S.1217, to provide secondary mortgage market reform. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=7b130307-6a0d-405e-a29e-3524c7605286. Location: 538 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 10 a.m. Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs hearing, "BringBackOurGirls: Addressing the Threat of Boko Haram." Witnesses: Ambassador Robert P. Jackson, Principal Deputy Secretary of State for African Affairs, Department of State; Earl Gast, Assistant Administrator for African Affairs, USAID; Alice Friend, Principal Director for African Affairs, Department of Defense.; Special Guest: Lantana Abdullahis comments will include: "Her perspectives about the kidnapping of the girls as a Nigerian woman and mother; The fact that the tragedy of the kidnappings can become an opportunity to unite Nigerians and international partners to solve the long-running crisis in northeastern Nigeria; What it will take to help the girls and their communities to recover (i.e. trauma healing)". http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/bringbackourgirls-addressing-the-threat-of-boko-haram/051514. Location: 419 Dirksen. Notes: The

Subcommittee previously looked at the threat of Boko Haram to Nigerias stability and security in March 2012. More on that hearing is available here: http://1.usa.gov/1l7aSX2 and http://1.usa.gov/1gfZ40m

VETERANS AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Hearing, "The State of VA Health Care." Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki will be among the witnesses. WITNESS LIST: PANEL I: Eric K. Shinseki, secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, accompanied by Dr. Robert A. Petzel, under secretary for health. PANEL II: Daniel M. Dellinger, national commander, The American Legion; Joseph A. Violante, national legislative director, Disabled American Veterans; Tom Tarantino, chief policy officer, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Carl Blake, national legislative director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; D. Wayne Robinson, president and CEO, Student Veterans of America; Ryan Gallucci, deputy director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Rick Weidman, executive director for policy and government affairs, Vietnam Veterans of America. PANEL III: Richard Griffin, acting inspector general, Department of Veterans Affairs – accompanied by Dr. John D. Daigh, Jr., assistant inspector general for healthcare inspections; Rear Admiral W. Clyde Marsh, USN, retired, president, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs; Debra A. Draper, director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office, Phillip Longman, senior research fellow, New America Foundation. http://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/the-state-of-va-health-care-051514. Location: 106 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 2:15 p.m. Nominations: Ambassador to the Czech Republic & U.S. ASEAN Rep. Witnesses: Andrew H. Schapiro of Illinois, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Czech Republic; Nina Hachigian of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/nominations/051514. Location: 419 Dirksen.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security, "Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Local Perspectives on Moving America." http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=90c86d62-f87f-458d-8397-693ec528c68c&ContentType_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a. Location: 253 Russell.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — 2:30 p.m. Full Committee Hearing – Progress and Challenges: The State of Tobacco Use and Regulation in the U.S. Witnesses: Tim McAfee, MD, MPH , Director, Office on Smoking and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA; Mitch Zeller, JD , Director, Center for Tobacco Products, US Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=a0a14829-5056-a032-526d-3bc1bfd96586. Location: 430 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE — 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/hearings.cfm?hearingId=0cb5dc5497c5ffb2985cb30c4735ae42. Location: 219 Hart.

US House: May 12 – 16. — The House is in District work period for the week.

2 p.m. — The House meets in pro forma session.

Other: NATIONAL POLICE WEEK EVENT — Deputy Secretary Mayorkas, joined by U.S. Secret Service Director Pierson, ICE Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Winkowski, CBP Commissioner Kerlikowske and Deputy Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, will participate in the National Peace Officers Memorial Service at the U.S. Capitol. Contacts: DHS Press office (202) 282-8010. Notes: Call DHS for coverage details.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK — May 11 – 17. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's National Police Week, paying special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. http://www.nleomf.org/programs/policeweek/ Contacts: Steve Groeninger, steve@nleomf.org, 202-737-7135

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK – WEB EVENTS — May 12 – 16. National small business organization, Small Business Majority, is hosting a variety of events and educational seminars in honor of National Small Business Week (May 12 – 16). CONTACT: Allison Abney 5/8 Media Relations Manager, (202) 289-0957, aabney@smallbusinessmajority.org. Highlights: 12:00pm EDT – Small Business Week Spotlight: Whats The Future of Healthcare Reform. 12:00 pm EDT – What the New Healthcare Law Means For Your New Jersey Small Business. 2:00 pm EDT – Small Business Week Spotlight: What the New Healthcare Law Means for Your Small

Business. 3:00 pm MDT -What the New Healthcare Law Means for Your Colorado Small Business. 2:00 pm EDT – Small Business Week Spotlight: Patent Reform and your Small Business.

2014 GOVERNMENT SECURITY CONFERENCE & EXPO — May 13 – 15. GovSec for Government, Homeland Security, and Law Enforcement professionals looking for strategies and cost effective technology. http://govsecinfo.com/Home.aspx. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW.

CICAD OF THE OAS MEETING — May 14 – 16. Group of Experts in Demand Reduction of the CICAD of the OAS Meets in Washington The fifteenth meeting of the Group of Experts in Demand Reduction of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) will be held in Washington, DC from May 14 to 16, chaired by the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD) in representation of the Government of Brasil. Location: Organization of American States, 1889 F Street, NW. Contacts: 202-3705437 (www.oas.org)

HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE SUMMIT — May 14 – 16. 2014 National Health Insurance Exchange Summit. www. HealthInsuranceExchangeSummit.com. Contacts: registration@hcconferences.com (800-503-9528). On the Net: www. HealthInsuranceExchangeSummit.com

U.S. BLACK CHAMBERS – NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK — May 15 – 16. Small business match making meeting are being held around the country in honor of National Small Business Week. D.C. meetings are May 15th, 16th. Contacts: aditi.dussault@sba.gov. On the Net: www.usblackchambers.org

U.S. CHAMBER, SBA – SMALL BUSINESS WEEK — May 15 – 16. Open events. www.sba.gov/smallbusinessweek MEDIA RSVP: By 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 please provide name of organization, list of attendees, email, phone number, and date(s) you plan to attend and time of arrival to Terrence. Sutherland@sba.gov. Please ensure you have your media credentials at check-in. Highlights: 3 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. U.S. Chamber of Commerce with SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet (welcome remarks) at 6p.m.; Federal Reserve Chair, Janet Yellen (featured remarks) 6:10p.m. Location: FRIDAY: FHI 360 Conference Center, 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW, 8(th) Floor., THURSDAY: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW. Contacts: Terrence.sutherland@sba.gov. On the Net: www.sba.gov/news

GEORGETOWN COMMENCMENT – LEW, GATES — May 15 – 18. Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Secretary of the Treasury Jacob J. Lew are among those scheduled to speak at Georgetown University's 2014 Commencement May 15-18. Georgetown holds individual graduation ceremonies for each undergraduate and professional school as well as award celebrations on campus, beginning with Senior Convocation and the McCourt School of Public Policy commencement ceremony on May 15. The Georgetown College Commencement Ceremony is the largest undergraduate ceremony, with more than 800 students graduating at 9:00am on Saturday, May 17 on Healy Lawn. Guy Consolmagno, S.J., astronomer for the Vatican, is the speaker for the ceremony and will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. All ceremonies will be webcast live at georgetown.edu/hoyas2014. http://www.georgetown.edu/hoyas2014/. Contacts: Maggie Moore mem95@georgetown.edu (202.687.4328, 202.687.8992). Notes: Media interested in attending must RSVP to Maggie Moore at mem95@georgetown.edu. Press will need to present valid credentials on campus.

DEMPSEY – CHINA – HONOR CORDON – BRIEFING — 10:30 a.m. Arrival honor cordon 10:30 followed by a bilateral meeting and press briefing at 1:40 p.m. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey will host a full honors arrival ceremony for the People's Republic of China, People's Liberation Army Chief of the General Staff Gen. Fang Fenghui to the Pentagon at 10:30 a.m. EDT, on the River Parade Field. Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no earlier than 9:30 a.m., and no later than 9:45 a.m. EDT; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-4272 for escort to the field. Following the arrival ceremony and their bilateral meeting, Gen. Dempsey and Gen. Fang will conduct a press briefing at 1:40 p.m. EDT, in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room (2E973). Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no earlier than 12:45 p.m. and no later than 1 p.m. EDT; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-4272 for escort into the building. Notes: Arrival honor cordon 10:30 followed by a bilateral meeting and press briefing at 1:40 p.m

AFA BREAKFAST – COX — 7 a.m. – 9 a.m. The Air Force Association May AFA Air Force Breakfast Series with Lieutenant General Samuel D. Cox, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel, and Services. http://www.afa.org/AFA/EVENTS/AFAAFBreakfastProgram. Location: Key Bridge Marriott, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209.

SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER — 8:30 a.m. Press conference on National Schools of Character Recognition. http://press.org/events/national-schools-character-recoginition Contact: Rebecca Sipos 202-296-7743 rsipos@character.org. Location: National Press Club, Murrow Room, 529 14th Street NW.

VETERANS AFFAIRS – WHISTLEBLOWERS — 8:30 a.m. Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) and the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) will announce a joint effort to protect whistleblowers who have information about wrongdoing within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Speakers: Tom Tarantino, Chief Policy Officer, IAVA Danielle Brian, Executive Director, POGO; Post 9/11 veterans and supporters. CONTACT: Gretchen Andersen 212-982-96995/8 press@iava.org Twitter: @IAVAPressRoom , Joe Newman, Project On Government Oversight, at (202) 347-1122 or jnewman@pogo.org. Location: The Mott House, 122 Maryland Ave. N.E. – The Mott House is just south of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. On the Net: http://www.iava.org. http://www.pogo.org

HEALTH CARE – PRICE TRANSPARENCY — 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Discussion on "Greater price transparency could reduce U.S. healthcare spending by an estimated $100 billion over the next 10 years" according to a new analysis from the "West Health Policy Center" Speakers: David Lansky, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Business Group on Health; Josephine Porter, MPH, Deputy Director, Institute for Health Policy and Practice, University of New Hampshire; Joseph Smith, MD, PhD, Chief Medical and Science Officer, West Health Institute; Nick Valeriani, Chief Executive, West Health. REGISTER TO ATTEND HERE: www.eventbrite.com/e/a-clearer-view-can-price-transparency-save-100b-in-healthcare-tickets-11201470901 REGISTER FOR THE WEBCAST HERE: www.eventbrite.com/e/webcast-a-clearer-view-can-price-transparency-save-100b-in-healthcare-tickets-11375246669. Location: The Knight Studio at the Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – VENEZUELAN MARKET — 9 a.m. Will the Lights Go Out? Implications of a Venezuelan Market Downturn. http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/implications-of-a-venezuelan-market-downturn. Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor (West Tower).

BBG, GALLUP – NIGERIA – MEDIA — 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and Gallup host a research briefing on media use in Nigeria. Speakers: Chris Stewart, Partner, Gallup; Bruce Sherman, Director, Office of Strategy and Development, BBG; William Bell, Research Director, International Broadcasting Bureau; Dan Foy, Consultant, Gallup. Register at: http://bbggallupnigeria.eventbrite.com. Location: Gallup World Headquarters , The Gallup Building, 901 F Street, NW. Contacts: BBG Public affairs (202) 203-4400 (publicaffairs@bbg.gov)

FCC – NET NEUTRALITY PROTEST — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Hundreds will rally outside the FCC building in opposition to Chairman Wheelers proposal to allow rampant discrimination online; thousands more will join the protest at may15.savetheinternet.com. The FCC rally will convene Thurs., May 15, from 9-10:30 a.m. EST. The nationwide protest will continue online throughout the day and will drive calls and emails to the FCC and members of Congress. FOLLOWED BY POST HEARING PRESS CALL: Press call will begin at 1:30 p.m. EST/10:30 a.m. PST, shortly after the FCCs May 15 meeting and press conference adjourn. Contacts: Christina DiPasquale Christina@fitzgibbonmedia.com (202.716.1953). RSVP to Timothy Karr tkarr@freepress.net. On the Net: www.freepress.net

KAISER FOUNDATION – ACA AND WOMEN — 9:30 a.m. "An Early Look at the Affordable Care Act and Women." The Kaiser Family Foundation will host a public briefing to release a new report based on the Foundation's most recent comprehensive survey on women's health. Location: Barbara Jordan Conference Center, Kaiser Family Foundation Offices, 1330 G Street, NW. 05YxtfhKn03https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-early-look-at-the-affordable-care-act-and-women-tickets-11453753485?utm_campaignKFF%3A+General&utm_sourcehs_email&utm_mediumemail&utm_content12723427&_hsencp2ANqtz--JeD0sraZJ5wglWKCCExfK0zGM8GWJd9QFrQ3YjUxn4b9OUQ_RINijW05YxtfhKn03https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-early-loo.

AIR TRAVEL – FIREARMS — 10 a.m. TSA Public Affairs Manager Lisa Farbstein and Federal Air Marshal Spokesperson Michael Pascarella will participate in a media availability to demonstrate the proper way to pack a firearm for travel. Location: Dulles International Airport, 1 Saarinen Circle, Conference Room B, Dulles, Va. Contacts: DHS Press Office 202-282-8010

VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT — 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Press conference of civil and human rights leaders calling for congressional action on the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act. Speakers: Wade Henderson, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters; Mee Moua, president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice 5/8 AAJC; Brent Wilkes, executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); Hilary Shelton, director of NAACP Washington Bureau. http://vrafortoday.org/leaders-urge-action-on-vraa/. RSVP: Simpson@civilrights.org or 202.466.2061. Location: The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, 1629 K Street NW, Tenth Floor.

WILSON CENTER – UKRAINE – ZANNIER — 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Ukraine Between East and West with Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/ukraine-between-east-and-west. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, R6th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

ARLINGTON CEMETERY – SECRET ARMY — 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. A special veterans memorial and wreath-laying ceremony will be held in Arlington National Cemetery to honor Laotian and Hmong veterans of the U.S. "Secret Army" in Laos during the Vietnam War, and their American clandestine advisors. Laotian and Hmong special forces who served in combat in Laos during the Vietnam War were backed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Air America, U.S. Army Special Forces, and other clandestine U.S. military services operating covertly in Southeast Asia during the conflict. The event is being cosponsored by the Lao Veterans of America Institute (LVAI), the Lao Veterans of America, Inc., the Center for Public Policy Analysis (CPPA), Arlington National Cemetery, Hmong Advance, Inc., Hmong Advancement, Inc., Members of the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, U.S. Department of Defense, Counterparts Veterans Association, US Special Forces Association (TX – Chapter), and others. Speakers: Colonel Wangyee Vang, LVAI; Philip Smith, Executive Director, CPPA; Charlie Davis, Air America Association; Christy Lee, Hmong Advancement, Inc.; U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), U.S. Congressman Jim Costa (D-California), U.S. Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA), U.S. Congressman Jim Moran (D-Virginia), U.S. Congressman Devin Nunes (R-CA), Edmund McWilliams, Deputy Chief of Mission, Laos, U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer (DCM- USFSO, Grant McClure, Counterparts Veterans Association, and others. Lao and Hmong veterans and their families from California, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Alaska, Texas, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, North Carolina, New York, Connecticut, Virginia, and other states. Contact: Philip Smith or Helen Cruz, Center for Public Policy Analysis, (202) 543-1444, info@centerforpublicpolicyanalysis.org, www.centerforpublicpolicyanalysis.org OR Lao Veterans of America Institute, (559) 252-3921.

ACLU – BROWN V BOARD – LHAMON — 12 p.m. Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Catherine E. Lhamon will help commemorate the 60th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education by participating in a discussion about equal educational opportunity and the legacy of Brown in the 21st century at a special event hosted by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Speakers: Catherine E. Lhamon, assistant secretary for civil rights, U.S. Department of Education; Dennis Parker, director of the ACLU Racial Justice Program; Laura Murphy, director of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office; Anthony Romero, executive director of the ACLU. Media registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brown-at-60-is-full-equality-within-our-grasp-tickets-11322785757. Location: National Archives (William G. McGowan Theater), 700 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Contacts: Press Office press@ed.gov ((202) 401-1576). Tia Gordon, ACLU Tia@mckpr.com (202-906-0149).

AMERICA'S MILITARY CAREGIVERS — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Congressional briefing on America's Military Caregivers. Speakers: Terri Tanielian, senior social research analyst at the RAND Corporation.; Rajeev Ramchand, senior behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation. http://www.rand.org/congress/activities/2014/05/15/registration.html. Location: B-339 Rayburn.

CFR – INTERNET GOVERNANCE — 12:30 p.m. Discussion on The Future of Internet Governance. Lynn St. Amour, Adam Segal, and Daniel Sepulveda will assess the outcomes of NETmundial, an April meeting in Brazil on how the Internet should be governed. Speakers: Lynn St. Amour, President and CEO, Internet Matters,

Former President and CEO, Internet Society; Adam Segal, Maurice R. Greenberg Senior Fellow for China Studies and Project Director of CFR-sponsored Independent Task Force, "Defending an Open, Global, Secure, and Resilient Internet," Council on Foreign Relations; Daniel Sepulveda, Deputy Assistant Secretary and U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F Street NW. On the Net: http://cfr.org/live. Notes: Camera Set-up Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Press Registration and Lunch Reception: 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT — 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. The Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment: Stories from Around the Country with Mayor of Salt Lake City, Ralph Becker; Michael Melaniphy, President and CEO, American Public Transportation Association; Elliott Ferguson, President and CEO, Destination DC. Location: Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) 200-201 (Senate side). Contacts: alaporte@eesi.org ((202) 662 1884)

RALLY FOR JOBS AND INFRASTRUCTURE — 1 p.m. The AFL-CIO, the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO and North Americas Building Trades Unions will host a rally for jobs and infrastructure as part of a coalition leading "Infrastructure Week 2014." Speaker: Richard Trumka, President, AFL-CIO; Anthony Foxx, Secretary, USDOT; Edward Wytkind, President, TTD, AFL-CIO; Brent Booker, Secretary-Treasurer, North Americas Building Trades Unions. http://www.infrastructureweek2014.com/. Location: AFL-CIO, 815 16th St NW. Contacts: Josh Goldstein 202-637-5018

TRICARE'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OPTIONS — 1 p.m. TRICARE and Military OneSource are co-hosting a webinar to educate TRICARE beneficiaries about their behavioral health benefit. WEBINAR: https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/716404186. Read more at: http://go.usa.gov/kJte.

HERITAGE – MAIN STREET ECONOMY — 3:30 p.m. A Time for Choosing – The Main Street Economy vs. The Washington Crony Economy with Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman, House Financial Services Committee. Hosted b Michael Needham, President, Heritage Action for America. Location: 214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Contacts: (202) 675-1752 (heritage.org)

GEORGETOWN COMMENCEMENT – LEW — 5 p.m. Secretary Jacob J. Lew delivers Commencement Address. This event is open press, though space is limited. Media interested in attending should contact Maggie Moore at mem95@georgetown.edu. The ceremony will be webcast live at georgetown.edu/hoyas2014. Location: Georgetown University, Healy Lawn.

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION DINNER — 7 p.m. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights will honor Sen. Tom Harkin, American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten, and leading labor organizer and immigration reform advocate Eliseo Medina with the civil and human rights coalition's highest honor at the 38th Annual Hubert H. Humphrey Civil and Human Rights Award Dinner. Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW. Notes: Reporters seeking to cover the event should contact Scott Simpson at 202.466.2061 or Simpson@civilrights.org.

NAKBA COMMEMORATION — 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. The Jerusalem Fund hosts a Nakba Commemoration: A Musical Journey Through Palestinian History – music and commentary by Fuad Foty. Discussion on the English and Arabic meanings of the songs. http://www.thejerusalemfund.org/ht/d/RegisterForEvent/i/44473. Location: The Jerusalem Fund, 2425 Virginia Ave, NW.

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BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 16, 2014

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DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR TO FOCUS ON 21 RESERVATIONS IN CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM. The AP (5/16, Volz) reports that the Interior Department announced on Thursday that twenty-one American Indian reservations will be the focus of the next phase of a $1.9 billion program to buy fractionated land parcels. Rep. Steve Daines said he welcomed Thursday's announcement, but he raised concerns that it "may not provide tribes with the necessary tools to ensure the Land Buy-Back program is properly implemented." Daines said the Interior Department should "use its authority to give tribes more flexibility, and it should move swiftly to address consolidation problems on other reservations not included in the announcement." Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn said that the BIA has "entered into or is negotiating cooperative agreements with many tribes in the buyback program, though others say they want the federal government to run the program."

In a separate story, the AP (5/16) lists the twenty-one American Indian reservations.

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by Yahoo! (5/16, Volz, 17.91M) , the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (5/16, 51K) , the Montana Standard (5/16, 41K) , the Flathead (MT) Beacon (5/16, 15K) , the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (5/15, 90K), and the Seattle Times (5/16, 1.22M).

Similar coverage was provided by the Rapid City (SD) Journal (5/16, 141K) and the Ravalli (MT) Republic (5/16, 19K).

LAWSUIT CLAIMS KENTUCKY ISSUES SURFACE-MINING PERMITS IN VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW. The Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (5/15, 395K) reports that "Kentucky has had a longstanding practice of issuing surface-mining permits that don't square with federal law, several people have claimed in a lawsuit." The lawsuit claims that "the state ran afoul of federal law by approving a permit application that did not list the names and addresses of all the owners." It "seeks an order for Premier Elkhorn to stop mining at the site" and asks that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell be "ordered to put a new system in place for issuing surface-mining permits in Kentucky, stripping the state of authority it has had for more than 30 years over such permits."

CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT OBAMA'S PROPOSED WILDFIRE BUDGET REFORMS. In an op-ed for

the Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (5/16, 1K), Nidhi Thakar of the Center for American Progress supports the proposal by the President Barack Obama "to overhaul how the United States pays the costs of responding to the most catastrophic wildfires." Thakar argues that "this common-sense proposal will have far-reaching benefits for American communities, parks, and public lands." Thakar concludes that "the president's proposal will free up dire funding needed for fire prevention on our public lands, national parks, and other pristine lands that cover threatened sage grouse habitat."

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the Christian Science Monitor (5/15, Wood, 566K) and CNBC (5/16, 31.28M).

PROS AND CONS OF PROPOSED SAN GABRIEL NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ANALYZED. In an op-ed for the Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record (5/16, 90K), Judy Nelson, mayor of Glendora, weighs the pros and cons of creating a San Gabriel National Recreation Area. Nelson notes that the "legislation will impact a large number of people and a vast area of land," and she argues that "deciding whether it is beneficial for the San Gabriel Valley now and for the future should not be rushed or taken lightly." Nelson concludes that "it is not a partisan issue, and ultimately should be decided by the citizens."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

FIRST LADY SHAPED BY SCHOOL DESEGREGATION RULING. The New York Times (5/16, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that while President Obama on Friday evening "will meet privately at the White House with the families of the plaintiffs in the Brown lawsuit and two of the lead lawyers," Michelle Obama "will take center stage in Topeka, where she will visit the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site and address graduating seniors at the Kansas Expocentre." Brown v. Board of Education "had more of a direct impact on Mrs. Obama than on her husband and shaped her life in ways she does not always openly discuss. 'She saw firsthand the impact of Brown v. Board of Education in her own life,' said Valerie Jarrett, a senior White House adviser and close friend of Mrs. Obama."

OLDEST NATIONAL PARK RANGER PROFILED. NPR (5/16, Staff, 519K) reports on Betty Reid Soskin, 92, "the oldest active full-time National Park Service ranger in the United States." Soskin and "her colleagues at the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park are preparing to unveil new permanent exhibits at the park on May 24."

CONCERNS RAISED OVER FINAL GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATIONAL AREA PLAN. The Forum (NY) (5/15) reports residents have raised concerns that the NPS is "proposing expanded public use" of the Gateway National Recreational Area, "in part because they said NPS does not adequately care for land it owns that is now open to the public." Still, Gateway National Recreation Area Superintendent Jennifer Nersesian "wrote in a letter to the community that NPS hopes to see much, if not all, of the plan become a reality, sooner or later."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WASHINGTON MONUMENT ELEVATOR BREAKDOWN. Additional coverage of the elevator breakdown at the Washington Monument was provided by Roll Call (5/16, 76K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL PARK EXPANSION. Additonal coverage of the expansion of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as a result of "land donated under the agreement with utility companies to allow construction of a new power line through the park" was provided by the Lehigh Valley (PA) Express Times (5/16, 189K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO CLEAR WILD HORSES FROM UTAH'S WEST DESERT. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (5/16, 470K) reports that the BLM will "likely clear most if not all the wild horses from a West Desert block of state land in July as part of a newly approved plan to remove 200 wild horses from Utah rangelands this year." The Interior Department this week approved Utah BLM's request to "gather these horses in the face of mounting pressure from state and local officials concerned that overpopulation of wild horses is damaging a parched range and could

force ranchers to reduce cattle grazing levels." The bureau's "plan calls for rounding up 140 horses on the Blawn Wash herd area that overlies 26,000 acres overseen by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) west of Milford."

BLM ASKS PUBLIC NOT TO LOOK FOR DINOSAUR TRACKS AT RED ROCK CANYON. The AP (5/16, Brean) reports that researchers and Red Rock Canyon staff are trying to keep sites with dinosaur tracks "secret, at least until they can be cataloged and studied." However, "word may be leaking out, much to the dismay of those seeking to preserve the prehistoric prints." BLM officials would "prefer visitors not look for the secret sites." According to Mark Spencer, BLM field manager for Red Rock and Sloan Canyon National Conservation Areas, "for one thing, most of them are not on designated trails, and 'some of them are in very unsafe locations.'"

NEVADA RANCHERS FACE "STRONG-ARM TACTIC" BY BLM. For the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (5/16, 22K), Randy Witte, a former publisher of Western Horseman Magazine, writes that the BLM is using "a strong-arm tactic to remove" the livestock of Nevada ranchers from the land. Witte notes that "many ranchers in Nevada have been told their grazing permits have been greatly reduced, but this spring the numbers were cut even more drastically, sometimes down to no grazing at all on certain BLM parcels." According to Witte, "three reasons were given: Ongoing recovery from drought, protection of the desert tortoise, and protection of the sage hen."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS EASES TRAVEL RULES FOR INSTRUMENTS WITH IVORY. The New York Times (5/16, Mashberg, 9.65M) reports that "after weeks of pressure from musicians," the Obama Administration announced Thursday that "it has relaxed rules that would have made it extremely difficult for performers and orchestras to travel abroad with instruments that contained ivory parts." The revised regulation "allows musicians to travel with instruments containing ivory as long as they were lawfully acquired before Feb. 25, 2014, and were not obtained for sale." FWS officials said "the change came in response to industry criticism."

The Hill (5/16, Devaney, 237K) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "We know that for musicians their instruments are their livelihood." He said, "These revisions will make it easier for musicians to transport certain musical instruments internationally." Ashe added, "Our goal is to ease the burden on musicians traveling with instruments that contain ivory without diminishing the protection for African elephants."

Also reporting on the story are Bloomberg BusinessWeek (5/16, 4.91M), TIME (5/16, 24.1M), Reuters (5/16, Dunham), and the Lone Star Outdoor News (TX) (5/16).

FWS CONSIDERS REPEAL OF GRIZZLY PROTECTIONS. The AP (5/16, Baumann) reports that Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks director Jeff Hagener said Thursday FWS officials will "seek to lift federal protections from some threatened grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies in the next two years." Hagener told lawmakers he expects the FWS to "propose rules that could remove two populations of grizzlies from the Endangered Species list." According to Hagener, "one rule could lift protections for bears in and around Yellowstone Park in 2015," and "the other rule ending protections would be for grizzlies in the Northern Continental Divide region by 2016."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (5/16, 4.22M), ABC News (5/16, 3.58M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/15, 687K), Yahoo! (5/16, Baumann, 17.91M) , and KAAL-TV Austin, MN (5/16, 1K).

FWS TO SURVEY ST. CLAIR RIVER FOR SEA LAMPREYS. The Detroit Free Press (5/16, Gross, 1.02M) reports that the FWS will be "surveying the St. Clair River from May 20 to June 26 to estimate the sea lamprey population in the river." Mike Twohey, a supervisory fish biologist at FWS offices in Marquette and Ludington, said, "We use a bottom toxicant called bayluscide. It's a chemical that we use in various forms to kill lampreys. In this formulation, it's a very small amount on a clay pellet that drops to the bottom of the river and does a very slow release." He added, "That irritates the larvae, and they swim up. We have boats on the surface, and when those lampreys reach the surface they collect them. That gives us an indication of how many and how old they are."

FWS TO HOLD HEARING ON PROPOSAL TO PROTECT RUFA RED KNOT. The Outer Banks (NC) Voice (5/15) reports that the FWS will "hold a third information session and public hearing — the second in North

Carolina — on a proposal to categorize the rufa red knot shorebird as 'threatened' under the federal Endangered Species Act." Rep. Walter B. Jones "had called for the additional hearing, which is scheduled for June 5 at the Alligator National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 100 Conservation Way in Manteo."

OKLAHOMA ATTORNEY GENERAL DECRIES "SUE AND SETTLE" TACTICS. In an op-ed for the Washington Examiner (5/16, 335K), Scott Pruitt, Oklahoma's Attorney General, writes that "federal agencies are turning to a new scheme – 'sue and settle' – to further expand their reach and authority." He claims that "the sue and settle consent decrees usually bind the affected parties — states and industry — to stricter regulations and shorter timelines than those originally imposed by congressional laws." As a result, Oklahoma has filed a lawsuit against the Interior Department and FWS for "engaging in sue and settle tactics in reaching the consent decree." Pruitt asserts that his office, "along with the other state AGs involved in the lawsuit, will continue our vigorous pursuit of this lawsuit to hold the FWS and other federal agencies accountable for such unlawful tactics."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM URGED TO ADOPT TOUGH RULE ON VENTING, FLARING. Politico (5/16, Guillén, 73K) reports that the BLM should "adopt a strong rule to scale back the venting and flaring of natural gas from activity on public lands, says a report out today from the Western Values Project, a relatively new group supported by the New Venture Fund." According to the article, "flared methane is becoming a major issue as gas development expands on and off public lands — and the WVP says that, besides the lost value of the gas flared off, taxpayers are missing out on tens of millions of dollars in royalties."

LAWSUIT ASKS COURT TO VOID MONTANA COAL LEASE. The AP (5/16) reports that "a conservation group is asking a federal judge to void a coal lease awarded to a central Montana mine" by the BLM. An attorney for the Northern Plains Resource Council claimed in Wednesday's lawsuit that "federal officials failed to consider the damage the underground mine is causing to surface landowners." According to the article, "ranchers operating above the mine have seen large fissures in the ground that they say is caused by coal removal."

COMMERCE OFFICIAL URGES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE POLICY ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. The FuelFix (5/15, Eaton, 7K) reports that on Thursday at the Mayer Brown Global Energy Conference, Karen Harbert, CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce Institute for 21st Century Energy, said that the US will "need to produce as much oil and gas as it can muster to prepare for massive global demand growth over the next four decades." Harbert said "that's why the US government should stay out of the way of shale gas development and change its policies on federal land, where natural gas production has fallen 33 percent in recent years amid a nationwide boom on private and state lands."

Offshore Energy Development:

SEARCH BEGINS TO FIND SAND FOR NEW JERSEY BEACHES. The Shore (NJ) News Today (5/16) reports that New Jersey has signed an agreement with the BOEM "for a $400,000 federally funded study to find sand resources offshore that can be tapped for future beach restoration and resiliency projects, a state official said in a statement on Monday, May 12." According to the article, "the research effort will analyze the state's existing data to locate sand resources in federal waters in the Outer Continental Shelf that can be used for coastal restoration projects in New Jersey." The article notes that "the effort includes a series of projects to be done over the next two years by the Army Corps of Engineers to help coastal communities recover from Hurricane Sandy, restore habitat, and contribute to long-term coastal resiliency."

Also reporting on the story is the Camden (NJ) Courier Post (5/15, 176K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY UPSET OVER MILLERTON WATER RELEASES. The Fresno (CA) Business Journal (5/16, 160K) reports that the Friant Water Authority says "its getting the short end of the stick" as the

BOR "announced plans to release water from Millerton Lake to benefit wildlife refuges and junior contractors farther west instead of serving growers in the Fresno area." The Friant Water Authority, "which is still set at a zero water allocation, said the move doesn't make sense as the CVP has 200,000 acre-feet of water in San Luis Reservoir and increased storage in Shasta in which to substitute to the Exchange Contractors." Ronald Jacobsma, Friant Water Authority General Manager, said, "This doesn't need to happen. Despite the dry conditions, enough water is stored to meet the Exchange Contractors' supply needs, which in turn would make available a small amount of water for Friant's Class 1 contractors and prevent at least $3 billion in economic losses from occurring in the citrus industry alone."

Also reporting on the story is the Fresno (CA) Bee (5/15, 352K).

COLORADO SENATORS PUSH FOR OPENING OF LAKE NIGHTHORSE. The Durango (CO) Herald (5/15, 28K) reports that "the frustration surrounding Lake Nighthorse found a fresh voice Thursday" as Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet wrote to the BOR asking the bureau to "issue a plan for opening the reservoir for recreation soon." In the letter, they noted that "recreation on Lake Nighthorse could bring in up to $12 million each year to local economy." BOR spokeswoman Justyn Hock said "they seem to be close to finalizing the agreements." The bureau "plans a public meeting in June to update residents on the negotiations."

HOUSE, SENATE TEAM RELEASES COMPROMISE WATER PROJECT BILL. The AP (5/16, Jackson) reports that on Thursday, House and Senate negotiators revealed "a compromise bill that authorizes billions of dollars for water projects over the next decade." The Water Resources Reform and Development Act was released a week after lawmakers "announced a tentative agreement on legislation that blends House and Senate versions of the bill." The bill "will authorize 34 projects in virtually every region of the country" which lawmakers "say it provides important investment in the nation's water infrastructure."

Empowering Native American Communities:

YAKAMA TRIBAL LEADER SAYS MORE FORESTRY FUNDING NEEDED ON INDIAN LANDS. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (5/16, 86K) reports that "federal funding cuts pose dire consequence for the ability of tribes to manage their land and reduce wildfire risks," Phil Rigdon, the director of the Yakamas' natural resources program and president of the Intertribal Timber Council, told the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Wednesday. Rigdon said that "programs that once kept tribal forests healthy are now 'running on fumes.'" Rigdon told the committee, "The consequences of chronic underfunding and understaffing are materializing. The situation is now reaching crisis proportions and it's placing our forests in great peril."

Top National News:

OBAMA SPEAKS AT DEDICATION OF NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM. President Obama's remarks at the dedication of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in Manhattan received a great deal of national media attention, including mentions on all three network newscasts Thursday evening. On NBC Nightly News (5/15, story 7, 3:20, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that it had been "an emotional day in lower Manhattan as President Obama dedicated the National September 11 Museum, almost 13 years after the attacks that changed this country." Williams added that "after getting a private tour," the President "called it a place for all Americans alive today and generations yet to be born to learn the story of those lost and those who tried to save them."

Scott Pelley, on the CBS Evening News (5/15, story 7, 2:05, 5.08M), also reported that the President "helped open" the new museum, and showed him saying, "Those we lost live on in us, in the families who love them still, in the friends who remember them always, and in a nation that will honor them now and forever." On ABC World News (5/15, story 3, 2:10), Diane Sawyer said the President "reminded the nation that not even an act of terror can break us."

According to the New York Times (5/16, A22, Baker, Farrell, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), the President's speech "highlighted a somber ceremony at the new institution marking the worst foreign attack on American soil, one that shocked the world and ushered in a new era of fear, war, determination and clashes of values while redefining America's place in the world." The Times says the President did not "talk about the events that

followed that day, the wars he has tried to end and the policies he has reshaped but continued," and "instead...focused on the victims...and those who tried to save them."

The AP (5/16) reports that "victims' friends and relatives, rescue workers and 9/11 survivors descended into the space where the World Trade Center once stood and revisited the tragedy as" the President "dedicated" the museum "as a symbol that says of America: 'Nothing can ever break us.'" The AP notes that the President "retold the story of Welles Crowther, a 24-year-old World Trade Center worker who became known as 'the man in the red bandanna' after he led others to safety from one of the towers" before dying "in the tower's collapse."

The Washington Post (5/16, Wilson, 4.22M) says the President "delivered a parable about self-sacrifice." The Wall Street Journal (5/16, Maloney, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) quotes the President as saying, "I think all who come here will find it to be a profound, moving experience." In a post for the TIME (5/15, 24.1M) website, Zeke Miller writes that as the President spoke he was "flanked by the 'Last Column,' the makeshift memorial that was the final piece of rubble removed from the site and now stands in the museum alongside thousands of other artifacts."

Politico (5/15, Epstein, 73K) noted that the President "mentioned the visit he made to the site in May 2011, just days after Navy SEALs killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan." Reuters (5/16, Rampton) reports that in reference to the raid, the President said, "our SEALS made sure that justice was done."

The New York Times (5/16, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, praises the President for having "wisely avoided the temptation to use the occasion to make political points or engage in overblown rhetoric, focusing instead on the stories of heroism and survival that are told throughout the cavernous underground museum."

The New York Daily News (5/16, Sandoval, Siemaszko, 4.36M) reports that former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani "introduc[ed] – to great applause – a group of firefighters and Port Authority officers who got trapped in the wreckage and somehow made it out alive." The Daily News also reports that former mayor Michael Bloomberg, "the memorial foundation's chairman, likened the museum to the Pearl Harbor Memorial and the battlefield at Gettysburg." According to Bloomberg News (5/16, Goldman, Runningen, 2.76M), Bloomberg "helped raise about $450 million of the $700 million combined cost of the memorial and museum from private sources."

The Long Island (NY) Press (5/16, Mian, 146K) reports that in addition to Giuliani and Bloomberg, the President "was also joined by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie...plus other dignitaries." According to the AP (5/16, Lemire, Peltz), Gov. Christie was scheduled to speak before a performance of the song "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," but "a last-minute change avoided what could have been an uncomfortable moment," although, according to the AP, a "spokesman said the change had nothing to do with Christie or the song."

The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (5/16, Strunsky, 653K) reports that former President Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton "attended the ceremony but did not speak," while "one of the dedication's last speakers was Donald DiFrancesco, whose brief tenure as New Jersey's acting governor was marked by the trade center attack."

According to Newsday (5/16, Chayes, Ngo, 1.5M), the museum, "with a cost that exceeds a billion dollars, is opening after years of delays fueled by disputes over funding, the final resting place of the unidentified remains, admission fees and which entity should maintain control." The Los Angeles Times (5/16, Susman, Hennessey, 3.46M) says the development of the museum "was slowed by disputes that underscored the challenge of bringing together victims' families, politicians, civil leaders, and developers in a project that seeks to combine solemn remembrance with a harsh history lesson."

The Christian Science Monitor (5/16, Bruinius, 566K) reports that following Thursday's ceremony there is "a week-long 'dedication period' for all 9/11 families, including survivors, rescue and recovery workers, and lower Manhattan residents and business owners – who will never have to pay a fee."

SHINSEKI FACES TOUGH QUESTIONS FROM SENATE PANEL OVER VA HEALTHCARE. Coverage of the four-hour Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing on the state of healthcare at VA facilities is widespread and largely negative toward VA Secretary Shinseki, who is portrayed as on the defensive against angry questions

from both Republicans and Democrats. All three broadcast networks covered the hearing with a combined 7 1/2 minutes of coverage. While Senate Veterans' Affairs Chairman Bernie Sanders warned against a "rush to judgment," several senators asked Shinseki why he and other top VA officials should remain on the job.

ABC World News (5/15, story 4, 1:40, Sawyer) reported on what it called "the outrageous treatment of veterans at some VA hospitals." Shinseki "appeared before Congress fighting to keep his job, telling a Senate panel he is, quote, 'mad as hell.'" ABC (Avila) added, "Gen. Eric Shinseki, a wounded Vietnam veteran himself, has been under fire before but today on Capitol Hill it was his reputation, not his life on the line." Sen. Dean Heller: "Would you explain to me why you should not resign?"

The CBS Evening News (5/15, story 3, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M) called it an "important story." CBS (Andrews) added that Shinseki "faced dozens of tough questions, but his answers came down to this one: There are two formal investigations under way, he said, and no one wants the results more than he does." Shinseki: "Any adverse incident like this makes me mad as hell. I am committed to taking all actions necessary and to strengthen veterans' trusts in VA healthcare." Andrews: "The VA is facing multiple allegations that local officials are covered up reports of veterans waiting months for healthcare."

NBC Nightly News (5/15, story 4, 3:30, Williams, 7.86M) called Shinseki "a decorated combat veteran, a retired four-star army general who has faced hostile enemy fire in his lifetime," who on Thursday faced "hostile questions from Congress" over "a scandal having to do with how we treat our returning veterans and what appears to have been preventable deaths at this nation's VA hospitals." NBC (Miklaszewski) added that "Shinseki suggested again today that he has no intention of resigning, but political pressure is building here for serious changes at the VA. ... Shinseki played down the scope of the scandal." Sanders: "Are people quote, unquote, cooking the books?" Shinseki: "I'm not aware, other than a number of isolated cases where there is evidence of that."

The New York Times (5/16, A16, Oppel, Williams, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says Shinseki said he was "aware of only isolated evidence that faked or off-the-books lists were created to cloak long delays that some veterans have faced to see doctors." In his opening remarks, Sanders "said the allegations were very serious. But he added, 'If we are going to do our jobs in a proper and responsible way, we need to get the facts and not rush to judgment.'" But ranking Republican Sen. Richard Burr "told Mr. Shinseki that 'VA leadership either failed to connect the dots, or failed to address this ongoing crisis.'"

Roll Call (5/15, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 76K) said Shinseki "faced a barrage of bipartisan outrage." In the Washington Post (5/16, 4.22M) "Federal Diary," Joe Davidson writes that Sen. Patty Murray's "anger could be heard in her voice." She said, "I am very frustrated to be here, once again, talking about some deeply disturbing issues and allegations. It's extremely disappointing that the department has repeatedly failed to address wait times for healthcare."

The Washington Post (5/16, Jaffe, Hicks, 4.22M) reports Shinseki "vowed to remain in office until he meets his goals for improving the department's performance or until President Obama tells him it is time to go," and said the VA inspector general must be allowed to complete a review. The Wall Street Journal (5/16, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports Shinseki also said VA healthcare is "a good system" and that it has improved during his tenure.

The Los Angeles Times (5/16, Mascaro, 3.46M) says the inquiry into whether a VA facility in Phoenix "falsified government records to hide excessive wait times has broadened to include several other veterans centers nationwide." The VA's acting inspector general "testified that a preliminary review of 17 patient deaths associated with the Arizona center had not shown they were caused by delays in receiving treatment." Josh Hicks writes a question-and-answer piece on the issues involved for the Washington Post (5/16, 4.22M), saying that Sanders said "similar scandals have surfaced in at least 10 states, based on evidence provided by the American Legion," and that Shinseki "has placed three of the Phoenix hospital's executives on administrative leave."

Reuters (5/16, Lawder) also has a report.

CNN's Tapper Asked McDonough: "How Many Dead Veterans Do You Need?" The Washington Times (5/16, Ernst, 455K) reports that after White House Chief of Staff McDonough told him that the Obama Administration has increased funding for the VA each year, CNN's Jake Tapper asked him, "How many dead veterans do you

need before somebody asks the question within the White House, 'Maybe this isn't the best steward of these veterans?'" McDonough replied, "The question Jake, is, are we doing everything we can every day to get the veterans the care and opportunities they deserve?" Tapper replied, "But you're not!" Politico (5/15, Topaz, 73K) reported that the "testy exchange took place hours after" Shinseki testified.

More Commentary. USA Today (5/16, 5.82M) editorializes, "For VA leaders – including Shinseki, who has been on the job since 2009 – these problems should come as no shock. In April 2010, an internal VA inquiry found systematic "gaming strategies" at regional clinics to hide delays. The report cited about two dozen gaming techniques, some involving falsifying records. ... To save his job," Shinseki will "need to act more decisively than he has if the needless parade of negligence and death is to be stopped."

In a USA Today (5/16, 5.82M) op-ed, VA Under Secretary for Health Robert Petzel writes, "We take any allegations about patient care or employee misconduct very seriously, and I am personally saddened by any adverse consequence that a veteran might experience while in, or as a result of, our care." Shinseki "has directed VA to complete a nationwide audit of patient access, in order to ensure the integrity of our scheduling practices and management of patient access to care."

Darin Selnick, a member of the Concerned Veterans for America's organizing committee and a special assistant to the VA secretary during the Bush Administration, writes in a USA Today (5/16, 5.82M) op-ed that though Shinseki "says he has no intention of resigning," if he stays, he "needs to do much more to alleviate the growing concerns about the VA's ability to serve veterans." Selnick suggests a visit to the Phoenix VA center, a restoration of "integrity to VA recordkeeping," an investigation of VA hospitals using an outside special counsel, and pressing for passage of the VA Management Accountability Act. Selnick also says Shinseki should "order" Petzel to resign.

KERRY SUBPOENAED TO TESTIFY ABOUT STATE'S COOPERATION WITH BENGHAZI PROBE. The AP (5/16, Cassata) reports that House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Darrell Issa "issued a new subpoena" for Secretary of State Kerry "to testify about the deadly 2012 attack in Benghazi in an escalating fight with the Obama administration over its cooperation with Congress." Kerry is to testify before Issa's panel on May 29. According to the AP, Issa "said he had no choice as the State Department had failed to negotiate in good faith on an appropriate date for Kerry to testify" after Issa "lifted a subpoena for a May 21 appearance amid ongoing discussions between the panel and the department."

Reuters (5/16, Comwell) reports that State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said, "This is not the way legitimate and responsible oversight is conducted," but, in a statement released on Thursday Issa stated flatly that "absent an assertion of executive privilege, the State Department has a legal obligation to fully and completely comply."

Politico (5/15, French, 73K) said Rep. Elijah Cummings, the Oversight Committee's top Democrat, "dismissed the subpoena is irrelevant." The Washington Times (5/16, Sherfinski, 455K) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi said the new subpoena for Kerry "calls into question Republicans' stated purpose of the select committee" that was recently established to probe the Administration's handling of the terror attacks, "and signifies a mutual lack of confidence between the committee and Mr. Issa."

Gowdy Picks Staff Director For Benghazi Select Committee. Politico (5/15, French, Sherman, 73K) reported that also on Thursday, Rep. Trey Gowdy, the Benghazi select committee's chairman, "selected Smith-Free Group vice chairman Phil Kiko to be the majority staff director for the committee."

GOP Senators Ask Reid To Establish Benghazi Select Committee. Politico (5/15, French, 73K) reported that 37 Senate Republicans are urging Senate Majority Leader Reid to create a Benghazi select committee, although Reid "has previously said he has no plans to establish a select committee in the Senate – noting that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence completed an investigation that was largely hailed as bipartisan."

Condoleezza Rice: "There Are Still Unanswered Questions About Benghazi." The Daily Caller (5/15, Weinstein, 408K) reported that former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice "is among those who believe that there are legitimate questions that have not yet been answered about the 2012 Benghazi attack." The Daily Caller quotes Rice as saying, during a radio interview, "I think there are still unanswered questions about Benghazi. ... I

don't think people feel that we know fully what happened in that period during the attack. I don't think people know fully what the security situation was on the ground prior to the attack."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Searching For Fairness On The Internet."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (5/16, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) criticizes FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's net neutrality proposal. It says that while it is "more balanced" than an earlier approach, the FCC "still seems to be leaning toward creating a two-tiered system that could discriminate against smaller companies and restrict consumer choice."

"A Once-A-Day Pill To Prevent AIDS." The New York Times (5/16, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says in an editorial that while the antiviral drug Truvada "could help reduce the stubbornly high number of infections" linked to AIDS, the pill also "carries risks." But "the potential benefits of preventing infections outweigh" them. The Times says the proper introduction of Truvada, "if carried out with care, could be a big step forward in curbing the toll from AIDS."

"Force Feedings At Guantanamo." The New York Times (5/16, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that a lawsuit brought by a Guantánamo detainee "produced news that the military has apparently been videotaping its force-feedings of prisoners who have been attempting a hunger strike to protest their confinement and treatment." The disclosure "is important because a federal appeals court in the District of Columbia decided in February that while it would not initially block the force-feedings (in which prisoners are restrained and fed by a tube through the nose), it would retain jurisdiction and hear prisoners' complaints of inhumane treatment as part of a habeas corpus lawsuit." The Times argues that this "could prove to be one of the more promising avenues in the struggle to expose the woeful situation at Guantánamo to greater public attention." The Times urges the court to "issue an emergency order to prevent the government from destroying any existing video recordings of the force-feedings."

"The Man In A Red Bandanna." The New York Times (5/16, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, praises the President for having "wisely avoided the temptation to use" the dedication of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum "to make political points or engage in overblown rhetoric, focusing instead on the stories of heroism and survival that are told throughout the cavernous underground museum."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Mr. Obama's Inaction On Syria."*** The Washington Post (5/16, 4.22M) editorializes that the Obama Administration's "principal achievement" in an overall "failed response" to the Syrian civil war "is eroding." According to the Post, despite the upcoming deadline for the Syrian government to surrender its chemical weapons, "the regime not only retains a substantial stockpile but also has returned to" using the weapons on civilians. The Post says Assad is "being allowed to disregard" his pledge to give up the chemicals, because President Obama "chooses to do nothing."

"Forcing Google To 'Forget.'" In an editorial, the Washington Post (5/16, 4.22M) argues that the European Court of Justice's ruling that individuals can demand that Google remove certain links "could easily damage the flow of information on which the Internet depends." Noting that it is "dangerous when any government demands that legitimately published material on the public record be obscured, whether to protect individuals' feelings or the reputations of those in high office," the Post says European governments implementing the decision "should give more weight to the public's interest in the free flow of information than the judges did."

"Voyage Of Despair." An editorial in the Washington Post (5/16, 4.22M) cites a Reuters investigation which found that the Thai navy has played a role in handing over Rohingya Muslims "fleeing persecution and economic deprivation in Burma," to human smugglers, "who demand money from families for onward passage." The Post criticizes Thailand because instead of "seeking to rectify the situation, the Royal Navy has denied mistreating the refugees and decided to intimidate the messenger." The Post calls it "a sad case of Thailand's navy attempting to extinguish reporting rather than the misery that the reporting exposed," which is "doubly wrong because it attempts to hide the shameful treatment of a people, the Rohingya, who are already suffering far too much."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Internet's 51 New Regulators."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) writes that one of the GOP FCC commissioners argues that the biggest flaw

with the commission's net neutrality plan is that it will allow each state to make its own rules. The Journal also takes issue with consumer advocates that seek to have the FCC regulate ISPs like telecommunications firms, saying that such a move would result in far fewer Internet networks and a harder time for startups.

"Putin's European Enablers." The Wall Street Journal (5/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that while the US is rightly objecting to France's intentions to sell Russia's navy amphibious assault ships, other European countries also want to conduct regular business with Russia.

"Free Speech Movement." The Wall Street Journal (5/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes in support of a Federal court ruling this week that found much of Wisconsin's campaign finance law unconstitutional.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Aaron Hernandez Faces Murder Charges In 2012 Killings
Scott Brown Journeys To Hedge Fund Conference In Las Vegas
In Video, Baker Recalls How Brother Told Him He Was Gay
Part-Time Faculty At Northeastern Will Form Union, Aiding Wider Push

Boston Herald:
DA: It was Aaron Hernandez

Wall Street Journal:
Web Tolls Proposal Sets Up A Battle
Global Growth Worries Climb
Iran Recruits Afghan Refugees To Fight In Syria
Tragedy Worsens Malaysia Airlines' Woes

New York Times:
Fire Season Starts Early, And Fiercely
Hopes Of A Restless Generation Are Riding On India's Elections
Workers Quiet Unrest In Cities In East Ukraine
As Barbara Walters Retires, The Big TV Interview Signs Off, Too
US Officials Question Ability Of Nigeria To Rescue Hostages

Washington Post:
VA Chief Is Grilled In Senate Over Care
Reality Could Derail Modi's Dreams For India
Catania Goes Full Steam To Co-Opt D.C.'s Democrats
On GOP's Right Wing, Fears About Party's Shift
Cave Yields Clue In Human Mystery

Financial Times:
Eurozone Fears Spook Equity Markets
Anti-China Protests Force Vietnam Shutdown
France Takeover Decree Sparks UK Blast
US Banks Aim To Cut Brokers' Pay
Deutsche Banks Sells Las Vegas Hotel
Fox In Push To Create TV Production Group
A Behind-The-Scenes Search For Safety

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: California-Wildfires; California-Fire Tornadoes; 9/11 Memorial Museum Dedication Ceremony; Veterans

Affairs Scandal-Congressional Hearing; FDA-Lunesta; Columbia University-Sexual Assaults.
CBS: California-Wildfires; California-Wildfires; Veterans Affairs Scandal-Congressional Hearing; Turkey-Coal Mine Disaster; Syrian Civil War-Tunnel Bomb; Nigeria-Kidnapped Girls-Hagel; 9/11 Memorial Museum Dedication Ceremony; GM Recalls; Jupiter-Red Spot Shrinking; Franklin Roosevelt Video.
NBC: California-Wildfires; California-Wildfires; Los Angeles-Oil Pipeline Bursts; Veterans Affairs Scandal-Congressional Hearing; Syrian Civil War-Tunnel Bomb; Turkey-Coal Mine Disaster; 9/11 Memorial Museum Dedication Ceremony; Economy-Housing Market; NYTimes-New Executive Editor; GM Recalls; Texting 911 Technology; FDA-Lunesta.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Veterans Affairs Scandal-Congressional Hearing; California-Wildfires; FDA-Lunesta; Fast-Food Employees Protest.
CBS: California-Wildfires; Donald Sterling Scandal; Sports-NBA Playoffs; Veterans Affairs Scandal-Congressional Hearing; GM Recalls; Detroit Bankruptcy-Art Access Ruling; Wall Street.
FOX: Florida-Murder Trial; California-Wildfires; Veterans Affairs Scandal-Congressional Hearing; Veterans Affairs Scandal-White House; Sports-NBA Playoffs; North Carolina-Severe Thunderstorms; Nigeria-Kidnapped Girls; New York-Abu Hamza al-Masri Trial; American Idol.
NPR: California-Wildfires; Benghazi Investigation; FCC-Net Neutrality; Fast-Food Employees Protest; DC-Corcoran Gallery Takeover; Ringling Brothers And Bailey & Barnum Circus Settlement.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – With the Vice President, receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; with the Vice President, meets with Secretary of the Treasury Lew, Oval Office, closed press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will deliver remarks on the Administrations job-driven training agenda at the National STEM Summit of Change the Equation, a non-profit dedicated to mobilizing the business community to improve K-12 education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The Vice President's remarks at this event are open press. In the afternoon, the President and the Vice President will meet with Secretary of the Treasury Lew in the Oval Office. The Vice President will ceremonially swear-in Terrell McSweeny as a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission at the White House. This event is closed press.

MICHELLE OBAMA – The First Lady will deliver remarks at a "Senior Recognition Day" to celebrate seniors from high schools in the Topeka, KS Public School District. This will take place the day before each high school holds their official graduation ceremony. Highlights: First Lady Michelle Obama will travel to Topeka, KS, where she will meet with high school students participating in the Wichita State University GEAR UP program as part of her Reach Higher initiative. First Lady Michelle Obama will deliver remarks at a "Senior Recognition Day" to celebrate seniors from high schools in the Topeka, KS Public School District.

DR. JILL BIDEN – Dr. Biden will address graduates at Villanova University's 171st commencement.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: May 12 – 16. – The House is in District work period for the week.
Other: NATIONAL POLICE WEEK – May 11 – 17. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's National Police Week, paying special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. Contacts: Steve Groeninger, steve@nleomf.org, 202-737-7135

CICAD OF THE OAS MEETING – May 14 – 16. Group of Experts in Demand Reduction of the CICAD of the OAS Meets in Washington The fifteenth meeting of the Group of Experts in Demand Reduction of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) will be held in Washington, DC from May 14 to 16, chaired by the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD) in representation of the Government of Brasil. Location: Organization of American States, 1889 F Street, NW. Contacts: 202-370-5437

HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE SUMMIT – May 14 – 16. 2014 National Health Insurance Exchange Summit. Contacts: registration@hcconferences.com (800-503-9528).

U.S. BLACK CHAMBERS – NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK – May 15 – 16. Small business match making meeting are being held around the country in honor of National Small Business Week. D.C. meetings are May 15th, 16th. Contacts: aditi.dussault@sba.gov.

U.S. CHAMBER, SBA – SMALL BUSINESS WEEK – May 15 – 16. Open events. MEDIA RSVP: By 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 please provide name of organization, list of attendees, email, phone number, and date(s) you plan to attend and time of arrival to Terrence. Sutherland@sba.gov. Please ensure you have your media credentials at check-in. Highlights: 1:30 p.m. – 1:35 p.m. Exporter of the Year Award. Location: FRIDAY: FHI 360 Conference Center, 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW, 8(th) Floor., THURSDAY: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW. Contacts: Terrence.sutherland@sba.gov.

GEORGETOWN COMMENCMENT – LEW, GATES – May 15 – 18. Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Secretary of the Treasury Jacob J. Lew are among those scheduled to speak at Georgetown University's 2014 Commencement May 15-18. Georgetown holds individual graduation ceremonies for each undergraduate and professional school as well as award celebrations on campus, beginning with Senior Convocation and the McCourt School of Public Policy commencement ceremony on May 15. The Georgetown College Commencement Ceremony is the largest undergraduate ceremony, with more than 800 students graduating at 9:00am on Saturday, May 17 on Healy Lawn. Guy Consolmagno, S.J., astronomer for the Vatican, is the speaker for the ceremony and will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. All ceremonies will be webcast live at georgetown.edu/hoyas2014. Contacts: Maggie Moore mem95@georgetown.edu (202.687.4328, 202.687.8992). Notes: Media interested in attending must RSVP to Maggie Moore at mem95@georgetown.edu. Press will need to present valid credentials on campus.

TEA PARTY – OPERATION AMERICAN SPRING – The Tea Party and Col. Harry Riley have announced they are hosting an Operation American Spring in Washington, DC Friday, May 16th to "oust Obama, Biden, Boehner, Holder". Press releases indicate "millions" of militias will "descend" upon Washington. No further details were given. Information is listed as an FYI should an event occur. One press release also indicated there were would be a "fax" blast of members on Capitol Hill. There have been no further response to email or phone queries. Target. Washington. DC. Location: Tea Party Headquarters: Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue 190. Contacts: 714-796-1776 (contact@teaparty.org). Notes: NOTE – THIS IS LISTED ONLY AS AN FYI. NO TIME, LOCATION OR PERSON OF CONTACT HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY "ORGANIZERS".

TODAY IS BIKE TO WORK DAY – FOXX, LUSHNIAK, TANGHERLINI – National Bike to Work day. Events include a bike to work ride with the Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary, Anthony Foxx; Rear Admiral and Acting U.S. Surgeon General, Boris Lushniak; U.S. General Services Administration Administrator, Dan Tangherlini; D.C. Mayor, Vincent Gray; others at numerous pit stops. In addition: AAA Mid-Atlantic will be staffing a table at Friendship Heights. On May 16, cyclists can stop by the location at the intersection of Wisconsin & Western Avenues, between 6:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Contacts: Jeanette de Gomez 202-481-6820. John Townsend 202-481-6820. Lon Anderson 202-481-6820. Matt Kroneberger (202-962-3209, 310-525-6530).

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SYRIA – 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The Center for Victims of Torture hosts a group of experts to discuss the short and long term consequences of the egregious violations of human rights being committed in Syria, as well as steps that can be taken to document, account for and eventually seek justice for crimes committed on all sides of the conflict.. Panel I: Human Rights Violations and Their Consequences (10:00AM – 12:00PM); Simone van der Kaaden, Jordan Country Director, The Center for Victims of Torture; Erin Gallagher, Director of Emergency Investigations and Response, Physicians for Human Rights; Mark Engman, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, U.S. Fund for UNICEF; Michelle Strucke, Public Affairs Manager, Islamic Relief USA (moderator). Lunch & Keynote: Stephen J. Rapp, Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues, U.S. Department of State (invited) (12:15 – 1:30PM). Panel II: Documentation and Accountability (1:45 – 3:30PM) – Jeff S. Howell Jr., Chief of Staff, Syrian Accountability Project; Elizabeth "Barry" White, Research Director of the Center for the Prevention of Genocide, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum; Mohammad Al Abdallah, Executive Director, Syrian Justice and Accountability Centre; Joe Stork, Deputy Director Middle East and North Africa Division, Human Rights Watch (moderator). Location: 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 7th Floor. Contacts: Brad

Robideau 612.436.4886 (.651.808.7178 cell). Notes: To join via conference call, dial: 1-800-747-5150 Access code: 7215682

U.S. CHAMBER – IFC, RIO TINTO, ONE CAMPAIGN – 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. The U.S. Chamber of Commercealong with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group; Rio Tinto; and the ONE Campaign will host, "Infrastructure Week Goes Global" to explore ways in which infrastructure investment in developing countries can spur economic growth. The event is part of Infrastructure Week 2014, a series of events focusing on the critical need to modernize the countrys aging infrastructure.. Speakers: Sam Walsh AO, Chief Executive, Rio Tinto; Jin-Yong Cai, Executive Vice President and CEO, International Finance Corporation; Fred Hochberg, Chairman, U.S. Export-Import Bank; Mary Andringa, CEO, Vermeer; Michael Elliott, President and CEO, ONE Campaign. Location: IFC Auditorium, 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Notes: Credentialed members of the media must register by e-mailing press@uschamber.com or calling 202-463-5682.

CAP – SECURITY THREATS – CHINA – 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Climate Change, Migration, and Nontraditional Security Threats in China. Speakers: Speakers: Dr. Markus Ederer, State Secretary, German Foreign Ministry and former Ambassador of the European Union in Beijing; Sherri W. Goodman, Senior Vice President and Executive Director, CNA Military Advisory Board, CNA Corporation; Lauren Reed, Government Affairs Senior Analyst, Qualcomm, Inc. Moderator: Michael Werz, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress. Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

AICPA PARTNERSHIP TAX PANEL MEETING – 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Three U.S. Department of Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officials are scheduled to speak at a meeting of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) Partnership Tax Technical Resource Panel. Speakers: 11 – 11:45 a.m.: Curt G. Wilson, Associate Chief Counsel, Passthroughs and Special Industries, IRS; Donna Young, Deputy Associate Chief Counsel, Passthroughs and Special Industries, IRS. 4 – 4:30 p.m.: Craig Gerson, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Tax Policy, Department of the Treasury. Location: AICPA office at 1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Contacts: Shirley Twillman stwillman@aicpa.org (202.434.9220)

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION – HOLDER – 11:30 a.m. NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) hosts luncheon commemorating the 60th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education with remarks by the Honorable Eric H. Holder, JR. Attorney General of the United States. The lecture will also feature a conversation with the Honorable Deval Patrick, Governor of Massachusetts and the Honorable L. Douglas Wilder Former Governor of Virginia, moderated by award winning journalist, Charalayne Hunter-Gault. NOTE: All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a drivers license) as well as valid media credentials. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street, N.W. Contacts: RSVP to abraham@sunshinesachs.com

AMBASSADORS LUNCHEON FORUM – 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Potomac Institute for Policy hosts Ambassadors Luncheon Forum "Diplomacy and Force: Rewards, Costs, and Lessons." Opening Remarks: Professor Robert F. Turner Associate Director, Center for National Security Law, University of Virginia School of Law. Moderator: Professor Yonah Alexander Director, Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies, and Senior Fellow, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies. Forum: Ambassador (Ret.) Temuri Yakobashvili, Former Ambassador of Georgia to the United States and currently Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States; Ambassador (Ret.) Al Maamoun Baba Lamine Keita, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Mali to the United States. Closing Remarks: Lieutenant-Colonel Sebastien Chenebeau The French Liaison Officer at Joint Staff J7; Colonel (Ret.) Timothy G. Murphy, Former Senior staff member USAF and State Department and currently President of En Avant Consulting. Location: The Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, 901 N. Stuart Street, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203. Contacts: 703-562-4522 (icts@potomacinstitute.org)

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH REFORM – 12:15 p.m. Briefing: Health Centers at the Launch of the Coverage Expansion. This briefing will reveal new findings from The Commonwealth Fund's 2013 Survey of Federally Qualified Health Centers, examine perceptions and realities of health center capacity to ensure access to newly-insured and still-uninsured patients, and highlight "system improvements health centers have made to improve outcomes and efficiency at lower costs". Speakers: Leighton Ku, director of the Center for Health Policy Research at George Washington University, will discuss health center capacity in light of recent coverage expansions and highlight lessons learned about the capacity and fiscal health of health centers after the

Massachusetts coverage expansion; Vernita Todd, chief executive officer of Heart City Health Center in Elkhart, Indiana, will share an on-the-ground perspective on the center's efforts to leverage Federal investments and implement delivery system innovations to improve patient access to high-quality care; Brooks Miller, president of the Jordan Valley Health Center in Springfield, Missouri, will discuss the status of the coverage expansion with respect to Missouri health centers and highlight strategies to forge new partnerships with health systems and payers; Michelle Proser, director of research at the National Association for Community Health Centers, will highlight national research and data analysis that will answer critical questions on health centers and the populations they serve. Ed Howard of the Alliance and Melinda Abrams of Commonwealth will co-moderate. Contact: Sarah Dash (202)789-2300 sarahdash@allhealth.org. Location: G50 Dirksen. Contacts: (202) 789-2300 (info@allhealth.org).

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "President Obama was here yesterday, ladies and gentlemen. ... He was touring New York sites in desperate need of repair. You know, he wants to spend money on the infrastructure of the United States. So he was going around New York City showing people – well this needs fixing. For example, Port Authority needs fixing. Where the buses and the trains and everything – that needs fixing. Penn Station, same thing. That needs a little help over there. Also in big, big structural trouble, the Knicks. He wants to fix them."

David Letterman: "He went up to the Hudson, up to the Tappan Zee Bridge, which is beautiful. ... And the Tappan Zee Bridge – the renovation is finishing up way ahead of schedule, like Obama's second term."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to news of Vladimir Putin playing hockey] "Ladies and gentlemen, I have to say right off the bat, I know this is not going to come to any surprise to all you heroes out there, but I've had it up to here with Russia. Vladimir Putin has been out-masculating Barack Obama at every turn. It's like Obama is playing checkers, and Putin is also playing checkers, but is doing it shirtless while riding a horse."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to news of Russia cutting off US access to the International Space Station] "Russia – our space boyfriends – broke up with us. And, of course, the worst part of every breakup is canceling the trip you had planned for six years from now. This is so awkward, because right now Russian and American astronauts are up there together. We're still living together in the same place. Now it's going to be all weird bumping into each other when we need to use the waste vent."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to Karl Rove's comments on Hillary Clinton] "Nation, this is a serious scandal because Rove's conjecture is based on soiled facts. Hillary Clinton did go to the hospital after a concussion in 2012, and she later exhibited some very strange behavior in her Benghazi testimony. She had a mastery of the facts and an unshakable confidence, all while wearing those stupid glasses. I mean, they're like – these things are like orthopedic shoes for your face. You'd have to be brain damaged to wear those, or nearsighted, which I believe is caused by brain damage."

Stephen Colbert: "All Karl Rove is saying, is that Hillary is a public figure and we should be worried about her brain. Folks, there is another public figure who worries me even more – Karl Rove. Because he said that Hillary spent 30 days in the hospital when in fact she was there for only three days. Has Karl Rove lost track of time because he has a serious brain injury? I'm just asking the question. I mean, for some reason, he is protecting his skull with a thick cushion of meat."

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, Chris Christie said that he thinks it would be fun to run against Jeb Bush for the Republican presidential nomination. While Jeb Bush said it would be fun just to watch Chris Christie run."

Seth Meyers: "Today, President Obama took his 1,001st flight aboard Air Force One and they still made him take his shoes off at security. Why? What's he going to have in his shoes? He's the President."

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RE: Greater Sage Grouse -- 2013 Montana Survey

Sally Jewell (b)(6)bios.doi.gov> Tue, May 20, 2014 at 8:36 AM
To: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>

Not good. Thanks for sharing.

From: Ashe, Dan [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 7:50 AM
To: Sally Jewell
Cc: Jim Lyons; Michael Bean; Neil Kornze; Michael Connor
Subject: Greater Sage Grouse -- 2013 Montana Survey

This is a bit discouraging. Not the hunting closure, because not that many people hunt sage grouse, but the population data that led to the decision. Particularly, the long-term trend, and the trend since our 2010 "warranted" finding.

FWP To Seek Sage Grouse Hunt Closure Due To Continued Population Decline

With preliminary results from Montana's spring surveys showing a continued population decline of the state's largest native upland game bird, wildlife officials will seek to close sage grouse hunting for the 2014 season.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will propose the season closure at the Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting in Fort Peck, Thursday, May 22.

Jeff Hagener, FWP director in Helena, said state biologists counted an average of 14.9 males per sage grouse strutting ground, or lek, last year and noted that preliminary indications show little or no improvement this year. Last year's count was the lowest recorded since 1980. Montana's long term lek-count trend is about 30 males per lek on about 90 pre-selected sage grouse strutting grounds.

"Last year's counts dropped to 48 percent below the long term average," Hagener said. "Our preliminary 2014 numbers show no improvement across all three of Montana's sage grouse management zones."

Here's a rundown on Montana's sage grouse lek surveys as they compare to the long term average since 2008:

- 2013: 14.9 males per lek; or a 48 percent below long term average
- 2012: 19.1 males per lek; or a 34 percent below LTA
- 2011: 19.2 males per lek; or a 34 percent below LTA

- 2010: 20.5 males per lek; or a 31 percent below LTA
- 2009: 23.3 males per lek; or a 23 percent below LTA
- 2008: 22.9 males per lek; or a 24 percent below LTA

Similar declines are being recorded in North Dakota where sage grouse hunting has been closed for the past several seasons. Final Montana counts for 2014 will be complete by the end of May and will be available for commission review at its July meeting.

For the past 10 years, the "Management Plan and Conservation Strategies for Sage Grouse in Montana" has guided sage grouse management decisions. The plan requires a hunting season closure when lek counts are at least 45 percent below the long term average for three consecutive years.

Based on this spring's field observations, however, FWP will seek to close the sage grouse season for 2014 due to the uninterrupted downward trend in sage grouse populations that began in 2010 and the broad range wide scale of low numbers.

"Based on the declines FWP biologists are documenting on the ground, FWP recommends that the most responsible course of action at this time, which is consistent with FWP's management plan, is to remove hunter-harvest mortality," Hagener said.

The sage grouse, North America's largest grouse, is best known for its distinctive spring mating rituals on breeding grounds called 'leks." Sage grouse are a long-lived species with low reproductive yields, which makes population recovery slow. Biologists estimate that sage grouse once could be found in 13 western states and three Canadian provinces. Today, sage grouse are found in 11 states and in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. The native prairie bird's remaining strongholds are in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon.

–
Dan Ashe

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

BISON CONNECT

RE: "What's good for the bird is good for the herd."

Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Wed, May 21, 2014 at 12:06 PM
To: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Cc: Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Weller <jason.weller@wdc.usda.gov>, Robert Bonnie <Robert.Bonnie@osec.usda.gov>

Dan –

This is excellent. I hope there is a mechanism to share articles like this with the WGA and/or governors and their state officials to give them encouragement. Thanks for sharing.

Sally

From: Dan Ashe [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 6:32 AM
To: Sally Jewell
Cc: Michael Bean; Jim Lyons; Neil G Kornze; Mike Connor; Tommy Beaudreau; Sarah Greenberger; Jason Weller; Robert Bonnie
Subject: Fwd: "What's good for the bird is good for the herd."

Okay, yesterday, I sent the rather disheartening population survey news from Montana. Well, now some good news. The story below relates to a county-wide CCAA, for Harney County, OR, in the heart of one of the remaining sage grouse strongholds. 39 ranchers, controlling more than 250,000 acres have committed to sign up, and more are expected.

It's heartening to hear a rancher talking about "agency folks" (FWS employees) who "get it." Our Oregon field office ROCKS!! And of course, this is all outgrowth of our partnership with USDA/NRCS, and their Sage Grouse Initiative. It would not be possible without their commitment and leadership. Similar efforts are underway in all of the Oregon Counties within the GSG range.

And you gotta love the punch line: **"What's good for the bird is good for the herd!"**

Dan Ashe

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Capital Press

Ranchers agree to conserve sage grouse habitat

Harney County cattle ranchers, working through the local Soil and Water Conservation District, will sign an agreement this week that protects greater sage grouse habitat on up to 1 million acres of private rangeland.

In return for agreeing to make some management changes, landowners will be safe from further federal regulation for 30 years, even if the bird is listed as an endangered species next year.

Ranchers, federal regulators and the local soil and water district acknowledge the voluntary agreement, which will be signed Wednesday at Hotel Diamond south of Burns, is a leap of faith. The greater sage grouse, now a "candidate" for protection under the Endangered Species Act, has been called "farmers' and ranchers' spotted owl" because its listing potentially would have tremendous impact on cattle grazing and other operations in 11 western states.

Faced with that, rural producers have turned to collaborative efforts that provide habitat protection for the bird while giving them assurance they'll be able to continue operating as usual. Similar agreements have been signed recently in Idaho and Wyoming.

The Harney County agreement followed three years of negotiations, and ranchers entered the discussions with a "natural skepticism," said Burns rancher Tom Sharp, who chaired the local committee.

"We began the dance very slowly," Sharp said.

Within a few months, however, a sense of trust and common purpose emerged, he said.

"What we found as we engaged, we found the agency folks — they got it," Sharp said. "They realized the stakes were high on this."

Marty Suter-Goold, manager of the Harney County Soil and Water Conservation District, called the agreement "monumental." She said 39 ranchers representing 250,000 acres have already indicated they want to take part, and half a dozen other Eastern Oregon counties have asked for information about the project.

"Landowners wanted this to happen and stayed with us all the way through the process," she said.

Under the agreement, formally called a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), ranchers agree to manage their lands to reduce threats to greater sage grouse. The work will include such things as removing juniper or invasive grasses, putting reflective material on the top strand of fences to reduce bird strikes, and putting "escape ladders" in water troughs so birds can get out if they fly into one. Ranchers who have a ritual breeding ground on their land, called a lek, will avoid grazing cattle in those areas during the key mating season.

Sharp, the Burns rancher, said the requirements are not onerous. "What's good for the bird is good for the herd," he said.

The conservation district will be the permit holder under the agreement, and the USFW will issue "enhancement of survival" and "incidental take" permits to the district. Landowners who sign on will be sheltered under the district's permit, and the district will develop site-specific management plans for ranches.

Landowners who carry out the plans in good faith will be exempted from additional regulatory requirements if greater sage grouse are listed as endangered.

district will develop site-specific management plans for ranches.

Landowners who carry out the plans in good faith will be exempted from additional regulatory requirements if greater sage grouse are listed as endangered.

http://www.capitalpress.com/Oregon/20140519/ranchers-agree-to-conserve-sage-grouse-habitat#sthash.bV2r9OHs.dpuf

BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for May 22- May 30, 2014

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Wed, May 21, 2014 at 6:50 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Sally--

Attached are your trip materials for May 22 through May 30th. These have all been delivered to you in a trip binder and have also been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Zaina

26 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1-8, 10-26)

5 22 14_PRESS RELEASE 21CSC Youth Grants Announcement.docx
143K

5 22 14_11am_TALKING POINTS Federal Acknowledgment Proposed Rule.docx
17K

5 22 14_11am_FAQ Federal Acknowledgment 25 CFR 83.docx
84K

5 22 14_11am_Interior Proposes Reform of Federal Acknowledgment Regulations.docx
21K

5 22 14_1230pm_VERSION 2 Visit to Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR.docx
36K

5 30 14_10am_VERSION 2 LGBT Heritage Intiative Kickoff.doc
217K

DOI_BisonReport_NPS_NRR_FINAL.pdf
15612K

2014 Developing The Next Generation of Conservationists Project List (2) (1).pdf
950K

BLM Colorado Hot Topics - May 19 2014-sh.docx
20K

CSA Compliance External Comms FINAL.docx
32K

CSA Compliance Internal QandA FINAL.docx
26K

DOI BCI_Secretary's 1 pager.docx
19K

5 22 14_11am_TALKING POINTS 21CSC Youth Grants Announcement.docx
33K

5 22 14_11am_VERSION 4 21CSC Youth Grants Announcement.docx
31K

5 22 14_11am_YOUTH SPEAKER BIO 21CSC Youth Grants Announcement.pdf
1546K

5 23 14_8am MDT_BIOS Celebration of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Designation.docx
431K

5 23 14_8am MDT_Celebration of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Designation.docx
28K

5 24 14_930am_Whitman College Commencement Address.docx
21K

Commencement Program.pdf
479K

Whitman College - Sustainability Report Card 2011.pdf
106K

Whitman Commencement Dinner and Ceremony Participant Bios.docx
1540K

Whitman Commencement Faculty Award Recipients.pdf
658K

Whitman Magazine Questions.docx
13K

House Letter to DOI on LGBT Theme Study.pdf
1380K

Senate Letter to Interior on NPS LGBT Theme Study (1).pdf
476K

5 30 14_10am_LGBT Attachment NHL Nomination.pdf
113K

BLM Colorado Hot Topics
May 2014

What is the status of the Tres Rios Resource Management Plan?
The protest period for the San Juan National Forest and BLM Tres Rios Proposed RMP closed Nov. 7, 2013. The plan was protested by La Plata, San Miguel, Montezuma and Dolores counties, as well as the State of Colorado, among others. Rep. Scott Tipton and Sen. Michael Bennet are critical of the plan. The BLM will review the protests and determine the best path forward.

How is the BLM responding to the potential Gunnison Sage-Grouse listing?
The BLM Gunnison Field Office, a lead partner in developing a Candidate Conservation Agreement for Gunnison Sage-Grouse within the Gunnison Basin, is working to implement the agreement. BLM Colorado is in the planning stages of incorporating these conservation agreements into Resource Management Plans, possibly through a regional Environmental Impact Statement similar to the Greater Sage Grouse model.

What is the status of coal in southwest Colorado?
Oxbow's Elk Creek Mine employed 335 employees in 2012. Oxbow reduced that staff to 20-70 miners following an underground fire. Bowie Resources, LLC submitted a federal competitive coal lease-by-application to the BLM on Oct. 12, 2012, covering approximately 1,332 acres of National Forest land, 88 acres of BLM land and 368 acres of private surface with federal minerals. The application area contains an estimated 8 million tons of recoverable coal. Oxbow Mining, LLC submitted a federal coal lease modification to the BLM on Jan. 11, 2013. The proposed modification tract covers approximately 350 acres of USFS land and BLM federal minerals. Ark Land Company submitted a coal exploration plan for West Elk Mine in the Sunset Trail Area on April 3, 2013, based on rights granted in their lease agreements to drill for coal deposits in the lease. High Country Citizens Alliance and WildEarth Guardians appealed the FONSI and Decision Record in early July. The appeal is expected to be in federal court through the first half of 2014.

What is the status of various Northwest District Resource Management Plans?

- The **Colorado River Valley Field Office** released its Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be released in early 2014.
- The **White River Field Office** anticipates releasing its Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS in 2014. The BLM received more than 19,000 comment submissions during the comment period on the draft.
- The **Kremmling Field Office** released a Proposed RMP/Final EIS in early 2014.
- The **Grand Junction Field Office** anticipates its Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be released in summer 2014. Major issues include travel management, energy and socioeconomic concerns.
- The **Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area** anticipates its Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be released in fall 2014.

What is BLM Colorado doing for the Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy?
The BLM is writing an EIS to analyze incorporating new Greater Sage-Grouse conservation measures into its RMPs for the five field offices in the Northwest Colorado District. The BLM's 90-day public comment period on the draft EIS was extended 16 days and ended on Dec. 2, 2013. The BLM is working with the State of Colorado to address their concerns.

What is the status of Thompson Divide and White River National Forest Oil and Gas leasing?
The Thompson Divide is 221,500 acres of primarily National Forest land west of Carbondale, Colo. Two companies – SG Interests and Ursa Resources – submitted separate development proposals in this area. On April 9, 2013, the BLM approved the companies' request to suspend the leases, which were set to expire May 31, 2013. In granting the request for lease suspensions, the BLM identified the need to remedy a defect when the leases were issued – the lack of a BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis – and decided to undertake additional NEPA analysis to determine whether the leases should be reaffirmed, voided or subject to additional mitigation measures. The BLM will prepare an EIS to analyze up to 65 existing leases in the White River National Forest. The Notice of Intent published in early 2014. BLM Colorado hosted public scoping meetings in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Aspen and Debeque, drawing large crowds in the Roaring Fork Valley who opposed oil and gas leasing, and large supporters of oil and gas development in Mesa County.

What is the status of the Roan Plateau Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement?
The BLM completed the public scoping period for the Roan Plateau Supplemental EIS in spring 2013. When the BLM announced this scoping period, it stated it would consider a full range of alternatives for oil and gas development in the Roan Plateau planning area, including a no leasing option. The BLM received more than 24,000 comments. A draft is scheduled for release in late 2014.

What is the status of the Sutey Ranch Land Exchange?
The Colorado River Valley Field Office anticipates publishing a Notice of Decision for the Sutey Ranch Land Exchange in early 2014, which will initiate a 45-day protest period. Under the proposal, the BLM would acquire the 557-acre Sutey Ranch adjacent to the popular Red Hill Special Recreation Area in Garfield County, including the historic water rights from the ranch. The BLM would also receive 112 acres in Pitkin County. The BLM would exchange three parcels totaling 1,268 acres in Pitkin County south of Carbondale that are mostly surrounded by private land and are difficult for the public to access. The land exchange proponents would also contribute a $1.1-million donation. An announcement on the exchange is imminent.

What is the status of the Over the River project on the Arkansas River?
The applicants proposed to install approximately 5.9 miles of fabric panels suspended above the Arkansas River in eight sections along a 42-mile stretch of the Arkansas River between the towns of Cañon City and Salida, Colo. The group Rags Over the Arkansas River (ROAR) has filed several lawsuits in an attempt to stop the project. The IBLA upheld BLM's approval on June 28, 2013. Opponents sued to stop the project in federal court.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 23, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, May 23, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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Holiday Message. In observance of the federal Memorial Day holiday, we will not publish on Monday, May 26, 2014. Service will resume on Tuesday, May 27, 2014. We wish our readers a safe holiday.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR YOUTH INITIATIVE. The AP (5/23) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Thursday to announced the Obama Administration's plan to spend $6.7 million to hire young adults and veterans to work on public lands. The government is "putting in $1.9 million of the $6.7 million for the project," and "most of the rest is coming from Wells Fargo & Co.," according to Greg Knadle of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Speaking at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge, Jewell said the grant will help fund 43 projects around the country as part of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Initiative.

The Alaska Native News (5/23, 245) reports that Jewell said, "We have a shared responsibility to protect and promote public lands that belong to all Americans so our children and their children can enjoy them for generations to come. The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps is built through strong public-private partnerships that not only provide employment opportunities to young adults but also provide powerful connections to nature that will last a lifetime."

The Denver Post (5/23, 940K) reports that Jewell said, "Through our partnership with Groundwork Denver and other organizations in communities across the country, we can leverage our federal investments with private support to help young adults learn new skills and gain great job experience while giving back to the community."

KCSG-TV St. George, UT (5/23, 43) reports that on Thursday, Jewell "announced seven winning projects that were selected for 2014 program funding."

Also reporting on the story are KRNV-TV Reno, NV (5/23, 2K),

Coverage by the AP was picked up by FOX News (5/22, 6.72M), the Huffington Post (5/22, 11.54M), Yahoo! (5/23, Bryson, 17.91M), the Fort Collins (CO) Coloradoan (5/22, 59K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/22, 687K), and the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (5/23, 696K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT NEW MEXICO TO CELEBRATE NEWEST MONUMENT. The AP (5/23) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be in Las Cruces, New Mexico on Friday to celebrate the designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. The article notes that "legislation that would have established the monument along with several wilderness areas repeatedly stalled in Congress." New Mexico Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich say "they will continue to push legislation that would set aside the wilderness areas."

The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (5/23, 59K) reports that "a group of opponents to the newly created Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument are planning to demonstrate against the measure." Opponents say "they're worried about the possible impacts to ranching and border security."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the San Francisco Chronicle (5/23, 3.33M), the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (5/23, 59K), and KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM (5/23, 5K).

Also reporting on the story are the Silver City (NM) Sun-News (5/23, 24K), the Albuquerque (NM) Business First (5/23), and the Nation Sun News (5/23).

Designation Criticized. In his column for the Washington Times (5/23, Humphries, 455K), Rusty Humphries writes that President Obama's decision to bypass Congress to designate the monument is "another act of imperial power." He notes that "Congress has asked the president to hold off on creating the Organ Mountains monument area until local land-use and law enforcement concerns can be studied more carefully." Humphries argues that the designation is "an assault on state's rights and the 10th Amendment to the Constitution."

For the Daily Caller (5/23, Lugo, 408K), Karen Lugo, Director of the Center for Tenth Amendment Action at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, writes, that "if Americans are feeling helpless in the face of breathtaking conversions of land and access to federal control, there is something they can do." She notes that "six of the states that are still waiting for multi-use land to be returned by the feds are looking at contract-based strategies to pursue restoration of their public lands." She argues that "return of these public lands would deny the BLM jurisdiction over hundreds of thousands of acres in the West while returning decision-making and resource allocation to local and more accountable control."

REP. STEWART PREPARES BILL TO DEFUND LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS OF AGENCIES. The Newsmax (5/22, 486K) reports that Rep. Chris Stewart is "preparing legislation to defund the law enforcement units of agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management and the Environmental Protection Agency, whose primary purpose is regulatory." Stewart said, "The fundamental challenge is that people like me simply do not trust the federal government any longer. We see examples of non-law enforcement agencies taking a very heavy hand, using armed SWAT teams against citizens, and that leads to an even deeper mistrust." The article notes that "one of the first obstacles to any effort to defund the units is determining the exact number of federal agents who have authority to execute search warrants and carry weapons," and "part of the challenge is that various agencies define their law enforcement officers with different terms, making a computer data search more difficult, and some agencies and departments bristle at the assertion they even have SWAT or paramilitary units."

SENATE MAY VOTE ON SPORTSMAN BILL. Politico (5/23, Everett, 73K) reports that Senate Democratic leaders are "mulling expeditiously voting on a hunting and fishing bill that could pay big dividends to red-state Democrats this election year." The sportsmen's legislation, written by Sens. Kay Hagan and Lisa Murkowski, "would expand the reach of shooting ranges on federal lands, exempt lead bullets and fishing tackle from federal regulations, expedite duck hunting permits, reauthorize conservation programs and require federal officials to consider how land management affects the activities of hunting, fishing and shooting." According to the article, "depending on how negotiations over a stalled tax extenders bill proceed, the bill could come to the Senate floor after next week's Memorial Day recess."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

OBAMA PROMOTES US TOURISM. The Washington Post (5/22, Eilperin, 4.22M) reports that President Obama "undertook a couple of executive actions Tuesday aimed at bringing more visitors to the United States." However, the article notes that budget cuts in recent years have affected many of sites tourists come to see, including national parks. John Gardner, director of budget and appropriations for the National Parks Conservation Association, "noted that 20 percent of foreign visitors come to national parks, and those tourists stay longer and are more likely to return to the US than other visitors." Gardner said, "It's ironic that while we're seeking to drive more international visitors to our national parks there's an important question about what sort of message it sends, particularly as we prepare to celebrate the National Park Service's 100th anniversary in 2016, when those visitors will arrive to crumbling park roads and trails."

HOUSE BILL WOULD MAKE B REACTOR PART OF NATIONAL PARK. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (5/22, 115K) reports that "making B Reactor part of a national park and effectively barring plutonium shipments to Hanford are among provisions of the 2015 House National Defense Authorization Act passed Thursday." Rep. Doc Hastings "added those provisions in the bill and other language to require public access to Rattlesnake Mountain, to transfer unneeded Hanford land for industrial development and to clear the way to restore some environmental cleanup funding." The legislation "requires that a Manhattan Project National Historical Park, which would include Hanford's historic B Reactor, be created within a year of passage of the legislation."

NPS ENCOURAGES SAGUARO WILDERNESS MOVEMENT. The Tucson (AZ) Weekly (5/22, 122K) reports that the NPS Harpers Ferry Center has published a "Youtube video encouraging Tucsonans to join the revolution ... a stewardship revolution." The clip "includes narrations by the late, great Mardy 'Grandmother of the Conservation Movement' Murie."

BROOKLYN NAVY YARD ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The New York Daily News (5/23, 4.36M) reports that the Brooklyn Navy Yard has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: WASHINGTON MONUMENT ELEVATOR PROBLEM EXAMINED. Additional coverage of the Washington Monument's elevator issues was provided by the AP (5/23) and WJLA-TV Washington (5/23, 118K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SELLS $18 MILLION WORTH OF LAND IN NEVADA. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (5/23, 437K) reports that the BLM sold more than $18 million in public land in Nevada on Thursday. The BLM said 10 percent of the proceeds will go to the Southern Nevada Water Authority and 5 percent — more than $900,000 — will go to the Nevada State General Education Fund.

RALLY TO BE HELD OVER RED RIVER PROPERTY. KFDX-TV Wichita Falls, TX (5/23, 2K) reports that a rally will be held on Saturday to protest the BLM's alleged "plans to take land from property owners along the Texas side of the Red River." The rally is "being organized by a gun rights group and is called 'Gathering of the American Patriot Red River Rally.'"

Fish and Wildlife Service:

OCELOT SIGHTING MIGHT DELAY ROSEMONT PERMITTING. The Mining Weekly (5/23, 2K) reports that the sighting of an ocelot close to the boundaries of Augusta Resource Corp's proposed Rosemont copper project, near Tucson, Arizona, contributed to the FWS "saying it might not be able to give the company an environmental green light to start building the project, saying more consultation might be needed." Augusta on Thursday said that it was aware of an FWS letter that were submitted to the US Forest Service USFS summarizing "its rationale

for restarting consultations regarding the project's permitting." According to the article, "a remote camera south of the project site photographed the wild cat, prompting the USFS to evaluate the issues raised in the letter and, as the action agency, to decide whether further consultation would be necessary."

Also covering the story are the Arizona Daily Star (5/23, 389K) and the Tucson (AZ) Weekly (5/22, 122K).

MONTANA CURTAILS SAGE GROUSE HUNT. The AP (5/23, Brown) reports that "Montana on Thursday joined North Dakota and South Dakota as states that are moving to curtail the hunting of sage grouse in response to a continued decline in the game bird's population." State wildlife commissioners "gave tentative approval to a proposal to cancel or scale back Montana's two-month hunting season, which is slated to open in September."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CHANGES TO IVORY REGULATIONS. Additional coverage of the changes to federal ivory regulations was provided by the Cleveland Plain Dealer (5/23, 1.06M).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

RESEARCHERS MAP ATLANTIC SEABED. The reNews (5/23) reports that "researchers have wrapped up a 10-day voyage to map the ocean floor in the North Carolina offshore wind energy call area." The University of North Carolina Institute of Marine Sciences in partnership with the BOEM and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are "conducting extensive seabed mapping and a baseline biological assessment in the Wilmington-East call area." Researchers "used high-resolution hydrographic sonars to characterize reef structures and detail the topography of the ocean floor." The data will "help determine where offshore wind energy development could occur with minimal impacts to sensitive fish habitats and ocean resources."

Onshore Energy Development:

FLARING COSTS US MILLIONS IN REVENUE. The National Geographic (5/23, 42.25M) reports that "the cost of flaring—in lost energy resources and potential revenue from federal land in North Dakota and other western states—is increasingly drawing the attention of government officials and interest groups." Data from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue "show that the amount of gas lost to unauthorized flaring and venting increased more than 20-fold from 2010 through 2013." According to the article, "flaring is likely to continue...at least until US regulations and infrastructure catch up to the runaway production."

BLM SELLS $4.5 MILLION IN LEASES DURING OIL, GAS AUCTION. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (5/23, 10K) reports that the BLM "auctioned oil and gas leases on federal land totaling about $2.9 million in three southwest North Dakota counties." The BLM "sold about $4.5 million in leases Wednesday – 14,620 acres in all."

BETTER TOOLS URGED TO REGULATE OIL DRILLING IN FLORIDA. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (5/22, 779K) editorializes that "a Texas-based firm stands accused of exceeding its permit and engaging" in fracking, a "practice the state has specifically prohibited" near the Everglades. According to the paper, "given that the Everglades is South Florida's water lifeline, the danger is clear." The paper notes that "while no one disputes the need for further energy exploration to achieve our nation's goal of energy independence, the Hughes Co. case shows the need to proceed with care."

Offshore Energy Development:

RECREATIONAL FISHING ALLIANCE OPPOSES SEISMIC TESTING. The Cape May County (NJ) Herald (5/23, 15K) reports that the Recreational Fishing Alliance sent a nationwide email alert earlier this month "related to the scheduling of a seismic testing program just 15 miles off the New Jersey coast scheduled to begin on June 3." According to the article, "members of the recreational for-hire fleet, as well as local commercial fishermen and a host of environmental organizations including Clean Ocean Action are fearful of the potential impacts on local marine life posed by the seismic airgun blasts." The Recreational Fishing Alliance is "urging all saltwater anglers and concerned citizens to take time from their schedule on May 23, 2014, to send a fax to Secretary of the

Interior, Ms. Sally Jewell, urging her assistance in postponing the study."

Marine Scientist Warns Whales Threatened By Seismic Testing. For Yahoo! (5/23, Young, 17.91M) , Sara Young, a marine scientist at Oceana, writes that whales are threatened by "a proposal to use seismic airguns off the US Atlantic coast to search for oil and gas deposits beneath the ocean floor." According to Young, the sound waves are generated by seismic airguns "can occur every 10 minutes, for days to weeks on end, and may result in temporary or permanent hearing loss for the whales, along with habitat abandonment, disruption of mating and feeding, beaching events and even death." Young urges the Obama Administration to "reconsider its plans to allow the use of seismic airguns, and listen to the 14 coastal communities; the more than 150 national, state, and local elected officials; and 160 environmental and welfare organizations who have taken clear stances opposing such seismic testing."

TEXAS LAWMAKERS DISCOVER $5 MILLION IN DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL FUNDS FROM BP. NPR (5/22, Henry, 519K) reports that Texas state lawmakers this week held a hearing to examine how the state will manage funds from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill. The hearing came after it was discovered that in September 2010, BP gave $5 million to Gov. Rick Perry's office to cover Deepwater Horizon spill costs. About $20,000 in interest has been made on the funds in the interim.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SENATE PASSES CALIFORNIA DROUGHT-RELIEF BILL. McClatchy (5/23, Doyle, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that the Senate on Thursday "passed a California drought-relief bill that sets up serious negotiations with the House over water storage, river protection, irrigation deliveries and more." Sen. Dianne Feinstein said, "My hope is that this process can proceed quickly and bypass many of the controversial issues that have been raised in the past. While we do need long-term solutions to the state's water problems, the bill the Senate passed today authorizes immediate actions to help California." According to the article, "using a lickety-split procedure that required getting a green light from all 100 senators, Feinstein pushed her 16-page Emergency Drought Relief Act through the Senate without public debate or a committee hearing."

VIDEO SIMULATION SHOWS SCALE OF DELTA TUNNEL PROJECT. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/22, 687K) reports that the Delta Protection Commission "hired a computer artist to prepare a video simulation of the three intakes on the Sacramento River that would feed" the proposed Delta tunnels. According to the article, "the result is a 46-second animation on YouTube that gives the impression of a helicopter ride above the intakes and the region near Courtland, in Sacramento County, where they are proposed." The article notes that "among other things, the video illustrates that the middle of the three intakes would dwarf the town of Clarksburg, which lies directly across the Sacramento River on the Yolo County side," and "it also depicts how roads and levees will be reconfigured, and the scale and nature of changes to the riverfront at each intake."

BUSY MEMORIAL WEEKEND EXPECTED AT LAKE BERRYESSA. The Napa Valley (CA) Register (5/23, 36K) reports that "California's ongoing drought may encourage more people to visit Lake Berryessa, where the lake level remains high enough to encourage recreation, officials said." Warren Kasper, supervisory park ranger for the BOR, said, "Memorial Day will be a very busy weekend." Officials noted that "all of the lake's camping spots are already full."

BOR PLANS PUBLIC MEETING ON LAKE NIGHTHORSE. The Durango (CO) Herald (5/22, 28K) reports that the BOR "plans to hold a public meeting June 18 to update residents on progress toward opening Lake Nighthorse for recreational use." According to a news release from Ed Warner, Western Colorado area manager, "the agency believed it was near an agreement with partners and stakeholders of the Animas-La Plata Project to integrate recreation." Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet wrote to the BOR "last week asking it to issue a plan for opening the reservoir for recreation quickly."

IRRIGATION SEASON TO START IN NEW MEXICO. The AP (5/23) reports that "the irrigation season in southern New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley will begin this weekend." According to the BOR, "an initial release of water from Caballo Reservoir is scheduled for Sunday." The article notes that "releases from Elephant Butte Reservoir will begin Tuesday and are expected to continue at least through August."

WATERSMART GRANT HELPS TO FUND LOVING COUNTY'S DESALINATION PROJECT . The Odessa (TX) American (5/23, 50K) reports that "Loving County officials are turning to a desalination project that represents the first of its kind in the United States." According to the article, "the project includes an evaporative desalination unit and a solar power plant that will be able to treat brackish water." The article notes that "the total $3.5 million project is funded by the county and a $600,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation through a WaterSMART initiative promoting water treatment programs incorporating renewable technology."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR PROPOSES CHANGES TO TRIBAL RECOGNITION RULES. The AP (5/23, Melia) reports that the Interior Department on Thursday announced "proposed changes to the rules for granting federal recognition to American Indian tribes, revisions that could make it easier for some groups to achieve status that brings increased benefits as well as opportunities for commercial development." The BIA says "it overhauled the rules to make tribal acknowledgment more transparent and efficient." Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary with Indian Affairs, said, "The proposed rule would slightly modify criteria to make it more consistent with the way we've been applying the criteria in the past."

The National Journal (5/23, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "President Obama believes that reforming the federal acknowledgment process will strengthen our important trust relationship with Indian tribes." However, "the fear from some lawmakers and state and local politicians was that the new language devised by Bureau of Indian Affairs could result in federal recognition for literally hundreds of tribes that for years have struggled and failed to receive that status--and could give them all the privileges that come with that."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (5/23, 4.22M), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/23, Melia, 1.48M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/22, 687K), Yahoo! (5/23, Melia, 17.91M), ABC News (5/23, 3.58M), the Huffington Post (5/22, 11.54M), the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (5/22, 90K), the New Haven (CT) Register (5/22, 215K), the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (5/23, 85K), The Missoulian (5/23, 122K), and the Olympian (WA) (5/22, 119K),

Also reporting on the story are the New London (CT) Day (5/22, 76K), the Hartford (CT) Courant (5/22, 599K), the Nation Sun News (5/23), and WTIC-TV Hartford, CT (5/22, 28K).

EDITORIAL: BIE SCHOOLS SUFFER FROM FEDERAL NEGLECT. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/23, 1.48M) editorializes that the two K-12 school systems, "one for Department of Defense employees and service members and the other for Native American children," run by the federal government is "far from equal." According to the editorial, "there's no better, or appalling, illustration of the resource gap than the contrast between the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig high school on northern Minnesota's Leech Lake Reservation and the shiny new school proposed for 275 children at the Guantanamo Bay installation in Cuba." The paper argues that if Congress can "find adequate funding for one federal education system, there's a moral imperative to do the same for another system serving children with well-known educational and economic challenges."

Top National News:

SHINSEKI DEFENDS HIS RECORD, BUT CALLS FOR RESIGNATION CONTINUE. While President Obama traveled to upstate New York and Chicago Thursday, the allegations of misconduct at Veterans Affairs hospitals continued to capture the focus of Washington and the media. While coverage is lighter than yesterday, all three broadcast networks and most major national newspapers carry reports. VA Secretary Shinseki's defense of his record and his vow to fix the problems was one focus, but there are also reports on growing calls for his resignation, including those from Democratic Senate contenders in traditionally Republican states. In addition, both a Wall Street Journal editorial and Washington Post columnist Michael Gerson link the VA problems to the sort of government-managed healthcare that they say Obama has championed.

Coverage of the scandal varied markedly between the three broadcast networks. While none led with it, CBS and NBC both aired reports near the top of their programs, devoting about three minutes each to it, while ABC ran just a brief update late in its newscast. NBC Nightly News (5/22, story 3, 2:50, Williams, 7.86M) reported that "both

the White House and Congress were dealing with" the issue again Thursday. NBC's Kelly O'Donnell said she got "just a glimpse of the beleaguered" Shinseki as he arrived for a meeting with Senate Majority Whip Durbin. Meanwhile, the VA's "new top health administrator said he believes VA failures are not system-wide." VA Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health Robert Jesse: "I'm not going to say it's systemic. We know there may be issues in certain areas and we'll get to the bottom of that." O'Donnell added that "three VA officials failed to show up" for a House hearing Thursday.

The CBS Evening News (5/22, story 4, 1:40, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that a new CBS News poll shows 45% of Americans think Shinseki should resign, while 31% do not. CBS's Nancy Cordes said she asked Shinseki Thursday "whether he believes that he has the full confidence of President Obama and he said yes, he thinks he does. He also told us that he did not offer his resignation to the President when the two met yesterday."

ABC World News (5/22, story 9, 0:25, Muir) said there were "two major developments" in the story Thursday, with Shinseki "speaking out, saying he will not resign," and in Phoenix, Rob Nabors, "the man President Obama tapped as his troubleshooter, on the ground there investigating how this could have happened." The CBS Evening News (5/22, story 5, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) said in a second report that Nabors "said nothing as he entered the troubled VA hospital in Phoenix. An email from the acting director, Steve Young, told the staff, 'If you should have the opportunity to talk to Mr. Nabors I encourage you to be open and honest. That's why he is here.'"

The Arizona Republic (5/23, 1.45M) says Nabors "conferred with VA medical-center administrators, staffers and patients during a daylong series of briefings and meetings" and "only briefly addressed reporters." After "eight hours of discussions," Nabors called the meetings "productive, but he didn't elaborate."

The Washington Post (5/22, Hicks, 4.22M) reported in its "Federal Eye" blog that members of both parties on the House Veterans Affairs Committee said the VA "is responding too slowly to its requests for information" and "vented their frustration" about the absences at Thursday's hearing, approving "a motion to subpoena the employees if they do not testify by May 30." The VA said the officials could not attend due to short notice, but said the three will appear on May 28. The Los Angeles Times (5/23, Simon, 3.46M) reports that a VA spokesman said the agency "was working with the committee, having provided more than 3,000 pages of documents. But a committee staffer noted the documents arrived at 2:30 a.m. Thursday."

USA Today (5/23, Zoroya, 5.82M) reports Shinseki "is resisting calls for his resignation" and issued a message to veterans on the VA website Thursday night "defending his leadership and promising to fix delays in care." Shinseki wrote "that the 'reports of veterans' negative experiences while seeking VA care are of great personal concern to me.'"

The Washington Post (5/22, O'Keefe, 4.22M) reported in its "Post Politics" blog that "in a brief interview Thursday with a small group of reporters," Shinseki said, "I came here to do one thing: Which is to take care of veterans and families. We've run hard for five years, I think we have good things to show for it, there's more to be done."

The Chicago Sun-Times (5/23, 1.1M) reports that Shinseki and Durbin met for about half an hour. Durbin "has not called for Shenseki's resignation." He said, "He has proven his love of this country and veterans, regardless of the political outcome. ... I heard from him what I wanted to hear."

The Los Angeles Times (5/23, Muskal, 3.46M) runs a question-and-answer piece on the "continuing scandal," noting that it is coming to the fore "as the nation heads into the Memorial Day weekend, ready to honor the men and women who died serving in its armed forces."

Administration Official Says White House Backs Goals Of VA Firing Authority Legislation. The Washington Post (5/22, Hicks, 4.22M) reported in its "Federal Eye" blog that an Obama Administration official said that while the White House "wants to tweak some of the language" in a bill that easily passed the House Wednesday that would give the VA secretary greater authority to fire top executives, it "supports the general goals behind the legislation." The Wall Street Journal (5/23, Crittenden, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports there is strong Democratic support in the Senate for the legislation.

Politico (5/22, Dovere, 73K) reported that while President Obama would like to be talking "about flexing his administrative and executive power to do more," he must instead confront "a clear administrative and executive

failure that, at least so far, he hasn't done much about," and that "may have left hundreds of thousands of veterans waiting for care, and 40 of them dead." Politico says the failure may be a reminder of the problems with HealthCare.gov, and "that's exactly what Republicans have been hoping for."

Joe Davidson writes in the Washington Post (5/23, 4.22M) "Federal Diary" that while "the bill could mean a hasty exit for some employees, the real message of the strong Democratic support is that Congress will not tolerate shoddy treatment of veterans. It's a clear message to the VA's management to get its shop in order and a stark warning to individual employees whose actions have damaged the department's reputation."

McCarthy Calls For Shinseki Resignation, Boehner "Getting Closer" To Doing Same. McClatchy (5/23, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports House Speaker Boehner said at his weekly news conference Thursday, "I've not called for Gen. Shinseki to resign, although I have to admit I'm getting a little closer. But here's the point: This isn't about one person. This isn't about the Secretary. It's about the entire system underneath him." Politico (5/22, Sherman, 73K) reported, however, that House Majority Whip McCarthy did call on Shineski to resign Thursday, becoming "the first House Republican leader" to do so.

Pelosi Says Alleged VA Misconduct May Be Criminal. The Hill (5/22, Lillis, 237K) reported that House Minority Leader Pelosi said Thursday that "allegations of cooked books" at the VA "could rise to the level of criminal misconduct." Pelosi "emphasized the importance of having an 'evidence-based' process, but vowed that 'there must and will be accountability' for anyone found of wrongdoing."

Democratic Senate Hopefuls Grimes, Weiland Seek Shinseki Exit. The AP (5/23, Daly) reports that "the growing furor over veterans' health care moved to the political campaigns Thursday" as two Democratic Senate nominees, Kentucky's Alison Lundergan Grimes and South Dakota's Rick Weiland, called for Shinseki's resignation. USA Today (5/22, Camia, 5.82M) reported in its "On Politics" blog that Grimes said in a statement, "We owe a solemn obligation to our veterans, and our government defaulted on that contract. I don't see how that breach of trust with our veterans can be repaired if the current leadership stays in place." The Hill (5/22, Jaffe, 237K) reported in its "Ballot Box" blog that Weiland, the underdog in the open-seat South Dakota race, said, "A single scalp is not nearly enough."

Dole Says Shinseki May Need To Go, But Not Yet. USA Today (5/23, Page, 5.82M) reports that ex-Sen. Bob Dole "spoke with apparent anguish" during an interview, saying that while the situation at the VA is "a 'disaster,'" he is not sure if Shinseki should go, Dole said, "He should stay until the White House gets this investigative report that they're doing, until we get the facts, and you see what you can lay at his feet and what his response has been. If the facts reveal that he neglected his duties, then he should go."

More Commentary. The Wall Street Journal (5/23, A14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that the problems with VA healthcare are representative with the flaws of government-run healthcare as a whole, noting Paul Krugman's 2011 assertion that the VA successfully maintains the sort of "socialized medicine" he wanted for the nation.

Michael Gerson writes in his Washington Post (5/23, 4.22M) column that while the Benghazi and IRS affairs have failed to capture public attention, "President Obama's VA scandal is the most serious and damaging of his presidency. It is the Obama administration in sum and in miniature: incompetent management of a health system, defended by crude media manipulation." It is "not only the result of weak leadership; it is typical of government-managed systems."

HOUSE PASSES "WATERED DOWN" NSA REFORM BILL 303-121. The AP (5/23, Dilanian) reports that on Thursday, in an "overwhelming" 303-121 vote, the House "moved the US closer to ending the National Security Agency's bulk collection of Americans' phone records." The AP calls the vote "the most significant demonstration to date of leaker Edward Snowden's impact on the debate over privacy versus security." Nevertheless, according to the AP, advocates of NSA reform complained that the "final version of the legislation" had been "severely weakened to mollify US intelligence agencies, which insisted that the surveillance programs that shocked many Americans are a critical bulwark against terror plots."

The New York Times (5/23, Weisman, Savage, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) also reports that the U.S.A. Freedom Act "was overhauled in negotiations with the administration this week," and "House leaders allowed no

amendments." According to the Times, "Administration officials, led by Robert S. Litt, the general counsel of the director of national intelligence, negotiated a flurry of last-minute alterations...focusing on a change to how the bill purports to stop the government from collecting records about Americans in bulk."

The Washington Post (5/23, Nakashima, Peterson, 4.22M) reports that as a result of the changes sought by the Administration, the bill "lost the support of dozens of co-sponsors who were upset that the reforms were scaled back." The Post says "privacy advocates" warn that the legislation "could still enable the collection of large amounts of data that, for instance, originate from a single Zip code."

According to McClatchy (5/23, Lightman, Taylor, Subscription Publication, 23K), "an influential chorus of critics warned the bill was little more than a watered-down feel-good exercise." McClatchy notes that Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy "said he was disappointed the changes didn't go far enough," while Sen. Ron Wyden said, "I am gravely concerned that the changes that have been made to the House version of this bill have watered it down so far that it fails to protect Americans from suspicion-less mass surveillance." According to McClatchy, the 121 House members who voted against the bill "were largely a collection of libertarian Republicans and liberal Democrats."

USA Today (5/22, Davis, 5.82M) reports that of the 121, "51 were Republicans and 70 were Democrats." USA Today reports that Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a co-sponsor of the original bill who voted against the amended version, said, "We still have yet to hear of a single example of how national security has been strengthened by allowing bulk data collection." USA Today also notes that on Wednesday, "a group of influential tech companies including Google, Facebook and Twitter withdrew their original support from the bill...citing weakened language that they said creates a loophole for the surveillance of personal Internet data."

The Hill (5/22, Hattem, 237K) reported that Senate Intelligence Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein released a statement on Thursday reading: "I have spoken with the president who is urging the Senate to pass the bill as well, and I am open to considering the legislation when the Senate returns to Washington." According to The Hill, Feinstein's "willingness to consider the version of the USA Freedom Act passed by the House, may confirm privacy advocates' fears that the bill had been watered down beyond recognition."

The Wall Street Journal (5/23, Gorman, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Rep. Zoe Lofgren said, "Changes were made without the knowledge of the committee members, and the result is a bill that actually will not end bulk collections, regretfully."

The Los Angeles Times (5/23, Mascaro, 3.46M) reports that the ACLU reluctantly backed the bill. Laura Murphy, director of the ACLU's Legislative Office, is quoted as saying, "While we share the concerns of many – including members of both parties who rightly believe the bill does not go far enough – without it we would be left with no reform at all." The Hill (5/22, Hattem, 237K) reported that the bill requires the NSA to "tell Congress about any new policy changes within a day, and then...inform the public within 45 days."

The New York Times (5/23, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, says, "Because of last-minute pressure from a recalcitrant Obama administration," the bill lacks "the strong restrictions in an earlier version, potentially allowing the spy agencies to continue much of their phone-data collection." However, the Times adds that the bill does "finally begin...to reverse the trend of reducing civil liberties in the name of fighting terrorism."

OBAMA PROMOTES FOREIGN TOURISM AT BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM. The AP (5/23, Superville) reports President Obama visited the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York Thursday to make a case "for attracting more foreign visitors" to the US to help "a sector of the economy that has increasingly brought more money into the United States but still faces competition from abroad." It was the first visit to Cooperstown by a sitting president, and Obama, "an avid ESPN watcher and sports fan, was clearly in his element." The New York Times (5/23, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says the trip was clearly one of the "perks of office" for Obama, who "had an extra bounce in his step as he quickly perused some of the artifacts, including a few from his favorite team, the Chicago White Sox."

USA Today (5/23, Campbell, 5.82M) says the President also "signed a memorandum directing members of his administration to develop a plan to cut wait times for customs processing at the 15 largest US airports." He told

his audience, "We want to bring in more visitors faster and more jobs faster. If they come into JFK faster, they come into LaGuardia faster, then they can get to Cooperstown faster."

The Washington Times (5/23, Wolfgang, 455K) reports the President also said he had donated the jacket he wore when he threw out the first pitch at the 2009 All Star Game to the museum, adding, "I hear that with all the media attention about it, there was also some interest in the jeans I wore that night. But Michelle retired those jeans quite a while back."

The Utica (NY) Observer Dispatch (5/23, Cooper, 11K) says "it was a whirlwind visit," with the President speaking "for all of 15 minutes before he sprinted off to his next engagement." The Cooperstown (NY) Crier (5/23, Dunau) reports that former Chicago Cub Andre Dawson, inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010, joined Obama for the tour.

The Washington Post (5/23, Eilperin, 4.22M) reports that while the speech "was greeted with an enthusiastic response, there were protesters gathered outside the gate to the museum" calling for a ban on hydraulic fracturing. The Wall Street Journal (5/23, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) and Oneonta (NY) Daily Star (5/23, Mahoney, 46K) also report on the visit.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Surveillance Bill That Falls Short."*** The New York Times (5/23, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, says, "Because of last-minute pressure from a recalcitrant Obama administration," the NSA reform bill passed by the House lacks "the strong restrictions in an earlier version, potentially allowing the spy agencies to continue much of their phone-data collection." However, the Times adds that the bill does "finally begin...to reverse the trend of reducing civil liberties in the name of fighting terrorism."

"The Secret Shame Of The Death Penalty." The New York Times (5/23, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that Russell Bucklew "challenged the state's plan to put him to death by lethal injection on the grounds that a condition called cavernous hemangioma – which has led to expanding vascular tumors in his head and neck – would expose him to 'unique risks,' including 'a substantial likelihood of hemorrhaging, choking, airway obstruction and suffocation.'" The Times argues that "it is clear that lethal injection is no less problematic than" other methods of execution, "and that there is no reason to continue using it," but "capital punishment does not operate in the land of reason or logic; it operates in a perpetual state of secrecy and shame."

"Keeping Track." In the latest edition of its "Keeping Track" feature on its editorial page, the New York Times (5/23, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) examines this week's ruling by a Federal judge striking down Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex marriage, Sen. Patrick Leahy's delay of patent lawsuit reform legislation, and an agreement between New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, and Airbnb concerning the investigation of individuals suspected of operating illegal hotels in New York City.

"No Gap To Mind."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Which State Next?"*** The Washington Post (5/23, 4.22M) editorializes that "we have been struck by the relative lack of commotion, even in some very conservative states," surrounding Federal judges' rulings striking down same-sex marriage bans. The Post argues that it "would be a victory in and of itself – in some ways, more significant than a district court ruling here or there – if American society proved itself ready to stop treating same-sex marriage as unusual, instead regarding it as an everyday practice that requires no special scrutiny." Same-sex marriage "is becoming normal, and that is as it should be."

"Prelude To Civil War." An editorial in the Washington Post (5/23, 4.22M) says Thai army chief Gen. Prayuth Chan-Ocha has disrupted "the constitutional order in one of Southeast Asia's most successful societies, and that's something the United States and its allies cannot tolerate." The Post notes that Secretary of State Kerry called "the coup by its true name," and said in a written statement that officials are "reviewing our military and other assistance and engagements, consistent with U.S. law," calling the response "an improvement over the administration's glaring failure to call out Egypt's military coup." The Post argues that the Thai army "was not acting as an honest broker between factions," and adds that "this latest coup may yet prove the prelude to a civil

war that its authors say they want to prevent."

"Going Negative." In an editorial, the Washington Post (5/23, 4.22M) criticizes District of Columbia Councilmember David Catania, an independent candidate for mayor, for criticizing his Democratic Council colleague and mayoral rival Muriel Bowser "as a puppet." The Post says it implies "that a woman can't think for herself," and also portends a deeply negative campaign over the next five months. Bowser "makes no secret of her links" to ex-mayor Adrian Feny, but it is a "curious" attack since Catania "also was a staunch ally of Mr. Fenty during his mayoral term." The Post says Catania should switch to a less negative message.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Government Health-Care Model."*** The Wall Street Journal (5/23, A14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that the problems with VA healthcare are representative of the flaws of government-run healthcare as a whole, noting Paul Krugman's 2011 assertion that the VA successfully maintains the sort of "socialized medicine" he wanted for the nation.

"Good News In The Proxy Wars." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/23, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) opines that is good news that shareholders are rejecting proposals being pushed by Bruce Freed of the Center for Political Accountability to require companies to disclose their political spending.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Hub Schools In Disarray, Review Finds
Second UN Panel Criticizes Vatican On Sex Abuse
Tickets Will Be Scarce For BC-Notre Dame At Fenway
Man Accused Of Extorting Rabbi Has Criminal Record

Boston Herald:
Deval Patrick PAC Aids Dems In Distress

Wall Street Journal:
US Military Pushes For More Drone Disclosure
Thai Coup Rattles Allies, Investors
Sherpas, Fate And the Dangerous Business Of Everest
H-P Slashes Up To 16,000 More Jobs

New York Times:
US Case Offers Glimpse Into China's Hacker Army
Thailand's Military Stages Coup, Thwarting Populist Movement
From Virginia, Chasing Down A Global Bank
Baseball Lords Upset By Plan For A New King
Cuomo Boasts Of State's Rise, But Hits Snags
Some Privacy, Please? Facebook, Under Pressure, Gets The Message

Washington Post:
A Speedier Delivery Of Equal Parenting Rights
Army Coup Ousts Thai Government
Market Attack Kills 31 In Far Western China
Shaping The Memorial To The CIA's Fallen
With Mississippi Upset In Sight, Tea Party Bid Teeters

Financial Times:
Facebook Shakes Up Privacy Policies
Sanctions In Prospect After Thai Coup
AstraZeneca Investors Urge Pfizer Talks

Europe's IPO Market Flagging
'Modi Mania' Sends India Into Stocks Top 10
HP Axes 16,000 More Staff In Restructuring
Summer Of Uncertainty Sinks In

Washington Times:
IRS To Start Over On Rules Governing Tea Party Groups, Other Nonprofits
Louisiana VA Staff Falsified Documents; Nurse Claimed Racial Element
House Votes To Shut Down NSA Phone-Snooping
Thailand's Army Chief Announces Military Coup
Lawmakers Find Little Guidance From Obama On War Resolutions

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Arizona-Wildfire; Ground Beef Recall; Boston Marathon Bombing Investigation; China-Terrorist Attack; Ukraine-Violence; Thailand-Military Coup; California-Missing Woman Found; Veterans Affairs Scandal; Jacquelyn Kennedy Letters.
CBS: Arizona-Wildfire; Hurricane Forecast; Severe Weather; Veterans Affairs Scandal; Veterans Affairs Scandal-Phoenix; Ukraine-Violence; Nigeria-Kidnapped Girls-Hagel; Nigeria-Kidnapped Girls; Thailand-Military Coup; Online Privacy; Iran-YouTube Video Controversy; Hess-Marathon Petroleum Deal.
NBC: Arizona-Wildfire; Severe Weather; Veterans Affairs Scandal; Ukraine Crisis; Thailand-Military Coup; NFL-Painkilling Drugs Lawsuit; Hurricane Forecast; Senate-Washington Redskins Controversy; Arlington National Cemetery Ritual.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Arizona-Wildfire; Boston Marathon Bombing Investigation; Tennessee-Electric Chair Legislation; Severe Weather-Virginia; New Mexico-Deadly Interstate Crash; Wall Street.
CBS: Arizona-Wildfire; Congress-NSA Surveillance Bill; Tennessee-Electric Chair Legislation; California-Missing Woman Found; Washington-Mudslide Victim Recovered; Wall Street.
FOX: Arizona-Wildfire; New Mexico-Deadly Interstate Crash; Veterans Affairs Scandal; Senate-Washington Redskins Controversy; EPA-Duke Energy Agreement; Severe Weather; Nevada-OJ Simpson Appeal; North Dakota-Housing Demand Increase.
NPR: Obama-HUD Secretary Nominee; Arizona-Wildfire; Congress-NSA Surveillance Bill; Thailand-Military Coup; Detroit Recovery; Online Restaurant Reviews-Food Poisoning; Tennessee-Electric Chair Legislation.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President departs Chicago, Illinois, open press; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives the White House, South Lawn, open press; signs H.R. 1209 and H.R. 685, Oval Office, stills only pool spray. Notes: Press Secretary Jay Carney will gaggle aboard Air Force One en route Washington, DC.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President and Dr. Jill Biden will travel to Romania and Cyprus from May 20-23, 2014. In Bucharest, the Vice President will meet with Romanian President Băsescu and Prime Minister Ponta. He will also deliver remarks to Romanian civil society and youth leaders, and will meet with American and Romanian troops conducting a joint capacity-building exercise. The Vice President will underscore the United States "ironclad commitment" to the collective defense of NATO under Article 5, and express appreciation for Romania's contributions to regional and global security. At the invitation of President Anastasiades, the Vice President will visit Cyprus, where he will meet with political leaders from the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, civil society representatives, and faith leaders.
US Senate: 10 a.m. – The Senate convenes for a pro forma session.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARMED SERVICES – 9:30 a.m. Full committee CLOSED markup on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2015. Location: 222 Russell. Notes: Will occur if markup on the 22nd is not completed.
US House: 3 p.m. – The House meets in pro forma session.
Other: OAS – MONEY LAUNDERING – May 22 – 23. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) will hold the XXXVIII Meeting of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering. Location: Ruben Dario Room, Organization of American States, 1889 F St, NW. Contacts: n/a, 202-370-5437

WORLD BANK – GENDER BASED VIOLENCE – May 22 – 23. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, Nollywood Star Stella Damasus and other Global Artists Against Gender Based Violence among speakers at events for the Global Artists Against Gender Base Violence. Location: World Bank, 18th Street & Pennsylvania Ave., NW. Contacts: RSVP to specialevents@worldbank.org

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND – COMMENCEMENT – HOYER – 9 a.m. University of Maryland School of Public Policy Commencement Ceremony with an address by U.S. House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD). Location: Dekelboum Concert Hall, Clarice Smith, Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Contacts: Mariel Saez 202-225-3130

SECRETARY HAGEL – U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY – 10 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel will give the commencement address at the graduation and commissioning ceremony at the United States Naval Academy. Contacts: Department of Defense, 703-697-5131

U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE – ENFORCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – 10 a.m. U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Michael Froman will make a "major enforcement announcement" concerning the World Trade Organization and China. Ambassador Froman will be joined by Sen. Debbie Stabenow and House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Rep. Sandy Levin. Following remarks by Ambassador Froman, USTR General Counsel Tim Reif will hold a background briefing to answer questions about the announcement. Location: USTR Annex, Rooms 1-2, 1724 F St. NW. Contacts: Andrew Bates, ABates@ustr.eop.gov. Notes: Working media must RSVP to Roya Stephens at RStephens@ustr.eop.gov by 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 23. Please provide the name and media outlet of the person(s) attending.

ICAS – KOREAN PENINSULA – 1:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Institute for Corean-American Studies, Inc. (ICAS) Spring Symposium discussion on The Korean Peninsula Issues and US National Security. Chair: Synja P Kim (ICAS Fellow, President and Chairman) Moderator: Sang Joo Kim (ICAS Sr Fellow & Executive Vice President). Speakers: Wallace C. Gregson (Lieutenant General US Marine Corps Retired; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asia and Pacific Security 2009-2011; Chair Banyan Analytics), Seoul-Tokyo-Washington Security Partnership; Seung Jo Jung (General ROK Army Retired; 37th Chair Joint Chiefs of Staff; ICAS Liberty Foundation Distinguished Fellow; Distinguished Senior Associate CSIS), North Korea's Military Threat and ROK-US Alliance. Location: Cannon Caucus Room

OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL – 2 p.m. The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States will hold a regular meeting. Location: Simon Bolivar Hall, 17th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW. Contacts: n/a, 202-370-5437

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Stephen Colbert: "Nation, I got to tell you, folks, I am furious at Barack Obama and I am vice-furious at Joe Biden. It seems like every day, another Federal agency reveals their lack of leadership. Case in point – the Bureau of Engraving and Printing has just produced a portrait of Chief Justice Roberts that in no way captures the elfin twinkle in his eye. This kind of work and I'm supposed to spend the money these people print? No thanks."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to the Veterans Affairs scandal involving alleged secret waiting lists and falsified records.] "There are now similar claims in 12 states and the American Legion has called for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki, to resign. So far he has refused. Probably because he knows once he retires,

he'll have to use healthcare from the VA."

Stephen Colbert: "Now, get this – the Obama people now say the President first learned of these new allegations from CNN. He had no clue what's going on in his own Administration. Here's an idea – get the NSA to start spying on Wolf Blitzer."

Conan O'Brien: "This week, 'Price Is Right' fans were upset when the show was interrupted by a speech by President Obama, which is why today it was reported that Obama's approval rating has come on down."

Conan O'Brien: "Speaking of the White House, the White House website has a new feature where you can go on a virtual tour of the White House. ... So far, the most popular destinations are the Lincoln Bedroom, the Bill Clinton bedroom, and the Hillary Clinton bedroom. They sleep separately."

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BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, May 27, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL HIKES AT ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/27, 282K) reports that last Friday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "arrived from Washington, D.C., to hike a small slice of the 496,000 acres of Doña Ana County now officially known as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument." Later, Jewell "celebrated the new monument designation with local leaders and residents at a high school." Jewell said, "To be able to protect something like this as a monument is the sort of thing I knew happened on occasion. It's just a real blessing to have this happen while I'm in this job. It's pretty major."

The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (5/27, 59K) reports that Jewell was joined by BLM Director Neil Kornze, White House Council on Environmental Quality Acting Chair Mike Boots, Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, and community and business leaders in Las Cruces and Mesilla. Jewell said, "Today is the culmination of a community-led effort to conserve, protect and promote these public lands, but it's the beginning of a new chapter for the businesses that will benefit from the tourism and recreation, and the wildlife that rely on this unique habitat. The Organ Mountains and surrounding desert peaks are steeped in culture, history, wildlife and opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors — from hunting to hiking to gazing at ancient petroglyphs and fossils — and the president's action ensures that these cherished landscapes are celebrated and passed on to the generations of New Mexicans and Americans to come." The story also appears at the Silver City (NM) Sun-News (5/27, 24K).

The Fronteras (5/27) reports that "supporters say the monument will bring new jobs and tourism to the region." However, "not everyone is convinced." The article notes that some are "concerned with a portion of the monument that comes within five miles of the US-Mexico border."

Also providing coverage are the Los Angeles Times (5/27, Glionna, 3.46M), the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (5/27, 59K), the Silver City (NM) Sun-News (5/27, 24K), the Indian Country Today Media Network (5/23, 45K), KDBC-TV El Paso, TX (5/27, 139), and KTSM-TV El Paso, TX (5/27, 970).

Veteran Supports Designation. In an op-ed for the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (5/27, 59K), Bernie Digman is a Las Cruces resident and US Army veteran, writes that "as a veteran who understands and appreciates the military contribution to our country, the Organ Mountains Desert-Peaks also is home to some more recent pieces of history that are particularly important to veterans." He notes that "another reason why the new Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument is so important is that, despite what we already know about the regions' historical artifacts, there is still so much yet to be discovered."

Idaho Conservation League Calls New Monument A Good Sign. The Idaho Mountain Express (5/27, 36K) reports that "the Idaho Conservation League is calling President Barack Obama's designation of a new national monument in New Mexico a sign of a willingness to do the same for the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains in Idaho." ICL Central Idaho Associate Dani Mazzotta said, "The Organ Mountains effort is similar to the Boulder-White Clouds in many ways. Both places have collaboratively built legislative wilderness bills. Both bills have met Congress' gridlock. The Organ Mountains deserved to be honored for the spectacular place they are. We hope the Boulder-White Clouds are next."

SECRETARY JEWELL DELIVERS COMMENCEMENT SPEECH AT WHITMAN COLLEGE. The Walla Walla (WA) Union-Bulletin (5/26, 38K) reports that "with soon-to-be graduates, parents, faculty and alumni splayed out on the South Memorial Lawn on Sunday at Whitman College before her, commencement speaker Sally Jewell urged the Class of 2014 to 'make your strand count.'" Jewell urged "the approximately 390 graduates to stay involved in their communities." She said, "Once you leave Whitman, stay involved, stay engaged. Be part of your community, whatever community means to you. It might be a little harder to volunteer, or it might require more effort to find a compost club, but I guarantee it's going to lead to some of your most rewarding experiences and take you places you never expect."

RULE AIMS AT RECOGNITION FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS. The Hawaii Free Press (5/27) reports that the Obama Administration is "considering an end-run around Congress and the voters by creating a Native Hawaiian governing entity via executive action." The Interior Department has "issued an advance notice of proposed rule-making (ANPR) in order to, 'solicit public comments on whether and how the Department of the Interior should facilitate the reestablishment of a government-to-government relationship with the Native Hawaiian community.'" The article notes that "the move was not unexpected, given the stated intention of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs that it would follow up the Native Hawaiian Roll, election, and Constitutional Convention with an effort to seek federal recognition."

For the Washington Examiner (5/27, 335K), Michael Barone, a political analyst, criticizes "the proposal to treat Native Hawaiians like an Indian tribe." He argues that "if the Interior Department pushes ahead on this, it will be violating the Constitution by usurping Congress' power to make laws and by imposing a system of racial discrimination."

Also providing coverage are the Honolulu Star-Advertiser (5/27, 402K) and the Hawaii Free Press (5/27).

INTERIOR DEPUTY SECRETARY TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING ON ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE. The Houma (LA) Courier (5/26, 48K) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor will be in New Orleans for a meeting that will focus on petroleum energy infrastructure.

INTERIOR HONORS HISTORIC PRESERVATION WORK. The AP (5/27) reports that the Interior Department has "honored a retired city of Okmulgee employee for her work in historic preservation." Dana Sigmon was "one of four government employees from across the nation awarded the Secretary of the Interior Historic Preservation Award." In addition to Sigmon, employees from the FWS, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Navajo Nation's Historic Preservation Office were honored.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO COUNT GUNS. The Hill (5/27, Devaney, 237K) reports that the Justice Department is "updating a report on how many guns the federal government has." The article notes that "it will be the first time Justice has addressed the topic in six years, and it comes as conservative and libertarian complaints about an excessively gun-happy government have intensified." The issue was "central to the recent controversy generated by a stand-off between right-wing rancher Cliven Bundy and agents from the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

INDIAN SITE IN VIRGINIA COULD BE ADDED TO NPS. The AP (5/27) reports that "land along the York River that archaeologists believe was the center of a vast Indian empire before the first Europeans settled in Virginia is gaining White House attention as a possible addition to the National Park System." President Barack Obama has "set aside $6 million to acquire more than 250 acres of the former Indian village in Gloucester to achieve that goal." Congress "must approve the funding in the 2015 funding proposal."

NPS SEEKS TO EASE TENSIONS WITH POINT REYES FARMERS. The Los Angeles Times (5/27, Cart, 3.46M) reports that farmers and ranchers at Point Reyes National Seashore have "a list of grievances against a federal government they say burdens their operations with needless red tape." The article notes that "aware of those concerns, in 2012 then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar issued an order spelling out the park's intention to continue hosting the cattle ranches and dairy farms," but "it did little to calm the fears." So as part of park Supt. Cicely Muldoon's "outreach, she and other parks officials are working to formalize Salazar's order and craft new 20-year leases for dairy and cattle operators."

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION POSTERS CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARKS. NPR (5/27, Naylor, 519K) reports that "silk screen printed posters — known as serigraph — were done by Works Progress Administration artists for the NPS from 1938 to 1941" According to the article, some of those prints are "currently on display in an exhibit called 'Posterity' at the US Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C." The exhibit will be on view until spring 2015.

FUNGUS KILLS TREES IN FLORIDA EVERGLADES. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/25, 687K) reports that "a plant disease blazing through South Florida is killing off swamp bay trees, an important part of the architecture of the Everglades that provides food for a vast range of wildlife and traditional medicine for the Seminole Tribe." Laurel wilt disease, "a fungus carried by a beetle the size of a grain of rice, has been detected across more than 500 square miles of the Everglades, according to a forthcoming paper by state and federal scientists." The article notes that "since first being detected east of Everglades National Park in 2011, the disease has spread across about one-sixth of the Everglades."

NPS PROPOSE FEES FOR MINUTEMAN MISSILE SITE. The AP (5/27) reports that the NPS has proposed a fee for the guided tours at Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. The agency has "proposed a $6 fee for adults and $4 for children ages 13 to 16." Christopher Wilkinson, the park's spokesman, said "the fees would allow the park to offer more ranger-led tours."

Bureau of Land Management:

RANCHER RIDES ACROSS NEVADA IN PROTEST OF BLM. The AP (5/27) reports that Elko County Commissioner Grant Gerber "saddled up his horse before sunrise on Memorial Day and set out on a 70-mile trek across northern Nevada to protest livestock grazing reductions on federal land." Gerber's "destination is Carson City by week's end to present a petition to Gov. Brian Sandoval urging the removal of Doug Furtado as head of the US Bureau of Land Management's Battle Mountain District." According to the article, "the multiday ride is modeled after the 'Salt March' led by the Indian independence leader, Gandhi, that protested the British colonial monopoly on salt in 1930."

In a separate story, the AP (5/27, Sonner) reports that Gerber said Battle Mountain "became the destination

because it's the county seat in Lander County, where he said some of the most dramatic livestock grazing reductions are occurring." Gerber said the BLM has "ordered the closure of the Argenta allotment covering about 540 square miles in the county, about half of which is on federal land." BLM spokeswoman Erica Szlosek said "that's 'not accurate' and the fate of the allotment remained uncertain." Szlosek said, "We could issue a decision to close it – a full force and effect decision – but that has not occurred. We've been meeting with the permittees on the Argenta allotment, but they still are talking back and forth. No final decision has been made."

Also providing coverage is the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (5/27, 22K).

BLM, Ranchers Reach Temporary Agreement. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (5/27, 22K) reports that Lander County ranchers "reached a temporary agreement Friday with the Bureau of Land Management to graze the Mount Lewis pasture of the Argenta Allotment." The bureau "issued two-week licenses to the families and promised a formal decision within that time." However, "the agreement did not shake the resolve of Elko County Commissioner Grant Gerber to begin his Grass March to Battle Mountain."

BLM TALKING TO RED RIVER LANDOWNERS ON TUESDAY. KFDX-TV Wichita Falls, TX (5/27, 2K) reports that on Tuesday the BLM will "be at the Clay County commissioners meeting to discuss their planning efforts and answer any questions or concerns" Red River land owners may have. The article notes that "one key topic will be a legal tool called 'recreation and public purpose' which allows the BLM to lease or convey public land to a state or city."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPUBLICANS WANTS TO BLOCK SAGE GROUSE ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTING. The Hill (5/26, Cama, 237K) reports that "five Republican lawmakers have introduced a bill that would block the federal government from listing the sage grouse as an endangered species, instead relying on state conservation efforts to protect the bird." Sen. Mike Enzi, and Reps. Cory Gardner, Rob Bishop, Steve Daines and Scott Tipton said "their bill, the Sage Grouse Protection Conservation Act, encourages states to work with the Interior and Agriculture departments to protect both the greater sage grouse and the smaller Gunnison grouse."

Also covering the story is Politico (5/27, Evich, 637K).

FWS RESTARTING REVIEWS ON PROPOSED ROSEMONT MINE'S IMPACT. The Arizona Daily Star (5/27, 389K) reports that the FWS "formally announced Friday that it will restart reviews of the proposed Rosemont Mine's impacts on eight endangered species including the ocelot." The article notes that "the reviews guarantee another delay for the mine after seven years of permitting efforts."

LAWMAKERS URGES FWS TO REEVALUATE NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT PROPPOSAL. The Wellsboro (PA) Gazette (5/27, 19K) reports that Rep. Glenn 'GT' Thompson, "joined by eight members of the Pennsylvania delegation to the US House of Representatives, sent a letter to the US Department of the Interior (DOI) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) urging the agencies to reevaluate their proposal to list the Northern Long-Eared Bat as an endangered species." The members cite "the scientific data used by FWS as the basis for the designation as inadequate and caution that moving forward with the listing would constitute a 'fundamentally ineffective' approach to species restoration, while imposing an unnecessary and harmful impact upon Pennsylvania's economy."

FWS WOULD PAY FLORIDA LANDOWNERS FOR PANTHER HABITAT. The AP (5/27) reports that "federal wildlife officials want to pay Florida landowners to maintain their property as habitat for endangered panthers." Under a pilot program announced Thursday by the FWS, "the government would spend $500,000 a year to pay landowners to preserve about 26,000 acres for about 10 years."

FWS WORKING TO RESTORE RIVER HERRING. The Springfield (MA) Republican (5/27, 307K) reports that the FWS is "actively working with state and local partners to restore river herring to historical populations in Massachusetts and Connecticut." According to the article, "agency employees, who started the work this year in early April, plan to continue efforts well into the spring, after river herring populations plummeted in recent years."

EXPERIMENT SEEKS TO HELP MEXICAN GRAY WOLF PUPS. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/27, 282K) reports that "with threats of disease, malnutrition and even inbreeding, the deck can be stacked against a Mexican gray wolf pup." Federal wildlife managers have "long been troubled by the survival rates of wild-born pups, so they've started experimenting in an effort to boost the population as they reintroduce the endangered predator to the American Southwest." EBiologists earlier this month, biologists "transplanted a pair of 2-week-old pups born in a large litter to another pack of wolves with a smaller litter and more rearing experience."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FUNDING FOR FISH HATCHERIES. Additional coverage of the possible closures of national fish hatcheries because of budget issues was provided by the Oklahoman (5/27, 530K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

MURKOWSKI INTRODUCES BILLS TO BOOST ARCTIC DRILLING. The AP (5/27, 455K) reported that Sen. Lisa Murkowski "has introduced legislation that would allow for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." According to the AP, "one would allow for oil and gas drilling on the coastal plain of the refuge; the other would allow for directional drilling from outside the refuge to tap oil and gas." Rep. Don Young has introduced "similar legislation" in the House.

The "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (5/27, Cox, 237K) reported Murkowski stated, "I am introducing these bills because new production in northern Alaska is vital to my state's future and global energy security. ... As we continue to struggle with high long-term unemployment and unsustainable national debt, we need to pursue development opportunities more than ever."

FWS Mulls Managing Private Refuge Development. The AP (5/27, Bohrer) reports that the FWS is "considering new rules for managing the development of private, state or tribally owned mineral interests within the national refuge system, prompting concerns from officials in Alaska who say it flies in the face of existing laws." The article notes that "the effort follows reports from the Government Accountability Office in 2003 and 2007, calling on the agency to improve oversight and management of oil and gas activities." However, "state officials point to the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, or ANILCA, and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which they say apply unique provisions for nonfederal oil and gas development to lands in Alaska within refuge boundaries."

OIL COMPANIES SAY NEW FEDERAL REGULATIONS ON LESSER-PRAIRIE CHICKEN HAVE HALTED DRILLING IN KANSAS. FOX News (5/24, 6.72M) reports that "oil companies say a weeks-old Obama administration ruling that protects" the lesser-prairie chicken has "already halted oil-drilling operations in Kansas and is costing the US economy tens of millions of dollars, as a GOP congressmen suggests the move is another job-killing attack on fossil fuel." The decision by the FWS that was "announced in late March and took effect May 1 includes a provision that should allow federal officials and landowners in the five impacted states – Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas – to manage conservation efforts." However, "oil producers say the interim weeks was too little time for them to digest the regulations and figure out how to avoid the potential criminal and civil penalties."

Meanwhile, the AP (5/27, Marso) reports that "leaders of the Kansas Legislature and Gov. Sam Brownback recently passed a law barring the US Fish and Wildlife Service from protecting the lesser prairie chicken in Kansas." However, "experts on both coasts said that when birds were listed as threatened in other states, it had some impact on economic development but wasn't entirely prohibitive."

LAWSUIT SEEKS TO BLOCK EXPANSION OF COLORADO COAL MINE. The Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (5/25, 506) reports that "federal officials may have failed to adequately assess the environmental impacts of more coal mining in northwestern Colorado, according a conservation group that's suing the Bureau of Land Management over an expansion permit for the Deserado coal mine, located in Rio Blanco County in northwestern Colorado directly south of Dinosaur National Monument." According to WildEarth Guardians, the bureau "failed to address air quality impacts from fossil fuel combustion from the Bonanza facility." Jeremy Nichols, WildEarth Guardians' Climate and Energy Program Director, said, "The Interior Department is sacrificing the west to dirty

energy. More coal mining means more carbon pollution, more air contamination, and no clean energy. At a time when climate change is wreaking havoc on the west, the last thing Interior should be approving is more coal."

Also reporting on the story is the Law 360 (5/27, 18K).

BLM SAYS SOUTHWEST UTAH OIL LEAK CONTAINED. The AP (5/27) reports that BLM officials say "an oil leak in a southeast Utah field has been contained." BLM field manager Beth Ransel says "officials do not believe oil reached the Green River and are still trying to determine how much was leaked."

Offshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR RELEASES TIMELINE FOR ARCTIC LEASE REVIEW. The AP (5/27) reports that the Interior Department has "laid out a timeline for completion of a new environmental review surrounding leases in the Arctic waters off Alaska." The government, in filings with the trial court Friday, said that the BOEM is "undertaking a new review to correct the problems." Also providing coverage are the Alaska Public Radio Network (5/26, 2K) and the Alaska Native News (5/27, 245).

ACTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ON OFFSHORE SEISMIC RESEARCH. FuelFix (5/23, 7K) reported that the conservation group Oceana "is hoping a little star power will draw more attention to its concerns about seismic oil and gas research proposed in Atlantic waters." When the group "holds a congressional briefing on the subject Thursday, the event's moderator will be Reid Scott, an actor best known for his portrayal of communication director Dan Eagan on HBO's 'Veep.'" In addition "less high-profile speakers" will speak at the hearing including "East Coast lawmakers and a seismic researcher from Duke University."

Meanwhile, the New Jersey (5/27, 653K) reports that "both recreational and commercial fishing representatives joined environmentalists at a Point Pleasant Beach rally Friday morning in an effort to postpone the Rutgers University project approved by the Obama Administration as a climate change study designed to access deep sea sediments." The article notes that "it's set to begin off the coast on June 3, and will utilize high energy seismic blasting that could disturb fish and marine mammal populations."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR INVESTS $20 MILLION IN CALIFORNIA WATER PROJECTS. The Inland Valley (CA) Daily Bulletin (5/23, 120K) reports that the BOR is "investing $20 million in federal funding for nine California projects, including two in the Inland Empire: the Chino Basin Desalination project and the Southern California Desert Region Integrated Water and Economic Sustainability Plan." The article notes that "the projects are funded under a federally funded initiative called the WaterSMART program, which provides funding for projects that reclaim and reuse wastewater."

The Napa Valley (CA) Register (5/27, 36K) reports that "the Napa Sanitation District is getting $1.5 million in federal funding to help expand its recycled water treatment program, as well as to help pay for a recycled water pipeline to the Coombsville area." The article notes that "it's the fourth year in a row the sanitation district has received federal funding through a US Bureau of Reclamation program known as Water-SMART." According to the article, "this year, the district will receive money to help pay for filters, pump stations and construction of the pipeline, which will deliver reclaimed water to irrigators, residents and owners of the Napa Valley Country Club, helping wean them off groundwater usage."

BOR DIVERTING WATER FROM HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR. The Loveland (CO) Reporter-Herald (5/27, 52K) reports that "water is being diverted from Horsetooth Reservoir back into the Big Thompson River at the canyon mouth as of Sunday evening." According to public information officer Kara Lamb with BOR, "550 cubic feet per second of snowmelt and rain runoff was being diverted over the weekend from Olympus tunnel through the Pole Hill and Flatiron power plants to Charles Hansen Feeder Canal 13 miles away into Horsetooth Reservoir." And "another 500 cfs of water was coming through Olympus Dam down the canyon."

Also reporting on the story is the Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette (5/27, 13K).

BOR CONSIDERING PLANS TO PROTECT POWER GENERATION AT LAKE POWELL. KUTV-TV Salt Lake City (5/27, 7K) reports that "the prolonged drought on the Colorado River Basin has the US Bureau of Reclamation considering contingency plans to protect power generation at Lake Powell's Glen Canyon Dam." According to the article, "even though this year's spring runoff is boosting water levels behind the dam, observers say it's not enough to reverse the effects of a decade-long drought."

BOR TO OPEN DELTA CROSS CHANNEL GATES. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (5/27, 206) reports that the BOR said "it will open the Delta Cross Channel Gates on Friday, May 23, at approximately 10 a.m., to allow for recreational boating through the Memorial Day weekend."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR PROPOSES RULES TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR TRIBES TO GAIN RECOGNITION. The Washington Post (5/26, Melia, 4.22M) reports that the Interior Department on Thursday announced "proposed changes to the rules for granting federal recognition to American Indian tribes," which "could make it easier for some groups to achieve status that brings increased benefits as well as opportunities for commercial development." The BIA "said it overhauled the rules to make tribal acknowledgment more transparent and efficient."

Also providing coverage are the Hartford (CT) Courant (5/27, 599K), the Ridgefield (CT) Press (5/27, 20K), the Waterbury (CT) Republican-American (5/27, 145K), the Cherokee (OK) Phoenix (5/27, 442), the National Journal (5/27, Subscription Publication, 561K), the Nation Sun News (5/27), and the Latin Post (5/26).

The Hartford (CT) Courant (5/22, 599K) editorializes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "ought to scrap the whole exercise." According to the paper, "there was nothing wrong with the criteria for recognition that have been in place for the past 35 years; they are fair and sensible." It argues that "tribes that didn't win recognition under that process should be subject to more scrutiny, not less."

The Norwich (CT) Bulletin (5/24, 47K) editorializes that the decision "raises some interesting legal questions for state and tribal officials." It notes that "the less stringent criteria to achieve recognition is expected to make it easier for three state-recognized tribes – the Eastern Pequots in North Stonington, the Golden Hill Paugussetts in Colchester and the Schaghticokes in Kent – to have their applications for federal recognition viewed more favorably." The concern is "that could lead to three new Indian-run casinos in the state."

OBAMA TO VISIT AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATION IN NORTH DAKOTA NEXT MONTH. The Washington Post (5/24, Horwitz, 4.22M) reports that President Obama plans "to travel to a Native American reservation in North Dakota in June, a rare visit by a sitting U.S. president to Indian country," according to "officials familiar with the plans." It is not clear what reservation Obama will visit, but "his senior policy adviser for Native American affairs, Jodi Gillette, is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota, where her brother is the chairman." The Hill (5/23, Sink, 237K) reported that "during a speech at last year's White House Tribal Nations Conference, Obama pledged that he would make his first visit to Indian Country sometime in 2014."

In related news, the Wall Street Journal (5/24, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) has a feature on members of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes who recently received settlement checks from the Federal government over a mineral royalties suit.

SETTLEMENT ENRICHES TWO WYOMING TRIBES. The Wall Street Journal (5/27, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports on the payments received by members of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes after a $157 million settlement was reached that ended a long-running dispute with the US over unpaid mineral royalties. The article notes that during the past several years, the Obama Administration has settled lawsuits filed by dozens of tribes, who have long claimed the government mismanaged tribal trust land. The settlements have resulted in payouts of more than $1 billion.

BLACKFEET BIA VICTIM SPECIALIST WORKS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY. The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (5/24, 90K) reports on the work of Wendy Bremner, a BIA victim specialist. In March, Bremner was "honored by the state US Attorney's Office for her contribution to public safety in Indian Country."

Top National News:

VA SCANDAL OVERSHADOWS OBAMA'S MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION. Although President Obama only briefly alluded to the VA scandal in his Memorial Day remarks at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, most of coverage of his appearance, including two of the three network newscast segments on the topic, put it in the context of the growing outrage over the VA's treatment of sick veterans.

On NBC Nightly News (5/26, story 2, 2:15, McFadden, 7.86M), Cynthia McFadden said that on Monday, the President "took time to address the growing VA scandal." Correspondent Peter Alexander went on to report from the White House that the President "alluded to the scandal," and that the President himself is "facing tough scrutiny over how the US has served its veterans." Alexander said that "in a clear reference to that growing VA scandal," the President "emphasized that American veterans must get the care and benefits that he says they have earned and deserve." Alexander added that earlier on Monday morning, Vice President Biden "was more blunt." Biden was shown saying: "We're behind right now. The VA is having problems, and we have got to get to the bottom of it."

On the CBS Evening News (5/26, story 3, 0:50, Axelrod, 5.08M), Jim Axelrod reported that on Monday, the President "led the nation...in honoring all who have served America in uniform," and "also mentioned the VA scandal in which veterans allegedly died waiting for treatment at VA hospitals." ABC World News (5/26, story 7, 1:40, Muir) covered the President's tribute to America's fallen veterans without reference to the VA scandal.

USA Today (5/27, Jackson, 5.82M) reported that Memorial Day took place "amid news about long wait times for patients at Veterans Affairs hospitals, delays that may have led to deaths." USA Today says that on Monday, the President "did not specifically mention the VA controversy...but did note the obligation that the nation owes its veterans."

The AP (5/27, Yost) says the President "made a fleeting reference to the widening scandal involving reports of poor performance by" the VA. The AP notes that VA Secretary Shinseki was at Arlington as the President spoke on Monday.

Under the headline, "At Arlington, Obama Pledges To Care For Veterans," the Washington Times (5/27, Boyer, 455K) says the President was "seeking to reassure military families that his administration hasn't forgotten them." The Times notes that on Monday, the President "didn't single out" Shinseki "by name as he did at the same ceremony one year ago." The Times also reports that on NBC's Today Show on Monday, Paul Rieckhoff, executive director of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said his fellow veterans have "lost faith in the VA, in Secretary Shinseki and in the president."

In the lead story for Fox News' Special Report (5/26, 2.15M), Shannon Bream said, "Many of those who survived their military service continue to receive substandard care or no care at all." Correspondent Wendell Goler went on to report from the White House that "the VA scandal cast a cloud over this day of remembrance." According to Goler, "Almost everything [Obama] does now as commander in chief is seen through the lens of the VA scandal" although the White House insists his "surprise trip to Afghanistan" on Sunday "had nothing to do with the controversy."

The Los Angeles Times (5/27, Stewart, 3.46M) says that on Monday, the President "alluded to the controversy, in which some VA hospitals allegedly falsified documents to hide the fact that some veterans had to wait months or even years for care – contrary to VA policy that requires an appointment within 14 days."

Reuters (5/27, Mason) covers the President's remarks in an article titled, "With Nod To Veterans' Scandal, Obama Pays Memorial Day Tribute." Reuters quotes the President as saying, "As we've been reminded in recent days, we must do more to keep faith with our veterans and their families, and ensure they get the care and benefits and opportunities that they've earned and that they deserve." The Wall Street Journal (5/27, Tracy, 5.51M) reports on the President's Memorial Day tribute to veterans under the headline, "Obama Addresses Veteran Care In Memorial Day Speech." The Hill (5/26, Hattem, 237K) reported that the President "briefly addressed the growing crisis" on Monday.

The Washington Post (5/27, Fahrenthold, Olivo, 4.22M) reports that at Arlington on Monday, "a large number of people were turned away from the cemetery's entrances by security personnel who said that the event was at capacity." According to the Post, an Arlington spokeswoman "said afterward that the gates had been closed only briefly to secure the area for Obama's arrival." On the CBS Evening News (5/26, story 10, 3:00, Axelrod, 5.08M), Jim Axelrod reported that "new management has done much to restore order at America's premier military cemetery four years after revelations of misplaced remains and misidentified graves."

WPost A1: Shinseki Facing Pressure From Groups Representing Younger Veterans. In a front-page article titled, "In VA Crisis, A General's Deliberate Style Clashes With Impatience Of Young Veterans," the Washington Post (5/27, A1, Jaffe, 4.22M) reports that "the question facing President Obama as he seeks to contain yet another widening VA scandal is whether" Secretary Shinseki's "quiet and resolute professionalism still works in an age of noisy disputation." According to the Post, Shinseki "has had to balance the demands of traditionally staid, old-line veterans groups...with a new generation of digitally savvy and increasingly vocal veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan." The Post goes on to report that "no group exemplifies this shift more clearly than Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America," which has "been a relentless presence on Capitol Hill, online and in the national media, criticizing Shinseki's leadership," and has "drawn the ire of VA officials."

The University of Virginia's Larry Sabato, in a piece for Politico Magazine (5/27, 633K), says it would be "out of character" for the President to demand that Shinseki resign. According to Sabato, "Except for Gen. Stanley McChrystal, it is hard to think of any significant appointee shown the door during Obama's first five years." The Washington Post (5/27, 4.22M), in an editorial, says the VA scandal is not "a Shinseki problem," but, instead, "a President Obama problem" and "a Congress problem."

VA Accused Of Neglecting Older Veterans As It Focuses On New Claims. USA Today (5/27, Kennedy, 5.82M) reports that "cases involving the appeal of veterans benefits rulings take almost 19 months to resolve...and advocates say the crush of new claims is hurting older veterans." According to USA Today, "at least 350,000 veterans of wars before those in Iraq and Afghanistan have outstanding appeals of benefits decisions." USA Today says the VA has "touted how much it has cut the backlog of benefits claims that have taken longer than 125 days to resolve" but Glenn Bergmann, "a former VA attorney who now fights veterans' appeals cases," contends that "progress in resolving initial benefits claims has come at the expense of settling older claims." Bergmann is quoted as saying, "These veterans have been abandoned again. ... They're dying while they're waiting."

Veterans Groups Blast Burr For Suggesting They Have Been Too Easy On Shinseki. The New York Times (5/27, A11, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Sen. Richard Burr's "'open letter'...to the nation's veterans in which he castigates the leadership of veterans organizations has prompted a brutal war of words." According to the Times, Burr, "angry that only the American Legion has called for the resignation of" Secretary Shinseki, "accused the groups of being 'more interested in defending the status quo within the V.A., protecting their relationships with the agency, and securing access to the secretary and his inner circle,' than helping members." The Times reports that in a representative response, Joseph Johnston, national commander of the Disabled American Veterans, wrote: "Regrettably, Senator Burr shows no interest in pursuing policy solutions, preferring instead to launch cheap political attacks on the integrity of leaders of veterans organizations that do not agree with him."

Veterans Bodies Remained At Morgue For 18 Months. The Washington Times (5/27, Chumley, 455K) reports that "the bodies of 28 US veterans that have been lying in a Southern California morgue for the last 18 months or so waiting for someone to claim them will finally receive proper burials." According to the Times, the VA and "morgue officials accused each other for the delayed burials."

Top VA Official Reportedly Lied About Obtaining Masters Degree. The Washington Times (5/27, McElhatton, 455K) reports that the VA has retained Sheila Cullen as "a high-ranking senior executive in charge of a more than $1 billion network of hospitals and clinics despite learning she had falsely claimed to have a master's degree in official records for years." According to the Times, Cullen "remains on the job" despite the fact that the VA was "informed about the falsifications in 2009."

At Event With Vets, Biden Riffs On Much-Noted 2010 ACA Signing Ceremony Commentary. Hadas Gold, in a post for Politico (5/26, 637K), reported that before Vice President Biden spoke at "the kickoff of the Road 2

Recovery Memorial Challenge in which cyclists, including injured veterans, ride from Washington to Virginia Beach," an unidentified man "introducing Biden...said the ride was also a 'big f—ing deal,'" a reference to the comment Biden made to President Obama as he signed the affordable Care Act in 2010. Gold reports that in his remarks on Monday, Biden said, "Thank God my mother was gone or I'd have been one dead vice president."

De Blasio Remembers His WWII Veteran Father. The New York Times (5/27, Correal, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in remarks on Monday, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio "drew on memories of his own father, a World War II veteran who lost part of his leg in combat."

ADMINISTRATION TO UNVEIL CLIMATE CHANGE PROPOSALS NEXT WEEK. In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (5/27, A1, Harder, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the Administration next week will release key climate-change regulations, including a rule designed to allow states to implement a cap-and-trade system, and renewable energy proposals, among other things. For companies likely to be impacted, the key issue will be details, though the Administration appears to be favoring flexibility.

The New York Times (5/27, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that foreign governments are watching the President's expected announcement of the new EPA regulations of the 600 existing coal-fire plants with interest. Government analysts "will scrutinize to determine how serious the president is about fighting global warming."

WMO Says CO2 Levels Topped 400 PPM In Northern Hemisphere Last Month. Reuters (5/27, Visser) reports that the World Meteorological Organization announced on Monday that CO2 levels throughout the northern hemisphere topped 400 PPM for the first time in April. That's up 40% since the start of the industrial revolution. The WMO expects the average CO2 concentration to top 400 PPM globally in the next several years. WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud said in a statement, "This should serve as yet another wake-up call about the constantly rising levels of greenhouse gases which are driving climate change. If we are to preserve our planet for future generations, we need urgent action to curb new emissions of these heat-trapping gases."

WTimes Analysis: Potential Conflict Of Interest In DOD Climate Study. The Washington Times (5/27, Scarborough, 455K) reports that retired military officers "deeply involved in the climate change movement" led an "alarmist global warming report this month that calls on the Defense Department to ramp up spending on what it calls a man-made problem." The study was conducted by the Center for Naval Analyses, a non-profit whose parent is CNA Corp., "was funded by a climate change group that is also one of the think tank's main customers."

HOUSE, SENATE LEADERS UNDECIDED ON ENLIST ACT. The Wall Street Journal (5/27, Peterson, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that both the House and the Senate are considering the fallout that would result from bringing to a floor vote legislation that would grant green cards to illegal immigrants brought to the US as children who then serve in the military. GOP leaders are concerned that Rep. Jeff Denham's Enlist Act could inflame anti-immigration forces while simultaneously doing little to win them credit from immigration proponents. In the Senate, Democratic leaders generally like the issue, but don't want to limit any chance of the House passing broader legislation.

Activists Seek To Bar Immigration Officials From Courthouses. The New York Times (5/27, Semple, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that that for years, "immigration agents have generally refrained from questioning or detaining immigrants in and around locations deemed 'sensitive,' including schools, houses of worship, hospitals and public demonstrations." Now, immigration activists are seeking to add courthouses to that category. They argue "that the use of courthouses by immigration officials deters undocumented immigrants from exercising their constitutional rights of due process."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Cable Merger Too Far."*** The New York Times (5/27, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that there are "good reasons the Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission should block Comcast's $45 billion acquisition of Time Warner Cable," as the merger would "concentrate too much market power in the hands of one company, creating a telecommunications colossus the likes of which the

country has not seen since 1984 when the government forced the breakup of the original AT&T telephone monopoly." The Times argues that the merger "would fundamentally change the structure of this important industry and give one company too much control over what information, shows, movies and sports Americans can access on TVs and the Internet."

"Leadership On Transgender Civil Rights." An editorial in the New York Times (5/27, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says a Maryland law extending civil rights protections to transgender people "sets a good example for New York, which fails on this issue of fairness." The Times urges lawmakers in Albany to "approve long-stalled legislation — the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act — to outlaw discrimination based on gender identity or expression," and calls on Gov. Andrew Cuomo to "wage a strong and visible fight on this bill, as he did in his successful effort to push through same-sex marriage three years ago."

"Super Secure, Super Late." In an editorial, the New York Times (5/27, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) criticizes the process used to construct a new DHS headquarters, which is suffering from vast delays and massive budget overruns. The Times says that both the Administration and Congress have underfunded the project, and suggests that its value in the end is likely to be limited, as homeland security "still gets done," even without the new facility.

"The C.I.A.'s Deadly Ruse In Pakistan." An editorial in the New York Times (5/27, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says the CIA's use of a fake vaccination program in its hunt for Osama bin Laden "has produced a lethal backlash in Pakistan where dozens of public health workers have been murdered and fearful parents are shunning polio vaccine for their children." The Times argues that the program "should never have been used in a world where hardworking health care agencies depend on the trust of local communities."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The Civil Service Morass."*** The Washington Post (5/27, 4.22M), in an editorial, says the VA scandal is not "a Shinseki problem," but, instead, "a President Obama problem" and "a Congress problem."

"For Montgomery County Council."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Ukraine Chooses The West."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the Ukraine voted on Sunday to, effectively, side with the West by selecting Petro Poroshenko as their next president. Still, the Journal says that the result likely does not mean an end to Russian interference.

"The Constitution And The Ferry." The Wall Street Journal (5/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes about a legal case involving Federal regulation of a ferry service in Washington state. The Journal examines the case as evidence of over-reaching Federal regulation, and urges the Supreme Court to take up the case as a way to curb over-regulation.

"A Warning To Europe." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues that the results of the election for the European Parliament should serve as a warning to centrist European politicians that Europe's current economic policy will give rise to political extremism.

"Thailand's 1950s Coup." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the old-style coup in Thailand isn't up to dealing with recent developments, such as social media as an organizing tool, and is already showing cracks.

"Beijing's Xinjiang Problem." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that last Thursday's terrorist attack in China's Xinjiang region is a sign that the country is struggling to deal with Uighur unrest in the region. The Journal says that increasing repression won't solve the problem; only increased self-government and respect for local beliefs will calm the situation.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
EPA Set To Unveil Climate Proposal
New Costs From Health Law Snarl Union Contract Talks
Despite Fighting, Hopes Rise In Ukraine

New York Times:
Populists' Rise In Europe Vote Shakes Leaders
Campus Killings Set Off Anguished Conversation About The Treatment Of Women
US Trains African Commandos To Fight Terrorism
Unlikely Allies Uniting To Fight School Changes
The Dark Room Collective: Where Black Poetry Took Wing
13 Deaths, Untold Heartache, From GM Defect

Washington Post:
From Diverse Judges, One Opinion On Gay Marriage
Rebels Seize Ukraine Airport
In VA Crisis, A Clash Of Styles
In LA, Landrieu Tests Power Of Clout
Nationwide, All-Cash Deals Change Game In Real Estate

Financial Times:
Cameron Urges EU To Drop 'Business As Usual'
Kiev In Airport Offensive
Apple Readying 'Smart Home' Platform
Pfizer Admits Defeat In AstraZeneca Bid
End Of The Road For Hindustan Ambassador
Mercedes Online Ads Seen By More Robots Than Humans

Washington Times:
'Disorder' Label For Military Sex Assault Victims
Sponsors Of Climate Study Could Benefit From Action
Ukrainian Crisis Complicates Germany's Ties To Russia
President Seen AS Uninspiring, Even Among Liberal Voter Base
VA Exec Lied About Master's Degree

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: California Shooting; California Shooter Manifesto; Colorado Landslide; Pope Francis-Western Wall; Ukraine-Violence And Election; Nigerian Kidnapped School Girls; Obama-Memorial Day.
CBS: California Shooting; California Shootings-Weapons; Obama-Memorial Day Service; Afghanistan-CIA Officer Exposed; Ukraine-Election; Egypt-Presidential Election; Nigerian Kidnapped Girls; Pope Travels; Weather Damage; Obama-Memorial Day.
NBC: California Shooting; President Obama-Veterans; Afghanistan-CIA Officer Revealed; Colorado Landslide Search; Pope Francis Travels; Ukraine-Election; Government Food Prices; Alaska Wildfire.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Nigerian Kidnapped School Girls; Obama-Memorial Day Service; North Dakota Tornado.
CBS: Nigerian Kidnapped School Girls; Pope Francis-Sex Abuse Victims; North Dakota Tornado; Colorado Landslide Search; Obama-Memorial Day Service.
NPR: North Dakota Tornado; Colorado Wildfires; Afghanistan-CIA Official Revealed; Asian Stock Markets Mixed; China-Terrorism Suspects Arrested; Jordan-Syrian Ambassador Expelled; Jazz Singer Death-Jeffries.
FOX: North Dakota Tornado; Pope-Sex Abuse Victims; Primary Elections; NBA Scores.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Views science fair projects, State Dining Room, pooled press; delivers remarks at the White House Science Fair, East Room, open press; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Joins a discussion with school leaders and experts on issues surrounding school nutrition.
US Senate: May 26 – June 2. — Senate on break until the week of June 2nd.

12 p.m. — The Senate convenes for a pro forma session.

10:30 a.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS – FIELD HEARING — Oversight hearing on "The Indian Health Service: Ensuring the IHS is Living Up to Its Trust Responsibility." Location: Community Room Billings Public Library, Montana.
US House: 12 p.m. — The House meets in pro forma session. No votes are expected in the House.
Other: STEM EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM — 9 a.m. Symposium on Advancing Equity through More and Better STEM Learning hosted by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' Education Fund and ETS. Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education 9:10 a.m. Luncheon keynote: David Johns, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. Contact: Scott Simpson, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Simpson@civilrights.org / 202.466.2061 Location: National Academy of Sciences, Keck Center, 500 5th St. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "It was reported that the State Department's email system was down for several hours this week. Well, at least that's what they're telling Biden when he asks if they got their evites for his Memorial Day barbecue."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, May 29, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, May 29, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ FWS Seeks Comments On Critical Habitat Designations For Three Southern Plants.
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+ Additional Coverage Of Proposed Changes To Federal Recognition Rules.

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DOI in the News:

NPS LAUNCHING INITIATIVE TO IDENTIFY, PROMOTE HISTORIC LGBT SITES. The AP (5/29) reports that the NPS is "launching an initiative to make places and people of significance to the history of lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual Americans part of the national narrative." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "convening a panel of 18 scholars next month that will be charged with exploring the LGBT movement's story in areas such as law, religion, media, civil rights and the arts." According to NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis, "the committee will identify relevant sites and its work will be used to evaluate them for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, designation as National Historic Landmarks, or consideration as national monuments."

Yahoo! (5/29, Ohlheiser, 17.91M) reports that Jewell will announce the panel on Friday. MSNBC (5/29, 7.96M) reports that "Friday's event will take place at New York City's Stonewall Inn, the historic Greenwich Village bar often considered the birthplace of the modern gay rights movement." The article notes that the initiative is "being supported with a $250,000 pledged donation from The Gill Foundation, an LGBT organization that funds equality

initiatives."

The Pinknews (UK) (5/28, 13K) reports that philanthropist Tim Gill said, "While we take this important step to recognize the courageous contributions of LGBT Americans, we need to unite together in the days ahead to ensure we leave none of our fellow Americans behind."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (5/29, Leff, 455K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/29, Leff, 1.48M), the Kingston (NY) Daily Freeman (5/28, 73K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/28, 687K), and Yahoo! (5/29, Leff, 17.91M) .

Also reporting on the story is the Washington Post (5/29, 4.22M).

US MAY PURSUE RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS. The Washington Times (5/29, Richardson, 455K) reports that the Obama Administration is "quietly moving again to bypass Congress on yet another policy issue, this time by enacting the much-disputed bill that would grant tribal sovereignty to Native Hawaiians." The Interior Department "issued a notice of proposed rule-making Friday, before the holiday weekend, to solicit comments on how to 'facilitate the re-establishment of a government-to-government relationship with the Native Hawaiian community.'"

WNEM-TV Flint-Saginaw, MI (5/29, 58K) reports that Jessica Kershaw, press secretary for the Interior Department said, "The Department of the Interior is considering publishing an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to help determine whether the Department should develop a formal, administrative process to reestablish a government-to-government relationship with a future Native Hawaiian governing entity."

In a separate story, the AP (5/29, Bussewitz) reports that Mark Lawyer, deputy director of policy and regulatory affairs, said Wednesday, "We're not committed to anything at this point. We just want to hear from the public." Meanwhile, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs said "it applauds President Barack Obama's administration for reaffirming the special political relationship between the federal government and Native Hawaiians." However, critics said the move by the Interior Department "could undermine recent efforts by Native Hawaiians to create an independent government."

Also reporting on the story are KITV-TV Honolulu (5/29, 13K) and the Nation Sun News (5/29).

OIL, MINING RULES DELAYED. The National Journal (5/29, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that "on Friday the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs quietly released its Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, a twice-yearly tally of planned federal regulations." The report "shows that the schedule for" a "long-planned draft rule to set blowout-preventer standards has apparently slipped," a "plan dating back to President Obama's first year in office to protect Appalachian streams from mountaintop coal mining is lagging," and "a separate Interior Department rule that would set safety and chemical disclosure standards for fracking on federal lands has been pushed back too." According to the article, "for environmentalists, it may be time to worry" because "if delays were to keep piling up, the rules could become more vulnerable."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TOUR LOUISIANA COAST. WWNO-FM New Orleans (5/29, 5K) reports that Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor have "gotten their first look at the oil production facilities along the Louisiana coast." The two "got a bird's eye view of the energy facilities at work, and the threat they face from coastal erosion." Connor said that "coastal restoration has national attention." He said, "We've got to do that right, because I think the rest of the country is depending on the lessons that we have learned here in the Gulf. So it's a very important part of our portfolio at the Interior Department and, overall, I think for the federal government."

ARMY CORPS TO RECOMMEND LOS ANGELES RIVER PROJECT. The Los Angeles Times (5/29, Sahagun, 3.46M) reports that "federal officials gave a major boost Wednesday to the city's plans to turn the Los Angeles River into an urban oasis for recreation and a hub for new commercial and residential development." The US Army Corps of Engineers said "it has decided to recommend approval of an ambitious, $1-billion proposal to restore habitat, widen the river, create wetlands and provide access points and bike trails along an 11-mile stretch north of downtown through Elysian Park." Mayor Eric Garcetti said that "the bulk of the federal money would come from

the Army Corps, with the Department of the Interior and the US Environmental Protection Agency 'looking to aggressively bring money to the table as well.'"

ELDER COUNTY COMMISSION PROPOSE CONTROLLING RAVEN POPULATION. The Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (5/29, 147K) reports that "the ravens have apparently grown in number in Box Elder County to the point they are picking on the sage grouse and provoking the County Commission." In a letter, commissioners have asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to "let federal wildlife officials go after the ravens." The commissioners "propose the use of poisoned eggs that impact only ravens as part of an overall raven control program."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SUNZIA LINE COMPROMISE. Additional coverage of the compromise proposed for the SunZia Line was provided by the National Journal (5/29, Subscription Publication, 561K), the Albuquerque (NM) Business First (5/29), the NextGov (5/29, 2K), and the CleanTechnica (5/28, 12K),

WSJ CLIMATE DENIAL OP-ED CRITICIZED. For Salon (5/28, 688K), assistant editor Lindsay Abrams criticizes an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal by Joseph Bast, the president of the Heartland Institute and Roy Spencer, a principal research scientist for the University of Alabama in Huntsville and the US Science Team Leader for the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer on NASA's Aqua satellite, for asserting that the figure that "97 percent of scientists agree that man-made climate change is happening" is a "myth." Abrams claims that Bast and Spencer are "motivated to debunk the 97 percent 'myth' because they have a vested interest, via their affiliation with Heartland, in getting the public to believe that the scientists are a lot less certain about the reality of man-made climate change than they actually are." Also, Abrams notes that Bast and Spencer are what "really" are "trying to do is keep us from moving on to the actual debate, which is no longer about whether scientists agree that climate change is happening: it's about whether the world should continue to barrel down the highway at breakneck speeds without the benefit of seat belts."

US Chamber Says President's Climate Plan Has Significant Economic Downside. Bloomberg News (5/29, Drajem, 2.76M) reports that the US Chamber of Commerce released a report arguing that the President's climate change plan could cost the national economy "$50 billion per a year" and the "elimination of 224,000 jobs." The release of the Chamber report, along with another expected from the Natural Resources Defense Council, signals "that the political battle over the president's plan will be fought over dollars and cents." Bloomberg says that for the President, the risk is the plan "gets labeled a job-killer just as campaigns heat up for an election that could determine control" of the Senate.

In a piece that also mentions the Chamber report but doesn't focus on it, Reuters (5/28, Rampton) reports that the new rules are expected to generate a strong push-back from the nation's industry. As part of that, opponents of the plan are expected to raise the issue in key Senate races in an attempt to raise voter ire.

PROTECTION OF ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS REGION LAUDED. In an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/29, 282K), Mark Magaña, a board member of the League of Conservation Voters, writes that "this past week, President Obama protected 496,000 acres of New Mexico's Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region as a national monument, a victory for the Latino community and our heritage." He notes that "this is the third such designation by Obama that celebrates the contributions Hispanics have made to the culture and history of the United States, joining the César E. Chávez and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monuments." According to Magaña, "now that the area has been formally protected and recognized nationally, the area's unique historical and cultural points of interest, along with its spectacular natural beauty, will bring tourism dollars and boost quality of life to the region." Magaña argues that "this designation is also another reminder that Republican leaders in Congress should stop trying to pass legislation to limit the president's ability to designate these historic sites."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS INVESTIGATING WASHINGTON MONUMENT ELEVATOR PROBLEMS. Roll Call (5/29, 76K) reports that "after two weeks of sporadic glitches with the Washington Monument's lone elevator," NPS "leaders are dispelling rumors of elevator 'free falls' and reassuring employees that the machinery is safe to operate." In a May 23 memo

to his staff, National Mall and Memorial Parks Superintendent Robert Vogel "acknowledged recurring problems throughout the month of May and said NPS contractor Quality Elevator is continuing to monitor the elevator." Meanwhile, Carol Johnson, spokeswoman for the National Mall and Memorial Parks, "did not respond to inquiries about the cost of replacing the elevator."

RECORDS SHOW NPS REJECTED OFFER TO KEEP OPEN MT. RUSHMORE DURING SHUTDOWN. For the National Review (5/28, 879K), Jillian Kay Melchior, a Thomas L. Rhodes Fellow for the Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity, writes that "in the early days of last October's government shutdown, South Dakota governor Dennis Daugaard, a Republican, wanted to use state and private funds to keep Mount Rushmore open — an offer the Department of the Interior quickly rebuffed, even as its high-ranking staff circulated accounts of the shutdown's harmful effects on would-be visitors and private-sector park workers." According to Melchior, "evidently the Department of the Interior didn't want the media to know it had so bluntly turned down the governor's detailed proposal, which was accompanied by a logistical addendum that outlined how Daugaard would keep Mount Rushmore equipped with security, parking, concessions, gift shops, and lighting." Melchior noes that records show that the NPS was "well aware of the costs to both visitors and non-governmental workers at Mount Rushmore."

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK TAKES CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE. The Miami Today (5/28, 47K) reports that "in order to get the message out, Everglades National Park has instructed staff to approach climate change in conversation with visitors and community members." Larry Perez, science communications liaison for Everglades National Park, said, "We were encouraged by our top brass in Washington for everyone in our organization to communicate internally... [and] to communicate outside the park to our visitor groups and to where our stakeholders are located."

CORMORANT CONTROL POLICY EXTENDED AT SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE. The AP (5/29) reports that Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has "received federal permission to continue killing some double-crested cormorants to prevent the fish-gobbling shorebirds from damaging trees with their highly acidic droppings, officials said." Karen Cleveland, a biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, said, "It doesn't allow you to go 'willy-nilly' with indiscriminate killing. It protects the viability of the species in the state while providing wide latitude for management actions."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF BEAR LAKE ROAD. The Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette (5/29, 13K) reports that on Wednesday, Rocky Mountain National Park celebrated the "completion of 12 years of major road construction in the park." The ceremony was scheduled to take place at 11 a.m. at the Moraine Park Discovery Center. The report notes that that a ribbon-cutting ceremony was also scheduled to take place on Bear Lake Road. It adds that the "final phase of construction on" the road "completed the paving of all primary roads in the park." According to the article, officials from the FHWA and the Central Federal Lands Division were expected to attend the ceremony.

HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT DONATES GRANT FOR RADIO SYSTEM. KWBE-AM Beatrice, NB (5/28) reports that the Homestead National Monument has "formally donated a grant it has received, to help Gage County update the law enforcement radios to a VHF system." The Gage County Board "accepted a $50,000 grant from the National Park Service and the monument, for the system." Superintendent of the Homestead National Monument of America, Mark Engler, said "the system has benefits to both the park and the county."

TRIAL STARTS IN LAKE ROOSEVELT ASSAULT. The AP (5/29) reports that "trial is underway in the case of a Kettle Falls man charged with assaulting a National Park Service ranger in the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area." According to the article, "a federal court jury was selected Tuesday to hear the case of Michael Sublie, who was arrested in September at the Kettle River Campground." NPS rangers are "expected to testify that Sublie was drunk and disobeyed requests to turn down loud music before shoving a ranger off a ramp."

RESCUERS SAVE HIKER STRANDED ON ROCKY MOUNTAIN PEAK. The AP (5/29) reports that "a 19-year-old Canadian hiker who was stuck on a ledge of the tallest mountain in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado has been rescued." According to park officials, "Samuel Frappier of Quebec was flown to a landing zone in the park and taken by ambulance to a hospital Wednesday evening." Frappier was "stranded Tuesday on the east side of Longs Peak while descending from the top of the 14,255-foot precipice."

Additional coverage was provided by the Denver Post (5/29, Nicholson, Gibbons, 940K), the Denver Post (5/29, Kuta, 940K), and ABC News (5/29, 3.58M).

Bureau of Land Management:

CHIEF OF BLM'S COLORADO OPERATION BALANCES MANY INTERESTS. The E&E Daily (5/28) reports on the responsibilities of Ruth Welch, the chief executive of BLM's Colorado operations, who oversees "600 employees and a roughly $97 million annual budget." In an interview, Welch said noted that the she must strike "a fine balance" among the various interest groups because there are "some really outspoken groups on both sides of the fence." Welch "steers" the BLM "along the politically fraught tightrope known as 'multiple use' – its congressional mandate to share the land among ranchers, drillers, off-highway vehicle thrill seekers, wilderness advocates, horses and endangered species."

BLM PURSUING POSSIBLE CONFESSION IN ROCK ART PANEL VANDALISM. The AP (5/29) reports that "authorities investigating the vandalism of a popular rock art panel northeast of Price say they're pursuing a possible confession to the damage." Ahmed Mohsen, the acting field manager for the BLM's Price office, "an individual confessed to a local property owner and authorities are following up on the lead."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON'S FIRST WILDLIFE AREA The Wenatchee (WA) World (5/28, 60K) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe will attend a kickoff on June 7 to celebrate the anniversary of Washington's first wildlife area.

REP. ISSA HITS FWS FOR TARGETING TREE TRIMMER. The Washington Times (5/29, McElhatton, 455K) reports that House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa on Wednesday said that the FWS' decision "to pursue criminal charges against a tree-trimmer for accidentally disturbing bird nests in California highlights a troubling disparity in how private citizens and misbehaving government workers are treated." Issa said that the tree-cutter's accidental moves "pale in comparison to some of the misdeeds of federal employees who spend hours a day looking at pornography at work, or who otherwise bilk taxpayers."

Also reporting on the story is the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (5/29, 696K).

FUNDING SOLUTION FOR ERWIN FISH HATCHERY STILL IN QUESTION. In continuing coverage, the Johnson City (TN) Press (5/29, Hicks, 76K) reported that TVA, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources "hosted a public meeting at TVA headquarters in Knoxville on Tuesday to present" a working group's recommendations for a long-term funding solution to continue trout stocking programs in some TVA tailwaters and reservoirs, as well as gather input and answer questions regarding the recommendations. At the meeting, TVA's Terry Creek stated, "Absent a funding solution, the Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that they will terminate trout production and stocking at TVA projects." The TVA, TWRA, USFWS and GDNR formed the Trout Hatchery Funding Stakeholder Working Group, which has recommended that the USFW continue the funding, that TVA and the USFW team up to arrange funding, that involved states team up with TVA and the USFW to arrange funding, or that TVA ratepayers do the funding.

BURLINGTON WINS GRANT FOR MARINA UPGRADE. The Burlington (VT) Free Press (5/28, 116K) reports that Burlington's Perkins Pier Marina is "in line for a major upgrade with the help of a $1.5 million federal grant, the city and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department announced Tuesday." According to Jesse Bridges, director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, "the city plans to build a new wave attenuator, which is a floating wall that would protect the south harbor, add more spaces for boats and enable future development." The article notes that "the $1.5 million grant is one of 16 awards nationally from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Boating Infrastructure Grant program, which came to Burlington in partnership with the state Fish and Wildlife Department."

FWS SEEKS TO ACQUIRE GALLIPOLIS ISLAND. The Point Pleasant (WV) Register (5/29, 11K) reports that "the Gallipolis Island may soon be under new ownership as the US Fish and Wildlife Service is attempting to

acquire the island and restore this rapidly deteriorating refuge for fish and various wildlife." Approximately two years ago, the FWS "approached the city of Gallipolis, the owners of a portion of the island, but were unsuccessful because a portion of the island is under private ownership and negotiations to purchase this portion of the island failed." Recently, the FWS "once again approached the Gallipolis City Commission to discuss acquiring the city's portion of the island as the private owner now would like to donate his portion of the island to help maintain this habitat for local wildlife."

FWS SEEKS COMMENTS ON CRITICAL HABITAT DESIGNATIONS FOR THREE SOUTHERN PLANTS. The Chattanoogan (5/29, 12K) reports that the FWS seeks "additional public comment on proposed critical habitat for three plants found in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee." Also, the agency "seeks comment on a draft economic analysis that considers the cost of the critical habitat designation to federal, state and local governments." The plants are the Short's bladderpod, the whorled sunflower, and the fleshy-fruit gladecress.

FWS TO HOLD HEARING ON RED KNOT LISTING. The Island Free Press (NC) (5/29) reports that the FWS will have "an informational session and public hearing on listing the rufa red knot as a threatened species on Thursday, June 5 from 5 until 8 p.m. at the Alligator National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters in Manteo."

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY: SUPERSTORM SANDY'S FIRE ISLAND BREACHES NOT TO BLAME FOR COASTAL FLOODING. Newsday (5/29, 1.5M) reports that the Fire Island "breaches created by Sandy were not to blame for flooding in surrounding coastal communities in the months after the superstorm hit," according to a USGS study. The study by three USGS researchers, "published earlier this month, determined that post-Sandy flooding along the South Shore was instead caused by a series of harsh winter storms that hit the battered area." The study concluded, "The high water levels that occurred in five months following Hurricane Sandy in these back-barrier bays were caused by winter storms, not by barrier island breaching or geomorphic changes in the bays caused by Sandy."

USGS SCIENTIST RECOGNIZED FOR DEDICATION TO COASTAL PRAIRIE CONSERVATION. KATC-TV Lafayette, LA (5/29, 16K) reports that USGS National Wetlands Research Center Botanist Larry Allain will "receive the 2014 Prairie Excellence Award in recognition of his 'tireless dedication to coastal prairie conservation through both his professional and volunteer work' according to Jaime Gonzales, President of the Coastal Prairie Partnership (CPP)." According to the article, "Allain's award-winning publication, Paradise Lost: The Coastal Prairie of Texas and Louisiana, has introduced thousands of people to the wonder and plight of the highly imperiled coastal prairie ecosystem and has inspired many community members to get and stay involved in efforts to protect these special grasslands." Gonzales said, "Each generation of conservationists produces a handful of professionals whose work and wisdom far extends past their careers – we are certain that Larry Allain will be one of those select few."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SEN. TESTER PROMOTES BILL FOR WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ON PUBLIC LANDS. The Missoulian (MT) (5/29, 122K) reports that "a bill to allow wildlife-friendly renewable energy leasing on public lands languishes in Congress," but Sen. Jon Tester "hopes local support might get it moving this summer." Tester "pitched the bill to about 40 people at the Missoula Public Library on Wednesday." The Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act would "make it easier for wind and solar energy developers to lease public land for their installations," and "it would provide money for agencies like the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to inventory acreage that doesn't have wildlife conflicts or work on ways to reduce those problems."

Onshore Energy Development:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TAKING STEPS TO REVISE WESTERN "ENERGY CORRIDOR". The E&E Daily

(5/28) reports that the Obama Administration is "slowly taking the first steps to revise potentially large sections of a congressionally designated 6,000-mile-long energy corridor as mandated by a nearly 2-year-old legal settlement with environmental groups that claimed the original corridor unnecessarily tore through sensitive landscapes and fails to advance renewable energy development." However, "it could be years before any substantive revisions are made to dozens of contested sections of the 'West-wide Energy Corridor' that stretches across 11 Western states and nearly 3 million acres of public land, including federal wildlife refuges and key habitat for greater sage grouse." According to the article, "that's due mostly to a lack of federal funding that has prevented the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and the Department of Energy from even starting a base-line corridor study that was supposed to be completed in July."

FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT, NAVAJO MINE RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM FARMINGTON, SAN JUAN. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (5/29, 46K) reports that Farmington City Council "approved a resolution expressing the city's support for continuing the operation of the Four Corners Power Plant and nearby Navajo Mine." Mayor Tommy Roberts "proposed the city's resolution to the council because he is concerned with the potential impacts to the local economy if both operations cease." Also, San Juan County commissioners "unanimously passed a similar resolution to support the renewal of the power plant lease with the tribe."

OIL SPILL IN POWDER RIVER BASIN SUBSTANTIALLY CLEANED UP. The AP (5/29) reports that "a significant oil spill in the Powder River Basin has been substantially cleaned up after a burning operation, but more work remains to be done, federal officials said." The pipeline's owner, Belle Fourche Pipeline, "burned off the oil because other cleanup options weren't practical." BLM officials "plan to meet again Friday with Belle Fourche Pipeline to discuss further cleanup."

API ARGUES AGAINST RESTRICTIONS ON ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DRILLING. In an op-ed in the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (5/28, 251K) American Petroleum Institute president and CEO Jack Gerard argues that Alaska's "ability to develop its vast energy resources is often stifled by restrictive federal policies." Gerard said that if the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge were open to drilling without "interference from Washington," it could produce 1 million bpd of crude and 160 billion cubic feet of natural gas annually, "enough to fuel South Carolina for a year." Gerard urges the Federal government to "remove barriers to responsible energy development."

Alaska Supports Oil And Natural Gas Production. Energy Global (5/29) reported that according to a new poll issued by the American Petroleum Institute, a majority of Alaska voters supports boosting US oil and natural gas production. API president and CEO Jack Gerard said the poll results indicate that "Alaska understands the connection between access to energy resources and good public policy. Alaskans recognize the possibilities for America's economic future. While the availability of affordable and reliable domestic energy creates opportunity, success depends on the policies created today."

Offshore Energy Development:

FIFTH CIRCUIT PANEL WILL NOT STOP BP OIL SPILL CLAIMS PAYMENTS. The AP (5/29) reports from New Orleans that a three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday ruled that BP PLC "must resume paying claims while it asks the U.S. Supreme Court to review its settlement with businesses over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill." The 2-1 ruling said the court "will not put a stop to payments while BP appeals the court's earlier ruling that businesses, under the settlement, don't have to prove they were directly harmed by the spill to collect money." BP asked the Supreme Court to review the ruling, "saying that otherwise 'countless awards totaling potentially hundreds of millions of dollars will be irretrievably scattered to claimants that suffered no injury traceable to BP's conduct.'"

Bloomberg News (5/29, Fisk, Calkins, 2.76M) reports that the court "rejected the U.K.-based energy company's request to maintain a temporary halt on payments to businesses that can't prove they were directly damaged by the spill." US District Judge Carl Barbier on Wednesday "ordered the settlement's administrator to resume making the stalled payments."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

AGENCIES THAT PLAYED ROLE IN COLORADO RIVER DELTA PULSE FLOW LAUDED. For the "Water Currents" blog of the National Geographic (5/28, 42.25M), Jennifer Pitt lauds the agencies that "played an important role in lifting the gates at Morelos Dam" as "among the heroes of the pulse flow." She notes that "in the United States, it included the Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of the Interior (whose Secretary serves as 'watermaster' in the lower Colorado River Basin), and the State Department." Pitt concludes that "if we can maintain the spirit of cooperation and trust most recently illustrated by the pulse flow, we can set an example for how to manage limited resources across various jurisdictions worldwide."

Empowering Native American Communities:

PINE RIDGE DEALS WITH POVERTY, VIOLENCE. MSNBC (5/29, 7.96M) reports on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, "where a well-documented plague of poverty and violence has festered since the Oglala Sioux were forced onto the reservation more than a century ago." However, "the government is starting to own up to its failures." According to the article, "in a startling new draft report released in April by the federal Bureau of Indian Education, which oversees 183 schools on 64 reservations in 23 states, the agency draws attention to its own inability to deliver a quality education to Native students."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEDERAL RECOGNITION RULES. Additional coverage of the proposed changes to federal recognition rules was provided by the Danbury (CT) News Times (5/29, 137K).

Top National News:

OBAMA LAYS OUT FOREIGN POLICY VISION, HITS BACK AT CRITICS. Media assessments of President Obama's Wednesday speech largely mirrored those of his previous day's remarks on Afghanistan. As was the case Tuesday night, Obama's address at West Point was well-received by the network newscasts, which cast it as an attempt to articulate a policy for a non-militaristic but leading US role in the world. In a brief report, for example, Diane Sawyer said on ABC World News (5/28, story 4, 0:45, Sawyer) that the President "announced a major change in foreign policy," and added that the President's plan "relies less on the US military and creates an international partnership to help nations fight extremists within their borders." Print media accounts, meanwhile, almost universally indicate that the speech appeared to be designed as a rebuttal to critics of Obama's foreign policy, and generally cast it as a defense of his decisions rather than a new paradigm for a future course.

The speech, meanwhile, received scathing criticism from Republicans, cable commentators on Fox News and the editorial boards of the Washington Post (5/29, 4.22M), New York Times (5/29, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) and Wall Street Journal (5/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M). Of note, using very similar imagery, both the Washington Post editorial board and columnist Doyle McManus today accuse the President of setting up "straw men" in order to argue his points: While the Post accuses Obama of marshaling "a virtual corps of straw men," McManus refers to "a whole battalion of straw men." Sen. John McCain had previously accused the President of setting up "straw men" in a radio interview. Some conservative outlets, meanwhile, highlight what they describe as a rather subdued response to the President by his West Point audience, an element largely absent from the rest of the coverage.

Norah O'Donnell reported on the CBS Evening News (5/28, story 4, 2:35, O'Donnell, 5.08M) that the President "said isolation is not an option but not every problem has a military solution." Obama was shown saying, "I believe we must shift our counter-terrorism strategy to more effectively partner with countries where terrorist networks seek a foothold." David Martin noted, "Sending American soldiers to train local troops has one major hitch – countries in which terrorist groups take root are frequently run by corrupt, unpopular, weak, or incompetent governments. ... Still, it puts fewer American lives at risk, is much less expensive is frequently done in secret, all of which makes it easier to sell politically."

Peter Alexander reported on NBC Nightly News (5/28, story 6, 2:20, Williams, 7.86M) that the President "argued for restraint before the US commits to any future military action." Obama was shown saying, "Just because we have the best hammer does not mean that every problem is a nail." The President also said that "the number one threat to America is no longer confined within any country's borders," and "announced that he is asking for $5

billion to fund a counterterrorism partnership to help partners in the Middle East and Africa...to carry out operations against extremists." The Wall Street Journal (5/28, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) quotes Obama as saying, "A strategy that involves invading every country that harbors terrorist networks is naïve and unsustainable. ... I believe we must shift our counter-terrorism strategy – drawing on the successes and shortcomings of our experience in Iraq and Afghanistan – to more effectively partner with countries where terrorist networks seek a foothold." Reuters (5/28, Holland) notes that Obama also said, "Tough talk often draws headlines, but war rarely conforms to slogans."

CNN's Situation Room (5/28, 554K) led its broadcast with a story that also cast the speech in a positive light. Jim Acosta reported that the President made the case that "caution in the 21st century can be muscular too," as he delivered a "45-minute lecture on the Obama doctrine." The President "fired back at accusations he's been too hesitant on the global stage, reminding his critics of the lessons of going it alone."

Bret Baier reported on FOX News' Special Report (5/28, 2.15M) that the President used the speech "to counterpunch at critics who say his particular brand of leadership has led to a weaker, less respected America." Ed Henry added that the President was "on defense, insisting he does believe in American exceptionalism and lashing out at critics who call him weak."

Along those lines, and in a report typical of much of the print media coverage, the AP (5/28, Pace, Kuhnhenn) calls the speech "a concerted effort by the White House to push back against...critics...who contend that the president's approach to global problems has been too cautious and has emboldened adversaries in Syria, Russia and China." Adds the AP, "It's a criticism that deeply frustrates the president and his advisers." The New York Times (5/29, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says Obama "tried to regain his statesman's mantle" with his address, "a wide-ranging rebuttal to critics who say he has yielded American leadership in a world tossed by storms." Like the AP, the Times describes Obama as "deeply frustrated by the criticism of his foreign policy, which during his first term was generally perceived as his strong suit."

Obama, says Bloomberg News (5/29, Mattingly, Talev, 2.76M), "sought to give a clearer vision of his policy as he faces critics at home and abroad who have cast the president as weak and ineffective," and "much of" his address "took the form of a rebuttal to critics." Similarly, the Christian Science Monitor (5/29, Lafranchi, 566K) reports "the speech was devoid of initiatives or proposals and instead seemed aimed at refuting mounting criticism both domestically and among some worried international partners that his foreign policy is weak and rudderless."

The Washington Post (5/29, A1, Nakamura, 4.22M) also notes Obama's "defense of his administration's handling of foreign crises and" his "suggestion that some critics are out of step with a nation weary after 13 years of war." USA Today (5/29, Jackson, 5.82M) notes that "in apparent references to Vietnam and Iraq, Obama said that 'since World War II, some of our most costly mistakes came not from our restraint, but from our willingness to rush into military adventures without thinking through the consequences.'" Along, those lines, McClatchy (5/29, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports, Obama "said he'd be betraying his duty...if he rushed into conflict 'because I was worried about critics who think military intervention is the only way for America to avoid looking weak.'" That comment, The Hill (5/28, Sink, 237K) reports, "appeared to be a direct rebuke to critics who have charged that the president's foreign policy is faltering because he is unwilling to intervene," with Obama "and aides" looking "to push back against that narrative."

In an analysis piece, the New York Times (5/29, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) also reports that as "Obama listens to assessments of his foreign policy these days, he grows deeply frustrated. Syria? Ukraine? Afghanistan? What more do his critics want him to do? Get into another war? Keep fighting one that has already become America's longest?" The Times adds that "at times during his Wednesday speech, Mr. Obama seemed to be responding directly to one critic, Robert Kagan, whose long cover story in The New Republic titled 'Superpowers Don't Get to Retire' argued against a retreat from America's post-World War II leadership." In a phone interview, Kagan said Obama's speech was "about the clearest statement of this position that Obama's ever made."

Obama, says the New York Post (5/29, Earle, 2.77M), spoke "with his foreign policy under fire," and "taking on skeptics on the right who have fretted about failures to counter expansionist efforts by Russia and China, and ongoing turmoil in the Middle East, Obama called America 'the one indispensable nation.'" The Post adds that "it's a phrase attributed to former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that Obama has used before." Politico

(5/28, Epstein, 637K) reports that his speech, Obama "laid out the latest iteration of his foreign policy vision – and hinted at what he hopes his global legacy will be." USA Today (5/29, Madhani, 5.82M) likewise states in an analysis piece that it is "clear" that "as Obama looks to establishing a foreign policy legacy, he's more certain than ever in his long-established belief that the post-9/11 world is too complicated for the US to play policeman for the world."

The Washington Times (5/29, Wolfgang, Boyer, 455K) headlines its report "Obama Defends Troubled Foreign Policy At West Point Commencement," and says that "despite the" speech's "strong words, some critics and analysts say the president lacks a guiding doctrine on foreign policy, leaving the rest of the world guessing about U.S. interests and when they might count on American action."

In one of the most positive assessments of the speech in this morning's newspapers, the Los Angeles Times (5/28, Parsons, 3.46M) calls it "sweeping," and credits it with "laying out a new definition of" US global leadership. The story does not include the reaction of Obama critics or refer (as other print accounts) to the President being forced to defend his foreign policy record. Also markedly positive was the story in Stars And Stripes (5/28, Harper, 25K), which reports that "in a time of budget constraints and war-weariness among the American people, Obama wants to shift more of the security burden to America's allies." Likewise, National Journal (5/28, Waddell, Subscription Publication, 561K) remarks on Obama's "hopeful" tone, "seeking to frame his new foreign policy direction as a continuation of American leadership on the world stage."

The Lower Hudson Valley (NY) Journal News (5/28, Nicosia, 339K) reports "thousands of visitors listened to the president's speech in a damp and chilly Michie Stadium," and notes that "before his address, a small group of anti-drone protestors flanked the entrance gates at West Point as families of the graduating cadets arrived."

National Security Adviser Susan Rice said on CNN's Situation Room (5/28, 554K) that the President's speech "was a broad explication of US interests in the world and US foreign policy. What it said was that the United States must – what must be and will remain in every instance the world's number one leader. And we'll do what it takes to defend and advance our interests including where it is necessary to defend our core interests to use force unilaterally, if necessary, but that when it is not something that affects our fundamental national security, our economic well-being or the security of our allies, that we want to work cooperatively with other nations to the greatest extent possible, to tackle global problems."

After the President's address, NPR (5/28, 519K) interviewed Michele Flournoy, who said, "I think it was a very strong speech as speeches go, in that it reasserted the importance of American leadership and engagement. On counterterrorism specifically, the President laid out a vision for a shift in our counterterrorism policy from an emphasis on direct action, where we are actually striking our enemies directly, to an emphasis on building the capacity of our partners in Yemen, in Somalia, in Mali and elsewhere to be able to deal with the terrorist threat on their soil."

Reports: Obama's West Point Audience Less Than Enthusiastic. The UK's Daily Mail (5/29, Martosko, 2.97M) reports that Obama received "tepid applause and a short standing ovation from less than one-quarter of the audience upon his introduction," before arguing "for a contradictory foreign policy that relies on NATO and the United Nations while insisting that 'America must always lead on the world stage.'" The Washington Times (5/28, Ernst, 455K) references the Daily Mail story, while the Daily Caller (5/28, Bordelon, 408K) reported that CNN reporter Jim Clancy said Obama "was met with an 'icy reception' from the future Army officers."

WPost, WSJournal, NYTimes Among Critics Of Obama's Speech. The Washington Post editorial board, columnist Doyle McManus, Sen. John McCain and Karl Rove all accused the President of setting up "straw men" in order to argue his points. Amid largely negative reactions from news analysts and GOP politicians, the speech was praised by former Bush official Nicholas Burns and columnists Joe Klein and E.J. Dionne, among others.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (5/29, 4.22M) criticizes the speech, saying that Obama, "as he has so often in his political career, Mr. Obama has elected to respond to the critical consensus not by adjusting policy but rather by delivering a big speech." Yesterday, he "marshaled a virtual corps of straw men," such as "those who 'say that every problem has a military solution.'" The Post also accuses Obama of shaking "the confidence of many US allies" and encouraging "some adversaries," and adds "that conclusion can be heard not just from Republican hawks but also...more quietly, from some leading congressional Democrats."

Doyle McManus, in the Los Angeles Times (5/29, 3.46M), calls the speech's "core message...familiar and entirely reasonable," but goes on to criticize Obama for taking "aim at a whole battalion of straw men," and argues that "no one has argued that military action" is the answer to every problem, "not even George W. Bush, who took the nation to war in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Voice of America (5/28, Bowman, 21K) reports that Sen. John McCain "seemed to take personal umbrage at the president's assertion that his critics are overly eager to see US troops deployed around the world." Interviewed on Phoenix radio station KFYI, the Barry Young Show, the senator said, "None of us want to send troops to Syria, and for him [Obama] to continue to set up this straw man that all 'interventionists' want to send American troops everywhere – that is patently false." Noting McCain's comments, Politico (5/28, Dovere, 637K) wrote, "Six years in, the fight between...Obama and...McCain continues."

Politico (5/28, Breitman, 637K) also reported that appearing on Fox News, Karl Rove said Obama's speech "sounded like an 'argument with himself,'" adding, "The president, today, engaged in straw men and tossed them out there every few moments."

In an editorial titled "President Obama Misses A Chance On Foreign Affairs," the New York Times (5/29, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) writes "the address did not match the hype, was largely uninspiring, lacked strategic sweep and is unlikely to quiet his detractors, on the right or the left." Obama "provided little new insight into how he plans to lead in the next two years, and many still doubt that he fully appreciates the leverage the United States has even in a changing world."

In a highly critical editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) also accuses Obama of setting up a false choice between isolationism and using the military to solve every foreign policy problem, and argues that the speech sidestepped the President's foreign policy failures, not mentioning the reset with Russia, the Asia pivot, the red line in Syria or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

David Ignatius, in the Washington Post (5/29, 4.22M), says Obama "made many cogent points to rebut critics," but "also showed that he hasn't digested some of the crucial lessons of his presidency. ... Surely he can see that al-Qaeda regained control of Fallujah this year in part because America walked away from Iraq in 2010," that "terrorism has a deadly new face in Syria" and that "Afghanistan could become a haven once more for al-Qaeda." Ignatius later argues, however, that "if Obama can craft his partnerships to contain al-Qaeda, he will have created an important legacy."

John Bolton, in the Wall Street Journal (5/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), blasts both the speech and the President's foreign policy as muddled and contradictory, and argues that under the present Administration the US has steadily lost global influence.

Elise Labott said on CNN's Situation Room (5/28, 554K) that US allies believe the US is "unfocused and take their eye off the ball. ... While the US reduced the military footprint," in countries like Iraq and Libya, "it hasn't accompanied that with the high level intense and sustained political engagement necessary to make sure these countries don't remain in conflict. I think that's where the President gave short shrift looking at countries through a counterterrorism lens." Peter Bergen added that President "was trying to lay out something that made the best" of interventionism and isolationism, "ignoring some of the weaknesses in both approaches." Fareed Zakaria noted that the President "follows in Dwight Eisenhower's mode. He is very restrained and disciplined about the use of force." Peter Beinart noted that the President "is not interested in creating a heroic foreign policy. Barack Obama is interested in a hippocratic foreign policy and the hippocratic oath, first, do no harm. There's a lot to be said for that."

Mara Liasson said on FOX News' Special Report (5/28, 2.15M), "What jumped out at me was how familiar it was. He pretty much reiterated his foreign policy approach which is to set up two extremes, kind of cartoonish extremes, one isolationism and the other boots on the ground everywhere, and say, 'hey, I'm not for either of those. We have to be strong. We have to lead, but we don't always have to take military action.'"

Charles Krauthammer said on FOX News' Special Report (5/28, 2.15M), "I think his speech was literally pointless. He didn't have a point. It was a defensive speech. It was an answer to the chorus of criticism, even

from his side of the aisle, that it's been a weak, leaderless, rudderless license foreign policy, which it has been."

Steve Hayes said on FOX News' Special Report (5/28, 2.15M), "The problem of this speech was it was an attempt to retroactively impose some kind of doctrine on the chaos we've all lived through over the last five and a half years. It has been an inconsistent, incoherent, sloppy foreign policy for five and half years, with no apparent vision from the Commander in Chief, from the President of the United States."

In his "Political MoJo" blog for Mother Jones (5/28, 756K), David Corn writes that "for years, Obama has been trying to form and sell a balanced approach that justifies certain military interventions and limits others," but "the world is not a balanced place," and "given the global challenges of this era, a grand plan may not be realistic."

The New York Times (5/29, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) offers a digest of other reactions to the speech. The CFR's Richard Haass said "it was more clear what" that speech "was against, than what it was actually for." Rep. Ed Royce said Obama's policies have led to "a general loss of US credibility, making successful foreign policy nearly impossible," and Rep. Michael McFaul criticized the President, arguing that "America's leadership, not its withdrawal, is more crucial than ever." Former State official Nicholas Burns, meanwhile, said on Twitter, "Clear, effective #Obama speech at #West Point. Call for US leadership as 'indispensable' and 'exceptional.' And more focus on diplomacy."

The AP (5/29, Katz) reports from London that "many experts" said Obama's speech "was an inevitable – and welcome – evolution of U.S. foreign policy." David Livingstone, "an expert in international security at London's Chatham House," said "Obama's words went against the 'American instinct to go in hard with the military first' when crisis erupts." In Qatar, "Brookings Center director Salman Shaikh saw the speech as a boost for consensus," adding, "He talked about partnerships, working multilaterally, which is all to be welcomed." Meanwhile, "Obama's speech was not broadcast on Chinese television," and "there was no immediate reaction from the government, state media or government-backed scholars."

US News & World Report (5/28, Welsh, 645K) notes that Joe Klein called the speech "'realist' because Obama 'made no threats or promises that he couldn't carry out, which was a relief.'" E.J. Dionne Jr. also praises the speech in the Washington Post (5/29, 4.22M), concluding that "in calling for restraint and realism – and by insisting on raising the threshold for wars of choice – Obama may yet prove himself to be the best friend American internationalists have."

INTERIM IG REPORT SPARKS NEW BIPARTISAN CALLS FOR SHINSEKI'S RESIGNATION. An interim report released Wednesday by the VA's Inspector General, which found systemic problems at VA hospitals across the nation and that more than 1,000 veterans seeking care at a VA hospital in Phoenix were never put on a list, has sparked new calls for Secretary Shinseki's resignation. The report was covered by all three network news broadcasts and led two of them, edging out the President's commencement address at West Point. In addition, the report receives extensive print coverage this morning, most of which focuses on lawmakers' calls for Shinseki's ouster.

In its lead story, ABC World News (5/28, lead story, 2:30, Sawyer) said the "scathing report...makes it clear the breakdown of care goes further than we knew." ABC (Avila) added that the IG found that "the corruption is 'systematic throughout veterans hospitals,'" and "because of the long wait to see VA doctors, veterans are at 'risk of being lost or forgotten' and 'may never obtain their requested or required primary care,' putting those who served America in danger just like survivors claimed." ABC added that some in Congress are "calling for a criminal investigation, for the FBI to enter the probe, which has now spread to 42 VA medical facilities across the country."

The CBS Evening News (5/28, lead story, 3:00, O'Donnell, 5.08M) reported in its lead story that the President called the revelations "extremely troubling." CBS (Cordes) noted that Shinseki announced, "I am directing that the Phoenix VA healthcare system immediately triage each of the 1,700 veterans to bring them timely care," but his statement "wasn't enough for Republican Senator John McCain, who represents Arizona." McCain: "This issue has reached a level that requires the Justice Department involvement. These allegations are not just administrative problems. These are criminal problems." McCain "wants Shinseki to step down, and today for the first time, some Senate Democrats agreed."

NBC Nightly News (5/28, story 5, 2:25, Williams, 7.86M) called the IG report a "bombshell," which is "triggering bipartisan demands" for Shinseki's resignation. NBC (O'Donnell) added that the President "now considers Secretary Shinseki to be on probation."

The AP (5/29, Bobic) reports that the IG "says veterans at the Phoenix VA hospital waited on average 115 days for their first medical appointment," which is "91 days, on average, longer than the hospital had reported." The report "says investigators have 'substantiated serious conditions' at the hospital, including 1,700 veterans who were waiting for an medical care but were not on an official waiting list."

The Washington Post (5/29, Lowery, Hicks, 4.22M) reports that the IG's report sparked "a wave of outrage and prompting new calls for VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to resign." The Post notes that according to White House officials, the President "had been briefed on the Inspector General's interim report and he found it 'extremely troubling.'"

The Hill (5/28, Sink, 237K) reported in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that White House press secretary Jay Carney said in a statement, "As the President said last week, the VA must not wait for current investigations of VA operations to conclude before taking steps to improve care. ... It should take immediate steps to reach out to veterans who are currently waiting to schedule appointments and make sure that they are getting better access to care now." The Hill noted that the statement "did not mention the status of Shinseki, though, who has faced a growing number of high-profile calls from lawmakers to resign in the wake of the VA report."

Politico (5/29, Dovere, Brown, 637K) reported that while the President "hasn't decided to fire" Shinseki, he has "reached the point where he doesn't know if Shinseki will be able to fix the problems at the VA, White House aides said Wednesday." According to the aides, the President is "waiting to make a final decision until he has more information: a report from Shinseki himself due to the White House this week and one from Rob Nabors, the deputy chief of staff he put in charge of a separate review, which is due in June."

Reuters (5/28, Rampton) also notes the White House's statement on the President's reaction to the report.

The Wall Street Journal (5/29, A1, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that following the release of the interim report, Shinseki issued a statement saying, "I respect the independent review and recommendations of the Office of Inspector General regarding systemic issues with patient scheduling and access. ... I have reviewed the interim report, and the findings are reprehensible to me, to this Department, and to Veterans."

The Washington Times (5/29, Klimas, 455K) reports that Shinseki "said that he has already placed the leaders of the Phoenix facility on administrative leave and that he will quickly act on the report's other recommendations to get veterans the care they need as soon as possible."

In an op-ed for USA Today (5/29, 5.82M), Shinseki calls the findings in the interim report "reprehensible to me and to this department," and adds that "we are not waiting to set things straight." Shinseki writes that he has "challenged our leadership to ensure we are doing everything possible to schedule veterans for their appointments," and adds that he remains "committed to providing the high-quality care and benefits that veterans have earned and deserve." An accompanying editorial in USA Today (5/29, 5.82M) is critical of Shinseki, noting that "why he needed a new report to tell him all this after nearly six years in charge is a mystery — one that both he and the president need to explain."

The New York Times (5/28, A1, Oppel, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says the release of the report "is certain to increase the pressure on Mr. Shinseki to step down."

Similarly, Politico (5/28, Herb, 637K) reported that while Shinseki "has vowed to stay on and fix the VA's problems and has ordered an internal review of VA's scheduling practices," the interim report "is likely to fuel Shinseki's critics, who have argued that new leadership is needed to fix the problems."

USA Today (5/28, Zoroya, 5.82M) reports that there was "swift" reaction to the report from Capitol Hill as Sen. John McCain and House Veterans Affairs Committee chairman Jeff Miller called for Shinseki's resignation.

Roll Call (5/28, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported in its "#WGDB" blog that Sen. Jeff Flake also

called for Shinseki's resignation. Roll Call also noted that McCain went "as far as to say he should be 'fired' by President Barack Obama." Both McCain and Flake "want a criminal investigation by the Department of Justice and the FBI."

The Los Angeles Times (5/29, Simon, 3.46M) reports that with the IG's report "drawing fresh bipartisan outrage from Capitol Hill, it is becoming tougher for the retired four-star general to save his job." In addition to McCain , Flake, and Miller, Sen. Mark Udall said that the "systemic problems at the Department of Veterans Affairs are 'so entrenched that they require new leadership to be fixed.'" The AP (5/29) reports that Udall is the first Democratic senator to call for Shinseki to resign.

Politico (5/28, Everett, Herb, 637K) reported that Udall and Sen. John Walsh, both of whom are "facing difficult reelection campaigns," both issued statements saying Shinseki "must go, reflecting pressure to break ranks with the Obama administration during an election year." Democratic Rep. Scott Peters also called for Shinseki's removal and Sen. Mark Begich who is facing "a tough road to reelection," has scheduled a press conference on the VA for Thursday. Meanwhile, Sen. Mary Landrieu's campaign "issued a statement highlighting the Louisianan's support for a House-passed bill that would allow the VA to fire those involved in the scandal."

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/29, Mitchell, 1.48M) reported in its "Hot Dish Politics" blog that Sen. Al Franken and Reps. Tim Walz and Collin Peterson have joined the "growing number of Democratic lawmakers" calling for Shinseki's resignation.

The Los Angeles Times (5/29, Simon, 3.46M) reports that VA officials received "a bipartisan tongue-lashing" from the House Veterans' Affairs Committee Wednesday evening. During the "contentious" hearing which followed the released of the interim IG report, lawmakers accused the VA of "'stonewalling' requests for documents pertinent to the investigation into long wait times for healthcare." Chairman Jeff Miller "accused the agency of stonewalling the panel and failing to produce all of the documents it has sought." He warned the officials at the hearing, "Until VA understands that we're deadly serious, you can expect us to be over your shoulder every single day."

Burr Stands By Attack On Veterans Groups. Politico (5/28, Topaz, 637K) reported that in an email Wednesday, Sen. Richard Burr said that he is not "backing down from his recent attack on veterans' groups and even stepped up his assault, charging the organizations are more upset by his comments than they are by the scandal at the Department of Veterans' Affairs." Burr wrote, "I absolutely stand by my statement," referring to "his controversial open letter blasting some of the organizations for not pressing for the ouster of Secretary Eric Shinseki in the wake of the VA scandal." Burr added, "In fact, the reaction from some of the Veterans Service Organizations —VFW, DAV, and PVA — seems to prove my point: their national leadership are far more outraged by my words than they have been about the VA scandal or Secretary [Eric] Shinseki's mismanagement of the agency."

DEMOCRATS COULD MOVE TO ATTACH ASSAULT WEAPONS RESTRICTIONS TO SPENDING BILL. USA Today (5/28, Davis, 5.82M) reports that while Democrats "may offer gun-related amendments to an annual spending bill under consideration" in the House this week, Minority Whip Steny Hoyer "acknowledged the effort is unlikely to be successful." Still, Democrats "have a rare opportunity to offer amendments this week to the Commerce, Justice, Science spending bill because the annual spending bills are generally debated under a process that affords the minority party more flexibility to offer amendments."

McClatchy (5/28, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that Hoyer told reporters on Wednesday that Democrats "are discussing adding a gun amendment that would likely attempt to strike the 'prohibition on requiring gun sellers to report on multiple sales on assault-type weapons.'" The piece notes that Elliott Rodger "used three pistols in his attacks, rather than the high-powered rifles the bill presumably would target."

Politico (5/28, French, 637K) reports that Democrats "have repeatedly called for tougher enforcement on guns after mass shootings...but no legislation has gained significant momentum." The piece also adds that Hoyer "said he was not hopeful Congress would ultimately act."

Administration "Squeezing" Finances Of Gun Stores. The Washington Times (5/29, Riddell, 455K) reports that Powderhorn Outfitters, which sells firearms among other things, "says it's the latest victim of a federal multiagency task force that is squeezing financing sources for industries deemed 'high-risk' by the Obama

administration, such as porn stores, drug paraphernalia shops and gun merchants." The company was dumped by TD Bank of Maine. The Times says it has previously reported on "gun retailers' complaints that the administration is bypassing Congress and is using increased scrutiny by financial regulators to choke off their lines of credit and squeeze them out of business."

House Bill Would Expand Ability To Force Mentally Ill Into Treatment. The Wall Street Journal (5/29, A6, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that legislation proposed by Rep. Tim Murphy, trained as a psychologist, is getting new attention in the wake of the California shootings. The legislation would make it easier for authorities or family members to force a mentally ill individual into treatment. However, it has drawn concern from those worried it violates the rights of the mentally ill.

California Also Considering Legislation Limiting Access Of Mentally Ill To Guns. The New York Times (5/29, A18, Medina, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in the wake of the Santa Barbara shooting, California lawmakers are "championing legislation that would permit law enforcement officials and private individuals to seek a restraining order from a judge that would keep people with a potential propensity for violence from buying or owning a gun," a process similar to one currently covering cases of domestic violence. However, "even in California, with an overwhelmingly Democratic majority in both houses of the Legislature, it could prove difficult to get the bill passed" due to both gun-rights opposition and concerns about "limiting civil liberties of those dealing with mental illness."

Emanuel Proposes New Gun Restrictions. The New York Times (5/28, Bosman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Tuesday, Mayor Rahm Emanuel called gun violence Chicago's "most urgent problem," and "outlined a proposal on Tuesday that would make it harder to buy firearms in the city." The plan "would restrict gun purchases for individuals to one a month and would mandate that all gun sales be videotaped, an effort to deter buyers from using false identification." In addition, gun store employees "would be required to undergo background checks and complete training to help them spot the common signs of gun traffickers."

The Chicago Sun-Times (5/29, Spielman, 1.1M) reports in its "Early & Often" politics blog that Emanuel "insisted Wednesday that he's trying to prevent 'straw purchases' — not intimidate licensed gun owners — by requiring the owners of Chicago gun stores to videotape every weapons sale." Emanuel said, "We think it's enforceable. We think it's smart. We think it's tough. . . . We think it meets the standards set out, but does it in a way that's consistent with the direction the court set forth, but also with the direction that the people of Chicago set forth. They want their streets safe."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Adding Delay To Immigration Failure."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (5/29, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) criticizes President Obama for asking DHS Secretary Johnson to delay his review of ways to reduce deportations. The Times said that Obama "has deported more people more quickly than any other president," and has asked for the delay to give the House GOP time to act, but the Times doesn't see that as likely. The Times concludes that the Administration "keeps on deporting people, figuring that after two million deportations, give or take, what's a few thousand more?"

"President Obama Misses A Chance On Foreign Affairs." In an editorial, the New York Times (5/29, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) writes that the President's West Point speech "did not match the hype, was largely uninspiring, lacked strategic sweep and is unlikely to quiet his detractors, on the right or the left." Obama "provided little new insight into how he plans to lead in the next two years, and many still doubt that he fully appreciates the leverage the United States has even in a changing world."

"The Fringe Gets Bigger." The New York Times (5/29, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that the success of "fringe parties" in the European Parliament elections "does not mean the European project...is in any immediate danger of being voted out of existence." According to the Times, it is necessary for Europe's leaders to engage in a "serious discussion on issues like immigration" and whether the EU has "become too intrusive and controlling."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Tying America's Hands."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (5/29, 4.22M) criticizes

the President's West Point speech, saying that Obama, "as he has so often in his political career, Mr. Obama has elected to respond to the critical consensus not by adjusting policy but rather by delivering a big speech." Yesterday, he "marshaled a virtual corps of straw men," such as "those who 'say that every problem has a military solution.'" The Post also accuses Obama of shaking "the confidence of many US allies" and encouraging "some adversaries," and adds "that conclusion can be heard not just from Republican hawks but also...more quietly, from some leading congressional Democrats."

"General Discontent." The Washington Post (5/29, Board, 4.22M) editorializes the "disastrously low" turnout in Egypt's election showed the "relentless propaganda" of Sisi, "which claimed he enjoyed overwhelming support...was proved false." The Post says Sisi will likely "propel Egypt toward increasing disorder," and warns that if the Obama Administration ignores "warning signs" such as the election, it will "find itself hanging onto another weak and despised Arab dictator."

"For Montgomery School Board."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Amazon."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the Justice Department's pursuit of Apple and five major publishers on allegations that they colluded against Amazon and the buyers of electronic books has enabled the strong-arm tactics Amazon employs against publishers.

"Obama At West Point." In a highly critical editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) also accuses Obama of setting up a false choice between isolationism and using the military to solve every foreign policy problem, and argues that the speech sidestepped the President's foreign policy failures, not mentioning the reset with Russia, the Asia pivot, the red line in Syria or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"IRS Judgment Day." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (5/29, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) praises a Federal judge's ruling that the IRS must defend its slow handling of the application of a Pennsylvania group for tax exempt status, saying the ruling will force the agency to make public and be accountable for the procedures it used in deciding on tax exempt status applications for conservative groups.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Obama Lays Out Vision On Foreign Policy
Report Finds Failures In Phoenix VA Care
Egyptian TV Swayed Public Against Morsi, In Favor Of Sisi
Apple Agrees To Buy Beats For $3 Billion

New York Times:
Severe Report Finds VA Hid Waiting Lists
A Master Of Beats Lends Apple A Skilled Ear
Obama Warns US Faces Diffuse Terrorism Threats
Terror's Front: Local Groups Eyes On West
Lyrical Witness To Jim Crow, And The Caged Bird
Right This Way, Sir, For Botox And A Quick Prostate Exam

Washington Post:
Sergeant Accused Of Sex Assaults On Women
Daughter Of The South Who Gave Voice To Generations
Out With The Traditional In New Orleans
Obama Lays Out Foreign Policy Plan
Report: Wait At VA Clinic 115 Days
For Retired NFL Big Men, Was It Worth The Weight?

Financial Times:
Obama Seeks $5Bn Counter-Terror Fund
Apple Buys Beats For $3Bn
GSK Salesmen Want "Bribes" Reimbursed
Stryker Rules Out Near-Term Bid For S&N
"Theftie" Aims To Help Catch Phone Thieves
Falling Renminbi Raises Eyebrows Overseas

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Veterans Affairs Scandal; Severe Weather; California-Santa Barbara Shooting; Obama-West Point Speech; Donald Sterling Scandal; Maya Angelou Obit; Canada-Kidnapped Infant Rescued.
CBS: Veterans Affairs Scandal; Maya Angelou Obit; Obama-West Point Speech; Syria-American Suicide Bomber; Ohio-Executions On Hold; California-Santa Barbara Shooting; Ukraine Crisis; Severe Weather-South Dakota; Severe Weather-Louisiana, Texas; Donald Sterling Scandal.
NBC: Edward Snowden Interview; Edward Snowden Interview-John Kerry; Edward Snowden Interview-White House; Edward Snowden-Legal Analysis; Veterans Affairs Scandal; Obama-West Point Speech; Maya Angelou Obit; California-Santa Barbara Shooting; Texas Politics-Ralph Hall Defeated; Severe Weather-South Dakota.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Veterans Affairs Scandal; CDC-MERS Virus; Obama-West Point Speech; Maya Angelou Obit;
CBS: Veterans Affairs Scandal; Obama-West Point Speech; Syria-American Suicide Bomber; Colorado-James Holms Trial; Massachusetts-Aaron Hernandez Case; Wall Street.
FOX: Veterans Affairs Scandal; Obama-West Point Speech; Brad Pitt Attacked; Sports-NBA Playoffs; Maya Angelou Obit; Egypt-Presidential Election Results; CDC-MERS Virus; California-Twitter Scavenger Hunt.
NPR: Obama-West Point Speech; Libya-Violence; Egypt-Presidential Election Results; Veterans Affairs Scandal; New York-Three World Trade Center Construction; Chicago-Hand Gun Limit Proposal; Increased Birthrate Report.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President delivers remarks at the White House Healthy Kids & Safe Sports Concussion Summit, East Room, open press; participates in a clinic as part of the White House Healthy Kids & Safe Sports Concussion Summit, South Lawn, pooled press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President and Dr. Jill Biden will depart San Francisco, California, en route Seattle, Washington. Afterwards, the Vice President and Dr. Biden will return to Wilmington, Delaware. Highlights: The Vice President will attend a reception for the Democratic National Committee at a private residence. This event is closed press. Dr. Biden and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will host a discussion with Seattle-area business leaders to spotlight best practices that will help strengthen and build 21st century workplaces. The panel discussion at the Seattle Center will be open to pre-credentialed members of the media.
US Senate: May 26 – June 2. — Senate on break until the week of June 2nd.
US House: 10 a.m. — the House will meet for Morning Hour debate and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS – IMMIGRATION — 9:30 a.m. CPC will hold a public forum titled "The Impact of Current Immigration Policy on Women and Children." The forum will precede Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson's testimony in the Judiciary Committee later that morning. Speakers: Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ), CPC Co-Chair; Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), CPC Co-Chair; Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA); Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX); Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA); Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI); Rep. Jan Schakowsky(D-IL), Members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; Two impacted children; Two impacted women; Experts on immigration and family separation. Location: 2226 Raybum. Contacts: Amy Emerick Clerkin (Rep. Grijalva), 202-225-2435. Mike Casca (Rep. Ellison), 202-225-4755

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — 10 a.m. Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN). Location: HC-8. Contacts: Conference Communications Ofc, conferencepress@mail.house.gov, 202-225-5107

TIANANMEN SQUARE REMEMBRANCE — 11:30 a.m. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) will join Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), and other Members of Congress to hold a event in remembrance of the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989. Location: Rayburn Room (H-207). Contacts: Kevin Smith, Michael Steel, 202-225-0600. Notes: Coverage Details: All camera crew gear must be in place by 10:00 a.m. for the security sweep. All media must be credentialed through the appropriate media gallery. Carts and gear must be stored in H-320

'RESPECT ACT' — 12 p.m. Congressman George Holding (R-N.C.) and House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member John Conyers (D-Mich.) will hold a press conference to introduce bipartisan legislation, the "Respecting Senior Performers as Essential Cultural Treasures" or the "RESPECT" Act. The RESPECT Act is intended to ensure that older artists receive fair pay from the digital radio services that use their work. Participants include: Martha Reeves, of Martha & the Vandellas; Roger McGuinn, of The Byrds; Sam Moore, of Sam & Dave; Richie Furay, of Buffalo Springfield and Poco; Dickey Betts, of The Allman Brothers Band; Al Jardine, of The Beach Boys; Mark Farner, of Grand Funk Railroad; Gene Chandler, "The Duke of Earl"; Karla Redding, daughter of Otis Redding. Location: 2237 Rayburn. Contacts: Andrew Schreiber (Rep. Conyers), 202-225-6906

CBC – EDUCATION — 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) will host "Educational Success for Black Men and Boys in a Post Brown v. Board of Education Era," to discuss policies and priorities that will help eliminate systemic barriers for educational success. (The panel discussion is open to the public and will be streamed live at cbc.fudge.house.gov.) Hosted by Rep. Frederica S. Wilson; Rep. Alcee L. Hastings; Rep. Chaka Fattah; Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott; Rep. Danny K. Davis. Moderator: Jonathan Capehart, Columnist, Washington Post and Contributor, MSNBC. Panelists: Judith Browne-Dianis, Co-Director, Advancement Project; Dr. Roy Jones, Executive Director, Call Me Mister; Dr. Leticia Smith-Evans, Interim Director of Education Practice, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.; Dr. Ivory Toldson, and Deputy Director, White House Initiative on HBCUs. Location: 2226 Rayburn. Notes: For more information, please contact Keenan Austin at Keenan. Austin@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-4506.

FOR-PROFIT SCHOOLS — 3 p.m. Congressman Mark Takano, Congresswoman Susan Davis and Congressman Raul Grijalva, along with Young Invincibles, will hold a press conference to urge the Department of Education to strengthen accountability standards of for-profit schools and put stronger protections in place for for-profit college students. Location: House Triangle. Contacts: Brett Morrow (Rep. Takano), 202-225-2305.

TECHAMERICA – CLOUD SERVICES – REP. CONNOLLY — 3 p.m. TechAmerica Foundation will release a new report, Cloud Buyers Guide for the Federal Government, to assist departments and agencies with their transition to cloud-based service models, a strategic priority under the Cloud First initiative. Representative Gerry Connolly, co-chair of the House Cloud Computing Caucus, will discuss recommendations on how government departments and agencies can successfully transition to cloud-based model services. Panelitst: Greg Capella, Department of Homeland Security; Patrick Dwyer, CGI; Matthew Goodrich, General Services Administration; Yogesh Khana, CSC; Keith Trippie, Trippie Group. CONTACT: Audrey Chang, (202) 295-8779 or audrey.chang@harbourgrp.com. Location: B-339 Rayburn.

NED – 2014 DEMOCRACY AWARD — 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Imprisoned Chinese activists Liu Xiabo and Xu Zhiyong honored for their work with the 2014 Democracy awards. Accepting the Award on behalf of Liu Xiaobo will be House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. For a full biography of Rep. Pelosi. Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) will be receiving the 2014 Democracy Service Medal. http://www.ned.org/events/2014-democracy-award. Location: B-338 Rayburn. Contacts: info@ned.org ((202) 378-9700)

ISRAELI PARLIAMENTARIANS — 5:30 p.m. An eleven-member delegation from Israels Parliament (Knesset), including seven Knesset Members from a variety of political parties and the Director-General of the Knesset, will be hosted by Members of Congress on Capitol Hill Thursday in commemoration of Jerusalem Day. Contact: Jordanna McMillan (202) 697-1540 jordanna.mcmillan@iiacf.org. Location: Rayburn Gold Room. On the Net: http://www.israelallies.org/

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

APPROPRIATIONS — 9 a.m. Full Committee Mark Up – FY 2015 Agriculture Appropriations Bill. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=381018. Location: 2359 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Power "Promoting New Manufacturing Act." Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Markup to consider H.R. 1771, the "North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act of 2013," and H.R. 4449, the "Human Trafficking Prevention Act." http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102281. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

INTELLIGENCE — 10 a.m. Business meeting (open, will close) on 1) T&T Subcommittee Report and 2) Member Access Requests. Followed by a closed meeting on Ongoing Intelligence Activities. Location: HVC-304.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 10 a.m. Full Committee Markup on: H.R. 2175 (Johnson of Ohio), To direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day. "World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2013"; H.R. 2569 (Welch), To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Missisquoi River and the Trout River in the State of Vermont, as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. "Upper Missisquoi and Trout Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; H.R. 3606 (McClintock), To permit certain activities to be conducted on Federal land within the Emigrant Wilderness of Stanislaus National Forest in the State of California at the level at which such activities were conducted on such land before the wilderness designation, and for other purposes. "Emigrant Wilderness Historical Use Preservation Act of 2013; H.R. 4296 (Sablan), To amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands.; H.R. 4350 (Daines), To direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important lands into trust, and for other purposes. "Northern Cheyenne Lands Act; H.R. 4742 (Hastings of Washington), A bill to improve and strengthen many provisions of the current Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. "Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act. http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=381117. Location: 1324 Longworth. On the Net: http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Government Operations, "Pseudo-Classification of Executive Branch Documents: Problems with the Transportation Security Administrations Use of the Sensitive Security Information Designation." http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/pseudo-classification-executive-branch-documents-problems-transportation-security-administrations-use-sensitive-security-information-designation/. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations hearing on "Assessing Inadequacies in VA Data Usage for and Services Provided to Visually-Impaired Veterans." Witnesses: Panel 1: Glenn Minney, Director of Government Relations, Blinded Veterans Association; Terry Kebbel, Veteran; Travis Fugate, Veteran. Panel 2: Dr. Maureen McCarthy, MD, Deputy Chief Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Lorraine Landfried, Deputy Chief Information Officer for Product Development, Office of Information Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs. Accompanied by: Dr. Mary Lawrence, MD, Deputy Director, Vision Center of Excellence. Accompanied by: Mr. Pat Sheehan, Director, 508 Compliance Office, Department of Veterans Affairs. http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/assessing-inadequacies-in-va-data-usage-for-and-services-provided-to-visually-impaired. Location: 334 Cannon.

WAYS AND MEANS — 10:15 a.m. Markup of HR 2807, "Conservation Easement Incentive Act of 2013"; HR 4619, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the rule allowing certain tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes"; HR 4719, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory"; HR 3134, "Charitable Giving Extension Act"; HR 4691, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax rate for excise tax on investment income of private foundations"; HR 4718, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation." Location: 1100 Longworth.

JUDICIARY — 10:30 a.m. Oversight of the United States Department of Homeland Security. Witness: Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2014/5/oversight-of-the-u-s-department-of-homeland-security. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — 11 a.m. Full committee hearing on Examining the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Process. Witnesses: Dr. Richard S.J. Tol, Professor of Economics, University of Sussex; Dr. Michael Oppenheimer, Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs, Department of Geosciences, Princeton University; Dr. Daniel Botkin, Professor Emeritus, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara; Dr. Roger Pielke Sr., Senior Research Scientist, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, and Professor Emeritus of Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University. http://science.house.gov/hearing/full-committee-hearing-examining-un-intergovernmental-panel-climate-change-process. Location: 2318 Rayburn. Notes: Updated time.

ENERGY & COMMERCE — 12:30 p.m. Briefing on the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations Report About Serious Mental Illness. With Congressman Tim Murphy (PA-18). Presenters: Michael Welner, M.D., forensic psychiatrist, Founder/Chairman of the Forensic Panel; DJ Jaffe, Founder and Executive Director of Mental Illness Policy Organization; Edward Kelley, father of son with schizophrenia and advocate for reform. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

SMALL BUSINESS — 1 p.m. Hearing on &8203;Will EPA's 'Waters of the United States' Rule Drown Small Businesses? Witnesses: Jack Field, Owner, Lazy JF Cattle, Yakima, WA, Testifying on behalf of the National Cattleman's Beef Association; Tom Woods, Owner, Woods Custom Homes, Blue Springs, MO Testifying on behalf of National Association of Home Builders; Alan Parks, Vice President, Memphis Stone and Gravel Co., Memphis, TN – Testifying on behalf of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association; William Buzbee, Professor of Law, Director, Emory Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program, Emory Law School, Atlanta, GA. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373099. Location: 2360 Rayburn.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS — 1 p.m. Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs hearing on "Defined Expectations: Evaluating VAs Performance in the Servicemember Transition Process." Witnesses: Panel 1: Nancy E. Weaver, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Warrior Care Policy, Department of Defense – Accompanied by: Mr. Dave Bowen, Director of Health Information Technology, Defense Health Agency, Department of Defense; Diana Rubens, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Accompanied by: Thomas Murphy, Director of Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Panel 2: Linda A. Halliday, Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Accompanied by: Ms. Nora Stokes, Director, Bay Pines Benefits Inspection Division, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Accompanied by: Mr. Ramon Figueroa, Project Manager, Bay Pines Benefits Inspection Division, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Panel 3: Eric Jenkins, Rating Veterans Service Representative, Winston Salem Regional Office, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO and the AFGE National VA Council; Debra J. Gipson, Individual Servicemember; Gerardo Avila, National MEB/PEB Representative, The American Legion; Paul Raymond Varela, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Brendon Gehrke, Senior Legislative Associate, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/defined-expectations-evaluating-vas-performance-in-the-servicemember-transition-process. Location: 334 Cannon.

HOMELAND SECURITY — 1:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Transportation Security hearing on "Lessons from the LAX Shooting: Airport and Law Enforcement Perspectives". Witnesses: Mr. Frank Capello, Director of Security, Fort Lauderdale – Hollywood International Airport; Michael J. Landguth, President and Chief Executive Officer, Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority, Raleigh-Durham International Airport; Kevin Murphy, President, Airport Law Enforcement Agencies Network; Marshall McClain, President, Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102274. Location: 311 Cannon.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific hearing Energy Needs in Asia: The U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas Option. Witnesses: Mikkal E. Herberg, Research Director, Energy Security Program, The National Bureau of Asian Research; Diane Leopold, President, Dominion Energy, Dominion; Jane Nakano,

Fellow, Energy and National Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-energy-needs-asia-us-liquefied-natural-gas-option. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

WAYS AND MEANS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Human Resources hearing on the use of psychotropic medications among children in foster care. Scheduled to testify: Psychologist, author, and television personality Dr. Phil McGraw. Location: 1100 Longworth.

RULES — 3 p.m. Meets on H.R. 4681, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 and H.R. 4745, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. Location: H-313.
Other: CYBER SECURITY CONFERENCE & EXPO — 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Presented by the Digital Government Institute. http://www.digitalgovernment.com/Events/Conferences/Cyber-Security-Conference–Expo.shtml. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

HUDSON – NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE — 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. North American Energy Infrastructure: Will Congress Act? http://hudson.org/events/1161-north-american-energy-infrastructure-will-congress-act-52014. Location: Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C. Headquarters 1015 15th Street, N.W., 6th Floor.

JFK BIRTHDAY WREATH LAYING — 9 a.m. The U.S. Army Military District of Washington will conduct a Presidential Armed Forces Full Honor Wreath-Laying Ceremony at former President John F. Kennedy's gravesite located on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery on the occasion of Kennedy's 97th birthday. Notes: Interested media may contact Shaunteh Kelly at 202-685-4645(desk)/202-497-2011(cell), shaunteh.d.kelly.civ@mail.mil or Courtney Wittmann at 202-494-3939(cell), courtney.a.wittmann.civ@mail.mil no later 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28. For additional details, send an email to the U.S. Army Military District of Washington Public Affairs Office at usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.mediadesk-omb@mail.mil.

TREASURY – FINANCIAL LITERACY — 9 a.m. Under Secretary for Domestic Finance Mary Miller will deliver opening remarks at public meeting of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission. Under Secretary Miller will be joined by Richard Cordray, Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, who will also address the Commission during the opening session. Interested media must RSVP by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, to Ronda Buckmon at Ronda. Buckmon@treasury.gov. Media without press credentials issued by Treasury must include the following information for access into the building: full legal name, date of birth, Social Security number, and country of citizenship. www.treasury.gov/press-center/Video-Audio-Webcasts/Pages/Webcasts.aspx. Location: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Cash Room, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Contacts: Treasury Public Affairs (202) 622-2960

AEI – U.S.-TAIWAN RELATIONS – CHINA — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Ambivalent America? US-Taiwan relations in the age of China discussion with Abe Denmark (National Bureau of Asian Research), Julia M. Famularo (Project 2049 Institute), Jim Thomas (Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments), and AEIs Derek M. Scissors on the current state of US-Taiwan relations and the islands role in Americas Asia policy. AEIs Michael Mazza will moderate. http://www.aei.org/events/2014/05/29/ambivalent-america-us-taiwan-relations-in-the-age-of-china/. Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor Main, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

STIMSON – PUBLIC, PRIVATE PARTNESHIPS — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Partners In Prevention: Pragmatic Steps To 21st-Century Public-Private Partnerships. Keynote remarks by: Rand Beers, Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security Also featuring a panel of industry leaders including: Geoff Powell, President, CH Powell Company; Jennifer Sanford, Senior Manager, International Trade and Energy Policy, Cisco. http://www.stimson.org/events/pragmatic-steps-to-21st-century-public-private-partnerships/. Location: The Stimson Center 1111 19th Street NW 12th Floor.

USAID MPEP SEMINAR — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Engaging Youth in Inclusive Market Development. http://microlinks.org/events/mpep-seminars/engaging-youth-inclusive-market-development?utm_sourceUSAID+Microlinks&utm_campaign83324cc278-MPEP_Seminar_May_29_2014&utm_mediumemail&utm_term0_c250953c9e-83324cc278-56647029. Location: The QED Group LLC, 1250 Eye Street, NW, 11th Floor. Notes: Also available as a Webinar.

CSIS – CITIZEN SOLDIERS — 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Citizen-Soldiers in a Time of Transition: The Future of the U.S. Army National Guard. Keynote Address by: Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN), Co-Chairman, House National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus. Followed by a panel discussion featuring: Dr. Nora Bensahel, Senior Fellow and Co-Director, Responsible Defense Program, Center for a New American Security; Mackenzie Eaglen&65279;, Resident Fellow, Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies, American Enterprise Institute; Stephanie Sanok Kostro. Acting Director, Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Program, CSIS. Panel moderated by: Kim Wincup, Senior Adviser, International Security Program. http://csis.org/event/citizen-soldiers-time-transition-future-us-army-national-guard. Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room, CSIS 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

GREAT LAKES POLICY FORUM — 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. A Complex Partnership: What declassified documents reveal about America's role in the Congo from 1960-1968 and the lessons we can draw today. Speakers: Steve Weissman, Historian, Author and Independent Political Scientist; Dr. John Prados, Senior Fellow and Project Director at the National Security Archive, George Washington University; Dr. Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja, Professor of African Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Moderator: Mvemba Dizolele, Foreign Policy Analyst, Lecturer at Johns Hopkins SAIS, and Peter J. Duignan Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Stanford Universitys Hoover Institution. https://www.sfcg.org/events/glpf-may-2014/ Location: Rome Building, Rome Auditorium, Johns Hopkins SAIS, 1619 Massachusetts Ave NW.

SCOWCROFT CENTER – TPP – BLUMENAUER, BOUSTANY, JR — 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. "The Trans-Pacific Partnership and Asian Security." The Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security hosts a discussion with Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon) and Charles W. Boustany, Jr. (R-Louisiana). This session will be moderated by Charles Lane, editorial writer at the Washington Post. Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street NW, 12th Floor. Notes: http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/the-trans-pacific-partnership-and-asian-security

ARLINGTON – KOREAN WAR BURIAL — 10:30 a.m. Full military honors burial service for U.S. Army Pfc. James R. Holmes, missing from the Korean War, open for media coverage. Notes: All media intending to cover the service must contact Melissa Bohan, Arlington National Cemetery public affairs, for an escort: melissa.bohan@us.army.mil or (703) 614-1091. Please meet at the main entrance to the cemetery on Memorial Avenue by 10:30 a.m. for an escort into the cemetery.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS REPORT — 10:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) release of "Major report" on the Restoration of Rights and Status After Arrest or Conviction. Welcome: Nkechi Taifa, Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society Foundations, Project Overview, Norman L. Reimer, Executive Director, NACDL & Rick Jones, Executive Director of Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem and Co-Chair of NACDL Task Force on Restoration of Rights and Status After Conviction. Special Guests: Congressman Danny K. Davis, Illinois 7th District; Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., former Governor of Maryland, Senior Counsel at King & Spalding (Tentative), Policy & Affected Community Perspective; Lamont Carey, Founder & CEO of LaCarey Enterprises; Bernard Kerik, Former New York City Police Commissioner, Founder/CEO of The Kerik Group; Christine Leonard, Director of the Washington, DC Office of the Vera Institute of Justice. Contact: Ivan Dominguez, Director of Public Affairs and Communications, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, (202) 465-7662 or idominguez@nacdl.org Must RSVP at: https://collateraldamage.eventbrite.com. Location: Open Society Foundations, 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW 7th Floor.

HIV/AIDS DISCRIMINATION — 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Two leading health organizations, the National Health Law Program (NHeLP) and Florida-based The AIDS Institute, will file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS OCR) requesting that federal officials take action to end discrimination targeting people living with HIV/AIDS. Teleconference with Jane Perkins, Legal Director, NHeLP; Wayne Turner, Staff Attorney, NHeLP; Carl Schmid, Deputy Executive Director, The AIDS Institute. Notes: Call in Number: 1-800-434-1335. Passcode: 332946 RSVP/CONTACT: Amina Abbas, aabbas@veng-group.com

NEC – DEMPSEY — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. National Economist club luncheon with Linda Dempsey, International Trade Agreements, National Association of Manufacturers on "Hamessing Trade and the Global Economy to Grow Manufacturing ". http://thenationaleconomistsclub.shuttlepod.org/Default.aspx?pageId=483884&eventId=821936&EventViewModeEventDetails. Location: Chinatown Garden Restaurant 618 H St

NW.

ENERGY INDUSTRY – CYBER THREATS — 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Half-day conference, "Saul Ewing's 8th Annual Energy and Public Utilities Symposium." Tom Ridge, First Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and partner, Ridge-Schmidt Cyber, will join leading executives in Washington as the keynote speaker at the symposium focused on the overall impact of cyber threats on the energy and utilities industries. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Notes: Members of the media interested in covering this event are asked to please contact Leslie Gross (lgross@saul.com) or 215.972-7158.

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH REFORM — 12:15 p.m. – 2 p.m. Briefing: Patient-Centered Medical Homes- The Promise and The Reality. Speakers: Amy Gibson, chief operating officer, Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative, will provide an overview of these models and highlight their impact on cost and quality. Pauline Lapin, senior adviser, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, will discuss the various primary care initiatives under the Innovation Center, including the Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC) initiative; Amy Cheslock, vice president, Payment Innovation for Provider Engagement and Contracting at WellPoint, will discuss private sector initiatives that support PCMHs; Mark Frazer, an independent physician from Ohio participating in the CPC initiative, will discuss the successes and challenges his practice has encountered while making the PCMH transformation. Ed Howard of the Alliance will moderate. RSVP at: www.allhealth.org/email_alerts.asp (202) 789-2300 or e-mail: info@allhealth.org. Location: 325 Russell. Notes: This event is taking place on Friday, May 30.

USIP – MESSAGE BUILDING – FILMS — 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Peacebuilding Messaging Through Films: The 60 Second International Film Festival. Speakers: Haroon Ullah, Policy Planning Staff, U.S. Department of State; Abrar Hassan, Founder and Creative Director, 60 Second International Film Festival; Chary Cole, Founder and Executive Director, Blue Butterfly Collaborative; Moeed Yusuf, Moderator, Director, South Asia Programs, U.S. Institute of Peace. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peace-messaging-through-films-the-60-second-international-film-festival-tickets-11664606151. Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave, NW. Contacts: Amy Calfas acalfas@usip.org

NASI – HEALTH CARE MARKETS — 1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. The National Academy of Social Insurance presents symposium, "Can Antitrust Policy Address Pricing Power in Health Care Markets?" Speakers include: Barak D. Richman, Bartlett Professor of Law and Business Administration, Duke University; David Dranove, Walter McNemey Professor of Health Industry Management, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management; James C. Robinson, Kaiser Permanente Distinguished Professor of Health Economics at the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley; William E. Kramer, Executive Director for National Health Policy, Pacific Business Group on Health; James Roosevelt, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, Tufts Health Plan; Robert Berenson, Institute Fellow, Urban Institute; Ronald Levy, Executive in Residence, Health Management and Policy, Saint Louis University College of Public Health and Social Justice; and Robert Leibenluft, Partner, Hogan Lovells LLP. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 1000. Contacts: Jill Braunstein, 202-243-7009

AEI – EDUCATION – REP. ROKITA — 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. The future of conservative education policy: Remarks from Representative Todd Rokita. Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN), chairman of the US House Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee, has been a leader in producing conservative education reform policies on Capitol Hill from the Student Success Act, which significantly rewrote No Child Left Behind, to bills supporting greater school choice. Join us to hear Rep. Rokita sketch out his vision for the federal role in K-12 education with an eye toward the upcoming elections. AEIs Frederick Hess will provide opening remarks. http://www.aei.org/events/2014/05/29/the-future-of-conservative-education-policy-remarks-from-representative-todd-rokita/ Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

ALUMNI CLUB – UKRAINE — 6:30 p.m. "Ukraine, Russia and the West." A talk on Ukraine "organized by ordinary citizens" who are "disillusioned with the mainstream media, and interested in the world around them, discuss far away countries." Steven Pifer, Brookings Senior Fellow, U.S. ambassador to Ukraine (1998-2000), will discuss the challenges facing Ukraine, Russia's approach and motives, and the West's policy response. Location: 1250 I St. NW, Suite 500. Contacts: Sonja Kotlica, 202-615-3196.

EMBASSY OF ITALY – FOREIGN POLICY — 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Digital Diplomacy Series at the Embassy of Italy, in partnership with Young Professionals In Foreign Policy (YPFP): "Foreign Policy And The Future Of

Engagement." Introductory remarks by: Claudio Bisogniero, Ambassador of Italy to the U.S.; Gary Barnabo, President, YPFP. Panel: Hilary Brandt, Director, Innovative Engagement, U.S. Department of State; Nathaniel Lubin, Acting Director, Digital Strategy, The White House; Adam Smith, Creator, Texts from Hillary; Joe Trippi, Founder, Trippi and Associates. Moderator: Andreas Sandre, Embassy of Italy. Location: 3000 Whitehaven Street, NW. Contacts: Andreas Sandre (Embassy of Italy), 202-612-4446. Notes: RSVP required: press.washington@esteri.it.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All late-night talk shows were in rerun

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BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for Monday, June 2, 2014

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Fri, May 30, 2014 at 3:50 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Sally–

Attached are your briefing materials for Monday, June 2. These have also been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Zaina

4 attachments Attachments 2-4 are unavailable.

6 2 14_2pm_Internal Sage Grouse and ESA Briefing.docx
32K

6 2 14_930am_Aviation Safety Taping Video.docx
21K

6 2 14_1115am_Call with Senator Reid and Durbin.docx
21K

6 2 14_7pm_Dinner Hosted by National Geographic and USA Today (2).doc
47K

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL GREATER SAGE GROUSE UPDATE

DATE: June 2, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 2:00PM – 3:00PM
FROM: James Lyons, Counselor to the A/S LM (202)208-6734; Michael Bean, Counselor to the A/S FWP; Sarah Greenberger, Counselor to the Secretary

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of Monday's meeting is to provide you with an update on Greater Sage Grouse and a few other ESA issues that may be raised during the upcoming meeting of the Western Governors Association.

II. DISCUSSION

Although there is no scheduled discussion of sage grouse matters on the agenda of the upcoming WGA meeting, the subject is likely to come up

- At your Monday lunch with several Governors,
- In questions following your remarks to the plenary session,
- In the press conference following the announcement of the travel and tourism MOU, or
- Informally in conversations with individual governors. You have a meeting set with Governor Sandoval who may raise sage grouse issues.

We are planning the following actions leading up to the WGA meeting:

- OpEd in your name in a regional paper laying out the case for staying the course on Sage Grouse conservation planning
- Outreach at senior staff level to key Governor's Offices (WY, NV, OR, ID, MT) to preview messages around the process for finalizing plans and including states.
- Recommend you call Governor Hickenlooper and possibly Mead
- Action on Lander (for discussion on Monday)

This memorandum briefly recounts the current procedural posture of sage-grouse conservation planning and then suggests several key points you may wish to convey to the Governors. Your materials for WGA will include refined talking points as well as Q&A on specific greater sage grouse and other ESA issues. We will provide call sheets for Governor calls.

Where we are in the process:

In terms of process, the public comment periods have closed on the 15 Draft EISs for the 98 BLM and Forest Service plans being revised or amended. BLM is analyzing the comments received and preparing draft Administrative Proposed Plans (APPs). The draft APPs, which are

to be completed in June, will then be "rolled up" in July so as to evaluate their aggregate impact on each sage-grouse "primary area for conservation" (PAC) and sage-grouse population identified in the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) report. The purpose of the roll-up exercise is to evaluate the extent to which the key threats to each PAC and population have been ameliorated by the plans. The roll-up exercise, in which the states will be invited to participate, will enable whatever fine-tuning of federal and state plans may needed to adequately address key threats.

Key points to emphasize

(1) **The Fish and Wildlife Service has made no decision and has no "leaning" with respect to whether or not the sage-grouse should be proposed for listing**. It will make that determination in 2015 on the basis of all the information available to it then, including the state and federal plans now being completed. It will be guided by the recommendations of the COT report, which was a joint product of state and federal scientists.

(2) Through the collective efforts of state and federal agencies, **avoiding the need to list the species under the ESA is an achievable goal**. The degree of cooperation that has characterized the work of the federal and state agencies over the last three years is unprecedented. If we continue to work together constructively, it is within our power to remove or adequately reduce the threats to the sage-grouse.

(3) **"What is good for the bird is good for the herd."** This recent remark by an Oregon rancher underscores the point that conserving the sage-grouse will have much broader benefits than simply helping that single species. Valued game species, such as mule deer, share many of the sage-grouse's habitat needs and thus will benefit from efforts to conserve the grouse. Indeed, **the PACs that will be the primary focus of conservation efforts for the sage-grouse are generally congruent with the highest priority "crucial habitat" areas in the CHATs** that WGA and the Western states have recently produced.

(4) **The states will be invited and encouraged to take part in the forthcoming "roll up"** of BLM and Forest Service plans, to ensure a comprehensive look at the extent to which key threats have been ameliorated in the PACs. This is essential since state and private land comprises a significant fraction of most of the PACs and a majority of the land in several PACs.

(5) While all the states have been working hard through the Sage Grouse Task Force and other means, **several states have made unique contributions**.

- Wyoming's core area strategy both led the way in building a conservation effort around the most important places, but also made effective use of the state's many regulatory authorities to conserve those places;
- Nevada is in the forefront of efforts to design a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to mitigation;
- Oregon is considering a novel approach to disturbance caps that allows the opportunity to learn from gradual increases in disturbance before reaching established caps; and
- Idaho has embraced adaptive management in a rigorous way.

(6) Through the work of the Task Force, **many good ideas have emerged regarding how we can better prevent fires and more effectively target our post-fire restoration**

efforts. Our ability to implement those ideas will be greatly aided if together we can persuade Congress to enact bipartisan legislation that changes the way we budget for fire. The help of the Western Governors in securing that legislation is needed.

(7) **Now is not the time to kick the can down the road**, as some have suggested. The chance we have this year and next to put in place meaningful conservation measures is the best chance to arrest and reverse the decline of an iconic game bird of the West and the habitat upon which it and much other wildlife depends.

(8) **Release of the Lander Plan.** [We will discuss recent developments and options regarding the Lander plan when we meet.]

BISON CONNECT

Re: Sage grouse

Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> Sun, Jun 1, 2014 at 11:40 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>

Ha - you nailed it all right.

TPB

> On Jun 1, 2014, at 11:35 AM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> Sure - that's fine. Just call when convenient - I will keep my phone
> handy around that time. Enjoy the ice cream for lunch ;>)
>
>> On Jun 1, 2014, at 11:33 AM, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>>
>> Would around 2 work? (b)(6)
>> (b)(6) .
>>
>> TPB
>>
>>> On Jun 1, 2014, at 11:27 AM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>>>
>>> Tommy -
>>>
>>> When is a good time today for you? I'm wide open and catching up on
>>> work, (b)(6) . I'd like to
>>> discuss EPA, along with the items you suggest below.
>>>
>>> Thanks,
>>>
>>> Sally
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPad
>>>
>>>> On Jun 1, 2014, at 10:59 AM, "Beaudreau, Tommy" <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> If you have time either today or early tomorrow (8 am), you and I should chat about sage grouse and WGA.
>>>>
>>>> TPB

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 2, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Jun 2, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO IDENTIFY, PROMOTE HISTORIC LGBT SITES. The AP (6/2) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced Friday at the Stonewall Inn, scene of the riots widely credited with starting the modern gay rights movement, that the NPS will begin marking places of significance to the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans. The NPS is "convening a panel of 18 scholars who will be charged with exploring the LGBT movement's story in areas such as law, religion, media, civil rights and the arts." It will "identify relevant sites and its work will be used to evaluate them for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, designation as National Historic Landmarks or consideration as national monuments." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the US News & World Report (5/30, 645K), the Olympian (WA) (5/29, 119K), the Bristol (TN/VA) Herald Courier (6/2, 81K), WJBK-TV Detroit (6/2, 83K), and KTVU-TV San Francisco (6/2, 128K).

The Washington Post (5/29, 4.22M) reports that "Friday's announcement is a continuation of the administration's efforts signaling the president's commitment to LGBT rights." The Washington Times (6/2, Emst, 455K) reports that Jewell said, "Part of the job of the National Park Service is to tell this story."

The Hill (6/1, Cama, 237K) reports that "the effort is being partially funded by the pro-gay-rights Gill Foundation, the Interior Department said."

Additional AP coverage was provided by the AP (5/30), the AP (5/29), the Washington Times (5/29, Leff, 455K), the Huffington Post (5/29, Wong, 11.54M), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/29, Leff, 1.48M), the Kingston (NY) Daily Freeman (5/28, 73K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/28, 687K), Yahoo! (5/29, Leff, 17.91M), WCBS-TV New York (5/30, 190K), and WJLA-TV Washington (5/30, 118K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Omaha (NE) World-Herald (6/1, 530K), the Houston Chronicle (6/1, Matthews, 2.23M), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (5/30, 585K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/1, Matthews, 1.48M), and KTVU-TV San Francisco (6/1, 128K).

Also reporting on the story are Also reporting on the story are the Washington Post (5/30, 4.22M), the Wall Street Journal (6/2, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), the US News & World Report (6/2, 645K),the AllGov (6/2, 1K), the Raw Story (5/31, 71K), Slate Magazine (5/30, 14.77M), the UPI (5/30), The Wire (6/1), the Daily Beast (5/28, 1.18M), Government Executive (5/30, 28K), Think Progress (5/30, 124K), InTheCapital (DC) (5/30), the Gay Star News (5/30), the PJ Tatler (5/30, 6K), OUT (5/29, 762K), the WND (5/30, 193K), the WND (6/1, 193K), the Pinknews (UK) (5/28, 13K), the Washington Blade (5/27, 89K), GLAAD (6/1, 2K), the Towleroad (6/1, 86K), Joe. My. God. (6/1, 6K), Instinct Magazine (6/1, 496K), WJCL-TV Savannah, GA (5/30, 2K), WFUV-FM New York (6/2), NY1-TV New York (6/1, 41K), and WBUR-FM Boston (5/29, 64K).

INTERIOR AWARDS FIRST LEASES ALONG US-MEXICO BOUNDARY IN GULF. The E&E Daily (5/30) reports that the Interior Department on Friday announced "it has awarded the first three oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico that are subject to a US-Mexico transboundary agreement approved by Congress last December." The BOEM "issued the leases to Exxon Mobil Corp., which had bid $21 million for the tracts 170 miles east of Port Isabel, Texas, at the agency's August 2013 lease sale." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement, "With the agreement now in full force, we can make additional oil and gas along the resource-rich boundary between the United States and Mexico available and we have a clear process by which both governments can provide the necessary oversight to ensure exploration and development activities are conducted safely and responsibly. These leases represent a significant step forward in US-Mexico cooperation in energy production and pave the way for future energy and environmental collaboration."

Also reporting on the story are the Rigzone (6/2, 8K), the Oil and Gas Journal (6/2, 1K), and the Offshore Engineer (6/2).

INTERIOR, UMATILLA TRIBES REACH AGREEMENT FOR LAND BUYBACK. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (5/30, 115K) reports that "the federal government and the Umatilla tribes have reached an agreement to use money from a class-action settlement to buy back trust lands with many owners and consolidate ownership with the tribes." Gary Burke, chairman of the Umatillas board, said, "We lost over 130,000 acres of land once held in common for the benefit of our tribes." Also, "much of the remaining allotted lands on the Umatillas reservation are owned by Indians who are not members of the Umatilla tribes, he said."

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS ASKED TO DELAY NATION-BUILDING PLAN. The Hawaii Tribune-Herald (6/2, 63K) reports that officials at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs are "asking for a six to nine month postponement of a Native Hawaiian convention to determine self-governance in order to educate the public and construct a parallel roll for those who refuse to sign onto a roll ordered by state government." The OHA board of trustees, "faced with 63 people wanting to testify," on Thursday "postponed a decision until its June 5 meeting." The article notes that "testifiers, many of whom flew to Oahu from Hawaii Island and other neighbor islands, were mixed on the best course of action," but "most of those speaking during a daylong meeting frequently punctuated by audience outbursts and applause called for a return to a true Hawaiian kingdom, rather than seek federal recognition or a government-within-a-government status."

Additional coverage of the issue was provided by the Hawaii Free Press (6/2).

CREATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENT IN NEW MEXICO SPARKS INTEREST IN IDAHO. The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (6/2, 56K) reports that "Idaho conservationists took note during last week's creation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico." Supporters "of the 592,000 Boulder-White Clouds monument hope Obama's move in New Mexico is sign of things to come in Idaho." The article notes that "a trend has emerged between the two national monuments Obama has designated with the help of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." In both instances, Jewell "came for a 'listening session' five months before those monuments were designated."

SECRETARY JEWELL'S UK COUSIN CONGRATULATED HER ON DECORATING JOB. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/2, 470K) reports that "when President Barack Obama nominated Sally Jewell to head the Interior Department last year, a British cousin was excited to dash off a celebratory email to the then-head of REI Inc." Jewell's cousin wrote, "The Waddesdon-Washington lines of communication are a bit hazy but it seems congratulations are in order. We hear you've landed the interior decorating job at the White House." Jewell, "a British native who was then preparing for her confirmation before the Senate, forwarded the note to the Interior Department sherpas guiding her through the process." She wrote, "I thought you might get a chuckle out of this message from one of my cousins in the UK. I can always count on family (from both sides of the 'pond') to keep me down to earth."

OBAMA CALLS CLIMATE CHANGE A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE IN WEEKLY ADDRESS. The AP (6/1, Lederman) reports President Obama previewed his announcement of new rules on carbon emissions in his weekly address Saturday, "casting his unprecedented effort to curb greenhouse gases as essential to protect the health and wellbeing of children." The President said, "I refuse to condemn our children to a planet that's beyond fixing." The President recorded the address at Children's National Medical Center, "where medical equipment and white lab coats formed the backdrop." Bloomberg News (6/1, Lerer, 2.76M) reports the President said, "We don't have to choose between the health of our economy and the health of our children." The Voice of America (5/31, 21K) website also reported on Obama's remarks.

Meanwhile, The Hill (5/31, Schroeder, 237K) reported on its website that in the Republican weekly address, Sen. Mike Enzi "accused the administration of trying to kill the coal industry via 'death by regulation,' and slow-walking approvals of domestic oil and gas production, and the Keystone XL pipeline." Enzi said, "The Administration has set out to kill coal and its 800,000 jobs. If it succeeds in death by regulation, we'll all be paying a lot more money for electricity – if we can get it."

EPA To Announce Proposed Rules To Limit Carbon Emissions. Coverage of the planned announcement of the EPA's proposed rules to limit carbon emissions from existing power plants continued on Sunday. The AP (6/1, Lederman, 687K) reports that the rules "form the comerstone" of Obama's "campaign to combat climate change and a key element of his legacy," while the Los Angeles Times (6/1, Hennessey, 3.46M) notes that the fact that the rules will not be announced by President Obama directly "shows just how far the president has shifted his strategy" on climate change. The story was also covered by the New York Times (6/1, Baker, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.65M).

White House Turns Blind Eye To Democratic Attacks On EPA Rules. Reuters (6/1, Mason) reports that, despite the importance of the EPA's new proposed climate rules, the White House has indicated that it does not have a problem with Democratic opposition to the rules in states where Democratic candidates may need to fight the rules in order to maintain a majority in the US Senate.

Green Groups Mount Climate Change Campaign. The New York Times (6/1, Wines, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports, that environmental groups "are mounting their own climate-change campaign" by encouraging "in-your-face-activism" and making "global warming an issue in some of this fall's hardest-fought political campaigns." The Times notes that an example of this "retooled strategy" will occur on Monday, when environmental groups hope to rally support for the new proposed EPA regulations by launching a comment-drive "backed by millions in advertising on cable television and online."

No Obvious Solution To Rising Tides In Norfolk, Virginia. In a front-page article headlined "In Norfolk, Evidence Of Climate Change Is In The Streets At High Tide," the Washington Post (6/1, Montgomery, 4.22M) reports that tides in Norfolk, Virginia "have risen 11 / 2 feet over the past century," noting that "the White House

has offered few answers" on what to do about the problem. Norfolk hired a Dutch consulting firm to develop an action plan, the final result of which would cost over $1 billion and only protect the city from about a foot of additional water, while the Virginia Institute of Marine Science estimates that "by the end of the century, the sea in Norfolk would rise by 51 / 2 feet or more."

LATIMES PRAISES ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS PLAN TO REMAKE PART OF LOS ANGELES RIVER. An editorial in the Los Angeles Times (6/2, 3.46M) praises the Army Corps Of Engineers' decision to "proceed with a more expansive remake of a stretch of Los Angeles River," saying it presents a "historic opportunity: It allows the city to reorient itself away from 20th century development patterns and toward a greener and more habitable urban future." The Times says the project "will bind green space and urban life, the San Fernando Valley and the Central City, the past and the future," adding that while "there will need to be a serious discussion" about how the local portion of the funding for the project will be raised, for now "some celebration is in order."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

MOUNT RAINIER CLIMBERS MISSING. The CBS Evening News (5/31, story 7, 0:20, Axelrod, 5.08M) reported, "Eight climbers are missing tonight on Washington's Mt. Rainier. The last time they were heard from was Wednesday and at that point they were 12,800 feet up Liberty Ridge on the mountain's north face. They had been expected back yesterday."

ABC World News (5/31, story 6, 0:20, Muir) reported, "Tonight here there is a search under way in the west for six climbers missing on Washington's Mt. Rainier. The helicopter search is now focused on the mountain's northwest shoulder – what's called the Liberty Ridge area. The last contact from the group was a phone call on a satellite phone. That was on Wednesday. Included in that group consists are two tour guides."

The AP (6/2) reports that "citing dangerous conditions, Mount Rainier National Park officials said there are no immediate plans to recover the bodies of six climbers who likely fell thousands of feet to their deaths in the worst alpine accident on the mountain in decades."

Also providing coverage are the Washington Post (6/2, 4.22M), the New York Times (6/2, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), the Los Angeles Times (6/2, Dave, 3.46M), the Los Angeles Times (6/2, Ganga, Dave, 3.46M), CNN (6/2, Capelouto, Digiacomo, 12.15M), USA Today (6/2, 5.82M), Bloomberg News (6/2, Polson, 2.76M), the Seattle Times (6/2, 1.22M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/1, 687K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/2, 1.48M), and the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/2, Anderson, 1.48M).

DESIGNATION OF SLEEPING BEAR LAND CELEBRATED. The AP (6/2) reports that "a 13-year struggle to protect fragile characteristics of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was celebrated Friday, as 32,500 acres were dedicated as wilderness." The designation was "contained in legislation approved by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama in March." Sen. Debbie Stabenow said, "Today's designation will go a long way to preserving and promoting one of our state's top tourist attractions. leeping Bear Dunes is one of Michigan's indispensable treasures, and should be protected for future generations to enjoy."

RAT POISON MAKER AGREES TO STOP SELLING FORMULA THAT HARMED KIDS, PETS. The Los Angeles Times (6/2, Groves, 3.46M) reports that "after years of challenges to federal environmental officials, the maker of d-Con rat traps has agreed to discontinue a consumer line of poison-laced baits that have accidentally harmed children, wildlife and pets." The poison will be "replaced next year with a new line of baits that the federal Environmental Protection Agency has approved for use in every state." The article notes that "during nearly two decades of research in and around the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, National Park Service scientists have documented widespread exposure in carnivores to common household poisons."

Also reporting on the story is the Los Angeles Times (6/2, Groves, 3.46M).

JOSHUA TREES DYING DUE TO GLOBAL WARMING. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (5/31, 111K) reports that the "iconic trees" in Joshua Tree National Park are "gradually dying out." According to the article, "the knee-

high young trees that normally would sprout here have largely vanished from some areas of the national park as the climate has grown hotter and drier in recent decades." And "the remaining mature trees are slowly dying, their gnarled branches collapsing to the ground."

PLAN TO REBUILD ERODED BEACH ALONG CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE APPROVDED. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/31, 687K) reports that "federal officials have approved the North Carolina Department of Transportation's plan to rebuild an eroded beach along the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and a nearby wildlife refuge, to protect the Outer Banks highway." According to the article, "federal park and wildlife officials usually are cool to the idea of scooping up sand to rebuild eroded beaches along the Dare County Outer Banks, but they warmed up last year after North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory said it was an emergency." The state Department of Transportation "plans a beach nourishment project this summer to shore up a perennially washed-out section of N.C. 12 at the Hatteras Island village of Rodanthe, after winning cautious approval from the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service."

TOURISTS COMPLAIN FINDING KING HISTORIC SITE IS DIFFICULT. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/2, 1.36M) reports that Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site officials are asking the Georgia Department of Transportation "to rework signage on the Downtown Connector to help drivers more easily find the neighborhood that nurtured America's greatest civil rights hero." Judy Forte, the National Park Service superintendent of the site, said, "Tourists complain all the time that they can't find us off I-75/85. Or they miss the exit completely."

Bureau of Land Management:

NEVADA RANCHERS DELIVER PETITIONS AGAINST BLM OVER GRAZING. The AP (6/2, Chereb) reports that "about 40 riders on horseback blocked traffic on the main highway of Nevada's capital city Friday to deliver petitions to Gov. Brian Sandoval against the US Bureau of Land Management over grazing rights on federal land." The gathering "ended a weeklong, 300-mile Pony Express-style odyssey orchestrated by Elko County Commissioner Grant Gerber that began on Memorial Day in northeast Nevada." Sandoval "assured them he would take their concerns over grazing allotments in Battle Mountain to the highest officials in the federal agency."

Also reporting on the story is Reuters (6/2, Dobner).

WILD HORSE ADVOCATES FIGHTING ROUNDUPS TO CULL OVERPOPULATED HERDS. The AP (6/2, Sonner) reports that "wild-horse advocates fighting government roundups across the West are citing past rulings that shot down their own legal challenges in urging a US judge to throw out a lawsuit by livestock interests seeking the removal of thousands of more mustangs from the range." The American Wild Horse Preservation filed a motion in Reno Thursday to dismiss the suit by the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation and Nevada Association of Counties. According to the article, "the rural groups argue more roundups are needed to cull overpopulated herds competing with livestock for water and forage."

Also providing coverage are KMGH-TV Denver (6/2, 30K) and WCPO-TV Cincinnati (6/2, 96K).

BLM WON'T CITE TRESPASSERS IN ILLEGAL ATV RIDE. The E&E Daily (5/30) reports that the BLM will not "issue citations to the dozens who rode all-terrain vehicles into an off-limits area of Utah's Recapture Canyon, deferring instead to the US attorney's office in Salt Lake City to take further action." BLM Utah is "still completing its investigation into who violated the agency's 2007 closure order, which banned motorized vehicles in 1,871 acres of the canyon east of Blanding in order to protect Anasazi and Pueblo sites dating back more than 2,000 years." The bureau is also "assessing whether those who participated in the May 10 protest ride damaged any of the canyon's ceramic hearths, storage cisterns, ceremonial kivas and other American Indian sites, which is a separate and potentially more severe federal offense."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DISPUTE WITH NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY. In continuing coverage of the dispute with Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy Reuters (6/2, Allen) reports that interviews with some of Bundy's former rancher neighbors and ex-BLM officials suggest that in Clark County, at least, the BLM no longer wanted the ranchers' fees. Rather, the bureau wanted them off the range to fulfill its legal obligation to protect the tortoises living on its land.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SUPPORTERS OF D.C. BOOTH HISTORIC NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY SEEKING INFORMATION. The AP (6/2) reports that supporters of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives are "trying to find out whether the Spearfish facility is again on the chopping block." Officials with the nonprofit Booth Society have "filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's regional office in Denver and the national office in Washington, D.C." according to the article, "the request is for documents that describe, detail, implement or reference any plans to reorganize, repurpose, or close D.C. Booth in the present, near or distant future."

Also reporting on the story is the Black Hills (SD) Pioneer (6/2, 11K).

CONNECTICUT GOV. MALLOY VETOES BILL ALLOWING EEL FISHING. The AP (6/2, Collins) reports that Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy on Friday "vetoed a bill that would have opened Connecticut waters to the multimillion-dollar eel industry, saying it would be premature because federal officials are reviewing whether the American eel is a threatened species." The article notes that "state lawmakers overwhelmingly approved the bill in the final minutes of this year's legislative session, which ended May 7." In his veto message to Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, Malloy said, "Protecting vulnerable species is of the utmost importance. Until and unless it is determined that the American eel will not be on the brink of extinction in the near future, I cannot approve a bill that would prematurely move towards lifting our state restriction on fishing for the young life stages of this species."

In a separate story, the AP (6/2) reports that "twenty-four lawmakers," led by Rep. Mary Mushinsky, urged Malloy to veto the bill, saying the FWS is "currently reviewing whether the American eel is a threatened species."

SOME CONSERVATIONISTS DON'T AGREE ON SAGE GROUSE LISTING. The National Journal (6/2, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that as the federal government is weighing whether to list the sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act, "not all conservationists want to see the US Fish and Wildlife Service add the grouse to the rolls." Instead, "conservation organizations across 11 states argue that by working with miners, ranchers, state governments, and others who care about the bird—and the implications of listing it as endangered—they can preserve sagebrush habitat and help the sage grouse recover." The article notes that "another reason for avoiding a listing: If the government goes forward, it's unclear what might happen and what approach federal officials might take to conserve the bird and its habitat."

FWS CRITICIZED FOR GOING AFTER CALIFORNIA TREE TRIMMER FOR HURTING HERONS. FOX News (5/30, 6.72M) reports that "in what's being described as a bird-brained prosecution, federal authorities are going after a California tree trimmer for accidentally injuring five birds while trying to remove limbs from a tree earlier this month." The FWS is reportedly is seeking a $1,500 fine against Ernesto Pulido for a misdemeanor violation. Rep. Darrell Issa, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, calls it "nothing short of bureaucratic bullying." Issa "sent a letter to the head of the federal wildlife agency earlier this week questioning the decision to go after Pulido, noting that charges are expected next week."

NEW MEXICO COUNTY TO FIGHT RARE GROUSE LISTING. The AP (6/2) reports that "an eastern New Mexico county is suing the federal government in an effort to stop the listing of a rare grouse as a threatened species." The Roosevelt County Commission will meet in special session Tuesday to give notice of intent to file a suit against the FWS. Also, the county is "joining an Arizona/New Mexico coalition in combating the lesser prairie chicken listing."

GROUP SAYS CALIFORNIA MINING OPERATION THREATENS SNAIL. The AP (6/2) reports that "an environmental group says a mining company's plan to extract more than a billion dollars' worth of gold and silver from a mountain near the desert town of Mojave threatens a snail's existence and must be halted." The Center For Biological Diversity claims the proposed operation by the Golden Queen Mining Company would "threaten as much as 40 percent of the habitat available to the Mohave shoulderband snail." Lutz Klingmann of Golden Queen Mining said that "the project has already undergone two environmental reviews."

QUIVIRA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO REMAIN CLOSED WHEN WHOOPERS ARRIVE. The AP (6/2)

reports that the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge will "remain closed to hunting when endangered whooping cranes are migrating through, but hunters will get a new chance to go after deer and turkey in the refuge under a plan recently approved by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service." The Comprehensive Conservation Plan the FWS approved for the refuge "requires officials to continue closing Quivira to hunting when whooping cranes arrive." The plan "also calls for adding limited, controlled deer and turkey hunts, which had previously been prohibited in the refuge," according to Mike Oldham, refuge manager.

RESEARCHERS SAY ABRUPT REMOVAL COULD HARM NATIVE PLANTS, ANIMALS. The E&E Daily (5/30) reports that "the practice of eradicating invasive species from ecosystems as quickly as possible has the potential to harm native endangered species, researchers say." Adam Lampert, an author on a study released yesterday in the journal Science, said "a more flexible funding process that takes into account a slower and more careful removal focusing on the way invasive species interact with endangered or rare species in the area would be better." Lampert's study "examines a case in the San Francisco Bay in which an invasive plant species called Spartina, common along parts of the Atlantic Coast of the United States, took over from a Spartina species native to the area."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

PROTESTERS URGE ADDITIONAL POLLUTION CONTROLS AT NAVAJO GENERATING STATION. The Arizona Republic (5/31, Randazzo, 1.45M) reported that protesters gathered outside the Salt River Project headquarters on Friday to urge environmental regulators to impose additional pollution controls on the Navajo Generating Station. The EPA previously proposed to mitigate haze from the power plant by implementing new pollution controls in 2018, but "SRP and the other plant owners said the plan would cost $1 billion and was unworkable because of the complex ownership structure." The SRP and plant owners are also currently waiting for the EPA's decision on a proposal to close one of three units in 2019 and add pollution controls to others by 2030.

Pollution Controls For Navajo Generating Station Supported. In an op-ed for the Arizona Republic (5/30, 1.45M), Rep. Chad Campbell supports the plan by the EPA to force the Navajo Generating Station to "clean its air to protect the Grand Canyon." He argues that "we should not accept a lesser plan that will prolong cleanup efforts or omit pollution controls" Campbell also argues that "considering that the federal government — the Bureau of Reclamation — has a majority interest in Navajo Generating Station, it should be doing even more to set an example and begin cleanup of the plant — not in 10, 20 or 30 years, but now."

OSMRE HALTS WEST VIRGINIA PROJECT FUNDING OVER POTENTIAL "IRREGULARITIES". The E&E Daily (5/30) reports that the OSMRE is "halting funding for six water supply projects in West Virginia, citing potential legal 'irregularities' in the application process." According to the article, "the projects at issue are meant to address problems stemming from abandoned coal mines." However, OSMRE says "officials in the state have yet to prove that they qualify for Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (6/2) and the Bluefield (WV) Daily Telegraph (6/2, 47K).

BLM WORKING ON UINTA BASIN AIR QUALITY ISSUE. The Deseret (UT) News (6/2, 610K) reports that the BLM and Utah State University have "agreed to share resources and scientific data to address air quality issues in the Uinta Basin." Utah BLM director Juan Palma and USU vice president for commercialization and regional development Rob Behunin "signed a memorandum of understanding Friday, formalizing the relationship between the federal agency and the university." Palma said, "I think it's good to remember the Uinta Basin is really critical to the BLM as it relates to oil and gas. In order to for us to keep that focus on (issuing) permits to drill, we need to address air quality."

OIL, GAS LEASE SALE IN NEVADA CHALLENGED. The AP (6/2, Griffith) reports that "a rural county has joined an environmental group in challenging an oil and gas lease sale in central Nevada that could open 270 square miles of public land to hydraulic fracturing, better known as fracking." Lander County and the Center for Biological

Diversity have "filed formal administrative protests over" the BLM's "July 17 sale of leases in 102 parcels around Big Smokey Valley between Austin and Tonopah." Both parties argue "fracking involves an enormous amount of water and they're concerned about its effect on the nation's most arid state at a time of severe drought."

HOUSE PANEL APPROVES NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESOURCE SWAP. The E&E Daily (5/30) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee has "approved legislation meant to rectify a 100-year-old surveying error, which deprived the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of valuable coal resources within tribal land." Montana Republican Rep. Steve Daines' H.R. 4350 would "give the tribe control of roughly 5,000 acres of subsurface coal rights in the southeastern part of the state." According to the article, "the current owner, Great Northern Properties LP, would then receive roughly 10,000 acres of federal coal reserves outside Northern Cheyenne lands as compensation."

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE SENDS FRACKING BILL TO GOVERNOR. The E&E Daily (5/30) reports that North Carolina legislators "pushed through a bill intended to speed up the approval of natural gas drilling in the state, while imposing criminal penalties on people who disclose the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing." The "Energy Modernization Act" would originally "have made it a felony to disclose fracking chemicals." The state Senate had "already reduced that to a misdemeanor before sending the bill to the House of Representatives."

BID FOR CALIFORNIA FRACKING MORATORIUM FAILS ON STATE SENATE FLOOR. The E&E Daily (5/30) reports that "California legislation that would have established a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and other forms of petroleum-well stimulation failed in the state Senate yesterday." S.B. 1132, by state Sen. Holly Mitchell, would "have banned all well-stimulation treatments until the state completes a study on their environmental effects." The article notes that "the final Senate vote was 16-16, short of the 21 votes needed to send the bill to the Assembly."

SOME BLAME FRACKING WELLS FOR SPATE OF TEXAS EARTHQUAKES. USA Today (6/2, Jervis, 5.82M) reports that some Texans are blaming a rash of recent earthquakes on fracking, though energy companies "deny a direct link between the earthquakes and the wells, citing a lack of evidence." The "vast majority of the 35,000 disposal wells throughout Texas have reported no seismic activity, said Bill Stevens of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers," though his group has created a task force to examine the issue.

Offshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR URGED TO HALT PLANNED SEISMIC AIRGUN SURVEYS. The E&E Daily (5/30) reports that "critics of the Interior Department's plan to allow the use of seismic air guns to search for oil and gas beneath the Atlantic seafloor enlisted a bit of star power yesterday from actor Reid Scott of the HBO comedy show 'Veep.'" At a briefing held by Oceana, Scott said, "The federal government wants to turn the Atlantic Ocean into a blast zone. This has the potential to harm everything in its path, including fisheries and marine life such as dolphins, sea turtles and the already endangered North Atlantic right whale."

Additional coverage of seismic testing was provided by KNOM-FM Nome, AK (5/30).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

GROUPS CRITICIZE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The Stockton (CA) Record (5/30, 123K) reports that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan is "available only in English, despite the high prevalence of other tongues in diverse Delta communities such as Stockton." California has "published broad overviews of the project in Spanish, but those overviews do not dive into complex environmental impacts, such as the possibility of degraded water quality or increased air pollution." Critics of the plan "voiced their objections Thursday, claiming that the lack of translated documents violates the law by leaving uninformed the very people who stand to be impacted the most – such as Stockton's large Southeast Asian community, which is culturally connected to the Delta and eats large quantities of fish."

Also reporting on the story is the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (6/2, 206)

Comments Period Extended. The Stockton (CA) Record (5/31, 123K) reports that "the public has more time to

comment on the governor's twin tunnels plan after officials Friday released a legal document that contains more details about how the $25 billion plan would be implemented." The article notes that "the six-month public comment period was due to end on June 13. Instead, it will now continue until July 29."

Also reporting on the story is the Los Angeles Daily News (5/30, 347K).

BOR PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL GUARD AT BELLE FOURCHE RESERVOIR. The Rapid City (SD) Journal (6/2, 141K) reports that the BOR and the South Dakota Army National Guard have "entered into an agreement permitting the SDARNG access to federal Reclamation lands at Belle Fourche Reservoir at Orman Dam to conduct military training." Joe Hall, Division Manager of Environment and Resources with Reclamation's Dakotas Area Office, said, "The planned projects will provide valuable on-the-job training to troops, while benefiting Reclamation, the Belle Fourche Irrigation District and the recreating public."

BOR SEEKING TO BUILD CONSENSUS AROUND LAKE NIGHTHORSE. In an op-ed for the Durango (CO) Herald (5/31, 28K), Ed Warner, Western Colorado area manager for the BOR, writes that the BOR would "like to provide an update to the community regarding recreation at Lake Nighthorse as part of the Animas-La Plata Project." He notes that "currently, we are working with all Animas-La Plata Project partners and stakeholders to reach consensus regarding development and management of recreation at Lake Nighthorse." He continues, "We believe that we are nearing an agreement to integrate recreation into the project while ensuring compatibility with the primary purposes of the project for municipal and industrial water supply."

FEINSTEIN WATER LEGISLATION CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (6/2, 696K), Harrison 'Hap' Dunning, a member of the board of The Bay Institute and professor of law emeritus at the UC-Davis School of Law, and Steve Machtinger, the chairman of the coard of The Bay Institute and an attorney in San Francisco, criticize Sen. Dianne Feinstein for appearing "to blame the conservation community for the state's failed water management practices." They claim that "the restoration program created by Feinstein's legislation has minimized water supply impacts to the Friant water districts and provided water supply benefits to other parts of the San Joaquin Valley." In conclusion, they urge Feinstein "to preserve the legacy of her commitment to balancing agricultural water supply needs with protection of the environment."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR SEND NOTICE THAT THEY WILL BEGIN TAKING LAND INTO TRUST. The Oneida (NY) Dispatch (5/31, 32K) reports that the Interior Department has "filed a notice that it will begin taking 13,003.89 acres of land into trust on behalf of the Oneida Indian Nation as of June 30." According to the notice filed by Department of Justice Attorney Steven Miskinis, "the current cases raised by Upstate Citizens for Equality, Verona and the Central New York Fair Business Association have no bearing on the DOI's 2008 decision to take land into trust for the OIN." The Interior Department "goes on to state in the notice that they will give no further notice of taking land into trust on behalf of the Nation."

Also reporting in the story is the Utica (NY) Observer Dispatch (5/31, Cooper, 11K).

INTERIOR APPROVES NAVAJO NATION'S NEW LAND LEASING REGULATIONS. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (6/2, 46K) reports that the Interior Department has "approved the Navajo Nation's new regulations for streamlining residential and business site leasing on the reservation." The Navajo Nation General Leasing Regulations of 2013 "grant the tribe the authority to approve such leases without involvement from the Bureau of Indian Affairs." In a press release issued by the Navajo Nation Washington Office, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly called the Interior Department's approval "a great step forward."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEDERAL RECOGNITION RULES. Additoinal coverage of the proposed changes to federal recognition rules was provided by the Seattle Times (6/2, 1.22M).

Top National News:

CRITICS QUESTION LEGALITY OF SWAP THAT FREED AMERICAN POW BERGDAHL. The culmination of a deal reached by the Administration to secure the release of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl in return for the freeing of

five Taliban leaders who had been held at Guantanamo Bay dominated the news cycle on Sunday, and was the lead story on all three network newscasts, which devoted almost 19 minutes of airtime to the story – more than all the rest of the day's news combined. Media reports cast Bergdahl's release as an unambiguously positive development for his family and his community, but also as a controversial move on the part of the Administration given the crimes allegedly perpetrated by the Taliban leaders swapped for Bergdahl and the potential precedent that the deal sets.

On the CBS Evening News (6/1, story 2, 2:10, Glor, 5.08M), Mark Albert reported that the five Taliban leaders who were released are "among a group of 48 prisoners the Pentagon previously deemed too dangerous to release." Albert noted that on Sunday, Sen. John McCain "said although he is relieved Sergeant Bergdahl is coming home, the circumstances of the exchange disturb him." McCain: "They are big, high-level people, possibly responsible for the deaths of thousands."

In a front-page article, the New York Times (6/2, A1, Rosenberg, Gall, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "for the Obama administration...the exchange was an important achievement" that "also set up a new conflict between President Obama and Republican lawmakers, who argued that the administration should not have set the prisoners free...without congressional approval, and that the released men would strengthen" the Taliban. The Times also says the swap "risked conferring the kind of legitimacy on the Taliban leadership that American officials have sought to avoid."

On the CBS Evening News (6/1, lead story, 2:45, Glor, 5.08M), Jeff Glor noted that on Sunday in Qatar, "the five members of the Taliban the US traded arrived at an airport to hugs and smiles." In the lead story for NBC Nightly News (6/1, lead story, 4:15, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported that "Taliban leader Mullah Omar himself...is calling the release by the US of five Taliban commanders from Guantanamo Bay, 'a great victory.'" Holt added, "By keeping its promise to not leave any American behind on the battlefield, the Obama Administration says it has kept the faith with our troops, but a growing chorus of lawmakers is...asking, 'at what cost?'"

David Muir, on ABC World News (6/1, lead story, 3:00, Muir), mentioned "the images of the five Taliban detainees hugged upon their arrival in Qatar," and then said there has been a "backlash to their release." Muir added that the Administration is "very pleased with how this played out" although correspondent Jim Avila went on to report that "the happy day talking point has not spread to all quarters of Washington." ABC World News (6/1, story 3, 1:10, Muir) also had a short segment focused on the reception in Qatar for the Taliban leaders released this weekend.

The Hill (6/1, Cirilli, 237K) reported that the news of the prisoner swap "dominated the Sunday talk shows, pushing Friday's resignation of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki from the headlines." According to The Hill, "The Sunday shows were packed with Republicans launching into political attacks against President Obama and the administration." The New York Times (6/2, Knowlton, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in response, "top Obama administration officials pushed back...against Republican" arguments that the deal "could allow dangerous Taliban leaders to return to the fight, might encourage terrorist groups to seize American hostages and possibly violated a law requiring notification of Congress."

McClatchy (6/1, Allam, Rosen, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that the "unprecedented prisoner exchange...sparked both jubilation and controversy." McClatchy notes that the Administration "failed to notify Congress 30 days in advance, as U.S. law requires, that it was transferring the five Taliban detainees from Guantanamo," and, according to McClatchy, "officials explained their decision to notify Congress only after the detainees were being turned over to Qatari diplomats by saying Obama was acting in his capacity as commander in chief." An anonymous "official" is quoted as saying, "This is a case of the commander in chief exercising his prerogative to get one of his soldiers back."

The AP (6/2, Baldor, Woodward) reports that on Sunday, Republicans contended that the swap "could place U.S. troops in danger, especially if the freed detainees return to the fight." AFP (6/2, Mojaddidi) reported that in an appearance on NBC's Meet The Press, Defense Secretary Hagel "staunchly defended the trade as an effort to save Bergdahl's life and said it could provide a breakthrough for" the ongoing negotiations with the Taliban regarding the future of Afghanistan.

The Wall Street Journal (6/2, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reported that on CBS' Face The Nation,

McCain said, "It is disturbing that these individuals would have the ability to reenter the fight. And they are big, high-level people, possibly responsible for the deaths of thousands." The Journal also reports that on ABC's This Week, Sen. Ted Cruz asked, "How many soldiers lost their lives to capture those five Taliban terrorists that we just released?" Cruz added, "What does this tell terrorists? – that if you capture a U.S. soldier, you can trade that soldier for five terrorists we've gone after." According to the Journal, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI), the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, acknowledged that members of Congress had been told that a deal such as the one that took place was being considered, but Rogers said the proposal "didn't get a very warm reception from either party in the national security committees."

The Hill (6/1, Cirilli, 237K) noted that Sen. John McCain also said that when the Administration "previously told Congress about the possibility of transferring the Taliban members for the release of Bergdahl," the plan was met with "bipartisan opposition." Reuters (6/2, Strobel) reports that on NBC's Meet the Press, Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Il) said, "The release of five mid- to high-level Taliban is shocking to me, especially without coming to Congress" because "it says in the law you have to notify Congress."

The Wall Street Journal (6/2, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial that is otherwise critical of the Administration and the President's decision to release top-level Taliban commanders before a final peace deal has been reached, maintains that, contrary to the opinions of many Republicans, the President had the authority to release the detainees.

Former senator and secretary of the navy Jim Webb weighed in on the controversy on CNN's State Of The Union (6/1, Crowley, 862K), stating: "We're going to have to see a much more vigorous discussion from Congress on presidential authority. What we've seen in the past is that Republicans don't particularly want this discussion because they're more aggressive in terms of this use of force in that part of the world. The Democrats don't want it because they don't want to be disloyal to the presidency, but we have to have that discussion."

During a roundtable on ABC's This Week (6/1, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), the Weekly Standard's Bill Kristol stated: "I'm impressed by the courage of Republicans willing to criticize ... the unfortunate deal made by the President of the United States. Everybody is happy to have Sergeant Bergdahl back, but it takes some political courage to say, 'wait a second, let's look at the long-term national interest of the country.'"

Pentagon: Freed Taliban Tied To War Crimes, Terrorist Training, Opium Dealing And Attacks On US Forces. The Los Angeles Times (6/2, Cloud, 3.46M) provides some background information from Pentagon documents on each of the Taliban leaders released. According to the Times, Muhammad Fazl, the former deputy defense minister, "was wanted by the United Nations for 'possible war crimes, including the murder of thousands of Shiites,'" and Khairullah Khairkhwa, who served as interior minister, "was associated' with a military training camp run by Abu Musab Zarqawi, a notorious Al Qaeda-linked leader later killed by U.S. forces in Iraq," and "was 'probably one of the major opium drug lords in western Afghanistan.'" The Times adds that Mullah Norullah Noori was also "wanted by the U.N. for possible war crimes, including the deaths of thousands of Shiite Muslims," while Abdul Haq Wasiq, "was involved in recruiting other militant groups to fight against the U.S.," and Mohammed Nabi "was part of a militant cell...that attacked U.S. troops."

The Washington Times (6/2, Sherfinski, 455K) reports that Sen. Saxby Chambliss, the ranking Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee, "said the administration assure him six months ago they would not consider the release of the leaders without consulting Congress." Chambliss is quoted as saying, "These men are not soldiers; they are dangerous terrorists and President Obama should be treating them as such."

Regarding the shift in policy, New York Times columnist David Sanger stated during a roundtable on CBS' Face The Nation (6/1, Schieffer, 2.64M), "Four years ago there was the thought that this would be a confidence building measure that would be on the way to a more comprehensive deal with the Taliban," but "it was not only Republicans who...had concerns at that time about releasing these five members of the Taliban; there was some prominent Democrats who similarly had concerns."

Dan Murphy, in an analysis for the Christian Science Monitor (6/2, Murphy, 566K) titled, "Five Taliban Released For Sgt. Bergdahl? This Is How Wars End," says that "with the US set for full withdrawal from Afghanistan at the end of 2016, the prospect of a crushing defeat for the Taliban is pretty much nil." According to Murphy, "Four of the five men released into Qatar's custody...were indeed senior members of the Taliban movement." However,

Murphy adds that based on currently available evidence, "none of the released men were ever directly involved in efforts to mount terrorist attacks on the US or any other foreign country."

Hagel, Rice: US Did Not "Negotiate With Terrorists" To Secure Bergdahl's Release. The Huffington Post (6/1, Sheppard, 11.54M) reported that on CNN's State Of The Union, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI), the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, warned that when "you negotiate" for hostages "you've sent a message to every al Qaeda group in the world – by the way, some who are holding U.S. hostages today – that there is some value now in that hostage in a way that they didn't have before." According to Rogers, "The No. 1 way that al Qaeda raises money is by ransom – kidnapping and ransom."

USA Today (6/2, Gomez, 5.82M) reports that in a statement released on Sunday, Sen. Marco Rubio said, "I fear that the administration's decision to negotiate with the Taliban for Sgt. Bergdahl's release could encourage future terrorist kidnappings of Americans." According to the Washington Times (6/2, Sherfinski, 455K), "the handover followed secret and indirect negotiations between the U.S. and the Taliban."

However, Reuters (6/2, Strobel) notes that on NBC's Meet The Press, Hagel insisted that the Administration "didn't negotiate with terrorists" to secure Bergdahl's release. Reuters reports that Hagel said, "As I said and explained before, Sergeant Bergdahl was a prisoner of war. That's a normal process in getting your prisoners back."

The Huffington Post (6/1, Sheppard, 11.54M) reported that on ABC's This Week, National Security Adviser Susan Rice "defended the negotiation and release," saying Bergdahl "wasn't simply a hostage, he was an American prisoner of war, captured on the battlefield." The Daily Caller (6/1, Bordelon, 408K) noted that on CNN's State Of The Union, host Candy Crowley asked Rice, "point blank, did the US negotiate with terrorists for his release?" According to the Daily Caller, Rice answered, "What we did was ensure that, as always, the United States doesn't leave a man or woman on the battlefield."

NBC's Miklaszewski Challenges Rice's Claim About Bergdahl's Health. The New York Times (6/2, A1, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the Administration "cited Sergeant Bergdahl's deteriorating health as the reason it moved so quickly to obtain his release, even at the price of trading five veteran Taliban fighters." The Wall Street Journal (6/2, A1, Entous, Barnes, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) also reports that Administration officials said Bergdahl's physical condition was the impetus for completing the deal.

On CNN's State Of The Union (6/1, Crowley, 862K), National Security Adviser Susan Rice said, "Given the acute urgency of the health condition of Sergeant Bergdahl and given the President's constitutional responsibilities, it was determined that it was necessary and appropriate not to adhere to the 30-day notification requirement because it would have potentially meant that the opportunity to get Sergeant Bergdahl would have been lost."

On NBC Nightly News (6/1, lead story, 4:15, Holt, 7.86M), correspondent Jim Miklaszewski reported that "critics also claim President Obama broke the law by not notifying Congress 30 days before the Taliban prisoners were released." Miklaszewski added that Rice "claims Congress was informed once Bergdahl was released, but that his failing health required immediate action." However, according to Miklaszewski, "By all accounts, Bergdahl was in good physical condition when turned over to US special operations forces."

The Los Angeles Times (6/2, Pearce, 3.46M) notes that Secretary Hagel also "told reporters traveling with him on a visit to Afghanistan" that Bergdahl's "safety and health were both in jeopardy," and described Bergdahl's health as "deteriorating." Likewise, USA Today (6/2, Brook, 5.82M) reports that Hagel said "the urgency to make the move was made in part because Bergdahl's health had been deteriorating after five years as a Taliban prisoner," meaning the "decision to secure his release now was made...'essentially to save his life,'" according to Hagel.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, on Fox News Sunday (6/1, Wallace, 586K), "We saved this man's life. The commander in chief acted within his constitutional authority.. [to] get that man after five years of captivity."

Circumstances Surrounding Bergdahl's Capture Draw Scrutiny. Persistent unanswered questions about how Bergdahl ended up separated from his unit are said to have muted the reaction to news of his release from members of the military. Under the headline, "Mixed Reaction To Bergdahl's Recovery By Service Members Who Consider Him A Deserter," The Washington Post (6/2, A1, Lamothe, Sieff, 4.22M) reports that Bergdahl "is

believed to have slipped away from his platoon...after growing disillusioned with the U.S. military's war effort." The Post adds that "an entire U.S. military division and thousands of Afghan soldiers and police officers devoted weeks to searching for him, and some soldiers resented risking their lives for someone they considered a deserter."

The New York Post (6/2, 2.77M) is reporting that "in an e-mail to his parents three days before he went missing," Bergdahl wrote: "These people need help, yet what they get is the most conceited country in the world telling them that they are nothing and that they are stupid. ... I am ashamed to be an American. And the title of US soldier is just the lie of fools. ... The horror that is America is disgusting."

On NBC Nightly News (6/1, lead story, 4:15, Holt, 7.86M), correspondent Jim Miklaszewski reported that US officials "still want to know why Bergdahl walked off his base...in Afghanistan." On the CBS Evening News (6/1, lead story, 2:45, Glor, 5.08M), Bigad Shaban reported that "behind the applause and the embrace the Bergdahls got from the President in the Rose Garden...is the lingering question of how and why Sergeant Bergdahl separated from his unit, only to be caught by the Taliban." According to Shaban, "US officials refuse to comment on reports over the past few years that Bergdahl may have tried to desert his post when he walked off base unarmed." On ABC World News (6/1, story 2, 2:30, Muir), Jim Avila said, "the murky details of sergeant Bergdahl's original capture in 2009 were not divulged" this weekend.

According to the AP (6/2, Baldor, Woodward), Defense Secretary Hagel, at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan, "thank[ed] the special operations forces who retrieved Bergdahl," but "was met with silence" from the troops assembled there after declaring: "This is a happy day. We got one of our own back." The AP says it is "unclear whether the absence of cheers and applause came from a reluctance to display emotion in front of" Hagel "or from any doubts among the troops about Bergdahl." The AP notes that it has been reported that before he ended up in the Taliban's custody, Bergdahl was "considering desertion" because he was "ashamed to even be American."

The New York Times (6/2, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "there was some ambivalence among the troops waiting in a hangar at Bagram to hear from" Hagel. The Times also reports that on Sunday, an unidentified "senior Defense Department official indicated...that the Army would probably not be punishing the sergeant for any violations of rules," saying, "Whatever he may have done, I think he's more than paid for it."

The Hill (6/1, Cirilli, 237K) reported that "some critics allege that Bergdahl walked off his base...in 2007." The Hill noted that National Security Adviser Susan Rice was asked by George Stephanopoulos on ABC's This Week, "If it is found that he did, will he be disciplined or has he already paid the price?" According to The Hill, Rice replied, "Certainly, anybody who has been held in those conditions in captivity for five years has paid an extraordinary price, but that is really not the point." Rice said Bergdahl "served the United States with honor and distinction."

The New York Times (6/2, Knowlton, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that when "asked whether the sergeant, who by some reports was captured after leaving his base without authorization, might be subject to military discipline... Hagel replied, 'This is a guy who probably went through hell for the last five years, and let's focus on getting him well.'"

The Los Angeles Times (6/2, Pearce, 3.46M) reports that on Sunday, Bob Bergdhal said, "I'm so proud of your cultural abilities to adapt, your language skills. ... But most of all, I'm proud of how much you wanted to help the Afghan people, and what you were willing to do to go to that length."

Afghan Officials Protest Release Of Taliban Commanders Without Their Input. The Wall Street Journal (6/2, Abi-Habib, Hodge, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an article titled, "Afghanistan Raises Objections To Swap Of Taliban Prisoners For American," reports that some Afghan officials are angry because they think they could have wrested substantial concessions from the Taliban in return for the five US detainees, and now they have lost their bargaining power without ever having been informed by the US that such a deal was imminent.

Detainee Advocates Hope Bergdahl Swap Could Be A Harbinger Of Gitmo's Closure. The AP (6/2, Fox) reports that "some who have criticized the government for moving too slowly on transfers say the exchange for Bergdahl...shows the Obama administration can act more forcefully to close Guantanamo." Wells Dixon, "an attorney with the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights who has represented prisoners at

Guantanamo," is quoted as saying, "This illustrates that the U.S. government can transfer prisoners when it is motivated to do so."

Special Operations Mission To Retrieve Bergdahl Detailed. According to the Washington Post (6/2, A1, Hamburger, Sieff, 4.22M), "The commander of the U.S. Special Operations team that retrieved...Bergdahl on Saturday was in direct contact with his Taliban counterpart as the two sides arranged and approached their rendezvous near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan." The Post adds that "officials said 'dozens' of Special Operations troops went to the site in helicopters for the meeting with 18 Taliban...while additional militants waited in the distance." The Post also reports that while Bergdahl "had been held in western Pakistan for nearly five years by the Taliban-allied Haqqani network," US officials "insisted...that it was the Taliban, and not the Haqqanis, who turned him over."

Absence Of Koran Quote In White House Transcript Noted. Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (6/1, 408K) titled, "Obama Submits To Taliban Demands, Allows Praise For Allah," notes that appearing alongside President Obama, Bob Bergdahl, Sgt. Bergdahl's father said, "Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim," which Munro translates as "In the name of Allah, most Gracious, most Compassionate." According to Munro, "Although Bergdahl quoted the Quran verse, the White House transcript did not translate it or even include" mention of it having been recited. Munro notes that the transcript" simply said Bergdahl spoke in the Pasho language, which is the language of the Pushtun tribe, which forms the vast majority of the Taliban force," although, "in fact, 'Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim' is Arabic."

The New York Times (6/2, Furber, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an article on the planned celebrations in Bergdahl's hometown of Hailey, Idaho, reports that Bob Bergdahl learned Pasho, "the language common to the Taliban," as part of his years-long effort to convince his son's captors to release him.

SANDERS PROPOSES BROAD VA REFORM BILL. USA Today (6/2, Davis, 5.82M) reports that on Sunday, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders released a "broad proposal" to "revamp health care for 6.5 million veterans as the department faces an expanding investigation into the way care is provided at VA medical facilities." On CBS' Face The Nation, Sanders said, "The truth is that when people get into the VA, the quality of care is good. The problem that we have to address is access to the system and waiting lines." A hearing on the proposal will be held on Thursday, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said the Senate "could move quickly to vote on it."

The AP (6/2, Cappiello) reports that the legislation "would allow veterans facing long delays to seek care outside the VA, at private doctors' offices, military bases or community health centers." In addition, it "also authorizes emergency funding to hire new doctors and nurses and would provide scholarships or forgive college loans for doctors and nurses who go to work at the VA." Finally, it "would give the department authority to fire poor-performing executives, but not as broadly as a bill passed in the House and defeated in the Senate last month."

Reuters (6/2, Trott) reports that Sanders said, "We are going to introduce legislation either tomorrow or Tuesday which addresses the short-term need to make sure that any veteran who is on a long waiting line will be able to get the care that he or she needs, either at a private facility or a community health center or Department of Defense base."

The Washington Post (6/2, O'Keefe, 4.22M) reports that in addition to Sanders, several Republicans, including Sens. John McCain and Richard Burr, "have announced plans to introduce a series of proposals as soon as Tuesday but have not specified what they might include." Looking at Sander's legislation, it also covers a number of issues not raised by the current VA scandal. It would "authorize expanded dental care for veterans, restore full cost-of-living adjustments for military retirement pensions, provide assistance to veterans who were sexually assaulted or raped while serving and require advance, multi-year appropriations for VA operations."

In his column for the Washington Post (6/2, 4.22M), E.J. Dionne Jr. writes that the response to the VA scandal is a "prime example of what's wrong with our politics." Dionne says that Shinseki "is a true Patriot," and it is now time for Congress to "account for their own mistakes." He argues that Sanders is one the right track with his legislation.

In an editorial, USA Today (6/2, 5.82M) says that the "Washington ritual part" of the VA scandal has ended, and

now begins "the daunting and difficult task of fixing the VA's deep-seated and systemic problems." USA Today says that "one good place to start is brutal honesty," adding that all involved "should drop the charade that any of this was a surprise." The Administration "will need to find new leaders who have experience in the private sector, who are proven managers, who know how to run hospitals or huge academic institutions."

Veterans Groups Seek Better Management, Not Additional Funding. The Washington Times (6/2, Klimas, 455K) reports that the President and "some of his supporters in Congress" have "signaled that their next goal may be a boost in funding for the troubled department's health care services." However, veterans groups argue that the VA's problems are "with management and leadership, which can't be fixed with cash."

Speculation Surrounding Shinseki's Successor Mounts. The VA scandal was a top story on the Sunday news shows, with much of the focus being on the departure of Secretary Shinseki, the needs of the department, and the qualifications for a successor.

Regarding Shinseki's successor, former senator and secretary of the navy Jim Webb said on CNN's State Of The Union (6/1, Crowley, 862K), "You need someone who knows how to run institutions and who understands the nature of government bureaucracies. When I was in the Pentagon years ago, we saw a lot of people come from the corporate world thinking that they were going to apply the corporate standard involving weapons systems, for instance. You need to have both. You need to have someone who knows how to get to the heart of these problems."

Sen. John McCain on CBS' Face The Nation (6/1, Schieffer, 2.64M) said: "This is a situation in that the President needs to call together the best people he can find. I'd ask General Petraeus, Tom Colbert, anybody in Congress who knows more about healthcare, should be the next Secretary of the Veterans Administration in my view."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) said on NBC's Meet the Press (6/1, Gregory, 3.08M), "A good leader knows what his subordinates are doing and if he doesn't have control over his subordinates, he really gets in there and figures it out. Look, I don't want to impugn the reputation of General Shinseki... but I thought it was time for him to go to get new blood in there. ... I want to see people fired. I want to see people prosecuted [for their roles] in creating this secret waiting list. ... We have to get dead serious of this. This is the beginning of taking control."

House Veterans Affairs Committee member Rep. Mike Coffman said on Fox' News Sunday Morning Futures (6/1, Bartiromo), "I think the turning point in why the President made the decision that he could no longer defend Gen. Shinseki is there was a vote in the House Veterans Affairs Committee to subpoena all written communications to and from General Shinseki regarding the destruction of the documents, the so-called secret list at the Phoenix VA hospital. And that was a unanimous vote in the House Veterans Committee, Republicans and Democrats standing together."

House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller said on Fox News Sunday (6/1, Wallace, 586K), "VA does a great job when you're dealing with battlefield injuries, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries. Those are the things that are the core mission of the VA. ... The vast majority of the new veterans that are being enrolled in the system are, in fact, older veterans from Korea and Vietnam with aging issues. They don't necessarily have to be treated at a VA hospital."

Regarding whether he is optimistic that the VA will experience a "serious cultural change" as a result of the scandal, Phoenix VA whistleblower Dr. Sam Foote stated on Fox News Sunday (6/1, Wallace, 586K); "Yeah, I'm extremely hopeful. [The VA is] great at chronic care, diabetes, [but the agency] falls down at urgent and emergency room type care and when hospitalization is needed, especially out West where the distances are great and population is sparse."

On NBC's Meet The Press (6/1, Gregory, 3.08M), Defense Secretary Hagel added: "We work very closely with the Veterans Administration. We'll continue to do that. We'll continue to offer everything we can offer in order to assist them, but we have no higher responsibility in our country than to take care of these men and women whose selfless service we depended on and continue to depend on to this day, and we'll fix it."

During a roundtable on ABC's This Week (6/1, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan stated: "I was very struck by Mr. Shinseki questioning the integrity of the information he had been given

as the head of the VA. I think that tells you there are cultural problem with regards of what you tell the boss." Remnick added: "Eric Shinseki has won a purple heart, lost most of his foot in battle, his integrity and devotion to this country is not in question, but what's in question is his ruling over the VA. It has done a terrible job and it has ruled in a way that's completely ineffective. It's an outrage to the veterans themselves. A change was needed. But it's a tragic thing to see a guy like Eric Shinseki have to walk out the door with a degree of shame."

During a CNN's State Of The Union (6/1, Crowley, 862K) roundtable, House Intelligence Chairman Mike Rogers and former national security adviser Jim Jones weighed in on the VA scandal. Rogers stated: "[Shinseki's] service to his country is unparalleled, no one should question that. But the management of the VA in the last five years has not been good. ... Something is rotten at the VA, and we need to get to the bottom of it. I would bring somebody from the outside to get a handle on this thing. It should be quick. It should be severe."

Politico Analysis: Hagel Leans On Reviews When Problems Arise. Politico (6/1, Ewing, 637K) reports Defense Secretary Hagel's "go-to weapon system is not found on any base, in any hangar or aboard any ship. It's a review." And while the reviews are underway, Hagel "cannot comment" on the issue. Hagel "issued the marching orders for his latest review on Thursday, this time to help him decide what, if anything, to do about DOD's health system."

EPA TO CALL FOR 30% CUT IN POWER PLANT EMISSIONS BY 2030. The first details of the EPA's new rules for cutting emissions by existing coal plants were widely covered in the latest news cycle. The coverage generally portrays the proposals as the President's largest step toward battling climate change, but they are also seen as likely to be the source of a contentious battle in coming months. Most reports also note that the EPA has declined to confirm the early reports of the details prior to Monday's formal announcement.

The Washington Post (6/2, A1, Eilperin, Mufson, 4.22M) reports that the EPA will propose cutting carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants by "30 percent by 2030, according to individuals who have been briefed on the plan and asked for anonymity because it has not been formally announced." The Post says that rule "represents one of the most significant steps" the Federal government has ever taken to fight climate change, and are "sure to spark a major political and legal battle."

USA Today (6/2, A1, Koch, 5.82M) reports that the rule is a "major plank" of the President's initiative to battle climate change, and "will require states to develop and implement plans" to cut emissions. States will have "different reduction targets," but "will seek a national average – from 2005 levels – of 25% by 2020 and 30% by 2030, say those familiar with the plan." However, the rules are not expected to be put into effect "for at least another two years."

On its front page, the New York Times (6/2, A1, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that rule "could trigger a fundamental transformation of the nation's energy systems – if it withstands an expected onslaught of legal and legislative attacks."

The Wall Street Journal (6/2, A1, Harder, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports the details on its front page and adds that states need to submit compliance plans to the EPA by June 2016.

The Washington Times (6/2, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that critics argue that the proposal "is designed to accelerate the end of coal as a power source" in the US, but the President and his backers "in the environmental community dispute that characterization and say the plan won't tank the economy and will allow states ample time and leeway to meet the new targets."

The Los Angeles Times (6/2, Banerjee, Halper, Memoli, 3.46M) calls the rules the "linchpin" of the President's "climate-change campaign" and a "key part of his legacy." The Times says that opponents of the rules, "such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, congressional Republicans and Democrats from coal states," have "already lined up to oppose it as government overreach that would do little to address climate change while imperiling the economy."

The Huffington Post (6/1, Sheppard, 11.54M) reports that across the economy, US emissions "already declined 10 percent between 2005 and 2012, due in large part to increased use of natural gas and lower overall energy consumption." The US has "committed to a 17 percent overall cut by 2020."

In an analysis piece, the New York Times (6/2, Gillis, Fountain, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that "it is clear" that the President's "immediate goal is not to solve the emissions problem, but to get the country moving faster in the right direction." The rule alone "offers little hope that the United States and other nations can achieve cuts on a scale required to meet the internationally agreed limit on global warming." However, it would likely allow the President to claim that he hit the targets set out in Copenhagen in 2009.

Cuts Less Than Hoped For By Green Groups. Politico (6/1, Martinson, 637K) says that if the numbers, first reported in the Wall Street Journal, are accurate, "they could mean that the reductions may be somewhat less ambitious than some environmental groups had been hoping for." Politico says that some green groups "had pushed for the cuts to be based on a more recent year like 2010 or 2012," when carbon emissions had already begun to fall. The 30 percent goal "would be equivalent to cutting 17 percent from the carbon emissions produced in 2012."

Rules Divide Democrats. The Washington Post (6/2, Wilson, 4.22M) reports that when the President announces the new rules on Monday, "some of the loudest cries of opposition are likely to come from members of his party." While "major donors" to the Democrats are likely to hail them, candidates whose "fates will decide control of the Senate and who hail from energy-producing states" are likely to oppose them. Candidates such as Sens. Mary Landrieu, Mark Pryor, Mark Begich, Kay Hagan, and "to a lesser extent," Mark Udall, are likely to see the new rules emerge as a serious issue in their race.

Bloomberg Analysis: Move Insufficient Without Matching Action Overseas. Bloomberg News (6/2, Drajem, Efstathiou, 2.76M) calls the rules the "boldest step to halt the rise of the oceans and stop the warming of the planet," but adds that it "won't be enough unless the rest of the world follows." Cutting power plant emissions by 25 percent "would be more than overwhelmed by increases in China and India where coal-fired power plants are springing up and new cars are rolling out of showrooms." In addition, the emissions cuts "will not come close to meeting the global reduction scientists say is necessary to reverse warming."

NYTimes Analysis: Americans Agree Climate Change Is Real. The New York Times (6/2, Kopicki, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "a majority of Americans say that global warming is indeed happening and the numbers have held relatively steady since the mid-2000s." That number varies slightly with temperature, the Times says, but remains generally consistent. The Times says that there is "reason to think that global temperatures, after having been somewhat steady in recent years, are likely to begin rising again," and if so, "belief in global warming may soon rise again, too."

Climate Reports Have Pentagon Shifting Money To Green Concerns. The Washington Times (6/2, Scarborough, 455K) reports that a decade ago, the Pentagon "paid for a climate study that put forth many scary scenarios" that didn't pan out. However, the report, and others like it, according to "critics," are "causing the Pentagon to shift money that could be used for weapons and readiness. It is making big investments in biofuels, for example, and is working climate change into high-level strategic planning."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Vanishing Cry Of 'Repeal It.'"*** An editorial in the New York Times (6/2, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that Republican plans to "coast into office" amid cries of "repeal Obamacare!" are not working out as planned as "a large majority now says it wants the law improved rather than repealed." Republican leaders are "suddenly trying to rewrite" their playbook and the result "has been an incoherent mishmash of positions, as candidates try to straddle a widening gap between blind hatred of health reform and the public's growing recognition that much of it is working." Noting that some Democrats, "sensing the same change in the weather, are beginning to campaign on the law's benefits," the Times argues that improving "access to health care was the right thing for the country, and supporting it may turn out to be good politics, too."

"A Vote On Medical Marijuana." In an editorial, the New York Times (6/2, A20, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) praises the New York State Assembly for approving a measure legalizing medical marijuana and, noting that there appear to be enough votes to pass it in the State Senate, calls on that body to do so before the legislative session ends on June 19. Noting that the measure "has wide support from medical groups and patient

advocates, and polls show that a large majority of New Yorkers support medical marijuana," the Times says it "time for Senate leaders to allow a vote."

"Encouragement (Sort Of) About Press Freedom." In an editorial, the New York Times (6/2, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) notes that Attorney General Holder's claim last week that, "As long as I'm attorney general, no reporter who is doing his job is going to go to jail," was seen as a sign that the Justice Department would not jail Times reporter James Risen for defying a subpoena ordering him to reveal his sources in the trial of former CIA official Jeffrey Sterling. That Times expresses hope that this reading of Holder's comment is correct, adding, however, that there are "reasons to be wary," because Holder did not "rule out imposing steep fines, or otherwise inflicting harm on Mr. Risen and press freedom," the Times argues that simply "ruling out jail time won't do," and calls on Holder to "drop the demand that Mr. Risen testify about his sources."

"Bad Food In School Cafeterias." An editorial in the New York Times (6/2, A20, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) calls the First Lady's "rebuke" of House Republicans, who "balked at requiring all schools to serve healthy lunches" in the next school year "well-deserved" and express hope that the Senate "holds out against such inanity." Noting that a House panel approved waivers for any school district that "verifies a net loss from operating a food service program" for a six-month period, the Times calls on states to "guard against a district's use of accounting tricks designed to create losses," and Congress to "resist any push to make the waivers permanent or to weaken the guidelines."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Feeding The World."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/2, 4.22M) defends the uses of genetically modified crops, saying they have "increased the productivity and improved the lives of farmers — and the people who depend on them — all over the world." Noting that they are now banned in two Oregon counties, the Post says that there is "no mainstream scientific evidence showing that foods containing GMOs are any more or less harmful for people to consume than anything else in the supermarket, despite decades of development and use." The Post says that there is "no need for the government to stigmatize products with a label that suggests the potential for harm."

"Picks In Prince George's."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Trading With The Taliban."*** The Wall Street Journal (6/2, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial that is otherwise critical of the Administration and the President's decision to release top-level Taliban commanders before a final peace deal has been reached, maintains that, contrary to the opinions of many Republicans, the President had the authority to release the detainees.

"Europe's Syria-Trained Jihadist." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/2, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) casts the arrest of Mehdi Nemmouche for the shooting deaths of three people at a Jewish mseum in Belgium as confirmation of US and European security officials' fear that Syria is becoming a training ground for domestic jihadis and says the export of radical jihadis from Syria is an argument for Western aid to Syria's nonradical opposition.

"Fraudulent Government Accounting." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/2, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues that despite Federal government claims to the contrary, the government actually loses money on student loan programs, single-family home mortgages guaranteed by the Federal Housing Administration, and the long-term guarantees provided by the Ex-Im Bank. The Journal says that a CBO study shows that, under fair-value accounting rules, all programs lose money.

"Discord In Shangri-La." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (6/2, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) that the rhetoric from Chinese officials at last weekend's annual Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore bolstered fears that Beijing and the US are on a collision course.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

EPA To Seek 30% Cut In Emissions At Power Plants
Secret Deal Freed US Soldier
Insider-Trading Probe Hits Snag
China Touts Power in East Asia

New York Times:
Obama To Take Action To Slash Coal Pollution
Before Brief, Deadly Spree, Trouble Since Age 8
Mentally, GI Has Long Path Back To Idaho
Prisoner Trade Yields Rare View Into The Taliban
Scots Are Divided Over Independence, And Its Economic Costs
Inside The Fixing: How A Gang Battered Soccer's Frail Integrity

Washington Post:
EPA To Seek Cuts In Coal Plants' Emissions
And An Itty-Bitty Child Shall Lead
Moves That Led To POW Release Are Questioned
Drugs That Target Patient As Well As Disease
Among Some Peers, Resentment Lingers
In Ore, Trying To Broaden The GOP's Reach

Financial Times:
Tories Offer More Tax Powers To Scots
NHS Surgery Cost Gaps Fuel Funding Debate
China Overtakes Japan As Top Robot Buyer
GSK In Oncology Push With $350M Deal
Hilton Eyes Future In Boutique Hotels
Koreans Drawn To Unification-Linked Funds
Challenger Banks In Current Accounts Push

Washington Times:
Republicans Challenge Obama Tactics In Prisoner Exchange
Russia's Curious Reasoning For Retreat In Ukraine
Honor Or Insult?
Pentagon Wrestles With False Climate Predictions
New EPA Rules Could Burn Coal State Democrats
Veterans Want Better Management, Not More Money, At VA

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Taliban-US Prisoner Release; Taliban Prisoners Released; Prisoner Release-Global Reaction; Private Plane Crash; Severe Weather; Chicago Boating Accident; Mt. Rainier Rescues; FBI-Fugitive Hunt.
CBS: Taliban-US Prisoner Release; US-Taliban Release; Private Plane Crash.
NBC: Taliban-US Prisoners Released; US Prisoner Family; Private Jet Crash; Syrian Terrorists; Hurricane Season; Gun Violence Prevention.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Taliban-US Prisoner Exchange; EPA Carbon Emission Rules; Private Plane Crash; National Cancer Survivor Day.
CBS: Taliban-US Prisoner Exchange; Veterans Affairs Scandal; Brady Bunch Actor Death; Syrian Terrorist-Jewish Museum Shooting; EPA-Carbon Emissions Rules; NBA Scores; Stanley Cup; Box Office.
NPR: Taliban-US Prisoner Exchange; Prisoner Trade Criticized; Iraq-Violence; Obama-Europe Trip; Brady Bunch Actor Death; Illinois-Gay Marriage Approval; China-Surveillance Footage Controversy; NASA-Flying Saucer.
FOX: Taliban-US Prisoner Exchange; Prisoner Trade Criticized; NSA-Image Collection; Stanley Cup Finals.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Travels to Warsaw, Poland.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Travels to Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Delivers remarks at the keel-laying ceremony for the future USS Illinois, the 13th Virginia Class submarine at North Kingstown, Rhode Island.
US Senate: 2 p.m. — The Senate will convene. Following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. with senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

At 5:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to Executive Session to consider Executive Calendar 633, the nomination of Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council. There will be 2 minutes of debate prior a roll call vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Harper nomination.
US House: 12 p.m. — The House will meet in a pro forma session.
Other: NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY – LEW — 8:30 a.m. U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew and U.S. Treasury Under Secretary David Cohen delivers remarks on the 10th anniversary of Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Ave. NW.

VILSACK – FEDS FEEDING FAMILIES CAMPAIGN — 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will kick off the 2014 Feds Feed Families Campaign. In the past five years, Federal employees have donated over 24 million pounds of food through Feds Feed Families. All Federal agencies across the country participate in the campaign and Federal employees are asked to donate non-perishable food items throughout the summer. Speakers: Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack; Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Administration Dr. Gregory Parham; Karen T. Comfort, National Program Manager for Feds Feed Families; U.S. Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton; Nancy E. Roman, CAFB President and CEO. Location: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Corner of 12th and Independence Ave. SW. Location: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Corner of 12th and Independence Ave. SW.

WORKERS – FALL SAFETY – PEREZ — 1 p.m. Press teleconference to kick-off of National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction with U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez; Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. DIAL IN: 800-619-2534, Passcode: OSHA . Media contact: Kimberly Darby at darby.kimberly@dol.gov or Mary Brandenberger at brandenberger.mary@dol.gov or by calling 202-693-1892. https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All late-night talk shows were in rerun.

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RE: Extension Agreement

Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Mon, Jun 2, 2014 at 12:29 PM
To: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Mike Connor <mlconnor@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

Dan –

Sorry – this got lost in a sea of email. I just wrote Ed a note.

Sally

From: Dan Ashe [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
Sent: Sunday, May 04, 2014 10:16 PM
To: Sally Jewell
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau; Mike Connor; Neil Kornze
Subject: Fwd: Extension Agreement

Sally, we have successfully negotiated an extension agreement with Wild Earth Guardians. Tomorrow, DOJ will file the request with Judge Sullivan. Cross your fingers!

If you have a moment, please shoot a note to Ed Roberson at BLM. He is a hero in this effort. If not for his effort, it would not have happened.

Dan.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** John Horning <jhorning@wildearthguardians.org>
> **Date:** May 4, 2014 at 3:35:07 PM EDT
> **To:** Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
> **Subject: Re: Extension Agreement**
>
> Dan,

Your notes reflect my understanding of our discussion as well. Thank you. Have a good week.

On May 4, 2014, at 9:06 AM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

John, below are notes from our conversation today, incorporated into your message from yesterday. Call if you have questions or concerns. DOJ wants to get the motion filed by tomorrow, noon, so they will need to contact your attorney early tomorrow morning.

Thanks again for the patience and cooperative spirit.

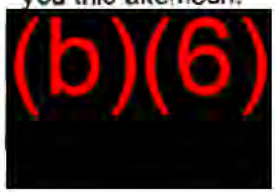
Dan.

Dan Ashe

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Dan,

My apologies for not getting back to you this afternoon.



When I texted just before I needed to attend to other matters I wanted to let you know that we'd reached internal agreement that BLM's revisions were largely satisfactory. However, there are still a few items that need resolution.

1) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will issue a final listing determination for Gunnison sage grouse, including a final critical habitat determination, and publish it in the Federal Register on or before November 12, 2014. *Agreed that FWS will make a final listing determination and, if listing remains warranted, a final critical habitat designation and deliver those findings to the Federal Register by Nov 12, 2014 (unless Guardians calls later today with agreement to push that date out into December.)*

2) The Service will not seek any additional delays in the listing process for the Gunnison sage grouse. We'd like the motion to reflect this commitment. *Agreed that FWS will not seek any additional delays, unless the necessity of an event(s) beyond our control, like a government shutdown, that prevents us from meeting this deadline; and agreed, we will incorporate that commitment into the motion, if possible.*

3) The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will revise the current Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. CO-2013-033 to include 4 mile lek buffer language, a deferring all coal and fluid minerals leasing, and will

review current Best Available Science in consultation with the Service regarding grazing and other adverse impacts to Gunnison sage grouse, by May 12, 2014 (see attached for details on the revisions). The revised IM will remain in effect until the Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendment process is completed with the issuance of a single Record of Decision (ROD). This is anticipated to take approximately 18 months. Everything the BLM has offered is satisfactory-- the only exceptions to the BLM's document are the reference to engaging CPW and the State of Colorado and some of the language that expresses uncertainty about the BLM's commitment to make these revisions. I would also like to have a commitment that the IM is revised by May 12. We're already uncomfortable as it is that the BLM won't be making these changes until after the motion will be filed. Hopefully on Monday (See attached document which has our revisions) *Agreed, including removal of explicit reference to engaging CPW and State of Colorado, with exception that the IM revisions will be completed by May 30, 2014, and acknowledgement that CPW will be consulted for field and scientific expertise.*

4) BLM will publish a Notice of Intent initiating scoping on a Programatic RMP amendment process for Gunnison sage grouse in the Federal Register on or before May 31, 2014. I'd like to have a letter from the Director, State Director or the Secretary expressing this commitment. *Agreed to deliver Notice of Intent to the FR by June 30, 2014, and to reflect the commitment to do this and revise the current IM in a memo from BLM HQ to the State*

Director to be issued tomorrow.

DOJ will submit the proposed motion for Guardians' review before it is submitted to the Court. *Agreed.*

I have a (b)(6) all day tomorrow but could talk between 8 and 8:30. Between 12 and 1 or after 6. Let me know if you'd like to talk. Notwithstanding my absence this afternoon I would like to get this resolved asap. I hope you're enjoying your time in Detroit.

<BLM_counter_Guardians_edits.pdf>

On May 2, 2014, at 10:17 AM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

Hello John. I'm sitting on a plane and quickly reading this, but it appears that BLM has made an extraordinary effort to address your (and our!) interests in conservation of the Gunnison grouse. This will move the ball forward!

Let's seize opportunity!!

Thanks.

Dan.

Dan Ashe

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On May 2, 2014, at 11:55 AM, "Frazer, Gary" <gary_frazer@fws.gov> wrote:

> John -- The attached was provided to me by Ed Roberson and describes the substance of additional revisions that BLM is prepared to make to their IM. Please advise whether it allows us to reach agreement on the extension.
>
> Dan will be calling you shortly before he hops on a plane. You can reach me at 202/253-4578. Thanks. -- Gary

Gary Frazer

Assistant Director -- Ecological Services

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(202) 208-4646

<GuSG IM Proposal - 2014-5-2 (1140 am).docx>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, June 3, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Jun 3, 2014 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

EPA POWER PLANT RULE WILL AIM FOR 30% REDUCTIONS. The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that the EPA will "seek to cut up to 30 percent of carbon dioxide from existing power plants before 2030." EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will propose "the first-ever limits on greenhouse gases from the nation's power plants under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act, the most significant move to date in the Obama administration's effort to curb climate change." The article notes that "the proposal will generate $90 billion in climate and health benefits."

The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that "coal production and mine employment would decline under the Obama administration's rule proposal for controlling greenhouse gases from existing power plants, according to US EPA's analysis." The article notes that "the regulatory impact analysis that accompanies the landmark proposal released today outlines scenarios where coal would take a hit at the expense of natural gas and other energy sources." According to the analysis, "The EPA projects coal production for use by the power sector, a large component of total coal production, will decline by roughly 25 to 27 percent in 2020 from base case levels," and "the use of coal by the power sector will decrease by roughly 30 to 32 percent in 2030."

The Examiner (6/3, 1.56M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "joined the White House today on the

announcement, saying President Obama understands the moral obligation to future generations to leave the nation's land, water, and wildlife better off than otherwise would be the case if power generators, who have burned coal for scores of years, are permitted to continue to produce electricity by burning coal."

The National Journal (6/3, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that Jewell said, "The President understands that we have a moral obligation to future generations to leave our land, water, and wildlife better than we found it. From standing up homegrown renewable energy and transmission infrastructure, to reducing methane emissions while supporting safe and responsible energy development, to making lands and waters more resilient in the face of climate change, the Interior Department is committed to being a strong partner in cutting carbon pollution and creating American jobs. The common sense steps being taken by the Environmental Protection Agency will protect public health while providing states with the flexibility they need to make informed decisions about the mix of energy sources that works best for them."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ANNOUNCEMENT ON LGBT HISTORY INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the announcement that the NPS will "begin installing markers at places of importance to the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans" as provided by the AP (6/3, Wong), the National Review (6/3, 879K), and the Los Angeles Times (6/3, Forgione, 3.46M).

OBAMA URGED TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON CONSERVATION PROMISES. In an op-ed for the Bristol (TN/VA) Herald Courier (6/3, 81K), Marsha Mercer writes that "when signing the order designating Organ Mountains a national monument," President Obama said "he understands 'our obligation to be good stewards to the next generation — to make sure that our children's children get the same chance to experience all of these natural wonders.'" Mercer asserts that Obama "needs to follow" Theodore Roosevelt's "lead, keep his hand on the lever and follow through on his conservation promises."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NO PLANS TO RECOVER SIX CLIMBERS KILLED ON MOUNT RAINIER. The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that Mount Rainier National Park officials said "there's no certainty" it will "be possible to recover the bodies of six climbers likely killed climbing the peak in Washington state." According to park spokeswoman Patti Wold, "the area will be checked periodically by air in the coming weeks and months, but melting conditions and the potential for unstable rock and snow make it too treacherous for rescuers."

Also providing coverage are the AP (6/3), the AP (6/3, Corte), and CNN (6/2, 12.15M).

EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN STUCK IN LIMBO. The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that "a $2 billion plan to restore the central Everglades could be stuck in limbo for years." The project would "channel water around Lake Okeechobee to the rest of the wetlands, which are facing a water shortage crisis and threats from climate change." The Army Corps of Engineers "approved the plan last month, a day after the Senate passed the first comprehensive water bill in seven years," but "the law didn't include funding for the central Everglades restoration, causing environmentalists to fear it could be placed on hold until Congress authorizes more money, which could take several years."

HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS RECOMMENDED FOR S.S. BADGER. The Manitowoc (WI) Herald Times Reporter (6/2, 34K) reports that "the S.S. Badger car ferry has once again been recommended for designation as a National Historic Landmark, according to Patty Henry of the National Historic Landmarks Program." The article notes that "this time the recommendation is on its way to the office of Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, who has final say." According to the article, "that could be months coming, if further checks of the nomination must go through don't stall or thwart the nomination."

74 STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM NPS PROGRAM. The Hanover (PA) Evening Sun (6/3, 66K) reports that Randall Hill, Acting Chief of Maintenance at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, "graduated from a six-month National Park Service (NPS) program called the GOAL Leadership Academy, which stands for Generating Organizational Advancement & Leadership recently." Hill was "one of 74 students in

the program which included training and assignments at the Grand Canyon, Philadelphia, Golden Gate Recreational Area in San Francisco, and the NPS Washington Office." The article notes that "to demonstrate his leadership skills, Hill and a team of NPS employees completed a project to utilize goats for managing vegetation in the NPS Northeast region, which includes parks from Virginia to Maine."

NPS CRITICIZES AUCTION OF CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S SKULL. The Hanover (PA) Evening Sun (6/3, 66K) reports that "the auction of a Civil War solider's skull, set to begin at 1 p.m. Tuesday in Hagerstown, Md., is seen as a 'spectacle' by" the NPS in Gettysburg. Katie Lawhon, spokeswoman with the Gettysburg National Military Park, said, "Our goal is to respect the memory of those who fought and died here. These human remains should be buried with honors in the Soldier's National Cemetery." According to Lawhon, "the sale of a Civil War soldier's skull illustrates the need to preserve places such as Gettysburg, Lawhon."

ARIZONA MEMORIAL OFFICIAL: TICKETS SALES IMPROPER. The AP (6/3) reports that "it was a mistake to sell to tour operators what are supposed to be free tickets for the USS Arizona Memorial, its superintendent said." Paul DePrey last week said "that selling the tickets was proper and legal, but he later said he was mistaken." DePrey said, "We stopped the program because I learned I made a mistake."

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLINTON BIRTHPLACE SITE. The AP (6/3) reports that the NPS is accepting public input "on possible changes or improvements to the Clinton Birthplace National Historic Site in Hope." The public comment period opened last week and runs through June 30. The NPS "hopes to identify projects that can document the historic character of the neighborhood as experienced by former president Bill Clinton."

BID RECEIVED FOR WEST CORINTH ELEMENTARY PROPERTY. The AP (6/3) reports that the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission was "the sole bidder at $1,499 for the former West Corinth Elementary School." The Corinth Board of Aldermen is expected to accept the bid Tuesday. The NPS "wants the land to become part of the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park."

STONES RIVER NATIONAL CEMETERY OFFERS FREE TOURS. The AP (6/3) reports that the NPS is "offering free tours of the Stones River National Cemetery this summer."

Bureau of Land Management:

WILD HORSE ADVOCATES URGE BLM NOT TO "APPEASE" RANCHERS ON ROUNDUPS. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/3, 470K) reports that "wild horse advocates say 35,000 people have filed comments with the Bureau of Land Management, urging the agency not to 'appease' ranchers by rounding up wild horses in Utah's Iron and Beaver counties." Advocates "charged Monday that the BLM 'plans to spend tens of millions of tax dollars to round up federally protected wild horses in order to give a handful of ranchers cheap, below-market grazing on our public lands.'" Suzanne Roy, director of the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, said, "The problem is too many cows on our public lands, not too many wild horses."

Also reporting on the story is KCSG-TV St. George, UT (6/3, 43).

BLM FIGHTING WILDFIRE FUEL WITH GOATS. The Ruidoso (NM) News (6/3, 40K) reports that BLM officials "fighting wildfire fuel with goat power." The bureau "launched a goat grazing project on 16 acres in the historic settlement of Lincoln behind the State Historic Site off US 380 in the Rio Bonito Acquired Lands Tract 3." The objective of "the grazing is to reduce the amount of vegetation available to wildfire, decrease the risk of loss to adjacent property and to improve watershed conditions."

BLM-UTAH EMPLOYEE RECEIVES MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD. The Deseret (UT) News (6/3, 610K) reports that a BLM Utah employee has received a national BLM award. Rob Sweeten, landscape architect with the BLM-Utah State Office in Salt Lake City, was chosen to receive the national BLM employee Making a Difference Award. According to the article, "since 2009, Sweeten has mentored six student interns, most of whom began as BLM volunteers," and "he worked to convert the students to Student Temporary Employment Program status or to a conservation corps intern with the American Conservation Experience youth organization."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SENATE PANEL TO EXAMINE CLIMATE IMPACTS TO FORESTRY, SPORTSMEN. The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that a Senate panel will "delve into how climate change is affecting farming, forestry, hunting and fishing." The Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Green Jobs and the New Economy will "hear from a top Obama administration official, a fishing industry executive, renewable energy advocates and scientists on how those sectors can adapt and create jobs." FWS Director Dan Ashe will "focus much of his testimony on how climate change has caused harm to species prized by sportsmen."

MEASURE WOULD DELAY SAGE-GROUSE PROTECTION TEN YEARS. The Durango (CO) Herald (6/2, 28K) reports that "with six months until an administrative rule on whether the Gunnison sage-grouse will be protected under the Endangered Species Act, a new piece of legislation is ramping up efforts to delay a listing for 10 years." Rep. Cory Gardner "introduced the Sage Grouse Protection and Conservation Act on May 22." The legislation would "keep both the Gunnison and greater sage-grouse from becoming listed as an endangered species for 10 years, while states implement state-based conservation plans."

COMMISSIONER SAYS HE PLANS TO ASK CURRY COUNTY TO JOIN LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN LAWSUIT. The Clovis (NM) News Journal (6/2, 21K) reports that Commissioner Wendell Bostwick said "he plans to ask that Curry County join Roosevelt County in a lawsuit seeking to kill the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to designate the lesser prairie chicken a threatened species." Bostwick said "he has asked the request be placed on the Curry County Commission's agenda at a special meeting scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Friday at the courthouse." The article notes that "it isn't clear, however, if Bostwick has enough support on the five-member commission to approve the move."

FWS TO FINALIZE PROTECTIONS FOR WEBBER'S IVERSIA . The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that the FWS will "finalize protections for a ground-hugging rose found in California and Nevada." The FWS will "list the Webber's iversia (Ivesia webberi) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, according to a final rule set to be published in tomorrow's Federal Register." The service "determined that the plant is most threatened by invasive plant species encroaching on its limited habitat."

Also reporting on the story are KCET-TV Los Angeles (6/3, 15K) and the Nevada Appeal (6/3, 49K).

PIPING PLOVER LAWS GENERATE DEBATE ALONG ATLANTIC COAST. The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that "protections for a threatened shorebird species are roiling beach towns up and down the East Coast." According to the article, "communities from Maine to North Carolina are struggling to maintain beach access for residents and protect the piping plover, which the federal government listed as threatened in 1986 after a steep population decline." The article notes that "wildlife officials fined the town of Scarborough, Maine, $12,000 for the death of a piping plover chick last year but reduced the penalty to $500 after locals mounted a vigorous protest."

CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN BREEDING POPULATION DROPS. The AP (6/3) reports that "California brown pelicans, which were driven to the brink of extinction in the last century, are in trouble again." The article notes that "an annual survey completed last month found a drastic plunge in the population of breeding pairs, according to a statement released Friday by the University of California, Davis." The "survey in Mexico's Gulf of California — where about 90 percent of the pelicans typically breed and raise their chicks — found that areas that typically host hundreds or thousands of nesting pairs held far fewer, and a few places were completely empty, the statement said."

RAT POISON MAKER AGREES TO STOP SELLING HARMFUL PRODUCT. The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that "the maker of a controversial rat poison has agreed to stop selling a product that poses risks to children, wildlife and pets, the company said last week." Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC, the producer of "the line of poison-laced bait pellets called d-Con, had previously sued California seeking to overturn a ban on its product." According to the article, "while the company will continue to sell the items until the end of the year, it will then replace them with a new line of rat poisons in block form, which are more difficult to remove and which US EPA has approved for use in all states."

ABU DHABI PRINCE, OTHER DONORS PLEDGE $80 MILLION TO HELP WILD CATS. The E&E Daily (6/2)

reports that "Abu Dhabi's crown prince joined with other international donors yesterday to pledge a total of $80 million to protect at-risk wild cats like tigers." They "announced the partnership with New York-based feline conservation group Panthera after a private signing ceremony in the United Arab Emirates' capital city." The article notes that "also donating were Jho Low, CEO of Hong Kong-based investment firm Jynwel Capital Ltd.; Hemendra Kothari, chairman of DSP BlackRock India and India's Wildlife Conservation Trust; and Kaplan and his wife, Daphne Recanati Kaplan."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FEDERAL INQUIRY IN HERON-INJURY CASE. Additoinal coverage of the inquiry into the case of a tree trimmer who is expected to face federal criminal charges for allegedly injuring baby night herons last month while pruning ficus trees outside an Oakland post office was provided by the New York Times (6/3, Pogash, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) and the San Francisco Chronicle (6/3, Jones, 3.33M).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON OREGON PROJECT IMPACTS. The Recharge News (6/3, 633) reports that the BOEM is "seeking public comment through 28 July as it prepares an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze potential impacts of Principle Power's proposed 30MW demonstration wind project off the coast of Oregon." The bureau will "also hold two public meetings in Coos Bay, Oregon on 17 June to solicit comments on the scope of the EA."

Onshore Energy Development:

REPORT CRITICIZES COAL ASH STORAGE AT FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT. The Cortez (CO) Journal (6/2, 646) reports that "a new report released by the Sierra Club is critical of coal-ash storage facilities and expansion plans at the Four Corners Power Plant, located on the Navajo Nation in New Mexico." The report, titled "Disaster Waiting to Happen" states that "the plant's operator, Arizona Public Service, has stored 50 to 55 million tons of coal ash in unlined pits near the San Juan River." Lori Goodman, coordinator for Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment, said, "The major concerns for Navajo tribal members are the health impacts and financial burden of health care due to coal ash."

CLEANUP OF OIL LEAK IN DELTA WILDLIFE REFUGE TO BEGIN. The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (6/3, 22K) reports that "federal and state officials will burn an area of the Delta National Wildlife Refuge Tuesday that was contaminated by a 2,100 gallon crude oil leak discovered Wednesday." The article notes that "about 10 acres of freshwater marsh in the Delta National Wildlife Refuge, located southeast of Venice in Plaquemines Parish, was impacted by the oil." According to the article, "access to the site is limited to flat-bottom boats," so the FWS "agreed with a decision to burn the area to remove the oil."

SEN. UDALL BALANCES ENERGY, CLIMATE ISSUES. The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that over the past 18 months, Sen. Mark Udall has "traveled the Centennial State touring the state's various energy producers, from coal mines to wind farms, and it became clear at a forum here last week that the exact route he had taken and that lies before him is a very fine line." During a "Colorado Energy Forum" at the Colorado School of Mines, Udall "emphasized the need for 'collaboration' between industry and local communities, while also touting a need to continue to utilize the state's abundant fossil fuel resources." Udall asserted that "Colorado's energy policies could serve as an example for the nation."

SOME SPECULATE INCREASED LOS ANGELES-AREA QUAKES RESULT OF FRACKING. The Los Angeles Times (6/3, Lin, 3.46M) reports that the Los Angeles area has experienced a rise in earthquakes this year. In the past five months there have been five earthquakes registering more than 4.0, something that hasn't happened since 1994, the year of the Northridge earthquake. Experts are unsure if the increase in activity means a larger quake is looming, or why the increase is occurring. The Times notes that USGS studies indicate "the increased number of earthquakes coincides with the injection of wastewater deep underground" during the fracking process. Three members of Los Angeles' City Council have asked city, state and Federal groups to investigate whether fracking played a role in one of this year's stronger quakes, occurring March 17.

Offshore Energy Development:

EX-SENATOR SEEKS EXCEPTION TO CUBAN EMBARGO. The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that "a retired Democratic senator from Florida is pushing for an exception to the US trade embargo against Cuba – all in the name of safety." Former Sen. Bob Graham, who "co-chaired the 2010 national commission that investigated BP PLC's Deepwater Horizon oil spill, says Cuba should be allowed to buy oil drilling safety equipment from US companies to cut down on the risk of a well blowout." Graham said, "We're not doing the Cubans a favor. We are protecting ourselves by decreasing the chances of an event which would be extremely damaging to the United States and, in particular, South Florida."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SENATE HEARING TO FOCUS ON KLAMATH RIVER BASIN AGREEMENTS. The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that "a yearslong effort to reach an agreement for dividing up water in Oregon's Klamath River Basin arrives on Capitol Hill this week as Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) pushes for federal sign-off on stakeholders' deals." The article notes that "tension has run high among water users in the basin for generations, but it came to a head when the region suffered a severe drought in 2001 and then experienced a massive die-off in its salmon fishery the following year." Almost "a decade after those disasters, most stakeholders signed off on the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement, which lay the path for removal of four hydroelectric dams along the river and establish a number of restoration activities."

STUDY: MEDICAL POT GROWERS DRAINING, CONTAMINATING WATERWAYS. The E&E Daily (6/2) reports that "medical marijuana farms are draining and polluting drought-stricken rivers and streams in Northern California, according to state wildlife officials." Fish and wildlife authorities also noted that "much of the pot being grown is sold illegally in states that prohibit its medical use and in California to people who don't have legal licenses for it." According to the article, "wildlife biologists had noticed streams, some of which harbor endangered salmon and other animals, running dry since the state approved medical marijuana use 18 years ago."

BOR RECEIVES PROPOSALS FOR DESALINATION, WATER PURIFICATION RESEARCH. The Water Technology Online (6/3) reports that the BOR's Desalination and Water Purification Research and Development Program has "received proposals from universities, water utilities, private industry and others for a total of up to $1.5 million in funding for desalination and water purification research in the past few months." Yuliana Porras, advanced water treatment research coordinator the BOR, discussed "the history of the program, projects it has funded, the program's goals and successes and why desalination and water reuse are important for the United States."

NEW LEADER OF BOR'S TECHNICAL SERVICE CENTER NAMED. The Hydroworld (6/3, 151) reports that BOR Acting Commissioner Lowell Pimley has named Tom Luebke, P.E., as Director of Reclamation's Technical Service Center. Luebke will start his new position on June 1, 2014. Pimley said. "The TSC is a critical component of Reclamation, providing the necessary technical expertise to inform and implement decisions by Reclamation and our partners to provide a sustainable water and power future for the West. Tom is the perfect person to provide the operational and strategic leadership needed to ensure the TSC continues to meet the evolving needs of Reclamation and the West."

BOR WORKING TO MANAGE RIO GRANDE RUNOFF. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (6/3, 282K) reports that "warm weather and a big burst of late May snowmelt in Colorado means the Rio Grande in central New Mexico will be rising this week." According to Carolyn Donnelly of the BOR, "water managers are working to manage the runoff, coming simultaneously from the Rio Grande and Rio Chama, to create a second 'spawning pulse' for the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow."

Empowering Native American Communities:

UTES AWARDED EPA FUNDS FOR LANDFILL CLEANUP. The Cortez (CO) Journal (6/2, 646) reports that the EPA "announced last week that the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has been awarded $200,000 grant to clean up an abandoned landfill on the outskirts of Towaoc." According to the article, "once environmentally and structurally

stable, the tribe plans to install solar panels at the site, which could provide electricity needs for the nearby farm and ranch operation." Priscilla Bancroft, superintendent for the BIA in Towaoc, said, "It is good to get it cleaned up and managed better because of the toxins. A permanent solution there is good for our future."

Top National News:

EPA UNVEILS RULES INTENDED TO CUT POWER PLANT EMISSIONS 30% BY 2030. On Monday, all three network newscasts had segments on the unveiling of new EPA regulations meant to combat climate change by cutting the carbon emissions from US power plants 30% by 2030. Although Administration officials contend that the cost of electricity will actually decrease as a result of the new rules, most of the coverage presents higher energy bills and the loss of jobs at coal-powered plants as an inevitable trade-off if the proposed regulations are implemented. In addition, most reports and analyses predict that the EPA's announcement will undermine the candidacies of vulnerable Senate Democrats and Democratic challengers in states that rely on coal for power, including, most notably, Kentucky, where Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's opponent, Alison Case Lundergan Grimes, vowed to "fiercely oppose the president's attack on Kentucky's coal industry."

On ABC World News (6/2, story 4, 0:50, Sawyer), Diane Sawyer reported that the "proposed new rules" are "the most significant step on climate change in the Obama presidency." According to Sawyer, "Environmental groups call it a historic move," but "industry groups call it a job-killer that will increase the price of energy."

Ann Curry, on NBC Nightly News (6/2, story 4, 1:55, Curry, 7.86M), reported that the Administration had "unveiled its most ambitious plan yet to reduce carbon pollution from power plants...and it was immediately denounced by politicians and others in coal-producing states." However, correspondent Ann Thompson noted that EPA Administrator McCarthy "says states will choose how to meet the goal." McCarthy was shown saying: "We project that coal will still be a very large part of the energy supply in 2030." But Thompson went on to report that power plant operators "predict...customer bills will go up" and that jobs will be lost. Sen. McConnell: "This was the single worst blow to Kentucky's economy in modern times."

Likewise, on the CBS Evening News (6/2, story 7, 2:15, Dubois, 5.08M), Maurice Dubois reported that while "environmental groups applauded" the EPA's plan, "critics say it comes with a hefty price tag." Mike Duncan of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity was shown saying, "The majority of states we believe would see a double-digit increase in electricity price." Correspondent Chip Reid went on to report that "more than 500 coal-fired power plants in the US produce about 40 percent of the nation's electricity, but those plants are also the nation's largest emitters of greenhouse gases." McCarthy: "If we do nothing and our grandkids' life sometimes, temperatures could rise 10 degrees, and sea levels rise by four feet."

The Huffington Post (6/2, Sheppard, 11.54M) reported that the EPA's goal is "a 30 percent cut in carbon emissions from power plants by 2030." The Huffington Post points out that while "the regulations are the first of their kind for the fleet of existing power plants, which currently produce 39 percent of US emissions," they also "giv[e] states flexibility" by allowing them to "cut emissions directly, either by switching to a fuel source with lower carbon emissions, such as natural gas, or by making upgrades to equipment or efficiency."

Politico (6/2, Martinson, 637K) reported that "after getting whoops and cheers from a roomful of supporters," McCarthy also said, "The good news is states, cities, and businesses have already blazed the trail. Our clean energy revolution is unfolding in front of us." Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (6/3, 4.22M), says that "after a career as an environmental adviser to Democratic and Republican governors alike," on Monday, McCarthy "sounded more like a politician herself than a regulator, savoring a standing ovation from the crowd and pointing and waving at people in the audience."

On Fox News' Special Report (6/3, 2.15M), McCarthy was shown saying on Monday: "Critics claim that your energy bills will skyrocket – well, they are wrong. Should I say that again? They are wrong." But correspondent Shannon Bream went on to report that in 2008, President Obama himself acknowledged that "under my plan of a cap and trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket."

The Wall Street Journal (6/3, Harder, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that McCarthy said the forecast emissions reduction total is "like canceling out annual carbon pollution from two thirds of all cars and trucks in

America." McCarthy went on to say, "And if you add up what we'll avoid between now and 2030 – it's more than double the carbon pollution from every power plant in America in 2012."

According to McClatchy (6/2, Adams, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K), "In many states, the move away from carbon-heavy coal to cleaner sources of energy is already under way, and those states could have an easier time adapting to new rules," but "other states...still are heavily dependent on coal to produce electricity" and therefore "might struggle" with the new rules. McClatchy notes that on Monday, President Obama "touted the regulations as a 'sensible state-based plan' that gives states a 'wide, wide range of options' to achieve their goals."

The Los Angeles Times (6/3, Parsons, 3.46M) reports that on Monday, the President "began a campaign for his newly proposed climate change proposal with an appeal...to parents and grandparents worried about 'the health of our kids and the health of our planet.'" The Times notes that in a "conference call with the American Lung Assn. and other public health groups," the President "argued that restrictions on power plant emissions would help children with asthma and other health problems exacerbated by carbon pollution."

The New York Times (6/3, Grady, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the President is "mindful of the intense political resistance to his plan," and is therefore "emphasizing its health benefits." The Times says Administration "contends that its new plan...will also quickly improve public health, preventing up to 100,000 asthma attacks and 2,100 heart attacks in the first year the rules take effect," and, according to the Times, "public health experts" agreed "that if the president could make the new rules stick, reductions in air pollution would be likely to pay off in better health."

The Los Angeles Times (6/3, Parsons, 3.46M) reports that the President "brushed off complaints from critics that 'these guidelines will kill jobs or crush the economy.'" However, the Times notes that even "before the rule was unveiled," the US Chamber of Commerce "estimated it would cost the economy $50 billion" a year.

Politico (6/2, Martinson, 637K) reported that former Vice President Al Gore "called the rule 'the most important step taken to combat the climate crisis in our country's history,'" and Sen. Ed Markey, "who co-sponsored the cap-and-trade bill that died in Congress during Obama's first term," said, "This is the beginning of the end of America's long, dirty power plant era."

Peter Grier, in an analysis for the Christian Science Monitor (6/3, Grier, 566K), says "it's important to note that this is not a signed-and-sealed deal," but, instead, just "the first public step in a regulatory process that provides lots of time and opportunity for critics to make themselves heard." Reuters (6/3, Hurley) reports that the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which is likely to hear any challenges to the EPA's rules, currently has 11 judges, and seven of them were appointed by Democrats.

Some Democrats Criticize EPA's Proposal. The Washington Post (6/3, A1, Eilperin, Mufson, Wilson, 4.22M) reports that the Administration's "proposal to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants prompted an immediate backlash from Democrats in conservative-leaning states," and the NRSC "was quick to say it would use the decision against vulnerable Democrats...in Virginia, Louisiana, Colorado and Alaska." The Post goes on to report that while "the balance between acting on environmental issues that are high priorities for Obama and left-leaning big donors and creating jobs in energy-producing states represented by Democrats has come up several times in recent years," some "strategists close to those big donors say they are less concerned with" particular issues, such as expanded oil drilling or the Keystone XL pipeline, "than the larger goal of salvaging the Democratic majority in the Senate."

Politico (6/2, Goode, 637K) also reported that the "EPA's proposed climate regulation quickly became campaign fodder...for some of the year's most closely watched races, underscoring the peril for some Democratic candidates as the Obama administration takes another step in its so-called 'War on Coal.'" According to Politico, Sen. Mary Landrieu "offered...mild criticism," while Sen. Mark Udall, "whose state gets almost two-thirds of its electricity from coal, welcomed the rule as a 'good start' that can build on conservation efforts there."

Under the headline, "Democrats' New Coal Headache," The Hill (6/2, Jaffe, 237K) reported that "Democratic candidates in coal-rich West Virginia and Kentucky were among the first to try to distance themselves from the president." However, The Hill noted that Sen. Kay Hagan "has actually attacked her GOP opponent Thom Tillis for

rolling back protections for the environment while state House speaker."

On its front page, the New York Times (6/3, A1, Gabriel, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "it took little time for" Grimes "to distance herself from the Obama administration's proposal." The Times says Grimes "pledged to 'fiercely oppose the president's attack on Kentucky's coal industry because protecting our jobs will be my No. 1 priority.'" The Times adds that, likewise, Natalie Tennant, "a Democrat running for an open seat in West Virginia, instantly went on the attack," saying, "I will stand up to President Obama, [EPA Administrator] Gina McCarthy and anyone else who tries to undermine our coal jobs."

The Hill (6/2, Jaffe, 237K) reported that the McConnell's campaign issued a statement reading: "Alison Lundergan Grimes was recruited by President Obama, who said he would 'bankrupt' the coal industry, and Harry Reid, who said 'coal makes us sick.' ... She is being funded by liberals nationwide who know that a vote for her is a vote to ensure further implementation of their anti-coal agenda in the U.S. Senate."

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (6/3, Gerth, 468K) reports that Stephen Voss, a political science professor at the University of Kentucky, said "the new regulations couldn't have come at a worse time for Grimes." Voss is quoted as saying that "until these regulations came out, it wasn't necessarily clear that" the McConnell campaign's "emphasis on" coal regulation "would be justified" because "there really wasn't a coal issue that could become the focal point of the campaign." However, according to Voss, "the issuance of new regs allows it to be that focal point."

Nate Cohn, in a piece for the New York Times' (6/3, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) "Upshot" blog, acknowledges that Democrats "have lost considerable ground in coal-producing areas in recent years." However, Cohn adds that "because Democrats have already suffered significantly over the issue, the worst is just about over — and at the national level, it is no longer even that painful."

Barrasso And Heitkamp Blast The EPA's "New Anti-Coal Rules." Sens. John Barrasso and Heidi Heitkamp, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (6/3, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) titled, "The New Anti-Coal Rules Will Cut Jobs And Hurt The Economy," criticize the new EPA plan, and predict that it will lead to the loss of jobs and cause power plants to close. They also predict higher rates for consumers as utilities turn to more expensive means of energy production.

NYTimes Analysis: EPA Plan Could Create "Patchwork" Of State Rules. In an article titled, "Taking Page from Health Care Act, Obama Climate Plan Relies on States," the New York Times (6/3, Davenport, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the President's "new plan to fight climate change depends heavily on states devising individual approaches to meeting goals set" by the EPA, "a strategy similar to the one he used to expand health care, often with rocky results." According to the Times, "as with health care, the policy could lead to a patchwork of rules that frustrate businesses and invite resistance from states that oppose the policy." The Times goes on to report that "the plan generated a torrent of criticism from industry, coal-state lawmakers from both parties and Republican leaders who called it a job-killer that would raise utility costs."

According to the Washington Times (6/3, Wolfgang, 455K), "By giving some level of power to states," the Administration hopes to "blunt criticism that it's using the heavy hand of the federal government to reshape the American energy landscape." Politico (6/2, Martinson, 637K) noted that states "will have until as late as June 2018 to submit their final plans for complying with the rule, an unexpected detail that means some crucial decisions will take place after Obama leaves office."

Bloomberg News: EPA Rules Favor Nuclear Industry Over "Coal-Dependent Power Companies." Bloomberg News (6/3, Chediak, Polson, 2.76M) reports that "coal-dependent power companies from American Electric Power to Duke Energy face billions of dollars in added costs from the Obama administration's proposed climate rules," while "renewable-energy backers and nuclear generators like Exelon stand to gain from the effort." According to Bloomberg News, American Electric "is the biggest carbon emitter among US power producers, followed by Duke and Southern." Christopher Knittel, director of MIT's Center for Energy & Environmental Policy Research, is quoted as saying, "The rule is going to speed the transition away from coal into natural gas and renewables and potentially increase the role nuclear electricity plays in the US."

New Rules' Likely Impact On Michigan's Economy Debated. Under the headline, "New Coal Rules: Good

News On Michigan Jobs, Or Bad News On Electricity Rates?" the Detroit Free Press (6/3, Matheny, 1.02M) reports that the Administration's "proposal to slash carbon dioxide emissions from US power plants is prompting fierce debate in coal-heavy Michigan, with proponents of the new regulations saying they will open the way to thousands of greener-energy jobs and others fearful of rising electricity rates and reduced competitiveness."

The Detroit News (6/3, Lynch, Heinlein, 643K) reports that "Michigan consumers can expect higher electricity prices under [the] Obama administration proposal unveiled Monday to reduce carbon emissions in the name of fighting global warming." DTE Energy spokesman Alejandro Bodipo-Memba is quoted as saying, "It's clear that requirements like what are being proposed would result in higher costs for customers." The News also report that Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI), the chairman of the House Energy Committee, asked on Monday: "Why in the world is the president pushing regulations that will serve to increase utility rates for consumers, send manufacturing jobs overseas, and hamstring our economic recovery?"

WPost, NYTimes, LATimes Praise Proposal; WSJournal Among Critics. The Washington Post (6/3, 4.22M), in an editorial, says, "This plan is a down payment on a comprehensive climate plan, not the most efficient policy nor a suitably ambitious response to climate change." In another editorial on the EPA's plan, the New York Times (6/3, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says the "proposed rule on power plants will not get the world to where it has to go to avert the worst consequences of climate change." But the Times adds that the rules are "likely to be enormously beneficial: good for the nation's health, good for technological innovation, good for President Obama's credibility abroad, and, in time, good for the planet and future generations."

The Los Angeles Times (6/3, 3.46M) calls the EPA plan "smart, pragmatic and overdue," while the Wall Street Journal (6/3, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, warns that consumers will inevitably pay more for electricity as a result of the new rules.

USA Today (6/3, 5.82M), praises the EPA's proposal but warns that "even if America meets the administration's goal of a 30% reduction from 2005 levels by 2030, the US reductions will be swamped by increases elsewhere if other big polluters don't follow suit." Hal Quinn of the National Mining Association, in an accompanying op-ed for USA Today (6/3, 5.82M), says the US can meet "our environmental goals without raising electricity costs, eliminating thousands of jobs and jeopardizing the reliability of the electric grid" as Quinn claims the EPA's "new, overzealous greenhouse gas regulations" would do. According to Quinn, "The model EPA touts is California, where electricity costs are 45% higher than the national average."

Eugene Robinson, in his column for the Washington Post (6/3, 4.22M), says the "proposed new rule for existing power plants...is ambitious enough to get anyone's attention," and "necessary in the context of seeking international consensus on solutions."

BERGDAHL'S UNIT BLAMES HIM FOR DEATHS OF US SOLDIERS KILLED WHILE LOOKING FOR HIM. The controversy over the swap of American POW Bowe Bergdahl in return for five Taliban commanders was once again the dominant story of the news cycle on Monday. The three networks, for example, devoted more than 22 minutes of airtime to the controversy surrounding the Bergdahl swap, more than all the rest of the day's news combined. More so than was the case over the weekend, reports tend to emphasize criticism of the Administration and questions about Bergdahl's motivations for leaving his post in 2009. Many outlets are reporting as fact that at least six US servicemembers were killed during the initial extensive search for Bergdahl after he went missing.

In the lead story for NBC Nightly News (6/2, lead story, 3:45, Curry, 7.86M), Jim Miklaszewski reported that "all the early joy and celebration over Bergdahl's release is clouded over several growing controversies." According to Miklaszewski, "serious questions have been raised about how Bergdahl fell into the hands of the Taliban," but "US military officials confirm that Bergdahl walked away without his weapon with a compass and water." Miklaszewski went on to report that "for 90 days...the US military conducted a massive search mission" for Bergdahl, and "during the mission, six American soldiers were killed, including two from Bergdahl's platoon."

At the opening of the CBS Evening News (6/2, lead story, 2:10, Dubois, 5.08M), Maurice Dubois reported that "the joy and relief that usually accompany the release of an American POW are being overshadowed tonight by criticism of the deal that won his freedom and questions about how he was captured in the first place." Correspondent David Martin went on to report that "former members of [Bergdahl's] unit have taken to the

airwaves and social media calling him a 'deserter,' and alleging other soldiers were actually killed searching for him." Josh Quarder, a former sergeant in Bergdahl's unit: "He pretty much voluntarily walked away and in turn caused...the actions that may have killed them."

In the lead story for ABC World News (6/2, lead story, 3:35, Sawyer), Martha Raddatz said, "we are hearing stunning accusations from those who risked their lives to save" Bergdahl, "with even a former senior defense official calling Bergdahl 'a deserter.'" Former army sergeant Evan Buetow, who was "Bergdahl's team leader," was shown saying, "People calling him a hero and this great soldier, it's a spit in the face to, one, all the soldiers who were there, and, more importantly, it's a spit in the face to the soldiers who died as a direct result to him leaving."

Jake Tapper, in an online piece for CNN (6/3, Tapper, 12.15M), reported that "many of those who served with" Bergdahl "call him a deserter whose 'selfish act' ended up costing the lives of better men." Tapper says that "at least six soldiers were killed in...searches for Bergdahl." Former Sgt. Matt Vierkant, "a member of Bergdahl's platoon when he went missing," is quoted as saying, "Bowe Bergdahl deserted during a time of war, and his fellow Americans lost their lives searching for him." According to Tapper, Vierkant says Bergdahl "needs to not only acknowledge his actions publicly but face a military trial for desertion under the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

The Washington Times (6/3, Chumley, 455K) identifies the six soldiers killed searching for Bergdahl as "Staff Sgt. Clayton Bowen; Pfc. Morris Walker; Staff Sgt. Kurt Curtiss; 2nd Lt. Darryn Andrews; Pfc. Matthew Michael Martinek; and Staff Sgt. Michael Murphrey."

USA Today (6/3, Michaels, 5.82M) reports that Pentagon official "confirmed [Bergdahl] walked off his post without authorization before he was captured." USA Today also reports that on Monday on Facebook, Sarah Palin, addressing President Obama, wrote: "Please use your White House Rose Garden to praise the truly honorable service of our good U.S. troops who were killed in their search for Sgt. Bergdahl."

The Wall Street Journal (6/3, Nissenbaum, Barnes, Entous, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) covers the controversy surrounding the deal in an article titled, "Backlash Grows On Release Of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl In Taliban Prisoner Swap." According to the Journal, Pentagon officials did not anticipate the level of criticism directed at the Administration over Bergdahl's release. Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby is quoted as saying, "It doesn't matter under what circumstances he left. It doesn't matter what his persuasions were, political or otherwise."

The Washington Times (6/3, Taylor, 455K) reports that "on several occasions" the US military "had ground-level intelligence on where...Bergdahl was being held captive...down to how many gunmen were guarding him — but special operations commanders repeatedly shelved rescue missions because they didn't want to risk casualties for a man they believed to be a 'deserter.'"

In his column for the Wall Street Journal (6/3, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Bret Stephens focuses on the anger among veterans over the effort made to secure the release of Bergdahl, whom many of them consider a deserter. The Wall Street Journal (6/3, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, says it is now Bergdahl's responsibility to describe how and why he left his base without authorization.

The Washington Post (6/3, A1, McCrummen, 4.22M) has a front-page article on the attitudes about Bergdahl in his home town of Hailey, Idaho.

White House Pushes Back Against Criticism Of Bergdahl Swap As GOP Demands Hearings. On NBC Nightly News (6/2, story 2, 2:25, Curry, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that on Monday, the White House was "trying to put out the firestorm over the release of the Taliban detainees" as the Administration "fac[ed] criticism from Congress and allies who say they paid too high a price, and reverse decades-old policy of not negotiating with terrorists." Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT): "We gave the Taliban their starting team back. We put the five guys that led this organization and allegedly killed thousands of people...back on the battlefield."

However, on the CBS Evening News (6/2, story 2, 2:20, Dubois, 5.08M), Major Garrett reported that while White House officials "don't deny the five detainees traded for Bowe Bergdahl were not hardened Taliban killers," White House Press Secretary Jay Carney "said there were sufficient safeguards in place."

The AP (6/3, Dilanian, Riechmann) reports that the swap "stirred debate over a possibly heightened risk other Americans being snatched as bargaining chips," while Congressional Republicans "complained about not having been consulted, citing a law that requires Congress to be given 30 days notice before a prisoner is released from Guantanamo." The AP goes on to report that on Monday, White House chief of staff Denis McDonough "pushed back," saying, "We did not have 30 days to wait to get this done. And when you're commander in chief, you have to act when there is an opportunity for action." According to the AP, Administration officials "said they had to act quickly because Bergdahl's health and safety appeared in jeopardy, but declined to explain how."

McClatchy (6/3, Wise, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that on Monday, White House press secretary Jay Carney also "pushed back against the criticism" after President Obama "sidestepped the law by authorizing a prisoner swap of Guantanamo detainees without notifying Congress." According to McClatchy, Carney maintained that Congress had been "repeatedly" informed about the President's "concerns with the requirement to give Congress 30-days notice of any release of Guantanamo detainees, as stipulated in the National Defense Authorization Act, a bill Obama signed last year." McClatchy adds that "amid growing questions about the deal," Carney argued that the President "didn't have to notify Congress in advance because he had added a 'signing statement' to the law that said the 30-day requirement infringed on the president's constitutional authority as commander in chief."

Politico (6/2, Everett, 637K) reported that Senate Republicans "are demanding an open hearing on the negotiated release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in return for five Taliban prisoners, arguing the classified hearing set for next week doesn't go far enough." According to Politico, Republicans have "questions about...what Obama's motivations were in making the deal to release Bergdahl and perhaps most notably, why senior congressional leaders were not given advance notice about the swap that led to the release of five prisoners from Guantanamo Bay." Politico quoted Sen. Saxby Chambliss as saying, "The law says they ought to give us 30 days' notice; if the president thought that was unconstitutional or an invalid law he shouldn't have signed the bill."

Francine Kiefer, in an analysis for the Christian Science Monitor (6/3, 566K), writes, "So far, Democrats aren't complaining about the handling of the case, which raises the question: Are the concerns valid, or...just election-year politics?" Kiefer notes that on Monday in an appearance on MSNBC, Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA), the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said, "I'm sorry that this is being portrayed as a Republican issue. ... This is not a partisan issue."

The New York Times (6/3, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, says, "Bergdahl's release raises significant concerns, starting with President Obama's decision to ignore a law that required him to notify Congress in advance about the bargain that secured the soldier's freedom, and about how trading five high-value Taliban prisoners...could affect America's antiterrorism policy."

NYTimes Report: Obama Initially Sought Peace Deal In Exchange For Taliban Commanders' Freedom. The New York Times (6/3, Sanger, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "for two and a half years," the Administration "maneuvered to make a deal" that would mark the "start of a larger peace process for Afghanistan" and "ease the American exit from the country," but "by the time President Obama called the emir of Qatar last Tuesday to obtain a personal assurance from the Arab leader that the five Taliban detainees...would not be able to conduct operations from" Doha, "the president's objectives were vastly reduced." The Times adds that "instead of a broad peace accord," the President "decided to go ahead with a straight prisoner swap, something the Taliban had proposed secretly last fall."

Politico's Gerstein: Obama Poised To Close Gitmo Using Executive Power. Under the headline, "President Obama Goes Rogue On Gitmo," Josh Gerstein of Politico (6/2, 637K) says the President "took a real risk" and "defied Congress" in order to "get [the] process moving" for closing down the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay. According to Gerstein, the President's decision not to notify Congress "sends a clear message" that he "is now willing to wield his executive powers to get the job done."

Politico (6/2, Everett, 637K) also reported that on Monday, Sen. Jim Inhofe said, "The whole motive here is that the president wants to continue to try to shut [Guantanamo] down. He knows he doesn't have the support of Congress and that's part of the motivation." Inhofe added, "It fits right in to what the president's been trying to do with Gitmo since before he was president of the United States. And it's kind of scary."

The Miami Herald (6/3, Rosenberg, 822K) reports that officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross "said the Pentagon, unusually, did not invite delegates to" Guantanamo Bay "in advance to interview the five Afghans on their willingness to leave, or conduct medical checkups."

Administration Decried Release Of Taliban Prisoners In February. The Washington Times (6/3, Scarborough, 455K) notes that in February, the Administration "condemned Afghan President Hamid Karzai's release of 65 hardened Taliban fighters," calling them "a danger to American troops and Afghans."

Graham: "Last Week Was A Great Week For The Taliban." Reuters (6/3, Zengerle, Alexander) reports that in Monday, Sen. Lindsey Graham said, "With President Obama's announcement of a total withdrawal (of US forces) from Afghanistan by 2016...and now releasing five Taliban leaders, it's safe to say last week was a great week for the Taliban."

On NBC Nightly News (6/2, story 3, 2:15, Curry, 7.86M), Richard Engel reported that the five Taliban leaders released by the US include "accused war criminals, an associate of Osama bin Laden." Engel added that "all five were high-level figures in the Taliban's fight against US forces in Afghanistan," and were "considered 'dangerous, not recommended for release.'"

Afghan Government Reportedly Upset Over Release Of Taliban Commanders. According to the Washington Times (6/3, Chumley, 455K), it has been reported that the Afghan government "wasn't included in the decision-making process and was largely unaware of the swap until the deal was done."

In an article titled, "Afghan President Fumes At Prisoner Deal Made Behind His Back: Source," Reuters (6/3, Shalizi, Donati) reports that Afghan President Hamid Karzai is said to be angry about not being consulted before the five Taliban commanders were released over the weekend, and believes that the swap for Bergdahl will not benefit the ongoing peace talks between his government and the Taliban. Reuters also notes that on Sunday, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahidsaid, "It won't help the peace process in any way, because we don't believe in the peace process."

ABC's Ross: Taliban Commanders Are "Living In The Midst Of Luxury." In a segment on the released Taliban commanders for ABC World News (6/2, story 2, 2:05, Sawyer), Brian Ross reported that "the five freed detainees are living in the midst of luxury...in a Taliban villa in the West Bay Lagoon neighborhood of the capital city of Doha." According to Ross, "There was no sign they were in custody or under guard." Ross added that "their families were flown in to be with them and the only known condition imposed by the US was that they not travel outside Qatar for at least a year."

The Los Angeles Times (6/3, 3.46M), in an editorial, defends the decision to release the Taliban commanders. According to the Times, "Unless the US were to assert the right to hold the detainees forever...they would have been released at some point."

WPost: Obama Seems To Lack Concern For Well-Being Of Afghans. The Washington Post (6/3, 4.22M), in an editorial, says "the impression reinforced by the deal is of a president anxious to disengage from Afghanistan as rapidly and as thoroughly as possible, with minimal regard for the consequences for Afghans." The Post adds, "Now that Mr. Obama has committed to withdrawing all U.S. forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2016, the Taliban have scant incentive to negotiate."

Obama's Use Of Signing Statements Seen As Similar To Bush. The Washington Post (6/3, Tumulty, 4.22M) reports that President Obama in seeking the presidency criticized President Bush for using "signing statements" calling them a "clear abuse" of presidential authority. Now President Obama is being accused of doing the same, though less often. With respect to "Obama's decision over the weekend to trade the release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl," the Post notes that the law "stipulates that the defense secretary must notify relevant congressional committees at least 30 days before transferring anyone from Guantanamo Bay." President Obama in signing the law had issued a statement declaring that "the requirement was potentially unconstitutional." He has been criticized for violating the law by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein, and Sen. James M. Inhofe, ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Bergdahl Deal Sparks Renewed Scrutiny Of Detainees Who Return To Terror After Release. The Washington Post (6/3, Lamothe, 4.22M) reports that in the wake of the release of five Taliban detainees in exchange for Sgt. Bower Bergdahl, the question of how many detainees transferred out of Gitmo have returned to the fight is getting renewed scrutiny. According to the more recent report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, since Gitmo's opening in 2002, about 614 detainees "have been sent home or resettled in third countries by the George W. Bush and Obama administrations." Of those, "104 — about 16.9 percent — are confirmed to have returned to terrorist activity of some kind, the report says." Another 74, or 12.1 percent, "are suspected of engaging in terrorist activities after their release, defense officials say."

OBAMA ORDERS EMERGENCY AID TO MINORS CROSSING US-MEXICO BORDER. The issue of unaccompanied minors crossing the US southern border has been garnering sporadic coverage in the media in recent weeks, but the Administration's announcement of action designed to deal with the growing flow drew coverage on print media – though not on the network newscasts. While there was significant focus on the Administration's response, a common refrain was the sharp growth in the number of minors crossing the border.

McClatchy (6/3, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that on Monday, President Obama ordered Federal departments to coordinate on caring for the "flood of unaccompanied migrant children" crossing into the US from Mexico. McClatchy says that experts "are at a loss to provide an explanation for the surge, which has seen the number of unaccompanied minors skyrocket from 13,625 in 2012 to 24,668 last year." Those numbers are expected to skyrocket in the coming years.

The AP (6/3, Caldwell, Sherman) reports the White House also "asked Congress for an extra $1.4 billion in federal money to cope." The President "said the US will temporarily house the children at two military bases." He also appointed FEMA chief Craig Fugate to take charge of the situation.

USA Today (6/3, Gomez, 5.82M) reports Cecilia Muñoz, "Obama's domestic policy adviser, said border officials have caught 90% more unaccompanied minors this year than they did last year." She said that the minors coming across the border this year tend to be younger and "they're more often girls," with many coming from Central America.

The Wall Street Journal (6/3, Meckler, Sparshott, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) quotes Munoz saying, "The scale and the humanitarian nature of this situation is what's causing us to ramp up."

The Washington Post (6/3, Zezima, O'Keefe, 4.22M) reports Muñoz "also said there are rumors and suggestions that the increase may be in response to false gossip that children are allowed to stay in the United States despite immigration law or that immigration reform may benefit minors."

The Washington Times (6/3, Dinan, 455K) reports that the White House "signaled that, at least for now, it sees the flow of children — which it predicts will more than double in 2015 — as an issue to be managed rather than a problem to be fought."

The New York Times (6/3, Preston, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that officials "said the youths would begin to be transferred on Friday from holding cells along the border to the new shelter at Naval Base Ventura County in Oxnard, Calif., which will house up to 600 children." Last month, Federal authorities, "overwhelmed by the numbers of unaccompanied young people crossing the border illegally, began sending them to a special shelter at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio." The shelter, run by HHS, "can handle up to 1,200 minors, federal officials said, and has already received 1,000."

Meanwhile, Reuters (6/3, Cowan) reports that House Judiciary Chair Bob Goodlatte said that his committee will be looking into the issue. He said, "The recent surge of children and teenagers from Central America showing up at our southern border is an administration-made disaster and now President Obama is calling in FEMA to mitigate the damage."

White House Urges Pentagon To Avoid Enacting Immigrant Enlistment Change. Politico (6/2, Kim, 637K) reported that a White House official "confirmed" on Monday that the Administration has asked the Pentagon "to hold off on releasing a new policy that would allow some young immigrants who came to the US illegally to enlist

in the military." The objective, the Administration says, is "to avoid any unilateral actions from President Barack Obama on immigration that could disrupt the narrow chances of reform on Capitol Hill."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Nearing A Climate Legacy."*** In an editorial on the EPA's emissions plan, the New York Times (6/3, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says the "proposed rule on power plants will not get the world to where it has to go to avert the worst consequences of climate change." But the Times adds that the rules are "likely to be enormously beneficial: good for the nation's health, good for technological innovation, good for President Obama's credibility abroad, and, in time, good for the planet and future generations."

"Freedom For Sgt. Bergdahl, At A Price." The New York Times (6/3, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, says, "Bergdahl's release raises significant concerns, starting with President Obama's decision to ignore a law that required him to notify Congress in advance about the bargain that secured the soldier's freedom, and about how trading five high-value Taliban prisoners...could affect America's antiterrorism policy."

"Keeping Track." In the latest edition of its "Keeping Track" feature on its editorial page, the New York Times (6/3, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) considers the Supreme Court's refusal to hear an appeal from Times reporter James Risen, who is facing possible jail time for refusing to identify a confidential source, a California judge's rejection of McDonald's bid to dismiss an employee lawsuit alleging wage theft at more than 100 company-owned and operated restaurants, and a settlement between attorneys for college athletes and EA Sports and the Collegiate Licensing Company over the companies' use of players' likenesses in videogames.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The EPA's Emissions Plan."*** The Washington Post (6/3, 4.22M), in an editorial, says, the EPA's emissions plan "is a down payment on a comprehensive climate plan, not the most efficient policy nor a suitably ambitious response to climate change."

"Was Bergdahl's Price Too High?" The Washington Post (6/3, 4.22M), in an editorial, says "the impression reinforced by the deal is of a president anxious to disengage from Afghanistan as rapidly and as thoroughly as possible, with minimal regard for the consequences for Afghans." The Post adds, "Now that Mr. Obama has committed to withdrawing all U.S. forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2016, the Taliban have scant incentive to negotiate."

"An Embarrassment To Pr. George's."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Carbon Income Inequality."*** The Wall Street Journal (6/3, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, warns that consumers will inevitably pay more for electricity as a result of the new emissions rules.

"Sergeant Bergdahl's Duty." The Wall Street Journal (6/3, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, says it is now Bergdahl's responsibility to describe how and why he left his base without authorization.

"The Roberts Method." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/3, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that when the Roberts Court overturned Federal prosecutors' efforts to use the chemical weapons treaty in a simple assault case, it rules correctly. However, the WSJ argues that the Court should have gone farther in limiting the ability of Congress to abuse its power with regards to treaties.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
In China, A Dissident Is Shadowed By History
VA Hospitals Vary Widely In Patient Care
Sealed Court Files Obscure Rise In Electronic Surveillance
Taste For Risk Fueled Career Of Bettor In Trading Probe

New York Times:
Inquiry Implicates Former DA In Misuse Of Funds
French Officials Twist US Arms In Bank Inquiry
Democrats In Coal Country Run From EPA
Bowe Bergdahl's Vanishing Before Capture Angered His Unit
Tales Of Army Discord Show Tiananmen Square In A New Light
After Boy And Girl Are Stabbed, Anger Over A Lack Of Cameras

Washington Post:
EPA's Proposal Prompts Backlash
Relief, Concern In Soldier's Town
Florida Bomber In Syria Raises Fears For US
For Us Latchkey Kids, Alice Was A Saving Grace
In Silicon Valley, A Divisive Democratic Race

Financial Times:
Pay Rises For Senior Bankers Hit 10%
US Proposes Biggest Push For Carbon Cuts
KKR Closes $510m Equities Hedge Fund
Tullett In Talks On Smith Successor
Cinven's Investment In Serbia To Double
Every Investor Briefly Wins With ISM Survey

Washington Times:
Top GSA Exec Didn't Disclose China Trip, Old Felonies
DOD Knew Bergdahl Location, Didn't Risk Rescue For "Deserter"
Poland Hopes For Obama's Assurance
EPA's Carbon Limits Could Further Power Up Natural Gas
Less Fear, More Fury For "Female" Storms
Children At Border "Urgent," But Obama Offers No Plan

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: US Prisoner Released; Released Prisoners-Taliban; Bergdahl Recovery; Obama-Carbon Emission Rules; Solar Powered Airline; Unstable Airline Passengers; Spanish King-British Royals; Iran Dust Storm; Grocery Packaging And Pricing; Ambassador-E-Reader.
CBS: US Prisoner Released; Prisoner Trade Response; Taliban Prisoners; Obama-Carbon Emissions Plan; Medical-Cancer Research; Private Plane Crash; Teenage Driving; Edward Snowden-Asylum; Spanish King Abdication.
NBC: US Prisoner Released; Prisoner Trade Response; Bergdahl Hometown Response; FBI Manhunt-Explosive Materials; Russian Cyber Terrorist; Private Plane Crash; Obama-Carbon Emissions Plan; Medical-Cancer Research; Iran-Dust Storm; Spain-King Abdication; Obama-Europe Trip.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Obama-Carbon Emissions Rules; Children Murder Suspects; Appeals Court-Mosque Construction; Delaware Bridge Trouble.
CBS: FBI Manhunt Suspect; Seattle-Minimum Wage Vote; Obama-Carbon Emissions Rules; Private Plane Crash;
NPR: Obama-Carbon Emissions Rules; Children Immigrants; Wall Street-Manufacturing Data; NASDAQ losses; US Prisoner Release; Russian Cyber Criminal; Unmanned Aircraft-Entertainment.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Arrives in Warsaw, Poland; meets with US and Polish Airmen with President Bronislaw Komorowski of Poland; arrives at Belweder Palace, Warsaw Poland; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Bronislaw Komorowski; holds a joint press conference with President Bronislaw Komorowski; arrives at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister; participates in a bilateral meeting with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk; delivers statements to the press with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk; greets participants of the meeting with Central and Eastern European leaders; hosts a meeting with Central and Eastern European leaders; joins the Central and Eastern European Leaders for a photo opportunity; attends a Solidarity Dinner.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Stays in Kiawah Island, South Carolina.
US Senate: 1:45 p.m. VETERANS CHOICE ACT — U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Tom Coburn (R-OK), Richard Burr (R-NC), and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) will hold a press conference to introduce the Veterans Choice Act, designed to provide veterans with "greater flexibility and choice in health care providers and increasing accountability and transparency at the VA." Location: Senate Radio/Television Gallery.

10 a.m. — The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. At 11:00 a.m., Senators proceed to Executive Session to consider nominations.

9:30 a.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

Hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on examining the safety and effectiveness of our transportation systems. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=68242b3c-22dc-40f9-9565-26e29c237497&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a Location: 253 Russell.

10 a.m. ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — Hearing on Farming, Fishing, Forestry, and Hunting in an Era of Changing Climate. Panel I: Dan Ashe, Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service. Panel II: James Walls, Executive Director, Lake County Resources Initiative; Clay Pope, State Association Executive Director, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts; Daniel Cohen, Owner, Atlantic Capes Fisheries; Dr. David R. Legates, PhD, CCM, Professor, Department of Geography, University of Delaware; Dr. David South, PhD, Emeritus Professor, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University. Location: 406 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee Markup of the Fiscal Year 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Location: 124 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. JUDICIARY — Full Committee hearing entitled "Examining a Constitutional Amendment to Restore Democracy to the American People." Witnesses: Panel I: Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United States Senate, State of Nevada; Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, United States Senate, State of Kentucky. Panel II: Floyd B. McKissick, Jr., State Senator, North Carolina General Assembly, Raleigh, NC; Floyd Abrams, Partner; Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP, New York, NY; Jamie Raskin, Professor of Law and Director of the Law and Government Program, American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, DC. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/examining-a-constitutional-amendment-to-restore-democracy-to-the-american-people Location: ROOM CHANGE – NOW 216 Hart.

11 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee Markup of the Fiscal Year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Location: 192 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Water and Power

Hearings to examine S.2379, to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin in the public interest and the interest of the United States. http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings? ID8d5191fa-0a81-465d-bb3c-80f4fc4c9982 Location: 366 Dirksen.
US House: No Scheduled Events.

Other: BGOV CYBER SUMMIT – NSA DIRECTOR, DHS — 9 a.m. Bloomberg Government Cybersecurity Summit on the business implications of the evolving cybersecurity threat. Speakers include: Admiral Mike Rogers, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command; Director, National Security Agency; Chief, Central Security (TV Embargo until 5:00 PM); John Carlin, Assistant Attorney General for National Security, The Department of Justice (3:45p); Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Senator Saxby Chambliss, Vice Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Michael Howell, Deputy Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Ari Baranoff, Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service; Robert Mueller, Fmr. FBI Director; Governor Tim Pawlenty, CEO, Financial Services Roundtable; Paul Wood, Chief Risk Officer, Bloomberg LP; Rich Baich, Chief Information Security Officer, Wells Fargo & Company; Steve Chabinsky, Chief Risk Officer, Crowdstrike; Mike Leiter, Counselor to the CEO, Palantir Technologies; Wade Baker, Managing Principal, Research and Intelligence, Verizon; Lou von Thaer, President, National Security Sector, Leidos; Michael Allen, Founder and Managing Director, Beacon Global Strategies; Peter Dixon, CEO SecondFront; Jeff Greene, Senior Policy Counsel, Symantec; Sandy Kennedy, President, Retail Industry Leaders Association; Ben Powell, Partner, WilmerHale; David Fagan, Partner, Covington & Burling LLP; Stewart Baker, Partner, Steptoe & Johnson LLP; Bob Butler, CNAS Adjunct Senior Fellow with the Technology and National Security Program; Sanford Reback, Senior Technology Analyst, Bloomberg Government; Michael Riley, Bloomberg News and Contributor to Bloomberg BusinessWeek; Anurag Rana, Bloomberg Industries; Dune Lawrence, Bloomberg News; Alex Barinka, Bloomberg News. PRESS: For media credentials contact Lindsay Bomar at lbomar1@bloomberg.net Join the conversation: On Facebook and Twitter @BGOV Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, The Pavilion, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

INTERNATIONAL ROADCHECK KICKOFF — 10 a.m. News Conference and Safety Inspections (conducted by Maryland State Police) to kick off this years International Roadcheck (June 3-5, 2014) which spotlights the critical role of comprehensive driver, truck and bus inspections to prevent roadway tragedies. The 27th annual International Roadcheck will emphasize commercial motor vehicle compliance with all safety regulations with a focus on hazardous materials/dangerous goods regulatory compliance. Maryland State Police will pull commercial motor vehicles off the inner loop of I-95 (Capital Beltway) for safety screenings or inspections. Sponsored by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (www.cvsa.org), International Roadcheck is an annual 72-hour enforcement effort when 10,000 federal, state, provincial and local inspectors at thousands locations across the continent conduct comprehensive commercial vehicle and driver inspections aimed at saving lives on North American roadways. Speakers: Sgt. Thomas Fuller, President, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, New York State Police; Bill Bronrott, Deputy Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; David Czorapinski, Chief, Motor Carrier Division, Maryland State Highway Administration; Capt. N.W. Dofflemyer, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, Maryland State Police. Location: FedEx Field Parking Lot G2, 1600 FedEx Way, Landover, Maryland.

USIP – SHERMAN – SOMALIA — 11 a.m. U.S. Foreign Policy in Somalia remarks by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman. Ambassador Johnnie Carson, Moderator, Senior Advisor to the President, U.S. Institute of Peace. http://www.usip.org/events/us-foreign-policy-in-somalia Location: United States Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Media conference call marking release of School Discipline Consensus Report. Speakers: Michael D. Thompson, the director of the Council of State Governments Justice Center; Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers; Darrel Stephens, executive director of Major Cities Chiefs; Texas State Senator John Whitmire (D), chair of the Texas Senate Criminal Justice Committee, and Tennessee State Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris (R), chair of the Council of State Governments. Contact Michael Clark, (646) 383-5723; Amy Saltzman, (301) 656-0348, http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101093164665/S.gif

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "In a new interview, President Obama revealed that his daughter Malia recently went to her first prom. Yep, she wore a corsage on her wrist, while her date wore a red-laser dot on his head."

Jimmy Fallon: "In the same interview, President Obama said that Hillary Clinton would be very effective if she ran for president. And then Joe Biden said, 'Thank you very – wait, what?'"

Seth Meyers: "This morning, President Obama announced a new 600-page proposal to lower carbon emissions and help stop global warming. Step one: stop printing 600-page proposals."

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Briefing Materials for June 4, 2014

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jun 3, 2014 at 7:39 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Sally–

Attached are your briefing materials for Wednesday, June 4, 2014. These have also been uploaded into Google Drive. I just received the memo on Gov. Otter and will upload. This is not included in your briefing book, and Erin will print a hard copy for you tomorrow.

Additionally, I have uploaded material for your visit to Historic Jamestowne, and Norm Dicks. WGA materials are uploaded for your internal prep tomorrow, but are in draft form, so we may have updates to them in the coming days.

Thank you,

Zaina

8 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 2-7)

- **6 4 14_11am_INFORMATION MEMO WGA Internal Prep.docx** 73K
- **6 4 14_9am_WGA Internal Prep Meeting with Governor Sandoval.docx** 174K
- **6 4 14_Call with Lowell Milken.doc** 63K
- **6 4 14_11am_Internal Prep for WGA.docx** 33K
- **6 4 14_Internal Drought Information Memo to the Secretary.docx** 129K
- **6 4 14_930am_Internal Fire Briefing.docx** 20K
- **6 4 14_930am_ATTACHMENT Internal Fire Briefing.pptx** 3149K
- **6 4 14_1030am_WGA INTERNAL PREP Meeting with Governor Otter.docx** 24K

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

DATE: June 4, 2014

FROM: Sarah Greenberger, OS, (202)208-6726; Michael Bean, AS-FWP office (202) 208-7400; Letty Belin, Counselor to the D/S (202) 208-6291; John Blair, Director, OIEA (202) 208-1923; James Lyons, Counselor, ASLM (202) 208- 4318; Neil Kornze, BLM; Mike Conner, BOR; Libby Washburn, BOR; Dionne Thompson, BOR (202)513-0570; Anne J. Castle, A/S W&S; Neil Kornze, BLM; Maureen Foster, NPS (202) 208-5970; Kevin Washburn (202) 208-7163; Jennifer Goldblatt (202) 513-0604

SUBJECT: Western Governors' Association (WGA) Issues of Interest

In preparation for the upcoming June 2014 Western Governors' Association meeting, below are western issues of interest to the Governors planning to attend.

SAGE-GROUSE

Status of BLM Great Sage-Grouse State Plans

BLM received comments from the public and from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on our 15 Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for Greater Sage-grouse (GRSG). To improve coordination, clarity and consistency as the planning teams begin development of proposed plans, the BLM held two Federal family meetings to discuss land management allocations, disturbance calculations and other topics.

Issues/concerns that were not resolved at these meetings were presented to the National Policy Team (NPT) - which consists of members from FWS, FS, and BLM - for resolution. Key pieces of guidance were developed over a series of NPT meetings, and that guidance was issued on April 30, 2014 to the State Directors. This included guidance intended to ensure clarity and consistency related to the Land Use Plan Allocations and Disturbance thresholds; and, overall guidance related to Adaptive Management, Mitigation and Monitoring that will be incorporated into all 15 EISs. While the final NPT guidance was being developed, the State Directors were cooperating with their Governor's Offices, collectively working on these proposed plans and developing solutions from the ground up. This new guidance, which the NPT feels provides clarity for the public and the FWS, has created some conflict in specific states as some now feel that this has limited the ability to develop locally driven Proposed Plans.

BLM is analyzing the comments received and preparing draft Administrative Proposed Plans (APPs). The draft APPs, which are to be completed in June, will then be "rolled up" in July so as to evaluate their aggregate impact on each sage-grouse "primary area for conservation" (PAC) and sage-grouse population identified in the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) report. The purpose of the roll-up exercise is to evaluate the extent to which the key threats to each PAC and population have been ameliorated by the plans and will enable any fine-tuning of federal and state plans needed to adequately address key threats.

On May 12, 2014, AD-200 issued a memo to the State Directors on the new 12-Step Roll-up Strategy that addresses how the BLM will move forward with the Roll-up through the publication of the Proposed Plan EISs. The NPT guidance does provide some flexibility and if the State Director feels that their current approach is biologically beneficial to sage-grouse and better protects their habitat they can provide AD-200 a memo to support their rationale as addressed in the 12-Step Strategy. Based on this 12-Step process an updated planning schedule has been developed.

Positions of Interested Parties

Colorado – In 2008, the State of Colorado developed a statewide Conservation Plan for GRSG. In 2013, Colorado prepared and published a status report on implementation of the Conservation Plan. The status report, called the Colorado Package, was submitted to both BLM/FS and the FWS in January 2014. It is a compendium of GRSG conservation commitments and efforts underway in Colorado, including conservation planning and implementation, land protection, population and habitat monitoring, habitat treatments, restoration, research and communications. Although not memorialized in an Executive Order, it represents the State's GRSG Plan according to Governor Hickenlooper. The State of Colorado has coordinated actively and closely with BLM/FS in development of the Northwest Colorado Administrative Draft Proposed Plan (ADPP) and provided detailed comments and information for consideration, though the Governor's Office feels that BLM's ADPP is too restrictive.

Idaho/SW Montana –Based on the recent NPT guidance, BLM-ID believes the foundational elements of the State Plan are no longer applicable (i.e., three management areas and associated management, the robust adaptive management strategy, and lands and minerals activities avoidance criteria). The Governor's Office does not agree with the NPT guidance that there be "no unmitigated loss" within General Habitat. Of the three management areas (Priority, Medial, and General), Medial Habitat includes both Priority and General. The FWS concern is that the Priority Habitat in Medial Habitat should be treated and managed as Priority Habitat.

Montana – Currently working on an Executive Order from the Governor which, when in place, will provide regulatory mechanisms for sage-grouse conservation through state approved actions. The adoption of a state plan may influence the state opinions about the BLM plans in MT. The draft state plan (which applies to private and state lands) provides a process by which the state would assess disturbance at the project level to limit discretionary (those activities requiring a state or federal decision) disturbance at the landscape level.

Nevada/NE California – Nevada is in the process of revising the 2012 Nevada Sage-grouse Plan. The agencies (BLM, FS, and FWS) have been working with the State's Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and their Technical Team to make the Proposed Plan and the State Plan, where possible, consistent. To date, most of the sections that would go into the agencies' Proposed Plan have been revised and for the most part are consistent. The overarching concern from the State is the legality of the significant land use restrictions and prohibitions encompassed in the alternatives. The Nevada State Sage-grouse Plan does not make direct allocations. Their goal is to limit development based on the amount of credit that would have to be acquired for a disturbance. We expect pushback on any allocations that exclude or close areas to development.

North Dakota/South Dakota – Both the North Dakota Game and Fish and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks have been supportive of the BLM LUP efforts and decisions. North Dakota Game and Fish has produced a draft updated Greater Sage-grouse Management Plan and a final plan is expected soon. South Dakota is in the process of producing a draft updated Greater Sage-grouse Management Plan. Neither plan includes regulatory mechanisms for state approved actions.

Utah – The Conservation Plan for GRSG was approved for implementation by Governor Herbert in April 2013. The measures in the plan are being applied and habitat improvement projects implemented. In May 2013, the FWS submitted a comment letter raising concerns with Utah's Conservation Plan that have yet to be resolved. The state has concerns with BLM direction within Preliminary General Management Areas as it relates to "no net loss" and the three percent disturbance cap. The State also believes there is too much emphasis on land use restrictions in the BLM-FS plan and not enough emphasis on increasing habitat through treatments.

Wyoming – The State of Wyoming Core Area Strategy was established in 2011 by Executive Order. The Core Area Strategy is implemented by the Governor's Greater Sage-Grouse Implementation Team (SGIT); it applies to private and state lands whenever a state authorization is required and is largely consistent with BLM/FS ADPP. Governor Mead is intent on getting the Lander Record of Decision approved to demonstrate successful sage-grouse conservation partnerships and has emphasized the need for BLM/FS plans to be consistent with the Wyoming Core Area Strategy. Governor Mead has emphasized that GRSG conservation should move forward while maintaining economic and social benefits derived from public land uses.

Key Points to Emphasize

(1) **The Fish and Wildlife Service has made no decision and has no "leaning" with respect to whether or not the sage-grouse should be proposed for listing**. It will make that determination in 2015 on the basis of all the information available to it then, including the state and federal plans now being completed. It will be guided by the recommendations of the COT report, which was a joint product of state and federal scientists.

(2) Through the collective efforts of state and federal agencies, **avoiding the need to list the species under the ESA is an achievable goal**. The degree of cooperation that has characterized the work of the federal and state agencies over the last three years is unprecedented. If we continue to work together constructively, it is within our power to remove or adequately reduce the threats to the sage-grouse.

(3) **"What is good for the bird is good for the herd."** This recent remark by an Oregon rancher underscores the point that conserving the sage-grouse will have much broader benefits than simply helping that single species. Valued game species, such as mule deer, share many of the sage-grouse's habitat needs and thus will benefit from efforts to conserve the grouse. Indeed, **the PACs that will be the primary focus of conservation efforts for the sage-grouse are generally congruent with the highest priority "crucial habitat" areas in the CHATs** that WGA and the Western states have recently produced.

(4) **The states will be invited and encouraged to take part in the forthcoming "roll up"** of BLM and Forest Service plans, to ensure a comprehensive look at the extent to which key threats have been ameliorated in the PACs. This is essential since state and private land comprises a significant fraction of most PACs and a majority of the land in several PACs.

(5) While all the states have been working hard through the Sage-Grouse Task Force and other means, **several states have made unique contributions**.
- **Wyoming**'s core area strategy both led the way in building a conservation effort around the most important places, but also made effective use of the state's many regulatory authorities to conserve those places;
- **Nevada** is in the forefront of efforts to design a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to mitigation;
- **Idaho** has embraced adaptive management in a rigorous way.

(6) Through the work of the Task Force, **many good ideas have emerged regarding how we can better prevent fires and more effectively target our post-fire restoration efforts.** Our ability to implement those ideas will be greatly aided if together we can persuade Congress to enact bipartisan legislation that changes the way we budget for fire. The help of the Western Governors in securing that legislation is needed.

(7) **Now is not the time to kick the can down the road**, as some have suggested. The chance we have this year and next to put in place meaningful conservation measures is the best chance to arrest and reverse the decline of an iconic game bird of the West and the habitat upon which it and much other wildlife depends.

ADDITIONAL Q & A

Q: What do you have to say about legislative proposals that would give the States more time to develop and implement their own solutions to sage-grouse conservation?
A: I disagree with those who suggest kicking the can down the road is the best approach to facing the challenges before us. The ESA has forced all of us to sit down together and work to solve a problem that is much bigger than sage-grouse. The disappearing sage brush and explosion of invasive species that fuel the fire cycle also threaten sage-grouse. They also threaten other iconic species like mule deer, elk and pronghorn as well as ranching and other activities that fuel western tradition and economic growth. Wyoming has shown that we best preserve our heritage and generate economic potential when we act boldly and decisively to make smarter, more strategic land management decisions that provide all land users with certainty. That is the example we are working together to emulate.

Q: Montana recently closed their greater sage-grouse hunting season because of declining population levels. What does this mean about the prospects for avoiding the need to list the sage-grouse? Are we now in the same position we were in for Lesser Prairie Chicken, Gunnison and Bi-state sage-grouse where population drives the outcome and no amount of conservation will suffice?
A: FWS will make its listing determination based on the sum total of the status of the bird, and the threats to the species and its habitat, across the entire range of the species. Greater sage-grouse populations appear to have declined in some portions of the range due to the recent drought and other factors, and Montana took this precautionary management step as a result. That said, there is no indication that the population is crashing, as was seen with the lesser prairie-chicken. Our focus for conservation continues to be on protecting the remaining large, high quality areas of habitat, i.e., the Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs), so that populations of the bird large enough to be resilient to drought and other natural stressors can be maintained across the range.

Q: Director Ashe keeps discussing a 4(d) rule. That makes us think he's already made up his mind about listing the bird. What is our incentive to keep working at this?
A: The Fish and Wildlife Service has made no decision and has no "leaning" on whether to propose the sage-grouse for listing. It will make that determination in 2015 on the basis of all the information available to it then, including the state and federal plans now being completed. It will be guided by the recommendations of the COT report, which was a joint product of state and federal scientists.

What Dan wants to make clear is that there is no downside to bold action with regard to a listing. If the federal government and all governors act to develop strong, science-based plans that serve to avoid the need to list, then we're all happy. But if some governors act and some don't, and the Service ultimately has to list the bird, a 4(d) rule can allow states with a sound conservation plan in place to continue to have the lead for managing the species.

Q: Fox News recently reported that the Service decision to list the Lesser Prairie Chicken has shut down oil and gas production in Western Kansas despite the rhetoric from the Service regarding flexibility and states' retention of authority. How do you respond to that?
A: Companies have a responsibility to prepare for changes in their business environment, too. The most recent statistics we have from WAFWA show that 117 different oil and gas companies have assessed the situation and made the business decision to participate in the Range-wide Conservation Plan, committing to carry out the conservation measures of the plan on 6.2 million acres of land that they manage or lease. That same avenue is readily available for any company operating in western Kansas.

Fire and Sage-Grouse Habitat Protection Measures

- The safety of firefighters and the public will always be our top priority, but the protection of Sage-Grouse and its habitat where they exist is the top resource priority. The BLM is and has been taking immediate, direct and measurable steps to reduce fire and invasive species threats to Sage-Grouse habitat.
- In core habitat areas with a history of large fires, we will aggressively seek to compartmentalize prime areas through strategic fuels management and creating firebreaks to minimize fire spread into those critical habitat areas. For 2015 we intend to increase the fuels treatment allocation percentage and amount of investment in core habitat.
- To stem the effects of changes in the fuels and fire regime, quick and aggressive post-fire stabilization and fuels treatments will provide a path to enhanced habitat conservation. Although sagebrush and preferred grasses are difficult to get established with more frequent fires, we will use competitive plant species, including non-native grasses and forbs, where necessary as a proven transition to a longer-term desired plant community.
- In 2014 we are directing 62 percent of our Fuels Program project capacity to Sage-grouse habitat conservation projects. This amounts to $28 million in funding and approximately 240,000 acres of treatment. In 2014 we are investing 58 percent of our Healthy Lands Initiative funds to sagebrush ecosystems and landscapes. This amounts to over $4.5 million. These funds are distributed between the Greater, the Gunnison, and Bi State population areas of habitat.
- To boost rural response capacity in Sage-Grouse habitat, and west-wide, managers and fire organizations will be encouraged to integrate Rural Fire Protection Associations and traditional Rural Volunteer Departments into their daily operations to the highest degree possible. We are committed to training support and coordination at a minimum. Where possible we will provide more material support.

<u>High-Voltage Transmission Lines and Greater Sage-Grouse</u>

- BLM is taking significant steps to address transmission project impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitats while land use plans are being amended or revised as part of an ongoing National Greater Sage-grouse Planning Strategy.
- BLM is also ensuring project developers comply with interim management guidance for sage-grouse that was issued in December 2011. This guidance specifies: Consideration of reasonable siting alternatives outside priority habitat or within designated corridors; identification of technically feasible best management practices; and consideration of regional mitigation opportunities.
- Thorough, project-specific environmental reviews are ongoing with input from the public, Tribes, and Federal, state and local cooperators.
- Project developers are preparing Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA) based mitigation in collaboration with BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service and state game and fish agencies.
- BLM is working with project developers to co-locate facilities within previously disturbed areas and designated corridors.
- BLM is working with project developers to identify routes that minimize impacts to Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs) for the Greater Sage-Grouse.
- For approved projects, BLM is enforcing strict timing controls on construction activities during sensitive periods (i.e. breeding, nesting, winter).

HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES AND ENERGY ISSUES

This topic is of particular interest to Governor Butch Otter (ID), Governor Brian Sandoval (NV), and Governor Gary Herbert (UT). During the WGA breakfast in February, Governor Herbert mentioned the need for certainty in Interior's resource management plans to encourage energy development in his state.

Governor Sandoval discussed transmission lines in his state at the February WGA breakfast. Governor Otter plans to discuss Gateway West and Boardman to Hemmingway transmission lines.

As the largest Federal land manager in the west, the BLM plays a significant role in planning energy corridors and siting transmission facilities. BLM administers over 107,000 rights-of-way for a variety of uses including transmission lines and pipelines. BLM is employing a "smart from the start" approach to identify areas of conflict and opportunity during planning to allow BLM managers to select the best areas for siting transmission facilities.

Since 2009, BLM has permitted 42 high-voltage transmission projects spanning over 2,300 miles on public lands. These projects provide capacity for renewable energy, improve grid reliability and support job growth. Since 2011, BLM has participated as a member of the Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT) with the goal of improving coordination, expediting permitting and identifying lessons learned from seven priority pilot projects identified by the President. BLM is lead or co-lead agency on four of the priority projects. BLM currently has approximately 20 pending high-voltage transmission projects in several western states. Some projects are in sagebrush habitat.

Energy Corridors

The BLM, DOE, and USFS Work Group are collaborating to identify regions in the west to conduct reviews of corridors. The federal partners are focused on doing this right, including close coordination with states, tribes, local communities, and outside partners. This new approach is the right way to conduct corridor assessments, but it is also very resource intensive. With limited funds, the federal partners are currently consulting with WGA and various states in considering which regions to prioritize. Interest from states and commitments to work collaboratively on a corridor process will be key to successfully reviewing corridors of concern.

Transmission Project Summaries

- Gateway West Transmission Line (Idaho segments 8 & 9) * *RRTT Priority Project* - The project will address load growth in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming, improve the reliability and efficiency of utility systems, and tap renewable energy resources in Idaho and Wyoming. The project sponsors estimate 1,100 to 1,200 jobs will be created.
    - Challenges: Routes proposed across the BLM administered Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA in southern Idaho; finalizing Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation; finalizing Migratory Bird Conservation Plan
- TransWest Express Line * *RRTT Priority Project* - The project is designed to increase capacity for renewable energy generation consisting primarily of wind energy, including the Choke-Cherry, Sierra Madre Wind Farm near Rawlins, WY. The project sponsor estimates 1,035 to 1,550 jobs will be created.
    - Challenges: Finalizing Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation; potential crossing inventoried road less areas in National Forests; proximity to Nellis Air Force Base in southern Nevada; crossing Tuttle Ranch and proposed conservation easements in Colorado; co-locating project adjacent to existing projects and the Energy Gateway South project
- Boardman to Hemingway Project **RRTT and PNWRIT Priority Project* - The Project would relieve pressure on the existing transmission system, improve electric reliability, provide additional energy capacity to meet demand in Oregon and Idaho, and provide service to wholesale customers. The project sponsor estimates 500 jobs to be created.

- Challenges: Project schedule being delayed due to inadequate Administrative DEIS; untimely and insufficient cultural, biological and visual resource data from environmental contractors; delays due to project developer financial commitments to support NEPA analysis and contractors; routes affecting Greater Sage-Grouse and habitat; limited flexibility in Oregon state siting policy for sage-grouse habitat; potential routes crossing irrigated agricultural lands and other private lands

- Energy Gateway South Transmission Project - The project is designed to provide redundancy to existing infrastructure and improve ability to provide reliable service to customers; support future load growth in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah; provide increased transmission capacity for third-party transmission users.
  - Challenges: Proposed routes affecting Greater Sage-Grouse and habitat; finalizing Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation; crossing Tuttle Ranch and proposed conservation easements in Colorado; co-locating project adjacent to existing projects and the TransWest Express project; routes impacting private lands
- Vantage Pomona Transmission Project * *PNWRIT Priority Project* - The project is designed to eliminate redistributed loads and overloading of the adjacent transmission system; ensure continued reliable and efficient service to Yakima Valley and address potential reliability issues within the Mid-Columbia Transmission System.
  - Challenges: Potential visual impacts; private landowners desire to minimize routes on private lands; proposed route across Joint Base Lewis McChord Yakima Training center (JBLM-YTC) which is designated as a Priority Area of Conservation (PAC) for sage-grouse; minimizing impacts to cultural resources and properties for route crossing JBLM-YTC; analysis of a buried transmission line as a design alternative

FIRE

The Bureau of Land Management is working with local, state, and federal cooperators to ensure that we stop the majority of wildland fires in the first burning period. Areas of focus include: Using science-based decision support tools to anticipate the next problem areas; positioning fire suppression resources to where they will next be needed; approving severity funding allocations to temporarily increase fire suppression staffing; and conducting fire prevention activities including using education and fire restrictions where necessary.

This fire season is anticipated to be a challenging one due to overall drought conditions. Yet through the use of forecasting support tools, positioning resources where they're needed the most and efficient use of severity funding, BLM has contained about 96% of its fires during initial attack.
The combined efforts of local, state and federal agencies will continue to emphasize the safety of the public and firefighters, while also containing a high percentage of wildfires during initial attack without incurring unneeded risk. Below are several questions that you may encounter based on recent interest from several of our state partners:

Idaho:
Q. What kinds of relief can you provide for ranchers that have had to displace livestock based on the loss of forage in the 2012 fire season? Are there opportunities for forage banks or vacated allotments that can be a temporary source of forage?
A. All of the allotments in Idaho are currently under existing grazing permits and authorizations; at this time there are no opportunities for forage banks and there are no vacant allotments.

Utah:
Q. What are you doing to ensure that the collaborative landscape restoration efforts in Utah continue, especially in light of the BLM's new seed management process?
A. We are committed to our legacy of partnerships in Utah. Although the BLM has made some logistical modifications in the seed management process, we are going to continue to invest heavily in collaborative landscape restoration in Utah.

Special Mention:

- We are recognizing and remembering that this is the 20th anniversary of the Storm King Mountain burn over on the South Canyon Fire in Colorado where we lost 14 firefighters on July 6, 1994. Several commemorative events will be hosted in Colorado in the next month.
- We further remember that we are approaching the one year anniversary of the Yarnell Hill burn over in which 19 firefighters died. This was the single largest loss of life on a wildland fire since the 1930s. While we are still learning from both of these tragedies, the loss in both cases is fresh in our minds.
- Both of these fire entrapments have formed the foundation of this year's wildland firefighter refresher.

MITIGATION

In April, the Department's Energy and Climate Change Task Force provided the Secretary with a report summarizing a coordinated Department-wide evaluation and a strategy for implementing improvements in the Department's mitigation practices and policies. Based on the report's findings, various offices and bureaus of the Department have begun to implement policy and programs aimed at strengthening mitigation practices.

- FWS is in the process of revising its mitigation policies;
- BLM is implementing a draft Regional Mitigation Policy that will be updated and finalized consistent with the guidance contained in the Departmental report;
- BLM released its first regional mitigation plan for the Dry Lake solar energy zone (SEZ) and will conduct additional outreach to aid in designing future SEZ regional mitigation plans;
- BLM, FS, and FWS are working together to develop a mitigation strategy as a part of the larger Greater Sage-Grouse conservation initiative;
- USGS is leading efforts to develop geospatial data tools for landscape-scale mitigation and will be convening a workshop of partners later this year;
- The NPS is convening a workshop to develop guidance for mitigating impacts to cultural resources under Section 106 of NHPA and will also be convening experts to develop guidance for landscape-scale mitigation for preserving scenic values.

Q. How does this strategy impact work to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse?
A. The BLM is nearing the final stages of amending 98 Resource Management Plans to account for conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse. The bureau is already working closely with the FWS and states wildlife agencies to ensure that these final plan amendments contain robust provisions for mitigating impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. The BLM anticipates working closely with states to plan for and execute mitigation in these areas.

Q. How does this strategy relate to ongoing work by states, including state wildlife action plans and the Western Governors Association's (WGA's) Critical Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT)?
A. State wildlife action plans, WGA's CHAT, and similar plans and strategies are useful in identifying the most ecologically important areas in a state, thus informing effective decisions regarding the

avoidance or minimization of impacts as well as the siting of compensatory mitigation measures. The statewide perspective that such plans provide will help facilitate the landscape-scale approach to mitigation that the strategy seeks to accomplish.

Q. What role will states have in determining the location and breadth of specific compensatory mitigation?
A. As noted above, State judgments about the relative ecological importance of particular areas, as reflected in their CHATs or state wildlife action plans, are expected to be important considerations in determining the location of compensatory mitigation measures. In addition, by becoming formal cooperating agencies in the NEPA process, states can help implement the Strategy with respect to all aspects of mitigation.

Q. How will this mitigation strategy be implemented in the field? Will staff be trained on how to implement the proposed mitigation strategies?
A. The principles outlined in this mitigation strategy will be incorporated into formal Departmental and bureau policy that will guide decision-making in the field. The strategy also calls for clear and consistent training for field staff based on these policy changes. Field staff have been closely engaged in drafting the strategy and will continue to be relied upon as the Department and bureaus develop these manuals, handbooks, and training modules.

Q. How does this mitigation strategy fit with Presidential initiatives to modernize the Federal review of infrastructure projects and to adapt to the impacts of climate change?
A. The Department believes that its Mitigation Strategy and the various actions planned to carry out the Mitigation Strategy are necessary components to the Department's ability to effectively implement the President's various initiatives relating to permitting efficiencies, large infrastructure project reviews, and climate change adaptation. All of these initiatives require federal agencies to take a landscape-scale approach to planning, permitting, and conservation, which is the fundamental purpose of Secretarial Order No. 3330 and the Department's Mitigation Strategy.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Formal rulemaking to revise BLM regulations related to hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands was initiated in May 2012 with publication of a proposed rule. A revised proposed rule was published in May 2013. During the most recent formal comment period, which closed on August 23, 2013, the BLM received more than 1.35 million comments.

Based on analysis of these comments, the BLM staff have suggested some modifications to the regulatory text and the preamble of the final rule for consideration, all of which are viewed by the Solicitor's office as logical outgrowths of the proposed rule. We expect to have a draft of a final rule, preamble, and accompanying analyses available to begin Departmental review within ten days.
The proposed rules have focused on addressing public disclosure, wellbore integrity and flowback fluid management as the key issues for sound hydraulic fracturing development. Most of these issues are not adequately addressed in the BLM's existing, 30-year-old regulations.

During the time this rule has been in development a number of states and tribes have issued or begun work on their own rules related to hydraulic fracturing. BLM has worked closely with the relevant regulatory officials as well as EPA to utilize their expertise on these issues. States with federal oil and gas development that have issued rules in this area are: California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. The rules vary considerably from state to state. Below are several key issues that may be discussed:

Well integrity - The issue is determining the best means of ensuring zonal isolation and competent cementing in the wellbore. Experts and commenters differ on various aspects of this issue, including the value of cement bond logs or cement evaluation logs as compared to other tests; testing necessary for surface casing as opposed to production and intermediate casing; and the utility of an individual "type well" in a formation in ensuring comprehensive well integrity.

Requiring the use of tanks for recovered water - The 2013 proposed rule would have required recovered water from HF operations to be stored in either lined pits or tanks. The current thinking is to strengthen that requirement by mandating storage in tanks in all instances unless an exception is specifically approved based on a robust set of criteria. This revised proposal may increase operational costs.

Definition of the term usable water - This definition is the trigger for determining which zones to be drilled require isolation. The current thinking is to clarify this definition and to utilize as much as possible the determinations about usable water developed by States and Indian tribes governing the water zones in their areas.

Public Disclosure - The rule intends to improve public access to information about the chemicals used during hydraulic fracturing of particular wells as well as locations of existing and proposed wells and information about other activities affecting the community.

Positions of Interested Parties

- Government: State Governors' offices generally question the need for the rule and some question BLM's authority. Some states believe hydraulic fracturing is already effectively regulated at the state level and that Federal regulations add an unnecessary layer of duplicate regulations. BLM officials met with state officials most recently on March 20, 2014, and had a productive exchange of views about the various state regulations and the BLM proposal, and about entering into MOUs that will efficiently administer these rules. The proposed rule provides that any state or tribal regulation that is equal to or more protective than the Federal rule will be applicable.
- Private Citizens: The public expressed a number of concerns and positions, which ranged from the request to ban hydraulic fracturing altogether (this view accounted for 95% of the 1.35 million comments received), to suggestions for ensuring the protection of groundwater, providing additional transparency for fracturing operations, and providing for prior disclosure of chemicals.

DROUGHT AND WATER ISSUES

Red River Valley Water Supply Project - In March 2014, Governor Dalrymple sent a letter to Deputy Secretary of the Interior Mike Connor regarding the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, and requested a Plan of Study put forth by the International Souris River Board (ISRB) to initiate a review of the water supply and flood operating plan contained in the 1989 Canada-United States Agreement for Water Supply and Flood Control in the Souris River Basin. A periodic review of the operating plan is required under the 1989 agreement. However, due to unprecedented flooding in the Souris River basin in 2011, basin residents have asked that additional flood protection measures be evaluated beyond what is currently provided under the 1989 agreement.

In order to move forward the Plan of Study requires approximately $2.1 million in funding from the governments of Canada and the United States. The State Department is currently working with Canada in regard to funding and has been for some time with little movement. The Governor and Senator Hoeven are both strong supporters of moving forward with the Plan of Study and have requested Secretary of State Kerry's support.

Colorado River Basin Drought - Throughout history, there has never been a shortage condition determined in the Lower Basin (Nevada, Arizona and California). A shortage is deemed to occur when Lake Mead reaches elevation 1,075 feet. The elevation is currently around 1,089 feet, but is forecast to reach 1,081 feet by October. Reclamation met all water orders from U.S. water users in the Lower Basin and Mexico in 2013, and all delivery orders in the Lower Basin will be met in 2014. However, over the next 5 years, the potential for a shortage condition exists, with probabilities ranging from 22% in 2016, 51% in 2017, and 62% in 2018.

In water year 2014, snowpack in the Upper Basin peaked at 111% of average on April 7. Runoff is well underway and approximately 40% of the snowpack has melted. The probable forecast for water year inflow into Lake Powell is currently 100% of average. The current projected total Basin storage is approximately 51% of capacity for end of water year 2014.

Although the Basin States remain committed to continuing discussions, there does not yet appear to be a consensus on which actions should be pursued at this time. The Upper Basin States are pursuing a plan with 3 major components: operational adjustments, voluntary demand management (e.g. fallowing or deficit irrigation), and augmentation (primarily weather modification). The Lower Basin States are pursuing a 5-year plan consisting of "no regrets" actions beginning this year and voluntary reductions or other efforts to protect low Lake Mead elevations (somewhere between 1,000 and 1,020 ft). The Lower Basin States view a Federal commitment to decrease operational inefficiencies in the Yuma area as a key component to the plan. The Lower Basin States would also like Reclamation to fully engage in the process to develop the plan in more of a co-lead or full-partnership role.

Minute 319 - On May 15, the downstream edge of the environmental pulse flow of Colorado River water - released under Minute 319 - reached the tidal delta of the Pacific Ocean connecting the River with the Gulf of California for the first time in history as a purposeful environmental flow. This is considered a major achievement among the NGOs and scientists that have worked on Colorado River Delta issues over the past two decades. Delivery of the pulse flow began on March 23 from Morelos Dam, the last diversion dam on the Colorado River located at the U.S./Mexico border, and was completed on May 18th. Approximately 105,000 acre-feet were delivered in the form of a pulse flow to the Colorado River riparian corridor. Negotiating an extension of Minute 319 by December 2016 is a high priority, and we believe the pulse flow success will help pave the path to reaching an agreement.

Glen Canyon Dam - Drought conditions upstream of Lake Powell over the past two years have significantly reduced the elevation of Lake Powell. The declining elevation has reduced generation efficiency by approximately 10 percent. Generation at Glen Canyon Dam accounts for about 80 percent of the Salt Lake City Area/Integrated Projects (SLCA/IP). Reductions in generation at Glen Canyon Dam have a significant impact on SLCA/IP generation revenues available in the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund which fund operation and maintenance, salinity control, security, environmental related costs, and repayment obligations. Based on design criteria for the Glen Canyon generators, when Lake Powell drops below elevation 3,490 feet, power can no longer be generated. As of May 20, 2014, Lake Powell is currently 117 feet below full elevation of 3,700 feet and is 93 feet above minimum power pool (3,490 feet). Latest projections indicate that the first probability of reaching minimum power pool is water year 2018 (4 percent chance). Reclamation is actively partnering with the seven Colorado River Basin States to identify proactive steps to avoid reaching critical elevations at Lakes Powell and Mead.

Great Plains and Drought - Mountain snowpack in Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming remains well above average for this time of year. Cool temperatures have moderated the rate of snow melt, but the runoff is beginning with warmer temperatures. Precipitation in the Dakotas has been near normal this spring; however, with the large precipitation events in the fall and winter, spring runoff conditions are average, and normal for this time of year. In the climate outlook for June for this northern section of the Great

Plains Region, temperature is predicted to be below normal with above average possibility for higher precipitation occurring.

Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Project - NAWS is a municipal and rural water project authorized by the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act of 1986 and the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000, and construction of project features began in April 2002. When complete, the project would deliver water from the Missouri River to communities and rural water systems in North Dakota located in the Hudson Bay Basin.

Construction continues on the Minot Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project. On March 1, 2013, Judge Collyer issued a ruling on the issue of whether to allow further work to be bid for continued construction of distribution facilities. The ruling will allow completion of the upgrades at the Minot Water Treatment Plant. However, the modified injunction "will not permit new pipeline construction or new pipeline construction contracts." Progress continues on the preparation of the draft SEIS, and Reclamation plans to release the draft SEIS for a 45-day public review starting in late-June or early-July 2014. Public hearings will be hosted in Minot, ND, during the public review period.

Rural Water Projects – (ND and SD)
Since 1980, Congress has directed Reclamation to construct 13 individual rural water supply projects at a combined cost of more than $2.3 billion. Projects have been authorized with varying local cost-share ranging between 0 and 25 percent. Federal law directs Reclamation to operate, maintain, and replace (OM&R) two projects authorized to benefit Tribes; including Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota and Mni Wiconi Rural Water System in South Dakota. Indian Rural Water Supply Project O&M costs rise as new project features are constructed – consuming an increasing share of Reclamation's overall budget allocated to rural water projects.

Mni Wiconi Rural Water System (SD) – As of September 30, 2013, the Federal Government has committed 100 percent of its cost share toward completing the Project. The Core line and Lower Brule distribution system are complete. The West River/ Lyman-Jones distribution system, Rosebud distribution system and Oglala distribution system are nearing completion and construction is anticipated to be substantially complete in FY 2015.

Garrison Diversion Unit (ND) – As of September 30, 2013, the project was approximately 72 percent complete (as financially determined). The federally-funded portion of the project was approximately 69 percent complete. Work continues on (1) the State municipal, rural and industrial (MR&I) water supply program administered by the State of North Dakota, and (2) the Indian MR&I water supply program for the construction of five reservation-wide systems, including Standing Rock, Fort Berthold, Fort Totten, Turtle Mountain, and Trenton Indian Service Area.

Reclamation is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Northwest Area Water Supply Project as a means of complying with the U.S. District Court order issued in March 2010. The Garrison Diversion Unit is located within and affected by the Northwest Area Water Supply Project. Reclamation is planning to release a draft SEIS on NAWS in 2014.

Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (SD, MN, IA) – As of September 30, 2013, the Federal portion of the project was approximately 55 percent complete (as financially determined). The Water Treatment Plant, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was placed into service on July 30, 2012, and is delivering treated water to 11 of the 20 member entities. Due to limited Federal appropriations, the project is exploring options to accelerate construction with grants/loans from the Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota State governments. South Dakota and Minnesota passed legislation authorizing $1 and 22 million grants respectively, and Minnesota enacted a $45 million bonding authority for in-state project

beneficiaries. Lewis & Clark intends on using any future Federal appropriations to reimburse construction cost by repaying the entities that provide funding in excess of the non-Federal cost-share required in the authorizing legislation.

Next Steps - Continuing to evaluate OM&R budgets for Tribal Rural Water Projects to assure the reliable delivery of quality drinking water; continuing to prioritize federal funding for construction consistent with the Interim Final Funding Criteria for Rural Water Projects; continuing to work with Lewis & Clark Rural Water System to address questions/issues that need to be resolved to enable the project to proceed with construction with non-Federal funding.

LAND EXCHANGE VALUATION PROCESS

Governor Gary Herbert (UT) may want to discuss land exchange, particularly the appraisal process.

Governor Herbert could raise an issue with the length of time it takes to complete land exchanges between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the State of Utah. The BLM and the State of Utah recently completed the Utah Recreational Land Exchange (URLEA), which was mandated by legislation.

The URLEA land exchange involved over eighty tracts of land totaling about 80,000 acres with values that included consideration of the potential for oil, gas, coal, tar sands, potash, and flagstone. The Office of Valuation Services, together with SITLA experts in Utah, developed a scope of work encompassing surface and sub-surface valuations, designed appraisal contract specifications, evaluated potential appraisers, and conducted joint mineral valuation and appraisal reviews. This valuation process stands as a model for how collaborative effort can successfully help achieve large-scale exchanges that benefit the land management goals of both the State and Federal governments.

There are a number of procedures that BLM must follow to ensure that land exchanges are in the public interest. The BLM is also required to follow the Uniform Standards for appraisals, to ensure that we obtain the fair value for the lands we exchange out of public ownership. The Department has had a long-standing position that the Uniform Standards for appraisals be used when Congress mandates a land exchange. The Governor may express the opinion that these processes are too time consuming. The BLM's position is that these processes are necessary to protect the public interest.

UNITED STATES EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (USEITI)

Governor Matt Mead (WY) has expressed interest in discussing USEITI with you at this meeting.

You may want to mention your participation in the upcoming USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) meeting on June 10, 2014, regarding the EITI International Board's approval of the USEITI Candidacy Application. Since achieving Candidate Country status on March 19, 2014, the USEITI MSG convened its first meeting of 2014 on April 23-24, and began working on the details of domestic implementation. As a candidate country, the U.S. has three years to fully implement the international EITI standards and achieve "compliant" status.

It is anticipated that during this public meeting, the USEITI MSG will review options for a State and Tribal "opt-in" process. The development of this process is critical to addressing USEITI implementation concerns raised to Assistant Secretary Rhea Suh by the Western Governors' Association and the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, as well as an essential part of fulfilling the Department of the Interior's Indian Trust responsibility. The MSG is likely to discuss a plan to implement other key EITI requirements, such as project level reporting and the inclusion of income tax revenue and payments in USEITI reporting.

You may also wish to mention that on April 7, 2014, you appointed Mr. Michael D. Mathews upon recommendation by Governor Mead as an alternate member on the USEITI Advisory Committee. His term lasts until December 21, 2015.

MOUNT RUSHMORE

Governor Dennis Daugaard (SD) expressed interest in discussing with you the opportunity for a long-standing contract that would allow Mount Rushmore National Memorial to remain open in the event of a future government shutdown. NPS assumes the proposed contract would allow South Dakota to operate the park with State funds in the event of a cessation of Federal appropriations, as it did for four days during the course of the Federal shutdown in October 2013.

On October 1, 2013, the Federal government shut down for 17 days. Beginning on October 11, 2013, the National Park Service (NPS) entered into agreements with six States including South Dakota, to re-open national parks with State funds. States were required to fund the park or parks for no fewer than two days, to re-open with NPS employees, and to sign an agreement stipulating that no expended funds would be returned to the State unless Congress explicitly appropriated funding for that purpose. South Dakota signed an agreement with the NPS and transferred ten days worth of funding to operate Mount Rushmore on October 14, 2013. The park re-opened and operated with State funds for three days until Federal operations resumed on October 17, 2013. The NPS returned seven days' worth of unused funds to the State.

We appreciate the Governor's enthusiasm for ensuring that all visitors who arrive to visit Mount Rushmore National Monument have access to this spectacular site. However, we cannot support a long-standing agreement with a non-Federal entity to continue to fund a national park in the event of a future shutdown. In the case of a lapse in Federal appropriations, all policy decisions governing operations will be made during the event by the Administration in charge at the time (Similarly, we imagine a State governor cannot bind the financial or policy decisions of a future Governor). Such policy decisions are made under very specific circumstances that may not be repeated should we be unfortunate enough to encounter another shutdown.

We are also uncomfortable codifying an approach that would allow certain parks to re-open only because they are fortunate enough to reside in a State with the resources and political will to fund them. Further, had the shutdown lingered, the costs associated with reopening certain parks would have had to be revisited, as it is nearly impossible to divorce one park's operations from the regional and national offices that support that park unit with numerous administrative functions.

WILD HORSES AND BURROS

Governor Matt Mead (WY) may wish to discuss this issue with you.

In order to protect our public lands' natural resources and comply with the Act, the BLM has been conducting gathers to remove excess animals from the range as well as to administer various population growth suppressions methods, including fertility control vaccines. Prior to the economic slowdown that started about a decade ago, the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program (Program) was able to successfully adopt the majority of the animals removed from the range. However, adoptions have decreased markedly. It is increasingly difficult to find willing and qualified adopters and buyers.

On-range populations are nearly double Appropriate Management Levels (AML) and the BLM currently cares for nearly 48,000 animals off-range, costing $46 million in FY 2013. This expense is limiting the

application of population growth suppression methods and the number of animals that can be removed, resulting in increasing overpopulation on drought stricken western rangelands.
The June 2013 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report provided BLM with multiple recommendations for program improvements. BLM has drafted a report that identifies how BLM will implement the recommendations and is also developing a long-term strategy for the achievement and maintenance of AML. Budgets have progressively increased from $19 million in 2000 to $77 million in FY 2014. Rising costs for holding increasing numbers of unadopted animals are the primary reason for budget increases.

Rock Springs Grazing Association

- Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA) owns and leases 48 percent of private land across four checkerboard Herd Management Areas (HMAs) in southern Wyoming.
- In October 2010, RSGA requested that BLM remove all wild horses on these private lands.
- In April 2013, BLM and RSGA entered Consent Decree requiring that BLM:
    - Remove all wild horses on private RSGA lands (except in White Mountain HMA);
    - Remove to low appropriate management level (AML) (251 in Salt Wells Creek HMA and 610 in Adobe Town HMA) and use fertility control to reduce population growth;
    - Gather and remove wild horses in Salt Wells Creek/Adobe Town Complex in 2013, Divide Basin HMA in 2014, and White Mountain HMA in 2015; and
    - Report population census by November 30 annually.
- In December 2013, the BLM finished the Adobe Town and Salt Wells Creek removals. The BLM has tentatively scheduled the Divide Basin removal for summer or fall 2014.
- The State of Wyoming is monitoring the results of Consent Decree; Governor's Office has informally requested AML information over the last several months.
- In 2003, BLM and State of Wyoming entered into a separate Consent Decree mandating removals within one year of population exceeding AML in each HMA.

GRIZZLY BEAR DELISTING

Governor Matt Mead (WY) sent a letter in May 2014 asking that the grizzly bear be delisted, and may wish to discuss this further at the meeting.

Q: What are your plans regarding the Grizzly Bear?
A: FWS is completing a threats analysis for the Yellowstone distinct population of grizzly bears. They expect to make a decision on whether to proposed to delist this population by late 2014 and, if so, to make a final delisting determination in 2015. FWS is also working with tribal, state and federal partners to complete a conservation strategy for grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. Once this conservation strategy is complete, the Service will conduct a threats analysis and determine whether a delisting proposal is warranted for this population. If so, they would likely publish a proposed delisting.

Q: Is the FWS working on delisting of grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) in Montana?
A: The FWS is working with state, Tribal, and federal partners to complete the NCDE Conservation Strategy, which is the post delisting management plan. Completion of the Conservation Strategy is a Recovery Plan task. This document, once completed, will demonstrate the adequacy of regulatory mechanisms in order to address ESA Factor 4 for delisting. Upon completion of the Conservation Strategy, the FWS will complete a threats analysis for this population and make a determination as to if the threats to this population have been addressed. If the result of this threats analysis is that the threats to this population have been addressed, the Service will publish a proposed rule to delist this population.

Such a proposed rule could be published in late 2015, pending timely completion of the NCDE Conservation Strategy and a favorable threats analysis.

Q: Can the Cabinet/Yaak and Selkirk grizzly recovery zones be combined with the NCDE recovery zone so that all of them can be delisted together?
A: The conservation status of the Cabinet/Yaak and Selkirk grizzly recovery zones is much different than that of the NCDE recovery zone. These two populations are warranted for endangered status. A recent Wildlife Monograph concluded that the US recovery zones are not currently functionally connected demographically in such a way as to affect the internal population growth or vital rates through inter-population connectivity. Based on this information, these recovery zones cannot be considered a single population unit and recovered as one population unit at this time.

FEDERAL PERMIT STREAMLINING PROJECT

Governor John Hickenlooper (CO) and Governor Brian Sandoval (NV) sent a letter in April 2014 asking for reauthorization of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project.

Section 365 of the 2005 Energy Policy Act established a federal permit streamlining pilot project (Pilot Project) to increase coordination, reduce the time to issue APDs and improve environmental stewardship as a means to meet the nation's energy needs. The Act also established a funding mechanism/source that diverted 50 percent of the federal share of onshore lease rental receipts from the U.S. Treasury to the BLM.

It has been very successful in improving interagency coordination and reducing the time to process federal O&G APDs and ROWs. Without extension, the pilot project and the associated funding authority will expire in August of 2015. The BLM's FY 2015 President's Budget does not propose an extension of the funding mechanism for the pilot office fund; the BLM is currently evaluating options for addressing this situation in the FY 2016 budget.

In December 2013, Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 767, expanding the scope of the Pilot Project and providing additional discretion to the BLM. However, H.R. 767 did not include an extension of the funding.

On April 3, 2014, Governor Hickenlooper and Governor Sandoval sent Secretary Jewell a letter on behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) requesting the Department's support for the reauthorization of the Pilot Project. The Secretary responded to WGA in a letter dated April 17, 2014, stating that the 10-year Pilot Project had been a success that allowed the BLM and its Pilot Project partner bureaus and agencies to more efficiently process oil and gas drilling permits and streamline associated environmental reviews, it provided BLM's oil and gas inspection and enforcement program with resources necessary to allow more thorough oversight of oil and gas operations, and the Department would work with Congress to provide additional flexibility nationwide to utilize the pilot office authority as permitting demands shift over time.

MASTER LEASING PLANS – OIL AND GAS

Master Leasing Plans (MLP) involve preplanning and intensive analysis of distinct geographical areas to avoid and minimize conflicts between oil and gas activity and recreation, water, air, cultural, and wildlife values. Some areas with high value resources need additional planning and analysis prior to issuing new or additional oil and gas leasing. The MLP process enables the BLM to take a focused landscape-level look at the decisions in Resource Management Plans (RMP) pertaining to leasing and post-leasing development of the area. This tool provides a vision for how future development will occur. The BLM is

developing MLPs both as part of the development of new RMPs, and as amendments to existing RMPs. Attached is a list of the MLPs currently under development in Western States.

Table 1. Status of the BLM's Master Leasing Plans

State	Resource Management Plan/Amendment	Status
CO	1 External Proposal	
	○ Shale Ridges and Canyons – part of the Grand Junction RMP Revision	Draft RMP published in January 2013; a Proposed RMP expected in FY14
	2 Internal Proposals	
	○ North Park – part of the Kremmling RMP-A	Proposed RMP published in March 2014. ROD expected September 2014. .
	○ South Park – part of the Royal Gorge RMP Revision	Draft RMP expected in December 2015. Proposed RMP expected in February 2017.
	1 Modified External Proposal	
	○ Dinosaur Trail – part of the White River RMP-A	BLM modified the boundaries of the original Dinosaur Lowlands proposal to create the Dinosaur Trail proposal; Draft RMP-A published in September 2012; a Proposed RMP-A expected in early summer of FY14
MT	1 Internal Proposal	
	○ Carter MLP – part of the Miles City RMP Revision	Draft RMP published in March 2013; Proposed RMPA is expected in FY14.
UT	4 Modified External Proposal	
	○ Book Cliffs Divide - Grand Valley - Cisco Desert MLP	Have not been initiated.
	○ Glen Canyon - San Juan River MLP	Have not been initiated.
	○ San Rafael River MLP	Have not been initiated.
	○ Vernal MLP - stand-alone analysis	A MLP in the Vernal Field Office appears to be likely for enhanced analysis related to the MLP process for fluid minerals, mainly oil development.
	1 Internal Proposal	
	○ Moab MLP – stand-alone analysis	NOI for the RMP-A was published in March 2012; open house to update the public on draft alternatives was on May 14, 1014. Draft MLP in development; anticipate 90-day public comment period to begin February 2015. Publish NOA for Final MLP/EIS in November 2015. Issue ROD in February 2016.
WY	5 External Proposals	
	○ Absoraka-Beartooth Front – part of the Bighorn Basin (Cody and Worland) RMP Revision	The Draft Final RMP is being prepared.
	○ Fifteen Mile Area (Worland) – part of the Bighorn Basin RMP Revision	
	○ Bighorn Front – part of the Bighorn Basin (Cody and Worland) RMP	

State	Resource Management Plan/Amendment	Status
	Revision	
	○ Beaver Rim – part of the Lander RMP revision	The ROD has been drafted but is on hold for signature at WO direction. The Final EIS was published last year.
	○ Little Mountain – part of the Rock Springs RMP revision	Draft MLP in development.

FY – Fiscal Year
NOA – Notice of Availability
ROD – Record of Decision
RMP – Resource Management Plan
RMP-A – Resource Management Plan Amendment

TRIBES

Governor Steve Bullock (MT) sent a letter in October 2013 regarding federal recognition for the Little Shell of the Chippewa Tribe. During the WGA breakfast in February, Governor Bullock mentioned law enforcement challenges in Indian country.

Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana
The Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana (Little Shell) is made up of the descendants of Métis Indians (mixed-blood, or half-blood, Indians and often the offspring of French fur trappers and Indian mothers), and was historically treated different than other Pembina Indians by the US because of their mixed-blood heritage. The US government refused to deal with Métis Indians because it viewed them as having Indian ancestry, but not being Indian, which in turn forced the Métis ancestors of the Little Shell tribe to seek other Métis settlements on the outskirts of towns like Helena, Great Falls, and Butte, MT.

In 1978, Little Shell first submitted its intent to petition the Federal government for acknowledgment as an Indian tribe under Federal law. In 1995, their petition was complete, beginning a long review process by the Office of Federal Acknowledgment. Earlier this year, AS-IA agreed to suspend reconsideration of the issues referred from the IBIA until after the promulgation of newly revised regulations on the Federal acknowledgment process, which is currently underway.

The Department recently published a Proposed Rule in the Federal Register, which revises the Part 83 regulations on Federal acknowledgment. After all public comments are received a final rule may be drafted. The Office of the AS-IA has asked that Little Shell request within 90 days of publication of the final rule for us to begin reconsideration of its petition under the grounds referred to the Department by the IBIA, and any new grounds which may result from changes in the regulations. The Little Shell tribe's petition for Federal acknowledgment has the support of its sister tribes in Montana, the Governor's office and the State of Montana, which recognized the Tribe in 2000.

Law Enforcement Issues
On July 29, 2010 the President signed the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 into law. There are several requirements specific to the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services (OJS). One such requirement is that the OJS submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, for each fiscal year, a detailed spending and unmet needs report regarding tribal public safety and justice programs.

State of Montana funding (FY 2012)

	Actuals	*BIA Estimate of Unmet Need*
Criminal Investigation & Police	$15,553,374	$8,748,209 = 34% unmet
Detention	$9,388,285	$7,254,249 = 38% unmet

Montana Tribes

- Crow Agency - Tribal leadership feels the agency is not adequately staffed for the amount of acreage and population. They have requested that our allocated funded positions be increased to meet the demands on the Crow Reservation. They are also concerned with the length of time it takes to hire police officers and get them on board.
- Northern Cheyenne Agency - Tribal leadership is concerned with the recent turnover in employees, as well as the length of time it takes to hire and train new officers.
- Blackfeet - The current and ongoing conflict at this agency has consumed most of their time. They are also concerned with funding.
- Funding is the primary concern for the following: Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Rocky Boy.

ABANDONED MINE LAND (AML) FUNDING

Governor Matt Mead (WY) may wish to discuss this with you. He sent a letter in May 2014 regarding the review and reversal of OSM's decision on AML funding to Wyoming.

Governor Mead's letter requested reconsideration of our estimate that Wyoming will be allocated approximately $53.8 million in AML funding in Fiscal Year 2015. After review and consultation with the Office of the Solicitor at the Department of the Interior, we conclude that OSMRE's interpretation of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), as amended, is correct. There is a response letter currently making its way through the surname process at Interior.

INVASIVE SPECIES

WGA Chairman John Hickenlooper's (CO) staff indicated that Governors may ask you about invasive species efforts.

A number of western states have expressed dissatisfaction with the federal level of support and coordination to control and prevent the spread of invasive species. The WGA has called invasive species "... one of our country's biggest environmental problems" in a recent WGA resolution that expresses concerns over the continued introduction and spread of invasive species in Western states, including:

- the perceived lack of coordination among federal agencies;
- the need to prioritize resources to focus on those species with the greatest potential to cause economic harm;
- the importance of linking invasive species management to broader Departmental and Administration goals.

Invasive Species Examples

Global damage from invasive species is estimated at upwards of $1.4 trillion or about 5 percent of the global economy. Examples for the western US:

- Cheatgrass is estimated to infest over 56 million acres across 17 western states impacting rangelands, changing the native plant community, and increasing fire frequency. This grass can produce more than 10,000 plants per square yard leaving behind thick dry fuels and creating

extreme wildfire hazards. With each new fire, cheatgrass reseeds to further change the native plant community and increase fire threats.

- Quagga and zebra mussels have spread from the Great Lakes to much of the U.S., clogging water intake and delivery pipes, infesting hydropower infrastructure, and negatively impacting native species. An annual loss of $22 million is estimated for the Lake Tahoe region if quagga or zebra mussels become established there. Funding for quagga and zebra mussel prevention and coordination has been included within the FY 14 President's Budget.

Ongoing Initiatives at Interior

Interior agencies are working to cooperate and coordinate more closely to enhance invasive species prevention and control programs through existing agency programs as well as working on a multi-agency and multi-departmental basis through the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) - which you co-chair - and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) co-chaired by the FWS and NOAA. NISC and ANSTF have established a federal working group to strengthen and harmonize policies and regulations to stop the introduction of invasive species onto or off of DOI lands - especially invasive zebra and quagga mussels in western states. The Pulling Together Initiative, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with funding from the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service, fosters local cooperative weed coalitions to improve the effectiveness of local invasive plant programs.

Interior recently approved the Invasive Species Action Plan to target limited resources more effectively and efficiently. This approved Action Plan includes 5 recommendation areas and 25 action items that will help Interior get our house in order on this important issue. Some topline items include:

- The development of a multi-year strategy with annual operations plans to guide improved alignment of invasive species programs and to provide regular briefings for the Department's senior leadership.
- The development of a Departmental policy providing guidance to more effectively align and execute resources in support of invasive species prevention, detection, rapid response, and control.
- Coordination of a departmental informational management effort on invasive species to create efficiencies and eliminate duplication. This would include an effort to better standardize data collection and increase transparency. And;
- The development of an EDRR framework for invasive species that outlines protocols and guidance for the allocation of resources.

Next Steps

- Streamline the FWS injurious species listing process to keep harmful species out of the nation.
- Partner with NFWF to support actions to address early those invasive species not yet widely established through Early Detection and Rapid Response.
- Strengthen existing regional coordination efforts (e.g. the Pacific Islands and Everglades) and build new regional efforts (e.g. the Arctic and Great Lakes) as appropriate to enhance our ability to address invasive species threats and damages.
- Early in 2014, the WGA wrote to the co-chairs of NISC (including you) expressing interest in working with NISC on the revision of the National Invasive Species Management Plan. NISC and WGA staff held a conference call in late March 2014 to discuss this issue. NISC looks forward to working with WGA on the management plan update this summer or in early fall.

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH GOVERNOR OTTER - DRAFT

DATE: June 9, 2014
LOCATION: The Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO
TIME: 10:30AM – 11:00AM
FROM: Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, (202) 412-8846; Steve Ellis, Dep Director of BLM, (202) 208-3801

I. PURPOSE

You are meeting with Idaho Governor Butch Otter prior to the WGA annual meeting. Gov. Otter would like to discuss Sage Grouse issues, particularly the impact that the National Policy Team guidance will have on the Idaho alternative. He would also like to discuss the Gateway West Transmission Line.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Gov. Butch Otter (ID)
- Deputy Secretary Mike Connor

III. HOT TOPICS

Gateway West Transmission Line (Idaho segments 8 & 9) **** Priority Project of Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRT)***

Next Milestone: Resource Advisory Council meeting June 5, 2014 (to be followed either by BLM ROD based on existing FEIS or NOI initiating supplemental EIS)

Project Description: Sponsored by Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power, the Gateway West Transmission Project consists of nine 500 kV AC segments and one 230 kV AC segment spanning 990 miles across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho. The project will address load growth in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming, improve the reliability and efficiency of utility systems, and tap renewable energy resources in Idaho and Wyoming. A Record of Decision for project segments 1-7 and 10 was issued November 2013. BLM deferred a decision on segments 8 and 9 in Idaho to allow additional time to address unresolved siting challenges. BLM is the lead federal agency. The project sponsors estimate 1,100 to 1,200 jobs to be created.

Project Challenges:

- (b) (5) [redacted]
- Finalizing Greater Sage Grouse mitigation
- Finalizing Migratory Bird Conservation Plan

Gov Otter's Concern: (b) (5) [redacted]

Suggested Response: (b) (5) [redacted]

Sage Grouse

The Final Idaho State Plan was completed and incorporated as Alternative E into the Draft EIS. The State Plan currently only applies to Federal lands with the exception of the creation of the Rural Fire Protection Associations, which are being implemented and funded by the State. BLM has been working collectively with the State of Idaho and FWS to develop a 'Proposed Final Plan' that incorporates the State Plan, including additional changes the State wanted to include into their state strategy (e.g., Core , Important, and General Management Zones). These components have been agreed to and developed in collaboration with the State.

The National Policy Team recently issued range-wide guidance that takes a different approach to management than the agreed to approach in the "Proposed Final Plan". That guidance set out an exception process for state directors to explain why an alternative approach is warranted. The Idaho BLM State Director has submitted information to the BLM Washington Office explaining why the Idaho approach achieves similar or better outcomes for Sage Grouse. That memo is under review.

Governor Otter's Concern: The Governor's office is especially concerned with the manner in which the general National Policy Team guidance requires General Habitat (versus Priority Habitat) be managed relative to the "no net unmitigated loss of sage grouse habitat." In addition, Idaho has three tiers of habitat protection (Core, Important, and General zones) and not two like other states. Ninety five percent of breeding males are protected by the Core Zone (73% of breeding males) and Important Zone (22%), and the Important Zone is a fundamental component of the adaptive management strategy. This approach lays the foundation to potentially manage state and as appropriate, private lands, within this framework.

Suggested Response:

- Governor Otter, I know that your team has worked very hard with ours to come up with a strong approach to sage grouse management on public lands in Idaho.

- The National Policy Team guidance was only guidance not policy and invited State Directors to explain why alternative approaches can work given the specific facts at play in different states.
- We believe we need this step to ensure a strong record that supports similar or better outcomes from the standards set out in the NTT and COT reports.
- My understanding is that the ID BLM director is working with our Washington Office on that record. The door is not shut to the Idaho approach and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

BISON CONNECT

RE: Fire TPs

Rhea Suh <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jun 4, 2014 at 1:52 PM
To: Sally Jewell [redacted]ios.doi.gov>, James Douglas <james_douglas@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kimberly Thorsen <kim_thorsen@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

Sally—

Pls see the revised slide. We've added the tps within the context setter you suggested earlier.

Will pass along our suggested edits to OMB/Deese.

Thanks,
Rhea

From: Sally Jewell [mailto:[redacted]ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 1:48 PM
To: James Douglas
Cc: Rhea Suh; Kimberly Thorsen; Tommy Beaudreau
Subject: RE: Fire TPs

Jim –

I will hold for the final version. (b)(5) [redacted],

(b)(5) [redacted]

I don't have a soft copy of these TPs to work from. If the team could send me your latest version with edits incorporated, that would be helpful. I leave to catch a flight at 4 pm.

Thanks,

Sally

From: Douglas, James [mailto:james_douglas@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 1:05 PM
To: Sally Jewell
Cc: Rhea Suh; Kimberly Thorsen; Tommy Beaudreau
Subject: Re: Fire TPs

thanks. we also suggest these couple of bullets:

(b)(5)

also, FWS is responsible for the Funny River fire; acreages are:

Kenai NWR 192,159

Native Corp 639.1 (Cook Inlet Region Inc/Salamatof Native Association/Native Allotment)

State/Private/Borough 690.9 (Kenai Penninsula Borough/State Private Fee Simple/Other DNR Owner)

Jim Douglas

Director, Office of Wildland Fire

Public Safety, Resource Protection, and Emergency Services

Policy, Management and Budget

US Department of the Interior

james_douglas@ios.doi.gov

MIB Room 2655

202-208-7754 (desk)
202-603-4413 (cell)

On Wed, Jun 4, 2014 at 1:01 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Rhea, Kim and Jim –

I have reviewed the proposed TPs that you gave me this morning. One thought near the end, when I'm talking about fuels management, is to say something like: (b)(5) [redacted] Otherwise, I can work with the remarks as written, or with whatever modifications you are contemplating.

One other suggestion in Brian Deese's remarks would be to include (b)(5) [redacted] I appreciate that Boots' remarks do reference tribes.

Thanks for your hard work on this.

Sally

Jewell-Vilsack June 4 130PM RS.pptx
941K

BISON CONNECT

TPs - revised slightly

Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jun 4, 2014 at 3:45 PM
To: Rhea Suh <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov>, James Douglas <james_douglas@ios.doi.gov>, kim_thorsen@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

All –

I made some relatively minor edits to the latest version of your TPs which are attached. Let me know if any of these give you concern. They are mainly to tighten it a bit, and to make some of the sentences less long. In reality, I'll probably condense these into highlights and speak more naturally. If you have yet to send the others to the WH, please substitute my section with these. If they have gone, the meaning is essentially the same, so I wouldn't sweat it.

Thanks,

Sally

6-9-14 Jewell fire briefing TPs.docx
18K

Secretary Jewell –from WGA meeting in CO

- The challenge of wildfires is driven by three principal factors: a changing climate, an excessive amount of fuels build-up, and increasing settlement in and around fire prone areas.
- The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy provides us with a framework for addressing these. Through a collaborative response to these wildland fire risks facing it focuses on three major goals:
    - Restore and maintain landscapes
    - Fire-adapted communities
    - Wildfire response
- Reducing risk by proactively treating fuels is a key part of our approach
- Fuels treatments reduce the size and severity of fires, reduce risks to our firefighters, and protect communities and their values
- Continued investment in reducing fuels is critical for long term success in living with fire
- For example, on the recent Funny River fire on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska:
    - Fuel breaks provided the opportunity for firefighters to stop the fire; fire was stopped along approximately 6 miles of the fuel break.
    - From the Incident Commander: fuels work by the State, the Cook Inlet Corporation, and FWS are the reason we aren't chasing fire through communities
- Continued investments in fuels management activities will reduce risks to communities, increase the resilience and health of our forests and rangelands, and support safety of the public and our firefighters. This is a paramount component of the federal government's, and the Nation's, approach to wildfire. Stable funding for fuels management also would provide much needed, steady jobs in rural and tribal communities.
- Tribes are an important part of our partnership to manage wildland fire and resilient landscapes. We are working closely with them to protect their communities and to reduce fire risk to important cultural and natural resources.
- In the Department of the Interior over the last ten years we have spent $1.9 billion to treat over 11.6 million acres. These treatments are located across the country and reflect our highest priorities in reducing wildfire risk.
- For example, this year the BLM is spending over $28 million, 62% of their total program, to treat approximately 240,000 acres in sage grouse habitat conservation projects. The 2015 budget proposal includes new resources for fire management in Indian Country, including $10 million to

support landscape restoration, which focused on fulfilling trust responsibilities on reserved treaty rights lands.

- Stable funding for fuels management would provide much needed, steady jobs in rural and tribal communities.
- And with that, I'll turn this over to Secretary Vilsack...

Briefing Materials for June 5-9th, 2014 (VA, WA, CO)

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jun 4, 2014 at 4:17 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Attached are your briefing materials for your trip to Virginia, Washington, and Colorado from June 5th-9th. These have also been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Zaina

14 attachments Attachments 5-14 are unavailable.

6 9 14_10am_VERSION 2 WGA Event Memo.docx
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6 9 14_9am_Meeting with Governor Sandoval (2).docx
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6 9 14_1030am_Meeting with Governor Otter (2).docx
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6 9 14_10am_VERSION 2 WGA INFORMATION MEMO.docx
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Nisqually Estuary Restoration Map (1).docx
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6 6 14_10am PDT_Nisqually Media Advisory.doc
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6 6 14_10am PDT_PRESS RELEASE Nisqually.doc
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6 6 14_10am PDT_TALKING POINTS Norm Dicks.docx
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6 6 14_10am PDT_VERSION 4 Dedication of the Norm Dicks Visitors Center at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.docx
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6 5 14_115pm_OTR Visit at Fort Monroe National Monument.doc
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6 5 14_930am_ATTACHMENT Jamestown.pdf
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6 5 14_930am_TALKING POINTS Visit to Jamestowne.docx
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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION (WGA): WESTERN STATES TOURISM POLICY COUNCIL (WSTPC), MOU SIGNING, AND OPENING CEREMONY – VERSION 2

**Note: Updates are highlighted in yellow.*

WSTPC MEETING AND PRESS CONFERENCE

DATE: Monday, June 9, 2014
LOCATION: The Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO
TIME: 8:30AM- WSTPC Meeting; 10:00AM - WSTPC MOU Signing and Press event
FROM: Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, 412-8846

WGA ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Monday, June 9, 2014
LOCATION: The Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO
TIME: 11:30AM – 1:30PM
FROM: Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, 412-8846

REMARKS AT WGA OPENING CEREMONY

DATE: Monday, June 9, 2014
LOCATION: The Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO
TIME: 1:00PM – 1:30PM
FROM: Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, 412-8846

I. PURPOSE

You are meeting with the Directors of the Western States Tourism Policy Council (WSTPC) and participating in a signing ceremony to renew the MOU between WSTPC and the federal agency partners. The WSTPC submitted a request to WGA to include the MOU signing in conjunction with their annual meeting.

Immediately following the signing ceremony, you will attend a private lunch with the Governors, the WGA Opening Ceremony, and give keynote remarks at the WGA Annual Meeting.

II. AGENDA

8:30AM-9:00AM: Meeting with WSTPC Directors *(casual meet and greet – no formal agenda)*
9:00AM-9:30AM: Meeting with NV Governor Sandoval (*see separate memo*)
10:00AM-10:30AM: WSTPC MOU Signing and Press event

- Chairwoman Shober welcomes and introduces Governor Hickenlooper (5 minutes)
- Gov Hickenlooper will offer remarks; introduces you (5 minutes)
- You will offer remarks; you will then invite participants to stand around you and Chairwoman Shober as they sign the MOU (5 minutes)
- After signing, you will head back to podium to take questions from media

10:30AM-11:00AM: Meeting with ID Governor Otter (*see separate memo*)
11:30AM-12:45PM: Governors and Premiers Private Lunch and Roundtable discussion
1:00PM-1:20PM: WGA Opening Ceremony

- Presentation of colors (Colorado National Guard)
- Nathan Anthem (Colorado Springs Children's Chorale)
- Opening Remarks by Governor Hickenlooper; he will introduce you

1:20PM-1:30PM: You give keynote remarks (10 minutes); Governor will have 5 minutes to respond with comments or questions

III. PARTICIPANTS

WSTPC Meeting:

- Diane Shober, Chairman, WSTPC; Director, Wyoming Office of Travel and
- Brian Wright, Senior Director, Visit California
- Al White, Director, Colorado Office of Tourism
- Claudia Vecchio, Director, Nevada Commission on Tourism
- Todd Davidson, CEO, Travel Oregon; Past Chairman, Travel and Tourism Advisory Board (You met Todd during your April visit to Crater Lake)
- Vicki Varela, Director, Utah Office of Travel and Tourism
- Doug Mitchell, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Commerce
- RJ Lyerly, WSTPC Washington Representative
- David Wetmore, WSTPC Washington Representiatve

WSTPC MOU Signing Ceremony and Press Event:

- Governor John Hickenlooper (CO)
- Governor Brian Sandoval (NV)
- Governor Matt Mead (WY)
- Governor Jan Brewer (AZ)
- Governor Steve Bullock (MT)
- Governor Gary Herbert (UT)
- Jo Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
- Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
- Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

- Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief, Forest Service
- Ed Hall, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Representing the interagency travel and tourism team who works directly with the WSTPC.

WGA Luncheon and Annual Meeting & Opening Ceremony:

- Governor John Hickenlooper (CO) WGA Chairman
- Governor Brian Sandoval (NV) WGA Vice Chairman
- Governor Butch Otter (ID)
- Governor Steve Bullock (MT)
- Governor Dennis Daugaard (SD)
- Governor Matt Mead (WY)
- Governor Gary Herbert (UT)
- Governor Jan Brewer (AZ)
- Governor Jack Dalrymple (ND)
- Premier Christy Clark (British Columbia, Canada)
- Ambassador Gary Doer, Canada's 23rd representative to the U.S.

IV. KEY FACTS

Summary of Travel Economic Impact 2012 - Domestic and International							
	Travel Spending	**Travel Generated Employment**	**Travel Generated Payroll**	**Travel Generated Tax**		**Travel Rank of State Private Industry Employment**	**Travel Share of State Private Industry Employment**
	($ Million)	(Thousand)	($ Million)	($ Million)			(%)
Alaska	2,362.3	27.1	839.9	357.3		3	10.9%
Arizona	16,165.7	157.7	4,646.5	2,354.0		4	7.7%
California	110,814.8	875.8	26,046.0	16,309.5		6	6.9%
Colorado	16,172.4	148.7	3,906.9	2,767.8		4	7.9%
Hawaii	18,642.0	175.7	5,350.5	2,802.1		1	36.3%
Idaho	4,054.6	25.0	531.8	532.5		9	5.0%
Illinois	33,530.9	298.7	8,939.8	6,071.7		7	6.2%

Montana	3,949.2	30.8	574.1	354.3		3	8.8%
Nevada	30,906.4	311.1	9,207.3	4,221.4		1	31.5%
New Mexico	6,569.1	57.8	1,243.3	816.1		3	9.6%
Oregon	9,202.9	80.4	1,887.0	1,190.1		6	5.9%
Utah	7,318.8	74.3	1,979.1	1,141.5		5	7.4%
Washington	13,802.5	107.4	3,021.3	2,079.4		10	4.5%
Wyoming	2,969.7	30.2	540.4	300.9		1	14.2%
Western States total	**276,461.4**	**2,400.7**	**68,714.0**	**41,298.8**			
National Total	**854,173.7**	**7,675.2**	**203,768.1**	**128,624.5**		**6**	**6.9%**
Source: U.S. Travel Association							

V. TALKING POINTS

Talking points are forthcoming from O/S Communications and will be attached separately.

VI. BACKGROUND

**Note: In-depth background and key facts/hot topics on issues that may be raised throughout the conference will be in your WGA Information Memo.*

WSTPC:
The Western States Tourism Policy Council (WSTPC) is a consortium of twelve western state tourism offices, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Inspired by the 1995 White House Conference on Travel and Tourism, which urged greater regional attention to the interrelationships between Federal lands, the environment and tourism, eight western states in 1996 formed the WSTPC. Since its establishment, the mission of the WSTPC has remained: *To advance understanding and increase support for public policies that enhance the positive impact of travel and tourism on the economies and environments of states and communities in the West.*

In September 1997, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the then eight states of the WSTPC and nine Federal agencies, including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the USDA Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Highway Administration. This is the fourth renewal of the MOU.

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation between the Federal agencies and the WSTPC. The Agencies and the WSTPC desire to work together to achieve the common goals of advancing the domestic and international public's awareness of travel and tourism on federal lands, waters and shores and to encourage use of these travel and tourism opportunities in an environmentally and culturally sensitive manner, using natural resources to produce long-term economic, business development, educational and recreational benefits, especially in rural areas.

WGA:
The Western Governors' Association represents the Governors of 19 Western states and 3 U.S.-flag islands. The association is an instrument of the Governors for bipartisan policy development, information exchange and collective action on issues of critical importance to the Western United States.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Related Articles *(below)*

The Washington Post

Print

Western states worry decision on bird's fate could cost billions in development

By Reid Wilson Updated: May 11 at 5:09 pm

MINERAL COUNTY, Nev. – In the frozen chill of a high-desert morning, Tony Wasley, the director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, peers through a range finder down a dirt path and points out a group of birds strutting and preening among a low scrub brush. It's mating season for the sage grouse, and dozens of males are descending upon breeding grounds, called leks, to show off their plumage to the hens.

The 40 or so grouse at this lek near the Nevada-California border look ridiculous. They waddle around, occasionally heaving their bodies into flight, sometimes chasing off younger males and always trying to one-up each other. They are the avian equivalent of a club-goer showing off his shiny new coat.

They are also at the center of a years-long battle that pits environmentalists who want the sage grouse protected under the Endangered Species Act against ranchers, gold miners, energy producers and Western state governments that stand to lose billions of dollars in tax revenue and economic activity if tens of millions of acres are blocked off from development, exploration or use.

The tension between the federal government and Westerners who want to use government-owned land garnered new attention last month, when the Bureau of Land Management moved to round up cattle owned by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy over more than $1 million in unpaid grazing fees. Some state officials fear a decision to list the sage grouse, which would severely limit everything from grazing to energy development on a huge swath of land, could create a slew of new Bundys all over the rural West.

"Western states never welcome outsiders coming in and telling them how to do something," said Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D), who co-chairs a bipartisan task force working to conserve sage-grouse habitats and prevent its inclusion on a list of threatened animals.

The fight over the sage grouse is similar in many respects to the debate over the Northern spotted owl, which in 1990 was listed as threatened. That decision shut down timber operations across more than 24 million acres in Northern California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, contributing to the industry's precipitous decline.

The difference is that the sage grouse covers about 165 million acres, almost seven times the range of the spotted owl. The economic impact of virtually shutting down development in sage-grouse habitats could be orders of magnitude greater than what happened in the Pacific Northwest.

Much of the sage-brush range already is being drilled for oil and natural gas, while thousands of new wells wait for permits. Renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind farms, dot the sage-brush range. Even a gold mine in rural eastern Nevada would be affected.

"It's going to affect agriculture, oil and gas, wind, all kinds of different industries," said Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government and public affairs at the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance. "We're talking about such a wide-ranging impact."

The sage grouse has a long history in the American imagination. They are represented in Native American traditional dance and artwork. Lewis and Clark brought back drawings of a bird they called the spiny-tailed pheasant. Conservationist Rachel Carson warned in her seminal work, "Silent Spring," that sage-brush habitat was being converted to grassland for livestock.

Sage grouse populations have "been declining significantly in numbers, and it's very susceptible to development," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a December interview with The Washington Post. "When you look at the Western landscapes and you look at what's happening, there isn't a state where there's this habitat that's not in some form of trouble."

The federal Fish and Wildlife Service, which ultimately is responsible for deciding whether to include an animal on the endangered-species list, has been considering the several subspecies of sage grouse for about 15 years. In 2005, the agency decided it would not list the grouse as threatened. Environmental groups filed a lawsuit, and a federal judge overturned the finding two years later. In 2010, the agency said the bird warranted protection.

Under an agreement between Fish and Wildlife and the environmental groups, the agency has until the end of September 2015 to propose rules governing the bird's habitat or to decide to change its mind.

Environmentalists say protecting the sage grouse and its habitat is crucial to saving many more species, such as the pronghorn and the pygmy rabbit, that call the high desert home.

"The sage grouse is an umbrella species, so it's sort of the canary in the coal mine," said Randi Spivak, the public-lands program director at the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the groups that initially sued the Interior Department to force it to recognize the sage grouse as threatened.

It's not just industry that wants to keep the sage grouse off the endangered-species list. States are working desperately to convince the federal government to decline to list the bird. The 11 affected states set up a bipartisan task force in 2011, co-chaired by Hickenlooper and Wyoming

Gov. Matt Mead (R), aimed at working with Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies to coordinate conservation strategies and resource-management plans.

"The focus of all this is, how do we demonstrate that we're going to do a better job of creating a proactive strategy?" Hickenlooper said. "We can probably do a better job with our local programs and partnerships than Fish and Wildlife can, trying to regulate from afar."

The stakes involved in Fish and Wildlife's decision are huge. The bird's historic range covers 160 million acres across the Mountain West region, including huge swaths of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and Nevada, along with smaller parts of Washington, California, Utah, Colorado, South Dakota and North Dakota.

"The Fish and Wildlife Service . . . must follow the best available science, and it must make sure that whatever's being done is proven to be effective. And so we're trying to keep all governors at the table," Jewell said. "If one state doesn't play, it could impact all of them."

A listing decision could harm state conservation efforts, some officials said. Putting the sage grouse on threatened status "will be an incredible disincentive for states to develop voluntary conservation strategies," said Shawn Reese, Mead's policy director in Wyoming.

Estimates of the total economic impact depend on which conservation plans the government chooses. Plans calling for the strictest conservation measures could cost up to 31,000 jobs, up to $5.6 billion in annual economic activity and more than $262 million in lost state and local revenue every year, according to a widely cited study conducted by lawyer Lowell Baier that is accepted by interests on both sides of the debate.

Several members of Congress have urged the Interior Department to hold off on making a final determination. Last July, Sens. Michael F. Bennet (D-Colo.) and Mark Udall (D-Colo.) invited Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to their state to see the progress Colorado had made in protecting the Gunnison sage grouse. Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) and Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) have released a discussion draft of a bill that would address sage-grouse conservation. In February, 10 governors met with Jewell and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Daniel M. Ashe.

State land and wildlife managers almost uniformly believe the Fish and Wildlife Service will rule against them and list the sage grouse as threatened.

"They're leaning toward listing it as threatened," said John Harja, head of Utah's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office and a member of the multi-state Sage Grouse Task Force. "We have great concerns."

If the greater sage grouse is listed as threatened, the 11 states could be on the hook for as much as $1 billion in conservation costs. Adding to that burden, most states fund land programs

through user fees, rather than out of general funds; declaring a species threatened makes it harder to generate those fees.

"If the hunters can't hunt, if the miners can't mine, if you don't have that capital, then you lose," said Leo Drozdoff, director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. A billion-dollar tab to save greater sage-grouse habitat, he added, "is almost insurmountable."

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Huffington Post: Republicans Gear up for the Great Grouse War of 2014

WASHINGTON -- Congressional Republicans are working to block federal protection of several species of grouse, arguing that listing the birds as endangered will hurt energy development and agriculture in Western states.

Rep. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) and four other House Republicans, along with Sens. Mike Enzi and John Barrasso of Wyoming, on Thursday introduced the Sage Grouse Protection and Conservation Act, which would prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from listing the greater sage grouse and Gunnison sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act for 10 years. The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed the Gunnison sage grouse as endangered in January 2013, but hasn't finalized the decision. The agency is also considering whether to add the greater sage grouse, which lives in 11 Western states, to the endangered species list. A decision on that is expected next year.

The Republicans sponsoring the legislation said they're concerned that new grouse protections may impede economic development.

"The last thing states need are more one-size-fits-all regulations from Washington that won't help species and will devastate local economies," Barrasso said in a press release. "By forcing Washington to stay out of the way, this bill puts Americans who live in these communities and know what works best in charge of managing the land and wildlife. It also gives states the tools they need to develop a sound conservation plan and ultimately prevent the sage grouse from being listed -- a win-win for wildlife and our economy."

Environmental groups said federal protections for the birds are imperative for their survival. The population of the greater sage grouse has "declined roughly 90 percentfrom its historic numbers," less than a century ago, said Mark Salvo, the director of federal lands conservation at Defenders of Wildlife. The birds "are experiencing death by a thousand cuts," Salvo said, because they are "highly sensitive to landscape disturbances, human activities like oil and gas drilling or livestock grazing, construction of energy facilities and mining."

Salvo said he hoped a federal and state conservation plan already underway will help to preserve sage grouse and their habitats. But legislation "prioritizing the state strategies over other federal alternatives" could make things worse, he said. He said the Gunnison sage grouse's total population is fewer than 5,000, making it "arguably the most imperiled of all the grouse species that are under consideration for protection under the Endangered Species Act."

Meanwhile, Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R-Kan.) is leading an effort to block Fish and Wildlife's decision to list another type of grouse, the lesser prairie chicken, as "threatened." Fish and Wildlife in May listed the lesser prairie chicken as threatened, after its population fell by nearly half in one year to roughly 17,000. The bird's range covers primarily private land in the southern Great Plains.

Huelskamp told HuffPost this week that he has submitted an amendment to the Interior and Environment appropriations bill that would bar the agency from using any funds in support of the listing. He said he may offer another amendment to "defund Fish and Wildlife Service," though he didn't make clear whether that would be a whole or partial cut. He said he is also working on separate legislation that would delay enforcement of the lesser prairie chicken listing for at least a year, which he said would provide time to demonstrate the effectiveness of a voluntary, five-state conservation plan.

Farmers, ranchers, oil and gas developers and rural electrical cooperatives all fear the lesser prairie chicken's listing will hurt their business, said Huelskamp. Renewable energy development also may be affected, he said. "It was the number one issue on the mind of folks in western Kansas for many months now. We're already hearing real-life examples of economic activity not taking place," he said.

Ya-Wei Li, director of endangered species conservation at Defenders of Wildlife, said the concern about enforcement is overblown. "Oftentimes, we hear this fear that Fish and Wildlife is going to drive around and start issuing citations to ranchers for violating the Endangered Species Act, and the reality is that just doesn't happen," he said.

Defenders of Wildlife and WildEarth Guardians have argued the lesser prairie chicken's listing as "threatened" is far too lenient, and that bird should be considered "endangered." An endangered listing comes with more stringent rules governing the protection of the animals and their habitat.

"Its decline has been catastrophic, its populations are on the verge of extinction," said Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist with WildEarth Guardians based in Laramie, Wyoming. "Endangered species status is what is legally required when a species gets this scarce."

Huelskamp said he believes the lesser prairie chicken population is struggling primarily due to drought, not development. "As long as it doesn't rain, we're not going to have any more birds," he told HuffPost.

Molvar and Li acknowledged that drought has had some impact, but they said droughts occur frequently in the high plains.

"Drought or no drought, the extinction risk is very high for the lesser prairie chicken right now," said Li. He said that the legislative efforts to block protections for the bird are "really part of a larger legislative effort to gut the Endangered Species Act."

There have also been state efforts to block federal protections for the grouses. Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback (R) signed a bill two weeks ago that claims state sovereignty over non-migratory wildlife, including both the lesser and greater prairie chicken. That bill gives the state attorney general the power to block any federal protections for the birds.The state has also joined a

federal lawsuit that Oklahoma filed against Fish and Wildlife seeking to block protection of the lesser prairie chicken.

Huelskamp said there can be no peaceful coexistence between development and protections for the birds.

"There's no living together," said Huelskamp. "If you're going to shut down an oil well, it's picking ... You're picking the lesser prairie chicken over oil wells. Or else, why would they be out issuing those regulations?"

E&E NEWS PM

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ENDANGERED SPECIES: Industry embraces voluntary measures to help lesser prairie chicken (Tuesday, June 3, 2014)

Scott Streater, E&E reporter

The threatened listing of the lesser prairie chicken two months ago has sparked energy industry participation in voluntary conservation programs designed to restore the bird across its five-state range despite concerns that a federal listing would slow such participation.

Oil and natural gas, wind, pipeline, and transmission companies have nearly tripled the amount of land they've enrolled in a voluntary conservation plan since the Fish and Wildlife Service announced in late March that it would designate the ground-dwelling bird as a threatened species, according to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), which administers the plan.

Just days before Fish and Wildlife announced the listing decision, those industries had enrolled about 3.6 million acres in the Lesser Prairie Chicken Range-wide Conservation Plan, committing to spend nearly $21 million over the next three years for habitat conservation (*E&ENews PM*, March 25).

But since the FWS announcement, that number has surged to a total of 160 companies that have enrolled about 9 million acres in the rangewide conservation plan, committing more than $43 million for habitat conservation over the next three years.

"The oil and gas industry has demonstrated overwhelming support for the Lesser Prairie Chicken Range-wide Conservation Plan," said Ben Shepperd, president of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association, in a statement. "The industry should be lauded for doing their part in this important initiative and we appreciate the leadership of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in developing a plan that works for industry, landowners and the prairie chicken."

The new numbers, released today by WAFWA, would seem to soothe concerns among some Western government and industry leaders, including Shepperd, who feared a federal listing decision would drive away voluntary cooperation in the

conservation programs that were initially designed to convince FWS not to list the bird.

The formal listing decision included an accompanying special rule designed to allow regulatory flexibility for oil and gas firms, farmers and ranchers who enrolled in approved conservation plans (*E&ENews PM*, March 27).

FWS decided to list the prairie chicken mostly because farming, grazing, energy development and other land uses have significantly reduced the bird's population numbers and habitat, which includes parts of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Leaders in the five states and the energy industry sector worked out the rangewide conservation plan in an effort to avoid a listing. The energy companies that agreed to enroll in the conservation plan -- including American Electric Power Company Inc., ConocoPhillips Co., Devon Energy Corp. and Marathon Oil Corp. -- paid enrollment fees to sign up, agreed to follow a list of guidelines to minimize impacts on the bird and committed to pay for impacts they could not avoid. The money goes to farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect and restore habitat for the bird.

Shepperd said in March, a day before FWS announced its decision, that a federal listing would be a "tragedy" to those companies that had signed up for the voluntary program (*Greenwire*, March 26).

"People have really spent a lot of blood, sweat and tears trying to put meaningful conservation on the ground. A federal listing throws all that work into the garbage," he said.

But Fish and Wildlife has worked with the states to provide flexibility under the Endangered Species Act, and that has encouraged voluntary participation in the conservation programs, said Bill Van Pelt, grasslands coordinator for WAFWA, which crafted the rangewide conservation plan in the bird's five-state range.

"Despite the concerns with the federal listing, what the service has done by working with their state partners is to identify the flexibility inherent in the Endangered Species Act that allows for credit to be given to voluntary programs to conserve a species," Van Pelt said. "A lot of folks said of the listing decision, 'Oh, it's going to drive people away, it's going to drive people away.' But the [ESA] itself has some inherent flexibility that has not been used in the past like it could have been."

It's not just the energy industry sector that's benefiting, but also private ranchers

and other landowners, he said.

More than 3 million acres of private land in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico have been enrolled in voluntary conservation agreements. And the nonprofit Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management in New Mexico has enrolled an additional 1.9 million acres of oil and gas leases in the state under separate conservation agreements.

In total, nearly 14 million acres has been enrolled in some sort of public-private conservation agreement designed to restore the lesser prairie chicken and its habitat in the five states, according to WAFWA.

"The enrollment of nearly 14 million acres in these various conservation agreements to benefit the Lesser Prairie Chicken is an extraordinary achievement," Carter Smith, president of WAFWA and executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said in a statement. "Our focus now is to continue implementing the plan, recover the species, and facilitate the bird's removal from the federal threatened species list. In that regard, we appreciate [FWS's] commitment to and support for using the rangewide plan as a blueprint for recovery."

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH GOVERNOR OTTER (R-ID)

DATE: June 9, 2014
LOCATION: The Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO
TIME: 10:30AM – 11:00AM
FROM: Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, (202) 412-8846; Steve Ellis, Dep Director of BLM, (202) 208-3801

I. PURPOSE

You are meeting with Idaho Governor Butch Otter prior to the WGA annual meeting. Governor Otter would like to discuss Sage Grouse issues, particularly the impact that the National Policy Team guidance will have on the Idaho alternative. He would also like to discuss the Gateway West Transmission Line, particularly proposed segments 8 and 9.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Governor Butch Otter (R-ID)
- Deputy Secretary Mike Connor

III. HOT TOPICS

Gateway West Transmission Line (Idaho segments 8 & 9) * *Priority Project of Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT)*

Next Milestone: The Boise District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) meeting June 5, 2014 (to be followed by BLM's re-initiation of public scoping and additional analysis under NEPA before a final decision is made).

Project Description: Proposed by Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power, the Gateway West Transmission Project consists of nine 500 kV AC segments and one 230 kV AC segment spanning 990 miles across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho. The project will address load growth in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming, improve the reliability and efficiency of utility systems, and tap renewable energy resources in Idaho and Wyoming. A Record of Decision for project segments 1-7 and 10 was issued November 2013. The BLM deferred a decision on segments 8 and 9 in Idaho to allow additional time to address unresolved siting challenges centered primarily around the BLM's Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. The project sponsors estimate 1,100 to 1,200 jobs to be created.

Project Challenges for Segments 8 and 9

- Due to geographic constraints and existing military training ranges, all alternative routes cross at least a portion of the BLM administered Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA (NCA) in southern Idaho.

- To comply with the NCA's enabling legislation (PL 103-64) and BLM policy, the segments of the project that cross the NCA must conserve, protect, and enhance the values for which the NCA was created.
- The BLM worked with the project proponents on a mitigation and enhancement strategy focused on issues within the NCA, but this strategy was not submitted by the proponents in time to be included in the 2013 FEIS and the public has not had an opportunity to review and comment on the strategy.
- Finalizing Greater Sage Grouse mitigation.
- Finalizing Migratory Bird Conservation Plan

Governor Otter's Concern: The Governor is concerned that BLM's Preferred Alternative route for segments 8 and 9 in the 2013 FEIS was located primarily on private land adjacent to communities, outside of the NCA. The Governor has maintained that a transmission line is inconsistent with city comprehensive plans. The Governor prefers to have the transmission line placed on public land within the NCA using or paralleling existing transmission line routes.

Suggested Response: The BLM in Idaho is working closely with the Boise District Resource RAC to identify optional routes and considerations for segments 8 and 9. We appreciate the Administrator of Idaho's Office of Energy Resources serving on the RAC subcommittee and contributing to this process. Based on the RAC report, BLM Idaho will determine what level of additional NEPA analysis is necessary. BLM Idaho will re-initiate public scoping and conduct further analysis prior to identifying a preferred alternative and reaching a final decision. BLM Idaho looks forward to close coordination with the Governor and his staff.

Sage Grouse

The Final Idaho State Plan was completed and incorporated as Alternative E into the Draft EIS. The State Plan currently only applies to Federal lands with the exception of the creation of the Rural Fire Protection Associations, which are being implemented and funded by the State. BLM has been working collectively with the State of Idaho and FWS to develop a 'Proposed Final Plan' that incorporates the State Plan, including additional changes the State wanted to include into their state strategy (e.g., Core , Important, and General Management Zones). These components have been agreed to and developed in collaboration with the State.

The National Policy Team recently issued range-wide guidance that takes a different approach to management than the agreed to approach in the "Proposed Final Plan". That guidance set out an exception process for State Directors to explain why an alternative approach is warranted. The Idaho BLM State Director has submitted information to the BLM Washington Office explaining why the Idaho approach achieves similar or better outcomes for Sage Grouse. That memo is under review.

Governor Otter's Concern: The Governor's office is especially concerned with the manner in which the general National Policy Team guidance requires General Habitat (versus Priority

Habitat) be managed relative to the "no net unmitigated loss of sage grouse habitat." In addition, Idaho has three tiers of habitat protection (Core, Important, and General management zones) and not two like other states. Ninety five percent of breeding males are protected by the Core Zone (73% of breeding males) and Important Zone (22% of breeding males). This approach lays the foundation to potentially manage State and as appropriate, private lands, within this framework.

Suggested Response:

- Governor Otter, I know that your team has worked very hard with ours to come up with a strong approach to sage grouse management on public lands in Idaho.
- The National Policy Team guidance was only guidance not policy and invited State Directors to explain why alternative approaches can work given the specific facts at play in different states.
- We believe we need this step to ensure a strong record that supports similar or better outcomes from the standards set out in the NTT and COT reports.
- My understanding is that the ID BLM director is working with our Washington Office on that record. The door is not shut to the Idaho approach and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

IV. BIOGRAPHY



C.L. "Butch" Otter was re-elected Governor on November 2, 2010. He was first elected Governor of Idaho on November 7, 2006. He previously served three terms in Congress representing Idaho's 1st District from 2001 through 2006. Governor Otter is a father of four and grandfather of six. He is married to the former Lori Easley of Kimberly. They live on their ranch near Star.

Governor Otter was born in Caldwell on May 3, 1942. He graduated from St. Teresa's Academy (now Bishop Kelly High School) in Boise, attended Boise Junior College (now Boise State University), and received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from the College of Idaho in 1967.

He served honorably in the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Armored Cavalry from 1968 to 1973, and later was awarded honorary doctorates from the University of the Philippines and the College of Idaho in Caldwell.

Governor Otter's 30-year career in business included membership on the Board of Directors of the J.R. Simplot Company. He also served as Director of the Food Products Division, President of Simplot Livestock, and President of Simplot International. He retired in 1993.

When he was elected to Congress, Governor Otter was serving his fourth term as Idaho's Lieutenant Governor. He served in that office longer than anyone in Idaho history. He previously represented the people of Canyon County in the Idaho House of Representatives for two terms

from 1973 to 1976, was on the Idaho Republican Party Central Committee and was chairman of the Canyon County Republican Party.

Governor Otter is a member of the Roman Catholic Church, the National Rifle Association, the Maple Grove State Grange, the Idaho Cowboys Association, and the Idaho 4-H Million Dollar Club. He is a Grand Slam member of Ducks Unlimited, a lifetime member of Safari Club International, was elected to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame Board of Directors in Oklahoma City in 1991, and is a lifetime member of American Legion Post 113 in Meridian.

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION – VERSION 2

DATE: June 4, 2014

FROM: Sarah Greenberger, OS, (202)208-6726; Michael Bean, AS-FWP office (202) 208-7400; Letty Belin, Counselor to the D/S (202) 208-6291; John Blair, Director, OIEA (202) 208-1923; James Lyons, Counselor, ASLM (202) 208- 4318; Neil Kornze, BLM; Mike Conner, BOR; Libby Washburn, BOR; Dionne Thompson, BOR (202)513-0570; Anne J. Castle, A/S W&S; Neil Kornze, BLM; Maureen Foster, NPS (202) 208-5970; Kevin Washburn (202) 208-7163; Jennifer Goldblatt (202) 513-0604

SUBJECT: Western Governors' Association (WGA) Issues of Interest

In preparation for the upcoming June 2014 Western Governors' Association meeting, below are western issues of interest to the Governors planning to attend.

SAGE-GROUSE

Status of BLM Great Sage-Grouse State Plans

BLM received comments from the public and from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on our 15 Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for Greater Sage-grouse (GRSG). To improve coordination, clarity and consistency as the planning teams begin development of proposed plans, the BLM held two Federal family meetings to discuss land management allocations, disturbance calculations and other topics.

Issues/concerns that were not resolved at these meetings were presented to the National Policy Team (NPT) - which consists of members from FWS, FS, and BLM - for resolution. Key pieces of guidance were developed over a series of NPT meetings, and that guidance was issued on April 30, 2014 to the State Directors. This included guidance intended to ensure clarity and consistency related to the Land Use Plan Allocations and Disturbance thresholds; and, overall guidance related to Adaptive Management, Mitigation and Monitoring that will be incorporated into all 15 EISs. While the final NPT guidance was being developed, the State Directors were cooperating with their Governor's Offices, collectively working on these proposed plans and developing solutions from the ground up. This new guidance, which the NPT feels provides clarity for the public and the FWS, has created some conflict in specific states as some now feel that this has limited the ability to develop locally driven Proposed Plans.

BLM is analyzing the comments received and preparing draft Administrative Proposed Plans (APPs). The draft APPs, which are to be completed in June, will then be "rolled up" in July so as to evaluate their aggregate impact on each sage-grouse "primary area for conservation" (PAC) and sage-grouse population identified in the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) report. The purpose of the roll-up exercise is to evaluate the extent to which the key threats to each PAC and population have been ameliorated by the plans and will enable any fine-tuning of federal and state plans needed to adequately address key threats.

On May 12, 2014, AD-200 issued a memo to the State Directors on the new 12-Step Roll-up Strategy that addresses how the BLM will move forward with the Roll-up through the publication of the Proposed Plan EISs. The NPT guidance does provide some flexibility and if the State Director feels that their current approach is biologically beneficial to sage-grouse and better protects their habitat they can provide AD-200 a memo to support their rationale as addressed in the 12-Step Strategy. Based on this 12-Step process an updated planning schedule has been developed.

Positions of Interested Parties

Colorado – In 2008, the State of Colorado developed a statewide Conservation Plan for GRSG. In 2013, Colorado prepared and published a status report on implementation of the Conservation Plan. The status report, called the Colorado Package, was submitted to both BLM/FS and the FWS in January 2014. It is a compendium of GRSG conservation commitments and efforts underway in Colorado, including conservation planning and implementation, land protection, population and habitat monitoring, habitat treatments, restoration, research and communications. Although not memorialized in an Executive Order, it represents the State's GRSG Plan according to Governor Hickenlooper. The State of Colorado has coordinated actively and closely with BLM/FS in development of the Northwest Colorado Administrative Draft Proposed Plan (ADPP) and provided detailed comments and information for consideration, though the Governor's Office feels that BLM's ADPP is too restrictive.

Idaho/SW Montana –Based on the recent NPT guidance, BLM-ID believes the foundational elements of the State Plan are no longer applicable (i.e., three management areas and associated management, the robust adaptive management strategy, and lands and minerals activities avoidance criteria). The Governor's Office does not agree with the NPT guidance that there be "no unmitigated loss" within General Habitat. Of the three management areas (Priority, Medial, and General), Medial Habitat includes both Priority and General. The FWS concern is that the Priority Habitat in Medial Habitat should be treated and managed as Priority Habitat.

Montana – Currently working on an Executive Order from the Governor which, when in place, will provide regulatory mechanisms for sage-grouse conservation through state approved actions. The adoption of a state plan may influence the state opinions about the BLM plans in MT. The draft state plan (which applies to private and state lands) provides a process by which the state would assess disturbance at the project level to limit discretionary (those activities requiring a state or federal decision) disturbance at the landscape level.

Nevada/NE California – Nevada is in the process of revising the 2012 Nevada Sage-grouse Plan. The agencies (BLM, FS, and FWS) have been working with the State's Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and their Technical Team to make the Proposed Plan and the State Plan, where possible, consistent. To date, most of the sections that would go into the agencies' Proposed Plan have been revised and for the most part are consistent. The overarching concern from the State is the legality of the significant land use restrictions and prohibitions encompassed in the alternatives. The Nevada State Sage-grouse Plan does not make direct allocations. Their goal is to limit development based on the amount of credit that would have to be acquired for a disturbance. We expect pushback on any allocations that exclude or close areas to development.

North Dakota/South Dakota – Both the North Dakota Game and Fish and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks have been supportive of the BLM LUP efforts and decisions. North Dakota Game and Fish has produced a draft updated Greater Sage-grouse Management Plan and a final plan is expected soon. South Dakota is in the process of producing a draft updated Greater Sage-grouse Management Plan. Neither plan includes regulatory mechanisms for state approved actions.

Utah – The Conservation Plan for GRSG was approved for implementation by Governor Herbert in April 2013. The measures in the plan are being applied and habitat improvement projects implemented. In May 2013, the FWS submitted a comment letter raising concerns with Utah's Conservation Plan that have yet to be resolved. The state has concerns with BLM direction within Preliminary General Management Areas as it relates to "no net loss" and the three percent disturbance cap. The State also believes there is too much emphasis on land use restrictions in the BLM-FS plan and not enough emphasis on increasing habitat through treatments.

Wyoming – The State of Wyoming Core Area Strategy was established in 2011 by Executive Order. The Core Area Strategy is implemented by the Governor's Greater Sage-Grouse Implementation Team (SGIT); it applies to private and state lands whenever a state authorization is required and is largely consistent with BLM/FS ADPP. Governor Mead is intent on getting the Lander Record of Decision approved to demonstrate successful sage-grouse conservation partnerships and has emphasized the need for BLM/FS plans to be consistent with the Wyoming Core Area Strategy. Governor Mead has emphasized that GRSG conservation should move forward while maintaining economic and social benefits derived from public land uses.

Key Points to Emphasize

(1) **The Fish and Wildlife Service has made no decision and has no "leaning" with respect to whether or not the sage-grouse should be proposed for listing**. It will make that determination in 2015 on the basis of all the information available to it then, including the state and federal plans now being completed. It will be guided by the recommendations of the COT report, which was a joint product of state and federal scientists.

(2) Through the collective efforts of state and federal agencies, **avoiding the need to list the species under the ESA is an achievable goal**. The degree of cooperation that has characterized the work of the federal and state agencies over the last three years is unprecedented. If we continue to work together constructively, it is within our power to remove or adequately reduce the threats to the sage-grouse.

(3) **"What is good for the bird is good for the herd."** This recent remark by an Oregon rancher underscores the point that conserving the sage-grouse will have much broader benefits than simply helping that single species. Valued game species, such as mule deer, share many of the sage-grouse's habitat needs and thus will benefit from efforts to conserve the grouse. Indeed, **the PACs that will be the primary focus of conservation efforts for the sage-grouse are generally congruent with the highest priority "crucial habitat" areas in the CHATs** that WGA and the Western states have recently produced.

(4) **The states will be invited and encouraged to take part in the forthcoming "roll up"** of BLM and Forest Service plans, to ensure a comprehensive look at the extent to which key threats have been ameliorated in the PACs. This is essential since state and private land comprises a significant fraction of most PACs and a majority of the land in several PACs.

(5) While all the states have been working hard through the Sage-Grouse Task Force and other means, **several states have made unique contributions**.
- **Wyoming**'s core area strategy both led the way in building a conservation effort around the most important places, but also made effective use of the state's many regulatory authorities to conserve those places;
- **Nevada** is in the forefront of efforts to design a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to mitigation;
- **Idaho** has embraced adaptive management in a rigorous way.

(6) Through the work of the Task Force, **many good ideas have emerged regarding how we can better prevent fires and more effectively target our post-fire restoration efforts.** Our ability to implement those ideas will be greatly aided if together we can persuade Congress to enact bipartisan legislation that changes the way we budget for fire. The help of the Western Governors in securing that legislation is needed.

(7) **Now is not the time to kick the can down the road**, as some have suggested. The chance we have this year and next to put in place meaningful conservation measures is the best chance to arrest and reverse the decline of an iconic game bird of the West and the habitat upon which it and much other wildlife depends.

ADDITIONAL Q & A

Q: What do you have to say about legislative proposals that would give the States more time to develop and implement their own solutions to sage-grouse conservation?
A: I disagree with those who suggest kicking the can down the road is the best approach to facing the challenges before us. The ESA has forced all of us to sit down together and work to solve a problem that is much bigger than sage-grouse. The disappearing sage brush and explosion of invasive species that fuel the fire cycle also threaten sage-grouse. They also threaten other iconic species like mule deer, elk and pronghorn as well as ranching and other activities that fuel western tradition and economic growth. Wyoming has shown that we best preserve our heritage and generate economic potential when we act boldly and decisively to make smarter, more strategic land management decisions that provide all land users with certainty. That is the example we are working together to emulate.

Q: Montana recently closed their greater sage-grouse hunting season because of declining population levels. What does this mean about the prospects for avoiding the need to list the sage-grouse? Are we now in the same position we were in for Lesser Prairie Chicken, Gunnison and Bi-state sage-grouse where population drives the outcome and no amount of conservation will suffice?
A: FWS will make its listing determination based on the sum total of the status of the bird, and the threats to the species and its habitat, across the entire range of the species. Greater sage-grouse populations appear to have declined in some portions of the range due to the recent drought and other factors, and Montana took this precautionary management step as a result. That said, there is no indication that the population is crashing, as was seen with the lesser prairie-chicken. Our focus for conservation continues to be on protecting the remaining large, high quality areas of habitat, i.e., the Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs), so that populations of the bird large enough to be resilient to drought and other natural stressors can be maintained across the range.

Q: Director Ashe keeps discussing a 4(d) rule. That makes us think he's already made up his mind about listing the bird. What is our incentive to keep working at this?
A: The Fish and Wildlife Service has made no decision and has no "leaning" on whether to propose the sage-grouse for listing. It will make that determination in 2015 on the basis of all the information available to it then, including the state and federal plans now being completed. It will be guided by the recommendations of the COT report, which was a joint product of state and federal scientists.

What Dan wants to make clear is that there is no downside to bold action with regard to a listing. If the federal government and all governors act to develop strong, science-based plans that serve to avoid the need to list, then we're all happy. But if some governors act and some don't, and the Service ultimately has to list the bird, a 4(d) rule can allow states with a sound conservation plan in place to continue to have the lead for managing the species.

Q: Fox News recently reported that the Service decision to list the Lesser Prairie Chicken has shut down oil and gas production in Western Kansas despite the rhetoric from the Service regarding flexibility and states' retention of authority. How do you respond to that?
A: Companies have a responsibility to prepare for changes in their business environment, too. The most recent statistics we have from WAFWA show that 117 different oil and gas companies have assessed the situation and made the business decision to participate in the Range-wide Conservation Plan, committing to carry out the conservation measures of the plan on 6.2 million acres of land that they manage or lease. That same avenue is readily available for any company operating in western Kansas.

Fire and Sage-Grouse Habitat Protection Measures

- The safety of firefighters and the public will always be our top priority, but the protection of Sage-Grouse and its habitat where they exist is the top resource priority. The BLM is and has been taking immediate, direct and measurable steps to reduce fire and invasive species threats to Sage-Grouse habitat.
- In core habitat areas with a history of large fires, we will aggressively seek to compartmentalize prime areas through strategic fuels management and creating firebreaks to minimize fire spread into those critical habitat areas. For 2015 we intend to increase the fuels treatment allocation percentage and amount of investment in core habitat.
- To stem the effects of changes in the fuels and fire regime, quick and aggressive post-fire stabilization and fuels treatments will provide a path to enhanced habitat conservation. Although sagebrush and preferred grasses are difficult to get established with more frequent fires, we will use competitive plant species, including non-native grasses and forbs, where necessary as a proven transition to a longer-term desired plant community.
- In 2014 we are directing 62 percent of our Fuels Program project capacity to Sage-grouse habitat conservation projects. This amounts to $28 million in funding and approximately 240,000 acres of treatment. In 2014 we are investing 58 percent of our Healthy Lands Initiative funds to sagebrush ecosystems and landscapes. This amounts to over $4.5 million. These funds are distributed between the Greater, the Gunnison, and Bi State population areas of habitat.
- To boost rural response capacity in Sage-Grouse habitat, and west-wide, managers and fire organizations will be encouraged to integrate Rural Fire Protection Associations and traditional Rural Volunteer Departments into their daily operations to the highest degree possible. We are committed to training support and coordination at a minimum. Where possible we will provide more material support.

<u>High-Voltage Transmission Lines and Greater Sage-Grouse</u>

- BLM is taking significant steps to address transmission project impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitats while land use plans are being amended or revised as part of an ongoing National Greater Sage-grouse Planning Strategy.
- BLM is also ensuring project developers comply with interim management guidance for sage-grouse that was issued in December 2011. This guidance specifies: Consideration of reasonable siting alternatives outside priority habitat or within designated corridors; identification of technically feasible best management practices; and consideration of regional mitigation opportunities.
- Thorough, project-specific environmental reviews are ongoing with input from the public, Tribes, and Federal, state and local cooperators.
- Project developers are preparing Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA) based mitigation in collaboration with BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service and state game and fish agencies.
- BLM is working with project developers to co-locate facilities within previously disturbed areas and designated corridors.
- BLM is working with project developers to identify routes that minimize impacts to Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs) for the Greater Sage-Grouse.
- For approved projects, BLM is enforcing strict timing controls on construction activities during sensitive periods (i.e. breeding, nesting, winter).

HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES AND ENERGY ISSUES

This topic is of particular interest to Governor Butch Otter (ID), Governor Brian Sandoval (NV), and Governor Gary Herbert (UT). During the WGA breakfast in February, Governor Herbert mentioned the need for certainty in Interior's resource management plans to encourage energy development in his state.

Governor Sandoval discussed transmission lines in his state at the February WGA breakfast. Governor Otter plans to discuss Gateway West and Boardman to Hemmingway transmission lines.

As the largest Federal land manager in the west, the BLM plays a significant role in planning energy corridors and siting transmission facilities. BLM administers over 107,000 rights-of-way for a variety of uses including transmission lines and pipelines. BLM is employing a "smart from the start" approach to identify areas of conflict and opportunity during planning to allow BLM managers to select the best areas for siting transmission facilities.

Since 2009, BLM has permitted 42 high-voltage transmission projects spanning over 2,300 miles on public lands. These projects provide capacity for renewable energy, improve grid reliability and support job growth. Since 2011, BLM has participated as a member of the Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT) with the goal of improving coordination, expediting permitting and identifying lessons learned from seven priority pilot projects identified by the President. BLM is lead or co-lead agency on four of the priority projects. BLM currently has approximately 20 pending high-voltage transmission projects in several western states. Some projects are in sagebrush habitat.

Energy Corridors

The BLM, DOE, and USFS Work Group are collaborating to identify regions in the west to conduct reviews of corridors. The federal partners are focused on doing this right, including close coordination with states, tribes, local communities, and outside partners. This new approach is the right way to conduct corridor assessments, but it is also very resource intensive. With limited funds, the federal partners are currently consulting with WGA and various states in considering which regions to prioritize. Interest from states and commitments to work collaboratively on a corridor process will be key to successfully reviewing corridors of concern.

Transmission Project Summaries

- Gateway West Transmission Line (Idaho segments 8 & 9) * *RRTT Priority Project* - The project will address load growth in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming, improve the reliability and efficiency of utility systems, and tap renewable energy resources in Idaho and Wyoming. The project sponsors estimate 1,100 to 1,200 jobs will be created.
    - Challenges: Routes proposed across the BLM administered Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA in southern Idaho; finalizing Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation; finalizing Migratory Bird Conservation Plan
- TransWest Express Line * *RRTT Priority Project* - The project is designed to increase capacity for renewable energy generation consisting primarily of wind energy, including the Choke-Cherry, Sierra Madre Wind Farm near Rawlins, WY. The project sponsor estimates 1,035 to 1,550 jobs will be created.
    - Challenges: Finalizing Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation; potential crossing inventoried road less areas in National Forests; proximity to Nellis Air Force Base in southern Nevada; crossing Tuttle Ranch and proposed conservation easements in Colorado; co-locating project adjacent to existing projects and the Energy Gateway South project
- Boardman to Hemingway Project **RRTT and PNWRIT Priority Project* - The Project would relieve pressure on the existing transmission system, improve electric reliability, provide additional energy capacity to meet demand in Oregon and Idaho, and provide service to wholesale customers. The project sponsor estimates 500 jobs to be created.

- Challenges: Project schedule being delayed due to inadequate Administrative DEIS; untimely and insufficient cultural, biological and visual resource data from environmental contractors; delays due to project developer financial commitments to support NEPA analysis and contractors; routes affecting Greater Sage-Grouse and habitat; limited flexibility in Oregon state siting policy for sage-grouse habitat; potential routes crossing irrigated agricultural lands and other private lands

- Energy Gateway South Transmission Project - The project is designed to provide redundancy to existing infrastructure and improve ability to provide reliable service to customers; support future load growth in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah; provide increased transmission capacity for third-party transmission users.
  - Challenges: Proposed routes affecting Greater Sage-Grouse and habitat; finalizing Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation; crossing Tuttle Ranch and proposed conservation easements in Colorado; co-locating project adjacent to existing projects and the TransWest Express project; routes impacting private lands
- Vantage Pomona Transmission Project * *PNWRIT Priority Project* - The project is designed to eliminate redistributed loads and overloading of the adjacent transmission system; ensure continued reliable and efficient service to Yakima Valley and address potential reliability issues within the Mid-Columbia Transmission System.
  - Challenges: Potential visual impacts; private landowners desire to minimize routes on private lands; proposed route across Joint Base Lewis McChord Yakima Training center (JBLM-YTC) which is designated as a Priority Area of Conservation (PAC) for sage-grouse; minimizing impacts to cultural resources and properties for route crossing JBLM-YTC; analysis of a buried transmission line as a design alternative

FIRE

The Bureau of Land Management is working with local, state, and federal cooperators to ensure that we stop the majority of wildland fires in the first burning period. Areas of focus include: Using science-based decision support tools to anticipate the next problem areas; positioning fire suppression resources to where they will next be needed; approving severity funding allocations to temporarily increase fire suppression staffing; and conducting fire prevention activities including using education and fire restrictions where necessary.

This fire season is anticipated to be a challenging one due to overall drought conditions. Yet through the use of forecasting support tools, positioning resources where they're needed the most and efficient use of severity funding, BLM has contained about 96% of its fires during initial attack.
The combined efforts of local, state and federal agencies will continue to emphasize the safety of the public and firefighters, while also containing a high percentage of wildfires during initial attack without incurring unneeded risk. Below are several questions that you may encounter based on recent interest from several of our state partners:

Idaho:
Q. What kinds of relief can you provide for ranchers that have had to displace livestock based on the loss of forage in the 2012 fire season? Are there opportunities for forage banks or vacated allotments that can be a temporary source of forage?
A. All of the allotments in Idaho are currently under existing grazing permits and authorizations; at this time there are no opportunities for forage banks and there are no vacant allotments.

Utah:

Q. What are you doing to ensure that the collaborative landscape restoration efforts in Utah continue, especially in light of the BLM's new seed management process?

A. We are committed to our legacy of partnerships in Utah. Although the BLM has made some logistical modifications in the seed management process, we are going to continue to invest heavily in collaborative landscape restoration in Utah.

Special Mention:

- We are recognizing and remembering that this is the 20th anniversary of the Storm King Mountain burn over on the South Canyon Fire in Colorado where we lost 14 firefighters on July 6, 1994. Several commemorative events will be hosted in Colorado in the next month.
- We further remember that we are approaching the one year anniversary of the Yarnell Hill burn over in which 19 firefighters died. This was the single largest loss of life on a wildland fire since the 1930s. While we are still learning from both of these tragedies, the loss in both cases is fresh in our minds.
- Both of these fire entrapments have formed the foundation of this year's wildland firefighter refresher.

MITIGATION

In April, the Department's Energy and Climate Change Task Force provided the Secretary with a report summarizing a coordinated Department-wide evaluation and a strategy for implementing improvements in the Department's mitigation practices and policies. Based on the report's findings, various offices and bureaus of the Department have begun to implement policy and programs aimed at strengthening mitigation practices.

- FWS is in the process of revising its mitigation policies;
- BLM is implementing a draft Regional Mitigation Policy that will be updated and finalized consistent with the guidance contained in the Departmental report;
- BLM released its first regional mitigation plan for the Dry Lake solar energy zone (SEZ) and will conduct additional outreach to aid in designing future SEZ regional mitigation plans;
- BLM, FS, and FWS are working together to develop a mitigation strategy as a part of the larger Greater Sage-Grouse conservation initiative;
- USGS is leading efforts to develop geospatial data tools for landscape-scale mitigation and will be convening a workshop of partners later this year;
- The NPS is convening a workshop to develop guidance for mitigating impacts to cultural resources under Section 106 of NHPA and will also be convening experts to develop guidance for landscape-scale mitigation for preserving scenic values.

Q. How does this strategy impact work to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse?

A. The BLM is nearing the final stages of amending 98 Resource Management Plans to account for conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse. The bureau is already working closely with the FWS and states wildlife agencies to ensure that these final plan amendments contain robust provisions for mitigating impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. The BLM anticipates working closely with states to plan for and execute mitigation in these areas.

Q. How does this strategy relate to ongoing work by states, including state wildlife action plans and the Western Governors Association's (WGA's) Critical Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT)?

A. State wildlife action plans, WGA's CHAT, and similar plans and strategies are useful in identifying the most ecologically important areas in a state, thus informing effective decisions regarding the

avoidance or minimization of impacts as well as the siting of compensatory mitigation measures. The statewide perspective that such plans provide will help facilitate the landscape-scale approach to mitigation that the strategy seeks to accomplish.

Q. What role will states have in determining the location and breadth of specific compensatory mitigation?
A. As noted above, State judgments about the relative ecological importance of particular areas, as reflected in their CHATs or state wildlife action plans, are expected to be important considerations in determining the location of compensatory mitigation measures. In addition, by becoming formal cooperating agencies in the NEPA process, states can help implement the Strategy with respect to all aspects of mitigation.

Q. How will this mitigation strategy be implemented in the field? Will staff be trained on how to implement the proposed mitigation strategies?
A. The principles outlined in this mitigation strategy will be incorporated into formal Departmental and bureau policy that will guide decision-making in the field. The strategy also calls for clear and consistent training for field staff based on these policy changes. Field staff have been closely engaged in drafting the strategy and will continue to be relied upon as the Department and bureaus develop these manuals, handbooks, and training modules.

Q. How does this mitigation strategy fit with Presidential initiatives to modernize the Federal review of infrastructure projects and to adapt to the impacts of climate change?
A. The Department believes that its Mitigation Strategy and the various actions planned to carry out the Mitigation Strategy are necessary components to the Department's ability to effectively implement the President's various initiatives relating to permitting efficiencies, large infrastructure project reviews, and climate change adaptation. All of these initiatives require federal agencies to take a landscape-scale approach to planning, permitting, and conservation, which is the fundamental purpose of Secretarial Order No. 3330 and the Department's Mitigation Strategy.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Formal rulemaking to revise BLM regulations related to hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands was initiated in May 2012 with publication of a proposed rule. A revised proposed rule was published in May 2013. During the most recent formal comment period, which closed on August 23, 2013, the BLM received more than 1.35 million comments.

Based on analysis of these comments, the BLM staff have suggested some modifications to the regulatory text and the preamble of the final rule for consideration, all of which are viewed by the Solicitor's office as logical outgrowths of the proposed rule. We expect to have a draft of a final rule, preamble, and accompanying analyses available to begin Departmental review within ten days.
The proposed rules have focused on addressing public disclosure, wellbore integrity and flowback fluid management as the key issues for sound hydraulic fracturing development. Most of these issues are not adequately addressed in the BLM's existing, 30-year-old regulations.

During the time this rule has been in development a number of states and tribes have issued or begun work on their own rules related to hydraulic fracturing. BLM has worked closely with the relevant regulatory officials as well as EPA to utilize their expertise on these issues. States with federal oil and gas development that have issued rules in this area are: California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. The rules vary considerably from state to state. Below are several key issues that may be discussed:

Well integrity - The issue is determining the best means of ensuring zonal isolation and competent cementing in the wellbore. Experts and commenters differ on various aspects of this issue, including the value of cement bond logs or cement evaluation logs as compared to other tests; testing necessary for surface casing as opposed to production and intermediate casing; and the utility of an individual "type well" in a formation in ensuring comprehensive well integrity.

Requiring the use of tanks for recovered water - The 2013 proposed rule would have required recovered water from HF operations to be stored in either lined pits or tanks. The current thinking is to strengthen that requirement by mandating storage in tanks in all instances unless an exception is specifically approved based on a robust set of criteria. This revised proposal may increase operational costs.

Definition of the term usable water - This definition is the trigger for determining which zones to be drilled require isolation. The current thinking is to clarify this definition and to utilize as much as possible the determinations about usable water developed by States and Indian tribes governing the water zones in their areas.

Public Disclosure - The rule intends to improve public access to information about the chemicals used during hydraulic fracturing of particular wells as well as locations of existing and proposed wells and information about other activities affecting the community.

Positions of Interested Parties

- Government: State Governors' offices generally question the need for the rule and some question BLM's authority. Some states believe hydraulic fracturing is already effectively regulated at the state level and that Federal regulations add an unnecessary layer of duplicate regulations. BLM officials met with state officials most recently on March 20, 2014, and had a productive exchange of views about the various state regulations and the BLM proposal, and about entering into MOUs that will efficiently administer these rules. The proposed rule provides that any state or tribal regulation that is equal to or more protective than the Federal rule will be applicable.
- Private Citizens: The public expressed a number of concerns and positions, which ranged from the request to ban hydraulic fracturing altogether (this view accounted for 95% of the 1.35 million comments received), to suggestions for ensuring the protection of groundwater, providing additional transparency for fracturing operations, and providing for prior disclosure of chemicals.

DROUGHT AND WATER ISSUES

Red River Valley Water Supply Project - In March 2014, Governor Dalrymple sent a letter to Deputy Secretary of the Interior Mike Connor regarding the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, and requested a Plan of Study put forth by the International Souris River Board (ISRB) to initiate a review of the water supply and flood operating plan contained in the 1989 Canada-United States Agreement for Water Supply and Flood Control in the Souris River Basin. A periodic review of the operating plan is required under the 1989 agreement. However, due to unprecedented flooding in the Souris River basin in 2011, basin residents have asked that additional flood protection measures be evaluated beyond what is currently provided under the 1989 agreement.

In order to move forward the Plan of Study requires approximately $2.1 million in funding from the governments of Canada and the United States. The State Department is currently working with Canada in regard to funding and has been for some time with little movement. The Governor and Senator Hoeven are both strong supporters of moving forward with the Plan of Study and have requested Secretary of State Kerry's support.

Colorado River Basin Drought - Throughout history, there has never been a shortage condition determined in the Lower Basin (Nevada, Arizona and California). A shortage is deemed to occur when Lake Mead reaches elevation 1,075 feet. The elevation is currently around 1,089 feet, but is forecast to reach 1,081 feet by October. Reclamation met all water orders from U.S. water users in the Lower Basin and Mexico in 2013, and all delivery orders in the Lower Basin will be met in 2014. However, over the next 5 years, the potential for a shortage condition exists, with probabilities ranging from 22% in 2016, 51% in 2017, and 62% in 2018.

In water year 2014, snowpack in the Upper Basin peaked at 111% of average on April 7. Runoff is well underway and approximately 40% of the snowpack has melted. The probable forecast for water year inflow into Lake Powell is currently 100% of average. The current projected total Basin storage is approximately 51% of capacity for end of water year 2014.

Although the Basin States remain committed to continuing discussions, there does not yet appear to be a consensus on which actions should be pursued at this time. The Upper Basin States are pursuing a plan with 3 major components: operational adjustments, voluntary demand management (e.g. fallowing or deficit irrigation), and augmentation (primarily weather modification). The Lower Basin States are pursuing a 5-year plan consisting of "no regrets" actions beginning this year and voluntary reductions or other efforts to protect low Lake Mead elevations (somewhere between 1,000 and 1,020 ft). The Lower Basin States view a Federal commitment to decrease operational inefficiencies in the Yuma area as a key component to the plan. The Lower Basin States would also like Reclamation to fully engage in the process to develop the plan in more of a co-lead or full-partnership role.

Minute 319 - On May 15, the downstream edge of the environmental pulse flow of Colorado River water - released under Minute 319 - reached the tidal delta of the Pacific Ocean connecting the River with the Gulf of California for the first time in history as a purposeful environmental flow. This is considered a major achievement among the NGOs and scientists that have worked on Colorado River Delta issues over the past two decades. Delivery of the pulse flow began on March 23 from Morelos Dam, the last diversion dam on the Colorado River located at the U.S./Mexico border, and was completed on May 18th. Approximately 105,000 acre-feet were delivered in the form of a pulse flow to the Colorado River riparian corridor. Negotiating an extension of Minute 319 by December 2016 is a high priority, and we believe the pulse flow success will help pave the path to reaching an agreement.

Glen Canyon Dam - Drought conditions upstream of Lake Powell over the past two years have significantly reduced the elevation of Lake Powell. The declining elevation has reduced generation efficiency by approximately 10 percent. Generation at Glen Canyon Dam accounts for about 80 percent of the Salt Lake City Area/Integrated Projects (SLCA/IP). Reductions in generation at Glen Canyon Dam have a significant impact on SLCA/IP generation revenues available in the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund which fund operation and maintenance, salinity control, security, environmental related costs, and repayment obligations. Based on design criteria for the Glen Canyon generators, when Lake Powell drops below elevation 3,490 feet, power can no longer be generated. As of May 20, 2014, Lake Powell is currently 117 feet below full elevation of 3,700 feet and is 93 feet above minimum power pool (3,490 feet). Latest projections indicate that the first probability of reaching minimum power pool is water year 2018 (4 percent chance). Reclamation is actively partnering with the seven Colorado River Basin States to identify proactive steps to avoid reaching critical elevations at Lakes Powell and Mead.

Great Plains and Drought - Mountain snowpack in Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming remains well above average for this time of year. Cool temperatures have moderated the rate of snow melt, but the runoff is beginning with warmer temperatures. Precipitation in the Dakotas has been near normal this spring; however, with the large precipitation events in the fall and winter, spring runoff conditions are average, and normal for this time of year. In the climate outlook for June for this northern section of the Great

Plains Region, temperature is predicted to be below normal with above average possibility for higher precipitation occurring.

Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Project - NAWS is a municipal and rural water project authorized by the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act of 1986 and the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000, and construction of project features began in April 2002. When complete, the project would deliver water from the Missouri River to communities and rural water systems in North Dakota located in the Hudson Bay Basin.

Construction continues on the Minot Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project. On March 1, 2013, Judge Collyer issued a ruling on the issue of whether to allow further work to be bid for continued construction of distribution facilities. The ruling will allow completion of the upgrades at the Minot Water Treatment Plant. However, the modified injunction "will not permit new pipeline construction or new pipeline construction contracts." Progress continues on the preparation of the draft SEIS, and Reclamation plans to release the draft SEIS for a 45-day public review starting in late-June or early-July 2014. Public hearings will be hosted in Minot, ND, during the public review period.

Rural Water Projects – (ND and SD)
Since 1980, Congress has directed Reclamation to construct 13 individual rural water supply projects at a combined cost of more than $2.3 billion. Projects have been authorized with varying local cost-share ranging between 0 and 25 percent. Federal law directs Reclamation to operate, maintain, and replace (OM&R) two projects authorized to benefit Tribes; including Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota and Mni Wiconi Rural Water System in South Dakota. Indian Rural Water Supply Project O&M costs rise as new project features are constructed – consuming an increasing share of Reclamation's overall budget allocated to rural water projects.

Mni Wiconi Rural Water System (SD) – As of September 30, 2013, the Federal Government has committed 100 percent of its cost share toward completing the Project. The Core line and Lower Brule distribution system are complete. The West River/ Lyman-Jones distribution system, Rosebud distribution system and Oglala distribution system are nearing completion and construction is anticipated to be substantially complete in FY 2015.

Garrison Diversion Unit (ND) – As of September 30, 2013, the project was approximately 72 percent complete (as financially determined). The federally-funded portion of the project was approximately 69 percent complete. Work continues on (1) the State municipal, rural and industrial (MR&I) water supply program administered by the State of North Dakota, and (2) the Indian MR&I water supply program for the construction of five reservation-wide systems, including Standing Rock, Fort Berthold, Fort Totten, Turtle Mountain, and Trenton Indian Service Area.

Reclamation is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Northwest Area Water Supply Project as a means of complying with the U.S. District Court order issued in March 2010. The Garrison Diversion Unit is located within and affected by the Northwest Area Water Supply Project. Reclamation is planning to release a draft SEIS on NAWS in 2014.

Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (SD, MN, IA) – As of September 30, 2013, the Federal portion of the project was approximately 55 percent complete (as financially determined). The Water Treatment Plant, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was placed into service on July 30, 2012, and is delivering treated water to 11 of the 20 member entities. Due to limited Federal appropriations, the project is exploring options to accelerate construction with grants/loans from the Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota State governments. South Dakota and Minnesota passed legislation authorizing $1 and 22 million grants respectively, and Minnesota enacted a $45 million bonding authority for in-state project

beneficiaries. Lewis & Clark intends on using any future Federal appropriations to reimburse construction cost by repaying the entities that provide funding in excess of the non-Federal cost-share required in the authorizing legislation.

Next Steps - Continuing to evaluate OM&R budgets for Tribal Rural Water Projects to assure the reliable delivery of quality drinking water; continuing to prioritize federal funding for construction consistent with the Interim Final Funding Criteria for Rural Water Projects; continuing to work with Lewis & Clark Rural Water System to address questions/issues that need to be resolved to enable the project to proceed with construction with non-Federal funding.

LAND EXCHANGE VALUATION PROCESS

Governor Gary Herbert (UT) may want to discuss land exchange, particularly the appraisal process.

Governor Herbert could raise an issue with the length of time it takes to complete land exchanges between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the State of Utah. The BLM and the State of Utah recently completed the Utah Recreational Land Exchange (URLEA), which was mandated by legislation.

The URLEA land exchange involved over eighty tracts of land totaling about 80,000 acres with values that included consideration of the potential for oil, gas, coal, tar sands, potash, and flagstone. The Office of Valuation Services, together with SITLA experts in Utah, developed a scope of work encompassing surface and sub-surface valuations, designed appraisal contract specifications, evaluated potential appraisers, and conducted joint mineral valuation and appraisal reviews. This valuation process stands as a model for how collaborative effort can successfully help achieve large-scale exchanges that benefit the land management goals of both the State and Federal governments.

There are a number of procedures that BLM must follow to ensure that land exchanges are in the public interest. The BLM is also required to follow the Uniform Standards for appraisals, to ensure that we obtain the fair value for the lands we exchange out of public ownership. The Department has had a long-standing position that the Uniform Standards for appraisals be used when Congress mandates a land exchange. The Governor may express the opinion that these processes are too time consuming. The BLM's position is that these processes are necessary to protect the public interest.

UNITED STATES EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (USEITI)

Governor Matt Mead (WY) has expressed interest in discussing USEITI with you at this meeting.

You may want to mention your participation in the upcoming USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) meeting on June 10, 2014, regarding the EITI International Board's approval of the USEITI Candidacy Application. Since achieving Candidate Country status on March 19, 2014, the USEITI MSG convened its first meeting of 2014 on April 23-24, and began working on the details of domestic implementation. As a candidate country, the U.S. has three years to fully implement the international EITI standards and achieve "compliant" status.

It is anticipated that during this public meeting, the USEITI MSG will review options for a State and Tribal "opt-in" process. The development of this process is critical to addressing USEITI implementation concerns raised to Assistant Secretary Rhea Suh by the Western Governors' Association and the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, as well as an essential part of fulfilling the Department of the Interior's Indian Trust responsibility. The MSG is likely to discuss a plan to implement other key EITI requirements, such as project level reporting and the inclusion of income tax revenue and payments in USEITI reporting.

You may also wish to mention that on April 7, 2014, you appointed Mr. Michael D. Mathews upon recommendation by Governor Mead as an alternate member on the USEITI Advisory Committee. His term lasts until December 21, 2015.

MOUNT RUSHMORE

Governor Dennis Daugaard (SD) expressed interest in discussing with you the opportunity for a long-standing contract that would allow Mount Rushmore National Memorial to remain open in the event of a future government shutdown. NPS assumes the proposed contract would allow South Dakota to operate the park with State funds in the event of a cessation of Federal appropriations, as it did for four days during the course of the Federal shutdown in October 2013.

On October 1, 2013, the Federal government shut down for 17 days. Beginning on October 11, 2013, the National Park Service (NPS) entered into agreements with six States including South Dakota, to re-open national parks with State funds. States were required to fund the park or parks for no fewer than two days, to re-open with NPS employees, and to sign an agreement stipulating that no expended funds would be returned to the State unless Congress explicitly appropriated funding for that purpose. South Dakota signed an agreement with the NPS and transferred ten days worth of funding to operate Mount Rushmore on October 14, 2013. The park re-opened and operated with State funds for three days until Federal operations resumed on October 17, 2013. The NPS returned seven days' worth of unused funds to the State.

We appreciate the Governor's enthusiasm for ensuring that all visitors who arrive to visit Mount Rushmore National Monument have access to this spectacular site. However, we cannot support a long-standing agreement with a non-Federal entity to continue to fund a national park in the event of a future shutdown. In the case of a lapse in Federal appropriations, all policy decisions governing operations will be made during the event by the Administration in charge at the time (Similarly, we imagine a State governor cannot bind the financial or policy decisions of a future Governor). Such policy decisions are made under very specific circumstances that may not be repeated should we be unfortunate enough to encounter another shutdown.

We are also uncomfortable codifying an approach that would allow certain parks to re-open only because they are fortunate enough to reside in a State with the resources and political will to fund them. Further, had the shutdown lingered, the costs associated with reopening certain parks would have had to be revisited, as it is nearly impossible to divorce one park's operations from the regional and national offices that support that park unit with numerous administrative functions.

WILD HORSES AND BURROS

Governor Matt Mead (WY) may wish to discuss this issue with you.

In order to protect our public lands' natural resources and comply with the Act, the BLM has been conducting gathers to remove excess animals from the range as well as to administer various population growth suppressions methods, including fertility control vaccines. Prior to the economic slowdown that started about a decade ago, the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program (Program) was able to successfully adopt the majority of the animals removed from the range. However, adoptions have decreased markedly. It is increasingly difficult to find willing and qualified adopters and buyers.

On-range populations are nearly double Appropriate Management Levels (AML) and the BLM currently cares for nearly 48,000 animals off-range, costing $46 million in FY 2013. This expense is limiting the

application of population growth suppression methods and the number of animals that can be removed, resulting in increasing overpopulation on drought stricken western rangelands.
The June 2013 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report provided BLM with multiple recommendations for program improvements. BLM has drafted a report that identifies how BLM will implement the recommendations and is also developing a long-term strategy for the achievement and maintenance of AML. Budgets have progressively increased from $19 million in 2000 to $77 million in FY 2014. Rising costs for holding increasing numbers of unadopted animals are the primary reason for budget increases.

Rock Springs Grazing Association

- Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA) owns and leases 48 percent of private land across four checkerboard Herd Management Areas (HMAs) in southern Wyoming.
- In October 2010, RSGA requested that BLM remove all wild horses on these private lands.
- In April 2013, BLM and RSGA entered Consent Decree requiring that BLM:
    - Remove all wild horses on private RSGA lands (except in White Mountain HMA);
    - Remove to low appropriate management level (AML) (251 in Salt Wells Creek HMA and 610 in Adobe Town HMA) and use fertility control to reduce population growth;
    - Gather and remove wild horses in Salt Wells Creek/Adobe Town Complex in 2013, Divide Basin HMA in 2014, and White Mountain HMA in 2015; and
    - Report population census by November 30 annually.
- In December 2013, the BLM finished the Adobe Town and Salt Wells Creek removals. The BLM has tentatively scheduled the Divide Basin removal for summer or fall 2014.
- The State of Wyoming is monitoring the results of Consent Decree; Governor's Office has informally requested AML information over the last several months.
- In 2003, BLM and State of Wyoming entered into a separate Consent Decree mandating removals within one year of population exceeding AML in each HMA.

GRIZZLY BEAR DELISTING

Governor Matt Mead (WY) sent a letter in May 2014 asking that the grizzly bear be delisted, and may wish to discuss this further at the meeting.

Q: What are your plans regarding the Grizzly Bear?
A: FWS is completing a threats analysis for the Yellowstone distinct population of grizzly bears. They expect to make a decision on whether to proposed to delist this population by late 2014 and, if so, to make a final delisting determination in 2015. FWS is also working with tribal, state and federal partners to complete a conservation strategy for grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. Once this conservation strategy is complete, the Service will conduct a threats analysis and determine whether a delisting proposal is warranted for this population. If so, they would likely publish a proposed delisting.

Q: Is the FWS working on delisting of grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) in Montana?
A: The FWS is working with state, Tribal, and federal partners to complete the NCDE Conservation Strategy, which is the post delisting management plan. Completion of the Conservation Strategy is a Recovery Plan task. This document, once completed, will demonstrate the adequacy of regulatory mechanisms in order to address ESA Factor 4 for delisting. Upon completion of the Conservation Strategy, the FWS will complete a threats analysis for this population and make a determination as to if the threats to this population have been addressed. If the result of this threats analysis is that the threats to this population have been addressed, the Service will publish a proposed rule to delist this population.

Such a proposed rule could be published in late 2015, pending timely completion of the NCDE Conservation Strategy and a favorable threats analysis.

Q: Can the Cabinet/Yaak and Selkirk grizzly recovery zones be combined with the NCDE recovery zone so that all of them can be delisted together?
A: The conservation status of the Cabinet/Yaak and Selkirk grizzly recovery zones is much different than that of the NCDE recovery zone. These two populations are warranted for endangered status. A recent Wildlife Monograph concluded that the US recovery zones are not currently functionally connected demographically in such a way as to affect the internal population growth or vital rates through inter-population connectivity. Based on this information, these recovery zones cannot be considered a single population unit and recovered as one population unit at this time.

FEDERAL PERMIT STREAMLINING PROJECT

Governor John Hickenlooper (CO) and Governor Brian Sandoval (NV) sent a letter in April 2014 asking for reauthorization of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project.

Section 365 of the 2005 Energy Policy Act established a federal permit streamlining pilot project (Pilot Project) to increase coordination, reduce the time to issue APDs and improve environmental stewardship as a means to meet the nation's energy needs. The Act also established a funding mechanism/source that diverted 50 percent of the federal share of onshore lease rental receipts from the U.S. Treasury to the BLM.

It has been very successful in improving interagency coordination and reducing the time to process federal O&G APDs and ROWs. Without extension, the pilot project and the associated funding authority will expire in August of 2015. The BLM's FY 2015 President's Budget does not propose an extension of the funding mechanism for the pilot office fund; the BLM is currently evaluating options for addressing this situation in the FY 2016 budget.

In December 2013, Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 767, expanding the scope of the Pilot Project and providing additional discretion to the BLM. However, H.R. 767 did not include an extension of the funding.

On April 3, 2014, Governor Hickenlooper and Governor Sandoval sent Secretary Jewell a letter on behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) requesting the Department's support for the reauthorization of the Pilot Project. The Secretary responded to WGA in a letter dated April 17, 2014, stating that the 10-year Pilot Project had been a success that allowed the BLM and its Pilot Project partner bureaus and agencies to more efficiently process oil and gas drilling permits and streamline associated environmental reviews, it provided BLM's oil and gas inspection and enforcement program with resources necessary to allow more thorough oversight of oil and gas operations, and the Department would work with Congress to provide additional flexibility nationwide to utilize the pilot office authority as permitting demands shift over time.

MASTER LEASING PLANS – OIL AND GAS

Master Leasing Plans (MLP) involve preplanning and intensive analysis of distinct geographical areas to avoid and minimize conflicts between oil and gas activity and recreation, water, air, cultural, and wildlife values. Some areas with high value resources need additional planning and analysis prior to issuing new or additional oil and gas leasing. The MLP process enables the BLM to take a focused landscape-level look at the decisions in Resource Management Plans (RMP) pertaining to leasing and post-leasing development of the area. This tool provides a vision for how future development will occur. The BLM is

developing MLPs both as part of the development of new RMPs, and as amendments to existing RMPs. Attached is a list of the MLPs currently under development in Western States.

Table 1. Status of the BLM's Master Leasing Plans

State	Resource Management Plan/Amendment	Status
CO	1 External Proposal	
	○ Shale Ridges and Canyons – part of the Grand Junction RMP Revision	Draft RMP published in January 2013; a Proposed RMP expected in FY14
	2 Internal Proposals	
	○ North Park – part of the Kremmling RMP-A	Proposed RMP published in March 2014. ROD expected September 2014. .
	○ South Park – part of the Royal Gorge RMP Revision	Draft RMP expected in December 2015. Proposed RMP expected in February 2017.
	1 Modified External Proposal	
	○ Dinosaur Trail – part of the White River RMP-A	BLM modified the boundaries of the original Dinosaur Lowlands proposal to create the Dinosaur Trail proposal; Draft RMP-A published in September 2012; a Proposed RMP-A expected in early summer of FY14
MT	1 Internal Proposal	
	○ Carter MLP – part of the Miles City RMP Revision	Draft RMP published in March 2013; Proposed RMPA is expected in FY14.
UT	4 Modified External Proposal	
	○ Book Cliffs Divide - Grand Valley - Cisco Desert MLP	Have not been initiated.
	○ Glen Canyon - San Juan River MLP	Have not been initiated.
	○ San Rafael River MLP	Have not been initiated.
	○ Vernal MLP - stand-alone analysis	A MLP in the Vernal Field Office appears to be likely for enhanced analysis related to the MLP process for fluid minerals, mainly oil development.
	1 Internal Proposal	
	○ Moab MLP – stand-alone analysis	NOI for the RMP-A was published in March 2012; open house to update the public on draft alternatives was on May 14, 1014. Draft MLP in development; anticipate 90-day public comment period to begin February 2015. Publish NOA for Final MLP/EIS in November 2015. Issue ROD in February 2016.
WY	5 External Proposals	
	○ Absoraka-Beartooth Front – part of the Bighorn Basin (Cody and Worland) RMP Revision	The Draft Final RMP is being prepared.
	○ Fifteen Mile Area (Worland) – part of the Bighorn Basin RMP Revision	
	○ Bighorn Front – part of the Bighorn Basin (Cody and Worland) RMP	

State	Resource Management Plan/Amendment	Status
	Revision	
	○ Beaver Rim – part of the Lander RMP revision	The ROD has been drafted but is on hold for signature at WO direction. The Final EIS was published last year.
	○ Little Mountain – part of the Rock Springs RMP revision	Draft MLP in development.

FY – Fiscal Year
NOA – Notice of Availability
ROD – Record of Decision
RMP – Resource Management Plan
RMP-A – Resource Management Plan Amendment

TRIBES

Governor Steve Bullock (MT) sent a letter in October 2013 regarding federal recognition for the Little Shell of the Chippewa Tribe. During the WGA breakfast in February, Governor Bullock mentioned law enforcement challenges in Indian country.

Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana
The Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana (Little Shell) is made up of the descendants of Métis Indians (mixed-blood, or half-blood, Indians and often the offspring of French fur trappers and Indian mothers), and was historically treated different than other Pembina Indians by the US because of their mixed-blood heritage. The US government refused to deal with Métis Indians because it viewed them as having Indian ancestry, but not being Indian, which in turn forced the Métis ancestors of the Little Shell tribe to seek other Métis settlements on the outskirts of towns like Helena, Great Falls, and Butte, MT.

In 1978, Little Shell first submitted its intent to petition the Federal government for acknowledgment as an Indian tribe under Federal law. In 1995, their petition was complete, beginning a long review process by the Office of Federal Acknowledgment. Earlier this year, AS-IA agreed to suspend reconsideration of the issues referred from the IBIA until after the promulgation of newly revised regulations on the Federal acknowledgment process, which is currently underway.

The Department recently published a Proposed Rule in the Federal Register, which revises the Part 83 regulations on Federal acknowledgment. After all public comments are received a final rule may be drafted. The Office of the AS-IA has asked that Little Shell request within 90 days of publication of the final rule for us to begin reconsideration of its petition under the grounds referred to the Department by the IBIA, and any new grounds which may result from changes in the regulations. The Little Shell tribe's petition for Federal acknowledgment has the support of its sister tribes in Montana, the Governor's office and the State of Montana, which recognized the Tribe in 2000.

Law Enforcement Issues
On July 29, 2010 the President signed the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 into law. There are several requirements specific to the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services (OJS). One such requirement is that the OJS submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, for each fiscal year, a detailed spending and unmet needs report regarding tribal public safety and justice programs.

State of Montana funding (FY 2012)

	Actuals	*BIA Estimate of Unmet Need*
Criminal Investigation & Police	$15,553,374	$8,748,209 = 34% unmet
Detention	$9,388,285	$7,254,249 = 38% unmet

Montana Tribes

- Crow Agency - Tribal leadership feels the agency is not adequately staffed for the amount of acreage and population. They have requested that our allocated funded positions be increased to meet the demands on the Crow Reservation. They are also concerned with the length of time it takes to hire police officers and get them on board.
- Northern Cheyenne Agency - Tribal leadership is concerned with the recent turnover in employees, as well as the length of time it takes to hire and train new officers.
- Blackfeet - The current and ongoing conflict at this agency has consumed most of their time. They are also concerned with funding.
- Funding is the primary concern for the following: Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Rocky Boy.

ABANDONED MINE LAND (AML) FUNDING

Governor Matt Mead (WY) may wish to discuss this with you. He sent a letter in May 2014 regarding the review and reversal of OSM's decision on AML funding to Wyoming.

Governor Mead's letter requested reconsideration of our estimate that Wyoming will be allocated approximately $53.8 million in AML funding in Fiscal Year 2015. After review and consultation with the Office of the Solicitor at the Department of the Interior, we conclude that OSMRE's interpretation of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), as amended, is correct. There is a response letter currently making its way through the surname process at Interior.

INVASIVE SPECIES

WGA Chairman John Hickenlooper's (CO) staff indicated that Governors may ask you about invasive species efforts.

A number of western states have expressed dissatisfaction with the federal level of support and coordination to control and prevent the spread of invasive species. The WGA has called invasive species "... one of our country's biggest environmental problems" in a recent WGA resolution that expresses concerns over the continued introduction and spread of invasive species in Western states, including:

- the perceived lack of coordination among federal agencies;
- the need to prioritize resources to focus on those species with the greatest potential to cause economic harm;
- the importance of linking invasive species management to broader Departmental and Administration goals.

Invasive Species Examples

Global damage from invasive species is estimated at upwards of $1.4 trillion or about 5 percent of the global economy. Examples for the western US:

- Cheatgrass is estimated to infest over 56 million acres across 17 western states impacting rangelands, changing the native plant community, and increasing fire frequency. This grass can produce more than 10,000 plants per square yard leaving behind thick dry fuels and creating

extreme wildfire hazards. With each new fire, cheatgrass reseeds to further change the native plant community and increase fire threats.

- Quagga and zebra mussels have spread from the Great Lakes to much of the U.S., clogging water intake and delivery pipes, infesting hydropower infrastructure, and negatively impacting native species. An annual loss of $22 million is estimated for the Lake Tahoe region if quagga or zebra mussels become established there. Funding for quagga and zebra mussel prevention and coordination has been included within the FY 14 President's Budget.

Ongoing Initiatives at Interior

Interior agencies are working to cooperate and coordinate more closely to enhance invasive species prevention and control programs through existing agency programs as well as working on a multi-agency and multi-departmental basis through the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) - which you co-chair - and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) co-chaired by the FWS and NOAA. NISC and ANSTF have established a federal working group to strengthen and harmonize policies and regulations to stop the introduction of invasive species onto or off of DOI lands - especially invasive zebra and quagga mussels in western states. The Pulling Together Initiative, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with funding from the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service, fosters local cooperative weed coalitions to improve the effectiveness of local invasive plant programs.

Interior recently approved the Invasive Species Action Plan to target limited resources more effectively and efficiently. This approved Action Plan includes 5 recommendation areas and 25 action items that will help Interior get our house in order on this important issue. Some topline items include:

- The development of a multi-year strategy with annual operations plans to guide improved alignment of invasive species programs and to provide regular briefings for the Department's senior leadership.
- The development of a Departmental policy providing guidance to more effectively align and execute resources in support of invasive species prevention, detection, rapid response, and control.
- Coordination of a departmental informational management effort on invasive species to create efficiencies and eliminate duplication. This would include an effort to better standardize data collection and increase transparency. And;
- The development of an EDRR framework for invasive species that outlines protocols and guidance for the allocation of resources.

Next Steps

- Streamline the FWS injurious species listing process to keep harmful species out of the nation.
- Partner with NFWF to support actions to address early those invasive species not yet widely established through Early Detection and Rapid Response.
- Strengthen existing regional coordination efforts (e.g. the Pacific Islands and Everglades) and build new regional efforts (e.g. the Arctic and Great Lakes) as appropriate to enhance our ability to address invasive species threats and damages.
- Early in 2014, the WGA wrote to the co-chairs of NISC (including you) expressing interest in working with NISC on the revision of the National Invasive Species Management Plan. NISC and WGA staff held a conference call in late March 2014 to discuss this issue. NISC looks forward to working with WGA on the management plan update this summer or in early fall.

MARIJUANA

Background

Cultivating marijuana is illegal under the Federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970 (CSA). Several Western states have decriminalized production/use of marijuana. Reclamation recently issued a Temporary Reclamation Manual Policy to address the potential use of Reclamation water (or facilities to convey other entities' water) used to irrigate marijuana.

Discussion

After consulting with the DOI Solicitor's Office and the Department of Justice, Reclamation has concluded it has an obligation to operate its facilities in a manner consistent with the CSA. The application of the CSA to Reclamation projects is founded in Section 8 of the 1902 Reclamation Act which requires the federal government follow state law when acquiring water rights for Federal reclamation projects and distributing project water, unless the relevant state law conflicts with an express congressional enactment (such as the CSA).

Policy

Reclamation will: (1) not approve requests for use of its facilities or water to cultivate marijuana; (2) report such uses to DOJ if they become known to Reclamation; and (3) compile/maintain records of all activities/communications regarding known or potential prohibited uses of its water or facilities. *Note:* Commingling of Reclamation and non-Reclamation water in non-Federal facilities does not subject the non-Reclamation water to the restrictions on Reclamation water and facilities addressed in the Policy.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, June 5, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jun 5, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

GROUPS SUE TO FORCE APPROVAL OF IZEMBEK ROAD. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that "Alaska Natives, the city of King Cove and its surrounding borough today filed a complaint in the US District Court for the District of Alaska claiming" the Interior Department "violated a handful of federal laws last December when it rejected a proposed one-lane gravel road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge." They are "asking a judge to force Interior to take some action to ensure the safety of King Cove residents, who without a land route through the refuge must often take risky plane or boat rides for emergency medical help." The lawsuit "accuses Interior of violating the Administrative Procedure Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and Interior's trust responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives." It also claims Interior "violated the omnibus public lands bill Congress passed in 2009 requiring an evaluation of the road and an associated land swap."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (6/5, Joling), which was picked up by the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/5, Joling, 1.48M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/4, 687K), the Olympian (WA) (6/4, 119K), ABC News (6/5, 3.58M),

and KTVA-TV Anchorage, AK (6/5, 1K).

Additional coverage was provided by the Washington Post (6/4, 4.22M), the Washington Times (6/5, Richardson, 455K), Reuters (6/5, Quinn), the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (6/4, 251K), the Alaska Business Monthly (6/5), the Alaska Public Radio Network (6/4, 2K), and KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK (6/5).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO TOUR JAMESTOWN. The AP (6/5) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "heading to Jamestown to highlight climate change's threat to the first permanent European settlement in America." Jewell is "scheduled to tour the island Thursday then participate in a discussion of rising seas and Jamestown's future." Her "tour of the 1,600-acre island on the James River will include areas that have experienced flooding or are threatened by rising seas."

Coverage was also picked up by WSET-TV Lynchburg (VA) Lynchburg, VA (6/5, 17K), WWBT-TV Richmond (VA) Richmond, VA (6/5, 48K), WTOP-FM Washington (DC) Washington (6/5, 172K), and WDBJ-TV Roanoke (VA) Roanoke, VA (6/5, 24K).

LACK OF OPEN SPACE FOR BISON HURTS RESTORATION EFFORTS. The Denver Post (6/5, Finley, 940K) reports that the lack of open space for bison to roam is hurting federal efforts to restore herds, forcing refuge managers to kill hundreds of bison and look for land links between protected areas. However, the bison on fenced preserves continue to multiply. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell says she is working on ensuring large landscapes nationwide, increasingly by collaborating with private property owners. In an interview, Jewell said, "One of our biggest challenges across the entire country is habitat fragmentation. It certainly has impacted the bison."

INVESTIGATORS FIND "INAPPROPRIATE" BEHAVIOR BY FORMER ASSISTANT INTERIOR SECRETARY BABAUATA. McClatchy (6/5, Doyle, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that former Assistant Interior Secretary Anthony Babauata "acted 'unprofessionally' and engaged in some 'inappropriate' behavior, Interior Department investigators conclude in a newly released report." According to the article, "in a 32-page report, the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General detail the myriad allegations and findings concerning Babauta, who formerly oversaw the Interior Department's Insular Affairs operations." Investigators stated, "Interviews with current and former (Office of Insular Affairs) employees support that Babauta made inappropriate comments to employees and conducted himself unprofessionally at times."

The Pacific News Center (6/5) reports that "in response to a critical report" from the Department of Interior's Inspector General, former Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta released a statement. Babauta said, "I have reviewed the final investigation report conducted by the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General and I am satisfied it reaffirms that my official acts and decisions as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas were legitimate endeavors to improve the quality of life for areas under my responsibility."

Also reporting on the story are the Pacific (GUM) Daily News (6/5, 61K) and the Pacific News Center (6/5).

WESTERN REGULATORS JOIN BATTLE OVER EPA'S PROPOSED CARBON REGULATIONS. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that "Western utility commissioners in coal-heavy states joined the fray yesterday over US EPA's proposed carbon regulations for existing power plants." The article notes that "Montana regulators, in particular, piled onto the proposal at the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners meeting here, saying it would increase electricity costs and regulatory complexity." However, Ralph Cavanagh, senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council, "sprang to the rule's defense." He said, "The notion that someone can look at this and say it's a job-killer or the end of the quality of life we've all enjoyed together ... is just crazy."

Meanwhile, the E&E Daily (6/4) reports that "even as environmentalists lined up this week to cheer for US EPA's proposed carbon limits on power plants, some outside-the-Beltway green groups that have taken leading roles in the fight against Keystone XL are raising concerns that the Obama administration did not go far enough." According to the article, "the hesitance among some climate activists to fully embrace EPA's plan is tempered by their hopes to push for a stronger target than the envisioned 30 percent emissions cut from existing power plants by 2030 before the rule is finalized next year." The article notes that "smaller green groups are liberated from the need for pragmatism as they push the administration to act more aggressively, on both coal and KXL, but their leaders are reluctant to be too harsh on EPA."

UTAH WILL LET DEADLINE FOR ACTION ON FEDERAL LAND TAKEOVER PASS BY. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that Utah "set a Dec. 31 deadline for the federal government to relinquish millions of acres of public land to the state, but it will watch that date fly by without a lawsuit or solid plan of action." Utah's Assistant Attorney General Tony Rampton told the state Commission on Federalism on Tuesday that "it wouldn't be wise to file a lawsuit or push a specific plan because some of the facts aren't clear and more coalition-building needs to be done."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (6/5) and the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/5, 470K).

REPUBLICANS WANT MORE NATIVE CONTROL OF COBELL BUYBACK PROGRAM. The Indian Country Today Media Network (6/4, 45K) reports that ten Republican members of Congress have sent Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "a new letter saying that they want her department to strengthen the land buyback portion of the Cobell settlement in ways that would give tribes more control." The lawmakers wrote, "As was aired during an April 3, 2014 Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs hearing, a major criticism of the roll-out of the program is the Department's insistence that it is without authority to permit the tribes to carry out what are in reality the most important functions relative to the program. These functions include making final offers to willing sellers, rendering payment for interests sold, and others."

KACHEMAK BAY WATER TRAIL TO BE CELEBRATED. The Homer (AK) News (6/4, 9K) reports that on Friday, dignitaries from the Interior Department, the NPS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Alaska State Parks will visit Seldovia and Homer for official ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the Kachemak Bay Water Trail

FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED. For the Daily Caller (6/5, Akina, 408K), Keli'i Akina, President, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, writes that the Interior Department's advance notice of proposed rulemaking in "its process of paving the way for federal recognition of a race-based government" of Native Hawaiians "represents an egregious overreach of executive power." Akina claims that "the executive branch is using the construct of a native tribe to attempt an end-run around both the Supreme Court and Congress." In conclusion, Akina argues that "not only would this open the door to other groups to petition for special legal status based on their standing as a racial community, but it would force a reconsideration of how far the equal protection of the Constitution can actually reach."

The piece also appears at the Hawaii Free Press (6/5).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS SEEKS TO REPAIR RELATIONSHIP WITH RANCHERS IN POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that the NPS is "hoping to repair its relationship with ranchers in a California park, after the agency's fight with a local oyster farm fueled tension and government mistrust." NPS officials "plan to set things right with a 20-year ranch management plan" for the Point Reyes National Seashore that "will lay the groundwork for long-term leases and consistent agricultural policy." The article notes that "when it's complete, NPS will offer 20-year leases to the half-dozen historical ranches and dairies that occupy the park's 'pastoral zone.'"

CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK SEEKS INFORMATION ON HAZMAT DUMPING. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (6/5, 1.06M) reports that the NPS and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency are "asking for help from the public to track down who dumped containers of hazardous materials along Ira Road in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park last October." According to the article, "weven 55-gallon drums and 30 smaller containers were found in a ditch Oct. 30." Mary Pat Doorley, a spokeswoman for the national park, said "authorities are reaching out seven months after the incident because an unspecified reward is now available."

BOY BECOMES YOSEMITE PARK RANGER FOR DAY THROUGH MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION. TIME (6/5, 24.1M) reports that eight-year-old Gabriel LaVon-Ying became Yosemite National Park's Honorary National Park Ranger on Tuesday through the Make-a-Wish Foundation. LaVon-Ying "put out a fire and participated in a mock

search-and-rescue for an injured hiker, all as part of an experience organized by the Make-A-Wish chapter of Central and Northern Florida."

Also reporting on the story are the New York Daily News (6/5, 4.36M) and WRC-TV Washington (6/5, 312K).

KIOSK DEDICATED AT NEW PHILADELPHIA TOWN SITE . The AP (6/5) reports that "a western Illinois site that was the first town founded by an African-American has a new informational kiosk, and a lawmaker hopes a national park designation soon follows." Rep. Aaron Schock "attended Tuesday's dedication of the kiosk at the New Philadelphia Town Site near Barry in Pike County." Shock "sponsored federal legislation calling for a study to find out the area's national significance has passed the House and is being considered by the Senate."

WYOMING PAYS FOR EDUCATION OF YELLOWSTONE STUDENTS. The AP (6/5) reports that Wyoming will "pay a Montana school district nearly $500,000 for educating students who live in Yellowstone National Park." Gov. Matt Mead said "state emergency funds will be used to pay the 2013-14 tuition of about 40 students living in Mammoth Hot Springs, which is inside Yellowstone on the Wyoming side." The NPS had been "paying Gardiner to educate these students, but those payments were recently stopped."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CIVIL WAR SKULL AUCTION. Additional coverage of the controversy over the planned auction of a Civil War veteran's skull was provided by ABC News (6/5, 3.58M), the Los Angeles Times (6/5, Dave, 3.46M), the Alabama Live (6/5, 75K), and the Latin Post (6/4).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DATA: NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY OWES MORE THAN ALL OTHER RANCHERS COMBINED. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy "owes more money to the federal government than what all other ranchers owe collectively in late grazing fees, according to new data obtained from the Bureau of Land Management." According to the numbers, "of the roughly 16,000 ranchers who graze cattle on BLM lands, 458 have late grazing bills totaling $237,000." But Bundy owes more than $1 million "for refusing to pay grazing fees on his Bunkerville, Nev., allotment beginning in 1993 and for trespassing fees he has been accruing since 1998."

BLM COMPLETES LAND TRANSFER FOR ALASKA VILLAGE. The AP (6/5) reports that the BLM says "it has completed a land transfer for an Alaska Native village." The bureau announced Wednesday that "the signing of the final patent for more than 8,780 acres fulfills the land entitlement for Chuathbaluk under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act." The land transfer was made to the Kuskokwim Corp.

SAN JUAN COUNTY TO SUE BLM OVER LACK OF ACTION ON RECAPTURE CANYON. The San Juan (UT) Record (6/5, 1K) reports that "seven years after the emergency closure of Recapture Canyon by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the San Juan County Commission has decided to pursue legal action." On June 2, the Commission "voted 2-1 to sue the BLM for the lack of decision regarding Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) access in the canyon."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS UPSET OVER OFF-ROAD PLAN IN ARIZONA. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups say they're upset that the Forest Service has proposed formally establishing more than 3,500 miles of off-road trails in the massive Tonto National Forest just north of Phoenix." However, the Forest Service "states in a recently released draftenvironmental impact statement (EIS) that the proposed motorized travel management plan is necessary to keep off-highway vehicles (OHV) on designated roads and trails, away from natural and cultural resources across the nearly 3-million-acre forest." The article notes that "the issue over the first-ever forestwide motorized plan at Tonto National Forest has once again sparked debate over the multiuse mandate governing national forestland and the need to balance resource protections with public access."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SENATE PANEL HEARS TESTIMONY ON JOBS IMPACT FROM CLIMATE CHANGE. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee heard about the impact the changing climate on fishermen, farmers, ranchers, foresters, and sportsmen. FWS Director Dan Ashe said "climate change is

already stressing waterfowl, fish and big-game species and is 'darkening the prospects for hunters and anglers tomorrow.'"

FWS CONSIDERING RELOCATING D.C. BOOTH HISTORIC NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY AND ARCHIVES. The AP (6/5) reports that "federal officials say the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in South Dakota is again on the chopping block." The FWS says "it is considering relocating the archives from the Spearfish facility out of state because of budget priorities."

Also reporting on the story is the Black Hills (SD) Pioneer (6/5, 11K).

TRADE GROUPS CRITICIZE PROPOSED IVORY REGULATIONS. The McPherson (KS) Sentinel (6/4, 12K) reports that "new federal regulations to block the sale of ivory to protect endangered elephants" will affect "musicians, antiques collectors and dealers, gun collectors and others whose ability to sell, repair or travel with legally acquired ivory objects." The article notes that "trade groups opposing the regulations include the National Association of Music Makers, the Art and Antiques Dealers League of America and the National Rifle Association." The critics claim the "rules are confusing, unfair and should be rewritten to account for ivory that came into the country long ago."

KANSAS SEEKS FEDERAL HELP TO PAY FOR LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN PROTECTIONS. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that Kansas is "pushing back against new protections for the lesser prairie chicken." Gov. Sam Brownback said "he is asking the federal government to help pay for the costs of protecting the prairie chicken by expanding a conservation program that pays farmers not to cultivate land where the birds live." Brownback also said "Kansas and three other states will return to federal court this week to request more time for farmers, energy producers and others to respond to the government's decision to list the species as threatened."

RAVENS EXAMINED IN BATTLE TO SAVE SAGE GROUSE. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that "in the race to save the greater sage grouse from becoming a threatened or endangered species, state and local officials are increasingly turning their attention to a lesser-known culprit: the common raven." The article notes that "Idaho and counties in northwest Utah and northeast Nevada have proposed shooting or poisoning ravens to prevent the omnivorous opportunists from devouring sage grouse eggs, which may be nudging the ground-dwelling birds closer to extinction." However, "environmental groups have loudly opposed those plans, arguing there's little evidence that controlling ravens is a viable or cost-effective way to bolster sage grouse."

CLIMATE CHANGE HELPS RED SPRUCE RECOVERY. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that "climate change is fueling a red spruce comeback in the northeastern United States after decades of acid rain was thought to have devastated the species beyond recovery." According to the article, "more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, higher temperatures and longer growing seasons are all helping the species grow faster up and down the East Coast."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS SUE EPA FOR PESTICIDE APPROVAL. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that environmentalists have "filed suit against US EPA for approving a pesticide that could potentially harm nearly 1,400 threatened and endangered species." In January, the EPA's Office of Pesticides "gave its final approval for the insecticide cyantraniliprole to be used as an active ingredient." The lawsuit claims that "though EPA had determined that the pesticide could affect up to 1,377 federally protected species, it failed to consult with biologists from the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service prior to its approval."

DRUG SMUGGLERS' VEHICLE MADE TO RESEMBLE FWS TRUCK. The AP (6/5) reports that a truck made to resemble a Fish and Wildlife Service vehicle that contained $1.6 million worth of marijuana has been seized by Border Patrol agents in Arizona near the Mexican border, authorities said on Wednesday. Agents spotted the white truck with FWS "decals along a boundary fence in Douglas, Arizona, on Monday, while responding to reports of possible drug smuggling."

Reuters (6/5, Schwartz) quotes Border Patrol spokesman Peter Bidegain saying that "cloned" vehicles are not unusual, but that the level of detail in this particular example was of exceptional quality.

Also reporting on the story are the Arizona Daily Star (6/5, 389K) "Police Beat" blog and The Inquisitr (6/5, 50K).

WANDERING OREGON WOLF FATHERS PUPS. The AP (6/5, Barnard) reports that "Oregon's famous wandering wolf has fathered pups with a mate in the southern Cascade Range – the first confirmed wolf pack in those mountains since the 1940s, officials said Wednesday." Biologists "made the determination after traveling Monday to a site in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest east of Medford, where photos and a GPS tracking collar showed the wolf known as OR-7 has been living with a mate." Scientists "saw two pups peering out from a pile of logs and may have heard more, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said."

Also reporting on the story are the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (6/4, 210K), the Salem (OR) Statesman Journal (6/4, 20K), and Reuters (6/5, Sebens).

CALIFORNIA'S BROWN PELICANS SUFFER POPULATION DROP. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that "only five years off the endangered species list, California's brown pelicans have biologists worried again." According to the article, "returning from his 46th year counting breeding pairs of the birds on islands in Mexico's Gulf of California, wildlife biologist Daniel Anderson of the University of California, Davis, said he had found fewer pelicans than ever before." Anderson said, "It's a complete failure to breed; it's a bust; the bottom dropped out. But those birds will be back again, I'm sure. We've seen cycles like this before, although nothing as drastic as this breeding season."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM ISSUES FIRST LEASE TO DRAW POWER FROM CURRENTS OFF FLORIDA COAST. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that the BOEM "issued a lease to Florida Atlantic University yesterday for a first-of-its-kind facility to test devices powered by the ocean's currents." According to the bureau, "the new test site is part of the Obama administration's Climate Action Plan to develop domestic clean energy sources and reduce greenhouse gas pollution." Walter Cruickshank, BOEM's acting director, in a statement, said, "This is the first time a lease has been issued to test ocean current energy equipment in Federal waters. The Gulf Stream contains a tremendous amount of energy, and this technology offers exciting potential to expand the nation's renewable energy portfolio."

Also reporting on the story are the Penn Energy (6/5, 128), the National Geographic (6/4, 42.25M), the UPI (6/5), and the Green Energy News (6/5).

RUIDOSO COUNCIL HEARS SUNZIA PRESENTATION. The Alamogordo (NM) Daily News (6/5, 19K) reports that Lance Grace, who is considered an expert on the White Sands Missile Range, "laid out the reasons for military objections to the proposed route of the SunZia wind power transmission line for Ruidoso village councilors last week." Councilors "requested the background information, but did not take an official position on the issue, because the item was not listed on the regular agenda for action." According to the article, "while Grace said he favors the SunZia project, he opposes the route through the missile range."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM RELEASES FINAL REPORT ON ESCALANTE OIL SPILL. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that the BLM "won't punish a well operator and doesn't immediately plan to clean up oil spilled at Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, according to a report the agency." Larry Crutchfield, spokesman for the monument, said, "It doesn't represent a threat to the watershed or wildlife at this point, but the report does recommend continual monitoring." Federal authorities won't "pursue sanctions against Citation Oil and Gas Corp., which possibly didn't own the Upper Valley oil field when the oldest pair of spills occurred into the Little Valley and other waterways upstream of what later became a national monument."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (6/5).

Offshore Energy Development:

APPEALS COURT RULES BP, ANADARKO MUST PAY CLEAN WATER ACT FINES. The AP (6/4) reports that a three-judge panel of the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday ruled that BP and Anadarko Petroleum Corp. "cannot avoid Clean Water Act fines for the 2010 oil spill by blaming" Transocean. The judges found that whoever owns the well is responsible for the oil. Transocean has already agreed to a $1 billion Clean Water Act fine.

Bloomberg News (6/5, Fisk, 2.76M) reports the companies "could face billions of dollars in fines" because of the ruling. Anadarko was a 25 percent owner of the well. US Justice Department spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle said, "We're pleased with the court's decision."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

KLAMATH BASIN AGREEMENT LAUDED AT SENATE HEARING. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that "sith Western states gripped by an entrenched drought and farmers, environmentalists, cities and other interests battling over rights to the ever-diminishing flows, the Senate heard something unusual yesterday: a success story." At a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power hearing, Sen. Ron Wyden "credited the Klamath Tribes and their chairman, Don Gentry, for coming to the negotiating table at a time when they did not need to." Wyden said, "Certainly, after the court decisions, you didn't have to take that path, so we're very appreciative of your effort to be part of, as I describe it, the Oregon way – bringing people together, people who everybody thought couldn't possibly agree."

EL NIÑO COULD BRING SEVERE FLOODING TO THE WEST. The E&E Daily (6/4) reports that "drought-stricken states in the western United States could face severe flash flooding later in the year due to the combination of an intense wildfire season in the summer and a strong El Niño event the following winter." According to the article, "for Western states currently mired in devastating drought and likely to be beset by wildfires through the summer, rainfall intensified by El Niño may not bring relief." Instead of "canceling each other out, the two extreme seasons could dovetail with major implications for people living near scorched areas."

GROUP FILES INTENT TO SUE OVER STEELHEAD TROUT. The Santa Barbara (CA) Edhat (6/5, 961) reports that on behalf of California Trout, the Environmental Defense Center has sent a 60-day Notice of Violations and Intent to Sue to the BOR alleging violations of the Endangered Species Act. The letter puts the BOR "on notice for its actions causing deaths of endangered Southern California steelhead trout."

Empowering Native American Communities:

NAVAJO NATION TO HOLD SIGNING CEREMONY FOR TRUST FUND SETTLEMENT. The Nation Sun News (6/5) reports that "leaders of the Navajo Nation will hold a signing ceremony for a $554 million trust fund settlement today." The article notes that "the settlement is the largest single tribal payout so far."

NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBE SEEKS SURPLUS NAVY LAND ON AQUIDNECK ISLAND. The Providence (RI) Journal (6/4, 415K) reports that the Narragansett Indian tribe has "asked the federal government to transfer to its possession surplus Navy land — including the US Naval Hospital — on Aquidneck Island." The request, made in April through the BIA, "threatens to derail years of planning by the island communities of Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth, to redevelop some of the acreage once actively used by the Navy."

Top National News:

TALIBAN RELEASES VIDEO OF BERGDAHL AS WHITE HOUSE CONFRONTS GROWING CONTROVERSY. As has been the case all week, the controversy surrounding the deal that freed Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl in exchange for five Taliban commanders once again dominated the news cycle on Wednesday, and was the lead story on all three network newscasts. The networks focused most of their coverage on a video reportedly released by the Taliban of the moment last weekend when Bergdahl was handed over to US forces.

Many outlets continue to report that the criticism of the Administration's handling of the deal is bipartisan. USA Today (6/5, 5.82M) reports that the swap has "angered...some top Democrats," while Politico (6/4, Everett, Raju, 637K) noted that "the criticism is hardly limited to the GOP." The Los Angeles Times (6/5, Memoli, Mascaro,

3.46M) also reports that "the fury in Congress was bipartisan, with some senior Democrats firing broadsides as the White House sent emissaries to apologize." The AP (6/4, Klapper, Cassata) reports that at the same time, President Obama's "goal of closing the Guantanamo Bay prison is facing re-energized opposition from Republicans and increased questioning from fellow Democrats."

According to the New York Times (6/5, A11, Shear, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), "White House officials failed Wednesday night to quell rising anger and frustration in both parties on Capitol Hill after a senators-only classified briefing." The Times goes on to report that both "Republican and Democratic senators emerged...saying that officials did not provide further evidence that Sergeant Bergdahl's health had deteriorated recently or that his life was in immediate danger." The Times says Sen. Joe Manchin "exited the briefing visibly angry." The Washington Times (6/5, Taylor, Dinan, 455K) quotes the Democrat from West Virginia as saying, "This is something that is extremely disturbing...and I came out of there with more questions than I got answers."

The AP (6/4, Faiez, Dilanian) reports that "the weekend handover in the dusty desert was documented in a 17-minute video emailed to news organizations Wednesday by the Taliban, which touted the exchange of Bergdahl for five Guantanamo detainees as a victory, while debate raged in the U.S. over the deal and whether" Bergdahl "should be punished as a deserter."

In its lead segment, the CBS Evening News (6/4, lead story, 2:25, Dubois, 5.08M) featured clips from the video. Correspondent Bob Orr said the Taliban "clearly views this as a victory and is now trying to use it to win more supporters." In another lead story on the newly released video, on NBC Nightly News (6/4, lead story, 3:25, Curry, 7.86M), correspondent Jim Miklaszewski reported that Bergdahl "appears disoriented but surprisingly in good physically condition." On ABC World News (6/4, lead story, 3:30, Muir), David Muir noted that in the video of the exchange provided by the Taliban, "you can see a member of the American team reaching out to shake a member of the Taliban's hand before Bergdahl is turned over, then patting down Bergdahl, presumably looking for explosives."

The New York Times (6/5, Rosenberg, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says the "viral video...with music, commentary and context" represents the Taliban's "biggest hit yet after years of effort to improve their publicity machine — one bent on portraying them as the legitimate government of Afghanistan in exile." According to the Times, "the Taliban's message rang clear in their video," which was: "They saw the Americans come meet them on equal footing, on insurgent turf, and found them wanting."

The Washington Post (6/5, Sieff, 4.22M) notes that "the same video also includes footage of the Taliban detainees upon their arrival in Qatar." According to the Post, on Wednesday, White House deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes was "asked whether President Obama has seen the video of Bergdahl's transfer," and Rhodes replied, "Not that I'm aware of."

On CNN's Situation Room (6/4, 554K), Jim Sciutto described the video as "a massive propaganda exercise for the Taliban...sold by a media-savvy insurgency as a 'victory' over the United States." Sciutto added, "And there are signs it is working to some extent." McClatchy (6/4, Allam, Subscription Publication, 23K), the Wall Street Journal (6/5, Abi-Habib, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) and Reuters (6/4) all have reports on the Taliban video.

Politico (6/4, Everett, Raju, 637K) reported that on Wednesday, the White House "moved quickly to quell bipartisan concern" from members of Congress who were "kept in the dark about the controversial deal," and in "a rare private meeting in a secure facility that every senator was allowed to attend," senators "heard from James Dobbins, a State Department specialist on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work, Adm. James Winnefeld, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Robert Cardillo, deputy director of national intelligence." Afterwards, Sen. Marco Rubio said, "I'm not satisfied with the justification given with regards to not notifying Congress, and I'm deeply unsatisfied by the calculus that was used to determine that this was in the best national interest." Politico notes that that Sen. Jerry Moran said, "I didn't learn anything new that hadn't been reported."

In a brief segment for NBC Nightly News (6/4, story 2, 0:35, Curry, 7.86M), Chuck Todd reported from Brussels that "White House aides continue to do damage control with members of Congress who are upset about not being consulted before the prisoner swap," and "are finally briefing the entire Senate." The CBS Evening News (6/4, story 4, 1:05, Dubois, 5.08M) also had a segment on the Senate meeting. Nancy Cordes reported that after

viewing a video of Bergdahl "in captivity looking gaunt" and "having trouble speaking," Sen. Mark Kirk "said...he could understand why it might have moved the President to act."

Politico (6/4, Breitman, 637K) noted that on Wednesday, Sen. Lindsey Graham speculated that President Obama "thought everybody would be cheering" after Bergdahl's release was announced because he underestimated Americans' hatred for the Taliban and is "disconnected from the fact that radical Islam is a threat to our way of life."

USA Today (6/4, Korte, Brook, 5.82M) notes that also on Wednesday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "weighed in...on the side of the administration," and "accused Republicans of politicizing the deal."

USA Today (6/4, 5.82M) reported that Sen. Thad Cochran "is the latest lawmaker to delete tweets and statements...that celebrated the now-controversial return of Bergdahl." Cochran's Twitter account is now missing the tweet: "Welcome home, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl. A grateful America thanks you for your service."

NBC's Todd: Multiple Obama "Aides" Claim Bergdahl Has Been "Swift-Boated." The Washington Times (6/5, Emst, 455K) reports that on NBC's Today on Wednesday, NBC's Chuck Todd reported that "Obama administration's aides are accusing Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's fellow platoon members and other veterans of giving the former captive the 'swift boat' treatment." Todd is quoted as saying, "They did not expect this backlash on Bergdahl himself. I've had a few aides describe it to me as 'we didn't know that they were going to swift boat Bergdahl'...of course, that's a reference to that political fight back in 2004 over John Kerry's military service."

On MSNBC's Hardball (6/4, 689K), Todd repeated his reporting about the White House's failure to anticipate the outpouring of criticism from Bergdahl's fellow soldiers. Todd said the White House "knew the backstory" about Bergdahl leaving his base without permission, "but there was an assumption they had...that there wouldn't be this public outcry against" Bergdahl. According to Todd, White House officials "obviously didn't do their homework" because they expected that some who "served with Bergdahl...would stand up for him," and "have been surprised that basically nobody that served with him is standing up for him." Todd added, "I've had a few aides" say "they didn't expect the 'swift-boating of Bergdahl.'" Chris Matthews shot back: "'Swift-boating' is totally misused here. 'Swift-boating is when you make up stories. ... Where's the dishonesty in the portrayal of Bergdahl so far? I haven't seen it."

Echoing Todd's analysis, Politico (6/5, Dovere, Brown, 637K) reports that before last weekend, "White House aides were aware...Bergdahl had been tagged a deserter, and that they would be grilled over not keeping Congress in the loop," but "figured people would be most outraged over the national security implications." According to Politico, "Obama aides" have concluded that the criticism this week is "a proxy for the hatred toward the president," and have taken a "new approach," which is to "frame the criticism as another example of Republicans complaining about something just because Obama was the one to do it."

Charles Lane, in his column for the Washington Post (6/5, 4.22M), says the President "made a bit of a fool of himself by treating Bergdahl's impending return as appropriate for Rose Garden celebration, complete with grateful parents, even though he knew, or easily should have known, that Bergdahl is hardly a hero." Lane says the White House's "attempt to gin up an election-year feel-good story fell flat, as did national security advisor Susan Rice's clueless depiction of Bergdahl's Army career as one of 'honor and distinction.'"

AP: Obama Willing To Free Detainees In Return For Taliban "Public Declaration Of The Wish For Peace." The AP (6/5, Gannon) reports that "for the U.S...getting Bergdahl back was hardly the main aim when the Obama administration first opened the door to negotiations with the Taliban" regarding its top commanders held at Guantanamo Bay. According to the AP, "In those early talks, the U.S. was seeking gestures of goodwill from the Taliban, such as a public declaration of the wish for peace."

According to the Washington Post (6/5, Wilson, Gearan, 4.22M), "negotiations for Bergdahl's release took shape in the early months of 2011," and "when the talks began as part of what U.S. officials hoped would be a broader Afghan peace effort." The Post says "U.S. envoys were forbidden to offer any detainees...as part of a trade for Bergdahl," but "were allowed to include...Taliban fighters held at the detention center at Bagram air base, outside of Kabul."

In a front-page article, the New York Times (6/5, A1, Mazzetti, Schmitt, Sanger, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that after it was concluded that Bergdahl's health was failing, "Issues that had bitterly divided the Obama administration — about the wisdom of the prisoner swap and the risks of releasing a group of aging Taliban commanders...were swept aside in the rush to secure...Bergdahl's release." According to the Times, President Obama "spoke by telephone with the emir of Qatar to finalize the terms of the deal, and delegates from Qatar were quietly sent to Guantánamo Bay in late May — their presence a surprise to those who saw them in the dining facility."

Afghans Dread Return Of Taliban Commanders Released By The US. Under the headline, "Release Of Taliban Detainees Rattles Afghan Villagers," the Wall Street Journal (6/5, Hodge, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Afghans who witnessed atrocities committed by some of the Taliban commanders released by the US over the weekend are outraged that their adversaries are now likely to return once again to Afghanistan, perhaps in positions of power. The Washington Times (6/5, Taylor, Dinan, 455K) reports that Sen. John McCain has said, "I promise you, in a year from now, if not before, they will be back in Afghanistan and in the fight."

The Washington Post (6/5, Sieff, 4.22M) reports that for "Afghan military officials," the release of the Taliban commanders "was a coup for the enemy." Abdul Hakim Mujahid, described by the Post as formerly a "Taliban diplomat" who is "now the deputy director of the government's High Peace Council," said the Taliban commanders released from Gitmo are "some of the most important men in the Taliban's ranks, who he expects will wield influence immediately."

Former US Attorney General Michael Mukasey, in an op-ed for the Washington Post (6/5, 4.22M), says "every one of the five detainees released from Guantanamo...is not only a senior Taliban official, but also someone who has trained with and coordinated fighting with al-Qaeda before 9/11." According to Mukasey, that means that "at precisely the time when his administration is trying to withdraw troops from Afghanistan in a way that at least will not threaten the safety of those who remain behind," the President "has provided skilled strategic planners to the Taliban."

According to Anna Mulrine of the Christian Science Monitor (6/4, Mulrine, 566K), "defense officials and analysts are defending the negotiations, saying the release of the Taliban leaders is not so dire for US armed forces."

Afghan Villagers Recall Bergdahl Deliberately Setting Out To Make Contact With The Taliban. Kevin Sieff, in an online piece for the Washington Post (6/5, Sieff, 4.22M),reported that "Afghan villagers who spotted Bergdahl shortly after he slipped away from his base" say he "seemed to be deliberately heading for Taliban strongholds." Ibrahim Manikhel, identified as "the district's intelligence chief," is quoted as saying, "We think he probably was high after smoking hashish. Why would an American want to find the Taliban?" Manikhel is also quoted as saying: "I hope the U.S. can re-arrest the Talibs that they released."

Graham: Obama Could Be Impeached If He Unilaterally Closes Gitmo. The Hill (6/4, Bolton, 237K) reported that on Wednesday, Sen. Lindsey Graham "warned...that Republican lawmakers would call for President Obama's impeachment if he released more prisoners from Guantanamo Bay without congressional approval." Graham is quoted as saying, "It's going to be impossible for them to flow prisoners out of Gitmo now without a huge backlash. There will be people on our side calling for his impeachment if he did that."

In an analysis titled, "Bergdahl Swap May Make Closing Guantanamo Harder," the AP (6/4, Klapper, Cassata) reports that President Obama's "goal of closing the Guantanamo Bay prison is facing re-energized opposition from Republicans and increased questioning from fellow Democrats amid widespread anger in Congress over" the release of five Taliban detainees. According to the AP, "Members of Congress say the...trade almost surely will end with the Taliban commanders returning to the battlefield."

USA Today Analysis: White House Mishandling Of Bergdahl Swap Parallels Benghazi Controversy. Susan Page, in an analysis for USA Today (6/5, 5.82M) titled, "How The Bergdahl Celebration Became A Mess," says the deal for Bergdahl "has fueled a debate about the wisdom of President Obama's decision-making on national security," and "revived questions about whether a top official, dispatched to make the administration's case on Sunday morning talk shows, was straight with the American public." According to Page, "The list of complaints...sound a lot like" the criticism of the Administration's behavior following the 2012 terrorist attack in

Benghazi, Libya.

Dana Milbank, in a column for the Washington Post (6/5, 4.22M) in which he mocks those who see parallels in the Administration's handling of the Bergdahl swap and the aftermath of the Benghazi attacks, notes that Sen. Lindsey Graham "was one of many to find a link in Obama's claim that 'we don't leave our men or women in uniform behind.'" Graham, is quoted as saying, "It really bothers me when he embraces a military concept called 'We don't leave our people behind' and he won't tell us what he did in Benghazi."

Hagel Says He Has No Reason To Believe Soldiers Were Killed While Looking For Bergdahl. On the CBS Evening News (6/4, story 2, 2:20, Dubois, 5.08M) Margaret Brennan reported that an unidentified "retired army commander" says that "in the weeks that followed" Bergdahl's disappearance "military operations in the area dramatically increased," which "led to the loss of some US soldiers." However, Brennan went on to report that on Wednesday, Defense Secretary Hagel "said he had not seen any evidence that soldiers had died because of...Bergdahl's disappearance."

The AP (6/5, Ashtari) reports that when asked on Wednesday "whether men had died in the efforts to rescue Bergdahl," Hagel answered, "I don't know of any circumstances or details of U.S. soldiers dying as a result of efforts to get Bergdahl." However, the AP notes that members of "Bergdahl's unit have said that some did die in the efforts, even if indirectly." Evan Buetow, identified as a "sergeant in Bergdahl's unit at the time," is quoted as saying, "Those soldiers who died on those missions, they would not have been where they were...if Bergdahl had never walked away."

The Chicago Tribune (6/5, Mccoppin, Walberg, Ziezulewicz, 2.3M) reports that the parents of Pfc. Matthew Martinek claim he was "killed while searching for" Bergdahl and "are demanding an investigation into whether Bergdahl deserted and how his release was engineered."

McChrystal Defends Search For Bergdahl, Which "Put A Lot Of People At Risk." Yahoo News (6/4, Knox, 10.98M) reports that retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal, "who commanded the war effort in Afghanistan at the time of Bergdahl's June 2009 vanishing," has "sharply defended the extensive and risky search efforts that claimed the lives of some of his fellow soldiers." McChrystal is quoted as saying, "We did a huge number of operations to try to stop the Taliban from being able to move him across the border into Pakistan. And we made a great effort and put a lot of people at risk in doing that, but that's what you should do. That's what soldiers do for each other."

The Daily Caller (6/4, Ross, 408K) reported that "an internal [Army] investigation conducted in the wake of" the Battle of Kamdesh, in which eight US soldiers were killed, "found that 'priorities shifted' from [the] outpost attacked by 300 Taliban, in part, because of the search for Bergdahl."

Hagel To Appear Before House Panel Probing Bergdahl Swap Next Week. The Washington Times (6/5, Gertz, 455K) reports that next Wednesday, Defense Secretary Hagel will appear before the House Armed Services Committee to answer questions about Bergdahl and the deal that led to his release. Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA), the panel's chair, is quoted as saying, "I am particularly troubled by the release of five senior Taliban leaders, men with the blood of many on their hands, and the implications for our deployed forces." McKeon added, "I am no less concerned that the Obama administration broke a national security law, passed with bipartisan support and signed by the president, in transferring these detainees."

George Will, in a column for the Washington Post (6/5, 4.22M), writes, "If the military stalls on turning over files to Congress pertaining to...Bergdahl's absence, we will at least know that there is no national institution remaining to be corrupted."

Under the headline, "The Bergdahl Fiasco," the Wall Street Journal (6/5, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says there is reason to be skeptical of the claims made by the Administration about Bergdahl's health, and suggests that the swap was engineered with political motives in mind for the White House.

US Officials Reportedly Have Not Denied Paying A Bounty To The Haqqani Network. In a piece for the Daily Caller (6/4, Munro, 408K), Neil Munro notes that Bergdahl "was...held by the Haqqani network, not by the Taliban's jihadi army," but the US "released five Taliban people — not Haqqani people — in exchange for Bergdahl." Munro asks, "So what price persuaded the Haqqani network to give away their prized prisoner to

benefit the Taliban?" Munro goes on to note that the Haqqani network "was formally declared a terror organization in a 2012 decision approved by Obama, so any deal where they had a role means that Obama was trading with terrorists."

Likewise, on Fox News' On The Record (6/4, 1.65M), Greta Van Susteren asked, "Why would the Haqqani network give [Bergdahl] back to the Taliban so the Taliban get the bounty...if the Haqqani probably wanted money to begin with?" Van Susteren added, "Is there any reason to be confident that we didn't do both," meaning pay a bounty to the Haqqani network in addition to releasing the Taliban commanders. Correspondent Catherine Herridge responded, "It's entirely possible – that's the one thing the Administration has not ruled out...that money was exchanged in this deal as well."

Bergdahl's Home Town Cancels Celebration In His Honor. On the CBS Evening News (6/4, story 3, 0:20, Dubois, 5.08M), it was reported that Bowe Bergdahl's hometown, Hailey, Idaho "canceled a welcome home rally planned for him for later this month."

The AP (6/4) reports that "organizers released a statement...saying that because of national media attention on Bergdahl's story, they expect a significant increase in the number of people planning to attend the event — some to protest, and others to support the Bergdahl family."

Bergdahl's Father Draws Scrutiny. The Los Angeles Times (6/4, Glionna, 3.46M) profiles Bowe Bergdahl's father, Robert, who, according to the Times, "many say, was waging his own undeclared war at home." The Times notes that the elder Bergdahl has "give[n] lengthy interviews in which he criticized the U.S. strategy in Afghanistan."

Video Shows American Woman And Her Husband Missing In Afghanistan Since 2012. Maurice DuBois reported on the CBS Evening News (6/4, story 5, 0:20, Dubois, 5.08M) that in the wake of Bowe Bergdahl's release, "an American family has gone public with their own story, releasing a video showing a couple missing in Afghanistan since 2012." According to CBS, "The videos appear to show Caitlin Coleman and her Canadian husband, Joshua Boyle, in captivity."

Brian Ross reported on ABC World News (6/4, story 2, 2:25, Muir) that the family's "plight had received little attention until today when two videos were made public by the family of the missing American woman," who was "pregnant when the couple went missing almost two years ago in Afghanistan as they hiked through the region controlled by the Taliban. In the video, which her family received last year, she talks of the child she apparently gave birth to in Taliban captivity."

Elise Labott reported on CNN's Situation Room (6/4, 554K) that Coleman's family "gave the videos to the Associated Press, hoping the publicity surrounding Bowe Bergdahl's release could bring their daughter home." In the video, a then-pregnant Coleman "makes a direct plea" to the President to free her and her husband, Joshua Boyle from the Taliban. Bret Baier reported on FOX News' Special Report (6/4, 2.15M) that the couple's family say they "are disappointed that they were not freed as part of the deal that freed Bowe Bergdahl."

REID BLOCKS MCCONNELL EFFORT TO DERAIL NEW EPA RULES. The Washington Times (6/5, Miller, 455K) reports Senate Majority Leader Reid "blocked the first legislative attempt by Republicans to derail" the proposed new EPA emission rules Wednesday, issuing a voice objection to a bill by Senate Minority Leader McConnell. The exchange "marked the first shot in a likely protracted battle in Congress and on the campaign trail" over the measure.

At Least Eight States Have Voted For ALEC-Based Anti-EPA Resolutions. Politico (6/4, Restuccia, 637K) reported that in at least eight states, legislators "have approved symbolic anti-EPA resolutions based on a model approved by the American Legislative Exchange Council." Politico says the state-level resistance "is a preemptive strike for conservatives" against President Obama's proposed EPA rule.

WSJournal: China's Climate Steps Unlikely To Be Adopted Soon. The Wall Street Journal (6/5, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that while some American liberals have taken pleasure in signs that China may be limiting its emissions, viewing the move as a response to the EPA's new emissions rules, Beijing is merely studying a cap that is unlikely to be adopted quickly.

Temperatures Rising Fastest In Northeast, Southwest. The AP (6/5, Visser) reports that an analysis of temperature records shows that the US "is warming fastest at two of its corners, in the Northeast and the Southwest." Maine and Vermont have gained 2.5 degrees on average since 1984, while "Southwestern states have heated up the most in the hottest months: The average New Mexico summer is 3.4 degrees warmer now than in 1984; in Texas, the dog days are 2.8 degrees hotter." Overall, the contiguous 48 states' average temperature has warmed by 1.2 degrees during that period.

MEDIA ANALYSES SEE GOOD TIDINGS IN MIXED ECONOMIC DATA. While the economic data released on Wednesday was decidedly mixed, with disappointing trade and jobs reports, the media is with few exceptions treating it as a sign that the economy has rallied since it contracted during the first quarter.

Trade Gap Widens Sharply, But Media Not In Accord On Impact. The New York Times (6/4, Searcey, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the US trade deficit rose to a "two-year high in April," but the "new data, along with a variety of other recent statistics, signal the economy is getting back on a moderate growth path after a setback in the first quarter." The Department of Commerce reported on Wednesday that the trade deficit rose from $44.2 billion in March to $47.2 billion in April. Exports fell 0.2 percent to $193.3 billion, while imports rose 1.2 percent to $240.6 billion. The Times adds that the numbers "indicate an upswing in business activity and expectations for greater spending in the months ahead, economists said."

The Wall Street Journal (6/4, Mitchell, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) is far more negative on the numbers, focusing on the potential for the drop in exports to slow the second quarter's expected growth rebound. The Journal notes that it was the fourth consecutive monthly drop in exports.

Several other sources split the difference. The AP (6/5, Crutsinger) reports that a "wider trade deficit can act as a drag on growth because it means U.S. companies are earning less from their overseas markets." However, it can "also indicate rising U.S. demand." Economists, the AP says, "were likely to see the big jump in imports as a good sign that the country is shaking off the effects of a harsh winter."

Bloomberg News (6/5, Jamrisko, 2.76M), for its part, says that a "rebound in U.S. growth after a harsh winter is likely to be driven by gains in consumer spending and business investment that will bolster imports." However, "slower expansions abroad will probably check gains in exports, keeping the trade gap elevated."

Service Sector Activity Accelerated Last Month. Bloomberg News (6/4, Smialek, 2.76M) reports that the Institute for Supply Management announced on Wednesday that its Non-Manufacturing Index, a measure of service sector economic activity, rose to 56.3 in May from 55.2 in April. That's the highest reading since last August. A reading above 50.0 indicates that the sector is expanding. Bloomberg says that the numbers signal "a broad-based rebound in the U.S. economy after a dismal first quarter."

The Wall Street Journal (6/4, Madigan, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that economists its surveyed expected the index to come in at 55.2. The Journal says that economists view the report as another sign that growth accelerated after the harsh winter.

ADP Private Sector Report Disappoints With 179,000 Jobs Added Last Month. Reuters (6/4, Mutikani) reports that the ADP private sector jobs report for May, released on Wednesday, showed that non-governmental employers added 179,000 jobs last month, well below the 210,000 expected by economists. Reuters says that while the report was disappointing, it still shows that the economy is accelerating.

USA Today (6/5, Davidson, 5.82M) reports on the ADP report and says that the "high-flying job market may have drifted back to Earth last month." Looking forward, USA Today said that the Labor Department's report for the full economy, due out Friday morning, "could show a marked slowdown in job growth after a private survey on business hiring missed estimates."

Beige Book Sees Economic Expansion Resuming. Bloomberg News (6/5, Matthews, 2.76M) reports that in its Beige Book business survey, the Fed "said the economy expanded at a modest to moderate pace last month as auto sales led household spending and the labor market improved." The report, released on Thursday, said, "Consumer spending expanded across almost all districts," adding that "labor market conditions generally

strengthened" with "hiring activity steady to stronger" in most of the nation.

The Wall Street Journal (6/5, Portlock, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the Beige Book also suggested that some businesses were struggling to find qualified workers.

In his column for the Washington Post (6/5, 4.22M), Robert J. Samuelson says that the economy may be returning to a "Great Moderation." The term "refers to the period from the mid-1980s (1983 or 1984 are common starting points) to 2007 when the economy enjoyed relatively stable growth and prosperity." However, he says that post-2009, the moderation is represented by weaker growth, and "The Great Moderation 2.0 might be nothing more than a fluke," as it is still relatively early.

Stocks Up On Wednesday, With S&P Hitting New High. The Wall Street Journal (6/5, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that despite the mixed collection of economic news, stocks advanced modestly on Wednesday. The S&P 500 rose 3.64 points to 1927.88, a new record high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 15.19 points to 16737.53, while the Nasdaq Composite Index was up 17.56 to 4251.64.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Children On The Run."*** The New York Times (6/5, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that Obama Administration officials "deserve credit" for recognizing that the influx "of young unauthorized migrants crossing the border...is not a border-security crisis but a humanitarian one, fueled by growing violence and instability" in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. The Times says "the view from the Republicans' America – locked down, in a gated country, hands washed of the migrant problem – is a fantasy about law and order. But it is not a solution."

"Standing Up To Mr. Putin." The New York Times (6/5, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that President Obama's "decision to commit $1 billion" in defense aid to Europe "sends important messages to both NATO" and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Times says the G7 should also "keep pressure" on Putin to convince Ukraine's separatists to "end the violence and intimidation."

"Clarifying, And Tightening, Patent Law." The New York Times (6/5, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that "two recent unanimous Supreme Court decisions should reduce abusive and frivolous patent litigation by raising the standards by which judges decide such cases." The court found that "for a patent to be valid, its creators had to describe the essential elements of their invention and how it can be used clearly enough that a person skilled in the field could understand it with 'reasonable certainty,'" and that "a patent that covered a series of steps was not infringed if no one person or business carried out all the steps." The Times says the rulings bring "much-need clarification and discipline to American patent law."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Will The West Defend Freedom?"*** The Washington Post (6/5, 4.22M) editorializes the "West's wobbly response" to Russia's actions in Ukraine are emboldening Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Post says Putin "has not given up his strategy of using force to undermine Ukraine's stability," and has no reason to do so given the failure of the West to follow through on threats of punishment.

"Detour From Common Sense." In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/5, 4.22M) says that Congress's efforts so far to shore up the Federal Highway Trust Fund have not been far from "legislative malfeasance." The Post argues that the best way to fund transportation spending is a "higher gas tax or a vehicle-miles tax," but lawmakers have instead resorted to "budgetary gimmickry and short-term patches to fill holes in the fund." The Post adds that if lawmakers "are too cowardly to make obvious policy choices this year, they will have to develop some backbone before the next self-imposed transportation funding crisis."

"Perilous Parental Visits."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Bergdahl Fiasco."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (6/5, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says there is reason to be skeptical of the claims made by the Administration about Bergdahl's health, and suggests that the swap was engineered with political motives in mind for the White House.

"Obama's Five-Year Plan." The Wall Street Journal (6/5, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that while some American liberals have taken pleasure in signs that China may be limiting its emissions, viewing the move as a response to the EPA's new emissions rules, Beijing is merely studying a cap that is unlikely to be adopted quickly.

"California's GOP Outbreak." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (6/5, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that while California Republicans have been moving toward insignificance for twenty years, the results of Tuesday's primary elections provided an indication of the party's potential for growth. The Journal notes promising Republican candidates in several legislative races and adds that Republicans have a chance to deny Democrats a supermajority in the legislature.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Scott Brown Defends Stake In Florida Company
Lottery Often Gives Aid To Affluent, Takes From Poor
Parents Find Cause To Honor Cherished Lost Life
FBI Reveals Surveillance Of Friend Of Tsarnaevs
Private Jets Drive Demand At Hanscom
Don Zimmer Was Truly A Baseball Man

Boston Herald:
Sobbing Kathryn McDonough Details Sex Slaying

Wall Street Journal:
Detainee Release Alarms Afghan Villagers
Sprint Closer To Acquiring T-Mobile US
France Moves To Defy Allies On Warship Plan

New York Times:
In A First, Test Of DNA Finds Root Of Illness
Behind POW's Release: Urgency And Opportunity
City Soda Fight, In Court, Tests Agency's Power
Democrats See A Break In A Gain For The Tea Party In Mississippi
Obama, Seeking Unity On Russia, Meets Obstacles
Taliban Deftly Offer Message In Video Of Freed US Soldier

Washington Post:
As Vultures Circle Over K Street, The Jokes Fly
Wilson High Principal Adds Personal Touch To Pride Day
District's Fire Chief Retiring In July
For Sen. Cochran, 'Danger' Sign Hangs On Runoff
Obama Officials Defend Swap

Financial Times:
Europe-US Tussle Over BNP Escalates
China Denounces US Tech 'Pawns'
Berlin Paves The Way For Fracking
Twitter Weighs Online Music Acquisitions
Vodafone's M-Pesa Hold In Africa Tested
Tesco Chief Dashes Hopes Of Quick Revival
Stage Is Set For Markets To Maintain Their Grinding Price Action

Washington Times:
Congress Twice Rejected Release Of Taliban From Gitmo In Trade For Bergdahl
Mental Health Delays At VA System Five Times Longer Than Reported
Official On Key EPA Fracking Advisory Board Has Suspect Degree
Republicans Hope For First Female Senator From Iowa
Drive-Through Church In New Jersey Gets A Blessing From Locals

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Bergdahl Release Video; Afghanistan-Missing Couple; Obama-Leaked Workout Video; Extreme Weather; Weather Forecast; Missing Malaysia Flight; Tiananmen Square Anniversary; D-Day Anniversary; Donald Sterling.
CBS: Bergdahl Release Video; Bergdahl-Service Record; Bergdahl-Homecoming Rally Canceled; Bergdahl-Senate Briefing; Afghanistan-Missing Couple; Extreme Weather; GM Recall Investigation; Donald Sterling; Obama-Ukraine Crisis; Obama-Leaked Workout Video; Tiananmen Square Anniversary; Queen Elizabeth-Parliament Speech.
NBC: Bergdahl Release Video; Bergdahl-Health Senate Briefing; Ukraine Crisis; Extreme Weather; Hillary Clinton Interview; Donald Sterling; FBI-Laser Pointers Crackdown; Tiananmen Square Anniversary; Wisconsin-Attempted Murder Case; D-Day Anniversary; Navajo Code Talker Dies.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Bergdahl-Senate Briefing; California-Military Jet Crash; Canada-New Brunswick Manhunt; Delaware-I-495 Traffic; Donald Sterling Drops Lawsuit.
CBS: California-Military Jet Crash; Canada-New Brunswick Manhunt; Donald Sterling Drops Lawsuit; Bergdahl Release-Senate Briefing; Bergdahl-Homecoming Rally Canceled; United Auto Workers Union-Leadership Change; Wall Street.
FOX: California-Military Jet Crash; Donald Sterling Drops Lawsuit; Bergdahl Release-Senate Briefing; Mississippi-Republican Senate Primary; Ukraine Crisis; MERS Virus Research; Sports-NHL Playoffs.
NPR: Bergdahl Release-Senator Chambliss; Bergdahl-Homecoming Rally Canceled; Rand Corporation-Jihadist Groups; California-Military Jet Crash; Navajo Code Talker Dies; USCIS-Deportation Protection Renewals; Donald Sterling Drops Lawsuit.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Bergdahl Release Video; Colorado-Tornado; Canada-New Brunswick Manhunt; California-Military Jet Crash; Donald Sterling Drops Lawsuit.
CBS: Donald Sterling Drops Lawsuit; Sports-NHL Playoffs; Canada-New Brunswick Manhunt; Bergdahl Release-Senate Briefing; Bergdahl-Homecoming Rally Canceled; Congress-VA Healthcare Bill; Veterans Affairs Scandal; California-Military Jet Crash; Navajo Code Talker Dies; Wall Street.
FOX: Bergdahl Release Video; Bergdahl Release-Senate Briefing; Bergdahl-Homecoming Rally Canceled; Oregon-Same-Sex Marriage; Delaware-I-495 Bridge; France-Obama-Putin Tensions; Donald Sterling Drops Lawsuit.
NPR: Bergdahl Release-Senate Briefing; Vermont-VA Hospital Legislation; California-Military Jet Crash; Mississippi-GOP Primary Election; Oregon-Same-Sex Marriage; Report On Future Of Space Missions; Don Zimmer Obit.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President arrives at the European Council – Justus Lipsius Building for the 2014 G-7 Summit,. Justus Lipsius Building, Brussels, Belgium, pre-set pool coverage; participates in a G-7 meeting on the global economy, limited pool spray at the top; joins G-7 leaders for a family photo, travel pool spray; participates in a G-7 meeting on energy and climate issues, closed press; takes part in a working lunch with G-7 leaders on development, closed press; participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister David Carneron of the United Kingdom, travel pool spray; holds a joint press conference with Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom, open press; departs Brussels, Belgium, open press; arrives Paris, France, travel pool coverage; joins President Frangois Hollande for a dinner, travel pool coverage.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President will attend meetings at the White House.

DR. JILL BIDEN — Dr. Jill Biden and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will host a discussion on college affordability and student loans with students, student advocates, and economists at the White House. There will be a pool spray at the top of the meeting in the Roosevelt Room.
US Senate: 10 a.m. — The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. At 1:45 p.m., Senators will proceed to executive session to consider executive branch nominations.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — 9:15 a.m. Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet hearings to examine preserving public safety and network reliability in the Internet Protocol (IP) transition. Witnesses: Colette D. Honarable, Chairman of the Board and President, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; Jonathan Banks, Senior Vice President, Law and Policy, USTelecom; Jodie Griffin, Senior Staff Attorney, Public Knowledge; Gigi Smith, President, APCO International; Henning Schulzrinne, Chief Technology Officer , Federal Communications Commission. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=5ecff3e2-eca6-42ec-8679-447673835886&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a. Location: 253 Russell.

APPROPRIATIONS — 10 a.m. Full committee Markup of the FY 2015 Commerce, Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bills. Location: 106 Dirksen. Notes: At 9 a.m., outside 106 Dirksen, a coalition of safety and labor groups along with relatives of truck crash victims will gather to call for retaining limits to drivers' work weeks and truck trailer lengths. Contact: Beth Weaver, 301-814-4088, beth_weaver@verizon.net.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 10 a.m. Developments in Ukraine. Witnesses: Jane Harman Director, President, and CEO, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Former Member, U.S. House of Representatives; Steven Pifer, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, Former Ambassador to Ukraine; James F. Jeffrey; Philip Solondz Distinguished Visiting Fellow, The Washington Institute, Former Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor; Mark Green, President, International Republican Institute, Former U.S. Ambassador and Member U.S. House of Representatives; Kenneth Wollack, President, National Democratic Institute. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/developments-in-ukraine-06-05-14. Location: 419 Dirksen.

POSTPONED

VETERANS' AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Hearings to examine pending legislation. Witnesses: PANEL I: Danny Pummill, Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Madhulika Agarwal, MD, MPH, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services, Veterans Health Administration. Accompanied by: Samuel B. Retherford, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Phillip Matkovsky, Assistant Deputy USH for Administration Operations, Veterans Health Administration; Susan Blauert, Acting Assistant General Counsel; Dave Barrans, Deputy Assistant General Counsel. PANEL II: Ian C. de Planque, Deputy Director, National Legislative Commission, The American Legion; Pete Hegseth, Chief Executive Officer, Concerned Veterans for America; Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Alex Nicholson, Legislative Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Carl Blake, National Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Raymond Kelley, Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Rick Weidman, Executive Director for Policy and Government Affairs, Vietnam Veterans of America. Location: 216 Hart.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia hearings to examine wildfires, focusing on assessing first responder training and capabilities. Witnesses: Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; William Dougan, National President, National Federation of Federal Employees; Kevin O'Connor, Assistant to the General President for Public Policy, International Association of Firefighters; Mike Navarre, Mayor, Kenai Peninsula Borough. Location: 342 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE — 2:30 p.m. Public hearing on the House-passed FISA reform bill (USA FREEDOM Act, H.R. 3361). Witnesses: FIRST PANEL: James M. Cole, Deputy Attorney General; Richard H. Ledgett, Deputy Director, National Security Agency; Mark F. Giuliano, Deputy Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Stephanie OSullivan, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence. SECOND PANEL: Harley Geiger, Senior Counsel and Deputy Director, Center for Democracy and Technology; Dean Garfield, President/CEO, Information Technology Industry Council; Michael Woods, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, Verizon; Stewart Baker, former NSA General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, Department of Homeland Security. Location: Room changed to 216 Hart.
US House: 3 p.m. — The House meets in pro forma session.
Other: SEA RECEPTION — Finalists for the nation's highest civil service awards, the Presidential Ranks of Distinguished and Meritorious Executive and Professional, will be honored by the Senior Executives Association (SEA) at a reception. State Department Diplomatic Reception Rooms. Paul Volcker, Chairman of The Volcker Alliance, will deliver remarks. Members of the media wishing to attend must register by noon on Wednesday, June 4 in order to comply with Department of State security. To register, please contact Jeff Spinella, SEAs Director of Communications, at ACTION@seniorexecs.org or at 202.971.3300.. Contacts: Jeff Spinella (202) 971-3300 (action@seniorexecs.org)

CHAMBER PRESS CONTACT: TYLER HERNANDEZ – THERNANDEZ@USCHAMBER.COM — June 2 – 6. EuroAsia Shorts 2014, ninth annual embassy short film festival presented in Washington, D.C. by embassies and cultural centers. http://awoj15.wix.com/euroasia-shorts.

AAAS – CLIMATE CHANGE — June 5 – 6. Retired Rear Adm. David Titley, director of the Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk at Pennsylvania State University, and Helen Kanovsky, Acting Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, are featured speakers at a two-day conference at AAAS on climate change resilience. Highlights: 9 a.m. Retired Rear Adm. David Titley will give an opening talk on the type and scale of tensions and disruptions stemming from climate change and how well organizations and policy makers have responded to information about climate threats. Location: AAAS Auditorium, 12th and H Sts. NW. Contacts: Kat Zambon, kzambon@aaas.org, 202-326-6434. Notes: Reporters planning to attend are asked to RSVP to kzambon@aaas.org.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE — June 5 – 7. Chelsea Clinton, vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, will be a featured speaker at this year's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland, College Park. Highlights: 4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Featured Speaker: Chelsea Clinton. Grand Ballroom, Stamp Student Union. Contacts: Katie Broendel, broendelk@aauw.org, 202-785-7761. Lisa Goodnight, goodnightl@aauw.org, 202-785-7738. On the Net: http://www.nccwsl.org/. Notes: All press must be pre-credentialed.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – PAKISTAN'S POLIO FIGHT — 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Discussion with Amb. John E. Lange, Senior Fellow, Global Health Diplomacy, United Nations Foundation; Dr. Samia Altaf, Former Acting Director and Senior Advisor, Office of Health, USAID Mission in Islamabad, Pakistan. Moderated by Mr. Shuja Nawaz, Director, South Asia Center, Atlantic Council. RSVP to press@AtlanticCouncil.org. Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor.

STAR SPANGLED SUMMER LAUNCH — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Replica Star-Spangled Banner flag unfurling, press event and ribbon cutting. Marylands Star-Spangled Summer kickoff includes: the Chesapeake Campaign, a traveling festival that features living history demonstrations, hands-on educational activities, food, drink and interactive fun along the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. The trail, commemorating the events and legacy of the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake, offers a 560-mile recreational route connecting Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. The event will also launch the Anacostia Water Trail, a connecting water trail on the river. Speakers: Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley; U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell (invited); Prince Georges County Executive Rushern L. Baker III; Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission Vice Chair Elizabeth Hewlett; Anacostia Watershed Society President Jim Foster Partner organizations. RSVP: Jill Feinberg, 410-767-6267 or jfeinberg@starspangled200.com. Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710. Media Parking at Park (Lower parking lot, near docks).

PENTAGON – LGBT CEREMONY — 12 p.m. Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work delivers the keynote

address at the 2014 Department of Defense Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month Ceremony in the Pentagon auditorium (BH-650). Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no later than 45 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort into the building.

CHALLENGEHER EPA — 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. ChallengeHER was created in early 2013 to promote the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Federal Contract Program. Since the program began, ChallengeHER has reached more than 3,000 women business owners at events across the country. ChallengeHER is holding two upcoming events in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide women business owners with key advice from the agencies procurement representatives. The second event will be held on June 5th. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/challengeher-wosb-opportunity-forum-with-epa-registration-11010670211. Location: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Judges Chamber 1153, 1201 Constitution Avenue. Notes: Media must RSVP: John McLaughlin at johnm@mbooth.com or (212) 539-3236.

PENTAGON BRIEFING – CHINA — 2 p.m. A senior defense official will conduct an off-camera briefing on the 2014 China military power report in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room (2E973). Notes: Journalists may request an electronic copy of the 2014 China military power report by calling 703-697-5131. Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Pedestrian Bridge Entrance only. Plan to arrive no earlier than 1 p.m., and no later than 1:15 p.m.; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort into the building.

BROOKINGS – U.S. SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITIES — 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. A Debate One Year after Snowden: The Future of U.S. Surveillance Authorities. Moderator Benjamin Wittes Senior Fellow The Brookings Institution Participants Jameel Jaffer Deputy Legal Director and Director, Center for Democracy American Civil Liberties Union Julian Sanchez, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; John "Chris" Inglis, Former Deputy Director, National Security Agency; Carrie Cordero, Director, National Security Studies, Georgetown Law. www.brookings.edu. Location: The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW.

WILSON CENTER – COLD WAR — 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. If Its Not a Cold War, What Is It? Speakers: Jane Harman, Director, President and CEO, The Wilson Center. Panelists: Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering, Former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and former U.S. Ambassador to Russia and the UN; Fiona Hill, Director, Center on U.S. and Europe, Brookings Institution; Matt Rojansky, Director, Kennan Institute, The Wilson Center. Moderator: Michele Kelemen, Diplomacy Correspondent, NPR. www.wilsoncenter.org. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S SOFTBALL – SPIRIT AWARD — 3 p.m. The Washington Nationals will honor the Congressional Womens Softball Game (CWSG) with their Spirit Award before the first pitch of their game against the Philadelphia Phillies. Three ($3) dollars of every ticket sale will go to the CWSG and young women with breast cancer. Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D, MD-04) and Bad News Babes Carrie Budoff Brown (POLITICO) and Amy Walter (Cook Political Report) will take the field at Nats Park before the game. Contact: Benjamin Gerdes: (703) 328.0360 ben@congwomensoftball.org. Notes: Congressional Womens Softball Games Receives Spirit Award: 3:00pm First Pitch: 4:05 pm. Philadelphia Phillies @ Washington Nationals

U.S. CHAMBER – EDUCATION AND IMMIGRATION – SCREENING — 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The U.S. Chamber will host a screening of Underwater Dreams, a new documentary that examines the intersection of education and immigration in the United States. The story is about children of undocumented Mexican immigrants who forged a legacy by building an underwater robot and challenging MIT in the process. The event will include a panel discussion with the films writer and director, Mary Mazzio, founder and CEO of 50 Eggs, Inc, and remarks from the Chambers Senior Vice President of Labor, Immigration, and Employee Benefits Randy Johnson, and the U.S. Chamber Foundations Executive Vice President Al Martinez-Fonts Jr. Location: U.S. Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW. Contacts: Blair Latoff Holmes bholmes@uschamber.com

NATIONAL ARCHIVES – ROLE OF CONGRESS – CRISIS — 7 p.m. The National Archives and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress host a program exploring The Role of Congress in International Crises. A panel moderated by Clinton White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry, and including former Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, former Members of Congress Chris Shays and John Tanner, and author

and investigative journalist Bob Woodward, will examine how this division of powers and responsibilities has been interpreted in the past, how military action was taken without congressional authorization, and how the legislative branch plays a significant role when our nation is faced by international crises. Register at http://www.archivesfoundation.org/events. Location: William G. McGowan , National Archives Building. Attendees should use the Special Events entrance, located on Constitution Avenue at 7th Street, NW. Contacts: 202-357-6814. On the Net: http://archivesfoundation.org

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "The world's going crazy. We bring back a POW from Afghanistan and...to get him back, we traded five Taliban thugs in retum for the American POW. And now everybody's gone crazy. ... Should we not have done it? Nobody knows anymore. People say it's the most controversial trade that has taken place since NBC traded me here to CBS."

Jimmy Fallon: [Referring to the Stanley Cup Final series between the Los Angeles Kings and New York Rangers] "Governors always like to make these fun little bets when their teams are playing each other. So get this – Califomia Governor Jerry Brown said that if the Rangers win, he's going to give the New York Governor Andrew Cuomo a book about California and a package of rice cakes. ... Seriously? It sounds like Christmas presents I would get from my grandma."

Jimmy Fallon: "French President Francois Hollande...is going to host two dinners tomorrow night. The first one for President Obama, followed by one for Vladimir Putin. Yep, Hollande was pretty worried about keeping them separate. Then his girlfriend and his mistress were like, 'Well, you'll figure it out.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "A Republican candidate for Congress in Arizona, who is white, recently changed his name to the Cesar Chavez to appeal to Latino voters. Well it really backfired when Arizona's governor immediately deported him."

Seth Myers: "President Obama is expected to meet with Vladimir Putin this Friday at a celebration for the 70th anniversary of D-Day. That's right. Obama is celebrating D-Day by meeting with the world's biggest 'D.'"

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BISON CONNECT

UPDATED MEMOS - Not In Briefing Book

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jun 5, 2014 at 4:23 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Sally,

I wanted to flag for you that the WGA Information Memo, WGA Event Memo, and Meeting with Gov Otter Memo have been updated and added to Google Drive. I have also uploaded the MOU.

Additionally, in the June 11th folder, I have added draft remarks for the Capitol Hill Oceans Week Remarks. They are also attached here.

Thank you,

Zaina

5 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1-3, & 5)

6 9 14_1030am_MOU.pdf
976K

6 9 14_10am_VERSION 4 WGA Event Memo.docx
86K

6 9 14_1030am_VERSION 2 Meeting with Governor Otter.docx
93K

6 9 14_10am_VERSION 3 WGA INFORMATION MEMO.docx
76K

6 11 14_CHOW Remarks.docx
36K

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION – VERSION 3

DATE: June 4, 2014
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, OS, (202)208-6726; Michael Bean, AS-FWP office (202) 208-7400; Letty Belin, Counselor to the D/S (202) 208-6291; John Blair, Director, OIEA (202) 208-1923; James Lyons, Counselor, ASLM (202) 208- 4318; Neil Kornze, BLM; Mike Conner, BOR; Libby Washburn, BOR; Dionne Thompson, BOR (202)513-0570; Anne J. Castle, A/S W&S; Neil Kornze, BLM; Maureen Foster, NPS (202) 208-5970; Kevin Washburn (202) 208-7163; Jennifer Goldblatt (202) 513-0604
SUBJECT: Western Governors' Association (WGA) Issues of Interest

**Note: Updates are highlighted in yellow.*

In preparation for the upcoming June 2014 Western Governors' Association meeting, below are western issues of interest to the Governors planning to attend.

SAGE-GROUSE

Status of BLM Great Sage-Grouse State Plans
BLM received comments from the public and from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on our 15 Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for Greater Sage-grouse (GRSG). To improve coordination, clarity and consistency as the planning teams begin development of proposed plans, the BLM held two Federal family meetings to discuss land management allocations, disturbance calculations and other topics.

Issues/concerns that were not resolved at these meetings were presented to the National Policy Team (NPT) - which consists of members from FWS, FS, and BLM - for resolution. Key pieces of guidance were developed over a series of NPT meetings, and that guidance was issued on April 30, 2014 to the State Directors. This included guidance intended to ensure clarity and consistency related to the Land Use Plan Allocations and Disturbance thresholds; and, overall guidance related to Adaptive Management, Mitigation and Monitoring that will be incorporated into all 15 EISs. While the final NPT guidance was being developed, the State Directors were cooperating with their Governor's Offices, collectively working on these proposed plans and developing solutions from the ground up. This new guidance, which the NPT feels provides clarity for the public and the FWS, has created some conflict in specific states as some now feel that this has limited the ability to develop locally driven Proposed Plans.

BLM is analyzing the comments received and preparing draft Administrative Proposed Plans (APPs). The draft APPs, which are to be completed in June, will then be "rolled up" in July so as to evaluate their aggregate impact on each sage-grouse "primary area for conservation" (PAC) and sage-grouse population identified in the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) report. The purpose of the roll-up exercise is to evaluate the extent to which the key threats to each PAC and population have been ameliorated by the plans and will enable any fine-tuning of federal and state plans needed to adequately address key threats.

On May 12, 2014, AD-200 issued a memo to the State Directors on the new 12-Step Roll-up Strategy that addresses how the BLM will move forward with the Roll-up through the publication of the Proposed Plan EISs. The NPT guidance does provide some flexibility and if the State Director feels that their current approach is biologically beneficial to sage-grouse and better protects their habitat they can provide AD-200 a memo to support their rationale as addressed in the 12-Step Strategy. Based on this 12-Step process an updated planning schedule has been developed.

Positions of Interested Parties

Colorado – In 2008, the State of Colorado developed a statewide Conservation Plan for GRSG. In 2013, Colorado prepared and published a status report on implementation of the Conservation Plan. The status report, called the Colorado Package, was submitted to both BLM/FS and the FWS in January 2014. It is a compendium of GRSG conservation commitments and efforts underway in Colorado, including conservation planning and implementation, land protection, population and habitat monitoring, habitat treatments, restoration, research and communications. Although not memorialized in an Executive Order, it represents the State's GRSG Plan according to Governor Hickenlooper. The State of Colorado has coordinated actively and closely with BLM/FS in development of the Northwest Colorado Administrative Draft Proposed Plan (ADPP) and provided detailed comments and information for consideration, though the Governor's Office feels that BLM's ADPP is too restrictive.

Idaho/SW Montana –Based on the recent NPT guidance, BLM-ID believes the foundational elements of the State Plan are no longer applicable (i.e., three management areas and associated management, the robust adaptive management strategy, and lands and minerals activities avoidance criteria). The Governor's Office does not agree with the NPT guidance that there be "no unmitigated loss" within General Habitat. Of the three management areas (Priority, Medial, and General), Medial Habitat includes both Priority and General. The FWS concern is that the Priority Habitat in Medial Habitat should be treated and managed as Priority Habitat.

Montana – Currently working on an Executive Order from the Governor which, when in place, will provide regulatory mechanisms for sage-grouse conservation through state approved actions. The adoption of a state plan may influence the state opinions about the BLM plans in MT. The draft state plan (which applies to private and state lands) provides a process by which the state would assess disturbance at the project level to limit discretionary (those activities requiring a state or federal decision) disturbance at the landscape level.

Nevada/NE California – Nevada is in the process of revising the 2012 Nevada Sage-grouse Plan. The agencies (BLM, FS, and FWS) have been working with the State's Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and their Technical Team to make the Proposed Plan and the State Plan, where possible, consistent. To date, most of the sections that would go into the agencies' Proposed Plan have been revised and for the most part are consistent. The overarching concern from the State is the legality of the significant land use restrictions and prohibitions encompassed in the alternatives. The Nevada State Sage-grouse Plan does not make direct allocations. Their goal is to limit development based on the amount of credit that would have to be acquired for a disturbance. We expect pushback on any allocations that exclude or close areas to development.

North Dakota/South Dakota – Both the North Dakota Game and Fish and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks have been supportive of the BLM LUP efforts and decisions. North Dakota Game and Fish has produced a draft updated Greater Sage-grouse Management Plan and a final plan is expected soon. South Dakota is in the process of producing a draft updated Greater Sage-grouse Management Plan. Neither plan includes regulatory mechanisms for state approved actions.

Utah – The Conservation Plan for GRSG was approved for implementation by Governor Herbert in April 2013. The measures in the plan are being applied and habitat improvement projects implemented. In May 2013, the FWS submitted a comment letter raising concerns with Utah's Conservation Plan that have yet to be resolved. The state has concerns with BLM direction within Preliminary General Management Areas as it relates to "no net loss" and the three percent disturbance cap. The State also believes there is too much emphasis on land use restrictions in the BLM-FS plan and not enough emphasis on increasing habitat through treatments.

Wyoming – The State of Wyoming Core Area Strategy was established in 2011 by Executive Order. The Core Area Strategy is implemented by the Governor's Greater Sage-Grouse Implementation Team (SGIT); it applies to private and state lands whenever a state authorization is required and is largely consistent with BLM/FS ADPP. Governor Mead is intent on getting the Lander Record of Decision approved to demonstrate successful sage-grouse conservation partnerships and has emphasized the need for BLM/FS plans to be consistent with the Wyoming Core Area Strategy. Governor Mead has emphasized that GRSG conservation should move forward while maintaining economic and social benefits derived from public land uses.

Key Points to Emphasize

(1) **The Fish and Wildlife Service has made no decision and has no "leaning" with respect to whether or not the sage-grouse should be proposed for listing.** It will make that determination in 2015 on the basis of all the information available to it then, including the state and federal plans now being completed. It will be guided by the recommendations of the COT report, which was a joint product of state and federal scientists.

(2) Through the collective efforts of state and federal agencies, **avoiding the need to list the species under the ESA is an achievable goal.** The degree of cooperation that has characterized the work of the federal and state agencies over the last three years is unprecedented. If we continue to work together constructively, it is within our power to remove or adequately reduce the threats to the sage-grouse.

(3) **"What is good for the bird is good for the herd."** This recent remark by an Oregon rancher underscores the point that conserving the sage-grouse will have much broader benefits than simply helping that single species. Valued game species, such as mule deer, share many of the sage-grouse's habitat needs and thus will benefit from efforts to conserve the grouse. Indeed, **the PACs that will be the primary focus of conservation efforts for the sage-grouse are generally congruent with the highest priority "crucial habitat" areas in the CHATs** that WGA and the Western states have recently produced.

(4) **The states will be invited and encouraged to take part in the forthcoming "roll up"** of BLM and Forest Service plans, to ensure a comprehensive look at the extent to which key threats have been ameliorated in the PACs. This is essential since state and private land comprises a significant fraction of most PACs and a majority of the land in several PACs.

(5) While all the states have been working hard through the Sage-Grouse Task Force and other means, **several states have made unique contributions.**

- **Wyoming**'s core area strategy both led the way in building a conservation effort around the most important places, but also made effective use of the state's many regulatory authorities to conserve those places;
-
- **Idaho** has embraced adaptive management in a rigorous way.

(6) Through the work of the Task Force, **many good ideas have emerged regarding how we can better prevent fires and more effectively target our post-fire restoration efforts.** Our ability to implement those ideas will be greatly aided if together we can persuade Congress to enact bipartisan legislation that changes the way we budget for fire. The help of the Western Governors in securing that legislation is needed.

(7) **Now is not the time to kick the can down the road**, as some have suggested. The chance we have this year and next to put in place meaningful conservation measures is the best chance to arrest and reverse the decline of an iconic game bird of the West and the habitat upon which it and much other wildlife depends.

ADDITIONAL Q & A

Q: What do you have to say about legislative proposals that would give the States more time to develop and implement their own solutions to sage-grouse conservation?
A: I disagree with those who suggest kicking the can down the road is the best approach to facing the challenges before us. All of us are at the table together and work to solve a problem that is much bigger than sage-grouse. The disappearing sage brush and explosion of invasive species that fuel the fire cycle also threaten sage-grouse. They also threaten other iconic species like mule deer, elk and pronghorn as well as ranching and other activities that are a foundation for western tradition and economic growth. Wyoming has shown that we best preserve our heritage and generate economic potential when we act boldly and decisively to make smarter, more strategic land management decisions that provide all land users with certainty. That is the example we are working together to emulate.

Q: A study quoted in *the Washington Post* suggests that BLM's own analysis predicts implementing its plans could cost up to 31,000 jobs, up to $5.6 billion in annual economic activity and more than $262 million in lost state and local revenue every year. On top of EPA's power plant rule, how can the Administration claim to support economic growth and job creation?
A: The analysis you are referring to added up rough estimates from 15 different BLM plans but does not represent a credible range-wide economic analysis sophisticated enough to predict the impacts of sage grouse conservation. Nor does that analysis quantify the benefits of the effort. What is known is that Wyoming has continued strong economic growth and development six years into its conservation efforts. The BLM has had strong interim sage grouse protection measures in place since 2011 while the planning effort is underway. The economies of the West have not ground to a halt. Our most recent analysis of energy potential suggests most of the high potential areas lie outside of priority sage grouse habitat. We can conserve sage grouse and other important wildlife and continue economic growth. We just have to approach our land management decisions in a more strategic manner and we have to act before so much habitat is gone our options are limited.

Q: You have repeatedly promised that Interior would not take the once-size fits all approach of the NTT Report but allow for state-driven solutions. Yet last month, the Washington BLM Headquarters sent out strict direction that slammed the door on state plans, all except for Wyoming whose plan does not meet the criteria set out. Why does Wyoming get a free pass on the strict one-size fits all standards BLM has imposed on the rest of us? This change in course is unacceptable.

A: The National Policy Team guidance was guidance not policy and invited State Directors to explain why alternative approaches can work given the specific facts at play in different states. We need this step to ensure a strong record that supports similar or better outcomes that address the threats set out in the NTT and COT reports. The door is not shut to State approaches but they must be science-driven and you will need to help make that case. We look forward to continuing conversations on these plans over the summer months as we examine how they add up across the landscape.

Q: Montana recently closed their greater sage-grouse hunting season because of declining population levels. What does this mean about the prospects for avoiding the need to list the sage-grouse? Are we now in the same position we were in for Lesser Prairie Chicken, Gunnison and Bi-state sage-grouse where population drives the outcome and no amount of conservation will suffice?
A: FWS will make its listing determination based on the sum total of the status of the bird, and the threats to the species and its habitat, across the entire range of the species. Greater sage-grouse populations appear to have declined in some portions of the range due to the recent drought and other factors, and Montana took this precautionary management step as a result. That said, there is no indication that the population is crashing, as was seen with the lesser prairie-chicken. Our focus for conservation continues to be on protecting the remaining large, high quality areas of habitat, i.e., the Priority Areas for

Conservation (PACs), so that populations of the bird large enough to be resilient to drought and other natural stressors can be maintained across the range.

Q: Director Ashe keeps discussing a 4(d) rule. That makes us think he's already made up his mind about listing the bird. What is our incentive to keep working at this?
A: The Fish and Wildlife Service has made no decision and has no "leaning" on whether to propose the sage-grouse for listing. It will make that determination in 2015 on the basis of all the information available to it then, including the state and federal plans now being completed. It will be guided by the recommendations of the COT report, which was a joint product of state and federal scientists.

What Dan wants to make clear is that there is no downside to bold action with regard to a listing. If the federal government and all governors act to develop strong, science-based plans that serve to avoid the need to list, then we're all happy. But if some states act and some don't, and the Service ultimately has to list the bird, a 4(d) rule can allow states with a sound conservation plan in place to continue to have the lead for managing the species.

Q: Fox News recently reported that the Service decision to list the Lesser Prairie Chicken has shut down oil and gas production in Western Kansas despite the rhetoric from the Service regarding flexibility and states' retention of authority. How do you respond to that?
A: Companies have a responsibility to prepare for changes in their business environment, too. The most recent statistics we have from WAFWA show that 160 different oil and gas companies have assessed the situation and made the business decision to participate in the Range-wide Conservation Plan, committing to carry out the conservation measures of the plan on 9 million acres of land that they manage or lease. That same avenue is readily available for any company operating in western Kansas.

Fire and Sage-Grouse Habitat Protection Measures

- The safety of firefighters and the public will always be our top priority, but the protection of Sage-Grouse and its habitat where they exist is the top resource priority. The BLM is and has been taking immediate, direct and measurable steps to reduce fire and invasive species threats to Sage-Grouse habitat.
- In core habitat areas with a history of large fires, we will aggressively seek to compartmentalize prime areas through strategic fuels management and creating firebreaks to minimize fire spread into those critical habitat areas. For 2015 we intend to increase the fuels treatment allocation percentage and amount of investment in core habitat.
- To stem the effects of changes in the fuels and fire regime, quick and aggressive post-fire stabilization and fuels treatments will provide a path to enhanced habitat conservation. Although sagebrush and preferred grasses are difficult to get established with more frequent fires, we will use competitive plant species, including non-native grasses and forbs, where necessary as a proven transition to a longer-term desired plant community.
- In 2014 we are directing 62 percent of our Fuels Program project capacity to Sage-grouse habitat conservation projects. This amounts to $28 million in funding and approximately 240,000 acres of treatment. In 2014 we are investing 58 percent of our Healthy Lands Initiative funds to sagebrush ecosystems and landscapes. This amounts to over $4.5 million. These funds are distributed between the Greater, the Gunnison, and Bi State population areas of habitat.
- To boost rural response capacity in Sage-Grouse habitat, and west-wide, managers and fire organizations will be encouraged to integrate Rural Fire Protection Associations and traditional Rural Volunteer Departments into their daily operations to the highest degree possible. We are committed to training support and coordination at a minimum. Where possible we will provide more material support.

High-Voltage Transmission Lines and Greater Sage-Grouse

- BLM is taking significant steps to address transmission project impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitats while land use plans are being amended or revised as part of an ongoing National Greater Sage-grouse Planning Strategy.
- BLM is also ensuring project developers comply with interim management guidance for sage-grouse that was issued in December 2011. This guidance specifies: Consideration of reasonable siting alternatives outside priority habitat or within designated corridors; identification of technically feasible best management practices; and consideration of regional mitigation opportunities.
- Thorough, project-specific environmental reviews are ongoing with input from the public, Tribes, and Federal, state and local cooperators.
- Project developers are preparing Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA) based mitigation in collaboration with BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service and state game and fish agencies.
- BLM is working with project developers to co-locate facilities within previously disturbed areas and designated corridors.
- BLM is working with project developers to identify routes that minimize impacts to Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs) for the Greater Sage-Grouse.
- For approved projects, BLM is enforcing strict timing controls on construction activities during sensitive periods (i.e. breeding, nesting, winter).

HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES AND ENERGY ISSUES

This topic is of particular interest to Governor Butch Otter (ID), Governor Brian Sandoval (NV), and Governor Gary Herbert (UT). During the WGA breakfast in February, Governor Herbert mentioned the need for certainty in Interior's resource management plans to encourage energy development in his state. Governor Sandoval discussed transmission lines in his state at the February WGA breakfast. Governor Otter plans to discuss Gateway West and Boardman to Hemmingway transmission lines.

As the largest Federal land manager in the west, the BLM plays a significant role in planning energy corridors and siting transmission facilities. BLM administers over 107,000 rights-of-way for a variety of uses including transmission lines and pipelines. BLM is employing a "smart from the start" approach to identify areas of conflict and opportunity during planning to allow BLM managers to select the best areas for siting transmission facilities.

Since 2009, BLM has permitted 42 high-voltage transmission projects spanning over 2,300 miles on public lands. These projects provide capacity for renewable energy, improve grid reliability and support job growth. Since 2011, BLM has participated as a member of the Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT) with the goal of improving coordination, expediting permitting and identifying lessons learned from seven priority pilot projects identified by the President. BLM is lead or co-lead agency on four of the priority projects. BLM currently has approximately 20 pending high-voltage transmission projects in several western states. Some projects are in sagebrush habitat.

Energy Corridors

The BLM, DOE, and USFS Work Group are collaborating to identify regions in the west to conduct reviews of corridors. The federal partners are focused on doing this right, including close coordination with states, tribes, local communities, and outside partners. This new approach is the right way to conduct corridor assessments, but it is also very resource intensive. With limited funds, the federal partners are currently consulting with WGA and various states in considering which regions to prioritize. Interest from

states and commitments to work collaboratively on a corridor process will be key to successfully reviewing corridors of concern.

Transmission Project Summaries

- Gateway West Transmission Line (Idaho segments 8 & 9) * *RRTT Priority Project* - The project will address load growth in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming, improve the reliability and efficiency of utility systems, and tap renewable energy resources in Idaho and Wyoming. The project sponsors estimate 1,100 to 1,200 jobs will be created.
    - Challenges: Routes proposed across the BLM administered Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA in southern Idaho; finalizing Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation; finalizing Migratory Bird Conservation Plan
- TransWest Express Line * *RRTT Priority Project* - The project is designed to increase capacity for renewable energy generation consisting primarily of wind energy, including the Choke-Cherry, Sierra Madre Wind Farm near Rawlins, WY. The project sponsor estimates 1,035 to 1,550 jobs will be created.
    - Challenges: Finalizing Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation; potential crossing inventoried road less areas in National Forests; proximity to Nellis Air Force Base in southern Nevada; crossing Tuttle Ranch and proposed conservation easements in Colorado; co-locating project adjacent to existing projects and the Energy Gateway South project
- Boardman to Hemingway Project **RRTT and PNWRIT Priority Project* - The Project would relieve pressure on the existing transmission system, improve electric reliability, provide additional energy capacity to meet demand in Oregon and Idaho, and provide service to wholesale customers. The project sponsor estimates 500 jobs to be created.
    - Challenges: Project schedule being delayed due to inadequate Administrative DEIS; untimely and insufficient cultural, biological and visual resource data from environmental contractors; delays due to project developer financial commitments to support NEPA analysis and contractors; routes affecting Greater Sage-Grouse and habitat; limited flexibility in Oregon state siting policy for sage-grouse habitat; potential routes crossing irrigated agricultural lands and other private lands
- Energy Gateway South Transmission Project - The project is designed to provide redundancy to existing infrastructure and improve ability to provide reliable service to customers; support future load growth in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah; provide increased transmission capacity for third-party transmission users.
    - Challenges: Proposed routes affecting Greater Sage-Grouse and habitat; finalizing Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation; crossing Tuttle Ranch and proposed conservation easements in Colorado; co-locating project adjacent to existing projects and the TransWest Express project; routes impacting private lands
- Vantage Pomona Transmission Project * *PNWRIT Priority Project* - The project is designed to eliminate redistributed loads and overloading of the adjacent transmission system; ensure continued reliable and efficient service to Yakima Valley and address potential reliability issues within the Mid-Columbia Transmission System.
    - Challenges: Potential visual impacts; private landowners desire to minimize routes on private lands; proposed route across Joint Base Lewis McChord Yakima Training center (JBLM-YTC) which is designated as a Priority Area of Conservation (PAC) for sage-

grouse; minimizing impacts to cultural resources and properties for route crossing JBLM-YTC; analysis of a buried transmission line as a design alternative

FIRE

The Bureau of Land Management is working with local, state, and federal cooperators to ensure that we stop the majority of wildland fires in the first burning period. Areas of focus include: Using science-based decision support tools to anticipate the next problem areas; positioning fire suppression resources to where they will next be needed; approving severity funding allocations to temporarily increase fire suppression staffing; and conducting fire prevention activities including using education and fire restrictions where necessary.

This fire season is anticipated to be a challenging one due to overall drought conditions. Yet through the use of forecasting support tools, positioning resources where they're needed the most and efficient use of severity funding, BLM has contained about 96% of its fires during initial attack.
The combined efforts of local, state and federal agencies will continue to emphasize the safety of the public and firefighters, while also containing a high percentage of wildfires during initial attack without incurring unneeded risk. Below are several questions that you may encounter based on recent interest from several of our state partners:

Idaho:
Q. What kinds of relief can you provide for ranchers that have had to displace livestock based on the loss of forage in the 2012 fire season? Are there opportunities for forage banks or vacated allotments that can be a temporary source of forage?
A. All of the allotments in Idaho are currently under existing grazing permits and authorizations; at this time there are no opportunities for forage banks and there are no vacant allotments.

Utah:
Q. What are you doing to ensure that the collaborative landscape restoration efforts in Utah continue, especially in light of the BLM's new seed management process?
A. We are committed to our legacy of partnerships in Utah. Although the BLM has made some logistical modifications in the seed management process, we are going to continue to invest heavily in collaborative landscape restoration in Utah.

Special Mention:

- We are recognizing and remembering that this is the 20th anniversary of the Storm King Mountain burn over on the South Canyon Fire in Colorado where we lost 14 firefighters on July 6, 1994. Several commemorative events will be hosted in Colorado in the next month.
- We further remember that we are approaching the one year anniversary of the Yarnell Hill burn over in which 19 firefighters died. This was the single largest loss of life on a wildland fire since the 1930s. While we are still learning from both of these tragedies, the loss in both cases is fresh in our minds.
- Both of these fire entrapments have formed the foundation of this year's wildland firefighter refresher.

MITIGATION

In April, the Department's Energy and Climate Change Task Force provided the Secretary with a report summarizing a coordinated Department-wide evaluation and a strategy for implementing improvements in the Department's mitigation practices and policies. Based on the report's findings, various offices and

bureaus of the Department have begun to implement policy and programs aimed at strengthening mitigation practices.

- FWS is in the process of revising its mitigation policies;
- BLM is implementing a draft Regional Mitigation Policy that will be updated and finalized consistent with the guidance contained in the Departmental report;
- BLM released its first regional mitigation plan for the Dry Lake solar energy zone (SEZ) and will conduct additional outreach to aid in designing future SEZ regional mitigation plans;
- BLM, FS, and FWS are working together to develop a mitigation strategy as a part of the larger Greater Sage-Grouse conservation initiative;
- USGS is leading efforts to develop geospatial data tools for landscape-scale mitigation and will be convening a workshop of partners later this year;
- The NPS is convening a workshop to develop guidance for mitigating impacts to cultural resources under Section 106 of NHPA and will also be convening experts to develop guidance for landscape-scale mitigation for preserving scenic values.

Q. How does this strategy impact work to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse?
A. The BLM is nearing the final stages of amending 98 Resource Management Plans to account for conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse. The bureau is already working closely with the FWS and states wildlife agencies to ensure that these final plan amendments contain robust provisions for mitigating impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. The BLM anticipates working closely with states to plan for and execute mitigation in these areas.

Q. How does this strategy relate to ongoing work by states, including state wildlife action plans and the Western Governors Association's (WGA's) Critical Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT)?
A. State wildlife action plans, WGA's CHAT, and similar plans and strategies are useful in identifying the most ecologically important areas in a state, thus informing effective decisions regarding the avoidance or minimization of impacts as well as the siting of compensatory mitigation measures. The statewide perspective that such plans provide will help facilitate the landscape-scale approach to mitigation that the strategy seeks to accomplish.

Q. What role will states have in determining the location and breadth of specific compensatory mitigation?
A. As noted above, State judgments about the relative ecological importance of particular areas, as reflected in their CHATs or state wildlife action plans, are expected to be important considerations in determining the location of compensatory mitigation measures. In addition, by becoming formal cooperating agencies in the NEPA process, states can help implement the Strategy with respect to all aspects of mitigation.

Q. How will this mitigation strategy be implemented in the field? Will staff be trained on how to implement the proposed mitigation strategies?
A. The principles outlined in this mitigation strategy will be incorporated into formal Departmental and bureau policy that will guide decision-making in the field. The strategy also calls for clear and consistent training for field staff based on these policy changes. Field staff have been closely engaged in drafting the strategy and will continue to be relied upon as the Department and bureaus develop these manuals, handbooks, and training modules.

Q. How does this mitigation strategy fit with Presidential initiatives to modernize the Federal review of infrastructure projects and to adapt to the impacts of climate change?
A. The Department believes that its Mitigation Strategy and the various actions planned to carry out the Mitigation Strategy are necessary components to the Department's ability to effectively implement the

President's various initiatives relating to permitting efficiencies, large infrastructure project reviews, and climate change adaptation. All of these initiatives require federal agencies to take a landscape-scale approach to planning, permitting, and conservation, which is the fundamental purpose of Secretarial Order No. 3330 and the Department's Mitigation Strategy.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Formal rulemaking to revise BLM regulations related to hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands was initiated in May 2012 with publication of a proposed rule. A revised proposed rule was published in May 2013. During the most recent formal comment period, which closed on August 23, 2013, the BLM received more than 1.35 million comments.

Based on analysis of these comments, the BLM staff have suggested some modifications to the regulatory text and the preamble of the final rule for consideration, all of which are viewed by the Solicitor's office as logical outgrowths of the proposed rule. We expect to have a draft of a final rule, preamble, and accompanying analyses available to begin Departmental review within ten days.
The proposed rules have focused on addressing public disclosure, wellbore integrity and flowback fluid management as the key issues for sound hydraulic fracturing development. Most of these issues are not adequately addressed in the BLM's existing, 30-year-old regulations.

During the time this rule has been in development a number of states and tribes have issued or begun work on their own rules related to hydraulic fracturing. BLM has worked closely with the relevant regulatory officials as well as EPA to utilize their expertise on these issues. States with federal oil and gas development that have issued rules in this area are: California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. The rules vary considerably from state to state. Below are several key issues that may be discussed:

Well integrity - The issue is determining the best means of ensuring zonal isolation and competent cementing in the wellbore. Experts and commenters differ on various aspects of this issue, including the value of cement bond logs or cement evaluation logs as compared to other tests; testing necessary for surface casing as opposed to production and intermediate casing; and the utility of an individual "type well" in a formation in ensuring comprehensive well integrity.

Requiring the use of tanks for recovered water - The 2013 proposed rule would have required recovered water from HF operations to be stored in either lined pits or tanks. The current thinking is to strengthen that requirement by mandating storage in tanks in all instances unless an exception is specifically approved based on a robust set of criteria. This revised proposal may increase operational costs.

Definition of the term usable water - This definition is the trigger for determining which zones to be drilled require isolation. The current thinking is to clarify this definition and to utilize as much as possible the determinations about usable water developed by States and Indian tribes governing the water zones in their areas.

Public Disclosure - The rule intends to improve public access to information about the chemicals used during hydraulic fracturing of particular wells as well as locations of existing and proposed wells and information about other activities affecting the community.

Positions of Interested Parties

- Government: State Governors' offices generally question the need for the rule and some question BLM's authority. Some states believe hydraulic fracturing is already effectively regulated at the state level and that Federal regulations add an unnecessary layer of duplicate regulations. BLM officials

met with state officials most recently on March 20, 2014, and had a productive exchange of views about the various state regulations and the BLM proposal, and about entering into MOUs that will efficiently administer these rules. The proposed rule provides that any state or tribal regulation that is equal to or more protective than the Federal rule will be applicable.

- Private Citizens: The public expressed a number of concerns and positions, which ranged from the request to ban hydraulic fracturing altogether (this view accounted for 95% of the 1.35 million comments received), to suggestions for ensuring the protection of groundwater, providing additional transparency for fracturing operations, and providing for prior disclosure of chemicals.

DROUGHT AND WATER ISSUES

Red River Valley Water Supply Project - In March 2014, Governor Dalrymple sent a letter to Deputy Secretary of the Interior Mike Connor regarding the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, and requested a Plan of Study put forth by the International Souris River Board (ISRB) to initiate a review of the water supply and flood operating plan contained in the 1989 Canada-United States Agreement for Water Supply and Flood Control in the Souris River Basin. A periodic review of the operating plan is required under the 1989 agreement. However, due to unprecedented flooding in the Souris River basin in 2011, basin residents have asked that additional flood protection measures be evaluated beyond what is currently provided under the 1989 agreement.

In order to move forward the Plan of Study requires approximately $2.1 million in funding from the governments of Canada and the United States. The State Department is currently working with Canada in regard to funding and has been for some time with little movement. The Governor and Senator Hoeven are both strong supporters of moving forward with the Plan of Study and have requested Secretary of State Kerry's support.

Colorado River Basin Drought - Throughout history, there has never been a shortage condition determined in the Lower Basin (Nevada, Arizona and California). A shortage is deemed to occur when Lake Mead reaches elevation 1,075 feet. The elevation is currently around 1,089 feet, but is forecast to reach 1,081 feet by October. Reclamation met all water orders from U.S. water users in the Lower Basin and Mexico in 2013, and all delivery orders in the Lower Basin will be met in 2014. However, over the next 5 years, the potential for a shortage condition exists, with probabilities ranging from 22% in 2016, 51% in 2017, and 62% in 2018.

In water year 2014, snowpack in the Upper Basin peaked at 111% of average on April 7. Runoff is well underway and approximately 40% of the snowpack has melted. The probable forecast for water year inflow into Lake Powell is currently 100% of average. The current projected total Basin storage is approximately 51% of capacity for end of water year 2014.

Although the Basin States remain committed to continuing discussions, there does not yet appear to be a consensus on which actions should be pursued at this time. The Upper Basin States are pursuing a plan with 3 major components: operational adjustments, voluntary demand management (e.g. fallowing or deficit irrigation), and augmentation (primarily weather modification). The Lower Basin States are pursuing a 5-year plan consisting of "no regrets" actions beginning this year and voluntary reductions or other efforts to protect low Lake Mead elevations (somewhere between 1,000 and 1,020 ft). The Lower Basin States view a Federal commitment to decrease operational inefficiencies in the Yuma area as a key component to the plan. The Lower Basin States would also like Reclamation to fully engage in the process to develop the plan in more of a co-lead or full-partnership role.

Minute 319 - On May 15, the downstream edge of the environmental pulse flow of Colorado River water - released under Minute 319 - reached the tidal delta of the Pacific Ocean connecting the River with the

Gulf of California for the first time in history as a purposeful environmental flow. This is considered a major achievement among the NGOs and scientists that have worked on Colorado River Delta issues over the past two decades. Delivery of the pulse flow began on March 23 from Morelos Dam, the last diversion dam on the Colorado River located at the U.S./Mexico border, and was completed on May 18th. Approximately 105,000 acre-feet were delivered in the form of a pulse flow to the Colorado River riparian corridor. Negotiating an extension of Minute 319 by December 2016 is a high priority, and we believe the pulse flow success will help pave the path to reaching an agreement.

Glen Canyon Dam - Drought conditions upstream of Lake Powell over the past two years have significantly reduced the elevation of Lake Powell. The declining elevation has reduced generation efficiency by approximately 10 percent. Generation at Glen Canyon Dam accounts for about 80 percent of the Salt Lake City Area/Integrated Projects (SLCA/IP). Reductions in generation at Glen Canyon Dam have a significant impact on SLCA/IP generation revenues available in the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund which fund operation and maintenance, salinity control, security, environmental related costs, and repayment obligations. Based on design criteria for the Glen Canyon generators, when Lake Powell drops below elevation 3,490 feet, power can no longer be generated. As of May 20, 2014, Lake Powell is currently 117 feet below full elevation of 3,700 feet and is 93 feet above minimum power pool (3,490 feet). Latest projections indicate that the first probability of reaching minimum power pool is water year 2018 (4 percent chance). Reclamation is actively partnering with the seven Colorado River Basin States to identify proactive steps to avoid reaching critical elevations at Lakes Powell and Mead.

Great Plains and Drought - Mountain snowpack in Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming remains well above average for this time of year. Cool temperatures have moderated the rate of snow melt, but the runoff is beginning with warmer temperatures. Precipitation in the Dakotas has been near normal this spring; however, with the large precipitation events in the fall and winter, spring runoff conditions are average, and normal for this time of year. In the climate outlook for June for this northern section of the Great Plains Region, temperature is predicted to be below normal with above average possibility for higher precipitation occurring.

Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Project - NAWS is a municipal and rural water project authorized by the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act of 1986 and the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000, and construction of project features began in April 2002. When complete, the project would deliver water from the Missouri River to communities and rural water systems in North Dakota located in the Hudson Bay Basin.

Construction continues on the Minot Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project. On March 1, 2013, Judge Collyer issued a ruling on the issue of whether to allow further work to be bid for continued construction of distribution facilities. The ruling will allow completion of the upgrades at the Minot Water Treatment Plant. However, the modified injunction "will not permit new pipeline construction or new pipeline construction contracts." Progress continues on the preparation of the draft SEIS, and Reclamation plans to release the draft SEIS for a 45-day public review starting in late-June or early-July 2014. Public hearings will be hosted in Minot, ND, during the public review period.

Rural Water Projects – (ND and SD)
Since 1980, Congress has directed Reclamation to construct 13 individual rural water supply projects at a combined cost of more than $2.3 billion. Projects have been authorized with varying local cost-share ranging between 0 and 25 percent. Federal law directs Reclamation to operate, maintain, and replace (OM&R) two projects authorized to benefit Tribes; including Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota and Mni Wiconi Rural Water System in South Dakota. Indian Rural Water Supply Project O&M costs rise as new project features are constructed – consuming an increasing share of Reclamation's overall budget allocated to rural water projects.

Mni Wiconi Rural Water System (SD) – As of September 30, 2013, the Federal Government has committed 100 percent of its cost share toward completing the Project. The Core line and Lower Brule distribution system are complete. The West River/ Lyman-Jones distribution system, Rosebud distribution system and Oglala distribution system are nearing completion and construction is anticipated to be substantially complete in FY 2015.

Garrison Diversion Unit (ND) – As of September 30, 2013, the project was approximately 72 percent complete (as financially determined). The federally-funded portion of the project was approximately 69 percent complete. Work continues on (1) the State municipal, rural and industrial (MR&I) water supply program administered by the State of North Dakota, and (2) the Indian MR&I water supply program for the construction of five reservation-wide systems, including Standing Rock, Fort Berthold, Fort Totten, Turtle Mountain, and Trenton Indian Service Area.

Reclamation is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Northwest Area Water Supply Project as a means of complying with the U.S. District Court order issued in March 2010. The Garrison Diversion Unit is located within and affected by the Northwest Area Water Supply Project. Reclamation is planning to release a draft SEIS on NAWS in 2014.

Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (SD, MN, IA) – As of September 30, 2013, the Federal portion of the project was approximately 55 percent complete (as financially determined). The Water Treatment Plant, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was placed into service on July 30, 2012, and is delivering treated water to 11 of the 20 member entities. Due to limited Federal appropriations, the project is exploring options to accelerate construction with grants/loans from the Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota State governments. South Dakota and Minnesota passed legislation authorizing $1 and 22 million grants respectively, and Minnesota enacted a $45 million bonding authority for in-state project beneficiaries. Lewis & Clark intends on using any future Federal appropriations to reimburse construction cost by repaying the entities that provide funding in excess of the non-Federal cost-share required in the authorizing legislation.

Next Steps - Continuing to evaluate OM&R budgets for Tribal Rural Water Projects to assure the reliable delivery of quality drinking water; continuing to prioritize federal funding for construction consistent with the Interim Final Funding Criteria for Rural Water Projects; continuing to work with Lewis & Clark Rural Water System to address questions/issues that need to be resolved to enable the project to proceed with construction with non-Federal funding.

LAND EXCHANGE VALUATION PROCESS

Governor Gary Herbert (UT) may want to discuss land exchange, particularly the appraisal process.

Governor Herbert could raise an issue with the length of time it takes to complete land exchanges between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the State of Utah. The BLM and the State of Utah recently completed the Utah Recreational Land Exchange (URLEA), which was mandated by legislation.

The URLEA land exchange involved over eighty tracts of land totaling about 80,000 acres with values that included consideration of the potential for oil, gas, coal, tar sands, potash, and flagstone. The Office of Valuation Services, together with SITLA experts in Utah, developed a scope of work encompassing surface and sub-surface valuations, designed appraisal contract specifications, evaluated potential appraisers, and conducted joint mineral valuation and appraisal reviews. This valuation process stands as a model for how collaborative effort can successfully help achieve large-scale exchanges that benefit the land management goals of both the State and Federal governments.

There are a number of procedures that BLM must follow to ensure that land exchanges are in the public interest. The BLM is also required to follow the Uniform Standards for appraisals, to ensure that we obtain the fair value for the lands we exchange out of public ownership. The Department has had a long-standing position that the Uniform Standards for appraisals be used when Congress mandates a land exchange. The Governor may express the opinion that these processes are too time consuming. The BLM's position is that these processes are necessary to protect the public interest.

UNITED STATES EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (USEITI)

Governor Matt Mead (WY) has expressed interest in discussing USEITI with you at this meeting.

You may want to mention your participation in the upcoming USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) meeting on June 10, 2014, regarding the EITI International Board's approval of the USEITI Candidacy Application. Since achieving Candidate Country status on March 19, 2014, the USEITI MSG convened its first meeting of 2014 on April 23-24, and began working on the details of domestic implementation. As a candidate country, the U.S. has three years to fully implement the international EITI standards and achieve "compliant" status.

It is anticipated that during this public meeting, the USEITI MSG will review options for a State and Tribal "opt-in" process. The development of this process is critical to addressing USEITI implementation concerns raised to Assistant Secretary Rhea Suh by the Western Governors' Association and the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, as well as an essential part of fulfilling the Department of the Interior's Indian Trust responsibility. The MSG is likely to discuss a plan to implement other key EITI requirements, such as project level reporting and the inclusion of income tax revenue and payments in USEITI reporting.

You may also wish to mention that on April 7, 2014, you appointed Mr. Michael D. Mathews upon recommendation by Governor Mead as an alternate member on the USEITI Advisory Committee. His term lasts until December 21, 2015.

MOUNT RUSHMORE

Governor Dennis Daugaard (SD) expressed interest in discussing with you the opportunity for a long-standing contract that would allow Mount Rushmore National Memorial to remain open in the event of a future government shutdown. NPS assumes the proposed contract would allow South Dakota to operate the park with State funds in the event of a cessation of Federal appropriations, as it did for four days during the course of the Federal shutdown in October 2013.

On October 1, 2013, the Federal government shut down for 17 days. Beginning on October 11, 2013, the National Park Service (NPS) entered into agreements with six States including South Dakota, to re-open national parks with State funds. States were required to fund the park or parks for no fewer than two days, to re-open with NPS employees, and to sign an agreement stipulating that no expended funds would be returned to the State unless Congress explicitly appropriated funding for that purpose. South Dakota signed an agreement with the NPS and transferred ten days worth of funding to operate Mount Rushmore on October 14, 2013. The park re-opened and operated with State funds for three days until Federal operations resumed on October 17, 2013. The NPS returned seven days' worth of unused funds to the State.

We appreciate the Governor's enthusiasm for ensuring that all visitors who arrive to visit Mount Rushmore National Monument have access to this spectacular site. However, we cannot support a long-

standing agreement with a non-Federal entity to continue to fund a national park in the event of a future shutdown. In the case of a lapse in Federal appropriations, all policy decisions governing operations will be made during the event by the Administration in charge at the time (Similarly, we imagine a State governor cannot bind the financial or policy decisions of a future Governor). Such policy decisions are made under very specific circumstances that may not be repeated should we be unfortunate enough to encounter another shutdown.

We are also uncomfortable codifying an approach that would allow certain parks to re-open only because they are fortunate enough to reside in a State with the resources and political will to fund them. Further, had the shutdown lingered, the costs associated with reopening certain parks would have had to be revisited, as it is nearly impossible to divorce one park's operations from the regional and national offices that support that park unit with numerous administrative functions.

WILD HORSES AND BURROS

Governor Matt Mead (WY) may wish to discuss this issue with you.

In order to protect our public lands' natural resources and comply with the Act, the BLM has been conducting gathers to remove excess animals from the range as well as to administer various population growth suppressions methods, including fertility control vaccines. Prior to the economic slowdown that started about a decade ago, the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program (Program) was able to successfully adopt the majority of the animals removed from the range. However, adoptions have decreased markedly. It is increasingly difficult to find willing and qualified adopters and buyers.

On-range populations are nearly double Appropriate Management Levels (AML) and the BLM currently cares for nearly 48,000 animals off-range, costing $46 million in FY 2013. This expense is limiting the application of population growth suppression methods and the number of animals that can be removed, resulting in increasing overpopulation on drought stricken western rangelands.
The June 2013 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report provided BLM with multiple recommendations for program improvements. BLM has drafted a report that identifies how BLM will implement the recommendations and is also developing a long-term strategy for the achievement and maintenance of AML. Budgets have progressively increased from $19 million in 2000 to $77 million in FY 2014. Rising costs for holding increasing numbers of unadopted animals are the primary reason for budget increases.

<u>Rock Springs Grazing Association</u>

- Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA) owns and leases 48 percent of private land across four checkerboard Herd Management Areas (HMAs) in southern Wyoming.
- In October 2010, RSGA requested that BLM remove all wild horses on these private lands.
- In April 2013, BLM and RSGA entered Consent Decree requiring that BLM:
    - Remove all wild horses on private RSGA lands (except in White Mountain HMA);
    - Remove to low appropriate management level (AML) (251 in Salt Wells Creek HMA and 610 in Adobe Town HMA) and use fertility control to reduce population growth;
    - Gather and remove wild horses in Salt Wells Creek/Adobe Town Complex in 2013, Divide Basin HMA in 2014, and White Mountain HMA in 2015; and
    - Report population census by November 30 annually.
- In December 2013, the BLM finished the Adobe Town and Salt Wells Creek removals. The BLM has tentatively scheduled the Divide Basin removal for summer or fall 2014.
- The State of Wyoming is monitoring the results of Consent Decree; Governor's Office has informally requested AML information over the last several months.

- In 2003, BLM and State of Wyoming entered into a separate Consent Decree mandating removals within one year of population exceeding AML in each HMA.

GRIZZLY BEAR DELISTING

Governor Matt Mead (WY) sent a letter in May 2014 asking that the grizzly bear be delisted, and may wish to discuss this further at the meeting.

Q: What are your plans regarding the Grizzly Bear?
A: FWS is completing a threats analysis for the Yellowstone distinct population of grizzly bears. They expect to make a decision on whether to proposed to delist this population by late 2014 and, if so, to make a final delisting determination in 2015. FWS is also working with tribal, state and federal partners to complete a conservation strategy for grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. Once this conservation strategy is complete, the Service will conduct a threats analysis and determine whether a delisting proposal is warranted for this population. If so, they would likely publish a proposed delisting.

Q: Is the FWS working on delisting of grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) in Montana?
A: The FWS is working with state, Tribal, and federal partners to complete the NCDE Conservation Strategy, which is the post delisting management plan. Completion of the Conservation Strategy is a Recovery Plan task. This document, once completed, will demonstrate the adequacy of regulatory mechanisms in order to address ESA Factor 4 for delisting. Upon completion of the Conservation Strategy, the FWS will complete a threats analysis for this population and make a determination as to if the threats to this population have been addressed. If the result of this threats analysis is that the threats to this population have been addressed, the Service will publish a proposed rule to delist this population. Such a proposed rule could be published in late 2015, pending timely completion of the NCDE Conservation Strategy and a favorable threats analysis.

Q: Can the Cabinet/Yaak and Selkirk grizzly recovery zones be combined with the NCDE recovery zone so that all of them can be delisted together?
A: The conservation status of the Cabinet/Yaak and Selkirk grizzly recovery zones is much different than that of the NCDE recovery zone. These two populations are warranted for endangered status. A recent Wildlife Monograph concluded that the US recovery zones are not currently functionally connected demographically in such a way as to affect the internal population growth or vital rates through inter-population connectivity. Based on this information, these recovery zones cannot be considered a single population unit and recovered as one population unit at this time.

FEDERAL PERMIT STREAMLINING PROJECT

Governor John Hickenlooper (CO) and Governor Brian Sandoval (NV) sent a letter in April 2014 asking for reauthorization of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project.

Section 365 of the 2005 Energy Policy Act established a federal permit streamlining pilot project (Pilot Project) to increase coordination, reduce the time to issue APDs and improve environmental stewardship as a means to meet the nation's energy needs. The Act also established a funding mechanism/source that diverted 50 percent of the federal share of onshore lease rental receipts from the U.S. Treasury to the BLM.

It has been very successful in improving interagency coordination and reducing the time to process federal O&G APDs and ROWs. Without extension, the pilot project and the associated funding authority will expire in August of 2015. The BLM's FY 2015 President's Budget does not propose an extension of

the funding mechanism for the pilot office fund; the BLM is currently evaluating options for addressing this situation in the FY 2016 budget.

In December 2013, Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 767, expanding the scope of the Pilot Project and providing additional discretion to the BLM. However, H.R. 767 did not include an extension of the funding.

On April 3, 2014, Governor Hickenlooper and Governor Sandoval sent Secretary Jewell a letter on behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) requesting the Department's support for the reauthorization of the Pilot Project. The Secretary responded to WGA in a letter dated April 17, 2014, stating that the 10-year Pilot Project had been a success that allowed the BLM and its Pilot Project partner bureaus and agencies to more efficiently process oil and gas drilling permits and streamline associated environmental reviews, it provided BLM's oil and gas inspection and enforcement program with resources necessary to allow more thorough oversight of oil and gas operations, and the Department would work with Congress to provide additional flexibility nationwide to utilize the pilot office authority as permitting demands shift over time.

MASTER LEASING PLANS – OIL AND GAS

Master Leasing Plans (MLP) involve preplanning and intensive analysis of distinct geographical areas to avoid and minimize conflicts between oil and gas activity and recreation, water, air, cultural, and wildlife values. Some areas with high value resources need additional planning and analysis prior to issuing new or additional oil and gas leasing. The MLP process enables the BLM to take a focused landscape-level look at the decisions in Resource Management Plans (RMP) pertaining to leasing and post-leasing development of the area. This tool provides a vision for how future development will occur. The BLM is developing MLPs both as part of the development of new RMPs, and as amendments to existing RMPs. Attached is a list of the MLPs currently under development in Western States.

Table 1. Status of the BLM's Master Leasing Plans

State	Resource Management Plan/Amendment	Status
CO	1 External Proposal	
	○ Shale Ridges and Canyons – part of the Grand Junction RMP Revision	Draft RMP published in January 2013; a Proposed RMP expected in FY14
	2 Internal Proposals	
	○ North Park – part of the Kremmling RMP-A	Proposed RMP published in March 2014. ROD expected September 2014. .
	○ South Park – part of the Royal Gorge RMP Revision	Draft RMP expected in December 2015. Proposed RMP expected in February 2017.
	1 Modified External Proposal	
	○ Dinosaur Trail – part of the White River RMP-A	BLM modified the boundaries of the original Dinosaur Lowlands proposal to create the Dinosaur Trail proposal; Draft RMP-A published in September 2012; a Proposed RMP-A expected in early summer of FY14
MT	1 Internal Proposal	
	○ Carter MLP – part of the Miles City	Draft RMP published in March 2013; Proposed RMPA is

State	Resource Management Plan/Amendment	Status
	RMP Revision	expected in FY14.
UT	4 Modified External Proposal	
	○ Book Cliffs Divide - Grand Valley - Cisco Desert MLP	Have not been initiated.
	○ Glen Canyon - San Juan River MLP	Have not been initiated.
	○ San Rafael River MLP	Have not been initiated.
	○ Vernal MLP - stand-alone analysis	A MLP in the Vernal Field Office appears to be likely for enhanced analysis related to the MLP process for fluid minerals, mainly oil development.
	1 Internal Proposal	
	○ Moab MLP – stand-alone analysis	NOI for the RMP-A was published in March 2012; open house to update the public on draft alternatives was on May 14, 1014. Draft MLP in development; anticipate 90-day public comment period to begin February 2015. Publish NOA for Final MLP/EIS in November 2015. Issue ROD in February 2016.
WY	5 External Proposals	
	○ Absoraka-Beartooth Front – part of the Bighorn Basin (Cody and Worland) RMP Revision	The Draft Final RMP is being prepared.
	○ Fifteen Mile Area (Worland) – part of the Bighorn Basin RMP Revision	
	○ Bighorn Front – part of the Bighorn Basin (Cody and Worland) RMP Revision	
	○ Beaver Rim – part of the Lander RMP revision	The ROD has been drafted but is on hold for signature at WO direction. The Final EIS was published last year.
	○ Little Mountain – part of the Rock Springs RMP revision	Draft MLP in development.

FY – Fiscal Year
NOA – Notice of Availability
ROD – Record of Decision
RMP – Resource Management Plan
RMP-A – Resource Management Plan Amendment

TRIBES

Governor Steve Bullock (MT) sent a letter in October 2013 regarding federal recognition for the Little Shell of the Chippewa Tribe. During the WGA breakfast in February, Governor Bullock mentioned law enforcement challenges in Indian country.

Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana
The Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana (Little Shell) is made up of the descendants of Métis Indians (mixed-blood, or half-blood, Indians and often the offspring of French fur trappers and

Indian mothers), and was historically treated different than other Pembina Indians by the US because of their mixed-blood heritage. The US government refused to deal with Métis Indians because it viewed them as having Indian ancestry, but not being Indian, which in turn forced the Métis ancestors of the Little Shell tribe to seek other Métis settlements on the outskirts of towns like Helena, Great Falls, and Butte, MT.

In 1978, Little Shell first submitted its intent to petition the Federal government for acknowledgment as an Indian tribe under Federal law. In 1995, their petition was complete, beginning a long review process by the Office of Federal Aeknowledgment. Earlier this year, AS-IA agreed to suspend reconsideration of the issues referred from the IBIA until after the promulgation of newly revised regulations on the Federal acknowledgment process, which is currently underway.

The Department recently published a Proposed Rule in the Federal Register, which revises the Part 83 regulations on Federal acknowledgment. After all public comments are received a final rule may be drafted. The Office of the AS-IA has asked that Little Shell request within 90 days of publication of the final rule for us to begin reconsideration of its petition under the grounds referred to the Department by the IBIA, and any new grounds which may result from changes in the regulations. The Little Shell tribe's petition for Federal acknowledgment has the support of its sister tribes in Montana, the Governor's office and the State of Montana, which recognized the Tribe in 2000.

Law Enforcement Issues

On July 29, 2010 the President signed the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 into law. There are several requirements specific to the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services (OJS). One such requirement is that the OJS submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, for each fiscal year, a detailed spending and unmet needs report regarding tribal public safety and justice programs.

State of Montana funding (FY 2012)

	Actuals	*BIA Estimate of Unmet Need*
Criminal Investigation & Police	$15,553,374	$8,748,209 = 34% unmet
Detention	$9,388,285	$7,254,249 = 38% unmet

Montana Tribes

- Crow Agency - Tribal leadership feels the agency is not adequately staffed for the amount of acreage and population. They have requested that our allocated funded positions be increased to meet the demands on the Crow Reservation. They are also concerned with the length of time it takes to hire police officers and get them on board.
- Northern Cheyenne Agency - Tribal leadership is concerned with the recent turnover in employees, as well as the length of time it takes to hire and train new officers.
- Blackfeet - The current and ongoing conflict at this agency has consumed most of their time. They are also concerned with funding.
- Funding is the primary concern for the following: Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Rocky Boy.

ABANDONED MINE LAND (AML) FUNDING

Governor Matt Mead (WY) may wish to discuss this with you. He sent a letter in May 2014 regarding the review and reversal of OSM's decision on AML funding to Wyoming.

Governor Mead's letter requested reconsideration of our estimate that Wyoming will be allocated approximately $53.8 million in AML funding in Fiscal Year 2015. After review and consultation with the Office of the Solicitor at the Department of the Interior, we conclude that OSMRE's interpretation of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), as amended, is correct. There is a response letter currently making its way through the surname process at Interior.

INVASIVE SPECIES

WGA Chairman John Hickenlooper's (CO) staff indicated that Governors may ask you about invasive species efforts.

A number of western states have expressed dissatisfaction with the federal level of support and coordination to control and prevent the spread of invasive species. The WGA has called invasive species "... one of our country's biggest environmental problems" in a recent WGA resolution that expresses concerns over the continued introduction and spread of invasive species in Western states, including:

- the perceived lack of coordination among federal agencies;
- the need to prioritize resources to focus on those species with the greatest potential to cause economic harm;
- the importance of linking invasive species management to broader Departmental and Administration goals.

Invasive Species Examples

Global damage from invasive species is estimated at upwards of $1.4 trillion or about 5 percent of the global economy. Examples for the western US:

- Cheatgrass is estimated to infest over 56 million acres across 17 western states impacting rangelands, changing the native plant community, and increasing fire frequency. This grass can produce more than 10,000 plants per square yard leaving behind thick dry fuels and creating extreme wildfire hazards. With each new fire, cheatgrass reseeds to further change the native plant community and increase fire threats.
- Quagga and zebra mussels have spread from the Great Lakes to much of the U.S., clogging water intake and delivery pipes, infesting hydropower infrastructure, and negatively impacting native species. An annual loss of $22 million is estimated for the Lake Tahoe region if quagga or zebra mussels become established there. Funding for quagga and zebra mussel prevention and coordination has been included within the FY 14 President's Budget.

Ongoing Initiatives at Interior

Interior agencies are working to cooperate and coordinate more closely to enhance invasive species prevention and control programs through existing agency programs as well as working on a multi-agency and multi-departmental basis through the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) - which you co-chair - and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) co-chaired by the FWS and NOAA. NISC and ANSTF have established a federal working group to strengthen and harmonize policies and regulations to stop the introduction of invasive species onto or off of DOI lands - especially invasive zebra and quagga mussels in western states. The Pulling Together Initiative, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with funding from the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service, fosters local cooperative weed coalitions to improve the effectiveness of local invasive plant programs.

Interior recently approved the Invasive Species Action Plan to target limited resources more effectively and efficiently. This approved Action Plan includes 5 recommendation areas and 25 action items that will help Interior get our house in order on this important issue. Some topline items include:

- The development of a multi-year strategy with annual operations plans to guide improved alignment of invasive species programs and to provide regular briefings for the Department's senior leadership.
- The development of a Departmental policy providing guidance to more effectively align and execute resources in support of invasive species prevention, detection, rapid response, and control.
- Coordination of a departmental informational management effort on invasive species to create efficiencies and eliminate duplication. This would include an effort to better standardize data collection and increase transparency. And;
- The development of an EDRR framework for invasive species that outlines protocols and guidance for the allocation of resources.

Next Steps

- Streamline the FWS injurious species listing process to keep harmful species out of the nation.
- Partner with NFWF to support actions to address early those invasive species not yet widely established through Early Detection and Rapid Response.
- Strengthen existing regional coordination efforts (e.g. the Pacific Islands and Everglades) and build new regional efforts (e.g. the Arctic and Great Lakes) as appropriate to enhance our ability to address invasive species threats and damages.
- Early in 2014, the WGA wrote to the co-chairs of NISC (including you) expressing interest in working with NISC on the revision of the National Invasive Species Management Plan. NISC and WGA staff held a conference call in late March 2014 to discuss this issue. NISC looks forward to working with WGA on the management plan update this summer or in early fall.

MARIJUANA

Background

Cultivating marijuana is illegal under the Federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970 (CSA). Several Western states have decriminalized production/use of marijuana. Reclamation recently issued a Temporary Reclamation Manual Policy to address the potential use of Reclamation water (or facilities to convey other entities' water) used to irrigate marijuana.

Discussion

After consulting with the DOI Solicitor's Office and the Department of Justice, Reclamation has concluded it has an obligation to operate its facilities in a manner consistent with the CSA. The application of the CSA to Reclamation projects is founded in Section 8 of the 1902 Reclamation Act which requires the federal government follow state law when acquiring water rights for Federal reclamation projects and distributing project water, unless the relevant state law conflicts with an express congressional enactment (such as the CSA).

Policy

Reclamation will: (1) not approve requests for use of its facilities or water to cultivate marijuana; (2) report such uses to DOJ if they become known to Reclamation; and (3) compile/maintain records of all activities/communications regarding known or potential prohibited uses of its water or facilities. *Note:* Commingling of Reclamation and non-Reclamation water in non-Federal facilities does not subject the non-Reclamation water to the restrictions on Reclamation water and facilities addressed in the Policy.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, June 6, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS JAMESTOWN. The AP (6/6, Szkotak) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell toured Jamestown on Thursday to highlight climate change's threat to the first permanent European settlement in America. Guided by NPS rangers, Jewell hiked around the island, including Black Point, which is threatened by erosion. In an interview Jewell said, "I know enough now having been in this job looking at vulnerable sites that this is a highly vulnerable site. We don't have very many places in the United States that talk about the super-early history of settlers connecting with the native people of the land, so this is a really an important place."

The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (6/5, 206K) reports that that after the tour, Jewell met with representatives of the NPS, state and local officials, municipal engineers and scientists. During the roundtable discussion, "they discussed market forces such as higher property insurance premiums that could drive development away from eroding coasts, business owners as a resource for innovative ideas, and regional cooperation to adapt to a changing landscape."

Also reporting on the story are the Newport News (VA) Daily Press (6/5, 206K), the South Florida Sun Sentinel (6/5, 779K), and the Mail Online (UK) (6/6, 2.97M).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (6/6, 4.22M), Yahoo! (6/6, Szkotak, 17.91M), FOX News (6/5, 6.72M), the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (6/6, 333K), the Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (6/6, 422K), the Lynchburg (VA) News & Advance (6/6, 77K), the Myrtle Beach (SC) Online (6/5, 52K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/5, 687K), the Youngstown (OH) Vindicator (6/5, 149K), the Fairfield (CT) Citizen (6/6, 18K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (6/6, 83K).

Local TV coverage was provided by WAVY-TV (6/6).

NISQUALLY WILDLIFE REFUGE CENTER TO BE NAMED FOR NORM DICKS. The Olympian (WA) (6/5, 119K) reports that former Congressman Norm Dicks will be honored Friday at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge with "a ceremony to name of the visitor center after him." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and FWS Director Dan Ashe are "scheduled to attend the 11 a.m. event that also includes remarks" from Sen. Maria Cantwell, Reps. Derek Kilmer and Denny Heck, and Nisqually Indian Tribe members.

Also covering the story are the Bellingham (WA) Herald (6/5, 163K) and the Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (6/5, 338K).

INVESTIGATORS FIND "INAPPROPRIATE" BEHAVIOR BY FORMER ASSISTANT INTERIOR SECRETARY BABAUATA. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that Anthony Babauta, the assistant secretary for insular affairs until January 2013, "directed federal money to friends, complimented an employee on her 'hot ass' and stayed rent-free with another subordinate, according to the agency's inspector general." His "transgressions are detailed in a 33-page report."

Also reporting on the story are Politico (6/6, Guillén, 637K), USA Today (6/5, 5.82M), the Pacific (GUM) Daily News (6/6, 61K), the Pacific (GUM) Daily News (6/6, 61K), the Pacific News Center (6/6), the Pacific News Center (6/6), and the Marianas Variety (6/6).

REPORT FINDS INTERIOR'S WEBSITE OUTAGE AGGRAVATED BY MISCOMMUNICATION, POOR PLANNING. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that the NPS has "hosted the Interior Department's website for five years – but no one has ever put that in writing." Instead, "the arrangement was made verbally, between two people who no longer work at Interior, according to a new report from the agency's inspector general." The report "recounts the IG's inspection of an outage in January that shut down both Interior's main website and the IG's website for seven days." In the report, IG auditors "detail 'several concerns with DOI's web hosting services,' such as insufficient contingency planning, incomplete documentation and confusion over who was responsible for what."

Also reporting on the story is the Washington Times (6/6, Swarts, 455K).

WESTERN UTILITY REGULATORS MULL REGIONAL COOPERATION ON EPA RULE. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that "Western state utility regulators may have to work together to comply with US EPA's proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, but they're warning it's much easier said than done." At a conference of Western public service commissioners, "one of the issues that quickly emerged was the question of what to do if a coal-fired plant in one state shuts down while still having a contract with a utility in another state, a common situation in the West." EPA's senior counsel for air and radiation, Joe Goffman, "told attendees that working across state lines was an option."

Industry Criticizes EPA Proposed CO2 Emissions Rule. The Hill (6/6, Cama, 237K) reports that the American Petroleum Institute is arguing that the EPA's proposal to reduce CO2 emissions from power plants is counter to the industry. Gerard said, "The administration recognizes this success and has been vocal in its support for natural gas. But the administration's public commitment to natural gas and embrace of our industry's economic and environmental benefits stands in stark contrast to their broader energy policy." He cited a Congressional Research Service report from April 2014 that found that from 2009 to 2013, "oil production on federal land fell 6 percent, while gas production dropped 28 percent."

OP-ED: IZEMBEK ROAD WOULD THREATEN FOOD SUPPLY OF ALASKA NATIVES. In an op-ed for the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (6/5, 251K), Myron Naneng, president of the Association of Village Council Presidents, writes that "after decades of restoration work, it would be a step backward to allow a road through

important habitat of black brant and other subsistence waterfowl in Izembek National Wildlife Refuge." Naneng notes that "the Pacific black brant and emperor geese that rest and feed at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge during their spring and fall migrations are an important food source for villages throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and the proposed road would harm the refuge and destroy habitat that is vital for these and other species that feed Alaska Native families." Naneng argues that "by rejecting the proposed land exchange and road," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the Interior "fulfilled their legal obligation to protect subsistence and supported years of waterfowl restoration work."

Also providing coverage are The Hill (6/6, Cama, 237K), FOX News (6/5, 6.72M), the Ketchikan (AK) SitNews (6/6), the Kenai (AK) Peninsula Clarion (6/4, 17K), the Nation Sun News (6/6), and KTOO-FM Juneau, AK (6/5).

CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERT: SECRETARY JEWELL HELPS SHAPE EXPAND CIVIL RIGHTS. For the Constitution Daily (6/6), Lyle Denniston, the National Constitution Center's adviser on constitutional literacy, writes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's role in shaping the meaning of the Constitution. He notes that "in an appearance May 30 at a historic site in New York City's Greenwich Village, Jewell announced a new National Park Service program to identity places and events that have figured prominently in the history of the gay rights movement in America." According to Denniston, "that movement is the latest of a series of constitutional revolutions to expand civil rights."

Additional coverage of the announcement that the NPS is "launching a study to identify and commemorate sites and events important to the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans" was provided by Yahoo! (6/5, Lim, Writer, 17.91M) .

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK BEGINS PROJECT TO REPLACE GRAND LOOP ROAD. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that Yellowstone National Park "this week began a new project to widen a 16-mile stretch of road between Norris Geyser Basin and the Golden Gate area with the first phase costing $20 million." According to parks advocates, "replacement of the Grand Loop, which began in 1987, will end up costing more than $1 billion." The article notes that the "money won't come out of NPS's appropriated budget, which only covers minor maintenance like snowplowing, patching and restriping," but rather, will "come out of the federal highway bill."

RESEARCHERS FIND EVIDENCE OF FIRST-EVER HATCHING OF CONDOR CHICK IN UTAH. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that "the decades-long effort to recover the endangered California condor appears to have reached a major milestone, with researchers announcing they have evidence of the first-ever hatching of a condor chick in the wild in Utah." The article notes that "the news is significant, researchers say, because it's clear evidence that the iconic bird, which was on the brink of extinction three decades ago, is expanding its habitat range, giving it a much better chance of survival." Wildlife biologists say "they must still visually confirm that the California condor chick has hatched in a nest built about 1,000 feet above the floor of Kolob Canyons in southwest Utah's Zion National Park."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (6/6).

CONTRACTOR ADMITS TO DIRECTING ILLEGAL DUMPING INTO POTOMAC RIVER. The Washington Post (6/6, Zapotosky, 4.22M) reports that "a government contractor tasked with cleaning out the Mall's storm water sewer system admitted Thursday that he often had employees dump waste into the Potomac River — a federal crime that could land him in prison for about four years, authorities said." Patrick Brightwell "pleaded guilty in US District Court in D.C. to one count of violating the Clean Water Act by knowingly discharging a pollutant without a permit and one count of presenting false claims to the United States, authorities said."

CEREMONY TO MARK D-DAY ANNIVERSARY. The AP (6/6) reports that the NPS and the Friends of the World War II Memorial will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings of Allied troops in Normandy on Friday with "a ceremony and wreath laying at the World War II Memorial in Washington." The article notes that "D-Day veterans, along with representatives from the Allied Nations that participated in the Normandy Campaign,

will take part in laying wreaths along the Memorial's Freedom Wall."

NPS ANNOUNCES NEW INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. The Miami Herald (6/6, Staletovich, 822K) reports that the NPS announced Thursday that Bob Krumenaker will take over as the new acting superintendent for Everglades National Park as well as Dry Tortugas National Park for the next three months.

FIVE ARKANSAS PROPERTIES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The AP (6/6) reports that "five more Arkansas properties have been added to the National Register of Historic Places." The article notes that "the newly listed properties include the Morrilton Colored School, which served black students in Conway County from the 1930s until 1965; the V.C. Kays House on the Arkansas State University campus in Jonesboro; and the Northern Ohio School in Parkin in Cross County." The register also "added the Hankins Store in Oil Trough and the Mary H. Matthews Lustron House in Little Rock."

TWO HISTORIC SITES IN VIRGINIA ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The AP (6/6) reports that Plains Mill and the Melrose Caverns and Harrison Farmstead in Rockingham County have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM IDENTIFIES PROBLEMS IN PLAN FOR NEW MONUMENT. The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (6/6, 94K) reports that the BLM has "identified some recurring issues and some new ones it hopes to resolve in the plan for the new national monument that will sit on the San Luis Valley's doorstep." The article notes that "President Barack Obama created the 243,000-acre monument by proclamation last year and the BLM has issued a 98-page scoping report that summarizes public comment and lays out what is within the agency's authority to hash out in the management plan."

BLM RELEASES REPORT ON RED RIVER LAND. The San Antonio Express-News (6/6, 718K) reports that the BLM has published a "scoping report" of how North Texans viewed a disputed 116-mile stretch along the Red River. The article notes that "of its 160 pages laying out why the review must be undertaken, how the bureau involved interested parties and how the public reacted, more than one-third is public comment that ranges from the mildly concerned or instructive to the downright damning."

Also reporting on the story is KAMR-TV Amarillo, TX (6/6, 428).

RANCHERS DELIVER PETITIONS TO NEVADA GOV. SANDOVAL. In an op-ed for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (6/6, 22K), Randy Witte, a retired publisher of Western Horseman magazine, writes that "the Nevada Grass March Pony Express including ranchers, cowboys, and livestock supporters from across the state of Nevada rode horseback from Elko to the state capital in Carson City in support of the Pete Tomera family, the Filippini families and other ranchers permitted in the Argenta Allotment." The riders and supporters delivered petitions on May 30 to Gov. Brian Sandoval, which "included over a thousand signatures requesting that BLM Battle Mountain District Manager Doug Furtado be replaced because of his refusal to work with the livestock permittees in his district." According to Witte, "no one expects the petition to make any difference in Furtado's job security, but the ride represents a groundswell of interest in combating a bureaucracy that has become 'anti-cow' on public lands."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DROPS CRIMINAL CHARGES OVER DAMAGED BIRD NEST. The San Francisco Chronicle (6/6, Jones, Sernoffsky, 3.33M) reports that the FWS "dropped its criminal case Thursday against a Bay Point tree trimmer who injured baby night herons outside an Oakland post office last month." The article notes that "the move comes after" Rep. Darrell Issa, chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, "described the criminal probe as 'bureaucratic bullying' and ordered a congressional inquiry." FWS officials did not "elaborate on why they decided to drop the case."

The Washington Times (6/5, Mcelhatton, 455K) reports that in a statement Thursday released by his office, Issa

said, "I'm glad to hear that in the case of Mr. Pulido, the bureaucratic bullies have backed down. The decision to press charges in the first place seems to have been based more on public outcry from outside groups and less on common sense. Mr. Pulido made a mistake, but took responsibility and made substantial efforts to make amends."

For FOX News (6/5, 6.72M), William La Jeunesse writes that "the federal government is not shy about prosecuting those who violate threatened and endangered species laws," citing cases against Pulido, marine biologist Nancy Black, and New York City birdwatcher Lincoln Karim. The article notes that their cases "contrast their treatment to that of the wind industry." Under a new Obama Administration policy, wind farm operators are getting 30-year permits to kill protected species.

SPORTSMEN WANT GOVERNORS TO FOLLOW WYOMING ON SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that "a leading hunting and angling group is urging Western governors to adopt Wyoming's groundbreaking approach to greater sage grouse protection, asserting the strategy offers the best chance to balance grouse conservation and ongoing energy development." Backcountry Hunters & Anglers on Thursday "released a new report concluding that the strategy implemented in 2008 that has mapped core grouse habitat statewide and limited development activity there may offer the best chance to keep the bird off the endangered species list." The article notes that "the Wyoming strategy designated roughly 15 million acres of core sage grouse areas, including breeding grounds called leks, which are critical to the grouse's survival."

CALIFORNIA BOARD LISTS GRAY WOLF AFTER OR-7 REARS PUPS IN OREGON. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that the California Fish and Game Commission has "voted to include gray wolves on the state's endangered list after biologists announced that a wolf famous for visiting from Oregon has fathered pups 50 miles from the border." According to FWS biologist John Stephenson, "OR-7, the gray wolf equipped with a satellite tracking collar, became the first known to have raised pups so far to the south and west since the animals were reintroduced to the Northern Rockies in the 1990s." the article notes that "the presence of pups so close to the border indicates it won't be long before the wolves begin making more frequent visits to California."

"ANTIQUES ROADSHOW" BANS TUSKS. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that "as African elephant poaching surges a world away, visitors to 'Antiques Roadshow' will no longer be able to have their ivory tusks assessed." PBS announced on Wednesday that "no new or existing segments containing tusks will be aired on the popular series featuring professional valuations of a wide variety of items." The article notes that "antique musical instruments and other items that include ivory will continue to be appraised, but viewers will be informed on what PBS called 'the larger issues at hand.'"

FISHING ORGANIZATIONS JOIN TO FORM NATIONAL LOBBYING COALITION. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that "commercial fishermen from around the country have come together to form the Seafood Harvesters of America, a new national organization designed to represent their interests in the policy arena in Washington, D.C." the article notes that "fourteen fishing organizations representing areas ranging from the New England coast to Alaska's Bering Sea have signed on to the group." The objective is "to have their views represented as lawmakers and federal agencies move forward with laws and policy that affect their businesses."

REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ON SHOOTING OF BALD EAGLE. The AP (6/6) reports that the FWS is "offering a reward for information in a shooting that led to the death of a bald eagle in Montgomery." FWS spokesman Tom MacKenzie said in a statement Thursday that "a total of $7,500 in reward money from several agencies is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the eagle's death."

Also reporting on the story is the Alabama Live (6/6, 75K).

FWS RESTORES BLUEBACK HERRING TO CONNECTICUT RIVER. The Daily Hampshire (MA) Gazette (6/6, 54K) reports that due to the efforts of the FWS and other conservation groups "there are now thousands more fish in the Valley than there were just over a month ago." During the month of May, biologists with the FWS in Sunderland "transferred over 4,000 blueback herring from Wethersfield Cove, Connecticut, to parts of the Connecticut River once blocked by dams but which now are accessible by the fish passageways that have been built."

CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO SAVE ENDANGERED HAWAIIAN DUCK. The AP (6/6) reports that "wildlife officials are starting a campaign to save the endangered Hawaiian duck, or koloa." The FWS has "recommended removing feral mallard ducks to help prevent the koloa from becoming extinct."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BOEM'S LEASING OF TEST SITE FOR OCEAN CURRENT TURBINES. Additional coverage of BOEM's leasing of a test site to evaluate underwater turbines powered by ocean currents was provided by Reuters (6/6, Fagenson), the Broward Palm Beach (FL) New Times (6/6, 126K), the South Florida Sun Sentinel (6/8, 779K), the Power Engineering (6/6), and the Penn Energy (6/6, 128).

Onshore Energy Development:

INDUSTRY ANALYSTS: NO SIGNS OF DRILLING SLOWDOWN THIS DECADE. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that "defying warnings of an inevitable price decline and talk of an unsustainable bubble, the shale oil boom underway in the United States should continue unabated for at least until the end of the decade, industry analysts are saying." According to the article, "arguing that there is little reason to expect a decline in the price of crude much below $100 per barrel for the foreseeable future, oil and gas market watchers say the US can expect production to continue to grow, with or without California's Monterey Shale, where the estimate of recoverable oil has been drastically reduced."

Offshore Energy Development:

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD SAYS GULF OPERATIONS STILL UNSAFE. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that "four years after the deadly Macondo offshore well blowout and explosion, oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico remains unsafe despite scores of reform efforts, an independent federal investigative team warns in a report." The article notes that "the accident at the Deepwater Horizon rig that killed 11 workers and seriously injured 17 sparked a wide-reaching reform initiative for offshore drilling regulations with authorities dissolving one federal agency and creating three new ones in its place." However, "in a new investigation of the 2010 oil spill that could spark fresh debate over offshore oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico and beyond, the US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board concludes that all these changes aren't enough."

Bloomberg News (6/6, Polson, 2.76M) reports that according to a report by the US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board made public on Thursday, there are still "flaws in safety equipment and procedures used on Gulf of Mexico rigs" four years after the Deepwater Horizon spill. The report found that regulators and drillers aren't understanding blowout preventer limits, and current safety rules "may not prevent another catastrophic spill."

The New York Times (6/6, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Thursday a report by the US Chemical Safety Board warned that "another disastrous offshore oil well blowout could happen despite regulatory improvements in the four years" following the Deepwater Horizon spill. The report detailed similar findings as other government reports following the disaster. However, this latest report focused on the Macondo well's blowout preventer, which malfunctioned prior to the explosion. CSB official Cheryl MacKenzie in a statement said, "Although there have been regulatory improvements since the accident, the effective management of safety-critical elements has yet to be established. This results in potential safety gaps in U.S. offshore operations and leaves open the possibility of another similar catastrophic accident."

The Washington Post (6/6, Mufson, 4.22M) reports that according to a statement from the American Petroleum Institute Thursday's report "appears to omit significant facts and ignores the tremendous strides made to enhance the safety of offshore operations" since the Deepwater Horizon spill. The statement also said, "There is nothing here that hasn't already been exhaustively addressed by regulators and the industry."

FuelFix (6/5, 7K) reports that the report's conclusions aren't considered final and will serve "only to help

determine the agency's potential recommendations to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the American Petroleum Institute, two key bodies that oversee and influence the U.S. offshore industry." API spokesman Brian Straessle said, "There is nothing here that hasn't already been exhaustively addressed by regulators and the industry. The report appears to omit significant facts and ignores the tremendous strides made to enhance the safety of offshore operations. Offshore drilling is safer today because industry and the government have enhanced spill prevention, containment and response, implemented new standards and rules, and focused on strong safety culture."

The AP (6/6) reports the American Petroleum Institute on Thursday in a statement said the report "ignores the tremendous strides made to enhance the safety of offshore operations."

Reuters (6/6) reports that a BP spokesman indicated that the findings were consonant with other probes into the accident, including a Coast Guard probe.

Also providing coverage are the Wall Street Journal, (6/6, Gold, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) The Hill (6/6, Cama, 237K), McClatchy (6/6, Banerjee, Subscription Publication, 23K), the Alabama Live (6/6, 75K), Platts (6/6, 2K), the Oil and Gas Journal (6/6, 1K), the Oil and Gas Journal (6/6, 1K), the Upstream Online (6/6, 20K), and WWL-TV New Orleans (6/6, 107K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BILL WOULD SPEED CONSTRUCTION OF WATER STORAGE PROJECTS. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that "with much of the western United States gripped by drought," Sen. John Barrasso is floating legislation "aimed at speeding the construction of new water storage projects." The legislation would make the BOR "responsible for coordinating all analyses, opinions, permits and other aspects of project reviews for new water storage projects." The measure would also set a timeline for agency decisions.

SNAKE RIVER FLOWS BEING INCREASED TO BENEFIT TROUT. KIFI-TV Idaho Falls, ID (6/6, 23K) reports that "Snake River water flows below Palisades Dam are being increased to benefit native fisheries." The BOR said "flows would reach 18,500 cubic feet per second by Sunday." Michael Beus, Water Operations Manager for BOR's Upper Snake Field Office, said, "The objective of this operation is to disrupt non-native rainbow trout spawning to benefit native cutthroat trout. A flow of 18,500 cfs below the dam will result in about 20,000 cfs at the Snake River near Heise gage, approximately 48 river miles downstream."

Empowering Native American Communities:

PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS COMMITMENT TO NATIVE AMERICANS. In an op-ed for the Indian Country Today Media Network (6/5, 45K), President Obama wrote that next week, he will travel to "Indian country," visiting the Standing Rock Sioux in North Dakota. Obama added that while there, "I'll announce the next steps my Administration will take to support jobs, education, and self-determination in Indian country." After highlighting his Administration's efforts to aid Native Americans, the President wrote, "I believe that during my Administration, we've turned a corner together. We're writing a new chapter in our history—one in which agreements are upheld, tribal sovereignty is respected, and every American Indian and Alaskan Native who works hard has the chance to get ahead. That's the promise of the American Dream. And that's what I'm working for every day—in every village, every city, every reservation—for every single American."

Holder Meets With Native American Teens In North Dakota. The Washington Post (6/6, Horwitz, 4.22M) reports Attorney General Holder spoke with a dozen "Native American teenage boys" in North Dakota Thursday, urging them "to dream big, work hard and, as they make their way growing up in Indian country – where sexual violence, rape and abuse of women is rampant – treat women like they would want their mothers and sisters to be treated." Holder said, "If you mistreat women, you're not a man. You're a punk." The Post says the meeting was part of a Justice Department effort "to create a dialogue between law enforcement and young Native American men about their day-to-day experiences on the reservation and their interactions with the criminal justice system."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (6/6).

SEN. TESTER CALLS FOR SPEEDY DISTRIBUTION OF COBELL SETTLEMENT. The Nation Sun News (6/6) reports that Sen. Jon Tester "urged the administrator of the $3.4 billion Cobell settlement to distribute checks to Indian beneficiaries as soon as possible." The article notes that the payment for the Trust Administration Class, has been "tied up for a number of reasons," but Judge Thomas F. Hogan "approved distribution of the payment while the appeals process continues." Tester said, "This ruling clears the way for hundreds of thousands of Native Americans to receive their long-delayed payments. I encourage the Garden City Group to quickly get these payments out the door for Indian families who have been asking for justice."

BIA REVIEW FINDS MAJOR PROBLEMS IN BLACKFEET COURT SYSTEM. The AP (6/6, Volz) reports that "federal officials have threatened to cut off funding to the Blackfeet courts after finding unqualified and unvetted judges, prosecutors and staff running an unstable system that denies due process to those who appear before it and is overly influenced by tribal leaders." A BIA review "sent to tribal leaders Wednesday gave the court system failing marks in complying with its federal contract and identified 18 problems needing immediate action." The review also said "the tribe needs to grant the judicial system greater independence from the ruling Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, which exerts significant influence that affects the courts' ability to operate fairly and impartially."

ALASKA NATIVES FEELING EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. The E&E Daily (6/5) reports that Alaska Natives are "already feeling the effects of climate change and stand to be one of the most impacted populations in the country." The article notes that "rising temperatures and oceans in the north are not only impacting the salmon runs, but also eroding the coastline near villages."

NEW REGULATIONS STREAMLINING SITE LEASING ON NAVAJO NATION SUPPORTED. In an editorial, the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (6/6, 46K) supports the Interior Department's "approval of new regulations that streamline residential and business site leasing on the Navajo Nation." The paper notes that "it is expected the move will support economic development on the reservation." Also, the regulations "can protect natural and cultural treasures on Nation land."

Top National News:

OBAMA FORCEFULLY DEFENDS HIS DECISION TO SWAP TALIBAN LEADERS FOR BERGDAHL. Despite President Obama speaking out in defense of the deal that secured the release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, coverage of the controversy over the swap diminished somewhat on Thursday. However, it was still the lead story on NBC Nightly News (6/5, lead story, 3:20, 7.86M), which featured reports suggesting that the White House is "changing its story" about the circumstances surrounding the deal after its initial justification was questioned by both Democrats and Republicans. While widely noted, the President's comments in Brussels about the deal for Bergdahl are not the central focus of most reports.

At the opening of NBC Nightly News (6/5, lead story, 3:20, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that "when Americans first heard that...Bergdahl was being released...it was greeted as good news, plain and simple," but "the story has become a lot more complicated since then," and "it now appears the White House is changing its story." Jim Miklaszewski added that the Administration has claimed that Bergdahl's poor health drove them to complete the deal as soon as possible, but "medical teams that reviewed" the most recent video of Bergdahl supplied by his captors "determined that Bergdahl did not appear in grave condition or in danger of dying." Following that determination, "the White House...came up with still another story line – that President Obama could not tell key members of Congress about the prisoner swap in advance because, if it leaked out, the Taliban would kill Bergdahl." However, Miklaszewski pointed out that the White House nevertheless told Senate Majority Leader Reid about the pending swap "the day before Bergdahl was freed."

Also on NBC Nightly News (6/5, story 3, 1:30, Williams, 7.86M), Chuck Todd reported from Paris that "we still haven't heard a clear explanation from aides traveling with the President about why the White House's story changed today, other than chalking it up to media leaks." Likewise, on the CBS Evening News (6/5, story 2, 1:55, Dubois, 5.08M), Bill Plante reported that "Bergdahl's health was the Administration's original reason for expediting the mission and not telling Congress," but now the White House says it "had to move quickly because of death threats from the Taliban if word of the deal got out."

Politico (6/5, Everett, 637K) reported that Sen. Jay Rockefeller, "a former Intelligence Committee chairman and current committee member, said the White House 'didn't give us any information' of such a threat, even after the fact or at the Wednesday classified briefing." Rockefeller is quoted as saying, "They said they briefed us, which took me back to the days of the previous administration, when we were always said to be briefed and we weren't at all."

On the CBS Evening News (6/5, story 2, 1:55, Dubois, 5.08M), Bill Plante reported that in Brussels on Thursday, the President "doubled down in defense of his decision to swap Taliban prisoners for...Bergdahl without telling Congress." Plante also reported that on Thursday, White House officials insisted that they "would make the prisoner swap in a heartbeat." On NBC Nightly News (6/5, story 3, 1:30, Williams, 7.86M), Chuck Todd said the President is "standing firm behind every part of his decision, including keeping Congress out of the loop."

McClatchy (6/6, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that the President "defended his administration's handling of the prisoner exchange with the Taliban, saying he makes 'absolutely no apologies for making sure that we get back a young man to his parents.'" McClatchy also notes that the President "said his administration 'had discussed with Congress the possibility that something like this might occur.'"

Reuters (6/5, Mason) quotes the President as saying, "I make absolutely no apologies for making sure that we get back a young man to his parents and that the American people understand that this is somebody's child. This is not some abstraction, this is not some political football. As Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, I am responsible for those kids."

Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (6/5, Munro, 408K), said that on Thursday, the President "portrayed U.S. soldiers as pitiable 'children' and 'kids' sent off to war, not as troops who made the decision to join the military as adults." Munro points out that on Friday, the President "will visit the beaches in Normandy, where in 1944 American soldiers as young as 16 assaulted German machine-gun sites."

Politico (6/5, Epstein, 637K) reported that the President "also said he wasn't surprised by the backlash coming from both parties," but "argued that it's important to put the whole episode in perspective and to keep in mind that regardless of Bergdahl's behavior or views leading up to his capture by the Taliban, he is still an American soldier for whom the commander-in-chief felt an obligation to bring home."

Under the headline "U.S. Undeterred From Closing Guantanamo," the Wall Street Journal (6/6, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Administration officials insist that the political furor over the release of five high-level Taliban detainees from Guantanamo Bay will not slow the President's push to close the detention facility.

McCain: Administration Claim That Bergdahl's Life Was In Danger "Very Unlikely." The AP (6/5, Dilanian, Riechmann) reports that Administration officials have told members of Congress that the President did not consult with them about the release of the five Taliban commanders from Guantanamo Bay, as he was required to by law, because the Taliban "had threatened to kill [Bergdahl] if the deal was made public before it happened." According to the AP, that "threat had been transmitted by Qatari officials."

The New York Times (6/6, Shear, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that an unidentified "senior administration official" released a statement on Thursday reading: "The Senators were told...that we had both specific and general indications that Sgt. Bergdahl's recovery – and potentially his life – could be jeopardized if the detainee exchange proceedings were disclosed or derailed." However, according to the Times, "Several lawmakers expressed skepticism that disclosure of the operation...would have jeopardized...Bergdahl's life," while "many Republicans said they doubted the threat at all." Sen. John McCain is quoted as saying, "This flies in the face of everything we know about the value of prisoners. Threatening to kill him is a very unlikely scenario."

McCain, Chambliss Say They Would Have Opposed Swap If They Had Been Asked. Politico (6/5, Everett, 637K) reported that after "CNN's Jake Tapper airing clips on Tuesday of McCain telling Anderson Cooper in February that the United States should 'seriously consider' a prisoner swap for the release of Bergdahl," McCain spokesman Brian Rogers said, "Had Cooper asked if Senator McCain would support a deal that freed five hard-core Taliban leaders, two of whom are wanted by the U.N. for war crimes for slaughtering thousands of Shiite

Muslims, under terms that allowed them to potentially return to the battlefield against America in a year, the answer would have been 'Hell no.'"

Politico (6/5, Everett, 637K) also reported that Sen. Saxby Chambliss says he "'absolutely' would have raised 'holy Hell' publicly had he gotten wind of the proposed released of five Taliban officials in a prisoner swap." According to Politico, Chambliss "said he would have gone public in opposition – just as he did two years ago when rumors of the release of Taliban fighters from Guantanamo rippled through Washington."

Fellow Democrats Reportedly Upset Over Obama's Perceived Mishandling Of Bergdahl Deal. Under the headline "Bergdahl Case Shakes Democrats' Confidence In Administration," the New York Times (6/6, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports the President's "handling of the Bergdahl prisoner exchange has renewed frustration among congressional Democrats about the administration's relations with its allies on Capitol Hill, and prompted criticism that the White House failed to prepare the lawmakers for the politically explosive case." The Times says "some Democrats" are "questioning the effectiveness of the administration's team," and one anonymous Senate Democrat is quoted as saying, "We have to quit putting out fires."

According to Politico (6/6, Nather, 637K), "For Democratic candidates...the Bergdahl case has been yet another reason to put a healthy distance between themselves" and the President. Politico notes that Sen. Jeanne Shaheen released a statement on Thursday reading: "I continue to have concerns about the Administration's failure to consult Congress."

WPost Analysis: Obama Is Already "Talking About Afghanistan In The Past Tense." According to the Washington Post (6/6, Goldfarb, Eilperin, 4.22M), the President's "aides" say the swap for Bergdahl was "a relatively easy choice" for him to make, although he is now "learning that many in the military are leaving Afghanistan still searching for clarity on what has been accomplished, and whether the fight was worth it." The Post says the President, "by contrast, is now talking about Afghanistan in the past tense." The Post adds that, in addition, "some military officials...are especially furious that the White House greeted the release of someone suspected of desertion with the trappings of celebration." The Post notes that Ralph Peters, a retired lieutenant colonel and intelligence officer, has written, "Both President Obama and [National Security Adviser Susan] Rice seem to think that the crime of desertion in wartime is kind of like skipping class," and "have no idea of how great a sin desertion in the face of the enemy is to those in our military."

Fox News: Bergdahl Described Himself As A "Warrior For Islam" And Carried A Gun While In Pakistan. In an online article titled "Bergdahl Declared Jihad In Captivity, Secret Documents Show," James Rosen of Fox News (6/5, 6.72M) reports that "according to secret documents prepared on the basis of a purported eyewitness account," Bergdahl "converted to Islam, fraternized openly with his captors and declared himself a 'mujahid,' or warrior for Islam." According to Rosen, at one point, Bergdahl was "reported to be happily playing soccer with the Haqqani fighters, taking part in AK-47 target practice and" was "permitted to carry a firearm of his own." However, Rosen also reports that Bergdahl was treated more like a captive at other points in the last four and a half years, including after failed escape attempts.

TIME (6/6, Baker, 24.1M) reported online that according to an anonymous "senior Taliban commander affiliated with the Haqqani network," Bergdahl "made several friends among his Taliban captors." The Washington Times (6/5, Emst, 455K) reports that former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, who was "hunted by the Taliban for five days," has questioned why Bergdahl was held captive rather than killed immediately, which Luttrell claims would have been his fate had he been caught by the Taliban.

Bergdahl Reportedly "Wandered Away" Form His Post Repeatedly. The New York Times (6/6, Savage, Schmitt, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "a classified military report detailing the Army's investigation into the disappearance of...Bergdahl in June 2009 says that he had wandered away from assigned areas before – both at a training range in California and at his remote outpost in Afghanistan – and then returned, according to people briefed on it." According to the Times, "The report is also said to cite members of his platoon as saying that he may have taken a shorter unauthorized walk outside the concertina wire of his combat outpost...before he left for good, in an incident that was apparently not reported up the chain of command."

The New York Times (6/6, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, says, "If anything, the report suggests that the army unit's lack of security and discipline was as much to blame for the disappearance, given

the sergeant's history." The Los Angeles Times (6/6, 3.46M) editorializes that "Bergdahl's conduct five years ago have been shamelessly exploited by Republicans."

The New York Times (6/6, Furber, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports on the evolving reaction to news about Bergdahl's capture and captivity in his home town of Hailey, Idaho.

Senators Have Different Reactions To Most Recent Video Of Bergdahl In Captivity. The Huffington Post (6/5, Bobic, 11.54M) reported that following "a closed-door, classified briefing on Wednesday," during which senators "viewed a 'proof of life' video taken of Bergdahl" earlier this year, "some senators...said Bergdahl appeared sickly," but Sen. Joe Manchin said, "That did not sell me at all."

David Martin, also on the CBS Evening News (6/5, story 3, 2:05, Dubois, 5.08M), reported that "medical analysis of a proof-of-life video the US received in January found that Bergdahl" was "in declining health," and did not mention that there were contrary assessments.

HUD Official Suggests Bergdahl Served With "Psychopaths." In an online article, Fox News (6/5, 6.72M) reports that Brandon Friedman, HUD's deputy assistant secretary for public affairs, has "apologized...after suggesting on Twitter that Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's platoon might have been filled with 'psychopaths.'" On Wednesday, Friedman tweeted: "Here's the thing about Bergdahl and the Jump-to-Conclusions mats: What if his platoon was long on psychopaths and short on leadership?" On Thursday, Friedman issued a statement reading: "While I just wanted to make the point that the public should wait before passing judgment, I unfortunately used my own poor judgment in choosing inappropriate language that many view as disparaging to U.S. service members."

MSNBC's Scarborough Blasts Obama For Embracing Bergdahl's Father. Mediaite (6/6, McMurry, 238K) reported that on MSNBC's Morning Joe, Chuck Todd scolded host Joe Scarborough for criticizing Bergdahl's father, Robert, for reportedly encouraging his son to desert and then reaching out to the Taliban while his son was in their custody. Scarborough criticized the President for putting "his arm around a man who is reaching out to pro-Taliban forces, talking about killing Americans." Scarborough continued, "I have a 26-year-old son, and if my son is out on the wire and he is out there with fellow troops and he writes me up and says he hates America and he's thinking about deserting...I'd say, 'Joey, you stay the hell right there.' ... I would not say 'Follow your conscience, son.' I would not reach out to the voice of jihad." According to Mediaite, Todd then asked, "So he's a bad father?" And Scarborough replied, "Yes! Yes, he is!"

Politico (6/5, Gold, 637K) reported that later on Thursday, Scarborough tweeted: "My criticism of White House staff was having a father in the Rose Garden who'd made highly questionable statements. Not in POTUS's interest."

The Hill (6/5, Sink, 237K) reported that on Thursday, the President "defended the decision to appear alongside Bergdahl's parents during an announcement of the deal on Saturday" although "some have argued that decision elevated the soldier's profile." The President is quoted as saying, "I think it was important to understand this is not some abstraction, not some political football."

David Brooks, in his column for the New York Times (6/6, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), endorses the deal made for Bergdahl, and says the President "made the right call." However, Brooks adds, "If he is to be faulted, it would be...for turning the release into an Oprah-esque photo-op, a political stunt filled with inaccurate rhetoric and unworthy grandstanding."

Taliban Celebrate Release Of Their Leaders, "Victory" Over The US. On NBC Nightly News (6/5, lead story, 3:20, 7.86M), correspondent Jim Miklaszewski reported that the Taliban "claims handing over Bergdahl in exchange for five Taliban prisoners has handed them a victory over America," while analysts contend that it also "provides an incentive to kidnap more Americans."

Likewise, on ABC World News (6/5, story 3, 2:10, Muir), correspondent Martha Raddatz reported that the Taliban is "celebrating," and "a senior Taliban commander" says "the deal for Bergdahl would 'definitely' encourage them to try to kidnap others," adding, "Now everybody will work hard to capture such an important bird like Bergdahl."

According to an online report from TIME (6/6, Baker, 24.1M), the Taliban "see the exchange as an unmitigated victory." Time says a "senior Taliban commander who is close to the senior Taliban leadership...describes scenes of intense jubilation among the Taliban leadership and their supporters." The "senior Taliban commander" is quoted as saying, "This is a historic moment for us. Today our enemy for the first time officially recognized our status."

State Department Defends Taliban Leaders' Freedom Of Movement Within Qatar. The Washington Post (6/6, A1, Gearan, 4.22M) reports that "people familiar with the negotiations" say that while they are in Qatar, the "five senior Taliban leaders...are subject to strict bans on militant incitement or fundraising that might pose a danger to the United States," and are "also under a one-year travel ban insisted upon by Washington despite a Taliban request that the men be allowed to make the hajj, Muslims' annual pilgrimage to nearby Saudi Arabia." Nevertheless, the Post says the Taliban leaders' "relative freedom of movement...has angered administration critics," who, "based partly on Qatar's past record with transferred Guantanamo detainees...fear that the five will be not be subject to the kind of strict monitoring that can prevent them from having a role in the Taliban insurgency." State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf is quoted as saying, "It's possible someone will see them on the streets of Qatar, but those types of activities don't threaten our national security interests, and that's the standard here about substantially mitigating the threat that they will pose."

On the CBS Evening News (6/5, story 4, 2:25, Dubois, 5.08M), Holly Williams reported that while the Taliban commanders are "not allowed to leave Qatar for 12 months...when the year is up, they'll be free to go wherever they choose."

Taliban Commander Released This Week Has Been Accused Of Having "Massacred Hundreds Of Civilians." The Los Angeles Times (6/5, Bengali, 3.46M) reports that Kate Clark of the Afghanistan Analysts Network, "a Kabul-based research group," claims that "a closer look at the former prisoners...indicates that not all were hard-core militants," but "one, Mohammed Fazl, appears to have a documented history as a military leader and dangerous extremist." According to the Times, Fazl, who served as chief of staff of the Taliban army, "is accused of commanding forces that massacred hundreds of civilians." Clark says Fazl "is the only one of the five to face accusations of explicit war crimes and they are, indeed, extremely serious."

Charles Krauthammer, in his column for the Washington Post (6/6, 4.22M), says the "five released detainees are unrepentant, militant and dangerous" – and are "likely to go back into the field and resume their war against local and foreign infidels, especially us."

However, in another column for the Washington Post (6/6, 4.22M), Eugene Robinson says, "The five Taliban commanders released...should properly be described as one-time Taliban commanders." According to Robinson, "It defies credulity that any of them could emerge after such a long absence and regain command."

WSJournal A1: US Officials Told The Taliban Congressional Approval Was Needed Before Detainees Could Be Released. In a front-page article titled "Taliban Held Fast To Their Demands In Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl Swap Talks," the Wall Street Journal (6/6, A1, Entous, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that throughout the several years of negotiations preceding last weekend's swap, the Taliban had insisted that they would not trade Bergdahl for anything less than the six Taliban leaders held at Guantanamo Bay, one of whom subsequently died. According to the Journal, the Administration's representatives told the Taliban that President Obama could not make such a deal without the approval of Congress and even showed them the legislation limiting the President's ability to release detainees.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (6/6, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) titled "Obama's Executive-Power Roller Coaster," Max Boot, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, accuses President Obama of claiming to be constrained by the limits of executive power when it suits him, such as when he sought Congressional approval for US involvement in Syria's civil war last year, but ignoring those constraints in other cases, such as this week's release of the Taliban leaders from Guantanamo Bay.

Pentagon Reportedly Explored Trading Taliban Leaders For US Civilian Hostages, As Well As Bergdahl. USA Today (6/6, Dorell, 5.82M) reports that according to Joe Kasper, chief of staff to Rep. Duncan Hunter, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, the Pentagon had been hoping to trade more Americans held in Afghanistan and Pakistan for the five Taliban commanders, "including Caitlan Coleman of York , Pa., her baby

who was born in captivity and her Canadian husband, Joshua Boyle," and "Warren Weinstein, a contractor from Rockville, Md., who was abducted in 2011 in Pakistan and is detained by al-Qaeda militants aligned with the Taliban." However, according to USA Today, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf "said Thursday the idea of negotiating for the release of civilian hostages was never seriously discussed."

Hunter Likens Kerry To Bergdahl. Politico (6/5, Breitman, 637K) reported that in an appearance on Fox News, Hunter said, "As John Kerry threw his medals over the White House fence and turned his back on all of his Vietnam brothers and sisters, that's what Bergdahl did."

FLOOD OF CHILDREN ACROSS BORDER SPARKS FEARS BORDER PATROL COULD BE OVERWHELMED. The Washington Times (6/6, Dinan, 455K) reports that the "flood of young children" crossing into the US from Mexico is "worse than the administration has previously acknowledged" and efforts to cope are "overwhelming" the Border Patrol, "according to an internal draft memo from the agency." The memo, written by Deputy Border Patrol Chief Ronald Vitello and dated May 30, "contradicts the administration's argument that the border is secure enough to begin legalizing current illegal aliens already in the U.S." Vitello "paints a picture of a government struggling to cope, leaving the children suffering poor conditions, agents unable to focus on major security threats and little sense that it will get better."

The New York Times (6/6, A12, Fausset, Belson, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports on the wave of women and unaccompanied minors that have arrived in the US in recent months, in particular focusing negatively on the fact that since Memorial Day weekend, "about 1,000 women and children" have been "dumped unceremoniously, wear and hungry" in Phoenix, set free to find their families around the nation. Overall, the piece portrays an immigration system totally overwhelmed by the flow of migrants.

More Than 1,000 Migrant Youths Held At Lackland AFB Shelter. The Los Angeles Times (6/6, Hennessy-Fiske, 3.46M) reports that 1,015 migrant youths are being held at an emergency shelter at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas that reopened just "two weeks ago in response to a new surge and is already approaching its capacity of 1,200 youths, ages 12 to 17." HHS officials led reporters "on a one-time, 40-minute tour of the facility" Thursday, but "did not allow interviews with youths, caseworkers or other staff."

Goodlatte Blasts DHS Changers To DREAMER Program. Roll Call (6/5, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 76K) reports that House Judiciary Chairman Robert Goodlatte on Thursday "blasted" the DHS' announcement "about the program helping certain undocumented immigrants to avoid deportation." In a statement, Goodlatte accused the Administration of "having 'quietly made several changes' to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program." Goodlatte says that the Administration has "loosened the educational requirements to allow those who are enrolled in an 'alternative program' (without defining what this means) to benefit from the program." He also "took issue" with a change that "would not explicitly require the administration to verify 'documentary evidence' that an applicant submits to prove that he or she meets the standards for a stay of deportation."

Cantor Explains Backing For "Amnesty" For Children Of Illegal Immigrants. The Washington Times (6/5, Chumley, 455K) reports that House Majority Leader Cantor "said granting amnesty to children of illegal immigrants is a biblically-based notion and that's why he supports it." Cantor said, "I've always said that there's a biblical root and a tradition in this country that says we don't hold children liable for their parents' acts, and when you have kids who may have been brought here, let's say, at 2 months old, unbeknownst to them, and they've been here all their lives and they want to serve in our military, my position has been I agree with that principle."

OMB REPORT ARGUES REGULATIONS HAVE MASSIVE NET FINANCIAL ADVANTAGES. The Hill (6/5, Goad, 237K) reports that the "major regulations reviewed by the White House over the last decade have resulted in as much as $863 billion in economic benefits, with costs amounting to a fraction of that total," according to the draft of an annual report that OMB presents to Congress. The report "analyzed the estimated economic impact of scores of rules enacted between 2003 and last year, concluding that rules subject to economic analysis yielded overall benefits between $217 billion and $863 billion," and costs of between $57 billion and $84 billion.

SEC Proposes Broad Slate Of New Rules. The New York Times (6/5, Alden, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that the stock market, over the past decade, has "transformed over the past decade into a place dominated by high-speed traders zapping orders to numerous exchanges, while regulators have been slow to react." Now, the SEC is looking to update the rules. On Thursday, SEC Chair Mary Jo White "unveiled a sweeping package of

recommendations for new rules and other changes aimed at strengthening the structure of the market and improving disclosures for investors." The changes "would touch virtually every corner of the market, including exchanges, private trading venues, brokerage firms and high-frequency traders."

Fish & Wildlife Drops Charges Against Worker Who Damaged Birds Nest. The Washington Times (6/5, Mcelhatton, 455K) reports that the US Fish & Wildlife Service "has dropped plans to pursue criminal charges against a California tree trimmer who accidentally injured some baby birds." The Times says that Ernesto Pulido said that the agency told him it had decided to drop the case, "an abrupt about-face just days after Rep. Darrell Issa, California Republican, called for a congressional inquiry."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Rush To Demonize Sgt. Bergdahl."*** The New York Times (6/6, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, says that if anything, a classified military report which shows that Bowe Bergdahl "had walked away from assigned areas at least twice before," suggests "that the army unit's lack of security and discipline was as much to blame for the disappearance, given the sergeant's history."

"Belatedly, Europe Takes On Low Inflation." The New York Times (6/6, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes the ECB announcements follows "months of doing too little," and earlier action could have resulted in "a bigger impact." The Times says the "weaker euro economies desperately need more help," and their governments should "provide stimulus with increased spending on public services," and until they halt cuts in spending and increasing taxes, "there is little hope for a vigorous economic recovery."

"After Heartbreak, Time For Results."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Israel Is Wrong To Reject The New Palestine"*** The Washington Post (6/6, 4.22M) editorializes that while the new Palestinian coalition "very well may" fail, the "unity movement offers at least the possibility of change and renovation." The Post says the Obama Administration is "right to give it a chance."

"No Place For Sexual Abuse In Our Justice System." The Washington Post (6/6, Editorial Staff, 4.22M) says in an editorial that 11 years after Congress unanimously passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act, only two states are in full compliance, "and prison rape is still a disgusting and pervasive problem across the country." The Post says the Justice Department must pressure states to comply, using the threat of Federal funding cuts if necessary.

"Just Call The Election Already." The Washington Post (6/6, 4.22M) says in an editorial that now that the District of Columbia Court of Appeals has ruled that the District Council did not have the authority to postpone the first-ever election of a District attorney general, the election should be promptly scheduled.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Once More Unto The Breach, Dear Draghi."*** The Wall Street Journal (6/6, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that Europe's struggling economy requires more than monetary policy changes by the central bank. The Journal says Europe requires broad and liberalizing economic reform.

"Putin Retakes Normandy." The Wall Street Journal (6/6, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that Russian President Vladimir Putin's interaction with Western leaders this week contradicts the narrative that Russia's removal from the G-8 meeting is a significant punishment.

"Rakoff vs. The Racket." The Wall Street Journal (6/6, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that US District Court Judge Jed Rakoff was correct in refusing to sign off on a 2011 settlement between the Securities and Exchange Commission and Citigroup, saying that the agency was using the power of the courts to strong-arm Citigroup.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
DEA Doctors Linked To Marijuana
New Doubt About Firm Scott Brown Advised
Newton Student Penalized For Democracy Notes In China
Mass. Gives First-Of-Its-Kind Parole Approval
Influence In City Lessening, A Top Executive Leaves Suffolk Construction

Boston Herald:
Selfies Led To Rape Rap Against Saugus Mom

Wall Street Journal:
GM Fires 15 Workers Over Recall Delays
BofA in Talks To Pay At Least $12 Billion To Settle Probes
Taliban Held Fast To Their Demands In Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl Swap Talks
Canada Aims To Sell Its Oil Beyond US

New York Times:
Tense Search, Chilling Note And An Arrest
Bergdahl Is Said To Have History Of Leaving Post
GM Inquiry Cites Years Of Neglect Over Fatal Defect
GM Response To A Fatal Flaw Was To Shrug
Words Washed From His Mouth Altered The War
War's Elite Tough Guys, Hesitant To Seek Healing

Washington Post:
Limits On Freed Detainees Outlined
GM: Faulty Ignitions Were Not Covered Up
An Omaha Beach Memoir
Opponents Of Health Law Turn To Faith-Based Alternative Plans
Senate Proposal Would Authorize $500 Million For Changes At VA

Financial Times:
ECB Goes Below Zero To Thaw Economy
BNP Eyes Shake-Up As Hefty US Fine Looms
Alibaba Buys 50% Of Chinese Football Club
GM Recall Report Blames Internal Culture
World Bank Backs Crédit Agricole Loans
Softbank Offers Robots With A Human Side
Japan's Shift To Equities Makes Sense

Washington Times:
Haqqani Network, Pakistan Terror Group, Grows Into Worst Enemy For US
Surge In Kids Illegally Crossing Into Us Alone Strains Border Patrol
For Each Man, A D-Day Duty: Fearless Fighters Turned The Tide Of World War II
US Missile Defense Plans In Taiwan Face Rising Opposition

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: California-Military Jet Crash; Canada-Manhunt; Bergdahl Release; France-Obama, Putin; GM-Internal Investigation; Extreme Weather; Coal Miner Benefits; Nancy Reagan; Disability Fraud; NASA-New Satellite Image.
CBS: GM-Internal Investigation; Obama-Bergdahl Release; Bergdahl Disappearance Investigation; Bergdahl-Prisoner Swap; New Clinton Book; Veterans Affairs Scandal; Health-Alzheimer's Disease; Nancy Reagan; California-Military Jet Crash; Canada-Manhunt.
NBC: D-Day Anniversary; Bergdahl Release; Obama-Bergdahl Release; France-Obama, Putin; GM-Internal Investigation; D-Day Anniversary; Canada-Manhunt; Nancy Reagan; Obama-Leaked Workout Video.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Canada-Manhunt Ends; Seattle-Campus Shooting; Obama-Ukraine Crisis; Sports-NBA Finals.
CBS: Seattle-Campus Shooting; Senate-VA Healthcare Bill; Bergdahl Release; Extreme Weather; May Jobs Report; Wall Street.
FOX: Seattle-Campus Shooting; Extreme Weather; Canada-Manhunt; Sports-NBA Finals; Sports-Horse Racing; New HSS Secretary.
NPR: Seattle-Campus Shooting; Bergdahl-Health Update; Extreme Weather-Arkansas; Navy-Tobacco Sales Ban Proposal; Wall Street; Delaware-I-495 Bridge Repairs.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA —The President departs Paris, pooled press; arrives Normandy region, open press; meets with WWII and post-9/11 U.S. veterans, Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, closed press; attends the 70th French-American Commemoration D-Day Ceremony and delivers remarks, Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, open press; attends the 70th French-American Commemoration D-Day Ceremony and delivers remarks, open press; tours observation deck with President Hollande, pooled press; arrives Chateau de Benouville, pre-set pool coverage; participates in a Leaders Family Photo, Benouville, Normandy, France, pre-set pool coverage; participates in Heads of State Lunch, Benouville, Normandy, France, closed press; arrives Sword Beach, open press; attends the Ouistreham International Ceremony at Sword Beach, open press; departs Normandy region, open press; arrives in Paris, pooled press; meets with embassy staff and family members, closed press; departs France, pooled press; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives the White House. South Lawn, open press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — In the morning, the Vice President will attend meetings at the White House. Later in the afternoon, the Vice President will depart Washington, DC en route Kyiv, Ukraine. Highlights: The Vice President will meet with Hellenic-American and Cypriot-American groups to discuss his recent visit to Cyprus. This meeting is closed press.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: No committee meetings scheduled.
Other: AAAS – CLIMATE CHANGE — June 5 – 6. Retired Rear Adm. David Titley, director of the Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk at Pennsylvania State University, and Helen Kanovsky, Acting Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, are featured speakers at a two-day conference at AAAS on climate change resilience. Highlights: 9:20 a.m. Helen Kanovsky will speak about perspectives on resilience and change. HUD has been involved in recovery efforts after Hurricane Sandy and in federal planning efforts for long term disaster recovery. Location: AAAS Auditorium, 12th and H Sts. NW. Contacts: Kat Zambon, kzambon@aaas.org, 202-326-6434. Notes: Reporters planning to attend are asked to RSVP to kzambon@aaas.org.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE — June 5 – 7. Chelsea Clinton, vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, will be a featured speaker at this year's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland, College Park. Contacts: Katie Broendel, broendelk@aauw.org, 202-785-7761. Lisa Goodnight, goodnightl@aauw.org, 202-785-7738. On the Net: http://www.nccwsl.org/ Notes: All press must be pre-credentialed.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES – GI BILL OF RIGHTS — Document display of GI Bill of Rights. Signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, the Servicemens Readjustment Act, also known as the GI Bill of Rights, provided World War II veterans with funds for college education, unemployment insurance, and housing. Runs June 6th – 14th. Location: East Rotunda Gallery. Contacts: Public Affairs 202-357-5300

VHP D-DAY, WWII REUNION — The Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP) is sponsoring a series of exhibits and a special event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the turning point of World War II in Europe on June 6, 1944 – also known as D-Day – and the 10th anniversary of the National World War II Reunion, one of the events for the dedication of the National World War II Memorial. The exhibits and event will educate the public on the significance of D-Day and reunite volunteers who gathered nearly 3,000 World War II veterans

collections over Memorial Day Weekend in 2004. Contact: Monica Mohindra (202) 707-1071; Lisa A. Taylor (202) 707-2333 Request ADA accommodations five business days in advance at (202) 707-6362 or ada@loc.gov. On the Net: www.loc.gov/vets/ www.loc.gov/vets/wwii-photos-mallinterviews.html

HAITI BUSINESS INVESTMENT CONFERENCE — June 6 – 7. Haiti Business and Investment Expo and Conference will focus on the importance facts related to the sector of business as well as finance. Latest strategies and techniques which will help in the growth of a business organization or enterprise will also be highlighted in this expo and will attract a large number of industry leaders and business owners from all over the world. http://10times.com/haiti-business-investment. Highlights: 9 a.m. U.S. Chamber Vice President for the Americas Jodi Bond will speak at the Haiti Renewal Alliances 5th annual Business Investment Expo and Conference, titled "The Caribbean: Beyond Sun, Sand, and Sea." Chamber press contact: Tyler Hernandez – thernandez@uschamber.com

WILSON CENTER TELECONFERENCE – SYRIA — 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. "What's To Become of Syria? U.S Policy, the Opposition and the Regime." Intro: Jane Harman, Director, President and CEO, The Wilson Center. Participants: Hadi Al Bahra, Secretary of the Political Committee, National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces; Ambassador Robert Ford, Former U.S Ambassador to Syria (2010-2014); Joshua Landis, Director of the Center for Middle East Studies and Associate Professor, University of Oklahoma. Moderator: Aaron David Miller, VP, New Initiatives, The Wilson Center. Notes: Toll-Free Conference Line: 888-947-9018. Conference Line: 1-517-308-9006. Passcode: 13304.

CSIS – TUTAP — 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. The TUTAP Interconnection Concept and CASA-1000. Presentations by: Rune Stroem, Director, Energy Division, Central and West Asia Department, The Asian Development Bank; Ranjit Lamech, Sector Manager, Energy, Europe and Central Asia Region, The World Bank. Discussants: Fatema Z. Sumar, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Moderator: Andrew C. Kuchins, Director and Senior Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Program, CSIS. http://csis.org/event/tutap-interconnection-concept-and-casa-1000. Location: 2nd Floor Conference Center, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

USDA FARMERS MARKET OPENING — 9:30 a.m. Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Administrator Anne Alonzo will ring the opening bell for the 19th season of the USDA Farmer Market. This year, USDA is honoring American military service members and veterans with a barbeque battle featuring military chefs from all branches of service (Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps). There will be several celebrity judges including Chef Eric Ziebold, Executive Chef at DC's CityZen and Chef Art Smith, Executive Chef of DC's Art and Soul. Location: 12th and Independence Ave. SW. Contacts: Peter Wood, 202-720-6179. Notes: In case of inclement weather, the opening ceremony will be rescheduled. The notice of cancellation will be posted on the USDA AMS Farmers Market website by 7 a.m. Friday June 6th.

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION – AFGHANISTAN — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. "Limited Horizons: The United States, Afghanistan, and the 2016 Zero Option." Featured Speakers: Chris Kolenda, Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired) Former Senior Advisor on Afghanistan and Pakistan, U.S. Department of Defense; Clare Lockhart, President, the Institute for State Effectiveness; Ambassador Ronald Neumann, President, American Academy of Diplomacy, Former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan. Moderator: Omar Samad, Senior Central Asia Fellow, New America Foundation Former Afghan Ambassador to France and Canada. Location: New America Foundation, 1899 L Street NW, Suite 400. Contacts: Liana Simonds, simonds@newamerica.org, 202-735-2829

GOLD STANDARD ACT OF 1984 — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The Jack Kemp Foundation and American Principles in Action will co-host the Kemp Forum on Growth event in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the introduction of the Gold Standard Act of 1984. Speakers include: Jimmy Kemp, President of The Jack Kemp Foundation; Dave Hoppe, Chief of Staff to Rep. Jack Kemp; John Mueller, economic counsel to the House Republican Conference under the chairmanship of Rep. Jack Kemp; Jeffrey Bell, national co-chairman of Kemp for President; and Ralph Benko, founder of the Prosperity Caucus, will moderate the event. RSVP with Kate Bryan at kbryan@americanprinciplesproject.org. Location: Capitol Visitors Center, Room SVC 203-02. Contacts: Kevin McVicker kmcvicker@sbpublicaffairs.com (703-739-5920/800-536-5920)

ELLSBERG – RIBBON-CUTTING — 11 a.m. Former State Department official Matthew Hoh and Ann Wright will president over ribbon-cutting for new billboard featuring "Pentagon Papers" leaker Daniel Ellsberg that encourages

whistleblowing. Location: Bus shelter half a block south of the State Department on 23rd Street NW, north of Constitution Avenue. Contacts: Sam Husseini, samhusseini@gmail.com, 202-421-6858

TORTURE AWARENESS MONTH EVENT — 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. June is Torture Awareness Month, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture is providing local congregations and faith organizations resources and activities to honor survivors of torture, "Exposing the Truth of U.S. Torture: Restoring Human Dignity." Witnesses: Imam Mohamed Magid, Imam, ADAMS Center; Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, Founder & Chair, KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights; member, The Constitution Projects Task Force on Detainee Treatment; Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering, former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; member, The Constitution Projects Task Force on Detainee Treatment; Rev. Ron Stief, Executive Director, National Religious Campaign Against Torture. CONTACT: Samantha Friedman, West End Strategy Team Office: (202) 776-7700; cell: (202) 215-9260 or Samantha@westendstrategy.com. Location: ADAMS Center, 46903 Sugarland Road, Sterling, Va. Notes: This event will also be held on June 26th 6p.m. 1420 16th Street, NW

30TH ANNUAL WILLIAM OLIVER BAKER AWARD DINNER — 8 p.m. INSA will present Secretary Leon Panetta with the 30th Annual William Oliver Baker Award. Secretary Panetta is being honored in recognition of his long and distinguished public service to the people of the United States. http://www.insaonline.org/Baker. Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW. Notes: Reception begins at 6p.m.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "I just saw it backstage. CBS is trading me for five Taliban prisoners. Is that right?"

David Letterman: "President Obama, and you got to admire him for this, says that the United States never leaves soldiers behind, and that's because we never leave."

David Letterman: [Referring to Bowe Bergdahl's release] "And you know the guy was in a prison, Taliban prison, for five years...now recovering in a hospital in Germany. The reason he is recovering in a hospital in Germany is because he couldn't get into a VA hospital until 2020. That's why."

David Letterman: "You know who resigned – Jay Carney, White House Press Secretary. What a grueling job that is. He had it two-and-a-half, almost three years. And it really is tough, because you have to go out there every day and lie to the press. ... You have got to make stuff up on your feet like I'm doing here tonight."

Jimmy Fallon: "Did you see this? It's a video that was just leaked that shows President Obama lifting weights, doing lunges, and using an elliptical machine at his hotel gym this week. Yeah. When he saw it, Chris Christie was like, 'This would never happen if I were President.'"

Seth Meyers: "This week, Vladimir Putin told reporters that he thinks Hillary Clinton is weak, and went on say, 'Maybe weakness is not the worst quality for a woman.' Which I guess answers the question, 'Why is Vladimir Putin single?'"

Conan O'Brien: "When asked about criticism from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he doesn't like to argue with women. Yeah. Putin is either being a misogynist or, ladies, he's the perfect catch."

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BISON CONNECT

Fwd: Denver Post publishes Ed Arnett op Ed on Sage Grouse

James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 5:40 PM
To: Katherine Kelly <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, [redacted]ios.doi.gov" [redacted]ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>

Sportsmen weighing in. As you know, Ed is with TRCP.

Jim

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ed Arnett <earnett@trcp.org>
Date: June 6, 2014 at 2:29:21 PM MDT
To: "Bean, Michael" <Michael_Bean@ios.doi.gov>, "Lyons, James" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>, "Deibert, Pat" <pat_deibert@fws.gov>
Subject: FW: Denver Post publishes Ed's sage grouse op-ed

Greetings...FYI...thought this may be of interest.

ea

Edward B. Arnett, Ph.D.

Certified Wildlife Biologist®

Director, Center for Responsible Energy Development

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http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_25912594/sage-grouse-bill-kicks-can-down-road

THE DENVER POST

Sage-grouse bill kicks the can down the road

By Edward B. Arnett
Guest Commentary

POSTED: 06/06/2014 12:33:30 PM MDTADD A COMMENT| UPDATED: 100 MIN. AGO



"The costs of conservation measures to reverse declining greater sage-grouse populations no doubt will be high and require changes and sacrifices," writes Edward B. Arnett. (Denver Post file)

The forthcoming decision regarding listing the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act has sparked controversy, fear and anger among Westerners. As expected, legislators are politicizing the issue — and not necessarily for the greater good.

Reps. Cory Gardner of Colorado and Rob Bishop of Utah recently joined other members of

Congress to introduce legislation that would delay the listing for 10 years. In Utah, legislators decided to use taxpayer money to fight a listing, paying lobbyists to advocate for the decade-long delay to the tune of $2 million.

Why?

Lawmakers claim that a delay will allow "adequate time for local actions to develop and document results." On the other hand, Utah's move to pay for lobbyist support leaves one wondering whether the intent is to obstruct conservation or actually protect the bird. So much for the goal of allowing time for conservation plans to bear fruit. Utah lawmakers assert that the listing would hamper development, grazing and other activities, costing the state between $20 billion and $40 billion. What would those costs be to the state in 10 years if the bird gets listed?

Is the delay really needed? What does it accomplish? Do we really need to kick the proverbial can down the road? Why not just implement solid conservation plans right now that would alleviate the need to list the bird — in one year or 10 years?

A bit of history is in order. In 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that an ESA listing for the greater sage-grouse was warranted but "precluded," meaning other species had higher priority. The result? Proactive efforts to address the issue and conserve sage-grouse all but ceased. Why? No urgency — threat averted — at least temporarily. That was nearly a decade ago. Why do we think another long delay will achieve different results?

And why waste $2 million of Utah taxpayer dollars on lawyers and lobbyists? That amount, matched with available federal money, could have covered easements for 20,000 acres, paid for clearing 80,000 acres of encroaching juniper known to deter grouse, or ensure that conservation measures actually turn into "grouse on the ground."

Proponents of kicking the can down the road should realize that they can "pay now, or pay later" for the conservation activities needed to avoid a listing. Wasting time and money to fight — rather than simply implementing good practices now — will cost far more in the end.

The costs of conservation measures to reverse declining greater sage-grouse populations no doubt will be high and require changes and sacrifices. But long delays and lining the pockets of high-paid lawyers and lobbyists only adds to the costs at the expense of conservation.

Time is tight as the September 2015 deadline looms, but time is available for state and federal agencies to develop strong plans, which can recover sage-grouse numbers and avoid a listing. Incidentally, those plans also will help mule deer, pronghorn and about 350 other species that rely on sagebrush ecosystems. But this will require states with populations of the bird to develop conservation plans that reduce or eliminate threats and pass muster with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

A greater sage-grouse ESA listing is not a foregone conclusion, and avoiding it will require extensive collaboration and solid conservation plans from the states and federal government. Bolstering the health of sagebrush ecosystems and sage-grouse numbers will produce benefits from which industry, recreationists, sportsmen and local economies all will gain.

The question remains: Do state and federal legislators have the political will to do what is necessary to avoid a greater sage-grouse listing?

Ed Arnett is a wildlife biologist and director of the Center for Responsible Energy Development of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

Read more: Sage-grouse bill kicks the can down the road - The Denver Post http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_25912594/sage-grouse-bill-kicks-can-down-road#ixzz33tMIRu00
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Katherine K. McKalip

Director of Media Relations

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

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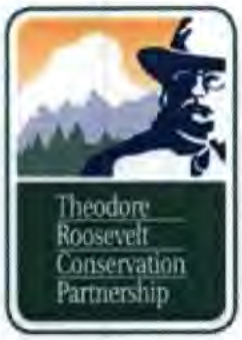

Western Governors' correspondence

Carrillo, Francisco <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 8:01 PM
To: [redacted]@ios.doi.gov" <[redacted]ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <Francis_Iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <Katherine_Rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_Ossowski@ios.doi.gov>, Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <Terri_Johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Vicki Dixon <Vicki_Dixon@ios.doi.gov>, Fay Iudicello <fay_iudicello@ios.doi.gov>, Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Secretary,

I'm attaching a list and PDF of all the correspondence we've received and responded to from the Western Governors. We will upload these for you but I wanted to be sure you received them prior to WGA, per your request. Many thanks to Fay and Rob in Exec Sec for helping us compile these letters.

In addition, please find a PDF of the President's and Western GovÍs proclamations for Great Outdoors Month that Vicki Dixon in our office compiled for you.

Thank you and see you in CO.

Francisco Carrillo
Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Immediate Office of the Secretary
(202) 208-5541 w (202) 412-8846 c

3 attachments Non-responsive (attachment 3)

WGA Correspondence list.xlsx
15K

2014 WGA Correspondence & Responses.pdf
3903K

GOM Proclamations.pdf
4116K

WESTERN GOVERNORS CORRESPONDENCE

2014

Date received	From (Author)	To (Recipient)	Subject	Response letter
6/2/2014	Brownback (KS)	Jewell and Vilsack	Listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken will create hardships and unintended consequences	*FWS drafting response*
5/30/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Request information regarding how DOI will operationalize the Mitigation Order and engage with the state agencies	*BLM drafting response*
5/30/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Regarding Federal Seeding Practices and Coordination	YOU sent response letters on 6/6/14
5/19/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Recommends FWS delist the Grizzly Bears	*FWS drafting response*
5/8/2014	Brownback (KS)	Secretary Jewell	Opposition to the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken	*FWS drafting response*
5/6/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Seeks review and reversal of OSM decision of Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding to Wyoming	*PMB working with OMB on response*
5/1/2014	Bullock (MT)	Secretary Jewell and Assistant Secretary Washburn	Revising Federal Acknowledgment Regulations and the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Kevin Washburn sent response letter on 6/2/14
4/22/2014	Martinez (NM)	Jewell and Hagel	Concerns about proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project and White Sands Missile Range	*BLM drafting response*
4/14/2014	Hickenlooper (CO)	Secretary Jewell	Supportive of $1 million funding for connecting youth to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge	Dan Ashe sent response letter on 6/6/14
4/10/2014	Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	BLM Impoundment of cattle in Nevada	YOU sent response letter on 4/11/14
4/9/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Proposed Resource Management Plan for the Lander Field Office in Wyoming	YOU sent response letter on 6/4/14

WESTERN GOVERNORS CORRESPONDENCE

2014

Date received	From (Author)	To (Recipient)	Subject	Response letter
4/9/2014	Moliga (AS)	Secretary Jewell	Seeks legal review of American Samoa's legislature resolution re: "Override of Executive Vetoes without action by the Sec. of the Interior"	*SOL drafting response*
4/4/2014	Jim Ogsbury, WGA Executive Director	Rhea Suh	Questions regarding U.S. EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group and the proposed use of state data, and proposing a formal opt-in process for interested states	Rhea Suh sent response letter on 4/17/14
4/3/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Request reauthorization of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project	YOU sent response letters on 4/17/14
3/24/2014	Martinez (NM)	Secretary Jewell	Supports Representative Pearce's H.R. 995 on Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act, not Senators Heinrich and Udall's broader proposal.	YOU sent response letter on 5/14/14
3/17/2014	Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Support for nomination of Nevada State Prison as National Historic Landmark	Stephanie Toothman, NPS Associate Director, sent response letter on 4/9/14
3/11/2014	Dalrymple (ND)	Mike Connor	Red River Valley Water Supply Project	*Response with DOI for surname*
2/23/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Western Governors Greater Sage Grouse conservation initiatives	YOU sent response letters on 4/10/14
2/18/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Sweetwater River Conservancy	YOU sent response letter on 3/25/14
2/18/2014	Jim Ogsbury, WGA Executive Director	Secretary Jewell	National Invasive Species Council (NISC) and Management Plan	Lori Williams, Director NISC, sent response letter on 4/1/14

WESTERN GOVERNORS CORRESPONDENCE

2014

Date received	From (Author)	To (Recipient)	Subject	Response letter
1/28/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Thank you letter to Secretary Jewell for her commitment to work with Wyoming and western states on management for public land	No response necessary
1/27/2014	Inslee (WA)	Kevin Washburn	Yakama Nation Retrocession Petition	*Response with SOL for surname*
1/22/2014	Herbert (UT)	Secretary Jewell	Request extension of public comment period for UT Greater Sage Grouse Draft Plan	Neil Kornze sent response letter on 2/18/14
1/21/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Initial views and questions regarding Mitigation Order	YOU sent response letters on 3/16/14
1/17/2014	Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Request extension of public comment period for NV Greater Sage Grouse draft plan	Steve Ellis, BLM Deputy Director, sent response letter on 2/19/14

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Kansas
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Sam Brownback, Governor

June 2, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretaries Jewell and Vilsack:

The listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species has created significant and wide-ranging impacts on Kansans. This listing will create hardships and unintended consequences for our citizens, with little long-range improvement to the population of the Lesser Prairie Chicken because of the listing.

Historical studies have shown annual population fluctuation of the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) and the strong correlation between drought and declining LPC numbers. At least three consecutive years of drought have exacerbated regional populations of LPC, along with other wildlife, and domestic livestock herds.

Kansans and wildlife/range management specialists working in Kansas in partnership with other states have developed appropriate plans that were being implemented prior to the listing. The USFWS decision to promote the NRCS Conservation Plan and the WAFWA Range-Wide Conservation Plan without adequate consideration of other quality, regional and statewide plans is short-sighted and damaging. There are reasonable alternatives, and other proposed conservation plans submitted by other state and regional conservation groups that should be fully considered. In the wake of the listing, Kansans should not be asked to enter any agreements until all conservation plans can be appropriately considered.

The "threatened" listing of the LPC has jeopardized the strongest habitat tool available in the occupied range. The voluntary incentive-based Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has provided significant acreage of habitat for the Lesser Prairie Chicken and other wildlife species.

I am calling on USDA to pursue enhanced incentives for voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) measures in the LPC habitat areas. Since 2008, total CRP acreage in Kansas has declined by 25%, thus reducing habitat for the LPC and other wildlife species.

The agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to allow voluntary practices designed to protect and increase LPC populations overlaps regulatory controls with voluntary incentive based programs. Guidelines developed for USDA voluntary programs should not be used as the only standard. The USFWS should recognize all science-based practice standards, in addition to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

Mandatory mitigation plans like the Range-Wide Plan add significant cost to any new development. A farmer wanting to establish a new five acre farmstead could see mitigation costs approaching or exceeding $200,000. The installation of an oil well on range land could cost the oil producer as much as $100,000. A single wind turbine could require a mitigation cost of $1,000,000, and transmission lines almost $200,000 per mile. The bottom line is that mandatory mitigation could slow or halt capital and energy development in many areas of Western Kansas, in addition to creating disincentives for growth in agriculture, the combination of which will significantly impact the Kansas economy

Creating additional rules, regulations and financial hardships for landowners and energy producers will not have a positive response or improve the habitat for the LPC. We do not believe it will efficiently and effectively increase the population of the LPC in Kansas, the state with the single largest occupied range. We already have appropriate tools, and this issue is best addressed at the state and regional level as opposed to a federally directed initiative.

In summary, action is needed in these areas:

1. Suspend current regulatory actions concerning the LPC until all proposed plans have been reviewed and thoughtfully considered for their attributes of species recovery.
2. Challenge USFWS to reconvene with USDA/NRCS to address the current program opportunities through CRP or Environmental Quality Incentives Program to show good faith that species recovery is the mission.
3. USFWS and all applicable federal agencies must recognize the significance of drought as the greatest limiting factor on the effectiveness of all protection efforts and persistent drought conditions must be understood as limiting the ability of any efforts to increase LPC populations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas

cc: Daniel M. Ashe, USFWS Director

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

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May 30, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Shortly after its release Western Governors received a copy of the report, *A Strategy for Improving the Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of Interior* (the Report) produced by members of Department of Interior's (DOI) Energy and Climate Change Task Force. The Report outlines challenges and opportunities that may arise with respect to implementation of your Secretarial Order 3330: *Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior* (the Order). The Report identifies specific guiding principles to be considered by DOI and its agencies in reaching landscape-scale mitigation decisions, along with strategies and tools DOI will employ in this effort.

As discussed at the Western Governors' Association (WGA) Winter Meeting in December 2013, the landscape-scale approach described in the Order presents certain legal and regulatory complexities for both federal and state agencies. Recognizing this, on January 21, 2014, the WGA submitted to you a letter and list of questions regarding the Order. For your reference we have attached to this letter both the January 21 letter and list of questions that accompanied that letter.

Since submission of the letter and questions, WGA staff has had several discussions with DOI representatives regarding the Order. Those conversations, however, have not yielded sufficient and direct responses -- from either DOI or BLM -- to the many questions raised in our January letter.

Governors remain unclear on exactly how DOI will seek to engage our states in the development and implementation of this new landscape-scale mitigation regime. We would appreciate a detailed and expedited response to our questions regarding how the Order will be operationalized.

The Report reflects DOI's appreciation for the need to collaborate with state agencies and the expertise states can add to the landscape-scale mitigation discussion. Indeed, such collaboration is listed as a *guiding principle* in the Report's Executive Summary.

Western Governors share the responsibility of properly managing land and resources within their state borders and recognize that landscape-scale mitigation efforts can play an important role in project development, resource conservation, and land use planning. State agencies house a wealth of knowledge and scientific expertise that would be beneficial -- indeed vital -- to DOI in achieving the goals and deliverables set forth in the Report.

To achieve a mutually beneficial level of collaboration, we respectfully request that DOI and its representatives actively engage with state agencies now -- while the landscape-scale mitigation plan is being developed -- so that the goals set forth in the Report may be achievable in the near-term and our partnership durable in the long-term.

One point of clarification: among the tools discussed in the Report are geospatial assessments, including WGA's Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT). DOI's enthusiasm for CHAT is greatly appreciated and we are confident in CHAT's value for project pre-planning. Western Governors, however, continue to underscore that CHAT is a non-regulatory tool intended to give project planners -- be they public or private -- a "30,000-foot" view of states' wildlife assets. That "first look" then can guide project planners to relevant state agencies for a deeper dive. While CHAT can be extremely helpful for project-specific pre-planning, it is not intended to be a landscape-based regulatory planning tool.

We look forward to your expedited response to the questions we have posed.

Sincerely,

John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
WGA Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
WGA Vice Chairman

cc: Neil Kornze, BLM

Attachments

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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Brian Sandoval
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Vice Chairman

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May 30, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Western Governors are dedicated to ensuring the health of our grasslands and forests. When there is damage to a natural area in the West -- whether caused by wildfire, invasive species, flooding, or other factors -- federal agencies often play an important role in the area's stabilization and rehabilitation. It appears, however, that there is a lack of consensus among federal agencies about how to best balance competing missions and effectively implement important restoration functions, such as reseeding, in a timely fashion. We urge federal agencies to develop shared criteria for selection of seed mixes to improve response times, limit further damage (such as that caused by encroachment of non-native species), and help build a basis for a stable seed production and storage system.

To our knowledge, there are divergent policies among federal agencies regarding such issues as: use of native seed; permissible seed sourcing; what seed mixes are deemed acceptable for use; responsibility among federal agencies for seed banking, etc. These inconsistencies make it difficult for seed suppliers to effectively meet federal needs. In addition, overly restrictive sourcing criteria can substantially increase costs, a critically important issue in these times of constrained budgets.

Western states intend to do their part and want to improve coordination with federal agencies. Proactive landscape-scale land management necessitates shared and targeted management planning for fire, drought, flooding, and other threats to grasslands and forests.

Accordingly, we would like to work with federal agencies to establish clear and consistent disaster rehabilitation approaches that restore landscapes without creating monocultures or checkerboards. Increased state-federal collaboration on long-term restoration and research would be mutually beneficial.

Western Governors would appreciate answers from your Department to the following questions, which are offered in a spirit of cooperation:

1. How do the federal agencies under the Department of Interior (DOI) establish seeding goals and objectives? To what extent are your agencies working together to set shared goals and objectives? How are you coordinating with USDA, NRCS and other departments and agencies?

2. How are DOI agencies planning for natural disasters or other circumstances that could lead to spikes in seed demand, decreasing supply and increasing cost?

3. Is the policy guidance of DOI agencies on the use of local and native seed backed up by best available science? If local and native seed are required by DOI policies, what are your agencies doing to ensure adequate supply?

4. How does DOI acquire input on seeding practices from the states?

5. How does DOI acquire input from external stakeholders such as the seed industry, private landowners, sportsman groups, conservation groups, etc.?

6. What monitoring and evaluation do DOI agencies perform to verify achievement of goals and objectives and to refine and improve seeding practices?

Western Governors acknowledge that harmonizing seeding policies and approaches will take time and effort, but we stand ready to work with you to achieve that goal. We believe doing so will help realize our shared objective of ensuring that we are equipped to expeditiously and effectively restore the Western landscapes we all depend upon and cherish.

Sincerely,

John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
Chairman, WGA

Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
Vice Chairman, WGA

cc: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michael Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Jonathan Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Suzette Kimball, Director, U.S. Geological Survey
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 0 6 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter dated May 30, 2014, regarding the role Federal land management agencies play in re-seeding damaged landscapes from events such as wildfires, flooding, invasive species, and other factors.

The Department of the Interior's focus on landscape scale conservation and restoration makes coordination on re-seeding efforts crucial to those efforts. We agree that coordination among Federal agencies and with states is vitally important. To that end, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze is convening a seed meeting of Federal agencies and the WGA to develop a strategy that will address many of the points you raise in your letter. The questions you raise will provide an excellent starting point to begin discussions in this area. By working together, we can improve on the success of our restoration efforts and decrease the time needed to reach our restoration goals.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. If you would like additional information regarding the Department's progress in this area, please contact Director Kornze at (202) 208-3801. A similar letter is being sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Sally Jewell

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 0 6 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Governor Sandoval:

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Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Sally Jewell

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

May 19, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary
Department of the Interior
Main Interior Building
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The recovery of grizzly bears in the Yellowstone Ecosystem is a conservation success story of our time. Wyoming has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and other state and federal agencies to compile and evaluate food sources data and the effect of those food sources on grizzly bear populations in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. This work substantiates that grizzly bears forage on a broad variety of food. Science demonstrates grizzly bears are expanding – in population and geography – beyond recovery criteria established by FWS and the State of Wyoming.

Both the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee and the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee have reviewed the data and both recommend FWS delist the grizzly bears. All regulatory requirements and biological objectives have been met or exceeded. It is appropriate to publish a delisting proposal and return management of the grizzly bear to the State of Wyoming and other states in the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Based on your September 2013 letter, I had expected to see a delisting decision in early 2014. There is no reason to wait. I encourage the FWS to work with Wyoming Game and Fish Department to develop and publish a proposed delisting rule expediently.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

cc: The Honorable Steve Bullock, Governor of Montana
The Honorable Butch Otter, Governor of Idaho
Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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55431

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Sam Brownback, Governor

643698

RECEIVED
2014 MAY -9 AM 11:00
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

May 8, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The State of Kansas previously has expressed opposition to the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a threatened species. Since the March 27 announcement by the Fish & Wildlife Service that the listing would occur, Kansans have been dealing with the implications of that decision and the impending deadlines for participation in the Range-Wide Conservation Plan.

Kansas continues to maintain that the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken was not justified, and that the listing will negatively impact the state's agriculture and energy sectors in ways that can be avoided consistent with the interests of conservation and protection of the species. As a consequence, Kansas has filed a legal action to seek judicial review of the listing decision.

In the meantime, however, I am concerned that Kansans have not been allowed sufficient time to evaluate their options and prepare applications under the Range-Wide Conservation Plan. In particular, the Kansas oil & gas industry has a large proportion of small independent producers - unlike other states in the range of the Lesser Prairie Chicken, where larger producers are more dominant and have the resources to respond more rapidly. Those affected parties require more time than the standard thirty days to review their options and make vital economic decisions relating to their participation in the Range-Wide Plan. Accordingly, I am requesting that you take the necessary steps to allow an additional ninety days for those affected by the listing to opt-in to the protections provided by the federal rule.

Finally, I must note my concern that insufficient attention is being given to the important role of the Conservation Reserve Program in connection with the Lesser Prairie Chicken, and I urge greater inter-agency cooperation toward that end. The listing explicitly states that: "Lands enrolled in CRP encompass a significant portion of estimated occupied range in several lesser prairie-chicken states, but particularly in Kansas where an increase in the lesser prairie-chicken population is directly related to the amount of land that was enrolled in the CRP and planted to mixtures of native grasses." 79 Fed. Reg. 20027 (Apr. 10, 2014). I am particularly concerned that federal policies regarding expiration and/or re-enrollment of CRP land could work against the goals embodied in the listing, thereby creating conflicting federal policies that further exacerbate the effect of the listing on Kansans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas

cc: Dan Ashe, Director of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING 643590

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

RECEIVED
2014 MAY -7 AM 9:
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETAR

Office of the Governor

May 6, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 5665
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

In a letter dated March 11, 2014, Director Joe Pizarchek of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) informed the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that $21.2 million of Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funds – approved by Congress under the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (the Act) – would not be sent to Wyoming. The Act directed $75 million of AML funds to Wyoming in FY 2015. OSM has interpreted, or misinterpreted, the Act as restricting Wyoming to only an estimated $53.8 million. The OSM determination is incorrect and I ask that you review and reverse this determination.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), as amended in 2006, requires eligible States and Indian tribes receive AML funding in two ways. First, eligible states and Indian tribes receive 50% of funds collected on state or tribal lands for reclamation (as a certified program, Wyoming does not receive the actual 50% state share but instead receives an equivalent share as in lieu Treasury funds). Second, funds known as "prior balance funds" are paid. Prior to 2007, States and Tribes did not receive a full 50% share of SMCRA funds. Amendments in 2006 corrected this underfunding, requiring *"the Secretary . . . make payments to States or Indian tribes for the amount due for the aggregate unappropriated amount allocated to the State or Indian tribe . . . ."* These amendments were passed to ensure that Wyoming (and other eligible states) were paid amounts allocated and due to them under SMCRA prior to 2007.

In 2012, the Transportation Bill amended SMCRA adding a provision limiting the *"total annual payment"* (emphasis added) to $15 million. While the payment was modified, the balance due to Wyoming was not modified by the Transportation Bill. SMCRA also required the prior balance be repaid *"in 7 equal annual installments, beginning with fiscal year 2008."* Wyoming is owed $165.4 million in prior balance funds.

The Wyoming Congressional delegation worked to ensure that Wyoming was paid. The Helium Stewardship Act raised Wyoming's cap to $28 million for FY 2014 and $75 million for FY 2015. It clearly states these funds first be applied to in lieu payments (traditional reclamation) and funds over the in lieu payments be applied to the remaining prior balance funding owed to Wyoming.

OSM released a new table titled *"Hypothetical AML Funding Projections from FY 2014 through FY 2024"*. This table reflects Wyoming will receive $53.8 million instead of the $75 million set forth in the

PHONE: (307) 777-7434 FAX: (307) 632-3909

Act. Wyoming DEQ Director Todd Parfitt wrote to Director Pizarchek and requested the table be corrected. (DEQ letter attached.) Director Pizarchek did not honor this request. (March 11, 2014 letter attached.)

Director Pizarchek's interpretation is inconsistent with the Act on prior balance payments. SMCRA clearly delineates that Wyoming is still owed $165.4 million (stipulated in the 2006 Amendments). Under Helium Stewardship Act, Wyoming should receive the $21.2 million prior balance funds ($75 million minus the estimated $53.8 million in lieu payment). When this payment is made, Wyoming will still be owed a substantial prior balance amount ($165.4 million minus $21.2 million). If a debtor can avoid his debt by missing a payment – every lender in the country would be broke. I am sure that OSM did not intend to suggest this was the position of the United States.

Please review this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

Attachments

cc: The Honorable Mike Enzi, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Barrasso, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Cynthia Lummis, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Eli Bebout, Chairman, Wyoming Senate Appropriations
The Honorable Steve Harshman, Chairman, Wyoming House Appropriations
Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Peter Michael, Wyoming Attorney General
Joe Pizarchek, Director, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Department of the Interior

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAR 11 2014

DEPARTMENT OF

MAR 17 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Mr. Todd Parfitt
Director
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Parfitt:

Thank you for your letter dated February 4, 2014, which expressed concern that a mistake may have been made in the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding projections prepared by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). In response to your letter, we have reviewed our projections and have determined that they are correct and consistent with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), as amended.

As you note, the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, which was signed into law on October 2, 2013, contained an amendment to SMCRA that increased the cap for two years on annual AML distributions provided to certified states and tribes. In summary, the law raised the cap from $15 million to $28 million for Fiscal Year 2014 and to $75 million in Fiscal Year 2015. This amendment also specified that if the cap were reached, OSMRE should distribute a state's or tribe's certified in lieu funds under section 411(h)(2) of SMCRA first, then distribute state or tribal prior balance replacement funds under section 411(h)(1) of SMCRA.

In calculating the AML funding projections, we first determined a state's or tribe's certified in lieu funds by multiplying the annual coal production estimates provided by the Department of Energy with the reclamation fee rate set forth in section 402(a) of SMCRA. Using this methodology, we estimate that just over $107.6 million in reclamation fees will be collected in Wyoming in Fiscal Year 2014. Pursuant to section 411(h)(2) of SMCRA, certified in lieu funds are normally distributed in an amount equivalent to 50 percent of the reclamation fees collected in their states. In Wyoming's case, that would amount to approximately $53.8 million. As you may be aware, prior balance replacement funds were authorized for seven fiscal years only, from Fiscal Year 2008 to Fiscal Year 2014 pursuant to section 411 (h)(1)(C) of SMCRA. Therefore, prior balance replacement funds will not be included in AML funding provided to states and tribes for Fiscal Year 2015 and thereafter. Since certified states such as Wyoming will receive certified in lieu funds only in Fiscal Year 2015, our projection that Wyoming's distribution will be $53.8 million is accurate.

Please note that the $53.8 million projection is only an estimate. Once we finalize actual fee collections received during Fiscal Year 2014 and make any required reductions due to sequestration, the actual AML funding distributed to Wyoming may be different.

Please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Pizarchik
Director

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR

ANGELA MCLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

643

RECEIVED
2014 MAY 12 PM 4:08
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Kevin Washburn
Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
MS-3701-MIB
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: 25 C.F.R. § 83 Rulemaking and the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Dear Secretary Jewell & Assistant Secretary Washburn:

I support the Department of the Interior's ("Department") rulemaking to revise 25 C.F.R. § 83, "Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group exists as an Indian Tribe" ("Part 83 Process"). I urge you to continue forward with this work and publish the proposed rule as soon as possible.

This rule revision is important because I believe that the Part 83 Process was not properly administered when the Department of the Interior issued a Final Determination against the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana ("Little Shell Tribe") in November of 2009. This Final Determination overturned the Proposed Finding in Favor of Acknowledging the Little Shell Tribe. The Part 83 Process should have determined that the Little Shell Tribe is an Indian tribe of Montana---a designation which is more than 100 years overdue.

Montanans, Montana tribes and the State of Montana all recognize that the Little Shell Tribe is a part of our state's rich culture and history. I support their efforts to become federally recognized and it is time for the Federal Government to finally grant the Little Shell Tribe the recognition they are owed. Federal recognition will enhance their ability to provide additional services to tribal members and strengthen their tribal government. I am encouraged that the Department has seen the need to fix this issue through the Part 83 rulemaking process.

I trust the Department will move swiftly to publish its proposed Part 83 rule and complete the rulemaking process. The Department has my full support in this effort.

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

STATE CAPITOL • P.O. BOX 200801 • HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0801
TELEPHONE: 406-444-3111 • FAX: 406-444-5529 • WEBSITE: WWW.MT.GOV

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUN 0 2 2014

The Honorable Steve Bullock
Governor of Montana
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Governor Bullock:

Thank you for your letter of May 1, 2014, urging completion of the rulemaking process for Federal acknowledgment of Indian tribes.

We have announced availability of the proposed rule for public comment, and the Federal Register published the proposed rule on May 29, 2014 (79 FR 30766). I am enclosing a copy of the press release, which contains additional information.

Thank you for your support of our efforts as we work toward a proposed rule that improves the transparency, efficiency, timeliness, flexibility, and integrity of the Federal acknowledgment process.

Sincerely,

Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
U.S. Department of the Interior

www.doi.gov

News Release

Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2014

CONTACT: Nedra Darling
202-219-4152

Interior Proposes Reform of Federal Acknowledgment Regulations

Proposed rule would address "broken" process

Washington, D.C. --- Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced publication of proposed regulations that would reform the 35-year old process by which the Department of the Interior officially recognizes Indian tribes. Federal acknowledgment establishes the U.S. Government as the trustee for Tribal lands and resources and makes Tribal members and governments eligible for federal budget assistance and program services.

"President Obama believes that reforming the federal acknowledgment process will strengthen our important trust relationship with Indian tribes. Acknowledgment by the Department of the Interior confirms the existence of a nation-to-nation relationship between an Indian Tribe and the United States," said Secretary Jewell. "Through this Administration's outreach initiatives, tribal leaders have told us that the current process can be inconsistent, cost millions of dollars and take decades to complete. Our proposed rule maintains the rigorous integrity needed, but allows that process to be conducted in a timely, efficient and transparent manner."

The existing regulations, known as "the Part 83 process", were originally adopted in 1978 and were updated only once 20 years ago. Prior to that, Interior had addressed requests for Tribal acknowledgment on a case-by-case basis. While the 1978 regulations established a structured process for federal acknowledgment, these regulations have been widely criticized as being too time-consuming, sometimes arbitrary and generally "broken."

"Reform of the process is long-overdue," said Assistant Secretary Washburn. "One of my first assignments at the Department was to search for ways to improve the federal recognition process and address long-standing criticisms of those regulations. This initiative is the product of substantial Tribal consultation and public comment and we are grateful for the broad public interest in this reform effort and the helpful guidance we have received from Tribes and the public."

-Continued-

Key features of the proposed rule would promote transparency by updating the Part 83 criteria to include objective standards; promote efficiency by requiring a petitioner to show community and political influence/authority from 1934 to the present rather than from as early as 1789; and eliminate the need for a petitioner to demonstrate that third parties identified the petitioner as a tribe from 1900 to the present. The proposed rule would make changes to the petitioning process that facilitate the timely issuance of proposed findings and final determinations. It would also allow an administrative judge to conduct a comprehensive hearing and review of a negative proposed finding.

In recognition of the high level of interest in the acknowledgement process, the Department used a transparent approach and significant outreach effort. Before beginning the formal rulemaking initiative, Interior issued a discussion draft last summer to facilitate public input on how to improve the process. Through the discussion draft and ensuing tribal consultations and public meetings, the Department obtained substantial feedback. In total, more than 2,800 commenters providing input on the discussion draft.

The proposed rule reflects current federal policy embodied in the Indian Reorganization Act and seeks to codify the Department's past practice under the Part 83 process to promote consistency and transparency. With the issuance of this proposed rule, the Department is again seeking input from tribes, petitioners seeking acknowledgment, and interested members of the public so that any reforms to the process are fair, timely and transparent.

Of the 566 federally recognized tribes, 17 have been recognized through the Part 83 process under Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe*. Though far more tribes have been recognized through Congressional action, the Part 83 process is an important mechanism because it allows deliberative consideration of petitions by a staff of federal experts in anthropology, genealogy and history and ultimately allows for a decision by an objective decision-maker. When petitioning groups that meet the several criteria are officially "acknowledged" as Indian tribes, the U.S. Government accepts trusteeship of Tribal lands and natural resources and Tribal governments and members become eligible to receive federal health, education, housing and other program and technical assistance services.

Interior will be conducting tribal consultations and public meetings on the proposed rule in July 2014. Tribal consultations are generally open only to representatives of federally recognized Indian tribes. Public meetings are open to everyone. The tribal consultations will be held on the following dates and locations:

-Continued-

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 7/1/2014	1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Paragon Casino & Resort, 711 Paragon Pl, Marksville, LA 71351
Tuesday 7/15/2014	1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	BIA Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97232*
Thursday 7/17/2014	1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Menominee Casino Resort, N277 Hwy. 47/55, P.O. Box 760, Keshena, WI 54135
Tuesday 7/22/2014	1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Cache Creek Casino Resort, 14455 California 16, Brooks, CA 95606
Thursday 7/24/2014	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Crowne Plaza Billings, 27 N 27th St, Billings, MT 59101
Tuesday 7/29/14	1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community & Government Center Gymnasium, 483 Great Neck Road – South, Mashpee, MA 02649

Public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

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Thursday 7/24/2014	1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Crowne Plaza Billings, 27 N 27th St, Billings, MT 59101
Tuesday 7/29/14	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community & Government Center Gymnasium, 483 Great Neck Road – South, Mashpee, MA 02649

*Please RSVP for the Portland consultation to consultation@bia.gov, bring photo identification, and arrive early to allow for time to get through security, as this is a Federal building. No RSVP is necessary for the other consultation locations.

The proposed rule, frequently asked questions, and other information are online at: http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/ORM/83revise/index.htm. Comments on the proposed rule are due August 1, 2014, to consultation@bia.gov.

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643222

State of New Mexico

RECEIVED
2014 APR 25 AM 9:38
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Susana Martinez
Governor

April 22, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Hagel:

I am writing to you concerning the Department of Interior (DOI) and the Department of Defense (DOD) review of the proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. As you are aware, this project has been under consideration by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for several years, and they completed their Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in June, 2013. Prior to the publication of the FEIS, there had been several multi-agency meetings regarding proposed routing for the transmission lines (two AC lines, or one AC line and one DC line), though the meetings seemed to fall short of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements pertaining to cooperating agency involvement.

The objective of the project is to pull wind energy from Central New Mexico and move the energy to a site in Arizona. The BLM Preferred Alternate Route is planned across the Northern Extension Area of White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). This planned route poses an unacceptable negative impact to critical test and evaluation missions at WSMR. As I understand it, there are two good alternatives which would both support the project's objectives and WSMR's mission—the DOD preferred route north of the Northern Extension Area, or burying the line for approximately 35 miles along the BLM preferred route. I strongly support either one of these alternatives.

State Capitol • Room 400 • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 • 505-476-2200 • fax: 505-476-2226

I was briefed recently on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory Review of the BLM Preferred Alternative Route, and I understand the review validates DOD concerns. My Administration fully supports our national goals regarding development of renewable energy, but not at the expense of military missions. We have followed closely the evolution of our National Security Strategy—White Sands Missile Range will continue to play a significant role as the Defense Department continues development of long-range capability against emerging threats, particularly those that might arise in the Asia-Pacific Theater.

With respect to the FEIS, and as provided for in 43 CFR 1610, I provided a Consistency Review statement to BLM on August 16, 2013. I have not received a response. This statement fully described several inconsistencies between the FEIS and our state's plans, policies, and programs with regards to our support for military missions in New Mexico.

Secretary Jewell, I urgently ask for your support of an alternative which avoids a negative impact to WSMR. Secretary Hagel, please let me know how we can further demonstrate our support for WSMR—it is an invaluable resource to our nation and to our great State of New Mexico.

My staff point of contact for this issue is Hanson Scott, hanson.scott@state.nm.us. Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Susana Martinez
Governor

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866-2471
Fax (303) 866-2003

643184

RECEIVED
2014 APR 23 AM
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

April 14, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We are writing today to offer my support of the proposal to provide $1 million per year of funding to connect urban youth with the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge ("Refuge") and fulfill our mutual goal of exposing the future stewards of our natural resources to the environment and wildlife.

Located in a fast growing urban area, part of which is economically disadvantaged, use of the Refuge exploded in 2013 to over 300,000 visitors, from 23,000 visitors in the prior year, and is expected to increase each year. In addition to its ideal location in close proximity to over 141,000 school children, the Refuge boasts a 16,000-acre reserve including bison, eagles and a restored native prairie ecosystem.

This proposal will allow for immediate implementation of the following:

- Removal of physical barriers from residential areas to the Refuge.
- Investment into partnerships, initially with Environmental Learning for Kids, a non-profit organization focused on providing outdoor education and experiences to underserved youth. In addition, the Refuge will continue to expand partnerships with local school districts, the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association and a new and emerging metropolitan green space alliance.
- Increased investment into youth employment opportunities with Mile High Youth Corps and Ground Work Denver to create a future conservation constituency.
- Finance one special project each year in support of the National Wildlife Refuge System's urban refuge initiative. This will allow the Refuge to support and encourage further innovation and local grassroots efforts as they develop across the region.

We share your commitment to youth in the outdoors and hope you will agree with me that the Refuge is best positioned to bridge many of the existing divides between youth and nature.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper

cc: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim Kurth, Assistant Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Noreen Walsh, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
David Lucas, Refuge Manager, Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR Complex

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

JUN 06 2014

The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your April 14, 2014 letter of support of the proposal to provide $1 million per year of funding for connecting urban youth to Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Your support for this effort harmonizes with the Secretary's recently announced Secretarial Order to significantly expand recreational, educational, volunteer and career opportunities for millions of youth and veterans on the nation's public lands, including partnerships with businesses and youth organizations, in an effort to bridge the growing disconnect between young citizens and the great outdoors.

At this time, the proposal selected to receive these funds has not been determined. An announcement of the selectee is anticipated for July, 2014.

Thank you for your active engagement and commitment to bridging the growing gap between youth and nature.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

51582

ONE HUNDRED ONE NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
OFFICE: (775) 684-5670
FAX NO.: (775) 684-5683

555 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 5100
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
OFFICE: (702) 486-2500
FAX NO.: (702) 486-2505

Office of the Governor

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am deeply concerned by the actions of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials engaged in the impoundment of livestock in Clark County, Nevada. The conduct of BLM officials, including use of aggressive canines, SWAT teams and equipment, snipers with long rifles, a military helicopter, and over 200 heavily-armed law enforcement officials, has the appearance of a paramilitary operation rather than a round-up of cattle.

As a result, there is a toxic atmosphere of intimidation, turbulence, and anxiety in this quiet community that has left many locals in fear of even leaving their homes. To complicate matters more, the Clark County Fair, which is scheduled to begin today in Logandale, Nevada and close on Sunday, will bring thousands of children, families and exhibitors to the area.

Based on the aggressive behavior that has been displayed already, which is well documented in the mainstream media and social media sites, I am concerned that this matter may continue to escalate to a tragic and unnecessary outcome.

Indeed, so-called militias from other states have raised a call to arms to come to Nevada to confront federal authorities. https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=e8_O-o5OPsA&feature=youtu.be

To further exacerbate the situation, the BLM has closed important public roads and established "First Amendment Zones" to limit where members of the public can express their views of this event. Moreover, the BLM has limited media access and required private landowners and right-of-way holders to obtain prior approval before accessing their lands or visiting their utility lines.

Over the past week, my office has received hundreds of phone calls and emails, overwhelmingly decrying the actions of BLM officials. I have met with state and local government officials, who fear tragedy is imminent. I have spoken with BLM Director Neil Kornze to insist that he take action, including dismantling the offensive "First Amendment Zones." To date, the only response I have received from federal officials is that there is no consideration for suspending or changing the character of the operation.

Arrests, public road-closures, the creation of an overly-restrictive "First Amendment Zone," use of tasers and police dogs, and generally heavy-handed behavior have created a dangerous situation in this community and our state. Local residents are living in fear and are upset and frustrated by BLM's actions. National militia groups are descending upon Clark County.

As Governor of the State of Nevada, I respectfully call on you, as Secretary of the United State Department of Interior, to suspend this enforcement activity immediately and order the BLM and all involved federal agencies to stand down. It is not my intent to question the Orders of the court or the merits of the legal dispute. I ask you to withdraw from this poorly planned and executed endeavor and put an end to this now to avoid what could become a horrible tragedy.

I look forward to speaking with you today and implore you to give this matter your utmost attention.

Sincere regards,

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

CC: The White House

54582

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 11 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

I am in receipt of your letter expressing concern about the cattle impoundment being undertaken by the Bureau of Land Management in Clark County, Nevada. As I assured you in our conversation of yesterday, our highest priority is the safety of the public, as well as the local, State, and Federal employees and contractors who are involved in carrying out and supporting this lawful impoundment in furtherance of two recent Federal court orders. I ask that you join with us to publicly emphasize the need for demonstrators to remain lawful, peaceful, and not to place themselves or others in danger by impeding the Federal employees and contractors conducting the impoundment.

I am dismayed by the tone of your letter and by the factual misstatements it contains. Rest assured that there are no military helicopters, no Federal snipers, no paramilitary operation by the Federal Government, and no curtailment of First Amendment rights of those who disagree with our decision to implement Federal court orders to remove trespassing cattle. The BLM is conducting this operation consistent with established procedures and protocols.

The reported presence of out-of-state militia members underscores the need for your support and for the involvement of State law enforcement personnel to maintain public safety during this impoundment. The public statements of the protest participants, while showing flagrant disregard for Federal authority, indicate that they respect the exercise of State police powers. As public officials, we share the responsibility to ensure compliance with all laws without exception. In your role as Governor, you can reinforce that message.

Our goal in this action is to remove trespassing cattle that unlawfully remain on public lands, including lands managed by the National Park Service, as a result of their owner's refusal to comply with Federal law and three Federal court orders. He has also rejected our many efforts over the years to resolve this situation. For more than 20 years, the owner of these cattle has been trespassing on publicly owned resources for his own use and profit, unfairly impacting other potential uses of these public lands and without complying with the same laws as 16,000 law-abiding public lands ranchers nationwide. To allow this illegal activity to continue is unfair to lawful users of the public lands.

As we discussed yesterday and as I also relayed to Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie, I ask you to stand with us and to commit the resources to help us resolve this trespass situation peacefully.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

54559 L

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

612771

April 9, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary
U. S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

RECEIVED
2014 APR 10 PM 3:06
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
EXEC

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I performed a consistency review of the Proposed Resource Management Plan for the Lander Field Office (Lander RMP) in April 2013. Nearly a year later, there is still no Record of Decision (ROD). This delay has consequences. Please help bring the Lander RMP to finality.

The Lander RMP covers a total of 6.6 million acres in five counties. For more than seven years, dozens of cooperators reviewed and commented on thousands of pages of data and information while maintaining a tight schedule for the Lander RMP process outlined by the BLM. In addition to the cooperators, there was a high degree of public participation. The participation reflects the plan's importance to the lives of people who live, work, and visit the five counties covered by the planning area. The public process for developing resource management plans is as important as the final product. The citizenry has done its job; it is now up the Department of Interior to do its part.

The Lander RMP will guide land use decisions for 20 years—including grazing, habitat protection, mineral development, recreation and other uses. The uncertainty of the Lander RMP's ROD affects the private sector's ability to plan and to make long term business decisions. This jeopardizes economic prosperity and creates unnecessary tension and uncertainty. It prevents implementation of conservation initiatives and actions addressing natural resource issues such as trails, recreation, energy development, wildlife, not to mention public health and safety.

In its March 2010 status determination for the Greater Sage-Grouse, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endorsed Wyoming's strategy, stating: "the core area strategy…if implemented by *all* landowners via regulatory mechanisms, *would* provide adequate protection for sage-grouse and their habitats in the State." [Emphasis added.] Wyoming's strategy is being implemented on non-federal lands. Without a final Lander RMP, Wyoming's ability to demonstrate and document Greater Sage-Grouse conservation efforts is curtailed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

PHONE: (307) 777-7434

FAX: (307) 632-3909

Services' decision on the listing is less than 18 months away. Wyoming and its partners have expended considerable resources to develop an effective, enduring model for sage-grouse conservation that will be implemented through the Lander RMP. The Lander RMP will serve as a template for other resource management plans revision efforts in Wyoming and across the west—but only after it is signed.

Please help resolve the delay of the Lander RMP. I hope you will be able to sign the decision at your earliest convenience. It would be wonderful if the signing would take place in Wyoming, but that is secondary to the real need to have the Lander RMP signed expeditiously.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

cc: The Honorable Michael B. Enzi, U. S. Senate
The Honorable John Barrasso, U. S. Senate
The Honorable Cynthia Lummis, U. S. House of Representatives
Jim Lyons, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Dan Ashe, Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Simpson, Wyoming State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Rick VanderVoet, Lander Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 04 2014

The Honorable Matthew H. Mead
Governor of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Governor Mead:

Thank you for your letter of April 9, 2014, regarding your interest in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issuing the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP). I share your desire to provide the public with management certainty to this area.

The Department must balance releasing the Lander ROD with a landscape approach to Greater sage-grouse conservation. While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expressed its support of the Wyoming strategy, the Lander RMP is only one component of the larger, multi-state planning initiative with broad national implications. I recognize the years of effort by the State of Wyoming and members of the public working with the BLM to arrive at fair and balanced management for the Lander area. I appreciate your leadership and that of your predecessor, Governor Freudenthal, in developing a plan to both conserve the Greater sage-grouse and sustain responsible natural resource development. As your letter indicates, the Lander RMP will guide the use of public lands for at least the next two decades.

The Department is on target to complete its review of the proposed plan amendments and revisions. This has required extensive coordination with the USDA Forest Service as well as states throughout the West in what has been one of the most extensive land-use planning efforts ever, all within a very short timeframe. As you can appreciate, the first Greater sage-grouse plan needs to be fully vetted as it will set the stage for all the plans that follow. We have nearly completed our review of the Lander plan and are very close to finalizing our decision.

Thank you for your leadership in Wyoming and as co-chair of the Sage-grouse Task Force in advancing the State-Federal collaboration that is critical to our success in conserving the sage-grouse. I look forward to seeing you at the Western Governors' Association's meeting and our continued work together on this pioneering effort.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Sally Jewell

54828

LOLO M. MOLIGA
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT
Telephone: (684) 633-4116 Fax: (684) 633-2269

LEMANU P. MAUGA
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 9, 2014

Serial: 300

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
United States Government
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Madame Secretary:

The Legislature of American Samoa has transmitted to me, the approved Senate Joint Resolution No. 33-3 amending Article II, Section 9 and Article II Section 19 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa to provide for a "Legislative Override of Executive Vetoes without action by the Secretary of the Interior". Moreover, it has been decreed by the Legislature of American Samoa, to place this resolution on the ballot for the next election on November 4, 2014 to be voted on by the people of American Samoa.

While I don't object to the subject of the resolution, I am very concerned that legal issues connected with the Presidential Delegated Oversight Authority to DOI over the Territory of American Samoa, along with former Congressman Fofo Sunia 1984 amendment shifting the review of amendments of our Constitution to the Congress of the United States have not been clearly addressed. These legal issues might invalidate the proposed Constitutional amendment as prescribed by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33-3.

Based on the foregoing, I am requesting your assistance if it would be possible to have the Solicitor General review the referenced resolution and determine if there are legal impediments which require resolution before the matter is placed in a referendum in the next general election. It is important for me to ensure that the people of American Samoa are well informed of all the issues associated with the proposed constitutional amendments.

As time is of the essence, your usual prompt attention is appreciated and humbly requested to ensure that sufficient time is spent to create full awareness among the people of American Samoa so they can make informed choices. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Lolo M. Moliga

Lolo M. Moliga
Governor of American Samoa

Cc: Honorable Lemanu P. Mauga, Lieutenant Governor
Mr. Nikolao Pula, Director, Office of Insular Affairs

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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www.westgov.org

April 4, 2014

Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Suh:

It has come to my attention that the U.S. application for candidacy in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) was approved by the EITI Board at its March 18-19 meeting in Oslo, Norway. I understand and appreciate that the application included an opt-in provision for states, as requested in WGA's letter to you last July. I further understand that the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) that is providing input to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative plans to gather, collate, and analyze publicly available state revenue data for inclusion in the U.S. EITI report, regardless of whether a state has opted in.

I strongly recommend that the MSG and the Interior Department (as the primary federal government representative to EITI) clarify the proposed use of state data and propose a formal opt-in process for interested states. To better inform state consideration of EITI participation, WGA recommends that our federal partners develop and distribute an explanation of the initiative that describes:

- the rationale for state participation and identifies the costs and benefits for a state opting in to EITI reporting;
- the process by which a state can opt-in to formally participate in U.S. EITI reporting; and
- how state data will be gathered and used for states which do not opt in.

While Governors support the goal of revenue transparency and recognize that the U.S. system of transparency can be a model for the rest of the world, they will react unfavorably to efforts by EITI that create an unfunded federal mandate. Unless states have opted in, DOI, EITI or the "Independent Administrator" contracted to gather and "repackage" existing state data should not expect state agency staff to take time away from their duties to help gather, collect, analyze or interpret data requested by EITI.

We look forward to receiving more information about the proposed use of state data and a formal opt-in process for interested states.

Sincerely,

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

cc: Multi-Stakeholder Group, U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

APR 17 2014

Mr. James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director
Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Ogsbury:

Thank you for your letter dated April 4, 2014, on behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) concerning U.S implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI). You requested further clarification of how extractive revenues collected by states may be affected as USEITI implementation continues, and I appreciate the opportunity to share this information with you.

As you know, the USEITI candidacy application was approved at the March 2014 EITI International Board Meeting. Consistent with our previous communications, the candidacy application sought and successfully obtained a waiver of the EITI requirement to include reconciliation of state extractive revenues in EITI reporting. Publicly available information about state extractive revenues will be in the USEITI Report as part of the contextual data describing the U.S. extractive sector.

Moving forward, a working group will be formed to engage states in the joint design of a state "opt-in" procedure for USEITI reporting. The USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), which includes representatives from the States of California and Wyoming, will lead this effort. The rationale for seeking the waiver and proposing to instead develop an "opt-in" procedure recognizes not only the complex and varied nature of the state extractive landscape, but also the need to first obtain meaningful guidance from states on an approach that will be mutually beneficial. As a result, the approval of the USEITI candidacy application marks a starting point for more detailed discussion, not a destination with defined outcomes for state participation.

We welcome the opportunity for more active WGA involvement in designing a state "opt-in" procedure and identifying the benefits to state residents, especially in those areas where substantial energy development occurs. We would like to invite WGA representatives to begin attending the USEITI MSG open meetings, starting with the next one on April 23rd, and/or to

participate in the state "opt-in" working group. We will continue to keep you informed and seek your input as the state "opt-in" procedure is designed, and look forward to WGA's continued engagement on behalf of states.

Please let me know if there is any additional information that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Management and Budget

Cc: The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado and
Chairman, Western Governors' Association

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
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www.westgov.org

April 3, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-10148

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Thank you for your continued engagement with Western Governors and the Western Governors' Association. We are writing to ask the Department of Interior's support for reauthorization of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project (Pilot Project).

In accordance with Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, then-Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton structured the Pilot Project through a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Agriculture, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Pilot Project established seven regional Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices as Pilot Project offices for a period of 10 years. The Western states where these offices are located collectively process the vast majority of the applications for permit to drill (APD) filed with the BLM.

A key aspect of the Pilot Project is that these offices are eligible to receive a portion of rental fees paid by oil and gas development companies in connection with their leases on BLM land. The Pilot Project offices utilize the additional funding to add staff and other resources to increase office efficiency and streamline processing of APDs. Further, this additional funding has been used by the Pilot Project offices to support BLM resource conservation efforts.

Since enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, demand for natural gas has increased dramatically. In order to continue the development of domestic resources, efficient and streamlined regulatory permitting processes are ever more important. The Pilot Project is an important tool in this regard.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 dictates that the Pilot Project's 10-year term will expire in 2015. Given its success, we support reauthorization of the Pilot Project.

Bipartisan support for the Pilot Project was seen when, in Dec. 2013, Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 767, expanding the scope of the Pilot Project and providing additional discretion to BLM. Ongoing bipartisan support is further evidenced by the Feb. 5, 2014 letter sent to you by Senator Tom Udall and Congressman Rob Bishop.

We join interested Members of Congress in asking the Department of Interior to support extension of the Pilot Project. We look forward to working collaboratively with you to ensure the continued success of this program, so important to a number of Western states.

Respectfully,

John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
WGA Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
WGA Vice Chairman

cc: Senator Tom Udall, New Mexico
Congressman Rob Bishop, Utah

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 17 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2014, regarding the expiration of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project (Pilot Project) authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct), and your desire to seek its reauthorization. I appreciate your sharing your views on this matter. The Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also consider the 10-year Pilot Project to be a success, and it has allowed the BLM and its Pilot Project partner bureaus and agencies to efficiently process oil and gas drilling permits and administer the Federal mineral estate.

The additional resources devoted to processing oil and gas use authorizations through the EPAct have enhanced the BLM's capabilities to coordinate across the relevant agencies, increasing the pace of permitting and streamlining associated environmental reviews. In addition, the Pilot Project has provided the BLM's oil and gas inspection and enforcement program with resources necessary to allow for more thorough oversight of authorized oil and gas operations.

Recently, legislative authority was granted to expand the Pilot Project in the Miles City (MT) Field Office to include all field offices within the jurisdiction of the BLM's Montana/Dakotas State Office. Similarly, the Pilot Project in the Buffalo (WY) Field Office was legislatively expanded to include the Casper Field Office. We would like to work with Congress to provide additional flexibility nationwide to utilize the pilot office authority to respond accordingly as industry's geographical interests and permitting demands shift over time.

We look forward to working with you to develop solutions that will allow us to extend the success of these pilot offices and to provide for environmentally responsible energy development on the public lands. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me. A similar letter has been sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Sally Jewel

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 17 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Sandoval:

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Sincerely,

Sally Jewel

54382

RECEIVED
2014 APR -2 PM 4:18
OF THE RIAT

State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez
Governor

March 24, 2014

The Honorable Secretary Sally Jewell
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing in support of the creation of a national monument covering lands in the Organ Mountains, Organ Needles, and Pena Blanca WSA, as set forth in H.R. 995, The Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act sponsored by Congressman Steve Pearce. New Mexico is blessed with thousands of miles of remarkable lands preserved not only for our citizens' enjoyment, but for countless visitors from around the world. This establishment of roughly 60,000 acres would protect and conserve these lands for future generations to enjoy the beauty of our rich terrain.

While H.R. 995 ensures that this effort is not overzealous in scope and breadth, I am concerned that a similar proposal brought forth by Senators Heinrich and Udall allocates too much land. This proposal appropriates roughly five times the acreage of HR995 and could threaten border security as well as water and grazing rights if it were adopted.

I stand with members of our delegation in wanting to ensure that our beautiful state is protected for future generations. However, the approach favored by Senators Heinrich and Udall is simply too broad. I strongly encourage your support of Congressman Pearce's approach, and look forward to working with members of our delegation to ensure its success.

State Capitol • Room 400 • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 • 505-476-2200 • fax: 505-476-2226

The Honorable Secretary Jewell
Organ Mountains National Monument
March 24, 2014

Sincerely,

Susana Martinez
Governor

Cc: *President Barack Obama*
Senator Martin Heinrich
Senator Tom Udall
Representative Steve Pearce
Principle Deputy Director Neil Komzo, Bureau of Land Management

54382

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAY 14 2014

The Honorable Susana Martinez
Governor of New Mexico
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor Martinez:

Thank you for your letters of March 24, 2014, to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze and me regarding proposed legislation to designate a national monument consisting of public lands managed by the BLM in Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

Your input on these pending bills is very much appreciated. We constantly work to take into account the interests of a wide range of stakeholders to protect America's public lands and provide for economic development in a manner that is consistent with law and sound public policy.

This area is not only a treasure for the State of New Mexico, but one of national significance to be managed for, and cherished by, all the people of the United States. The Department of the Interior and the BLM welcome opportunities to engage in important discussions such as this regarding the protection of some of America's most compelling landscapes.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, the sponsors of these bills, and other stakeholders to appropriately manage this important area for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Sally Jewell

540926

One Hundred One North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Office: (775) 684-5670
Fax No.: (775) 684-5683

555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 5100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Office: (702) 486-2500
Fax No.: (702) 486-2505

Office of the Governor

March 17, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: National Historic Landmark Designation of Nevada State Prison

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Please accept this letter expressing my support for the nomination of Nevada State Prison as a National Historic Landmark. Nevada State Prison has played a prominent role in shaping the rich history of the State of Nevada, a history we are now celebrating as we enter our 150th year of statehood. The historical, cultural, architectural and geological significance of this unique site cannot be overstated, and its profound impact on Nevada's legacy should be preserved for the benefit of future generations of Americans.

One of the oldest prisons in the Western United States, Nevada State Prison operated from 1862 until its closure in 2012. It was originally housed in the Warm Springs Hotel in Carson City. In 1867, the facility was reconstructed out of sandstone which was quarried at the site. Since its reconstruction, the prison has played a role in defining some of the most quintessential cultural, political, and social events in Nevada's history.

Nevada State Prison's first warden, Abraham Curry, who is considered the founding father of Carson City, donated the land upon which Nevada's State Capitol building stands today. The State Capitol was constructed using the sandstone quarried at Nevada State Prison. The Capitol's timeless architecture and sandstone exterior continue to embody the strength and unbreakable resolve that have defined Nevada throughout its rugged history. Nevada has evolved from its early days as an untamed frontier into a premiere international destination that today is at the forefront of some of America's most dynamic industries and emerging technologies. Like the Capitol's sandstone exterior that

has withstood the test of time, the State of Nevada, too, has weathered its own tempests and has emerged strong, unwavering, and ready for the opportunities that lie ahead. Thus, Nevada State Prison's early role in the construction of some of Nevada's most cherished landmarks is also an essential chapter in the ongoing story of the Silver State.

Nevada State Prison is also renowned for its geological treasures, linking modern-day Nevada to its rich early heritages. As far back as 1882, fossilized footprints were discovered at the site, and fossils from a variety of species are still being uncovered there to this day. These types of invaluable discoveries at the site of Nevada State Prison spur research and scientific interest that help to answer important questions about our past. They are also a reflection of Nevada's unrivaled contributions in the field of anthropology, which include North America's oldest known petroglyphs, recently discovered in northern Nevada, as well as the Tule Springs fossil bed outside of Las Vegas, which is home to thousands of fossils of Ice Age mammoths, bison and American lions.

As an iconic and historic institution, Nevada State Prison is so much more than a building. It truly is a landmark that embodies much of what Nevada has to offer its citizens, as well as the millions of visitors that travel to Nevada every year. The site is emblematic of ideas that continue to inform the history of this great State, as well as the ideas that will inspire its future. It has played a pivotal role in the development of Nevada from its earliest days as an unchartered territory, and has endured the ups and downs of its 150-year history. I therefore wish to convey my enthusiastic support for the designation of Nevada State Prison as a National Historic Landmark. I firmly believe that such a designation would greatly enhance Nevada's cultural and historical vitality, and I hope you will also carefully consider supporting the nomination of this inimitable treasure of Nevada's past.

Sincere regards,

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

54092

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

H34(2280)

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you very much for your letter of support for the National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation of the Nevada State Prison in Carson City. From your letter, the history of the prison sounds impressive. The NHL staff will evaluate the prison's eligibility for designation if they receive a request for nomination. To date, they have not received any information about the prison, nor a request that the site be considered for NHL designation.

Rebecca Palmer, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, informed the NHL staff that a National Register of Historic Places nomination is being prepared for the Nevada State Prison. Preparation of the nomination is funded, in part, by a Certified Local Government grant from the National Park Service to Carson City. We look forward to receiving the National Register nomination.

National Historic Landmark designation is quite different from National Register listing. The NHL program recognizes properties of exceptional national significance that exhibit a very high degree of integrity. National Register listing is available for historic properties that are significant from a local, state, or national perspective. Each program has distinct criteria for evaluating eligibility.

As the Nevada State Prison nomination is being prepared, the National Register and NHL staff will assist the preparers as needed. The staff will hold your letter of endorsement until a nomination has been received. Thank you very much for your interest in the National Historic Landmark program and for your support in recognizing Nevada's rich heritage.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Toothman, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships
and Science

State of
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

March 11, 2014

MAR 24 2014 Sec Rec'd

Mike Connor
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Deputy Secretary Connor:

I am pleased to congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior. I did ask for quick approval of your nomination but am not sure I caused the 2-day response. I have enjoyed working with you in the past, and I look forward to working with you in the future on projects that are critical to North Dakota.

In particular, I look forward to continued discussions with you regarding the Red River Valley Water Supply project. A study on the project is currently underway; I will provide you with an update on the proposed route once the study is completed early this summer.

I also again want to request your support to obtain funding for a Plan of Study to identify potential improvements to the river operating plans implemented in both the United States and Canada with regard to the Souris River. It is very important that this Plan of Study is completed, as it will be of great importance in helping the United States and Canada to provide long-term flood protection for our citizens in the Souris River Valley.

Congratulations on your new position; I look forward to continuing to work with you on issues important to our state and our nation.

Sincerely,

Jack Dalrymple

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

37:68:56

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WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

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www.westgov.org

February 23, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Western Governors and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) share a commitment to conserve the greater sage-grouse. As we have repeatedly stated, Western Governors support all reasonable management efforts necessary to support a not-warranted decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the greater sage-grouse. We thank you and your agency directors for your cooperation with our states in the development of sound conservation measures.

Western Governors are pleased to share our most recent *Inventory of State and Local Governments' Conservation Initiatives for Sage-Grouse: 2013 Update.* This third annual inventory illustrates the many ways that states and counties are taking proactive, voluntary steps to conserve the species – steps which are consistent with the Conservation Objectives Team report, and other conservation requirements, issued by the Service. These steps preclude the need to include the greater sage-grouse on the federal endangered species list.

An accurate evaluation of the effect of state measures upon overall population trends for greater sage-grouse requires DOI and its agencies to take into account the full spectrum of state activities, be they legislative, regulatory, administrative or voluntary, and adequately acknowledge the associated benefits.

Western Governors pledge to continue working with DOI, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management to comprehensively document all greater sage-grouse conservation actions in order to ensure that greater sage-grouse conservation plans and policies are fully accounted for at the time of a final listing proposal.

Sincerely,

John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
Chairman, WGA

Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
Vice Chairman, WGA

Attachents:
Resolution 11-09 *Sage-grouse and Sagebrush Conservation*
Resolution 13-04 *Conserving Wildlife and Crucial Habitat in the West*

cc: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Direction, Bureau of Land Management

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 10 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your letter dated February 23, 2014, regarding conservation of the greater sage-grouse. I appreciate receiving a copy of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) *Inventory of State and Local Governments' Conservation Initiatives for Sage-Grouse: 2013 Update* and *WGA's Conserving Wildlife and Crucial Habitat in the West.*

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the U.S. Forest Service, are continuing to work collaboratively with affected states to conserve the greater sage-grouse and its habitat and potentially avoid the need to list the species under the Endangered Species Act. These collaborative efforts play an important role in conserving and improving sage brush habitats across the range of the greater sage-grouse. We appreciate WGA's commitment to greater sage-grouse conservation and the proactive steps being taken across local and state lands.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the greater sage-grouse on our Nation's public lands. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue. A similar letter is being sent to Governor John Hickenlooper.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Sally Jewell

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 10 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter dated February 23, 2014, regarding conservation of the greater sage-grouse. I appreciate receiving a copy of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) *Inventory of State and Local Governments' Conservation Initiatives for Sage-Grouse: 2013 Update* and *WGA's Conserving Wildlife and Crucial Habitat in the West.*

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Thank you for your interest in the management of the greater sage-grouse on our Nation's public lands. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue. A similar letter is being sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Sally Jewell

53360 K

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

641022

February 18, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

RECEIVED
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Dear Secretary Jewell,

I support the work of the Sweetwater River Conservancy (Conservancy) in Wyoming. The Conservancy finalized a Wetland Mitigation Bank with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to safeguard important wetland habitat in perpetuity and unlock other areas for development. Now the Conservancy is working to secure habitat for the sage-grouse using a Habitat Conservation Bank permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

The Conservancy's Habitat Conservation Bank builds on principles in my sage-grouse core area conservation strategy. It will protect over 700,000 acres of sage-grouse habitat. This landscape-scale habitat bank will be larger than all other nationwide Service-approved habitat banks *combined*. While sage-grouse are the focus of the Conservancy's work, benefits extend to mule deer, water quality and quantity, livestock production and other natural resources. I look forward to final approval of the proposed Bank by the Service. I commend Mark Sattelberg, Ecological Services Field Supervisor for Wyoming, for his efforts to achieve these goals.

The Conservancy also maintains habitat for bald and golden eagles, other raptors and migratory birds. These avian species have been a focus of wind industry guidelines, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Proactive habitat banking concepts for bald and golden eagles, migratory birds and other raptor management would benefit from matching proven science, federal land use and wildlife protection laws. I would appreciate your assistance in applying habitat banking to avian species.

Thank you for your upcoming meeting with the Conservancy. Working with the Sweetwater River Conservancy and similar groups encourages private efforts and results in long term benefits to sage-grouse, wildlife, water, open space, hunting and ranching. Wyoming continues to be a leading force in sage-grouse protection. The Conservancy's work is another important extension of that effort.

Sincerely,

Secretary,
look forward to seeing
you soon.

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

PHONE: (307) 777-7434

FAX: (307) 632-3909

533607

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAR 2 5 2014

The Honorable Matthew H. Mead
Governor of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Governor Mead:

Thank you for your letter of February 18, 2014, supporting the efforts of the Sweetwater River Conservancy (Conservancy) to conserve natural resources in Wyoming. The Department of the Interior also supports these important conservation efforts because of the great potential to protect essential natural resources. I appreciate your support and the backing of State agencies on these projects as well.

The Conservancy's habitat conservation bank is an ambitious undertaking. I am excited that the habitat conservation bank is designed on a landscape scale and builds on your sage-grouse core area conservation strategy, something that is required for the continued protection of greater sage-grouse. I commit the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to diligently work on the establishment of the habitat conservation bank.

Regarding your comments about using conservation banks for avian species, we have initiated discussions at the national level on this complicated issue. At this time, we are exploring whether it is possible to utilize a traditional conservation banking approach to address impacts to eagles, given our current regulations governing take of eagles. We will continue to assess the degree to which it is possible to do as you suggest and apply these habitat banking concepts to eagles. Although the regulations implementing the MBTA do not currently address conservation banking when activities affect birds covered by that Act, the FWS supports and encourages voluntary banking efforts for this purpose.

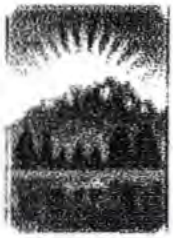
It was a pleasure to meet with former-Governor Freudenthal and the Conservancy recently, and I look forward to learning more about their innovative efforts. I also commend your leadership in sage-grouse protection and natural resource issues in Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Sally Jewell

53359 ✓



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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Denver, CO 80202

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Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 376
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

February 18, 2014

641017

RECEIVED
2014 FEB 19 AM 6:41
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

On behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA), I am writing to communicate Western Governors' concerns regarding invasive species. The problem of invasive species is one of the most complex environmental issues facing our nation, growing and creating economic and ecological damage across our western landscapes and Pacific Islands.

The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) was created to provide high-level interdepartmental coordination of federal invasive species actions, as well as to promote coordination with states and local entities to address cross-boundary invasive species concerns. Executive Order 13112, which established NISC in 1999, provides for biennial updates of the National Invasive Species Management Plan by NISC. The most recent Management Plan, released in August 2008, covered the period from 2008-2012.

Western Governors understand that a new Management Plan is currently being drafted under the auspices of NISC. WGA strongly urges NISC to engage and cooperate with states during the drafting process. Such coordination will ensure that federal priorities and actions align with the efforts of states, localities, nonprofit entities, and other stakeholders.

Western Governors welcome the opportunity to work with you on development and implementation of a new National Invasive Species Management Plan that can achieve measurable progress on invasive species. I look forward to learning from you how WGA can most constructively participate in the process of developing the management plan.

Sincerely,

Jim Ogsbury

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

Related WGA Policy Resolutions:
Resolution 13-02 *Combating Invasive Species*

cc: Lori Williams, Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council
Steve Ryder, Chair, Western Weed Coordinating Committee

Identical letter sent to Honorable Tom Vilsack, USDA and Honorable Penny Pritzker, USDOC

53144

THE STATE OF WYOMING

640669

RECEIVED
2014 FEB -4 PM 3:14
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Thank you for your commitment to work with Wyoming and all western states on balaneed and cooperative management of public land. Ensuring there is no need to list the sage grouse is a focused objective and illustrates the power of a cooperative approach.

I appreciate your note.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:md

P.S. Yes, to the climb – I'm working on the date.

Governor Matthew H. Mead
State Capitol, Cheyenne, WY 82002 • (307)777-7434 • fax (307) 632-3909

JAY INSLEE
Governor

STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Kevin Washburn
Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior
MS-4141 --MIB
1849 C. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Yakama Nation Retrocession Petition

Dear Assistant Secretary Washburn:

Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §1323 and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 37.12, I have included the attached proclamation, signed by me on January 17, 2014. The proclamation addresses a retrocession petition submitted by the Confederate Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation in Washington State.

On March 19, 2012, former Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire signed Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2233. This important piece of legislation created a process by which the state of Washington may retrocede to the United States civil and criminal jurisdiction previously acquired by the State over a federally recognized Indian tribe under federal Public Law 280 in 1953. The bill gives the Governor of the state of Washington the authority to approve, in whole or in part, a retrocession petition submitted by a Washington State Indian tribe. Final approval rests with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

On July 17, 2012, the Yakama Nation filed a retrocession petition with the Office of the Governor requesting full civil and criminal jurisdiction on all of Yakama Nation Indian country in five specific areas of RCW 37.12.010. I believe that the enclosed Proclamation is a great first step towards strengthening the sovereignty and independence of the Yakama Nation.

In paragraph one of the proclamation, the State grants exclusive civil and criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation in four subject areas of RCW 37.12.010: Compulsory School Attendance; Public Assistance; Domestic Relations; and Juvenile Delinquency.

In paragraph two, the proclamation also grants to the Yakama Nation civil and criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the reservation in Operation of Motor Vehicles on Public Streets, Alleys, Roads, and Highways cases which do not involve non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, or non-Indian victims. I would note that the proclamation itself states that the State will retain jurisdiction in these cases over civil causes of action involving "non-Indian

plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, *and* non-Indian victims," as well as in criminal cases involving "non-Indian defendants *and* non-Indian victims." The intent set forth in paragraph two, however, is for the State to retain jurisdiction in this area where *any* party is non-Indian, and therefore may be more properly read in both instances as the State retaining jurisdiction in those cases involving "non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants *and/or* non-Indian victims." I respectfully request that the Department make this clear in the notice accepting the retrocession Proclamation.

Finally, in paragraph three of the proclamation, the State is also retroceding criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the reservation over all offenses not specifically addressed in paragraphs one and two, which do not involve non-Indian defendants or non-Indian victims. Again, I would note that in this paragraph the proclamation states that the State retains jurisdiction over criminal offenses involving "non-Indian defendants *and* non-Indian victims," but the intent is for the State to retain such jurisdiction in those cases involving non-Indian defendants *and/or* non-Indian victims."

The proclamation does deny part of the petition by the Yakama Nation, and allow the State to retain existing civil and criminal jurisdiction in a limited number of areas. First and foremost, the State is retaining its existing jurisdiction outside of the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation, including all trust and fee lands. Moreover, consistent with the description above, the State is retaining civil and criminal jurisdiction in Operation of Motor Vehicle cases that involve non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, and/or non-Indian victims.

It is important to note that nothing in the proclamation changes the existing jurisdiction the Yakama Nation has over Indian child custody proceedings under RCW 37.12.010(3) and Adoption proceedings and Dependent Children pursuant to RCW 37.12.010(6) and (7). The Yakama Nation reassumed jurisdiction over these subjects in 1980 under the Indian Child Welfare Act, and shall remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Yakama Nation.

Similarly, nothing in the proclamation shall affect the State's civil jurisdiction over the civil commitment of sexually violent predators pursuant to chapter 71.09 RCW and the State must retain such jurisdiction notwithstanding the completion of the retrocession process authorized under RCW 37.12.160.

Thank you for accepting this proclamation on behalf of the state of Washington and for working to bring the retrocession petition to fruition. I look forward to continue working with you and the Yakama Nation on this issue moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jay Inslee
Governor

52720

STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 22, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Request for a 60-day Extension for the Public Comment Period for the Utah Greater Sage Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I respectfully request the Bureau of Land Management grant a 60-day extension of the public comment period for the Utah Greater Sage Grouse Draft Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Utah is a public lands state, and decisions on land use made by our federal agency affect our state, residents, and economy significantly. The DEIS contains many proposed changes, with multiple options for each change, and affects the management of millions of acres in Utah. Many of these changes are complicated and technical, necessitating careful review.

Utah has already devoted time and resources to prepare an aggressive Sage Grouse Conservation Plan, which we have been implementing over the last year. Many of the same state and local agencies implementing the plan have been involved reviewing the hundreds of pages of information and numerous maps contained in the DEIS. Despite the great effort we have made, we have not had adequate time to complete the thorough review necessitated by these monumental changes, thus resulting in this request.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have questions about this request, please contact Kathleen Clarke, director of the Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, at (801) 537-9083.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert

Gary R. Herbert
Governor

cc: Neil Kornze
Juan Palma

52720 A

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
http://www.blm.gov

FEB 18 2014

The Honorable Gary R. Herbert
Governor
State of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Governor Herbert:

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2014, to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell requesting an extension of the comment period for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Utah Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment(LUP)/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Secretary Jewell asked the BLM to respond to your letter.

Since the BLM announced the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy in 2011, we have experienced unprecedented levels of state-Federal cooperation on planning efforts and landscape-level strategies to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse and sagebrush habitat across the West. However, work remains in advance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's September 2015 court-ordered deadline to determine if the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The BLM anticipates that the draft changes to the resource management plans covering the 68 Greater Sage-Grouse planning areas will be finalized in late 2014. Unfortunately, the existing court-ordered deadline does not allow for the flexibility to extend the comment period for the Utah Greater Sage-Grouse LUP/DEIS. In the coming months, the BLM will continue to address the volume and scope of comments we will be receiving on the LUP/DEIS, working closely with cooperating agencies, the state, other Federal agencies, Tribes and other stakeholders. The proposed plan and Final EIS needs to be released in time to allow for the Governor's consistency review, protest period, and protest resolution in order to issue a Record of Decision by Fall 2014.

Thank you for your interest in the BLM's planning efforts for the Greater-Sage Grouse and BLM public lands.

Sincerely,

For Neil Kornze
Principal Deputy Director

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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Washington, D.C. Office:
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202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

January 21, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Thank you for briefing Western Governors last month on your recently finalized Secretarial Order 3330: *Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior*. Though Secretarial Order 3330 went final last week, this letter communicates our initial views, and the attachment propounds questions regarding the Order.

The landscape-based approach envisioned in Secretarial Order 3330 – and increasingly embodied in new federal regulations from the Department of Interior (DOI) and other federal land management agencies – presents certain legal and regulatory complexities. Such a management philosophy must be implemented in a way that clearly recognizes the legal rights and responsibilities of states and private landowners adjacent to federal lands or within shared watersheds and air sheds.

Western Governors share the responsibility – with each other, with federal partners and with private landowners – of managing land within their state's borders. The Governors agree that mitigation for impacts to natural resources is an appropriate element of project development and land use plans.

Governors, however, also bear the responsibility to manage state property interests and preserve private property rights within state boundaries. DOI mitigation requirements and processes that may affect state and private land should be:

- Developed in cooperation with the Governors in whose states DOI lands are situated; and
- Be clearly defined and predictably implemented so proper and reasonable mitigation can be included in project planning.

While individual governors are likely to provide their own comments, attached please find our initial joint comments and questions concerning Order 3330. Western Governors are committed to the protection of Western landscapes. We welcome the opportunity to continue to partner with DOI and other federal land management agencies to ensure effective and conscientious land management and project impact mitigation strategies in the West.

To that end, we respectfully request that DOI share with Western Governors feedback it received from BLM field offices in anticipation of the Jan. 17, 2014 deadline set forth in the Instruction Memorandum appurtenant to the Regional Mitigation Manual and provide Western Governors with an opportunity to comment on the recently finalized Mitigation Policy.

Sincerely,

John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
WGA Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
WGA Vice Chairman

cc: Neil Kornze, BLM

Attachment

Western Governors' Association – Version 2
Initial Questions and Comments on Secretarial Order 3330
January 21, 2014

While the below list is not intended to represent the entirety of the Western states' input, Secretarial Order 3330 and the accompanying Draft Regional Mitigation Manual Section 1794 (hereafter "Mitigation Policy") leave a number of critical questions unresolved. Among them:

Science:

- The Mitigation Policy indicates it is being developed based on science-based methodologies. By whom are these methodologies being developed? Has state-generated data been taken into account? Will those methodologies be shared with states?

- What is the relationship and interaction between the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and this Mitigation Policy? Will NEPA reviews occur at the landscape, resource management plan and/or specific project levels? How will NEPA be implicated where mitigation occurs off-site?

- The Mitigation Policy calls for DOI to incorporate climate change strategies into mitigation plans. What type or types of climate change modelling will DOI use to estimate the potential future effects of climate change in determining its acceptable form or level of mitigation?

- Under Secretarial Order 3330, the DOI's Energy and Climate Change Task Force is tasked with reviewing existing mitigation practices. Will state strategies inform this review?

- When DOI's Energy and Climate Change Task Force assesses the role of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), how will DOI ensure that the LCCs' role is limited to providing scientific and technical expertise, as distinct from discharging management responsibilities?

Landscape Planning – Cooperation:

- How will DOI coordinate and integrate this planning effort with other federal land management departments/agencies?

- As BLM elevates the role of landscape-scale planning in its mitigation-related decisions, will the agency engage state and private stakeholders early in the planning process?

- What role will states have in determining the location and breadth of specific off-site mitigation?

- Will BLM seek to participate in state-run mitigation programs and, if so, to what extent?

- How will BLM ensure consistency and transparency of mitigation decisions?

- How will this Mitigation Policy be implemented in the field, where BLM field managers exert substantial autonomy? Will staff be trained on how to implement the proposed mitigation strategies? Will local field managers be held accountable for enforcing approved mitigation plans?

Project-Level Application:

- The Mitigation Policy appears to authorize BLM to approve or deny project permit applications based on whether mitigation measures could take place on state-owned or privately-owned lands. Is that a feasible outcome of the Policy?

- In the event a state or private landowner refuses to consent to mitigation plans acceptable to BLM, will project plans still be conditionally approved?

- Large-scale projects and linear development projects such as energy transmission lines are likely to impact a wide array of lands and resources. For such projects, are there any institutional mechanisms to assist in project planning and does BLM plan to take into account state-generated data and research?

- How will this Mitigation Policy be informed by, and reconciled with, President Obama's various Presidential Memoranda and Executive Orders seeking to modernize and streamline federal infrastructure reviews, siting and permitting regulations, policies and procedures?

- In what ways will project proponents be required to incorporate into mitigation proposals requirements of federal land management and environmental statutes including, but not limited to, the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Land Management and Policy Act? Will project proponents be provided with specific federal requirements to be taken into account in mitigation proposals?

- Consistency and predictability are essential for project planning and development, particularly with respect to large-scale, long-term projects such as electric transmission lines. How will this effort improve regulatory certainty and minimize financial risks in order to encourage project proponents to pursue important energy infrastructure projects?

- Section 4(a) of the Order states that the DOI Energy and Climate Change Task Force will focus on offsetting the impact of "large development projects." How will the Task Force define what constitutes a "large development project" and identify the types of projects that are excluded? Will "large development projects" include non-energy-related infrastructure? If so, what kinds?

Water

- How will the Mitigation Policy apply to existing facilities and existing rights-of-way on BLM land that are needed to exercise state-issued water rights? How will it apply to efforts to repair, maintain or enlarge existing water facilities on BLM land? How will it apply to efforts to renew or amend an existing right-of-way?

- How will the Mitigation Policy ensure that it does not impair the reasonable exercise of state-issued water rights?

- With specific regard to the CWA, will a project proponent be required to identify a "point source" at the project pre-planning stage and if so, with what level of specificity?

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAR 2 6 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter of January 21, 2014, regarding my Secretarial Order (SO) 3330: *Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior.* Effective engagement with state government is critical to the work of the Department of the Interior (Department), and I appreciate your personal interest, as well as that of the other Western Governors.

As you note in your letter, protection of Western landscapes is a goal we all share and one that demands strong partnerships and collaborative land management. Large landscape impacts such as wildland fire, invasive species, transmission lines, and highways do not stop at state borders, and Governors from across the West have partnered to address these common challenges. For example, our experience permitting solar development in the desert Southwest has shown that planning and close coordination among states and Federal agencies can produce faster and smarter permitting that result in more efficient energy development and better environmental outcomes. The Western Governors' Association (WGA) is also leading in this regard with development of its Critical Habitat Assessment Tool, a key aggregator of state wildlife data that Federal managers currently use.

This approach is not without challenges, and my team and I are committed to working closely with Governors, tribes, local officials, and other stakeholders to craft solutions that can achieve broad and durable results. As part of SO 3330, I commissioned a task force to examine the Department's existing mitigation practices and to develop a science-based strategy for landscape-scale planning. The task force is to identify new or revised policies or practices, including any regulatory changes that would be needed, and draft a strategy for how we should address them. I anticipate that report will be completed in the near future. I also have directed my staff to reach out to the staff at WGA to discuss the issues raised in your letter in depth, including your inquiry about the Bureau of Land Management's Regional Mitigation Manual. I understand that productive discussions have already taken place. Our outreach will continue as our work in this area progresses, both with WGA and with individual Governors and state agencies.

I value the strong working relationship the Department has with WGA, and I personally appreciate my partnership with you and your fellow Governors. Should your staff have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Letty Belin, Counselor to the Deputy Secretary (202-208-6291), Jim Lyons, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (202-208-6734), or Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director of the Bureau of Land Management (202-208-3801). A similar letter is being sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAR 2 6 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your letter of January 21, 2014, regarding my Secretarial Order (SO) 3330: Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior. Effective engagement with state government is critical to the work of the Department of the Interior (Department), and I appreciate your personal interest, as well as that of the other Western Governors.

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Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Sally Jewell

53362

One Hundred One North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Office: (775) 684-5670
Fax No.: (775) 684-5683

555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 5100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Office: (702) 486-2500
Fax No.: (702) 486-2505

Office of the Governor

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Request for extension of Public Comment Period for the Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I respectfully request that the Bureau of Land Management grant a 60-day extension of the public comment period for the Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Land management decisions made under the final version of this document will have significant impacts on our economy, custom and culture for decades. The highly-technical DEIS is more than 1,600 pages, including appendices. It is critical to our collective success that all parties – private citizens, local governments, non-governmental organizations, industry and states – have sufficient time to review and provide meaningful comments on this substantial document.

As you know, Nevada and many other states have been working fervently to address the critical issues presented by the potential listing of the Greater Sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act. Nevada has undertaken substantial initiatives to protect the Greater Sage-grouse and the sagebrush ecosystem, including efforts that are outlined in the State's alternative submittal (Alternative E) as part of the BLM's planning process for the DEIS. We continue to develop and review comments in consultation with our Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, state agencies, the scientific community, and stakeholders across the state.

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Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Chief of Staff, Mr. Gerald Gardner, at (775) 684-5670.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request and for your continued attention to this critical issue.

Sincere regards,

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

CC: Nevada Congressional Delegation
Nevada County Commissions
Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, BLM
Amy Lueders, State Director - Nevada, BLM

53362

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
http://www.blm.gov

FEB 19 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor
State of Nevada
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your letter dated January 17, 2014, to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell requesting an extension of the comment period for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Secretary Jewell asked the BLM to respond to your letter.

Since the BLM announced the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy in 2011, we have experienced unprecedented levels of state-Federal cooperation on planning efforts and landscape-level strategies to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse and sagebrush habitat across the West. However, work remains in advance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's September 2015 court-ordered deadline to determine if the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM anticipates that the draft resource management plans covering the 68 Greater Sage-Grouse planning areas will be finalized in late 2014.

Unfortunately, the existing court-ordered deadline does not allow for the flexibility to extend the comment period for the Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/DEIS. In the coming months, the BLM will be addressing comments on the Draft Land Use Plan/DEIS, working closely with cooperating agencies, the state, other Federal agencies, Tribes and other stakeholders. The proposed plan and Final EIS needs to be released in time to allow for the Governor's consistency review, protest period, and protest resolution in order to issue a Record of Decision by fall 2014.

Thank you for your interest in the BLM's planning efforts for the Greater-Sage Grouse and BLM public lands.

Sincerely,

for Steve Ellis
Deputy Director for Operations

BISON CONNECT

Fwd: TPs for WGA remarks

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Sun, Jun 8, 2014 at 11:57 AM
To: Jewell Warren (b)(6)>

Ignore these - I need to print - will delete when done.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kelly, Katherine" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>
Date: June 7, 2014 at 1:38:24 PM PDT
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, sarah greenberger <Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: TPs for WGA remarks

Sally - last email from me today.

Attached are the draft remarks for WGA. These are a more fleshed out version of the remarks we discussed earlier this week, covering:

1) A nod to WGA for their practical and bipartisan work (CHATs, for example)
2) Noting that spirit of cooperation/leadership is needed now more than ever as we face complex challenges from climate change
3) Noting Admin's work to be a good partners on fire (POTUS briefing, budget proposal) and drought (new Reclamation announcements on funding).
4) Discussing the need for continued progress/optimism on greater sage grouse efforts and stating opposition to a 10 year delay
5) Gratitude for public employees who work on these tough issues

This is a lot to cover in 10 minutes, so I'd suggest reading these over with an eye to cut down.

(b)(5)

I'm flying out to CO Spgs tomorrow evening (5:15 ET), but should be available to discuss these remarks or other related questions tomorrow.

I'd also be available for breakfast on Monday morning, if you'd like to practice some Q&A on things like sage grouse, EPA's rule, oil and gas ballot measures, etc.

Thanks,

Kate
720 289 4887

–

Kate Kelly
Director of Communications
Department of the Interior
(202) 208 2409
kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov

06-09-14 WGA remarks.docx
26K

Remarks to Western Governors' Association
Colorado Springs, Colorado
June 9, 2014

Length: 10 minutes

I. Acknowledgements [1 minute]

- **Governor John Hickenlooper**, Chair of WGA
- **Governor Brian Sandoval**, Vice Chair of WGA
- Other esteemed Governors
- Members of Interior's Team
  - **Mike Connor**, Deputy Secretary
  - **Janice Schneider**, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
  - **Dan Ashe**, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - **Neil Kornze**, Director of the Bureau of Land Management
  - **Jim Lyons**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
  - **Sarah Greenberger**, Counselor, Office of the Secretary
  - **Michael Bean**, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife and Parks

II. WGA is rooted in partnership, bipartisan leadership [1 min]

- **Third time** at Western Governors' Association as Secretary

- Have been consistently **impressed with the bipartisan, practical efforts** this organization has taken on to get things done for your states. Recently:

    - **Western Energy Plan** (2013) that set out vision for next 10 years, balanced with renewable and conventional energy

    - **Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool** (CHATs), a cooperative effort of 16 Western states to provide the public and industry a high-level overview of "crucial habitat" across the West

    - Just this morning: Federal family renewed a partnership with the **Western States Tourism Policy Council** to leverage our resources to boost tourism and create jobs

III. Working Together to Solve Complex Issues [6 mins]

- That bipartisan and practical leadership is **needed now more than ever**

- The West is **facing a host of complex issues:**

    - Pressures on the land and water from a **changing climate**

    - Increasing demands from a **growing population**

    - **Stretched resources** at every level of government

- Recently-released **National Climate Assessment** confirms that climate change is already affecting every region of the country, and that in the West, rising temperatures are causing increased demand for water while drought and earlier snowmelt can cause water scarcity

- This means extended drought periods, longer fire seasons, and greater rates of fire spread. The **wildfire season is 60-80 days longer than just three decades ago** across the nation, and twice as many acres are burning now than three decades ago

- **Solutions are equally complex** – and can't be accomplished alone

- Interior – federal family – wants to continue to be your partner in helping impacted farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and communities. Examples:

- **Fire**
    - Priority for the Administration. Earlier, **President Obama** participated via video teleconference in wildfire preparedness briefing

    - **New budget framework** modeled on bipartisan proposals introduced in both houses of Congress :

        - Would budget for extreme fires like other natural disasters, treating them as the catastrophic disasters they are

        - New approach **provides certainty** in addressing growing fire suppression needs while better **safeguarding prevention and other non-suppression programs** from transfers

        - This year's fire season has already been so severe that Interior and the U.S. Forest Service estimate **exceeding our firefighting budgets** by as much as $1 billion, with a median estimate of $470 million

- **Drought**
    - **National Drought Resilience Partnership:** coordinating Federal efforts across the country, and working closely with State, local government, agriculture and other partners to improve community preparedness and resilience to drought.

        - In **California**, that means weekly meetings with the White House and others on water operations and economic impacts

    - Leveraging Resources. Today, the **Bureau of Reclamation** announced:

        - **Nearly $18 million in water and energy efficiency grants** available to 36 projects in the western United States to use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy, and facilitate water markets

        - Funding for **three new comprehensive Basin Studies**, which are cost-shared with non-Federal partners, to address how climate change may affect water supply, demand, and operations in the future, and to identify adaptation strategies to address imbalances in water supply and demand
            - Upper Red River Basin in Oklahoma
            - Upper Deschutes Basin in Oregon
            - Missouri River Headwaters Basin in Montana

- **Greater Sage-Grouse**
    - Decline of sage grouse and deteriorating health of Western sagebrush landscapes has sparked an **unprecedented and proactive partnership**

    - Already seeing progress:
        - **Wyoming** has adopted strategy to preserve core wildlife areas while focusing important development elsewhere [and, as Mead will tell you, the State of Wyoming's economy is strong]

        - **BLM** – responsible for over half of total sage grouse habitat - has begun to amend their land management plans to better protect greater sage grouse

        - **NRCS** and its partners have invested millions to implement voluntary conservation projects on 3.8 million acres

- **FWS** has provided unprecedented guidance to all parties

- Some, however, have proposals that threaten to undermine this important work and ongoing partnerships. Several in Congress propose overruling a court order and delaying FWS's consideration of the bird's for 10 years

- **Kicking the can down the road simply isn't a solution**

- The science tells us that we have a **window of opportunity** to make a difference, so we should respond by rolling up our sleeves

- To ignore the fate of the sage-grouse is to ignore the fate of **mule deer, elk and pronghorn antelope – and 250 other species**, wild and domestic, that rely on the same sage brush habitat

- And it ignores the **hunters, ranchers and outdoor outfitters** that rely on a healthy landscape for their **western way of life** and economic activity

- **Know that there's tough work ahead, but if we all pull our oars in the same direction, I'm optimistic we can get there**

III. Conclusion: Nod to public servants [1 min]

- Often asked what's been biggest surprise – after 35 years in business

- It's the employees I've met at Interior – ie. your state residents
  - Incredibly hard-working public servants
  - Short on resources, raises – and implementing complex missions that balance multiple uses and sustained yield
  - Recent episode in Nevada an extreme example of animosity employees can face when doing their job

- State, federal public servants will be working on these tough issues long after we leave these jobs, so want to **express gratitude** to those in this room working on behalf of the American people

BISON CONNECT

Re: Gov Letter

James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> Sun, Jun 8, 2014 at 9:55 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>

Dan, Neil, Sarah, Robert Bonnie, and I are having dinner at the Broadmoor now.

Safe travels. We'll see you in the morning.

Jim

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 8, 2014, at 7:29 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Thanks Jim – helpful letter.
>
> Hope you made it there safely. Our flight to COS from DEN was delayed, but we got on standby on another flight - still at the gate. Weather looks more like Seattle in November...
>
> Sally
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> On Jun 8, 2014, at 6:29 PM, James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> > Letter from sports men's groups to governors re: state sage grouse planning efforts.
> >
> > Apparently "delivered" today and press release to go our tomorrow.
> >
> > See you in Colorado Springs.
> >
> > Jim
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:
> >
> > **From:** Ed Arnett <earnett@trcp.org>
> > **Date:** June 8, 2014 at 4:56:46 PM MDT
> > **To:** "Lyons, James" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>
> > **Subject: Gov Letter**
> >
> > Jim...
> >
> > This is your official cc on a letter we are sending this afternoon to

Governors in the 11 western states harboring sage-grouse. A press release will go out tomorrow afternoon. This is the generic "Dear Governor _____" version to share with the copy list. In addition to the messaging within, we are working to hold meetings in some, but not all, of the key sage-grouse states to discuss sportsmen's concerns and engagement in helping to get plans to a place that will preclude the need to list. The letter is broad and not specific to any one state. The group wanted Governors in all 11 states that harbor sage-grouse to receive the letter, but I acknowledged our cognizance of each state's situation in my cover e-mail to each.

I would also greatly appreciate it if you'd share the letter with Secretary Jewell, as she is on the cc list, and I look forward to seeing you both tomorrow at the WGA meeting.

Cheers,

Ed

Edward B. Arnett, Ph.D.

Certified Wildlife Biologist®

Director, Center for Responsible Energy Development

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

(541) 520-5252

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www.trcp.org

<image001.jpg>

<Governor's letter 8 June 2014.pdf>

8 June 2014

The Honorable Governor _____
ADDRESS HERE

Dear Governor _____,

On the eve of the annual gathering of governors at the Western Governors Association (WGA), the sportsmen's conservation groups listed below are writing first to commend you, your staff and state wildlife agency for your leadership and commitment to the management and conservation of greater sage-grouse. We also want to urge you to consider the urgency and express our concern about the development and implementation of solid conservation plans for greater sage-grouse. These plans need to focus on both state and private lands within your state. The impending decision as to whether to list the grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is less than 16 months away and it is imperative that sage-grouse conservation not be delayed if we hope to avert this listing. We believe that state-developed conservation plans--coordinated with strong federal habitat management strategies--are critical to precluding the need to list sage-grouse.

Our organizations have extensive experience in wildlife policy and management, including sage-grouse, and many of our members are leading authorities on the management of state and federal public lands and wildlife. We have been active in the sage-grouse issue and have advocated for activities that address the specific threats to the species as a solution-oriented approach. Our goals are to help ***preclude the need to list*** sage-grouse by improving habitat and sage-grouse populations, and to keep the bird's management in the hands of the states through coordinated and consistent application of policy and management.

In reviewing current drafts of the state plans, correspondence between the states and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and our observations and discussions at professional meetings (e.g., Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, WGA, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), local sage-grouse working groups), we have several concerns regarding the current direction of sage-grouse conservation and management within and among states and are prepared to offer some specific recommendations that could help the FWS determine that a listing is not warranted.

Our primary concerns and recommendations can be summarized as follows:

- We believe states should work more closely toward an 11 state strategy that collectively explains individual variability in conservation approaches, while providing adequate protection and conservation of sage-grouse. Such an approach should give the FWS the scientific and legal basis to defend a not-warranted finding.
- We understand inconsistencies between state plans in regard to managing populations of sage-grouse that cross state boundaries are being addressed and rectified within each state plan. States need to insure this process continues to completion. Coordination with federal land management agency plans is also imperative.
- State plans must have a high degree of certainty that efforts will be effective and sustained in addressing and reducing the specific threats to sage-grouse within each state. We believe a combination of necessary regulatory mechanisms and strong voluntary incentives, combined

with increased monitoring of compliance, should meet habitat and populations goals sufficient to assure the FWS that state management is adequate to prevent a listing.

- State plans should include clearly stated goals to sustain grouse sage-populations and its continued management as a game bird.
- The finalization of plans should be developed with diverse stakeholders input to ensure effective conservation measures that will maintain sustainable and harvestable populations.
- Plans should include a process for accountability, monitoring and adapting to change. In Wyoming, for example, a statutory body of diverse stakeholders was established to advise the state and holds the state accountable for implementing actions, enforcing regulations, and ensuring adequate completion of sage-grouse conservation plans and any proposed and permitted activities in priority habitat.

We applaud the efforts all states have put forward to date. We are especially supportive of the strong foundation for sage-grouse science, management and conservation the state wildlife agencies provide. However, without continued work to improve plans and affect better coordination between states and federal land agencies, we believe the FWS may not deem the effort sufficient to preclude the need to list under the ESA. We strongly encourage you to continue working closely with your state wildlife agency to strengthen your plan and reach out to stakeholders to develop and implement the best conservation plan achievable for sage-grouse to preclude the need to list.

Sportsmen have contributed substantially to sage-grouse conservation (more than $130 million in the past decade) and have relinquished many hunting opportunities over the years as grouse populations have declined, even though hunter harvest is not a major factor in the bird's decline. We cannot afford further delays implementing conservation strategies that will address the threats to sage grouse populations and habitats and assure the Fish and Wildlife Service that individual states can and should retain management control of the species.

A greater sage-grouse ESA listing is not a foregone conclusion and avoiding it will require extensive collaboration and solid conservation plans from the states and federal government. Bolstering the health of sagebrush ecosystems and sage-grouse numbers will produce benefits from which industry, recreationists, sportsmen and local economies all will gain. All wildlife that use sage grouse ecosystems will be affected by an ESA listing including mule deer and other big game animals that are vital to state's economies and sporting opportunities.

We believe there is still time to work with stakeholders and better position state plans to preclude the need to list greater sage-grouse. Our organizations and many other sportsmen's groups are ready to help and we would like to meet with you to discuss our concerns and opportunities to help chart out a path forward.

Thank you for your attention and all your efforts for conservation. Numerous members of our organizations will be at the Western Governors Association meeting and can discuss this issue with you or your staff. We look forward to meeting with you and working to balance conservation for sage-grouse and maintaining a prosperous economy.

Please contact Ed Arnett, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, (541-520-5252, earnett@trcp.org) or Terry Riley, North American Grouse Partnership (970-689-3542, triley@grousepartners.org) for further information and to schedule a meeting with sportsmen.

Sincerely,

Steve Riley, President and CEO
North American Grouse Partnership

Whit Fosburgh, President and CEO
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Miles Moretti, President and CEO
Mule Deer Foundation

Howard Vincent, President and CEO
Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever

Land Tawney, Executive Director
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Steve Williams, President
Wildlife Management Institute

cc: Sally Jewell, Secretary of Interior; Jim Lyons, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management – DOI; Michael Bean, Counselor to the Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Neil Kornze, Director – Bureau of Land Management; Dan Ashe, Director – US Fish and Wildlife Service; Jim Ogsbury, Executive Director, Western Governors Association; Katie Kalinowski, Policy Advisor, Western Governors Association; Virgil Moore, Director, Idaho Fish and Game Department and Chair of the WAFWA Sage Grouse Executive Oversight Committee.

Fwd: Gateway West

Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Jun 9, 2014 at 8:00 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

FYI Just rec'd from BLM on Gateway

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>
Date: June 9, 2014 at 1:05:54 AM MDT
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: additional information on Gateway West

Here is all I have for a gateway RAC report....

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Feeney, Heather" <hfeeney@blm.gov>
Date: June 5, 2014 at 6:45:57 PM EDT
To: Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, Carl Rountree <crountre@blm.gov>
Cc: Timothy Murphy <tmurphy@blm.gov>, Jeffery Foss <jfoss@blm.gov>, Nikki Moore <nmoore@blm.gov>, James Stobaugh <jstobaug@blm.gov>
Subject: additional information on Gateway West

1. Summary of RAC subcommittee reports
2. Summary of RAC action on subncommittee reports + BLM next steps
3. Raw notes from Boise RAC meeting, 06.05.2014

Heather A. Feeney
Public Affairs Specialist
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho State Office | Communications
1387 S. Vinnell Way | Boise, ID 83709 USA
#\
desk | (208) 373-4014
fax | (208) 373-4019
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3 attachments

SUMMARY_RAC-sub_route-options.docx
19K

SUMMARY_RAC-action_subcmte-rpts.docx
18K

GWW RAC Subcommittee presentations to the full RAC June 5 2014 rev.RAW notes.docx
24K

SUMMARY of Boise RAC Subcommittee Report on Options for Gateway West Segments 8 and 9

The subcommittee presented this report to the full RAC on June 5, 2014, in a public meeting.

The subcommittee was not able to reach full consensus on the routing options report.

The majority of subcommittee members concluded that routes designed to circumvent the Birds of Prey NCA had more impacts on communities, resources and values and private landowners than those that would cross the NCA.

The majority of subcommittee members (7 of 8) concluded that routes with the least impact on resources and people would follow existing transmission line infrastructure (rights-of-way, access roads, towers) within the NCA.

The majority concluded that replacing or closely following existing lines in the NCA would be consistent with BLM policy for managing National Conservation Lands that new ROWs authorized in National Conservation Lands units should "share, parallel, or adjoin existing ROWs" (BLM Manual 6220 Section E).

The majority concluded that the best route for segment 8 is "Summer Lake Option 1."

- 60% in NCA (22.9 of 38.0 miles)
- Acceptable crossing of Snake River Canyon
- Preferred route of City of Kuna
- Uses existing corridor (PacifiCorp 500-kV line)
- Minimal private property impacts (crossings, proximity to residences, agricultural operations)
- Minimizes disruption of operations in National Guard training center

The majority concluded that the best route for segment 9 is "Baja Road-Murphy Flat South."

- Double circuit with existing 138-kV lines for most (59%) of the distance in the NCA (53.8 of 68.5 miles, 79%)
- Acceptable crossing of the Snake River Canyon
- Preferred route of Owyhee County
- Avoids Oregon Trail ruts (National Historic Trail)
- Outside of preliminary priority Greater sage-grouse habitat
- Minimal private property impacts (including visual impacts)

The minority conclusion is that the majority's recommendation is inconsistent with legal requirements for protecting the NCA and with BLM policy.

The minority requested that the RAC adopt and endorse the subcommittee routing report without the majority conclusion recommending or endorsing specific routes.

SUMMARY of Boise RAC Action on Subcommittee Reports on Options for Gateway West Segments 8 and 9

The RAC received reports on route options for segments 8 and 9 and on the proposed Mitigation and Enhancement Portfolio offered by the proponent Companies.

There were Majority and Minority conclusions presented with the report on route options. The Conservation Lands Foundation representative on the subcommittee constituted the Minority.

After a period for questions, comments or discussion from RAC members only, a motion was made to accept all the workings of the subcommittee.

A voice vote among members in attendance affirmed the motion, but because a quorum was not present in the room, two other RAC members were contacted on a speakerphone conference line by previous arrangement. They each confirmed that they had reviewed the reports. Each then offered her support for the majority conclusion.

The RAC thereby accepted both subcommittee reports without further modification and transmitted them to the BLM.

Acting BLM Idaho State Director Tim Murphy proceeded to comment and outline the next steps:

The goal of the subcommittee effort was a collaborative and consensus-driven process to identify routing opportunities. While the subcommittee was unable to reach a consensus, the body of work including 26 route options and data associated with each option, provides important information that will be utilized through the NEPA process.

Once the Companies further develop the Mitigation and Enhancement Portfolio according to the information in that subcommittee report and submit the revised version to the BLM, the BLM will re-initiate the NEPA process for the project with public scoping.

Following scoping, the BLM will determine tbe appropriate level of NEPA analysis of the Portfolio and any route options in the RAC report that may need additional analysis.

That NEPA analysis will most likely be a supplemental EIS.

RAW notes from the Gateway West RAC Subcommittee presentation to the full RAC June 5, 2014.

RAC Introductions

Jim Fincher thanked the RAC coordinators and gave a synopsis of what he asked the RAC subcommittee to do after the decisions were made to defer the decision Segments 8 & 9. He thanked the subcommittee on their professionalism and the open and collaborative way that they worked together. We look forward to hearing the subcommittee presentation both in regards to the routing options and the mitigation and enhancement portfolio. We'll compare those to what was done in the EIS. This information will be released to the public during scoping.

Karen Steenhof gave a presentation to the RAC on the Route Options report. Karen thanked everyone for coming. We (the subcommittee) updated you (RAC) back in January on our progress, so I will keep the background information brief. Karen gave a background on the GWW project that was proposed and discussed the deferral of decisions on Segments 8 and 9. The preferred alternatives traversed unroaded lands in Owyhee county and in the communities of Melba, Murphy and Oreana. Controversial because of sage grouse, scenic views and private lands in Ada, Canyon and Owyhee counties. Decision was whether to put in new transmission lines in the NCA. At the time the NCA was established, there were many transmission lines already existing. Research conducted from 1981 to 1989 found that the transmission lines enhanced the opportunities for raptor perching. Collision with transmission lines does seem to be a big issue for raptors in this area. Raptors and ravens were attracted to the 500kV line.

The NCA was established, Karen defined what a NLCS unit is (National Conservation Lands). A BLM Manual came about in 2012 that asserts that BLM should avoid granting new ROWs in monuments and NCA. It then gives discretion to the BLM that if they have to route them through monuments and NCAs and the required mitigation.

The subcommittee team was presented and Karen thanked everyone for their help. The subcommittee held 11 meetings and one work session. Twenty presentations were given. The meetings has >120 attendees with 22 people who commented (public). There were 2 field trips held (by Governor's Office of Energy Resources). At the first RAC subcommittee meeting, the subcommittee agreed to focus on the areas of Segments 8 and 9 from nodes 8-01 and 9-01. New information was presented to the subcommittee – new guidelines for transmission line separation criteria and the potential to co-locate (or double circuit) with existing 138-kV lines. The subcommittee decided to try to route the line options to reduce impacts to private property and residences.

The subcommittee identified river crossings as potential bottlenecks. We evaluated 10 crossings of the Snake River (that is where the resources are the richest) and determined which ones were acceptable or not acceptable. All 4 acceptable crossings are at places where there are already transmission lines crossing the rivers. We evaluated 12 route options for Segment 8 and 14 for Segment 9. Some had already been evaluated in the EIS and some were new. The report provides details on the route options, with a matrix of resources and maps showing each route. After we looked at each option, we tried to determine if we should rank the routes, however once we looked at the conflicts, one route option for

each route seemed to rise to the top. For Segment 8, the majority (7 of 8) of subcommittee recommends the Summer Lake option. This route would parallel the PacifiCorp Summer Lake 500-kV transmission line across the NCA. The updated WECC separation criteria would allow the new transmission line to be 250 feet from the existing line. This route should minimize vegetation disturbance by reducing the amount of new access roads within the BOPNCA and elsewhere that would need to be constructed and maintained. The Companies plan to use existing roads near and beneath the existing 500-kV transmission line to minimize the overall disturbance footprint of the new line. Rather than constructing a completely new access road network for the route, they would use short spur roads from existing roads to provide access to new towers. This route would minimize impacts on communities and private property in the Kuna and Melba areas of Ada, Canyon, and Owyhee Counties and would avoid critical habitat for slickspot peppergrass. This route was modified to minimize impacts to the OCTC Alpha Sector and adjacent private property.

For Segment 9, the majority of the subcommittee recommends the Baja Road-Murphy Flat South. This option would double circuit the new 500-kV line with existing 138-kV lines for most of the distance through the NCA. The new line would incorporate and replace existing 138-kV lines near C. J. Strike Reservoir in Owyhee County and along Baja Road on public land in Ada and Elmore counties. The line would cross the Snake River near C.J. Strike Dam and above Swan Falls, near Sinker Butte, where an existing 138-kV transmission line crosses the Snake River. The new 500-kV line would traverse public land on Murphy Flat, avoiding historic Oregon Trail ruts. It would cross Highway 78 near the Rabbit Creek Trailhead, and continue north to the Hemingway Substation, outside of preliminary priority sage-grouse habitat and mainly out of view from most subdivisions in Owyhee County. The advantages of this route are that it would minimize impacts on communities and private property in Owyhee County. It would minimize the amount of new road that would need to be constructed and maintained within the NCA and in unroaded areas in Owyhee County. This route would minimize the construction of transmission towers and roads near Greater sage-grouse leks, and within Greater sage-grouse habitat.

The subcommittee is aware of and sensitive to concerns that siting new transmission lines within the BOPNCA might set precedents for other National Conservation Lands. We find that the NCA is unique among National Conservation Lands in that the habitat has been seriously degraded by a history of wildfires and a proliferation of invasive species. There was already a great deal of infrastructure within its boundaries at the time it was designated. Scientific research conducted within the NCA indicated that this infrastructure has been compatible with the resources for which the NCA was designated, and some raptor populations may benefit if new transmission towers are designed to provide nesting and perching sites. The subcommittee reviewed the requirements in the Manual and we recognize the need to mitigate or enhance the area if a transmission line is built. We'll address the MEP review shortly.

Danielle Murray gave a presentation on the minority conclusions on the Route Option report. I work for the Conservation Lands Foundation – our mission is to protect, restore and expand the NCLs. She showed some photos of other NCAs in surrounding states as well as the Bruneau and Owyhee wild and scenic sections. We work with "friends groups" around the nation, who work closely with the BLM around the nation who work to protect these special areas.

The consensus of the subcommittee...This has been a very open and collaborative process. I agree that the subcommittee was tasked with addressing new information that the BLM may not have had. The appendices in the report show the work that the subcommittee did – we did a great job working together. I do not endorse, recommend or agree with ranking the proposed routes for Segments 8 and 9. The expertise and purpose of the subcommittee was to help BLM identify pros and cons of routes and new routes. The expertise and legal mandates of BLM had to meet the legal requirements of the NCA. The analysis that the subcommittee did was a bit biased to get the route that they wanted to see. I find that the excuse that the NCA is unique in that the habitat has been degraded. However, I think that this would be the last place you would put the power line. The subcommittee stated that new transmission lines should have no adverse on raptors, that was Karen's research and we did not look at any other research. We reviewed the BLM manuals, however I don't think that was what the subcommittee was asked to do. We asked the BLM several times, we asked the BLM what they needed the subcommittee to do. The BLM did not ask us to give recommendations on route options. My recommendation is for the BLM to take a look at all of the work that was done for each route option and consider it during the NEPA process. I don't think that the BLM should take the subcommittee route recommendation.

1 – I think the subcommittee did a great job on looking all of the route options and this is a complicated issue.

2 – I don't' think the subcommittee is experts at interpreting BLM laws. I think that the BLM should look at all of the information presented in the reports.

Question from the RAC – I am trying to understand the RAC subcommittee minority is. Danielle stated that she is the minority. Neil – when we first stared into this process in December 2013. Betsy stated that she was glad there was a process, but she could not endorse a route through the NCA. We agreed with Betsy (and therefore Danielle) that they could present a minority conclusion.

Karen presented the evaluation of the MEP proposal (draft portfolio) presented by the companies. The submitted their draft portfolio during the comment period for the FEIS. The MEP is designed to go above and above the standard mitigation requirements. The MEP includes compensatory mitigation and enhancement requirements. Compensatory addresses residual impacts to try to get the area back to "baseline" conditions. The draft proposal has proposed that 43% of the funds go to habitat restoration and 57% goes toward law enforcement. Enhancement is based on construction footprint (larger than operational footprint) and proposes (get numbers from slide) habitat restoration, law enforcement, land purchase, visitor enhancement; management oversight, line removal. The oversight committee. Line removal would be removal of two lower voltage lines in the NCA. The amounts are scalable based on miles of line that are proposed on NCA, except the management oversight and line removal amounts which are static. The amounts in the MEP proposal are based on the draft portfolio proposed routes. The metric can be applied regardless of which segment is chosen. The report shows the estimated funding for each route option. The general consensus from the subcommittee was that the proposed funding was too low, however we did not feel like we had the expertise to determine how much funding would be appropriate. We recommend that the BLM through the NEPA process do an analysis to

determine what is appropriate. The subcommittee had concerns about the allocation of the funding. The MEP did not provide for enhancement of raptor populations and scientific resources and values (research and monitoring). We recommend that the companies revise the proposed allocations. And we recommend that the following categories in order of priority: (get list from slide). The subcommittee was pleased that the NEP proposed law enforcement we feel that an expanded and onsite presence will reduce.... The BLM already has a robust public awareness program, so we don't feel that the money should be focused on public education. We discussed land purchase or whether to invest monies to restore and enhance lands; however a management ....(get from report). The permitting process should disallow line construction during nesting season and we recommend that biologists and engineers work together to design towers that are raptor friendly (nesting platforms) and raven non-friendly. While the lines will be removed, we think that poles should be left in place. Enhancing raptor populations happen by enhancing prey base which benefit by enhancing habitat. The lands in the NCCA have been degraded by fire and invasives; they need to be restored. In this climate, it will be extremely difficult to reestablish habitat and we would prefer to see larger areas treated instead of smaller. We recommend an integrated and adaptive approach. Look at landscape scale strategy to preserve remnant sage-brush patches should be a priority. Fire breaks and fire suppression are recommended. These goals could be accomplished through a variety of approaches addressed in the report. Research and monitoring at all trophic levels should take place. Vegetation monitoring plan, monitor the effects of transmission lines, monitoring trends in raptors (raptor population monitoring), prey population monitoring (small mammals such as ground squirrels and jack rabbits), studies of lead in the environment (new access roads will increase recreation and more lead could be introduced), data repository to assemble data. Keys to success are a long-term approach, an oversight committee established as soon as possible, and to ensure that funds are available over the long term, we recommend long-term management.

RAC member question – what recreational uses will be allowed on the roads? Response: there is a travel management plan is currently being prepared. It will designate specific uses. So is it likely that motorized vehicles will be allowed. Motorized vehicles are currently allowed on designated roads. Another RAC member asked about the co-location of lines near Rabbit Creek? Response: there was a discussion that distribution and transmission lines will not be collocated, they are separate. There will not be co-location in the Rabbit Creek area. Another question from the RAC: You say in the report that a substation will be removed; where is it? Response: The Gage Station in the area east and southeast of Melba on the NCA will be removed.

The RAC chair, Gene Gray, stated that he would accept a motion to accept the workings of the subcommittee and forward to the Boise District Manager. It was motioned and seconded to accept all of the workings of the subcommittee. Sara Schmidt, RAC member, offered her support of the majority conclusion presented by the subcommittee. Kathryn Alder, RAC member, voted to support the routes recommended by the majority by the subcommittee. Alayne Blickle motioned to accept the workings and the motion was seconded by Gayle Poorman.

Jim Fincher presented each member of the subcommittee with an award for all of the work that they have done leading the subcommittee effort and all of the hours they have donated to get through the

process. I think this process has been and will be a good model for the future on how a RAC and subcommittee can work well with the BLM.

Tim – We appreciate all of the collaboration, time, travel, etc. that went into this effort. The companies provided very helpful inside on changes that that can occur and provided very helpful information. Although the subcommittee has not come to total consensus, what we have a is a very useful body of information to use going forward. With the conclusion of this work, the BLM will begin a public scoping process, look at what the RAC brought forward, look at what was done in the EIS. We now have a highly concentrated effort. BLM wants to work as rapidly as possible with the companies to work on the MEP package. We will start on public scoping. How long will this take? I don't think there is a good opportunity for an EA, but we won't make that determination until public scoping is done. Looking at the longest timeframe of a potential supplemental EIS, it could take 18 months.

Neil – I would encourage the BLM to use the RAC through this process; the subcommittee has expertise to help the BLM. Tim – the matrix will be very useful in this process; it would have taken us a lot of time to get to that point. Gene – please use folks on the RAC for their expertise. Tim – yes we are listening and at the end of the day Jim has a tough decision to make. We will listen and will have transparency through this process.

RAW notes from the Gateway West RAC Subcommittee presentation to the full RAC June 5, 2014.

RAC Introductions

Jim Fincher thanked the RAC coordinators and gave a synopsis of what he asked the RAC subcommittee to do after the decisions were made to defer the decision Segments 8 & 9. He thanked the subcommittee on their professionalism and the open and collaborative way that they worked together. We look forward to hearing the subcommittee presentation both in regards to the routing options and the mitigation and enhancement portfolio. We'll compare those to what was done in the EIS. This information will be released to the public during scoping.

Karen Steenhof gave a presentation to the RAC on the Route Options report. Karen thanked everyone for coming. We (the subcommittee) updated you (RAC) back in January on our progress, so I will keep the background information brief. Karen gave a background on the GWW project that was proposed and discussed the deferral of decisions on Segments 8 and 9. The preferred alternatives traversed unroaded lands in Owyhee county and in the communities of Melba, Murphy and Oreana. Controversial because of sage grouse, scenic views and private lands in Ada, Canyon and Owyhee counties. Decision was whether to put in new transmission lines in the NCA. At the time the NCA was established, there were many transmission lines already existing. Research conducted from 1981 to 1989 found that the transmission lines enhanced the opportunities for raptor perching. Collision with transmission lines does seem to be a big issue for raptors in this area. Raptors and ravens were attracted to the 500kV line.

The NCA was established, Karen defined what a NLCS unit is (National Conservation Lands). A BLM Manual came about in 2012 that asserts that BLM should avoid granting new ROWs in monuments and NCA. It then gives discretion to the BLM that if they have to route them through monuments and NCAs and the required mitigation.

The subcommittee team was presented and Karen thanked everyone for their help. The subcommittee held 11 meetings and one work session. Twenty presentations were given. The meetings has >120 attendees with 22 people who commented (public). There were 2 field trips held (by Governor's Office of Energy Resources). At the first RAC subcommittee meeting, the subcommittee agreed to focus on the areas of Segments 8 and 9 from nodes 8-01 and 9-01. New information was presented to the subcommittee – new guidelines for transmission line separation criteria and the potential to co-locate (or double circuit) with existing 138-kV lines. The subcommittee decided to try to route the line options to reduce impacts to private property and residences.

The subcommittee identified river crossings as potential bottlenecks. We evaluated 10 crossings of the Snake River (that is where the resources are the richest) and determined which ones were acceptable or not acceptable. All 4 acceptable crossings are at places where there are already transmission lines crossing the rivers. We evaluated 12 route options for Segment 8 and 14 for Segment 9. Some had already been evaluated in the EIS and some were new. The report provides details on the route options, with a matrix of resources and maps showing each route. After we looked at each option, we tried to determine if we should rank the routes, however once we looked at the conflicts, one route option for

each route seemed to rise to the top. For Segment 8, the majority (7 of 8) of subcommittee recommends the Summer Lake option. This route would parallel the PacifiCorp Summer Lake 500-kV transmission line across the NCA. The updated WECC separation criteria would allow the new transmission line to be 250 feet from the existing line. This route should minimize vegetation disturbance by reducing the amount of new access roads within the BOPNCA and elsewhere that would need to be constructed and maintained. The Companies plan to use existing roads near and beneath the existing 500-kV transmission line to minimize the overall disturbance footprint of the new line. Rather than constructing a completely new access road network for the route, they would use short spur roads from existing roads to provide access to new towers. This route would minimize impacts on communities and private property in the Kuna and Melba areas of Ada, Canyon, and Owyhee Counties and would avoid critical habitat for slickspot peppergrass. This route was modified to minimize impacts to the OCTC Alpha Sector and adjacent private property.

For Segment 9, the majority of the subcommittee recommends the Baja Road-Murphy Flat South. This option would double circuit the new 500-kV line with existing 138-kV lines for most of the distance through the NCA. The new line would incorporate and replace existing 138-kV lines near C. J. Strike Reservoir in Owyhee County and along Baja Road on public land in Ada and Elmore counties. The line would cross the Snake River near C.J. Strike Dam and above Swan Falls, near Sinker Butte, where an existing 138-kV transmission line crosses the Snake River. The new 500-kV line would traverse public land on Murphy Flat, avoiding historic Oregon Trail ruts. It would cross Highway 78 near the Rabbit Creek Trailhead, and continue north to the Hemingway Substation, outside of preliminary priority sage-grouse habitat and mainly out of view from most subdivisions in Owyhee County. The advantages of this route are that it would minimize impacts on communities and private property in Owyhee County. It would minimize the amount of new road that would need to be constructed and maintained within the NCA and in unroaded areas in Owyhee County. This route would minimize the construction of transmission towers and roads near Greater sage-grouse leks, and within Greater sage-grouse habitat.

The subcommittee is aware of and sensitive to concerns that siting new transmission lines within the BOPNCA might set precedents for other National Conservation Lands. We find that the NCA is unique among National Conservation Lands in that the habitat has been seriously degraded by a history of wildfires and a proliferation of invasive species. There was already a great deal of infrastructure within its boundaries at the time it was designated. Scientific research conducted within the NCA indicated that this infrastructure has been compatible with the resources for which the NCA was designated, and some raptor populations may benefit if new transmission towers are designed to provide nesting and perching sites. The subcommittee reviewed the requirements in the Manual and we recognize the need to mitigate or enhance the area if a transmission line is built. We'll address the MEP review shortly.

Danielle Murray gave a presentation on the minority conclusions on the Route Option report. I work for the Conservation Lands Foundation – our mission is to protect, restore and expand the NCLs. She showed some photos of other NCAs in surrounding states as well as the Bruneau and Owyhee wild and scenic sections. We work with "friends groups" around the nation, who work closely with the BLM around the nation who work to protect these special areas.

The consensus of the subcommittee...This has been a very open and collaborative process. I agree that the subcommittee was tasked with addressing new information that the BLM may not have had. The appendices in the report show the work that the subcommittee did – we did a great job working together. I do not endorse, recommend or agree with ranking the proposed routes for Segments 8 and 9. The expertise and purpose of the subcommittee was to help BLM identify pros and cons of routes and new routes. The expertise and legal mandates of BLM had to meet the legal requirements of the NCA. The analysis that the subcommittee did was a bit biased to get the route that they wanted to see. I find that the excuse that the NCA is unique in that the habitat has been degraded. However, I think that this would be the last place you would put the power line. The subcommittee stated that new transmission lines should have no adverse on raptors, that was Karen's research and we did not look at any other research. We reviewed the BLM manuals, however I don't think that was what the subcommittee was asked to do. We asked the BLM several times, we asked the BLM what they needed the subcommittee to do. The BLM did not ask us to give recommendations on route options. My recommendation is for the BLM to take a look at all of the work that was done for each route option and consider it during the NEPA process. I don't think that the BLM should take the subcommittee route recommendation.

1 – I think the subcommittee did a great job on looking all of the route options and this is a complicated issue.

2 – I don't' think the subcommittee is experts at interpreting BLM laws. I think that the BLM should look at all of the information presented in the reports.

Question from the RAC – I am trying to understand the RAC subcommittee minority is. Danielle stated that she is the minority. Neil – when we first stared into this process in December 2013. Betsy stated that she was glad there was a process, but she could not endorse a route through the NCA. We agreed with Betsy (and therefore Danielle) that they could present a minority conclusion.

Karen presented the evaluation of the MEP proposal (draft portfolio) presented by the companies. The submitted their draft portfolio during the comment period for the FEIS. The MEP is designed to go above and above the standard mitigation requirements. The MEP includes compensatory mitigation and enhancement requirements. Compensatory addresses residual impacts to try to get the area back to "baseline" conditions. The draft proposal has proposed that 43% of the funds go to habitat restoration and 57% goes toward law enforcement. Enhancement is based on construction footprint (larger than operational footprint) and proposes (get numbers from slide) habitat restoration, law enforcement, land purchase, visitor enhancement; management oversight, line removal. The oversight committee. Line removal would be removal of two lower voltage lines in the NCA. The amounts are scalable based on miles of line that are proposed on NCA, except the management oversight and line removal amounts which are static. The amounts in the MEP proposal are based on the draft portfolio proposed routes. The metric can be applied regardless of which segment is chosen. The report shows the estimated funding for each route option. The general consensus from the subcommittee was that the proposed funding was too low, however we did not feel like we had the expertise to determine how much funding would be appropriate. We recommend that the BLM through the NEPA process do an analysis to

determine what is appropriate. The subcommittee had concerns about the allocation of the funding. The MEP did not provide for enhancement of raptor populations and scientific resources and values (research and monitoring). We recommend that the companies revise the proposed allocations. And we recommend that the following categories in order of priority: (get list from slide). The subcommittee was pleased that the NEP proposed law enforcement we feel that an expanded and onsite presence will reduce.... The BLM already has a robust public awareness program, so we don't feel that the money should be focused on public education. We discussed land purchase or whether to invest monies to restore and enhance lands; however a management ....(get from report). The permitting process should disallow line construction during nesting season and we recommend that biologists and engineers work together to design towers that are raptor friendly (nesting platforms) and raven non-friendly. While the lines will be removed, we think that poles should be left in place. Enhancing raptor populations happen by enhancing prey base which benefit by enhancing habitat. The lands in the NCCA have been degraded by fire and invasives; they need to be restored. In this climate, it will be extremely difficult to reestablish habitat and we would prefer to see larger areas treated instead of smaller. We recommend an integrated and adaptive approach. Look at landscape scale strategy to preserve remnant sage-brush patches should be a priority. Fire breaks and fire suppression are recommended. These goals could be accomplished through a variety of approaches addressed in the report. Research and monitoring at all trophic levels should take place. Vegetation monitoring plan, monitor the effects of transmission lines, monitoring trends in raptors (raptor population monitoring), prey population monitoring (small mammals such as ground squirrels and jack rabbits), studies of lead in the environment (new access roads will increase recreation and more lead could be introduced), data repository to assemble data. Keys to success are a long-term approach, an oversight committee established as soon as possible, and to ensure that funds are available over the long term, we recommend long-term management.

RAC member question – what recreational uses will be allowed on the roads? Response: there is a travel management plan is currently being prepared. It will designate specific uses. So is it likely that motorized vehicles will be allowed. Motorized vehicles are currently allowed on designated roads. Another RAC member asked about the co-location of lines near Rabbit Creek? Response: there was a discussion that distribution and transmission lines will not be collocated, they are separate. There will not be co-location in the Rabbit Creek area. Another question from the RAC: You say in the report that a substation will be removed; where is it? Response: The Gage Station in the area east and southeast of Melba on the NCA will be removed.

The RAC chair, Gene Gray, stated that he would accept a motion to accept the workings of the subcommittee and forward to the Boise District Manager. It was motioned and seconded to accept all of the workings of the subcommittee. Sara Schmidt, RAC member, offered her support of the majority conclusion presented by the subcommittee. Kathryn Alder, RAC member, voted to support the routes recommended by the majority by the subcommittee. Alayne Blickle motioned to accept the workings and the motion was seconded by Gayle Poorman.

Jim Fincher presented each member of the subcommittee with an award for all of the work that they have done leading the subcommittee effort and all of the hours they have donated to get through the

process. I think this process has been and will be a good model for the future on how a RAC and subcommittee can work well with the BLM.

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BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Jun 9, 2014 at 6:57 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Attached are briefing materials for Tuesday, June 10, 2014. These have also been uploaded to Google Drive, and a binder is on your chair for when you come in tomorrow.

Additionally, materials for June 11th are uploaded in Google Drive.

Thank you,

Zaina

12 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1-11)

6 10 14_930am_Opening Remarks at the USETI Multi Stakeholder Group Meeting.docx
509K

6 10 14_11am_Internal Briefing on Indian Education.doc
61K

6 10 14_11am_ATTACHMENT FAQs Indian Education.pdf
68K

6 10 14_11am_ATTACHMENT Blueprint Indian Ed.doc
861K

6 10 14_1pm_Internal 5 year Plan Update.docx
35K

BOEM Five Year Program Secretary Briefing 061014 final.pdf
1376K

6 10 14_215pm_Opening Remarks at LGBT Theme Study Panel Discussion.doc
159K

House Letter to DOI on LGBT Theme Study.pdf
1380K

Senate Letter to Interior on NPS LGBT Theme Study (1).pdf
476K

6 10 14_215pm_TALKING POINTS Opening Remarks at the LGBT Theme Study Panel Discussion.docx
31K

6 10 14_345pm_Internal Prep for Meeting with API.docx
67K

6 10 14_345_TALKING POINTS Internal Prep for Meeting with API.docx
25K

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSITUTE

INTERNAL PREP FOR MEETING WITH API

DATE: June 10, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 3:45PM – 4:15PM
FROM: Janice M. Schneider, AS/LM
Brandi Colander, Counselor to the AS/LM
Neil Kornze, Director, BLM
Brian Salerno, Director, BSEE
Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, BOEM

MEETING WITH API

DATE: June 11, 2014
LOCATION: The Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
TIME: 1:45PM – 2:30PM
FROM: Janice M. Schneider, AS/LM
Brandi Colander, Counselor to the AS/LM
Neil Kornze, Director, BLM
Brian Salerno, Director, BSEE
Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, BOEM

I. PURPOSE

You are scheduled to address the Executive Committee of the American Petroleum Institute (API). The Executive Committee consists of 12 of the oil and natural gas industry's top executives. Jack Gerard's invitation letter (Attachment 1) describes the meeting as an opportunity to exchange views on the economy, energy policy, and the role of the energy industry in creating jobs and ensuring energy security. Jack is the President and CEO of API.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Chairman:

- Mr. Stephen Chazen, President and Chief Executive Officer Occidental Petroleum Corporation

Members:

- Mr. Greg Garland, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Phillips 66
- Mr. Gary Heminger, President and Chief Executive Officer Marathon Petroleum Corporation
- Mr. John B. Hess, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Hess Corporation
- Mr. Ryan Lance, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer ConocoPhillips

- Mr. John Mingé, Chairman and President BP America, Inc.
- Mr. Jack Moore, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Cameron Corporation
- Mr. J. Larry Nichols, Executive Chairman Devon Energy Corporation
- Mr. Marvin Odum, President and Director, Upstream Americas Shell Oil Company
- Mr. Rex Tillerson, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Exxon Mobil Corporation
- Mr. Al Walker Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- Mr. John Watson Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Chevron Corporation
- Ex-Officio: Mr. Jack Gerard President and Chief Executive Officer

API Staff

- Louis Finkel Executive Vice President American Petroleum Institute
- Khary Cauthen, Sen Director Fed Relations American Petroleum Institute
- Erik Milito, Group Director Upstream American Petroleum Institute
- Harry Ng, General Counsel American Petroleum Institute

III. AGENDA

You will be seated at the head of horseshoe-shaped table with the CEOs. Jack Gerard will introduce you. Your opening remarks will take approximately five minutes. The remainder of the meeting will consist of open discussion with members of the Executive Committee and questions and answers.

IV. KEY FACTS/HOT TOPICS

BLM

Hydraulic Fracturing

In May 2012, the BLM initiated formal rulemaking to revise its regulations on hydraulic fracturing on Federal and Indian lands with the publication of a proposed rule. The BLM published a revised proposed rule in May 2013. In addition to receiving comments during the formal comment period, the BLM conducted numerous consultations with tribes and outreach sessions with a range of stakeholders dating back to November 2010.

The BLM conducted the following outreach:

- Sent invitations to nearly 200 tribes;
- Travelled to meet with the tribes three times in January 2012 and four times in June 2013;
- Met with officials from New Town, ND and the National Congress of the American Indian Conference in July 2012;
- Met with tribes in Farmington, NM, and Dickinson, ND after the 2013 rule; and

- Met with tribes in Denver in March 2014 and, at the request of tribes, local BLM managers had follow-up meetings with individual tribes.

During the most recent formal comment period, which closed on August 23, 2013, the BLM received more than 1.35 million comments (in addition to the 177,000 comments received in 2012). The BLM anticipates issuing a final rule in fall 2014 after the Department completes its review of the package and sends it to the Office of Management and Budget.

The proposed rules have focused on addressing public disclosure, wellbore integrity, and flowback fluid management as the key issues underlying sound hydraulic fracturing development. The BLM's existing regulations, which are now 30 years old, do not adequately address these issues particularly in light of changing technology associated with horizontal well completions.

Industry has voiced concerns that the BLM does not have the capacity to regulate hydraulic fracturing and have increased costs from added tests such as the 2013 Revised Proposed Rule requirement for cement evaluation logs on surface casing even if an operator demonstrates sound cementing practices and pressure tests the surface casing and annulus-filled cement. Industry also expressed the following questions and concerns:

- The utility of requiring certain costly cement evaluation logs for well integrity as proposed in the rule, particularly at the surface, when other tests are available.
- The duplication of state regulations, resulting in inefficiency and possible delays.
- BLM staffing capacity to absorb the added workload.
- Compromising trade secrets associated with the disclosure of chemicals used in their respective hydraulic fracturing processes.
- The BLM has underestimated the costs of the rule.

The API provided 47 pages from two submissions describing concerns with the 2013 Supplemental Proposed Rule. The API raised numerous concerns, in addition to perceived added costs, delays while drilling, and permitting delays, including:

- There are no compelling reasons for the rule as there are no confirmed cases of contamination from hydraulic fracturing
- The FLPMA does not compel further regulation of Hydraulic Fracturing
- There is no regulatory void that needs to be filled by the BLM.
- The protection requirements for usable water are arbitrary, adding costs, and legally defective.
- Application of the rule to existing wells and leases may be a breach of contract, regulatory taking, and retroactive regulations.
- The rulemaking needs revisions to the requirements for cement evaluation logging and chemical disclosure.
- The API questions the criminal liability of an operator for a contractor.
- There should be flexibility in the use of lined pits.

- Remove the distinction in flowback and produced fluids.

After analysis of the comments, the BLM's approach to the final rule is to tighten the focus on wellbore integrity. The operators would post chemicals to FracFocus. The BLM strengthened the affidavit provisions to exempt public disclosure for trade secrets. The final rule will mandate the use of tanks for flowback fluid management unless operators meet specific criteria for use of lined pits. The BLM will work with the states to update the Memorandum of Understanding to streamline and take advantage of efficiencies where they meet or exceed the requirements in the final rule.

BLM's Oil and Gas Program

Oil and gas leasing is a market-driven activity. During calendar year 2013, the BLM held 30 lease sales. Nearly 1.1 million acres received bids, generating over $202 million in revenue (shared with the states). During fiscal year (FY) 2013, industry produced more than 133 million barrels of oil and nearly 2.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas on Federal onshore leases. (*Source: Office of Natural Resources Revenue)*

Industry interest in nominating Federal parcels for oil and gas development has increased since 2006. Between CY 2006 and CY 2013, industry expressions of interest increased from 7.5 million acres to 12.3 million acres. The BLM has deferred offering several areas because of planning activities related to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat conservation in Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming.

The FY 2015 Budget proposes (i) a new fee schedule to fund inspection and enforcement, with collections offsetting a proposed reduction in appropriated funding; and (ii) a fee on new non-producing oil and gas leases to encourage diligent development on leased lands. The new fee to fund inspection and enforcement, if approved, would result in a $10 million increase to the program and allow the BLM to focus additional resources on inspections and ensure completion of 100 percent of the high priority inspections. The $6 per acre annual fee for non-producing leases is intended to promote timely production on new oil or gas leases and end once production occurs.

Oil and Gas Statistics

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continues to administer a robust and responsible oil and gas leasing program on public lands. Federal onshore oil production is the highest it has been in a decade and has risen for the fourth year in a row. Last year, the BLM offered 5.7 million acres for lease by industry -- the most in a decade -- and had 12.6 million acres actively producing oil and gas -- the most acres in six years.

- The BLM had approximately 23,500 producing oil and gas leases in FY2013, an increase of about 900 from FY2009.

- The BLM is approving Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) more quickly. In FY2013, it took an average of 194 days to process an APD, down from 247 in 2009.

- At the end of FY 2013, the BLM had approved 5,816 APDs for public lands available for industry to drill, and approved another 895 APDs for Indian trust lands. Processing time for onshore drilling permits is the lowest it has been in eight years, and the BLM continues to invest in making the permitting process faster, less costly, and more transparent.

Master Leasing Plans and Other Leasing Reforms

Master Leasing Plans (MLP) involve pre-planning and intensive analysis of distinct geographical areas to avoid or minimize conflicts between oil and gas activity and recreation, water, air, cultural, and wildlife values. Areas with numerous competing resource values require additional planning and analysis prior to issuing new or additional oil and gas leases. The MLP process enables the BLM to take a focused, landscape-level look at the decisions in Resource Management Plans (RMP) pertaining to leasing and post-leasing development with an eye toward avoiding or minimizing conflicts and subsequent litigation.

The BLM is developing MLPs, as part of new RMPs and amendments to existing RMPs. A number of stakeholders, including many environmental groups, have expressed interest and requested that the BLM prepare additional MLPs. Industry believes that MLPs are an unnecessary step in the leasing process that results in delays.

The BLM's 2010 leasing reforms have increased consistency in lease stipulations provided for a more thorough lease parcel review process, including more time for pre-sale lease analysis. When the BLM initiated Leasing Reform in 2010, the current leasing system was near the breaking point. In 2009, the BLM received protests on nearly half of all lease parcels. In 2013, after the initiation of Leasing Reform, protests diminished to fewer than 20 percent. The BLM accomplished this by adding pre-lease NEPA analysis to build a more efficient process that better informs and involves the public while resolving protests more quickly. Included in this process was a more thorough on-the-ground analysis, which allows the BLM to identify which parcels the BLM should or should not lease and, if they do lease them, to determine what mitigation and other stipulations apply.

Venting and Flaring Rule for Onshore Federal and Indian Lands

The BLM's current policy on venting and flaring, covered by a Notice to Lessees known as NTL-4A, is over three decades old. The BLM is drafting a rule to update NTL-4A. While the BLM has made no final decisions, they are reviewing a wide range of areas in which fugitive emission reductions may be technically and economically possible.

Possible areas for effective emission reductions include: well completions (used to put a well into production); production tests; casing head and associated gas (from oil wells); liquids unloading; oil and condensate storage tanks and vessels; pneumatic devices; and leak detection and repair. The BLM is also considering the extent of its authority to charge royalties for vented, flared, or leaked gas. The BLM does not charge royalties for this gas under a variety of circumstances, including when gas is determined to be "unavoidably lost." In the last 30 years, however, industry has made significant progress in its technical ability to control leaks, venting and flaring. This significant progress may allow the BLM to adjust which circumstances where the gas is "avoidably lost" and thus royalty bearing. The BLM just completed four regional public outreach sessions in Denver (March 19), Albuquerque (May 7), Dickinson (May 9) and

Washington, D.C. (May 16). Each session had both a tribal and a public component. The BLM anticipates sending a proposed rule to OMB by the end of the calendar year.

API provided lengthy comments during the comment period, which closed on May 30. API stated that the BLM should adopt a sufficiently comprehensive view that recognizes and addresses permitting delays and other fundamental challenges currently preclude the installation of pipelines and infrastructure that could further reduce the need for venting and flaring. Further API stated the BLM has a statutory mandate to provide for the prevention of waste, conservation of oil and gas resources, and assurance of payment of the proper royalty share to the federal government, but not to regulate methane emissions or air quality.

Sage Grouse
The API said this in the Wall Street Journal (Opinion) March 11, 2014. "Interior's proposed "land use" amendments are draconian." They require a four-mile "buffer zone" whenever a sage-grouse mating ground is discovered on federal land. The American Petroleum Institute calls the proposed rules a "de facto ban on drilling." It fears that compliance could cost tens of millions of dollars in legal fees and cause years of drilling delays."

The BLM continues to offer lands for lease far in excess of industry demand. Last year, the BLM offered 5.7 million acres for lease by industry, the most in a decade. At the same time, industry submitted bids on fewer than one-in-five of these acres.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Blowout Preventer (BOP)/Well Control Rule
BSEE is working on a proposed rule to address various recommendations involving well control and BOPs arising out of multiple investigations following the Macondo Well blowout and resulting oil spill (spill). The rule is of great interest to industry and they have requested the agency to expedite its release. Immediately following the spill, BSEE issued a series of Notices to Lessees and regulations that attempted to fill several obvious gaps in regulations involving well control. However, these changes did not address the key recommendations relating to the need to increase BOP reliability and performance and improve industry practices involving well control. The objective of this proposed rulemaking is to address these key recommendations, address significant gaps in existing requirements, and update BSEE regulations to reflect industry best practices.

This rule is the most important safety reform arising out of the spill and will address many of the key recommendations and findings made by the National Academy of Engineers, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Commission, and other groups. The rule is a high priority for the Department. BSEE has held meetings with stakeholder groups on this rule, including a BOP forum in 2012. The key concern for industry will be the effective date for each of the proposed requirements.

Shallow water operators were generally unable to reach consensus on standards for surface BOPs, so the BOP standard for shallow water BOPs is less robust than that of deepwater subsea BOPs. This is reflected in American Petroleum Institute Std. 53. The initial cost to industry of complying with the new requirements will be approximately $164 million in the first year and

$77 million each year thereafter. However, an annual savings of $154 million due to reduced testing frequency for workover operations and a reduced likelihood of oil spills will offset this cost.

The proposed regulation has undergone extensive review within BSEE during the development stage, including a complete revision of the economic analysis to address internal modifications. The proposed rule is currently under review in the Solicitor's Office.

Arctic Rule

BSEE and BOEM are working on a proposed rule that would apply specifically to exploratory drilling in the Arctic. This rulemaking will address the unique operational challenges associated with Arctic operations. The Arctic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Standards will codify and further develop the Arctic-specific standards established for Shell's 2012 exploration program, and are intended to strengthen safety and environmental protection for Arctic OCS exploratory operations.

The rule will ensure that operators in the Arctic:

(1) design and conduct exploration programs in a manner suitable for Arctic conditions;
(2) develop an integrated operations plan that addresses all phases of the exploration program;
(3) have access to, and can promptly deploy, source control and containment equipment;
(4) have access to a separate relief rig to be able to timely drill a relief well in the event of a loss of well control;
(5) are capable of predicting, tracking, reporting, and responding to ice conditions and adverse weather events;
(6) effectively manage and oversee contractors; and
(7) develop and are prepared to implement effective oil spill response plans tailored to the Arctic conditions.

We expect the rule to enter interagency review this summer.

California Offshore Fracking

Environmental advocacy groups, including the Center for Biological Diversity and the Environmental Defense Center of Santa Barbara, CA, have expressed concern over possible environmental impacts associated with the use of hydraulic fracturing and acidization in the offshore environment. Their concerns include discharge of flow-back water into the ocean or an accidental spill, fluid leakage from loss of well integrity, leakage through faults, induced seismicity from hydraulic fracturing or fluid re-injection, and drinking water contamination. Additionally, the California Coastal Commission, which has an approved Coastal Management Plan pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, has recently expressed an interest in hydraulic fracturing and acid stimulation techniques occurring in waters off the California coast.

Operators in the Pacific OCS have used hydraulic fracturing only on rare occasions. There have been over 1400 oil and gas wells drilled on the Pacific OCS and to date only about a dozen of those wells have been hydraulically fractured. One operator on the Pacific OCS has been approved to hydraulically fracture three wells in the coming months. In contrast, almost every

well drilled on the Pacific OCS undergoes acidization, another form of stimulation. Well acidization is achieved by pumping acid into the well to dissolve limestone, dolomite, and calcite cement between the sediment grains of the reservoir rocks. After acidization, the used acid and sediments removed from the reservoir are washed out of the well in a process called backflush.

Permitting

The focus on "permitting" in recent years has mainly been on drilling permits. BSEE's district offices are responsible for approving the Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) for drilling operations. BSEE has made consistent improvements in the predictability and consistency of its permitting processes. In 2013, BSEE oversaw a 48% increase in the number of deepwater floating rigs and approved 394 well permits. In contrast, the agency approved 341 well permits in 2009. BSEE has achieved these improvements while putting in place additional drilling safety standards. Permit applications must meet standards for well-design, casing, cementing, containment and be independently certified by a professional engineer. In order to implement these improvements, BSEE has increased the district permitting staff by over 25 percent since 2010.

Well permits are approved through eWell, which is a web-based, electronic permitting system. The agency has used eWell successfully in the Gulf of Mexico for about ten years. BSEE is planning to further improve its permitting process by developing an ePermit system, an electronic process that will eventually take the place of the current paper-based approach used for non-eWell permits. The ePermit system will encompass all BSEE permitting activities, including pipeline, platform, commingling, measurement, production safety systems, flaring, suspensions, etc.

U.S./Mexico Transboundary Agreement

The U.S. and the United Mexican States signed the *"Agreement between the United States of America and the United Mexican States Concerning Transboundary Hydrocarbon Reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico"* on February 20, 2012. Congress ratified it in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, which the President signed on December 26, 2013. The Agreement is expected to be put into force in mid-July 2014. The Agreement establishes a legal framework for the exploitation of transboundary hydrocarbon reservoirs that may exist along the maritime boundary between the U.S. and Mexico in the Gulf of Mexico through cooperative arrangements, primarily BSEE-approved unitization agreements involving U.S. lessees and the Mexican national oil company, Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex).

The Agreement requires establishment of a "Joint Commission" to assist the Executive Agencies in administering the Agreement. On June 3rd, Secretary Jewell signed a Secretarial Order to implement the Agreement. During the week of June 9, a team of BSEE and BOEM employees will meet with our Mexican counterparts in Mexico to discuss processes and procedures for implementation of the Agreement

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Current Year Program

The current (2012 – 2017) BOEM Five-Year Program (Program) makes areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska with more than 75% of the total undiscovered technically recoverable OCS oil and gas resources available for potential leasing. Under the current Five Year Program, BOEM has two lease sales proposed for the Arctic OCS: the Chukchi Sea in 2016 and Beaufort Sea in 2017.

The Program did not include the Atlantic or large portions of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico as promoted by API. A portion of the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area (CPA) and most of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area (EPA) is under restriction until 2022 as part of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. The area restricted is that portion of the EPA within 125 miles of Florida, all areas in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line (86° 41' west longitude), and the area within the CPA that is within 100 miles of Florida.

Next Five Year Program
The Department is beginning the 2.5 to 3 year process of developing the next (2017 – 2022) Program. The week, BOEM will release a Request for Information (RFI), the first public step in the planning process. Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act requires the RFI to solicit public input on the areas that should or should not be included in the next Program. The RFI will include all 26 planning areas. The Secretary makes the decision regarding which areas to include or exclude from the Five Year Program following additional opportunities for public input. API is advocating that the next Program include the Atlantic and Pacific OCS, and more/all of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Atlantic Programmatic EIS for Geological and Geophysical Activities
On February 27, 2014, BOEM released the final Programmatic EIS for Proposed Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Activities in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas (PEIS). The PEIS outlines the environmental impacts of G&G survey activities for three BOEM program areas (oil and gas, renewable energy, and marine minerals) and identifies mitigation and monitoring measures to avoid, reduce, or minimize impacts to the marine environment. Additionally, the PEIS establishes a framework for future site-specific evaluations of proposed G&G activities (such as seismic testing) under NEPA and several other environmental requirements. The agency expects to sign the Record of Decision in the near future.

Chukchi Lease Sale 193 Litigation
On January 22, 2014, the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the Department's NEPA review for Lease Sale 193 in the Chukchi Sea off the coast of Alaska was insufficient. The decision stems from a lawsuit filed by Earthjustice on behalf of a coalition of 15 Alaska Native and conservation groups. The Chukchi Sea lease sale, Sale 193, was originally held in 2008, and offered nearly 30 million acres for oil drilling—an area larger than the size of Pennsylvania. Prior to the lease sale, there were no active oil leases in the Chukchi Sea. The Department is supplementing its NEPA analysis for the lease sale and must reconsider its lease sale decision. BOEM will have the lead for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. DOI issued directed suspensions to leaseholders in the Chukchi Sea effective January 22, 2014, and lasting until the court decision has been addressed. The SEIS will proceed expeditiously. Per the schedule filed with the federal district court for the District of Alaska, a draft SEIS is

expected in early October 2014, a final SEIS in February 2015, and a Record of Decision by March 2015.

Offshore Regulatory Issues in Frontier Areas:
Throughout 2013, DOI met with a number of oil and gas operators (both majors and independents) to discuss opportunities to modernize the offshore regulatory regime. The goal is to better align the regulations with the strategic and technical realities related to exploration and development in frontier areas, including emerging deepwater subsalt plays in the Gulf of Mexico. Many of the regulations governing OCS oil and gas operations were adopted when the majority of industry operations occurred in the shallow water GOM shelf. With the advent of highly-defined seismic programs and technical developments, including increased capacity for directional drilling, the offshore industry has moved further from the shelf into deeper waters and subsalt reservoirs that involve difficult drilling at extremely high pressures and temperatures. Some aspects of the current regulations do not recognize the difficulties or longer time frames associated with developing such areas. BOEM and BSEE are currently considering next steps.

V. TALKING POINTS

Talking Points from AS/LM are attached separately.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- Executive Committee Biographies *(below)*
- Talking Points *(attached separately)*

Stephen Chazen
President and CEO - Occidental
Mr. Stephen I. Chazen, also known as Steve, has been the Chief Executive Officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation since May 5, 2011 and its President since December 2007. Mr. Chazen served as the Chief Operating Officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation since August 2010. He served as the Chief Financial Officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation since 1999. Mr. Chazen served as Senior Executive Vice President of Occidental Petroleum Corp. from August 9, 2004 to December 2007, Executive Vice President of Corporate Development from May 1994 to August 9, 2004 and also served as its Head of Corporate Development. From 1982 to 1994, Mr. Chazen served as an Investment Banker at Merrill Lynch. He served in a number of roles, including managing director and head of corporate finance, managing director of mergers and acquisitions, and managing director in the natural resources group at Merrill Lynch. Mr. Chazen has been a Director of Lyondell Chemical Company since August 22, 2002. He has been an Independent Director of Ecolab Inc., since May 2013. He has been Director of Occidental Petroleum Corporation since May 2010. He has been a Director of American Petroleum Institute Inc. since January 2011. He serves as a Director of Port Arthur Finance Corp. He serves as a Director of Sabine River Holding Corp., the General partner of Port Arthur Coker Company L.P. He served as a Director of WMI Holdings Corp. from March 2008 to March 1, 2009. He served as a Director of Premcor Inc. since April 1999. He served as a Director of the predecessor of Premcor Inc. from 1995 to April 1999. He serves on the Governance Committees of Equistar Chemicals, LP and OxyVinyls L.P. He holds a Ph.D. in geology from Michigan State University, a master's degree in finance from the University of Houston and a bachelor's degree in geology from Rutgers College.

Greg Garland
Chairman and CEO – Phillips 66
Mr. Greg C. Garland has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at Phillips 66 Partners GP LLC, the general Partner of Phillips 66 Partners LP since March 2013. Mr. Garland has been the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Phillips 66 since April 30, 2012. He serves as a Vice President at American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers. He served as President of Phillips 66 from April 30, 2012 to May 30, 2014. He served as a Senior Vice President of Exploration & Production-Americas at ConocoPhillips from October 6, 2010 to April 2012. He served as Chief Executive Officer and President of Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. LLC from April 1, 2008 to February 8, 2011. He served the Chief Executive Officer and President of Americas Styrenics LLC. His extensive experience in the energy industry, including his more than 30-year career with Phillips Petroleum Company from 1980 to 2000, CPChem and ConocoPhillips. Mr. Garland served as Senior Vice President of Planning & Specialty Products at Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LLC from October 2001 to April 2008. From July 2000 to October 2001, he served as a Senior Vice President of Planning & Strategic Transactions of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LLC. He served as a General Manager of Qatar/Middle East for Phillips, since 1997. He has been a Director of Phillips 66 since April 30, 2012 and Amgen Inc. since October 16, 2013. He serves as a Director of DCP Midstream LLC and

Phillips 66 Partners GP LLC. He serves as a Director of DCP Midstream LLC at DCP Midstream Partners LP. He is a Member of the Chemical Engineering Industrial Advisory Board for Texas A&M University and serves on the board of Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas. He serves as a Director of American Chemistry Council, Inc. Mr. Garland holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1980.

Gary Heminger
President and CEO - Marathon Petroleum
Mr. Gary R. Heminger has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of Marathon Petroleum Corporation since June 30, 2011. Mr. Heminger has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at MPLX GP LLC, General Partner of MPLX LP since June 2012. He served as Executive Vice President of Downstream at Marathon Petroleum Company LP, a wholly owned subsidiary of Marathon Oil Corporation since July 2005. He served as an Executive Vice President of Downstream at Marathon Oil Corporation from July 2005 to June 30, 2011 and its Executive Vice President since January 2005. He served as the President of Marathon Petroleum Company LP since September 2001, Executive Vice President of Supply, Transportation and Marketing since January 2001, Senior Vice President of Business Development since 1999 and Vice President of Business Development since January 1998. Mr. Heminger served as Executive Vice President of Downstream at Marathon Oil Company. He joined Marathon Oil Company in 1975. He served as President of Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC since September 2001. He also served as President of Refining, Marketing & Transportation Operations of Marathon Petroleum Company LP. He served for 37 years at Marathon serving in a variety of groups and functions. In addition to five years in various financial and administrative roles, he served for three years in London, England as an Audit Supervisor of the Brae Project. He served as the Vice President of Western Division of Emro Marketing (predecessor of Speedway SuperAmerica LLC) since 1991 and served in several marketing and commercial roles, for eight years. From 1995 to1996, Mr. Heminger served as the President of Marathon Pipe Line Company and also served as Manager of Business Development & Joint Interest of Marathon Oil Company since November 1996. He has been a Director of Fifth Third Bank since December 20, 2006 and Marathon Petroleum Corporation since 2011. He serves as a Director of American Chemistry Council Inc. and of JobsOhio. He has been a Director at Fifth Third BanCorp since December 20, 2006. He served as Director of Northern Tier Energy LP until July 2012. He is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Tiffin University. He was Chairman of Louisiana Offshore Oil Port. He was a Member of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. He was Chairman of the American Petroleum Institute (API) Downstream Committee. He serves on the Executive Committee in the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council. He holds an MBA from the University of Dayton in 1982. Mr. Heminger graduated from Executive Management Program from the University of Pennsylvania - The Wharton School. He has a Bachelors Degree in Accounting from Tiffin University in 1976.

John B. Hess
Chairman and CEO – Hess Corporation
Mr. John B. Hess has been the Chief Executive Officer at Hess Corporation (formerly Amerada Hess Corp) since 1983. Mr. Hess has been with Hess Corporation for 28 years and has strong background in the global oil and gas industry. Mr. Hess provides significant value to the oversight and development of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts business and served leadership roles at a

global energy business. He served as the Chairman of Hess Corporation from 1995 to May 16, 2013. He serves as Vice Chairman of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. and has been its Director since 2007. He serves as a Trustee of Center for Strategic and International Studies, Inc. He has been a Director of Hess Corporation since 1978. He has been a Director of the Trilateral Commission since 2009. He has been a Director at Deerfield Academy since 2004. Mr. Hess has been a Director of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. since July 28, 2011 and of KKR Management LLC since July 28, 2011. Mr. Hess has been a Director of National Advisory Board of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. since 1991. He has been a Member of Board of Trustees at Wildlife Conservation Society/NY Zoo since 1991, United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation. Mr. Hess has been a Trustee of The Mount Sinai Hospital since 1988 and New York Public Library since 2008. He has been a Member of The Business Council of The Council of Foreign Relations since 2003 and Dean's Advisors of Harvard Business School since 2001. He served as a Director of NYC2012, Inc. He served as a Director of The Dow Chemical Company since October 12, 2006 until May 9, 2013. Mr. Hess served as a Member of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board from 1999 to 2002. He is a member of the National Petroleum Council at the U.S. Department of Energy. He earned a B.A. from Harvard College in 1975 and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 1977.

Ryan Lances
Chairman and CEO - ConocoPhillips
Mr. Ryan M. Lance has been the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer at ConocoPhillips since May 2012. Mr. Lance has 28 years of oil and natural gas industry experience in senior management and technical positions with ConocoPhillips, predecessor Phillips Petroleum and various divisions of ARCO Alaska, Inc. He served as Senior Vice President of Exploration & Production - International of ConocoPhillips and ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited since May 2009. Mr. Lance served as President of Exploration & Production, Asia Africa, Middle East and Russia/Caspian of ConocoPhillips and also served as its Senior Vice President of Technology since 2007. He served as Senior Vice President of Technology and Major Projects at Conocophillips from April 1, 2006 to February 1, 2007 and President of Asia Pacific Exploration and Production from May 8, 2003 to June 2005. He served as President Exploration & Production, Europe Asia Africa and the Middle East of ConocoPhillips. He served as President of downstream strategy, integration and specialty functions at ConocoPhillips since 2005 and as Vice President of Lower 48 since 2002. He served as President of Strategy Integration and Specialty Businesses - Refining Marketing Supply & Transportation of ConocoPhillips from June 2005 to April 1, 2006. Mr. Lance began his career with ARCO Alaska in 1984. He held various management, engineering and operations positions internationally as well as in Alaska and the U.S. Lower 48 before transferring in 1989 to ARCO's Bakersfield, Calif. operations. In 1992, he transferred to Midland, Texas, where he supervised ARCO's coalbed methane operations in the San Juan Basin. He returned to Alaska in 1994 as Exploration Engineering Manager. In 1996, he transferred to Vastar Resources in Houston as Planning Manager and served in that position until 1998. He served as Vice President of the Western North Slope for ARCO Alaska, Inc. since 1998. Mr. Lance returned to Houston in 2001 as the General Manager of Lower 48 and Canadian operations for Phillips Petroleum. He spent 17 years with ARCO. He has been a Director of ConocoPhillips since May 9, 2012. He serves as a Director for Spindletop International as well as on the Montana Tech Foundation's board. He serves on the University of Houston's Energy Advisory Board. He serves on the Boards of both

the American Petroleum Institute and the Independent Petroleum Association of America. He is an Advisory board Member of Montana Tech and a Member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. He is a Petroleum Engineer. Mr. Lance earned a Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering from Montana Tech in Butte in 1984.

John Minge
Chairman and President - BP America
Mr. John Minge has been the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of BP America, Inc. at Bp Alaska since February 15, 2013. Mr. Minge served as the President of BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. He served as the Head of Business at Bp Alaska from January 1, 2009 to February 15, 2013 also served as its Regional President. He served as the President of BP Indonesia. He began his BP career 25 years ago as a drilling engineer in the Gulf of Mexico. He served as President of Exploration and Production for Vietnam and China. Mr. Minge has been a Director of Bp America Inc. since February 15, 2013.

Jack Moore
Chairman, President and CEO – Cameron Corporation
Mr. Jack B. Moore has been the Chief Executive Officer of Cameron International Corporation (Formerly Cooper Cameron Corporation) since April 1, 2008, and has been its Chairman of the Board since May 3, 2011. Mr. Moore has been the President of Cameron International Corporation since January 01, 2007. He served as Chief Operating Officer of Cameron International Corporation since January 1, 2007. He served as President of Drilling & Production Systems Group of Cameron International Corporation from July 2002 to December 2006. He served as Senior Vice President at Cameron International Corporation from October 1, 2005 to January 1, 2007 and its Vice President since May 15, 2003. He joined Cameron in July 1999 as Vice President and General Manager of Western Hemisphere. He served at Baker Hughes Incorporated for 23 years, where he served in a variety of marketing, manufacturing and human resources positions. He has been a Director at Cameron International Corporation since November 2007 and KBR, Inc., since January 1, 2011. He serves as Member of Executive Advisory Board at C.T. Bauer College of Business. Mr. Moore served as Director of Maverick Tube Corporation and also served as its Member of Advisory Board. He serves on the boards of directors of the American Petroleum Institute (API), the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA). He serves as a Director of Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association (PESA) as well as the Boards of several charitable and educational institutions. He serves in positions of leadership for the Greater Houston Partnership, Spindletop Charities and of Memorial Drive United Methodist Church. Mr. Moore holds a BBA degree in finance and marketing from the University of Houston and a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

J. Larry Nichols
Executive Chairman – Devon Energy
Mr. J. Larry Nichols serves as President of Devon Energy Production Company LP. Mr. Nichols served as the President of Sonic Corp. He Co-Founded Devon Energy Corporation in 1971 and serves as its Chairman .from 2000 to June 2010, President from 1976 to 2003 and Chief Executive Officer since 1980. He served as law clerk to Mr. Chief Justice Earl Warren and Mr. Justice Tom Clark of the USA Supreme Court. He serves as the Executive Chairman of Devon

Energy Corporation. He served as the the Chairman of the Board of American Petroleum Institute Inc. from January 2008 to December 2010. He has been a Director of Devon Energy Corporation since 1971. He has been a Director at Baker Hughes Incorporated since 2001 and has been its Lead Director since April 30, 2013. Mr. Nichols has been a Director of Sonic Corp. since January 31, 2007. He also serves on the Board of Governors of the American Stock Exchange. He served as a Director of American Petroleum Institute Inc. He served as a Director of BOK Financial Corp. since 1997. He served as a Director of Smedvig ASA since 1996. He serves as a Director of the Domestic Petroleum Council, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Natural Gas Supply Association, the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico, the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association and the National Petroleum Council. Mr. Nichols serves as a Director of several trade associations that are relevant to the conduct of Devon's business. He served as Director of CMI Terex Corporation. Mr. Nichols holds a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Princeton University and a Law Degree from the University of Michigan.

Marvin Odum
President and Director, Upstream Americas, Shell Oil
Marvin E. Odum became Director of the Upstream Americas business in 2009. He continues as President of Shell Oil Company (SOC). Marvin earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Houston. He began his Shell career as an engineer in 1982, and has since served in a number of management positions of increasing responsibility in both technical and commercial aspects of energy. Prior to his most recent appointment and in addition to his role as SOC President, he was Executive Vice President for the Americas for Shell Exploration & Production. He was named SOC President in 2008 and had served as Executive Vice President since 2005, with responsibility for Shell exploration and production businesses in the western hemisphere. Marvin is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and holds positions of board leadership and participation in the Business Roundtable and the American Petroleum Institute. He is on the executive committee of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. In addition, he is a member of the Dean's Council of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Advisory Board of the Cockrell School of Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. He is also involved with several charities in the Houston area.

Rex Tillerson
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer – Exxon Mobil
Mr. Rex W. Tillerson has been Chief Executive Officer and President at Exxon Mobil Corporation since January 1, 2006 and March 1, 2004 respectively. Mr. Tillerson has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ExxonMobil Chemical Company since January 2006. He serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Exxonmobil Australia Pty. Ltd. He served as Senior Vice President of Exxon Mobil Corp. since August 2001. He served as Exxon Company, U.S.A.'s Production Engineer since 1975. Mr. Tillerson held several engineering, technical and supervisory assignments in the EUSA Production Department throughout Texas, and in 1987, was named Business Development Manager of the EUSA Natural Gas Department, where his responsibilities included developing long-range plans for commercialization of Alaska

and Canadian Beaufort Sea gas. Since 1989, he served as General Manager of EUSA's Central Production Division and was responsible for its oil and gas production operations throughout a large portion of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas. Mr. Tillerson served as the Production Adviser of Exxon Corporation since 1992 and Coordinator of Affiliate Gas Sales of Exxon Co., International. Three years later, he was named President of Exxon Yemen Inc. and Esso Exploration and Production Khorat Inc. and in January 1998, he became Vice President of Exxon Ventures (CIS) Inc. and President of Exxon Neftegas Limited, where he was responsible for Exxon Mobil Corp.'s holdings in Russia and the Caspian Sea as well as the Sakhalin I Consortium operations offshore Sakhalin Island, Russia. Since December 1999, he served as Executive Vice President of ExxonMobil Development Company. Mr. Tillerson has been the Chairman of Exxon Mobil Corporation since January 1, 2006 and has been its Director since March 1, 2004. He served as the Chairman of American Petroleum Institute Inc. He serves as Vice Chairman of The Business Council. He has been a Director of ExxonMobil Chemical Company since March 2004. He serves as a Trustee of Center for Strategic and International Studies. Mr. Tillerson served as a Member of the Board of Directors of the American Petroleum Institute Inc., the U.S.-Russia Business Council, the United Negro College Fund, a Member of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, and a Member of the Engineering Foundation Advisory Council for the University of Texas at Austin and the Society of Petroleum Engineers. He is a member of the National Petroleum Council, the Business Roundtable and its Energy Task Force, an honorary trustee of the Business Council for International Understanding, and a member of the Emergency Committee for American Trade. Mr. Tillerson received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

Al Walker
Chairman, President and CEO – Anadarko Petroleum

Mr. R. A. Walker, also known as Al, has been the Chairman at Anadarko Petroleum CorpORATION since May 14, 2013 and as its Chief Executive Officer since May 15, 2012 and President since February 2010. Mr. Walker serves served as the Chief Operating Officer of Anadarko Petroleum Corp. from March 1, 2009 to May 15, 2012. He served as the Managing Director for the Global Energy Group of UBS Investment Bank from 2003 to 2005, where he was responsible for UBS's upstream energy practice. He joined Anadarko Petroleum Corp. on September 6, 2005 as Senior Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer and served until March 2009. He worked at Seagull Energy Corp. and Enex Resources Corp. He served as the President and Chief Financial Officer of 3TEC Energy Corporation until its merger with Plains Exploration and Production Company in 2003. From 1987 to 2000, he worked for Prudential Financial in a variety of merchant banking positions as Senior Managing Director and Co-head of Prudential Capital Group. Mr. Walker has experience in both the banking and energy sectors. He served as the Chairman of Western Gas Holdings, LLC from August 2007 to October 2009. He has been a Director of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. since April 22, 2010 and Centerpoint Energy Resources Corp. since April 2010. He has been a Director of Maxus Energy Corporation since 1994. Mr. Walker serves as a Director of TIN Inc., Ocean Energy Inc., and the Houston Producers Forum. He has been a Director of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation since May 2012. He serves as Director of BOK Financial Corporation. He serves on the Board of Trustees for the United Way of Greater Houston and the Houston Museum of Natural Science. He served as a Director of Western Gas Equity Holdings, LLC from September 2012 to March 2013. He served as a Director of Temple-Inland Inc. since November 2008 February 2012. He served as a

Director of Western Gas Holdings, LLC from August 2008 to March 12, 2013. He served as Director of Global Natural Resources. He served as a Director of Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Company LLC since July 2002. He served as a Director of 3TEC Energy Corporation since 2000. Mr. Walker has a Bachelor of Science in 1979 and a Masters of Business Administration in 1984 from the University of Tulsa.

John Watson
Chairman and CEO – Chevron
Mr. John S. Watson has been the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Chevron Corporation since January 1, 2010. Mr. Watson serves as the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer at Chevron Global Energy Inc. He served as an Executive Vice President of Strategy & Development of Chevron Corp. from January 1, 2008 to April 1, 2009 and its Chief Financial Officer from 2000 to January 1, 2005. He served as President of Chevrontexaco Overseas Petroleum Inc. since January 1, 2005 and also served as President of Chevron Canada Limited, a subsidiary of Chevron Corp. since January 1996. Mr. Watson served as President of Chevron International Exploration and Production of Chevron Corp. from 2005 to 2007 and was responsible for managing Chevron's exploration and production activities outside North America. He served as Corporate Vice President, Strategic Planning at Chevron Corp. He joined Chevron Corp. in 1980 as a Financial Analyst, going on to hold various financial and analytical positions in Chevron and Chevron U.S.A. Inc. He held supervisory positions in the comptroller's financial and profit analysis groups. He served as Manager of investor relations of Chevron since 1990. Mr. Watson served as Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer of ChevronTexaco Corporation from 2000 to January 1, 2005 and also served as ChevronTexaco merger integration executive. Since 1993, Mr. Watson served as Manager of credit card enterprises of Chevron U.S.A. (CUSA) Products Co. where he oversaw its credit card operations. Since 1995, he served as General Manager of strategic planning and quality of CUSA, where he was responsible for developing business plans and strategies, conducting business evaluations and reviewing investment proposals for it. He served as Vice President of Chevron Corp. at Chevron Energy Solutions L.P. since 2005 and also served as its Vice President of finance from 2000 to January 1, 2005. He served as the Chairman and Director of American Petroleum Institute Inc. from January 2011 to December 2012. Mr. Watson served as Vice Chairman of Chevron Corp. since April 1, 2009. He serves as Director of Padres L.P., Animal Rescue Foundation and Chevron Capital USA Inc. Mr. Watson served as a Director of Dynegy Inc. from 2001 to March 2004. He served as Director of Caltex Petroleum Corp. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of California at Davis in 1978 and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Chicago in 1980.

Jack Gerard
President and CEO – API
Mr. Jack N. Gerard has been Chief Executive Officer and President at American Petroleum Institute since November 1, 2008. Mr. Gerard served as President and Chief Executive Officer of American Chemistry Council, Inc., since February 2007 until September 2008. As President and Chief Executive Officer of ACC, Mr. Gerard was leading new efforts to redefine the chemistry industry and to strengthen its role in advocating public policy. Prior to joining ACC in July 2005, Mr. Gerard was President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Mining Association, where he streamlined operations, developed core competencies, merged two distinct cultures,

modernized the association's communications capabilities and built a national grassroots organization. In addition, he relocated the Association, expanded membership in an era of consolidation, significantly increased member political activity and changed the dues structure. He also co-chaired the BIPAC "Prosperity Fund," raising funds to mobilize the business vote. Earlier in his career, Mr. Gerard was a Founding Partner, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of McClure, Gerard & Neuenschwander, Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based government relations consulting firm. He and founding partner, former U.S. Senator James McClure, focused on issues, including international sports, telecommunications, energy and mining. Prior to this, he spent close to a decade working in the US Senate and US House of Representatives. He is President of the National Capital Area Council - Boy Scouts of America and serves on the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management's Council on American Politics. Mr. Gerard holds Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from George Washington University and Juris Doctor from George Washington University.

BISON CONNECT

Fwd: Email from Land Tawney-Background Hunters & Anglers: Sage Grouse Report

Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Jun 9, 2014 at 7:23 PM
To: Walls Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Rupp Katherine <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Erin -

Please forward this to Bland.

Bland -

The documents attached to this message have a word doc and a pdf. I can open the pdf with no troubles, but not the word doc. I have 1. downloaded the full message, and 2. tried to open it by uploading to "docs to go". Neither will work (which are the things we did before that did work). I am sure I can get the doc on my laptop when I'm back in the office, but I thought I'd forward this so you can sleuth a bit more on the ongoing mystery of why some files will open and others not.

Thanks,

Sally

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
> **To:** Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
> **Cc:** Jim Lyons <James_Lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Gary Frazer <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Robert Dreher <robert_dreher@fws.gov>, Neil G Komze <nkomze@blm.gov>, Steven A Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, "Katherine (Kate) Kelly" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Mike Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: Email from Land Tawney-Background Hunters & Anglers: Sage Grouse Report**
>
> More from the sportsmen front.
>
> Dan Ashe
> Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
>
> Land Tawney
>
> Executive Director

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

PO Box 9257

Missoula, MT 59807

(406)370-3243

tawney@backcountryhunters.org

www.backcountryhunters.org

"I admire the man who takes the next step, not those who theorize about the 200th." Theodore Roosevelt

2 attachments

Compatibility study press release - final.docx
62K

Conserving Greater Sage Grouse.final.pdf
1977K

CONSERVING GREATER SAGE-GROUSE:
A SPORTSMEN'S PRIORITY

June 5, 2014



As many western states grapple with the need to protect Greater sage-grouse, Wyoming is showing that strong and proactive policies can protect the species while at the same time stabilizing the state's economy. Those policies are providing needed certainty to the oil and gas industry, while conserving much of the core habitat that is essential for the long-term survival of the species. And because many big game species, including mule deer, elk and pronghorn, also benefit from conserving sage-grouse habitat, Wyoming is enhancing hunting opportunities that will boost the state's robust outdoor recreation industry.

It is critical that other states follow Wyoming's example, and in cooperation with their federal partners and other key stakeholders, develop strong and proactive policies to conserve Greater sage-grouse. Although the clock is ticking—the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service (the Service) will determine whether sage-grouse should be listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2015—there is still time for those states to act.

"Something is wrong. The birds are declining. We need to figure it out and stop the slide."
- Andrew McKean, editor, Outdoor Life Magazine

Co-Existence Between the Greater Sage-Grouse and Oil and Gas Development Is Vital

Greater sage-grouse once ranged across seventeen states in the western United States, but due primarily to habitat loss and degradation,[i] their population has dropped by as much as 80 percent.[ii] In 2010, the Service determined that the species "warranted" a listing under the ESA, but doing so was "precluded" by higher priorities. That decision prompted a lawsuit, which the agency settled and committed to making a final listing decision by the end of September 2015.[iii]

A variety of factors are responsible for the loss and degradation of sage-grouse habitat, including energy development, agriculture, wildfires and the spread of invasive species.[iv] Oil and gas development is especially widespread, as within the sagebrush ecosystem lie the five geologic basins that contain most onshore oil and gas reserves in the Intermountain West.[v] Those basins also contain some of the largest and most ecologically intact sagebrush habitats and highest densities of sage-grouse in North America.[vi] Oil and gas development can impact sage-grouse in a variety of ways, but primarily through the fragmentation of their habitat.[vii] The scale of this development is extensive; according to the BLM and U.S. Geological Service, oil and gas development has "influenced" nearly 78 percent of priority habitat for sage-grouse throughout Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.[viii]



Numerous studies have concluded that the impacts of this widespread development on sage-grouse have been significant.[ix] In Wyoming's Powder River Basin, for example, which has been drilled intensively for coal-bed methane, sage-grouse populations have declined by 79 percent.[x] And in the bird's eastern range, which includes Wyoming, the number of producing wells has tripled over the past thirty years—from 11,231 in the 1980s to 33,280 in 2007.[xi] Without new policies to guide oil and gas development (and other uses) throughout sage-grouse's entire range, the Service predicts that oil and gas development will reduce sage-grouse populations even further—by as much as 19 percent.[xii]

The Wyoming Strategy: Proactively Managing for Sage-Grouse Conservation and Oil and Gas Development

Wyoming is home to 40 percent of the world's sage-grouse population.[xiii] For that reason, and because of continued conflict with energy development and other economically important industries, then Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal launched an unprecedented effort in 2007 to develop stronger policies for sage-grouse—policies that would sustain and grow Wyoming's economy, while also giving sage-grouse adequate habitat in large, intact landscapes with minimal disturbances. The governor brought many of the key stakeholders to the table, including members of the oil and gas industry, conservation community and local government, as well as the Service and BLM.

In 2008, based on the collaborative efforts of the stakeholder group, Governor Freudenthal issued an executive order establishing the Wyoming "core area" policy.[xiv] Although the policy comes with detailed prescriptions for oil and gas development and other uses, the goals are straightforward: maintain and enhance sage-grouse populations throughout the state by identifying and limiting activities in "core" habitat areas.[xv] The policy requires sacrifices and commitments from all stakeholders, but has so far stood the test of time. It has provided greater certainty to the oil and gas industry (and others), while also limiting the amount of development in "core" habitat.

"Losing the sage grouse as a regal game bird would be a sad day indeed, much more unfortunate than the complete extinction of the passenger pigeon or dodo bird, because this is 2014. We should know better."

- Jay Hanson, editor Montana Sporting Journal

Penny Bellah, a senior regulatory analyst for Samson Oil and Gas, Wyoming native and member of the governor's stakeholder group, spoke to that certainty, "For my industry, having set rules that are not constantly changing allows us to plan." While the range of interested parties could have caused an impasse in the planning process, she says, "For being a very diverse team with many interests, I thought it went fairly smoothly."[xvi] Rancher, county commissioner and member of the governor's stakeholder group, Douglas Thompson echoed those sentiments, "The plan works because it is a balanced strategy to allow some development, while conserving the most habitat and birds. One set of rules for everyone."[xvii]

As for limiting development in "core" habitat, a recent study funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service shows that the state's policy is having a positive impact.[xviii] That study uses data from the BLM, which has largely adopted the governor's "core area" approach for public lands in Wyoming, and concludes that since the policy went into effect, the amount of "core" habitat leased for oil and gas development has declined by 40 percent.[xix] Additional data from the BLM supports these findings.[xx] All this without sacrificing output, as Wyoming remains only second to Texas in total energy production.[xxi]

With Wyoming's success in mind, here are three elements found in the Wyoming plan that should be mirrored in other state plans to ensure durable conservation, while allowing flexibility to manage existing multiple uses:

1) Develop a state plans with multiple stakeholders input and buy-in on effective conservation measures that will maintain sustainable and harvestable populations;

2) Utilize the best available information to identify key habitat areas that must be targeted for protection, restoration or enhancement to meet current and future goals for grouse;

3) Institute a statutory body of diverse stakeholders that advises and holds the state accountable for implementing actions, enforcing regulations, and ensuring adequate completion of sage-grouse conservation plans and any proposed and permitted activities in priority habitat.

Conserving Grouse, Enhancing Hunting and Outdoor Recreation Opportunities



Greater sage-grouse are an "umbrella" species. That means a wide range of other species stand to benefit from efforts to conserve sage-grouse habitat. In Wyoming, there is extensive overlap between sage-grouse habitat and habitat for several important big game species, including elk, mule deer and pronghorn.[xxii] For instance, 45 percent of pronghorn "crucial winter range" (a key seasonal habitat) overlaps with "core" habitat for sage-grouse, while 33 percent of mule deer "crucial winter range" overlaps with "core" habitat.[xxiii]

Conserving and restoring big game habitat means something to the people of Wyoming, where 1 of every 4 citizens identify themselves as a "sportsperson" (a hunter or angler).[xxiv] And big game hunting, in particular, is one of the most popular wildlife-based activities in the state. In 2011, hunters logged almost 1.5 million days pursuing big game in Wyoming.[xxv]

Wildlife-based recreation is also big business in Wyoming, accounting for $1.1 billion in spending in 2011.[xxvi] Big game hunting was responsible for almost 20 percent of that total.[xxvii] Moreover, hunting is part of a larger outdoor recreation economy that supports 50,000 jobs and generates $1.1 billion in wages and salaries every year in Wyoming.[xxviii] In Cody, Wyoming alone, wildlife-based recreation is responsible for 1 of every 10 jobs and contributes over $30 million to the local economy annually.[xxix] Thus, by taking strong, proactive steps to conserve Greater sage-grouse, Wyoming has not only helped secure a better future for this iconic species. It has also invested in the conservation of big game and wildlife-based recreation that generates hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for the state each year.

Conclusion

Oil and gas development is one of the primary reasons why sage-grouse are now being considered for an ESA listing. Proactively managing that threat in priority habitats, which are largely on public lands, is essential to the long-term survival of the species. And what protects sage-grouse also benefits big game and the wildlife-based recreation and economies that rely on them.

Wyoming has shown that by proactively engaging with its federal partners and other key stakeholders and enacting strong measures to conserve key habitat, real progress can be made and certainty can be provided for all. The challenge, now, is for the remaining states to follow suit before the final listing decision in 2015. States like Colorado, Montana and Nevada now have the opportunity to act, and engage with the BLM on developing plans that balance needed levels of protection with energy development and other multiple uses of these public lands.

"Hunters across the West are heartbroken at the prospect of losing sage grouse as part of America's hunting heritage. **It's not too late to conserve sage grouse and their native habitats.** We only have one chance to get this right, and now is the time."

-Land Tawney, executive director of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Citations

i U.S. Geological Survey. "Summary of Science, Activities, Programs, and Policies That Influence the Rangewide Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse." Last accessed May 2014

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v Naugle, D. E., K. E. Doherty, B. L. Walker, M. J. Holloran, and H. E. Copeland. 2011. "Energy development and Greater Sage-Grouse." Studies in Avian Biology (vol. 38), University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.

vi Ibid.

vii U.S. Geological Survey. "Summary of Science, Activities, Programs, and Policies That Influence the Rangewide Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse." Last accessed May 2014

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ix U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Why Care about America's Sagebrush?" Last accessed May 2014.

x U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fact Sheet: "Endangered Species Act Listing Decision for the Greater Sage Grouse." Last accessed May 2014.

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xvi Penny Bellah interview, May 2014.

xvii Douglas Thompson interview, May 2014.

xviii Copeland HE, Pocewicz A, Naugle DE, Griffiths T, Keinath D, et al. (2013) Measuring the Effectiveness of Conservation: A Novel Framework to Quantify the Benefits of Sage-Grouse Conservation Policy and Easements in Wyoming. PLoS ONE 8(6): e67261.

xix Ibid.

xx Bureau of Land Management. "The BLM's Balancing Act: Managing the Needs of People and Sage-grouse on Public Lands." Last accessed May 2014.

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xxi Energy Information Administration, "Rankings: Total Energy Production, 2011."

xxii Scott Gamo, Jason D. Carlisle, Jeffrey L. Beck, Juliette A.C. Bernard, and Mollie E. Herget. Spring 2013. "Greater Sage-Grouse in Wyoming." The Wildlife Professional.

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xxvi Ibid.

xxvii Ibid.

xxviii Outdoor Industry Association, "The Outdoor Recreation Economy: Wyoming."

xxix Outdoor Industry Association, "The Outdoor Recreation Economy."

Fwd: Governors Must Unite to Conserve Greater Sage-Grouse, Say Sportsmen's Groups

Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> Mon, Jun 9, 2014 at 9:14 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Jim Lyons <James_Lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Gary Frazer <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Robert Dreher <robert_dreher@fws.gov>, komze neil <nkomze@blm.gov>, Mike Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Nice letter, aimed at Governors. But also represents Sportsmen's groups recognizing that the ESA is working for them! Interesting.

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Eric Washburn <Eric.Washburn@windwardstrategies.net>
> **Date:** June 9, 2014 at 2:45:30 PM MDT
> **To:** "Dan Ashe (d_m_ashe@fws.gov)" <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
> **Subject: FW: Governors Must Unite to Conserve Greater Sage-Grouse, Say Sportsmen's Groups**
>
> Dan -- Just so that you guys know what we are up to ahead of the WGA meetings...



News for Immediate Release
June 9, 2014
Contact: Katie McKalip, 406-240-9262, kmckalip@trcp.org

Governors Must Unite to Conserve Greater Sage-Grouse, Say Sportsmen's Groups

As ESA deadline approaches, sportsmen stress that state conservation plans are critical to avoiding a listing for the species

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – As the Western Governors Association's annual summer meeting commences this morning, sportsmen are urging a collaborative approach to conservation of a species emblematic of the American West, the greater sage-grouse, whose declining population numbers could result in its listing under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must decide by September 2015 whether to list North America's largest game bird under the act. Sportsmen are invested in averting a listing. To that end, prominent voices in the hunting and angling community are advocating development of strong conservation plans that comprehensively address all threats to sage-grouse while balancing resource development and land use in key grouse habitat.

"For more than a decade, sportsmen, developers, ranchers and the scientific community have foreseen the day when sage-grouse would be considered for listing, and many of us have been actively engaged in avoiding it," said Steve Riley, president of the North American Grouse Partnership. "Now, however, a final decision is near. Federal and state management and conservation plans must focus on sustaining the health of the species, which can only be accomplished through extensive and collaborative management of the landscapes that support it. Failure to do so will result in states losing their leadership role in the management of these magnificent birds to the federal government."

Sagebrush ecosystems that support sage-grouse are also critically important to more than 350 species of wildlife, including game species such as mule deer, pronghorn and elk. "There is substantial overlap in habitats used by sage-grouse and mule deer," said Miles Moretti, president and CEO of the Mule Deer Foundation. "Thriving populations of sage-grouse are an indicator of healthy sagebrush ecosystems, and that's good for mule deer and other species that sportsmen care about."

Nearly half of the country's remaining sagebrush habitat lies on federal public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Private state lands are vital to the bird's future, however, and a federal ESA listing decision also hinges on state conservation plans.

"Sound conservation plans from both federal and state governments are critical to avoiding a sage-grouse listing under the Endangered Species Act," said Ed Arnett, director of the TRCP Center for Responsible Energy Development. "It's not a federal vs. state problem: We're all in this together. Governors, state legislators and local decision-makers must continue working closely with each other and with federal agencies, sportsmen and other stakeholders to sustain healthy populations of the bird."

Sportsmen have contributed substantially to sage-grouse conservation. Western states have made longstanding investments via sportsmen's dollars to maintain productive populations of sage-grouse and avoid a listing, contributing more than $130 million to sage-grouse management over the past decade. "We've put our money where our mouth is to conserve sage-grouse while relinquishing hunting opportunities in the process," Arnett stated.

Balancing conservation with energy development, ranching and other land uses is possible, the sportsmen said, citing Wyoming's executive order and "core area" policy on sage-grouse conservation as evidence that conservation for the bird can be pursued along with other land uses, all while maintaining a healthy economy.

"Time is running out," said Land Tawney, executive director of the Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, which last week released a report on sage grouse conservation. "Every state with sage-grouse populations must develop conservation plans that pass muster with the Fish and Wildlife Service in order to avoid a listing. A scattershot conservation approach will fail to solve this problem. For the sake of our public lands, our resources-based economy and our nation's storied outdoors traditions, collaboration in managing sage-grouse is vital."

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers was formed around a campfire as the sportsmen's voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife.

The Mule Deer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) sportsman/conservation organization dedicated to the conservation of mule deer, black-tailed deer and their habitat.

The North American Grouse Partnership is a 501(c)(3) sportsman/conservation organization dedicated to the conservation of North American grouse, their habitats and kindred species.

Inspired by the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, the TRCP is a coalition of organizations and grassroots partners working together to preserve the traditions of hunting and fishing.

For more information on the TRCP visit our website.
Connect with us on Facebook.
Follow us on Twitter.

Disclaimer: If you do not wish to receive further news/releases from Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, please click the following link: [Remove Me]. Requests will take a maximum of 2 business days to process.

Contact information: Katie McKalip, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, 1660 L Street NW, Suite 208, Washington, DC 20036

TRCP – Governor's letter 8 June 2014.pdf
240K

BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jun 10, 2014 at 5:40 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached, please find your briefing materials for Wednesday, June 11. These have been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

15 attachments Attachment 1-11 and 13-15 are unavailable.

6 11 14_930am_VERSION 2 Meeting with Carter Roberts.docx
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6 11 14_1015am_Internal DOI Bison Report Briefing.docx
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6 11 14_1015am_ATTACHMENT DOI Bison Report Briefing.pptx
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6 11 14_120pm_SPEAKER BIOS Remarks at Capitol Hill Ocean Week.pdf
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6 11 14_120pm_TALKING POINTS Remarks at Capitol Hill Ocean Week.docx
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6 11 14_240pm_Remarks at New Hampshire Business Day Luncheon.docx
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6 11 14_430pm_Meeting on Lewis and Clark Regional Water System.docx
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6 11 14_240pm_RSVPS Remarks at New Hampshire Business Day Luncheon.xlsx
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6 11 14_145pm_Meeting with American Petroleum Institute.docx
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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSITUTE

INTERNAL PREP FOR MEETING WITH API

DATE: June 10, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 3:45PM – 4:15PM
FROM: Janice M. Schneider, AS/LM
Brandi Colander, Counselor to the AS/LM
Neil Kornze, Director, BLM
Brian Salerno, Director, BSEE
Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, BOEM

MEETING WITH API

DATE: June 11, 2014
LOCATION: The Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
TIME: 1:45PM – 2:30PM
FROM: Janice M. Schneider, AS/LM
Brandi Colander, Counselor to the AS/LM
Neil Kornze, Director, BLM
Brian Salerno, Director, BSEE
Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, BOEM

I. PURPOSE

You are scheduled to address the Executive Committee of the American Petroleum Institute (API). The Executive Committee consists of 12 of the oil and natural gas industry's top executives. Jack Gerard's invitation letter (Attachment 1) describes the meeting as an opportunity to exchange views on the economy, energy policy, and the role of the energy industry in creating jobs and ensuring energy security. Jack is the President and CEO of API.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Chairman:

- Mr. Stephen Chazen, President and Chief Executive Officer Occidental Petroleum Corporation

Members:

- Mr. Greg Garland, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Phillips 66
- Mr. Gary Heminger, President and Chief Executive Officer Marathon Petroleum Corporation
- Mr. John B. Hess, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Hess Corporation
- Mr. Ryan Lance, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer ConocoPhillips

- Mr. John Mingé, Chairman and President BP America, Inc.
- Mr. Jack Moore, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Cameron Corporation
- Mr. J. Larry Nichols, Executive Chairman Devon Energy Corporation
- Mr. Marvin Odum, President and Director, Upstream Americas Shell Oil Company
- Mr. Rex Tillerson, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Exxon Mobil Corporation
- Mr. Al Walker Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- Mr. John Watson Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Chevron Corporation
- Ex-Officio: Mr. Jack Gerard President and Chief Executive Officer

API Staff

- Louis Finkel Executive Vice President American Petroleum Institute
- Khary Cauthen, Sen Director Fed Relations American Petroleum Institute
- Erik Milito, Group Director Upstream American Petroleum Institute
- Harry Ng, General Counsel American Petroleum Institute

III. AGENDA

You will be seated at the head of horseshoe-shaped table with the CEOs. Jack Gerard will introduce you. Your opening remarks will take approximately five minutes. The remainder of the meeting will consist of open discussion with members of the Executive Committee and questions and answers.

IV. KEY FACTS/HOT TOPICS

BLM

Hydraulic Fracturing

In May 2012, the BLM initiated formal rulemaking to revise its regulations on hydraulic fracturing on Federal and Indian lands with the publication of a proposed rule. The BLM published a revised proposed rule in May 2013. In addition to receiving comments during the formal comment period, the BLM conducted numerous consultations with tribes and outreach sessions with a range of stakeholders dating back to November 2010.

The BLM conducted the following outreach:

- Sent invitations to nearly 200 tribes;
- Travelled to meet with the tribes three times in January 2012 and four times in June 2013;
- Met with officials from New Town, ND and the National Congress of the American Indian Conference in July 2012;
- Met with tribes in Farmington, NM, and Dickinson, ND after the 2013 rule; and

- Met with tribes in Denver in March 2014 and, at the request of tribes, local BLM managers had follow-up meetings with individual tribes.

During the most recent formal comment period, which closed on August 23, 2013, the BLM received more than 1.35 million comments (in addition to the 177,000 comments received in 2012). The BLM anticipates issuing a final rule in fall 2014 after the Department completes its review of the package and sends it to the Office of Management and Budget.

The proposed rules have focused on addressing public disclosure, wellbore integrity, and flowback fluid management as the key issues underlying sound hydraulic fracturing development. The BLM's existing regulations, which are now 30 years old, do not adequately address these issues particularly in light of changing technology associated with horizontal well completions.

Industry has voiced concerns that the BLM does not have the capacity to regulate hydraulic fracturing and have increased costs from added tests such as the 2013 Revised Proposed Rule requirement for cement evaluation logs on surface casing even if an operator demonstrates sound cementing practices and pressure tests the surface casing and annulus-filled cement. Industry also expressed the following questions and concerns:

- The utility of requiring certain costly cement evaluation logs for well integrity as proposed in the rule, particularly at the surface, when other tests are available.
- The duplication of state regulations, resulting in inefficiency and possible delays.
- BLM staffing capacity to absorb the added workload.
- Compromising trade secrets associated with the disclosure of chemicals used in their respective hydraulic fracturing processes.
- The BLM has underestimated the costs of the rule.

The API provided 47 pages from two submissions describing concerns with the 2013 Supplemental Proposed Rule. The API raised numerous concerns, in addition to perceived added costs, delays while drilling, and permitting delays, including:

- There are no compelling reasons for the rule as there are no confirmed cases of contamination from hydraulic fracturing
- The FLPMA does not compel further regulation of Hydraulic Fracturing
- There is no regulatory void that needs to be filled by the BLM.
- The protection requirements for usable water are arbitrary, adding costs, and legally defective.
- Application of the rule to existing wells and leases may be a breach of contract, regulatory taking, and retroactive regulations.
- The rulemaking needs revisions to the requirements for cement evaluation logging and chemical disclosure.
- The API questions the criminal liability of an operator for a contractor.
- There should be flexibility in the use of lined pits.

- Remove the distinction in flowback and produced fluids.

After analysis of the comments, the BLM's approach to the final rule is to tighten the focus on wellbore integrity. The operators would post chemicals to FracFocus. The BLM strengthened the affidavit provisions to exempt public disclosure for trade secrets. The final rule will mandate the use of tanks for flowback fluid management unless operators meet specific criteria for use of lined pits. The BLM will work with the states to update the Memorandum of Understanding to streamline and take advantage of efficiencies where they meet or exceed the requirements in the final rule.

BLM's Oil and Gas Program

Oil and gas leasing is a market-driven activity. During calendar year 2013, the BLM held 30 lease sales. Nearly 1.1 million acres received bids, generating over $202 million in revenue (shared with the states). During fiscal year (FY) 2013, industry produced more than 133 million barrels of oil and nearly 2.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas on Federal onshore leases. (*Source: Office of Natural Resources Revenue)*

Industry interest in nominating Federal parcels for oil and gas development has increased since 2006. Between CY 2006 and CY 2013, industry expressions of interest increased from 7.5 million acres to 12.3 million acres. The BLM has deferred offering several areas because of planning activities related to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat conservation in Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming.

The FY 2015 Budget proposes (i) a new fee schedule to fund inspection and enforcement, with collections offsetting a proposed reduction in appropriated funding; and (ii) a fee on new non-producing oil and gas leases to encourage diligent development on leased lands. The new fee to fund inspection and enforcement, if approved, would result in a $10 million increase to the program and allow the BLM to focus additional resources on inspections and ensure completion of 100 percent of the high priority inspections. The $6 per acre annual fee for non-producing leases is intended to promote timely production on new oil or gas leases and end once production occurs.

Oil and Gas Statistics

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continues to administer a robust and responsible oil and gas leasing program on public lands. Federal onshore oil production is the highest it has been in a decade and has risen for the fourth year in a row. Last year, the BLM offered 5.7 million acres for lease by industry -- the most in a decade -- and had 12.6 million acres actively producing oil and gas -- the most acres in six years.

- The BLM had approximately 23,500 producing oil and gas leases in FY2013, an increase of about 900 from FY2009.

- The BLM is approving Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) more quickly. In FY2013, it took an average of 194 days to process an APD, down from 247 in 2009.

- At the end of FY 2013, the BLM had approved 5,816 APDs for public lands available for industry to drill, and approved another 895 APDs for Indian trust lands. Processing time for onshore drilling permits is the lowest it has been in eight years, and the BLM continues to invest in making the permitting process faster, less costly, and more transparent.

Master Leasing Plans and Other Leasing Reforms

Master Leasing Plans (MLP) involve pre-planning and intensive analysis of distinct geographical areas to avoid or minimize conflicts between oil and gas activity and recreation, water, air, cultural, and wildlife values. Areas with numerous competing resource values require additional planning and analysis prior to issuing new or additional oil and gas leases. The MLP process enables the BLM to take a focused, landscape-level look at the decisions in Resource Management Plans (RMP) pertaining to leasing and post-leasing development with an eye toward avoiding or minimizing conflicts and subsequent litigation.

The BLM is developing MLPs, as part of new RMPs and amendments to existing RMPs. A number of stakeholders, including many environmental groups, have expressed interest and requested that the BLM prepare additional MLPs. Industry believes that MLPs are an unnecessary step in the leasing process that results in delays.

The BLM's 2010 leasing reforms have increased consistency in lease stipulations provided for a more thorough lease parcel review process, including more time for pre-sale lease analysis. When the BLM initiated Leasing Reform in 2010, the current leasing system was near the breaking point. In 2009, the BLM received protests on nearly half of all lease parcels. In 2013, after the initiation of Leasing Reform, protests diminished to fewer than 20 percent. The BLM accomplished this by adding pre-lease NEPA analysis to build a more efficient process that better informs and involves the public while resolving protests more quickly. Included in this process was a more thorough on-the-ground analysis, which allows the BLM to identify which parcels the BLM should or should not lease and, if they do lease them, to determine what mitigation and other stipulations apply.

Venting and Flaring Rule for Onshore Federal and Indian Lands

The BLM's current policy on venting and flaring, covered by a Notice to Lessees known as NTL-4A, is over three decades old. The BLM is drafting a rule to update NTL-4A. While the BLM has made no final decisions, they are reviewing a wide range of areas in which fugitive emission reductions may be technically and economically possible.

Possible areas for effective emission reductions include: well completions (used to put a well into production); production tests; casing head and associated gas (from oil wells); liquids unloading; oil and condensate storage tanks and vessels; pneumatic devices; and leak detection and repair. The BLM is also considering the extent of its authority to charge royalties for vented, flared, or leaked gas. The BLM does not charge royalties for this gas under a variety of circumstances, including when gas is determined to be "unavoidably lost." In the last 30 years, however, industry has made significant progress in its technical ability to control leaks, venting and flaring. This significant progress may allow the BLM to adjust which circumstances where the gas is "avoidably lost" and thus royalty bearing. The BLM just completed four regional public outreach sessions in Denver (March 19), Albuquerque (May 7), Dickinson (May 9) and

Washington, D.C. (May 16). Each session had both a tribal and a public component. The BLM anticipates sending a proposed rule to OMB by the end of the calendar year.

API provided lengthy comments during the comment period, which closed on May 30. API stated that the BLM should adopt a sufficiently comprehensive view that recognizes and addresses permitting delays and other fundamental challenges currently preclude the installation of pipelines and infrastructure that could further reduce the need for venting and flaring. Further API stated the BLM has a statutory mandate to provide for the prevention of waste, conservation of oil and gas resources, and assurance of payment of the proper royalty share to the federal government, but not to regulate methane emissions or air quality.

Sage Grouse
The API said this in the Wall Street Journal (Opinion) March 11, 2014. "Interior's proposed "land use" amendments are draconian." They require a four-mile "buffer zone" whenever a sage-grouse mating ground is discovered on federal land. The American Petroleum Institute calls the proposed rules a "de facto ban on drilling." It fears that compliance could cost tens of millions of dollars in legal fees and cause years of drilling delays."

The BLM continues to offer lands for lease far in excess of industry demand. Last year, the BLM offered 5.7 million acres for lease by industry, the most in a decade. At the same time, industry submitted bids on fewer than one-in-five of these acres.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Blowout Preventer (BOP)/Well Control Rule
BSEE is working on a proposed rule to address various recommendations involving well control and BOPs arising out of multiple investigations following the Macondo Well blowout and resulting oil spill (spill). The rule is of great interest to industry and they have requested the agency to expedite its release. Immediately following the spill, BSEE issued a series of Notices to Lessees and regulations that attempted to fill several obvious gaps in regulations involving well control. However, these changes did not address the key recommendations relating to the need to increase BOP reliability and performance and improve industry practices involving well control. The objective of this proposed rulemaking is to address these key recommendations, address significant gaps in existing requirements, and update BSEE regulations to reflect industry best practices.

This rule is the most important safety reform arising out of the spill and will address many of the key recommendations and findings made by the National Academy of Engineers, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Commission, and other groups. The rule is a high priority for the Department. BSEE has held meetings with stakeholder groups on this rule, including a BOP forum in 2012. The key concern for industry will be the effective date for each of the proposed requirements.

Shallow water operators were generally unable to reach consensus on standards for surface BOPs, so the BOP standard for shallow water BOPs is less robust than that of deepwater subsea BOPs. This is reflected in American Petroleum Institute Std. 53. The initial cost to industry of complying with the new requirements will be approximately $164 million in the first year and

$77 million each year thereafter. However, an annual savings of $154 million due to reduced testing frequency for workover operations and a reduced likelihood of oil spills will offset this cost.

The proposed regulation has undergone extensive review within BSEE during the development stage, including a complete revision of the economic analysis to address internal modifications. The proposed rule is currently under review in the Solicitor's Office.

Arctic Rule

BSEE and BOEM are working on a proposed rule that would apply specifically to exploratory drilling in the Arctic. This rulemaking will address the unique operational challenges associated with Arctic operations. The Arctic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Standards will codify and further develop the Arctic-specific standards established for Shell's 2012 exploration program, and are intended to strengthen safety and environmental protection for Arctic OCS exploratory operations.

The rule will ensure that operators in the Arctic:

(1) design and conduct exploration programs in a manner suitable for Arctic conditions;
(2) develop an integrated operations plan that addresses all phases of the exploration program;
(3) have access to, and can promptly deploy, source control and containment equipment;
(4) have access to a separate relief rig to be able to timely drill a relief well in the event of a loss of well control;
(5) are capable of predicting, tracking, reporting, and responding to ice conditions and adverse weather events;
(6) effectively manage and oversee contractors; and
(7) develop and are prepared to implement effective oil spill response plans tailored to the Arctic conditions.

We expect the rule to enter interagency review this summer.

California Offshore Fracking

Environmental advocacy groups, including the Center for Biological Diversity and the Environmental Defense Center of Santa Barbara, CA, have expressed concern over possible environmental impacts associated with the use of hydraulic fracturing and acidization in the offshore environment. Their concerns include discharge of flow-back water into the ocean or an accidental spill, fluid leakage from loss of well integrity, leakage through faults, induced seismicity from hydraulic fracturing or fluid re-injection, and drinking water contamination. Additionally, the California Coastal Commission, which has an approved Coastal Management Plan pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, has recently expressed an interest in hydraulic fracturing and acid stimulation techniques occurring in waters off the California coast.

Operators in the Pacific OCS have used hydraulic fracturing only on rare occasions. There have been over 1400 oil and gas wells drilled on the Pacific OCS and to date only about a dozen of those wells have been hydraulically fractured. One operator on the Pacific OCS has been approved to hydraulically fracture three wells in the coming months. In contrast, almost every

well drilled on the Pacific OCS undergoes acidization, another form of stimulation. Well acidization is achieved by pumping acid into the well to dissolve limestone, dolomite, and calcite cement between the sediment grains of the reservoir rocks. After acidization, the used acid and sediments removed from the reservoir are washed out of the well in a process called backflush.

Permitting

The focus on "permitting" in recent years has mainly been on drilling permits. BSEE's district offices are responsible for approving the Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) for drilling operations. BSEE has made consistent improvements in the predictability and consistency of its permitting processes. In 2013, BSEE oversaw a 48% increase in the number of deepwater floating rigs and approved 394 well permits. In contrast, the agency approved 341 well permits in 2009. BSEE has achieved these improvements while putting in place additional drilling safety standards. Permit applications must meet standards for well-design, casing, cementing, containment and be independently certified by a professional engineer. In order to implement these improvements, BSEE has increased the district permitting staff by over 25 percent since 2010.

Well permits are approved through eWell, which is a web-based, electronic permitting system. The agency has used eWell successfully in the Gulf of Mexico for about ten years. BSEE is planning to further improve its permitting process by developing an ePermit system, an electronic process that will eventually take the place of the current paper-based approach used for non-eWell permits. The ePermit system will encompass all BSEE permitting activities, including pipeline, platform, commingling, measurement, production safety systems, flaring, suspensions, etc.

U.S./Mexico Transboundary Agreement

The U.S. and the United Mexican States signed the *"Agreement between the United States of America and the United Mexican States Concerning Transboundary Hydrocarbon Reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico"* on February 20, 2012. Congress ratified it in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, which the President signed on December 26, 2013. The Agreement is expected to be put into force in mid-July 2014. The Agreement establishes a legal framework for the exploitation of transboundary hydrocarbon reservoirs that may exist along the maritime boundary between the U.S. and Mexico in the Gulf of Mexico through cooperative arrangements, primarily BSEE-approved unitization agreements involving U.S. lessees and the Mexican national oil company, Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex).

The Agreement requires establishment of a "Joint Commission" to assist the Executive Agencies in administering the Agreement. On June 3rd, Secretary Jewell signed a Secretarial Order to implement the Agreement. During the week of June 9, a team of BSEE and BOEM employees will meet with our Mexican counterparts in Mexico to discuss processes and procedures for implementation of the Agreement

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Current Year Program

The current (2012 – 2017) BOEM Five-Year Program (Program) makes areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska with more than 75% of the total undiscovered technically recoverable OCS oil and gas resources available for potential leasing. Under the current Five Year Program, BOEM has two lease sales proposed for the Arctic OCS: the Chukchi Sea in 2016 and Beaufort Sea in 2017.

The Program did not include the Atlantic or large portions of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico as promoted by API. A portion of the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area (CPA) and most of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area (EPA) is under restriction until 2022 as part of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. The area restricted is that portion of the EPA within 125 miles of Florida, all areas in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line (86° 41' west longitude), and the area within the CPA that is within 100 miles of Florida.

Next Five Year Program
The Department is beginning the 2.5 to 3 year process of developing the next (2017 – 2022) Program. The week, BOEM will release a Request for Information (RFI), the first public step in the planning process. Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act requires the RFI to solicit public input on the areas that should or should not be included in the next Program. The RFI will include all 26 planning areas. The Secretary makes the decision regarding which areas to include or exclude from the Five Year Program following additional opportunities for public input. API is advocating that the next Program include the Atlantic and Pacific OCS, and more/all of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Atlantic Programmatic EIS for Geological and Geophysical Activities
On February 27, 2014, BOEM released the final Programmatic EIS for Proposed Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Activities in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas (PEIS). The PEIS outlines the environmental impacts of G&G survey activities for three BOEM program areas (oil and gas, renewable energy, and marine minerals) and identifies mitigation and monitoring measures to avoid, reduce, or minimize impacts to the marine environment. Additionally, the PEIS establishes a framework for future site-specific evaluations of proposed G&G activities (such as seismic testing) under NEPA and several other environmental requirements. The agency expects to sign the Record of Decision in the near future.

Chukchi Lease Sale 193 Litigation
On January 22, 2014, the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the Department's NEPA review for Lease Sale 193 in the Chukchi Sea off the coast of Alaska was insufficient. The decision stems from a lawsuit filed by Earthjustice on behalf of a coalition of 15 Alaska Native and conservation groups. The Chukchi Sea lease sale, Sale 193, was originally held in 2008, and offered nearly 30 million acres for oil drilling—an area larger than the size of Pennsylvania. Prior to the lease sale, there were no active oil leases in the Chukchi Sea. The Department is supplementing its NEPA analysis for the lease sale and must reconsider its lease sale decision. BOEM will have the lead for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. DOI issued directed suspensions to leaseholders in the Chukchi Sea effective January 22, 2014, and lasting until the court decision has been addressed. The SEIS will proceed expeditiously. Per the schedule filed with the federal district court for the District of Alaska, a draft SEIS is

expected in early October 2014, a final SEIS in February 2015, and a Record of Decision by March 2015.

Offshore Regulatory Issues in Frontier Areas:
Throughout 2013, DOI met with a number of oil and gas operators (both majors and independents) to discuss opportunities to modernize the offshore regulatory regime. The goal is to better align the regulations with the strategic and technical realities related to exploration and development in frontier areas, including emerging deepwater subsalt plays in the Gulf of Mexico. Many of the regulations governing OCS oil and gas operations were adopted when the majority of industry operations occurred in the shallow water GOM shelf. With the advent of highly-defined seismic programs and technical developments, including increased capacity for directional drilling, the offshore industry has moved further from the shelf into deeper waters and subsalt reservoirs that involve difficult drilling at extremely high pressures and temperatures. Some aspects of the current regulations do not recognize the difficulties or longer time frames associated with developing such areas. BOEM and BSEE are currently considering next steps.

V. TALKING POINTS

Talking Points from AS/LM are attached separately.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- Executive Committee Biographies *(below)*
- Talking Points *(attached separately)*

Stephen Chazen
President and CEO - Occidental
Mr. Stephen I. Chazen, also known as Steve, has been the Chief Executive Officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation since May 5, 2011 and its President since December 2007. Mr. Chazen served as the Chief Operating Officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation since August 2010. He served as the Chief Financial Officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation since 1999. Mr. Chazen served as Senior Executive Vice President of Occidental Petroleum Corp. from August 9, 2004 to December 2007, Executive Vice President of Corporate Development from May 1994 to August 9, 2004 and also served as its Head of Corporate Development. From 1982 to 1994, Mr. Chazen served as an Investment Banker at Merrill Lynch. He served in a number of roles, including managing director and head of corporate finance, managing director of mergers and acquisitions, and managing director in the natural resources group at Merrill Lynch. Mr. Chazen has been a Director of Lyondell Chemical Company since August 22, 2002. He has been an Independent Director of Ecolab Inc., since May 2013. He has been Director of Occidental Petroleum Corporation since May 2010. He has been a Director of American Petroleum Institute Inc. since January 2011. He serves as a Director of Port Arthur Finance Corp. He serves as a Director of Sabine River Holding Corp., the General partner of Port Arthur Coker Company L.P. He served as a Director of WMI Holdings Corp. from March 2008 to March 1, 2009. He served as a Director of Premcor Inc. since April 1999. He served as a Director of the predecessor of Premcor Inc. from 1995 to April 1999. He serves on the Governance Committees of Equistar Chemicals, LP and OxyVinyls L.P. He holds a Ph.D. in geology from Michigan State University, a master's degree in finance from the University of Houston and a bachelor's degree in geology from Rutgers College.

Greg Garland
Chairman and CEO – Phillips 66
Mr. Greg C. Garland has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at Phillips 66 Partners GP LLC, the general Partner of Phillips 66 Partners LP since March 2013. Mr. Garland has been the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Phillips 66 since April 30, 2012. He serves as a Vice President at American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers. He served as President of Phillips 66 from April 30, 2012 to May 30, 2014. He served as a Senior Vice President of Exploration & Production-Americas at ConocoPhillips from October 6, 2010 to April 2012. He served as Chief Executive Officer and President of Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. LLC from April 1, 2008 to February 8, 2011. He served the Chief Executive Officer and President of Americas Styrenics LLC. His extensive experience in the energy industry, including his more than 30-year career with Phillips Petroleum Company from 1980 to 2000, CPChem and ConocoPhillips. Mr. Garland served as Senior Vice President of Planning & Specialty Products at Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LLC from October 2001 to April 2008. From July 2000 to October 2001, he served as a Senior Vice President of Planning & Strategic Transactions of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LLC. He served as a General Manager of Qatar/Middle East for Phillips, since 1997. He has been a Director of Phillips 66 since April 30, 2012 and Amgen Inc. since October 16, 2013. He serves as a Director of DCP Midstream LLC and

Phillips 66 Partners GP LLC. He serves as a Director of DCP Midstream LLC at DCP Midstream Partners LP. He is a Member of the Chemical Engineering Industrial Advisory Board for Texas A&M University and serves on the board of Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas. He serves as a Director of American Chemistry Council, Inc. Mr. Garland holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1980.

Gary Heminger
President and CEO - Marathon Petroleum
Mr. Gary R. Heminger has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of Marathon Petroleum Corporation since June 30, 2011. Mr. Heminger has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at MPLX GP LLC, General Partner of MPLX LP since June 2012. He served as Executive Vice President of Downstream at Marathon Petroleum Company LP, a wholly owned subsidiary of Marathon Oil Corporation since July 2005. He served as an Executive Vice President of Downstream at Marathon Oil Corporation from July 2005 to June 30, 2011 and its Executive Vice President since January 2005. He served as the President of Marathon Petroleum Company LP since September 2001, Executive Vice President of Supply, Transportation and Marketing since January 2001, Senior Vice President of Business Development since 1999 and Vice President of Business Development since January 1998. Mr. Heminger served as Executive Vice President of Downstream at Marathon Oil Company. He joined Marathon Oil Company in 1975. He served as President of Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC since September 2001. He also served as President of Refining, Marketing & Transportation Operations of Marathon Petroleum Company LP. He served for 37 years at Marathon serving in a variety of groups and functions. In addition to five years in various financial and administrative roles, he served for three years in London, England as an Audit Supervisor of the Brae Project. He served as the Vice President of Western Division of Emro Marketing (predecessor of Speedway SuperAmerica LLC) since 1991 and served in several marketing and commercial roles, for eight years. From 1995 to1996, Mr. Heminger served as the President of Marathon Pipe Line Company and also served as Manager of Business Development & Joint Interest of Marathon Oil Company since November 1996. He has been a Director of Fifth Third Bank since December 20, 2006 and Marathon Petroleum Corporation since 2011. He serves as a Director of American Chemistry Council Inc. and of JobsOhio. He has been a Director at Fifth Third BanCorp since December 20, 2006. He served as Director of Northern Tier Energy LP until July 2012. He is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Tiffin University. He was Chairman of Louisiana Offshore Oil Port. He was a Member of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. He was Chairman of the American Petroleum Institute (API) Downstream Committee. He serves on the Executive Committee in the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council. He holds an MBA from the University of Dayton in 1982. Mr. Heminger graduated from Executive Management Program from the University of Pennsylvania - The Wharton School. He has a Bachelors Degree in Accounting from Tiffin University in 1976.

John B. Hess
Chairman and CEO – Hess Corporation
Mr. John B. Hess has been the Chief Executive Officer at Hess Corporation (formerly Amerada Hess Corp) since 1983. Mr. Hess has been with Hess Corporation for 28 years and has strong background in the global oil and gas industry. Mr. Hess provides significant value to the oversight and development of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts business and served leadership roles at a

global energy business. He served as the Chairman of Hess Corporation from 1995 to May 16, 2013. He serves as Vice Chairman of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. and has been its Director since 2007. He serves as a Trustee of Center for Strategic and International Studies, Inc. He has been a Director of Hess Corporation since 1978. He has been a Director of the Trilateral Commission since 2009. He has been a Director at Deerfield Academy since 2004. Mr. Hess has been a Director of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. since July 28, 2011 and of KKR Management LLC since July 28, 2011. Mr. Hess has been a Director of National Advisory Board of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. since 1991. He has been a Member of Board of Trustees at Wildlife Conservation Society/NY Zoo since 1991, United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation. Mr. Hess has been a Trustee of The Mount Sinai Hospital since 1988 and New York Public Library since 2008. He has been a Member of The Business Council of The Council of Foreign Relations since 2003 and Dean's Advisors of Harvard Business School since 2001. He served as a Director of NYC2012, Inc. He served as a Director of The Dow Chemical Company since October 12, 2006 until May 9, 2013. Mr. Hess served as a Member of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board from 1999 to 2002. He is a member of the National Petroleum Council at the U.S. Department of Energy. He earned a B.A. from Harvard College in 1975 and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 1977.

Ryan Lances
Chairman and CEO - ConocoPhillips
Mr. Ryan M. Lance has been the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer at ConocoPhillips since May 2012. Mr. Lance has 28 years of oil and natural gas industry experience in senior management and technical positions with ConocoPhillips, predecessor Phillips Petroleum and various divisions of ARCO Alaska, Inc. He served as Senior Vice President of Exploration & Production - International of ConocoPhillips and ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited since May 2009. Mr. Lance served as President of Exploration & Production, Asia Africa, Middle East and Russia/Caspian of ConocoPhillips and also served as its Senior Vice President of Technology since 2007. He served as Senior Vice President of Technology and Major Projects at Conocophillips from April 1, 2006 to February 1, 2007 and President of Asia Pacific Exploration and Production from May 8, 2003 to June 2005. He served as President Exploration & Production, Europe Asia Africa and the Middle East of ConocoPhillips. He served as President of downstream strategy, integration and specialty functions at ConocoPhillips since 2005 and as Vice President of Lower 48 since 2002. He served as President of Strategy Integration and Specialty Businesses - Refining Marketing Supply & Transportation of ConocoPhillips from June 2005 to April 1, 2006. Mr. Lance began his career with ARCO Alaska in 1984. He held various management, engineering and operations positions internationally as well as in Alaska and the U.S. Lower 48 before transferring in 1989 to ARCO's Bakersfield, Calif. operations. In 1992, he transferred to Midland, Texas, where he supervised ARCO's coalbed methane operations in the San Juan Basin. He returned to Alaska in 1994 as Exploration Engineering Manager. In 1996, he transferred to Vastar Resources in Houston as Planning Manager and served in that position until 1998. He served as Vice President of the Western North Slope for ARCO Alaska, Inc. since 1998. Mr. Lance returned to Houston in 2001 as the General Manager of Lower 48 and Canadian operations for Phillips Petroleum. He spent 17 years with ARCO. He has been a Director of ConocoPhillips since May 9, 2012. He serves as a Director for Spindletop International as well as on the Montana Tech Foundation's board. He serves on the University of Houston's Energy Advisory Board. He serves on the Boards of both

the American Petroleum Institute and the Independent Petroleum Association of America. He is an Advisory board Member of Montana Tech and a Member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. He is a Petroleum Engineer. Mr. Lance earned a Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering from Montana Tech in Butte in 1984.

John Minge
Chairman and President - BP America
Mr. John Minge has been the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of BP America, Inc. at Bp Alaska since February 15, 2013. Mr. Minge served as the President of BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. He served as the Head of Business at Bp Alaska from January 1, 2009 to February 15, 2013 also served as its Regional President. He served as the President of BP Indonesia. He began his BP career 25 years ago as a drilling engineer in the Gulf of Mexico. He served as President of Exploration and Production for Vietnam and China. Mr. Minge has been a Director of Bp America Inc. since February 15, 2013.

Jack Moore
Chairman, President and CEO – Cameron Corporation
Mr. Jack B. Moore has been the Chief Executive Officer of Cameron International Corporation (Formerly Cooper Cameron Corporation) since April 1, 2008, and has been its Chairman of the Board since May 3, 2011. Mr. Moore has been the President of Cameron International Corporation since January 01, 2007. He served as Chief Operating Officer of Cameron International Corporation since January 1, 2007. He served as President of Drilling & Production Systems Group of Cameron International Corporation from July 2002 to December 2006. He served as Senior Vice President at Cameron International Corporation from October 1, 2005 to January 1, 2007 and its Vice President since May 15, 2003. He joined Cameron in July 1999 as Vice President and General Manager of Western Hemisphere. He served at Baker Hughes Incorporated for 23 years, where he served in a variety of marketing, manufacturing and human resources positions. He has been a Director at Cameron International Corporation since November 2007 and KBR, Inc., since January 1, 2011. He serves as Member of Executive Advisory Board at C.T. Bauer College of Business. Mr. Moore served as Director of Maverick Tube Corporation and also served as its Member of Advisory Board. He serves on the boards of directors of the American Petroleum Institute (API), the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA). He serves as a Director of Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association (PESA) as well as the Boards of several charitable and educational institutions. He serves in positions of leadership for the Greater Houston Partnership, Spindletop Charities and of Memorial Drive United Methodist Church. Mr. Moore holds a BBA degree in finance and marketing from the University of Houston and a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

J. Larry Nichols
Executive Chairman – Devon Energy
Mr. J. Larry Nichols serves as President of Devon Energy Production Company LP. Mr. Nichols served as the President of Sonic Corp. He Co-Founded Devon Energy Corporation in 1971 and serves as its Chairman .from 2000 to June 2010, President from 1976 to 2003 and Chief Executive Officer since 1980. He served as law clerk to Mr. Chief Justice Earl Warren and Mr. Justice Tom Clark of the USA Supreme Court. He serves as the Executive Chairman of Devon

Energy Corporation. He served as the the Chairman of the Board of American Petroleum Institute Inc. from January 2008 to December 2010. He has been a Director of Devon Energy Corporation since 1971. He has been a Director at Baker Hughes Incorporated since 2001 and has been its Lead Director since April 30, 2013. Mr. Nichols has been a Director of Sonic Corp. since January 31, 2007. He also serves on the Board of Governors of the American Stock Exchange. He served as a Director of American Petroleum Institute Inc. He served as a Director of BOK Financial Corp. since 1997. He served as a Director of Smedvig ASA since 1996. He serves as a Director of the Domestic Petroleum Council, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Natural Gas Supply Association, the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico, the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association and the National Petroleum Council. Mr. Nichols serves as a Director of several trade associations that are relevant to the conduct of Devon's business. He served as Director of CMI Terex Corporation. Mr. Nichols holds a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Princeton University and a Law Degree from the University of Michigan.

Marvin Odum
President and Director, Upstream Americas, Shell Oil
Marvin E. Odum became Director of the Upstream Americas business in 2009. He continues as President of Shell Oil Company (SOC). Marvin earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Houston. He began his Shell career as an engineer in 1982, and has since served in a number of management positions of increasing responsibility in both technical and commercial aspects of energy. Prior to his most recent appointment and in addition to his role as SOC President, he was Executive Vice President for the Americas for Shell Exploration & Production. He was named SOC President in 2008 and had served as Executive Vice President since 2005, with responsibility for Shell exploration and production businesses in the western hemisphere. Marvin is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and holds positions of board leadership and participation in the Business Roundtable and the American Petroleum Institute. He is on the executive committee of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. In addition, he is a member of the Dean's Council of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Advisory Board of the Cockrell School of Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. He is also involved with several charities in the Houston area.

Rex Tillerson
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer – Exxon Mobil
Mr. Rex W. Tillerson has been Chief Executive Officer and President at Exxon Mobil Corporation since January 1, 2006 and March 1, 2004 respectively. Mr. Tillerson has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ExxonMobil Chemical Company since January 2006. He serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Exxonmobil Australia Pty. Ltd. He served as Senior Vice President of Exxon Mobil Corp. since August 2001. He served as Exxon Company, U.S.A.'s Production Engineer since 1975. Mr. Tillerson held several engineering, technical and supervisory assignments in the EUSA Production Department throughout Texas, and in 1987, was named Business Development Manager of the EUSA Natural Gas Department, where his responsibilities included developing long-range plans for commercialization of Alaska

and Canadian Beaufort Sea gas. Since 1989, he served as General Manager of EUSA's Central Production Division and was responsible for its oil and gas production operations throughout a large portion of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas. Mr. Tillerson served as the Production Adviser of Exxon Corporation since 1992 and Coordinator of Affiliate Gas Sales of Exxon Co., International. Three years later, he was named President of Exxon Yemen Inc. and Esso Exploration and Production Khorat Inc. and in January 1998, he became Vice President of Exxon Ventures (CIS) Inc. and President of Exxon Neftegas Limited, where he was responsible for Exxon Mobil Corp.'s holdings in Russia and the Caspian Sea as well as the Sakhalin I Consortium operations offshore Sakhalin Island, Russia. Since December 1999, he served as Executive Vice President of ExxonMobil Development Company. Mr. Tillerson has been the Chairman of Exxon Mobil Corporation since January 1, 2006 and has been its Director since March 1, 2004. He served as the Chairman of American Petroleum Institute Inc. He serves as Vice Chairman of The Business Council. He has been a Director of ExxonMobil Chemical Company since March 2004. He serves as a Trustee of Center for Strategic and International Studies. Mr. Tillerson served as a Member of the Board of Directors of the American Petroleum Institute Inc., the U.S.-Russia Business Council, the United Negro College Fund, a Member of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, and a Member of the Engineering Foundation Advisory Council for the University of Texas at Austin and the Society of Petroleum Engineers. He is a member of the National Petroleum Council, the Business Roundtable and its Energy Task Force, an honorary trustee of the Business Council for International Understanding, and a member of the Emergency Committee for American Trade. Mr. Tillerson received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

Al Walker
Chairman, President and CEO – Anadarko Petroleum
Mr. R. A. Walker, also known as Al, has been the Chairman at Anadarko Petroleum CorpORATION since May 14, 2013 and as its Chief Executive Officer since May 15, 2012 and President since February 2010. Mr. Walker serves served as the Chief Operating Officer of Anadarko Petroleum Corp. from March 1, 2009 to May 15, 2012. He served as the Managing Director for the Global Energy Group of UBS Investment Bank from 2003 to 2005, where he was responsible for UBS's upstream energy practice. He joined Anadarko Petroleum Corp. on September 6, 2005 as Senior Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer and served until March 2009. He worked at Seagull Energy Corp. and Enex Resources Corp. He served as the President and Chief Financial Officer of 3TEC Energy Corporation until its merger with Plains Exploration and Production Company in 2003. From 1987 to 2000, he worked for Prudential Financial in a variety of merchant banking positions as Senior Managing Director and Co-head of Prudential Capital Group. Mr. Walker has experience in both the banking and energy sectors. He served as the Chairman of Western Gas Holdings, LLC from August 2007 to October 2009. He has been a Director of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. since April 22, 2010 and Centerpoint Energy Resources Corp. since April 2010. He has been a Director of Maxus Energy Corporation since 1994. Mr. Walker serves as a Director of TIN Inc., Ocean Energy Inc., and the Houston Producers Forum. He has been a Director of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation since May 2012. He serves as Director of BOK Financial Corporation. He serves on the Board of Trustees for the United Way of Greater Houston and the Houston Museum of Natural Science. He served as a Director of Western Gas Equity Holdings, LLC from September 2012 to March 2013. He served as a Director of Temple-Inland Inc. since November 2008 February 2012. He served as a

Director of Western Gas Holdings, LLC from August 2008 to March 12, 2013. He served as Director of Global Natural Resources. He served as a Director of Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Company LLC since July 2002. He served as a Director of 3TEC Energy Corporation since 2000. Mr. Walker has a Bachelor of Science in 1979 and a Masters of Business Administration in 1984 from the University of Tulsa.

John Watson
Chairman and CEO – Chevron
Mr. John S. Watson has been the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Chevron Corporation since January 1, 2010. Mr. Watson serves as the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer at Chevron Global Energy Inc. He served as an Executive Vice President of Strategy & Development of Chevron Corp. from January 1, 2008 to April 1, 2009 and its Chief Financial Officer from 2000 to January 1, 2005. He served as President of Chevrontexaco Overseas Petroleum Inc. since January 1, 2005 and also served as President of Chevron Canada Limited, a subsidiary of Chevron Corp. since January 1996. Mr. Watson served as President of Chevron International Exploration and Production of Chevron Corp. from 2005 to 2007 and was responsible for managing Chevron's exploration and production activities outside North America. He served as Corporate Vice President, Strategic Planning at Chevron Corp. He joined Chevron Corp. in 1980 as a Financial Analyst, going on to hold various financial and analytical positions in Chevron and Chevron U.S.A. Inc. He held supervisory positions in the comptroller's financial and profit analysis groups. He served as Manager of investor relations of Chevron since 1990. Mr. Watson served as Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer of ChevronTexaco Corporation from 2000 to January 1, 2005 and also served as ChevronTexaco merger integration executive. Since 1993, Mr. Watson served as Manager of credit card enterprises of Chevron U.S.A. (CUSA) Products Co. where he oversaw its credit card operations. Since 1995, he served as General Manager of strategic planning and quality of CUSA, where he was responsible for developing business plans and strategies, conducting business evaluations and reviewing investment proposals for it. He served as Vice President of Chevron Corp. at Chevron Energy Solutions L.P. since 2005 and also served as its Vice President of finance from 2000 to January 1, 2005. He served as the Chairman and Director of American Petroleum Institute Inc. from January 2011 to December 2012. Mr. Watson served as Vice Chairman of Chevron Corp. since April 1, 2009. He serves as Director of Padres L.P., Animal Rescue Foundation and Chevron Capital USA Inc. Mr. Watson served as a Director of Dynegy Inc. from 2001 to March 2004. He served as Director of Caltex Petroleum Corp. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of California at Davis in 1978 and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Chicago in 1980.

Jack Gerard
President and CEO – API
Mr. Jack N. Gerard has been Chief Executive Officer and President at American Petroleum Institute since November 1, 2008. Mr. Gerard served as President and Chief Executive Officer of American Chemistry Council, Inc., since February 2007 until September 2008. As President and Chief Executive Officer of ACC, Mr. Gerard was leading new efforts to redefine the chemistry industry and to strengthen its role in advocating public policy. Prior to joining ACC in July 2005, Mr. Gerard was President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Mining Association, where he streamlined operations, developed core competencies, merged two distinct cultures,

modernized the association's communications capabilities and built a national grassroots organization. In addition, he relocated the Association, expanded membership in an era of consolidation, significantly increased member political activity and changed the dues structure. He also co-chaired the BIPAC "Prosperity Fund," raising funds to mobilize the business vote. Earlier in his career, Mr. Gerard was a Founding Partner, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of McClure, Gerard & Neuenschwander, Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based government relations consulting firm. He and founding partner, former U.S. Senator James McClure, focused on issues, including international sports, telecommunications, energy and mining. Prior to this, he spent close to a decade working in the US Senate and US House of Representatives. He is President of the National Capital Area Council - Boy Scouts of America and serves on the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management's Council on American Politics. Mr. Gerard holds Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from George Washington University and Juris Doctor from George Washington University.

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

REMARKS AT SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN'S 4TH ANNUAL BUSINESS DAY LUNCHEON

DATE: June 11, 2014
LOCATION: 902 Hart Senate Office Building
TIME: 2:40PM - 3:00PM
FROM: Sarah Neimeyer, OCL (202)208-5557; Jeremy Bratt, OCL (202) 208-7696

I. PURPOSE

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) [pronounced 'Jean sha-HEEN'] has invited you to address approximately 150 New Hampshire business leaders at her 4th Annual New Hampshire Business Day Luncheon.

She will introduce you from a podium to a group of business and community leaders who will be seated at tables in front of you. You are invited to speak for 5-8 minutes and then answer questions from the audience for another 10 minutes or so.

II. PARTICIPANTS

This event is closed press. A list of 175 community and small business leaders from New Hampshire is attached. Other invited speakers include:

- Senator Ayotte (R-NH);
- Jason Furman, Chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers;
- Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission;
- Secretary of State John Kerry;
- Michael Froman, U.S. Trade Representative;
- Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx;
- Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker; and
- Maria Contreras-Sweet, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

III. AGENDA

Speaking Order:

- Senator Jeanne Shaheen, State of New Hampshire
- Jim Roche, President, Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire
- Senator Kelly Ayotte, State of New Hampshire
- Chairman Jason Furman, White House Council of Economic Advisers
- Chairman Tom Wheeler, Federal Communications Commission
- Secretary John Kerry, United States Department of State
- Ambassador Michael Froman, United States Trade Representative
- Secretary Anthony Foxx, United States Department of Transportation

- Secretary Penny Pritzker, United States Department of Commerce
- **You** will speak
- Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, United States Small Business Administration

IV. KEY FACTS

The National Park Service manages two locations in New Hampshire:

- The Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which runs 2,184 miles from Georgia to Maine, including 161 miles in New Hampshire.
- The Augustus Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, which contains the home, studios and gardens of a great American sculptor, whose work can be seen in Washington, D.C.'s own Rock Creek Cemetery and the National Gallery of Art.

According to National Park Service data:

- More than 37,000 visitors enjoyed these parks and historic sites in 2013.
- Those visitors provided $1.5 million in economic benefit to the state.
- Volunteers donated over 4,000 hours of community service to help beautify and improve the sites and the land.

The FWS operates the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, which stretches over 7.2 million acres of the Connecticut River in four states, including New Hampshire (also Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont). The Refuge contains a great diversity of habitats, including: forest used as nesting habitat for birds; waterways used by shad, salmon and herring and a complex of marshes.

Finally, the LWCF is very important to New Hampshire. The state has received over $37 million in LWCF grants since 1965, which funds projects like the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Full funding for LWCF remains an important Administration priority; the President's FY15 budget requested full funding for the program to continue the program for the next fifty years, to invest in conservation and provide better recreational opportunities across the country.

V. BACKGROUND

Outdoor recreation and tourism are big industries in New Hampshire, responsible for nearly 50,000 direct jobs, over $1 billion in wages, and nearly $300 million in tax revenue (Outdoor Industry Association data).

Many of the small businesses that work in the recreation and tourism industries will be participating in the luncheon. They will be interested to hear your thoughts, both as a former private sector leader in the field and as Secretary, on engaging the next generation of young people to play, learn, serve and work in the great outdoors.

VI. TALKING POINTS (PROVIDED BY OCL)

<u>Acknowledgements:</u>

- Senator Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire's senior senator (*introduces you*)

- Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker (*speaks immediately before you*)

Background on You & Interior:

- Oil and gas engineer → Banking → REI CEO → Interior Secretary
- Interior has vast portfolio that touches economies and communities across the US

Interior Facts:

- Manages more than **530 million acres** (about 20 percent of the land in U.S.); **700 million acres** of subsurface minerals; **1.7 billion acres** of the Outer Continental Shelf
- These lands and offshore areas produce **21 percent of nation's energy**
- **401** National Parks, **562** National Wildlife Refuges, **247 million acres** in the National System of Public Lands
- **70,000 employees** in approximately **2,400 locations** across the U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and Freely Associated States
- Largest supplier and manager of water in the **17 western states**
- Uphold trust responsibilities to the **566 federally recognized tribes**, including education services to nearly **41,000 students** through the Bureau of Indian Education
- Provides unbiased, multidisciplinary science to understand our earth, including through: **8,000 streamgages, 2,700 earthquake sensors**, and **15 million satellite scenes** downloaded from Landsat with archives available at no cost to the public

Economic impact:

- This year will collect an estimated **$14.9 billion** (grazing, energy, minerals, land sales, timber) shared with Federal, State and local governments
- Interior contributes an estimated **$45 billion** in economic activity from more than **417 million visits** to our public lands

Three Challenges:

- I will spend some time talking about the top challenges facing us – and what we're doing about it

1. Constrained resources
   - Governments at every level are grappling with constrained resources
   - The President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2015 show how we can invest in the things we need to grow our economy and create jobs while continuing deficit

reduction

- Look forward to working with Congress and Senator Shaheen to implement the budget

- I will continue to look for opportunities to partner with businesses, to better align our work, to find efficiencies, and to ensure our practices are effective and match priorities

- I want to work with you on permanent authorization of the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

2. Climate Change
   - This is the defining issue of our time

   - It has major impacts on our land, water, wildlife, tribal communities and economy

   - I see its very real effects everywhere I travel: Alaska, Marshall Islands, California and Colorado River Basin: hotter, drier fire seasons

   - President's Climate Action Plan – we have a moral obligation to act now to cut carbon pollution, help communities prepare for impacts, and slow the effects of climate change
     Interior's role:
     - Build a better understanding – for example, Climate Science Centers

     - Build resilience – for example, Hurricane Sandy funding to strengthen coastal resilience and natural barriers

     - Develop homegrown, clean energy
       - Goal: approve 20 MW of renewable energy on public lands by 2020
       - Approved over 50 projects on public lands. Incredible progress from 2009, with zero solar project permitted
       - Together, the 50 wind, solar and geothermal projects would generate 14,000 MW, enough to power 4.8 million homes, and support 20,000 construction and operations jobs

3. Engaging the Next Generation
   - The next generation of Americans is more urban and diverse; more connected through technology, but less connected to the natural world

   - We need to reflect these realities in our workforce and in our practices if we are to stay effective and relevant
     - Nearly one-third of DOI workforce retirement eligible in next 5 yrs

- We must seek ways to **protect our nation's outdoor heritage** and **create opportunities** to develop next generation of outdoor stewards

- I've launched an ambitious youth initiative to inspire millions to **Play, Learn, Serve, Work** outdoors.
    - To develop the next generation of lifelong conservation stewards and ensure our own skilled and diverse workforce pipeline, Interior will provide **100,000 work & training opportunities** to young people and veterans within our bureaus and through public-private partnerships

- I've launched a campaign to raise **$20 million** from private partners that will help stand up the **21st Century Conversation Service Corps** to support youth work and training opportunities

- It's a **win-win-win**: develops lifelong connection to the outdoors, creates jobs, and helps our public lands

Conclusion – Your partnership is Key:

- I appreciate your partnership on these complex challenges

- Examples of where engagement is making a difference:
    - **Moab County** (UT) officials in developing Master Leasing Plans
    - **King County** (WA) officials engaged on climate change
    - **Garfield County** (CO) officials utilizing conservation funding to hire local youth to rebuild trails, clear brush and learn principles of conservation
    - Counties throughout the West working to conserve sage grouse habitat

- Issues **do not stop at political boundaries. We must all work together** – across party lines, across state lines, at all levels of government, including with tribal communities

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Biography of Jeanne Shaheen *(below)*
- RSVP List of Attendees *(attached separately)*



Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D–N.H.)
Senior Senator from New Hampshire
Residence: Madbury **Born:** Jan. 28, 1947; St. Charles, Mo.
Religion: Protestant **Family:** Husband, Bill Shaheen; three children
Education: Shippensburg State College, B.A. 1969 (English); U. of Mississippi, M.S.S. 1973 (political science)
Military Service: None
Career: University public affairs institute director; campaign aide; jewelry store owner; teacher

- **First Elected:**2008 (1st term); Defeated Sen. John E. Sununu, R
- **Latest Election:**2008 General (51.62%)
- **Political Highlights:**Democratic nominee for N.H. Senate, 1978; Madbury Zoning Board of Adjustment, 1983-96 (chairwoman, 1987-96); N.H. Senate, 1990-96; governor, 1997-2003; Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate, 2002
- **Committees:**
    - Appropriations (Commerce-Justice-Science; Energy-Water; Labor-HHS-Education; Legislative Branch - chairwoman; State-Foreign Operations)
    - Armed Services (Emerging Threats & Capabilities; Readiness & Management Support - chairwoman; Seapower)
    - Foreign Relations (African Affairs; European Affairs; International Operations & Organizations; Western Hemisphere & Global Narcotics Affairs)
    - Small Business & Entrepreneurship

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 7:03 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

NPS BEGINS PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING LGBT LANDMARKS. The San Francisco Chronicle (6/11, Lochhead, 3.33M) reports that on Tuesday, the NPS "began the process of identifying the significant historical sites" of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans' "struggle for civil rights." The agency's "plan is to convene scholars and community leaders and come up with landmarks in the LGBT movement, much as the government already does for historically significant buildings for African Americans and other minority groups." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and NPS officials "convened a meeting in the nation's capital Tuesday of 18 prominent LGBT historians and scholars, the first step in identifying significant places in the gay civil rights movement."

The Federal News Radio (6/11, 11K) reports that NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis "joined Emily Kopp on the Federal Drive to talk about the new initiative."

Also reporting on the story is WRC-TV Washington (6/11, 312K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGES GOVERNORS TO PUSH CONGRESS ON DISASTER FUNDING. The E&E Daily

(6/10) reports that President Obama "held a closed-door videoconference yesterday with Western governors gathered here at an annual conference, asking them to help push Congress to get behind his fiscal 2015 budget proposal to fund excess wildfire suppression costs with disaster relief dollars instead of raiding federal programs that help make forests resilient to blazes." The article notes that "a bipartisan group of governors attending the Western Governors' Association annual meeting" on Monday said "after the videoconference that they strongly support the president's budget proposal, as well as two bills that also would overhaul the way the country funds fire suppression." Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper said Obama "urged the governors to contact their senators and House members and ask them to support his proposal to allow agencies to tap the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief funds when they exceed fire suppression budgeted amounts rather than use funds designed for forest restoration and research."

Dry Conditions Could Drive Up Wildfire Costs. The E&E Daily (6/10) reports that "as hundreds of firefighters battled to save central Oregon's largest city from a wildfire yesterday, the Obama administration persisted in its efforts to overhaul how the federal government pays for such costly disasters." The article also notes that a USDA report "highlighted a lengthy, state-by-state list of projects that didn't get funding because the money was used for wildfire suppression efforts instead." In May, the Interior Department and the Forest Service said that "dry conditions across the West could drive this year's wildfire costs up to $1.8 billion, $470 million more than is currently allocated."

SECRETARY JEWELL URGES GOVERNORS TO OPPOSE BILL TO DELAY SAGE GROUSE LISTING. The E&E Daily (6/10) reports that Secretary Sally Jewell warned governors at the Western Governors' Association's annual meeting against delaying the FWS' "court-ordered September 2015 deadline to decide whether to list the greater sage grouse as a threatened or endangered species." Jewell urged governors to oppose a bill by Rep. Cory Gardner and Sen. Mike Enzi "to push back the decision by at least a decade, saying such a move would further imperil the iconic bird." During her keynote speech, Jewell said, "Stay on the deadline that is court-mandated. Don't change the rules, and let's get this thing over the finish line in a way that is good for the bird, good for your economies and gets this uncertainty behind all of us."

MINNESOTA GOV. DAYTON HEADS TO D.C. SEEKING LEWIS AND CLARK WATER PROJECT MONEY. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/11, Helgeson, 1.48M) reports that Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton is heading to Washington, D.C., Wednesday "to push for federal money for the Lewis & Clark fresh water pipeline in southwest Minnesota." Dayton will attend a meeting hosted by Sen. Amy Klobuchar with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

Also reporting on the story are the Grand Forks (ND) Herald (6/11, 87K) and the St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (6/11, 656K).

HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY ON LAKE BERRYESSA'S FUTURE. The Napa Valley (CA) Register (6/11, 36K) reports that the House Subcommittee on Water and Power heard testimony Tuesday on a bill that would take management of recreation of Lake Berryessa from the BOR and give it to the BLM. The Interior Department "has endorsed the legislation, but Assistant Deputy Secretary Tom Iseman testified that the changeover may not fix the concerns about Reclamation's management if BLM isn't given money and resources do it properly." He noted that "other issues about how to transfer ownership of Reclamation-owned facilities like day-use areas and launch ramps need to be better addressed."

WESTERNERS LOOK FOR WAYS TO CONTROL PUBLIC LAND. The Washington Times (6/11, Drake, 455K) reports that a Heritage Foundation session on Tuesday looked "at ways to reduce Washington's control of vast swaths of the American West." According to the article, "with so much of the West owned by the federal government, lawmakers and leaders alike said a discussion is overdue on how the lands can be better used." Rep. Rob Bishop said, "You don't have to have everything managed by Washington in order to have it done well. States and tribes are showing that they can do just as good a job, if not a better job."

NATIONAL PARKS URGED TO SUPPORT OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. For Outside (6/11, 98K), Grayson Schaffer writes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's "vision of inclusivity," outlined in a speech before the National Press Club last October, "should be enthusiastically supported by anyone who cares about the future of our park system." However, he notes that "it falls well short of what we need," because, "while she has the right idea in reaching out to new communities, like her predecessors, she's ignoring the people who are most desperate to be allowed in: the paddlers, mountain bikers, and other adventure-sports athletes who are banned

from many of the nation's best natural playgrounds." Schaffer argues that "it's an outdated stance that overlooks the role these activities now play in our relationship with wild places, and it seriously undercuts public support for an expansive and growing park system."

USE OF ANTIQUITIES ACT CRITICIZED. In her column for the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (6/11, 46K), Marita Noon writes that the designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region of New Mexico as a national monument is an example of "executive overreach." Noon claims that "history shows that in cases where the Antiquities Act has been used — whether for a national conservation area, a national park, or a national monument — mining claims were extinguished, homes have been torn down, communities have been obliterated, and working landscapes been destroyed."

OPINIONS DIFFER ON BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS NATIONAL MONUMENT. In an op-ed for the Idaho Statesman (6/11, Gibson, 222K), Michael Gibson, the outreach coordinator for Sportsmen for Boulder-White Clouds, writes in support of a Boulder-White Clouds National Monument. He claims that the Boulder-White Clouds is "a sportsmen's paradise but it's not being managed as sportsmen's paradise."

On the other hand, in an op-ed for the Idaho Statesman (6/11, Hayes, 222K), Bob Hayes urges Idahoans to "ask President Barack Obama to reject the proposal by environmental activists to create the Boulder-White Clouds National Monument by presidential proclamation." He claims that "the ecology of the 280,000-acre Boulder-White Clouds region is not at risk and in all likelihood never will be." Hayes asserts that "it's impossible to know the full extent of damage that could be done but, for certain, most stakeholders would be deprived of the opportunity to participate in a land management decision of critical importance to them, the agreement most users have for sharing the resource would be undermined and overlaying a National Monument on an existing National Recreation Area would invite confusion, conflict and litigation."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS BANS DEMONSTRATIONS AT NATIONAL CEMETERIES. The Hill (6/11, Devaney, 237K) reports that the NPS will "continue banning picketers at national cemeteries for fallen soldiers, after a federal court ruled an earlier prohibition was too broad and could be interpreted in a way that violates the First Amendment, the agency said Tuesday." The agency announced "it is narrowing the definitions of 'demonstrations' and 'special events' that are prohibited at national cemeteries to comply with the court ruling." However, "it will not reverse the prohibition altogether at the 14 national cemeteries it manages."

WASHINGTON MONUMENT ELEVATOR SUFFERS ANOTHER MALFUNCTION. WRC-TV Washington (6/11, 312K) reports that the Washington Monument elevator had "a door malfunction Tuesday, another issue in a string of breakdowns since the monument's reopening in May." According to NPS spokesperson Carol Johnson, "the elevator's doors wouldn't close properly as visitors waited at the top of the monument." Workers were "able to fix the doors and get visitors back to the ground level using the elevator."

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. FILES NEW BRIEF IN PLEA TO SUPREME COURT. The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (6/11, 88K) reports that the legal battle between the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. and the federal government "continued Tuesday with the oyster farm filing a brief as it tries to have its case heard by the US Supreme Court." The filing "refers to resolving what it terms as 'the mother of all circuit splits.'" According to the article, "the splits in this case are on jurisdiction to review agency actions for abuse of discretion, applicability of the National Environmental Policy Act and prejudicial error under the Administrative Procedure Act."

Also reporting on the story is KPIX-TV San Francisco (6/10, 51K).

NPS INVESTIGATING MISSING MOUNT RAINIER CLIMBERS. The AP (6/11, Tarinelli) provides continuing coverage of the search for the six climbers scaling Mount Rainier. Chuck Young, chief ranger at Mount Rainier National Park, said Monday that "the park service is pursing an active investigation and will continue with a limited search." Young said "the park has not recovered any bodies or gear from the six missing climbers."

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK RESCUE CAUGHT ON VIDEO. The AP (6/11) reports that "park officials say a backpacker who narrowly avoided plunging to his death from a waterfall at Yosemite National Park was hoisted to safety by a helicopter rescue crew in an operation that was captured on video." According to the article, "video footage of the May 28 rescue shows the helicopter hovering over a gorge at the base of Upper Yosemite Fall." The video was released last week.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK VISITOR KILLED BY FALLING TREE. KRTV-TV Great Falls, MT (6/11, 7K) reports that "a 36-year-old man from Taiwan died Monday in Yellowstone National Park when a tree that was blackened in the fires of 1988 fell in the wind." The NPS is investigating the incident.

GRAND CANYON INSTITUTES CAMPFIRE BAN. The Arizona Republic (6/10, 1.45M) reports that Grand Canyon National Park visitors will "no longer be allowed to burn campfires across much of the park beginning Friday morning due to fire risks." The NPS will "ban wood burning and charcoal fires, except along the Colorado River."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM COPS RESPONSIBLE FOR WIDE RANGE OF DUTIES. The E&E Daily (6/10) reports that the BLM's "standoff with Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and an armed militia was a dangerous, high-stakes confrontation, but BLM is no stranger to risky business in a still-wild West." The bureau "handles booby-trapped marijuana farms, drug smugglers, archaeological thieves, vandals and arsonists." Dan Fowler, division chief for BLM's $55 million law enforcement program, said, "I can't think of another organization that has such an expansive land management responsibility. This is not your routine assault. It's not your routine white-collar crime."

BUNDY'S SON DENOUNCES VEGAS SHOOTERS. The E&E Daily (6/10) reports that "the married couple that authorities say killed three people during a Las Vegas shooting spree were kicked off the Nevada ranch where Cliven Bundy led a protest against grazing fees on public land, the rancher's son said." Ammon Bundy said Jerad and Amanda Miller were "asked to leave the property because they were 'very radical' and did not 'align themselves' with the protest's fight with the Bureau of Land Management." Ammon Bundy "denounced the couple's violent rampage, saying that 'the only thing worse than tyranny is anarchy, and we certainly recognize that.'"

Additional coverage of the shooters as provided by the AP (6/11), FOX News (6/10, 6.72M), the New York Daily News (6/11, 4.36M), the Chicago Tribune (6/11, Walberg, Muskal, 2.3M), the BBC News (6/11, 1.17M), and the Raw Story (6/10, 71K).

BLM, VOLUNTEER GROUP TARGET ILLEGAL DUMPING. The E&E Daily (6/10) reports that the BLM and the Rogers Canyon Coalition, a volunteer group, have "teamed up to reduce illegal dumping in Wyoming." They have "proposed to clean up an area outside Laramie where residents go to discard unwanted appliances, drive four-wheelers and shoot guns at a makeshift target range." The article notes that "rather than ban the public or forbid shooting, the plan includes creating a designated target range and building a kiosk with information on proper waste disposal."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (6/11) and the Prairie (MT) Star (6/11).

GROUP ADVOCATES FOR BETTER WATER FOR HORSES. The Prairie (MT) Star (6/11) reports that Friends of a Legacy, an advocacy group, hopes to help Marathon Oil and the BLM "construct a series of pipelines for water on the land." The group "applied recently for funding from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust to drill at least two new wells, said Warren Murphy, the president of the group." Murphy said, "We're, in a sense, saving the federal government money here. And at the same time, they're better at their job of looking out for their horses."

CONSULTANT: GRAZING PERMITS DO NOT CONVEY A RIGHT. In an op-ed for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (6/11, 22K), Andy Kerr, a consultant for conservation organizations, argues that "federal grazing permits and leases do not convey 'grazing rights' on federal public lands." He notes that "federal grazing permits and leases are revocable, amendable, non-assignable 10-year licenses to graze federal public lands that do not

convey property rights to grazing permittees and lessees."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

PERMIAN BASIN PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION SUES OVER LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN LISTING. The Odessa (TX) American (6/11, 50K) reports that the Permian Basin Petroleum Association and four southeastern New Mexico counties have "filed suit against the federal government, alleging that US Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S Department of the Interior violated the law by deciding to list the Lesser-Prairie Chicken as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act." Specifically, the plaintiffs claim that "the federal regulators March decision 'violated their own policy' by failing to fully evaluate conservations underway and dismissing data that showing the grouse's population and occupied range were growing." Ben Shepperd, president of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association, said, "We think they didn't go far enough. We appreciate them including the Range Wide Plan in their deliberations but we feel like the overall scientific evidence combined with the unprecedented conservation efforts that were put together should have cleared a pathway to not list the bird."

Also reporting on the story are the My West Texas (6/11, 2K), the Energy Daily (6/11, 835), and KMID-TV Midland, TX (6/11).

Oklahoma Oil Industry Groups Join Lawsuit Over Lesser Prairie Chicken Listing. The Oklahoman (6/11, 530K) reports that "Oklahoma's two largest industry groups joined two of the nation's largest oil and gas trade associations Friday in suing the U.S Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, arguing the agency did not consider the best available science in deciding to protect" the lesser prairie chicken. According to the article, "the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Tulsa, does not challenge the agency's decision to endorse extensive voluntary conservation efforts that have been developed by the industry and states that already are working to protect the lesser prairie chicken, officials said."

Quay County Joins Prairie Chicken Action. The Quay County (NM) Sun (6/10) reports that the Quay County Commission "voted Monday to join other potential plaintiffs from five states in a filing a notice of intent to file a lawsuit against the US Fish and Wildlife Service." The lawsuit "seeks to force removal of the Lesser Prairie Chicken from the threatened species list."

GROUPS FILE LAWSUIT FOR LISTING OF ALEXANDER ARCHIPELAGO WOLVES. The AP (6/11, Joling) reports that "three conservation groups have sued to force a federal agency to decide whether a rare Alaska wolf should be listed as endangered." A decision by the FWS on Alexander Archipelago wolves is 18 months overdue, according to Rebecca Noblin, an attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity. The center, Greenpeace and The Boat Company, "a nonprofit educational organization that offers eco-cruises in southeast Alaska, sued Tuesday in federal court in Washington, D.C."

GROUPS SEEK PROTECTION FOR WILD HORSES. The North Country (NY) Gazette (6/10, 59) reports that Friends of Animals and The Cloud Foundation have filed a petition with the FWS to list North American wild horses on public lands as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act since the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, "which was passed in 1971, has failed to protect our wild horses." Ginger Kathrens, executive director of The Cloud Foundation, said, "Misclassification of wild horses as a non-native species is politically, not scientifically driven. Wild horses are severely endangered but without recognition of current scientific evidence of their native status, they could become extinct."

WILDLIFE CONCERNS DELAY ILLIANA EXPRESSWAY. The Times of Northwest Indiana (6/11, Benman, 283K) reports that "final federal approval for the Illiana Expressway has been delayed by concerns about endangered species and habitat that may be affected by construction of the 47-mile bistate expressway." The FWS has "raised concerns about how the expressway would affect endangered or threatened species like the sheepnose mussel and the long-eared bat, INDOT project manager James Earl told members of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on Tuesday." Also, the FWS and other agencies have "expressed concerns with the expressway's impact on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Illinois."

DUKE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH NORTH CAROLINA, VIRGINIA OFFICIALS FOR COAL ASH CLEANUP. The E&E Daily (6/10) reports that North Carolina and Virginia officials, along with the FWS, "signed an agreement

yesterday with Duke Energy Corp. requiring the company to clean up coal ash from the Dan River and to pay any 'reasonable' costs connected to the spill." The article notes that "the agreement places no cap on what Duke will ultimately be liable for, and it requires the utility to pay for long-term monitoring as well as cleanup costs."

FWS EXPECTS RECOVERY PLAN FOR LYNX TO BE COMPLETED IN 2018. The E&E Daily (6/10) reports that the FWS announced on Monday that "it expects to finish a recovery plan for the threatened Canada lynx in early 2018, almost two decades after the species first received federal protections." The service was "responding to court documents in a federal case brought by environmentalists over the delays." The agency has "cited budget issues, other species taking priority and lawsuits as among the reasons it has repeatedly missed its recovery plan deadlines."

FWS DECLARES NEW MEXICO MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE ENDANGERED SPECIES. The AP (6/11) reports that the FWS issued an order Monday listing the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse an endangered species. The Cronkite News (6/11) reports that the agency said "it would be 'prudent' to designate critical habitat to protect the mouse, but has not made a final decision on that."

Also reporting on the story is KRQE-TV Albuquerque, NM (6/10, 29K).

FWS EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR MONOMOY REFUGE PLAN. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (6/10, 101K) reports that the FWS announced that "it will be extending the comment period for its draft Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan from July 9 to Oct. 10." The article notes that "Chatham town officials had requested an extension to Dec. 31." According to the article, "Chatham officials had expressed concerns about several portions of the new management plan, which will be used as a management blueprint for the refuge for the next 15 years, including the claim to 717 acres of barrier beach once considered town-owned land, and that they had jurisdiction over fishing in waters west of Monomoy that lie within refuge boundaries but have traditionally been regulated by the state Division of Marine Fisheries and the town's shellfishing department."

FWS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER CAMP AT SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (6/11, 678K) reports that the FWS is "preparing for a summer camp for boys and girls ages 8 to 10 years old. The camp is July 14 to 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day." Supervisory Park Ranger David Stoughton said, "Campers will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of outdoor activities geared to promoting outdoor skills, and stewardship such as canoeing, fishing, boating, animal caretaking, hiking, birding, orienteering and coastal restoration projects."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

UTAH ACCUSES BLM OF ILLEGALLY BARRING ENERGY LEASES. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/11, 470K) reports that Utah, the Utah Association of Counties, and Uintah County have sued the BLM, alleging it has imposed "de facto wilderness management" on lands that don't fall under its jurisdiction for protection. Such policies have "unlawfully foreclosed oil and gas leasing and rights-of-way applications" on these lands, the parties allege. Drillers should have access to "about a third of the land covered in the 9 million-acre Red Rocks bill," according to Assistant Utah Attorney General Harry Souvall. The case was argued on Friday before US District Judge Dee Benson.

MONTANA LAWMAKERS PUSH TRIBAL RESOURCE BILLS. The E&E Daily (6/10) reports that "members of Montana's congressional delegation are pushing for the passage of measures to promote tribal coal development." Last week, Sens. John Walsh and Jon Tester "introduced a new version of a bill to swap coal reserves in Montana to rectify a century-old surveying error." The bill, S. 2442, would "give the Northern Cheyenne Tribe roughly 5,000 acres of subsurface coal rights within the reservation."

Offshore Energy Development:

REGULATORS, INDUSTRY DECRY GULF SPILL REPORT'S FOCUS ON EQUIPMENT. The E&E Daily (6/10) reports that in a report released last week on the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the US Chemical Safety and

Hazard Investigation Board "warned industry and government regulators that the findings from their investigation indicate offshore oil and gas projects may be relying on safety equipment that isn't reliable at all." But "so far, both offshore drillers and their chief government regulator are balking at these conclusions." The BSEE "argued that CSB is too focused on just the BOP technology, which the agency contends is merely one piece in a whole set of technological and procedural tools used to avoid major accidents in offshore oil and gas operations."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

POSSIBLE PREHISTORIC ELEPHANT SKULL FOUND AT ELEPHANT BUTTE LAKE STATE PARK. The AP (6/11) reports that "authorities say campers in New Mexico have discovered what appears to be a prehistoric elephant skull at Elephant Butte Lake State Park." According to the article, "paleontologists at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science are working with State Park and US Bureau of Reclamation Staff to investigate and potentially excavate the fossil as soon as possible."

Also covering the story are the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (6/11, 59K), the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (6/11, 282K), and KTSM-TV El Paso, TX (6/11, 970).

Empowering Native American Communities:

CONNECTICUT ATTACKS PROPOSED FEDERAL RECOGNITION REVISIONS. The Indian Country Today Media Network (6/10, 45K) reports that "three Connecticut state recognized tribes, all of whom were denied federal recognition more than 10 years ago, have another chance to apply due to newly proposed federal recognition regulations, issued recently by the Bureau of Indian Affairs." Nedra Darling, spokeswoman for the BIA, said, "The proposed 'expedited positive' process is primarily to be used for petitions in which there is no serious challenge among the local community and state." Connecticut's congressional delegation has "announced they will dispute the new regulations."

INTERIOR MOVING FORWARD WITH CHANGES TO PROTECTIONS REGARDING NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES. The Hill (6/11, Devaney, 237K) reports that the Interior Department is "moving forward with changes to which Indian tribes qualify for protections under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act."

BIA RECOGNIZES OUSTED MEMBERS OF TRIBAL COUNCIL IN CASINO DISPUTE. The Red Bluff (CA) Daily News (6/11, 20K) reports that the BIA "issued a letter late Monday recognizing four ousted Tribal Council members as legitimate members of the council governing the Paskenta Band of the Nomlaki Indians." According to the article, "Vice Chairman David Swearinger, Treasurer Leslie Lohse, Secretary Geraldine Freeman and member at large Allen Swearinger and members of four families were suspended from the tribe during an April 12 General Council meeting at Rolling Hills Casino, which is operated by the tribe." The letter "comes in the wake of an attempted shutdown early Monday morning of casino operations by a 'Tribal Police' force under the control of the ousted members."

Also covering the story are the AP (6/11) and the Marysville (CA) Appeal-Democrat (6/11, 70K).

CAPAY VALLEY COALITION TO APPEAL TRIBE'S FEE-TO-TRUST APPLICATION. The Woodland (CA) Daily Democrat (6/11, 35K) reports that the BIA has "signed off on the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's application to move 853 acres into trust — securing the tribe's ownership and control of the land and eliciting concerns among Capay Valley residents that they will not have a say in how it is used." Representatives from the Capay Valley Coalition, "a nonprofit organization committed to agricultural viability and safety, are appealing the trust, requesting the Board of Indian Appeals overturn the decision."

Top National News:

FOLLOWING ANOTHER SCHOOL SHOOTING, OBAMA SAYS HE IS OPEN TO COMPROMISES ON GUN CONTROL. All three network newscasts led with reports on Tuesday's school shooting in Oregon and President's Obama's response. Nearly all print and online reports on the President's call for a renewed focus on reducing gun violence include analysis suggesting that new Federal gun control regulations are extremely unlikely in the near future.

The AP (6/10, Thomas) reports that on Tuesday in Troutdale, Oregon, "a teen gunman armed with a rifle shot and killed a student Tuesday and injured a teacher before he likely killed himself at a high school." At the opening of NBC Nightly News (6/10, lead story, 4:20, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams said, "We begin with the latest word of the latest school shooting in this country," but "before we take you there, we're going to show you the frustration and anger evident in the President's comments late this afternoon when he was asked about the seemingly nonstop string of violent acts inside public facilities, where our children are supposed to be safe."

Following a lead story on the school shooting in Oregon, Scott Pelley, on the CBS Evening News (6/10, story 2, 2:30, Pelley, 5.08M), reported that President Obama "was asked about the shooting." The President was shown saying, "The country has to do some soul-searching about this. This is becoming the norm, and we take it for granted in ways that, as a parent, are terrifying to me, and I am prepared to work with anybody, including responsible sportsmen and gun owners, to craft some solutions. But right now, it's not even possible to get even the mildest restrictions through Congress, and...we should be ashamed of that."

ABC World News (6/10, story 2, 0:55, Muir) also followed up a report on the shooting in Oregon, with an item on the response from the President, who David Muir said was "reacting after learning about this new shooting" when he said, "My biggest frustration so far is the fact that this society has not been willing to take some basic steps to keep guns out of the hands of people who...can do just unbelievable damage."

The New York Times (6/11, Landler, Voo, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that President spoke "in blunt and bitter terms about a bloody trail of shootings in the last month," but "expressed little hope for a change in sentiment, noting that even his push for background checks for would-be gun buyers fell short in the wake of the 2012 schoolhouse slaughter in Newtown." The President is quoted as saying, "The fact that 20 6-year-olds were gunned down in the most violent fashion possible and this town couldn't do anything about it was stunning to me."

The Huffington Post (6/10, Siddiqui, 11.54M) calls the President's remarks "some of his most forceful comments to date on gun violence in America, hours after the country faced its 74th school shooting in the 18 months since the elementary school massacre in Newtown." The Huffington Post notes that while the President "said he respects gun rights," he "lamented the fact that even a modest bill to expand background checks failed to pass in the Senate last year." Likewise, Politico (6/10, Epstein, 637K) reports that the President "said he supports the Second Amendment but still sees a need for tighter rules." According to Politico, the President's remarks "were his most extensive on guns in months."

The AP (6/11) reports that the President "says his biggest frustration so far as president is that American society hasn't been willing to take steps to strengthen gun control." The Oregonian (6/11, Zheng, 992K), covers the President's comments in article titled, "Obama Reacts To School Shootings, Including Oregon's: 'We Should Be Ashamed.'"

The Los Angeles Times (6/11, Lauter, 3.46M) reports that on Tuesday, the President "also brushed aside the argument made by some opponents of new gun regulations that mental illness, not guns, lies at the root of recent shootings," saying, "The United States does not have a monopoly on crazy people," but "'we're the only developed country' that suffers repeated mass shootings."

The Hill (6/10, Sink, 237K) noted that "earlier Tuesday," White House deputy press secretary Josh Earnest "defended Obama, who until speaking at length on the topic Tuesday had fell largely silent on the issue of gun violence," saying, "increasing gun controls was 'a priority of the president's.'" The Hill also reported that on Tuesday, the President said, "Most members of Congress, and I have to admit this is bipartisan, are terrified of the NRA."

However, Politico (6/10, Everett, 637K) reported that on Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "hinted...that his chamber may vote on the bipartisan gun background checks bill again this year." According to Politico, when "asked whether that means the Senate would take back up the legislation from Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) that failed last year," Reid answered, "I wouldn't be surprised if we have another vote on it."

The Washington Times (6/11, Wolfgang, 455K) notes that the President also "went on to praise" Australia, "a country that had outright banned and imposed a mandatory buyback on almost all long guns, including semi-automatic weapons and shotguns." The President is quoted as saying, "A couple of decades ago Australia had a mass shooting similar to Columbine or Newtown, and Australia just said, 'Well, that's it. We're not doing – we're not seeing that again,' and basically imposed very severe, tough gun laws, and they haven't had a mass shooting since." Neil Munro notes the President's comment on Australia's gun laws in a post for the Daily Caller (6/10, 408K) titled, "Obama Suggests US Needs Ban On Semiautomatic, Automatic Weapons."

The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Sparshott, Epstein, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) covers the President's remarks under the headline, "Obama Calls For 'Soul Searching' On Gun Violence." Reuters (6/11, Holland, Rampton) also has an article on the President's renewed call for a nation debate on gun violence.

In an op-ed for The Oregonian (6/11, 992K), Melinda Ott says, "Sadly, I expect this will follow the same pattern" as in the wake of past school shootings: "people are killed, followed by people fighting each other over guns." Kathleen Parker, in her column for the Washington Post (6/11, 4.22M), says "the sensible case isn't that we need to ban guns, as some reflexively would argue," but, instead, "that we require reasonable scrutiny of those who wish to own guns, especially to conceal-carry, and require serious training of those who possess them."

HOUSE APPROVES VA REFORM MEASURE, SENATE VOTE EXPECTED THIS WEEK. The AP (6/11, Daly, Fram) reports that in response to the national "uproar" over the VA healthcare scandal, Congress "is suddenly moving quickly to address military veterans' long waits for care at VA hospitals." On Tuesday, the House unanimously approved legislation "to make it easier for patients enduring lengthy delays for initial visits to get VA-paid treatment from local doctors instead." The AP notes that both the House measure and a similar measure in the Senate "would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to hire more doctors and nurses, but that may be easier said than done given a nationwide shortage of primary care physicians."

The Washington Post (6/11, Hicks, O'Keefe, 4.22M) reports that lawmakers are "moving uncharacteristically fast" to address the crisis.

The Los Angeles Times (6/11, Simon, 3.46M) notes the House's bipartisan support for the measure and reports that the VA healthcare scandal has united "members of opposing parties in support of swift action to reduce veterans' waits for care and hold VA officials accountable for misrepresenting waiting times."

Reuters (6/11, Lawder) reports that the scandal has embarrassed both the Administration and lawmakers ahead of the mid-term elections, noting that so many House members wanted to be counted as supporting the measure that a second vote was held for those who missed the first one.

Roll Call (6/10, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that Senate Minority Leader McConnell on Tuesday criticized a student loan measure set for a test vote on Wednesday, saying the chamber should be moving on the measure negotiated by Sens. Bernie Sanders and John McCain. McConnell said, "We have a bipartisan veterans bill negotiated the way we used to do business in the Senate, with members of both parties, ready to go. It was introduced yesterday. So, I hope we'll not get onto a bill going nowhere and immediately turn to the veterans bipartisan bill and see if we can address that in a bipartisan way very quickly. Maybe even finish it this week." Senate Majority Leader Reid "also thought the VA bill could move ahead quickly," saying, "I hope we can bring it to the floor in the next 24 hours, 48 hours at the most."

Davidson: VA Report Holds Lessons For Other Agencies. In his "Federal Diary" column for the Washington Post (6/11, 4.22M), Joe Davidson writes that the Department of Veterans Affairs report on long waits for veterans seeking healthcare "provides lessons that reach well beyond this one agency." A "major story line in the report looks at why employees provided bogus reports." The Post notes that "unrealistic demands on staffers, perverse incentives for bonuses and pay raises, and top managers whose push for better service backfired," and adds that too many agency employees were "pushed too far" and "lied."

CANTOR LOSES GOP PRIMARY TO CONSERVATIVE CHALLENGER BY 10 POINTS. Most media analyses this morning agree that the key policy implication of House Majority Leader Eric Cantor's 10-point primary loss is the likelihood that there will be no votes on immigration reform measures in the House for the rest of the year, while the political impact will be chiefly felt in the shakeup of the House Republican leadership caused by

Cantor's pending departure, as well as the potential exit of Speaker Boehner following the midterm election.

The New York Times (6/11, A1, Kenny, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports on its front page that "in one of the most stunning primary election upsets in congressional history," Cantor "was soundly defeated on Tuesday by a Tea Party-backed economics professor who had hammered him for being insufficiently conservative." Cantor's opponent, Dave Brat, finished with 55.5% of the vote to Cantor's 45.5%. 65,008 Republicans voted in the primary in Virginia's 7th District. According to Roll Call (6/10, Cahn, Subscription Publication, 76K), Cantor "raised $5.44 million, while Brat raised $207,000." Roll Call also says Brat is a "clear favorite to win...in November," and notes that Mitt Romney "carried the district by a 15-point margin in 2012."

Appearing on MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show (6/11, 548K), NBC's Chuck Todd said that along with Brat, Tuesday's "winner is the people who are fighting major immigration reform." Todd said Brat did not rely on the "professional Tea Party crowd," but instead "tapped into" a "true grassroots movement" opposed to immigration reform, which Todd said "is a much more organic movement inside the Republican base."

The New York Times (6/11, A1, Kenny, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says Brat cast Cantor as "soft on immigration...contending that he supported what critics call amnesty for immigrants in the country illegally." The Times also notes that Brat had "significant help from conservative talk radio host" Laura Ingraham, but "had little help from national groups that have funded other Tea Party challengers." Ingraham, in an interview with Megyn Kelly on Fox News' The Kelly File (6/11, 1.33M), said, in reference to Cantor, "You can't go to the people claiming that you're going to be tough on immigration enforcement when last year you were touring the country with [Rep.] Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), who is one of the primary movers of immigration reform on Capitol Hill. ... People saw right through that." Ingraham added, "This race, in the end, goes down as one of the most significant repudiations of establishment immigration reform that certainly I've seen in my 20 years of doing politics."

According to a front-page article in the Washington Post (6/11, A1, Kane, 4.22M), "The prospect of a loss seemed to have gone uncontemplated" by Cantor, who "spent Tuesday morning at a monthly meeting with large donors and lobbyists at a Capitol Hill Starbucks." Politico (6/10, Hohmann, 637K) notes that just "last Friday, Cantor's campaign distributed an internal poll from John McLaughlin that showed him ahead 34 points over Brat." According to Politico, McLaughlin & Associates "said the margin of error for the May 27-28 survey was only 4.9 percentage points."

The Washington Post (6/11, Balz, Rucker, 4.22M) reports that Scott Reed, identified as "a GOP strategist who oversees political activities for the Chamber of Commerce," says the USCOC "had seen warning signs for Cantor some weeks ago" and "offered help," but "were waved off." The Post also reports that Reed cited Sen. Lindsey Graham's win on Tuesday night and "the absence of tea party groups participating in the Virginia race" in making the case that there is "no tea party wave." Gerald Seib, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), says avoiding Republican incumbent losses at the hands of tea party challengers has been the USCOC's main goal this cycle, but Cantor's loss was unforeseen by them.

Politico (6/10, Kim, 637K) notes that in an interview with Sean Hannity of Fox News after he was declared the winner Tuesday night, Brat "cited immigration as an issue that helped put him over the top." Brat is quoted as saying the debate over immigration enforcement "captures the differences between myself and Eric Cantor in this race, but it also captures that fissure between Main Street and Wall Street." Brat added that Republicans like Cantor who support immigration reform "are doing it for the Chamber of Commerce," which "want[s] cheap labor" even though "that's going to lower wages for everybody else."

The AP (6/11, Suderman) says the win by Brat, "a political novice with little money, marks a huge victory for the tea party movement." According to the AP, Brat successfully "cast" Cantor "as a Washington insider who isn't conservative enough" as "Cantor supporters...met with stiff resistance in trying to wrest control of the state party away from tea party enthusiasts." The AP notes that the American Chemistry Council "spent more than $300,000 on TV ads promoting Cantor," which was "the group's only independent expenditure so far this election year," while the American College of Radiology, the National Rifle Association and the National Association of Realtors "also spent money on ads to promote Cantor."

The Washington Post (6/11, Costa, Vozella, Fahrenthold, 4.22M) describes Brat's victory as a "stunning upset propelled by tea party activists." The Post says Brat "exposed discontent with Cantor...by attacking the

lawmaker on his votes to raise the debt ceiling and end the government shutdown, as well as his support for some immigration reforms." According to the Post, Cantor "championed a Republican version of the Dream Act, which would enable some undocumented immigrants who entered the country as children to qualify for in-state college tuition rates." Politico (6/10, Hohmann, 637K) notes that in response to Brat's attacks, Cantor "sent fliers that cited a story which called him 'the No. 1 guy standing between the American people and immigration reform.'"

The Los Angeles Times (6/11, Mascaro, Memoli, Barabak, 3.46M) reports that campaign analyst Stuart Rothenberg characterized Cantor's defeat as "stunning" and "unimaginable." Rothenberg is quoted as saying, "This is the grass roots flexing its muscle and reminding members of the Republican leadership – and reminding all Republicans – that this is a very conservative party at the grass-roots and they're angry."

According to the Washington Times (6/11, Sherfinski, 455K), Brat "managed to overcome a tremendous disadvantage in fundraising and name recognition by, among other things, characterizing Mr. Cantor's qualified support for granting legal status to some young illegal immigrants, known as dreamers, as a betrayal of conservative principles." The Times also reports that "Cantor's loss would appear to quash any lingering hope of the Republican-controlled House passing comprehensive immigration reform this year." The Times notes that Cantor recently said, "I have told the president that there are some" aspects of immigration reform that "we can work on together," including "things like the kids."

Under the headline, "Eric Cantor Loss Kills Immigration Reform," Politico (6/10, Kim, 637K) reports that "many top sources close to the issue privately acknowledged...that the already uphill battle for immigration reform was dealt the knockout blow." But Politico also reports that Tuesday's development is "likely to raise pressure from the left on Obama to use executive authority to act on deportations" because "Cantor's stunning loss means there's little Obama can expect from the Hill."

Nate Cohn, in an analysis for the New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), notes that "more aggressive [Republican] supporters of immigration legislation," including Speaker Boehner and Sen. Lindsey Graham, "easily won their primaries." But Cohn adds that "regardless of the exact reason for...Cantor's defeat, the news media's focus on immigration is likely to deter Republicans from supporting comprehensive immigration reform." The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Peterson, Hook, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) also reports that it is now very unlikely that there will be a House vote on the comprehensive immigration reform legislation passed by the Senate last year, or any other immigration measures.

However, Politico (6/11, Sherman, 637K) also reports that "minutes after" Cantor conceded defeat, "immigration protestors stormed the ballroom to push for reform." On Fox News' The Kelly File (6/11, 1.33M), Chris Stirewalt, Fox's digital politics editor, predicted that Cantor's loss will spur President Obama "to deliver more quickly on his threat for executive action on immigration." According to Stirewalt, the President "has been threatening all along that if the Republicans did not give what he wanted, which he knew they were never going to do, that he was going to carry through on executive action."

Cantor's Departure Complicates Anticipated Campaign For Speakership Post-Boehner. The Washington Post (6/11, A1, Kane, 4.22M) reports that on Tuesday night, "senior GOP aides were not even sure if Cantor would stay on in leadership as a lame duck for the remainder of his term, or if he would resign immediately and set off a leadership race that would be certain to draw contenders from several ideological wings of the party." According to the Post, House Majority Whip Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), "worked his relationships with fellow lawmakers so aggressively that some believed Cantor and McCarthy would be elevated to the No. 1 and 2 slots without too much trouble." The Post reports that L. Brent Bozell III, chairman of ForAmerica, "a group that had targeted Cantor throughout the primary," says he will "soon push Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-Tex.) to challenge Boehner or run for majority leader, believing that the conservative Texan and chairman of the House Financial Services Committee could use Cantor's defeat to climb the ladder."

According to Politico (6/10, French, Bresnahan, 637K), McCarthy "is all but certain to run for the majority leader post, GOP sources said," and "will likely be challenged by a member of the conservative wing of the House GOP Conference, potentially including" Hensarling, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). Politico adds that "a full-scale war will break out for Majority Whip, with Scalise, McMorris Rodgers and Reps. Pete Roskam (R-Ill.) and Pete Sessions (R-Texas) all possibilities for that post."

The New York Times (6/11, A1, Weisman, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "conservatives who have helped fuel some of the most contentious showdowns over the last three years now see potential spoils," including Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), who the Times says "has been laying the groundwork for the last several weeks to slide into an open slot should Mr. Boehner have decided to retire and, it was assumed, Mr. Cantor take his spot." The Hill (6/10, Berman, 237K) reports that Reps. Raúl Labrador (R-ID) and Matt Salmon (R-AZ) both "told reporters Tuesday that they didn't believe Boehner would seek another term after the November midterm elections."

The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Peterson, Hook, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) also reports that Boehner is widely expected to step down as Speaker soon. The Journal says that with Cantor out of the House, the race to succeed Boehner will now likely feature multiple candidates. USA Today (6/11, Cantor, 5.82M) notes that Cantor is "the only Jewish Republican" in the House, and was "widely viewed as the likeliest contender to become the next House speaker." McClatchy (6/11, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 23K) says Cantor "was once viewed as the leader of the House of Representatives' more conservative faction, but had softened over the past few years."

Pete King: Cantor's Defeat Will "Marginalize Us Further As A National Party." In a front-page analysis titled, "Cantor's Loss A Bad Omen For Moderates," the New York Times (6/11, A1, Weisman, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Rep. Peter King (R-NY) said, "The results tonight will move the party further to the right, which will marginalize us further as a national party."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Student Borrowers And The Economy."*** The New York Times (6/11, Editorial for the New York (NY), Times, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, says the President "took an important step...when he signed an executive order providing relief to millions of struggling student loan borrowers and urged Congress to pass a student loan refinancing bill that is scheduled for a vote in the Senate on Wednesday." The Times says the legislation is almost certainly doomed in the House but adds that "by bringing the matter to a vote, Senate Democrats underscore the need to do something about dire indebtedness among recent graduates, and also give members of their party a potent issue on which to run in the midterm elections."

"Clauses That Hurt Workers." The New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that more employers are requiring noncompete agreements, under which employees "agree not to work for a competitor for a year or two after they leave." Although such agreements are standard for executives and other top employees, the Times notes that "some employers are unfairly imposing that requirement on all kinds of workers, including lower-wage employees like camp counselors, interns and yoga instructors." The Times argues that the "indiscriminate use of such noncompete clauses hurts workers by limiting their ability to seek better jobs in their chosen professions." The Times adds that some employees "may not even realize they are agreeing to such conditions because the clauses are tucked deep inside employment documents." Lawmakers in some states, like California and North Dakota, "have realized the problems" and do not enforce such clauses, "while other states give courts discretion to determine if such clauses are 'reasonable.'"

"Who Ordered Politkovskaya's Murder?" The New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes the conviction of five men of the murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya "signal[s] some progress in Russia's glacial investigations of the murder, but the case is still not closed," because the country must still find and prosecute the person who ordered the killing. The Times says solving this case "is crucial to instilling any faith that Russia can follow the rule of law."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Misrule Of Law In Russia."*** The Washington Post (6/11, 4.22M) editorializes that under President Vladimir Putin, Russia has "not achieved the simple standard of a rule-of-law state," which is to ensure that "no one...not even the president and his Kremlin pals, is above the law." The Post says that while "Russia has adopted new laws" as it emerged from the Soviet Union, "the missing element is enforcement."

"A Lesson On Acceptance." The Washington Post (6/11, 4.22M) editorializes about a counter-protest by students at Washington, DC's Wilson High School, where members of the anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church

picketed the school's second annual gay pride day. The event "garnered widespread national attention when the school's principal, 50-year-old Pete Cahall, made an emotional announcement that he is gay." The Post notes that Cahall's "forthright courage and the unhesitating acceptance of his announcement by the Wilson school community set the template for Monday, when students mounted a rally to counter the Westboro demonstration." The event "attracted hundreds of people – alumni, parents, elected officials, supporters from neighboring schools – in a wonderful demonstration of community."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Fall Of Mosul."*** The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, makes the case that President Obama deserves blame for the fall of Mosul because he made getting US troops out of Iraq a priority and did not adequately ensure that Iraq would not be vulnerable to the kind of insurgency that it is currently facing.

"A School Reform Landmark." The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that Los Angeles County Superior Court judge Rolf Treu was correct in ruling that California's tenure protection for public schoolteachers is unconstitutional and argues that the case provides disadvantaged students an opportunity to seek protection of their rights from the judicial system.

"Firepower For The Fed." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) hails the Senate's decision to limit debate on three Fed nominees, calling it necessary to give the Fed more policy-making strength. The Journal approves of all three nominees, saying that vice chair nominee Stanley Fischer is one of the President's better choices (though the paper does not agree with all of his positions).

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Militants Take Key Iraqi City As Forces Flee
Tea-Party Challenger Topples Cantor
Teacher Tenure Dealt Legal Setback
Allergan Bid Puts Valeant's R&D In Focus

New York Times:
House Majority Leader Upset By Tea Party Rival In Primary
Bad Omen For Moderates
Sunni Militants Drive Iraqi Army From Big City
Assault On Mosul Puts Region At Risk Of War
Judge Rejects Teacher Tenure
Rabbi A Cardinal Never Knew: His Grandfather

Washington Post:
California Court Strikes Down Teacher Tenure
Microsoft Battles US Over E-Mails
Splinter Groups A Larger Worry Than Al-Qaeda
Cantor Loses In Primary Shocker
Defeat Throws Congress Into Disarray

Financial Times:
Extremists Seize Iraqi City Of Mosul
Clinton's Soft Tread And "Hard Choices"
BP To Operate Commercial Drones In US

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Oregon Shooting; Oregon Shooting-Obama Response; Las Vegas Shooting; Severe Weather; Iraq-Violence; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Killed; Boko Haram-Kidnappings; Hillary Clinton Book; Frequent Flyer Miles; Credit Card Theft; Pregnant Mother Health.

CBS: Oregon Shooting; Oregon Shooting-Obama Response; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Killed; Afghanistan-Presidential Election; US-Taliban Prisoner Exchange; Iraq-Violence; US-Children Immigrants; Colorado-Marijuana; Congressional Gold Medal Recipients; Health-Spinal Injury Treatment.
NBC: Oregon Shooting; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Killed; Iraq-Violence; Hillary Clinton Interview; CDC-Diabetes; California-Teacher Protection Ruling; Apple-Headphone Jack.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Virginia- Rep. Eric Cantor Defeated; South Carolina-GOP Primary Results; Oregon Shooting; Sports-NBA Finals; Donald Sterling Scandal.
CBS: Virginia-Rep. Eric Cantor Defeated; US-Taliban Prisoner Exchange; Congress-VA Healthcare Legislation; California-Teacher Protection Ruling; Oregon Shooting; Wall Street.
FOX: Oregon Shooting; Virginia-Rep. Eric Cantor Defeated; Sen. Ted Cruz Renounces Canadian Citizenship; Breast Cancer-Red Meat Study; Wall Street; Hillary Clinton Book Signing; Great Lakes-Ice Melts.
NPR: Virginia-Rep. Eric Cantor Defeated; Congress-VA Healthcare Legislation; Transportation-Highway Trust Fund Debate; Oregon Shooting; California-Teacher Protection Ruling; Rembrandt Painting Dispute; Bob Welch Obit.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; meets with the United States Sentencing Commission, Roosevelt Room, closed press; departs the White House; arrives Worcester, Massachusetts; delivers remarks at the Worcester Technical High School Commencement, Worcester Technical High School, Worcester, Massachusetts; delivers remarks and answers questions at a DSCC event, departs Worcester, Massachusetts; arrives the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; travels to New York; delivers the keynote address at the North American Energy Summit in New York City.
US Senate: 8:30 a.m. WYDEN, NORTON – HIGHWAY FUNDING — Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden, D-OR; Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committees Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, will speak at the third Rally for Roads event to call for a sustainable source of funding for the Highway Trust Fund, which is expected to run out of money this year if Congress doesnt act. Event starts at 8:30 a.m. Wyden's remarks approx. 9:25 a.m. Location: Union Square, Capitol Grounds (West of the Capitol Reflecting Pool).

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING – ADOPTION – LANGEVIN — Congressional Briefing on Adoption Policy and Practice Concerning Parents with Disabilities. Co-hosted by the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, National Council on Disability, Child Welfare League of America, National Association of Social Workers, and the American Psychological Association. Speakers: Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI), invited; David Brodzinsky, Ph. D, Research Director, Donaldson Adoption Institute (NYC); Professor Emeritus, Clinical and Developmental Psychology, Rutgers University; Colleen Gioffreda, National Adoption Coordinator, Little People of America; Traci LaLiberte, Ph. D, Executive Director, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota; Robyn Powell, Attorney Advisor, National Council on Disability; lead author, "Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and Their Children"; Linda Spears, Vice President of Policy and Public Affairs, Child Welfare League of America. contact Anne Sommers at the National Council on Disability, ASommers@ncd.gov Location: 106 Dirksen.

5 p.m. – 7 p.m. EXPERIENCE NEW HAMPSHIRE RECEPTION — U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) will welcome more than 40 New Hampshire businesses and venders to the United States Capitol for the fifth annual Experience New Hampshire reception. Media RSVP to Senator Shaheens Press Office at 202-224-5553 or Nick_Brown@shaheen.senate.gov. Location: Kennedy Caucus Room, Russell Senate.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Department of Defense hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Missile Defense Agency. Witness: Vice Admiral James D. Syring, Director, Missile Defense Agency. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/defense-subcommittee-fy15-missile-defense-agency-budget Location: 192 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HELSINKI COMMISSION – AZERBAIJAN — The U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing: The Security, Economic and Human Rights Dimensions of US-Azerbaijan Relations. Location: 432 Russell

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan to be Director, Office of Management and Budget. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/nomination-of-hon-shaun-l-s-donovan-to-be-director-office-of-management-and-budget Location: 342 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Hearing entitled "Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security." Witness: Jeh Johnson, Secretary, United States Department of Homeland Security. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/oversight-of-the-department-of-homeland-security-2014-06-11 Location: 226 Dirksen.

11 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearings to examine the nominations of Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dana Shell Smith, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the State of Qatar, James D. Nealon, of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras, and Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, all of the Department of State. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/nominations-ambassadors-to-qatar-iraq-and-honduras-06-11-14 Location: 419 Dirksen.

2 p.m. BUDGET — Hearing on the confirmation of Shaun Donovan, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, for the position of Director, Office of Management and Budget. http://www.budget.senate.gov/ Location: 608 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Full Committee hearing on nominations. Witnesses: Mr. Victor M. Mendez to be Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation; Bruce H. Andrews to be Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce; Peter M. Rogoff to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation; Marcus D. Jadotte to be Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; Robert S. Adler to be a Commissioner, Consumer Product Safety Commission (Reappointment). http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=f950e45e-bb03-40b4-a63e-cf6c8cb4ed00 Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS — Business meeting to consider S.919, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, S.1447, to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, S.1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S.2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S.2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on higher education for American Indian students. http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/business-meeting-consider-following-legislation-will-not-be-webcast Location: 628 Dirksen.

4 p.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights

Business meeting to consider S.J.Res.19, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/executive-business-meeting-2014-06-11 Location: 226 Dirksen.

5:15 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — To receive a closed briefing on the situation in Ukraine. Location: SVC-217.
US House: 12 p.m. GUEST CHAPLAIN RABBI HAMMERMAN — Rabbi Eytan Hammerman from Temple Beth Shalom in Mahopac will offer opening prayer to the House of Representatives as the guest chaplain. Immediately

following the opening prayer to begin the legislative session, Rep. Maloney will give remarks welcoming Rabbi Hammerman.

12 p.m. HOYER, HOUSE DEMS – JOBS BILL — House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) will host a press conference with House Democrats to announce and discuss new jobs legislation being added to the Make It In America jobs plan to strengthen American manufacturing and bring jobs back to the U.S. Contact: Stephanie Young, 202-225-3130. Location: HVC-117 Studio A.

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. UNEMPLOYED WITHOUT BENEFITS — As the number of unemployed Americans cut off from federal emergency benefits is set to hit 3 million on or around June 11, 2014, a wide range of people are gathering on Capitol Hill every Wednesday for seven weeks to "stand witness to the hardships faced by unemployed Americans". Speakers: Rep. Sandy Levin (D-MI); Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY); Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL); Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN); Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI); Rep. Steve Horsford (D-NV); Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI); Debbie Weinstein, Coalition on Human Need; Christian Dorsey, Economic Policy Institute; Rev. Stacy Martin, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Sister Marge Clark, NETWORK; Liz Schuler, AFL-CIO; Ed Jayne, AFSCME. Contact: Patricia Brooks, Center for Effective Government, pbrooks@foreffectivegov.org, (202) 351-1757 Location: House Triangle on the Capitol's East Front (just off of New Jersey Ave. SE and Independence Ave. SE).

1:30 p.m. TRUTH IN ADVERTISING ACT — News Conference Reps. Ros-Lehtinen and Capps on the Truth in Advertising Act. Location: House Triangle.

2 p.m. BOEHNER – AUSTRALIAN PM — House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) will host a meeting with Prime Minister Tony Abbott of Australia. A photo opportunity and media spray will take place at the top of the meeting. Media Pre-Set: All media must stage in H-218 no earlier than 1:45 p.m. ET and will be escorted into H-217 at 2:00 p.m. ET. Handheld and portable cameras only. Carts and gear must be stored in H-320 Location: H-217, The Speaker's Ceremonial Office.

2:30 p.m. GENITAL MUTILATION — At the start of what is known as "vacation cutting season, U.S. Representatives Joe Crowley (D-NY) and Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) will join female genital mutilation survivor and activist Jaha Dukureh and Equality Now to call on the Administration to develop a comprehensive cross-agency strategy to better protect American girls from the harmful practice in a press roundtable. The call for action comes at the start of what is known as "vacation cutting season, when American girls are taken out of the country to undergo FGM over their summer break from school. According to one estimate, nearly 70,000 women and girls in the U.S. are in danger of being subjected to FGM. Speakers: Rep. Joe Crowley; Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee; Jaha Dukureh, FGM survivor and activist; Shelby Quast, Senior Policy Advisor, Equality Now. RSVP, please contact Courtney Gidner at 202-225-3965 or Courtney. Gidner@mail.house.gov Location: 1732 Longworth.

10 a.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

9 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Full Committee Mark Up – FY 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill; and Revised Report on the Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2015. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=383603 Location: 2359 Rayburn.

9:30 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — "Social Security Administration Oversight: Examining the Integrity of the Disability Determination Appeals Process, Part II." Witnesses: Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration. http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/social-security-administration-oversight-examining-integrity-disability-determination-appeals-process-part-ii/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Health hearing on 21st Century Cures: Examining the Role of Incentives in Advancing Treatments and Cures for Patients. Witnesses: Dr. Kenneth Davis, President and CEO, Mt. Sinai Health System; Marc Boutin, Executive Vice Presdient and Chief Operating Officer, National Health Council; Alexis Borisy, Partner, Third Rock Ventures; Mike Carusi, General Partner, Advanced Technology Ventures – On behalf of National Venture Capital Association; Dr. Fred Ledley, Professor, Natural & Applied Sciences and Management Director, Center for Integration of Science and Industry, Bentley University; C. Scott Hemphill, Professor of Law, Columbia Law School; Dr. Steven Miller, Senior Vice President Chief

Medical Officer, Express Scripts Holding Company. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/21st-century-cures-examining-role-incentives-advancing-treatments-and-cures-patientssthash.dveo28Yn.dpuf Location: 2322 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa hearing on Assessing Energy Priorities in the Middle East and North Africa. Witnesses: Amos J. Hochstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy, Bureau of Energy Resources, U.S. Department of State. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-assessing-energy-priorities-middle-east-and-north-africa Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Markup: HR 3202, HR 3488, HR 3846, HR 4263, HR 4289, HR 4802, HR 4803, and Honor Flight Act. http://homeland.house.gov/markup/markup-hr-3202-hr-3488-hr-3846-hr-4263-hr-4289-hr-4802-hr-4803-hr Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Hearing on Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Witness: James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2014/6/hearing-oversight-of-the-federal-bureau-of-investigation Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Hearing, "Potential Impacts of Proposed Changes to the Clean Water Act Jurisdictional Rule." Witnesses: Panel I: Robert W. Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army, for Civil Works. Panel II: J. D. Strong, Executive Director, Oklahoma Water Resources Board; on behalf of the Western Governors Association and Western States Water Council; Mark Pifher, Manager, Southern Delivery System, Colorado Springs Utilities; on behalf of the National Water Resources Association and Western Urban Water Coalition; Dusty Williams, General Manager/Chief Engineer, Riverside County, California Flood Control & Water Conservation District; on behalf of the National Association of Counties and the National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies; Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation; Kevin Kelly, President, Leon N. Weiner & Associates, Inc.; 2014 Chairman of the Board, National Association of Home Builders; Eric Henry, President, TS Designs, on behalf of the American Sustainable Business Council. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=378392 Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Trade Subcommittee Hearing on the benefits of expanding U.S. agriculture trade and eliminating barriers to U.S. exports. Location: 1100 Longworth.

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Hearing on the Transfer of Five Senior Taliban Detainees. Witnesses: Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense; Stephen Preston, General Counsel, U.S. Department of Defense. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display?ContentRecord_idC938E2BF-6136-4FE4-BFBE-E3EFEC9C7025 Location: 2118 Rayburn.

10:30 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, "Media Ownership in the 21st Century." Witnesses: David Bank, Managing Director, Global Media Equity Research, RBC Capital Markets; Paul Boyle, Senior Vice President of Public Policy, Newspaper Association of America; Jessica Gonzalez, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, National Hispanic Media Coalition; William Lake, Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission; Bernard Lunzer, President, Newspaper Guild-CWA; Jane Mago, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, National Association of Broadcasters. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/media-ownership-21st-centurysthash.6NeNXery.dpuf Location: 2123 Rayburn.

11:30 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — The Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee will hold a hearing to review issues related to production costs of U.S. circulating coins and currency. The subcommittee will also discuss the usefulness of coins and currency in everyday business and the ways that coins and currency are distributed and recirculated through the economy. http://financialservices.house.gov/ Location: 2128 Rayburn.

12 p.m. SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — Subcommittee on Energy Markup Committee Print of H.R. ___, the "Department of Energy Research and Development Act of 2014." http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102336 Location: 2318 Rayburn.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Full committee hearing on FAA's 2020 NextGen Mandate: Benefits and Challenges for General Aviation. Witnesses: Panel I: Michael P. Huerta, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, DC. Panel II: Paula Derks, President, Aircraft Electronics Association, Lee's Summit, MO; Tim Taylor, President and CEO, Free Flight Systems, Inc., Irving, TX Testifying on behalf of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association; Bob Hepp, Owner, Aviation Adventures, Manassas, VA Testifying on behalf of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Kenneth Button, Director, Center for Transportation, Policy, Operations and Logistics, George Mason University, Arlington, VA . http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373176 Location: 2360 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Markup: H.R. 4653, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/markup/subcommittee-markup-hr-4653-united-states-commission-international-religious-freedom Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing on The Ongoing Struggle Against Boko Haram. Witnesses: J. Peter Pham, Ph.D., Director, Africa Center, Atlantic Council; Emmanuel Ogebe, Manager, Justice for Jos Project, Jubilee Campaign USA; Anslem John-Miller, Representative to the U.S., Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-ongoing-struggle-against-boko-haram Location: 2172 Rayburn.
Other: June 8 – 11. VAREP CONFERENCE — The 2014 VAREP Military and Veteran Housing Policy & Lending Conference hosted by the Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals, bringing together real estate leaders, corporate executives and government officials from the Department of Defense, the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Office of the Comptroller of Currency and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW.

CIA – GEORGETOWN – NATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE — 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The first public conference between the CIA and Georgetown University. The conference, titled "The Ethos and Profession of Intelligence" will feature four panels of intelligence experts as well as keynote addresses by CIA Director John O. Brennan and former director of the FBI, Robert Mueller III. Media must RSVP to attend. Contact Rob Mathis at rwm33@georgetown.edu or (202) 687-4328. http://www.georgetown.edu/news/media-relations/media-advisories/index.html Location: Gaston Hall (3rd Floor Healy Hall), Georgetown University, 37th & O Street, NW.

CNAS – NATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE — 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. The Center for a New American Security holds their eighth annual National Security conference. 10 a.m. Speaker: Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) on A Strategy for Renewal. Location: The Willard InterContinental Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE — 8 a.m. The Foundation for Veterans' Health Care and the National Association of Veterans Affairs Physicians and Dentists (NAVAPD) present: "Coming Together: The Future of Veterans Health Care." Special Guest Speakers: Congressman Jeff Miller (R-FL); Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee; Congressman Dan Benishek (R-MI); Chairman, House Subcommittee on Health (House Veterans Affairs Committee). Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

CSIS – CICA — 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. With the fourth Conference on Interactions and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) summit meeting recently concluded in Shanghai in late May, the question of CICAs current and future role as a multilateral forum has never been more topical. Multilateral Security and Development Challenges in Asia: What Role for CICA? Keynote remarks by: Yerzhan Ashykbayev Deputy Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Opening remarks by: John J. Hamre President, CEO, and the Pritzker Chair, CSIS Discussants: Bulent Aliriza, Director and Senior Associate, Turkey Project, CSIS; David S. Sedney, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia; U.S. Department of Defense, Ambassador William Courtney, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, U.S. Department of State; Moderator: Ernest Z. Bower, Senior Adviser and Sumitro Chair for Southeast Asia Studies, CSIS. Location: First Floor Conference RoomCSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave., NW.

AAAS – SPINAL CORD INJURIES — 12 p.m. "Rethinking Spinal Cord Injury," a Capitol Hill luncheon briefing on

spinal cord injury, will be hosted by AAAS through the support of the Dana Foundation and in conjunction with Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-Pa.). Roderic Pettigrew, director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, Wise Young, director of the W.M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience, and Mary Bartlett Bunge, the Christine E. Lynn Distinguished Professor in Neuroscience at the University of Miami will speak. For more information, email Sara Spizzirri (sspizzir@aaas.org). Location: B-339 Rayburn.

HERITAGE – AUSTERITY — 12 p.m. Austerity: Past or Future? Speakers: Tom Price, M.D. (R-GA) Vice Chairman, House Committee on the Budget, and U.S. Representative, 6th Congressional District of Georgia; Malin Sahlen, Project Manager of Economic Policy, Timbro (Stockholm); Salim Furth, Ph.D., Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Data Analysis, The Heritage Foundation; Dalibor Rohac, Policy Analyst, Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, Cato Institute. http://www.heritage.org/events/2014/06/austerity Location: 214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE.

SCHOOL LUNCH NUTRITION STANDARDS — 12:30 p.m. Press conference to make "sure that Republican legislators are held responsible for recent efforts to weaken nutrition standards" in the FY15 Agriculture Appropriations bill. The Republican legislation would "undo existing progress" to make school meals healthier under the 2010 Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act. Rep. Farr plans to offer an amendment to strip out the provision that would "weaken" the healthier standards when the bill is debated on the House floor. Speakers: Representative Sam Farr (D-CA); Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT); Representative George Miller (D-CA); Tom Colicchio, Food Policy Action; Ashley Giglio, Parent and former school teacher from Arlington, VA. Contact: Adam Russell, (202) 225-2861; Claire Benjamin, (202) 631-6362. Location: Elm Tree Site, Southeast corner of grounds of U.S. Capitol Building, near 1st St. SE, between E. Capitol St. NE and Independence Ave SE.

U.S. CHAMBER – U.S. ECONOMIC COMPETIVENESS — 2 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation will release the fifth edition of its annual Enterprising States study, which takes an in-depth look at the free enterprise policies that are being implemented to promote economic growth at the state level. Govs. Gary Herbert (R-UT) and Pat McCrory (R-NC) will join Foundation President and former Gov. John McKernan (R-ME) for a discussion on their states' role in filling the talent pipeline and why closing the gap is crucial to long-term business success. Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, NW.

VOTING IN AMERIA – HOYER — 6 p.m. House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) will participate in The Hill's Voting in America Event. Whip Hoyer and former Senator Trent Lott (MS) will appear on a panel to discuss the importance of protecting every American's right to vote. Location: Library of Congress Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue S.E., Mumford Room, 6th Floor.

KEYSTONE CENTERS 21ST ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS DINNER — 7:30 p.m. Senator Coons will speak at the Keystone Centers 21st Annual Leadership Awards Dinner. Senator Coons will present the 2014 Keystone Leadership in Government Award to Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio). CONTACT: Jamie Serlin at 202-224-5042 or Jamie_Serlin@coons.senate.gov Location: The Mayflower Renaissance, 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that President Obama's youngest daughter, Sasha, turned 13 years old today. Happy birthday, Sasha. Of course, that means that now he has two teenage daughters. But thanks to Congress, he's used to people ignoring him."

Seth Meyers: "President Obama surprised tourists by walking through a Starbucks near the White House. Even more surprising, he traded five Taliban members for a grande soy latte."

Seth Meyers: "Sarah Palin is using an excerpt from Hillary Clinton's new book to claim that Democrats started a war on women. That shocking story again. Sarah Palin read a book."

David Letterman: "President Obama went for a walk and went to a Starbucks. So I'm thinking, if this guy can have coffee at Starbucks, the economy must be improving. Right, if you can afford that kind of thing there?"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, June 12, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Mid-Atlantic Coastal Resiliency Institute To Research Climate Change.
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+ Senators Revive Bid To Make Bison The National Mammal.
+ Sierra Club Representative Shares Ten Ways To Celebrate Great Outdoors Month.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

National Park Service:
+ Drakes Bay Oyster Company Dispute Divides Chefs And Environmentalists.
+ Smoking Banned At Cape Cod National Seashore.
+ War Veterans Battling Pythons In Florida Everglades.
+ Yellowstone National Park Visits Increase.
+ Yellowstone National Park Visitor Killed By Falling Tree.

Bureau of Land Management:
+ BLM Director Kornze
+ Nevada Gov. Sandoval: Bundy "Should Pay".
+ BLM Plans To Prioritize Protecting Sage Grouse Habitat When Battling Blazes.
+ BLM Considering Shutting Down Giant Rope Swings After Land Swap.
+ BLM Organizes King Fisher Pond Field Trip To Foster Discussion Of Resource Management Plan.

Fish and Wildlife Service:
+ Governors Urge Interior To Let States Lead On Sage Grouse.
+ Western Governors Seek Deference, Funding From Federal Government To Avert Listings.
+ House Republicans Wants Comment Period Extended On Proposed ESA Changes.
+ Arkansas Delegation Concerned Over Bat Designation.
+ Wyoming Opposes Extending Protection To Wolverine
+ Conservation Groups Want Interior To Act On Canadian Oil Sands Bird Deaths.
+ Agencies Looking At Damages From Galveston Bay Oil Spill.
+ FWS Crews To Search For Lampreys In Portage River.

+ FWS Plans Public Hearings On Selkirk Caribou.
+ Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Celebrating Anniversary Year.

US Geological Survey:
+ House Panel Discusses Earthquake Early Alert System.

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Renewable Energy:
+ Green Goal Of Reducing Fossil Fuel Use Seen As Unrealistic.

Onshore Energy Development:
+ BLM Seeks Input On Proposed Natural Gas Wells In Eastern Utah.
+ Ohio Among States Examining Link Between Drilling, Seismic Activity.

Offshore Energy Development:
+ BSEE Director Salerno Comments On Arctic Exploration At Capitol Hill Oceans Week Event.
+ Gulf State Blocking Approval Of $627 Million In BP Oil Spill Restoration Work.
+ BSEE Responds To Equipment Failure On Gulf Of Mexico Drilling Rig.

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+ BOR Sued Over Water Transfers.
+ Lake Powell Rising Steadily.

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+ Coeur d'Alene Tribe Seeks Land Buybacks.
+ Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Of Chippewa Indians Seeks Land For Gambling.
+ BIA, FBI Investigating Shooting On Uintah-Ouray Indian Reservation.
+ Sex Offender Addresses Verified On Wind River Reservation.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
+ Obama Praises Revival Of Worcester Technical High School In Commencement Address.
+ Following Cantor Loss, Obama Reiterates: "We Need To Get Immigration Reform Done."
+ Analysts: Cantor Underestimated The Appeal Of Brat's Immigration Message.

LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

PANEL HOLDS FIRST MEETING ON IDENTIFYING LGBT HISTORIC SITES. The Washington Blade (6/11, 89K) reports that on Tuesday, "about 20 scholars working" on an initiative to identify possible designation as LGBT historic sites met at the Interior Department "in D.C. to discuss the way forward with the initiative in anticipation of completing the work by 2016." After the meeting, "four high-profile speakers and five of the scholars described and fielded questions about the contours of the study in a public panel discussion moderated by National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis." In her remarks preceding the panel, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell discussed "the need to expand the list of historic LGBT sites beyond the East Coast." She said, "That's one thing lacking for the LGBT community: We have not yet identified any of the places where we can tell the stories that help us understand who everyone is as Americans within this community."

Also covering the initiative is KCET-TV Los Angeles (6/12, 15K).

RECORD SHOWS SECURITY FLAW THAT EXPOSED INTERIOR TO POSSIBLE CYBERATTACK. The Washington Times (6/12, Mcelhatton, 455K) reports that the Interior Department "left itself vulnerable to a cyberattack and unwittingly granted people off the street outside of its headquarters access to a guest wireless network — a security flaw flagged only when an unknown user was detected engaging in sexually explicit online

chats with a child," records The Washington Times obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show. According to the article, "officials also brushed aside security concerns raised by information technology employees, who tried to warn officials about the risks of a free open wireless network in and around the Cabinet agency's headquarters." The article notes that "one glaring problem at the Interior Department was that officials didn't know the wireless signal was leaking outside of intended areas, and they never checked to find out whether they could access the Internet from outside the building."

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION PONDERS WATER ISSUES. The Pueblo Chieftain (6/12, 94K) reports that the Western Governors' Association on Tuesday considered whether Nevada's water history is "the future for other Western states." The article notes that "the other states represented at the convention are at different points on the same path, sharing the common themes of conservation, more storage and finding new ways to capture more water." According to Assistant Secretary of the Interior Mike Connor, "while storage in Lake Mead has increased by 1 million acre-feet in the past 10 years, the chance is increasing for new shortfalls in the next three years." He said, "t's not going to get us out of this drought situation any time soon."

WESTERN GOVERNORS SEE SLIM CHANCES OF ACQUIRING FEDERAL TRACTS. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that Western governors "conceded" on Tuesday that "it's unlikely the United States will turn over federal lands to the states, a move some Westerners would oppose anyway according to one Democratic governor." The article notes that "governors from Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada and Utah spoke to the issue during the Western Governors' Association's annual meeting here at the Broadmoor resort." Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper said, "I don't see the federal government unloading a lot of acres in the near term. There's such a strong sense across the country that many of these lands belong to all the American people."

SENATE REPUBLICANS URGE SEN. LANDRIEU TO FOCUS ON WILDFIRES, AGENCY BUDGETS. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Republicans urged Chairwoman Mary Landrieu "to bolster oversight of wildfires and public land management by scheduling budget hearings for the Interior Department and Forest Service." A letter "spearheaded by Sen. Dean Heller of Nevada warns that this year's wildfire season is projected to be severe and that the ENR Committee needs to review the agencies' funding structure for suppression and prevention."

Also covering the story is The Hill (6/12, Barron-Lopez, 237K).

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK HAS NO PLANS TO VISIT POTENTIAL IDAHO SITE. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has "no immediate plans to visit Idaho to discuss a potential national monument protecting the Boulder and White Cloud mountains, but advocates on both sides of the issue have traveled to Washington, D.C., to discuss the proposal, a top department official said this week." Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie said "there's 'a lot of interest' in designating a Boulder-White Clouds national monument in central Idaho but that the Obama administration is committed to engaging the public before signing off on anything."

HOUSE PANEL CONSIDERS FOUR BILLS ON WESTERN WATER PROJECTS. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that "four bills dealing with local Western water issues appear poised for advancement after consideration by a House panel yesterday." The article notes that "the measures are all supported by the Obama administration and would carry little if any cost." Notably, Tom Iseman, deputy assistant secretary of the Interior Department for water and science, said the department supports H.R. 4166, which would transfer the management of Lake Berryessa from the BOR to the BLM, "if it includes a few tweaks related to authorities and site conditions."

MID-ATLANTIC COASTAL RESILIENCY INSTITUTE TO RESEARCH CLIMATE CHANGE. The Delmarva (MD) Daily Times (6/11, 26K) reports that nine institutions, including the FWS and the USGS, are "joining forces in a partnership dedicated to climate change research on the mid-Atlantic coast." The objective is "to help local and regional leaders make coastal communities more resilient in the face of climate change by providing science and research to inform public policy."

PARK RANGER HONORED WITH VALOR AWARD. The Mattoon (IL) Journal Gazette & Times Courier (6/12, 36K) reports that Park Ranger Peter Maggio has received a Valor Award from the Interior Department "for saving a man's life at Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state." On May 9, Maggio was honored during the Department of the Interior's 69th Honor Awards Convocation in Washington. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell

presented the awards.

SENATORS REVIVE BID TO MAKE BISON THE NATIONAL MAMMAL. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that a bipartisan group of senators on Wednesday "introduced a measure that would make the bison the national mammal of the United States." Sen. Tim Johnson said, "The bison has played an important role in our nation's history, holds spiritual significance to Native American cultures, and remains one of our most iconic and enduring symbols. Bison production has also become an important agricultural endeavor in South Dakota and throughout the country as demand continues to grow. By adopting the North American bison as our national mammal, the National Bison Legacy Act recognizes their historical, cultural, ecological, and economic significance."

SIERRA CLUB REPRESENTATIVE SHARES TEN WAYS TO CELEBRATE GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (6/12, Ostfeld, 11.54M), Jackie Ostfeld, Director, Nearby Nature at the Sierra Club, writes that June is Great Outdoors Month, which presents an opportunity to "kick Nature-Deficit Disorder to the curb." Ostfeld shares "ten ways to get outside and celebrate the outdoors this month."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DRAKES BAY OYSTER COMPANY DISPUTE DIVIDES CHEFS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS. NPR (6/12, Gonzales, 519K) reports that the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's fight to stay open is "dividing the residents of western Marin County." Local and national environmental groups argue that "it's time for the oyster company to leave." However, "some local food advocates such as celebrated chef Alice Waters," have come to the company's defense. Waters "signed onto a brief filed in the court earlier this year because she supports cooking 'based on the finest and freshest seasonal ingredients that are produced sustainably and locally, such as shellfish from Drake's Bay Oyster Farm.'"

SMOKING BANNED AT CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE. The AP (6/12) reports that "smoking has been banned at the some of the most popular beaches at the Cape Cod National Seashore." According to Superintendent George Price, "smoking will be prohibited at all six of the park's guarded beaches beginning June 19." Price said that secondhand cigarette smoke "ruins the experience" of non-smokers at the beach.

WAR VETERANS BATTLING PYTHONS IN FLORIDA EVERGLADES. ABC News (6/12, 3.58M) reports that war veterans are battling lethal Burmese pythons in the Florida Everglades. According to park spokesperson Linda Friar, "while Everglades National Park does not permit hunting, it has authorized some 30 agents–mostly private individuals–to find and capture pythons."

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK VISITS INCREASE. The Billings (MT) Gazette (6/12, 174K) reports that "visitation to Yellowstone National Park for the month of May and for the first five months of 2014 is up almost 6 percent compared to the previous year." The article notes that "there were 310,039 recreational visitors to Yellowstone in May and a total of 415,185 for the first five months of 2014."

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK VISITOR KILLED BY FALLING TREE. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that "a falling tree killed a Taiwanese tourist Monday in a windy Yellowstone National Park." According to park officials, "the 36-year-old man was hiking and then left Fairy Falls Trail, an established trail north of Old Faithful." Yellowstone rangers who "responded to the scene reported windy conditions." The article notes that "the tree was one of those scorched and killed in the fires that burned through the park in 1988."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE Visits Cañon City's Wild Horse Inmate Program. The Canon City (CO) Daily Record (6/12, 22K) reports that BLM Director Neil Kornze "visited the Wild Horse Inmate Program on Wednesday at the East Cañon Correctional Complex during a visit to Colorado." Kornze "got a first-hand look at the WHIP, along with BLM Deputy Director Steve Ellis, Colorado Department of Corrections Executive Director Rick Raemisch, Agribusiness Manager Jim Heaston and other DOC officials." Kornze said, "This is our flagship operation in terms of our partnership between the state and the Bureau of Land Management. There is a huge

value added here."

NEVADA GOV. SANDOVAL: BUNDY "SHOULD PAY". The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that the BLM isn't "going to let Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy off the hook for allowing his hundreds of cattle to trespass on federal lands," Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval said on Tuesday. Sandoval said, "I don't think they're going to let this blow over. BLM has the ability to seek redress for that. How they do that is up to them." Sandoval added, "Undoubtedly he owes the money. He hasn't paid and he should pay."

BLM PLANS TO PRIORITIZE PROTECTING SAGE GROUSE HABITAT WHEN BATTLING BLAZES. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that a senior Interior Department official told Western governors on Wednesday that the BLM "plans to instruct agency firefighters to make protecting greater sage grouse habitat a priority when battling wildfires on federal lands." Janice Schneider, an Interior assistant secretary for lands and minerals management, "told governors during a panel discussion at the Western Governors' Association annual meeting that working to prevent increasingly frequent wildfires from destroying key sage grouse habitat is a critical component to preventing the bird from being listed under the Endangered Species Act." Schneider said that the BLM "should issue the instruction memorandum (IM) to its field offices by the end of this month and that part of the effort will be for the agency to coordinate with the states within the bird's 11-state range to have firefighting resources available near core grouse habitat when a fire breaks out."

BLM CONSIDERING SHUTTING DOWN GIANT ROPE SWINGS AFTER LAND SWAP. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that the BLM is "considering closing what some have called the world's largest rope swing, located on newly acquired federal land in Utah." Corona Arch, "a natural sandstone formation more than 100 feet tall, was part of a 60,000-acre swap with Utah completed May 8 that exchanged scenic state-owned sections for BLM land with energy production potential." According to the article, "a YouTube video in 2012 made Corona a rope-swinging destination, but then two young men in separate incidents hit the ground while trying to swing with too-long ropes." The incidents led BLM to "start an environmental assessment to study the impacts of restricting roped activities in the area."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (6/12, Knox).

BLM ORGANIZES KING FISHER POND FIELD TRIP TO FOSTER DISCUSSION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Willcox (AZ) Range News (6/12, 12K) reports that on May 9, when the BLM "took a group of interested residents and agency representatives participating in the development of the bureau's new Resource Management Plan" to King Fisher Pond, "it appeared healthy and the few bird watchers who followed the group down were pleased to see many of the birds — woodpeckers, scarlet tanagers, numerous warblers and waders — flying about catching bugs and tiny fish." David McIntyre, the BLM coordinator for the RMP, noted that "the public meetings about the new plan have been very successful, well-attended and produced positive results."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GOVERNORS URGE INTERIOR TO LET STATES LEAD ON SAGE GROUSE. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that "a bipartisan group of Western governors warned that a formal endangered listing for the greater sage grouse could prompt state leaders and landowners across the bird's range to stop working with federal regulators on measures to recover the grouse and other species under threat of extinction." The governors "cautioned" during a Western Governors' Association round table discussion on Tuesday that "state and private landowners are waiting to see whether the Fish and Wildlife Service honors state and local efforts to conserve the grouse and its dwindling sagebrush steppe habitat." The FWS "must decide whether to propose listing the bird as threatened or endangered by September 2015."

States Urged To Follow Wyoming's Strategy In Balancing Energy And Sage-grouse. For the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (6/12, Tawney, 237K), Land Tawney, executive director of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, writes that "states throughout the American West, which enjoy many similar wildlife and energy resources as Wyoming, must pursue the approach that Wyoming has developed to conserve the greater sage-grouse— and, in so doing, enhance large swaths of sage brush habitat elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope and a host of other wildlife species depend on." According to Tawney, "utilizing proactive strategies and stakeholder involvement throughout, Wyoming has managed to remain second only to Texas in energy production, while simultaneously

reducing the amount of land leased for oil and gas drilling within core sage-grouse habitat." He notes that "Wyoming's plan calls for protections in scientifically identified 'core' habitat areas, providing flexibility for preexisting uses and certainty to the oil and gas industry about where development can take place."

WESTERN GOVERNORS SEEK DEFERENCE, FUNDING FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO AVERT LISTINGS. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that the Western Governors' Association on Wednesday "adopted a new resolution calling on the federal government to give maximum deference to state conservation efforts and to prioritize funding to avoid new Endangered Species Act listings." The article notes that "while the resolution made only a few references to the greater sage grouse, its target in large part was the Fish and Wildlife Service's court-ordered September 2015 deadline to decide whether to list the iconic bird that roams 11 Western states." While "it did not explicitly endorse delaying" the FWS' "listing deadline – as some wildlife advocates had feared – it did support legislation or legal or regulatory steps that would allow federal, state and local conservation efforts 'adequate time' to be rolled out and be proved effective."

HOUSE REPUBLICANS WANTS COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED ON PROPOSED ESA CHANGES. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that "more than 40 House Republicans want the Obama administration to extend the public comment period for proposed regulations that would make significant updates to the Endangered Species Act." House Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings "led the effort, which seeks a six-month extension to a comment period set to end July 11." In a letter to FWS Director Dan Ashe and NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan, "the lawmakers asserted that the rules 'could dramatically increase the amount of private and public lands designated for habitat' and thus block or delay agricultural and energy projects."

ARKANSAS DELEGATION CONCERNED OVER BAT DESIGNATION. The AP (6/12) reports that Arkansas' four House members have written to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the FWS "about their concerns with a proposal to classify the Northern Long-Eared bat as an endangered species." The letter from Congressmen Rick Crawford, Tim Griffin, Steve Womack, and Tom Cotton says "they are troubled because listing the bat as endangered would eliminate forest harvesting in Arkansas from April through November." They also say "the listing could negatively affect farming, energy development, and manufacturing in Arkansas." The letter requests "a six-month extension of the comment period to further consider scientific data."

WYOMING OPPOSES EXTENDING PROTECTION TO WOLVERINE . The Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide (6/12, 1K) reports that Wyoming officials "have again told" the FWS that that "they oppose extending federal protection to the wolverine." In a comment letter submitted to the agency last month, Gov. Matt Mead "explained Wyoming's position on the matter." Mead also "extended the doubt he frequently casts on the phenomenon of climate change to its potential impacts on wolverines."

CONSERVATION GROUPS WANT INTERIOR TO ACT ON CANADIAN OIL SANDS BIRD DEATHS. Politico (6/11, Guillén, 637K) reports that "Canada's oil sands operations have killed thousands of birds and are putting more at risk, according to a brief out today from the National Wildlife Federation and other groups." The groups claim the Interior Department has "a legal obligation to sound the alarm 'when a country is violating international obligations to safeguard wildlife.'" The report adds: "Interior Secretary Jewell should officially declare to the President that Canada is failing to protect wildlife under international treaties, and the President should take actions necessary to ensure protection occurs, including possible sanctions."

AGENCIES LOOKING AT DAMAGES FROM GALVESTON BAY OIL SPILL. The AP (6/12) reports that "federal and state agencies have started looking at natural resource damage in an effort to come up with a dollar estimate from a March barge and cargo ship collision in the Houston Ship Channel that dumped thousands of gallons of oil into Galveston Bay." Chip Wood, a FWS biologist, said, "You've got all kinds of different wildlife that could be impacted. You've got marshes, you've got sand beach, you've got recreational issues, so it's quite an extensive evaluation." According to Wood, "the assessment could take years and will include developing of a plan to restore damaged areas, putting the plan in place and getting the party responsible for the damage to pay for it."

FWS CREWS TO SEARCH FOR LAMPREYS IN PORTAGE RIVER. The Sandusky (OH) Register (6/12, 82K) reports that FWS crews will attempt to find lampreys in the Portage River "throughout Ottawa and Sandusky counties between June 18 and 25." FWS spokesman Mike Twohey said, "Sea lamprey invaded the Great Lakes during the 1920s and have been a permanent, destructive element of the fishery ever since."

FWS PLANS PUBLIC HEARINGS ON SELKIRK CARIBOU. The Newport (WA) Miner (6/12) reports that the FWS will "hold two open houses, followed by public hearings in Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry, Wednesday, June 25 and Thursday, June 26, to listen to public comment on the listing classification of the Selkirk caribou."

GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY YEAR. In an op-ed for the Hillsborough (NJ) Beacon (6/11, 13K), Michele Byers is executive director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, writes that the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is "celebrating a big anniversary year — and bidding farewell to longtime manager Bill Koch, who just retired after 34 years in the Great Swamp." Steve Henry, acting refuge manager, said, "We're calling this our 50-50-15 celebration. It's the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the refuge, the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the 15th anniversary of our Friends group. We've got a lot in the hopper."

US Geological Survey:

HOUSE PANEL DISCUSSES EARTHQUAKE EARLY ALERT SYSTEM. The E&E Daily (6/11) reports that Chairman Doug Lamborn and Democrats on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, "differed over who's to blame, but agreed that Congress must find the money to pay for a system that could save lives up and down the West Coast as the threat of a large-scale quake looms large." The article notes that "federal support has also fallen short, prompting Lamborn to direct his ire at USGS and the Obama administration."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

GREEN GOAL OF REDUCING FOSSIL FUEL USE SEEN AS UNREALISTIC. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (6/12, Bryce, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Robert Bryce, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, writes that environmentalists, including Bill McKibben, argue for a radical reduction in fossil fuel use. However, Bryce argues that the world would have to install shocking amounts of wind turbines and solar panels every years to hit those goals.

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON PROPOSED NATURAL GAS WELLS IN EASTERN UTAH. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (6/12, 43) reports that the BLM Utah Vernal Field Office is "seeking public comment on an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing Koch Exploration Company's proposal to drill up to 135 wells on up to 37 existing well pads in an area approximately 40 miles southwest of Vernal, Utah."

OHIO AMONG STATES EXAMINING LINK BETWEEN DRILLING, SEISMIC ACTIVITY. The AP (6/12, Smyth, 455K) reports that Ohio is among the states investigating a potential link between drilling and seismic activity. Ohio Oil & Gas Chief Rick Simmers said state regulators are looking for "up-to-date information so they can develop appropriate detection procedures" and regulations. Last month Ohio, Texas, and Oklahoma were among the 12 states that attended the first meeting of the State Induce Seismicity Work Group Members. He said a second meeting was planned this week.

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE DIRECTOR SALERNO COMMENTS ON ARCTIC EXPLORATION AT CAPITOL HILL OCEANS WEEK EVENT. The Hill (6/12, Barron-lopez, Cama, 237K) reports that BSEE Director Brian Salerno "commented on the complexity of operating, and setting rules for companies exploring oil and gas in the Arctic Wednesday." At the Capitol Hill Oceans Week event, Salerno said, "When you think about what it takes to operate there the challenges are extraordinary." Salerno added that the bureau is "working with industry to make sure they know what the expectations are."

GULF STATE BLOCKING APPROVAL OF $627 MILLION IN BP OIL SPILL RESTORATION WORK. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (6/12, 678K) reports that "one of five Gulf Coast states that serve as trustees in

assessing natural resource damages in the aftermath of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill is blocking the release of $627 million that BP has set aside for a third phase of early restoration projects, according to a senior Louisiana official." Kyle Graham, executive director of the state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, said, "We have hit a snag in finalizing the Phase III Early Restoration Plan. One of the state trustees has expressed an unwillingness to proceed. We are investigating solutions. Hope to have things resolved soon." Graham said "Louisiana is not the state blocking action on the plan."

BSEE RESPONDS TO EQUIPMENT FAILURE ON GULF OF MEXICO DRILLING RIG. The Maritime Executive (6/12, 21) reports that the BSEE is "responding to an equipment failure on board the Deepwater Nautilus semisubmersible drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 100 miles south of Fourchon, La." According to the article, "the offshore oil and gas operator, Shell Offshore Inc., reported that on June 9 during well operations, the rig's traveling block fell." BSEE "engineers and inspectors have been discussing the on-going response with Shell and will travel offshore to the rig to investigate as soon as weather allows."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR SUED OVER WATER TRANSFERS. The Central Valley (CA) Business Times (6/12, 206) reports that the BOR is "being sued by two environmental groups over what they say are the bureau's inadequate disclosure, avoidance of impacts, and mitigation of major water transfers from the Sacramento Valley through the Delta to the San Joaquin Valley." The lawsuit by AquAlliance and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, asks US District Court to declare that the BOR's Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was "arbitrary and capricious, ignored relevant new information and failed to meet minimum requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act." The groups say "Delta flow and water quality standards have been weakened six times in less than 90 days and state and federal agencies are grossly overestimating actual Delta outflows."

Also reporting on the story is the Oroville (CA) Mercury-Register (6/12, 1K).

LAKE POWELL RISING STEADILY. The AP (6/12) reports that Lake Powell in northern Arizona is "steadily rising, opening up access for bigger boats to popular tourist spots in spring." The BOR says "the water levels are expected to rise one foot per day through June, bringing the lake up to 40 feet higher than its lowest point this year."

Empowering Native American Communities:

COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE SEEKS LAND BUYBACKS. The Coeur d'Alene (ID) Press (6/12, 63K) reports that the Coeur d'Alene Tribe is "seeking tribal members who own land on the reservation and are willing to sell their ownership interests." The tribe was awarded $4.1 million from the Interior Department to make such purchases. The article notes that "the appraisal process, being conducted by the Office of Appraisal Services within the DOI, is expected to be completed by Aug. 1," but "the Tribe has already begun reaching out to landowners."

Also covering the story is the Nation Sun News (6/12).

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS SEEKS LAND FOR GAMBLING. The AP (6/12) reports that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians announced Wednesday that "it's seeking land in Lansing and near Detroit Metropolitan Airport to build gambling facilities." The tribe said it filed applications Tuesday with the Interior Department to take the land into trust.

Also reporting on the story are the Detroit News (6/12, Watson, 643K), the Detroit Free Press (6/12, Vanhulle, 1.02M) and the Lansing (MI) State Journal (6/11, 164K).

BIA, FBI INVESTIGATING SHOOTING ON UINTAH-OURAY INDIAN RESERVATION. The AP (6/12) reports that "a Utah man is dead and two teenage boys have been wounded in a shooting on the Uintah-Ouray Indian Reservation in northeastern Utah." The BIA and the FBI are investigating.

SEX OFFENDER ADDRESSES VERIFIED ON WIND RIVER RESERVATION. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (6/12, 90K) reports that "every sex offender on the Wind River Indian Reservation required to register under the

Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act was located and had their address verified by the US District Attorney's office last week." The initiative, "called Operation Jessica, was conducted by the Wind River Sex Offender Registration Office, the US Marshal's Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

Top National News:

OBAMA PRAISES REVIVAL OF WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL IN COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS. President Obama's commencement address at Worcester Technical High School in Massachusetts receives light but positive coverage, much of it focusing on the school's emergence as a leading institution after poor performance in the past. The President's speech was mostly apolitical, focusing on the achievements of both the school and its graduates, but Obama did respond to boos over the defeat of a Senate student loan bill by urging the audience to vote.

The AP (6/12, Kuhnhenn) reports President Obama highlighted the "revitalized New England technical school...as a model for the United States in an increasingly competitive global workforce." The President "praised students and teachers alike for giving more than just 'lip service' to the idea of skills-based education." The school was one of five in the nation "to win an award for student growth in high poverty areas" two years ago, and was named a Blue Ribbon School by the Education Department last year.

The Washington Post (6/12, Zezima, 4.22M) reported in its "Post Politics" blog that the President urged graduates "to give back," but also "had another motive" for the visit. Referring to his daughter Malia's high school graduation two years from now, Obama said, "Part of the reason I am here is because I have to practice. ... I have to get use to not choking up and crying and embarrassing her."

The Worcester (MA) Telegram & Gazette (6/12, Foskett, 208K) reports that Obama said Education Secretary Duncan told him that Worcester Tech was "an open place. He said Mr. Duncan noted that neighborhood residents can get their cars detailed at the school at a fraction of the going rate, and said a teacher told him the school's hair salon was the city's best kept secret." The President responded to some boos in the audience regarding the Wednesday defeat of a student loan bill due to Republican opposition by saying, "Don't boo, just remember to vote."

Worcester (MA) Magazine (6/11, Bird) reported on its website that the President also singled out businessman Ted Coghlin, "whose efforts were largely responsible" for getting the school built. Obama said, "Before long, Worcester Tech was on its way to becoming one of the best schools in the city. Now, the waiting list is more than 400 names long. ... Our students deserve the best so we can help them become the best so we can help them become the best for their future and ours."

CNN (6/11, Kastenbaum, 12.15M) reported on its website that eight years ago, the school was one of the lowest performing in Massachusetts, but it is now among the top high schools in the state. The President told the students that at the school, "they acquired the skills needed 'to fix America.'" CBS News (6/11, Miller, 5.21M) also reported on the visit on its website.

FOLLOWING CANTOR LOSS, OBAMA REITERATES: "WE NEED TO GET IMMIGRATION REFORM DONE." Politico (6/12, Epstein, 637K) reported that on Wednesday, at a Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee fundraiser in Massachusetts, President Obama "did not refer to" House Majority Leader Cantor "by name," but "call[ed] Tuesday's vote in Virginia's 7th Congressional District 'an interesting election.'" Politico says the President acknowledged that "pundits and the analysts and some of the conventional wisdom talks about how the politics of immigration reform seem impossible now." However, the President added, "I fundamentally reject that. I will tell the speaker of the House that he needs to reject that."

The Hill (6/12, Pames, 237K) quoted the President as saying, "At a certain point issues are important enough to fight for. My argument about yesterday's election is not that there was too little politics – there was too little conviction about what was right. We need to get immigration reform done."

However, according to Bloomberg News (6/12, Allen, 2.76M), "Many lawmakers and political analysts said Cantor's loss will kill any chance that Republicans...will act on immigration legislation." Likewise, under the

headline "Cantor Loss Squashes Hope For Immigration Bill," USA Today (6/11, Gomez, 5.82M) says "judging from the reaction Wednesday to [Cantor's] loss, it's getting a lot easier to declare that Congress isn't going to pass an immigration bill." According to USA Today, "Even the most ardent immigration activists struggled to refute the idea that Cantor's loss makes it nearly impossible to squeeze an immigration bill through the Republican-led chamber."

Jonathan Martin, in a front-page analysis for the New York Times (6/12, A1, Martin, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) titled "After Upset, G.O.P. Fears Infighting Will Take a Toll," says, "Even as party officials debated how significant a factor immigration was in" the GOP primary on Tuesday, "the fear that addressing it could alienate the party base may prevent any action on immigration legislation in the next two years."

The Hill (6/12, Lillis, 237K) reported that "while some Democratic leaders put on a brave public face to argue the issue still has legs, other pro-reform lawmakers said the politics...now make progress all but impossible ahead of November's elections."

EJ Dionne, in his column for the Washington Post (6/12, Dionne, 4.22M), says, "because immigration was a central issue used against Cantor...the immediate betting is that House leaders will once and for all declare immigration reform dead for this session of Congress." George Will, in another column for the Washington Post (6/12, Will, 4.22M) says House Judiciary Chairman Robert Goodlatte "may have set a 2014 record for understatement when he said Cantor's defeat will not improve the chances of immigration reform this year." And, according to Will, Goodlatte said "the chances were...slim anyway."

Harold Meyerson, in his column for the Washington Post (6/12, Meyerson, 4.22M), predicts that Cantor's loss will "push the Republican Party to the right on the very issue that will cement the Democrats' hold on the White House: immigration." Meyerson says some House Republicans who "were flirting with the notion of treating the undocumented as human beings...are now certain to oppose bringing any immigration reform bill to a vote."

The Washington Post (6/12, Board, 4.22M), in an editorial, says, "We won't diminish the extent to which" the immigration reform debate "can motivate an important slice of the GOP base." According to the Post, "The reasons to fear working on a comprehensive immigration package are immediate and obvious," while "the reasons to embrace the task are long-term." But the Post adds that "those long-term reasons include the national viability of the Republican Party and the good of the country."

White House Reportedly Was Expecting Cantor's Cooperation On Immigration Reform This Year. The Washington Post (6/12, Nakamura, 4.22M) reports that the White House "had hoped to pressure Cantor to acquiesce to allowing an immigration bill to pass on the House floor by the end of summer." According to the Post, there were "signals that the GOP leadership would be willing to move forward after its caucus was safe from primary challenges on the right."

Politico (6/11, Dovere, 637K) also reported that while the President "is finally rid" of Cantor, "the man who aggravated him most in Washington," the "price may be immigration reform...which, through Tuesday afternoon, he and his aides believed still had a remote chance to get done." Former White House senior adviser David Axelrod is quoted as saying, "To the degree that this gives the anti-everything crowd a lift, and dooms solutions to problems like immigration reform, it is a loss for the country."

Rand Paul Backs Business-Led Campaign For Immigration Reform. The Washington Times (6/12, Hallow, 455K) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Rand Paul put "his political weight behind an establishment lobby effort to get Congress to reform the country's immigration system this year" when he "participated in a telephone conference call to conservative and business leaders in favor of immigration reform in an effort brokered by anti-tax activist Grover Norquist." According to the Times, the Partnership for a New American Economy "immediately blasted an email Wednesday evening to supporters crowing that Mr. Paul had formally joined its pro-reform effort," and "a top Paul aide confirmed the alliance of Mr. Paul and Mr. Norquist on immigration reform."

GOP Pollsters Working For Zuckerberg's FWD.us Urge Republicans Not To Abandon Immigration Reform. Roll Call (6/12, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that on Wednesday, "nearly a dozen Republican pollsters gathered...for a long-scheduled event to deliver survey results funded by a lobbying effort for the House to pass a comprehensive immigration overhaul." According to Roll Call, "the pollsters, whose collective client lists

include a majority of Republicans in Congress, went through the two polls they conducted of Hispanic voters and of the electorate at-large for FWD.us, a pro-immigration overhaul, tech-community lobbying group founded by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg." Roll Call says that "while Cantor's stunning loss was to a challenger" who emphasized his opposition to "amnesty," the pollsters made the case that the result ought not "be used to judge immigration's electoral power."

ANALYSTS: CANTOR UNDERESTIMATED THE APPEAL OF BRAT'S IMMIGRATION MESSAGE. On Wednesday, all three network newscasts led with reports on House Majority Leader Cantor's GOP primary loss on Tuesday. On NBC Nightly News (6/11, lead story, 3:20, Williams, 7.86M), Kelly O'Donnell said, "As political parables go, if the 14-year Washington power player Eric Cantor was Goliath, with his $5 million campaign war chest, then the David of this unlikely upset is a newcomer Dave Brat, an economics professor who raised...just under $200,000." According to O'Donnell, "Richmond Times-Dispatch columnist Jeff Shapiro says conservative anger over Cantor's past effort to craft some immigration reform was one costly factor," while "others blamed low turnout."

On the CBS Evening News (6/11, lead story, 3:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Nancy Cordes reported that Brat "made immigration a marquee issue, arguing Cantor's support for granting citizenship to some undocumented children put him out of step with conservatives." On ABC World News (6/11, lead story, 2:30), David Muir described Brat as "an unknown who raised less money for his campaign than Cantor spent simply eating out." Jeff Zeleny went on to report that Brat "orchestrated a political coup from his tiny Virginia headquarters with only two staffers." Zeleny noted that Cantor had "50 times more" in his war chest than Brat, and "spent more than steakhouses than Brat raised overall."

In an analysis titled "Immigration Issue May Have Felled Cantor," the AP (6/11, Werner) says Cantor "lost, decisively, after a campaign in which Brat made immigration the central issue," and "accused Cantor of embracing 'amnesty' and open borders." The AP says Cantor "fought back, boasting in strongly worded mailers of shutting down plans to grant 'amnesty' to 'illegal aliens' – a changed tone for a lawmaker who'd spoken out in favor of citizenship for immigrants brought illegally to this country as youths."

Likewise, according to McClatchy (6/12, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K), "More than anything, Cantor was probably a casualty of immigration." McClatchy says Cantor "advocated a limited legalization path for those brought into the United States as children," which "allowed Brat to hammer him as a flip-flopper soft on illegal immigration, an approach that resonated in a redrawn Virginia congressional district that's grown more conservative."

The AP (6/12, Burnett) reports that on Wednesday, former secretary of state Hillary Clinton said Cantor "was defeated by a candidate who basically ran against immigrants." According to the AP, Clinton "said the basic argument of Brat's campaign was that if Americans are out of work, immigrants shouldn't be allowed into the U.S. to take those jobs."

On NBC Nightly News (6/11, story 2, 1:55, Todd, 7.86M), Chuck Todd said that "while Republican leaders struggle, rank-and-file conservatives declared the message was obvious: it's time for new blood across the board, not just Cantor." And, according to Todd, "This could mean trouble for pro-immigration reform Republicans for Jeb Bush and [Sen.] Marco Rubio." Todd added that for President Obama, "Cantor's departure could be bad news," because "while far from a political ally, Cantor was actually someone the White House could do business with" on "a whole host of issues," including immigration. On the CBS Evening News (6/11, story 2, 3:10, Pelley, 5.08M), John Dickerson said Cantor's "numerous attack ads...introduced voters to his relatively unknown opponent...without harming him," while Brat "said Cantor was soft on illegal immigrants."

According to the Washington Post (6/12, Fahrenthold, Helderman, Portnoy, 4.22M), "a look back at Cantor's defeat shows that it was a real rejection by a broad swath of his district's Republican voters." As did CBS' Dickerson, the Post says Cantor's "ad blitz that was supposed to destroy his opponent...actually left him looking like a legitimate alternative." The Post notes that Cantor paid for "TV ads attacking Brat, calling him a liberal college professor," but "the ads repeated Brat's name again and again, alerting many voters to the fact that he existed...and that he seemed to threaten Cantor."

Dan Balz, in an analysis for the Washington Post (6/12, Balz, 4.22M), says Cantor's loss "seemingly reflects

anger among conservatives about comprehensive immigration reform," which "is an issue that has caused much anguish among GOP leaders, many of whom believe it is in the party's best long-term interest to enact legislation as a first step toward competing for the support of Hispanic voters." USA Today (6/11, Moore, 5.82M) reports that Cantor "had been outspoken on the need for Republicans to focus on 'what lies beyond the fiscal debate,' including education and immigration overhauls, and had used his position as majority leader to move such legislation."

National Journal (6/11, Goldmacher, Subscription Publication, 561K) noted that "less than a week before voters dumped the House majority leader, an internal poll for Cantor's campaign, trumpeted to the Washington Post, showed Cantor cruising to a 34-point victory." According to National Journal, "veteran Republican survey-taker" John McLaughlin, "whose firm has been paid nearly $75,000 by Cantor's campaign since 2013, offered several explanations: unexpectedly high turnout, last-minute Democratic meddling, and stinging late attacks on amnesty and immigration."

Charles Blow, in his column for the New York Times (6/12, Blow, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), says "we have to worry about the message Cantor's loss sends to the Republican caucus," which is that "if they suggest an openness to even the most minor movement of necessary legislation like immigration reform, they could be vulnerable."

However, the New York Times (6/11, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, makes the case that "more than anyone else in the House...Cantor was responsible for the chamber's refusal to vote on the Senate's immigration bill." According to the Times, Cantor "personally refused to allow a vote on an amendment to give legal status to undocumented immigrants who serve in the military."

The Wall Street Journal (6/12, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in another editorial on Cantor's loss, claims that a recent poll from Republican pollster Whit Ayres found that Republican primary voters actually support many of the elements of the comprehensive immigration reform legislation approved by the Senate last year.

Role Of Cantor And Brat's Respective Religious Faiths Analyzed. In an analysis titled "Opponent Resonated With Christian Conservatives in a Way Cantor Could Not," the New York Times (6/12, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "Cantor's stunning primary loss on Tuesday – to a little-known economics professor...who called his election 'a miracle from God' – has raised questions about whether anti-Semitism was at work." According to the Times, "The answer to that, political analysts and Jewish leaders in Richmond say, is no." But the Times adds that "analysts do say that Mr. Brat – who has a divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and often invokes God in his speeches – appeals to Christian conservatives in a way that Mr. Cantor simply cannot" in a district that has been estimated to be "roughly one-quarter of 1 percent...Jewish."

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (6/12, Milbank, 4.22M), says "the ouster of the only non-Christian Republican in Congress by a primary challenger running as an immigration hard-liner...risks cementing the [GOP's] demographic troubles." Milbank goes on to say that Cantor's "ancestry probably wasn't an asset Tuesday among some of the voters who had been added to his district because of Republican-led gerrymandering."

In an online post under the headline "David Brat's Writings: Hitler's Rise 'Could All Happen Again,'" Reid Epstein of the Wall Street Journal (6/11, 5.51M) noted that in a 2011 essay, Brat wrote: "Hitler came along, and he did not meet with unified resistance. I have the sinking feeling that it could all happen again, quite easily."

Brat Did Not Get Substantial Assistance From Tea Party Groups. The New York Times (6/12, Joachim, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Dave Brat "faced such long odds in his challenge to the No. 2 House Republican that he failed to win the backing of any of the major Tea Party groups that inspired his candidacy." The Daily Caller (6/12, Smith, 408K) reported that Jenny Beth Martin of the Tea Party Patriots noted that she did "meet with" Brat last month.

According to the AP (6/12, Suderman, Szkotak), Brat's father says his son "doesn't like being tagged a tea partyer," and instead "calls himself a Republican." But the AP says "national tea party groups" that "did not invest heavily in the race" nevertheless "claim[ed] Brat's victory as their own."

The New York Times (6/11, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "few people did more than" radio host and Fox News contributor Laura Ingraham "to propel Mr. Brat...from obscurity to national conservative hero." According to the Times, even before Tuesday, Brat "was a known quantity to the loyal audiences of radio personalities like Ms. Ingraham and Mark Levin," who "together...reach nearly 10 million people each week."

Politico (6/12, Byers, 637K) reported that "Cantor's willingness to work with" President Obama "on immigration reform was a move Ingraham staunchly opposed on her radio show and in appearances on Fox News and ABC's 'This Week.'" Politico also notes that on June 3, "Brat and Ingraham held a rally at Eric Cantor's country club that drew more than 600 supporters." Politico says that Ingraham herself "credited conservative pundits Ann Coulter and Mickey Kaus, as well as the conservative news sites Daily Caller and Breitbart News."

Cruz Calls Cantor's Loss Evidence That "Conservative Base Is Alive And Well." Under the headline "Ted Cruz Celebrates Eric Cantor Loss," Politico (6/12, Everett, 637K) reported that on Wednesday, Sen. Ted Cruz "celebrated Eric Cantor's primary loss...arguing it's a reminder that the 'conservative base is alive and well' in American politics." Cruz is quoted as saying, "Eric Cantor is a good man, but last night, voters in Virginia made D.C. listen loud and clear. This election should be a reminder to all in Congress – Republicans and Democrats alike – that the conservative base is alive and well, and the American people will hold us all accountable."

Politico (6/12, Raju, French, 637K) also reported that Sen. Jeff Sessions "said Cantor's loss is a 'wake-up call' to the GOP establishment."

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: [Referring to House Majority Leader Eric Cantor's Tuesday primary loss] "He spent five million on his primary campaign...five million dollars. Ladies and gentlemen, what is wrong with this country when you can no longer buy an election?"

David Letterman: "Cantor spent $168,000 on steakhouses. Governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie, said, 'That's it?'"

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to Cantor's defeat] "No one saw it coming. Least of all Eric Cantor, who helped create the tea party by stitching together dead ideas and then filling them with rage, giving it a jolt of power and letting it loose on the countryside terrified of fire and science. I mean, who could ever imagine it would come back to kill its creator? Who knows who it will devour next?"

Jimmy Fallon: "This is just getting weird now. I heard that for the second day in a row...President Obama made an unscheduled trip out of the White House. Again, he went...a couple of days ago for like a coffee at Starbucks. He went and just split, got a latte or something. And then this time he went, he got a burger at a nearby restaurant. Didn't tell anybody. Yeah. Seems like Obama wants to be out of the White House more than Hillary wants to be in it."

Jimmy Fallon: "Texas Senator Ted Cruz has given up his dual citizenship with Canada in light of speculation that he might run for president. Not to be confused with the reason most Canadians renounce their citizenship – Rob Ford."

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that the mayor of Miami has rejected the proposed stadium site for David Beckham's new soccer team. The mayor said if he wants a team that only scores a couple times a game he'll just watch the Heat."

Seth Meyers: "US House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, who's been in Congress for over a decade, will lose his seat after he was beaten out by a tea party challenger. The tea party would be happy, but then they wouldn't be the tea party."

Seth Meyers: "The campaign manager who helped unseat House Majority Leader Eric Cantor last night is a 23-

year-old man...who interviewed for a job at Panera Bread last month. Said Cantor, 'Is that position still available? Because I have found myself looking for employment.'"

Seth Meyers: "In an interview this week, Hillary Clinton said she may not run for president because she loves having time to hang out with her friends. Thankfully, most of her friends live in Iowa, New Hampshire, Ohio, Florida and the great state of Pennsylvania."

Seth Meyers: "Russian President Vladimir Putin says he has offered the Ukrainian government gas discounts in the spirit of partnership. Although, I don't think it helped that he offered the gas discount by saying, 'Pull my finger. Pull my finger or I will take your fingers.'"

Conan O'Brien: "After the recent prisoner exchange, Obama's approval rating with Americans has fallen to its lowest point so far. On the bright side, his approval rating with the Taliban is through the roof."

Conan O'Brien: "A tea party candidate...won Virginia's Republican primary, mostly on his anti-immigration stance. Yeah, his first plan is to change the state's slogan from 'Virginia is for lovers' to 'Virginia is for lovers who habla English.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Texas Senator Ted Cruz yesterday renounced his Canadian citizenship. He had dual citizenship. That's right, Canada. We took Ted Cruz back, so now you take back Justin Bieber."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 16, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Jun 16, 2014 at 7:11 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA VISITS NORTH DAKOTA'S STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION. The AP (6/14, Pickler) reported in a story carried by over 300 news sites that President Obama "became only the third U.S. sitting president in eight decades to set foot in Indian Country" Friday as he visited the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. The President "drew attention to inroads his administration has made with tribes even as he promoted the need to help reservations create jobs, strengthen justice, and improve health and education." Obama said, "Young people should be able to live, and work, and raise a family right here in the land of your fathers and mothers."

The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (6/13, Smith, 64K) says it "was the first by a sitting president to any reservation since 1999." Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault "praised Obama for his work to improve federal-tribal relations during his time in office. He said he was humbled by the visit, which he said is just one example of the sincere efforts being made by the Obama administration." Obama said, "Michelle and I are honored to be in this sacred and beautiful place. It's easy to see why it's called God's country."

The New York Times (6/14, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says "on a windswept plain next to the Missouri River, dancers and drummers from the Sioux and other tribes, encircled by American flags, created a pulsing swirl of color and noise" as the President and First Lady "nodded their heads in time to the music." The President "told the raucous crowd of 1,800 people that he had delivered on his promise as a presidential candidate in 2008 to improve relations between the government and the nation's Indian tribes."

The Washington Post (6/14, Zezima, 4.22M) says, however, that "despite the strides that have been made, many Native Americans retain a deep skepticism and distrust of a federal government that historically has reneged repeatedly on agreements."

President, Jewell Announce Overhaul Of BIE. ABC News (6/16, Larotonda, 3.58M) in its "The Note" blog reported that the President came "with first lady Michelle Obama and Interior Secretary Sandy Jewell to announce an overhaul of" the Bureau of Indian Education, which has among "the highest dropout rate" in the US.

The Grand Forks (ND) Herald (6/13, Nowatzki, 87K) reported that the President "pledged to invest in American Indian youth" in order to "break old cycles" and "give our children a better future."

USA Today (6/13, Korte, 5.82M) reported that he "placed a particular emphasis on education," noting that "the Interior Department released a plan Friday to reform the Bureau of Indian Education."

KXJB-TV Fargo, ND (6/13, 3K) reported on its website that it was also Obama's first visit to North Dakota as president. Reuters (6/14, Mason), the Los Angeles Times (6/14, Parsons, 3.46M), McClatchy (6/14, Thomma, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K), The Hill (6/13, Sink, 237K), the NBC News (6/13, Bratu, 7.5M) website, the CNN (6/13, Brittain, 12.15M) website, Indian Country Today Media Network (6/14, Brewer, 45K), The Hill (6/13, Sink, 237K) "Blog Briefing Room" blog, Grand Forks (ND) Herald (6/13, Hageman, 87K), and Education Week (6/13, Maxwell, 135K) also reported on the education initiative.

Jewell Praises Veterans At Native American Veterans Summit. KFYR-TV Bismarck, ND (6/14, Harju, 1K) reported, "Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell spoke with veterans at the Native American Veterans Summit at United Tribes Technical College this afternoon." Jewell said, "Of all of the groups within the United States, Native Americans serve in higher percentages than any other racial or ethnic group in this country." The story also appeared at KMOT-TV Minot, ND (6/14, Harju).

The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (6/14, Gehring, 64K) also mentioned Jewell's visit.

Tribal Leaders Blast Keystone Pipeline During Obama Visit To Indian Country. The Los Angeles Times (6/13, Parsons, 3.46M) reports that "President Obama was honored by Native American tribal singers and dancers on Friday afternoon," but during "his first presidential visit to Indian country he also heard from activists who want him to reject the Keystone pipeline project that could pass nearby." One tribal leader, called Keystone "a 'death warrant for our people,'" and "urged Obama to turn down the TransCanada Corp. plan to run the pipeline from Canada, through Dakota lands and down to the Gulf Coast." In a public statement before the visit, Bryan Brewer, president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said that the president "reject this pipeline and protect our sacred land and water."

Bloomberg News (6/14, Talev, Runningen, 2.76M) notes that "in his public remarks, Obama made no mention of the Keystone XL pipeline."

Earlier Coverage Anticipated Visit. Earlier coverage anticipated the visit including the AP (6/12, Burbach) story covered in Friday's briefing that was carried by over 240 news sites, and stories found at MSNBC (6/13, Lee, 7.96M), the Indian Country Today Media Network (6/13, Brewer, 45K), McClatchy (6/13, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 23K), an editorial in the Bismarck (ND) Tribune (6/11, 64K), Al Jazeera America (6/13, 79K), Watchdog (6/13, Port, 4K), USA Today (6/13, Jackson, 5.82M), and Bemidji (MN) Pioneer (6/13, 35K).

JEWELL PROMISES OPEN PROCESS FOR COMMENT ON OIL AND GAS LEASING. The Hill (6/13, Barron-Lopez, 237K) reported that the Department of the Interior asked stakeholders and interest groups to provide public comments on where the Department should sell oil and gas leases for 2017-2022. Interior Secretary Jewell said that "the development of the next Five Year Program will be a thorough and open process that incorporates

stakeholder input and uses the best available science to develop a proposed offshore oil and gas program that creates jobs and safely and responsibly meets the energy needs of the nation." The Hill noted that the American Petroleum Institute responded to the announcement on Friday. API policy adviser Andy Radford said, "The department should thoroughly analyze the entire resource-rich areas of interest" and should "draft an expansive leasing plan that maintains current leasing areas and seeks to unlock new areas that are currently off-limits."

FuelFix (6/13, 7K) reports that on Friday the Interior Department opened up a public comment period for its 2017 to 2022 offshore oil and gas lease plan. American Petroleum Institute senior offshore policy adviser Andy Radford said the Interior Department needs to "thoroughly analyze the resource-rich areas of interest" across the U.S. coastline. He advised regulators to "draft an expansive leasing plan that maintains leasing areas and seeks to unlock new areas that are currently off limits."

The Oil and Gas Journal (6/16, Snow, 1K) reports that on Friday API senior policy adviser Andy Radford said, "At that point, permits can be issued. While we hope the process can move quickly, we think the first few times will be slow. I would hope that next year at this time, we'll have some companies out there collecting data." He noted that since the Deepwater Horizon spill in 2010 "the government and industry have both made great strides in safety and improved the regulation and standards. I think we should consider whether we've done enough to get back to the eastern gulf and open the Atlantic for leasing."

E&P Magazine (6/16) reports that the API said the US has a track record of successful oil and gas offshore drilling. API senior policy adviser Andy Radford said current "restrictions keep 87% of federal offshore waters locked away—along with the potential to develop the vast energy resources they contain." He said that while increased domestic "production has dramatically increased our resistance to energy shocks," the US' "long-term energy security can only be ensured with a lasting commitment to expanding oil and natural gas development both on and offshore. For the offshore, that commitment starts with the next five-year leasing plan."

Rigzone (6/13, Boman, 8K) reports that API senior policy adviser Andy Radford said of possible offshore drilling leases, "Opening new areas like the Atlantic and eastern Gulf of Mexico would send a signal to the markets and to the world that America's oil and natural gas renaissance is here to stay."

Reuters (6/16, Krasny) also quotes Jewell in describing the effort. Further coverage appears at Natural Gas Intelligence (6/13, Davis), Upstream Online (6/16, 20K), Houston Chronicle (6/16, Dlouhy, 2.23M), and Energy Daily (6/16, 835).

JEWELL REMINDS PUBLIC OF IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATORS. The Oregonian (6/15, Nelson, 992K) reports on problems facing pollinators, quoting Secretary Jewell saying, "Pollinators on our nation's public and private lands play a key role in keeping our ecosystems diverse, which in turn provides for healthy habitats and economies," adding, "We appreciate the important public-private partnerships that are working together to encourage the long-term health of pollinating creatures." The story also mentions National Pollinator Week, saying that it begins today "with cautious optimism because awareness of pollinator decline has started leading to genuine change." It also mentions the Fender's blue butterfly, pointing out that "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Clean Water Services and discussing conservation and habitat improvement projects."

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO SUPPORT UNESCO DESIGNATION FOR POVERTY POINT IN QATAR. The Monroe (LA) News Star (6/13, Hilburn, 107K) reported that a Louisiana delegation will be "supporting Poverty Point's nomination as a World Heritage Site" at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage convention in Doha, Qatar. In addition, a Federal delegation headed by Rachel Jacobson, acting U.S. Department of Interior assistant secretary, will support the designation.

PETITION ASKS JEWELL TO NAME SS BADER A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. WPBN-TV Traverse City, MI (6/13, Cook, 14K) reports on a petition containing "over 2,000 signatures" seeking that the SS Bader be named a National Historic Landmark. The petition asks Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "to approve the designation."

INTERIOR, FOREST SERVICE FACE GROWING FIREFIGHTING BUDGETS. The Los Angeles Daily News (6/13, Scauzillo, 347K) reports on a Federal study finding that fire fighting costs are draining the budget of the

Forest Service, explaining that costs are expected to reach "$1.8 billion this year" for the Forest Service and the US Department of the Interior.

FRY JOINS AFF. E&E (6/13, Streater) reported that "Tom Fry, who until last year served as a policy adviser for former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar" is now becoming the the American Forest Foundation's "forest conservation director."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

USA TODAY CARRIES FEATURE ON NATIONAL PARKS. Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns, creators of the PBS documentary The National Parks: America's Best Idea, write at USA Today (6/15, 5.82M), that June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a law that "set aside the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias for public use, resort and recreation ... for all time." They note that Yellowstone was named the "world's first national park in 1872," but point to this law as the "seed" of the idea of the National Parks. They chronicle some early problems in protecting the parks, and argue that "vigilance and commitment" have been and remain necessary to maintain the parks.

USA Today (6/15, Adams, 5.82M) in another article focuses on Yellowstone National Park. In a third article,

USA Today (6/15, Welch, 5.82M) focuses on Yosemite. In a fourth article, USA Today (6/13, Hopkins, 5.82M) reports on the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, pointing out that Gateway National Recreation Area is operated by the National Park Service.

YELLOWSTONE SEES MORE VISITORS THIS YEAR. ABC News (6/15, 3.58M) reports on its website that the National Park Service has reported that visits to Yellowstone National Park are up about 6 percent through May this year over last year.

MCCAIN PROPOSES CHANGE TO RULE ABOUT BISON REMOVAL IN GRAND CANYON. The AP (6/14, Fonseca) reports that Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) "is pushing an amendment in Congress that would allow anyone who kills bison at the Grand Canyon to keep the meat." The Park Service is reportedly "trying to find ways to control hundreds of bison roaming the northern reaches of the Grand Canyon." Under current rules, "the shooter cannot keep the meat." Under his proposal, the Park Service would "work with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to determine who is authorized to aid in lethal removal."

PARK SERVICE WORKING ON PLAN TO ADDRESS EROSION AT INDIANA DUNES. The Chicago Tribune (6/16, Gregory, 2.3M) reports that the National Park Service is working on a "comprehensive strategy to resolve the problem" of erosion at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The problem is said to be due to "three man-made structures: the Michigan City Harbor, completed in the early 1900s; Port of Indiana, built in the late 1960s; and Gary-U.S. Steel Harbor." In addition, there are "engineered peninsulas."

FATHER TOWS DISABLED SON THROUGH ARCHES NATIONAL PARK. KTXL-TV Sacramento, CA (6/15, 19K) carries a photo courtesy of the US Department of the Interior of James Geier towing hi 18-year-old disabled son Jonah at the Arches National Park, where they "travelled over 3 miles, over slickrock trails, and up steep steps" to see the park. The picture also appeared at KSWB-TV San Diego (CA) San Diego (6/15, 25K), KCPQ-TV Seattle (6/15, 25K), and KSWB-TV San Diego (6/15, 25K) among other sites.

Bureau of Land Management:

WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK IN INCREASING COMPETITION ON WESTERN LANDS DUE TO DROUGHT. The Los Angeles Times (6/16, Cart, 3.46M) reports that drought and wildfire in the West are threatening the use of Federal land for both wildlife and livestock. In addition, any efforts to protect the greater sage grouse are likely to further reduce access to grazing land. BLM manager Kurt Wiedenmann is cited saying that "the drought and the sage grouse have federal and state agencies working together to find room for both grazing and the imperiled birds."

BLM RANGER INJURED IN NEVADA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA SHOOTOUT. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/14, Morales, 687K) reported, "A Bureau of Land Management ranger, a California Highway Patrol officer and a suspect were injured Saturday during a shootout" in Nevada County. The BLM ranger had called for assistance from the CHP, having "sustained a gunshot to the shoulder." He was "flown to Sutter Roseville Medical Center with injuries that were not life-threatening."

KOVR-TV Sacramento, CA (6/14, 47K) reported that "BLM spokeswoman Dana Wilson said she doesn't know the extent of the ranger's injuries, or what led the ranger to call local authorities for assistance."

FOX News (6/15, 6.72M) also reported.

BLM TO ADMINISTER BIRTH CONTROL TO WILD HORSES. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/16, 470K) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "is using porcine zona pellucida (PZP), a form of birth control for wild horses, to control the population of two herds in Tooele County." Administering the chemical "involves shooting the mares in the rump with a dart gun."

BLM EXPECTS ACTIVE FIRE SEASON. KTVB-TV Boise, ID (6/16, Lutz, 87K) sites personnel from the Boise District Bureau of Land Management saying that "the ingredients for a potentially active fire season are here."

BLM SAYS FIRE STARTED BY NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING. KSL-TV Salt Lake City (6/16, Spencer, 242K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Land Management attributed the Pony Fire to "a military training accident." The fire began "one-third of a mile south of a Tooele County road known as the Pony Express Road," near the training site for the Utah National Guard.

UTAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO MEET WITH BLM OFFICIALS. The St. George (UT) News (6/15, Kessler, 3K) reports that the Iron County, Utah commission passed a resolution listing complaints with the Federal government's land management, specifically that "related to the management of prairie dogs, wild horses and burros, backcountry roads and area forests." Chairman David Miller said that commissioners from several Utah counties will meet with officials in Washington, DC to discuss grievances. Miller said that "he hopes that meeting with representatives and directors of various federal agencies involved in Iron County, such as the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, will lead to an understanding."

BLM REJECTS PROPOSAL FOR POTASH MINE IN UTAH DESERT. The AP (6/15) reports that the Bureau of Land Management, has "rejected a mineral exploration company's proposal to prospect for potash on a section of the western Utah desert crossed by the ill-fated Donner Party in 1846." The company, Mesa Exploration Corp., proposes to "create a potash mine on a dry lakebed near the Nevada line about 20 miles north of Wendover."

STUDY FINDS SPLITTING PLANT POPULATIONS MAY WEAKEN THEM AGAINST DISEASE. E&E (6/13, Learn) reported on a new study published in Science finding that "Splitting up plant populations could make them more likely to contract disease."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SEEKS TO REINTRODUCE SUCKERS TO UPPER KLAMATH LAKE. The AP (6/16) reports on the US Fish and Wildlife Service plans to reintroduce the Lost River and shortnose suckers to Upper Klamath Lake. To do that, "fish biologist Josh Rasmussen and two other USFWS employees collected thousands of inch-long sucker larvae from the Sprague and Williamson rivers," which were taken to "historical sucker spawning grounds." Rasmussen explained that once they are released it will be several years before they return. The story also cites Dave Hewitt a biologist for the US Geological Survey, saying that "researchers are studying toxins released by algae, as well as oxygen-deficient periods caused by algae die-offs, for clues to the juvenile sucker disappearances."

BURYING BEETLES BEING REINTRODUCED IN MISSOURI. The AP (6/16, Salter) reports on the effort to "improve the population of American burying beetles at Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie in southwest Missouri" that involves the St. Louis Zoo, the Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Missouri Department of

Conservation. So far the Zoo has released 168 beetles on the site and plans to release 180 on Tuesday. The beetles are said to be necessary to restore the area's habitat to its previous state.

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SAID TO NEED $19 MILLION MORE ANNUALLY TO SAVE MORE SPECIES. Timothy Male, director of Mission: Wildlife writes in The Hill (6/16, Male, 237K) "Congress Blog" blog on the success of the Endangered Species Act at reclaiming "the bald eagle, gray wolf, alligator and more than 20 other species," adding that US Fish and Wildlife Service has plans "to recognize 17 more recoveries or species meriting a lower 'threatened' status." He suggests a greater focus, along with about $19 million more annually would improve the situation further, helping 100 threatened species to recover.

ASHE HAS NO SECOND THOUGHTS ON WOLVES. E&E (6/13, Taylor) reported that Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe has indicated that "his agency will stay the course on its year-old proposal to remove Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in most of the United States." He said, "I don't have second thoughts."

BIRDS HELP TO DISPERSE PLANTS IN TROPICES. E&E (6/13, Dehnert) reports on a study published in PeerJ showing that "birds – via their feathers" are in fact "a means of dispersing plants across the tropics."

US Geological Survey:

USGS WORKS WITH NEW YORK ON STUDY OF MOHAWK RIVER. The Utica (NY) Observer Dispatch (6/14, Roth, 11K) reports that the US Geological Survey is working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on a study of the Mohawk River to examine fish populations "between Lake Delta Dam near Rome and the river's end at the Hudson River near Cohoes."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

IGS RESEARCHERS DISCOVER REGIONAL GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE. The Idaho Falls (ID) Post Register (6/14, Sunderland) reported that the Idaho Geological Survey has "unearthed a previously unrecognized high-temperature geothermal resource near Soda Springs." The "discovery of the energy asset came through a recently completed national database, created with the help of Idaho researchers." A survey team from the University of Idaho "spent several years compiling some 7,000 records to contribute to the National Geothermal Data System on behalf of the Gem State." The article noted "the data system was commissioned by the U.S. Department of Energy to compile all forms of data related to geothermal energy." UI geologist John Welhan stated, "Each state's geological survey combed through it's records and the records of other agencies for anything relevant to the exploration, development, research or utilization of geothermal heat. ... It spanned the gamut from recreational uses to greenhouse warming to complex high-temperature heating systems."

TENASKA CLOSES ON FINANCING FOR UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR PLANT. Bloomberg News (6/13, Doom, 2.76M) reports that Tenaska Inc. has closed on $450 million in financing to construct it's Imperial Solar Energy Center West project. The project will be the company's second utility-scale solar plant in Califomia's Imperial Valley, construction on which is expected to begin this year, with completion scheduled for 2016.

RESEARCHERS MAPPING OCEAN FOR OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (6/15, Brumbaugh, 504K) reports on efforts by scientists to determine the best offshore sites for wind energy development, noting that a number from UNC Chapel Hill's Institute of Marine Sciences are looking into the matter with help from the National Ocean Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, UNC and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. The story also appears at the Charlotte (NC) Observer (6/15, Brumbaugh, 585K) .

RHODE ISLAND COASTAL WIND FARM STILL AWAITING APPROVAL. The Providence (RI) Business News (6/13, Miller, 42K) reports that "Deepwater Wind's five-turbine Block Island Wind Farm" is still seeking final approval, though according to "Michael Elliott, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project manager for the wind farm," that could come in July. It is awaiting agreements from "the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission,

the Narragansett Tribe, the Wampanoag Aquinnah Tribe on Martha's Vineyard and from the National Park Service, related to the Block Island Southeast Light," as well as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Onshore Energy Development:

AP REVIEW SHOWS BLM STRUGGLING TO INSPECT HIGHER-RISK WELLS. According to a state-by-state review conducted by the AP (6/14, Yen, Peipert, 5.82M), "four in 10 new oil and gas wells near national forests and fragile watersheds or otherwise identified as higher-pollution risks escape federal inspection" remained "unchecked" by the Bureau of Land Management. The review shows that "roughly half or more of wells on federal and Indian lands weren't checked in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming." The analysis indicates that Bureau of Land Management is "so overwhelmed by" the fracking boom "that it has been unable to keep up with inspections of some of the highest priority wells."

The AP (6/16, Price) reports that BLM deputy director Linda Lance said, "No one would have predicted the incredible boom of drilling on federal lands, and the number of wells we've been asked to process."

In Pittsburgh, the AP (6/15) reported that, "in Pennsylvania, the AP review found that only one of six wells on a high priority list was not inspected by the Bureau of Land Management."

In Fresno, the AP (6/15, Smith) reported that BLM "records say 31 of 99 high-priority wells drilled from fiscal year 2009 to 2012 in the state's oil-rich Central Valley were not inspected during that period." However, BLM spokeswoman Dana Wilson "disputes the number of uninspected wells, saying that bookkeeping errors have misrepresented the problem."

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/16, 470K) reports that according to the AP, "a majority of the oil and gas wells drilled on federal land in Utah during recent boom years have not been inspected."

The AP (6/14) reports, "more than 240 newly drilled oil and gas wells considered high pollution risks on Colorado public lands weren't inspected during a recent three-year period."

The AP (6/14) reports, "Almost half of all newly drilled oil and gas wells considered high pollution risks in Wyoming weren't inspected."

The AP (6/16, Macpherson) reports that the BLM said it is difficult to keep up with the oil and gas boom in North Dakota.

Futher coverage can be found at the Wilkes-Barre (PA) Times Leader (6/14, O'Connell, 116K), Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (6/15, Yen, Peipert, 381K), AP (6/14), AP (6/14), and AP (6/12, Bryan).

NATURAL GAS MAY BE NEXT FUEL TRANSPORTED ON NORTH AMERICAN RAILS. Reuters (6/16, McAllister) reports on the likelihood that natural gas producers are likely to follow crude producers in sending their product via rail throughout North America. Such transport is probably "years away" and likely to face opposition. However, natural gas-by-rail transport could present opportunities for railroads, drillers, and tank car makers. Additionally, sending the product via rail may reduce natural gas flaring, in which about $1 billion of gas produced along with oil is currently burned annually because of a lack of pipelines or processing plants to handle it.

AP: NC BILL WOULD FORCE DUKE TO CLOSE COAL ASH DUMPS. The AP (6/16, Biesecker, 455K) reports that legislation "backed by key North Carolina lawmakers would require Duke Energy to close all of its coal ash dumps across the state within 15 years, with much of the toxic material going into lined landfills." The AP obtained "a copy of the proposed legislation distributed Sunday to members of the state Senate." The bill orders Duke "to stop pumping its ash into water-filled pits by the end of 2019." The company's over "100 million tons of existing ash would either have to be dug up and removed or sealed in place to stop contaminating groundwater."

FRACKING'S WATER USE LESS THAN GOLF, AGRICULTURE. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (6/14, Robison, 166K) investigated the debate over how much water fracking is using in Nevada. The article found that

the claim that fracking uses "tens of millions of gallons of water" for each well is untrue. Rather, about 2 to 4 million gallons per well is used. However, it noted that claims that golf courses use more water than fracking are accurate. Additionally, Nevada's Department of Agriculture has reported that the state's 66,000 dairy cows use 429 million gallons of water annually, while "a 126-acre crop with a single irrigation pivot uses 163 million gallons." These are both more than the amount of water used in places where more fracking is occurring than Nevada, like California.

Report Warns Ohio Fracking Water Use Could Cause Droughts. The Coshocton (OH) Tribune (6/14, Rumer, 13K) reported that with the possible sale of some of Ohio's freshwater to the drilling industry for $4.25 per 1,000 gallons, nonprofit group FracTracker Alliance is warning that using water for fracking could lead to drought. FracTracker head Dr. Ted Auch has expressed concerns "not only with the lack of data that surrounds that decision but also with the effect of allowing large drilling companies to purchase water cheaply." According to his own analysis of state gas wells, fracking can use about 4.7 million gallons of water per well. He projects that 4.7 billion gallons have been used on the state's 985 permitted wells so far. This is around 3% to 4% of "available water," or water left after human and environmental consumption. Auch warned that this water is what protects the state from drought conditions.

COMPANY TO BUILD GREEN REFINERY. E&E (6/13, Gass) reports on a project by Pacific Future Energy Corp. to build the "Greenest" oil refinery.

Offshore Energy Development:

CONVERTING UNUSED OIL RIGS INTO REEFS MAY BE GREENER THAN REMOVING THEM. The Economist (6/12, 830K) reports that leaving much of an offshore oil rig in place can be not only less expensive than removing it, but "may actually be greener." That's because of the amount of energy it takes to remove it, and rigs may serve as coral reefs. The story notes that over 490 have been created in this way over 30 years.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ARIZONA CITIES COULD FACE WATER SHORTAGES. The Arizona Daily Star (6/16, 389K) reports that "water shortages could hit Tucson and Phoenix as soon as five years from now." The reason is that "Lake Mead, now about 1,085 feet elevation," could fall "below 1,000 feet." And the "Interior Secretary could intervene in advance to hold down states' water diversions."

Top National News:

US AND IRAN SET FOR TALKS AS IRAQ'S SHIITES MOVE TO BLOCK ISIS ADVANCE. The ongoing crisis in Iraq dominated the news on Sunday, with much of the reporting focused on claims from the ISIS that it has executed 11700 Iraqi soldiers in Tikrit, a claim that all sources say has not yet been verified and is disputed by the Iraqi military. The growing influence of Shiite militias in Baghdad, and reports on the likelihood that the US will ask the Iranian government to assist the Iraqis as they combat the Sunni insurgency, contribute to the growing perception that the conflict in Iraq is an outgrowth of the Sunni-Shia war in Syria, where ISIS is battling the Iranian-backed Assad regime.

On ABC World News (6/15, lead story, 3:10, Muir), correspondent Martha Raddatz reported from Baghdad that "after a humiliating week of defeat, the Iraqi forces are striking back from the air," while "political and religious leaders [are] calling for new recruits who are lining up in huge numbers to join the fight." According to Raddatz, the "new recruits are mostly...Shia from Baghdad and the south, pushing back against the extremist Sunni Jihadist group." On the CBS Evening News (6/15, lead story, 2:35, Glor, 5.08M), correspondent Clarissa Ward reported that the Iraqi government's "real strategy" involves "mobilizing Shiite militias through a massive recruitment drive."

Under the headline "...US, Iran Near Talks on Cooperation to Counter Insurgents," the Wall Street Journal (6/16, A1, Solomon, Lee, Nabhan, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that talks between the US and the Iranian government are expected to get under way this week, possibly in Vienna. According to the Journal, Secretary of State Kerry spoke with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari this weekend about US willingness to cooperate

with Iran as part of an effort to help the Iraqis repel the ISIS offensive. USA Today (6/16, Shamary, Bhatti, 5.82M) notes the Journal's reporting on the planning for US-Iran talks on the crisis in Iraq.

McClatchy (6/15, Banerjee, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that "members of Congress and retired military officials" are urging the Administration to "be willing to directly engage...Iran" in order to "fight off the Sunni militants" threatening to take control of Iraq. McClatchy notes that on CNN's State Of The Union (6/15, Borger, Bash, 862K), Sen. Lindsey Graham "called for the US to talk directly with Iran to devise a plan to stop what he characterized as an ISIS march toward Baghdad," while retired Gen. Paul Eaton, who was "formerly in charge of training Iraqi security forces," described Iran as a "natural ally." According to McClatchy, on Saturday, Iran's president, Hassan Rouhani, said his government "would 'consider' working with the United States...to bolster the shaky Iraqi government, with which Iran has strong ties," but "added that the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki had not yet asked Iran for help."

Under the headline, "Republicans Urge US Military Action In Iraq," USA Today (6/16, Moore, 5.82M) reports that Graham made the case that the US "needs to engage with Iran to negotiate a settlement in Iraq, whether we like it or not." Graham is quoted as saying, "The Iranians can provide some assets to make sure Baghdad doesn't fall. We need to coordinate with the Iranians."

Under the headline, "Graham Says U.S. Could Make Common Cause With Iran," the Wall Street Journal (6/16, Nissenbaum, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that Graham said, "Why did we deal with Stalin? Because he was not as bad as Hitler." However, the Journal notes that on CBS' Face The Nation (6/15, Schieffer, 2.64M), Graham warned the Iranian government not to "use this crisis to take territory from the Iraqi people," and added, "We will not accept their intervention in Iraq for the purpose of creating a satellite state for Iran." The Washington Times (6/16, Chasmar, 455K) reports that Graham went on to say, "If the central government in Iraq collapses...Iran will own the southern part of Iraq," which is "where the Shiites live."

On the CBS Evening News (6/15, story 3, 2:20, Glor, 5.08M), former CIA deputy director Mike Morell was asked if Iran is "in a better position to influence" the outcome of the civil war in Iraq than the US. Morell replied, "I think they are. They've got relationships with Shi'a militia groups that date back ten years; they provide weapons and training to those groups. They're also willing to put their own soldiers on the ground with Iraqi fighters, and I think that can make a huge difference." But Morell added, "I think that is a huge downside for the US over the long-term – the Iranians helping the Iraqis – because it will give them influence inside of Iraq and that is not in our interest."

In an article titled, "Rise Of Shiite Militias Poses A Threat To Iraq," the AP (6/16, Hendawi, Abdul-zahra) reports that "Iranian-backed militias" are "spearheading what [Iraq's] Shiite majority sees as a fight for survival against Sunni militants who control of large swaths of territory north of Baghdad." According to the AP, "The emergence of the militias as a legitimate force enjoying the support of the Shiite-led government and the blessing of the religious establishment poses a threat to Iraq's unity." The AP says the Shiite militias' "enhanced role...will deepen Iran's influence in Iraq, giving the non-Arab and mostly Shiite country a role similar to the one it plays in Syria."

According to the Washington Post (6/16, A1, Sly, Hauslohner, 4.22M),"In Baghdad, armed militias openly drive through the streets in pickup trucks and SUVs, in scenes reminiscent of the dark days of the civil war a decade ago," and "in some areas, the militias manned checkpoints...underscoring the extent to which the discredited army and police are taking a back seat to the fighters." The AP (6/16, Jeltsen, 11.54M) notes that on Saturday, "hundreds of armed Shiite men paraded through the streets of Baghdad in response to a call by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani for Iraqis to defend their country."

Bloomberg News (6/16, Razzouk, Habboush, Sabah, 2.76M) reported that on Sunday, "Iraq's military pummeled the positions of Sunni Muslim insurgents" as Prime Minister Maliki's "Shiite Muslim-led government" tried to "reassert control over territory held by" ISIS, "whose advances put in doubt his rule over a unified Iraq." According to Bloomberg News, Tariq Al-Hashimi, describe as a "a Sunni leader accused by Maliki of being involved in terrorism," has "called for the [Maliki's] overthrow and said Iranian forces have entered Iraqi territory to defend the Shiite-led government." In an Al Arabiya interview, Hashimi said, "The mess in Iraq, all of this security chaos, I fully blame Iran for."

The Washington Times (6/16, Howell, 455K) reports that on Sunday, many Republicans contended that the

Administration "sat on the sidelines for too long as sectarian violence threatens to undo what US troops accomplished during the war in Iraq." The Times notes that on Fox News Sunday, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI), the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, "ruled out US troops on the ground" but added, "You can't fire missiles and then turn around and come home." According to Rogers, "you have to have the Arab League with you."

The Wall Street Journal (6/16, Nissenbaum, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) quotes Rogers as saying, "We need to re-engage our Arab league partners. ... This is as dangerous as it gets." Politico (6/15, Wright, 637K) reported that Rogers claimed that "thousands" of "westerners and Americans" are fighting with the Sunni terrorists, and warned that "these recruits could use their Western passports to return home and engage in terrorist activities."

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA), on Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures (6/15, Bartiromo), quipped, "The President will be reviewing all of his options – he likes to look at all the options and then act on none of them, hoping that the crisis will go away."

Sen. Joe Manchin said on NBC's Meet the Press (6/15, Gregory, 3.08M), "I think our intelligence has failed us miserably for not being aware of the threat that we faced [in Iraq]. .... The first thing I would recommend to the President is: get your intelligence group back on track, making sure that we have the intel that we need."

On CNN's State Of The Union (6/15, Borger, Bash, 862K), two Iraq War veterans and Foreign Affairs Committee members – Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), a military police captain in the Hawaii National Guard, and Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), a major in the Illinois Air National Guard – weighed in on the crisis in Iraq. Gabbard stated: "It's painful to see watch the Iraqi troops literally shed their uniforms. This is one of my major concerns about those advocating for air strikes and getting our US military involved. ... You can't train away the core issue here, which is that you have a Sunni versus Shia [religious civil war] going on." Kinzinger added: "Is this going to be the answer, air strikes? I don't think this is necessarily the panacea. But we are watching right now the worst case scenario happen."

Mitt Romney said on NBC's Meet the Press (6/15, Gregory, 3.08M), "What has happened in Iraq and what we're seeing with ISIS is a good deal predictable by virtue of the President's failure to act appropriately. ... Bad things happen as a result of inaction," and the "consequences have obviously been very severe."

NYTimes A1: Obama, Iran Pressuring Maliki To Make Overtures To Sunnis. In a front-page article titled, "Obama Pushes Iraqis To Mend Sectarian Rifts," the New York Times (6/16, A1, Landler, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that according to an unidentified "senior administration official," President Obama "has concluded that any American military action must be conditioned on a political plan to try to heal Iraq's sectarian rifts," and "the White House's emphasis, when Mr. Obama returns to Washington on Monday...will be on prodding Iraq's leaders to form a new national unity government." The Times reports that the "senior administration official" says the Administration wants Prime Minister Maliki, "a Shiite, to work with the Kurds, to seek to persuade the disaffected Sunni minority that the next government will be an 'ally not an adversary,'" and is insisting that "all three groups must be adequately represented." According to the Time, the President's "push for political reconciliation has put him in a potential alignment with" the government of Iran, whose officials "seemed to echo Mr. Obama's admonition."

ISIS Claims To Have Killed 1700 Captured Shiite Soldiers. Under the front-page headline, "Militants Claim Mass Execution Of Iraqi Forces," the New York Times (6/16, A1, Nordland, Rubin, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Sunday, ISIS "claimed...that they had massacred hundreds of captive Shiite members of Iraq's security forces, posting grisly pictures of a mass execution in Tikrit as evidence and warning of more killing to come." The Times says Iraqi officials are "acutely aware of the potential for retaliatory violence," and "some...who had heard about the ISIS claims took pains to play them down," while the Ministry of Defense "denied the executions had taken place at all." According to the Times, "some human rights groups" also "cautioned that the militants' claim to have killed 1,700 soldiers in Tikrit could not be immediately verified," but the alleged atrocity nevertheless "may put more pressure on the Obama administration to aid Iraq militarily."

The Wall Street Journal (6/16, Nabhan, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the State Department also said ISIS's claims have not been verified. The Los Angeles Times (6/16, Bulos, 3.46M) reports that "the purported

execution photos are being widely shared on social media and Iraqi military officials acknowledged being aware that some of the soldiers had been killed," but "did not provide a specific number." The Times notes that in the same series of photos posted by ISIS, there can be seen "Humvees and heavy trucks, originally provided by the US to Iraq's military, commandeered by the fighters."

US Carrier Arrives In Persian Gulf As State Evacuates Baghdad Embassy Personnel. On the CBS Evening News (6/15, lead story, 2:35, Glor, 5.08M), Jeff Glor reported that on Sunday, "the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush arrived in the Persian Gulf," as the State Department "announced they're evacuating nonessential personnel from the embassy in Baghdad" and "sending in Marines to protect those who remain."

According to Bloomberg News (6/16, Razzouk, Habboush, Sabah, 2.76M), the State Department is "keeping its embassy in Baghdad open" and bringing in "additional US government security personnel." The AP (6/16, Hefling) notes that the US Embassy in Baghdad "has about 5,000 personnel, making it the largest US diplomatic post in the world."

According to the New York Times (6/16, Arango, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), "The exact number of people being evacuated...was not disclosed." The Times notes that State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki released a statement reading: "Over all, a substantial majority of the US Embassy presence in Iraq will remain in place, and the embassy will be fully equipped to carry out its national security mission." The Times goes on to report that earlier in the year, "when insurgents captured Falluja and other parts of western Anbar Province, the American government rushed guns, ammunition and Hellfire missiles to aid the Iraqis," although, according to the Times, that "has done little to stop the militants."

On ABC World News (6/15, lead story, 3:10, Muir), correspondent Martha Raddatz reported that "three [US] warships, including a...carrier bristling with missiles and packed with fighter jets, were deployed to the Persian." According to Raddatz, while the President is mulling ordering air strikes targeting ISIS, "no one" in Baghdad "believes it will bring this conflict to an end anytime soon." Raddatz also reported that with ISIS "just 60 miles outside of Baghdad...a series of explosions rocked the city" on Sunday, "killing at least 15."

The Los Angeles Times (6/16, Raab, 3.46M) reports that Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby said, "A small number of [Defense Department] personnel are augmenting State Department security assets in Baghdad to help ensure the safety of our facilities. ... The US military has airlift assets at the ready should State Department request them, as per normal inter-agency support arrangements."

The Washington Post (6/16, DeYoung, 4.22M) reports notes that US "contractor personnel were evacuated beginning late last week from two major Iraqi bases, in Balad and Taji, north of Baghdad, and from an oil refinery and power plant in Baiji, also north of Baghdad." Reuters (6/16, Ryan, 17.91M) and the Wall Street Journal (6/16, Nissenbaum, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) also cover the increased security at the US embassy.

Crocker: Kerry Should Be In Baghdad "Right Now." USA Today (6/16, Moore, 5.82M) reports that on Sunday, Ryan Crocker, a former US ambassador to Iraq, said, "We need the Secretary of State there in Baghdad right now." According to the AP (6/16, Hefling), over the weekend, Secretary Kerry "made calls to foreign ministers in Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar to discuss the threat and the need for Iraqi leaders to work together."

Crocker said on CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS (6/15, Zakaria, 456K), "Ambassadors can't do it all. You need heavy fire support on the diplomatic front. If I were asked to return to Iraq, the first thing I would request is Secretary Kerry to get on a plane immediately. We have lacked that high level engagement with the Iraqis that was so crucial during my it early in office. ... We need the President on the phone to the Iraqi leadership."

Homeland Security Committee Chairman Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) said on ABC's This Week (6/15, Raddatz, 2.73M), "I talked to Ambassador Crocker yesterday, he said that this is the greatest national security threat since 9/11 – Al Qaeda owns more territory and more resources." McCaul added, "I tell you, it's the President's inability to negotiate in Iraq, which has put us in this situation today."

The Wall Street Journal (6/16, Knickmeyer, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the government of Kuwait is warning that ISIS could take its oil fields if they are not stopped soon. However, the Journal notes that

Nasser bin Hamad al Khalifa, Qatar's former ambassador to the US and the UN, is warning the US not to undertake "an intervention to support Maliki." Khalifa said if that were to happen "then the Arabs all over, and the Muslims all over...will take it as a war against them and against Islam." The Journal says Saudi official Fahed Nazer agrees that "U.S. involvement...has and will continue to be recruitment gold for al Qaeda."

Assad's Forces Have Been Fighting ISIS For Several Years In Syria. On the CBS Evening News (6/15, story 2, 1:40, Glor, 5.08M), Jeff Glor noted that ISIS "now occupies territories stretching from northern Syria to northern Iraq," including Mosul, Iraq's second largest city. Holly Williams went on to report from Erbil in the part of Iraq controlled by the Kurds that ISIS "spent several years fighting in the Syrian civil war, doing battle...against the Syrian regime," as well as "other Syrian opposition groups that don't like the hard-line form of Islam that ISIS is trying to impose."

In a piece for The New Yorker (6/16, 5.3M), Dexter Filkins notes that there have been reports that ISIS is sending US military equipment it has seized in Iraq to Syria in order to help its campaign to topple the Assad regime. According to Filkins, "The long open border between Iraq and Syria...has allowed extremists on each side to grow and to support one another," and they are "beginning to take their war beyond the two countries that they now freely traverse." Filkins adds that the government of Iran "has been decisive in supporting Assad, and its influence over Maliki, never small, has increased enormously since the departure of the last American forces in Iraq" at the end of 2011.

ISIS's Leader Was Released From US Custody In 2009. On ABC World News (6/15, story 2, 2:05, Muir), David Muir noted that ISIS's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, "spent years in US custody." Terry Moran went on to report from northern Iraq that Baghdadi "was in US custody in Iraq for four years," and "when he was released in 2009, his parting words to US troops" were: "I'll see you in New York." Moran also noted reports that Baghdadi "may have been injured in an air strike."

Kurdish Soldiers Killed By Iraq's Military In Saadiyah. The Wall Street Journal (6/16, Nabhan, El-ghobashy, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that two or more Kurdish Peshmerga soldiers were killed, apparently inadvertently, in Saadiyah by the Iraqi army as it launched a counteroffensive against ISIS. However, according to the Journal, the Kurdish authorities says they can not be sure that the attack was a mistake.

The Washington Post (6/16, Morris, 4.22M) reports that "Kurdish forces have played a behind-the-scenes role in rescuing embattled Iraqi soldiers from checkpoints and bases, staving off more losses for the troops," and the Post says the "disastrous end to one such operation Saturday is threatening to derail their military cooperation." According to the Post, "Furious Kurdish military officials" claim "Iraqi forces...fir[ed] mortars and Hellfire missiles at Kurdish fighters, killing six and injuring 43." The Post reports that according to an anonymous "senior Kurdish security official," more than two hours after the initial shelling killed two and wounded 21 Peshmerga soldiers, "the Kurdish position was attacked again, this time by two Iraqi helicopters firing U.S.-supplied Hellfire missiles, the official said, adding that he was '99 per cent sure' that the attack was intentional." The official said the second attack killed four Kurds.

ISIS Seizes Turkmen-Majority City, Tal Afar. Reuters (6/16, Al-sanjary, Rasheed) reports that on Sunday, ISIS seized the city of Tal Afar, which is majority Turkmen. Reuters notes that Tal Afar is near Kurdish-controlled areas. According to the Washington Post (6/16, A1, Sly, Hauslohner, 4.22M), while the Iraqi military claims to have "reasserted control over much of Salahuddin province," the "capture of Tal Afar...suggested that the ISIS onslaught was continuing."

At Least 19 Killed Following Four Baghdad Bombings. According to the AP (6/16, Jeltsen, 11.54M), "a car bomb in [Baghdad's] center killed 10 and wounded 21," and then "another explosion hit the area, killing two and wounding five," and another "in the sprawling Sadr City district, killing three and wounding seven," before "a fourth blast in the northern Sulaikh district killed four and wounded 12."

Nuland's Husband Criticizes Obama's Handling Of Iraq, Praises Clinton's Foreign Policy. The New York Times (6/16, Horowitz, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that historian Robert Kagan, husband of Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and author of a recent New Republic cover essay titled, "Superpowers Don't Get to Retire," believes "American action to stop the [ISIS] militants is imperative," and "a continued military presence in Iraq and action in Syria would have averted the crisis." According to the Times,

Kagan says President Obama's "disengagement despite the resurgence of organized terrorist groups in the region has created the climate to again make the case for interventionism." The Times goes on to report that Kagan "pointed out that he had recently attended a dinner of foreign-policy experts at which" former secretary of state Hillary Clinton "was the guest of honor." Kagan is quoted as saying, "I feel comfortable with her on foreign policy. ... It's something that might have been called neocon, but clearly her supporters are not going to call it that."

Analysts: Obama's Foreign Policy Legacy In Jeopardy. According to Julie Pace, in an analysis for the AP (6/16), "there is a sudden burst of uncertainty surrounding the way Obama has moved to bring the two conflicts he inherited" – the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – "to a close" as the "fast-moving Islamic insurgency...rais[es] the possibility of fresh American military action more than two years after the last US troops withdrew." Pace notes that while the President has "cited the end of the war" in Iraq as among his "top achievements in office," the "vacuum left by American forces has been filled by waves of resurgent violence and burgeoning Sunni extremism." Pace says the "chaos in Iraq also raises questions about whether" the "small military presence" the US plans for Afghanistan as of next year "can prevent a similar backslide there or whether extremists are simply lying in wait until the US withdrawal deadline passes."

According to Jim Michaels of USA Today (6/16, 5.82M), "the images...of black-clad militants rampaging through Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, and edging toward Baghdad are already drawing comparisons to the iconic image of US impotence: helicopters pulling desperate Americans out of Saigon in advance of the North Vietnamese invasion."

Under the headline, "Pennsylvania Town Rues Sacrifice Of Its War Dead," USA Today (6/16, Zoroya, 5.82M) reports from Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania on the anger among veterans and families of US soldiers killed in Iraq over the resurgence of Sunni terrorists in the areas of Iraq that US soldiers fought and died to free. According to USA Today, "For many in Hollidaysburg, Iraq and Afghanistan meld into a seamless land of violence...where no amount of American sacrifice can change anything." USA Today adds that "there's a clear sentiment" among residents "that although matters may be unraveling in Iraq, no more American lives should be lost."

Brad Knickerbocker of the Christian Science Monitor (6/16, 566K) notes that in 2002, prior to the US-led effort that toppled Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, President Obama, then a state senator from Illinois, said, "What I am opposed to is the cynical attempt by Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz and other armchair, weekend warriors...to shove their own ideological agendas down our throats, irrespective of the costs in lives lost and in hardships borne. ... That's what I'm opposed to. A dumb war. A rash war." But Knickerbocker says the President now "might have to reengage militarily in Iraq two years after" he removed all US combat troops from the country.

Obama's Responsibility For US Troops' Exit From Iraq In 2011 Debated. On CNN's State of the Union, Sen. Lindsey Graham said, "The Obama administration wanted to say 'I ended the war in Iraq, I'm going to end the war in Afghanistan. ... I blame President Obama mightily for a hands-off policy when it comes to Iraq." In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (6/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Paul Bremer, who served as President Bush's envoy to Iraq after the US invasion in 2003, blames the instability in Iraq on President Obama's decision to withdraw all US combat forces at the end of 2011.

Colin H. Kahl, the Director of the Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security, and former deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Middle East, in a piece for Politico Magazine (6/16, 633K) titled, "No, Obama Didn't Lose Iraq," says that in 2011, "at great political risk," President Obama "approved negotiations with the Iraqi government to allow a force of around 5,000 American troops to stay in Iraq." However, according to Kahl, "as commander in chief, he was unwilling to strand U.S. forces in a hostile, anti-American environment without the legal protections and immunities required to ensure soldiers didn't end up in Iraqi jails."

Fred Hiatt, in his column for the Washington Post (6/16, 4.22M), writes that while "some argue that" the President "had no choice" but to remove all US troops "because Iraq wouldn't give legal immunity to U.S. soldiers," he believes that "if Obama had really wanted an agreement, and been willing to offer more than a few thousand soldiers, he could have negotiated one." According to Hiatt, "What no one disputes is that Obama was content with the zero option and sanguine about Iraq's prospects."

Retired General: Obama Needs To Send Petraeus Back To Iraq. In an article titled, "Obama Ignored General's

Pleas To Keep U.S. Forces In Iraq," the Washington Times (6/15, Scarborough, 455K) reports that retired Army Gen. John M. Keane, "who advised commanders in Iraq and helped devise the 2007 troop surge," is urging President Obama to "send retired Army Gen. David H. Petraeus back to Iraq, this time to provide an assessment to" the President and "advise" Prime Minister Maliki.

OBAMA POKES FUN AT CLIMATE CHANGE SKEPTICS AT UC IRVINE. The Christian Science Monitor (6/16, Seppenfield, 566K) reports that on Saturday, the President "lobbed a new grenade over the partisan wall," when at during the UC Irvine commencement address he "likened climate-change deniers in Congress to people who thought the moon was made of cheese and called them a 'fairly serious threat to everybody's future.'" The CSM acknowledges the President's frustration with Congress, but says that with his Saturday comments, he is "poking fun at almost half of America." The CSM says that the "fact is that 43 percent of Americans don't agree, and another 9 percent aren't sure, according to a new Bloomberg poll."

The Huffington Post (6/14, Bobic, 11.54M) also reports on the President's Saturday comments, saying he "slammed pundits and members of Congress who refuse to confront climate change in drought-stricken California on Saturday, calling them a 'fairly serious threat to everybody's future.'" Obama said, "Today's Congress, though, is full of folks who stubbornly and automatically reject the scientific evidence about climate change. They'll tell you it's a hoax, or a fad." Taking issue with critics who say he isn't a scientist, the President said, "I'm not a scientist either, but we've got some good ones at NASA."

Analysis: Facts Often Blurred In Power Plant Debate. The AP (6/16, Lederman) reports that the President's "new pollution limits for power plants have set off an avalanche of information about what the rules will cost, how they will affect your health and how far they will go toward curbing climate change," but "almost none of it is based in reality." However, that isn't "stopping the White House, environmental groups and the energy industry from serving up speculation in heaping doses." The piece looks at a variety of issues, and tries to judge a variety of claims by various groups and politicians.

FACTORY CLOSURES SAID TO FORCE EXPANSION OF WAGE GAP. The AP (6/16) reports that the "downfall" of US manufacturing has "done more than displace workers and leave communities searching for ways to rebuild devastated economies;" it has also become a "key factor in the widening income gap between the rich and everyone else." The AP says that there is no lack of jobs, but "gains often come at either the highest end of the wage spectrum — or the lowest." Focusing on Pennsylvania, the AP says that the state lost 258,000 "middle-income factory jobs" between 2001 and 2011, but the state "added jobs at the lower end of the wage spectrum — in health care and social services — and at the highest end, in sectors like management and finance."

San Jose's Minimum Wage Increase Considered A Success. USA Today (6/16, Davidson, 5.82M) reports that interviews with "workers, businesses and industry officials" show that San Jose's increase of its minimum wage from $8 to $10 two years ago "has improved the lives of employees while imposing minimal costs on employers." USA Today says that the city's "experience could help inform a debate over a controversial proposal backed by President Obama to raise the federal minimum wage by a roughly similar amount – from $7.25 to $10.10 an hour – that remains stalled in Congress because of Republican opposition." Still, Berkeley economics professor Michael Reich said that San Jose "is one of the nation's most prosperous cities, possibly making it easier for businesses to raise prices without suffering a drop-off in sales."

Fed Facing Decisions On Interest Rates. The Wall Street Journal (6/16, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that when Fed policy makers meet this week, they need to decide on a strategy for increasing interest rates. The weak recovery has made the normal procedure of raising rates this long after a recession a questionable move.

New Factors Raising Market Concerns. In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (6/16, A1, Friedman, Strumpf, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the combination of potential civil war in Iraq and the unexpected primary loss of Eric Cantor has rattled investors, resulting in a substantial market decline last week. Despite the recent market rises, those factors, combined with impending Fed action, is raising concerns that the markets may be heading for a period of unsteadiness.

Samuelson: Unique Nature Of Great Recession Making Recovery An "Enigma." In his column for the

Washington Post (6/16, 4.22M), Robert J. Samuelson says that the financial markets "are sending mixed — and conceivably contradictory — signals on the economic outlook." Stocks are "routinely setting records," while "interest rates on bonds have dropped," and both "messages can't logically be correct." Samuelson says that "post-crisis economic commentary has consistently misjudged the outlook," underestimating "the crisis's psychological effects on consumers and business managers." The economy remains "an enigma" because the "past is less a guide to the future because the financial crisis and Great Recession are, in living memory, unique events."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Fighting Terrorism With More Money."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (6/16, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that the President's proposed Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund "already seems too heavily dependent on military responses." Noting that "it appears that the new program is intended to be run out of the Pentagon," the Times argues that this "would be a mistake," adding that it "must also address the social and political drivers of instability and involve civilians as well as military officials." The Times says there must be an emphasis on "good governance" and there must be "investment in community projects, education and moderate groups that build civil society and discourage extremism."

"A Cramped View Of Antitrust Laws." The New York Times (6/16, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that a recent legal opinion in a case pitting Motorola Mobility against one of its suppliers, AU Optronics of Taiwan, could "severely limit the enforcement" of US antitrust laws "against foreign cartels that supply critical components used in cellphones, computers and other products Americans buy." A three-judge panel of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that US antitrust laws "cannot be applied to foreign companies as long as they do not deliver components to the United States – even if those parts are later used in finished products sold in the American market." The Times argues that US antitrust law "allows antitrust cases in situations where anticompetitive activities overseas have a 'direct, substantial, and reasonably foreseeable effect' on American commerce, a standard that was certainly met for the 42 percent of the displays that Motorola used in phones sold in the United States."

"A Boy's Execution, 70 Years Later."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Eyes On Nov. 4."*** The Washington Post (6/16, 4.22M) editorializes about the expected election this year in Washington, DC for the city's attorney general, "which until now has been an appointed position." The Post argues that "how democratic the contest will be remains very much up in the air," noting that a "proposal is being floated that would essentially allow party insiders to select candidates for the Nov. 4 ballot." The Post urges the DC Council to "summarily reject this misbegotten idea," and to allow DC's independent elections board to "set the rules for a fair and orderly contest."

"More Deadly Than We Knew." An editorial in the Washington Post (6/16, 4.22M) argues that while Saudi Arabia said it was closely monitoring the outbreak of MERS in 2012 and 2013, "events this year have begun to pull back the curtain on a disease outbreak that was — and remains — dangerous and not fully explained or explored." Noting that the Saudi Ministry of Health now says the number of Saudi cases "was undercounted by 113, or about 20 percent," the Post says this was "an alarming systemic failure and speaks volumes about such a closed society." The Post argues that secrecy "greatly multiplied the danger of the disease," and the "first line of defense in the months ahead must be absolute transparency."

"Student Loan Fixes That Make Sense." In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/16, Board, 4.22M) says that the Senate was smart to back away from Sen. Elizabeth Warren's (D) plan to allow some student loan holders to refinance at lower rates. Instead, the Post endorses the President's plan for "fixing the government's income-based repayment system." He says that "carefully adjusting graduates' monthly payments to their incomes would be a more progressive method." Noting that the President is expanding the existing "pay-as-you-go program," and encourages Congress to do more.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Standing To Sue Obama."*** The Wall Street Journal (6/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that efforts to sue President Obama for executive over-reach have been stymied by legal arguments that lawmakers bringing such suits would lack standing because they have not suffered legal

injury. The Journal notes that some legal experts have created a legal theory that would allow courts to hear political suits between two branches of government. Noting that individual lawmakers may lack standing to sue, the Journal contends that Congress can sue the Administration as an institution, claiming constitutional injury.

"The Next Afghan President." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (6/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues that while Americans see Afghanistan as hopeless, Saturday's election shows that Afghans want to move away from religious extremism and ethnic violence and are deserving of international support past 2016.

"Tehran's French Backers." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) criticizes journalists for defending French bank BNP Paribas, which is accused of violating US sanctions against Iran and Syria and argues that despite pressure being put on the US from French officials about the case, if French companies want to do business in the US, they must follow the law.

"Colombia's Peace Gamble." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (6/16, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes Colombia's success over the last decade due to free-market reforms and a fight against domestic terrorists, and argues that by reelecting President Juan Manuel Santos, Colombians are gambling that his peace efforts will be successful.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Iraq Militants Claim Soldier Massacre; US, Iran Near Talks
Medical Merger Part Of "Tax Inversion" Wave
Economists Debate Whether Technology Will Save The World
Investors Struggle To Digest Fresh Fears

New York Times:
Militants Claim Mass Execution Of Iraqi Forces
Obama Pushes Iraqis To Mend Sectarian Rifts
VA Punished Critics On Staff, Doctors Assert
Mother's Mind: First of Two Articles: "Thinking Of Ways To Harm Her"
Population Shifts Turning All Politics National
Where Dishonesty Is Best Policy, US Soccer Falls Short

Washington Post:
US Reduces Staff At Embassy In Iraq As Another City Falls
From Barry, A New Tell-Enough Memoir
How Are Fans Watching World Cup? Minus Cable.
Beat Of America's Heart
In Whip Race, Tea Party Has Its Best Shot At Leadership

Financial Times:
Iraqi Insurgents Take New Towns In North
IMF Discusses Third Way Over Bailouts
Cost Of Insuring Bank Defaults Plunges

Washington Times:
Common Core Goes To Heart Of Campaigns
Pressure On Obama As Iraq Worsens
President Ignored General's Pleas To Keep American Forces In Iraq
Congressman Seeks Holder's Impeachment
Warren Leads Own Wing Of Democratic Party
Recovery Slow And Week, But Has Staying Power

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Iraq-Violence; Iraq-ISIS; California Wildfire; Severe Weather; Airline Incidents; Watergate Garage Demolition; Royal Family Castle.
CBS: Iraq-ISIS; Iraq-Violence; Iraq-US Perspective; Israeli Missing Teens; Brazil-Protests; Senate Transportation Bill; Watergate Parking Garage Demolition.
NBC: Preempted by golf.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Iraq-ISIS; Casey Kasem Death; California Wildfires; NBA Finals.
CBS: Iraq-ISIS; Kenya-Militant Attack; Pakistan Bombings; Casey Kasem Death; US Open Winner; NBA Finals.
NPR: Iraq-ISIS; Iraq-Embassy Security; Israeli Missing Teens; SCOTUS-Corporation Religious Rights; Casey Kasem Death; California Wildfire; NBA Finals; US Open Winner.
FOX: Iraq-ISIS; California Wildfire; NBA Finals.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Returns To Washington, DC from Palm Springs, California.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Travels to Brazil, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic; attends the June 16th match in Natal between the United States and Ghana; travels to Brasilia to meet with President Rousseff and Vice President Michel Temer.
US Senate: 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. FOSTER YOUTH ROUNDTABLE — Roundtable Discussion on Financial Literacy for Foster Youth hosted by the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth and the Senate Caucus on Financial and Economic Literacy. Participants include: Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., co-chairs of the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth; Eddye Vanderkwaak of Ankeny, Iowa, Jim Casey Young Fellow; Kaylia Ervin, a Foster Youth Intern with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute; Lisa Guillette, Executive Director of Foster Forward; Carolyn Schulte, Credit Builders Alliance; Brian F. Doran, Region Executive of NY Metro Region and Director of Governmental Affairs. Location: 325 Russell.

2 p.m. — The Senate will convene and begin a period of morning business. 5:30 p.m.: Proceed to executive session to consider judicial branch nominations.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: June 16 – 17. CATO – FUTURE OF FINANCIAL MARKETS — After Dodd-Frank: The Future of Financial Markets. Participants: Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman, House Financial Services Committee; Richard Kovacevich, Retired Chairman and CEO, Wells Fargo & Company; Tyler Cowen, General Director, Mercatus Center at George Mason University; Sharon Brown-Hruska, Vice President, National Economic Research Associates and Visiting Professor of Finance, Tulane University; John Coates, Professor of Law and Economics, Harvard Law School; Daniel M. Gallagher, Commissioner, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; Josh Rosner, Author, Reckless Endangerment, Graham Fisher & Co.; and more. RSVP: events@cato.org, fax (202) 371-0841, or call (202) 789-5229 by 10:00AM on Tuesday, July 15, 2014. http://www.cato.org/events/after-dodd-frank-future-financial-markets?utm_sourceCato+Institute+Emails&utm_campaign580dce1ef7-events&utm_mediumemail&utm_term0_395878584c-580dce1ef7-141560838&mc_cid580dce1ef7&mc_eid8296139f13 Location: 16th: The Newseum 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 17th: Cato, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

June 16 – 17. US. RUSSIAN RELATIONS – TWO DAY EVENT — US – Russia relations at crossroads. Live from Moscow. Capitol Hill event on the 16th; followed by a live teleconference with speakers in Moscow on the 17th. REGISTER AT: www. RussiaHouse.org/wrf.php For more information: http://press.org/events/us—russia-relations-crossroads-live-moscow 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Teleconference with Moscow event at the National Press Club. Representatives from Russia and Ukraine: Sergei Kislyak, Russian Ambassador to Washington (Opening Remarks); James Carden, Contributing Editor to the American Conservative, former Advisor to the State Department; Steven Cohen, Professor, New York University & Princeton; Leonid Gozman, President, Union of Right Forces movement (SPS); Thomas Graham, Partner, Kissinger Associates (TBC); Robert Legvold,

Professor, Columbia University; Edward Lozansky, President, American University in Moscow; Jack Matlock, Former US Ambassador to Moscow; Wayne Merry, Former State Department and Pentagon Official; Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State, MN; Matthew Rojansky, Director, Kennan Institute; Michael Stopford, Former NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Strategic Communications. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Speakers: Sergei Kislyak, Russian Ambassador to Washington (Opening Remarks); James Carden, Contributing Editor to the American Conservative, former Advisor to the State Department; Steven Cohen, Professor, New York University & Princeton; Leonid Gozman, President, Union of Right Forces movement (SPS); Thomas Graham, Partner, Kissinger Associates (TBC); Robert Legvold, Professor, Columbia University; Edward Lozansky, President, American University in Moscow; Jack Matlock, Former US Ambassador to Moscow; Wayne Merry, Former State Department and Pentagon Official; Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State, MN; Matthew Rojansky – Director, Kennan Institute; Michael Stopford, Former NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Strategic Communications. Location: 902 Hart Senate Office Building.

VILSACK PRESS CALL – BRUSSELS — 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will hold a conference call with U.S. reporters to discuss his trip to Europe, the expansion of agricultural trade, the importance of agricultures role in the U.S.-European Union (EU) Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP), and the benefits the trade agreement will have to both the American and European economies. DIAL IN: U.S. Participants: (800) 230-1074; International Participants: +1-612-234-9959. Access Code: 329609.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All late-night talk shows were in re-run.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Jun 17, 2014 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

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+ Secretary Jewell To Announce Major Milestone For Offshore Wind Energy In Massachusetts.
+ States Sign Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
+ Kia'aina's Senate Confirmation Still Stalled.
+ California Fire Threatens 500 Homes.
+ Additional Coverage Of President Obama's Visit To Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.
+ Interior Criticized For Abetting Kentucky's Land Grab For Mines.

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+ NPS Offering Kayaking Trips This Summer At Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.
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+ Man Accused Of Shooting Two Officers Identified.

Fish and Wildlife Service:
+ US Officials Crack Down On Wildlife-product Trafficking.
+ Federal Government, Ranchers Team To Help Wildlife Along Border.
+ Fourth New Mexico County Joins Lawsuit Over Prairie Chicken.
+ University Of New Hampshire Receives Funds For White-nose Syndrome Research.
+ Burying Beetles Being Reintroduced In Missouri.
+ Study Shows Wolves Have Ripple Effect On Ecosystems.
+ New York's Lake George Becomes "Model" With Mandatory Inspections Of Every Boat.
+ Phosphorous Pollution Still A Concern In Chesapeake Bay.
+ Two Ducklings Hatch Near McPherson Square Metro.
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+ Denver's Approach To Feral Cats Criticized.

US Geological Survey:
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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR GIVES $102 MILLION IN STORM PREVENTION TO 11 STATES. The E&E Daily (6/16) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced "$102.7 million in grants this morning to help communities along the Atlantic Coast cope with storms like Superstorm Sandy." The grants will "help fund more than 50 projects focusing on activities like wetland and sand dune restoration." Jewell said, "We are taking the lessons learned from this natural disaster to help local communities strengthen natural barriers between themselves and major storms such as Sandy that can cause major flooding and other damage." She added, "Together with our partners we are stabilizing beaches, restoring wetlands and improving the hydrology of coastal areas, both protecting local residents from the next big storm while creating jobs and restoring habitat for wildlife."

The AP (6/17) reports that the Interior department said "the projects will restore an estimated 6,634 acres of wetlands and marshes; 225 acres of beach; 364 acres of tidal buffers, and 16 miles of streams." The efforts will also "open 287 miles of streams to fish passage, and restore 147 acres of flood plains." The Interior department said that "the projects will create 600 jobs in local communities, and that young people and veterans will be given

special consideration in hiring." Additional coverage was provided by the AP (6/17), the AP (6/17), the AP (6/17), the AP (6/17), and the AP (6/17).

The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (6/17, 422K), the Houston Chronicle (6/17, Parry, 2.23M), the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (6/17, 31K), the Roanoke (VA) Times (6/17, 264K), the Asbury Park (NJ) Press (6/16, 372K), the Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard (6/17, 859K), the Nashua (NH) Telegraph (6/17, 55K), the San Antonio Express-News (6/17, 718K), the Missoulian (MT) (6/17, 122K), NBC News (6/17, 7.5M), the Mail Online (UK) (6/17, 2.97M), the Guardian (UK) (6/16, 1.59M), KMPH-TV Fresno, CA (6/17, 3K), KIRO-TV Seattle (6/17, 62K), WSB-TV Atlanta (6/17, 167K), KATV-TV Little Rock, AR (6/17, 41K), WLNE-TV Providence, RI (6/17, 4K), KWTX-TV Waco, TX (6/17, 48K), WZVN-TV Fort Myers, FL (6/17, 1K), WVIR-TV Charlottesville, VA (6/17, 12K), WXOW-TV LaCrosse, WI (6/17, 2K), KOTA-TV Rapid City, SD (6/17, 890), KHOU-TV Houston (6/17, 125K), and KTUL-TV Tulsa, OK (6/17, 28K) also picked up AP coverage.

Also covering the story are The Hill (6/17, Cama, 237K), the New York Post (6/17, 2.77M), the New York Daily News (6/17, 4.36M), the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (6/17, 333K), the Newport News (VA) Daily Press (6/17, 206K), the Shore (NJ) News Today (6/17), the Wilmington (DE) News Journal (6/16, 288K), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (6/17, 51K), the Providence (RI) Journal (6/16, 415K), the Vineland (NJ) Daily Journal (6/16, 46K), the New Jersey Local News (6/17, 653K), Newsday (6/17, 1.5M), KYW-TV Philadelphia (6/16, 45K), and WDEL-AM Wilmington, DE (6/17, 2K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ANNOUNCE MAJOR MILESTONE FOR OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY IN MASSACHUSETTS. The reNews (6/17) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will announce a major milestone for offshore wind energy in Massachusetts tomorrow, according to the Interior Department. The BOEM has been "preparing an environmental assessment and proposed sale notice for a multi-gigawatt site on the outer continental shelf."

Officials To Discuss Offshore Wind Energy Sites. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (6/16, 101K) reports that "state and federal officials will hold two meetings next week to discuss the next steps for leasing tracts of ocean south of the Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket for offshore wind energy projects." The article notes that "the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center will host officials from the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for the meetings June 23 in Vineyard Haven and June 24 in New Bedford."

STATES SIGN CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT. Reuters (6/17, 2K) reports that an agreement to restore the Chesapeake Bay was signed by federal, state, and local officials on Monday. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was signed by the governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray; Ronald Miller, chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission; and Gina McCarthy, the administrator of the EPA. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe warned that the program could only succeed with more money from federal government. McAuliffe said he had met Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and requested $50 million to help fund the regional pact.

KIA'AINA'S SENATE CONFIRMATION STILL STALLED. The Pacific News Center (6/17) reports that Esther Kia'aina "continues to wait for her Senate confirmation as the next OIA Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs and it looks like she may now have to wait until after the July 4th Congressional recess." The article notes that the White House is "focused on judicial and high-level cabinet appointments, ahead of the November elections, when Senate control could shift to the GOP."

CALIFORNIA FIRE THREATENS 500 HOMES. The E&E Daily (6/16) reports that "a fire burning in and around the Sequoia National Forest has destroyed at least two structures and led authorities to call for the evacuation of around 500 homes in central California." The Shirley fire "started Friday and by yesterday had scorched through 3.1 square miles of trees and brush northeast of Bakersfield, Calif." The blaze was "only 10 percent contained" as of Sunday night.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S VISIT TO STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION. Additional coverage of the President Obama's Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota was provided by the Indian Country Today Media Network (6/16, 45K), the Devils Lake (ND) Journal (6/16, 14K), the Fort Wayne (IN) Journal-Gazette (6/14, 172K), WEVO-FM Concord, NH (6/17, 2K), and KERA-TV Dallas (6/17, 1K).

INTERIOR CRITICIZED FOR ABETTING KENTUCKY'S LAND GRAB FOR MINES. The Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (6/17, 395K) editorializes that "rather than even thinking about appealing a federal judge's ruling in Kentucky," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the Office of Surface Mining "should be apologizing" for "abetting this state's three-decades long violation of the US Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act by permitting strip mining without the consent of all the owners of the land." The paper lauds US District Judge Amul R. Thapar for his "ruling in favor of a Pike County family whose property is being stripped without its consent by a subsidiary of Tampa-based TECO Energy, which controls only a minority interest in the land." The eitorial notes that "the Interior secretary is responsible for ensuring that a state's enforcement meets the minimum requirements of the federal surface mining law," but "the Interior Department's lawyers responded to the Pike County landowners' lawsuit by saying, in effect, whatever Kentucky says is OK by us." The paper urges Jewell to "use this case to educate herself about how her agency's Office of Surface Mining is enabling the leveling of one of the world's most diverse ecosystems and has fallen far short in its duty to protect Appalachia's people and environment from surface mining's harms."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NATIONAL MALL MAKEOVER MAY FORCE BIG EVENTS TO MOVE. WRC-TV Washington (6/17, 312K) reports that some big events on the National Mall may be forced to move, "as the grass is in the midst of a multimillion dollar makeover." The NPS is "rebuilding the National Mall's turf, and with new turf comes new restrictions on use to protect the grass." The article notes that "the Library of Congress' annual September book festival is moving to the convention center," and "next year, the Folklife Festival may move to nearby streets."

WUSA-TV Washington (6/16, 95K) reports that the NPS has reached a deal with the Folklife Festival. The NPS said "it would allow the Smithsonian to close Jefferson and Madison Drives to provide additional space for tents and other activities so they do not destroy the new grass."

NPS OFFERING KAYAKING TRIPS THIS SUMMER AT BIGHORN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The Missoulian (MT) (6/17, 122K) reports that "starting last year and expanding this summer," the NPS, which manages the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, is "offering sit-on-top kayaking courses for free." Christy Fleming, chief of interpretation for the recreation area, said, "The kayaks are a way for people who don't have money to take a boat trip to see the lake."

CEDAR CREEK AND BELLE GROVE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ANNOUNCES SUMMER RANGER PROGRAMS. The Augusta (VA) Free Press (6/17, 1K) reports that Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park is "once again offering a full-slate of ranger-conducted programs throughout this summer." According to the article, "programs will be offered on a daily basis beginning Saturday, June 14 and continue through August 16."

FIVE ENTITIES IN THE RUNNING TO RECEIVE YELLOWSTONE BISON. The AP (6/17) reports that Montana wildlife officials on Monday "released a short list of five entities that could receive bison from Yellowstone National Park under an experimental program to establish new herds of the animals." Although "ten entities have expressed interested in receiving the animals," the list was "narrowed to five proposals based on guidance from a panel of state, federal and tribal officials that met last week, said Ron Aasheim, spokesman for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks." The proposals are by the Fort Peck Indian Reservation's Assiniboine and Sioux tribes, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Cherokee Nation, and the American Prairie Reserve.

Bureau of Land Management:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF BUNDY DISPUTE. In continuing coverage of the dispute with Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, NPR (6/17, Siegler, 519K) reports "for now, the BLM isn't talking." A spokesman said "only that the agency is working to ensure that those who broke the law are held accountable." However, "some former federal land managers say the agency's silence isn't helping the situation." Meanwhile, Bundy "promises his militia

supporters will also return in force" if "the federal government comes back."

BLM PLANS TO USE BIRTH CONTROL ON WILD HORSES IN UTAH. The AP (6/17) reports tat BLM officials in Utah "plan to inject 130 wild horses with contraceptives next winter as part of effort to control the population." Gus Warr of the BLM in Utah says "the estimated 4,300 wild horses in the state is more than double the appropriate number." However, "the group Protect Mustangs, which disputes the BLM's assertion that there are too many wild horses, denounced the plan to use contraceptives and instead advocated that the herds be left alone to self-stabilize their numbers."

BLM TARGETS SPREAD OF FIRE-PRONE TREES IN PINE NUTS. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (6/16, 166K) reports that the BLM is "embarking on a multiyear efforts, likely costing in excess of $10 million, to halt or at least slow the spread of pinyon-juniper across the Pine Nuts, returning the rugged landscape to something closer to nature's intent." According to the article, "with work slated to begin this year and continue for another 10 to 15, the BLM plans an ambitious forest restoration project across nearly 40 square miles of the Pine Nuts, which straddle the boundary of Douglas and Lyon counties." Brian Buttazoni, planning and environmental coordinator for the BLM's Carson City District, said, "There are some trends in play, with some declining conditions, and this will hopefully reverse some of those trends. This will hopefully turn that around."

MAN ACCUSED OF SHOOTING TWO OFFICERS IDENTIFIED. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/16, 687K) reports that "authorities have identified the man who allegedly shot two law enforcement officers in Nevada County on Saturday as 60-year-old Brent Douglas Cole." Cole is accused of shooting a California Highway Patrol officer and a BLM ranger in the area of the South Yuba River campground in rural Nevada County.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

US OFFICIALS CRACK DOWN ON WILDLIFE-PRODUCT TRAFFICKING. The AP (6/16) reports that "federal officials say the US government is cracking down on the illegal trafficking of wild animal products across borders — especially through New York's Kennedy Airport, where some of the imports may be linked to terrorists." At a news conference Monday, US Trade Representative Michael Froman said "such trade is a threat to global security because it's driven by criminal elements." He said "some terrorist groups have used profits from items such as rhinoceros horns and elephant tusks to finance their activities." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by FOX News (6/16, 6.72M), the Bristol (TN/VA) Herald Courier (6/17, 81K), and the Uniontown (PA) Herald-Standard (6/17, 52K).

Also reporting on the story is Reuters (6/17, O'Donnell).

New York Lawmakers Praised For Supporting Legislation To Ban Ivory Sales. In an op-ed for the Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard (6/17, 859K), John F. Calvelli, executive vice president for public affairs at the Wildlife Conservation Society and Director of the 96 Elephants campaign, praises New York state lawmakers for "helping to put a stop to the senseless slaughter of elephants by passing legislation to ban the sale of ivory." He notes that "in a near-unanimous vote (104-1) this week, the State Assembly passed A. 8824 to ban the sale of ivory." Also, "a companion bill (S. 7194), introduced by state Sen. Andrew Lanza (R-Staten Island), is expected to gain broad support in the Senate."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, RANCHERS TEAM TO HELP WILDLIFE ALONG BORDER. The E&E Daily (6/16) reports that "ranchers and the federal government have joined forces to preserve land on the Texas-Mexico border that's teeming with wildlife." The Interior Department "recently spent $3 million on a private ranch near Raymondville, Texas, in order to protect the ocelot, an endangered wild cat whose historical range between Mexico and the Lone Star State has been obstructed by the construction of a new border fence in the area." Officials said that "the ranch – which is also home to other rare species including the sheep frog and northern cat-eyed snake – will be added to the 90,000-acre Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge."

Also reporting on the story is the Houston Chronicle (6/17, 2.23M).

FOURTH NEW MEXICO COUNTY JOINS LAWSUIT OVER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. The AP (6/17) reports that Lea County in southeastern New Mexico joined three other counties in the state last week in a lawsuit fighting the

listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species.

Rep. Steve Pearce said in a statement that "he applauds the New Mexico counties filing the lawsuit." He said, "The Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to cater to environmental groups and disregard science will devastate New Mexico's way of life. New Mexicans will pay the price in lost jobs, industry, ranching and oil and gas production."

Also covering the story are the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (6/17, 282K), the Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus (6/17, 18K), the Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus (6/17, 18K), and the Newsmax (6/13, 486K).

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE RECEIVES FUNDS FOR WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME RESEARCH. The AP (6/17) reports that the University of New Hampshire is "getting some grant money to do research on white-nose syndrome, a fungal infection that has killed hibernating bats in eastern North America." Researchers are receiving nearly $261,000 from the FWS, "which announced $1.8 million in grants for eight projects Monday." The article notes that "projects include studies to better understand bat immune responses to white-nose syndrome, investigations into methods to control the disease, and ways to examine the molecular infrastructure of the fungus that causes the disease."

BURYING BEETLES BEING REINTRODUCED IN MISSOURI. The E&E Daily (6/16) reports on the reintroduction of American burying beetles in Missouri. Earlier this month, St. Louis Zoo officials "introduced 168 beetles to Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie in southwest Missouri," and "they plan to reintroduce 180 more tomorrow." The article notes that "it is the third year of reintroductions since the zoo, Nature Conservancy, Fish and Wildlife Service and Missouri Department of Conservation partnered in an effort to re-establish the insect in Missouri."

STUDY SHOWS WOLVES HAVE RIPPLE EFFECT ON ECOSYSTEMS. The E&E Daily (6/16) reports that a study released in the Journal of Animal Ecology on Monday "unearthed historical fur trade records to find that having more wolves in an area controls coyote numbers and bolsters the number of red foxes." The data could have "implications for disputes over coyote control as well as the reintroduction of wild gray wolves into different states." William Ripple, a professor of ecology at Oregon State University and one of the authors of the study, said, "It's another piece to the puzzle that should be considered that wolves work as a natural controlling measure over coyotes."

NEW YORK'S LAKE GEORGE BECOMES "MODEL" WITH MANDATORY INSPECTIONS OF EVERY BOAT. The E&E Daily (6/16) reports that New York's Lake George has "become the first lake in the East to require inspections of every boat and trailer for invasive species." The article notes that "the inspection stations, free for boaters, will decontaminate any boats found to be harboring species such as zebra mussels or Eurasian watermilfoil."

PHOSPHOROUS POLLUTION STILL A CONCERN IN CHESAPEAKE BAY. The E&E Daily (6/16) reports that "phosphorus pollution continues to plague the Chesapeake Bay three decades after restoration efforts formally began." In the past decade, "progress has flatlined in reducing levels of the pollutant, one of two tied to the algae blooms and dead zones that kill fish and shellfish by starving them for oxygen." The article notes that "pollution levels are actually increasing in 16 percent of the rivers and streams monitored by the US Geological Survey."

TWO DUCKLINGS HATCH NEAR MCPHERSON SQUARE METRO. The Washington Post (6/17, Zauzmer, 4.22M) reports that "after being plagued by a thief, apparently human, who repeatedly took eggs from her nest," a mallard nesting near the McPherson Square Metro station "saw two of her three remaining eggs hatch on Monday morning." City Wildlife reported the theft of the eggs to the FWS, saying that tampering with a migratory bird's nest is a federal crime. However, "on Monday morning, the nest monitors met the disappearance of two more eggs with pleasure, not consternation," because "this time, those eggs had turned into baby ducks."

RESEARCHERS STUDYING THREATS TO RARE WYOMING LOONS. The AP (6/17) reports that "researchers are trying to determine why the loon population in Wyoming is dwindling and what can be done to stop it." The FWS, the NPS, the Biodiversity Research Institute of Maine, Wyoming Game and Fish, and the National Forest Service are participating in the five-year, $6.5 million study, funded by the Ricketts Conservation Fund.

DENVER'S APPROACH TO FERAL CATS CRITICIZED. In her column for the Denver Post (6/17, Caldwell,

940K), Alicia Caldwell criticizes an effort by Denver and several animal welfare groups to trap feral cats, neuter them and return them to their territory. She agrees with a group of scientists who authored a commentary published in 2010 in Conservation Biology arguing against the trap-and-neuter strategy.

US Geological Survey:

USGS REPORT: NEW HAMPSHIRE WELL WATER CONTAINS METALS. The AP (6/17) reports that a USGS report says "about a third of well water samples from southeast New Hampshire contained metals at concentrations that exceed federal standards." According to the article, "researchers sampled water from 232 private bedrock wells from 2012 to 2013, testing for levels of naturally occuring arsenic, uranium, manganese, iron and lead," and "three in 10 had higher levels than those established by the US Environmental Protection Agency."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM DEVELOPING PLAN TO SAVE GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE IN COLORADO, UTAH. The E&E Daily (6/16) reports that the BLM is "developing a sweeping plan to protect the Gunnison sage grouse in Colorado and Utah that involves amending land management plans in both states to install buffer zones around sensitive habitat, impose seasonal restrictions on oil and gas drilling and livestock grazing, and close roads and trails in occupied grouse habitat." The plan "builds on internal guidance issued last summer by BLM's Colorado State Office instructing employees on how best to manage occupied habitat for the Gunnison sage grouse." However, the new plan "significantly expands on that guidance by proposing to amend up to 11 resource management plans (RMPs) covering 800,000 acres of Gunnison sage grouse habitat in both states."

The Denver Post (6/17, Finley, 940K) reports that energy industry officials criticized the proposal. Western Energy Alliance vice president Kathleen Sgamma said that federal land managers "are putting in place very restrictive measures that will impact jobs and economic development in communities without good data showing that what they're doing is going to be effective for the species."

DEAL REPORTEDLY STRUCK ON LEASES IN COLORADO'S ROAN PLATEAU. The E&E Daily (6/16) reports that "a decadelong battle over whether to drill for gas atop" the Roan Plateau in Colorado "could be nearing a resolution, with environmentalists, industry, Colorado's governor and the congressional delegation reportedly backing a proposed settlement." According to the article, "attorneys representing environmental groups and industry have reportedly reached a proposed settlement that would have the Interior Department buy back some of the Roan leases and alter its preparation of a revised RMP." The deal would also "accelerate the production of gas elsewhere, create jobs, maintain most of the 'best leases' and provide regulatory certainty for all involved."

BLM RECORDS SHOW INSPECTION LAPSE IN OIL, GAS WELLS IN CALIFORNIA. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/16, 687K) reports that "federal officials in charge of overseeing the drilling of new oil wells on public land in California let three years pass without inspecting some high-priority sites, according to public records." The BLM records say "31 of 99 high-priority wells drilled from fiscal year 2009 to 2012 in the state's oil-rich Central Valley were not inspected during that period, the most recently available records provided by the bureau." However, "a BLM official in Sacramento disputes the number of uninspected wells, saying that bookkeeping errors have misrepresented the problem." Spokeswoman Dana Wilson said, "The BLM takes its responsibilities seriously and is continuing to improve our internal recording processes and our ability to inspect all high priority drilling operations to ensure they are done safely and responsibly."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON PROPOSED NATURAL GAS WELLS NEAR VERNAL. The Deseret (UT) News (6/17, 610K) reports that the BLM is accepting public input "on an environmental assessment of a proposed gas well project 40 miles southwest of Vernal." The bureau's Utah Vernal Field Office is "presenting the assessment of Koch Exploration Co.'s proposal to drill up to 135 wells on up to 37 existing well pads in an area of around 340 acres of land."

Offshore Energy Development:

BP WINS FIRST PENTAGON CONTRACT SINCE SANCTIONS LIFTED. The Wall Street Journal (6/17, Cameron, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that late Friday BP was granted its first new Pentagon contract since March, when the US government removed sanctions imposed against it following the Deepwater Horizon spill. BP beat two other bidders to win a $43 million natural gas deal, its first new Defense Department supply deal in about 18 months.

NOBLE ACQUIRES 50% STAKE IN BP GULF OF MEXICO LEASES. FuelFix (6/16, 7K) reports that on Monday Noble Energy announced it will acquire 50% of BP's interest in 17 Gulf of Mexico exploration leases. The announcement didn't include payment details. In a statement BP said, "As part of BP's commitment to the region, where it is the largest investor and leaseholder, we look forward to working together to explore potential opportunities within these assets in coming years."

FLUOR SUES BP OVER ALLEGATIONS IT BROKE DEEPWATER HORIZON CLEANUP CONTRACT. FuelFix (6/16, Eaton, 7K) reports that Fluor Corp. is suing BP over allegations that BP is in violation of an agreement to repay legal costs that Fluor incurred from "workers' compensation claims related to cleanup efforts" following the Deepwater Horizon spill. A Fluor subsidiary agreed to help BP clean Deepwater Horizon pollution in 2010 and trained "unemployed Florida and Alabama residents to restore the beaches, along with other services." However, Fluor says a condition of agreeing to help was that BP had to "agree to protect it against legal costs."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR TO HOLD LAKE BERRYESSA COMMUNITY FORUM. The Vacaville (CA) Reporter (6/17, 87K) reports that the BOR will "hold a meeting of the Lake Berryessa Community Forum on Wednesday, June 18."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA CHIEF WASHBURN ANNOUNCES INDIAN HIRING INITIATIVE. The Native News Online (6/17) reports, "On the heels of President Obama's historic visit yesterday to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced the implementation of a new initiative to hire more American Indian and Alaska Native veterans" for Indian Affairs. Washburn said, "In building a 21st century workforce, we recognize the importance of attracting and retaining veterans in this organization."

Also reporting on the story is the Jamestown (ND) Sun (6/17, 3K).

BIA CONSIDERING NEW RULES TO STREAMLINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY REQUESTS. The Hill (6/17, Devaney, 237K) reports that the BIA is "considering new rules that would speed up the process by which companies can request rights-of-way to use Indian land, the agency said Monday." The BIA said "it is looking to modernize the process by establishing a timeline for the agency to review rights-of-way requests and clarifying that the agency can only disapprove of requests if there is a compelling reason to do so."

THREE MONTANA COUNTIES REACH SETTLEMENT IN AMERICAN INDIAN VOTER ACCESS CASE. The E&E Daily (6/16) reports that "the complexion of some of this year's elections may have changed dramatically, as three Montana counties reached a settlement Friday in a two-year-old lawsuit that will see satellite voting offices stationed in American Indian reservations in the state for the first time." According to the article, "with Friday's settlement between the members of the Northern Cheyenne, Crow and Fort Belknap tribes and election officials in Big Horn, Rosebud and Blaine counties in Montana, satellite late registration and absentee voting offices will be set up on the three reservations each Wednesday and Thursday starting 30 days before election day on Nov. 4 this year."

Top National News:

OBAMA MULLS SENDING SPECIAL OPS TEAM TO IRAQ TO COORDINATE US AIRSTRIKES. On Monday, the three network newscasts devoted more than 20 minutes – or about a third of their combined air time – to

reports on various aspects of the ongoing crisis in Iraq, and both NBC Nightly News and the CBS Evening News led with breaking news on developments in Iraq. Much of the reporting and commentary yesterday and this morning frames the choice President Obama faces regarding whether or not to use US military air power to help the Iraqi government arrest the forward momentum of ISIL, with some casting the situation as a repeat of debates over the initial US invasion of the country in 2003. At the opening of NBC Nightly News (6/16, lead story, 3:50, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams said, "It's not yet clear if the US will take any action in Iraq." According to Williams, the President "ruled out any troops, and the American people aren't at all sure we should take any action even though what's happening now is a direct outgrowth of the US invasion there over a decade ago."

On MSNBC's Hardball (6/17, 689K), Chris Matthews asked, "Are we going to kill Arabs again on international television?" Matthews went on to say that "the same people who were whooping up Iraq war fever in 2003 are back at it again, the usual suspects once again...are talking up US military engagement in Iraq. They were wrong then – dead wrong – and they are wrong again...so why does any one even listen to the neocon chorus?" But in his opening monologue on FOX News' The O'Reilly Factor (6/16, 2.53M), Bill O'Reilly said, "I fully expect President Obama to begin bombing the al Qaeda army very soon." O'Reilly added, "If he does not do that, it would be an enormous dereliction of duty."

In the lead story for the CBS Evening News (6/16, lead story, 1:45, Glor, 5.08M), Jeff Glor said, "The last US forces left Iraq in December 2011," but President Obama "may now send some back." Correspondent David Martin went on to report that "one of the options being presented to the President calls for sending teams of special forces back into Iraq," although they "would not go into the field to fight alongside Iraqi troops." Instead, according to Martin, they "would train and advise" the Iraqi military. On ABC World News (6/16, story 2, 3:00, Muir), David Muir also reported that the President is "considering sending special forces into Iraq to advise Iraqi troops."

According to the Los Angeles Times (6/17, Cloud, Parsons, 3.46M), the President is considering deploying a "special operations team" that "would be barred from engaging in ground combat," but could "coordinat[e] US airstrikes on insurgent positions." The Times adds that "sending US special operations forces, even a small detachment, could be seen as backtracking from Obama's pledge last week not to put US troops back on the ground" in Iraq.

Politico (6/16, Everett, 637K) reports that "aides don't expect Obama to seek congressional approval if he pursues the airstrikes that many in Congress are asking for."

AFP (6/17) reported that in a letter sent to Congress on Monday, President Obama announced that "about 275 US military personnel are being deployed to Iraq to help American personnel and protect the embassy in Baghdad." AFP notes that the President said the troops will be in Baghdad "for the purpose of protecting US citizens and property, if necessary," but are also "equipped for combat."

According to the AP (6/17, Alman), "About 160 troops are already in Iraq, including 50 Marines." The AP reports that an unnamed "US official" says that "under the authorization Obama outlined...the US will put an additional 100 soldiers in a nearby third country where they would be held in reserve until needed." The New York Times (6/17, Nordland, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) calls the deployment of US security personnel "an additional sign of diminished confidence in" the Maliki government.

Reuters (6/17, Zengerle, Cowan) reports that the White House wants to take some money that is supposed to pay for US military operations in Afghanistan and use it to pay for a US intervention in Iraq. Politico (6/16, Ewing, 637K) points out that the President "has an impressive amount of firepower at his disposal as he weighs his options," and notes that "at least four U.S. Navy warships are operating in the Persian Gulf...including a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, a cruiser and a destroyer."

The Washington Post (6/17, A1, Sly, Hauslohner, Morris, 4.22M) reports that Ali al-Musawi, a "senior adviser" to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, has "appealed to the Obama administration to commit air support and drone strikes," warning that "otherwise there is a danger terrorism will win." According to the Post, Musawi "cited Iraq's Strategic Framework Agreement with the United States, which spells out a range of areas of mutual interest and cooperation, as the basis on which Iraq is hoping for increased US military involvement."

The Washington Post (6/17, A1, Whitlock, 4.22M) reports that former "military commanders" warn that while the Pentagon could "probably prevent Sunni insurgents from marching into Baghdad...other missions would be far more complex and risk drawing the United States back into an Iraqi civil war." And, according to the Post, "The Pentagon's ability to deploy drones to conduct surveillance and carry out airstrikes...may be limited" if ISIL "stay[s] within the cities they have taken control of in recent weeks, raising the likelihood of civilian casualties."

Reuters (6/17, Al-sanjary, Heavey) reports that in an interview with Yahoo! News on Monday, Secretary of State Kerry said a US air assault on ISIL would not be "the whole answer," but "may well be one of the options that are important." Kerry added, "When you have people murdering, assassinating in these mass massacres, you have to stop that – and you do what you need to do if you need to try to stop it from the air or otherwise."

The Christian Science Monitor (6/17, Mulrine, 566K) reports that "after years of war," many Islamist militants "have learned not to mass in one place for fear of providing US forces with easy targets," but, according to the Monitor, ISIL fighters "do not seem to share this approach," which "could make B-1 bomber strikes a possibility."

Marines Arrive In Baghdad To Protect US Personnel, Facilitate Potential Evacuation. On ABC World News (6/16, story 2, 3:00, Muir), correspondent Martha Raddatz reported from Baghdad that a "platoon of specialty trained Marines expert in evacuation and counterterrorism" is "now in place here to protect America's embassy," which Raddatz described as a "$700 million fortress." According to Raddatz, "a significant number of the 5,000" US personnel in Baghdad already "have been evacuated."

The Washington Times (6/17, Boyer, 455K) reports that some of the US personnel normally assigned to the embassy in Baghdad "are being relocated to US consulates in Basra and Erbil and to the Iraq Support Unit in Amman, Jordan."

UN Moves Staff From Baghdad To Jordan. The Los Angeles Times (6/17, Butos, King, 3.46M) reports that the UN has "moved nearly 60 staffers from Baghdad to neighboring Jordan with the intention of relocating them to northern Iraq."

More Commentary On Obama And The Crisis In Iraq. In his column for the Washington Post (6/17, 4.22M), Marc Thiessen notes that in 2011, Vice President Biden predicted that the President's handling of the war in Iraq "could be one of the great achievements of this administration." Thiessen adds that "now...as Iraq descends into chaos, Democrats are trying to blame the fiasco on — you guessed it — George W. Bush." But according to Thiessen, "this is a mess of President Obama's making" because when he "took office he inherited a pacified Iraq, where the terrorists had been defeated both militarily and ideologically."

But Eugene Robinson of the Washington Post (6/17, 4.22M) asserts that the President's "instincts about Iraq and Syria have been sound from the beginning," and Biden "was right" when he "argued that rather than insist on a unitary Iraq, we should accept the division of the country — along ethnic and religious lines — into separate Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish states."

Walter Pincus, in his column for the Washington Post (6/17, 4.22M), says, "Baghdad's problems started decades before Obama reached the White House," and "even...long before Bush implemented his ill-conceived, costly invasion to bring US-based 'democracy' to a country that neither he nor his top advisers understood."

Michael McAuliff, in a piece for the Huffington Post (6/16, 11.54M), says that "with Iraq on the verge of unraveling after the departure of US forces, conservative pundits and some politicians who were wrong about Iraq then are" making the claim that the US invaded Iraq in 2003 in order to "liberate the Iraqis," and are blaming President Obama for failing to hold the gains won by US troops.

Also in the Huffington Post (6/16, 11.54M), Stephen Schlesinger of the Century Foundation says US "responsibility" for Iraq "ended in 2010 when the Iraqis essentially kicked US forces out of Iraq by refusing to sign a status of forces agreement with Washington." On the other hand, in a column for the Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) under the headline, "The Opportunities For Obama Amid Iraq's Crisis," Gerald Seib says the Administration ought to pressure Iraqi Prime Minster Maliki to finally sign a Status of Forces agreement.

George Will, in his column for the Washington Post (6/17, 4.22M), says ISIL's string of recent victories are "redundant evidence that the U.S. experience in Iraq was the worst episode of squandered valor in US history."

OBAMA TO SIGN ORDER BOOSTING LGBT JOB PROTECTIONS. Though the crisis in Iraq continues to dominate the news cycle overwhelmingly, President Obama's plans to sign an executive order extending job protections to LGBT workers generated a brief report on ABC World News and extensive print coverage this morning, most of which highlights the positive reaction from gay rights advocates – and indicates the move may seek to energize a key Democratic constituency ahead of the November contests. The AP (6/17, Pace) notes the order will ban "federal contractors from discriminating against employees on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity." According to the White House, "the order being drafted...would impact about 14 million workers whose employers or states currently do not ban workplace discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals"

ABC World News (6/16, story 5, 0:10, Muir) briefly reported on "the White House announcing" a "move to protect millions of American workers," adding that the President "will sign an order barring Federal contractors from discriminating employees based on sexual gender or identity." McClatchy (6/17, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K) says "the move, coming a day before the president headlines the 15th annual Democratic National Committee LGBT Leadership Council's fundraiser in New York, is likely to energize gay voters in advance of November's midterm elections." On its website, Roll Call (6/16, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 76K) similarly reported that "the decision...could help energize the party – and its donor base – ahead of the midterm elections," while the Christian Science Monitor (6/17, Feldmann, 566K) said the "move...may be aimed in part at energizing Democratic voters ahead of the November elections."

In a story headline "President Obama Seeks Political Boost From LGBT Executive Order," Politico (6/16, Dovere, Epstein, 637K) says "this will be a week of the administration trumpeting its gay rights record." In addition to Tuesday night's fundraiser, "Thursday, the Justice Department is set to release a report detailing all the ways it has broadly interpreted the Supreme Court's United States v. Windsor decision which struck down the Defense of Marriage Act last year." Moreover, "the White House will host a meeting Thursday afternoon about the executive order and the report, which will identify Social Security and veterans affairs benefits as the two areas where the federal government has not been able to apply the Windsor decision, according to sources briefed on the plans."

The Washington Post (6/16, Goldfarb, Eilperin, 4.22M) reports that the order, which according to activists is "the last significant action Obama is likely to be able to take to advance gay rights without the cooperation of Congress," is expected to "have an impact on some of the biggest companies that do business with the government, including Exxon Mobil and Tysons Corner-based SAIC."

McClatchy (6/17, Clark, Subscription Publication, 23K) notes ACLU executive director Anthony Romero called the Administration's announcement "historic," and said Obama "has done more for the struggle for LGBT equality than all previous presidents combined." Human Rights Campaign spokesman Fred Sainz said Obama's "principled positions" are "clear and compelling proof that these are no longer moral decisions, but politically advantageous as well."

USA Today (6/17, Jackson, 5.82M) reports White House spokesman Josh Earnest said yesterday no signing date has yet been set, as "the specific details" of the executive order "have not been finalized." Bloomberg News (6/17, Doming, 2.76M) notes that "while the Democratic-controlled US Senate last year passed a measure that would make such discrimination illegal, the House, where Republicans hold the majority, hasn't taken up the legislation." Earnest said on Monday, "The door for legislative action remains open." Reuters (6/17, Mason) quotes Human Rights Campaign president Chad Griffin as saying, "The president will not only create fairer workplaces across the country, he will demonstrate to Congress that adopting federal employment protections for LGBT people is good policy and good for business." However, The Hill (6/16, Sink, 237K) reports, "action in the House though seems unlikely," as "top Republicans, including House Speaker John Boehner...have called the bill redundant and warned it would cost jobs by creating frivolous litigation."

The Los Angeles Times (6/17, Parsons, Memoli, 3.46M) reports, "Beyond the practical impact, the executive order, putting discrimination against gays and lesbians in the same category as racial or gender discrimination, marks another symbolic milestone for gay rights activists." Yesterday, "the Family Research Council...accused the White House of timing Monday's announcement to 'curry favor with activist organizations,' and noted that

Obama was scheduled to speak to" the New York fundraiser Tuesday.

The Wall Street Journal (6/17, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Democratic lawmakers generally backed the move, which they viewed as incremental, and called for legislative action. Sen. Tom Harkin said in response to the White House announcement, "The reality is that many LGBT workers still remain vulnerable to employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity."

The Huffington Post (6/16, Bendery, 11.54M) notes "Valerie Jarrett, a senior adviser to the president, tweeted her support for the executive order shortly after the news broke." The Washington Times (6/17, Boyer, 455K), meanwhile, quotes DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz as saying Obama's move "marks another significant step in our nation's progress on civil rights," and notes "LGBT activists responded with enthusiasm at the news."

In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/17, 4.22M) says Obama "would have preferred comprehensive nondiscrimination policy, which only Congress can approve," and although "he was wrong to wait so long" before moving to draft an executive order, "he was not wrong that legislation...is the right goal. ... It is Congress's turn to act."

Pelosi Urges San Francisco Archbishop To Skip "March For Traditional Marriage." The Washington Times (6/17, Chasmar, 455K) reports that in a letter, House Minority leader Nancy Pelosi urged San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone "to cancel his appearance at a march for traditional marriage on the Supreme Court this Thursday." Cordileone "is one of the featured speakers." Wrote Pelosi, "If someone is gay and is searching for the Lord and has good will, then who am I to judge him?"

Perry On Homosexuality Therapy: "We'll Leave That To The Psychologists And The Doctors." Politico (6/16, Topaz, 637K) reports former Texas Gov. Rick Perry yesterday "addressed his previous comments on homosexuality, saying he will let medical professionals determine the efficacy of homosexuality therapy and electing not to condemn the practice." During an interview on CNBC, Perry said, "The fact is, we'll leave that to the psychologists and the doctors." Perry also said, "I don't necessarily condone that lifestyle. ... I don't condemn it, either. We're all children of God."

The Washington Times (6/17, Mclaughlin, 455K) notes that in San Francisco last week, Perry said, "I may have the genetic coding that I'm inclined to be an alcoholic, but I have the desire not to do that, and I look at the homosexual issue the same way."

HOUSE PANELS EXAMINING WHETHER LOST LERNER EMAILS AMOUNT TO OBSTRUCTION. Media reports this morning indicate Republican lawmakers are reacting with skepticism to the IRS's claim that emails sent and received by Lois Lerner, which are central to an investigation into the agency's alleged targeting of conservative groups during the 2012 election cycle, were lost as a result of a computer crash in 2011. The story was not mentioned on the network newscasts, and print reports almost universally notes that the IRS' claim reignited the controversy just as it had started to die down. While the coverage does note the White House's assertion that the IRS's explanation is reasonable, much of the focus is on the anger of Republican lawmakers and other conservatives.

The New York Times (6/17, Joachim, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that according to congressional aides, the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Oversight Committee are examining whether the IRS's claim that "it lost emails of interest to investigators amounted to obstruction and a violation of federal record-keeping rules." The agency told investigators last week that two years' worth of emails sent and received by Lois Lerner, who is at the center of an investigation "into accusations of politically motivated misconduct by the agency" had been "destroyed because of a computer crash in mid-2011." The claim "added to suspicions among Republican lawmakers that the I.R.S. was not cooperating fully with the investigations of its treatment of conservative political groups seeking tax-exempt status during the 2012 election cycle." The Washington Post (6/16, Bump, 4.22M) noted in its "The Fix" blog that the disappearance of the emails "quickly triggered skepticism, particularly from Congressional Republicans trying to figure out whether Lerner was acting on orders from Washington."

Politico (6/16, Bade, Weinger, 637K) reported that the email flap "opens up a whole new can of worms in the controversy – just as several congressional investigators were wrapping up their probes of the scandal."

Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee, "sources say, had pretty much wrapped up its bipartisan probe of the matter," are "saying they'll have dig in again to rework the case."

The Washington Times (6/17, Dinan, 455K) reports that Republicans "ridiculed" the IRS claim, and congressional investigators "began interviewing IRS technical staff to try to get to the bottom" of the loss of the emails.

The Daily Caller (6/16, Howley, 408K) reported that Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa has subpoenaed IRS Commissioner Koskinen to testify about the lost emails. In a letter accompanying the subpoena, Issa wrote, "I will not tolerate your continued obstruction and game-playing in response to the Committee's investigation of the IRS targeting. ... For too long, the IRS has promised to produce requested — and, later, subpoenaed — documents, only to respond later with excuses and inaction. Despite your empty promises and broken commitments to cooperation, the IRS still insists on flouting Constitutional congressional oversight."

USA Today (6/17, Korte, Schouten, 5.82M) reports that IRS Commissioner Koskinen has agreed to testify before both the Oversight and Ways and Means panels about the emails. Meanwhile, Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp said that House Republicans "were 'simply not going to accept the IRS claim that these documents are not recoverable,'" and "called on the Obama administration to order the release of any e-mails Lerner may have sent to the White House or other agencies." White House spokesman Josh Earnest said that speculation about the emails is "indicative of the kinds of conspiracies that are propagated around this story. ... And they're propagated in a way that has left people with a very mistaken impression about what exactly occurred."

White House: IRS Explanation "Entirely Reasonable." The Hill (6/16, Sink, 237K) reported that the White House said Monday that the IRS's explanation for losing the emails is "entirely reasonable." Earnest told reporters, "You've never heard of a computer crashing before?" Earnest said that the Administration "had turned over some 67,000 other emails sent or received by Lerner during her tenure at the agency, calling it a 'good-faith effort' by the IRS to assist in investigations," adding, "So if we are trying to hide Lois Lerner's e-mails from congressional oversight, there's a pretty large loophole. ... The far-fetched skepticism expressed by some Republican members of Congress I think is not at all surprising and not particularly believable."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Innocents At The Border."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (6/17, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that the Administration is "scrambling to respond" to the flow of unaccompanied minors. The Times says the Administration "needs to mount a sustained surge of its own, of humanitarian care, shelter and legal assistance for children who have faced horrific traumas in fleeing violence in their home countries." Finally, the Times says that it is "infuriating to see the long-term reform that would ease the problem...being sent to its doom by the short-term political scheming of Congress's hard-core anti-immigrant, anti-Obama caucus."

"Legislating Ignorance About Guns." The New York Times (6/17, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, calls on Congress to allow "federally financed research on gun violence," and notes that President Obama has called for assigning $10 million "to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention" for such a study – to GOP opposition. The Times concludes that "the price of ignorance...is measured in tens of thousands of preventable deaths and avoidable injuries from guns, year in and year out."

"How Health Care Systems Stack Up." A New York Times (6/17, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorial on a Commonwealth Fund study of healthcare quality around the world says that the US's poor showing in the study reflects "the high cost of its medical care and the absence of universal health insurance, a situation being addressed by the Affordable Care Act." The Times argues that the ACA, "if left to accomplish its goals by Congressional Republicans, is the best way to alleviate the cost and quality issues for most Americans."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Building An Inclusive Iraq."*** The Washington Post (6/17, 4.22M), in an editorial, contends that Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki's "obdurate refusal to share power with Sunnis helped fuel the rebellion against him by ISIS and other Sunni extremists." The Post adds, "Perhaps Mr. Maliki would be content to see Iraq fragment into...an Iranian-backed Shiite rump state, ruled by him, plus an ISIS-run caliphate and a Kurdish republic."

"Stamping Out Workplace Bias." In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/17, 4.22M) says that the President "would have preferred comprehensive nondiscrimination policy, which only Congress can approve," and although "he was wrong to wait so long" before moving to draft an executive order, "he was not wrong that legislation...is the right goal. ... It is Congress's turn to act."

"A Healthier Start Time."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Obama's Corporate Exodus."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues that the trend for US companies to domicile overseas for tax purposes is driven by the nation's extremely high corporate tax rate and policy of taxing a company on its full worldwide earnings. The Journal says that if the US wants to grow its economy, it needs to have a competitive tax system.

"Supreme Speech Victory." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) casts a Supreme Court ruling allowing a challenge to an Ohio law banning lies in political campaigns to move forward as a rebuke to public officials seeking to silence criticism of their actions.

"Clinton On Keystone." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) criticizes Hillary Clinton over her telling the Toronto Globe and Mail in a June 11 interview that she "can't respond" to a question about whether she thinks the US should approve the Keystone project, because while at the State Department, she "had responsibility for it and it's been passed on and it wouldn't be appropriate." The Journal says that Clinton's response is simply a case of her wanting to avoid offering a public opinion on the project until after Obama makes a decision on Keystone, so that she can gauge public reaction before announcing her stance.

"Don't Cry For Thee, Argentina." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) hails the Supreme Court's ruling in cases brought by Argentina's bondholders who refused to accept reduced payments after the country's 2001 default as a victory for the rule of law.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Unlikely Allies Aid Militants In Iraq
Debt Order Rocks Argentina
YouTube Star Plays Videogames, Earns $4 Million

New York Times:
US Is Exploring Talks With Iran On Crisis In Iraq
Sunnis And Kurds On Sidelines Of Iraqi Leader's Military Plans
Migrants Flow In South Texas, As Do Rumors
A Bolder Effort By Big Tobacco On E-Cigarettes
On Baseball: In A .338 Lifetime Average, Every Day Counted
Bratton Still Sees Challenges In A New York He Made Safer

Washington Post:
Forgotten Rape Evidence Slowly Reveals Its Clues
Path To Possible Airstrikes Fraught With Complications
UN Suspects War Crimes By Iraqi Rebels
Obama To Expand Pacific Sanctuary
A Chain-Of-Command Guy

Financial Times:
Fed Looks At Exit Fees On Bond Funds
Argentina Faces Fresh Default
IMF Warns US To Keep Rates Low, In Downbeat Analysis Of Economy

Washington Times:
County Pushes For Deportation Data
Plans To House Minors At Virginia College Scrapped
Iraqi Army Will Be Key To Any US Aid Against Militants
GOP To Investigate IRS Computer Crash, Claim Of Lost Lerner Emails
Monica Crowley Tapped As Times' Online Opinion Editor

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Iraq-Special Forces; Iraq-Gas Prices; Weather Forecast; White House-Anti-Gender Discrimination Order; Jet Blue Unruly Passenger; Medical-Bionic Pancreas.
CBS: Iraq-US Special Forces; Iraq-US Advisers; Iraq-ISIL; Iraq-Militias; ISIL Syrian Army; Israeli Missing Teens; General Motors Recall; Severe Weather; California Wildfire; Online Criminal Speech; Mt. Etna-Activity; Starbucks-Free Education.
NBC: Iraq-ISIL; Iraq-US Reaction; Bergdahl Investigation; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; California Wildfire; General Motors Recall; Supreme Court-Online Criminal Comments; Child Caffeine Consumption; Watergate Garage Demolition; Prince George.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Weather; Iraq-US Troops; GM-Recalls; US-World Cup Win; MLB Legend Dies.
CBS: Severe Weather; Navajo Community Evacuation-California Wildfire; Iraq-US Troops; Bergdahl-Investigation; GM-Recalls; Tracy Morgan-Fair Condition.
NPR: Severe Weather; Iraq-US Troops; Israeli Missing Teens; GM-Recall; Alabama-Anti-Sodomy Law Repealed; Andy Warhol Star Death; California Wildfire.
FOX: Severe Weather; California Wildfire; Iraq-ISIL.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Travels to TechShop Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to deliver remarks on the economy; travels to New York City to attend the DNC LGBT Gala and take part in another DNC Event.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.

US Senate: 11 a.m. SENATOR MURRAY – WORKING FATHERS, FAMILIES — In honor of Fathers Day, Senator Murray is hosting a Working Fathers and Families Meet and Greet (WFF) to continue highlighting the need for policies that better support modern working families. Immediately following that event, Senator Murray will delivers remarks on the Senate floor on the topic. Location: U.S. Capitol, S- 115.

11:30 a.m. SPOTLIGHT ON INNOVATION — Immediately following the 10 a.m. hearing, Chairwoman Stabenow will host a 'Grow It Here, Make It Here Spotlight on Innovation event at 11:30 a.m. in the Kennedy Caucus Room. Open to the public until 1:30 p.m. Contact: Ben Becker, 202-224-5466, ben_becker@ag.senate.gov Location: Kennedy Caucus Room, Russell Senate Office Building.

9:30 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Investigations hearings to examine conflicts of interest, investor loss of confidence, and high speed trading in the United States stock markets. Witnesses: PANEL ONE: BRADLEY KATSUYAMA, President & CEO, IEX Group, Inc., New York, NY; ROBERT H. BATTALIO, Professor of Finance, Mendoza College of Business, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN. PANEL TWO: THOMAS W. FARLEY, President, NYSE Group, New York, NY; JOSEPH P. RATTERMAN, Chief Executive Officer, BATS Global Markets, Inc.; Lenexa, KS; JOSEPH P. BRENNAN, Principal and Head of Global Equity Index Group, The Vanguard Group, Inc., Malvern, PA; STEVEN QUIRK, Senior Vice President, Trader Group, TD Ameritrade, Omaha, NE. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/investigations/hearings/conflicts-of-interest-investor-loss-of-confidence-and-high-speed-trading-in-us-stock-markets Location: 216 Hart.

10 a.m. AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY — Hearings to examine creating jobs through bio based manufacturing. Witnesses: 1. Scott Vitters, General Manager, PlantBottle Innovation Platform, The Coca-Cola Company, Atlanta, GA. 2. Ashford A. Galbreath, Director, Advanced Materials and Comfort Engineering, Research and Development, Lear Corporation, Southfield, MI. 3. Kurtis Miller, President, Business Unit, Cargill Industrial Specialties, Cargill, Inc., Hopkins, MN. 4. Adam Monroe, President, Americas, Novozymes North America Inc., Franklinton, NC; 5. Mr. J.D. Hankins, II, Vice President, Hankins, Inc., Ripley, MS. http://www.agriculture.senate.gov/ Location: 328A Russell.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Energy & Water Subcommittee Markup of the FY15 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/energy-water-subcommittee-fy15-markup Location: 192 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS — Nominations hearing on Julian Castro to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Laura Wertheimer to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency Federal Housing Finance Agency . http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=0c6f18e8-8255-4d61-8bed-f9563fcb50e9 Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance hearings to examine protecting consumers from false and deceptive advertising of weight-loss products. Witnesses: Witness Panel 1: Mary Koelbel Engle, Associate Director, Division of Advertising Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission; Dr. Mehmet C. Oz, Chairman and Professor of Surgery, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Host, The Dr. Oz Show; Dr. C. Lee Peeler, President and Chief Executive Officer, Advertising Self-Regulatory Council, Executive Vice President, Council of Better Business Bureaus; Steven M. Mister, President and Chief Executive Officer, Council for Responsible Nutrition; Robert Hatton Haralson IV, Executive Director, TrustInAds.org; Dr. Daniel Fabricant, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Natural Products Association. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=c1698871-3625-4f67-b0e5-a06d3bab6ca1&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. ARMED SERVICES — Subcommittee on SeaPower to receive a CLOSED briefing on the major threats facing Navy forces and the current and projected capabilities of the Navy to meet those threats. Witnesses: Vice Admiral Joseph P. Aucoin, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Warfare Systems (N9) Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; Arthur H. Barber III, Deputy Director, Assessment Division (N81B) Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-06-17-briefing-on-the-major-threats-facing-navy-forces Location: SVC-217.

3 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Nicholas Stivers, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Joan A. Polaschik, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Department of State. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/nominations-ambassador-to-peoples-democratic-republic-of-algeria-and-asst-admin-usaid Location: 419 Dirksen.

3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. CECC HEARING — Congressional-Executive Commission on China hearing on "Pet Treats and Processed Chicken from China: Concerns for American Consumers and Pets." Witnesses: Panel 1: Dr. Daniel L. Engeljohn, Assistant Administrator, Office of Field Operations, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Tracey Forfa, J.D., Deputy Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Panel 2: Shaun Kennedy, Director of the Food System Institute, LLC; Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Population Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota; Patty Lovera, Assistant Director, Food & Water Watch; Christopher DUrso, Student and Consumer Advocate. http://www.cecc.gov/events/hearings/pet-treats-and-processed-chicken-from-china-concerns-for-american-consumers-and-pets Location: 562 Dirksen.

4 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of State,

Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/sfops-fy15-subcommittee-markup Location: 138 Dirksen.
US House: 10:30 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: H-144 in the U.S. Capitol.

12 p.m. – 5 p.m. SELECTUSA FORUM – MANUFACTURING — SelectUSA Summer Forum: "Reinvesting in America, Creating Jobs at Home" with Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Representative Frank Wolf. Contact the ITA Office of Public Affairs at 202-482-3809 or click here to RSVP. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium, First St. SE.

12 p.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

1) H.R. 1458 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building;"

2) H.R. 43 – Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office;

3) H.R. 1391 – The Lance Corporal Joshua B. McDaniels and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building, as amended;

4) H.R. 3765 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building";

5) H.R. 1707 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building;"

6) H.R. 3472 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office";

7) H.R. 1865 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office";

8) H.R. 2112 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the "National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office";

9) H.R. 1671 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the "James 'Jim' Kohnen Post Office";

10) H.R. 3786 – To direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska;

11) H.R. 3998 – Albuquerque, New Mexico, Federal Land Conveyance Act of 2014;

12) H.R. 3375 – To designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic";

13) H.R. 1216 – To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center;

14) H.R. 4199 – To name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Waco, Texas, as the Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center;

15) H.R. 3682 – To designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato, Minnesota, as the Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient

Clinic;

16) H.R. 4360 – To designate the facility of the United States Forest Service for the Grandfather Ranger District located at 109 Lawing Drive in Nebo, North Carolina, as the "Jason Crisp Forest Service Building";

17) S.Con. Res. 37 – Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol in Commemoration of the award of the Shimon Peres Congressional Gold Medal;

6 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Markup – FY 2015 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=384336 Location: H-140 Capitol.

5 p.m. RULES — Meets to consider the following measures: H.R. 4870&8209;-Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015; Senate amendments to H.R. 3230–Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. Location: H-313 The Capitol.
Other: June 17 – 18. HIMSS GOVERNMENT HEALTH IT CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION — Free for Government Employees and Veterans. Confirmed keynote speakers include Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX); and Niall Brennan, Acting Director, Offices of Enterprise Management, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. www.govhealthitconference.com Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Atrium Ballroom.

CYBERSECURITY – JEH JOHNSON — 5:45 a.m. Secretary Johnson will participate in an on-stage discussion on cybersecurity. For general press inquiries, and to apply for a press credential, please contact Erin Carpenter-Maier at erin.carpenter@dowjones.com and include "press inquiry in the subject line." Location: Park Hyatt, 1201 24th St., NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama just had his annual physical, which shows that he's suffering from some pain in his right foot. And when asked why he doesn't get it treated, Obama said it's not covered by Obamacare."

David Letterman: "Over the weekend, President Obama got his annual presidential physical. His cholesterol is up and approval rating is down. Obama wants to lower his cholesterol, but Congress is blocking him. The doctor said he passed his physical, and it's the first thing he's passed in the second term."

Seth Meyers: "Mitt Romney is back in the news. This weekend, Romney told reporters that he thinks Hillary Clinton's political career has been a 'monumental bust.' Harsh words from private citizen Mitt Romney."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Jun 18, 2014 at 7:03 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES AUCTION FOR WIND ENERGY LEASES OFF MASSACHUSETTS . The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that the Interior Department on Tuesday was expected to "announce plans to auction more than 1,100 square miles of waters off the Massachusetts coast for offshore wind projects, the largest lease sale of its kind in US history." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was scheduled to make the announcement this afternoon in Boston alongside Gov. Deval Patrick and BOEM acting Director Walter Cruickshank. The agency is "releasing a final environmental assessment and a proposed sale notice for Atlantic Ocean waters that the Energy Department has estimated could support up to 10 offshore wind farms of 500 megawatts each."

The Cape Cod (MA) Times (6/17, 101K) reports that Jewell said, "This area we are about to announce will be the largest wind energy area on the Atlantic Coast. It will literally double the federal offshore acreage available for commercial scale wind energy projects and it's going to do that in an area where there is a great deal of load."

The story also appears at the Nantucket (MA) Inquirer and Mirror (6/18, 4K).

The AP (6/18) reports that "the area is about 12 miles offshore, south of Martha's Vineyard, and will be auctioned as four leases."

The AP (6/18, 3.58M) reports according to Jewell, "fourteen offshore wind energy companies have already expressed interest in the leases and that number could grow." Jewell said that "federal regulators tried to outline areas that would generate energy without generating intense opposition." She said, "We put in zones that we believe have both high potential and lower conflict. But it's going to actually get down to a specific construction plan on a specific site and (an environmental) analysis to determine what people want to do economically and what that impact is going to be."

The Boston Herald (6/18, 783K) reports that "a new plan to make more than 742,000 acres off the coast of Massachusetts available for commercial wind leasing has found an unlikely ally — Cape Wind's most vocal foe." Audra Parker, president of the Alliance to Save Nantucket Sound, "which has long opposed Cape Wind's $2.6 billion project to build 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound, said the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's plan to auction an area 14 miles south of Martha's Vineyard — as well as two competitive leases already awarded off the coasts of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Virginia — 'demonstrate the availability of alternative sites to Cape Wind.'"

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (6/18, 4.22M), the Washington Post (6/18, 4.22M), the Washington Times (6/18, Leblanc, 455K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/18, Leblanc, 1.48M), the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (6/17, 18K), the Coos Bay (OR) World (6/18, 34K), the Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (6/18, 31K), the Lynn (MA) Daily Item (6/18, 45K), the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (6/17, 395K), the Franklin (IN) Daily Journal (6/18, 51K), the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (6/18, 31K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/17, 687K), the Nanaimo Daily News (6/18), the Hispanic Business (6/18, 2K), Yahoo! (6/18, 17.91M), Yahoo! Finance (6/18, 9.7M), WBZ-TV Boston (6/17, 68K), WFXT-TV Boston (6/18, 60K), WWLP-TV Springfield, MA (6/17, 65K), WJAR-TV Providence, RI (6/18, 47K), WBUR-FM Boston (6/17, 64K), and WGGB-TV Springfield, MA (6/17, 3K).

Also reporting on the story are the Boston Globe (6/18, Reidy, 1.62M), the New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (6/17, 54K), the Metro Boston (6/17, 32K), the Metro New York (6/17, 743K), the Recharge News (6/18, 633), the reNews (6/18), the Law 360 (6/18, 18K), NECN-TV Boston (6/18, 33K), and WFXT-TV Boston (6/18, 60K).

OBAMA ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF PACIFIC OCEAN PRESERVE. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that President Obama "signaled his administration's shift toward ocean conservation" on Tuesday "with a proposal that could create the nation's largest-ever marine sanctuary and establish a comprehensive plan to combat illegal fishing." The announcement "confirms what ocean advocates had long hoped: that Obama would use his second term to give oceans issues more visibility, as both Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush did before him." Obama said, "If we ignore these problems, if we drain our ocean of its resources, we won't just be squandering away one of humanity's greatest treasures. We'll be cutting off one of the world's major sources of food and economic growth, including for the United States, and we cannot afford to let that happen."

The Hill (6/18, Barron-Lopez, 237K) reports that the President said earlier this week that he is working on executive measures "to close off a large swath of the Pacific Ocean from fishing and energy exploration." The plan would help preserve the habitats of about 24 marine species, but the White House will take public comment on before making the ultimate decision. At a conference for the State Department called Our Ocean, Obama said that "the United States is leading the fight to protect our oceans. Let's make sure that years from now we can look our children in the eye and tell them that, yes, we did our part, we took action, and we led the way toward a safer, more stable world."

The AP (6/18, Lederman) reports President Obama announced the creation of the "world's largest ocean preserve" in the Pacific Ocean during a video message address at an oceans conference at State Department. Obama's actions expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument in a "major symbolic victory for environmentalists." Obama said, "Let's make sure that years from now we" can tell "our children" that "yes, we did our part, we took action, and we led the way toward a safer, more stable world." The AP notes the final boundaries for the monument are not settled.

The Los Angeles Times (6/18, Banerjee, 3.46M) reports Obama also announced other measures "to protect parts of the world's oceans," including requiring "federal agencies to take multiple initiatives to address pollution, overfishing and acidification of ocean water." Obama said ignoring these problems could result in "squandering one of humanity's greatest treasures," adding, "We'll be cutting off one of the world's major sources of food and economic growth, including for the United States."

In a story focused on Obama's announcement, the New York Times (6/18, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Secretary of State Kerry "called for the creation of a global ocean strategy." Kerry said human-inflicted damage to the ocean runs the "risk of fundamentally breaking entire ecosystems."

Bloomberg News (6/18, Snyder, 2.76M) reports that "as with earlier efforts, the ocean plan drew praise from environmental groups and complaints from Republicans in Congress." Additionally, at the Our Ocean conference, Obama's counselor John Podesta noted that the ocean around Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation.

The Washington Post (6/17, Eilperin, 4.22M) reports in its "Post Politics" blog that Leonardo DiCaprio is joining Obama in making a commitment "to help protect the ocean and challenged the other nations to undertake bold initiatives of their own before it's too late."

Also reporting on the story are The Hill (6/18, Sink, 237K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/17, 687K), NPR (6/18, Peralta, 519K), and the Examiner (6/18, 1.56M).

NYTimes: Obama Right To Protect Ocean's Marine Life. The New York Times (6/18, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that the US "has the watery equivalent" of an "Amazon basin," and the marine life that live in this area of the Pacific Ocean "are the best reasons to welcome" Obama's decision to expand the protected area. The Times praises Obama's decision as consistent with previous efforts by presidents "of both parties" to "protect" the region.

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES $436.9 MILLION IN PILT PAYMENTS. The National Journal (6/18, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Tuesday "announced that about 1,900 local governments around the country are receiving a total of $436.9 million under the 2014 Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program." Jewell said, "Rural communities contribute significantly to our nation's economy, food and energy supply, and help define the character of our diverse and beautiful country. President Obama has made job creation and opportunity in rural areas a top priority for his Administration and has fought for continuing the PILT program, which is a lifeline for many local communities."

KTNA-FM Talkeetna, AK (6/17) reports that on Tuesday, the Interior Department "announced that a total of $28.5 million will be coming to Alaskan municipalities in the form of payment in lieu of taxes, or PILT." The article notes that "this year's amount is the highest ever, and it will mean more money for many boroughs throughout the state."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (6/18), the Juneau (AK) Empire (6/18, 21K), and the Alaska Public Radio Network (6/17, 2K).

INTERIOR GIVES $102 MILLION IN STORM PREVENTION TO 11 STATES. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that on Monday, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "announced $102.7 million in grants for 54 projects intended to restore and protect green infrastructure." The article notes that "the funding is part of the $50 billion Superstorm Sandy recovery package passed by Congress in 2013 and is in addition to $162 million that Interior announced it would spend on similar agency-led projects last October." Jewell said, "Because of the storm, we know we have a lot to learn from Mother Nature. Natural infrastructure like coastal marshes, wetlands, shorelines, dunes and so on can often provide the best protection."

Also covering the story are the Cape Cod (MA) Times (6/17, 101K), the Baltimore Sun (6/18, Wheeler, 925K), and the Pottstown (PA) Mercury (6/17, 76K).

SEN. WALSH SAYS MONTANANS CONCERNED ABOUT MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS. The E&E Daily (6/17)

reports that Sen. John Walsh said "Montanans have serious misgivings about President Obama designating national monuments in the Treasure State, according to a letter he sent to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." The letter says "Montanans are 'worried' about Obama's use of the Antiquities Act without the consultation and consent of local citizens." In his March 13 letter, Walsh said, "I have heard from many Montanans who have raised serious concerns regarding land protections that may be recommended by the Department of Interior. I strongly urge you not to consider the designation of any new monuments in Montana unless there is significant discussion, collaboration, and support of local citizens."

HOUSE PANEL TO MARK UP PUBLIC LAND, WATER BILLS. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday will "mark up a bill to simplify fees for owning cabins on national forestlands along with several other public lands and water bills." However, the article notes that "noticeably absent is a sweeping bill by Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.) to overturn the Forest Service's travel management rule and another two bills by Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) to address concerns surrounding federal management of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways." A committee spokesman did not say "whether the bills would be taken up at a later date."

STATES SIGN CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that "leaders of the six states and the District of Columbia that make up the Chesapeake Bay watershed signed a new cleanup agreement" on Monday. According to the article, "the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council – comprising the governors of Maryland, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; the D.C. mayor; and representatives of US EPA and the Department of Agriculture – agreed on the voluntary plan at the council's annual meeting in Annapolis yesterday."

SURVEYS SHOW FEDERAL WORKERS FEAR REPRISALS IF THEY REPORT AGENCY WRONGDOING. The Washington Post (6/18, Yoder, 4.22M) reports that a recent government survey found that nearly 20 percent of Federal employees "fear reporting agency wrongdoing." In its annual government-wide survey, OPM asked "whether employees agree or disagree with the statement, 'I can disclose a suspected violation of any law, rule or regulation without fear of reprisal.'" In 2013, "19.5 percent of employees disagreed or strongly disagreed, up 0.4 percentage points from 2012; 61.2 percent of employees agreed or strongly agreed, down by 0.3 percentage points." The Post calls OPM's finding "less troubling than a 2010 survey from the Merit Systems Protection Board, which showed nearly 30 percent of workers feared reprisals."

NEW PLAN TO FUND EFFORT TO COMBAT WILDFIRES SEEN AS NECESSARY. In an op-ed for the New York Times (6/18, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), former AG Secretary Dan Glickman and former official overseeing the Forest Service Harris Sherman write that "megafires" are "the new reality in the Western United States." They argue that funding to combat fires is insufficient, and the price tag of fighting the "megafires" is sapping funds that normally would be used to prevent conditions that cause them from arising. They endorse a proposal from Sens. Ron Wyden and Mike Crapo and Reps. Kurt Schrader and Mike Simpson "to make more money available to fight these fires." Their plan, "which has been endorsed by the Obama administration, would allow the Forest Service to draw money from federal disaster funds when firefighting costs reached 70 percent of the 10-year average."

MAYOR SEEKS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR SS BADGER. In an op-ed for the Manitowoc (WI) Herald Times Reporter (6/17, 34K), Mayor Justin Nickels supports a National Historic Landmark designation for the SS Badger. He argues that "this is a non-partisan issue good for Manitowoc and good for Ludington and each of our respective states."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

LGBT HERITAGE INITIATIVE SEEKS TO HONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN HISTORY. In an op-ed for the Denver Post (6/18, Jarvis, Cuff, 940K), Jonathan B. Jarvis, director of the NPS, and Courtney Cuff, CEO of the Gill Foundation, write that the NPS, with the support of the Gill Foundation, recently launched an LGBT Heritage Initiative to identify places and events of historic significance in the struggle for LGBT equality. They write that telling such stories unites Americans with a greater understanding of our common identity as Americans.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK EXPANSION STALLS IN CONGRESS. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (6/18, 696K) reports that "time is running out on a deal to secure the largest expansion of Yosemite National Park since 1939, and one man appears to be standing in the way: local congressman Tom McClintock." Declaring his distrust in the NPS, McClintock is "at odds with local Republican state legislators and the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors over efforts to add a scenic parcel of land on Yosemite's western boundary now owned by a Bay Area conservation group." McClintock said that he wants the NPS "to come up with a plan to use the land because he doesn't trust the agency after its attempt to ban bicycle rentals and limit other recreation in Yosemite Valley last year."

BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK PROPOSES FISHING RESTRICTIONS TO SAVE WILDLIFE. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that Florida's Biscayne National Park has "proposed phasing out commercial fishing, ending a popular two-day lobster season and imposing other restrictions to help fish populations recover." Park officials say that "they expect opposition to the changes but that they are needed to protect bonefish, snapper, sea turtles and many other species that are at risk." Park Superintendent Brian Carlstrom said, "We recognize that this is a significant change to existing conditions, and any time you're doing that, regardless of the topic, you're going to get resistance. It's just human."

MISSOURI BOARD SUPPORTS TAX CREDITS FOR GATEWAY ARCH. The AP (6/18, Lieb) reports that "a Missouri board endorsed Tuesday up to $15 million of tax credits to help finance the redevelopment of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis but delayed decisions on other projects because of concerns about state revenues." According to the article, "the tax credits for the Arch would be used to leverage private contributions for the renovation and expansion of a museum located underneath the monument." The article notes that "the project is part of a $380 million initiative to renovate the Arch and its surrounding area for the 50th anniversary of its completion."

NPS TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON APPOMATTOX PARK STUDY. The AP (6/18) reports that the NPS will "hold a public meeting this week on an ongoing study of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park." The study will "look at whether the 1,700-acre park's boundary should be expanded, and what land could be included." The NPS also is "seeking public input on what are the biggest challenges threatening the protection of cultural and natural resources near the park."

Also reporting on the story are the Lynchburg (VA) News & Advance (6/18, 77K) and the Roanoke (VA) Times (6/18, 264K).

NEARLY 100 TURTLE HATCHLINGS RELEASED AT PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE. The AP (6/18) reports that "nearly 100 endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle hatchlings have been released on a South Texas beach to make their way into the Gulf of Mexico." The article notes that "Monday's release at Padre Island National Seashore was the first of the season." Donna Shaver with the NPS, "who's chief of the division of sea turtle science and recovery, says the next turtle hatchlings release in Texas should be in late June or early July."

NPS BEGINS ZION TRAIL CLOSURES. The AP (6/18) reports that the NPS has "started part-time closures on popular Zion National Park trails as they work to improve the paths." The article notes that "the Hidden Canyon Trail and portions of the East Rim and Observation Point trails will be closed from Monday through Thursday starting this week and running through the end of the summer."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM CONSIDERS ROUTING GATEWAY WEST LINE THROUGH RAPTOR SANCTUARY. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that a panel appointed by the BLM is "recommending the agency route the final two segments of a nearly 1,000-mile-long transmission project through a national conservation area that's home to the largest concentration of nesting raptors in North America instead of through private and state lands as BLM originally proposed." The panel's recommendations could "break a stalemate over completing the final two segments of the massive Wyoming-to-Idaho Gateway West Transmission Line Project." According to the article, "an eight-member panel of experts and affected parties appointed in December by BLM's Boise District resource advisory council (RAC) recently issued a report concluding that routing the final two sections of the line through the NCA

makes sense as long as it follows existing power lines and would not jeopardize the primary mission of the NCA established by Congress in 1993, which is to protect and enhance raptor populations and habitat."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SHOOTING OF TWO OFFICERS. Additional coverage of the shooting of a BLM ranger and a California highway patrolman was provided by the Talking Points Memo (6/18, 223K), the Talking Points Memo (6/18, 223K), and the Raw Story (6/17, 71K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

US OFFICIALS CRACK DOWN ON WILDLIFE-PRODUCT TRAFFICKING. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that "in front of a backdrop of illegal wildlife products seized at Kennedy International Airport, President Obama's chief trade negotiator reinforced the US crackdown on poaching he said was essential to national security." US Trade Representative Michael Froman said, "Poaching in Africa is funding terrorist groups." According to the article, "officials believe ivory, rhino horns and other illegal wildlife products are funding organizations like the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda and South Sudan, the Sudanese Arab Janjaweed fighters and the jihadist group al-Shabab based in Somalia."

Also covering the ivory trade is the New York Times (6/18, Randolph, 9.65M).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SUE OVER LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN LISTING. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that three environmental groups on Tuesday "filed a lawsuit challenging the Interior Department's decision last March to list the lesser prairie chicken as a 'threatened' rather than an 'endangered' species and to allow a limited number of the charismatic birds to continue to be killed." The lawsuit, filed in the US District Court for the District of Columbia, challenges the FWS' "decision to allow exemptions to ESA protections for the prairie chicken in its so-called 4(d) rule." Plaintiffs "claim the rule will allow more than 1,300 of the estimated 17,616 remaining birds to be killed or disturbed each year."

The AP (6/18, Hanna) reports that Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback "decried the litigation as an attempt to shut down agriculture and energy production in his state." Coverage was also picked up by ABC News (6/18, 3.58M) and the US News & World Report (6/17, 645K).

Also reporting on the story is the AP (6/18).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SUES OVER SPECIES PROTECTIONS. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that The Center for Biological Diversity on Tuesday sued the FWS for "failing to decide whether nine species, including a rare flying squirrel, should receive federal protections." The FWS "missed its own statutory deadline to issue 12-month findings on whether any of the species should be listed under the Endangered Species Act, the group contends in its lawsuit." The group has "asked that the US District Court for the District of Columbia force the agency to issue decisions on the species." The article notes that "the species listed in the suit are: the San Bernardino flying squirrel, the Ichetucknee siltsnail, the Kirtland's snake, the Atlantic pigtoe, the slenderclaw crawfish, the Barrens darter, the holiday darter, and two distinct populations of the black-backed woodpecker."

Also covering the story are the AP (6/18, Flesher), the Los Angeles Times (6/18, Sahagun, 3.46M), and the Alabama Live (6/18, 75K).

GROUP SEEK TO REMOVE FOX FROM ENDANGERED LIST. The AP (6/18) reports that "two subspecies of a fox that lives only on an island chain off the Southern California coast should be removed from the endangered species list because of a dramatic increase in population during at least the past decade, a scientific group dedicated to fox recovery said Tuesday." Tim Coonan, a biologist and member of the Island Fox Conservation Working Group, said, "This is one of the quickest recoveries of species I've ever seen. It normally takes a species about 25 years to come off the list." The group plans to ask the FWS "to reclassify the foxes on Santa Rosa and Catalina islands as threatened and take the subspecies off the endangered list entirely for San Miguel and Santa Cruz islands."

Also reporting on the story is the Ventura County (CA) Star (6/17, 205K).

UTAH SEEKS TO DELAY DECISION ON SAGE GROUSE. The AP (6/18, Knox) reports that Utah "wants more time to prove no further federal intervention is needed to protect the state's dwindling sage grouse population, throwing $2 million into the effort to retain control of the bird's habitat." The state has "hired a lobbying team that's knocking on doors of oil and gas companies and hunters in an effort to raise money to match Utah's share, state natural resources director Michael Styler said Tuesday." The extra funds will "help the state urge Congress to postpone the September 2015 deadline for a US Fish and Wildlife Service decision on possibly listing the bird as endangered, Styler said."

Also covering the story is the AP (6/18, Riccardi).

REPUBLICANS ASK FOR DELAY IN CHANGES TO ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REGULATIONS. The Bend (OR) Bulletin (6/18, 94K) reports that "dozens of Republican members of the House of Representatives, including Greg Walden, R-Hood River, have asked the two federal agencies responsible for administering the Endangered Species Act to postpone proposed changes to how critical habitat is designated." Last month, the FWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "published new regulations in the Federal Register, including a new definition of adverse modification." Walden and 42 other representatives, including House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings, wrote to FWS Director Dan Ashe and NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan last week, "asking them to extend the comment period by six months."

FWS ANNOUNCES NEW DONATION AND FUNDRAISING POLICY. The Examiner (6/18, 1.56M) reports that the FWS announced a new policy on donations in the Federal Register of Tuesday, June 17, 2014, "though it is applying the policy retroactively to May 1." The article notes that "the policy explains how to evaluate and accept donations and when it is appropriate for FWS managers and other employees to solicit and accept donations."

UNIONS, INDUSTRY JOIN TO FIGHT FISH CONSUMPTION RATE CHANGE. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that "unions are throwing their weight behind Boeing Co. and other industry groups in a fight against Washington state's plan to increase the fish consumption rate, an obscure figure that affects water quality standards." The Machinists union, "representing more than 32,000 Boeing workers and others in the Puget Sound region, has joined with the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers and others to protest the increase because they say it would cost companies jobs and hurt economic development in the state." Industry groups "share those concerns."

US Geological Survey:

USGS EYES PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY FOR GEOMAPPING. The ExecutiveGov (6/18, 548) reports that the USGS is "looking to enlist commercial drone operators to help the agency with geomapping and other aerial surveying missions." Bruce Quirk, USGS' UAS liaison, said, "When the FAA finally opens up the national airspace system for commercial operations, the USGS will investigate service contracts with the commercial sector that would provide the data sets we need to meet our mission." He added, "We already have a contract vehicle in place called the Geospatial Product and Service Contracts that we could use to secure these services."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM STRUGGLING TO INSPECT HIGHER-RISK WELLS. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that the BLM hasn't "kept pace with the growth in hydraulic fracturing, leaving four in 10 new 'high-priority' oil and gas wells uninspected." The article notes that "those wells pose a greater potential water contamination threat, among other environmental and safety issues, or are located near national forests and watersheds." BLM Deputy Director Linda Lance said, "No one would have predicted the incredible boom of drilling on federal lands and the number of wells we've been asked to process." She also called the inspections rate "simply not acceptable."

JUDGE RULES ALL LANDOWNERS MUST AGREE TO STRIP MINING. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that "a Kentucky federal court judge recently ruled that all surface owners must consent to strip mining under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act." US District Judge Amul Thapar for the Eastern District of Kentucky ordered Premier Elkhorn Coal Co. on Friday to halt strip mining operations on property owned by M.L. Johnson

Family Properties LLC. Obama Administration attorneys, representing Interior, "argued that the landowners didn't give the agency the required 60 days to examine the issue and that the permit complied with the law." However, Thapar "disagreed with the administration on both counts."

NEW PLAN FOR ROAN PLATEAU PRAISED. In his column for the Denver Post (6/18, Willoughby, 940K), Scott Willoughby writes in praise of a possible resolution to the controversy over drilling in the Roan Plateau. According to Willoughby, Rep. Scott Tipton' backing for the latest proposal and bipartisan political support suggests potential for an overdue compromise.

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDERAL PROSECUTORS SEEK MORE TIME TO DECIDE ON RETRIAL FOR EX-BP ENGINEER. The AP (6/18) reports from New Orleans that Federal prosecutors "are asking a judge for additional time to decide whether they should appeal an order throwing out the conviction of a former BP engineer in connection with the 2010 Gulf oil spill investigation." US District Judge Stanwood Duval ruled last week that Kurt Mix "was entitled to a new trial on an obstruction-of-justice charge because of misconduct by a juror in his 2013 trial." Federal prosecutors said on Tuesday that "deciding whether to appeal Duval's order will take time and will require involvement of top Justice Department officials," and they "asked for an exclusion from federal speedy-trial requirements," which call for "a trial within 70 days of a new trial being ordered but also contains provisions for delays."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ADVANCES ENERGY, WATER SPENDING PLAN. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that a Senate subcommittee on Tuesday "advanced a $34 billion proposal to fund the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation." The Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development's "unanimous vote came during a brief markup this morning, during which no amendments were considered." The full committee "takes up the bill Thursday, at which point amendments will be allowed."

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/17, 687K) reports that "lawmakers working both above and below the surface on California drought relief are making explicit progress this week." The article notes "a $34.2 billion energy and water funding bill approved Tuesday by a Senate panel, and related movement on the House side expected Wednesday." Sen. Dianne Feinstein said, "The purpose is to help mitigate the impact of severe drought."

CALIFORNIA CUTS SUPPLIES TO WATER USERS. The E&E Daily (6/17) reports that California is "tightening its spigots further as it enters the summer months of the third year of dry weather." According to the article, "landowners with some of the longest-standing water rights in the state are seeing their supplies curtailed for the first time ever, as the state exercises new authority granted it by lawmakers to make emergency decisions."

Fish Taken From California Hatcheries Amid Drought. ABC News (6/18, 3.58M) reports that "workers evacuated rainbow trout on Tuesday from a hatchery on the American River as part of rescue efforts prompted by concerns that California's drought will increase water temperatures and kill the fish." The state Department of Fish and Wildlife was "using tanker trucks to remove trout from the American River Hatchery and have been taking fingerling steelhead from an adjacent hatchery," according to spokesman Andrew Hughan. The article notes that "in total, about 2 million fish, including 430,000 fingerling steelhead, are being released months before they normally would."

Water Flows Increased In American River To Block Salty Incursion To Delta. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/17, 687K) reports that "water flows into the American River were increased Tuesday, despite the ongoing drought, because state and federal officials are fighting to keep salinity from San Francisco Bay from intruding into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." The BOR "boosted water releases from Nimbus Dam into the American River from 2,000 to 2,500 cubic feet per second."

ARIZONA COULD CUT WATER DELIVERIES FROM COLORADO RIVER. The New York Times (6/18, Wines, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Arizona "could be forced to cut water deliveries to its two largest cities unless states that tap the dwindling Colorado River find ways to reduce water consumption and deal with a

crippling drought, officials of the state's canal network said Tuesday." The warning comes as the BOR "forecasts that Lake Mead, a Colorado River reservoir that is the network's sole water source, will fall next month to a level not seen since the lake was first filled in 1938." Officials of the Central Arizona Project "say the two cities, Phoenix and Tucson, could replace the lost water, at least in the short term, by tapping groundwater supplies, lakes and rivers."

LATEST FEDERAL PLAN FOR COLUMBIA SALMON CHALLENGED. The AP (6/18, Barnard) reports that "conservation groups and salmon advocates have challenged the Obama administration's latest plan for making Columbia Basin dams safe for salmon." According to the article, "the challenge was filed Tuesday in US District Court in Portland against the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service, which oversees salmon protection, and the US Army Corps of Engineers and US Bureau of Reclamation, which operate the dams." Joseph Bogaard of Save Our Wild Salmon said "the plan is 'virtually indistinguishable' from the one overturned by a federal court three years ago."

Also reporting on the story are the Los Angeles Times (6/18, Ganga, 3.46M), the Bend (OR) Bulletin (6/18, 94K), and the Idaho Statesman (6/17, 222K).

BOR NAMES NEW MANAGER FOR DAKOTAS. The AP (6/18) reports that the BOR has named David Rosenkrance as the new manager for the Dakotas Area Office. Rosenkrance succeeds Richard Long, who retires this month.

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN CRITICIZED FOR IGNORING NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS. In an op-ed for the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/18, 687K), Javier Padilla Reyes, community outreach coordinator for Restore the Delta, a nonprofit education and advocacy group, writes that "the reckless indifference of Gov. Jerry Brown's administration in failing to provide adequate access and participation for non-English speaking Californians shows that the state's rush to build the twin Delta tunnels at all costs effectively disregards nearly 600,000 Delta residents and 20 percent of California's population." He notes that "it's striking that the state has spent more than $250 million promoting the tunnels, but not one dollar translating the EIR into languages spoken by those who would help pay the multibillion-dollar price tag." Reyes concludes that "considering there is no public vote on the $67 billion project, the Brown administration is effectively violating the civil rights of the hundreds of thousands of Californians who speak limited English, and wish to participate in the 'public' comment process, by leaving them out of the loop entirely."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BILLS EXPAND RESERVATIONS FOR NEVADA TRIBES. The Las Vegas (NV) Review-Journal (6/18, 437K) reports that legislation introduced Tuesday in the Senate would grant more than 26,000 acres for the Moapa Band of Paiutes outside Las Vegas and also expand the reservations of seven Northern Nevada Indian tribes. Sen. Harry Reid said, "Land is lifeblood to Native Americans and this bill provides space for housing, economic development, traditional uses and cultural protection."

CAPAY VALLEY COALITION OPPOSES YOCHA DEHE EXTENDING TRIBAL LANDS. The Sacramento (CA) Business Journal (6/17, Subscription Publication, 41K) reports that the Capay Valley Coalition is appealing a recommendation to the BIA "to put 853 acres in the Capay Valley into trust for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation." The Capay Valley Coalition, "a group that has protested traffic and growth in the Capay Valley, is concerned that the tribe can do anything with this land once it is put into trust, said coalition member Tom Frederick." The coalition filed an appeal of BIA's approval of the tribe's request to the BIA in Washington. Frederick said "the tribe is not at fault, but the regulators who approved what the coalition considers to be an inadequate environmental assessment."

Top National News:

ALLEGED BENGHAZI RINGLEADER FACING TRIAL FOLLOWING CAPTURE BY US FORCES. After several days when the growing Sunni insurgency in Iraq was the dominant topic in the US media, the news that the US has captured the lead suspect in the September 11, 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya supplanted Iraq as the top story on Tuesday for many outlets. The three network newscasts devoted almost ten minutes of air time

to the story, just a little less than the ten and a half minutes they spent on Iraq coverage, and both NBC Nightly News (6/17, lead story, 3:05, Williams, 7.86M) and the CBS Evening News (6/17, lead story, 2:40, Glor, 5.08M) led with reports on Khattala's capture. On the other hand, the Drudge Report's top headlines continued to push the narrative that President Obama is on the verge of ordering the US military to fight on behalf of the Iraqi government, and the Huffington Post's home page was featuring coverage of pending executions in the US by Tuesday evening.

While the capture of Abu Khattala is being described as a "victory" for President Obama, many reports, including the lead segment on NBC Nightly News (6/17, lead story, 3:05, Williams, 7.86M), note that Khattala was – at least in the period immediately following the attacks – not difficult to locate, as evidenced by the various interviews he gave to western outlets, including CNN. According to this morning's New York Times (6/18, Kirkpatrick, Schmitt, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), "for more than a year...a plan to capture" Khattala "was on Mr. Obama's desk awaiting approval," but he "held back, in part for fear that an American raid...might further destabilize the already tenuous Libyan government."

In the lead story for NBC Nightly News (6/17, lead story, 3:05, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams said Khattala's capture "is being called a victory for the Obama Administration." Andrea Mitchell went on to report that on Tuesday, the President "took a victory lap," but then Mitchell asked rhetorically, "what took so long?" Mitchell noted that "only weeks after the attack, the New York Times and...CNN interviewed Abu Khattala in Benghazi." Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight Committee: "We knew where he was. He's been doing television interviews. We certainly could have taken him any time."

On ABC World News (6/17, story 2, 2:00, Muir), Brian Ross also reported that Khattala "was interviewed by reporters for CNN and others" as he was "flaunting his presence in Benghazi." Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX), chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, was shown asking, "If a CNN reporter can have and interview with him openly in a cafe, why couldn't we get to him sooner?"

On the CBS Evening News (6/17, story 2, 1:05, Glor, 5.08M), Jeff Glor noted that "a week after the attack in Benghazi, CBS News correspondent Elizabeth Palmer was the first reporter to track Khattala down...and interview him." Palmer went on to recount that she found Khattala by "simply ask[ing] a member of the Libyan security forces if he could set up a meeting."

Also on the CBS Evening News (6/17, lead story, 2:40, Glor, 5.08M), correspondent Bob Orr reported that following the attacks, Khattala "often appeared in public, unconcerned about any potential capture, but after word leaked last summer that he'd been charged by the US Justice Department, sources say Khattala became more cautious." Orr noted that while "other Islamic radicals have also been charged in the Benghazi case...22 months after the attacks that killed four Americans, only Khattala is in custody."

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (6/18, 614K) reports that "at the beginning of his brief speech Tuesday...in Pittsburgh," President Obama "announced the capture of" Khattala. Under the headline, "President Hails Capture Of Benghazi Suspect As Sending 'a Message To The World,'" the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (6/17, 677K) reports that the President's announcement got "a round of applause from a crowd gathered for a question-and-answer session." The Wall Street Journal (6/18, Barrett, Coker, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, the President said: "When Americans are attacked, no matter how long it takes, we will find those responsible, and we will bring them to justice."

The Washington Post (6/18, Gearan, Sullivan, 4.22M) reports that White House press secretary Jay Carney "called the arrest a 'milestone' but declined to answer most questions, including why it took so long to capture a figure who had been seen living openly in Benghazi since the raid." According to The Daily Caller (6/17, Bloom, 408K), on Tuesday, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki "repeatedly refused to explain why the administration waited over two years to capture" Khattala, and "dodged questions about Khattala's meetings with reporters, saying only that an interview 'is entirely different from any operation to take these individuals into custody, and there are a range of factors taken into account.'"

McClatchy (6/17, Clark, Youssef, Subscription Publication, 23K) says Khattala "became the most well-known of the roughly 70 attackers who stormed the U.S. special mission and set it ablaze after he brazenly bragged about his involvement to news outlets." According to McClatchy, Khattala "told journalists he was at the site but didn't

lead the attack." McClatchy also reports that "a commander in Benghazi's largest revolutionary brigade, the Libyan Shield," complained "two months after the attack that people were frustrated that Khattala was still allowed to openly operate in Benghazi."

USA Today (6/18, Jackson, Johnson, Michaels, 5.82M) reports that an anonymous "US official" says Khattala "had become more careful in recent months...which may have been related to last fall's capture of alleged al-Qaeda member Anas al-Libi in Tripoli, Libya, in connection with African Embassy bombings in 1998."

According to the Washington Post (6/18, Deyoung, Goldman, Tate, 4.22M), "U.S. officials said the joint Special Operations and FBI operation had been planned for months and was approved...on Friday" by the President. The Post says Khattala "had returned home Sunday night after a day of militia skirmishes in Benghazi when U.S. military commandos swarmed his residence."

Bloomberg News (6/18, Wilber, Lerman, 2.76M) calls Khattala's capture "a major break in the investigation of" the 2012 Benghazi attacks, and a "victory" for both the President and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, who said it is "a clear demonstration of the U.S. commitment to see justice done." However, Bloomberg News also notes that Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) called Khattala's apprehension "long overdue." Bloomberg News adds that "the interrogation of Khatallah may provide answers on whether, as the Obama administration initially said, the Libya attack grew out of a spontaneous protest" or "was a terrorist attack."

The AP (6/18, Reilly) notes that Khattala, identified as "a senior leader of the Benghazi branch of the terror group Ansar al-Sharia," is "in U.S. custody, marking the first U.S. apprehension of an alleged perpetrator in the assault that killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans." According to the AP, the Administration "has come under intense criticism from Republicans for being unable to apprehend those responsible for the attack."

The New York Times (6/18, Kirkpatrick, Schmitt, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says the "apprehension of...Khattala is a major breakthrough in the two-and-a-half-year-old investigation into the attack." According to the Times, while the President "vowed swift action to bring the perpetrators to justice," US "efforts...were stymied by the chaos of the event and the broader mayhem in Libya." The Hill (6/17, Sink, 237K) noted that Khattala is "among at least a dozen other suspects charged last year for their involvement in the Sept. 11, 2012 attack."

The Washington Times (6/18, Boyer, Ybarra, 455K) says Khattala's capture is "a much-needed boost for" the President following "the discovery of a previously undisclosed White House email suggesting that Mr. Obama's top aides wanted to downplay terrorism as the cause of the attack."

Under the headline, "Abu Khattala's Capture Is An I-told-you-so Moment For Obama. But It Could Be Short-Lived," Scott Wilson of the Washington Post (6/18, Wilson, 4.22M) notes that the President "has long described the political aftermath of the attacks in Benghazi...as a 'sideshow,'" but "now, for the first time in nearly two years," Benghazi is "at the center of the American political conversation on terms Obama very much favors." However, Wilson goes on to say that Khattala's capture "does little to explain how the administration devised a set of 'talking points'...that Republicans have come to view as a politically calculated obfuscation that helped shield Obama's reelection effort from criticism."

In a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (6/18, LaFranchi, 566K), Howard LaFranchi says this weekend's capture "will very likely dent criticism of President Obama's handling of the attack and its aftermath – but it won't end it." LaFranchi notes that a recent CNN poll found that "6 of 10 Americans said they were dissatisfied with the administration's response to the Benghazi attack."

Khattala Has Been Read His Miranda Rights, Will Not Be Sent To Gitmo. According to the Los Angeles Times (6/18, Cloud, Serrano, 3.46M), Khattala "was read his Miranda rights...shortly after his capture," but "U.S. authorities first invoked a public safety exemption that allows them to question him about other potential terrorism threats." On the CBS Evening News (6/17, lead story, 2:40, Glor, 5.08M), correspondent Bob Orr reported that "once the intelligence interrogation at sea is over, Khattala will be read his Miranda rights."

On NBC Nightly News (6/17, story 2, 1:00, Williams, 7.86M), correspondent Pete Williams also reported the FBI "will give him a Miranda warning." Williams added that "in spite of calls that the US take [Khattala] to

Guantanamo Bay for more questioning, US officials say that will not happen." Williams noted that the White House pointed out that "not a single person has been sent there since President Obama took office."

The Hill (6/17, Wong, 237K) reported that National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden released a statement on Tuesday reading: "Some have suggested that he should go to GTMO. Let me rule that out from the start." The Wall Street Journal (6/18, Barrett, Coker, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Attorney General Holder said on Tuesday that DOJ is now working to "begin the process of putting Khattallah on trial and seeking his conviction before a jury."

The Washington Post (6/18, Deyoung, Goldman, Tate, 4.22M) says the "response to the capture quickly divided along partisan lines, with Republicans demanding" Khattala "be thoroughly interrogated at sea and then brought to the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay...for a military trial," while Democrats "argued...that he belongs in criminal court."

The New York Times (6/18, A10, Steinhauer, Savage, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) also reports that Khattala's capture "revived the debate over whether Islamic militants should be handled under the military or civilian justice systems." Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC), who is chairing a House special committee probing the Administration's handling of the Benghazi attacks, said, "A non-U.S. citizen who committed a crime outside of the United States in what can only be defined as an act of terror tantamount more to a war than a criminal-code violation puts me in the camp of arguing for a noncivilian court trial." However, the Times notes that Greg Doherty, whose brother, Glen Doherty, was one of the four Americans killed in Benghazi, "supported the decision to try...Khattala in a civilian court," saying, "I think that's what we should do with criminals, which is try them."

Under the headline, "Benghazi Attacks Suspect Is Questioned About Other Possible Plots," the Los Angeles Times (6/18, Cloud, Serrano, 3.46M) reports that Khattala "face[s] questioning...about other possible plots against U.S. targets." The Times does not say what other plots or potential targets Khattala might have been asked about.

Roll Call (6/17, Starks, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that on Tuesday, some Republicans, including "potential presidential candidates" Sens. Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, "call[ed] for...Khatallah to be housed at Gitmo," but the White House "released a lengthy statement pushing back against that argument."

The Washington Times (6/18, Boyer, Ybarra, 455K) reports that Sen. John McCain "said it was 'totally inappropriate' to hold the suspect at a location other than Guantanamo Bay."

The Washington Post (6/18, Gearan, Sullivan, 4.22M) reports that Sen. Lindsey Graham tweeted: "Holding Khattala on a ship shows the haphazard approach which comes from not having rational detention & interrogation policies. ... Naval vessels were never meant to be detention and interrogation sites."

The Huffington Post (6/17, Siddiqui, 11.54M) noted that while Graham is "a firm believer in keeping Guantanamo open...McCain's comments seem at odds with his prior statements that the U.S. naval base in Cuba should be shut down." The Huffington Post notes that "following a visit last year," McCain "said it was of 'national interest' to close the camp and transfer detainees to other locations."

The Washington Post (6/18, Gearan, Sullivan, 4.22M) says Democrats "expressed exasperation" over the Republican criticism. Sen. Pat Leahy, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, is quoted as saying, "Oh for God's sake. With all of these terrorists, we've had four or five convictions in military courts. We've had several hundred convictions in federal courts. Do the math."

USA Today (6/18, Dorell, 5.82M) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee, said she "supports the administration's efforts 'to gather intelligence from Khatallah and prosecute him in federal court.'" Feinstein is quoted as saying, "Past cases...have shown that we can obtain intelligence, convict terrorists and lock them away for a very long time."

Clinton Says There Are Still Questions About Benghazi That Need To Be Answered. The Washington Post (6/18, Gearan, Rucker, 4.22M) reports that in an appearance on CNN (6/17, 12.15M) on Tuesday, former secretary of state Clinton said that in regards to the Benghazi attacks, "I'm still looking for answers, because it

was a confusing and difficult time." Clinton added, "There are answers, not all of them, not enough, frankly." According to the Post, the Administration "has said that after multiple investigations, there is little new to say about the attacks," but Clinton's comments "appeared to lend credence to a central claim by Republicans that there is more to learn about the Benghazi tragedy."

On CNN's The Situation Room (6/17, 554K), Gloria Borger was asked if Clinton's acknowledgment that there are unanswered questions justifies the creation of the House's special committee on Benghazi. Borger said, "My reporter ears perked up when I heard that. Because of course, there are questions about whether she will testify," and "now that she has come out and said...that there are a lot of unanswered questions, I guarantee you that Republicans will say, 'Well, Madam Secretary, come visit.'"

Also on CNN's The Situation Room (6/17, 554K), correspondent Dana Bash said Clinton's comments must have been "music to Trey Gowdy's ears," referring to the South Carolina Republican who is chairing the Benghazi panel. According to Bash, Clinton was "basically making the point for Republicans." Bash added, "I'm guessing that in retrospect she wishes she would have phrased it differently."

Peter Grier, in a piece for the Christian Science Monitor (6/18, Grier, 566K), says that "for Clinton the best scenario is that the detention and forthcoming trial of ...Khattala will provide some finality for the Benghazi episode, at least in the minds of voters." However, Grier adds that "there's another scenario that might prove more difficult for Clinton to handle: the snaring of a Benghazi ringleader opens the subject anew."

The Huffington Post (6/17, Taibi, 11.54M) reported that on Fox News, Peter Hegseth, CEO of Concerned Veterans for America, said, "I think this thing needs to be tied in a bow for certain individuals to have a clean break from an incident that...will continue to be a scandal and an anchor around a certain individuals neck who may want to run for president." Hegseth added, "What a great thing to announce in an interview tonight at Fox News that the perpetrators have been brought to justice – it's all too neat and it's too cute."

Benghazi Victim's Mother Continues To Criticize Clinton. On NBC Nightly News (6/17, lead story, 3:05, Williams, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that former secretary of state Clinton "can't seem to shake the controversy" over her responsibility for the security lapses that left the Americans in Benghazi vulnerable. Pat Smith, the mother of Sean Smith, one of the Americans killed in the attacks, was shown saying Clinton is "the kind of person I do not want to be president, ever." On ABC World News (6/17, story 2, 2:00, Muir), Smith was shown saying, "I'm glad they got one of 'em. There was a whole bunch that set fire to that place."

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (6/18, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) titled, "Doesn't Hillary Clinton Know The Law?" Victoria Toensing, who served as deputy assistant attorney general during the Reagan Administration, makes the case that under the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999, it was Clinton's responsibility, as secretary of state, to make sure that all US consulates were properly defended.

NYTimes A1: Khattala Reportedly Claimed That An Online Video Drove Him To Attack Americans. David Kirkpatrick, who wrote a widely noted front-page article for the New York Times last December in which he concluded that there is "no evidence that Al Qaeda or other international terrorist groups had any role in the assault," and that "contrary to claims by some members of Congress, it was fueled in large part by anger at an American-made video denigrating Islam," has a front-page analysis of Khattala's apprehension in today's New York Times (6/18, A1, Subscription Publication, 9.65M). According to Kirkpatrick, Khattala "is a local Islamist militant, with no known connections to international terrorist groups," who "told other Libyans in private conversations during the night of the attack that he was moved to attack the diplomatic mission to take revenge for an insult to Islam in an American-made online video." Kirkpatrick also reports that "residents of Benghazi were apparently unaware of his capture until the United States disclosed it, perhaps because of the fighting in the city."

Under the headline, "U.S. Raid Deepens Libyans' Fears Of Instability, Highlights Central Government's Weakness," the Washington Post (6/18, Cunningham, 4.22M) reports that the US "Special Forces raid comes amid renewed fighting in Benghazi between the militant Ansar al-Sharia group, to which the United States says Abu Khattala is linked, and armed forces loyal to renegade Libyan general Khalifa Hifter." The Post reports that on Sunday, "airstrikes carried out by pilots loyal to Hifter sparked clashes with armed militias, including Ansar al-Sharia," and, "according to...some of [his] close neighbors," Khattala "had been out fighting on Sunday before

U.S. forces captured him."

In an editorial titled, "An Ideal Candidate For Guantanamo," the Wall Street Journal (6/18, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), asserts that, contrary to the reporting of the Times' Kirkpatrick, Khattala was not motivated by any anti-Muslim video when he led the terrorist attack on the US facilities in Benghazi.

OBAMA HAILS IMPROVED MANUFACTURING PICTURE IN VISIT TO PITTSBURGH. With the Iraq crisis and the capture of a Benghazi terrorist dominating TV newscasts and front-page headlines this morning, the President's trip to Pittsburgh generated print coverage on the inside pages of today's newspapers. Reports tended to cast the President and his policies in a favorable light, highlighting improvements in manufacturing and his 45-minute conversation with a group of men and women.

The Washington Post (6/18, Eilperin, 4.22M) notes Obama "touted the renaissance of American manufacturing" during his visit to TechShop in Pittsburgh, where he "talked about how the industry had evolved over time, noting that in the past 'manufacturing meant big factories, you know, all kinds of smoke and fire and a lot of heavy capital.'" Obama also "engaged in a free-wheeling 45-minute discussion with men and women with business aspirations, discussing the need for better child-care options, how the US educational system could better prepare students and the fact that Obama's daughter Malia gave him a personal letter for Father's Day."

Obama "acted as a pitchman for entrepreneurs," says the New York Times (6/18, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), "fielding questions from small-business owners in an attempt to highlight creative ways to boost manufacturing." During his Q&A, Obama fielded a question from a woman who said she was about to turn 60. Said the President, "Older workers who lose their jobs have to recognize that they are going to have to adapt and retool in order to get an opportunity. ... You may not be able to be in the same industry you were before. ... It's not always fair, but it may be what's required." Also yesterday, "the White House announced a program that helps provide entrepreneurs access to more than $5 billion in advanced manufacturing equipment," and the Administration "said that five federal agencies will invest $150 million to support the Materials Genome Initiative to study advanced materials."

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (6/18, O'Toole, 677K) reports that Obama also "described new manufacturing investment commitments from 90 mayors cross the country, as well as a plan to provide private-sector innovators with access to expensive federal equipment such as wind tunnels at NASA and supercomputers at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory." Jeff Zients, director of the National Economic Council, told reports that "the president's plan aims to give innovators – dubbed 'makers' by the White House — access to equipment that no individual or small business could afford on its own." Said Zients, "[We are] talking about using spare capacity when it's available to give access to local makers and entrepreneurs."

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (6/18, Wereschagin, Erdley, 614K) reports that according to Matthew Rousu, associate professor of economics at Susquehanna University, "the overall economic effect of these plans is likely to be marginal, however, because advanced research and development jobs go to skilled workers, most of whom have college degree." Rousu said the plan "suffers from some of the same weaknesses as the 2009 stimulus act, which pumped billions into environmentally friendly technology research, supporting jobs for workers whose skills and training already were in demand, he said." The Tribune-Review notes that the President arrived in Pittsburgh with Sen. Bob Casey, as well as "senior adviser Valerie Jarrett and deputy chief of staff Anita Decker Breckinridge."

Reuters (6/18, Rampton)notes that Obama was also asked about his Administration's efforts to reduce gender-pay disparities. Said Obama, "This is not a women's issue, this is a family issue. Women now bring in close to half of all income, and there are a whole lot of families out there where the woman is the primary breadwinner. ... And if Michelle is not being paid fairly, then that's not helping me. I want her to get what she rightfully deserves. I want her being paid the same as a man doing the same job, because that is helping our family." Obama also said that "the US 'should do everything we can to strengthen unions in this country' after decades of waning influence," The Hill (6/17, Sink, 237K) reports, though he "encouraged labor 'to be flexible' and 'recognize that if you're working for a company, that that company has to have a bottom line.'"

OBAMA ATTENDS HIS FIRST SUPER PAC FUNDRAISER. The New York Times (6/18, Shear, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that President Obama "once criticized the flow of money to political

action committees, calling it a threat to democracy." However, "after conceding to political reality" and accepting super PAC support in 2012, Obama "completed his tumabout on Tuesday by attending a fund-raiser for the Senate Majority PAC, which raises money for Democrats in Senate races." The Times says that it was the first time the President had attended a super PAC fundraiser, and the move "reflected the urgency of raising money to defend the Democratic majority in the Senate this fall."

The AP (6/18, Kuhnhenn) reports that the President was "courting high-dollar Democratic donors Tuesday," including headlining an event for a super PAC "like the ones he once decried." In addition, he appeared at a "gala fundraiser for gay contributors one day after agreeing to take executive steps on workplace discrimination long sought by the gay community." Obama ended the evening "with a dinner at the home of Vogue editor Anna Wintour." The AP says that the President's presence at the events "underscores his popularity as a draw for big donors" along with his continued "utility" of boosting the coffers of the Democratic Party.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Balancing Act On Iraq."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (6/18, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) praises Obama's "cautious" handling of the Iraq crisis, and urges that his eventual decision be "grounded in a larger political strategy that considers the full spectrum of sectarian dangers that are roiling the region."

"The Limits Of The Fed." In an editorial, the New York Times (6/18, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that despite the efforts of the Fed to stimulate the economy, it remains anything but robust. The Times says that all of the Fed's tools have not been enough to increase demand among consumers, and "only Congress can provide the extra dollars for that, but lawmakers have been unwilling or unable to take action, even just to provide basics like federal unemployment benefits or highway and bridge repair."

"Mr. Obama's Ocean Monument." The New York Times (6/18, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that the US "has the watery equivalent" of an "Amazon basin," and the marine life that live in this area of the pacific Ocean "are the best reasons to welcome" Obama's decision to expand the protected area. The Times praises Obama's decision as consistent with previous efforts by presidents "of both parties" to "protect" the region.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Charting Ukraine's Middle Course."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (6/18, 4.22M) says that as "Russia's provocations continue" in Ukraine, the West "must prepare clear and certain consequences." The Post notes that Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko is "preparing a peace plan meant to reincorporate Ukraine's east on terms that will be acceptable to its many ethnic Russians," and argues that if the effort "does not elicit a fair response, the United States and its European allies must be ready with a strategy and a timetable to respond decisively."

"Harming Democracy Promotion." In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/18, 4.22M) notes that given the President's pledge of "support for democracy-promotion programs" last month at West Point, it is "perplexing that the White House, in the appendix to next year's budget, has proposed to undo the so-called Brownback amendment," which "bars any administration from asking for foreign regimes' approval before sending democracy promotion aid." The Post argues that changing this policy will "send an unfortunate message: If democracy promotion programs have to be compromised to protect strategic alliances, so be it."

"A Rough Ride For Uber."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Our Friends The Mullahs"*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/18, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) comes out against US-Iran cooperation in Iraq, concluding that the two nations' starkly different strategic goals and interests would spell disaster for the US position in the region.

"An Ideal Candidate For Guantanamo." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/18, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), asserts that, contrary to the reporting of the New York Times' David Kirkpatrick, Ahmed Abu Khatallah was not motivated by any anti-Muslim video when he led the terrorist attack on the US facilities in Benghazi.

"IRS Contempt Of Congress." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/18, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the lost IRS emails are disturbing, but adds that the agency also suggested on Friday that it had been only selectively sending to the House the emails of Lerner it did possess. The Journal says that Koskinen should face tough questions when he testifies before the House.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Forces Capture Key Benghazi Suspect
US Rules Out Iraq Airstrikes For Now
Many Displaced By Superstorm Sandy Still Wait For Housing Help
Fed Rate Debate Focuses On Jobless

New York Times:
As Sunnis Die In Iraq, A Cycle Is Restarting
Kin Shed Assets As China's Leader Fights Graft
US Seizes Suspect In Deadly Assault In Benghazi In '12
Brazen Figure May Hold Key To Mysteries
After Tsoris On Yiddish Tapes, A Mistrial For A State Senator
Soccer Fans' Dream Job Has A Catch: No Peeking

Washington Post:
A Candidate With 'Unfiltered Candor'
A Supreme Court Case That Could Sack The NFL
US Captures Benghazi Suspect
An I-Told-You-So Moment Is Unlikely To Quell Political Fires
Maliki Tightens His Grip On Power

Financial Times:
Selling Terror: How Isis Details Its Brutality
China Blocks Three-way Shipping Alliance
YouTube To Pull Plug On Indie Stars
Citi Urged To Fight Any Big Fine From DoJ
Pace Of 'Pass The Parcel' Deals Picks Up
SolarCity To Build Plant In NY State
Fed's Complex Relationship With Inflation

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Weather-Midwest Tornadoes; Weather Forecast; Benghazi Suspect; Iraq-Violence; Israel-Missing Teenagers; Dr. Oz-Weight Loss Products.
CBS: Benghazi Suspect; Benghazi Attack; Weather-Midwest Tornadoes; Iraq-US Forces; Iraq-Militias; Iraq-ISIL; Child Immigrants; Gun Laws.
NBC: Benghazi Suspect; Benghazi Suspect-US; Weather-Midwest Tornadoes; Weather Forecast; Iraq-US Forces; Consumer Prices; Dr. Oz-Weight Loss Products; Power Bills.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Benghazi Suspect; Iraq-US Embassy Preparations; Weather-Midwest Tornadoes; Georgia-Inmate Executed.
CBS: Georgia-Inmate Executed; Missouri-Inmate Execution Scheduled; Benghazi Suspect; Obama-Iraq Discussions; Search For VA Secretary Successor; Toronto-Mayor Rob Ford Controversy.
FOX: Benghazi Suspect; Hillary Clinton-Benghazi Comments; Arizona-Wildfire; California-San Marino Mayor Controversy; Toby Keith-Tax Warrant; Obama-Iraq Discussions; Iraq-GOP Concerns; North Carolina-Water Concerns; Michigan-Prison Yard Drug Incident.
NPR: Weather-Midwest Tornadoes; Benghazi Suspect; Nigeria-Suicide Bombing; Syrian Civil War; Georgia-

Inmate Executed; Wall Street; Ukraine Crisis-Russian Aid; California-Soda Warning Labels Bill Rejected; Stanley Marsh Obit.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; views Maker Faire projects; delivers remarks at the Maker Faire; meets with economists for lunch, Roosevelt Room, closed press; meets with members of the Congressional Leadership, Oval Office; meets with Secretary of State Kerry, Oval Office, closed press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Travels to the Presidential Palace for a bilateral meeting with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, closed press; delivers statements to the press; tours the National Center for Historic Memory; meets with US Embassy staff and families in Bogota; departs Bogota for Santo Domingo.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Delivers remarks at a Naturalization Ceremony at the National Archives.
US Senate: 10 a.m. SENATE REPUBLICANS – WORKING FAMILIES — Senate Republicans will hold a press conference regarding Republican proposals that could "immediately be acted on to improve the lives of working families". Speakers: Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) Republican Conference Chairman John Thune (R-South Dakota) Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah); Senator Deb Fischer (R-Nebraska); Senator Tim Scott (R-South Carolina). Location: Senate Radio and TV Gallery.

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EESI – GRID TECHNOLOGIES — The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) hosts briefing on Innovative Technologies to Strengthen the Grid. Speakers: Jerry McNemey (D-CA); Dr. Karen Wayland, Deputy Director for State and Local Cooperation, Office of Energy, Policy and Systems Analysis, Department of Energy; Erich Keller, Automation Engineer, G&W Electric – Bolingbrook, IL; Kenneth Geisler, VP for Strategy, Smart Grid Division, Siemens – Minneapolis, MN ; Anil Dhawan, Senior Electrical Engineer, Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) – Oak Brook, IL. http://www.eesi.org/files/061814_nema_notice.pdf Location: 428A Russell. Also: www.eesi.org/livecast

1:30 p.m. SENATOR COONS – DOE – MANUFACTURING INITIATIVES — Senator Coons will host a briefing on the Department of Energys advanced manufacturing initiatives. Mark Johnson, director of DOEs Advanced Manufacturing Office, and Libby Wayman, director of the Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative, will brief Congressional staff on DOEs work to support U.S. advanced manufacturing and clean energy innovation. CONTACT: Jamie Serlin at 202-224-5042 or Jamie_Serlin@coons.senate.gov http://1.usa.gov/1loXCtt Location: 366 Dirksen.

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. TPI- REFORMING THE TAX CODE — The Technology Policy Institute holds discussion on Reforming the Tax Code: A Transatlantic Perspective. Speakers include: Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP and Chair of the All Party Taxation Group for Parliament in the United Kingdom; Representative Kurt Schrader, (D-Ore.); Marc Goldwein, Senior Policy Director, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget; Arlene Holen, Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute; Rudolph Penner, Institute Fellow and Arjay and Frances Miller Chair in Public Policy, Urban Institute; Michael Thompson, Managing Director, S&P Capital IQ; Paul Weinstein (moderator), Senior Fellow, Progressive Policy Institute. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reforming-the-tax-code-a-transatlantic-perspective-registration-11885767651?ref=ebtnebregn Location: 215 Dirksen.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Defense Subcommittee: FY15 Department of Defense Budget Hearing. Witnesses: Chuck Hagel, Secretary, Department of Defense; General Martin Dempsey, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/defense-subcommittee-fy15-department-defense-budget-hearing Location: 192 Dirksen.

10 a.m. BANKING, HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment hearings to examine high frequency trading's impact on the economy.

Witnesses: Panel 1: Professor Hal S. Scott, Nomura Professor of International Financial Systems, Harvard Law

School; Jeffrey Solomon, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Cowen Group, Inc; Andrew Brooks, Head of U.S. Equity Trading, T. Rowe Price. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=2ab3ead5-3ee1-422d-a0ce-a8c599fac03d Location: 538 Dirksen.

10 a.m. ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety hearings to examine climate change, focusing on the need to act now. Witnesses: Opening Remarks. Panel 1: William D. Ruckelshaus, Strategic Advisor, Madrona Venture Group, and Former Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Christine Todd Whitman, President, The Whitman Strategy Group, Former Governor, State of New Jersey, and Former Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; William K. Reilly, Senior Advisor, TPG Capital, Chairman Emeritus, ClimateWorks Foundation, and Former Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Lee M. Thomas, Former Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Dr. Daniel Botkin, Professor Emeritus of Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara; Luther Strange, Attorney General, State of Alabama; Dr. Joseph R. Mason, Hermann Moyse, Jr./Louisiana Bankers Association Endowed, Professor of Banking, Louisiana State University, and Senior Fellow, The Wharton School. http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_id=a26b916b-b182-45cb-f502-930b93f8a24b&CFID87576453&CFTOKEN77843196 Location: 406 Dirksen.

10 a.m. FINANCE — Business meeting to consider the nominations of Henry J. Aaron, of the District of Columbia, Lanhee J. Chen, of California, and Alan L. Cohen, of Virginia, all to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board. http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=779a4df4-5056-a032-52af-7ab85deae566 Location: 215 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — The Intelligence Community: Keeping Watch Over Its Contractor Workforce. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/the-intelligence-community-keeping-watch-over-its-contractor-workforce2 Location: 342 Dirksen.

10:30 a.m. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — Business meeting to consider S.1771, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, S.1800, to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets, S.1946, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to modify the authorization of appropriations, S.1965, to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services, S.2010, to amend the Water Conservation and Utilization Act to authorize the development of non-Federal hydropower and issuance of leases of power privileges at projects constructed pursuant to the authority of the Water Conservation and Utilization Act, S.2019, to reauthorize and update certain provisions of the Secure Water Act, H.R.1963, to amend the Water Conservation and Utilization Act to authorize the development of non-Federal hydropower and issuance of leases of power privileges at projects constructed pursuant to the authority of the Water Conservation and Utilization Act, an original bill entitled, "To approve the Keystone XL Pipeline", and the nominations of Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, and Estevan R. Lopez, of New Mexico, to be Commissioner of Reclamation, both of the Department of the Interior, Monica C. Regalbuto, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management, and Norman C. Bay, of New Mexico, and Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings? ID=0a236f58-87ac-4a10-aec5-971e464e7d84 Location: 366 Dirksen.

2 p.m. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE — Hearings to examine empowerment in the workplace. http://www.jec.senate.gov/republicans/public/ Location: 216 Hart.

2:15 p.m. AGING — Hearings to examine the reduction in face-to-face services at the Social Security Administration. Witnesses: Tammy DeLong, Aroostook Area Agency on Aging; Nancy A. Berryhill, Deputy Commissioner for Operations, Social Security Administration; Scott Hale, President, National Council of Social Security Management Associations; Brenda Holt, Commissioner, Gadsden County. http://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/reduction-in-face-to-face-services-at-the-social-security-administration Location: 562 Dirksen.

2:15 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearings to examine United States policy in Afghanistan and the regional implications of the 2014 transition. Witnesses: James Dobbins, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, U.S. Department of State; Nisha Biswal, Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia, U.S.

Department of State; Michael Dumont, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia, U.S. Department of Defense; Brigadier General Robert White, Director of the Afghanistan/Pakistan Coordination Cell, Joint Staff, U.S. Department of Defense. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/us-policy-in-afghanistan-and-the-regional-implications-of-the-2014-transition Location: 419 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Aggressive E-Cigarette Marketing and Potential Consequences for Youth. Witness Panel 1: Dr. Susanne Tanski, Pediatrician and Chair, Tobacco Consortium of the American Academy of Pediatricians; Matt Myers, President, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; Jason Healy, President, blu eCigs, a subsidiary of Lorillard; Craig Weiss, President and CEO, NJoy, Scott Ballin, Health Policy Consultant. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=42af91a8-6308-45b5-9842-74bc5833be73&ContentType_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS — Legislative Hearing to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 1948, A bill to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program; S. 1998, A bill to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy; S. 2299, A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages. http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/legislative-hearing-receive-testimony-following-bills Location: 628 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. JUDICARY — Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights Executive Business Meeting. S.J. Res. 19 – An amendment giving Congress and states express authority to regulate and limit the raising and spending of money for political campaigns will be voted on. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/executive-business-meeting-2014-06-18 Location: 226 Dirksen.

3 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Hearings to examine growing small business exports, growing United States Jobs. Witness Panel 1: Mark Calhoon, Senior Managing Director, Business Services Division, Washington State Department of Commerce; Robert Campbell, President and CEO, Alliance Solutions Group, Inc.; Eric Hahn, Vice President, Organizational Development, General Plastics Manufacturing Company; W. Dan Hendrix, President and CEO, Arkansas World Trade Center; Donald F. Tyler, Director, Corfin Industries, LLC; Jennifer Verdon, Manager of International Business, Idaho Commerce Department. http://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings Location: 428A Russell.
US House: 9 a.m. GM – VICTIMS FAMILIES — Press conference by victims families prior to the House Energy and Commerce hearing on the GM ignition switch recall with GM CEO Barra. Press conference speakers: Joan Claybrook, President, Public Citizen, former administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Senator Richard Blumenthal; Candice Anderson, Canton, TX, Fiance was killed in her 2004 Satum; Laura Christian, Maryland, daughter was killed in 2005, her airbags did not deploy. Contact: Lauren Gomez, 361-960-3146, lauren@hmglawfirm.com Location: 2322 Rayburn.

10 a.m. BOEHNER BRIEFING — News Conference with Speaker of the House Boehner, GOP Leaders post-conference availability. (Mtg starts @ 9 am) Participants: House Speaker John Boehner, R-OH; Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS). Location: Center Steps, HC-5.

10 a.m. DEMOCRATIC LEADERS – AVAILABILITY — House Democratic leaders hold press availability following the Democratic Caucus meeting. Speakers: Democratic Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra (CA-34); Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Joe Crowley (NY-14); Assistant Democratic Leader James Clyburn (SC-06). Location: HVC-210 alcove stakeout location. Also, live online @ www.dems.gov/live

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. CONGRESSIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT — Co-chairs of the Congressional Chess Caucus, U.S. Congressmen Wm. Lacy Clay (D-Mo.) and Jason Smith (R-Mo.), face-off in the first-ever Congressional Chess Tournament to highlight the educational benefit of scholastic chess. World chess champion Garry Kasparov and students of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis join to coach Members of Congress through their moves and help them think like chess champions. The Congressional Chess Tournament is set up so that Republicans compete against Democrats, with both teams being mentored by some of the "greatest minds in the field". Contact: Molly Sheerer, 202.465.8743 (o), 202.320.0812 (m),

msheerer@bannerpublicaffairs.com Location: 2226 Raybum – House Judiciary Committee Hearing Room.

10:30 a.m. ADVOCATES FOR FAMILIES – ADOPTION, FOSTER CARE — Advocates for Families First, a national coalition with expertise in child welfare and intergenerational family connections, will release its first policy agenda during a legislative briefing sponsored by the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. Speakers: Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI) and other legislative representatives; Karen Poteet, Oklahoma Department of Human Services and an adoptive parent; Joe Kroll, Executive Director of North American Council on Adoptable Children; Caregivers and youth in foster care will share stories of how policy change would impact their lives. RSVP: For more information, contact Cynthia Bell, 202-701-3735 or Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center Congressional Meeting Room South

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. WITNESS WEDNESDAYS — The Center for Effective Government, National Employment Law Project, the Coalition on Human Needs, and the National Womens Law Center are organizing a series of nonpartisan public events called "Witness Wednesdays" to highlight the unemployed. Participants: Members of Congress: Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV) Groups: Joan Entmacher of NWLC; Imam Hendi of Georgetown University; Vasu Reddy of National Partnership for Women and Families; Anna Garcia Ashley of Gamaliel; Amelia Kegan of Bread for the World; Desiree Hoffman of YWCA; Randi Schmidt of Children's Leadership Council; Britton Loftin of ROC; Representative from Moms Rising; Sammie Moshenberg or Jody Rabhan of National Council of Jewish Women; Becky Levin of AFSCME. Contact: Patricia Brooks, Center for Effective Government, pbrooks@foreffectivegov.org, (202) 351-1757. www.witnesswednesdays.org Location: House Triangle on the Capitol's East Front (just off of New Jersey Ave. SE and Independence Ave. SE).

1:15 p.m. ROYCE – IRAQI AMBASSADOR PHOTO-OP — Photo Opportunity – House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Rep. Royce meets with Iraqi Ambassador to U.S. Lukman Faily. Photo spray at top. Preset at 1 pm. Location: 2186 Raybum.

1:30 p.m. SHELBY DECISION ANNIVERSARY EVENT — Tri-Caucus members and civil rights leaders will host a press conference on the Hill reaffirming their support for the Voting Rights Amendment Act (VRAA). This press conference kicks off the week for voting rights, with the approaching one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Shelby County v. Holder; the corresponding first Senate hearing on June 25; the upcoming 50th anniversaries of Freedom Summer and the Civil Rights Act. Speakers at the press conference will discuss why this is the "critical" time for action, and call on the House to advance the VRAA now to "protect voters" before they go to the polls in November. Contact: Scott Simpson, 202.466.2061, Simpson@civilrights.org Location: 2226 Raybum.

10 a.m. — House will meet for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

First votes 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. Last votes expected 3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Legislation to be considered: Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendments with a Further Amendment and Motion to go to Conference on Senate Amendments to H.R. 3230 – Veterans Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 and Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees

Begin Consideration of H.R. 4870 – Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015 (Modified Open Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen/ Appropriations Committee)

The rule provides for one hour of general debate and makes in order any amendment offered that complies with the House rules.

Additionally, the Rule provides for 10 minutes of debate per amendment equally divided between the proponent and an opponent and up to 10 pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate offered by the Chair and Ranking Member of their designee.

9:15 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Markup – FY 2015 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=384446 Location: 2358-B Rayburn.

9:30 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation taining Coast Guard Readiness. Witnesses: Panel I: Vice Admiral Charles Michel, Deputy Commandant for Operations, United States Coast Guard; Michele Mackin, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office. Panel II: Ronald ORourke, Specialist in Naval Affairs, Congressional Research Service; James H. Offutt, National President, Navy League of the United States. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=380170 Location: 2253 Rayburn.

10 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Full Committee Mark Up – FY 2015 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=384443 Location: 2359 Rayburn.

10 a.m. ENERGY AND COMMERCE — Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on The GM Ignition Switch Recall: Investigation Update. Witnesses: Mary T. Barra, Chief Executive Officer, The General Motors Company; Anton. R. Valukas, Jenner & Block. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/the-gm-ignition-switch-recall-investigation-updatesthash.nXuCM55Y.dpuf Location: 2123 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Hearing entitled "The Semi-Annual Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau." Witness: Richard Cordray, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=384327 Location: 2128 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Hearing on Protecting Christian Heritage in Turkey. Witnesses: Elizabeth H. Prodromou, Ph.D., Visiting Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; Khatchig Mouradian, Coordinator of Armenian Genocide Program, Center for Genocide and Human Rights, Rutgers University. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Markup: H.R. 4347, The Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act. To require the Secretary of State to provide an annual report to Congress regarding United States Government efforts to survey and secure the return, protection, and restoration of stolen, confiscated, or otherwise unreturned Christian properties in the Republic of Turkey and in those areas currently occupied by the Turkish military in northern Cyprus. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/markup/markup-hr-4347-turkey-christian-churches-accountability-act Location: 2172 Rayburn.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY — Hearing on "The Critical Role of First Responders: Sharing Lessons Learned from Past Attacks." Witnesses: Deputy Commissioner John Miller, Intelligence and Counterterrorism, New York City Police Department, New York City, New York; Chief James Schwartz, Arlington County Fire Department, Arlington, Virginia, Chief James Hooley, Boston Emergency Medical Services; Dr. Brian A. Jackson, Director, RAND Safety and Justice Program, The RAND Corporation. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/hearing-critical-role-first-responders-sharing-lessons-learned-past-attacks Location: 311 Cannon.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Markup: H.R. 3086 the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act; andH.R. ___ the Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome SCRUB Act of 2014. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2014/6/markup-of-h-r-3086-the Location: 2141 Rayburn.

10 a.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Poised to Profit: How ObamaCare Helps Insurance Companies Even If It Fails Patients. Witnesses: Jeff Sessions, United States Senator, Alabama, Mandy Cohen, M.D.; Acting Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; Seth J. Chandler, Foundation Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center; John R. Graham, Senior Fellow, National Center for Policy Analysis; Edmund F. Haislmaier, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Health Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation. http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/poised-profit-obamacare-helps-insurance-companies-even-fails-patients/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

10 a.m. SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — Subcommittee on Research and Technology hearing on The Future of Surface Transportation. Witnesses: Dr. Christopher P.L. Barkan, Professor and George Krambles Faculty Fellow, Executive Director, Rail Transportation and Engineering Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Scott Belcher, President and CEO, Intelligent Transportation Society of America; John Maddox, Director of Collaborative Program Strategy, Texas A&M, Transportation Institute and University of Michigan Transportation Institute; Kristen Tabar, Vice President, Technical Administration Planning Office, Toyota

Technical Center; Gregory D. Winfree, Assistant Secretary, United States Department of Transportation; Troy Woodruff, Chief of Staff, Indiana Department of Transportation. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102385 Location: 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — Subcommittee on Aviation hearing on Airport Financing and Development. Witnesses: Panel I: Benito "Ben" De Leon, Deputy Associate Administrator for Airports, U.S. Federal Aviation Administration; Dr. Gerald L. Dillingham, Director of Civil Aviation Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Panel II: Mark Baker, President and CEO, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Todd Hauptli, President and CEO, American Association of Airport Executives; Sharon Pinkerton, Senior Vice President, Legislative and Regulatory Policy, Airlines for America; Mark Reis, Chairman, Board of Directors, Airports Council International, North America. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=383492 Location: 2167 Rayburn.

10 a.m. WAYS AND MEANS — Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commissions (MedPAC) June report to the Congress. The report details the Commissions recommendations for reforming Medicare payment policies. The Subcommittee will hear from MedPACs Executive Director, Mark E. Miller, Ph.D. www. WaysandMeans. House. Gov Location: 1100 Longworth.

10:15 a.m. VETERANS' AFFAIRS — Full committee hearing on Non-VA Care: An Integrated Solution for Veteran Access. Witnesses: Panel 1: David J. McIntyre Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, TriWest Healthcare Alliance; RADM Thomas Carrato USPHS (Ret.), President, Health Net Federal Services; Kris Doody RN, Chief Executive Officer, Cary Medical Center. Panel 2: Randy Williamson, Director, Health Care, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Philip Matkovsky, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Administrative Operations, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/non-va-care-an-integrated-solution-for-veteran-access Location: 334 Cannon.

1 p.m. SMALL BUSINESS — Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce hearing on Action Delayed, Small Business Opportunties Denied: Implmentation of Contracting Reforms in the FY 2013 NDAA. Panel I: Angela Styles, Partner, Crowell & Moring, LLP., Washington, DC; Charlotte Baker, President, Digital Hands, Tampa, FL Testifying on behalf of Women Impacting Public Policy; Larry Allen, President, Allen Federal Business Partners, McLean, VA; Damien Specht, Special Counsel, Jenner & Block, LLP. Panel II: John Shoraka, Associate Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development, The United States Small Business Administration. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=373181 Location: 2360 Rayburn.

1:30 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Markup: H.R. 4653, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/markup/subcommittee-markup-hr-4653-united-states-commission-international-religious-freedom Location: 2200 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FINANCIAL SERVICES — Hearing entitled "Allegations of Discrimination and Retaliation within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Part Three." Witnesses: Ali Naraghi, Examiner, Southeast Region, Division of Supervision, Enforcement and Fair Lending, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Kevin Williams, former Quality Monitor, Office of Consumer Response, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Briefing and Hearing: Human Rights Abuses and Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea. Witnesses: Andrew Natsios, Co-Chair, The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea; Shin Chang-Hoon, Ph. D, Director, Center for Global Governance, Asan Institute for Policy Studies; Shin Dong-hyuk, Survivor of North Korean prison camp. BRIEFER: Lee Jong-hoon, Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights, Republic of Korea. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-briefing-and-hearing-human-rights-abuses-and-crimes-against-humanity-north Location: 2200 Rayburn.

2 p.m. FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa Joint Subcommittee Hearing: The Bergdahl Exchange: Implications for U.S. National Security and the Fight Against Terrorism. Witnesses

Mike Waltz, Senior National Security Fellow, New America Foundation, (Commanded a Special Forces Company in Eastern Afghanistan in 2009); Spc. Cody Full, USA, Retired, (Served with Sgt. Bergdahl in Blackfoot Company, Second Platoon); Andy Andrews, Father of deceased Second Lieutenant, USA, Darryn Andrews. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/joint-subcommittee-hearing-bergdahl-exchange-implications-us-national-security-and-fight Location: 2172 Rayburn.

2 p.m. NATURAL RESOURCES — Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing on "American Energy Jobs: Opportunities for States and Localities." http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/ Location: 1334 Longworth.

3 p.m. RULES — Business Meeting: H.R. 4413Customer Protection and End User Relief Act. http://rules.house.gov/news/announcement/meeting-announcement-hr-4413 Location: H-313 The Capitol. Other: June 17 – 18. AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION'S POLICY CONFERENCE — 2014 AGU Science Policy Conference. Speakers include: U.S. Representatives Donna Edwards (D-Md.-4(th)), Jim Moran (D-Va.-8(th)), and Scott Peters (D-Calf.-52(nd)) (plenary session on Tues.); U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell (keynote remarks on Wed.); Kate Gordon, Executive Director, Risky Business; Tom Kimbis, Vice, President, External Relations, Solar Energy Industries Association; and Peter Marquez, Vice President for Global Engagement, Planetary Resources and former space advisor for presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush. AGU Contacts: Peter Weiss, +1 (202) 777-7507, pweiss@agu.org; Joan Buhrman, +1 (202) 777-7509, jbuhrman@agu.org; Nanci Bompey, +1 (202) 777-7524, nbompey@agu.org 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Climate change and the U.S. Atlantic sea scallop fishery. 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Adjusting the thermostat on urban heat waves. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

June 17 – 18. HIMSS GOVERNMENT HEALTH IT CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION — Free for Government Employees and Veterans. Confirmed keynote speakers include Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX); and Niall Brennan, Acting Director, Offices of Enterprise Management, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. www.govhealthitconference.com Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Atrium Ballroom.

June 17 – 18. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. USGLC STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE — 2014 USGLC State Leaders Conference Americas Role in the World: Our Security, Our Economy and You. The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition is a broad-based influential network of 400 businesses and NGOs; national security and foreign policy experts; and business, faith-based, academic and community leaders in all 50 states who support a "smart power approach". Speakers: Rick Barton, Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization; David Brody, Chief Political Correspondent, CBN; Norm Coleman, former U.S. Senator; Candy Crowley, Chief Political Correspondent, CNN; Tim Roemer, former U.S. Representative, Ambassador to India; Rick Santorum, former U.S. Senator; Liz Schrayer, Founding Executive Director, USGLC; Lt. General Kip Ward, USA (Ret.), Commander, U.S. Africa Command (2007-2011); Vin Weber, former U.S. Representative. Press Secretary John R. Gagain, Jr. at 202-375-0778 or gagainjr@mcc.gov. 1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Paul C. Weinberger, Vice President of Congressional and Public Affairs at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, will participate in the conference's leadership development workshop on "The New Face of Global Development: An Evolution in How We Deliver Aid."

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE JAMES — 8 a.m. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James meets with various national capital region press members at the Defense Writers Group. Location: Fairmont Hotel, 2401 M St. NW.

HEALTH BEYOND HEALTH CARE — 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. The Washington Post Presents "Health Beyond Health Care: Creative Ideas for Improving Communities." Speakers include: Former NFL player Herman Moore, Federal Reserve official David J. Erikson, Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Acting U.S. Surgeon General Rear Adm. Boris Lushniak join other experts to discuss how we can build healthier communities. The forum will spotlight new efforts in several U.S. cities and towns, including Detroit and Williamson, W. Va. For agenda: http://wapo.st/1kPb2nh Location: The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street, NW. Also, The forum will be streamed live at http://wapo.st/1p14cLH

AEI – OUTSOURCING THE VOTE — 9:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. AEI for a conference discussing the paper and broader

issues of proxy advisory services and corporate governance. The event will begin with a keynote by Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC). It will continue with a discussion among Glenn Booraem of Vanguard Funds, Jill Fisch from University of Pennsylvania and Fordham University, Former Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission Harvey Pitt, AEIs Alex J. Pollock, and Damon Silvers of AFL-CIO about the right role for mutual funds and other institutions in corporate govern. AEIs Peter J. Wallison will moderate the first panel. The event will proceed with a second panel including AEI scholar and Former Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission Paul Atkins, Allan McCall from Stanford University, Robert McCormick of Glass, Lewis, & Co., Hester Peirce from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, and Former Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission Steve Wallman. AEIs James K. Glassman will moderate. http://www.aei.org/events/2014/06/18/outsourcing-the-vote-a-conference-on-the-role-of-proxy-advisory-services-in-corporate-governance/ Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

VA ACTING SECRETARY SLOAN GIBSON — 11:15 p.m. Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Sloan Gibson will visit the Washington DC VA Medical Center to meet with medical center leadership and employees. Media RSVP: RSVP to VAPublicAffairs@va.gov Contacts: Gloria Hairston: (202) 745-4037; cell – (240) 223-7065; gloria.hairston@va.gov; Victoria Dillon: Victoria. Dillon@va.gov Location: Washington DC VA Medical Center, 50 Irving Street, NW.

PDA – JUNE ROUNDTABLE — 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. PDA will host a special Progressive Round Table highlighting the 21st Century Civil Rights Agenda. Our topics will include updates on voting rights, Constitutional Pay Equity (ERA), restoration of voting rights for people with past felony convictions, the Robin Hood Tax, ending racial profiling (Trayvon's law), environmental justice, healthcare justice and voting rights for the District of Columbia. Participants include: Rep. Keith Ellison – HR 280/281 (Same Day Registration/Voter Access Protection); Rep. Mark Pocan – HJ Res 44 (Voting as a Constitutional Right); Rep. Jackie Speier – HJ Res 113 (Removing the ratification deadline from the ERA); Rep. Bobby Scott – HR 1695 (Justice Safety Valve Act – Mandatory Minimum Sentences); Rep. John Conyers – HR 1000/2851/4459 (Humphrey Hawkins Full Employment/End Racial Profiling/Democracy Restoration Act) Presenting Organizations; Michael Lighty – National Nurses United; Rev. Rodney Sadler – Moral Mondays, North Carolina; Anise Jenkins – Stand Up for Democracy, DC; Dr. David Rabin – Healthcare Justice; Rev. Lennox Yearwood – Hip Hop Caucus; Emily Wurth – Food and Water Watch.

AEI – MCCAIN, KEANE – IRAQ — 4 p.m. Chaos in Iraq: A conversation with Senator John McCain and General Jack Keane. http://www.aei.org/events/2014/06/18/chaos-in-iraq-a-conversation-with-senator-john-mccain-and-general-jack-keane/ Location: American Enterprise Institute, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "In a new interview, Hillary Clinton said the Bible is the most influential book she has ever read. Now some people think she might be pandering to southern, Christian voters. Then she said, 'Come on, y'all, little 'ole me?'"

David Letterman: "Well, President Obama is sending a couple hundred troops into Iraq. We spent six years trying to figure a way to get out of Iraq. What are you gonna do? They say this time there is an exit strategy. Barack Obama has an exit strategy. 2016, he's gone."

David Letterman: [Commenting on World Cup soccer tournament] "Soccer is one of those things that the rest of the world cares more about than we do – you know, like healthcare, education, gun control – hey, we're not interested in any of that."

David Letterman: "But if you love soccer, you have to wait four years for a World Cup, and it's like making an appointment with a VA doctor."

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broadcasts. The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by BulletinIntelligence, which creates custom news briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

Re: Draft USDA release for bi-state sage-grouse announcement

Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jun 19, 2014 at 6:53 AM
To: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Cc: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks, Dan. I can tweak and send back around

On Thu, Jun 19, 2014 at 6:51 AM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Jun 18, 2014, at 7:23 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Kate –

Some suggested edits and/or questions highlighted in red. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Sally

From: Kelly, Katherine [mailto:kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 6:00 PM
To: Sally Jewell
Cc: sarah greenberger; Tommy Beaudreau; Jessica Kershaw; emily_beyer; Dan Ashe; Nikki Buffa
Subject: Draft USDA release for bi-state sage-grouse announcement

Sally -

On Friday, USDA is announcing over $25M to help conserve the bi-state sage-grouse, the distinct population located in NV and CA. (Good news!)

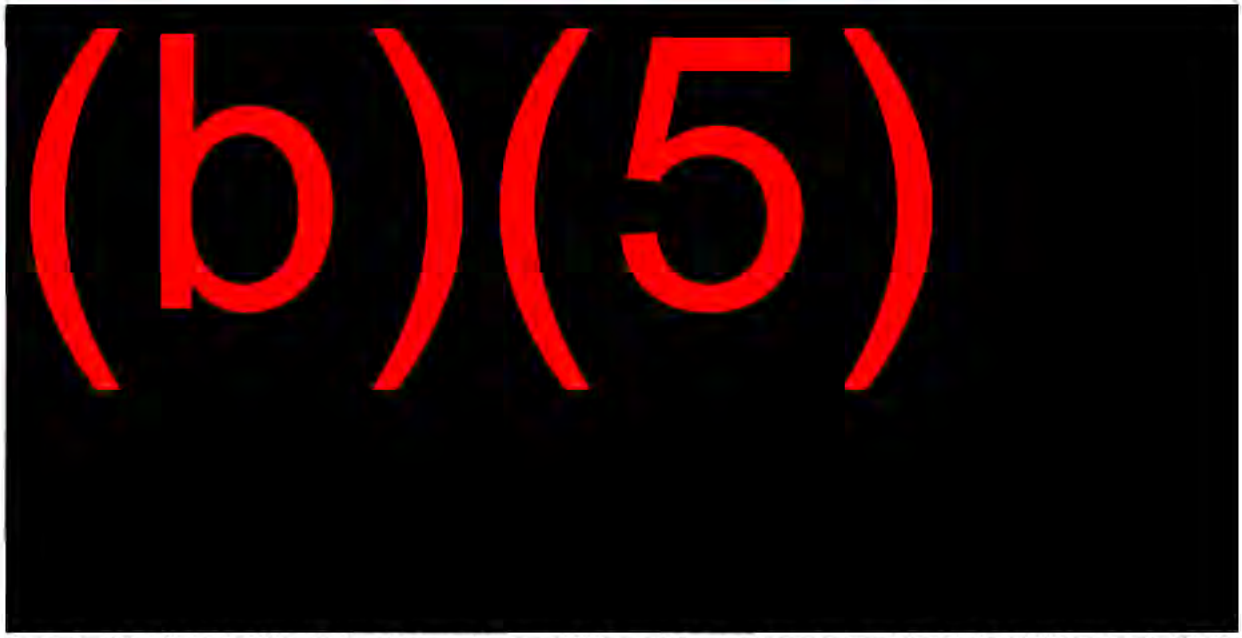
They are elevating the announcement to the Secretary's level and have offered to give you a quote in the release. We are scrubbing the release through BLM, USGS and FWS channels now, but I wanted to send you the draft version for your review/quote approval.

Thanks in advance,

Kate

USDA Announces Landmark Agreement to Improve Sage-Grouse Habitat

Nevada-California Ranchers to Benefit

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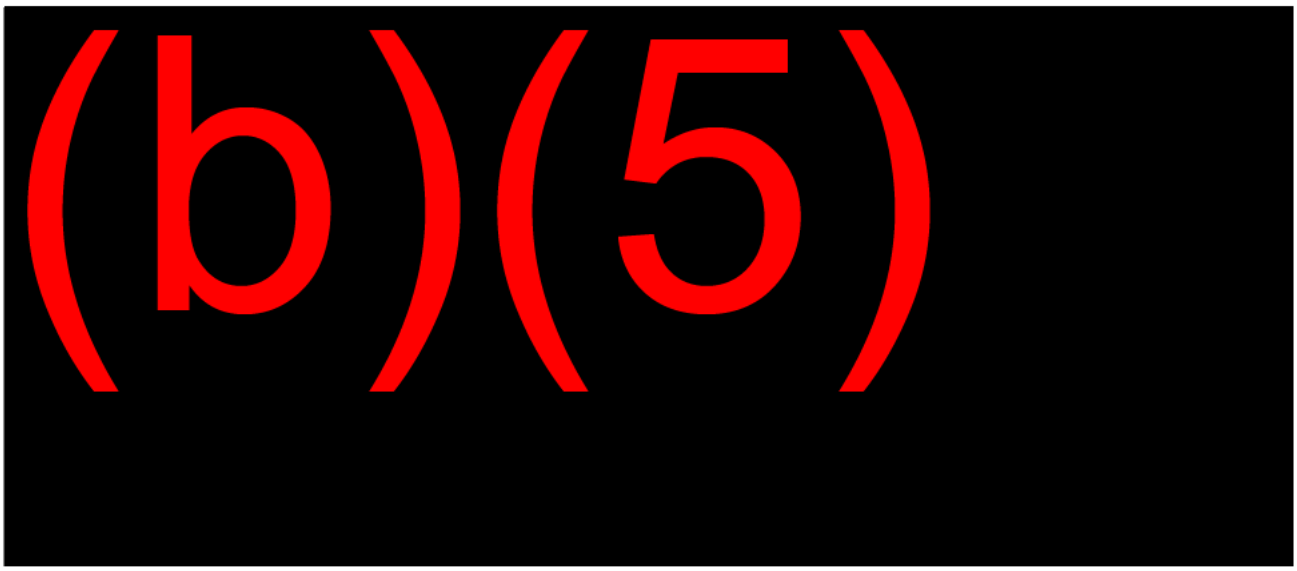

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Kate Kelly
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–

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, June 19, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jun 19, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR TO HOST PUBLIC MEETINGS ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN RECOGNITION. The AP (6/19, Bussewitz) reports that "the federal government announced Wednesday it will take a first step toward recognizing and working with a Native Hawaiian government at a time when a growing number of Hawaiians are questioning the legality of the US annexation of Hawaii." The Interior Department will "host a series of public meetings during the next 60 days with Native Hawaiians, other members of the public and Native American tribes in the continental US to discuss the complex issue, Rhea Suh, assistant secretary for policy, management and budget for the department, said during a conference call with reporters." Suh said, "This does not mean we are proposing an actual formal policy. We are simply announcing that we'll begin to have conversations with all relevant parties to help determine whether we should move forward with this process and if so, how we should do it."

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (6/19, 402K) reports that Suh said "the administration is starting this process in response to requests from the Native Hawaiian community, Hawaii's congressional delegation and state leaders." According to the article, "among the other questions the administration seeks to answer is whether Interior should assist the Hawaiian community in reorganizing its government and whether conditions should be established to pave the way for federal recognition of a new governing entity formed by Hawaiians."

The Honolulu Civil Beat (6/19, 41) reports that "underscoring how significant the development is, Hawaii's congressional delegation — Sens. Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz, and Reps. Colleen Hanabusa and Tulsi Gabbard — issued a joint statement." They said, "We applaud the Administration's commitment to an open dialogue, starting with listening sessions in Hawaii to provide ample opportunity for Native Hawaiians and the general public to contribute their comments and concerns. This notice represents an historic opportunity to address years of injustice and marks a positive step forward in the push for Native Hawaiian self-determination."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (6/19, 4.22M), the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (6/19, 85K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/19, Bussewitz, 1.48M), the Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (6/19, 31K), the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (6/18, 395K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/18, 687K), Yahoo! (6/19, Bussewitz, 17.91M), KGMB-TV Honolulu (6/19, 41K), and KOB-TV Albuquerque, NM (6/19, 59K).

Additional coverage was provided by the Big Island (HI) Now (6/18), the Maui (HI) Now (6/18), the Honolulu Star-Advertiser (6/19, 402K), the West Hawaii Today (6/19, 26K), and the Nation Sun News (6/19).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF ANNOUNCEMENT ON PILT FUNDING. Coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's announcement of $437 million in PILT funds continued on Wednesday.

Alaska. The AP (6/19) reports that "federal officials say 29 local governments in rural Alaska are receiving a total of more than $28.5 million through the 2014 Payments in Lieu Of Taxes program."

Additional coverage was picked up by the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (6/18, 251K), the Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (6/19, 44K), the Juneau (AK) Empire (6/18, 21K), the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (6/19, 31K), KTVA-TV Anchorage, AK (6/19, 1K), KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (6/19, 4K), KTNA-FM Talkeetna, AK (6/17), and KTOO-FM Juneau, AK (6/18).

California. KXTV-TV Sacramento, CA (6/18, 25K) reports that "California counties with vast tracts of federal land will receive a total of $45.3 million from Uncle Sam this year."

Additional coverage was picked up by the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (6/19, 76K) and the Willits (CA) News (6/19, 10K).

Colorado. The Boulder County Business Report (6/18, 21K) reports that "counties along the northern Front Range have received nearly $2.18 million in payments in lieu of taxes from the federal Department of the Interior." The article notes that "the money is part of more than $34.5 million the PILT program released Tuesday to Colorado counties."

Additional coverage was picked up by the Northern Colorado Business Report (6/18), the Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (6/19, 27K), and the Pagosa (CO) Daily Post (6/19).

Montana. The Big Horn Radio Network (6/19) reports that "in total, for its 3.5 million acres of federal land, Park County will receive $1.7 million dollars." Also, "Big Horn County, with its 1.5 million acres, will receive just over one million in PILT payments."

Additional coverage was picked up by the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (6/18, 90K).

Nevada. The AP (6/19) reports that "federal officials say that 17 rural Nevada communities are getting a total of about $25.4 million this year under the government's annual Payments in Lieu of Taxes program."

Additional coverage was picked up by the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (6/19, 22K), KRNV-TV Reno, NV (6/19, 2K), KTVN-TV Reno, NV (6/19, 1K), and KVVU-TV Las Vegas (6/19, 23K).

New Mexico. The AP (6/19) reports that "the federal government will be sending more than $37 million to New Mexico to compensate counties for non-taxable federal lands within their borders."

Additional coverage was picked up by the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (6/19, 282K), the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-

News (6/19, 59K), the Los Alamos (NM) Daily Post (6/19), the Alamogordo (NM) Daily News (6/19, 19K), the Deming (NM) Headlight (6/19, 10K), KOB-TV Albuquerque, NM (6/19, 59K), and KAMR-TV Amarillo, TX (6/19, 428).

Wyoming. The Wyoming Business Report (6/18, 24K) reports that "Wyoming received more than $27.1 million on Tuesday through PILT – or payments in lieu of taxes funding from the federal government."

PRESIDENT OBAMA ANNOUNCES PLAN TO EXPAND PACIFIC REMOTE ISLANDS MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that the State Department's "Our Ocean" conference, hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry, concluded on Tuesday with "well over $1 billion in pledges to protect and preserve the world's oceans." The article notes that President Obama "led the charge early in the day when he announced plans to make a vast portion of the south-central Pacific Ocean off limits to energy exploration, fishing and other harmful activities, thereby creating one of the largest ocean preserves in the world." The federal government will "attempt to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument with the guidance of scientists, fishermen, conservation experts and elected officials."

SENATE PANEL APPROVES NOMINEES FOR BOR, USGS POSTS. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday "approved several Obama administration nominees for key energy and environment posts." The panel "easily advanced the president's nominees to lead the Bureau of Reclamation, the US Geological Survey and the Department of Energy's environmental management work." The panel unanimously approved Estevan López to be commissioner of the BOR. Also, the committee unanimously approved Suzette Kimball to lead USGS.

ADVISORY GROUP LISTS RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRATEGIES TO FIGHT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that "the White House's plan to combat wildlife trafficking is closer to implementation, after an advisory panel recently released a list of recommendations on how best to crack down on the growing illicit trade." The Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking "approved the recommendations at its final meeting this month." The document now goes to the Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, a panel of federal officials headed by Secretary of State John Kerry and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

ARIZONA PASSES LEGISLATION ON FIRE PREVENTION FUNDING. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that "Arizona lawmakers made a plan to make a plan this year to reduce the risk of wildfire on state trust lands." However, "critics saw the move as yet another failure to address the threat to lives and property in Arizona's dusty wildlands." The legislation "passed by the GOP-controlled Legislature allocated $1.4 million to thin bone-dry vegetation no earlier than 2016, the year the plan is due." The article notes that "the total was nowhere near the $100 million that House Appropriations Chairman John Kavanagh (R) estimated a comprehensive project would require."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ANNOUNCEMENT ON AUCTION FOR WIND ENERGY LEASES OFF MASSACHUSETTS. Additional coverage of the announcement of the auction for wind energy leases off Massachusetts was provided by NPR (6/19, Chappell, 519K), the Martha's Vineyard Times (6/18, 47K), the New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (6/18, 54K), the Cape Cod (MA) Today (6/18, 3K), the SNL Financial (6/19, 21K), and the Power Engineering (6/19).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

BATTLE OVER YELLOWSTONE SNOWMOBILES HEATING UP AGAIN. The Hill (6/19, Devaney, 237K) reports that "the battle over whether snowmobiles should be allowed in Yellowstone National Park is heating up again." The US Forest Service this week announced "it is looking to draw up a map of what trails and roads in the nation's oldest national park are open to snowmobile traffic, reopening an issue that had drawn fierce lobbying from environmental groups."

RAZORBACK SUCKER FOUND SPAWNING IN GRAND CANYON. The AP (6/19) reports that the razorback sucker, "an endangered fish species believed missing from Grand Canyon National Park since the 1990s, has

been found spawning in the lower Colorado River." According to Interior Department officials, "researchers have discovered larval razorback suckers since mid-April in the river that runs through the canyon." The article notes that the "development indicates that suitable habitat is available to support larger populations of the species that's characterized by a long, high sharp-edged hump behind its head, experts said."

NPS URGES VISITORS NOT TO DIP AT WWII MEMORIAL POOL. WJLA-TV Washington (6/19, 118K) reports that "pictures of people splashing inside the pool" at the World War II Memorial have "prompted a furious reaction on social media." The NPS said that "they understand their desire to cool off, but try to explain that the memorial is a site that deserves respect."

ST. CLAIR ANSWERS CRITICS ON NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (6/18, 166K) reports that Lucas St. Clair "spoke informally for 1 ½ hours before a crowd that included a half-dozen people who opposed his efforts to create a North Woods national park and accompanying multi-use recreation adjacent on 150,000 acres adjacent to Baxter State Park." He said that "if he were to turn the 150,000-acre area proposed for a national park and recreation area over to the logging industry, it would produce 53 jobs, according to a study by a University of Maine economist." However, "the son of environmentalist and entrepreneur Roxanne Quimby wants to do more for Lincoln, the Katahdin region, and northern Maine, he told about 30 people at a Lincoln Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce meeting Wednesday night."

PAPER OPPOSES DESIGNATING COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT AS A NATIONAL PARK. In an editorial, the Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (6/19, 73K) argues against that designating Colorado National Monument as a national park. According to the paper, Park Superintendent Lisa Eckert has "done herself no favors in fighting perceptions of a tone-deaf federal agency that cares little about being a good neighbor."

Bureau of Land Management:

UTAH LEGISLATORS HOLD PUBLIC LANDS DISCUSSION. The AP (6/19, Price) reports that Utah legislators "held a panel discussion Wednesday with federal officials and representatives of sheriff's offices on how federal control of vast swaths of Utah affects law enforcement." The article notes that "the discussion came as Utah officials await the release of a study looking at what would happen if the state assumed control of millions of acres of land currently in federal hands." Legislators on Wednesday "didn't take any action besides hosting the discussion."

Also covering the story are the Deseret (UT) News (6/19, 610K) and KSTU-TV Salt Lake City (6/18, 42K).

Meanwhile, in an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (6/19, 282K), Carl Graham, Director, Coalition for Self Government in the West , writes that "self-determination and self-government are what's really at stake in the growing federal lands debate in New Mexico." He argues that "this isn't really about dollars and cents." Rather, "it's about basic fairness and preserving the viability and values of our rural production economy."

REP. TIPTON SAYS BLM MUST LISTEN TO STATE, LOCAL CONCERNS ON GUNNISON GROUSE PLAN. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that Rep. Scott Tipton says the BLM "better be mindful of state and local concerns as it develops an ambitious new plan to protect the Gunnison sage grouse in Colorado and Utah." Tipton said in a statement, "As the BLM revises the RMPs, I strongly urge them to work closely with local stakeholders and states who know the habitats best, and use sound, transparent science to ensure the grouse is protected while maintaining the ability of local communities to responsibly utilize and access the land. To achieve this, collaboration with state and local stakeholders is an absolute necessity."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

INTERIOR URGES APPEALS COURT TO ALLOW RULING STAND ON PROTECTION FOR DELTA SMELT. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that the Interior Department "urged a federal appeals court to reject a California request to reconsider a ruling upholding the agency's determination that the state's water infrastructure threatens an endangered fish at the heart of a regional water war." In a March ruling, a divided 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the FWS' 2008 biological opinion for delta smelt, "which concluded that pumping water from the San Francisco Bay-Delta into Southern California was threatening the small fish's critical habitat."

GROUP PETITIONS INTERIOR TO EXPAND GRIZZLY RECOVERY RANGE. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that An environmental group is "petitioning the government to greatly expand its grizzly bear recovery efforts so the iconic predators can be returned to up to 110,000 square miles of historical range in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Utah." The Center for Biological Diversity submitted the petition on Wednesday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and FWS Director Dan Ashe. The group "claims the agency has a legal duty to respond to the petition and update its 1993 recovery plan for grizzlies 'to incorporate new recovery strategies throughout the grizzly bear's historic range.'"

Also covering the story are the AP (6/19, Bryan) and Reuters (6/19, Zuckerman). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (6/19, 4.22M), the Denver Post (6/19, 940K), the Idaho Statesman (6/18, 222K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/18, 687K), and ABC News (6/19, 3.58M).

DALLAS SAFARI CLUB WANTS FWS TO LIFT BAN ON AFRICAN IVORY IMPORTS. The Dallas Morning News (6/19, Wilonsky, 1.18M) reports that "the same local organization that auctioned off the right to hunt an endangered African rhino – in the name of preservation – is now asking the federal government to reverse its ban on importing 'sport-hunted African elephant trophies' taken from Tanzania and Zimbabwe." The Dallas Safari Club is "trying to convince" the FWS "from lifting its 2014-long ban on importing ivory from those two African nations." The Dallas Safari Club calls the government's actions "arbitrary and capricious."

EFFECTS OF FIRE ON MOOSE IN KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO BE EXAMINED. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that "research efforts are just beginning in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge as the massive Funny River Horse Trail fire dies down." According to the article, "representatives from various federal agencies tentatively agreed last week to examine the effects of the fire on moose and other parts of an ecosystem that hadn't burned significantly in decades." The article notes that "the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the refuge could pool their resources and begin gathering data next year."

CRITICS QUESTION MONOMOY EXPANSION PLAN. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (6/18, 101K) reports that "the drive to oppose what some see as an unexpected annexation of town land and an expansion of jurisdiction over fishing contained in the new US Fish and Wildlife Service management plan for the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge appears to be gaining momentum." The article notes that "mailers went out last week to nearly 6,000 Chatham residents asking that they submit comments on the plan, and nearly 1,700 signatures have been collected on a petition expressing opposition to the refuge taking ownership of 717 acres of barrier beach the town believes it owns and to the claim that the Wildlife Service can control the types of fishing gear used in waters within its boundaries." Also, "on Tuesday night, over 200 people attended a public hearing on the plan with many of the 40 speakers expressing their disapproval of the land taking and the assertion of control over fishing practices by the Fish and Wildlife Service." But "at the same time, many speakers were careful to say they supported the refuge mission and hoped that a mutually agreeable solution could be found."

MEN SENTENCED FOR LURING, JUMPING ON MANATEES. The AP (6/19) reports that "two men have been sentenced over an online video that shows one man jumping on two manatees." The US Attorney's Office in Orlando said that "22-year-old Taylor Blake Martin was ordered Wednesday to pay a $3,000 fine, while 22-year-old Seth Andrew Stephenson must pay $2,000." FWS officials "began investigating last year after the video was posted on Facebook."

Also reporting on the story are Reuters (6/19, Stein), the New York Daily News (6/19, 4.36M), the Naples (FL) Daily News (6/18, 167K), the Savannah (GA) Morning News (6/18, 226K), and WBRC-TV Birmingham, AL (6/19, 11K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GROUPS FILE LAWSUIT SEEKING ENDANGERED STATUS FOR LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. Additional coverage of a lawsuit filed by three wildlife-advocacy groups requesting the lesser prairie chicken be listed as an endangered species was provided by the Lubbock (TX) Avalanche-Journal (6/18, 176K), the Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (6/19, 94K), the Artesia (NM) News (6/19, 10K), Fox News (6/18, 6.72M), and the Oil and Gas Journal (6/19, 1K).

HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES PETITIONS FOR LEAD AMMO BAN ON PUBLIC LANDS. For

Outdoor Life Magazine (6/19, 1.12M), Tony Hansen writes that the Humane Society of the United States is "looking to effectively shut down hunting on public land by eliminating the use of lead-based ammunition." In its petition to the Interior Department, HSUS "asserts that the use of lead ammo is causing widespread declines in wildlife populations, that humans are at risk of lead poisoning when consuming game shot with lead bullets and that 'Lead-free alternatives are available, affordable and sensible.'" However, Hansen argues that "this isn't about public health safety," and "this isn't about environmental health either." Rather he claims that "this is about HSUS' desire to make it as difficult as possible for Americans to hunt."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

STUDY: WIND TURBINES GENERATE PROMPT ENERGY PAYBACK. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that "the energy required to build a new commercial-scale wind turbine amounts to only a small amount of what the turbine will produce over a projected 20-year life span, according to a new life-cycle analysis of wind turbines performed by Oregon State University researchers." The environmental analysis, published in the International Journal of Sustainable Manufacturing, finds that "a 2-megawatt turbine built for a typical Pacific Northwest wind farm will pay back the energy used in its manufacture and installation within five to eight months of coming into service." Authors Karl Haapala and Preedanood Prempreeda explain in the paper, "All forms of energy generation require the conversion of natural resource inputs, which are attendant with environmental impacts and costs that must be quantified to make appropriate energy system development decisions."

GROUP TO FILE LAWSUIT OVER EXTENSION OF EAGLE DEATH PERMITS. The AP (6/19, Cappiello) reports that "a conservation group says it's suing the Obama administration over a new federal rule that allows wind-energy companies to seek approval to kill or injure eagles for 30 years." The lawsuit from the American Bird Conservancy was "expected to be filed Thursday in federal court in San Jose, California." The group claims that "the rule, which extended by 25 years the length of time companies may kill or injure eagles without fear of prosecution, is illegal because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to evaluate the consequences and ensure it would not damage eagle populations."

O'CONNELL: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULDN'T INVEST IN CAPE WIND. Dan O'Connell, president and CEO of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership, writes in a piece for the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (6/19, O'Connell, 237K) that "despite the abundance of reasonably priced renewable energy through hydro and competitively bid onshore wind projects, the high-priced Cape Wind project continues to dominate the headlines and the discussion about energy innovation and subjects taxpayers and ratepayers alike to unnecessary costs." He goes on to say that "as a matter of practical energy policy, renewable energy should be embraced as long as it is competitively bid, cost effective, and does not rely on federal taxpayer subsidies as a primary finance vehicle" and because of these reasons, "the federal government should not be investing taxpayer dollars in projects that do not meet this standard."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON NEXT SALE IN NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that the BLM is seeking public input on plans to sell additional oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Federal regulators will determine which "NPR-A tracts should be included in the government's November oil and gas lease sale." Comments on the lease sale are due by July 18. In announcing the next lease sale, BLM's Alaska State Director Bud Cribley said regulators are seeking to "develop oil and gas resources while protecting important surface resources and subsistence opportunities."

ONRR CONSIDERING CHANGES TO HOW IT VALUES OIL PRODUCED ON RESERVATIONS. The Hill (6/19, Devaney, 237K) reports that the Office of Natural Resources Revenue is "considering changes to how it values oil produced on Indian reservations."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

HOUSE PANEL APPROVES SPENDING BILL FOR DOE, BOR, OTHER AGENCIES. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday "cleared its $34 billion spending plan for the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies, after a markup dominated by discussion of two water policy riders Republicans have been trying for years to attach to spending laws." The article notes that "the overall bill passed on a voice vote with relatively few modifications compared with when it was first offered earlier this month," and "no changes were made to spending levels outlined in the bill."

Also, the Sunnyside (WA) Daily Sun-News (6/18) reports that "the report accompanying the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for next year, which was released by the House Appropriations Committee Tuesday, includes language secured by Congressman Doc Hastings to support the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Integrated Plan." Hastings said, "While the weather cooperated this year and all water users are able to access the water they need, there is no question that additional water storage is needed in the Yakima River Basin so that our communities, farmers and fish get through the dry years that we have experienced before and will experience again."

SENATE COMMITTEE PASSES DAM, WATER LEGISLATION. The Oregonian (6/19, 992K) reports that "a bill that would remove the spending ceiling on dam safety improvements and could help finance costly fixes at Scoggins Dam, near Gaston, has passed the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources." Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley "introduced the bill earlier this year to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 and remove spending caps for construction work on 476 dams and dikes managed by the US Bureau of Reclamation across the western United States." The committee, "which met Wednesday, June 18, also passed an amendment to the bill to authorize $1.1 billion for safety construction projects to the dams and dikes managed by the bureau."

The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (6/19, 90K) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "advanced two bills sponsored by Sen. John Barrasso to address aging Bureau of Reclamation water facilities in the West." Senate Bill 1800 would "start a process to determine the scope and cost of repairs needed for Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure across the West." Senate Bill 2010 would "streamline the permitting process at 11 conduit hydropower development sites in the region."

BOR ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON FUTURE OF NAVAJO GENERATING STATION. The Arizona Daily Sun (6/19, 33K) reports that the BOR is "accepting public comment until July 7 for an environmental impact statement regarding proposals by the Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Mine to reduce emissions by one-third for 25 years beginning in 2019, when the coal-fired plant's lease expires."

OPPONENTS OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN GEAR UP TO OPPOSE WATER BONDS. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/18, 687K) reports that "California lawmakers haven't finished maneuvering to get a new water bond on the ballot in November, but opponents have already begun mobilizing." Opponents of Gov. Jerry Brown's "plan to build massive water conveyance tunnels under the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta are launching a political action committee to battle any water bond that could facilitate the Bay Delta Conservation Plan." According to the article, "their goal is to raise at least $1 million for the effort." The story are also appears at the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (6/18, 126K).

Additional coverage was provided by the Bloomberg BusinessWeek (6/18, 4.91M) and the San Francisco Chronicle (6/19, 3.33M).

BOR GIVES UPDATE ON LAKE NIGHTHORSE. The Durango (CO) Herald (6/18, 28K) reports that "it will be 2015 at the earliest before there will be recreation at Lake Nighthorse, and there still are a lot of details to work out, a Bureau of Reclamation official told about 100 residents who attended an update about the lake Wednesday night." The BOR "gave vague reassurances Wednesday that progress is being made to open Lake Nighthorse for recreation but few details." Kathleen Ozga, resource manager with the bureau's Western Colorado area, "gave an update at a public meeting at the Durango Community Recreation Center."

LATEST FEDERAL PLAN FOR COLUMBIA SALMON CHALLENGED. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that "conservation groups have challenged the latest plan to protect endangered salmon in the Columbia River Basin." Environmentalists and fishing advocates argue that "the federal government's fifth proposal to balance salmon restoration in the Northwest with the operation of hydroelectric dams does not do enough to protect the fish

species, according to a lawsuit filed yesterday in US District Court in Portland." Advocates said "the proposal ignores studies that show releasing more water from the dams would help build the Columbia River Basin's wild salmon population."

CALIFORNIA TRUCKS TROUT FROM HATCHERIES. The E&E Daily (6/8) reports that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced on Tuesday that "the state's most productive fish hatchery complex is being evacuated because of the record drought and heat wave." Workers "scooped thousands of trout onto trucks that will move them to cooler waters." According to William Cox, hatchery program manager for the state, "all the fish will be removed by the end of the week."

KLAMATH RIVER TRIBES SUPPORT KLAMATH BASIN RESTORATION AGREEMENT. For the Indian Country Today Media Network (6/18, 45K), Josh Saxon, a member of the Karuk Tribal Council, writes that "despite widespread support for the Agreements from Klamath River Tribes, local irrigation districts, the dam owner, and a host of fishing and conservation groups, opposition still exists." He notes that the Hoopa Tribe has "emerged as an opponent as detailed in ICT's June 1 coverage of the introduction of legislation to implement the Klamath Agreements by Senators Wyden, Merkley, Feinstein, and Boxer." Saxon urges "everyone with something at stake in the Klamath to consider the Klamath Agreements and what they achieve: the largest dam removal in history, the largest river restoration effort in history, and an opportunity for Klamath River Tribes to take the lead in restoring the watershed our ancestors have entrusted us with."

Empowering Native American Communities:

PATENT OFFICE CANCELS REDSKINS TRADEMARK REGISTRATION. A Patent and Trademark Office ruling canceling the Washington Redskins' trademark registration for being "disparaging to Native Americans" generated widespread press coverage, but most of that coverage saw no impact from the decision in the near future, if ever. Still, the consensus is that the ruling increased the pressure for the team to change its name.

NBC Nightly News (6/18, story 7, 2:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported that the "pressure just increased" on the Redskins to change the name, "starting with the fact that they may no longer have the exclusive use of their own name in the lucrative business of NFL merchandise." Still, NBC (Welker) added, "The question now, would losing trademark protection impact the team's bottom line? Merchandise sales are split among all NFL teams. So the Redskins may not see a significant drop in that revenue." Daniel Kaplan, Sports Business Daily, was shown saying, "The only way it really begins to affect the bottom line of the Redskins is if major sponsors stood up, or if potential stadium backers stood up and said we won't be involved with this."

The CBS Evening News (6/18, story 9, 1:40, Alfonsi, 5.08M) similarly said that "a government agency turned up the heat" on the team to change their name. CBS (Reid) adds that owner Daniel Snyder "has consistently said he will never change the name, but dozens of Native American tribes and civil rights groups have called for just that," as have "50 US senators, including Democratic Leader Harry Reid."

The Washington Post (6/19, Vargas, 4.22M) reports that an appeal board of the USPTO "has canceled the Washington Redskins trademark registration, calling the football team's name 'disparaging to Native Americans.'" The "landmark case" was "filed on behalf of five Native Americans." The Post notes that Federal trademark law doesn't allow "registration of trademarks that 'may disparage' individuals or groups or 'bring them into contempt or disrepute.'"

The Wall Street Journal (6/19, Gershman, Jones, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), however, says that the immediate impact of the ruling might not be significant, and notes that the ruling can be appealed. Still, the Journal says it might increase the pressure on team owner Daniel Snyder to change the team's name.

The New York Times (6/19, Belson, Wyatt, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the ruling "was hailed by some Native American groups and members of Congress who have pressured Goodell to force Snyder to abandon the name." However, the board "does not have the authority to ban the use of the term, and the registration of the trademark is likely to be held intact while the team appeals, so there will be little immediate impact on sales of team merchandise." A lawyer for the Redskins expressed confidence that the team would win on appeal.

The Washington Times (6/19, Noble, 455K) similarly says that the ruling "doesn't have any immediate effect" as it "allows the team, which is named in the decision as Pro Football Inc., to seek a federal court review of the decision, and it stipulates the team does not have to act on the ruling until the appeals are exhausted – a process which could take years."

USA Today (6/19, Brady, 5.82M) reports that the board "canceled the team's federal trademark registrations in an earlier version of the case in 1999," then the team "won on appeal in 2003." The "difference" now is "that the ruling comes as the latest in a barrage of public pressure against the name."

In a piece running contrary to the rest of the coverage, the Christian Science Monitor (6/19, Velasco, 566K) says that the ruling "doesn't force the Washington football team to find a new nickname." It "just makes it financially inconvenient not to do so, because anyone can make and sell his own Redskins jerseys and not get sued." The piece also notes that Reid and House Minority Leader Pelosi both praised the ruling.

Politico (6/18, Topaz, McCalmont, 637K) called the ruling a "major blow" to the team, and notes that "even" President Obama has said the team should consider changing its name. However, Bob Raskopk, the trademark attorney for the team, "downplayed the ruling and vowed the team will win an ensuing appeal."

WSJournal Criticizes Ruling As Government Overreach. In an editorial entitled "Patent Office Comanches," the Wall Street Journal (6/19, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the ruling is another sign of the various agencies of the Federal government following orders from Democratic leaders and expanding their reach.

Other Editorials Call On Snyder To Change Team Name. In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/19, 4.22M) welcomes the patent office move was, and says that Snyder "would be smart to take this as an opportunity. He is kidding himself if he thinks concems about the continued use of an offensive name can be waved away as easily as a reporter's question."

In an editorial, the New York Times (6/19, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that the ruling "has no immediate effect on the team, which says it will appeal the decision." The Times says an appeal "would be a mistake" and that Snyder "should reconsider his obstinate refusal to change the name, which he has preposterously argued was a 'badge of honor' for American Indians."

SEN. WALSH INTERVIEWED ON COBELL SETTLEMENT. The Indian Country Today Media Network (6/18, 45K) reports that Sen. John Walsh "introduced legislation in May that's intended to both speed up the second payment" from the Cobell settlement and "strengthen the buy-back program, allowing more tribal control over it and placing the money in an interest-bearing account that would grow more money for Indian country." In an interview, "Walsh expanded on his Cobell concerns."

HEALY LAKE CHIEF CHARGED WITH THEFT OF TRIBE'S FUNDS WHILE ABANDONING VILLAGE. The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (6/19, 44K) reports that "in the midst of an ongoing leadership struggle in Healy Lake, the tiny Interior village's disputed tribal chief has been charged in federal court with stealing tens of thousands of dollars from the village, a community of about a dozen people east of Delta Junction." According to an indictment a grand jury handed up in May, "the Mendas Cha-Ag first chief and former tribal administrator, JoAnn Polston, faces counts of theft of government funds and embezzlement from a tribal organization." Polston "allegedly stole some of the money from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the indictment says."

Also covering the story are the Alaska Dispatch (6/18, 7K) and the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (6/18, 251K).

Top National News:

OBAMA BRIEFS CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON OPTIONS HE IS MULLING REGARDING IRAQ. Although Secretary of State Kerry insisted on Wednesday that "nothing is off the table" as President Obama considers how to respond to the ISIL-led Sunni insurgency in Iraq, most reports suggests that the President is unlikely to authorize anything more lethal than targeted airstikes. And JCS Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey said even such a limited engagement may have to wait until Prime Minister Maliki follows through on his pledge to address some

of the grievances cited by Sunni politicians as motivating factors behind the insurgency.

On ABC World News (6/18, story 4, 2:05, Muir), Martha Raddatz reported that "all indications are that" the President "will not order large scale air strikes" because he does not "want...to bolster the Iraqi government, which has failed to unite its people." Defense Secretary Hagel was shown saying, "We have done everything we could to help them, but it's up to the Iraqis." The AP (6/19, Hendawi) reports that while the President "has not fully ruled out the possibility of launching airstrikes, such action is not imminent," and the Washington Post (6/19, A1, Whitlock, 4.22M) notes that Dempsey testified on Wednesday that a US "bombing campaign would be fraught with complications and that Iraq's political divisions needed to be addressed first."

However, on Fox News' O'Reilly Factor (6/18, 2.53M), Bill O'Reilly maintained that the argument from "the President and others" that "we must first deal with the Iraqi government...before we can strike the al Qaeda army" is "pure bull." According to O'Reilly, "We don't need to involve ourselves with Iraqi politics to defend ourselves against terrorists on the march."

On Wednesday, the three network newscasts devoted more than 13 minutes of air time to the unfolding events in Iraq, not counting two segments on rising gas prices that emphasized the impact of the crisis in Iraq on global oil supplies, which is about 30% more coverage than on Tuesday, when both NBC and CBS led with reports on the capture of the suspected ringleader of the Benghazi terrorist attacks.

At the opening of NBC Nightly News (6/18, lead story, 3:30, 7.86M), Brian Williams said, "It is getting worse tonight in Iraq, a place where so many Americans, of course, gave so much in a long war that is still...being fought over in this country." Richard Engel went on to report from Baghdad that Iraqis "remember all too well the vicious civil war that tore this country apart just a few years ago," and, according to Engel, "it was the American troop surge that kept it from spiraling completely out of control," but "this time the US is keeping its distance." Engel added that while the Obama Administration "seems reluctant to get more involved," the Iranian government "doesn't seem to share the same concerns," and is warning that it "would not hesitate to protect holy Shiite sites" in Iraq.

However, in the lead story for the CBS Evening News (6/18, lead story, 1:50, 5.08M), Sharyn Alfonsi reported that "a US military operation in Iraq is under way in the sky." Correspondent David Martin went on to report that "US Military aircraft" are "now flying round-the-clock surveillance missions in Iraq" as the Pentagon confirmed that the government of Iraq "has indeed asked for airstrikes against the insurgents who now control much of northern and western Iraq." Martin added that "to get better intelligence, the Pentagon is now planning on sending about 100 Army Green Berets into Iraq" even though President Obama "has promised not to send US troops back into combat in Iraq." Martin reported that the Green Berets will be "armed," and that "one military officer" acknowledged that "there will be risk."

Politico (6/18, Everett, 637K) reported that on Wednesday, President Obama "told Capitol Hill's Big Four leaders...that he doesn't intend to seek congressional authority for any action in Iraq." Senate Minority Leader McConnell said afterwards that the President "indicated he didn't feel he had any need for authority from us for steps that he might take." According to Politico, McConnell "declined to answer follow-ups on what options Obama is weighing." USA Today (6/19, Jackson, 5.82M) reported that an anonymous "administration official" on Wednesday "disputed McConnell's statement about congressional authority, saying Obama told lawmakers that he and his staff 'will continue to consult with Congress on next steps.'"

The AP (6/19, Pace, Cassata) reports that after the President's briefing, House Minority Leader Pelosi said she "concurred with the president" that he "does not need 'any further legislative authority to pursue the particular options for increased security assistance discussed today.'" Nevertheless, according to the AP, "The prospect of the president sidestepping Congress sets up a potential new clash between the White House and lawmakers" although "Administration officials have said airstrikes have become less a focus of recent deliberations."

Under the headline "Obama Not Asking Congress' Permission on Iraq," Roll Call (6/18, Dennis, Sanchez, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that many Democrats in Congress are "wary of getting entangled in Iraq again," and neither Pelosi nor Senate Majority Leader Reid described "what actions [Obama] intended to take...in Iraq." Roll Call noted that also on Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney "deflected a question about congressional authorization," but "repeatedly said...the president wants to avoid Iraq becoming a safe

haven for terrorists."

According to The Hill (6/18, Sink, Bolton, 237K), Reid and Pelosi "left the meeting saying the 2002 law authorizing President George W. Bush's military action in Iraq would also cover new orders by Obama," while McConnell and House Speaker Boehner "said the president vowed to keep them informed but not ask for their votes."

Reuters (6/19, Rampton) reports that the White House released a statement on Wednesday confirming that the President "provided an update on the administration's efforts to respond to the threat from ISIL by urging Iraq's leaders to...come together with a sense of national unity," and "also reviewed our efforts to strengthen the capacity of Iraq's security forces to confront the threat from ISIL, including options for increased security assistance."

In an online piece for the New Yorker (6/18, 5.3M), Robin Wright made the case that "Iraq might not be rescuable without the U.S. dealing with Syria" because ISIL "has already erased part of the border between the two countries," so if they are "defeated in Iraq, they could simply retreat to their Syrian bases and come back another day."

Nicholas Kristof, in his column for the New York Times (6/19, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), says the "hawks are right" when they argue that Iraq "presents a serious problem." However, according to Kristof, "American military intervention" is not "the best response at this time." Kristof says that although "many Sunnis in Iraq dislike ISIS...they have learned to loathe and distrust Maliki even more."

In their joint column for USA Today (6/19, 5.82M), Bob Beckel and Cal Thomas make the case that the US ought not get involved militarily in Iraq again. Thomas says President Obama is "right" when he warns that "there is no military solution, especially when...Maliki has refused to reconcile with the Sunnis." Beckel says Maliki was "elected on the promise to include the minority Sunnis in his government," but then "reneged on that promise," and, "instead...decided to partner with Iran, a Shiite country, forcing the Sunnis to take up arms and rekindle the civil war."

Kerry: "Nothing Is Off The Table." NBC Nightly News (6/18, story 2, 0:45, Williams, 7.86M) aired a portion of an interview NBC's Savannah Guthrie conducted with Kerry in which she says, "There are some senior officials quoted in various news accounts today saying that air strikes are off the table, that the US is no longer considering that – is that true?" Kerry was shown replying, "Nothing is off the table. All options are still available to the President. The President has not made a decision on those options. We are very intensely vetting each of the possibilities."

Todd: Kerry Is Administration's "Strongest Advocate" For Airstrikes Against ISIL. On NBC Nightly News (6/18, story 3, 2:30, Williams, 7.86M), Chuck Todd described Kerry as "the strongest advocate...for a larger air strike effort" within the Administration. According to Todd, "The most likely military option the President is considering is one he uses in Yemen, small targeted drone strikes."

Dempsey, Hagel: For Now, US Strikes Unlikely To Have Much Of An Impact. The Washington Post (6/19, A1, Whitlock, 4.22M) reports that in testimony before a Senate panel on Wednesday, Dempsey confirmed that "Iraq's Shiite-dominated government has requested that Washington provide 'air power' as it tries to take back territory seized in recent weeks by fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other insurgents." The Post adds that while Dempsey explained that "pinpointing targets in an air campaign would be difficult, especially because Sunni insurgents have melted into the local population," the "broader problem" is that the Iraqi government has "worsened Iraq's sectarian divisions."

According to Bloomberg News (6/19, Hunter, Talev, 2.76M), Dempsey "signaled that air strikes aren't imminent" even as Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki "warned that the insurgency could spread into neighboring countries" if the US does not stop the ISIL advance. The Wall Street Journal (6/19, Sparshott, Nissenbaum, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports also on Wednesday, Hagel suggested that US military intervention would be fruitless absent a political breakthrough in Baghdad.

However, Reuters (6/19, Gordts) notes that despite his stated reluctance to the lead the US in another military

engagement in Iraq, Dempsey also said, "It is in our national security interest to counter ISIL wherever we find them."

Spencer Ackerman of The Guardian (UK) (6/19, 1.59M) says that on Wednesday, neither Dempsey nor Hagel "even remotely endorsed returning to military action in Iraq, from the air or otherwise, a significant omission from two of Obama's most important defense officials." But Ackerman also writes that "the murky picture, exacerbated by the relative paucity of US intelligence sources on the ground in Iraq, comes despite Dempsey's description of the US moving what he described as 'a great deal of manned and unmanned ISR to gain clarity,' using a military term for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance."

Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (6/19, 4.22M), notes that on the Senate floor on Wednesday, Sen. John McCain acknowledged that "air power does not win conflicts," and that "we must do everything in our power to make sure that Maliki appoints a government of reconciliation and departs." However, McCain added that Maliki's ouster "can't be the prerequisite for U.S. military action because...time are not on our side."

Petraeus: US Must Not Be Seen As "The Air Force For Shia Militias." The Washington Times (6/19, Ernst, 455K) reported that in a speech in London, former CIA director David Petraeus echoed Dempsey when said that the US must not serve as "the air force for Shia militias." Petraeus is quoted as saying, "You cannot have 18 to 20 percent of the population feeling disenfranchised – feeling that it has no stake in the success of the country."

Bloomberg News (6/19, Atlas, Lerman, Runningen, 2.76M) says it is not known "whether the Iraqi government is willing to try to avert the worst-case scenario of civil war by agreeing to devolve significant power to autonomous Sunni and Kurdish regions, along with guaranteeing them a fair share of the nation's oil revenue," although some analysts maintain that "nothing short of that will work."

LATimes Analysis: Obama's Deliberations Reflect His Thinking Prior To Backing US Military Involvement In Syria. Under the headline "Obama's Mideast Airstrike Refrain: 'And Then What?,'" the Los Angeles Times (6/19, Hennessey, Parsons, 3.46M) reports that the President's thinking about potential US military aid to the Iraqi government parallels his deliberations last year before he spoke to the nation in favor of US military intervention in Syria's civil war. The Times says that in the case of Syria in 2013, the President "solicited scores of options" and then he would ask, "And then what?" which the Times says reflected his "deep skepticism about the ability of military intervention to fix entrenched problems." Nevertheless, according to the Times, an anonymous "senior official" says the President is "considering drone strikes" against ISIL, just as he eventually supported using American air power to dislodge the Assad regime that was fighting ISIL last year.

The New York Times (6/19, A10, Shear, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the President's meeting on Wednesday with Congressional leaders "recalled a similar session between the president and lawmakers at the White House in September at which the president sought the backing of House leaders for a threatened missile strike against Syria." However, the Times says that in this case, the White House "noted that the Iraqi government was pleading for military help, while strikes in Syria would have been waged against" Syria's government.

FIRST LADY SAYS PRESIDENT WILL CONTINUE PUSH FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM. McClatchy (6/19, Haven, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports the First Lady, speaking at a naturalization ceremony at the National Archives Wednesday, called for an immigration overhaul, saying that her husband will make reform a priority. She said, "He refuses to give up the fight, because at the end of the day this fight isn't about abstract principles; it's about real people." DHS Secretary Johnson delivered the oath to 50 new citizens, and told them, "Ever since you've been in this country, someone will look at you, listen to your accent and ask your name – and they'll ask you where you are from. From this day forward, you can say, 'I'm an American.'"

CBP Calls Influx Of Unaccompanied Children "Humanitarian Crisis." Two broadcast networks continued coverage on the influx of children into the US across the southern border, in what ABC World News (6/18, story 8, 1:50, Muir) called a "new surge headed north." ABC's Jim Avila said that while some arrive with their parents, "many [are] coming alone." The CBS Evening News (6/18, story 8, 1:30, Alfonsi, 5.08M) reported that "since last year, 47,000 children, mostly from Central America, have entered the United States illegally without their parents," and nearly 8,000 are now staying in emergency shelters.

The AP (6/19, Sherman, Galvan) says the "surge...has been building for three years" and "has overwhelmed the U.S. government." The Los Angeles Times (6/19, Hennessy-Fiske, 3.46M) reports that Federal officials said the number of children entering the US illegally is up more than 90% from 2013, and "the number of unaccompanied children caught this year is expected to reach 90,000." On Wednesday, Customs and Border Protection officials "called the situation a 'humanitarian crisis,' echoing President Obama's comments in recent days."

The Washington Times (6/19, Richardson, 455K) says "during the first media tour Wednesday of the U.S. Border Patrol processing facility, at least 100 children were doing what children normally do: playing basketball with border agents, watching World Cup soccer, resting on mats with Mylar blankets, talking in groups. But mainly waiting." An Arizona Republic (6/19, Kiefer, 1.45M) story carried by USA Today calls one Arizona shelter reportedly holding more than 1,000 individuals "a warehouse of humanity."

Texas To Begin "Surge Operations" Along Border. The Los Angeles Times (6/19, Hennessy-fiske, 3.46M) reports Gov. Rick Perry and other officials "have authorized the Texas Department of Public Safety to begin emergency 'surge operations' along the border with Mexico." Perry said, "Until the Federal government recognizes the danger it's putting our citizens in by its inaction to secure the border, Texas law enforcement must do everything they can to keep our citizens and communities safe."

Group Criticizes Clinton Over Immigration Remark. Politico (6/18, Glueck, 637K) reported that the "immigration advocacy group" United We Dream blasted criticized Hillary Clinton for saying on CNN this week "with regard to children who attempt to enter America without their parents: 'We have to send a clear message [that] just because your child gets across the border doesn't mean your child gets to stay.'" The group said, "If separating children from families is not who we are as Americans, then Hillary Clinton should join other Democratic leaders in calling on President Obama to take executive action to provide relief and reform for families still under the threat of deportation."

More Commentary. Harold Meyerson writes in his Washington Post (6/18, Meyerson, 4.22M) column that "the recent cascade" of children entering the US "has confounded our already stunted national debate on immigration. ... Both sides in this debate report that the organizations that smuggle people across Mexico and into Texas are telling Central Americans that the United States won't send back unescorted children. That's not true – at least, not invariably." But "sending them back poses a threat not just to them but, even more fundamentally, to our nation's raison d'etre."

Rupert Murdoch argues in a Wall Street Journal (6/19, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) op-ed that immigration reform is necessary, and that Congress should act in order to prevent President Obama from choosing to take action via executive order.

FED SAYS ECONOMY RALLYING AFTER POOR PERFORMANCE THIS WINTER. Media coverage of the Fed's post-meeting statements generally sees it as confirmation that the economy is rebounding nicely after contracting in the first quarter.

The New York Times (6/18, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that following its monthly two-day policy meeting, the Fed on Wednesday said that economic growth was resuming following the harsh winter, but "sharply cut its economic forecast for 2014 to reflect the unexpected contraction during the early months of the year." In what the Times calls a "show of confidence" in the economy, the Fed continued to taper its bond-buying program, reducing its monthly purchases by the expected $10 billion to $35 billion. Deep in the story, the Times reports that Fed officials projected that GDP would grow between 2.1 and 2.3 percent this year, down from the March forecast of 2.8 percent to 3.0 percent growth.

The Wall Street Journal (6/19, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Yellen also said that there are indicators that growth will accelerate in 2015 and 2016, and that the labor market will show signs of improvement.

Bloomberg News (6/18, Kearns, 2.76M) reports that Fed officials also "released a new set of quarterly forecasts, predicting that the benchmark interest rate will rise more rapidly once officials decide to increase it above zero sometime next year." They "predicted the rate will be 1.13 percent at the end of 2015 and 2.5 percent a year

later."

Reuters (6/19, Schneider, Lange) reports that at an afternoon news conference, Fed Chair Janet Yellen cited a number of factors that led the central bank to believe that the economy was moving forward. She said, "Economic activity is rebounding in the current quarter and will continue to expand at a moderate pace. The economy is continuing to make progress towards our objectives" of low unemployment and a 2 percent annual rate of inflation.

USA Today (6/19, Davidson, 5.82M) reports that the Fed "sent a clear message Wednesday: The economy and inflation may be heating up, but the central bank isn't close to cooling them off." The Fed "said the economy is rebounding, and policymakers agreed to continue to taper bond purchases aimed at holding down long-term interest rates." Despite the recent increase in inflation and the drop in unemployment, the Fed "isn't expected to raise short-term interest rates sooner than mid-2015."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/19, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports notes that the Fed has cut its growth target (a subject that was not a significant focus in any of the reporting on the Fed meeting, including the Journal's). The Journal notes that this is the fifth consecutive year in which the Fed has initially been too optimistic in its forecast of growth, and adds that the cause may be the central bank's faith in its stimulus program to accelerate the economy. The Journal says that the Fed's policy of bond-buying and near-zero interest rates are unlikely to be doing the economy any good, and may actually be doing harm.

Stocks Rally On Yellen Comments. The Wall Street Journal (6/19, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the stock markets rose solidly on Wednesday following Yellen's comments. The S&P 500 rose 14.99 points to 1,956.98, a new high, while the Nasdaq was up 25.60 points to 4,362.84, its highest level in 14 years. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 98.13 points to 16,906.62.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Roaring On The Seas."*** The New York Times (6/19, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that "the real problem" in the South China Sea is "the way China appears to believe that its expanding military and economic power entitle it to a maximalist stance in territorial disputes." The Times notes China's "aggressive actions" are not in "Beijing's interest" or "in keeping with the image" Chinese President Xi Jinping "tried to project" in March when he characterized China as a "peaceful, amiable and civilized lion."

"Slurs Don't Deserve Trademark Protection." In an editorial, the New York Times (6/19, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that the US Patent and Trademark Office ruling canceling the Washington Redskins' trademark registration "has no immediate effect on the team, which says it will appeal the decision." The Times says an appeal "would be a mistake" and that owner Daniel Snyder "should reconsider his obstinate refusal to change the name, which he has preposterously argued was a 'badge of honor' for American Indians."

"Guns At The Airport." An editorial in the New York Times (6/19, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) cites the rise in the number of guns seized by the TSA in airports as a "vivid indication of the normalization of casual gun-ownership." The Times argues that states should "classify bringing a gun into security as a felony." Until they do so, "forgetful people will almost certainly continue to have the right to own, carry, and misplace, firearms because basic responsibility hasn't been made a prerequisite for gun ownership."

"Espaillat For Congress." An editorial in the New York Times (6/19, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) endorses state Sen. Adriano Espaillat in the Democratic primary for New York's 13th congressional district, arguing that it is time for Rep. Charles Rangel "to yield to the next generation." Espaillat, the Times says, "will be a better representative of this district stretching from Upper Manhattan into parts of the Bronx."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Lessons From Libya."*** The Washington Post (6/19, 4.22M) editorializes that the Abu Khatalla capture "vindicates" President Obama's "promise to stay focused, no matter how long it would take, on the hunt" for the Benghazi plotters. The Post says Obama "is correct, Republican criticism notwithstanding, to send Mr. Khatalla to civilian court for trial." Attorney General Holder has rightly said that "the courts have proved their capacity to deal fairly and decisively with terrorism suspects."

"Rights And Wrongs." The Washington Post (6/19, 4.22M) editorializes that recent arrests in China illustrate that "authorities are cracking down on lawyers and other people who have demanded" the government "follow its own laws." According to the Post, while these "advocates" were previously "detained for short periods" of time, "it now appears there is a concerted campaign to silence them once and for all."

"Dan Snyder's Last Stand?" In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/19, 4.22M) welcomes the US Patent and Trademark Office ruling canceling the Washington Redskins' trademark registration and says that owner Daniel Snyder "would be smart to take this as an opportunity. He is kidding himself if he thinks concerns about the continued use of an offensive name can be waved away as easily as a reporter's question."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Second VA Scandal."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (6/19, A14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) blasts the Senate version of the VA reform bill, arguing that it gives more money to the failing bureaucracy. In addition, the Journal criticizes both the House and Senate measures for failing to address the problem of excessive demand, which it says is the result of the VA's promise of essentially universal care with almost not out-of-pocket costs for the patient.

"Patent Office Comanches." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/19, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the US Patent and Trademark Office ruling canceling the Washington Redskins' trademark registration is another sign of the various agencies of the Federal government following orders from Democratic leaders and expanding their reach.

"Downgrading Growth Again." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/19, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that the Fed has cut its growth target (a subject that was not a significant focus in any of the reporting on the Fed meeting, including the Journal's). The Journal notes that this is the fifth consecutive year in which the Fed has initially been too optimistic in its forecast of growth, and adds that the cause may be the central bank's faith in its stimulus program to accelerate the economy. The Journal says that the Fed's policy of bond-buying and near-zero interest rates are unlikely to be doing the economy any good, and may actually be doing harm.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Signals Iraq's Maliki Should Go
House Panel Is Subpoenaed As Trading Probe Heats Up
Health Premiums Rise At Big Insurers, Fall At Small Rivals
US Patent Office Cancels Washington Redskins Trademarks

New York Times:
In Single Gene, A Path To Fight Heart Attacks
As Moderate Islamists Retreat, Extremists Surge Unchecked
Uneasy Alliance Gives Insurgents An Edge In Iraq
Once A Humble Refueling Stop, Dubai Is Crossroad To The Globe
Courting Swing Vote In Harlem District: Whites
Detroit's Idea To Save Budget And Pensions

Washington Post:
US Sees Risk In Iraq Airstrikes
Benghazi Ffigure An Unlikely Leader
Opponents Of Redskins' Name Land A Punch
Mizeur Takes Aim At The Status Quo
Veterans Debate: Did Leaders Fail, Or Did Iraqis?

Financial Times:
Economic Activity Has Rebounded, Says Fed

Oil Majors Begin Evacuation From Iraq
World Gold Council Looks At 'Fix' Reform
Amazon Chief Launches 'Fire' Smartphone
Share Buybacks And Dividends Hit Record
Data Provider Markit Raises $1.3bn In IPO
China's Poor Investments Loom Large

Washington Times:
Life Inside A Children's Warehouse: Border Agents Watch Over Illegals In Limbo
Redskins Trademark Canceled By Us Patent And Trademark Office
Obama, Congress Weigh Iraq Options; GOP Slams President's Waffling
Contractor That Vetted Snowden Gets Load Of Work After Paying Lobbyists
Matthew Schlapp Is Leading Candidate To Head American Conservative Union

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Extreme Weather-Heat Wave; Nebraska-Tornadoes; Weather Forecast; Iraq Crisis; Gas Prices Increase; GM Recalls; Nazi Guard Arrested; Immigrant Children Crisis; Technology-Amazon Smartphone; Stowaway Teen's Story.
CBS: Iraq Crisis-US Military; Iraq Crisis; Iraqi And Syrian Refugees; Gas Prices Increase; Benghazi Suspect Arrested; GM Recall; Extreme Weather-Heat Wave; Immigrant Children Crisis; Washington Redskins Controversy; Starbucks-Tuition Reimbursement Program.
NBC: Iraq Crisis; Kerry Interview-Iraq; Iraq-White House, Cheney; Benghazi Suspect Arrested; Nebraska-Tornadoes; Extreme Weather; Washington Redskins Controversy; Brazil-2016 Olympic Preparations; Health-Stroke Video; Stowaway Teen's Story; Technology-Amazon Smartphone.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Iraq-White House Meeting; Iraq-Biden Comments; South Dakota-Tornado; Washington Redskins Controversy; Florida-Inmate Executed.
CBS: South Dakota-Tornado; Iraq-White House Meeting; Iraq Crisis; Washington Redskins Controversy; Houston-New Air Traffic Control System.
FOX: South Dakota-Tornado; Iraq-Chairman Dempsey Comments; Iraq-Senator Graham Comments; Iraq-White House Meeting; Washington-Fireworks Factory Explosion; Smithsonian-3D Obama Portrait; Washington Redskins Controversy; Wall Street; Pennsylvania-Child Endangerment Case; Ohio-Attacked Bus Driver's Story.
NPR: Iraq-White House Meeting; Ukraine-Proposed Cease Fire; Economy-Federal Reserve Meeting; GE-Alstom Negotiations; Wall Street; Washington Redskins; Millennials-Jobs Survey; Nazi Guard Arrested.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President joins a Presidents Expo Council Meeting Eisenhower, Executive Office Building, pool spray at the top; awards Corporal William 'Kyle' Carpenter, US Marine Corps (Ret.), the Medal of Honor; the First Lady also attends, East Room, open press. Notes: Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will arrive at the Presidential Palace for a bilateral meeting with Dominican President Danilo Medina. This event is closed press. Afterwards, the Vice President and President Medina will deliver statements to the press. These statements will be open press. The Vice President and President Medina will then have a working lunch. There will be a pool spray at the top of the meeting. The Vice President will meet with US Embassy staff and families in Santo Domingo. This event is closed press.

MICHELLE OBAMA – First Lady Michelle Obama will deliver remarks at the Graduation Celebration for the DC College Access Program (DC-CAP) at The Mayflower Hotel. This event is open press, however the deadline to RSVP has passed.
US Senate: SENATE REPUBLICANS – 9:45 a.m. Several Senate Republicans will participate in a colloquy on

the Senate floor tomorrow that will "explore the flawed nature of President Obama's foreign policy." The senators will discuss a wide range of issues including Iraq, Afghanistan, al-Qaida and affiliates, Gitmo detainees, and Russia and Ukraine. Participants: Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky); Senator John McCain (R-Arizona); Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina); Senator Richard Burr (R-North Carolina); Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-Georgia); Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma); Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama); Senator Bob Corker (R-Tennessee); Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-New Hampshire). Location: Senate floor.

CHILD REFUGEE CRISIS – 1:15 p.m. News Conference with Senators Menendez, Durbin, Hirono, Rep Roybal-Allard on child refugee crisis on southern border. Location: Senate Studio.

CARPER – CENTRAL AMERICAN MIGRATION – 4:30 p.m. News Conference with Senator Carper on surge of Central American migration to the U.S. Location: Senate Studio.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARMED SERVICES – 9:30 a.m. Meets to consider the nominations of: Dr. Laura J. Junor to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Gordon O. Tanner to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force; Debra S. Wada to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; Miranda A.A. Ballentine to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy; and Dr. Monica C. Regalbuto to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management. The nominees will be present. Location: 216 Hart.

JUDICARY – 9:30 a.m. Business meeting to consider S.2454, to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010, and the nominations of Julie E. Carnes, of Georgia, and Jill A. Pryor, of Georgia, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Andre Birotte, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, John W. deGravelles, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, Randolph D. Moss, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Robin L. Rosenberg, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Ronnie L. White, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Leslie Joyce Abrams, Mark Howard Cohen, Leigh Martin May, and Eleanor Louise Ross, all to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, and Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims. Location: 226 Dirksen.

APPROPRIATIONS – 10:30 a.m. Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for Energy and Water Development, State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, and the Legislative Branch (H.R. 4487). Location: 106 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 11 a.m. Hearings to examine the Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol, signed at Madrid on February 22, 1990 (Treaty Doc.113-04), and the Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on February 13, 2013, at Warsaw (Treaty Doc.113-05). Time: 11:00 AM Location: Senate Dirksen 419 Presiding: Senator Menendez Agenda TREATIES: 1. Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income (Treaty Doc. 113-4). 2. Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland For the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income (Treaty Doc. 113-5). Witnesses: Panel One: Robert Stack, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Tax Affairs, Department of the Treasury; Thomas A. Barthold, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation. Panel Two: Mary Jean Riley, Vice President, Finance & Administration, Treasurer; North American Stainless, Ghent, KY; Catherine Schultz, Vice President for Tax Policy, National Foreign Trade Council. Location: 419 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 2 p.m. CLOSED/TS: Iraq Update. Witnesses: Anne Patterson, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Gregory B. Starr, Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State. Location: SVC 217.

ARMED SERVICES – 2:30 p.m. CLOSED briefing on the security situation in Iraq. Briefers: Elissa Slotkin, Performing the duties of the Principal Deputy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Department of Defense; Vice Admiral Frank C. Pandolfe III, USN, Director of Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5), Joint Staff; Paul N. Wolfe, Senior Defense Intelligence Expert for Iraq, Egypt, and the Levant, Middle East/Africa Regional Center, Defense Intelligence Agency; Joseph Gigliotti, Senior Defense Intelligence Expert for Counter Network Operations, Target Development, and Threat Finance, Defense Intelligence Agency. Location: 222 Russell.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES – 2:30 p.m. Hearings to examine resources for export, domestic consumption, and transportation fuel. Witness: Chris Smith, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, Department of Energy; Marty Durbin, President and CEO, America's Natural Gas Alliance; Bob McNally, President, Rapidan Group; Liz Rosenberg, Senior Fellow and Director of the Energy, Environment and Security Program, Center for a New American Security; Dan Weiss, Senior Fellow and the Director of Climate Strategy, Center for American Progress. Location: 366 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE – 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. – House will meet for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

REP. LEE – BOKO HARAM – 1 a.m. News Conference with Rep. Jackson Lee, et al on the Threat of Boko Haram in Nigeria (access thru HVC 117). Location: HVC Studio B.

PELOSI WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE – 10:45 a.m. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference tomorrow at 10:45 a.m. in the Capitol Visitor Center. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center, The Capitol.

BOEHNER BRIEFING – 11:30 a.m. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) will hold an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114.

CAPPS – GUN VIOLENCE – 2:15 p.m. Reps. Capps, et al on Gun Violence Prevention and Mental Health (access thru HVC 117). Location: HVC Studio B.

ROYCE – AMBASSADOR OF QATAR – 3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. News Conference with House Foreign Affairs Chairman Rep. Royce hosts Mohammed Jaham Al Kuwari, Amb of Qatar. Photo spray at top. Preset 3:15 pm. Location: 2185 RHOB.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1964 FREEDOM SUMMER – NORTON – 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) will offer brief remarks at the 25th anniversary of The Foundation For Ethnic Understanding. This event commemorates the date when three student civil rights activists, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, were killed in Mississippi, one African American and two Jewish Americans. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Freedom Summer, when thousands of students traveled to Mississippi to help register African Americans to vote. Location: Mansfield Room (S-207) of the United States Capitol. Contacts: Gwen Benson-Walker (202-225-8050)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Power hearingon EPAs Proposed Carbon Dioxide Regulations for Power Plants. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 9:45 a.m. Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa Markup: H. Res. 1091/8 H. Res. 1093/8. H. Res. 109, Condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights. H. Res. 4351/8 H. Res. 4353/8. H. Res. 435, Calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

AGRICULTURE – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry – Public Hearing RE: A review of the Interpretive Rule regarding the applicability of Clean Water Act agricultural exemptions. Location: 1300

Longworth.

FINANCIAL SERVICES – 10 a.m. Full Committee. Markup of H.R. 4871 – TRIA Reform Act of 2014, H.R. 4881 – To place a 6-month moratorium on the authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council to make financial stability determinations, and H.R. 4387 – FSOC Transparency and Accountability Act. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa hearing on One Year Under Rouhani: Iran's Abysmal Human Rights Record. Witnesses Robert P. George, Ph.D., Chairman, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom; Cler Baheri, Member of the Bahai Community; Hossein Alizadeh, Regional Program Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission; Amir Hossein Etemadi, Former Iranian political prisoner. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet hearing on GSAs Failure to Meet the Needs of the Judiciary: A Case Study of Bureaucratic Negligence and Waste. Witnesses: William P. Johnson, District Judge, United States District Court, District of New Mexico, Johnson Testimony with Exhibits – 2014-06-19 (6).pdf (2.6 MBs); Glen E. Conrad, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Western District of Virginia, ARRAtestimony.pdf (22.3 KBs); Jennifer Smith, Architect and Project Manager, United States District Court, Western District of Virginia; Jennifer Smith Testimony – revised.pdf (105.3 KBs); Michael Gelber, Deputy Commissioner, Public Buildings Service, U.S. General Services Administration. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES – 10 a.m. Markup on H.R. 2455, H.R. 3716, H.R. 4049, H.R. 4283, H.R. 4489, H.R. 4508, H.R. 4527, H.R. 4562, and H.R. __. Location: 1324 Longworth.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 10 a.m. Hearing on "Whistleblower Reprisal and Management Failures at the U.S. Chemical Safety Board." Witnesses: Rafael Moure-Eraso, Ph. D, Chairman, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; Beth Rosenberg, Sc. D, Former Board Member, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; Carolyn N. Lerner, Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel; Arthur A. Elkins, Jr., Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific Hearing: Thailand: A Democracy in Peril. Witnesses: Scot Marciel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Amy Searight, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY – 2 p.m. Hearing on An Administration Made Disaster: The South Texas Border Surge of Unaccompanied Alien Minors. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES – 3:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces hearing on Unmanned Carrier-Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike UCLASS Requirements Assessment. Witnesses: Mark Andress, Assistant Deputy Chief of Operations for Information Dominance, Department of Defense; Shawn Brimley, Executive Vice President and Director of Studies, Center for a New American Security; Vice Admiral Paul A. Grosklags, U.S. Navy, Principal Military Deputy, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisitions, Department of Defense; Brigadier General Joseph T. Guastella, U.S. Air Force, Director, Joint Requirements Oversight Council, Department of Defense; Robert Martinage, Senior Fellow, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments; Ronald O'Rourke, Specialist in Naval Affairs, Defense Policy and Arms Control Section, Congressional Research Service. Location: 2212 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 4 p.m. Subcommittee on Health has scheduled a markup – the Subcommittee to Vote on Bills Addressing Children's Health, Muscular Dystrophy, Lyme Disease, Sunscreen, and Anabolic Steroids. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

Other: PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND – Official visit of John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand. Highlights: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Breakfast meeting with members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Participants: John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand; Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Contact: Credentialed members of the media are invited to

attend. To register, email press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682. Location: U.S. Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H Street, NW. 2 p.m. Meets with Secretary Kerry at the Department of State.

2014 ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION SUMMIT – June 18 – 20. A Hybrid Conference and Internet Forum on Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and Related Delivery System and Payment Reform. Sponsored by Engelberg Center for Health Reform at the Brookings Institution and Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice. RSVP: registration@hcconferences.com. Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW. Contacts: 800-503-3597.

BILL CLINTON – Addressing Americas Poverty Crisis – A Hamilton Project Policy Forum Featuring Special Guest President Bill Clinton. Highlights: 12:15 a.m. Luncheon keynote by Bill Clinton. Location: Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW. Contacts: @hamiltonproj

2014 ACS CONVENTION – June 19 – 21. The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy will hold its 2014 National Convention. Speakers include: Justice Sonia Sotomayor, San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, and civil rights attorney and leader Theodore M. Shaw. Location: Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St, NW. Contacts: Media RSVP to press@acslaw.org.

BEING COLLEGE READY – TOLDSON – 9 a.m. Ivory Toldson, deputy director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), will give keynote remarks at the third annual Empowering Future Leaders Scholarship Breakfast. Toldson will discuss the value of higher education and the role that HBCUs play in helping prepare students for 21st century careers. CONTACT: Press, (202) 401-1576 or press@ed.gov. Location: Clarion Hotel, 6400 Oxon Hill Rd., Oxon Hill, Md.

NASA – SPACESTATION WALK – 9:15 a.m. NASA Television will air live coverage of a six-and-a-half hour spacewalk by two Russian International Space Station crew members beginning at 9:15 a.m. EDT. Contacts: Rachel Kraft Headquarters, Washington, 202-358-1100, rachel.h.kraft@nasa.gov; Dan Huot, Johnson Space Center, Houston, 281-483-5111, daniel.g.huot@nasa.gov

IMF PRESS BRIEFING – 9:30 a.m. Regular press briefing by Gerry Rice, Director, IMF Communications Department. There will be Spanish Interpretation available for those participating online. Location: Multimedia Center, IMF Headquarters1. Journalists should enter through the IMF entrance, 720 19th St. NW. Contacts: media@imf.org

MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS EXPORT COUNCIL – 9:30 a.m. Assistant Secretary for International Markets and Development Marisa Lago Meeting of the Presidents Export Council. This meeting is open press and will be live-streamed on www. WhiteHouse.gov/live. For additional information, please contact the White House Press Office.

HERITAGE – PAKISTAN – 10 a.m. Fighting to the End: The Pakistan Armys Way of War. Speaker: C. Christine Fair, Ph.D. With Commentaries by David Sedney, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia; Michael G. Waltz, President, Metis Solutions and former Special Advisor to Vice President Dick Cheney. Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE.

U.S. WATERWAYS REPORT RELEASE – 10 a.m. Environment America Research and Policy Center will release a new report documenting the total amount of toxic chemicals released by industrial facilities into the countrys rivers, lakes, and streams, as ranked by watershed, type of pollution and polluter. The report also ranks the top 10 states for releases of toxic pollution. Notes: Report will be released via Contact: Mariam Baksh, (202)461-2446, MBaksh@EnvironmentAmerica.org and online at: EnvironmentAmericaCenter.org

UPCOMING ISSUES FOR OBAMACARE – WEB EVENT – 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Health and employee benefits law firm, McDermott Will & Emery, will host a webinar for members of the press to discuss what's next for health insurance now that more than 7.5 million Americans have signed up for policies during the first U.S. open enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).

WILSON CENTER – HOW DANGEROUS IS ISIS – 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. How Dangerous is ISIS, and How Should the US Deal With It? Participants: Dr. Amatzia Baram Director of the Centre for Iraq Studies at the University of

Haifa, Israel and former Wilson Center Scholar; Jeremy Bash, Former Chief of Staff to U.S. Secretary of Defense, Managing Director, Beacon Global Strategies and Global Fellow, Wilson Center; Joby Warrick, Staff Writer, The Washington Post and Wilson Center Scholar. Moderator: Jane Harman, Director, President & CEO. Toll-Free Conference Line: 888-947-9018 Conference Line: 517-308-9006 Passcode: 1444136

BPC – HEALTHCARE DELIVERY SYSTEM – 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Forum on Reforming Americas Healthcare Delivery System. Speakers: Patrick Conway, MD, MSc, Deputy Administrator for Innovation & Quality & Chief Medical Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ; Robert J. Henkel, FACHE, President and CEO, Ascension Health; Sheila Burke, Chair, Federal Public Policy Center, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC; Paul Ginsburg, PhD, Norman Topping Chair in Medicine and Public Policy, University of Southern California; Chris Jennings, President, Jennings Policy Strategies, Inc. Contact: Joann Donnellan (703) 966-1990 jdonnellan@bipartisanpolicy.org. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 1000, 10th floor.

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNS – PAKISTAN – 10:15 a.m. Pakistan Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to Lay Wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns. Gen. Rashad Mahmood, 16th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of Pakistan, and Maj. Gen Jeffery S. Buchanan, commanding general, U.S. Army Military District of Washington, will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in honor of the ministers visit to the United States. Media interested in covering this event must register by 3 p.m., Wednesday, June 18. To be placed on the credentialed list, send an email to usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.mediadesk-omb@mail.mil with the following information: your full name, media organization, assignment, contact phone number, email address, and vehicle info (tags, year, make, and model). ALL registered media must report to Memorial Avenue between 9:15 and 9:30 a.m. to be escorted to the ceremony. Location: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. Contacts: Public Affairs 202-685-4645

ARMY BIRTHDAY – 11 a.m. Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work, Secretary of the Army John McHugh and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno delivers remarks at the Army birthday cake cutting ceremony. Location: Pentagon Courtyard, Arlington, Virginia. Contacts: (703) 697-5131

KAISER – WEBINAR FOR JOURNALISTS – 11 a.m. Results from Survey of People Who Bought Their Own Health Insurance Under the ACA. Participants: Foundation's President and CEO Drew Altman, Director of Public Opinion and Survey Research Liz Hamel, and Senior Vice President Larry Levitt. After a brief presentation providing an overview of the survey, the Foundation's experts will take participants' questions online and over the telephone.

CSIS – U.S. ROLE – ASIA-PACIFIC REGION – 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Sustaining America's Enduring Role in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Congressional Perspective – a bipartisan discussion with two leading Asia experts on the House Armed Services Committee; Randy Forbes (R-VA), U.S. House of Representatives, House Armed Services Committee; Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI), U.S. House of Representatives, House Armed Services Committee. Moderator: Dr. Michael Green, Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair, CSIS, Associate Professor, Georgetown University. Introduction by Dr. John J. Hamre, President, CEO, and Pritzker Chair, CSIS. Location: Center for Strategic & International Studies, Second Floor Conference Room, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

NASA – UPDATE – 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. NASA will host a televised update on recent progress and upcoming milestones in the agencys efforts to identify, capture and relocate an asteroid, and send astronauts to take samples of it in the 2020s. Location: NASA-TV. Notes: at 202-358-0321 or trent.j.perrrotto@nasa.gov by noon Thursday.

HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION – 2 p.m. Teleconference for meteorologists on OSHA's Campaign to Prevent Heat Illness in Outdoor Workers. The call is part of OSHA's fourth annual Campaign to Prevent Heat Illness in Outdoor Workers, which aims to raise awareness and educate workers and employers about the dangers of working in hot weather. Thousands of employees become sick each year and many die from working in the heat. In 2012 alone, there were 31 heat-related worker deaths and 4,120 heat-related worker illnesses. Speakers: U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez; Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Deputy Undersecretary Vice Adm. Michael S. Devany. Dial-in number: 800-857-5139. Passcode: HEAT. Location: DIAL IN AND WaterRestShade and tagging @USDOL. Contacts: Ann Mangold mangold.ann.r@dol.gov (202-693-4679)

HERITAGE – NORTH KOREA – HUMAN RIGHTS – 2 p.m. Confronting the Human Rights Challenge in North Korea with Lee Jung-hoon, Ambassador for Human Rights, Republic of Korea. Hosted by Bruce Klingner, Senior Research Fellow, Northeast Asia, Asian Studies Center, The Heritage Foundation. Location: 214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Contacts: heritage.org ((202) 675-1761)

CSIS – ISIS ON THE MARCH – 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. ISIS on the March: A conversation on the strategic future of Iraq, Syria, and international terrorism. Witnesses: David Ignatius Washington Post Columnist, Associate Editor, and author of "The Director"; Stephen Kappes, Former CIA Deputy Director and Deputy Director for Operations; Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, CSIS Counselor and former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the United Nations. With an introduction from: Arnaud de Borchgrave, Transnational Threats Project Senior Adviser and Co-Director. Moderator: Tom Sanderson, Transnational Threats Project Senior Fellow and Co-Director. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 212 C, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. Contacts: RSVP to tnt@csis.org

CLINICAL DECISION MAKING – MEDIAL LIABILITY – 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. MedStar Washington Hospital Center hosts discussion on Minimizing Medical Liability Exposure in Clinical Decision Making: A Prescription for Improving Patient Outcomes and Avoiding Litigation. Speakers: Victor E. Schwartz, Esq., Shook, Hardy and Bacon, LLP; Paul Figley, Esq., Professor, American University Washington College of Law; Jack H. Olender, Esq., Jack H. Olender and Associates, PC; James P. Hill, Senior Vice President, Administrative Services, MedStar Washington Hospital Center (Moderator). Media RSVP to So Young Pak, 202-877-2748 or Sylvia Ballinger, 202-877-7072. Location: MedStar Washington Hospital Center, True Auditorium, 110 Irving Street, N.W.

WFPG – AMBASSADOR GIL-CASARES – 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. The Women's Foreign Poligy (WFPG) Group hosts a conversation on Trans-Atlantic releations with Spain, the U.S. and the EU with Ambassador Gil-Casares. Location: Residence of the Ambassador Gil-Casares, 2350 Foxhall Road, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "Let me ask you a question. Are you watching the World Cup? ... No you're not. The World Cup is an event that happens every four years, like a Mitt Romney presidential campaign."

David Letterman: "President Obama is sending troops back to Iraq. He said, 'Don't worry. We should not be there any longer than a Kardashian marriage.'"

David Letterman: "You know who's angry – I mean, really livid...very angry – at President Obama is former Vice President Dick Cheney. Have you heard what he is saying about Obama? He says, 'I give the guy a perfect [bleep] storm and he screws it up.' That's what he said."

David Letterman: "Actually, Cheney is saying that Obama was wrong about many things. Weapons of mass destruction, he said – no, wait a minute that was Cheney who said that. Said to be treated as heroes – no, Cheney said that also. Said that the war would last only a couple of weeks – no, that was Cheney too. Well, I'm sorry, it's all Dick."

David Letterman: "You know, they captured the guy who was running the attacks in Benghazi. And the Senator...Lindsey Graham from South Carolina says that you shouldn't torture the guy. We should just spend some quality time with him. He was being sarcastic. Don't bother torturing the guy, spend some quality time. When I spend quality time with my family it is torture. But I tell you, I think we can all agree, if you are going waterboard the guy, December is the perfect time, right? Who doesn't enjoy a nice waterboarding."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to the Republican National Committee's decision to use a squirrel mascot to criticize Hillary Clinton] "That's right. A giant squirrel. Because sure, Clinton's gone toe-to-toe with some of the toughest men on the planet, but has she ever taken on man-sized rodent? I think nut. And the squirrel here has

been going after Hillary with tweet-zingers like, 'Hillary Clinton is squirrelly if she thinks the Taliban aren't a threat to us' and 'Hillary Clinton is trying to hide her record on Benghazi the way I hide acorns.' Wow. Those are some stinging nut puns. I can't wait for more. ... Nation, this is the best use of mascot in politics since Stephen Douglas dressed up as banana and said Lincoln was unappealing."

Conan O'Brien: "Hillary Clinton was asked if she would ever smoke pot if it became legal. She said, 'I didn't do it when I was young and I'm not going to start now.' Bill Clinton said that's her standard answer for everything."

Conan O'Brien: "Tough times for President Obama right now. President Obama's approval rating in the US is at its lowest point ever, 41 percent. ... After hearing this, the President said, 'When did I become less popular in this country than soccer? How did that happen.'"

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BISON CONNECT

RE: Draft USDA release for bi-state sage-grouse announcement

Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jun 19, 2014 at 12:25 PM
To: Katherine Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Cc: Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

Perfecto! Thanks, SJ

From: Kelly, Katherine [mailto:kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 10:00 AM
To: Dan Ashe
Cc: Sally Jewell; Sarah Greenberger; Tommy Beaudreau; Jessica Kershaw; Emily Beyer; Nicole Buffa; neil kornze
Subject: Re: Draft USDA release for bi-state sage-grouse announcement

Tweaked, with DA's stamp of approval:

(b)(5)

On Thu, Jun 19, 2014 at 6:53 AM, Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Dan. I can tweak and send back around

On Thu, Jun 19, 2014 at 6:51 AM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Dan.

Dan Ashe

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Jun 18, 2014, at 7:23 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Kate –

Some suggested edits and/or questions highlighted in red. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Sally

From: Kelly, Katherine [mailto:kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 6:00 PM
To: Sally Jewell
Cc: sarah greenberger; Tommy Beaudreau; Jessica Kershaw; emily_beyer; Dan Ashe; Nikki Buffa
Subject: Draft USDA release for bi-state sage-grouse announcement

Sally -

On Friday, USDA is announcing over $25M to help conserve the bi-state sage-grouse, the distinct population located in NV and CA. (Good news!)

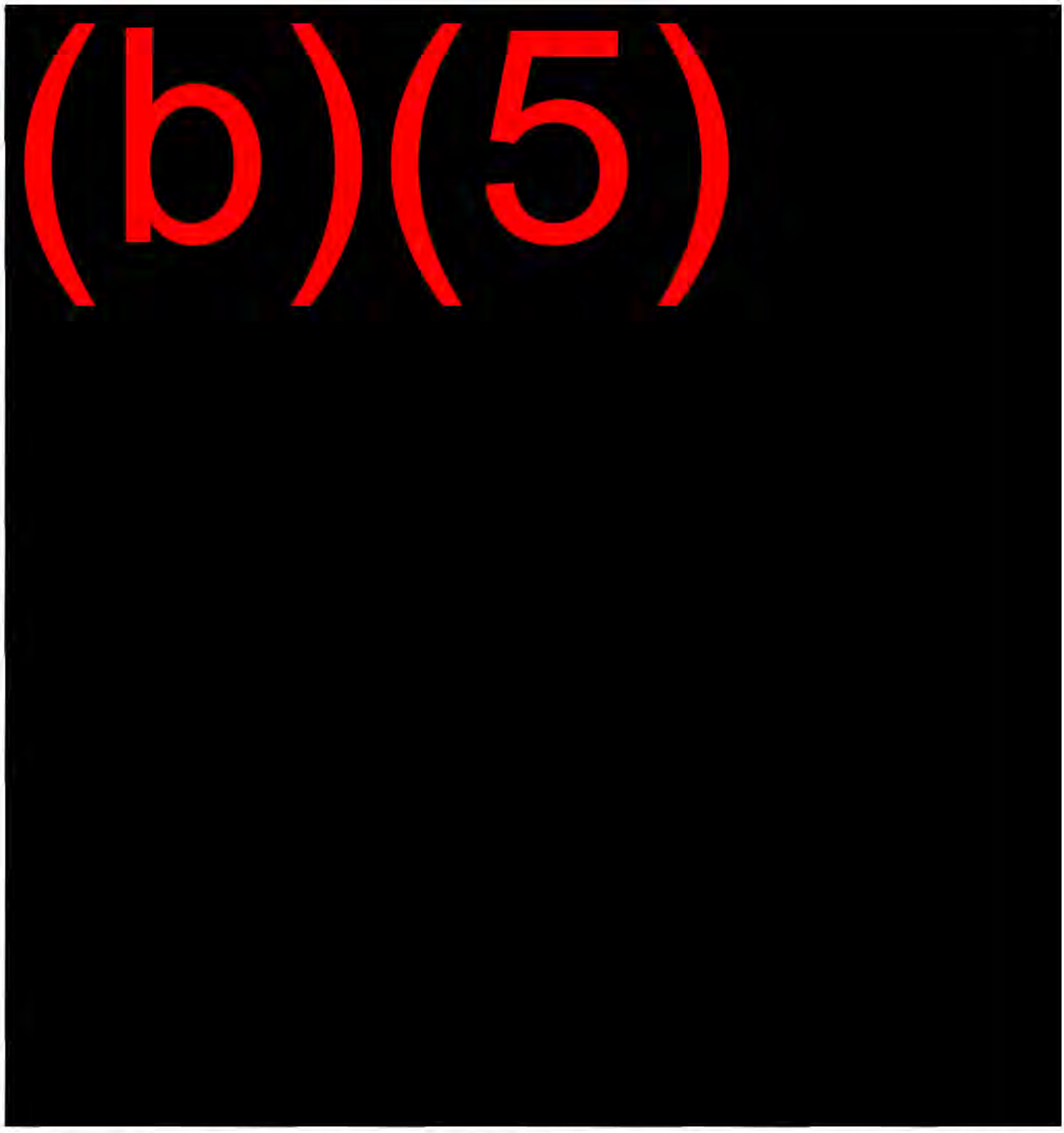
They are elevating the announcement to the Secretary's level and have offered to give you a quote in the release. We are scrubbing the release through BLM, USGS and FWS channels now, but I wanted to send you the draft version for your review/quote approval.

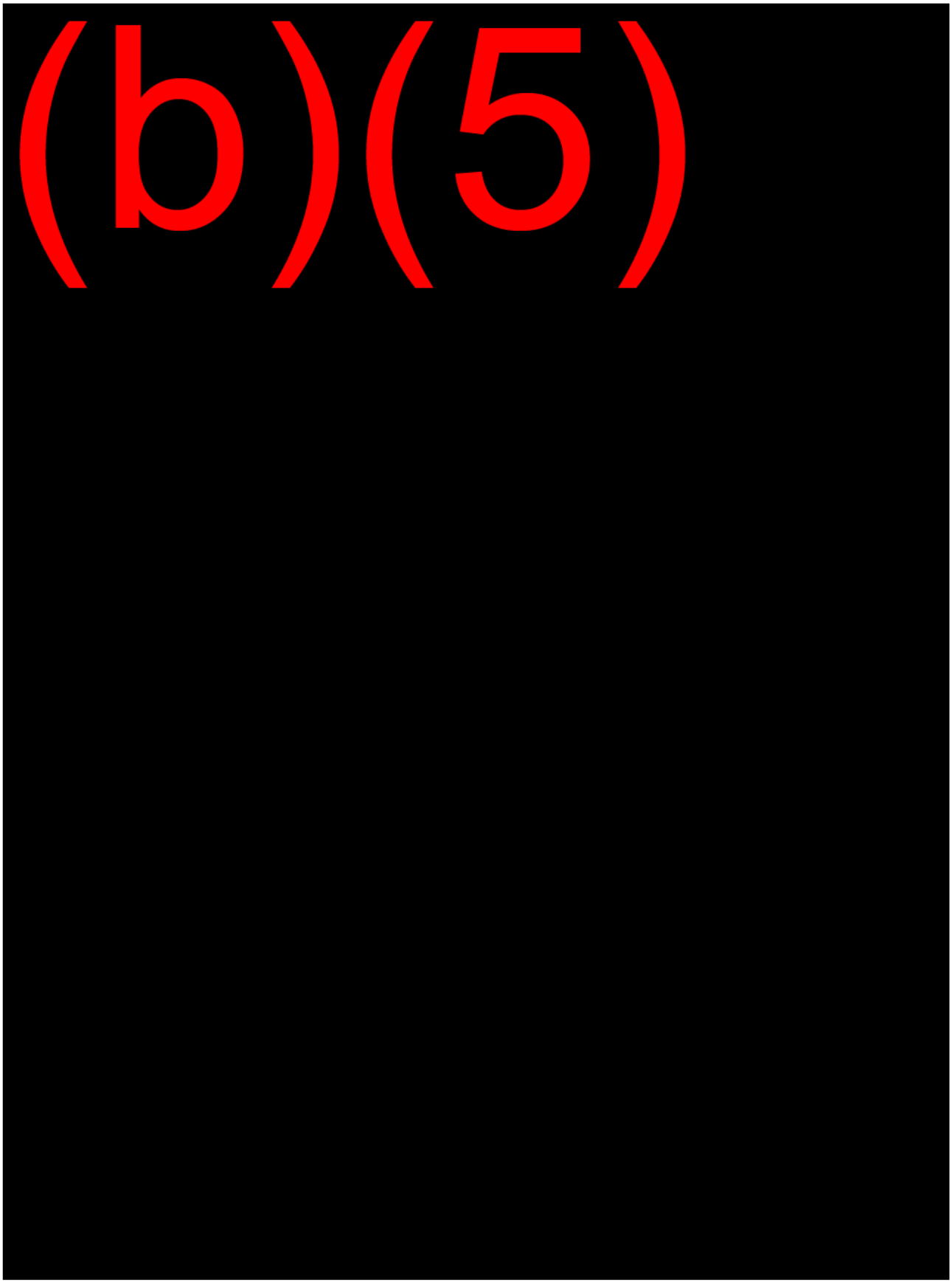
Thanks in advance,

Kate

USDA Announces Landmark Agreement to Improve Sage-Grouse Habitat

Nevada-California Ranchers to Benefit





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Director of Communications
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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, June 20, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Jun 20, 2014 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR TO HOST PUBLIC MEETINGS ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN RECOGNITION. The Maui News (6/19)

reports that the federal government announced Wednesday that it will take a first step toward possibly recognizing and working with a separate government of Native Hawaiians. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "The department is responding to requests from not only the Native Hawaiian community but also state and local leaders and interested parties who recognize that we need to begin a conversation of diverse voices to help determine the best path forward for honoring the trust relationship that Congress has created specifically to benefit Native Hawaiians." The Interior Department plans to hold a series of public meetings over the next 60 days to solicit comments on how the advanced notice of proposed rule-making process should move forward.

However, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser (6/19) reports that "some are questioning whether the action is premature and whether the president has the authority to re-establish a government-to-government relationship without going through Congress, as backers of the so-called Akaka Bill unsuccessfully tried to do for more than a decade."

The Hawaii Tribune-Herald (6/19) reports that officials with the department of Interior and Justice "stressed their process is separate and independent of the nation-building process Native Hawaiians are currently conducting through the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission and the state Office of Hawaiian Affairs."

Also providing coverage are the AP (6/20, Bussewitz), the West Hawaii Today (6/20, Lauer, 26K), Kaua'i (HI) Garden Island News (6/20, LaVenture, 33K), the Hawaii Free Press (6/20), the Catholic Online (6/20, 57K), KGMB-TV Honolulu (6/19, 41K), and KITV-TV Honolulu (6/20, 13K).

HOUSE PANEL UNLIKELY TO ENDORSE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S WILDFIRE PROPOSAL. The E&E Daily (6/19) reports that President Obama's "proposal to fund some wildfires outside of the Forest Service and Interior Department discretionary budgets is unlikely to be endorsed in a House panel's forthcoming appropriations bill, according to one top Democrat and others who support the proposal." Observers said it "appears unlikely the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee will include the proposal in its fiscal 2015 bill, despite all 11 panel members co-sponsoring a nearly identical House bill."

SECRETARY KERRY PLEDGES TO PUSH FORWARD ON CLIMATE POLICY. The E&E Daily (6/19) reports that Secretary of State John Kerry "closed out two days of discussions over the future of the world's oceans last night with a short but passionate affirmation of American commitment to Western Pacific islands – some of the world's nations that are most immediately threatened by climate change." According to the article, "on a sweltering evening at the New Zealand Embassy – as part of the embassy's celebration of Pacific Day – Kerry delivered another strong message that President Obama and his Cabinet will continue to push forward on climate policy, following up on their historic proposal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's power plants." The article notes that "besides emphasizing the policy spine of climate change mitigation, Kerry called on Pacific islands and their leaders – the Pacific Day event attracted New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, as well as the president of Palau and high-level officials from the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia – to 'underscore to people what is really at stake. It's called life itself.'"

BIPARTISAN HOUSE BILL WOULD PROMOTE INCREASED TRAIL MAINTENANCE. The E&E Daily (6/19) reports that "a newly introduced bipartisan House bill seeks to chip away at the Forest Service's growing backlog of trail maintenance through increased partnerships with nonprofits and recreational outfitters." The bill by Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Tim Walz would "require the Forest Service to develop a national strategy for doubling within five years the amount of trail work performed by volunteers and partners, while also studying the use of wildland firefighters to conduct trail work." The legislation would also "amend a 1972 law to ensure that volunteers for partner organizations are covered under the Forest Service's policy for liability and tort claims, which is aimed at increasing work on the ground."

HOUSE PANEL APPROVES NINE LAND BILLS. The E&E Daily (6/19) reports that The House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday "easily passed nine lands bills, including a measure aimed at simplifying fees for owning cabins in national forests." The article notes that "among the measures approved was the chairman's H.R. 4873, which would modify the fee formulas as they apply to people who own cabins on national forestlands." Committee Chairman Doc Hastings said, "Because future fee increases will be automatic and tied to inflation, it will eliminate the Forest Service's costly administrative burden of constant appraisals and appeals. I am told that many cabin owners are already falling behind in their payments, so passage of this bill is an urgent matter."

FUNDING RESTORED TO WORLD HERITAGE PROGRAM TO HELP POVERTY POINT. KTVE-TV El Dorado,

AR (6/20, 1K) reports that Sen. Mary L. Landrieu on Thursday announced "she has restored funding for US dues to the World Heritage Program." Landrieu "included the funding so that Poverty Point has the best chance to gain World Heritage status and to ensure that the 21 nations voting do so on the site's merits and not on the US failure to pay its dues to the program."

INTERIOR POSTS PHOTO OF DAD HELPING SON SEE DELICATE ARCH. The Today Show Online (6/20, 595K) reports that the Interior Department of Interior recently posted an "inspiring photo of James Geier, a retired police officer from Logan, Utah, completing the 3-mile hike to the landmark in Arches National Park with his 18-year-old son Jonah, who has cerebral palsy and is a quadriplegic." Geier, "who pulled Jonah in a special carrier modeled after a Native American travois, said his son loves the outdoors so the family has hiked with him since he was born, regularly visiting Arches, Zion and other parks." According to the article, "unveiled on the agency's Instagram page this past weekend on Father's Day, the image has received more than 10,000 'likes' and a flurry of comments calling it 'pure love' and 'the best story ever you posted.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR GIVES $102 MILLION IN STORM PREVENTION TO 11 STATES. Additional coverage of the $102.7 million in grants to help communities along the Atlantic Coast with storm resiliency programs was provided by the Queens (NY) Chronicle (6/20, 184K), the Forum (NY) (6/19), and the East Setauket (NY) Times Beacon Record (6/19, 130).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PILT FUNDING. Additional coverage of PILT funding was provided by the Cronkite News (6/20), the Sky-Hi Daily News (CO) (6/20, 728), the Durango (CO) Herald (6/19, 28K), the Aspen (CO) Times (6/20, 46K), the El Paso (TX) Times (6/20, Stallings, 251K), the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (6/20, 22K), the Carson City (NV) Now (6/20, 211), the Farmington (NM) Daily Times (6/20, 46K), and the Ruidoso (NM) News (6/20, 40K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ANNOUNCEMENT ON AUCTION FOR WIND ENERGY LEASES OFF MASSACHUSETTS. Additional coverage of the announcement of the auction for wind energy leases off Massachusetts was provided by the Maritime Executive (6/20, 21), the Vineyard (MA) Gazette (6/19, 30K), the Easton (MD) Star Democrat (6/20, 49K), and WFCR-FM Amherst, MA (6/18).

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO MAKE BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN A NATIONAL MONUMENT. In an op-ed for the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/20, 687K), Denise Rushing, a Lake County supervisor, Don Saylor, a Yolo County supervisor, and Linda Seifert, a Solano County supervisor urge President Barack Obama "to take steps to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region by declaring the area a national monument." They note that "communities flourish and local economies grow when nearby public lands are permanently protected." They conclude that "permanently protecting Berryessa Snow Mountain is good for local communities, of course, but we believe it will also benefit anyone who is able to sample our piece of the outdoor wonder California is known for."

FEDERAL MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS CRITICIZED. The piece by Carl Graham, Director of Sutherland Institute's Coalition for Self-Government in the West, criticizing the federal management of public lands appeared in the Washington Examiner (6/20, 335K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL COUNCIL PLANS PUBLIC MEETING. The Examiner (6/20, 1.56M) reports that the NPS announced that the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Advisory Council has scheduled a meeting on July 9.

Also providing coverage of the trail is the Washington Post (6/19, 4.22M).

NPS SEEKS NEW HOME FOR SHAW MONUMENT. The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (6/19, 206K) reports that the NPS is looking "to rid itself of a nearly 120-year-old monument that has fallen into disrepair after being left in the woods for 80 years." Dan Smith, superintendent of the Colonial National Historical Park, which includes

the Yorktown Battlefield, is "reviewing several proposals from historical and preservation groups that want to take possession of the Shaw monument, a 21.5 foot obelisk erected in 1895 by John W. Shaw, a Civil War veteran and former superintendent of the Yorktown National Cemetery." Michael Byrd, an NPS spokesperson, said, "In recent years, the monument has become an attractive nuisance when members of the public parked their vehicles outside of the designated parking areas to access the site."

LAUNCH OF LGBT HERITAGE THEME STUDY LAUDED. For the Advocate (6/19, 654K), Eliza Byard, the executive director of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, writes in support of the "groundbreaking" LGBT Heritage Theme Study launched by the NPS. Byard writes that "we cannot allow LGBT history to be pushed back into the closet and withheld from students any longer." The NPS "will tell our stories on behalf of the nation," she concludes, "because these are things that every American needs to know."

The piece also appears at Gay (6/20, 113K).

COMPROMISE URGED FOR BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Miami Herald (6/20, 822K) editorializes that the "aggressive new management plan" for Biscayne National Park "would help the park survive and flourish." It notes that "fishing lobbying groups are opposed to such steps," so it argues that "there must be room for compromise and balance, with fishing curtailed but not necessarily eliminated."

Bureau of Land Management:

PULASKI AWARD HONOR BLM DISTRICT FIRE PROGRAMS. The Idaho Statesman (6/19, 222K) reports that "the awarding of the Pulaski Award to two Idaho rangeland protections associations and two BLM district fire programs show how far we've come since the stormy firefights between Idaho and federal firefighters in 2007." The Three Creek and Saylor Creek Rangeland Fire Protection Associations and the Twin Falls and Boise District BLM fire programs was recognized by the by the National Interagency Fire Center "essentially because of how well they are working together to respond to range fires." Presenting the award, BLM Director Neil Kornze said, "These organizations are an excellent example of state and federal agencies working together to meet the challenges on the land. These RFPAs are extremely effective in helping the BLM respond to fires in remote areas and better protect lives, property and resources, including critical sage-grouse habitat."

BLM REPLANTS DEAD DESERT PLANTS NEAR LAS VEGAS. The AP (6/20, Brean) reports that last month, a crew hired by the BLM "spent a few days digging up and carting away hundreds of the dried-out husks" of dead and dying yucca plants outside of Las Vegas "to be replanted on public land scarred by infrastructure work or illegal off-road vehicle activity." According to BLM spokeswoman Kirsten Cannon, "planting dead yucca and cactus can help mask an illegal road or temporary construction easement so off-roaders won't keep using it." The article notes that "the dead plants also provide a windbreak – home for small animals and a sheltered area where seeds of new plants can collect and grow."

BLM HELPS WITH LEWISTOWN KIDS FISHING DAY. KXLO-FM Lewiston, MT (6/20) reports that "over 65 children cast lines during the annual Lewistown Kids Fishing Day at the Frog Ponds June 14, according to Monica Ketchum, a Wildlife Biologist at the BLM Lewistown Field Office." The article notes that "the BLM's participation in the event aligns with Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's Youth Initiative, which seeks to connect young Americans to the great outdoors."

BOARDS WITH NAILS FOUND ON MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS IN COLORADO. The AP (6/20) reports that "boards pierced with nails have been found on two western Colorado trails popular with mountain bikers." According to the article, "the boards were found on the Creekside and Skillsaw trails in the Prince Creek area." The BLM says "one of the boards was found on public land and one was on a section of trail that crosses private land." BLM spokesman David Boyd says "no other incidents have been reported."

UTAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UNAFFECTED BY BLM CONTRACT TERMINATIONS. The Provo (UT) Daily Herald (6/20, 116K) reports that "although the federal Bureau of Land Management has terminated long-standing contracts with county sheriff's offices to provide law enforcement on Utah's public land, the Utah County Sheriff's Office will not be affected much by the change." Sergeant Spencer Cannon, with the Utah County Sheriff's Office, said, "We don't have any contracts with the BLM, but we have worked with them on things in the

past. We enforce in these areas proactively on our own or by the BLM's request, but without a contract."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WILD HORSE INMATE PROGRAM. Additional coverage of BLM Director Neil Komze's recent visit to the Wild Horse Inmate Program was provided by the Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (6/20, 94K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS ANNOUNCES ASSESSMENT FOR CANADA LYNX HABITAT. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (6/20, 43) reports that the FWS is announcing the "availability of a Draft Economic Analysis (DEA) and a draft environmental assessment for the proposed revised designation of critical habitat for the Contiguous US Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the Canada lynx (Lynx canadensis) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)."

GROUP CHALLENGES NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER SALE. The AP (6/19) reports that "a conservation group is challenging a national forest timber sale because it may be too close to the den where Oregon's famous wandering wolf, OR-7, is raising pups." Oregon Wild filed the lawsuit Wednesday in US District Court in Medford against the US Forest Service over the Bybee timber sale on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The suit "asks a judge to order a closer examination of the harm logging may do not only to potential wilderness and spotted owls, but to wolf habitat as well."

FLORIDA PANTHER POPULATION REBOUNDING. The AP (6/20) reports that "there may now be as many as 180 endangered Florida panthers roaming in the wild, and state wildlife officials are exploring programs designed to encourage private landowners to welcome the big cats on their property." Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologists "updated their population estimate for the panthers during the agency's meeting this week in Fort Myers." FWC Commissioner Liesa Priddy said, "Due to the expansive habitat needs of the Florida panther, the continued growth of their population presents a unique challenge to the FWC and US Fish and Wildlife Service. As panther range expands, impacts on private landowners will continue to increase."

Also reporting on the story is the Florida Today (6/19, 208K).

STUDY FINDS BLACKBIRD DECLINE IN CALIFORNIA. The AP (6/20, Smith) reports that "a blackbird species found mostly in the Central Valley of California has experienced a major decline in its population over the past several years due in part to farming practices, researchers say." A survey released Wednesday shows that "the tricolored blackbird now numbers about 145,000 in the state, down from millions less than a century ago." Robert Meese, "a University of California, Davis, researcher who led the study, said Californians must act to reverse the decline."

ZOO-HATCHED TURTLES RELEASED IN UPPER MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE AND FISH REFUGE. The AP (6/20) reports that "twenty ornate box turtles have been released into the wild in northern Illinois as part of efforts to restore natural grasslands and prairies." The FWS and Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo "released the turtles Wednesday in the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge near Thomson and Savanna."

BRAZILIAN FILM CREW SEEKS PERMISSION TO SHOOT MAYFLIES. The AP (6/20) reports that a Brazilian film crew has asked the FWS for "permission to shoot the annual mayfly hatch on the Mississippi River."

EFFORT TO REDUCE PHOSPHORUS IN CHESAPEAKE BAY STALLS. The Baltimore Sun (6/16, Wheeler, 925K) reports that "despite early progress reducing Chesapeake Bay pollution, levels of a key pollutant, phosphorus, have not come down in many rivers in the past decade — and are actually rising in several, officials say." The article notes that "the lack of progress in reducing phosphorus is a particular problem on the Delmarva Peninsula, officials say, where there's evidence it is washing off the many farm fields fertilized with chicken manure." However, "phosphorus levels also are on the rise in some urban and suburban watersheds, which scientists say may stem from the erosion of stream banks caused by storm runoff from buildings and pavement."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RAZORBACK SUCKER. Additional coverage of the razorback suckers found spawning in the Grand Canyon was provided by the Cronkite News (6/20) and the Christian Science Monitor (6/19, 566K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GROUPS FILE LAWSUIT SEEKING ENDANGERED STATUS FOR LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. Additional coverage of a lawsuit filed by three wildlife-advocacy groups requesting the lesser prairie chicken be listed as an endangered species was provided by the Los Angeles Times (6/20, Srikrishnan, 3.46M).

WSJOURNAL CRITICIZES ILLINOIS SPENDING ON CHICKENS, BEARS UNDER QUINN. The Wall Street Journal (6/20, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that the spending of $181,730 in state tax dollars to fly 91 endangered greater prairie chickens from Kansas to Illinois is the latest example of overspending and bad leadership by Gov. Pat Quinn. The Journal says the state is also going to soon survey public opinion about black bears, even though the state has no black bear population.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM TO CONSIDER ISSUING RESEARCH LEASE TO STUDY WAVE ENERGY OFF OREGON COAST. The E&E Daily (6/19) reports that the BOEM on Thursday announced that "it will consider issuing a research lease for a university to study wave energy off the Oregon coast after determining there is no competitive interest in the area." The Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center at Oregon State University is "seeking approval to build a test site about 5 miles off the Newport coast to study utility-scale wave energy devices." According to BOEM, "the project hopes to support up to 20 megawatts of renewable electricity production." BOEM acting Director Walter Cruickshank said, "Wave energy off the West Coast has incredible potential. Today we have reached an important step in the leasing process for the nation's first grid-connected facility in federal waters to test commercial-scale wave energy devices."

Additional coverage was provided by reNews (6/20).

GROUP FILES LAWSUIT OVER EXTENSION OF EAGLE DEATH PERMITS. The E&E Daily (6/19) reports that a leading bird conservation group on Thursday "filed a federal lawsuit against the Obama administration challenging a rule for wind and other energy projects that permits injuring, killing or disturbing bald eagles for up to 30 years." The American Bird Conservancy filed the lawsuit against the Interior Department and the FWS in the US District Court for the Northern District of California in San Francisco. The law suit challenges the new rule allowing the FWS "to grant programmatic incidental take permits to wind farms, transmission projects and other long-term energy operations for a much longer period than the previous five-year term."

Additional coverage was provided the AP (6/20) and KCET-TV Los Angeles (6/20, 15K).

BOEM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON PROPOSED FLOATING WIND FARM OFF OREGON COAST. KVAL-TV Eugene, OR (6/20, 31K) reports that the BOEM was in Coos Bay this week seeking public comment on a proposed floating wind farm off the Oregon coast. The public has until July 28 to give their input on the project.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION APPROVES EAGLE MOUNTAIN, HYDROELECTRIC PLANT PLAN. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (6/20, 111K) reports that "a controversial plan to build a hydroelectric plant in the open pits of an old iron mine was granted a license on Thursday by federal regulators." The article notes that "the decision to permit the project at the abandoned Eagle Mountain mine prompted strong criticism from residents who say building two large reservoirs in the desert would severely deplete the water supply and harm the wildlife in adjacent Joshua Tree National Park." According to the article, "the decision by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission was a significant step in years of efforts by Santa Monica-based Eagle Crest Energy Company to win government approvals and financial support for the project."

Onshore Energy Development:

SCIENTISTS CONSIDER WHETHER FRACKING IS CAUSE OF EARTHQUAKES IN OKLAHOMA. The Los Angeles Times (6/18, Branson-Potts, 3.46M) reports that Oklahoma has experienced a 5,000 percent increase in the number of earthquakes in 2013. Despite a potential for earthquakes in Oklahoma, scientists say "the more likely cause of the recent increase is underground injection wells," which are abundant, considering that about 80

percent of the state is within nine miles of an injection site. Although one oil industry scientist has suggested that changing underground water levels could be the cause, the state Legislature has still been moved to "approve rules that would increase monitoring" of seismic activity near the injection wells.

Texas Officials Request Data On Injection Sites To Investigate Link With Earthquakes. The Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (6/18, Fuquay, 595K) reports that officials in Azle, Texas have compelled the Texas Railroad Commission to release information on injection sites following a series of small earthquakes near the town. According to the Commission, the data is "part of our continued effort to ensure the public is informed of our efforts to scientifically investigate seismic events in Texas." Links between nearby wastewater injections well and earthquakes have been made in Arkansas, Ohio, and Colorado, while Texas and Oklahoma regulators have not established such a link.

FRACKING HAS FUELED HUGE PROFITS FOR SAND MINES. Reuters (6/18, Driver) reports that demand for the sand used in hydraulic fracturing has led to huge returns for investments in sand mines, but that there are risks in investing in these companies. For example, a drop in crude prices could slow drilling, or demand could decrease as drillers begin to cut out the middleman and buy their own sand mines. However, providers of sand to the oil and gas industry, such as Fairmount Minerals Ltd., U.S. Silicia Holdings Inc. and Hi Crush Partners LP have recorded huge profits in the industry, and market trends predict high demand for sand is likely to continue.

INTERIOR PROPOSES NEW REGULATIONS FOR VALUATION OF OIL EXTRACTED FROM INDIAN LANDS. Politico (6/20, Guillén, 637K) reports that the Interior Department has "proposed new regulations for the valuation of oil extracted from Indian lands that 'will not only help protect and fairly value Indian energy assets but encourage exploration and development and ensure consistency with current federal oil and gas valuation rules,'" according to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. The article notes that "the change is designed to address changes to the oil market since 1988, when the current valuation rule went into effect, and the new valuation method will bring Indian lessors another $20 million each year, according to Interior."

NAVAJO MINE AND FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT FACE SCRUTINY. The Durango (CO) Herald (6/18, 28K) reports that "faced with the possibility of losing $40 million in annual revenue and several hundred jobs for its members, the Navajo Nation last year placed a high-stakes bet on coal, agreeing to take ownership of Navajo Mine." But now, "only a few months later, that bet is looking increasingly precarious as the Obama administration increases pressure to limit carbon-dioxide emissions and utilities find a ready alternative in cheap natural gas." The mine and the Four Corners Power Plant also "face scrutiny from an environmental impact statement conducted by the federal Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON OIL, GAS LEASE SALES IN UTAH. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/20, 470K) reports that the BLM is seeking public input "on two upcoming oil and gas lease sales affecting eastern Utah." The bureau has "released a draft environmental assessment on its proposal to lease 70 parcels covering about 74,000 acres overseen by its Price and Vernal field offices."

D.C. SUBURB OPPOSES SHALE DRILLING IN GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST. The E&E Daily (6/19) reports that "the governing board of a major suburb of Washington, D.C., is calling on the Forest Service to block shale drilling upstream in the George Washington National Forest." The Arlington County Board on Wednesday "unanimously passed a resolution urging the agency to prohibit horizontal drilling in the forest."

CONGRESS URGED TO ALLOW FUNDING FOR INSPECTION OF OIL WELLS. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/20, 470K) editorializes that "oil wells are still dirty and need to be aggressively inspected by the relevant government agencies." It notes that "for all the moaning heard from Utah's ruling Republicans and others, all that stuff about how the nasty ol' feds are choking off the flow of needed oil from federal lands, the fact is that the BLM, particularly, is approving leases and permits faster than it can keep up with necessary inspections." The paper argues that "Congress must insist on serious improvement in this matter," and "it must pay for it."

SCIENTIST ARGUES AGAINST FRACKING ON NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS. In an op-ed in the Las Vegas Review-Journal (6/20, 437K) Center for Biological Diversity senior scientist Rob Mrowka criticizes proposals to allow fracking on public lands in Nevada. He describes the fracking process, saying it uses "a highly toxic mix of chemicals and sand and water," and noting that the industry is using "trade secret" arguments to keep from publicly disclosing fracking chemicals. He concludes that there are many opportunities for the state to create

jobs and grow its economy, including through renewable energy projects, but that fracking shouldn't be one of the ways that this is done.

Offshore Energy Development:

NPS DIVE TEAM SEARCHES GULF FOR LINGERING BP OIL. The Pensacola (FL) News Journal (6/19, 151K) reports that a specialized NPS dive team was "in the Gulf on Thursday morning searching for lingering BP oil." According to the article, "the team of underwater archeologists are checking out spots they identified with side-scan sonar that could have potentially trapped oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster in April 2010."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA URGED TO ACT ON WATER ISSUES. In an op-ed for the Los Angeles Times (6/20, Polakovic, 3.46M), Gary Polakovic, president of Make Over Earth Inc., writes that throughout California, "water purveyors have so successfully fulfilled their mission statements to provide abundant, reliable and inexpensive water for all that scarcity hardly seems real because water is nearly untethered from the economics of supply and demand." According to Polakovic, "California's history of water mirages, along with north-south water wars and the cynicism engendered by the kind of water politics portrayed in 'Chinatown,' help explain the skepticism that has greeted statewide water proposals in recent decades." As an example, he points to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. He notes that "the Legislature has twice postponed water bond votes to pay for such infrastructure fixes, fearing the bonds would fail," and "it's uncertain whether lawmakers will try to place the latest version on the November ballot."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FUNDING FOR WATERSMART BASIN STUDY PROGRAM. Additional coverage of funding for the WaterSMART Basin Study Program was provided by the Dalles (OR) Chronicle (6/19, 40K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

LEGISLATION TO EXPAND NEVADA TRIBAL RESERVATIONS ADVANCES. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (6/20, 437K) reports that legislation that would expand the reservations of seven Indian tribes in Northern Nevada advanced in Congress on Thursday. The House Natural Resources Committee approved the legislation by voice vote with no discussion.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSAL TO REFORM FEDERAL RECOGNITION PROCESS. Additional coverage of the proposal to reform the federal recognition process was provided by the Tundra (AK) Drums (6/19, 11K).

NORTHEAST SUFFERING FROM CASINO GLUT. The Wall Street Journal (6/20, Calvert, Kamp, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the rapid expansion of the number of casinos in the mid-Atlantic and in New England is sapping the revenue each is able to generate, and simultaneously cutting into local governments' taxes from the operations.

Top National News:

OBAMA SENDS 300 SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIERS TO "TRAIN, ADVISE, AND SUPPORT" IRAQI MILITARY. President Obama's announcement that he is sending 300 US troops back to Iraq predictably dominated the news cycle, leading two out of three network newscasts, discussion on cable shows and this morning's front pages. Overall, the tenor of the coverage was markedly positive. For example, while conservative commentators and some GOP lawmakers lambasted Obama's plans, network TV reports included no Republican criticism of the President.

In fact, the only network mention of the opposition came on NBC Nightly News (6/19, lead story, 3:35, Williams, 7.86M), where Chuck Todd reported that "in Washington, the President may have bought himself some time politically" and "won over at least one critic." Sen. Marco Rubio was shown saying, "I think there's the beginning of an outline of what I hope will be a concrete plan that we can all rally around, because this issue deserves that

level of attention."

Reports unanimously highlighted Obama's assurances that no US soldiers will be involved in combat. It was, says the Washington Post (6/20, DeYoung, Gearan, 4.22M), "a point he made repeatedly during remarks in the White House briefing room." The lead stories on NBC Night News and the CBS Evening News included footage of the President saying, "I think we always have to guard against mission creep. So let me repeat what I've said in the past – American combat troops are not going to be fighting in Iraq again."

ABC World News (6/19, story 2, 2:30, Raddatz) did not air that quote, but noted that "Obama made it clear that US combat forces will not fight a new war" in Iraq, and showed the President saying, "It's clear from the last decade the need for the United States to ask hard questions before we take action abroad." On NBC Nightly News (6/19, lead story, 3:35, Williams, 7.86M), Todd cast Obama's announcement as "the beginnings of a long-term strategy to deal with this chaos in Iraq," where "instead of forging ahead with a major military campaign, the President is turning to" Secretary of State Kerry "to lead a robust diplomatic effort to end the political stalemate in Iraq." Bloomberg News (6/20, Talev, 2.76M) also notes this morning that Kerry "will leave this weekend to consult with allies in the Middle East and Europe."

The CBS Evening News (6/19, lead story, 2:20, Alfonsi, 5.08M) led its broadcast reporting, "US military forces are going back to Iraq, two and a half years after...Obama pulled the last troops out." CBS (Garrett) added that Obama "described the Special Forces mission as limited: gain intelligence on the Sunni insurgents and advise Iraqi security forces defending Baghdad."

On ABC World News (6/19, story 3, 1:00, Muir), however, White House correspondent Jonathan Karl said cautioned that Obama's announcement amounts to "a significantly more dangerous mission than had been widely anticipated – three times as many Special Forces as had been reported." Obama "faces a real dilemma here: On one hand, he wants no part of going back into Iraq...but at the same time this group now taking over parts of Iraq poses a real threat. As a former ambassador to Iraq who served under Obama said today this group is more formidable than Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda at the present time of the September 11 attacks." Karl was referring to comments by former US Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker, who said, "We would be foolish to think that ISIS will not plan attacks against the West now that it has the space and security to do so. ... This is a more formidable force than Osama bin Laden's group that brought us 9/11."

The AP (6/20, Pace, Hendawi) describes Obama as "inching back into a fight he tried to leave behind," because "when coupled with previously announced steps, the president's actions could put about 600 additional US troops in the midst of Iraq's deeply unstable security situation." CBS was referring to the fact that, as The Hill (6/19, Sink, Wong, 237K) reported, "the advisers being dispatched are in addition to 275 service members the president has authorized to go to Iraq to secure the US Embassy in Baghdad."

The Christian Science Monitor (6/20, LaFranchi, 566K) reports that while Obama "said the limited role of the military advisers would be to 'train, advise, and support' the Iraqi military...he also suggested that the US personnel would be gathering intelligence so that the US can be 'prepared to take targeted and precise military action if and when we determine the situation on the ground requires it.'" The Los Angeles Times (6/20, Hennessey, Parsons, Bengali, 3.46M) notes that "US officials said the US will initially deploy several special operations teams of about a dozen members each. The teams will be embedded among Iraqi military officers at their headquarters, and at the brigade level, the officials said."

McClatchy (6/20, Wise, Subscription Publication, 23K) notes that Defense Secretary Hagel "said he supports Obama's decision" to send 300 hundred US military personnel to Iraq, adding, "These special operators will assess the situation on the ground, help evaluate gaps in Iraqi security forces, and increase their capacity to counter the threat posed" by ISIL. TIME (6/19, Miller, 24.1M) reported on its website that "on a conference call with reporters following Obama's remarks, a senior Administration official said both manned and unmanned flights are already providing 'round-the-clock coverage over Iraq.'" Moreover, "even as Obama said he was mindful of avoiding 'mission creep' in Iraq, one official said military has 'more than 30,000 troops at sea and shore, including fixed and rotary wing aircraft' in the region." This official added, "We are not at the stage where we are prepared for airstrikes, obviously, the President hasn't asked us to do that."

Barbara Starr noted on CNN's Situation Room (6/19, 554K) that while the US troops will not be on the front lines,

they "may well be in danger," adding that "helicopters and aircraft now based on ships in the Persian Gulf and ashore will be ready to move in quickly if US forces do come under attack, a senior defense officials tells CNN." USA Today (6/20, Michaels, 5.82M) says "the challenge for the president is to commit enough forces to assist the Iraqis while ensuring the mission doesn't expand over time." For example, "the Vietnam War started with a limited mission of U.S. advisers sent to help the South Vietnamese armed forces."

The Christian Science Monitor (6/20, LaFranchi, 566K) reports that Obama's "modest action...reflects a president who is extremely reluctant to reengage America in the Iraq conflict he likes to claim he ended, but who is also mindful of the dire consequences that a Sunni extremist victory in Iraq could pose to the US." Politico (6/19, Dovere, Gerstein, 637K) similarly called "reengaging with Iraq...a politically uncomfortable move for a president who won election in large part due to his opposition to the Iraq War and who has touted the withdrawal of US combat forces from Iraq in 2011 as one of the key achievements of his presidency." NPR (6/19, Gonyea, 519K) noted on its website that "officially, the Iraq war may be over, but that wasn't the end of it for the President."

Ed Henry said on Fox News' Special Report (6/19, 2.15M) that the President decided "to not completely decide, showing critics on the right he's taking some military action while reassuring nervous allies on the left that this will not become mission creep." Along those lines, the Washington Post (6/20, DeYoung, Gearan, 4.22M) reports the Administration "is straddling difficult politics in Iraq and at home, seeking to answer Republican critics such as" House Speaker Boehner "who claim that Obama is 'taking a nap' while Iraq crumbles and to assure political supporters that he is not opening a new front in the Middle East." Politico (6/19, French, 637K) quoted Boehner as saying yesterday, "The White House has known for months about the situation in Iraq. And when you look, it's not just Iraq, it's Libya, it's Egypt, it's Syria. The spread of terrorism has increased exponentially under this president... You look at this presidency and you can't help but get the sense that the wheels are coming off."

McClatchy (6/20, Wise, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that on Capitol Hill, reaction to the President's announcement broke along party lines: "Democrats commended Obama for taking action, while Republicans criticized his plan for not going far enough." Under the headline "Dems Starting To Unite Around President Obama On Iraq," Politico (6/20, Everett, Herb, 637K) said "Democrats from a broad ideological spectrum backed Obama's decision to send 300 military advisers to Iraq to prevent the march of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant into Baghdad." Sen. Bob Martinez said, "We have to think about our national security interests first and foremost and from my perspective ISIS is a national security threat. ... There isn't any air power in the world that can take care of the problem of sectarian divisions."

The Wall Street Journal (6/20, Sparshott, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that House Foreign Affairs Chairman Ed Royce said yesterday, "The plan that the president announced today in response to the rapid terrorist expansion in Iraq underestimates the seriousness of the threat. ... The steps he announced are needed, but fall short of what is required to stop this al-Qaeda offshoot from gaining more power, which must include drone strikes."

USA Today (6/20, Jackson, Michaels, 5.82M) reports "two Republican critics of Obama's Iraq policies – Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina – called the sending of advisers 'a positive step' but said more needs to be done." The senators said in a joint statement, "We must act now to help Iraqis arrest their country's descent into chaos."

The Washington Times (6/20, Boyer, Ybarra, 455K) reports Senate Minority Leader McConnell "said the crisis in Iraq is a direct result of Mr. Obama's eagerness to disengage militarily from trouble spots around the world." Said McConnell, "The threat from al Qaeda and other affiliated groups has now metastasized,. ... The dogged adherence to withdrawing our conventional strength and sticking to campaign promises has created a more dangerous world, not a more stable one."

Reporting from Baghdad, correspondent Clarissa Ward said on the CBS Evening News (6/19, story 2, 1:20, Alfonsi, 5.08M) that "there will certainly be some disappointment" within the Iraqi government "that the President didn't commit to those airstrikes. Ideally, the Iraqis would like to see the US be a silent partner in the skies and really the emphasis is on 'silent' there," because "they don't want to be seen as being dependent on the US or being weak and they certainly don't want to see...US boots on the ground here." Contrasting with that assessment, Richard Engel reported from Baghdad on NBC Nightly News (6/19, story 2, 1:30, Williams, 7.86M) that "people here...certainly welcomed" Obama's announcement, because "make no mistake, this is a US

military intervention. They're not American boots on the ground, but these advisers are going to be working with the Iraqi military, guiding the military, picking targets, helping the military."

David Brooks, in his New York Times (6/20, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) column, sees lessons for Iraq's future in the 1994 Rwanda disaster, "If you can sideline" leaders carrying out the atrocities "or get the politics functioning, you can reduce the violence dramatically. These situations are gruesome, but they are not hopeless." While "Iraq is looking into an abyss...the good news is that if you get the political elites behaving decently, you can avoid the worst. Grimly, there's cause for hope."

Potential Airstrikes Could Also Target Sunni Insurgents In Syria. The CBS Evening News (6/19, lead story, 2:20, Alfonsi, 5.08M) said last night that "the prospect of US airstrikes remains real but will not be limited to Iraq," as "senior officials say if US interests are threatened, US military actions could target the same Sunni insurgents now operating in neighboring Syria." Roll Call (6/19, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 76K) also reported that "attacks could conceivably cross into Syria, where ISIL also operates." According to "a senior administration official," the Administration is "not restricted to a particular geographic space, noting that the US had taken action against militants in Yemen, Somalia and Libya in the past."

Politico (6/19, Ewing, 637K) also reported "administration officials did not rule out the possibility that the president could order airstrikes on Iraq or Syria," even if "the focus now is on getting better intelligence about Iraqi forces' capabilities and the threat ISIL poses to Baghdad and the Iraqi south."

The Washington Post (6/20, Wilson, 4.22M) reports that the "Administration has begun to consider the conflicts in Syria and Iraq as a single challenge, with an al-Qaeda-inspired insurgency threatening both countries' governments and the region's broader stability, according to senior administration officials." An unnamed "administration official" tells the Post, "Everybody here recognizes that you can't silo what is happening in Iraq from what is happening in Syria. ... There's no doubt the border is melting away. But while we look at the two in tandem, our responses in each place will be very different." Another "US official" says, "Our focus now is on how we cauterize what is happening in Iraq, how we encourage political responsibility by the Iraqi government, and what we can do to address the source of the threat, which is in Syria."

Obama Says He'll Consult Congress, But Confident He Doesn't Need Hill Authorization For Further Action. McClatchy (6/20, Wise, Subscription Publication, 23K) notes that "although he ruled out troops on the ground, Obama did not rule out airstrikes or other forms military action in Iraq." Said Obama, "If we do" launch strikes, "I will consult closely with Congress and leaders in Iraq and in the region." However, the Washington Post (6/20, DeYoung, Gearan, 4.22M) reports, the Administration "does not believe it needs formal congressional approval to respond to Iraqi requests for assistance," even as "it has sought with telephone calls and other outreach to assure lawmakers that they will be consulted."

Roll Call (6/19, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 76K) noted that Obama "did not cite what authority he is using to take military action, although authorizations to use military force passed in 2001 and 2002 never expired, and give the president broad leeway." Roll Call added that "lawmakers in both parties – from Sen. Rand Paul...to Rep. Barbara Lee...have said Congress should debate what to do." However, The Hill (6/19, Sink, Wong, 237K) said "Democratic leaders have given the White House cover to use the 2002 law authorizing former President George W. Bush to go to war with Iraq as the legal authority for new actions."

Politico (6/19, French, 637K) quoted House Minority Leader Pelosi as saying, "The President does not need any additional congressional authority to act upon measures for our national security." Pelosi added, however, that "she was not in support of putting 'boots on the ground.'"

Administration: Despite Lack Of State-Of-Forces Deal, US Troops Will Have Immunity. Ed Henry said on Fox News' Special Report (6/19, 2.15M) that the President did not "take a shouted question on the way out the door on whether we now have a status of forces agreement or immunity, which we clearly don't have. White House officials later told us well, look, they don't need it in this case because the advisers who are going there will fall under the protections of the US Embassy in Baghdad. Obviously, there is all kinds of potential loopholes there."

However, Jim Acosta reported on CNN's Situation Room (6/19, 554K) that a "senior Administration official" said

that the military advisers being sent to Iraq "will have legal protection, will have immunity as one official put it to me. They're going in at the request of the Iraqi government."

Reuters-IPSOS Poll: 55% Oppose Any Intervention In Iraq. Reuters (6/20, Storey) reports that according to a new online Reuters-IPSOS poll of 1,009 Americans, 55% of respondents (with little variation across party lines) oppose any kind of US military intervention in Iraq, and just 20% support it.

Peggy Noonan, in this morning's Wall Street Journal (6/20, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), blames both the Bush and Obama Administrations (which she casts as incompetent) for shaking Americans' faith in whether the US can successfully carry out military missions.

More Commentary On Obama's Announcement. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/20, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) criticizes Obama's plans as insufficient and ineffective, and expresses certainty that both Iran and ISIL have perceived them as such.

The Washington Post (6/20, 4.22M) editorializes, "Obama has to take care that his judiciousness isn't overtaken by events, which have repeatedly caught US officials by surprise, and he has to explain to the American people that there will be no safe outcome without U.S. engagement sustained over years, not months. ... Like Mr. Bush, Mr. Obama may be facing a second term very different from the one he had hoped for. History will credit him if he adjusts and responds to dangers he had hoped were in his rearview mirror."

David Ignatius, in the Washington Post (6/20, 4.22M), argues that "good policy for Iraq and Syria can't rely on military force alone. The United States' misadventures after the 2003 invasion of Iraq surely teach that lesson."

In his opening monologue on Fox News' O'Reilly Factor (6/19, 2.53M), Bill O'Reilly said that while the Pentagon "recommends bombing the al Qaeda army, which is slaughtering thousands of people and threatening to overwhelm Iraq, Mr. Obama says he will not bomb the terrorists who are moving back and forth across flat terrain to and from Syria. Instead he is sending 300 military advisers and asking for international help. ... So, once again, the President seeks consensus from other countries rather than charting a direct course that might damage the evil al Qaeda." O'Reilly added that the President "generally is very cautious about direct action to right wrongs. He would rather have meetings." That, O'Reilly argued, "emboldens our enemies. They don't believe Mr. Obama has the will to punish them."

Charles Krauthammer also criticizes Obama in a column titled "Abdication Has A Price," writing in the Washington Post (6/20, 4.22M), "Yes, it is true that there was no al-Qaeda in Iraq when George W. Bush took office. But it is equally true that there was essentially no al-Qaeda in Iraq remaining when...Obama took office."

Sen. Rand Paul, in the Wall Street Journal (6/20, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), casts the conflict as strictly a civil war, and urges Obama to stay completely out of it.

OBAMA TELLS PEÑA NIETO THAT UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAY IN US. The Washington Times (6/20, Boyer, 455K) reports President Obama told Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto Thursday that those entering the US illegally, including children, "won't qualify for legalized status or deferred deportation." The White House said that "in the phone conversation, Mr. Obama 'welcomed the opportunity to work in close cooperation with Mexico to develop concrete proposals to address the root causes of unlawful migration from Central America.'"

The Washington Post (6/20, 4.22M) says in an editorial that "the fact is that the vast majority of children who enter the United States now won't be eligible for remaining legally under any immigration reform proposal, so they ultimately face removal or life in the United States as undocumented aliens," and that President Obama should "directly address Central Americans" to get this message across.

Republicans Say Federal Government Must Do More. The CBS Evening News (6/19, story 7, 2:15, Alfonsi, 5.08M) reported on Gov. Rick Perry's authorization of "spending an extra $1.3 million a week on border security." Texas officials "say the Federal government is not doing enough to help." The Los Angeles Times (6/20, Hennessy-Fiske, Simon, 3.46M) says Perry and other Republicans are challenging Obama's "characterization of the surge in young immigrants from Central America across the southern border as an unforeseen crisis,

accusing his administration of contributing to the influx" and calling for the deployment of the National Guard.

Central American Leaders Criticized Over Immigration Crisis. The Washington Times (6/20, Dinan, 455K) reports that the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras "are beginning to feel heat from Washington...for failing their own citizens – forcing many to flee to the U.S., banking on uncertain promises or rumors of legal status." Congressional Democrats have been faulting the nations for the crisis. Vice President Biden will meet with the leaders of the three nations in Guatemala Friday.

Immigration Crisis Said To Be Hurting Anti-Drug Efforts. The Washington Post (6/20, Partlow, Miroff, 4.22M) reports that "with the Border Patrol distracted" by the surge of immigrants, drug cartels "have had an easier time smuggling illegal drugs across the border, according to agents and state officials here." National Border Patrol Council representative Chris Cabrera said the crisis "is pulling agents away from their patrol stations elsewhere along the border, creating gaps in coverage that the traffickers can exploit."

Residents Of Virginia Town Angry Over Temporary Shelter Plan. The Washington Times (6/20, Miller, 455K) reports more than 1,000 residents of Lawrenceville, Virginia told HHS officials Thursday that they do not want the recently closed St. Paul's College to become "temporary emergency shelter for about 500 children." While the children were meant to have arrived Thursday, "HHS officials struggled to persuade a crowd of angry residents that bringing the children to Lawrenceville would create jobs, boost the economy and provide a desperately needed humanitarian service."

Adelson Says GOP Should Take Lead On Immigration Reform. Sheldon Adelson wrote in Politico Magazine (6/19, 633K) that "as a Republican, it's my view that efforts to complete immigration reform should be led by our party. ... Democrats don't have a monopoly on having hearts." Adelson writes that the US "does not have a process – real or imaginable – to deport 11 million people from within our borders" and that the GOP should "start by instituting a process in which all undocumented immigrants receive permits to legally work here."

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CHOOSE MCCARTHY, SCALISE FOR TOP LEADERSHIP POSTS. Both the CBS Evening News (6/19, story 6, 0:20, Alfonsi, 5.08M) and NBC Nightly News (6/19, story 6, 0:30, Williams, 7.86M) briefly reported that House Republicans elected House Majority Whip McCarthy to succeed Eric Cantor as majority leader, and Rep. Steve Scalise to succeed McCarthy. The AP (6/20, Espo) says McCarthy's election after less than eight years in the House "capped a meteoric rise through the ranks of power," while the choice of Louisiana's Scalise over Rep. Peter Roskam of Illinois was a "clear indication that the rank and file wanted a red-state Republican in the upper ranks of leadership." The Washington Post (6/20, O'Keefe, Costa, 4.22M) says McCarthy is "the fastest-rising majority leader in American history."

The New York Times (6/20, Parker, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says McCarthy is "a loyal lieutenant" of House Speaker Boehner and "is likely to be more of a preserver of the status quo...than the conservative firebrand many from the party's right flank had hoped to promote," Rep. Raul Labrador, who was his sole rival. The results of the secret balloting were not released.

The Los Angeles Times (6/20, Memoli, 3.46M) says with McCarthy "having sewn up the race for majority leader early on, many House conservatives saw the whip's race as their best opportunity to gain a foothold in the leadership," and Roskam "was seen by many of the conservatives as too close to the party's business-oriented establishment." Conservative Rep. Marlin Stutzman also ran for whip.

The Washington Post (6/20, Costa, Kucinich, Fahrenthold, 4.22M) says Scalise won "by selling himself as a hard-edged conservative, and by employing the low-tech political stagecraft of a college student-council election" including "stickers" and "free food." Politico (6/19, Sherman, Bresnahan, Palmer, 637K) said Scalise also "knew how to build up chits," and "over the span of nine-day leadership election, the five-year congressional veteran cashed them in – in break-neck fashion. ... He worked over the House Republican Conference until his walk to the Thursday vote – he made roughly 100 calls on the final day."

In an analysis, the New York Times (6/20, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says McCarthy is likely to bring "a more pragmatic and inclusive leadership than Mr. Cantor preferred." While "no one has ever accused Mr. McCarthy of being steeped in the finest details of issues before Congress," he has a reputation as a conciliator and "is also known for his affability" and his friendliness with Democrats.

USA Today (6/20, Davis, 5.82M) calls McCarthy a "gregarious pol" who "has spent his brief time in Congress cultivating relationships with charm and a jovial approach." McClatchy (6/20, Doyle, Subscription Publication, 23K) quotes Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff saying, "It's certainly good news for the Golden State. On issues that are non-partisan, this could really benefit California."

The Wall Street Journal (6/20, Peterson, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says the new leadership will take over on August 1, after Cantor officially leaves his post. Reuters (6/20, Cornwell, Stephenson), the Washington Times (6/20, Sherfinski, 455K), Politico (6/19, Bresnahan, Sherman, Palmer, 637K), The Hill (6/19, Berman, 237K), and Huffington Post (6/19, Siddiqui, 11.54M) also have reports.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Playing With Fire In Afghanistan."*** The New York Times (6/20, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that with his refusal to accept the results of Afghanistan's runoff presidential vote, candidate Abdullah Abdullah is "creating a political crisis" which "could be catastrophic for Afghanistan, which is still very fragile and under grave threat from the Taliban." Without a clear winner, "there is likely to be a protracted political struggle along ethnic lines that could make it impossible to transfer power democratically." This would "paralyze government decision-making and prevent the signing of a security agreement."

"Good Progress On Affordable Healthcare." An editorial in the New York Times (6/20, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) cites a report issued this week by DHS on the progress of the Affordable Care Act and notes that while "the system is still new, millions of Americans are already being helped, and every success makes it that much harder for its political enemies to repeal or disable it."

"Keeping Track." The New York Times (6/20, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) considers this week's Supreme Court ruling in the case Alice Corporation v. CLS Bank International, and a measure by Sen. Tom Harkin to increase the salary threshold above which salaried workers are not guaranteed time-and-a-half pay after working more than 40 hours in a week.

"The Klinghoffer Tragedy."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Obama's Midterm Challenge."*** The Washington Post (6/20, 4.22M) editorializes that in Iraq, President Obama "has to take care that his judiciousness isn't overtaken by events, which have repeatedly caught US officials by surprise, and he has to explain to the American people that there will be no safe outcome without U.S. engagement sustained over years, not months. ... Like Mr. Bush, Mr. Obama may be facing a second term very different from the one he had hoped for. History will credit him if he adjusts and responds to dangers he had hoped were in his rearview mirror."

"Solving The Border Crisis." The Washington Post (6/20, 4.22M) says in an editorial that "the fact is that the vast majority of children who enter the United States now won't be eligible for remaining legally under any immigration reform proposal, so they ultimately face removal or life in the United States as undocumented aliens," and that President Obama should "directly address Central Americans" to get this message across.

"Employing Ex-Offenders." The Washington Post (6/20, 4.22M) editorializes that the District of Columbia Council "rightly wants to ban the unfair hiring practice that disqualifies people with a criminal record from even being considered." The Post argues that employment for ex-offenders "is key to combating recidivism, and it makes sense to get all residents involved in improving the city's economy," but "business concerns about proposed legislation need to be taken into account, or the council risks driving away jobs and hurting the people it aims to help." The Post concludes that "the issues raised by the private sector – which include the need to better educate companies on this issue – are legitimate."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Obama's Iraq Feint."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/20, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) criticizes President Obama's Iraq plans as insufficient and ineffective, and expresses certainty that both Iran and ISIL have perceived them as such.

"The IRS Memory Hole." The Wall Street Journal (6/20, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that IRS Commissioner John Koskinen is not being candid in his assertions about the loss of Lois Lerner's emails, and that the loss either means the IRS is hopelessly inept and therefore incapable of completing its tasks, or is intentionally hiding something.

"Little Hens On The Prairie." The Wall Street Journal (6/20, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that the spending of $181,730 in state tax dollars to fly 91 endangered greater prairie chickens from Kansas to Illinois is the latest example of overspending and bad leadership by Gov. Pat Quinn. The Journal says the state is also going to soon survey public opinion about black bears, even though the state has no black bear population.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
US Will Put 300 Advisers In Iraq
Let The Games Begin In Boston
Bill Extends Time For Sexual Abuse Suits
Another Payoff In Eating Well
State Filings For Custody Of Children Soaring

Boston Herald:
Mitt Romney Crushes GOP Prez Field In NH Poll

Wall Street Journal:
Obama Sends Military Advisers To Iraq
Casino Boom Pinches Northeastern States
Scrutiny Transforms Washington's Political-Intelligence Business
Cancer Doctors Ring Up Big Bills For Tarnished Drug

New York Times:
5 Exonerated In Jogger Rape Agree To Settle
Trial Secondary As US Questions A Libyan Suspect
Obama Orders 300 Advisers To Iraq
Challengers Emerge To Replace Divisive Maliki
After Years Of Solitude, Spanish Literary Champion Takes Partner
Wisconsin Governed At Center Of A Vast Fund-Raising Case

Washington Post:
Obama Sending 300 Advisers To Bolster Iraq Against Rebels
A Last Argument, And A Long Wait
White House Grapples With Borderless Conflict
Prosecutors: Wis Governor Involved In Illicit Scheme
CIA Toyed With A Bin Laden Action Figure
House GOP Elects Mccarthy Majority Leader, Scalise Whip

Financial Times:
Obama To Send 300 'Military Advisers' To Iraq
Deutsche Bank Warned On Commodity Trading
Water Shortage Shuts Coke Plant In India
GE Offers Joint Venture Over Alstom
NY Fed Takes On Key Role In Repo Market
Oracle Hit As Growth Rate Disappoints
A Tale Of Two US Central Bankers

Washington Times:
Obama Will Send 300 'Advisers' To Iraq, Open To 'Targeted' Action
Congress In Dark On Counterterror Plan Before Obama Speech At West Point
Democrats, Central American Ambassadors Trade Blame For Humanitarian Crisis On Border
US Oil Flow Helps Keep Prices In Check As Threats Rise Overseas
McCarthy, Scalise Chosen As New House Leaders

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: CDC-Anthrax Scare; Iraq-Obama Press Conference; Iraq-Obama Press Conference-Analysis; South Dakota-Tornado; Weather Forecast; Minnesota-Golf Course Police Chase; Medal Of Honor Recipient; Florida-Lottery Fraud Investigation.
CBS: Iraq-Obama Press Conference; Iraq-Obama Press Conference-Analysis; Iraq Conflict; Extreme Weather; CDC-Anthrax Scare; Congress-House Leadership Changes; Texas-Illegal Immigration; Spain-New King; Weather-El Nino; New Jersey Turnpike Crash Investigation; Medal Of Honor Recipient.
NBC: Iraq-Obama Press Conference; Iraq-Obama Press Conference-Analysis; Gas Prices; CDC-Anthrax Scare; Extreme Weather; Congress-House Leadership Changes; Medal Of Honor Recipient; Ride Sharing Services; Spain-New King.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Iraq-Obama Press Conference; Kerry-Iraq Trip; Ukraine Crisis; Congress-House Leadership Changes; Virginia- Dave Brat; CDC-Anthrax Scare.
CBS: Iraq-Obama Press Conference; Ukraine Crisis; Congress-House Leadership Changes; Extreme Weather; CDC-Anthrax Scare; Veterans Affairs Audit.
FOX: Iraq-Obama Press Conference; Congress-House Leadership Changes; Donald Sterling Controversy; Wall Street; Boehner-Lois Lerner Emails; CDC-Anthrax Scare; Guantanamo Bay Health Services Report.
NPR: Iraq-Obama Press Conference; House-Anti-Government Spying Legislation; Congress-House Leadership Changes; SCOTUS-Public Employee Case Ruling; Los Angeles-Homeless Living Ban Overturned; Wisconsin-Senator Scott Walker Controversy; Gerry Goffin Obit; California-Viral Mugshot.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President will meet with Prime Minister John Key of New Zealand to highlight our increasingly close relationship with New Zealand and our collaboration on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, climate change, and military-to-military cooperation. The President looks forward to consulting with Prime Minister Key on these and other issues, including the U.S. rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, regional maritime security issues, and global security issues. Oval Office. Pool Spray at the Bottom. Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing. Oval Office. Closed Press. Notes: Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will depart Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic en route Guatemala City, Guatemala. The Vice President's departure is closed press. Additional details about the Vice President's schedule are forthcoming. The Vice President will depart Guatemala City, Guatemala, en route Washington, DC.

MICHELLE OBAMA – As part of her Reach Higher initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama will tour student demonstrations and deliver remarks at the National Summer Learning Day Fair at the Department of Education. This event is open press.
US Senate: Not in session.
US House: 9 a.m. – The House will meet for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 9 a.m. Health Subc. Markup of H.R. 4771 – Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act, H.R. 4250 – Sunscreen Innovation Act, H.R. 4701 – Vector-Borne Disease Research Accountability and

Transparency Act of 2014, H.R. 594 – Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2014, H.R. 669 – Sudden Unexpected Death and Data Enhancement and Awareness Act, and H.R. 4290 – Wakefield Act of 2014. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL SERVICES – 9 a.m. Full Committee. Markup of H.R. 4871 – TRIA Reform Act of 2014, H.R. 4881 – To place a 6-month moratorium on the authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council to make financial stability determinations, and H.R. 4387 – FSOC Transparency and Accountability Act. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY – 9 a.m. Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial, and Antitrust Law hearing on Net Neutrality: Is Antitrust Law More Effective than Regulation in Protecting Consumers and Innovation? Witnesses: Joshua D. Wright, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission; Robert M. McDowell, Former FCC Commissioner, Visiting Fellow, Hudson Institute, Inc., Bruce M. Owen; Morris M. Doyle Centennial Professor in Public Policy; Director, Public Policy Program, School of Humanities and Sciences, Senior Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, Stanford University; Tim Wu, Professor, Columbia Law School. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 9 a.m. Mixed Signals: The Administration's Policy on Marijuana, Part Four – the Health Effects and Science. Witnesses: Doug Throckmorton, M.D., Deputy Director for Regulatory Programs, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration; Nora Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute of Drug Abuse; Carl Hart, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Co-Director, Institute for Research in African American Studies, Columbia University. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

WAYS AND MEANS – 9 a.m. Hearing with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Commissioner John Koskinen to discuss recent developments in the Committees investigation of the use of inappropriate criteria to process applications of tax-exempt organizations. Location: 1100 Longworth.

HOMELAND SECURITY – 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency hearing on Stakeholder Perspectives on Priorities for the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review. Witnesses: Stewart A. Baker, Former Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Frank J. Cilluffo, Associate Vice President and Director, Homeland Security Policy Institute, The George Washington University; Dr. Henry H. Willis, Director, RAND Homeland Security and Defense Center, The RAND Corporation; Elaine C. Duke, Former Under Secretary for Management, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Location: 311 Cannon.

NATURAL RESOURCES – 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources legislative hearing on: H.R. 4293 (Cramer), To authorize the approval of natural gas pipelines and establish deadlines and expedite permits for certain natural gas gathering lines on Federal land and Indian land. "Natural Gas Gathering Enhancement Act.; H.R. 1587 (Marino), To authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue permits for rights-of-way, temporary easements, or other necessary authorizations to facilitate natural gas, oil, and petroleum product pipelines and related facilities on eligible Federal lands, and for other purposes. "Energy Infrastructure Improvement Act. Location: 1334 Longworth.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS – 9:30 a.m. Full committee hearing on the "Review of Awarding Bonuses to Senior Executives" at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Witnesses: Panel 1: Gina Farrisee, Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Accompanied by: Jose Riojas, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Will Gunn, General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Location: 334 Cannon. Notes: Hearing will commence upon conclusion of the Business Meeting on Subpoena of SES Performance Information

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Space and Subcommittee on Oversight Joint hearing on NASA Security: Assessing the Agencys Efforts to Protect Sensitive Information. Witnesses: Richard Keegan, Associate Deputy Administrator, NASA; Belva Martin, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office; Gail A. Robinson, Deputy Inspector General, NASA; Douglas Webster, Fellow, National Academy of Public Administration and Principal, Cambio, Consulting Group. Location: 2318 Rayburn.
Other: 2014 ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION SUMMIT – June 18 – 20. A Hybrid Conference and Internet Forum on Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and Related Delivery System and Payment Reform. Sponsored by Engelberg Center for Health Reform at the Brookings Institution and Dartmouth Institute for Health

Policy and Clinical Practice. RSVP: registration@hcconferences.com. Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW. Contacts: 800-503-3597.

2014 ACS CONVENTION – June 19 – 21. The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy will hold its 2014 National Convention. Speakers include: Justice Sonia Sotomayor, San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, and civil rights attorney and leader Theodore M. Shaw. Location: Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St, NW. Contacts: Media RSVP to press@acslaw.org.

CARNEGIE, EPI – TRANSATLANTIC FINANCIAL CRISIS – 9:30 a.m. – 4:25 p.m. EPI Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy Research Robert E. Scott will join other economic experts and policymakers to explore lessons learned from the transatlantic financial crisis at The Crisis and What Remains to Be Done? Hosted by the AFL-CIO, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and the IMK of the Hans Buckler Foundation, the conference will examine what we have learned since the financial crash of 2008 and the ensuing Great Recession, and what remains to be done. Contact: Dan Crawford, Donti Donald or Liz Rose, news@epi.org 202-775-8810. Location: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.

HAGEL, NEW ZEALAND HONOR CORDON – 8:30 a.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts an enhanced honor cordon to welcome the Prime Minister of New Zealand John Key to the Pentagon at 8:30 a.m. EDT. The cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance. Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort to the cordon.

INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE – REP. MEEKS – 8:30 a.m. Discussion with Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY) on US-Latin America relations. Meeks is a member of the House Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere and recently traveled to Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala, Mexico, and Haiti. Location: 1211 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 510. Contacts: 202-822-9002

MODERN FAMILIES – 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. U.S. Trust will release their 2014 Insights on Wealth and Worth in a live media webcast. This annual study, the largest of its kind to explore trends, attitudes and behaviors of high net worth Americans, will be presented by: Keith Banks, President of U.S. Trust; Chris Heilmann, Chief Fiduciary Executive of U.S. Trust. Backup Telephone: (855) 266-2351, Backup International Toll Telephone: (706) 643-7662, Conference ID: 54175174 . Contacts: Jennifer Murray Jmurray@hubbellgroup.com (781-878-8882)

SWIMMING LESSON – MARY CRIPPEN – 10:30 a.m. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Acting Chairman Robert Adler and former Olympic swimmer Maddy Crippen will take part in a Worlds Largest Swimming Lesson (WLSL) event. Speakers: Robert Adler, CPSC Acting Chairman; Maddy Crippen, Member of the U.S. Olympic Swim Team, 2000 Summer Olympics. Contact Christina Saull at (202) 518-6480 or Christina.Saull@widmeyer.com. Location: Prince Georges County Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Maryland.

G.I. BILL 70TH – 11:30 a.m. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the GI Bill. with student Veterans, Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) and partners at an event to be held at the VA VetSuccess on Campus partner location, George Washington University. Speakers: Sloan Gibson, Acting Secretary, Dept. of Veterans Affairs; Allison Hickey, Undersecretary for Benefits, Dept. of Veterans Affairs; D. Wayne Robinson, President, Student Veterans of America (SVA); Steve Gonzalez, Asst. Dir., Veterans Employ. and Educ., American Legion; Jeremy Adkins, Rockhurst University (Student Veteran). MEDIA RSVP to VAPublicAffairs@va.gov. Location: George Washington University, Marvin Center Amphitheater (3rd Floor), 800 21st Street NW.

PRIMARY CARE SHORTAGE – 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lunch briefing on Improving GME: Seeking a Permanent Solution to the Primary Care Shortage. Speakers: Andrew Bazemore, MD, Robert Graham Center; Washington DC; Dan Burke, MD, University of Colorado; Ted Epperly, MD, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho; Sarah Hameida, MD, Medical Resident; Gina Martin, MD, Medical Resident; Bob Phillips, MD, American Board of Family Medicine; Barbara Ross-Lee, DO, New York Institute of Technology, College for Osteopathic Medicine. RSVP: RSVP to Frank Walsh at fwalsh@gymr.com or call (202) 745-5110. Location: U.S. Capitol Hill Visitors Center – Room SVC 209-08.

KERLIKOWSKE – 12 p.m. CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske will participate on a panel at the Express

Association of America Annual Meeting. Location: Army and Navy Club, 17th and I St., NW.

HUDSON – CYPRUS – 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. The Solution to the Cyprus Problem: Famagusta, Energy, and Public Relations. Speakers: Seth Cropsey Moderator, Director, Center for American Seapower, Hudson Institute; Alexis Galanos, Mayor, Famagusta and Former Speaker of the Cyprus House of Representatives. Location: Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C. Headquarters 1015 15th Street, N.W., 6th Floor.

HOUSE LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS – CONSERVATIVES REAX – 1 p.m. Conservative leaders will speak during a press call Friday to discuss today's election of Congressman Kevin McCarthy (CA-23) as House Majority Leader and Congressman Steve Scalise (LA-01) as Majority Whip. Speakers: Linda Chavez, Chairman, Center for Equal Opportunity; Dr. Barrett Duke, Vice President for Public Policy and Research, Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; Doug Holtz-Eakin, President, American Action Forum; Rob Jesmer, Campaign Manager, FWD.us; Ali Noorani (moderator), Executive Director, National Immigration Forum; Grover Norquist, Founder & President, Americans for Tax Reform. DIAL IN: 1- 866-952-1907; Conference ID: IMMIGRATION.

WORLD BANK – HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA – RIVER BLINDNESS – 5 p.m. World Bank Group President Dr. Jim Yong Kim will open a Summit, "From River Blindness to All Neglected Tropical Diseases," in Washington DC on Friday, June 20. The Summit marks the 40th Anniversary of the fight against river blindness in Africa and discusses how this strategy can be adapted to address other preventable Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) that largely affect poor people. Participants include: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, President of Sightsavers; Diane McNamara, wife of the late Robert McNamara, former President of the World Bank who played a key role in initiating the river blindness program; Dr. Luis Sambo, WHO Regional Director for Africa; Ms. Geralyn S. Ritter, Senior VP, Global Public Policy and Corporate Responsibility, Merck & Co.; Mr. Merza H. Hasan, Kuwait Executive Director and Dean of the World Bank Board; Mr. Makhtar Diop, World Bank Vice President for Africa; and Dr. Tim Evans, World Bank Senior Director, Health. Contacts: Elena Gex +1 (202) 473-1708; egex@worldbank.org; Aby K. Toure +1 (202) 473-8302; akonate@worldbank.org. Location: The World Bank Headquarters, Main Complex atrium, 1818 H Street, NW. Notes: There will be a photo opportunity with President Kim, HRH Princess Alexandra, and other speakers beside the river blindness statue at the World Bank Headquarters at 5.00 P.M. Gates open at 5p. 4p pre-set for photogs. 5:05 – 6p summit panel.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "You know where it's bad now? Iraq, oh my God. Did you see this coming? It was bad and now it's getting worse and...President Obama, normally a cool guy, but...today he was saying he might have to send in Dennis Rodman. And then later in the day he phoned Hillary Clinton and asked her if she could start early."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to Dick Cheney's op-ed criticizing Obama's foreign policy] "In an op-ed in what many are calling the 'Wall Street Journal,' Cheney writes, 'Rarely has a US President been so wrong about so much at the expense of so many.' Yes, rarely, maybe only one other time."

Stephen Colbert: "Folks, when it comes to education, there is one crucial thing a child needs – name-brand food products. You got every subject right there in the vending machine. Three Musketeers – that's English class. Bugles – that's band. And Aquafina – pretty sure that's Latin. But the Michelle Obama health-Gestapo is now cracking down on the marketing of the less-nutritious foods in schools with new rules limiting how much fat, sugar, and sodium they contain. Ingredients which are usually limited only by our imagination."

Jimmy Fallon: "Little controversy from Colorado. Marijuana activists have filed a lawsuit against Colorado's governor to protest paying taxes on the weed they buy. And by filing a lawsuit, I mean, they wrote 'Not cool, bro' on a place-mat in IHOP."

Seth Meyers: "The Smithsonian unveiled a 3D-printed sculpture of President Obama that is detailed enough [that] you see his pores and wrinkles. The sculpture is so realistic that Joe Biden won't leave it alone."

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BISON CONNECT

Interior, USDA Announce Landmark Commitment to Improve Sage-Grouse Habitat

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jun 20, 2014 at 11:44 AM
Reply-To: interior_news@ios.doi.gov
To: [redacted]ios.doi.gov

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U.S. Department of the Interior

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: June 20, 2014
Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Cullen Schwarz (USDA) 202-720-4623

Interior, USDA Announce Landmark Commitment to Improve Sage-Grouse Habitat Nevada-California Ranchers to Benefit

Nevada-California Ranchers to Benefit

WASHINGTON - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced a ground-breaking commitment from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to accelerate and focus conservation efforts that will benefit ranchers and also the distinct population of greater sage-grouse population that lives along the border of Nevada and California. The bi-state population of sage-grouse is being considered for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

"With proactive conservation investments, we're helping farmers and ranchers who are improving habitat through voluntary efforts to stabilize this population of sage-grouse," said Vilsack. "Through action such as this, along with the support of our partners, we can help secure this species' future and maintain our vibrant western economies."

USDA will provide up to $25.5 million of conservation investments over the next five to ten years as part of its contribution to delivering the federal, state and local 2012 Bi-State Action Plan, a conservation strategy that will benefit the sage-grouse population in both states. The plan, sanctioned by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), aims to focus resources on cost effective and efficient solutions that could avert the need to list the bi-state population as "threatened" or "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act.

Today, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also announced a $6.5 million commitment over the next ten years to implement a wide range of priority conservation activities on the public lands it manages to improve sage-grouse habitat. The BLM is coordinating with the U.S. Forest Service to amend resource management plans that will include standards and guidelines designed to conserve and enhance sage grouse habitat.

"We have made it a high priority to engage in voluntary partnership with ranchers, farmers and other landowners to conserve the wildlife and habitat that are so important to our heritage and way of life," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "I applaud the NRCS, USFS and the BLM for their very significant commitments, which will help provide certainty that important conservation actions in key areas of the bird's habitat will continue to be implemented. Together, we can make our landscapes work for both agriculture and the bi-state sage-grouse."

The U.S. Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), both USDA agencies, are leading the Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI) and will have the means to fully carry out conservation practices and policy changes agreed upon by the Bi-State Local Area Working Group in its action plan.

The announcement comes at the conclusion of an extended public comment period on the USFWS proposal to federally list the bi-state population of greater sage-grouse as a threatened species. A final decision on the proposal is expected by April 28, 2015.

Since 2010, USDA has funded $27.5 million of conservation efforts, primarily through working with farmers, ranchers and other land managers in on-the-ground projects that address critical threats identified in the action plan. Conservation easements on private lands are keeping working ranches intact that provide important wetlands for growing sage-grouse broods. Removal of conifers that have invaded sagebrush-steppe is restoring sage-grouse habitat on private and public lands.

The Bi-State Executive Oversight Committee estimates it will cost about $38 million more to fully implement the remaining priority actions identified in the action plan for California and Nevada. The U.S. Forest Service and NRCS will provide over 80 percent of that estimated need under the new agreement with a focus on high impactful projects.

The Sage-Grouse Initiative teams up with partners in 11 western states to achieve wildlife conservation through sustainable ranching. From 2010 to 2013, the initiative enrolled more than 950 ranches and conserved 6,000 square miles through NRCS investments of $247 million that generated $107 million in partners' matching funds for a total of $354 million of on-the-ground sage grouse conservation.

To view the bi-state letter and detailed implementation plans for bi-state sage grouse conservation, click here.

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Re: For Awareness - Los Angeles Times: Grazing on federal land under threat because of drought

Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jun 20, 2014 at 3:53 PM
To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks for sharing. Sounds like a well-researched article.

On Jun 20, 2014, at 3:37 PM, "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Sally -

This article appeared earlier this week in the Los Angeles Times re: impacts of the western drought on CA - especially as they relate to cattle grazing and the sage grouse.

Flagging this for your awareness only,
Jessica

–

Los Angeles Times

Grazing on federal land under threat because of drought

by Julie Cart

June 15, 2014

There's not much anyone can tell Barry Sorensen about Idaho's Big Desert that he doesn't know. Sorensen, 72, and his brother have been running cattle in this sere landscape all their lives, and they've weathered every calamity man and nature have thrown at them — until this drought came along.

Sitting recently in a rustic cabin where he spends many months looking after his cattle, Sorensen's voice was tinged with defeat.

"To be honest with you," he said, "I think our way of life is pretty much going to be over in 10 years."

Years-long drought has pummeled millions of acres of federal rangeland in the West into dust, leaving a devastating swath from the Rockies to the Pacific.

Add to that climate change, invasive plants and wildfire seasons that are longer and more severe,

and conditions have reached a breaking point in many Western regions. The land can no longer support both livestock and wildlife.

"All these issues — it's changing the landscape of the West, dramatically," said Ken Wixom, who grazes 4,000 ewes and lambs on BLM land in the Snake River Plain. For public lands ranchers like him who depend on federal acreage to sustain their animals, the mood ranges from brooding to surrender.

The situation was spelled out in stark terms in two recent letters from the federal Bureau of Land Management. They told the ranchers what they already knew: Unless something changes, the days of business as usual on the 154 million acres of federal grazing land are over.

This drought-stressed range in Idaho can no longer sustain livestock, the letter warned. Better plan to reduce herd numbers by at least 30% for the spring turnout.

"I knew it was coming," said Sorensen, squinting as the afternoon sun poured through a window.

Sorensen's grazing allotment is so compromised that he was forced to make multiple adjustments. He waited 2 1/2 weeks longer than usual before turning out his cows and calves on BLM pastures, and then released only half his herd. The rest he kept on his ranch, feeding them hay from his own fields.

Conditions could easily grow worse.

Livestock shares the range with wildlife, including the greater sage grouse, a species dependent on sagebrush and native grasslands to survive. The grouse population has plummeted by 93% in the last 50 years, and its habitat has shrunk to one-quarter of its former 240,000-square-mile range.

If the federal government grants endangered species protection to the grouse sometime next year, ranching on federal land will be cut back even more, federal officials say. In some regions, public lands ranching might end altogether.

The problem for livestock and wildlife alike is that the drought has been merciless on all plants in the West. Last week 60% of the 11 Western states were experiencing some degree of serious drought. Climate change has altered weather patterns so much that vegetation in some regions is transforming from abundant sagebrush, grass and forbs to a new landscape of weeds and cheat grass — fast-burning fuels that propel wildfire and destroy rangeland.

In southern New Mexico, the transformation has gone one step further — from sagebrush to weeds to sand-blown desert — and biologists say the pattern is likely to be repeated across the West.

If that happens, the economics of cattle ranching will unravel.

Public lands grazing is a remnant of Washington's interest in settling the West by providing a financial leg up to covered-wagon pioneers and private interests alike. Ranchers pay a fee, far below market rate, for each mother cow and calf they turn out to graze on BLM acreage.

If public land is not available, ranchers could find private property to graze their animals, paying as much as 16 times more than on federal ground. They could reduce their herds, losing valuable genetics and other breeding characteristics and getting perhaps $1,000 for a cow that would cost $1,600 to replace.

Ranchers could bring the cattle to their own land and feed them with hay or alfalfa they grow or buy. None of that is consistent with the business model of a public lands rancher.

"You buy hay at $200 a ton, so you feed one ton for each 100 head of cows," said Sorensen. "If you've got 200 head of cows, you are feeding $400 to $500 dollars' worth of hay a day."

Critics of ranching on federal land have little sympathy. They say the operations are highly subsidized by taxpayers and are secondary to the goal of preserving wildlife and native ecosystems.

If you've got 200 head of cows, you are feeding $400 to $500 dollars' worth of hay a day.

Grazing receipts in fiscal year 2013 were $12.2 million, while the program cost the government $48.2 million to operate. Fees are based on range conditions that existed in 1966, and the monthly charge of $1.35 for a cow and calf hasn't significantly changed in 50 years. Sporadic attempts to raise fees have been fiercely and immediately quashed.

Ranchers argue that they are excellent stewards of the land and that they make improvements that benefit deer, birds and other wildlife as well as improve water quality.

"Without ranchers functioning, the landscape ceases to function," said rancher Shane Rosenkrance, 52, who grazes on 110,000 acres of BLM and state land in eastern Idaho.

Equally persuasive arguments are made by biologists and conservation groups. They say historic overgrazing caused wholesale changes to the landscape and fostered the damaging growth of cheat grass — which has fanned wildfires in the West.

And, they say, when ranchers allow cattle to trample streams and riverbeds, especially in a drought, crucial riparian areas can be destroyed.

The sage grouse is particularly vulnerable to sagebrush loss. Cattle grazing reduces forbs and grasses the birds use for protection and cover, leaving them exposed to predators.

Alarmed Western state governors, fearful that an endangered species listing could also mean the end of energy, mining and other commercial activities on federal land, are scrambling to protect the birds and their breeding grounds.

Kurt Wiedenmann, a BLM manager in Boise, said the drought and the sage grouse have federal and state agencies working together to find room for both grazing and the imperiled birds. Ranchers have already been hit hard by grazing cutbacks, Wiedenmann said, noting that many of them are small-scale, not corporate operations.

Leo Drozdoff, director of Nevada's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, said federal land managers need to take stronger action to preserve sage grouse populations before they reach endangered levels.

"I don't think there's any doubt that overgrazing and some older grazing practices have not been helpful," Drozdoff said. "But this has been happening over decades, and for a variety of reasons. That should be an indication that the status quo isn't good enough."

Ranchers have responded by opposing efforts to list the grouse as endangered. This spring, Wixom, the sheep rancher, met with officials in Washington, D.C., to discuss the sage grouse. His advice to fellow ranchers is to stop complaining and start fighting.

"If you are in a fistfight, the last thing you want to do is start crying," Wixom said, leaning against the cab of his pickup. "If we come out here and say, "We're doomed,' they are just going to hit you harder."

"If land management agencies truly take science into account, the Forest Service and the BLM will have to greatly reduce grazing in ways we haven't seen before," said Travis Bruner, the organization's executive director. "A lot of ranchers will probably see it as a game changer

."Some environmental groups, such as Idaho-based Western Watersheds Project, can't envision any science-based plan to preserve sage grouse habitat that would allow sheep and cattle grazing.

Sorensen does. "I think it's inevitable" that the sage grouse will eventually push cattle off the range, he said.

When that happens, it will trigger a cascade of ruinous changes to an ecosystem that has adapted to livestock, he said.

"All of this ground is going to go to hell. There won't be any cattle to eat the grass. That grass will burn. Then there will be no sage grouse left."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Jun 25, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES NEW ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WATER TRAILS SYSTEM. The Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (6/24, 338K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis on Tuesday named the Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails and the Black Canyon Water Trail in Nevada and Arizona into the National Water Trails system. Jarvis said, "These trails provide an opportunity for families to get outside and explore some of our nation's most beautiful waterways, and by highlighting them as part of the National Water Trails System, more visitors will have the opportunity to visit and add value to their local economies. The National Water Trails System highlights the best of our nation's water trails that encourage recreation and stewardship."

Also reporting on the story are the Las Vegas Review-Journal (6/25, 437K) and KTNV-TV Las Vegas (6/25, 19K).

WHITE HOUSE TO TURN SPOTLIGHT ON CLIMATE CHANGE. Politico (6/24, Restuccia, 637K) reports that the White House is "joining with greens and billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer this week to turn a spotlight on the economic damage that will come from climate change." The article notes that "the events mark the one-year anniversary of President Barack Obama's high-profile climate change speech, in which he laid out a detailed plan for tackling greenhouse gas emissions." Of note, on Wednesday morning, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz will "participate in a question-and-answer session with members of LCV and its state chapters about the administration's climate change efforts."

Also providing coverage are the International Business Times (6/25, 697K) and the Daily Caller (6/25, Bastasch, 408K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HOLDS HEARINGS IN HAWAII. KITV-TV Honolulu (6/25, 13K) reports that "a second day of public hearings over Native Hawaii self-governance, once again had the federal government raising questions, but this time West Oahu residents raised their voices." According to the article, "residents of the Waianae Coast lashed out at the representatives from the Department of Interior and Justice over the injustice they feel." The residents "not only had comments over the wrongs they want made right, some had questions about the federal government being a part of the native Hawaiian government."

Additional coverage was provided by the Hawaii Reporter (6/25, 8K), the Hawaii Free Press (6/25), WSHM-TV Springfield, MA (6/25, 724), and WFSB-TV New Haven, CT (6/25, 150K).

AUDIT: CHILDREN IN NEED EDGED OUT IN HEAD START PROGRAM IN VIRGIN ISLANDS. The Washington Times (6/25, Howell, 455K) reports that "some of the neediest children in the US Virgin Islands are not being put at the top of the list to qualify for the territory's Head Start program, a new report said." The Interior Department internal watchdog "audited the Department of Health and Human Services and conducted a random sample of 100 children on the island." The audit "found that approximately 1 out of every 10 children received more priority selection points than they should have, 'potentially placing them in the Head Start program ahead of needier children on the program's waiting list because DHS retains waiting list priority rankings only for the current enrollment.'"

SECRETARY JEWELL READING BOOK ON WATER ISSUES IN WEST THIS SUMMER. The Puget Sound (WA) Business Journal (6/25, Subscription Publication, 70K) reports on "what some of the most influential people from the Puget Sound region are reading" this summer. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said she was reading "Cadillac Desert : The American West and Its Disappearing Water, Revised Edition," by Marc Reisner. She commented, "Interesting perspective."

SUPREME COURT RULING HAMSTRINGS BIDS TO CURB MINE EMISSIONS. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that "many coal mines won't be required to obtain Clean Air Act permits following yesterday's Supreme Court ruling on US EPA permitting for greenhouse gases under its 2010 tailoring rule." The Supreme Court held that the EPA "cannot use greenhouse-gas-emission thresholds to require the PSD permits."

REP. TIPTON OPPOSES SKI AREA WATER RIGHTS PROPOSAL. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that Colorado Rep. Scott Tipton said "he's soundly against a new Forest Service policy designed to safeguard water for ski areas located on national forestlands." The Forest Service says "the proposal is supposed to address water rights held by the 122 ski areas that operate on about 180,000 acres of national forestlands under special-use permits." However, Tipton said "the proposal does not go far enough to protect private water users on federal land."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO EXPAND OCEAN OBSERVATION CAPABILITIES. For the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (6/25, Milutinović, 237K), Svetlana Milutinović, a postdoctoral researcher in ocean science at the University of Pennsylvania, writes that "recently, the problems of the ocean were in the spotlight at Capitol Hill Ocean Week." She notes that in her address to the CHOW audience, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that "the problems are complex, but can be made less complex if we all join forces in tackling them." Milutinović proposes that "to work toward a balance between human activity and ocean protection, we must continue and broaden our observational capabilities." She argues that "the federal government will have to make sure that these observational needs are met, both by supporting the relevant activities of agencies such as NOAA and NASA, and by partnering with other nations on pioneering efforts."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

AGREEMENT KEEPS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL ON THE MALL FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS. The Washington Post (6/25, Parker, 4.22M) reports that the NPS and the Smithsonian "entered into an agreement Wednesday that will keep the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the Mall for the next five years." The Folklife Festival had "been in danger of losing its place on the Mall beginning next year because of tighter restrictions on Mall use for festivals." But "the announcement, expected during the festival's opening ceremony Wednesday, allays those concerns." NPS spokeswoman Carol Johnson said, "Absolutely, without a doubt, we want it there. This is a partnership. We've been partners with them for more than 40 years, and we had always planned to allow the festival to remain on the Mall. It's an historically important celebration, and we've always recognized that. It was just a matter of working out the details to make sure their event was able to go forward and the cultural and natural resources of the Mall were also protected."

VIRGINIA POWER LINE PLAN UPSETS PRESERVATIONISTS. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that "historic preservationists, citizens groups and others are speaking out against plans for 8 miles of power infrastructure they say would blight the horizon of Virginia's Jamestown Island." Dominion Virginia Power's plan "calls for 17 transmission towers – up to 295 feet tall – spanning 4 miles of the James River." However, "state regulators and the utility who say the project is necessary are butting heads with those who point to the area's rich Colonial-era history, from Jamestown to Colonial Williamsburg to Yorktown."

ZERO FIGHTER PART RETURNED TO HAWAII. The AP (6/25) reports that "a metal plate with the serial number of a Japanese Zero fighter that crashed during the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor has returned to Hawaii." Honolulu attorney Damon Senaha purchased "the plate for $12,225 to donate to the National Park Service and the museum at the USS Arizona Memorial." Park officials "called the serial number significant and very rare." Scott Pawlowski, chief of cultural and natural resources for the park service, said, "I think that's the coolest piece of airplane wreckage I've seen that we have, and I would love to have it publicly displayed."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (6/25, 4.22M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/24, 687K), ABC News (6/25, 3.58M), and Newsday (6/25, 1.5M).

LANDOWNER CLOSES OFF HIKING ACCESS TO MEDICINE HOLE. The AP (6/25) reports that "a landowner is closing off public hiking access to Medicine Hole in the Killdeer Mountains." Brian Benz has "put up barbed wire and 'no trespassing' signs around his property." Benz is "upset that the National Park Service commissioned a North Dakota State University historian to study the 1864 Killdeer Mountain Battle site without first consulting landowners."

GEORGE LUCAS PICKS CHICAGO FOR MUSEUM SITE. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/24, 687K) reports that George Lucas has "selected Chicago over Los Angeles and San Francisco as the future home of his collection of art and movie memorabilia, according to a spokeswoman for the museum." The article notes that "the decision to select Chicago reflects both a bungling of the billionaire's legacy project by the board of a national park in San Francisco as well as an aggressive lobbying effort by Mayor Rahm Emanuel."

HOT SPRINGS HOSPITAL NAMED AN ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACE. The AP (6/25, Lammers) reports that the National Trust for Historic Preservation on Tuesday "named a century-old hospital for war veterans in Hot Springs as one of America's 11 most endangered historic places." The Battle Mountain Sanitarium is "one of only 2,500 national historic landmarks in the country," according to David J. Brown, the trust's executive vice president and chief preservation officer. Brown said, "If you look at the building today, it's beautiful. It's been well kept, well maintained. But it's the plan that the VA has put forward to abandon the facility that really is the threat."

BODY ON MOUNT RAINIER CONFIRMED TO BE FAMOUS WRITER. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that officials confirmed on Monday that "a body found in an alpine region of Mount Rainier National Park was the well-known Seattle hiker and outdoors writer missing since last week." According to the Pierce County, Wash., medical examiner's office, "70-year-old Karen Sykes died of hypothermia, but officials were uncertain about other circumstances surrounding her death."

Also reporting on the story is the Los Angeles Times (6/25, Pearce, 3.46M).

REMAINS ON MOUNT WHITNEY ARE THOSE OF HIKER. The AP (6/25) reports that "remains found on California's Mount Whitney are those of a missing hiker from New Jersey," according to authorities. Inyo County coroner's officials said Monday that "60-year-old John Likely died from 'multiple traumatic injuries' after he fell about 50 feet into a steep chute." Likely's body was discovered "Friday near Mirror Lake at an elevation of about 11,450 feet."

MAN DIES AFTER OUTER BANKS SAND HOLE COLLAPSES. The AP (6/25) reports that "a 49-year-old Virginia man vacationing on the Outer Banks has died after he was buried in 6 feet of sand while digging a tunnel to connect two large holes," according to authorities. NPS spokeswoman Cyndy Holda said "family members and others on the beach tried to dig out David Frasier of Fredericksburg, Virginia, but he was buried too deep." Holda said "rescuers were able to free Frasier at the beach south of Salvo about 15 minutes later, but he was already dead."

NPS' BAN ON DRONES IN ALASKA PARKS CRITICIZED. For the Alaska Dispatch (6/24, 7K), Craig Medred criticizes the NPS for "saving Alaska's nearly non-existent park visitors from the scourge of wholly non-existent drones." Medred concedes that "a ban on drones in Yosemite makes sense," but "an Alaska-wide ban on drones is a knee-jerk reaction to a problem that doesn't exist."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE TO TOUT SAGE GROUSE EFFORT IN WYOMING. The AP (6/25, Gruver) reports that BLM Director Neil Kornze will meet with Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead will meet Thursday "about efforts to conserve habitat for the greater sage grouse ahead of a decision on whether to grant federal protection to the ground-dwelling birds." The meeting comes "as the agency's state director signs a new resource management plan for the Lander area, which includes protections for millions of acres of bird habitat in Fremont County." The article notes that "the Lander-area management plan encompasses 3.5 million acres, 2.2 million of which the BLM has identified as core habitat for the greater sage grouse."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Columbus (IN) Republic (6/25, 81K), the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (6/25, 90K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/24, 687K), and the State College (PA) Centre Daily Times (6/24, 98K). Also reporting on the story is the County 10 (6/24).

BLM APPROVES PLAN TO GATHER WILD HORSES IN UTAH. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that the BLM has "announced a decision to remove around 140 wild horses from southwestern Utah despite outcry from mustang advocacy groups." BLM's Cedar City Field Office "signed the decision allowing for the July roundup in the Blawn Wash Herd Management area, part of the state's Bible Spring Complex." The article notes that "the number of wild horses in the area is estimated at 755, but BLM wants to bring that number down to 100."

Additional coverage was provided by Reuters (6/25, Dobner).

BLM TRIES TO REPAIR DAMAGE FROM POT FARM. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that BLM officials "broke up a 2,000-plant marijuana operation in Nevada last year, but the cleanup was still ongoing last week." The article notes that "four volunteers spent 12 hours gathering more than 700 pounds of trash left behind by drug traffickers." Blaine Potts, outdoor recreation planner in BLM's office in Wells, Nevada, said, "We're cleaning up the site to prevent future use for illegal activities, restore ecological habitat and return it to a more natural state so wildlife can use this great grove for its intended purpose."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

MINING GROUP WANTS FWS TO RECONSIDER GREATER SAGE GROUSE STATUS. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that "a national mining group says a recent academic study casts doubt on the science used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to determine that the greater sage grouse warrants federal protection, and the group is asking the service to re-evaluate whether the bird is truly in great peril." The American Exploration & Mining

Association "sent a three-page letter late yesterday to FWS Director Dan Ashe requesting that he direct the service to revisit the 2010 decision to name the greater sage grouse as a candidate species for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act." The article notes that "at issue is the 11-page study being published in The Open Ornithology Journal, that used data in existing genetic research and other population studies and found that sage grouse do not appear to be suffering the genetic degradation or inbreeding that would be expected in a species struggling with dwindling habitat and population numbers."

COALITION URGES CONGRESS TO FUND WILDLIFE REFUGES. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that "Congress must provide at least $476 million for the nation's wildlife refuges in fiscal 2015 if it hopes to preserve visitor services, wildlife habitats, and access for hunters and anglers, according to a new report released today by a diverse coalition of sportsmen and conservation groups." The report by the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) says that "even though that funding level still represents a 'major cut' in real dollars compared with just a few years ago, it would match President Obama's budget request and mark a 'reasonable step' toward bolstering the National Wildlife Refuge System." The report said, "To reduce costs, refuges have had to cut numerous staff positions and sacrifice vital habitat management, visitor services and maintenance activities. As a result, the public is showing up at a number of refuges around the country to find that their hours have been scaled back, recreational programs and events have been canceled or delayed, visitor facilities are in disrepair, landscapes are succumbing to invasive species, and wetlands where waterfowl can usually be observed or hunted are dry."

WILDLIFE ADVOCATES WANT ORDER TO SPEED UP CANADA LYNX RECOVERY PLAN. The AP (6/25, Brown) reports that "wildlife advocates want a federal judge to order faster action on a recovery plan for imperiled Canada lynx, after wildlife officials said it could take until 2018 to finish the long-delayed work." A coalition of wildlife advocacy groups is asking US District Judge Donald Molloy to order the work completed by late 2016. FWS Assistant Regional Director Michael Thabault said Tuesday that "the government's recovery plan schedule was reasonable." Thabault "cited limited agency resources and the complexity of addressing a species with such a broad range."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (6/25, 4.22M), the Denver Post (6/25, 940K), the Burlington (VT) Free Press (6/24, 116K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/24, 687K), the US News & World Report (6/24, 645K), and ABC News (6/25, 3.58M).

FWS DELAYS DECISION TO PLACE NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT ON ENDANGERED LIST. The Arkansas News (6/25, 1K) reports that the FWS on Tuesday "delayed for six months making a final call on whether to place the northern long-eared bat on the endangered species list." The service had "proposed last October to put the bat on the list but now wants to gather more information about the species' population and white-nose syndrome." As part of its review, the agency "plans to reopen public comment for 60 days for additional input from states, tribes, federal agencies and others about the status of the northern long-eared bat and the impacts of white-nose syndrome on the species."

KTVE-TV El Dorado, AR (6/25, 1K) reports that Congressmen Rick Crawford (AR-1), Tim Griffin, Steve Womack, and Tom Cotton lauded the decision. In a statement, they said, "We're pleased the US Fish and Wildlife Service listened to our concerns and granted our request for a six month extension of the comment period. An endangered species classification of the northern-long eared bat could have a devastating impact on several of Arkansas's most important industries, and we must be sure to resolve all questions surrounding the designation. In the coming months, we will continue to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor this matter."

FEDERAL AGENCIES RAISE SEVERAL ISSUES ABOUT PROPOSED RESERVOIR IN INDIANA. The AP (6/25) reports that "two federal agencies are raising questions about a proposed $400 million central Indiana reservoir, including the plan's failure to address alternatives to damming the White River." The FWS and the EPA said "several issues must be addressed before the Mounds Lake Reservoir project can move forward." Scott Pruitt, a field supervisor with the FWS, wrote that "the reservoir could pose a threat to the habitat for the federally endangered Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat and potential bald eagle nesting sites."

GROUPS SEEK TO PROTECT TONGASS CEDARS. The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (6/24, 251K) reports that "yellow cedars, slow-growing trees that are withering and dying in the temperate rainforest of Southeast Alaska and British Columbia, should get Endangered Species Act protections," according to "a petition submitted

Tuesday by an three environmental organizations and a tour company operating in Southeast." The petition, submitted to the FWS, "seeks to make the yellow cedar the first Alaska tree and the second Alaska plant to gain a listing under the Endangered Species Act." The petition argues that yellow cedars deserve "protections because of their vulnerability to climate change and logging."

US Geological Survey:

SCIENTISTS: CHESAPEAKE'S DEAD ZONE LIKELY TO GROW, GULF'S TO HOLD STEADY. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that scientists on Tuesday "predicted that the Gulf of Mexico's 'dead zone' will stick to its average size this year, while the Chesapeake Bay will suffer from one slightly larger than usual." The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "released the predictions, which came out of two projects funded through the agency."

Also covering the story are USA Today (6/24, 5.82M) and the New Orleans Times-Picayune (6/25, 678K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

OFFICIALS HOLD MEETING IN MASSACHUSETTS ON OFFSHORE WIND LEASING. The Vineyard (MA) Gazette (6/24, 30K) reports that "as commercial offshore wind development moves closer to the Vineyard, leading state energy officials appeared on the Island early this week to provide a progress report." Last week Gov. Deval Patrick announced that "742,000 acres of ocean south of Martha's Vineyard will soon be available for commercial wind energy leases." On Monday night, "a small crowd gathered at the Katharine Cornell Theatre in Vineyard Haven to hear representatives from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) speak about the project."

Also providing coverage is the New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (6/25, 54K).

PROPOSED HYDROELECTRIC PLANT NEAR JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK OPPOSED. In an editorial, the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (6/24, 111K) says it was "surprised and disappointed to see the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission grant a license last week to Eagle Crest Energy Co., which wants to build a $1.5 billion pump storage hydroelectric plant at the old Eagle Mountain iron ore mine near Joshua Tree National Park." The paper notes that "concerns include the water needed to fill and maintain the reservoirs." The paper argues that "Eagle Mountain should become a part of the national park, and the town of Eagle Mountain, which once had 4,000 inhabitants, could become a ghost town to attract more tourists."

Onshore Energy Development:

FOSSIL FUEL PRODUCTION ON FEDERAL LANDS DECLINES UNDER OBAMA. The Daily Caller (6/25, Bastasch, 408K) reports that Republicans have used data from the Energy Information Administration showing fossil fuel energy production on federal lands has decreased for the third year in a row to criticize President's Obama's energy policies. According to Washington Rep. Doc Hastings, the report is evidence that the Obama Administration is "restricting American energy production wherever and whenever possible." The article, however, points out that the US continues to increase overall oil production on state and private lands, likely due to the geography of shale formations and policies that make drilling easier on state and private lands versus federal lands.

INTERSTATE NATURAL GAS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA SUPPORTS STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR CROSSING NATIONAL PARKS. The SNL Financial (6/25, 21K) reports that the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America is "supporting a federal bill to speed up the permitting process for pipelines built across parks and other lands administered by the National Park Service." At a June 20 hearing of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, association President and CEO Donald Santa said, "Given the need to expand our natural gas infrastructure to keep pace with demand growth, we need to ensure that permitting questions are handled in an efficient and effective manner." However, Nick Lund, landscape

conservation campaign manager for the National Parks Conservation Association, "objected to making it easier to put pipelines through national parks."

BLM APPROVES FRAM EXPLORATION'S WHITEWATER MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN. KJCT-TV Grand Junction, CO (6/25, 2K) reports that the Fram Exploration's Whitewater Master Development Plan has been approved by the BLM "after much opposition in regards to the route that would lead to proposed construction site." According to the article, "108 new wells and 12 well pads will be built on BLM lands in Mesa County." Chris Joyner of the BLM said, "We don't see a lot of oil activity here in the valley and so this is going to bring a very unique and very important economic boost to the area."

Offshore Energy Development:

PLAN UNVEILED TO REPLACE COMPONENTS OF POPULAR FISHING SPOT. The Thibodaux (LA) Daily Comet (6/23, 43K) reports that "a popular fishing hot spot known as The Pickets, which had been threatened by required demolition, will now be around for future anglers fishing off southern Terrebonne Parish." Last week, "a team made up of state officials, energy producers and conservationists unveiled a $1.2 million plan to replace the habitat that was enhanced by underwater pilings and jackets at Ship Shoal 26." The plan is "to replace the underwater components of the platform with three artificial reefs made up of 15,000 tons of concrete rip-rap, or large broken pieces."

Also providing coverage is WWL-TV New Orleans (6/25, 107K).

LOUISIANA OYSTER MARKET STRUGGLES AFTER SEVERAL HURRICANES, DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL. The AP (6/24, Plaisance) reports that oyster dealers in the New Orleans area have "resorted to importing" some of the shellfish this year as demand rises while harvests in the northern Gulf of Mexico continue to wane. P&J Oyster Company co-owner Al Sunseri said prior to the BP Deepwater Horizon spill in 2010 his company shucked about 25,000 oysters each day. However, some days they don't shuck any oysters now, and good days see yields of just "a few thousand" oysters. Sunseri "blames the depleted harvest on the BP oil spill, but some dealers said they were seeing the harvest suffer years before that" due to increased demand and "a string of hurricanes."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR TO INCREASE FLOWS ON SOUTH FORK BOISE RIVER. The Idaho Statesman (6/23, 222K) reports that the BOR will "increase flows from Anderson Ranch Dam on the South Fork of the Boise River June 25 from 600 cubic-feet-per-second to approximately 1,600 cfs." Brian Sauer, Water Operations Manager, said, "South Fork flows are expected to remain at these levels into August, which will also benefit river rafters and kayakers. These are typical summertime flows, starting a little later than some years due to last year's drought."

Empowering Native American Communities:

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RELEASES NEW RULES FOR STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS. The Education Department's announcement of changes to its monitoring of state special education programs generated significant coverage today in major national media outlets and in lower-tier outlets focused on individual states. The New York Times (6/25, Rich, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that under the new system in how the department "evaluates how well public schools educate students with disabilities," over two thirds of US states and territories are out of compliance with IDEA. The Times notes that that six states and territories — California, Delaware, Texas, the District of Columbia, the Bureau of Indian Education and the Virgin Islands — were designated as needing intervention by the Education Department.

The Washington Post (6/25, Layton, 4.22M) reports that the Education Department is "tightening its oversight of the way states educate special-needs students." The AP (6/24, Hefling) reports that the Education Department "called the change a 'major shift' in the way it assesses special education programs," noting that the Education Department said that the estimated 6.5 special-needs students in the US "have lower graduation rates overall and don't do as well on average in reading and math as their peers."

Other media outlets covering this story include the Huffington Post (6/25, Resmovits, 11.54M), NPR (6/25, Sanchez, 519K) in its "NprEd" blog, Disability Scoop (6/24), Bloomberg News (6/25, Lorin, 2.76M), and the Wall Street Journal (6/25, Porter, Subscription Publication, 5.51M).

HOUSE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON CHILD ABUSE AT SPIRIT LAKE. . PBS (6/25, 1.22M) reports that "a congressional committee has begun investigating why child abuse and neglect persists on North Dakota's Spirit Lake reservation, almost two years after the federal government stepped in to address the problem." At a hearing on Tuesday, tribal leaders and officials from the BIA and the Department of Health and Human Services are "expected to be asked about ongoing allegations of abuse and neglect on the reservation, and the lack of visible progress in correcting the problems."

The AP (6/25, Jackson) reports that "the chairman of the Spirit Lake Indian Tribe said Tuesday that his reservation in northeastern North Dakota still has difficulty handling child protection issues and finding resources." Leander R. McDonald said the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation is "trying to change its culture and improve the way it handles justice and child care issues." However, he said "tribal officials have struggled to fill key social worker positions and have found limited help from the federal government."

Also covering the story are NPR (6/25, 519K) and the Bismarck (ND) Tribune (6/25, 64K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF Paskenta Band Of Nomlaki Indians' Dispute. Additional coverage of the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians' intra-tribal dispute was provided by the Washington Post (6/25, Phillip, 4.22M).

Top National News:

KERRY STRESSES NEED FOR IRAQ TO FORM A UNITY GOVERNMENT. While the crisis in Iraq continues to receive significant media coverage, only one network led with the story Tuesday evening. After talks in Irbil Tuesday with Kurdish leaders, Secretary of State Kerry conducted a series of interviews, which were featured prominently on last night's broadcasts. On NBC Nightly News (6/24, lead story, 3:10, Williams, 7.86M), Richard Engel noted that Secretary Kerry was in Iraq on "an emergency mission to try to hold this country together," but it "is increasingly breaking into three distinct pieces."

The CBS Evening News (6/24, story 2, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported during his visit to Irbil, Kerry urged Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani "to join a new inclusive government, but Barzani told him there is a 'new reality' in Iraq, one he has said cannot include the current Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki." Kerry was shown saying: "There's a great dissatisfaction here in Iraq with the current government and I ran into a universal sense of a commitment, a desire by Iraqis to make up for the mistakes that have been made in the past. Now what that means in terms of personalities or individuals who might fill one role or another, I can't tell you. That's up to Iraqis."

Barzani, the AP (6/25, Jakes, Hendawi) reports, "warned" Kerry that ISIL's rapid advance has "already created 'a new reality and a new Iraq,' signaling that the US faces major difficulties in its efforts to promote unity." The AP says his remarks about a "new reality and a new Iraq" referred "to the Kurds now controlling Kirkuk and other areas in northern Iraq that they have long sought to incorporate into their region."

Kerry, the Washington Post (6/25, Gearan, 4.22M) reports, "urged Kurdish leaders Tuesday to remain part of Iraq," but the Wall Street Journal (6/25, Solomon, Bradley, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that US officials traveling with the Secretary acknowledged that the Kurds may not be willing to return control of Kirkuk to Baghdad, even if they don't seek formal independence.

The New York Times (6/25, Gordon, Chivers, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Barzani "said...Kerry was confronting an enormous challenge in seeking a multisectarian national government." But the Times says the US "goal" during Kerry's trip "has been to insist that the Kurds put aside any thoughts of actual or de facto independence and play an active role in forming a new government" in Baghdad.

Bloomberg News (6/25, Gaouette, Ajrash, Fam, 2.76M) reports Kerry told CNN in an interview after their meeting that Barzani "made it clear that he wants to participate in the process, that he wants to help choose the next

government" of Iraq. But Kerry "didn't say whether Barzani disavowed Kurdish aspirations for independence."

In an interview with CNN's Situation Room (6/24, 554K), Kerry was asked if he has seen any evidence that Iraqi leaders are willing to make compromises. Kerry said, "Words are cheap. ... I'm not taking anything I hear to the bank and saying, 'Wow, it's going to be solved.' But I'm hearing things that indicate to me that if they follow through on the things they're saying, there is a capacity to have a new government that could be a unity government." Asked if the 12-day "delay" since the President said the US was considering options for a response has strengthened ISIL, Kerry said, "I think the real question...is not sort of what happened in these days. The question is, what can happen going forward to have a strategy that's really going to work."

Hamish MacDonald reported on ABC World News (6/24, story 3, 1:35, Sawyer) that Kerry told ABC that "America will no longer fight Iraq's war." Kerry was shown saying: "So you have to look to Iraq, to its government, to its military, to be able to make the decisive difference here."

In an interview with the CBS Evening News (6/24, story 2, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M), Kerry was asked if the US is "willing to strike at safe havens in Syria and in Iraq." Kerry said, "The President is going to make the judgment based on what Iraqis themselves determine they're prepared to do, and based on the security threat that is defined over the course of these next days. It would be a complete and total act of irresponsibility for the President just to order a few strikes but there's no government, there's no backup, there's no military, there's nothing there that provides the capacity for success."

In an interview with NBC Nightly News (6/24, story 2, 1:10, Williams, 7.86M), Kerry was asked about statements from opposition leaders that "they don't want American intervention." Kerry said, "That's not intervention. What we're trying to do is help the – and I understand what they don't want, and President Obama and the American people don't want that either, but we are not here in combat role. We are not here to fight. The President has no intention, none whatsoever, of returning American combat troops to Iraq, to go back to where we were. That's not in the cards."

In an interview with Fox News' Special Report (6/24, 2.15M), Kerry was asked whether the US should have had a "better grasp" of the fighting capability of the Iraqi armed forces, Kerry said, "Until the fight is engaged, no. You don't know the answer to that." Asked if there was an intelligence failure, Kerry said, "If somebody could have found out that leaders were going to literally betray and cave-in and desert that would have been terrific." Asked what he and the President did to prevent Mosul from falling after the falls of Ramadi and Fallujah in January, Kerry said, "In the end, the Iraqis are responsible for their defense and nobody expected wholesale desertion and wholesale betrayal in a sense by some leaders who literally either signed up with the guys who came in or walked away from their posts and put on their civilian clothes. No. Nobody expected that."

Kerry In Brussels For Talks With NATO On Ukraine, Iraq. AFP (6/25, Biddle) reports Kerry "huddled with European allies" in Brussels ahead of NATO talks Wednesday. Shortly after arriving from Iraq, Kerry met late Tuesday with EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, "as well as other European partners and 'discussed the grave security situation in Iraq.'" They also talked about "efforts to de-escalate tensions in Ukraine and efforts to support the political process in Libya," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. While in Brussels, Kerry will also have "his first bilateral meeting" with new Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin before traveling to Paris on Thursday for talks with Gulf allies on the situation in Iraq and Syria.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BLAME ADMINISTRATION FOR "HUGE SPIKE" IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. Despite DHS Secretary Johnson's appearance before the House Homeland Security Committee on Tuesday, just one network newscasts covered the ongoing crisis at the US border with Mexico as Federal officials deal with a surge of unaccompanied minors from Central America who are entering the US illegally. On NBC Nightly News (6/24, story 7, 2:00, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams drew attention to the "huge spike in unaccompanied children making their way into this country illegally." Stephanie Gosk went on to report that members of Congress "want...to know what is being done." Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, was shown saying, "The tragic fact is, these children are making a dangerous journey, based on misinformation." Gosk noted that "under current immigration law, adults are detained and deported," but "unaccompanied minors" are "passed on to Health and Human Services," and they "they stay for months or even years" in the US illegally.

McClatchy (6/25, Gillespie, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that at a House Homeland Security Committee hearing on Tuesday, Secretary Johnson "defended his department's handling" of the wave of illegal immigration in to the US "even as officials predict the surge will continue into next year." According to McClatchy, Johnson "outlined...a series of measures...from working to dismantle smuggling operations to launching a public relations campaign in Central American urging parents not to send their children north." Johnson is quoted as saying, "I believe we will stem this tide." However, McClatchy says Chairman McCaul "lambasted" President Obama's "immigration policies and blamed the administration for what both parties describe as a humanitarian crisis."

The Hill (6/25, Goad, 237K) reported that McCaul said on Tuesday that the President "needs to immediately send the National Guard to the southwest border to deal with this crisis," and "other members of the panel echoed the appeal, suggesting the border patrol is ill equipped to handle the wave without reinforcements." According to The Hill, House Republicans "argued that the administration's lenient immigration policies have served as a magnet for illegal immigrants." Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI) is quoted as saying, "I think this humanitarian crisis can be laid directly at the feet of President Obama."

According to the AP (6/25, Caldwell), Johnson said he "won't rule out using National Guard troops" to secure the US border with Mexico, "as several lawmakers have suggested," but the White House "indicated later in the day it wasn't interested in the proposal to deploy troops." The AP goes on to report that the Administration "has refused to say how many" illegal immigrants it is releasing into the US instead of immediately deporting. White House press secretary Josh Earnest is quoted as saying, "Without knowing what that number is and without having seen it, I think we can all stipulate that that number is too high."

The Washington Times (6/25, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that Earnest also said on Tuesday that "if we really wanted to solve this problem, one good way to do it is for those Republicans to get on board...and support common sense immigration reform."

The Arizona Republic (6/25, Ortega, Kelly, 1.45M) notes that in April 2013, Johnson's predecessor, Janet Napolitano, "told Congress that the border was more secure than it had ever been." According to the Republic, "Analysts now point to the news in early June of thousands of teens and children from Central America surging across the border," and make the case that "if we can't stop 12-year-olds, Napolitano was wrong." The Republic goes on to report that border agents point out that many illegal immigrants no longer attempt to evade capture, and instead "wait to be caught or even actively flag agents down to apprehend them" because they are under the impression that it is Administration policy not to deport them.

AFP (6/25) notes that on Tuesday, Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA) alleged that the Administration is "inviting immigrant aliens to come to this country."

White House's Munoz: "Vast Majority" Of Children Illegally In The US Will Be Deported. According to McClatchy (6/25, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 23K), "newspapers, radio and television stations and websites in Central America and Mexico have aired US warnings to parents that their children would be deported if they make their way past the Rio Grande into Texas." McClatchy also notes that on Monday, Cecilia Munoz, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, "said in a conference call...that 'the vast majority of these cases probably will result in return to their countries' of origin, although children with a compelling argument to remain in the United States would be allowed to do so." McClatchy adds that DHS official Esther Olavarria also "said the children allowed to remain would be few in number."

Flake: Due To Border Crisis, Immigration Reform Is Even Less Likely This Year. USA Today (6/24, Page, 5.82M) reports that Sen. Jeff Flake, one of the authors of the comprehensive immigration bill approved by the Senate last year, "puts the odds of enacting significant immigration legislation this year at 'close to zero,' its prospects further undermined by the flood of unaccompanied minors from Central America streaming over the southern border." According to USA Today, Flake is "urg[ing] President Obama to go before cameras to address families in Honduras, Guatemala and elsewhere who believe their children might be able to gain legal status in the USA." Flake is quoted as saying, "It would be helpful, I believe, if the president himself were to stand and say, 'If you come here, you will not be afforded any legal status; you will likely be deported.'"

Mexican Drug Gangs Benefiting From Surge In Illegal Immigration. The Washington Times (6/25, Dinan,

455K) reports that according to Brandon Judd, president of the National Border Patrol Council, "smuggling cartels are using the surge of illegal immigrant children as a smoke screen to distract the Border Patrol, leaving gaps in security that the gangs then use to slip more drugs or known criminals into the country." The Times notes that Judd says "nearly 40 percent of Border Patrol manpower has been shifted to manage the children, leaving the cartels with a free hand to conduct their other criminal activities."

Miller: US Should Cut Aid To Mexico Until It Respects The US Border. AFP (6/25) reports that on Tuesday, members of Congress argued that the US "ought to cut foreign aid to nations that facilitate smuggling." Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI) is quoted as saying the Mexican government is "behaving so badly and so dishonorably that they are complicit in human smuggling." Miller added, "I would say, no more money from America until they step up to their own responsibilities, and stop their citizens illegally migrating to the US."

Reuters (6/25, Zengerle) quotes Miler as saying, "We need to whack them, our neighbors, to understand that they are just not going to keep taking our money and we are just going to be sitting here like this – we're not the ATM machine."

USA Today: Increased Deportations Would Cut Flow Of Children From Central America. USA Today (6/24, 5.82M), in an editorial, notes that "in the past nine months, enough unaccompanied children to fill Yankee Stadium have shown up at the US border," and, according to USA Today, "this influx...represents both a humanitarian crisis and a vexing public policy problem." USA Today says those minor illegal immigrants "who can demonstrate that they face real danger if returned home" should "be allowed to stay," but "those who can't would be deported." USA Today adds, "Once some of the children began reappearing in their home countries, families would rethink their willingness to spend great sums, and to put their children at such risk."

In an accompanying op-ed for USA Today (6/24, Seitz, 5.82M), Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso counsels against deporting children in the US illegally, and says those "elected officials" who "blame lax enforcement policies or lenient laws for" the recent surge in illegal immigration have a "misunderstanding of the reality facing these children."

ARCHIVIST SAYS IRS "DID NOT FOLLOW THE LAW" WHEN EMAILS WERE LOST. David Ferriero, chief archivist at the National Archives, on Tuesday told the House Oversight Committee that the IRS did not follow the law when it failed to report the hard drive crash that result in the destruction of Lois Lerner's emails. One network news broadcast covered the hearing, which also included testimony from a White House attorney.

The CBS Evening News (6/24, story 5, 2:20, Cordes, 5.08M) reported that noted that the "fiery" hearing was House Republicans' "third...in five days" on the issue. CBS (Cordes) added that Ferriero "testified that the IRS and other agencies use outdated technology and poor backup systems." Ferriero: "The Federal records act today says print and save. This is 2014 and we're printing and saving? This is embarrassing."

The Washington Times (6/25, Howell, 455K) reports that the panel "relied on top government archivists Tuesday to state their case that the IRS violated the Federal Records Act by not reporting" that Lerner's emails were lost. Ferriero said, "They are required, any agency is required, to notify us when they realize they have a problem that could be destruction or disposal, unauthorized disposal." After "being pressed by GOP lawmakers," he added, "They did not follow the law."

Reuters (6/25, Drawbaugh) reports Ferriero criticized the IRS over the lost emails, saying the agency failed to inform the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) when it was discovered that the emails were lost, as required by law.

The New York Times (6/24, Joachim, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Ferriero appeared before the committee voluntarily "to address whether the I.R.S. followed proper record-keeping procedures." He concluded that "the agency had not in the instance of the crashed hard drive." However, he "would not say that anyone at the I.R.S. committed a crime, only that the agency 'did not follow the law.'"

The AP (6/25, Sullivan) also notes that Ferriero "would not state that the IRS broke the law," saying "only say that the agency didn't 'follow' the law, referring to the Federal Records Act."

O'Connor Says She Had No Prior Knowledge Of Missing Emails. The committee also heard from Jennifer O'Connor, a White House attorney who worked at the IRS. The CBS Evening News (6/24, story 5, 2:20, Cordes, 5.08M) noted that the "fiery" hearing was House Republicans' "third...in five days" on the issue. CBS (Cordes) added that Republicans "trained their ire on...O'Connor."

The Wall Street Journal (6/25, Mckinnon, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that while Republican suggested O'Connor was involved in a document collection process at the agency that did to finding the Lerner emails, she provided little information on their loss.

Politico (6/25, Bade, 637K) reported that O'Connor testified that "she had no prior knowledge that Lerner's emails were lost in a 2011 computer crash because she was not at the agency when the crash was discovered earlier this year." After Issa "called her a 'hostile witness,'" O'Connor said, "I did not know that her emails were missing and unrecoverable or that her computer crashed." Later, Issa corrected the record, "saying he meant to call her a 'noncooperative witness' because it required a subpoena to get her to appear before the committee."

The Washington Post (6/25, Hicks, 4.22M) reports that this week's hearings have "heightened Republican frustration" over the missing e-mails, as IRS Commissioner Koskinen on Monday "denied tipping off the White House about the lost records," and on Tuesday, O'Connor said that "she left the agency before it discovered the problem."

LA Times Analysis: No Evidence White House "Directed The IRS Effort." A Los Angeles Times (6/25, Tanfani, 3.46M) analysis answers several key questions about the investigation, reporting that the emails are important because Republicans "want to see who was communicating with Lerner before and during" the time the targeting scandal broke. The Times notes that the agency has been unable to recover the emails, and according to Koskinen, "backup tapes were recycled after six months," and Republicans are "claiming foul play" because the agency was "on notice...that lawmakers had suspicions abut the agency's conduct" before a May 2013 inspector general's finding that it "was scrutinizing nonprofit applications using improper procedures." The Times notes that so far, there has been no evidence that "the White House directed the IRS effort."

Scarborough Blasts NYTimes Over Coverage Of IRS Investigation. The Daily Caller (6/25, Bordelon, 408K) reported that MSNBC host Joe Scarborough "angrily denounced The New York Times for burying" the IRS story, "calling it a 'scam' and explaining 'this is why conservatives don't trust print media.'"

LA Times Calls For Independent Investigator. In an editorial, the Los Angeles Times (6/25, 3.46M) calls for an independent investigator, noting that the two House investigations have "disintegrated into partisan sniping," and the IRS "further damaged its own credibility by belatedly disclosing the disappearance" of the Lerner emails. The Times argues that "the situation cries out for the appointment of someone with a track record of sorting through complex problems to figure out what happened and who's responsible."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/25, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) opines that while they doubt there is an innocent explanation for the lost emails, its view is irrelevant, because, due to an litigation hold, the agency was legally obligated to retain the emails.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Tying Federal Aid To College Ratings."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (6/25, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) argues that Congress should back President Obama's plans to "deploy a rating system" to evaluate colleges and universities, and then "use the ratings to help guide the allocation of federal student loans and grants." Noting a new report from The Education Trust argues that many students are poorly served by their schools, the Times says that Congress should act on the President's initiatives.

"Refusals To Pay High Drug Prices." An editorial in the New York Times (6/25, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that efforts by pharmacy benefits managers to rein in the prices drug makers charge for some prescriptions by demanding that they "lower their prices if they want certain drugs included in the formularies from which patients and doctors can choose a suitable treatment," holds "both promise and peril for patients." The Times notes that "some patients may fare best on a drug that has been excluded and respond less well to drugs

on the formulary," and urges regulators to "watch out that insurers, in their zeal to curb drug costs, don't block patients from medicines they need when an alternative is not adequate."

"Tea Party Mischief On Exports." In an editorial, the New York Times (6/25, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) criticizes "some Tea Party members" for pushing to shut down the Ex-Im Bank, which it calls "an obscure but important federal agency that helps American businesses sell their goods abroad." The Times says that a "truly serious crackdown on corporate welfare would involve eliminating corporate tax breaks and wasteful subsidies," but "this is not a direction many in the Tea Party want to go in; the bank is a far smaller and easier target than the tax code or the farm lobby."

"The Tappan Zee Bridge Loan."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Hypocrisy On Egypt."*** The Washington Post (6/25, 4.22M) editorializes that Secretary of State Kerry's expressions of confidence that the Egyptian government is "moving in a democratic direction" is "against all obvious evidence." The Post says if the US believes it is in the country's best interest to "return to the old model of cozying up to Arab dictators," then President Obama should not "insult everyone...by pretending that human rights are a priority."

"Rand Paul's Suffrage Plan." The Washington Post (6/25, 4.22M) editorializes that one of the "ugliest stains on democracy in this country is the fact that an estimated 2.6 million Americans who have committed a felony are not allowed to vote – even after they have served their sentence," which "disproportionately afflicts minority, especially black, communities." The Post notes that that in a "promising sign," Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) "plans to introduce a bill that would restore voting rights in federal elections to nonviolent felons." Paul "acknowledges that he and other Republicans may stand to gain by such legislation, which might soften their image among hostile minority voters," but he "also grasps the glaring racial injustice of the status quo," under which "voting rights are denied to 7.7 percent of black adults and just 1.8 percent of non-black adults." The Post concludes that Paul's bill "would begin to change that – if other Republicans are willing to follow."

"Building Interest For Soccer."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"IRS Email Jeopardy."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/25, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) opines that while they doubt there is an innocent explanation for the lost IRS emails, its view is irrelevant, because, due to an litigation hold, the agency was legally obligated to retain the emails.

"Egypt Represses The Press." The Wall Street Journal (6/25, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes Egypt's jailing of three Al Jazeera journalists is another example of the country's unwillingness to improve its human-rights record and transition to democracy.

"The Awlaki Drone Memo." The Wall Street Journal (6/25, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes the Justice Department's memo explaining the legal basis for the drone attack that killed Anwar al-Awlaki illustrates that President Obama is being forced to confront realities that liberals are refusing to acknowledge.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Set To Export First Oil Since '70s
Sick Drawn To New Health Coverage
Different Fates For Ex-Editors in Hacking Trial
Web Preaches Jihad To China's Muslim Uighurs

New York Times:
Senator Defeats Tea Party In Mississippi Primary
Ex-Tabloid Executive Acquitted In British Phone Hacking Case
After Opening Way To Rebels, Turkey Is Paying Heavy Price

Seeing Putin's Mixed Messages, Obama Plans Tougher Sanctions
Uruguayan Star, Known For Biting, Leaves Mark On World Cup
Study Finds 3-D Mammogram Can Improve Cancer Detection

Washington Post:
Syria Bombs Sunnis Inside Iraq
As Inboxes Fall Silent, Workers Start Talking Again
Turning Back The Climate Clock
Brown, Hogan Win Md. Nods

Financial Times:
Murdoch Enjoys Bittersweet Victory
China Expands Plans For World Bank Rival
American Apparel Founder Attacks Board

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Extreme Weather; Terror Warning; Iraq Conflict; Asiana Crash Report; Boko Haram Kidnappings; Health-3D Mammograms; UK-Queen Elizabeth Sighting.
CBS: Asiana Crash Report; Kerry Interview; Iraq Conflict; Egypt-Al Jazeera Journalists; Congress-IRS Scandal Hearing; VA-PTSD Treatment; Health-3D Mammograms; Congressional Gold Medal Recipients; Library Of Congress-Civil Rights Project.
NBC: Iraq Conflict; Kerry Interview; VA Scandal; Extreme Weather-Indianapolis; Asiana Crash Report; Bill Clinton Interview; Migrant Children; Lightning Strikes; UK-Telephone Hacking Trial; UK-Queen Elizabeth Appearance; Congress-Civil Rights Act Anniversary.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Mississippi-GOP Primary Results; Oklahoma-GOP Primary Results; Iraq Conflict; Extreme Weather-Minnesota; Extreme Weather-Indiana; Sports-LeBron James.
CBS: Mississippi-GOP Primary Results; New York-Primary Results; Iraq Conflict-US Special Forces; Congress-IRS Scandal Hearing; Asiana Crash Report; Montana-State Health Department Hacked.
FOX: Mississippi-GOP Primary Results; Oklahoma-GOP Primary Results; New York-Primary Results; Health-3D Mammograms; Iraq Conflict; Asiana Crash Report; Missouri-Hot Dog Incident; Wall Street; Chicago-Star Wars Museum.
NPR: Mississippi-GOP Primary Results; New York-Primary Results; Maryland-Gubernatorial Primary Results; Nevada-GOP Primary Results; Florida-Special Election Results; Ukraine Crisis; Mexico-Cartel Boss Arrested; AT&T-DirectTV Merger Hearing; Health-3D Mammograms.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President will have lunch with Israeli President Shimon Peres at the White House. The President will welcome Jimmie Johnson to the White House to honor him for his 2013 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Championship. The President will deliver remarks at the League of Conservation Voters Capital Dinner.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

MICHELLE OBAMA — As part of the Joining Forces initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama will attend a tea for the spouses of senior military leadership hosted by Dr. Jill Biden at the Vice President's Residence. These spouses are stationed around the world, and are in Washington, D.C. as part of the Spouse Leadership Conference hosted by Mrs. Deanie Dempsey. This event is closed press.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. — The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. Thereafter, Senators begin consideration of H.R.803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity bill.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND — 10:15 a.m. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the Environment and Public

Works Committee (EPW), along with transportation stakeholders, will hold a press conference to underscore 'the urgent need for Congress to address the looming short-term and long-term funding crisis in the Highway Trust Fund.' Location: 406 Dirksen. Contacts: Mary Kerr or Kate Gilman, 202-224-8832. Notes: Please RSVP to Colin MacCarthy at Colin_MacCarthy@epw.senate.gov if you plan to attend. Please note that media are required to display current Senate press credentials.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MARRIAGE EQUALITY ACT — 3 p.m. U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI), sponsors of the Social Security and Marriage Equality Act (SAME), will join their colleagues and advocates to lay out the roadmap for legislative action to ensure that all same-sex spouses receive equal treatment under the Social Security Act regardless of where they live. Location: SVC 212-10.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS — Executive Session – S. 2449, Autism CARES Act, S.2551, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and Nominations. Notes: Time: TBD (in conjunction with votes); Place: Off the floor.

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Hearings to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council annual report to Congress. Witness: Jacob J. Lew Secretary, United States Department of the Treasury. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=63cfdf27-ae6a-44f8-a5be-868fe4d38c48. Location: 216 Hart.

FINANCE — 10 a.m. Hearing to consider three nominations. D. Nathan Sheets has been nominated to be undersecretary for international affairs at the Department of the Treasury. Ramin Toloui has been nominated to be deputy undersecretary for international finance Department of the Treasury. Maria Cancian has been nominated to be assistant secretary for children and families at the Department of Health and Human Services. Location: 215 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014", an original bill entitled, "National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act of 2014", an original bill entitled, "Protecting American Chemical Facilities From Attack Act of 2014", H.R.1232, to amend titles 40, 41, and 44, United States Code, to eliminate duplication and waste in information technology acquisition and management, S.1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents, H.R.4194, to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements, S.2061, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, S.231, to reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp, S.1214, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government, S.2117, to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, S.1347, to provide transparency, accountability, and limitations of Government sponsored conferences, H.R.1376, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building", H.R.1813, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building", S.2056, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office", S.2057, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building", and the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/ Location: 342 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY — 10 a.m. Full Committee hearing: The Voting Rights Amendment Act, S.1945: Updating the Voting Rights Act in Response to Shelby County v. Holder. Location: 106 Dirksen. Notes: Room changed from 226 Dirksen.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, "NextGen: A Review of Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities for Improving Aviation Safety and Efficiency." http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=62fc4151-77fe-

4407-b8f1-4107b7948305&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a. Location: 253 Russell.

FINANCE — 2 p.m. Hearing titled "Trade Enforcement: Using Trade Rules to Level the Playing Field for U.S. Companies and Workers." Location: 215 Dirksen.

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION — 2 p.m. Hearings to examine how early and absentee voting can benefit citizens and administrators, focusing on election administration. http://www.rules.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=CommitteeHearings&ContentRecord_id=62933037-c612-48b9-b5d3-198fdb33a726. Location: 301 Russell.

AGING — 2:15 p.m. Hearings to examine brain injuries and diseases of aging. http://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/state-of-play-brain-injuries-and-diseases-of-aging. Location: 562 Dirksen.

INDIAN AFFAIRS — 2:15 p.m. Oversight Hearing on "Economic Development: Encouraging Investment in Indian Country". http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/oversight-hearing-economic-development-encouraging-investment-indian-country. Location: 628 Dirksen. Notes: Changes time from 2:30 p.m.

ARMED SERVICES — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Strategic Forces CLOSED briefing on U.S. Nuclear Deterrence Policy. Witnesses: Dr. Gary Samore, Executive Director for Research, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Dr. Keith B. Payne, President, National Institute for Public Policy; Dr. Paul J. Bracken, Professor of Management and Professor of Political Science, Yale School of Management. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-06-25-briefing-on-us-nuclear-deterrence-policy. Location: SVC-217.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Water and Power hearings to examine S.1971, to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency. http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/ Location: 366 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia hearing on The Path to Efficiency: Making FEMA More Effective for Streamlined Disaster Operations. Witnesses: John Roth, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Edward Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Christopher Currie, Director, Emergency Management and National Preparedness Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Dr. Daniel Sutter, Mercatus Center Affiliated Senior Scholar, Professor of Economics, Troy University. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/emdc/hearings/the-path-to-efficiency-making-fema-more-effective-for-streamlined-disaster-operations. Location: 342 Dirksen.

BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS — 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Hearing on "Dreams Deferred: Young Workers and Recent Graduates in the U.S. Economy." The witnesses will be: Ms. Emma Kallaway, Executive Director, Oregon Student Association; Mr. Rory OSullivan, Deputy Director, Young Invincibles; Dr. Heidi Shierholz, Economist, Economic Policy Institute; and Dr. Keith Hall, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center at George Mason University. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=974411d4-4fa8-4d96-9311-6348362408af. Location: 538 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 3 p.m. The Future of US – China Relations. Witnesses: Panel One: Daniel R. Russel, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Panel Two: J. Stapleton Roy, Distinguished Scholar and Founding Director Emeritus of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Dr. Aaron L. Friedberg, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/the-future-of-us_-china-relations-06-25-14. Location: 419 Dirksen.
US House: 10 a.m. — The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

BLUMENAUER, BOUSTANY – TPP, ASIAN SECURITY — 8:30 a.m. Conversation with Earl Blumenauer, Representative (D-OR) and Charles W. Boustany Jr., Representative (R-LA) on the current state of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations and its significance for the Asia-Pacific region and geopolitics.

http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/the-trans-pacific-partnership-and-asian-security-2. Location: B-318 Rayburn.

HOYER PEN AND PAD — 10:30 a.m. House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: H-147 in the U.S. Capitol. Notes: NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED

DEMOCRATIC LEADER NANCY PELOSI — 10:45 a.m. Holds her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616.

ACE KIDS ACT — 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Reps. Joe Barton (R-TX) and Kathy Castor (D-FL) will be joined by patient families from their hometown hospitals to introduce and discuss a new bipartisan bill, the Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act of 2014 (ACE Kids Act). H.R.4930 is intended to help centrally coordinate highly complex care to ensure optimal outcomes for children with medical complexity in Medicaid, while helping to contain costs. They are joined by cosponsors Reps. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Gene Green (D-TX) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA). Location: 234 Cannon. Contacts: Amber La Croix, 202-591-4041.

PROFILING — 11 a.m. Co-Chairs of the Progressive Caucus (CPC) Reps. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ.) and Reps. Keith Ellison (D-MN.), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH), Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX) and Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) Judy Chu (D-CA.) will join Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) to hold a press conference to call on the Obama Administration to issue improved profiling guidance for federal law enforcement that closes current loopholes. Location: House Triangle. Contacts: Dan Lindner (Rep. Grijalva), 202-225-2435. Mike Casca (Rep. Ellison), 202-225-4755. Sue Walitsky (Sen. Cardin), 202-224-4524

SPEAKER JOHN BOEHNER — 11:30 a.m. Holds an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114. Contacts: Kevin Smith, Michael Steel, 202-225-0600

VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT RALLY — 12:30 p.m. Hosted by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the Voting Rights Amendment Act Rally will mark the one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Shelby County v. Holder, which removed key voter protections under the Voting Rights Act. Speakers include House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer. Location: Behind the House Triangle. Notes: Television crews must contact Scott Simpson at 202-466-2061 or Simpson@civilrights.org to RSVP.

CHINESE DETAINEE — 1 p.m. The detention of Chen Kegui, nephew of the blind human rights activist Chen Guangcheng, will be the focus of a bipartisan press conference held by U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ-04), Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Chen Guangcheng of the Commission on China. Participants will announce the results of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention investigation into Chen Keguis case. Location: House Triangle. Contacts: Jeff Sagnip (Rep. Smith.), 202-225-3765. Notes: Press must RSVP to Jared Genser at jgenser@perseus-strategies.com or at 202-320-4135.

VIOLENCE AGAINST THE HOMELESS — 2 p.m. The Congressional Homelessness Caucus, in conjunction with the office of Congressman John Conyers, will host a briefing on violence against the homeless. With Representatives Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX). Location: 2237 Rayburn. Contacts: Evan Polisar (Rep. Hastings), 202-225-1313

'WITNESS WEDNESDAY' — 3 p.m. U.S. Congressman David N. Cicilline (D-RI) will be joined by several of his House colleagues and veterans advocacy groups to share the stories of unemployed veterans who have lost their unemployment benefits at the House Triangle for the third installment of "Witness Wednesday." Contacts: Sean Magers, 202-225-5076

CONGRESS – YOUTH SPORTS SAFETY — 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Safe Kids Worldwide and the Congressional Kids' Safety Caucus host a briefing to highlight how to keep kids safe from preventable injuries. Location: 1310 Longworth. Contacts: Jen Pollakusky (jpollakusky@safekids.org), 202-662-4476.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 9:30 a.m. Full Committee, "Management Failures: Oversight of the EPA." Witnesses include Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Location: 2154 Rayburn.

WAYS AND MEANS — 9:30 a.m. Markup of: H.R. 3393, "Student and Family Tax Simplification Act" H.R. 4935, "Child Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2014" JCT Description of H.R. 3393 JCT Description of H.R. 4935. Location: 1100 Longworth.

AGRICULTURE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development, and Credit – Public Hearing RE: A review of credit availability in rural America. http://agriculture.house.gov/hearing/review-credit-availability-rural-america. Location: 1300 Longworth.

APPROPRIATIONS — 10 a.m. Full Committee Markup, FY 2015 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill. Location: 2359 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on Medicare Program Integrity: Screening Out Errors Fraud and Abuse. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/medicare-program-integrity-screening-out-errors-fraud-and-abuse. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL SERVICES — 10 a.m. Full Committee hearing: "Examining Reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank: Corporate Necessity or Corporate Welfare?" Location: 2128 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Hearing on Afghanistan's Transition. Witness: James F. Dobbins, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, U.S. Department of State. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/hearing-afghanistan-s-transition. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet hearing Music Licensing Under Title 17 Part Two. http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2014/6/hearing-music-licensing-under-title-17-part-two. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

RULES — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process legislative hearing on H.R. 1869, the Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act of 2014. Location: H-313.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — 10 a.m. Full Committee Hearing on "Pathways to Exploration: A Review of the Future of Human Space Exploration." Location: 2318 Rayburn.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Full committee "VBA and VHA Interactions: Ordering and Conducting Medical Examinations." http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/vba-and-vha-interactions-ordering-and-conducting-medical-examinations. Location: 334 Cannon.

HOMELAND SECURITY — 11 a.m. Joint Hearing: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education and the Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies hearing "How Data Mining Threatens Student Privacy." http://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=384709. Location: 311 Cannon.

HOUSE ADMINISTRATION — 11 a.m. H.R. 186: To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to permit candidates for election for Federal office to designate an individual who will be authorized to disburse funds of the authorized campaign committees of the candidate in the event of the death of the candidate. Witness: Walter B. Jones, Member of Congress, 3rd Congressional District of North Carolina. http://cha.house.gov/hearing/hearing-hr-186. Location: 1310 Longworth.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa hearing on Libya at a Crossroads: A Faltering Transition. Witnesses: Anne W. Patterson, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Derek Chollet, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-libya-crossroads-faltering-transition. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats hearing on Reviewing the Administration's FY 2015 Budget Request for Europe and Eurasia. Witnesses: Daniel Rosenblum, Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Jonathan Katz, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, U.S. Agency for International Development; Denise Rollins, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Asia, U.S. Agency for International Development. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-reviewing-administrations-fy-2015-budget-request-europe-and-eurasia. Location: 2200 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere Hearing: Children Migrating from Central America: Solving a Humanitarian Crisis. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-children-migrating-central-america-creating-humanitarian-crisis. Location: 2255 Rayburn. Notes: Revises title of hearing.

JUDICIARY — 2 p.m. Full Committee Hearing, "An Administration Made Disaster: The South Texas Border Surge of Unaccompanied Alien Minors." Location: 2141 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation Oversight Hearing on "Increasing Carbon Soil Sequestration on Public Lands". http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=384738. Location: 1324 Longworth.
Other: PCAOB STANDING ADVISORY GROUP — June 24 – 25. The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board will hold a meeting of its Standing Advisory Group. The agenda includes a discussion of recent PCAOB developments and the Board's current standard-setting activities. On June 24, the meeting will be open to the public from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and on June 25, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Location: Hyatt Arlington Hotel, 1325 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA. Contacts: n/a, 202-207-9227

FOURTH OF JULY CREDENTIAL REQUESTS — Deadline to request credentials from the National Park Service for satellite/microwave truck parking within a secure area. For credentials for satellite production truck parking, send an email to Lelani_Woods@nps.gov and Carol_B_Johnson@nps.gov with the subject line JULY 4 PARKING CREDENTIALS by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday June 25, 2014. The email must include: Media affiliation; Truck make and model; Vehicle tag number and state. Information submitted for credentials must be accurate and match the media identification that will be presented at check points on the day of the event. Credentialed media will receive an email confirmation with further information.

QUEEN OF SWEDEN – WORLD CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION — June 25 – 26. Her Majesty Queen Silvia and Her Royal Highness Princess Madeleine of Sweden will travel to Washington, D.C. to further the work of World Childhood Foundation, founded by Queen Silvia in 1999. The trip will include visits to organizations working with child protection; a reception on Capitol Hill with stakeholders who work to improve the lives and health of children across the world; a panel discussion on child protection at the Embassy of Sweden; and the Thank You Festival, a concert created in partnership with The Global Poverty Project (GPP). Notes: For more information on H.M. Queen Silvia and H.R.H. Princess Madeleine's trip to Washington, D.C., to request an interview, and for all additional media inquiries, please contact: Leah Nelson: nelson@sunshinesachs.com, 202.280.2398. Swedish media should also direct their requests to: Kate Reuterswdrd: kate@prcollaborative.com, 202.339.9598. CO: World Childhood Foundation; Thank You by Childhood; Global Poverty Project.

RESERVATION ECONOMIC SUMMIT — June 24 – 26. Native American business leaders are in Washington, D.C. for the Reservation Economic Summit (RES D.C.) hosted by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. NW. Contacts: Lewis Lowe, 706-302-8404. Notes: http://www.firstnations.org/news/events/res_dc_reservation_economic_summit

MORTGAGE BANKERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE — June 25 – 27. The MBA's 2014 Strategic Markets and Diversity Conference. Speakers include: Congresswoman Maxine Waters, (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee; The Honorable Henry G. Cisneros, Founder and Chairman, City View. Location: Westin Washington City Center, 1400 M St. NW. Notes: All conference events are open to the media and press credentials must be obtained in advance. To apply for press credentials please contact: Rob Van Raaphorst, (202) 557-2799, rvanraaphorst@mba.org

USAID – CHILD AND MATERNAL LIVES — 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Administrator Rajiv Shah, with co-hosts the Governments of Ethiopia and India, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners, will host "Acting on the Call: Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths." The forum will unveil new efforts to save an unprecedented number of women and children by 2020 in 24 priority countries. It will also announce adoption of "bold reforms" to improve effectiveness and efficiency at the Agency. Location: Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. On the Net: http://www.usaid.gov/event-details

U.S. CHAMBER – SUPREME COURT — 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. The U.S. Chambers National Chamber Litigation Center (NCLC) will host its 10th annual Supreme Court End-of-Term media briefing. Speakers: Lily Fu Claffee, Executive Vice President, National Chamber Litigation Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Rachel Brand, Vice President, National Chamber Litigation Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Kate Todd, Vice President, National Chamber Litigation Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Noel J. Francisco, Partner, Jones Day; Andrew J. Pincus, Partner, Mayer Brown. To register, e-mail press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce Headquarters, 1615 H Street NW. Notes: Time changed from 8 a.m.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – ASIAN SECURITY — 8:30 a.m. Conversation with Earl Blumenauer, Representative (D-OR) and The Charles W. Boustany Jr., Representative (R-LA) on the current state of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations and its significance for the Asia-Pacific region and geopolitics. http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/registration/a08i000000SWsDFAA1. Location: B-318 Rayburn.

PENTAGON – ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS — 8:45 a.m. The Defense Healthcare Management System Modernization (DHMSM) program will be holding its fourth "Industry Day." The Defense Health Management System program executive officer and the DHMSM program are leading the department's effort to modernize electronic health records. Industry day follows the June 12 release of the third draft request for proposals (RFP), and is in preparation for final RFP release by the end of the fiscal year. The department plans to award a multi-billion contract with ordering provisions for up to 10 years in 2015. The acquisition process is leveraging full and open competition with industry. Location: Amphitheater of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center located at 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Notes: Media interested in attending DHMSM Industry Day and to request a copy of the agenda should RSVP to Maureen Schumann at Maureen.a.schumann.civ@mail.mil or 703-697-4162. Previous industry day slides and draft RFPs can be found at: https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=7940e01977218d0d34d0837ff1e7971a&tabcore&_cview1

FSF – DIGITAL AGE POLICY — 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. The Free State Foundation will hold a policy seminar, "Reforming Communications Policy in the Digital Age: The Path Forward." Sen. John Thune, the Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, will deliver the opening keynote address. Location: SVC Room 209-08 in the Capitol Visitors Center. Contacts: n/a, 301-984-8253

TORTURE & HUMAN TRAFFICKING — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. In commemoration of June 26, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the Center for Victims of Torture is hosting an expert briefing on "Fighting Impunity: Combating Torture & Human Trafficking." Participants include Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador at Large and Director of the U.S. State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Location: Center for Victims of Torture, 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, 7th Floor. Contacts: Brad Robideau, 612-436-4886

CAP – COMMON CORE — 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. The Center for American Progress will host an event to discuss the successes and challenges that states and school districts are facing as they implement the Common Core State Standards. Former Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas (R) and former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland (D), who both adopted the standards during their time in office, will take part in the panel discussion. CAP Executive Vice President for Policy Carmel Martin and Fordham Institute President Chester E. Finn, Jr., who both previously served as assistant secretaries in the U.S. Department of Education, will also participate in the panel. Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor. Contacts: Katie Peters, kpeters@americanprogress.org, 202-741-6285. Notes: RSVP requested.

HOMELAND SECURITY — 11 a.m. Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies hearing How Data Mining Threatens Student Privacy. http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-joint-hearing-how-data-mining-threatens-student-privacy. Location: 311 Cannon.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY PREVIEW — 11 a.m. A broad coalition of Duchenne muscular dystrophy stakeholders convened by Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD) will hold a teleconference to share new suggested guidance it has developed in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) intended to guide industry developing diagnostic tests and drugs for the treatment of Duchenne. With Pat Furlong, Founding President & CEO, Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD); Tim Franson, M.D., Steering Committee Member; PPMD advisor; Chief Medical Officer, YourEncore; Neera Gulati, M.D., Steering Committee Member; mother of a child with Duchenne; Board Member, Suneel's Light Foundation. Contacts: Jessica Daitch, 704-321-0813. Notes: Tele-briefing dial in: 866-952-1906; Conference ID: PPMD Media

U.S. POLICY AND DRUG TRAFFICKING — 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Inter-American Dialogue and the Organization of American States (OAS) host a special discussion on U.S. drug policy in the Western Hemisphere. Guests: Congressmen Matt Salmon (R-Arizona) and Eliot Engel (D-New York). Location: 2200 Rayburn Contacts: Michael Shifter (meetings@thedialogue.org)

EUROPEAN UNION – PUBLIC DIPLOMACY — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. EU Rendez-Vous series roundtable, "Public Diplomacy: Reflecting the Multilateral Dimension." Panelists: Silvia Kofler, Spokesperson and Head of Press and Public Diplomacy, Delegation of the European Union to the United States; Sanna Kangasharju, Press Counselor, Embassy of Finland; Ambassador John E. Lange, Senior Fellow for Global Health Diplomacy, United Nations Foundation. Moderator: Katherine Brown, Executive Director, U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. Location: EU Delegation to the US, 2175 K Street, NW. On the Net: http://www.euintheus.org/event/eu-rendez-vous/

SECRETARY JEWELL – CARBON STORAGE — 1 p.m. On the one-year anniversary of the President's Climate Action Plan, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will hold a teleconference to release the results of a comprehensive assessment by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) of biological carbon storage and sequestration by ecosystems in the eastern United States. With Suzette Kimball, Acting Director of the USGS; Bradley Reed, Associate Program Coordinator, USGS Climate and Land Use Program. Contacts: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov. Notes: The teleconference is open to credentialed media representatives by calling 1-800-857-9714 and entering passcode: INTERIOR.

SECRETARY PEREZ, PRITZKER – GRANT AWARDS — 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker will hold a press teleconference to announce the grant awards for the new Job-Driven National Emergency Grant program that will help workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. Dial-In Number: 888-810-9642 Passcode: PRESS CALL Contacts: Xochitl Hinojosa, hinojosa.xochitl@dol.gov, 202-693-4681. Jason Kuruvilla, kuruvilla.jason@dol.gov, 202-693-6587. Notes: RSVP requested.

SALUTE TO THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER — 7 p.m. Sergeant Major of the Army Ray Chandler hosts Twilight Tattoo "Salute to the Non-Commissioned Officer: Backbone of the Army." Location: Summerall Field, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, VA. Contacts: Shaunteh D. Kelly, shaunteh.d.kelly.civ@mail.mil, 202-685-4645. Notes: Media interested in covering this event must register by 3 p.m., Wednesday, June 25. To be placed on the credentialed list, send an email to usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.mediadesk-omb@mail.mil with the following information: your full name, media organization, assignment, contact phone number, email address, and vehicle info (tags, year, make, and model).

CONCORD COALITION – SENS. COBURN, DURBIN — 8:15 p.m. The Concord Coalition's Annual Economic Patriot Award Dinner honoring Senators Dick Durbin and Tom Coburn for "their strong advocacy of fiscal responsibility." Location: The Phoenix Park Hotel; 520 N. Capitol Street, NW. Contacts: Steve Winn, swinn@concordcoalition.org, 703-254-7828

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "They had a big fundraising softball game up at Yankee Stadium. ... They had a fundraiser over the weekend and you know who was playing in the fundraiser? New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. He's a pretty

good athlete. I'm not trying to be snarky about this, but he had a great day at the plate -- and I'm talking about lunch."

Conan O'Brien: "Political analysts are saying Hillary Clinton should stop telling people she's poor. They also said that Bill Clinton should stop telling people he's single."

Conan O'Brien: "Yesterday, speaking of political figures, Michelle Obama said she wants Americans to elect a woman president as soon as possible. Yeah, she said it should happen, quote, 'as soon as possible.' So even she's had enough of President Obama."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, June 26, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jun 26, 2014 at 7:01 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION MARKS ONE YEAR SINCE GEORGETOWN CLIMATE SPEECH. Politico (6/25, Guillén, 637K) reports that on the one-year anniversary of President Barack Obama's speech in which he "laid

out his big climate agenda," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz was scheduled to speak with League of Conservation Voters members and "hold a Q&A at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel." Also, Jewell and acting USGS chief Suzette Kimball was scheduled to "release a comprehensive assessment of biological carbon storage and sequestration by eastern US ecosystems."

The National Journal (6/26, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that the report shows that "forests, wetlands and farms in the eastern United States naturally store 300 million tons of carbon a year (1,100 million tons of CO2 equivalent), which is nearly 15 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions EPA estimates the country emits each year or an amount that exceeds and offsets yearly US car emissions." The USGS also "released a new web tool, which allows users to see the land and water carbon storage and change in their ecosystems between 2005 and 2050 in the lower 48 states." Jewell said, "Today we are taking another step forward in our ongoing effort to bring sound science to bear as we seek to tackle a central challenge of the 21st century – a changing climate. This landmark study by the US Geological Survey provides yet another reason for being good stewards of our natural landscapes, as ecosystems play a critical role in removing harmful carbon dioxide from the atmosphere that contributes to climate change."

President Obama Highlights Climate Agenda Successes. The AP (6/26, Lederman) reports President Obama "is highlighting efforts by his administration toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions," a key agenda point of his second term, even though "some of the most ambitious steps" the President outlined last June "remain in limbo." Obama addressed the League of Conservation Voters on his efforts Wednesday. The AP says that with many of his priorities having "largely fallen victim to congressional gridlock, climate change marks a rare bright spot" where the President has been able to use executive action effectively.

Politico (6/25, Restuccia, 637K) reported the President "lit into GOP climate change skeptics" in the speech, taking aim "at Republicans for pleading ignorance on climate by saying they aren't scientists." Obama said, "I'm not a doctor either, but if a bunch of doctors tell me that tobacco can cause lung cancer, then I'll say, 'Okay.' It's not that hard." Bloomberg News (6/26, Lerer, 2.76M) and the Washington Times (6/25, Wolfgang, 455K) also provide coverage of Obama's address to the League of Conservation Voters.

Bloomberg BNA (6/24, Scott, 7K) and the "Post Politics" blog of the Washington Post (6/26, Zezima, 4.22M) also provide coverage of the anniversary of Obama's climate plan.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN DISCUSSES INTERIOR'S NEW HAWAIIAN RECOGNITION INITIATIVE. In an interview with the Indian Country Today Media Network (6/25, 45K), Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn discussed the initiative "to consider reestablishing a government-to-government relationship between the United States and the Native Hawaiian community." Washburn stressed, "We're at the very initial stages of just trying to reach out and see how we can be helpful and ask them some specific questions." He added, "There's such a vibrant conversation going on in Hawaii and the purpose of the ANPRM is to get people thinking about the kinds of questions we have and to find a way to engage. There's all kinds of hard questions down the road that are different than the ones we've asked but we've got to start somewhere and this is where we're starting."

For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (6/26, Aki, 11.54M), Jacob Bryan Aki, a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, writes that "the questions that the Department of Interior has asked are not only irrelevant, but in my opinion very insulting." He adds that "it should not be the responsibility of the United States Department of Interior to seek out what is best for us, but it is the responsibility of our own people to seek out what is best possible option for us." However, Aki argues that "before we engage in any kind of actions regarding sovereignty, federal recognition and/or self-determination, the people of Hawai'i need to be educated on these very issues."

Additional coverage of the proposal was provided by the Hawaii Free Press (6/26) and the Hawaii Reporter (6/26, 8K).

SECRETARY JEWELL REAPPOINTS PHEASANTS FOREVER'S NOMSEN TO WETLANDS POST. The AmmoLand (6/26, 4K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has reappointed Pheasants Forever's Dave Nomsen to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Advisory Group. The article notes that "Nomsen has served on the Council since 1999, having been appointed to the post on five different occasions by the Secretary of Interior under three different presidential administrations."

SEN. WALSH PROPOSES RESTRICTING SALES OF FEDERAL TRACTS. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that Sen. John Walsh on Tuesday "introduced legislation to make it harder to sell federal lands, calling such proposals by House Republicans a 'terrible idea' for paying down the federal deficit." Walsh, "blasted" a budget proposal by House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan "to sell 'unneeded' federal lands, arguing that it could jeopardize hunting or paddling access in Montana." Walsh said, "What this really means is handing over our most popular recreation areas to the highest out-of-state bidder, creating the next copper barons and trophy homes. This theory is as radical as it is wrong."

WHITE HOUSE CLAIMS MANY REPORTS HAVE "LONG OUTLIVED" NEED. In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, The Hill (6/26, Sink, 237K) reports that "Congress is asking the Obama administration to produce too many reports about what it's up to, the White House argued Wednesday." Beth Cobert, an official at the Office of Management and Budget, said in a blog post Wednesday, said that "the administration has identified dozens of reporting requirements that 'have long outlived their need.'" For instance, the Interior Department has "been required to prepare an annual report on a program that allowed natural gas companies to provide the government energy directly instead of cash royalty payments." However, "the program was discontinued in 2009."

Also reporting on the story is the Federal Times (6/25, 132K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: POVERTY POINT IN LOUISIANA DESIGNATED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE. . Additional coverage of Poverty Point was provided by the Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger (6/25, 206K), the Ruston (LA) Daily Leader (6/26, 17K), and the Richland (LA) Beacon-News (6/26).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DEBATE OVER BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS AREA. Continuing coverage of the "escalating debate over Idaho's Boulder-White Clouds area" was provided by the Boise (ID) Weekly (6/26, 108K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MARAD, ANNOUNCES MARITIME HERITAGE GRANTS. Marine Link (6/26, Backwell, 1K) reports that the National Park Service, in partnership with the Maritime Administration, announces the availability of about "$1.7 million in grant funding through its Maritime Heritage Program for projects," which educate about "and/or preserve sites and objects related to" the US' maritime history. The article says the grants are funded by "revenue from the scrapping of vessels from the Maritime Administration's National Defense Reserve Fleet." Acting Maritime Administrator Paul N. Jaenichen is quoted as saying, "With the restart of this program, we have the opportunity to raise American awareness and understanding of marine transportation's pivotal role in our nation's past, present and future."

SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL WILL STAY AT NATIONAL MALL FOR NOW. The New York Times (6/26, Corasaniti, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, on now from June 25-29 and July 2-6, will continue to call the National Mall its home for at least another five years, as the National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution entered into a memorandum of agreement to keep the festival there through 2019." Carol Johnson, a spokeswoman for the NPS, said, "What this means is that it recognizes the cultural importance of both the festival and the mall. We've really come to an agreement to work together to make the festival happen." The article notes that "the festival's future on the mall had been in question after new regulations were adopted, to protect the pristine turf recently planted on the mall, that prohibit the extended installation of big tents, stages and art exhibits, staples of the Folklife experience," but "now the festival will, in fact, temporarily relocate to the section with the new grass, between Third and Seventh Streets, while its former location, between Seventh and 14th Streets, undergoes renovations."

Additional coverage was provided by the AP (6/26), WRC-TV Washington (6/26, 312K) and WJLA-TV Washington (6/26, 118K). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (6/26, 4.22M).

FUEL TRUCK BAN LEADS TO LOCAL DISTRUST OF PROPOSAL TO ELEVATE COLORADO MONUMENT TO PARK. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that the NPS' "decision this spring to ban fuel trucks and other

hazardous materials from traversing a western Colorado national monument has led some locals to question a legislative proposal to designate the lands a national park and drew the concern of Sen. Mark Udall." Although Colorado National Monument Superintendent Lisa Eckert on Monday "rescinded her travel ban, some residents said they're fearful it's a sign that similar restrictions would accompany a national park designation." Eckert said, "The Glade Park community's concerns are valid, and I hope to build on the collaboration and mutual support we identified last summer by working again with our friends and neighbors to address all of our concerns. In the spirit of transparency, we plan to more fully reach out to the community and the public as soon as possible."

TRIBAL MEMBERS PROTEST PINE RIDGE SIOUX INDIAN RESERVATION PROPOSAL. KOTA-TV Rapid City, SD (6/26, 890) reports that some tribal landowners fear the NPS is "going to take over their land." According to the article, "on horses, ATV's, and trucks, tribal members rode three miles on Wednesday to Wounded Knee, all to raise awareness." Eric Brunnemann, Badlands National Park Superintendent , said, "I hear the voices of people that believe their land is going to be taken and that is not the case. The land boundary will be identical to what it was in 1968 when Congress established the South Unit."

For the Canada Free Press (6/26, 1.14M), Patrick Henningsen criticizes the Interior Department for targeting the Pine Ridge Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota with a proposal to create a "'Tribal National Park." According to Henningsen, "the Congressional bill has already been written, and if passed through Congress, both tribal members and non tribal members will be stripped of their deeded land – at a price set by the federal govemment." And "if owners do not accept Washington's offer (expected to be a meager one), the land can be acquired at no cost because the measure has waived all appraisal rights and stipulates that Washington can simply take Indian land by force under 'eminent domain'."

PARK POLICE CRACKING DOWN ON FOOD TRUCKS ON NATIONAL MALL. WTTG-TV Washington (6/26, 169K) reports that "D.C. food truck owners say they have been warned to leave" the National Mall "or face a $300 fine or worse." Food truck operators have "proper D.C. permits, but Park Police say those permits don't hold up on the mall." Park Police explained that "the National Mall is off limits to food trucks unless they have a special permit from the National Park Service."

NPS BEGINS REPAIRS ON BURNSIDE BRIDGE AT ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD . The AP (6/26) reports that the NPS says "it has begun repairing the Burnside Bridge at Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg after pieces of the stone arch fell into Antietam Creek in January." The NPS said Wednesday that "the bridge will remain mostly open to pedestrians during work on the upstream wall this summer." The agency "says the reconstruction work should be finished this fall."

YOSEMITE TO CELEBRATE 150TH ANNIVERSARY. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/25, 687K) reports that Yosemite National Park will "hold several events on Monday to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Yosemite Grant Act." The article notes that "the major events of the day are the 10 a.m. ceremony in the Mariposa Grove and the 3 p.m. Parks Heritage Program in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center."

MEETING HELD ON NEW NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL IN MAINE. WCSH-TV Portland, ME (6/25, 21K) reports that the Natural Resources Council of Maine is "trying to gain community support to establish a new National Park and National Recreation Area east of Baxter State Park." The NRCM "held a public meeting Wednesday night to inform people in Hampden and other communities about this proposal."

Bureau of Land Management:

REPORT: BLM'S GUNNISON PLAN, STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS TOO LATE TO SAVE SAGE GROUSE. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that "a new report by two conservation groups says federal, state and local governments have failed to install adequate protection measures for the imperiled Gunnison sage grouse and its dwindling habitat and that the bird should be listed as endangered." The 48-page report, released on Wedensday by WildEarth Guardians and Rocky Mountain Wild, "credits some local government measures in southwest Colorado's Gunnison Basin but offers only a tepid endorsement of the Bureau of Land Management's decision to amend up to 11 resource management plans (RMPs) covering 800,000 acres in Colorado and Utah to incorporate Gunnison grouse protection measures." The report concludes that BLM's efforts are "too late to keep the bird from being listed under the Endangered Species Act, even if the agency does succeed in installing meaningful

conservation strategies in the RMPs to protect the Gunnison grouse – found almost exclusively in southwest Colorado and southeast Utah."

GOLD CLAIMS COMPLICATE COLORADO WILDERNESS PROTECTION EFFORT. USA Today (6/25, 5.82M) reports that "a proposal to permanently designate as wilderness tens of thousands of acres of canyons and mountains flanking the Arkansas River in central Colorado is being complicated by gold mining claims." The BLM "since 1980 has managed the Browns Canyon area between Salida and Buena Vista as a wilderness study area," and "as part of that 'study,' the BLM prevented anyone from mining in the area." However, "in December 2011, the ban on mining expired and two groups quickly filed five mining claims along the river, which is heavily used for white-water rafting and fly fishing." The BLM is "now trying to get a judge to throw out the claims so it can prevent mining in the area."

GROUP PETITIONS TO TAKE GOLD BUTTE FROM BLM. KXNT-AM Las Vegas (6/25, 44K) reports that "an environmental group has started a petition drive to make Nevada's pristine, 350,000 acre Gold Butte area a National Monument, putting it under National Parks Service control and removing it from the Bureau of Land Management." Rob Mroka of the Center For Biological Diversity, said that the BLM "has let the Gold Butte area down for a number of years, and it perhaps culminated in the biggest way with its failed roundup of Cliven Bundy's trespassed cattle." Mroka "noted other criticisms of BLM: six years of 'foot dragging' in coming up with an overall plan for the area, the failure to restrict roadways in the area that threaten biological life, and rampant off-road vehicle use."

NEW GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGER NAMED. The Southern Utah News (6/26) reports that Cindy Staszak has been chosen as the new monument manager for the BLM's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Juan Palma, BLM Utah State Director, said, "We are very fortunate to have Cindy Staszak as the monument manager. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in managing both people and projects; has great people skills; and is very familiar with issues facing western states. Cindy has proven to be an excellent leader throughout her career, and I am very pleased she is joining our BLM Utah Leadership Team on a permanent basis."

BLM WORKER'S HOBBY USED AT WORK. The Sewickley (PA) Herald (6/26, 8K) reports on Bob Wick, who works as a wilderness specialist with the BLM. According to the article, "although it was not the reason for his hiring, Wick's photography skills were noticed at the bureau and are put to good use." The article notes that "Wick's photos help to document federally protected property," and "he also photographs lands that are candidates for conservation through the Bureau."

DINOSAUR HUNTER WORKS FOR BLM. The Los Angeles Times (6/26, Glionna, 3.46M) reports that Scott Richardson, who "six months each year, from March to September," works as a paleontologist's technician for the BLM.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

HOUSE HEARING FOCUSES ON FWS IVORY BAN PROPOSAL. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that "everyone at a House Natural Resources subpanel hearing yesterday agreed that African elephants could be driven to extinction within a decade if something is not done about poaching driven by demand for ivory." The article notes that "all present said it is necessary to undermine the illicit ivory trade, which has become a billion-dollar funding source for international crime syndicates, militias and terrorist groups in Africa and Asia, where ivory is seen as a status symbol." However, domestic issues, "especially the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed commercial ivory ban, generated disagreement and prompted strong criticisms from Alaska Rep. Don Young (R) and other Republicans." According to the article, "echoing the concerns of sportsmen, musicians and auction houses worried that the ban, which eliminates commercial imports and restricts exports to all but verified antiques containing ivory, would have a detrimental effect on the value of ivory owned by millions of Americans, Young and other members of his party castigated FWS and lambasted the ban as another federal regulatory overreach, arguing that the ban would unfairly put the burden of proof on American owners to prove their ivory was not the product of poaching."

FWS DELAYS DECISION TO PLACE NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT ON ENDANGERED LIST. The E&E

Daily (6/25) reports that the FWS on Tuesday "announced a six-month delay in finalizing its proposal to list the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species, a move that drew cheers from Republican congressmen but criticism from a wildlife biologist." The article notes that "a final listing decision for the bat – the first to be proposed for endangered protections due to a deadly fungus that has now spread to roughly half of all states – is now scheduled for April 2, 2015." The FWS "this week also opened a new 60-day comment period on the listing proposal."

The Sheboygan (WI) Press (6/25, 52K) reports that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources lauded the decision.

Also providing coverage are the Wausau (WI) Daily Herald (6/25, 71K) and the Wisconsin Outdoor Fun (6/25).

GROUPS SEEK TO PROTECT YELLOW CEDAR. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that a petition submitted to the FWS "seeks an endangered species listing for the yellow cedar, a slow-growing conifer that has been declining in and around the Tongass National Forest in southeastern Alaska." The Center for Biological Diversity, Greenpeace, the Greater Southeast Alaska Conservation Community and the Boat Company, a local tour company, filed the petition on Tuesday.

Also reporting on the story is the AP (6/26, Joling). Coverage by the AP was picked up by the Washington Post (6/26), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/25, 687K), and ABC News (6/26, 3.58M).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, RESIDENTS PLAN LAWSUIT OVER PURPLE LINE. The Washington Post (6/26, Shaver, 4.22M) reports "three environmental groups and three Chevy Chase residents notified federal agencies Wednesday that they plan to sue over Maryland's proposed light-rail Purple Line unless the agencies better study the project's potential impacts on two rare shrimp-like creatures." A letter to the FWS and the Federal Transit Administration said the agencies had violated the Endangered Species Act "by not properly considering a light-rail line's impacts on the Hay's spring amphipod, which has been listed as endangered since 1982, and the Kenk's amphipod, which is a candidate for federal listing." The groups — The Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Capital Crescent Trail, and the Center For Sustainable Economy — requested a meeting with the FWS "to discuss a more detailed analysis of the potential impacts."

Also reporting on the story is the Bethesda (MD) Now (6/25).

JUDGE SETS 2018 DEADLINE FOR EFFORT TO SAVE LYNX. The AP (6/26, Brown) reports that "a federal judge on Wednesday set a 2018 deadline for the government to complete a long-delayed recovery plan for imperiled Canada lynx in the Lower 48 states." Molloy said the January 2018 deadline proposed by the FWS was "reasonable." He wrote, "It will not disrupt the Service's other recovery work, but will also set a date certain by which the Service will be required to take action."

FWS APPROVES PLAN FOR DESOTO AND BOYER CHUTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES. The Mason City (IA) Globe Gazette (6/26, 51K) reports that the FWS has "approved the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges."

HUMANE SOCIETY CALLS FOR BAN OF PYTHONS, ANACONDAS, AND BOA CONSTRICTORS. The Broward Palm Beach (FL) New Times (6/26, 126K) reports that Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, is calling for the ban of the reticulated python, DeSchauensee's anaconda, green anaconda, Beni anaconda, and boa constrictor. In a post on his blog, Parcelle said, "It's time for the Obama administration to finish the job, stopping a reckless trade that results in snakes dispersed in our communities and ultimately leaving a major ecological wake." Parcelle called "out the Boa constrictor specifically, perhaps the most dangerous of all the snakes talked about."

HUNTERS ENCOURAGED TO FIGHT AMMO BAN EFFORT. The Examiner (6/26, 1.56M) reports that the National Shooting Sports Foundation is "encouraging hunters to contact the Department of Interior and ask that it reject a 50-page petition from the anti-hunting Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and others seeking a ban on traditional ammunition on public lands."

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN SMUGGLING RHINO HORNS TO CHINA. The Dallas Morning News (6/26,

Wigglesworth, 1.18M) reports that "a Frisco man who worked as an Asian art appraiser pleaded guilty Tuesday for his role in smuggling rhinoceros horns and other protected items worth nearly $1 million from the United States to China." According to the article, "Ning Qiu, 43, pleaded guilty in federal court in Plano to a one count information charging him with conspiracy to smuggle and violate the Lacey Act."

NOAA STUDY DETAILS TRIO OF THREATS TO KILLER WHALE POPULATION. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that "pollution, vessel noise and food scarcity are the main threats to the endangered Southern Resident killer whale, according to a new report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration." The article notes that "only 80 animals are left in the population, which was once a feeder for theme parks. In the 1960s and 1970s, almost 50 orcas were captured from the community that spends its summers in Puget Sound." NOAA's report outlines the major threats, "drawing from 10 years of research that included fecal samples, satellite location data and behavioral observations."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

PANEL DISCARDS FWS' RECOMMENDATIONS ON WILDLIFE KILLS AT IVANPAH SOLAR PLANT. KCET-TV Los Angeles (6/25, Clarke, 15K) reports that "a task force charged with addressing the burgeoning issue of bird and bat deaths at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) has dismissed many of the recommendations in a report on the topic issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's forensics lab, according to documents released by the California Energy Commission." The report by the FWS' National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory "suggested that actual levels of wildlife mortality and injuries at ISEGS are being obscured by inadequate surveys for injured and dead animals, and proposed several measures by which those surveys could be made more scientifically rigorous." However, "according to minutes of a May 20 meeting of the ISEGS Avian & Bat Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), an interagency body convened to assess the wildlife mortality issue at the plant, members dismissed a number of apparently common-sense steps to increase the validity of carcass surveys – and one likely method to sharply reduce injuries to birds during migration season."

WIND TURBINE IN GUAM REQUIRES REZONING. The Pacific (GUM) Daily News (6/26, 61K) reports that "after six years, a federally funded wind turbine tower is months away from being built." According to the article, "the plan is to build one 233-foot-tall windmill tower in Yona, which will require a zoning variance to allow for the structure's height." The Office of Insular Affairs approved a $1.5 million grant to Guam Power Authority to install the wind turbine for the purpose of research.

Onshore Energy Development:

EPA TO CONSIDER IF POWER PLANT ADDS TO PARK HAZE. The AP (6/26, Karnowski) reports that the EPA has "agreed to consider whether pollution controls at Xcel Energy's Sherco power plant are adequate for cutting haze over two national parks and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area." The EPA and six environmental groups "filed a proposed consent decree Tuesday that obligates the EPA to take action on a 2009 National Park Service finding that haze from the coal-fired plant near Becker impairs the views at Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota and Isle Royale National Park in Michigan." Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/26, Karnowski, 1.48M).

Also reporting on the story is the Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/26, Shaffer, 1.48M).

BLM TO FINALIZE FIRST MASTER LEASING PLAN. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that the BLM on Thursday is "scheduled to finalize its first-ever master leasing plan for oil and gas development, a step years in the making that's likely to be heralded by conservation and sportsmen's groups that have long pressured the agency to take a more incisive look at mineral development on federal lands." The Beaver Rim MLP will be "codified in a final BLM resource management plan in central Wyoming scheduled to be signed in the morning by BLM Director Neil Kornze alongside Gov. Matt Mead (R) at the governor's office in Cheyenne." The article notes that "Beaver Rim is slated to be the first of 16 MLPs the agency is crafting across millions of acres of public lands in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana and is a key part of the oil and gas leasing reforms the Obama administration rolled out in early 2010."

DRILLING STATES ADDRESS PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT EARTHQUAKES. The AP (6/26, 4.22M) reports that governments in Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma are responding to residents' concerns about the correlation between hydraulic fracturing and earthquakes by holding public discussion and considering new regulations. According to the article, states are "trying to reconcile the scientific data with the interests of their citizens and the oil and gas industry." Despite the growing frequency and intensity of earthquakes in these states, both seismologists and the oil and gas industry have "taken pains to point out that a clear correlation has not yet been established."

COLORADO INVESTIGATING WHETHER INJECTION WELL CONNECTED TO RECENT TREMORS. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that Colorado is "investigating whether an injection well that pumps wastewater from oil and gas drilling operations deep underground is to blame for recent earthquakes that have shaken the town of Greeley in the last month." The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission announced on Tuesday that "it has asked the Denver-based operator of a deep-injection well to shut down operations for 20 days while it investigates whether injections from the 10,800-foot well are responsible for recent seismic activity in Weld County, in the northeast corner of the state." COGCC Director Matt Lepore said, "We have not made a causative determination that the well is responsible for the quakes. We want to continue the investigation into the seismic activity in this area, and to have the opportunity to do so while this particular well is not injecting."

OSM PROVIDES FUNDS FOR RESIDENTS FORCED TO LEAVE HOMES ATOP A MINE. The Zanesville (OH) Times Recorder (6/25, 44K) reports that "the families living atop the abandoned Jonathan Mine in White Cottage feel as though they've been forced from their homes following a Tuesday night visit from a task force assigned to ensure their safety." The article notes that "a 30-day hotel stay for the 18 residents affected by the sinkholes in the area has been approved by the US Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation," according to OSM spokesman Chris Holmes. The Interior Department "also granted ODNR authorization to spend Abandoned Mine Lands funds on the displaced residents."

The story also appears at the Marion (OH) Star (6/25, 19K) and the Coshocton (OH) Tribune (6/25, 13K).

Offshore Energy Development:

SENATORS URGE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO OPEN NEW AREAS TO OFFSHORE DRILLING. The Law 360 (6/26, 18K) (reports that "a group of GOP senators is pressuring the Obama administration to expand offshore drilling, arguing Wednesday that the US Department of the Interior's next five-year leasing plan should move the country toward energy independence by including areas that are currently off limits."

The National Journal (6/26, Subscription Publication, 561K) reports that Sen. David Vitter, along with Sens. Roger Wicker, Jeff Sessions, and Tim Scott sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "regarding the Department's oil and gas leasing plan for 2017 through 2022 on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)." In the letter, they "request that Interior's 5-year leasing plan includes the expansion of offshore access to include areas off the Atlantic Coast, the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, areas off the coast of Southern California, and multiple areas off the Alaska shoreline that the Obama Administration had previously placed off-limits."

Also reporting on the story is WQUE-FM New Orleans (6/26, 1K).

HOUSE TO VOTE ON HASTINGS-SPONSORED BILL. The fourth "Overnight Energy" item for The Hill (6/26, Barron-Lopez, Cama, 237K) reports that the US House of Representatives will vote today on legislation that "seeks to expand oil and gas production offshore" and on Federal land. The legislation is sponsored by US Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA), who "boasts that the bill would open up energy resources that are otherwise under 'tight lock and key' by the Obama Administration, such as the Arctic, Atlantic and Southern Pacific."

GE TO DESIGN AND BUILD BLOWOUT PREVENTERS. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that GE Oil & Gas announced on Tuesday "that it has secured contracts to design and build blowout preventers that can perform under tougher conditions." The firm said "it expects the equipment to be in operation by 2018." The article notes that "the new blowout preventers, or BOPs, will be designed and built to withstand pressures of up to 20,000 pounds per square inch (psi)."

TRUSTEES APPROVE 44 BP RESTORATION PROJECTS. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (6/25, Schleifstein, 678K) reported that according to a Federal Register set to be published Thursday, the public trustees in the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment process "have given final approval to 44 restoration projects costing $627 million over the objections of the state of Texas, which wanted more projects."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA GOV. JERRY BROWN'S BOND PLAN SEEKS DELTA TUNNEL NEUTRALITY. The Los Angeles Times (6/26, Mason, 3.46M) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal for "a pared-down $6-billion water bond would include $1.5 billion for water quality projects such as groundwater cleanup and $1.5 billion for watershed protection, according to an outline provided to stakeholders." The outline also "states that the bond would be neutral regarding the Bay Delta Conservation Plan." Also reporting on the story is the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/25, 687K).

For the Los Angeles Times (6/26, Skelton, 3.46M), George Skelton writes that "the overriding issue for Republicans in Monday's bond vote was not water storage, but whether the proposal would help or hurt the tunnel effort — whether it would fund the type of restoration projects that would lead to the digging permits." The bond, by Delta Sen. Lois Wolk "was advertised as 'tunnel neutral.'" However, "Republicans didn't trust the neutrality."

HYDROPOWER GENERATION IN CALIFORNIA DROPS DUE TO DROUGHT. The E&E Daily (6/25) reports that "hydropower generation in California has dropped by half as a result of the state's gripping drought, according to a new analysis." California, "which normally gets about 14 percent of its electricity from hydroelectric dams and turbines, saw its hydropower generation fall 48 percent in the first quarter of 2014 compared with the same period last year, according to an analysis from SNL Energy." The article notes that "statewide, California received just over half of the precipitation it normally gets by the end of April, and snowpack water content was at 20 percent of average, indicating scant resources for hydropower."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR SENDS OUT $50 MILLION IN BUY-BACK OFFERS ON ROSEBUD RESERVATION. The Nation Sun News (6/26) reports that the Interior Department has sent out $50 million in offers to landowners on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. The offers to 11,000 landowners were made under the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations. Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn said, "The success of the Buy-Back Program is vitally important to the future of Indian Country. Consolidating and returning these lands to tribes in trust will have enormous potential to unlock tribal community resources. We are committed to exhausting all efforts to make sure that individuals are aware of this historic opportunity to strengthen tribal sovereignty by supporting the consolidation of Indian lands."

LUMBEE TRIBE CLOSELY WATCHING NORTH CAROLINA RACE. In its "Ballot Box" blog, The Hill (6/25, Capra, 237K) reports "this year's Senate race in North Carolina has given a Native American tribe enormous leverage on a bill it has been pushing for decades." The Lumbee Tribe is "seeking a vote in the Democratic-led Senate on legislation that would give them federal recognition." Although the Lumbees "lean hard left," Paul Brooks, Lumbee tribal chairman, said the tribe is watching both Sen. Kay Hagan and North Carolina House Speaker Thom Tillis "very closely, for we do not believe in words anymore, but in what a senator does or does not do."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HOUSE HEARING ON ABUSE AT SPIRIT LAKE. Additional coverage of the hearing by the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs on child welfare at Spirit Lake was provided by PBS (6/26, 1.22M), the Jamestown (ND) Sun (6/26, 3K), the Devils Lake (ND) Journal (6/25, 14K), the Kansas City (MO) infoZine (6/26, 175), and KMOT-TV Minot, ND (6/26).

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR NATIVE AMERICANS URGED. For the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (6/26, Davis, 237K), Gary Davis, president and CEO of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, writes that the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's Reservation Economic Summit in

Washington, DC is taking place this week. He notes that "in fact, the administration recently announced several new initiatives to improve the economic situation for Native Americans and Native American businesses through some of the very agencies who are represented at this week's conference." Notably, the Interior Department has "pledged to fully implement the Buy Indian Act to increase procurement purchases by Native-owned small businesses by 10 percent."

ANALYSIS OF PROPOSAL FOR FEDERAL TRUST OF ALASKA NATIVE LAND ENCOURAGED. In an op-ed for the Anchorage (AK) Daily News (6/25, 251K), Mary Bishop examines "what happens when the US Secretary of the Interior takes lands into trust for Indian tribes." She notes that "a recent national report recommends doing so to improve social conditions in our rural Alaska villages." Bishop analyzes "some aspects to be considered when supporting or opposing the proposal to take Alaska tribal lands into trust status." She also encourages "readers to comment soon on this federal proposal 'to take land into trust for Alaska Native tribes.'"

Top National News:

MALIKI URGES IRAQIS TO UNITE AGAINST ISIL, BUT REJECTS CALL FOR NEW GOVERNMENT. Coverage of the ongoing Sunni insurgency in Iraq has dropped off a great deal from where it was at the beginning of the week. For instance, while all three network newscasts covered Iraq, none of them led with their reports, and NBC Nightly News covered the day's developments in a 15-second item with no on-the-ground reporting. Much of Wednesday's coverage emphasized Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's apparent rejection of US overtures regarding the need for a new national unity government, as well as the burgeoning "de facto alliance" of the Obama Administration, the government of Iran and the Assad regime in Syria as they all seek to arrest ISIL's momentum in Iraq.

On NBC Nightly News (6/25, story 7, 0:15, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that "ISIS militants are getting closer to Baghdad." On ABC World News (6/25, story 4, 1:20, Sawyer), correspondent Hamish MacDonald reported from Baghdad that "with the fight for Iraq moving closer to the capital...90 of America's newly deployed military advisers went to work trying to find a way to bolster Iraq's forces." MacDonald added that the campaign to stop ISIL is "bringing together perhaps of the world's most unlikely alliance," with Iran "on the same side as the US...and Syria unleashing its fire power from the air" against ISIL. But MacDonald said it is the US "that many here say must play a bigger role, and fast," although the Obama Administration is "reluctant to consider that option unless Iraq forms a new government where all factions...share power." According to MacDonald, Maliki has now "definitely ruled that out," which "means the violence...is not going to stop."

On the CBS Evening News (6/25, story 7, 1:40, Pelley, 5.08M), Clarissa Ward reported from Baghdad that "suddenly you have the US, which is also supporting the Iraqi government militarily, and even contemplating airstrikes of its own, working in a sort of de facto alliance with the dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad in Syria."

The AP (6/25) reports that on Wednesday, Maliki "rejected calls for an interim 'national salvation government' in his first public statement since" President Obama "challenged him last week to create a more inclusive leadership." The AP notes that "several politicians, including Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite who has been named as a possible contender to replace" Maliki, "have called on him to step down," but Maliki "insisted the political process must be allowed to proceed following recent national elections in which his bloc won the largest share of parliament seats." According to the AP, on Wednesday, Maliki "called on 'political forces' to close ranks in the face of the growing threat...but took no concrete steps to meet U.S. demands for greater inclusion of minority Sunnis."

McClatchy (6/26, Wise, Subscription Publication, 23K) quotes Maliki as saying, "We desperately need to take a comprehensive national stand to defeat terrorism, which is seeking to destroy our gains of democracy and freedom." According to AFP (6/26, Collinson), the Obama Administration "shrugged off" Maliki's "warning" as US officials "said they believed that Maliki was still committed to...piecing together a government on July 1, following his assurances to that effect to" Secretary of State Kerry. AFP goes on to report that "there was some uncertainty in Washington as to what Maliki was referring when he said 'the call to form a national emergency government is a coup against the constitution and the political process.'" AFP notes that on Wednesday, Kerry "said that he was not sure 'exactly what it is that he rejected or spoke to.'"

Offering a very different take on Maliki's remarks, the Washington Post (6/26, Morris, Sly, 4.22M) reported that Maliki "appeared to bow to U.S. pressure...striking a conciliatory tone as he called for political unity," and "called on political parties to lay aside differences before the first session of Iraq's newly elected parliament, expected to take place next week." The Post says Kerry "described the comments as 'precisely what the United States was encouraging.'" The Post goes on to report that Maliki was "no doubt mindful of U.S. demands" as he called for national unity in a speech that was "in contrast to his public declarations earlier in the crisis, which have appealed to religious motivations."

According to the New York Times (6/26, Rubin, Nordland, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), Maliki "criticized his political rivals but did not reject entreaties by Western leaders, including a personal visit by...Kerry, to help defuse the crisis by forming a new government with more equitable power sharing among competing groups." Under the headline "Iraq's Premier Rejects Calls For A More Broad-Based Government," the Wall Street Journal (6/26, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) quotes Kerry as saying, "In the prime minister's remarks today, he did follow through on the commitments he made in our discussions."

In an op-ed for USA Today (6/26, 5.82M), David Andelman, editor in chief of World Policy Journal, makes the case that Iraq is "at the beginning of the endgame of its existence that began more than a century ago," that the US can do "little...about it." Andelman warns that if the US intervenes militarily, as he says "we seem ever closer to doing," it "will only ensure we are defeated by the overwhelming forces of history."

Iran Is Flying Drones In Iraq, Supplying Maliki With Weapons, Intelligence. According to the New York Times (6/26, Gordon, Schmitt, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), US officials say the Iranian military is "directing surveillance drones over Iraq from an airfield in Baghdad...is secretly supplying Iraq with tons of military equipment," and "has also deployed an intelligence unit...to intercept communications." The Times goes on to report that Gen. Qassim Suleimani, the commander of the Iranian Quds Force, "has visited Iraq at least twice to help Iraqi military advisers plot strategy" as "Iranian transport planes have...been making two daily flights of military equipment and supplies to Baghdad – 70 tons per flight." The Times notes that the stepped-up Iranian military aid is happening as US military advisers help the Iraqi army battle ISIL, but, according to US officials, "the American and Iranian military moves are not coordinated."

Administration Continues To Mull Working With Iran To Save Maliki's Government. McClatchy (6/25, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that the Administration is still "considering calling Iran a potential partner in the battle against" ISIL, which means that "the combination of crisis and mutual interest might make possible what many foreign policy experts once thought unthinkable." McClatchy says the White House "apparently thinks so, too," which is why Deputy Secretary of State William Burns "discussed the Iraq situation last week with Iranian officials on the sidelines of a meeting in Vienna on Iran's nuclear program." But McClatchy adds that the "potential U.S.-Iran collaborative effort unnerves many...who worry that the Tehran government will try to extract more favorable terms in the nuclear talks in exchange for its help."

At the same time, the Wall Street Journal (6/26, Fassihi, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an article titled "Iran Debates Its Regional Role," reports that some in Iran question whether it has been worth it for the government in Tehran to have invested as much as it has propping up the Maliki government, as well as Syria's Assad regime.

Sadr Says Iraqi Army Should Not Accept Military Assistance From US. AFP (6/26, Rao) reports that Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, "whose movement long battled US forces...in Iraq," has "voiced opposition to American military advisers meeting with Iraqi commanders," and says he "only supported 'providing international support from non-occupying states for the army of Iraq.'"

Kerry Reportedly Believes Some Sunnis Might Abandon Recent Alliance With ISIL. The Wall Street Journal (6/26, Solomon, Barnes, Bradley, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an article titled "U.S. Launches Bid To Wrest Sunni Tribes From Militants," reports that Kerry thinks that some of the Sunni leaders who have aided ISIL due to their antipathy towards the Maliki government can be persuaded to break with the insurgents. According to the Journal, US officials are making Kerry's case to their counterparts in Arab countries, who are perceived to have influence with Iraq's Sunnis. The Journal notes that Kerry himself will meet foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the UAE on Thursday in Paris.

In an interview published by the Huffington Post (6/25, Robins-Early, 11.54M), Mohamad Bazzi, Newsday's former Middle East bureau chief and a former fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, said, "I think it's too early to tell whether the events of the past weeks will ultimately lead to a long-term partition of Iraq," and "an important factor will be the role of hundreds if not thousands of fighters associated with the Saddam regime that are allied with ISIS." According to Bazzi, the Baathists "seem critical to this whole operation, and possibly more critical even than ISIS because they're the link between ISIS and the local Sunnis."

The New York Times (6/26, A1, Rubin, Nordland, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports on Sunni residents of Baghdad, "who suddenly find themselves in a Shiite-dominated city threatened by extremist Sunnis...who want to kill all the Shiites." According to the Times, "Baghdad's Sunnis see sinister signs that the walls surrounding their neighborhoods, built by the Americans to protect them, could also entrap them, making them easy prey for the newly emboldened Shiite militias, some of them the same ones that executed Sunnis by the truckload" several years ago.

The Washington Post (6/26, Jaffe, 4.22M) profiles Najim Abed al Jabouri, who served as mayor of Tal Afar – which is now in the control of ISIL – until he fled Iraq for the US, where he now has a house in Woodbridge, Virginia and a son in the US Army. The Post says Najim, a Sunni, "blames the U.S. government for wrecking his country," but also "believes the United States is the only country that can fix Iraq by forcing feuding Sunni and Shiite leaders in Baghdad to form a unity government that would undermine support for the ISIS insurgency."

In an online piece for the New York Times (6/26, Rice, 9.65M) titled "In Iraq, Switching Allegiance Once Again," Blake Rice, a former US Marine who trained Iraqi forces, suggests that some of the Sunnis he trained might now be fighting alongside ISIL.

BOEHNER WILL PURSUE LAWSUIT AGAINST OBAMA OVER EXECUTIVE ACTIONS. ABC World News (6/25, story 3, 0:20, Sawyer) briefly reported that House Speaker Boehner said Wednesday that the House will "file a lawsuit against the Obama Administration because the President is using executive power to bypass Congress and change laws. Boehner insists the suit is not about impeachment." In a similarly brief report, NBC Nightly News (6/25, story 5, 0:30, Williams, 7.86M) said, "You don't see this every day." Boehner did not "specify which executive orders the lawsuit will focus on directly."

Reuters (6/26, Lawder, Ingram) reports Boehner said in a memo to House Republicans that the President's actions could give him a "king-like authority," and told reporters, "The Constitution makes it clear that the President's job is to faithfully execute the law. In my view, the President has not faithfully executed the law." Bloomberg News (6/26, Wallbank, 2.76M) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest "dismissed Boehner's plan, saying it amounts to 'a taxpayer-funded lawsuit against the president of the United States for doing his job.'"

The New York Times (6/26, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Boehner said he would take the action by introducing a bill in July that "would allow the House to file suit through the House general counsel and at the direction of the chamber's Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group." McClatchy (6/26, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) says Boehner's action comes after years of congressional GOP complaints over the President's "use of executive orders and actions over the years that have delayed enactment of some provisions of the Affordable Care Act, raised the minimum wage for federal contractors, expanded gay rights, and halted the deportation of some illegal immigrants."

Politico (6/25, French, 637K) reported that if the lawsuit does proceed, "it could take longer to work through the court than the roughly two-and-a-half years Obama will remain in office." The Washington Times (6/26, Klimas, 455K), Roll Call (6/25, Bellantoni, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 76K), and the Huffington Post (6/25, Bobic, 11.54M) also had reports.

More Commentary. The Wall Street Journal (6/26, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial headlined "Boehner Stands Up" that while critics are saying Boehner is giving in to members of the Tea Party and other House conservatives, he would be unlikely to take such a step without being convinced of its merits and on the constitutional threat of Obama's unilateral actions.

However, Dana Milbank writes in his Washington Post (6/26, 4.22M) column that "even some conservative

scholars argue that lawmakers probably don't have a legal standing for such a suit," and "the real problem with the lawsuit approach is that it misunderstands the cause of the problem: congressional dysfunction. Lawmakers, hamstrung by disagreement, have created a power vacuum, and presidents have stepped in to fill it."

OBAMA HIGHLIGHTS CLIMATE AGENDA SUCCESSES. The AP (6/26, Lederman) reports President Obama "is highlighting efforts by his administration toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions," a key agenda point of his second term, even though "some of the most ambitious steps" the President outlined last June "remain in limbo." Obama addressed the League of Conservation Voters on his efforts Wednesday. The AP says that with many of his priorities having "largely fallen victim to congressional gridlock, climate change marks a rare bright spot" where the President has been able to use executive action effectively.

Politico (6/25, Restuccia, 637K) reported the President "lit into GOP climate change skeptics" in the speech, taking aim "at Republicans for pleading ignorance on climate by saying they aren't scientists." Obama said, "I'm not a doctor either, but if a bunch of doctors tell me that tobacco can cause lung cancer, then I'll say, 'Okay.' It's not that hard."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Supreme Court Saves Cellphone Privacy."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (6/26, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) that with its "gratifyingly sweeping ruling" that police must get a warrant to search the cell phones of those that they have arrested, the Supreme Court "embraced a central reality of the digital age and protected such phones from being searched without a warrant during an arrest, except in rare circumstances."

"Thad Cochran's Debt To Mississippi." In an editorial, the New York Times (6/26, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) argues that since black voters crossed party lines to help Sen. Thad Cochran win his primary runoff, he must "return the favor by supporting a stronger Voting Rights Act and actively working to reduce his party's extreme antigovernment policies."

"David Cameron's Losing Battle." The New York Times (6/26, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that British Prime Minister David Cameron's strong opposition to Jean-Claude Juncker as EU president is "a potential turning point for the entire European project." The Times notes while Cameron "has a good case," he should "make sure that his looming defeat does not turn into an irrevocable march" toward an exit from the EU.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The Race In Maryland."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/26, Board, 4.22M) says that Maryland gubernatorial candidates Anthony Brown and Larry Hogan are "sane, sensible and experienced politicians aware that Maryland faces serious challenges in maintaining its relative prosperity." Still, the two must "add meat to the somewhat skeletal programs they are peddling."

"The Right Privacy Call." In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/26, Board, 4.22M) praises the Supreme Court's ruling that police must get a warrant to search the cell phones of those that they have arrested, and adds that the court "raised concerns" about allowing police "free access to information Americans store on remote servers in 'the cloud,'" which "suggests that the justices may have more to say about legal protections for cloud-based information, another place where analogies to old legal norms may prove inadequate."

"Snuffing Out Decriminalization." The Washington Post (6/25, 4.22M) editorializes that House Republicans, in approving "a measure that aims to stop the District [of Columbia] from decriminalizing marijuana," have "ignored the fact that an increasing number of states have taken a similar step and that two have gone so far as to legalize the drug." The Post says the District "was right to decriminalize" marijuana in a "compromise that discourages drug use but tries to mitigate the racial injustices and wrecked lives that have resulted from imprisoning marijuana users." Ironically, the Post argues, by "defunding decriminalization without removing it from the books," the House measure "could effectively legalize pot, since the District couldn't spend any funds on enforcement." The Post concludes by saying the Senate or the Obama Administration "should make clear that the local affairs of D.C. residents are best left to their locally elected officials."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Boehner Stands Up."*** The Wall Street Journal (6/26, Subscription Publication,

5.51M) says in an editorial that while critics are saying that by filing a lawsuit against the Obama Administration, House Speaker Boehner is giving in to members of the Tea Party and other House conservatives, he would be unlikely to take such a step without being convinced of its merits and on the constitutional threat of Obama's unilateral actions.

"GDP's ObamaCare Downgrade." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/26, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the Affordable Care Act played a significant role in nearly sending the nation back to recession. The Journal guesses that the chaos surrounding the rollout of the ACA's exchanges resulted in many Americans putting off their healthcare spending.

"Contract Is Upheld, World Survives." The Wall Street Journal (6/26, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that the court ruling ordering Argentina to repay its debt is significant because New York's status as the world's financial capital relies heavily on the concept that the law is applied fairly across the board.

"Smart Phones And The Fourth Amendment." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/26, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) backs the Supreme Court's ruling that police must get a warrant to search the cell phones of those that they have arrested, saying it shows that the Constitution remains able to accommodate new technologies.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Court Rejects Warrantless Cellphone Searches
Copyright Decision Cripples TV Networks' Web Rival
After Crisis, 'No' Gains More Clout At Banks
Tea Party's Poll Setbacks Don't Limit Its Clout

New York Times:
Justices, 9-0, Rule Cellphone Search Needs A Warrant
Shiite Violence Traps Sunnis In Baghdad
Iran Aids Iraq With Drones And Military Gear
In A US Court, Iraqis Accuse Blackwater Of Killings In 2007
For Many Mormon Athletes, Mission Is To Play
Blacks Regain Sway At Polls In Mississippi

Washington Post:
Fighting Iraq's Battle From Half A World Away
Justices Limit Phone Searches
Win For Traditional TV, Setback For Streaming
Illnesses Cast A Spotlight On Samsung
A Victory For Gay Marriage In Utah
A Spirited Start To Hogan's Uphill Battle Against Brown

Financial Times:
Supreme Court Rules Aereo Is Illegal
Winter And Healthcare Hit US Growth
Google Takes 'Wearables' Battle To Apple
Fed Warns Banks They Face Tougher Tests
Barnes & Noble To Spin Off Nook Business
Hanes Secures Global Wonderbra Rights
Reasons To Be Cheerful, Despite Shrinkage Of The US Economy

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: NFL-Concussion Settlement; SCOTUS-Cell Phone Privacy Ruling; Obama Administration-Boehner Lawsuit;

Iraq Conflict; Extreme Weather; Minnesota-School Bombing Plot; Arkansas-Inmate Escapes; North Korea-Hollywood Controversy; Review Websites Warning.
CBS: SCOTUS-Cell Phone Privacy Ruling; SCOTUS-Aereo Ruling; Economic Growth Report; Extreme Weather; Mississippi-GOP Primary Results; New York-Democratic Primary Results; Iraq Conflict-Syria, Iran; Syrian Civil War; Immigrant Children; NFL-Concussion Settlement; Technology-Parking Space App.
NBC: SCOTUS-Cell Phone Privacy, Aereo Rulings; GM Recalls; Extreme Weather; Minnesota-School Bomb Plot Investigation; Obama Administration-Boehner Lawsuit; Mississippi-GOP Primary Results; Iraq Conflict; Nigeria-Mall Bombing; Italy-Pope Francis Sighting; Drones-Privacy Concerns; Obama Daily Schedule Mistake; Washington Redskins Controversy; New York-Elderly Thief Arrested.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Malaysia Flight Search; NFL-Concussion Settlement; Iraq Conflict-Iran, Syria; Boston-Dozens Hospitalized After Concert; SCOTUS-Aereo Ruling.
CBS: SCOTUS-Cell Phone Privacy Ruling; SCOTUS-Aereo Ruling; Immigrant Children-Swine Flu Child Discovered; Kerry-Iraq Trip; Bowe Bergdahl Update; Boston-Dozens Hospitalized After Concert.
FOX: Iraq-Unity Government Plan Rejected; GM Recalls; Mississippi-GOP Primary Election Results; Asian Stock Market; Kentucky-Sinkhole Preserved; Wall Street; Bowe Bergdahl Update; Binge Viewing Survey.
NPR: Obama Administration-Boehner Lawsuit; Utah-Same-Sex Marriage Ruling; Census Bureau-Median Age Report; SCOTUS-Aereo Ruling; SCOTUS-Cell Phone Privacy Ruling; Google-Smart Watches; NFL-Concussion Settlement.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; departs the White House en route Joint Base Andrews, South Lawn, open press; departs Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, open press; hosts a town hall, Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis, Minnesota, open to pre-credentialed media; delivers remarks and answers questions at a DCCC Event, print pool for remarks only. Notes: Press Secretary Josh Earnest will gaggle aboard Air Force One en route Minneapolis, MN.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will attend the Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony for President Shimon Peres of Israel. This event in the US Capitol is pooled press. The Vice President will attend the Sixth Annual Lantos Human Rights Prize Ceremony for President Peres. This event in the Cannon Building is open press.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. – The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. Thereafter, Senators proceed to executive session to consider nominations.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL – PERES – 10 a.m. Leaders of the US House and Senate will present a Congressional Gold Medal to Israeli President Shimon Peres. Location: Rotunda, United States Capitol. Notes: All TV crews with equipment may access the Rotunda as early as 7:00 a.m. for set up on the press riser. All TV crews must have equipment in place by 8:00 a.m. for the security sweep in the Rotunda.

IMMIGRATION VOTE ANNIVERSARY – 11:30 a.m. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and House and Senate Democratic Leaders will hold a press conference marking the one-year anniversary of the bipartisan passage of comprehensive immigration reform in the Senate. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JUDICIARY – 9:30 a.m. Full committee Executive Business Meeting. Bills: S. 2454, Satellite Television Access Reauthorization Act of 2014; S. 517, Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act. Matters: S.J. Res. 19, A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections. Location: 226 Dirksen.

FINANCE – 10 a.m. Open Executive Session to consider a Chairman's Mark entitled, "The Preserving American's Transit and Highways Act." Location: 215 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS – 10 a.m. Full Committee Hearing – Sexual Assault on Campus: Working to Ensure Student Safety. Location: 430 Dirksen.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION – 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Tourism, Competitiveness, and Innovation hearing titled "The State of US Travel and Tourism: Government Efforts to Attract 100 Million Visitors Annually." Location: 253 Russell.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 2 p.m. Nominations: Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development & United States Director of the African Development Bank. Location: 419 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE – 2:30 p.m. Closed mark-up. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 9 a.m. – The House will meet for legislative business, with first/last votes expected 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Complete Consideration of H.R. 4899, "Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014."

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IMMIGRATION REFORM – 10 a.m. Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez will host a press conference to discuss plans with a July 4 deadline for House movement on immigration expiring. With Members of Congress and advocates from pro-immigrant and pro-reform organizations including the Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM) and NCLR (the National Council of La Raza). Location: 2226 Rayburn. Contacts: Douglas Rivlin, douglas.rivlin@mail.house.gov, 202-225-8203

IMMIGRATION VOTE ANNIVERSARY – 11:30 a.m. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and House and Senate Democratic Leaders will hold a press conference marking the one-year anniversary of the bipartisan passage of comprehensive immigration reform in the Senate. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 9 a.m. Markup: H.R. 4347, H.R. 4411, H.R. 4640, H.R. 4653, H.R. 2283, H.Res. 435, H.Res. 588 and H.Res. 562. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY – 9 a.m. Joint subcommittee hearing: Subcommittee on Research and Technology (Committee on Science, Space, and Technology); Subcommittee on Oversight (Committee on Science, Space, and Technology) hearing on Technology for Patient Safety at Veterans Hospitals. Witnesses: Dr. Elaine Cox, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Director of Infection Prevention, Director of Pediatric Antimicrobial Stewardship, Riley Hospital for Children; Dr. Chetan Jinadatha, Chief, Infectious Diseases, Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System; Morris Miller, Chief Executive Officer, Xenex Disinfection Services; Dr. Trish M. Perl, Professor of Medicine and Pathology, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; Professor of Epidemiology, Bloomberg School of Public Health; Senior Epidemiologist, Johns Hopkins Medicine; Jeff Smith, President, Electro-spec, Inc. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL SERVICES – 9:15 a.m. Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee, "Oversight of the SEC's Division of Trading and Markets." Location: 2128 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY – 9:30 a.m. Over-Criminalization Task Force: Collateral Consequences. Location: 2237 Rayburn.

SMALL BUSINESS – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade, "The New Domestic Energy Paradigm: Downstream Challenges for Small Energy Businesses." Location: 2360 Rayburn.

SMALL BUSINESS – 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade holds a hearing titled "The New

Domestic Energy Paradigm: Downstream Challenges for Small Energy Businesses." This hearing will examine how the growing rate of domestic crude oil production may soon exceed the processing capacity of the refining sector and the impact this imbalance may have on small businesses in the energy industry and the broader economy. Location: 2360 Rayburn.
Other: QUEEN OF SWEDEN – WORLD CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION – June 25 – 26. Her Majesty Queen Silvia and Her Royal Highness Princess Madeleine of Sweden visit Washington to further the work of World Childhood Foundation, founded by Queen Silvia in 1999. The trip will include visits to organizations working with child protection; a reception on Capitol Hill with stakeholders who work to improve the lives and health of children across the world; a panel discussion on child protection at the Embassy of Sweden; and the Thank You Festival, a concert created in partnership with The Global Poverty Project (GPP). Notes: For more information on H.M. Queen Silvia and H.R.H. Princess Madeleine's trip to Washington, D.C., to request an interview, and for all additional media inquiries, please contact: Leah Nelson: nelson@sunshinesachs.com, 202-280-2398. Swedish media should also direct their requests to: Kate Reuterswdrd: kate@prcollaborative.com, 202-339-9598. CO: World Childhood Foundation; Thank You by Childhood; Global Poverty Project.

LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE – PRESIDENT PERES – 11:30 a.m. The Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice hosts the Sixth Annual Presentation of the Lantos Human Rights Prize to Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel. Vice President Joe Biden will present the prize, the foundation's highest honor. Location: Cannon Caucus Room, Cannon House Office Building. Contacts: RSVP to 202-265-3000

RESERVATION ECONOMIC SUMMIT – June 24 – 26. Native American business leaders are in Washington, D.C. for the Reservation Economic Summit (RES D.C.) hosted by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. NW. Contacts: Lewis Lowe, 706-302-8404.

MORTGAGE BANKERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE – June 25 – 27. The MBA's 2014 Strategic Markets and Diversity Conference. Speakers iclude: Congresswoman Maxine Waters, (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee; The Honorable Henry G. Cisneros, Founder and Chairman, City View. Location: Westin Washington City Center, 1400 M St. NW. Notes: All conference events are open to the media and press credentials must be obtained in advance. To apply for press credentials please contact: Rob Van Raaphorst, (202) 557-2799, rvanraaphorst@mba.org.

NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER – CHANGING ARCTIC – 7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. 2014 Henry Bacon Breakfast Seminar: "Security Challenges in a Changing Arctic" featuring Norwegian Defense Minister Ine Eriksen Sxreide and US Senator Angus King. Location: Army and Navy Club, Farragut Square, 901 17th St. NW. Contacts: Urd Milbury (Norwegian Embassy), 202-469-3957

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – DC WATERFRONT – 8 a.m. The DC Chamber of Commerce hosts the 2014 Economic Forum "DC Waterfront: The New Sports Destination." Tom Sherwood of NBC4 heads a panel that will delve into the economic impact DC's Waterfront has on the entire city and its residents. Location: Carnegie Library , 801 K St. NW.

CPSC – FIREWORKS DANGERS – 9:30 a.m. Before Independence Day celebrations begin nationwide, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging consumers to use fireworks safely. CPSC will release new statistics about fireworks-related fatalities and injuries, and will demonstrate the consequences of improper fireworks use. Speakers: Acting Chairman Bob Adler, US Consumer Product Safety Commission; Representative from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Location: On the Washington Monument lawn area in Washington, D.C. (corner of 15th Street and Constitution Avenue), across from the White House Ellipse. The nearest metro station is Smithsonian. Contacts: (301) 504-7908

STIMSON – US DRONE POLICY – 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. High-Level National Security Task Force To Release Recommendations On US Drone Policy. Location: The White/Murrow/Lisagor Room; National Press Club, 529 14th Street, NW.

EPA – ENVIRONMNENT SUMMIT – 11:30 a.m. US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy will deliver remarks to 200 high school students participating in George Mason University's Washington Youth Summit on the Environment program. Location: Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, George

Mason University, Fairfax, VA. Contacts: n/a, press@epa.gov

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS – 11:30 a.m. Carrie Anderson, associate chief of the NASA Goddard Planetary System Laboratory, will present "Titan: Exploring the Similarities Between Saturns Exotic Moon and the Primordial Earth." Anderson will discuss what was learned about Titan from NASAs flagship Cassini mission. Press contact: Donna Urschel (202) 707-1639, durschel@loc.gov. Location: Mary Pickford Theater, Library of Congress.

DEMOCRATIC LEADER PELOSI – LUNCHEON – 12 p.m. National Partnership for Women & Families 2014 Annual Luncheon, honoring House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, who will deliver a featured address. Location: International Ballroom, Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW. Notes: Media must have valid press credential and are encouraged to RSVP in advance to Sadie Kliner at 202-986-2600 or skliner@nationalpartnership.org

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ROUNDTABLE – 1 p.m. US Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick hosts a media roundtable, "The State of the Civil Works Infrastructure." Location: 441 G Street NW.

CARBON DIOXIDE – ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY – 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Experts from industry, labor, and environmental groups join the National Enhanced Oil Recovery Initiative (NEORI) to discuss how using captured carbon dioxide for enhanced oil recovery can benefit US energy production, the economy, and the environment. Speakers include: former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo.; former Sen. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark.; Thomas Altmeyer, Vice President, Government Affairs, Arch Coal; Hunter Johnston, Counsel, Leucadia Energy; Brad Markell, Executive Director, Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO; John Steelman, Climate Program Manager, Natural Resources Defense Council; Brad Crabtree, Vice President, Fossil Energy, Great Plains Institute; and Patrick Falwell, Solutions Fellow, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. Location: 385 Russell. Notes: To RSVP, please contact Laura Rehrmann, rehrmannl@c2es.org, 703-516-0621.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – AFGHANISTAN – 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. The Atlantic Council hosts a conversation on "Afghanistan: A Peaceful Transfer of Power in Jeopardy," with Ronald E. Neumann, former US ambassador to Afghanistan, president of the American Academy of Diplomacy; and David S. Sedney, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia. Moderated by Shuja Nawaz, director, South Asia Center, Atlantic Council. Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St. NW, 12th Floor. Contacts: press@AtlanticCouncil.org, 202-778-4993

CLIMATE CHANGE – LATINO COMMUNITY – 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and national Latino leaders hold an online discussion on the impact carbon pollution and climate are having on Latino communities throughout the US. They'll discuss federal and local policies intended to minimize the worst of those climate change impacts. The Google+ Hangout discussion will be hosted by Voces Verdes (vocesverdes.org/voces-in-action).. Contacts: Adrianna Quintero (aquintero@nrdc.org), 415-722-9444. Pam Rivera (privera@nrdc.org), 407-310-0630.

SECRETARY LEW – HMA SUMMIT – 4:45 p.m. US Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew will deliver closing remarks at the Making Home Affordable (MHA) Fifth Anniversary Summit. During his remarks, the Secretary will announce additional policies to assist struggling homeowners, provide more affordable housing options for renters, and expand access to credit for borrowers.. Location: US Department of the Treasury Department, The Cash Room, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – MILIBAND – 6 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. The Rt. Hon. David Miliband: 2014 Christopher J. Makins Lecture. A discussion with the Right Honorable David Miliband, President and CEO, International Rescue Committee and former British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Moderated by Mr. David Igantius, Associate Editor and Columnist, Washington Post. RSVP to press@atlanticcouncil.org by June 20. Location: The British Ambassador's Residence, 3100 Massachusetts Ave, NW.

TORTURE AWARENESS MONTH EVENT – 6 p.m. June is Torture Awareness Month, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture is providing local congregations and faith organizations resources and activities to honor survivors of torture, "Exposing the Truth of US Torture: Restoring Human Dignity." Witnesses:

Imam Mohamed Magid, Imam, ADAMS Center; Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, Founder & Chair, KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights; member, The Constitution Projects Task Force on Detainee Treatment; Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering, former US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; member, The Constitution Projects Task Force on Detainee Treatment; Rev. Ron Stief, Executive Director, National Religious Campaign Against Torture. CONTACT: Samantha Friedman, West End Strategy Team Office: (202) 776-7700; cell: (202) 215-9260 or Samantha@westendstrategy.com. Location: 1420 16th Street, NW. Notes: There was a similar event held on the 6th in Virginia.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Stephen Colbert: "Nation, President Barack Obama has been one big national disgrace. First, it was the embarrassing mom jeans. Then there was the embarrassing mom blouse and the embarrassing mom hairdo. Then there was the embarrassing realization that I was looking at a photo of my mom. Thanks a lot, Obama. Folks, his biggest blunder yet came at a recent visit to a Chipotle. [Shows photo of Obama reaching over sneeze guard at Chipotle] ... This proves that Obama cares nothing about border security."

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BISON CONNECT

Re: Lander is signed!

Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jun 26, 2014 at 1:19 PM
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Cc: Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Steven A Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, Dan Ashe <D_M_Ashe@fws.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Bean <Michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, James Lyons <Jim_lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Kate P Kelly <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Bret Birdsong <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>, Ted Boling <Ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>, Donald A Simpson <dsimpson@blm.gov>, Edwin Roberson <eroberso@blm.gov>, Amy L Lueders <alueders@blm.gov>, Kathryn Stangl <kstangl@blm.gov>, Gary Frazer <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Elizabeth A Klein <Elizabeth_Klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, "jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Dear sage grouse team -

Yahoo to all of you! I know this has been a long time coming, but as the first plan, it was important to make sure we were very thoughtful. Thank you for your hard work and perseverance - it is one important step forward in our ambitious plan to save the sage grouse and other species dependent on this habitat. I also really appreciate the partnership developed with the state of Wyoming and the leadership of Governors Mead and Freudenthal in stepping forward with executive actions to support the species' recovery.

I hope you take a minute to celebrate this important milestone on our accelerating and important journey!

Cheers,

Sally

> On Jun 26, 2014, at 12:09 PM, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov> wrote:
>
> My sincere thanks to all of the incredible folks (on this email and
> well beyond) that got us to this important landmark. Great work,
> team!
>
> Neil

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, June 27, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Jun 27, 2014 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES USGS REPORT ON CARBON STORAGE. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Wednesday announced a new USGS report that "reinforced its earlier findings that forests, not farms, are America's biggest carbon sink." Jewell called it a "landmark study" that "provides yet another reason for being good stewards of our lands and waters." USGS Director Suzette Kimball said, "Biological sequestration may not be able to offset greenhouse gas emissions nearly as effectively when these ecosystems are impaired."

The UPI (6/27) reports that the assessment finds that the East stores more carbon than all of the rest of the lower 48 states combined even though it has fewer than 40 percent of the land base. The article notes that "wetlands, which cover 9 percent of the eastern United States, accounted for about 13 percent of the carbon sequestration," and "agricultural areas cover 31 percent of the eastern part of the country and stores 4 percent, the study finds."

The Feedstuffs (6/27) reports along with the national assessment, the USGS also "released a new web tool that allows users to see the land and water carbon storage and change in their ecosystems between 2005 and 2050 in the lower 48 states."

Also providing coverage are the Geo Community (6/26) and the Air Resources Board (CA) (6/26).

House Holds Hearing On Grazing And Carbon Sequestration. Meanwhile, the E&E Daily (6/26) reports that the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation explored how improved grazing practices on public lands might help sequester carbon. The article notes that the "hearing was marked by little partisanship and hewed mostly to the scientific merit of using cows to transform rangelands into better sponges of CO2."

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES DOWNLISTING OF WOOD STORK. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced on Thursday the downlisting of the wood stork to threatened status, emphasizing the move as an example of the success of the Endangered Species Act. Jewell used the decision to highlight ESA as an "effective tool to protect and recover imperiled wildlife from the brink of extinction." She said, "From the Cyprus swamps of Georgia, to the inland waterways of Florida, wetlands and their wildlife are emblematic of the American Southeast. Through important conservation partnerships, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is working to rebuild a healthy wetland ecosystem, which, in turn, is helping restore the wood stork's habitat, double its population since its original listing and keep the bird moving in the right direction toward recovery."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (6/27, Bynum), Reuters (6/27), the Miami Herald (6/27, Staletovich, 822K), the Naples (FL) Daily News (6/26, 167K), the Florida Times-Union (6/26, 449K), the Palm Beach (FL) Post (6/27, 280K), the State (SC) (6/26, 299K), the Marietta (GA) Daily Journal (6/27, 56K), The Chattanoogan (6/27, 12K), the South Florida Sun Sentinel (6/26, 779K), the Savannah (GA) Morning News (6/26, 226K),

WGCU-FM Fort Myers, FL (6/27), WJCL-TV Savannah, GA (6/26, 2K), and WJCL-TV Savannah, GA (6/26, 2K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (6/27, 4.22M), Fox News (6/26, 6.72M), USA Today (6/26, 5.82M), ABC News (6/27, 3.58M), CBS News (6/27, 5.21M), the Newser (6/27, 260K), the Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (6/26, 210K), the Houston Chronicle (6/27, Bynum, 2.23M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/26, 687K), the Boston Globe (6/26, 1.62M), the Longview (TX) News-Journal (6/27, 69K), the Erie (PA) Times-News (6/27, 149K), the Omaha (NE) World-Herald (6/27, 530K), and WFOR-TV Miami (6/26, 31K).

Additional coverage was provided by the Center for Biological Diversity (6/27), the ENews Park Forest (6/27, 2K), and the Got News Wire (6/27).

SECRETARY JEWELL MEETS HARRIS NECK LAND TRUST MEMBERS. The Florida Times-Union (6/26, 449K) reports that "members of the Harris Neck Land Trust met Thursday with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the head of the agency that owns land they assert is rightfully theirs." Jewell "met more than half an hour with members of

the land trust and took away information on the Hamis Neck Land Trust and its claims," according to Wilson Moran, "a land trust member whose family was displaced during World War II." According to Moran, Jewell was "guarded in her responses and made no promises."

INTERIOR AWARDS $4.5 MILLION IN GRANTS TO REMOVE AGING DAMS. The Taunton (MA) Gazette (6/26, Winokoor, 36K) reports that "Taunton is one of nine municipalities that will receive a portion of $4.5 million in grant money from the US Department of the Interior to remove aging and potentially hazardous dams in the commonwealth." The article notes that "another $240,000 for other projects has been allocated by the DOI for the state's Department of Fish and Game's Division of Marine Fisheries."

SENATE CONFIRMS ESTHER KIAAINA AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (6/27, 402K) reports that the Senate has voted unanimously to confirm Hawaii's Esther Kiaaina's nomination to serve as assistant secretary for Insular Areas at the Department of Interior.

Also providing coverage are the "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (6/27, Marcos, 237K), the Big Island (HI) Now (6/26), the Honolulu Civil Beat (6/27, 41), the Hawaii Reporter (6/27, 8K), the Hawaii Independent (6/27), the Pacific News Center (6/27), the Pacific News Center (6/27), the Pacific Business News (6/26, Subscription Publication, 53K), and the Pacific (GUM) Daily News (6/27, 61K).

SENATE CONFIRMS VINCE LOGAN TO RUN OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE. The Nation Sun News (6/27) reports that the Senate voted on Thursday to confirm Vince Logan as the leader of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "As an investment professional, a mentor for Native American attomeys, and a member of the Osage Nation, Vince has been deeply rooted in Indian Country for many decades. His asset management expertise, legal experience and extensive network of professional relationships in Indian Country will well serve the Office of Special Trustee and the Department of the Interior as we work to build a stronger and more responsive trust asset management system for the nation's First Americans. I am pleased the Senate voted to confirm him to this leadership post at Interior."

SENATE PANEL ADVANCES REPORT-SLASHING BILL. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that "a bill to kill a slew of outdated federal reports across the government sailed through a Senate committee yesterday." H.R. 4194, the "Government Reports Elimination Act," would "put a stop to studies that are seen as obsolete." According to the article, "that includes an annual Interior Department report on a royalty-in-kind program that was discontinued in 2009 and a Department of Homeland Security study on the illegal importation of dog and cat fur products that is done annually, even though only one violation has been found in the past five years."

Additional coverage of the of Management and Budget's identification of unnecessary agency reports was provided by the Government Executive (6/27, 28K) and the Fierce Government (6/27, 224).

SEN. MURKOWSKI PRESSES OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO BOOST FOCUS ON ENERGY INDUSTRY'S WATER USE. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski pressed the Obama Administration on Wednesday "to boost its focus on addressing challenges with the energy industry's thirst for vulnerable water resources." During a hearing of the Water and Power Subcommittee, Energy and Interior department officials "touted the agencies' efforts at addressing 'energy-water nexus' issues, which has become a buzz term among policy circles." However, Nicole Carter, Congressional Research Service policy expert, said "federal actions to coordinate and address related issues 'have been limited' and the impact of others 'remains to be seen.'" The article notes that Murkowski is "pushing a bill to create a federal mechanism to respond to energy-water problems, including boosting cooperation."

SEN. REID URGED TO HOLD VOTE ON BIPARTISAN DISASTER FUNDING BILL. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that "more than a dozen senators, most of them Democrats and from the West," on Thursday urged Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell "to hold a vote on a bipartisan bill to reform how the nation budgets for wildfires." The letter "spearheaded" by Sens. Ron Wyden and Mike Crapo "urges action on their bill S. 1875, which seeks to prevent the Forest Service from running out of wildfire suppression funding and siphoning cash from other programs." The letter signed by all 14 of the bill's sponsors urges the leaders to consider the measure in "any upcoming appropriate legislative vehicle."

OFFICIALS SAY EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE COULD CONDUCT TRAINING MISSIONS IN FLORIDA STATE

FORESTS. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that Air Force officials claim that Eglin Air Force Base has grown to be "overcrowded, and they have made an unprecedented request to conduct regular, frequent ground training in two nearby Florida state forests." According to the article, "dozens of special forces troops, the type of elite soldiers leading the fight against terrorism, along with heavy trucks, helicopters, airplanes, smoke grenades and thousands of paintballs, would enter the forests as often as 232 days a year." Moreover, "federal and state officials say this is just the beginning, with plans to stage war games in woodlands all across Florida and perhaps other states in coming years."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HOLDS HEARINGS IN HAWAII. Additional coverage of the public hearings being held on Native Hawaii self-governance was provided by the Hawaii Free Press (6/27) and the Hawaii Independent (6/27).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PLANS TO EXPAND PACIFIC REMOTE ISLANDS MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage of the plans to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument was provided by the Hawaii Independent (6/27).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PHOTO OF FATHER AND SON AT ARCHES NATIONAL PARK. Additional coverage of the posting of James Geier and his son at Arches National Park by the Interior Department on Instagram was provided by the Deseret (UT) News (6/27, 610K).

LGBT INITIATIVE LAUDED. For the Gay City News (6/27, 35), Amin Ghaziani, an associate professor of sociology at the University of British Columbia, writes that "on behalf of the National Park Service, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell recently announced plans for an unprecedented study of LGBT history." He says that the decision by the NPS "to commemorate places of significance to LGBT history, many of which are located in gay neighborhoods, comes at an opportune time."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS SAYS DRONES COULD DISTURB WILDLIFE. The AP (6/27) reports that "a short video shot inside Denali National Park from a camera mounted on a drone shows the potential for how the unmanned devices could bother wildlife or people watching it, according to a park spokeswoman." Kris Fister said, "They were in the Savage River parking lot and they flew up and provided an overview of the area and then at one point the aircraft zoomed down, flew right over the nest enclosure that we have for the mew gulls that nest on the gravel bar and flew under the Savage River bridge. So that's an instance where certainly there was high potential for wildlife disturbance and potentially disturbance to visitors who are also utilizing that parking lot."

Also reporting on the story is the Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (6/27, 44K).

BILL SEEKS TO MOVE OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT CLOSER TO NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION. The Macon (GA) Telegraph (6/26, 184K) reports that "a new bipartisan bill could help the Ocmulgee National Monument move significantly closer to becoming a national park." The proposed legislation, called the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2014, would "expand the park's acreage from about 700 acres to more than 2,000 acres and would change the name of the monument to the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park." The article notes that "perhaps most importantly, the bill would authorize a study about further expansion of the park between Macon and Hawkinsville."

FORT RENO CONCERT SERIES CANCELED FOR SUMMER. In its "Going Out Guide" blog, the Washington Post (6/27, Richards, 4.22M) reports that "the District's annual concert series at Fort Reno Park will go dark for the first summer in decades." According to a statement from concert series organizer Amanda MacKaye, the NPS and the U.S. Park Police "asked Fort Reno organizers to pay for an officer to be posted on site at each concert." But "that cost would 'literally double the VERY small budget of the concert series...' MacKaye wrote."

The Washington City Paper (6/26, 862K) reports that the NPS said it and USPP are "reviewing the details of previous permits and previous law enforcement needs related to the concert series."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Post, WRC-TV Washington (6/27, 312K), and the DCist (6/27, 21K).

NPS' "TRASH-FREE PARKS" CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO BACKFIRING. WTTG-TV Washington (6/27, 169K) reports that a program by the NPS "aimed at removing garbage cans seems to be backfiring." According to the article, "when the National Park Service first started pulling garbage cans out of some of the most popular parks in northern Virginia, the hope was that people would take the hint and start taking their garbage back to their homes." But "it turns out though, for many, that message hasn't been delivered."

FLOODING, ROCKFALLS STRAND MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE IN DENALI NATIONAL PARK. The AP (6/27) reports that "officials have closed the only road that goes into Denali National Park and Preserve at the Eielson Visitor Center because of flooding and rock falls, marooning some guests and employees." According to park spokeswoman Kris Fister, "overnight rains turned small streams into raging torrents," and "then later Thursday, the road was closed at the Eielson Visitor Center because of falling rock at nearby Eielson Bluffs." Fister said "some guests and employees at private lodges in Kantishna, and more than 12 park employees, are marooned at the western end of the park road, but everyone's safe."

The AP (6/27) reports that "officials have organized an airlift for dozens of lodge guests and lodge employees at Denali National Park and Preserve after flooding hit one lodge and flooding and rockfalls prompted the closure of the only road into the park on Thursday."

Also reporting on the story is KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK (6/27, 4K).

WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARKS FACE BUDGET CHALLENGES. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/26, 687K) reports that the shutdown of the federal government last year "spotlighted the difficulties national parks face in times of uncertain funding, including a nationwide maintenance backlog of more than $11 billion." The article notes that "each of Washington's three biggest national parks face challenges from what North Cascades National Park Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich calls years of 'general budget erosion.'"

SMOKY MOUNTAINS PROVIDE SCENIC AND SCIENTIFIC APPEAL. The Tennessean (6/26, 414K) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park is "the nation's most visited," and is "one of the top three in the National Park Service system for research." The article notes that "the park has about 170 active research permits and is at the forefront of studying the effects of climate change on the environment." According to the article, "from government agencies such as NASA to universities and even schoolchildren and volunteers, all are on the ground in the Smokies helping conduct research."

NPS DOCUMENT LAYS OUT SCOPE OF FORT MONROE NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (6/26, 206K) reports that on Thursday, the NPS "released a partial draft a 'Fort Monroe National Monument Foundation Document' — an outline of goals and plans for the 325-acre monument based on discussions it has held privately with scholars, local residents and planners." Susan Spain, an NPS landscape architect said that the document "talks about why we do things and what we're protecting." The NPS will "continue working with scholars and the public to discover more detail about the property and the stories that need be told there."

NPS SUPPORTS "ROCKAWAY!". The New York Times (6/27, Ryzik, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "put together in just a few months, Rockaway!...begins on Sunday and runs through Sept. 1, with a full schedule that includes installations and photography" by Patti Smith, "an immersive sound piece by Janet Cardiff and sculpture by the Argentine artist Adrián Villar Rojas in and around Fort Tilden, and a satellite exhibition of art at Rockaway Beach Surf Club." The article notes that "it represents an unusually nimble partnership between the transplants, Ms. Smith and Mr. Biesenbach, and the local occupants: the long-running Rockaway Artists Alliance, the National Park Service and the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy."

COUNTRY SINGER DOREEN TAYLOR PROMOTES NATIONAL PARKS. Fox News (6/26, 6.72M) reports that country star Doreen Taylor has written "a song and created a video to celebrate the National Park Service, 'Colors of the U.S.A.'" the article notes that "sales of 'Colors of the U.S.A.,' will benefit the National Park Conservation Association (NPCA)."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM: NO MONEY, ROOM FOR MORE MUSTANG ROUNDUPS. The AP (6/27, Sonner) reports that "saying they don't have money or room to corral many more wild horses, federal land managers have sided with horse advocates in calling for the dismissal of a lawsuit demanding acceleration of roundups." The motion filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Reno targets the suit by the Nevada Association of Counties and Nevada Farm Bureau Federation. Lawyers for the BLM "emphasized the agency has broad discretion to manage federal land as it sees fit, and agreed with the ranchers' contention that current herds are overpopulated and threaten the ecological integrity of the range." However, "they said BLM is hamstrung by budget cuts, and a congressional ban on the sale of excess horses for slaughter has pushed their holding facilities to the brink of capacity."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/26, 687K), the Salem (OR) Capital Press (6/26, 113K), and the Santa Fe New Mexican (6/27, 58K). Also reporting on the story is the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (6/27, 22K).

Commentary. The East Oregonian (6/27, 24K) gives "a kick in the pants to the Bureau of Land Management, who said they do not have money or room to corral the wild horses running roughshod over the West."

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/27, 470K) editorializes that "the feds are being petitioned to list the horses as an endangered species, an argument that relies on a fossil record of Pleistocene mustangs." It notes that "the range managers at the Bureau of Land Management aren't buying that, but it will be the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that decides." The paper concludes that "only a meeting of the nation's hearts and heads about wild horses will drive a solution."

BILL INTRODUCED TO CLARIFY OWNERSHIP OF RED RIVER LAND. The Breitbart (6/26, 356K) reports that Rep. Thornberry has introduced the Red River Private Property Protection Act (H.R 4979) "to clarify ownership of the land along the Red River boundary between Texas and Oklahoma." Thornberry has asked the House Resources Committee to hold "a hearing on the bill as soon as possible and he believes it could move forward as quickly as next month." BLM spokesman Paul McGuire said, "BLM is aware of the proposal, and we're eager to work with Congressional leaders and other stakeholders to address and resolve the important land use and ownership issues raised by our planning efforts along the Red River. We've been reaching out to landowners and elected officials at multiple meetings since concluding our formal scoping phase earlier this year, and all parties are motivated to work together."

BLM ALLOWS CONTRACTS WITH UTAH COUNTY SHERIFFS TO LAPSE. The Talking Points Memo (6/27, 223K) reports that "alongside all the BLM-related controversy in the West, the BLM has allowed its contracts with five Utah county sheriff offices to expire over the past year or so." The bureau "says that the move is wholly unrelated to any of broader disagreements over federal authority, which gained national attention since the Bundy Ranch standoff in Nevada." However, "the Utah county sheriffs believe otherwise." BLM spokeswoman Megan Crandal said that "the expired contracts were 'absolutely and unequivocally' unrelated to any other issues." The bureau has "concerns about the contracts' 'deliverables' – which are the specific services (and the accompanying documentation) that the county sheriffs are supposed to provide, she said."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ENDANGERED RAZORBACK SUCKERS DISCOVERED SPAWNING IN GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK. The Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (6/26, 147K) reports that the Interior Department has announced that "researchers recently discovered Razorback suckers (Xyrauchen texanus), an endangered fish species, spawning in the lower Colorado River within Grand Canyon National Park." The article notes that "the detection of larval Razorback suckers, believed to have been missing from the Grand Canyon since the 1990s, provides evidence that these fish may be naturally reproducing in an area where the species has not been seen in over 20 years." Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle said, "The discovery that the Razorback suckers are spawning in the national park far upstream from Lake Mead is good news for this endangered species. It is also a demonstration of the power of the partnership among Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey, who have worked for recovery of this species side-by-

side with Arizona state officials, Indian tribes, private landowners and researchers."

ALASKA PURSUES LAWSUIT OVER REFUGE LAND CLOSURES. The AP (6/27, Bohrer) reports that "arguments are scheduled for July in Alaska's ongoing legal fight over the closure of national wildlife refuges during the partial shutdown of the federal government last year." The lawsuit claims "the closure of refuge land during the shutdown violated provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (6/27, 857K) and the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (6/26, 18K).

FWS SAYS SELKIRK MOUNTAIN CARIBOU ARE A DISTINCT POPULATION. The AP (6/27) reports at an open house in Sandpoint, Idaho, FWS officials argued that "the South Selkirk caribou herd deserves protection as a distinct population under the Endangered Species Act." Bryon Holt, a fish and wildlife biologist supervisor, at the open house, said, "This is the last, remnant caribou herd in the Lower 48. It has unique behavioral traits that we'd hate to lose from the landscape."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (6/27, 455K) and the Columbus (IN) Republic (6/27, 81K).

FWS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON SNAKE BAN PROPOSAL. The AP (6/27) reports that the FWS is "seeking more public comment on a proposal to add five types of giant snakes to an existing federal python ban." Officials have "proposed adding boa constrictors, reticulated pythons and three species of anacondas to the ban that already prohibits anyone from importing Burmese pythons, yellow anacondas and northern and southern African pythons into the US or transporting them across state lines."

JUDGE SETS 2018 DEADLINE FOR EFFORT TO SAVE LYNX. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that a federal judge on Wednesday accepted a 2018 deadline proposed by the FWS "for the government to finish a recovery plan for the Canada lynx in the contiguous United States." Although US District Judge Donald Molloy said the agency's "stutter-step" approach "necessitated court intervention," he said "he was reluctant to second-guess officials with tight budgets and competing priorities."

For the Durango (CO) Herald (6/25, 28K), Dan Olson, executive director of the San Juan Citizens Alliance, claims that the FWS "is supposed to care about lynx, but doesn't."

ARGUMENTS HEARD ON MONTANA PLAN TO EXPAND LOGGING ON GRIZZLY, BULL TROUT HABITAT. The Missoulian (MT) (6/27, 122K) reports that "a state plan to expand logging on school trust lands would ruin crucial habitat for grizzly bears and bull trout near Whitefish, attorneys argued in federal court Thursday." The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation "wants to increase its revenue from about 550,000 acres of state land scattered across the western half of the state." The state "seeks a 50-year 'incidental take' permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that would forgive any loss of bears or fish because of logging or road-building in that area."

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN SMUGGLING RHINO HORNS TO CHINA. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that "a Texas man pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday to helping smuggle $1 million worth of rhinoceros horns and other illicit wildlife products from the United States to China." The FWS said "Ning Qiu was part of the trafficking ring led by Zhifei Li, who was sentenced to 70 months in prison."

NEW REPORT CLAIMS BYCATCH WASTES UP TO $1 BILLION. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that "fishermen in the United States waste as much as $1 billion each year by discarding fish they didn't mean to catch, according to a new report from Oceana that calls for stronger controls on so-called bycatch." The article notes that "the conservation group has long pressured the National Marine Fisheries Service to crack down on bycatch, the fish and marine animals that fisherman inadvertently catch and then discard." However, the report "takes a new tact: equating wasted fish to wasted money."

NOAA TO CONSIDER DELISTING NORTH PACIFIC HUMPBACK WHALES. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced that "it will consider Alaska's request to delist a North Pacific population of the humpback whale, as part of a review of the mammal's global population."

ACTIONS RESTRAINING HUNTERS FROM KILLING ELEPHANTS SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for CNN (6/27, Pacelle, 12.15M), Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of United States, write that "very wealthy hunters, mainly from the United States, are picking off elephants in their zeal to bag the biggest tusks and trophies and rise within the ranks of the global trophy hunting fraternity." However, "there's reason to believe that, as a result of meaningful actions taken by African governments as well as the US government to restrain trophy hunters, this intentional killing may subside." He notes that "two African countries, Botswana and Zambia, have just outlawed trophy hunting," and the FWS has "temporarily stopped issuing permits for hunters to bring home their elephant trophies from Tanzania and Zimbabwe, where hunting is legal and poorly regulated."

Ivory Ban Criticized. Meanwhile, in an op-ed for the North Jersey (NJ) Media Group (6/27, 125K), Ann McFeatters doesn't understand "the Obama administration's thinking that almost all sales of anything with ivory in it should be banned." She notes that "at a recent hearing of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular affairs, experts on musical instruments, hunting, conservation and antiques said, in effect, the government is nuts."

US Geological Survey:

NORTH CAROLINA CHANGES CLIMATE CHANGE FORECAST FOR OUTER BANKS. The Washington Post (6/25, A1, Montgomery, 4.22M) reports in a front-page story that in the wake of a 2011 report from North Carolina officials that said "the ocean would be 39 inches higher and her home on the Outer Banks would be swamped" by the end of the century, coastal residents and climate change skeptics joined forces "to attack the science of global warming and persuade North Carolina's Republican-controlled legislature to deep-six the 39-inch projection." The state is now "is working on a new forecast that will look only 30 years out and therefore show the seas rising by no more than eight inches." The move "appalled" environmentalists, and North Carolina "has been lampooned as a hotbed of greedy developers trying to 'outlaw' the rising tide."

SCIENTISTS URGE CONGRESS TO CONSIDER FUNDING EARLY-WARNING EARTHQUAKE SYSTEM. The Homeland Security News Wire (6/27) reports that "scientists are urging Congress to consider funding the full-scale deployment of an early-warning earthquake system on the western coast of the United States following successful testing of a prototype and positive results from similar international systems." Doug Given, the head of the USGS' Southern California Earthquake Monitoring Project with the California Institute of Technology, "warned that sooner would be much better than later." He said, "We are sure there will be such a system after a big earthquake. We would like to do it before a big earthquake."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FWS APPROVES FIRST EAGLE-KILL PERMIT FOR WIND FARM. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that the Obama Administration on Thursday "announced approval of the first-ever permit for a wind farm to legally kill or harm protected eagles under a plan that officials say will have no overall harm on eagle populations." The FWS said "it will issue Shiloh IV Wind Project LLC a five-year permit to 'take' up to five eagles at its 50-turbine wind farm north of San Francisco." FWS Director Dan Ashe said the EDF Renewable Energy subsidiary is setting "a precedent for proactive and collaborative eagle conservation at wind farms in Northern California and beyond."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (6/26, Smith, 81K), The Hill (6/27, Cama, 237K), CNN (6/27, Erdman, 12.15M), and the Washington Times (6/27, Ernst, 455K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Wall Street Journal (6/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), the Washington Post (6/27, 4.22M), the Washington Times (6/27, Smith, 455K),the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/27, 1.36M), the Philly (6/27, 1.64M), the Poughkeepsie (NY) Journal (6/26, 149K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/26, 687K), the Visalia (CA) Times-Delta (6/26, 42K), the US News & World Report (6/26, 645K), ABC News (6/27, 3.58M), CBS News (6/27, 5.21M), WGGB-TV Springfield, MA (6/26, 3K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (6/27, 83K).

Wind Industry Claims It's Addressing Impact On Eagles. In an op-ed for the Loveland (CO) Reporter-Herald (6/27, 52K), John Anderson, the director of siting policy for the American Wind Energy Association, writes that "the wind energy industry does more to address its impacts on eagles than any of the other, far greater sources of eagle mortality known to wildlife experts." He claims that "wind has taken the most proactive and leading role of any utility-scale energy source to minimize wildlife impacts in general, and specifically for eagles, through constantly improving siting and avoidance and minimization techniques, and identifying options to offset the industry's comparatively minimal impacts."

BLM WEIGHS PROPOSAL TO BURY INTERSTATE LINE NEAR WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that the BLM will "conduct a formal environmental assessment (EA) of the much-debated proposal to bury up to 5 miles of a multistate power line project in an effort to avoid interfering with the Army's White Sands Missile Range." According to the BLM, "the EA will explore whether burying three sections of the 515-mile-long SunZia Southwest Transmission Project near the New Mexico missile range represents 'substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns' or presents 'significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns' associated with burying the lines." If so, the bureau would "conduct a more in-depth supplement to the final environmental impact statement (EIS) that it released for the New Mexico-to-Arizona SunZia project in June 2013."

Meanwhile, the Ruidoso (NM) News (6/27, 40K) reports that "Lincoln County ranchers with a stake in the future of a proposed renewable energy transmission line that would carry wind-generated power to Arizona and California are hoping a proposed resolution survives an environmental review and they may see wind farms in their future." A proposed resolution between the U.S. Department of Defense and the BLM and SunZia would "involve burying three separate segments of the line north of White Sands Missile Range in the 'call-up' area of controlled air space to satisfy military concerns that an above-ground line would hamper defense training."

The story also appears at the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (6/27, 59K).

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT TOUTS SALTON SEA PLAN. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (6/27, 111K) reports that "a plan to increase renewable energy production in and around the Salton Sea — and have utilities help finance the ailing lake's ultimate restoration — was touted on Capitol Hill this week." Bruce Wilcox, a Salton Sea expert at the Imperial Irrigation District, said "the agency's plan would generate about $3 billion over 30 years." Meanwhile, IID General Manager Kevin Kelley said the IID "still awaits a response to a request to the Interior Department, made in February, to commit to allowing renewable energy projects on 80,000 acres it owns in the Salton Sea."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS ON OFFSHORE WIND PLANNING. Additional coverage that the BOEM is holding meetings on offshore wind power in Massachusetts was provided by the New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (6/25, 54K).

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM SAGE GROUSE PLAN FOR WYOMING RECEIVES MIXED REVIEWS. The E&E Daily (6/26) reports that a BLM plan "governing sage grouse protections and oil and gas leasing across some 2.8 million acres in central Wyoming" on Thursday "drew praise" from Gov. Matt Mead and the FWS, "but was panned by conservationists as a missed opportunity to prevent further demise of the bird's sagebrush habitat." The BLM "signed a record of decision for its Lander resource management plan (RMP) in Mead's office in Cheyenne, culminating about seven years of collaborative planning with the state, counties, federal partners, conservation groups, historical preservationists and industry, among others." Mead and BLM Director Neil Kornze "touted the plan as a potential template for state-federal cooperation as BLM updates RMPs covering sage grouse habitat in nearly a dozen other states."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (6/27, Neary), the County 10 (6/26), and KTWO-AM Casper, WY (6/27, 576).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (6/27, 31K), the Columbus (IN) Republic (6/27, 81K), the Riverton (WY) Ranger (6/27, 167), and the Connecticut Post (6/27, 252K).

WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE SUPPORTS PROPOSED RULE ON VALUATION OF INDIAN ENERGY ASSETS. The Oil & Gas Financial Journal (6/27, 425) reports that Western Energy Alliance has "joined the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) and Interior Secretary Sally Jewel in applauding the release of proposed rules governing valuation of Indian oil assets." Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government and public affairs for Western Energy Alliance, said, "The proposed rule demonstrates that when industry, the federal government, and key stakeholders work together, sensible rules can be implemented. The negotiated rulemaking committee worked for more than a year to develop a consensus on valuing Indian oil appropriately so that tribes and allottees receive a fair share of royalties while not discouraging development on Indian lands."

Offshore Energy Development:

HOUSE PASSES BILL AIMED AT EXPANDING ENERGY PRODUCTION ON FEDERAL LANDS. The "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (6/27, Marcos, 237K) reports that the House yesterday "passed a bill to expand energy production on federal lands." The measure was passed 229-185 and "is part of the House GOP's focus this week on boosting domestic energy production as a means of lowering gas prices." The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Doc Hastings, "said the conflict in Iraq demonstrated the need to reduce American reliance on foreign oil." Hastings said, "The current turmoil in Iraq has already caused the price of gasoline to increase, and it serves as an important reminder of why we need to increase production here at home. ... The best way to protect ourselves from price spikes caused by international conflicts is to increase the production of American energy resources." The bill "would require the secretary of Interior to conduct oil and natural gas lease sales that were delayed by the Obama administration, including off the coasts of Virginia and South Carolina."

The Hill (6/27, Barron-lopez, Cama, 237K), the National Journal (6/27, Subscription Publication, 561K), the Los Angeles Times (6/27, Simon, 3.46M), the FuelFix (6/26, 7K), the Upstream Online (6/27, 20K), and the New Orleans Times-Picayune (6/27, Alpert, 678K) also provides coverage of this story.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

NEW GRAND COULEE DAM POWER MANAGER NAMED. The Star of Grand Coulee (WA) (6/25, 169) reports that Lorri Lee, Regional Director for the BOR's Pacific Northwest Region, announced that Coleman Smith is "returning to the Pacific Northwest Region to serve as the Grand Coulee Power Manager." Smith takes over from Mark Jenson who now leads the Grand Coulee Power Office Project Management Team.

PORT OF MOSES LAKE TO PURCHASE LAND FROM BOR. The Columbia Basin (WA) Herald (6/27, 26K) reports that "the Port of Moses Lake is set to acquire more than 600 acres of land from the Bureau of Reclamation, as commissioners approved a $324,000 purchase agreement with the agency this week." The port has been working with the bureau "for the past year and a half to purchase the land, which will be used for their wastewater facilities expansion project."

GOVERNMENT POLICIES CRITICIZED FOR EXACERBATING DROUGHT. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (6/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Edward P. Lazear, former chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers (2006-09), is a professor at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business and a Hoover Institution fellow, writes that government actions have exacerbated the drought in the West. Lazear blames price controls and restrictions on water transfer for making the situation worse.

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR SENDS OUT $50 MILLION IN BUY-BACK OFFERS ON ROSEBUD RESERVATION. The Nation Sun News (6/26) reports that the Interior Department has sent out $50 million in offers to landowners on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. The offers to 11,000 landowners were made under the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations. Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn said, "The success of the Buy-Back Program is vitally important to the future of Indian Country. Consolidating and returning these lands to tribes in trust will have enormous potential to unlock tribal community resources. We are committed to exhausting all efforts to make sure that individuals are aware of this historic opportunity to strengthen tribal sovereignty by supporting the consolidation of Indian lands."

Also covering the story are the Native News Online (6/27) and the South Dakota Public Broadcasting (6/27, 4K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HOUSE HEARING ON ABUSE AT SPIRIT LAKE. Additional coverage of the hearing by the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs on child welfare at Spirit Lake was provided by NPR (6/25, 519K).

Top National News:

IN 9-0 RULING, HIGH COURT STRIKES DOWN OBAMA RECESS APPOINTMENTS. Media accounts are casting yesterday's Supreme Court ruling on the President's 2012 recess appointments as a limited loss for the Administration. In a unanimous decision, the court struck down the President's 2012 recess appointments to the NLRB – made while the Senate was holding pro forma sessions every three days. While some print analyses, Republicans and conservative-leaning commentators drew a connection between the decision and the broader debate on Obama's use of executive power, that message was not echoed by the network newscasts – all three of which covered the story – or most major media coverage. After the ruling was announced, the White House and some Democrats moved to argue that it amounted to a partial win for the President – or at least not an outright loss. With some exceptions (including analysis pieces in the Washington Post, Politico, and Los Angeles Times), those arguments appeared to carry the day in much of the print media reporting, which tended to judge the ruling a mixed bag.

In a brief mention of the ruling, ABC World News (6/26, story 4, 0:25, Muir) reported Obama was "trying to bypass partisan gridlock" in making the appointments, though "the court, unanimously," said "no, no president has that power." The CBS Evening News (6/26, story 2, 1:45, Plante, 5.08M) similarly reported that "the court said political obstruction was not enough of a reason to circumvent Congress." CBS closed its coverage stating, "You know, we're curious. It turns out other president made many more recess appointments. Bill Clinton made 139 during his two terms. George W. Bush, 171. So far, President Obama has made 32." NBC Nightly News (6/26, story 2, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M), meanwhile, reported in another brief story that the ruling "means the Senate can block recess appointments whenever it wants."

McClatchy (6/26, Doyle, Subscription Publication, 23K) refers to a "limited defeat for...Obama and his White House successor," though "in essence, the Senate wins, because it gets to decide when it's in recess." The White House "also wins because the court didn't go as far as it might have." The AP (6/26, Hananel) says "the outcome was the least significant loss possible for the administration," and – like CBS News – goes on to note that "Obama has made relatively few recess appointments."

The New York Times (6/26, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), on the other hand, considers the ruling "a significant blow to executive power." The justices "ruled unanimously that... Obama had violated the Constitution in 2012" by making his appointments while Congress was in pro forma session. In his ruling, however, Justice Breyer said "recess appointments remain permissible so long as they are made during a break of 10 or more days" in Senate action. However, "many experts say that if either house of Congress is controlled by the party opposed to the president, lawmakers can effectively block such appointments by requiring pro forma sessions every three days." The Washington Post (6/26, Barnes, 4.22M) notes "Senate Democrats started the pro forma sessions in 2007 to prevent President George W. Bush from making recess appointments."

The Washington Times (6/26, Dinan, 455K) reports the ruling "was a loss for Mr. Obama," but "a win for the executive branch more generally." In effect, the decision "returns the situation to where it was before Mr. Obama took office, when presidents generally waited for breaks of 10 days or more before using their powers, but other than that had few limitations."

In an analysis piece dealing with the broader issue of executive overreach, the New York Times (6/26, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) points out that "White House officials had worried that the court's more conservative members might emerge victorious with a far more restrictive view of presidential power. They did not." White House Press Secretary John Earnest said, "We're of course deeply disappointed in today's decision. ... We are, however, pleased that the court recognized the president's executive authority as exercised by presidents going all the way back to George Washington." Kathryn Ruemmler, "who served as Mr. Obama's

White House counsel until recently," told the Times, "The court affirmed the president's long-recognized constitutional authority to make recess appointments when the Senate is in recess for a period of at least 10 days."

USA Today (6/27, Wolf, 5.82M) reports, "When it was over....Obama had lost" and "Senate Republicans had won," even though "four conservative justices led by Antonin Scalia would have imposed much stricter limits, implicating thousands of appointments dating back to George Washington."

The Wall Street Journal (6/26, Bravin, Trottman, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that addressing criticism of Obama's use of executive power, Earnest went on to say, "The president is in no way considering scaling back" his actions. The Washington Post (6/27, Goldfarb, 4.22M) also includes Earnest's comments in its story, as well as similar ones from Rep. George Miller. Moreover, the Post quotes George Washington University professor Jonathan Turley, "an Obama supporter," as saying, "The president is saying" with his appointments "that he's tired of gridlock."

More negative toward the White House is an analysis piece in the Washington Post (6/27, Goldfarb, 4.22M), which says the ruling "laid bare the legal and political risks that the president faces as he makes the aggressive use of executive power a core tenet of his second term." As the court "underscored Thursday, Obama's high-profile assertions of executive power...are often the start of the story, not the end." The Post quotes John Cooney, "a former assistant to the solicitor general and deputy general counsel" at OMB, as saying, "This White House chose to take on that battle and has now received some diminution in the power Obama can pass on to his successors. ... That's an object lesson for the White House who risked triggering the separation of powers question."

Also negative toward the Administration was the assessment by Politico (6/27, Gerstein, 637K), which said "Obama's big gamble on recess appointments was smacked down unanimously by" the court, in what amounted to "an embarrassing setback" for the Administration.

The Wall Street Journal (6/27, Trottman, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says the Supreme Court ruling has created confusion over the validity of the 436 NLRB rulings made during their tenure. More than 100 of those rulings are being challenged in court. The Washington Post (6/27, Fletcher, 4.22M) reports that the NLRB "said it is examining the court's decision to see whether it requires the agency to re-ratify the decisions made during the 19 months the recess appointees took part in its deliberations."

On Fox News' Special Report (6/26, 2.15M), Ron Foumier called the decision "a pretty big defeat," for the Administration, but similarly noted that it "could have been bigger." The President is "lucky, and future presidents are lucky that the Supreme Court didn't go even further in undermining the President's legitimate ability at times to fill in the case of a recess appointment. One interesting part of the provision: They literally ruled that the recess appointment should be used only in just cases and should not be used as a get-around, to get around another branch of government which the President clearly was doing."

The Los Angeles Times (6/27, Savage, Phelps, 3.46M) says that "as a practical matter, the decision is likely to make it nearly impossible for presidents to continue using recess appointments as a way to overcome Senate objections to their nominees as long as the opposition party controls either the Senate or the House." The Los Angeles Times (6/27, 3.46M) appears to contradict that point in an editorial, "Recess appointments should be exceptional, but they shouldn't be impossible. It's good that a majority of the justices didn't allow their displeasure with Obama's overreaching to obscure that fact."

Reuters (6/26, Hurley) says the 2013 Senate changes to the filibuster rule diminish the ruling's impact, a point highlighted by Senate Majority Leader Reid yesterday, "Without that reform and with today's ruling, a small but vocal minority would have more power than ever to block qualified nominees from getting a simple up-or-down vote." Politico (6/26, Everett, 637K) reported the rule change "has already allowed Senate Democrats to squeeze through several nominees who might have been defeated under the old framework." Senate Majority Whip Durbin said, "I'm sorry we had to change the rules and it's created some pain in our Senate that's still there...but there had to be a way for this president to lead." Sen. Charles Schumer called the rule changes "omniscient" in light of the court ruling.

The Hill (6/26, Goad, 237K) noted Senate Minority Leader McConnell hailed the ruling, saying, "The President made an unprecedented power grab by placing political allies at a powerful federal agency while the Senate was meeting regularly and without even bothering to wait for its advice and consent. ... A unanimous Supreme Court has rejected this brazen power-grab." "Senate Republicans are cheering," The Hill (6/26, Devaney, 237K) reported in a separate story.

In an editorial titled "Senate 9, President 0," the Wall Street Journal (6/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) casts the ruling as an example of Obama's abuses of executive power. Noting that the ruling was unanimous, the Journal predicts further legal blows to the Obama presidency.

The New York Times (6/27, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), however, editorializes, "When one branch of government routinely abuses its constitutional power in order to prevent another from functioning, the Supreme Court is expected to take notice and stop the abuse. Unfortunately the court failed to do so on Thursday," when it "should have recognized that future presidents may need a legal backstop to make executive appointments just to keep the government running."

Nina Easton said on Fox News' Special Report (6/26, 2.15M) that right now, the ruling has little practical effect, but "the Republicans take control of the Senate, it will take away a powerful tool for the President to do these recess appointments." Easton added that the decision "has added political resonance, though. It has to do with the National Labor Relations Board, which is very much ground zero for the President's hope of expanding union organizing and the ability of unions to organize. ... The practical effect of this decision will also be that about 100 decisions affecting about 600 companies will have to be redecided."

Pete Williams said on MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports (6/26, 487K) that the decision means that "when the President and the Senate are in opposite parties, you aren't going to be able to do recess appointments. ... As a practical matter, it's a vast reduction in the power. It doesn't eliminate it completely, but it's a vast reduction in the power."

Alex Wagner said on MSNBC's Now (6/26, 437K) that the decision "threatens both the President's ability to appoint and workers' rights to organize," adding that the ruling means "that essentially those faky 30-second pro forma exercises are enough to block any appointment by the President of the United States, which is a big deal."

The Daily Caller (6/26, Bordelon, 408K) poked fun at "liberal CNN anchor" Carol Costello's reporting of the ruling, saying she "really wanted legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin to say...Obama won Thursday's Supreme Court case." Toobin, however, "wouldn't bite, gently but firmly informing the disappointed anchor there's 'no doubt' the President lost." Costello retorted, "Well he lost in this particular case...but overall, right?"

Toobin later said on CNN's Situation Room (6/26, 554K) that the Court said that "what you, President Obama, call a recess, is not really a recess. So, those appointments made in this case specifically to the National Labor Relations Board, are invalid and all the actions taken by the NLRB during that time are invalid. So, it's a big deal."

In an op-ed for the New York Times (6/27, Katyal, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), former acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal writes that for years, "particularly after the 2000 election, talk about the Supreme Court has centered on its bitter 5-to-4 divisions," but Katyal points to "a remarkable achievement," that for the first time since 1940, the court "has agreed unanimously in more than 66 percent of its cases this term." Katyal argues that the court's unanimity "is important because it signals that the justices can rise above their differences and interpret the law without partisanship." Katyal adds that Chief Justice Roberts is focused on "making all nine justices play ball for the same team," and the nation, "and the rule of law, are better off for it."

Goodlatte Says He Has Discussed Boehner Suit Against Obama With Justices. The Christian Science Monitor (6/26, Kiefer, 566K) said the ruling "that...Obama violated the Constitution...is being particularly welcomed by House Republicans." House Speaker Boehner, "who earlier this week announced an effort to sue the president for executive overreach, said in a statement Thursday that the high court's decision offers encouragement to Americans who have watched with concern as the president has declined to faithfully execute our laws.'" House Judiciary Chairman Robert Goodlatte told a Monitor Breakfast that "the disagreements between the House and the executive branch are not political, but constitutional." Added Goodlatte, "I've had the opportunity to discuss this with some members of the Supreme Court and it's my hope that they will take a fresh

look at this."

The Washington Times (6/26, Wolfgang, 455K) reports Earnest told reporters yesterday that the lawsuit "is just another example of GOP obstructionism." Said Earnest, "It's one thing for Republicans to try to block legislative remedies. It's another thing to go to court to say that the president can't act."

Politico (6/26, French, 637K), meanwhile, reported the lawsuit "turned into a big payday for congressional Democrats," as the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee "posted its best fundraising day of the year on Wednesday, bringing in $584,000."

The Washington Times (6/26, Chumley, 455K) notes Rep. Michele Bachmann and Fox News' Neil Cavuto "exchanged some angry fire during a recently broadcast show over the feasibility and sense" the lawsuit, which Cavuto termed a "charade" and a "waste of time."

Kim Strassel writes in support of the lawsuit in a Wall Street Journal (6/27, Strassel, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) column titled "All The President's Enablers." Charles Krauthammer, in a Washington Post (6/27, 4.22M) column titled "Government By Fiat," also blasts what he casts as Obama's abuse of executive power, and notes House Minority Leader Pelosi's criticism of Boehner's lawsuit. Krauthammer adds, "She won't be saying that on the day Democrats lose the White House. ... At which point, the temptation to stick it to the Democrats will be overwhelming. At which point, Lord give us strength."

Commenting on yesterday's Supreme Court decision, meanwhile, Krauthammer said on Fox News' Special Report (6/26, 2.15M) that it was a "stinging rebuke to Obama overreach in general," that "will have implications for other cases." Krauthammer added that "this bodes well for the Boehner lawsuit."

OBAMA BEGINS "DAY IN THE LIFE" TOUR IN MINNESOTA. Coverage of President Obama's trip to Minnesota, where he spent part of the day with St. Anthony resident Rebekah Erler, highlights that the event was the kickoff to a series of events over the next few months at which Obama hopes to connect directly with Americans. While the coverage says the President was well-received, some reports say the trip had as much to do with this year's elections as with pressing Congress to act. The broadcast networks did not cover the trip.

The AP (6/27, Lederman) reports the President said "Washington needs to stop 'playing to the most fringe elements of politics' and help Americans who are fighting to make ends meet." The President said "the central challenge that drives him is how to ensure hard-working, responsible people can get ahead." He was accompanied by Erler, an "accountant and mother of two preschool-age boys wrote to the president this spring about her family's struggles after her husband's construction business went under during the downturn in the housing market." The AP says "the attempt to show presidential empathy with the plight of everyday Americans puts a fine point on two harsh realities for Obama: His influence is waning two years into his last term," and the economic recovery "has yet to filter down to many of the middle-class families."

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (6/27, 656K) reports Erler said Thursday that "she hopes the message about middle-class struggles isn't lost on Washington decision-makers. ... Erler said the experience was 'an incredible opportunity to share what's important to me and my friends and my family and what we go through every day.'"

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/27, Helgeson, Simons, 1.48M) reports the President devoted much of his time in Minneapolis "to touting the need for a higher minimum wage and equal pay and benefits for women. Those issues resonate strongly in Minnesota," which enacted its "largest minimum wage increase in state history this year" and expanded protections for women in the workplace. But Republicans were critical, saying Obama has failed to stimulate the economy. In addition, Rep. John Kline "said the real reason Obama came to Minnesota is to raise money for congressional Democrats" at a "high-dollar fundraiser" Thursday evening.

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (6/27, Salisbury, 656K) reports the President "fielded mostly friendly questions" from about 350 people at a town hall meeting who had been "selected by local government officials, businesses and organizations." He said "he isn't getting much through Congress 'because right now we've got a party on the other side whose only rationale or motivation seems to be opposing me.'"

The New York Times (6/27, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) called the event "the first episode in a series

the White House is marketing as 'Day in the Life' visits ahead of the midterm elections." At the town hall meeting, the President pointed to Erler "as an example of the difficulties families face, and as the kind of person who could be helped by his initiatives." But "for all the effort to reach ordinary Americans, Mr. Obama's day had the feel of a campaign tour, choreographed by the White House for vibrant pictures of the president engaging with regular people, his shirt sleeves rolled up."

The Washington Post (6/27, Nakamura, 4.22M) also calls the series of events "a carefully calibrated strategy to make the president more accessible to constituents at a time when his approval ratings have dipped and his relations with Congress have hit rock bottom." Politico (6/26, Epstein, 637K) reported under the headline "Obama Kicks Off Summer Road Show" that the President "headed out of Washington on Thursday to offer assurance to Americans that he hasn't lost touch with the issues that guide their daily lives."

The Hill (6/26, Sink, 237K) also had a report.

Obama Watches USA-Germany Game Aboard Air Force One. The CBS Evening News (6/26, story 3, 0:10, Pelley, 5.08M) said in a brief item that President Obama "took a break from work" to watch the USA-Germany World Cup match, watching the game "aboard Air Force One."

MAY CONSUMER SPENDING DISAPPOINTS, PROMPTS REASSESSMENT OF SECOND QUARTER GROWTH PREDICTIONS. Reuters (6/27, Mutikani) reports that consumer spending rose 0.2% in May, less than expected by economists. The disappointing increase comes after a flat reading in April. Because consumer spending comprises more than two-thirds of US economic activity, the new data released by the Commerce Department prompted a number of economists to reduce their estimate of second quarter GDP growth.

The Wall Street Journal (6/27, Mitchell, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the modest growth in May's consumer spending came despite a solid rise in personal income growth. The Journal also says that the report raises questions about the strength of the economy. Indeed, the Journal says that Macroeconomic Advisers reduced their estimate of second quarter growth from a 3.5% annual rate to a 3.2% rate.

Bloomberg News (6/26, Woellert, 2.76M) adds that the data show that "adjusted for inflation, consumer spending declined for a second straight month."

Report Shows Inflation Accelerating. The Wall Street Journal (6/27, Morath, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the Commerce Department also reported on Thursday that its price index for personal consumption expenditures, or PCE, rose 1.8% in May over May 2013. That's up sharply from a 0.8% year-over-year gain notched in February.

New Jobless Claims Down 2,000 Last Week. The AP (6/26) reports that first-time claims for jobless benefits fell 2,000 last week to 312,000, according to new data released Thursday by the Department of Labor. The four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, rose 2,250 to 314,250. The AP says that the numbers are "the latest evidence that a sharp economic slowdown earlier this year hasn't caused employers to cut jobs."

Bloomberg News (6/26, Woellert, 2.76M) says the numbers are "a sign of steady progress in the labor market." The CBS Evening News (6/26, story 9, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported on the numbers briefly, saying they are "evidence" that "companies aren't cutting so many jobs as before."

Consumer Comfort Unchanged Last Week. Bloomberg News (6/27, Glinski, 2.76M) reports that its Consumer Comfort Index last week "held near its 2014 high as views on the U.S. economy were the second-strongest since 2008." The index "stood at 37.1 in the period ended June 22, unchanged after three weeks of gains and just shy of the 37.9 reading in late April that marked the year's high point."

Mortgage Rates Inch Down. The Los Angeles Times (6/27, Reckard, 3.46M) reports that Freddie Mac announced on Thursday that mortgage rates were down slightly this week. The average rate on a 30-year loan fell to 4.14% from 4.17% the prior week. The AP stresses that while rates are higher than they were a year ago, they have been trending downward.

Economic Issues Could Hamper Democrats In November. Bloomberg News (6/26, Dorning, 2.76M) reports

that "sluggish improvement in living standards among Democrats' core voters threatens to hurt the party's candidates" in the November midterms. Bloomberg says that median household income "among all Americans is still lower than before the recession," and "key Democratic constituents – blacks, Hispanics, single women and young people – have been especially hard-hit, and analysts say that could make them less energized about going to the polls." Cook Political Report's Charlie Cook said that the economic situation is "dampening enthusiasm among some of the voter groups Democrats need most."

Stocks Down Slightly On Thursday. The Wall Street Journal (6/27, Scaggs, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that stocks fell slightly amid concerns that the economy may not rebound as strongly as expected in the second quarter. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 21.38 points to 16,846.13, while the S&P 500 fell 2.31 points to 1,957.22. The Nasdaq dropped 0.71 points to 4,379.05.

National Discussion Of Poverty Ignoring Rural Areas. In the New York Times Magazine (6/26, Lowrey, 6.08M), Annie Lowrey writes that in its "persistent poverty," Eastern Kentucky "just might be the hardest place to live in the United States. Statistically speaking." Focusing on Clay County, Lowrey suggests that the disintegration of the coal industry there has destroyed the local economy. Portraying this as typical of many rural areas, Lowrey says that poverty in such regions has not been a major part of the national conversation on poverty.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Abortion Rights Lose A Buffer."*** The New York Times (6/27, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that the Supreme Court ruling striking down the 35-foot protest-free zone outside abortion clinics in Massachusetts "ignores what actually happens on the ground," as Massachusetts has, "like most states, endured a long and sometimes violent history of protest at reproductive-health clinics, including the 1994 murders of two Planned Parenthood workers by an abortion opponent."

"A Blow To Presidential Appointments." The New York Times (6/27, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes, "When one branch of government routinely abuses its constitutional power in order to prevent another from functioning, the Supreme Court is expected to take notice and stop the abuse. Unfortunately the court failed to do so on Thursday," when it "should have recognized that future presidents may need a legal backstop to make executive appointments just to keep the government running."

"The Disturbing Anthrax Incident." An editorial in the New York Times (6/27, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) calls it "distressing" that the CDC "was so sloppy this month that it potentially exposed more than 80 people at its laboratories in Atlanta to deadly anthrax spores." The Times says that the incident "carries a stark warning that even the best laboratories can slip up, with potentially catastrophic consequences," and notes that other "supposedly secure laboratories are conducting research on even more frightening pathogens that, unlike anthrax, might spread easily and quickly through the air from human to human."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Potemkin Drawdown."*** The Washington Post (6/27, 4.22M) editorializes Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent "gestures suggesting de-escalation" are all "relatively insignificant, easily reversible, or both." The Post adds that Russia's "behavior remains unacceptably provocative." According to the Post, if Russia "continues to support" the rebels in Ukraine, "the West must ramp up its support for the Ukrainian government," and the US "must take the lead and then pull allies in the right direction."

"A Common Core Reversal." In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/27, 4.22M) argues that Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal's "about face" on Common Core "says more about him than about any deficiency in the standards." The Post says that Common Core in the state fell "victim" to Jindal's "political ambition," as the paper argues that he was attempting to build conservative support by turning against them.

"Insult To The Public." The Washington Post (6/27, 4.22M) editorializes on the disciplinary hearing of a District of Columbia firefighter "accused of failing to help a dying man who collapsed outside a fire station," noting that "it's unclear whether information from the hearing will ever be made public." The Post declares that "it is difficult to feel confidence in a process conducted in the shadows, especially when the public is excluded from what is so clearly a matter of public safety."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Senate 9, President 0."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) casts the Supreme Court's ruling on the President's 2012 recess appointments as an example of Obama's abuses of executive power. Noting that the ruling was unanimous, the Journal predicts further legal blows to the Obama presidency.

"Democrats Against Harry Reid." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) comments on Democratic senators who are becoming frustrated with the lack of amendment votes, which it says are blocked by Senate Majority Leader Reid in an effort to keep the caucus from being forced to make difficult votes. The Journal notes that no Senate Democrat elected in 2012 has been allowed a floor vote on any of his or her amendments. According to the editorial, this is a key aspect of Reid's strategy of preventing any House legislation from reaching President Obama, which while helping the Administration, will now present a challenge to Democrats facing re-election.

"Free Speech 'Buffer' Rebuffed." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/27, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) agrees with the overall ruling from the Supreme Court striking down the 35-foot protest-free zone outside abortion clinics in Massachusetts, but criticizes Chief Justice Roberts for not going far enough. Ultimately, the Journal urges the Chief Justice to be firmer in his defense of the First Amendment.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Mass. Abortion Clinic Buffer Zones Ruled Illegal
No Finger-Pointing At Martha Coakley Over Ruling
Minimum Wage Increase Doesn't Add Up To A Living Wage
TD Garden Illnesses Tied To Molly Use
Students Fight Sexual Assault Accusations

Boston Herald:
Battenfeld: Martha Coakley's Losses Have Upsides

Wall Street Journal:
High Court Limits Powers On Recess Appointments
Pentagon To Train, Arm Syria Rebels
WWI Scars Linger 100 Years Later In Europe
Credit-Card Lenders Pursue Riskier Borrowers

New York Times:
Redrawn Lines Seen As No Cure In Iraq Conflict
Needing Residents, Detroit Sends Some Packing
Court Rejects Zone To Buffer Abortion Clinic
Justices Rebuke Obama On Right Of Appointment
Politicians' Prescriptions For Marijuana Defy Doctors Data
'Great Conciliator' Of Senate Who Cast Hard Eye On Nixon

Washington Post:
Justices Rebuke Obama On Recess Appointments
How The Clintons Went From 'Dead Broke' To Rich
Obama Seeks Funds To Train Syrian Rebels
It's Not A Total Loss
Senate Leader The 'Quintessential Mediator'
Infrequent Inspections Of Hospices Can Lead To Agonizing Lapses In Care

Financial Times:

Banks Start To Drain Barclays Dark Pool
Berlin Drops Verizon Over US Spying Fears
Banks Create Corporate Bond Trading Hub
NYSE Beats Nasdaq To Win Alibaba Listing
Alcoa To Buy Firth Rixson For $2.85bn
Google Starts Removing Search Results
Reaching For Income In A Low-Yield World

Washington Times:
Supreme Court Strikes Down Obama Recess Appointments
UN Compensation Costs Soar By $1 Billion
The Rapture: For Hollywood, The 'End' Is The Start Of Profits
Unanimous Court Strikes Down Abortion 'Buffer' For Protesters
Job Gains Equal To Number Of Immigrants

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Extreme Weather; Weather Forecast, SCOTUS-Buffer Zones Ruling; SCOTUS-Recess Appointments Ruling; Obama-Immigrant Children. Malaysian Flight Investigation; California-College Campus Shooting Suspect; Howard Baker Obit.
CBS: SCOTUS-Buffer Zones Ruling; SCOTUS-Recess Appointments Ruling; World Cup-Obama; World Cup-Loss Productivity; Malaysia Flight Investigation; Iraq Conflict; Obama-Syria Rebel Funding; Mass Killings; Unemployment Report; HP CEO Interview; Howard Baker Obit.
NBC: SCOTUS-Buffer Zone Rulings; SCOTUS-Recess Appointments Ruling; Obama-Syria Rebel Funding; Extreme Weather; GM CEO Interview; Howard Baker Obit; New York-Big Soda Ban; Politics-Pew Research Study; July Fourth Holiday Travel.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Obama-Syria Rebel Funding; Obama-Syria Rebel Funding-Russia; SCOTUS-Buffer Zone Rulings; Fracking Concerns; World Cup Soccer.
CBS: Obama-Syria Rebel Funding; SCOTUS-Buffer Zone Rulings; SCOTUS-Recess Appointments Ruling; Howard Baker Obit; Extreme Weather-Minnesota; NBA Draft.
FOX: Obama-Syria Rebel Funding; Obama-Iraq Conflict; SCOTUS-Recess Appointments Ruling; SCOTUS-Buffer Zones Ruling; NBA Draft; Immigrant Children-Swine Flu Discovery; Restaurant Workers-Glove, Utensil Requirement; Philipp Morris-Heat Sticks.
NPR: SCOTUS-Recess Appointments Ruling; SCOTUS-Buffer Zone Rulings; Extreme Weather-Minnesota; Howard Baker Obit; Wall Street; California-Migrant Worker Case; World Cup Soccer; Robotic Leg Braces.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President and First Lady will attend the Marine Barracks Evening Parade in Washington, DC.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – No public schedule.
US Senate: Not in session.
US House: Not in session.
Other: MORTGAGE BANKERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE – June 25 – 27. The MBA's 2014 Strategic Markets and Diversity Conference. Speakers iclude: Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee; The Honorable Henry G. Cisneros, Founder and Chairman, City View. Location: Westin Washington City Center, 1400 M St. NW. Notes: All conference events are open to the media and press credentials must be obtained in advance. To apply for press credentials please contact: Rob Van Raaphorst, (202) 557-2799, rvanraaphorst@mba.org

NED – RELIGIOUS FREEDOM – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Presentation and discussion of the 2014 Annual Report of

the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Featuring Robert P. George, Chairman USCIRF and William A. Galston, NED Board Member and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Location: 1025 F St. NW, Suite 800.

CSIS – QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. On-the-record conversation about the QHSR and the future of homeland security. This session will feature Alan Cohn, DHS's Assistant Secretary for Strategy, Planning, Analysis & Risk, followed by a panel exploring the review's key focus areas. Location: 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

PSA – MODERN PROSTHETICS FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS – 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Partnership for a Secure America's Congressional Partnership Program presents "Back in Action: Mobilizing the American Wounded Warrior with Modern Prosthetics," a discussion by a panel of experts on innovations in warrior care. Participants: Dr. Justin Sanchez, program manager, Revolutionizing Prosthetics Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; Frederick Downs Jr., former national director of VA Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service; Dr. Robert J. Jaeger, director, Deployment Health Research, VA Office of Research and Development; Dr. Brian W. Schulz, scientific program manager, Rehabilitation Engineering and Prosthetics, VA Office of Research and Development; John Shero, executive director, Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence; Dr. Paul F. Pasquina, director, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Residency Training Program, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; Troy Turner, lead, rehabilitation and human performance research, Execution and Management Agency, US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. Location: 2212 Rayburn. Contacts: info@psaonline.org, 202-293-8580

CATO – DISMANTLING THE CORPORATE STATE – 12 p.m. "Unstoppable: The Emerging Left-Right Alliance to Dismantle the Corporate State." Featuring the author Ralph Nader, with comments by Daniel McCarthy, Editor, The American Conservative; Timothy P. Carney, Senior Political Columnist, The Washington Examiner. Moderated by Brink Lindsey, Vice President for Research, Cato Institute. Location: Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Contacts: events@cato.org, 202-842-0200

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH REFORM – INSURANCE PREMIUMS – 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. "Rates of Change: Putting 2015 Insurance Premiums into Context." This briefing will focus on factors influencing insurance premiums, state and Federal regulatory roles in reviewing rates, and what to expect in 2015. A distinguished panel of experts will examine these and related issues. Location: G50 Dirksen. Contacts: Sarah Dash, sarahdash@allhealth.org, 202-789-2300

PETERSON INSTITUTE – CHINA AND ENERGY – 12:15 p.m. The Peterson Institute for International Economics will convene a panel of leading experts to discuss "China, the West, and the Challenge of Alternative Energy Innovation." Panelists will be Granger Morgan, University and Lord Chair Professor of Engineering and Director of the Scott Institute for Energy Innovation at Carnegie Mellon University; Gilbert Metcalf, Professor of Economics at Tufts University and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Energy in the US Department of the Treasury; and Lee Branstetter, Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute, and former Senior Economist for International Trade and Investment at the Council of Economic Advisers. Location: 1750 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Contacts: Yvonne Priestley, meetings@piie.com. Notes: RSVP requested to Brian Reil, media@piie.com or (202) 454-1334

NPC LUNCHEON – DINGELL – 12:30 p.m. NPC Luncheon with Congressman John Dingell. Location: National Press Club, Ballroom, 529 14th Street NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: [Referring to the controversy surrounding the Washington Redskins' name] "So, new name for the Washington Redskins. Well, they haven't had much luck in the last four or five seasons. They're kind of stumbling. They can't get out of their own way. What about Washington Congress?"

David Letterman: "You all know Dick Cheney. He was Vice President with George W. Bush. They were like

buddies. He was like his sidekick. It was Cheney who championed the idea that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction. ... Guess what, Dick Cheney – even now, to this very minute – believes there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, even though we've looked. We've scoured it. We've been all over the place – up and down, everywhere. We've made phone calls. We've done everything we possibly can do. He still believes there are weapons of mass destruction, and I still believe I'm going to get 'The Tonight Show.'"

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BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for Monday, June 30, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jun 27, 2014 at 5:12 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are your briefing materials for Monday, June 30. These have been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

6 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1-5)

6 30 14_2pm_Principals Wildfire Briefing.docx
21K

6 30 14_2pm_SLIDES Principals Wildfire Briefing.pptx
4649K

6 30 14_9am_Meeting with Governor Sandoval.docx
175K

6 30 14_12pm_Brown Bag Lunch with National Park Service Staff.doc
65K

6 30 14_330pm_Internal Prep for Meeting with Edward Davey, U.K. Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.docx
175K

6 30 14_1030am_USA Today Interview.docx
39K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERVIEW WITH SUSAN PAGE
USA TODAY: CAPITAL DOWNLOAD VIDEO SEREIS

DATE: June 30, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 10:30AM – 11:00AM
FROM: Jessica Kershaw, Press Secretary, 202-669-0968

I. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this interview is for you to highlight the value of our national parks and other public lands while families are considering summer vacation destinations. Additionally, this is an opportunity for you to discuss the youth initiative, Interior's role in the Climate Action Plan and how climate change is affecting our assets as well as some the recent challenges the Department faces in public lands management.

This interview also gives you the ability to continue building a relationship Susan Page, the DC Bureau Chief for USA Today, whom you met at the DC Bureau Chiefs dinner last month. Your interview will be part of the weekly "Capital Download" series, which includes a taped interview and a written piece. In addition, the video and story are distributed to the nationwide network of Gannett-owned newspapers and TV stations.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Susan Page
- Jessica Kershaw

III. AGENDA

10:00AM	USA Today team arrives *Pre-sets lights/interview space in your office (you don't need to be present)
10:30AM	You arrive; begin recorded interview with Susan Page
10:50AM	Interview concludes
11:00AM	USA Today departs.

IV. KEY FACTS

Expected topics of discussion:

- Youth Initiative (in the context of getting kids outdoors on our public lands)
- Climate Action Plan and DOI's role
- Bundy Case and Public Lands Management
- Biggest Surprise on the Job

Be prepared for:

- ESA (sage grouse)
- Indian Education (restructuring)

V. TALKING POINTS

Expected Topics of Conversation:

Youth Initiative

- **PLAY**: Develop recreation partnerships in 50 cities – outdoor play for over 10 million young people
- **LEARN**: Provide education opportunities to at least 10 million students annually
- **SERVE**: Engage 1 million volunteers annually on public lands
- **WORK**: Provide 100,000 work and training opportunities to young people
- **NPS Centennial** provide no better time than to recommit to the benefits of accessible, welcoming public lands for all generations

Climate Action Plan

- **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** Permit 20K MGW by 2020; Now at more than 14,000 MGW
- **RESILIENCY**: Coastal areas, Public lands prone to fire, drought
- **SOUND SCIENCE:** Landscape level planning, mitigation, Ex: LIDAR Mapping

Bundy, Public Lands Management

- BLM will continue to work to resolve the matter through all options available under the law
- Committed to the public safety of all employees, public
- Interior's mission is always at odds – balancing conservation and protection w/development, ranching/grazing; committed to listening, informed decisions and a landscape approach
- **Suggested Formal Response from SOL:** We continue to monitor the situation closely in consultation with all federal, state and local agencies involved, and to consider the next appropriate steps. We are pursuing all options available to us under the law. I cannot comment on specifics at this time.

If time allows, potential topics of conversation:

ESA (its usefulness, necessity, how it's used)

- An effective tool to recover wildlife at risk of danger, extinction
- Thanks to the ESA, our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to see the **Bald eagle, American alligator, and peregrine falcon**
- When the Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973, it done with huge **bipartisan** support and signed into law by President Richard **Nixon**
- Too often, the ESA is inaccurately characterized as a heavy-handed or unnecessary law

- Works best when agencies like FWS and BLM partner w/states, tribes, conservation groups for on the ground ideas and strategies for recovery
    - Ex: Sage Grouse (WY), Wood Stork
- Can be a great convener for communities to come together to **protect their land, their water, their wildlife and their way of life** Ex: wood stork

BIE Restructure (in terms of the recent announcement and visit to Indian Country)

- Future of Indian Country rests on ensuring American Indian children receive a world-class education that honors their cultures, languages and identities as Indian people
- Every child can learn, and every school can succeed
- We have a moral obligation to ensure that we are providing Indian children with the quality education that they deserve
- Redesign of the BIE:
    - Reflects President Obama's commitment to promoting tribal self-governance and self-determination
    - Will enable BIE to more effectively support tribal educators who best understand the unique needs of their communities
    - Critical step in supporting each Tribe's capacity to educate future generations of students who are prepared for college and a career and know and value their heritage.

VI. BACKGROUND

Background on Susan Page

Susan Page is the current Washington Bureau Chief for USA Today, and previously served as the President of the White House Correspondents Association in 2000.

She regularly contributes to CNN's *Late Edition* broadcast and to *The Diane Rehm Show* on NPR. Susan received her bachelor's degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, and her master's degree from Columbia University.

Capital Download Features

Pelosi: Dems are coalescing behind Hillary for 2016
June 28, 2013

WASHINGTON — House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said Thursday the Democratic Party was coalescing behind Hillary Rodham Clinton as its presidential nominee for 2016, and she urged the former secretary of State to get in the race.

In an interview on USA TODAY's "Capital Download," Pelosi stopped just short of formally endorsing Clinton.

"I'm not making endorsements right now, because I don't think that's appropriate," she demurred. "But I am gauging, I'm gauging. I'm encouraging people to think about it, so in case she asks us, we have something to say to her."

Does she think the party is coalescing behind Clinton?

"I think so; I think so," she said. "There's a great deal of excitement about the prospect that she would run."

The California congresswoman, herself a groundbreaker as the only woman to serve as speaker of the House, made it clear what her advice would be: Do it. "I don't know why she wouldn't run," Pelosi said. "She's prepared. She's well-known. She's highly respected. She knows she could do the job very, very well."

In 2008, Pelosi was House speaker and stayed officially neutral in the primary battle between Clinton and Barack Obama. She drew ire from Clinton's campaign with a comment that it would be "harmful" for unelected "superdelegates" to determine the nomination. At that key moment, support from superdelegates was seen as the only way Clinton might prevail.

Pelosi describes Clinton as historically well-qualified to be commander in chief, noting she has served as first lady, a New York senator and a member of the Senate's Armed Services Committee as well as head of the State Department.

"If Secretary Clinton were to run — and we think if she ran, she would win — I believe that she would be the best-prepared person to enter the White House in decades, in decades," Pelosi said, "with all due respect to her husband, present company and other presidents."

In early polling, Clinton leads the 2016 field, but there are other prominent Democrats who have expressed interest in running, among them Vice President Biden. In a Quinnipiac University Poll released last month, Clinton was supported by 65% of Democrats for the nomination, trailed by Biden at 13% and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo at 4%.

Pelosi's comments did spur a few articles after the publication of the USA Today piece:

Pelosi: Democrats lining up behind Hillary Clinton
Pelosi: Dems are coalescing behind Hillary for 2016
Nancy Pelosi thinks Democrats are 'coalescing' behind Hillary Clinton

Vilsack: Farm bill tests D.C.'s embattled politics

November 25, 2013

WASHINGTON — Stalled negotiations over a farm bill threaten more than trouble for farmers and consumers, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says. They're also a broader test of whether Washington can work.

The huge bill, more than a year overdue, is caught in a dispute between the House and Senate over how much to cut the food stamp program, among other issues. Vilsack notes that failure to pass it before the end of the year could double milk prices for Americans, spark retaliatory tariffs from Brazil and leave livestock producers who have been hit by storms and drought without standard federal assistance.

In an interview with USA TODAY's Capital Download, Vilsack characterized the talks as a case study of an embattled government.

"This is a bill that should reignite what little DNA is left of bipartisanship in Washington, D.C.," he says. "This has been a bill that's always been relatively easy for Congress to get done, and if we don't get it done, I think it sends another negative message to the country about the workings of government."

On the other hand, passing the farm bill could be a tonic for what ails the capital, he argues, likening it to a stumbling football team that decides to get back to basics.

"We (should) get back to blocking and tackling — pass a bill, a major bill," he says. "When that happens, basically, relationships are formed, opportunities for success are created and I think it creates a momentum" that could boost prospects in Washington for a budget agreement and even immigration legislation.

He says "folks have been stuck" in House-Senate negotiations that missed a self-imposed deadline last week to agree on a framework so a bill could be passed before the end of the year.

Vilsack, 62, a former two-term governor of Iowa, was interviewed for the video newsmaker series in the USDA's historic Beaux-Arts-style headquarters just off the National Mall.

On politics, he predicts Hillary Rodham Clinton would fare better in the Hawkeye State in 2016 than she did in 2008, when Barack Obama defeated her in the opening presidential caucuses. "Let me just say that, from my perspective, Secretary Clinton didn't lose the Iowa caucus; the president won the Iowa caucus," says Vilsack, who supported Clinton. "His team did an enormous job of attracting new people to the system."

If Clinton decides to run again, "I'm reasonably confident that she'll receive a very good reception in Iowa," he says. He is less certain that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie would be welcome in the state's Republican caucuses, won in 2012 by Rick Santorum.

If Christie runs, he'll need to take a page from Obama's book, Vilsack says. "He's going to have to look at ways in which he can expand the base of caucus goers, because it is a very conservative Republican Party right now."

Only a couple of smaller outlets picked up this story:
Growing Nebraska: Vilsack: Farm Bill Could Break Gridlock in D.C.
Wasau Daily Herald: In farm bill, rural interests need urban support: Other View

Sen. Warren's candid attitude fuels her rise
April 21, 2014

- The video starts with a brief bio, and the opener hints at the rising issue of a declining middle class
- Susan asks Senator Warren about her book, 'Fighting Chance'
- Warren reaffirms that she's not running for President, says she's more concerned with current issues, even with the 2014 midterms
- There was no response directly to this interview, but similar content appeared in other sources following the release of her book

Geithner: On landing a (financial) plane that's on fire
May 14, 2014

- Talked about his new book, 'Stress Test'
- He compared his time under different presidencies
- This piece didn't spur more stories directly, but there was media buzz surrounding his book, which he talked about during the interview

V. ATTACHMENTS

As a reminder, your answers to similar parks and youth engagement questions for the National Geographic interview are included below, as well as Jon Jarvis' input. We can reasonably expect a similar line of questions for the Capital Download feature.

What is the most pressing issue facing U.S. parks today, and how should we deal with it?
There are several pressing issues, but the one that keeps me the most concerned is a lack of resources to provide a consistent, compelling experience for visitors that will keep them engaged in their parks, while leaving the parks maintained, unimpaired for future generations.(e.g. deferred maintenance, contractors doing programming, limited staff). This is exacerbated by climate change, and a general lack of engagement by families that is needed to introduce new generations (although youth engagement can be addressed in the second question).

Jarvis input: I couch the lack of resources as a symptom of waning relevancy and a lack of appreciation for the multiple values derived from our national parks. If the public had a deeper understanding and relevancy to the parks l, as they did post WW2 and mission 66, then their representatives would be more willing to fund parks and public lands appropriately.

How we deal with it is to use the Centennial as a pivot to reconnect to all Americans, especially the millennials. Our theme studies, the campaign, our urban programs, and our youth corps are all tools to accomplish this goal for our second century. If we build relevancy, it will translate into support, defined as visitation, advocacy, volunteerism, and philanthropy.

What is the future of US Parks?
I would reference the importance of relevance to Americans, from protecting and sharing our most spectacular and unique natural areas, to telling the compelling story of our history and

culture. By engaging with future generations and the rich diversity of Americans, we have an opportunity to craft a future of National Parks that will receive the visitation, pride and support that we had in their first 100 years

Jarvis input: The future of our national parks are their value as anchor tenants in landscape level conservation, refuges for species affected by climate change, assets in our public health system and executed with more complex and robust partnerships. They will also be recognized as significant components of the informal education system of the nation, telling a more complete story, through place, of the American experience.

Jewell, Sally (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, September 29, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Sep 29, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SETTLEMENT SIGNED WITH NAVAJO NATION. The CBS Evening News (9/26, story 10, 0:20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "Today, the largest native American tribe, the Navajo Nation, signed the largest settlement any tribe has ever received from the US government – $554 million. Their lawsuit accused Federal agencies of mismanaging their trust fund for decades."

The AP (9/26) reports that federal officials, led by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, and "tribal representatives held a formal signing ceremony Friday morning in Window Rock to mark the historic $554 million settlement." Jewell says "the landmark agreement will help start a new chapter of relations between the US government and Indian Country." Navajo officials say "they will hold public meetings starting in October to seek community input on how the money should be spent."

The McClatchy (9/26, Subscription Publication, 27K) reports that Jewell said, "The historic agreement strengthens the government-to-government relationship between the United States and the Navajo Nation, helps restore a positive working relationship with the Nation's leaders and empowers Navajo communities."

The Arizona Republic (9/26, 1.21M) reports that Jewell said, "Our job with 21/2 years remaining is to make sure that we deepen the relationship with Indian country, so no president coming after President Obama —

Republican, Democrat or independent — can undo the good work that we've started, because we need to move forward in this next generation."

The Deseret (UT) News (9/29, 538K) reports that Jewell said, "That's what is so important about this. We both get to stop spending money on lawsuits and start spending money on the things that are important to the Navajo Nation."

The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (9/29, 47K) reports that Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly "called the settlement a turning point in the relationship between the federal government and the tribe." He said, "For decades, the Navajo Nation had a fighting relationship with the Department of the Interior. I hope it ends today."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (9/26, 4.9M), the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (9/29, 234K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/26, 646K), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (9/26, 572K), the Houston Chronicle (9/26, 2.47M), the Kansas City (MO) Star (9/29, 1.23M), and KATC-TV Lafayette, LA (9/29, 26K).

Also providing coverage are the Yuma (AZ) News Now (9/29), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (9/26, 572K), the Kansas City (MO) infoZine (9/29, 175), the Navajo Times (AZ) (9/14, 66K), the Native American Times (9/29, 337), the Indian Country Today Media Network (9/26, 78K), the Indian Country Today Media Network (9/26, 78K), KSL-TV Salt Lake City (9/29, 1.07M), KOAT-TV Albuquerque, NM (9/29, 56K), KOAT-TV Albuquerque, NM (9/29, 56K), KJZZ-FM Phoenix (9/29, 7K), and WDIV-TV Detroit (9/29, 172K).

GLEN CANYON DAM MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AS POWER SOURCE. The AP (9/27, Tang) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and "other officials on Saturday marked the 50th anniversary of power generation by Glen Canyon Dam, a structure that helped usher in a new era in the Southwest." Jewell said, "Now, it's not without its controversy. But there's no question that this engineering feat was incredibly valuable to the economic future of this country." She also noted, "This power plant produces enough electricity during the year to not use 2 ½ million tons of coal or 11 million barrels of oil." Anne Castle, Interior assistant secretary of water and science, "called the dam 'the fulcrum' that regulates flows between the Colorado River's upper and lower basins." Castle, "who is retiring, acknowledged a US Bureau of Reclamation study that confirmed there will be significant shortfall between water levels and demand in the coming decades." She said "federal regulators are continuing to work on a long-term management plan that will include high-flow releases to redistribute sediment."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (9/27, 4.9M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/27, 646K), the San Francisco Chronicle (9/29, Tang, 2.24M), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (9/27, 572K), the Deseret (UT) News (9/29, 538K), the Houston Chronicle (9/27, Tang, 2.47M), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/27, Tang, 1.48M), ABC News (9/29, 5.02M), and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (9/29, 1.07M).

Also providing coverage are the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (9/29, 479K), the Denver Post (9/29, 1.12M), KNXV-TV Phoenix (9/29, 225K), and KGMB-TV Honolulu (9/29, 85K).

INTERIOR APPROVES $269,000 FOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. The Marianas Variety (9/29) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina has "announced $269,172 in grant assistance to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through the Office of Insular Affairs' Capital Improvement Project program to completely renovate existing classroom and office buildings at Northern Marianas College and thereby provide a more conducive environment for learning." Kia'aina said, "Infrastructure projects such as these are vital to supporting the students in Saipan's only public institution of higher learning. Northern Marianas College is currently housed in what used to be the Dr. Torres Hospital built over 50 years ago during the US administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. We are pleased to support education and youth in the CNMI through rehabilitation of their campus."

COMMUNITIES TO RECEIVE $700,000 POST-SANDY GRANT. The New Haven (CT) Register (9/26, 165K) reports that "ten Greater New Haven and Bridgeport-area coastal communities will receive a $700,000 US Department of the Interior post-Hurricane Sandy planning grant to work with The Nature Conservancy to create a regional framework for coastal resilience in Southern Connecticut, officials said this week." According to the article, "the South Central Regional Council of Governments, made up of the chief elected officials of 15 Greater New Haven municipalities bounded by Milford to the west, Madison to the east and Meriden to the north, voted unanimously Wednesday to authorize Executive Director Carl Amento to sign the necessary paperwork."

SURVEY FINDS MOST VOTERS IN WEST OPPOSE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS TO STATES. In its "Govbeat" blog, the Washington Post (9/26, Chokshi, 4.9M) reports that "in six out of eight Western states,

that "fire information officers say crews have contained 98 percent of the Assayii Lake Fire and plans calls for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo fire program to take over firefighting efforts Tuesday."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the Los Angeles Times (6/30, Carcamo, Muskal, 3.46M) and the Christian Science Monitor (6/27, 566K).

Commentary. In an editorial, the Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (6/27, 67K) urges the Senate to "take up S. 1875, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, without delay."

SPOKESMAN FOR SEN. MURKOWSKI USES EAGLE-KILL PERMIT APPROVAL TO BASH KING COVE DECISION. Politico (6/27, Guillén, 637K) reports that news of the FWS' approval of an eagle-kill permit for the Shiloh IV project was used by a spokesman for Sen. Lisa Murkowski "to bash Interior over denying the King Cove emergency access road through a wildlife refuge." Rob Dillon emailed reporters, "Now wait a gosh darn minute, you mean to tell me that the Interior Department says it's OK for wind farms to kill eagles, but the good people of King Cove can't build an 11-mile life-saving road because it might disturb a few migrating black brant?"

ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION RUNNING AMPLIFYD CAMPAIGN. Fox News (6/27, 6.72M) reports on Amplifyd, a company which provides a service for users to lobby lawmakers for a "nominal fee." The article notes that The Endangered Species Coalition is "currently running an Amplifyd campaign to lobby Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to maintain Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves." According to the article, "individuals who are interested in the cause can pay $4.95 to have Amplifyd make the call to Jewell – or Jewell's office – on their behalf."

OBAMA PRAISES FEDERAL EMPLOYEES. In its "Federal Eye" blog, the Washington Post (6/27, Davidson, 4.22M) reported President Obama commended Federal employees while at a Thursday town hall meeting and placed the blame on Republicans for recent pay freezes, sequestration, and furloughs. The President said most government workers "work really hard doing really important stuff." Obama added that "Republican rhetoric sometimes" makes it appear that "working for government" is "not a real job."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN FEDERAL RECOGNITION. Additoinal coverage of Native Hawaiian federal recognition was provided by the Honolulu Civil Beat (6/30, 41), the Kaua'i (HI) Garden Island News (6/30, 33K), the Indian Country Today Media Network (6/27, 45K), and the Indian Country Today Media Network (6/28, 45K).

CONGRESS URGED TO RENEW CONSERVATION FUND. In an op-ed for the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (6/30, 470K), Ralph Becker, the mayor of Salt Lake City and a member of Mayors for Parks, a bipartisan coalition of mayors, writes that "for the mayors working locally to serve the American cities that make the United States the dynamic country that it is, here's a cause we can all agree on: the creation and preservation of parks and green spaces." He notes that "this month, mayors from across the country unanimously called for the renewal of a program that has allowed urban and metropolitan parks to flourish for 50 years." Becker argues that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is "a smart investment for cities and the taxpayers who live in them."

CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT ARIZONA SONORAN DESERT HERITAGE ACT. For the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (6/30, Uken, 237K), Jim Uken, who served as director of the US Air Force side of the Barry M. Goldwater Range, writes that "to prevent budget shortages and base closures from affecting military installations and training facilities in the United States, we need to be vigilant and creative in how we defend them from incompatible uses outside their boundaries." He notes that "Arizona proudly hosts several military installations that are vital to national security, and contribute thousands of jobs and approximately $9 billion to our state's economy," and "Arizona's bases—along with other DoD bases in southern California and US Navy assets that train from coastal waters off California—share a reliance on the Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR)." Uken notes that the Arizona Sonoran Desert Heritage Act would "protect approximately 900,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands west and south of the White Tank Mountains, including 650 square miles of lands under training routes used by pilots from Luke, Davis-Monthan, WAATS and MCAS Yuma." According to Uken, "in an uncertain budget future, Congress should act collaboratively and resourcefully in its efforts to support the Department of Defense's goals by considering the Arizona Sonoran Desert Heritage Act and similar landscape-level legislation as useful, cost-effective tools for protecting mission viability of the BMGR and the bases it supports nationwide."

IMPROVEMENT OF FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT IN MONTANA URGED. In an op-ed for the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (6/28, 90K), Skip Kowalski, president of the Montana Wildlife Federation, Tony Jones, president of the Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association, J.W. Westman, a member of the Laurel Rod and Gun Club, and Casey Hackathorn, president of Hellgate Hunters and Anglers, write that "over the last few months, some Montana legislators have been ginning up attention to the idea that national forests and other public lands should be taken away from the federal government and transferred to state or local governments." However, they claim that "these federal land takeover proposals gloss over the practical realities, like whether state or local agencies have the capacity to manage millions of acres of public land or the tax increases that would be necessary to finance all the activities they envision." For this reason, they write that "members of our organizations support smart legislative proposals to improve forest management, like Sen. Jon Tester's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act," and they "also support active participation in land and resource planning by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other federal agencies."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS TO MEET WITH ORGANIZER ABOUT FUTURE OF FORT RENO CONCERTS. The Washington City Paper (6/27, 862K) reports that representatives of the NPS will meet with Fort Reno summer concert series organizer Amanda MacKaye on Monday The meeting was "brokered by D.C. Shadow Sen. Paul Strauss, who was a Fort Reno organizer in the 1980s and early 1990s."

Also reporting on the story are the DCist (6/30, 21K), the Washingtonian Magazine (DC) (6/30, 338K), and WTOP-FM Washington (6/30, 172K).

NPS REACHES AGREEMENT ON SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL. The Washington Post (6/30, Gibson, 4.22M) reports that "the years-long, $40 million renovation" of the National Mall's "badly damaged turf led to new National Park Service regulations governing the use of the park's vast grass panels." According to the article, "pickup sports teams are adjusting to the revised protocol — red flags staked into the ground mean to take the game elsewhere, please — but large-scale public events such as the National Book Festival and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which annually draws about 1 million visitors, have found it far more challenging to adapt." The article notes that "after months of uncertainty surrounding the future of the Folklife Festival's presence on the Mall — anxiety fueled by the departure of the National Book Festival from the property, and the launch of a grass-roots advocacy group called Save the Smithsonian Folklife Festival — the Folklife Festival's place on the Mall for the next five years was secured Wednesday with an agreement between the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service." Carol Johnson, spokeswoman for the NPS, said that "it isn't a fight so much as an overblown misunderstanding." Johnson said, "The main thing that's important to us is that the memorandum of agreement recognized the cultural importance of both the festival and the Mall."

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. WAITING FOR HIGH COURT HEARING. The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the owners of the Drakes Bay Oyster Co., Kevin Lunny and his family, are now waiting to learn whether the US Supreme Court will hear their case. Amid the uncertainty, Lunny said he has reduced his staffing from 30 to 25, mostly through attrition. Lunny said, "The government is a powerful group to be up against. They have unlimited resources and they just line up the lawyers."

ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR ACT INTRODUCED. The Niagara (NY) Frontier Publications (6/27) reports that "standing along the western terminus of the Erie Canal," Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressman Brian Higgins "announced introduction of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Act (HR 4641), a bill to extend the canalway's authorization for the next 15 years." Gillibrand said, "The Erie Canal Corridor is one of America's richest treasures, and holds enormous potential that we are still unlocking. From the waterfront in Buffalo where we stand today, through the Finger Lakes and up to Lake Champlain, the Erie Canal continues to fuel our economy and provide New Yorkers with miles of adventure and endless recreation. As New York's first senator from upstate in nearly 40 years, I will always work to preserve the beauty and tradition of the Erie Canal, and the extension of this National Heritage Corridor is an important step to continue garnering the national recognition it deserves."

MARIPOSA GROVE TO BE CENTER OF 150TH YOSEMITE CELEBRATION. The Fresno (CA) Bee (6/28, 352K) reports that "hundreds of people, television cameras, lawmakers, government leaders and the California State Parks Mounted Patrol on horseback are expected" at the Mariposa Grove Monday in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Yosemite Grant Act. The article notes that "during the celebration, the park is kicking off a $36 million renovation at the grove, which will mean ripping out asphalt and other parts of the human footprint." Yosemite spokesman Scott Gediman said, "This date is historic and significant. We want the public to share in it. There may be 500 or 600 people, so we will direct people to parking areas in other places and use shuttle buses to transport them to the grove."

Also providing coverage of the anniversary celebration are the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/28, 687K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/29, 687K), NPR (6/30, Khokha, 519K), the Christian Science Monitor (6/29, 566K), the Turlock (CA) Journal (6/30, 54K), and KFSN-TV Fresno, CA (6/30, 2K).

NPS DECIDES AGAINST DREDGED SAND ON NORTH CAROLINA'S SHACKLEFORD BANKS. The AP (6/30, Waggoner) reports that the NPS has "backed off its proposal to use dredged sand to fight erosion on North Carolina's Shackleford Banks – pleasing both environmentalists, who want to maintain the barrier island's pristine condition, and local beach town officials, who want the sand for their shores." According to the article, "in a letter earlier this month to the Army Corps of Engineers, the superintendent of the Cape Lookout National Seashore said he was withdrawing the proposal to put dredged sand on Shackleford Banks, the southernmost barrier island in the seashore." Seashore Superintendent Pat Kenney "initially thought the extra sand would limit erosion on the western tip of Shackleford," but he said "he changed his mind after talking with coastal scientists."

REPORT SAYS EVERGLADES RESTORATION EFFORTS MOVING TOO SLOWLY. The E&E Daily (6/27) reports that "Everglades restoration efforts are moving too slowly and should incorporate new knowledge about climate change, said the National Research Council in a lengthy report released today." The report, "the fifth in a series of congressionally mandated evaluations of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, said actions have been too modest." The document said "while the 2011 Central Everglades Planning Project recommends boosting water flow into the region, delays and funding constraints mean construction may take decades."

Also reporting on the story is the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (6/28, 506).

YELLOWSTONE LOOKS TO LOCAL PRODUCERS TO PROVIDE FOOD. The AP (6/30, Todd) reports that Yellowstone National Park wants to work with producers "to put plenty of local food on menus across the park." Its goal is "to make 50 percent of its food purchases from within 500 miles of the park or from a certified organic provider by 2016." The article notes that "it's a target that pits profits against philosophy, as Xanterra, the park's largest concessionaire, strives to support local growers while keeping prices low in the nation's first national park."

NPS TO CONSIDER WHETHER HISTORIC WARSHIP DESERVES TO BE LISTED ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The New York Times (6/30, Mcgeehan, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "the rusty old troop carrier known as Circle Line X may be put back to work soon, just a few blocks from Times Square." Its owner, New York Cruise Lines, "wants to moor it at the edge of the city and turn it into a terminal and mini-museum for the customers of the Circle Line sightseeing business." The firm "cleared the first hurdle in the process two weeks ago when the New York State Historic Preservation Office decided to add the ship to the state's Register of Historic Places." Next, the NPS will "consider whether the boat deserves a spot on the National Register of Historic Places."

NPS ASSESSING FLOOD DAMAGE AT DENALI NATIONAL PARK. The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (6/30, 44K) reports that the NPS was "assessing damage to the only road leading into Denali National Park and Preserve on Friday after evacuating more than 100 guests and employees who were staying at a private lodge and became stranded by flooding that washed out sections of the road." The article notes that "a total of 103 guests and employees from the Denali Backcountry Lodge near Kantishna at the west end of the 92-mile Denali Park Road were successfully evacuated Thursday night."

CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK REOPENS TRAIL NEAR BRECKSVILLE EAGLES' NEST. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (6/30, 1.06M) reports that the Cuyahoga Valley National Park has "lifted trail restrictions

because the offspring nesting eagles in the nearby Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville Reservation have fledged." According to the article, "open again to foot traffic are railroad tracks and a 30-foot right-of-way on either side, from the Route 82 Bridge at the Station Road visitor area north to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's railroad tracks at Fitzwater Yard."

BURGLARS STEAL FROM NPS. WHIO-TV Dayton, OH (6/30, 98K) reports that "burglars broke into two National Park Service sheds and stole several expensive pieces of lawn equipment." The article notes that "the locks were either pried or cut to the sheds near South Williams Street in Dayton, according to a police report."

NPS TO HOST "EXPLORING THE SKY". The Washington Post (6/28, Friedlander, 4.22M) reports that on July 19, the NPS and the National Capital Astronomers will host "Exploring the Sky."

MAN DIES WHILE HIKING OUT OF GRAND CANYON. The AP (6/30) reports that "officials say an Ohio man has died as he hiked out of the Grand Canyon after a commercial river trip." The NPS says that "attempts to resuscitate the 62-year-old man weren't successful Sunday morning."

Also reporting on the story are the Washington Post (6/30, Barbash, 4.22M) and the AP (6/30).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM EMBRACING WYOMING'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION STRATEGY. The AP (6/30, Neary) reports that BLM Director Neil Kornze "came to Cheyenne on Thursday to mark the BLM's approval of a new resource management plan for some 3.5 million acres in central Wyoming." Kornze says "his agency is embracing a sage grouse conservation strategy first developed by the state of Wyoming that could serve as a model around the West." The federal plan "mirrors Wyoming's 'core area' conservation strategy that limits development in areas identified as ideal sage grouse habitat."

Also covering the story are the "Govbeat" blog of the Washington Post (6/30, Wilson, 4.22M) and the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (6/30, 90K).

BLM MOVES TO DISMISS LAWSUIT OVER ROUNDUPS. The E&E Daily (6/27) reports that the federal government is "moving to dismiss a lawsuit by ranchers demanding an accelerated roundup of wild horses." The BLM is "running out of room at holding facilities and Congress has banned it from culling the wild horse population, federal lawyers wrote in a filing this week in US District Court in Reno, Nev." Department of Justice attorneys wrote, "BLM has been largely unable to dispose of excess horses other than through qualifying adoptions and sales."

LAWMAKERS AIM TO TAKE RED RIVER LAND BACK FROM BLM. The Dallas Morning News (6/30, Kamisar, 1.18M) reports that "the latest salvo in the fight over land along the Red River heads to Congress, as three Texas lawmakers seek to reign in the federal government's claims." Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, along with Rep. Mac Thornberry "announced a bill Friday that orders the Bureau of Land Management to cede land along the river to any person who can prove ownership through state or county records."

Additional coverage of the issue was provided by the Lufkin (TX) Daily News (6/30, 1K).

UTAH OFFICIALS AIR COMPLAINTS ABOUT BLM. The Deseret (UT) News (6/30, 610K) reports that Garfield County Sheriff Danny Perkins "accompanied six county commissioners from Iron, Beaver and Garfield counties to Washington, D.C., for a series of meetings last week to air complaints — chief among them the fractured and abysmal experience rural Utah has with top law enforcement officials from the Bureau of Land Management." The article notes that "the meeting in Washington happened the same day members of the Utah natural resources legislative interim committee hosted a public roundtable discussion in Salt Lake City with Juan Palma, director of the Utah BLM, and Kevin Rice, special agent in charge with the US Forest Service in Salt Lake City, among others." BLM spokeswoman Megan Crandall said "the legislative hearing did nothing to improve relationships."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OVERHAULS LISTING POLICY. The E&E Daily (6/27) reports that the Obama Administration on Friday "released a final policy to guide government scientists in determining whether wildlife species deserve protection under the Endangered Species Act, making a substantive change to a draft policy released 2½ years ago." The FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service policy will "dictate when wildlife is granted federal protection and, if so, where." According to the article, "the legally binding policy, which takes effect in about a month, offers guidance for interpreting when a critter is in danger of extinction 'throughout all or a significant portion of its range,' a key, albeit oft-debated, phrase in the 1973 law."

The E&E Daily (6/27) reports that "wildlife and property rights advocates offered mixed reviews today of the Obama administration's final policy for how to interpret a key phrase in the Endangered Species Act." According to the article, "one environmentalist said the new policy could hurt the recovery of animals that were once ubiquitous across the American landscape, such as the grizzly or wolf." However, "one ESA critic said the new policy offers less flexibility than the previous one under the George W. Bush administration that allowed species to be protected only where they are struggling, which spared landowners and businesses the burden of regulations in areas where a species is doing fine." The article notes that "it will likely be years before the implications of the new Obama policy can be measured."

PELICANS' NESTING GROUNDS IN NORTH DAKOTA SHRINKING. The AP (6/30, Macpherson) reports that "rising lake levels are swallowing American white pelicans' nesting grounds at a guano-rich island in central North Dakota known as North America's largest refuge for the big-billed birds, federal wildlife officials say." According to the article, "about 30,000 pelicans returned to 4,385-acre Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge this year to find water had gobbled several acres of their main nesting island, creating increasingly cramped conditions for the giant birds, among the largest in North America." However, "the decreased elbow room does not appear to have affected nesting activity so far, and the island continues to be filled with the grunts and squawks of thousands of white pelicans and their chicks, said Neil Shook, a U.S Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and refuge manager."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (6/30, 4.22M), the Norfolk (NE) Daily News (6/30, 48K), the Oklahoman (6/30, 530K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/28, 687K), and the US News & World Report (6/28, 645K).

GROUPS PETITION FOR PROTECTION OF WILD HORSES. The AP (6/30, Sonner) reports that "despite overall numbers in the tens of thousands, mustang advocates say the wild horse is on the verge of going extinct in North America for the second time in 13,000 years and deserves protection under the Endangered Species Act." Two groups in a petition to the FWS are "focusing on genetics and research they say prove the horses are a native species." They claim "growing threats from development, livestock grazing and government gathers are jeopardizing the genetic viability of individual herds in 10 states from California to Montana."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (6/30, Sonner, 4.22M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/28, 687K), and the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (6/30, 22K).

FWS AGREES TO REVIEW RED WOLF PROGRAM IN NORTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA. The AP (6/30) reports that the FWS has "agreed to review the red wolf program, raising the possibility that the 27-year experiment to restore the rare predators in eastern North Carolina may come to an end." The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission asked the federal agency this month to "determine the appropriateness of continuing the experimental (wolf) program."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (6/30) and the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (6/28, 504K).

NEW MEXICO COUNTY JOINS PRAIRIE CHICKEN LAWSUIT. The AP (6/27) reports that "commissioners in a southeastern New Mexico county voted unanimously Thursday to join a lawsuit against listing the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species." Lea County Commission Chairman Gregg Fulfer said "the county entered the lawsuit because the commission believes the federal government's results on the chicken's threatened status is inconclusive."

DEVELOPERS SEEK END TO FEDERAL PROTECTIONS FOR CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER. The Los Angeles Times (6/30, Sahagun, 3.46M) reports that "developers citing new scientific evidence are pressing to end

federal protections for the California gnatcatcher, whose status as a threatened species has barred development in many areas of prime Southern California coastal real estate for two decades." They argue that "DNA analyses show that the coastal California gnatcatcher is no different from other gnatcatchers flourishing from the Palos Verdes Peninsula to the southern tip of Baja California." If the FWS "agrees, it could remove federal protections it extended to the bird in 1993 — opening the way to development on an estimated 197,000 acres of largely coastal land in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Ventura, Riverside and San Bernardino counties."

KAUAI FERAL CATS SHOWN KILLING ENDANGERED SEABIRDS. The AP (6/30) reports that "feral cats on Kauai have been filmed killing endangered seabirds." According to the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, "footage shows cats pulling a Newell's Shearwater and a Hawaiian Petrel out of burrows and killing the birds."

BICKNELL'S THRUSH FOUND IN VERMONT. The AP (6/30, Rathke) reports that "just weeks ago, researchers identified a Bicknell's Thrush on Mount Mansfield that had been banded in the Dominican Republic while wintering there in 2010." The discovery is "giving scientists hope."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FWS APPROVES FIRST EAGLE-KILL PERMIT FOR CALIFORNIA WIND FARM. The AP (6/28, Smith) reported that that US Fish and Wildlife Service on Thursday approved "a special permit allowing up to five golden eagles to be accidentally killed over five years" at the Shiloh IV Wind Project in California, making the wind farm "the first in the nation to avoid prosecution if eagles are injured or die when they run into the giant turning blades." FWS Director Daniel Ashe "said the permit encourages development of renewable energy while requiring the wind company to take steps to protect eagles from turbines and power lines." The AP noted that the permit, which is not required for wind farms, "will require the facility to take steps to prevent eagle injuries and deaths from electrocution by retrofitting 133 power poles."

Also reporting on the story were The Hill (6/27, Cama, 237K), the Washington Times (6/27, Ernst, 455K), the National Review (6/30, 879K), the SNL Financial (6/30, 21K), the reNews (6/30), and the North American Windpower (6/30, 43K).

BLM TO HOLD COMPETITIVE SOLAR ENERGY ZONE AUCTION . The E&E Daily (6/27) reports that the BLM is "set Monday to hold the second-ever competitive solar energy zone auction that, if successful, could drive future development of commercial-scale projects across the Southwest." However, "in doing so, top agency officials acknowledge they are taking a calculated risk based on industry interest and projected market conditions." The article notes that "BLM last fall held the first-ever auction inside two SEZs in southern Colorado that, despite initial industry interest, saw no developers submit bids – a result that clearly stunned agency officials," and "failure this time around could put in jeopardy the Obama administration's extensive program to guide industrial-scale solar to areas with relatively low natural resource impacts at a time when solar and wind power development has reached record levels."

JUDGE REJECTS ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN. The E&E Daily (6/27) reports that the Interior Department "scored a major legal victory this week when a federal court rejected a challenge by environmental groups that claimed the department's plan to accelerate commercial-scale solar power development across the Southwest is illegal because it failed to consider alternatives that would cause less harm to natural resources." The lawsuit filed in February 2013 alleged that BLM's "plan to fast-track solar development on more than a quarter-million acres of federal lands violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because it failed to consider a full range of 'reasonable alternatives to utility-scale solar energy development on undeveloped public lands,' such as rooftop solar and so-called brownfields." However, US District Judge Jeffrey Miller "issued a 29-page summary judgment this week concluding that BLM's plan does comply with NEPA, in particular the programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) that identified 17 solar energy zones (SEZs) where solar resources are high and natural resource conflicts are projected to be relatively low."

BOEM MAKING PROGRESS ON GEORGIA OFFSHORE LEASE. The Recharge News (6/30, Kessler, 633)

reports that the BOEM is "making progress on Southern Company's request for a five-year 'interim policy lease' to further research wind resource in three blocks off Georgia's coast near Tybee Island, officials tell Recharge." Southern Company and subsidiary George Power "want to conduct research likely using buoy-mounted Light Detecting and Ranging (LiDAR) technology." According to the article, "the study will determine whether wind resource there could justify installation of wind turbines."

Onshore Energy Development:

NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY PRESSES WHITE HOUSE ON INTERIOR FRACKING RULES. In recent meetings, natural gas companies and trade groups have taken their "concerns about looming Interior Department 'fracking' regulations to the White House," The Hill (6/29, Geman, 237K) reported. The effort is "part of a wider industry push to ensure that regulation of the development method doesn't create what the companies consider burdensome requirements that stymie production." Records show that White House and Interior staff "met with a group of trade associations on Feb. 29: the American Petroleum Institute, America's Natural Gas Alliance, the American Exploration and Production Council, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, and the U.S. Oil and Gas Association."

In the Wall Street Journal (6/29, Lewis, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), columnist Al Lewis criticized the move towards fracking.

INDUSTRY, EXPERTS WEIGH IN ON POSSIBLE OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKE, FRACKING LINK. NBC Nightly News (6/27, story 4, 2:25, Williams, 7.86M) reported that "a lot of people in the state of Oklahoma are demanding answers about a huge spike in the number of earthquakes there." So far this year, the state has seen about a hundred earthquakes and "people want to know if fracking is to blame." Although "the industry says there's no definitive link," some experts "see few other explanations."

The Los Angeles Times (6/28, Horsey, 3.46M) also reported on the growing controversy.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CRITICIZE FEDERAL STUDY ON FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT AND NAVAJO MINE. The Durango (CO) Herald (6/27, 28K) reports that "environmental groups Friday criticized as inadequate a draft federal study of coal operations at Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine near Farmington." The article notes that "the comment period ended Friday for the draft environmental impact statement conducted by the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement." Nellis Kennedy-Howard, a Sierra Club representative, said, "OSM's failure to adequately assess the health and water impacts from the continued burning of coal at Four Corners Power Plant is unacceptable. Four Corners Power Plant is over 50 years old – it's time to begin thinking about clean and safe alternatives in renewable energy."

Also providing coverage is the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (6/29, 506).

TWO FORMER LAWMAKERS LOBBY FOR CARBON CAPTURE AND SEQUESTRATION BILLS. The E&E Daily (6/27) reports that former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and former Sen. Tim Hutchinson are "pushing legislation to promote carbon capture and sequestration technologies, plus their use in enhanced oil recovery." Gephardt and Hutchinson headlined a congressional briefing on CCS "as part of an effort to help the coal industry survive in a carbon-constrained world."

JUDGE BLOCKS MINE PROJECT IN COLORADO. The E&E Daily (6/27) reports that a US District Court judge "blocked the expansion today of an Arch Coal Inc. coal mine in Colorado, saying regulators did not offer an adequate reason for failing to analyze the social costs of carbon emissions linked to the project." According to the article, "at issue was Arch's request for federal coal lease modifications to expand its West Elk underground mine within a roadless area of the Gunnison National Forest." The BLM "signed off on the company's request in 2012 after receiving the consent of the Forest Service," but "three environmental groups – WildEarth Guardians, the Sierra Club and High Country Conservation Advocates – sued last year."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (6/30).

TRIBES ASK EPA FOR PRE-EMPTIVE VETO OF WISCONSIN MINE. The E&E Daily (6/27) reports that six

Chippewa tribal bands are asking the EPA to "initiate Clean Water Act veto proceedings against a controversial mining project in northern Wisconsin near Lake Superior." At issue is Gogebic Taconite LLC's desire to revive Wisconsin's iron mining industry. The article notes that "the request can be seen as part of an effort by tribes and environmental groups to push regulators into taking more proactive action against large potentially polluting projects, from mines to fossil fuel export facilities."

NORTH DAKOTA'S PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION APPROVES PERMITS FOR SANDPIPER PIPELINE. The E&E Daily (6/27) reports that North Dakota's Public Service Commission has "approved permits for construction of Enbridge Inc.'s 616-mile Sandpiper pipeline that would run to terminals in Minnesota and Wisconsin." Public Service Commissioner Randy Christmann said, "[The pipeline] will carry more than twice as much North Dakota oil as the Keystone XL would and has capacity to be upgraded significantly. This is a major step forward in moving oil in the safest and most efficient way possible." However, "federal regulators and regulatory boards in Wisconsin and Minnesota have not yet approved the pipeline." The project's opponents claim "it will be detrimental to wooded areas, farmland, rivers and lakes."

Offshore Energy Development:

GRIJALVA CALLS FOR BP TO REINSTATE GULF SPILL CLAIMS PROGRAM. On Friday, Rep. Raul Grijalva pressed "BP to reinstate its internal claims program after the oil giant shut it down one week ago," The Hill (6/27, Barron-Lopez, 237K) reported. BP's claims program involved "those impacted by the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill." In a statement, Grijalva claimed the move took "away the sole avenue for over 10,000 claimants who opted out of the company's settlement agreement." BP Vice President Geoff Morrell revealed on the company's "website that it ended the program because few claimants used it."

BP SEEKS RETURN OF OIL SPILL CLAIM 'OVERPAYMENTS'. The AP (6/27) reports that "BP wants a federal judge to order restitution — plus interest — of what it says are hundreds of millions of dollars in overpayments to some businesses that claimed losses due to the 2010 Gulf oil spill." In a Friday court filing, BP "points to a revised policy for calculating losses that was approved by the court in May." The firm says "the court should order recalculation of awards paid prior to that change."

APPROVAL OF BP RESTORATION MONEY IS IN FINAL STAGE. The Pensacola (FL) News Journal (6/28, 151K) reports that "securing millions of dollars BP has earmarked for 15 local, proposed projects — including a fish hatchery and research center for Pensacola's bayfront and a national seashore ferry service — has made it through a critical hurdle." On Thursday, "a final plan and draft programmatic environmental impact statement was released to the public by the Department of Interior, basically vetting projects after a 75-day public input period so they can move forward for funding." However, "there still are a few steps to go before checks will be in hands and shovels will break ground on the third round of restoration projects in the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment process, as required under the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR PROVIDING FUNDS TO GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY FOR WATER STUDY. The Victoria (TX) Advocate (6/27, 77K) reports that the BOR is "providing up to $450,000 to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority to help it explore how to expand the region's water supply." In total, the bureau will "provide $1.29 million to nine projects across Texas, said the bureau's acting commissioner, Lowell Pimley, on Friday."

CALIFORNIA AGENCY OPPOSES DELTA TUNNELS. The Stockton (CA) Record (6/27, 123K) reports that "the lone state agency to oppose Gov. Jerry Brown's twin tunnels plan warns that the project could force marinas out of business and take a big bite out of Delta agriculture." According to the article, "the Delta Protection Commission approved its formal comments Thursday night on the $25 billion Bay Delta Conservation Plan, with a letter that says the project 'overwhelmingly' focuses on enhancing California's water supply and 'almost entirely disregards' legal requirements that the Delta be protected as a unique place."

Also providing coverage is the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (6/30, 206).

LAWSUIT OVER RIO GRANDE SILVERY MINNOW LOOMS . The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (6/30, 282K)

reports that "a looming lawsuit over the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow threatens to revive a 'fish vs. farmers' battle over water management in central New Mexico." The environmental group WildEarth Guardians has "informed federal officials that it plans to file suit as early as mid-July, alleging that the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation are not doing enough to keep water in the river for the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow."

BOR SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED NATIVE FISH RESTORATION PROJECT IN CENTRAL ARIZONA. The Yuma (AZ) News Now (6/30) reports that the BOR is "seeking public comments on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed fish barrier in Spring Creek, Yavapai County, Arizona."

COLORADO RIVER FACES CHALLENGING FUTURE. For "The Opinion Pages" of the New York Times (6/30, Mulroy, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), Pat Mulroy, the senior fellow for Climate Adaptation and Environmental Policy at University of Nevada's Brookings Mountain West and the former general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, writes that the Colorado River, "which supports nearly 40 million people and seven states that cumulatively represent the world's fifth-largest economy, is facing a slow-motion natural disaster." She notes that "a long-term prognosis developed by the federal Bureau of Reclamation points to an even more challenging future in which the projected gap between supply and demand could exceed a trillion gallons a year by 2060." However, "by moving away from the 'use it or lose it' mentality of the 20th century and recognizing that no one has the luxury of protracted litigation over who gets what, the citizens of this basin are navigating to a more sustainable future."

EDITORIAL: WATER STORAGE PROJECTS VITAL FOR YAKIMA BASIN. The Tri-City Herald (WA) (6/27, 115K) editorializes that "this week, a bipartisan vote of the US House Appropriations Committee approved a bill including language that encourages the Bureau of Reclamation to join its funding with the state for projects we can't do on our own." The paper argues that "water is vital for the Yakima Basin for everything from agriculture to fish." The BOR is "the arm of federal government charged with overseeing the delivery of water," but "in some ways, the hands of the bureau are tied by history and legislative red tape." According to the paper, "water needs and methods of storage and delivery continue to evolve, yet the bureau is not free to adopt new strategies at will."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA CHIEF WASHBURN TOUTS ACHIEVEMENTS ON NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES. The Global Gaming Business (6/30) reports that "restoring ancestral lands is one of the litany of Native American achievements under the tribal-friendly Obama administration." The article notes that "Obama's White House has increased the BIA budget, settled Cobell trust litigation and a number of water rights cases, enacted the Tribal Law and Order Act, permanently authorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) and reformed reservation business leasing policies." And "for the first time in 40-plus years," BIA chief Kevin Washburn is "promulgating new regulations to what Indian advocates regard as a 'broken' federal process for recognizing tribes as governments."

DESCENDANTS OF FREEDMEN SUE INTERIOR. The Courthouse News (6/27, 7K) reports that "the US government turned its back on the descendants of freed slaves of Native Americans, swindling them out of lucrative land royalties allotted to them as children, a class action claims in Federal Court." In a lawsuit, Leatrice Tanner-Brown and the Harvest Institute Freedman Federation seek "an accounting of revenue from leases on land promised to children of Freedmen, who were liberated by members of the so-called 'Five Civilized Indian Tribes.'"

DEMOCRATS BUILDING OUTREACH EFFORTS TO TRIBAL VILLAGES. The New York Times (6/29, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Democrats view "tiny tribal villages" as "so vital to their tenuous majority" in the Senate, that "they are building a vast outreach operation." The Times notes "native populations are one of the most important but least understood" groups of constituents for the Democratic Party, but "they do not predictably break for one party or the other."

Top National News:

OBAMA WARNS THAT ISIL'S INTERNATIONAL REACH POSES A THREAT TO US. President Obama's remarks on ABC's This Week regarding the growing threat from ISIL did not generate a great deal of media coverage and were not noted on either of the network newscasts that aired on Sunday evening. Instead, in their

reports from Iraq, the networks emphasized the role that the US military is playing in the Iraqi military's so far unsuccessful attempts to check ISIL's momentum. On NBC Nightly News (6/29, story 2, 2:45, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported that on Sunday, the Iraqi army "continued their offensive...with some help from the US," and Richard Engel went on to report from Baghdad that "the US is now providing...more weapons."

On ABC World News (6/29, story 4, 1:20, Jarvis), Rebecca Jarvis said Iraq's military is "fighting back with the help of the United States." As the words "American Assist" and "US Supports Iraqi Offensive" were shown at the bottom of the screen, correspondent Hamish MacDonald went on to report that the Iraqi army is getting "US intelligence support" as it attempts to retake ISIL-held Tikrit. MacDonald also reported that "three full teams of US military advisers are" in Iraq, and "some [are] now pushing north of Baghdad."

The AP (6/30) reports that in the interview shown on ABC's This Week, President Obama said he is "concerned that battle-hardened militants who have spent time in Syria and Iraq could present a rising threat to US security because they would be able to enter the country without visas on European passports." The President is quoted as saying, "We've seen Europeans who are sympathetic to their cause traveling into Syria and now may travel into Iraq, getting battle-hardened. Then they come back." The AP notes that also on ABC's This Week, Rep. Peter King (R-NY), a former chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said, "The terrorists in Syria are extremely sophisticated, very advanced, and so thousands of people can go back to Europe and come here."

The Los Angeles Times (6/30, Mascaro, 3.46M) says the President "acknowledged...that militants fighting in Syria and Iraq pose a direct threat to the United States because many of them have Western passports that enable them to easily enter the country without a visa." The Times quotes the President as saying, "We have to improve our surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence there. Special forces are going to have a role. And there are going to be times where we take strikes against organizations that could do us harm."

Under the headline, "Terrorists in Iraq, Syria 'Gaining Strength,' Obama Admits," the New York Daily News (6/30, Edelman, 4.36M) reports that the President "admitted...that terrorists are 'gaining strength' in recent months as the situations in Iraq and Syria have deteriorated and that the US has been 'under serious threat' for his 'entire' time in office."

Politico (6/29, Everett, 637K) reported that in his interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos, the President "highlighted the growing fears that those trained in Middle East terrorist cells can go back to Europe or the United States to execute an attack." Voice of America (6/30, Bowman, 21K) reports that the President warned that ISIL "could pose a threat to the United States."

When asked to assess US intelligence on ISIL, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers (R-MI) said on CNN's State of the Union (6/29, Crowley), "It's not great." Rogers continued, "Within the last months, we have seen a rise in the arrests of individuals in Europe who have trained in Syria, who have come back to their host countries, and who have talked about conducting events. ... What's so dangerous about allowing them to pool up in Syria, allowing them to have safe haven, is that Al Qaeda-minded individuals now have an army. It is as dangerous a time for the United States as I've ever seen."

Likewise, on CBS' Face The Nation (6/29, Schieffer, 2.64M), House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX) said ISIL is "the number one threat to the homeland, the number one national security threat."

According to AFP (6/30, 891K), it has been estimated that "nearly 800 French citizens have spent time fighting in Syria's civil war...and Belgium says 200 of its people have done the same," while the UK "puts its number at 400." AFP notes that "those holding French, Belgian and British passports – along with a host of other European countries – do not need visas to" enter the US, "meaning they can potentially avoid scrutiny." AFP also notes that "a French-Algerian who fought alongside radical Islamists in Syria...allegedly killed four people in a deadly shooting at the Jewish Museum in Brussels on May 24."

Manchin: Obama Needs Congressional Approval For Military Action In Iraq. According to the Los Angeles Times (6/30, Mascaro, 3.46M), "Whether Congress will need to...authorize the White House's military actions in Iraq remains open for debate." The Times notes that on CBS' Face The Nation, Sen. Joe Manchin said the President "has to come back to Congress." Manchin added, "I can assure you there's no appetite for us to get

boots on the ground and go back into that country in any way, shape or form."

However, also on CBS' Face The Nation (6/29, Schieffer, 2.64M), Sen. John Barrasso said, "I think the President's decision to withdraw the United States from Iraq to keep a campaign promise, without leaving a stay-behind force, was a mistake" because "when the United States leaves a vacuum anywhere, that emboldens others." Former US Ambassador to Iraq James Jeffrey, on CBS' Face The Nation (6/29, Schieffer, 2.64M), made the case that the civil war in Iraq "is a national security emergency for the United States," and "we need to continue acting quickly." Later on CBS' Face The Nation (6/29, Schieffer, 2.64M), Jeffery recommended that the US "use military strikes against ISIS when they threaten the Shia areas or Baghdad."

On CBS' Face The Nation (6/29, Schieffer, 2.64M), Washington Post columnist Michael Gerson commented on the "the paradox of foreign policy polling" in light of the fact that "in Iraq and Syria, the President's doing what Americans want, but...they don't like the result," so "his poll numbers are going down."

Author James Robbins, in an op-ed for USA Today (6/30, 5.82M), contends that "a few head-to-head battles with the Iraqi army, backed up by US intelligence and air power, might be enough to...break [ISIL's] hold on much of Iraq." However, Robbins warns that the US needs to "make...the necessary military commitment to win," because "sending...a tiny, unsupported advisory force may only mean buying into whatever defeat ISIS eventually deals Iraq's military."

ISIL Demands All Muslims Submit To Baghdadi's Authority. The AP (6/30, Lucas) reports that on Sunday, ISIL "formally declared the establishment of a new Islamic state...and demanded allegiance from Muslims worldwide." According to the AP, an ISIL "spokesman," Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, "declared the group's chief, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, as the new leader, or caliph, and called on jihadi groups everywhere, not just those in areas under the organization's control, to swear loyalty to al-Baghdadi and support him." The AP notes that Adnani "loosely defined the Islamic state's territory as running from northern Syria to the Iraqi province of Diyala."

According to McClatchy (6/30, Prothero, Subscription Publication, 23K), "Nearly 12 million people now live under some level of ISIS control in Syria and Iraq." McClatchy also points out that ISIL's "activities in Syria have been denounced by al Qaida's leader, Ayman al Zawahiri, and the official al Qaida affiliate in Syria, the Nusra Front." McClatchy goes on to report that ISIL's announcement "poses numerous issues, not the least of which will be the reaction of" ISIL's Sunni allies in Iraq, who "will now have to either declare themselves followers of the caliphate" or "be declared enemies of the caliphate."

The Washington Post (6/30, Sly, Morris, 4.22M) says it is "not clear...whether some of the other Sunni revolutionary movements now fighting the Iraqi government alongside the militants, many whom are fiercely nationalistic, will accept the Islamic State's explicit rejection of national boundaries, including those of Iraq."

USA Today (6/30, Dorell, 5.82M) reports that according to Paul Lister of the Brookings Doha Center, ISIL "lays claim to billions of dollars in assets, scores of communities and operations that extend into Turkey and Lebanon." USA Today goes on to report that Lister emphasizes ISIL "has developed an elaborate bureaucracy and an efficient model of governance, providing modern social services together with medieval justice."

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, A1, Dagher, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that ISIL is growing more secure in Syria following its string of victories in Iraq, which have provided the group with money, heavy weapons and recruits.

Reuters (6/30, Westall) quotes Adnani as saying, "The legality of all emirates, groups, states, and organizations, becomes null by the expansion of the khalifah's authority and arrival of its troops to their areas." Adnani added, "Accordingly, The 'Iraq and Sham' (Levant) in the name of the Islamic State is henceforth removed from all official deliberations and communications, and the official name is the Islamic State from the date of this declaration."

Vanden Heuvel Suggests Kristol Volunteer To Fight In Iraq. The Huffington Post (6/29, 11.54M) reported that on ABC's This Week, The Nation's Katrina Vanden Heuvel, addressing the Weekly Standard's Bill Kristol, said the US "should not go back to war, and if you feel so strongly, you should, with all due respect, enlist in the Iraqi army."

According to the Daily Caller (6/29, Cohen, 408K), Vanden Heuvel made the case on Sunday that "'the architects of this tragedy that have cost this country trillions of dollars and thousands of lives' should be held accountable," and "criticize[d] the conservative media's 'arm chair warriors.'"

OBAMA TO SEEK $2 BILLION, NEW POWERS TO DEAL WITH FLOOD OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS INTO US. The President's plan to request $2 billion and new powers from Congress to address the mounting immigration crisis at the nation's southern border led one of the two network broadcasts that aired Sunday evening. That coverage and print reports this morning cast the move as an escalation by the Administration of its efforts to address the situation.

ABC World News (6/29, story 2, 2:00, Jarvis) reported that in a "major announcement" on Monday, the President "is expected to ask Congress for more than $2 billion and new powers to address the crisis at America's southern border." ABC (Avila) added that the Border Patrol is apprehending added about "350 children a day," but once they are in the US, "American law says they cannot be sent back immediately." DHS sources "admit less than 20 percent are ever sent back to their home country" due to "a law passed with bipartisan support and signed by President George W. Bush in 2008." On Monday, the President will send a letter to Congress "asking to fast-track the return of unaccompanied minors from Central America and for $2 billion to hire more immigration judges and build more facilities to hold the children crossing."

NBC Nightly News (6/29, lead story, 2:55, Holt, 7.86M) reported in its lead story the President "is preparing an urgent request to Congress to help stem the human tide." NBC (Welker) added that the request "is the latest move by the Obama Administration to deal with the crisis along the border. The President is under increasing pressure to tackle the issue but with relations already deeply strained between this President and Republicans on Capitol Hill, there are no guarantees." NBC added that the question is whether Congress will "approve the President's request. ... A spokesman for John Boehner says he won't react until he sees the proposal."

The Washington Times (6/30, Pompi, 455K) reports that according to the New York Times, the President "will also ask Congress to give Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson authorization to expedite the screening and deportation of migrant youths not from Mexico."

The AP (6/30, Sherman) reports that according to a White House official, details "of the emergency appropriation, including the exact amount and how it will be spent, will come after lawmakers return from their holiday recess on July 7." The President will also ask that "stiffer penalties be applied to those who smuggle children across the border, the official said."

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the move represents a major escalation in the Administration response to the increase in migrants coming across the Southern border.

The Christian Science Monitor (6/30, Sappenfield, 566K) reported that the request "is an acknowledgment that coyotes and cartels trafficking undocumented immigrants across the US border are exploiting several US vulnerabilities simultaneously, creating a humanitarian crisis."

Jim Darling, Mayor of McAllen, Texas, said on ABC's This Week (6/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "Hopefully, the funding will work. We don't think it's a crisis. We're doing our best effort to make sure it doesn't turn into one." Darling briefly noted that "unaccompanied children that don't come to our bus station are handled by HHS."

House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul said on CBS' Face The Nation (6/29, Schieffer, 2.64M), "It is a crisis like nothing I've ever seen before. We have refugee camps now in my home state of Texas. It is a very serious concern. I don't think the flow will stop until a message of deterrence is sent back to Central America. The drug traffickers are making $5,000 a child, advertising that if you get into the United States you can stay. And to some extent that is accurate." McCaul added, "I think we have to be humanitarian and let them know if they come they cannot stay otherwise we will never stop the flow."

CNN "Crossfire" host Stephanie Cutter said on CNN's State of the Union (6/29, Crowley), "I do think that this crisis puts tremendous pressure on House Speaker John Boehner to move something [on immigration reform]. He hasn't wanted to do that before the elections. I think, the more kids we see coming across the border, he's going to have to do that."

Border Patrol Agents Processing Immigrants Remotely Via Video Camera. The AP (6/30, Spagat) reports that in response to "the dramatic increase of Central Americans crossing the border in Texas that has flood immigration facilities," Border Patrol agents have been conducting interviews via video camera from San Diego and other stations on the US-Mexico border. The remote processing "highlights a predicament that has bedeviled the Border Patrol as it struggles to keep up with constantly-shifting migration patterns: Many agents wind up stationed in places where crossing activity is slowest."

Immigrant Teens Describe Journey Across US Border Without Parents. The Miami Herald (6/30, Chardy, 822K) highlights the stories of teens who made the trip across the US-Mexico border without their parents, noting that interviews "with half a dozen unaccompanied minors who reached the United States show that escaping gang violence is a prime factor in the exodus."

Border Situation Comes Amid Trade Dispute With El Salvador. Politico (6/30, Rogers, 637K) reported that as the White House "scrambles" to deal with the situation on the border, "a $277 million economic aid package for El Salvador is being delayed by the administration because of a trade dispute over a modest seed program to help small farmers grow staples like maize and beans." The dispute concerns "how the ministry of agriculture procures the seeds for distribution. Government contracts for seed purchases are estimated at about $30 million a year, and the question is whether units of US corporations like Monsanto Co. are being cut out in the effort to buy more seed from smaller, Salvadoran producers." Critics argue that the ministry is violating "the principles of transparency and nondiscrimination under the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement, or CAFTA-DR, approved in 2005." Democrats are circulating a draft letter asking Secretary of State Kerry to intercede and free the funds.

Gallup Poll: 43% Of Americans Wants Immigration To Be Reduced. The Daily Caller (6/29, Munro, 408K) reported that according to a new Gallup poll, despite the President's claim on Good Morning America that "The Majority of the American people want to see immigration reform done," only "one-in-five Americans want to see additional immigration, while two-in-five Americans want less immigration." According to the poll, "23 percent of independents want immigration increased, while 43 percent want it to be reduced."

OBAMA CALLS BOEHNER LAWSUIT "A STUNT." President Obama, in a taped interview with George Stephanopoulos broadcast on ABC's This Week (6/29, 2.73M), said of House Speaker Boehner's threatened legal action against him, "The suit is a stunt. But what I told Speaker Boehner directly is, if you're really concemed about me taking too many executive actions, why don't you try getting something done through Congress?"

House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte rebutted the President on Fox News Sunday (6/29, Wallace). Asked if the lawsuit was a stunt, Goodlatte said, "Absolutely not. ... This is all about the United States Constitution. ... It's very important." Other Republicans also defended the lawsuit. Rep. Sean Duffy said on NBC's Meet The Press (6/29, Gregory, 3.08M), "The President is taking historic action that has never been done before, where he is waving and suspending laws and then implementing regulation that undermines the control of Congress." Also on NBC's Meet the Press (6/29, Gregory, 3.08M), Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said, "[Obama] doesn't respect the Constitution."

However, on Fox News Sunday (6/29, Wallace), Rep. Xavier Becerra said, "The President has the authority as the executive to implement the laws." And on NBC's Meet The Press (6/29, Gregory, 3.08M), former White House counsel Kathryn Ruemmler said, "To say it's frivolous, I think is an understatement. ... [Boehner hasn't] actually said what he intends to sue the President over. I think that's pretty telling. To come out with guns blazing and say, 'I'm going to sue you, but I haven't figured out why yet,' is a little bit odd, to say the least."

On Fox News Sunday (6/29, Wallace), when asked if the President has "gone beyond some of his predecessors in his exercise of executive power," Brit Hume said, "I think unmistakably so. Presidents do tend to stretch these things and go as far as they can, but when you get shut down 9-0 by the Supreme Court, it ought to be a pretty clear warning that you're out of bounds." But while Bill Kristol on ABC's This Week (6/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M) said executive overreach is a concem, he said, "I'm not crazy about the particular move that the Speaker is taking."

GOP Appeal To Courts Is A Reversal In Tactics. The Washington Times (6/30, Dinan, 455K) writes that Boehner's proposed lawsuit "marks a stunning break for Republicans, who for years have tried to keep the courts out of the big questions of the day. Just a decade after House Republicans tried to strip the courts of their ability to hear key cases on such matters as the Pledge of Allegiance, the GOP is now pleading with federal judges to get more involved – chiefly to rein in Mr. Obama."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Gov. Christie's Money Trail."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (6/30, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) argues that while New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie "talks plenty tough," he "has yet to show sufficient interest in managing the public's money in ways that benefit the public." Questioning whether Christie can "make hard decisions that help ordinary people, even when it might hurt him politically," the Times says his record "on this score has been dismal," noting that he has repeatedly "used dubious strategies to avoid raising taxes (sparing him from inevitable criticism by party conservatives), even when increasing taxes would be the right thing to do."

"New Rules To Address Campus Rape." The New York Times (6/30, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes on the steps the Obama Administration has taken to address sexual assault in universities, especially draft regulations published by the Department of Education regarding standards of safety. Although some attorneys and libertarians disapprove of the guidelines, saying that college administrators are often ill-equipped to fairly handle such cases, the Times argues that college administrators "can't avoid involvement," and that the draft regulations "could bring more order to the process without unduly burdening administrators." The editorial acknowledges some of the possible risks inherent in the college discipline process, but concludes "The challenge for universities will be achieving the right balance," assuring equal treatment of both the accused and the accuser.

"Pushback On Home Care." In an editorial, the New York Times (6/30, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) discusses a new Federal regulation to ensure that home-care workers are fairly compensated as well as challenges to the rule in the form of a lawsuit by industry groups. The editorial argues that underpaying home-care workers has led to significant problems, and that the country "needs a uniformly high-quality, broadly accessible home care system. Fair pay for home care workers is an indispensable step in that direction."

"House Hypocrisy On Insider Trading." An editorial in the New York Times (6/30, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) criticizes the House for attempting to prevent the SEC from enforcing that STOCK Act in the case of a "staff member suspected of leaking to a lobbyist nonpublic information he heard last year about pending Medicare rate increases." The Times argues that the case is "clearly...worth pursuing if the law...is to be a credible tool against corruption on Capitol Hill and in numerous executive agencies also covered." The Times calls on a Federal judge in New York, who will hear the case this week, to "stand by the commission, which has a duty to subpoena records in this case."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Ebola, Unchecked."*** The Washington Post (6/30, 4.22M) argues in an editorial that a report last week from Doctors Without Borders which said that "West Africa's current Ebola outbreak is 'out of control'" should "shock the governments of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia into action." The Post says West Africa was "unprepared" for the outbreak and adds that with the "real risk that Ebola will spread," other West African nations should "heed the lesson of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia."

"A Mudslide – And Some Tough Choices." An editorial in the Washington Post (6/30, 4.22M) notes that a mudslide in Prince George's County, Maryland that left six homes uninhabitable and 22 others isolated has left county officials "grappling with the results — a moral, legal, budgetary and political dilemma for County Executive Rushem L. Baker III (D)." According to country officials, the collapse of a slope, which is the private property of a homeowner "caused the road to buckle," which means the county could "sue the homeowners for the price of fixing the whole mess." However, Baker "doesn't want to look like an ogre," and "reinforcing the slope and rebuilding the road could cost well over $20 million, a large sum to save a community of 28 homes." The Post notes that the county must "find a solution that provides some relief to the homeowners while protecting the county from a financial hit that could establish a risky precedent."

"Hand Off Hong Kong." In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/30, 4.22M) says that it seems China "plans to stick to the letter, but not the spirit" of its promise of "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong. In an unofficial poll asking Hong Kong residents to "choose among three electoral reforms for selection of Hong Kong's top leader," China "will impose a pro-Beijing committee to nominate candidates for general election, disqualifying anyone who doesn't 'love the country and love Hong Kong.'" The Post also cites "disturbing signs that China may be rethinking its hands-off policy," including a white paper which "asserted its 'comprehensive jurisdiction' over Hong Kong." The Post calls on the US to make clear that "being pro-China means advocating for Hong Kong's genuine democracy, including allowing a real choice in the nomination and election of chief executive candidates."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Carbon Regulation Bubble."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/30, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) criticizes a climate change report from the Risky Business Project, saying that US emissions are down to 1994 levels due largely to the rise of the natural gas sector, and that the recommendations of climate change activists would impede the US economy to the point that any effort to mitigate the effects would be hard to fund.

"The West's Putin Test." The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that now that Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed an economic association treaty with the European Union, it falls to the West to stand up for democratic values by supporting him through tighter sanctions against Russia and military support to Kiev.

"Obama Hedges On Land Mines." The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says in an editorial that while the Obama Administration has yet to fully ban land mine use, it appears to be moving in that direction, which would be a mistake. While the Journal says land mines are often misused, they are essential to the defense of South Korea.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Taking It Slow
Islamic Tug Of War In Syria
State's Carbon Credits Divide Allies
Border Crisis May Renew Reform Fight
In East LA, A Tree's Film Fame Continues To Grow

Wall Street Journal:
Militants Leverage Iraq Gains In Syria
BNP Paribas Settlement To Cap Woeful Period
After Crisis, Stock Picker Rises Again
Experiment On Facebook Users Prompts Outrage

New York Times:
Before Shooting In Iraq, A Warning On Blackwater
Flawed Saudi Response Fueled Outbreak Of MERS, Middle East Virus
New NSA Chief Calls Damage From Snowden Leaks Manageable
New Wave of African Writers With An Internationalist Bent
Boom Meets Bust In Texas: Atop Sea Of Oil, Poverty Digs In
After West Bank Kidnapping, 2 Mothers Embody A Divide

Washington Post:
Paradise Despoiled
Ex-CEO Picked For VA Secretary
Gags On Whistleblowing Are Rising, Lawyers Say
Unprecedented Cooperation In Removal Of Syrian Arsenal

Catholic U Student Who Reported Rape Turns To Title IX

Financial Times:
German Minister Pledges To Keep UK In EU
BIS Warns Over "Euphoric" Markets
BNP Board Approves $8.9bn US Settlement

Washington Times:
50 VA Hospital Works Claim Retaliation For Blowing Whistle
To Change Iran, A Rally Of Strange Bedfellows
At Summit, Pot Industry Is Serious Business
Belgium Now A Major Holder Of US Bonds
Poll Reveals Russians Feel US Is Hostile
GOP's Turn To Courts For Resolution A New Tack

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Immigrant Children-Obama; Obama-Veteran Affairs Nomination; Iraq-Military Action; Mental Health-Shooting; Washington State-Governor's Office Break-In; Consumer Scandal; Prince Harry Inheritance; NASA-Landing Craft.
CBS: Preempted by golf.
NBC: Obama-Immigrant Children; Obama-Veteran Affairs Nomination; Iraq-Military Forces; Severe Weather; Arizona Wildfire; Amazon-Working Condition Documentary; New York City-Gay Pride March.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: United Flight-Emergency Landing; ISIL-US Advisors; Ukraine-Violence; Weather Forecast; BET Awards.
CBS: VA-Obama Nomination; ISIL-Islamic State; North Korea-Prisoner Release Speculation; World Cup Soccer.
NPR: ISIL-Islamic State; Israel Prime Minister-Kurdish State; SCOTUS-Pending Rulings; Gay Pride Marches; Actor-Taylor Death; NASA-Mars Landing System.
FOX: Iraq-Military Forces; Boston Bombing Trial; Benghazi Suspect Trial; World Cup Soccer.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; holds a bilateral meeting with President Michelle Bachelet of Chile, Oval Office; makes a personnel announcement, The Department of Veterans Affairs; hosts a reception to observe LGBT Pride Month, East Room.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; holds a bilateral meeting with President Michelle Bachelet of Chile, Oval Office.
US Senate: 12 p.m. — The Senate convenes for a pro forma session.

1 p.m. AGING – FIELD HEARING — "Sandwich Generation Squeeze: Confronting the Middle Class Struggle to Raise Kids, Care for Aging Parents, and Scrape Together Enough for Retirement in Today's Economy." Location: Allegheny County Courthouse Gold Room, Pittsburgh, PA.
US House: No Scheduled Events.
Other: BROOKINGS – PRESIDENT OF CHILE — 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Foreign Policy's Latin America Initiative at Brookings will host President Michelle Bachelet of Chile for a discussion on strengthening democracy and stability, focused on Chile's present reform efforts. Brookings Acting Vice President and Director of Foreign Policy Ted Piccone will provide introductory remarks, and Director of the Latin America Initiative Harold Trinkunas will moderate the discussion. Location: Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

HERITAGE – UNITED NATIONS — 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. "Lessons on How the U.S. Can Reform the U.N." Featuring Christopher Bancroft Burnham, Under Secretary General of the United Nations for Management, June 2005 to November 2006; Kim R. Holmes, Assistant Secretary for International Organizations, U.S. Department of

State November 2002 to June 2005; Ambassador Joseph M. Torsella, U.S. Representative to the United Nations for Management and Reform April 2011 to January 2014. Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE.

ACS – SUPREME COURT — 1 p.m. The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (ACS) will host a press conference call featuring constitutional law scholars and a former U.S. Solicitor General to examine the final opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court this term, expected to be Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby and Harris v. Quinn. With Walter Dellinger, partner, O'Melveny & Myers LLP; former acting U.S. Solicitor General; Caroline Mala Corbin, professor of law, University of Miami School of Law; Charlotte Garden, assistant professor of law, Seattle University School of Law.

PENTAGON BRIEFING — 1:15 p.m. U.S. European Command Commander, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Philip M. Breedlove briefs the media on "Update on European Command."

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All late-night talk shows were in re-run.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Land and Water Conservation Fund: 2015 Budget Request

In 1965, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund to embody its bipartisan commitment to safeguard natural areas, water resources and our cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. LWCF is helping to create America's outdoor spaces—public and private, large and small, urban and rural—as envisioned by the American people.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided funding to secure access for recreational opportunities—from hunting and fishing, to canoeing and bird watching throughout the country. Over its 50 year history, the Fund has protected conservation and recreation land in every state and supported tens of thousands of state and local projects. Americans care deeply about our outdoor heritage, want to enjoy and protect it, and are willing to take collective responsibility to protect it for their children and grandchildren.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund plays an important economic role for local communities. Recreation activities in national parks, wildlife refuges and other lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior contributed approximately $45 billion and 372,000 jobs to the U.S. economy in 2012.[1] Nationally, outdoor recreation activities contribute $646 billion to the economy annually and support 6.1 million jobs.[2] Moreover, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a sound investment: for every $1.00 invested in Federal land acquisition through LWCF, there is a return of $4.00 – a return on investment of four to one.[3]

Conserving landscapes and meeting the present-day needs of local communities requires collaboration among all stakeholders, including private landowners, conservation and recreation groups, and local, State, tribal, and Federal governments. The Administration's LWCF request supports broad collaboration around locally driven priorities and more efficient and coordinated ways of investing in, restoring, and managing the country's natural and cultural resources.

In 2015, the total proposed LWCF request is $900 million, of which $672 million supports Department of the Interior programs and $228 million supports Forest Service programs. The budget requests $350 million in discretionary funding and proposes $550 million in permanent funding as part of a multi-year strategy leading to full permanent funding for LWCF in 2016.

Permanent Funding for LWCF

LWCF enjoys widespread popularity, and there are more willing sellers than available LWCF funding. Yet the program is constrained by uncertainty about annual current appropriations which prevents the

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1 Department of the Interior, *The Department of the Interior's Economic Contributions*, 2012
[2] Outdoor Industry Association, *The Outdoor Recreation Economy*, 2012
[3] The Trust for Public Land, *Return on the Investment from the Land & Water Conservation Fund*, 2010

agencies—and local and State partners—from engaging in the multi-year planning that large-scale conservation and effective collaboration with local communities requires. Annual planning driven by the budget process can favor funding individual projects which may not be the most strategic in terms of advancing broader conservation objectives.

These challenges also impact the partners who work with agencies to protect critically important habitat and recreation areas that are hampered by the lack of certainty and irregularity of annually appropriated funding. The chronic uncertainty and underfunding of LWCF has made it increasingly challenging for Federal, State and local managers to use this tool to address the development threats facing the Nation's most important open spaces, pristine habitats, and cultural sites—the lands and waters that support vibrant conservation economies, provide communities with recreation opportunities, and that preserve our history.

The Administration proposes to address these challenges by pursuing full and permanent funding for LWCF programs. Permanent funding will increase financial certainty needed to build and enhance local and community conservation partnerships and optimize valuable investments by leveraging other Federal and non-Federal funds. Permanent appropriations will support the efficiencies demonstrated by the LWCF programs and facilitate a more predictable, transparent and inclusive process. Permanent funding will also finally achieve the original intent of the LWCF Act: to dedicate a meaningful portion, $900 million, of the royalties private companies pay to access the Nation's offshore oil and gas reserves to preserving the Nation's lands and waters for the benefit of all Americans, now and in the future.

2015 LWCF President's Budget Request	**($m)**		
	Discretionary	Permanent	Total
LWCF State and Local Assistance Grants	48.1	52.0	100.1
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Grants	50.0	50.0	100.0
Forest Legacy Grants	53.0	47.0	100.0
Urban Parks & Recreation Grants	0.0	25.0	25.0
Grants to 5tates Total	***151.1***	***174.0***	***325.1***
NPS Land Acquisition	55.9	115.1	171.0
BLM Land Acquisition	25.0	64.4	89.4
FWS Land Acquisition	55.0	113.8	168.8
FS Land Acquisition	51.0	76.7	127.7
DOI Office of Valuation Services	12.0	6.0	18.0
Federal Land Acquisition Total	***198.9***	***376.0***	***574.9***
DOI subtotal	*246.0*	*426.3*	*672.3*
USDA subtotal	*104.0*	*123.7*	*227.7*
Total LWCF Program Funding	***350.0***	***550.0***	***900.0***

LWCF Grants to States

LWCF funds grant programs run by the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Fish & Wildlife Service. A total of $325 million would fund grants to States for conservation and recreation.

The **LWCF State Grants** program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program helps to

create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the country.

The **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund** (CESCF) grants provide funds to States to work with private landowners, conservation organizations, and other partners to protect and conserve the habitat of threatened and endangered species.

The **Urban Park Recreation and Recovery Program** (UPARR) provides matching grants to select physically and economically distressed urban communities to revitalize and improve recreation opportunities. UPARR provides grants directly to local governments to rehabilitate existing indoor and outdoor recreation facilities; demonstrate innovative ways to enhance park and recreation opportunities; and develop local Recovery Action Program Plans.

The **Forest Legacy Program** (FLP) supports State efforts to encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands. FLP is an entirely voluntary program administered through the Forest Service in cooperation with State partners. FLP also encourages partnerships with local governments and land trusts, recognizing the important contributions landowners, communities, and private organizations make to forest conservation efforts.

Federal Land Conservation, Recreation and Access

A total of $575 million of the Administration's LWCF request will support conservation, access and recreational opportunities on federal land. The Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture work in cooperation with local communities, rely on willing sellers, and maximize opportunities for easement acquisitions. LWCF funds will support simpler, more efficient land management; create access for hunters and anglers and other recreation opportunities; create long-term cost savings; address urgent threats to some of America's most special places; and support State and local conservation priorities.

Land acquisition funds are used to secure access for the American public to their Federal lands. Concurrent with the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, these funds will invest in acquisitions to better meet public recreation access needs by working with willing landowners to secure rights-of-way, easements or fee simple lands that provide public access or consolidate Federal ownership so that public has intact spaces to hike, hunt, and fish. The Forest Service will use up to $4 million of FY 2015 LWCF funds ($2 million in current, $2 million in permanent funding) to acquire parcels that provide access to national forest lands where access is not currently available, chronically difficult to access or impeded. Likewise, the Interior bureaus request $2 million in current and an additional $13 million in permanent funding for projects to support public access for recreation, including hunter and angler access.

The Administration's highly strategic approach to using LWCF land acquisition funds includes the Collaborative LWCF initiative. This interagency program brings DOI and USDA together with local stakeholders to identify large natural areas where LWCF funds can achieve the most important shared conservation goals in the highest priority landscapes. Conserving large scale natural areas provides multiple resource and economic benefits to the public, including clean drinking water, recreational opportunities, protected habitat for at-risk and game species and jobs generated on and off these lands.

The Collaborative LWCF program seeks to fund the best opportunities to leverage other Federal resources, along with those of non-Federal partners, to support conservation goals driven by the best science and a shared community vision.

The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture followed a rigorous merit-based based evaluation process to select landscapes for investment. After evaluating and prioritizing multiple ecosystems, they selected eight landscapes for 2015 funding:

- California Southwest Desert (CA)
- National Trails System (nationwide)
- Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative (FL, GA)
- South Carolina Longleaf Pine (SC)
- Upper Rio Grande (NM, CO)
- Grasslands/Prairie Potholes (ND, SD)
- High Divide (ID, MT)
- Greater Yellowstone (WY)

Benefits of Proposed FY2015 LWCF Investments: Highlights

Reduced Costs for Land Management

LWCF funds will be used to acquire parcels that make it easier and less costly to manage existing public lands. Instead of raising operating costs, the acquisition of inholdings can reduce maintenance and manpower costs by reducing boundary conflicts, simplifying resource management activities, and easing access to and through public lands for agency employees and the public.

Conservation efforts have been underway to consolidate "checkerbaard lands" a mixture of public and private ownership. For example, consolidation of porcels in California's ***Santa Roso and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument*** *improves the efficiency of BLM management activities, resulting in overall long-term savings.*

Access for Hunting and Fishing and Recreation

Participants in the America's Great Outdoors listening sessions made it clear that access to our nation's lands for all kinds of recreation – in particular hunting and fishing – is a national priority. This LWCF request will fund strategic acquisitions that improve access to public lands for sportsmen and women.

LWCF will safeguard access to a heavily used trail olong New York's ***Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River*** *which received over 255,000 recreational visitors in 2012. The project will maintoin a key river occess ond recreational hiking opportunities for the public.*

Economic Benefits for Communities

Investing in healthy ecosystems benefits the Federal government, local communities and taxpayers. Timely acquisition of important natural areas today can help avoid much higher costs to taxpayers in

future years by protecting water supplies, important species habitat, recreational and cultural sites, and other natural resources with economic value to the public.

In 2012, wildfires burned more than 8 million acres in the U.S., resulting in $1.9 billion in total economic losses.[4] *Expanding a manageable fire buffer along the northwestern edge of Georgia's* ***Okefenokee Swamp*** *by 3,900 acres will protect private lands, provide an economic benefit to the community, and streamline future fire-fighting activities.*

Protection from Urgent Threats

LWCF funds are used to acquire lands that are in imminent danger from industrial or residential development. Civil War and Revolutionary War battlefields, for example, are the hallowed ground of our nation's history; preserving these lands as parks for the American public prevents irreparable loss.

NPS acquisition of neorly 47 acres of undeveloped forested land in the heart of on importont civil war battle site at Virginio's ***Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memoriol National Military Park*** *will protect the property from imminent development: the tract has recently been acquired by o developer. Development or subdivision of this property would irrevocably scar one of the Park's most important battlefield londscapes. The Civil War Trust, an active partner with NPS in Civil War oreas, is working with the developer to acquire the lands inside the federal boundary to ensure their preservation.*

Supporting Local Priorities

Federal acquisitions projects are planned collaboratively with local stakeholders, and often depend on the significant support of State or local government, or of locally-based nonprofit conservation partners. These partners sometimes act as intermediary landowners, holding land temporarily to protect it from development until the Federal government can secure the funds to assume ownership.

As the result of o portnership among the Department of the Navy, the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) and the NPS, critical wildlife habitat in Californio's ***Joshua Tree National Park*** *has been protected since 2010. The MDLT has been holding londs located within or adjacent to a designoted wilderness area. Federol acquisition of these trocts from MDLT will ensure the preservation of this area located within a day's drive from Los Angeles and San Diego, as well as providing funds to sustoin this strong local partnership.*

[4] Headwaters Economics, *Wildfire and Homes*, http://headwaterseconomics.org/wphw/wp-content/uploads/wildfire_homes_solutions_presentation.pdf, 2014

Collaborative Landscape Conservation Highlights

California Southwest Desert– Funding for the *California Southwest Desert Landscape* will support community and conservation goals rooted in years of partnership between a wide variety of government agencies and NGOs, and informed by multiple conservation and recreation plans for the area. Diverse and increasing demands are being put on this landscape. The immediate and escalating nature of these demands creates an urgent need to deliberately conserve resources in the near term. Through a collaborative approach and continued Federal investment, conservation partners can work to ensure that development and growth in the region are balanced with conservation and community goals. This Collaborative LWCF request will directly support work being done to achieve habitat protection and recreational opportunities as a direct result of renewable energy development.

Prior Federal investments in this area have led to important resource protection successes, a reflection of the strong partnerships in the area that continue to leverage Federal dollars. The 2015 President's Budget proposes $15 million in current and $19 in permanent funding for California Southwest Desert landscape projects.

National Trails – LWCF investment in the *National Trails Collabarative Landscape* will benefit the country's world-class system of 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails totaling over 54,000 miles in length, traversing 49 States and every ecological biome in the Nation, and touching wilderness, rural landscapes, and historic and cultural corridors. These long-distance trails, stretching for hundreds or thousands of miles each, connect with 70 national wildlife refuges, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, and 100 major metropolitan areas. They protect crucial conservation areas and wildlife migration corridors and provide education, recreation, and fitness opportunities for all ages. The request will support acquisitions to improve safety, access, connectivity, and integrity for 16 trails in 18 States.

The collaborative nature of the national scenic and historic trails means that a financial investment by any of the partners has the potential to be greatly leveraged by contributions from other partners, including State agencies, local governments, and land trusts. Federal investment in these Trails stimulates citizen engagement in public resource stewardship and volunteerism, connects citizens with the Nation's natural and cultural heritage, and strengthens communities across the land. The 2015 President's Budget proposes $22 million for National Trail landscapes in current and $34 million in permanent funding.

Florida-Georgia Longleaf Initiative– LWCF investment in the *Florida-Georgia Langleaf Initiative* landscape is crucial to the ecological well being and recovery of the diminishing longleaf pine ecosystem in the South. Longleaf pines, which once covered up to 98 million acres of the Southeast, have been reduced to about 3 million acres, much of it in poor condition.

The 2015 budget proposes a total of $15 million in current and $23 million in permanent funding for the Florida-Georgia Longleaf Initiative. Lands targeted for acquisition represent the highest priority to protect and restore critical habitat for several listed species, and protect and restore the headwaters of the free-flowing Suwannee and St. Mary's Rivers – the largest intact watershed in the East and critical watersheds that recharge the Floridan Aquifer, which provides drinking water for much of north Florida. Projects will also enhance public access for recreation, protect private lands from wildfire, and support

the operations of Tyndall Air Force Base. The project supports local economies by protecting highly prized natural landscapes for public outdoor recreation and tourism. The working forest component further enhances economic vitality of local communities by providing forest products that support local infrastructure.

South Carolina Longleaf Partnership – LWCF investment in the *South Carolina Longleaf Partnership* landscape will support recovery efforts in the heart of the longleaf pine ecosystem range and support local efforts to preserve the Gullah Geechee cultural corridor. The 2015 budget proposes a total of $2 million in current and $15 million in permanent funding for the South Carolina Longleaf Partnership. The funding will support projects local communities identified as priorities through America's Great Outdoors—including the Santee Basin in South Carolina — in addition to longleaf pine forest restoration in a landscape level package on ecologically significant habitats within the longleaf pine ecosystem. It will also protect significant cultural lands including the Gullah Geechee Corridor, an area intrinsically linked to the cultural heritage of African Americans in the Southeast. Important cultural heritage sites in the Corridor are being lost at an alarming rate, and protecting identified tracts will ensure some of these cultural treasures remain intact.

Collaboration among Federal, State and local governments and private landowners to increase connectivity and share management capabilities is the key to the future of longleaf pine. Thousands of acres of privately protected lands are interwoven with public lands across this landscape. Locally, Charleston County initiated a Greenbelt Program, funded by a sales tax approved by local voters, to protect public lands and greenspace. The Greenbelt Program partners closely with Federal agencies on conservation projects, recognizing that Federal land ownership complements Greenbelt goals and provides much-needed access to recreational opportunities for local residents.

Upper Rio Grande Collaborative Landscape – Investment in the *Upper Rio Grande* landscape will support conservation in the headwaters of the Rio Grande River in Colorado and New Mexico, a land of soaring peaks and spectacular river gorges within a day's drive of five million people. The Upper Rio Grande collaborative landscape partnership builds on a multi-year effort among Federal agency personnel from all levels, local private landowners and conservation groups. Over the last 30 years, grassroots, community-based efforts on both sides of the state line have made incredible strides to permanently protect critical cultural, wildlife, ecological, and recreational lands under a variety of Federal and state authorities. At the same time, private, partnership-based efforts have made significant investments to protect the working landscapes across the Upper Rio Grande through conservation easements and increased public awareness of the importance of landscape-scale conservation.

The 2015 budget proposes a total of $19 million in permanent funding for the Upper Rio Grande landscape. Proposed acquisitions will create an un-fragmented core of protected lands on more than 1.3 million acres, enabling more efficient land management and conservation of resources across the landscape. Conservation plans include 5,000 acres of wetlands restoration and historic wetlands protection. This restoration has the potential to support over 160 species of birds, including 19 waterfowl and 22 shorebird species and Colorado's largest population of breeding Western snowy plovers, and remarkable macroinvertebrate diversity, including an undescribed species of fairy shrimp. Plans for the landscape also include protection of unique cultural and historic sites. To date, approximately 650 archeological sites have been recorded within the 22,000 acres (8.9%) of the Rio

Grande del Norte National Monument that have been comprehensively inventoried, and local experts believe that thousands of additional archaeological and historical resources remain undocumented.

Grasslands and Prairie Potholes Collaborative Landscape – Investment in the *Grasslands and Prairie Potholes* landscape will support conservation of a severely threatened habitat that supports over 50% of the mid-continent breeding duck population. The Grasslands and Prairie Potholes region is a tapestry of tallgrass, mixed-grass, and short-grass prairie interspersed with glaciated prairie wetlands, streams, and river corridors. From farm-dominated regions in Minnesota and Iowa to the wide-open ranchlands of the west, this landscape, often called "America's duck factory", also provides critical habitat for multiple threatened and endangered (T&E) species, including black-footed ferret, pallid sturgeon, prairie-fringed orchid, and piping plover, and is home to grassland-dependent birds, including marbled godwits, burrowing owls, and greater sage grouse. It is also a landscape threatened by unprecedented conversion rates of native sod and prairie wetlands to row-crops.

Local conservation districts, chambers of commerce and coalitions of ranchers and conservationists have all supported conservation efforts in the region. Cooperating partners share a common vision for this landscape which focuses on balancing agriculture, livestock ranching, and energy development with wetland and grassland conservation projects. Restored and conserved habitats will improve wildlife connectivity between tribal lands, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests and National Grasslands; prevent habitat fragmentation/isolation; enhance water quality and flood abatement; and significantly increase recreational opportunities for the American public consistent with America's Great Outdoors goals.

The 2015 budget proposes a total of $15 million in permanent funding for the Grasslands and Prairie Potholes landscape. LWCF funding will be directed toward priority land acquisitions in identified "focus areas" to benefit the full suite of wetland- and grassland-dependent wildlife. Population goals have been established for many species found within the region. In the case of water fowl, quantifiable population targets have been linked into habitats needed to reach desired population objectives. Both acres protected and acres restored will be tracked by cooperating partners.

High Divide Collaborative Landscape – Investment in the *High Divide* landscape will support a crucial wildlife lifeline along the spine of the continent in Idaho and Montana that links Yellowstone National Park, to Idaho's Frank Church Wilderness. This landscape collaborative includes 11 units of four land management agencies; NRCS; two state wildlife agencies; seven conservation groups, community groups, and science organizations; and ranchland groups, land owners, and private foundations. The collaborative brings mature local partnerships together to achieve regional landscape conservation and community goals.

High Divide counties rely on outdoor recreation opportunities for local residents and more than 3.8 million annual visitors. Recreation tourism brings in $320.1 million annually to local county economies, and includes popular activities such as wildlife viewing hunting, fishing, and river floats. The 2015 budget proposes a total of $16 million in permanent funding for the High Divide landscape. LWCF investments will enhance public access to dispersed recreation lands and waterways, and will protect the Nez Perce, Continental Divide, and Lewis and Clark National Trails.

LWCF investments in the High Divide will protect corridor bottleneck lands to allow grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, and big game animals to move freely through the High Divide; ensure that habitats for endangered sockeye salmon, threatened Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout, and candidate arctic grayling are ecologically functional; and protect core sage grouse habitats to support the broader NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative. The plan includes keeping strategic lands in private ownership, supporting the working ranchlands that are central to the region's economy and culture.

Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem – Investment in the *Greater Yellawstane Ecasystem* landscape will protect key lands within one of the last remaining large, nearly intact ecosystems in the northern temperate zones of the earth. The area's outstanding landscapes, famous western rivers and lakes, vast high deserts, and high mountain valleys draw millions of tourists annually and support the region's outdoor tourism economy. LWCF investment of $45 million in permanent funding will provide protection for highly desirable parcels from the threat of development. Permanent protection will ensure public access and conservation of natural resources.

FY2015 LWCF National Project Priorities –President's Budget Request

Bureau of Land Management

Rank	State	**Collaborative Landscape**/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY2015 Request (*Current*)
1		**California Desert SW**	
	CA	California Wilderness	$1,720,000
	CA	Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument	$1,000,000
	CA	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	$950,000
	CA	San Sebastian Marsh/San Felipe Creek ACEC	$982,000
		California Desert SW Total	$4,652,000
2	ID	Upper Snake/South Fork Snake River ACEC/SRMA	$1,000,000
3	OR	John Day National Wild and Scenic River	$600,000
4	OR	Sandy River ACEC/Oregon National Historic Trail	$1,000,000
5	WY	North Platte River SRMA	$1,200,000
6	CO	Canyons of the Ancients National Monument	$1,200,000
			$5,000,000
7		**National Trails System**	
	ID	Nez Perce National Historic Trail/Henrys Lake ACEC	$3,000,000
	OR	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	$542,000
	MT	Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail	$1,032,000
		National Trails System Total	$4,574,000
8	CO	McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area	$210,000
9	CO	Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area	$288,000
10	AZ	Ironwood Forest National Monument	$950,000
11	NM	Rio Grande del Norte National Monument	$2,900,000
			$4,348,000
12	OR	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	$906,000
		Sportsman/Recreational Access	$2,000,000
		Emergency/Inholding/Hardship	$1,616,000
		Acquisition Management	$1,904,000
		TOTAL, Bureau of Land Management Land Acquisition	**$25,000,000**

Rank	State	**Collaborative Landscape**/Project Name or Core Project Name[1]	FY2015 Request *(Permanent)*
		California Desert SW	
	CA	California Wilderness	$0
	CA	Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument	$4,824,000
13	CA	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	$1,511,000
	CA	San Sebastian Marsh/San Felipe Creek ACEC	$1,367,000
	CA	Big Morongo ACEC	$800,000
		California Desert SW Total	$8,502,000
14	ID	Upper Snake/South Fork Snake River ACEC/SRMA	$1,900,000
15	OR	John Day National Wild and Scenic River	$2,250,000
16	OR	Sandy River ACEC/Oregon National Historic Trail	$2,500,000
			$6,650,000
		National Trails System	
17	MT	Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail	$1,148,000
		National Trails System Total	$1,148,000
18	CO	McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area	$1,625,000
19	AZ	Ironwood Forest National Monument	$1,170,000
			$2,795,000
		Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine	
20	FL	Lathrop Bayou Habitat Management Area	$275,000
		Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine Total	$275,000
21	OR	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	$5,000,000
22	CA	Carrizo Plain National Monument	$300,000
23	MT	Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River	$3,408,000
24	AZ	Agua Fria National Monument	$3,300,000
			$12,008,000
		Upper Rio Grande	
25	CO	Blanca Wetlands ACEC/SRMA	$6,426,000
	NM	Rio Grande del Norte National Monument	$1,660,000
		Upper Rio Grande Total	$8,086,000
26	CA	Panoche-Coalinga ACEC	$3,300,000
27	CO	Colorado River SRMA	$2,000,000
			$5,300,000
		High Divide	
	ID	Sands Desert Habitat Management Area	$1,850,000
	ID	Salmon River SRMA/Salmon River Watershed	$3,725,000
28	ID	Chilly Slough/Thousand Springs ACEC	$250,000
	ID	Oregon National Historic Trail	$440,000
	MT	Madison River SRMA	$868,000
		High Divide Total	$7,133,000
		Sportsman/Recreational Access	$8,000,000
		Emergency/Inholding/Hardship	$1,500,000
		Acquisition Management	$3,000,000
		TOTAL, Bureau of Land Management Land Acquisition	**$64,397,000**

Fish and Wildlife Service

Rank	State	**Collaborative Landscape**/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY2015 Request *(Current)*
1		**California Desert SW**	
	CA	San Diego NWR	$5,000,000
		California Desert SW	$5,000,000
2	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	$3,000,000
3	ND/SD	Dakota Grassland Conservation Area	$7,000,000
4		**National Trails System**	
	VA	Rappahanock River NWR (Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT)	$2,000,000
		National Trails System	$2,000,000
5	MT	Rocky Mountain Front CA	$2,000,000
6	FL	Everglades Headwaters NWR and Conservation Area	$3,000,000
7	AR	Cache River NWR	$1,071,000
8	CT/MA/	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	$2,000,000
9		**Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine**	
	FL	St. Marks NWR	$6,000,000
	GA	Okefenokee NWR	$4,000,000
		Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine	$10,000,000
		Land Protection Planning	$465,000
		Acquisition Management	$12,613,000
		Inholding/Emergencies/Hardships	$5,351,000
		Exchanges	$1,500,000
		Total, Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition	**$55,000,000**

Rank	State	**Collaborative Landscape**/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY2015 Request *(Permanent)*
10	CA	**California Desert SW**	
	CA	San Diego NWR	$6,770,000
		California Desert SW	$6,770,000
11	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	$3,887,000
12	ND/SD	Dakota Grassland Conservation Area	$7,000,000
13		**National Trails System**	
	VA	Rappahanock River NWR (Capt John Smith Chesapeake NHT)	$3,560,000
	ID	Grays Lake NWR (California National Historic Trail)	$3,500,000
	AK	Innoko NWR (Iditarod National Historic Trail)	$100,000
	WA	Ridgefield NWR (Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail)	$500,000
	TN	Chickasaw NWR (Trail of Tears National Historic Trail)	$3,000,000
		National Trails System	$10,660,000
14	FL	Everglades Headwaters NWR and Conservation Area	$5,000,000
15	AR	Cache River NWR	$2,000,000
16	CT/MA/NH/VT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	$3,000,000
17	CA	San Joaquin River NWR	$1,000,000
18		**Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine**	
	FL	St. Marks NWR	$19,049,000
		Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine	$19,049,000
19	CA	Grasslands WMA	$1,000,000
20	ID/UT /WY	Bear River Watershed Conservation Area	$2,000,000
21		**South Carolina Long Leaf Pine**	
	SC	ACE Basin NWR	$2,500,000
	SC	Waccamaw NWR	$1,766,000
	SC	Santee NWR	$3,000,000
	GA	Cape Romain NWR	$2,986,500
	SC	Carolina Sandhills NWR	$1,000,000
		South Carolina Long Leaf Pine	$11,252,500
22	KS	Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area	$1,000,000
23	TX	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR	$2,000,000
24		**Upper Rio Grande**	
	CO	Baca NWR	$2,653,500
		Upper Rio Grande	$2,653,500
25	TX	Balcones Canyonlands NWR	$1,000,000
26	MN/IA	Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR	$500,000
27		**Grasslands/Prairie Potholes**	
	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	$3,000,000
	ND/SD	Dakota Grasslands CA	$7,500,000
		Grasslands/Prairie Potholes	$10,500,000
28	WA	Willapa NWR	$1,000,000
29		**High Divide**	
	MT/ID	Red Rock Lakes NWR	$1,000,000
		High Divide	$1,000,000
		Land Protection Planning	$3,000,000
		Acquisition Management	$12,000,000
		Inholding/Emergencies/Hardships	$3,000,000
		Exchanges	$1,000,000
		Sportsmen/Recreational Access	$2,500,000
		Total, Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition	**$113,772,000**

National Park Service

Rank	State	**Collaborative Landscape**/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY2015 Request *(Discretionary)*
1		**California Southwest Desert CLP**	
	CA	Joshua Tree National Park	$138,000
	CA	Mojave National Preserve	$1,873,000
		California Southwest Desert	$2,011,000
2	CA	Redwood National Park	$6,250,000
3		NPS Civil War Sesquicentennial Units	
	MO	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park	$900,000
	NM	Pecos National Historical Park	$1,205,000
	VA	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields NMP	$1,519,000
	PA	Gettysburg National Military Park	$376,000
4		**National Trails System**	
	HI	Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail	$2,000,000
	VT	Appalachian National Scenic Trail	$533,000
	NH	Appalachian National Scenic Trail	$2,250,500
	VA	Capt. John Smith National Historic Trail	$4,000,000
	WI	Ice Age National Scenic Trail	$1,664,000
	MA	New England National Scenic Trail	$247,100
	MI	North Country National Scenic Trail	$519,400
		National Trails System CLP	$11,214,000
5	WV	Gauley River National Recreation Area	$2,814,000
6	CA	Death Valley National Park	$455,000
7	GA	Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area	$1,535,500
8	NY	Saratoga National Historical Park	$705,500
		Emergency/Hardship/Relocations/Deficiencies	$3,928,000
		Inholdings/Exchanges/Donations	$4,928,000
		American Battlefield Protection Program Civil War Battlefield Land	$8,516,000
		Acquisition Management	$9,526,000
		TOTAL, National Park Service Land Acquisition	**$55,883,000**

Rank	State	**Collaborative Landscape**/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY2015 Request (*Current*)
9		**California Southwest Desert**	
	CA	Joshua Tree National Park	$1,956,000
	CA	Mojave National Preserve	$1,351,000
		California Southwest Desert	$3,307,000
10	NY	Saratoga National Historical Park	$144,500
11	ME	Acadia National Park	$776,000
12	NY	Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreation River	$540,000
13		**National Trails System**	
	HI	Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail	$2,000,000
	MA	Appalachian National Scenic Trail	$777,000
	NH	Appalachian National Scenic Trail	$200,000
	PA	Appalachian National Scenic Trail	$500,000
	VA	Capt. John Smith National Historic Trail	$2,000,000
	WI	Ice Age National Scenic Trail	$2,248,000
	MI	North Country National Scenic Trail	$543,000
	NM	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail	$4,310,000
	ID	Nez Perce National Historic Trail	$1,210,000
		National Trails System	$13,788,000
14	WA	Olympic National Park	$5,220,000
15		**Upper Rio Grande**	
	CO	Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	$3,365,000
		Upper Rio Grande	$3,365,000
16	AZ	Saguaro National Park	$2,139,000
17	CA	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area	$3,760,000
18		**Grasslands/Prairie Potholes CLP**	
	SD	Wind Cave National Park	$574,000
	ND	Theodore Roosevelt National Park	$1,438,000
		Grasslands/Prairie Potholes CLP	$2,012,000
19	CO	Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site	$1,690,000
20	MD	Piscataway Park	$1,437,000
21		**High Divide CLP**	
	MT	Big Hole National Battlefield	$150,000
		High Divide CLP	$150,000
22	AK	Katmai National Park and Preserve	$2,545,000
23	MN	Voyageurs National Park	$1,241,000
24		**Greater Yellowstone CLP**	
	WY	Grand Teton National Park	$45,000,000
		Greater Yellowstone CLP	$45,000,000
25	CA	Golden Gate National Recreation Area	$3,743,500
		Emergency/Hardship/Relocations/Deficiencies	$6,000,000
		Inholdings/Exchanges/Donations	$6,800,000
		Recreational Access	$2,500,000
		American Battlefield Protection Program Civil War Battlefield Land	$5,000,000
		Acquisition Management	$4,000,000
		TOTAL, National Park Service Land Acquisition	**$115,158,000**

U.S. Forest Service

Rank	State	**Collaborative Landscape**/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY2015 Request *(Current)*
1		**California Desert SW**	
	CA	San Bernardino	$2,100,000
	CA	Pacific Crest NST	$1,265,000
		California Desert SW	$3,365,000
2	CA	Sierra Nevada Checkerboard; Royal Gorge: Tahoe	$2,200,000
3	MT	Tenderfoot: Lewis and Clark	$2,000,000
4		**National Trails**	
	TN	Appalachian NST	$330,000
	WA	Pacific Northwest NST	$2,700,000
	WA	Pacific Crest NST	$1,320,000
		National Trails	$4,350,000
5	NC	North Carolina Threatened Treasures: Pisgah	$2,100,000
6		Wilderness Inholdings	
	NM	Gila Wilderness	$500,000
	NM	White Mountain Wilderness	$100,000
	KY	Beaver Creek Wilderness	$50,000
	AK	Stikine LeConte Wilderness	$145,000
	CA	Ventana Wilderness	$240,000
7		**Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine**	
	FL	Osceola	$5,000,000
		Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine	$5,000,000
8	IL	Mid-America's Great Rivers: Shawnee	$2,200,000
9	OR	Pacific Northwest Streams: Siuslaw	$150,000
	WA	Pacific Northwest Streams: Rogue River-Siskiyou	$350,000
10	WA	Washington Cascades-Yakima River Watershed (Okanogan-	$2,700,000
11	MI	Great Lakes Northwoods: Ottawa	$650,000
	WI	Great Lakes Northwoods: Chequamegon-Nicolet	$2,500,000
12	NM	Miranda Canyon: Carson	$2,600,000
13		**South Carolina's Longleaf Legacy**	
	SC	Francis Marion	$2,000,000
		South Carolina's Longleaf Legacy	$2,000,000
14	UT	Wasatch Watersheds-Bonneville Shoreline Trail: Unita-Wasatch-	$1,500,000
15	CA	Hurdygurdy: Six Rivers	$1,300,000
16	MO	Missouri Ozarks-Current River: Mark Twain	$1,000,000
17	MT	Montana Legacy: Lolo; Flathead	$4,000,000
		Priority Recreational Access	$2,000,000
		Cash Equalization	$500,000
		Acquisition Management	$7,500,000
		Total, U.S. Forest Service Land Acquisition	**$ 51,000,000**

Rank	State	**Collaborative Landscape**/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY2015 Request *(Permanent)*
18		**Upper Rio Grande**	
	CO	Rio Grande	$4,700,000
		Upper Rio Grande	$4,700,000
19	OR	Pacific Northwest Streams: Mount Hood	$2,300,000
	OR	Pacific Northwest Streams: Umpqua	$800,000
20		**Grasslands/Prairie Potholes**	
	SD	Black Hills	$2,856,000
		Grasslands/Prairie Potholes	$2,856,000
21	TN	Tennessee Mountains Trails and Waters-Rich Mountain Inholding: Cheokee	$3,700,000
22	AZ	Heinrich-Fossil Creek: Coconino	$1,000,000
23	VA	Chesapeake Bay Headwaters Protection: George Washington and Jefferson	$1,545,000
24		**High Divide**	
	ID	Caribou-Targhee	$1,325,000
	ID	Payette and Salmon Challis	$4,260,000
	MT	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	$200,000
	MT	Gallatin	$2,000,000
		High Divide	$7,785,000
25	WY	Greater Yellowstone Area: Bridger-Teton	$3,000,000
26	CA	Castle Crags: Shasta-Trinity	$2,800,000
27	GA	Disappearing Wildlands of GA Mountains and Rivers: Chattahooche-Oconee	$2,700,000
28	VT	Taconic and Green Mountain Range: White Mountain	$1,000,000
29	MT	Montana Legacy	$4,000,000
30	NC	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	$3,500,000
31		Wilderness Inholdings	
	GA	Brasstown Wilderness	$350,000
	VA	Barbours Creek Wilderness	$200,000
	ID	Frank Church Wilderness	$1,590,000
	OR	Wild Rogue Wilderness	$350,000
32		**National Trails System**	
	CA	Pacific Crest NST	$3,600,000
	WA	Pacific Crest NST	$1,500,000
	MT	Nez Perce NHT-Holland Ranch	$1,050,000
	TN	Appalachian NST	$2,720,000
		National Trails System	$8,870,000
33	MN	Great Lakes Northwoods: Superior	$3,000,000
34		**Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative**	
	FL	Osceola	$3,677,000
		Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative	$3,677,000
35		**South Carolina's Longleaf Legacy**	
	SC	Francis Marion	$4,000,000
		South Carolina's Longleaf Legacy	$4,000,000
36	UT	Wasatch Watersheds-Bonneville Shoreline Trail	$1,500,000
37	IN	Mid-America's Great Rivers	$950,000
38	AK	Cube Cove	$3,000,000
		Sportsman/Recreational Access	$2,000,000
		Cash Equalization	$500,000
		Acquisition Management	$5,000,000
		TOTAL, U.S. Forest Service Land Acquisition	**$76,673,000**

FY 2015 Forest Legacy Program Proposed Projects

Rank	State	Project Name	FY 2015 Request (Current)
		Administrative Funds	$6,400,000
1	MT	Haskill Basin Watershed Project	7,000,000
2	ID	Hall Mountain	2,700,000
3	TX	Bobcat Ridge	2,370,000
4	AZ	Turkey Creek Canyon	2,400,000
5	OH	Little Smokies	1,285,000
6	ID	Clagstone Meadows	5,500,000
7	VT	Dowsville Headwaters	2,500,000
8	GA	Paulding County Land Area	3,000,000
9	NC	East Fork of French Broad Headwater Phase II	3,500,000
10	ME	Gulf Hagas Whitecap	1,700,000
11	UT	Zion-Orderville Gulch	2,500,000
12	WI	Wild Waters Working Forest	2,500,000
13	CA	Ryan Creek Conservation Easement	1,200,000
14	OR	Hood River Forest and Fish Conservation	3,000,000
15	WA	South Puget Sound Coastal Forest	4,000,000
16	VA	Upper Rappahannock River Valley	1,085,000
17	CT	Whip-Poor-Will Woods	360,000
		Subtotal, Discretionary	**53,000,000**

Rank	State	Project Name	FY 2015 Request (Permanent)
18	CT	Whip-Poor-Will Woods-*remainder of total recommended funding*	2,145,000
19	CO	Sawtooth Mountain	3,000,000
20	CA	P-2 McCloud Working Forest Easement	2,300,000
21	SC	Liberty Hill Phase II	2,000,000
22	VT	Groton Forest Legacy Initiative	2,500,000
23	CA	Rainbow Ridge Wherit Conservation Easement	650,000
24	TN	Sherwood Forest	3,000,000
25	TN	Carter Mountain Project	1,520,000
26	UT	Zion North Fork	1,000,000
27	WA	Pysht Coastal Forest Phase 2	2,000,000
28	HI	Helemano Wilderness Area	3,000,000
29	NY	Rensselaer Plateau Working Forest Phase I	755,000
30	HI	Hoomau Ranch	1,800,000
31	FL	Silver Springs Watershed	3,250,000
32	ME	Big Six Forest	3,500,000
33	MA	Connecticut to Quabbin Reservoir	1,800,000
34	VT	Windham Region Working Forest	1,500,000
35	OR	West Klamath Lake Forest	2,900,000
36	MT	Clear Creek Conservation Project	595,000
37	NH	Oliverian Valley	510,000
38	PA	The Northeast Connection	1,500,000
39	NC	Poison Fork Forest	750,000
40	AR	Wye Mountain Headwaters	1,900,000
41	MI	Pilgrim River Forest	700,000
42	FL	Ocala National Forest Wildlife Corridor	1,200,000
43	NC	Chesson Longleaf Forest	225,000
44	MN	Lake Alexander	1,000,000
		Subtotal, Mandatory	**$47,000,000**
		Total Funding	**$100,000,000**

BISON CONNECT

Fwd: DOI Emergency Management Daily Situation Report for July 3, 2014

Broun, Laurence <laurence_broun@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jul 3, 2014 at 8:24 AM
To: Secretary Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: DOI_EMDCC <doi_emdcc@ios.doi.gov>, Nikolao Pula <nikolao_pula@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary,

As of 5 a.m. EDT, Hurricane Arthur was located 340 miles southwest of Cape Hatteras, NC. Maximum sustained winds are 75 miles per hour with higher gusts. The storm is moving toward the north at 9 miles per hour and will approach the Outer Banks tonight. NPS reports Cape Lookout National Seashore and all parks in the Outer Banks have been closed and FWS units in the storm's path have been directed to implement their disaster plans. The IOC will participate in a FEMA Video-Teleconference today.

National Wildland Fire Preparedness is at Preparedness Level 2, with 4,122 (+1,401) interagency firefighters deployed, including 800 (+280) DOI personnel. No Critical Fire Weather is forecast for today. In AZ and NM, the San Juan Fire, which spread from the Fort Apache Agency into the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, has burned 6,975 acres and is 70% contained; no additional fire growth is expected. In CA, the Butts Fire on state lands in Napa County has forced evacuation of 500 residents; two homes have been destroyed. A Type-1 team with 800 firefighters is assigned. In NV, four fires ranging in size from 800 to 2000 acres are burning on BLM lands; a total of 10 residences and an electric substation are threatened. These fires should be fully contained by Sunday.

As of 5 a.m. EDT, Tropical Depression 08W is located 240 miles south-southeast of Guam and is moving west-northwest at 16 mph. The depression has sustained winds of 35 mph with higher gusts. This system is expected to slowly strengthen over the next several days. The closest point of approach to Guam is expected to be about 148 miles tomorrow. No significant storm impact is expected.

Larry

DOI EM Daily Situation Report 07032014.pdf
1419K

Department of the Interior Operations Center, Staffed 24-7/**Toll free** (877) 246-1373/
Voice (202) 208-4108/ **Fax** (202) 208-3421/**Email** doi_watch_office@ios.doi.gov

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Emergency Management
Emergency Management Daily Situation Report

As of 8:00 a.m. EDT, Thursday, July 3, 2014

The Department of the Interior Operations Center monitors daily incident activity and selects items of interest to the Department's emergency management community from the National Interagency Fire Center, the Department of Homeland Security, and other sources for this report. Bureau/office Emergency Coordinators are responsible for providing incident reports on items that are of interest to senior leadership and the emergency management community to the DOI Operations Center (IOC). Items may be edited or excerpted for brevity. Some of the items contained in this report may be marked For Official Use Only (FOUO) and dissemination of these items should be limited for security purposes.

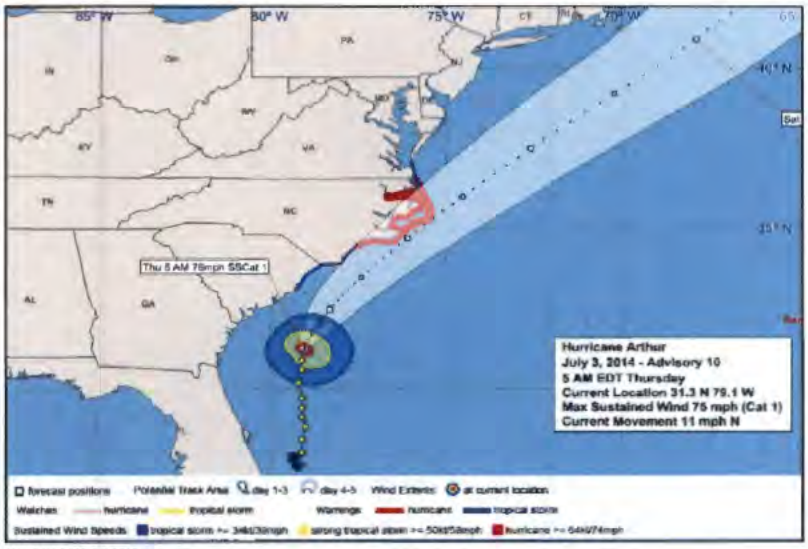
Alerts & Warnings

National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) – No Current Alerts
Continuity of Operations (COOP) COGCON Level is 4
National Wildland Fire Preparedness Level is 2
Kilauea Volcano: Alert Level is WATCH; Aviation Color Code is ORANGE
Shishaldin Volcano: Alert Level is WATCH; Aviation Color Code is ORANGE
The Interior Operations Center is at Level 4 (Normal Operations)

Hurricane Arthur – Atlantic Ocean

General Situation

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Hurricane Center – July 3, 2014



HURREVAC Image

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT this morning, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) reports that Hurricane Arthur is located approximately 340 miles southwest of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (NC).

The storm is moving toward the north at 9 miles per hour and this motion is expected to continue through today. Maximum sustained winds are 75 miles per hour with higher gusts. Hurricane Arthur is expected to increase in forward speed and to turn to the northeast later today.

Federal and State Preparation Activities

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) is at Level II Enhanced Watch (Monitoring) and the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) will activate to Level II (24/7 operations) at 8:00 a.m. today. A FEMA Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) is deploying to NC today and FEMA Liaison Officers (LNOs) are deployed to the NC and South Carolina (SC) State Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs). FEMA has requested that Fort Bragg be designated as an Incident Support Base (ISB). The SC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated to Level IV (Monitoring) and the NC EOC is activated to Level III (Partial Activation).

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) District 5 reports that USCG Base Elizabeth City, Sector Hampton Roads, Sector NC, the National Strike Force Coordination Center and the Special Mission Training Center have raised their Hurricane Condition status in preparation for the storm's arrival. USCG has implemented restrictions for the ports of Morehead City and Wilmington, NC.

DOI Bureau Reports

National Park Service (NPS)

Cape Lookout National Seashore (NS), NC –The Park began putting its hurricane plan into effect on Wednesday in anticipation of the storm's arrival. Cape Lookout NS was closed to the public yesterday afternoon at 5 p.m., including the visitor centers in Beaufort and on Harkers Island.

Outer Banks Group – The Outer Banks Group National Parks (Cape Hatteras NS, Wright Brothers National Memorial, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site) have all been closed, including the following:

- All NPS campgrounds – Ocracoke, Frisco, Cape Point and Oregon Inlet – have been closed and will remain closed until further notice. The Ocracoke campground reservation system has been temporarily suspended.
- Silver Lake Marina NPS dock.
- Ocracoke, Hatteras Island and Bodie Island Visitor Centers.
- Wright Brothers National Memorial and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site.
- Lifeguard beach operations at Ocracoke, Buxton, and Coquina.
- Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.
- Bodie Island Lighthouse.
- All park beaches have been closed to off-road vehicles until further notice.
- The Buxton and Ocracoke off-road vehicle permit offices.

Follow-up reports on the storm's impacts will appear after the holiday weekend.

National Wildland Fire Updates

Source: National Interagency Fire Center & National Fire and Aviation Management Website – July 03, 2014

There are currently 4,412 interagency firefighters, including 800 DOI personnel, deployed for wildland fire suppression operations nationwide. The National Wildland Fire Preparedness Level is at Level 2.

Arizona Fire Activity

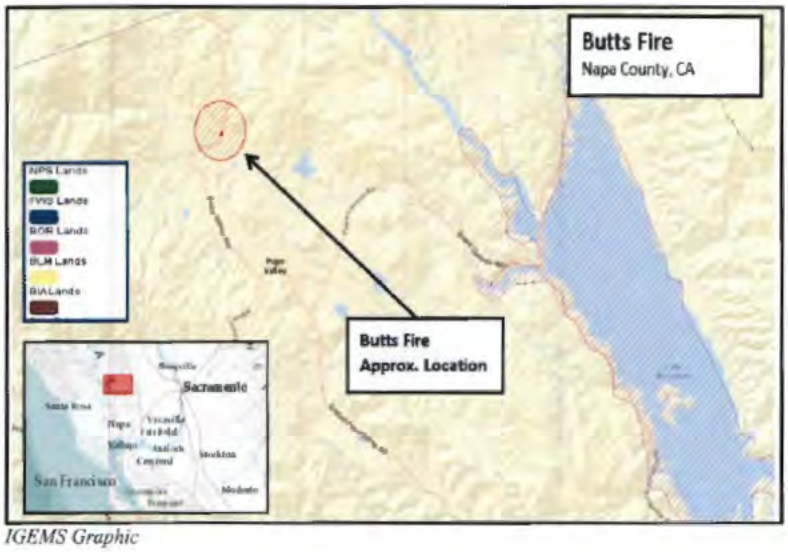


IGEMS Graphic

The **San Juan Fire** started on June 26 within the Fort Apache Reservation and spread into the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The fire has burned 6,975 acres and is 70-percent contained. The response is being managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 624 interagency firefighters assigned, including 191 DOI personnel. All evacuation orders should be lifted today and demobilization of resources will begin today. No additional fire growth is anticipated. No containment date has been established for this fire.

California Fire Activity

The **Butts Fire** started on July 1st on state lands in Napa County in close proximity to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property and Lake Berryessa (Bureau of Reclamation). The fire has burned 3,800 acres and is 30-percent contained. The response is being managed by a Type-1 IMT with 800 interagency firefighters assigned, including one DOI personnel. There are 180 residences threatened at this time and approximately 500 people have been evacuated from their homes. No injuries have been reported but two homes have been destroyed. No containment date has been established for this fire.



IGEMS Graphic

Nevada Fire Activity

The **Coleman Fire** started by lightning on July 1 on BLM lands in Washoe County, NV. The fire has burned 2,000 acres and is 50-percent contained. The response is being managed by a Type-3 IMT with 165 interagency firefighters assigned, including 65 DOI personnel. Currently there are 3 residences threatened due to active fire behavior that includes torching and short range spotting. One firefighter was evacuated due to heat related illness. Containment date is July 6.



IGEMS Graphic

The **Lages Fire** started on July 2 by unknown causes on BLM land in White Pine County, NV about 60 miles north of Ely. The fire has burned 2,000 acres and 15-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-3 IMT with 79 interagency firefighters assigned, including 19 DOI personnel. Five structures are threatened including one residence. The Mount Wheeler electrical substation is threatened as well as critical Sage Grouse habitat. Full containment of this fire is projected for July 6.



IGEMS Graphic

The **Dots Fire** started on July 2 by lightning on BLM lands in Lincoln County, NV about 22 miles east of Caliente. The fire has burned 900 acres and is zero-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-3 IMT with 63 interagency firefighters assigned, including 18 DOI personnel. Three residences are threatened and 10 citizens have been evacuated. There is a possibility that this incident may burn into the Middle Ridge Fire that is located approximately 2.5 miles to the east. The fire is currently moving to the east-northeast and threatening Beaver Dam State Park. Containment is projected for July 6.



IGEMS Graphic

The **Middle Ridge Fire** started on July 1 by unknown cause on BLM lands in Lincoln County, NV about 25 miles east of Caliente. The fire has burned 800 acres and is zero-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-3 IMT with 81 interagency firefighters assigned, including 26 DOI personnel. Three residences are threatened and 10 citizens have been evacuated. Containment is projected for July 6.

DOI Wildland Fire Resource Commitments
Source: National Fire and Aviation Management (FAMWEB) – July 03, 2014

AGENCY	CREWS	HELICOPTERS	OVERHEAD	TOTAL PERSONNEL
BIA	21	1	20	407
BLM	7	3	81	326
FWS	0	0	3	15
NPS	0	1	37	52
DOI Total	28	5	141	800
Interagency TOTAL	124	44	799	4,412

Wildland Fire Incident Management Situation Report
Source: National Interagency Fire Center – July 03, 2014

National Preparedness Level 2
National Fire Activity

Initial attack activity:	Light (157 new fires)
New large fires:	6
Large fires contained:	0
Uncontained large fires: **	11
Area Command Teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	0
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	5

** Uncontained large fires include only fires being managed under a full suppression strategy.

Large Fire Map



Volcano Activity

Kilauea Volcano, HI
Source: U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), Hawaii Volcano Observatory (HVO) – July 2, 2014

Alert Level = **WATCH**
Color Code = **ORANGE**

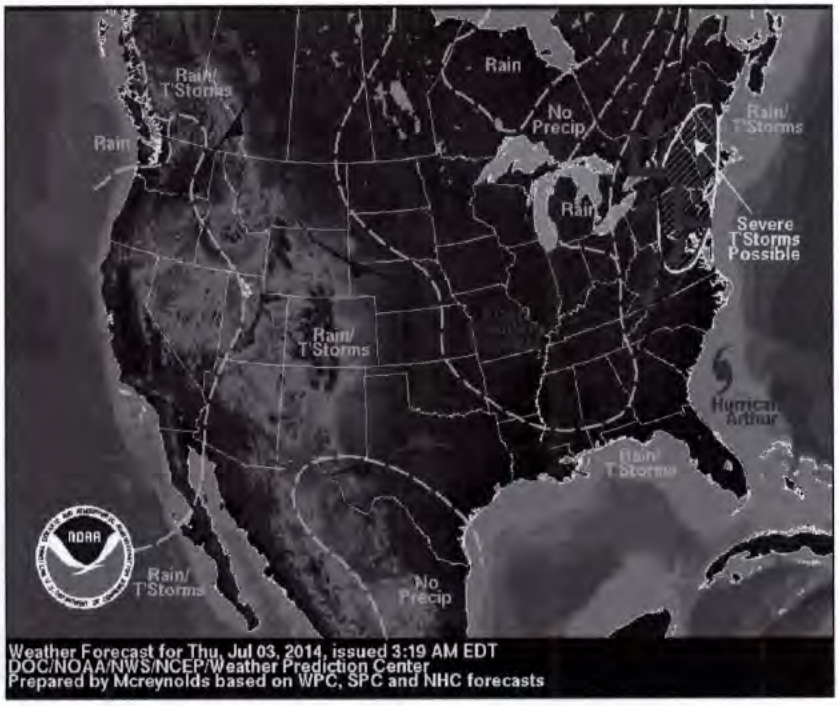
The eruption of Kilauea Volcano continued at the summit and within the East Rift Zone. The summit tiltmeter network recorded an inflationary cycle and the level of the summit lava lake rose slightly. At the Middle East Rift Zone, lava flows continue to erupt from the northeast flank of Pu'u 'Ō'ō cone where a low shield is growing. The Kahauale'a II lava flow is described as "dead". Gas emissions remained elevated during this observation period.

Shishaldin Volcano, AK
Source: U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) – July 2, 2014

Alert Level = **WATCH**
Color Code = **ORANGE**

Low-level eruptive activity continues. Consistently elevated temperatures at the summit of Shishaldin Volcano were recorded in satellite images over the past 24 hours. No significant seismicity was noted. Web camera images showed no significant plume.

Significant National Weather
Source: National Weather Service – July 3, 2014



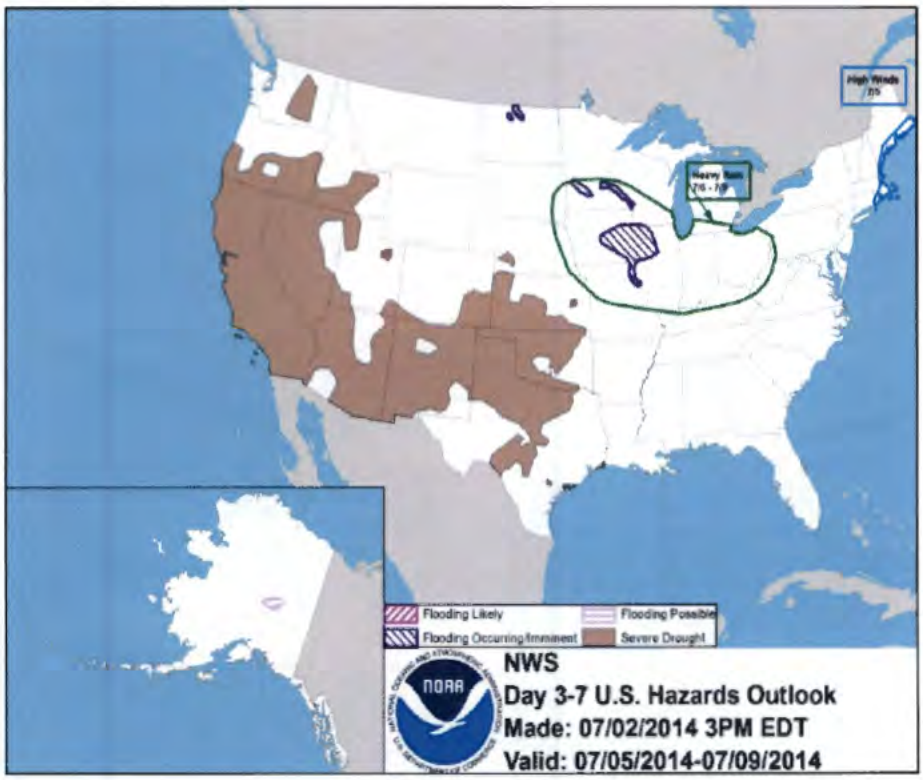
West
The Pacific Northwest will see scattered rain and thunderstorms on Thursday. Dry weather will prevail over much of California, Oregon and Nevada. Thunderstorms may develop across Colorado, New Mexico and southeast Arizona.

Midwest
The Northern and Central Plains will see scattered rain and thunderstorms while the Southern Plains will be dry.

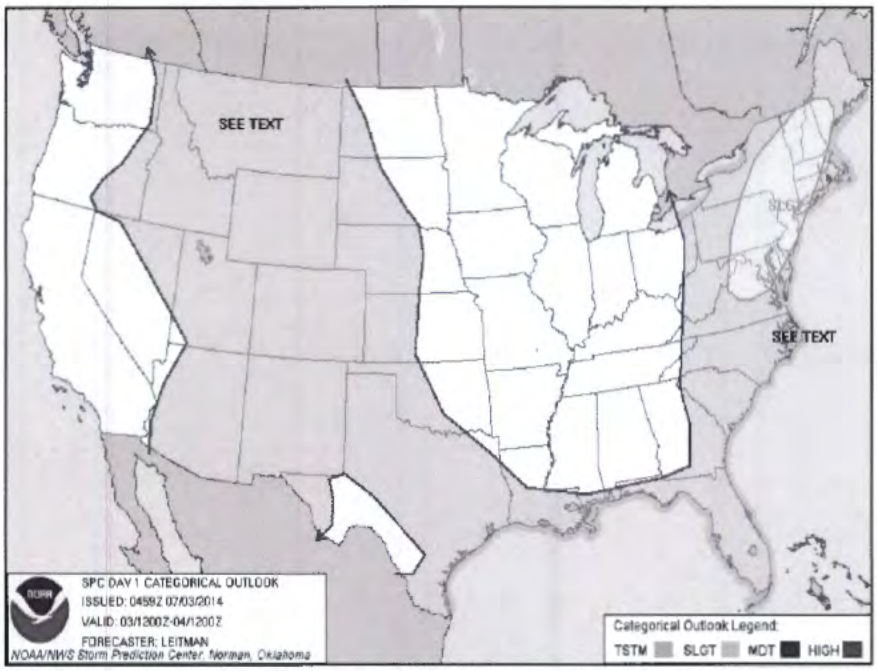
South
Atlantic coastal areas of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina will see rain and scattered thunderstorms from Hurricane Arthur. There will be scattered thunderstorms from northeast Texas across the Gulf Coast and northward into Virginia. Some of these thunderstorms could become severe in the late afternoon or early evening.

Northeast
Rain and thunderstorms are forecast for the Northeast today. Some of these thunderstorms could become severe during the afternoon and early evening. Heavy rain may bring localized flash flooding from Pennsylvania to Maine.

Weather Hazard Assessment

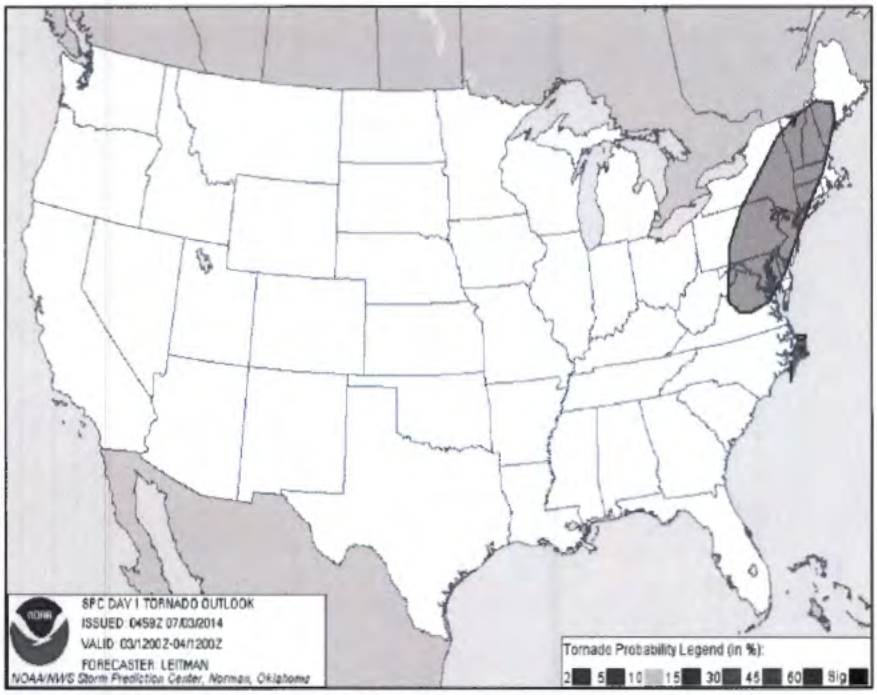


Severe Weather



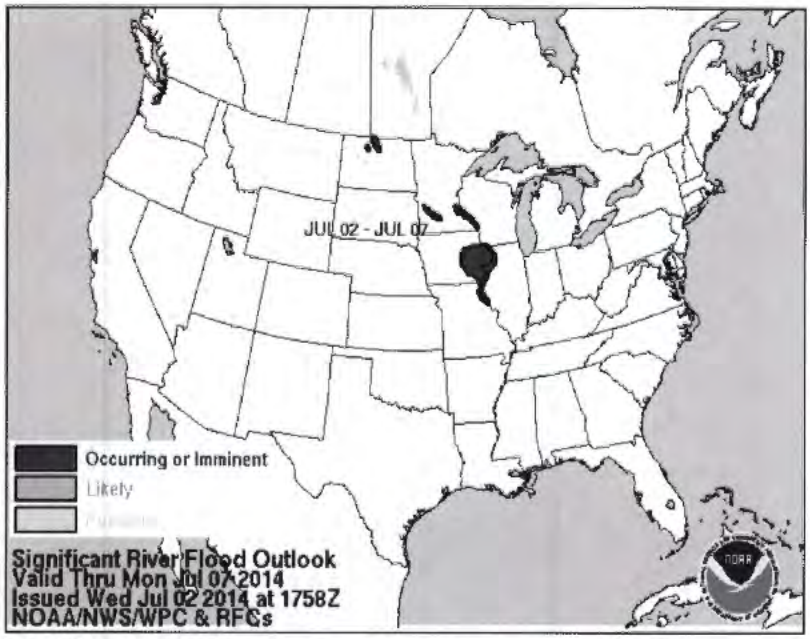
There is a slight risk of severe thunderstorms from the Mid-Atlantic into New England.

Tornado Weather



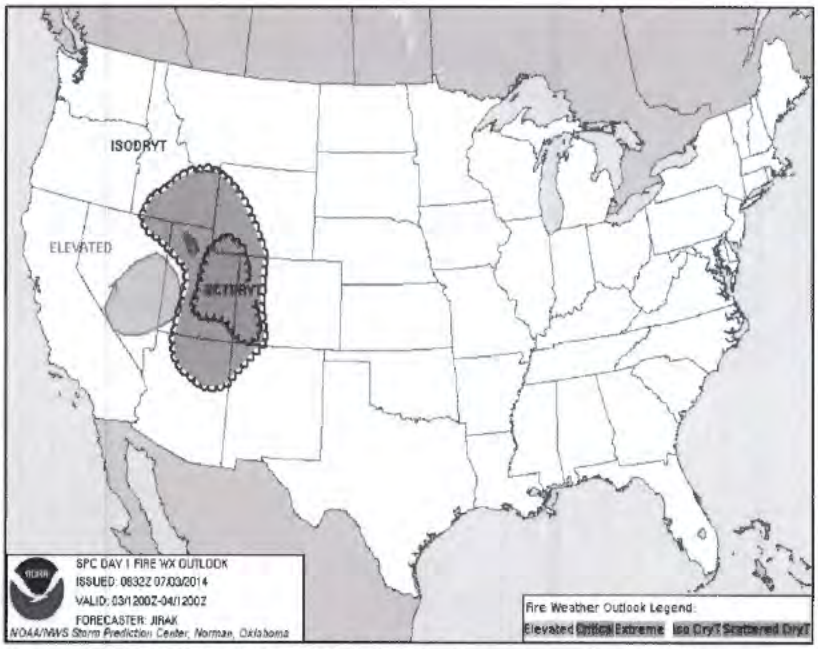
There is a 2-percent chance of tornado activity today from Virginia to Maine and a portion of the North Carolina Outer Banks.

Significant River Flooding



Significant flooding is occurring in portions of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, North Dakota and Missouri.

Critical Fire Weather



There is no Critical Fire Weather is forecast today. There is an Elevated Threat of fire activity in parts of Nevada and Utah. There is also a risk of isolated Dry Thunderstorm activity for New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, and Idaho. Scattered Dry Thunderstorms are expected in portions of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

Tropical Weather Activity

Source: National Hurricane Center – July 3, 2014

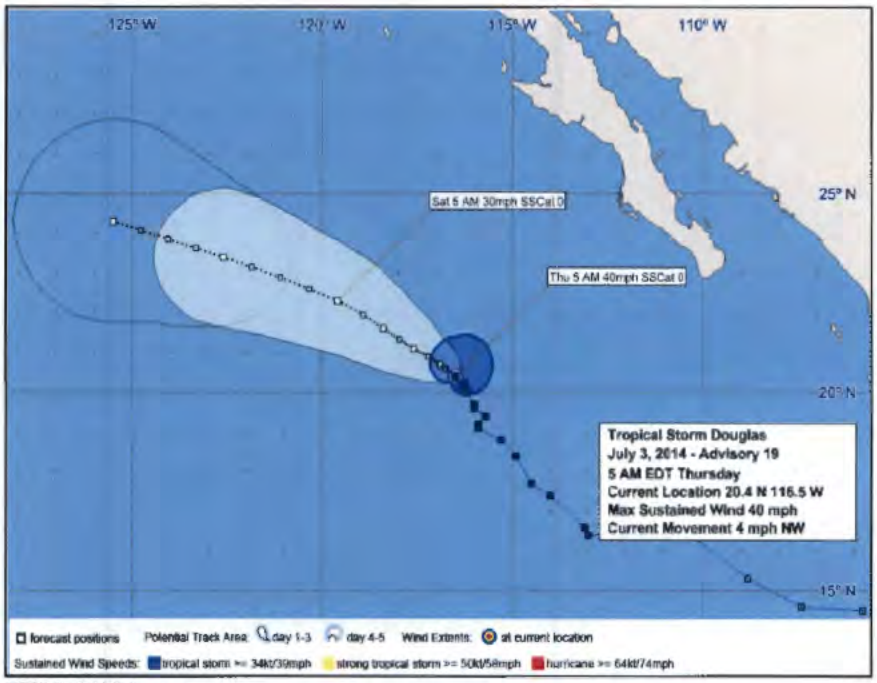
Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico

Hurricane Arthur is summarized at the beginning of this report.

Eastern Pacific Ocean

Tropical Storm Douglas

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT this morning, Tropical Storm Douglas was located about 455 miles west-southwest of Baja California and moving toward the northwest at 3 miles per hour. Maximum sustained winds are 40 mph and some weakening is likely during the next 48 hours. Tropical Storm Douglas will likely become a tropical depression later today.

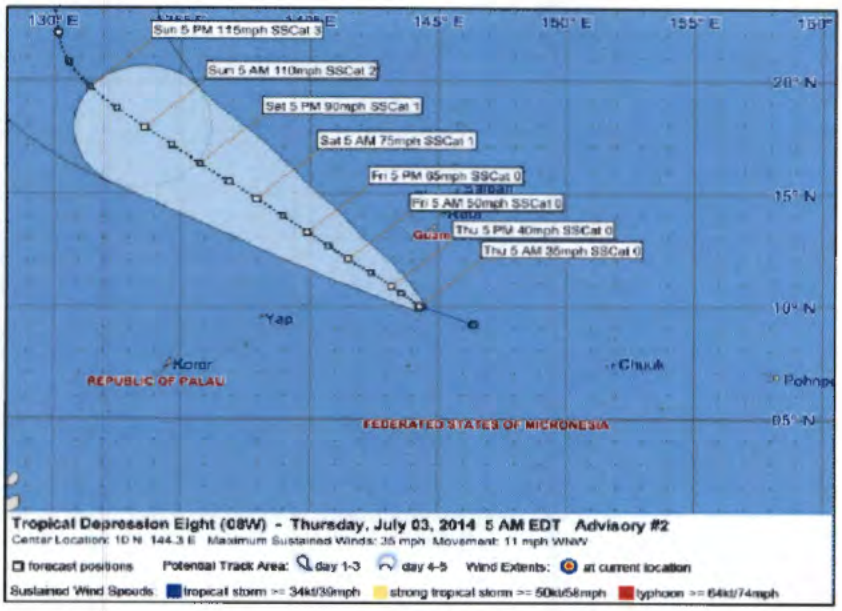


HURREVAC Image

Western Pacific

Tropical Depression 08W

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, this morning, Tropical Depression 08W is located 240 miles south-southeast of Guam and is moving west-northwest at 16 mph. The depression has sustained winds of 35 mph with higher gusts. This system is expected to slowly strengthen over the next several days. The closest point of approach to Guam is expected to be about 148 miles tomorrow. No significant storm impact is expected at this time.



End of Report

Distribution:
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau Heads
Deputy Assistant Secretaries
EM Coordinators and Alternates
EM-ICAT
EM-Incident Support Team
EM-IRECCs
IOS Senior Officials
Select Individuals/Interagency Partners



...well, Sally (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

Re: Thanks...and a quick question

1 message

Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jul 8, 2014 at 5:14 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

Boots and I will connect this morning so I can download my conversation with the Governor from a couple weeks ago.

TPB

> On Jul 7, 2014, at 11:00 PM, Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> Mike -
>
> Thanks for checking in. It seems like Mike and/or Tommy may have also
> met with former Gov. Freudenthal recently. The main message is that we
> need to stay the course and keep all of the W Govs at the table on
> sage grouse to make the court deadlines. There are a few states who
> are spending their energy trying to legislatively delay the process,
> which will not be constructive to habitat protections, nor to
> providing certainty to developers. Wyoming has been ahead of the curve
> and Gov Mead has carried Freudenthal's work forward, which has been
> helpful. Anything we can do to encourage a sense of urgency on the
> part of states to get their plans in and to work cooperatively with
> other states, the BLM and the FWS would be helpful. I believe WY
> really does get this.
>
>(b)(6)
>
> Cheers,
>
> Sally
>
>> On Jul 7, 2014, at 8:51 PM, "Boots, Michael J." (b)(6) > wrote:
>>
>> Sally –
>>
>> I wanted to get in touch on two fronts. (b)(6)
(b)(6)
>>
>> Second, I wanted to let you know that I'm meeting tomorrow with former Governor Freudenthal. (b) (5)
(b) (5)
>>
>> Thanks – and enjoy the LWCF visits this week.
>>

>> Mike

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Jul 8, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Deal Reached Between ATV Riders, Conservation Groups In Colville National Forest.

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+ Washington Post.
+ Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:
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+ Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL LEADS PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION FUNDING. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that the Obama Administration is "going on the offensive this week to promote the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the need for Congress to fully fund the program that helps preserve historic sites, expand hunting and fishing locations, and protect water resources." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Monday announced "a weeklong series of events designed to raise public awareness of the LWCF – the government's main vehicle for acquiring new lands, protecting private lands and funding urban recreation." Jewell said, "There's a pretty good chance that if you're enjoying a bike trail or a fishing pier or a park in your neighborhood, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped pay for it. If you have access to hunting areas, if you've ever visited a Civil War battlefield, if you've enjoyed the sight of wildlife in a protected area near your home, the Land and Water Conservation Fund may have helped make it possible."

The Hill (7/7, Cama, 237K) reports that "Jewell's travels this week will bring her to events in Fort Worth, Texas, Birmingham, Ala., and Richmond, Va." Also, "Deputy Interior Secretary Michael Connor, Fish and Wildlife Service

Director Dan Ashe and Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze will travel to Oregon, Florida and Alaska."

The AP (7/8) reports that Jewell is "scheduled to join Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price and Ralph Duggins, vice chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, at a Tuesday morning news conference at Fort Worth's Gateway Park."

Coverage by the AP was picked up by the Washington Times (7/8, 455K), WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (7/8, 117K), and KWES-TV Odessa, TX (7/8, 5K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF MEETINGS ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT. Covering the meetings to discuss a recognized native Hawaiian government, KGMB-TV Honolulu (7/8, 95K) discussed the issue with Trisha Watson, "a native Hawaiian expert and activist, community leader, Ph.D. and teacher." Watson described the situation as "a very unfortunate sequence of events" and "feels as though the meetings came at a bad time, with very short notice."

KGMB-TV Honolulu (7/8, 95K) also discussed the issue with President and CEO of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement Michelle Kauhane.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS TO EXPLORE BORDER CONCERNS LINKED TO NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that House lawmakers will "raise questions at a hearing Thursday about President Obama's designation of a national monument in the Southwest and its potential effects on border security." Republicans call New Mexico's Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument "a prime example of executive overreach." They claim that the designation will "impede the US Border Patrol's work along the Mexican border."

FEDERAL FIREFIGHTING SPENDING RISES. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that the Forest Service "now allocates half its budget to fighting wildfires, which are burning at an alarming rate in Western regions and are at least in part fueled by climate change." Meanwhile, "spending to combat fires continues to seep into other agencies and state governments, leaving taxpayers with multibillion-dollar burdens that continue to increase every year." The article notes that the Forest Service and the Interior Department have "spent an average of $1.54 billion per year to suppress fires in the past decade, and federal spending on fire suppression has not dipped under $1 billion since 2005."

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the AP (7/8), the AP (7/8), the AP (7/8, Kruesi), the AP (7/8), and ABC News (7/8, 3.58M).

DEAL REACHED BETWEEN ATV RIDERS, CONSERVATION GROUPS IN COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "forest officials have reached a compromise with conservationists and ATV riders who use a national forest in northeastern Washington." Colville National Forest officials "finalized a plan last month to open more trails to ATV users while closing off some loops that have been damaged by off-road vehicles." The article notes that "the project will cost $750,000 over 15 years and is backed by conservation groups and ATV riders alike."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DRAKES BAY OYSTER CO. APPEARS READY TO WIND DOWN OPERATIONS. The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (7/8, 88K) reports that "after 19 months of legal fights the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. appears ready to give up its battle to remain open." In federal court Monday in Oakland, a lawyer "representing the oyster operation said he was negotiating a settlement with the federal government." The article notes that "the discussions likely revolve around how operations would cease, but exact details were not revealed in court."

The San Francisco Chronicle (7/8, Fagan, 3.33M) reports that "however, while those talks go on, the Drakes Bay attorneys are still scraping for ways to adjust their lawsuit seeking to keep the farm open." According to

Lawrence Bazel, attorney for the company, "if they can find new claims to make, they may be able to file new appeals – and possibly win a new reprieve for the operation."

Meanwhile, the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (7/7, 148K) reports that "a federal judge Monday gave lawyers for Drakes Bay Oyster Company and the Interior Department another month to negotiate the oyster farm's departure from Marin County's Point Reyes National Seashore."

The Marin (CA) Independent Journal (7/8, 88K) editorializes that that "the US Supreme Court's refusal to hear the Drakes Bay Oyster Co.'s attempt to overturn federal orders to close the longstanding Marin business puts the oyster farm a big step closer to being shut down." According to the paper, the ruling "may close the door on this chapter of the park's history, but it does not lessen the park's need to rebuild bridges and trust with the community."

Also reporting on the story is KQED-FM San Francisco (7/7, 15K).

COLORADO MONUMENT PARK DESIGNATION WON'T MOVE FORWARD. The AP (7/8) reports that Colorado National Monument in Mesa County is "not going to be designated a national park." Rep. Scott Tipton and Sen. Mark Udall said Monday that "more dialogue is needed before the Monument should become the state's fifth national park." Tipton said that "the likelihood for national park legislation passing the House and Senate without impacting the local community is 'minuscule.'"

VOLKSWAGEN GROUP OF AMERICA HELPS CLEAN NATIONAL MALL AFTER INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS. Roll Call (7/8, 76K) reports that Volkswagen Group of America Inc. "volunteered 250 hours of service to help clean up the National Mall in the wake of Independence Day celebrations." Michael Horn, president and CEO of Volkswagen Group of America, said, "There's 60 or 70 employees, and they do service. They clean up the leftovers from the Fourth of July. They paint the fences."

GRAND CANYON TO MARK 1956 CRASH SITE. The AP (7/8, Fonseca) recalls changes in air travel and its regulation – including the formation of what would become the FAA – in the aftermath of the June 30, 1956 crash of a United Airlines Douglas DC-7 and a TWA Lockheed Super Constellation over the Grand Canyon, killing all 128 people aboard in what at the time was "the deadliest aviation disaster" ever. The tragedy reinforced for the public that much of US air space "was uncontrolled at that time," former NTSB managing director Peter Goelz said. On Tuesday, the AP reports, Grand Canyon National Park will officially designate the crash site as a National Historic Landmark in a ceremony overlooking the gorge on the east end, where 58 years ago wreckage was scattered over 1.5 square miles.

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK CLOSES BACKCOUNTRY. The AP (7/8) reports that Voyageurs National Park has "closed its backcountry for about two weeks for flood damage assessment and repairs." Park officials have "set a target date of July 21 for reopening the backcountry."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM, LOCAL LAWMAN DISPUTE ACTIONS IN CLIVEN BUNDY CASE. The Los Angeles Times (7/8, Glionna, 3.46M) reports that "the tense face-off over a Nevada rancher's right to graze his cattle on federal land has spilled over into a public squabble after the Bureau of Land Management and Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie issued conflicting statements over their lack of cooperation in an armed federal raid in April at Bundy's high-desert ranch." In a statement released Monday to the Los Angeles Times, the BLM "expressed its dismay that Gillespie had declined at the 11th hour to support federal agents as they moved in to round up hundreds of cattle officials say Bundy had grazed on federal land for decades without paying the required fees." The article notes that "last week, Gillespie said federal officials escalated an already tense standoff by ignoring his advice to delay the roundup." However, "both agencies agree on one thing: that Bundy and his family overstepped their legal rights by hosting the armed militia on that Saturday in April and should be held accountable."

Also covering the story are the Raw Story (7/6, 71K) and the Mail Online (UK) (7/8, 2.97M).

CONSERVATION GROUPS PRAISE SAGE GROUSE PLAN FOR NEVADA FORESTS. The E&E Daily (7/7)

reports that "conservation groups that have been highly critical of federal efforts to protect the imperiled greater sage grouse offered faint praise for a new Forest Service proposal to protect a subpopulation in and around the largest national forest in the continental United States." The article notes that "at issue is the draft environmental impact statement(EIS) released last week by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada that proposes amending the forest's land use plan to incorporate policies to protect the unique population of sage grouse, commonly referred to as the 'bi-state' or Mono Basin population." The BLM is also "exploring amending the resource management plans (RMPs) at two field offices as a result of the draft EIS."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SENATE VOTES ON BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S BILL. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "a package of bills to expand hunting, fishing and shooting opportunities on public lands will have a key test vote this evening in the Senate, offering another chance for a gridlocked upper chamber to pass popular legislation affecting the environment." According to the article, "while S. 2363, the 'Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act,' carries 45 co-sponsors and is backed by a bevy of sportsmen's and conservation groups spanning the political spectrum, many fear it could fall victim to the same partisan fights over amendments that have derailed bipartisan bills this year to boost energy efficiency and extend energy tax breaks." Moreover, "as the 2014 midterm election inches closer, proponents of the sportsmen's bill say the window of opportunity for Senate passage is quickly closing."

In its "Floor Action" blog, The Hill (7/7, Cox, 237K) reports that "the Senate voted to move forward on Monday with legislation aimed at preserving federal lands for hunting and fishing, despite objections from Democrats who wanted the measure to incluce gun control language."

Also covering the story is the New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/8, 678K).

SAGE GROUSE COULD AFFECT CONTROL OF SENATE. The Arizona Republic (7/7, 1.45M) reports that the greater sage grouse "could help determine whether Democrats or Republicans control the US Senate in the November elections." The federal government is considering listing the bird as an endangered species next year. According to the article, "doing so could limit development, energy exploration, hunting and ranching on the 165 million acres (67 million hectares) of the bird's habitat across 11 Western states." The article notes that "apart from the potential economic disruption, the specter of the bird's listing is reviving America's centuries-old debates about local vs. federal control and whether to develop or conserve the region's vast expanses of land," and "it has become a key issue in Senate races that are being closely watched because Republicans need to gain six seats in November to capture majority control of the Senate."

Efforts To Save Sage Grouse Criticized. For the "Congress" blog of The Hill (7/8, Graham, Seasholes, 237K), Carl Graham, director of the Sutherland Coalition for Self-Government in the West, and Brian Seasholes, director of the Endangered Species Project at the Reason Foundation, write that "the sage grouse, a large ground-dwelling bird that inhabits 165 million acres in nine Western states, appears headed for listing under the Act, much to the detriment of both the grouse and those with the greatest stake in preserving it." They claim that "over its 40-year history, the Endangered Species Act has often caused significant harm to the very species it is supposed to protect by unnecessarily creating adversaries of landowners harboring these species and pre-empting state conservation efforts." The authors argue that "for the sake of the sage grouse, and all imperiled species, this country needs a new approach to conserving endangered species that is based on rewarding — not punishing — landowners, and letting state experts take the lead." They conclude that "we need to head in a new, more promising direction so that landowners and resource users will willingly conserve, monitor and actively contribute to the successful conservation of endangered species."

HOUSE SUBPANEL EYES BIPARTISAN BILL TARGETING INVASIVE SPECIES ON PUBLIC LANDS. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that a House Natural Resources subpanel this week will "take up bipartisan legislation aimed at reducing invasive species on federal lands." H.R. 3994, the "Federal Lands Invasive Species Control, Prevention and Management Act," would "direct the secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture departments to carry out programs that would reduce invasive species on public lands by 5 percent every year." Also, the bill would "require that the departments would use no less than 75 percent of their budgets dedicated to invasives for on-the-ground control and management."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, INDUSTRY SPAR OVER PRAIRIE BIRDS. USA Today (7/7, 5.82M) reports that "a battle is brewing in the western USA over federal protections for four species of chickenlike birds with declining populations, setting up one of the most contentious fights over threatened species since environmentalists and business interests sparred over the northern spotted owl in the 1990s." The clash "intensified last month after three environmental groups sued the US Fish and Wildlife Service to try to force the agency to more aggressively protect the lesser prairie chicken — a bird the service placed on the threatened species list earlier this year." And "before the environmentalists' lawsuit, state, local and federal lawmakers decried the threatened species designation as overreach by the federal government that will hamper the energy and agriculture industries." The article notes that "Kansas and Oklahoma filed suit over the prairie chicken designation, and four New Mexico counties joined a suit by the Permian Basin Petroleum Association in Texas."

FWS ORDERS REVERSAL OF RECOMMENDATION TO LIST WOLVERINES AS THREATENED. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that the FWS has "reversed its stance on listing the wolverine as a threatened species, asking federal biologists to withdraw their conclusion that the estimated 300 animals left in the Lower 48 states deserve protections." According to agency documents, the decision was "based on uncertainties 'about the degree to which we can reliably predict impacts to wolverine populations from climate change.'"

The AP (7/8, Brown) reports that "a top federal wildlife official said there's too much uncertainty about climate change to prove it threatens the snow-loving wolverine – overruling agency scientists who warned of impending habitat loss for the 'mountain devil.'"

There's no doubt the high-elevation range of wolverines is getting warmer, US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Noreen Walsh said. But any assumption about how that will change snowfall patterns is "speculation," she said.

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (7/8, 4.22M), Yahoo! (7/8, Brown, 17.91M) , the US News & World Report (7/7, 645K), TIME (7/8, 24.1M), ABC News (7/8, 3.58M) , the Boston Herald (7/8, 783K) , the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig (7/8, 85K) , the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (7/8, 90K) , the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/7, 687K) , the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (7/7, 210K), The Oregonian (7/8, 992K), and the Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/8, Brown, 1.48M).

FWS PROPOSES PAYING RANCHERS TO HELP FLORIDA PANTHER. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "federal wildlife officials are looking at paying ranchers, typically the sworn enemies of the Florida panther, to save the endangered cat." The FWS has "proposed paying landowners $22 an acre to dissuade them from selling increasingly scarce panther habitat to developers." Kevin Godsea, manager for the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, said, "It's really about buying us some time. We are never going to be able to purchase all the land that we are going to need to recover the species."

Also reporting on the story is The Hill (7/8, Cama, 237K).

FWS FINALIZES PROTECTIONS FOR TWO GARTER SNAKES. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that the FWS "this week will finalize protections for two garter snake species found in the southwestern United States." A final rule scheduled to be published in the Federal Register will "list as threatened the northern Mexican garter snake (Thamnophis eques megalops) and the narrow-headed garter (T. rufipunctatus)."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (7/8) and the Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (7/8, 1K).

WILDLIFE ADVOCATE CALLS FOR EXPANSION OF SNAKE BAN. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (7/7, 850K) reports that two years ago, the FWS "banned the import and sale of Burmese pythons and three other species of non-native snakes that have disrupted sensitive ecosystems, especially Florida's Everglades." Now the service is "considering banning five more snakes, including boa constrictors, for the same reason." In an email interview, the CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, Wayne Pacelle, "argued it's essential to expand the ban to protect the environment, the public — and the snakes themselves."

ANTIQUES HOLDERS HIRE FORMER AIDE TO SEN. REID IN IVORY BAN FIGHT. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "antiques holders have hired a former senior aide to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) for the lobbying battle over the Obama administration's ivory ban." Families Conserving Antiques, "an informal coalition of

the Gerstenfeld, Van Auken and Bruehl families, has brought on Martina Bradford of Bockorny Group Inc. to lobby on 'issues related to the administration's proposed update of regulations relative to the import and export of African elephant ivory antiques,' according to disclosure records released by the Senate last week."

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY: TIGHTER CONTROLS HAVE HELPED LOWER ACIDITY LEVELS IN RIVERS. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "new federal research concludes that acidity levels in some of the nation's largest rivers have steadily declined over the past six decades, and it credits tighter regulations of industrial and agricultural wastewater discharges and air pollution as a major factor." A study led by researchers with the USGS and "published in the journal Science for the Total Environment reviewed water quality data in 23 rivers between 1945 and 2010 from Connecticut to California and found that acidity levels in most have been decreasing for years." according to the USGS, "reduced acidity levels were most commonly found in rivers in the Northeast, such as the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers; the Midwest, such as the Illinois and Ohio rivers; and the Missouri River in the Great Plains."

CRITICS QUESTION ETHICS BEHIND USGS AUTHOR'S MOUNTAINTOP-REMOVAL STUDY. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "advocates associated with the coal industry are questioning the ethics surrounding a recent US Geological Survey study on the potential impacts of mountaintop-removal mining because of the lead author's wife." The study, "published in the peer-reviewed journal Freshwater Science, found a correlation between pollution related to coal mining and reduced fish populations." However, "for years coal industry advocates have questioned lead author Nathaniel Hitt's involvement in such research," because "the fish biologist is married to Mary Anne Hitt, director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR IG REPORT: BACKLOG IN DRILLING REQUESTS HURTS ENERGY INDUSTRY. The AP (7/8, 313K) reports that according to a report from the Interior Department Inspector General, backlogs in drilling permits at the Bureau of Land Management are "handicapping development across the US." Currently the BLM's Vernal, UT office is handling 50% of the annual Federal workload, the report found. The report found that applications for mining and drilling on public lands aren't a high priority at the agency. Furthermore, "supervisors don't track progress on the applications."

OKLAHOMA EXPERIENCES UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF EARTHQUAKES. Bloomberg News (7/8, Shauk, 2.76M) reports that Oklahoma is now the most seismically active state in the continental US with twice as many earthquakes as California this year alone. Although research connecting earthquakes to fracking is not conclusive, most seismologists are convinced that wastewater injected back into the ground is the cause. Austin Holland, Oklahoma's seismology chief, has said "if my research takes me to the point where we determine the safest thing to do is to shut down injection – and consequently production – in large portions of the state, then that's what we have to do." Oil companies, on the other hand, argue that "science isn't far enough along and that correlation... does not amount to proof."

EDITORIAL ARGUES COAL NOT GOING AWAY. In a Bloomberg News (7/8, Roston, 2.76M) editorial, Eric Roston argues that the current economics and politics of coal in the US will keep it relevant as a generation source through 2040, despite the "war" against it, unless there is a price on carbon emissions. He uses EIA models to predict that cheaper renewables "wouldn't make too much of a dent" in coal generation, but that a $25/ton carbon price would "basically shuts down U.S. coal production."

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE HEAD: INDUSTRY COOPERATION ON OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFETY NECESSARY. On Platts (7/8, 2K), BSEE Director Brian Salerno was interviewed about how the Gulf of Mexico is "rebounding from 2010's disastrous blowout of the BP Deepwater Horizon drilling rig."

The Hill (7/7, Barron-lopez, 237K) reports that Salerno said cooperation between the oil industry, contractors, and regulators is "critical" to safe offshore drilling. In an interview with Platts Energy Week Salerno said, "In the offshore industry have operators, multiple contractors, and subcontractors. So the challenge really is to get all of them to work together seamlessly and safely."

Also reporting on the story are the FuelFix (7/7, 7K) and KROI-FM Houston (7/8, 725).

SEN. LANDRIEU HOLDS FIELD HEARING IN LOUISIANA. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Mary Landrieu "continues her election-year push" on Monday "for more offshore energy production in her home state with a field hearing in Lafayette, La., on drilling on the outer continental shelf." According to the article, "along with industry witnesses, including a representative from Royal Dutch Shell PLC's US arm, the Louisiana Democrat will highlight the opportunities for more oil and gas production offshore and the jobs that could be created through increased production." Landrieu also "intends to examine permitting hurdles and the possibility of removing regulations viewed as costly and unnecessary."

Also covering the story are Roll Call (7/8, 76K), the Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (7/8, Gunn, 22K), the Lafayette (LA) Daily Advertiser (7/7, 111K), KATC-TV Lafayette, LA (7/8, 16K), and KLFY-TV Lafayette, LA (7/8, 6K).

BSEE TESTING STATIONARY SKIMMER SYSTEMS' EFFECTIVENESS. The Environmental Protection (7/7, 293) reports that the BSEE "recently began testing the effectiveness of stationary skimmer systems that remove oil from the surface of the water." According to he article, "the tests are being done at Ohmsett, the bureau's National Oil Spill Response Research and Renewable Energy Test Facility."

BOEM TO HOLD TWO MEETINGS ON PROPOSED GULF OIL LEASE SALES. The Panama City (FL) News Herald (7/8, 98K) reports that the BOEM will "hold two public meetings in Panama City Tuesday to discuss two proposed oil and natural gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Florida, Alabama and Louisiana." The bureau is "in the process of preparing a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed new lease areas, which will provide an analysis of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of oil and natural gas leasing, exploration, development and production in the Gulf."

OVERSEAS INVESTORS SUE BP FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON DAMAGES. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/7, Larino, 678K) reports that according to The Guardian, a group of foreign investors is suing BP for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill. The suits follow recent US Federal court rulings enabling "overseas shareholders to bring cases against BP in the US."

BP CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR RESPONDS TO COMPANY'S CRITICISM. The Baton Rouge (LA) Business Report (7/7, 625) reports that BP claims administrator Patrick Juneau is responding to criticism by BP over his handling of the claims process. In a recent interview, Juneau countered, "BP's CEO Bob Dudley said I was willfully misinterpreting the settlement; that's a lie and, yes, it is actionable. BP agreed to the settlement and its terms and it had the advice of some of the best attorneys in the world. The federal courts have upheld the settlement process as valid – repeatedly." In response, BP senior vice president Geoff Morrell said in an email, "BP has for some time expressed its concerns about what we believe to be the mismanagement of the claims facility and the misinterpretation of the settlement agreement."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA'S NEW RIVER COULD BE POISED FOR COMEBACK. The E&E Daily (7/7) reports that "California's long-polluted New River – accidentally created more than a century ago when the Colorado River overran its levees – could be poised for a comeback." US and Mexican agencies are "spending at least another $100 million to install a trash screen and build a disinfection facility as part of what's expected to be at least a decade long effort to bring the river's water quality to US environmental standards." The article notes that "with California in the midst of a crippling drought, if the New River is properly restored, it could play a role in helping the state cope with the water shortage, officials say."

CALIFORNIA OIL FIELD SELLING WATER TO DROUGHT STRICKEN COMMUNITIES. The New York Times

(7/8, Onishi, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in addition to the 70,000 barrels of oil it yields each day, California's Kern River oil field "produces 10 times more of something that, at least during California's continuing drought, has become more valuable to many locals and has experienced the kind of price spike more familiar to oil: water." Chevron, which owns the field, "sells millions of gallons every day to a local water district that distributes it to farmers growing almonds, pistachios, citrus fruits and other crops." The Times notes that while the oil industry has been criticized "for its use of water, especially in the process known as fracking," it is "focusing on efforts to conserve and recycle water — or, in this case, to increase the available supply for irrigation." Critics, however, "dismiss the water conservation measures as political ploys."

BOR CRITICIZED FOR CUTTING OFF WATER TO MARIJUANA GROWERS. In an op-ed for USA Today (7/8, 5.82M), Jonathan Turley, the Shapiro Professor of Public Interest Law at George Washington University, writes that although the Obama Administration has "pledged to respect state laws, it is quietly going in the opposite direction by cutting off water" to marijuana growers. BOR spokesman Dan DuBray insists that the agency "is obligated to adhere to federal law." However, Turley argues that "that position is inconsistent with the actions of the Obama administration in other areas."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA REJECTS APPLICATION FOR PARK CITY TRIBAL CASINO. The AP (7/8, Hegeman) reports that "the federal government has refused to accept a tract of suburban Wichita land into trust so an Indian tribe can build a casino there, the Kansas Attorney General's Office said Monday." According to the article, "a July 3 letter from the Interior Department shows the agency rejected the request from the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma to take the land into trust." The tribe said "it was disappointed in the decision," but Attorney General Derek Schmidt "lauded the decision, saying in a written statement that the Interior Department reached the correct legal conclusion in disallowing the application."

Also reporting on the story are the Joplin (MO) Globe (7/8, 64K), the Wichita (KS) Eagle (7/8, Mann, Lowry, 313K), the Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (7/7, 177K), KWCH-TV Wichita, KS (7/8, 44K), and KSNW-TV Wichita, KS (7/7, 26K).

TRIBE RECEIVES RESERVATION STATUS ON PROPOSED CASINO LAND. The Glendale (AZ) Star (7/8, 20K) reports that BIA chief Kevin Washburn "issued his decision July 3 in favor of the Nation regarding its reservation trust status on property it owns at 95th and Northern avenues, 135 acres of unincorporated land completely surrounded by the City of Glendale." Ned Norris Jr., chairman of the Nation, said, "Today's ruling by the Department of the Interior allows the Nation to move another step closer to benefiting from the United States' promise to the Nation that we would be able to replace our destroyed reservation lands. The nation is eager to move forward to use our replacement land to create thousands of new jobs in the West Valley."

CONGRESSMEN SUPPORT CATAWBA IN CASINO PLANS. The Shelby (NC) Star (7/8, 43K) reports that "three longtime congressmen have urged the Interior Department to approve the Catawba Indian Nation's trust application for land in Kings Mountain, where it plans to build a casino, arguing that justice will be served by doing so." In recent letters to the Interior Department, Congressman Jim Moran, Congressman George Miller, and former Democratic Congressman and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said "now is the time for the federal government to fulfill its trust responsibility and the promises made in the 1993 Catawba Indian Land Claims Settlement Act." However, "the Nation still faces fierce opposition from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians--a tribe that wants to lock out all gaming competition in the state."

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE: "MOST" CHILDREN ENTERING US ILLEGALLY WILL BE DEPORTED. The ongoing crisis along the US border with Mexico continues to get a great deal of national media attention, including a front-page article in this morning's the New York Times (7/8, A1, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 9.65M). However, the coverage on the network newscasts has diminished to the point where only NBC Nightly News (7/7, story 7, 2:35, Williams, 7.86M) had a full segment on the immigration debate on Monday evening. On the other hand, the surge in illegal immigration from Central America was the lead story on every prime-time Fox News program on Monday, and was the dominant topic of discussion throughout the night. For instance, at the opening of Fox

News' On The Record (7/7, 1.65M), Greta Van Susteren said, "This is a Fox News alert: the crisis at our border is getting worse" with "another plane full of Central American immigrants, mostly children traveling alone, landing in San Diego."

In a brief item for the CBS Evening News (7/7, story 6, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that on Monday, "more illegal immigrants were flown from Texas to San Diego." According to Pelley, "52,000 unaccompanied children have been caught at the border since October," and the White House maintains that "the law requires the US to send most of the children home." On NBC Nightly News (7/7, story 7, 2:35, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams also reported that on Monday, "the White House said...most of the children coming across the border will be deported back their home countries."

The AP (7/8, Babington, 11.54M) also reports that on Monday, in a "pointed warning," White House press secretary Josh Earnest said "most unaccompanied children arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border are unlikely to qualify for humanitarian relief that would prevent them from being sent back from their home countries." But the AP notes that "the administration will allow the immigration review process to take place," and "it's unclear how quickly that process will unfold." According to the AP, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson "acknowledged Sunday that such proceedings might be long delayed." The Washington Post (7/8, Zezima, 4.22M) says Earnest's "pointed response comes a day after...Johnson danced around questions over whether the children would be allowed to stay in the United States."

The AP (7/8, Werner, Kuhnhenn) reports that according to unidentified "congressional aide," President Obama "is holding off for now on seeking new legal authority to send unaccompanied migrant kids back home faster," but will nevertheless "ask Congress on Tuesday for more than $2 billion in emergency spending to deal with the children who've been arriving by the thousands from Central America." The New York Times (7/8, A1, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein says the President already has "flexibility to accelerate the judicial process in times of crisis." Feinstein says the administration "should use that flexibility to speed up the system."

Politico (7/7, Kim, 637K) notes that the President had "signaled last week that" he would "request...expanded legal authority to respond to the influx of minors." However, according to Politico, "immigrant-rights groups were furious" after learning that the President wanted to curtail illegal immigration, so "when the White House sends its funding request on Tuesday, it won't include major policy changes, such as the broader legal authority that would effectively make it easier to send these migrant children home."

In the lead story for Fox News' Special Report (7/7, 2.15M), Sen. Lindsey Graham was shown claiming that the President "has sent out a message – whether he knows it or not – 'if you get to America you can stay.'" According to White House correspondent Ed Henry, "That message was reinforced on Sunday when Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson dodged questions whether the children will be deported to Central America." Henry went on to report that "while the administration has seemed surprised by the crisis," there are "signs they knew it was coming." Henry noted that in January, the Department of Homeland Security "began shopping for contractors to move kids around the United States saying, 'there will be approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children in total."

Also on Fox News' Special Report (7/7, 2.15M), the Weekly Standard's Steve Hayes noted that Administration officials, including former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, have repeatedly insisted that "the borders are secure." Hayes continued, "That was the key argument of the pro-reform crowd," but "now you have these same people saying in effect, 'we can't really do anything about this surge.'" Likewise, on Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (7/8, 2.53M), Ed Henry said "the ultimate debacle...for the President is that for years now, he has been saying...'we can have comprehensive immigration reform because the border is secure,'" which has "blown up on him."

Obama's Decision To Bypass Border While In Texas For Fundraisers Draws Scrutiny. The Hill (7/7, Sink, 237K) notes that the President is "set to travel to Texas, the center of a growing firestorm over the nation's inability to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the country." According to The Hill, the President will appear at fundraisers in Dallas and Austin, but "has no plans to visit the border" despite having "come under criticism from members of both parties over the wave of immigrants." The Hill also notes that on MSNBC on Monday, Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), the co-chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said "the borderlands deserve a

presidential visit."

The Washington Post (7/8, Zezima, 4.22M) reports that on Monday, White House press secretary Josh Earnest "said the administration is 'not worried about those optics' of the president fundraising while what the administration has called an 'urgent humanitarian situation' is happening hundreds of miles away."

The Washington Times (7/8, Chasmar, 455K) reported that on MSNBC's The Daily Rundown on Monday, "panelists...seemed puzzled by the president's refusal to visit the U.S.-Mexico border while he fundraises in Texas, with USA Today reporter Susan Page calling the decision Mr. Obama's 'Katrina moment.'" Page asked rhetorically, "And you're going to a fundraiser and not going to the border where there's this crisis?" The Daily Caller (7/7, Hoefer, 408K) notes that on the same program, Chuck Todd "suggested that Democrats are avoiding talking about immigration reform," and the Washington Post's Dan Balz "agreed" that the Administration's "unpopular stance on immigration reform could motivate Republican voters."

Asked, on Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (7/8, 2.53M), if he thinks it is "a mistake" for the President to travel to Texas for fundraisers but not take a first-hand look at the border crisis, Fox's Ed Henry said, "I think it could blow up in the President's face because it is not just Republicans like Rick Perry demanding that he go to the border, now you have a Democrat, [Rep.] Henry Cuellar...saying not only should the President go to the border, but that he has been slow to react."

In his opening monologue for Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (7/7, 2.53M), Bill O'Reilly said it is "very strange" that the President is "traveling to Texas this week but is not going to the border." O'Reilly went on to say that the President "has made a few statements about the border meltdown, but not many – perhaps because the stats are so grim."

First Lady Will Speak To The League of United Latin American Citizens On Thursday. The AP (7/8, Superville) reports that First Lady Michelle Obama "is scheduled Thursday to address the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, during its meeting in New York City."

NYTimes A1 Analysis: Bush-Signed Trafficking Law "At The Root" Of Border Crisis. In a front-page article titled, "Immigrant Surge Rooted In Law To Curb Child Trafficking," the New York Times (7/8, A1, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that "one of the final pieces of legislation signed into law by President George W. Bush," the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, "is at the root of the potentially calamitous flow of unaccompanied minors to the nation's southern border." The Times says that while the law "gave substantial new protections to children entering the country alone who were not from Mexico or Canada by prohibiting them from being quickly sent back to their country of origin." The Times goes on to report that the law "required" that children entering the US illegally "be given an opportunity to appear at an immigration hearing and consult with an advocate."

Surge Of Illegal Immigration Partly Attributed To Widespread Central American Gang Violence. According to McClatchy (7/7, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 23K), analysts warn that in El Salvador, "as the gangs deepen connections with regional organized-crime groups involved in drug, weapons and human trafficking, they present a direct challenge to state control over the tiny Central American nation." McClatchy says "the chaos...provides an incentive for Salvadorans to try to flee north for the safety of the United States." McClatchy adds that those "trying to explain the huge increase in children and teens who've arrived in the United States say anecdotal evidence points at least in part to the hold that criminal gangs have in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala."

On NBC Nightly News (7/7, story 7, 2:35, Williams, 7.86M), Stephanie Gosk reported from Honduras that when she asked "teenagers who live in San Paola Sula – what many call the 'murder capital of the world'" – if they "want go to the US, every hand went up." Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (7/7, Munro, 408K), says "most of the border-crossing migrant youths are arriving from...Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador," which have "an estimated population 12 million children."

Illegal Immigrants Have Not Been Sent To Murrieta Since Bus Convoy Was Repelled On July 1. According to the Los Angeles Times (7/8, Hansen, 3.46M), "Dozens of protesters gathered Monday in Murrieta to challenge the expected arrival of buses carrying detained immigrants to a Border Patrol station." However, according to the

Times, the protesters "waited in vain as the buses they thought would head their way instead traveled to a Border Patrol facility in San Ysidro, in San Diego County."

Neil Munro, in a piece for the Daily Caller (7/7, Munro, 408K), makes the case that the Administration is "trying to minimize the public's opposition" to the Administration's policy of ferrying of illegal immigrants to communities within the US. Munro notes that since protesters in Murrieta "blocked a July 1 federal transfer of roughly 140 border-crossing adults and their children into their community," the Administration "hasn't supplied another convoy of Central American migrants to ignite a TV-ready clash."

Goodlatte: Central Americans In US Illegally Are Paying To Have Their Children Brought Here. Appearing on Fox News' On The Record (7/7, 1.65M), House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), who represented immigrants seeking citizenship as an attorney before coming to Congress, said that in a recent visit to the border region, border patrol agents "said that overwhelmingly what" the unaccompanied minors "say they want is to be reunified with their parents who are already illegally in the United States." Goodlatte continued, "Many of them are just...turning themselves in very willfully, knowing that after they are held for a few hours they are going to be released into the interior of the United States – adults with work authorization, children oftentimes sent to their parents who are already illegally here."

McCain, Graham: US Should Withhold Aid From Central American Countries. Roll Call (7/7, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 76K) reports that Sen. John McCain, on of the authors of the comprehensive immigration reform plan that was approved by the Senate last year, "is calling for at least threatening to cut aid to Central American countries that don't take steps to stop the flow of unaccompanied migrant children to the United States." In a radio interview, McCain said, "We should tell these countries in Central America that no more aid, no more assistance, no nothing until they stop this from happening."

On Fox News' Special Report (7/7, 2.15M), Sen. Lindsey Graham, another prominent Republican supporter of comprehensive immigration reform, was shown saying, "I would put on the table cutting off any foreign assistance to these countries until they embrace solving this problem."

Pentagon Reportedly Planning To House More Illegal Immigrants On Military Bases. According to the Washington Times (7/8, Ybarra, 455K), the Pentagon "is considering extending its parameters for harboring illegal immigrant children on military bases," and "is also in talks with the U.S. Department of Health and Human services to extend the number of days that the children can stay on government property."

Arizona Must Give Drivers Licenses To Illegal Immigrants Covered By Obama's Deferred Action. The AP (7/8, Billeaud, 11.54M) reports that the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has "sided with advocates for young immigrants who argued that Arizona's policy of denying them driver's licenses even though they had work permits under an Obama administration policy violated their equal protection rights." The AP notes that in June 2012, President Obama blocked any deportations of those living in the US illegally if they first arrived "before they turned 16" and had "been in the country for at least five continuous years," and declared that they "were allowed to apply for a two-year renewable work permit." According to the AP, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer then "direct[ed] state agencies to deny driver's licenses...to young immigrants who get work authorization under the program."

The Washington Times (7/8, Dinan, 455K) reports that on Monday, Brewer said, "The ruling is especially disturbing given the current influx of illegal aliens, a crisis President Obama created and escalated." The New York Times (7/8, Santos, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) notes that "in a separate opinion, one of the judges...also said that the plaintiffs had 'persuasively argued' that Arizona's driver's license policy creates 'a new type of alien status,' therefore usurping the federal government's role in determining immigration policy." The Times notes that Nebraska is "the only other state to deny driver's licenses to immigrants in the deferred-deportation program."

LA Mayor: LAPD Will No Longer Keep "Deportable Inmates" In Jail Without A Judge's Order. The Los Angeles Times (7/8, Hansen, 3.46M) reports that on Monday, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti "announced that Los Angeles would become one of several major U.S. cities that will no longer keep deportable inmates in prison past their jail term without a judge's orders – a seeming rebuke to federal immigration officials." Another Los Angeles Times (7/8, Reyes, 3.46M) article notes that Garcetti made his announcement on Monday "alongside a cheering crowd of immigrant advocates." An editorial in the Los Angeles Times (7/8, Board, 3.46M) praises

Garcetti's decision, saying it, "and similar dominoes-like responses by local governments, are proper, and affirm a basic civil liberty: the right to due process."

Wickham: Unaccompanied Minors Should Be Flown To Guantanamo Bay. In his column for USA Today (7/8, 5.82M), DeWayne Wickham suggests that unaccompanied minors trying to enter the US illegally should be flown to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which he notes was "used in the 1990s as a detention camp for Haitians escaping bloodshed." Wickham notes that the Guantanamo Bay Navy base "boasts movie theaters, American fast-food restaurants and excellent recreational facilities."

TIGHTER SECURITY MEASURES TAKE EFFECT AT OVERSEAS AIRPORTS. The increased security measures at overseas airports for US-bound passengers led two of the three network news broadcasts Monday evening. The reports were all similar, noting that while US officials are concerned that terrorist groups including AQAP are developing explosive devices that are capable of making it through airport security undetected, there is currently no specific threat. ABC World News (7/7, story 3, 2:35, Ross) reported that US officials "say they fear a threat to US-bound aircraft from Jihadists with Western passports now in Syria and Iraq, carrying bombs designed by a master al Qaeda bomb maker." According to US intelligence reports, "the bombs could be carried in electronics. So, that's why travelers on select flights into the US from overseas are being told they must turn on their electronic devices at security checkpoints before boarding flights. The enhanced security steps were put in place over the weekend across the Middle East and Europe, including today at London's Heathrow Airport."

The CBS Evening News (7/7, lead story, 2:35, Orr, 5.08M) reported in its lead story that as security on overseas flights bound for the US is tightened, "al Qaeda's most dangerous wing is out with a propaganda tape celebrating the attempted underwear bombing of 2009." While the attack was not successful, it "demonstrated al Qaeda's ability to reach the US with a hidden bomb. And officials fear terrorists will try again. ... To reduce the risk, US-bound passengers at 20 foreign airports are being required to turn on their electronics to demonstrate the devices are actually phones and laptops and not bombs." Orr added that there is no intelligence that "that terrorists are targeting any domestic flights, so for now, there are no security changes planned at airports inside the US."

In its lead story, NBC Nightly News (7/7, lead story, 3:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported that "air security is ramping up around the world and many are wondering is domestic travel where we will see the next round of changes?" Tom Costello added, "Travelers in Europe flying to America could be facing big delays with those beefed-up restrictions turning airports like Heathrow, one of the world's busiest, into centers of mass confusion." Costello added that that according to security sources, while there is "no specific immediate threat, this is a general ongoing concern they have. The challenge for foreign airports is to balance the security procedures with a busy beginning of the summer tourist season."

Pamela Brown reported on CNN's Situation Room (7/7, 554K) that the increased security comes "as new intelligence warns terrorist groups including al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula are intent on developing new bombs capable of fooling airport security measures. The TSA is now asking airports in the Middle East, Europe and Africa to watch passengers turn their devices on before boarding US direct flights. And if those devices don't power up, they won't be permitted on board the aircraft."

The New York Times (7/8, Nixon, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the TSA would not say how long the new security procedures "would remain in place, nor would it specify the countries or airports that would be affected."

OBAMA, DUNCAN LAUNCH TEACHER EQUITY INITIATIVE AMID TENSION WITH THE NEA. The AP (7/8, Hefling) reports that the National Education Association "adopted a business item July 4 at its annual convention in Denver that called for...[the] resignation" of Education Secretary Arne Duncan, which, according to the AP, "underscores the long-standing tension between the Obama administration and teachers' unions – historically a steadfast Democratic ally." The AP says that the "tipping point for some members was Duncan's statement last month in support of a California judge's ruling that struck down tenure and other job protections for...public school teachers." The AP reports that on Monday, Duncan declined to comment on the NEA's call for his resignation, saying, "I always try to stay out of local union politics. I think most teachers do too,."

According to Politico (7/7, Simon, Emma, 637K), President Obama's "video address at the opening of" the NEA convention last week "got tepid applause — nothing like the cheers and screams that greeted union leaders when

they took the stage." Politico also notes that on Monday, Duncan pointed out that "the president of the other major teachers union, the American Federation of Teachers, was joining him Monday for the rollout of [a] teacher equity proposal."

The Washington Times (7/8, Wolfgang, 455K) reports that on Monday at the White House, President Obama "sat down for lunch with educators and rolled out a new initiative to support quality educators in low-income areas across the country." The Times says Duncan "told reporters the new plan calls on states to develop their own methods for ensuring the best teachers aren't clustered in affluent, suburban districts, where student achievement scores typically are higher." The Times adds that Duncan emphasized that "the initiative will be supported with $4.2 million in federal money and requires no action from Congress."

The Wall Street Journal (7/8, Sparshott, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that on Monday, Duncan said, "Of particular concern is the fact that typically the least experienced teachers...often end up in the poorest schools." The Hill (7/7, Shabad, 237K) reported that "as part of the initiative, the Department of Education will ask states to...create 'equity plans' to guarantee all students have effective educators."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Four Horrific Killings."*** The New York Times (7/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that the spiral of teenager deaths "should cause" the Jewish and Palestinian "communities to think again about the need for a permanent peace, but the loss of four young men may not be motivation enough."

"Germany And The Minimum Wage." In an editorial, the New York Times (7/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) praises Germany's expected passage this week of a measure "to set a nationwide minimum wage of 8.50 euros an hour, about $11.60, effective in 2015," noting that "a solid wage floor ensures that economic growth is broadly shared even by those who fall outside the collectively bargained framework." The Times argues that the move "offers the United States important lessons, if only lawmakers in Washington would learn."

"The Long Wait To See A Doctor." The New York Times (7/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, notes a "new survey...conducted by Merritt Hawkins," which found while "Americans are already experiencing long waits to get doctor's appointments...the delays are bound to get worse when millions of previously uninsured Americans get health coverage under the Affordable Care Act." According to the Times, there are "ways to reduce wait times, like increasing primary care doctors, allowing nurses and physicians' assistants to provide more care and opening more primary care clinics."

"New York's Mapmaking Scandal." The New York Times (7/8, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, criticizes Gov. Andrew Cuomo for having "signed onto a set of legislative maps in 2012 that were carefully designed to keep legislators safely in their jobs." The Times goes on to says that since then Cuomo and the New York legislators "came up with a counterfeit reform, a constitutional amendment on November's ballot that would only make matters worse and make it harder to clean up the whole inbred process for years to come."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Vetting vs. Abetting."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (7/8, 4.22M) says that the President's request that Congress appropriate $5 billion for a Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund "raises some disturbing questions" including what to do about "foreign units that receive U.S. training and funding," and "commit human rights abuses." The Post argues that while a provision like the Leahy amendment which "prohibits aid to units and individuals thought to be involved in gross human rights violations," should be built into the new program, the Administration "is seeking to neuter the Leahy amendment by giving the defense secretary the authority to disregard it by asserting that 'it is in the national security interest to do so.'" The Post calls on Congress to reject the exemption, arguing that "allowing aid to flow to foreign military units that commit major human rights crimes cannot be in the U.S. interest in any circumstances."

"Shevardnadze's Legacy." In an editorial this morning, the Washington Post (7/8, 4.22M) criticizes Eduard Sheveardnadze's "misrule as president of independent Georgia," calling it "lamentable," but says he "must be remembered, first and foremost, for those fleeting but inspiring years of glasnost and new thinking at the side of Mr. Gorbachev."

"A Challenge, Not A Catastrophe." An editorial in the Washington Post (7/8, 4.22M) says that despite the "overblown" conclusions reached by ACA critics, judging from "reports that the Obama administration found nearly 3 million discrepancies between what enrollees reported when they signed up for Affordable Care Act insurance and what federal records show about them," there is "more reason for encouragement from recent news about the act than there is to decry its problems." The Post argues that the "right response is to get better at catching and resolving errors faster, not to condemn the system," adding that the Administration "faces another Affordable Care Act management challenge, not a policy disaster."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"West Chester USA."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) examines the efforts of Westchester County, NY Executive Rob Astorino, who is the Republican candidate for governor of New York, to comply with a 2009 housing settlement with the Federal government. The Journal decries accusations that Astorino has violated anti-discrimination laws, and notes that between 2000 and 2010, the number of minorities living in the county increased by 56 percent. The Journal argues that Federal officials are pressuring the county to toughen its zoning ordinances, and it lauds Astorino for standing up to this pressure.

"Where's Jim Comey?" The Wall Street Journal (7/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, says the revelations about the missing emails from Lois Lerner to the White House, as well as other IRS officials' emails, are leading some in Congress to question whether or not the FBI is actually investigating the improper targeting of Administration critics as FBI Director James Comey claims it is. According to the Journal, Comey never told Congress that the emails were unaccounted for even though that would have been immediately apparent to the FBI once it began to look into Lerner's correspondence.

"Germany's Fracking Follies." The Wall Street Journal (7/8, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) in an editorial criticizes Germany for proposing a fracking ban during a time when the crisis in Ukraine makes it apparent that Europe needs to diversify its gas supplies. The Journal argue that such a ban would leave Germany vulnerable to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Some Still Lack Coverage Under Health Law
Ukraine Advances, Putin Stays Silent
Wal-Mart Shrinks The Big Box
Banks' Cuts Fall Short As Growth Stays Tepid

New York Times:
Welcome To The Everything Boom (Or Bubble?)
Immigrant Surge Rooted In Law To Curb Child Trafficking
Wall Street Offers Clinton A Thorny Embrace
Ukraine Rebels Are Retreating For Last Stand
Jihadis Tug At Edges Of A Staunch American Ally
Not Over Till Overtime's Due? Met Labor Strife Bares Secrets

Washington Post:
World Record*: Biggest Flying Bird (*Wind-Aided)
Before He Took His First Breath
Obama Hardens Tone On Border
Evidence Said To Tie Smear Plot To Cuba
US-China Relations Sour As Tensions Spiral In Asia

Financial Times:
ECB Under Pressure To Rein In 'Crazy' Euro
Celebrity Investors Face Tax Crackdown

Gotham City Vows To Continue Its Crusade
EU Banks To Sell €100bn Loans
Petsmart Under Growing Pressure For Sale
HSBC Modifies Hong Kong Report
French Bemoan Dollar In A League Of Its Own

Washington Times:
Harry's Rules: Reid Dominates Crippled Congress
Tennessee Long Shot Is Tea Party's Best Hope
The Art Of The Autograph
Arizona Dreamers Can Now Get Licenses
Leader's Emergence Sign Of ISIL Bravado
Ukrainian Rebels: Putin Abandoned Us

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Japan-Typhoon; Chicago Gun Violence; Iraq-Terrorist; Israel-Turmoil; Vatican-Sex Abuse Victim Meeting; Real Money-Phone Repair; Washington-Recreational Marijuana Sale; Military-Dog Rescue.
CBS: Iraq Terrorist-Security; Iraq-Government Turmoil; Iraq-Terrorist Destruction; German Intelligence-Spying Allegations; Israel-Palestine Turmoil; Children Immigrants; Runway Close Calls; Tour De France.
NBC: International Airport Security; Chicago Violence; NFL-Injury Lawsuit; Israel Turmoil; Vatican-Sexual Abuse; Japan-Typhoon; Children Immigration; Medical-Ovarian Cancer Detection; Al Baghdadi Appearance.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Roller coaster Derailment; Israel-Gaza Attacks; Japan-Typhoon; Obama-Immigration Funding Request.
CBS: Children Immigration; Obama-Afghanistan Election Results; Kerry-Afghanistan Statement; Palestinian-US Teen Beaten; Israel-Gaza Attacks; NFL-Head Injury Lawsuit; Dow Down.
NPR: Israel-Palestine Turmoil; Washington-Recreational Marijuana Sale; Roller Coaster Derailment; West Coast Shipping Lines-Truckers Strike; Children Immigration; Philadelphia-Firefighter Controversy; Califomia Wildfire.
FOX: Israel-Palestine Turmoil; Obama-Border Funding Request; Gun Control Debate; Six Flags-Rollercoaster Derailed; Washington-Recreational Marijuana Sale.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Welcomes NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen to the White House, in which he looks forward to discussing with the Secretary General the crisis in Ukraine and related reassurance measures for our NATO allies, improving allied defense investment, further work on bolstering NATOs network of partners, and NATOs post-2014 non-combat mission in Afghanistan; travels to Denver, CO area where he will remain overnight.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No Scheduled Events.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Participates in a roundtable discussion with students who have overcome substantial personal challenges to graduate from high school.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Closed meeting to receive testimony on the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Witnesses: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel; Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/14-07-08-situations-in-iraq-and-afghanistan Location: SVC-217, The Office of Senate Security in the Capitol Visitor Center.

10 a.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Combating Forced Labor and Modem-Day Slavery in East Asia And The Pacific. Witnesses: Panel One: Scot Marciel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary For East Asian And Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-At-Large For The Office To Monitor And Combat, Trafficking In Persons, U.S. Department of State. Panel Two: Neha Misra, Senior Specialist, Migration & Human Trafficking, Solidarity Center; Jesse Eaves, Senior Policy Advisor For Child Protection, World Vision. Location:

419 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Subcommittee on Children and Families hearings to examine the challenges of prevention and identification in child trafficking and private re-homing. Panel: JooYeun Chang , Associate Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services Childrens Bureau, Washington, DC; Abigail English , Director, Center for Adolescent Health & the Law, Chapel Hill, NC; Jenee' Littrell , Assistant Principal, Grossmont Union High School District, San Diego County, CA ; Megan Twohey , Investigative Reporter, Thomson Reuters, New York, NY. Location: 430 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Subcommittee on European Affairs hearing on Renewed Focus on European Energy Security. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/renewed-focus-on-european-energy-07-08-14p Location: 419 Dirksen.
US House: 2 p.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: H-144 in the U.S. Capitol.

12 p.m. — The House will meet for morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules: 1) H.R. 1528 – Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act (Sponsored by Rep. Kurt Schrader / Energy and Commerce Committee); 2) H.R. 4653 – To reauthorize the United States Commissions on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Frank Wolf / Foreign Affairs Committee); 3) H.Res. 588 – Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Collin Peterson / Foreign Affairs Committee); 4) H.R. 3488 – The Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014 (Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Meehan / Homeland Security Committee); 5) H.R. 4007 – The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Meehan / Homeland Security Committee); 6) H.R. 4263 – The Social Media Working Group Act of 2014 (Sponsored by Rep. Susan Brooks / Homeland Security Committee); 7) H.R. 4812 – The Honor Flight Act (Sponsored by Rep. Cedric Richmond / Homeland Security Committee); 8) H.R. 4289 – The Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act (Sponsored by Rep. Donald Payne / Homeland Security Committee).

7:30 p.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS — Full Committee holds hearing on "Whistleblowers: Exposing Inadequate Service Provided to Veterans and Ensuring Appropriate Accountability. http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/va-whistleblowers-exposing-inadequate-service-provided-to-veterans-and-ensuring-appropriate Location: 334 Cannon.
Other: July 7 – 9. SECRETARY JOHNSON — Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson will travel to Florida and Guatemala. On July 7-8, Secretary Johnson will travel to Miami where he will visit the National Hurricane Center to discuss hurricane season, meet with U.S. Coast Guard District Seven leadership, and meet with the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) leadership. From July 8-9, Secretary Johnson and USSOUTHCOM Commander General John Kelly will travel to Guatemala where they will participate in meetings with the Government of Guatemala to discuss issues of mutual concern, including ongoing government-wide response to the influx of adults, families, and unaccompanied children across the southwest border. Contact: DHS Press Office, (202) 282-8010

July 8 – 11. U.S. BLACK CHAMBERS CONFERENCE — USBC 2014 School of Chamber and Business Management (SCBM) conference. Speakers include Rev. Jesse Jackson and an advocacy day. http://usblackchamber.chambermaster.com/events/details/2014-usbc-school-of-chamber-business-management-111 Location: Marriott Marquis, 901 Massachusetts Ave NW.

CAP – SENATOR BROWN — 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Welcoming remarks: Neera Tanden, Counselor, Center for American Progress Action Fund Keynote speaker: Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Chairman, Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy Subcommittee on the Senate Finance Committee Additional speakers: Melissa Boteach, Vice President, Half in Ten and Poverty and Prosperity Program, Center for American Progress Action Fund Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration; Virginia Reno, Vice President for Income Security, National Academy of Social Insurance; T.J. Sutcliffe, Director of Income and Housing Policy, The Arc of the United States; Eva Dominguez, Legislative Representative, Alliance for Retired Americans and Latinos for a Secure Retirement. Moderated by: Rebecca Vallas, Associate Director, Poverty to Prosperity Program, Center for American Progress Action Fund. Contact Katie Peters at kpeters@americanprogressaction.org or

202.741.6285. http://www.americanprogressaction.org/events/2014/06/30/92886/social-security-disability-insurance-what-does-it-mean-to-american-workers-and-their-families/?evlcrsvp Location: Center for American Progress Action Fund, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor.

CATO – OPERATION CHOKE POINT — 12 p.m. Discussion on DOJs "Operation Choke Point: Illegally Choking Off Legitimate Businesses?. Speakers: Congressman Darrell Issa (CA-49), Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Moderated by Mark Calabria, Director, Financial Regulation Studies, Cato Institute. http://www.cato.org/events/dojs-operation-choke-point-illegally-choking-legitimate-businesses?utm_sourceCato+Institute+Emails&utm_campaign3e887a9b20-events&utm_mediumemail&utm_term0_395878584c-3e887a9b20-141569086&mc_cid3e887a9b20&mc_eid20513483bd Location: Cato Institute, 1 Hayek Auditorium, 000 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

CATO – DIGITAL PRIVACY REFORM — 4 p.m. Youre Gonna Need a Warrant for That: The Path to Digital Privacy Reform. Speakers: Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX); Greg Nojeim, Senior Counsel and Director, Center for Democracy & Technology, Project on Freedom, Security and Technology; Katie McAuliffe, Executive Director for Digital Liberty, Americans for Tax Reform; David Lieber, Privacy Counsel, Google; and Eric Wenger, Policy Counsel, Microsoft. Moderated by Julian Sanchez, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute. http://www.cato.org To register: events@cato.org, fax (202) 371-0841, or call (202) 789-5229 by 4:00PM on Monday, July 7th. Location: Cato Institute, Hayek Auditorium, 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I've got to tell you congratulations to Joey Chestnut. On Friday, he won the big Fourth of July Nathan's hot dog eating contest. He ate 61 hot dogs in 10 minutes. Another guy was like, 'But I ate a hundred.' And the judges said, 'Well, you have to wait until we say go, Governor Christie.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "House Speaker John Boehner is threatening to sue President Obama for using executive actions to create laws instead of going through Congress first. And then Obama just shrugged and made a new law that said you can't sue the President."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, July 10, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jul 10, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES $43 MILLION FOR CONSERVATION, RECREATION PROJECTS. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that "more than $43 million from a federal fund will be distributed to conservation and recreation projects across the nation," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced on Tuesday. Jewell is "heading

up a weeklong campaign to support renewing the fund permanently." She said, "We need to reauthorize this fund and fund it at its intended level without having to worry about year-to-year appropriation."

Secretary Jewell In Birmingham Urges Renewal Of Fund. The Alabama Live (7/10, 75K) reports that Jewell was scheduled to visit Birmingham on Wednesday "to highlight the 50th anniversary of a fund supporting America's parks and recreational spaces and to urge its continuation." Jewell was scheduled to "visit Red Mountain Park along with making a presentation at East Lake Park to mark the anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its significance in creating parks throughout the country."

The Alabama Live (7/10, 75K) reports that Jewell "lauded the city, its leaders and various outdoors-focused organizations for their efforts to maintain places like East Lake Park that are accessible to people who live in the densely populated city center." she said, "You have the vision and foresight here in Birmingham to recognize that green spaces like this keep our communities healthy and keep our kids creative. Birmingham is way ahead of the curve when it comes to parks and open spaces."

Also reporting on the story is WVTM-TV Birmingham, AL (7/10, 2K).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the Washington Examiner (7/9, 335K), the Washington Times (7/9, 455K), the Washington Examiner (7/9, 335K), the Charleston (WV) Gazette (7/9, 44K), the Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (7/10, 422K), the Columbus (IN) Republic (7/9, 81K), Yahoo! (7/9, 17.91M), the Tennessean (7/8, 414K), the Jamestown (ND) Sun (7/10, 3K), the Dickinson (ND) Press (7/10, 1K), the North Coast (OR) Citizen (7/10), the Portland (OR) Business Journal (7/10, Subscription Publication, 26K), the Durango (CO) Herald (7/9, 28K), the Fierce Government (7/10, 224), WLFI-TV Lafayette, IN (7/9, 12K), and KXLO-FM Lewiston, MT (7/10).

HOUSE PANEL APPROVES BILL TO FUND INTERIOR, EPA. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that a House Appropriations subpanel has "approved along party lines a bill funding the Interior Department and US EPA for fiscal 2015, with Republicans touting new investments in wildfire fighting and rural school districts and Democrats decrying deep cuts in EPA's budget." The $30.22 billion bill "represents a half-percent increase over enacted levels, but much of its increased funding will go to pay the escalating cost of firefighting and to Interior's payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) program for rural communities."

Also covering the story are "The Fix" blog of the Washington Post (7/9, Bump, 4.22M) and The Hill (7/9, Cama, 237K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF MEETINGS ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (7/10, 402K) reports that "dozens of Maui residents Tuesday night echoed the staunch opposition heard around the islands against possible federal recognition as US interior officials held their 15th and final meeting exploring the possibility of re-establishing a government-to-government relationship with Native Hawaiians."

Meanwhile, KGMB-TV Honolulu (7/10, 95K) says that "former Governor John Waihee joined Steve Uyehara on Sunrise this morning to share his thoughts" on the issue.

TRIBAL, LOCAL LEADERS APPEAL TO PRESIDENT OBAMA FOR IZEMBEK ROAD APPROVAL. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that "as Interior Secretary Sally Jewell continues to hold fast on her decision not to build a road through an Alaska wildlife refuge, the locals pushing for approval have decided to appeal to her boss, President Obama." Tribal and local government leaders from King Cove, Alaska, on Tuesday "sent a letter to the president in hopes that he may force Interior to construct the road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge that they contend is crucial to their well-being." The letter – signed by the mayors of King Cove and Aleutians East Borough and officials from the Agdaagux Tribe, Belkofski Tribal Council and King Cove Corp. – reads, "We know there is a way for this road to happen with your help. You can quiet years of Aleut protest in a single moment and be assured that we will lift our voices in songs of praise and gratitude."

Also reporting on the story is KTVA-TV Anchorage, AK (7/10, 1K).

REP. DEFAZIO SLAMS FWS FOR HANDLING OF GRAY WOLVES. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that Oregon

Rep. Peter DeFazio "ripped" the FWS' "handling of gray wolves, urging Interior Secretary Sally Jewell yesterday to establish buffer zones around Yellowstone National Park to protect wolves that wander beyond the park." DeFazio "wrote in a three-page letter to Jewell that Fish and Wildlife's proposal last year to remove Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in most of the United States was premature and that populations of gray wolves in Wyoming, particularly, are dropping dramatically." Jessica Kershaw, an Interior spokeswoman, said the department has received DeFazio's letter, "and we are reviewing it."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WASHINGTON MONUMENT REOPENING. Additional coverage of the reopening of the Washington Monument was provided by the Hillsborough (NJ) Beacon (7/9, 13K).

ANALYST: OBAMA'S CLIMATE PLANS "A FOOL'S ERRAND." In an op-ed in the "Congress" blog in The Hill (7/9, Powaleny, 237K) The Herald Group director Andrew Powaleny notes that recently The New York Times published a story that led with news that President Obama conceded that his climate change efforts could boost fuel and electricity costs. He says despite the "good" intentions President Obama may have, "his policies are misplaced and ineffective" and recent proposals have refrained from discussing whether "any of them would lead to any concrete means to impact climate change or lead to significant temperature reductions." He concludes the president's climate plans are "a fool's errand."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

SENATE VOTES FOR STUDY ON PLAQUEMINES PARISH HISTORIC SITES. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/10, 678K) reports that "the Senate Wednesday passed legislation directing a study into the feasibility of designating historic forts and other sites in Plaquemines Parish along the Lower Mississippi River as part of the National Park Service." The measure "directs the Department of Interior to conduct a study to determine whether the Lower Mississippi River Area possesses nationally significant natural, cultural or recreational resources required to make it eligible to be part of the National Park System."

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS RECEIVES NPS GRANT. The Examiner (7/10, 1.56M) reports that the NPS has "awarded $195,200 in grants from the National Center for Preservation Technology & Training to assist with projects using science and technology for historic preservation." The article notes that "a total of five grants, ranging from $38,500 to $40,000, were awarded for projects that develop new technologies or adapt existing technologies to preserve our nation's cultural resources." NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "These innovative projects are developing new technologies to preserve our nation's historic resources. We are pleased to provide assistance for these programs that are bringing the best skills and technology of the present to preserve the treasures of the past."

NPS MARKS 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF MONOCACY. The AP (7/10, Dishneau) reports that the NPS marked the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Monocacy on Wednesday.

BEST NATIONAL PARK NOMINEES REVEALED. USA Today (7/10, 5.82M) has "launched a summer-centric Readers' Choice contest in which everyone has a vested interest: Best National Park."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO UTAH'S RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (7/10, 43) reports that the BLM "announced new appointments or reappointments of members to Utah's citizen-based Resource Advisory Council." BLM Director Neil Kornze said, "Our Resource Advisory Councils exemplify the BLM's collaborative approach to public land management. I want to welcome our newly appointed RAC members and thank them for their commitment to public service."

SEN. REID BLOCKS VOTES ON BILL RENEWING PROGRAM LETTING BLM SELL LAND. The AP (7/9) reports that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "blocked a parade of campaign-season votes on gun rights Wednesday that could have been a political thorn for Democrats seeking to retain control of the chamber in this fall's elections." Reid "used Senate procedures to prevent votes on any amendments to a bipartisan measure

expanding hunters' access to public lands and renewing land conservation programs." Among its various provisions, the bill would "renew a program letting the Bureau of Land Management sell some land and let federal agencies use the funds to buy other properties."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (7/10, 4.22M), the Washington Times (7/10, Fram, 455K), and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/9, 687K).

SENATE APPROVES BILL TO CLEAN UP TOXIC NEVADA MINE. The AP (7/10) reports that the Senate has "approved legislation intended to launch the long-awaited cleanup of a toxic, abandoned manganese mine outside of Las Vegas." Sens. Harry Reid and Dean Heller say the bill sent to President Obama on Wednesday directs the BLM "to convey the federal portions of the Three Kids Mine site to the city of Henderson's redevelopment agency for fair market value, taking into account cleanup costs projected in excess of $300 million." According to the lawmakers, "once the local agency receives title to the land, it will work with a developer to complete cleanup and build a residential community."

BLM BACKS MOVE TO TRANSFER LAND TO IDAHO COUNTY FOR GUN RANGE. The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (7/9, 210K) reports that the BLM is "backing Idaho Congressman Raul Labrador's move to transfer 31 acres of its land in Idaho County to the county for a gun range." Suzanne Endsley, public affairs officer for the BLM's Coeur d'Alene and Spokane districts, said, "We're supportive of the effort. There is no designated range in that area, and people are using this location anyway. From an environmental standpoint, it would be nice if it was managed a little bit better. We just don't have the resources to go there on a weekly basis and pick up all the shells, and there is interest in the county to do a really bang-up management job."

Also reporting on the story is the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (7/9, 210K).

EDITORIAL: BUNDY SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. In an editorial about the conflict between the federal government and Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, the St. George (UT) Spectrum (7/9, 48K) argues that "the people who caused the disruption with officers acting to enforce the law should be punished, just as a person living in town would be punished for interfering with a police officer doing his or her job." It notes that Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie has said "publicly that Bundy crossed the line when he allowed his supporters onto his property to aim guns at police." The editorial concludes that "if Gillespie is right and the courts find Bundy crossed the line, it will have been his own fault. And he should face penalties that he won't be able to ignore, just as everyone else would."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SPORTSMEN'S BILL ON VERGE OF FAILURE. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that "a bipartisan bill to expand hunting on public lands is on the brink of failure," after Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "used a procedural maneuver that could stiffen Republican opposition." According to the article, "faced with a flurry of controversial amendments – including ones that would force politically difficult votes on gun rights – Reid 'filled the amendment tree.'" The article notes that "the move enables him to block unwanted amendments, though it does not preclude Democratic and Republican leaders from hammering out an agreement on amendments in the coming days." However, "if such a deal is not made, Republicans may withdraw support, killing the bill."

Also covering the story is the "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (7/10, Cox, 237K).

HOUSE REPUBLICANS TRY TO EASE NEW REGULATIONS ON IVORY SALES. The AP (7/10, Taylor, 17.91M) reports that House Republicans "want to hold up new federal rules intended to crack down on ivory sales because it is becoming more difficult for owners of musical instruments, antiques and guns made with ivory to trade in such items." A House Appropriations subcommittee "acted Wednesday to block the rules as part of a measure funding the Fish and Wildlife Service." The article notes that "the legislation has a long way to go before it becomes law and the rules, announced in February, will stay in effect in the meantime."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (7/10, 4.22M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/9, 687K), the US News & World Report (7/9, 645K), and ABC News (7/10, 3.58M)

BILL INTRODUCED TO PROHIBIT FWS FROM CLOSING FISH HATCHERIES WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL PERMISSION. The AP (7/10) reports that Rep. Paul Gosar has "introduced a bill that would prohibit the US Fish and Wildlife Service from closing fish hatcheries or propagation programs without permission from Congress." Gosar says the measure "would protect jobs and revenue attached to the recreational fishing industry."

Also reporting on the story is the Prescott (AZ) E-News (7/10, 535).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION RELEASES TWIN RULES FOR LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLES. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that the Obama Administration on Wednesday "released two final critical habitat rules for threatened loggerhead sea turtles in a move that creates one of the biggest habitat designations ever to protect any species." The rule from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will "designate 38 areas within the northwest Atlantic Ocean population's range." Environmental groups have said "the total size of the offshore designation is more than 300,000 square miles, though agency officials could not confirm the number by press time."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (7/10, Mcconnaughey), Reuters (7/10, Mcleod), The Hill (7/10, Devaney, 237K), Miami Herald (7/10, Disare, 822K), the Chicago Tribune (7/10, Haven, 2.3M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/9, 687K), the Florida Today (7/9, 208K), the Carteret County (NC) News-Times (7/10, 28K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (7/10, 1.36M), the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (7/9, 504K), the New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/10, 678K), WHNS-TV Greenville, SC (7/10, 106K), and KALB-TV Alexandria, LA (7/10, 1K).

LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN COMPLICATES SPACEPORT LICENSE PROCESS. The Midland (TX) Reporter-Telegram (7/10, Gleason, 44K) reports that the "mating rituals of the lesser prairie chicken," listed this year as a threatened species, is impacting the approval of a spaceport license to the Midland International Airport. Once the bird was included on the list, officials had to modify their application to explain how launches would not adversely impact the species. Midland Director of Airports Marv Esterly said that he does expect that in the end FAA officials will determine that there is "no significant impact." He added that officials are taking their time to "get it right" because granting a spaceport license to an airport would set a precedence.

The AP (7/9) and the KWTX-TV Waco, TX (7/10, 48K) website also cover the story.,

FWS ASSESSING EASTERN HELLBENDER. ABC News (7/10, 3.58M) reports that the FWS is "conducting an assessment of the eastern hellbender — one of two subspecies — to determine if it should be added to the federal endangered species list." According to the article, "scientists aren't certain why the salamanders are disappearing." However, "dams have tamed some of the fast currents they prefer while sediment runoff from development has filled up the rocky nooks and crannies young hellbenders use for shelter," and "a fungus blamed for amphibian declines worldwide may also be a factor."

INVASIVE SPECIES LEAD TO YELLOW PERCH COLLAPSE IN LAKE MICHIGAN. The Detroit Free Press (7/10, Smith, 1.02M) reports that "the collapse of the Lake Michigan yellow perch fishery is one of the unwelcome, cascading consequences of invasive species in the Great Lakes." According to the article, "as zebra and quagga mussels have filtered food out of the ecosystem, the 'fish of the people' has dwindled." And "in its wake, a vital commercial industry, a wholesome source of recreation, a healthy local food source and an urban connection to nature have all but disappeared."

GROUPS FILE LAWSUIT OVER CALIFORNIA'S APPROVAL OF PESTICIDES. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that environmental and food safety groups on Tuesday "filed a legal challenge to California on its approval of certain pesticides, arguing that they're killing honeybees and threatening the nation's food basket." The Pesticide Action Network, the Center for Food Safety and Beyond Pesticides "in a case filed in the California Superior Court for the County of Alameda sought action against the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for its handling of insecticides known as neonicotinoids." The action "asked for several measures, including a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction prohibiting DPR from registering any neonicotinoid pesticide or any other pesticide that is harmful to honeybees." The groups also "want to block the state from approving any neonicotinoid pesticide until the state completes a full scientific review of how they affect honeybees."

FORMER NBA STAR YAO MING OPPOSES ENDANGERED SPECIES TRAFFICKING. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that "former NBA star Yao Ming is taking a stand against illegal wildlife trafficking." Yao is "working with high-ranking US and Chinese officials to fight the illicit global trade in endangered species and their parts." The article notes that Yao has also "worked to lower the consumption of shark fin soup and the use of elephant ivory."

LAS VEGAS PAPER: REID SHOULD ENSURE SAGE GROUSE DOESN'T GET FEDERAL PROTECTION. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/9, 437K) in an editorial says debate over whether sage grouse should be listed as a threatened or endangered species next year has made Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid a potential one as well. This is because the issue has become contested in close Senate races in Montana and Colorado, which could decide whether Democrats keep their Senate majority and Reid keeps his title as their leader. The paper urges Reid to help keep the bird off protected lists for the sake of his political career.

US Geological Survey:

USGS SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR "DREAM JOBS." In its "In The Loop" blog, the Washington Post (7/10, Itkowitz, 4.22M) reports that "every career opportunity at" the USGS "promises to be your dream job." The agency "posted 13 jobs in the past 30 days and they are all a dream, or so claims the descriptions for each opening."

USGS POSTS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS ONLINE. For the "Wonkblog" of the Washington Post (7/10, Badger, 4.22M), Emily Badger writes that the USGS recently "released a fantastic Web site, built with the mapping company Esri, digitizing some 178,000 of the government's topographic maps dating going back to the 1800s." Badger notes that "these old paper products have all been georectified, so you can layer maps from different eras on top of each other, and toggle back and forth between, say, an 1890 survey of the area that would become the Northern Virginia suburbs and the road-veined map we'd recognize today."

PENNSYLVANIA DEP CONSIDERS RULES ON TREMORS AND FRACKING. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (7/8, 677K) reports that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is "considering creating rules for the first time for wells in 'seismic hazard areas' — places that may be susceptible to tremors triggered by well stimulation techniques like fracking." The agency "floated the proposal in recent weeks in a paper outlining conceptual changes to the state's oil and gas well regulations under the heading 'TBD – Induced seismicity.'" DEP's chief of oil and gas compliance and data management, Joseph Lee Jr., said "the language is a placeholder for now, but the department and its partners are beginning a massive data-mining project to fill in the blanks."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN WIND POWER AND EAGLES URGED. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (7/10, 111K) editorializes that "wind and solar energy production...impact nature and we need to know more about these evolving technologies." It notes that "environmental groups criticized a decision by Fish and Wildlife Service to allow permits as long as 30 years." according to the paper, "that does seem too long, although the government can take action if the number of deaths exceed the permit." The editorial "encourages the companies that own windmills in the San Gorgonio Pass — where eagles have long been a majestic presence — to seek the permits so we can determine the proper balance between expanding renewable energy and protecting our treasured species."

Onshore Energy Development:

SEN. MURKOWSKI URGES COMMERCE DEPARTMENT TO CHANGE ITS CRUDE DEFINITION. The Hill (7/9, Barron-lopez, 237K) reports that on Wednesday Sen. Lisa Murkowski urged the Commerce Department to change its 30-year-old definition of crude oil so that US producers can export it. Currently the Commerce Department treats condensates and crude oil the same, and Murkowski believes this should change. In a report she said the department needs to "align its policy with other federal agencies, allowing condensate to be exported alongside natural gas liquids and petroleum products." Six other Federal agencies currently distinguish

between condensates and crude. The Hill (7/10, Barron-lopez, Cama, 237K) also covers the story in its "Overnight Energy" briefing.

US, CHINA SIGN AGREEMENTS ON COAL, CCS TECHNOLOGY. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that The United States and China announced the signing of agreements on Wednesday "aimed at boosting cooperation on clean energy development and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions." The US-China Climate Change Working Group announcement "hails eight demonstration projects – four for carbon capture and another four related to smart grids." The article notes that "both countries also agreed, the State Department said, to adopt tougher efficiency and greenhouse gas emission standards for light- and heavy-duty vehicles, and launched an initiative on climate change and forests."

CONSERVATIONISTS CONCERNED OVER CHEVRON'S ESTIMATED WATER USE. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that "a Colorado conservation group says Chevron Corp. has provided it with the first industry estimates in years detailing the amount of water that would be needed for commercial-scale development of vast oil shale deposits in the state." Critics claim "Chevron's estimates, provided to Boulder, Colo.-based Western Resource Advocates as part of a water-rights settlement deal, justifies the concerns of government regulators and environmentalists that have warned industrial oil shale development could drain the state's already endangered water supplies." Chevron "estimates that a single 100,000-barrel-per-day (bpd) oil shale processing plant would consume as much as 7.8 billion gallons of water a year, according to a summary report and a separate supplemental report the company submitted last week to WRA." The reports also "indicated that Chevron is exploring developing as many as five aboveground oil shale processing facilities that could produce as much as 500,000 barrels of oil per day – a volume that the company estimates would require 39 billion gallons of water per year."

OP-ED: USGS STUDY PROVIDES EVIDENCE AGAINST MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL MINING . For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (7/10, Wasson, 11.54M), Matt Wasson, Director of Programs, Appalachian Voices, writes that a study from researchers at the USGS "published this month provides strong new evidence that mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia is devastating downstream fish populations." However, he notes that "a more important contribution of the study may be that it draws the focus of water pollution impacts away from mayflies and other aquatic insects and onto a far more popular and charismatic organism that not only is important to rural people's way of life, but supports a multi-billion dollar sportfishing industry in Appalachia." Wasson says that "this study should serve as a wake-up call to federal regulators that have been steadily backsliding from the Obama administration's initial commitment to put science first in agency decision-making and to rein in the widespread damage from mountaintop removal mining."

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES ANTI-FRACKING LAWSUIT. In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (7/10, 22K), Thomas Mitchell criticizes a group called the Reese River Basin Citizens Against Fracking for filing a federal lawsuit against the BLM "in an effort to stop a scheduled lease of 230,000 acres of federally controlled land in Lander, Nye and Esmeralda counties for oil and gas drilling, saying the leases will cause 'irreparable harm to the environment, cultural treasures and aesthetic interests.'" Mitchell says that "the facts" don't support the lawsuit..

Offshore Energy Development:

STUDY FINDS DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL OIL IN SICK FISH. Reuters (7/9, Liston) reports that a team of researchers lead by University of South Florida professor Steven Murawski says oil matching that taken from the Gulf of Mexico following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill has been found in the bodies of sick fish. Murawski said, "We matched up the oil in the livers and flesh with Deepwater Horizon like a fingerprint." BP said in an email it's "not possible to accurately identify" the source of the oil.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR ACCUSED OF VIOLATING LAW ON REMAINS, RELICS. The AP (7/10, Bryan) reports that the US Office of Special Counsel has directed the Interior Department to investigate whether BOR officials have violated the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act "while managing collections of remains and artifacts amassed during the construction and management of dams and waterways throughout California and parts of

Nevada and Oregon." According to the article, "a whistleblower complained that the bureau in Sacramento erased records within an Interior Department database and altered spreadsheets in an effort to hide mismanagement of collections under the agency's control, resulting in hundreds of remains and artifacts being lost, boxed up for storage or loaned to museums and universities without the ability to track them." The article notes that "a filing with the Office of Special Counsel shows Patrick Williams, who used to work as a museum specialist in archaeology in the bureau's Mid-Pacific office, raised concerns with his supervisors that the agency was not complying with the law's requirements once it stopped keeping detailed records of remains and relics."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (7/10, 4.22M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/9, 687K), the Miami Herald (7/10, Bryan, 822K), the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (7/10, 282K), the Sun City (AZ) Daily Sun (7/10, 18K), ABC News (7/10, 3.58M), the US News & World Report (7/9, 645K), and Yahoo! (7/10, Bryan, 17.91M) .

DROUGHT DROPS WATER LEVELS AT LAKE MEAD RESERVOIR TO HISTORIC LOWS. The E&E Daily (7/9) reports that on Tuesday, a spokeswoman for the BOR's Lower Colorado Region "confirmed that in the midst of a 14-year drought, Lake Mead this week will likely reach the lowest water level since it was first filled in 1937, 1,081.75 feet above sea level." The bureau "projected this would occur in a June forecast." The BOR "anticipates the reservoir's levels will get down to 1,080.82 feet by the end of the month and 1,080 feet by November."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (7/10), Bloomberg News (7/10, Nash, 2.76M), Fox News (7/9, 6.72M), and KJZZ-FM Phoenix (7/10, 10K). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Huffington Post (7/9, 11.54M) and the Cache Valley (UT) Daily (7/10, 639).

BOR DISCUSSING MITIGATION PLANS FOR BLACK CANYON RESERVOIR. The Emmett (ID) Messenger-Index (7/10, 22K) reports that the BOR "met with biologists from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game July 1, to continue discussion for mitigation plans for the Black Canyon Reservoir and the lower Payette River, according to BOR Public Affairs Specialist Kelly Bridges." The article notes that "the mitigation is a result of a problem that occurred in 2013 when the BOR drew water levels down in the Black Canyon Diversion Dam as part of the scheduled construction plan of a third hydroelectric generating unit."

NYTIMES: STRONGER WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES NEEDED IN CALIFORNIA. An editorial in the New York Times (7/10, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) note that California is in the third year of a drought but residents and businesses are doing little to curb their water usage. The Times calls for "much stronger conservation measures," and urges Gov. Jerry Brown's Administration to "think a lot bigger than emergency aid aimed at a single drought." the Times argues that the state should "focus on longer-term policies that encourage people to alter their lifestyles and businesses to change how they operate."

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Chico (CA) News and Review (7/10, 101K), Carol Perkins, a water policy analyst for the Butte Environmental Council, criticizes the Bay Delta Conservation Plan as "ill-conceived." Under the plan Perkins claims, "Big Ag and Big Oil will get more water, you get the bill."

Empowering Native American Communities:

MORE TRIBAL NATIONS SIGN AGREEMENTS TO REDUCE LAND FRACTIONATION. The Native American Times (7/10, 337) reports that "in the latest step in the successful implementation of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program)," Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor has "announced that the Department has signed three additional agreements with tribal nations in Montana to facilitate the purchase of individual interests in fractionated trust lands and consolidate ownership for the tribes with jurisdiction." The article notes that "agreements with Crow Tribe, Fort Belknap Indian Community, and the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation detail what each tribal government will do to help implement the Buy Back Program and provide resources to facilitate outreach and education, and solicit interest from owners." Connor said, "President Obama has made clear his commitment to help strengthen Native American communities and I am proud that today we are continuing that momentum with the steady implementation of the Buy-Back Program. I want to thank the Crow Tribe, Fort Belknap Indian Community, and the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation for their partnership as we work together to ensure individuals

are aware of this historic opportunity to strengthen tribal sovereignty by supporting the consolidation of tribal lands for the benefit of each tribal nation."

COURT ASKED TO DISMISS WYANDOTTE LAWSUIT. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (7/9, 177K) reports that "the government has asked a federal judge to dismiss as moot the last remaining claim in a lawsuit filed by an Oklahoma tribe seeking to build a casino on suburban Wichita land." The Interior Department "officially notified the court Tuesday that it rejected the Wyandotte Nation's application to take the land into trust so the tribe can build a casino on it."

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (7/9, 177K) reports that US District Judge Julie Robinson on Wednesday gave the Wyandotte Nation until July 19 "to show cause why the court shouldn't dismiss the last remaining claim in their lawsuit seeking to build a casino on suburban Wichita land."

INDIAN GAMBLING OPPONENTS BLAST PROPOSED CHANGE TO FEDERAL TRIBE RECOGNITION. The Merced (CA) Sun-Star (7/9, 119K) reports that "opponents of Indian gambling and local California officials are pushing back against a proposed federal rule that would simplify the recognition of American Indian tribes." According to the article, "at stake is a potential surge of new casinos in the state, which critics of the federal changes argue would damage local communities." The gambling policy group Stand Up for California "released a report Wednesday warning that lowering the historical standard for the tribal recognition would have a ripple effect in California, where 109 recognized tribes operate 71 gambling facilities and another 68 groups are awaiting decisions on their applications for federal acknowledgment." The report "estimated that the proposed rule change could lead to the rapid recognition of 34 more Indian tribes in California, resulting in another 22 casinos."

MOAPA PAIUTE LEADER SAYS RESERVATION ADDITION WOULD ENABLE SOLAR EXPANSION. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/10, 437K) reports that the leader of the Moapa Band of Paiutes told Congress on Wednesday that adding land to the tribe's Southern Nevada reservation would allow it to expand further into solar energy. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Harry Reid, has received support from the Obama Administration. Michael Black, director of the BIA, said it endorsed the legislation as long as it can be amended to ensure the transfer does not disturb an energy transmission corridor and the historical Old Spanish Trail that cross portions of the new tribal property.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S "BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM" SEEKS BETTER EDUCATION FOR BIE STUDENTS. In an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (7/10, 282K), Charles M. "Monty" Roessel, a member of the Navajo Nation, writes that "after numerous listening sessions and tribal consultations," the Obama Administration "released a 'Blueprint for Reform,' a comprehensive plan to redesign the BIE to achieve one overarching, mutual goal for the BIE and tribes: for tribes to deliver a world-class education to all students attending BIE schools." Roessel says that "Native Americans can have confidence in the administration's plan because it has as its cornerstone an effort to elevate the factor that contributes most to student success in school – teaching."

Meanwhile, on Blog Talk Radio (7/8), Jolyn Rose, the Principal of Sequoyah High School, discussed the ways that Board Certification fit with their Native Schools efforts to improve outcomes for students.

Top National News:

DEMOCRATS URGE OBAMA TO WITNESS BORDER CRISIS FIRSTHAND. President Obama's trip to Texas and his meeting with Texas Gov. Rick Perry on the border crisis ensure that the debate over illegal immigration remained the focus of the national media. As was the case on Tuesday evening, all three network newscasts had segments on various aspects of the controversy, and NBC Nightly News (7/9, lead story, 3:15, 7.86M) led with a report on the political backlash that President Obama incurred by choosing not to visit the US-Mexico border while he was in Texas. Many reports and analyses emphasize that the President is being criticized by Democrats, as well as Republicans, for not personally witnessing the situation on the ground in the Texas border region.

According to the AP (7/10, Werner), "the political pressures on the president appeared to grow from all sides, as...even some Democrats began to join GOP demands for him to visit the U.S.-Mexican border." On MSNBC's

Hardball (7/9, 689K), Chris Matthews said, "It's an odd situation for the President to be briefed by a political adversary" – Perry – "about what he should be doing at the border...instead of going for first-hand information himself – it seems to me a weird situation politically for the President."

At the opening of NBC Nightly News (7/9, lead story, 3:15, 7.86M), Brian Williams said the President "is in Texas, so close and yet so far from an...exploding humanitarian crisis, with people pouring over the southern US border by the tens of thousands." Chris Jansing went on to report that when he landed in Dallas, the President "walked into a political firestorm over his decision not to travel to the border" in between a series of fundraisers, and "even something as seemingly simple as a visit to a bar to shoot some pool and have a beer with Colorado's governor was fuel for his critics, including a fellow Democrat." Rep. Henry Cuellar was shown saying, "I hate to use the word 'bizarre,' but under the circumstances, when he is shown playing pool in Colorado, drinking a beer – and he can't even go 242 miles to the Texas border?"

In a front-page article, the Washington Post (7/10, A1, Zezima, Nakamura, 4.22M) reports that on Wednesday, the President "forcefully defended his decision not to visit the Texas border with Mexico to view a burgeoning humanitarian crisis, saying he's 'not interested in photo ops.'" However, according to the Post, the President is "under mounting pressure from members of both parties to view the border situation firsthand." The Post notes that Rep. Filemon Vela said on Wednesday, "If he's not going today, he should go sometime very soon."

Under the headline "Democrats Slam Obama For Avoiding Border In Texas," Roll Call (7/9, Dumain, Bowman, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that on Wednesday, both Democrats and Republicans urged the President "to take charge of a more robust federal response," and, according to Roll Call, "the political conversation...centered on whether the president is somehow abdicating leadership on the crisis." Roll Call notes that Rep. Luis Gutiérrez said, "Going to a fundraiser in Texas is like going on vacation. I have family members who are ill and in the hospital. I think I should go down and visit them in Puerto Rico, not go on vacation there."

In an article for BuzzFeed (7/10, 10.34M) titled "Growing Chorus Of Democrats Want Obama To Make Border Trip," Kate Nocera reported that "the number of Democratic lawmakers calling for a visit is growing, although many did not want to criticize the president on the record." Nocera adds, "Privately, several Democrats" said it was "confusing," "baffling," and "a little offensive" that the President chose not to go. An anonymous "Texas Democrat" is quoted as saying, "I really don't know what he's thinking. He just should go."

Politico (7/10, Topaz, 637K) reported that in an appearance on CNN on Wednesday, Cuellar said, "If he had time, with all due respect, to have a beer and play pool like he did in Colorado last night, then I think after the fundraisers he should make time to go down there." On the other hand, Politico (7/10, Topaz, 637K) also reported that Sen. Jon Tester "defended the president's decision not to visit the border," saying, "I don't think it's necessary, quite frankly." But Dana Milbank, in his column for the Washington Post (7/10, 4.22M), says it is "inexplicable that Obama is avoiding a visit to the border" because, according to Milbank, "his absence makes it appear that he is hiding from the issue, giving his critics a free shot."

The AP (7/10, Pace) reports that the President is "resisting calls to visit the U.S.-Mexico border," and the "roundtable in Dallas is seen by the White House as a way to address the immigration issue while avoiding awkward optics at the border." The AP says the President's decision "is likely to provide more fodder for the Republicans and the handful of Democrats who say the president hasn't responded quickly and forcefully enough to the mounting crisis." According to the AP, "Even immigrant advocates, who say Obama's response has been too focused on enhancing enforcement and deportation, said he would benefit from" a trip to the border.

The Los Angeles Times (7/10, Hennessy-Fiske, Parsons, 3.46M) reports that in Texas, the President "faced sharp criticism for his immigration policies," and notes that when "pressed to explain why he isn't visiting Border Patrol stations or detention facilities during his two-day visit to Texas, he said that Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson has visited the border five times recently 'at my direction.'"

USA Today (7/10, Jervis, 5.82M) reports that on Wednesday, Perry "focused on securing the border, once again urging the president to deploy National Guard troops to beef up security there." USA Today notes that after meeting with Perry, the President said, "There's nothing that the governor indicated he'd like to see that I have a philosophical objection to."

The Houston Chronicle (7/10, Ward, 2.23M) reports that the President and Perry "met on Marine One...as Obama was en route from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and Love Field, where both men attended a closed-door meeting on the humanitarian border crisis with Dallas officials" including Mayor Mike Rawlings and Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Politico (7/9, Glueck, 637K) reported that on Fox News on Wednesday night, Perry said that when he was with the President on Marine One, he said, "Mr. President, I really want you to come and see this because this is important for you to absorb as a father, but more importantly as president of the United States."

Republicans Dismiss Obama's Request For Funds To Care For And Process Illegal Immigrants. In a very brief item for ABC World News (7/9, story 6, 0:20), Diane Sawyer said that on Wednesday, the President was in Dallas, "500 miles from the border and face-to-face with some of his critics, including" Perry. Scott Pelley, on the CBS Evening News (7/9, story 4, 2:10, 5.08M), reported that "thousands of illegal immigrant children [are] surging into the US," and Major Garrett went on to report from Dallas that the President has "blamed part of the border problem on House Republican opposition to an immigration bill passed by the Senate," and is "asking Congress for immediate authority to speed the deportation process."

The New York Times (7/10, A18, Calmes, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Wednesday, the President "directly challenged" Perry "to rally Republicans in support of a $3.7 billion emergency measure" that he says "would address Republicans' calls for increased border security while also providing care for the thousands of unaccompanied children who have been detained in the Rio Grande Valley." However, the Times adds that the President also "suggested that election-year political maneuvering would block the package because Republicans would see the crisis as a way to damage him and his party."

The Wall Street Journal (7/10, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that on Wednesday evening, the President said, "The problem here is not major disagreement around the actions that could be helpful in dealing with the problem. The challenge is: Is Congress prepared to act to provide the resources to get this done?"

But Reuters (7/10, Mason, Lawder) reports that Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, one of the most prominent Republican supporters of comprehensive immigration reform, said, "The House is not going to just rubber-stamp what the administration wants to do." Rep. Mick Mulvaney, another comprehensive immigration reform backer, said the President "has set it up to make it look as though the only reason he's not enforcing the border is because he doesn't have the money," although, according to Mulvaney, "that's not accurate."

Politico (7/9, Dovere, Glueck, 637K) reported that in his remarks Wednesday evening, the President "offered...essentially, the Obama-Perry border crisis plan – at least according to Obama" – and said "it's up to Perry to convince Texas Republicans, whom he said should then bring along the rest of Congressional Republicans." However, in an op-ed for USA Today (7/10, 5.82M), Perry objects to the fact that "of the $3.7 billion in President Obama's request, only $68.4 million – or 1.8% – is directly dedicated to border security efforts."

The AP (7/10, Werner) reports that "immigration advocacy groups attacked the spending request from the left, saying it was overly focused on enforcement." However, The Hill (7/10, Lillis, 237K) reported that Rep. Xavier Becerra, the chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, "emerged from a closed-door meeting of the group on Wednesday to say there's 'a general consensus' that Congress should pass Obama's $3.7 billion package immediately."

USA Today (7/10, 5.82M), in an editorial, says Republicans "have numerous rationales, none of them convincing, for spurning Obama's proposal." USA Today accuses Republicans of hoping "to let a problem fester for political reasons."

CBS News Cites Study That Found 40% Of Minors In US Illegally Are Eligible To Stay. On the CBS Evening News (7/9, story 5, 2:20, Pelley, 5.08M), Michelle Miller reported that "under a law signed by President George W. Bush, unaccompanied children cannot be deported without a hearing," and, "according to a non-partisan Policy Institute study, at least 40 percent of children who are here illegally may be eligible to stay," and "minors with legal assistance significantly improve the odds of winning their case."

However, the Washington Times (7/10, Dinan, 455K) reports that on Wednesday, "administration officials said

only about half of all juveniles show up for their deportation hearings...meaning the rest of them disappear into the shadows with the more than 11 million illegal immigrants already here." The Times notes that Acting Assistant HHS Secretary Mark Greenberg acknowledged that HHS "has a policy that bans social workers from asking the legal status of parents who come to claim their children," which "means many of the children are turned over to illegal immigrants, who themselves have an incentive not to bring their children back for deportation hearings."

Politico: Obama Under Pressure To "Grant Temporary Legal Status To The Almost 10 Million Undocumented Immigrants." In an article published Wednesday morning, Politico (7/10, Brown, Dovere, 637K) reported that "Hispanic lawmakers and reform advocates" want the President to "grant temporary legal status to the almost 10 million undocumented immigrants who would have qualified under a bill passed last year by the Senate," and "have made the demand in meetings with Obama and aides, in memos to top Homeland Security officials and through the Spanish-language media."

Perry Warned Obama About The Border Crisis In 2012. On the CBS Evening News (7/9, story 4, 2:10, 5.08M), Major Garrett reported from Dallas that in 2012, Gov. Perry "warned the White House this crisis was coming." Garrett noted that "at that time, Perry noted 5,200 children from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala were in Texas," but "now the estimated number is ten times as large." The Washington Post (7/10, Nakamura, 4.22M) notes Perry's apparent prescience in an online article titled "Before Border Crisis Peaked, Texas Governor Warned Obama Administration."

NYTimes A1: US Policies Give Hondurans An Incentive To Escape Gang Violence. In a front-page article titled "Fleeing Gangs, Children Head To U.S. Border," the New York Times (7/10, A1, Robles, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports from San Pedro Sula, "Honduras's most dangerous city," that "a surge in gang violence" is "a major factor driving the recent wave of migration of Central American children to the United States." According to the Times, "Many children and parents say the rush of new migrants stems from a belief that United States immigration policy offers preferential treatment to minors." The Times adds that "studies of Border Patrol statistics show a strong correlation between cities like San Pedro Sula with high homicide rates and swarms of youngsters taking off for the United States."

The AP (7/10, Werner) reports that on Wednesday, "senior Obama administration officials testified" that "tens of thousands of children streaming from chaotic Central American nations to the U.S. border have overwhelmed the government's ability to respond."

The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (7/10, 111K) reports that "about 140 undocumented immigrants are being transported to El Centro, Calif., and San Diego every three days...as a way to alleviate overwhelmed Border Patrol stations in the Rio Grande Valley." The Desert Sun notes that "none of the scheduled groups of 140 women and children have reached the Murrieta station," where, on July 1, "protesters...blocked about 140 undocumented women and children who were flown and bused from Texas and set to be processed."

On NBC Nightly News (7/9, story 2, 2:50, Williams, 7.86M), Miguel Almaguer reported from Mission, Texas that in 2013, "officials say they discovered 445 bodies along the southwest border," and "this year, they expect the number of children to dramatically spike."

Current Surge Of Illegal Immigration From Central America Linked To 2008 Law. The Wall Street Journal (7/10, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that some Republicans said they would consider the President's request for $3.7 billion to deal with eh border crisis more seriously if it were paired with changes to a 2008 law that bars the immediate deportation of unaccompanied minors from countries other than Canada or Mexico. Rep. Blake Farenthold is quoted as saying, "I don't think I'd vote for anything that didn't include that." The Journal notes that Rep. Joe Heck remarked, "If we're going to allow money to go to solve the current crisis, we've got to make some policy changes to make sure it doesn't recur."

Charles Lane, in his column for the Washington Post (7/10, Lane, 4.22M), says President Bush "signed the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act on Dec. 23, 2008, thinking he was fighting the global traffic in sex slaves," but now, according to Lane, "the Wilberforce Act has mutated into a source of chaos, the victims of which are children, and the greatest beneficiaries, human traffickers." Lane says the only way to stop the flow of illegal immigrants is "to permit prompt exclusion of unaccompanied Central American minors, as is already the case for Mexicans" because "only by showing people there is nothing to be gained by

paying traffickers...will the chaos cease."

Charles Blow, in his column for the New York Times (7/10, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), writes, "If Congress wants to change or tweak the law about unaccompanied minors arriving in this country...it can, but it would be creating a 'solution' to a 'problem' that Congress itself created."

NYTimes Criticizes Banks For Making It Harder For Immigrants To Send Money To Their Home Countries. The New York Times (7/10, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, notes that in 2013, "migrants in rich countries sent an estimated $404 billion to their families in developing countries," but "the cost to transfer those billions is likely to rise soon" because "big banks are leaving the money-transfer business." The Times goes on to say that while the banks claim "that regulation has become too onerous in the wake of recent settlements over money laundering," a "more plausible explanation is that banks want out because they face dwindling profits."

EXECUTIVE POWER LAWSUIT, IMPEACHMENT CALLS SPLIT CONSERVATIVES. Politico (7/9, French, 637K) reported that "the most conservative Republicans in the House" are "rallying behind" House Speaker Boehner's "push to sue" President Obama although "some conservative commentators are deriding it as a waste of time," including RedState's Erick Erickson, who "wrote that the lawsuit is 'nothing more than political theater and a further Republican waste of taxpayer dollars.'" On the other hand, Rep. Jason Chaffetz is quoted as saying, "It is the right move. I hear people with so much frustration with the president and his unwillingness to enforce the current law."

The Hill (7/9, Schroeder, 237K) reported that several conservatives in the House oppose "calls for President Obama's impeachment" and "argue an impeachment trial...could hurt Republicans in the midterm elections." The Hill says the conservatives' opposition is "providing cover and support" for Boehner, who has "sought to contain the chatter for impeachment," and "on Wednesday said he disagreed with calls for Obama's impeachment."

The Washington Post (7/10, O'Keefe, 4.22M) reports that "Boehner's comments came after" Sarah Palin "said Tuesday night on Fox News that the speaker's planned lawsuit against Obama...is a weak maneuver," and quipped, "You don't bring a lawsuit to a gunfight."

According to USA Today (7/10, Wolf, 5.82M), "Boehner's plan to sue the president for going around Congress on issues such as health care, immigration and prisoner exchanges represents an unprecedented congressional reaction to arguably unprecedented presidential initiatives." USA Today adds that the suit "may be a long shot," and "could outlast Obama's presidency." The Wall Street Journal (7/10, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, says Palin, among others, is only helping the Administration by calling for the President's impeachment.

GROUPS SEEKING FAITH-BASED EXEMPTION TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DELAY IN OBAMA LGBT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDER. McClatchy (7/10, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that more than three weeks after President Obama announced that he would "sign a long-sought executive order prohibiting companies that do government work from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity," he has yet to do so, and religious groups "have seized on the unusual delay" to press the White House to exclude faith-based institutions from the order. The President "now finds himself caught between gay rights organizations and faith-based groups" as midterm elections near.

Christian College That Sought Exemption Says It Will Not Discriminate. The Washington Post (7/10, Phillip, 4.22M) reports that Gordon College, "a small Christian college in Massachusetts," was the only school to join religious groups and charities in signing a letter asking Obama for the exemption. But the school says it does not intend to discriminate against LGBT people. College President D. Michael Lindsay said in an open letter to the school community. "We have never barred categories of individuals from our campus and have no intention to do so now."

US Funded Ugandan Groups That Backed Anti-Gay Legislation. The Nation (7/9, Kopsa, 585K) wrote that one month after Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni signed a bill "making homosexuality a crime punishable by life in prison," the Obama Administration announced an increase in military aid to Uganda, which led to criticism from human rights groups. On the day of the announcement, the State Department "quietly announced" that the US would redirect funds away from the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda, which, along with other State

Department grantees, had worked for passage of the anti-gay bill.

Utah To Appeal Same-Sex Marriage Ruling Directly To Supreme Court. The AP (7/10, McCombs) reports Utah has opted to bypass the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and take its challenge of a Federal appears court ruling that permits same-sex marriages in the state directly to the Supreme Court. Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes' office said the appeal "will be filed in the coming weeks, to get 'clarity and resolution' from the highest court."

Colorado Judge Strikes Down Gay Marriage Ban, But Puts Ruling On Hold. Reuters (7/10, Coffman) reports Adams County, Colorado District Court Judge Scott Crabtree struck down the state's voter-approved gay marriage ban Wednesday, but put the ruling on hold pending appeal. The Denver Post (7/10, Steffen, 940K) says the ruling came as another state judge considered a request by the Colorado attorney general to prohibit a county clerk from issuing marriage licenses to gay couples.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Saving Water In California."*** An editorial in the New York Times (7/10, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) note that California is in the third year of a drought but residents and businesses are doing little to curb their water usage. The Times calls for "much stronger conservation measures," and urges Gov. Jerry Brown's Administration to "think a lot bigger than emergency aid aimed at a single drought." the Times argues that the state should "focus on longer-term policies that encourage people to alter their lifestyles and businesses to change how they operate."

"Afghanistan's Dilemma." An editorial in the New York Times (7/10, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah is "pushing the country toward a dangerous point by calling the election a coup and threatening to establish a parallel government." The Times adds that "strife between the country's leading political figures will only make Afghanistan more dangerous and less stable," and calls on Abdullah to "join his opponent, Ashraf Ghani, in ensuring an outcome that Afghans can believe in." Noting that the President on Monday called Abdullah and Ghani, "to endorse a thorough review of the fraud allegations and to urge calm and dialogue," the Times says Secretary of State Kerry "must reinforce that message" when he visits Kabul this week.

"Migrants And The Middlemen." The New York Times (7/10, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), in an editorial, notes that in 2013, "migrants in rich countries sent an estimated $404 billion to their families in developing countries," but "the cost to transfer those billions is likely to rise soon" because "big banks are leaving the money-transfer business." The Times goes on to say that while the banks claim "that regulation has become too onerous in the wake of recent settlements over money laundering," a "more plausible explanation is that banks want out because they face dwindling profits."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Dousing The Fire In Gaza."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/10, 4.22M) says that while Administration officials argue that the current crisis "proves that it was right to pursue a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement," it believes "the failed US effort, with its tight timetable and disregard for the obvious unwillingness of leaders on both sides, merely raised expectations that could not be met, making a backlash inevitable."

"N.J.'s Smoking Experiment." An editorial in the Washington Post (7/10, 4.22M) praises the New Jersey state Senate for approving a measure to "raise in the legal smoking age from 19 to 21." The Post notes that whether the increase will result in the predicted 30 percent decline in adult smokers "remains to be seen," but there is "no harm in trying," and if it is successful, it could "spur on the District, which has a similar bill in committee, and other states that are contemplating the move."

"Preserving Civil Rights History." The Washington Post (7/10, Board, 4.22M) editorializes that an archive of information from the 1960s civil rights movement unveiled on Monday at George Mason University in Virginia will ensure that history will not overlook the "small acts of heroism" that fueled the movement. The Post notes that the archive "displays the small journeys that make up the American experience" that, in sum, "tell an inspirational tale of a time when the fortitude, blood and extraordinary sacrifice of thousands of ordinary people forced a nation

to change."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Impeachment Delusion."*** The Wall Street Journal (7/10, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial, says Sarah Palin, among others, is only helping the Administration by calling for the President's impeachment.

"Texas Admissions Brawl." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/10, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that Texas voters have rejected officials involved in efforts to impeach University of Texas Regent Wallace Hall, who looked into political favoritism in university admissions, noting that even if some lawmakers do not agree, voters believe college admissions should be based on merit.

"Xi Jinping And Mao's Playbook." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/10, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) argues that while some see the anticorruption campaign undertaken by Chinese leader Xi Jinping is an indication that China's Communist Party has softened, in reality it is an effort to by Xi to neutralize potential rivals that resembles a Maoist rectification campaign.

"Ukraine Fights Back." The Wall Street Journal (7/10, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) in an editorial says that it is good that Ukraine is succeeding in reclaiming territory from the pro-Russia militants. It also says that US and EU policy are not responsible, but it is instead Ukraine's president Petro Poroshenko and the army that are to be credited. It also warns that Russian President Putin has not yet decided how to react.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Robert Deleo In Glare At Hiring Trial
Salem Ends Gordon College's Use Of Hall, Citing Discrimination
1983 Murder Verdicts Overturned
More Relying On Walmart For Financial Services
Deer's Incursion Reflects Wide Intersection Of Species

Boston Herald:
Uber Bests Boston Cabs In Herald Test Rides

Wall Street Journal:
Fed Sets October End For Bond Buys
Gaza Rockets Reach Deeper Into Israel
Bike-Sharing Programs Hit Speed Bumps
US Companies Step Up Business Conducted In Yuan

New York Times:
Fleeing Gangs, Children Head To US Border
Race Is On To Profit From Rise Of Urgent Care
As Landlords Push Buyouts, Renters Resist
Chinese Hackers Pursue Key Data On US Workers
On The Road To Samarra, Reading Iraq's Unwritten Danger Signs
29 Minutes That Shook Brazil

Washington Post:
Talk Of D.C.'s Unique Voice Gets Some Pretty Cised
FDA Weighs Drug Safety, Free Speech In Review
Israel Hits Gaza Homes
Obama Defends Itinerary In Texas
In Tel Aviv, Air Raid Sirens And Lattes

Financial Times:
US To Counter Chinese Naval Advance
Fed Bond Buying Set To End In October
Pontiff Takes Counsel On Bank And Media
Investors Press Allergan To Find Deal
American Apparel Secures Cash Lifeline
Lew Challenged Over Volcker Rule Impact
BES Woes Fail To Fuel Crisis Fears

Washington Times:
On Border Quagmire, Obama Passes The Buck To Congress
Islamic Militants Aim To Take Baghdad Airport
Purchases Of Obama Books Wane, Except At State Department
Crude Oil Will Head North Of The Border To Canada
GOP: Lerner Warned IRS Employees To Hide Information From Congress

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Severe Weather Forecast; Israel-Violence; Snowden-NSA Leaks; Immigration Crisis; Former New Orleans Mayor Sentenced; Taxpayer Waste Report; Nissan-Self-Cleaning Car.
CBS: Smallpox Vials; Israel-Violence; New York-Deadly Tomado; Immigration Crisis; Snowden-Asylum Extension Request; College Sexual Assaults Report; Former New Orleans Mayor Sentenced; Obama-Colorado Visit.
NBC: Immigration Crisis; Immigration Crisis-Border Deaths; Severe Weather; Israel-Violence; Increased Airport Security; Former New Orleans Mayor Sentenced; Snowden-Asylum Extension Request; Obama-Colorado Visit; New Secret Service K-9 Units; White House Bowling Alley Renovation.

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Texas-Shooting Rampage; Israel-Violence; Chicago-Protests Against Israeli Air Strikes; Obama-Immigration Crisis; World Cup Results.
CBS: Texas-Shooting Rampage; Obama-Immigration Crisis; Bryan Stow Case; World Cup Results; Colorado-Same-Sex Marriage; Asian Stock Market; Wall Street.
FOX: Texas-Shooting Rampage; Israel-Violence; Donald Sterling Trial; Fed-Bond Buying; Obama-Immigration Crisis; Washington And Lee University-Confederate Flags Removed; George Clooney Incident.
NPR: Obama-Immigration Crisis; Israel-Violence; Former New Orleans Mayor Sentenced; California-Police Brutality Video; North Dakota-Salt Water Pipeline Leak.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA – The President attends a DNC roundtable, Austin, Texas, closed press; delivers remarks, Austin, Texas, pooled for television cameras and open to still photographers and correspondents; departs Austin,, open to pre-credentialed media; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives at the White House South Lawn, open press. Notes: Press Secretary Josh Earnest will gaggle on location in Austin, Texas.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN – The Vice President will meet with His Majesty King Abdullah II at the Naval Observatory. This meeting is closed press. The Vice President will attend meetings at the White House. The Vice President and Dr. Biden will deliver remarks to the Roosevelt Institute Distinguished Public Service Awards Ceremony in Washington. The Vice President and Dr. Biden's remarks at this event will be open press.

MICHELLE OBAMA – Mrs. Obama will attend a DNC event. In New York City, First Lady Michelle Obama will visit Global Kids, Inc. to learn about its global education and digital media programs. During her recent visit to the Department of Education's Summer Learning Day event, the First Lady met with students from the Global Kids, Inc. Program. Global Kids, Inc. is a nonprofit educational organization for global learning and youth development.

This event will be covered by a pre-determined press pool. In New York City, First Lady Michelle Obama will deliver remarks at the 85th Annual League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Convention and Exposition. In her remarks, Mrs. Obama will highlight the vital role education plays in cultivating successful individuals and communities. This event is open press.
US Senate: SMALL BUSINESS LOANS – CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING – 11 a.m. AEO hosts Congressional Briefing on the rate of small business being turned down for loans. Speakers to include: Senator Maria Cantwell (invited). Location: 428A Russell. Notes: AEO formed the Micro Capital Task Force (MCTF), a broad multi-stakeholder cross-sector collaboration, to examine the 8,000 declines/per day market failure.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARMED SERVICES – 9:30 a.m. Open meeting to consider the nominations of: General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps; Admiral William E. Gortney, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Northern Command/ Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command; General John F. Campbell, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, International Security Assistance Force/ Commander, United States Forces, Afghanistan; and Lieutenant General Joseph L. Votel, USA, to be general and Commander, United States Special Operations Command. The nominees will be present. Location: G-50 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY – 9:30 a.m. Business meeting to consider S.517, to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, S.J.Res.19, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections, and the nominations of Pamela Harris, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Pamela Pepper, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Brenda K. Sannes, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York, and Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, and Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims. Location: 226 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS – 10 a.m. Hearings to examine the nominations of Leslie Ann Bassett, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay, and Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador the Republic of Guatemala, both of the Department of State. Location: 419 Dirksen.

APPROPRIATIONS – 2:30 p.m. Hearings to examine proposed emergency supplemental request for fiscal year 2015 for unaccompanied children and related matters. Witnesses: Jeh Johnson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., Counselor of the Department, U.S. Department of State. Location: 106 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE – 2:30 p.m. Meets to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. Location: 219 Hart.
US House: 10 a.m. – The House will meet for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

DELAURO, TONKO – FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS – 10:15 a.m. News Conference with Reps DeLauro and Tonko on using export numbers for future free trade agreements. Location: House Triangle.

PELOSI BRIEFING – 10:45 a.m. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center.

BOEHNER BRIEFING – 11:30 a.m. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) will hold an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114.

UNESCO – FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION – 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Release of UNESCO's World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development report. The report examines recent evolutions in press freedom, considered across the dimensions of media freedom, independence, pluralism and safety of journalists, and the role of gender in all four areas. Location: 121 Cannon. Contacts: George Papagiannis (georgecpapagiannis@gmail.com) , 917-310-8785. Notes: Lunch provided/program begins at 12:30p

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED LABELING BILL PROTEST – 12:30 p.m. Ben & Jerry's co-founder Jerry Greenfield joins Rep. DeFazio and members of Congress and pro-labeling advocacy groups to protest a House proposal (Deny Americans the Right to Know Act, or the DARK Act.), that would deny Americans the right to know about the genetically engineered ingredients in their food. Location: House Triangle (east side of the front of U.S. Capitol building Contacts: Sara Sciammacco (ssciammacco@ewg.org), 202-939-9122. Notes: RSVP to ssciammacco@ewg.org

CHIMP ATTACK VICTIM – 12:30 p.m. – 1 p.m. Charla Nash will be holding a press conference on Capitol Hill on Thursday with members of Congress. Back in 2009 Nash was mauled by a pet chimp and had to undergo a face transplant. She is now advocating for a bill to be passed that would ban the interstate trade of primates as pets. Speakers: Charla Nash Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO, The Humane Society of the United States; Kate Dylewsky, Program Associate, Born Free USA Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick, R-PA; Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-OR; Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-CT. BACKGROUND: On Feb. 16, 2009, Charla Nash was attacked by her boss 200 pound chimpanzee in Stamford, Connecticut. Travis, the chimp, ripped off Charlas lips, nose, eyelids, hands and most of the boney structure in her mid-face. Eventually, doctors were forced to remove Charlas eyes because of an infection passed on through the chimpanzee. In May 2011, Charla became one of the first people in the world to undergo a face transplant. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center HVC 201 A&B. Notes: Credential media only. Must RSVP: Naseem Amini, 240-778-5545, namini@humanesociety.org

COMBATING VETERAN SUICIDE – 2:30 p.m. Iraqi and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) Joins House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller For Introduction Of Historic Bill To Combat Veteran Suicide. Participants: Chairman Jeff Miller of the House Veterans Affairs Committee; Paul Rieckhoff, IAVA CEO & Founder; Susan and Richard Selke, parents of Marine veteran Clay Hunt'; Rep. Tim Walz; Rep. Tammy Duckworth, Post-9/11 veterans. Location: House Triangle. Contacts: Gretchen Andersen press@iava.org ((212) 982-9699)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

VETERANS AFFAIRS – 9:15 a.m. Full Committee hearing on "Service should not lead to suicide: Access to VAs Mental Health Care." Witnesses: Panel 1: Howard and Jean Somers, Parents of Daniel Somers, Deceased; Susan and Richard Selke, Parents of Clay Hunt, Deceased; Peggy Portwine, Mother of Brian Portwine, Deceased; Josh Renschler, Sergeant, U.S. Army (Ret.). Panel 2: Maureen McCarthy M.D., Deputy Chief Patient Care Services Officer, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Accompanied by: David Carroll Ph.D., National Mental Health Program Director for Program Integration, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Accompanied by: Harold Kudler M.D., Acting Chief Consultant for Mental Health Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs; Accompanied by: Michael Fisher, Operation Enduring, Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Specialist, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Panel 3: Alex Nicholson, Legislative Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Lt. Gen. Martin R. Steele (USMC, Ret.), Associate Vice President for Veterans Research, Executive Director of Military Partnerships, Co-Chair of the Veterans Reintegration Steering Committee, University of South Florida; Warren Goldstein, Assistant Director for TBI and PTSD Programs, National Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, The American Legion; Dr. Jonathan Sherin, Chief Executive Officer, Executive Vice President for Military Communities, Volunteers of America. Location: 334 Cannon.

AGRICULTURE – 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management hearing on Implementing the Agricultural Act of 2014: Commodity Policy and Crop Insurance. Witness: Michael T. Scuse, Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Location: 1300 Longworth.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 9:45 a.m. The Future of International Civilian Nuclear Cooperation. Witnesses: Daniel S. Lipman, Executive Director, Supplier Programs, Nuclear Energy Institute; Henry D. Sokolski, Executive Director, Nonproliferation Policy Education Center; Leonard S. Spector, Executive Director, Washington, DC, Office, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES – 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on Defense Reform: Empowering Acquisition Success. Witnesses: Stephanie Barna, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness and Force Management); Frank

Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology & Logistics). Location: 2118 Rayburn.

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE – 10 a.m. Full committee markup on H.R. 3136, H.R. 4983, and H.R. 4984. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – 10 a.m. The Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade resumes markup of a draft of the Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters Act, H.R. 4450, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014, and H.R. 4013, the Low Volume Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Act of 2014. Location: 2123 Rayburn. Notes: Opening statements held Wed. 9th at 4 p.m.

FINANCIAL SERVICES – Full Committee. On H.R. – 10 a.m. The Federal Reserve Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014. Public witnesses. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY – 10 a.m. Full Committee. Markup of H.R. 5036 – To amend title 17, U.S. Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010, and H.J.Res. 105 – Conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Bernardo de Galvez y Madrid, Viscount of Galveston and Count of Galvez. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on "Examining New Embassy Construction: Are New Administration Policies Putting Americans Overseas in Danger?" Location: 2154 Rayburn.

SELECT INTELLIGENCE – 10 a.m. Full Committee. On ongoing intelligence activities. Location: HVC-304 Capitol.

SMALL BUSINESS – 10 a.m. Hearing on "Cash Accounting: A Simpler Method for Small Firms". Speaker: Donald Williamson, Executive Director, Kogod Tax Center, American University, Washington, DC; Sarah Windham, Senior Tax Manager, Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP, Charleston, SC – Testifying on behalf of the South Carolina Farm Bureau; Terry Durkin, Owner, Durkin Associates, Burlington, MA – Testifying on behalf of the National Association of Enrolled Agents. Location: 2360 Rayburn.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – 10 a.m. Roundtable policy discussion on "Public Private Partnerships for Americas Waterways and Ports." Participants: Jim Hannon, Chief of Operations and Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; John Crowley, Executive Director, National Association of Waterfront Employers; Mike Toohey, President and CEO of the Waterways Council; Dave Kronsteiner, President of the Board of Commissioners for the Port of Coos Bay, Oregon. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

WAYS AND MEANS – 10 a.m. Markup of: H. Res. 645, "Requesting that the President of the United States transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Executive Office of the President that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011.; H. Res. 647, Directing the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011.; H.R. 5021, "Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014. Location: 1100 Longworth.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing on Human Rights Vetting: Nigeria and Beyond. Witnesses: Colonel Peter Aubrey, USA, Retired, President, Strategic Opportunities International; Lauren Ploch Blanchard, Specialist in African Affairs, Congressional Research Service. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

HOMELAND SECURITY – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency hearing The Executive Proclamation Designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks a National Monument: Implications for Border Security. Witnesses: Panel I: Steve Pearce, Representative in Congress from the 2nd District, State of New Mexico. Panel II: Brandon Judd, President, National Border Patrol Council; Todd Garrison, Sheriff, Sheriff's Office, Doqa Ana County, New Mexico. Location: 311 Cannon.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM – 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Healthcare and

Entitlements hearing on "Medicare Mismanagement Part II: Exploring Medicare Appeal Reform." Location: 2154 Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES – 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces hearing on Cruiser and Destroyer Modernization and Large Surface Combatant Force Structure Assessment. Witnesses: RADM Lawrence E. Creevy Deputy Commander for Surface Warfare, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA 21); RADM Thomas S. Rowden, Director, Surface Warfare (N96); Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Location: 2212 Rayburn.
Other: U.S. BLACK CHAMBERS CONFERENCE – July 8 – 11. USBC 2014 School of Chamber and Business Management (SCBM) conference. Speakers include Rev. Jesse Jackson and an advocacy day. Location: Marriott Marquis, 901 Massachusetts Ave NW.

CSIS – SOUTH CHINA SEA – U.S. POLICY – July 10 – 11. The Fourth Annual CSIS South China Sea – Recent Trends in the South China Sea and U.S. Policy. Two day event. Highlights: 9:05 a.m. Representative Mike Rogers (R-MI), Chairman of the House Permanent Select, Committee on Intelligence. 12:30 p.m. Luncheon address by Adm. Paul F. Zukunf (invited), Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, NW.

ABA – CONSUMER DELINQUENCY DATA – 4 a.m. The American Bankers Association will release the 1st Quarter 2014 Consumer Credit Delinquency Bulletin containing delinquency data for several consumer loan categories. Journalists who are not already receiving the quarterly Delinquency Bulletin via email can sign up by sending an email to bbernste@aba.com.

FINANCIAL INDUSTRY – BERNER – 8:30 a.m. Office of Financial Research (OFR) Director Richard Berner remarks at the "Financial Industry in a Post-Crisis World Symposium." This event, co-hosted by the Center for Financial Policy of the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland and The Clearing House, is open press. Location: Ronald Reagan Building, The Rotunda Room, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – REFORMS IN MENA – 9 a.m. The Political Economy of Subsidy Reforms in MENA: Progress and Challenges. Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor (West Tower).

DUNCAN – NAF – 9 a.m. Secretary Duncan will give keynote remarks about equity and preparing underrepresented populations for high-need and high-paying jobs that also require high skills at the National Academy Foundation (NAF)s NEXT annual conference. A Q-and-A session will follow. NAF prepares young people for college and career success by fostering partnerships between the business and education communities that provide opportunities for underserved students. CONTACT: Press Office, (202) 401-1576 or press@ed.gov. Location: Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Road, N.W.

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS – IMMIGRATION – CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING – 9 a.m. DRM Action hosts Congressional Briefing at U.S. Capitol What Can President Obama Do Executively on Immigration? Moderator: Cesar Vargas, Director, Dream Action Coalition (DRM); Congressman Grijalva (D-AZ); Congressman Gutierrez (D-IL); National Day Labor Organizing Network: Jessica Kark, Legal Counsel, United We Dream Network: Lorella Praeli, Legislative Director; PICO National Network: Eddie Carmona, Campaign Manager; Dream Action Coalition: Erika Andiola, Co-Director, Dream Action Coalition. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center – Congressinal Meeting Room, North. Contacts: Cesar Vargas cvargas@drmcapitolgroup.com ((347) 415-0723)

IMF BRIEFING – 9:30 a.m. Regular press briefing by Gerry Rice, Director, IMF Communications Department. Location: Multimedia Center, IMF Headquarters1. Journalists should enter through the IMF entrance, 720 19th St. NW. Contacts: media@imf.org. Notes: There will be Spanish Interpretation available for those participating online.

MEDICARE REHABILITATION BENEFIT – 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Speakers: Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), invited; Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), invited; Joan E. DaVanzo, Ph.D., M.S.W., Chief Executive Officer, Dobson 5/8 DaVanzo; Bruce M. Gans, Chair, American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association; Terrence Sheehan, M.D., Medical Director and Board Member, Amputee Coalition, Medical Director, Physiatrist, Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital; Susan H. Connors, President and Chief Executive Officer, Brain Injury Association of America. RSVP by July 8th to Michael Waxman at michael@waxmanstrategies.com. Location: 538 Dirksen.

U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS – CHINA, IRAN RELATIONS – 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The Partnership for a Secure America hosts discussion on China-Iran Relations and Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy. Panelists: Shirley Kan, Specialist in Asian Security Affairs, Congressional Research Service; Kenneth Katzman, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, Congressional Research Service. Location: Senate Visitors Center Room 215.

CSIS – U.S. – CHINA RELATIONS – 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. The Freeman Chair in China Studies hosts discussion on: Building a "New Model of Major Country Relations". Speakers: Zha Peixin, Foreign Policy Advisory Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China, Former Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom; Li Fenglin, Foreign Policy Advisory Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China, Former Chinese Ambassador to Russia; Zhu Yinghuang, Foreign Policy Advisory Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus, China Daily Newspaper Group, Vice Chairman of All-China Translators Association. Moderator: Christopher Johnson, Senior Adviser and Freeman Chair in China Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies. Location: First Floor Conference Room CSIS 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. Contacts: imisadmin@csis.org.

PELOSI, BIDEN – REP. MILLAR SERVICE AWARD – 7 p.m. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will present the Roosevelt Institutes 2014 Franklin D. Roosevelt Distinguished Public Service Award to Congressman George Miller (D-CA) tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. In her remarks, Leader Pelosi will pay tribute to Congressman Millers four decades of service as the model of the serious, substantive and successful legislator in the House of Representatives. In addition to Congressman Miller, the Roosevelt Institute will honor Vice President Joseph Biden, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA). Speakers: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Vice President Joseph Biden; Congressman George Miller (D-CA); Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT); Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA); Felicia Wong, President, Roosevelt Institute; Anne Roosevelt, Chair of the Board of Directors, Roosevelt Institute. Location: Mandarin Oriental Hotel, 1330 Maryland Ave. SW. Notes: Press must RSVP to lizzielewis@me.com or tprice@rooseveltinstitute.org by July 10 at 5:00 p.m. ET.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I just saw that Secretary of State John Kerry visited the Great Wall of China yesterday while he was in the country for economic talks. Yep. Even the wall was like, 'This guy goes on forever.'"

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BISON CONNECT

LWCF and Fire memo

Harding, Stephenne <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov> Sun, Jul 20, 2014 at 5:49 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_Neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_Ossowski@ios.doi.gov>

Sally–
Attached is an overview memo for your meetings on the hill this week and next regarding LWCF and Fire. We have time schedule tomorrow morning to discuss any questions you have.
Cheers,
Stephenne & Sarah

–
Stephenne Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

Fire and LWCF hill meeting memo 7.21.14.docx
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EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY
CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH MEETINGS ON LWCF AND FIRE FIX

DATE: July 22nd and 23rd 2014
LOCATION: Congress: House and Senate
TIME: See AGENDA
FROM: Stephenne Harding, OCL; 208-6174
Sarah Neimeyer, OCL; 208-5557

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of these meeting is to highlight two of your legislative priorities—full funding of LWCF and the fire fix—and work on building congressional relationships to support them. This series of meetings is generally with members who support LWCF and the fire fix. July 23rd is the 50th anniversary of LWCF passing the House, so it provides a relevant hook to discuss the need to reauthorize LWCF. The Anniversary of both LWCF and the Wilderness Act being signed into law is September 3rd, 2014.

II. PARTICIPANTS

YOU
Sarah Neimeyer, Director, OCL
Stephenne Harding, Deputy Director, OCL

III. AGENDA

Tuesday, July 22
11:30 am Senator Mark Udall
12:00 pm Senator Orin Hatch
2:00 pm Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
3:00 pm Senator Ron Wyden

Wednesday, July 23
12:00 pm Senator Mike Crapo
1:00 pm Congressman Mike Simpson
1:30 pm Congressman Peter DeFazio
2:30 pm Remarks at the Sportsmen's LWCF event
3:00 pm Congressman Stenny Hoyer

Tuesday July 29
3:15 pm Senator Rob Portman
4:30 pm Congressman Rob Bishop

IV. KEY FACTS/HOT TOPICS (IF APPLICABLE)

Beyond LWCF and the fire fix, certain members may raise parochial issues they have in their states. Below are some of the topics likely to be raised. As we hear about more we'll flag.

Senator Mark Udall
Vermillion Basin Monument Designation: In May, Bruce Babbitt said that the Vermillion Basin is a place the President should consider for monument designation in a High Country News op-ed. This raised the ire of many locals in Colorado who are pushing for Senator Udall to voice opposition to the idea. He may raise the issue, so he can say he has spoken to you about the need for local support and engagement before any decisions are made.

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Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi:
California Water: Minority Leader Pelosi's staff highlighted that they may want to discuss the current drought situation in California. She criticized the passage of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act (H.R. 3964) as a partisan piece of legislation that does not look at comprehensive solutions.

IV. TALKING POINTS/REMARKS

FIRE:

- We cannot wait another fire season to get a rational budgeting process for fire—we need to pass the fire fix this congress.
- You have been a champion for this and we need your continued leadership to pass this fix.
- There are a number of vehicles to add this to—or bring it to the floor as a standalone—and I'd like to work with you to get this over the finish line.
- Having come from a career in the private sector, one of the biggest surprises I found was that we are in the 'forever' business – and Americans expect us to manage our public lands for eternity – yet we do so with short-term budgets that provide very little certainty and predictability to help us carry out our missions.
- With wildland fire seasons becoming longer and more intense, we can't follow the status quo when it comes to budgets.

If more details are needed:

- We budget for fire costs using a ten-year average of fire suppression costs. Yet, in a peak season with catastrophic fires, we are forced to move funding from programs across the Interior and U.S. Forest Service budgets to meet the increased costs.

- In 2012, Interior's fire suppression costs were **23 percent higher** than the ten-year average calculation, requiring the Department to transfer funds from other important accounts – including fire preparedness, fuels management, and fire restoration funds.
- In 2013, Interior and Forest Service **redirected or borrowed more than $650 million** to fund increased firefighting costs. Over the last ten years, the two agencies have spent one-third more than was budgeted for firefighting.
- Borrowing from fire and resource programs to fund emergency suppression just doesn't make sense.
- Modeled on the Federal Emergency Management Disaster Relief program, the proposal would change how fire suppression costs are budgeted to treat funding of extreme wildfire seasons in the same way other emergency disaster needs are met.
- The proposal would create a new wildfire cap adjustment – a ceiling, not a funding target – to fund the most severe one percent of fires. **It's worth emphasizing that the most severe one percent of fires cause 30 percent of the annual suppression costs.**

LWCF:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund not only improves our quality of life and supports our local economies, but it is also **the way we leave a legacy behind for our children and grandchildren**
- LWCF helps support a **$646 billion recreation economy** and one analysis found that for **every dollar invested it returns four to the local economy**. That is a positive for all communities.
- **LWCF funds have been spent in every county** across the country since 1964. This is not a fund that helps a few states or localities, but rather it helps across the nation.
- I understand it is difficult for and LWCF full funding bill to come to the floor as a standalone.
- I am told there are a number of proposals floating to combine LWCF with other mandatory programs (such as SRS and PILT) and I am here to work with you to fully fund LWCF and so we can continue this important program.
- I believe we have a large enough coalition to help make this a reality and I'd like to work with you to achieve it.

Additional LWCF facts:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act passed in 1964 by a **visionary, bipartisan Congress**, and signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson
- For past 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has invested a small part of the revenue produced from oil and gas drilling offshore to provide recreational opportunities and conservation projects for all Americans to enjoy—at no cost to taxpayers.
- **Only once in its 50 year history** has it been fully funded at the authorized level of **$900 million**
- It will expire in 2015 and **President Obama** has proposal to fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund

VI. (STATE OF PLAY) BACKGROUND

Fire: The fire fix was included in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill, currently before congress for consideration. On July 15h, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing on wildfire budgeting. Days before, Senator McCain introduced an alternative proposal to the Crapo/Wyden proposal (or administration proposal). McCain's bill would require the Forest Service and the Interior Department to budget for 100 percent of what the agencies forecast will be needed to fight wildfires. It also would forbid the agencies from borrowing from non-fire accounts when suppression funding runs dry. The bill also focused heavily on forest management and removing environmental laws for timber treatment. This has created a new debate around the previously wildly supported concept of capping at 70% of the annual cost and allowing extremely large fires to be paid from the disaster cap. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

In addition, Raking Member DeFazio is working on getting a discharge petition filed with sufficient signatures to get the fire fix moved to the House floor for consideration. Currently Republicans are not signing the petition, preventing the discharge, but we are considering if there are Republicans you can ask for their signature on the petition(b)(5)

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In the House, there is limited interest on both the Republican and Democratic sides to introduce something which would be a comprehensive package, as it is likely it would contain a number of additional provisions that would not be palatable to the conservation community, Senate or even House Democrats. Thus they are likely to wait for something to come from the Senate. Our goal is to bolster the support on both sides and find a way to play an active role in moving the idea from the sidelines into the foreground.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act Nancy Pelosi's statement: http://pelosi.house.gov/news/press-releases/pelosi-statement-on-passage-of-the-sacramento-san-joaquin-valley-emergency-water

Bruce Babbitt's Op-ed in High Country News: http://www.hcn.org/wotr/what-the-president-can-do-right-now-for-conservation

BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Jul 21, 2014 at 5:07 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>

Sally--

Attached is the memo for your meetings on the Hill tomorrow. This was uploaded in today's folder as well -- no changes have been made. Addtionally, OCL may send you one-pagers directly in preparation for tomorrow.

Thank you,

Zaina

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36K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY
CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH MEETINGS ON LWCF AND FIRE FIX

DATE: July 22, 23, and 29, 2014
LOCATION: Congress: House and Senate
TIME: 11:30AM – 3:00PM; 12PM – 3:00PM; 3:15PM – 4:30PM
FROM: Stephenne Harding, OCL; 208-6174
Sarah Neimeyer, OCL; 208-5557

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of these meeting is to highlight two of your legislative priorities—full funding of LWCF and the fire fix—and work on building congressional relationships to support them. This series of meetings is generally with members who support LWCF and the fire fix. July 23rd is the 50th anniversary of LWCF passing the House, so it provides a relevant hook to discuss the need to reauthorize LWCF. The Anniversary of both LWCF and the Wilderness Act being signed into law is September 3rd, 2014.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Sarah Neimeyer, Director, OCL
- Stephenne Harding, Deputy Director, OCL

III. AGENDA

Tuesday, July 22
11:30 am Senator Mark Udall
12:00 pm Senator Orin Hatch
2:00 pm Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
3:00 pm Senator Ron Wyden

Wednesday, July 23
12:00 pm Senator Mike Crapo
1:00 pm Congressman Mike Simpson
1:30 pm Congressman Peter DeFazio
2:30 pm Remarks at the Sportsmen's LWCF event
3:00 pm Congressman Stenny Hoyer

Tuesday July 29
3:15 pm Senator Rob Portman
4:30 pm Congressman Rob Bishop

IV. KEY FACTS/HOT TOPICS

Beyond LWCF and the fire fix, certain members may raise parochial issues they have in their states. Below are some of the topics likely to be raised. We will flag more issues as we hear of them.

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- *Bruce Babbitt's Op-ed in High Country News: http://www.hcn.org/wotr/what-the-president-can-do-right-now-for-conservation [attached below]*

Pelosi Statement on Passage of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act

Feb 5, 2014
Press Release
Contact: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616

Washington, D.C. – Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi released the following statement today after the House passed the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act by a vote of 229 – 191:

"California is suffering from an historic drought that requires real, comprehensive solutions, not more political posturing. Yet today's legislation represents another Republican attempt to create more obstacles to progress and offer fewer answers to our state's most pressing challenges. It is the wrong step at the wrong time for California.

"This Republican bill reflects misguided priorities, undermines California's water rights, and overrides the state's ability to manage its own water supplies. The measure picks winners and losers in the current crisis, and fails to produce any new water to alleviate the effects of the drought. Instead, what we need is an 'all of the above' strategy to complement the ongoing work of state and local leaders: to encourage conservation, recycling, desalinization, off-stream storage, and additional support for the communities suffering most.

"Republican political games won't solve California's water crisis. Only by working together can we put forward policies that support state and local efforts, protect and expand our state's water supply, preserve our environment and natural resources, and build a sustainable future for all Californians."

# # #

What the president can do right now for conservation

by Bruce Babbitt

When a racist rancher in Nevada and his armed supporters can command headlines by claiming to own and control publicly owned lands, perhaps it's time to remind Westerners about the history of the nation's public-land heritage.

Recall that it is we, the American people, who own the public lands that make up so much of our Western states. These great open spaces are the birthright of all of us, not just the residents of Nevada or Arizona or other Western states. The question of ownership of the public lands was settled by the founding fathers, in favor of you and me, by the Maryland compromise reached in 1781, and carried forward in the property clause of Article IV in the United States Constitution.

On occasion, diehard malcontents such as Cliven Bundy emerge to promote so-called "Sagebrush Rebellions" to turn the public lands over to the states as a conduit for handing them out to resource raiders and private interests. Governors and state legislatures, most recently in Utah, are sometimes drawn into endorsing these movements, only to see them fade away in the face of public opinion.

Now, while this latest fracas is fresh in our minds, let me speak up for the employees of the Bureau of Land Management who have been demonized by Fox newsman Sean Hannity and threatened by rancher Cliven Bundy and his followers. BLM staffers are dedicated public servants who struggle with the unenviable task of juggling the conflicting demands of ranchers, miners, oil and gas companies, sportsmen and conservationists. They deserve our respect and our gratitude.

I believe that the whole sorry Bundy episode has given us an opportunity to renew our commitment to conservation. We can do that by calling on President Obama to take action to protect more of the special places on our public lands.

He can begin by using the Antiquities Act to establish more national monuments. Some may counsel caution in light of the recent House passage of a bill by Utah Republican Rep. Rob Bishop to gut the law. However, the best way to protect and preserve the Antiquities Act is to use it visibly and vigorously, thereby demonstrating once again the broad public support it has enjoyed for more than 100 years.

The president could start with California Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein's bill to protect a million acres in the Mojave Desert of California. Or he could take up Maine Democratic Rep. Mike Michaud's bill to protect the scores of small islands that host seabird colonies off the coast of Maine. The president can use his authority under the Antiquities Act to take these bills and their establishing language and designate the lands in questions as new national monuments.

President Obama could also review the list of our existing national parks and monuments, many of which are in need of expansion because these areas are threatened by encroaching strip mining, drilling or other incompatible development. He could start out in the majestic expanses

of southern Utah, where Canyonlands, Arches and Capitol Reef national parks all need additional lands to protect their archaeological sites and unique geological formations.

And at Yellowstone National Park, the migratory herds of bison, elk and other wildlife all need more space, which can be best obtained by designating the forest lands to the West as a national monument. There are many other areas where local residents are voicing support for new national monuments, including the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains in Idaho, the Vermillion Basin in Colorado and the Owyhee Canyons in Oregon.

The president also has the authority to add lands to our National Wildlife Refuge System. There is an urgent need to create a system of refuges to protect the endangered greater sage grouse that inhabits the sagebrush seas that stretch across public lands in seven Western states.

In addition, the Antiquities Act could be used to protect fisheries and endangered coral system in our marine waters. Bristol Bay off western Alaska is the most prolific of our fisheries, the passage through which millions of salmon migrate to spawn throughout the river systems of Alaska. The little-known deep-water corals adjoining the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea also deserve enhanced protection.

There is much to be done, and President Obama should not wait until the eleventh hour to act. He should start now by advancing proposals, explaining the urgency of conservation, generating the visibility of the issues at stake and asking all Americans to voice their opinions. He should invite Congress to take legislative action, making it clear that he will act if it doesn't.

A robust conservation program, following in the tradition begun by President Theodore Roosevelt, will be an enduring accomplishment for President Obama, a gift to future generations from his time in office.

Bruce Babbitt, former Interior Department secretary appointed by President Bill Clinton, is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a column service of High Country News. *He lives in Washington, D.C., where he is working on conservation planning in the Amazon River Basin as a fellow of the Blue Moon Fund.*

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BISON CONNECT

LWCF Follow up Memos

Harding, Stephenne <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Jul 21, 2014 at 6:15 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_Neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_Ossowski@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Pam Haze <Pam_Haze@ios.doi.gov>

Sally–

I've added 4 memos for your four meetings tomorrow. These are long than a page, as they include examples of projects in each state for LWCF which are success stories (thanks to Sarah P.), a short fire summary and I&E facts.

I've also added the full chart of funding per state for all the LWCF programs since 1965. I've also added each state's numbers in your memos.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Cheers,

Stephenne
–
Stephenne Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

5 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1, 3 & 5)

LWCF Totals All states all programs all years.xls
25K

RON WYDEN LWCF & FIRE LWCF Memo 7.22.14.docx
24K

ORIN HATCH LWCF & FIRE Memo 7.22.14.docx
21K

MARK UDALL LWCF & FIRE LWCF Memo 7.22.14.docx
22K

NANCY PELOSI LWCF & FIRE Memo 7.22.14.docx
23K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY
MEETING WITH SENATOR RON WYDEN

DATE: July 22, 2014
LOCATION: Dirksen 221
TIME: 3:00 am EST
FROM: Stephenne Harding, OCL

I. QUESTIONS

- What can I do to support your LWCF amendment?
- Hatch? What can I do to help there? House?
- LWCF as an amendment to Transportation?
- How can we work to get Republican support? (payfor?)
- Can we bring a fire fix to the floor in the Senate? (Is the Budget Point of Order too much of a problem to get 60 votes?)
- Must separate Fire fix and forestry issues.
- Initiating in the Senate for Fire and LWCF?

II. LWCF FUNDING FOR OREGON

Federal $176 million
State $59.1 million
Forest Legacy $9.0 million
HCP $7.5 million
OREGON TOTAL: *$251.6 million*

III. PARAOCHIAL ISSUES

No flagged issues

IV. SUCCESS STORIES:

Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon (FWS) - Recreation

At Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located on Oregon's coast just two hours from Portland, salt marsh, brackish marsh, wetlands along lakes and rivers, and wooded upland habitats offer sanctuary to a diverse array of fish and wildlife, including waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, small mammals, amphibians, and anadromous fish. Each year, several million seabirds breed at the Refuge. The Refuge also provides wintering habitat for the coastal population of Dusky Canada geese and the entire population of Semidi Islands Aleutian Canada geese. Peregrine falcons and bald eagles hunt the nesting seabirds and waterfowl that migrate along the coast in summer. The refuge is also a valued close-to-home outdoor classroom and recreation area, welcoming students and visitors to enjoy the refuge's shoreline, hiking and walking trails, and outstanding wildlife viewing areas. Through a 20XX Land and Water Conservation Fund investment, the Fish and Wildlife Service was able to protect an important 102-acre tract of forested headland for the refuge. Located at the confluence of the Nestucca and Little Nestucca Rivers, the property contains upland forest, shoreline, and tideland habitats, and is particularly important to seabirds along the Pacific Northwest coast. The acquisition was a

combined effort of The Nature Conservancy, the Federal Highway Administration, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Oregon Congressional delegation.

Table Rocks ACEC (America's Great Outdoors), Oregon (BLM)- Youth & Education

On November 30, 2012 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completed a two-phase purchase of the 817-acre The Nature Conservancy (TNC) parcel within Table Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The parcels were purchased with $1,636,000 of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) appropriations from the BLM's Washington Office (WO) Emergency account. The WO Budget Office helped combine residual balances from nine unobligated LWCF accounts to meet this unanticipated funding need. The purchase was assisted by The Nature Conservancy of Oregon. Located five miles north of Medford, Oregon, Table Rocks ACEC was designated in 1984 to protect special plants and animal species, unique geologic and scenic values, and support environmental education opportunities. The Table Rocks Environmental Education Program began over 20 years ago with 100 participants and marked the beginning of a partnership between the BLM and TNC. Today, BLM and TNC host over 5,000 school children, educators, parents and other local groups on guided hikes to the summit each Spring. An additional 5,000 annual visitors hike to the summit to view uncommon wild flowers and migratory birds. This two-phase purchase consolidated 13 private lots with adjoining BLM-managed lands, guaranteeing public access from a developed BLM trailhead to Upper Table Rock's summit. Land acquisition in support of Table Rocks ACEC is a priority of the Secretary of the Interior. This project was featured in the Department of the Interior's 2012 America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative for BLM.

Hart Mountain NAR, Oregon (FWS)

The Service Pacific Region is in the process of acquiring 280 acres at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. These acres, in four separate ownerships, will be purchased with $58,800 of the FY 2013 Inholding appropriation. Acquisition of these tracts will conserve some of the best ecologically intact and ungrazed remnant high desert shrub-steppe habitat in the Great Basin, a high priority in the Hart Mountain Conservation Management Plan. These tracts contain core nesting habitat for the greater sage-grouse, and also provide habitat for shrub-steppe obligate migratory bird species in decline and of conservation concern. The habitat also supports other species, including Brewer's sparrow, sage sparrow, and sage thrasher, as well as mammal species, including the northern pygmy rabbit.

Acquisition of these acres removes the threat of private development that would fragment high value habitat on adjacent refuge lands, reducing their ecological value and their long term functional ability to support wildlife.

John Day River Headwaters, Malheur National Forest, Oregon, (USFS)

The John Day River is undammed along its entire length making it the longest free-flowing river system in the lower 48 states. 147 miles of the John Day River are designated as part of the Wild and Scenic River System and it is an Oregon State Scenic Waterway. It is a globally important stronghold of wild salmon and the Columbia Basin's most biologically diverse river system supporting the largest and most varied native fish populations in Oregon, with one of the few remaining exclusively wild runs of spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead in the world. The area is home to grey wolves, Rocky Mountain elk, big horn sheep, Rocky Mountain goats,

mule deer, and black bear. It contains dedicated stands of old growth forest with habitat for pine marten, goshawk and pileated woodpeckers.

In 2013 the Forest Service worked with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to protect the headwaters of the John Day River within the boundary of the Malheur National Forest. The Forest acquired 2,040 acres which helped consolidate 13,000 acres, securing 20 square miles (roughly the same size of a small American city) of unobstructed habitat for big game and other wildlife species open to hunters and anglers.

The John Day River is extremely popular for river rafting, guided fishing and other river based recreation activities and attracts thousands of people every year who enjoy the pristine environment and abundant wildlife.

V. **Wyden/Simpson Wildfire Language:**

- Amends the Budget Act to provide new budget authority for wildfire suppression, not to exceed $2.689 billion in such authority for FYs 2014-FY2021;
- Defines "additional new budget authority" as the amount specified in an appropriations which exceeds 70% of the average costs for wildfire suppression operations over the previous 10 years;
- Requires 10 year average to be calculated annually and reported in the President's Budget submission;
- Rolls wildfire suppression funding into the calculation for disaster relief funding;
- Includes requirements for prompt request by the Secretaries of the Interior or Agriculture for supplemental appropriations necessary for wildfire suppression operations.

VI. **I&E FEES**

- Since 2000, the BLM has permitted nearly 47,000 new wells to be drilled on public and tribal lands, and has another 6700 permits approved and ready for industry to drill. Today, the BLM oversees approximately 100,000 wells across the country – the most ever – and we must meet inspection and enforcement responsibilities on each one. Keeping up with this rising demand is an ongoing challenge.
- The current funding system limits the BLM's ability to effectively meet this responsibility and ensure protection of both environmental and economic resources.
- Unlike in the offshore, the BLM inspection and enforcement program does not benefit from industry fees, which leaves the bureau unable to respond quickly to increases in inspection workloads.
- The BLM's budget for oil and gas programs has fallen 15% over the past five years.
- In FY 2013 BLM inspectors made more than 33,200 inspections of lease sites
- The high-risk cases account for about 13 percent of the total wells but account for more 60 percent of the oil and gas produced on Federal and Indian mineral estates.

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY
MEETING WITH SENATOR MARK UDALL

DATE: July 22, 2014
LOCATION: Hart 730
TIME: 11:30 am EST
FROM: Stephenne Harding, OCL

I. QUESTIONS

- What can I do to support an LWCF package?
- LWCF as an amendment to Transportation?
- What do you think needs to be in an LWCF Package?
- How can we work to get Republican support? (payfor?)
- Can we bring a fire fix to the floor in the Senate? (Is the Budget Point of Order too much of a problem to get 60 votes?)
- Must separate Fire fix and forestry issues.

II. LWCF FUNDING FOR COLORADO

Federal $160 million
State $60.1 million
Forest Legacy $18.0 million
HCP $1.4 million
COLORADO TOTAL: *$239.5 million*

III. PARAOCHIAL ISSUES

Vermillion Basin Monument Designation: In May, Bruce Babbitt said that the Vermillion Basin is a place the President should consider for monument designation in a High Country News op-ed. This raised the ire of many locals in Colorado who are pushing for Senator Udall to voice opposition to the idea. He may raise the issue, so he can say he has spoken to you about the need for local support and engagement before any decisions are made.

Sage Grouse: Senator Udall is also likely to raise his concerns about Greater and Gunnison Sage Grouse. Specifically he will want to assure there is not a 4(d) rule published on Gunnsion before the election and discuss the current state of play for Greater Sage Grouse, which state of Colorado is concerned about FWS's suggested conservation measures to the states. You are likely to hear they want more flexibility and a more transparent relationship between the state and FWS and he may also ask you to come back to Colorado and her more from locals who do not feel like the FWS is listening to them.

Oil Shale Rule: Senator Udall wants BLM's Oil Shale rule finalized, but due to the large number of rules that BLM is working on with a limited number of regulatory staff, it is not likely to happen until November. Senator Udall is supportive of BLM's narrowed oil shale leasing for R&D and would like to have that finalized.

IV. SUCCESS STORIES: Colorado

***Yampa River (America's Great Outdoors), Colorado (BLM) – Cross-Country Trails /Recreation*:** In 2013, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) utilized $1.8 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to permanently protect the 920-acre Cross Mountain Ranch in northwest Colorado. With assistance from the Western Rivers Conservancy, the BLM was able to acquire the property which opens access to 88,000 acres of public land for outstanding fishing, hunting, wildlife watching and whitewater rafting opportunities. Located 50 miles west of Craig, Colorado, 10 miles from Dinosaur National Monument and sharing a 1.5-mile boundary with the Cross Mountain Wilderness Study Area, the property is bisected by over three miles of the Yampa River along its middle reach. The river provides habitat for smallmouth bass and four species of Colorado Basin warm-water fish. Abundant wildlife inhabits the area, including Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, pronghorn, cougar, bear, raptors and numerous songbird species.

***Alpine Triangle SRMA, Colorado (BLM) – Cross-Country Trails*:** On September 9, 2011 BLM completed fee purchase of the 225-acre Jackson property within the Alpine Triangle Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The parcel was purchased with $248,000 of Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations. The purchase was assisted by The Trust for Public Land. Located in the scenic northern San Juan Mountains in south-central Colorado the Alpine Triangle SRMA is one of Colorado's most visited multi-use, public land destinations, hosting approximately 300,000 recreational visits per year. The 65-mile Alpine Loop Back County Byway passes through the SRMA, providing access to some of North America's most magnificent scenery. The Byway begins in the historic mining town of Silverton and passes several mining "ghost" towns.

***Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Colorado (NPS)*: Acquiring Lands for a New Park:** Since its designation in 2000 as Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, more than 115,000 acres have been added to the park through the collaboration of federal, state and private partners. In addition to the Great Sand Dunes system, the park includes alpine lakes, tundra, rugged peaks, ancient spruce forests, grasslands, shrublands and wetlands. *Over 300,000 visitors annually enjoy the highest dune in North America.*

***Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado (NPS)*:** Rocky Mountain National Park will grow by 3.89 acres after the Rocky Mountain Nature Association reached a $400,000 fundraising goal to buy the Johnson property on the west side of the park. More than 900 donors contributed to raise the funding, Park spokeswoman Kyle Patterson said in a press release. The 3.89-acre plot of land is in critical habitat and within the view-shed of the Continental Divide Trail, she said. The land was previously a private inholding within the boundaries of the park. The Rocky Mountain Nature Association will transfer the land to the National Park Service, which will remove several small structures, power lines and a one-mile access road, and return it to its natural state, Patterson said.

V. Wyden/Simpson Wildfire Language:

- Amends the Budget Act to provide new budget authority for wildfire suppression, not to exceed $2.689 billion in such authority for FYs 2014-FY2021;
- Defines "additional new budget authority" as the amount specified in an appropriations which exceeds 70% of the average costs for wildfire suppression operations over the previous 10 years;
- Requires 10 year average to be calculated annually and reported in the President's Budget submission;

- Rolls wildfire suppression funding into the calculation for disaster relief funding;
- Includes requirements for prompt request by the Secretaries of the Interior or Agriculture for supplemental appropriations necessary for wildfire suppression operations.

VI. I&E FEES

- Since 2000, the BLM has permitted nearly 47,000 new wells to be drilled on public and tribal lands, and has another 6700 permits approved and ready for industry to drill. Today, the BLM oversees approximately 100,000 wells across the country – the most ever – and we must meet inspection and enforcement responsibilities on each one. Keeping up with this rising demand is an ongoing challenge.
- The current funding system limits the BLM's ability to effectively meet this responsibility and ensure protection of both environmental and economic resources.
- Unlike in the offshore, the BLM inspection and enforcement program does not benefit from industry fees, which leaves the bureau unable to respond quickly to increases in inspection workloads.
- The BLM's budget for oil and gas programs has fallen 15% over the past five years.
- In FY 2013 BLM inspectors made more than 33,200 inspections of lease sites
- The high-risk cases account for about 13 percent of the total wells but account for more 60 percent of the oil and gas produced on Federal and Indian mineral estates.

BISON CONNECT

Briefing materials for 2016 Meeting tomorrow

Haze, Pam <pam_haze@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jul 22, 2014 at 5:49 PM
To: "Jewell, Sally" <(b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Rhea Suh <Rhea_Suh@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Holley <Amy_Holley@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Denise Flanagan <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>, Adrianne Moss <Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov>

Dear Secretary: Here are materials for the meeting with you tomorrow morning on the 2016 budget. This is just hot off the press - present the options for your consideration.

Please note there are a few things that need a bit more work (but in the interest of time....):

(b)(5)

We will see you at 8:30 am bright and early. thanks

July 23 Budget Brief for Secretary.pptx
214K

2016 Budget

Next Step: Draft Recommendations

July 22, 2014

Presented Here

- Big picture view of the recommendations by bureau
- Funding issues and recommendations presented by key program
- Includes budget related mandatory funding proposals with recommendations
- Above Over Target Proposals
  - Centennial for the Public Lands
  - Bureau of Indian Education
  - Water Settlements
- Recommendations for major bureaus

The Budget Picture



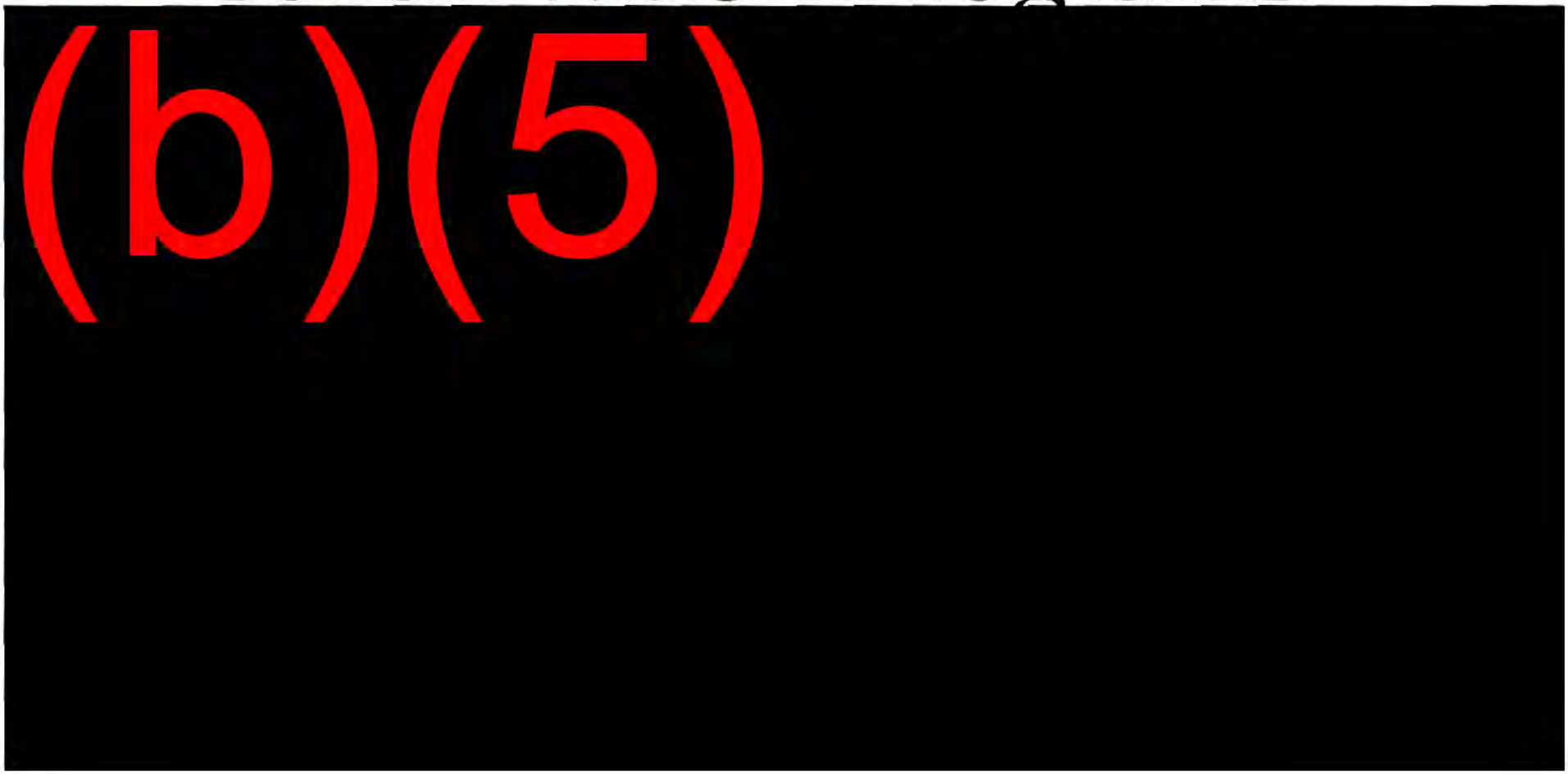
Bureau Comparison



Consistent Priorities



Conservation Programs



Engaging the Next Generation



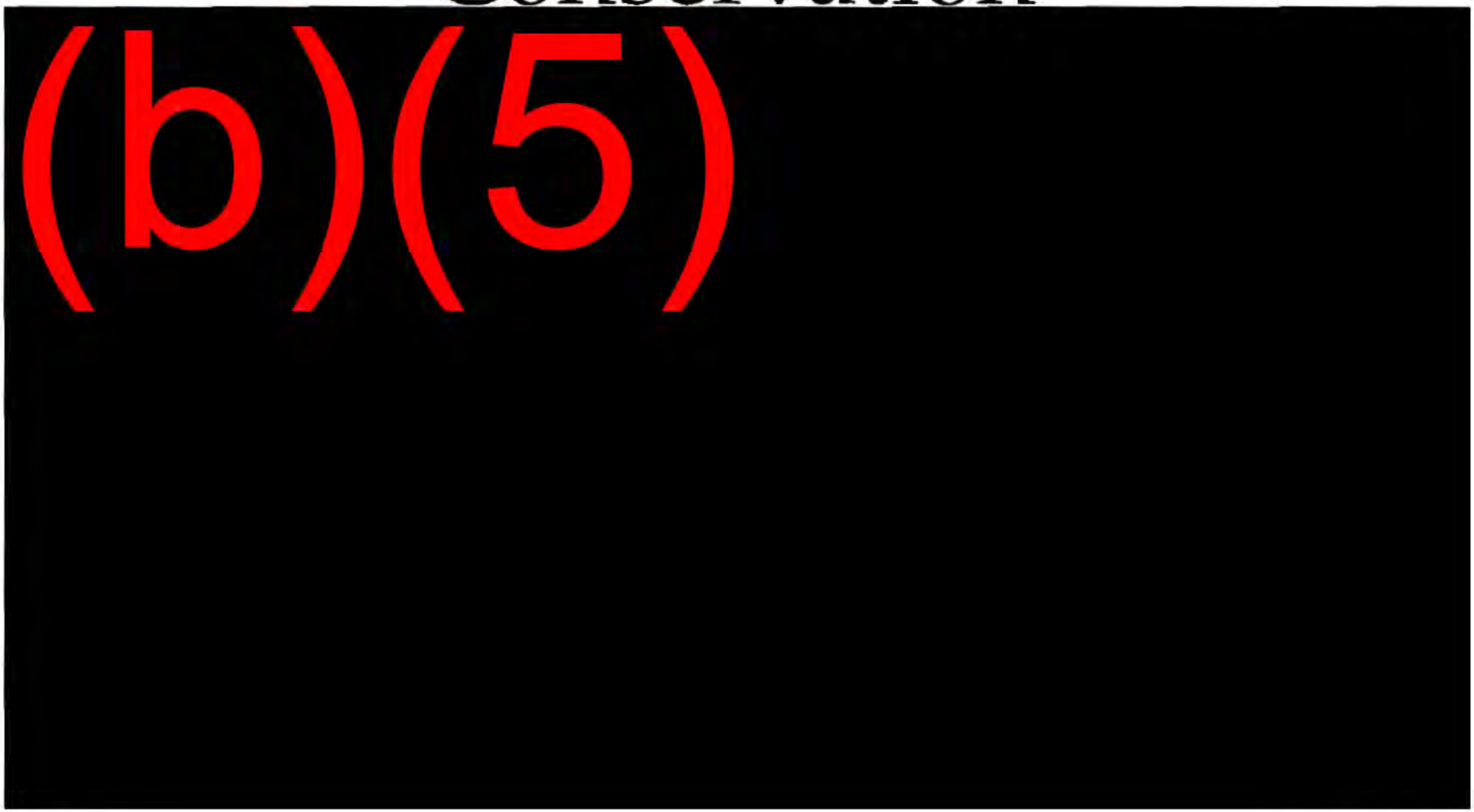
Ensuring Healthy Watersheds and Sustainable, Secure Water Supplies



Powering Our Future



Cooperative Landscape Conservation

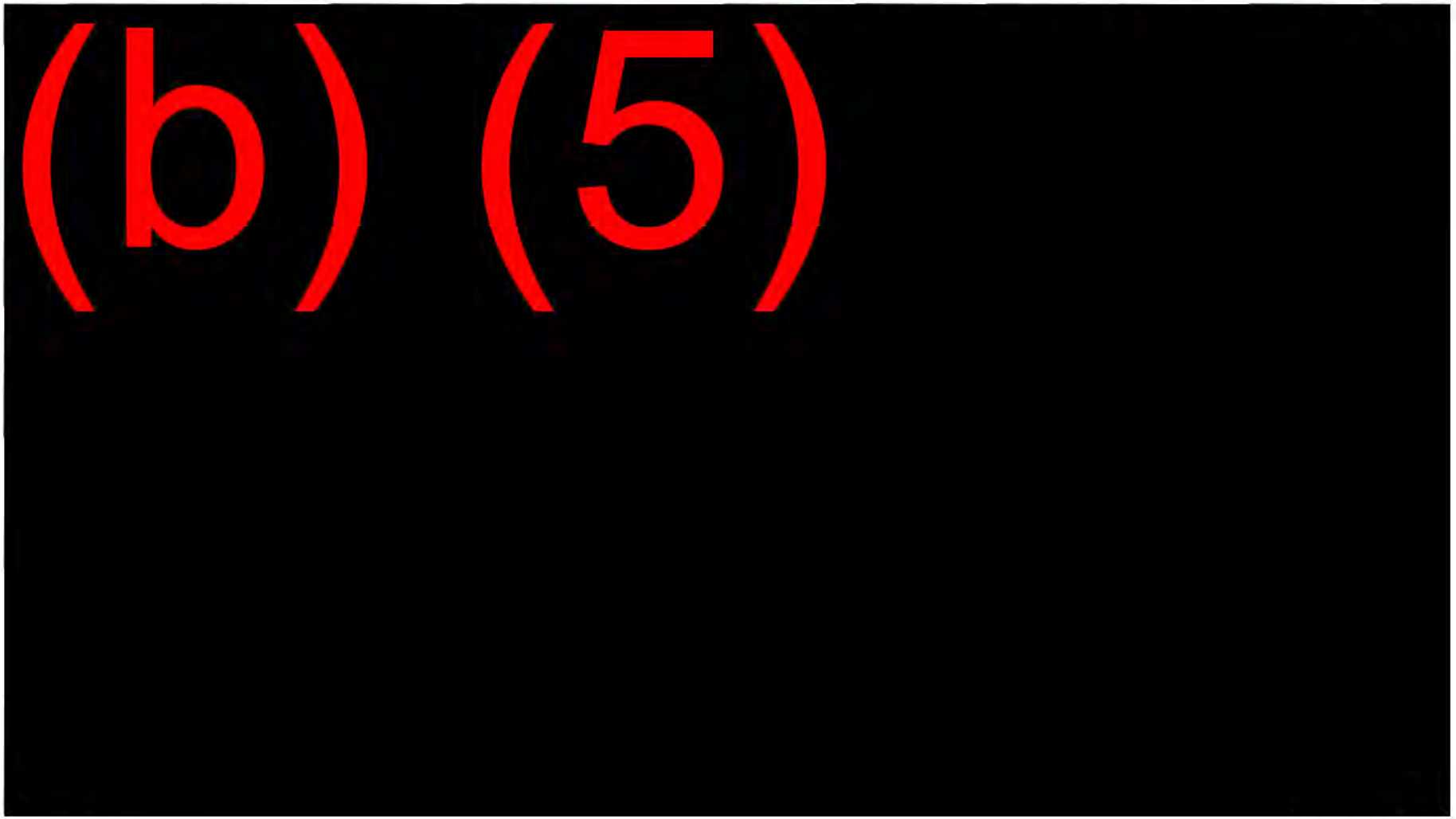


Mandatory and Other Revenue Proposals



Above Over Target:

Public Lands Centennial (b) (5)



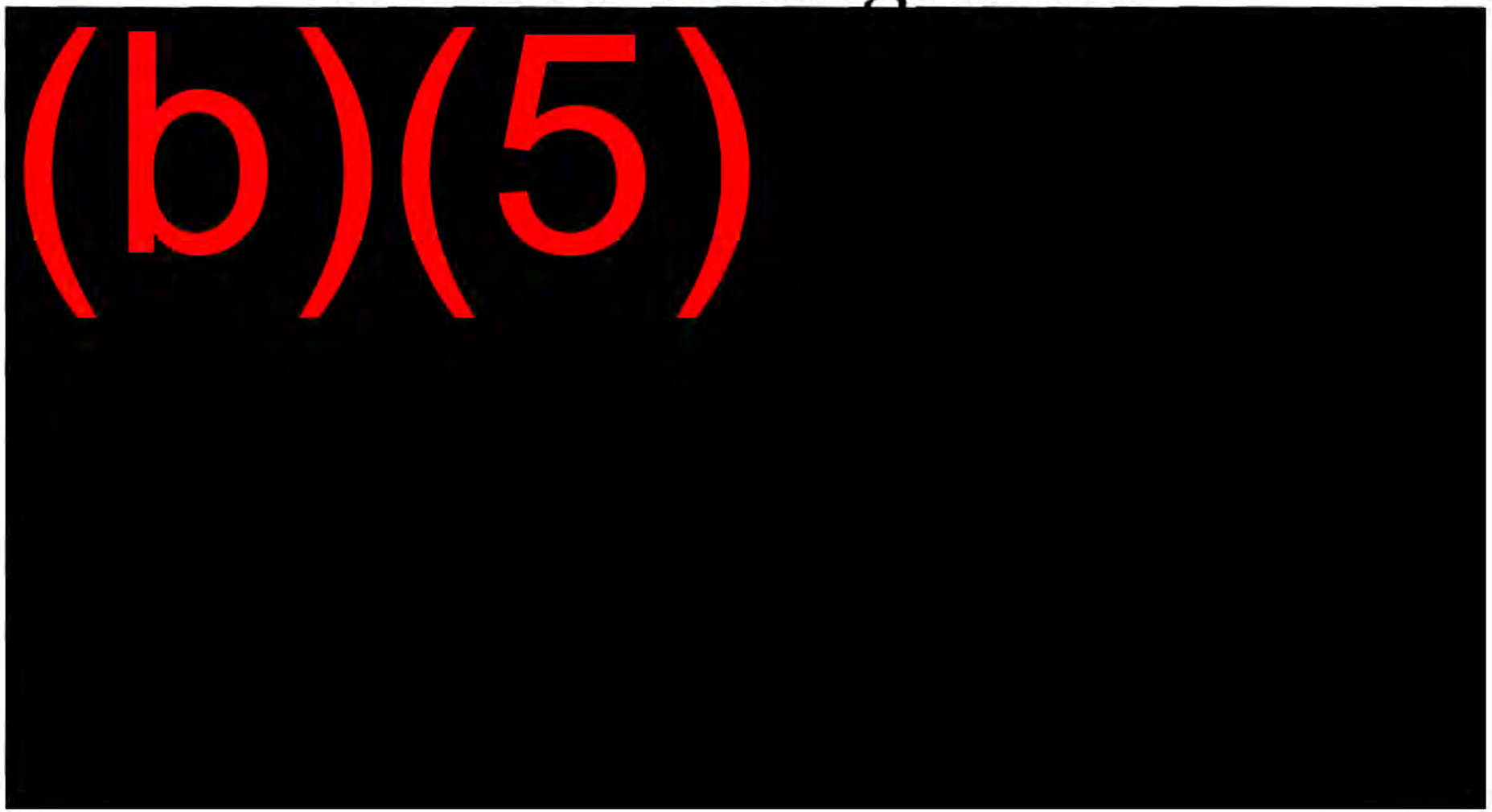
Above Over Target: Indian Education Transformation Initiative

- Details to be completed

Above Over Target: Water Settlements



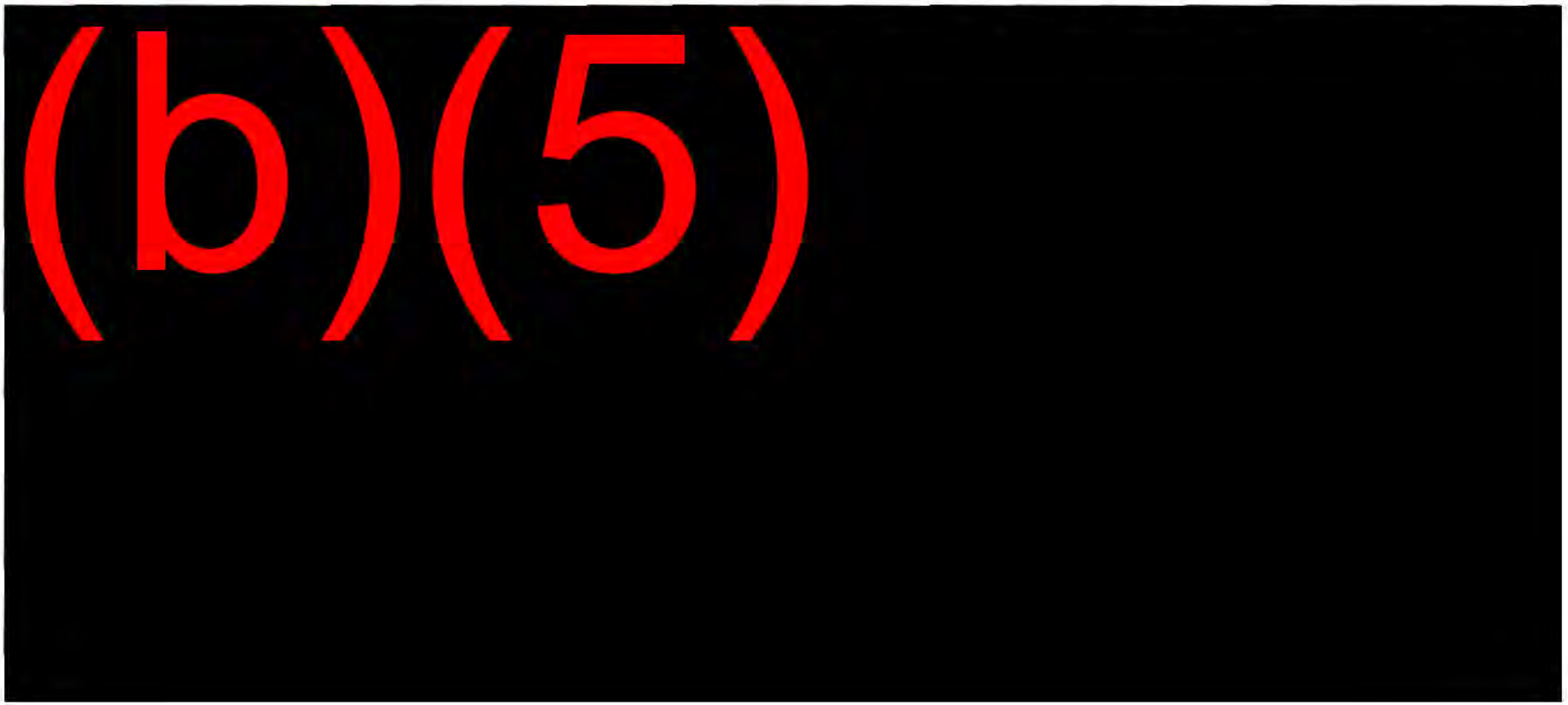
Bureau Details: Bureau of Land Management



Bureau Details:
Bureau of Reclamation



Bureau Details:
National Park Service



Bureau Details:
Fish and Wildlife Service



Bureau Details:

Bureau of Indian Affairs



BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jul 22, 2014 at 6:26 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are your briefing materials for tomorrow, July 23. These have also been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

10 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1-8 & 10)

7 23 14_8am_Remarks at EPA Politicals Retreat.docx
30K

7 23 14_215pm_MEDIA ADVISORY Remarks at LWCF 50th Anniversary Event.docx
82K

7 23 14_215pm_VERSION 2 TALKING POINTS Remarks at LWCF 50th Anniversary Event.docx
35K

7 23 14_830am_SLIDES ASPMBPOB Briefing for the Secretary.pptx
214K

7 23 14_215pm_Remarks at the Land & Water Conservation Fund 50th Anniversary Event.docx
19K

7 23 14_11am_Meeting with Congresswoman Pingree.docx
52K

7 23 14_3pm_Meeting with Congressman Hoyer.docx
24K

7 23 14_1pm_Meeting with Congressman Simpson.docx
24K

7 23 14_130pm_Meeting with Congressman DeFazio.docx
23K

7 23 14_12pm_Meeting with Senator Crapo.docx
21K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN PETER DEFAZIO

DATE: July 23, 2014
LOCATION: Rayburn 2134
TIME: 1:30 pm EST
FROM: Stephenne Harding, OCL

I. QUESTIONS

- What can I do to support your LWCF amendment?
- Hatch? What can I do to help there? House?
- LWCF as an amendment to Transportation?
- How can we work to get Republican support? (payfor?)
- Can we bring a fire fix to the floor in the Senate? (Is the Budget Point of Order too much of a problem to get 60 votes?)
- Must separate Fire fix and forestry issues.
- Initiating in the Senate for Fire and LWCF?

II. LWCF FUNDING FOR OREGON

Federal $176 million
State $59.1 million
Forest Legacy $9.0 million
HCP $7.5 million
OREGON TOTAL: *$251.6 million*

III. PARAOCHIAL ISSUES

Red Hill/Nickel Mining Withdrawal: Staff for Senator Wyden and Representative DeFazio have asked the BLM to support and expedite a withdrawal of approximately 100,000 acres of federal minerals within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon. The Forest Service is the surface owner of approximately 95% of the lands so it is incumbent upon the Forest Service to make the request to DOI for a withdrawal. To date the Forest Service appears to have been reluctant to do so. The staffs have been informed that they should continue their discussions with the Forest Service.

Oregon and California Lands (O&C): Will likely discuss how important it is to get a solution on O&C in the state and that he is working with Senator Wyden on a bill. Likely will stress the need to increase harvest and decrease the time to get projects to sale and implemented. YOU should feel free to reiterated the BLM's RMP process and that the Draft RMP will come out in the fall. We're committed to that new planning effort since it has been nearly 20+ years since the last plan.

SUCCESS STORIES IN OREGON:

Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon (FWS) - Recreation

At Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located on Oregon's coast just two hours from Portland, salt marsh, brackish marsh, wetlands along lakes and rivers, and wooded upland habitats offer sanctuary to a diverse array of fish and wildlife, including waterfowl, shorebirds,

raptors, small mammals, amphibians, and anadromous fish. Each year, several million seabirds breed at the Refuge. The Refuge also provides wintering habitat for the coastal population of Dusky Canada geese and the entire population of Semidi Islands Aleutian Canada geese. Peregrine falcons and bald eagles hunt the nesting seabirds and waterfowl that migrate along the coast in summer. The refuge is also a valued close-to-home outdoor classroom and recreation area, welcoming students and visitors to enjoy the refuge's shoreline, hiking and walking trails, and outstanding wildlife viewing areas. Through a 20XX Land and Water Conservation Fund investment, the Fish and Wildlife Service was able to protect an important 102-acre tract of forested headland for the refuge. Located at the confluence of the Nestucca and Little Nestucca Rivers, the property contains upland forest, shoreline, and tideland habitats, and is particularly important to seabirds along the Pacific Northwest coast. The acquisition was a combined effort of The Nature Conservancy, the Federal Highway Administration, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Oregon Congressional delegation.

Table Rocks ACEC (America's Great Outdoors), Oregon (BLM)- Youth & Education

On November 30, 2012 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completed a two-phase purchase of the 817-acre The Nature Conservancy (TNC) parcel within Table Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The parcels were purchased with $1,636,000 of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) appropriations from the BLM's Washington Office (WO) Emergency account. The WO Budget Office helped combine residual balances from nine unobligated LWCF accounts to meet this unanticipated funding need. The purchase was assisted by The Nature Conservancy of Oregon. Located five miles north of Medford, Oregon, Table Rocks ACEC was designated in 1984 to protect special plants and animal species, unique geologic and scenic values, and support environmental education opportunities. The Table Rocks Environmental Education Program began over 20 years ago with 100 participants and marked the beginning of a partnership between the BLM and TNC. Today, BLM and TNC host over 5,000 school children, educators, parents and other local groups on guided hikes to the summit each Spring. An additional 5,000 annual visitors hike to the summit to view uncommon wild flowers and migratory birds. This two-phase purchase consolidated 13 private lots with adjoining BLM-managed lands, guaranteeing public access from a developed BLM trailhead to Upper Table Rock's summit. Land acquisition in support of Table Rocks ACEC is a priority of the Secretary of the Interior. This project was featured in the Department of the Interior's 2012 America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative for BLM.

Hart Mountain NAR, Oregon (FWS)

The Service Pacific Region is in the process of acquiring 280 acres at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. These acres, in four separate ownerships, will be purchased with $58,800 of the FY 2013 Inholding appropriation. Acquisition of these tracts will conserve some of the best ecologically intact and ungrazed remnant high desert shrub-steppe habitat in the Great Basin, a high priority in the Hart Mountain Conservation Management Plan. These tracts contain core nesting habitat for the greater sage-grouse, and also provide habitat for shrub-steppe obligate migratory bird species in decline and of conservation concern. The habitat also supports other species, including Brewer's sparrow, sage sparrow, and sage thrasher, as well as mammal species, including the northern pygmy rabbit.

Acquisition of these acres removes the threat of private development that would fragment high value habitat on adjacent refuge lands, reducing their ecological value and their long term functional ability to support wildlife.

John Day River Headwaters, Malheur National Forest, Oregon, (USFS)

The John Day River is undammed along its entire length making it the longest free-flowing river system in the lower 48 states. 147 miles of the John Day River are designated as part of the Wild and Scenic River System and it is an Oregon State Scenic Waterway. It is a globally important stronghold of wild salmon and the Columbia Basin's most biologically diverse river system supporting the largest and most varied native fish populations in Oregon, with one of the few remaining exclusively wild runs of spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead in the world. The area is home to grey wolves, Rocky Mountain elk, big horn sheep, Rocky Mountain goats, mule deer, and black bear. It contains dedicated stands of old growth forest with habitat for pine marten, goshawk and pileated woodpeckers.

In 2013 the Forest Service worked with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to protect the headwaters of the John Day River within the boundary of the Malheur National Forest. The Forest aequired 2,040 acres which helped consolidate 13,000 acres, securing 20 square miles (roughly the same size of a small American city) of unobstructed habitat for big game and other wildlife species open to hunters and anglers.

The John Day River is extremely popular for river rafting, guided fishing and other river based recreation activities and attracts thousands of people every year who enjoy the pristine environment and abundant wildlife.

IV.

V. Wyden/Simpson Wildfire Language:

- Amends the Budget Aet to provide new budget authority for wildfire suppression, not to exceed $2.689 billion in such authority for FYs 2014-FY2021;
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VI. **I&E FEES**

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Re: Briefing materials for 2016 Meeting tomorrow

Flanagan, Denise <denise_flanagan@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Jul 22, 2014 at 7:41 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Pam Haze <pam_haze@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Rhea Suh <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Holley <amy_holley@ios.doi.gov>, Adrianne Moss <adrianne_moss@ios.doi.gov>

Greetings,
In case you have not started reading, attached is the final slide deck for tomorrow's briefing with the Secretary. Thanks for your patience! Denise

On Tue, Jul 22, 2014 at 7:36 PM, Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Got it – thanks for the extra work. See everyone tomorrow and we can fill in the missing stuff when it's ready. SJ

From: Haze, Pam [mailto:pam_haze@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 5:50 PM
To: Jewell, Sally; Tommy Beaudreau; Michael Connor; Katherine Rupp; Erin Walls; Rhea Suh; Amy Holley
Cc: Denise Flanagan; Adrianne Moss
Subject: Briefing materials for 2016 Meeting tomorrow

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Please note there are a few things that need a bit more work (but in the interest of time....):

(b)(5)

We will see you at 8:30 am bright and early. thanks

–
Denise Flanagan, CDFM
Director, Office of Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C. Street NW, Room 4106
Washington DC 20240
Phone: 202-208-5308
Email: Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov

July 23 Recommendations presentation to the Sec.pptx
233K

2016 Budget

Next Step: Draft Recommendations

July 23, 2014

Presented Here

- Big picture view of the recommendations by bureau
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- Recommendations for major bureaus

The Budget Picture



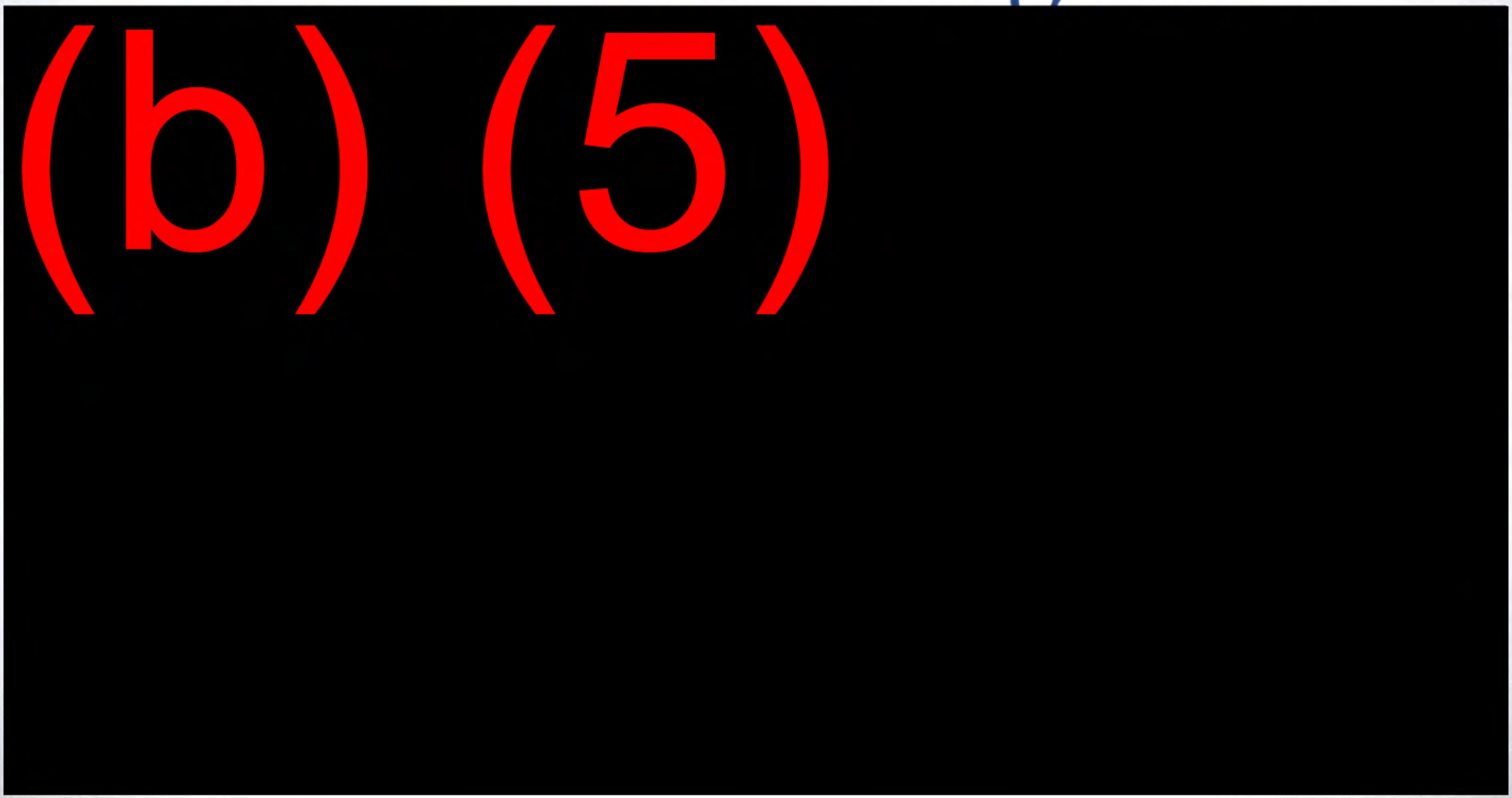
Bureau Comparison



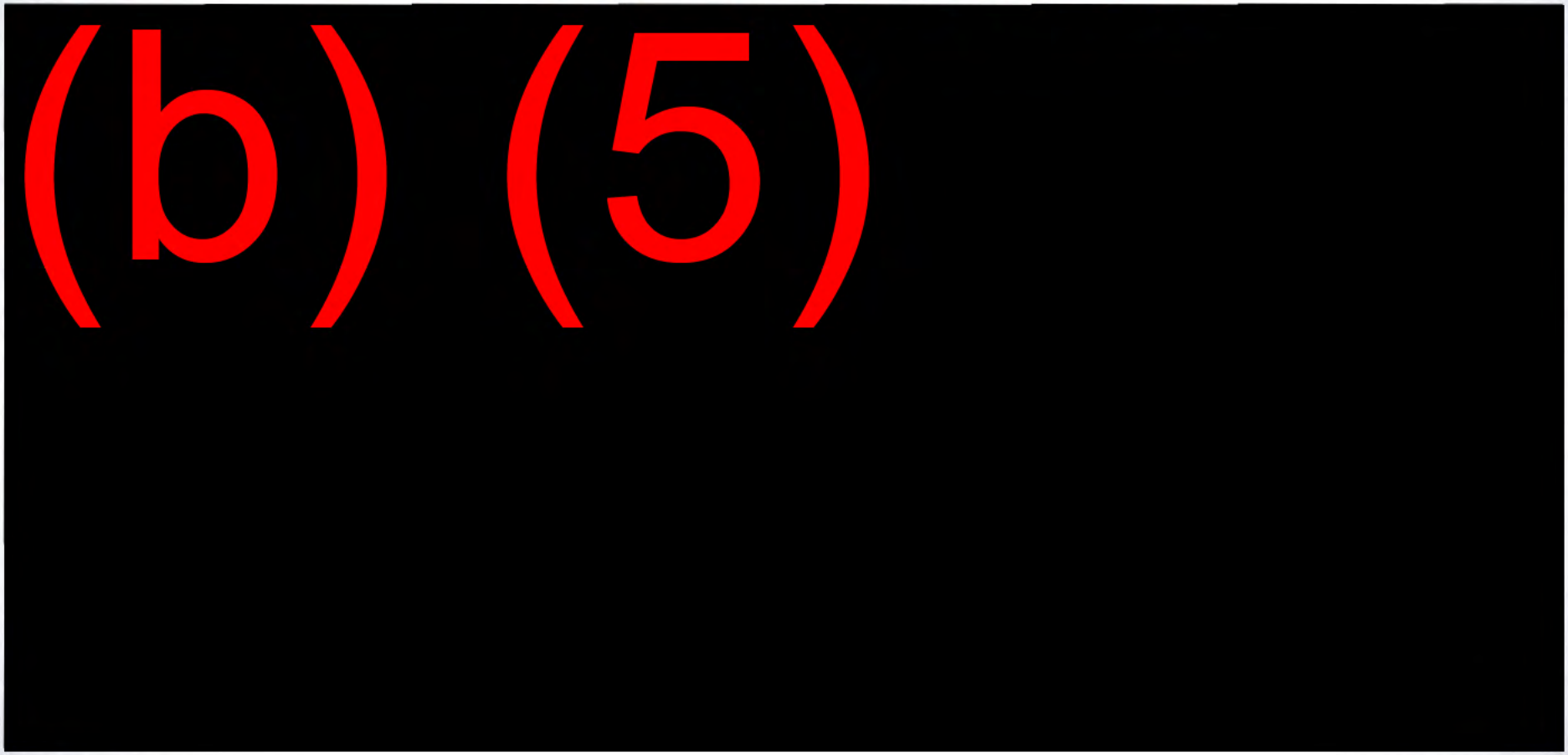
Consistent Priorities



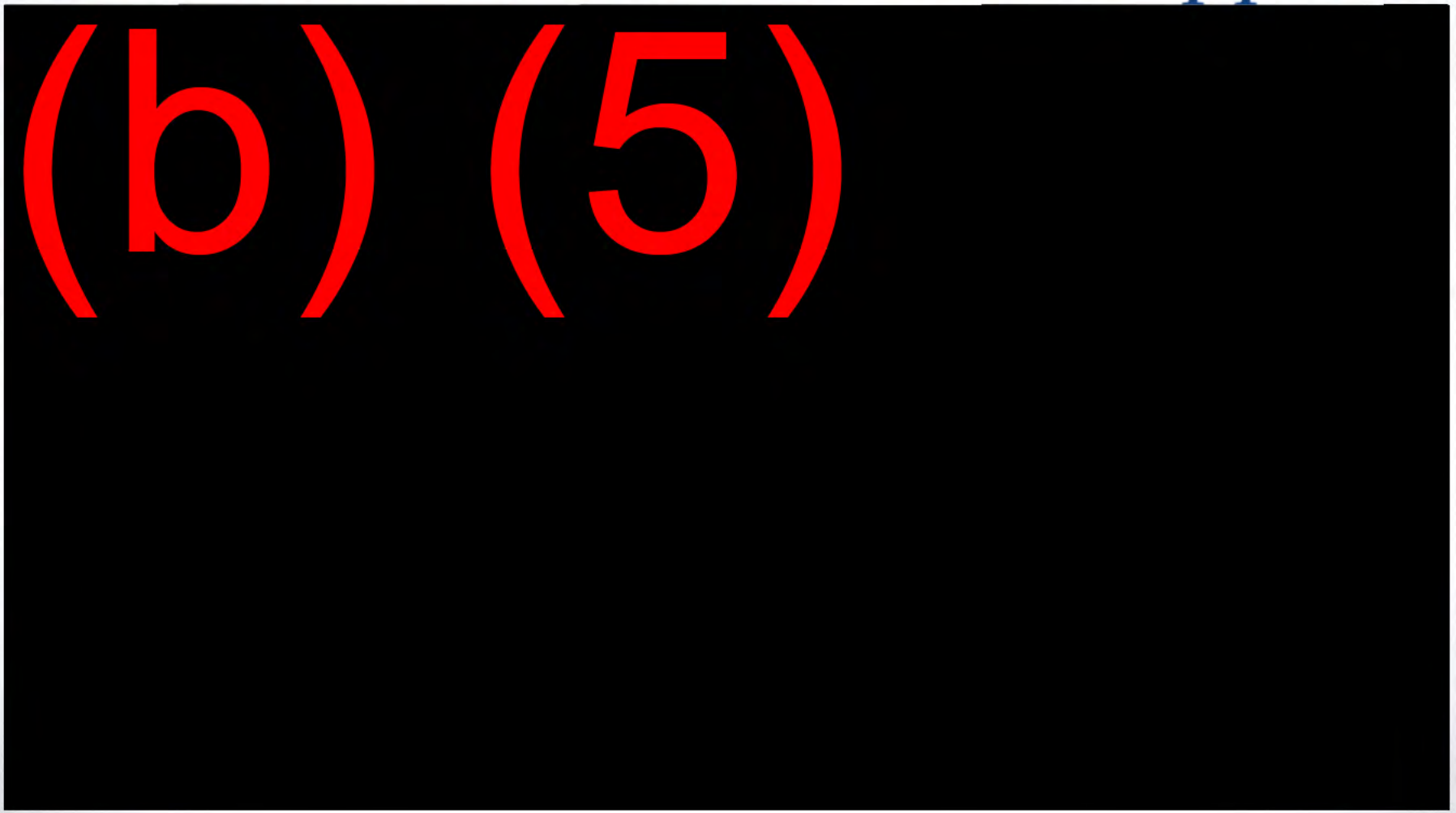
Conservation Programs



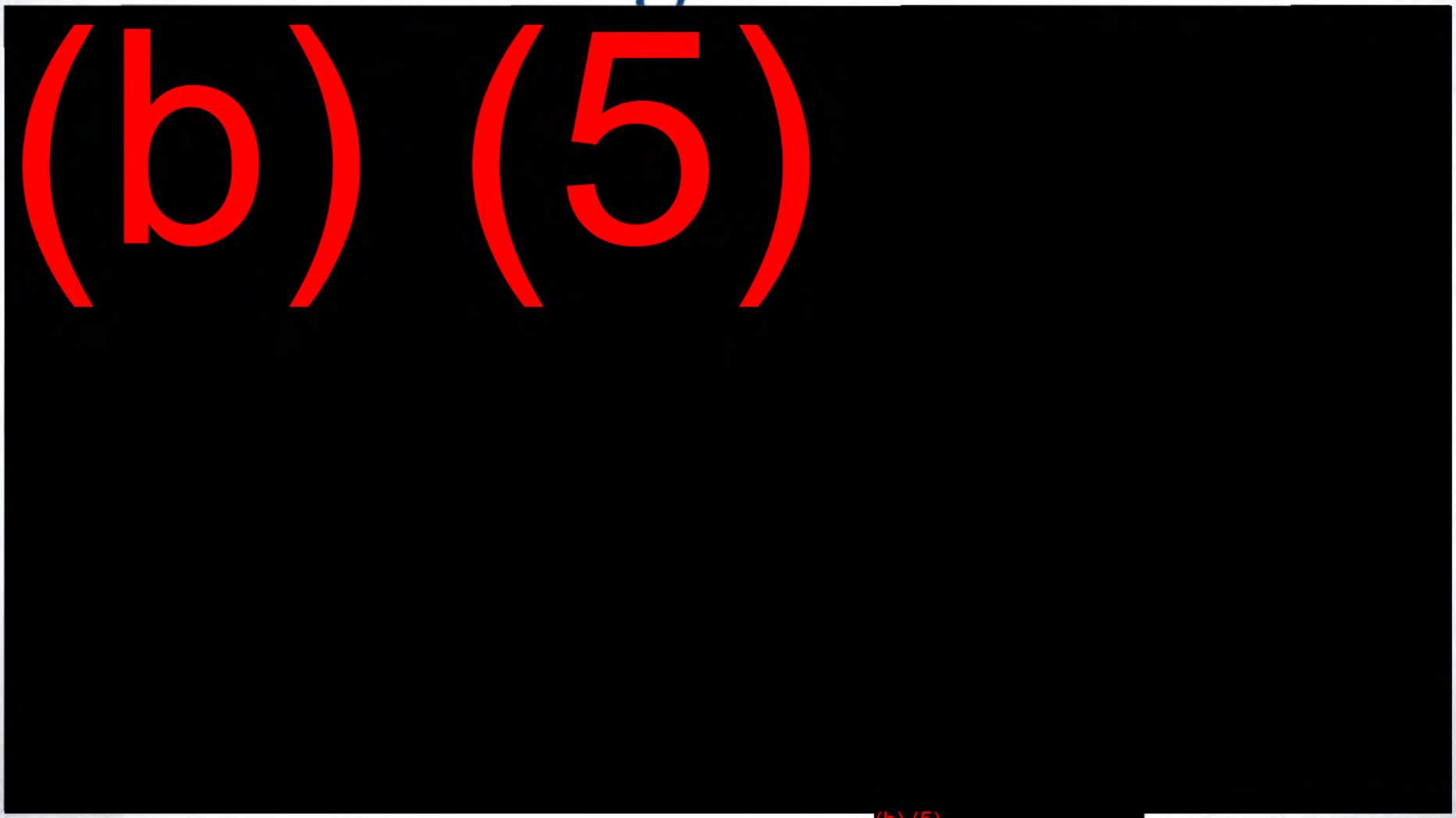
Engaging the Next Generation



Ensuring Healthy Watersheds and Sustainable, Secure Water Supplies

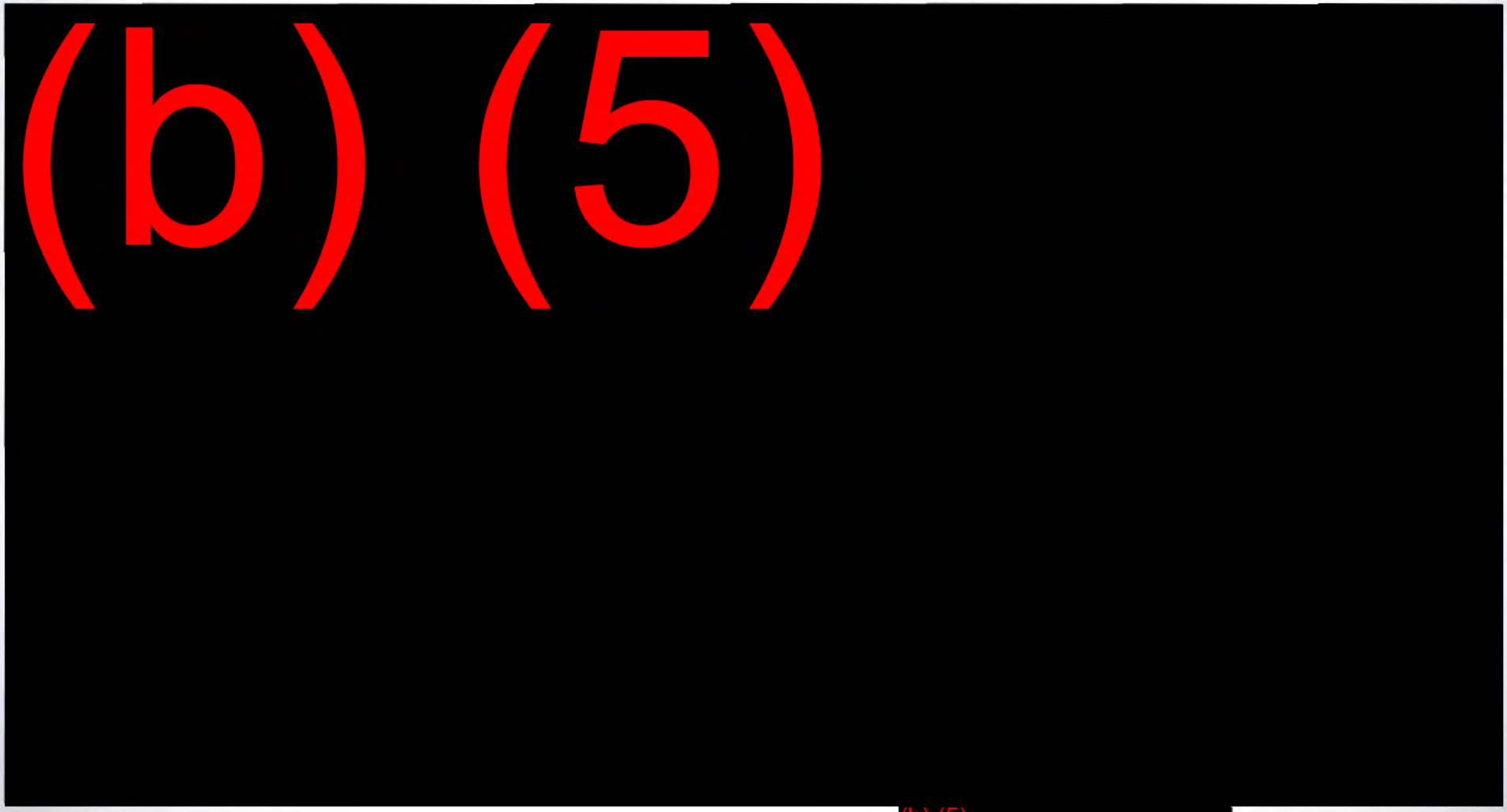


Powering Our Future

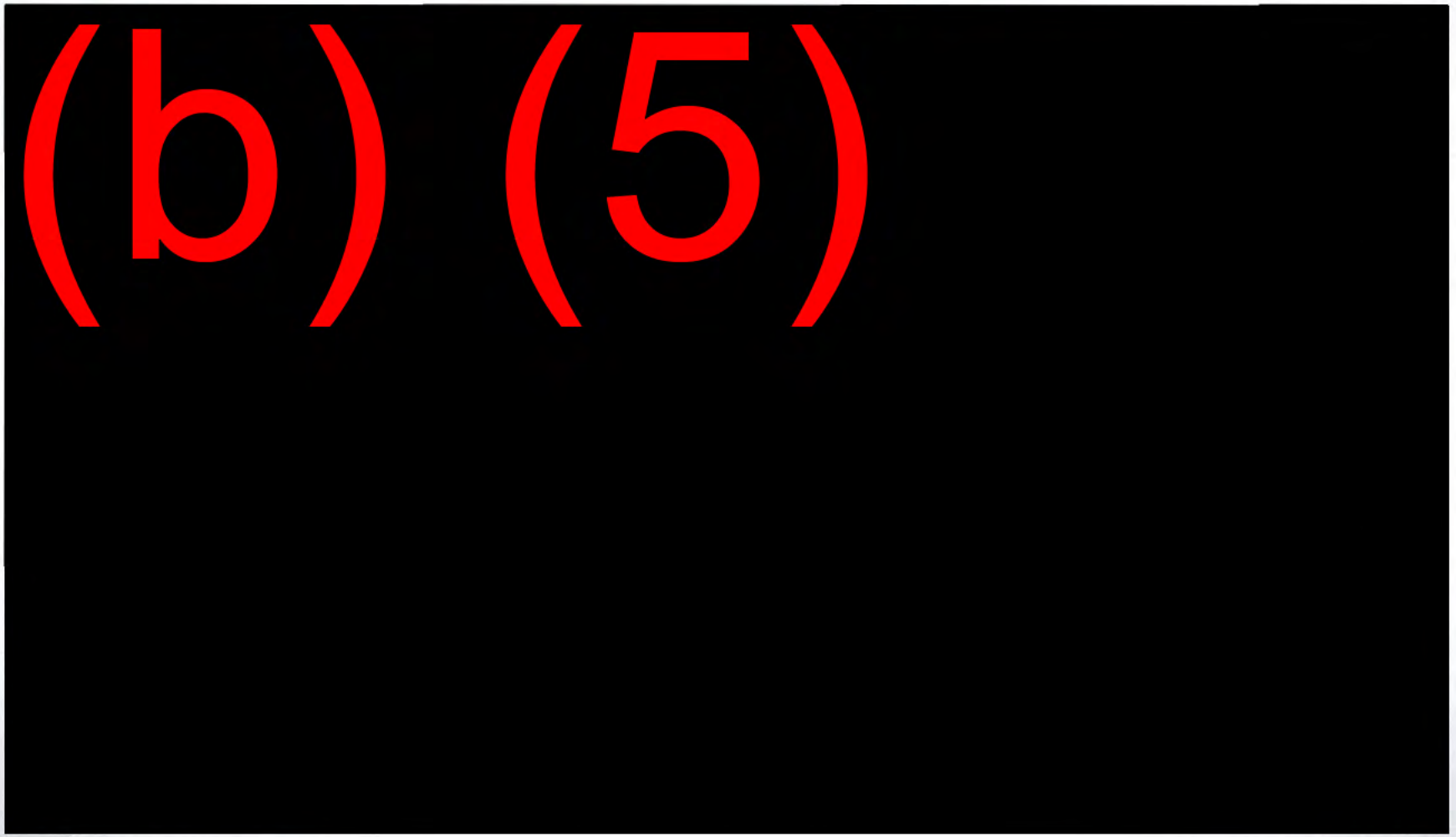


(b) (5)

Cooperative Landscape Conservation

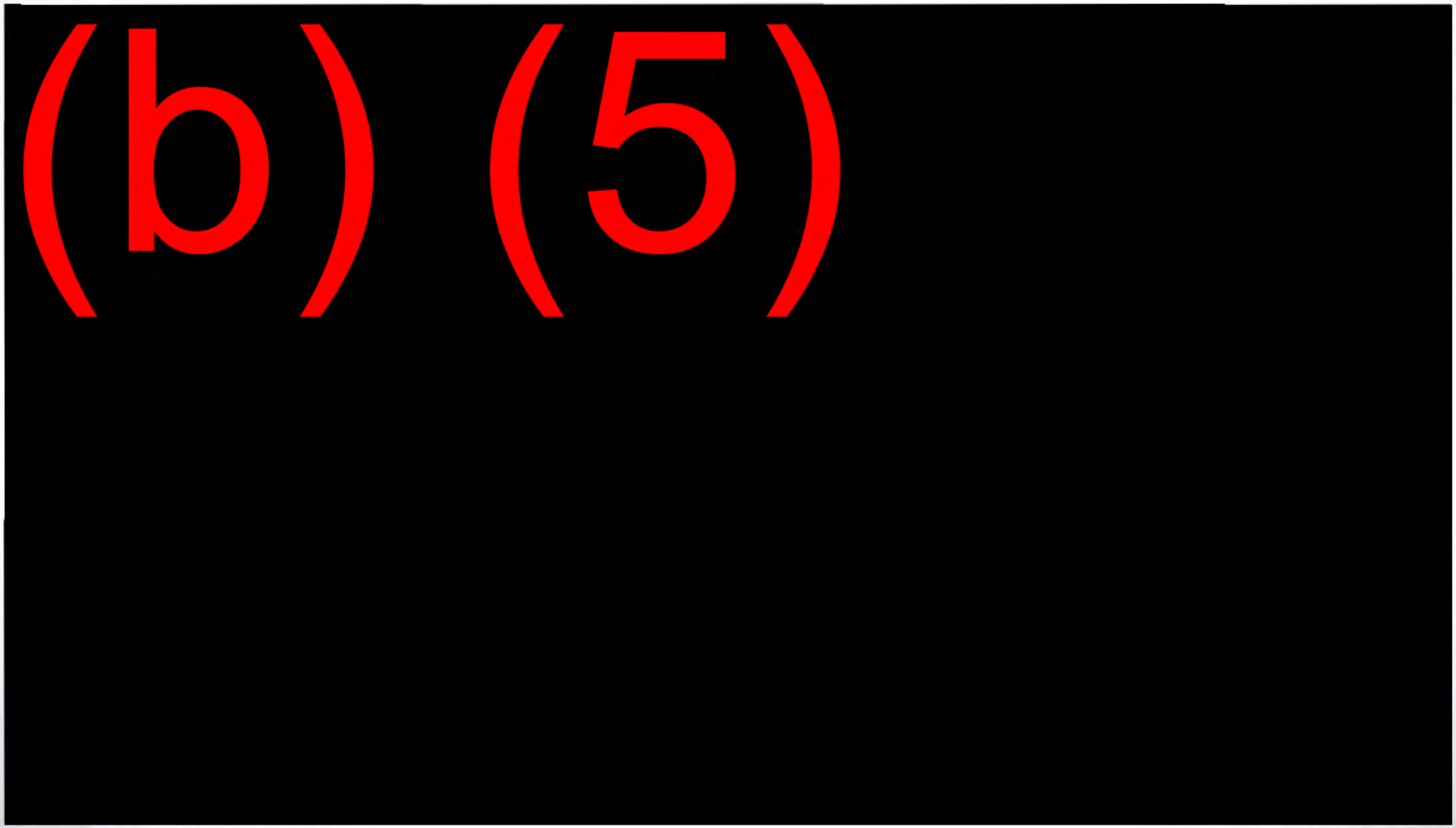


Mandatory and Other Revenue Proposals

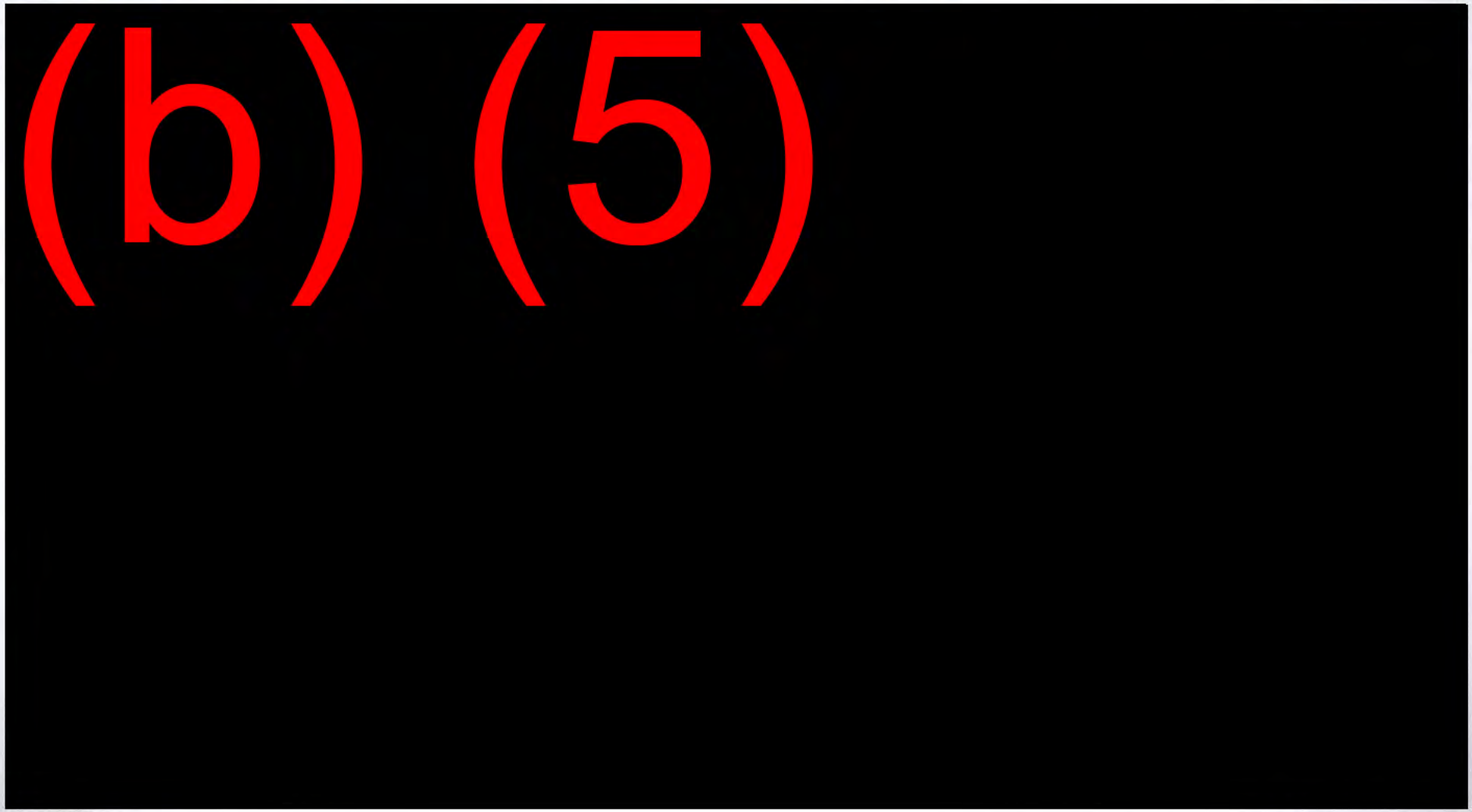


Above Over Target:

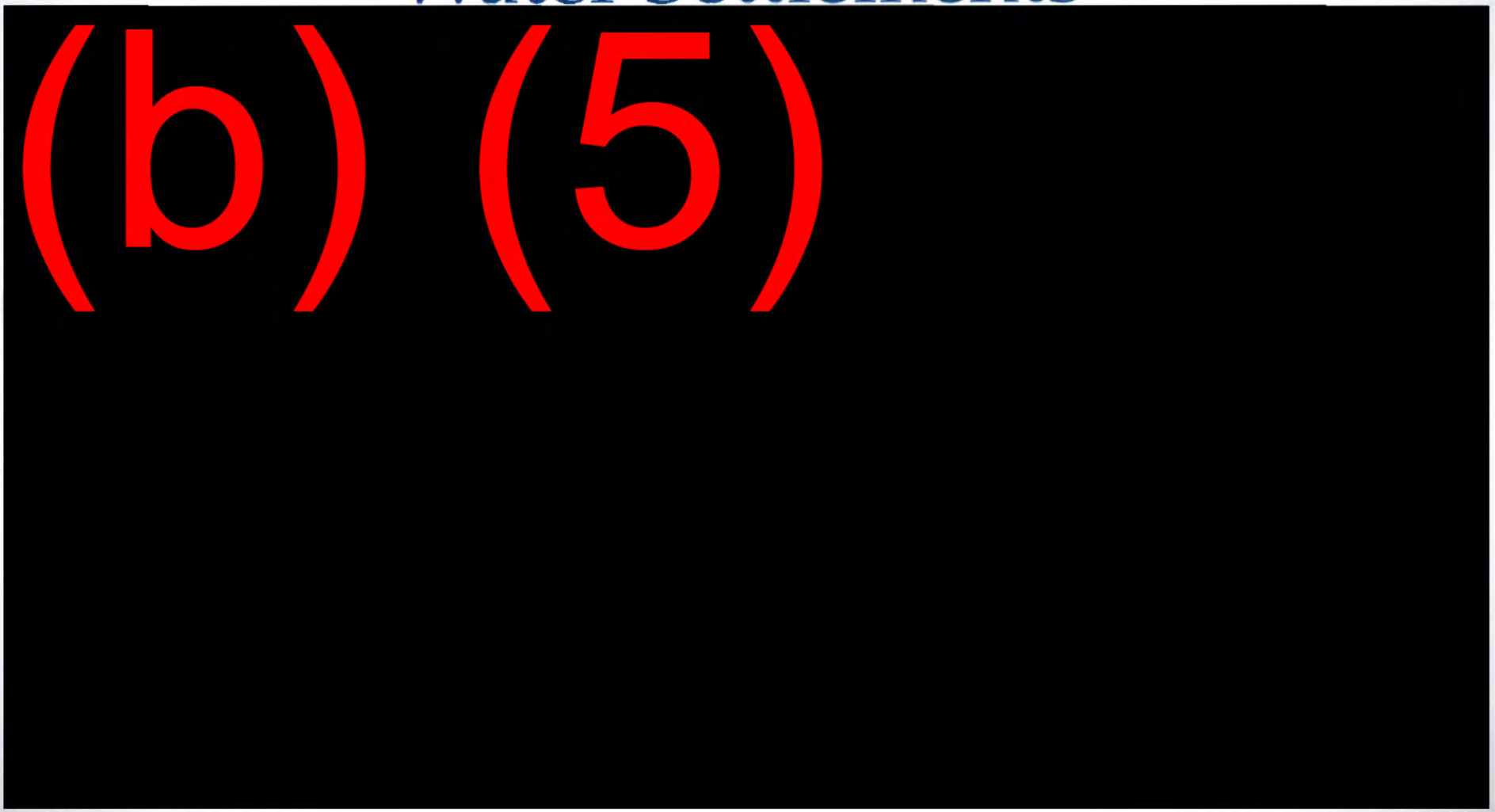
Public Lands Centennial (b) (5)



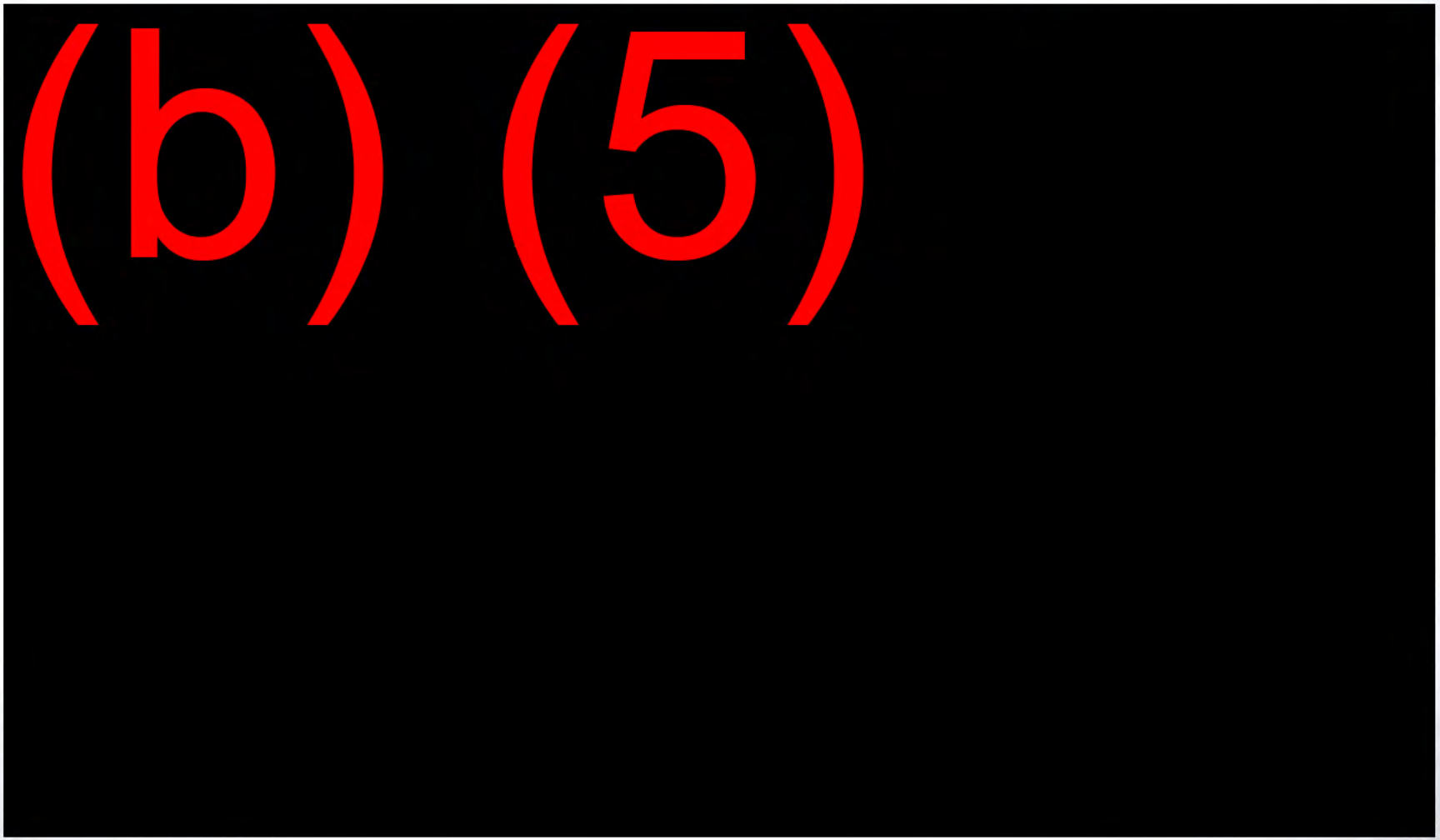
Above Over Target: Indian Education Transformation Initiative



Above Over Target: Water Settlements



Bureau Details: Bureau of Land Management



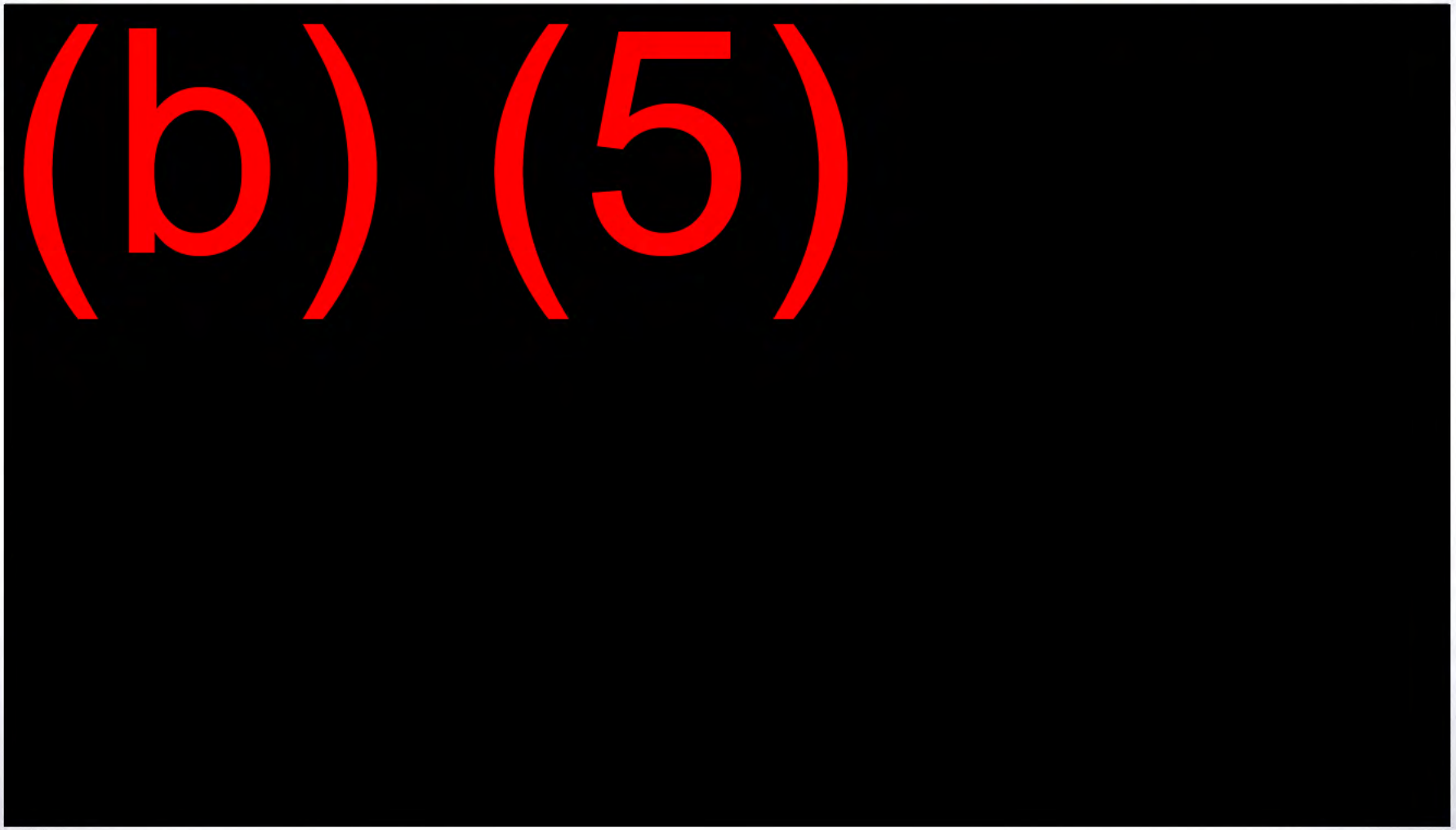
Bureau Details:
Bureau of Reclamation



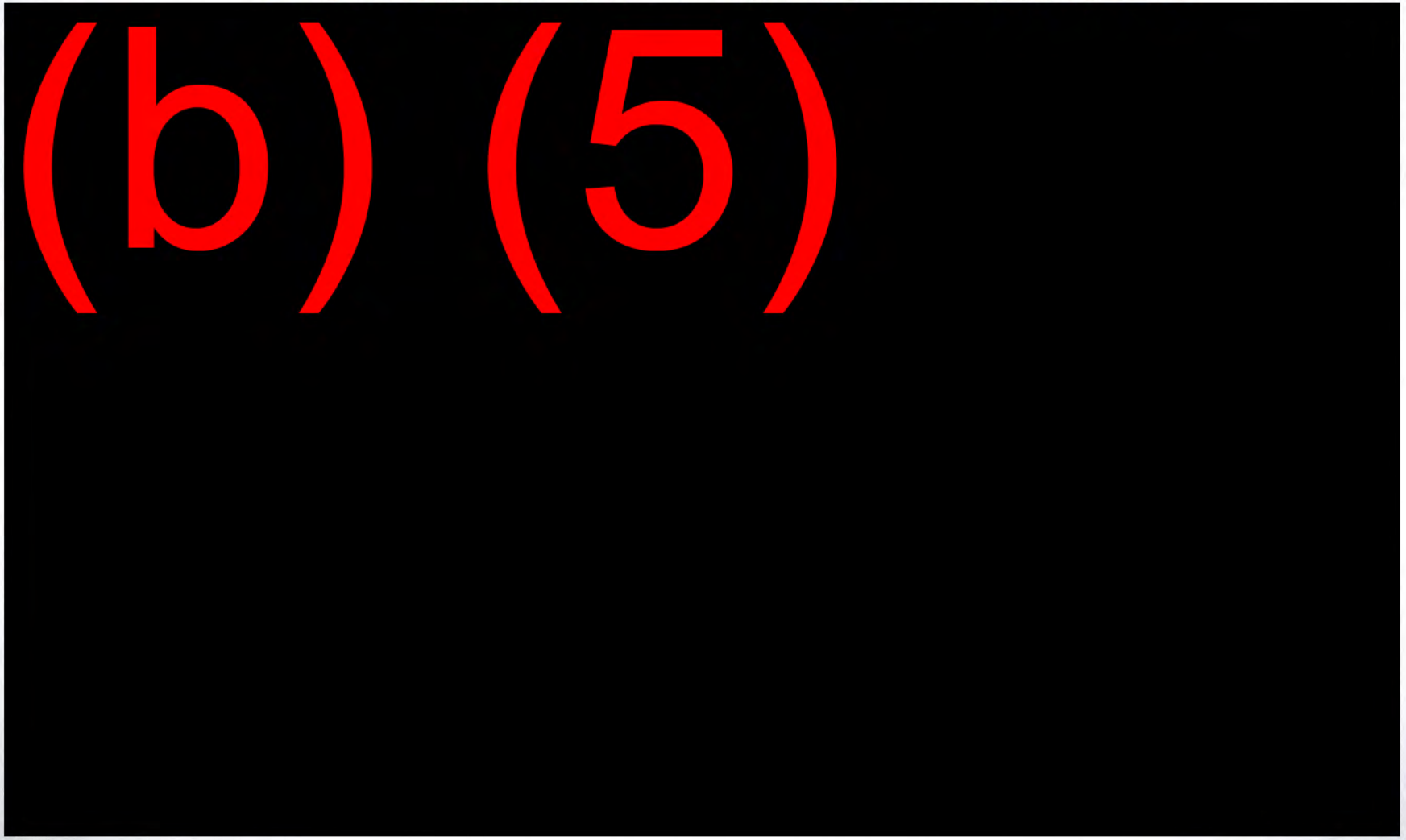
Bureau Details:
National Park Service



Bureau Details:
Fish and Wildlife Service



Bureau Details:
Bureau of Indian Affairs



BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Jul 23, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

WILDFIRES BURN ACROSS NORTHWEST. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that "fire crews are making an unheard-of scramble as a huge number of lightning-sparked wildfires continue to burn across drought-parched regions of Oregon and Washington." According to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center, "there were 13 large, uncontained fires burning in Oregon" as of Monday, "consuming over 494,000 acres." And "in Washington, seven fires have burned close to 319,000 acres."

Obama Attributes Washington Wildfire To Climate Change. The AP (7/22, 4.06M) reports that according to President Barack Obama "a wildfire that has burned nearly 400 square miles in the north-central part of Washington state, along with blazes in other Western areas, can be attributed to climate change." At a fundraiser on Tuesday, Obama "offered federal help to deal with Washington's wildfire, the largest in the state's

history." Obama said that FEMA Director Craig Fugate "had authorized an emergency declaration to ensure electrical power." Obama stated, "A lot of it has to do with drought, a lot of it has to do with changing precipitation patterns and a lot of that has to do with climate change."

Senators Seek Vote On Extra Wildfire Funds. The Bend (OR) Bulletin (7/23, 94K) reports that "as wildfires continue to burn across Oregon, Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden wrote to Senate leaders Tuesday, urging them to give a vote to the Obama administration's supplementary budget request, which includes $615 million in emergency wildfire suppression funds." They were "joined by 10 other Democrats, mostly from Western states, in signing letters to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky." The letter stated, "There are large active fires in many western states, and new fires starting daily. Both Oregon and Washington have declared states of emergency, acknowledging that the scope, breadth, and severity of the wildfires have overwhelmed local capabilities and pose a threat to life, safety, and property."

Congress Urged To Act. In an editorial, the Albany (OR) Democrat-Herald (7/23, 42K) notes that "Congress has yet to move on a proposal — sponsored by a bipartisan collection of lawmakers — that would move any fire suppression spending above 70 percent of the 10-year average to a disaster funding account that is separate from Forest Service and US Department of the Interior budgets." Also, "earlier this month, three Republican senators, including Arizona's John McCain, introduced a separate measure that would allow agencies to tap into emergency funds only if they completely exhaust a given year's budget." According to the paper, "in terms of their commitment to pay for the kind of work that would help to prevent future fires, both proposals would appear to be better than the system we have now." The paper urges Congress "to move swiftly, because our forests are burning now."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by Reuters (7/23, Cavaliere) and the AP (7/22).

SEN. UDALL: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION NOT CONSIDERING DESIGNATION FOR VERMILLION BASIN. The Craig (CO) Daily Press (7/22, 12K) reports that Sen. Mark Udall "confirmed Tuesday that the Obama administration is not considering an Antiquities Act designation for the Vermillion Basin in Northwest Colorado, according to a press release." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "confirmed this fact during a meeting with Udall." Udall said, "Secretary Jewell confirmed for me today that the Vermillion Basin is not in line for a national monument designation through the Antiquities Act. When exercised in close consultation with the local community, the Antiquities Act is an important tool that has been used throughout Colorado's history to preserve and protect many of the iconic public lands that strengthen our special way of life and support our outdoor-recreation economy. That said, I am glad Secretary Jewell has rebutted the rumors some lawmakers have used to create uncertainty for the residents of Northwest Colorado."

MONTANA GOV. BULLOCK PROMOTES DROUGHT MANAGEMENT EFFORT. The Ravalli (MT) Republic (7/23, 19K) reports that "under a demonstration project that is the first of its kind in the nation, federal, state and local agencies will partner to improve drought resiliency in one of Montana's major watersheds, Gov. Steve Bullock announced last week." The project seeks "to provide better data on water, snowpack and soil moisture to assist local watershed groups in developing and implementing drought plans." the article notes that "the partnership also provides $400,000 in federal funding and matching state staff time to help farmers and irrigation districts measure and conserve water in the Upper Missouri River Basin upstream of Fort Peck Reservoir."

Coverage was also picked up by the Prairie (MT) Star (7/23).

REP. DEFAZIO SEEKS WOLF BUFFER AROUND YELLOWSTONE. The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (7/22, 170K) reports that Rep. Peter DeFazio is asking the Interior Department "to work with states to curb gray wolf hunting around Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming and Montana." DeFazio said "in a recent letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that hunters killing wolves just outside Yellowstone's boundary could hurt the overall health of the park's ecosystem." He asked for a "wolf safety zone" or buffer around the park.

SEN. WALSH SEEKS TO REFORM COUNTY PAYMENTS. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that Sen. John Walsh is "hoping to reform how the federal government provides financial aid for rural and timber-dependent counties." Walsh "introduced a bill late last week that would consolidate payments in lieu of taxes (PILT), Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Refuge Revenue Sharing (RRS) into one expanded PILT program that would provide full,

permanent funding." The legislation "seeks to provide fiscal certainty for counties – mostly in the West – which depend heavily on the federal payments to fund education, roads, trash pickup and other government services."

PILOTS USE NASA LASER TECHNOLOGY TO ANALYZE ARCTIC ICE AND SEA-LEVEL CONDITIONS. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that "in the cockpit of an ER-2 jet with its impressive 103-foot wing span, two pilots in Alaska have been flying over the Arctic and back to help NASA scientists gather information about the relationship between melting ice and sea-level rise." The pilots use "NASA's laser and photo system to collect data on ice, water and Arctic forests." Automated equipment, the "Multiple Altimeter Beam Experimental Lidar," or MABEL, is "designed to glean data that will be used in enhancing future research on sea ice."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

HINCHLIFFE STADIUM BILL PASSES HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY. The North Jersey (NJ) Media Group (7/23, 125K) reports that "an effort to include Hinchliffe Stadium within the boundaries of Paterson's Great Falls National Park gained momentum this week, with the House unanimously passing Rep. Bill Pascrell's legislation Tuesday and a Senate committee set to hold a hearing on Wednesday." Pascrell said, "This legislation would not place the burden of restoration or maintenance on the National Park Service. The stewardship of the National Park Service would simply provide certainty about Hinchliffe's future."

Also covering the story is the Paramus (NJ) Post (7/23).

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK BEGINS PROCESS TO DEVELOP MOUNTAIN GOAT MANAGEMENT PLAN. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that Olympic National Park officials are "looking into management options for the Washington park's mountain goats, four years after one hiker was fatally gored by an aggressive goat." The NPS is "considering capturing the goats and relocating them to the nearby Cascade Mountains, increasing hazing activities, killing them or some combination of actions." Or, "the agency might also do nothing." Olympic Park spokeswoman Barbara Maynes said, "What we're starting today is a plan that would look at overall management of the population across the entire park."

HAWAIIAN FLAG DAY TO BE CELEBRATED ON NPS SITES. The Los Angeles Times (7/23, Jones, 3.42M) reports that "Hawaiians and visitors will come together on July 31 to celebrate Hawaiian Flag Day, the islands' original holiday." Hawaiian Flag Day will "be celebrated with simultaneous commemorations at five places operated by the National Park Service."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPORT SHOWS ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the reporting touting the economic impact of national parks was provided by the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (7/23, 470K), the Deseret (UT) News (7/23, 538K), the Newport News (VA) Daily Press (7/22, 181K), the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (7/23, 323K), the AP (7/23), the Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (7/22, 317K), WCSC-TV Charleston, SC (7/23, 22K), and KMVT-TV Twin Falls, ID (7/23, 1K).

NPS CRITICIZED FOR DRAKE BAY OYSTER COMPANY CLOSURE. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (7/23, Sheff, 11.54M), David Sheff writes that the issues at stake with the Drake Bay Oyster Company's fight to stay open "are larger than the survival of an oyster farm and the impact of its closure on its employees and customers, and the local economy." According to Sheff, "if this were simply a case of wilderness versus big business – an oil company threatening the fragile ecology – the decision would be a win for the environment." However, in this case, Sheff claims that "it's an example of myopic thinking by the Part Service and Interior Department."

Additional coverage of the issue was provided by the SF Weekly (7/23, 239K) and the Courthouse News (7/22, 7K).

PAPER SUPPORTS NPS DRONE POLICY. The Loveland (CO) Reporter-Herald (7/23, 52K) editorializes that "drone users may be disappointed to learn they won't be able to fly over and photograph some of the most scenic areas in America, but the Park Service has good reason to ban the unmanned aircraft." According to the paper,

"over the wilderness areas of Rocky Mountain National Park and other parks, drone use may not be appropriate," because "visitors to these areas are seeking an experience without the intrusions of modern life." It concludes that "new rules will be important for ensuring drones do no harm in our national parks."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM, FOREST SERVICE RELEASE SAGE GROUSE REVISED DEIS. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (7/22, 166K) reports that "the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest recently released the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Greater Sage-grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (Bi-state sage-grouse) Forest Plan Amendment." The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest proposes to amend the Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the BLM "proposes to amend the Carson City district and Tonopah Field Office Resource Management Plans to conserve, enhance and/or restore habitats to provide for the long-term viability of the bi-state sage-grouse." The BLM and the Forest Service "decided to prepare a revised DEIS in April after the USFWS announced the extension of the comment period for the proposed rule and has delayed the listing decision to April 2015."

WILDLIFE GROUP, CATTLE COMPANY JOIN FEDERAL WILD HORSE LAWSUIT. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (7/23, 22K) reports that "two more entities joined a federal lawsuit regarding wild horse policy, which demands the government round up and remove excess horses." According to the article, "in an amended complaint filed Monday, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited and Crawford Cattle were listed as plaintiffs, in addition to Nevada Association of Counties and the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, who first filed suit in December." The plaintiffs claim the BLM is "not following the law by allowing wild horse populations to grow beyond the agency-identified carrying capacities."

BLM TO START WILD HORSE GATHER IN SOUTHERN UTAH. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (7/23, 43) reports that the BLM-Utah Cedar City Field Office will "begin a wild horse gather within the Bible Spring Complex on or about Monday, July 28, 2014." The bureau "plans to gather and remove an estimated 140 wild horses from the Blawn Wash Herd Management Area (HMA)—one of four HMAs that make up the Bible Spring Complex." The public is invited "to view the daily gather operations once they begin, provided the safety of the animals, staff and observers is not jeopardized and operations are not disrupted."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS AWARDS $5.6 MILLION THROUGH STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS PROGRAM. The Kingstree (SC) News (7/22) reports that "imperiled species will benefit from a total of $5.6 million in grants for 16 projects in 12 states through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's competitive State Wildlife Grants program." The funds, "which focus on large-scale conservation projects yielding measurable results, will be matched by more than $2.9 million in non-federal funds from states and their partners for projects that work to conserve and recover wildlife identified by states as Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their habitats."

SEN. CORNYN INTRODUCES BILL TO BOOST TRANSPARENCY OF ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTINGS. The Deer Park (TX) Broadcaster (7/23, 128) reports that Sen. John Cornyn has "introduced legislation to dramatically boost transparency of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service's listing process for endangered species." The measure would "require the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce departments to make the best scientific and commercial data publicly available on the Internet as it relates to future listings and de-listings under the Endangered Species Act."

REPUBLICANS PRESS AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK TO REPORT COSTS OF PRAIRIE CHICKEN PROTECTION MEASURES. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that "a coalition of key House Republicans says Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is violating federal law by failing to submit a detailed report on the costs and effectiveness of the department's conservation measures to restore the lesser prairie chicken." The coalition, led by Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings and Agriculture Chairman Frank Lucas, "sent a letter to Vilsack last week demanding that he submit the report – a requirement in the bipartisan farm bill that President Obama signed into law in February." The article notes that "the provision requires Vilsack within 90 days of the farm bill's being enacted to compile a report detailing the 'cost and effectiveness' of programs administered by the full Agriculture Department and its agencies regarding conservation of the lesser prairie chicken, according to the

two-page letter signed by Hastings, Lucas and 11 other House GOP members."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS DIVIDED OVER NEW "CREDITS" POLICY FOR CONSERVATION. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that "environmental groups are split over a new Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to reward landowners and federal agencies that proactively conserve habitat for struggling wildlife." Also, "while a few notable environmentalists have praised the policy, all have warned that it is woefully short on details." They said "the new policy is conceptually sound but needs more specificity to ensure that benefits to species are accurately measured and verified."

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OFFERS RECOVERY PLAN FOR THREE FISH SPECIES IN CALIFORNIA. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that the Obama Administration "released a recovery plan today for three imperiled fish species in California's Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta." The National Marine Fisheries Service's recovery plan seeks to restore the "Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead, which have been in decline over the past 150 years from a combination of fishing, gold mining, dam construction, water diversions and water pollution." The plan, "in the works since 2007, focuses on habitat restoration as well as maintenance of genetically and geographically diverse populations," and "it identifies 21 separate populations distributed across four regions of the delta to be re-established over the next 50-100 years."

Also reporting on the story is the Fresno (CA) Bee (7/22, 322K).

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES $3.4 MILLION FOR LONGLEAF PINE RESTORATION. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on Tuesday "announced nearly $3.4 million to support 15 longleaf pine restoration projects across eight states in the Southeast." The funds will be "made available through the Longleaf Stewardship Fund, a public-private partnership with the Forest Service, the Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Defense Department, and the Fish and Wildlife Service."

NEW WYOMING STUDY COULD PROVIDE EARLY WARNING AGAINST FUTURE ESA LISTINGS. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that "a new study has identified 51 species in Wyoming that are highly vulnerable to encroaching development, climate change and other factors, a finding the study's authors hope will spark the adoption of conservation strategies designed to avoid future Endangered Species Act listings and the federal regulations that follow as a result." The article notes that "the 57-page species vulnerability study, conducted by researchers with the University of Wyoming, Nature Conservancy and Wyoming Game and Fish Department, is designed to act as a kind of early warning system as ecosystems change to alert state leaders where to invest conservation efforts before sensitive species reach the brink of extinction." The study stated, "Our assessment provides new information about which of three major stressors, climate change, development, and disease, are expected to have the greatest impacts on terrestrial species, habitats, and priority areas in the future. We hope these results inform the development of conservation strategies aimed at mitigating threats we have identified."

NEW UPPER MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE REFUGE LEADER TO BEGIN DUTY IN AUGUST. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/23, Raghavendran, 1.32M) reports that in August, Sabrina Chandler is "returning to the rivers from the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C., to start her new position as complex manager for the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge." Chandler said, "Taking this position helps me get back to that resource and that conservation on the ground that I've been hoping to implement on the national level."

WSJOURNAL OPINION: NEONIC PESTICIDE BAN WOULD HURT US ECONOMY. Henry I. Miller, a fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and founding director of the FDA's Office of Biotechnology, criticizes in the Wall Street Journal (7/23, Miller, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) the White House-established Pollinator Health Task Force, and the Administration's order to the EPA to "assess the effect of pesticides, including neonicotinoids, on bee and other pollinator health and take action, as appropriate." Miller argues science does not support fears about the health of bee populations, and warns that a ban on neonic pesticides would have a very damaging effect on US agriculture, and by extension on US consumers and the overall economy.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM TO CONSIDER "COMMUNITY BENEFIT" FOR NEXT OFFSHORE WIND AUCTION. The New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (7/23, 54K) reports that "the federal government is preparing for another auction of a wind energy area off the Massachusetts coast." However, this time, the BOEM will "take into account how a potential developer might work with local communities." The article notes that "the auction procedure tentatively set up by BOEM in a draft document allows the bureau to consider whether potential developers have entered into any 'community benefit agreements.'" According to bureau, "the agreements would be legal contracts between an offshore wind developer and community organization agreeing that the organization would support offshore wind development in return for the developer providing some community benefits."

Onshore Energy Development:

MURKOWSKI BLAMES OBAMA FOR FALLING ENERGY PRODUCTION ON FEDERAL LAND. The Hill (7/23, Cama, 237K) reports Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) "blamed the Obama administration's policies for reductions in energy production on federal and Indian land and water." Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu (D) said that falling resource production on Federal land has "been going on for quite some time, way before President Obama came into office."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RAWLINS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. KOWB-AM Laramie, WY (7/23, 461) reports that the BLM is "seeking public comment while they consider closing areas in Carbon and Albany Counties to oil and gas leasing." According to the article, "an amendment has been proposed to the 2008 Rawlins Resource Management Plan (RMP) which would close about 12,425 acres in the two counties."

FERC ASKED TO RECONSIDER ENERGY PROJECT NEAR JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. KCET-TV Los Angeles (7/23, 15K) reports that "a desert protection group has formally asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reconsider its approval of a large pumped storage project near Joshua Tree National Park." In a formal legal request filed Monday, the Riverside County-based Desert Protection Society alleges that "FERC's approval of the controversial Eagle Crest pumped storage project violates several federal laws and should be reconsidered." The organization also claims "the project poses an undue threat to the Chuckwalla Valley's groundwater, as well as to wildlife including the Federally threatened desert tortoise."

CHANGES TO OIL AND GAS LAW RAISES UNCERTAINTY. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that "changes to oil and gas law have been multidimensional in recent years." According to the article, "as the energy industry broadens its reach through hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, legal minds are left sorting out lease disputes, property questions, regulatory changes and modern application of common law, among other issues." Legal experts say "evolving doctrines have left many facets of law open to interpretation."

STUDY: NATURAL GAS LESS POLLUTING THAN COAL. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that "natural gas is only half as polluting for the climate as coal, even accounting for leaks of a potent greenhouse gas, suggests a new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences yesterday." The study, by scientists at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, "compiles the findings of previous studies exploring the benefits of natural gas for the climate." The article notes that "the result, called a meta-analysis, found that the studies roughly agreed that shale gas, when burned, emits half as much carbon as coal over its life cycle from the wellhead to the power plant."

NORTH CAROLINA STILL WAITING FOR SHALE RUSH. The E&E Daily (7/22) reports that North Carolina has cleared "the way for shale gas rigs" with "two laws and more than 100 pages of regulations," but the rigs "may never arrive." North Carolina "began to embrace hydraulic fracturing after Republicans took over the Legislature in 2010 and pushed to end a six-decade ban on horizontal drilling, fracking's partner in the technological upheaval that shook loose eye-popping volumes of natural gas in the nearby Marcellus Shale." The USGS "increased its projection of recoverable resources in the Marcellus by a factor of 40 after fracking swept the nation, and many in the GOP hope that North Carolina's Triassic shale basins could prove similarly underestimated." However, "shale gas backers are uncertain about how many industry suitors will materialize and how quickly – not to mention the true size of the Tar Heel State's recoverable reserves."

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE DIRECTOR SALERNO SEE PROGRESS ON OFFSHORE SAFETY. The Upstream Online (7/23, 20K) reports that "the US offshore sector has already gone through significant changes regarding safety issues since the Macondo disaster in April 2010, but the nation's chief offshore regulator insists there will be no slowing down as his agency targets today's challenges with a fresh approach to risk management, improved data and a renewed focus on technology."

SEN. LANDRIEU ADVOCATES FOR HIGHER DRILLING ROYALTIES FOR GULF COAST STATES. The Hill (7/22, Cama, 237K) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair Mary Landrieu touted "legislation that would remove the cap that Gulf Coast states have on the revenue they can receive from offshore drilling royalties and fees," raising this cap to 37.5 percent from its current monetary cap of $500 million.

Meanwhile, in an editorial, the Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (7/23, 405K) asks whether "the potential for a spill off Sandbridge, for example, worth the danger to the tourism industry." According to the paper, drilling "interest has to translate to the action necessary to make those numbers attractive to states such as Virginia." It notes that "despite last week's renewed push toward offshore drilling and its attendant riches, there remains precious little movement in Washington toward repairing a royalty scheme that makes no provision for Atlantic drilling."

THIRTY-FIVE CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMAN STAND AGAINST OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING. The Ventura County (CA) Star (7/23, 212K) reports that 35 California representatives have written to the Interior Department asking that no new offshore oil and gas leases be offered in California beginning in 2017. The members wrote that "Californians have repeatedly spoken out against new offshore drilling," by passing 24 city and county anti-drilling measures since 1969. The letter comes as the BOEM updates its five-year oil and gas lease program, and also in the wake of the Administration's move to open the Atlantic coast to oil exploration.

RETRIAL OF FORMER BP ENGINEER POSTPONED. The AP (7/23) reports on the postponement of the August retrial of a former BP engineer Kurt Mix, who is accused of obstructing justice in the investigation of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. The retrial is on hold as Federal prosecutors appeal US District Judge Stanwood Duval's order throwing out Mix's guilty verdict

OIL SPILL CLAIMANT SUES BP FOR DEFAMATION OVER "CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION." The New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/23, Larino, 527K) reports The Andry Law Firm LLC is suing PB, one of its lawyers and an Associated Press reporter for defamation, saying it was "wrongly and purposefully implicated...in an investigation into alleged fraud in the oil spill settlement through a "campaign of intimidation" in court and in the media." The AP is accused of incorrectly reporting the firm's "oil spill claim was put on hold amid findings of fraud." Attorney Gilbert "Gibby" Andry says the company "repeatedly and purposely confused The Andry Law Firm in court and in ads published in the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times with Andry Lerner LLC," which has his brother as a partner.

DECISION TO ALLOW SEISMIC TESTING CRITICIZED. The Huffington Post (7/23, Sakashita, 11.54M), Miyoko Sakashita, Oceans Director, Center for Biological Diversity, writes that the decision by the BOEM to open up offshore waters from Delaware to Florida to oil and gas exploration with seismic testing means that "thousands of marine animals will pay a very terrible price." In addition to noise pollution, Sakashita claims that "we know drilling along the Atlantic Coast will mean a higher risk for oil spills, more polluted beaches and waters, more industrial equipment and fewer pristine places for wildlife and people." Also, she claims that "opening these waters to drilling will deepen our climate crisis– the government just increased the estimate of how much oil and gas is under the Atlantic Ocean to 4.72 billion barrels of oil and 37.51 trillion cubic feet of gas."

Additional coverage of the decision was provided by the "Wonkblog" of the Washington Post (7/22, Kollipara, 4.06M), the Christian Science Monitor (7/21, 566K), the Newport News (VA) Daily Press (7/22, 181K), and Esquire Magazine (7/23, 2.48M).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SPIRAL FISH SLIDE PLANNED AT CLE ELUM DAM. The AP (7/23, Prengaman) reports that "slightly more than 10,000 adult sockeye salmon just arrived in Lake Cle Elum, their upstream migration diverted by a tanker truck ride courtesy of Yakama Nation Fisheries." According to the article, "by introducing the fish to an area that has been blocked for a century by a dam, tribal biologists hope to rebuild a healthy population." However, "the Cle Elum Dam doesn't just hold back water, it holds back salmon." Now, "after years of work," BOR engineers are "finalizing a first-of-its-kind design for a system to let juvenile fish head downstream, regardless of reservoir level."

Empowering Native American Communities:

UNITED HOUMA NATION RECEIVES SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The AP (7/23) reports that the Terrebonne Parish Council has "passed a resolution in support of the United Houma Nation receiving federal recognition." The council also "asked the administrations of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw and the Pointe-au-Chien tribes to submit necessary documents to receive similar council measures of support."

Also covering the story is the Tri-Parish (LA) Times (7/23, 21K).

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA RESERVATION PREPARED TO BUY BACK LAND. For the High Country (CO) News (7/23, 74K), Chuck Sams, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, writes that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation have "signed an agreement with the Interior Department to begin buying back these fractional pieces of property, so that the land can once again be owned in common by the people." He notes that "there are many challenges that come with doing this, but the Confederated Tribes are well positioned to work with the landowners, many of whom are not tribal members, by offering a fair market payment." According to Sams, "once the land is back in our hands, we believe there will be greater economic opportunity and better ways to protect and enhance the environment, while using the land in a communal way."

PROFESSOR SUPPORTS FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF EASTERN PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION. In an op-ed for the Connecticut Post (7/23, 238K), Amy E. Den Ouden, an associate professor in the Women's and Gender Studies Department at the University of Massachusetts, tells Assistant Secretary Kevin Washbum that "the state of Connecticut's opposition to the Department of the Interior's initial proposed changes to the federal regulations on tribal acknowledgment are particularly destructive with regard to the rights of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation of North Stonington, who were acknowledged by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2002 after rigorous review of their federal acknowledgment petition." Ouden emphasizes that "the existence of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation is not an 'Indian problem,' nor was their federal acknowledgment by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2002 a 'problem,' nor is the possibility that the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation may receive a fair hearing on the unjust overturning of their federal acknowledgment a 'problem.'" She asserts that "this is not 'biting' at an 'apple'; this is a tribal nation's pursuit of justice and its commitment to do so through legal means."

Top National News:

OBAMA TRAVELS TO WEST COAST AMID CRITICISM OF HIS FUNDRAISING. None of the network newscasts covered President Obama's West Coast fundraising swing on Tuesday evening. Nearly every print and online report on the President's appearances, meanwhile, references persistent questions about the propriety of such travel at a time when there are wars in the Mideast and Ukraine and an ongoing crisis on the US-Mexico border. For example, the New York Times (7/23, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that "the fund-raising trip comes as the White House is dismissing criticism about the president's decision to maintain his travel schedule" at a time when their are multiple crises across the globe that demand the President's attention. Under the headline, "Obama Visits Seattle To Raise Political Cash," the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (7/23, Connelly, 857K) reports that the President is on the West Coast this week "primarily for the purpose of raising money for Democrats," and notes that "the trip comes as Obama is dealing with a series of high-profile tests...from Eastern Europe to the Middle East to the southern US border."

On Fox News' Special Report (7/23, 2.15M), Bret Baier said the President is "dealing with an image problem on several fronts." Fox's chief White House correspondent Ed Henry was shown asking White House press secretary Josh Earnest: "What about the President's time? What about the fact there's five work days this week

and three them, he's fundraising?" Henry went on to report that "even as they insist it's not an optics problem, there are signs White House aides realize the criticism may be sinking in."

The AP (7/23) reports that "amid a swirl of foreign and border challenges," President Obama is "embarking on the one mission that has regularly proved a winner for him – raising money for his fellow Democrats." The AP says that on Tuesday, the President "landed...in Seattle at the start of a three-day West Coast trip, where he'll also visit San Francisco and Los Angeles and plans to attend at least five fundraising events." The AP adds that the White House maintains that the President is "more than able to carry out all his duties and attend to crises while on the road," but notes that he "did abandon one idea for the trip," an appearance on ABC's Jimmy Kimmel Live.

According to the New York Times (7/23, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), the President "will have one other event during the trip, a speech at a Los Angeles technical college on Thursday, before returning to the White House late that day." The Times reports that White House press secretary Josh Earnest acknowledged that "the cancellation" of the President's planned appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live "was a result 'in part' of concerns about the president's appearing on a comedy show in the midst of the international crises."

The San Francisco Chronicle (7/23, Marinucci, 2.87M) covers the President's fundraising trip in an article titled, "Obama's Bay Area Fundraising Trip Draws Flak." Under the headline, "Obama Raises Funds While International Crises Loom," the Washington Times (7/23, Boyer, 465K) reports that the President embarked on "a three-day Democratic fundraising trip amid signs that his image-makers are worried about criticism that the president's excursion is an 'unsavory distraction.'"

The AP (7/23) reports that in Seattle on Tuesday, the President "conceded...that foreign crises are creating anxieties in an American public already worried that a recovering economy is not improving their lives." The Los Angeles Times (7/23, Hennessey, 3.42M) reports that the President "joked that he doesn't watch a lot of the troubling news on television."

According to Politico (7/23, Dovere, 637K), while at his first Seattle fundraiser, the President "reflect[ed] on the crises in Ukraine, Gaza, Syria and Iraq," and "acknowledged that they're adding to an anxiety that's feeding cynicism that could hurt his party in the midterms." The President is quoted as saying, "Part of people's concern is just the sense that around the world, the old order isn't holding and we're not quite where we need to be in terms of a new order that's based on a different set of principles, that's based on a sense of common humanity, that's based on economies that work for all people."

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer (7/23, Connelly, 857K) reports that during a speech at the Seattle "home of Bruce Blume, a real estate developer, and his wife Anne," the President "addressed the Democrats' greatest fear in the midterms: That young voters, minorities and single women – constituencies that elected Obama – won't turn out."

The Seattle Times (7/22, 1.11M) reports that "about 250 people paid $500 to $20,000 to attend the event" at the Blumes' home, and notes that as the President "pulled up...in the wealthy neighborhood on Lake Washington," he "was met by about two dozen demonstrators protesting Israel's actions in Gaza and chanting 'free, free Palestine' and 'killing children is a crime.'" The Times goes on to report that after exiting that event, the President rode to the home of "former Costco CEO Jim Sinegal and his wife, Jan" for what "was billed as a $25,000-per-person fundraising dinner for Senate Majority PAC, a super PAC trying to keep Democrats in power in the U.S. Senate."

Obama: Climate Change Responsible For Wildfires. The AP (7/22) reports that while in Seattle on Tuesday, the President asserted that "a wildfire that has burned nearly 400 square miles in the north-central part of Washington state, along with blazes in other Western areas, can be attributed to climate change." The President is quoted as saying, "A lot of it has to do with drought, a lot of it has to do with changing precipitation patterns and a lot of that has to do with climate change."

Obamas Rumored To Be In The Process Of Buying A California Home. The Los Angeles Times (7/22, Beale, 3.42M) noted rumors that the President and the First Lady are planning to buy a $4.25 million home in Rancho Mirage, California "before the month is out." According to the Times, the Obamas are "believed to be in escrow on a contemporary home in a gated community where entertainers Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope and Bing Crosby once

maintained estates." However, the Times notes that the White House dismissed the claim from anonymous real estate agents. The Washington Times (7/23, Chumley, 465K) reports that on Tuesday, White House press secretary Josh Earnest "said...the report was 'not accurate.'"

FEDERAL APPEAL COURTS ISSUE CONFLICTING RULINGS ON LEGALITY OF OBAMACARE SUBSIDIES. The court rulings on the legality of key ACA subsidies are featured on the front pages of major US newspapers this morning, including the New York Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal – all three of which also run editorials on the issue. However, the story generated only one 30-second item on the network newscasts, where the crises in Ukraine and Gaza continued to be the focus of the coverage. On cable, Fox News commentators used the rulings to train their fire on the ACA and on the President himself, while MSNBC and CNN had little to say about the controversy and largely focused their news and commentary shows on foreign policy. Overall, coverage of the rulings highlights the ongoing partisan split over the President's healthcare reform law, and suggests the issue will be settled – as it was in 2012 – by the Supreme Court.

The AP (7/23), however, cautions that may not necessarily be the case: The DC "was decided by a three-judge panel," and the Administration "will ask the full 11-member appeals court to hear the case." Of the 11 judges in the full court, seven were appointed by Democratic presidents, and if they come out "in favor of the administration, the prospect of Supreme Court involvement would be greatly diminished." At any rate, as Scotusblog founder Tom Goldstein said on PBS Newshour, whether the full DC court of the Supreme Court makes the final decision "we're probably a year to 18 months away from getting a final answer."

ABC World News (7/22, story 6, 0:30, Sawyer) referred to "a trampoline of a day for Obamacare in court," as the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia "ruled that only Americans in states with their own exchanges for insurance can get financial subsidies," while "hours later," the Richmond-based 4th Circuit Court of Appeals "issued the opposite ruling, saying Obamacare can proceed as planned." Ultimately, notes Bloomberg News (7/22, Zajac, Dorning, Allen, 2.76M), "if the first decision stands, it could damage Obama's legacy as a policy maker and render his party's candidates more vulnerable to Republican attacks in November's midterm election." Moreover, "the ruling also threatens to gut the law's basic premise – to provide affordable insurance for Americans who don't have it." The Hill (7/23, Viebeck, 237K) similarly reported that "a ruling against the administration would demolish ObamaCare's structure."

The issue in contention, says the Christian Science Monitor (7/23, Kiefer, 566K), is that the ACA, as drafted, "specifically covers subsidies for the state exchanges, but not a word is said about subsidies for the federal exchange." Upon "realizing this oversight," the IRS "issued a rule allowing subsidies for everyone covered by the act, regardless of whether they are in state exchanges or the federal exchange." The Washington Times (7/23, Howell, 465K) explains that the DC court "ruled the administration used" the IRS rule "to stretch the meaning of the" law, "which said financial aid to low- and middle-income people should only flow to exchanges 'established by the State.'" The Times adds that "if that means only state-run exchanges, it would cut off subsidies to two-thirds of the nation" by invalidating "the IRS rule that ensured subsidies flowed to every state." The US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit "upheld the administration's interpretation of where subsidies may flow," reasoning that "Obamacare's language was ambiguous and that the IRS rule was 'a permissible exercise of the agency's discretion.'"

The Daily Caller (7/22, Hurtubise, 408K) says that "a whopping 36 states decided building an exchange wasn't worth it," and that would have made "their customers...ineligible for premium subsidies." It was then, according to the Caller, that the IRS "issued its own belated rule that subsidies would also apply to exchanges set up by the federal government." According to the New York Times (7/22, A1, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), Administration officials say that argument is "absurd," and that "the overriding purpose of the Affordable Care Act, they said, was to ensure access to health care for nearly all Americans, wherever they live." Bloomberg News (7/22, Harris, Zajac, 2.76M) quotes Walter Dellinger, former solicitor general during the Clinton Administration, as saying, "The Congress that passed the Affordable Care Act could not have intended [an] utterly absurd result, much less unambiguously required it."

The Washington Post (7/22, A1, Somashekhar, Goldstein, 4.06M) reports "conservatives have spent years laying the groundwork for the challenge, which they viewed as their last, best chance at hollowing out the federal program." The Post notes that the DC Circuit panel "was made up of two Republican and one Democratic appointee," while the Fourth Circuit panel "was comprised of two Democratic appointees and one judge...who was

nominated by a Bill Clinton and then renominated by George W. Bush."

Under the headline "Democrats Still Haven't Learned Obamacare Lesson," Politico (7/23, Nather, Haberkorn, 637K) reports, "Memo to Democrats: This is what happens when you pass a law where you can't fix simple drafting errors." Yesterday's "conflicting rulings were another wake-up call for Democrats about the fragility of the health care law – and a reminder that whenever they think a lawsuit is no threat to the law, it's probably a threat to the law." Adds Politico, "It's all because of what most Democrats insist is a drafting error in the law, but it's kind of a big one." The Federal health insurance marketplace "is now serving 36 states that couldn't or wouldn't set up their own exchanges."

Pete Williams said on MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner (7/22, 437K), "The courts were both in agreement on one thing, that the law is not well-written, that it's not crystal clear from looking at the language whether the Federal exchanges have the option to – the right, the authority to give this subsidy for the insurance that's bought on the Federal exchanges. One court said, 'You know, we look at the law, it ain't there, you just can't do it.' The other court said, 'Well, it's ambiguous, what we do in situations like this is we defer to the agency in charge.' ... That's where the disagreement lies."

The Los Angeles Times (7/23, A1, Savage, 3.42M) also notes "conservative legal groups have argued ever since that 'exchange established by the state' does not include the federal exchange," and "that reading of the law would block insurance subsidies in two-thirds of the nation." The Huffington Post (7/22, Grim, 11.54M) put it differently, reporting that "two Republican judges on the DC Circuit Court have ruled that the equivalent of a typo is enough to strip health care subsidies from up to 5 million people."

The AP (7/23) notes White House spokesman Josh Earnest "immediately announced that millions of consumers will keep getting financial aid for their premiums – billions of dollars in all – as the administration appeals the one adverse decision." McClatchy (7/22, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 23K) notes that Earnest said, "There's a lot of high-minded case law that's applied here. ... There's also an element of common sense that should be applied as well, which is that you don't need a fancy legal degree to understand that Congress intended for every eligible American to have access to tax credits that would lower their health care costs, regardless of whether it was state officials or federal officials who were running the marketplace." Politico (7/23, Cunningham, 637K) notes that DOJ "said it would seek a review of the decision it lost." The Wall Street Journal (7/22, Kendall, Armour, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) quotes DOJ spokeswoman Emily Pierce as saying, "We believe that this decision is incorrect, inconsistent with congressional intent, different from previous rulings, and at odds with the goal of the law. ... In the meantime, to be clear, people getting premium tax credits should know that nothing has changed, tax credits remain available."

USA Today (7/23, Wolf, 5.76M) says "Federal subsidies have reduced monthly premiums by an average of 76% for those with incomes below 400% of the federal poverty line, or $95,400 for a family of four." Overall, "the average monthly premium dropped from $346 to $82."

Reuters (7/23, Morgan, Viswanatha) quotes Speaker Boehner as saying of the DC ruling, "Today's ruling is also further proof that President Obama's healthcare law is completely unworkable. It cannot be fixed." House Minority Leader Pelosi, meanwhile, hailed the Richmond decision, saying it "affirms the intent of the Affordable Care Act: to make quality, affordable health insurance available to every American in every state." McClatchy (7/22, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 23K) notes, however, that "many Democratic lawmakers were largely silent on the court rulings Tuesday."

Politico (7/23, Topaz, 637K), meanwhile, notes that Sen. Ted Cruz "praised" the DC court ruling, saying, "The D.C. Circuit's decision today in Halbig v. Burwell is a repudiation of Obamacare and all the lawlessness that has come with it."

Reid's "Nuclear Option" May Save ACA. Roll Call (7/23, Sanchez, Subscription Publication, 76K) reports Senate Democrats "are hoping their use of the 'nuclear option' to end a Republican blockade of circuit court nominees last year will help overturn" the "2-1 appeals court ruling with the potential to gut Obamacare tax subsidies for millions." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "blasted the court's ruling that Congress only wanted to provide tax subsidies in states with their own exchanges an 'absurd' move by 'two activist Republican judges.'" Asked "if his decision to employ the nuclear option to fill the circuit was vindicated, Reid said based on 'simple

math, you bet.'"

Politico (7/23, Gerstein, 637K) reports "Tuesday's ruling on Obamacare is a dramatic example of why" the President and Reid "forced the issue" of the nuclear option. While "a White House spokesperson declined to comment for this story...one former official involved in the discussions about nominating the three new DC Circuit judges said the strategy is now looking prescient." This unnamed "former official" said the move was "pretty brilliant."

WSJournal Defends DC Court Ruling; WPost, NYTimes Among Critics. In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/22, 4.06M) blames both parties for the DC Court of Appeals ruling, "Democrats who pressed through a bill containing contradictory language," and "Republicans who, in their drive for full repeal, have declined to fix the ambiguities and unintended consequences that turn up in any sizeable piece of legislation." The Post concludes that "given the [law's] contradictions, the administration's interpretation deserves deference," and "the full DC Circuit should reconsider and reverse its panel's 2-to-1 ruling. Then the Supreme Court should let the administration's interpretation stand."

In an editorial titled "An Ominous Health Care Ruling," the New York Times (7/23, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) criticizes the "two Republican-appointed judges on the panel" for "taking an incredibly narrow and blinkered view." Adds the Times, "What is needed is common sense in interpreting the law, not ideological opposition to Obamacare."

The Wall Street Journal (7/23, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), meanwhile, gleefully editorializes that the DC Court's ruling on Halbig v. Burwell is correct, as the Administration argued that the judges should ignore what it casts as the law's specific, unambiguous language.

Jonathan J. Adler, law professor and director of the Center for Business Law and Regulation at Case Western Reserve University, and Michael F. Cannon, director of health-policy studies at the Cato Institute, make a similar argument in the Wall Street Journal (7/23, Adler, Cannon, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), writing that Obama's lawyers made the case that the Administration is actually doing the opposite of what the law states.

The Los Angeles Times (7/23, 3.42M) editorializes, "It's absurd to argue that a Congress controlled by Democrats would have imposed a nationwide mandate to buy coverage while withholding subsidies from some states' residents."

Ron Fournier said on Fox News' Special Report (7/22, 2.15M), "I think the Administration has a low bar to overcome before the Supreme Court. I wouldn't be surprised to see this split pretty much along the lines as it did a couple of years ago. The big issue here is this is another example where Congress isn't functioning well. It's not clear what their intent was. The Administration isn't work well with Congress, so the courts are playing more an active role in legislating one fifth of our economy."

Kirsten Powers said on Fox News' Special Report (7/22, 2.15M) that "both courts, though they ruled differently, agreed on one thing, which is that the language very ambiguous. It's just that one court said we are gong to defer to the IRS the other court said no." Powers added that "if you have two courts saying this is very ambiguous language, then it points to a problem with the bill, that they were not clear enough in what the actual intent here was."

Charles Krauthammer, disagreed, saying on Fox News' Special Report (7/22, 2.15M) that the courts "did not agree that this is ambiguous. One court said it was ambiguous and thus we'll defer to the IRS. The other court said it's not ambiguous. ... The claim of the government is, 'Well it was a drafting error and what we really intended was that it should be for everyone.'" Krauthammer argued that "a drafting error in a bill is still part of the bill and the only instrument in the constitutional system we have that can change an error, drafting or otherwise, is the Congress. It is not the purview, it is not in the power of the executive to fix what's written in the legislation. That's the issue at hand. Of course, the issue in the end, the effect will be on whether Obamacare lives or dies because if the DC court is upheld Obamacare is over."

Kimberly Guilfoyle said on Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (7/22, 2.53M) that Fourth Circuit in Virginia "interpreted in favor of the IRS. I think they did so incorrectly and so now what's going to happen is that the Obama

Administration is going to bring this case forward with respect to the first decision that ruled against them and asked to have that decision heard en banc."

USA Today (7/22, 5.76M) says in an editorial that "the 2-1 opinion – two Republican-appointed judges outvoted one judge appointed by a Democratic president...was hardly fatal," but "the fact that the three-judge panel ruled the way it did is disappointing. The other courts to rule on this challenge, including a federal appeals court in Richmond later on Tuesday, threw it out – appropriately, in our view." Sam Kazman, "general counsel of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a free-market advocacy organization that coordinated and funded both the Halbig and King cases," writes in an accompanying op-ed for USA Today (7/22, Kazman, 5.76M) that the ruling was "a major victory for the rule of law. And correspondingly, the Fourth Circuit's contrary ruling hours later, in King v. Burwell, is a loss."

SENATE DEMOCRATS' BORDER FUNDING REQUEST IS $1 BILLION LESS THAN OBAMA IS SEEKING. On Tuesday, Democratic aides in the Senate outlined a border bill that Senate Appropriations Committee chair Sen. Barbara Mikulski will officially introduce on Wednesday. According to most reports, Mikulski's bill, which requests about 27% less total funding than the White House has asked for in response to the crisis at the border, does not include any changes to a 2008 law widely blamed for incentivizing illegal immigration from Central America, and therefore has very little chance of passage.

The New York Times (7/23, Parker, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that on Tuesday, "both Democrats and Republicans" said "it was increasingly unlikely they could reach an accord before Congress leaves town for a five-week recess at the end of the month." According to the Times, Republicans "rejected" the new proposal from Senate Democrats "out of hand, saying that it amounted to giving the president a blank check because it did not include any changes to immigration law to address the overall problem."

USA Today (7/22, Davis, 5.76M) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Democrats "unveiled a $2.7 billion emergency spending bill to address the flow of undocumented children along the U.S. Southwest border, a billion dollars less than President Obama requested." USA Today notes that "notably absent is a policy change to an existing 2008 law that would make it easier to return the children to their home countries," although the White House wants that change and Republicans consider it a prerequisite for any border funding bill. The Huffington Post (7/22, Foley, 11.54M) notes that while the President "has signaled that he would be willing to change the law, he did not propose doing so in conjunction with his funding request earlier this month."

Politico (7/23, Kim, 637K) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "stressed the need again to provide...additional funding before lawmakers leave for the August recess," and reiterated his contention that the President already "has some discretion under the current 2008 trafficking law to deal with the border crisis." According to Politico, some Democrats in the Senate "believe the 'exceptional circumstances' provisions of the law grant Obama this discretion." Nevertheless, Politico says "GOP support for the Senate Democratic approach is expected to be slim."

The AP (7/23) reports that on Tuesday, Speaker Boehner said, "I don't believe the American people will support sending more money to the border unless both parties work together to address these policies and actually solve this problem."

The Washington Times (7/23, Miller, 465K) reports that on Wednesday, a House Republican task force created by Speaker Boehner will "propos[e] a deployment of National Guard troops and accelerated deportation hearings for unaccompanied children inundating the U.S." The Times adds that "in a move to further enhance border enforcement, the task force will propose lifting restrictions that prevent police and border agents from conducting operations on some federal land."

Senate Democrats' Border Bill Includes $225 Million For Israeli Missile Defense. The Hill (7/23, Bolton, Schroeder, 237K) reports that according to an unnamed "Democratic source," Mikulski "will attach $615 million in emergency funding to combat wildfires and $225 million for Israel's Iron Dome rocket defense system." According to the AP (7/23), "the money for wildfires and for Israel appeared unlikely to sweeten the deal enough for Republicans to swallow it."

ABC News: Analysis "Confirms Super Surge" Of Children Entering The US Illegally This Year. On ABC

World News (7/22, story 7, 0:55, Sawyer), Diane Sawyer reported that "a new analysis confirms a super surge of young children" entering the US illegally so far this year, "a whopping 117 percent increase...of unaccompanied children 12 and younger."

Former Rep. Ernest Istook (R-OK), in a piece for the Washington Times (7/22, 465K), says that according to the Border Patrol, "unaccompanied minors" represent "only one-fourth of the current invasion from Central America across our Southwest border" as "crossings by family units have increased almost five times faster." Istook says "total other-than-Mexican (OTM) apprehensions were 202,951 in the Southwest Border Sector...from Oct. 1 through June 30," and "of those, 57,525 were 'unaccompanied alien children.'" According to Istook, the Border Patrol data "contradicts White House and media efforts to elicit public sympathy by focusing public attention on children."

Homeland Security's Johnson: Immigration Enforcement Agencies Are Running Out Of Money. The Hill (7/23, Schroeder, 237K) reports that on Tuesday, DHS Secretary Johnson "warned Congress that funding to battle illegal immigration could dry up in less than a month if lawmakers fail to approve an emergency spending bill." According to The Hill, Johnson said Immigration and Customs Enforcement will "run out of funds by the middle of August," and Customs and Border Protection will be "out of cash by mid-September."

The Washington Times (7/23, Boyer, 465K) reports that along with Johnson, HHS Secretary Burwell and other Administration officials "lobbied governors of states along the US-Mexico border in a conference call Tuesday to pressure Congress to approve $3.7 billion in emergency funding to deal with the surge of illegal immigrants from Central America."

McConnell Wants Vote On Cruz Bill Limiting Obama's Power To Bypass Immigration Laws. Politico (7/23, Everett, 637K) reports that Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell "won't say whether he backs" Sen. Ted Cruz's proposed legislation limiting the President's "deferred action policies on immigration – but...believes Cruz should get a vote on his proposal." According to Politico, Cruz "is urging Republicans to...prohibit any further expansion of Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a program that shields some young undocumented immigrants from deportation," and "argues that DACA attracts children...to the United States under the mistaken belief that upon entry they will receive...permission to stay in the country." Politico says McConnell "indicated that he agrees with Cruz that the administration's policies are attracting immigrants."

The Hill (7/23, Marcos, 237K) also reports that McConnell "did not endorse Cruz's measure, but indicated senators should still vote on it if they consider a package to provide funds for the border." Reuters (7/23, Cornwell) reports that Sen. John Cornyn who has authored his own bipartisan bill in response to the border crisis, said he agrees with Cruz that one of the main incentives driving the current cycle of illegal immigration is the widespread perception in Central American countries that "if you can make it to the United States, you'll be able to stay."

According to Roll Call (7/23, Subscription Publication, 76K), "at least 33 House Republicans want" the President to "end his executive action that grants stays of deportation for young people brought into the country illegally by their parents, hoping that sends a message to Central American countries that their children won't get a free pass."

New York City And Los Angeles Officials Welcome Illegal Immigrants In Federal Custody. The Wall Street Journal (7/23, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that in contrast to those locales that have discouraged the Federal government from resettling illegal immigrants in their communities, officials in some cities and states are welcoming the foreign nationals who entered the US illegally, including Los Angeles, New York City and the state of Massachusetts.

"Criminal Aliens" Have Committed 640,000 Crimes In Texas In Last Six Years. The Washington Times (7/23, Harper, 465K) reports that according to the state of Texas, "in the past six years, Texas county jails have incarcerated 203,000 'criminal aliens' who have committed 640,000 crimes, including over 3,000 homicides."

Perry Praised For Drawing Attention To Border Crisis And Offering Solutions. Alan Gomez of USA Today (7/22, 5.76M) writes, "Think what you will of" Texas Gov. Rick Perry's "decision to send 1,000 National Guard troops to the state's southern border," but "one thing is certain: Perry's decision shines a bright spotlight on the need to focus on how best to secure our nation's border, an important debate that has been so watered down by

partisanship and political gridlock that the country is only considering quick fixes that will do little to fix the broader problems."

Marcus Mocks White House For Complaining About Sources In Article On Obama's Handling Of Border Crisis. Ruth Marcus, in her column for the Washington Post (7/22, Marcus, 4.06M), chides White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest for criticizing the Washington Post's use of anonymous sources in an article detailing how the Administration "failed to respond forcefully enough, early enough, to the flood of child migrants." Marcus notes that "as Earnest later acknowledged...the article, and it was a powerful one, featured, by name, a former Border Patrol station chief, an immigration rights advocate and a member of Congress – along with official documents and figures." According to Marcus, "Earnest's real beef with an article...wasn't about the unnamed messengers but about the unwelcome message."

Powers: Journalists Should Be Allowed To Interview Central American Children In Federal Custody. Kirsten Powers, in her column for USA Today (7/22, Powers, 5.76M), says Americans "are demanding these tens of thousands of children be turned away at the border or flown back to some of the most violent countries in the world," but "the voices of the children involved are rarely heard" because of "Federal rules" that are "intended to stop the children from becoming political pawns." Powers says those rules have "backfired," and argues that "as long as journalists are blocked from learning the children's true stories, the debate will be dominated by caricatures."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"An Ominous Health Care Ruling."*** In an editorial the New York Times (7/23, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) criticizes the "two Republican-appointed judges" on the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia for "taking an incredibly narrow and blinkered view." Adds the Times, "What is needed is common sense in interpreting the law, not ideological opposition to Obamacare."

"Painful Progress In Detroit." An editorial in the New York Times (7/23, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) says that no one will be happy with Detroit's bankruptcy plan. Starting Aug. 14, Federal bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes will hold a trial "at which the City of Detroit will have to make the case for the blueprint, while objectors argue against it." Regardless of the result. "there will be no victories." The Times notes that there is "no doubt that municipal pensioners who voted yes on the blueprint are a more vulnerable constituency than the financial institutions that voted no," adding that their "no votes on the blueprint — and their probable appeal if Judge Rhodes confirms the blueprint — will only further delay Detroit's restructuring and deepen its misery." While the "outcome is uncertain...one thing is sure: The people of Detroit have suffered enough."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Obama's Passivity On Syria."*** A Washington Post (7/22, 4.06M) editorial says the Obama Administration "appears to be doing little to address" the crisis in Syria. While Secretary of State Kerry "is camped out in Cairo in pursuit of a Gaza cease-fire," there is "no senior envoy...trying to work out a political formula that would unite moderate Syrian and Iraqi forces against the Islamic State." The President , meanwhile "has devoted a large part of his schedule in recent weeks to political fundraising," and has "had nothing to say about Syria or Iraq during recent appearances to discuss Gaza and Ukraine." The Post argues that the President's "decision to stand back from Syria and Iraq has done much to create the present threat to the United States," and ongoing "passivity will only make it worse."

"Contradictory ObamaCare Rulings." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/22, 4.06M) blames both parties for the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruling on the ACA subsidies, "Democrats who pressed through a bill containing contradictory language," and "Republicans who, in their drive for full repeal, have declined to fix the ambiguities and unintended consequences that turn up in any sizeable piece of legislation." The Post concludes that "given the [law's] contradictions, the administration's interpretation deserves deference," and "the full DC Circuit should reconsider and reverse its panel's 2-to-1 ruling. Then the Supreme Court should let the administration's interpretation stand."

"School Organization In D.C." The Washington Post (7/22, Board, 4.06M) editorializes about the opposition of some DC school officials to the decision by Harmony Public Schools, "a Houston-based network known for its high-performing college preparatory schools, to open an elementary school with a STEM (science, technology,

engineering and math) focus across the street from Langley Elementary." The Post argues that "competition generally tends to make people feel threatened," but it is "also healthy, spurring extra effort and better performance," and defends Harmony as having "a proven record of success in STEM education."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Upholding ObamaCare – As Written."*** The Wall Street Journal (7/23, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) gleefully editorializes that the DC Court's ruling on Halbig v. Burwell is correct, as the Administration argued that the judges should ignore what it casts as the law's specific, unambiguous language.

"Give Us Your Donors, Or Else." The Wall Street Journal (7/23, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorializes about efforts by attorneys general in New York and California to force 501(c) groups to disclose the identities of donors in order to raise funds in those states. The Journal notes that these efforts are attempts to end-run Federal law that requires confidentiality of donor names unless the states petition the government for exceptions, and urges courts to rule for the groups in legal challenges to the states' efforts.

"Let Israel Decide." A Wall Street Journal (7/23, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorial argues that a cease-fire now would be a help to Hamas because now that Israel has launched a ground offensive, it will lose if it does not meets its goals of destroying the network of tunnels Hamas uses to enter Israel and destroying Hamas' stockpiles of rockets and storage sites. Israel, the Journal argues, is the best of judge of its progress toward meeting those goals.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Officials Lay Out Case Against Russians
Courts Issue Conflicting Rulings On Health-Law Subsidies
US Bars Flights To Israeli Airport
Regulators Find Litany Of Problems At Deutsche Bank in US

New York Times:
Governor's Office Hobbled Corruption Investigations
Cries Cascade And Converge, Testing Obama
Hamas Gambled On War As Woes Grew In Gaza
US Is Reading Inmates Email Sent To Lawyers
New Questions On Health Law As Courts Differ On Subsidies
Pioneer In City's Race Relations Serves Last Cup

Washington Post:
Rick Perry Moves Past The 'Oops'
For DC Police, A Risky Business
Ruling May Gut Health Law
Potential Shift In Gaza Strip Conflict
US Details Evidence It Says Shows Role Of Rebels, Russia

Financial Times:
EU Rifts Scupper New Russia Sanctions
US Warned Of More Company Tax Relocations
StanChart Expansion Grinds To A Halt
Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Mideast Crisis; Malaysia Flight Crash; Malaysia Flight Crash-Analysis; Brooklyn Bridge Flag Incident; Washington Wildfires; Obamacare Court Rulings; Immigration Crisis; Fruit Recall; Orange Juice Sales; UK-Prince George.
CBS: Mideast Crisis-FAA Flight Ban; Mideast Crisis-Gaza; Mideast Crisis-Kerry; Malaysia Flight Crash Site; Malaysia Flight Crash Investigation; Malaysia Flight Crash-Obama, Putin; Malaysia Flight Crash-Sanctions;

Brooklyn Bridge Flag Incident; Washington-Mudslide Victim Recovered; Washington Wildfires; Global Millionaires Study; UK-Prince George.
NBC: Mideast Crisis-FAA Flight Ban; Malaysia Flight Crash-Flight Path; Malaysia Flight Crash Site; Mideast Crisis-Gaza; Washington Wildfires; California-Football Safety Rules; Brooklyn Bridge Flag Incident; NASA-Apollo 11 Anniversary; NASA-US-Russia Relationship; UK Prince George.

Network TV At A Glance:
Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 – 16 minutes and 10 seconds (00:16:10)
Mideast Crisis – 14 minutes and 25 seconds (00:14:25)
Brooklyn Bridge Flag Incident – 5 minutes and 5 seconds (00:05:05)
Washington Wildfires – 4 minutes and 50 seconds (00:04:50)

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Malaysia Flight Crash Investigation; Mideast Crisis-FAA Flight Ban; Mideast Crisis-Casualties; Washington Wildfires; Obamacare Court Rulings.
CBS: Malaysia Flight Crash-Victims; Malaysia Flight Crash Site; Mideast Crisis-FAA Flight Ban; Obamacare Court Rulings; Donald Sterling; Washington-Mudslide Victim Recovered; Wall Street.
FOX: Mideast Crisis-FAA Flight Ban; Mideast Crisis; George-Primary Runoff Results; Malaysia Flight Crash-Victims' Remains; Maryland-Gun Control Bill-Beretta; Wall Street; Sarah Palin Caught Speeding; Wall Street Journal Hacked;
NPR: Mideast Crisis-FAA Flight Ban; Obama- Malaysia Flight Crash; Obamacare Court Rulings; George-Primary Runoff Results; Maryland-Gun Control Bill-Beretta; Congress-Immigration Funding Request.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President attends a House Majority PAC event, San Francisco, California, closed press; delivers remarks and answers questions at a DCCC event, Los Altos Hills, California, print pool for remarks only; departs San Francisco, open to pre-credentialed media; arrives Los Angeles, open to pre-credentialed media; attends a DNC event, print Pool for remarks only. Notes: Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz will gaggle aboard Air Force One.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President will travel to Las Vegas, Nevada. Later, the Vice President will travel to Cincinnati, Ohio. Highlights: The Vice President will deliver remarks to the NAACP National Convention. His remarks at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center will be open press. The Vice President will deliver remarks at a rally for Congressional candidate Erin Bilbray. This event at the Henderson Convention Center is open press.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. — The Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to S.2569, the Bring Jobs Home bill. Thereafter, Senators proceed to executive session to consider nominations.

DOLE – VETERANS – DISABILITY TREATY — 10:30 a.m. Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Tom Harkin (D-IA), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), and Mark Kirk (R-IL) will join former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) and representatives from major veterans service organizations at a news conference to support Senate ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Location: 430 Dirksen. Contacts: Brian Rogers or Rachael Dean, 202-224-7130

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ANNIVERSARY — 11 a.m. A bipartisan group of conservation leaders in the Senate and House will mark the release of a new report on the Land and Water Conservation Fund's 50th anniversary With Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME); Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM); Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA-8); Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR-4); Former Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, current Managing Director for Public Policy at The Nature Conservancy; Jay Leutze, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Location: 366 Dirksen. Contacts: Justin Bartolomeo, jbartolomeo@hdmk.org, 202-789-4365

SENATE AUTO CAUCUS — 12:30 p.m. Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Carl Levin (D-Mich.), co-chairs of the Senate Auto Caucus, will host a Senate Auto Caucus briefing on educating and training future generations of

auto industry workers. This event is supported by the Association of Global Automakers and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. Panelists: Ford – Curt Magleby, Vice President of Government Relations. Toyota – Robert Chiappetta, Associate Director of Government Affairs. Volkswagen – Gary Booth, Manager of Human Resource Development/Volkswagen Academy; Honda – Fred Payne, General Counsel, Secretary, and Manager of Corporate Affairs at Honda Manufacturing of Indiana. UAW – Josh Nassar, Legislative Director. Location: 385 Russell. Contacts: Caitlin Conant (Sen. Portman), 202-224-5190. Tara Andringa (Sen. Levin), 202-224-6221

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND – SPORTMEN — 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Discussion on Reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the importance for sportsmen. Speakers: Richard Burr, Senator for North Carolina; Jon Tester, Senator for Montana; Mark Udall, Senator for Colorado; Randy Newberg, host of the Sportsman Channels "Fresh Track with Randy Newberg." CONTACT: Emily Black, eblack@skdknick.com, 202-464-6956. Location: Capitol Visitor Center (SVC 208).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Executive Session. Agenda: 1) S. 315, Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education (MD-CARE) Amendments of 2013; 2) S. 2154, Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act of 2014; 3) S. 531, Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act; 4) S. 2405, Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act; 5) S. 2406, Improving Trauma Care Act of 2014; 6) S. 2539, Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014; 7) S.2511, A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974; 8) Any nominations cleared for action. Location: 430 Dirksen. Notes: Time: TBD – in conjunction with votes. Place: Off the Floor.

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY — 9:30 a.m. Hearing, "Meeting the Challenges of Feeding America's School Children." Witnesses: Betti Wiggins, Executive Director, Office of Food Services, Detroit Public Schools, Detroit, MI; Scott Clements, Director, Office of Healthy Schools and Child Nutrition, Mississippi Department of Education, Jackson, MS; Julia Bauscher, President-Elect; Director of School and Community Nutrition Services, School Nutrition Association; Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, KY; Katie Wilson, Executive Director, National Food Service Management Institute, University of Mississippi, University, MS; Phil Muir, President and CEO, Muir Copper Canyon Farms, Salt Lake City, UT. http://www.ag.senate.gov/hearings/meeting-the-challenges-of-feeding-americas-school-children. Location: 328A Russell.

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — Oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed carbon pollution standards for existing power plants. Witness: EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_id=8655edd9-03ac-bb36-cab8-7913ec6c2b94. Location: 406 Dirksen.

FINANCE — 10 a.m. Saving for an Uncertain Future: How the ABLE Act can Help People with Disabilities and their Families. Witnesses: Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Member (WA-5), United States House of Representatives, Spokane, WA; Sara C. Wolff, Self-Advocate and Board Member, National Down Syndrome Society, Moscow, PA; Robert DAmelio, Volunteer Advocate, Autism Speaks, Charlotte, NC; Chase Alston Phillips, Financial Advisor, Alexandria, VA . http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=838dfbc2-5056-a032-52d6-5cff32022993. Location: 215 Dirksen.

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION — 10 a.m. Hearings to examine S.2516, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, focusing on the need for expanded public disclosure of funds raised and spent to influence Federal elections. Location: 301 Russell.

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP — 1:45 p.m. Hearings to examine empowering women entrepreneurs, focusing on understanding successes, addressing persistent challenges, and identifying new opportunities. Location: 216 Hart. Notes: Time changed from 2:15 p.m.

APPROPRIATIONS — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security hearings to examine insuring our future, focusing on building a flood insurance program we can live with, grow with, and prosper with. Witnesses: Panel I: Robert Menendez, United State Senator, New Jersey. Panel II: Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency. Panel III: Chad Berginnis, Executive Director, Association of State

Floodplain Managers; Patricia Templeton-Jones, Property Casualty Insurers Association of America; Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Wright National Flood Insurance Company; Donna Smith, Chairman, National Association of Realtors Flood Insurance Taskforce; Broker in Charge, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, C. Dan Joyner Realtors. http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/dhs-hearing-insuring-our-future. Location: 138 Dirksen.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — 2:30 p.m. Executive session. Agenda: 1. S. 1804, the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2013. 2. S. 1893, the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act. 3. S. 2030, National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2014. 4. S. 2094, Vessel Incidental Discharge Act. 5. S. 2250, Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014. Location: 253 Russell.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on National Parks Hearings to examine H.R.412, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the mainstem of the Nashua River and its tributaries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S.1189, to adjust the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium, S.1389 and H.R.1501, bills to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System, S.1520 and H.R.2197, bills to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the York River and associated tributaries for study for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S.1641, to establish the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, S.1718, to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, S.1750, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, S.1785, to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in the States of Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, S.1794, to designate certain Federal land in Chaffee County, Colorado, as a national monument and as wilderness, S.1866, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, S.2031, to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, S.2104, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown, S.2111, to reauthorize the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, S.2221, to extend the authorization for the Automobile National Heritage Area in Michigan, S.2264, to designate memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, S.2293, to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, S.2318, to reauthorize the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Act, S.2346, to amend the National Trails System Act to include national discovery trails, and to designate the American Discovery Trail, S.2356, to adjust the boundary of the Mojave National Preserve, S.2392, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S.2576, to establish the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and S.2602, to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington. http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings? ID=e67141a9-1523-4a19-b6f8-d2c12f30a4d1. Location: 366 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight hearing on A More Efficient and Effective Government: The National Technical Information Service. Witness: Valerie Melvin, Director, Information Management and Human Capitol Issues, U.S Government Accountability Office. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/fco/hearings/a-more-efficient-and-effective-government-the-national-technical-information-service. Location: 342 Dirksen.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — 2:45 p.m. Full Committee hearing titled, "The Cruise Passenger Protection Act (S.1340): Improving Consumer Protections for Cruise Passengers." http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=7efa55e4-de05-488f-8eb2-

72290a14da18&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_idb06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a. Location: 253 Russell. Notes: Immediately following the executive session.

INDIAN AFFAIRS — 3:30 p.m. An oversight hearing to examine Indian gaming, focusing on the next 25 years. http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/oversight-hearing-indian-gaming-next-25-years. Location: 628 Dirksen.
US House: 10 a.m. — The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

'ENLIST DUO' WEED KILLER — 10 a.m. At a congressional briefing, prominent doctors, scientists, and business leaders will urge lawmakers to pressure the Obama Administration to reject a proposal to sell a new toxic herbicide, known as "Enlist Duo" – a combination of 2,4-D and glyphosate. With Dr. Philip Landrigan, Dean for Global Health at Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Dr. Catherine Thomasson, Executive Director at Physicians for Social Responsibility; Doug Gurian-Sherman, Ph. D, Senior Scientist at Center for Food Safety; Gary Hirshberg, Co-founder of Stonyfield Farm and Chairman of Just Label It; John P. Wargo, Ph. D, Professor of Environmental Health and Politics at Yale University. Location: 1302 Longworth (new location). Contacts: Abigail Seiler, 202-547-9359. Sara Sciammacco, 202-939-9122. Notes: RSVP ssciammacco@ewg.org or aseiler@centerforfoodsafety.org if you plan to attend.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS — 10 a.m. Time approximate. House Democratic leaders hold press availability after Caucus meeting. Democratic Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra (CA-34) and Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Joe Crowley (NY-14). Location: HVC-210 alcove stakeout location. Contacts: Daniel Herrera, 202-225-1400

MEDICAID EXPANSION CAUCUS — 10 a.m. Rep. Hank Johnson (GA-04) and Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC-01), along with more than 25 House colleagues, will announce the formation of the State Medicaid Expansion Caucus. Members of the Caucus will highlight "the need for recalcitrant states to expand Medicaid through floor speeches, op-eds, social media posts, discussions with their colleagues and constituents." Location: Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room South, CVC 217.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — 10 a.m. Stakeout with Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), Majority Leader-elect Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Majority Whip-elect Steve Scalise (R-LA), Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS) and Rep. Diane Black (R-TN). Location: Center steps, outside HC-5, US Capitol.

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS – UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE — 12:30 p.m. Members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, faith, labor, and non-profit leaders gather at the House Triangle as part of "Witness Wednesdays" to "stand in solidarity with millions of unemployed Americans." With Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN); Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL); Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI); Cynthia Jarrold, Gamaliel; Pastor Michael Wilker of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation; Tiffany Aurora, American Sustainable Business Council; Betsy Wood, Institute for Policy Studies. Location: House Triangle. Contacts: Mike Casca (Rep. Ellison), 202-225-4755

MILITARY DOGS — 2:30 p.m. Members of Congress, officials of the American Humane Association, US military dogs and their handlers appear on Capitol Hill to highlight efforts to make sure military dogs are returned to the US after their service and reunited with their humans. Location: 210 Cannon. Contacts: Mark Stubis (marks@americanhumane.org), 202-677-4227.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE — 10 a.m. "Improving the Federal Wage and Hour Regulatory Structure." http://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=387870. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Health Roundtable on "21st Century Cures Roundtable on Personalized Medicine." Location: 2123 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, "Modernizing the Business of Environmental Regulation and Protection." http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/modernizing-business-environmental-regulation-and-protection. Location: 2322 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL SERVICES — 10 a.m. A full committee hearing to assess the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act four

years after it was signed into law. Witnesses: Former Chairman Barney Frank; Ranking Member Maxine Waters; Members of the House Committee on Financial Services. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Full committee hearing to examine the terrorist advance in Iraq, led by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and the US response. Witness: Brett McGurk, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iraq and Iran Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, US Department of State. Location: 2172 Rayburn. Contacts: Shane Wolfe, 202-225-5021. Notes: RSVP required by 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 22. The hearing will be webcast at www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

HOMELAND SECURITY — 10 a.m. Hearing: "The Rising Terrorist Threat and the Unfulfilled 911 Recommendation." http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/hearing-rising-terrorist-threat-and-unfulfilled-911-recommendation. Location: 311 Cannon.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 10 a.m. Subcommittee Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans & Insular Affairs legislative hearing on: H. R. 3109 (Young of AK), to assist Alaskan Native Handicrafts.; H. R. 3409 (Fincher), To amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to require that any expansion of a national wildlife refuge must be expressly authorized by statute. The "National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Limitation Act; H. R. 5026 (Gosar)", to prohibit closing or repurposing any propagation fish hatchery or aquatic species propagation program of the Department of the Interior unless such action is expressly authorized by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes. The "Fish Hatchery Protection Act; H. R. 5069 (Fleming)", To amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes. The "Federal Duck Stamp Act". http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=387995. Location: 1334 Longworth.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs, "An Update on the IRS Response to Its Targeting Scandal." Location: 2154 Rayburn.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Aviation Hearing: Domestic Aviation Manufacturing: Challenges and Opportunities. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=387138. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

HOUSE ADMINISTRATION — 10:30 a.m. Hearing: Examining the Voting Process How States Can Build on Recommendations from the Bauer-Ginsberg Commission. Witnesses: Robert F. Bauer, Co-Chair, Presidential Commission on Election Administration; Benjamin L. Ginsberg, Co-Chair, Presidential Commission on Election Administration. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102529. Location: 1310 Longworth.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Hearing: Implementing US Policy in the Arctic. Witnesses: Panel I: Vice Admiral Peter V. Neffenger, Vice Commandant, US Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Jonathan White, Oceanographer and Navigator of the Navy; Director, Space and Maritime Domain Awareness, US Navy; Ambassador David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State. Panel II: Captain Dave Westerholm, USCG Ret., Director, Office of Response and Restoration, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration; Dr. Kelly Faulkner, Division Director, Polar Programs, Geosciences Directorate, National Science Foundation; Ed Fogels, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska. http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=386881. Location: 2253 Rayburn.

WAYS AND MEANS — 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Oversight hearing on the integrity of the administration of the Affordable Care Act's Premium Tax Credit. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) will be the only witness. Location: 1100 Longworth.

SMALL BUSINESS — 1 p.m. Oversight of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs- Part II. Witnesses: Javier Saade, Associate Administrator, Office of Investment and Innovation, United States Small Business Administration; Marie Mak, Acting Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management Team, United States General Accountability Office; Andre Gudger, Director, Office of

Small Business Programs, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense; Dr. Matthew Portnoy, Director, Division of Special Programs, Program Manager, NIH SBIR/STTR, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=384427. Location: 2360 Raybum.

ARMED SERVICES — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, "Adapting US Missile Defense for Future Threats: Russia, China and Modernizing the National Missile Defense (NMD) Act." Location: 2118 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, "The Troubling Case of Meriam Ibrahim," the Sudanese woman sentenced to death for not recanting her faith. Location: 2172 Raybum.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere Hearing: US-Dominican Republic Relations: Bolstering Economic Growth and Energy Independence. Witnesses: Roberto Alvarez Former Ambassador of the Dominican Republic on the Council of the Organization of American States; Santiago A. Canton Executive Director, RFK Partners for Human Rights, Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights; Andres R. Gluski,, Ph.D. , President and Chief Executive Officer, The AES Corporation. Location: 2255 Rayburn. Notes: Room changed from 2172 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources oversight hearing: "American Metals and Mineral Security: An Examination of the Domestic Critical Minerals Supply and Demand Chain". http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=387724. Location: 1334 Longworth

RULES — 3 p.m. Meets on the following measures: H.R. 3393, Student and Family Tax Simplification Act; H.R. 4935, Child Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2014. Location: H-313.
Other: NDIA – TEST & EVALUATION CONFERENCE — July 21 – 23. The 29th annual event held by the National Defense Industrial Association. Theme: "More Efficient and Effective T&E in the Era of Declining Budgets." http://www.ndia.org/meetings/4910/Pages/default.aspx. Location: Westin Hotel, 1400 M St., NW. Contacts: Molly Holt, mholt@ndia.org, 703-247-2572

RURAL OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE — July 23 – 24. The White House Rural Council hosts the inaugural Rural Opportunity Investment ROI conference. http://www.youreventinfo.org/2Day/Agenda.html. Location: Washington Hilton, Terrace Level, in the Columbia Ballroom, DuPont Circle, 1919 Connecticut Avenue.

INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM — 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. The Bipartisan Policy Centers (BPC) American Energy Innovation Council (AEIC) host the Driving Resources into Energy Innovation summit. Highlights: 8:30 a.m. Keynote by Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. 11:30 a.m. Treasury Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Mark Mazur paniticpates in a panel discussion on "Improving Inducements for Energy Innovation." Location: Renaissance Washington, Renaissance Ballroom, 999 Ninth St. NW.

NUCLEAR ENERGY ECONOMICS SUMMIT — 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. US Energy Information Agency Deputy Administrator Howard Gruenspecht and former US NRC Commissioner and Barclays Capital Managing Director James Asselstine headline a one-day Special Summit on Nuclear Energy Economics organized by the US Nuclear Infrastructure Council. Location: The Hotel Monaco, 700 F St. NW. Contacts: Caleb Ward, caleb.ward@outlook.com, 202-270-1690. Notes: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e9fmdnmq6e409e65&llr=b95dyciab

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – BRIDGING THE PACIFIC — 8:30 a.m. Report launch on Bridging the Pacific: The America's New Economic Frontier? Speakers: Wendy Cutler, Acting Deputy US Trade Representative; Charles Boustany, Jr (R-LA), Co-Chair, Friends of the TPP Caucus, US Congress; Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Co-Chair, Friends of the TPP Caucus, US Congress; Paula Stern, Board Director, Atlantic Council; Founder and Chair, The Stern Group, Inc.; Former Chairwoman, US International Trade Comission; Ralph Carter, Managing Director, Trade and International Affairs, FedEx; Kenneth Smith Ramos, Director of the Trade and NAFTA Office, Mexican Ministry of the Economy; Peter Rashish, Atlantic Council Author and Consultant; Senior Trade Advisor, Transnational Strategy Group, LLC; Fran Burwell, Vice President and Director, Transatlantic Relations Program, Atlantic Council; Jason Marczak, Deputy Director, Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center, Atlantic Council. Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor. Contacts: RSVP at press@AtlanticCouncil.org

IMPACT HONORS – LEW — 9 a.m. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew will deliver remarks at the third annual Development Impact Honors recognizing outstanding projects undertaken by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). The event will bring senior leaders of MDBs, members of the development community, and senior government officials together to recognize and promote excellence in reducing poverty and promoting development. Location: US Department of Treasury, Cash Room, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Notes: Members of the media who wish to attend must RSVP by 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 22 to Ronda Buckmon at Ronda.Buckmon@treasury.gov Event will be webcast at: http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/Video-Audio-Webcasts/Pages/Webcasts.aspx

INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE – SANTOS SECOND TERM — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Santos' Second Term: What to Expect? A Conversation: Five Colombian Perspectives: Marta Lucma Rammrez Former presidential candidate; Rafael Pardo, Minister of labor under first Santos administration; Rodrigo Pardo, Director General of Noticias RCN; Rafael Nieto, former vice minister of justice; Fernando Cepeda, Professor at University of Los Andes. Location: Inter-American Dialogue (1211 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 510) Contacts: n/a (meetings@thedialogue.org). Notes: Please note that the event will take place in Spanish.

EPI – TIPPED WORKERS – RAISE — 9:15 a.m. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) and the Restaurant Opportunity Center (ROC) will host a forum to discuss new research on tipped workers and the tipped minimum wage. Speakers: Laura A. Fortman, Deputy Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the US Department of Labor, will open the forum. EPI research associate Sylvia Allegretto and economic analyst David Cooper will present the findings from their report, Twenty-Three Years and Still Waiting for Change. Contacts: Dan Crawford, Donte Donald or Liz Rose, news@epi.org, 202-775-8810. Location: Economic Policy Institute, 1333 H St. NW, Suite 300. Contacts: RSVP to news@epi.org

TRUMP – DC HOTEL PROJECT — 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The Trump family, including Donald J. Trump, Donald Trump Jr., Ivanka Trump and Eric Trump, will be joined by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Mayor Vincent Gray and Dan Tangherlini, administrator of the US General Services Administration, to break ground on Trump International Hotel. Location: The Old Post Office, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. On the Net: http://www.trumphotelcollection.com/ Notes: Media arrivals: 9:15 a.m.

DOLE – VETERANS – DISABILITY TREATY — 10:30 a.m. Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Tom Harkin (D-IA), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), and Mark Kirk (R-IL) will join former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) and representatives from major veterans service organizations at a news conference to support Senate ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Location: 430 Dirksen. Contacts: Brian Rogers or Rachael Dean, 202-224-7130

HERITAGE – US-JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS — 11 a.m. Alliance Challenges in Northeast Asia: Perspectives on US-Japan-South Korea Relations. Speakers: Takeo Kawamura, Member, Japanese House of Representatives. With Commentary by Bruce Klingner, Senior Research Fellow, Asian Studies Center, The Heritage Foundation. http://www.heritage.org/events/2014/07/us-japan-south-korea. Location: Heritage Foundation, Lehrman Auditorium, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE.

STUDENT ART EXHIBIT — 11 a.m. The US Department of Education and the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for an exhibit of art and creative writing by K-12 students who participated in museum education programs organized by 16 college and university art museums in their communities across the country. Location: Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW. Contacts: Press Office (press@ed.gov), 202-401-1576

US MARSHAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN — 11 a.m. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver remarks at a ceremony to unveil the US Marshal Service's 225th anniversary commemorative coin. Location: 7th Floor Conference Room, Justice Department. Notes: Media must RSVP to Stephen Ratner at Stephen.Ratner@usdoj.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 22. Media must enter the department at the visitor's entrance on Constitution Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets. Media may begin arriving at 10:00 a.m. All cameras must be pre-set by 10:45 a.m.

CAPITOL HILL HOT DOG DAY — 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. The American Meat Institute will host its annual Hot Dog

Lunch to celebrate Julys National Hot Dog Month. Five hot dog vendors will serve more than a thousand guests . Participants include: baseball Hall of Famer Steve Carlton as well as former outfielder Ken Griffey Sr. and former first baseman Cecil Cooper; members of the American Meat Institute; and congressional co-hosts Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Okla., and Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn. Location: Rayburn House Office Building Courtyard. Contacts: Eric Mittenthal (emittenthal@meatami.com), 202-587-4238. Janet Riley (jriley@meatami.com), 202-587-4245. Notes: Hot Dog Vendors: Dietz and Watson, Hillshire Brands, Hormel Foods Corporation, Smithfield Foods and Tyson Foods. This is an invitation only event, but all credentialed media are welcome to attend.

SECRETARY DUNCAN – 'LET'S READ!' — 12 p.m. Education Secretary Arne Duncan will visit the National Air and Space Museum for another 2014 Let's Read! Let's Move! field trip event, which is part of a broader initiative to engage youth in summer learning and physical activity. Duncan will join Chief Curator of the National Air and Space Museum Peter L. Jakab, Attorney General Eric Holder, White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, Miss America 2014 Nina Davuluri and Chef Carla Hall from ABC's "The Chew" in reading to the students and encouraging them to stay active and healthy. Location: National Air and Space Museum, 601 Independence Ave. SW. Contacts: Press Office, press@ed.gov, 202-401-1576

NCPA – HEALTH SPENDING BRIEFING — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. A new report from the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) indicates that The recent slowing of health care expenditures is already reversing, and health care spending will continue to rise over the coming years. Speakers: Former Medicare Trustee and NCPA Senior Fellow Thomas Saving; NCPA Senior Fellow Andrew Rettenmaier; NCPA Senior Fellow John R. Graham. Contact: Caytie Daniell: (972) 308-6479 or catherine.daniell@ncpa.org or Brian Williams: (202) 220-3194 or brian.williams@ncpa.org. Location: B-318 Rayburn. On the Net: http://www.ncpa.org/index.php

ITIF – OPEN DATA – SOCIAL IMPACT — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Social Impact of Open Data. Featured speakers include Maureen Ohlhausen, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission. http://www.datainnovation.org/2014/07/the-social-impact-of-open-data/ Location: Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, 1101 K Street, NW Suite 610.

FIREFIGHTING COSTS — 12:30 p.m. At a telephone press briefing, sponsored by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), experts will discuss escalating wildfire suppression costs. Dr. Rachel Cleetus, senior climate economist, Union of Concerned Scientists; Dr. Jason Funk, senior climate scientist Union of Concerned Scientists; Dr. Ray Rasker, executive director, Headwaters Economics; Jim Douglas, director, Interior Department's Office of Wildland Fire; Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.). Contacts: Lisa Numberger, lnumberger@ucsusa.org, 202-331-6959. Notes: Call-in: (866) 814-8449. Call name: Wildfires

RUBIO – CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY — 12:30 p.m. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., will speak about "Strong Values for a Strong America", addressing what the senator perceives as the breakdown of American families, the erosion of values, and the impact these cultural issues have on economic life. The speech will be followed by a panel discussion. The event is being co-sponsored by Catholic University's Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies (IPR) and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Location: Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center, Great Room A, 620 Michigan Ave. NE. Notes: RSVP to Catholic University's Office of Public Affairs at 202-319-5600 or cua-public-affairs@cua.edu by 10 a.m. on July 23.

MILITARY DOGS — 2:30 p.m. Members of Congress, officials of the American Humane Association, US military dogs and their handlers appear on Capitol Hill to highlight efforts to make sure military dogs are returned to the US after their service and reunited with their humans. Location: 210 Cannon. Contacts: Mark Stubis (marks@americanhumane.org), 202-677-4227

NASA-TV — 5:44 p.m. NASA-TV will broadcast the launch and docking of the ISS Progress 56 resupply ship will launch at 5:44 p.m. from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan (3:44 a.m. local time on July 24), with about 5,700 pounds of food, fuel and supplies for the station's Expedition 40 crew. Launch coverage begins at 5:30 p.m. Progress 56 will make its four-orbit, six-hour trip to the space station and dock at 11:28 p.m. Docking coverage will begin at 11 p.m. http://www.nasa.gov/press/2014/july/space-station-cargo-ship-activities-to-air-on-nasa-tv/.U8abX_ldVXE

CAPAL – MENTAL HEALTH — 6 p.m. The Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership's Washington Leadership Program holds a discussion on dealing with mental health within Asian American and Pacific Islander

families and associated cultural and racial factors, and resources available. Location: AARP Headquarters, Brickfield Center, 601 E St. NW), entrance on the corner of 6th and E Streets. Contacts: CAPAL (info@capal.org), 877-892-5427

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE INITIATIVE PUBLIC WORKSHOP — 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the US Capitol. To develop a vision for the future of Pennsylvania Avenue, the National Capital Planning Commission, in partnership with the General Services Administration and the National Park Service, is launching the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative. Location: National Capital Planning Commission, 401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500N. Contacts: RSVP to www.ncpc.gov/rsvp/

ADA EVENT CELEBRATION — 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) hosts a celebration to recognize the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and reflect on the accomplishments of the community in the 24 years since the ADA was passed. RSVP at: http://power.aapd.com/site/Calendar?view=Detail&id=100282. Location: Rooftop of 101 Constitution Ave. NW. Contacts: (202) 521-4313. Notes: This is a ticketed event.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Stephen Colbert: "Another big issue from down there [US/Mexican border], thousands of Central American children pouring over the border and the President is doing absolutely nothing to stop it, and it's no wonder. All that running and jumping onto trains and over fences, I'm sure it's part of the First Lady's 'Let's Move' campaign."

Stephen Colbert: "For months now, we've been sold a bill of goods and these kids are fleeing places back home like San Pedro Sula, Honduras, known as the murder capital around the world. ... Fortunately, Congress sent a seven-member delegation on a fact-finding mission to Honduras and Guatemala, and the truth could not be more what I wanted it to be. According to Congressman Steve Pearce, 'Most immigrants from Central America who are crossing illegally into the United States are driven by economic reasons, not fear of physical danger in their homeland.' That is a welcome relief. I mean, these kids aren't worried about violence, only starvation."

Stephen Colbert: "And folks, you know you can trust Pearce's findings, because he cultivated an intimate understanding of the region during a visit to Guatemala and Honduras over the course of the weekend. It's really all you need. I learned all about the desert by spending a weekend at Burning Man."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to his impending departure from 'The Colbert Show'] "And I have but one regret – Barack Obama will outlast me in office, with two years of no Colbert to rein this man in. By the time he leaves in 2016, everyone in America will be pot-smoking, gay immigrants in a polygamous relationship with a biracial box turtle."

Jimmy Fallon: "Guys, I saw that Hillary Clinton visited the headquarters of Twitter and Facebook yesterday. Yeah. Hillary would have also visited LinkedIn, but she already knows what job she wants."

Jimmy Fallon: "Hillary visited the headquarters of Twitter and Facebook, while Bill visited the headquarters of Tinder and Snapchat."

Seth Meyers: "Today, Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to Egypt and had to pass through a metal detector before he could meet with officials, which is ridiculous. Everyone knows he's made of wood."

Conan O'Brien: "John Boehner is in the news. John Boehner is blaming President Obama for the border crisis. Yeah, he's blaming President Obama for the border crisis. Boehner is also blaming Obama for global warming, tensions in the Middle East, and the latest 'Transformers' movie."

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BISON CONNECT

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, July 24, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jul 24, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL MAKES ROUNDS ON THE HILL TO PUSH FULL FUNDING FOR LWCF. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that "after traveling around the country to tout the successes of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is now making her rounds on Capitol Hill to call for its reauthorization and full funding." Jewell noted that she met Wednesday "with a couple of members of Congress to discuss LWCF and that such meetings will continue through next week." She wouldn't "specify whom she met with but said it was important to sit down with the appropriators, authorizers and 'those who might not understand' the fund's history and its value for home districts."

Meanwhile, the E&E Daily (7/23) reports that a bipartisan group of lawmakers joined environmentalists Wednesday "to call on Congress to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, emphasizing its importance to the recreational industry as the fund hits its 50th anniversary." According to the article, "speaking to a packed Senate hearing room," four legislators, Sens. Susan Collins and Martin Heinrich and Reps. Dave

Reichert and Peter DeFazio, "pointed to parks and public lands in their states as proof that LWCF is successful."

Also, Politico (7/24, Guillén, 637K) reports that "the Land and Water Conservation Fund should be permanently reauthorized and have annual budgeting restored to $900 million, according to a report out today from the LWCF Coalition, an alliance of conservation and recreation groups." The report says that "$18 billion has been diverted over the program's lifetime for other purposes."

Additional coverage was provided by the Seattle Times (7/24, 1.11M) and the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (7/24, 54K).

SENATE BILL INCLUDES OBAMA'S $615 MILLION EMERGENCY REQUEST TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that the Senate's top appropriator on Wednesday will "introduce a bill to approve President Obama's $615 million emergency supplemental funding request to battle wildfires." The measure will "also include the president's request to pay for future wildfires using disaster funds, which is a top priority for conservationists, loggers and sportsmen."

Obama Attributes Western Wildfires To Climate Change. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that President Obama "attributed the West's severe fire season, including the largest wildfire in Washington state history, to climate change yesterday during a fundraiser in the Pacific Northwest." He said, "A lot of it has to do with drought, a lot of it has to do with changing precipitation patterns and a lot of that has to do with climate change."

UCS Report Warns About Costs Of Fighting Wildfires. USA Today (7/24, Rice, 5.76M) reports that on Wednesday, the Union of Concern Scientists warned in a report that "the costs of fighting wildfires are rising dramatically, and could keep climbing in the face of climate change that's contributing to longer fire seasons out West and the spread of housing developments near forests." Senior climate scientists with the group Rachel Cleetus stated, "The annual suppression cost has exceeded $1 billion in each year since 2000." She added that "the actual damage costs — when including lost tourism revenue, the harm caused to public health and expenses related to watershed damage — can dwarf firefighting costs."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the AP (7/24), Reuters (7/24, Cavaliere), the Los Angeles Times (7/24, Ganga, 3.42M), and the Christian Science Monitor (7/23, 566K). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Huffington Post (7/23, 11.54M), The Oregonian (7/24, 827K), the Bristol (TN/VA) Herald Courier (7/24, 81K), and the San Francisco Chronicle (7/24, 2.87M).

SEN. MURKOWSKI PRESSES SECRETARY JEWELL ON KING COVE ROAD. The Alaska Business Monthly (7/24) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski on Wednesday "sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell criticizing her ongoing failure to protect the health and safety of the people of King Cove, Alaska." Her "latest letter comes exactly seven months after Jewell rejected a life-saving road to provide the isolated community with emergency medical access to the all-weather airport in neighboring Cold Bay." Murkowski wrote, "As you are likely aware, the months since your decision have held no small amount of disappointment, frustration, and anguish for those who live in King Cove. Throughout that time, both local leaders and Alaska's elected officials have repeatedly sought to convince you to reassess your position and to fulfill your promises to this remote community. Unfortunately, the record shows that you have not sought to resolve the very real risks residents face, and instead have done little to nothing to actually help them."

Also covering the story is KTVA-TV Anchorage, AK (7/24, 1K).

SEN. UDALL: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION NOT CONSIDERING DESIGNATION FOR VERMILLION BASIN. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that Sen. Mark Udall "strongly dismissed claims by two GOP congressmen who recently suggested the Obama administration is considering designating a sensitive area on the state's northwest side as a new national monument despite local opposition." Udall said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell assured him Tuesday that President Obama will "not use his authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to designate as a national monument the Vermillion Basin, a remote area of northwest Colorado prized by hunters and hikers for its wilderness character." Udall said, "Secretary Jewell confirmed for me today that the Vermillion Basin is not in line for a national monument designation through the Antiquities Act. When exercised in close consultation with the local community, the Antiquities Act is an important tool that has been used throughout Colorado's history to preserve and protect many of the iconic public lands that strengthen our special way of life

and support our outdoor-recreation economy."

SUPPORT SOUGHT FOR EXTENSION OF INVESTORS' VISA, BAR ON POLITICAL ASYLUM. The Marianas Variety (7/24) reports that former Gov. Juan Nekai Babauta has "wrote Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina asking for her assistance in getting support from the Obama administration for the extension of E-2C CNMI-only investors' visa and the bar on political asylum." In an interview, Babauta, said "he sent his request to OIA because he foresees serious problems if the E-2C visa and the prohibition on political asylum are not extended and the CNMI is not exempted from the H visa cap."

RESEARCHERS SAY CAROLINAS MAY FACE BILLIONS IN FLOOD DAMAGE BY 2050. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that "recent reports warn that rising seas are putting the Carolinas at risk for potentially billions of dollars of property and infrastructure damage due to extreme flooding." According to research by Climate Central, "within the next 40 years, property 4 feet above high tide will be in a danger zone in the two states."

PASTORS URGE PROTECTION FOR BROWNS CANYON. In an op-ed for the Denver Post (7/24, Velasquez, Magaña, 923K), pastors Joseito Velasquez and Rigo Magaña, urges protection for Browns Canyon. They argue that we have a moral obligation to protect our public lands.

The piece also appears at the Burlington (CO) Record (7/24).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN RELATIONS. Additional coverage of Native Hawaiian relations was provided by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser (7/24, 379K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS AWARDS PRESERVATION GRANTS FOR BATTLEFIELDS. The Washington Times (7/24, Harper, 465K) reports that the NPS has "awarded 21 preservation grants totaling $1.3 million to preserve, protect, document and 'interpret' 75 of America's significant but endangered battlefields dating from King Philip's War, the Second Seminole War, the Indian Wars, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War." NPSD director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "Preserving these sites for future generations and providing a means for research and interpretation is a fitting way to honor our nation's military heritage and the courage and service of our armed forces."

MEMORIAL HONORING INJURED VETERANS BEING CONSTRUCTED IN DC. The AP (7/24) reports that a new memorial honoring injured veterans is "rising near the National Mall within view of the US Capitol." The American Veterans Disabled For Life Memorial will "be the first memorial in Washington dedicated to veterans who come home with life-changing injuries." The article notes that "it's a project 16 years in the making and is set to be dedicated Oct. 5."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (7/23, 4.06M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/23, 582K), the Huffington Post (7/23, 11.54M), and WJLA-TV Washington (7/24, 125K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPORT SHOWS ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the reporting touting the economic impact of national parks was provided by the Washington Post (7/23, 4.06M), the Washington Times (7/24, 465K), the Washington Examiner (7/24, 335K), the Staunton (VA) News Leader (7/23, 15K), WCAV-TV Charlottesville, VA (7/24, 1K), the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (7/24, 31K), the Charleston (WV) State Journal (7/24, 1K), the Independent Press (NJ) (7/24, 6K), and the Lewiston (ME) Sun Journal (7/22, 22K).

Bureau of Land Management:

MEASURE WOULD ALLOW MUNICIPALS TO PURCHASE FEDERAL LANDS. The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (7/24, 22K) reports that Sens. Harry Reid and Dean Heller are "in the process of completing a discussion draft of the Nevada Sagebrush Landscape Conservation and Economic Development Act." The measure "proposes

creating about 1.5 million acres of sage-grouse habitat in the state." As a part of the legislation, "municipal jurisdictions may be able to purchase certain federal land parcels at no less than fair market value if the bill passes through Congress."

GROUPS OPPOSE WILD HORSE ROUNDUP. The North Country (NY) Gazette (7/23, 59) reports that the Cloud Foundation, "as well as numerous wild horse and animal advocacy groups, condemns the Bureau of Land Management's scheduled roundup which will eliminate all wild horses on 1.2 million acre checkerboard land... within the Great Divide Basin, Adobe Town and Salt Wells Creek Herd Management Areas (HMA)."

BLM TO OPEN WYOMING CAVE WITH FOSSILS. The AP (7/24) reports that "for the first time in more than 30 years, paleontologists are about to revisit one of North America's most remarkable troves of late Pleistocene fossils: The bones of tens of thousands of animals piled at least 30 feet deep at the bottom of a sinkhole-type cave." Now, the BLM is "preparing to reopen a metal grate over the opening" of Natural Trap Cave in Wyoming "to offer scientists what may be their best look yet at the variety of critters that roamed the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains during the planet's last glacial period around 25,000 years ago."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PROPOSES LIMITING SNAKE TRADE. The AP (7/24) reports that "federal wildlife officials recently proposed strict nationwide limits on importing and shipping boa constrictors and four other snake species in an effort to prevent them from being introduced into the wild." The FWS would "prohibit bringing the snakes into the country and shipping them between states except for scientific and educational purposes." The restrictions would "also apply to reticulated python, green anaconda, Beni anaconda and DeSchauensee's anaconda."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (7/23, 4.06M), Fox News (7/23, 6.72M), ABC News (7/24, 3.58M), the US News & World Report (7/23, 645K), and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/23, 582K).

REPORT: PRAIRIE POTHOLE REGION LOSING WETLANDS. The AP (7/24, Burbach) reports that "federal officials and conservationists say a recent report detailing wetland losses in the five-state Prairie Pothole Region over the past decade highlights the need for increased protection for the region that provides breeding and nesting habitat for the majority of the nation's migratory waterfowl." The FWS "released its Status and Trends of Prairie Wetlands report earlier this month that shows that the wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region declined by an estimated 74,000 acres between 1997 and 2009 – an average net loss of 6,200 acres per year – and some conservationists say the trend hasn't slowed." Conservationists and wildlife officials "say more emphasis needs to be put on conservation easements and incentive-based programs that protect wetlands on farmland in the region while reimbursing farmers for lost income."

DOCUMENTS SHOW FWS HAS BEEN DISCUSSING D.C. BOOTH HATCHERY REMOVAL SINCE AT LEAST 2013. The Black Hills (SD) Pioneer (7/24, 11K) reports that "initial documents provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service show that it indeed was discussing, at a minimum, the removal of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery's archives as early as June 2013." According to the article, "the documents, provided through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the service's regional office in Denver, Colo., also show that despite a greater budget for the Fisheries program, the service still intends to reduce its footprint at D.C. Booth regardless of what happens with the federal budget."

FWS APPROVES ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTING FOR ZUNI BLUEHEAD SUCKER. The AP (7/24) reports that "environmentalists are welcoming the US Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to list a rare fish found near the Arizona-New Mexico border as an endangered species." The Center for Biological Diversity petitioned for federal protection for the Zuni bluehead sucker in 2004, and the center's Michael Robinson says "the listing being published in the Federal Registry will help protect the Little Colorado River's headwaters from water withdrawals."

FWS CLOSES COQUILLE POINT STAIRS. The Coos Bay (OR) World (7/24, 34K) reports that the FWS has "closed the south staircase at Coquille Point due to public safety concerns, effective immediately." According to the article, "after inspection and consultation with engineers, the Service has concluded the stairs have suffered structural problems as a result of geologic shifting on the point."

COURT TOSSES PETA SUIT OVER FWS PERMITS. The Courthouse News (7/23, 7K) reports that "the government need not face claims that it illegally granted animal export and import permits without giving activists due notice to contest them, a federal judge ruled." The FWS "issued fifteen permits to the Hawthorn Corporation to export tigers on May 9, 2013." People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals "challenged the permits in August 2013, claiming Fish and Wildlife did not post notice ten days before issuing the permits as required under the Endangered Species Act, and habitually 'grant[s] permits illegally,' the ruling states." US District Judge Royce C. Lamberth in Washington, D.C. sided with the FWS and dismissed PETA's complaint.

FWS PLANS SEA LAMPREY SURVEY FOR MUSKEGON RIVER IN MUSKEGON COUNTY. The MLive (7/24, 474K) reports that an FWS "assessment crew will survey the Muskegon River in Muskegon County between July 30 and Aug. 6 to determine how many sea lampreys are in the river."

US Geological Survey:

PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED TO MONITOR SPRINGS. The Suwannee (FL) Democrat (7/24, 16K) reports that "the Suwannee River Water Management District (District), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and US Geological Survey (USGS) have established a partnership to deploy special equipment to continuously monitor the health of springs within the District." The article notes that the partnership will "use new technologies to provide real-time flow and water quality monitoring at Fanning Springs, Ichetucknee Blue Hole, Madison Blue Spring, Manatee Springs, and Troy Springs."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

STUDY: FEDERAL REGULATIONS ADEQUATELY PROTECT SAGE GROUSE FROM OIL, GAS DRILLING. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that "a new industry-funded study asserts that current federal regulations governing oil and natural gas development in greater sage grouse habitat are more than adequate to protect the bird, eliminating the need to list the grouse under the Endangered Species Act." However, "conservation groups rejected the study's conclusions, arguing instead that regulations administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are insufficient and have allowed large declines in grouse populations and habitat where full-scale drilling is authorized." The article notes that "at issue is a study released" Wednesday "by the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance, which represents more than 400 energy companies that collectively account for nearly a quarter of the nation's natural gas and 21 percent of its oil production."

OSM SLAPS KENTUCKY MINE WITH "CESSATION ORDER" AMID LANDOWNER FIGHT. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that the OSM has "slapped a Kentucky mining company with a 'cessation order' for failing to obtain sufficient landowner consent." OSM's inspection, "filed with the court this week, said OSM has historically deferred to state law on issues dealing with landowner consent as long as it didn't contradict SMCRA." However, "it also found that state regulators should not have allowed mining 'without notice to other surface owners as interested and potentially affected parties and without an opportunity to object to the permitting decision.'"

COURT HALTS DRILLING PERMITS NEXT TO CONDOR HABITAT AT PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK. The AP (7/24) reports that a "California court has delivered a setback to an oil company seeking to drill wells within a few miles of condor habitat at the state's Pinnacles National Park." A Monterey County Superior Court judge held "Monday that authorities in central California should have weighed the long-term environmental impact before they authorized an oil company to drill 15 oil wells next to the park."

KEMPER COUNTY ENERGY FACILITY ON TRACK FOR COMPLETION. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that "the Kemper County Energy Facility – which envisions grabbing 65 percent of the CO2 from a 582-megawatt gasification power plant here – is nearing completion, with hundreds of construction workers on-site." According to the article, "in a tour last week, officials from Southern Co. and its subsidiary Mississippi Power, the developers of the $5.5 billion plant, said they are on track for a May 31, 2015, operation date and plan to begin capturing CO2 at the gasification plant this fall." The article notes that "the Kemper plant is at the center of US EPA's plans to regulate carbon dioxide from new power plants and at the center of global emissions, considering that 'low-rank' coals like Mississippi lignite constitute half the world's coal supply."

Offshore Energy Development:

REVENUE-SHARING BILL DELAYED AMID BACKSTAGE DRAMA. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that "there's little doubt Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) would like to see quick enactment of a bill to send more oil and gas drilling revenues directly to coastal states like her own, but it seems unlikely that such legislation will begin moving through the Senate anytime soon." the article notes that "a combination of factors – Republican desires to not give Landrieu a pre-election win, a crowded slate of legislative priorities, broader Senate dysfunction and practical budgeting considerations – are complicating efforts to schedule one last legislative markup in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that could see action on revenue sharing and liquefied natural gas exports, among other matters." Several Republican aides said Wednesday that Landrieu had "started planning a markup for next week but will have to abandon the effort because of a variety of disagreements within the committee." However, "Democratic aides downplayed those claims, saying no markup had been formally planned and dismissing talk of trouble as mostly rumors."

Also, the E&E Daily (7/23) reports that Landrieu says "she is going to wait until the voters of Louisiana decide whether to send her back to Washington before attempting to push any more ambitious energy legislation through the Senate." Landrieu said "it would be 'presumptuous' to lay out any detailed policy proposals until after the election, in which the three-term Democratic incumbent is facing a tough challenge from Republicans, including Rep. Bill Cassidy." However, "she did reiterate her strong support for expanding energy development offshore Louisiana and on other federal lands and for building the Keystone XL pipeline."

POLL SHOWS VOTER SUPPORT FOR MORE OFFSHORE LEASING. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that "more than two-thirds of American voters support drilling US waters for oil and gas, and the same ratio say they would support candidates who back offshore drilling and more domestic oil and gas production, according to a new poll commissioned by the American Petroleum Institute." API's Upstream Group Director Erik Milito said, "American voters want more oil and natural gas produced here at home but do not see the federal government stepping up. The US today prohibits oil and natural gas development in 87 percent of its offshore territory. Policymakers can show real leadership by opening more offshore areas to exploration and drilling."

Also covering the story are The Hill (7/24, Cama, 237K), the FuelFix (7/23, 7K), and the Christian Science Monitor (7/23, 566K).

THIRTY-FIVE CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMAN STAND AGAINST OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that "a group of House members and senators from California" on Tuesday "urged the Obama administration to block new offshore drilling off the state's coast." Rep. Lois Capps "led the effort by a group of 35 Democratic members who wrote to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer of California joined in the letter, which asked the BOEM "to prohibit new offshore oil and gas lease sales in the Northern California, Central California and Southern California Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas."

Also covering the story is the Law 360 (7/24, 18K).

OREGON, WASHINGTON LAWMAKERS OPPOSE OFFSHORE DRILLING. The North Coast (OR) Citizen (7/24) reports "fourteen members of Congress from Oregon and Washington are pressing the Obama Administration for continued protection of Oregon's and Washington's coasts from offshore drilling." According to the article, "in a letter sent to the Administration Wednesday, July 23, the members urged the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to exclude Oregon and Washington's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Planning Area from any offshore oil and gas lease sales, as outlined under the proposed OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DECISION TO ALLOW SEISMIC TESTING. In an editorial about the decision to allow seismic testing off the Atlantic coast, the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (7/24, 323K) notes that environmentalists are worried about "the welfare of marine life that would be affected by the firing of sonic cannons" and that "offshore drilling for oil and gas could make global warming worse." The paper accepts "the scientific consensus about man-made climate change, but in this case the concern seems misplaced." According to the editorial, "progress on offshore drilling is moving so slowly it makes frozen molasses look volatile." It concludes that "at the current rate, any actual extraction of offshore energy resources probably won't

happen before the heat-death of the universe."

Additional coverage of the decision to allow seismic testing off the Atlantic coast was provided by the State Port Pilot (NC) (7/24), the Surf City (NJ) Sandpaper (7/24), and the Tampa Bay (FL) Times (7/24, 75K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BODY RECOVERED AT AMERICAN FALLS RESERVOIR. The AP (7/24) reports that "a body has been recovered from the shore of American Falls Reservoir in eastern Idaho." The Power County Sheriff's Office in a statement on Wednesday says BOR workers found the body Monday.

Also reporting on the story are the Idaho State Journal (7/24, 54K), KIFI-TV Idaho Falls, ID (7/24, 23K), and KTVB-TV Boise, ID (7/23, 200K).

CALIFORNIA WATER PRICES SOAR FOR FARMERS AS DROUGHT GROWS. Bloomberg News (7/24, Vekshin, 2.76M) reports that "farmers in California's Central Valley, the world's most productive agricultural region, are paying as much as 10 times more for water than they did before the state's record drought cut supply." According to farmers and local water officials, "the surge in water prices stems from the government decision to limit the water they provide." Mat Maucieri, a spokesman for the BOR, said that the rising prices are "a function of supply and demand in a very dry year and the fact that there are a lot of competing uses for water in California."

GROUNDWATER DROPS TO RECORD LOW IN SAN BERNARDINO BASIN. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that "local officials say groundwater levels have hit their lowest point ever in California's San Bernardino Basin area." According to Douglas Headrick, general manager for the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, "the basin is about 500,000 acre-feet below full."

EXPERTS CONCERNED BY TEXAS' DEPENDENCE ON GROUNDWATER. The E&E Daily (7/23) reports that many smaller communities in Texas "gets all of its water from an aquifer beneath it." According to the article, "if their groundwater ever runs out, they would have few other feasible options." The state's "dependence on groundwater concerns some hydrology experts."

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN CRITICIZED. For the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (7/24, 691K), columnist Paul Rockwell writes that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan is "based on a single assumption: that California's water-ecosystem crisis is caused by a lack – a lack – of engineering projects in the Delta watershed." Rockwell argues that the Delta does not need "more steel, more pumps, more cement (and more farmers dispossessed through eminent domain)." He adds that "the entire project goes contrary to the long-held consensus that fishery declines and mass habitat degradation are the direct result of excessive technological interventions in nature's ecosystems."

Empowering Native American Communities:

GROWTH IN INDIAN GAMING TAPERING OFF. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/24, 386K) reports after a long period of robust growth, Indian tribal gaming revenues have leveled off in recent years and face an uncertain future, Congress was told on Wednesday. Indian gaming revenues have plateaued at around $26 billion to $28 billion annually, Kevin Washburn, Interior Department assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, told a Senate panel. Washburn said, "In fact, gaming revenues have been pretty flat since 2007. The days of tremendous growth are probably behind us for Indian gaming."

NIGC REPORTS 0.5 PERCENT GROWTH IN 2013 TRIBAL GAMING REVENUES. The Indian Country Today Media Network (7/23, 45K) reports that "tribal casinos netted $28 billion in revenues in 2013, the National Indian Gaming Commission reported on June 21." Jonodev Chaudhuri, vice chairman of the NIGC, said, "In 2013, the Indian gaming industry saw the growth of its gross gaming revenues for the fourth consecutive year. This stable, positive trajectory underscores the ongoing significance of Indian gaming to larger tribal nation building and self-determination efforts."

POJOAQUE PUEBLO PROPOSES ENDING GAMBLING PAYMENTS. The AP (7/24) reports that Pojoaque Pueblo has "proposed a gambling compact to the federal government that would allow the tribe to stop revenue sharing payments to the state." The Interior Department has "asked Gov. Susana Martinez and Attorney General Gary King to comment on Pojoaque's proposals for casino gambling on tribal lands north of Santa Fe."

Top National News:

OBAMA'S FUNDRAISING CONTINUES TO DRAW SCRUTINY. Just one of Wednesday evening's network newscasts, the CBS Evening News (7/23, story 5, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M), covered the ongoing controversy over President Obama's decision to continue attending fundraisers at a time when there are wars going on in Ukraine and in Gaza, and a crisis at the US-Mexico border. CBS's Scott Pelley reported that "with battles raging overseas," the President "shuttled among fundraisers here at home, two of them today." Pelley then asked rhetorically, "Is now the best time to be on the road?" CBS News White House correspondent Major Garrett went on to note that "since taking office, President Obama has attended 398 fundraisers, nearly twice as many as his predecessor, George W. Bush, at the same point in his presidency." Garrett also reported that an unidentified "senior official" made the case that the President "resists canceling fundraisers or any part of his public schedule to avoid alarming the country during times of uncertainty."

Ed Henry reported on Fox News' Special Report (7/23, 2.15M) that as the President continues his fundraising swing on the West Coast, Republicans "stepped up their attacks, claiming he's not paying enough attention to a range of crises." According to Henry, "publicly," White House officials "say the President is always in contact with his national security team," and "privately say he'd look panicky by adjusting his schedule to every crisis." Henry said that is "a harder case to make...when even senior Democrats like Sen. Dianne Feinstein are now raising questions about his focus." Feinstein was shown saying, "I'm not going to tell the President what to do, but I think the world would very much respect his increased attention on this matter – and I think there ought to be increased attention."

In the first sentence of an article on the President's appearance at a Silicon Valley fundraiser, the San Jose (CA) Mercury News (7/24, Richman, 691K) reports that he has been "criticized for leaving Washington amid an array of international crises." The Mercury News goes on to report that "as the president passed the collection plate...he also had a full plate of international and domestic problems to contend with." Daniel Henninger, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (7/24, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), says the President's decision to keep up his fundraising schedule shows he is less concerned about global unrest than he ought to be.

The AP (7/23) reports that "with his travels coinciding with crises abroad in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip," the President "made a last-minute decision to scrap an appearance with late-night television host Jimmy Kimmel." But the AP adds that "there was still room for some glamour and glitz on the trip." Under the headline, "Obama's Fundraising Tour Rolls Into Hollywood," the Hollywood Reporter (7/24, Daunt, 615K) notes that "this is the president's 18th fundraising trip to Los Angeles since taking office and he's arriving with more than the usual critical baggage."

The Los Angeles Times (7/24, Mehta, Hennessey, 3.42M) reports that on Wednesday in Los Angeles, the President "delivered a tough-love talk to his biggest boosters...telling Democratic donors...that they need to step it up before November if he's going to get much done in his last two years in office." According to the Times, the President "is often candid about what he describes as Democrats' chronic problem...low turnout in midterm elections," and "his remarks Wednesday came with a sharper ribbing for a crowd he seemed to think could take it." The Times says the President told the donors that many Democrats "don't even know there's an election," but "Republicans get to the polls."

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (7/24, Richman, 691K) reports that also on Wednesday, the President "told some of Silicon Valley's richest Democratic donors" that he "needs a Democratic House majority to further rev up the economy." The President is quoted as saying, "I'd love nothing more than a loyal and rational opposition, but that's not what we have right now."

The Daily Caller (7/23, Bloom, 408K) reported that at the DCCC event "hosted by real estate mogul George Marcus" on Wednesday, the President said "politics doesn't work in Washington...because we have one party

that has no agenda other than making government not work; whose primary function, primary purpose right now, if you distill their ideology, comes down to saying no to any efforts to help ordinary families get ahead." The President added, "Some of it is driven by pure political calculation because what they know is if government is not working, people get cynical; and if people get cynical they do not vote; and if people do not vote that advantages them."

The Washington Times (7/23, Chumley, 465K) noted that at a fundraiser on Tuesday in Seattle, the President said, "The problem is not the Republican Party, per se. The problem is this particular group right now – that have kind of gone off the rails."

Politico Analysis: Press Corps Deeply Unhappy Over Being Shut Out Of Obama Events. Under the headline, "Barack Obama Locks Out The Press – Again," Politico (7/23, Dovere, Gerstein, 637K) reported that when the President met "donors from two top Democratic super PACs...the press wasn't invited." According to Politico, "access to the president continues to be limited in ways not seen in previous administrations," and while the "constantly repeated line that they're running the 'most transparent administration in history' tends to prompt snickers," at this point, "it's tipping toward outrage." Christi Parsons, the president of the White House Correspondents Association, is quoted as saying, "We think these fundraisers ought to be open to at least some scrutiny, because the president's participation in them is fundamentally public in nature."

Net Neutrality Activists Claim Obama Has Reneged On His Commitment. The San Francisco Chronicle (7/24, Garofoli, 2.87M) reports that on Wednesday, as the President "attended a $32,400-a-couple fundraiser in Los Altos...roughly 100 net neutrality activists rallied nearby, urging him to do more to ensure the Internet remains a level playing field." The Chronicle notes that as a candidate, Obama "promised at a campaign stop at Google that he would 'take a backseat to no one' in preserving net neutrality," but, according to the Chronicle, "activists allege he has done the opposite."

The Hill (7/24, Hattem, 237K) reports that "the pushback" against the Administration's handling of the issue "has been especially strong in Silicon Valley, where many venture capitalists and startups have warned that FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's plan could allow Internet service providers like Comcast or Netflix to charge websites like Hulu or Netflix to ensure that users have the fast Internet speeds," which "could shut out new innovative companies that can't afford to pay the tolls." According to the San Jose (CA) Business Journal (7/23, Thompson, Subscription Publication, 19K), Wednesday's net neutrality protest was "organized by MoveOn.org."

President Tells Donors They Are "Chronicling The Slow Deterioration Of Barack Obama." The Washington Post (7/23, Zezima, 4.06M) noted that at the fundraiser in Los Altos Hills on Wednesday, the President joked: "I've got so many friends, so many people who have supported me for so long. As I look back, I realize how many of you have pictures of me with no gray hair. You're chronicling the slow deterioration of Barack Obama."

ACA RULING ON HEALTHCARE SUBSIDIES COULD JEOPARDIZE COVERAGE FOR MANY. The New York Times (7/24, Goodnough, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that the ruling this week in Halbig v. Burwell, "in which a panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia found that subsidies could be awarded only in states that set up their own insurance exchanges, raised the possibility that many of the 4.5 million people who were found eligible for subsidized insurance through the federal exchange would drop their new coverage." The Times notes that another Federal appeals court ruled differently on the matter the same day, and the conflicting court rulings "left much unresolved – both cases will be appealed further, and additional cases challenging the subsidies in federal exchange states are still making their way through trial courts in Indiana and Oklahoma."

House Republicans Attack ACA After Court Ruling. The New York Times (7/24, Pear, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that congressional Republicans "resumed their campaign against the Affordable Care Act on Wednesday with new zeal, fired up by a ruling of a federal appeals court panel that said premium subsidies paid to millions of Americans in 36 states were illegal." Republicans "pointed to the ruling as evidence of problems in the law that could not easily be solved." At a Wednesday hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee, Seto J. Bagdoyan, acting director of the forensic audits and investigative team for the Government Accountability Office, testified "that undercover agents had obtained insurance coverage and subsidies using fake documents and fictitious identities. 'The federal marketplace approved coverage for 11 of our 12 fictitious applicants who initially applied online or by telephone,'" Bagdoyan said. House Republicans "seized

on the findings to attack Democrats who voted last year against legislation to require more extensive verification of income and other data used to compute subsidy payments."

WSJournal Urges Quick Supreme Court Appeal Of DC Circuit's ACA Ruling. The Wall Street Journal (7/24, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorializes in favor of an immediate appeal to the Supreme Court of the ruling by a three-judge panel of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals this week that overturned a key provision of the Affordable Care Act. The Journal argues that the Obama Administration is hoping that the full circuit will overturn the panel's ruling, and it urges attorneys for the losing parties to petition the Supreme Court for an expedited appeal.

Dionne: Ruling An Example Of Judicial Activism. In his column for the Washington Post (7/23, Dionne, 4.06M), E.J. Dionne writes that by "effectively gutting the Affordable Care Act on Tuesday, two members of a three-judge panel on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals showed how far right-leaning jurists have strayed" from impartiality. But, Dionne adds, the ruling "is unlikely to stand," as on the same day, "a three-judge panel from the 4th Circuit ruled unanimously the other way, upholding the law." Dionne notes that there is "a good chance that the 11-judge D.C. Circuit will take the decision away from its panel," as it is "virtually certain that a majority of the court's members disagrees with the panel's convoluted reading of the law and wants to avoid creating a needless conflict in jurisprudence with the 4th Circuit."

PRESIDENT SENDS TEAM TO TEXAS TO ASSESS USEFULNESS OF GUARD AT BORDER. Reuters (7/23, Mason) that the President has sent officials from the US Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security to Texas to determine whether the National Guard could be used to help maintain border security after having told Texas Gov. Rick Perry that he was open to the idea. The President is in California and will meet with the heads of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador later this week over the matter of unaccompanied minors immigrating to the US.

Republicans, Democrats Differ Over Approach To Resolving Border Crisis. USA Today (7/23, Davis, 5.76M) reports that Republicans and Democrats in the Congress are offering "competing proposals" to provide additional funding for border security, with Republicans backing a $1.5 billion proposal developed by a task force led by Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) and Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY), which is "less than half" the President's request and also includes some changes to the 2008 William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act to speed the return of minors to their home countries, while Senate Democrats are proposing a $2.7 billion plan, still "$1 billion less than the president's request," but with "no new policies." The division between the parties "makes it increasingly likely" that no approach will be adopted before the August recess.

The New York Times (7/24, Schleifer, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports on the Republican proposal, saying that it is "setting up a standoff" with just "days to resolve" the differences with the Senate Democratic proposal.

The Washington Post (7/24, O'Keefe, Costa, 4.06M) reports that it is "unclear how rapidly the House could advance" the Republican proposal, or whether leaders of both chambers of Congress can reach an agreement before the August recess.

The AP (7/23) reports that Republicans are "having difficulty agreeing even among themselves," with Speaker John Boehner favoring extra funding "to address the border crisis," as well as changes to the 2008 law, while some conservatives appear to oppose such action. Among senators, Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) is proposing a $2.7 billion plan to add "immigration judges, detention facilities and other resources," but opposes changes to the Wilberforce Act, while Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) has argued that the act must be repealed as part of any way forward.

Reuters (7/23, Cornwell) reports on the Senate Democrats' proposal, noting that it is $1 billion less than the President requested. The debate between Republicans and Democrats appears to be focused on whether changes to the law regarding the protection of minors and deportations are necessary to address the current situation.

The Hill (7/24, Lillis, 237K) reports that Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) said yesterday that the President "is flat wrong"

in calling for changes to the Wilberforce Act as a means "to manage the wave of migrant children at the southern border." DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson said Tuesday that the Administration is "in active discussions with Congress" about changing the law. Gutierrez pointed out that the 2008 law simply continued protections enacted by Republicans in the "2002 bill to create the Department of Homeland Security."

The Hill (7/24, Schroeder, 237K) reports that some House conservatives have argued that the current situation is the result of the President's policies, and so it is "his responsibility to solve the problem, not Congress's." Gutierrez is cited as saying that Democrats are "united around resisting changes" to the law. Meanwhile, Speaker Boehner is asking the President "to publicly reiterate his support for the changes."

The AP (7/23) reports that Speaker Boehner, in a letter to the President, has asked him "to declare his support for changing" the law.

The Washington Times (7/24, Miller, 465K) reports that the Republican proposal in the House includes the use of the National Guard to gain "operational control" of the border, while adding "law enforcement operations in Central America and Mexico," as well as speeding "immigration hearings" for unaccompanied minors. Rep. Granger said that the proposal would help bring about the return of the children to central America, saying, "In our personal meetings with the Presidents of Honduras and Guatemala they both stated that they wanted their children back." The Administration is said to be in agreement with Congressional Democrats in opposing changes to the 2008 law.

McClatchy (7/23, Recio, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that Granger said, "Our focus has been to ensure the safety of the children, and it has remained a top priority throughout this process."

The Huffington Post (7/23, Stein, 11.54M) reports that in response to the proposal, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD) has said that Republicans "should not expect many Democratic votes," adding, "I don't think the Senate will take the bill." Hoyer said that according to the President's "top immigration adviser, Cecilia Muñoz," the Administration wants to separate the questions of funding and changes to the law.

Roll Call (7/24, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 76K) reports on Sen. Jeff Sessions' (R-AL) response to the proposal, calling it "a colossal error to pass any kind of legislation that does not prohibit the president from granting legal status to five or six million people, as he's indicated he intends to do," adding, "I'm baffled that the House talking points didn't deal with that." He also issued a statement offering a more detailed response.

Migrants Fear Criminal Violence. The AP (7/23, Perez D.) reports on the experience of some from Honduras who fear criminal violence and yet are being returned by US authorities. In the case described in the article a woman who paid a smuggler to take her and her children to the US, she was returned without having had a hearing before an immigration judge.

Minutemen Founder Calls For Volunteers To Help Patrol Border. The Washington Times (7/24, Chumley, 465K) reports that Minutemen Project founder Jim Gilchrist announced a proposal called "Operation Normandy" to "recruit at least 3,500 volunteers who will go to the border to patrol." He "insisted that the campaign should remain peaceful." He said the volunteers would simply report what they see to the US border patrol.

Local Officials Concerned About Administration Efforts. The Washington Post (7/24, Roig-Franzia, Lowery, Chokshi, 4.06M) reports that the influx of unaccompanied minors and the government's reaction is "forcing an emotional, uncomfortable and politically treacherous conversation on policymakers at every level." The Administration, in its efforts to respond, has "frequently been met by resistance, suspicion or, in some cases, plain old puzzlement" even among Administration supporters. Local Democrats are cited objecting to proposals or expressing concern with secrecy in operations, saying that the public should be informed about what is being done. In response, "Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and other top officials held a conference call with governors on Tuesday."

FBI Reports Frauds Targeting Families Of Some Children In Custody. The New York Times (7/24, Robles, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that the FBI has found that "swindlers" have gained access to "detailed information about migrant children being held at two American military bases" and have made use of it to "lure unsuspecting relatives into paying hefty sums to reunite their families." Such frauds have been "reported in 12

states" according to the FBI. So far, those frauds were all targeted at the families of children "housed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio and at Fort Sill in Oklahoma."

Religious Leaders Call For Aiding Children. The New York Times (7/24, Paulson, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that religious leaders generally have taken up the cause of "trying to mobilize support for the children, saying the nation can and should welcome them." And while they include Jewish leaders, as well as "Unitarian Universalists and Quakers to evangelical Protestants," yet "among the most agitated are Catholic bishops...and leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention." In addition to lobbying government, they are also "offering food, shelter and legal services."

Bush, Bolick Urge President And Congress To Work On Immigration Reform. Jeb Bush and Clint Bolick write in an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal (7/24, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) on the current border problems with unaccompanied minors, blaming the President and Congress for failing to agree on a sound US policy of secure borders and a compassionate response to those seeking to escape violence in their home countries. They argue for expanded visas for those fearing violence, but more vigorous efforts to return home all others. Above all they call for Congressional action to reform US immigration law.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Gov. Cuomo's Broken Promises."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (7/24, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) says that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has failed to keep his campaign promise to "clean up Albany," and is now "looking as bad as the forces he likes to attack." The Times notes that an independent commission created by Cuomo "was not independent, and Mr. Cuomo's aides blocked it whenever it tried to investigate the governor's office or his biggest supporters." The Times adds that after the "abrupt shutdown of the commission in March," Preet Bharara, the United States attorney for the Southern District of New York, "was right to take charge" and demand "all the documents and unfinished work from the commission. Mr. Bharara was right to take charge."

"Iraq's Imperiled Minorities." An editorial in the New York Times (7/24, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) calls on world leaders to join UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Pope Francis, and Chaldean Patriarch Sako in condemning ISIL's crackdown on the Christian residents of Mosul. the Times argues that ending "the persecution of Christians and other minorities is just one more reason Iraq's Parliament needs to choose a new prime minister able to unify the country and lead the military forces to defeat ISIS — as Mr. Maliki is not that person."

"Prosecutors Snooping On Legal Mail." The New York Times (7/24, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that the attorney-client privilege "is the oldest, broadest and most important of all privileges in the American legal system," but "for people sitting behind bars while awaiting trial or appealing a conviction, the attorney-client privilege stops abruptly at the email login screen." The Federal Bureau of Prisons in recent years "has made limited email access available to federal inmates, but the price of that access – as inmates are warned every time they log in – is allowing the government to monitor and read all messages sent and received." Federal prosecutors "in Brooklyn and around the country are taking advantage of this fact, freely accessing emails between inmates and their attorneys." The Times argues that if the Justice Department "refuses to change its policy," Federal judges should "disallow this unprincipled practice," which it sees as "a violation of prosecutors' duty to seek justice."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Hamas's Depraved Strategy."*** The Washington Post (7/24, 4.06M) editorializes that Gaza's population is "fed up with Hamas's rule." The Post says the "next government of Gaza should be one that invests" social services, rather than "tunnels" for attacking Israel.

"Smarter Drug Sentencing." The Washington Post (7/23, 4.06M) editorializes that the "drug war's foremost legacy is a skyrocketing prison population; the number of drug offenders in federal prisons has increased 21 times since 1980." The US Sentencing Commission voted unanimously last week "to give nearly 50,000 inmates the chance to reduce their drug sentences," a move that, along with Attorney General Eric Holder's "push for prosecutors to avoid activating mandatory minimum sentences when charging low-level drug crimes and for an expansion of clemency," begins "to swing the pendulum back from the days of excessive punishment." However, the Post notes that congressional action is still necessary, and endorses two pending bills, the Smarter

Sentencing Act, which "would reform how prisoners are sentenced," and the Recidivism Reduction and Public Safety Act, which "reforms the way prisoners reintegrate into society."

"Chris McDaniel's Last Stand." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/23, 4.06M) discusses Mississippi state Sen. Chris McDaniel's ongoing efforts to prove what he claims was widespread illegal voting in last month's GOP Senate primary runoff won by Sen. Thad Cochran, so that the challenger can contest the outcome of the election. Noting that the challenger's campaign is currently "embroiled in a court fight over unredacted access to original voting records," the Post adds, "If Mr. McDaniel would like to contest the results, he should end his campaign spree and present evidence of widespread fraud. If not, he must do what he should've done a month ago: concede."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Fast-Tracking ObamaCare To The Supreme Court."*** The Wall Street Journal (7/24, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorializes in favor of an immediate appeal to the Supreme Court of the ruling by a three-judge panel of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals this week that overturned a key provision of the Affordable Care Act. The Journal argues that the Obama Administration is hoping that the full circuit will overturn the panel's ruling, and it urges attorneys for the losing parties to petition the Supreme Court for an expedited appeal.

"Saving Taxpayers From Money Funds." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/24, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) praises the SEC for voting to reduce the implied taxpayer safety net around money-market mutual funds. The Journal calls the move a step in the direction of a safer financial system and a victory for taxpayers.

"Putin's Measure Of Obama." The Wall Street Journal (7/24, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorializes that Russian President Vladimir Putin is capitalizing on President Obama's inaction over the Ukraine crisis. The Journal highlights Obama's decision to not make a clear statement about Russia's role in the shooting down of MH-17 as an example.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Arthur T Demoulas Makes Offer To Buy Market Basket
Boston Deploys Goats Against Poison Ivy In Hyde Park
New Curbs Near On Protests At Clinics
Fertility Doctor Allegedly Failed To Report Abuse
A Mellow And Feisty Barney Frank Visits The Hill

Boston Herald:
Expert: Immigration Court Delays Will Lengthen Stay

Wall Street Journal:
New Push To Lure Hamas Into Truce
Tragedy Fails To Quiet Ukraine
How A Louisiana Doctor Got Rich Invoking Anti-Fraud Law
Facebook Answers Critics With Mobile-Ad Surge

New York Times:
Life In A Jihadist Capital: Order With A Darker Side
Senator's Thesis Turns Out To Be Remix Of Others' Works, Uncited
Civilians As Human Shields? Gaza War Intensifies Debate
Swindlers Target Kin Of Migrants
NCAA Players' Winning Streak, Off The Field
Arizona Takes Nearly 2 Hours To Execute Inmate

Washington Post:
In US-Israel Ties, A Mixed Blessing
Food Empire That Reinvented Lima Casts Eye On D.C.
A Big Bang Of A Discovery, Or Dust In The Cosmic Wind?
Military Jets Shot Down In Ukraine
Flood Of Child Migrants Leaves Officials In A Bind

Financial Times:
Fears Rise Of Russia-Fuelled Arms Race
Google Braced For European Showdown
Facebook Rides Boom In Mobile Ads
GSK Cuts Guidance As Profits Slide
China Detains Five In Meat Probe
Goldman Rebuked Over £1m Legal Fees Claim
The Big Test: What Happens When Rates Rise

Washington Times:
Despite Rhetoric, Gun Prosecutions Plummet Under Obama
Conservative Groups Decry Democrats' 'War On Women' Tactic
Kerry Stymied By Messages Of Hamas Support
Whistleblowers Flood VA With Lawsuits Despite Apology
Marco Rubio: US At Social, Moral Crossroads

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: TransAsia Flight Crash; Malaysia Flight Crash; Mideast Crisis; Brooklyn Bridge Flag Incident; Detroit-Self-Defense Case; Performance Enhancing Drugs-Teen Usage.
CBS: Malaysia Flight Crash-Victims; Malaysia Flight Crash Site; Mideast Crisis-Gaza; Mideast Crisis-Kerry; Obama-Fundraisers; TransAsia Flight Crash; Teenager Killed In Plane Crash; NYPD Arrest Investigation; Health-Robotic Surgery; Costa Concordia Recovery; Disabled Veterans Memorial.
NBC: Malaysia Flight Crash-Victims; Ukraine Violence; TransAsia Flight Crash; Mideast Crisis-FAA Flight Ban; Mideast Crisis; Mideast Crisis-ISS Photos; Brooklyn Bridge Flag Incident; Oregon-Lightning Storm; California-Water Restrictions; CDC Fallout; Obamacare Enrollment; Heart Attacks; Costa Concordia Recovery; UK-Paparazzi Lawsuit; Happiest Places In US.

Network TV At A Glance:
TransAsia Flight Crash – 3 minutes, 15 seconds (00:03:15)
Malaysia Flight Crash – 10 minutes, 20 seconds (00:10:20)
Mideast Crisis – 9 minutes, 10 seconds (00:09:10)
Brooklyn Bridge Flag Incident – 3 minutes, 5 seconds (00:03:05)

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Mideast Crisis-FAA Ban Lifted; Mideast Crisis-Cease-Fire Negotiations; Mideast Crisis; Arizona-Prisoner Executed; Brooklyn Bridge Flag Incident.
CBS: Mideast Crisis-FAA Ban Lifted; Malaysia Flight Crash-Victims; Arizona-Prisoner Executed; Teenager Killed In Plane Crash.
FOX: Mideast Crisis-FAA Ban Lifted; Mideast Crisis Casualties; Colorado-Same-Sex Marriage; GM Recalls; Chrysler Recalls; Malaysia Flight Crash Investigation; Senator John Walsh-Plagiarized Thesis; Donald Sterling Case; Florida-Vet Locked Inside Medical Center; Happiest Cities In US.
NPR: Malaysia Flight Crash-Victims; Mideast Crisis-UN Resolution; Mideast Crisis-FAA Ban Lifted; Senate-Highway Trust Fund Deal; Sierra Leone-Top Ebola Doctor Infected; Stubhub Hackers Arrested; Wall Street.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President will visit a community college in Los Angeles to deliver remarks on the importance of job-driven skills training, particularly for fast-growing sectors such as health care. Later, he will attend a DNC event.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President will deliver remarks at the National Urban League's Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. His remarks will be open press.

MICHELLE OBAMA — Mrs. Obama will attend a DNC event in Chicago. This event is pooled press.
US Senate: 9:30 a.m. — The Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2569, the Bring Jobs Home bill.

COONS – MANUFACTURING — 9 a.m. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and leader of the Senates Manufacturing Jobs for America initiative, holds a pen-and-pad press briefing on prospects for additional legislation to help American manufacturers. Location: 127A Russell. Notes: RSVP to Jamie Serlin at Jamie_Serlin@coons.senate.gov.

MINIMUM WAGE — 12 p.m. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Rep. George Miller (D-CA), and Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) will hold a press conference to outline the "growing pay cut faced by low-wage workers" and to call for an increase in the minimum wage. With Brian Tucker, fast food worker and father from Virginia; Chris Sommers, Co-Owner of Euclid Hospitality Group (Pi Pizzeria Restaurants in Washington, D.C. and St. Louis, MO) and Member, Business For a Fair Minimum Wage; Chris Owens, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project (NELP). Location: S-115. Contacts: Franken Press Office, 202-224-2916. Harkin Press Office, 202-224-3254. Miller Press Office, 202-226-0853

CENTRAL AMERICAN OFFICIALS – PHOTO SPRAY — 2:30 p.m. Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Robert Menendez and committee members will meet with the Presidents of Guatemala, Honduras and Foreign Minister of El Salvador. Media can take photos at the top of the meeting. Location: S-116. Contacts: Adam Sharon, adam_sharon@foreign.senate.gov.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES — 10 a.m. Hearings to examine the nomination of Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings? ID=00a47c48-0ca0-4dd6-bcb9-2771cb22958d. Location: 366 Dirksen.

FINANCE — 10 a.m. Social Security: A Fresh Look at Workers Disability Insurance. Witnesses: Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration, Baltimore, MD; Marianna LaCanfora, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Retirement and Disability Policy, Social Security Administration, Baltimore, MD; Rebecca Vallas, Associate Director, Poverty to Prosperity Program, Center for American Progress Action Fund, Washington, DC ; Richard Burkhauser, Professor, Adjunct Scholar, Cornell University, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC. Location: 215 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 10 a.m. Iraq At A Crossroads: Options For U.S. Policy. Witnesses: Panel One: Brett McGurk, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Iraq and Iran, U.S. Department of State; Elissa Slotkin, Performing the Duties of the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense. Panel Two: James F. Jeffrey, Philip Solondz Distinguished Visiting Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Michael D. Barbero, Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (Retired); Dr. Kenneth M. Pollack, Senior Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institute. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/iraq-at-a-crossroads-options-for-us-policy-07-22-14. Location: 419 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — 10 a.m. Full Committee Hearing – The Role of States in Higher Education. http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=b20d709a-5056-a032-5257-2fab93719a1f. Location: 430 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY — 10:15 a.m. Judicial Nominations hearing. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/judicial-nominations_2014-07-24. Location: 226 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 10:30 a.m. Nomination of Anne E. Rung to be Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/nomination-of-anne-e-rung-to-be-administrator-office-of-federal-procurement-policy-office-of-management-and-budget. Location: 342 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia hearing on The Path to Efficiency: Making FEMA More Effective for Streamlined Disaster Operations. Witnesses: John Roth, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Joseph Nimmich, Associate Administrator, Office of Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Christopher Currie, Director, Emergency Management and National Preparedness Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Dr. Daniel Sutter, Professor of Economics, Johnson Center for Political Economy, Troy University. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/emdc/hearings/the-path-to-efficiency-making-fema-more-effective-for-streamlined-disaster-operations. Location: 342 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 3:45 p.m. Nomination of Joseph L. Nimmich to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/nomination-of-joseph-l-nimmich-to-be-deputy-administrator-federal-emergency-management-agency-us-department-of-homeland-security. Location: 342 Dirksen.
US House: 10 a.m. — The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT — 9 a.m. Rep. Jackie Speier (D-San Francisco/San Mateo) and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Manhattan/Queens/Brooklyn) will conduct a United Call to Action and press conference "on the need to pass the Equal Rights Amendment." With Ellie Smeal, President, Feminist Majority; Terry O'Neill, President, NOW; Dr. E Faye Williams, National Chair, National Congress of Black Women; Jessica Neuwirth, Director, ERA Coalition; Desiree Hoffman, Director of Advocacy & Policy, YWCA USA; Leah Meredith, Former GEICO Employee. Location: Front steps of the U.S. Supreme Court. Contacts: Bill Silverfarb, Bill. Silverfarb@mail.house.gov (Rep. Speier), 202-225-3531. Mike Morosi, Mike. Morosi@mail.house.gov, 202-225-7944

SPEAKER BOEHNER — 11:30 a.m. Holds an on-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, located in HVC 114. Contacts: Kevin Smith, Michael Steel, 202-225-0600

RIO GRANDE VALLEY OFFICIALS — 12 p.m. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and members of the Texas delegation hold a photo opportunity with brief remarks at the top of a meeting with officials from the Rio Grande Valley and the Brownsville office of Catholic Charities to discuss the surge in unaccompanied children crossing the southern border. With U.S. Reps. Ruben E. Hinojosa (D-TX); Filemon Vela (D-TX); Joaquin Castro (D-TX); Beto O'Rourke (D-TX); Tony Martinez, Mayor of Brownsville, TX; Rio Grande Valley Officials; Sister Norma Pimentel, Catholic Charities of Brownsville. Location: H-204. Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616. Notes: Press must RSVP to Jorge Aguilar at jorge.aguilar@mail.house.gov. Portable cameras and boom microphones only. Microphones will NOT be able to be placed on the conference table. Portable crews only must stage in the Rayburn Room by 11:45 a.m. and be escorted into H-204 at 12:00 p.m.

WAR ON POVERTY — 12:30 p.m. Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D- Maryland) will join Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Califomia) and Congressman Jim McGovern (D-Massachusetts) in a press call to discuss Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's newest poverty proposal. Contacts: Bridgett Frey, 202-225-5384. Notes: call-in info: 888-790-2047; Passcode: POVERTY

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS – 'WAGE THEFT' — 2 p.m. Members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Demos, CAP, and workers will host a briefing on wage theft. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD); Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN); Karla Walter, Center for American Progress; Robert Hiltonsmith, Demos. Location: 210 Cannon. Contacts: Dan Lindner, 202-225-2435. Mike Casca, 202-225-4755

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 9:30 a.m. Full Committee Business Meeting to consider government accountability legislation. Location: 2154 Raybum.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 9:30 a.m. Full Committee, 'The Federal Trade Commission and Its Section 5 Authority: Prosecutor, Judge, and Jury.' Location: 2154 Rayburn.

VETERANS AFFAIRS — 9:30 a.m. Full committee hearing on Hearing: Restoring Trust: The View of the Acting Secretary and the Veterans Community. Witnesses include Sloan Gibson, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/restoring-trust-the-view-of-the-acting-secretary-and-the-veterans-community. Location: 334 Cannon.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Power, 'Laboratories of Democracy: The Economic Impacts of State Energy Policies.' Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL SERVICES — 10 a.m. As part of the Committee's continuing oversight of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee will hold a hearing with Keith Higgins, Director of the SEC's Division of Corporation Finance, to review the SEC's rule proposals to implement the JOBS Act and the Dodd-Frank Act, proxy advisory firms, as well as Chair Mary Jo White's call for a holistic review of public company disclosure. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

HOMELAND SECURITY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Hearing: "Jihadist Safe Havens: Efforts to Detect and Deter Terrorist Travel." http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=102517. Location: 311 Cannon.

HOMELAND SECURITY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, "Jihadist Safe Havens: Efforts to Detect and Deter Terrorist Travel." Location: 311 Cannon.

INTELLIGENCE — 10 a.m. Business meeting. (Open, will close.) 1) T&T Subcommittee Report, 2) Member Access Requests. Location: HVC-304.

JUDICIARY — 10 a.m. Hearing: Constitutional Solutions to our Escalating National Debt: Examining Balanced Budget. http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx? EventID=102534. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

RULES — 10 a.m. Meets on the following measure: H. Res. ___, Providing for authority to initiate litigation for actions by the President or other executive branch officials inconsistent with their duties under the Constitution of the United States. Location: H-313.

SMALL BUSINESS — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade. Witnesses: John Shoraka, Associate Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development, United States Small Business Administration, Washington, DC; Mark Oestman, Owner, Oestman Farms, LLC, Eckley, CO; Ken Keesaman, Owner, KK Farms Red Angus, Osborn, MO. http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=384538. Location: 2360 Raybum.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Hearing: "Integrated Planning and Permitting Framework: An Opportunity for EPA to Provide Communities with Flexibility to Make Smart Investments in Water Quality." http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=387841. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

WAYS AND MEANS — 10 a.m. Health Subcommittee will hold a hearing to examine the status of the Medicare Advantage (MA) program and the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on the MA program. Location: 1100 Longworth.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa Hearing: The Struggle for Civil Society in Egypt. Witnesses: Panel I: Charles Michael Johnson, Jr., Director, International Security and Counterterrorism Issues, International Affairs & Trade Team, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Panel II: Charles Dunne, Director, Middle East and North Africa Programs, Freedom House; Sam LaHood, Director, Indonesia and Cambodia Program, International Republican Institute, (Former Egypt Country Director,

International Republican Institute); Patrick Butler, Vice President, Programs, International Center for Journalists; Lila Jaafar, Senior Program Manager, National Democratic Institute. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-struggle-civil-society-egypt. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10:15 a.m. Subcommittee on Communications and Technology legislative hearing: H.R. 3670, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2013; H.R. ____, the LPTV and Translator Act of 2014; H.R. ____, the E-LABEL Act. Location: 2322 Raybum.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — 11 a.m. Live from the International Space Station – A live downlink with astronauts: Dr. Steve Swanson, Astronaut, Commander-Expedition 40, International Space Station; CDR G. Reid Wiseman (USN), Astronaut, Flight Engineer-Expedition 40, International Space Station. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 1 p.m. Full Committee markup of H.R. ___, Senior Executive Service Accountability Act, H.R. ___, Federal Records Act Accountability, H.R. 4874, Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome Act of 2014, H.R. 24, Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2014, and a joint staff report entitled "Pseudo-Classification of Executive Branch Documents: Problems with the Transportation Security Administration's Use of the Sensitive Security Information Designation." Location: 2154 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY — 1:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet hearing: "Copyright Remedies." Location: 2141 Raybum.

HOMELAND SECURITY — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, "Threat to the U.S. Homeland: Emerging Nexus Between Foreign Actors, Transnational Criminal Organizations, and Terrorist Organizations in Latin America." Location: 311 Cannon.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation oversight hearing on "Threats, Intimidation and Bullying by Federal Land Managing Agencies." http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx? EventID=388164. Location: 1324 Longworth.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing on The Global Challenge of Autism. Witnesses include Ron Suskind, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and autism advocate. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-global-challenge-autism. Location: 2200 Raybum.

AGRICULTURE — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, and Nutrition Hearing "to examine the role of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in relation to other Federal assistance programs." Location: 1300 Longworth.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia hearing on The Path to Efficiency: Making FEMA More Effective for Streamlined Disaster Operations. Witnesses: John Roth, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Joseph Nimmich, Associate Administrator, Office of Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Christopher Currie, Director, Emergency Management and National Preparedness Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Dr. Daniel Sutter, Professor of Economics, Johnson Center for Political Economy, Troy University. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/emdc/hearings/the-path-to-efficiency-making-fema-more-effective-for-streamlined-disaster-operations. Location: 342 Dirksen.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific hearing: U.S.-India Relations Under the Modi Government. Witnesses: Panel I: Nisha Biswal, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Arun Kumar, Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service and Assistant Secretary for Global Markets, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. Panel II: Sadanand Dhume, Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; Sanjay Puri, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Alliance for U.S. India Business. http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-us-india-relations-under-modi-government. Location: 2172 Raybum.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 3:45 p.m. Nomination of Joseph L. Nimmich to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/nomination-of-joseph-l-nimmich-to-be-deputy-administrator-federal-emergency-management-agency-us-department-of-homeland-security. Location: 342 Dirksen.
Other: OAS MEETINGS — The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) holds two meetings to receive the presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Simon Bolivar. Highlights: 10 a.m. Meeting to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of the Liberator Simon Bolivar. This meeting will be in Simon Bolivar Hall. 6:30 p.m. The Permanent Council receives in protocolary meeting the presidents of El Salvador, Salvador Sanchez Ceren; Guatemala, Otto Perez Molina; and Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernandez, in the Hall of the Americas. (Time changed from 5 p.m.) Location: Organization of American States, 17th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW Contacts: n/a (OASPress@oas.org) Notes: Journalists who wish to cover the meeting with the presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are asked to confirm their attendance in advance to oaspress@oas.org. The meetings will be broadcast live on the OAS Website.

RURAL OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE — July 23 – 24. The White House Rural Council hosts the inaugural Rural Opportunity Investment ROI conference. http://www.youreventinfo.org/2Day/Agenda.html. Location: Washington Hilton, Terrace Level, in the Columbia Ballroom, DuPont Circle, 1919 Connecticut Avenue.

TREASURES FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS — 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. 40 Junior Fellows Summer Interns, along with Library curators and specialists, will present a display of rare and unique items from the Library's collections. Remarks will be delivered at 10 a.m. by Deputy Associate Librarian for Library Services Blane Dessy. NOTE: This private event is open only to members of Congress and their staffs, the James Madison Council, Library staff and invited guests, and the press. Items include: A collection of Mayan "poison flasks dating between 600-900 C.E. that containe physical evidence of tobacco in the ancient culture; A rare 16th-century edition of "Mishneh Torah, a code of Jewish law considered to be the magnum opus of prominent rabbi Moses Maimonides; A rare 17th-century hand-illuminated Persian manuscriptExamples of pulp fiction from the 1930s; A letter From Winston Churchills daughter-in-law, Pamela Digby Churchill, to American diplomat W. Averell Harriman (her future spouse), describing the events of June 6, 1944 (termed D-Day), the Allied invasion of Normandy during World War II; A check from Marilyn Monroe to actor, director and acting teacher Lee Strasberg for $90, Aug. 10, 1955; An audition sheet showing Al Pacinos first audition for the Actors Studio, 1961; Examples of popular comic book editions featuring Batman and the Green Lantern. Location: Room LJ-119, Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First Street, S.E. Contacts: 202.707.2905. Audrey Fischer afis@loc.gov ((202) 707-0022)

AEI – REP. RYAN — 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Expanding opportunity in America: A conversation with House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan. House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) will unveil a new set of policy reforms aimed at reducing poverty and increasing upward mobility throughout America. This year marks the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnsons declaration of the War on Poverty, which promised not only to relieve the symptoms of poverty but also to cure it once and for all. Introduction by the American Enterprise Institute President Arthur C. Brooks. Followed by a panel discussion. Moderator and panelist Robert Doar, American Enterprise Institute. Panelists: Stuart Butler, Heritage Foundation; Ron Haskins, Brookings Institution; Rep. Paul Ryan; Bob Woodson, Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, centered on the policy implications of Chairman Ryans plan. http://www.aei.org/events/2014/07/24/expanding-opportunity-in-america-a-conversation-with-house-budget-committee-chairman-paul-ryan/ Location: EI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

BROOKINGS – AMBASSADOR PASCUAL — 9:30 a.m. The Brookings Institution's Project on International Order and Strategy and Energy Security Initiative along with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace will host a discussion with Ambassador Carlos Pascual, the State Department's special envoy and coordinator for international energy affairs. Ambassador Pascual will give his perspective on the future of international energy resources and policies. Location: 1779 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Notes: If you would like to register for this event, please contact Gail Chalef, Director of Communications for Foreign Policy at (202) 797-4396 or go to http://carnegieendowment.org/events/forms/?fa=registration&event=4513&lang=en.

IMF BRIEFING — 9:30 a.m. Regular press briefing by William Murray, Deputy Spokesman, IMF Communications

Department. Location: Multimedia Center, IMF Headquarters1, 720 19th St. NW. Contacts: Press Center (media@imf.org)

HERITAGE – ENERGY AND TRADE — 10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. "Energy Exports and Free Trade: How the U.S. Can Take Advantage of a Tremendous Opportunity." Featuring U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO); Jamie Webster, Senior Director, Global Oil Markets, IHS; Ross Eisenberg, Vice President, Energy and Resources Policy, National Association of Manufacturers; Scott Lincicome, Adjunct Scholar, Cato Institute. Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE. Contacts: n/a, 202-675-1761

USDOT – HEATSTROKE PRESS EVENT — 10:30 a.m. U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and National Highway Traffic Safety Administrations Acting Administrator David Friedman will join federal officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, child advocates, and early learning providers as part of the "Wheres Baby? Look Before You Lock" public service campaign. The campaign highlights the dangers of children left in hot cars and how parents and the public can better protect our kids. Location: Rosemount Early Childhood Development Center, 2000 Rosemount Ave NW. Notes: All attendees must RSVP to public.affairs@dot.gov. Following the press conference, all participants and press will transition outside for a demonstration on how authorities and EMT professionals respond to a child being left inside a vehicle.

WILSON CENTER – CENTRAL AMERICAN MINORS — 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. "Migration of Central American Minors: Causes and Solutions." Introduction: Cynthia J. Amson, Director, Latin American Program. Speakers: Hugo Martmnez, Foreign Minister, El Salvador; Luis Fernando Carrera Castro, Foreign Minister, Guatemala; Mireya Ag5/8ero de Corrales, Foreign Minister, Honduras. Moderator: Steve Inskeep, Host, Morning Edition, NPR. Location: 6th Floor Flom Auditorium, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Notes: http://pages.wilsoncenter.org/ThreeMinisters_Event-SingleSpeaker_registration.html

CATO – LICENSED TO LIE – DOJ — 12 p.m. Discussion on Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice with author Sidney Powell, with comments by Alex Kozinski, Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; and Ronald Weich, Dean, University of Baltimore Law School. Moderated by Tim Lynch, Director, Project on Criminal Justice, Cato Institute. http://www.cato.org/events/licensed-lie-exposing-corruption-department-justice?utm_sourceCato+Institute+Emails&utm_campaign7dc7bdb0b7-events&utm_mediumemail&utm_term0_395878584c-7dc7bdb0b7-141569086&mc_cid7dc7bdb0b7&mc_eid20513483bd. Location: Cato Institute, Hayek Auditorium, 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

BROOKINGS, CARNEGIE – MILITARY INNOVATION – REP. FORBES — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. The Congressional Role in U.S. Military Innovation : Preparing the Pentagon for the Warfighting Regimes of Tomorrow with Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-Va.). http://www.brookings.edu/events/2014/07/24-congress-and-military-innovation. Location: Root Room, 1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.

IAVA – VETERANS HEALTH CARE — 12:30 p.m. Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing post-9/11 veterans and their families, will launch its 2014 Membership Survey, which details a range of critical issues – from suicide and mental health, to VA disability benefits, military sexual assault, post-9/11 GI Bill, employment, reintegration challenges and more. With Charlie Cook, Editor and Publisher of the Cook Political Report and a political analyst for National Journal magazine; Jackie Maffucci, PhD, IAVA Research Director; Terri Tanielian, Senior Social Research Analyst at the RAND Corporation; Phil Carter, Senior Fellow, Counsel and Director of the Military, Veterans, and Society Program at the Center for a New American Security. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Gretchen Andersen, press@iava.org, 212-982-9699

CAPAL – WHIAAPI LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE — 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) host a roundtable discussion with Kana Enomoto, principal deputy administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Location: National Education Association, 1201 16th St. NW. Contacts: CAPAL (info@capal.org), 877-892-5427

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "I'm Jimmy, I'm the host of the show. Thank you for coming. I'm glad you are here. I'm glad I'm here, too. To be honest, I'm glad anyone is here tonight, because there's a big traffic jam right here in L.A. right now – bigger than usual because President Obama is in town. The President is in town to make everybody late for yoga lattes – is that what he's here for? He's here in L.A. to go to fundraisers, where he will spend the evening pretending to care about what celebrities think."

Jimmy Kimmel: "I feel like the President only comes to L.A. for money. He's like a college student who only comes home to do laundry and steal food from the refrigerator."

Jimmy Kimmel: "They shut down several major streets today for the President and they're going to do it again tomorrow. A good way to ensure that your approval rating remains in the low 40s is to see to it that it takes everybody three-and-a half hours to get home from work."

Jimmy Kimmel: "You know, if he's here for donations, he should just park his motorcade on the 405 and refuse to move until we all chip in to give five million dollars, right?"

David Letterman: "You know Hillary Clinton – they think she's going to run for president. ... Well, a college roommate of Hillary said that she really loves smoking that weed. That they could not keep enough weed around, and don't make the mistake of getting yourself between some weed and Hillary Clinton, because you just get trampled. Weed, weed, weed. So now...maybe she'll be President of the United States, and how about that White House vegetable garden now, ladies and gentlemen?"

Stephen Colbert: "Nation, as I hope you know, America continues to face a border crisis, with thousands of undocumented Central American children pouring over our southern border, and President Obama still rejects my plan to build a kid-apult. The kids will love it. It's got to be safer than those chain things."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to the child immigration crisis] "And folks, it is only going to get worse, with over 52,000 children in Federal custody and as many 90,000 expected by the end of the year. That is a flood. It's like El Niño is raining actual niños."

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, a judge said that Obamacare is an acceptable substitute for state-run health insurance. Yep. He actually said that, 'It's just like Domino's being a good substitute for Pizza Hut.' But then Americans said, 'Well, either way, it's taken you guys way longer than 30 minutes to deliver it, so give us our free healthcare.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Some more political news. In a new interview with NPR, Republican Senator Marco Rubio said that Hillary Clinton is not a candidate for the 21st century. Then he continued his interview on the radio."

Seth Meyers: "Let's start with some political news. Senator Marco Rubio told reporters Hillary Clinton is out of touch with voters and said that she is a 20th century candidate. That's ridiculous. Hillary started campaigning way before the 20th century."

Seth Meyers: "Despite the recent unrest in the Middle East, President Obama's approval rating has stayed constant at 42 percent. Wow. He can't even get that to change."

Seth Meyers: "Vladimir Putin has signed a new law legalizing gambling in parts of Crimea. Although, if you live in Crimea, life's already kind of a gamble."

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Briefing Materials for Monday, July 28, 2014

Ossowski, Elizabeth <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jul 25, 2014 at 5:14 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell,

Attached are your briefing materials for Monday, July 28. These have also been uploaded to Google Drive.

Thank you,

Elizabeth

3 attachments Non-responsive (attachment 3)

7 28 14_1030am_Meetings with Congressman Cole and Chairman Calvert.docx
55K

7 28 14_1215pm_Brown Bag Lunch with BLM Employees.docx
31K

7 28 14_215pm_Call with Dave Noble.doc
35K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

COURTESY VISITS WITH APPROPRIATIONS MEMBERS

DATE: July 28, 2014
LOCATION: Offices in the Longworth and Rayburn House Office Buildings
TIME: See AGENDA
FROM: Pam Haze and Denise Flanagan, PMB; 208-4775 and 208-5308
Rhea Suh, AS-PMB; 208-1927

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of these meeting is to continue to build relationships with members of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. Discussions will focus on the outcome of House action on the 2015 budget, issues of interest to these members, and to highlight two of your legislative priorities—reform of the fire budget and full funding for LWCF.

These members are on the appropriations committee and are generally in support of the fire reform. The Democrats support the proposal and Simpson's legislation. The Republican members cannot say that they differ with the views of Paul Ryan.

July 23 is the 50th anniversary of LWCF passing the House and provides a relevant hook to discuss the need to reauthorize LWCF. The Anniversary of both LWCF and the Wilderness Act being signed into law is September 3rd, 2014. The LWCF authorization will expire in September 2015.

II. AGENDA

Monday, July 28
10:30-11:00 am, 2458 Rayburn, Congressman Cole, R-Oklahoma
11:15-11:45 am, 2269 Rayburn, Chairman Calvert, R-California

Friday, July 25
9:30-10:00 am, 1714 Longworth, Congressman McCollum

III. TALKING POINTS

FIRE:

- We cannot wait another fire season to get a rational budgeting process for fire.
- We need your continued leadership to support the reform. Although the necessary legislative provisions are not in the House Interior bill, we believe they will be in the Senate bill and should be included in a 2015 omnibus.
- There are other vehicles to add this to—or bring it to the floor as a standalone—we are talking with the authorizers and asking for their help.
- Having come from a career in the private sector, one of the biggest surprises I found was that we are in the 'forever' business – and Americans expect us to manage our public

lands for eternity – yet we do so with short-term budgets that provide very little certainty and predictability to help us carry out our missions.

- With wildland fire seasons becoming longer and more intense, we can't follow the status quo when it comes to budgets.

If more details are needed:

- We budget for fire costs using a ten-year average of fire suppression costs. Yet, in a peak season with catastrophic fires, we are forced to move funding from programs across the Interior and U.S. Forest Service budgets to meet the increased costs.
- In 2012, Interior's fire suppression costs were **23 percent higher** than the ten-year average calculation, requiring the Department to transfer funds from other important accounts – including fire preparedness, fuels management, and fire restoration funds.
- In 2013, Interior and Forest Service **redirected or borrowed more than $650 million** to fund increased firefighting costs. Over the last ten years, the two agencies have spent one-third more than was budgeted for firefighting.
- Modeled on the Federal Emergency Management Disaster Relief program, the proposal would change how fire suppression costs are budgeted to treat funding of extreme wildfire seasons in the same way other emergency disaster needs are met.
- The proposal would create a new wildfire cap adjustment – a ceiling, not a funding target – to fund the most severe one percent of fires. **It's worth emphasizing that the most severe one percent of fires cause 30 percent of the annual suppression costs.**

LWCF:

- The Land and Water Conservation Fund improves the quality of life and supports the economy in communities in every State and county. It secures a uniquely American **legacy for our children and grandchildren.**
- LWCF helps support a **$646 billion recreation economy** and one analysis found that for **every dollar invested it returns four to the local economy**.
- **LWCF funds have been spent in every county** across the country since 1964. This is not a fund that helps a few states or localities, but rather it promotes recreation, outdoor activities and conservation across the nation.
- I want to ask for your support for LWCF. We are working diligently with Congress to move this forward in combination with PILT.
- If you can help us, I'd like to work with you.

Additional LWCF facts:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act passed in 1964 by a **visionary, bipartisan Congress**, and signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson
- For the past 50 years, a small portion of the OCS revenues that are collected from oil and gas drilling have been deposited into the Land and Water Conservation Fund. To date a total of $35 billion has been collected. To date a total of $16 billion has been appropriated, leaving an unappropriated balance of nearly $19 billion.
- **The Act authorizes a total of $900 million annually** to provide recreational opportunities and conservation projects for all Americans to enjoy—at no cost to taxpayers.

- **Only once in its 50 year history** has it been fully funded at the authorized level of **$900 million**
- It will expire in 2015 and **President Obama** has proposal to fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund

VI. BACKGROUND

Fire: The Supplemental request submitted by the White House on July 8 for Unaccompanied Children and includes additional suppression funding for the Forest Service and the necessary language for the fire budget reform.

Senator McCain (with support from Senator Flake) introduced an alternative proposal to the Crapo/Wyden proposal and the Simpson proposal, which are both aligned with the Administration's budget and supplemental request. This has created debate about the annual cost our proposal to fund extremely large fire costs from the disaster cap.

House Ranking Member DeFazio is working on getting a discharge petition filed with sufficient signatures to get the fire legislation moved to the House floor for consideration. Republicans are not signing the petition, preventing the discharge, but we are considering if there are Republicans you can ask for their signature on the petition. In your meetings, you should raise this with the House Republicans, and inquire why they are not joining this effort. If they are not going to support the fire reform in Supplemental what do they suggest we need to go to get it on the House Floor?

LWCF: Discussion with House members has been about linking full funding of LWCF with PILT and Secure Rural Schools. There is limited interest to introduce a proposal, as it is likely it would contain provisions that would not be acceptable to the conservation community, Senate or House Democrats. The House appears to be waiting for something to come from the Senate. Our goal is to bolster the support on both sides and find a way to play an active role in moving the idea from the sidelines into the foreground and create support for a proposal that would most likely be moving in the fall – potentially as an addition to a transportation bill or tax extenders.

IV. KEY FACTS/HOT TOPICS

In addition to raising the need for the BLM oil and gas inspection fee, members have key issues that they are likely to raise with you. Below are some of the topics we think will be discussed.

Oil and Gas Inspection Fees

The 2015 budget proposes a fee for oil and gas inspection for onshore operations on public lands paralleling the fee that is charged for inspection of offshore oil and gas operations.

- The offshore fee was instituted in 2012 and has been well supported by industry because it allows for certainty and ongoing support that promotes development within an effective framework of protection for health and safety and the environment.
- It makes sense to charge industry for this very technical, labor-intensive process.
- BLM oversees 100,000 wells and keeping up with the inspection and enforcement workload is challenging within the ever-tightening budget. The oil and gas budget has

declined 20% since 2007 when accounting for inflation. Since 2007, the inspection workload has risen by 41%.

- The fee, and the assurance it would provide for a dependable stream of income to maintain adequate capacity.
- In the absence of sufficient resources to fund these activities, BLM has to redirect from other activities, which could impact ongoing development.

NOTE: The House added funds and a new subactivity for oil and gas inspections and enforcement that funds the program at levels comparable to the proposed inspection fee.

Oil and Gas Management	2014	2015 Request	2015 House Mark	Change House v. 2015 PB	Change House v. 2014
Oil and Gas Management (appropriated)	80,877	53,183	52,657	(526)	(28,220)
Inspection Fees	0	48,000	0	(48,000)	-
Oil and Gas Inspection and Enforcement *	0	0	48,000	+48,000	+48,000
APD Fee Funding	32,500	32,500	32,500	-	-
Subtotal, Available Program Funding	*113,377*	*133,683*	*133,157*	*(526)*	*+19,780*
Offsetting Fees					
APD Offsetting Collections	-32,500	-32,500	-32,500	-	-
Inspection Fee Collections	0	-48,000	0	+48,000	-
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections	*-32,500*	*-80,500*	*-32,500*	*+48,000*	-
Total, Appropriated Funding	**80,877**	**53,183**	**100,657**	**+47,474**	**+19,780**

* House established a new subactivity dedicated to oil and gas inspections

Congresswoman Nita Lowey D-New York:

National Heritage Areas:

- Congresswoman Lowey is an advocate for the National Heritage Areas, specifically the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.
- The National Heritage Areas program has been in place for 29 years and has developed into a partnership program to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources as a practical and meaningful alternative to new park designations.
- The program is comprised of 49 congressionally designated areas.
- The 2015 budget includes $9.2 million for the program, a reduction of $9.1 million from the 2014 enacted level of $18.3 million.
- The Interior bill was amended in Committee action to fund heritage areas at $18.3 million. Congresswoman Lowey was key in restoring funding to the 2014 level at Committee markup.
- The Department values the National Heritage Areas program. The heritage areas promote recreation, outdoor activity, coalesce community preservation efforts, and are good partners to the National Park Service.
- The Department continues to support the extension of authority for expiring areas through language in the Interior bill.

Centennial:

- In 2016, the National Park Service begins its second century of management, with 84 million acres in 401 park units
- We expect a significant increase in visitation and we need to be prepared with visitor programs, functional facilities, and adequate support services.
- The 2015 budget makes a modest down payment on the needs in parks. An increase of $30 million is requested for park operations and $10 million is requested for the NPS Centennial Challenge that will leverage Federal funds with partner contributions.
- The House Committee bill includes the $40 million request. We are very appreciative.
- Our budget also suggested that Congress pass legislation to fund $400 million in mandatory funding for key investments in infrastructure.
- The NPS has a significant backlog in facilities and roads needs and this would improve our ability to address these needs, increase access to parks and park programs, and support the visitation levels we expect in the second century.
- The President's Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative also identified $100 million for investments in park assets.

Highlands Conservation Act:

- Ranking Member Lowey is supportive of the Highlands Conservation Act of 2004, which is designed to assist Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania in conserving land and natural resources in the Highlands region through Federal assistance for land conservation projects.
- Highlands funding is provided to the State to acquire land or an interest in land to permanently protect resources of high conservation value.
- The 2015 budget request did not include funding for the Highlands Conservation program, but the House bill includes $3.5 million for Highlands Conservation grants.

Chairman Ken Calvert R-California:

2015 Appropriations Bill:

- On July 15, the House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2015 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill on a vote of 29-19.
- The bill shifts significant resources to DOI from other agencies, and significantly reduces LWCF and climate change programs as compared to the request.
    - LWCF is reduced from the requested level of $246 million to $101 million, a cut of $145 million.
- The bill includes $11.1 billion, $457.6 million above the 2015 budget request and $562.7 million or 5.3% above the 2014 level for Department of the Interior programs. By comparison the EPA was reduced by 9%.
- The most significant departure from the 2015 request is the inclusion of $442.0 million for Payments in Lieu of Taxes and $63.2 million for similar payments through the National Wildlife Refuge Fund. These funds were not included in the President's 2015 Budget Request and instead a mandatory one-year extension proposal was included for the PILT program. The funding for the National Wildlife Refuge Fund was reduced in the Committee mark-up to $38 million.
- The bill includes an increase of $103 million for the Wildland Fire program, fully funding the ten year average and increasing amounts for hazardous fuels and burned area rehabilitation.

- The bill also increases funds for Indian programs, $80 million above the budget request and $114 million over 2014. The increases are provided for BIE Tribal Grant support, education, and school construction.

Drought:

- Chairman Calvert voted in support of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act, H.R. 3964, sponsored by Rep. Valadeo and passed by the House. This bill includes limitations of Secretarial authority regarding water availability for species protection or restoration in the Central Valley.
- Senator Feinstein issued a strong press statement in opposition to this legislation and alternative legislation.
- The Administration remains committed to an 'all in' approach to the Federal response to drought conditions in the West.
- Interior continues to work closely with the State to ensure a balanced and coordinated approach to provide for the water needs of people, agriculture, businesses, power and the environment.
- Since 1992, Reclamation has invested $524 million in water reuse projects in California through the Title XVI program. In 2013, the 36 Title XVI projects located in California made available an estimated 350,000 acre-feet of recycled water, making an equivalent amount available for other uses and helping diversify the water supply.

Endangered Species Act

- Chairman Calvert would like to explore ways to improve the ESA.
- The Chairman regularly has concerns about the impact of the ESA on the economy. The most recent species being the upcoming listing decision for the sage grouse.
- The 2015 House bill includes a provision to delay the decision for an additional year.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum D-Minnesota:

Indian Programs:

- Congresswoman is an advocate for Indian programs and funding.
- The 2015 bill also increases funds for Indian programs, $80 million above the budget request and $114 million over 2014. The increases are provided for BIE Tribal Grant support, education, and school construction.

School Construction

- The 2015 budget includes $2.3 million for the Beatrice Rafferty school in Maine. Within the constrained budget allowance this is the amount we were able to carve out. Funds will be used to conduct the first phase of construction and site development.
- The Subcommittee increased funding for Indian education, including adding $57.5 million for school construction. This will allow us to complete construction of the three schools that are on our priority list.

Asian Carp:

- Congresswoman McCollum shares a concern for the spread of Asian Carp with her colleagues on the Subcommittee and supports the work of the FWS and the USGS to address the issue.

- Efforts to control and limit the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes and the Upper Mississippi are a significant concern to the Administration.
- The 2015 budget includes an increase of $6.4 million in the budgets of FWS and USGS.
- The USGS is working to develop a chemical control targeting Asian carp, developing lures to help in removal, testing methods to restrict the passage of the fish, and developing early detection tools.
- Additional funds in 2015 will take this research from "proof of concept" to be ready for the field.
- FWS efforts are focused on surveillance and monitoring. This year, FWS opened its laboratory facility in Lacrosse, WI to analyze environmental DNA (eDNA) samples taken from the Great Lakes and its tributaries.

Invasives:

- Congresswoman McCollum shares a concern for the spread of invasive species, not only due to their harm to the ecosystem, but their ability to harm the economy through industries like timer, agriculture, and tourism.
- Congresswoman McCollum believes we need a coordinated plan that includes all levels of government, along with universities, private, nonprofit organizations.
- The 2015 budget request includes $101 million across the Department's bureaus for work related to invasive species.

Congressman Tom Cole R-Oklahoma:

Indian Programs:

- Tom Cole has helped to build support for Indian programs and funding for DOI Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service is a bipartisan priority for the Interior Subcommittee.
- The 2015 bill also increases funds for Indian programs, $80 million above the budget request and $114 million over 2014. The increases are provided for BIE Tribal Grant support, education, and school construction.

School Construction

- The 2015 budget includes $2.3 million for the Beatrice Rafferty school in Maine. Within the constrained budget allowance this is the amount we were able to carve out. Funds will be used to conduct the first phase of construction and site development.
- The Subcommittee increased funding for Indian education, including adding $57.5 million for school construction. This will allow us to complete construction of the three schools that are on our priority list.

Chickasaw National Recreation Area

- Congressman Cole supports the opportunity for tribal-Federal partnership at the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, which is a unit of the National Park Service.
- The Park Service is working on an agreement to formalize the working relationship between the Tribe and NPS. A final draft of the general agreement is with the Chickasaw Nation Governor for signature and is expected to be signed soon.
- The draft agreement has three parts: (1) NPS occupancy of the Chickasaw Nation Visitor Center; (2) sharing of interpretive expertise between Chickasaw National Recreation Area and the Chickasaw Nation; (3) proposed construction of a bridge connecting the

Chicksaw Nation Visitor Center with Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Both parties are supportive of the terms of the draft agreement.

- The park is currently working on an environmental assessment of the proposed bridge project.

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

BROWN BAG LUNCH WITH BLM EMPLOYEES

DATE: July 28, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 12:15PM – 1:15PM
FROM: Janet Lin, COS, BLM (202)208-3801

I. PURPOSE

You will be hosting a brown bag lunch for selected BLM employees in your office. This is one of a series of brown bag lunches you are having with DOI staff. The attendees represent a number of BLM Offices.

II. PARTICIPANTS

John Ajak, *BLM Washington Office*
Petroleum Engineer
John began his career with the BLM at the Jackson, Mississippi Field Office. He is a key player in the redesign of the BLM's oil and gas automated database and the hydraulic fracking rule. A Pennsylvania State University alumnus, John recently completed a Master's Degree in Engineering Management at the George Washington University.

Joe Ashor, *BLM Washington Office*
Wilderness Specialist
Joe began his career in 1985 with the U.S. Forest Service in Western Montana where he served as a Wilderness Ranger and Wilderness Planning Specialist. He was among a team of individuals who pioneered the use of the Limits of Acceptable Change Wilderness Planning System on both U.S. Forest Service and BLM wildernesses. He joined the BLM in 1988 serving as an Outdoor Recreation Planner in Dillon, Montana, followed by Grand Junction, Colorado, and Salem, Oregon. As the manager of the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in Newport, Oregon, Joe managed a historic lighthouse, a large interpretive center, and had over-site over numerous Wild and Scenic Rivers. He has spent the last five years in Washington, D.C. working in the National Landscape Conservation System Directorate where he is currently serving as the BLM's Senior Wilderness Specialist.

Lissa Eng, *BLM Washington Office*
Public Affairs Specialist
Lissa is an AmeriCorps graduate. Her colleagues describe her as an energetic and delightful presence since she joined the BLM in February.

Joe Freeland, *BLM Washington Office*
Senior Advisor, Fire and Aviation Directorate
Joe began his career on the Lincoln National Forest in 1984 and worked primarily on engines, helitack, and prescribed fire projects. Later Joe served in a variety of positions in the BLM in Alaska, New Mexico, Washington DC, Nevada, and Idaho, as an Engine Supervisor, Helitack

Foreman, Hotshot, Fire Control Officer, Fuels Specialist, Fire Management Officer, Fire Program Advisor, and Associate District Manager. Joe is currently the BLM Senior Fire Program Advisor. Professionally, Joe is most proud of developing employees and programs that he works with as well as making a positive difference in long term vegetation management of public lands.

Corey Grant, *BLM Washington Office*
Chief, Business Resources

Corey is the Chief of Business Resources for the BLM. He has over 20 years of government service with the bureau, acting in several capacities including on Type I and II emergency response teams with the National Interagency Fire Center, and Deputy State Director at the BLM Eastern States. Corey is also a United States Marine Corps veteran who served during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Jayme Lopez, *BLM Washington Office*
Realty Specialist

Jayme is a realty specialist with the BLM's National Renewable Energy Coordination Office. The program lead for the Solar and Wind Energy program, Jayme has field experience in both Alaska and California. Over the past three years, Jayme has provided leadership in the preparation of the BLM solar and wind energy regulations and the development of solar and wind energy policies. She is also the point-of-contact for GAO and OIG renewable energy audits.

Sabria Mathis, *BLM Washington Office*
Business Manager, Resources and Planning Directorate

Sabria has been employed with the BLM since 2001, beginning her career as a student intern in the Division of Management Services. She served for six years in the areas of Internal Management Control, OIG GAO Audit, and Organizational Management before moving to the BLM Budget Office where she was responsible for budget formulation, execution, and performance management for several land resource programs. Since 2011, Sabria has served as the Business Manager for the Resources and Planning Directorate, where she oversees the directorate's finances, information resource management, human resource, and administrative support functions. She is a recent graduate of the BLM's Emerging Leaders Program. Sabria Mathis is a native of Washington, DC, and received her B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in 2004. She is an active member of her community and enjoys serving as a mentor and member in several youth and young adult volunteer and outreach organizations.

Markci Metcalf, *BLM Washington Office*
Deputy Ethics Counselor

Markci (pronounced, "Mark–I") is a Delaware native who has been writing poetry and prose since he was a teenager. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Delaware and a law degree from The American University, Washington College of Law. He is a member of the Maryland Bar and serves as the resident expert at the BLM for Ethics. He enjoys traveling, reading, weightlifting, home improvement projects and running with his Jack Russell terrier. He resides in a Maryland suburb.

Michael Martin, *BLM Washington Office*
Division Chief, Human Resources Policy and Programs

As the Division Chief, Michael leads a staff of human resources professionals responsible for the planning, oversight, development and administration of the BLM policies and programs in the areas of classification and pay, recruitment and staffing, executive resources, compensation and benefits, and employee and labor relations. He has over twenty-years of experience in the Federal government, across a broad spectrum of human resources disciplines, equal employment opportunity, mediation, and personnel security, and holds bachelor's degrees from Cleveland State University and Regents College, Master's Degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Master's of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity. Mr. Martin is a veteran of the United States Army, where he served honorably, with distinction, awards and recognition.

Pam Mozina, *BLM Eastern States Office*
Records Administrator – FOIA/Privacy Act Officer

Pam has worked for the Federal Government for over 31 years; 26 of those years with the BLM Eastern States Office. She started as a staff assistant for the Associate State Director prior to accepting the lead assistant position in the Division of Business Practices. After a stint with the General Land Office, Pam moved into the position she holds today. Pam was born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia. She is married with two children.

JoAn Mundt, *BLM Washington Office*
Executive Assistant, Office of Law Enforcement & Security

JoAn has worked as the Executive Assistant for the Office of Law Enforcement & Security since 2008. She is a key asset to the BLM's program which fields a force of approximately 200 Law Enforcement Rangers and 70 Special Agents who enforce a wide range of laws and regulations in the prevention, detection, and investigation of crimes affecting public lands resources. JoAn is a resident of Alexandria, Virginia.

Eric Pagal, *BLM Washington Office*
Procurement Chief

Eric has been the BLM's Procurement Chief for four years and has trained an mentored many acquisition professionals in the BLM and across DOI. Previously, he was a Senior Procurement Policy Analyst at Homeland Security. Eric is a retired Veteran from the U.S. Navy Supply Corps after 24 years. He is an avid motorcyclist.

Karen Prentice, *BLM Washington Office*
National Healthy Landscapes Coordinator

Karen began her BLM career in the Ely District of Nevada, where she served through 2010 in several capacities, including Rangeland Management Specialist, District Noxious and Invasive Weed Specialist, Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Coordinator, and Special Projects Manager. In January 2011, she transferred to Washington, DC, where, as the BLM's National Healthy Landscapes Coordinator, she provides leadership for several aspects of the BLM's landscape approach, including coordinating landscape resiliency activities with internal and external partners and stakeholders, developing national policy on landscape restoration, and supporting development of the BLM's Rapid Ecoregional Assessments. Karen Prentice was

raised in Washington State and received her BA in Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College in 1990.

Kimberly Reed, *BLM Eastern States Office*
Land Law Examiner
Kimberly works in the Division of Natural Resources. She was hired as a Staff Assistant/Management Assistant in 2006 as a Term Appointment, working for the Division of Business Resources. Kimberly was selected for and completed the SCEP program in 2010 and attended the Pathways program in 2012. She holds a Master's in Public Administration and a Bachelor's in Paralegal Studies.

Diane Simpson, *BLM Washington Office*
Realty Specialist
Diane is the BLM's National Land Exchange lead. A Realty Specialist for over 25 years with both the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, she also has extensive experienced in wild land fire, emergency response and disaster relief. She was an Interior lead for the Hurricane Sandy relief effort.

Anthony Small, *BLM Washington Office*
Public Affairs Specialist
Anthony joined the National Reserve earlier this year and recently returned from basic training where he graduated #2 in his class of 540.

Joe Stout, *BLM Washington Office*
Division Chief, Decision Support, Planning and NEPA
Joe plays a leading role in BLM's Planning 2.0 initiative and the Greater Sage Grouse National Conservation Strategy. Previously, Joe served as the Washington Office Planning and NEPA Branch Chief for two years, and as a BLM Washington Office Legislative Affairs Specialist from 2009 through 2010. He began his career at the BLM Colorado State Office as a Planning and Environmental Coordinator from 2001-2005. He then served as the BLM Kremmling Field Office Resource Management Plan Project Manager from 2005-2009.

Gordon Toevs, *BLM Washington Office*
Project Manager, Resources and Planning Directorate
Gordon is the national program lead for the BLM Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) program and is part of the BLM team advancing the landscape approach to public land management. Gordon has led the effort to select core indicators and methods to inform the condition and trend of terrestrial vegetation, in-stream aquatic resources, and sustainable ecosystems. Gordon joined the BLM through the Office of Personnel Management's Presidential Management Fellowship program. He graduated from the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, with a PhD in Soil Science in August of 2006. Gordon grew up on a family farm in Southern Idaho. He and his wife Brenda now live in Lake Ridge, VA, and are the parents of three adult children.

Hang Tran, *BLM Washington Office*
Budget Analyst

Hang came to the BLM from the Department of Homeland Security where she helped to deliver budget and cost effective support services. She has a passion for mastering financial IT systems and building robust financial spreadsheets. Hang has also worked in the private sector for over ten years, and as senior budget and financial analyst she has trained the new hire and junior analysts to ensure financial oversight for multi-million dollar contracts. Hang holds a bachelor's degree in Decision Science Management Information Systems from George Mason University. She considers herself an avid food junkie and loves to spend vacations traveling.

Ryan Witt, *BLM Washington Office*
FOIA Officer

Ryan joined the BLM, Division of IRM Governance, in October 2013, coming from the Office of Personnel Management where he served as a FOIA program lead. For the BLM, he has been instrumental in addressing our FOIA backload and expediting response times. Before joining the Federal government, Ryan worked as a FOIA Specialist and declassification analyst for the private sector. A New York native, Ryan holds a B.A. in International Politics from the Pennsylvania State University.

Status of Appeals

Suh, Rhea <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Jul 26, 2014 at 4:05 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Pam Haze <Pam_Haze@ios.doi.gov>

Dear Sally, Mike and Tommy:

We wanted to provide you a status update on the appeals process thus far. As you may remember, we gave each Assistant Secretary their bureau budget recommendations on Thursday and Friday. We had asked the Assistant Secretaries and bureaus to let us know their appeal items by cob yesterday.

The attached list of appeals summarizes the issues for each bureau and we provide a summary below.

The following bureaus did not appeal: (b)(5) (b)(5)

The appeals we received fall into three categories:

(b)(5)

(b)(5) .

We expect additional information on Monday with respect to all of these appeals and we will be able to analyze them and provide you more then.

Please let us know if you have any questions for now.

Thanks,
Rhea
–
Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1927

Status of Appeals as of July 25.docx
19K

Status of Appeals as of 7/25/14

Bureau and Office lists of proposals were due at 3:00pm. Below is the status as of 5:00pm.

BLM

BOEM

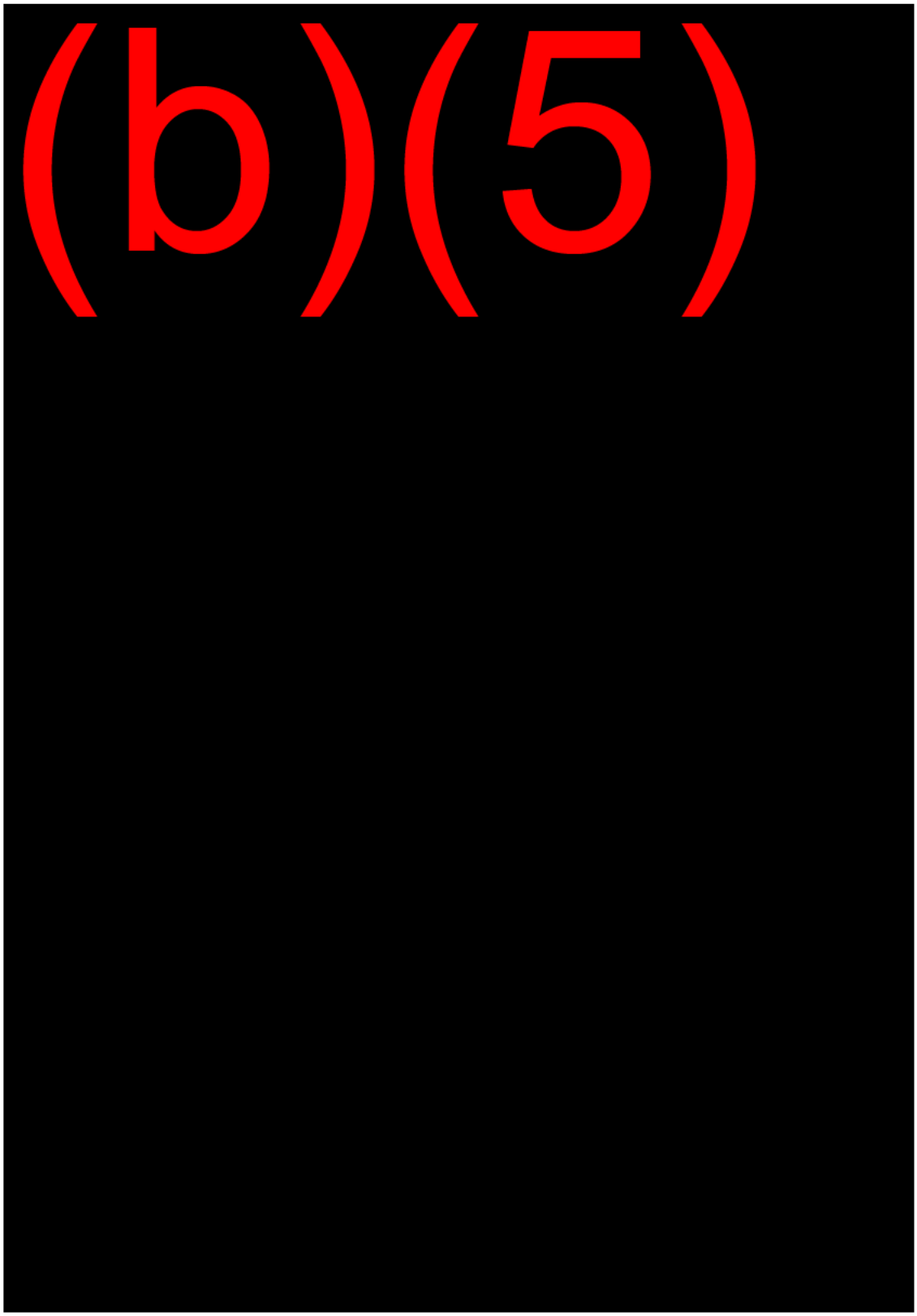
BSEE

OSM

Reclamation

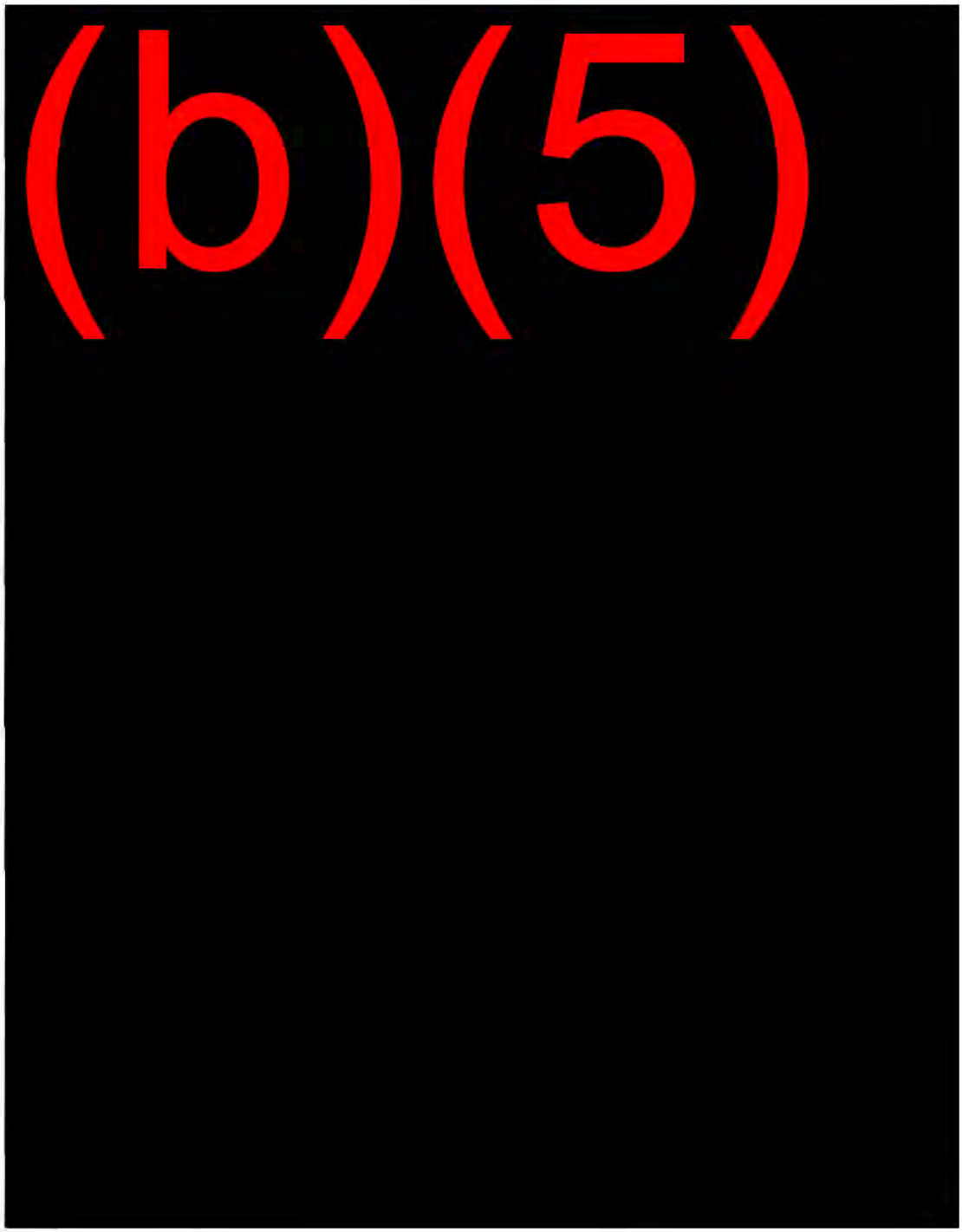
CUPCA

USGS



FWS

NPS



BIA

OS

OIA

SOL

IG

OST

Fire

BISON CONNECT

Re: Status of Appeals

Rhea Suh <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Jul 26, 2014 at 7:20 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Pam Haze <Pam_Haze@ios.doi.gov>

Sally-- no action needed just yet. Wanted you to be aware of the asks as they stand now. We'll try to provide you with a more detailed analysis that will help frame the choices early in the week. Thanks!!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 26, 2014, at 4:58 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> Rhea -
>
> Thanks for the helpful summary. If there is action you would like me
> to take before Monday, please advise. I am here for the weekend.
>
> Sally
>
>> On Jul 26, 2014, at 4:05 PM, "Suh, Rhea" <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>>
>>
>> Dear Sally, Mike and Tommy:
>>
>> We wanted to provide you a status update on the appeals process thus far. As you may remember, we gave each Assistant Secretary their bureau budget recommendations on Thursday and Friday. We had asked the Assistant Secretaries and bureaus to let us know their appeal items by cob yesterday.
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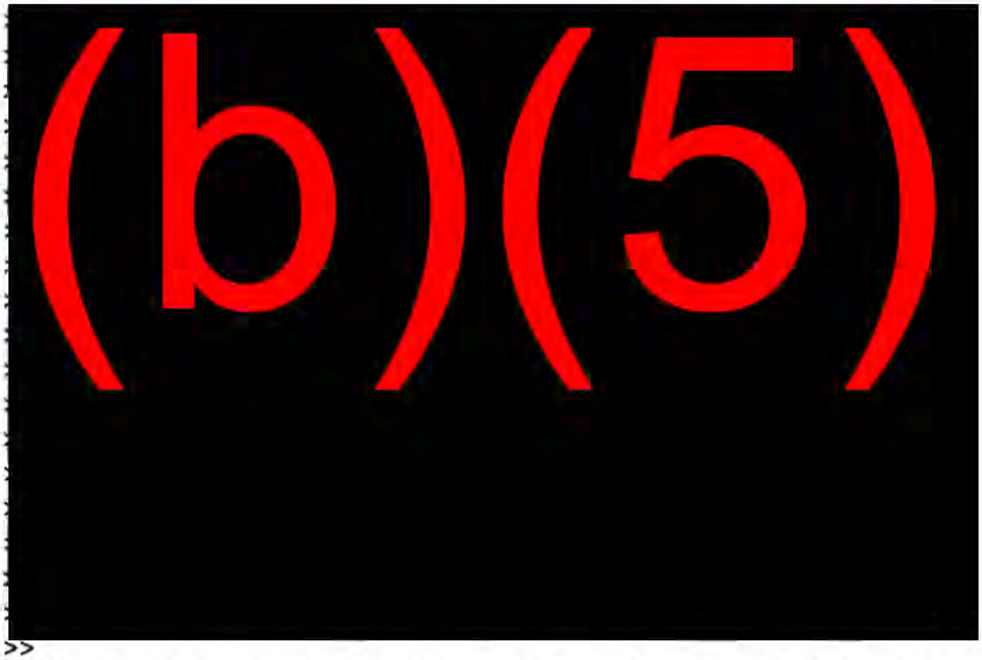
(b)(5)

>>



>>
>> We expect additional information on Monday with respect to all of these appeals and we will be able to analyze them and provide you more then.
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>> Please let us know if you have any questions for now.
>>
>> Thanks,
>> Rhea
>> –
>> Rhea Suh
>> Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
>> U.S. Department of the Interior
>> 202-208-1927
>>
>> <Status of Appeals as of July 25.docx>

Appeals to 2016 Budget Recommendations

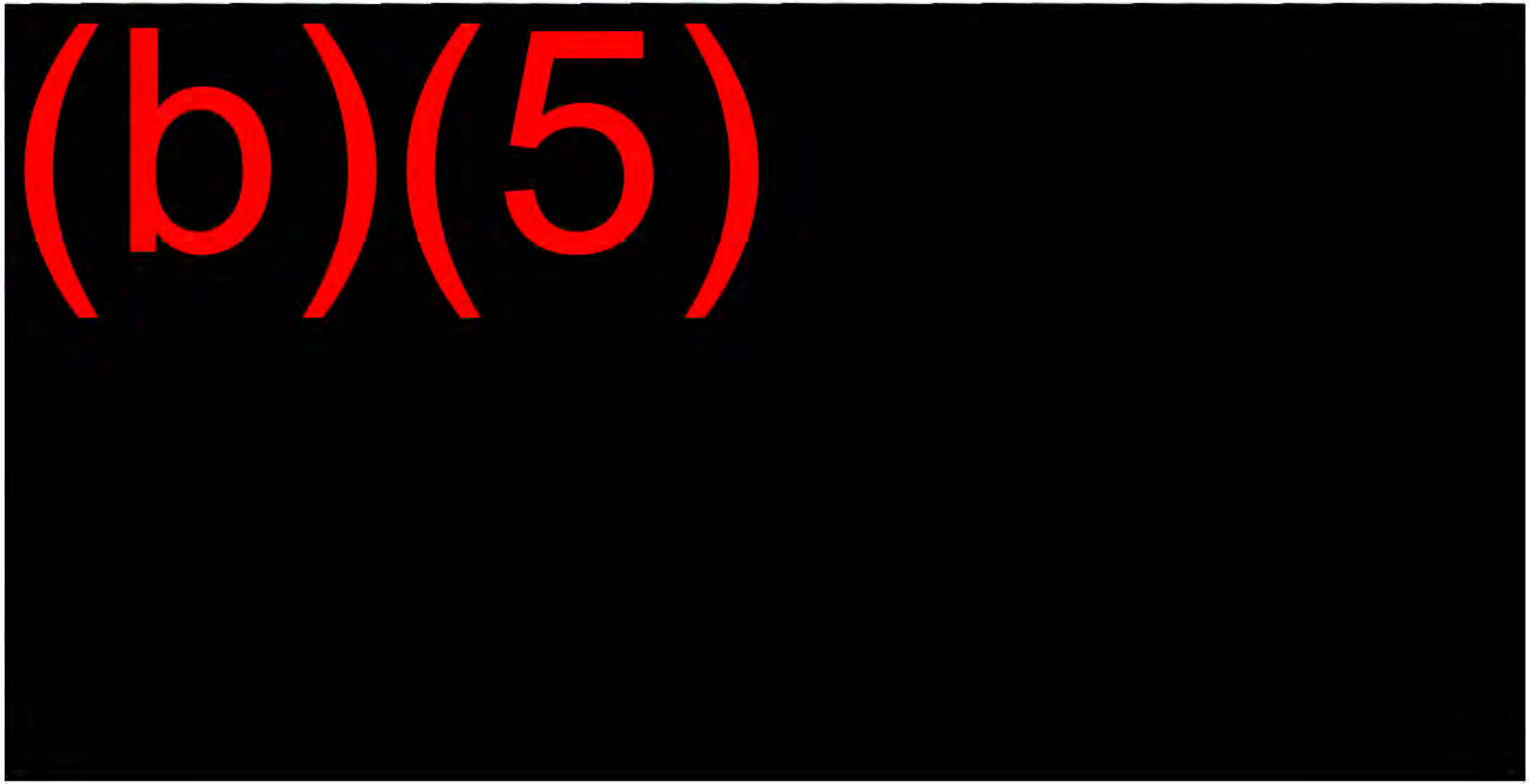
Briefing to Secretary Jewell

July 30, 2014

Status of the Appeals



Bureau of Land Management



National Park Service



National Park Service
Above Over Target Strategy



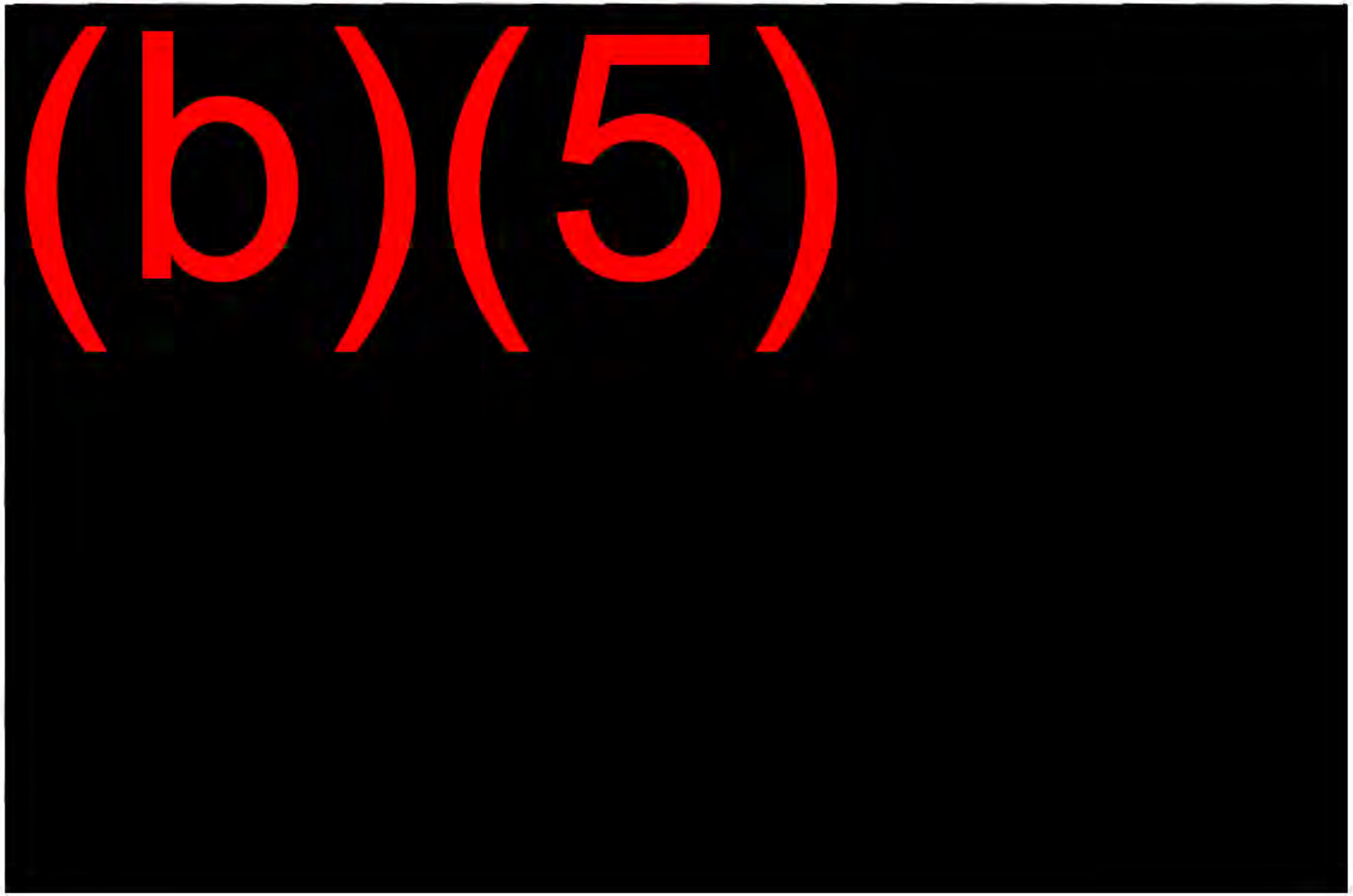
Next Steps

- Finalize decisions
- Communicate them to the Bureaus
- Meet with the Assistant Secretaries
  - Wednesday, 5:00pm – Assistant Secretaries only
    - Thank all for outstanding work
    - Review budget top lines and crosscut views for the 2016 submit to OMB
    - Provide an opportunity for feedback
  - Thursday, 10:00am – Assistant Secretaries and Bureau Directors
    - Discuss timing and strategy going forward to OMB
    - Elicit thoughts for a compelling Over Target presentation

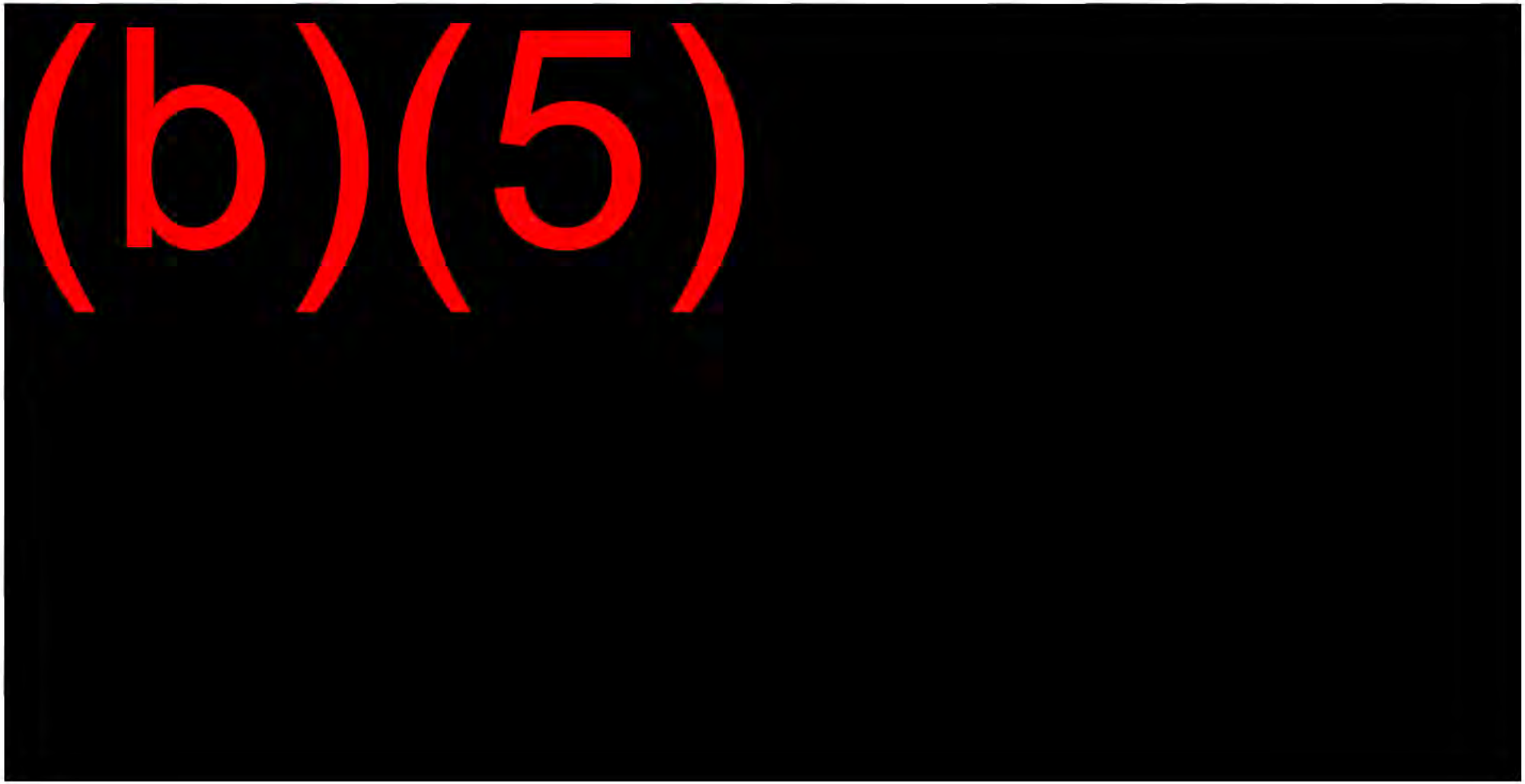
Background Information

The following pages are for reference only as a reminder of discussions at the July 24 budget meeting

Above Over Target:
Public Lands Centennial (b) (5)



Above Over Target: Indian Education Transformation Initiative



Above Over Target:
Water Settlements



Re: Budget and BLM

Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 10:39 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

Sally, we will be together, tomorrow, with all the Bureau directors and Assistant Secretaries. (b)(5)

[redacted]

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Jul 30, 2014, at 2:51 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Dan –
>
> (b)(5) [redacted]
>
> Sally
>
> **From:** Ashe, Dan [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:10 PM
> **To:** Sally Jewell
> **Cc:** Tommy Beaudreau
> **Subject:** Fwd: Budget and BLM
>
> Hello Sally. Thought I'd forward you this message that I sent earlier to Rhea and Pam Haze. Of
>
> (b)(5) [redacted]

Dan.

-------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dan Ashe** <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 12:27 PM
Subject: Budget and BLM
To: Rhea Suh <Rhea_Suh@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Pam Haze <pam_haze@ios.doi.gov>

Hey Rhea. I left a phone message for you. In advance of today's budget meeting with SRJ, I wanted to let you know how important it is to get

(b)(5)

Dan.

Sent from my iPhone

--
Dan Ashe

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, July 31, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

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+ Senators Urge Officials To Boost Hunting Access.
+ Lawmakers Press Obama Administration On Backlog Of Unused Federal Property.
+ Report: Federal Workers Find Agency Leaders' Communication Lacking.
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+ Educator To Lead "Civil Rights Teachers' Institute".
+ Small Boat Owners Face Penalties In Mussel-invasion Violations.
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+ Measure Would Halt Closure Of Fish Hatcheries Without Congressional Approval.
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+ Judge Dismisses Lawsuit Over Federal Refuge Closures.
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+ OSM Grant Provides Public Water To Seiber Flats.
+ OSMRE Counts At Least 266 Pending Violations Against Justice Company Mines.
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+ Texas Regulators: Onshore Oil Production Grew By 27% Last Month.
+ Additional Coverage Of Greenpeace Report On Federal Coal Leasing.

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+ Justice Department: BP Can't Dismiss Lawsuits By Blaming Drilling Moratorium.
+ Gulf States Call On Obama Administration To Distribute Restore Act Funds.
+ Environmental Groups Urge For Re-examination Of Gulf Of Mexico Rigs-to-reefs Program.
+ BOEM, Rhode Island To Evaluate Offshore Sand Resources.

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+ Delta Tunnel Plan Criticized.

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DOI in the News:

SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BILL ADVANCES. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that the Senate on Wednesday "voted to advance a $3.57 billion supplemental spending bill to address immigration, Israel and wildfires in the West even as the disaster funding faces skepticism from Republicans in both chambers." Sen. Lisa Murkowski "voted to advance the bill, but she said the administration's request for $615 million to fight wildfires may be too high." Murkowski said, "We're trying to figure out the right number for disaster and really how we work to make

sure that we end this fire borrowing."

The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that the Obama Administration on Wednesday "threatened a veto of the supplemental spending bill moving through the House, citing its lack of money for wildfires and removal of public lands protections amid a litany of complaints about its central provisions focused on the border crisis." The article notes that "the $659 million bill is aimed at addressing the flood of unaccompanied minors who have been crossing the US border lately, but it includes no ancillary requests from the administration for funding to address wildfires in the West or give additional aid to Israel, among other matters."

Drone Disrupts Firefighters In California. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that "a private drone taking photos of a wildfire in Northern California disrupted aerial firefighting efforts by cluttering airspace Sunday, officials said."

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office said "it was investigating the incident that involved a hobbyist looking to film the so-called Sand fire."

Additional Coverage Of Western Watershed Enhancement Partnership Funding. Additional coverage of the Western Watershed Enhancement Partnership funding was provided by the Fierce Energy (7/31).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the AP (7/30), the AP (7/30), the Los Angeles Times (7/31, Rocha, 3.42M), NPR (7/30, Naylor, 519K), and the Christian Science Monitor (7/30, 566K).

DEMOCRATIC BID TO FORCE HOUSE VOTE ON DISASTER FUNDS APPEARS TO HAVE FAILED. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that "a Democratic effort to force House leaders to hold a vote on a bipartisan wildfire disaster funding bill appears to have failed." The article notes that "the discharge petition that Democrats began circulating July 11 to require a vote on H.R. 3992 has garnered 196 Democratic signatures, but none from Republicans." In order "to succeed, the petition would need more than 20 of the bill's 57 Republican sponsors to sign in order to reach a majority of House members."

HOUSE PANEL PASSES WILDERNESS BILLS. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday "passed bills designating nearly 100,000 acres of new wilderness in Nevada and Washington state, along with more than a dozen other lands and wildlife measures." Members "by voice vote reported H.R. 5205 by Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.) and H.R. 361 by Rep. Dave Reichert (R-Wash.) with qualified support from Democrats and conservationists."

Also reporting on the story is the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (7/30, 166K).

SENATORS PUSH PRESIDENT OBAMA TO CREATE NATIONAL MONUMENT IN UTAH. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (7/31, 470K) reports that "fourteen liberal senators sent a letter to President Barack Obama on Wednesday urging him to create a new national monument in southeastern Utah forever protecting redrock mesas, ancient cliff dwellings and a hunting site that's 12,000 years old." The article notes that "the letter is sure to irritate Utah's members of Congress, who have attempted to curtail the president's power to set aside such land and oppose a new Greater Canyonlands National Monument, which would block oil and gas drilling and other uses on 1.8 million acres." Sen. Orrin Hatch said "it wasn't surprising that Democratic senators want the monument, but said: 'It is discouraging that they want President Obama to abuse that authority on lands in a state they don't live in or represent in the Senate.'"

SENATORS URGE OFFICIALS TO BOOST HUNTING ACCESS. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that Sen. Joe Manchin on Wednesday "offered a compromise to administration officials: Improve access for hunting on public lands and avoid binding legislation." Officials from the Interior and Agriculture departments "came to testify in front of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining, as part of a hearing on a slate of public lands bills." The lawmakers "spent most of their time discussing S. 1554 and S. 1049." According to the article, "the former would require agencies to develop public access plans for inaccessible federal lands, while the latter would make it easier for nonprofit search-and-rescue teams to look for lost visitors in national parks and forests."

LAWMAKERS PRESS OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ON BACKLOG OF UNUSED FEDERAL PROPERTY. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that lawmakers pressed Obama administration officials on Tuesday "on their plans to

better manage acre upon acre of unused federal property." At a hearing by the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations, "members of both parties said the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and others in the executive branch have to do better when it comes to offloading land and buildings owned by the government that sit vacant or in disrepair."

REPORT: FEDERAL WORKERS FIND AGENCY LEADERS' COMMUNICATION LACKING. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that the Partnership for Public Service has "found that much of the federal workforce is not satisfied with communications from its agency bosses." In a new report released by the group on Wednesday, "the partnership's government-wide 'leadership communication index' came in at 50.2 last year, meaning that about half of federal workers were satisfied with government leaders' communications to their staff." Notably, the Interior Department came in at 18th, "with a 46.7 score in 2013, a decline of more than a point from the prior year."

INTERIOR'S BUSINESS CENTER SEEKS TO ENSURE SHARED SYSTEMS MEET PERFORMANCE STANDARDS. Government Computer News (7/30, 848) reports that the Interior Department's Business Center, "which manages financial systems for 17 separate federal agencies, maintains an exhaustive set of tests to ensure those systems meet performance standards related to quality, accuracy and timeliness." The article notes that "a scorecard helps evaluate how each line of business is progressing."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SEEKS INPUT ON QUARANTINE PROGRAM FOR BISON. The AP (7/31) reports that Yellowstone National Park is "seeking public comment on a proposal to capture and quarantine wild bison so disease-free animals can be relocated to create new herds outside the park, Yellowstone officials said Wednesday." According to officials, "the quarantine facilities could be located inside the park, on tribal lands or elsewhere."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/30, 582K), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (7/30, 544K), and the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (7/31, 31K).

Also reporting on the story are Reuters (7/30) and KBZK-TV Butte, MT (7/31, 785).

EDUCATOR TO LEAD "CIVIL RIGHTS TEACHERS' INSTITUTE". The Hill (7/31, Staff, 237K) reports that the NPS "signed an $85,650 contract with Massachusetts educator Gail Burton to lead a five-day 'Civil Rights Teachers' Institute' that takes place at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site." Burton will draft "historical lesson plans" and establish "a teachers community support system using Socratic Circle methodology ... and application of theater and storytelling strategies for 25 participants."

SMALL BOAT OWNERS FACE PENALTIES IN MUSSEL-INVASION VIOLATIONS. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that "in the fight to stop the spread of invasive mussels throughout US waterways, small boat owners who violate invasion-prevention rules often pay hefty fines or face jail time, while the massive ocean tankers likely responsible for bringing them into the Great Lakes face few penalties." The article notes that "US and Canadian officials don't require freighters entering the Great Lakes through the St. Lawrence River to flush their ballast tanks with salt water from the middle of the ocean to kill potential invaders, instead requiring them to promise not to discharge the water once they pass the first navigation lock on the seaway." At the same time, "people towing boats from lake to lake and across state lines can face jail time or hefty fines for carrying quagga or zebra mussels to unaffected waters."

GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK SUPERINTENDENT TO LEAVE FOR FOUR MONTHS. The Hanover (PA) Evening Sun (7/31, 66K) reports that Ed Clark, superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, will "leave the park for four months as part of a leadership development program," according to the NPS. He is "a candidate for the Senior Executive Service, a leadership group for government employees." Park spokesperson Katie Lawhon said that "as part of the development program, he is required to work on an assignment outside of the National Park Service."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM CONSIDERS CRACKING DOWN ON ROPE SWINGING AT UTAH ARCHES. The New York Times (7/31, Healy, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that "after a handful of accidents and a rash of complaints, the federal government is weighing whether to crack down on the latest Internet-fueled thrill ride to crop up on public lands: extreme rope-swinging." The article notes that "some have complained that the activity is also wearing away fragile arches that have withstood wind and rain for eons, scoring them with bolt-holes and rope marks." So now, the BLM is "weighing whether to bar swingers, jumpers and other participants in aerial rope sports from Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges, another towering arch formation in the area."

BLM HOSTS HELIUM AUCTION. The Amarillo (TX) Globe News (7/30, 133K) reports the BLM on Wednesday "auctioned off nearly $15 million in government-owned helium to two bidders, a first-of-its kind sale officials said will generate revenue for the Treasury in a series of yearly auctions." The article notes that "the auction at the Virgil Patterson Auditorium in Amarillo drew 13 bidders, but much of the bidding was dominated by representatives from Air Products and Chemicals Inc." Robert Jolley, field manager for the BLM's Amarillo Field Office, said "federal employees in Amarillo, New Mexico and Washington, D.C., spent nine months preparing for the auction." He said, "To run through the process and bring in more revenue for the American taxpayer than we thought we were going to bring in, is just a win-win all the way around. I thought the minimum would have been about $9.2 million. That's the minimum if they bought every lot. We didn't know if they were going to buy every lot."

Also covering the story are KFDA-TV Amarillo, TX (7/31, 1K) and KAMR-TV Amarillo, TX (7/31, 428).

REP. THORNBERRY URGES LAWMAKERS TO SETTLE RED RIVER DISPUTES. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that Rep. Mac Thornberry "urged a House subcommittee" on Tuesday "to act quickly to guarantee land rights along the Red River at the Texas-Oklahoma line before interest groups promoting gun rights and others hijack the issue whose roots stretch back to the time of Thomas Jefferson." Thornberry told the Public Lands and Environmental Regulation Subcommittee, "There are some groups using this controversy to gain attention for themselves. The last thing the landowners, the county, the states or the [Bureau of Land Management] need is for people to come in and make a big deal for this, to make it something political."

BUNDY SUPPORTERS SEEK DONATIONS, MANPOWER. KLAS-TV Las Vegas (7/31, 36K) reports that "the people still camped out at the Cliven Bundy ranch near Bunkerville are looking for some help from the public." They have "posted an online ad, asking for donations of food, money, and manpower to maintain their security perimeter at the ranch." The article notes that "things in Bunkerville have calmed down considerably since a showdown three months ago that made national news and transformed rancher Bundy into a national figure, but Sheriff Doug Gillespie says the situation is far from over."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

HOUSE PASSES BILL TO MODIFY ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that Republicans "pushed legislation through the House" on Tuesday "to reform the Endangered Species Act, sparking outrage from conservation groups and Democrats who say it is part of a broader effort to gut the 40-year-old law." H.R. 4315 "would require federal agencies to publicly release all data used to make listing decisions, report funds spent on ESA-related lawsuits and specify that the 'best' scientific data available include state data." The article notes that "the chamber also approved two Republican amendments: one to ensure classified information isn't released and another to require the disclosure of all federal funds used to bring a claim in an ESA-related lawsuit."

Also covering the story are the Deseret (UT) News (7/31, 538K) and the Oil and Gas Journal (7/31, 1K).

BILL WOULD REPEAL LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN LISTING UNTIL AT LEAST 2020. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that Sen. James Inhofe has "introduced legislation that would temporarily repeal the Obama administration's 'threatened' listing for the lesser prairie chicken, a move that he said is necessary to give states within the bird's range more time to implement a regional conservation plan that supporters say has already shown results." Inhofe's bill, S. 2677, "would remove the lesser prairie chicken from the list of threatened species

under the Endangered Species Act until Jan. 31, 2020." Then, "the Interior secretary would be required to make a determination 'based on the totality of the scientific evidence' whether an ESA listing for the bird is warranted."

MEASURE WOULD HALT CLOSURE OF FISH HATCHERIES WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. The Payson (AZ) Roundup (7/30, 21K) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee has approved a bill by Rep. Paul Gosar "to put a halt to the closure of any more federally operated fish hatcheries without specific permission from Congress." H.R. 5026, the Fish Hatchery Protection Act, "came in response to a federal decision to stopped producing trout in a fish hatchery on the Colorado River in favor of producing several endangered native fish the federal government hopes to restore in several streams." The measure would "bar any such change in the use of the hatcheries without an act of Congress."

SHOW ENCOURAGES MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN THE OUTDOORS. The Chicago Tribune (7/30, Frazee, 2.19M) reports on the stars of the national television show, "Urban American Outdoors," Wayne Hubbard and Candice Price. According to the article, "in a day when minority participation in the outdoors is still surprisingly low, Hubbard and Price are working tirelessly to show people of color that they have a place in the outdoors." One representative of the FWS called them "trailblazers." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "One of our priorities is reaching out to minorities. That's a key to our future."

JUDGE DISMISSES LAWSUIT OVER FEDERAL REFUGE CLOSURES. The AP (7/31, Bohrer) reports that "a federal judge in Alaska has dismissed the state's lawsuit over the closure of national wildlife refuges during the partial federal government shutdown last year." US District Court Judge Sharon Gleason "called the case moot in siding" with the FWS and the Interior Department, "which asked for the case to be tossed."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (7/30, 4.06M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/30, 582K), Yahoo! (7/31, Bohrer, 10.35M) , and WHEC-TV Rochester, NY (7/31, 5K).

FWS INVESTIGATING OWL DEATHS IN OKLAHOMA. The AP (7/31, Eaton) reports that the FWS is "investigating the death of two owls found coated in oil in northwestern Oklahoma, an agency spokesman said Wednesday." Meanwhile, a report from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission "shows a list of problems with the well site where the birds were found earlier this month." Gavin Shire, spokesman for the FWS, said "he can't comment on the investigation until it's finished and it's unclear when it will be completed."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by KRMG-AM Tulsa, OK (7/31, 16K) and KOTV-TV Tulsa, OK (7/31, 200K).

STUDY BLAMES LOST CALVES ON PANTHERS. The AP (7/31, Dearen) reports that "a University of Florida researcher hired by federal wildlife officials has found that panthers are killing calves in an area where the predatory felines are thriving." The article notes that "the research marks the first step toward the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considering a program that would pay ranchers for preserving acres of panther habitat, instead of undertaking the impossible task of verifying every kill." Caitlin Jacobs, "the university researcher who staked out a ranch for the better part of two years," said, "Ranchers will tell you that they suspected panthers were killing their calves, although no one knows how many they're losing. It's hard to find the calves – when panthers kill they drag the prey into the forest and cover it with brush to hide them from scavengers."

COLUMNIST: THREATS TO SAGE GROUSE MUST BE ANALYZED. In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (7/31, Mitchell, 22K), Thomas Mitchell argues that "before listing either the bi-state or the greater sage grouse, someone needs to do some sound scientific studies and realistically look at what truly is a threat to these birds — including the lack of wildfire prevention efforts on federally controlled land."

US Geological Survey:

USGS SCIENTISTS MONITORING WATER LEVELS IN DENVER. KCNC-TV Denver (7/30, 26K) reports that scientists from the USGS "took advantage of the heavy rain to get water samples from Cherry Creek in Denver." The researchers are "testing the water quality" in order "to find out how the environment changes the quality of the water."

Also reporting on the story is KDVR-TV Denver (7/30, 40K).

USGS STUDY: MISSOURI RIVER HEADWATERS PRODUCE LESS WATER. The Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (7/31, 54K) reports that the portion of the Missouri River that runs though is "dwindling because stream levels are dropping," according to a new UUSGS report. USGS scientists at the South Dakota Water Science Center "analyzed more than 50 years of data from almost 230 stream gages along the Missouri River and its tributaries and found noticeable streamflow trends in certain regions."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BILL PROMOTING LEASES IS LAUDED. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that "a bipartisan bill aimed at boosting wind and solar energy production on federal land was lauded" on Tuesday "by witnesses at a House Natural Resources subcommittee hearing, but differences remain on a proposal that would remove requirements for environmental reviews for geothermal projects." According to the article, "there was praise for Rep. Paul Gosar's (R-Ariz.) H.R. 596, the 'Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act,' which would require the government to establish leasing areas for wind and solar energy on federal land." The article notes that "the measure also received support from representatives of both conservation and industry groups alike." However, "there was disagreement over H.R. 1363, from Rep. Raúl Labrador (R-Idaho), which would exempt some geothermal exploration projects from National Environmental Policy Act requirements."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM SUPPORTS BIPARTISAN BILLS TO STREAMLINE PERMITTING. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that the BLM on Tuesday "rallied behind two bipartisan bills designed to expedite its permitting of oil and gas wells and renewable energy projects on federal lands amid continued Republican and industry criticism of regulatory delays." BLM Director Neil Kornze said the bureau "generally supports S. 2440, the oil and gas bill by Sens. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), and S. 279, the renewable energy bill by Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.)."

OSM GRANT PROVIDES PUBLIC WATER TO SEIBER FLATS. The Oak Ridge (TN) Today (7/30) reports that the Anderson County Water Authority has completed a "water line extension project, which serves half a dozen homes, using a $320,000 Office of Surface Mining federal grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; no local money was used to fund this project"

OSMRE COUNTS AT LEAST 266 PENDING VIOLATIONS AGAINST JUSTICE COMPANY MINES. The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (7/30, 375K) reports that "coal companies owned by a major political supporter of Gov. Steve Beshear are under serious scrutiny for failing to comply with basic strip-mining reclamation regulations in Kentucky and four other states." The OSMRE "counts at least 266 pending violations in the five states against companies owned by West Virginia billionaire Jim Justice, who has hobnobbed with Beshear at Justice's glitzy Greenbrier Resort, and who — with his family — has contributed at least $400,000 to Beshear political causes since early 2011."

ADVOCATES CLAIM ENERGY DEPARTMENT EFFORTS TO CURB METHANE NOT ENOUGH. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that climate activists on Tuesday "applauded the Energy Department's announcement of first steps to reduce methane leakage from oil and natural gas systems, but they asked both DOE and US EPA to also promulgate mandatory regulations for the potent greenhouse gas." The Energy Department on Tuesday "committed to consider new energy efficiency standards to reduce leakage from natural gas compressors, which push gas down in pipelines."

TEXAS REGULATORS: ONSHORE OIL PRODUCTION GREW BY 27% LAST MONTH. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that "Texas' onshore unconventional crude oil production has risen by over a fourth from where it was a year ago, according to the state's oil and gas regulator." The Railroad Commission of Texas, "this week issued preliminary estimates for May 2014 oil production," and the Railroad Commission "also announced figures for total drilling permits issued in June." The article notes that "daily oil output for May is estimated to have been

roughly 2.14 million barrels per day," which "does not include offshore oil production, which is regulated by the General Land Office for state waters and the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management." The commission's May figures show Texas onshore oil production has risen by about 27 percent in one year.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GREENPEACE REPORT ON FEDERAL COAL LEASING. Additional coverage of the Greenpeace report on the Interior Department's federal coal leasing program was provided by the National Journal (7/31, Subscription Publication, 561K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR FIVE-YEAR LEASING PLAN. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that the BOEM on Wednesday "announced a 15-day extension for public comments on its next five-year leasing plan for offshore oil and gas." The bureau said that "at the request of several states, the original deadline of tomorrow has been moved to Aug. 15."

Also reporting on the story are The Hill (7/30, Barron-Lopez, 237K), the FuelFix (7/30, 7K), the Oil and Gas Journal (7/31, 1K), and the Offshore Engineer (7/31).

OIL INDUSTRY'S INTEREST IN BEAUFORT SEA MAY BE WANING. FuelFix (7/30, 7K) reports on oil industry struggles in the Arctic region, noting that companies that in 2007 gained "more than 1.3 million acres of the Beaufort Sea" have in the interim given up almost 50% of the land, in part as industry interest in the region appears to "be waning." American Petroleum Institute senior analyst Richard Ranger discussed the current Federal process for opening up areas for drilling. He noted, "With a nomination process, companies wind up providing information that by some way or another, parties interested in opposing or stopping exploration activities can gain advantage from." He explained that "on a case-by-case basis, some companies have made the decision to relinquish leases in the Beaufort and move somewhere else. Companies aren't sitting around accumulating vast amounts of acreage on which they aren't doing anything. They are constantly evaluating and making carefully considered decisions on which acreage to keep and what to let go. At the end of the day, they're interested in production and molecules running through pipelines."

The story also appears at the Houston Chronicle (7/31, Dlouhy, 2.02M).

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT: BP CAN'T DISMISS LAWSUITS BY BLAMING DRILLING MORATORIUM. The FuelFix (7/30, 7K) reports that the Justice Department has "joined a fight to stop BP from dismissing lawsuits by deep-water drillers and oil-field services firms alleging the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill left million-dollar holes in their balance sheets." According to the article, "federal prosecutors said in court filings late Tuesday that BP can't circumvent financial damage claims that may be worth hundreds of millions of dollars with a defense essentially blaming losses on the three-month, deep-water drilling moratorium the government imposed after the spill." US attorneys also want US District Judge Carl Barbier "to quash BP's subpoena on government documents that might be used as evidence to thwart the lawsuits." BP sent a subpoena to the Interior Department "last week requesting high-level memos about the decision to curb drilling and permitting activity in the Gulf, safety reports and many other documents."

GULF STATES CALL ON OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO DISTRIBUTE RESTORE ACT FUNDS. The E&E Daily (7/30) reports that "four years after the massive Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and two years after Congress passed a law to send the lion's share of civil fines associated with the spill back to the region, lawmakers are fed up with the slow pace of progress." The article notes that "there are hundreds of millions of dollars from a settlement with Transocean that are waiting to be distributed through the RESTORE Act." Gulf Coast lawmakers argued on Tuesday that "those funds should go out the door as quickly as possible, both to meet pressing restoration needs and to give federal and state agencies some practice at approving and implementing projects before the slug of BP money comes through."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS URGE FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF GULF OF MEXICO RIGS-TO-REEFS PROGRAM. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/30, 527K) reports that "as the federal government this summer considers revised rules on the decommissioning of Gulf of Mexico oil rigs, many environmental groups are pushing for a reexamination of the rigs-to-reefs program." On Wednesday, Clint Guidry, president of the Louisiana

Shrimp Association, "joined calls" for the BSEE "to require the removal of rigs instead of converting them into such reefs." Guidry "joined the authors of the recently released free e-book Bring Back the Gulf, which also advocates for requiring the removal of oil rigs." Also, last Wednesday, on July 23, "about 25 individuals, mainly representing environmental groups, signed a letter sent to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell urging 'strong and consistent implementation of the Department of Interior's Idle Iron policy requiring full decommissioning of spent oil and gas structures at the end of their useful economic life.'"

BOEM, RHODE ISLAND TO EVALUATE OFFSHORE SAND RESOURCES. The Providence (RI) Business News (7/31, 38K) reports that "as part of the long-term recovery effort following the landfall of Hurricane Sandy," the BOEM and the state of Rhode Island are "collaborating to evaluate sand resources for coastal resilience and restoration planning." According to the article, "under a two-year, $200,000 agreement, the University of Rhode Island will map the geology of selected areas offshore."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR WILL RELEASE EXTRA WATER FOR SALMON ONLY IF DIE-OFF STARTS. The AP (7/31, Barnard) reports that the BOR said Wednesday "it will release extra water into Northern California's Klamath and Trinity rivers once salmon start dying from drought-related disease, but not before." BOR spokesman Louis Moore said that "the decision came under terms of a 2012 emergency water plan, and after consulting with tribes, irrigators and other agencies." Moore said, "When you look at the need and demand for water, it's for every requirement out there, whether it is drinking water, species, power, agriculture or flow in the rivers. The best use of that water was part of that discussion. How can we use this water and still meet all the needs that are there."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/30, 582K), the Lakeland (FL) Ledger (7/30, 140K), KGW-TV Portland, OR (7/31, 111K), and KFMB-TV San Diego (7/31, 15K).

Also reporting on the story is the Contra Costa (CA) Times (7/31, 294K).

DELTA TUNNEL PLAN CRITICIZED. The San Francisco Chronicle (7/31, Jones, 2.87M) reports that California's "plan to build a pair of 35-mile tunnels under the delta would cause the extinction of winter-run chinook salmon, steep declines in dozens of other species and devastate water quality in San Francisco Bay, an environmental group said Wednesday." Gary Bobker, policy analyst for the Bay Institute, "which submitted its 250-page findings this week to the state Department of Water Resources as it updates its Bay Delta Conservation Plan," said, "This project would be a major step in the wrong direction. Diverting more water from the delta is exactly what we need to stop doing if we're going to have a sustainable ecosystem."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA REVIEWING MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE'S APPLICATION. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (7/30, 97K) reports that Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary for the BIA, was "on Cape Cod Tuesday but would only say that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's application is 'in process." Washburn said "his staff is still reviewing the tribe's application to have 171 acres in Mashpee and another 155 acres in Taunton taken into federal trust as an initial reservation." He said, "The process takes a long time. I haven't seen all the evidence yet so I can't prejudge it."

PAPER OPPOSES COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE'S CASINO BID. The Roseburg (OR) News-Review (7/31, 56K) editorializes the Coquille Indian Tribe "continues to push for" a planned casino "it announced nearly two years ago, despite the fact that Oregon's governor, both senators, a House representative and other politicians have spoken against it." The article notes that "a decision by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell is pending." The paper claims that "should the Coquilles get the approval they seek, it will upend the current system under which each of Oregon's nine tribes is allowed to operate one casino each."

CONGRESS URGED TO CLARIFY INTERIOR SECRETARY'S AUTHORITY TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST. For the Indian Country Today Media Network (7/30, 45K), Paul Moorehead, a partner in the Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville, PC's Indian Tribal Governments Group representing Indian tribes and tribal organizations, writes that tribes "continue to grapple" with problems "made worse by decades of further land fractionation and a legal regime of Indian land management that has failed to adapt to changing circumstances on the ground in tribal

communities." According to Moorehead, "in the wake of the Supreme Court's Carcieri v. Salazar decision in 2009, congressional action is sorely needed to clarify the Secretary's authority to take land into trust for all Indian tribes."

Top National News:

OBAMA ASKS GOP TO "STOP JUST HATING ALL THE TIME." Coverage of President Obama's visit to Kansas City highlighted his apparent taunt to the GOP to "stop hating" – which was noted in almost every story – and generally cast the President's remarks as a campaign speech for the upcoming midterms. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (7/30, Raasch, 938K), for example, describes Obama's remarks as "one his sharper partisan speeches," while the Los Angeles Times (7/30, Hennessey, 3.42M) reports that "having apparently given up on charm, golf and persuasion...Obama on Wednesday went for taunting sarcasm" in his "campaign-style speech." No network newscast ran a story last night on the President's trip, though the CBS Evening News (7/30, story 6, 1:35, Brown, 5.08M) prefaced a report on a House GOP push to sue the President with footage of Obama's "stop hating" comment.

The Kansas City (MO) Business Journal (7/30, Subscription Publication, 30K) says Obama addressed "a room full of his core supporters," and his "goal was to inspire" them "to vote in the midterm elections." Obama "ticked off a range of successes," the Kansas City (MO) Star (7/30, Meyers, 1.39M) reports, "including encouraging growth numbers released earlier in the day," and "claimed that he's had to sidestep Congress...to impose rules on gender pay equity, student loan payment caps and a variety of other measures." The President "closed his speech encouraging the crowd toward optimism, saying 'cynicism never put a man on the moon.'" The Hill (7/30, Pames, 237K) quotes Obama as saying, "We have fought back. ... We have dusted ourselves off. ... None of this is an accident. It's thanks to the decisions we made early on."

Reuters (7/30, Rampton) notes that Obama said, referring to Hill Republicans, "Stop being mad all the time. Stop – stop – stop just hatin' all the time." The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (7/30, Raasch, 938K) notes that Sen. Roy Blunt responded to Obama's exhortation to Republicans to "stop hating all the time" saying the President "sounded like he was in junior high." Blunt said the comment reminded him of "the kinds of things that happen in junior high, when you say that somebody else is a really bad person. ... That is no way to begin to work with that person." The Washington Times (7/30, Wolfgang, 465K), meanwhile, says "Republicans dismissed the president's speech as yet another attempt to draw attention away from the administration's own failures." Said Blunt, "Missourians and people nationwide want to hear real answers about the president's plans to work with Congress and help put more people back to work."

Obama, says the AP (7/30, Pickler), "cast the stalemate in Washington as a personal reaction to his presidency." USA Today (7/30, Jackson, 5.76M) quotes him as saying of Republicans, "They're mad because I'm doing my job," though he added "he still wants to work with" them. Said the President, "I know they're not that happy that I'm president, but it's OK. ... I've only got a couple of years left, so come on. ... Then you can be mad at the next president." Politico (7/30, Breitman, 637K) calls Obama's comments about the GOP "blistering."

The University of Kansas Daily Kansan (7/30, Kite, 37K) reports Obama opened his remarks "with a personal story about Victor Fugate, who wrote to Obama three years ago and introduced him" yesterday. Fugate "was unemployed after he and his wife had their first child," but Obama said he "refused to quit, earned his degree and found a full-time job. Now Fugate helps those with disabilities live independently."

The New York Times (7/30, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), which did not mention the "stop hating" quip, describes Obama as "informal and relaxed, interacting with a crowd that was quick to respond, cheering and booing – a bit of a foil to a number of signs outside the theater before his speech protesting his policies on immigration, the conflict in Gaza and other issues."

In an editorial titled "Obama Rightly Slams 'Hating' Congress In KC Speech," the Kansas City (MO) Star (7/30, 1.39M) writes, "Congress, take cover." Obama "wasn't talking kindly about you in Kansas City. And with good reason."

The Kansas City (MO) Star (7/30, Kraske, 1.39M) reports that the President, "the self-described ursine chief

executive, and his sizable motorcade stopped Wednesday at Parkville," a Kansas City suburb, "on the way out of town," and though his "his staff expected him to stay about 30 minutes," Obama "lingered nearly an hour," saying, "Trying to delay this as long as possible...because I'm having fun." The AP (7/30) recounts that Obama entered a coffee shop "and paid the tabs for a handful of patrons." He also ordered an iced-tea. Another AP (7/30, Pickler) accounts says the President "meandered along picturesque Main Street in nearby Parkville, popping in shops and greeting folks with an iced tea in hand," and quotes Obama as telling the coffee shop patrons, "It's not that often the president buys you a cup of coffee."

The visit generated a great deal of local television coverage, much of it highlighting Obama's argument that that so much more could be achieved in DC if Republicans in Congress would "help out a little bit" and "stop hating" and "being mad all the time." Many reports also noted his characterization of the lawsuit being filed against him by congressional Republicans as a "political stunt." Typical examples of the coverage aired on KNPN-TV St. Joseph, MO (7/30, 8:31 p.m. CDT), KMIZ-TV Columbia, MO (7/30, 6:14 p.m. CDT), KRCG-TV Jefferson City, MO (7/30, 6:06 p.m. CDT, 5K), WDAF-TV Kansas City, MO (7/30, 6:00 p.m. CDT, 115K), KMBC-TV Kansas City, MO (7/30, 6:00 p.m. CDT, 70K), and KCTV-TV Kansas City, MO (7/30, 6:00 p.m. CDT, 63K).

VULNERABLE DEMOCRATS WORRIED ABOUT POTENTIAL OBAMA ACTIONS ON IMMIGRATION. After several days of reports of White House plans for sweeping executive actions on immigration, which noted the support for such measures from immigration activists, a couple of stories this morning reflect nervousness among some Democrats about what Obama's moves may mean for their election chances this November.

Politico (7/30, Brown, Kim, 637K) refers to the "most vulnerable Democratic [Senate] incumbents, caught in the crosscurrents of immigration reform," calling on Obama "to show restraint in using his executive powers to slow deportations." Noting that Sens. Kay Hagan and Mark Pryor have publicly spoken out against Obama's apparent plans, while Mary Landrieu and Mark Begich have warned him not to go too far, Politico cites "administration officials" who say the President will consult at-risk Democrats, but "isn't planning to moderate his approach based on what plays best in Anchorage or Little Rock because Republicans will attack any executive action, ambitious or restrained, as an abuse of presidential power."

The Daily Caller (7/30, Munro, 408K) noted that also calling for caution is "hard-left MSNBC host Ed Schulz," who "is worried that Democrats will be hammered by voters if...Obama uses his executive authority to distribute work-permits to millions of illegal immigrants." Said Schulz, "Hold the phone – this would be a mistake if the president were to do this. ... Politically, there is no way Democrats can go home and campaign on across-the-board amnesty for millions of undocumented workers... It could be an electoral death knell for the Democrats."

In an analysis piece, USA Today (7/30, Gomez, 5.76M) says that "when the White House finally announces its plans to unilaterally change the way the country treats undocumented immigrants...the president's immigration legacy will finally be set." Right now, "his enforcement record is mixed. On the one hand, his administration has bragged about setting a new record each year for the number of people it deports" but "has also drastically reduced the number of people deported from the interior of the country."

White House Says Obama Would Veto House Version Of Border Bill. Roll Call (7/30, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported the White House yesterday "threatened to veto the House's $659 million border supplemental Wednesday, saying it could actually make the child migrant crisis worse." OMB said in a statement, "Instead of working toward a real, lasting solution, Republicans released patchwork legislation that will only put more arbitrary and unrealistic demands on an already broken system."

The Washington Times (7/30, Dinan, 465K) says the move "puts Mr. Obama at odds with even some Democrats who say changes are needed to a 2008 law granting Central American children a long judicial process before they can be deported." While "Obama himself had called for changes to the 2008 law earlier this month," he "has since backed away under intense political pressure from immigrant-rights groups." The Hill (7/30, Schroeder, 237K) noted the OMB statement came "just hours before the House and Senate were set to hold dueling votes on competing border packages, on the next to last day of legislative work before a five-week August recess."

Also yesterday, the AP (7/30, Werner) reports, the Senate "voted 63-33 to advance the $3.5 billion emergency spending bill over an initial procedural hurdle." However, "with Republicans and a few Democrats opposed, there was little expectation that the legislation would ultimately prevail with only days left before Congress' annual

August recess." Politico (7/30, Kim, 637K) also says the bill "still faces significant barriers before it can win final passage in the Senate – let alone be reconciled with a drastically different bill that is emerging in the GOP-led House."

Reuters (7/30, Cowan) reports the Senate is not expected to take up the House bill if it's approved by the lower chamber, but Politico (7/30, Everett, 637K) says conservatives' "worst fears...are being confirmed: Senate Democrats really do seem to want to attach the Gang of Eight immigration reform to a legislation addressing the border crisis." According to Politico, Democrats would seek to do so during the amendment process for their bill.

Alex Nowrasteh, immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, argues in USA Today (7/31, Nowrasteh, 5.76M) that "our immigration restrictions and border enforcement have created the current mess. ... Before 1986, when circular migration was in effect, 60% of unauthorized immigrants on their first trip here would eventually settle back in their home countries rather than in the United States, and 80% of undocumented immigrants who came back on a second trip eventually returned home."

House GOP Bill Will Include Provision Barring Obama From Halting Deportations. Politico (7/31, Sherman, Kim, 637K) reports that according to "multiple GOP aides," House Republicans "will vote to rein in the Obama administration's power to halt deportation for undocumented immigrants," in "a surprise move that comes as...House Republicans were unable to lock up 218 GOP lawmakers to vote for the $659 million emergency funding package." GOP leaders are planning plan "a Thursday vote on the Republican funding package. If it passes, the House would be required to vote on legislation targeting the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programs, which has shielded from deportation hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants who have grown up in the United States."

The New York Times (7/31, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) also reports on the House GOP plan, which it attributes to "the resistance...Boehner and his team are facing."

Politico (7/31, Everett, 637K) reports GOP senators "have been searching for a strategy to deal with the crisis at the border," and yesterday they "found one: the House Republican bill." While "conservative GOP Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Jeff Sessions of Alabama have critiqued the House bill for not prohibiting...Obama from expanding his Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy, a broad spectrum of GOP senators are willing to support the House's legislation even without that change."

Money From Many Programs Expected To Go To Paying For Unaccompanied Children's Care. The Los Angeles Times (7/31, Mascaro, Bennett, 3.42M) reports that, with Congress not expected to approve additional funds to deal with the border crisis, the Administration is moving $94 million from other government programs and accounts, some with little to with immigration, to pay for the "food, beds, clothing and medical care" needed by unaccompanied minors who illegally crossed the Southwestern border. The Homeland Security Department's Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Office of Refugee Resettlement will run out of money in August. Funds to care for the children have already come from immigration enforcement, but they may also be moved from drones seeking drug smugglers, border monitoring sensors, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Meanwhile, without Congress paying for more immigration judges to process the cases, the children remain in the US, requiring money for their care.

Legislators To Visit Border. The Chicago Tribune (7/30, Manchir, 2.19M) reports the office of Rep. Luis Gutierrez announced he and 11 other members of Congress will visit a part of the US border "where tens of thousands of children have crossed into the country." Gutierrez spokesman Douglas Rivlin said the legislators want to see "what's going on and how children from Central America are being treated."

Chickenpox Outbreak At Illegal Immigrant Housing Center. The Washington Times (7/31, Dinan, 465K) reports Rep. Steve Pearce said the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Artesia, New Mexico, which is housing illegal immigrant families, is in "lockdown" as the government treats and vaccinates the occupants following a chicken pox outbreak. The Times adds, "medical issues have been a major concern" for those dealing with the increase in illegal immigration. With "thousands of people" caught illegally crossing the border as families, the FLETC was supposed to house them prior to "quick deportations," but currently no immigrants may be transferred in or out.

Emanuel Defends Accepting 1,000 Unaccompanied Immigrant Children. The Chicago Sun-Times (7/31, Spielman, 1.03M) reports Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel "defended his decision to" accept 1,000 unaccompanied immigrant children in the Federally-funded facilities in city. Emanuel cited his grandfather's immigrating to Chicago to flee pogroms in Moldova. While critics argue the issue is "a diversion" from the gang violence afflicting the city's children, Emanuel argues the city can deal with both issues.

King: Only Honduras More Dangerous Than Detroit. The Detroit News (7/31, Shepardson, 495K) reports Iowa Republican Rep. Steve King told reports "that Detroit isn't that much better" than the violence of Honduras unaccompanied children have fled. King noted that only Honduras in Central America has a higher overall murder rate than Detroit. In response Democratic Rep. Gary Peters "who represents part of Detroit in Congress, blasted King's remarks calling them 'outrageous.'" Honduras had 90.4 homicides per 100,000 people in 2012, while Detroit with 54.6 murders per 100,000 in the same period. In 2013, Detroit's rate fell to 48.3 per 100,000, "close to Belize's 44.7 murders per 100,000 people and El Salvador's 41.2 murders per 100,000 people."

Local Law Enforcement Increasingly Refusing ICE Detainers. The New York Times (7/31, Semple, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that, following "a series of federal court rulings...that raised questions about the constitutionality of" Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers , in which local law enforcement is asked to hold foreign-born detainees for additional time, there is "a growing wave of law enforcement agencies" refusing to honor the requests. The latest move is a recommendation by the New York State Sheriffs' Association to refuse detainers on the belief that New York courts would rule, as a Federal magistrate judge in Oregon did, that honoring detainers violates Fourth Amendment rights. Immigrants' advocates have sought to end local law enforcement compliance with detainers, arguing the matter isn't for local law enforcement and "undermines immigrants' trust in local authorities"; sheriffs' increasing resistance to the detainers "has posed the greatest challenge yet to the practice." While homeland security secretary Jeh C. Johnson has his legal team determining "the department's next steps," officials says the detainers will continue to be issued.

States Offering Undocumented Immigrant Driver's Licenses Face Challenges. The Wall Street Journal (7/31, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports states offering driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants face a number of challenges. High demand when the licenses first become available can strain resources and mean long wait times for appointments – up to three months in Illinois. What identifying documents are allowed can be a matter of debate, and the license needs to be distinguishable from a regular one. Meanwhile, Colorado is only offering the service at select motor vehicle division offices, requiring hours of travel for some applicants.

AS HOUSE REPUBLICANS VOTE TO SUE OBAMA, IMPEACHMENT COMMENTARY CONTINUES. As Republicans and conservative commentators try to offer assurances that their intent is to sue the President but not to seek his impeachment, the mere possibility of the latter course continues to animate discussion from Democratic lawmakers and media commentators. The controversy continued as the House, split along party lines, voted the sue the President, alleging he has exceeded his constitutional authority.

On the CBS Evening News (7/30, story 6, 1:35, Brown, 5.08M), CBS political director John Dickerson placed the entire debate in the context of the November elections, saying, "In a midterm, a party's base voters are a larger slice of the electorate than in a presidential year. So the incentive is to talk about things that keep those voters engaged. And that means accentuating divisions. And if the President issues executive orders on immigration later this summer, as is expected, that is going to stir things up more. So if anyone...is concerned with the message this fighting sends globally, it will be hard to hear them over all the shouting."

The CBS Evening News (7/30, story 5, 2:10, Brown, 5.08M) reported that the House "vote to sue" yesterday, "like most votes in Congress these days, was divided along party lines. Almost every Republican voted yes." CBS included comments in support of the lawsuit by GOP Reps. Andy Harris, Virginia Foxx and Terri Sewell, and a comment against it by Democrat Hakeem Jeffries. CBS concluded that "courts have generally ruled that Congress already has the ability to check the President's power without bringing the third branch of government into it." Along similar lines, the Wall Street Journal (7/31, Crittenden, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) quotes William and Mary law professor Tara Grove as saying, "We're in uncharted waters, and I think any judicial court would want to avoid weighing in. ... I'd be very surprised if the court grants standing."

The AP (7/30, Fram) reports Democrats "said the lawsuit was simply designed to encourage conservatives to

vote in this November's congressional elections," and "warned that it could be a precursor of a more drastic GOP effort." Rep. Louise Slaughter said yesterday, "The lawsuit is a drumbeat pushing members of the Republican Party to impeachment."

The Washington Times (7/31, Wolfgang, Dinan, 465K) notes the final tally was 225-201, "almost entirely along party lines." The AP (7/31) reports that House debate "over the proposed lawsuit underscored the harshly partisan tone that has dominated the current Congress almost from its start in January 2013." The lawsuit, says the Los Angeles Times (7/31, Memoli, 3.42M), "is the first such legal challenge by a chamber of Congress against a president and a historic foray in the fight over constitutional checks and balances."

Dana Milbank, in his Washington Post (7/30, 4.06M), writes that "for procedural reasons, Republicans opted to bring the lawsuit bill to the floor paired in debate with a measure to deregulate pesticides," which is fitting because "both would make the environment more toxic." Milbank adds that because impeachment is "a political loser," Republicans "used other words Wednesday, such as 'treason,' 'monarchy' and 'usurpation.'"

The New York Times (7/31, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) notes that during yesterday's House debate, Speaker Boehner "all but accused Mr. Obama of leaving the Constitution in tatters," asking, "Are you willing to let any president choose what laws to execute and what laws to change? Are you willing to let anyone tear apart what our founders have built?" After the vote, USA Today (7/30, Singer, 5.76M) reports, "lawmakers on both sides vented their outrage on Twitter." Gail Collins, in the New York Times (7/31, Collins, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), quips that "you could not help but suspect that if Speaker Boehner had it to do all over again, he'd never have brought this idea up."

The Washington Post (7/30, Kane, Goldfarb, 4.06M) reports House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, "glaring at Republicans during the heated debate, accused Boehner ...of caving into 'impeachment-hungry extremists.'" Said Pelosi, "Tell them impeachment is off the table. That's what I had to do" during the Bush presidency.

In an analysis piece, the New York Times (7/31, Nyhan, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports "Republican calls to impeach...Obama look like a wedge issue – in favor of Democrats." However, "the odd Tea Party/Obama alliance may be enough to keep this wedge issue alive as the Democrats' last, best hope to avoid what still looks like an unfavorable midterm election."

E.J. Dionne Jr. writes in the Washington Post (7/30, 4.06M) that the reason "impeachment is a big deal in Washington this week" is "not just because a call to defend President Obama motivates the Democrats' base, although it surely does. ... The deeper problem lies in the proliferation of loose impeachment talk linked with one overheated anti-Obama charge after another."

Politico (7/30, Topaz, 637K) noted that on "Morning Joe," Chuck Todd "railed against both the White House and congressional Republicans for engaging in 'disgusting' and 'embarrassing' rhetoric on impeachment and suing the president." Said Todd, "This is the most cynical – Boehner's up there with this ridiculous lawsuit, Josh Earnest sitting at the podium trying to tick off names of, 'Look at Republicans who want impeachment' – it's not serious, ... The lawsuit's not serious. The impeachment talk's not serious. This is playground stuff. This is embarrassing."

Politico (7/30, Breitman, 637K) also reported that on Fox News, Karl Rove said Obama "is playing with the American people by suggesting a constitutional crisis where none exists. ... Shame on him and shame on those people in the administration who participate with him," and "shame on conservatives and Republicans who helped him along." Rove makes the same points in an op-ed in today's Wall Street Journal (7/31, Rove, Subscription Publication, 5.89M).

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/31, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) dismisses talk of impeaching the President, but defends the House GOP lawsuit against him as an opportunity to demonstrate that Obama has repeatedly overstepped his constitutional authority.

David B. Rivkin Jr., a DOJ and White House official during the Reagan and Bush 41 presidencies, and Elizabeth Price Foley, a constitutional law professor at Florida International University College of Law, argue in favor of the House GOP suit in the Wall Street Journal (7/31, Rivkin, Foley, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), accusing the

President of violating the Constitution's separation of powers clauses.

Politico (7/30, French, 637K) reports that Rep. Paul Ryan yesterday defended the lawsuit, even as he stated that "Obama's executive orders do 'not rise to the high crimes and misdemeanor level' to warrant impeachment proceedings."

Author James Robbins, in USA Today (7/30, Robbins, 5.76M), derides "the spectacle of a president begging to be impeached, the Republican right cheering him on and the House GOP leadership trying vainly to change the subject."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Beware A Wounded Putin."*** The Washington Post (7/31, 4.06M) reports editorializes that recent Western sanctions against Russia and Ukrainian military victories against separatists present Russian President Vladimir Putin with a "dangerous moment" and the West "an opportunity." The Post says Putin "is more likely to escalate than back down," and Ukraine and the West "must be prepared for a more forceful and overt Russian military intervention," which will require "more support" for Ukraine's military and "economic support" for the government.

"Highway Fund Dysfunction." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/30, Board, 4.06M) bemoans the "congressional dysfunction" that "has brought the country to the edge of the 'highway cliff,'" and concludes that "the Senate's plan is better – though the two chambers are arguing over fairly small differences."

"Expanding The Metro."

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"What Science Says About Marijuana."*** In an over 1,500-word signed editorial for the New York Times (7/30, Boffey, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), Philip M. Boffey writes there is a "vast gap between antiquated federal law enforcement policies and the clear consensus of science that marijuana" isn't as harmful as most illegal drugs and isn't as dangerous as alcohol and tobacco. Boffey argues marijuana causes fewer public health effects than alcohol, is less addictive than tobacco, and hurts users health less than both. Additionally, he calls it a "myth" that marijuana use leads to using other drugs. He acknowledges marijuana has negative effects but argues that in "a society that permits nicotine use and celebrates drinking" they're not severe enough to warrant criminal penalties. While any state legalizing marijuana would face challenges, they are "familiar" from tobacco and alcohol use "and they will become easier" to deal with as more governments "bring legal marijuana under tight regulation."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"So Sue Him."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/31, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) dismisses talk of impeaching the President, but defends the House GOP lawsuit against him as an opportunity to demonstrate that Obama has repeatedly overstepped his constitutional authority.

"The 2.1% Expansion." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/31, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) cautions against reading too much into any single quarter GDP result, and notes that annual growth has not once exceeded 2.7% during the current recovery.

"Sunstroke At The FDA." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (7/31, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) lauds the House's passage of the Sunscreen Innovation, which would enable Americans to purchase the superior sunblocks available to consumers in other parts of the world, noting that the FDA has refused to approve new sunscreen ingredients.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Growth Rebound Stokes Fed Debate
Johnson & Johnson Pulls Hysterectomy Tool From Hospitals

West's Sanctions Playbook Faces Challenge In Russia
Argentina Teeters On Default As Talks Collapse

New York Times:
Suicide Bomber From US Came Home Before Attack
Arab Leaders, Viewing Hamas As Worse Than Israel, Stay Silent
In Hedge Fund, Argentina Finds A Relentless Foe
Bouncing Back, Economy Grew 4% For Quarter
US Attorney Warns Cuomo On Ethics Case
Defying Death In Utah Arches: A Thrill To Far?

Washington Post:
Propelled By A Dream
US Economy Springs Ahead
In Berlin Rallies, A Chilling Echo From Germany's Past
Families In Gaza Weigh The Risk Of Staying Together
Key Witness: Deal Posed By Maureen McDonnell

Financial Times:
US Economy Roars Back With 4% Growth
Argentina Defaults After Last-Minute Talks Fail
Shanghai Faces Anti-Corruption Onslaught
BofA Ordered To Pay $1.3bn In Hustle Case
Barclays Vision Starts To Take Shape
Alibaba Talks Could Price Snapchat At $10bn
Bond Markets Hold A Little Bit Of Hope

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Ebola Outbreak; Mideast Conflict; Police Officer Shootings; Los Angeles-Water Main Break; Economic Growth Report; Phone Bill Cramming; Ruth Bader Ginsberg Interview.
CBS: Ebola Outbreak; Mideast Conflict-Gaza; Mideast Conflict-Israel; IRS Investigation-Lerner Emails; Obama Lawsuit; Obama Lawsuit-Analysis; Economic Growth Report; GM Recalls; IIHS Crash Test Results; Los Angeles-Water Main Break; World War I Memorials.
NBC: Ebola Outbreak; Mideast Conflict; Los Angeles-Water Main Break; Califomia Wildfires-Yosemite; IRS Investigation-Lerner Emails; Economic Growth Report; IIHS Crash Test Results; Summer Weather.

Network TV At A Glance:
Ebola Outbreak – 8 minutes, 25 seconds
Mideast Conflict – 9 minutes, 15 seconds
Los Angeles-Water Main Break – 6 minutes, 35 seconds
Economic Growth Report – 55 seconds
IRS Investigation-Lerner Emails – 3 minutes, 55 seconds
IIHS Crash Test Results – 2 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Mideast Conflict-UN School Bombed; Mideast Conflict-Gaza Market Area Bombed; Minnesota-Police Shooting Suspect Arrested; Obama Lawsuit; San Diego-Small Plane Crash.
CBS: Obama Lawsuit; IRS Investigation-Lerner Emails; Ebola Outbreak; Mideast Conflict; Honda Recall; San Diego-Small Plane Crash.
FOX: Mideast Conflict; Obama Lawsuit; Post-911 CIA Report; Economic Growth Report; Economic Growth Report-Federal Reserve; Chrysler Recall.
NPR: Obama Lawsuit; House Passes Bipartisan VA Bill; Mideast Conflict-UN School Bombed; Ebola Outbreak; BofA Fined; Milwaukee Catholic Archdiocese Bankruptcy Case.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President and Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; the President and Vice President meet with Members of Congress on foreign policy, Cabinet Room, photojoumalist spray; the President and Vice President meet for lunch, Private Dining Room, closed press; the President delivers remarks and signs an Executive Order, South Court Auditorium, open press; the President delivers remarks, The Department of Housing and Urban Development, expanded pool; the President and First Lady host "A Celebration of Special Olympics and A Unified Generation"; the President deliver remarks, East Room, pooled press; the President and First Lady attend a concert commemorating the Special Olympics State, Dining Room, pool coverage at the top. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

MICHELLE OBAMA — As part of the Joining Forces initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama will address the 2014 National Conference on Ending Homelessness. This event is open press.
US Senate: COONS – PEN AND PAD — 9 a.m. Senator Coons will host a pen and pad press conference with reporters to preview the US-Africa Leaders Summit and discuss goals for US-Africa trade policy. Open to press. Contact Jamie Serlin at 202-224-5042 or Jamie_Serlin@coons.senate.gov to RSVP. Location: 127-A Russell Senate Office Building.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Hearings to examine financial products for students, focusing on issues and challenges. Witnesses: Panel 1: David A. Bergeron, Vice President for Postsecondary Education Policy, Center for American Progress; Christine Lindstrom, Higher Education Program Director, US Public Interest Research Group; Kenneth Kocer, President, South Dakota Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and Director of Financial Assistance, Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD; Richard Hunt, President and CEO, Consumer Bankers Association. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=8058e98c-2c38-4e5c-999a-fdae0e929bc4. Location: 538 Dirksen.

FINANCE — 10 a.m. Hearing to consider the nomination of Carolyn Watts Colvin of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019, Social Security Administration. http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=f5819c3d-5056-a032-52e1-fa5d15601239. Location: 215 Dirksen.

CANCELED

JUDICIARY — 10 a.m. Executive Business Meeting. http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/executive-business-meeting-2014-07-31. Location: 226 Dirksen.

UPDATED

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security hearings to examine domestic challenges and global competition in aviation manufacturing. Witnesses: Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA); Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL); Marc Allen, President, Boeing Capital Corp.; Gerald Dillingham, Director of Civil Aviation Issues, General Accounting Office; Keith Crane, Director of the Environment, Energy, and Economic Development Program, RAND Corporation. http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/ Location: 253 Russell.

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Examining the GAO Report on Expectations of Government Support for Bank Holding Companies. Witnesses: Panel 1: Lawrance L. Evans, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, US Government Accountability Office; Dr. Deniz Anginer, Assistant Professor of Finance, Pamplin School of Business, Virginia Tech; Dr. Edward Kane, Professor of Finance, Boston College; Dr. Anat Admati, George G.C. Parker Professor of Finance and Economics, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, President, American Action Forum. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm? FuseAction=Hearings. Hearing&Hearing_ID=caf60dbe-5e9f-

4af9-8ddb-daf054fb1743. Location: 538 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 2 p.m. Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-07-31-14. Location: S-116.
US House: 9 a.m. — The House will meet for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m.

HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS – SYRIAN ARMY DEFECTOR — 9:30 a.m. Congressional briefing hosted by the House Foreign Affairs committee on Assads Killing Machine Exposed: Implications for US Policy. Briefers: "Caesar" (an alias), Syrian Army defector, (will appear in disguise); David M. Crane, Professor of Practice, College of Law, Syracuse University; Cherif Bassiouni, Emeritus Professor of Law, College of Law, DePaul University; Frederic C. Hof, Resident Senior Fellow, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Atlantic Council. NOTE: For the safety of "Caesar", the primary briefer, only still photography will be permitted during the opening statement portion of the briefing and will be restricted to designated areas near the rear of the briefing room. No video or audio recording will be permitted at any time during the briefing. The briefing will not be webcast. VERY GRAPHIC images will be displayed during the briefing. www.foreignaffairs.house.gov. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

PELOSI WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE — 10 a.m. News Conference with Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi Holds Weekly Press Conference (access thru HVC117). Location: HVC Studio A.

BOEHNER BRIEFING — 11:30 a.m. News Conference – Speaker Boehner Holds On-Camera Press Briefing (access thru HVC117). Location: HVC Studio A.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE — 8:30 a.m. Business meeting on Final HPSCI Investigative Report on the September 2012 Attacks in Benghazi, Libya. CLOSED. http://intelligence.house.gov/hearing/ongoing-intelligence-activities-63 Location: HVC-304.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 9 a.m. Subcommittee on Government Operations hearing on "Planes Trains and Automobiles: Operating While Stoned". http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/planes-trains-automobiles-operating-stoned/ Location: 2154 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 9:15 a.m. Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on "PPACA Implementation: Updates from CMS and GAO." Witnesses: Andy Slavitt, Principal Deputy Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; William T. Woods, Director of Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office. http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/ppaca-implementation-updates-cms-and-gaosthash. WauXFLPI.dpuf. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Research and Technology and Subcommittee on Oversight joint hearing: "Technology Needed to Secure Americas Border". Witnesses: Dr. K. Jack Riley, Vice President, RAND National Security Research Division; David C. Maurer, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, US Government Accountability Office; Dr. Joseph D. Eyerman, Director, Health Security Program, RTI International. http://science.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-research-and-technology-and-subcommittee-oversight-joint-hearing-technology-0. Location: 2318 Rayburn

SMALL BUSINESS — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Health and Technology will hold a hearing titled, Telemedicine: A Prescription for Small Medical Practices?&8203; Witnesses: Dr. Karen Rheuban, Senior Associate Dean for CME and External Affairs Director, University of Virginia Center for Telehealth, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA; Dr. Megan McHugh, Research Assistant Professor, Director, Program in Healthcare Policy and Implementation, Center for Healthcare Studies, Institute for Public Health and Medicine and Department of Emergency Medicine, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL; Maggie Basgall, Community Development Specialist, Nex-Tech, Lenora, KS – Testifying on behalf of the NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association; Dr. Brenda Dintiman, FAAD, Fair Oaks Skin Care Center, Fairfax, VA – Testifying on behalf of the American Academy of Dermatology. Location: 2360 Rayburn.

WAYS AND MEANS — 10:15 a.m. Markup of: H.R. 647, "ABLE Act of 2013". www. WaysandMeans. House. Gov. Location: 1100 Longworth.

Other: 4-H – CHILDHOOD OBESITY — 11:30 a.m. The National 4-H Council is partnering with Biggest Loser finalist and former Florida State football player Joe Ostaszewski on Riding it Forward, a national bike ride raising awareness for on obesity and healthy living in 42 cities this summer and fall. To help combat this, National 4-H Council is partnering with Biggest Loser finalist and former Florida State football player Joe Ostaszewski on Riding it Forward, a national bike ride raising awareness for healthy living in 42 cities this summer and fall. Participants: Joe Ostaszewski – Biggest Loser season 14 finalist and former Florida State football player who has "dedicated his life to helping today's youth fight childhood obesity"; Christina Alford – Executive Vice President of National 4-H Council who "works daily to empower youth to reach their full potential"; Allie Lansman – 4-H Healthy Living Youth Ambassador who, after watching Biggest Loser and learning about healthy living from 4-H, lost 50 lbs; Noah Gray a.k.a. Biingo – Biggest Loser Youth Ambassador from season 14 who has continued to combat childhood obesity after he left the Biggest Loser Ranch more than a year ago (only available day-of-the-event). Location: National 4-H Council, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Contacts: Kimberly M West kwest@4-h.org (301-951-3078). On the Net: http://4-h.org. www.ridingitforward.com. Notes: Locations for the tour: Chevy Chase, Md. (July 31); Nashville, Tenn. (August 12); Little Rock, Ark. (August 19); Oklahoma City, Okla. (August 26); Amarillo, Texas (September 4); Flagstaff, Ariz. (September 17); Los Angeles, Calif. (September 25); Calabasas, Calif. (September 26)

IEEE POWER & ENERGY SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING — July 27 – 31. The IEEE Power and Energy Society General Meeting 2014. http://www.pes-gm.org/2014/ Highlights: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Cyber and Physical Security. Panelists: Annabelle Lee, EPRI, NESCOR; Andy Bochman, Bochman Advisors; Jason Christopher, Cyber Security Capabilities & Risk Management US Department of Energy; Gerry W. Cauley, North American Electric Reliability Council; Jim Brenton, ERCOT. Location: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD

WHISTLEBLOWER SUMMIT FOR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS — July 28 – 31. ACORN 8 and Drum Majors for Truth will co-host this year's Whistleblowers Summit for Civil and Human Rights. Whistleblowers and their advocates will visit Capitol Hill to convene this four-day event, which features Plenary Session, Workshops and Panel Discussions, Press Conference at the National Press Club, Whistleblower Book Signing and Film Screening, National Whistleblower Appreciation Day Awards Luncheon and Reception, Pillar Awards Presentations, and Solidarity Dinner. www. WhistleblowerSummit.com. Highlights: Civil Rights Celebration Day with panel discussion on: OSC/EEOCMemorandum of Understanding: Office of Special Counsel; Pillar Award Presentation (noon); Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Stakeholder Panel; "Cooking the Books at the VA & USDA" (2p.m.); Class Actions: Justice Department, Social Security Administration and US Department of Agriculture; Whistleblower Solidarity Dinner (6 p.m.). Location: 340 Cannon House office Building. Contacts: Michael McCray (870) 543-0024. Notes: The 2014 Whistleblower Summit to commemorate National Whistleblower Appreciation Day luncheon will be held at the Mott House, 122 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, on July 30 from 12:30-3pm. The luncheon is free of charge but you must RSVP by Tuesday, July 29.

HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE — July 29 – 31. The 2014 National Conference on Ending Homelessness, held by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. http://help.endhomelessness. org/events/30/events/30/agenda. Highlights: Address by first lady Michelle Obama.

FDA – ANTIBACTERIAL PRODUCTS — July 30 – 31. The Development of New Antibacterial Products: Charting a Course for the Future. FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, M.D., will deliver opening remarks. http://www.fda.gov/EmergencyPreparedness/Counterterrorism/MedicalCountermeasures/ AboutMCMi/ucm403009.htm. Location: Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center disclaimer icon, 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda, MD 20852. Contacts: Stephanie Yao stephanie.yao@fda.hhs.gov (301-796-0394)

EESI EXPO & POLICY FORUM — 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. 7th Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO + Policy Forum. Headline speakers include: Rep. David G. Reichert, R-WA (Co-chair of the House Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucus); Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-MD (Co-chair of the House Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucus); Rep. Jim Himes, D-CT; Rep. Paul Tonko, D-NY; Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Energy & Sustainability); Edward Thomas Morehouse, Jr,, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Operational Energy Plans and Programs; Rear Admiral Kevin R. Slates, Director of Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, US Navy; Dr. David T. Danielson, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, US Department of Energy. Highlights: 9:30 a.m. – 4:05 p.m. Policy Forum. 334 Cannon. 10:15 a.m. Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy Capt. James C.

Goudreau speaks at the 17th Annual Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo and Forum 334 Cannon. 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Expo. 345 Cannon. Notes: Register at http://sustainableenergy.org/2014-expo/2014-expo-registration/

FDA – BLOOD PRODUCTS — 8 a.m. The Blood Products Advisory Committee will meet in open session to discuss Baxter Healthcare Corporations biologics license application for HyQvia, Immune Globulin Infusion 10 percent (human) combined with Recombinant Human Hyaluronidase for the treatment of patients with primary immune deficiency disorders. In the afternoon, the committee will meet in open session to discuss reentry of blood donors deferred on the basis of Chagas disease test results. Press Office Contact: Jennifer Rodriguez, 301-796-8232, jennifer.rodriguez@fda.hhs.gov. Location: FDAs White Oak campus, Silver Spring Maryland.

FDA – TISSUGLU SURGICAL ADHESIVE — 8 a.m. The General and Plastic Surgery Devices Panel will meet to discuss, make recommendations and vote on information regarding the premarket application for the TissuGlu Surgical Adhesive device sponsored by Cohera Medical, Inc. The proposed use for the TissuGlu Surgical Adhesive device is for the approximation of tissue layers where subcutaneous dead space exists between the tissue planes in large flap surgical procedures such as abdominoplasty. Press Office Contact: Jeff Ventura, 301-796-7567, jeff.ventura@fda.hhs.gov. Location: Gaithersburg Hilton, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

IMF – JAPAN STAFF REPORT – CONFERENCE CALL — 9:30 a.m. Conference Call on the Japan Staff Report for the IMF 2014 Article IV Consultation. Speakers: Jerry Schiff, Mission Chief for Japan and Deputy Director of Asia and Pacific Department; Stephan Danninger, Division Chief, Asia and Pacific Department. Dial from the US (800) 230-1951 or from outside the US: +1 (612) 332-0630. On the Net: http://presscenter.imf.org. Notes: Due to the time difference, journalists in Asia and the Pacific regions can submit questions prior to the call via email at kutsunomiya@imf.org. Documents: The 2014 Japan Staff Report and related materials will be made available under embargo at latest 12 hours ahead of the call, for publication not before Thursday, July 31 at 9:30 a.m. Washington time (13:30 GMT).

FAMILIES USA – MEDICAID EXPANSION – PA — 10 a.m. Teleconference and Release of Report by PA Health Access. Network and Families USA, "Medicaid Expansion in Pennsylvania: Health Insurance for Working Individuals and Families." Participants: Antoinette Kraus, Director, Pennsylvania Health Access Network; Dee Mahan, Medicaid Program Director, Families USA. DIAL IN: 888-504-7963. Confirmation code: 7517721. Contacts: Dave Lemmon, Bob Meissner Bryan Fisher ((202) 628-3030)

NAM – OZONE STANDARD REVISION — 10 a.m. The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) to Release Major Study on Impact of EPA's Planned Ozone Standard Revision. Speakers: Jay Timmons, President and CEO, NAM; Ross Eisenberg, Vice President of Energy and Resources Policy, NAM; Dr. David Harrison, Jr., Senior, Vice President and Co-Chair, Environment Practice, NERA, Economic Consulting. RSVP to Jamie Hennigan at JHennigan@nam.org DIAL IN: (866) 952-1908, conference ID: NAM.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – AFRICAN LEADERS SUMMIT PREVIEW — 11 a.m. The US-Africa Leaders Summit: A Preview. Remarks by: Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, US Department of State. Moderator: J. Peter Pham, Director, Africa Center, Atlantic Council. http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/the-us-africa-leaders-summit-a-preview. Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor (West Tower).

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – GAZA — 3:30 p.m. Gaza: Breaking the Vicious Cycle, A Conversation with Dr. Salam Fayyad. Speakers: Dr. Salam Fayyad, Distinguished Statesman, Atlantic Council. Welcome remarks by Gen. James L. Jones, Jr., USMC (Ret.), President, Jones Group International, Chairman, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, Atlantic Council. Moderator: Frederick Kempe, President and CEO, Atlantic Council. http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/gaza-breaking-the-vicious-cycle-a-conversation-with-dr-salam-fayyad. Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor (West Tower).

NASA – MARS 2020 ROVER INSTRUMENTS — 12 p.m. NASA will announce on Thursday, July 31, the instruments that will be carried aboard the agencys Mars 2020 mission, a roving laboratory based on the highly successful Curiosity rover. The announcement will air live at noon EDT on NASA Television and on the agencys website. Speakers: John Grunsfeld, astronaut and associate administrator for the NASA Science Mission Directorate, Headquarters, Washington; Bill Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for the NASA Human

Exploration and Operations Directorate, Headquarters; Michael Meyer, lead scientist, Mars Exploration Program, Headquarters; Ellen Stofan, NASA chief scientist, Headquarters. http://www.nasa.gov/press/2014/july/nasa-to-announce-mars-2020-rover-instruments/.U9l3LvIdVXE. Location: NASA TV studio at NASA Headquarters, 300 E Street SW. Notes: Media who would like to attend in person. To arrange access, media must email dwayne.c.brown@nasa.gov by no later than 9 a.m. Thursday.

MALAWI – REP. CARNEY, RUNYAN – PHILLIES PITCHER HAMELS — 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Hamels Foundation, with Rep. John Camey, D-at large DE and Rep. Jon Runyan, R- 3rd NJ) hosts lunch briefing on the work of the Hamels Foundation and the Globalb Fund to fight Tuberculosis and malaria in Malawi. Speakers include: Cole hamels, C0-founder, Hamels Foundation, Starting Pitcher, Philadelphia Phillies. Location: 2200 Rayburn. Contacts: Rachel Henderson rhenderson@unfoundation.org (202.739.2782). On the Net: www.unfoundation.org

TRADE SECRET PROTECTION – WEB EVENT — 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the National Alliance for Jobs and Innovation (NAJI) and the Center for Responsible Enterprise And Trade (CREATe.org) will host a webinar on what can be done by manufacturers to prevent and remedy trade secret theft. An announcement will also be made regarding a new grassroots effort to engage on trade secret protection. Panelists: Rob McKenna, President of NAJI and former Washington State Attorney General; Aric Newhouse, Senior Vice President of Policy and Government Relations, NAM; Ted Schroeder, Chief Counsel, Office of Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE); Thaddeus Burns, Senior Counsel, Intellectual Property and Trade, GE; Pamela Passman, President and CEO, Center for Responsible Enterprise and Trade. On the Net: http://www.nam.org Notes: Register with Kara Horton at (617) 995-5419 or khorton@naji.org. Registration deadline is 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 30. Dial-in information will be e-mailed to all registrants on Wednesday evening. The panelists will be available for interviews following the event.

AMERICAN ISLAMIC CONGRESS – ISIS — 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. "ISIS in Iraq: Political or Religious Conflict? Sunni Vs Shia." Invited speakers: Congressman Frank Wolf, Representative of Virginia-10th District; Ambassador Lukman Faily, Iraqi Ambassador to the United States; Dr. Muhamed Almaliky, Founder and Director of the Iraqi American Institute. Location: Gold Room, Rayburn. Contacts: media@aicongress.org, 202-457-5890. Notes: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/isis-in-iraq-political-or-religious-conflict-sunni-vs-shia-tickets-12369151465.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Meanwhile, in Washington the House passed the bill today with 225 votes to go forward with a lawsuit against President Obama. So see, who says Congress can't get anything done?"

Jimmy Kimmel: "They're suing the President. Well, I think it is ridiculous unless they do the trial on Judge Judy. Then I am all for it."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama is facing repeated calls for his impeachment because of the immigration crisis at the border. But yesterday, House Speaker John Boehner said that in fact, Republicans actually have no plans to impeach the President. Which got weird when Obama was like, 'Damn, almost got out of this thing, yeah. That was a good way out, man. I'm looking forward to vacation.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Boehner said Republicans have no plans to impeach President Obama. They were like, 'We're too busy figuring out how to impeach Hillary. You know, we gotta think ahead.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Chris Christie attended a GOP fundraiser with Donald Trump at the Trump National Golf Course in New Jersey. Yeah. When asked what his handicap is, Christie said, 'Stairs.'"

Seth Meyers: "In a speech today, President Obama criticized Congress for trying to sue him, saying that they need to focus on the economy and should stop just 'hating' all the time. John Boehner responded, 'Maybe we would stop hating, if you'd stop frontin'.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, August 4, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Mon, Aug 4, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL PRAISES PARTNERSHIPS IN PENNSYLVANIA MINE-TO-GARDEN PROJECT. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "praised the public-private partnerships that helped turned a polluted abandoned coal mine site here into the Pittsburgh area's first botanic garden." It was made possible by "a nearly $100,000 grant from Interior's Office of Surface Mining," and "the state chipped in more than $220,000 in 2009 from its Growing Greener grants, and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds gave

another $15,000."

Also providing coverage are the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (8/2, Mcfeeters, 590K), the Pittsburgh Business Times (8/1, Subscription Publication, 25K), and KDKA-TV Pittsburgh (8/1, 57K).

DEAL ANNOUNCED FOR COLORADO RIVER BASIN CONSERVATION. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that "municipal water providers in four drought-stricken Western states announced a deal with the federal government" on Thursday "aimed at conserving water in the Colorado River Basin." The Central Arizona Project, Denver Water, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the BOR will "contribute a total of $11 million to the program, called the Colorado River System Conservation Program." Michael Connor, deputy secretary of the Interior Department, said, "This is a critically important first step, and I applaud the far sighted municipal water providers for beginning to address the imbalance in supply and demand on the Colorado River that could seriously affect the economy and the people who rely upon the river."

Also reporting on the story are the Las Vegas Review-Journal (8/4, 386K), the Mohave Valley (AZ) Daily News (8/4, 23K), and the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (8/1, 86K).

INTERIOR PARTNERING WITH UNION GROUP TO RESTORE NATIONAL PARKS, WILDLIFE REFUGES. Additional coverage of Interior Department's partnership with the Union Sportsmen Alliance was provided by the Washington Times (8/4, 465K). The Interior Department will "grant $3 million to 'Boots on the Ground' volunteer projects in several states including, Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, Minnesota, Maryland, Nevada, Texas and Wisconsin." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Not only will our nation's parks and public lands benefit from the expert labor, but many young people will have an opportunity to work alongside the volunteers, learning about the great outdoors and gaining important trade skills," Ms. Jewell said. "I applaud the Union Sportsmen's Alliance for their work to continue to strengthen the nation through volunteer efforts that will make a big difference in conservation projects across the country."

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CALL ON ADMINISTRATION TO OPEN UP NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING AREAS. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that "coalitions of lawmakers in both chambers and from both parties this week urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to open new federal waters to oil and gas leasing in the department's next five-year leasing plan, citing bipartisan support in Congress and from coastal governors." On Friday, "a coalition of more than 160 House Republicans sent a letter to Jewell urging her to lease waters 'with the greatest resource potential as well as areas such as the mid- and south-Atlantic, or the Arctic,' as part of Interior's 2017-2022 plan." Also, on Thursday, "a letter by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and Democratic colleagues Mark Warner of Virginia, Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Mark Begich of Alaska urged Jewell to craft a plan that 'allows for the consideration of exploration for all areas with reasonable potential for future resource development.'"

Also reporting on the story is The Hill. (8/2, Barron-Lopez, 237K)

WESTERN GOVERNORS OPPOSE NEW PACIFIC LEASING. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that three West Coast governors on Thursday "formally voiced their opposition to expanding oil and gas drilling off their shores, pre-empting the inclusion of new exploration in an updated version of the Interior Department's Outer Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program." In a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Democratic Govs. Jay Inslee of Washington, Jerry Brown of California and John Kitzhaber of Oregon "condemned the environmental threat new leases pose for ocean-dependent industries that contribute billions of dollars to a region representing 'the fifth-largest economy in the world.'" They wrote, "While new technology reduces the risk of a catastrophic event such as the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, a sizeable spill anywhere along our shared coast would have a devastating impact on our population, recreation, natural resources, and our ocean and coastal dependent economies."

Meanwhile, the Washington Examiner (8/4, 335K) reports that "three West Coast Democratic governors came out against offshore drilling this week, but it's a Republican governor's moves on the Atlantic Ocean that have drawn some attention." New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's Department of Environmental Protection "went to court earlier this month to block a federally funded oil and gas exploration project that uses seismic airgun testing off the Atlantic coast, saying it could harm the state's fishing and tourism industries." A district court judge rejected the motion, but the Christie administration is appealing the ruling.

Also reporting on the story are Politico (8/4, Guillén, 637K), the FuelFix (8/1, 7K), the Everett (WA) Herald (8/3, 131K).

In an editorial, the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (8/2, 170K) supports the opposition to drilling by the West Coast governors. According to the paper, "except off California, where drilling would set off a tsunami of opposition, what little study that has been done of the potential farther up the coast should be discouraging compared with the known wealth exploitable in so many other areas."

SENATE DEMOCRATS CALL FOR EXPANDED LEASING. The Oil and Gas Journal (8/4, 1K) reports that Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairwoman Mary L. Landrieu and three other Senate Democrats urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "to consider leasing more of the US Outer Continental Shelf for oil and gas exploration and development in the next 5-year program." In the letter, which was also signed by Sens. Mark Begich, Joe Manchin. and Mark W. Warner, Landrieu wrote, "We believe the [Department of the Interior] should move forward with a 5-year program that continues to lease currently open areas, but also allows for the consideration of exploration for all areas with reasonable potential for future resource development."

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING BILL THAT WOULD INCLUDE MONEY FOR WILDFIRES FAILS IN SENATE. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that "Congress is wrapping up its final business before the August recess this afternoon without addressing the Obama administration's request for emergency funding to fight wildfires raging in the West." According to the article, "the more than $600 million for wildfires had been wrapped up in broader supplemental funding legislation that failed" Thursday. The House "may try to approve the same funds before adjourning later" Friday, "but its plans are unclear."

The E&E Daily (8/1) notes "that means that whatever the House considers – which would not include the wildfire money – cannot be signed into law until at least September, but House Republicans said they were committed to acting on the border crisis before leaving town."

Meanwhile, on Real Money with Ali Velshi (8/4), Jim Douglas, Director, Office of Wildland Fire, discussed the increasing cost of wildfire management using some of the data brought up by the Union of Concerned Scientists report.

Senate Bill Would Expedite Reviews For Wildfire Projects. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that "a new bill by Senate Republicans seeks to streamline federal reviews for forest projects that reduce wildfire threats to critical infrastructure, private lands or endangered species habitat." Sen. Dean Heller's S. 2768 would "expand the use of categorical exclusions for hazardous fuels projects under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act with an eye toward preserving habitat for at-risk species like sage grouse."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by Fox News (8/1, 6.72M), the Christian Science Monitor (8/3, 566K), the Los Angeles Times (8/2, Lin, 3.42M), the Denver Post (8/4, 923K), the Denver Post (8/4, 923K), and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/3, 582K).

SENATE PANEL UNVEILS INTERIOR-EPA SPENDING BILL. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that Senate appropriators on Friday "released a draft $30.7 billion fiscal 2015 spending bill to fund the Interior Department, US EPA and the Forest Service, a measure that would authorize a key Obama administration proposal for funding wildfires while rejecting the administration's proposed cuts to EPA water infrastructure grant programs." The article notes that "the Senate draft would also provide a roughly $20 million boost over current funding for federal land acquisition under the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a win for conservationists." In total, the measure would "provide $10.6 billion for the Interior agencies under the panel's jurisdiction, which is just about even with what Obama requested."

Also covering the story is KDLG-AM Dillingham, AK (8/4).

SECRETARY JEWELL HOSTS DIALOGUE ON COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. The Daily News (TZA) (8/4) reports on the USAfrican Leaders' Summit. Tanzania President Jakaya Kikwete was scheduled to "participate in a luncheon at the Centre for Global Development where he will share his vision on the future of Tanzania following the discoveries of oil and gas before attending a dialogue on combating wildlife trafficking to be hosted by the US Secretary of Interior, Sally Jewell."

SENATORS PUSH TO DESIGNATE CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL. The AP (8/4) reports that Nebraska's senators have "joined the effort to seek federal recognition for the trail the Ponca Tribe took during a forced march more than 135 years ago." Sens. Mike Johanns and Deb Fischer "introduced legislation Thursday calling on the Interior Department to determine the feasibility of creating a Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail."

US TEARING DOWN HUNDREDS OF DAMS TO RETURN RIVERS TO THEIR WILD STATE. The Christian Science Monitor (8/4, Struck, 566K) reported that in a "profound shift of priorities in the United States," dams "are gradually being torn down," in most cases "to restore rivers to a wild state." Over the past 25 years, nearly 900 dams have been removed. Conservationists "say they are surprised at how quickly nature recovers" after the dams are torn down.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN RELATIONS. Additional coverage of Native Hawaiian relations was provided by the Hawaii Free Press (8/4) and the Hawaii Free Press (8/4).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SUPPORT OF GREATER CANYONLANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage of the "letter sent last week to President Barack Obama by 14 US senators asking him to use his power under the Antiquities Act to create a Greater Canyonlands National Monument in Utah" was provided by the Deseret (UT) News (8/4, 538K).

HISPANIC VOTERS SUPPORT CONSERVATION. In an op-ed for the Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (8/4, 79K), Rod Torrez, Director of HECHO, Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting & Outdoors, writes that "a recent NBC/Marist poll confirmed what Latinos across Colorado already know from generations of enjoying the great outdoors — we are conservationists." He notes that "the poll showed that despite sampling more Republicans than Democrats (32 percent and 27 percent, respectively), the Democratic candidate for Senate in Colorado holds a 31-point edge in support among Latinos." According to Torrez, "views on conservation and pollution may very well play a role in that divergence." Also, "the findings of a different poll commissioned by Latino sportsmen of Hispanic registered voters in Colorado and New Mexico found that protecting public lands and clean air and water are fundamental values for our community."

SUPPORT URGED FOR LWCF. In an editorial, the Everett (WA) Herald (8/3, 131K) urges Congress to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The paper claims that "the windfall is substantial" and notes that "Washington's recreation economy is a $8.5 billion industry sustaining 115,000 jobs."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS DEFENDS PLAN TO SHOOT DEER AT THREE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that the NPS has "completed its review of a white-tailed deer management plan for three Civil War battlefields that proposes using sharpshooters to kill roughly 2,800 deer over a five-year period." The agency on Friday "released a final environmental impact statement (EIS) and deer management plan that is designed to thin white-tailed deer herds that NPS says are damaging forests and vegetation at the Antietam and Monocacy national battlefields in Maryland and Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia." Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles, an NPS spokeswoman, said, "Right now, there are no contraceptives that have been proven effective in free-range deer populations. But the preferred alternative allows us to use both lethal and non-lethal methods if [effective] contraceptives for free-range deer become available."

Also covering the story are the AP (8/4), the Washington Post (8/1, 4.06M), the Washington Post (8/1, 4.06M), the Cumberland (MD) Times-News (8/4, 91K), and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/1, 582K).

STUDY REQUESTED ON INCLUDING JOHN P. PARKER HOUSE AND UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN PARK SYSTEM. The AP (8/4) reports that "some members of Congress want the southern Ohio home of a former slave who helped other slaves to freedom brought into the national park system." Sen. Sherrod Brown and Rep. Joyce Beatty say "they have introduced legislation requesting a study of the feasibility of the John P. Parker House and

Underground Railroad stop becoming part of the park system."

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK BANS DRONES. The AP (8/4) reports that "officials at Saguaro National Park say all unmanned aircraft are barred from the southern Arizona park." The park has "updated its written policy to address restrictions on aerial devices including drones within its boundaries."

NPS TO DONATE TOP OF BROKEN 1895 MONUMENT, DESTROY REMAINDER. The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (8/3, 181K) reports that "it appears that only the top quarter of a 119-year-old statue will be loaned to the York County Historical Museum if a proposal from the National Park Service is accepted by the York Board of Supervisors Monday night." The rest of the Shaw Monument "will be ground for use on roadways, according to a memorandum from County Administrator James McReynolds to the board."

NPS CELEBRATES MABRY MILL RESTORATION. The Roanoke (VA) Times (8/4, 231K) reports that "the big wheel is turning again at Mabry Mill, thanks to a $65,000 grant from the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation." According to the article, "several dozen fans of the popular parkway attraction turned out for Thursday morning's celebration of the mill's restored water wheel, which was rebuilt this past winter and spring." The grant "covered repairs to the mill wheel and the flumes that supply water, as well as dredging of the mill pond."

YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY, PEOPLE RUN-INS SHOW DECLINE IN 2013. The AP (8/1, Press) reports that "conflicts between humans and grizzly bears in the region around Yellowstone National Park dropped last year, but that wasn't enough to reverse a long-term trend of more potentially dangerous interactions as populations of both bruins and people increase." A new report by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team "shows 252 grizzly run-ins were documented last year." According to study team leader Frank van Manen, "the number of conflicts decreased from the annual average of 270 for the prior three years."

STUDY SUGGESTS FEE HIKE COULD OFFSET YELLOWSTONE BEAR COST. The AP (8/4) reports that "a new study says visitors to Yellowstone National Park want to see grizzly and black bears so much they would pay more than double park's the current entry fee to be ensured of seeing one." According to a report in the Journal of Environmental Management, "Yellowstone could raise its current entrance fee to offset the cost of bears that appear frequently along roadsides." The study found that "visitors are willing to pay $41 on top of the $25 entrance fee to cover the cost of policing 'bear jams.'"

YELLOWSTONE CREWS WORK TO REMOVE ILLEGAL TRAILS. The AP (8/4) reports Yellowstone National Park officials are "working on removing trails that were illegally constructed in the park's southwestern corner." According to park officials, "somebody deliberately built the trails they're now trying to eliminate in the Bechler River area."

SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK TO BE FEATURED ON QUARTER. The AP (8/4) reports that Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve will "soon be featured on the quarter as part of a US Mint program aimed at honoring the country's national parks and other famous landscapes." According to the article, "the front of the coin will still feature the bust of George Washington, but the reverse side will depict a boy and his father playing in Medano Creek with the dunes and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the background."

HOMESTEAD MONUMENT TO HOST 'MUSICAL SMORGASBORD'. The AP (8/4) reports that the Homestead National Monument of America is "finishing this year's campfire program series with a musical presentation." The event will be held "on Saturday at 7 p.m. Musician Chris Sayre will present 'Nebraska's Musical Smorgasbord,' with traditional folk music from Europe and North America."

Bureau of Land Management:

SEN. WYDEN SEEKS NEW PATH FOR O&C LOGGING, WATER BILLS. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden on Thursday "sought a new legislative path for two of his signature bills aimed at revamping forestry in western Oregon and approving water agreements in Oregon's thirsty Klamath Basin." According to the article, "neither proposal had advanced in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee before the August recess, so Wyden added tax provisions that allow the measures to be considered in his legislative home court."

NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY INVOKES GOD IN DISPUTE WITH BLM. The AP (8/4) reports that "Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy claims the April confrontation between the federal government and his armed supporters was part of an age-old spiritual battle between good and evil." Bundy, "a Mormon, told an Independent American Party gathering in St. George, Utah, on Saturday that God provided him personal inspiration in the showdown over cattle in Bunkerville, Nevada, about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas." He said, "The Lord told me ... if [the local sheriff doesn't] take away these arms from federal agents, we the people will have to face these arms in a civil war. He said, `This is your chance to straighten this thing up.'"

TWO WILD HORSES DIE DURING ROUNDUP IN UTAH. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that "one wild horse broke its neck and another was euthanized by the Bureau of Land Management during a roundup operation in western Utah on Wednesday, the agency said." According to BLM spokeswoman Lisa Reid, "the first animal was killed instantly after the agitated yearling charged headfirst into a side panel, and the agency had to euthanize a 7-year-old animal due to a severely deformed leg." The article note that "such deaths are unusual and occurred during the third day of the Blawn Wash roundup in Utah's Wah Wah Mountains, about 35 miles southwest of Milford."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS BANS GMO FEED, BEE-KILLING CHEMICALS. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that the FWS will "phase out genetically engineered crops to feed wildlife and neonicotinoid pesticides in all of its regions' wildlife refuges through 2016, according to a memorandum dated lasted week." Jim Kurth, FWS refuge chief, wrote in the document, "We have demonstrated our ability to successfully accomplish refuge purposes over the past two years without using genetically modified crops, therefore it is no longer possible to say that their use is essential to meet wildlife management objectives. We will no longer use genetically modified crops to meet wildlife management objectives system-wide."

BILL AIMS FOR CONSIDERATION OF CRITICAL HABITAT COSTS. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that Sens. Mark Pryor (D) and John Boozman (R) "want to force the Fish and Wildlife Service to consider the costs of critical habitat designations on private landowners." The two introduced a bill on Thursday, S. 2729, that "would reverse a 2013 rule that requires FWS to only consider how much such designations will cost federal agencies." According to the article, "instead of that so-called incremental economic impact, the agency would have to consider costs to agriculture, businesses and local governments."

JUDGE HEARS ARGUMENTS ON LAWSUIT OVER OWL KILLINGS AT KENNEDY AIRPORT. The New York Times (8/1, Clifford, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that on Friday, "a judge in Federal District Court in Brooklyn heard arguments over whether a lawsuit should go forward that was brought by the group, Friends of Animals, seeking to change policies of the federal agencies that oversee bird removal" at John F. Kennedy Airport. The lawsuit claims "the 'bird hazard reduction program' run by the Port Authority, which is not a subject of the suit, has killed tens of thousands of birds around Kennedy since 1994." Judge John Gleeson is "expected to issue a decision in the coming weeks over whether the lawsuit can proceed."

FWS TARGETS WILDLIFE SMUGGLERS AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL. The AP (8/4) reports that "from live flying squirrels to rare jaguar pelts, wildlife inspectors at Miami International Airport say they are in a constant battle to keep illegal animal imports from entering the country." According to the FWS, "one in every three wildlife inspections at the busy airports leads to law enforcement involvement." David Pharo, resident agent in charge of law enforcement for the FWS in South Florida, said "many shipments have bogus permits for zoos and circuses." He added that "the federal agency's nine local inspectors are overwhelmed by the volume of illegal animal imports passing through Miami's main airport."

FWS CONSIDERING PROTECTIONS FOR NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL. USA Today (8/3, Hampson, 5.76M) reports that the New England cottontail has "become a candidate for the federal list of endangered species." According to the article, "with a federal endangerment determination looming in 2015, the goal is a stable New England cottontail population of around 28,000, which might be five times the current total."

MIDLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CLOSER TO OBTAINING SPACEPORT LICENSE. The KWES-TV Odessa, TX (8/3, 5K) website reported that the Midland International Airport is a "step closer" to obtaining its

spaceport license. Because of concerns that launches will affect the Lesser Prairie Chicken species, the US Fish and Wildlife Services and the Department of Airports have agreed to watch "the first five launches to make sure the Lesser Prairie Chicken will not be harmed."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS FINALIZES PROTECTIONS FOR THREE FLOWERS. Additional coverage of the protections for the Short's bladderpod (Physaria globosa), whorled sunflower (Helianthus verticillatus) and fleshy-fruit gladecress (Leavenworthia crassa) was provided by Reuters (8/1, Gates), The Chattanoogan (8/4, 12K), and the Gadsden (AL) Times (8/4, 43K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS CONSIDERING HABITATS FOR GRIZZLY BEARS. Additional coverage that the FWS is "weighing an environmental group's request to set aside 110,000 square miles for grizzly bears in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado" was provided by the Los Angeles Times (8/2, Cart, 3.42M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS CONSIDERING STATUS OF MANATEES. Additional coverage that the FWS is reviewing the manatee's status was provided by the Tampa Bay (FL) Times (8/4, 75K).

US Geological Survey:

INCREASE IN INTERSEX FISH ALARMS BIOLOGISTS. The Washington Post (8/3, Fears, 4.06M) reports that the increase of intersex fish in the Chesapeake Bay watershed is alarming biologists. The article notes that "in the latest study, smallmouth bass and white sucker fish captured at 16 sites in the Delaware, Ohio and Susquehanna rivers in Pennsylvania had crossed over into a category called intersex, an organism with two genders." Vicki Blazer, a USGS biologist, said, "I did not expect to find it quite as widespread." Blazer supports stronger pesticide reporting, saying that the fish is "an indicator that something else is really wrong. What are these things doing to the natural environment? If we find these things in wild organisms, there's a good chance they're also affecting people."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SENATE HEARING ON DRILLING PERMIT DELAYS. Additional coverage of the July 29 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on "the extent of oil and gas drilling permit delays" at BLM field offices was provided by the Oil and Gas Journal (8/4, 1K) and Platts (8/4, 2K).

DRILLING IN MOAB AREA OPPOSED. In an op-ed for the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/4, 470K), Allan Muns, chairman and CEO of Republic Resources Ltd. and Muns Family Partnership, writes that the BLM has "the unenviable position of being the steward of nearly half of Utah's land while walking a very tight rope between the interests of energy and mineral companies while preserving pristine environments." He argues that "there is a time and a place for everything, including energy and mineral resource development." Muns claims that "delaying or eliminating development of oil and gas as well as potash mining is in the long-term interest of the public lands within the Moab MLP."

Offshore Energy Development:

COLUMNIST OPPOSES SEISMIC TESTING. In her column for the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (8/4, 90K), Edith Cook opposes seismic testing in the Atlantic because she says it will disrupt marine life.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

LAWMAKERS STRUGGLE TO REACH DROUGHT RELIEF DEAL. The AP (8/4) reports that "prospects for a drought relief bill to help California farmers appear as likely as the state being deluged by three straight days of rain." According to the article, "key lawmakers and staff are working to resolve differences in two bills that separately passed the House and Senate this year." The legislators "won't say where progress has occurred or what roadblocks remain, but time is running out for the current congressional session."

Additional coverage of the drought was provided by "Capital Weather Gang" blog of the Washington Post (8/1, Samenow, 4.06M).

PILOT PROJECT SEEKS TO CREATE WATER FROM TAINTED FARM DRAINAGE. The Fresno (CA) Bee (8/2, 322K) reports on "a $22 million roadside experiment that turns dirty water into a chance for survival for west San Joaquin Valley farming." According to the article, a desalination plant , "a pilot project, started up this summer," is "doing what no similar plant has been able to do yet on the Valley's west side." Underwritten by the BOR, "the system could end a decades-old contamination problem, create a precious new stream of water and save a 97,000-acre piece of farming worth nearly $500 million a year."

Empowering Native American Communities:

RULE WOULD ALLOW TRIBES TO COLLECT TREES FOR CULTURAL USE. The E&E Daily (8/1) reports that the Forest Service on Friday "unveiled a new rule to allow American Indian tribes to collect trees and other forest products for cultural or religious use." Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell said, "The Forest Service works diligently to respect our government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes. American Indians and Alaska Natives have been connected to these lands for thousands of years, and we want to facilitate continued access to these resources."

OFFICER INVOLVED IN TUESDAY'S FATAL SHOOTING IS ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE. The County 10 (8/1) reports that the Interior Department has "confirmed that the officer involved in Tuesday evening's fatal shooting has been placed on administrative leave pending the investigation." Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Spokeswoman Nedra Darling said, "This is standard practice for an officer involved shooting." The FBI is "leading the investigation into a shooting in which a federal officer is believed to have fatally shot a suspect in a weapon offense call."

GOVERNMENT URGED TO GET OUT OF GAMBLING BUSINESS. In an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (8/4, 234K), Dr. Guy C. Clark, Chairman, Stop Predatory Gambling New Mexico, writes that "Pojoaque Pueblo, whose gambling compact expires in June of 2015, has had its proposed tribal gambling compact accepted by the Department of Interior." Clark claims that "if Interior and the Supreme Court approve the Pojoaque compact proposal with no revenue sharing, it will turn the whole system of tribal gambling upside down." He claims that "tribes across the US will take their states to court to get their revenue sharing thrown out and chaos will reign."

Top National News:

PFEIFFER: OBAMA HAS "NO CHOICE BUT TO ACT" ON IMMIGRATION. While the CDC's response to the Ebola outbreak dominated the Sunday morning political shows, a senior White House adviser and a number of key lawmakers weighed in on the border crisis and the broad immigration reform issue. The immigration story, however, was not covered by the evening network newscasts. On print and on the Sunday shows, lawmakers from both parties continued to weigh in on the steps ahead, and GOP Rep. Steve King – contradicting his party's message last week – put impeachment on the table if the President – as reported – moves to unilaterally grant work permits to undocumented immigrants.

On that matter, White House Senior Adviser Dan Pfeiffer warned on ABC's This Week (8/3, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M) that no final decisions have yet been made, saying, "The President has asked for recommendations by the end of the summer. Congress has not done that yet. Let's wait and see what those are before we make judgment. Whatever the President does in this space will not be a substitute for comprehensive immigration reform. Congress will still have to act." Pfeiffer added, "Congress' failure to fix the immigration system [has resulted in] a specific crisis on the border. The President has no choice but to act." The Daily Caller (8/3, Bordelon, 408K) noted that Pfeiffer said Obama's executive action will take place "at the end of the summer." The AP (8/4), National Review (8/4, Tuttle, 879K) and USA Today (8/4, Jackson, 5.76M) – the latter two in blog posts – also noted Pfeiffer's comments in brief reports.

The Hill (8/3, Mali, 237K) reports that Pfeiffer also "insisted he was taking the threat of President Obama being

impeached seriously despite Speaker Boehner...saying he is not considering such a move." Said Pfeiffer, "In the House of Representatives John Boehner may have the gavel, but [Sen.] Ted Cruz...has the power," and "it would be 'foolish to discount the possibility that this Republican Congress at some point in time would consider impeachment.'" Politico (8/3, Bradner, 637K) also noted those comments in a brief blog post.

House Judiciary Committee member Steve King said on Fox News Sunday (8/3, Wallace), "We've never seen anything in this country like a president who says, 'I'll make up immigration law as I choose and drive this regardless the resistance of the Congress.' ... It's unconstitutional. ... That's the message." The Washington Times (8/4, Chasmar, 465K) notes that King also said "Republicans should take a 'serious look' at impeaching...Obama if he moves ahead with an executive order to defer deportation for millions of illegal immigrants." The Daily Caller (8/3, Bordelon, 408K), Huffington Post (8/3, Wilkie, 11.54M), Politico (8/3, Prior, 637K) and The Hill (8/3, Devaney, 237K), among other news outlets, also noted King's comments.

The Washington Times (8/4, Richardson, Dinan, 465K) reports "analysts...have laid out several options available to Mr. Obama," including declaring "the border situation an emergency, which would allow immigration authorities to hold the illegal immigrant children rather than turn them over to relatives in the US." The Times adds that "analysts have also said the administration does not have to perform as much scrutiny of every child's legal situation, which could also speed up processing."

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez said on NBC's Meet the Press (8/3, Gregory, 3.08M), "The system as it exists today is broken. I believe the White House and Department of Homeland Security received a legal memorandum that outlines the powers they have [to tackle the border crisis]. I hope they will use those powers to try to get some elements of the system in order."

Rep. Joaquin Castro said on ABC's This Week (8/3, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "Somebody has to be working in Washington. The President is ready to act on immigration reform. Congress has now had several years to do something. Republicans have failed to move on it. President Obama will do everything within his power and within the law to fix immigration."

Politically, the AP (8/4, Babington) reports, "even if...Obama moves ahead with a proposal to give work permits to millions of immigrants living in the country illegally, removing the threat of deportation, Democratic strategists say Republicans won't reap much of a benefit." Democrats believe Republicans "have already squeezed as much as they can from voters angry at the president by hammering at his record on health care, the IRS, foreign policy and other issues." Said DCCC chair Steve Israel, "There's a ceiling, and nothing the president can do can get them above the ceiling. ... But swing voters and persuadable voters, they want solutions."

In his Washington Post (8/4, 4.06M) column, E.J. Dionne writes that "the single biggest change in Washington over the last five years has been a GOP shift to a more radical form of conservatism." Dionne concludes that "in balance, Washington gridlock has hurt Democrats more than Republicans by dispiriting moderate and progressive constituencies," and "the key to the election will be whether Democrats can persuade these voters that the radical right is the real culprit in their disappointment."

Charles M. Blow writes in the New York Times (8/4, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), "Congress is a joke. But the joke isn't funny — unless, of course, you're into dark humor." While "there is still time for this Congress to get more things done...t I'm not holding my breath. Legislating is only a hobby for members of this Congress. Their full-time job is raising hell, raising money and lowering the bar of acceptable behavior."

Rogers, Perry: Weak US-Mexico Border Could Be Exploited By Terrorists. House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers said on CNN's State Of The Union (8/3, 420K), "We noticed a very dangerous trend a few years ago when the Iranian Quds force, their external terrorist group, was planning to use the Southern border to infiltrate the United States to kill the Saudi Ambassador. So, clearly our enemies and adversaries understand that the Mexico-Texas border is a weakness. ... A porous Southern border is now on the advertising list for those who want to conduct nefarious activities in the United States. ... It doesn't take a rocket science to know out that the Southern border is a weakness in our national security." The Washington Times (8/4, Richardson, 465K) notes Rogers' comments this morning.

The Huffington Post (8/3, Wilkie, 11.54M) reported that Texas Gov. Rick Perry, on CNN's State of the Union, said

yesterday that "undocumented immigration along the US-Mexico border constitutes a significant terrorist threat." Perry said the US "is at 'historic record highs with individuals being apprehended' from countries 'that have substantial terrorist ties,' such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Syria." The HuffPost added that "in June, the fact-checking service Politifact.com deemed the statement 'not accurate and makes a ridiculous claim.'"

Perry Says He May Deploy More Armed Personnel To Border. Perry also said on CNN's State Of The Union (8/3, 420K), "I'm prepared to [deploy] not just the National Guard [along the border], but also officials from the Department of Public Safety, Texas Ranger recon teams, and Parks and Wildlife wardens. ... We have a problem on our Southern border. We're going to deal with it, and the President refuses to lead on this. ... My citizens' safety is what is foremost here and it's time to secure the border."

Politico (8/3, Bradner, 637K) noted on its website that Perry went on to say that "the unaccompanied children who have streamed across the US-Mexico border in increasing numbers are a 'side issue' compared to the illegal immigrants who have committed crimes." Said Perry, "What we are substantially more concerned about in the state of Texas, and I will suggest to you, across this country, are the 80-percent-plus individuals who don't get talked about enough who are coming into the United States illegally and committing substantial crimes."

The Hill (8/3, Bolton, 237K) reported that CNN anchor Candy Crawley "called Perry's claim 'wildly off,'" but Perry "returned to the issue of crime and insisted his statistics were correct," saying, "I do stand by them, by the way, but what are the number of homicides that are acceptable to those individuals? How many sexual assaults do we have to have before the president of the United States and Washington, DC, acts to keep our citizens safe?"

Rubio Faces Questions That He "Flipped" On Immigration, Calls For Reform In Stages. The Daily Caller (8/3, Bordelon, 408K) reported Fox News host Chris Wallace "forced" Sen. Marco Rubio "into a tight spot on immigration Sunday, asking the Florida Republican why he flip-flopped on his support for amnesty – sending the senator into a convoluted explanation when Wallace refused to let up." Wallace asked Rubio, "Why have you flipped?" Rubio "eventually explained that the three things he wants to see done on immigration – 'security reform, modernizing the legal system and then address the people here' – will only be politically possible if done piecemeal." The Hill (8/3, Devaney, 237K) noted that Rubio predicted Congress "'will never have the votes' for a comprehensive immigration bill without first addressing border security, urging a step-by-step approach to the issue."

Rubio said on Fox News Sunday (8/3, Wallace), "We have a serious situation on the border, an unsustainable situation that can't continue. The only way to address it is to tackle the root causes, which are a combination of violence, instability, and poverty in Central America and, according to the President of Honduras, ambiguities in our laws. ... I continue to believe that we have to reform our immigration laws, but the issue [of the migration influx] is related to but separate from that." Later, Rubio added on Fox News Sunday (8/3, Wallace), "[Congress is] not debating what to do, we're debating how to do it. We'll never have the votes necessary to pass one bill that addresses security, reform and modernization of the legal system, and the migration influx."

AP Analysis: Immigration Issue Could Have "Modest Impact" On 10 Senate Races. The AP (8/4, Babington) reports that the GOP "still can't figure out what to do about illegal immigration," which "appears likely to have only a modest impact on the roughly 10 Senate races that will determine control of the chamber." The AP adds that "the possible exception is the race between Democratic Sen. Mark Udall and GOP Rep. Cory Gardner in Colorado, where Hispanic voters made up 14 percent of the electorate in 2012."

CSMonitor Mulls Questions About Bias In Coverage Of House, Senate Border Debates. The Christian Science Monitor (8/3, Sappenfield, 566K) pondered why the House – which actually passed a border bill – and not the Senate – which didn't – is the brunt of much of the media criticism of Congress on the immigration issue. Asked the Monitor, "Is there a media double standard here? Does the Republican-led House get all the stick while the Democrat-led Senate gets off scot-free?" While "there does appear to be a prevailing narrative that focuses more on the House's dysfunctions than on the Senate's...there are reasons for the apparent double standard that also go well beyond a perceived liberal bias." The House's "failure...was, in many respects, politics as usual," but Boehner "completely lost his" caucus – "and not for the first time. Though he was able to smooth things over the next day, the damage was done," and "this is not politics as usual."

USA Today Analysis: Detention Facility Signals Shift By Federal Government. USA Today (8/4, Jervis,

5.76M) reports on the Karnes County Residential Center in Texas, which opened Friday "to help with the crush of unaccompanied minors and families crossing the Texas border recently." It "offers medical screenings, dorm-like bedrooms with flat-screen TVs, a cafeteria, a new soccer field, Internet access and refrigerators full of snacks." The center "signals a shift in immigration tactics by the federal government," where "instead of releasing women and children apprehended at the border and requiring them to return at a later date...more space to detain them could lead to increased deportations." ICE field office director Enrique Lucero, who "led a media tour of the facility," said, "The use of this facility is sending one very important message to families in Central America considering crossing into the United States: Do not risk the lives of your children. Do not risk your life. ... After your immediate detention and due process, there's every likelihood you'll be returned to your country."

WPost A1 Analysis: Mexico's Enforcement Of Its Southern Border Key To Situation In US. On its front page, the Washington Post (8/4, A1, Miroff, 4.06M) reports "analysts say Mexico's commitment to tougher, less corrupt and more humane immigration enforcement will be pivotal to the US effort to dissuade Central American families from rushing for the border or sending their kids northward." While Mexico points to steps it has taken to improve its enforcement along its southern border, "little has changed along the railway routes used by tens of thousands of migrants who can't afford to pay a smuggling guide to bribe their way north along the highways." The Post adds "some in Mexico say the government's spotty enforcement approach is the result of the view that Central American migration is a problem for the United States, not Mexico."

More Commentary From Lawmakers. Senate Intelligence Committee member Angus King said on CNN's State Of The Union (8/3, 420K), "The Border Patrol people are doing a great job dealing with these kids as they come across the border. ... They're handling the kids well, but when they get to the process where they need to determine whether or not the children are legitimate refugees, that's where it breaks down. ... The delay is inexcusable. I would recommend two things: Get the word out in Central America that the [migration influx] isn't going to work and process these kids through a refugee determination process a lot faster. That's going to take more judges, more courtrooms, more lawyers. But that's something we can do. I don't think it needs $3.7 billion. I think it can be done for a lot less."

Sen. Tim Scott said on ABC's This Week (8/3, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "It's a hard question to wrestle with: How to be compassionate to people that you know are coming to your borders looking for a better way of life, and, at the same time, adhere to the laws of the country? ... It's not a crisis that occurred in the last two months. To show up in the 23rd hour saying, we need you to approve a $4 billion package is not the way to do it."

Sen. John Thune said on NBC's Meet the Press (8/3, Gregory, 3.08M), "We have to deal with this immediate crisis on the border. It's important to deal with immigration and it's important for Republicans and Democrats to come together behind a plan. As Marco Rubio said, you can't fix legal immigration until you fix illegal immigration. That means border security. That means building a strategic fence, having an e-verify program and an entry-exit program that ensures our borders are secure. We're not going to have the trust and confidence of the American people if we don't fix illegal immigration."

Jeffries: Boehner Lawsuit "Baseless In Law And In Fact." Regarding Speaker Boehner's lawsuit over President Obama's executive actions, House Judiciary Committee member Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) said on Fox News Sunday (8/3, Wallace), "This lawsuit is clearly baseless in law and in fact. ... The President has the clear discretion to administer, implement, and enforce the law as it relates to the Affordable Care Act. And that's clearly what he's done. He has not amended the law, he has not abolished the law. What he has done is delay the implementation of the employer mandate in stages, consistent with what other presidents have done throughout history." In response, House Judiciary Committee member Steve King stated, "Well, the President didn't simply do a little touch-up to ACA, from an administrative standpoint. He went in and changed the required implementation date. ... He does not get to make up law out of thin air. He doesn't get to amend it. The Constitution is very clear."

Amid "Talk Of Impeachment," Nixon Remembered. The New York Times (8/4, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that with "talk of impeachment...in the air," events "have served as a reminder that 40 years after President Richard M. Nixon resigned in the face of impending impeachment, the nation he left behind is still struggling to define the contours of presidential power and the nature of political accountability." Elizabeth Drew, "one of the leading chroniclers of Watergate," said, "Democrats are just as bad as Republicans about this. They're raising money off the impeachment term just like the Republicans. This is disgusting. It's an awful

serious thing to talk about impeaching a president."

The Washington Times (8/4, Wolfgang, 465K) refers to "the real six-year itch in American politics" of "talk of removing the commander in chief, with...Obama becoming the latest in a long line of leaders to face calls for impeachment during his later years in office." President Clinton "was impeached in his sixth year, and the calls to oust President George W. Bush, while they never reached that far, also ramped up in his sixth year in office." However, the Times adds "impeachment calls stretch deep into the 1800s, and everyone from Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon faced them."

The Washington Post (8/4, Stuever, 4.06M), meanwhile, reviews an HBO documentary on Nixon's resignation, which features tapes in which he "repeatedly told his closest confidants that Jews could never be trusted, that some Mexican Americans living in the United States were better than others (and he, especially, knew the difference), that women weren't ready to be on the Supreme Court, that homosexuality was perhaps understandable but a scourge nonetheless."

OBAMA DISMISSES COMPLAINTS ABOUT HIS AGENDA FROM "CORPORATE COMMUNITY." Reuters (8/3, Rampton) notes today that in an interview with The Economist published this weekend, President Obama said that the "corporate community" should stop complaining about regulations put in place by his Administration. Said Obama, "If you look at what's happened over the last four or five years, the folks who don't have a right to complain are the folks at the top. ... I would take the complaints of the corporate community with a grain of salt. ... They always complain about regulation. That's their job." The President also said, "Oftentimes, you'll hear some hedge-fund manager say, 'Oh, he's just trying to stir class resentment'. No. Feel free to keep your house in the Hamptons and your corporate jet, etcetera. I'm not concerned about how you're living. ... I am concerned about making sure that we have a system in which the ordinary person who is working hard and is being responsible can get ahead."

Krugman: Dodd-Frank Is Working. In his column for the New York Times (8/4, Krugman, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) Paul Krugman argues that Dodd-Frank "is working a lot better than anyone listening to the news media would imagine." Krugman writes that while the reform could have gone further, "Wall Street and its allies wouldn't be screaming so loudly, and spending so much money in an effort to gut the law, if it weren't an important step in the right direction."

Business Groups Say They Will Challenge Obama Executive Order. The Hill (8/3, Goad, 237K) reports "business interests" say they plan "to fight" Obama's Friday "executive order imposing new restrictions on companies who want to do business with the federal government." The order "would require firms seeking federal contracts to disclose labor law violations and create new compliance advisors at agencies to oversee decisions about which firms get the work." Geoff Burr, vice president of government for Associated Builders and Contractors, said of the new rules, "We are concerned these sweeping changes threaten the due process rights of federal contractors and conflict with existing federal procurement and labor law. ... ABC and the federal contracting community across all industries are prepared to fight this order in the courts and in Congress." The story also notes comments to that effect from the International Franchise Association.

ECONOMY NOW CREATING HIGHER-PAYING JOBS. USA Today (8/4, Davidson, 5.76M) reports that "over the past two months, mid- and high-wage industries have added 257,000 jobs, while those with lower pay added 210,000, according to the research firm's analysis of Labor Department data." That "marks a shift from last year, when many economists and worker advocates lamented that payroll advances were concentrated in low-paying sectors, such as restaurants and home health care."

Tech "Fueling An Urban Renaissance." USA Today (8/4, Zuckerman, 5.76M) reports that "in cities across America, a sizzling tech sector is fueling an urban renaissance," with tech emerging "as a mighty force creating jobs, spurring redevelopment of once-blighted urban cores, and giving cities an economic and cultural jolt."

Call Center Jobs Coming Back To US. The Detroit Free Press (8/4, Witsil, 1.02M) reports that "after years of sending call center jobs to India, the Philippines, Mexico and other countries, companies are bringing them back to the US." It is a "trend...driven by changes in technology, rising overseas labor costs – and customers demanding better service."

Consumer Spending On The Rise, Boosting US Firms. The Wall Street Journal (8/4, Francis, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that a growth in US consumer spending is boosting earnings for US companies, with revenue with the top 500 companies poised to be 4.3% higher for this quarter than it was last year.

Middle Class Drawn To Inland Cities By Affordable Housing Costs. The New York Times (8/4, A1, Dewan, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports in a front-page story that in "a decisive reversal from the early years of the millennium, when easy credit allowed cities to grow without regard to housing cost and when the fastest-growing cities had housing that was less affordable than the national average," the fastest-growing cities in the nation "are now those where housing is more affordable than average." Higher rents and trouble securing mortgages "on the coasts have proved a boon to inland cities that offer the middle class a firmer footing and an easier life."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Custom-Made 'Super PAC.'"*** A New York Times (8/4, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorial decries "family-financed super PACs" as "the latest and most outrageous examples of how super PACs are used in this campaign cycle to evade the limits on donations." The Times argues that Congress could end these and other "super PACs dedicated to individual candidates" by passing the Empowering Citizens Act, "a bill introduced in the House that would put strict limits on these kinds of coordinated contributions." The Times notes, however, that "the more members of Congress depend on these groups, the less chance they will want to put a stop to them."

"Global Trade Talks Suffer Another Setback." A New York Times (8/4, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) laments the collapse of the agreement on simplifying customs rules, noting that it will "make it much harder for the World Trade Organization to finish its much-delayed Doha round of negotiations." The Times says it is "disappointing" that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, "which was elected in part because it promised to revive India's economy, did not give the agreements reached in Bali a chance." The Times also notes that WTO members "have a poor record of concluding trade deals," and adds that this "latest failure will further erode confidence in the global trading system," and "encourage officials in the United States, the European Union, China and Japan to pursue more regional and industry-specific trade deals."

"Omar Khadr's Untold Story." The New York Times (8/4, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that the Canadian government "has denied a request from a Toronto newspaper to conduct an on-camera interview with" Omar Khadr, "a former child soldier and detainee at Guantánamo Bay." Khadr, "a 27-year-old Canadian, was captured in Afghanistan in 2002" when he was 15, "and accused of throwing a grenade during a firefight that killed an American soldier." The Toronto Star "thinks he should be allowed to tell his side of the story and respond to questions from one of its reporters," but the Canadian government "will not let him do so – a form of censorship that brings to mind the way in which both the Bush and Obama administrations have quashed all civil cases brought by victims of torture without allowing them to describe their experiences in court or hold those responsible accountable." The Times argues that Canada "should allow the interview and let" Khadr "share his perspective on his ordeal."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Inverting Tax Policy."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (8/4, 4.06M) argues that the best way to address corporate tax inversions "is to shift the focus of corporate taxation to the people who actually own a given company: shareholders." It is more efficient, the Post argues "to tax their dividends than it is to chase corporate income streams around the globe." The Post also argues for tax reform that would "make it cost-effective for U.S. firms to stay, not prohibit them from leaving."

"The EPA's Needed Action." The Washington Post (8/4, 4.06M) in an editorial praises the EPA's Clean Power Plan, contending that it is necessary because Congress "has failed to pass a plan tailored to cut U.S. greenhouse emissions over the next few decades." Because of that, the EPA "has had to rely on the tools Congress gave it in the Clean Air Act to jury-rig a carbon-reduction system sufficiently ambitious to give the U.S. credibility to demand meaningful sacrifices from other nations." The Post argues that unless and until "the EPA's attackers get behind a real climate plan, the EPA has reason to fill Congress's irresponsible policy void."

"Marion Barry's Ethics, Again." The Washington Post (8/4, 4.06M) editorializes that an examination by

Washington City Paper columnist Will Sommer finds that there is "a convincing case" that LaToya Foster, an aide to DC City Councilman Marion Barry, helped write Barry's recently published autobiography "on government time." The Post notes that council ethics rules "bar staffers from using the business day for 'purposes other than official business or government-approved or sponsored activities,'" and urges the DC Board of Ethics and Accountability to investigate the matter, arguing that Barry "has long considered himself immune to the rules that guide the actions of public officials – as his history of smoking crack cocaine, not filing taxes, steering city contracts to an ex-girlfriend and taking money from a city contractor, among other offenses, richly shows."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Wreck Of Cards."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/4, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) criticizes a plan by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (Finra) known as the Comprehensive Automated Risk Data System to gather account information from US brokerage firms, arguing that the agency wants to gather the data so it can later determine how to exploit it. The Journal calls on Finra's board to shut down the plan.

"Scandal Pays Off For The VA." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/4, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) says the VA bill passed by Congress fails to implement meaningful reform and casts doubt on claims from Republicans that the measure is a first step toward broader reform.

"Modi's Trade Barricade." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/4, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) criticizes Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rejection of a trade facilitation agreement reached last December in Bali, saying Modi's move is bad for India's poor and for the WTO, which needed the deal to revive the Doha Round of talks. The Journal also notes that Modi's rejection of the deal, despite efforts by Secretary of State Kerry and Commerce Secretary Pritzker to convince him to accept it, speaks to America's decreased leadership on trade issues.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Plenty Of Time In Their Hands
Gaza Strip Refuge Hit; 10 Killed
PTSD And The Truth
Hostage Fatality Renews Debate On Sheriff Oversight
A Hit After All

Wall Street Journal:
Divides In Gaza Leadership Hamper Truce
Big US Companies Get A Lift As Customers Come Back
Why Recalled Cars Stay On The Road
Rand Paul, Still Mum, Lays 2016 Groundwork

New York Times:
Questions Of Weapons And Warnings In Past Barrage
As Oysters Die, Climate Policy Goes On The Stump
Affordable Housing Draws Middle Class To Inland Cities
Airstrike Near UN School Kills 10 As Israel Shifts Troops In Gaza
New York City Pension System Is Strained By Costs And Politics
Neighbors Say Barn Weddings Raise A Rumpus

Washington Post:
Mexico Is Weak Link To Cross-Border Immigration Enforcement
Fresh Doubts Over A Texas Execution
For Whistleblowers, A Bold Move Can Be Followed By One To Department Basement
Vulnerable Kansas Senator Leaves Opening For Tea Party Push
Attack Near UN Shelter Leaves 10 Dead As Israel Pulls Most Ground Troops From Gaza

Financial Times:
US-Africa Trade Faces Exim Risk, Warns GE
Germans Conflicted Over War Centenary
G20 Urged To Put US Bank Fines On Agenda

Washington Times:
FBI Looks For Firm To Monitor And Rate Daily News
Islamic State Prepares For Baghdad Bombings
Congress Adjourned, New Options For Border
Six Years And You're Out, Presidential Critics Say
Tanzanian President Hopes For More US Investment In Africa
CDC Director Insists US Can Stop Ebola From Spreading

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Ohio Water Shortage; Ebola Outbreak; American Airlines; Passenger Disturbance; Severe Weather; China Earthquake; Middle East Conflict; Foster Children-Neglect.
CBS: Preempted by golf.
NBC: Ebola Outbreak; Ohio Water Shortage; Middle East Conflict; Middle East Conflict-Gaza; China-Earthquake; Wildfires; Caffeine Powder; Mt. Etna Eruption; Man Speeding-Heart Attack.

Network TV At A Glance:
Ohio Water Shortage – 5 minutes, 30 seconds
Ebola Outbreak – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
Middle East Conflict – 5 minutes, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Ohio Water Shortage; Califomia Mudslides; Middle East Crisis; Small Aircraft-Rules.
NPR: Middle East Conflict; Ohio Water Shortage; Ebola Outbreak Victims; Cameroon-Boko Haram; Wildfires; Bridgestone Invitational-Winner; Box Office.
FOX: Middle East Conflict; Missing Child-Mother Suspected; Ohio Water Shortage; China Earthquake.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Attends meetings at the White House on his birthday.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.
US Senate: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — Congress on break. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "recess".
US House: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — Congress on break. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "recess".
Other: Aug. 4 – 6. AFRICA LEADERS SUMMIT — The White House hosts the inaugural Africa Leaders Summit. http://www.whitehouse.gov/us-africa-leaders-summit For full agenda: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/us_africa_leaders_summit_schedule_6.pdf 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Combating Wildlife Trafficking hosted by the National Academy of Sciences. 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Congressional reception for African leaders. 325 Russell Senate Office Building. Capitol Hill. Location: Business Forum on the 5th: 1330 Maryland Ave. SW. White House Dinner on the 5th at the White House., National Academy of Sciences. Afternoon Congressional reception on Capitol Hill 325 Russell.

FUTURE OF AFRICAN ENERGY — 8:30 a.m. GE will host an event in Washington, DC, focused on the future of African energy told through the lenses of infrastructure, innovation and investment. Preceding President Obamas

U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the event – Africa Ascending: Powering Inclusive Growth. Speakers: Jeff Immelt, chairman & CEO, GE John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana Rep. Karen Bass, U.S. Representative (D-CA), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank Group; Aliaune "Akon" Thiam, Recording Artist and Philanthropist; Gift Nyikayaramba, Duke University; Spencer Horne, Harvard University; Sim Tshabalala, Co-CEO, Standard Bank; Ashish Thakkar, CEO & Founder, Mara Group; Dr. Mo Ibrahim, Founder, Mo Ibrahim Foundation. RSVP to Ali Howard at (202) 756-2439, Ali. Howard@edelman.com Location: Newseums Knight Conference Center, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

HAGEL – WORMUTH WELCOME CEREMONY — 1:30 p.m. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts a welcome ceremony in honor of Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Michael McCord, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica Wright, and Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation Jamie Morin. Location: Pentagon Auditorium, Room BH650, Arlington, Va.

PAN-AFRICAN LEADERS — Pan-African leaders honor Ambassador Andrew Young. Participants: Idriss Deby, president of the Republic of Chad; Goodluck Jonathan, president of the Republic of Nigeria; Paul Kagame, president of Rwanda; Uhuru Kenyatta, president of Kenya; Jakaya Kikwete, president of the United Republic of Tanzania; John Dramani Mahama, president of Ghana; Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of Equatorial Guinea; Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic of Congo; Alassane Ouattara, president of Cote d'Ivoire; Macky Sall, president of the Republic of Senegal; Jacob Zuma, president of South Africa; Kenneth I. Chenault, CEO and chairman of American Express; Ralph De La Vega, president of AT&T Wireless; Robert Johnson, founder and chairman, RLJ Companies; Doug McMillon, president and CEO of Walmart Stores Inc.; Ambassador Ron Kirk, former U.S. trade representative; General Colin Powell, former U.S. secretary of state; Donald Kaberuka, president of the African Development Bank Group; Frits Van Paasschen, CEO of Starwood Hotels; Kenneth I. Frazier, chairman, president and CEO of Merck & Co.; Gregory Page, chairman of The Cargill Corp.; Dr. John Thornton, CEO of Barrick Gold Corp. and chairman of The Brookings Institute; Ann Fudge, director of General Electric and Unilever; Mark Mason, CEO of CITI Private Bank; Glenn Youngkin, managing director and co-CEO of The Carlyle Group; Franck Moison, chief operating officer of Colgate Palmolive Co.; Alexander Cummings, chief administrative officer of the Coca-Cola Co. and corporate director of S.C. Johnson & Son; Ronald Parker, president and CEO of The Executive Leadership Council; Mary K. Bush, chairman of Bush International LLC and member of the board of directors of Marriott International and T. Rowe Price Group; Dr. Darius Mans, president and CEO of Africare ; Joshua DuBois, founder and CEO of Values Partnerships and former director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships; Rep. Chaka Fattah, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc.; A. Shuanise Washington, president and CEO of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc.; Stanley Washington, founder and CEO of Pantheon Business Consulting; Lucien Ebata, CEO of Orion Group SA and Publisher of Forbes Afrique; Gregory Nixon; others. Location: Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave., NW.

SMITHSONIAN – COLIN POWELL — 7 p.m. The Smithsonian Associates presents an evening with Colin Powell. Mr. Powell will talk about what he has learned along the way to now with Frank Sesno, director of the School of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University. Location: George Washington Universitys Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St. N.W. Powell.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

All late-night talk shows were in re-run.

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BISON CONNECT

Briefing Materials for Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Aug 4, 2014 at 5:59 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) @ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>

Sally,

Attached are your briefing materials for Tuesday, August 5, 2014. These are also uploaded to Google Drive.

We are still waiting on the memo for the Internal Greater Moose Tooth meeting from BLM– Janet Lin will email that to you directly tonight when it is completed, and we will have a hard copy printed for you in the morning.

Thank you,

Zaina

7 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1-4 & 7)

8 5 14_9am_Taping for the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.docx
33K

8 5 14_9am_Taping for Multi Cultural Day Event.docx
24K

8 5 14_145pm_Meet and Greet with Mosaics in Science Diversity Internship Interns.docx
38K

8 5 14_1030am_Meet and Greet with DOI Summer Interns.docx
27K

8 5 14_1pm_Call with Bob Semple, Associate Editor, New York Times.docx
42K

8 5 14_1pm_ATTACHMENT Call with Bob Semple, Associate Editor, New York Times.docx
21K

8 5 14_145pm_ATTACHMENT Mosaics Intern.pdf
1177K

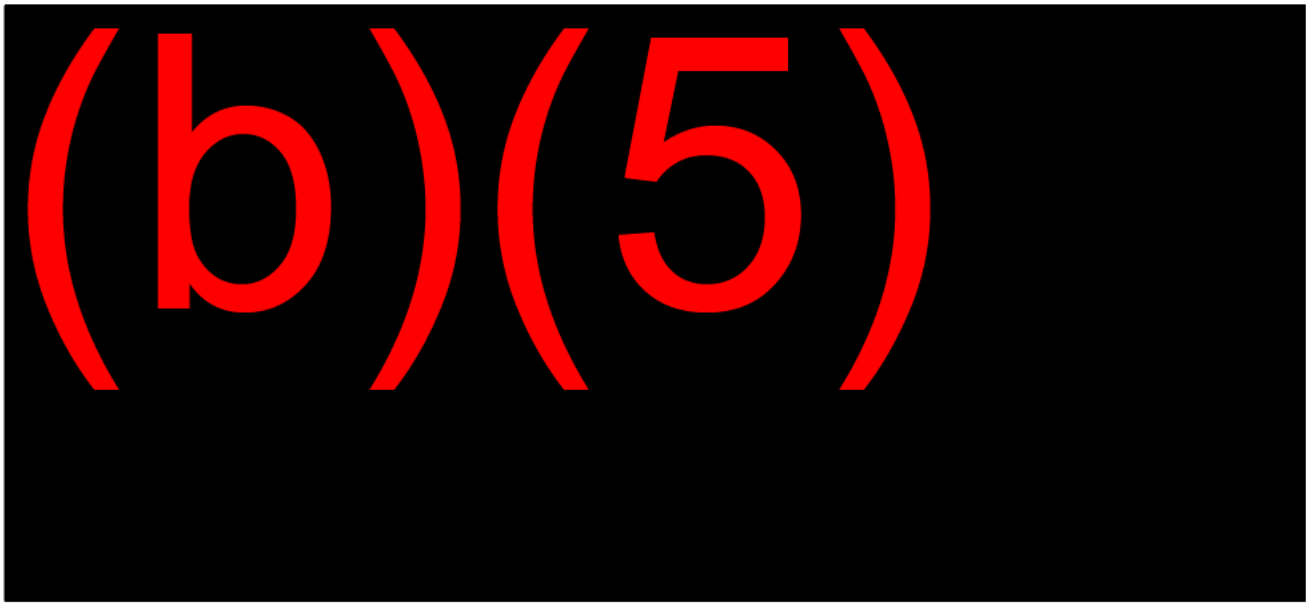
TELEPHONE CALL SHEET

PRESS CALL WITH BOB SEMPLE, ASSOCIATE EDITOR, THE NEW YORK TIMES

DATE: August 5, 2014
LOCATION: Secretary's Office, by Phone
TIME: 1:00PM – 1:45PM EDT
FROM: Jessica Kershaw, Press Secretary (202)208-5338

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this conversation is to provide an update to Bob Semple, Associate Editor of the Editorial Page at the New York Times, on some of your key priorities heading into the August recess. Our goal is to:



II. BACKGROUND

Semple joined the Washington Bureau of the *Times* in the fall of 1963. He covered housing and civil rights during the Johnson administration, spent a year covering President Johnson himself, and served as White House correspondent during Richard Nixon's first term. He served thereafter as deputy national editor (1973-75), London bureau chief (1975-77), foreign editor (1977-82), editor of the Op-Ed Page (1982-88) and associate editor of the Editorial Page (1988 to present). He received the Pulitzer Prize in 1996 for his editorials on environmental issues.

III. PARTICIPANTS

- Bob Semple
- Jessica Kershaw

IV. ATTACHMENTS

- Editorials and Columns of Note (below)
- Talking Points on Fire (attached separately)

Editorials/Columns of Note

Saving Water in California
By The Editorial Board
July 9, 2014

California is in the third year of its worst drought in decades. But you wouldn't know it by looking at how much water the state's residents and businesses are using. According to a recent state survey, Californians cut the amount of water they used in the first five months of the year by just 5 percent, far short of the 20 percent reduction Gov. Jerry Brown called for in January. In some parts of the state, like the San Diego area, water use has actually increased from 2013.

Without much stronger conservation measures, the state, much of which is arid or semiarid, could face severe water shortages if the drought does not break next year. Los Angeles recently recorded its lowest rainfall for two consecutive years, and climate change will likely make drought a persistent condition, according to the National Climate Assessment report published in May.

Yet, even now, 70 percent of water districts have not imposed reasonable mandatory restrictions on watering lawns and keeping backyard pools filled. The State Water Resources Control Board is to consider placing restrictions on some outdoor water uses like washing paved surfaces at a meeting on July 15.

California's agriculture sector is the largest in the country, and it accounts for about 80 percent of the state's water use. Even a small percentage reduction in the fields could have a sizable effect on total water consumption.

A recent report by the Pacific Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council estimates that agricultural water use could be reduced by up to 22 percent if farmers more carefully scheduled the watering of crops based on weather and soil conditions and if they used the drip irrigation systems that deliver water directly to the roots of plants. Some progress has been made. About 38 percent of California farmland was irrigated by more efficient systems in 2010, up from 15 percent in 1991. But far too many farmers still irrigate by flooding their fields.

In terms of urban conservation, the report shows that homes and businesses could reduce water use by up to 60 percent by using it more efficiently, recycling and reusing water and capturing more rainwater. Some efficiency improvements are simple and could be done quickly, like installing water meters at all homes and businesses. Currently, about 250,000 water-utility customers, most of them in the Central Valley, have no meters and are charged a flat monthly fee regardless of how much water they use — a practice that invites waste.

Other changes will take longer to carry out but could have a big impact. For instance, Santa Cruz's municipal water utility imposes water "budgeting" under which it determines how much water each home needs based on where it is and the number of people in the household. Customers who use

more than their budgeted amount must pay higher rates for extra water used. This approach has helped Santa Cruz cut water use by about 30 percent since 1987.

Other government programs have been effective, too, and deserve broader adoption. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power last month began paying people $3 for every square foot of grass they replace with landscaping that requires little or no water under a "cash in your lawn" program, up from $2 previously; residents can claim up to $6,000 under that program. The department says it has paid to have 8 million square feet of lawn removed since the program started in 2009.

Finally, state officials need to act with a much greater urgency. Earlier this year, the State Legislature set aside nearly $700 million for emergency drought relief, but 90 percent of that money has yet to be spent. Mr. Brown's administration should think a lot bigger than emergency aid aimed at a single drought. The state must focus on longer-term policies that encourage people to alter their lifestyles and businesses to change how they operate.

On Balance, a Good Ruling on Emissions (congress inaction)
By The Editorial Board
June 23, 2014

The Clean Air Act is a complex and often confusing piece of legislation, especially when it comes to confronting the challenges of global warming, which were not fully understood when the original law was passed in 1970.

At that time, the biggest risk to the environment and human health was believed to come from more "conventional" air pollutants, like sulfur dioxide and lead. But when the threat of greenhouse gases became clear, the Environmental Protection Agency needed the flexibility to combat it quickly and effectively.

That is what the E.P.A. has tried to do multiple times in the past several years, promulgating rules regulating the emissions of carbon dioxide — by far the most common greenhouse gas — from both automobiles and stationary sources like power plants. Those actions haven't sat well with industries that will have to pay more in the short term as a result. They have challenged the agency's authority repeatedly, but the Supreme Court ruled against them in 2007 and 2011.

Following another suit by a coalition of business interests and states, the court on Monday correctly affirmed the E.P.A.'s power and responsibility to regulate greenhouse gases under the act, even though five justices voted to disallow one of the agency's regulatory tactics. The case, Utility Air Regulatory Group v. E.P.A., preserves the government's ability to confront global warming while also demonstrating Congress's persistent failure to update the law to meet modern needs.

In the absence of congressional action, the E.P.A. was left alone to deal with an impossible situation. The act targets "major sources" of pollution, initially defined as those that emitted more than 250 tons of pollutants each year. But carbon dioxide is emitted in vastly greater amounts. To keep the focus on the biggest polluters, like power plants and refineries, and avoid regulating millions of small sources, like hospitals and local businesses, the agency increased the threshold to 100,000 tons per year.

The point, as Justice Stephen Breyer argued in a partial dissent, was to adhere to the law's clear purpose and to allow the agency the flexibility to make decisions based on new information. Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for a 5-to-4 majority, rejected that position, arguing that "an agency may not rewrite clear statutory terms to suit its own sense of how the statute should operate." Still, seven justices agreed that the agency could continue to regulate significant greenhouse-gas emissions from power plants that were already being regulated for emitting conventional pollutants — in other words, almost all power plants.

The Obama administration has made commendable efforts to fight global warming, most recently by issuing a proposed rule that aims to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. (Monday's ruling does not directly affect the proposed power plant standards). There will always be companies that would just as soon avoid the necessary investments in cleaner energy. That's all the more reason for the E.P.A. to use the authority it has been granted under the law.

Climate Signals, Growing Louder (congress inaction)
By The Editorial Board
March 31, 2014

Perhaps now the deniers will cease their attacks on the science of climate change, and the American public will, at last, fully accept that global warming is a danger now and an even graver threat to future generations.

On Monday, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations group that since 1990 has been issuing increasingly grim warnings about the consequences of a warming planet, released its most powerful and sobering assessment so far. Even now, it said, ice caps are melting, droughts and floods are getting worse, coral reefs are dying. And without swift and decisive action to limit greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and other sources, the world will almost surely face centuries of climbing temperatures, rising seas, species loss and dwindling agricultural yields. The damage will be particularly acute in coastal communities and in low-lying poor countries — like Bangladesh — that are least able to protect themselves.

The report's conclusions mirrored those of a much shorter but no less disturbing report issued two weeks ago by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest scientific society. Like the panel, the association declared that the world is already feeling the effects of global warming, that the ultimate consequences could be catastrophic, and that the window for effective action is swiftly closing.

The intergovernmental panel's report (a companion report later this month will discuss what governments should do) could carry considerable weight with delegates to next year's climate change summit meeting in Paris, at which the members of the United Nations will again try, after years of futility, to fashion a new global climate treaty. And together, the two reports could build public support for President Obama's efforts to use his executive authority to limit greenhouse gases, most recently with a plan issued on Friday to reduce methane emissions from landfills, agricultural operations and oil and gas production and distribution.

The methane strategy is one of several weapons in Mr. Obama's broader Climate Action Plan, announced last year, that seeks to reduce emissions by circumventing an obstructionist Congress by

aggressively using his executive authority under the Clean Air Act and other statutes. The most important of these are two rules from the Environmental Protection Agency — one already proposed, another in the works — that would regulate emissions from new and existing coal-fired power plants, the largest source of industrial carbon pollution. He has also promised to increase energy efficiency in appliances and buildings, and double renewable energy capacity on public lands by 2020.

The methane abatement plan is a welcome addition to that arsenal. Methane, a product of animal wastes and of decomposing material in landfills, and the main component in natural gas, contributes only about 9 percent of America's greenhouse gas emissions. And natural gas, as a fuel, is much cleaner than coal. But methane is a powerful atmospheric pollutant, 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and thus a major driver of global warming.

The burden for fulfilling the president's promise will fall on the E.P.A., which is charged with developing regulations to plug methane leaks in pipelines and in oil and gas production systems. Given everything we now know, public and congressional acceptance of these initiatives should be close to automatic. But, of course, it is not. Senator Mitch McConnell, the leader of the Senate Republicans, seeks to block the coal regulations. Industry groups are complaining in advance about methane regulations.

Some of this may be attributable to public misunderstanding. A poll last year found that one-third of Americans believed that scientists disagreed on whether global warming was happening. These studies suggest virtually no disagreement. The hope among advocates is that the latest show of scientific solidarity will clear up any confusion about the causes and consequences of climate change and the need for action.

To Save Fish and Birds
By the Editorial Board
February 15, 2014

One of the few bright spots in the struggle to protect the world's fragile oceans has been the rapidly increasing number of "marine-protected areas," places where fishing is limited or banned and where, presumably, depleted species can recover by simply being left to themselves. The benefits of hands-off environmental protection may seem self-evident. But creating a preserve and rebuilding a healthy ecosystem are not necessarily the same thing. A recent study published in Nature found that, more often than not, marine-protected areas don't work as well as they could.

Researchers with the University of Tasmania studied 87 marine-protected areas in 40 countries worldwide, and found that 59 percent of the areas were no better off than areas where fishing was allowed. The reasons for failure varied, but they boiled down to this: Not all marine-protected areas are alike. Some allow fishing; others forbid it. Some are managed well; others are managed badly. Some are relatively intact; others have been left barren by generations of overfishing.

The researchers identified five essential characteristics of the most successful marine-protected areas: These areas were designated "no take" (allowing no fishing whatsoever), their rules were well enforced, they were more than 10 years old, they were bigger than 100 square kilometers, and they were isolated by deep water or sand. Compared with regular fished areas, the areas that had

four or five of those attributes had a far richer variety of species, five times the biomass of large fish and 14 times the biomass of sharks, which are indicators of ecological health.

Most underachieving marine sanctuaries had only one or two of these magic factors, and thus "were not ecologically distinguishable from fished sites." The four sanctuaries lucky enough to have all five characteristics were isolated areas in the oceans off Costa Rica, Colombia, New Zealand and Australia. The "coral triangle" of Southeast Asia also got high marks, but it did not have as great an array of large species as its more isolated counterparts.

You could say the scientists were simply discovering the obvious — that a "protected" area hardly deserves the name if it's so small that fish swim out of it, or if poachers are allowed to plunder it. But it would be an overreaction to despair over this report.

Marine-protected areas are clearly a positive trend, a reflection of the growing awareness of governments across the globe that the oceans and their bounty are not limitless or indestructible. There is greater understanding of the urgent need to ease the commercial pressures on fragile, increasingly acidified, steadily warming and rising oceans, lest the reefs die and the birds and fish disappear.

The worst conclusion to reach from this eye-opening report would be to dismiss the value of marine-protected areas. It takes time for fish to grow and get bigger. Decades of damage can't be undone overnight. Governments and scientists need to work together to better design, maintain, improve and protect "protected areas." The creation of a marine-protected area is only the start of an effective conservation effort, not the end.

The Bloody Ivory Business
By The Editorial Board
February 7, 2014

The slaughter of the African elephant continues. Nearly 100 of these majestic animals are sacrificed every day for ivory trinkets — bracelets, statuettes and other baubles sold illegally around the world. Wildlife experts estimate the remaining African elephant population at 350,000 to 500,000, with poachers targeting 30,000 to 35,000 a year. Elizabeth Bennett of the Wildlife Conservation Society estimates that one subspecies, the African forest elephant, could become extinct in the next decade.

A few governments have begun destroying illegal ivory as a warning to poachers and traffickers. The United States crushed six tons of illegal tusks, jewelry and other items in November. France pulverized three tons of illegal ivory this week. Even China, the main destination for illicit ivory, which sells for as much as $1,000 a pound on the streets of Beijing, has begun to act, destroying six tons last month.

New York State Assemblyman Robert Sweeney wants to prohibit all ivory sales in the state, including those that are now technically legal. Even though trafficking in African elephant ivory was outlawed worldwide in 1989 by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, there are exemptions for ivory from elephants killed before 1989 to make allowances for antiques like scrimshaw, piano keys and older works of art.

The problem is determining when an animal has been killed; even expensive radioactive tests can't always get it right. Further, as Jim Dwyer recently wrote in The Times, ivory can be stained to look dark and old. And very often appraisers simply take the seller's word that the ivory qualifies for an exemption. Mr. Sweeney, the chairman of the Assembly's Committee on Environmental Conservation, offers a straightforward answer: State authorities, he says, should ban the sale of ivory altogether until African elephants get "the protections they need."

Mr. Sweeney notes further that the penalties for selling ivory illegally are minimal, and federal and state wildlife authorities are often overwhelmed. New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation is charged with issuing licenses to sell ivory, but Mr. Sweeney has said it is not being tough enough and often fails to challenge appraisals and sellers' documents rigorously. The department, he says, must simply stop issuing permits until there are ways to slow the killing. Little else seems to be working. The 1989 agreement slowed the killing for a while, but the black market for "white gold" is booming again, as demand in Asia has increased along with the rise in disposable income. A United Nations report in September noted that there have been mass slaughters of elephants by well-organized criminal gangs.

Mr. Sweeney cannot solve a global problem. But he and his fellow legislators can make a strong statement that until elephants in Africa are spared, New York's freewheeling ivory market, one of the largest in the country, is closed.

The Law That Saved the Bald Eagle
By BOB Semple
December 31, 2013 (most recent article written by Semple)

In this season of birthdays and holidays, on Saturday the environmental community rightly celebrated the 40th anniversary of the passage of one of the most ambitious of the Nixon era's landmark environmental statutes: the Endangered Species Act. The act is at once the noblest of those statutes — aimed, in President Nixon's words, at protecting "an irreplaceable part of our natural heritage — threatened wildlife"; and also the most controversial, detested by loggers, developers and other interests for elevating the needs of nature over the needs of commerce. Approved by huge margins in both chambers (the vote on the House was an astounding 355-4), the act would stand zero chance of passage in today's poisoned political climate.

Right-wing critics of the law like to point out that less than 2 per cent of the 1500 or so animal and plant species listed as endangered or threatened under the law have actually recovered to the point that they can be removed from list. But this is a nutty way of measuring success; most of those species, once headed for extinction, can hardly be expected to rebuild healthy, sustainable populations overnight. A much better measure is that only about 30 species have gone to their doom, 37 species have been or will soon be removed from the list, and well over half are deemed stable or on the road to recovery. The act is credited with saving the bald eagle, the peregrine falcon, the California condor, the American alligator, the Florida panther and the grey wolf.

Individual species aside, the act's provisions requiring the preservation of a threatened animal's habitat has resulted in enormous gains for the environment as a whole. A succession of tiny birds listed as endangered or threatened — the spotted owl, the marbled murrelet, the coastal California gnatcatcher — have, over the past 20 years, saved millions of acres of old growth forest and open space along the Pacific coast from logging and commercial development. Efforts to save the wood

stork and the Florida panther have helped nourish the Everglades. And given sufficient political will, the endangered salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest may yet lead to the removal of dams that impede fish passage and cause huge mortality rates on the Lower Snake River.

Presidents Clinton and Obama have improved the way the act is administered, encouraging governments, landowners and industry to collaborate on conservation plans *before* an animal is formally listed as endangered. The number of lawsuits from environmental groups has likewise declined. Since the act has widespread public support, it seems unthinkable that Congress would roll it back. But with this Congress you never know.

Some very tough and inevitably controversial decisions lie ahead for Sally Jewell, the Interior Secretary. The biggest of these will be whether to protect the Greater Sage Grouse, a pretty little creature whose habitat not only ranges over nearly a dozen western states but is also believed to contain considerable reserves of oil and natural gas. Thus the stage is set for either a knockdown fight between the forces of nature and commerce, or a negotiated solution that gives industry some access without threatening the bird. As long as a compromise achieves the latter, we're for it.

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Aug 5, 2014 at 6:59 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION FUND. The Hill (8/5, Cama, 237K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "join lawmakers and local officials to tour the country this week to promote the Land and Water Conservation Fund and push for its reauthorization." On Monday, Jewell said in a statement, "President Johnson and a bipartisan Congress got it right when they established the Land and Water Conservation Fund, embracing the simple concept that when we take something from the earth — namely, oil and gas from public lands offshore — we should return something back to the earth by investing in our land, water and wildlife heritage." Jewell's "tour will bring her to North Carolina, Indiana, New Mexico and Arizona to speak at facilities that have received money through the fund."

Also covering the story is the National Journal (8/5, Subscription Publication, 561K).

LAWMAKERS ABANDON WILDFIRE BILL. The US News & World Report (8/4, 645K) reports that "after members of Congress left for their August recess, 186 wildfires burned across the US on Monday, according to the Coordination Center." According to the article, "a bill to overhaul how Congress funds wildfire suppression appears to be dead in the House, abandoned by Rep. Mike Simpson – the Idaho Republican who introduced the measure – and dozens of GOP legislators listed among its co-sponsors, even as infernos raged across many of their districts." The Interior and Agriculture departments say "they plan to continue pressing the issue when legislators return in September."

SENATORS SEEKS PROTECTION FOR UTAH'S GREATER CANYONLANDS. The E&E Daily (8/4) reports that 14 Democratic senators "last week urged President Obama to permanently preserve 1.8 million acres of red rock lands surrounding Canyonlands National Park as a national monument." According to the article, "the July 30 letter to Obama, which is sure to incite Utah's delegation and rural counties, said designating a Greater Canyonlands National Monument would burnish the president's conservation legacy." The 14 senators, only two of whom are from the West, wrote, "Greater Canyonlands is one of our nation's most stunning, wild and unique landscapes. It should be protected permanently for the benefit and education of future generations."

The Deseret (UT) News (8/4, 538K) notes that "Utah's top political leaders and rural county officials across the state are vigorously fighting an effort led by environmentalists that calls for the creation of the Greater Canyonlands National Monument."

SOUTHEAST ALASKA VILLAGE SUES OVER NONRURAL STATUS. The AP (8/5) reports that "the southeast Alaska village of Saxman has filed a lawsuit against federal officials over the Federal Subsistence Board's 2007 decision to designate the Tlingit community as nonrural." The complaint "calls the decision and criteria used to reach it 'arbitrary and capricious.'" The plaintiffs are "seeking to have the decision reversed and declared invalid."

Coverage was also picked up by the Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (8/5, 44K).

SEN. MURKOWSKI'S PUBLIC LANDS AIDE DEPARTS ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES. The E&E Daily (8/4) reports that "a senior aide to Senate Energy and Natural Resources ranking member Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) is leaving the panel tomorrow, the senator announced." The article notes that "Kaleb Froehlich, the committee's senior Republican counsel whose portfolio includes public lands, sportsmen's issues, endangered species and environmental regulation, joined the committee in 2009 when Murkowski became its top Republican." Froehlich is "joining the Washington, D.C.-based firm Cassidy & Associates to work on Alaska and Western natural resource issues, according to Nelson Freeman of Safari Club International, who has worked with Froehlich."

COOPERATION BETWEEN US, MEXICO LEADS TO OPENING OF MORELOS DAM GATES. In his column for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (8/5, 234K), John Fleck writes about how "Mexican and U.S. water managers had opened the gates of Morelos Dam." He notes that "among the key players who made Colorado River flow happen is Mike Connor," who "as head of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation from 2009-14," led "the U.S. team that negotiated the deal to provide the environmental flow for the Colorado River delta."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

EISENHOWER MEMORIAL DESIGN BY GEHRY CRITICIZED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE. The Los Angeles Times (8/5, Ng, 3.42M) reports that "the design for the long-planned Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial in Washington has been criticized in a newly issued congressional report that has called the project a 'five-star folly.'" Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources said in "the report that architect Frank Gehry's design 'continues to fall short of the required design principles' and that the process used to select Gehry for the project deviated substantially from protocol." Members also "reported that $41 million has been 'spent or obligated so far' – an amount that includes nearly $16.4 million for the designer and more than $13.3 million to the multiple parties managing the project."

INVASIVE LIZARD POSES CHALLENGE IN FLORIDA. The New York Times (8/5, Nuwer, Subscription

Publication, 9.79M) reports on "what some biologists consider the most troublesome invasive species in the Everglades: not a Burmese python, but a 24-inch lizard, the Argentine black and white tegu." The article notes that "tegu populations are creeping east toward Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Station, where threatened American crocodiles nest; west into Everglades National Park, populated by protected Liguus tree snails and endangered Cape Sable seaside sparrows; and south to Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the home of the endangered Key Largo wood rat and cotton mouse, and more crocodiles." However, "despite the threats to native wildlife...efforts to tackle the tegu problem are lagging," because "attention is still primarily focused on pythons, even though that species is already so well established that there is little hope of eliminating it."

NATIONAL PARKS RECEIVE "BEST IDEA" GRANTS. KTWO-AM Casper, WY (8/5, 576) reports that "Yellowstone National Park is one of 39 national parks selected to receive a 2014 America's Best Idea grant from the National Park Foundation." Yellowstone will "partner with Groundwork USA, a national network of non-profits working to transform community liabilities into quality neighborhood assets, and to engage residents in improving quality of life in their own neighborhoods." Judy Knuth Folts, Deputy Chief for the Division of Resource Education and Youth Programs for Yellowstone, said, "We were thrilled to receive a National Park Foundation grant this year. In addition to completing important work at Yellowstone, the youth will complete a Yellowstone inspired project when they return to their home communities, meaning more people will hear about the park and the National Park Service mission."

CITIZENS' GROUP FIGHTS PLANS FOR MUIR WOODS. The Courthouse News (8/4, 7K) reports that the NPS has "embarked on a reckless venture to transform Muir Woods [National Monument] into an amusement park," a citizens' group claims in court. The Mount Tam Task Force sued the Interior Department and the NPS on July 31 in Federal Court. The NPS "plans to build 110 valet parking spaces on a country road, two bus stops on Highway 1 near the redwood enclave, and a half-mile trail connecting the bus stops to Muir Beach." According to the complaint, "this will double the number of visitors to the area each year."

INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE CLOSING BEACH FOR TWO DAYS. The AP (8/5) reports that the NPS will "close a beach at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore on Monday and Tuesday to clean up storm damage." Supervisory Park Ranger Bruce Rowe said that "waves up to 11 feet high battered Central Avenue Beach during recent storms and exposed large pieces of concrete, pipes and other debris." The NPS "expects to reopen Central Avenue Beach on Wednesday."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS MOVES FORWARD WITH PLAN TO SHOOT DEER AT THREE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS. Additional coverage of the plan to shoot "more than 2,800 white-tailed deer at three Civil War battlefields in Maryland and Virginia over the next five years to curb damage to plants and trees" was provided by Fox News (8/4, 6.72M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK BANS DRONES. Additional coverage of the decision to ban drones in Saguaro National Park was provided by the Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (8/5, 1K) and KOLD-TV Tucson, AZ (8/5, 19K).

Bureau of Land Management:

TENSIONS RISE BETWEEN BLM, LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE WEST. The Los Angeles Times (8/5, Glionna, 3.42M) reports that "the relationship between local law enforcement and often heavily armed federal officers has always been tense, and now threatens to reach a breaking point." James Perkins, the sheriff of Garfield County, and "others attribute the deteriorating relations to what he calls BLM's culture of elitism, which provoked Garfield County to join two other Utah counties this year to pass a resolution restricting or banning federal law enforcement within their borders." BLM officials say "they're trying to manage a mammoth swath of the West as best they can while seeking common ground with local authorities." Perkins and others "recently addressed a House public lands subcommittee that was collecting testimony about concerns over the BLM, including claims about bullying ranchers and refusing to respond to emergency calls." However, "BLM officials in Washington call the claims 'vague and inaccurate.'" Bob Abbey, who led the BLM from 2009 until 2012, said, "The agency is not elitist. Everything the BLM does is based on public input or a direction from the courts, so it's frustrating to hear criticism like this. The way I see it, we have much more in common with local law enforcement than differences, but we've allowed those differences to block pursuing common goals."

Nevada Rancher Bundy Calls Dispute With BLM A Spiritual Battle. The E&E Daily (8/4) reports that Cliven Bundy said "the standoff in April between the Bureau of Land Management and his armed associates was part of a spiritual battle of good versus evil." Bundy said "God gave him inspiration in the battle over cattle on public land in Bunkerville, Nev." Bundy said, "The Lord told me ... if [the local sheriff doesn't] take away these arms from federal agents, we the people will have to face these arms in a civil war. He said, 'This is your chance to straighten this thing up.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the Raw Story (8/4, 71K) and the Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (8/3, 221K).

SENATE BILL REJECTS BLM CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, BUT AUTHORIZES NEW DRILLING FEES. The E&E Daily (8/4) reports that the Senate Appropriations Committee's "$30.7 billion fiscal 2015 spending bill for the Interior Department and US EPA offers no funding for a newly proposed charitable foundation to promote the Bureau of Land Management, but it does authorize the agency to charge new inspection fees for oil and gas wells." The bill also "contains no funding for payment in lieu of taxes (PILT), a program critical to rural counties that is typically funded outside of the discretionary budget." The legislation also "would authorize President Obama's plan to reform wildfire budgeting; hike spending for land acquisition, national parks and collaborative forest restoration projects; authorize a new $1 grazing fee on BLM and Forest Service lands; and extend a key recreation fee program for public lands."

GROUPS CHALLENGE WILD HORSE ROUNDUP IN WYOMING. The AP (8/5) reports that wild horse preservation groups are challenging the BLM's "plan to remove about 800 horses from areas in southern Wyoming." The bureau "recently announced plans to start removing the horses from lands within the Great Divide Basin, Adobe Town and Salt Wells Creek herd management areas later this month." Suzanne Roy, director of the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign headquartered in North Carolina, said Monday "the groups intend to ask a federal judge to grant an injunction blocking the roundup." She said, "The current problem is that they're proposing this roundup in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. They haven't done any analysis or allowed for any comment. They're going to bring these populations down below the established level, which is in conflict with their own land-use plans and the Wild Horse Act."

Coverage was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/4, 582K).

Also reporting on the story is the North Country (NY) Gazette (8/4, 59) and the Colorado Springs (CO) Independent (8/4, 79K).

BLM ISSUES BURNING MAN PERMIT. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (8/4, 166K) reports that the BLM announced Monday "it has issued a Special Recreation Permit for the Burning Man event for Aug. 24 through Sept. 1." The permit "requires the event maintain a maximum population of 68,000 participants." Gene Seidlitz, BLM Winnemucca District Manager, said, "Our chief priorities in administering this permit is the protection and conservation of natural, historical and cultural resources, as well as ensuring the safety of event participants and all staffs. I have the utmost confidence that the permit and its associated environmental analysis address these priorities."

Also reporting on the story is the Gardnerville (NV) Record Courier (8/5, 21K).

COBRA ROCK FORMATION NEAR MOAB TOPPLES. The Deseret (UT) News (8/4, 538K) reports that "the Cobra tower met an unfortunate fate when its head was detached over the weekend." According to Lisa Bryant, assistant field manager for the BLM's Moab office, "the head fell off the tower base sometime between Tuesday and Friday." Although "the incident is still under investigation, early reports indicate the decapitation may have been the result of inclement weather in the area."

Also reporting on the story is the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/5, 470K).

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON PAROWAN GAP PROJECT. The Deseret (UT) News (8/4, 538K) reports that "construction has begun at the Parowan Gap visitor site improvement project," according to the BLM. The article notes that "once complete, the project will reduce recreation-caused degradation to cultural and paleontological

resources and threatened and endangered species habitat." The project will also "involve locating several new public parking areas away from cultural resources; installing a convenient vehicle turnaround; constructing a visitor trail off-limits to motorized vehicles that has a shade structure and restroom facility; and stabilizing areas to help prevent rockslides."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

BILL WOULD CAP ATTORNEYS' FEES FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT LITIGATION. In a highly critical article, the Washington Examiner (8/5, 335K) reports that President Obama and environmental groups want lawyers engaged in Endangered Species Act litigation to "continue to get the $300 to $450 an hour they are typically paid now." Notably, the Interior Department "paid out more than $21 million in attorneys' fees to outside groups engaged in ESA cases between 2001 and 2010, according to a 2012 Government Accountability Office study." However, "last week, the House passed a bill he sponsored called the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act." The article notes that "most of its provisions relate to making public the data used in ESA policymaking, but the bill also caps attorneys' fees at rates specified by the Equal Access to Justice Act."

FWS FINALIZES PROTECTIONS FOR TWO RARE FISH SPECIES. The E&E Daily (8/4) reports that the FWS on Monday "finalized protections for two rare fish species found in Texas." According to a notice published in the Federal Register, "the sharpnose shiner (Notropis oxyrhynchus) and smalleye shiner (N. buccula) will both be given endangered status under federal law."

Also reporting on the story are KJTV-TV Lubbock, TX (8/5, 775) and KFYO-AM Lubbock, TX (8/5, 67).

EXPERTS SAY GRIZZLY'S REINTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA FACES CHALLENGES. The E&E Daily (8/4) reports that "as the Fish and Wildlife Service weighs a petition by environmental groups to reintroduce grizzly bears to some of their historical habitats in California, some experts are questioning whether the state's burgeoning human population can handle closer proximity to the large predators." Noah Greenwald, the Center for Biological Diversity's endangered species director, said "the sparsely populated southern Sierra Nevada region would be the best place to study putting the bears." However, "others worry that grizzlies, considered significantly more aggressive than the state's relatively docile black bears, would leave the area and come into conflict with humans."

SPACEX CHOOSES TEXAS FOR COMMERCIAL LAUNCH SITE. The AP (8/4) reports that SpaceX has decided to develop "the world's first" commercial orbital launch site in Texas, which is providing more incentives to the company for the site. Texas Gov. Rick Perry said, "Texas has been on the forefront of our nation's space exploration efforts for decades, so it is fitting that SpaceX has chosen our state as they expand the frontiers of commercial space flight." Rick Tumlinson, co-founder of Space Frontier Foundation and Texas Space Alliance, previously said that the launch site could one day be the location of manned flights to the ISS. Bryce Christensen, managing partner at The Tauri Group, also previously stated that this should give the company more "predictability." The New York Times (8/5, B2, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reprints a version of the AP article.

The Wall Street Journal (8/5, Koppel, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) notes that the Federal government still has to approve the location. Meanwhile, according to the article, Micah Walter-Range, research director at the Space Foundation, said that while the launch site would make Texas a commercial spaceflight leader, it could be years before the location actually has a positive impact on the state because of potential delays and problems.

According to the Brownsville (TX) Herald (8/5, Martinez, 57K), SpaceX's decision comes "after months of speculation." Another Brownsville (TX) Herald (8/5, Doherty, 57K) article had reactions from politicians to the news.

Bloomberg News (8/5, Preston, 2.76M) local officials hope to make the region "as well known for space travel as Houston, home of NASA's Johnson Space Center."

Also covering the story are the Austin (TX) American Statesman (8/5, Copelin, 424K), Dallas Morning News (8/5, 1.11M), Reuters (8/5, Forsyth), KROI-FM Houston (8/5, De Hoyos, 725) website, KUT-FM Austin, TX (8/5, Shaar,

332) website, Fortune (8/4, Snyder, 2.51M), Business Insider (8/5, Rosen, 2M), Venture Beat (8/4, Cheredar, 67K), Houston Chronicle (8/5, Berger, 2.02M) "SciGuy" blog, and Examiner (8/5, Whittington, 1.54M) "Houston Space News Examiner."

AGREEMENT WOULD ALLOW TRIBE TO MANAGE PROGRAMS ON NATIONAL BISON RANGE COMPLEX. KXLO-FM Lewiston, MT (8/5) reports that the FWS on Monday "announced publication of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) that would allow the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) to manage and implement the biological, maintenance, public use, and fire management programs on the National Bison Range Complex." Will Meeks, Mountain-Prairie Region assistant regional director for Refuges, said, "We always think that it's important to involve stakeholders in the process of deciding how to best manage our shared natural resources, in this case the locally- and nationally-known National Bison Range. Both citizens and Tribal members with an opinion on how the National Bison Range will be managed are invited to comment on the draft environmental assessment during the thirty-day comment period."

PLAN TO OPEN GARRETT ISLAND UP FOR MORE ACCESS STAYS STALLED. The Baltimore Sun (8/3, Hirsch, 841K) reports that the FWS wants to the Garrett Island "up for more access and started work on a trail a few years ago, but the project stalled amid a shortage of staff and money." Cindy Beemiller, an FWS refuge specialist, said, "It would be nice if people can use something that's practically in their backyards." According to Beemiller, "opening the island would 'teach people about public lands — in our case, about refuges.'"

4-H CAMPERS LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY INVASIVE SPECIES. The AP (8/5, Edwards) reports that Lafarge North America partnered with FWS and Huron Pines Conservation Group to "bring 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Campers to the Presque Isle Quarry to be introduced to identifying invasive species, the issues these plants present and how to map problem areas through firsthand experiences." According to the article, "the 13- to 15-year-old campers from Camp Chickagami visited the quarry in small groups last week." Heather Rawlings, an FWS biologist, "led the group effort in identifying non-native phragmites and other invasive species."

ARMY CORPS PROPOSES TO KILL BIRDS TO SAVE FISH. The E&E Daily (8/4) reports that the Army Corps of Engineers is "proposing to cull an oversized seabird population along the Columbia River in Oregon as part of its management plan to protect endangered fish." The article notes that "shooting 16,000 double-crested cormorants is the preferred choice among four options the corps put forward to reduce predation on young salmon and steelhead bound for the Pacific Ocean." The proposal, "which includes taking a limited number of cormorant eggs, would enlist the Wildlife Services agency of the Department of Agriculture to shoot the birds after the Fish and Wildlife Service granted permits."

FLORIDA INSTITUTES BAN ON LIONFISH IMPORTS. The E&E Daily (8/4) reports that "Florida on Friday became the first state to institute a ban on importing invasive lionfish with punishments of fines up to $1,000 and a year in prison." The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission also "removed license obstacles for fishermen or recreational divers who want to catch lionfish."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

VINEYARD POWER PREPARES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PLAN TO BUILD WIND FARM. The Vineyard (MA) Gazette (8/4, 30K) reports that Vineyard Power, "the Island-owned energy cooperative, is entering the next phase of its plan to build a 40-kilowatt wind farm south of the Vineyard." According to the article, "at its fifth annual meeting on Saturday, president Richard Andre said the cooperative will bid on a portion of the federally-owned Massachusetts wind area, which covers about 1,200 square miles south of the Vineyard and was recently opened to commercial wind energy leases."

Onshore Energy Development:

GROUSE MEASURES DEFER DRILLING IN MUCH OF WYOMING. The AP (8/5) reports that BLM "figures show the total area of federal oil and gas leases currently deferred in Wyoming to protect the greater sage grouse exceeds the size of Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks combined." The article notes that "the 3.5

million acres of deferred leases include 10,000 acres that otherwise would be offered at a BLM oil and gas lease sale Tuesday." BLM officials say "many deferred leases will become available in coming months, after they enact land-use regulations to protect the ground-dwelling bird in the Rocky Mountain region." Nevertheless, Kathleen Sgamma with the Western Energy Alliance says "the petroleum industry worries the regulations will overly restrict oil and gas development."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Provo (UT) Daily Herald (8/5, 116K).

Ad Campaign Warns About Impacts Of Looming Sage Grouse Listing. The E&E Daily (8/4) reports that "an oil and gas industry group has launched an advertising campaign warning that a federal endangered listing for the greater sage grouse would have dramatic economic impacts across the West and undermine already effective state and local conservation programs." The ad campaign "orchestrated" by the Western Energy Alliance also "blames 'activist lawyers' representing environmental groups for a legal settlement that requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to decide whether to propose listing the grouse by September 2015, before state and local plans have had a chance to fully make a difference." The ad campaign will "feature online and radio advertisements running over the next three months in six Western states – Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming – that attack the legal agreement and the science driving a possible listing decision."

Washoe County Commissioners Support Nevada Senators' Sage Grouse Plan. In an op-ed for the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (8/5, 166K), Washoe County commissioners David Humk and Kitty Jung write that "listing sage-grouse as an endangered species could potentially have wide-reaching effects in Washoe County and Nevada." They note that "it could have a negative impact on the mining industry if roads used to get metals from mine sites to markets are closed off to protect sage grouse habitat," and "it could also restrict grazing, which is a key part of the economy in northern Washoe County." They argue that "our community needs a plan to manage the sage grouse in a way that protects their habitat while also allowing economic planning for Nevada industries." They," along with the rest of the Board of County Commissioners, support a plan from Sen. Harry Reid and Sen. Dean Heller to protect our sage-grouse habitat."

COLORADO GOVERNOR, POLIS MOVE TO TAKE FRACKING INITIATIVES OFF NOVEMBER BALLOT. The Fort Collins (CO) Coloradoan (8/5, Handy, 59K) reports that "at the eleventh hour on Monday," Gov. John Hickenlooper "abruptly interceded into Colorado's battle to control oil and gas development by creating a special task force to tackle issues surrounding regulation of the industry." Hickenlooper "called for four proposed ballot initiatives – all of which planned to turn in signatures Monday to the Secretary of State's office – to be dropped," and "asked that the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission stand down from an ongoing lawsuit against the city of Longmont, launched in 2012 after the city passed a ban on hydraulic fracturing."

The Hill (8/4, Barron-Lopez, Joseph, 237K) notes that the two "controversial initiatives....sought to restrict fracking for natural gas in the state," creating "a rift among Colorado Democrats in recent months and threatened to hurt Sen. Mark Udall and Gov. John Hickenlooper in their reelection bids."

Colorado Public Radio (8/5) noted that Hickenlooper "was joined by US Rep. Jared Polis when he issued the call on Monday." Polis "had backed two of the measures seeking limits on drilling." Sen. Mark Udall, "who opposed the ballot measures, released a statement Monday congratulating Hickenlooper and Polis." Said Udall, "This deal – which averts a divisive and counterproductive ballot fight over one-size-fits-all restrictions – is welcome news and underscores how all of Colorado benefits when we find common ground."

The New York Times (8/5, Healy, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) casts Hickenlooper as "seeking to head off a costly election-year fight over oil and gas drilling that could threaten vulnerable Colorado Democrats," as "the fight over fracking in a swing state that prizes its natural beauty and relies on its energy resources for jobs and tax revenues has become a months-long headache for Democratic leaders, opening fissures within the party and between pro-energy moderates and environmental groups."

Bloomberg News (8/5, Olson, Oldham, 2.76M) reports that Polis said yesterday, "Today's announcement is a victory for the people of Colorado and the movement to enact sensible fracking regulations. ... I know for many today's announcement will not go far enough, but I believe it's just the beginning of next chapter." Meanwhile, "environmental groups said they were disappointed the ballot measures wouldn't get a vote."

The Wall Street Journal (8/5, Harder, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports the API's Jack Gerard said he backed the formation of the task force, saying he hoped it would lead to a "more balanced and inclusive" debate on fracking. Reuters (8/5), among other news outlets, also reports the story this morning.

COURT HALTS DRILLING PROJECT NEAR PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK. The E&E Daily (8/4) reports that "San Benito County, Calif., officials unlawfully approved an oil-development project near Pinnacles National Park when they allowed developers to proceed without preparing an environmental impact report, a judge has ruled." The Center for Biological Diversity said that "the project, involving 15 exploratory wells to be drilled by Citadel Exploration, risks polluting the watershed that drains into the Salinas River and also threatens the area's condor habitat." However, "the drilling company said county officials acted prudently in green-lighting the project, noting that other state agencies reviewed the plans even though an environmental impact report was not developed."

Offshore Energy Development:

MARYLAND LAWMAKERS OPPOSE SEISMIC TESTING. The Baltimore Sun (8/4, Wheeler, 841K) reports that "eight Democratic members of Maryland's congressional delegation wrote President Obama Monday urging him to reconsider his administration's plan to allow seismic testing for oil and gas off the mid-Atlantic coast." In a jointly signed letter, they "called seismic testing the first major step toward opening the Atlantic Ocean to offshore drilling, which carries the risk of oil spills." However, "they warned that the tests themselves would be 'incredibly harmful to marine mammals and fisheries in the region,' generating 'dynamite-like' blasts of compressed air underwater that could hurt whales, dolphins and fish."

NEW TECHNOLOGY SPURS SHALLOW WATER DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO. Reuters (8/4) reports that new technology, such as seismic surveying and horizontal drilling, have enabled oil companies to access shallow-water reserves in the Gulf of Mexico. The technology has been effective in locating oil and gas reserves that were previously hidden in shallow-water, as well as in re-evaluating older deposits. Furthermore, shallow-water wells are cheaper, and can be installed for about $10 million versus deep-water wells, which can cost up to $50 million.

CALIFORNIA SEN. JACKSON PUSHES BILL TO CLOSE OFFSHORE DRILLING LOOPHOLE. The Los Angeles Times (8/5, Lifsher, 3.42M) reports that California Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) is pushing to close a loophole that would allow Sunset Exploration Inc. and its partner Exxon Mobil to conduct offshore drilling by drilling horizontally under the ocean from land on Air Force property. The California Coastal Sanctuary Act bans the approval of new oil and gas production leases in state waters, however, one exemption allows the State Lands Commission to approve a new drilling lease. State Sen. Jackson says she is in a rush to pass her bill, in order to "end the conversation once and for all" about offshore drilling, "whether on land or off land."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT WINS DAMAGE SUIT AGAINST BOR. McClatchy (8/5, Doyle, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that "a federal appeals court has delivered a big victory to a small water district in California's parched San Joaquin Valley." Judges found that "the government owes additional damages for the Bureau of Reclamation's failure to deliver enough water to the Stockton-based Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District. Potentially, the district could collect millions of dollars." Writing on behalf of a unanimous three-judge panel, Judge S. Jay Plager "rejected the government's argument that Central undercut its damage claims by its own actions."

Coverage was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/4, 582K), the Fresno (CA) Bee (8/4, 322K), and the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (8/4, 456K).

COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM CONSERVATION PROGRAM CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Sterling (CO) Journal-Advocate (8/5, 20K), Colorado state Representatives Don Coram and Jerry Sonnenberg criticize the drought management pilot program for the Upper Colorado River System forged between Denver Water and the respective water districts from Arizona, California and Nevada for its negative impact on Colorado's agriculture industry. They argue that "asking Colorado farmers to plant less, reduce their yield and even switch crops will

have devastating impacts on our agriculture industry and ultimately our state's economy."

Additional coverage of the program was provided by the High Country (CO) News (8/5, 74K).

LATIMES: CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS SHOULD ADDRESS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT. An editorial in the Los Angeles Times (8/5, Board, 3.42M) faults California lawmakers for failing to heed Gov. Jerry Brown's call for groundwater management legislation, arguing that "without change, California's groundwater could be pumped to depletion, causing aquifers to draw their water from lakes and wetlands, which would in turn damage sensitive habitats and reduce surface water available for human use, or destroying the aquifers themselves by drawing in saltwater or contaminants."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA CHIEF WASHBURN HEARS OPPOSITION TO THIRD PARTY FEDERAL RECOGNITION VETO. The Indian Country Today Media Network (8/4, 45K) reports that "around 100 people attending a public session on the Bureau of Indian Affairs' proposed new rules for federal recognition broke into spontaneous applause when Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation Chairman Dennis Jenkins spoke against a controversial provision that would allow certain third parties to veto a tribe's ability to re-petition for federal status." According to the article, "opposition to the third party veto provision, which was included in the proposed new rules under pressure from Connecticut politicians, turned out to be the hot topic of the day, dominating discussion during the BIA's three-and-a-half hour public session held at the Mashpee Wampanoag's new government offices and community center during the morning of July 29 (a closed formal consultation with leaders of federally recognized tribes took place in the afternoon)." Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (ASIA) Kevin K. Washburn attended and ran the session.

In an editorial, the Hartford Business Journal (8/4, 27K) notes that "last week, the state received a bit of good news when the Bureau of Indian Affairs decided to extend a comment period deadline for 60 days on a proposal that could potentially recognize three more tribes in the state: the Eastern Pequot, the Golden Hill Paugussett of Colchester and Trumbull, and the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation of Kent." According to the paper, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Attorney General George Jepsen are "leading the fight in opposition to further tribal recognition, but there is no guarantee they will succeed." It hopes "they put forth a winning argument, because Connecticut can't afford more casinos or a further shrinkage of its tax base."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION URGED TO NOT PARTICIPATE IN NNALEA EVENT. In an open letter to US Attorney General Eric Holder published by the Indian Country Today Media Network (8/4, 45K), Ted Quasula, a founding member of the National Native American Law Enforcement Association, supports his stance against "the Washington pro football team's use of 'redskins.'" He notes that Gary Edwards is currently the CEO of National Native American Law Enforcement, and "several months ago team owner Dan Snyder hired Mr. Edwards to be CEO of his newly created Original Americans Foundation or more appropriately called OAF." Quasula finds it "a shame that a once proud Native American law enforcement group be associated with the racist name, 'redskins.'" He notes that "the NNALEA website is promoting its annual Las Vegas meeting/training session in August," and he asks Holder to "take action to ensure that no taxpayer money is used for federal employees to attend."

Top National News:

AS AFRICA SUMMIT OPENS, BIDEN AND KERRY CALL FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORT. While coverage of the US-Africa Leaders Summit, largely limited to print outlets last night and this morning, casts it as a positive step for the Administration, a number of reports also describe it as a reaction to perceptions that the President has not focused on Africa as much as his predecessor.

The AP (8/5, Pace), for example, says Obama's "unprecedented summit" is "aimed in part at building his legacy on a continent where his commitment has been questioned." Obama visited sub-Saharan Africa in 2009, but "it would be four years before Obama returned to Africa, a yawning gap that raised questions." Moreover, "unlike his predecessor George W. Bush, who launched a $15 billion program to address HIV and AIDS, Obama seemed to be lacking a signature Africa initiative."

Obama, says Bloomberg News (8/5, Talev, 2.76M) along similar lines, "is working to overcome perceptions that sub-Saharan Africa has been a low priority his administration. ... By contrast," Bush "won praise for his initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa, including from Obama." Bloomberg adds that Ugandan ambassador to the US Oliver Wonekha and Ambassador Steve Matenje of Malawi, "both Obama fans, said in interviews last week that Africans expect more from Obama."

The Washington Times (8/5, Wolfgang, 465K) says "the Obama White House hasn't launched a signature African program similar to the HIV/AIDS program began and championed by...Bush."

As the summit opened, Bloomberg News (8/5, Talev, 2.76M) reports, Vice President Biden yesterday pressed "African leaders to tackle corruption and give greater recognition to the rights of women as the first US-Africa Leaders Summit opens in Washington." Said Biden, "No democracy can survive without the active, intense participation of its people."

The Washington Times (8/5, Wolfgang, 465K) quotes Biden as saying, "Corruption is not unique to Africa. But it's a cancer in Africa, as it is around the world." Biden's comments, adds the Times, "are part of the Obama administration's broader strategy of fostering economic growth and stability on the African continent, which, despite significant progress in some countries, still faces greater rates of poverty, disease and violence than other parts of the globe."

The Washington Post (8/5, Gearan, 4.06M) quotes Biden as saying, "Widespread corruption is an affront to the dignity of your people and a direct threat to each of your nations. ... It stifles economic growth and scares away investment and siphons off resources that should be used to lift people out of poverty." The Post notes that also addressing the summit, Secretary of State Kerry said, "We want and we will work hard to get more American companies to invest in Africa. ... We also want more African companies to invest here in the United States, and there's no reason that they shouldn't." Kerry also said, "Transparency and accountability attract greater investment. ... Transparency and accountability create a more competitive marketplace, one where ideas and products are judged by the market and by their merits, and not by a backroom deal or a bribe." Reuters (8/5, Nawaguna) notes that Kerry also said, "Fighting corruption lifts more than a country's balance sheets. The market always works better with transparency, with the sunshine of accountability."

The Hill (8/4, Cirilli, 237K) quotes Kerry as saying, "Civil society is the lifeblood of democracy ... This is not hyperbole, but no democracy can survive without the active and intense participation and its people. ... You the leaders of civil society — you empower your societies to succeed. ... You are the lifeblood."

Voice of America (8/5, 21K) reports that "at an earlier forum on economic opportunity," Kerry "outlined some of the U.S. goals for the three-day summit," saying, "It's also why we're determined to deepen our partnership and deliver on remarkable opportunities for peace, for security, for economic growth, and perhaps for most important in the context of what brings us here today, the empowerment of people through their government, through their civil society."

The Atlanta Black Star (8/4, Chiles, 64K) reported that "analysts were busy listing all the objectives the US hopes to accomplish during the next three days," but "in the background hovered China, which in 2009 surpassed the US as Africa's largest trading partner." Adds the Star, "The economies of the sub-Saharan African nations have exploded in recent years while much of the Western world has regressed or remained flat, making Africa an extremely attractive place for foreign investment."

David Brooks writes in the New York Times (8/5, Brooks, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) that "China's aggressive role in Africa is helping to support authoritarian tendencies across the Continent, at least among the governing elites." Despite the summit, "US influence on the Continent is now pathetically small compared with the Chinese and Europeans. The joke among the attendees is that China invests money; America holds receptions."

Writing for the New Pittsburgh Courier (8/5, Chavis, 58K), Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., touts the summit as an event whose "importance...should not be underestimated." It is a "historic event for all Americans, but especially for 45 million Black Americans who all are direct or indirect descendants from Africa," meeting a muted reception because in "whatever initiative that...Obama attempts to launch is met with the usual conservative or racially-

motivated attacks on his leadership, motives or accomplishments."

South Africa Prioritizes Infrastructure Fund. Bloomberg News (8/5, Seria, 2.76M) reports South Africa "sees the creation of a $100 billion fund to finance infrastructure projects on the continent," the US-Africa Infrastructure Development Fund, "as one of the key outcomes from the...Summit." In an interview, South African Transport Minister Dipuo Peters said "an announcement may come from Obama or...Biden." Said Peters, "There'll always be a need for infrastructure funding. ... The terms and conditions still need to be worked out and that will determine South Africa's response." South Africa is also "lobbying for an extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a preferential trade pact between the U.S. and Africa, for 15 years and to remain a beneficiary."

Foreign Minister: Morocco "A Platform To Africa." Morocco World News (8/4, Allilou) reported that Moroccan Foreign Minister Salaheddine Mezouar on Sunday touted the summit "as an opportunity to highlight Morocco's assets as a platform for Africa." Mezouar added that "following King Mohammed VI's visit to Washington last November and the summit that brought together the Sovereign and...Obama, three axes of cooperation were put at the top of priorities, notably food security, energy and trade."

GE Announces $2 Billion In New Africa Investments. AFP (8/5) reports GE yesterday "announced $2 billion in new investments in Africa through 2018 on Monday, as Washington kicked off the US-Africa Summit, aimed at boosting commercial relations." GE Chief Executive Jeffrey Immelt "said Africa has become GE's most promising region for growth."

USA Today (8/5, Malcolm, 5.76M) reports that "at an event Monday, panelists spoke to Africa's need for infrastructure and energy in order to thrive economically, and how US businesses can play a crucial role." Ghana's president, John Dramani, said, "The energy deficit is one of the major constraining factors to growth in Africa. ... Providing sufficient power at affordable rates as efficiently as possible is going to be the key driver for growth."

Protesters Accuse Obama Of "Sitting With Strongmen" He Once Derided. The New York Times (8/5, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports "hundreds of protesters gathered outside the State Department on Monday" as the summit got underway. They were "mostly from Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo," and they "said they were angry that the White House was looking to enhance economic ties with repressive governments." Obang Metho, director of the Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia, "referenced Mr. Obama's message to African leaders during his 2009 trip," when he said, "Africa doesn't need strongmen. It needs strong institutions." Metho said yesterday, "Now he is sitting with strongmen. ... Where are the strong institutions?"

Kerry Meets With Kabila. The New York Times (8/5, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) also reports Kerry "met one-on-one with Joseph Kabila, president of the Democratic Republic of Congo," yesterday. The Times notes that "when Mr. Kerry was in Congo earlier this year, he urged Mr. Kabila to step down after his current term, as Congo's constitution requires." Yesterday, "protesters outside the State Department said they hoped that the Obama administration would continue to press Mr. Kabila on the term limit."

South Sudan Parties Meet For Peace Talks. The AP (8/5, Straziuso) reports South Sudan "government negotiators and rebel representatives met Monday for a fifth round of peace talks since fighting broke out in the world's newest country in December." South Sudan President Salva Kiir "directed his delegation to go to the talks in Ethiopia and come back with peace, according to a post on the government Twitter feed."

Nigerian President Says He Is Using Third Parties To Secure Schoolgirls' Release. The Washington Times (8/5, Boyer, 465K) reports that in an interview, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan said "his government is using third parties to talk to Islamist extremists and try to secure the safe release of the 200 schoolgirls they kidnapped, saying military action could prove too deadly." He also said "US help during the schoolgirls crisis has not produced any results."

AFP Analysis: Girl's Trial "Has Thrown The Spotlight" On Islamic Law's Influence In Region. AFP (8/5, Abubakar) reports a court in Nigeria yesterday "postponed the murder trial of a 14-year-old girl accused of poisoning the 35-year-old man she was forced to marry, a case that has thrown the spotlight on the influence of Islamic law in region." Kano state police spokesman Musa Magaji Majia told AFP, "She did it because she was

forced by her parents to marry a man she did not love."

US Officials Discuss Ebola Outbreak With African Leaders; US Hospitals On Lookout For Cases. The Ebola outbreak overshadowed coverage of the summit on the network newscasts, all of which led with the story and devoted a combined 13 minutes to it. TV coverage largely focused on the outbreak's potential risks for the US mainland.

The Hill (8/5, Viebeck, 237K), meanwhile, reports "senior members of the Obama administration," including HHS Secretary Burwell and CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden "met Monday with Guinean President Alpha Condé and other African leaders about the widening outbreak of Ebola virus." The Hill adds that "the group discussed strategies for US assistance in countering the outbreak, according to the State Department, which alerted the meeting."

USA Today (8/5, Painter, 5.76M) reports that according to a WHO update, "the toll from the Ebola virus outbreak spreading in West Africa has risen to 1,603 cases and 887 deaths." Scott Pelley reported in the lead story for the CBS Evening News (8/4, lead story, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) that US officials "are downplaying the threat here in the United States." Meanwhile, "delegates to the Africa summit in Washington arriving from at-risk countries are being screened at the airport." Pelley added that the World Bank announced Monday that "as much as 200 million dollars in aid will be provided to the affected countries."

Asked on CNN's Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer (8/4, 554K) if the White House is watching thee Ebola outbreak closely, deputy national security adviser Tony Blinken said, "We're doing more than watching. We're surging support to the countries affected by this in West Africa, expertise, equipment, protective gear. Here at home, we're taking every precaution with the protections, protocols you've heard about, to make sure there's no problem here. It's more than watching. It's acting." Asked if the outbreak will be on the agenda at the summit of African leaders being hosted by the President this week, Blinken said, "It will be on the agenda. With regard to that, we've taken every precaution. There's every protocol in place for that. But this summit is a very, very significant thing. This is the largest engagement of an American president with Africa in history."

The Hill (8/5, Viebeck, 237K) also reports that White House press secretary John Earnest said yesterday the US "will not turn back flights from West Africa over concerns about the Ebola virus." Said Earnest, "There are in place a lot of precautions to ensure the safety of the American public and the traveling public."

The New York Times (8/5, Nossiter, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports from Sierra Leone that "enforcement of the government's tough new measures to contain Ebola" is "light," coupling a "tough stance" with "loose enforcement that is deeply worrying to doctors and health care workers trying to stem the rapid spread of the virus."

The Los Angeles Times (8/5, Board, 3.42M) editorializes, "West Africans must be persuaded to stop the burial custom that involves washing bodies. ... It's a matter of convincing desperately scared people – some ill, some not ill yet – that health workers who show up at their doors and sometimes take away loved ones are not angels of death but, in fact, the only chance they have of staying alive."

David Muir reported in the lead story for ABC World News (8/4, lead story, 3:25, Muir) that there is "extreme caution across the country tonight" as doctors and emergency rooms are "on the look out for Ebola." According to the CDC, "since the outbreak began, about a half dozen patients were tested right here in America." Steve Osunsami added that "administrators at Mount Sinai in New York saying that they, too, might have a patient sick with Ebola. A male patient walked into their emergency room with a fever and gastrointestinal symptoms."

The New York Times (8/5, Grady, Santora, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports hospital spokeswoman Dorie Klissas said that "to protect the patient's privacy the hospital was not making public his occupation, which country he had been in, whether he had been exposed to a patient with Ebola there, or whether he had close contacts like family members, friends or co-workers who were also at risk."

Brian Williams reported in the lead story for NBC Nightly News (8/4, lead story, 3:15, Williams, 7.86M) that the man "had recently traveled to West Africa." While officials "say Ebola is unlikely in this case," this is "the kind of thing that's going to keep happening in this country. The New York incident one of nearly two dozen cases of

suspicion of Ebola symptoms in emergency rooms in this country in just the past week."

Dr. Nancy Snyderman reported on NBC Nightly News (8/4, story 2, 2:05, Williams, 7.86M) that the New York case "highlights how much the American healthcare system and hospitals across the country are on heightened alert. ... The CDC chasing down 22 reports of possible Ebola cases in the United States, deemed four worth testing. The three results so far, false alarms. But the biggest concern remains West Africa. Ebola has been ravaging West Africa since March and shocked disease specialists when it hopped a border by plane. ... Dr. Negar Aliabadi is one of the CDC disease detectives deploying to the region." Aliabadi: "It is a scary problem but that you know we are doing our best to get it under control over there, and to keep informed."

Dr. Jon Lapook reported in the lead story for the CBS Evening News (8/4, lead story, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) that the NIH said Monday that Dr. Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol "received an experimental serum called Z-Mapp, only previously tested in monkeys. .. The serum contains antibodies that prevents the virus from entering the cells in the body." Lapook noted, however, that if Brantly "is improving, it's unclear whether that's from the serum, his own body fighting the infection or a combination."

David Muir reported in the lead story for ABC World News (8/4, lead story, 3:25, Muir) that after being treated with the "experimental drug," Brantly is "showing signs of improvement, communicating with his wife through a glass window." Steve Osunsami added that the drug is said to be "working wonders after he was on the brink of death. Today we learned his fever is lower."

Kate Snow reported in the lead story for NBC Nightly News (8/4, lead story, 3:15, Williams, 7.86M) that Brantly "received a second dose just yesterday." In Africa, Nancy Writebol, who is due to arrive in the US on Tuesday, "was getting her second dose yesterday, too." Both patients "patients will each have a room inside a special isolation unit at Emory. All the air in that unit is filtered and contained. Lab tests are done inside and any contaminated materials are cleaned of virus and incinerated."

Dr. Richard Besser reported on ABC World News (8/4, story 2, 1:10, Muir) that the experimental serum given to Brantly and Writebol "contains three factors that go right after Ebola. It's never been tested in humans."

The Washington Post (8/5, Phillip, 4.06M) reports "a second American infected with the Ebola virus," missionary Nancy Writebol, "will leave Liberia for the United States in the early morning hours on Tuesday." The AP (8/5) also reports the story.

On its front page, the Washington Post (8/5, A1, Dennis, Bernstein, 4.06M) reports "there is no approved cure for Ebola and no proven vaccine to prevent the disease." The Post adds that "part of the problem, beyond the difficulty in developing reliable treatments, has been a lack of interest from drug companies, given that Ebola has affected relatively few people compared with many other diseases."

White House Video Omitted Jill Biden's Statement On Ebola. The Washington Times (8/5, Swoyer, 465K) reports the White House yesterday released a video "documenting Vice President Biden's wife, Jill, on her travels through Africa, particularly her latest stops in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia and Sierra Leone, where the widespread Ebola virus has taken 273 lives." In the video, Biden "talks about her meetings with African leaders to promote education and empowering women," but "the video failed to include Mrs. Biden's statement on the rising death toll of 887 from 'the worst recorded outbreak of Ebola' according to the World Health Organization, as reported by The Associated Press."

EARNEST: OBAMA COULD ACT ON IMMIGRATION BY EARLY SEPTEMBER. The Daily Caller (8/4, Munro, 408K) reports that White House press secretary John Earnest "suggested" yesterday that President Obama "could announce executive action on immigration, including a possible amnesty-like distribution of work permits to several million illegal immigrants by early September." Said Earnest, "Even if the president does take some executive action prior to Congress' return, the president would be happy to have those executive actions superseded by passing the commonsense Senate immigration reform bill that passed more than a year ago."

Democrats Launch Spanish-Language Web Ads Against Six Republicans. McClatchy (8/4, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports Democrats "began running ads" on immigration "against six House of Representatives Republicans who represent districts where the issue appears to be crucial." The GOP

lawmakers targeted are "Reps. Jeff Denham and David Valadao of California, Joe Heck of Nevada, Michael Grimm of New York, Steve Pearce of New Mexico and Mike Coffman of Colorado."

The Washington Times (8/5, Miller, 465K) also reports on the "Spanish-language web ad attacking Republicans." Said DCCC spokesman Josh Schwerin, "There's no question that if voters want comprehensive, bipartisan immigration reform, they need to send House Republicans home and elect Democrats who will make sure that we fix our broken system. ... At this point, the only obstacle to reform is Speaker John Boehner and the Republicans in Congress who keep supporting him."

With Surge Of Minors Apparently Slowing, US To Close Three Shelters. Scott Pelley reported on the CBS Evening News (8/4, story 9, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) that as the "surge of unaccompanied children from Central America entering the US illegally appears to be slowing down," and the Administration announced Monday that "it will close three emergency shelters, set up at military bases." The New York Times (8/5, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) notes HHS "officials...said the emergency shelters at the military bases were no longer needed." HHS said in a statement, "We are able to take this step because we have proactively expanded capacity to care for children in standard shelters, which are significantly less costly facilities. ... At the same time, we have seen a decrease in the number of children crossing the southwest border."

The AP (8/5, Caldwell) reports HHS spokesman Kenneth Wolfe said "a shelter in Oklahoma at Fort Sill is expected to close as early as Friday," while "shelters in Texas at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and in California at Naval Base Ventura County-Port Hueneme will wrap up operations in the next two to eight weeks." The Washington Times (8/5, Dinan, 465K) runs a similar report.

"Special Court Procedures" To Expedite Deportation Procedures. The New York Times (8/5, Semple, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports "immigrant advocacy groups were rushing on Monday to prepare for special new court procedures in New York City next week that will accelerate deportation hearings for newly arrived unaccompanied children from Central America." The Times adds that "under the new procedures, unaccompanied minors and families with children who entered the United States in recent months...will be moved to the front of the line to go before immigration judges," and "could be deported in a matter of months rather than years." The Times also reports that "in an email on Monday, a spokeswoman for the Justice Department's executive office for immigration review, or EOIR, which oversees the immigration courts, said: 'These steps include making docket adjustments, re-prioritizing certain case types and refocusing EOIR immigration court resources.'"

Kirk Urges Faith-Based Counseling For Young Immigrants Housed In Chicago. The Chicago Tribune (8/5, Perez, 2.19M) reports Sen. Mark Kirk said yesterday "his office launched an effort to connect young immigrants in the Chicago area with religious organizations and community groups on Monday, about a month after the Republican drew fire for demanding that children who've recently crossed the southern US border undergo criminal background checks." Said Kirk, "I want to make sure that these kids have the widest possible, faith-based network to fall back on while they're in detention."

IN STRATEGY SHIFT, PRESIDENT TAKING MORE QUESTIONS FROM MEDIA. Politico (8/4, Dovere, Brown, 637K) reported that while the White House was once "so obsessed with message control that the president could go months without talking with the press corps," in the past seven weeks, the President "has taken questions an average of once a week." The change in media strategy "is part of a new White House effort to jolt its communications operation." Politico noted that the President "has been feeling isolated, aware that he's not breaking through to the public," and senior advisers "have noticed their message gets lost when the president holds what has amounted to quarterly formal press conferences." The White House "is going the other way." The President "isn't likely to hold any more open-ended, hour-long news conferences than he has in the past." Instead, "the pattern is for Obama to speak for 10 or so minutes and then take a few questions."

Cherlin Examines President's "Messy Relationship With The Press." In a piece for Rolling Stone (8/5, 6.27M), former White House speechwriter Reid Cherlin examines the President's "messy relationship with the press," noting that during his two presidential campaigns, the President "made a point of going over the heads of the media...and communicating directly with voters," and reported have complained that as President, "the approach has sometimes bordered on pathology." At the same time, the press corps, "under immense financial and technological pressure, is in the process of remaking itself to fit a polarized country where users increasingly

choose opinionated news sources that suit their own tastes." As a result, "the administration and the press are in essence tweeting past each other, even as each decries its treatment at the hands of the other." Cherlin notes that the White House "suspects that reporters intentionally sensationalize their stories; reporters suspect that the White House plays with the facts to get its message out. Both suspicions are correct."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Movement On Medicare."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (8/5, 4.06M) calls the slowing growth of Medicare "unexpected and unexplained good news," and argues that now is the time to address the program's sustainability. The Post notes that the CBO, the Simpson-Bowles deficit commission and others "have outlined incremental reforms that would make federal health programs more efficient and save tens of billions of dollars without radical systemic change."

"Unfinished Business In Burma." In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/5, 4.06M) urges Secretary of State Kerry, when he visits Burma next month, not to "treat the Southeast Asian nation as a democratic success story, which it emphatically is not." Despite "stirrings of reform,," adds the Post, "movement has been in the wrong direction," and "most worrying is that there has been no progress in rewriting Burma's constitution, which enshrines military control." Kerry "must make clear that relations cannot stay good unless reforms advance and citizens of every religion and ethnicity can live with dignity."

"Equality For Charter Schools." A Washington Post (8/5, 4.06M) editorial notes that study by the DC government found that "there were great disparities" in "how public money is appropriated to students in the city's traditional and charter schools." The Post argues that city officials "should be devising ways to make charters whole without hurting students in traditional schools," and, noting a lawsuit filed US District Court on behalf of DC public charter schools which says that the city "is in violation of a requirement that charter and traditional schools be funded by a uniform per-student amount annually," adds that "the time and resources that will be expended by both sides in court would be better directed at finding a solution that ensures fair treatment for every student."

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Rule For The Marijuana Market."*** In a signed editorial for the New York Times (8/5, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), Vikas Bajaj considers how governments should "regulate the production and sale of' marijuana, noting that in addition to ensuring that minors do not have access to marijuana, a "good regulatory system" should "protect consumers from both dangerous and counterfeit products," and "undermine and eventually eliminate the black market for marijuana, which has done great damage to society." Bajaj adds that many state that legalize will adopt the Washington and Colorado model of "imposing strict rules and high taxes" on businesses that are licensed to grow, process, and sell marijuana. Bajaj argues that states must "stand ready to modify policies as legal marijuana markets evolve."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Abandoning The Kurds."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/5, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) calls for US military support for the Kurds, reports, longtime US allies. The Journal argues that if he does provide such support, President Obama will be sending a message that the US does not stand by its friends.

"Los Angeles Water-Gate." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/5, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) notes the deterioration of Los Angeles' aging water system, and argues that if Mayor Eric Garcetti intends to keep his promise to fix the city's economy, he will have to repair its plumbing. The Journal suggests privatizing government services like water.

"Another Lousy Bank Bailout." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/5, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) criticizes the Banco Espirito Santo bailout, arguing that the arrangement unfairly spared senior bondholders, and that it reveals Europe has not yet done enough to reform its banking sector.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

Warm Pacific Brings Heavy Storms
Cubs On Religion
A Daring Ebola Experiment
Online Medical Records Coming
Reagan Aid Sought Gun Control

Wall Street Journal:
Israel, Hamas Agree To 72-Hour Cease-Fire In Gaza
Hospitals Cash In On Newly Insured
A Wounded Volunteer For Ukraine Languishes In Rebel Cell
In Canada, Feud Divides Family Empire

New York Times:
Buildup Makes Russia Battle-Ready For Ukraine
Lax Quarantine Undercuts Ebola Fight In Africa
Taking A Bullet, Gaining A Cause: James S. Brady Dies At 73
US Inquiry Finds A 'Culture Of Violence' Against Teenage Inmates
Justices' Rulings Advance Gays; Women Less So
Gaza Is Straining US Ties To Israel

Washington Post:
Israel, Hamas Agree To Hold Fire For 72 Hours
Americans With Ebola Received Test Serum
Witty Reagan Aide And Gun-Control Advocate
A Mystery Within Relisha's Mystery
How The Us Got Mixed Up In A Fight Over Kurdish Oil

Financial Times:
HSBC 'Danger' Warning As Staff Avoid Risk
HP Accuses Autonomy Founder Of Fraud
Nikkei News Spurs Home Advantage Claims

Washington Times:
Nigerian President Using 3rd Party Talks To Free Schoolgirls
Clinton Mourns VOA Demise, But Skipped Its Meetings
Taliban Traded For Bergdahl Known As Sociopath
VA Will Scramble To Meet Private Insurance Mandate
Shift In Shelters Shows More US Control Of Border Surge

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Ebola Outbreak; Ebola Outbreak-Origin; California Mudslides; Severe Weather; Ohio Water Contamination; Middle East-Cease Fire; Michigan Gun Trial; Former White House Press Secretary Death; Drone Flight Avoidance; President Obama-Birthday.
CBS: Ebola Outbreak; California-Mudslides; Middle East Cease Fire; Middle East Crisis; Middle East Crisis-State Department; Syria Iraq-ISIL; China-Earthquake Cleanup; Ohio Water Contamination; Immigration Surge; Air Fare Increase; Former White House Press Secretary Death.
NBC: Ebola Outbreak; Ebola Outbreak-US Citizen; California Mudslides; Severe Weather; Middle East-Cease Fire; Former White House Press Secretary Death; Ohio Water Contamination.

Network TV At A Glance:
Ebola Outbreak – 13 minutes
Middle East Conflict-Cease Fire – 9 minutes, 15 seconds
Former White House Press Secretary's Death – 6 minutes, 40 seconds
Ohio Water Contamination – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Middle East-Cease Fire; Ebola Outbreak-US Patient; Former White House Press Secretary Death.

CBS: Middle East-Cease Fire; Ebola-US Patient; Former White House Press Secretary Death; Immigration Surge-Decreases; Severe Weather-Hurricane Bertha; Dow Up.
NPR: Middle East-Cease Fire; Ebola Outbreak-Experimental Treatment; US-Africa Summit; Former White House Press Secretary Death; Michigan Shooting Trial; Virginia-McDonnell Trial; Rocket Launch Experiment-Texas.
FOX: Middle East-Cease Fire; Ebola Outbreak-US Patient; Ohio Water Contamination-Threat Over; Mississippi Primary Candidate Grudge-Illegal Vote Accusation.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets the Vice President for lunch; delivers remarks and participates in the US-Africa Business Forum, Mandarin Oriental Hotel; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel, Oval Office, closed press; hosts a dinner with the First Lady, the Vice President, and Dr. Biden.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets the President for lunch; meets with Secretary of Defense Hagel; attends a dinner.
US Senate: FOREIGN RELATIONS – AFRICAN DIGNITARIES — The Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Robert Menendez, will meet with African dignitaries. 11:15 a.m. Meeting with Sen. Coons, Congressman Royce and President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma. S-116. (Media can take photos at the top of the meeting.) 12 p.m. Joined by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa will meet with Joseph Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. S-116. (Media can take photos at the top of the meeting.) 12:30 p.m. Meeting with Sen. Coons, Congressman Royce and Salva Kiir, President of South Sudan. S-116. (Media can take photos at the top of the meeting.)

11 a.m. — The Senate will convene at 11:00 a.m.. No roll call votes will occur during this session.

10:30 a.m. AGING – FIELD HEARING — "Trust Your Instincts? Tools to Empower Seniors to Identify Scams and Fraud." Location: Indiana State Fairgrounds, Farm Bureau Building Banquet Hall.
US House: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — Congress on break until the week of Sept. 8th. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. There are no scheduled votes in the House, but, there is a possibility of Pro Forma Sessions. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "Recess".
Other: Aug. 4 – 6. AFRICA LEADERS SUMMIT — The White House hosts the inaugural Africa Leaders Summit. http://www.whitehouse.gov/us-africa-leaders-summit For full agenda: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/us_africa_leaders_summit_schedule_6.pdf 7:30 a.m. Leaders breakfast. 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. U.S. Africa Business Forum hosted by Bloomberg Philanthropies. and the Department of Commerce. Mandarin Oriental Hotel. http://usafricabusinessforum.bloomberg.org// 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Growth and Opportunity in Africa Forum, in coordination with the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. 345 Cannon. Contact: Dan Roth, dan.roth@mail.house.gov 10:15 a.m. Remarks by Dr. Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union. 10:20 a.m. Secretary Jacob J. Lew Brief Remarks . Madarin Hotel. h The event is hosted by the Department of Commerce and Bloomberg Philanthropies, is open press. For additional information, please visit http://usafricabusinessforum.bloomberg.org// 2:45 p.m. Closing: President Obama. 6 p.m. White House Dinner on the Occasion of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. The White House. Location: Business Forum on the 5th: 1330 Maryland Avenue, SW. White House Dinner on the 5th at the White House., National Academy of Sciences. Afternoon Congressional reception on Capitol Hill 325 Russell.

Aug. 5 – 6. DEFENSE ACQUISITION MODERNIZATION SYMPOSIUM — "Better Buying Power: Do We Have It Right?" http://www.afcea.org/events/modernization/14/intro.asp 9 a.m. Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Frank Kendall provides morning keynote address on "Department of Defense and Industry Partnership – A Way Ahead." 10:15 a.m. Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Alan Shaffer moderates panel discussion on "How Do We Establish Technical Superiority With a Reduced Force Structure?" Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND LAB — 9 a.m. Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, will participate in a ribbon cutting to dedicate the new expansion of the Dr. Edward J. Poziomek Advanced Chemistry Laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Ground. With Suzanne Milchling, Director of Program Integration, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center Dale Ormond, Director, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Colonel J. Richard Jordan, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District . Location: The Dr. Edward J. Poziomek Advanced Chemistry Laboratory, 3400 Ricketts Point Road, APG Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.

REP. VEASEY – IMMIGRATION – VICTIMS OF FRAUD — 11 a.m. Congressman Marc Veasey, national experts, and local activists will discuss H.R. 5228, the "Notario Victim Relief Act," making the case for proposed legislation that will give victims of immigration fraud an unlimited time to refile their immigration related paperwork, permitting them to have an opportunity to reopen their cases and immigrate lawfully. Speaker: U.S. Representative Marc Veasey, TX-33; Laura Maristany, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund; Douglas Interiano, Executive Director, Proyecto Inmigrante, ICS, Inc.; Furqan Sunny Azhar, 2012-14 American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) TX/OK/NM Chapter Consumer Protection/UPL Coordinator; Maura Ramirez, Notario Fraud Victim (name has been changed to protect identity).

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama turned 53 years old today. So, happy birthday, Mr. President. Obama blew out his candles and made a wish. But when he opened his eyes, he was still president."

Jimmy Fallon: "Some more news from the White House here. I heard that Joe Biden's personal aide is leaving after eight years with the Vice President. When he heard his assistant was leaving, Biden said, 'Guess I got to ditch the laces and switch to Velcro.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, August 8, 2014

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS CARMEL TO SUPPORT LWCF. WTHR-TV Indianapolis (8/7, 218K) reports that Interior Sally Jewel visited Carmel on Thursday to help promote renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Jewell toured the Flowing Well Park with Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard. Speaking of the fund, she said, "We need it to be reauthorized, otherwise someone will take that money and spend it on their own pet project. This fund has helped communities across the country. Nearly every single county has benefited."

WRTV-TV Indianapolis (8/8, 209K) reports that Jewell said, "I appreciate Mayor Brainard's support for this innovative program that not only improves the quality of life for Indiana but also strengthens local economies like those in Carmel. As we look to the next 50 years, we need to fulfill the promise to the American people by fully and permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (8/6), the Current In Carmel (IN) (8/8, 39K), WTIU-TV Bloomington, IN (8/8, 3K), and WDRB-TV Louisville, KY (8/8, 167K).

Secretary Jewell To Visit New Mexico, Arizona. The AP (8/8, 234K) reports that Jewell's next stops will be in New Mexico and Arizona. She is scheduled to tour the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge on Friday. On Saturday, Jewell will visit the South Mountain Park Visitor Center.

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by KPHO-TV Phoenix (8/8, 113K), KRQE-TV Albuquerque, NM (8/7, 14K), and KTAR-FM Glendale, AZ (8/8, 19K).

Advocates Call On Louisiana Lawmakers To Support Fund. The Monroe (LA) News Star (8/6, 107K) reports that "projects throughout Louisiana's Sportsman's Paradise — from Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge to Bernstein Park in Monroe — have benefited from financial support through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund for 50 years." Advocates met with The News-Star's Editorial Board on Wednesday to discuss the fund. Doug Daigle of the Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group was joined by West Monroe environmentalist Dr. Michael Caire, Black Bayou and D'Arbonne refuge manager Brett Hortman, Black Bayou volunteer Bob Eisenstadt and Paul Davidson, director of the Black Bear Conservation Coalition. According to the article, "all of those who attended the meeting said they have been disappointed in the overall support from the state's congressional delegation, although they noted US Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and US Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-La., as exceptions."

Outdoor Businesses Call For Funding. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/8, 470K) reports that the Outdoor Industry Association is "now calling on Congress to reauthorize the fund and invest a full $900 million toward its mission of providing recreational access and acquiring land for conservation." According to the article, "some 85 businesses have so far signed a letter, which will be submitted to Congress on Sept. 3, the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson's signature on the enabling legislation."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the Hendersonville (NC) Times-News (8/8, 34K), the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (8/6, 456K) and the Carolina Public Press (8/8).

FEDERAL OFFICIALS STILL WARY, DESPITE MILD FIRE SEASON. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that "against the odds, this year's wildfire season has been the quietest in at least a decade." According to the article, "the relative calm has kept the Forest Service on sound fiscal footing compared with past years, when it quickly burned through all its wildfire funding and had to siphon money from nonfire programs." However, "agency officials warned that the situation could deteriorate rapidly, with dozens of fires currently burning uncontained on the West Coast and in Idaho and the potential for many more new blazes over the next few weeks."

Man Charged With Starting Rim Fire. The AP (8/7) reports that "a California man was charged Thursday with starting the state's third-largest wildfire, a 2013 blaze that charred hundreds of square miles of land in Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest." According to the article, "a grand jury returned a four-count indictment against Keith Matthew Emerald, 32, alleging he started a campfire Aug. 17, 2013, in an area where fires were prohibited, and it spread beyond his control and turned into the massive Rim Fire."

Also reporting on the story are the Los Angeles Times (8/8, Mather, 3.42M) and USA Today (8/7, Welch, 5.76M).

Coverage by the AP as also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/7, 582K), Fox News (8/7, 6.72M), and the US News & World Report (8/7, 645K).

UTAH LAWMAKERS BLAST ENVIRONMENTALISTS PUSHING FOR DESIGNATION NEAR CANYONLANDS. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that "Utah's congressional delegation amped up its opposition to a national monument designation for 1.8 million acres of land surrounding Canyonlands National Park." According to the article, "the five Republicans of the delegation – Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee, as well as Reps. Rob Bishop, Jason Chaffetz and Chris Stewart – asked that President Obama ignore calls for him to use his power under the Antiquities Act to preserve the lands." They "contend that this effort is being led by 'fringe' environmental groups."

Also, the Deseret (UT) News (8/8, 538K) reports Sen. Orrin Hatch said Thursday that "his fellow senators who are

urging President Barack Obama to designate a new Greater Canyonlands National Monument should stop playing politics and 'keep their mitts off Utah.'" Hatch said "the 14 senators who signed the letter to the president are 'very ultra-liberal,' and while he considers them friends, they're getting involved in an issue that should be left up to Utahns." He said, "It all comes down to money. It's a good way to raise money from the environmental community. They should keep their mitts off Utah. They shouldn't be interfering with our state."

Also covering the story is the Moab (UT) Times-Independent (8/8).

Obama Urged To Ignore Calls For New Monument. The Deseret (UT) News (8/8, 538K) editorializes that the call "by some liberal senators in Washington to urge President Obama to summarily declare another wide swath of Utah as a monument" would "scuttle a collaborative process underway and deepen the gulf dividing many in Utah from the federal government." However, "only time will tell whether the president is wise enough to shun the path President Bill Clinton took in creating the Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument." It concludes that "such things may play well among some in Washington, but they have profoundly negative effects on the very meaning of representative government in this end of the country."

REPUBLICAN SENATORS PRESS INTERIOR TO OPEN ATLANTIC, ARCTIC TO DRILLING. The Hill (8/8, Barron-Lopez, 237K) reports that "a coalition of 21 Republican senators is urging the Interior Department to open up the Atlantic and areas of the Arctic to oil and gas development in its next five-year lease plan." The letter sent to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell states, "With our allies under threat, our friends under attack, and our enemies on the move, continued exploration and production of energy from federal lands in the United States is absolutely vital. Our offshore resources, which the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 declares 'should be made available for expeditious and orderly development,' are critical to this effort." The letter states "the new program should include the Arctic, Alaska's Atlantic and Cook Inlet, on top of areas that are currently open." On the other hand, "a group of 45 House Dems pressed Jewell to exclude parts of the Arctic off Alaska's coast from the five-year plan."

Also covering the story is the National Journal (8/8, Subscription Publication, 561K).

SENATORS QUESTION EFFORT TO EXPLORE NATIVE HAWAIIAN RELATIONSHIP. The Hawaii Free Press (8/8) reports that "a group of US Senators has sent a letter to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI), criticizing the recent Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) that explored the creation of a government-to-government relationship with the Native Hawaiian community." The letter, signed by Sens. Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Tom Coburn (R-OK), and Mike Lee (R-UT), "objects strongly to the Department's ANPRM on legal as well as prudential grounds." In the letter, they "reiterate the concerns about the constitutionality of a race-based government," and "then go on to question the DOI's authority to act in this matter and raise the issue of whether this is more properly the domain of the Congress."

MTV SHOWS COMMERCIAL FEATURING INTERIOR'S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT. Roll Call (8/8, Subscription Publication, 76K) reports that MTV advertised the Instagram account belonging to the Interior Department, but "the only problem" was that "the department was completely in the dark about the commercial, until HOH tipped them off." The Interior Department tweeted, "You saw our Instagram on a commercial? We are not running TV ads anywhere in the US to our knowledge. Do you have more info?" According to the article, "the brief commercial — which flashes serene nature shots plucked from Interior's Instagram account while featuring a soothing, female voice — appears to have been created by MTV, since it ends with the station's logo in the corner."

INTERIOR AWARDS GRANT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ZEMURRAY PARK. The Hammond (LA) Daily Star (8/8, 30K) reports that "the City of Hammond has secured a $250,000 grant from the Department of the Interior for more improvements to Zemurray Park." According to City Grants Administration Lacy Landrum, "the grant, plus a $250,000 match from the city, will allow for a splash park, toddler playground, two family-sized picnic tables, an aeration system and a fishing station to be added to the park."

US URGED TO CRACK DOWN ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. For the National Geographic (8/6, 42.25M), David J. Hayes, a Distinguished Visiting Lecturer in Law at Stanford Law School, writes that "leaders from both sides of the Atlantic gathered to discuss the major challenges and areas of current success in the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking and trade in Africa and beyond" during the US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C. Hayes lists "the key issues and opportunities in this critical issue for people, the environment, and Africa's

future." He concludes that "the United States must tackle the wildlife trafficking crisis that is devastating elephant and rhino populations, while threatening other wildlife species and fueling insecurity and corruption throughout Africa and Asia."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

LAWMAKERS HAVE COMPETING IDEAS ABOUT EXPANDING YOSEMITE. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/7, 582K) reports that Rep. Tom McClintock and Rep. Jim Costa are "at loggerheads over how to expand Yosemite National Park." They have competing bills, and "share some ideas," but "differ...on key questions, including whether to offset the park's growth by the sale of federal land elsewhere." According to the article, "the explicit differences, now that they are spelled out in legislative text, could theoretically accelerate negotiations toward a final deal," or, "they could yield stalemate, over mountainous land both sides agree meets Yosemite's high standards."

Coverage was also picked up by the Merced (CA) Sun-Star (8/7, 99K), the Fresno (CA) Bee (8/7, 322K), the Charlotte (NC) Observer (8/7, 544K), and the Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (8/7, 550K).

BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK MAY BAN FISH HARVESTS. The AP (8/8) reports that due to declining fish numbers, the NPS "wants to phase out commercial fishing" at Biscayne National Park. Officials say "ending commercial fishing there will improve the numbers and sizes of snappers, groupers, wahoo, mackerel and hogfish." However, "critics say federal officials are punishing fishermen for polluted runoff from the land that reduces water quality," and "they say closing off the park would devastate South Florida's commercial fishing industry, putting people out of work and putting more pressure on fisheries elsewhere."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (8/7, 4.06M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/7, 582K), and the Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (8/7, 550K).

PLAINTIFFS IN DRAKES BAY SUIT RAISES STATE'S RIGHTS ISSUE. The Point Reyes (CA) Light (8/8) reports that "the coalition of food purveyors suing the Department of the Interior over the ouster of Drakes Bay Oyster Company from the Point Reyes National Seashore is now alleging that the federal government had no right to kick the oyster farm out of Drakes Estero because of the state's property rights." The article notes that "a new business has also joined the plaintiff's ranks: Dixon Marine Services, an oceanographic and wetland restoration firm located in Inverness, which says it heavily relied on shell from Drakes"

TOURIST CRASHES DRONE AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that "a tourist crashed a drone into a hot spring at Yellowstone National Park, officials said." According to park officials, "the drone's operator flew the unmanned aircraft into the Grand Prismatic Spring last weekend, where it remains submerged in 160-degree water." Officials said "they are working to remove the drone from the hot spring."

Also covering the story are the Washington Post (8/7, Berman, 4.06M), USA Today (8/7, Hughes, 5.76M), and Reuters (8/8).

GRAND CANYON SQUIRREL KICKER STIRS UP PUBLIC ANGER. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that "authorities believe the chances of catching a scantily clad man who kicked a squirrel off the edge of the Grand Canyon are slim, but the man who caught the act on a video that stirred up public anger said he is hopeful." The article notes that "the video, which YouTube has since taken down under its policy prohibiting videos depicting animal abuse, prompted many outraged emails and phone calls to park rangers." And "with the squirrel kicker facing up to six months in jail and a $5,000 fine," animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals on Wednesday "offered a $15,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction."

NPS SELECTS RECIPIENT OF CONCESSIONS CONTRACT AT GRAND CANYON. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (8/8, 43) reports that the NPS has "selected DNC Parks & Resorts at Grand Canyon, Inc., a subsidiary of Delaware North Companies, Inc., to provide a variety of visitor services at Grand Canyon National Park for the next 15 years." Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga said, "Delaware North Companies has successfully operated

the Grand Canyon Village Market providing grocery, food service and retail operations to park visitors and the Grand Canyon Community for 15 years."

1914 RELIEF MAPS SHOWS "PANORAMIC VIEWS" OF SIX NATIONAL PARKS. Slate Magazine (8/7, 14.77M) shows USGS relief maps, "published circa 1914 by the Department of the Interior," which "offer 'panoramic views' of several of the young national parks."

Bureau of Land Management:

EXCAVATORS WORKING IN WYOMING CAVE. The AP (8/7) reports on the work to excavate Natural Trap Cave. Brent Breithaupt, a paleontologist for the BLM, said, "It's an incredible site. It definitely is one of the most significant sites that BLM manages and it will provide very, very important information." The article notes that "scientists hope the cave's high humidity and temperatures that never top the 40s might even preserve genetic material of extinct animals from the days when massive ice sheets last frosted over much of the North American landscape."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (8/7, 4.06M), the US News & World Report (8/7, 645K), WFMJ-TV Youngstown, OH (8/8, 30K), WTVT-TV Tampa, FL (8/8, 50K), and CKTB-AM Niagara, CAN (8/8).

PROGRAM ALLOWS AT-RISK YOUNG ADULTS TO LEARN JOB SKILLS, HELP SAGE GROUSE. The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (8/7, 166K) reports that "the Nevada desert near Austin has become a classroom this week for at-risk young adults who are learning job skills while helping that state's fragile sage grouse population." The youths are members of this year's crew in the Bootstraps Program. According to the article, "now in its 10th year, the award-winning program pays men and women ages 18-25 to work for six months removing pinyon pine and juniper trees to support more favorable habitat for sage grouse as well as a mule deer and other wildlife." The program was started by the Cooperative Extension and the BLM's Battle Mountain District Office, and was "one of only 20 programs nationwide to receive the 2013 Partners in Conservation Award from the US Department of the Interior for achievements in conservation of natural resources."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SENATORS QUESTION IVORY BAN. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that Sens. David Vitter and Kirsten Gillibrand on Wednesday "joined the ranks of lawmakers questioning the scope of a ban on ivory sales with a letter asking the Fish and Wildlife Service to outline its decision-making process." Vitter and Gillibrand, in their letter to FWS Director Dan Ashe, ask to "work with you to find a path forward that advances the protection of the species without unintended consequences." They write, "We fully support strong efforts by the United States government to stop the ivory poaching crisis and prevent the importation of poached ivory into the country. However, there are questions that remain with regard to how the Director's Order and the new regulations that are being developed will affect interested parties in our states."

Also providing coverage is The Hill (8/8, Devaney, 237K).

Study Suggests All Ivory Markets Must Close. The Science Daily (8/8, 104K) reports that "to save elephants, all ivory markets must close and all ivory stockpiles must be destroyed, according to a new peer-reviewed paper by the Wildlife Conservation Society." The study says that "corruption, organized crime, and a lack of enforcement make any legal trade of ivory a major factor contributing to the demise of Africa's elephants."

FWS AIMS TO GIVE TRIBES MORE CONTROL OF NATIONAL BISON RANGE COMPLEX. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that the FWS is "moving forward with plans to give local tribes more control of Montana's National Bison Range Complex, despite misgivings from environmentalists and some of its own employees." The agency has "tried for more than a decade to hammer out a workable agreement with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)." This week, the FWS "released the draft environmental assessment for its third attempt – a proposed Annual Funding Agreement that would hand over most of the range's day-to-day responsibilities to the tribes, with oversight from the agency's refuge manager."

COLORADO, UTAH GOVERNORS SUPPORT SAGE GROUSE LISTING DELAY. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that the governors of Utah and Colorado on Wednesday "signaled support for delaying the Obama administration's decision on whether to protect the greater sage grouse, a move they argued would buy time for states to implement conservation plans that could preclude the need for federal protections." Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert discussed the FWS' pending September 2015 listing decision at the Colorado Oil and Gas Association's annual energy summit. Hickenlooper said, "It's quite possible another year would make a huge difference." Herbert "expressed frustration that the federal government had rejected Utah's plan for preserving the bird, which he insisted would shield 94 percent of sage grouse from development while allowing reasonable oil and gas activity."

PLANTS TO BE ADDED TO ENDANGERED LIST. The Tennessean (8/8, 363K) reports that "two rare wildflowers in Tennessee long considered at risk for extinction will be added to the federal endangered species list." The FWS announced that "Short's bladderpod, a yellow flower that grows on steep and rocky glades along rivers in Middle Tennessee, is set to be added to the list in September." The article notes that "the other Tennessee species is the whorled sunflower, a long-stemmed yellow flower that grows along roadsides and near train tracks in Madison and McNairy counties." In addition, "a flower native to Alabama — the fleshy-fruit gladecress with yellow-orange or white-yellow flowers — will also be listed."

WILDLIFE TROPHIES SEIZED BY US CUSTOMS AGENTS. KNTV-TV San Jose, CA (8/8, 114K) reports that "a menagerie of confiscated wildlife game trophies headed overseas from the Port of Los Angeles were shown Wednesday before being distributed to schools, zoos and university collections." According to the article, "when US Customs agents opened a shipping container headed for the Philippines on July 23, they were greeted by a whole host of creatures, including a mounted baboon, bobcat and African antelope head." Customs officials then contacted the FWS "who took control of the haul, which is worth thousands."

SEN. MORAN WARNS THAT LISTING LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN WILL IMPACT KANSAS INDUSTRIES. In an op-ed for the Hutchinson (KS) News (8/8, 2K), Sen. Jerry Moran writes that listing the lesser prairie chicken has "real consequences for a number of Kansas industries." In order "to avoid the lesser prairie chicken's threatened species designation," Moran has been "working with colleagues across the aisle over the past two years." Moran remains committed to working with FWS and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to "make certain the measures implemented are based on sound science and common sense, as well as represent the best interest of producers."

US Geological Survey:

USGS TO BEGIN DRILLING "SENTINEL" WELLS NEAR NEW MEXICO AIR FORCE BASE. The WaterWorld (8/8, 96) reports that starting Thursday, scientists from the USGS will be "drilling 'sentinel' wells at the first of three locations in the Trumbull Village neighborhood in the city of Albuquerque, N.M., to provide early alerts for groundwater contamination." According to the article, "these new sentinel wells will provide early warning if there is a northeastward movement of the Kirtland Air Force Base Bulk Fuels Facility plume and would provide Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) and Air Force officials lead time to implement plans to protect nearby groundwater drinking water supply wells."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PUSHES FOR SOLAR POWER. The New Yorker (8/8, 5.3M) reports on the efforts of the Obama Administration "to develop solar-energy plants on public lands." The BLM "couldn't change the high cost of solar energy, but officials thought that they could address two other big hurdles to solar development: the potential environmental damage and the financial risk for investors." The article notes that "in 2012, it came up with what it called the Western Solar Plan." Now, in 2014, "solar power has grown faster than any other energy source except natural gas (which has experienced a fracking boom)." Obama has directed the BLM "to approve enough renewable-energy projects to power four million homes by 2020."

BIRD GROUP PROPOSES REVISIONS TO EAGLE "TAKE" RULE. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that "a leading

bird conservancy group has submitted a detailed plan to the Fish and Wildlife Service that includes revisions to its hotly debated eagle 'take' rule that allows wind and other energy projects to injure, kill or disturb bald eagles for up to 30 years." The American Bird Conservancy's "18-point plan, outlined in a formal comment letter sent" Wednesday to FWS, "also calls for adopting mandatory conditions for siting wind projects instead of the current voluntary guidelines that the group says in the letter are 'hindering FWS' ability to do its important job of protecting our nation's public trust resources, including its ecologically-important native birds and bats.'" The group's "recommended plan also calls on the service to require an independent third party to conduct environmental assessments of proposed wind projects, and for the service to devise and implement an independent 'monitoring system' to document 'post-construction' bird and bat deaths."

OFFICIALS CELEBRATE FEDERAL GRANT FOR WIND FARM OFF ATLANTIC CITY. The Press of Atlantic City (NJ) (8/8, 200K) reports that "a wind farm off Atlantic City is $47 million closer to reality as local and state officials celebrated a federal loan for the long-gestating project." In an appearance Thursday at Steel Pier, Sen. Robert Menendez, said, "The Fishermen's Energy Atlantic City wind farm has the potential to become the first ... wind project in the United States. And that could potentially make Atlantic City the birthplace of offshore wind in America."

Onshore Energy Development:

REPORT: INCREASING BLM ONSHORE RENTAL RATES WOULD GENERATE $56 MILLION ANNUALLY. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that "a new report by a nonpartisan government watchdog group concludes that increasing the rental fee that oil and natural gas companies pay to hold onto non-producing leases on public lands would generate tens of millions of dollars for taxpayers – a finding the industry strongly rebukes as misleading." The Center for Western Priorities report, titled "A Renter's Market: Outdated Oil and Gas Rental Rates Fail Taxpayers," says that "modernizing" the BLM's "oil and gas rental rates, which at $1.50 per acre have not been updated since 1987, would generate about $56 million annually." The report also states that "increasing the fee would discourage companies from stockpiling unused oil and gas leases, which according to BLM currently total nearly 7,000 idle drilling permits."

Democrats Favor Higher Royalties For Oil And Gas On Public Lands. The Hill (8/8, Cama, 237K) reports that Democrats in the US House are urging the Interior Department "to prioritize increasing royalty rates for oil and gas development on federal land." In a letter signed by 43 Democrats to the Interior Department's assistant secretary for lands and minerals management Janice Schneider, they wrote, "Appropriate rental and royalty rates for onshore oil and gas leases help ensure that states, the U.S. Treasury and all American taxpayers receive their fair share from the nation's oil and gas boom."

Additional Coverage. Also covering the story are Politico (8/8, Guillén, 637K) and the Pagosa (CO) Daily Post (8/8).

TRIBES EARNED ALMOST $1 BILLION IN ROYALTIES FOR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN 2013. The Nation Sun News (8/8) reports that "tribes and individual Indians earned $971 million in royalties for energy development on their lands in fiscal year 2013, according to data from the Interior Department." According to the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, "oil development makes up the bulk of the revenues – $677 million." Meanwhile, "gas brought in more than $130.2 million while coal brought in $78.1 million."

Tribe Proposes Fee On "Flaring" Natural Gas. The AP (8/7) reports that "tribal leaders on an American Indian reservation in the heart of North Dakota's booming oil patch are proposing fees for companies that burn and waste natural gas." The Three Affiliated Tribes "outlined its plan to impose fees in a six-page document sent to oil companies." In the plan, the tribe said "companies would be required to pay royalties for 'flaring' natural gas to compensate for lost revenue when the gas isn't brought to market and sold."

GROUP LAUNCHES NEW GREATER SAGE GROUSE PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN. The Oil and Gas Journal (8/8, 1K) reports that "listing the greater sage grouse as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act would discourage effective local and state conservation efforts while stifling economic growth and job creation, the Western Energy Alliance said in a new public education campaign." Jack R. Ekstrom, WEA chairman, said, "We are running this ad campaign to educate westerners about the greater sage

grouse and the threats on the horizon to local economies." The article notes that "the campaign consists of online and radio ads running from August through October across the West including Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming."

ARCH COAL SUBSIDIARY WINS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD. The World Coal (8/8) reports that Arch Coal has announced that Vindex Energy Corp. has "received the 2013 Excellence in Reforestation regional award from the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI)." Thomas Shope, regional director of the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining, said, "Vindex's efforts truly represent the best of the best in using the Forestry Reclamation Approach."

OKLAHOMA DRILLERS SUED FOR 2011 QUAKE SWARM. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that "almost three years after earthquakes rocked Sandra Ladra's living room in central Oklahoma, she's taking two energy companies to court." Ladra this week "filed a complaint in Oklahoma state court against New Dominion LLC and Spess Oil Co., both based in Oklahoma, for using wastewater injection wells that may have caused a cluster of earthquakes in late 2011." Ladra was "injured when rocks fell from her fireplace during the quakes and is now suing the drillers for personal injury and punitive damages." The article notes that "the lawsuit is the first to follow the 2011 earthquake swarm, which scientists and government officials have linked to nearby wells used to store wastewater after oil and gas production."

COLORADO GOV. HICKENLOOPER AVOIDS POSITION ON KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE. The E&E Daily (8/7) reports that Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's "unscripted comments" Wednesday "on the Keystone XL pipeline sparked a firestorm on social media and drew heavy criticism from his Republican gubernatorial opponent." Hickenlooper told a group of oil and gas executives at an energy summit in Denver, "I've avoided taking a position [on Keystone] because it's just going to p*ss off a lot of people in Washington that I don't need to piss off." He added, "My opinion is not going to change anybody's opinion" in Washington, D.C. The comments were "posted on Twitter and quickly caught the attention of former US Rep. Bob Beauprez, the GOP nominee for governor and a supporter of the controversial pipeline project." Hickenlooper is "far too concerned with what other people think," Beauprez told The Durango Herald. He continued, "What Coloradans want to know is this: Where do you stand, and will you stand up for us?"

Offshore Energy Development:

NEW TECHNOLOGY OPENS THE WAY FOR OFFSHORE FRACKING. The Hill (8/8, Barron-Lopez, 237K) reports that only recently has new technology enabled large-scale offshore fracking projects to become possible. Oil services companies are expected to profit from their expertise in the difficult process, and major companies such as Chevron, Shell and BP could "make billions in extra revenue because of greater crude oil output."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

PRICE OF WATER JUMPS DUE TO CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT. Bloomberg News (8/8, Vekshin, 2.76M) reports that water for farmers in California's Central Valley is "now going for as much as $2,200 an acre-foot, an increase of more than 800 percent" from last year. According to the article, "in times of drought, the system creates winners—the heirs of the miners and ranchers who built the state—and losers, including farmers without rights, who find their place in the state's $44.7 billion agricultural industry threatened by deals for natural resources cut more than 100 years ago." The California Department of Water Resources, "which manages water in the state's rivers, says it expects to deliver only 5 percent of the almost 4 million acre-feet requested this year by public water agencies," and the BOR, "citing critically dry reservoirs, announced that senior rights holders would still get 65 percent to 75 percent of the water they requested."

BOR WILL WAIT TO EVALUATE BEFORE REMOVING SEDIMENT FROM LAKE ESTES. The Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette (8/8, 13K) reports that the BOR "sent a letter to the Town of Estes Park on Wednesday essentially saying that it does not plan to remove any sediment from Lake Estes caused by last September's flood until it has thoroughly assessed the situation." To that end, BOR Area Manager Jacklynn Gould is "suggesting that a technical meeting be held in a few weeks with the Town of Estes Park, the Upper Thompson Sanitation District, the Estes Valley Recreation and Parks District, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to identify issues and discuss ways to collaboratively mitigate flood effects in Lake Estes." Estes Park Town

Administrator Frank Lancaster on Thursday said, "We're pleased to hear the Bureau of Reclamation will be reaching out to the community partners to discuss the Lake Estes issues. Evaluating recovery options together to determine the best solution for the community and all agencies involved is a logical first step."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the Camarillo (CA) Acorn (8/8, 79K) and the Moorpark (CA) Acorn (8/7, 33K).

INTERIOR'S DECISION TO NOT PREVENTIVELY RELEASE TRINITY RIVER WATER CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (8/8, 76K), Regina Chichizola, an advocate for the Klamath River, writes that "last week federal officials at the Department of the Interior announced that, unlike in previous years, they will not preventively release Trinity River water from Lewiston Dam to avoid a Klamath River fish kill." According to Chichizola, "this unscientific process will take at least four days and will likely lead to a large-scale salmon die off." She argues that "it is unacceptable that junior water right holders hundreds of miles away are getting water while the salmon die."

Empowering Native American Communities:

ONE DEAD IN CRASH ON UTE RESERVATION. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/8, 470K) reports that "public safety dispatchers confirm the fiery crash of a car early Thursday morning on eastern Utah's Ute Indian Reservation claimed one life." According to the article, "the crash, near Whiterocks in Uintah County, occurred just after midnight when the car reportedly crashed into a tree outside a home." The sheriff's office, tribal police and the BIA were "jointly investigating the crash, but no other details — including the identity of the victim — were immediately available."

Additional coverage was provided by the Deseret (UT) News (8/8, 538K), the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (8/7, 86K), and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (8/8, 1.07M).

Top National News:

OBAMA AUTHORIZES "TARGETED AIRSTRIKES" TO PROTECT US PERSONNEL, AVOID "GENOCIDE" IN IRAQ. President Obama's announcement that he had authorized "targeted strikes" and a campaign of humanitarian aid in Iraq, received largely positive media reviews. Obama's televised remarks came too late to be noted on the network newscasts – all three of which had led with stories about the President weighing the US reaction to the alarming developments in Iraq. Noted in virtually all reports on Obama's televised address are his strict qualifications for any US military involvement in Iraq this time around: Reuters (8/8, Spetalnick) reports Obama said he had authorized airstrikes only "if necessary," and the AP (8/8, Pace, Burns) notes the US will use force "if Islamic militants advance toward American personnel," or to prevent "genocide" against defenseless Iraqi minorities.

USA Today (8/8, Jackson, Michaels, 5.76M) reports that while "the president's announcement Thursday amounts to a significant escalation of involvement in the growing Iraqi crisis...Obama attempted to assure the American public that it would not lead to US involvement in a ground war there." The New York Times (8/8, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) notes that Obama "declared that he had run for the presidency in part to end America's involvement in the Iraq war, and he repeated his promise that the United States would not send ground troops back to that country." Said the President, "I will not allow the United States to be dragged into fighting another war in Iraq." As the Washington Post (8/7, A1, DeYoung, Morris, 4.06M) reports on its front page, Obama then added categorically, "American combat troops will not be returning to fight in Iraq."

However, USA Today (8/8, Jackson, Michaels, 5.76M) reports the President said to Iraqis facing prosecution from ISIL forces, "Today, America is coming to help." Obama explained he was acting because "innocent families face the prospect of 'genocide'" and the US "cannot turn a blind eye." McClatchy (8/8, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 23K) notes that Obama "said he is consulting with the United Nations and other countries" on the situation in Iraq, where "people" fleeing ISIL's atrocities "are starving and children are dying of thirst," while the National Journal (8/8, Koren, Subscription Publication, 561K) says that tonight, "White House officials are making the rounds by phone, informing members of Congress about their plans on the crisis." Meanwhile, the AP (8/7) reports the White House "was in contact throughout Thursday with some lawmakers, including House Speaker

John Boehner...and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell."

The Washington Times (8/8, 465K) and the Daily Caller (8/8, Bordelon, 408K), which reported Obama authorized the airstrikes "reluctantly," run similar accounts of the President's remarks.

In an analysis piece, the New York Times (8/8, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that "to longtime opponents of the Iraq war, the president's decision represented a step back down a dangerous path." Phyllis Bennis, "a scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies," said last night, "This is a slippery slope if I ever saw one." But Rep. Adam Smith disagreed, saying, "I don't think this is a slippery slope; this is an isolated circumstance." Former ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker defended Obama's decision, "This is about America's national security. ... We don't understand real evil, organized evil, very well. This is evil incarnate."

Politico (8/7, Ewing, 637K) reports "Administration officials made clear that Thursday's actions hadn't changed the basic outlook on Iraq, which must form an inclusive government in order to bring the crisis to a final end." Defense Secretary Hagel said in a statement, "An enduring solution to the persistent threat posed by ISIL will require further reconciliation among Iraqi communities and strengthened Iraqi security forces."

The Los Angeles Times (8/8, Cloud, Parsons, 3.42M) notes that "in a statement issued shortly before Obama spoke, Pentagon officials said that US planes had" already "dropped 'critical meals and water for thousands of Iraq citizens threatened' by the fighters in a mountainous area near the Iraqi town of Sinjar." On its website, TIME (8/7, Miller, 24.1M) quotes an unnamed "senior defense official" who said the humanitarian mission "was conducted by a number of US military aircraft under the direction of US Central Command."

The CBS Evening News (8/7, lead story, 3:00, Pelley, 5.08M) reported in its lead story that the President had "ordered the US military it to begin flying in humanitarian aid." CBS (Martin) added Obama was weighing "calls for airstrikes to halt the advance of militants who are reported to be just 25 miles from the Kurdish city of Erbil, where some 150 American military advisers, plus an unknown number of diplomats, have been operating."

NBC Nightly News (8/7, lead story, 3:30, Miklaszewski, 7.86M), meanwhile, noted that with ISIL forces "poised just outside of Erbil...one senior US military official" told NBC, "We're not going to let them take it." ABC World News (8/7, lead story, 3:15, Muir, 5.84M) similarly reported that "ABC News has learned the US military is poised and ready to strike against militants in Iraq." ABC World News (8/7, story 2, 0:55, Karl, 5.84M) later reported that "the thing weighing most heavily on the President...as he met with his national security team...at the White House is the terrorist threat to that city of Erbil, and that's because...there are Americans there."

Yesterday afternoon, as the President pondered his options, the Los Angeles Times (8/7, Lauter, 3.42M) noted that White House press secretary Josh Earnest said the President "will not be sending combat troops back" to Iraq. Reuters (8/8, Coles) noted Earnest also said a potential US military intervention would be "very limited in scope," because "there are no American military solutions to the problems in Iraq." The AP (8/8, Pace, Burns), Bloomberg News (8/8, Alwan, Nasseri, Fam, 2.76M), USA Today (8/8, Jackson, Michaels, 5.76M), Politico (8/7, Ewing, 637K), The Hill (8/8, Wong, 237K) and Washington Times (8/8, Wolfgang, Taylor, 465K), among other news outlets, posted similar reports on Obama's deliberations.

The Los Angeles Times (8/8, Cloud, Parsons, 3.42M) reports that "in recent days, more than 100,000 members of the Yazidi sect fled towns in the north that were taken over by fighters from the Islamic State." The Yazidis, "as well as many Christians, moved north into Kurdish-held areas of Iraq to escape the militants," but "about 40,000 remain trapped on Mt. Sinjar and are in extremely dire circumstances, according to Kurdish officials and international relief groups." The US "airdrops are designed to deliver emergency supplies to those refugees." The Wall Street Journal (8/7, Barnes, Malas, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) notes that Earnest said of the refugees, "They are unable to access food and water. ... They don't have any access to shelter. They have fled persecution, and efforts to leave the mountain are blocked by ISIL [Islamic State] forces who are threatening to kill them. This is a terrible humanitarian situation."

The CBS Evening News (8/7, story 2, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that operating under their "vicious military version" of Islam, ISIL is "committing mass murder among Shiite Muslims and other faiths as the march towards their goal of overthrowing the Iraqi government." Bloomberg News (8/8, Alwan, Nasseri, Fam, 2.76M) notes ISIL "has used beheadings to intimidate people in its advance across Iraq and Syria and has terrorized religious

minorities." The group considers the Yazidis "apostates under its fundamentalist interpretation of Islam."

NBC Nightly News (8/7, story 2, 2:05, Engel, 7.86M) reported that instead of pushing toward Baghdad, ISIL forces have "entered into a part of Iraq that is its cultural heartland – where a lot of Christians are, where a lot of Yazidis are, and they have been terrorizing people."

AFP (8/8, Ibrahim) reports ISIL fighters yesterday "moved into Qaraqosh, Iraq's largest Christian town, and surrounding areas on Wednesday night after the withdrawal of Kurdish peshmerga troops." AFP notes that "Tal Kayf, the home of a significant Christian community as well as members of the Shabak Shiite minority, also emptied overnight."

ISIL, says the Washington Times (8/8, Chumley, 465K) reports, has "taken over churches in northern Iraq, yanked down crosses, burned manuscripts and sent thousands of Christians fleeing with little more than the clothes on their backs." Pope Francis "has called on the international community to help the Christians in Iraq."

Afternoon NYTimes Report Led To DOD Denial. As the Huffington Post (8/7, Gordts, 11.54M) reported, in a story on Thursday afternoon – which was subsequently updated to note DOD's denial – the NYTimes had reported on its website that US forces had already "bombed targets in Iraq." In an updated report, the New York Times (8/8, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) later said that "airstrikes on towns in northern Iraq seized by Islamist militants" did indeed begin "late Thursday," though the Pentagon "firmly denied that" US forces were behind them. Echoing the Times' reporting that some sort of bombing was underway, McClatchy (8/7, Prothero, Subscription Publication, 23K) also said "jet aircraft attacked Islamic State positions outside the town of Kalak, 25 miles northwest of Irbil." McClatchy cites "a resident of Kalak" as its source, and suggests the strikes may have been carried out by Iraqi forces.

Reuters (8/8, Ryan) noted that Rear Admiral John Kirby, a DOD spokesman, said on Twitter, "Press reports that US has conducted airstrikes in Iraq completely false. ... No such action taken." AFP (8/7) reported that Iraq's UN ambassador, Ali Al-Hakim, also "denied" the story, saying, "There is no strike being done yet."

ISIL Takes Control Of Mosul Dam. Adding to the panic in Iraq, the Washington Post (8/8, A1, Morris, 4.06M) reports that in a statement yesterday, "the Islamic State listed more than a dozen military gains it had made over five days, and claimed to have taken control of the Mosul Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the country." The New York Times (8/8, Rubin, Arango, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) cites "residents near the dam and officials in the region" who confirmed ISIL is now in control of it. The AP (8/8, Yacoub, Salama) also confirms the development, adding that control over the Mosul dam gives ISIL "control of enormous power and water resources and leverage over the Tigris River that runs through the heart of Baghdad." The Los Angeles Times (8/8, Mcdonnell, 3.42M) runs a similar story.

Former US ambassador to Iraq and to the UN Zalmay Khalilzad, writing in the Washington Post (8/6, 4.06M), says of ISIL's progress, "Should it capture and control the Mosul dam – Iraq's largest – the Islamic State would hold hostage the precious water supply of millions of Iraqis. If it decided to destroy the dam, it could put people as far south as Baghdad at risk of deadly flooding. Just the threat of doing so would give the extremists much leverage." The Kurdish and the Iraqi governments "urgently need more substantial assistance," and "the situation...is extraordinarily urgent."

US Intelligence Concerned About ISIL Threat To US Homeland. Brian Todd reported on CNN's Situation Room (8/7, 554K) that US intelligence officials say they have "growing concern the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, will expand its capability, expand what it's doing in the territory it holds right now and possibly direct attacks towards the West possibly, eventually towards US interests. ... The more immediate concern is about the ISIS threat to Europe and what that might mean for what one official called a threat to the US homeland." Todd noted that there are "urgent calls tonight for the US to help contain the ISIS threat. ... US officials acknowledge they are sharing intelligence with Kurdish force but they insist any US military assistance would be channeled through the Iraqi government in Baghdad."

Sen. Lindsey Graham said on CNN's Situation Room (8/7, 554K) that "we have to do something. The time has passed just to do nothing. About three weeks ago, I asked General Dempsey a very pointed question: is there any force within the region that could contain or defeat ISIS that represents a direct threat our homeland without

American air power assistance and he said no. So that's the dilemma we have. If you believe these people are a threat to our homeland, which I do, there's no way to deal with them without American air power. There's nobody in the region that can do that without American air power. That's where we find ourselves."

Security Council Calls For Aid To Iraq. Reuters (8/8, Nichols) reports the UN Security Council yesterday condemned ISIL's violence yesterday. AFP (8/8) notes that in a statement, the council urged "the international community to support the government and the people of Iraq and to do all it can to help alleviate the suffering of the population."

The Christian Science Monitor (8/7, Arraf, 566K) reports that in an interview, Gyorgy Busztin, the deputy special representative in Iraq of the UN secretary general, said ISIL militants "are hunting down and killing large numbers of minority Yazidis, acts which amount to genocide." Said Busztin, "We believe that what they have done may be classified as genocide and a crime against humanity."

NYTimes, WSJournal Weigh In. In an editorial written before the President's televised address, the New York Times (8/8, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) urges Obama to seek "a broader strategy that involves Saudi Arabia, the Arab League and the United Nations, just to start," but also says "it became impossible for" the US "and other civilized nations to ignore" the "catastrophe" in Iraq, and that "it was not surprising to see reports that the United States was dropping food supplies in northeast Iraq and that...Obama also was considering carefully targeted airstrikes against ISIS targets."

In its editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/8, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) puts the blame for the humanitarian crisis in Iraq on Obama and what it sees as his disastrous decision to withdraw all US troops from the country. Beyond that, the Journal calls for US strikes and casts Obama's decision as inevitable.

NO DEAL YET ON EXTENDING GAZA CEASE-FIRE AS DEADLINE LOOMS. The CBS Evening News (8/7, story 5, 1:45, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that the "three-day cease-fire in Gaza expires in two hours," and with no agreement to extend the truce in place, Hamas has threatened "to resume firing rockets as soon as the deadline passes. Israel says it will fire back."

The Wall Street Journal (8/8, Jones, Fitch, Mitnick, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports Israeli and Palestinian negotiators held a second day of talks in Cairo Thursday to reach a deal extending three-day cease-fire that expires Friday morning. Israel has expressed a willingness to prolong the truce, but Hamas hasn't yet agreed.

AFP (8/8, Little) reports that "fears rose" Thursday that fighting could resume as the talks "entered a final nine-hour stretch and Palestinians accused Israel of stalling." According to the AP (8/8, Hendawi, Michael), Hamas has "rejected Israeli demands it disarm and threatened to resume its rocket attacks if its demands" to lift the blockade of Gaza were not met. The "hard-line stance" voiced by "a senior Hamas official at the group's first rally" since the cease-fire took effect Tuesday, "signaled" the Cairo talks are "not making headway."

The Washington Post (8/8, Raghavan, 4.06M) reports Hamas officials rallying in Gaza "vowed Thursday to never give up arms and to reignite war if Israel does not accept its demands to lift an economic blockade of the Gaza Strip." While talks are still ongoing in Cairo, "little headway has been made, according to diplomats."

Bloomberg News (8/8, Ben-David, Ramadan, 2.76M) reports that a "spokesman for Hamas' armed wing told al-Jazeera there would be no truce extension unless Israel lifts an eight-year blockade of its land crossings and port." According to the AP (8/8, Casert), a European proposal is "gaining traction: Develop Gaza's port to reopen the besieged territory to the rest of the world...with international monitors assuring that no weapons get through."

REUTERS/IPSOS POLL: 63% BELIEVE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE AN ECONOMIC BURDEN. The Christian Science Monitor (8/7, Swan, 566K) notes that a Reuters/Ipsos (8/8, Bell) poll released on Thursday found that "some 70 percent of Americans and 86 percent of Republicans believe that undocumented immigrants threaten traditional US beliefs and customs," while "nearly two-thirds of respondents – 63 percent – said that undocumented immigrants place undue burden on the US economy." The Monitor also notes that 45% said "the number of immigrants allowed to legally enter the country should be reduced," while "only 17 percent said they thought that number should increase."

DHS Announces Steep Drop In Border Apprehensions Last Month. The Washington Times (8/8, Dinan, 465K) reports that the Department of Homeland Security has announced that while "more than 10,600 unaccompanied children were apprehended at the border in June," in July "that dropped to 5,508" – and while "16,330 adults with children" were "caught in June" that "dropped to 7,410" last month. According to the Times, those numbers are "significant turnarounds that put the rate closer to what it was in the late spring — still on target for a record year, but not as much as was once feared." According to the Times, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson "said outreach by" President Obama and Vice President Biden "may have helped," although others attribute the drop to the summer heat.

Paul Set To Travel To Guatemala; Christie Will Visit Mexico Next Month. The New York Times (8/7, Barbaro, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that some "likely contenders for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination are...delivering pointed and personal overtures to the native countries from which millions of Hispanic Americans have immigrated." According to the Times, Sen. Rand Paul is "about to set off for Guatemala, where he will put his ophthalmology training to use by treating local patients with eye disorders," and "meet with President Otto Pérez Molina" regarding the "conditions that have prompted thousands of Guatemalan children to flee." The Times also reports that in September, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie will travel to Mexico "to meet with the country's new president, court its corporate titans and mingle with its cultural leaders." The Times notes that Christie's trip was "organized by two prominent, well-connected Republican hands — Clifford M. Sobel, a former United States ambassador to Brazil and major Republican campaign donor, and Robert E. Grady, a former Bush administration official."

Krauthammer Notes Liberal Critics Of Potential "Amnesty-By-Fiat." Charles Krauthammer, in his column for the Washington Post (8/7, Krauthammer, 4.06M) notes the speculation that President Obama might issue "an executive order essentially legalizing an enormous new class of illegal immigrants, perhaps up to 5 million people." According to Krauthammer, "this is an idea so bad and so persistently peddled by the White House that it has already been preemptively criticized by such unusual suspects as (liberal) constitutional law professor Jonathan Turley, concerned about yet another usurpation of legislative power by the 'uber presidency,' and The Post editorial page, which warned that such a move would 'tear up the Constitution.'" Krauthammer contends that the President is considering "amnesty-by-fiat to deliberately court impeachment."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Preventing A Slaughter In Iraq."*** In an editorial written before the President's televised address, the New York Times (8/8, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) urges Obama to seek "a broader strategy that involves Saudi Arabia, the Arab League and the United Nations, just to start," but also says "it became impossible for" the US "and other civilized nations to ignore" the "catastrophe" in Iraq, and that "it was not surprising to see reports that the United States was dropping food supplies in northeast Iraq and that...Obama also was considering carefully targeted airstrikes against ISIS targets."

"Russia Sanctions Itself." The New York Times (8/8, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) argues in an editorial that the "tit-for-tat sanctions that Russia has imposed against the West" will "hurt Russians far more than they will hurt Westerners." While "many producers in these countries will feel the loss of $30 billion in food exports to Russia," the "overall effect on their large and diversified economies will be marginal." On the other hand, Russia "imports about 40 percent of its food needs in terms of value, and the Russian agriculture minister has acknowledged that the sanctions would cause a spike in inflation."

"The N.C.A.A.'s Nod To Reality."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A Wave Of Cybercrime."*** The Washington Post (8/7, 4.06M), in an editorial, says Congress "has been wrestling with legislation to bolster the private sector's cyberdefenses in collaboration...without much to show for it" although "promising legislation is on offer in both the House and Senate." The Post encourages members of Congress to make progress on the legislation when they "return after the summer recess."

"Libya Is Collapsing." In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/8, 4.06M) says it is "not hard to foresee eastern

Libya becoming a launching pad for terrorist attacks against nearby Europe or even the U.S. homeland," and argues that the US and the West bear responsibility for the situation. The Post argues that the Administration "has done its best to ignore Libya's collapse," as Administration officials "continue to peddle the empty line that 'Libya's challenges can really only be solved by the Libyans themselves,' as Secretary of State John F. Kerry put it this week."

"Open Governance At UVA."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Jihadist March In Iraq."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/8, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) puts the blame for the humanitarian crisis in Iraq on Obama and what it sees as his disastrous decision to withdraw all US troops from the country. Beyond that, the Journal calls for US strikes and casts Obama's decision as inevitable.

"Safe In Putin's Arms." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/8, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) notes that Russia this week ordered American Jennifer Gaspar, the wife of prominent Russian human rights lawyer Ivan Pavlov, and their five-year-old daughter to leave the country, but yet allowed Edward Snowden to stay in the country.

"No Good Rescue Goes Unpunished." The Wall Street Journal (8/8, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorializes that the recently announced settlement between the Justice Department and Bank of America, which could see the bank paying as much as $17 billion, is an unfair penalty for the bank, which the Journal argues was only taking responsibility for problems that Federal officials should have dealt with in 2008 during the nation's financial crisis. The Journal notes that the bank has already paid out about $60 million in mortgage settlements, more than any other bank, and is now being punished by Federal officials for taking over failing financial institutions during the crisis and assuming responsibility for their debts.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
Obama Authorizes Iraq Airstrikes
GOP Presidential Hopefuls Look Toward Iowa
Unpopular Books Flying Off Branch Libraries' Shelves
Assault Case Has Elite St. Paul's Examining The School's Culture

Boston Herald:
President Obama OKs Airstrikes In N. Iraq

Wall Street Journal:
US Approves Airstrikes On Iraq, Airdrops Aid
Russia Bans Food Imports From West
The GMO Fight Ripples Down The Food Chain
Credit-Score Math Recalculated

New York Times:
Obama Allows Airstrikes Against Iraq Rebels
Jihadists Rout Kurds In North And Seize Strategic Mosul Dam
A Return To Action
To Woo Latinos, GOP Hopefuls Cast Net Abroad
Plot Thickens As 900 Writers Battle Amazon
'Don't Tough The Walls': Ebola Fears Infect An African Hospital

Washington Post:
Obama Authorizes Possible Iraq Strikes
Moscow's Import Ban Will Have Costly Effect

Din Of Sports Talk Includes Few Female Voices
For Warner, Time To Touch Base With N.Va. Voters
In Iowa Race, A Spat Comes Home To Roost

Financial Times:
US Banks Told To Help Hard-Hit Borrowers
Obama Authorises Iraq Air Strikes
Norway's Oil Fund To Reveal Voting Plans
US buyout Groups Settle Collusion Lawsuit
MTN Presses Head With Syria Licence Plan
Security Experts Warn On Hacker Peril
Draghi: Relax And Head To The Beach

Washington Times:
Obama Authorizes Airstrikes In Iraq Against Islamic State
Local Bible Schools Appeal To Families Of All Faiths
RNC Chairman Targets Federal Banking Law In Effort To Woo Voters Abroad
State Department Hires Testimony Coach To Prepare For Congressional Grillings
Lost Emails Scandal Spreads To Top Obamacare Official

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Iraq Conflict-US Involvement; Iraq Conflict-US Involvement-Analysis; Hawaii Hurricanes; Hawaii Hurricanes-Analysis; Severe Weather Forecast; Oregon Wildfire; Ebola Outbreak; Detroit-Porch Shooting Trial; Connecticut-Deadly Tubing Accident; Business-Negative Online Reviews.
CBS: Iraq Conflict-US Involvement; Iraq-ISIS Threat; Hawaii Hurricanes; Oregon Wildfire; Mideast Conflict-Gaza; Mideast Conflict; Florida-Dozier School Students' Remains; VA Reform Bill; Afghanistan-US General Killed; NCAA Rule Change; Hyundai Fined; Oscar Pistorius Trial; San Jose Stowaway Arrested Again.
NBC: Iraq Conflict-US Involvement; Iraq Conflict-ISIS Threat; Afghanistan-US General Killed; Kerry-Afghanistan Visit; Hawaii Hurricanes; Hawaii Hurricanes-Analysis; Ebola Outbreak; Detroit-Porch Shooting Trial; UK-Prince William-New Job.

Network TV At A Glance:
Iraq Conflict – 15 minutes, 10 seconds (00:15:10)
Hawaii Hurricanes – 9 minutes, 50 seconds (00:09:50)
Ebola Outbreak – 5 minutes, 5 seconds (00:05:05)
Detroit-Porch Shooting Trial – 4 minutes, 15 seconds (00:04:15)
Afghanistan-US General Killed – 50 seconds (00:00:50)
Oregon Wildfire – 40 seconds (00:00:40)

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Iraq Conflict-US Involvement; Hawaii Hurricanes; Ebola Outbreak-American Victims; Ebola Outbreak-US College Students In Liberia; Mideast Conflict.
CBS: Iraq Conflict-US Involvement; Mideast Conflict; Hawaii Hurricanes; Ebola Outbreak.
FOX: Iraq Conflict-US Involvement; Mideast Conflict; Hawaii Hurricanes; Tennessee-GOP Primary Results; Montana-Sen. John Walsh; Washington-Missing Woman's Body Found; Obamacare Official Email Scandal; State-Liberia Travel Warning.
NPR: Iraq Conflict-US Involvement; Mideast Conflict; Hawaii Hurricanes; Wall Street; California-Man Charged With Setting Rim Fire; Smokey The Bear Birthday; Malaysia Airlines Overhaul.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President will attend meetings at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Aug. 7 – 11. THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE — The Vice President and Dr. Jill Biden will be in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. There are no public events scheduled.
US Senate: 9:15 a.m. — Senate will convene for a pro forma session with no business conducted.
US House: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — The House stands adjourned until 2PM on Monday, September 8th. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "Recess".

CONGRESSIONAL INTERNET CAUCUS – SEARCH ENGINES — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. "Can Europe Force Search Engines to Censor Information You're Looking for on the Internet? Assessing the Right to be Forgotten." Speakers: Mike Godwin, Senior Policy Advisor, Interviews; Joe Jerome, Policy Counsel, Future of Privacy Forum; Emma Llanso, Director of CDT's Project on Free Expression, Center for Democracy and Technology; Rob Pegoraro, Columnist, Yahoo Tech. Location: 2226 Rayburn. Notes: RSVP at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eu-right-to-be-forgotten-tickets-12468962001?aff=eorg
Other: SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY SUMMIT — Aug. 7 – 8. Held by The International Association of African NGOs (IAAN). Highlights: 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Governors Forum. Governor Godswill Akpabio Akwa, Ibom State; Governor Kinuthia Mbugua of Nakuru County Kenya; Governor Rochas Okorocha Imo State Nigeria. 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. First Lady Mrs. Lucia Kambua Mulu, Kenya; First Lady Mrs. Florence Ajimobi, Oyo State, Nigeria; First Lady Mrs. Obioma Liyel Imoke, Cross River State, Nigeria. 7 p.m. The IAAN Grand Ball, held at the Capital Hilton, 1001 16th Street NW. Speakers: President Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of Nigeria; Mrs. Sia Koroma of Sierra Leone. Location: Marriott-Washington, 1221 22nd St. NW (except where otherwise noted). Notes: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/iaan-2014-summit-on-social-accountability-tickets-11442465723?aff=es2&rank=1

BROOKINGS – SOMALI PRESIDENT MOHAMUD — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. A Batkin International Leaders Forum with the President of Somalia Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. http://www.brookings.edu/events/2014/08/08-batkin-forum-hassan-sheikh-mohamud. Location: NOTE LOCATION: Service Employees International Union, Room 1026, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Contacts: events@brookings.edu (202.797.6105)

SMOKEY BEAR'S BIRTHDAY PARTY — 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. USDA Forest Service hosts Smokey Bear's national 70th birthday party at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Whitten Building patio. With USDA Under Secretary, Robert Bonnie; Chief of the Forest Service, Tom Tidwell; CEO and President of the Ad Council, Peggy Colon; New Jersey State Forester, Lynn Fleming. Location: 1400 Independence Ave. SW. Notes: RSVP to Joanna Roses at rosesjoanna@gmail.com.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to Forbes' coolest-city list] "You know what city 'Forbes' says is the coolest? The number one coolest city in America is Washington, D.C. How did that happen? Did Obama start smoking again?"

Jimmy Kimmel: "'Forbes' bases its rankings on factors like how many entertainment options a city has, parks, sporting events. Somehow Washington, D.C. came out on top. That makes sense. I mean, between Joe Biden and John Boehner alone, it's like a nonstop Burning Man festival over there."

Jimmy Fallon: "Some good news for NSA leaker Edward Snowden. Russia just announced that he can stay in their country for three more years. And Snowden was like, 'Old news, bro. I leaked that [crap] yesterday.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The Russian government said Edward Snowden can stay for three more years. So, three more years in Russia, or as Obama put it, 'Eh, that was going to be his prison sentence, anyway. So, it doesn't matter to me.'"

Seth Meyers: "Well, today Michelle Obama told US-Africa leaders' summit that women are smarter than men. And I'm like, 'Nice try, Michelle. It's women is smarter than men.'"

Seth Meyers: "Bill and Hillary Clinton have rented an $18 million house called 'The Belle Estates' in the

Hamptons for the final week of August. Hillary says it's just until the new house is ready in 2016."

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WEEKLY REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Aug 4-Aug 8, 2014

CLOSE HOLD – DO NOT COPY – DO NOT DISTRIBUTE BEYOND PRESIDENTIALLY APPOINTED DOI EMPLOYEES

U.S. Department of the Interior Weekly Cabinet Report
August 8, 2014

Direct Message to the President

Dear Mr. President –

The visit by African leaders this week provided a great opportunity for bilateral meetings and a robust session on the devastating impact of illegal wildlife trafficking in elephants, rhinos and other endangered animals from Africa. Universally, there was respect and appreciation for your Executive Order and the cross-agency, NGO and stakeholder effort to work collectively to address both the demand and supply sides of this complicated issue. It was clear from the discussion that our African friends are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of conserving these species to their long term economic and cultural prosperity. It was also clear that, like us, they had political challenges making the case for resources to combat poaching that are often competing with critical human service needs. I am particularly proud of my colleagues at the US Fish and Wildlife Service for their direct engagement, grants and technical assistance to support efforts on the ground to reduce the supply and catch and prosecute those perpetuating the market. Our partners at State and Justice have been critical in these efforts.

Warmly,

Sally

Announcements - Presidential Priorities

Climate/Energy: Next week, BOEM and BSEE expect to send a joint proposed rule to OIRA that addresses offshore oil and gas activities on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf. The rule will promote safe, responsible, and effective drilling activities and include requirements related to oil spill response plans and operating in the challenging Arctic environment. [This was in last week's report]

On August 12, BSEE Director Salerno will deliver opening remarks at the Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI) Forum on Data Sharing in Houston, TX. Director Salerno's remarks will focus on the need for companies to overcome barriers to sharing information they collect regarding equipment reliability and performance across the industry and with BSEE. The OESI forum will include participation from offshore oil and gas companies, industry trade associations, federal government representatives and academia. This is the second forum to be hosted by the OESI.

On August 14, USGS will release 2010 estimated California water use data that will be made available through an interactive website.

Jobs/Economy: On August 11, construction of employee short-term housing in Dickinson, ND, will commence. Housing is for both BLM and USFS employees and is located on 10-acres of BLM land transferred from the BOR. The U.S. Air Force will undertake construction of the access roads, utilities, pads, and infrastructure needed for up to 10 mobile housing units.

ACA Implementation:

Immigration:

My Brother's Keeper:

VA Backlog:

Principals' Schedules

On August 11, Secretary Jewell will cohost a Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) roundtable with Secretary Moniz in Santa Fe, NM. This is part of a series of listening sessions Energy Secretary Moniz kicked off related to the QER to discuss and receive public feedback on issues related to the development of a comprehensive strategy for the infrastructure needed to transport, transmit and deliver energy to consumers.

On August 12, the Secretary is tentatively scheduled to participate in a wildfire event in Redding, California.

On August 13, Secretary Jewell and FWS Director Ashe will announce the first ever Urban Refuge Challenge funding recipient. The funding from FWS ($1 million per year) will enhance their plans to more fully engage people from culturally diverse backgrounds in conservation and outdoor recreation. The announcement may be combined with the announcement of six new urban wildlife partnerships around the country.

On August 15, the Secretary is scheduled to meet with the Board of the National Park Foundation in Acadia National Park in Maine. While in the park, she will also tape a short segment in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act with ABC's *Sunday Show* program.

On August 11, Director Jarvis will participate in an event in Chelmsford, MA to highlight a $248,000 stateside LWCF grant for improvements to the town's Varney Playground.

On August 11, FWS Pacific Regional Director Robyn Thorson will attend a public meeting on the proposed expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument on Oahu, HI.

Items of Note

On August 11 and 13, FWS will hold public hearings in Pinetop, AZ and Truth or Consequences, NM (respectively), on proposed changes to the Mexican wolf recovery program 10(j) rule and the associated draft Environmental Impact Statement.

On August 12, FWS will announce it is withdrawing the proposed rule to list the population of the North American wolverine that occurs within the contiguous U.S. as a threatened species under the ESA. The associated 4(d) and 10(j) rules for the wolverine will also be withdrawn. [This was in last week's report]

On August 14, FWS will propose to designate critical habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo across nine states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming) as well as publish a notice of availability of a draft economic analysis of the designation. This rule may garner attention due to the

size of the designation and perceived impacts to water use. FWS proposed to list the cuckoo as threatened in October 2013. [This was in last week's report]

Next week, USDA, FWS, and EPA may announce that USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has developed a bacterial suppressant to combat cheatgrass, the most pervasive threat to the sage-grouse in the Great Basin. Research indicates the strain of bacteria, known as ACK55 and patented as "Battalion Pro," is effective and safe, but it won't be through the approval process for an estimated 12-17 months. A *Bloomberg News* report discussing ACK55 is expected soon. FWS is coordinating with USDA-ARS on outreach.

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

On August 18, Secretaries Jewell and Duncan will travel to the Passamaquoddy Reservation near Bangor, ME and tour Beatrice Rafferty School.

On August 19 Secretary Jewell will travel to Minnesota to tour the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School.

August 19-21, the Deputy Secretary is tentatively scheduled to travel to New Orleans. While there he would attend the BOEM's oil and gas lease sale, have a tour of an offshore oil platform, and participate in a conservation event with Senator Landrieu. The lease sale will offer 21 million acres offshore Texas for oil and gas exploration and development that will include all available unleased areas in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area.

On August 19, BOEM will offer nearly 80,000 acres offshore Maryland for commercial wind energy development in a competitive lease sale. Sixteen companies have qualified to participate in the auction for the Maryland Wind Energy Area. According to analysis prepared by the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, if fully developed, the Maryland Wind Energy Area could support between 850 and 1450 megawatts of commercial wind generation, enough electricity to power 300,000 homes.

The week of August 18, the National Park Service will announce 9 new National Historic Landmark designations, 1 boundary revision and 2 withdrawal designations. Properties are located in MA, LA, ME, NJ, FL, MI, IN and VT.

On August 20, the Department may issue a Secretarial Order identifying key guiding principles that bureaus and the Department should follow to ensure that we are fulfilling our trust responsibility to Indian tribes and Indian beneficiaries. At that time, the Department will also respond to recommendations provided by the National Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform on the Department's management and administration of trust assets. The Secretary is tentatively scheduled to travel to Indian country to make these announcements along with Vince Logan, the newly confirmed Special Trustee. The Secretary would also use this event to mark a milestone on the Department's priority goal to take 500,000 acres of land-into-trust in Indian Country. This is a key priority to advance self-determination and promote economic development.

August 24–27, the Deputy Secretary is tentatively scheduled to travel to Arizona and Boise, ID. While there he would participate in an event with former Secretary Kempthorne to celebrate the conclusions of the Snake River Basin Adjudication in Idaho, and celebrate the signing of another Western Watersheds Enhancement Project MOU in Arizona.

In August, Interior may announce that it will provide new work and training opportunities for youth across the country by funding approximately 21 new youth corps projects on federal lands. Funding for these projects comes from more than $2M that has been raised to date by DOI from the private sector—donated by companies like American Eagle Outfitters, CamelBak, and the Campion Foundation. Many of these corps projects will hire and train boys and young men of color and each project will teach job skills and increase connections to nature, so that young people and veterans can not only accomplish meaningful work and gain important professional skills, but they can also build a lifelong connection to the outdoors. These projects are varied and diverse--from restoration efforts on the Los Angeles River and Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City, to creating conservation crews at Navajo High School in Arizona and supporting Veterans Green Corps in Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Colorado. These 21 new projects are in addition to the more than 450 projects happening in National Parks, on urban refuges, and throughout tribal lands—projects that will offer work experiences to more than 14,000 young people this year.

In August, Reclamation may release a West-Wide Climate Impact Assessment Report for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basins. The Impact Assessment Report will describe future projections of water supply and demand under climate change, and potential impacts to existing water and power operations and infrastructure in the basin. The Report's conclusions will inform ongoing planning efforts, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin Study, which was initiated in 2013 and is focused on identifying strategies to adapt to or mitigate climate change impacts to basin water supplies.

In August, the National Park Service may receive an application for a right-of-way from the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority for a new 220 mile "road to resources" development in northwest Alaska. This new road includes a 20 mile section that will cross the Preserve portion of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The park's enabling legislation (ANILCA) clearly states the NPS shall grant a right of way for such a road upon receipt of an application.

In August, Reclamation will post two funding opportunity announcements (FOA) for the Desert and Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC). The FOAs will fund studies and projects in the two LCCs to study and mitigate the effects of climate change, drought, and wildfires.

In August, the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement expects to promulgate a final rule to provide limited liability protection from lawsuits for certified states and tribes carrying out approved abandoned mine reclamation. Certified states and tribes are those that have completed reclamation of all known coal-related abandoned mine problems within their jurisdictions (currently Louisiana, Montana, Texas, Wyoming, the Crow Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, and the Navajo Nation).

In August, the NPS intends to publish a proposed gathering rule, which would provide the authority for permitting the gathering of plant resources within units of the National Park System by members of federally recognized Indian tribes, as defined in the rule. The proposed rule would apply to Indian tribes with traditional associations to specific park units. It would be implemented through agreements between NPS and Indian tribes and subject to permits which would be issued annually. This rule change would provide reasonable, resource protection based use of park resources while assisting to support the continued lifeways of American Indian tribes. Consultation with Indian tribes nationwide indicates that the approach in the proposed rule would be constructive and respectful of tribal sovereignty while continuing to respect the NPS mission to protect and conserve park resources.

In August, the Secretary will announce the first ever Urban Refuge Challenge funding recipient, which will receive $1 million-a-year funding from FWS. The funding will enhance their plans to more fully engage people from culturally diverse backgrounds in conservation and outdoor recreation.

In August, FWS may publish a proposal to list the African lion as threatened throughout its range under the ESA. FWS will also publish a special rule for African lions requiring that imports of lion trophies receive prior authorization or permits under the ESA. This action may be controversial and attract attention from the animal rights community and the sport-hunting community.

In August, the BLM expects to publish the Proposed Rule on Wind and Solar ROWs. The rule establishes competitive leasing processes for ROWs in order to receive fair market value and promote the use of preferred areas for solar and wind energy development on public lands. The BLM published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in Dec. 2011; the 60-day comment period ended in Feb. 2012. OMB is reviewing the proposed rule.

In August, BOEM will hold several scoping meetings for the Five Year Program.

In August, BOEM will initiate a rulemaking process, through the issuance of an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, aimed at ensuring the financial integrity of lessees and operators on the OCS, and reducing the risk of taxpayers bearing the costs of decommissioning OCS facilities.

In mid-August, Kenai NWR will propose a temporary closure of sport hunting of brown bears on the refuge to extend through the fall 2014 and spring 2015 seasons. The refuge is considering this action in response to recent changes in Alaska's state sport hunting regulations that have resulted in significant reductions in the Kenai Peninsula's brown bear population. FWS and the state are working to reconcile the differences in management objectives but are unable to reach agreement in the short term, thus the need for the temporary closure. Opportunities will be provided for the public to comment on this proposed closure. This action will most likely attract media attention.

In August, FWS anticipates proposing to designate critical habitat and draft economic analysis for the Rufa red-knot, a migratory bird that travels from the arctic to the coasts of southern Chile and Argentina through 37 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FWS expects the proposal to garner attention due to its size and perceived impacts to the horseshoe crab harvest and coastal land use. The Rufa red knot was proposed to be listed as threatened in September 2013 with climate change identified as a threat to its survival.

In the next several months, BSEE expects to have its blowout preventer proposed rule ready for review by OIRA. Interest from industry, other nongovernment organizations, and the media is expected.

On September 3, Sec. Jewell will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Location and details of the event are still being worked out.

On September 5, Sec. Jewell has been invited to speak to the Society for Environmental Journalists annual conference, which is being held this year in New Orleans, LA. The theme of the conference is risk and resilience, with a heavy emphasis on disaster response.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: Office of the Deputy Secretary
August 4 - 8, 2014

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

Buy-Back Program for Indian Lands. In mid-June, the Buy-Back Program issued a third set of offers ("Wave 3") to individuals who own fractional interests on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Offers were sent to 3,124 landowners. The Program also extended the time period of offers previously sent to landowners on the Pine Ridge Reservation. To date 33,615 offers have sent to landowners at the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Makah and Fort Belknap Reservations. Since the inception of the Program, nearly 10,900 landowners have accepted offers. The total number of sales have reached nearly $91 million and nearly 252,000 acres purchased.

US Army Corps of Engineers Strategic Leaders Conference. On Wednesday, August 6, I will speak at the USACE Strategic Leaders Conference. The conference is focusing on how we can get the best value out of our strategic engagement. I will be speaking to them about the current relationship between DOI and USACE and how we can facilitate a better one in the future.

Indian Water Settlement Study Recommendations. On Thursday, August 7, I will meet with the working group on the Indian Water Settlement study recommendations. LETTY??

Puget Sound Tribal Treating Fishing Rights: Letty will be joining others from SOL and DOJ in meeting next Monday, August 11, with the four tribes (sequentially – not all together) that have requested that we file litigation to enforce their treaty-based fishing rights in rivers that feed into Puget Sound (Squaxin Island, Swinomish, Lummi, and Nooksack). We will be updating the tribes on our investigation of legal avenues for enforcing their fishing rights. Letty and SOL folks will also be meeting with scientists at USGS regarding their work on Puget Sound fisheries.

Hualapai-Freeport Water Settlement legislation: Letty and the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office are working closely with DOJ, Freeport Mining Company, the Hualapai Tribe, and Senator Flake's office to reach a final agreement on a bill enacting this partial Indian water settlement (S. 2503) during the August recess. Since this legislation requires no appropriations, it could advance this fall.

Public Announcements

Tuesday, August 5
A Buy Back Program media notice will be issued as a reminder to landowners on the Rosebud Reservation.

Friday, August 8
An initial set of offers from the Buy Back Program for Quapaw Tribe will be issued to landowners.

MEMORANDUM August 5, 2014

TO: Secretary Jewell
FR: Interior Communications
RE: Media Report

I. Personal Message to the Secretary

Sally,

We are gearing up for another busy few weeks on the road and it has been a full team effort to coordinate the upcoming LWCF push. After the four-state swing on LWCF, we are highlighting three other priorities with events on energy, fire and youth in New Mexico and California.

Unbeknownst to either of us when we planned it, Jessica and I are then both off to Alaska with our mothers later this month. We are both very much looking forward to some down time without cell reception.

-Blake

II. Highlights of Travel, Meeting, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Wednesday, August 6

- NORTH CAROLINA: LWCF Event in Asheville with Senator Burr to discuss the LWCF's contribution to preserving working lands, ranches and forests

Thursday, August 7

- INDIANA: LWCF Event in Carmel with Mayor James Brainard to discuss LWCF's contribution to urban parks, clean water, outdoor recreation and healthy economies
- BOEM: NORTH CAROLINA: Area Identification Offshore Wind note to stakeholders

Friday, August 8

- NEW MEXICO: LWCF Event in Albuquerque with Senators Heinrich and Udall to celebrate the final land acquisition for the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
- FYI: Assistant Secretary Schneider to QER meeting in North Dakota

Saturday, August 9

- ARIZONA: LWCF Event in Phoenix with Mayor Greg Stanton to discuss the LWCF's contribution to urban parks, outdoor recreation and healthy economies

Monday, August 11

- NEW MEXICO: QER meeting in Santa Fe with Secretary Moniz
- NPS: LWCF event with Director Jarvis in Chelmsford, Massachusetts

Tuesday, August 12

- CALIFORNIA: Redding fire visit
- FYI: NPS: National Historic Landmark announcements; Dir. Jarvis in Maine

Wednesday, August 13

- CALIFORNIA: $1 Million grant announcement to SoCal Refuge Complex

Friday, August 15

- MAINE: Remarks at Schoodic Institute
- INTERVIEW: *This Week with George Stephanopoulos* on the Wilderness Act

III. Digital Strategy Report

- Recorded two videos with the Secretary: one in support of the Department's Multi-cultural Day event later this month and one for The Wilderness Society's dinner celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.
- Passed 300,000 followers on Instagram, 206,000 on Twitter, and 52,000 on Facebook.

IV. Employee/Internal Communications Report

Highlights from oneINTERIOR:

- Stories from DOI's Bureaus and Offices
  - BLM-California Leads Interagency Effort to Protect Sage-Grouse Habitat During Bodie Fire
  - USFWS: A Profile in Courage at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge
  - NPS: Students Find Inspiration in Starry Skies of Colorado Plateau During Night Skies Arts Academy
  - BOEM Postings Relay Latest Findings from Environmental Studies
  - DOI-CSC: New Report Predicts Creation of 'Megalopolis' in Southeast United States

V. Snapshot of Press Clips

SUPPORT URGED FOR LWCF

Federal officials, lawmakers to tour to promote conservation fund
The Hill // Timothy Cama // August 4, 2014
Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will join lawmakers and local officials to tour the country this week to promote the Land and Water Conservation Fund and push for its reauthorization.

50 years of a law that works
Everett (WA) Herald // August 3, 2014
Inspired legislation — like airline cuisine, a laugh-test flunker — found expression a half century ago. 2014 marks the 50th anniversaries of the Civil Rights Act and the National Wilderness Act. It's also the anniversary of a little-known funding tool, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has boosted outdoor recreation, preserved cultural resources and conserved wild places for this generation and generations yet unborn.

SECRETARY JEWELL PRAISES PARTNERSHIPS IN PENNSYLVANIA MINE-TO-GARDEN PROJECT

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden opens, aims to showcase region's national history
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette // Stephanie McFeeters //August 2, 2014
Hills ravaged by strip mining now stand adorned with more than 500 dogwood trees, a Bookworm Glen and veteran-built birdhouses. A cornfield that once fed work mules, then grew wild with weeds and brambles, has been converted into a rolling meadow, thick with butterflies. Acid mine drainage seeps beneath the ground, then flows through a limestone water treatment facility into a lotus pond.

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden celebrates grand opening after 2 decades of work

Pittsburgh Business Times // Justine Coyne // August 1, 2014
Greg Nace said he came to Pittsburgh to open a botanic garden, but he found himself in the coal business.Sitting on abandoned mining land, the location of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden faced challenges related to acid-mine drainage and mine subsidence, but the founders also saw opportunity.

SECRETARY JEWELL HOSTS DIALOGUE ON COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

US, African leaders turn to business at summit
New Vision //August 5, 2014
WASHINGTON - US and African political leaders and corporate chiefs will get down to business Tuesday as Washington hopes an historic summit will trigger a surge in trade and investment between the two sides.

Kikwete arrives in US for leaders; Summit
Daily News (TZA) // August 2, 2014
President Jakaya Kikwete arrived on Friday for the USA African Leaders' Summit which is expected to bring together more than 40 Heads of State and governments from across the continent.

DEAL ANNOUNCED FOR COLORADO RIVER BASIN CONSERVATION

Deal inked to save Colorado Water
Las Vegas Review Journal // Henry Brean // August 1, 2014
Water suppliers from the four largest communities served by the Colorado River have finalized an agreement to prop up the drought-stricken river by paying cities, farms and industrial operations to cut their use.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
August 11 – August 15

Personal Message to the Secretary

The House will not be in session next week for the August recess.
The Senate will not be in session next week for the August recess.

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

This week, Stephenne met with Senator Wyden's staff and the BLM regarding the Oregon Resource Management Plan (RMP). This was a follow up to the last conversation on the O&C bill with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Staff.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (OIEA)
August 4 - August 15, 2014

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

On Monday, Aug. 4, Francisco and Steven participated in an interagency Affordable Care Act meeting hosted by Cabinet Affairs to discuss the 2015 enrollment period beginning this November.

Starting Tuesday, Aug. 5, John is staffing you for your LWCF events across the country.

On Saturday, Aug. 9, Francisco will be advancing your trip to Phoenix with Mayor Stanton for site visits of Steele Indian School Park and Encanto Park.

Public Announcements
Nothing to report.

Major Press Inquiries
Nothing to report.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues
Nothing to report.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR ALASKA AFFAIRS
Aug. 5-15, 2014

Message to the Secretary
August is bringing the usual amount of DC travelers to AK. We are assisting our Budget Office in making arrangements for travel for Senate and House Approps staffers which include tours of the proposed oil developments in NPR-A. We are expecting AS Schneider the last week of Aug.

I have also been working with Tommy and SOL on (b) (5) [redacted]

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

Wednesday, August 6. I travel to North Slope with House Appropriation Committee staffers.
Thursday, August 7. I travel to Seward for Kenai Fjords NP tour with House staffers.

Public Announcements
None.
Major Press Inquiries
None.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Wainwright DEW line station legislation. Rep. Young has introduced legislation authorizing the sale of an abandoned DEW line station near Wainwright, AK to the Wainwright village corporation, Olgoonik. There is a potential hearing on the bill in September. Meanwhile our SOL is providing drafting service to Senator Begich on a similar bill. The site is in the process of being cleaned-up by the Air Force, and BLM has no objections to the transference.

Court lets CD-5 wetlands permit stand. The District Court refused to vacate the Corps permit for the CD-5 development within the NPR-A but has asked to the Corps to respond by August 27 as to whether or not a supplemental EIS is needed. Construction is well underway for the CD-5 project to which Conoco's proposed Greater Mooses Tooth (GMT1) project is linked. An SEIS is currently underway on GMT1 by BLM.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
August 5 – 15, 2014

Optional Message to the Secretary

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

None.

Public Announcements

None.

Major Press Inquiries

None.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Cape Wind Litigation

Pursuant to the court's order of July 29, NMFS and FWS filed on August 1 a notice of filing Administrative Record/Certifications related to their actions on remand. On the same day, the PEER plaintiffs filed their notice of violations of the ESA.

Regulation of Firearms in DC

On July 29, the court stayed until October 22 its ruling that the District of Columbia's total ban on the carrying of handguns in public was unconstitutional. Because the possession of firearms in NPS units in DC incorporates DC law, the Solicitor's Office is carefully monitoring developments in the district court litigation striking down DC's ban on carrying openly and concealed pistols or other dangerous weapons in public.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS
August 5, 2014

Optional Message to the Secretary

This is my last weekly report. We are completing transition materials with points of contact on each matter, and we have put in place an extensive filing system with all the back up documents for reference. We have also provided briefings to senior leadership on several matters,
including Gulf restoration. On top of that, our office moved last week, so we've been busy.

Today I chaired my last meeting with the historic preservation officers from each of the DOI bureaus. We talked about the links between historic preservation and the new initiatives on enhancing Indian education. We will invite Monty to the next meeting to explore opportunities.

I'm making one last trip to the Gulf this week to tie up "loose ends" -- with the understanding that we still have years, if not decades, of work ahead.

All in all, my experience at Interior has been nothing short of extraordinary. I have learned a great deal, and I leave with renewed admiration and respect for the front line professionals who dedicate their careers to responsible resource stewardship.

I wish you the very best as you continue to lead this wonderful institution into the 21st Century. Please let me know if I can ever be of assistance to you while I'm at DOD or otherwise.

All the best,

Rachel Jacobson

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

July 29: The Senate Commerce Committee held an oversight hearing on the RESTORE Act and its implementation. Senators Landrieu, Vitter, Nelson, Boxer, Rubio and Wicker all expressed concern with ongoing delay, including the lack of Treasury regulations governing the expenditures from the Gulf Coast Trust Fund, as well as the RESTORE Council's failure to develop a funded priority list. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Bruce Andrews testified for the Administration and noted that the RESTORE Council would begin soliciting project proposals next month with a goal of getting an initial suite of projects funded in 2015.

Michael Bean provided the initial draft of what became the Statement of Administration Policy on HR 4315, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act in a variety of ways, including by designating any scientific information submitted by a state or county government as the "best available" information. Despite the Administration's opposition, the House is expected to pass the measure this week.

Michael Bean and others met with Senate ENR Committee staff and Senator Wyden's staff to discuss proposed legislation relating to the management of BLM's O & C lands.

Public Announcements
Nothing to report

Major Press Inquiries
Nothing to report.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Nothing to report.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
August 5 – August 16, 2014

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

Legislative Testimony:

None

Meetings:

None

Travel:

August 5 and 6, Jon will speak at the Outdoor Retail Trade Show in Salt Lake City.
August 6 through 8, Peggy will speak at the NPS New Superintendent Academy in Boise.
August 11, Jon will speak at a LWCF event in Chelmsford, Massachusetts; the State Parks Director will also participate.
August 12-16, Jon will be in Maine with events at Acadia National Park and the National Park Foundation board. Peggy and Christy will be there for the board meetings on August 15 and 16.

Public Announcements

August 5

Nothing to Report

August 6

Nothing to Report

August 7

Nothing to Report

August 8

Nothing to Report

August 9

Nothing to Report

August 10

Nothing to Report

August 11

On August 11, Director Jarvis will participate in an event in Chelmsford, MA to highlight a $248,000 stateside LWCF grant for improvements to the town's Varney Playground.

August 12

On August 12, pending Secretarial approval of the package, new National Historic Landmarks will be announced.

August 13

Nothing to Report

August 14

Nothing to Report

August 15

Nothing to Report

August 16

Nothing to Report

Major Press Inquiries

USA Today is working with parks on developing a National Park Experience website. It will highlight activities in parks, ranger programs, and special events.

The first two installments of a weekly series in USA Today entitled *Ken Burns: Secrets of the National Parks* have been released, featuring Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks. Future installments will feature Great Smoky Mountains, Glacier, Shenandoah, Arches, Hawaii Volcanoes, Sequoia, Redwoods, Grand Canyon, and Rocky Mountain National Parks.

Within the next two weeks, the AP is expected to release a feature story on the Biscayne National Park (FL) Fishery Management Plan Record of Decision. The completed Fishery Management Plan recommends phasing out commercial fishing in the park, and making changes to recreational fishing regulations. The recommendations will be codified through Federal and State rule making procedures with requisite public engagement. The AP has interviewed principal park staff and key stakeholders.

CNN's *Morgan Spurlock: Inside Man* plans to film an episode focusing on a national park, probably Denali. The host will work closely with rangers to learn about their jobs, the park, and larger issues like climate change and youth engagement that all parks are dealing with. The goal is an educational hour of TV that highlights everything the NPS does and gets the public engaged and excited.

The new CW television series, *Rock the Park*, is currently filming in several national parks with its hosts Jack Steward and Colton Smith. It is geared to get young people and families out to see and experience the parks for themselves. The series premieres on October 4. They are producing 26 half hour episodes, and each will repeat once, so it will be on the air weekly for 52 weeks, with plans already in place for a second season.

NPR is working on a story about efforts to engage more diverse audiences at national parks. The story focuses on the challenges faced attracting young and diverse audiences to parks and the budget breakdown between urban and non-urban parks. The reporter requested recommendations on parks she could visit that are engaging in new outreach efforts to attract younger and more diverse audiences. The NPS is responding, but story's timing is unclear.

The Los Angeles Times is working on a story about the 150th anniversary of the Yosemite land grant. In a chat with Director Jarvis, they discussed the challenges of setting aside land for parks and other conservation purposes in the current political climate, compared to the time when the Yosemite Grant was made. The publication date for the article is unclear.

The New York Times is working on a story about the role of the NPS in the proposed renovation of Wrigley Field (IL). The NPS provided information about the historic tax credit program (which the Cubs are proposing to use to pay for the project) and the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark (NHL) designations (National Register listing is required to qualify for tax credits). The NPS conditionally approved the Cubs application for the renovation work in March, but the Cubs have since filed an amended application, which is awaiting NPS review. Wrigley Field was been determined eligible for as a NHL in 1987, but the then-owners objected to designation. The Chicago Cubs, the current owners, will need to withdraw the prior objection so that the ballpark can be designated with its accompanying listing on the National Register, and, therefore, be eligible for the program.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Intermountain Regional Office (CO) – NPS "Cooperating Agency" Status on BLM Riley Ridge to Natrona CO2 Pipeline Project EIS (WY). In response to NPS scoping comments on the BLM High Desert District on a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Riley Ridge to Natrona CO2 Pipeline Project, the BLM has invited the NPS to participate in the planning process as a "cooperating agency." The project will entail construction of 245 miles of pipeline through four counties and a sweetening plant 12 miles north of LaBarge, WY. The NPS's primary issue of concern is possible impacts to designated high potential sites and segments of the Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Mormon Pioneer national historic trails, and potential indirect impacts to trail setting.

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Rock Creek Park, National Mall and Memorial Parks (MD/DC) – Potomac River Tunnel. On July 2, the NPS along with DC Water published in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Potomac River Tunnel. Comments on this proposal will be accepted through September 2, 2014. This planning effort is needed because combined sewer overflows (CSOs) cause or contribute to water quality degradation in the Potomac River. In addition, the project is required by a Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Justice and the District of Columbia.

Mesa Verde National Park (CO) – Local Horse Advocates Hold Demonstration. On July 29 and 30, local horse advocates, who believe that the horses are dying because the NPS is fencing off, or otherwise restricting them access to water sources, held a small demonstration outside of the Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center. Reporters from the local *Cortez Journal* newspaper were also present and interviewed demonstrators, visitors and park staff. Articles have appeared in both the *Cortez Journal* and the *Durango Herald.* Approximately 75-100 horses live in numerous bands throughout the park. Horses in the park have unrestricted access to the same water sources used by bear, deer, elk, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, and other animals. Years of drought have impacted springs and seeps in the park, resulting in increased competition for water. Within the past six weeks, six horses have died on Wetherill Mesa from the effects of malnutrition and dehydration. The park is working to confirm to causes of death. The protests were uneventful and things have

quieted down for now. However, this topic remains a sensitive issue and can easily develop into a contentions matter.

Congaree National Park (SC) – Foundation Document. The 30-day public comment period for the foundation document for Congaree National Park began August 1. The foundation document will guide planning and management of the park.

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (CO) – Public Scoping for Preliminary Draft Alternatives for Ungulate Management Plan/EIS. In September, the NPS will initiate a second public comment period to engage and inform the public and partners on preliminary draft alternatives for the Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve Ungulate Management Plan/EIS. This plan/EIS will determine the appropriate future management of elk and bison within the park and preserve. In preparation, the NPS staff will brief the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Commission in early August. This planning effort is of significant interest to other Federal and State bureaus (e.g., US Fish and Wildlife Service which manages the Baca National Wildlife Refuge on the park's west boundary; Colorado Department of Agriculture which has an interest in decisions related to bison; and Colorado Parks & Wildlife which has concerns about the management of elk). All three entities have been involved in planning efforts thus far and have been invited to become cooperating agencies.

Fort Frederica National Monument (GA) – Release of Boundary Study and Environmental Assessment (EA). On August 8, the park will release a boundary study and EA for a 30-day public comment period. The boundary study includes a positive recommendation to expand the boundary to include a number of important properties for preservation related to the purpose and significance of Fort Frederica. Local congressional interest in this project is high.

Petroglyph National Monument (NM) – Response to Flood Damage. On August 14, the City of Albuquerque will have a public meeting to present its proposal for a drainage structure. This is in response to unusually heavy rains in and near Petroglyph National Monument in September 2013 that resulted in flooding that deposited large amounts of mud and debris onto private properties adjacent to the monument. Drainage easements granted by the City of Albuquerque along the monument boundary had not been maintained by the landowners. NPS geomorphologists and civil engineers visited the site and produced a report stating it is likely that sediment-laden water will again flow during future rainfalls. Additionally, the geomorphologists and civil engineers maintain that because the City of Albuquerque approved the subdivision, the City and the property owners bear liability. They recommend re-establishing private drainage easements. They also acknowledged an engineered mitigation measure could include a drainage structure behind the homes. The City is considering such a drainage structure. The structure would have to be built and maintained by the City and would require a land exchange or easement with the monument. The NM Congressional delegation has been asked about the availability of Federal funds to accomplish these goals.

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (MT) – Hands-On Preservation Experience (HOPE) Project. Continuing through August 8, the park will partner with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Hands-On Preservation Experience (HOPE) program and the Historic Preservation Training Center in a new preservation program. The project will introduce young people and military veterans to historic preservation trade skills while conducting necessary cleaning and preservation work on five nationally significant monuments within the Battlefield. The program will also begin a systematic headstone cleaning and alignment program within Custer National Cemetery to bring the appearance to National Cemetery Standards.

Assateague Island National Seashore (VA/MD) –Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. The NPS has prepared its comments, due August 15, since the refuge is entirely within the boundaries of Assateague Island National Seashore. The refuge has jurisdiction to the mean low water mark; the NPS has jurisdiction over the ocean and bay waters out ½ mile. The draft CCP would stop the fishing for horseshoe crabs in the Toms Cove area of the park/refuge. Such fishing is illegal

within the seashore because park legislation allows shell-fishing only (horseshoe crabs are arachnids, not shellfish). The fishing community and town/county governments see this as a big government versus small fishing interests. Local Members of Congress have expressed concern and are contemplating action to protect the local watermen. The State of Virginia is also concerned that this ban will have unintended harvest intensity effects on the Delaware Bay stock of horseshoe crabs, which is crucial to migratory birds.

Zion National Park (UT) – Proposed BIA Land Trust Acquisition Bordering Park Wilderness. On August 22, the public scoping period ends for a BIA proposal to convert 174 acres of fee simple land, currently within Springdale, into Indian trust land. The parcel borders Zion National Park Wilderness on two sides. The BIA is determining if it is appropriate to move ahead with this proposed application.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (AK) – Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In August, the Alaska Regional Director will sign the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve General Management Plan Amendment / Environmental Assessment. The plan updates the park's 1984 GMP, and includes direction on wilderness, coastal, and backcountry management, commercial services, and visitor opportunities. The project included multiple phases of public involvement, open houses, and ongoing tribal consultation and state engagement per Section 1301 of ANILCA. Public meetings held in February and March at several cities and villages near the park were lightly attended.

Hotel Florence, Florence (SC) – Historic Tax Credit. The remedial work proposed by the applicant for two of the three buildings that comprise the project was approved, which will allow them to be certified for tax credit purposes once the work is completed. The rehabilitation of the third building was certified as completed based on new submitted information.

Richardson Olmsted Complex (originally the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane), Buffalo (NY) – Historic Tax Credit. The Part 2 application (description of proposed work) proposes several problematic treatments that do not meet preservation standards or for which there is a lack of information. The application was put on hold, and the NPS has contacted the SHPO to offer to meet with that office and the applicant. The NPS is confident that these issues can be successfully resolved.

Trico Plant, Buffalo (NY) – Historic Tax Credit. Review of the Part 2 application (description of proposed work) for this long-vacant industrial complex in downtown Buffalo, proposed to be converted into hotel and residential uses, was put on hold due to several problematic treatments and a lack of information. The applicant proposes to demolish the oldest portion of the complex, which is in poor condition, but will impact the historic character and integrity of the property. Given that the complex was threatened with demolition, and its prominent location, the NPS may get inquiries from the New York Congressional delegation or media about the project. This project was not shared with NPS on a preliminary basis before its submission.

FWS SECRETARIAL WEEK-AHEAD REPORT
Aug. 6, 2014

Message to the Secretary

None

Highlights of Travel, Meetings and other Public Events

Aug. 8: The Secretary will announce the final land acquisition for the Valle de Oro National Urban Wildlife Refuge in Albuquerque. A dedication ceremony is planned with the Secretary; members of the New Mexico congressional delegation (Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham likely to attend); dignitaries from the city of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and the state of New Mexico; and key partners. Targeted outreach is planned the week prior to the event. A public celebration of the refuge's final land acquisition will be held in conjunction with Public Lands Day Sept.27. R2

Aug. 11: FWS Pacific Regional Director Robyn Thorson will attend a public meeting on the proposed expansion of the Marine National Monument on Oahu, Hawaii. R1

Aug. 11 & 13: FWS will conduct public hearings on proposed changes to the Mexican wolf recovery program 10(j) rule and draft Environmental Impact Statement in Pinetop, Ariz., and Truth or Consequences, N.M. Outreach done. R2

Aug. 12: Rep. Peter DeFazio is planning a visit to Bandon Marsh NWR to view the progress of its mosquito control program. The control measures have yielded great results, and reaction from the local community is positive. R1

Aug. 13: The Secretary and Director Ashe will announce the first-ever Urban Refuge Challenge funding recipient. The funding from FWS ($1 million per year) will enhance plans to more fully engage people from culturally diverse backgrounds in conservation and outdoor recreation. Outreach is planned with the Department of the Interior. HQ

Aug. 14: The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) will present an award to Sen. Jack Reed for his leadership and support for refuges in Rhode Island and the entire National Wildlife Refuge System. The award will be presented at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge. Outreach is planned, and the press will be invited. R5

Aug. 15: Office of Management and Budget (OMB) personnel will visit James Campbell NWR on Oahu, Hawaii. FWS representatives from Ecological Services, Refuges and Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative will be involved. R1

Aug. 15: Director Ashe will join Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler on a site visit to Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington to discuss ecological forestry. R1

Public Announcements

Thursday, August 7

The week of Aug. 4, FWS will send the status review for the Warton's cave meshweaver to the *Federal Register*. FWS concluded it does not warrant protection under the ESA. FWS' determination is based on

scientific information and review indicating Warton's cave meshweaver is not a distinct species. Not controversial. . Outreach in the form of a news release is planned. R2

Friday, August 8

Scheduled release of FWS' Greater Sage-Grouse Range-Wide Mitigation Guidance. The document will communicate some of the factors FWS is likely to consider in evaluating mitigation practices and programs in reducing threats to sage-grouse. This announcement may be delayed a few days. Potentially controversial. R1

Monday, August 11

FWS' Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program will release the program's new draft Strategic Plan to stakeholders and other members of the public. There will be a month-long comment period for both internal staff and external stakeholders. HQ

Tuesday, August 12

FWS will announce the withdrawal of the proposed rule to list the DPS of the North American wolverine that occurs within the contiguous United States as a threatened species. FWS will also withdraw the 4(d) and 10(j) rules for the wolverine. The withdrawal was sent to the Federal Register on Aug. 4. Outreach will occur the morning of Aug. 12, when the withdrawal will appear in the FR reading room. R6

Wednesday, August 13

FWS Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius will host a call for Native American Tribes in the 38-state range of the northern long-eared bat to update them on the status of the listing proposal. R3

Thursday August 14

FWS is proposing to designate critical habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo (western U.S. DPS). In total, approximately 563,194 acres are being proposed for designation across nine states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. Approximately 193,691 acres of the proposed designation have been identified for potential exclusion under section 4(b)(2) of the ESA. This action is expected to be controversial. FWS expects this rule to garner attention because FWS is designating critical habitat over such a large area, and HCP permittees that have not covered yellow-billed cuckoos in their HCP may oppose the proposed designation of critical habitat on their land. Announcement expected to appear in the FR reading room Aug. 14 with a publication date Aug. 15. R8

Friday, August 15

Through Aug. 15, FWS will gather approximately 420 feral horses on Sheldon NWR as part of its ongoing management actions to protect native wildlife and habitat on the refuge. Members of the public and media who have RSVPd will be allowed to observe with a FWS escort. Controversial. R1

TBD

FWS will finalize listing of the Oregon spotted frog as a threatened species under the ESA. The Oregon spotted frog occurs in extreme southern British Columbia, Canada, into the Puget Trough and in the Cascades Range in Washington State, south to the Klamath Basin, Ore. Local property rights advocates expressed concern about the potential for private land takings related to restrictions on riparian and water management and land use. Target to the *Federal Register* is Aug. 15. Outreach planned day before FR publication. R1

FWS is publishing a final rule revising critical habitat for the Canada lynx distinct population segment. This rule would designate 41,502 square miles in five units in Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Wyoming. In addition, FWS will revise the boundary of the lynx DPS to comply with current policy and to

extend the protections of the ESA to lynx anywhere they occur within the contiguous United States. Non-profit environmental groups who sued the FWS over the 2009 designation will likely be disappointed that FWS again will not designate in the Southern Rockies or in the six National Forests that were the focus of the Montana court case. The Washington State Snowmobile Association will likely be displeased that FWS will designate in north central Washington. The target to the *Federal Register* is Aug. 15. Outreach planned.

FWS is proposing to designate critical habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo (western U.S. DPS). In total, approximately 563,194 acres are being proposed for designation across nine states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. Approximately 193,691 acres of the proposed designation have been identified for potential exclusion under section 4(b)(2) of the ESA. This action is expected to be controversial. FWS expects this rule to garner attention because FWS is designating critical habitat over such a large area, and HCP permittees that have not covered yellow-billed cuckoos in their HCP may oppose the proposed designation of critical habitat on their land. The target to the *Federal Register* is Aug. 15. Outreach planned day before FR publication. R8

In the next few weeks, FWS will announce grant awards to 30 states totaling almost $1.3 million to support research, monitor bat populations, and detect and respond to white-nose syndrome disease. Funding for the grants is from the Endangered Species Recovery and Science Applications programs. Outreach is planned. R5

FWS is expected to reopen the comment period on proposals to list the Poweshiek skipperling as endangered, the Dakota skipper as threatened, critical habitat for both species, and a special 4(d) rule for the Dakota skipper. The reopening will allow FWS to release its draft economic analysis for proposed critical habitat and to receive public comment on the draft, as well as further comment on the proposed rules. This proposal has generated concern, especially in the Dakotas, among ranchers whose livestock grazing may result in take and whose property may be included in critical habitat. R3

In mid-August, Kenai NWR will propose a temporary closure of sport hunting of brown bears on the refuge to extend through the fall 2014 and spring 2015 seasons. The refuge is considering this action in response to recent changes in Alaska's state sport hunting regulations that have resulted in significant reductions in the Kenai Peninsula's brown bear population. FWS and the state are working to reconcile the differences in management objectives but are unable to reach agreement in the short term, thus the need for the temporary closure. Opportunities will be provided for the public to comment on this proposed closure. This action will most likely attract media attention. R7

In mid-August, Alaska Maritime NWR is planning to release for public review and comment a draft environmental assessment regarding control of non-native caribou on Kagalaska Island in the Aleutian Islands to prevent damage to refuge resources. Over all, little controversy is expected, though some concern may be raised by Alaska Department of Fish and Game regarding meat salvage. R7

In mid-August, FWS will open a 45-day comment period to collect additional information as part of a review of the status of the Sierra Nevada red fox to determine whether ESA protections are warranted for the species. FWS is opening this public comment period in light of new information that suggests the fox is present in more locations in its historic range than previously thought. Outreach planned. R8

Major Press Inquiries

Jessica Estepa (E&E News) has requested a tour of a fish hatchery and an interview about the hatchery system and future plans. HQ

There is continued high media interest in the Mexican wolf recovery program, lesser prairie-chicken and the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse. R2

Outdoor Life is pursuing the lead exposure study at Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, with loaded questions including whether this study was part of a growing trend against lead. R3

Bloomberg BNA reporter interested in the impact of Asian carp to endangered species. R3

FWS has been working with USDA Agricultural Research Service to develop a bacterial suppressant to combat cheatgrass. Research indicates the strain of bacteria, known as ACK55 and patented as "Battalion Pro," is effective and safe. It is a promising tool for arresting the most pervasive threat to the sage-grouse in the Great Basin but it won't be through the approval process for an estimated 12-17 months. Awareness/interest among partners is high, so FWS will tailor outreach to maintain interest and support while tempering expectations about it being a silver bullet. A Bloomberg news report discussing ACK55 is expected soon. FWS will coordinate with USDA-ARS on outreach.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

The U.S. Senate passed S.231 to reauthorize the Save Vanishing Species Stamp. HQ

Senator Michael Bennett and Rep. Scott Tipton of Colorado have requested tours of Leadville National Fish Hatchery during the week of Aug. 4. The tours are being jointly coordinated and planned by Office of External Affairs and the Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program in the Mountain-Prairie Region. R6

Sept. 30 will mark the start of the one-year countdown to FWS' listing decision deadline for greater sage-grouse. Expect media interest to be elevated. Region 6 and Region 1 will coordinate on the strategy of proactive outreach to the media to highlight the remarkable conservation campaign that has emerged since the 2010 listing. R6

As FWS initiates its status review of the greater sage-grouse, the new online Conservation Efforts Database will capture plans and projects that benefit greater sage-grouse. A data call requests information on population and habitat status and trends, along with other relevant information on topics like hunting, disease and predation. R6

The Department of the Interior was contacted by Senator Heitkamp asking what FWS is doing to delineate wetlands easements that appear to be unmapped yet subject to criminal enforcement in North Dakota. The Region 6 Easement Coordinator provided the response, which included an offer to demonstrate the mapping work being conducted by the Habitat and Population Evaluation Team in Bismarck. This may spur additional inquiries and potentially meeting with the senator. Senator Heitkamp has professional history with wetland easements related to her time as North Dakota's Attorney General. R6

The Ballville Dam (Fremont, Ohio), has been a locally controversial fish passage project. Public distrust about a separate project that is creating a new reservoir has led to members of the city council examining the potential of rehabilitating the dam as a backup. In the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), FWS has selected Incremental Dam Removal with Ice Control Structure as the preferred alternative. The final EIS will be available for public review through August. R3

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT
August 5 – August 15, 2014

Message to the Secretary

Secretary Jewell,

ASLM completed its review of the Arctic Standards rule on Thursday, July 31. BOEM and BSEE are responding to minor comments before sending the document forward to Exec Sec.

I signed the ROD for the Blythe solar energy project last Friday, August 1. Blythe is a 485 MW photovoltaic project located in California.

I have started what I'm sure will be a busy and productive week of travel. I look forward to meeting with key constituencies and our dedicated employees in Louisiana, North Dakota and Idaho (details listed below in Highlights of Travel, Meetings and other Public Events section).

BLM is reviewing the economic analysis and the environmental assessment in coordination with the Solicitor's Office, to ensure consistency with the revised hydraulic fracturing regulatory text. The current plan is to surname and submit the rule package to Exec Sec by the end of the week, with submission to OMB to follow shortly after.

We continue to work with the ASLM bureaus to obtain and review action plans for high priority matters, particularly in-process regulatory efforts and other initiatives. These plans are excellent tools and will help us allocate our time, energy, and resources as we work to usher these projects through the process to completion. One of my goals in requesting these plans is to aid in addressing challenges and resolving policy disagreements as efficiently as possible.

Janice

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

August 5: Weather permitting, Brian Salerno and I will visit an offshore drilling rig and production facility in the Gulf of Mexico.

August 5 – 6: Jim Lyons will participate in a review of the BLM and FS Great Basin Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendments with senior staff from BLM, FS, and FWS in advance of a scheduled roll-up of these plans involving BLM, FS, and FWS leadership in Portland, OR on August 19-21.

August 6: I will deliver the keynote speech at the Deepwater Technical Symposium in New Orleans, LA. After that, I will conduct an all-hands meeting with BOEM and BSEE staff in the Gulf of Mexico Region.

August 6: Brandi will participate in the bi-weekly offshore renewables meeting.

August 7: Brandi will participate in a working group meeting with representatives from SOL, BOR, AS-IA/BIA and the Department's budget office to discuss Indian Water Settlement study recommendations.

August 7: Lauren Bogard will meet with the other agency leads for the White House Council on Rural Affairs to discuss lessons learned from the recent Rural Opportunity Investment Conference.

August 8: I will attend the DOE's Quadrennial Energy Review seminar in Bismark, North Dakota and will be joined by ASLM DAS David Haines. We will also meet with industry representatives and visit the Bakken region to see the oil and gas operations (including venting and flaring) up there.

August 9: David and I will travel to Boise, ID to visit the National Interagency Fire Center.

August 11: Brandi will participate in the bi-weekly resilience council Working Group meeting.

August 11: Brandi will participate in the Climate Change Working Group meeting.

August 11: I will interview a candidate for the BOEM Director position. I will also interview a candidate for the BLM senior advisor position.

August 12: Brandi, David, Lauren and I will attend a mock auction hosted by BOEM.

August 12: I will attend a meeting hosted by Tommy Beaudreau with representatives from the State of AK, ExxonMobil, BP, Conoco Phillips and TransCanada to discuss a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Alaska.

August 12: The ASLM senior leadership team will receive a briefing on BLM's conveyance program.

August 15: The comment period closes for the Request for Information and Comments on the Preparation of the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The original comment period closed on July 31, 2014, but was extended for 15 days to August 15.

Aug 18 - 22, Jim will be meeting with BLM, FS, FWS, and NRCS leadership in Portland, OR to review the Great Basin GrSG plans. The roll-up will assess individual plans and the cumulative conservation effort by BLM and FS to assess the adequacy of the effort to conserve the GrSG and avoid a listing as threatened or endangered.

August 18: I will participate in the monthly Energy and Climate Change Task Force Meeting with Assistant Secretaries and Bureau Directors.

August 19: I am tentatively scheduled to attend the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) Legislative meeting per Randall Luthi's invitation.

August 19: I will attend a meeting with conservation leaders hosted by Bill Meadows.

August 19: BOEM will hold its third offshore commercial lease sale an area offshore Maryland. Two leases will be competitively offered.

August 20: BOEM will hold Lease Sale 238 for leases in the Western Planning Area of the Gulf of Mexico.

August 20-22: Brandi and I will travel to Wyoming for the DOE Quadrennial Energy Review.

Aug 25: Jim will participate in a meeting on landscape-level mitigation hosted by The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, and other partners in Washington, D.C.

Public Announcements

Wednesday, August 6
Nothing to report

Thursday, August 7
Nothing to report

Friday, August 8
Nothing to report

Monday, August 11:
Nothing to report

Tuesday, August 12:
Nothing to report

Wednesday, August 13:
Nothing to report

Thursday, August 14:
Nothing to report

Friday, August 15:
Nothing to report

Major Press Inquiries

Director Salerno will be in Houston August 12-13 to attend the Ocean Energy Safety Institute's forum on data sharing. The forum will include representatives from industry, academia, and the public. BSEE is setting up interviews for Director Salerno in Houston with *Reuters, Oil and Gas Journal* and freelance reporter Bruce Nichols regarding BSEE's new Houston-based Technology Center.

Multiple media outlets have begun to cover the number of SMCRA violations that have accrued in the last three to four years at coal mine operations owned by James Justice II. At present, Justice mines in five states (AL, KY, TN, VA, and WV) have been cited for 281 violations listed in OSMRE's Applicant Violator System (AVS) database. *E&E Daily/Greenwire, the Roanoke Times, the Charleston (WV) Gazette,* and a series of business-news services have each inquired about the number of AVS-listed violations. OSMRE's Office of Communications continues to work with AVS staff to provide media with an accurate accounting of the violations and context as to the severity and number of violations issued to the Justice Companies relative to similar companies.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
August 10 - 16, 2014

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

BLM Director Neil Kornze will return to the office Aug. 12; Linda Lance and Steve Ellis will be in Washington, D.C.

Public Announcements

Very Soon
The BLM will release **Draft Guidance for Developing Solar Regional Mitigation Strategies** for a 30-day public review period. The guidance will help BLM managers write mitigation strategies for Solar Energy Zones, as called for in the BLM Western Solar Plan. It is informed by the Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone released in March.

Monday, August 11
Nothing to Report.

Tuesday, August 12
The BLM anticipates release of the **Middle Rockies and Northwestern Plains Rapid Ecological Assessments (REAs)**. The REA is the BLM's first step toward a broader initiative to systematically develop and incorporate landscape-scale information into the evaluation and eventual management of public land resources.

Wyoming Mustang Days, an annual horse adoption and training demonstration, will take place Aug. 12-16 at the WY State Fair. Twenty gentled horses will be available for adoption. Media are invited and expected to attend.

Wednesday, August 13
Nothing to report.

Thursday, August 14
BLM-MT/DK staff will present at the United Property Owners of MT **Property Rights Conference in Billings**. The presentation will highlight the State Director's priority to increase public access to public lands, and the mechanisms and processes available to secure access. The target audience is members and interested agencies; press is invited.

4-H groups in Idaho will highlight the results of their work with **BLM wild horses** at the Madison County Fair. They selected the weanlings in June. An adoption will follow Aug. 16. This follows the successful Extreme Mustang Makeover, held in ID for the first time July 26.

Friday, August 15
Nothing to report.

Major Press Inquiries
Associated Press reporter Mead Gruver is wrapping up his story on the number of oil and gas lease parcels that have been deferred while waiting for sage-grouse RMP decisions. The story will include information on the Lander RMP and the BLM WY Greater Sage-grouse 9-plan Land Use Plan Amendment EIS. Conversations

with the reporter have taken place over the course of two weeks, concluding July 30. The story is expected next week and to have a neutral tone.

Lori A. Montgomery of the *Washington Post* interviewed the BLM-AK staff about use of mapping resources in the recovery of a downed F-22 Raptor jet in 2010. The interview focused on the importance of elevation data in mitigating risks to aviation safety. The tone was cordial; the reporter plans to visit AK in late August. Publication date and tone are unknown.

Associated Press reporter in Reno, NV, Martin Griffith contacted BLM about the BLM's long- and short-term holding solicitation for wild horses and burros, existing long-term pastures, costs, and how many pastures and short-term corrals are needed. The BLM reported substantial interest in the May 2014 short term solicitation for facilities in 17 Western and Midwestern states. Holding accounted for 64 percent of BLM's FY 2013 program budget.

Boston Globe reporter Michael Kranish contacted DOI and BLM Communications about Interior's policy on coal leases on public lands, including a recent case in which a judge said Interior did not take into account climate when leasing. A June 27th decision by U.S. District Court in Colorado ("West Elk II") enjoined a BLM coal lease expansion, in part because Social Cost of Coal (SCC) estimates included in the draft EIS were removed in the final EIS without adequate explanation. A federal interagency panel has established SCC estimates, primarily for use in regulatory decisions. Kranish attended the CO Federal Coal lease sale Wednesday, interviewing protesters there. The article will be negative toward the Administration and will run in the coming weeks.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

On July 28th the BLM Rio Puerco Office issued an impoundment notice to deal with the presence of unauthorized, **estray horses** on public land adjacent to the **Village of Placitas**. The BLM is actively searching for good homes for these estray animals. The horses are the property of the State of New Mexico and the BLM is coordinating efforts with the NM Livestock Board.

The BLM will soon issue policy that could affect existing and proposed activities authorized under the **General Railroad Right-of-Way Act** of March 3, 1875. The IM contains guidance about how to evaluate activities in railroad ROWs to see if they relate to a railroad purpose covered by the 1875 Act. It implements a 2011 Solicitor's opinion and replaces interim guidance that has been in place since that time. The policy in the IM will be used to assess the proposed Cadiz water pipeline, a controversial project in California.

Twelve members were appointed to the BLM's newly-established **Advisory Committee for the San Juan Islands National Monument**, in Washington State. The appointment letters signed by the Secretary may attract local press.

The **Fort Berthold Federal Partners meeting** will be August 12 – 13 in Bismarck, ND. Federal agencies (including BLM) will discuss oil & gas issues related to Fort Berthold and western ND.

Rep. Amodei (R-2-NV) plans to meet with BLM-NV Battle Mountain District Manager Doug Furtado Aug. 13. Among the issues that will likely be discussed will be drought and the decision to remove of cattle from the Argenta Allotment. This decision has been highly controversial and led to the recent Grass March through northern NV.

Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) plans to meet with NM-State Director Jesse Juen Aug. 13 at the BLM's Carlsbad office to discuss the BLM's oil and gas pilot offices.

Rep. Kristi Noem (R-At-Large-SD) will visit the BLM's SD Field Office Aug. 15 for a briefing on the BLM-funded "Firewise Veterans Program" fuels reduction projects, which focus on wildland-urban interface zones near Sturgis, Lead, and Rapid City in the Black Hills of SD.

The BLM-WY High Plains District Manager and Casper Field Manager will meet with field representatives of the WY Congressional Delegation Aug. 14 to provide updates on current projects, including progress on processing APDs, the Converse County Oil and Gas Project, and the Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse RMP/LRMP (BLM- Resource Management Plan and FS - Land and Resource Management Plan) Amendments.

Rep. Horsford (D-4-NV) tentatively plans to visit a BLM fuels management project near Ely, NV, Aug. 16.

The BLM-ID Salmon Field Office is reviewing a Special Recreation Permit application from "Idaho for Wildlife" to conduct a **competitive 3-day predator hunt derby on public lands** January 2-4, 2015. Interest is broad and polarized, from local to international, including the general public, recreation interests, environmental groups, congressional staff, federal and state agencies, Tribal and local government officials and local media.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) will visit the BLM-OR Burns District August 11-13 to review the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project. The GAO is engaging on this following a request from the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The visit is in response to the Dec. 2013 GAO letter on landscape-scale forest restoration efforts, how they are defined, planned, implemented and evaluated; and successes, challenges and barriers, if any, on efforts to streamline implementation of the NEPA.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
August 6 – 15, 2014

Message to the Secretary

This past week, staff from BSEE, BOEM and DOI Executive Secretariat met with representatives from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to discuss the Arctic Standards proposed rule, which is undergoing review within DOI. OMB's primary concern is economics. We informed them that an economic analysis will be included in the document and asked that we defer discussion of economics until they have had a chance to read the analysis. They were okay with that approach. A specific date for submitting the document was not discussed.

I will be traveling to New Orleans this week, Houston next week, and possibly back to New Orleans on August 20.

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

August 4-8, Deputy Director Schneider is scheduled to visit the BSEE Pacific Region Office in Camarillo, CA, for meetings with BSEE personnel.

On August 5, Director Salerno is scheduled to accompany Assistant Secretary Schneider on an offshore visit to a drilling rig and a production platform in the Gulf of Mexico.

On August 6, Director Salerno is scheduled to attend the Annual Deepwater Symposium in New Orleans. Assistant Secretary Schneider is scheduled to deliver the keynote address.

On August 12-13, the Ocean Energy Safety Institute is scheduled to convene a forum on Data Sharing in Houston, TX. The forum will involve representatives from industry, academia, and the public. Director Salerno is scheduled to deliver opening remarks. He is also planning to visit the Helix Well Control Group storage and staging area near Houston during the trip.

On August 21, Deputy Secretary Conner is scheduled to visit an offshore drilling rig and a production platform in the Gulf of Mexico. Director Salerno may accompany him for the trip.

Public Announcements:

August 12-13, BSEE is setting up interviews for Director Salerno in Houston with Reuters, Oil and Gas Journal and freelance reporter Bruce Nichols regarding BSEE's new Houston based Technology Center.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Proposed Rule for Arctic Standards: This proposed rule will contain standards for oil and gas development and production in the Arctic environment. An announcement will be published in the *Federal Register* at a date to be determined to solicit public comment on the rule following inter-agency review through OMB.

Proposed Well Control Rule (AKA Blowout Preventer Rule): A proposed rule to establish standards for blowout preventers is undergoing Departmental surnaming review as a draft document. It incorporates industry standards and revises existing regulations. The proposed rule also includes critical reforms in the areas of well design, well-control, casing, cementing, real-time well monitoring, and subsea containment.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
August 5, 2014 – August 16, 2014

Message to the Secretary

Secretary Jewell,

Thank you for your support for BOEM in the FY 2016 budget planning process.(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Walter

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

On August 6, the BOEM and BSEE Gulf of Mexico Regional Offices will host Janice Schneider. During her visit, she will meet with senior leadership from both bureaus and conduct an all-hands meeting with staff.

On August 6, BOEM will host an offshore wind auction public seminar in Mercerville, New Jersey. BOEM will provide an overview of the proposed auction format, explain the auction rules, and demonstrate the auction process through meaningful examples at the auction seminar. Throughout the auction seminar, there will be an opportunity for comments and questions regarding the proposed sale notice, which was published on July 21.

On August 7 – 13, BOEM staff will hold outreach meetings with the six Mid- and South Atlantic State coastal management programs to discuss Coastal Zone Management Act issues and the geological and geophysical permitting process. Meetings are scheduled with North Carolina (August 7); Delaware and Maryland (August 11); Virginia (August 12); and South Carolina and Georgia (August 13). BOEM is also initiating interagency coordination on the permit applications this week.

On August 11, BOEM-Pacific will host a coordination meeting in Portland, Oregon with various Federal, state and local government entities that have direct or indirect permitting responsibilities for the WindFloat Pacific project. WindFloat Pacific is a proposed 30 MW floating offshore wind farm to be sited approximately 15 miles off the coast of Coos Bay, Oregon.

Public Announcements

Thursday, August 7
BOEM will announce the North Carolina Area Identification for offshore wind.
Week of August 4
BOEM will announce cooperative agreements with North Carolina and South Carolina on sand resources.

August
In the coming weeks, BOEM will publish an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Financial Assurance and Risk Management.

Major Press Inquiries

N/A

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

North Carolina Offshore Wind Area Identification (Area ID): BOEM has completed the Area ID offshore North Carolina and identified three individual areas as the North Carolina Wind Energy Areas (WEAs). These include Kitty Hawk, Wilmington West, and Wilmington East. The WEAs represent modifications from the three areas identified in December 2012 as a part of the call for information. Since then, BOEM has worked with the U.S. Coast Guard, NPS, and others to address concerns related to navigational safety and visual impacts. The next step in the process will be to prepare an environmental assessment for the areas.

Arctic Standards Proposed Rule: BOEM and BSEE have developed proposed Arctic OCS Standards rules governing exploration drilling for oil and gas in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. These standards codify and further develop the standards previously established for Shell's 2012 Arctic exploration program, and are intended to strengthen safety and environmental protection for Arctic OCS exploratory operations. BOEM and BSEE are preparing the rule for ASLM's final signature and plan to have it ready for OMB review by Friday, August 11.

Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on Financial Assurance and Risk Management: BOEM is initiating a rulemaking process aimed at ensuring the financial integrity of lessees and operators on the OCS, and reducing the risk of taxpayers bearing the costs of decommissioning OCS facilities. BOEM expects to publish the ANPR, which asks questions of the public to inform the rulemaking, in early August. OMB was briefed on the rule on June 23 and BOEM made minor changes to the draft based on their comments.

Auction for Wind Energy Leases Offshore Maryland: BOEM will conduct an on-line auction for two wind energy leases offshore Maryland on August 19. The Maryland Wind Energy Area includes more than 80,000 acres. BOEM identified the Maryland Wind Energy Area in consultation with members of the Maryland Intergovernmental Task Force, which includes Federal, State, tribal and local government partners. The part of the wind energy area closest to shore is located about 10 nautical miles off of Ocean City.

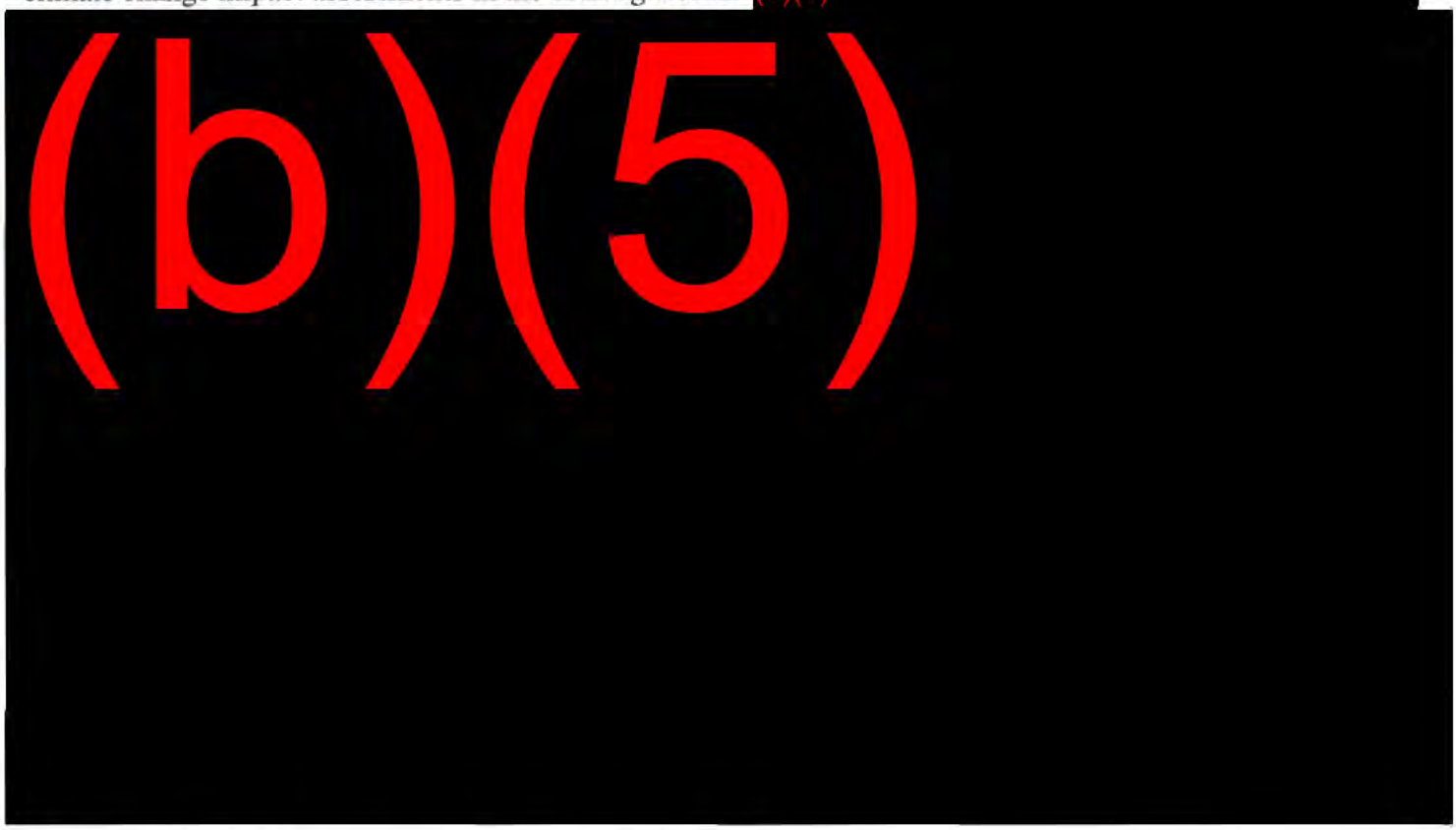
Western Gulf Of Mexico Oil and Gas Lease Sale: On August 20, BOEM will hold Western Planning Area Lease Sale 238 in New Orleans and will offer more than 21 million acres offshore Texas for oil and gas exploration and development. BOEM estimates the proposed sale could result in production of 116 to 200 million barrels of oil and 538 to 938 billion cubic feet of natural gas. This is the sixth offshore lease sale under the Administration's Five Year Program; the previous five sales have offered more than 60 million acres and netted nearly $2.3 billion.

2017 – 2022 Offshore Oil and Gas Five Year Program: BOEM continues to receive comments on the Request for Information from an array of stakeholders and elected officials. Last week, BOEM extended the public comment period for the Request for Information, which now closes on August 15, 2014. Once the comment period closes, BOEM will analyze the comments and continue its analysis for development of the Program. In September, BOEM will be prepared to provide DOI and the Secretary with an overview of comments received and have an initial discussion on the scope of the Program. The next public step is the release of the Draft Proposed Program, scheduled for the end of this year.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: AS Water & Science
August 6 – August 15, 2014

Optional Message to the Secretary

You will see at the end of this week's report that Reclamation intends to release several new basin studies and climate change impact assessments in the coming weeks. (b)(5)



Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

Anne Castle: Aug 7-8 will travel to LaCrosse, WI for briefings at the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center on Asian Carp and other invasive species topics, then to Madison, WI for discussions with leadership and staff of the USGS WI Water Science Center and the Center for Integrated Data Analytics (CIDA) and with an OSTP representative on the Open Water Data Initiative. All hands meetings will occur at all locations. Aug 22 meeting with the NPS Colorado River Steering Committee in Denver, CO. Aug 25-28 to Flagstaff, AZ to chair the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group and related federal and tribal meetings; Aug 29 to provide keynote remarks at the Business of Water 2.0 summit in Las Vegas.
Lori Caramanian: Aug 7-8 in WI for meetings at CIDA with ASWS and OSTP; Aug 19 in Denver for Glen Canyon Dam LTEMP meeting.
Tom Iseman will participate in a US Army Corps of Engineers Senior Leader Conference on Aug 6.
Camille Calimlim Touton will be in WI Aug 7-8 with ASWS and OSTP.

Public Announcements

Wednesday, August 6 – Thursday, August 7
Nothing to report.

Friday, August 8

News Release–Historic Walrus Population Decline: On August 8, USGS will brief local FWS officials in Anchorage, Alaska, and distribute a press release on an analysis of Pacific walrus population data circa 1981 to 1999. The population declined over that period, though the decline moderated in the 1990s. The press release will elaborate on some of the possible causes for this pattern and explains that the USGS is working to collect and analyze population data since 1999. The FWS is under a court mandate to make a listing determination for Pacific walrus by 2017. A press release will follow the briefing.

Saturday, August 9 - Friday August 15
Nothing to report.

TBD

Reclamation Research Grants: In early-to-mid August, Reclamation's Desalination and Water Purification Research Program will announce grants for research and laboratory studies and pilot scale projects. Reclamation will provide up to $150,000 for the research and laboratory studies and $400,000 for the pilot scale projects. The DWPR Program is helping Reclamation and its partners confront widening imbalances between supply and demand in basins throughout the west through testing and development of new advanced water treatment technologies.

UOG resource assessment for northeast Mexico: In the coming weeks, the USGS plans to release the assessment of unconventional oil and gas resources in northeast Mexico. This assessment is part of the USGS project that is assessing the undiscovered, technically recoverable unconventional oil and gas resources (including shale oil and shale gas) of the world. The recent exponential development and production of oil and gas from many U.S. and Canadian unconventional accumulations has escalated geopolitical interest in accumulations occurring outside the U.S. Previously published USGS assessments of unconventional resources have included areas in Poland, India, China, Denmark, and several countries in South America. The northeast Mexico assessment is notable because there are substantial unconventional oil and gas resources in Texas and it is reasonable to ask what unconventional resources might exist in adjacent areas of Mexico. The report will be available online but no news release is planned. [REPORTED IN LAST WEEK'S REPORT]

Major Press Inquiries
Nothing to report.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Department of Energy 2014 Award for Great Plains Area Office (OK): Reclamation's Oklahoma-Texas Area Office (OTAO) was selected to receive the U.S. Department of Energy 2014 Federal Energy and Water Management Award. The Program Award recognizes outstanding achievements in energy and water. In FY 2013, Reclamation's Tom Steed Reservoir (Mountain Park Project) which serves as the primary water supply for the Oklahoma cities of Altus, Snyder, and Frederick, and for Altus Air Force Base was in its third year of exceptional drought with reservoirs at record low levels. OTAO staff used their firm yield reservoir model to visualize various drought scenarios and estimate future water availability under continuing drought conditions. They met with municipalities to allow them to visualize the impacts to their water supply as a result of the drought and predict what could happen if the drought continued. Through these actions, significant water conservation measures were implemented and a 30% reduction in deliveries, approximately 3500 acre-feet, was realized. Ancillary benefits included energy savings resulting from reduced pumping requirements, and improved recreation and fish and wildlife conditions due to higher reservoir levels.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
August 6 – August 15, 2014

Optional Message to the Secretary

Nothing to report.

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events: *I have no planned stakeholder meetings Aug 6-15. I will be traveling to Boise, ID and Salt Lake City, UT, August 13-15 for regional meetings.*

Public Announcements

Tuesday, August 5

Nothing to report.

Wednesday, August 6

Ribbon Cutting for New Berryessa Resort Improvement District Board Facility at Lake Berryessa (CA): Reclamation and Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA) will participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District Board for their new facility at Reclamation's Steele Canyon Recreation Area in Napa, California. The ceremony will celebrate the completion of NBRID's new wastewater treatment facilities.

Thursday, August 7

Nothing to report.

Friday, August 8

Nothing to report.

Saturday, August 9

C.A.S.T. for Kids Fishing Event at Strawberry Reservoir (UT): Reclamation will host a C.A.S.T. for Kids/Let's Move Outside fishing event at Strawberry Reservoir for special needs and disabled youth, supported by over 25 sponsors and approximately 100 volunteers.

Sunday, August 10

Nothing to report.

Monday, August 11

Congressional Representatives to Tour at Grand Coulee Dam (WA): Legislative Director Melanie Steele and Agricultural and Resource Policy Director Mike Poulson, staffers of Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), will tour Grand Coulee Dam.

Tuesday, August 12

Nothing to report.

Wednesday, August 13

Nothing to report.

Thursday, August 14

Navajo Generating Station Project Open House (AZ): Reclamation will hold an open house meeting in Kykotsmovi, Arizona, on the proposed Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Line Complex Project. The public comment period will be reopened and extended until August 31. These actions are in response to a request by the Hopi tribe.

Friday, August 15

Congressional Representatives to Tour Lewiston Orchards Project (ID): On August 15, Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) and staff; Representative Raul Labrador (R-ID) and staff; and staff from Senator Jim Risch (R-ID) will attend a Lewiston Orchards Project update and construction site tour along with regional, state and local officials. This is presented by the local Lower Clearwater Exchange Project stakeholder group.

Major Press Inquiries

Boca Dam Flows (CA): Reclamation reports that flows to the Little Truckee River below Boca Dam were reduced from 250 cubic feet per second on July 29 to 0 cfs on July 30. Boca Dam, owned by Reclamation, is located near Truckee, California. ***KCRA Channel 3*** (Sacramento) did a report from the dam on July 30 showing a fly fisherman rescuing some stranded fish; however, the overall effect on native fish is limited by the short river distance impacted by the lack of flows.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Pilot System Conservation Funding Agreement: During the past 15 years, drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin are among the very worst in over 1,200 years. As a result, Lakes Powell and Mead have experienced a substantial decrease in storage and elevation. Given declining reservoir levels, Reclamation, the Colorado River Basin States, and water users have shared ideas on how to mitigate the impacts of the ongoing drought. One idea that has received support is funding projects that will conserve Colorado River water and allowing the conserved water to remain in storage to help offset the declining reservoir levels. On July 30, 2014, the United States of America, through the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (both Upper and Lower Colorado Region), and four municipal entities including the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Denver Water, and the Southern Nevada Water Authority entered into an agreement called the Colorado River System Conservation Program. The Program is a pilot for funding the creation of Colorado River System water through voluntary water conservation and reductions in use. The pilot program also aims to reduce salinity in the Colorado River System as a complementary benefit to the ongoing water management programs in the Colorado River Basin.

Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA): In October 2003, the QSA became effective, providing a means for Colorado River water transfers within the state of California. In 2009 California's Imperial County (County) and the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (Air District) filed a complaint in U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, challenging the Secretary's 2003 execution of the CRWDA. The complaint alleged that the Secretary's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and also violated the Clean Air Act (CAA) by not making a "conformity determination" for the water transfer. In 2012, the District Court ruled in favor of the United States, concluding that the Plaintiff's claims failed for a lack of standing. The case was appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court, which affirmed the judgment of the lower court, ruling that the Secretary did not violate NEPA or CAA in preparing the Implementation Agreement EIS analyzing the effects of the CRWDA on the Salton Sea.

Plaintiffs filed a petition for panel rehearing and a petition for rehearing *en banc, which was denied on* August 1, 2014.

Klamath Project Curtailments (OR/CA) - Due to this year's extremely dry hydrologic conditions in the Upper Klamath Basin, Reclamation has determined that, to remain in compliance with the 2013 Biological Opinion for operation of the Klamath Project (Project), all Project Warren Act Contract water supplies had to be curtailed by the end of July. Warren Act contractors make up approximately 50,000 acres of the Klamath Project served by Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River. Reclamation has coordinated with Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) on available options to control Klamath Drainage District's (KDD) unauthorized diversions through the privately owned North Canal. Unauthorized diversions to-date by KDD totaled approximately 9,000 acre-feet, reducing the amount of supply available to all Project water users. On July 25, Reclamation requested that under Oregon Revised Statutes, OWRD close the North Canal. OWRD confirmed notification to KDD to cease deliveries on July 30. As of August 1, KDD ceased diverting through the North Canal.

Flash Flood at Anderson Ranch Dam (ID): Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Region reports that on July 31, there was a flash flood at Anderson Ranch Dam and Power plant located approximately 28 miles northeast of Mountain Home, Idaho. The damage to the facility from the flash flood consists of a few broken windows and some mud and debris in the power plant. Mud and debris was also deposited in the switchyard area. Everything appears to be operational.

Department of Energy 2014 Award for Great Plains Area Office (OK): Reclamation's Oklahoma-Texas Area Office (OTAO) was selected to receive the U.S. Department of Energy 2014 Federal Energy and Water Management Award. The Program Award recognizes outstanding achievements in energy and water. In FY 2013, Reclamation's Tom Steed Reservoir (Mountain Park Project) which serves as the primary water supply for the Oklahoma cities of Altus, Snyder, and Frederick, and for Altus Air Force Base was in its third year of exceptional drought with reservoirs at record low levels. OTAO staff used their firm yield reservoir model to visualize various drought scenarios and estimate future water availability under continuing drought conditions. They met with municipalities to allow them to visualize the impacts to their water supply as a result of the drought and predict what could happen if the drought continued. Through these actions, significant water conservation measures were implemented and a 30% reduction in deliveries, approximately 3500 acre-feet, was realized. Ancillary benefits included energy savings resulting from reduced pumping requirements, and improved recreation and fish and wildlife conditions due to higher reservoir levels.

Klamath Water Supply Meeting (OR/CA): On August 4, Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service regional management met in Klamath Falls, Oregon, to discuss the Klamath Basin's current water conditions and met with stakeholders to discuss water supply needs for the remainder of the 2014 water year. Frequent meetings and communications continue.

Aamodt Indian Water Rights Settlement Activities (NM): Reclamation and the Pueblo de San Ildefonso have both signed the Contributed Funds Agreement, which provides for environmental analysis and design work for additional water-related infrastructure projects requested by the Pueblo as authorized by the Aamodt Indian Water Rights Settlement. The Pueblo would like to transfer the funding as soon as possible. Reclamation also recently entered into a funding agreement, which allows the state of New Mexico to contribute its share of non-federal funding for the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System under the Aamodt Settlement. The state plans to send some initial funding soon to assist with planning and design activities.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
August 5 - 15, 2014

Message to the Secretary
Nothing to report.

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events
On **August 6**, Acting USGS Director Suzette Kimball will participate in the commissioning of the USGS research vessel Kaho in Oswego, N.Y. The R/V Kaho, built in 2011, operates on Lake Ontario participating in long-term data collections including population studies of prey fish and stocked lake trout, fish and environmental sampling for contaminants monitoring.

From **August 18 - September 2**, Acting Director Kimball will be on annual leave.

Public Announcements

Wednesday, August 6
News Release–Chloride Contamination of Wichita's Water Supply Inevitable Unless Actions Taken: On **August 6,** USGS will release a new model, developed in cooperation with the city of Wichita, Kansas, showing that chloride contamination of Wichita's primary water-supply source is inevitable unless actions are taken. Past oil and gas activities near Burrton, Kansas resulted in a plume of high-chloride groundwater northwest of the Wichita well field, which is an area that encompasses all of the groundwater wells within the city of Wichita. The chloride plume is currently moving toward that well field, threatening the part of the Equus Beds aquifer that supplies water to the city. A press release is planned to announce the report and groundwater animations detailing study results which will be available online.

Media Event & Advisory: Christening and commissioning of R/V Kaho: On **August 6,** USGS will celebrate the newest addition to its Great Lakes fleet of large research vessels, the R/V Kaho, with a christening and commissioning ceremony in Oswego, New York. The new research vessel will enable USGS to explore fish health and water-quality in Lake Ontario. USGS Acting Director, Suzette Kimball, will christen the vessel and others in attendance will include local and state elected officials, research partners from the State of New York, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Mohawk Tribe and First Nation representatives, and Canadian partners. A local media advisory will be distributed on **August 4**.

Thursday, August 7
Nothing to report.

Friday, August 8

Saturday & Sunday, August 9 & 10
Nothing to report.

Monday, August 11
Nothing to report.

Tuesday, August 12
Nothing to report.

Wednesday, August 13
Demonstration of Asian Carp controls: On **August 13**, USGS, in collaboration with the Illinois DNR, will demonstrate to Congressional staff a variety of Asian carp control techniques at our field site in Morris, Illinois. There will also be a tour of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois, led by the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers, and discussion of potential application of USGS Asian carp control tools at this location. A similar demonstration will be held for States and other partners on **August 14**.

Thursday, August 14

California water use data website goes live: On **August 14**, USGS will release 2010 estimated California water use data that will be made available through an interactive website. *[THIS IS **UPDATED** FROM LAST WEEK'S REPORT]*

Friday, August 15

Nothing to report.

TBD

Contributions of Landfill Leachate to the Environment: This week, a new USGS study to be published in the journal *Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts* provides a synopsis of contaminants of emerging concern (CEC) and other chemicals sampled from leachate – water that has percolated through a solid and leached out some of the constituents – at 19 landfills across the U.S. The study provides the first comprehensive characterization of CECs, including pharmaceuticals and personal care products, in U.S. landfills to date, and is the first step to quantify the contribution of leachate from active landfills on the environment. The findings are intended to inform current policies for chemical disposal. A news release is planned. *[THIS IS **UPDATED** FROM LAST WEEK'S REPORT]*

News Release–Urban development and nutrients: This week, the USGS will announce a new study that indicates urban development, turf in particular, is a major source of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus entering the watershed that flows into Barnegat Bay, New Jersey. *[THIS WAS IN LAST WEEK'S REPORT]*

News Release–Mapping Methane Gas Plumes in the Atlantic: In the **coming weeks**, a new study to be published in the journal Nature Geoscience maps methane plumes in the Atlantic Ocean. Researchers from the USGS Gas Hydrate and Geohazards Projects, along with colleagues from Mississippi State University and other institutions mapped approximately 570 methane gas plumes originating at seafloor cold seeps on the US Atlantic margin between Cape Hatteras and Georges Bank. Prior to this study, only three seep areas had been recognized beyond the shelf-break (nominal 180 m water depth) between Florida and Maine. Ocean warming on intra-annual, decadal, and millennial timescales may drive the breakdown of gas hydrate and release of methane at these depths, the first time this phenomenon has been recognized outside the Arctic. The upper slope methane plumes do not reach the ocean's surface, but plumes from shallow-water seeps, which were only partially mapped, can inject methane into the atmosphere, increasing the concentration of this greenhouse gas. A news release is planned.

News Release–Historic Walrus Population Decline: On August 8, USGS will brief local FWS officials in Anchorage, Alaska, and distribute a press release on an analysis of Pacific walrus population data circa 1981 to 1999. The population declined over that period, though the decline moderated in the 1990s. The press release will elaborate on some of the possible causes for this pattern and explains that the USGS is working to collect and analyze population data since 1999. The FWS is under a court mandate to make a listing determination for Pacific walrus by 2017. A press release will follow the briefing.

UOG resource assessment for northeast Mexico: In the **coming weeks**, the USGS plans to release the assessment of unconventional oil and gas resources in northeast Mexico. This assessment is part of the USGS project that is assessing the undiscovered, technically recoverable unconventional oil and gas resources (including shale oil and shale gas) of the world. The recent exponential development and production of oil and gas from many U.S. and Canadian unconventional accumulations has escalated geopolitical interest in accumulations occurring outside the U.S. Previously published USGS assessments of unconventional resources have included areas in Poland, India, China, Denmark, and several countries in South America. The northeast Mexico assessment is notable because there are substantial unconventional oil and gas resources in Texas and it

is reasonable to ask what unconventional resources might exist in adjacent areas of Mexico. The report will be available online but no news release is planned. *[THIS WAS IN LAST WEEK'S REPORT]*

News Release–Requiem for the Santa Cruz: In the **coming weeks**, USGS will announce the recently published book, *Requiem for the Santa Cruz: An Environmental History of an Arizona River* (University of Arizona Press). The new book examines and explains the ecological consequences of human-caused landscape change and unsustainable water use in a western watershed. This book was funded through USGS.

News Release–New Findings on amount of oil dispersed from DWH: In the **coming weeks**, a new USGS paper will be published in the journal *Organic Geochemistry* that describes the approach of using asphaltene content and composition to estimate original oil losses from the spilled oils during the first 80 days of the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill and provides new estimates of the amount of spilled surface oil lost by evaporation and photo-oxidation. The paper is in press and available online. *[THIS WAS IN LAST WEEK'S REPORT]*

News Release–The impact of road salt on watersheds: In the **coming weeks**, the USGS plans to announce new research about increasing chloride concentrations in streams associated with the use of road salt. The paper is pending journal approval, but approval is expected within the next week or two. A news release will be coordinated with the publication date. *[THIS WAS IN LAST WEEK'S REPORT]*

News Release–Upper Klamath ET Maps: At the **end of September**, USGS will distribute a press release or upcoming evapotranspiration maps of the upper Klamath Basin. The announcement will be coordinated with other local activities in the Klamath area.

Major Press Inquiries

***National Geographic* to feature USGS water data:** USGS scientists Eric Evenson and Nancy Barber have provided extensive historical and current water data in Western states for a major article on Western drought in the October issue of *National Geographic* (mid-September release).

***USA Today* Interview on Induced Earthquakes**: USGS scientist William Ellsworth has been coordinating with *USA Today* regarding a story on injection-induced earthquakes and a potential visit to a well near Greeley, CO, within the next week.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT:
ASSISTANT SECRETARY – POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
August 17 – August 26, 2014

Message to the Secretary

Nothing to report

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

A/S Rhea Suh will travel to San Francisco and Los Angeles to participate in informational community meetings with mainland Native Hawaiians regarding the Department's Native Hawaiian ANPRM.

Public Announcements

Wednesday, August 6

Nothing to report

Thursday, August 7

Nothing to report

Friday, August 8

Nothing to report

Saturday and Sunday, August 9 and August 10

Nothing to report

Monday, August 11

August 11-15, staff from ONRR's State and Tribal Support office conducts attestation engagements to assure the States and Tribes comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreements. ONRR scheduled the State of Montana attestation engagement for August 11-15, 2014 in Helena.

Tuesday, August 12

Nothing to report

Wednesday, August 13

August 13 and 15-16, ONRR continues outreach with individual Indian mineral owners to enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with BIA, BLM, and OST. ONRR scheduled outreach sessions with mineral owners at Nageezi, New Mexico, on August 13, 2014, and at the Crow Fair in Crow Agency, Montana, on August 15 and 16, 2014.

Thursday, August 14

Nothing to report

Friday, August 15

Nothing to report

Major Press Inquiries

Nothing to report.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

ONRR will provide an RIK background briefing to Senate Energy Committee staffers at their request. The invitation stems from the proposed House legislation entitled the "American Helium Security Act of 2014," which would authorize the Secretary to take helium in-kind. The proposed act's RIK language bears great similarity to the RIK language embodied in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY – INDIAN AFFAIRS AND THE BUREAUS OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND INDIAN EDUCATION
August 5 to 15, 2014

Optional Message to the Secretary

From ASIA: Nothing to report. Note: (b)(6) [redacted]

From Director BIA: Nothing to report.

From Director BIE: Thank you for the Indian Education discussion during your meeting with leadership of sister agencies. It was important for our leadership to hear Mr. Washburn's historical overview. That said, we now start the first school year under the new Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). We are working hard to make it as smooth as possible, but we would be kidding ourselves if it wasn't difficult. Finally, on July 31, the BIE submitted its fourth quarter corrective action plan as required by the U.S. Department of Education. The period covered by the report was April 1 to June 30, 2014.

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events

On August 5 and 6 Indian Affairs and BIA staff will make presentations at the BIA Midwest Region Partners in Action Conference in Minnesota. Staff will describe the proposed Gogebic Taconite Iron Mine which would be six miles upstream from the Bad River Indian Reservation in Wisconsin. The large open pit mine could have profound economic and environmental impacts in the area. Also, staff will present the Indian Child Welfare Act Guidelines for State Courts to share comment themes and hear from BIA social workers.

On August 6, the Indian Affairs' Office of Self-Governance will meet with the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for negotiations regarding a 2015 Funding Agreement.

On August 7, the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) will host the American Indian College Fund Research Conference on its campus in Albuquerque, NM.

On August 7and 8, the National Indian Education Study Technical Review Panel will meet in Bethesda, MD. The BIE Director will provide an update on recent changes in the BIE.

On August 7, COS Harris and leadership from PMB and SOL will conduct a tribal consultation regarding the proposed ANPRM on Native Hawaiian reorganization on the Mohegan Reservation in Connecticut. Following the consultation, the same group will lead a public meeting on the same topic.

On August 8, the BIE Director Roessel will provide an update on BIE activities to the Gila River Indian Community's Education Department during their Reservation Wide Teacher In-Service meeting in Phoenix, AZ. The meeting's theme is "Decade of Difference."
On August 8, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary will discuss with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians law enforcement and education funding needs.

On August 11, Indian Affairs' Office of Self-Governance will present on self-governance policy to the Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs. The presentation is part of the Justice Programs' Council on Native American Affairs

From August 11 to 16 Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Roberts will travel to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in a State Department delegation at the United Nations. The delegation will testify at a hearing on the US periodic report on compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. State and local delegation members include the Arkansas Attorney General and the Mayor of Birmingham, Alabama.

On August 13, the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute will participate in the quarterly meeting with New Mexico Tribal Colleges and New Mexico Higher Education Department, Institute of American Indian Arts.

Public Announcements

Tuesday, August 5
A Federal Register notice proclaiming certain lands as Reservation for the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians of Washington is proposed for publication today.

Indian Affairs will begin consulting on a proposed Rights-of-Way (25 CFR 169) rule which was published on Tuesday, June 17. AS-IA leadership will consult with tribes in Bismarck, ND.

Consultations continue in Scottsdale, AZ, on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to implement the special political and trust relationship between the Federal government and the Native Hawaiian community.

Wednesday, August 6
Indian Affairs will continue consulting on a proposed Rights-of-Way rule (25 CFR 169) with tribes Scottsdale, AZ.

In Prior Lake, MN, the BIA and the Indian Health Service will hold a regional consultation session with Indian tribes to identify long-term solutions concerning contract support costs.
Thursday, August 7

Notice of Approved Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact (between the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the State of Washington) is proposed for publication today in the Federal Registrar.

Indian Affairs will conclude consultation on a proposed Rights-of-Way (25 CFR 169) rule with a national teleconference consultation session.

Consultations on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to implement the special political and trust relationship between the Federal government and the Native Hawaiian community will conclude in Uncasville, CT.
Friday, August 8
Consultations continue in Seattle, WA on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to implement the special political and trust relationship between the Federal government and the Native Hawaiian community.

Saturday & Sunday August 9 & 10
Nothing to report

Monday, August 11
The Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs will travel to Seattle, WA to meet on the Puget Sound water rights settlement. The meeting will involve five tribes in the Northwest Region.

Tuesday, August 12
Nothing to report

Wednesday, August 13
Nothing to report

Thursday, August 14
Nothing to report

Friday, August 15
Nothing to report

Major Press Inquiries

Oregon Public Radio is asking how DOI's Blueprint for Reform for Indian education will affect BIE-operated schools in the Pacific Northwest, particularly Chemawa Indian School, and to talk with a BIE rep about it.

Futuro Media Group (www.futuromediagroup.org), an independent multimedia nonprofit organization that produces stories about the overlooked and underrepresented, is seeking the latest DUI statistics on Native Americans for a PBS public affairs series it's producing on the Three Affiliated Tribes and the impact of the recent oil boom on the tribe's lands.

County10.com, a local news site, is asking about an officer-involved shooting in Lander, WY, on the Wind River Reservation that occurred earlier this week.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Federal Acknowledgment: The comment deadline on the rule on federal acknowledgement (25 CFR 83) and the companion rule (43 CFR 4, Subpart K) has been extended to September 30.

GAO visit to Indian Affairs offices & BIE facilities: The week of August 18, 2014, GAO will visit the Office of Facilities Management and Construction (which is located within Indian Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary – Management), BIA and BIE Albuquerque offices as part of the GAO review of BIE school facilities, including dormitories and staff housing (code 131310). GAO also plans to visit nearby BIE owned/operated and grant schools.

SIPI Personnel Matter: Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) students who are displeased with the recent release of an instructor established a Facebook page for "character" letters that support the instructor. These same students will inform the media and a possible protest may occur in the future. The SIPI president informed the Board of Regents.

Marijuana and Detention Centers: The BIA's Office of Justice Services will follow up on two issues during the coming weeks. First, in late July the Office participated in a briefing for Representative Huffman regarding Law Enforcement Agencies on marijuana enforcement, particularly against large, outdoor, and environmentally harmful cultivators. Representative Huffman's interest is with the Yurok Reservation in California. Second, the Office is collaborating with the Department of Justice on Tribal Justice Construction and Renovation projects. Prior interagency conversations explored ways that Interior can better coordinate the funding and project management of the Department of Justice's Tribal Justice Infrastructure program.

Energy and Mineral Grant: Indian Affairs' Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development continue to encourage tribes to participate in an Energy and Mineral Development Program grant opportunity. The deadline for the grant application is August 25. The Office recently visited six Pueblo communities in New Mexico to explain the grant opportunity.

IBIA Timeline on Loan Decision: The Interior Board of Indian Appeals recently approved September 30, 2014, as the deadline for filing an administrative record in the Great American Life Insurance Company (Lower Brule) appeal. On June 27, 2014, the Board of Indian Appeals received a notice of appeal from the appellant, who seeks review of a June 17, 2014, adopting and affirming a December 23, 2013, decision to deny appellant's claim for loss under a loan guaranty issued by the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development.

St. Croix River Watershed: Department offices are preparing internally for a meeting with Passamaquoddy tribe on the Alewife Fishery Management on the St. Croix River Watershed. The meeting with the tribe is to be determined. The State of Maine, the Passamaquoddy and the Province of New Brunswick are impacted by the watershed's management. The Tribe would like the Department's assurance that the US will not allow Maine to curtail fish passage in the future. The Tribe has also requested reassurance that the International Joint Commission (IJC) is responsible for overseeing the management of the alewife fishery in the St. Croix River watershed. The US and Canada acknowledged IJC responsibility in 1925 as evidenced by diplomatic communications from the Secretary of State to the British Ambassador to the US. Nevertheless, the State of Maine has unilaterally closed alewife fish passage without IJC supervision, resulting in damage to the international ecosystem and Indian trust resources. Generally speaking, the IJC has two main responsibilities: regulating shared water uses and investigating solutions for transboundary issues

WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS (OST)
August 5th -August 15th, 2014

Message to the Secretary

Dear Secretary Jewell,

This Monday, the newly established OST Employee Programs coordinated a "meet and greet" reception for me to interact with the staff located at OST Headquarters-West in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This was a great opportunity for me to meet face-to-face with my staff and to fully engage with the organization.

(b)(5)

I look forward to our visit to Indian Country in mid-August. I intend to spend 20%-30% of my time, per quarter, meeting with beneficiaries and OST field staff. These outreach events will focus on educating beneficiaries about enhancing their understandings of how to best utilize OST services. Laying the foundation for developing new opportunities to further improve financial literacy is also going to be a key component of these meetings.

Vincent G. Logan
Special Trustee for American Indians (ST)

Highlights of Travel, Meetings, and other Public Events
None to report.

Public Announcements

Tuesday, August 5
None to report.

Wednesday, August 6
On August 6-9, the Anadarko and Concho Fiduciary Trust Officers (FTO) will participate in the 81st Annual American Indian Exposition at the Caddo County Fairgrounds in Anadarko, Oklahoma. OST will provide an informational booth, in partnership with Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR); Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Information regarding OST special projects, whereabouts unknown (WAU), direct deposit, Wills Project and the Land Buy-Back Program (LBBP) will be provided.

Thursday, August 7
On August 7-10, 2014, the Winnebago Agency staff will attend and staff an information table at the 210th Umonhon Hedewachi, also known as the Omaha Tribe Harvest Festival Powwow in Macy, Nebraska. OST will distribute information regarding OST trust services and the Land Buy-Back Program (LBBP).

Friday, August 8
On August 8-9, the Tulsa Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) will participate in the 37th Annual Powwow of Champions at The Mabee Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Information on OST services, LBBP, financial literacy educational services, and credit counseling will be provided.

Monday, August 11
On August 11, the Cherokee and Eastern Oklahoma Fiduciary Trust Officers (FTO) will attend the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council Meeting scheduled to be held in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The FTOs regularly attends these monthly meetings to maintain accountability to tribal leaders and beneficiaries.

Tuesday, August 12-Friday, August 15
None to report.

Major Press Inquiries
None to report.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues
None to report.

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WEEK-AHEAD REPORT: OFFICE of INSULAR AFFAIRS
August 6-15, 2014

Highlights (Chronologically) of Travel (AS-IN), Meetings and other Public Events

Nothing to report.

Public Announcements

August 6-15: nothing to report.

Major Press Inquiries

August 6-15: nothing to report.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Official Travel to Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau – The Director of OIA and OIA's Deputy Budget Director are accompanying OMB's Interior Branch Chief and DOI's Director of Budget August 2-16 for:

- meetings with the Governors of Guam and the CNMI, the President of Palau, the leadership of the Palau National Congress and the Commander of the Naval Forces Marianas and
- site visits to public high schools, universities, hospitals and utilities systems; the Brown Tree Snake Control Program; FWS and NPS facilities and the International Coral Reef Institute

Insular Developments on Capitol Hill –

- On August 7 the HHS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a tele-conference on the applicability of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to the territories. The purpose of the tele-conference is to explain further the July 16 CMS letters to the territorial governments stating that the lack of inclusion in the definition of *state* precludes territories from ACA insurance provisions. Territorial administrators and representatives from the Members' offices have been invited to participate.
- On July 31 Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (Dem.-Guam) introduced with Congressman Eni Hunkin Faleomavaega (Dem.-Am. Samoa) as an original co-sponsor legislation that would allow Government of Guam and American Samoa Government employees to participate in Social Security and Medicare. Congresswoman Bordallo's move was in response to a request of the Guam Legislature.

Fatal Flash Floods in American Samoa – On July 30 the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security confirmed the death of a sixteen-year-old girl who was swept out to sea on July 29, when the Faga'alu stream overflowed in the Village of Faga'alu in the Eastern District of Tutuila, American Samoa's principal island. In addition, landslides in the Gataivai section of the Village of Utulei (Eastern District of Tutuila) have demolished two houses and damaged a church. There was considerable water damage in the areas surrounding Pago Pago Bay. American Samoa Government offices re-opened on July 31. Estimated losses top $4,000,000. FEMA has reported that since July 29 American Samoa has received approximately fifteen inches of rainfall across Tutuila. According to FEMA there have been three unconfirmed fatalities and ten to twenty houses destroyed.

Mandatory evacuations remain in effect for fifty families. The American Samoa Government's Emergency Operations Center has been partially activated, and two shelters are open with eighty occupants.

Over Eight Million Dollars in July Through OIA to the Marshall Islands – Last month the Marshall Islands Ministry of Finance received Compact-funded payments through OIA totaling $8,003,293:

- July Education Sector Grant and the College of the Marshall Islands – $1,085,000
- July Health Sector Grant – $525,000
- July Kwajalein Atoll Environmental Impact Grant – $20,000
- July Ebeye Island Special Needs Education Grant – $160,000
- July Ebeye Island Special Needs Health Grant – $165,000
- July Environment Grant (Majuro Atoll Waste Company) – $79,000
- Majuro Atoll Solid Waste Infrastructure Grant – $545,900
- Fiscal Year 2014 Fourth-Quarter Kwajalein Atoll Landowner Payment – $3,000,000
- Enewetak Atoll Food and Agriculture Program – $270,000
- Fiscal Year 2013 Supplemental Education Grant – $1,174,563
- Four-Atoll Health Care Program – $879,004
- Technical Assistance Grant for Auditor General's Office – $14,006
- Technical Assistance Grant for Ministry of Public Works' Storm Sewer Project – $85,820

OIA Grant of $125,000 to American Samoa – With funds from OIA's Technical Assistance Program the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) has signed apprenticeship agreements with three students to study at the Manukau Institute of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand. The students will undergo a rigorous two-year program in electrical engineering followed by three years of field work. Upon completion of their certification program, the students will be required to work for ASPA for five years.

Jewell, Sally (b) (6) @ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, August 13, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Aug 13, 2014 at 7:02 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS REDDING AND DISCUSSES WILDFIRE PREVENTION. The Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight (8/13, 92K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "visited Redding on Tuesday and touted a new way to pay for fire prevention, which she said annually is looted to pay for fire suppression." Jewell "met with firefighters battling the thousands of acres burning across the North State and toured facilities at the Northern California Geographic Area Coordination Center in Redding." During her tour, Jewell said "federal officials

are caught in a downward spiral of taking money from fire prevention and using it for fire suppression." According to Jewell, "two bills in Congress, which the Obama administration supports, would change how firefighting is funded and prevent taking money from prevention."

Also covering the story is KFBK-AM Sacramento, CA (8/13).

Lightning Sparks Dozens Of New Fires In Northwest. The AP (8/13) reports that "lightning has started dozens of new wildfires in the Northwest, forcing incident commanders to juggle crews and equipment Tuesday as a new round of storms approached." President Barack Obama "signed a disaster declaration Monday for Washington state, where hundreds of homes have burned in wildfires in the past month." It "orders federal aid to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in Okanogan County and the Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation, and says federal funding also is available for hazard mitigation."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Bellingham (WA) Herald (8/12, 143K), the Clark County (WA) Columbian (8/12, 109K), and the York (SC) Enquirer-Herald (8/12, 18K). Additional coverage was provided by the Washington Post (8/13, 4.06M), the Denver Post (8/13, 923K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/13, 582K), and Fox News (8/13, 6.72M).

Man Pleads Not Guilty To 2013 Wildfire. The AP (8/12) reports that "a Northern California man accused of starting one of the state's largest wildfires when he lost control of his campfire last year can leave jail while the criminal case plays out in court, a federal judge said Tuesday." US District Magistrate Judge Gary Austin said Keith Matthew Emerald, 32, "can post a $60,000 property bond if he wants to go free." Austin also "set a list of conditions, including one that prohibits Emerald from lighting any campfires."

Also reporting on the story is the Los Angeles Times (8/13, Rocha, Mather, 3.42M).

SECRETARY JEWELL AGREES TO MEET WITH KLAMATH SALMON ADVOCATES. The AP (8/13) reports that Jewell "agreed to an impromptu meeting with salmon advocates demanding more water for salmon in Northern California's Klamath and Trinity rivers." After the Tuesday meeting in Redding, California, salmon advocate Regina Chichizola said Jewell "agreed to send someone to assess the situation, but made no promises." The article notes that "members of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and others have been pressing the Obama administration to release more water from Lewiston Dam on the Trinity."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/12, 582K), The Oregonian (8/13, 827K), KFMB-TV San Diego (8/13, 15K), KTVN-TV Reno, NV (8/13, 1K), and KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (8/13, 1K).

Also reporting on the story are the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (8/13, 76K) and KIEM-TV Eureka, CA (8/13, 428).

Secretary Jewell Urged To Consider Releasing Water From Trinity Lake. The Willits (CA) News (8/13, 10K) reports that "the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors took further action on the ongoing statewide drought during its Tuesday meeting by extending the local state of emergency and sending a letter to the federal government asking it to approve fish-kill preventative releases on the Klamath and Trinity rivers." The letter to the Jewell "urges her to consider releasing water from Trinity Lake into the Trinity and Klamath rivers to address low flows and warm temperatures that could lead to a potential fish kill."

The story also appears at the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (8/13, 76K).

SECRETARIES JEWELL, MONIZ DISCUSS ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "the Southwest needs a lot of work before it can overcome the challenges of exporting energy to markets, according to two officials in the Obama administration." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz met with dozens of tribal and state authorities on Monday "in Santa Fe, N.M., in an effort to develop recommendations on transmitting, storing and distributing energy." The two officials said "one of the biggest problems in tapping the region's great traditional and renewable energy potential was working across state lines and Native American jurisdictions to build pipeline and transmission projects."

Additional coverage was provided by the AP (8/13). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Worcester

(MA) Telegram & Gazette (8/11, 208K) and KOB-TV Albuquerque, NM (8/13, 59K).

Tribes Discuss Concerns At Energy Review Meeting. The Nation Sun News (8/13) reports that "tribal leaders took part in a day-long meeting hosted by the Department of Energy on Monday." Tribal officials "discussed jurisdictional issues at two panels during the meeting." They also offered comments to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC VEHICLES PUSHED DURING DREAM CRUISE WEEK. The Detroit News (8/13, Abdel-Razzaq, 495K) reports that the National Historic Vehicle Register Act of 2014 was "introduced at the end of July by U.S. Rep. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, and U.S. Rep. John Campbell, R-Calif." The measure would allow the Interior Department "to work with the Historic Vehicle Association, the world's largest historic vehicle owners group, to document and preserve the most significant automobiles around today." The article notes that "the announcement comes during the week of the Woodward Dream Cruise, which regularly draws tens of thousands of classic cars and hot rods to Metro Detroit."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR DESIGNATES PARCELS OFF NORTH CAROLINA COAST FOR WIND DEVELOPMENT. Additional coverage that the BOEM has designated three areas off the coast of North Carolina for the potential development of offshore wind power was provided by the AP (8/13).

Coverage by the AP as also picked up by the Columbus (IN) Republic (8/13, 81K), the Washington Times (8/12, 465K), the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (8/13, 857K), the Lakeland (FL) Ledger (8/12, 140K), WCTI-TV Greenville, NC (8/13, 52K), WHNS-TV Greenville, SC (8/13, 106K), and WITN-TV Washington, NC (8/13, 52K).

Also reporting on the story are the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (8/11, 456K), the Burlington (NC) Times-News (8/13, 57K), the Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (8/13, 405K), the North American Windpower (8/13, 43K), the Fierce Energy (8/13), the Clean Energy (8/12), and WUNC-FM Chapel Hill, NC (8/13, 15K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN RELATIONS. Additional coverage of Native Hawaiian relations was provided by the Government Executive (8/13, 28K).

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION URGED TO GIVE UP ON WEST DAVIS CORRIDOR. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/13, 470K) editorializes that the Utah Department of Transportation has "made a wise decision by delaying, again, moves toward building the planned West Davis Corridor freeway." But, according to the editorial, "it would be wiser still for UDOT to just come out and admit that the plan has so many deserved enemies, and so many serious flaws, that it should be shelved altogether, once and for all." The paper notes that "the official reason for yet another delay in the planning process, announced Monday, is that the state needs more time to fully examine an alternative, promoted by environmental groups, the US Interior Department and Corps of Engineers and some local elected officials, including those who run the city of Farmington."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NEW ROAD TO GRAND CANYON SKYWALK CELEBRATED. The AP (8/12) reports that "officials from the Hualapai Tribe gathered Tuesday for a ceremonial grand opening of a road that had been a major headache for tourists headed to the Grand Canyon Skywalk." According to the article, "crews recently paved the final 9-mile stretch of dirt and gravel road that had tour operators complaining of broken windows, flat tires, missing hubcaps and dust."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by Fox Business (8/12, 333K), Yahoo! (8/13, Fonseca, 10.35M) , the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/12, 582K) , the Kansas City (MO) Star (8/13, 1.39M), and the Durango (CO) Herald (8/12, 28K).

THREE BODIES FOUND ON MOUNT RAINIER NEAR WHERE CLIMBERS VANISHED. The Los Angeles Times (8/13, Queally, 3.42M) reports that "bodies of three people who may have been among six climbers killed in a fall on Mt. Rainier in late May were discovered last week, officials with the National Park Service said Tuesday." Patti

Wold, a spokeswoman for the NPS, said that "the three bodies were found last week during an aerial search of Carbon Glacier." According to the article, "though rescue crews were unable to identify the gender or ages of the victims, Wold said their bodies came to rest in the area where parks officials had been searching for the missing climbers." She said, "We're trying to figure out if there's a safe way to get in there so we can remove the remains and try to give their family some closure."

Also reporting on the story is Reuters (8/13, Cavaliere).

NUDISTS FIGHT NUDE BEACH BAN ON FIRE ISLAND. The New York Post (8/13, 2.52M) reports that "after Hurricane Sandy destroyed a large part of Fire Island's considerable dunes — essentially the curtain separating the lighthouse from the beach — park officials unceremoniously announced a ban on the clothing-optional section that comprised two 500-foot stretches." That has sparked a "grassroots movement against the ban on naked discrimination called 'Save Lighthouse Beach,' which is backed by the Naturist Action Committee, a national organization." The article notes that "last Saturday, hundreds of nudists turned out on the shore — some in semi-private camps partitioned off by makeshift curtains, others completely nude or in barely-there bottoms."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK CONSIDERS CLOSING CRATER TRAIL. The Sky-Hi Daily News (CO) (8/13, 728) reports that "due to excessive erosion and damage to sensitive natural and cultural resources, the Crater Trail, a short trail located on the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park, will remain closed to use for the remainder of this year, according to the National Park Service." Moreover, "park staff are considering closing the Crater Trail permanently." Park personnel say "the trail is not sustainable in its current location and is subject to erosion, which is damaging cultural and natural resources, including alpine tundra," and "improving the trail in its current location is not desirable because the cost of long term maintenance would be excessive, according to park officials."

GREENS BAYOU COALITION WORKS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS. The Houston Chronicle (8/13, Meeks, 2.02M) reports that "since 2007, the Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition has been working to make improvements along the way." The article notes that "most recently, it completed a strategic plan for a 27.5-mile bayou paddle trail, the creation of the Ida Gaye Park for seniors in north Houston and a master plan that outlines parks and trail projects for the entire span of the bayou." The coalition developed its master plan in partnership with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

WOMAN ACCUSED OF STEALING $42,000 FROM YOSEMITE CHILD CARE CENTER. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/12, 582K) reports that "a 40-year-old Sonora woman is accused of embezzling more than $42,000 from the Yosemite National Park Child Care Center, US Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced Tuesday." Charity Brocchini was "served a summons to appear Tuesday in the case, according to a press release from Wagner's office." According to the article, "a federal grand jury in Fresno on Thursday returned with an indictment, charging her with two counts of wire fraud and one count of embezzlement concerning a program receiving federal funds."

NEW SUPERVISOR OF FOUR NPS SITES ANNOUNCED. The Rock Hill (SC) Herald (8/12, 112K) reports that John Slaughter, "a 13-year veteran of the National Park Service and supervisor of two US parks in South Carolina, has been named supervisor of a newly formed federal park group." Slaughter will "supervise Kings Mountain National Military Park, Cowpens National Battlefield, Ninety Six National Historic Site and the Overmountain Victory National Historical Trail." Slaughter said, "These four National Park sites play a significant role in preserving and making relevant the history of a fledgling nation, especially that of American Revolutionary War battles in the Southern states."

Also reporting on the story is the Charlotte (NC) Observer (8/12, 544K).

NPS URGED TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO DEAL WITH GROWING DENALI NATIONAL PARK CROWDS. For the Anchorage (AK) Dispatch News (8/12, 251K), John Schandelmeier writes that as visitors to Denali National Park grows, the NPS "may need to consider some changes." According to Schandelmeier, "wildlife viewing opportunities remain excellent, especially for grizzlies and caribou," but, "the quality of the experience is steadily declining due to crowds of people everywhere." He concludes that "now is the time to solve the congestion that is beginning to defeat the basic premise of the park."

Bureau of Land Management:

NEW BLM CHIEF FOR COLORADO VISITS DURANGO. The Durango (CO) Herald (8/12, 28K) reports that "the new director of the Bureau of Land Management for Colorado arrived in Durango on Tuesday for a four-day orientation tour of Southwest Colorado." Ruth Welch will "visit Silverton; the ghost town of Animas Forks; BLM holdings around Durango, including the Perins Peak State Wildlife Area and Grandview; the Tres Rios field office in Dolores; and the Spring Creek area." Welch said, "A major goal will be to balance development and conservation. I have the collaborative skills to bring diverse elements to the table."

BLM DELAYS WYOMING WILD HORSE ROUNDUP. The County 10 (8/12) reports that the BLM has "agreed to delay the proposed roundup of more than 800 wild horses in Wyoming to allow the court time to rule on a motion for a temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction filed late Friday by the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign (AWHPC), The Cloud Foundation, Return to Freedom, and wild horse photographers Carol Walker, Wild Horse Freedom Federation Board Member, and Kimerlee Curyl." The bureau has "agreed to postpone the roundup until at least September 1, in order to give the court time to rule on the motion."

Film Aims To Save Wild Horses. The Chicago Sun-Times (8/12, 1.03M) reports that "Jennifer Gage, a South Barrington resident who's been involved in animal rescue efforts for most of her adult life, is hosting a special screening" of "American Mustang" at "the AMC South Barrington 30 on Aug. 20, in an effort to promote an awareness of the troubling circumstances the US Bureau of Land Management has imposed on the American mustang."

BLM PLANS TO SELL 40 PARCELS OF PUBLIC LAND IN CLARK COUNTY. KSNV-TV Las Vegas (8/13, 12K) reports that the BLM "plans to sell 40 parcels of public land in Clark County totaling 516.8 acres, the agency announced Monday." The article notes that "the funds from the sale of the land will be used throughout Nevada for projects including the development of parks, trails and natural areas, capital improvements on federal lands, acquisition of environmentally sensitive land and landscape restoration projects."

Also reporting on the story is the Las Vegas Review-Journal (8/13, 386K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS WITHDRAWS PROPOSED PROTECTIONS FOR WOLVERINES. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that the FWS announced Tuesday that "it would not list the American wolverine as a threatened species, against the advice of its own biologists." The article notes that "the decision is sure to spark outrage among environmentalists who say climate change will drastically reduce the wolverine's snowy habitat in the next few decades." However, "predicting the effect of global warming on a specific species is difficult, and states have argued that such predictions are premature." In a statement, FWS Director Dan Ashe "emphasized that while climate change has real consequences, its effect on wolverines is uncertain."

The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that Ashe said that "he was 'proud' of his agency's decision to not list the American wolverine as a threatened species, even as environmental groups announced their plans to challenge it in court." Environmental groups said that the FWS was "ignoring the 'best available science' on climate change as well as other threats to wolverines, such as their low numbers and limited genetic diversity." A coalition of nine groups said "they would sue FWS for refusal to protect wolverines under the Endangered Species Act."

The AP (8/13) notes that "the decision carries potential ramifications for other species affected by climate change — including Alaska's bearded seals, the Pacific walrus and dozens of species of corals — as scientists and regulators grapple with limits on computer climate models."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/12, 582K), the San Francisco Chronicle (8/13, 2.87M), the St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (8/13, 558K), the Fort Wayne (IN) Journal-Gazette (8/13, 172K), the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (8/13, 90K), the US News & World Report (8/12, 645K), Yahoo! (8/13, Brown, 10.35M) , and WJBK-TV Detroit (8/13, 216K). Earlier coverage by the AP was provided by the Washington Times (8/12, 465K), the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (8/12, 170K), the Guardian (UK) (8/12, 1.96M), Yahoo! (8/13, Brown, 10.35M), NWCN-TV Seattle (8/13, 48K) , and KING-TV Seattle (8/13, 191K).

Also reporting on the story are The Hill (8/13, Cama, 237K), Reuters (8/13, Zuckerman), the Los Angeles Times (8/13, Sahagun, 3.42M), the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/13, 470K), the Denver Post (8/13, Finley, 923K), the Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice (8/12, 506), the Idaho Statesman (8/12, 222K), the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (8/12, 353K), the Prairie (MT) Star (8/13), the Boise State (ID) Public Radio (8/13), the Oregon Public Broadcasting (8/13, 4K), NBC News (8/13, 7.5M), KCSG-TV St. George, UT (8/13, 43), KWYB-TV Butte, MT (8/13), KCET-TV Los Angeles (8/13, 15K), KECI-TV Missoula, MT (8/13, 2K), and KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (8/13, 1K).

FWS WANTS BLM, STATES TO SHOW LOCAL SAGE GROUSE EFFORTS ARE WORKING. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "if state land-management programs and partnerships are as successful in protecting the greater sage grouse as Western leaders argue they are, the Fish and Wildlife Service wants to see the proof." The agency has "alerted state governors, local leaders and private groups, as well as the Bureau of Land Management and American Indian tribes, that it wants information on these efforts as part of its ongoing review of the sage grouse and whether the bird should be proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act by a September 2015 deadline." Specifically, the FWS "wants detailed data on the regulations, plans and projects that have been implemented, or that are expected to be implemented, to protect the greater sage grouse and its dwindling sagebrush steppe habitat."

Also covering the story are the Deseret (UT) News (8/13, 538K) and KXLO-FM Lewiston, MT (8/13).

FWS DECIDES NOT TO ISSUE NEW PROTECTIONS FOR WARTON'S CAVE MESH WEAVER. The Hill (8/13, Devaney, 237K) reports that the FWS "announced Tuesday it will not issue new protections for a small species of spiders without eyes, known as Warton's cave mesh weaver or Cicurina wartoni." According to the article, "animal conservation groups had petitioned the FWS to add the eyeless spider to the Endangered Species List, but the agency determined it is not distinct enough from other types of spiders to warrant its own protections."

WILD HORSES ON OUTER BANKS FACE THREATS. McClatchy (8/13, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that the wild horses on North Carolina's Outer Banks "now face serious threats, say those who manage the herd: a boom in McMansion-style vacation homes on this once-pristine stretch of coast and federal policies that are leaving the mustangs severely inbred and starting to suffer from genetic deformities." The government has "described the herd, some of the last remaining wild horses in the Eastern United States, as pests that compete for resources with federally protected birds." Rep. Walter Jones "unanimously passed his bill in 2012 and 2013 to allow the herd to grow to 130 horses and to let the Corolla Wild Horse Fund bring a few horses from the Shackleford Banks, on another island at the far southern tip of the Outer Banks, in order to infuse some fresh genes into the herd." However, "the bill has been opposed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and it goes nowhere in the Senate."

NEW YORK PASSES LAW AGAINST IVORY TRADE. The New York Times (8/12, 9.79M) reports that "New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday signed one of the toughest laws in the nation banning the sale of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns as a 'stand against a dangerous and cruel industry.'" New York will "not allow trade in anything but 100-year-old antiques with small amounts of ivory (and documented proof of provenance), musical instruments made before 1975, pieces used for education or scientific purposes such as museums and items handed down through estates." According to the article, "if it works as intended, the flow of ivory into New York — often ranked the number one importer of ivory in the United States — should soon slow to virtually nothing."

Additional coverage of ivory regulations was provided by the International Business Times (8/13, 697K).

OHIO AIRPORT PLANTS TALL GRASS TO AVOID BIRD-PLANE COLLISIONS. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "one Ohio airport is experimenting with a natural remedy to prevent bird-plane collisions, which cost the aviation industry an estimated $950 million a year and countless birds their lives." Dayton International Airport, "a small 56-commercial-flight-a-day airport, saw 218 wildlife strikes between 2001 and 2013, but instead of shooting or poisoning the birds as other airports have, officials teamed up with the nearby Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm to convert 300 acres of buffer zones around runways to tall prairie grass." Officials "hope the grass will ward off birds that like to land in the open areas surrounding airports."

MAN SENTENCED FOR TRAFFICKING IN LOBSTERS. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that a Florida man on

Monday "pleaded guilty and was sentenced for trafficking spiny lobsters." US District Judge James Lawrence King sentenced Eric Burman, "60, to three years of probation and a $250,000 fine."

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE: NO PLANS TO BRING GRIZZLIES BACK TO CALIFORNIA. In a letter to the Los Angeles Times (8/12, 3.42M), FWS Director Dan Ashe asserts that the FWS has "absolutely no intention of reintroducing grizzlies" to California.

US Geological Survey:

USGS MONITORING LANDSLIDE RISK IN COLORADO. KUSA-TV Denver (8/12, 226K) reports that the USGS have "been keeping an eye on Colorado" for landslides and mudslides. The USGS "recently completed a study of landslides that occurred during the September 2013 floods."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND INDUSTRY FACES UNCERTAIN POLITICAL LANDSCAPE. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "the wind industry is touting increased construction activity and power purchases from some of the country's largest companies to argue for an extension of its key federal incentive – amid an uncertain political landscape that could be heavily influenced by the outcome of November's election for control of the Senate." The article notes that "gridlock on Capitol Hill has so far prevented a renewal of the production tax credit, which expired last year alongside dozens of ostensibly temporary 'tax extenders.'" According to the article, "while the credit enjoys bipartisan backing, Democrats are more unified in support of the PTC and other clean energy incentives, while resistance has grown among Republicans, fueled partly by critiques leveled from outside conservative groups." The article notes that "the industry has been working to boost its allies in both parties, but an analysis of Senate contributions from the American Wind Energy Association's political action committee and some of its leading companies shows an emphasis on giving to Democrats up for re-election and far less to Republicans in tough races, according to an analysis of contributions that have been reported so far this cycle."

BLM ADVANCING CHOKECHERRY AND SIERRA MADRE WIND ENERGY PROJECT TOWARD CONSTRUCTION PHASE. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that the Obama Administration "continues to move a massive wind farm project that proposes to string together 1,000 turbines across nearly 220,000 acres of public and private lands in southeast Wyoming closer to construction." The BLM this week "issued a preliminary environmental assessment (EA) of some of the infrastructure projects needed to build the massive Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project, which would have the capacity to produce up to 3,000 megawatts of electricity, making it the biggest power-producing wind farm in North America." In addition to the EA, the bureau "this week also released a draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) concluding that the project would not cause any significant additional impacts beyond what was analyzed in the final EIS and ROD nearly two years ago."

MEETINGS ON OFFSHORE WIND POSTPONED. The Cape Cod (MA) Times (8/12, 97K) reports that "a series of meetings planned by the federal agency for permitting offshore wind energy projects to show what turbines in areas off Martha's Vineyard and Rhode Island might look like and to answer questions have been postponed." According to a notice from the BOEM, "the meetings, including a session on Nantucket originally scheduled for later today, were postponed due to 'unforeseen scheduling conflicts.'" Officials "hope to reschedule the meetings, which were planned for Nantucket, Vineyard Haven, Block Island in Rhode Island and at the University of Rhode Island over the next two weeks, next year."

Onshore Energy Development:

SETTLEMENT OBVIATES YEARS OF LITIGATION OVER COLORADO DRILLING. The AP (8/12, 582K) reports that a settlement between the Federal and local governments in Colorado will end "several years of litigation" over drilling on the Roan Plateau. Under the settlement, Bill Barrett Corp. will be reimbursed $28 million to relinquish Federal oil and gas leases in controversial areas of the plateau, but will be allowed to drill in less

disputed areas.

The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (8/13, 27K) reports that "the Hickenlooper administration believes a settlement that allows some energy development to proceed while protecting other areas of the Roan Plateau is in the interest of all parties," according to Henry Sobanet, director of Hickenlooper's Office of State Planning and Budgeting. The proposed settlement has been lauded by Barrett Corp., environmental groups, and the Federal government as a "win-win," although some local governments have expressed uncertainty.

TRIBES URGED TO BAN FRACKING ON RESERVATIONS. The Nation Sun News (8/13) reports that "Last Real Indians (LRI) and Honor the Earth are among Native American organizations calling for pressure on tribal councils to approve anti-fracking resolutions, as efforts increase to drill for fossil fuel in treaty territory." LRI's Matt Remle said, "This relatively new form of extracting oil and natural gas is generating serious environmental impacts, depletion of aquifers and negatively impacting human health." Honor the Earth "contends that wastewater produced 'is polluted with hazardous fracking chemicals, oil and hydrocarbons, radioactive radon, and biocides, and there is no process or technique for treating this water.'"

TEXAS' DRILLING INDUSTRY MAKES PROGRESS ON WASTEWATER RECYCLING. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "under pressure during a drought, Texas' drilling industry is making progress in wastewater recycling." According to Marcus Gay, a former water analyst at HIS, "in Texas' Eagle Ford and Permian Basin, 10 to 20 percent of water used in hydraulic fracturing comes from recycling now, and that figure will double in the next 10 years." However, "despite growing pressure, wastewater recycling remains a costly process that not all companies can afford, making buying fresh water the go-to option even as the state's aquifers drain."

TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION PROPOSES NEW RULES TO ADDRESS INCREASED SEISMIC ACTIVITY. The Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (8/12, Baker, 550K) reports that the Texas Railroad Commission proposed new rules today in an attempt to address the increase in earthquakes. The new rules would require drillers to provide additional information before drilling in areas where there has been seismic activity and would allow the commission to suspend or terminate a permit if a problem with the injection well does occur. The commission had faced criticism "for not acting more quickly to determine if wastewater injections wells" are linked to the increase in seismic activity.

FRACKING OCCURS AT SHALLOWER DEPTHS THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT, NEW RESEARCH SHOWS. The Los Angeles Times (8/13, Banerjee, 3.42M) reports that new research shows that fracking is occurring at far shallow depths than was previously thought. The industry "has long held that it does not hydraulically fracture into underground sources of drinking water" because oil and gas deposits sit far deeper than aquifers, however, the study shows drilling occurring at 700 to 750 feet. The study's authors say that "any fracking within a thousand feet of the surface should be more clearly documented and face greater scrutiny" because the effects on groundwater resources at this level are not known.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM FUNDS PROJECT TO CATALOG GEORGIA'S SAND. The Savannah (GA) Morning News (8/12, 226K) reports that "as Tybee Island prepares for its latest beach renourishment, scheduled to begin in November, a Skidaway researcher is cataloging Georgia's sand resources." UGA Skidaway Institute professor Clark Alexander is "heading up the effort to describe what's known about the sand off the Peach State and identify where data gaps exist." According to the article, "the $200,000 project, funded by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, focuses on the area 3-8 miles offshore, but Alexander will catalog inshore areas as well."

OYSTER HARVESTS DECLINE AFTER GULF SPILL. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "oyster harvests in the Gulf of Mexico have dramatically declined in the four years since BP PLC's Deepwater Horizon oil spill, raising concerns among fishermen." According to the article, "oyster beds where oil once washed ashore are producing less than a third of their pre-spill harvest." Meanwhile, "BP contends it is not to blame for the oyster downturn."

The AP (8/12) reports that BP senior vice president Geoff Morrell argues that "data from government studies have indicated it is likely due to other condition." Regardless of the cause, "the harvest is way down, and prices are way up as a result."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INVESTIGATION URGES NEW OFFSHORE WELL BOLT STANDARDS. Additional coverage of the review of "bolting/connector performance in subsea marine applications" was provided by the Rigzone (8/13, 8K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

DROPPING LAKE MEAD WATER LEVELS RAISES CONCERNS. The AP (8/13, Ritter) reports that "the receding shoreline" at Lake Mead, "one of the main reservoirs in the vast Colorado River water system is raising concerns about the future of a network serving a perennially parched region home to 40 million people and 4 million acres of farmland." According to the article, "marina operators, water managers and farmers who for decades have chased every drop of water across the booming Southwest and part of Mexico are closely tracking the reservoir water level already at its lowest point since it was first filled in the 1930s." the article notes that "last week, officials announced an $11 million pilot program involving the federal government and water agencies in Denver, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Phoenix to pay farmers, cities and industries to reduce river water use." This week, an update from the BOR will "help set the course for water deliveries for the next two years."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (8/12, 4.06M), the Arizona Republic (8/12, 1.26M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/12, 582K), the US News & World Report (8/12, 645K), and KSL-TV Salt Lake City (8/13, 1.07M).

Also providing coverage is the Gant (PA) Daily (8/12, 3K).

RECYCLED WATER PIPELINE TO COOMBSVILLE CELEBRATED. The Napa Valley (CA) Register (8/13, 50K) reports that "after 15 years of planning and fundraising, crews are preparing to break ground on a pipeline that will deliver 700 acre feet of recycled water annually from Napa Sanitation District to the groundwater-deficient area that drains Milliken, Sarco and Tulocay creeks east of the city Napa." According to the article, "with that major milestone looming, elected officials from the city of Napa and Napa County were in a mood to celebrate Tuesday afternoon at the Napa Valley Country Club, the eventual destination of the 5-mile pipeline and a major source of funding for the $13.3 million project." The article notes that "a series of kudos were directed Tuesday at a citizens group that pushed for the pipeline in 1999, Napa County Supervisor Keith Caldwell, who helped give the project momentum after being elected in 2008, and the US Bureau of Reclamation, which provided grants that cover 25 percent of the cost."

Empowering Native American Communities:

PROPOSED RULES COULD LEAD TO MORE RECOGNIZED TRIBES, MORE CASINOS. McClatchy (8/12, Hotakainen, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that new rules proposed by the Obama Administration "would give more tribes a faster track at joining the ranks of the recognized by making it easier for them to prove their legitimacy." This recognition "recognition makes a tribe eligible for more federal benefits and is a prerequisite to apply for the biggest prize of all: the right to run a casino." The rules "have won backing from large tribal groups," but are "generating lots of controversy." The Bureau of Indian Affairs has set a September 30 deadline for public comment and "will then decide whether to adopt the rules." Opponents of gambling argue that the proposed rules are too lenient and should be abandoned, while some smaller tribes contend that the rules "are too onerous, fearing they'll still be denied the recognition they've sought for decades."

TRIBES PRAY FOR RETURN OF SALMON TO COLUMBIA RIVER. The E&E Daily (8/12) reports that "from the mouth of the Columbia River near Portland, Ore., to its Canadian headwaters, American Indian tribes, Canadian First Nations, religious leaders and local residents have been praying for the return of salmon to the river's upper reaches." The article notes that "their 16 days of vigils, which will wrap up this weekend in remote British Columbia, come as the United States and Canada are preparing to renegotiate a treaty that could alter the future of the largest North American river to empty into the Pacific Ocean." The article notes that "the salmon issue has divided both the US and Canadian regional bodies charged with advising their respective federal governments about the river's management, but their reports indicate neither country is ready to end the treaty relationship that regulates the Columbia River for flood protection and power generation."

Top National News:

VIOLENT PROTESTS CONTINUE IN MISSOURI AS OBAMA PLEADS FOR "REFLECTION AND UNDERSTANDING." Last night and this morning, the violence sparked by the fatal shooting over the weekend in Ferguson, Missouri continued to generate a great deal of media coverage – although less so than a day earlier when all three network newscasts led with reports on the shooting and the subsequent violent protests. On Tuesday, all three networks mentioned that President Obama had released a statement offering condolences to the victim's family and urging restraint on the part of those angered by the circumstances of the shooting. However, the President's statement is not the focus of much of the print and online reporting on the ongoing controversy.

The three Tuesday evening network newscasts devoted about six and a half minutes combined to the ongoing controversy in Ferguson, which was slightly less air time than they gave to reports on floods and the situation in Iraq – and all three of those topics combined only barely beat out the nearly 20 minutes the networks gave to remembrances of Robin Williams.

On NBC Nightly News (8/12, story 3, 2:05, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported that on Monday night, "suburban St. Louis...looked like a police state" as "police...once again had to put down and head off violence in the streets." John Yang went on to report that President Obama has "issued a statement from his Martha's Vineyard vacation saying, 'we should comfort each other and talk with one another in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds.'"

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (8/13, 938K) reported on Tuesday afternoon that the President had "just issued a statement calling for 'reflection and understanding' in the wake of the police shooting death of Michael Brown on Saturday."

The Chicago Tribune (8/13, 2.19M) notes that Tuesday's statement was the President's "first comment on the death of...Brown," which "touched off clashes between demonstrators and police in the racially divided city." The Washington Times (8/13, Boyer, 465K) describes Ferguson as "predominantly black," while USA Today (8/13, Alcindor, Piper, Bacon, 5.76M) reports that Ferguson is "nearly 70% black." According to the Wall Street Journal (8/13, Kesling, Peters, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), just three of Ferguson's 53 police officers are African-American.

On ABC World News (8/12, story 5, 2:05, Muir, 5.84M), Steve Osunsami reported that on Monday night, "young people on the streets clashed with police who used tear gas and rubber bullets." On the CBS Evening News (8/12, story 10, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley briefly noted the President's statement, and then correspondent Dean Reynolds reported that on Monday night, "young people" in Ferguson "threw rocks" at the police, who "responded with rubber bullets and tear gas." Reynolds went on to interview a Ferguson resident who said that in addition to throwing rocks, some protesters were firing guns.

USA Today (8/13, Alcindor, Piper, Bacon, 5.76M) reports that Ferguson Police Chief Thomas Jackson "said protesters Monday night threw rocks at police, and that gunfire came from the crowd, so officers used tear gas and shot 'beanbag rounds' meant to stun them." The Los Angeles Times (8/13, Pearce, 3.42M) reports that "St. Louis' predominantly black northern quarter has teetered toward chaos the last four days" as "stores have been looted" and "teens have hurled rocks at cops."

The Washington Post (8/13, Lowery, Zezima, Berman, 4.06M) reports that the President said his Administration will "continue to direct resources to the case as needed," and that Attorney General Holder "has said the Department of Justice is investigating the shooting." The Post also notes that "not long after Obama's statement, the Federal Aviation Administration said that it had banned flights from operating below 3,000 feet over Ferguson, at the request of" the St. Louis County Police Department, which had a helicopter "shot at 'multiple times on Sunday night,'" according to a police spokesman.

According to the Washington Times (8/13, Boyer, 465K), on Monday night, Ferguson's police officers "fired tear gas into a crowd of protesters...after a second day of unrest that included looting, arson, vandalized vehicles and people throwing rocks at police." Politico (8/12, Mccalmont, 637K) reported that in the statement he released on

Tuesday, the President "acknowledged" the continuing violence in Ferguson when he wrote: "I know the events of the past few days have prompted strong passions."

The Huffington Post (8/12, Terkel, 11.54M) reported that the Ferguson Police Department says Brown "assaulted the officer" who subsequently shot him in self defense, but "eyewitnesses...have disputed that claim and said Brown was killed while attempting to surrender or flee." The Huffington Post also reported that in the ensuing protests, "at least four people have been injured and 47 people have been arrested so far," as "looting and vandalism have been reported in the area." The New York Times (8/13, Storey, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reported that "most of the protesters" in Ferguson on Monday night "[do] not live in the area."

CBC Seeks DOJ Investigation Of Ferguson Police. The Hill (8/12, Swanson, Sink, 237K) reported that the Congressional Black Caucus is urging the Justice Department to probe "any pattern or practice of police misconduct by the Ferguson Police Department." Roll Call (8/12, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that CBC chair Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) "co-signed a letter Monday evening addressed to" Attorney General Holder, along with Reps. John Conyers (D-MI) and William Lacy Clay (D-MO), "who represents the Ferguson area."

According to the New York Times (8/13, Vega, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), "The speed with which the shooting...has resonated on social media has helped propel and transform a local shooting into a national cause, as African-American commenters draw attention to continued incidents of blacks being shot by police and the media portrayals of young black men."

The Belleville (IL) News-Democrat (8/13, 152K) reports that Tracy Martin, the mother of Trayvon Martin, who was "was fatally shot by...George Zimmerman, on Feb. 26, 2012," has "called for peaceful protests in the wake of" Brown's death.

The Daily Caller (8/12, Ross, 408K) reported that MSNBC's Al Sharpton "traveled to Ferguson on Tuesday" and "urged local citizens to avoid violence while calling for the federal government to take over the investigation into Brown's death." Author Joseph Epstein, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/13, Epstein, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), cites the aftermath of the shooting as evidence that the African-American community lacks leaders of the stature of those who led the fight for civil rights in the 1950s and '60s.

DOJ Is Already Conducting National Review Of Some Police Tactics. According to USA Today (8/13, Johnson, 5.76M), the Justice Department is already "leading a broad review of police tactics, including the kind of deadly force that prompted recent protests in Missouri and New York." USA Today adds that "in addition to deadly force, the review is expected to examine law enforcement's increasing encounters with the mentally ill, the application of emerging technologies such as body cameras, and police agencies' expanding role in homeland security efforts since 9/11."

Ferguson Police Decline To Identify Officer Who Shot Brown. The Huffington Post (8/13, Cadet, 11.54M) reported that on Tuesday, the Ferguson police department announced that it "will not release the name of the officer involved in the fatal shooting," which was "an apparent shift after Chief Thomas Jackson initially said that the name would be released by 12 p.m. on Tuesday." According to the Huffington Post, the Ferguson police "reportedly chose to delay releasing the name out of fear for the officer's safety." The New York Times (8/13, Bosman, Williams, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that Chief Thomas Jackson said on Tuesday that "the value of releasing the name is far outweighed by the risk of harm to the officer and his family."

NYTimes: "White Power Structure Dominates" Ferguson's Government And Police Dept. The New York Times (8/13, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), in an editorial, contends that a "history of racial segregation, economic inequality and overbearing law enforcement...produced so much of the tension now evident on the streets." According to the Times, St. Louis "has long been one of the nation's most segregated metropolitan areas," which the Times says has a "white power structure that dominates City Councils and police departments like the ones in Ferguson."

OMB NOW ALLOWS LOBBYISTS TO SERVE ON GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BOARDS. USA Today (8/13, Schouten, 5.76M) reports that the Administration has "dropped its blanket ban on federal lobbyists serving on advisory panels after losing a court battle on the issue earlier this year." According to USA Today, "Under the

new rules, the ban no longer applies when federal lobbyists represent trade associations, unions, companies, state or local governments and other groups," including "environmental organizations." USA Today adds that OMB says "federal lobbyists still cannot serve on commissions solely as private citizens."

The New York Times (8/13, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) says the announcement is "the latest example of the limits of the president's effort to rein in the influence of special interests in government." The Times notes that the President "signed an order on his first day in office in 2009 prohibiting" lobbyists "from serving in his administration," but has since "made a number of exceptions to that rule and has hired lobbyists for several important jobs." The Times also notes that "critics argue that the president's position has led to unintended consequences, prompting some operatives to refrain from registering as lobbyists merely to preserve the option of working with the administration," although "they are essentially doing the same thing as a lobbyist."

Bloomberg News (8/13, Talev, 2.76M) reported that OMB communications director Melanie Roussell says "the purpose of the prohibition is 'to restrict the undue influence of lobbyists on the federal government' and was 'not designed to prevent lobbyists or others from petitioning their government.'" However, The Hill (8/12, Wilson, 237K) reported that "the policy change...chips away at one of the main firewalls that President Obama had erected between K Street and government." Reuters (8/13, Felsenthal) covered the announcement from OMB in article titled, "White House Loosens Restrictions On Lobbyists."

Politico Analysis: Obama Administration Has Hired "About 70" Lobbyists. In an article published early Tuesday morning, Politico (8/12, Tau, 637K) reported that the Administration "has hired about 70 previously registered corporate, trade association and for-hire lobbyists," including "well-known Democratic lobbyist" Broderick Johnson, "a top aide to Obama as a liaison between federal agencies and the White House," who was employed as a "consultant" for Microsoft, Pearson, Globalstar, Comcast and FedEx "right up until he started to work at the White House." According to Politico, "Johnson's trip from registered lobbyist to...White House staffer violates the spirit of Obama's pledge to keep special interests out of his White House."

CLINTON CALLS OBAMA IN WAKE OF CONTROVERSIAL FOREIGN POLICY COMMENTS. Media coverage on Hillary Clinton's call to President Obama highlights both camps' efforts to minimize any talk of serious discrepancies between the President and his erstwhile secretary of state. Virtually all print accounts include language from a statement put out by a Clinton spokesman which stated that Clinton "looks forward to hugging it out" with Obama when they meet. Coverage of the call also overshadowed Obama adviser David Axelrod's comments earlier Tuesday, in which he had responded to Clinton's criticism of Obama. The story was not covered by the network newscasts, but was mentioned on some cable news shows.

Wolf Blitzer reported on CNN's Situation Room (8/12, 554K) that Hillary Clinton placed a call to the President "in the aftermath of an interview she did in which she seemed to suggest she was distancing herself from him on a key foreign policy issue." Brianna Keilar added that the White House is "really trying to downplay the differences here after...Clinton called the President to smooth things over." A Clinton spokesman said in a statement that she called the President to "make sure that he knows nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership." However, Clinton's "hawkish comments here really getting not under the skin of the Obama camp, but a lot of liberal activists, who are very upset with her."

The AP (8/13, Pickler) notes "the call came on the eve of a party on Martha's Vineyard that Clinton and Obama planned to attend." Clinton "is on the Massachusetts island for a memoir-signing session at a bookstore, while Obama is in the midst of a two-week vacation." Reuters (8/13, Mason) reports that White House spokesman Eric Schultz said, "The president and first lady have accepted an offer to attend a social gathering at the home of Vernon Jordan on Wednesday evening. ... (They) are very much looking forward to the occasion and seeing former Secretary Clinton."

USA Today (8/13, Jackson, 5.76M) quotes Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill as saying, "Secretary Clinton was proud to serve with President Obama. ... She was proud to be his partner in the project of restoring American leadership and advancing America's interests and values in a fast changing world. ... Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out when she they see each other tomorrow night."

Bloomberg News (8/13, Allen, 2.76M) reports that Clinton's "efforts to distance herself from Obama could hurt her

with Democratic primary voters should she run for president," while helping her "with independents and national security-minded Republicans in a general election." The AP adds that "the anti-war base of the Democratic Party has long distrusted Clinton's support for a muscular foreign policy." Iya Sheyman, executive director of the political action arm of MoveOn, said in a statement, "Secretary Clinton, and any other person thinking about seeking the Democratic nomination in 2016, should think long and hard before embracing the same policies advocated by right-wing war hawks that got America into Iraq in the first place and helped set the stage for Iraq's troubles today."

Under the headline "Hillary Clinton To Barack Obama: Let's Hug It Out," Politico (8/12, Haberman, 637K) reports that "several Clinton supporters have stressed that she is entitled to her own views, and that she is in a bind – either criticized as overly calculating if she stays silent or faulted for being candid about what she thinks." But "one of the criticisms about her interview relates to its timing: It comes as Obama is attempting to get his arms around a number of overseas crises, from Ukraine to Gaza to Syria." The Daily Caller (8/12, Stoltzfoos, 408K) headlined its story on Clinton's call "Hillary Kisses The Ring, Begs Obama For Forgiveness."

Politico (8/12, Haberman, Brown, 637K) says "a split between...Clinton and...Obama was inevitable. Now that they've made peace, keeping it will be the challenge." While "Obama aides and some Clinton allies downplayed the 72-hour episode with dismissive complaints about a voracious media...the maneuvering nonetheless demonstrated how the Obama-Clinton alliance, long viewed as mutually beneficial, will be tested repeatedly." Politico notes that asked to comment, "longtime Clinton ally James Carville, normally a chatty political observer, dodged by cheerfully saying, 'There's a town in Texas called El Paso. And I'm gonna El Paso' on this one."

The Washington Times (8/13, Boyer, 465K) reports Republicans "have noted that Mrs. Clinton was in charge of foreign policy until she quit her post in early 2013," and "many observers believe her interview was calculated to separate herself from Mr. Obama's policies in preparation for a presidential bid in 2016."

In an analysis piece, Juliet Eilperin writes in the Washington Post (8/13, Eilperin, 4.06M) that the controversy has "highlighted a little-noticed aspect of the president's tenure: He has devoted almost no effort to grooming a successor." That fact "has left an opening for Clinton, who has stepped firmly into the vacuum this summer, asserting herself as the next Democrat in line to lead the country."

Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes on Fox News' Special Report (8/12, 2.15M) said that the President and Clinton "are in broad agreement on so many of the issues around the world and has been a great partner. On this particular question, this is something she's written about in her book. She did support providing military assistance earlier than the President moved forward with that plan, but the reason that the President was deliberate in his decision making there is, one, we wanted to make sure we're providing assistance to people who we knew so it wouldn't fall into the wrong hands. Two, we didn't see a plan to decisively tip the balance against [Syrian President Bashar] Assad."

In an analysis for the Washington Times (8/13, 465K), Ben Wolfgang writes that Clinton's comment this week that the President's failure to contain ISIL in Syria enabled the group to spread "its brand of violence and Islamic law into Iraq," underscores "the heated criticism of the president's policy in regard to Iraq and Syria" from "Republicans, many foreign policy analysts and other critics." Wolfgang notes that the President "has indicated that the U.S. will not make a broader commitment to take out the Islamic State," which means that the responsibility to defeat ISIL "apparently will lie primarily with the new Iraqi government and the Kurdish regional authority, which the U.S. and Britain are now arming directly."

Axelrod Responds To Clinton Interview. Largely absent from the coverage of Clinton's call to the President is Axelrod's criticism of the former secretary of state earlier Tuesday. Reports did not speculate about a cause-and-effect chronology between Axelrod's tweets and Clinton's subsequent call.

Politico (8/12, Haberman, 637K) reported that Axelrod had "taken to Twitter to slam...Clinton in the wake of her comments rejecting the core of the Obama administration's self-described foreign policy principle." After Clinton told The Atlantic that "the White House doctrine of 'Don't do stupid stuff' is 'not an organizing principle,'" Axelrod retorted, "Just to clarify: 'Don't do stupid stuff' means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision." Clinton, notes Politico, "voted to authorize the use of force in Iraq," and that "Clinton aides would not immediately respond to emails for comment Tuesday."

The New York Daily News (8/13, Friedman, 4.15M) reported on its website, "They're fighting like it's 2008." Axelrod "no longer works in the White House," but "he remains close to his former boss and colleagues," and "his shot at Clinton suggests Obama allies are simmering at" her comments.

On its website, TIME (8/13, Miller, 24.1M) also referred to "a flashback to 2008 campaign."

In the last sentence of its account of Clinton's call to Obama, the New York Times (8/13, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) notes Axelrod "was quick to defend the president this week, in a flashback to the 2008 campaign."

Dowd: "Cheap Shot" Was Typical Of The Clintons. In a column titled "It's The Loyalty, Stupid," Maureen Dowd writes in the New York Times (8/13, Dowd, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) that Clinton's "cheap shot" at Obama in The Atlantic was "a calculated attempt to be tough and show that, as a Democratic woman, she's not afraid to use power." Adds Dowd, "As one Democrat noted, citing the callous Clintonian principle that unpopular things make foolish investments: 'If Obama was at 63 instead of 36, she'd be happy to be Robin to his Batman.'" Dowd concludes that "after buoying Hillary, Obama is learning the truth of another unofficial slogan in politics: 'The Clintons will be there when they need you.'"

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Death Of Michael Brown."*** The New York Times (8/13, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), in an editorial, contends that a "history of racial segregation, economic inequality and overbearing law enforcement...produced so much of the tension now evident on the streets." According to the Times, St. Louis "has long been one of the nation's most segregated metropolitan areas," which the Times says has a "white power structure that dominates City Councils and police departments like the ones in Ferguson."

"Making The Case For High-Speed Rail." The New York Times (8/13, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), in an editorial, says, "High-speed rail can play an important role in the nation's transportation system by reducing congestion," and "can also provide a big economic boost." The Times notes that President Obama "gave it an important place in the 2009 stimulus bill," and "since then, the federal government has spent about $11 billion on high-speed rail, with only a few visible improvements in American passenger rail service."

"Battle On The Brooklyn Waterfront."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Cairo's Crimes Against Humanity"*** The Washington Post (8/13, 4.06M) editorializes that while the President and Secretary of State Kerry have highlighted Egypt's crucial role in US diplomacy, "the reality check provided by Human Rights Watch this week is particularly worthy of attention." According to the group's report, "more people died on Aug. 14 in Rabaa Square than in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989 or in any mass killing of protesters since then." Yet the Administration "treats" Sissi, "the architect of the slaughter," as "a valued partner rather than the pariah he should be."

"The Auto-Loan Bubble." In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/13, 4.06M) says there is "increasing evidence suggest[ing] that the Federal Reserve's ultra-low interest rate policy is goosing car sales, both new and used, beyond the level that economic fundamentals can sustain," although, according to the Post, "the systemic risks to the U.S. economy from an overheated car-loan market are...modest." The Post adds that while "a subprime auto-lending bubble probably can't and won't cripple the U.S. economy," it "would be better...to tap the brakes now than to risk a crash later on."

"Tax Holiday's Aren't Worth It." The Washington Post (8/13, 4.06M), in an editorial, criticizes those states, "including Maryland and Virginia" that "offer sales tax holidays during the August back-to-school shopping season." The Post says the holidays are "policy gimmicks...popular among consumers and a certain set of retailers," but "aren't in the public interest."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Medtronic's Tax Lesson."*** The Wall Street Journal (8/13, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, points out that following an inversion, formerly US-domiciled corporations have an incentive

to invest in the US because repatriating their foreign profits no longer triggers a tax bill as it did when they were based in the US.

"Government+." The Wall Street Journal (8/13, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, dismisses Monday's announcement that former Google engineer Mikey Dickerson has been appointed to lead a task force dedicated to improving the Federal government's IT infrastructure. The Journal notes that Dickerson was credited for improving HealthCare.gov after its initial failures, and suggests that the Administration seems intent on treating the symptoms rather than the underlying problems associated with government initiatives like the Affordable Care Act.

"Turkey's New Sultan." The Wall Street Journal (8/13, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorializes on Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's election win, casting him as an enemy of democracy. The Journal adds the US and EU cannot be blamed for Erdogan's ascent to power, but urges both to call on the Turkish leader to curb his assault on basic democratic freedoms.

"Google On The Run." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/13, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) decries a ruling by Hong Kong's High Court, which said that tycoon Albert Yeung, who was convicted of illegal bookmaking and obstruction of justice in the 1980s, can sue Google for defamation because when users type in his name, it offers terms related to Hong Kong organized crime, arguing that the ruling is a blow to free speech.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Weighs Mission To Save Yazidi Refugees
Syrian Forces Advance On Aleppo
Behind The Collapse Of Espírito Santo
Banks Retreat From Market That Keeps Cash Flowing

New York Times:
Maliki's Bid To Keep Power In Iraq Seems To Collapse
Shooting Spurs Hashtag Effort On Stereotypes
Opting Against Ebola Drug For Ill African Doctor
Brooklyn Bridge's White Flags: Art, It Seems, Not A Surrender
In A Bygone Hollywood, She Purred Every Word
Busy Working, Robin Williams Fought Demons

Washington Post:
Standoff In Iraq Eases As Maliki's Support Crumbles
In Turkey, A Late About-Face On Islamic State's Fighters
A Warrior For A Teachers Union That's Under Attack
Days Before Death, A Hard-Won Prize: A Diploma
Some Could Lose Health Coverage, Hhs Warns
Sultry Movie Legend Had 'The Look,' Bogie's Heart

Financial Times:
Kiev Vows To Halt Russian Aid Convoy
Income Gap Fuels US Housing Weakness
WHO Backs Experimental Ebola Drugs
Ocwen Results Restated On Asset Values
PRU Chief Laments Missed AIA Opportunity
Yo Adds Features To Compete With Twitter
Markets Not Ready For Hawkish Fed Jolt

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Robin Williams-Depression; Robin Williams-Rehab; Robin Williams-Suicide Hotline; Severe Flooding; Missouri Teen Shot-Riots; Iraq-US Personnel; Iraq-Helicopter Crash; Ebola Outbreak; Hand Sanitizer-Health.
CBS: Robin Williams-Depression; Robin Williams-Suicide Hotline; Severe Flooding; Iraq-Prime Minister; Iraq-US Personnel; Iraq-Helicopter Crash; Iraq-Refugees; Iraq-Government; Ebola Outbreak; Missouri Teen Shot-Riots; Chile-Robbery; LA Clippers-Former Microsoft CEO; Brooklyn Bridge Flag Replacement-German Citizens.
NBC: Robin Williams-Death; Major Flooding; Missouri Teen Shot-Riots; Iraq-US Personnel; Brooklyn Bridge-German Citizens; Robin Williams-Depression; LA Clippers-Former Microsoft CEO; Atlantic City-Casino Closed; Robin Williams-Comic Relief.

Network TV At A Glance:
Robin Williams-Death – 19 minutes, 25 seconds
Iraq-US Involvements – 7 minutes, 20 seconds
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Severe Flooding – 6 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Missouri Teen Shot-Church Rally; Missouri Teen Shot-Riots; Baltimore-Flooding; Iraq-US Personnel; Lauren Bacall Dies; Suicide Hotline Calls Spike.
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Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Vacations in Martha's Vineyard.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.
US Senate: 10 a.m. AGING – FIELD HEARING — Montana Field Hearing. Location: Billings, MT.
US House: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — The House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "Recess."
Other: MERITALK – FEDERAL FORUM — "How can agencies change the network conversation? The 2014 Federal Forum examines new network architectures, new financial approaches, and new technologies." http://www.federalforum2014.com/ 9 a.m. Richard McKinney, Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation, delivers the morning keynote. 1 p.m. Acting Department of Defense Chief Information Officer Terry A. Halvorsen delivers the keynote luncheon address. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

NHTSA – DRIVE SOBER EVENT — 10:30 a.m. National Highway Traffic Safety Acting Administrator David Friedman joins law enforcement officers to kick-off the annual national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement crackdown. The campaign includes more than 10,000 police departments and law enforcement agencies across the country. Location: U.S. Department of Transportation Headquarters, Courtyard (Intersection of 3rd and M Streets SE).

UNITED NATIONS – DISCRIMINATION – PRESS CALL — 1:30 p.m. Civil and human rights advocates host a press call from Geneva during the United Nations review of the United States progress on its obligations to reduce racial discrimination and disparities under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The call will take place immediately following the first half of the U.S. governments presentation to the U.N. committee. The second half of the governments presentation will conclude on Thursday.

INSA LEADERSHIP DINNER – ADMIRAL ROGERS — 6 p.m. The Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) Leadership Dinner with Admiral Michael S. Rogers: Director, National Security Agency; Commander, U.S. Cyber Command; Chief, Central Security Service. http://www.insaonline.org/AdmiralRogers

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, here's what people are talking about. I saw that President Obama went to the beach yesterday while he's vacationing on Martha's Vineyard. Which got weird when he took out his metal detector to search for $16 trillion in quarters."

Jimmy Fallon: "A lot of people are upset that President Obama went to the beach yesterday with everything that's going on in the world. You know times are tough for Obama, because even the sharks were like, 'I'm not going near that guy.' I mean, it's just bad."

Jimmy Fallon: "Also, during a fundraiser last night, President Obama suggested that one or more Supreme Court justices may retire soon. Which got awkward when Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, 'You can have this gavel when you pry it out of my even colder, deader fingers. Why would you say that?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "And finally, we have 'Personal Motto.' Hillary's is, '2016 can't get here fast enough.' Obama's is, 'Ditto.' So, I guess that maybe they're not that different after all. They're kind of the same."

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Jewell, Sally (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, August 15, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Fri, Aug 15, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL SENDS LETTER DENYING KING COVE ROAD DENIAL APPEAL. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has told Alaska's lawmakers and the leaders of an Alaskan village that she will not revisit her decision of last year denying the construction of a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge that locals say is needed to improve public safety. Jewell on Wednesday sent three letters to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Gov. Sean Parnell and the city of King Cove and surrounding borough, "stating in each that while she has heard 'passionate and forceful advocacy for approval of a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge,' the Interior Department 'stands by the decision' to reject the road and 'will not reopen the Record of Decision.'" Jewell added, "I continue to be interested in discussing with you potential transportation alternatives to a road." However, she wrote in the three letters that a federal lawsuit filed in June by the city of King Cove and Alaska Natives challenging Interior's decision on the road "complicates efforts to find a workable solution that can be endorsed by all sides."

The Hill (8/15, Cama, 237K) reports that in response, Murkowski said she's "appalled" at the Interior Department's "continued refusal to permit the road." Murkowski said, "Secretary Jewell promised to help the people of King Cove last December, then went silent for months. As of yesterday, we know that she and her team have done almost nothing to protect the health and safety of King Cove families, yet remain unwilling to reconsider what is by far the best solution — a road."

The Alaska Business Monthly (8/15) reports that Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the Agdaagux Tribe and the King Cove Corporation said, "Once again Secretary Jewell is brushing us off. We wholeheartedly agree with Senator Murkowski's assessment. It's truly shocking that after months of waiting to hear from the Secretary, all we get is a disingenuous response completely lacking in substance."

Also covering the story are Politico (8/15, Guillén, 637K), the Ketchikan (AK) SitNews (8/15), and KDLG-AM Dillingham, AK (8/15).

FORMER SECRETARY SALAZAR LEADS EFFORT TO OPPOSE STATES' ATTEMPTS TO ACQUIRE FEDERAL LAND. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is "helping lead an effort with dozens of conservation groups and business leaders to beat back recent attempts by Western states to acquire millions of acres of federal land." Salazar said Thursday in a statement that "public lands should remain public, and that contrary to the suggestions of some lawmakers, they are huge economic drivers in local communities across the West." He said, "The nation's public lands are the birthright and priceless heritage of all Americans. Our policymakers and elected leaders should be working to preserve and enhance these multiple use economic engines."

Also reporting on the story are the Deseret (UT) News (8/15, 538K) and the Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (8/15, 73K).

PITTSBURGH BOTANIC GARDEN AT SETTLERS CABIN PARK OPENS FOR TOURS. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (8/15, Podurgiel, 590K) reports that the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden at Settlers Cabin Park "opened for tours with a grand opening celebration Aug. 1 that included a visit from US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who called the garden a great example of public-private cooperation." According to the article, "eventually, the botanic garden will encompass 460 acres in the park, which straddles North Fayette, Collier and Robinson."

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR TO PARTICIPATE IN WATER CONFERENCE. The Idaho Statesman (8/14, 222K) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor, will provide "perspective of the current administration on water management issues" during a "conference marking the end of the 27-year Snake River Basin Adjudication sponsored by the Idaho Supreme Court, the Kempthorne Institute and the University of Idaho College of Law" on August 25 and 26.

CONSERVATIONISTS SEEK MONUMENT STATUS FOR BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS. The Idaho Mountain Express (8/15, 36K) reports that "though establishment of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in 1972 provided permanent protection against most types of development in the White Cloud Mountains, some conservationists contend that the job is not yet finished." According to the article, "with continued stagnation in Congress of Rep. Mike Simpson's proposed CIEDRA wilderness bill, creation of a national monument through presidential proclamation is being viewed as the next best alternative." But "debate over the issue has indicated that many people are baffled by the claim that legal protection is needed for an area already protected."

CONGRESS URGED TO ACT ON WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING ACT. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/15, 470K) editorializes that "the US Forest Service and the Department of the Interior have been spending ever larger portions of their ever-tightening budgets on fighting fires that occur in the forests and range lands they are responsible for." However, "the firefighting budget not kept up with the need, and for the past couple of decades those agencies have had to borrow from — and never repay — accounts that were supposed to pay for all kinds of other operations and projects — just to keep everything from burning up." Congress is criticized for not acting on the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014, "a bipartisan bill that would have created for firefighting the same kind of emergency fund that exists to cover the costs of other natural disasters, such as earthquakes and hurricanes."

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/14, 582K) and Fox News (8/13,

6.72M).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DEVELOPMENT HINDERING CALIFORNIA'S COUGAR POPULATION. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "human development is hindering the genetic diversity of mountain lions." A new study shows that "a population of the large cats hemmed into the Santa Monica Mountains near Los Angeles by surrounding highways is seeing inbreeding and a high mortality rate among young mountain lion males." Seth Riley, a biologist at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the lead author of the study, released today in Current Biology, said, "We still do have mountain lions in Los Angeles, which is amazing." However, Riley, who also works for the NPS, said that "the population in the Santa Monica Mountains has a very low genetic diversity – the lowest in the United States among mountain lions after Florida panthers."

Also covering the story are the Los Angeles Times (8/15, Cart, 3.42M), the Southern California Public Radio (8/14, 85K), and the Southern California Public Radio (8/14, 85K).

ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET IN OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK TO BE RELOCATED IN SEPTEMBER. The Oregonian (8/15, 827K) reports that "a contract to temporarily relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet has been awarded to Monroe House Moving, Inc. of Sequim, Wash." the article notes that "the award amount is $124,000." The relocation is "tentatively set to occur during the first two weeks of September, as long as weather, visibility and trail conditions allow."

SCIENTISTS STUDYING MOUNT BALDY FIND ANOTHER HOLE. WRTV-TV Indianapolis (8/15, 209K) reports that "scientists are still confounded 13 months after a then-6-year-old boy was nearly buried alive in a popular sand dune in northwest Indiana, saying they found a sixth hole this week as they moved high tech gear into place to try to conduct further testing on what is causing the holes." Bruce Rowe, spokesman for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, said Mount Baldy will remain closed until more is known. Rowe said, "We want to let the science do the talking before we do any management decisions as to whether to open Mount Baldy. We have a great desire to reopen it. It's one of the most popular areas in the lakeshore. But we want to make sure we understand what's going on from a geological standpoint so we can make the proper decisions."

NPS SEEKS COMMENTS ON EXPANSION OF FORT FREDERICA NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Florida Times-Union (8/14, 435K) reports that the NPS is "conducting a study on adding 173 acres to Fort Frederica National Monument." The article notes that "the expansion includes land and marsh fronting the Frederica River to the north and south of the existing park boundaries and would protect 'important cultural and natural resources,'" the NPS said in a release. The 30-day comment period is underway and ends Sept. 9.

NPS TO TEST GOATS AT POINT REYES SEASHORE TO COMBAT INVASIVE SPECIES. The Point Reyes (CA) Light (8/15) reports that the NPS will "experiment with a possible remedy for invasive plant species in the seashore by introducing goats onto a small section of the historic D Ranch that is overgrown with wild radish, poison hemlock and a variety of thistles to the detriment of 'historic structures and the cultural landscape,' a statement to potential bidders said." The agency "posted a solicitation for quotes from contractors last Thursday and will hold a site visit at the 16-acre section of land this morning."

Bureau of Land Management:

VANDALS PAINT SHOOTING TARGETS BY ANCIENT NATIVE AMERICAN ROCK ART IN UTAH. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/15, 470K) reports that the BLM is "offering a reward of up to $500 to help catch the vandals who spray-painted shooting targets onto rocks near ancient Native American art in Utah County." The BLM's Salt Lake Field Office "received a report July 31 that someone had spray-painted at least a dozen targets onto rocks in the Lake Mountains area, west of Utah Lake." According to the article, "evidence found at the scene indicated the targets were shot with large-caliber weapons, the BLM said in a news release."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (8/15, 116K), the Deseret (UT) News (8/15, 538K), the Provo (UT) Daily

Herald (8/15, 116K), and KSTU-TV Salt Lake City (8/14, 78K).

FIGHT BREWING OVER PLACITAS HORSES. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "a notice of 48 horse roundups this year posted in a New Mexico post office has the Bureau of Land Management and advocates for wild horses worried about the potential for another standoff like the one between federal officials and Cliven Bundy in southeastern Nevada earlier this year." John Brenna, active field manager for BLM, said, "We're not saying when we will go out there because we want to prevent a Bundy-type situation." The bureau's decision "follows state officials' announcement of their own roundup of around 125 animals as dusty conditions around the mountain village of Placitas, north of Albuquerque, have been attributed to free-ranging horses that have roamed the area for decades."

GROUP SEEKS PERMIT FROM BLM FOR ANNUAL HUNTING CONTEST. Reuters (8/15, Zuckerman) reports that a group called Idaho for Wildlife is seeking a special recreation permit from the BLM to hold contests each January for five years that would see as many as 500 hunters targeting wildlife. Steve Alder, executive director of Idaho for Wildlife, said, "We're not going to stand by and allow the feds and environmentalists to try to take away our legal rights."

AFTER BUNDY STANDOFF, RANCHERS CONTINUE TO DEFY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (8/15, Bruner, 11.54M), Travis Bruner, Executive Director of Western Watersheds Project, writes that while the BLM is "required by federal law to protect wildlife habitat on our public lands, the agency has been woefully lax in addressing the combined impacts of livestock grazing and drought on habitat essential to sage-grouse, antelope, mule deer and countless other species." He notes that "this February, one local Nevada office of the Bureau of Land Management finally took a small step to address this issue, and recommended closing an area of priority sage-grouse habitat to grazing in order to protect the remaining habitat." But "then the Cliven Bundy debacle unfolded, and public lands ranchers saw that those who refuse to follow the rule of law face, well, no consequence," and "the ranchers who graze the Argenta allotment for less than 10 percent of fair market value refused to rest the land."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PROPOSES CRITICAL HABITAT DESIGNATION FOR CUCKOOS. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that the FWS is "proposing designating 546,335 acres of land across nine states as critical habitat for the Western yellow-billed cuckoo." The article notes that "the designation would include 80 separate areas in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Wyoming." Jennifer Norris, field supervisor for FWS's Sacramento office, said, "The designation of critical habitat is an important step in recovering the western yellow-billed cuckoo. Critical habitat identifies areas with essential nesting and fledgling sites where conservation actions are needed to protect and recover this imperiled songbird."

Also reporting on the story are The Hill (8/15, Devaney, 237K) and the Prairie (MT) Star (8/15).

FWS OFFERS ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS ON PROPOSAL TO LIST NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT. The Chattanoogan (8/15, 12K) reports that the FWS will "hold three public information webcasts in August to provide information and answer questions about our proposal to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act."

Additional coverage was provided by WFXP-TV Erie, PA (8/15).

ENDANGERED MINNOW REBOUNDING IN NEVADA. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "a tiny endangered fish is making a comeback as populations of the Moapa dace are increasing in thermal Nevada waterways 60 miles north of Las Vegas." The article notes that "the head count taken in a survey conducted this month showed a count of 2,248 dace – an increase of 521 fish compared with last year and almost double the number counted from August 2012."

EPA FINALIZES AGREEMENT SETTING "BUFFER ZONES" AROUND SALMON STREAMS. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that the EPA finalized a settlement Wednesday that "prohibits the use of five pesticides in 'buffer zones' around endangered salmon habitat in a win for environmental groups that had sued the agency." The

settlement "stipulates buffers for five insecticides: diazinon, chlorpyrifos, malathion, carbaryl and methomyl." The article notes that "for aerial spraying, the chemicals will be prohibited within 300 feet of salmon habitat; for ground-based applications, buffers will shrink to 60 feet."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HUNTERS SET TO CONVERGE ON LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR ALLIGATOR HUNT. Additional coverage of the alligator hunt at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge was provided by Reuters (8/15, Fagenson).

FWS DECISION ON WOLVERINES PRAISED. For the Port Huron (MI) Times Herald (8/14, 75K), Michael Eckert supports the decision by the FWS to withdraw its proposal to list the wolverine as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. According to Eckert, "the decision was a victory both for science and for flat-earth anti-science." He writes that "it wasn't wrong about climate change. It just didn't have any evidence to back up its proposal."

Additional coverage of the decision was provided by The Hill (8/15, Barron-Lopez, 237K), the Seymour (IN) Times Tribune (8/15, 31K), the Durango (CO) Herald (8/13, 28K), the Ashland (OR) Jefferson Public Radio (8/15), and the AllGov (8/15, 1K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CALL FOR END TO WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT. The "Floor Action" blog of The Hill (8/15, Cox, 237K) reports Rep. Mike Pompeo is "calling on House GOP leadership to end the Wind Production Tax Credit (PTC)." He "and 54 other House members wrote to Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) on Wednesday calling on them to let the 'crony' tax subsidy for energy companies to expire." The letter said, "We offer our full support of the current process undertaken by the House Committee on Ways and Means that will allow the most anti-competitive and economically harmful tax provisions, specifically the wind energy production tax credit (PTC), to expire."

GUAM PLANS TO TAP WIND ENERGY. The Marianas Variety (8/15) reports that the Guam Power Authority is "anticipating a mid-July 2015 completion date for its wind turbine pilot project." The article notes that "the $1.65 million project is being funded by US Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs grants amounting to $1.5 million plus an additional $200,000 budgeted by the power authority under its capital improvement funds."

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS ON BOEM'S PROPOSED OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALE NEARS. The Surf City (NJ) Sandpaper (8/15) reports that "there are 37 days left to comment on the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management proposed sale of leases for offshore wind farms that includes nearly 344,000 acres offshore New Jersey, with some lots just four nautical miles from Ship Bottom and continuing south along Long Beach Island and 45 miles to Avalon, Cape May County."

Onshore Energy Development:

SECOND LAWSUIT FILED TO BLOCK MONTANA COAL MINE EXPANSION. The AP (8/14) reports that "two environmental groups are suing to block expansion of the Spring Creek coal mine in Montana." Northern Plains Resource Council and the Western Organization of Resource Councils "filed the lawsuit Thursday in federal court, naming Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the US Office of Surface Mining as defendants." The groups claim the Interior Department "did not seek public input through an environmental review before approving the expansion."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Missoulian (MT) (8/15, 122K) and the Great Falls (MT) Tribune (8/14, 90K).

Also reporting on the story is KTVQ-TV Billings, MT (8/15, 2K).

JUDGE SIDES WITH BLM IN NEVADA MINE APPROVAL. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "a federal judge is backing" the BLM's decision "in 2012 to approve a large molybdenum open pit mine in central Nevada." Great

Basin Resource Watch and the Western Shoshone Defense Project, "a group affiliated with the Western Shoshone tribes, sued BLM last year, seeking to overturn the agency's approval of Colorado-based General Moly Inc.'s Mount Hope project near Eureka, Nev." But Nevada US District Court Judge Robert Jones "last month found the groups' grievances 'without merit.'"

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SAYS DIESEL STILL USED IN FRACK FLUID. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "oil and gas companies have 'fracked' wells with fluids including diesel fuel at least 351 times in 12 states since 2010," according to a study released Wednesday by an environmental group. Mary Greene, managing attorney of the Environmental Integrity Project and author of the report, said, "We thought this problem was a thing of the past. Companies that inject diesel without permits should be fined for ignoring the law." Greene added that "many companies changed the reports they had made to the FracFocus disclosure website, in some cases after US EPA stepped up its scrutiny of diesel."

Offshore Energy Development:

JUDGE APPROVES BP'S SUBPOENA OF FEDERAL DOCUMENTS. The FuelFix (8/14, 7K) reports that "a federal judge is allowing BP to negotiate the scope of a massive subpoena aimed at gathering government documents related to the temporary moratorium on deep-water drilling that followed the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill." According to the article, "the order this week by US Magistrate Judge Sally Shushan sets aside a legal bout over BP's right to blame the government for other companies' financial losses in the wake of the spill that resulted from the blowout of a BP well." Shushan is "keeping BP's subpoena alive while parties negotiate the range of dates, search terms and other restrictions on its request."

Also providing coverage is the Law 360 (8/15, 18K).

CAROLINAS TO RECEIVE $400,000 TO GAUGE OFFSHORE SAND. The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (8/15, 405K) reports that "in the wake of superstorm Sandy, the Carolinas are getting $400,000 to evaluate offshore sand deposits that could be used to routinely rebuild beaches or help the coast recover if another severe storm hits." The funds from the BOEM are "part of $13.6 million Congress allocated to the agency after the destructive October 2012 storm smashed into New Jersey." According to Connie Gillette, a spokeswoman for the federal agency, "similar projects to gauge sand resources in federal waters 3 nautical miles and farther offshore are planned along the entire Eastern Seaboard."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INDUSTRY URGES INTERIOR TO ADD NEW OFFSHORE ACREAGE TO NEXT AUCTION SCHEDULE. Additional coverage was provided by the National Journal (8/14, Subscription Publication, 561K) and the Natural Gas Intelligence (8/14).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

LAKE MEAD TO GET MORE WATER. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that federal officials on Wednesday said Lake Mead will "get extra water this year from upriver storage as the reservoir behind Hoover Dam already sits at its lowest level since being filled in the 1930s." The BOR will "release 8.23 million acre-feet of water from Lake Powell, 10 percent more than last year, to try to keep Lake Mead from dropping below levels that would trigger cuts in water deliveries to Arizona and Nevada." However, "despite the added water that comes thanks to near-normal runoff in Lake Powell, demand will continue to outstrip supply, keeping Lake Mead hovering around the record low logged in January."

Additional coverage was picked up by the Durango (CO) Herald (8/13, 28K), WHLT-TV Hattiesburg, MS (8/15, 137), KVVU-TV Las Vegas (8/15, 66K), and KXNT-AM Las Vegas (8/14, 44K).

In an op-ed for the Pagosa (CO) Daily Post (8/15), Aaron Citron writes that "with the recent news that Lake Mead is at its lowest level in history, it's impossible to ignore the trajectory of America's hardest-working river." He notes that "in the Colorado River Basin, we are already using more water annually than is being supplied by snowpack and other precipitation." Citron asserts that "it has become clear that, over time, our water uses are going to have to change." He argues that "in thinking about where — in what sectors — this change should take place, we must also consider the environmental, cultural and economic services that each sector provides."

Citron concludes that "as we consider all of our options to address the growing water supply and demand gap in the Colorado River Basin, cities must remain at the leading edge of water conservation and reuse practices so that we can avoid large-scale, permanent reductions in irrigated acreage, stream flows, and the economic impacts these will create."

BOR MEETS WITH HOOPA TRIBAL OFFICIALS TO TOUR TRINITY RIVER. KIEM-TV Eureka, CA (8/15, 428) reports that on Thursday, officials from the BOR "met with Hoopa Tribal officials to tour the conditions along the Trinity River." The BOR said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "sent staff members to asses the conditions of the river in person." The article notes that "tribal members hope this will force the Bureau to release additional water into the Trinity."

Also providing coverage are the Eureka (CA) Times Standard (8/15, 76K) and the Willits (CA) News (8/15, 10K).

BOR FUNDING TO AID LAKE CACHUMA. The Santa Barbara (CA) Edhat (8/15, 961) reports that Rep. Lois Capps announced Thursday that the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board received $300,000 from the BOR for an emergency drought relief project. The Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board will "use the funding to support its effort to pump water from Lake Cachuma into the North Portal Intake Structure and maintain water flow to the South Coast communities of Santa Barbara County." Capps said, "This drought crisis is the most urgent problem facing our state and the Central Coast, and it requires a collaborative effort by many. I am glad to hear that Lake Cachuma received this federal support, and I will continue to work with federal agencies to ensure farmers, businesses, consumers, and municipalities have the resources they need to get through these difficult times."

BOR TO HOST CAST FOR KIDS FISHING EVENT. The Red Bluff (CA) Daily News (8/15, 20K) reports that the BOR, Central California Area Office, "in partnership with the CAST — Catch a Special Thrill — for Kids Foundation and Pleasure Cove Marina, will host a CAST for Kids fishing event at Lake Berryessa on Saturday, Sept. 13." The bureau is "seeking boaters and anglers who wish to volunteer their time and use of their boat."

SALT RIVER PROJECT TO CONTINUE DROPPING WATER LEVELS IN BLUE RIDGE RESERVOIR. The Payson (AZ) Roundup (8/14, 21K) reports that the Salt River project will "continue to lower water levels in the Blue Ridge Reservoir to undertake a series of projects, including work on intake tunnels normally underwater."

RESEARCHERS SUGGEST DUST COULD BE IMPACTING CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT. The E&E Daily (8/14) reports that "new research presented in San Francisco" on Wednesday suggests that "dusty air blown across the Pacific Ocean from Asia and Africa could be influencing precipitation" in California. In a presentation at a national meeting of the American Chemical Society, Kim Prather from the University of California, San Diego, "described research she is leading into the dust swept westward by the jet stream." According to Prather, "the dust – and the tiny bacteria and molecules it carries with it across the Pacific Ocean – is then mixing with other airborne particles like sea spray and smoke to have distinct and variable impacts on clouds and precipitation."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CALIFORNIA LEADERS AGREE ON $7 BILLION REPLACEMENT WATER BOND LANGUAGE. Additional coverage that "a ballot measure that will ask voters in November to approve $7.5 billion in borrowing for water projects sailed through the Legislature on Wednesday" was provided by the Los Angeles Times (8/14, Mason, 3.42M), the San Francisco Chronicle (8/14, Gutierrez, 2.87M), the Fresno (CA) Bee (8/13, 322K), the Bakersfield Californian (8/15, 127K), the Antioch (CA) Herald (8/15, 81K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (8/15, 206), the AllGov (8/15, 1K), KCRA-TV Sacramento, CA (8/15, 122K), and KQED-FM San Francisco (8/14, 15K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

PAYMENTS FROM INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT COMING SOON. The Native American Times (8/15, 337) reports that "payments for the Trust Administration Class in the Indian Trust Settlement are expected to be mailed in the early Fall, the Settlement Administrator," according to The Garden City Group, Inc. GCG will "hold two meetings in Montana for Class Members, their families and heirs to answer questions, take updates for address and contact information, and to obtain probate documents for estate distributions."

INTERIOR, COURTS URGED TO UPHOLD LIMITS ON INDIAN CASINOS. In an editorial, the Detroit News (8/15, 495K) argues that "unchecked expansion of tribal gaming houses would exacerbate saturation of gambling market." It notes that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians wants to build two new casinos in southeast Michigan and the Bay Mills Indian Tribe wants to "reopen its closed facility near Vanderbilt in northern Michigan's Otsego County and establish new casinos near Flint and Port Huron." It concludes that "the Department of the Interior and the courts should see the inherent dangers and reject the efforts to build these off-reservation casinos."

Top National News:

OBAMA CALLS ON FERGUSON PROTESTERS TO BE PEACEFUL, POLICE TO SHOW RESTRAINT. The already heavy coverage of the protests following the police shooting in Ferguson, Missouri last weekend increased remarkably from Wednesday to Thursday. The three network newscasts devoted more than 20 minutes, or about a third of their combined airtime, to various aspects of the Ferguson story, which was three times what they gave any of the rest of the day's news, including the situation in Iraq.

The spike in media attention was sparked by photos, video, and first-hand accounts of what was perceived as an unduly militaristic response to the sometimes violent behavior of crowds on the streets of Ferguson. President Obama's Thursday remarks on the protests were widely noted and generally cast as a successful effort on the part of the White House to be evenhanded – even as the President acknowledged the growing concern about the Ferguson police tactics. Notably, the Wall Street Journal (8/15, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, praises the President's remarks, including his request for "peace and calm on the streets."

The Washington Post (8/14, Markon, Branigan, 4.06M) says that on Thursday, "in a sudden burst of interest fueled by images of heavily armed police...politicians from both sides of the aisle rushed...to condemn the tactics of the nearly all-white police force in the predominantly African American town." According to the Post, "The reactions were remarkably similar from political opposites across the spectrum," as Sen. Claire McCaskill "called for authorities to 'de-militarize this situation,'" and Sen. Rand Paul "condemned 'the militarization of our law enforcement' in a Time (8/15, Paul, 24.1M) magazine essay."

At the opening of NBC Nightly News (8/14, lead story, 3:45, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt said, "Last night's jarring images of police clad in military gear and firing tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters on the streets of an American suburb has reverberated across this country, including to the Obamas' vacation residence where the President called for peace and calm and lashed out at both violence against police and excessive force by police." McCaskill was shown saying, "I think that it's very important that we demilitarize the response to what have been, by and large, very peaceful protests."

In the first segment for the CBS Evening News (8/14, lead story, 1:05, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that "after four nights of violence in Ferguson...and with no end in sight, the President and the governor today took action." Pelley said Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon "put state police in charge of security in the St. Louis suburb," while the President "interrupted his vacation to call for calm," and "said there is blame for the violence on both sides." Lester Holt, on NBC Nightly News (8/14, story 3, 0:35, Holt, 7.86M), said the President was "asking everyone involved to take a step back."

In the lead story for ABC World News (8/14, lead story, 3:25, Muir, 5.84M), David Muir said the President had issued "an urgent plea to both sides – the police and the protesters." ABC's Steve Osunsami went on to report from Ferguson that the President "condemn[ed] the looting and thieving that took place earlier this week, but call[ed] for an end to the police state." According to Osunsami: on Thursday, "there was a clear turn in the reaction to Michael Brown's killing." Also on ABC World News (8/14, story 2, 2:05, Muir, 5.84M), correspondent Ryan Smith paraphrased the President as saying, "There is never an excuse for violence against the police and no excuse for police to use excessive force against peaceful protests."

In a front-page article, the New York Times (8/14, A1, Bosman, Shear, Williams, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that the President "called for an end to the violence here, denouncing actions both by the police and by protesters," but, according to the Times, "to many," Obama "seemed less emotional and personal than he had been two years ago, when he called for 'soul searching' after the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin." The Times

says the President spoke as "alarm had been rising across the country at images of a mostly white police force, in a predominantly African-American community, aiming military-style weapons at protesters and firing tear gas and rubber bullets."

The Los Angeles Times (8/14, Hennessey, 3.42M) reported that on Thursday, the President made a "brief statement from Martha's Vineyard, where he is on vacation," as he "sought to calm the increasingly tense situation in Ferguson...saying there was 'no excuse' for 'excessive force' by police or for looting or violence aimed at law enforcement." The Times says the President said the police "have a responsibility to be 'open and transparent' about the events that led up to the shooting," and "criticized police for their tactics" in the aftermath of the shooting.

Under the headline, "Obama: No Excuse For Violence, Excessive Force In Missouri," the Wall Street Journal (8/14, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that on Thursday, the President said, "There are going to be different accounts of how this tragedy occurred. ... Now's the time for an open and transparent process to see that justice is done." Reuters (8/14, Mason, Lovering) quotes the President as saying, "When something like this happens, the local authorities, including the police, have a responsibility to be open and transparent about how they are investigating that death and how they are protecting the people in their communities."

The Huffington Post (8/14, Bendery, 11.54M) noted that in addition to criticizing the Ferguson police for employing "excessive force against peaceful protests," the President also said, "There is never an excuse for violence against police or for those who would use this tragedy as a cover for vandalism and looting." Likewise, the Washington Times (8/14, Boyer, 465K) reported that the President "said protesters should not attack police officers."

Politico (8/14, Brown, 637K) reported that while the President "did not specifically mention the arrests of two reporters" in Ferguson, he "did speak to the aggressive law enforcement tactics" when he said, "Here in the United States of America, police should not be bullying or arresting journalists who are just trying to do their jobs and report to the American people on what they are seeing on the ground."

Holder "Concerned" That Police Use Of "Military Equipment" Sends A "Conflicting Message." The CBS Evening News (8/14, story 3, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that on Thursday, Attorney General Holder said he is "concerned about the message that police send when they use military equipment to deal with protesters." Correspondent Jan Crawford went on to report that "law enforcement in St. Louis County have gotten more than half a million dollars' worth of military equipment from the Pentagon, including seven Humvees and a dozen M-16s."

The Washington Post (8/14, Markon, Branigan, 4.06M) notes that just after the President said he is "'deeply disturbed' by images of clashes between police and protesters," Holder "issued a statement saying he was 'deeply concerned' about 'the deployment of military equipment and vehicles' to combat protesters in Ferguson."

The AP (8/14) reported that on Thursday, Holder said he is "concerned that the use of military equipment by police in Ferguson...is sending a 'conflicting message,'" and "said the response by law enforcement...'must seek to reduce tensions, not heighten them.'"

Politico (8/14, Mccalmont, 637K) quoted Holder as saying, "I am deeply concerned that the deployment of military equipment and vehicles sends a conflicting message." Politico also noted that Holder added that "while the vast majority of protests have been peaceful, acts of violence by members of the public cannot be condoned."

The Christian Science Monitor (8/14, Jonsson, 566K) also notes that "critics say that the scenes in recent days from Ferguson are offering Americans an unvarnished look at one consequence of federal programs that supply even tiny towns and small cities with heavy military equipment." According to the Washington Post (8/15, Gibbons-Neff, 4.06M), some US combat veterans contend that "the police response has appeared to be not only heavy-handed but out of step with the most effective ways for both law enforcement and military personnel to respond to demonstrations."

The Washington Times (8/14, Chasmar, 465K) reported that Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA) "plans to introduce legislation that would 'end the free transfers' of military equipment to local law enforcement agencies." Johnson is

quoted as saying, "Unfortunately, due to a Department of Defense (DOD) Program that transfers surplus DOD equipment to state and local law enforcement, our local police are quickly beginning to resemble paramilitary forces." Politico (8/14, Palmer, Sherman, 637K) reported that other Democrats, "including Judiciary Ranking Member John Conyers of Michigan, called for a hearing into the controversial police tactics in the St. Louis suburbs."

In an op-ed for the New York Times (8/15, Beavers, Shank, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) titled, "Ferguson Shows The Risks Of Militarized Policing," Elizabeth Beavers and Michael Shank of the Friends Committee on National Legislation notes that the Pentagon "provides military-grade weapons and equipment to local law enforcement agencies through the 1033 program, enacted by Congress in 1997 to expand the practice of dispensing extra military gear." According to Beavers and Shank, "Due to the defense industry's bloated contracts, there is a huge surplus," and so the Pentagon "has donated military equipment worth more than $4 billion to local law enforcement agencies."

AP Analysis: Obama More Reticent Since Having To Retract Criticism Of Cambridge Police In 2009. The AP (8/14, Pace) notes that the President "avoided mentioning race in his statement, and he called on people to 'remember that we're all part of one American family.'" The AP also says that the President's statement "stood in contrast to his initial handling of the 2009 arrest of his friend Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates" when he "declared...that a white police officer had acted 'stupidly' in arresting Gates." The AP says that the President "conceded days later that his own remarks had inflamed the situation and that Gates had probably overreacted in the moment, contributing to his arrest."

In a piece titled, "How Race Undermines Obama's Bully Pulpit On Ferguson" for the New York Times' (8/14, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) TheUpshot blog, Dartmouth's Brendan Nyhan says the President's statement on Thursday "seemed intended instead to alleviate concerns that he was not taking what had happened seriously enough." But Nyhan adds that "many who have called on" the President to "speak up may not realize that it could be counterproductive for him to be visibly involved in the debate." According to Nyhan, "The Ferguson controversy may end up being as divisive as the Trayvon Martin case and the arrest of...Gates – two racially charged controversies that became...arguably more polarized after Mr. Obama addressed them."

Roll Call (8/14, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 76K) notes that Debo P. Adegbile, President Obama's nominee to be assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division, "was rejected by a group of Senate Democrats who viewed him as insufficiently pro-law enforcement." Roll Call suggests that in the wake of the violence in Ferguson, the President "could make a personal push for Adegbile's confirmation," but Roll Call adds that "there's no reason to believe that the Democratic senators who voted against advancing the nomination would reverse themselves."

Eugene Robinson, in his column for the Washington Post (8/14, Robinson, 4.06M), notes that in 2012, according to the FBI statistics, "2,614 whites were killed by white offenders and 2,412 blacks were killed by black offenders — similar numbers" – although the "white population is almost five times as large as the African American population, meaning the homicide rate in black communities is staggeringly higher."

Missouri Highway Patrol Takes Responsibility For Ferguson Security. USA Today (8/14, Alcindor, Madhani, Stanglin, 5.76M) reports that on Thursday, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon "announced...that the Missouri Highway Patrol will take control of security in Ferguson and that the unit in the embattled town would be overseen by a native son, Capt. Ron Johnson." According to the AP (8/14), Johnson, "who is black, said he grew up in the community and 'it means a lot to me personally that we break this cycle of violence.'" The Los Angeles Times (8/14, Pearce, Raab, Srikrishnan, 3.42M) reports that on Thursday, Nixon pledged to "change the tone in the St. Louis suburb," and "assured [a] crowd gathered at a community meeting that 'you will see a much better and much different tone' in the city."

The Los Angeles Times (8/15, Pearce, Hennessy-Fiske, 3.42M) reports that on Thursday Ferguson was "under the lower-key supervision of police in standard uniforms," meaning that "there were no assault rifles, riot gear or armored personnel vehicles that had inflamed tensions over the last week." According to the Times, "Shortly before 8 p.m., protesters outside a burned convenience store approached police cars and began yelling," but "several representatives of the Black Panthers stepped in and urged the crowd to move back — and Johnson emerged to mingle with the crowd."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (8/15, 938K) reports that St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch "blasted" Nixon's "decision...to replace St. Louis County Police control of the Ferguson situation with the Missouri State Highway Patrol." McCulloch is quoted as saying, "It's shameful what he did today, he had no legal authority to do that." McCulloch added, "I hope I'm wrong, but I think what Nixon did may put a lot of people in danger."

The Politico (8/15, Glueck, 637K) notes that Nixon "waited five days...to visit" Ferguson, and "by then, protesters had been marching for days, police had rolled in military-grade equipment, the president was calling for calm and the national media were all over the story." According to Politico, "Some observers, including fellow Democrats, said Nixon had dealt a significant blow to his career." In a profile of Nixon, the New York Times (8/15, Blinder, Eligon, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) says the "Democrat in a solidly Republican state" has "constantly sought a middle ground."

The New York Times (8/15, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), in an editorial, says Nixon, "after keeping a low profile for too long," was right to give "an order that should have been given over the weekend: Let protesters who are angry about the shooting protest peacefully, without aggressive demands to disperse, as is their constitutional right."

McCaskill: Police "Response...Has Become The Problem Instead Of The Solution." The Washington Times (8/14, Klimas, 465K) reported that on Thursday, Sen. Claire McCaskill released a statement saying, "This kind of response by the police has become the problem instead of the solution." McCaskill added, "My constituents are allowed to have peaceful protests, and the police need to respect that right and protect that right." The Wall Street Journal (8/14, Peters, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that on Thursday, McCaskill tweeted: "Continuing to work the phones to de escalate the tense and unacceptable situation in Ferguson."

Lewis: Obama Should "Federalize The Missouri National Guard To Protect" Protestors. The Daily Caller (8/14, Stoltzfoos, 408K) reported that in an appearance on MSNBC on Thursday, Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) said, "President Obama should use the authority of his office to declare martial law," and "federalize the Missouri National Guard to protect people as they protest." The Huffington Post (8/14, Lazar, 11.54M) also notes Lewis's recommendations for the President.

Ferguson Police Chief: "We Have To Respond To Deadly Force." In a segment for ABC World News (8/14, story 2, 2:05, Muir, 5.84M) on how "peaceful protests in the afternoon suddenly turned into a violent clash at night," Ferguson Police Department Chief Thomas Jackson was shown saying, "If fire bombs are getting thrown, property is getting destroyed, people are being shot at, we have to respond to deadly force."

On NBC Nightly News (8/14, lead story, 3:45, Holt, 7.86M), correspondent Ron Allen said he was "with the marchers" on Wednesday night and "things were calm, winding down," until "the police seemed to run out of patience and tried to clear the streets." Allen added that the police say they used tear gas "because bottles and Molotov cocktails rained down on them." On the CBS Evening News (8/14, story 2, 3:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Mark Strassman reported from Ferguson that "most of the protesters are outsiders, not from Ferguson, and more are showing up every day."

Chief Jackson, in an op-ed for USA Today (8/14, Jackson, 5.76M), says that as for the investigation of the shooting of Mike Brown, "there's lots of physical evidence, there's lots of witness testimony and there's a lot of information that can be pulled together." According to Jackson, "There are so many witnesses that are coming forward and we're trying to get them to come in and be interviewed," which is "really what is holding things up."

Michael Gerson, in his column for the Washington Post (8/14, 4.06M), writes, "When an unarmed man is killed by a police officer, it is the police who have the burden to demonstrate that" the officer's actions were "somehow justified." USA Today (8/14, 5.76M), in an editorial, says Ferguson police department's "heavy handed, unprofessional tactics since the shooting raise grave doubts about both its competence and its credibility." According to USA Today, the Ferguson police "certainly cannot be trusted to investigate itself or, for that matter, to protect the community." The Washington Post (8/14, Board, 4.06M) editorializes that "nothing justifies looting or assaulting police," but the Ferguson police "did not need to respond to mostly peaceful protests by deploying armored vehicles, pointing sniper rifles at civilians and tossing tear gas and shooting rubber bullets liberally into

crowds."

FOP Executive Director: Obama's Criticism Of Police "Is Not Helpful." USA Today (8/14, Jackson, 5.76M) reported that Jim Pasco, the executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, "criticiz[ed] President Obama for some of his comments Thursday about the protests over the police shooting in Ferguson, Mo." Pasco is quoted as saying, "I would contend that discussing police tactics from Martha's Vineyard is not helpful to ultimately calming the situation." The Hill (8/14, Trujillo, 237K) first reported Pasco's critique of the President's response to the shooting. The Hill reported that Pasco said, "Right now, I haven't seen anything from afar — and maybe the president has — that would lead me to believe the police are doing anything except to restore order."

Paul Decries "Racial Disparities In Our Criminal Justice System," "Rising Militarization Of Law Enforcement." McClatchy (8/14, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that in an essay for Time (8/15, Paul, 24.1M). Sen. Rand Paul "call[s] for demilitarization of America's local police forces." McClatchy notes that Paul "has been reaching out to minorities as he explores a run for president in 2016," and notes that in the wake of the shooting of Mike Brown, Paul has written: "Given the racial disparities in our criminal justice system, it is impossible for African-Americans not to feel like their government is particularly targeting them."

Dan Balz, in a front-page analysis for the Washington Post (8/14, A1, Balz, 4.06M) titled, "Libertarians Make Their Voices Heard On Police In Ferguson, Mo.," describes the "rare and surprisingly unified response across the ideological spectrum" to the situation in Ferguson, "with Republicans and Democrats joining to decry the tactics of the city's police force in the face of escalating protests." According to Balz, "the changing reaction on the right is clear evidence of a rising and more vocal libertarian wing within the Republican Party," and there was "no better sign of that" than Paul's essay for Time. Balz goes on to say that "in Ferguson," Paul "has found circumstances almost tailor-made to advance his worldview," and, "in doing so, he continues to set himself apart from others in the Republican Party with the hope of expanding the party's coalition."

Mark Barabak of the Los Angeles Times (8/15, Barabak, 3.42M) says "what was striking was the angry tone and underlying sympathies of Paul's essay, a condemnation of the 'rising militarization of law enforcement' in the country and assertion that equal justice under law is more a pleasing bromide than reality on the streets of 2014 America." According to Barabak, "Paul's rhetoric is not just a break with others in the embryonic Republican presidential field; it challenges GOP political orthodoxy going back several decades."

Politico (8/14, Everett, 637K) also notes Paul's op-ed, as well as "more measured" remarks from Sen. Ted Cruz, who wrote: "Police officers risk their lives every day to keep us safe, and any time a young man loses his life in a confrontation with law enforcement, it is tragic."

The New York Times (8/15, Peters, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that "many conservatives were unsettled by the militaristic response from law enforcement officials in Ferguson." According to the Times, Red State's Erik Erickson says "many" on the right "see an increasingly disproportionate response to crime as a sign of a larger problem that should rattle the consciences of conservatives who are wary of centralized authority."

Scarborough: Reporters Ought To Have Followed Ferguson Police's Directions. In a post for Politico (8/14, Gold, 637K), Hadas Gold reported that on Thursday, MSNBC's Joe Scarborough said the Washington Post's Wesley Lowery and Huffington Post's Ryan Reilly "should have more closely followed police instructions" before they were briefly detained by police in Ferguson Wednesday night. On Thursday's Morning Joe, Scarborough said, "I've been in places where police officers said, 'all right you know what, this is cordoned off, you guys need to move along.' You know what I do? I go, 'yes, sir, or yes, ma'am.' I don't sit there and have a debate and film the police officer unless I want to get on TV and have people talk about me the next day."

Obama's Daily Golf Rounds Continue To Draw Scrutiny. The last sentence of the Los Angeles Times' (8/14, Hennessey, 3.42M) report on the President's remarks regarding the situation in Ferguson is: "Immediately after the brief statement, he continued his vacation and headed to the golf course."

Under the headline, "Obama Calls For Calm, Then Golfs," The Hill (8/14, Kurtz, 237K) reported that "shortly after making remarks on the situation in northern Iraq and the escalating tensions in Ferguson," the President "headed to the Vineyard Golf Club." The Hill notes that the President "has hit the links nearly every day since arriving in the ritzy enclave on Saturday."

Under the headline "Obama's 'Vacation From Hell,'" Politico (8/14, Brown, 637K) reports Obama "really wanted to take a vacation. But then the world intervened." However, according to Politico, the President is "managing to squeeze in quite a bit of leisure time." Politico says that on Thursday, the President "went from the podium where he delivered the statement on Ferguson to the Vineyard Golf Club faster than a ball driven by a 3-wood."

SENATE DEMOCRATS HESITANT TO PUSH OBAMA ON IMMIGRATION AHEAD OF MIDTERMS. Politico (8/14, Raju, Kim, 637K) reported that Democratic leaders in the Senate are weighing "how far to push" President Obama "on immigration before the crucial midterm elections." There is "palpable fear that Obama could cause trouble for the Senate's most vulnerable Democrats if he decides to circumvent Congress before the elections to make immigration changes through executive action." As a result, Democratic leaders are "in a jam." While Majority Leader Reid, Majority Whip Durbin and others have "called for executive action to halt deportations," they are now "coy," and representatives for each "refused to say this week whether their bosses want the president to move before November or wait until after the elections."

Texas Deploys National Guard Troops Along Mexican Border. The Chicago Tribune (8/14, 2.19M) reports that according to law enforcement officials, Texas has begun deploying National Guard troops along the US-Mexico border. A deputy with the Hidalgo County Sheriff's office said Thursday that border sheriffs "have been informed about the deployment and the first Texas National Guard troops have taken positions in places such as towers used for monitoring."

Immigrant Children Said To Get "First-Class Treatment" From Federal Government. Under the headline, "Illegal Immigrant Children Get First-class Treatment At Taxpayers' Expense," the Washington Times (8/14, 465K) reports that "the organizations the federal government is paying to house and care for the children who have surged across the border illegally are taking pains to make sure they are as comfortable as possible," providing, among other things Spanish-language life skills classes, intensive English training, and dietitians, who "scrutinize the menus each day to make sure they include enough whole grains but not whole milk." The Times notes that the effort to house and care for the children "is eating up an ever-larger portion of the Health and Human Services Department's budget, jumping from $305.9 million last year to $671.3 million so far in fiscal year 2014."

Administration Implements Accelerated Court Process To Deal With Immigrant Children. The New York Times (8/15, Semple, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that a "cornerstone of the Obama Administration strategy to deal with the surge of unaccompanied minors from Central America," is "a new accelerated court process," under which the Justice Department "is moving children who recently arrived to the head of the line to see immigration judges, possibly leading to deportation within months rather than years."

Eleven-Year-Old US Citizen Held In Immigration Detention Facility For More Than A Month. The Los Angeles Times (8/15, Carcamo, 3.42M) reports on the case of an 11-year-old boy who was released from an immigration detention facility this week "after it was discovered that he is a U.S. citizen." After spending "more than a month at the detention center in Artesia, N.M.," an immigration attorney "who happened to be visiting the facility discovered his status last week." The boy, "whose father is a U.S. citizen, had migrated from Central America with his mother before both were detained."

CLINTON, OBAMA DANCE AT PARTY DAYS AFTER HER CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT. The New York Times (8/14, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that the White House on Thursday "declined to say whether President Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton actually hugged at a party the night before on Martha's Vineyard. But they did dance." The Times quotes an unnamed "person who attended the party" as saying, "It was huge smiles and total abandon on the dance floor. You'd never know there was any discord." The Times notes that Clinton on Tuesday phoned the President "to assure him that critical remarks she had made about his foreign policy in an interview with The Atlantic were not intended 'to attack him, his policies or his leadership.'"

Progressives Unhappy With Clinton's "Harsh Critique" Of Obama's Foreign Policy. The Washington Times (8/14, Wolfgang, 465K) reports that in the wake of the "harsh critique of Mr. Obama's foreign policy" by Clinton, "disenchanted liberals" worry that the Democrats' "2016 front-runner is acting more like a thinly veiled neoconservative." Roger Hickey, founder of the "liberal" group Campaign for America's Future, is quoted as saying, "I thought the Democratic party was fairly unified on foreign policy these days. But when she goes

insulting Obama for his foreign policy weaknesses, suddenly people realize there needs to be a debate about foreign policy as well."

Clintons Said To Be Forging Relationship With Julián Castro, A Potential 2016 Running Mate. The Washington Post (8/14, O'Keefe, Rucker, 4.06M) reports that as the former secretary of state mulls a potential 2016 White House run, Hillary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton "have been cultivating an important ally who some believe could become her vice presidential running mate": ex-San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro, who President Obama has tapped to serve as his next HUD secretary. The Post says, for example, that Bill Clinton "invited" the 39-year old Castro "to the Clintons' home in Washington last week for a private dinner that friends described as" an opportunity for them "to become better acquainted." The Post also says that Castro joined Hillary Clinton last month at an event at "the Bronx Children's Museum."

Krauthammer: Clinton "Right" In Her Assessment Of Obama's Foreign Policy. In his Washington Post (8/14, 4.06M), Charles Krauthammer quotes Hillary Clinton as saying of President Obama's foreign policy in her recent interview with The Atlantic, "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle." Krauthammer adds that in that interview, Clinton "acknowledge[d] the fatal flaw of" Obama's "foreign policy: a total absence of strategic thinking." Krauthammer adds that while Clinton's remarks come as she's "positioning" herself for a 2016 presidential run, "it doesn't matter. She's right."

Zakaria: Clinton's Strategic Talk Relating To Middle East Moderates A "Naive Fantasy." In his Washington Post (8/15, 4.06M) column, Fareed Zakaria writes that in her interview with The Atlantic, Clinton expressed "what has become Washington's new conventional wisdom," implying "that 'moderates' might have prevented the rise of the Islamic State" in the Middle East. However, writes Zakaria, the US "has provided massive and sustained aid to the moderates in the region" for some time, with little positive effect. Zakaria says, "The problem is that there are actually very few" moderates in countries such as "Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Libya and the Palestinian territories." Zakaria adds, "Asserting that the moderates in Syria could win is not tough foreign policy talk, it is a naive fantasy with dangerous consequences."

Poll Shows Clinton's Lead Over Potential 2016 GOP Foes Narrowing. McClatchy (8/14, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that a new McClatchy-Marist poll shows that Hillary Clinton's "lead over" potential GOP presidential rivals in hypothetical 2016 match-ups "has narrowed and her support has slipped below 50 percent" amid "recent gaffes by the former secretary of state." In the poll, Clinton leads Gov. Chris Christie 47%-41%, down from a 53%-42% lead she held in a similar poll taken in April and a 58%-37% edge in February. In the new poll, Clinton leads Jeb Bush 48%-41%, down from a 55%-39% lead in April. And the new poll shows Clinton leading Sen. Rand Paul 48%-42%, down from a 54%-40% edge in April. The report does not say when the new poll was in the field or how many voters were surveyed.

Noonan: After Criticizing Obama, Clinton Likely To Face Tough 2016 Challenge From The Left. In her Wall Street Journal (8/15, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) column, Peggy Noonan writes that with her criticism of Obama's foreign policy in the interview with The Atlantic, Hillary Clinton – if she runs for president – likely increased the odds that she will face a serious challenge from the left in the Democratic presidential primary. Noonan adds that though Sen. Elizabeth Warren has said she won't run for president, the Massachusetts Democrat, should she change her mind, would likely pose the biggest threat to Clinton winning the Democratic nomination.

Clinton Ally Brock Takes Over Formerly Non-Partisan Watchdog Group CREW. Politico (8/14, Vogel, 637K) reported that "in a major power play that aligns liberal muscle more fully behind the Democratic Party — and Hillary Clinton," Media Matters' David Brock "is taking over a leading watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington" after proposing "a multifaceted expansion intended to turn the group into a more muscular — and likely partisan — attack dog." According to Politico, "The reconfigured CREW...will add a more politically oriented arm, expand its focus into state politics and donor targeting and will operate in close coordination with Brock's growing fleet of aggressive Democrat-backing nonprofits and super PACs." Politico notes that while CREW was established by liberal Democrats, under executive director Melanie Sloan it "went out of its way to demonstrate that it would not pull punches when it came to Democratic corruption."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The Search For Calm In Missouri."*** The New York Times (8/15, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), in an editorial, says Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, "after keeping a low profile for too long," was right to give "an order that should have been given over the weekend: Let protesters who are angry about the shooting protest peacefully, without aggressive demands to disperse, as is their constitutional right."

"Maliki And The Futility Of Regime Change." The New York Times (8/15, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that "there should be no illusion that" Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's "successor...will quickly end Iraq's crises," and that Obama "is right to be very cautious about plunging into foreign adventures." However, "he should be equally clear that there is often no choice, and that the most tempting action is hardly ever the best."

"Elmo's World." The New York Times (8/15, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that the "forces of civic order that drove the pimps, hustlers and drug dealers from Times Square never anticipated the Elmos." In "the tourist-choked, franchise-cheesy, pedestrian-mall version of the Crossroads of the World, adults in character costumes – a lot of Elmos, but also Cookie Monsters, Mickey and Minnie Mice, SpongeBobs, Batmen, Statues of Liberty and others – are a fixture, practically an emblem." They are "fee-for-service entrepreneurs" that "deliver smiles for cheap" and are "thus appreciated by out-of-towners in a way no squeegee man ever was." New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and members of the City Council "have said the Elmos are a problem that needs solving, through licensing or some other regulatory arrangement," but the Times argues that they "should be careful" in "a city that values eccentric expression and an entrepreneurial street life, to avoid cures that are worse than the disease."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Ferguson's Fumbled Response."*** The Washington Post (8/14, Board, 4.06M) editorializes that "nothing justifies looting or assaulting police," but the Ferguson police "did not need to respond to mostly peaceful protests by deploying armored vehicles, pointing sniper rifles at civilians and tossing tear gas and shooting rubber bullets liberally into crowds."

"Defeating Extremists" The Washington Post (8/15, 4.06M) editorializes that "the limits Mr. Obama has placed on US action make little sense in the context of" ISIL's "extremist entity and the interconnected conflicts across the region." The President "lacks an integrated policy for Iraq and Syria, though the Islamic State cannot be defeated unless it is attacked in both countries. ... The idea that Iraqis will somehow solve these problems independently of Syria and with minimal U.S. support is a convenient but dangerous illusion."

"The GOP's War On Voters." In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/14, Board, 4.06M) criticizes Virginia Republicans for enacting voter ID laws and argues that a push "to tighten voter ID rules has accelerated for several years under GOP auspices, mainly in Southern states." The effort, the Post notes, "calls attention to the party's increasing identification with and reliance on older and whiter portions of the nation's electorate, which are shrinking." The Post argues that in their attempt "to negate the electoral effects of demographic change, Republicans are digging themselves deeper into a hole of their own making."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Ferguson Exception."*** The Wall Street Journal (8/15, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, praises the President's remarks on Thursday, and notes that he sought "peace and calm on the streets."

"No Maliki, No More US Excuses." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/15, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) hails Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's decision to give way to his successor, and expresses hope that the President will now craft a policy to stem ISIL's advance – something the Journal blames on Obama's lack of action in Syria and on his decisions to withdraw US forces from Iraq.

"Beijing vs. Foreign Capitalist Roaders." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/15, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) criticizes Chinese President Xi Jinping's increased regulatory actions against foreign businesses including Microsoft and GM, among others, arguing that Xi is trying to create world-leading Chinese companies by crippling their competitors.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Boston Globe:
About 400,000 In Mass Must Seek New Health Plan
'Whitey' Bulger Appeals, Calling Conviction Unfair
Market Basket Meetings The Stage For Family Strife
Mo Teen's Killing Reverberates In Boston
Obama Vacation Punctured By International, Domestic Strife

Boston Herald:
Gelzinis: Brave Fighter Rallies Family

Wall Street Journal:
Missouri Police Change Tactics
Iraq's Maliki Steps Down Amid Pressure
How Agents Hunt For Fraud In Medicare Data
Euro Zone's Economy Fails To Grow

New York Times:
Traders Profit As Power Grid Is Overworked
Premier Of Iraq Accedes To Calls To Give Up Power
New Tack On Unrest Eases Tension In Missouri
Troopers Move In As President Seeks Calm
Mini Golf As Career? She Gets Past The Obstacles
A Ukraine City Under Siege, 'Just Terrified Of The Bombing'

Washington Post:
Officials Seek To Calm Missouri Unrest
Eyes On 2016, Clintons Groom Rising Hispanic Star
Furor In Ferguson Brings Out GOP's Growing Libertarian Wing
Tokens Of Luxury Wrap Up McDonnell Prosecution
A Federal Terrorism Sting Goes Awry

Financial Times:
Maliki Steps Down As Iraqi PM
Eurozone Economy Shudders To Halt
Rosneft Asks Moscow For $42bn
Buffett's $200,000 Shares Priced For Elite
Goldman Invites Wall St To Chat For $5m
Coke Gets A Taste For Rival Monster
Japanese Lesson For Bond Buyers

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; Parkinson's Disease-Depression Link; Severe Weather; Iraq-Prime Minister Resigns; Iraq-US Air Strikes; New York-Amish Girls Abducted; Pope Francis-South Korea Trip; Major General Greene's Funeral; Tennessee-Gas Tanker Explodes.
CBS: Obama-Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Missouri-Shooting Backlash-Police Tactics; Iraq-Prime Minister Resigns; Iraq-Humanitarian Crisis; Iraq-Yazidi Refugees; Ukraine Blocks Russian Aid Convoy; Pope Francis-South Korea Trip; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; Missouri-Shooting Backlash-Social Media; Major General Greene's Funeral.
NBC: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Obama-Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; Iraq-Humanitarian Crisis; Pope Francis-Planned US Trip; Major General Greene's Funeral.

Network TV At A Glance:
Missouri-Shooting Backlash – 20 minutes, 20 seconds (00:20:20)
Iraq – 6 minutes, 40 seconds (00:06:40)

Pope Francis-South Korea Trip – 1 minute, 10 seconds (00:01:10)
Major General Greene's Funeral – 1 minute, 15 seconds (00:01:15)
Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease – 6 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Pope Francis-South Korea Trip; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; Ebola Outbreak.
CBS: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; New York-Amish Girls Found Safe; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; New MLB Commissioner; Kevin Ward Jr.'s Funeral; GE Selling Appliances Unit.
FOX: Obama-Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Iraq-Prime Minister Resigns; Iraq-Humanitarian Crisis; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease; Immigration Reform-FOX News Poll; Texas-Border Security; US-Israel Tensions; UN-Nuclear Weapons Warning;
NPR: Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Obama-Missouri-Shooting Backlash; Severe Weather; Iraq-Prime Minister Resigns; New MLB Commissioner; Ask.com Buys Ask.fm; Robin Williams-Parkinson's Disease.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Obama is vacationing on Martha's Vineyard. No public events are scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The vice president and Dr. Jill Biden visit Long Island, New York. There are no public events scheduled.
US Senate: No Scheduled Events.
US House: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — The House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "Recess."
Other: BULLYING PREVENTION SUMMIT — 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. US Department of Education hosts fourth Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Summit, with opening remarks by Deputy Assistant to the President Roberto Rodrmguez and U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary Deb Delisle. Location: Barnard Auditorium, US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW. Contacts: Press Office (press@ed.gov), 202-401-1576.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "And during all of this [referring to a host of current national and international events], President Obama has decided to go on vacation, of course. And he's gotten a lot of criticism for that. And now, Obama is facing criticism for coming back to work for a couple days, because they say it wastes taxpayer money. Or as Obama put it, '28 more months, two weeks, four days and 16 hours. Get through this. We can't win. Just get through this.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, the White House says that President Obama won't make any major announcements during his brief trip back to D.C. this weekend. The reporters were like, 'Well, isn't that an announcement?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The White House says that Obama won't make any major announcements during his trip back to D.C., but the White House did say that Obama would be making some minor announcements, like, 'Just mixed a bowl of Fruity Pebbles with Cocoa Pebbles, 'cause I'm the President and I can do whatever I want.'"

Seth Meyers: "I'm glad you're doing well, because some bad news for the President. President Obama's approval rating this week reached an all-time low. An all-time low. Apparently, it's all the way down to 'some of the people, some of the time.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Everyone's talking about a possible feud between President Obama and Hillary Clinton. ... At a

book signing, Hillary Clinton denied any friction with President Obama. Bill Clinton heard this and said, 'That's not the first time she's denied friction with the President.'"

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Jewell, Sally (b) (6) @ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, August 19, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Tue, Aug 19, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Utah Officials Fear Use Of Antiquities Act.
+ Secretary Jewell Delivers Keynote At Event In Acadia National Park.
+ Conservation Groups Criticize BLM Sage Grouse Plan For Central Wyoming.
+ Debate Burns Over Stanislaus National Forest Recovery.
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+ Circuit Court Protects Surface Access For Drillers.
+ Deutch: Administration Should Do More To Promote Development Of US Oil And Natural Gas.
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TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
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+ "Lobbyists" Reportedly Crafting Obama Immigration Policy "Out Of Public View."
+ Job Creation Up In 30 States, With Texas Leading Job Growth.

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+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:
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LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL, SECRETARY DUNCAN VISIT PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBAL SCHOOL. The AP (8/18) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Education Secretary Arne Duncan and "took a firsthand look at a tribal school as they promoted President Obama's goals for education reform." On Monday, they visited the Beatrice Rafferty School, located on the Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point reservation. They were joined by BIA Director Monty Roessel, along with Pleasant Point Chief Clayton Cleaves and Principal Mike Chadwick.

The Bangor (ME) Daily News (8/18, 166K) reports that Jewell and Duncan "asked a range of questions about the school facility as well as the staff and services the students receive." Jewell "wanted to know what effects the high rates of joblessness on the reservation have on students."

Also providing coverage are WCSH-TV Portland, ME (8/18, 30K) and WMTW-TV Portland, ME (8/19, 21K).

Also covering the story is the AP (8/19). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by KIMT-TV Rochester, MN (8/19, 1K), KTTC-TV Rochester, MN (8/19, 2K), and WQOW-TV Eau Claire, WI (8/19, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT BUG-O-NAY-GE-SHIG SCHOOL IN MINNESOTA. The Bemidji (MN) Pioneer (8/19, 35K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "visit the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School on the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe reservation in Bena, Minn., on Tuesday." Jewell, along with Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, will "tour the school to see first-hand the need for additional funding for replacement school construction as well as meet with school officials, teachers and students."

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ASKS JUDGE TO TOSS MOST OF IZEMBEK ROAD LAWSUIT. Politico (8/19, Guillén, 637K) reports that "the Justice Department on Friday urged a federal judge to toss out most of a lawsuit over the contentious emergency access road proposed to run through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska." According to the filing, "a number of the complaints brought by Native groups and the state of Alaska 'are premised upon an alleged obligation to approve the road if it provided more reliable transportation between the two communities and an erroneous assertion that the Secretary could not adopt a 'no action' alternative." It adds, "Neither supposed requirement is found in the statutes and other sources of law Plaintiffs cite."

UTAH OFFICIALS FEAR USE OF ANTIQUITIES ACT. Fox News (8/18, 6.72M) reports that "Utah officials are scrambling to prevent the Obama administration from locking down thousands of acres of land in their backyard, as federal officials consider up to a dozen possible national monument designations – all in western states." Critics "feel the Antiquities Act has been misused in recent decades by presidents of both parties and, in Utah, they're seeking a compromise that would allow some land to become designated as 'wilderness' instead." Rep. Rob Bishop said, "The original Antiquities Act passed as a way of conserving land. It's no longer used that way. Now it's used as a political purpose to make a political statement on land that is not endangered in any way."

SECRETARY JEWELL DELIVERS KEYNOTE AT EVENT IN ACADIA NATIONAL PARK. The Georgetown (DC) Dish (8/19) reports that "Georgetowners led by National Park Foundation President & CEO Neil Mulholland trekked to one of Mother Nature's most beautiful outposts near Bar Harbor, Maine, to celebrate the Rockefeller-supported Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park Thursday in an event featuring Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and some of the nation's leading philanthropists." Jewell was the keynote speaker, "telling of her first foray to Acadia on a trip in 1977 that changed her life." She recounted a story of her trip with "her then boyfriend Warren." They "fell in love with Acadia – and each other: they married one year later."

CONSERVATION GROUPS CRITICIZE BLM SAGE GROUSE PLAN FOR CENTRAL WYOMING. The E&E Daily (8/18) reports that a coalition of conservation groups on Monday "urged the Interior and Agriculture departments to revise a plan for managing greater sage grouse in central Wyoming, arguing that the plan unveiled in June fails to follow the best available science." According to the article, "the coalition, led by the Center for Biological Diversity, the American Bird Conservancy and WildEarth Guardians, among others, sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urging them to revise the plan to follow the recommendations of a team of sage grouse experts that in 2011 laid out specific steps to save the imperiled bird." They also "released a scorecard grading the Bureau of Land Management's amended Lander resource management plan (RMP) against the recommendations outlined by BLM's National Technical Team of sage

grouse experts and its influential 2011 grouse management report that suggested, among other things, prohibiting surface disturbance activity within 4 miles of grouse breeding grounds, called leks." The groups "concluded in the scorecard that the Lander plan fails to follow the NTT report and thus does not adopt adequate measures needed to prevent the greater sage grouse from being listed under the Endangered Species Act."

Environmental Groups Call For Cooperation On Sage Grouse. The Longview (TX) News-Journal (8/19, 69K) reports that "the best way to protect the greater sage grouse while keeping drill bits turning in Western states is for environmentalists and oil companies to work together on safeguarding the bird's habitat, conservationists said Monday." According to the article, "ten conservation groups made the plea for 'collaboration and compromise' in a letter to the Western Energy Alliance, which recently launched an advertising campaign blaming environmental activists and lawyers for exploiting 'bad science and the courts to stop responsible energy development.'"

DEBATE BURNS OVER STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST RECOVERY. NPR (8/18, Sommer, 519K) reports that one year after the Rim Fire burned in California', "controversy has broken out over how to help" the Stanislaus National Forest "recover — whether dead trees should be cut down and new trees should be planted." The Forest Service has proposed allowing logging companies to harvest downed logs on 44,000 acres. However, "several environmental groups are determined to stop it."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the AP (8/19) and the Los Angeles Times (8/19, Lopez, 3.42M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN RELATIONS. Additional coverage of Native Hawaiian relations was provided by the Heritage Foundation (8/19, 90K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

DRONES BANNED IN ARCHES, CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARKS. The AP (8/19) reports that "drones are now officially banned in Arches and Canyonlands national parks in southeastern Utah." According to Kevin Moore, acting chief ranger for the two parks, "the unmanned aircrafts disrupt wildlife and are an intrusion on visitors looking for tranquility. They have seen an increase in use of drones in the last two years." The ban also "extends to Hovenweep and Natural Bridges national monuments."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (8/18, 4.06M), the Washington Times (8/18, 465K), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/18, 582K), and KYTV-TV Springfield, MO (8/19, 144K).

NPS COMPLETES STUDY ON SHEPHERDSTOWN BATTLEFIELD. The AP (8/18) reports that the NPS has "completed a study of the Shepherdstown Battlefield and related resources." According to the article, "Congress ordered the study to determine whether the Civil War battlefield should be added to the national park system." Tammy Stidham with the NPS said that "the study looked at historical significance, natural resources and economic uses."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (8/18, 4.06M), the West Virginia Public Broadcasting (8/19), and WOWK-TV Charleston, WV (8/19, 9K).

PRESIDIO TRUST ANNOUNCES NEW RULES FOR DOG WALKERS. The Hill (8/19, Devaney, 237K) reports that "federal regulators are moving forward with new rules for dog walkers at a San Francisco park managed by the National Park Service." The Presidio Trust announced Monday that "dog walkers will be required to obtain permits, which will allow them to walk no more than six dogs at a time in the park." Also, they will "be required to hold liability insurance and go through dog-handling training."

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK DETECTS BAT WITH RABIES. The Oregonian (8/19, 827K) reports that "a 59-year old Port Angeles area man is undergoing rabies prevention treatment after being scratched by a bat in front of Lake Crescent Lodge in Olympic National Park on Tuesday, Aug. 12." Park staff "packaged and transported the bat to the Clallam County Environmental Health Department for rabies testing and the visitor began preventative

treatment for the rabies virus." On Saturday, Aug. 16, test results confirmed the bat had the rabies virus.

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK PLANS SPRAYING TO KILL BUFFELGRASS. The AP (8/18) reports that Saguaro National Park "plans herbicide spraying this week on parts of the park where invasive buffelgrass has become established." According to the article, "a helicopter will be used to spray the non-native plants in parts of the park that are too dangerous or too remote to reach by foot."

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK PLANS ROAD WORK THIS FALL. The AP (8/18) reports that Yellowstone National Park is "giving visitors to the park this fall a heads up on some significant road construction work that will result in long detours." According to the NPS, "the road work involves two sections of Yellowstone's Grand Loop Road that will be closed due to construction after the Labor Day holiday weekend."

NPS TO CELEBRATE AVIATION DAY. The Outer Banks (NC) Voice (8/18) reports that the NPS and First Flight Society, a park partner, will "celebrate National Aviation Day at Wright Brothers National Memorial, the birthplace of modern aviation."

YOUNG GIRL DIES IN FALL AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The AP (8/18) reports that "an 8-year-old girl has died after falling about 550 feet while hiking in Yellowstone National Park." The NPS says "the accident occurred Sunday morning in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone." Her body was retrieved around noon Sunday.

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (8/18, 4.06M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/18, 582K), and CBS News (8/19, 5.21M). Also reporting on the story is the Los Angeles Times (8/19, Lopez, 3.42M).

RESCUERS RECOVER BODY OF YELLOWSTONE EMPLOYEE SWEPT DOWNRIVER. The E&E Daily (8/18) reports that "rescue crews on Saturday pulled the body of a Georgia man missing for more than a week from a Yellowstone National Park river." According to the article, "the body of Darien Latty, who was working at the park for the summer, was found pinned to a large rock in a dangerous section of white water on the Yellowstone River." Latty had been "illegally floating on inner tubes with two co-workers, who exited the water near the confluence of the Lamar and Yellowstone rivers."

MARINE'S WIFE DISCOVERED DEAD IN CALIFORNIA MINE SHAFT ON FEDERAL LAND. The AP (8/19, Taxin, Flaccus) reports that "deep in a mine shaft in the California desert, the body of a pregnant wife of a U.S. Marine was discovered after a search of nearly two months," and "far off in Alaska, a man alleged to have been her lover was arrested on suspicion of homicide." Officials on Monday "outlined the discovery of 19-year-old Erin Corwin and the arrest of 24-year-old Christopher Brandon Lee, who until recently was also a Marine." According to San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon, "the search for Corwin ended Saturday when her body was spotted with a video camera 140 feet down a mine shaft on federal land near her home in Twentynine Palms, where her husband was stationed."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM ISSUES GUIDANCE ON USES OF RAILROADS RIGHTS-OF-WAY LAND. The Rapid City (SD) Journal (8/19, 141K) reports that the BLM has "issued guidance to its state and field offices on how to evaluate activities on thousands of miles of public land that was granted to railroad companies as rights–of-way under a 19th century law." The bureau's "land managers will use the guidance to determine whether the lands are being properly used under the law." Steve Ellis, BLM Deputy Director of Operations, said, "These evaluations are important because the BLM has the responsibility as a land steward to ensure that public lands are managed in a responsible way. And because each activity has a unique situation, the evaluations will be done on a case-by-case basis."

OWL ENTERS APARTMENT, KILLS CANARY. The AP (8/18) reports that "an owl flew into a 10th story apartment in Coeur d'Alene, apparently opened a bird cage and killed one of two canaries inside, the residents said." Beth Paragamian, wildlife education specialist with for Idaho Fish and Game and the BLM, said "it's strange that an owl would be flying so high in an area without many tall trees and surprising that it would enter a residence, much less open a bird cage."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Detroit Free Press (8/19, 1.02M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/18, 582K), and Newsday (8/19, 1.35M).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS TO REVIEW STATUS OF BUTTERFLY IN WASHINGTON. The E&E Daily (8/18) reports that the FWS has "decided that protection might be needed for a butterfly in Washington state and plans to begin the 12-month review of a possible Endangered Species Act listing when 'resources become available.'" In a notice set for publication in tomorrow's Federal Register, the agency said "a petition to list the island marble butterfly, Euchloe ausonides insulanus, may be warranted." The service has "requested that groups seeking a listing for the butterfly submit material by the end of December 2016."

Also reporting on the story is The Hill (8/19, Devaney, 237K).

FWS TO HOLD PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS ON PROPOSAL TO PROTECT BAT. The Georgia Public Broadcasting (8/18) reports that the FWS "wants to declare the northern long eared bat an endangered species." On Tuesday, the service will "host the first of three webcasts to provide more information about the proposal."

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/19, Belz, 1.32M) also notes the proposal, with a focus on its impact on Minnesota's timber industry. Protections would "trigger a blanket prohibition against killing the bats, even accidentally," and "that would halt logging in much of the country during warm months, when the little animals roost in the forest and raise their vulnerable young in trees."

ENDANGERED DESERT TORTOISES BEING STERILIZED. The Nature World News (8/18) reports that "in a sort of paradoxical situation, wildlife officials are taking the unusual step of sterilizing endangered desert tortoises, a species that they are in fact trying to protect." FWS officials say "the action is necessary to save this species from captive backyard tortoises, which are diverting resources from efforts to preserve the species in the wild." According to the article, "tortoises in captivity threaten native populations because they can carry diseases with them when they escape or are released illegally in the desert."

HOCKING COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH FWS ON WETLANDS. The Perry County (OH) Tribune (8/19) reports that the Hocking College School of Natural Resources partnered with the FWS "to bring wetlands back." Students in Heavy Equipment Management, GeoEnvironmental Science and Wildlife Resources Management programs "worked together to complete Phase I of the riparian wetland project located in the floodplain on Hocking College campus in Nelsonville." The FWS "provided funds and materials for construction of the wetland, as well as on-site supervision in order to complete the first phase."

SCIENTISTS CALL FOR BALANCED APPROACH TO ROAD DEVELOPMENT IN SENSITIVE AREAS. The E&E Daily (8/18) reports that "scientists are urging governments and industry to compromise more as they balance development of roads and bridges through sensitive wildlife areas in tropical and subtropical countries." In a study published Monday in Current Biology, "researchers wrote that while governments often prioritize development over wildlife, the decisions can have long-term consequences." Tim Caro, a conservation ecologist at the University of California, Davis, and a lead author on the paper, said in a statement, "Roads are increasingly being built and upgraded through protected areas, especially in the tropics and subtropics, where there are so many species needing protection."

BIOLOGISTS CONCERNED OVER RISE IN ILLEGAL IVORY TRADE. NPR (8/18, Joyce, 519K) reports that "the illegal trade in ivory from African elephants has tripled in the past 15 years, to the extent that biologists fear for the creatures' future existence." The article notes that "for the better part of a century, from 1840 to around 1940, the US was the world's biggest buyer of ivory," and "most of that ivory went to a tiny town in Connecticut — a town that's now grappling with this dark part of its past." The article focuses on the residents of Deep River, and their efforts to "take their history seriously."

US Geological Survey:

USGS EXPANDS WATER MONITORING SYSTEM. Newsday (8/19, 1.35M) reports that "Long Island's

emergency officials will be able to access real-time information about water conditions during the next severe storm, thanks to an expanded US Geological Survey monitoring system being installed this summer." The USGS' Surge, Wave and Tide Hydrodynamic Network will "stretch from Virginia to Maine, with about 60 to 70 permanent sites on Long Island, in New York City and in Westchester, agency officials said." William Capurso, a hydrologic technician with USGS, said, "It helps create flood-inundation maps that can determine the best evacuation routes – who needs to evacuate when and where."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

NUMEROUS BIRDS DEATHS AT IVANPAH SOLAR PLANT RAISE CONCERNS. The E&E Daily (8/18) reports that "one bird is scorched while flying above BrightSource Energy Inc.'s Ivanpah solar power plant in the California desert about every two minutes, and Fish and Wildlife Service investigators are pushing state regulators to slow the company's expansion plans until they can learn more about what is killing the birds." FWS officials fear the facility "may act as a 'mega-trap' for wildlife – with the bright light attracting them to the area, only to scorch them to death." However, "BrightSource contends some of the puffs of smoke detected are from insects and bits of airborne trash rather than wildlife."

Also reporting on the story are the AP (8/19) and the National Review (8/19, 879K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Las Vegas Sun (8/18, 148K), the Christian Science Monitor (8/18, 566K), CBS News (8/19, 5.21M), Fox News (8/18, 6.72M), and Fox Business (8/18, 333K).

BLM APPROVES PERMIT FOR CHOKECHERRY-SIERRA MADRE WIND FARM. The AP (8/19) reports that "a preliminary finding by the Bureau of Land Management says a proposed southern Wyoming wind farm would have no significant impact on the human environment." The article notes that "the conclusion was one of two environmental analyses to be done on the $5 billion Chokecherry and Sierra Madre project." The other is a study of a transmission line.

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (8/18, 465K), the Denver Post (8/19, 923K), and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/18, 582K).

BAT DEATHS PROMPT CHANGE AT SPRING VALLEY WIND ENERGY PROJECT. The E&E Daily (8/18) reports that "a Nevada wind farm has been forced to make changes after killing more bats than allowed under a deal with the federal government." The 152-megawatt Spring Valley Wind Energy project has "adjusted its turbine operations at night to factor in bat migrations through the region." According to the article, "on nights with heavy bat activity, the turbines now kick in when wind speeds reach 11 mph, instead of about 7 mph, the facility's owner said."

FWS CORRECTS NUMBER OF EAGLE DEATHS AT WIND FARMS. The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (8/18, 116K) reports that "more than a month after the US Fish and Wildlife Service said it had reports of 15 golden eagles killed at wind farms in the area, the agency has retracted that number and said most of the eagle deaths actually occurred elsewhere in California." Eric Davis, the agency's Sacramento-based assistant regional director for migratory birds and state programs, "originally provided the number during a July interview with The Desert Sun, saying the golden eagle deaths had been documented at wind farms in the Palm Springs/San Gorgonio Pass area," but "the Desert Wind Energy Association, a consortium of wind energy companies, challenged that number." And so "the Fish and Wildlife Service — responding to Freedom of Information Act requests from The Desert Sun and a lawyer for the association — reviewed its records." On Monday, federal officials said "most of the eagle deaths actually occurred at Altamont Pass in Alameda County and were incorrectly classified in a database as having occurred in the San Gorgonio Pass area."

BOEM TO HOLD OFFSHORE WIND LEASE AUCTION. The reNews (8/19) reports that "the United States will hold its third competitive lease auction 19 August for a 1.45GW offshore wind energy site in federal waters off Maryland." The article notes that "a 32,737-acre north lease area and a 46,970-acre south area, located about 10 miles off the coast of Ocean City, will be auctioned simultaneously in the online sale." The BOEM said "16

companies have qualified to participate however, based on previous auctions, many are expected not to take part."

KEENE: GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES FAVOR RENEWABLES, KILL BIRDS. In a column in the Washington Times, (8/18, Keene, 465K) David Keene criticizes what he believes is a hypocritical approach by environmentalists and government subsidies that favors renewable energy sources no matter what the costs. In this case, he cites the "massive loss of bird life," estimated in the hundreds of thousands each year, that results from wind farms and solar-energy facilities. Keene claims that the Obama administration "thinks wind farms should be allowed to kill with impunity by promulgating regulations to exempt them from the penalties" others would face for killing avian wildlife. Keene concludes that environmentalists are convinced such "bird genocide... will be worth it to cripple the fossil-fuel industry."

Onshore Energy Development:

USGS STUDY FINDS MAN-MADE QUAKES CAUSE LESS SHAKING. The Washington Post (8/18, Press, 4.06M) reports that a USGS study issued Monday found that man-made quakes, including those thought to be spurred by fracking, "cause less shaking and in general are about 16 times weaker than natural earthquakes with the same magnitude." The study examined moderate quakes in the eastern and central US from 2011 to 2013, comparing reported magnitude with eyewitness accounts on the USGS' electronic "Did You Feel It" survey.

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Audi, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) notes that there is debate over whether or not fracking leads to seismic activity. The American Petroleum Institute says there is insufficient data to conclude there is a connection between quakes and fracking, the Journal notes.

Also reporting on the story is the AP (8/18). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/18, 582K), the US News & World Report (8/18, 645K), and Yahoo! (8/19, Borenstein, 10.35M).

STATE BLM UPHOLDS THOMPSON DIVIDE GAS LEASE EXTENSIONS. The Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (8/19, 27K) reports that the state office of the BLM on Monday "upheld a local BLM decision made in March to allow more than two dozen oil and gas leases in the Thompson Divide area to be extended for a second straight year beyond their original 2013 expiration date." However, "the decision just sets up a likely appeal to the U.S. Interior Board of Land Appeals in Washington, D.C.," according to "Chris Seldin, the assistant Pitkin County attorney who is arguing the case on behalf of three area governments, including the city of Glenwood Springs."

KANSAS OIL DRILLERS WEIGH OPTIONS UNDER LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN RULES. The Wichita (KS) Eagle (8/19, 313K) reports that "the lesser prairie chicken – and the federal plan instituted for its protection – has soured the mood of the whole oil and gas industry." Speakers at the annual meeting of the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association on Monday, "told oil and gas producers that they face a decision: Keep doing what they're doing and hope they don't commit a violation – or enroll in a voluntary mitigation plan that eliminates the possibility of fines but requires following government rules on operating, as well as substantial enrollment and mitigation fees."

BLM CONSTRUCTING MOBILE HOMES TO BOLSTER BAKKEN STAFF. The E&E Daily (8/18) reports that the BLM "this week is beginning construction of new mobile homes to help bolster its oil and gas staff in North Dakota's booming Bakken Shale region." The bureau's North Dakota field office in Dickinson "plans to build 10 mobile housing units on a 10-acre plot recently transferred from the Bureau of Reclamation." According to the BLM, "the units will provide temporary homes for newly arrived BLM and Forest Service employees until more permanent housing can be found."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (8/19).

TENSIONS RISE OVER PROPOSED COLLECTOR NATURAL GAS LINES IN MOAB AREA. The Deseret (UT) News (8/19, 538K) reports that "a proposed 25-mile network of gathering lines to carry the captured natural gas from existing or new oil wells is up for public review in what promises to be another controversy between environmentalists and industry." The article notes that "tension has continued to dominate the interplay among Grand County officials, Fidelity Exploration and Production Co., and environmental groups over the uptick in

industry activity on lands adjacent to prime red rock recreation spots outside Moab." A draft environmental analysis has been prepared and released by the BLM "on the network of proposed collector lines, of which 22.5 miles will be buried and the remainder above ground."

CIRCUIT COURT PROTECTS SURFACE ACCESS FOR DRILLERS. The E&E Daily (8/18) reports that in a ruling handed down last week, the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals "found that an Entek Energy Ltd. subsidiary was entitled to cross private land in Colorado to reach an oil and gas well on neighboring land." The holding "comes down against surface owner Stull Ranches, which argued that the traffic and industrial activity would disturb grouse used in an on-site hunting business." The article notes that "last week's circuit court ruling expands a 2012 decision from the US District Court for the District of Colorado, which found that Entek could use the Stull surface only to access oil and gas directly under that estate." However, "the circuit court pointed to a federal arrangement that bundles all the oil and gas rights under Stull Ranches and adjacent land."

DEUTCH: ADMINISTRATION SHOULD DO MORE TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF US OIL AND NATURAL GAS. In the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), John Deutch – a professor of chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a former director of energy research and undersecretary at the Department of Energy, and a director of Cheniere Energy Inc., a Houston-based liquefied natural gas company – writes that while the President's second-term energy strategy of reducing CO2 emissions via regulation appears to be working, his Administration should be doing more to encourage the development and exportation of US oil and natural gas.

ANALYST TOUTS FRACKING'S POTENTIAL TO AID IN WATER CONSERVATION. Forbes (8/18, 11.38M) contributor Brigham McCown reports that "technology to help curb water shortage" may be found "in a very unexpected industry," fracking. Though the industry is criticized for its water use, technology used to recycle water "may hold the solution of water conservation." Each well saves between $70,000 and $300,000 annually by using recycled water, McCown notes.

Offshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR SENDS OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL TO WHITE HOUSE. The E&E Daily (8/18) reports that the Interior Department "last week advanced long-awaited draft regulations that will dictate how companies may explore for oil and gas in the remote waters north of Alaska." The article notes that "the proposed rule, which was submitted to the White House Office of Management and Budget for review, comes as Royal Dutch Shell PLC is considering resuming drilling in the Arctic next summer following its failed 2012 bid." The joint rules from the BOEM and BSEE will "promote safe, responsible, and effective drilling activities on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf, while also ensuring the protection of Alaska's coastal communities and the marine environment," according to a brief summary on the OMB website.

Also covering the story are The Hill (8/19, Barron-Lopez, 237K), the Washington Examiner (8/19, 335K), the Anchorage (AK) Dispatch News (8/18, 251K), the National Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 561K), the National Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 561K), and the Law 360 (8/19, 18K).

BOEM TO UPDATE BONDING REGULATIONS. The E&E Daily (8/18) reports that the Interior Department "late last week announced plans to update 20-year-old regulations that ensure taxpayers are not left on the hook for the cost of tearing down abandoned offshore oil and gas facilities." The BOEM said "its existing bonding regulations for oil and gas development have not kept pace with new facilities designed to drill in deeper waters and the growing cost to decommission them." The bureau is "giving the public until Oct. 20 to comment on best practices for mitigating financial risks and whether current bonding requirements are adequate." BOEM acting Director Walter Cruickshank said in a statement, "We would like to work with industry and others to determine how to improve our regulatory regime to better align with the realities of aging offshore infrastructure, hazard risks and increasing costs of decommissioning."

Also providing coverage are the Upstream Online (8/19, 20K) and the Fierce Energy (8/19).

INDUSTRY GROUPS URGE FOR MORE OFFSHORE LEASE ACCESS. The Oil and Gas Journal (8/19, 1K) reports that in public comments submitted last week to the BOEM, the American Petroleum Institute, America's

Natural Gas Alliance, Independent Petroleum Association of America, and other groups urged the Interior Department to "consider all parts of the US Outer Continental Shelf for leasing" in its 2017-2022 OCS lease program. API senior policy adviser Andy Radford argued, "Expanding opportunities for US offshore energy production would create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, raise billions of dollars for the government, and strengthen America's international diplomacy and national security." He warned, "This is not an issue to be considered lightly. Decisions the government makes now will impact our economy and our ability to exert diplomatic influence for decades."

Also covering the story is The Hill (8/19, Cama, 237K).

BP, NOBLE PLUG FAILED DEEPWATER GULF OF MEXICO WELL. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (8/18, Larino, 527K) reports that BP and Noble Energy have closed and left a deepwater Gulf of Mexico well they were jointly exploring after it failed "to reach targeted oil and gas deposits." Noble said the companies are reexamining data to "determine future exploration plans" in the Atwater Valley area. The Bright well was located in 5,600 feet of water and drilled to a depth of 13,500 feet before being plugged.

BIOLOGIST DECRIES SEISMIC TESTING'S IMPACT ON MARINE LIFE. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (8/19, Halter, 11.54M), Dr. Reese Halter writes that "on July 16, the Obama administration approved the use of sonic cannons in the Western Atlantic Ocean." Halter claims that "millions of sea creatures will be senselessly killed by incessant sonic booms along the eastern US seaboard as Big Oil scavenges for more heat-trapping gases." Moreover, Halter finds it "infuriating and heartbreaking" that the BOEM "predicts the collateral deaths (and/or harm) of millions of sea creatures as an incidental outcome."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

PROBE SOUGHT INTO POSSIBLE WATER DIVERSION. The AP (8/18) reports that "state and federal water agencies are seeking an investigation into whether some California farmers are taking water released from upstream dams intended for consumers in other regions of the state." The BOR and the California Department of Water Resources are "calling on the state board that oversees water rights to investigate possible water diversion by farmers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." Meanwhile, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, "a group allied with Delta landowners, has countered by filing a formal complaint alleging that DWR and Reclamation are illegally diverting water from rivers that flow into the Delta."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/18, 582K) and KFSN-TV Fresno, CA (8/19, 2K).

Also reporting on the story are the Fresno (CA) Bee (8/18, 322K), the Central Valley (CA) Business Times (8/19, 206) and KFBK-AM Sacramento, CA (8/19).

COMPROMISE NEARS ON WATER SUPPLY LEGISLATION. The Bloomberg BNA (8/19, 7K) reports that "negotiations are making progress in the US Congress on a bill to address water supply problems in California, according to congressional staff." According to the article, "compromise language has been drafted and redrafted by staffers working for the congressional delegation from California-or more specifically for House Republicans from the state and Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)."

FLOWS IN SOUTH FORK OF BOISE RIVER INCREASED. The Idaho Statesman (8/18, 222K) reports that water managers with the BOR "increased flows in the South Fork of the Boise River on Monday to restore fish habitat damaged by last year's wildfires." The BOR is "increasing the river volume from Anderson Ranch Reservoir by 400 cfs (cubic feet per second) and again Tuesday by another 300 cfs." According to the bureau, "this window of high water will help recover fish habitat in the South Fork of the Boise River, one of Southwest Idaho's most important trout streams."

WATER BOND COMPROMISE LAUDED. In an op-ed for the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/19, 582K), state Sen. Lois Wolk supports the new $7.5 billion water bond that will be on the November ballot. Wolk argues that "if approved by the voters, it will be a victory for all of California and produce important benefits for decades to come." Wolk urges "all voters, especially those in the Delta region, to finish this work in November and vote yes on Proposition

1."

Empowering Native American Communities:

AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE CHILD'S DEATH ON SPIRIT LAKE RESERVATION. KFYR-TV Bismarck, ND (8/19, 1K) reports that "police are investigating the death of a one-year-old child following an accident on a North Dakota Indian Reservation." According to the FBI, "the toddler was hit by a vehicle on Saturday on the Spirit Lake Reservation near Devils Lake." The FBI is consulting with the Spirit Lake Tribal police and the BIA, and "reports will be submitted to the US Attorney's Office."

US NAVAJO COMMUNITIES ADOPTING SMOKING BANS, CASINOS EXPRESS CONCERN. NPR (8/18, Jung, 519K) reports that "dozens of Navajo Nation communities passed local clean air resolutions this year" which "ban tobacco use in government buildings and work places." The National Native Network has worked "to reduce commercial tobacco use among Native Americans with funding from the Centers for Disease Control," but "others are concerned that the policies could affect tribal businesses like casinos." Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise CEO Derek Watchman says "there are studies out there that suggest that smoking bans really, really impact revenue," and that "with limited revenue, you can only employ so [many people]."

Top National News:

OBAMA AGAIN URGES FERGUSON PROTESTERS TO ESCHEW VIOLENCE AND POLICE TO SHOW RESTRAINT. The ongoing violent protests in Ferguson, Missouri continued to dominate the news cycle on Monday. The three network newscasts devoted more than 23 minutes to reports from Ferguson, more than three times the air time they gave to the day's next most prominent story, the US airstrikes in Iraq. President Obama's comments on the protests and the investigation into the shooting of Michael Brown during his press conference on Monday were seen as another attempt to show the White House's evenhanded approach to the situation.

The New York Times (8/19, A12, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) report that on Monday, the President "called for calm and healing...even as he acknowledged the deep racial divisions that continue to plague not only" Ferguson, "but cities across the United States." The Times notes that the President said, "In too many communities, too many young men of color are left behind and seen only as objects of fear." According to the Times, the President "took pains to make clear that he was not issuing a blanket indictment of either the protesting crowds or the law enforcement officers responding to the demonstrations."

According to a front-page article in the New York Times (8/19, A1, Eligon, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), the President "seemed less than enthusiastic about" Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's "decision to call in the National Guard" following several nights of escalating violence targeting the police in Ferguson. USA Today (8/19, Alcindor, Copeland, Hampson, 5.76M) also reports that the President "sounded skeptical about the Guard's use."

In the lead story for the CBS Evening News (8/18, lead story, 3:35, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley noted that President Obama "took a break from his Martha's Vineyard vacation to get a briefing on Ferguson and other issues." CBS showed a brief clip of the President speaking before returning to reports from on the ground in Ferguson. On NBC Nightly News (8/18, story 3, 2:50, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams also briefly that on Monday, the President "return[ed] to the White House for two days from his working vacation on Martha's Vineyard."

On Fox News' Special Report (8/19, 1.53M), Wendell Goler reported that the President said "the violence...was being caused by a small minority, many of them who might not even be from Ferguson." Goler went on to say that the President's appearance on Monday "seemed aimed at showing the President engaged...more convincingly than the two statements to the press he made...while on Martha's Vineyard."

While the President's remarks were widely noted in the media, they were not the focus of many reports. Instead, as has been the case for the last several days, coverage emphasizes that the violence in Ferguson has only escalated as police there have tried various tactics to calm angry crowds and identify the criminals in their midst. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (8/19, 938K) is reporting that "protests escalated again late Monday night as police fired tear gas at protesters who defied police by refusing orders to disperse." Several outlets reported that again

on Monday night, the police responded to reports of gunfire.

As of early Tuesday morning, CNN (8/19, McLaughlin, Kastenbaum, Yan, 10.19M) was reporting that on Monday, "an evening of peaceful protests devolved into another night of chaos as gunfire, tear gas and Molotov cocktails flew." According to CNN, "Some believe those causing trouble are from outside Ferguson."

The AP (8/19, Kuhnhenn) reports that on Monday, the President said "the vast majority of protesters...were peaceful, but warned that a small minority was undermining justice," and made the case that "giving in to that anger through looting and attacks on police only stirs tensions and leads to further chaos." The AP notes that the President "said he also had told" Nixon that he "wanted to ensure the use the National Guard" was "limited in scope," and that he "would be monitoring that operation in the coming days to see whether the guard's involvement was helping or hurting." According to the AP, "Shortly before speaking to reporters," the President "received an update from top advisers including" Holder and White House Counsel Neil Eggleston.

In an online post, David Jackson of USA Today (8/19, 5.76M) reported that the President "announced he is dispatching Attorney General Eric Holder to monitor the unrest" in Ferguson, and "said people there should push back on 'a small minority' that is undermining peaceful protest by fomenting violence." According to Jackson, the President said "while there are legitimate concerns raised by the shooting...the solution does not involve looting and attacking police with Molotov cocktails." Jackson noted that the President also "said police should re-examine the use of heavy military equipment in dealing with protests."

On ABC World News (8/18, lead story, 3:20, Sawyer, 5.84M), correspondent Steve Osunsami said "the militarized police state that seems so un-American to so many is returning to" Ferguson, and President Obama is "saying he hopes the troops don't make things worse." President Obama: "I'll be watching to assess whether, in fact, it's helping rather than hindering progress in Ferguson."

Sam Stein of the Huffington Post (8/18, 11.54M) reported that the President's "most noteworthy remarks came when asked about the machinery being deployed by those police...which has been criticized for instead inciting tensions and further alienating the local community." Stein quotes the President as saying, "I think one of the great things about the United States has been our ability to maintain a distinction between our military and domestic law enforcement." The Washington Times (8/19, Sherfinski, 465K) reports that the President was "chastising both protesters and law enforcement."

In an analysis titled, "Obama Shuns Emotional Rescue On Race," Edward-Isaac Dovere of Politico (8/18, 637K) said while the President, when "speaking about Trayvon Martin, was connected, heartfelt, deeply personal," on Monday, "he was guarded, reserved and deeply clinical." Dovere goes on to note that the President "didn't reflect on how if he had a son, that son would look like Michael Brown," and "didn't, as he did just over a year ago, call for a new chapter in a national conversation on race." According to Dovere, "despite speaking at length about Ferguson, as Obama exited the White House briefing room half an hour later, many were left still wanting to hear more."

Appearing on Fox News' Special Report (8/19, 1.53M), the Wall Street Journal editorial board's Jason Riley praised the President for having "talked about black crime a little bit" on Monday, but objected to the President "attribut[ing] that black criminality" to "poverty or a racist criminal justice system." Riley said that explanation is "nonsense," and pointed out that "the black crime rate was lower in 1960 than it is today." Riley asked rhetorically: "Was there less racism or less poverty in 1960?" Riley went on to dispute the "false narrative being pushed out there...by Sharpton and the rest of the hustlers that black men live in fear of being shot by cops." Riley said, "I know something about growing up black and male in the inner city," and it is "not cops," but "other black people shooting black people."

Neil Munro of the Daily Caller (8/18, 408K) reported that author Pat Buchanan, who worked for President Nixon "during the late 1960s race riots," predicted that the President's "passive response to the riots and arson in Ferguson" could hurt Democratic candidates in November. Buchanan is quoted as saying, "The riots and the violence and the looting are going to cause a lot of folks to recoil from those who appear to be condoning those sorts of act... there is no question about it."

National Guard Deployed Following Coordinated Violence Targeting Police Officers. On the CBS Evening

News (8/18, lead story, 3:35, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that "the curfew in Ferguson, Missouri did not stop the violence, so Gov. Jay Nixon lifted it today and is sending in national guardsman to help keep order after another night of violence." Pelley noted that in his press conference on Monday, the President "said he asked" Nixon "to make sure the National Guard is used only in what he called a 'limited and appropriate' way." Correspondent Vladimir Duthiers went on to report from Ferguson that the National Guard "will be under the command of the State Highway Patrol, the same agency now directing security here, but the Guard's mission will be limited to protecting the police command center," which was the target of "a coordinated attack of Molotov cocktails and gunfire" on Sunday night.

At the opening of NBC Nightly News (8/18, lead story, 3:45, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams reported from Ferguson that on Sunday night, "the violence was the most intense so far," and "some of the worst urban violence in this country in recent years." NBC's Ron Allen went on report that on Sunday night, the Police "chronicled a relentless barrage – 8:25 P.M., first reports of gunfire; then 8:28 P.M., reports of eight armed men; 8:56 P.M., hundreds trying to attack the police command center throwing Molotov cocktails." According to Allen, "Several businesses were looted." Also on NBC Nightly News (8/18, story 2, 2:50, Williams, 7.86M), Mark Potter reported that on Sunday, police "form[ed] security lines after hearing reports of nearby gunfire, Molotov cocktails and an angry crowd heading their way."

The Washington Post (8/19, Wax-Thibodeaux, Brown, Markon, 4.06M) reports that on Monday, Captain Ronald Johnson of the Missouri Highway Patrol said the protests on Sunday "'took a very different turn after dark,' as police deployed tear gas when protesters threw molotov cocktails and gunshots were fired at officers." According to the Christian Science Monitor (8/19, Slattery, 566K), "police say protesters fired at least 30 gunshots and threw Molotov cocktails" on Sunday night before officers responded, and then "in the ensuing turmoil, intense looting erupted as did shootings and other acts of violence."

The Los Angeles Times (8/19, Hennessy-Fiske, Pearce, 3.42M) notes that on Sunday night in Ferguson, "at least two people were shot...and police were fired upon." The Times also reports that police "said there were signs of a planned and coordinated attempt" to "launch an advance on the police command post not far from the scene of Brown's death." The Times notes that on Monday, Nixon "condemned 'the firing upon law enforcement officers, the shooting of a civilian, the throwing of Molotov cocktails, looting and a coordinated attempt to overrun the unified Command Center.'"

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Dolan, Shallwani, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) quotes Nixon as saying, "Last night, Ferguson, Mo., experienced a very difficult and dangerous night as a result of a violent criminal element intent upon terrorizing the community. As long as there are vandals and looters and threats to the people and property of Ferguson, we must take action to protect our citizens."

Nevertheless, according to the Washington Post (8/19, Wax-Thibodeaux, Brown, Markon, 4.06M), on Monday, the President "appeared to offer only lukewarm support to Nixon's decision to call in the Missouri National Guard." In an interview for NBC Nightly News (8/18, story 3, 2:50, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams asked Gov. Nixon about "the militarized look of the police force" in Ferguson. Nixon said that last week, "when we saw that militaristic look and the reaction of folks that night, we called...in" the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and "Captain Johnson and his team did peace marches...and that night was peaceful." But Nixon added, "Unfortunately, the next morning there was a release of" the videotape showing the shooting victim, Michael Brown, robbing a store and assaulting its owner, which "lighted up a tinderbox here."

The New York Times (8/19, Eligon, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) also reports that Johnson's "less confrontational approach seemed to calm the crowds for one night, but tensions between the police and protesters have since surpassed levels seen earlier." The Times reports that "on Sunday night...police officers came under assault from gunfire and firebombs and responded with their largest show of force so far." The Times notes that Johnson said "some demonstrators...had opened fire on the police," and "hurled firebombs," which he called "premeditated criminal acts." Johnson is quoted as saying, "We had to act to protect lives and property."

Reuters (8/19, Wulfhorst) also covers Nixon's decision to deploy the National Guard. The Washington Post (8/19, Farhi, 4.06M) has a report on the experiences of reporters in Ferguson. The Los Angeles Times (8/19, 3.42M), in an editorial, says it "seems that Missouri officials have refused to learn the lessons of Los Angeles' experience" in 1992, when riots swept the city following the Rodney King verdict. According to the Times, "the LAPD's

reputation for restraint in crowd control is generally deserved." The Times adds that "by contrast, authorities in Ferguson responded to initial protests with heavy arms," and "the situation escalated rapidly."

Holder To Travel To Ferguson After Criticizing Law Enforcement There. The Washington Post (8/19, Wax-Thibodeaux, Brown, Markon, 4.06M) reports that on Wednesday, Attorney General Holder will go to Ferguson "to meet with FBI agents and prosecutors investigating the fatal police shooting," which the Post says is "the latest sign of an expanding federal role" in Ferguson. According to the Post, "Dozens of FBI agents are going door to door...to interview anybody with information about the shooting," although "federal officials said last week that they were deferring, for now, to state officials."

Politico (8/18, Topaz, McCalmont, 637K) reports that in a statement released on Monday, Holder "took aim at the process so far," saying, "The selective release of sensitive information that we have seen in this case so far is troubling to me." The Washington Post (8/19, Berman, 4.06M) also reports that Holder "criticized the way information regarding Michael Brown's death has been released." The Hill (8/18, Parnes, 237K) notes that on Monday, the President said he "was trying to be neutral with his remarks," and said Holder "would have to be 'careful not to prejudge an investigation' that is ongoing."

On the CBS Evening News (8/18, story 2, 1:05, Pelley, 5.08M), correspondent Bob Orr said, "Ultimately it's up to local prosecutors to determine whether or not to bring charges against the police officer who shot Brown, but...the Justice Department is also pressing ahead on a civil rights investigation." On ABC World News (8/18, story 2, 2:35, Sawyer, 5.84M), Alex Perez reported that Officer Darren Wilson "remains in hiding and the grand jury is expected to decide soon whether" he "could have to defend his actions in a court room."

According to the New York Times (8/19, Wines, Goode, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), "Critics say officials in Ferguson have added to tensions by making contradictory statements" and "declining to release details about the shooting." In an editorial titled, "Ferguson, Mo., Police Are Doing Little To Instill Confidence," the Washington Post (8/19, 4.06M) says "if there were any doubt that the citizens of Ferguson...had good reason to question the professionalism of their police force, it has been erased by several days of revelations."

Private Autopsy Concludes That Brown Was Shot Six Times. The New York Times (8/19, Southall, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports on the results of an autopsy conducted by Dr. Michael Baden on the request of the Brown family. Baden concluded that Michael Brown "was shot at least six times, all from the front and at a distance, including two shots that struck him in the head."

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Shallwani, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that Benjamin Crump, the Brown family's lawyer, said the autopsy "verifies that the witness accounts were true." DeWayne Wickham, in his column for USA Today (8/19, 5.76M), writes that Crump says, "Several witnesses are telling federal investigators amazingly consistent stories of how Brown was shot as he held his hands in the air." The Huffington Post (8/18, Siddiqui, 11.54M) reported that following the release of the autopsy, Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, asked, "What else do we need to give them to arrest the killer of my child?"

The Daily Caller (8/18, Ross, 408K) reported that "a woman claiming to be a friend of Darren Wilson" called into a St. Louis radio station, and "gave Wilson's side," which "CNN and other mainstream outlets" subsequently "picked up...after verifying that [her] claims match what Wilson told Ferguson police." The caller claims that Wilson was aware that there had just been "a strong-arm robbery," and thought Brown fit the description of the perpetrator. The caller, "Josie," is quoted as saying Brown "bum-rushe[d] Wilson," "punch[ed] him in the face" and "grabbed for [Wilson's] gun."

CBS News: Ferguson Residents Concerned About Outsiders Joining Protests To Commit Crimes. On the CBS Evening News (8/18, story 3, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that "night after night, many of the protesters are not from Ferguson, but have come from far and wide with many motives." Mark Strassman interviewed Tony Davis, a "21-year-old [who] lives in Mike Brown's apartment complex," who is "frustrated with...with outsiders who have come here to do more than shout." Davis was shown saying, "Those are the people who are just coming...to steal – they are taking advantage of the situation and that's not right." According to Strassman, "The crowds get bigger as time goes on."

The Washington Post (8/19, A1, Wax-Thibodeaux, Brown, 4.06M) describes "young men" in Ferguson who "pull

dark scarves up over their mouths and lob molotov cocktails at police." According to the Post, these "militants" include "online organizers and opportunistic looters — and their numbers have been growing." The Post says "some of the men are from the area," but "many others...have arrived by bus and by car from Chicago, Detroit, Brooklyn and elsewhere."

The New York Times (8/19, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) profiles Ferguson resident Dellena Jones, "who runs a hair salon" that "demonstrators had tossed concrete slabs into" on Sunday night "as [her] two children prepared for what had been scheduled as the first day of school."

Bret Stephens, in his column for the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), notes that statistics show there are 190 crimes in Ferguson per square mile, whereas the national average is 39. Eugene Robinson, in his column for the Washington Post (8/19, 4.06M), gives his take on the racial and socioeconomic dynamics behind the situation in Ferguson.

Pew Survey Finds Divergent Responses To Shooting From Whites, African-Americans. McClatchy (8/18, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 23K) reported that according to the Pew Research Center, "blacks and whites are starkly divided over reactions to the shooting of Michael Brown." According to McClatchy, "By a 4 to 1 margin, blacks said the incident 'raises important issues about race that merit discussion,'" while "whites, by a 47 to 37 percent margin, said 'the issue of race is getting more attention that it deserves.'"

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Gallo, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) noted that in the same Pew survey, 65% of black respondents were critical of the police's handling of the case, while only 33% of white respondents criticized the police.

"LOBBYISTS" REPORTEDLY CRAFTING OBAMA IMMIGRATION POLICY "OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW."
According to the New York Times (8/19, A14, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), the "drafting" of "what will likely be...significant immigration changes" to be implemented by President Obama "has been conducted almost entirely behind closed doors, where lobbyists and interest groups invited to the White House are making their case out of public view." The Times reports that an unidentified "White House official" acknowledged that "Administration officials have convened more than 20 so-called listening sessions this summer alone on executive options for revising immigration policy," which the Times says is an instance of Obama's "go-it-alone approach...essentially making policy from the White House, replacing congressional hearings...with closed meetings for invited constituencies." The Times says that as "businesses...flock to the administration with their policy wish lists," his recourse to executive action "has opened the president, already facing charges of executive overreach, to criticism that he is presiding over opaque policy-making, with the potential to reward political backers."

In an article titled, "White House Meets With Big Biz On Immigration," Politico (8/18, Palmer, Brown, 637K) says the President "was initially expected to focus only on slowing deportations of potentially millions of undocumented immigrants," but "now top aides are talking with...big companies like Cisco, Intel and Accenture, hoping to add more changes that would get them on board." However, according to Politico, "the White House fears a backlash in November, particularly among independent voters in battleground Senate races where Republicans are seizing on" reports that the President is contemplating a sweeping "amnesty" order. Politico also reports that while the President "has pledged to act by the end of the summer...the timing is a growing concern to Senate Democrats, who fear that" potentially unpopular executive actions easing immigration law enforcement "will further endanger their chances of maintaining control of the chamber."

Under the headline, "Obama Weighing Business-Friendly Immigration Actions," the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports that the President is expected to unveil his executive actions on immigration sometime next month. According to the Journal, following meeting with corporate lobbyists, the President is considering steps that would allow US firms to double the number of visas they can provide foreign nationals. The Journal notes that the potential change to policy via executive order has already elicited condemnations from member of Congress, including Sen. Jeff Sessions, who is quoted as saying big business is "scheming with the White House to extract by executive fiat what was denied to them by the American people and Congress."

David Rogers, in another piece for Politico (8/18, 637K), says "speculation abounds that the president will resort

to executive orders to get what he wants," but, according to Rogers, "there are still serious doubts in the administration that Obama has that authority in the case of the child migrants" from Central America entering the US illegally who benefit from a 2008 law barring their immediate deportation. Author Oliver Thomas, in an op-ed for USA Today (8/19, Thomas, 5.76M), suggests that if the US enforces its current immigration laws in regards to the Central American children in the US illegally, "we could wind up betraying...our reputation as a haven for asylum seekers."

Farmers Complain They Can't Find Enough Immigrants To Employ, "Legal Or Illegal." McClatchy (8/14, Watkins, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that "agricultural powerhouses near the border, such as Florida and California, employ tens of thousands of seasonal immigrant laborers every year," but "deeper in the homeland...farmers confront a blue-collar labor vacuum." Chalmers Carr, "owner of the East Coast's largest peach grower, South Carolina's Titan Farms," is quoted as saying, "Because we're not a border state, it's definitely harder to get people over this far from the border to work," so "there's truly not enough farmworkers now, legal or illegal." McClatchy goes on to report that many farmers claim it is impossible to persuade those legally in the US to work for them.

Border Patrol Official Claims Officers Are Guilty Of Using "Excessive Force." On the CBS Evening News (8/18, story 8, 3:20, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that "an insider in US Customs and Border Protection" says "many deaths from the hands of agents are highly suspect." Anna Werner went on to report that "since 2010, 28 people have died at the hands of Border Patrol agents." According to Werner, "Reviewing those fail force case was part of Jim Tomsheck's job as head of internal affairs at the Border Patrol" until he was "reassigned in June." Tomsheck: "I'm familiar with several incidents where the persons appeared to be fleeing and were shot in the back. ... There were certainly many cases where border patrol agents or CBP officers engaged in excessive use of force or abuse of migrants at the border that should have resulted in discipline where it did not."

McClatchy Analysis: Nicaragua's Low Level Of Migration To US Tied To Lower Crime Rate. McClatchy (8/18, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that although Nicaragua is "the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and...a transhipment point for cocaine headed to" the US, "unlike El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala...Nicaragua hasn't sent a wave of children and teenagers fleeing north." According to the Times, that is partly "because while Nicaragua is poor, it's also the safest country in Central America," and "vicious transnational street gangs that have overwhelmed police forces" in other Latin American countries "have no presence in Nicaragua."

JOB CREATION UP IN 30 STATES, WITH TEXAS LEADING JOB GROWTH. Bloomberg News (8/19, Smialek, 2.76M) reports "payrolls climbed in 36 US states in July, showing labor-market strength was broad-based." Texas "led the nation with a 46,600 increase in payrolls, followed by California with 27,700 more jobs, figures from the Labor Department showed." Overall, "the jobless rate increased in 30 states."

Bloomberg Analysis: High Underemployment "Warning Light Blinking" In Fed's Dashboard. Bloomberg News (8/19, Kearns, Smialek, 2.76M) reports Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen "has a stubborn warning light blinking on her labor market dashboard: A group of Americans larger than Washington state's population can find only part-time work." As the Fed chair "heads to this week's Fed symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where the focus will be on the labor market, those 7.5 million part-time workers who want full-time jobs are inflating the broad measure of underemployment she watches to gauge job market health."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"It's Time To Overhaul Clemency."*** The New York Times (8/19, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that judging "by the numbers," President Obama, "who has, so far, granted just 62 clemency petitions, is the least merciful president in modern history." The Obama Administration "took a stab at remedying the situation in April when it replaced its feckless pardon attorney and announced that it would consider granting clemency to thousands of low-level drug offenders serving what Mr. Obama called 'unjust' sentences," but the Times argues that even if this effort succeeds, "it is a one-time fix that fails to address the core reasons behind the decades-long abandonment of the presidential power of mercy." The Times urges "a complete overhaul of the clemency process," which means "taking it out of the hands of the Justice Department, where federal prosecutors with an inevitable conflict of interest recommend the denial of virtually all applications."

"New Threats To Democracy In Turkey." The New York Times (8/19, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that Recep Tayyip Erdogan's victory in Turkey's presidential race has "created new uncertainties for his country and the United States and other NATO members who depend on Turkey to be the bulwark of the alliance's eastern front." Erdogan's "authoritarian ways have strained relations with Abdullah Gul, the current president," but "whether he would challenge Mr. Erdogan directly is unclear, and there are no other credible political rivals in sight." As a result, "if Mr. Erdogan succeeds in solidifying power, the future of Turkey's already shaky democracy is more in doubt than ever."

"Is Gov. Perry's Bad Judgment Really A Crime." The New York Times (8/19, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorializes that Texas Gov. Rick Perry "is one of the least thoughtful and most damaging state leaders in America, having done great harm to immigrants, abortion clinics and people without health insurance during his 14 years in office," but "bad political judgment is not necessarily a felony, and the indictment handed up against him on Friday – given the facts so far – appears to be the product of an overzealous prosecution." The Times argues that governors and presidents "threaten vetoes and engage in horse-trading all the time to get what they want, but for that kind of political activity to become criminal requires far more evidence than has been revealed in the Perry case so far."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The Ferguson Fiasco Continues."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/19, 4.06M) says "if there were any doubt that the citizens of Ferguson...had good reason to question the professionalism of their police force, it has been erased by several days of revelations."

"A Shaky Case Against Perry." The Washington Post (8/19, 4.06M) editorializes that there are "many fair grounds on which to criticize Rick Perry's performance as governor of Texas," but "the list does not include the charges newly levied against him by an Austin grand jury." The Post adds that "this particular kerfuffle fell within the bounds of partisan politics," and "criminal prosecution is not always the appropriate remedy for dubious or despicable behavior by those in power, especially not where the relevant law is not clearly applicable." The Post argues that perhaps "some of those in Texas who back his indictment hope to derail his reported plans for another run at the presidency in 2016," but if so, "they are going about it the wrong way."

"Downgrading Virginia Schools." An editorial in the Washington Post (8/19, 4.06M) notes that when new ratings are released in September, about one-third of Virginia's public schools "are expected to lack 'full accreditation' status — compared with less than 1 percent of schools five years ago," and argues that the drop in accredited schools "should serve as an impetus for Virginia's leaders to act."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Beltway 'Strip' Club."*** The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), in an editorial, argues that the only constructive way to reduce incentives for US firms to relocate is to lower US corporate tax rates.

"A Small Victory In Iraq." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) agrees with the President that US strikes played a key role in helping Kurdish fighters reclaim the Mosul Dam, but argues that he will eventually need to send 5,000 to 10,000 US troops to help both the Kurds and Baghdad defeat ISIL.

"The Salt Libel." A Wall Street Journal (8/19, A14, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) editorial cites new research suggesting that salt is not as dangerous as the medical establishment has said and notes that despite this growing body of evidence, the USDA's food pyramid still relies on a low-salt model and the FDA continues to pressure food manufacturers and restaurants to remove salt from their recipes. The Journal argues that this is an example of how government regulation can establish bad practices and does not change as quickly as the evidence.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

Ukrainian Refugees Caught In Crossfire
Militants Driven From Mosul Dam
Many Americans Can't Shake An Arrest Record
Dollar General Enters Bidding For Family Dollar

New York Times:
Surviving Ebola, But Untouchable Back Home
In Surprise Finale At Metropolitan Opera's Labor Talks, Both Sides
Missouri Tries Another Idea: Call In National Guard
Obama Is Seen As Frustrating His Own Party
Troops In Iraq Rout Sunni Militants From A Key Dam
Cities Rocked By Past Unrest Offer Lessons

Washington Post:
From Gold Rush To Ruin
Holder To Lead Investigation In Ferguson
Some Urging Calm, Others Ready To Fight
Obama Hails Progress Made Against Islamic State
Canada Clips A US Fighter's Wings

Financial Times:
StanChart Faces Fresh $300M US Settlement
China Property Slump Gathers Pace
Kurds Retake Mosul Dam In Morale-Boosting Victory Over ISIS
Washington Times:
Obama Urges All To Make Peace In Ferguson
Despite Less Sanctions, Iran Backs Hamas
White House Is Accused Of Obstructing Public Data
Christie Alone On Medicaid Growth
Study Finds Bigger Weddings Make For Happier Couples
FAA Traffic Control System Less Able Than Predecessor

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Missouri Teen Shooting-Brown's Mother Interviewed; Iraq-Mosul Dam; Ebola Outbreak-Patients; WikiLeaks Whistleblower-Possible Arrest; Rick Perry Indictment; Dow Increase; Paris Robbery-Saudi Arabian Prince; Cost Analysis-Raising Children; President White House Press Conference-ABC Reporter.
CBS: President Obama-Missouri Unrest; Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Missouri Protesters; Iraq-Mosul Dam; Pope Francis-US Air Strike Opinion; Veteran Hunger Assistance; Cost Analysis-Raising Children; US Border Patrol-Shootings; American-Retirement Savings; LA Clippers-Rally; ALS-Ice Challenge; Climate Change-Coral Reefs.
NBC: Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Missouri-Police Militarization; Governor Nixon Interview-Missouri Shooting; Iraq-Mosul Dam; Health-Skin Cancer; Jim Jeffords Death; Americans-Retirement Saving; Cost Analysis-Raising Children; Usher Syndrome-Donations.

Network TV At A Glance:
Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest – 23 minutes, 30 seconds
Iraq-Mosul Dam – 6 minutes, 255 seconds
Cost Analysis-Raising Children – 1 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
CBS: Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Severe Weather; Don Pardo Death; Iraq-Mosul Dam; Middle East Cease Fire Extension; School Attack Plan Foiled.
NPR: Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Attorney General-Missouri Visit; Obama-Iraq Mosul Dam Reclaimed; Governor Perry-Indictment; Ukraine Civilian Envoy Bombed; San Diego Council-Minimum Wage Proposal; USS Houston Wreckage Found.
FOX: Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Attorney General-Missouri Visit; Michael Brown-Autopsy; Governor Perry-

Indictment.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets with members of the President's economic team and senior advisors, Roosevelt Room, closed press; departs the White House; arrives at Cape Cod, Massachusetts; arrives at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends a meeting with Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program participants.
US Senate: Aug. 8 – Sept. 8. — The Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8.

10 a.m. VETERANS' AFFAIRS – FIELD HEARING — "The State of VA Health Care in Hawaii." Location: Oahu Veterans Center, 1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, HI.
US House: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — The House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "Recess."
Other: Aug. 17 – 19. ALCOHOL INTERLOCK SYMPOSIUM — The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) hosts the 14th Alcohol Interlock Symposium. The theme of this year's event is Alcohol Interlocks: Managing Risk and Behavior Change. Sessions will involve a mixture of panel presentations and discussion groups. Attendees include practitioners and vendors from North America, the European Union, South Africa, the Philippines and Japan. 3:35 p.m. – 4:05 p.m. Closing remarks by Jonathon Passmore, technical lead for Violence, Injury Prevention and Road Safety for the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Western Pacific. Location: Dupont Circle Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Ave. NW.

NHTSA WEBINAR – RECALLS — 3:30 p.m. the National Highway Traffic Safety Administrations Deputy Administrator David Friedman will host a webinar to unveil the free, online VIN search tool during a live demo. Q&A to follow.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Here's what everyone's talking about. Big trouble for Texas governor Rick Perry. Yeah, he's been indicted on two felony charges after he threatened to veto funding for a district attorney's office unless she stepped down. Yeah, he's now the most controversial governor in the country, which is why today he got a gift basket from Chris Christie."

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, because of the scandal, it looks like [Perry's] chances in 2016 might be in trouble. Or as Hillary put it, 'One down, four more to go.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, he's in the news. He is leaving the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he's been hiding from criminal charges, apparently, because he's suffering from a vitamin D deficiency from spending two years trapped indoors."

David Letterman: "[President Obama] had to cut his vacation short two days to go back to Washington. You know why? Vice President Joe Biden had locked himself out of the White House."

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custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, August 20, 2014

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com> Wed, Aug 20, 2014 at 7:00 AM
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2014 7:00 AM EDT

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+ Western Governors' Association Calls To End "Wildfire Borrowing".
+ Steyer PAC Hits Rep. Gardner On Climate Science.
+ Report Links Climate Change To Runaway Pest Problems.
+ Siskiyou County Board Of Supervisors Opposes Proposals To Remove Das On Klamath River.

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+ Drones Banned In Arches, Canyonlands National Parks.
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+ Young Girl Dies In Fall At Yellowstone National Park.
+ Rock Climber Falls To Death In Yosemite After Proposing To Girlfriend.
+ Montana Wildlife Agency Considering Plan To Poison Brook Trout Near Yellowstone.
+ Rep. Kelly Supports National Park Designation For Pullman.

Bureau of Land Management:
+ BLM Investigating Release Of Oil Into San Juan River.
+ BLM Rejects Bullwhacker Land Swap.
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+ Wild Horse Groups Oppose Wyoming Intervention In Lawsuit To Stop BLM Roundup.

Fish and Wildlife Service:
+ FWS Rejects Protections To Arctic Grayling Fish In Montana.
+ FWS Studies Anacostia River Fishing.
+ Loggers Concerned That Bat Listing Could Hurt Industry.

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+ Mollicy Bayou To Flow Again.
+ Study: Climate Change To Affect Native Fish Species In Arizona.
+ Reward Offer Increased In Death Of Bald Eagle.
+ Attorney Warns Of Pesticides' Impact On Wildlife.

US Geological Survey:
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SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

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+ Sweeping Deal Reached On Justice Mines.
+ Landowners Sue BIA, Energy Companies.
+ PG&E Pleads Not Guilty To New Charges In 2010 Pipeline Blast.

Offshore Energy Development:
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+ Chamber Expresses Support For Offshore Drilling.
+ Virginia Lt. Gov. Northam Opposes Offshore Drilling.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:
+ Tribes Rally To Demand Water For Klamath Salmon.
+ BOR Holds CAST For Kids Fishing Event.
+ Study: California Has Allocated Five Times Its Available Water.
+ EPA Criticized For Failing To Clean Up Air For Navajo Nation.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:
+ Oglala Sioux Officer's Use Of Stun Gun Under Investigation.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:
+ White House Reaching Out To Civil Rights Leaders Ahead Of Holder Trip To Ferguson.
+ Advocates Urge Obama To Delay Deportation Of Millions.
+ Consumer Price Index Up 0.1%; Housing Starts Rally With 15.7% Growth.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:
+ New York Times.
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BIG PICTURE:
+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:
+ Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS BUG-O-NAY-GE-SHIG SCHOOL. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/20, Brooks,

1.32M) reports that with tribal schools across the nation "crumbling," Interior Secretary Jewell visited Minnesota Tuesday to tour "a converted garage that has served as the high school for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for almost four decades." Jewell said, "Indian education is in trouble in a lot of ways," adding, "Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school is not serving its students' needs in a lot of ways. It is very clear in touring the facility that it is one that needs to be replaced." While doing so "would cost an estimated $25 million — almost half the [Bureau of Indian Education's] $55 million budget," Jewell, "who has been approached by Minnesota's House and Senate delegations with pleas for help, said she would work to find funding, both from Congress and other agencies, to address the dilapidated school."

The Bemidji (MN) Pioneer (8/20, 35K) reports that Jewell and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn are "touring Bureau of Indian Education schools to help bring awareness to Washington." Washburn said "the visit to the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School was part of a fact-finding mission to see the facilities in person." He said, "This one's pretty bad. Probably the worst we have in Minnesota."

Additional coverage of Jewell's visit to Passamaquoddy Tribal School and Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School was provided by the AP (8/18), the AP (8/19), Politico (8/20, Severns, 637K), the Washington Times (8/19, 465K), the Washington Times (8/19, 465K), the Bangor (ME) Daily News (8/18, 166K), the Brainerd (MN) Daily Dispatch (8/20, 4K), the Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (8/20, 10K), the Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/20, 1.32M), the Bemidji (MN) Pioneer (8/20, 35K), the Bangor (ME) Daily News (8/20, 166K), the Portland (ME) Press Herald (8/15, 352K), the Brunswick (ME) Times Record (8/19, 27K), the York County (ME) Journal-Tribune (8/20, 26K), the Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter (8/20, 31K), the Nation Sun News (8/20), WCSH-TV Portland, ME (8/18, 30K), WMTW-TV Portland, ME (8/20, 21K), WKBT-TV La Crosse, WI (8/20, 2K), KTTC-TV Rochester, MN (8/20, 2K), KARE-TV Minneapolis (8/19, 121K), KARE-TV Minneapolis (8/19, 121K), WQOW-TV Eau Claire, WI (8/20, 1K), WDIO-TV Duluth, MN (8/20, 2K). and WCCO-AM Minneapolis (8/19, 70K).

BOEM HOLDS MARYLAND OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALE. In an earlier story, the E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "energy companies so far have bid more than $10 million for the right to build wind farms in waters off the coast of Ocean City, Md., far eclipsing the highest bids in the Interior Department's two previous offshore wind auctions held in 2013 off Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Virginia." The article notes that "the online auction has shattered records for the fledgling industry."

The AP (8/19) reports that the Interior Department "says it has auctioned some 80,000 acres off Maryland for wind energy development." US Wind Inc. submitted the winning bid of $8.7 million.

Bloomberg News (8/20, Doom, 2.76M) reports that "Renexia SpA, an Italian renewable energy developer, agreed to pay $8.7 million for two leases off the Maryland coast to build commercial-scale wind farms." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that the auction results "are a major achievement and reflect industry confidence as we strengthen our nation's foothold in this new energy frontier." The story also appears at Bloomberg BusinessWeek (8/19, 4.91M).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (8/19, 4.06M), the Washington Examiner (8/20, 335K), the Bismarck (ND) Tribune (8/20, 64K), the Missoulian (MT) (8/20, 122K), and WBOC-TV Salisbury, MD (8/20, 21K).

Also reporting on the story The Baltimore Sun (8/19, Wheeler, 841K), the Maryland Coast Dispatch (8/19, 52K), the reNews (8/20), and WYPR-FM Baltimore (8/20).

SECRETARY JEWELL SEES SEVERAL CHALLENGES FOR NATIONAL PARKS. The Fence Viewer (8/20) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said "major challenges facing national parks are climate change, preparing younger generations to be stewards of the park system and a reduced federal budget." At the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park on Friday, Jewell said, "We're operating under a time of constrained resources. We're getting less for less." Jewell was at the Schoodic Institute to "encourage citizen science and other initiatives at the NPS research center — one of 20 nationwide."

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED NOT TO EXPAND PACIFIC MARINE MONUMENT. The Saipan (MNP) Tribune (8/20, 641) reports that "Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked President Barack Obama not to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument which the governor believes is 'the first step in expanding other marine

national monuments in the western Pacific,' while at the same time lamenting that most of the promises made leading to the creation of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument in 2009 were 'broken and remain unfulfilled.'" In an Aug. 15 letter to Obama, Inos said, "On behalf of the affected communities in the western Pacific who believe in the sustainable use of marine resources, I urge you to reconsider your proposal to expand the boundaries of the PRIMNM or any other marine monument." The article notes that "Aug. 15 was the last day for comment submissions to the president's proposal to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument seaward to the 200-nautical mile boundary of the exclusive economic zone."

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION CALLS TO END "WILDFIRE BORROWING". The Denver Post (8/20, Paul, 923K) reports that the Western Governors' Association in a letter last week urged Senate and congressional leadership, and President Barack Obama, to boost federal wildfire budgets so agencies can stop using fire prevention funds for fire suppression. Kevin Klein, Director of the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said, "We end up robbing from the land managers. We end up stealing from those [prevention] programs to fight the fire. Treating wildfires like we do with our other programs makes sense to me."

Additional Coverage Of Wildfires. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the AP (8/20), the AP (8/19, Smith), the AP (8/18), the Los Angeles Times (8/20, Serna, 3.42M), and the Los Angeles Times (8/20, Serna, 3.42M).

STEYER PAC HITS REP. GARDNER ON CLIMATE SCIENCE. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer's political action committee launched its first television attack against Colorado Rep. Cory Gardner today, criticizing the Republican as a climate science skeptic as he challenges Sen. Mark Udall (D) for his seat." In the 30-second spot sponsored by NextGen Climate Action, "a series of doors and windows are shown being closed as a narrator disparages Gardner." The narrator says, "He thinks he knows better than the scientists, NASA and the US military on climate change; and [he] thinks government should decide who can and cannot marry. He led an eight-year crusade that would outlaw birth control and make abortion a felony crime. He's Congressman Cory Gardner, and he thinks he should decide for us because he thinks he knows better. Don't let him."

REPORT LINKS CLIMATE CHANGE TO RUNAWAY PEST PROBLEMS. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "climate change is behind the proliferation of a host of nasties – from backyard ticks to poison ivy to garden-munching brown marmorated stink bugs, a new report by the National Wildlife Federation says." The paper argues that "man-made emissions are already making the outdoor experience less enjoyable by aiding the spread of...pests and invasive species." According to the report, "warmer winters are leading to the expansion and longevity of deer ticks and winter ticks, which threaten humans with Lyme disease and animals with death."

SISKIYOU COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSES PROPOSALS TO REMOVE DAS ON KLAMATH RIVER. In an op-ed for the Siskiyou (CA) Daily News (8/19, 16K), the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors writes that they "optimistic" to see "strong congressional opposition" to "the proposals to remove the four dams on the Klamath River." Siskiyou County and Klamath County have both "invited Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to visit our region." They wait for "a visit by her to become informed of the concerns of Siskiyou County and our constituents."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS SETTLES WHISTLEBLOWER APPEAL. The AP (8/20) reports that the NPS has "reached a settlement with an employee who said she was unfairly fired over the 1990 removal of ancient human remains from the Effigy Mounds National Monument that were only returned three years ago, newly released records show." The NPS "settled in April, agreeing to reinstate" Sharon Greener "with back pay, reimburse her attorneys' fees, and allow her to retire early."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (8/19), the Des Moines (IA) Register (8/19, 408K), the Oklahoman (8/20, 503K), KWQC-TV Davenport, IA (8/20, 42K), KCCI-TV Des Moines, IA (8/20, 239K),

and WXOW-TV LaCrosse, WI (8/20, 2K).

DRONES BANNED IN ARCHES, CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARKS. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that Superintendent Kate Cannon on Monday "banned the use of drones in Arches and Canyonlands national parks and Hovenweep and Natural Bridges national monuments to protect public safety, minimize visitor-user conflicts, and prevent damage to 'scenic values, natural soundscapes and wildlife.'" The article notes that "the decision comes after an incident in Utah's Zion National Park last May when a high-tech miniature aircraft, which can be used to take aerial photos, chased desert bighorn sheep across the park." Zion spokeswoman Aly Baltrus said, "It seems to have exploded recently. They are getting more affordable, and now that you can put a camera on them, they are more purposed."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (8/19).

Drone Ban Deadline In National Parks Nears. KCNC-TV Denver (8/19, 26K) reports that "Wednesday is the deadline for all national parks and monuments to prohibit unmanned aircraft, or drones, so the National Park Service can study their use." According to the article, "the policy examination will happen over the next 18 months and will involve public comment."

NPS SEEKS BIDS FOR LUCRATIVE GRAND CANYON CONTRACT. The AP (8/19) reports that "a lucrative contract to operate some of the most iconic lodging and food locations at the Grand Canyon has been reopened for bidding in a process that will bring changes affecting the millions of people who visit the landmark each year." The contract "first went out for bid a year ago," but Grand Canyon Superintendent Dave Uberuaga said "the park didn't receive any bids adhering to the conditions called for in the 15-year pact." The article notes that "the new contract requires that the winning bidder operate food trucks on the South Rim and expand patio dining at the historic El Tovar lodge to accommodate crowds during the busy summer months."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Post (8/19, 4.06M), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/19, 582K), Yahoo! (8/20, Fonseca, 10.35M) , and Fox Business (8/19, 333K).

NPS SEEKS CONCESSIONER FOR DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The Pocono (PA) Record (8/19, 46K) reports that the NPS has "issued a prospectus for proposals to provide a concession-operated campground within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area." The article notes that "the concessioner is required to provide kayak/canoe livery service." Also, "the concessioner will operate a group camping facility at the Valley View camping area."

PENOBSCOT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DIVIDED ON NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (8/19, 166K) reports that Penobscot County's commissioners are "divided on a proposal to establish a 150,000-acre national park and recreation area in the Katahdin region." Lucas St. Clair, "the park's leading proponent and the son of environmentalist and entrepreneur Roxanne Quimby, pitched the idea to the commissioners during a meeting in Bangor on Tuesday morning." St. Clair said "the region should 'capitalize on its natural resources in a new way,' using them to draw more and new visitors to Maine's vast wilderness."

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK WORKING ON TELESCOPE. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (8/20, 386K) reports that Great Basin National Park is working with the University of Nevada, Reno, and Western Nevada College to build the Great Basin Observatory. First, supporters of the plan must raise about $700,000 to buy and put up the 28-inch telescope and establish a foundation to keep it operating.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK DETECTS BAT WITH RABIES. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "a Washington man is receiving treatment for rabies prevention after he was scratched by a bat at Olympic National Park last week." Olympic National Park Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum said "only two known cases of rabies in bats have been reported at the park in nearly 30 years." Although "rabies exposure is rare, Creachbaum said the man would receive treatment out of an abundance of caution."

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REPLACEMENT OF DENALI BRIDGES. The AP (8/19) reports that NPS officials say "the agency is considering whether to replace two pedestrian bridges at Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve." The NPS is "taking public comments through Sept. 17 for an environmental assessment for the possible project, which would take place next summer at Hotel Creek."

YOUNG GIRL DIES IN FALL AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that Yellowstone National Park officials have "identified an 8-year-old girl who died in the park Sunday." According to the article, "Zahra Allahyari, of Poway, Calif., was hiking with her family when she slipped and fell 550 feet into the park's Grand Canyon." Her body was recovered hours later.

Also reporting on the story is the AP (8/19).

ROCK CLIMBER FALLS TO DEATH IN YOSEMITE AFTER PROPOSING TO GIRLFRIEND. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "an experienced rock climber fell to his death on a free climb only a few hours after proposing to his girlfriend on a different climb in Yosemite National Park on Saturday, officials said." Brad Parker "proposed marriage to girlfriend Jainee Dial after the couple finished climbing the Cathedral Peak." Later the same day, Parker "went on a solo climb without ropes on an established route of Matthes Crest and fell, according to park ranger Kari Cobb."

Also providing coverage are the Los Angeles Times (8/20, Serna, 3.42M) and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/19, 582K).

MONTANA WILDLIFE AGENCY CONSIDERING PLAN TO POISON BROOK TROUT NEAR YELLOWSTONE. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that Montana wildlife officials are "considering a plan to poison brook trout to remove them from a creek near Yellowstone National Park." State Fish, Wildlife and Parks authorities have "fought the spread of the invasive species for a decade and are considering poisoning 12 miles of the Soda Butte Creek as a possible solution." Ken Frazer, the FWP manager of fisheries in Billings, said, "Brook trout are spreading farther and farther into the park. We can't keep doing what we've been doing. It's a losing battle."

Also reporting on the story is the Billings (MT) Gazette (8/20, 174K).

REP. KELLY SUPPORTS NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION FOR PULLMAN. In an op-ed for the Chicago Sun-Times (8/20, 1.03M), Rep. Robin Kelly writes that "to declare Chicago's Pullman neighborhood a national park would be to cement its role in our country's labor movement." Kelly argues that "creating the Chicago area's first national park would be a boon to the region and the state." Kelly also notes that on Thursday, NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will "visit Pullman to meet with local residents and leaders to determine if they, too, support designating the historic South Side enclave as America's newest national park."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM INVESTIGATING RELEASE OF OIL INTO SAN JUAN RIVER. The Deseret (UT) News (8/20, 538K) reports that "a suspected rock slide damaged an oil well pipeline and sent at least five barrels of crude oil into a wash that is a tributary of the San Juan River." According to a Utah Department of Environmental Quality incident report, "the oil migrated 1.75 miles down an unnamed wash before reaching the river, where a sheen was observed." The article notes that "the spill occurred on land owned by the Bureau of Land Management, which sent representatives to the site to investigate."

The story also appears at KSL-TV Salt Lake City (8/20, 1.07M).

BLM REJECTS BULLWHACKER LAND SWAP. The Havre (MT) Daily News (8/19, 11K) reports that the BLM announced Monday that "it was no longer considering the swap proposed by brothers Dan and Farris Wilks, wealthy Texas businessmen with large amounts of land in central and north-central Montana." In a press release, the BLM said, "The Bureau's preliminary assessment of a (variety) of land exchange options found no viable option that would garner substantial public support or be in the best interest of the American people who have entrusted the BLM to manage their public lands for them."

Wilks Brothers Launches Website Promoting Land Exchange. The Billings (MT) Gazette (8/20, 174K) reports that "in an unusual tactic, Montana's largest private landowners have taken their proposal for a land exchange with the Bureau of Land Management directly to the public via a website." Billionaire Texas brothers Dan and Farris Wilks "launched the site — MontanaPublicAccess.com — late last week in anticipation that the BLM

would reject their latest offer."

BLM WORKING TO AVERT SAGE GROUSE LISTING. The Durango (CO) Herald (8/19, 28K) reports that "residents of Dolores County showed up in force during meeting with federal land managers to resist listing the beleaguered Gunnison sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act." Leigh Espy, a BLM manager, told the crowd, "We're not the Fish and Wildlife Service. Listing is not our call. But 42 percent of (sage-grouse) habitat falls on BLM, so we're working to give them a reason not to list by showing we have adequate protection measures in place." According to the article, "a range-wide amendment to land plans benefiting the sage-grouse is being drafted and is required for 11 of the BLM districts in southeast Utah and Southwest Colorado that have potential habitat."

WILD HORSE GROUPS OPPOSE WYOMING INTERVENTION IN LAWSUIT TO STOP BLM ROUNDUP. KCSG-TV St. George, UT (8/20, 43) reports that "the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, The Cloud Foundation, Return to Freedom, Carol Walker and Kimerlee Curyl today filed an opposition to the State of Wyoming's motion to intervene as of right in a lawsuit they brought against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and its plan to roundup over 800 wild horses from the Adobe Town, Salt Wells and Great Divide Basin Herd Management Areas (HMAs)."

Also, KCSG-TV St. George, UT (8/20, 43) reports that "the Cloud Foundation, American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, Wild Horse Freedom Federation, Friends of Animals and Respect 4 Horses will hold a press conference and rally at the BLM's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting, August 25 in Riverton, Wyoming." According to the article, "the purpose of the press conference and rally are to better inform the public of the costs and risks of ongoing wild horse roundups which have already eliminated wild horses from 20 million acres designated for their use."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS REJECTS PROTECTIONS TO ARCTIC GRAYLING FISH IN MONTANA. The AP (8/20) reports that "the Arctic grayling fish does not need special protections under the Endangered Species Act following years of conservation efforts by landowners and federal and state agencies to protect the fish in the upper Missouri River, US wildlife officials said Tuesday." According to FWS Director Dan Ashe, "habitat quality, numbers of fish and genetic diversity are stable and increasing for most Arctic grayling populations in Montana." Noah Greenwald, endangered species director for the Center for Biological Diversity, said, "We're very disappointed. US Fish and Wildlife Service has twice recognized that the grayling is in danger of extinction and that remains true today. The grayling is one of the most endangered fish in the United States."

The Prairie (MT) Star (8/20) reports that Ashe said, "This is a prime example of what a CCAA can do, not only for wildlife, but also for sustaining the way of life in rural ranching community. The conservation progress for Arctic grayling would not have been possible without the amazing support we have received from willing landowners and other partners in the Big Hole River and Centennial valleys."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (8/19, 465K), the San Francisco Chronicle (8/20, Baumann, 2.87M), and the Albany (NY) Times Union (8/20, 457K).

Also reporting on the story is the Helena (MT) Independent Record (8/20, 45K), KTVH-TV Helena, MT (8/20, 279), and KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (8/20, 1K).

FWS STUDIES ANACOSTIA RIVER FISHING. The Indian Country Today Media Network (8/19, 45K) reports that "approximately 17,000 people, many African American or Hispanic, eat fish they catch out of the Anacostia River each year, and often share their fish with hungry people, according to a study commissioned by the Anacostia Watershed Society." However, "the watershed contains toxic hotspots caused by pollution such as PCBs, PAHs, metals and other compounds for local facilities." The FWS "partnered with Anacostia Watershed Society, University of Maryland College Park and the Anacostia Community Museum to study the patterns of urban anglers (subsistence, recreational and cultural) and fish contaminants in the Anacostia River region."

LOGGERS CONCERNED THAT BAT LISTING COULD HURT INDUSTRY. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that

"Minnesota has only 5,000 northern long-eared bats spread across a wide area, but businesses reliant on logging are worried that nationwide regulations to prevent the demise of the species could jeopardize their industries." To save the northern long-eared bat population from extinction caused by white-nose syndrome, the FWS will "decide next April whether to add it to the endangered species list." Businesses such as "timber mills and road builders are worried federal regulations designed to protect vital maternity colonies located in trees during the warm summer months, which coincide with their busy seasons, will affect their bottom line."

CHATHAM TO FIGHT MONOMOY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE'S PLANS. The Cape Cod (MA) Day (8/16, Leggett) reports that Chatham officials are seeking "to fund three, maybe four, firms at a cost of $300,000 to develop scientific and legal arguments showing that current fishing practices in the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge and the current border of the refuge need to remain as is." The article notes that "the new draft comprehensive conservation plans put out by refuge staff this spring all curtail some forms of fishing – including mussel harvesting – and also expand the refuge to include 771 acres that is now South Beach."

MOLLICY BAYOU TO FLOW AGAIN. The AP (8/19) reports on the work by the FWS and The Nature Conservancy on "the largest floodplain reconnection project in North America." According to the article, "scientists and engineers with The Nature Conservancy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service painstakingly excavated the stream to its natural path, complete with meandering curves, sloped banks and varying depths."

STUDY: CLIMATE CHANGE TO AFFECT NATIVE FISH SPECIES IN ARIZONA. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "water is a limited resource for every living thing in the US Southwest, and native fish are no exception." According to the article, "partially due to ever-increasing human demand on the region's rivers and groundwater, a large percentage of these species are now endangered, from the tiny Gila topminnow to the bright-blue desert pupfish." And "barring significant human intervention, global warming is set to make the survival of these species even more unlikely," according to a new study, published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

REWARD OFFER INCREASED IN DEATH OF BALD EAGLE. The AP (8/19) reports that "a reward offered in the shooting that led to the death of a bald eagle in a park has been increased to $7,500." The Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust announced Tuesday that "the organizations are offering $5,000 for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for shooting a bald eagle in Bridgeton on May 20." The article notes that the "reward adds to the $2,500 reward already being offered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife."

ATTORNEY WARNS OF PESTICIDES' IMPACT ON WILDLIFE. For "The Blog" of the Huffington Post (8/20, Giese, 11.54M), Collette Adkins Giese, Reptile and Amphibian Senior Attorney, Center for Biological Diversity, writes that "the Environmental Protection Agency, which is charged with protecting us and the environment from the risks of pesticide use, has failed to assess the impact of literally hundreds of pesticides on our nation's endangered species despite a clear legal requirement to do so." Giese is "participating in the most comprehensive legal action ever brought under the Endangered Species Act to protect endangered animals from pesticides." If successful, "the EPA will be forced to do its legal duty and consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service over the impacts of dozens of pesticides on 119 endangered and threatened species throughout the United States."

US Geological Survey:

USGS REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE REFLECTED IN ALTERED MISSOURI RIVER FLOW. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "the flow of the Missouri River has significantly changed over the past 50 years and climate change is likely to blame," according to a report published by the USGS last month. The article notes that "the changing water flow could have wide-reaching effects in the region," since "the 2,300-mile river is a water source for agriculture, energy, recreation and municipalities across several states." Parker Norton, a USGS hydrologist and lead author of the report, said, "Understanding stream flow throughout the watershed can help guide management of these critical water resources."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

USGS STUDY FINDS MAN-MADE QUAKES CAUSE LESS SHAKING. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "the shaking from man-made earthquakes linked to oil and gas drilling activities is more concentrated and confined than natural earthquakes," according to a study released Monday. As a result, "the damage from a man-made earthquake would not be as widespread as it would be from a natural quake of the same magnitude." Susan Hough, a geophysicist with the USGS, author of the study, said, "Once you get to 10 kilometers, they're down a notch compared to natural earthquakes."

BLM UPHOLDS THOMPSON DIVIDE GAS LEASE EXTENSIONS. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that the BLM's Colorado state office has "rejected administrative challenges by a conservation group and several local governments that argued against BLM extending the life of 25 contested oil and gas leases in the pristine Thompson Divide." The article notes that "the conclusions in the State Director's Review uphold the decision of BLM's Colorado River Valley Field Office last spring to temporarily suspend the expiration of the 25 leases by two years, until April 2016, while the agency conducts an environmental impact statement (EIS) to correct what it acknowledges are 'deficiencies' in the original environmental review of the leases." Steven Hall, a BLM spokesman, said, "The BLM has as a matter of course suspended leases in the past when the agency needed to correct deficiencies in its National Environmental Policy Act analysis. In other words, the leases should not expire while the BLM is conducting additional NEPA analysis."

Also reporting on the story is the AP (8/19). Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Examiner (8/20, 335K).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CALL FOR COOPERATION ON SAGE GROUSE. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "a coalition of leading conservation groups is extending an olive branch to an oil and gas trade group that recently launched an extensive advertising campaign blaming 'activist lawyers' representing environmental groups for pushing the greater sage grouse toward a federal endangered species listing." The conservation groups "sent a brief letter to the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance noting that they share WEA's desire to avoid an Endangered Species Act listing for the greater sage grouse." The groups wrote, "While we clearly do not agree on everything, it seems we find common ground in seeking federal and state-level plans that strike a balance between needed energy development and lasting conservation of [sage grouse] and its habitat in a concerted effort to prevent the need to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act."

Also reporting on the story is The Hill (8/20, Devaney, 237K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SEEN AS MORE LENIENT THAN OREGON AND WASHINGTON ON COAL EXPORTS. The Washington Examiner (8/20, 335K) reports that the Obama Administration has "signaled that it might be more willing than Oregon and Washington to allow coal exports from the states, giving the energy industry hope after Oregon nixed a crucial permit needed to ship the fuel abroad." According to the article, "without export potential from the West Coast, the Powder River Basin's low-sulfur coal could remain locked in the U.S." The article notes that "whether knowingly or not, federal government policies have undervalued that coal, according to a June 2013 report by the Interior Department's internal watchdog." However, "Tommy Beaudreau, then the acting assistant secretary of land and minerals management with Interior, downplayed the inspector general report's findings on exports, saying it made it appear that the US exported a considerable amount from the Powder River Basin." Still, Beaudreau said "the BLM would consider making changes to how it valued the coal."

SWEEPING DEAL REACHED ON JUSTICE MINES. The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (8/19, 375K) reports that "billionaire coal operator Jim Justice has reached a sweeping settlement with state regulators to resolve the largest number of mine reclamation violations Eastern Kentucky has seen in more than a decade." According to the article, "in an agreed order reached Friday, Justice admits to hundreds of violations, promises to post $10.5 million in bonding and puts up his personal assets to guarantee the vast land reclamation that is required." However, "the deal also reduces from $4.5 million to $1.5 million the amount in fines that Justice must pay, and it allows Justice to resume mining at three locations where the state ordered that work be stopped because of environmental problems."

LANDOWNERS SUE BIA, ENERGY COMPANIES. The Bartlesville (OK) Examiner-Enterprise (8/20, 602) reports that "a pair of Osage County landowners have filed a federal class action lawsuit against the US Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as multiple energy companies 'seeking declaratory and injunctive relief for the failure of the BIA to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.'" The lawsuit, "filed last week in the US District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, seeks to represent not only the two named plaintiffs, but also all 'similarly situated' surface land owners in Osage County." The article notes that "a favorable injunction ruling by the court on behalf of the landowners could potentially shut down all oil and gas drilling operations within the Osage Mineral Estate until the BIA and the involved energy companies fulfill the requirements of the NEPA Act."

PG&E PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO NEW CHARGES IN 2010 PIPELINE BLAST. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that Pacific Gas & Electric Co. on Monday "pleaded not guilty to charges in a new 28-count indictment stemming from the utility's deadly pipeline blast in 2010." Federal prosecutors claim PG&E "tried to mislead investigators about the safety procedures it had in place when a natural gas pipeline exploded in San Bruno, Calif., killing eight people and destroying 38 homes." According to the article, "the new charges, which include obstruction of justice, were filed last month and replace a previous 12-count indictment."

Offshore Energy Development:

US TO OPEN SALE ON OFFSHORE DRILLING AREAS. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (8/20, 527K) reports that the Federal government will open roughly 21 million acres off the Texas coast to gas and oil drilling on Wednesday, including areas along the US-Mexico nautical border. According to the article, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) "accepted closed bids Tuesday" and said 93 bids on 81 tracts had been submitted by 14 companies; the bidding results will be released Wednesday. The Times-Picayune notes that 4,026 tracts will be offered in the sale, which is the first to open development in the area.

FuelFix (8/19, 7K) reports in its coverage that the concentration of bids on those 81 tracts "matches the trend" of auctions in the area. FuelFix also says the higher number of bids compared to the last auction of western Gulf territory "could be an indication of interest" in the area, although it was unclear whether any of the boundary tracts had been bid upon.

Penn Energy (8/20, 128) notes that the sale "offers all unleashed and non-protected areas in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area," and BOEM estimates that the sale could produce between 116 and 200 million barrels of oil and 538-938 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

Marine Link (8/20, 1K) also reports.

CHAMBER EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING. The Hill (8/19, Cama, 237K) reports that several U.S. business groups, including the American Petroleum Institute and America's Natural Gas Alliance, wrote to the U.S. Interior Department to encourage the Obama Administration to reconsider drilling permits for offshore oil and gas exploration. According to the Hill, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said that the Atlantic Coast, Gulf of Mexico, and California should all be considered for drilling, and that the Interior should not exclude any area from consideration. "Such an action would be premature and given the long lead times necessary for offshore development, could undermine U.S. energy security for decades to come," the group said in a letter.

VIRGINIA LT. GOV. NORTHAM OPPOSES OFFSHORE DRILLING. The Delmarva (MD) Daily Times (8/19, 26K) reports that "the prospect of oil and gas exploration off the Virginia coast is cause for concern, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam said." In a speech given at the Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper 7th Annual Clamboree, Northam said, "I don't want to stir up controversy, especially in my hometown, but it's something I do have concerns about." Northam "detailed five reasons for his concern — the first is the potential to adversely impact activities at NASA Wallops Flight Facility."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

TRIBES RALLY TO DEMAND WATER FOR KLAMATH SALMON. The AP (8/19) reports that "members of three Northern California Indian tribes rallied outside a federal water agency office in Sacramento to demand more water

be released from reservoirs to prevent the spread of a parasite among salmon returning to the Klamath River to spawn." The BOR says Regional Director David Murillo "met for an hour Tuesday with members of the Hoopa Valley, Yurok and Karuk tribes." Although "there was no indication the bureau was changing its plans to hold off any water releases until significant numbers of salmon begin to die," Murillo said in a statement "they are closely watching the situation and meeting with interested parties."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/19, 582K). Also reporting on the story are KCRA-TV Sacramento, CA (8/20, 122K) and KTXL-TV Sacramento, CA (8/19, 22K).

BOR HOLDS CAST FOR KIDS FISHING EVENT. The Emmett (ID) Messenger-Index (8/20, 22K) reports that the BOR's Snake River Area Office "held its annual CAST for Kids fishing event Aug. 16 at Black Canyon Park." According to the article, CAST, "which stands for 'Catch a Special Thrill,' offers children with a wide range of special needs an opportunity to enjoy a day of fishing and boating." Erika Lopez, event coordinator for the burea's Snake River Area Office, said, "This is a fun event for the participants and volunteers. Happy memories are made on this special day."

STUDY: CALIFORNIA HAS ALLOCATED FIVE TIMES ITS AVAILABLE WATER. The E&E Daily (8/19) reports that "California has handed out far more water rights than it has surface water, vastly complicating efforts to manage the drought," according to a study released Tuesday by University of California scientists. The study by UC Davis and UC Merced researchers published today in Environmental Research Letters says that "regulators have allocated five times the state's available surface water in a soggy year." The article notes that "the allocations exceed actual surface water supplies by about 300 million acre-feet – enough to fill Lake Tahoe 2.5 times, the study says."

Also reporting on the story is the Sacramento (CA) Bee (8/19, 582K).

EPA CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO CLEAN UP AIR FOR NAVAJO NATION. In an op-ed for the Arizona Republic (8/19, Horseherder, 1.26M), Nicole Horseherder, the co-founder of To Nizhone Ani, writes that "after years of delay, rather than holding the federal owners" of the Navajo Generating Station "to the requirements of the Clean Air Act, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy caved." Horseherder argues that "compromising the health and cultural integrity of people whose homeland surrounds the power plant for the sake of coal jobs and cheap power to pump Colorado River water is not a just balance." Horseherder writes that "McCarthy should have required the federal operator, the US Bureau of Reclamation, to cut smog-forming nitrogen oxide spewing from the stacks by 85 percent by 2020."

Empowering Native American Communities:

OGLALA SIOUX OFFICER'S USE OF STUN GUN UNDER INVESTIGATION. The AP (8/20) reports that "federal investigators are looking into whether an Oglala Sioux police officer improperly used a stun gun on a man who was apparently passed-out on the ground." According to Tribal Public Safety Chief Ron Duke, "the officer probably used the stun gun on the drunk man between five and 10 times, trying to get him 'to wake up and stand up." Duke said that the man was "lying on the ground, probably passed out, clearly intoxicated."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington Times (8/19) and the San Antonio Express-News (8/20, 642K).

Also reporting on the story are the Rapid City (SD) Journal (8/20, 141K) and KELO-TV Sioux Falls, SD (8/20, 8K).

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE REACHING OUT TO CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS AHEAD OF HOLDER TRIP TO FERGUSON. The ongoing violent protests in Ferguson, Missouri and the controversy over the investigation into the shooting of Michael Brown continued to be the most heavily covered news story on Tuesday, but the volume of coverage was down substantially from where it was on Monday following President Obama's remarks on the situation. The three network newscasts devoted just under 12 minutes to reports from Ferguson, about half the air time they

gave to the story on Monday, but the unrest in Ferguson still got about twice as much air time as did the next most-covered topic, flooding in Arizona.

Several analyses this morning contend that the President's comments on Monday came across as too cautious for some of his supporters, even as other reports indicate that efforts by Attorney General Holder and White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett are reassuring African-Americans that the local investigation of Brown's death will be watched closely by Federal authorities.

The Washington Post (8/20, Nakamura, Zezima, 4.06M), for example, reports that the White House is "working behind the scenes to assure leading civil rights groups that the administration is determined to see justice achieved," and, as part of that effort, Jarrett "personally briefed 1,000 African American leaders, community organizers and civil rights groups during private conference calls this week." The Post says Holder and Jarrett "have shielded the president from criticism from...prominent black leaders." According to the Post, on MSNBC Tuesday, Georgetown's Michael Eric Dyson and Charles Ogletree, "who has known Obama since his days at Harvard Law School," both made the case that the President "had not spoken forcefully enough to the personal pain of African Americans in Ferguson."

The AP (8/20, Cass, Holland), meanwhile, reports the President "is sending Holder to Ferguson to bring the full weight of the federal government into the investigation," and adds that Holder has already "led an unusually fast and aggressive Justice Department response to the local case, sending teams of prosecutors and dozens of FBI agents to investigate and arranging a federal autopsy on top of one by local authorities." On Fox News' Special Report (8/19, 1.53M), Bret Baier said "Holder's trip to Missouri represents unusual Federal involvement in a local situation."

Roger Simon, in his column for Politico (8/19, 637K), derides the President's remarks on the situation in Ferguson during his press conference on Monday, saying he "appeared in the White House briefing room...without a necktie to signal he technically was still on vacation," and delivered a statement that "seem[ed] to have been assembled by committee." Simon also notes that while the President's "entire statement, which included more on Iraq than Ferguson, and the few questions that followed, consumed exactly 27 minutes of his time," although later "that evening, he spent a five-hour dinner at the home of White House chef Sam Kass...the president's frequent golfing partner."

Likewise, a Bloomberg View (8/20) editorial titled, "Go To Ferguson, Mr. President," says that on Monday, the President "checked all the necessary boxes," and "then he hopped on Air Force One to resume his vacation." Bloomberg View says the President should travel to Ferguson, "if not tomorrow, then in the days or weeks ahead," but contends that the President is hesitant to further involve himself in the controversy because he understands that "many Democrats, with the midterm elections looming, are wary of his making a comment or gesture that could alienate some white voters." According to The Hill (8/19, Parnes, 237K), the White House "has weighed sending" the President "to Ferguson...and has not ruled out a visit in upcoming weeks," but "for now...believes a trip...would do more harm than good."

Josh Lederman, in an analysis for the AP (8/20) titled, "As Protests Rage, Obama Struggles To Find His Role," says the President is "struggling to determine what role – if any – the nation's first black president can play in defusing a crisis that has laid bare the profound sense of injustice felt by African-Americans across the country." Lederman notes that on Monday, "while Obama lamented the disproportional apprehension of young black men, he pointedly argued that's not solely the fault of overzealous cops," which Lederman says is a "delicate balance that's likely to leave no one fully satisfied."

Under the headline, "Obama Keeps Distance From Ferguson As Risking More Harm," meanwhile, Bloomberg News (8/20, Lerer, Runningen, 2.76M) reports that the President "doesn't want to be seen as taking sides" as police in Ferguson deal with increasingly violent protests, and "has avoided personalizing Ferguson." However, Bloomberg noted that on Monday, the President "said young black men who commit crimes must be prosecuted because every community has 'an interest in public safety.'"

In a piece for Politico (8/19, 637K) defending the President's response to Michael Brown's death and the violence in Ferguson, Todd Purdum says Jarrett told him, "The circumstances determine the reaction, and it isn't appropriate for the president to speak up emotionally in the midst of an ongoing investigation by the Justice

Department." Purdum goes on to quote Jarrett as saying that the President's "goal is...to send a message to the government officials on the ground about what his expectations are in terms of freedom to assemble, freedom of speech and freedom of the press – and also to signal to the people who have been looting and shooting that that's not an acceptable way to honor the death of a young man."

USA Today (8/20, Johnson, 5.76M) reported that "in advance of his trip to restive Ferguson," Holder, in an op-ed for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch titled "A Message To The People Of Ferguson," pledged "a 'fair and thorough' investigation in to the fatal shooting of Michael Brown." Holder wrote: "At a time when so much may seem uncertain, the people of Ferguson can have confidence that the Justice Department intends to learn – in a fair and thorough manner – exactly what happened." The Hill (8/19, Sink, 237K) says Holder "address[ed] some of the complaints raised by protesters," when he wrote: "Enforcement priorities and arrest patterns must not lead to disparate treatment under the law, even if such treatment is unintended." Holder added, "And police forces should reflect the diversity of the communities they serve."

In a front-page analysis, the New York Times (8/20, A1, Baker, Apuzzo, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) contrasts the responses to the unrest in Ferguson from the President and Holder, and ties each man's behavior to their respective upbringings and temperament. According to the Times, Holder is "a child of the civil rights era," who "joined sit-ins at Columbia University where protesters renamed an office after Malcolm X," while the President, a decade younger than Holder, "was too young and removed to experience the turmoil of the 1960s." The Times says "some African-Americans praise Mr. Holder for his outspokenness and lament or even denounce Mr. Obama for his caution." The Times notes that Georgetown's Dyson "called the president's public statement on Monday a 'stunning epic failure' that seemed to blame black men rather than armed police," but lauded Holder as "an up and down race man who understands the moral consequences of the law on the lives of black people."

Appearing on Fox News' Special Report (8/20, 1.53M), the Wall Street Journal editorial page's Jason Riley said, "I think the responsible role of the President is to condemn [protestors'] bad behavior – full stop." Riley went on to say that "these looters and rioters do not need to hear from the Attorney General that criticism of Obama is race-based," and, instead, "what they need to hear from" Holder is that "they need to stay out of trouble with the law...pull up their pants, finish school and take care of their kids."

Likewise, Fox News' Juan Williams, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 5.89M), notes that statistics show that more than 9 out of 10 of African-American males killed in gun homicides are killed by other African-American males, and points out that Jesse Jackson once said, "There is nothing more painful to me...than to walk down the street and hear footsteps and start thinking about robbery," but "then look around and see somebody white and feel relieved."

On the other hand, PBS's Tavis Smiley, in an op-ed for USA Today (8/20, Smiley, 5.76M), asks, "Do we really think it's right that a town like Ferguson which is 67 percent black should be under white political rule?"

Protests In Ferguson Again Turned Violent On Monday Night. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (8/20, 938K) is reporting that as of late Tuesday night, "protesters continued marching and chanting without any major incidents." But the New York Times (8/20, Davey, Eligon, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that on Monday night, "peaceful protests devolved into sporadic violence, including gunshots," and "two men were shot in the crowd," while "31 people – some from New York and California – were arrested." The Times reports that on Monday, "the police were shot at...but did not fire their weapons." According to the Times, Missouri Highway Patrol Captain Ronald Johnson, "near a table that held two guns and a Molotov cocktail that had been seized," said, "We can't have this. We do not want to lose another life."

On the CBS Evening News (8/19, lead story, 2:50, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that Captain Johnson has "pleaded with residents to hold their protests only in the daytime," and "said let the criminals come tonight, so we can take them away and they can't hide behind peaceful protesters." Vladimir Duthiers went on to report from Ferguson that, night after night, "the pattern of violence is the same – a small number of demonstrators disrupt the peaceful protests."

At the opening of NBC Nightly News (8/19, lead story, 3:05, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams said that on Monday night, Ferguson had been the scene of "urban warfare." Correspondent Ron Allen went on to report that police in Ferguson "say they were targeted by what they call a 'criminal element' using the protests and the night

as cover." Asked, "Can you really distinguish between the protesters and the criminals?" Captain Johnson replied, "Yes, I think we can. We've got a pretty good eye on that. We have been compiling addresses, and there's a low number of people that have a Ferguson address."

According to Mike Emanuel on Fox News' Special Report (8/19, 1.53M), of the 78 people arrested Monday night, only four are from Ferguson, and 18 are not even from Missouri. Reuters (8/20, Malone) reports that while most of those arrested were from elsewhere, the two protesters facing weapons charges are both from Ferguson. On ABC World News (8/19, story 5, 2:20, Sawyer, 5.84M), Alex Perez said the 78 arrests were "the most" since the violent protests began more than a week ago.

On the CBS Evening News (8/19, story 2, 2:45, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley noted that "in 10 days of street battles" there have been "at least five...shooting victims but no one has been shot by the police." Pelley added that "at least 147 people have been arrested, some from as far away as New York, San Francisco, and Dallas. And at least 60 businesses have been looted or vandalized."

The Huffington Post (8/19, Belenky, 11.54M) reported that Johnson "has walked side by side with the protesters, giving out hugs and kisses." According to the Huffington Post, Johnson, "a Ferguson native," has been "credited with sharply changing the tone of the relationship between the police and the protesters." The Los Angeles Times (8/20, Serrano, Hennessy-Fiske, Susman, 3.42M) reports that Anthony Gray, one of the lawyers for Michael Brown's family, "was out with protesters on...Monday," but "did not fault police," and "praised Johnson." Gray is quoted as saying, "If we maintained the course we were on before Ron got involved, it would probably be 10 times worse than it is now."

The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Dolan, Shallwani, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) notes that on Monday, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon (D) defended his decision to deploy the Nation Guard, saying, "as long as there are vandals and looters and threats to the people and property of Ferguson, we must take action to protect our citizens."

Military Autopsy Confirms That Brown Was Shot Six Times. The Los Angeles Times (8/20, Serrano, Hennessy-Fiske, Susman, 3.42M) reports that anonymous "federal law enforcement officials said a U.S. military medical examiner has concluded a federal autopsy of Brown and it will show six gunshot wounds." The Washington Times (8/20, Sherfinski, 465K) notes that the Justice Department "took the extraordinary step of conducting its own autopsy after an initial one performed by the local medical examiner and a private one performed at the request of Mr. Brown's family."

In a front-page article, the New York Times (8/20, A1, Robles, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that "witnesses have given investigators sharply conflicting accounts of the killing," and while "many witnesses...agreed" that Officer Darren Wilson's gun "went off inside the car," and then Brown "ran away" before Wilson "got out of his car and began firing toward Mr. Brown." However, the Times says that as for "the crucial moments that followed, the accounts differ sharply," with "some witnesses" claiming Brown "moved toward Officer Wilson, possibly in a threatening manner," while "others say that Mr. Brown was not moving and may even have had his hands up when he was killed."

Bloomberg News (8/20, Bross, Feeley, 2.76M) reported that "a grand jury will begin hearing evidence" on Wednesday. According to the AP (8/20, Anderson), the ACLU and National Bar Association, among others, "have filed lawsuits seeking the incident report in the shooting." USA Today (8/20, Copeland, Johnson, 5.76M) reports that Edward Magee, a spokesman for St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch, said Wilson "will be 'offered the opportunity' to testify" before the grand jury.

On ABC World News (8/19, story 5, 2:20, Sawyer, 5.84M), Alex Perez reported that Wilson "has already spoken to investigators." The Washington Post (8/20, Wax-Thibodeaux, Thompson, Fahrenthold, 4.06M) reports that Wilson "has told investigators that he struggled with Brown in his police cruiser and opened fire out of fear for his life after Brown charged at him."

Prosecutor's Father Was A Police Officer Murdered By African-American Man. According to the Washington Post (8/20, Wax-Thibodeaux, Thompson, Fahrenthold, 4.06M), "St. Louis County's chief executive and other local black leaders have said they believe" prosecutor Robert McCulloch "is not fit to handle the case,"

in part, "because McCulloch's father, a police officer, was killed in the line of duty," and "the man who shot his father was black." The Post notes that Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon (D) has said he "has not asked McCulloch to recuse himself from the case."

Officer's Supporters Raise Money For His Family Online. USA Today (8/20, Toppo, 5.76M) reports that "a small, quiet counterprotest, mostly online, has arisen far from the angry, noisy nightly protests roiling Ferguson." According to USA Today, Officer Darren Wilson's "supporters...created a GoFundMe...group to raise $100,000 for Wilson's family," and, "as of Tuesday...about 1,300 donors had pledged more than $50,000."

African-American Ferguson Police Officer Has Faced Abuse Claims In the Past. The Huffington Post (8/19, Sledge, 11.54M) reported that Eddie Boyd, one of Ferguson's three African-American police officers, has been investigated several times for allegedly using unnecessary force against teenagers, both while he worked for the St. Louis Police Department and in Ferguson. The only incident cited since Boyd joined the Ferguson police in 2010 followed a high-speed car chase involving a 16-year-old who shot a gun at police chasing him.

Pentagon Defends Program Supplying Military Gear To Police, Including Ferguson. The Washington Post (8/19, Lamothe, 4.06M) reports Pentagon press secretary Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby on Tuesday defended the Defense Department's Excess Property Program under which military equipment has been sent to police departments across the country, including Ferguson, Missouri. Although the program's use there "has come under scrutiny by civil rights advocates," Kirby said "the program also has assisted police across the United States in counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism operations that 'get right to the protection of the homeland.'" He went on to assure that "there's a lot of due diligence" regarding which police departments receive the equipment, but noted that "he wasn't sure if the federal government could take it back materiel if it wasn't happy with the way it was being used."

While "strongly" defending the program, Politico (8/19, Ewing, 637K) reports, Kirby said that while he has requested more information about the equipment transfers, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and the Pentagon "stand behind the overall principle of transferring gear the military no longer needs to local police departments who can use it." Kirby also pointed out that "the Pentagon does not 'push' equipment on local departments," and "it discriminates about what gear seems 'appropriate' for which agencies."

Knife-Wielding Robber Shot And Killed By Police In St. Louis. The CBS Evening News (8/19, story 3, 0:55, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that on Tuesday in St. Louis, police shot and killed a man armed with a knife who had just "robbed a store and appeared deranged when he confronted officers." The New York Times (8/20, Blinder, Santora, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that after "officers repeatedly warned, 'Stop, drop the knife,'" the man who was subsequently shot "refused," and, instead "approached the officers, knife raised" until he "came within three or four feet" of the police officers.

Nixon Reportedly Has National Political Ambitions. The Washington Post (8/20, Kane, Costa, 4.06M) reports that Nixon recently "stoked rumors that he wants to be considered for the 2016 national ticket with a visit to Iowa and a trip to Colorado to huddle with major Democratic donors." The Post says Nixon has "a record and a reputation some regard as too moderate for the base of the Democratic Party," but is also "an appealing if staid Midwestern figure in a party full of telegenic upstarts from the coasts." However, according to the Post, some critics "have cited Nixon's delayed response to the Ferguson crisis as evidence of a lack of leadership and urgency by the governor."

FBI Has Not Reported A Substantial Increase In "Justified Homicides" By Police. The Washington Times (8/20, 465K) reports that according to the FBI, in 2012, "the last year available for full statistics, law enforcement ruled a total of 410 deaths as justified homicides," and that "has been steady for much of the past few decades."

Majority Of Race-Based Hate Crime Victims In DC Are White. In an article titled, "Race-based Hate Crimes Spike In D.C." that was promoted by the Drudge Report, the Washington Times (8/20, 465K) reports that according to the Washington DC police, "of the 18 race-based hate crimes in 2013, the majority of victims were white and the majority of suspects black."

NYTimes' Upshot: African-Americans Have Not Made Much Economic Progress In Last 50 Years. The New York Times' (8/20, Irwin, Miller, Sanger-Katz, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) "The Upshot" blog provides a

series of graphs and statistics backing up the claim that "across a broad range of economic and demographic indicators," a "chasm remains between black and white Americans – and in some important respects it's as wide as ever." According to The Upshot, "The unemployment gap is virtually unchanged over the last 40 years," while the "income and wealth gaps have actually widened."

In his online column for the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.79M), Thomas Edsall says the "rioting this past week in Ferguson...follows more than a decade of economic stagnation and worse for many black Americans, a trend that appears unlikely to be reversed in the foreseeable future."

China, Russia, Iran: Ferguson Unrest Shows Widespread Instability, Racism In The US. On Fox News' Special Report (8/20, 1.53M), Bret Baier noted that foreign governments in countries where democracy is either deeply infringed upon or non-existent, have played up the situation in Ferguson in recent days. Baier noted that "China's state-run news service" offered this advice: "What the United States needs to do is to concentrate on solving its own problems rather than always pointing fingers at others." Likewise, according to Baier, "Russia's Foreign Ministry urged its American partners 'pay more attention to restoring order in their own country before imposing their dubious experience on other nations.'" Baier added that Iran's deputy foreign minister claimed, "We are still witness thing the phenomenon of racism in the Western societies, and it is regrettable that those who claim to be advocates of human rights are pursuing such an approach."

According to McClatchy (8/19, Leavenworth, Subscription Publication, 23K), China's state-controlled media "has stepped up coverage of the Ferguson violence and protests" in recent days. The Daily Caller (8/19, Bloom, 408K) reported that "Islamic State supporters have taken to social media to encourage protesters in Ferguson to embrace radical Islam."

The New York Times (8/20, Mackey, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) notes that "RT's main English-language channel featured regular updates from the 'war zone' by its correspondent Anastasia Churkina – a daughter of Russia's United Nations ambassador, Vitaly I. Churkin." Another piece from the New York Times (8/20, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) points out that "Russia paid similarly close attention, for instance, when demonstrators from the Occupy Wall Street movement were arrested in New York in 2011, and government-controlled news media outlets have often rebroadcast video of those arrests to make the same point as their coverage of Ferguson."

ADVOCATES URGE OBAMA TO DELAY DEPORTATION OF MILLIONS. The New York Times (8/20, Preston, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports that as part of an effort "to pressure President Obama to include any millions of immigrants in any executive action to reduce deportations," 11 people living in the US illegally, including well-known immigrants rights movement leader Jose Antonio Varga, "plan to apply for deportation deferrals on Wednesday." The group wants the White House "to halt deportations for most of the estimated 11 million immigrants here illegally by vastly expanding a 2012 program of deferrals for young people who came when they were children." With their deferral applications Wednesday, they will include "a legal memorandum arguing that the president has 'broad legal authority to provide temporary status' to those immigrants and by extension to millions of others like them."

Honduran Family Separated From Daughter During Journey To US. The Washington Post (8/20, A1, Partlow, 4.06M) reports in a front-page story on Maby Caceres, a Honduran mother who was separated from her 10-year-old daughter, Cindy Noemi Rodriguez Caceres, in Mexico during their journey to the US. After placing her daughter in a van with their neighbors, Maby and the rest of her family boarded a second van, which was stopped by police. The family was deported back to Honduras without Caceres and her husband knowing whether Cindy made it to the Rio Grande or "was lost and alone in Mexico." Finally, the girl was found in an immigration shelter in Mazatlán and deported back to her family in Honduras.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX UP 0.1%; HOUSING STARTS RALLY WITH 15.7% GROWTH. McClatchy (8/20, Hall, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports "headline inflation, as measured by the Labor Department's Consumer Price Index, rose by 0.1 percent in July and 2 percent year-over-year from July 2013." Also yesterday, the Commerce Department noted "stronger-than-expected housing starts in July, rising by a strong 15.7 percent to 1.09 million starts from June's 945,000."

Bloomberg News (8/20, Woellert, 2.76M) says "a strengthening job market and cheaper borrowing costs are

helping revive residential real-estate after a lull in construction at the start of the year." The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Mitchell, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) runs a similar report under the headline "Renewed Strength in Housing Market Could Boost Economy." Further underscoring the improvement in the housing market, the New York Times (8/20, Searcey, Harris, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) reports, Home Depot said an "uptick in demand gave second-quarter earnings a lift," while "big-ticket purchases, like appliances, windows and water heaters, increased." Home Depot also "reported strong growth among its high-spending professional clients – which indicates that they have work." USA Today (8/20, Carroll, 5.76M) runs a similar report.

Focusing on the inflation numbers, Reuters (8/20) reports that they could give the Fed more reason to extend its monetary policy. Bloomberg News (8/20, Stilwell, 2.76M) says that "even the muted increase in prices is damping wages, which remain tepid." According to other Commerce data, "hourly earnings were unchanged on average last month after adjusting for inflation."

McClatchy Analysis: Consumer Spending On The Rise. McClatchy (8/20, Hall, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports, "Written off in the aftermath of the Great Recession, the US consumer is back. Not quite with a vengeance, but definitely back." While "spending by the rich never tailed off...across the broad middle of the income spectrum, a bevy of indicators shows that ordinary Americans feel better about the economy and are loosening the purse strings." McClatchy adds that "the most obvious example is car sales, on pace to exceed 16.3 million this year."

Stocks Finish Higher. The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Vaishampayan, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) reports the Dow added 86 points yesterday, to close at 16920, while the Nasdaq rose 19 points to 4528 and the S&P added 10 points to 1982.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Better Governing Through Data."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) says that ClaimStat, "a new initiative by the New York City comptroller, Scott Stringer, to use copious amounts of data to save money and solve problems, makes...intuitive sense." The initiative "seeks to collect and analyze information on the thousands of lawsuits and claims filed each year against the city," and by "identifying patterns in payouts and trouble-prone agencies and neighborhoods...reduce the cost of claims." Noting that the effort has received only "mild praise" from the Administration of Mayor Bill de Blasio, whose aides "point out that the city's payouts have remained flat over the last 12 years," the Times argues that "the aspiration of a well-run city should not be to hold claims even but to shrink them," and "the more actual information, independently examined and publicly available, the better."

"Prime Minister Modi Fumbles On Pakistan." A New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) editorial argues that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "fumbled an early test of leadership this week when he canceled a high-level meeting with Pakistan," even though the two nations "need to talk, and talk regularly." The Times says leaders of the two nations must "establish a continuing dialogue," and a meeting of the UN General Assembly next month "offers a good venue."

"The Right To Cheat And Maim?" A New York Times (8/20, Subscription Publication, 9.79M) notes the pushback from the Associated Builders and Contractors and the International Franchise Association to the President's executive order "requiring bidders for federal contracts to disclose their labor-law violations going back three years," and argues that it is "outlandish for industry groups to argue that procurement officials and the public do not have the right to know about a contractor's compliance with federal labor laws or defend practices that hurt workers." The Times adds that contractors opposing the President's order "seem to have forgotten that they are bidding for taxpayer dollars," and "are not entitled to contracts; they must qualify."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A Pension Smoothing Trick."*** An editorial in the Washington Post (8/19, 4.06M) blasts the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014, which "provides $10.8 billion for infrastructure projects around the country, with more than half of the money supplied not by any real increase in revenue or reduction in spending but by an egregious budgetary gimmick known as 'pension smoothing,'" which "allows companies to put off otherwise mandatory contributions to their defined-benefit employee pension funds, which increases tax revenue for the Treasury, since those contributions would have been tax-deductible." The Post calls

this "a new low in fiscal irresponsibility," noting that the Federal government has been "reduced to running one of its major infrastructure programs on a year-to-year basis, held together with the budgetary equivalent of chewing gum and bailing wire."

"Virginia's 'Asia Experts.'" A Washington Post (8/20, 4.06M) editorial criticizes Republican state Del. Barbara Comstock and Democratic Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust, the candidates in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, for pandering to Northern Virginia's growing Korean community by promising to "attempt to insert Congress into a dispute between South Korea and Japan" over "the name of the Sea of Japan, which many Koreans insist should be called the East Sea." The Post questions whether the candidates "should be poking their noses in a bitter dispute between two U.S. allies," and expresses similar concern "about the precedent set by Fairfax County in dedicating a memorial garden, just behind the County Government Center, to women forced into sex slavery by Japan during World War II." The Post expresses doubt that the county seat of government is "the right place to memorialize historical tragedies," and that "Congress should be attempting to arbitrate the nomenclature of the sea that separates Japan and the Korean Peninsula."

"Thailand's Trafficking Scourge." The Washington Post (8/20, 4.06M) editorializes on the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which "found that Thailand does not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking." The report "downgraded" the country "to the lowest possible level, Tier 3, which could lead to sanctions and cutoff of aid other than humanitarian aid." While "Thailand received a US waiver based on a written plan for improvement....the report declares that" its "is not making enough progress toward the minimum standards."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Medical Innovation Threat."*** An editorial in the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) calls attacks from the insurance industry and liberals on the price of the Hepatitis C drug Sovaldi a precursor to price controls on drugs that will serve to stifle innovation by drug makers.

"Syria's Disarmament Mirage." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) throws cold water on Administration assertions that the Assad regime has turned over its entire chemical weapons stockpile, citing unnamed sources that indicate there is no evidence that Syria has declared its entire weapons cache.

"Modi Revs Up Reform." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 5.89M) praises Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for challenging the Indian government's old ways with economic reforms that welcome foreign companies to invest in the country.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
US Airstrike Success Spurs Push For More Iraq Attacks
Walgreen Shakeup Followed Bad Projection
Secretive Hamas Army Emerges
BHP Plans Massive Restructuring

New York Times:
Shooting Accounts Differ As Holder Schedules Visit
Shared Vision, Varying Styles
Next Premier May Echo Maliki, But Iraqis Hope For New Results
Plenty Of Room At The Top Of Ukraine's Faded Rebellion
Daily Special On Senate Menu: Serving 'Hyperpartisanship'
De Blasio Encounters Rising Friction Over Liberal Expectations

Washington Post:
Islamic State Claims To Execute American
'Worse Than Anything In My Life'

Grand Jury To Hear Evidence In Mo. Death
A Governor's Leadership Is Sorely Tested
Uber Picks Up Clout With Hire Of Obama Confidant

Financial Times:
BHP Split Calls Time On Mining Boom Years
StanChart Hit By High-Risk Client Ban
Hanks Rewrites The Script As App Developers Seek To Grab Spotlight

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: ISIS-American Journalist Beheaded; ISIS-Violence; Arizona-Flooding; California Wildfire; Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; California-School Attack Plot Foiled; Car Thieves-Targets; Vactation-Mystery Shoppers; Sleep Study.
CBS: Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Missouri-Police Force; Missouri-St. Louis Shooting; Arizona-Flooding; Iraq-Mosul Dam; ISIS-American Journalist Beheaded; Middle East Cease Fire Ends; Governor Perry Indictment; African Elephants-Ivory Trade; Pope Comments On Death; USS Houston Wreckage Found; US Summer Camp-Israeli, Palestinian Teens.
NBC: Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Arizona-Floodings; California Wildfire; Governor Perry Indictment; ISIS-American Journalist Beheaded; Middle East Cease Fire Ends; NFL-Washington Redskins Controversy; Iceland-Earthquakes; US Citrus Industry; Neighbors-Heart Health.

Network TV At A Glance:
Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest – 11 minutes, 55 seconds
Arizona-Flooding – 5 minutes, 50 seconds
ISIS-American Journalist Beheaded – 4 minutes, 35 seconds
Governor Perry Indictment – 4 minutes, 5 seconds
California Wildfire – 3 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: ISIS-American Journalist Beheaded; Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Arizona-Flooding; Governor Perry Indictment.
CBS: ISIS-American Journalist Beheaded; Illinois-Hostage Situation; Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Governor Perry Indictment; Arizona-Flooding; New York-Yankee Stadium Security Upgrades.
FOX: Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Arizona-Flooding; Governor Perry Indictment; Illinois-Hostage Situation; Peanut Butter Recall; Wall Street; Middle East Cease Fire Ends; Sleep Study.
NPR: Missouri Teen Shooting-Unrest; Middle East Cease Fire Ends; Governor Perry Indictment; Ohio River-Fuel Oil Spill; Arizona-Flooding; Microsoft-Steve Ballmer Steps Down; Asian Stock Markets.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.
White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Vacations at Martha's Vineyard.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Travels to Connecticut; visits Goodwin College for a roundtable discussion on workforce development and skills training; attends an event at a private residence in Greenwich, Connecticut for the Democratic Governors Association; attends an event for the Democratic Party of Connecticut at a private residence in Stamford, Connecticut.
US Senate: Aug. 8 – Sept. 8. — The Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8.
US House: Aug. 4 – Sept. 7. — The House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8. Please note however that some committees are still scheduling hearings during this time both in Washington and in the field. Just a reminder to check the Capitol Hill takes daily during this period of "Recess."

2 p.m. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ROUNDTABLE — Roundtable policy discussion on "FEMA's Fracking Ban: How Anti-Fracking Policies are Putting People and Property at Risk." Location: The

Wyoming County 911 Center, 3880 SR6E, Tunkhannock, PA.
Other: Aug. 19 – 23. COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP CONVENTION — The Community Action Partnership holds its 50th anniversary annual convention, with the theme "Community Action: 50 Years of Moving Forward." It coincides with the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Economic Opportunity Act on Aug. 20, 1964, which created Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and other programs as part of the War on Poverty. The convention will highlight CAAs' role helping low-income people achieve economic stability over the past five decades. Washington's CAA, United Planning Organization (UPO), is the host of the convention. Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd. NW.

HIGHER EDUCATION DISCUSSION — 9:30 a.m. "Governance for a New Era" Discussion featuring Benno Schmidt, board chairman of CUNY and former president of Yale University. The focus is on "finding innovative solutions to the many challenges at our colleges and universities." Schmidt will be joined by former Governor of Michigan and President of the Business Roundtable John Engler, Georgia Tech Professor and Director of the Center for 21st Century Universities initiative Richard DeMillo; and former U.S. Congressman and Regent of the University of Maryland System Tom McMillen. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW.

WILDFIRES – SECRETARY VILSACK — 1:30 p.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will host a media conference call to discuss a new report on the rapid rise in firefighting costs which often exceeds the total Forest Service budget.

NASA – ANCIENT EARTH AND HABITABLE PLANETS — 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. NASA presents a panel discussion by leading science experts describing what is known about the ancient Earth and how that information can guide the search for habitable planets orbiting other stars. Participants: Phoebe Cohen, professor of geosciences, Williams College, Massachusetts; Shawn Domagal-Goldman, research space scientist, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland; Christopher House, professor of geosciences, Pennsylvania State University; Timothy Lyons, professor of biogeochemistry, UC Riverside, California; Dawn Sumner, professor of geology, UC Davis, California; David Grinspoon, senior scientist, Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, Arizona, former Blumberg NASA-Library of Congress Chair in Astrobiology. Questions can be asked during the event by attendees or via Twitter using the hashtag AskNASA. Location: Webb Auditorium, NASA Headquarters, 300 E St. SW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Hillary Clinton is returning to Iowa next month for the first time since her failed presidential run in 2008. Hillary denies just being there for politics. She was like, 'I love Iowa for their...okay, I'm running for president.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Of course, the big story continues to be the situation in Ferguson. And it just came out that the Missouri Governor, Jay Nixon, apparently sent the National Guard to Ferguson without letting the White House know first. When he heard that he was left out of such an important decision, Obama said, 'Holy crap, I've been Bidened.'"

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Jewell, Sally (b) (6) @ios.doi.gov>

from the clips

1 message

Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Aug 20, 2014 at 7:51 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

Dan Ashe was in MT (Helena) yesterday and stood with the Governor to announce FWS has decided not to list the Arctic Grayling (fish). One story below. I can talk to you about this and the other recent MT ESA decision later this morning, but passing along for awareness.

Helena Independent Record: No endangered species listing for Arctic grayling

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

The upper Missouri River Arctic grayling, a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act starting 20 years ago, will not receive federal protections in Montana, Gov. Steve Bullock and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe announced at the Capitol Tuesday, along with other federal and state officials.

Montana is the only state in the lower 48 where Arctic grayling are native. Officials Tuesday pointed to restoration work between ranchers, government agencies and conservation organizations in the Big Hole Valley, one of the fish's remaining strongholds, as the chief reason for the decision not to list.

"Too often these days when we hear about the Endangered Species Act, it's a center of controversy," Bullock said. "Here in the West these issues have become higher profile in recent years, raising concerns for states' rights, local economies, litigation and federal intrusion. What's clear is when we work together we do find solutions, and today we're here to celebrate an ESA success story."

For the last decade, landowners through the Big Hole Watershed Committee worked with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, USFWS and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to restore habitat along the river and its tributaries and to increase in-stream flows during important times of year for the Arctic grayling.

Known for their iridescent silver coloring and large sail-like dorsal fin, the Arctic grayling thrives in the colder waters of northern Canada and all of Alaska, and its closest relatives are trout, salmon and char.

Cold water fish are particularly sensitive to warming waters due to climate change, Ashe said. While climate change was considered in the decision, the conservation efforts taken before listing were much the same as those that would have occurred after listing to make the watershed more resilient to a changing climate, he said.

The decision will include 20 of the 26 known Arctic grayling populations in Montana that are self-sustaining and in wild and natural habitat, including river and several mountain lake populations, said Jim Boyd of the USFWS.

The efforts in the Big Hole and other areas such as the Ruby and Centennial valleys were enough to keep the fish from listing.

"The reasons are simple: habitat quality, population trends and genetic diversity are stable or increasing for most Montana Arctic grayling populations," Ashe said. "The voluntary conservation measures and commitment to conservation in the Big Hole, Centennial, and Ruby valleys have tipped the balance for the Arctic grayling in Montana."

Convincing landowners to work for conservation to stave off listing was not an easy process, according to some members of the collaborative.

"The challenge wasn't simply the fish, the challenge was building trust between government employees and some very suspicious ranchers," said Joyce Swartzendruber, state conservationist for NRCS.

Big Hole Valley rancher Don Reese applauded the trust between private landowners and government officials and offered a toast to the Arctic grayling.

"We were worried because we don't know what else we can do," Reese said of area landowners. "The sacrifices they made have made a difference, and this decision makes that foundation of trust even stronger."

While Tuesday was for celebration, the decision was not the end but the beginning of a brighter future for the fish in Montana, he said.

Some conservation groups took a dim view of USFWS's decision not to list.

"I think they made a mistake," said Mike Garrity, executive director for the Alliance for the Wild Rockies.

Garrity submitted extensive comments on the proposed listing, and still has concerns about long-range viability of Arctic grayling, he said. Garrity had not seen the decision, and declined to speculate on what his organization planned to do in response.

The Arctic grayling was originally a candidate for listing from 1994 until 2004. From 2003 to 2005, USFWS was litigated by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Western Watershed Project over failing to act, and the agency agreed to make a final determination by 2007. In 2007, the agency declined to list the upper Missouri population because it decided the grayling was not a separate or distinct population.

The 2007 decision not to list was again challenged, with USFWS agreeing to reassess the population. In 2010, the agency again listed the upper Missouri population as warranted but precluded.

FWP director Jeff Hagener called Tuesday's decision "landmark" after the years of uncertainty.

"This is a model for showing how to work together," he said, adding that the collaborative approach can work for other species listed or warranted for listing, such as bull trout, grizzly bears and sage grouse.

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tom.kuglin@helenair.com

–

Kate Kelly
Director of Communications
Department of the Interior
(202) 208 2409
kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov

Jewell, Sally (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

White House Weekly Report

1 message

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jul 23, 2014 at 5:35 PM
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Sally,

Here is an early draft of the White House weekly report. Please send us your message to the President.

Thanks,
Erin

–
Erin Walls
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-6087
erin_walls@ios.doi.gov

Weekly Report July 25.docx
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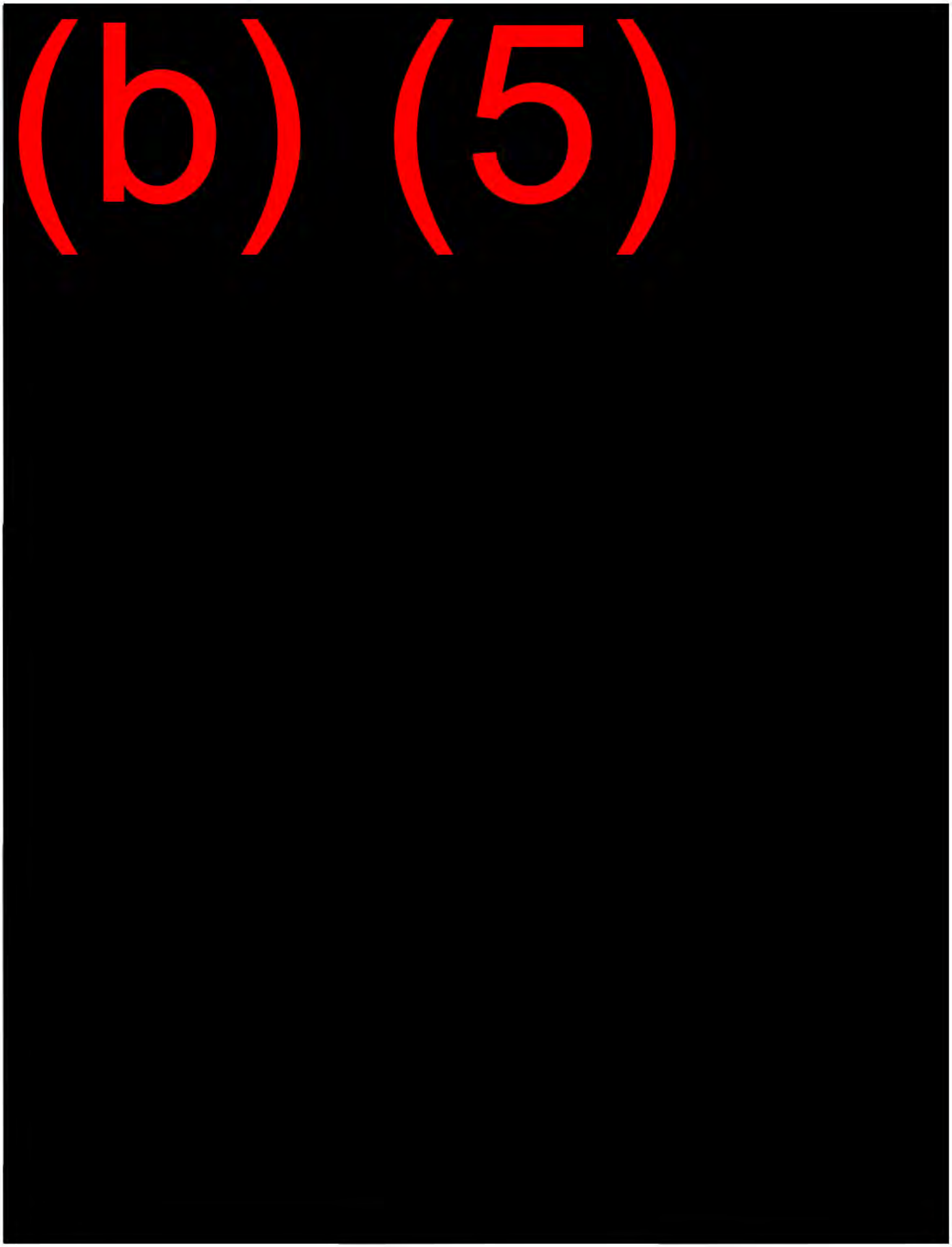
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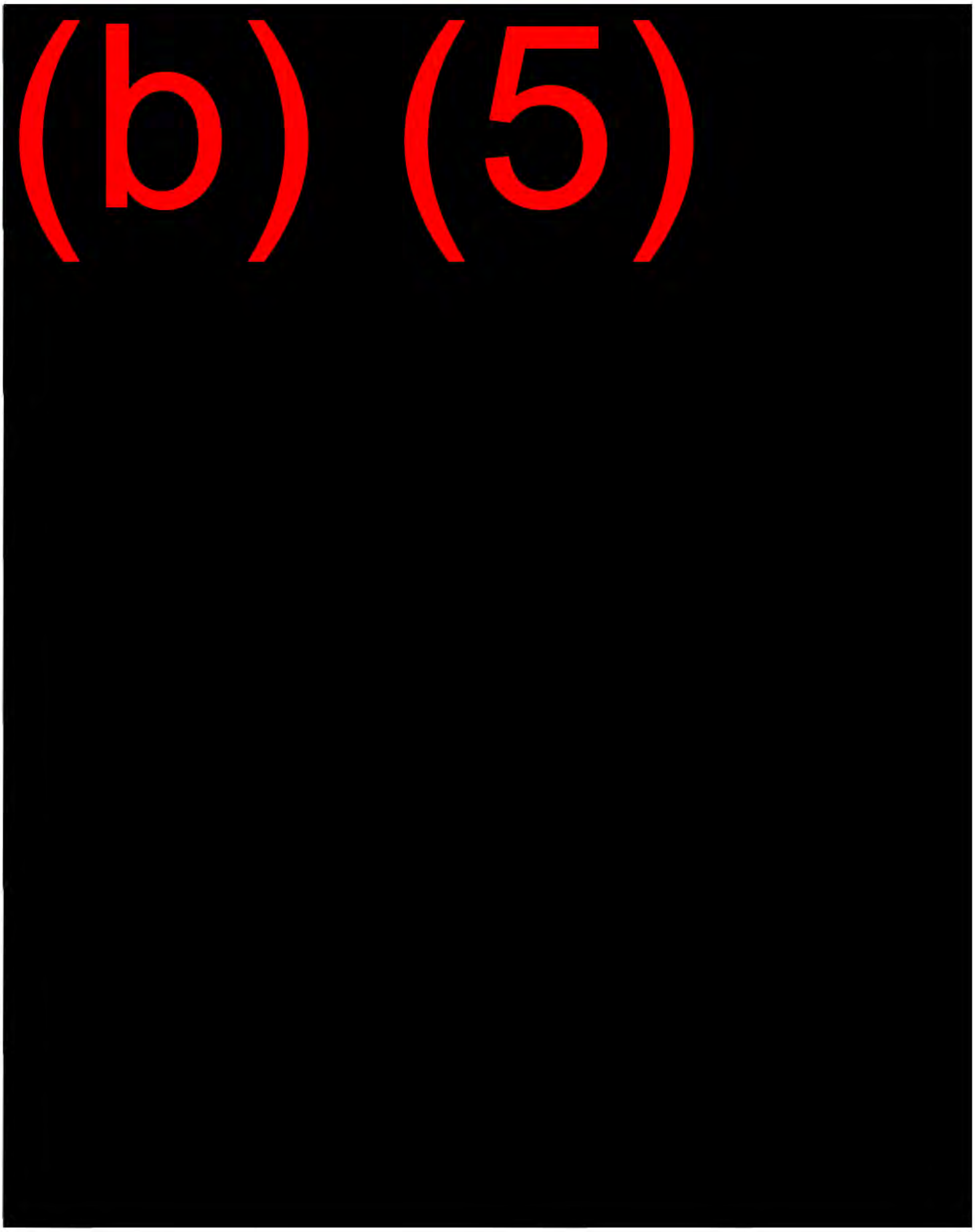
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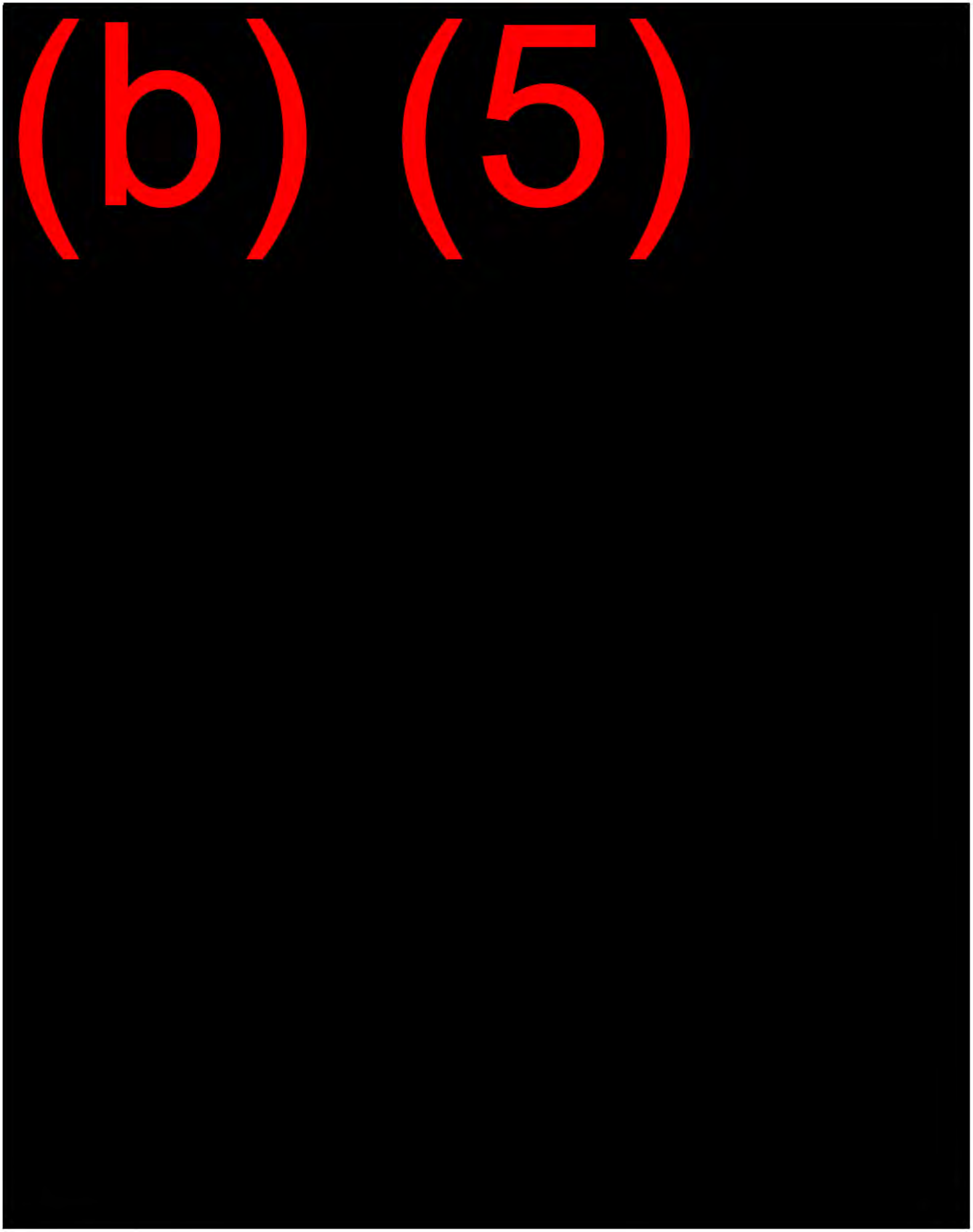
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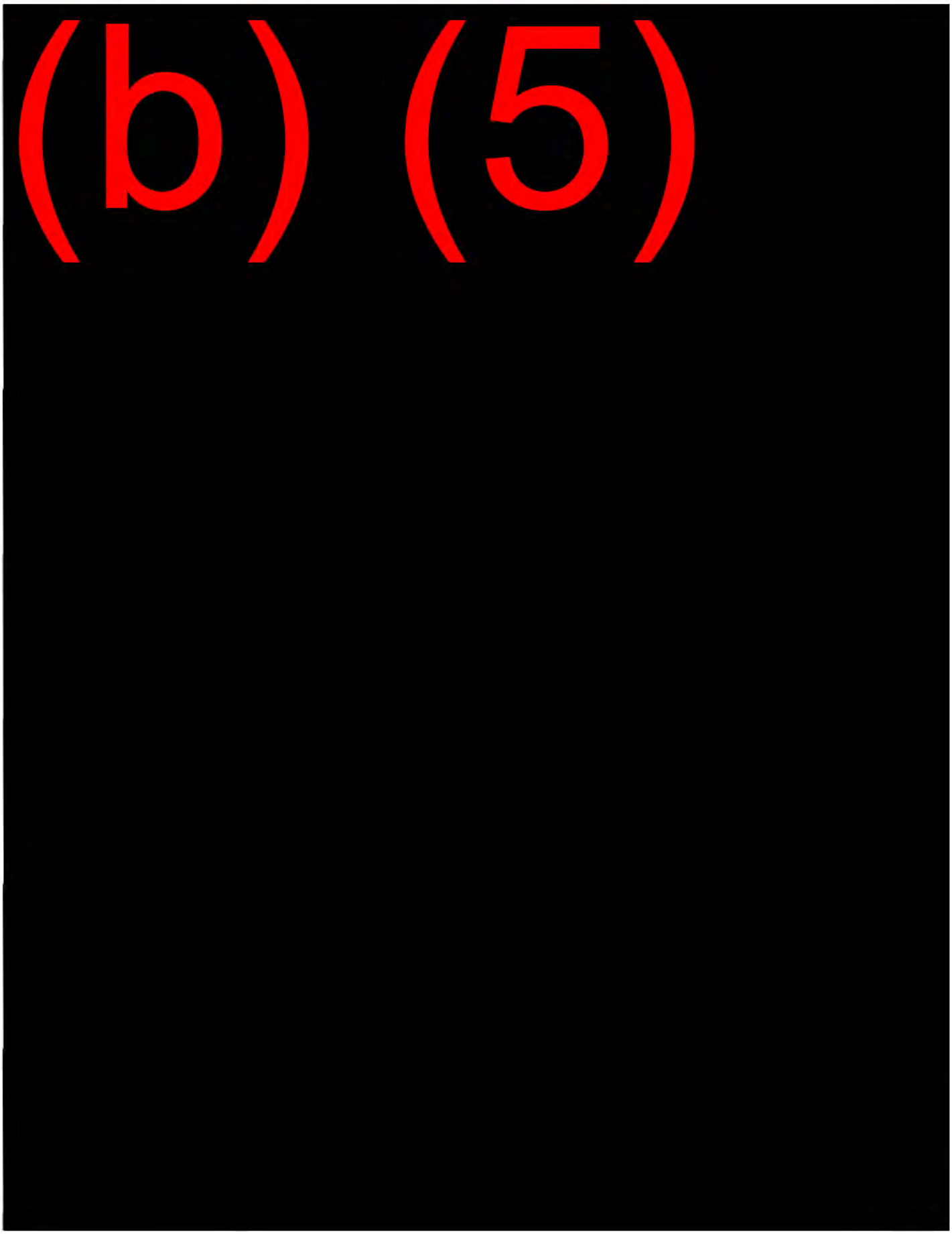
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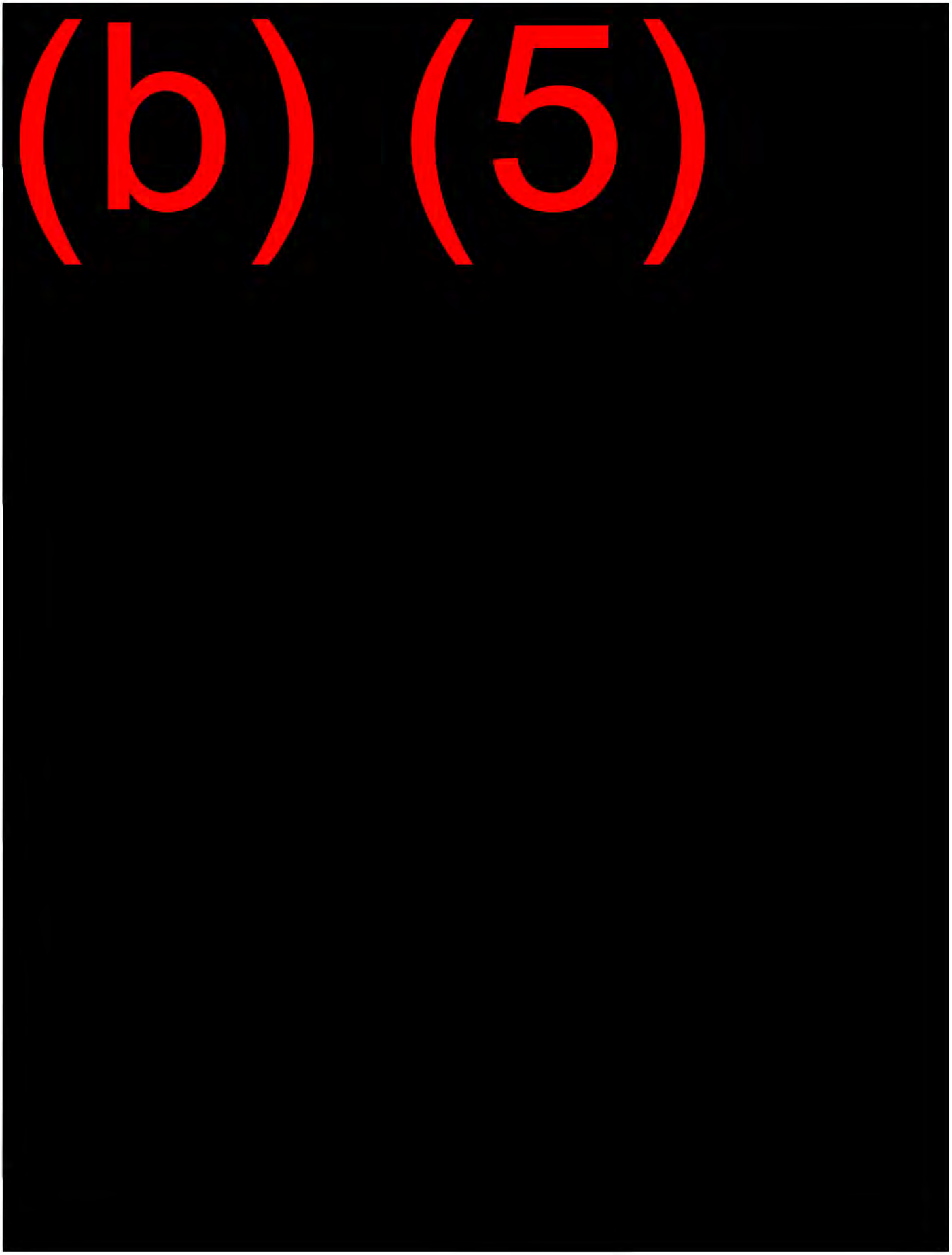
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Jewell, Sally (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

RE: White House Weekly Report

1 message

Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 11:14 AM
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Tommy and Nikki –

Suggested text for the POTUS message below. Edit at will. Thanks to Nikki for the suggested language. SJ

(b)(5)

This week also marked the signing of a terrific MOU with the AFL-CIO's Union Sportsmen's Alliance, whereby volunteers with deep experience in the trades will work alongside youth and veterans in support of public lands on projects like trail and footbridge construction, interpretive kiosks and historic preservation.

From: Walls, Erin [mailto:erin_walls@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 6:26 PM
To: SRJ; Tommy Beaudreau; Nicole Buffa; Katherine Rupp
Subject: White House Weekly Report

Hi Sally,

Here is the first draft of the White House weekly report. Please send us your message to the President.

Thanks,

Erin

Weekly Report August 1.docx
19K

CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED

U.S. Department of the Interior Weekly Cabinet Report
August 1, 2014

Direct Message to the President

Dear Mr. President -



This week also marked the signing of a terrific MOU with the AFL-CIO's Union Sportsmen's Alliance, whereby volunteers with deep experience in the trades will work alongside youth and veterans in support of public lands on projects like trail and footbridge construction, interpretive kiosks and historic preservation.

Warmly,

Sally

Announcements - Presidential Priorities

Climate/Energy: Next week, BLM anticipates signing a ROD for the 485-MW Blythe Solar project in southern CA.

Jobs/Economy:

ACA Implementation:

Immigration:

My Brother's Keeper:

VA Backlog:

Principals' Schedules

On August 4, Secretary Jewell will deliver remarks at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit Wildlife Trafficking Side Event in Washington, D.C.

During the week of August 4, the Department of the Interior will continue its efforts to raise awareness of and support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Secretaries Jewell and Vilsack will kick off the week with a joint blog post. On August 6, Secretary Jewell will participate in an event with Sen. Burr in North Carolina. On August 7, the Secretary will join Mayor Brainard at an event in Carmel, Indiana. Mayor Brainard is a member of Mayors for Parks, a bipartisan coalition of mayors from across the country who have called for the renewal and full funding of the program that has allowed urban and metropolitan parks to flourish – and helps keep local economies and our families healthy. On August 8, Secretary Jewell will join Sens. Heinrich and Udall in Albuquerque, NM to celebrate the final land acquisition for the Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge. This urban refuge in Albuquerque, NM was established in 2012 through the acquisition of 390 acres of Valley Gold Farms, a former dairy and hay farm. Finally, Secretary Jewell will join with Mayor Stanton, also a member of Mayors for Parks, for an event in Phoenix, AZ on Saturday, August 9.

Items of Note

Next week, FWS will announce it is withdrawing the proposed rule to list the population of the North American wolverine that occurs within the contiguous U.S. as a threatened species under the ESA. The associated 4(d) and 10(j) rules for the wolverine will also be withdrawn. [This was in last week's report] **(Sarah/Kate/Terri/Stephenne)**

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

August 19-21, the Deputy Secretary is tentatively scheduled to travel to New Orleans. While there he would attend the BOEM lease sale, have a tour of an offshore oil platform, and participate in a conservation event with Senator Landrieu.

August 24–27, the Deputy Secretary is tentatively scheduled to travel to Arizona and Boise, ID. While there he would participate in an event with former Secretary Kempthorne to celebrate the conclusions of the Snake River Basin Adjudication in Idaho, and celebrate the signing of another Western Watersheds Enhancement Project MOU in Arizona.

In August, Secretary Jewell may hold an event to mark a milestone on the Department's priority goal to take 500,000 acres of land-into-trust in Indian Country. This is a key priority to advance self-determination and promote economic development.

In August, Interior may announce that it will provide new work and training opportunities for youth across the country by funding approximately 21 new youth corps projects on federal lands. Funding for these projects comes from more than $2M that has been raised to date by DOI from the private sector—donated by companies like American Eagle Outfitters, CamelBak, and the Campion Foundation. Many of these corps projects will hire and train boys and young men of color and each project will teach job skills and increase connections to nature, so that young people and veterans can not only accomplish meaningful work and gain important professional skills, but they can also build a lifelong connection to the outdoors. These projects are varied and diverse--from restoration efforts on the Los Angeles River and Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City, to creating conservation crews at Navajo High School in Arizona and supporting Veterans Green Corps in Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Colorado. These 21 new projects are in addition to the more than 450 projects happening in National Parks, on urban refuges, and throughout tribal lands—projects that will offer work experiences to more than 14,000 young people this year. **(Nikki/?/Francisco/Jeremy)**

In August, Reclamation may release a West-Wide Climate Impact Assessment Report for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basins. The Impact Assessment Report will describe future projections of water supply and demand under climate change, and potential impacts to existing water and power operations and infrastructure in the basin. The Report's conclusions will inform ongoing planning efforts, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin Study, which was initiated in 2013 and is focused on identifying strategies to adapt to or mitigate climate change impacts to basin water supplies. **(Sarah/Blake/Terri/Jeremy)**

In August, the National Park Service may receive an application for a right-of-way from the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority for a new 220 mile "road to resources" development in northwest Alaska. This new road includes a 20 mile section that will cross the Preserve portion of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The park's enabling legislation (ANILCA) clearly states the NPS shall grant a right of way for such a road upon receipt of an application.

In August, Reclamation will post two funding opportunity announcements (FOA) for the Desert and Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC). The FOAs will fund studies and projects in the two LCCs to study and mitigate the effects of climate change, drought, and wildfires.

In August, the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement expects to promulgate a final rule to provide limited liability protection from lawsuits for certified states and tribes carrying out approved abandoned mine reclamation. Certified states and tribes are those that have completed reclamation of all known coal-related abandoned mine problems within their jurisdictions (currently Louisiana, Montana, Texas, Wyoming, the Crow Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, and the Navajo Nation).

In August, the NPS intends to publish a proposed gathering rule, which would provide the authority for permitting the gathering of plant resources within units of the National Park System by members of federally recognized Indian tribes, as defined in the rule. The proposed rule would apply to Indian tribes with traditional associations to specific park units. It would be implemented through agreements between NPS and Indian tribes and subject to permits which would be issued annually. This rule change would provide reasonable, resource protection based use of park resources while assisting to support the continued lifeways of American Indian tribes. Consultation with Indian tribes nationwide indicates that the approach in the proposed rule would be constructive and respectful of tribal sovereignty while continuing to respect the NPS mission to protect and conserve park resources.

In August, the Secretary will announce the first ever Urban Refuge Challenge funding recipient, which will receive $1 million-a-year funding from FWS. The funding will enhance their plans to more fully engage people from culturally diverse backgrounds in conservation and outdoor recreation.

In August, FWS may publish a proposal to list the African lion as threatened throughout its range under the ESA. FWS will also publish a special rule for African lions requiring that imports of lion trophies receive prior authorization or permits under the ESA. This action may be controversial and attract attention from the animal rights community and the sport-hunting community.

In August, BOEM will initiate a rulemaking process, through the issuance of an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, aimed at ensuring the financial integrity of lessees and operators on the OCS, and reducing the risk of taxpayers bearing the costs of decommissioning OCS facilities.

In August, FWS anticipates proposing to designate critical habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo across nine states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming) as well as publish a notice of availability of a draft economic analysis of the designation. FWS expects this rule to garner attention due to the anticipated size of the designation and perceived impacts to water use. FWS proposed to list the cuckoo as threatened in October 2013.

In August, FWS anticipates proposing to designate critical habitat and draft economic analysis for the Rufa red-knot, a migratory bird that travels from the arctic to the coasts of southern Chile and Argentina through 37 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FWS expects the proposal to garner attention due to its size and perceived impacts to the horseshoe crab harvest and coastal land use. The Rufa red knot was proposed to be listed as threatened in September 2013 with climate change identified as a threat to its survival.

In the next several months, BSEE expects to have its blowout preventer proposed rule ready for review by OIRA. Interest from industry, other nongovernment organizations, and the media is expected.

BISON CONNECT

Jewell, Sally <(b) (6)ios.doi.gov>

White House Weekly Report

1 message

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Aug 5, 2014 at 2:36 PM
To: Sally Jewell, (b)(6)ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Sally,

Here is the first draft of the White House weekly report. Please send us your message to the President.

Thank you,
Erin

Weekly Report August 8.docx
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CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED

U.S. Department of the Interior Weekly Cabinet Report
August 8, 2014

Direct Message to the President

Dear Mr. President –

Warmly,

Sally

Announcements - Presidential Priorities

Climate/Energy: Next week, BOEM and BSEE expect to send a joint proposed rule to OIRA that addresses offshore oil and gas activities on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf. The rule will promote safe, responsible, and effective drilling activities and include requirements related to oil spill response plans and operating in the challenging Arctic environment. [This was in last week's report]

August 12, Salerno at OESI in Houston, TX.

August 13, BOR water forecast.

BLM: De Tilla Gulch Solar Energy Zone Auction - BA

Jobs/Economy: On August 11, construction of employee short-term housing in Dickinson, ND, will commence. Housing is for both BLM and USFS employees and is located on 10-acres of BLM land transferred from the BOR. The U.S. Air Force will undertake construction of the access roads, utilities, pads, and infrastructure needed for up to 10 mobile housing units.

ACA Implementation:

Immigration:

My Brother's Keeper: On August 13, Secretary Jewell and FWS Director Ashe will announce the first ever Urban Refuge Challenge funding recipient. The funding from FWS ($1 million per year) will enhance their plans to more fully engage people from culturally diverse backgrounds in conservation and outdoor recreation. The announcement may be combined with the announcement of six new urban wildlife partnerships around the country.

VA Backlog:

Principals' Schedules

On August 11, Secretary Jewell will cohost a Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) roundtable with Secretary Moniz in Santa Fe, NM. This is part of a series of listening sessions Energy Secretary Moniz kicked off related to the QER to discuss and receive public feedback on issues related to the development of a comprehensive strategy for the infrastructure needed to transport, transmit and deliver energy to consumers.

August 12, the Secretary is tentatively scheduled to participate in a wildfire event in Redding, California.

August 15, the Secretary is scheduled to meet with the Board of the National Park Foundation in Acadia National Park in Maine. While in the park, she will also tape a short segment in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act with ABC's *Sunday Show* program.

August 11 – Jarvis LWCF event

August 11 – Robin T leading PRI hearing

Items of Note

On August 11 and 13, FWS will hold public hearings in Pinetop, AZ and Truth or Consequences, NM (respectively), on proposed changes to the Mexican wolf recovery program 10(j) rule and the associated draft Environmental Impact Statement.

On August 12, the National Park Service will announce 9 new National Historic Landmark designations, 1 boundary revision and 2 withdrawal designations. Properties are located in MA, LA, ME, NJ, FL, MI, IN and VT.

On August 14, FWS will propose to designate critical habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo across nine states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming) as well as publish a notice of availability of a draft economic analysis of the designation. This rule may garner attention due to the size of the designation and perceived impacts to water use. FWS proposed to list the cuckoo as threatened in October 2013. [This was in last week's report]

On August 12, FWS will announce it is withdrawing the proposed rule to list the population of the North American wolverine that occurs within the contiguous U.S. as a threatened species

under the ESA. The associated 4(d) and 10(j) rules for the wolverine will also be withdrawn. [This was in last week's report]

Next week, FWS/USDA/EPA: Cheatgrass proposal - KK

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

On August 18, Secretaries Jewell and Duncan will travel to the Passamaquoddy Reservation near Bangor, ME and tour Beatrice Rafferty School.

On August 19 Secretary Jewell will travel to Minnesota to tour the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School. Rep. Franken may also attend. Both visits are open press.

August 19-21, the Deputy Secretary is tentatively scheduled to travel to New Orleans. While there he would attend the BOEM lease sale, have a tour of an offshore oil platform, and participate in a conservation event with Senator Landrieu.

On August 19, BOEM will offer nearly 80,000 acres offshore Maryland for commercial wind energy development in a competitive lease sale. Sixteen companies have qualified to participate in the auction for the Maryland Wind Energy Area. According to analysis prepared by the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, if fully developed, the Maryland Wind Energy Area could support between 850 and 1450 megawatts of commercial wind generation, enough electricity to power 300,000 homes.

On August 20, Deputy Secretary Connor is expected to attend BOEM's oil and gas lease sale in New Orleans that will offer 21 million acres offshore Texas for oil and gas exploration and development that will include all available unleased areas in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area.

On August 20, the Department may issue a Secretarial Order identifying key guiding principles that bureaus and the Department should follow to ensure that we are fulfilling our trust responsibility to Indian tribes and Indian beneficiaries. At that time, the Department will also respond to recommendations provided by the National Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform on the Department's management and administration of trust assets. The Secretary is tentatively scheduled to travel to Indian country to make these announcements along with Vince Logan, the newly confirmed Special Trustee

August 24–27, the Deputy Secretary is tentatively scheduled to travel to Arizona and Boise, ID. While there he would participate in an event with former Secretary Kempthorne to celebrate the conclusions of the Snake River Basin Adjudication in Idaho, and celebrate the signing of another Western Watersheds Enhancement Project MOU in Arizona.

In August, Secretary Jewell may hold an event to mark a milestone on the Department's priority goal to take 500,000 acres of land-into-trust in Indian Country. This is a key priority to advance self-determination and promote economic development.

In August, Interior may announce that it will provide new work and training opportunities for youth across the country by funding approximately 21 new youth corps projects on federal lands. Funding for these projects comes from more than $2M that has been raised to date by DOI from the private sector—donated by companies like American Eagle Outfitters, CamelBak, and the Campion Foundation. Many of these corps projects will hire and train boys and young men of color and each project will teach job skills and increase connections to nature, so that young people and veterans can not only accomplish meaningful work and gain important professional skills, but they can also build a lifelong connection to the outdoors. These projects are varied and diverse--from restoration efforts on the Los Angeles River and Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City, to creating conservation crews at Navajo High School in Arizona and supporting Veterans Green Corps in Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Colorado. These 21 new projects are in addition to the more than 450 projects happening in National Parks, on urban refuges, and throughout tribal lands—projects that will offer work experiences to more than 14,000 young people this year.

In August, Reclamation may release a West-Wide Climate Impact Assessment Report for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basins. The Impact Assessment Report will describe future projections of water supply and demand under climate change, and potential impacts to existing water and power operations and infrastructure in the basin. The Report's conclusions will inform ongoing planning efforts, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin Study, which was initiated in 2013 and is focused on identifying strategies to adapt to or mitigate climate change impacts to basin water supplies.

In August, the National Park Service may receive an application for a right-of-way from the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority for a new 220 mile "road to resources" development in northwest Alaska. This new road includes a 20 mile section that will cross the Preserve portion of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The park's enabling legislation (ANILCA) clearly states the NPS shall grant a right of way for such a road upon receipt of an application.

In August, Reclamation will post two funding opportunity announcements (FOA) for the Desert and Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC). The FOAs will fund studies and projects in the two LCCs to study and mitigate the effects of climate change, drought, and wildfires.

In August, the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement expects to promulgate a final rule to provide limited liability protection from lawsuits for certified states and tribes carrying out approved abandoned mine reclamation. Certified states and tribes are those that have completed reclamation of all known coal-related abandoned mine problems within their jurisdictions (currently Louisiana, Montana, Texas, Wyoming, the Crow Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, and the Navajo Nation).

In August, the NPS intends to publish a proposed gathering rule, which would provide the authority for permitting the gathering of plant resources within units of the National Park System by members of federally recognized Indian tribes, as defined in the rule. The proposed rule would apply to Indian tribes with traditional associations to specific park units. It would be implemented through agreements between NPS and Indian tribes and subject to permits which would be issued annually. This rule change would provide reasonable, resource protection based use of park resources while assisting to support the continued lifeways of American Indian tribes. Consultation with Indian tribes nationwide indicates that the approach in the proposed rule would be constructive and respectful of tribal sovereignty while continuing to respect the NPS mission to protect and conserve park resources.

In August, the Secretary will announce the first ever Urban Refuge Challenge funding recipient, which will receive $1 million-a-year funding from FWS. The funding will enhance their plans to more fully engage people from culturally diverse backgrounds in conservation and outdoor recreation.

In August, FWS may publish a proposal to list the African lion as threatened throughout its range under the ESA. FWS will also publish a special rule for African lions requiring that imports of lion trophies receive prior authorization or permits under the ESA. This action may be controversial and attract attention from the animal rights community and the sport-hunting community.

In August, the BLM expects to publish the Proposed Rule on Wind and Solar ROWs. The rule establishes competitive leasing processes for ROWs in order to receive fair market value and promote the use of preferred areas for solar and wind energy development on public lands. The BLM published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in Dec. 2011; the 60-day comment period ended in Feb. 2012. OMB is reviewing the proposed rule.

In August, BOEM will hold several scoping meetings for the Five Year Program.

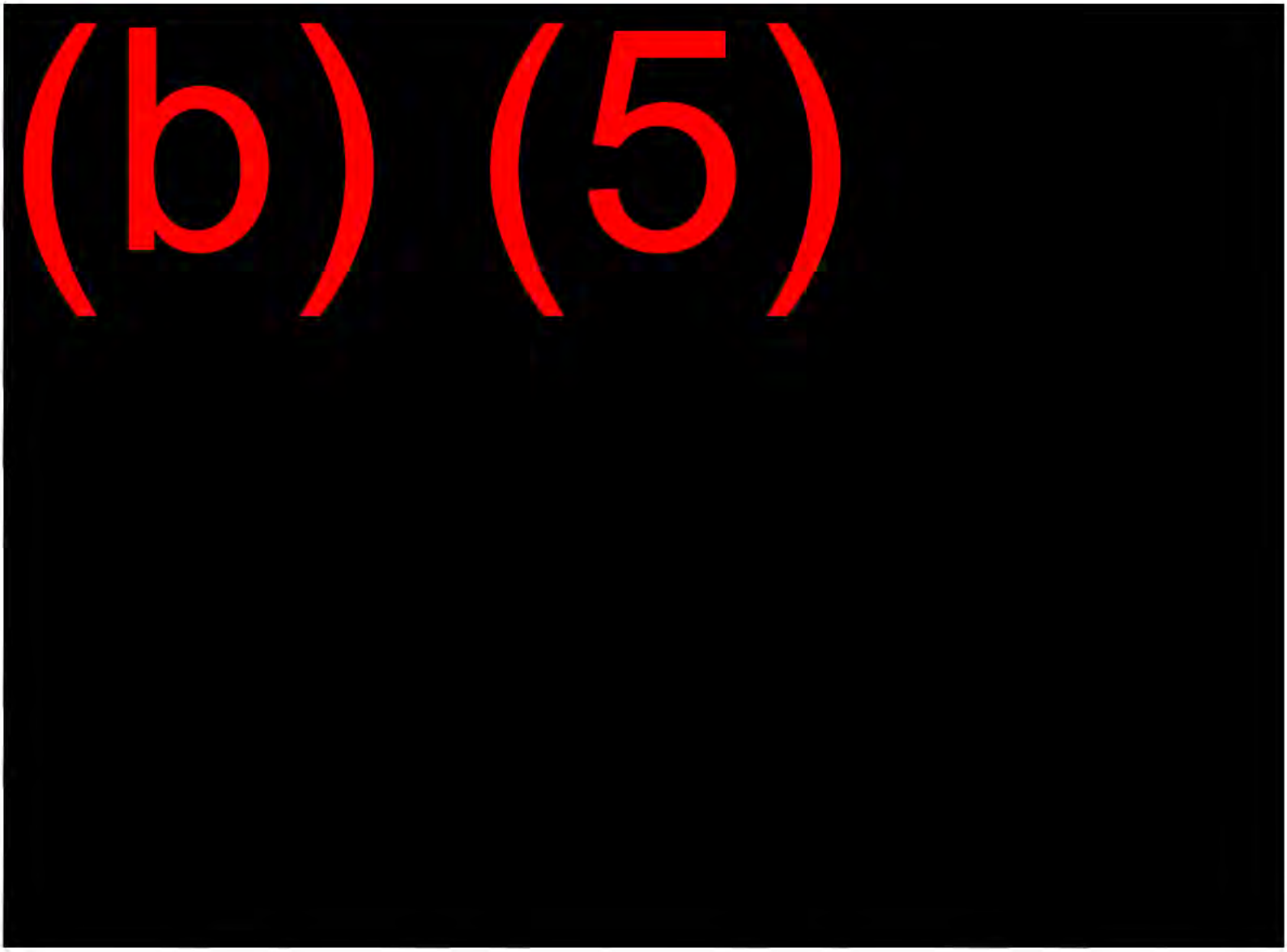
In August, BOEM will initiate a rulemaking process, through the issuance of an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, aimed at ensuring the financial integrity of lessees and operators on the OCS, and reducing the risk of taxpayers bearing the costs of decommissioning OCS facilities.

In August, FWS anticipates proposing to designate critical habitat and draft economic analysis for the Rufa red-knot, a migratory bird that travels from the arctic to the coasts of southern Chile and Argentina through 37 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FWS expects the proposal to garner attention due to its size and perceived impacts to the horseshoe crab harvest and coastal land use. The Rufa red knot was proposed to be listed as threatened in September 2013 with climate change identified as a threat to its survival.

In the next several months, BSEE expects to have its blowout preventer proposed rule ready for review by OIRA. Interest from industry, other nongovernment organizations, and the media is expected.

On September 3, Sec. Jewell will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Location and details of the event are still being worked out.

On September 5, Sec. Jewell has been invited to speak to the Society for Environmental Journalists annual conference, which is being held this year in New Orleans, LA. The theme of the conference is risk and resilience, with a heavy emphasis on disaster response.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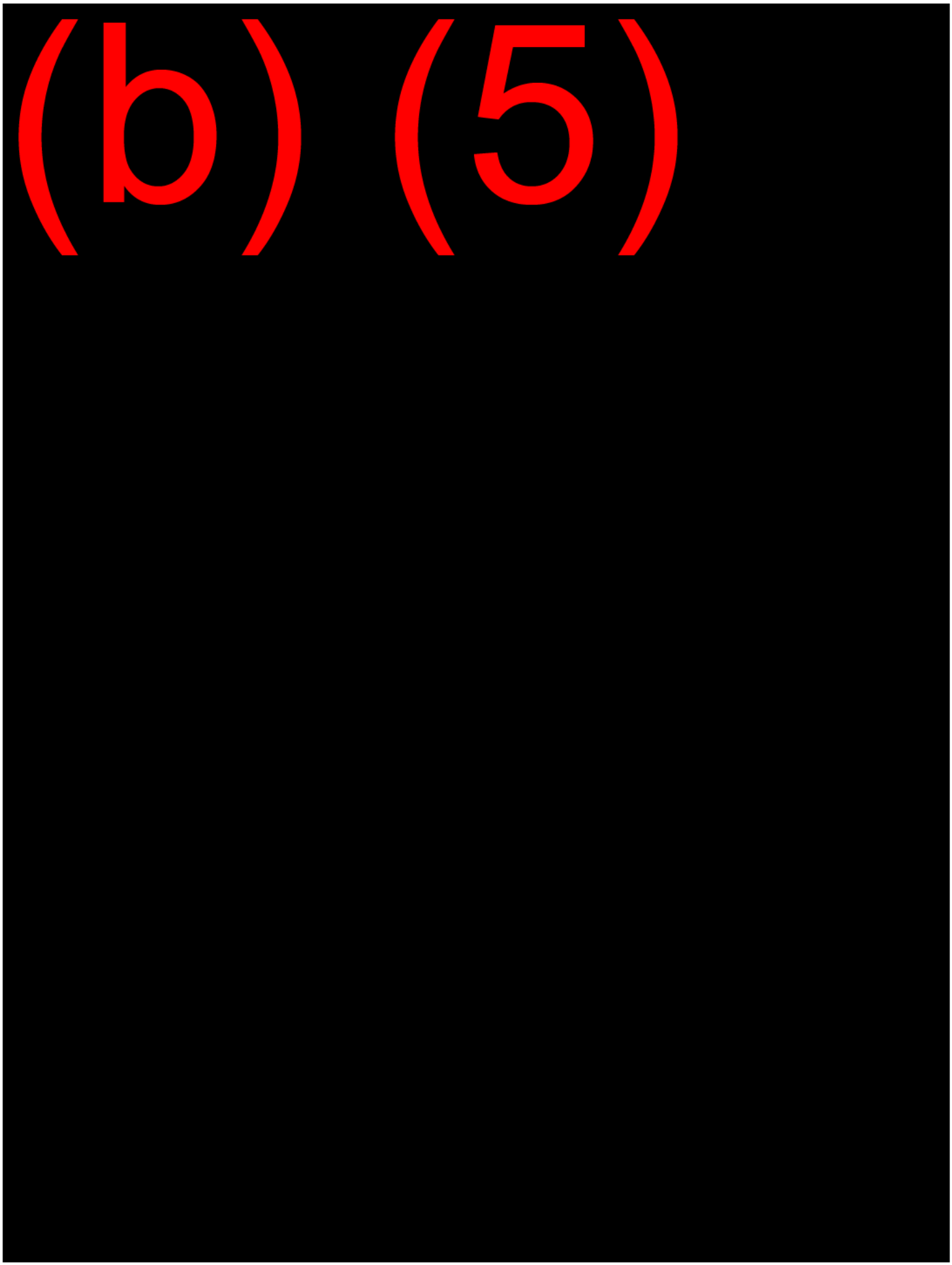
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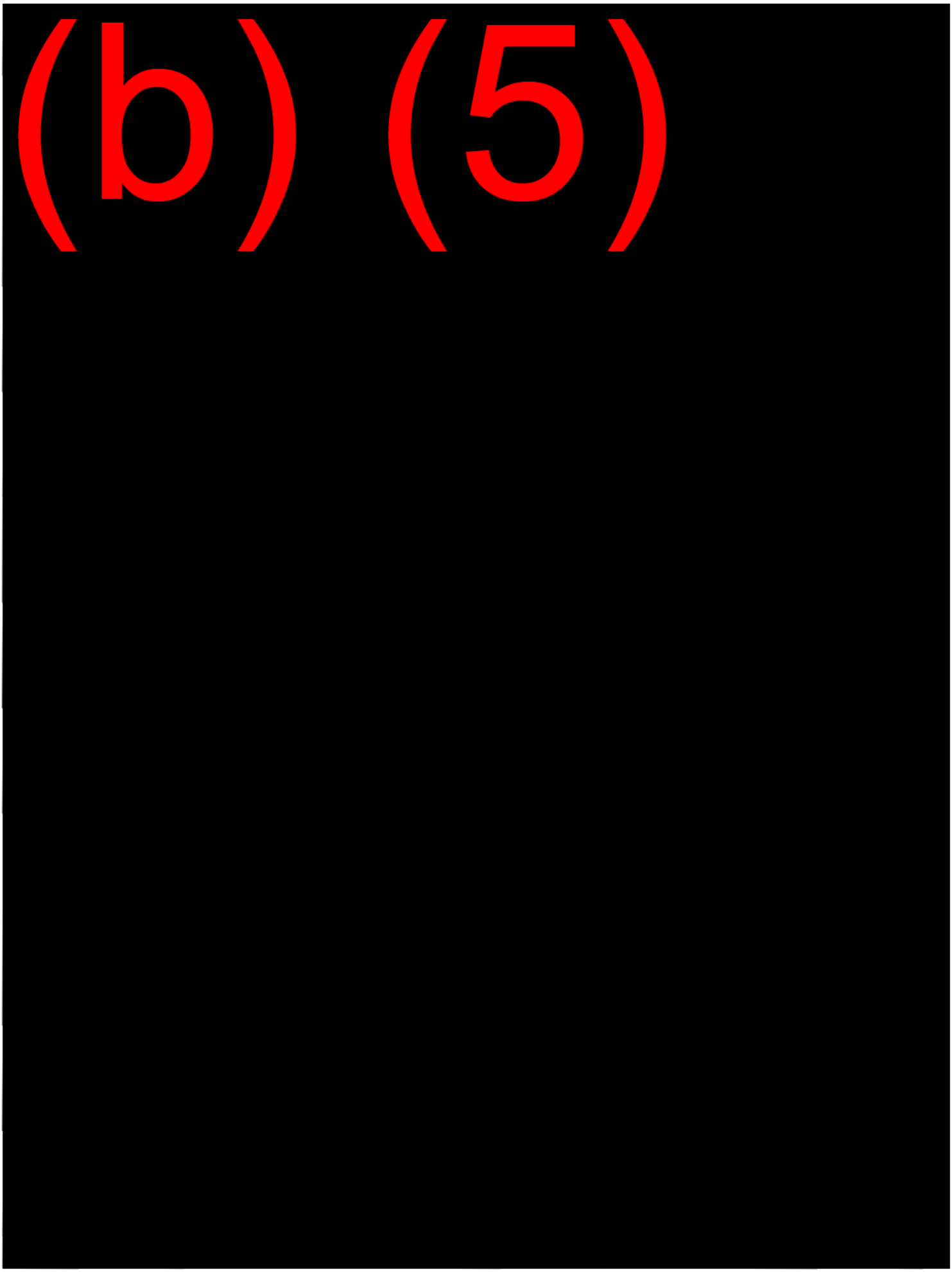
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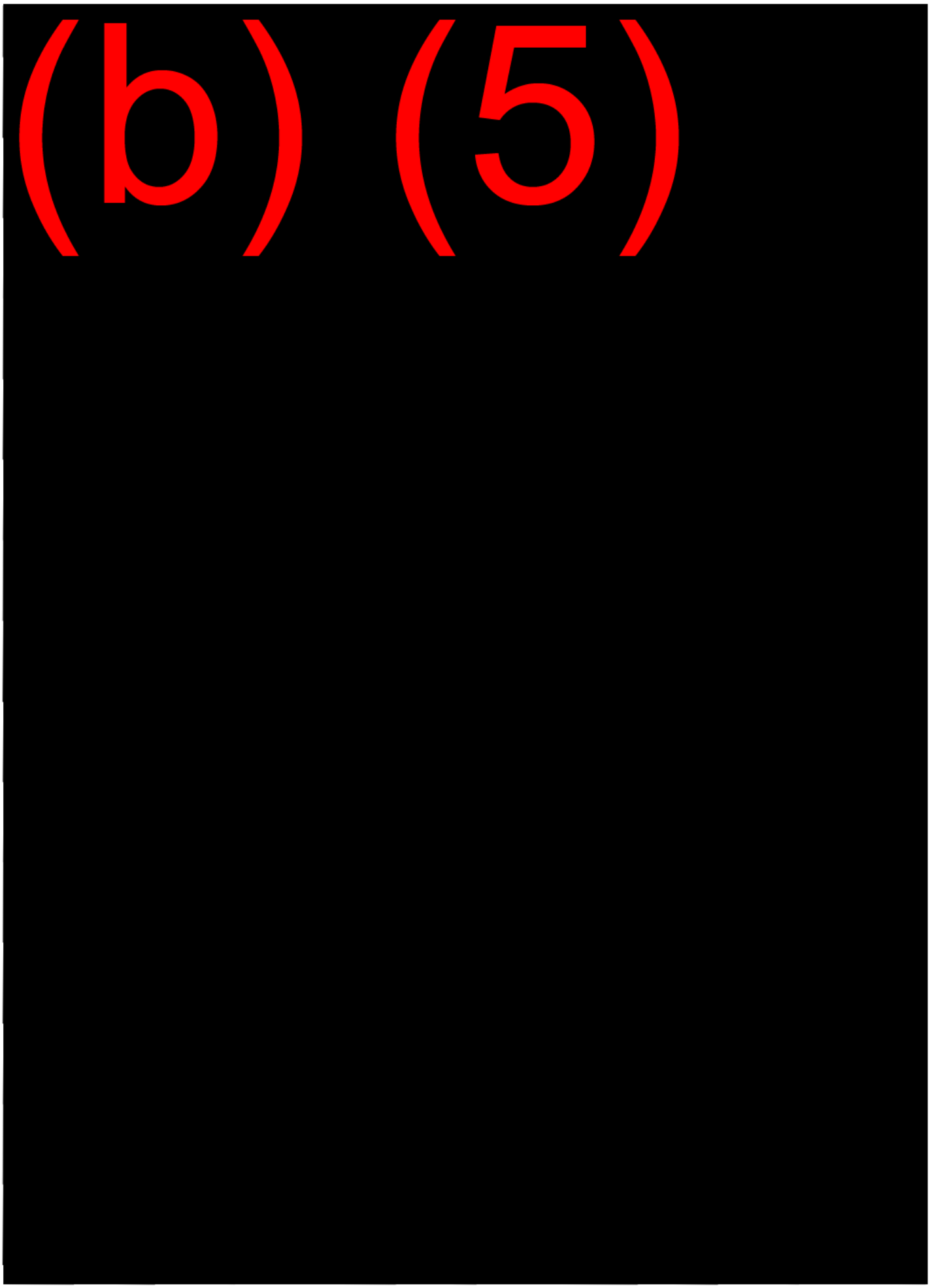
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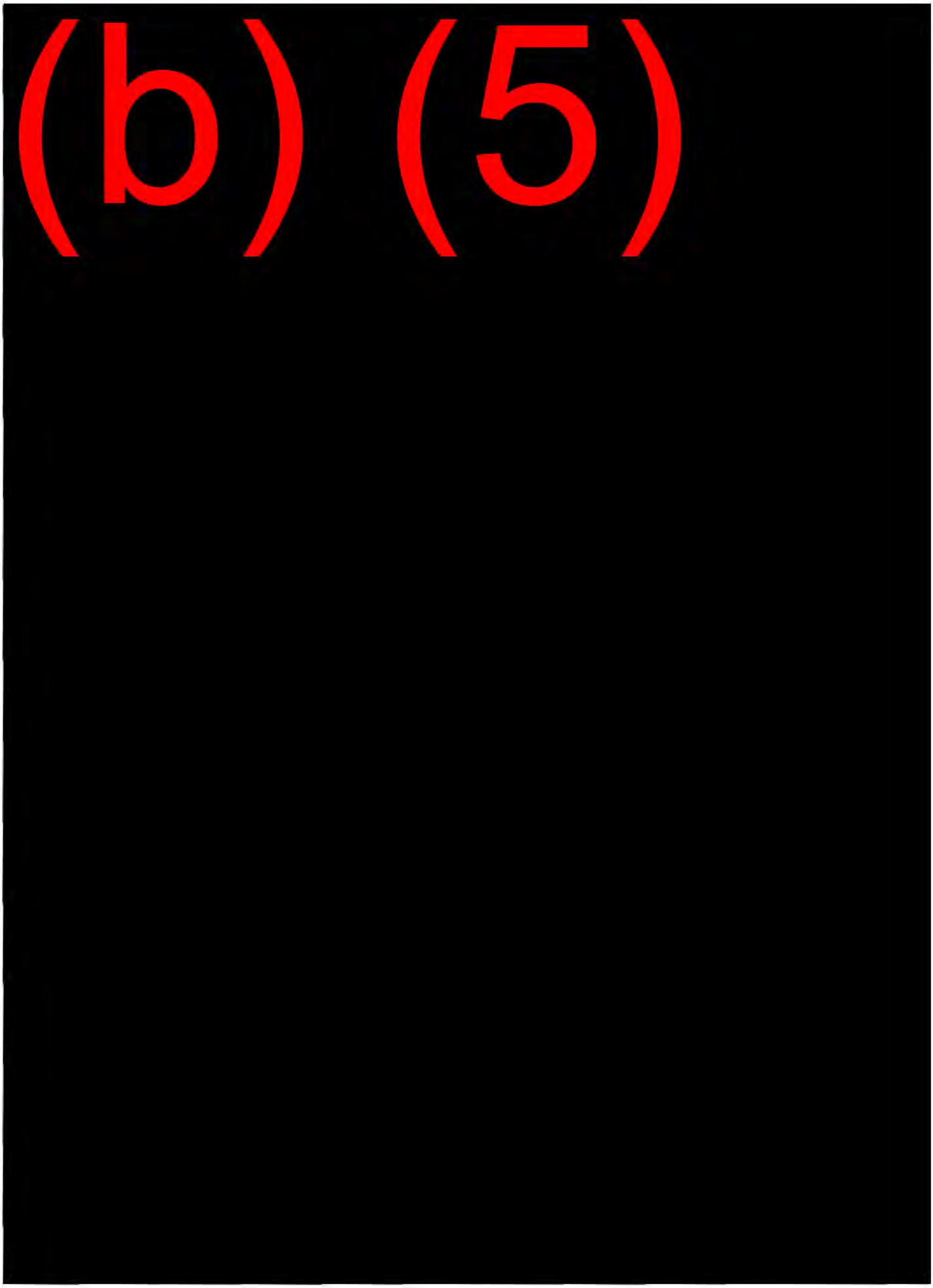
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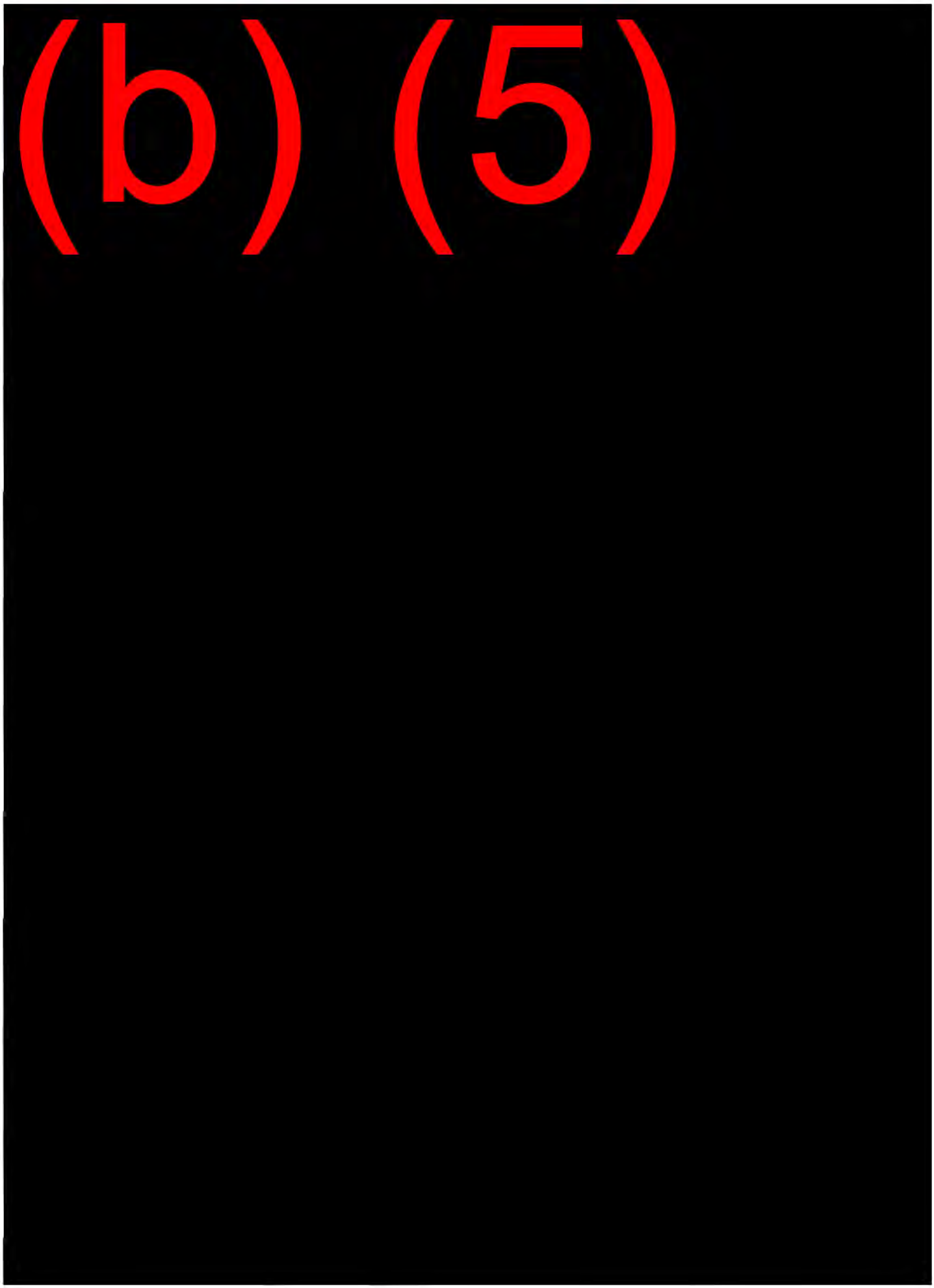
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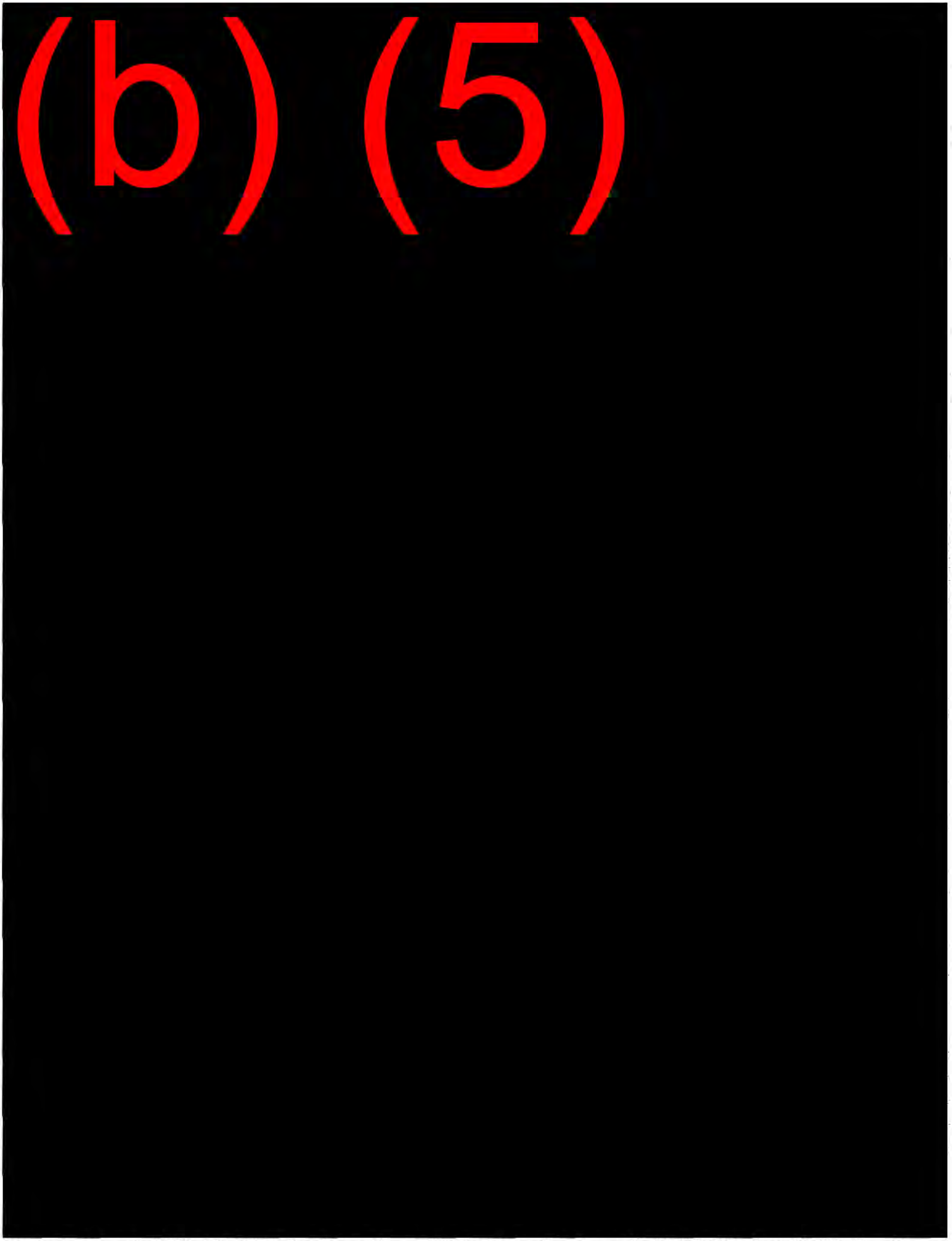
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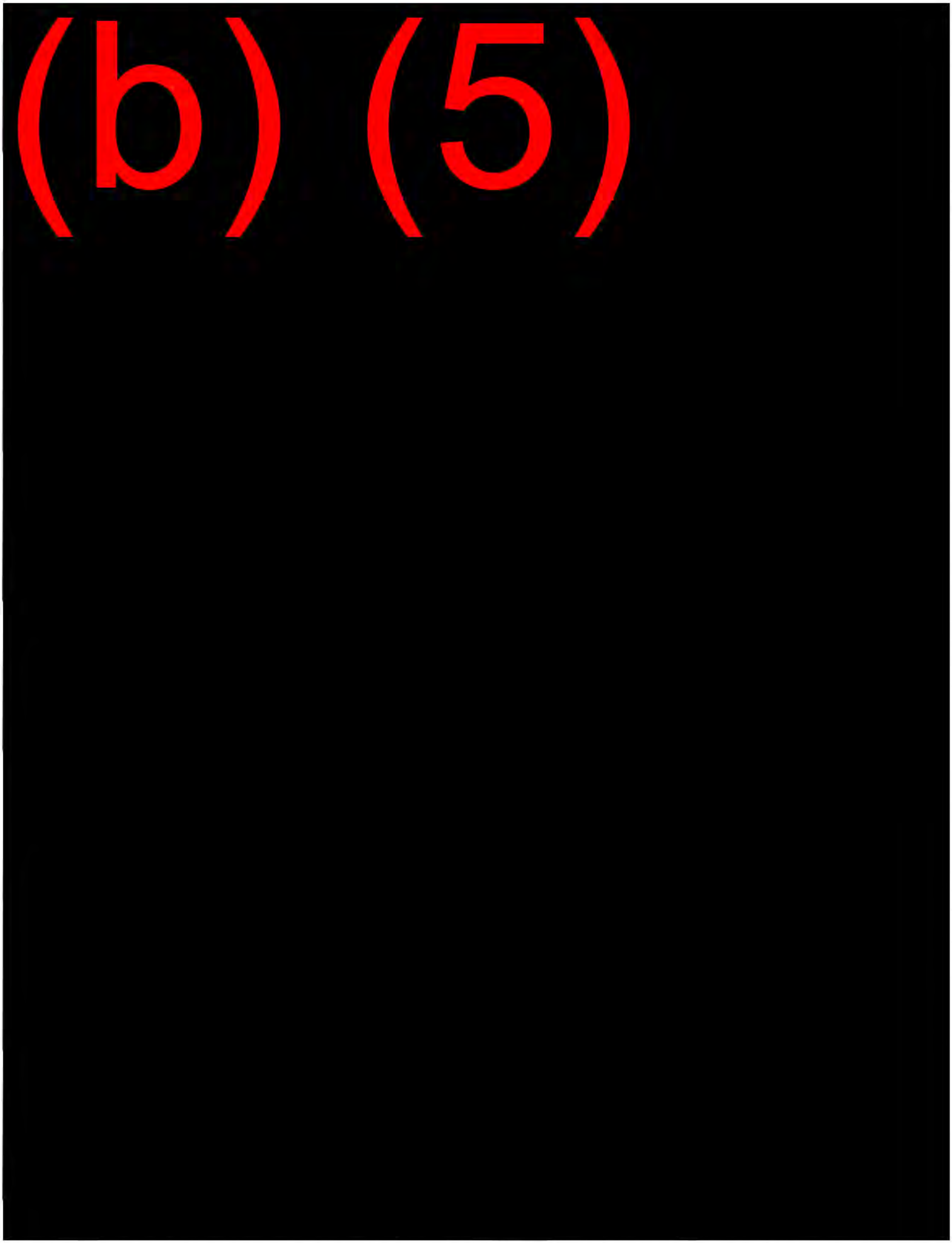
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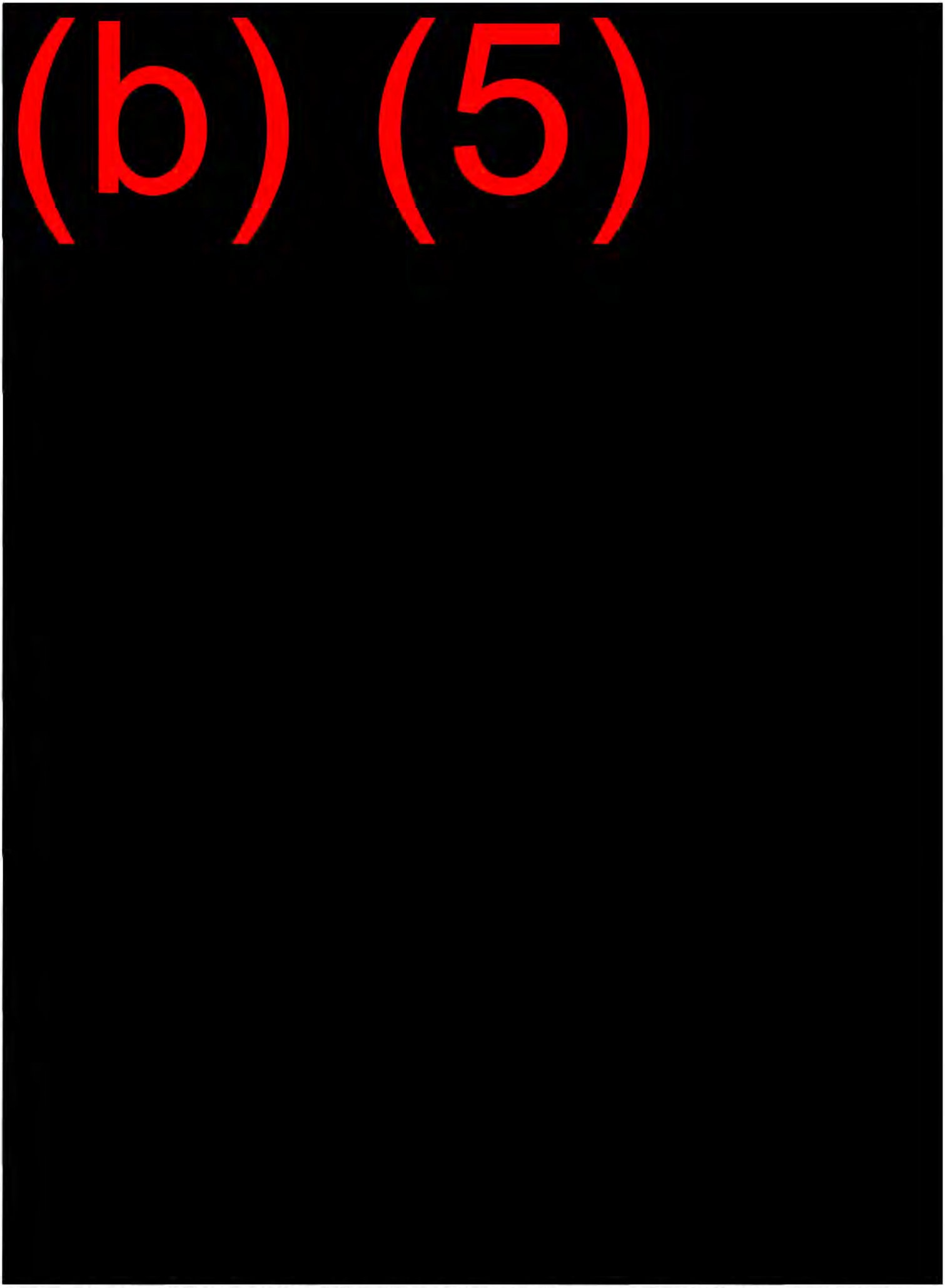
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BISON CONNECT

WH report with note to POTUS

Jewell, Sally (b)(6)ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jun 13, 2013 at 1:01 PM
To: Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, "Buffa, Nikki" <Nicole_Buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Jennifer Sisk <jennifer_sisk@ios.doi.gov>

Erin -

Here is the WH report with the message.

Sally

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U.S. Department of the Interior Weekly Cabinet Report
June 13, 2013

Direct Message to the President

Dear Mr. President –

I know my team has been working hard through the interagency process Rob has been leading, to develop a strategy and content for your speech on climate and energy in the coming weeks. We have many ideas and existing programs that can be reshaped and launched—from a new 20,000MW goal for permitting renewable energy on public lands, to leading mitigation efforts to build green infrastructure along our coasts that will protect us from future storms. We hope to work even more closely with the White House team as the public document is being drafted and these ideas are being fleshed out. Everyone with an interest in these issues, from oil executives to the NGOs, will welcome increased leadership and direction from you on this important issue. We need to keep focused and martial the whole of federal government to tackle this enormous challenge.

Warmly,

Sally

Announcements - Presidential Priorities

Climate/Energy

On June 20, a House Natural Resources subcommittee will hold an oversight hearing on "Mining in America: Powder River Basin Coal Mining the Benefits and Challenges." HNR has yet to formally requested a witness from BLM.

Next week, BLM will issue an information memorandum (IM) providing guidance to field staff on approving applications for commingling of oil and gas. The IM is designed to respond to external recommendations that BLM clarify its commingling policy as a step toward improving the accuracy and verifiability of oil and gas production. The IM only impacts new commingling applications, however, industry is expected to oppose changes to the commingling policy.

Announcements - Department Priorities

Next week, Interior will release the annual State of the Birds Report. The report is a product of the State of the Birds working committee formed under the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. This report will focus on the important role that private lands and their land owners play in the health and welfare of America's birds. Private lands support a huge number of birds at some stage of their life.

Principal Schedules

On June 17, Secretary Jewell (b)(6) [redacted]

On June 18, Secretary Jewell will meet with CEOs from the conservation community to discuss an urban parks strategy. [Does anyone have more on this one?]

On June 19, Secretary Jewell, Deputy Secretary Hayes, and other senior officials will meet with Reps. Thompson, McNerney, Miller, Matsui, Garamendi, Spier, Eshoo, and Bera to discuss the California Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Later that day, Secretary Jewell will host a goodbye party for Deputy Secretary Hayes who will be leaving the Department at the end of the month.

On June 22, Secretary Jewell will participate in an event commemorating the Battle at Antietam with other Administration officials. Later that day, tentatively, the Secretary will participate in the Great American Backyard Campout. The Campout is designed to remind the public that the outdoors can be found in your own backyard.

Other Announcements

On June 19, Deputy Secretary Hayes and CEQ Chair Sutley will co-host a workshop on mitigation for large infrastructure projects. Sufficiently mitigating for the unavoidable environmental and cultural impacts of large infrastructure projects is a key component of the Administration's effort to make the federal permitting process for these projects smarter, more efficient, and more responsive to the American people with better outcomes for communities and the environment. The workshop will be an opportunity to hear from key partners about how to better plan for mitigation, include mitigation measures early in project development, and ensure that mitigation is effective over the long term.

On June 18, the Washington Monument will be decorated and lit in an evening lighting ceremony on the National Mall. Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service, and David Rubenstein, the businessman who gave $7.5 million to fund half the repairs on the monument, will be in attendance. The decoration and lighting will be similar to those put in place during a restoration project in 1999, the scaffolding will have an architectural scrim lit from behind a stone-like grid.

On June 18, Deputy Secretary Hayes will hold a press call with Indian Country beat reporters to provide an update on the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations. The Buy-Back program was created to implement the land consolidation component of the *Cobell* Settlement, which provided a $1.9 billion fund to purchase fractionated interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers, at fair market value, within a 10 year period. Hayes will outline next steps and note that Interior is launching pilot projects in the coming months to establish flexible and transparent agreements with several tribal nations to purchase individual interests in highly fractionated trust lands, consolidating ownership of these acres for the beneficial use of the communities.

On June 20, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a full committee hearing on "Water Resource Issues in the Klamath River Basin." Mike Connor will testify on behalf of the Department.

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

The last week of June and first week of July, Secretary Jewell will travel to Nevada and Utah to participate in a variety of events, including: the National Conference on American Indians mid-year conference, the Western Governors Association conference, meetings on the sage grouse, a renewable energy event with Sen. Reid, and an immigration roundtable.

For Great Outdoors America week (the last week of June), Secretary Jewell is planning to participate in two events: on Tuesday, June 25, she will participate in a "conservation conversation" at the Center for American Progress with Richard Louv, author of '*Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*' that will focus on connecting youth to the great outdoors. On Wednesday, June 26, she will participate in the Great Outdoors Festival on the National Mall that is sponsored by the Outdoors Alliance for Kids.

During the last week in June, USGS will release a national assessment of carbon sequestration potential in the U.S. The USGS assessment team developed geologic models for more than 35 sedimentary basins across the U.S. for which assessments have been completed. The resource that is assessed is the mass of carbon dioxide that can be stored in the technically accessible pore volume of a storage formation. As with all Energy Resources Program energy assessment methodologies, the report was then sent to a panel of experts for external review.

At the end of June, an Executive Order may be issued that addresses the wildlife trafficking crisis that has caused wide-spread slaughter of elephants, rhinos, and other iconic animals in Africa. The goal is to finalize the E.O. so that it is available for a potential Presidential announcement during his upcoming trip to Africa. Deputy Secretary David Hayes has been working with NSS, OMB, the White House, and many Departments to obtain government-wide approval for the EO.

In early June, the FWS anticipates sending to OIRA for review a final rule to list four non-native constrictor snakes as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act. These species include: reticulated python, DeSchauensee's anaconda, green anaconda, and the Beni anaconda. In this final rule, the Service will decline to list the boa constrictor under the Lacey Act as initially proposed in 2010. A listing as injurious wildlife will prevent the importation and interstate trade of these four species which threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems across the United States. DOI has recieved a letter from the Florida congressional delegation asking FWS to take this action.

In June, the FWS anticipates issuing a final rule to implement the February 28, 2012, Presidential Memorandum that directs the Service to take prompt steps to revise its regulations with regard to the timing of economic analyses for critical habitat designations under the Endangered Species Act.

In June, BLM anticipates issuing the Record of Decision on its proposed land use plan amendments for the West Chocolate Mountains in California to promote development of solar and geothermal energy in the area.

In June, the BLM anticipates sending to OIRA for review a proposed rule to establish a competitive process for leasing public lands for solar and wind energy development.

In June, the Department plans to release a report, "In America's Great Outdoors: An Urban Agenda for the 21st Century." The report will describe the Department's programs and activities impacting metropolitan areas and recommendations for how DOI can advance urban parks, outdoor recreation, and restoring natural systems in cities.

In June, BOEM plans to issue a call for information for Lease Sale 237 in the Chukchi Sea Planning Area, which is scheduled for 2016 under the new Five Year Plan. This is the first step in implementing the new "targeted leasing" model that BOEM is pursing in the Arctic, and in developing information about whether, and if so under what configuration, to offer leases in the Chukchi Sea in 2016.

In mid to late June, BLM anticipates issuing decisions on two additional renewable projects – a 180 MW solar project in Nevada (FONSI) and a 425 MW wind project in Arizona (ROD).

On July 4, Sec. Jewell is planning to participate in a ceremony in New York City to celebrate the re-opening of the Statue of Liberty.

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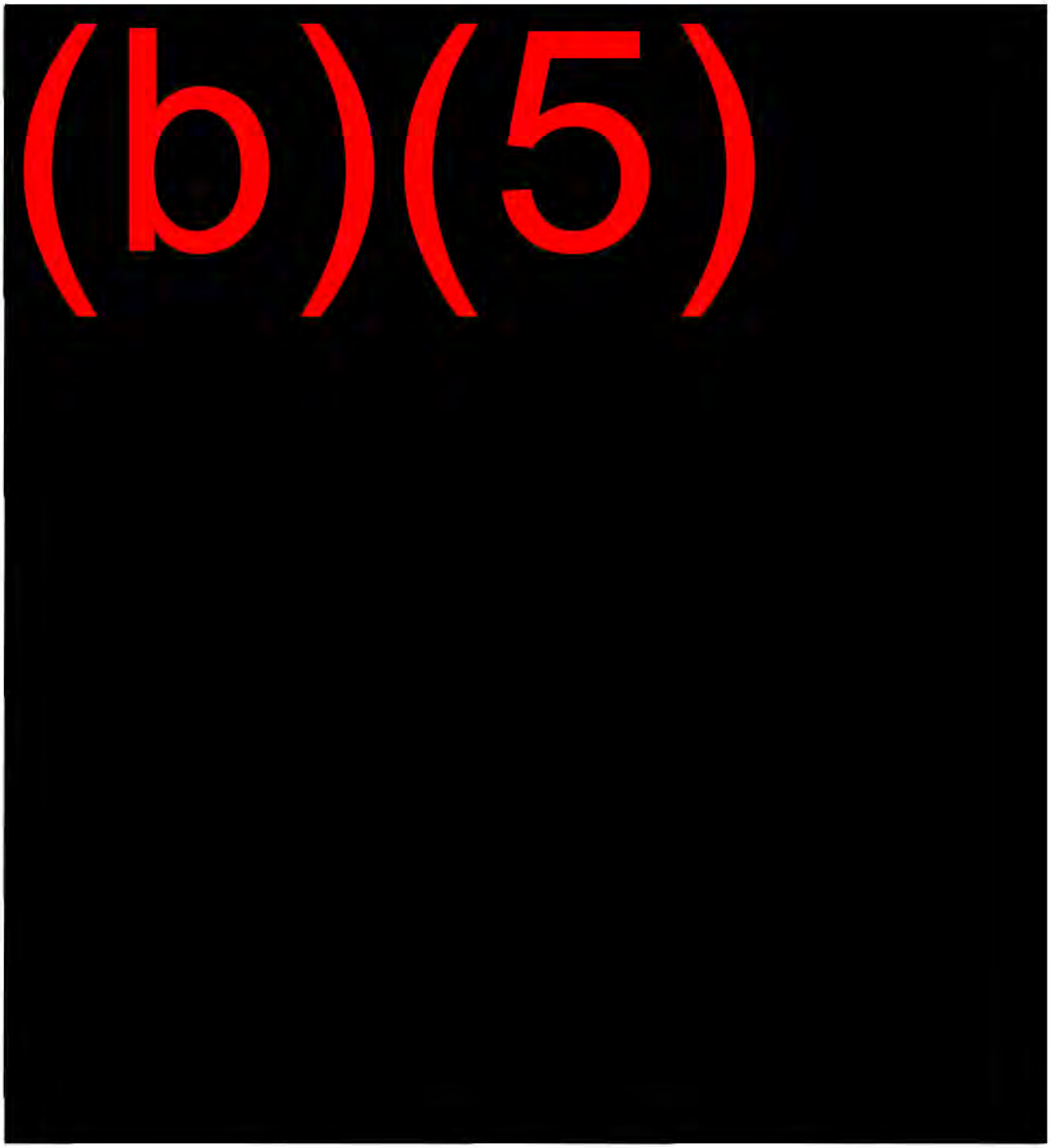
U.S. Department of the Interior Weekly Cabinet Report
July 11, 2013

Direct Message to the President

Dear Mr. President -



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Warmly,

Sally

Announcements - Presidential Priorities

Climate/Energy

On July 16, the Interior Department expects to join several other key NGS stakeholders (Navajo Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Salt River Project, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and Environmental Defense Fund) in announcing submission to EPA of an agreement regarding the future of the NGS that includes a proposed rule applying the "Best Available Retrofit Technology" requirements of the Clean Air Act's Regional Haze Rule to NGS. A centerpiece of this agreement is Interior's commitment to carry out the President's 2011 Blueprint for the Secure Energy Future and 2013 Climate Action Plan at NGS. Key elements of the Agreement include: (a) a proposed Reasonable Progress Alternative to BART at NGS (b) an agreement by the Interior Department to study options for replacing the federal share of energy from NGS with Low-emitting Energy; (c) Interior's commitment to secure 24 million tons of CO2 Offset credits no later than December 31, 2035, including the commitment to identify, prioritize and pursue Low-emitting Energy projects to benefit Indian tribes affected by NGS; (d) Interior's commitment to study clean energy options for the future of NGS; (e) a Local Benefit Fund for community improvement projects within 100 miles of NGS or the associated coal mine.

On June 17, USDA and DOI may announce their Western Watershed Enhancement Partnership, a pilot effort in five western states to reduce wildfire risk by removing extra brush and other flammable vegetation around critical areas such as water reservoirs. This Partnership was highlighted in the President's Climate Action Plan.

Principal Schedules

On July 17, Sally Jewell will testify in front of the House Natural Resources Committee. Later that day, the Secretary may tentatively travel to Denver, CO for an event with Secretary Vilsack on the Western Watershed Enhancement Partnership. While in CO, Jewell may also meet with employees and an editorial board.

On July 18 or 19, Secretary Jewell may deliver a speech in San Francisco, CA announcing the Department's new Call to Action Supporting America's Youth. The call to action will be a national effort to enlist millions of young people to play, serve, learn, and work in America's great outdoors.

On July 20 or 21, Secretary Jewell may participate in an Outdoor Nation event in Seattle, WA. Outdoor Nation (ON) is a non-profit founded to reconnect millennials with the outdoors. They host Summits around the country, award grants for outstanding project ideas, lead outdoor

outings, and work with youth all in an effort to mobilize a movement to get our generation outside.

Other Announcements

Next week, Dan Ashe will travel to Gunnison, CO to participate in meetings on the management of the Gunnison sage grouse. While in Colorado, FWS will publish in the Federal Register a six month delay on the final listing and critical habitat determinations for the Gunnison sage-grouse. The FWS has proposed to protect the Gunnison sage-grouse as endangered and is also proposing to designate 1.7 million acres of critical habitat for the species. The ESA allows for one year between proposed and final listing determinations unless there are areas of substantial scientific disagreement, in which case a six month delay is allowed. Based on comments submitted during the comment period, the FWS has determined that a six month delay is warranted. The Gunnison sage-grouse is a species of sage-grouse found south of the Colorado River in Colorado and Utah. The delay will be widely welcomed.

Next week, pending OIRA clearance, FWS may issue a final rule to implement the February 28, 2012 Presidential Memorandum that directs the Service to take prompt steps to revise its regulations with regard to the timing of economic analyses for critical habitat designations under the Endangered Species Act. At the same time, FWS also expects to issue proposed changes to ESA regulations regarding incidental take statements that are aimed at providing increased clarity and consistency in the ESA Section 7 consultation process. Those proposed changes are also currently under review at OIRA.

Next Thursday, the FWS will publish a Federal Register Notice announcing the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Experimental Removal of Barred Owls to Benefit Threatened Northern Spotted Owls. The selected alternative involves barred owl removal experiments on four study areas spanning the range of the northern spotted owl in Washington, Oregon, and California. This will be followed with a Record of Decision 30 days later. Barred owl removal would first occur in Fall 2013 on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation in California, where extensive barred owl surveys have already been conducted. The earliest date for removal on Federal lands in the other study areas would be Fall 2014. Minimal controversy is expected. The Service received only 75 comments on the DEIS, and it appears that the animal rights community has decided not to engage in this experimental effort.

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

On July 22, the Department may publish a final sale notice for the Virginia offshore wind lease sale in the Federal Register. The auction is planned for September 4 and the notice must be published several weeks before the auction.

On July 26, Secretary Jewell may participate in a groundbreaking event at the St. Louis Arch with Sen. McCaskill.

On July 29, DOI may tentatively host the first meeting of the White House Council on Native American affairs.

On July 31, DOI will auction leases for wind farms of the coast of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. This auction will be the first time offshore wind leases have been competitively sold on the outer continental shelf.

At the end of July, the Secretary will sign the $300 million White Mountain Apache Water Settlement. The settlement was one of the four Indian water settlements enacted in the 2010 Claims Resolution Act. The agreement provides funding for design and construction of a domestic water delivery system on the Reservation and provides water certainty for the City of Phoenix, the Salt River Project, and other downstream water users.

In July, Interior may release a report on the Department's economic impact that finds Interior's activities supported over 2.3 million American jobs and contributed about $211 billion in value added and about $371 billion in economic contributions in fiscal year 2012.
In July, the FWS anticipates sending to OIRA for review a final rule to list four non-native constrictor snakes as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act. These species include: reticulated python, DeSchauensee's anaconda, green anaconda, and the Beni anaconda. In this final rule, the Service will decline to list the boa constrictor under the Lacey Act as initially proposed in 2010. A listing as injurious wildlife will prevent the importation and interstate trade of these four species which threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems across the United States. DOI has received a letter from the congressional delegation asking FWS to take this action.

In July, BLM anticipates issuing the Record of Decision on its proposed land use plan amendments for the West Chocolate Mountains in California to promote development of solar and geothermal energy in the area.

In July, the BLM anticipates sending to OIRA for review a proposed rule to establish a competitive process for leasing public lands for solar and wind energy development.

In July, BOEM plans to issue a call for information for Lease Sale 237 in the Chukchi Sea Planning Area, which is scheduled for 2016 under the new Five Year Plan. This is the first step in implementing the new "targeted leasing" model that BOEM is pursing in the Arctic, and in developing information about whether, and if so under what configuration, to offer leases in the Chukchi Sea in 2016.

During the week of August 5, Interior plans to participate in the rollout of the Hurricane Sandy Recovery Task Force report, including by opening the $100 million competition -- mentioned in the President's Climate Action Plan -- for projects that build resilience through the use of natural defense systems.

On August 28, Interior will hold lease sale 233 in New Orleans, LA. The lease sale will offer more than 21 million acres offshore Texas for oil and gas exploration and development and include all available unleased areas in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area.

On August 28, the National Park Service will host the culmination of a 5-day commemoration of the historic 1963 March on Washington and Dr. King's historic address. The Park has issued a permit to the 50th Anniversary Coalition for a ceremony on the National Mall.

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U.S. Department of the Interior Weekly Cabinet Report
August 29, 2013

Direct Message to the President

Announcements - Presidential Priorities

Climate/Energy

On September 4, Interior will hold the second-ever competitive lease sale for offshore wind. The auction will offer nearly 112,800 acres offshore Virginia for commercial wind energy leasing. DOI's first competitive sale, for areas offshore in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, took place in July and consisted of 11 rounds before determining the provisional winner. That sale received $3.8M in high bids.

On September 4, Secretary Jewell will visit the Pacific Islands Climate Science Center, one of eight regional Climate Science Centers run by DOI. These centers provide fundamental scientific information, tools, and techniques that land, water, wildlife, and cultural resource managers and other interested parties can apply to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate change impacts.

Principal Schedules

On September 2, Secretary Jewell will explore the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and stay overnight in the refuge with FWS staff.

September 3, Secretary Jewell will hold a press conference in Anchorage, AK.

On September 4, Secretary Jewell will travel to Honolulu, HI where she will meet with Gov. Abercrombie, Sen. Schatz, and Rep. Hanabusa. Later that day, she will deliver the keynote at the Annual Conference of Native Hawaiians. She will also host a town hall meeting with DOI employees working on the island.

On September 5, Secretary Jewell will travel to the Marshall Islands where she will lead the U.S. government delegation to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Post Forum Dialogue to highlight and build upon our historic relations with the peoples and nations of the Pacific. Secretary Jewell's participation in the Dialogue and meetings with Pacific leaders will address a range of issues with Pacific Island nations, including global climate change and natural resource management, sustainable development, economic growth and security. Senior officials from the, U.S. Coast Guard, Departments of State, Defense (United States Pacific Command), Interior, Energy, Health and Human Services, the White House and USAID, will also be present.

On September 6, Secretary Jewell will participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial in Honolulu, HI and visit the Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Other Announcements

Next week, pending final clearance by OIRA, FWS may issue a notice of availability (NOA) for the draft economic analysis assessing the impact of the proposed critical habitat designation for the Gunnison sage grouse. On January 11, 2013, the FWS has proposed to list the Gunnison sage grouse population as endangered and also proposed a critical habitat designation in southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah. On July 19, 2013, FWS announced that it would extend the timeline to make final listing and critical habitat determinations until March 31, 2014 and extended the comment period. With this NOA on the draft economic analysis, FWS will again extend the comment period on the proposed listing and critical habitat rules in order to give the public time to consider the draft economic analysis. [ALI – THIS WAS IN LAST WEEK'S REPORT]

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

On September 9 - 11, Interior expects to participate in 9/11 events. In particular, there will be a groundbreaking for the Flight 93 Visitor Center in Shanksville, PA, as well as a remembrance ceremony with Families of Flight 93. A funding announcement may also be made.

On September 9, Secretary Jewell and former Secretary Clinton will host a wildlife trafficking event at the White House.

On September 13, BLM will tentatively issue the final EIS for the 250MW Silver State South solar project in Nevada.

On September 28, Interior will celebrate National Public Lands Day.

In September, NPS will begin drafting a supplemental EIS (tentatively scheduled to be released in March 2013) for its dog management plan for Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). The SEIS considers six alternatives for dog management in 22 areas of GGNRA.

In September, BLM will release its final legacy well strategic plan. BLM released a draft strategic plan in May 2013, outlining priorities and actions it will take in the near-term to plug and clean up legacy wells in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A).

In September, the FWS anticipates sending to OIRA for review a final rule to list four non-native constrictor snakes as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act. These species include: reticulated python, DeSchauensee's anaconda, green anaconda, and the Beni anaconda. In this final rule, the Service will decline to list the boa constrictor under the Lacey Act as initially proposed in 2010. A listing as injurious wildlife will prevent the importation and interstate trade of these four species which threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems across the United States. DOI has received a letter from the congressional delegation asking FWS to take this action.

In September, the BLM anticipates sending to OIRA for review a proposed rule to establish a competitive process for leasing public lands for solar and wind energy development.

In September, BOEM plans to issue a call for information for Lease Sale 237 in the Chukchi Sea Planning Area, which is scheduled for 2016 under the new Five Year Plan. This is the first step in implementing the new "targeted leasing" model that BOEM is pursing in the Arctic, and in developing information about whether, and if so under what configuration, to offer leases in the Chukchi Sea in 2016.

In September, DOI may announce its Land Buy-Back program. The Buy-Back Program was created to implement the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, which provided a $1.9 billion fund to purchase fractionated interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers, at fair market value, within a 10-year period.

In September, the Secretary may determine that she agrees with USFWS's determination that nationals of Iceland are engaging in trade of fin and minke whale meat and products that diminishes the effectiveness of CITES. If the Secretary agrees with the Service's determination, she must certify that fact to the President under the Pelly Amendment. The Pelly Amendment authorizes the President to prohibit imports from any country when the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce has certified that nationals of that country are engaging in trade or taking that diminishes any international program to protect endangered or threatened species. On July 19, 2011, Secretary of Commerce Locke certified to President Obama that nationals of Iceland are conducting whaling activities that diminish the effectiveness of the conservation program of the IWC. This is a similar action.

In September, the FWS will make a few proposed listing and critical habitat determinations that are likely to get attention from the public, Congress and media: the Bi-state population of sage grouse in Nevada and California, the lynx and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

In late September, the Department expects to open its $100M Competitive Coastal Resiliency Grant program and award up to $200M in Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resilience funding to its internal bureaus for projects.

In late September, the USGS will issue an assessment of the biological carbon sequestration potential of landscapes in the eastern United States.


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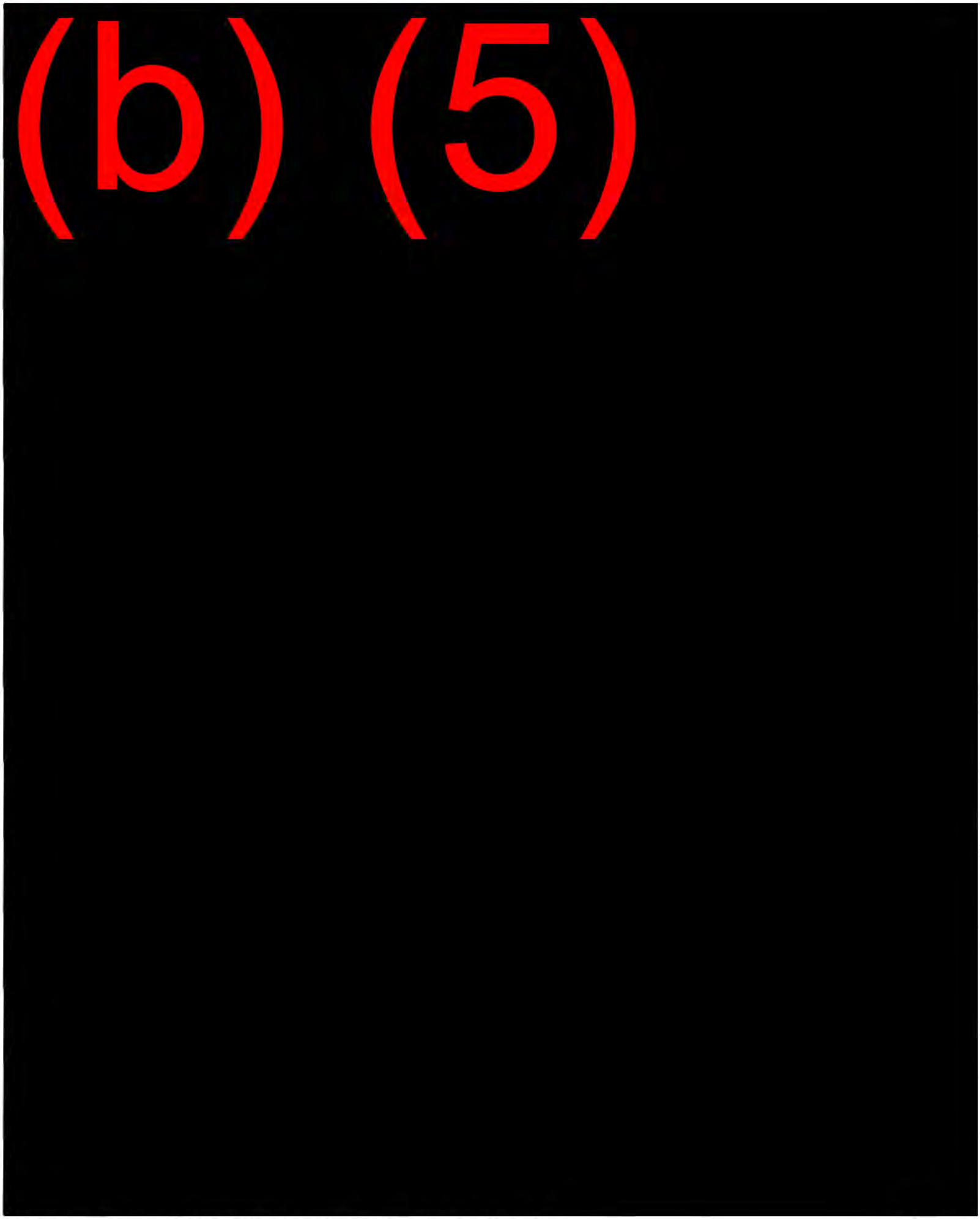
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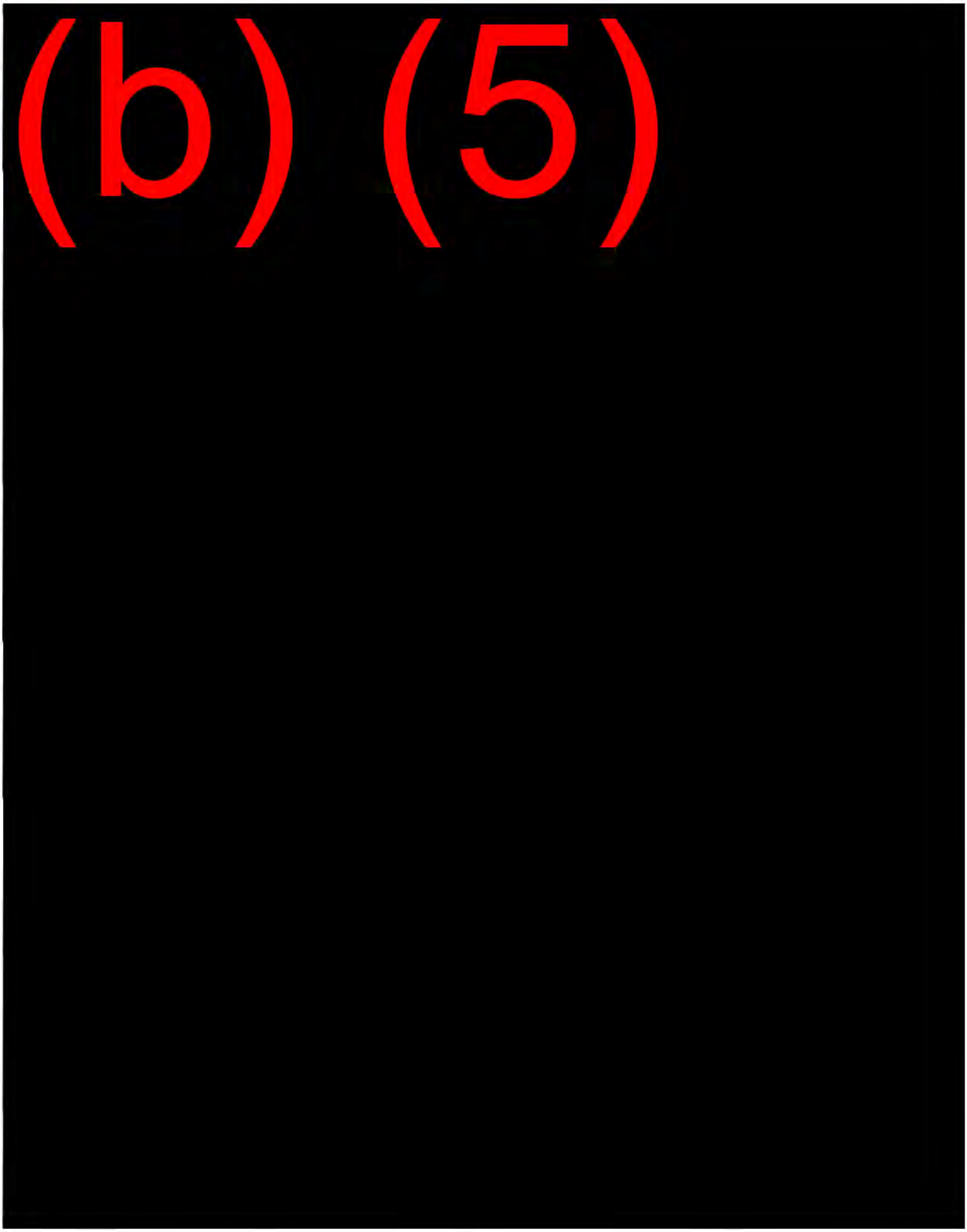
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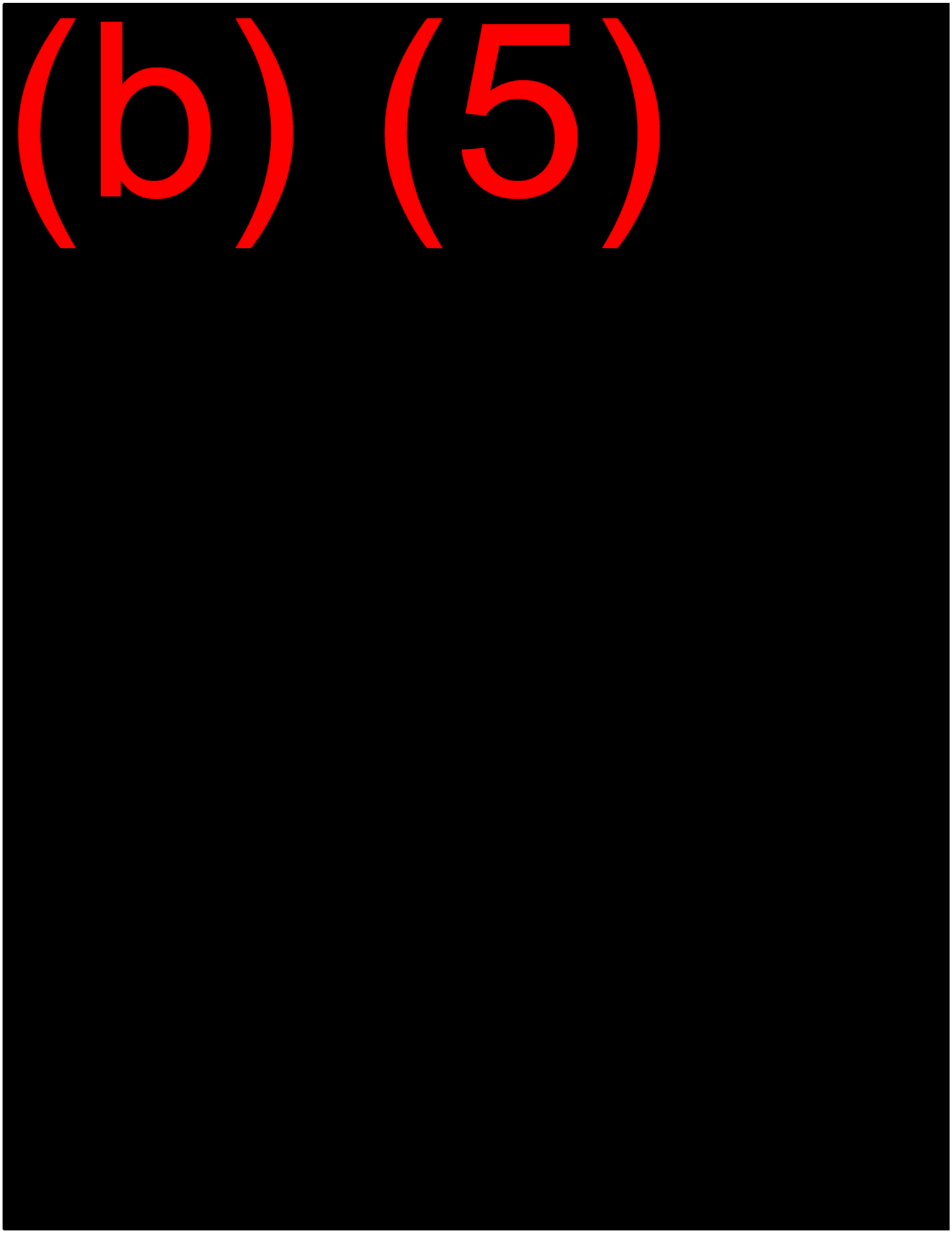
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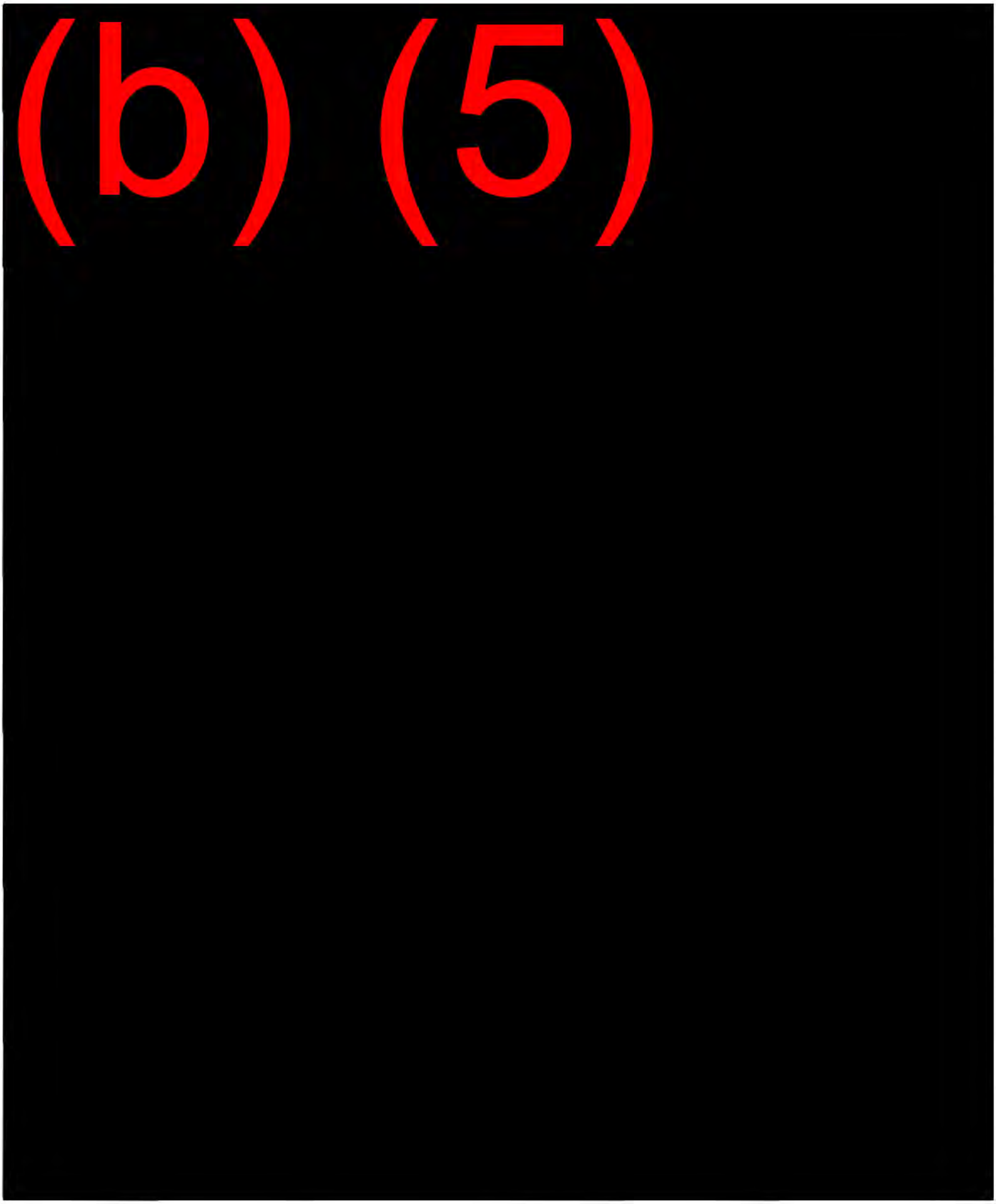
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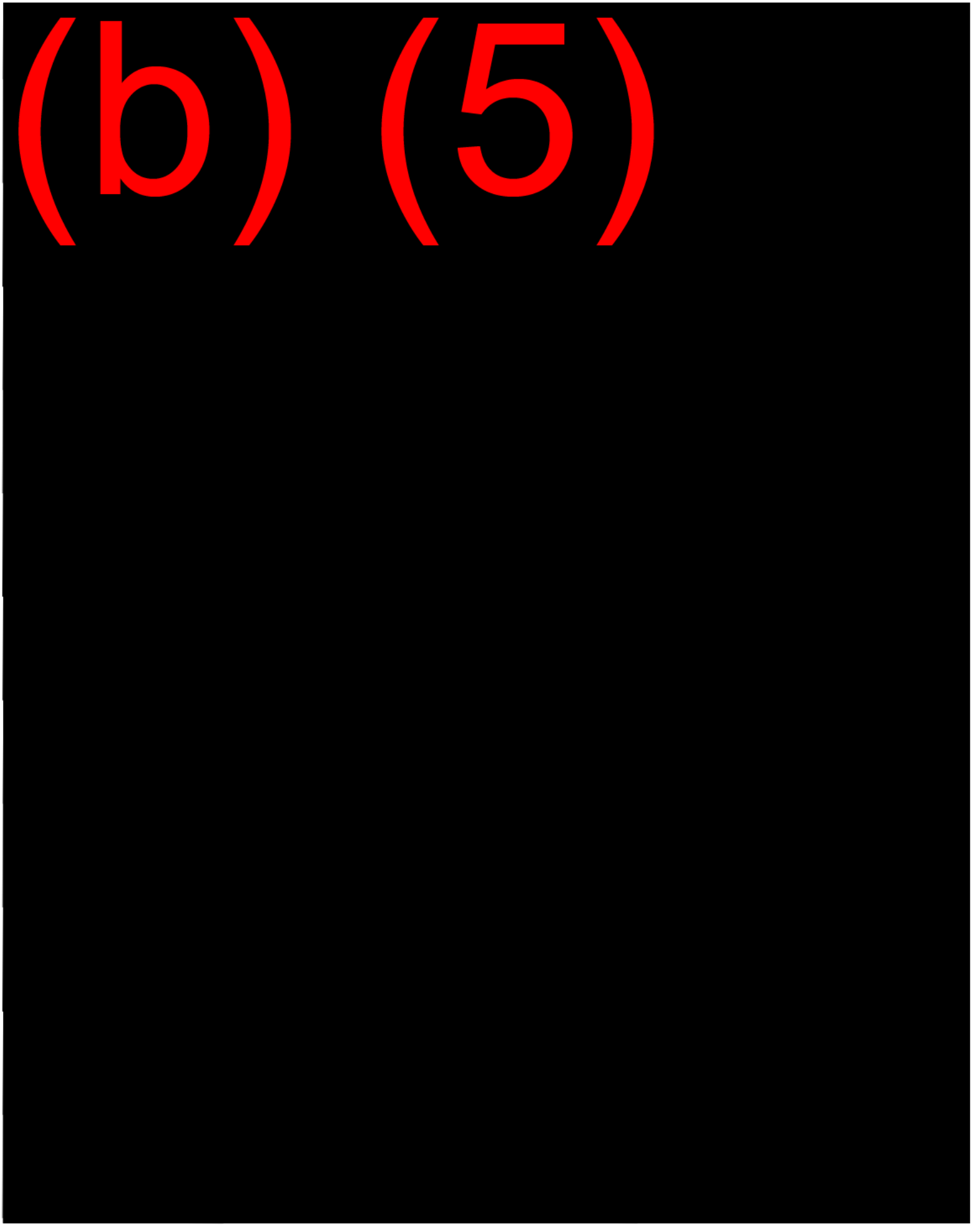
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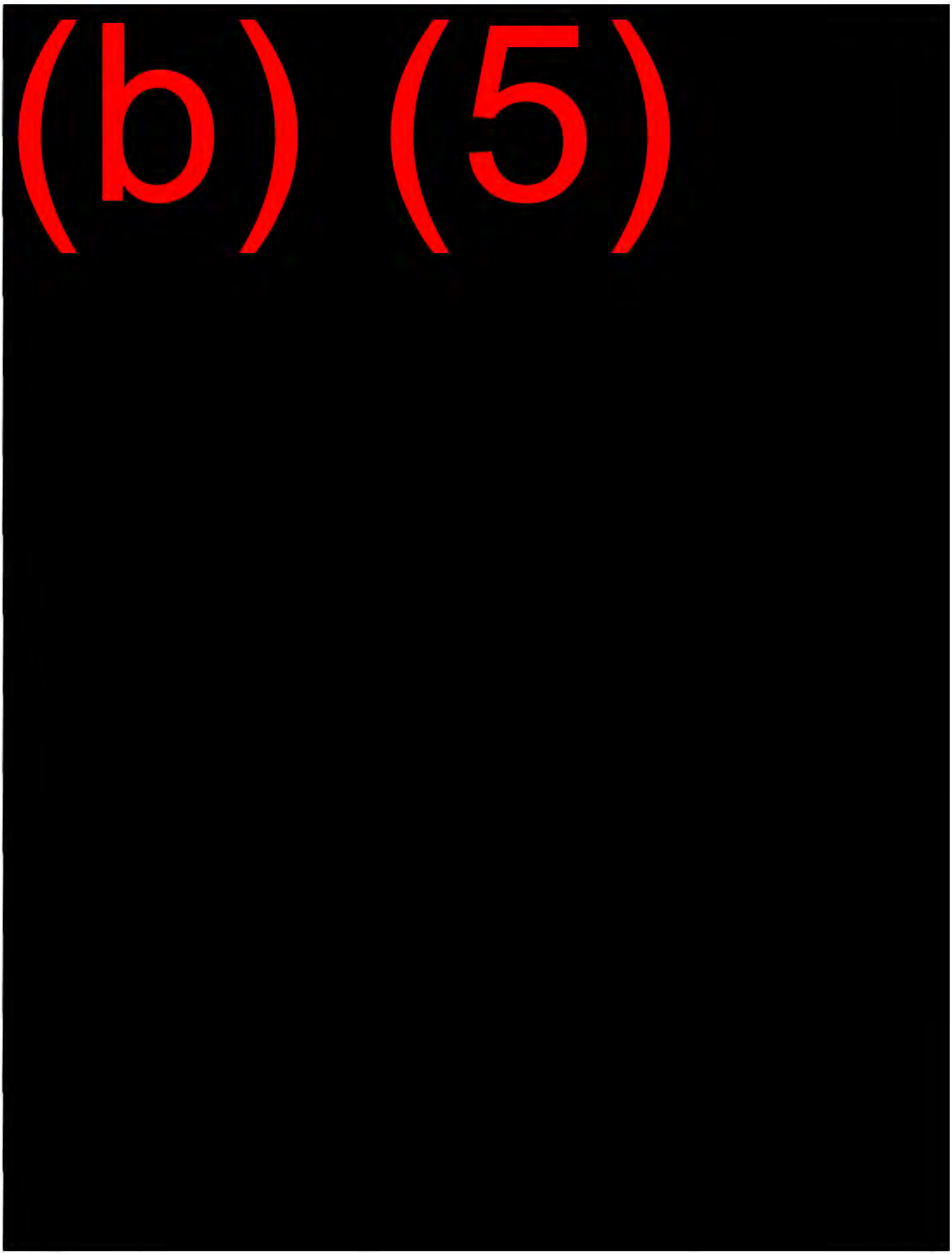
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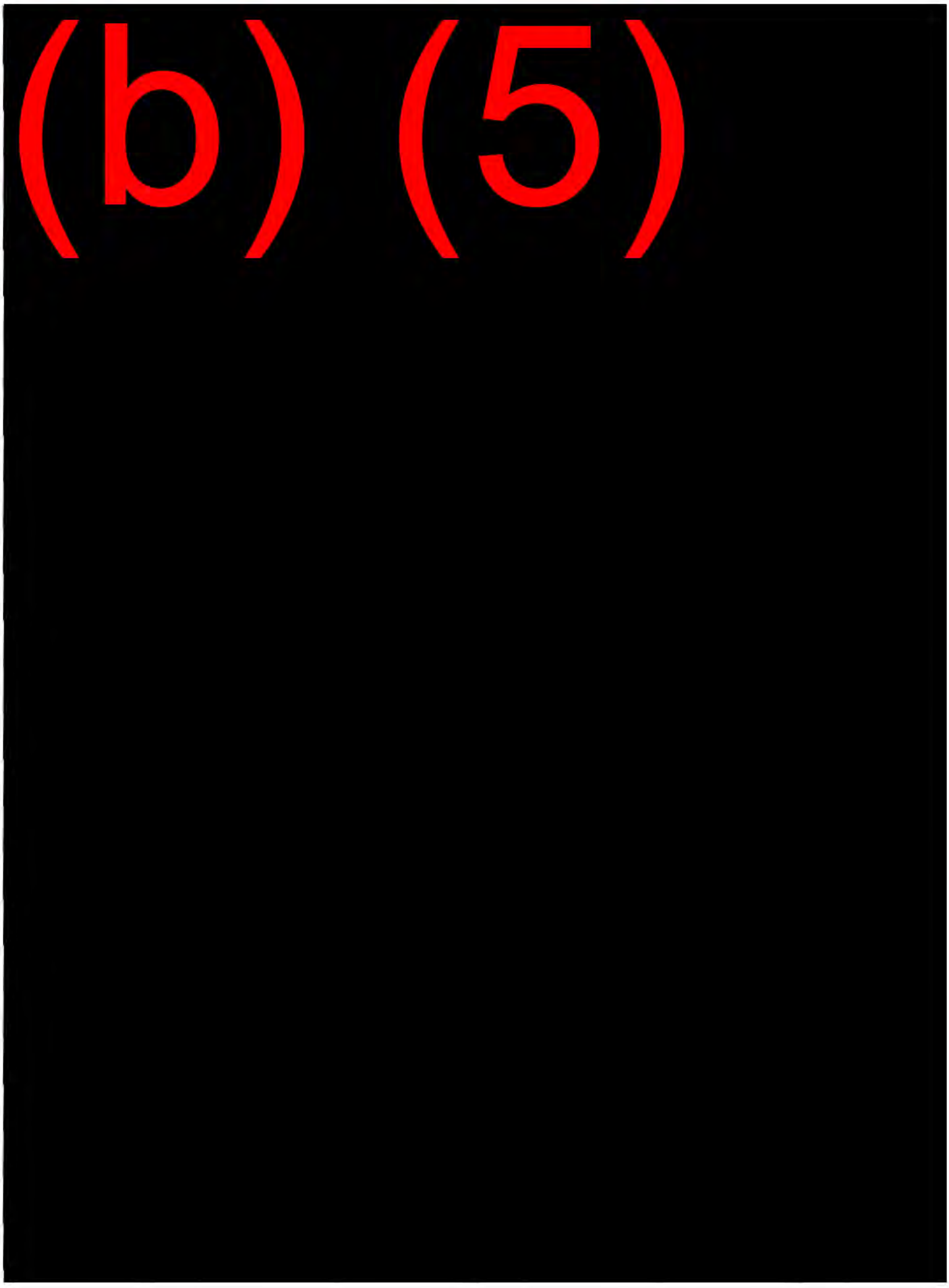
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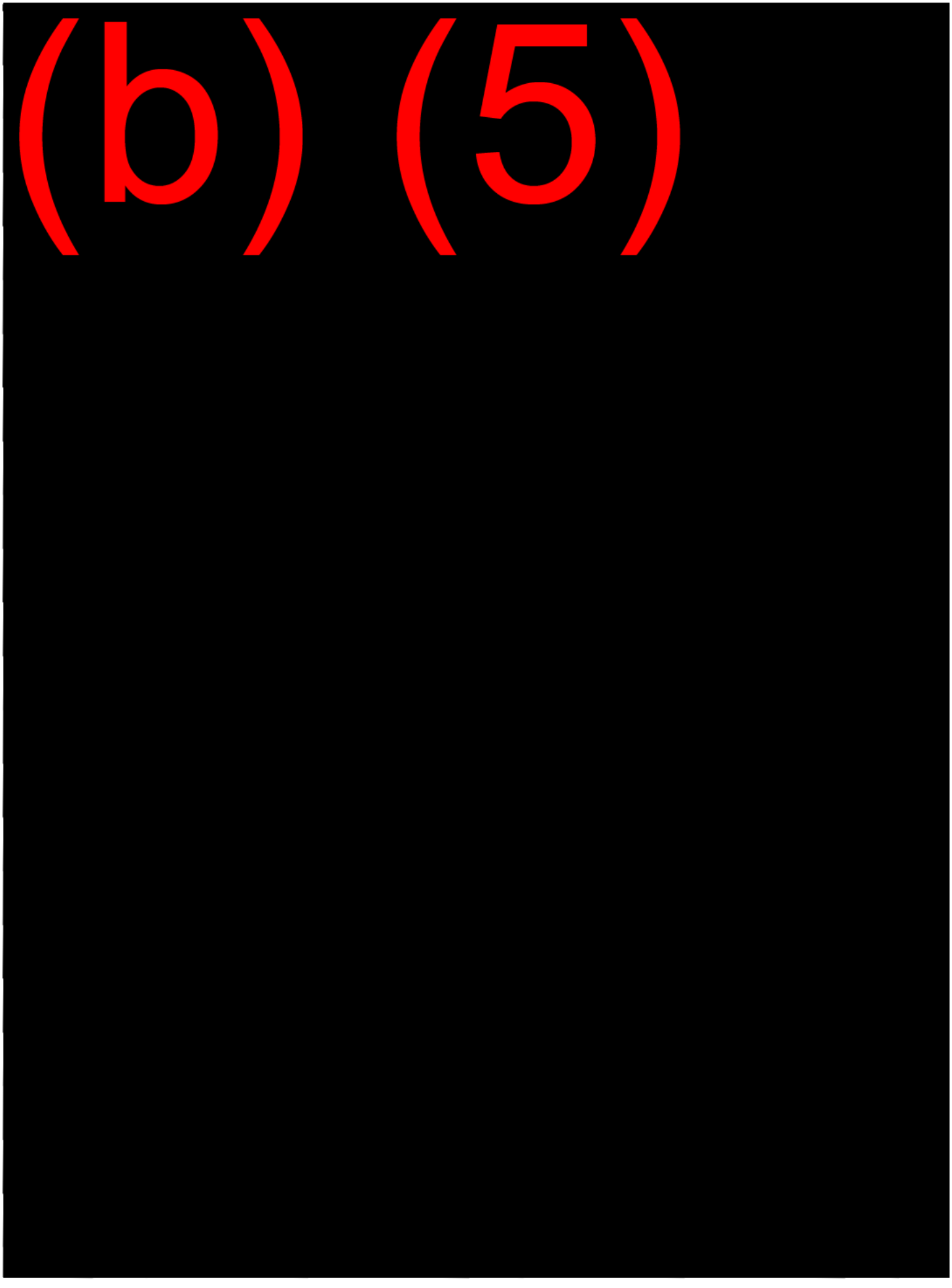
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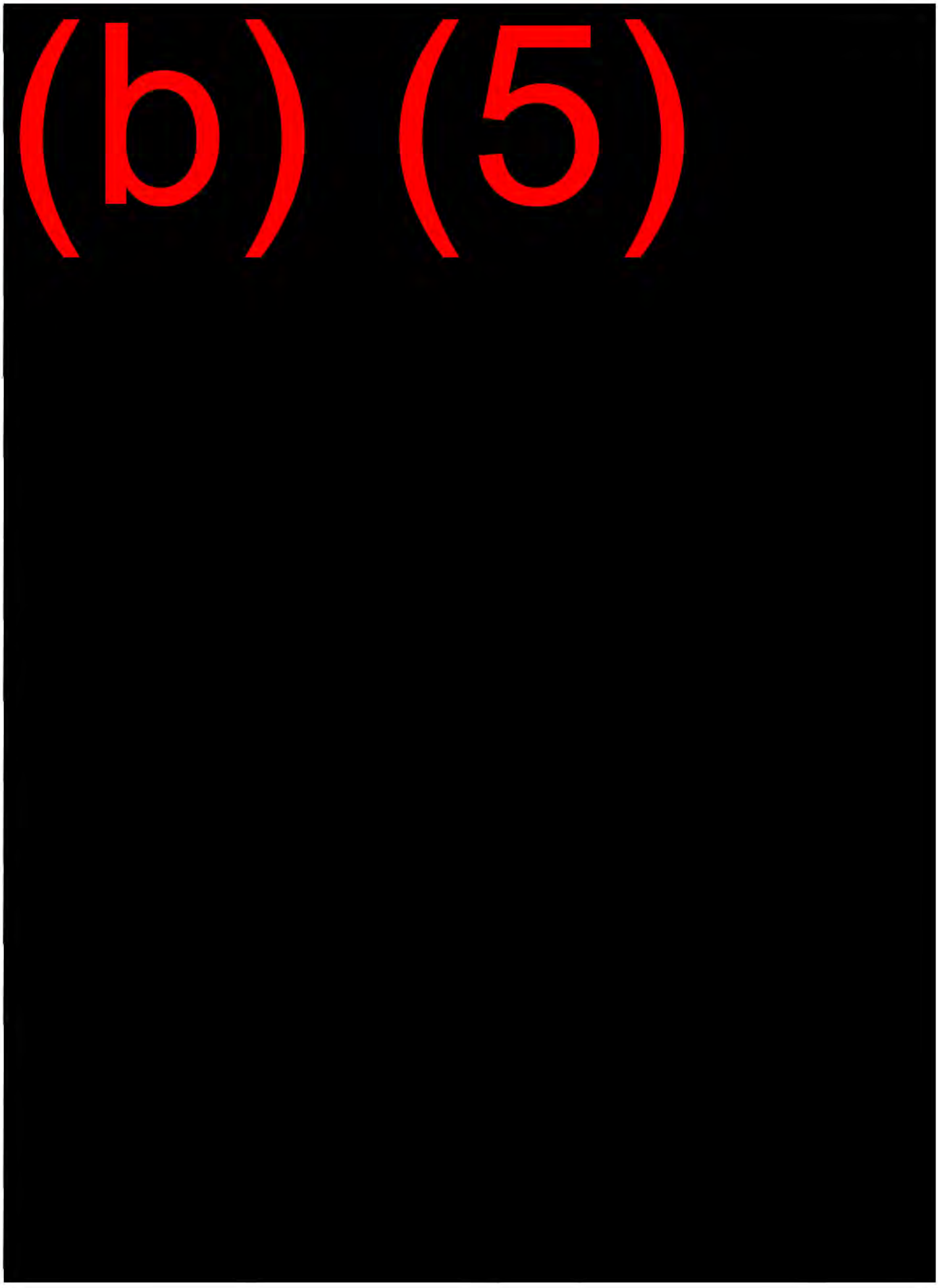
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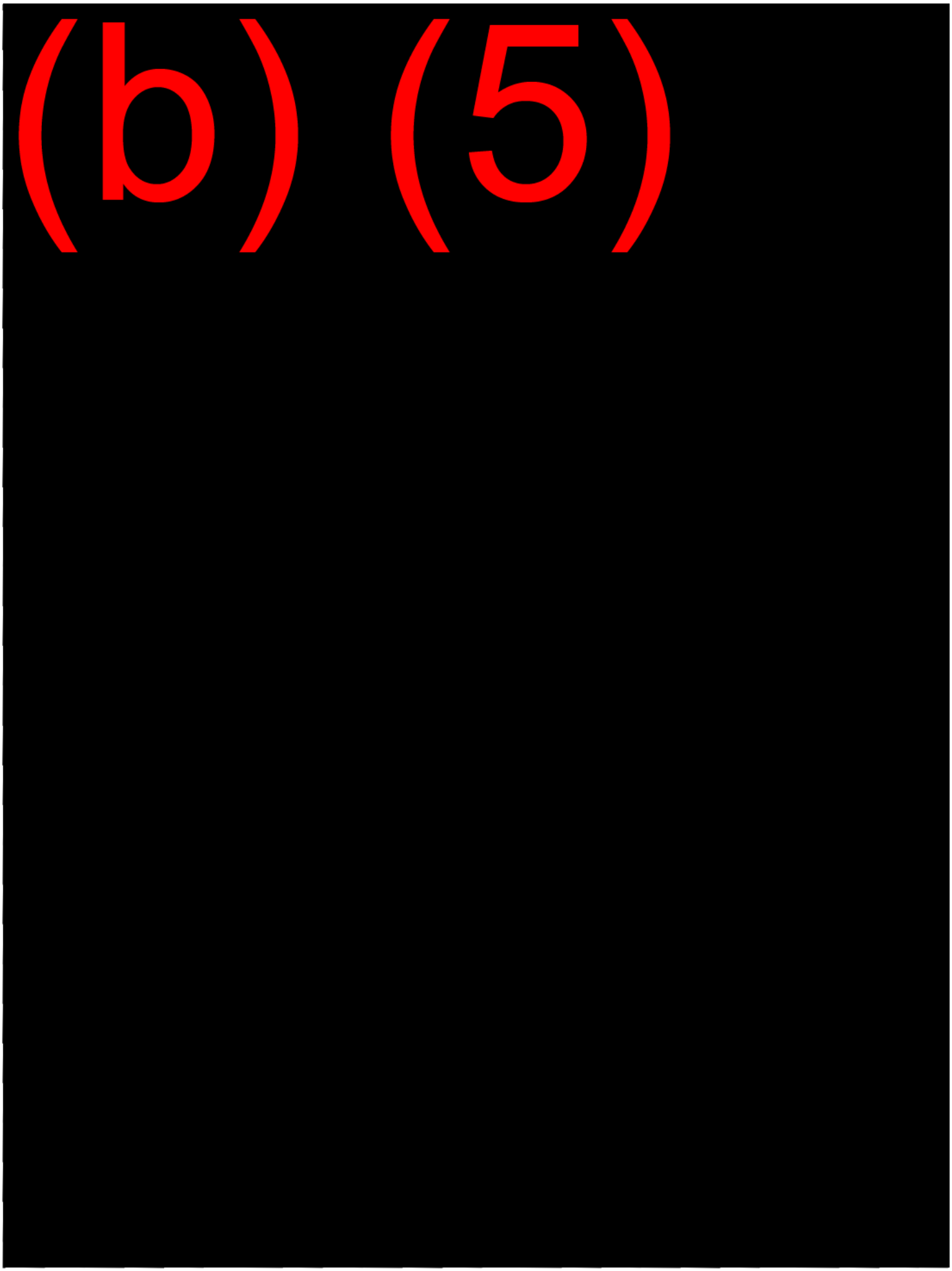
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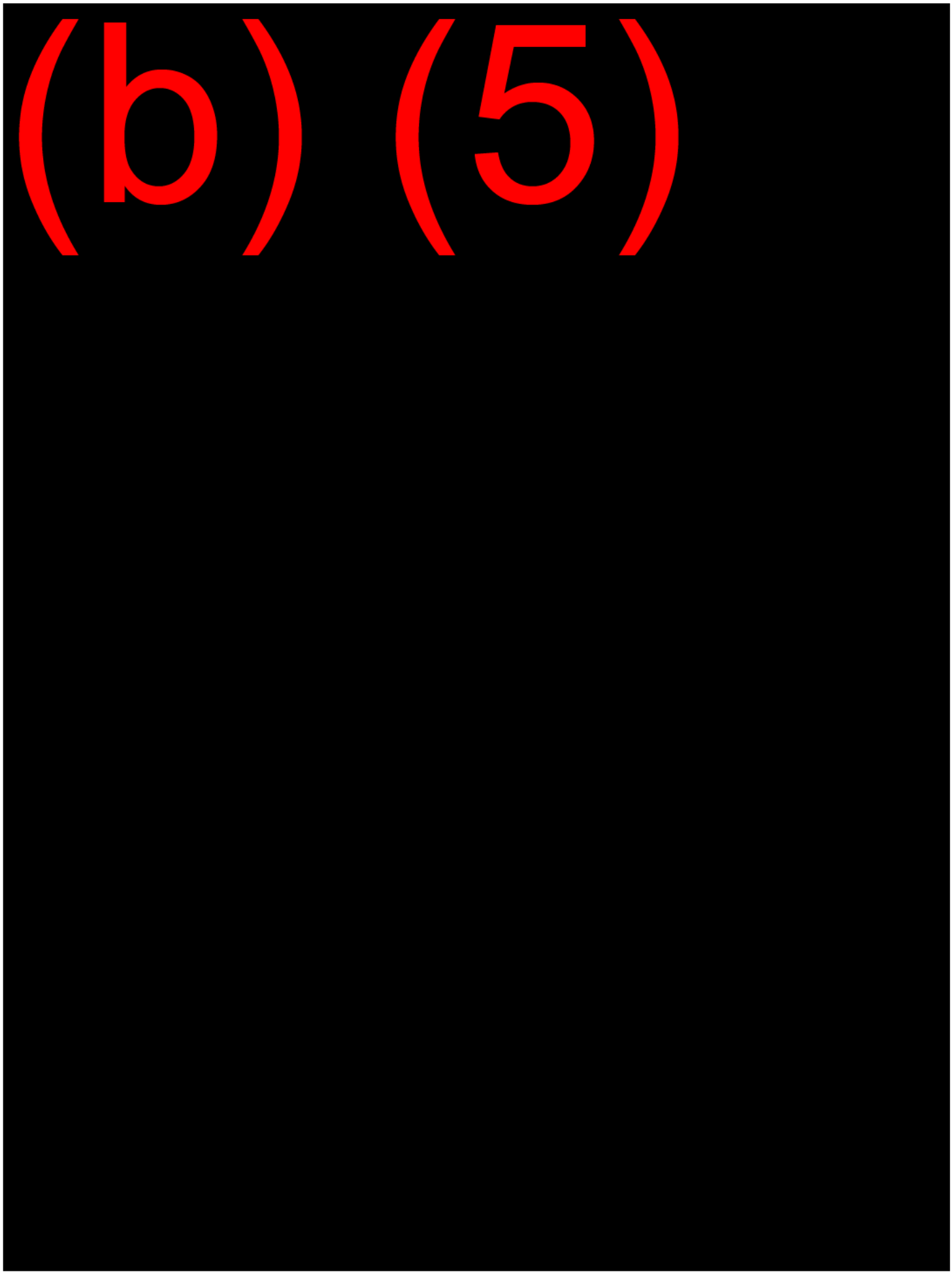
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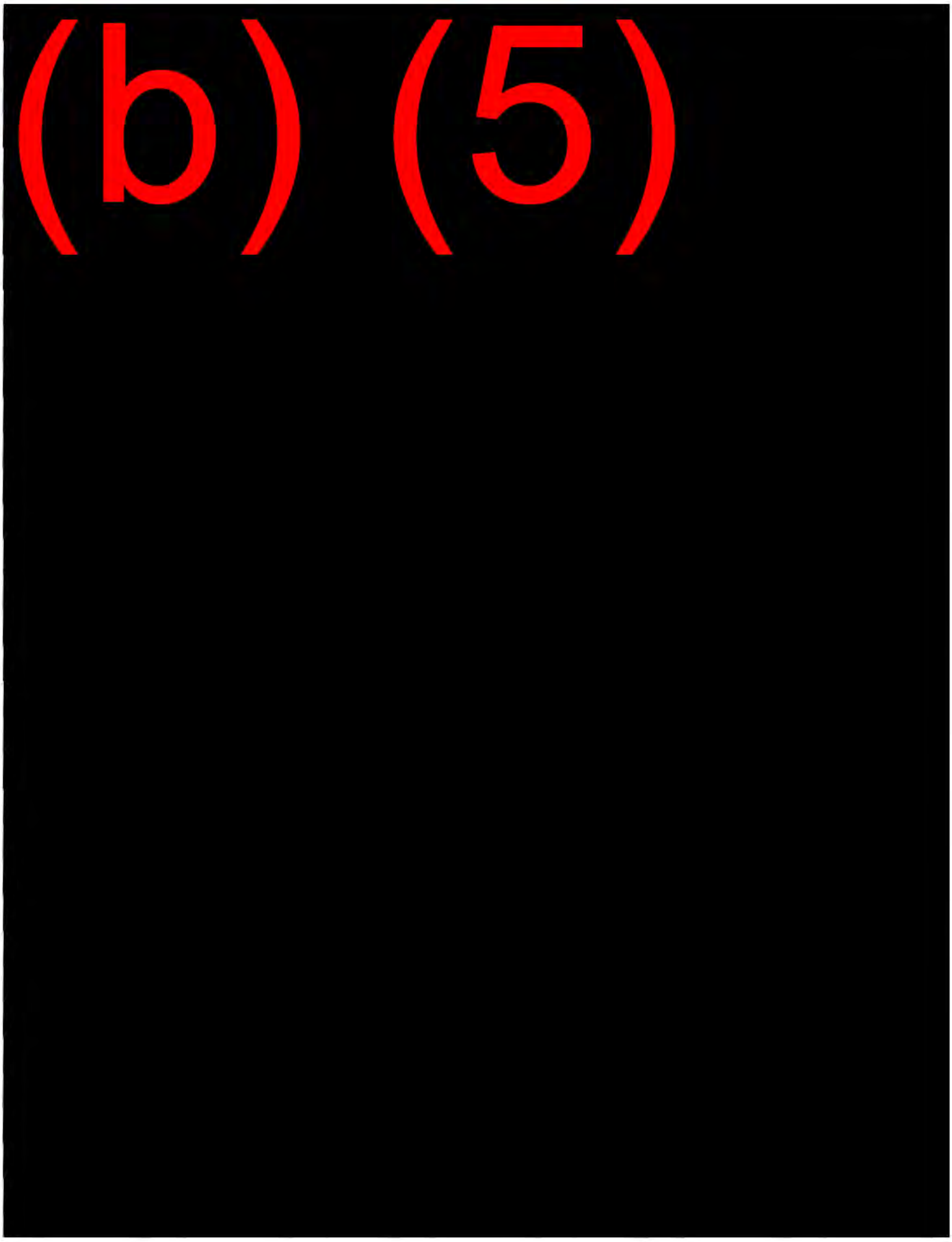
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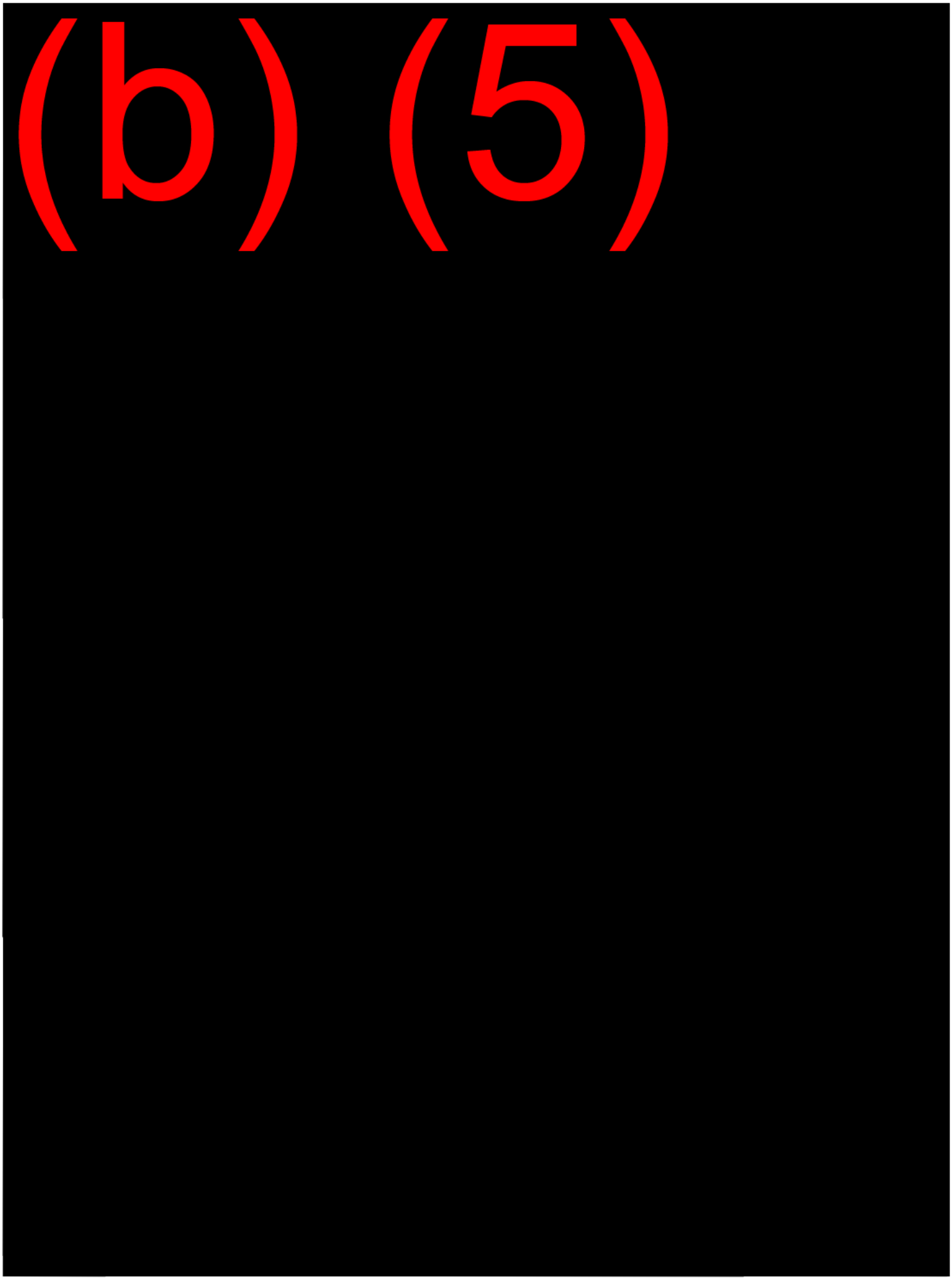
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Fwd: Memo on Administration conservation priorities

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Oct 18, 2013 at 10:13 AM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>

Here's another memo I just remembered we had, which you might want to skim before your lunch with Jim.

——— Forwarded message ———
From: **Laura Davis** <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Sun, Jul 21, 2013 at 10:42 AM
Subject: Fwd: Memo on Administration conservation priorities
To: Buffa Nikki <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: James Lyons (b)(6)
Date: July 21, 2013, 8:38:37 AM EDT
To: <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: <jim.lyons@yale.edu>, <jim_lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Jennifer Palmieri (b)(6)
Subject: Memo on Administration conservation priorities

Laura --

As the Secretary spoke on Thursday morning in the "politicals" meeting about her plan to announce her priorities at DOI, I was reminded of a memo that Jen asked me to put together for her some months ago with thoughts on how the POTUS could develop a plan for advancing a conservation agenda for the second term.

I wanted to share this memo with you. Hopefully it can be helpful as you and the Secretary finalize her priorities for the Department.

Of course, if I can be of any assistance in this regard, please let me know.

Best,

Jim

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff

US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Creating a Conservation Plan for the second term.3.0.docx
39K

CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED

U.S. Department of the Interior Weekly Cabinet Report
May 16, 2013

Direct Message to the President

Dear Mr. President –

Proposed new rules to oversee hydraulic fracturing activities on federally and tribally owned lands were released this week. Based on my previous industry experience and additional research into current technologies and techniques, I am confident these rules strike the right balance between environmental protections and industry interests to economically tap natural gas and oil reserves.

On the hot topic of wildland fire, you have an incredible, cross-cutting resource in the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, ID. In visiting the facility with Tom Vilsak this week, it is clear that just as fire knows no bounds, your federal agencies also know no boundaries as they work cooperatively to deal with the increasing fire risk that we have, particularly in the West. That said, we do not account for fires as emergencies, unlike hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and the like. This means that when we have a need to fight fires that exceeds our budget (which is based on 10 year averages), it comes directly out of bureau operating budgets. In addition, with growing fire risk, increasing amounts have been directed to fighting fires rather than removing hazardous fuels and remediating burned areas to make them more resilient for the future – this carries high risk for future years and is something we will be working with Congress to correct.

Warmly,

Sally

Announcements - Presidential Priorities

Climate/Energy

On May 20, Deputy Secretary David Hayes will provide remarks via video to a conference jointly hosted by UC-Davis and the Nature Conservancy – *Natural Systems & Climate Change: Strategies for our Future*. During his remarks, he will outline the Department's climate change adaptation initiative and our efforts to identify landscape scale adaptive strategies working with our stakeholders across the country.

On May 21, BSEE is planning to announce steps to establish an independent Ocean Energy Safety Institute to further enhance safe and responsible operations across the offshore oil and gas industry. The Institute will provide a forum for dialogue, shared learning and cooperative research among academia, government, industry and other non-government organizations in offshore-related technologies and activities that ensure safe operations with limited impact to the environment.

Announcements - Department Priorities

Next week, the Bureau of Indian Affairs will issue a draft procedural rule to address recent changes in the law affecting the statute of limitations for claims disputing BIA land-into-trust decisions. The new rule eliminates a 30-day waiting period between the time of BIA's decision and the act of taking land into trust that had been provided to allow administrative appeals of land-into-trust decisions. A recent Supreme Court decision affirmed that parties seeking to dispute these decisions can seek judicial claims for up to six years, eliminating the need for the 30-day waiting period. OIRA has determined the rule is not significant and has declined to review it, but it may get attention from stakeholders who follow land-into-trust issues closely.

Principal Schedules

On May 20, Secretary Jewell will meet with Gov. Herbert, Chair of the Western Governors' Association, in Washington, D.C. They will discuss issues important to the Western Governors' Association, the Governor and the State of Utah including sage grouse conservation and cuts in mineral royalty payments to states due to sequestration.

On May 21, Secretary Jewell will be in meetings in Washington, D.C.

On May 22, Secretary Jewell will meet with Natural Gas CEOs at the Department.

On May 23, Secretary Jewell will travel to Oregon to meet with employees and become familiar with bureaus' activities in the state.

On May 24, Secretary Jewell will meet with Governor Kitzhaber and participate in a kick-off meeting to launch a pilot Pacific Northwest Regional Infrastructure Team, as part of the Department's implementation of the President's Executive Order on facilitating infrastructure projects. The Secretary will then give remarks to the Ducks Unlimited National Convention.

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

In May, the FWS anticipates sending to OIRA for review a final rule to list four non-native constrictor snakes as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act. These species include: reticulated python, DeSchauensee's anaconda, green anaconda, and the Beni anaconda. In this final rule, the Service will decline to list the boa constrictor under the Lacey Act as initially proposed in 2010. A listing as injurious wildlife will prevent the importation and interstate trade of these four species which threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems across the United States.

In May, the FWS anticipates sending to OIRA for review a final rule to implement the February 28, 2012, Presidential Memorandum that directs the Service to take prompt steps to revise its regulations with regard to the timing of economic analyses for critical habitat designations under the Endangered Species Act.

In late May, BLM anticipates issuing the Record of Decision on its proposed land use plan amendments for the West Chocolate Mountains in California to promote development of solar and geothermal energy in the area.

In late May, BLM anticipates issuing two Records of Decision for renewable energy projects – a 100 megawatt (MW) solar facility in Arizona and a 300 MW wind project in California as well as two Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a 350 MW solar project in Nevada and a geothermal project in Nevada.

In late May, the FWS anticipates submitting to the Federal Register two Endangered Species Act findings related to listing of captive-bred species separate from the wild populations. In each, the Service will find that a separate listing-status is not legally allowed under the Act. The first is a 12-month finding under the Endangered Species Act on a petition to delist captive-bred populations of three African antelope raised for hunting on game ranches primarily in Texas. The Service will find that the petition to delist these captive-bred populations separate from the species as a whole is not warranted because a separate listing is not legally allowed under the Act. This decision must be issued by May 31 to comply with a court deadline. In the second, the Service will find that a petition to list all chimpanzees as endangered is warranted as it is not legally allowed for the captive-bred population to have a separate status from the wild population. Currently, chimpanzees found in the wild are listed as endangered while chimpanzees found in captivity are listed as threatened.

In late May, the Department will issue the Final Sale Notice for the first offshore wind development competitive lease sale. This first notice is for a Rhode Island/Massachusetts lease area and will be followed by an auction in late July.

In June, the BLM will issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) evaluating potential impacts of a proposed high voltage transmission line running from east central New Mexico to south of Phoenix, Arizona that will support increased renewable energy development, particularly wind, in the region. The Sunzia project is identified as a high priority project of Administration's Interagency Rapid Response Team for Transmission. A Record of Decision would be issued this fall.

In June, the BLM anticipates sending to OIRA for review a proposed rule to establish a competitive process for leasing public lands for solar and wind energy development.

In June, the Department plans to release a report, "In America's Great Outdoors: An Urban Agenda for the 21st Century". The report will describe the Department's programs and activities impacting metropolitan areas and recommendations for how DOI can advance urban parks, outdoor recreation, and restoring natural systems in cities.

In June, BOEM plans to issue a call for information for Lease Sale 237 in the Chukchi Sea Planning Area, which is scheduled for 2016 under the new Five Year Plan. This is the first step in implementing the new "targeted leasing" model that BOEM is pursing in the Arctic, and in developing information about whether, and if so under what configuration, to offer leases in the Chukchi Sea in 2016.

Re: White House Weekly report

Jewell, Sally (b)(6)@ios.doi.gov> Thu, May 16, 2013 at 9:24 AM
To: "Walls, Erin" <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Laura and Erin - Attached is the WH report with my note to the president. I would appreciate Laura's review before I send this along.

Thanks,

Sally

On Wed, May 15, 2013 at 5:14 PM, Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

The draft of the White House weekly report has been uploaded to Google drive. Please send back your message to the President and any edits you may have.

Thanks,
Erin

WH Report 5.16.13 w SJ message to POTUS.docx
32K

BISON CONNECT

White House weekly report

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Nov 20, 2013 at 1:52 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Sally,

Here is a draft of the weekly White House report. Please send us your message to the President and any other edits you may have.

Thanks,
Erin

WH Report 11 21 13.docx
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CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED

U.S. Department of the Interior Weekly Cabinet Report
November 21, 2013

Direct Message to the President

Dear Mr. President –

Warmly,

Sally

Announcements - Presidential Priorities

Climate/Energy: On November 29, the draft Supplemental EIS for Alpine Satellite for Greater Mooses Tooth Unit No. 1 Development in the NPR-A may be released for public comment.

On December 4, BLM anticipates issuing a Record of Decision for the Ocotillo Sol Solar Project, an 18MW solar project near El Centro, CA. The project would generate enough electricity to power 5,400 homes.

Jobs/Economy:

ACA Implementation:

Immigration:

Principal Schedules

On November 25, Secretary Jewell may travel to Oklahoma to visit the Citizen Band of Potawatomi. In Oklahoma, the Secretary may announce that several more tribes will utilize new authority granted to them through the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act (HEARTH Act). The law restores the authority of Indian tribes to control the leasing of tribal lands by allowing tribal governments to enact their own regulations. DOI must still approve tribal regulations; however, tribes no longer need the approval of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to execute a lease of tribal lands. Three tribes are already utilizing this new authority.

On December 2-4, BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau is an invited keynote speaker at the Latin Oil & Gas Conference in Mexico. The conference will be focused on deepwater issues. He has tentatively accepted the invitation to speak, but is not confirmed. Additional meetings would be held with Mexican government officials. [Ben – do you know if Tommy is going?]

On December 5, the Secretary may travel to a Gulf of Mexico state to announce that the Department, in concert with Administration and State partners, has issued a draft project list allocating up to $600 million to Gulf of Mexico restoration projects along with an accompanying draft restoration plan and DEIS. The project list and associated documents are expected to be final by next summer. Under an unprecedented agreement with the Administration and affected states, on April 21, 2011, BP agreed to provide up to $1 billion toward early restoration projects in the Gulf of Mexico to address impacts to natural resources caused by the Deepwater BP oil spill. An initial $70 million was allocated to fund twelve restoration projects that are nearing completion. The $600 million will fund projects that have been approved by the 5 affected states and 4 federal agencies and vetted through public meetings in the region. By supporting unprecedented restoration of coastal landscapes and resources, including barrier islands, dunes and coastal marshes, the announcement will make progress on the Administration's promise to make the Gulf whole and the commitment in the Climate Action Plan to improve coastal resilience.

On December 6, the National Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will take place on the Ellipse.

Items of Note

DOI is continuing negotiations with the Oglala Sioux Nation of the Pine Ridge Reservation – the tribe with the greatest amount of fractionated lands in the country— to finalize a cooperative agreement to implement the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, which made $1.9 billion available to purchase fractionated interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers within 10 years. Upon purchase, interests will be held in trust for tribal governments for their beneficial use. Finalizing the agreement has been delayed by discussions over contract support costs, but as soon as we are able to complete the agreement, we hope to conduct a signing ceremony or otherwise publicly announce this milestone.

During the week of November 25, FWS expects to issue a final rule under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to, among other things, extend permit tenures from 5 to 30 years. A number of improvements have been made to the final rule to improve the FWS eagle program, including monitoring and adaptive management requirements, greater transparency in FWS permit reviews, and commitments to undertake some of the conservation planning that the NGO community would like to see. The final rule is still under review at OIRA, but we expect completion of that review soon. Once issued, we expect mixed reactions from stakeholders – industry will be supportive while NGOs will likely continue to criticize the rule as not stringent enough. We are continuing to reach out to the NGO community to identify ways outside of this particular rule to improve the eagle program.

During the week of November 25, the Bureau of Reclamation may release the completed Santa Ana River Watershed Basin Study. Through the Basin Studies, Reclamation works with States, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, other Federal agencies, and local partners to develop a common scientific understanding of water supply challenges and to identify strategies to adapt to and mitigate current or future water supply and demand imbalances, including the impacts of climate change and other stressors on water and power facilities. Funding is provided for comprehensive water studies that define options for meeting future water demands in river

basins in the western United States where imbalances in water supply and demand exist or are projected.

During the next two weeks, NPS will announce the award of $13 million from the Historic Preservation Fund in grants to States, Territories, and the District of Columbia.

During the next two weeks, the NPS may award $7.6 million from the Historic Preservation Fund to the state historic preservation offices in Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

During the next two weeks, the NPS will conduct the fourth year of the lethal reduction of the white-tailed deer herd in Valley Forge National Historical Park from November 2013 through March 2014. The action addresses the browsing of tree and shrub seedlings by a deer population that had increased over the last two decades and which had prevented native forests regeneration and reduced habitat for a range of native wildlife species.

During the week of December 2, the NPS may release a final EIS on controlling brucellios in bison in Yellowstone.

On December 2, DOI anticipates that the State of California's Draft BDCP and the associated Draft BDCP Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement will be released to the public for formal comment. [is there more to add here on CA's plans?]

On December 3, FWS will publish a revised proposed 4(d) special rule for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken to more specifically exempt take incidental to implementing the range-wide conservation plan recently completed by the five range states. FWS expects high interest from States, Congressional, and locals. [SG – is this still slated to go?]

In early December, the Albuquerque Urban Waters Federal Partnership pilot will hold its first kick-off meeting with local, state, tribal, and federal officials and interest groups, city leaders. The partnership will have poster presentations by senior class High School students about their work on the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. At this meeting, FWS will also announce the following major milestones: (1) acquisition of 46 more acres for Valle de Oro urban refuge through $1.14 million from the State of New Mexico; (2) Urban Migratory Bird Treaty City designation for Albuquerque; and (3) Albuquerque is one of 8 new Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships. The Secretary may attend the kick-off meeting.

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

On December 11, BLM may issue a Record of Decision for the First Solar Silver State South Project, a 250MW solar project in Nevada.

In the coming weeks, FWS hopes to issue a set of ESA regulatory and policy changes, mostly related to how the agency implements the critical habitat requirements for the statute. OIRA has completed review of 4 out of 5 changes, and discussions about the remaining policy document are ongoing.

In mid-December, BOEM and BSEE expect to send a joint proposed rule to OIRA that addresses offshore oil and gas activities on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf. The rule will promote safe, responsible, and effective drilling activities and include requirements related to oil spill response plans and operating in the challenging Arctic environment. We expect to set up a detailed pre-briefing for OIRA in the near future.

In mid-December, or perhaps earlier, BOEM expects to issue a Proposed Sale Notice for its next offshore wind competitive lease sale. This auction would be for an area offshore Maryland. The Governor has been very supportive of moving ahead with the lease sale, and we expect positive support in response to the issuance of this notice. We had hoped to announce this sale at the American Wind Energy Association offshore wind conference being held October 21-22, but due to the shutdown, finalizing the notice for release was delayed.

In December, the FWS anticipates sending to OIRA for review a final rule to list four non-native constrictor snakes as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act. These species include: reticulated python, DeSchauensee's anaconda, green anaconda, and the Beni anaconda. In this final rule, the Service will decline to list the boa constrictor as initially proposed in 2010. A listing as injurious wildlife will prevent the importation and interstate trade of these four species which threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems in the United States. DOI has received a letter from the Florida congressional delegation asking FWS to take this action.

In December, the Secretary may determine that she agrees with USFWS's determination that nationals of Iceland are engaging in trade of fin and minke whale meat and products that diminishes the effectiveness of CITES. If the Secretary agrees with the Service's determination, she must certify that fact to the President under the Pelly Amendment. The Pelly Amendment authorizes the President to prohibit imports from any country when the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce has certified that nationals of that country are engaging in trade or taking that diminishes any international program to protect endangered or threatened species. On July 19, 2011, Secretary of Commerce Locke certified to President Obama that nationals of Iceland are conducting whaling activities that diminish the effectiveness of the conservation program of the IWC. This is a similar action.

On December 10th, The Secretary has been invited to speak to the Senate Climate Clearinghouse.

By December 16, the FWS is required under a settlement agreement to publish a final critical habitat determination for jaguar. FWS published a proposal to designate critical habitat on August 20, 2012 and a revised proposal on July 1, 2013 incorporating new information. FWS expects the listing to garner local attention.

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Also in December, Reclamation will release the Lower Rio Grande Basin Study. Reclamation and the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) and its 53 member entities, in collaboration with the Texas Region M Planning Group, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and International Boundary and Water Commission, are conducting a Basin Study to evaluate the impacts of climate change on water supply and demand imbalances within an eight county region along the U.S./Mexico border in south Texas. Basin Studies, an element of WaterSMART, address basin-wide efforts to evaluate and address the impacts of climate change. Funding is provided for comprehensive water studies that define options for meeting future water demands in river basins in the western United States where imbalances in water supply and demand exist or are projected.

On December 11, Secretary Jewell may visit the Organ Mountains to host a public listening session and hear from the community about their vision to conserve a scenic and significant area of New Mexico.

On December 11-13, the Colorado River Water Users Association will conduct its annual conference in Las Vegas, NV. Secretary Jewell and/or other senior Interior officials will deliver keynote and other remarks. Reclamation will attend and participate in several meetings during the conference.

On December 12, Secretary Jewell plans to attend the Western Governors Association meeting in Nevada, and convene a meeting of the Sage Grouse Task Force which is co-chaired by Governors Mead and Hickenlooper.

In January, Indian Affairs expects to have a draft regulation to reform the federal acknowledgement process for Indian tribes available for OIRA review. The revisions to the existing process are expected to improve transparency, timeliness, efficiency, and flexibility. Tribes and tribal groups have been very supportive of our efforts to reform the process, while some have expressed concerns about reforms making the process 'too easy.'

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BOEM will co-host the Alaska Marine Science Symposium on January 20-24 in Anchorage, AK. The mission of this Symposium is to bring together scientists, policymakers, students, educators, media and the public to share research findings focused on Alaska's marine fisheries and ecosystems. It is an important opportunity for BOEM to share results from studies funded under the bureau's Environmental Studies Program.

In January, FWS plans to announce an incidental take permit under the ESA to NiSource in association with a multi-state, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the company's

operation and maintenance of its natural gas pipeline in 14 states. The NiSource HCP represents one of the country's most comprehensive endangered species planning efforts by a corporate entity. The plan addresses the conservation needs of 43 federally endangered, threatened or candidate species in 14 eastern and southern states. It was developed with the involvement of state agencies in 14 states, along with federal agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and industry. The incidental take permit will be signed at the end of August and will become effective on January 1, 2014. The NiSource HCP is a model of the flexibility of the Endangered Species Act. It highlights the effectiveness of partnerships and cooperation among public, private and non-governmental interests. The plan demonstrates the potential under the ESA to achieve energy goals and solutions while making science-based management decisions for imperiled species.

In mid-January, BLM is likely to release a Record of Decision for the Stateline Solar project, a proposed 30 megawatt solar project in San Bernadino County, California.

White House weekly report

Walls, Erin <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Dec 4, 2013 at 4:19 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laura Davis <laura_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Sally,

Here is a draft of the White House weekly report. Please send us your message to the President.

Thank you,
Erin

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CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED

U.S. Department of the Interior Weekly Cabinet Report
December 5, 2013

Direct Message to the President

Dear Mr. President –

Warmly,

Sally

Announcements - Presidential Priorities

Climate/Energy: On December 13, BLM may publish a DEIS analyzing a proposal to drill up to 5,750 new oil and gas wells over a period of 16 years in an existing oil and gas producing area in Duchesne and Uintah counties in UT, known as Monument Butte. The project would encompass nearly 120,000 acres south of Myton, Utah, and would result in approximately 170 miles of new roads accompanied by a similar amount of new pipelines and additional infrastructure. The total new surface disturbance would be approximately 16,129 acres.

On December 11, Reclamation will release the Upper Rio Grande Western Water Climate Risk Assessment (WWCRA). The assessment includes an evaluation of the climate, hydrology and water operations of the upper Rio Grande basin of Colorado and New Mexico and potential impacts associated with climate change. Assistant Secretary Anne Castle will conduct a small media conference in Albuquerque, NM, to release the assessment, and a news release will follow. WWCRAs, an element of WaterSMART, assess impacts to water supplies and demands on a reconnaissance level and include a baseline risk and impact assessment.

On December 10, the BLM Nevada State Office will hold a competitive sale of federal lands in the State of Nevada for oil and gas leasing. The sale will include a total of 178 parcels for auction located in the Ely District, containing over 300,000 acres

On December 12, the BLM Eastern States Office will hold a competitive sale of federal lands in AL, LA, MI, and MS for oil and gas leasing. The sale will include a total of 18 parcels for auction, containing over 1,400 acres

Next week, Reclamation may also release the Lower Rio Grande Basin Study. Reclamation and the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) and its 53 member entities, in collaboration with the Texas Region M Planning Group, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and International Boundary and Water Commission, conducted the Basin Study to evaluate the impacts of climate change on water supply and demand imbalances within an eight county region along the U.S./Mexico border in south Texas. Basin Studies, an element of WaterSMART, address basin-wide efforts to evaluate and address the impacts of climate change. Funding is provided for comprehensive water studies

that define options for meeting future water demands in river basins in the western United States where imbalances in water supply and demand exist or are projected.

Jobs/Economy: On December 10, NPS staff will participate in the "All in for Belle Isle" initial partnership event in Detroit, MI. The event will bring together city, state, and federal partners to discuss efforts to begin a new Belle Isle revitalization plan.

ACA Implementation:

Immigration:

Principal Schedules

On December 11, Secretary Jewell will visit Laguna Elementary School near Albuquerque, NM. The school is located on the Laguna Pueblo reservation and is operated through grants from BIE. The Secretary's visit will help inform the work of DOI's Native American Education Study Group, which has been assessing the scope of challenges in Indian education in partnership with the Department of Education, and will soon submit recommendations for improving educational outcomes for all American Indian students.

On December 12, Secretary Jewell will deliver remarks at the Western Governors Association (WGA) meeting in Nevada. Also at WGA, the Secretary will convene a meeting of the Sage Grouse Task Force which is co-chaired by Governors Mead and Hickenlooper.

On December 13, Secretary Jewell will deliver keynote remarks at the Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference in Las Vegas, NV. Other senior officials from DOI will attend the three day conference.

On December 11, Vince Logan will have his confirmation hearing in front of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. Logan is the nominee for Special Trustee for American Indians.

[OCL – I am hearing there are hearings on buy back?. Hearing on trust commission and report?]

Items of Note

Next week, NPS will announce the award of $13 million from the Historic Preservation Fund in grants to States, Territories, and the District of Columbia. The NPS may also award $7.6 million from the Historic Preservation Fund to the state historic preservation offices in Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. [This was in last week's weekly]

Next week, DOI will announce a new Bureau of Indian Education Director.

On December 9, the draft EIS/EIR for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan will likely be released by the State of California and the federal family for formal public comment. [more here about expected reactions?]

On December 9, the Albuquerque Urban Waters Federal Partnership pilot will hold its first kick-off meeting with local, state, tribal, and federal officials and interest groups, city leaders. The partnership will have poster presentations by senior class High School students about their work on the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. At this meeting, FWS will also announce the following major milestones: (1) acquisition of 46 more acres for Valle de Oro urban refuge through $1.14 million from the State of New Mexico; (2) Urban Migratory Bird Treaty City designation for Albuquerque; and (3) Albuquerque is one of 8 new Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships. Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle will attend the kick-off meeting.

Next week, pending OIRA review, FWS will publish a revised proposed 4(d) special rule for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken to more specifically exempt take incidental to implementing the range-wide conservation plan recently completed by the five range states. FWS expects high interest from States, Congressional, and locals. [This was in last week's weekly]

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

In December, Rhea Suh may have her confirmation hearing in front of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for the Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. This will be the first of two hearings during her nomination process.

On December 16-18, the North American Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Areas Conservation (NAWPA) will be holding its annual meeting at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia. The Committee is composed of the Heads of 6 land management agencies (FWS, BLM, NPS, USFS, Parks Canada, and the National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) of Mexico) and the Office of Environmental Markets, USDA. Dan Ashe and Jon Jarvis will both attend the annual meeting.

In the coming weeks, FWS hopes to issue a set of ESA regulatory and policy changes, mostly related to how the agency implements the critical habitat requirements for the statute. OIRA has completed review of 4 out of 5 changes, and discussions about the remaining policy document are ongoing.

DOI is continuing negotiations with the Oglala Sioux Nation of the Pine Ridge Reservation – the tribe with the greatest amount of fractionated lands in the country— to finalize a cooperative agreement to implement the land consolidation component of the *Cobell* Settlement, which made $1.9 billion available to purchase fractionated interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers within 10 years. Upon purchase, interests will be held in trust for tribal governments for their beneficial use. Finalizing the agreement has been delayed by discussions over contract support costs, but as soon as we are able to complete the agreement, we hope to conduct a signing ceremony or otherwise publicly announce this milestone on December 18.

In mid-December, the Bureau of Reclamation may release the completed Santa Ana River Watershed Basin Study. Through the Basin Studies, Reclamation works with States, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, other Federal agencies, and local partners to develop a

common scientific understanding of water supply challenges and to identify strategies to adapt to and mitigate current or future water supply and demand imbalances, including the impacts of climate change and other stressors on water and power facilities. Funding is provided for comprehensive water studies that define options for meeting future water demands in river basins in the western United States where imbalances in water supply and demand exist or are projected.

In mid-December, BOEM and BSEE expect to send a joint proposed rule to OIRA that addresses offshore oil and gas activities on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf. The rule will promote safe, responsible, and effective drilling activities and include requirements related to oil spill response plans and operating in the challenging Arctic environment. We expect to set up a detailed pre-briefing for OIRA in the near future.

On December 17, BOEM expects to issue a Proposed Sale Notice for its next offshore wind competitive lease sale. This auction would be for an area offshore Maryland. The Governor has been very supportive of moving ahead with the lease sale, and we expect positive support in response to the issuance of this notice. We had hoped to announce this sale at the American Wind Energy Association offshore wind conference being held October 21-22, but due to the shutdown, finalizing the notice for release was delayed.

In December, the FWS anticipates sending to OIRA for review a final rule to list four non-native constrictor snakes as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act. These species include: reticulated python, DeSchauensee's anaconda, green anaconda, and the Beni anaconda. In this final rule, the Service will decline to list the boa constrictor as initially proposed in 2010. A listing as injurious wildlife will prevent the importation and interstate trade of these four species which threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems in the United States. DOI has received a letter from the Florida congressional delegation asking FWS to take this action.

In December, the Secretary may determine that she agrees with USFWS's determination that nationals of Iceland are engaging in trade of fin and minke whale meat and products that diminishes the effectiveness of CITES. If the Secretary agrees with the Service's determination, she must certify that fact to the President under the Pelly Amendment. The Pelly Amendment authorizes the President to prohibit imports from any country when the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce has certified that nationals of that country are engaging in trade or taking that diminishes any international program to protect endangered or threatened species. On July 19, 2011, Secretary of Commerce Locke certified to President Obama that nationals of Iceland are conducting whaling activities that diminish the effectiveness of the conservation program of the IWC. This is a similar action.

On December 28, the Endangered Species Act will celebrate its 40th birthday. Associated events may be held to honor the day.

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In January (or possibly sooner pending finalization of relevant documents), BLM expects to issue Records of Decision on three solar projects: (1) First Solar Silver State South Project, a 250MW solar project in Nevada; (2) Stateline Solar project, a proposed 30 megawatt solar project in San Bernadino County, California; and (3) Ocotillo Sol Solar Project, an 18MW solar project near El Centro, CA.

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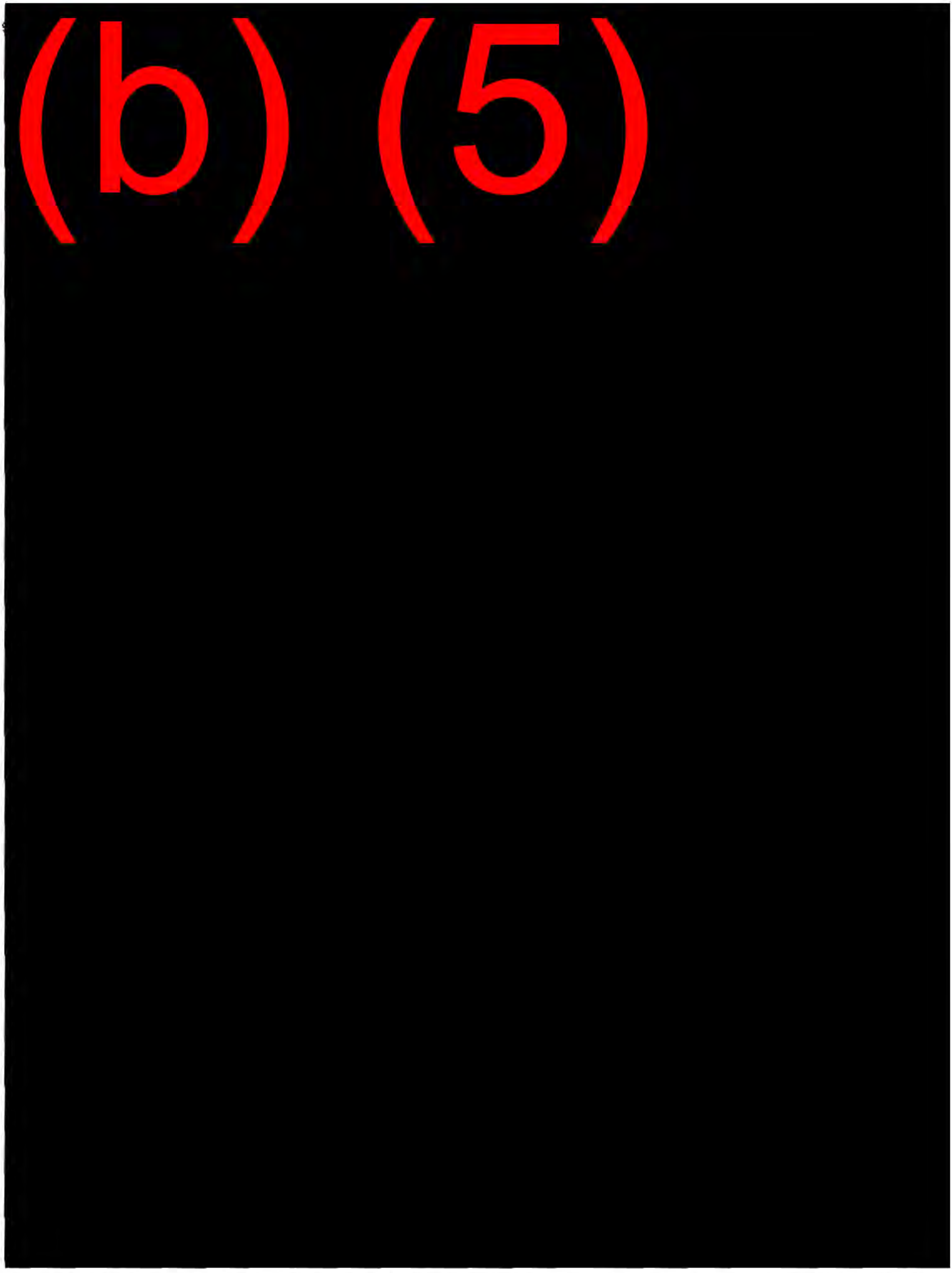
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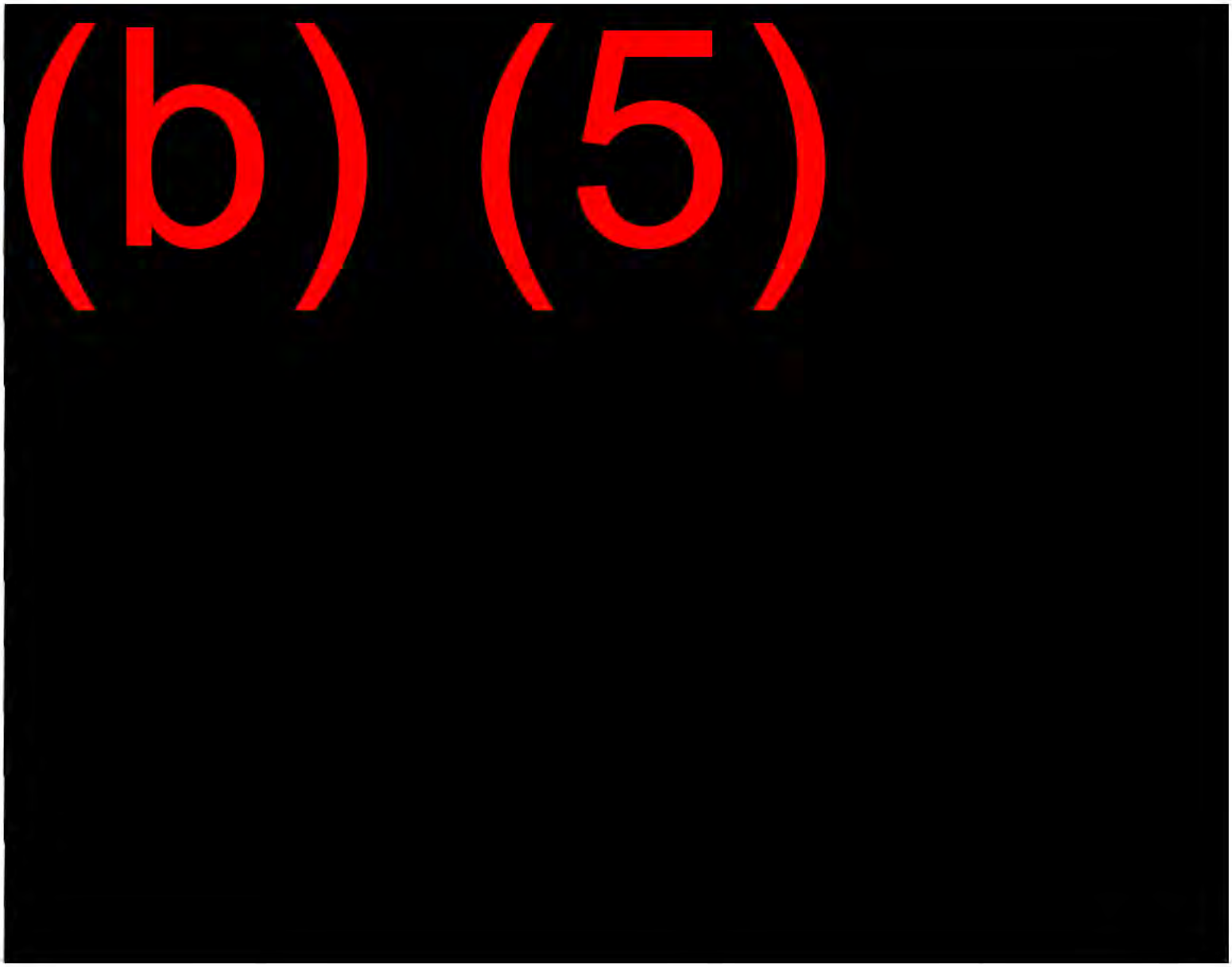
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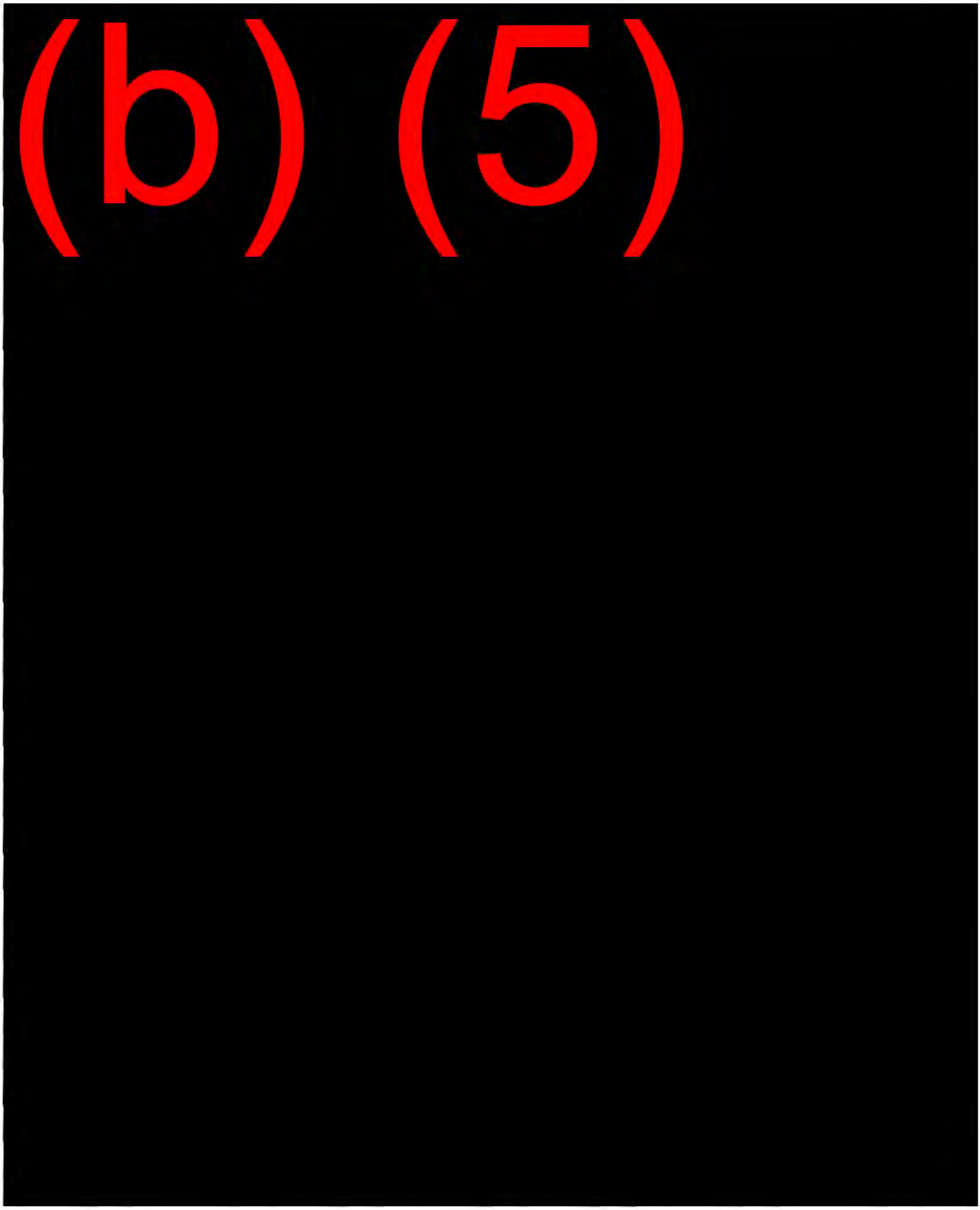
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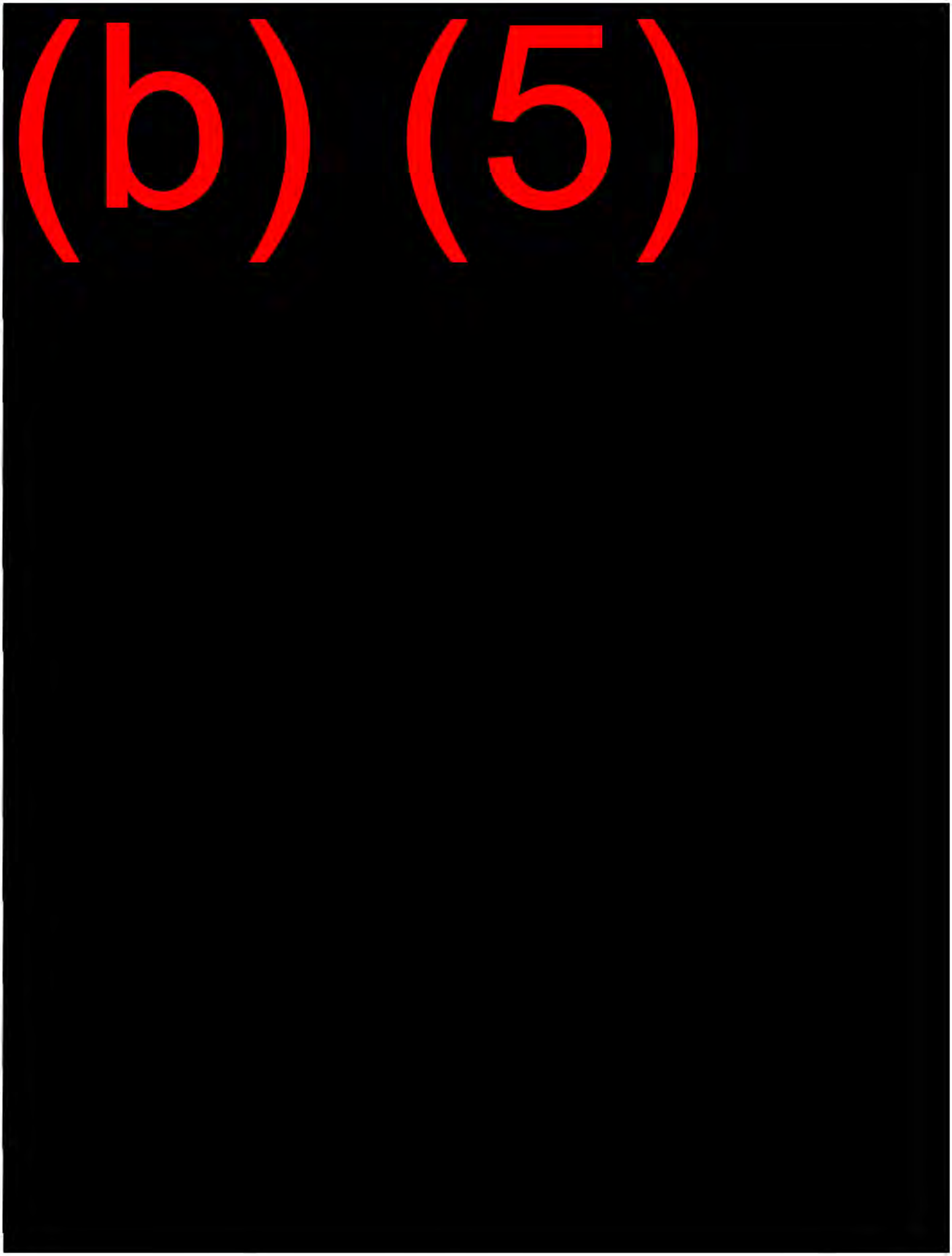
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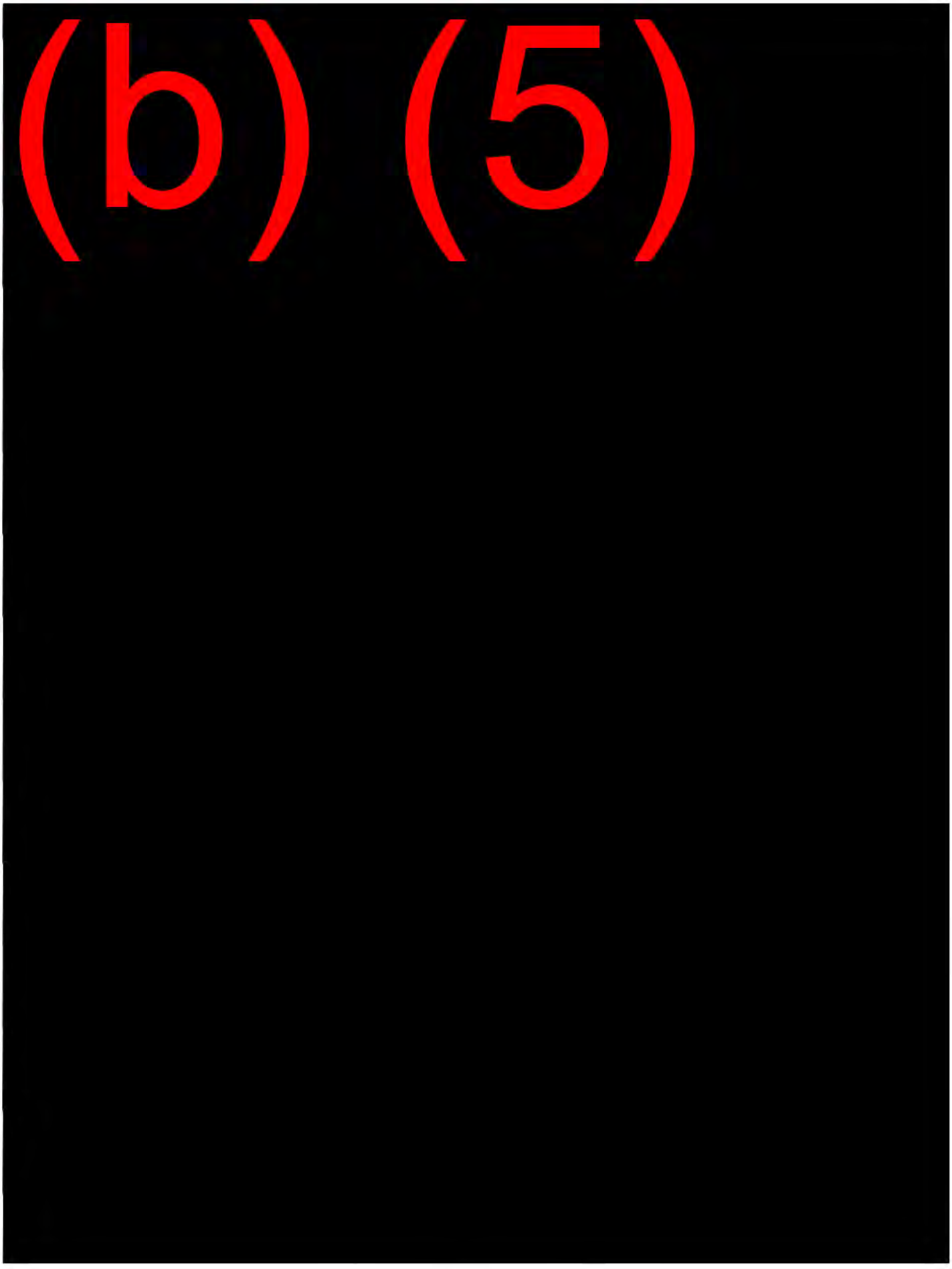
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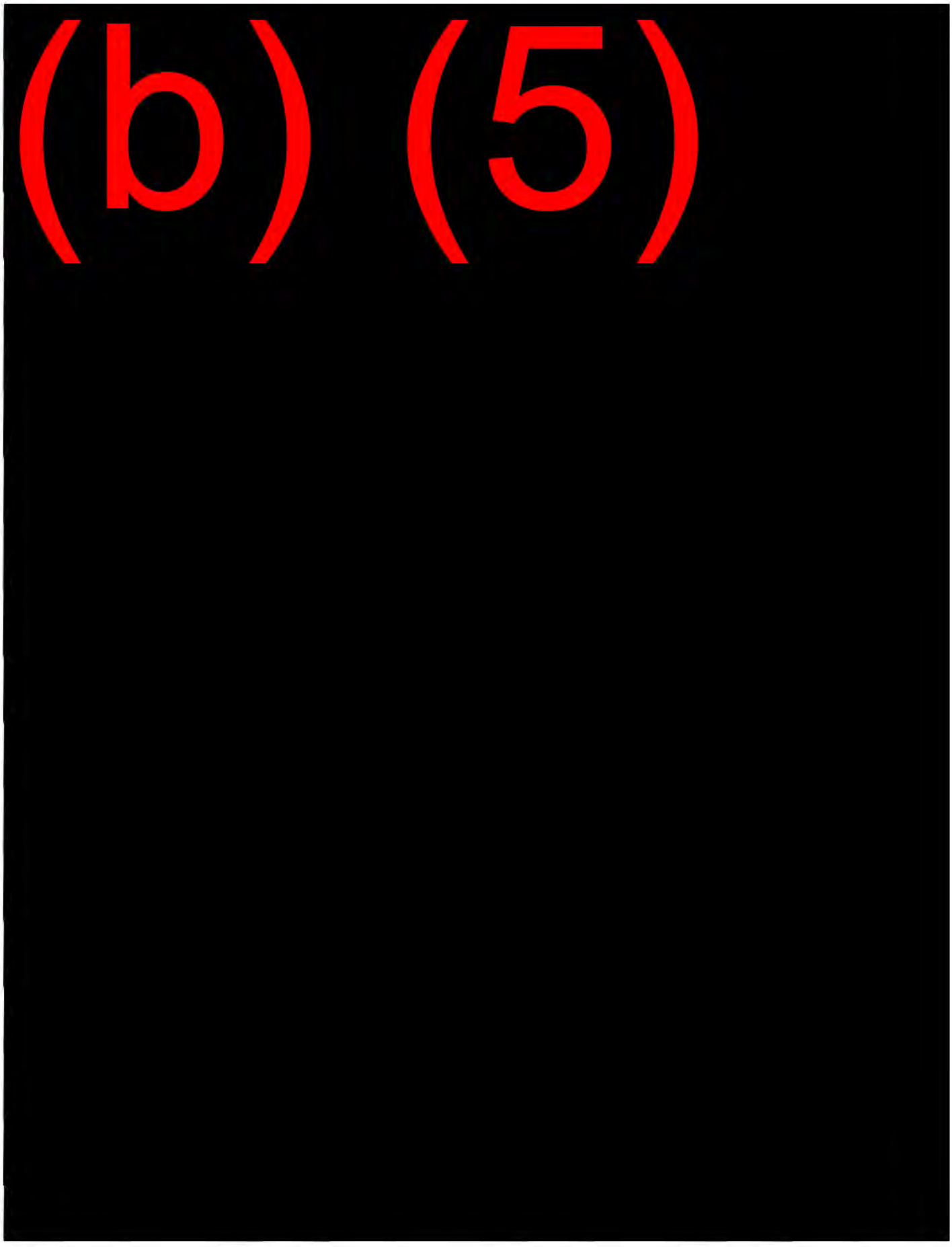
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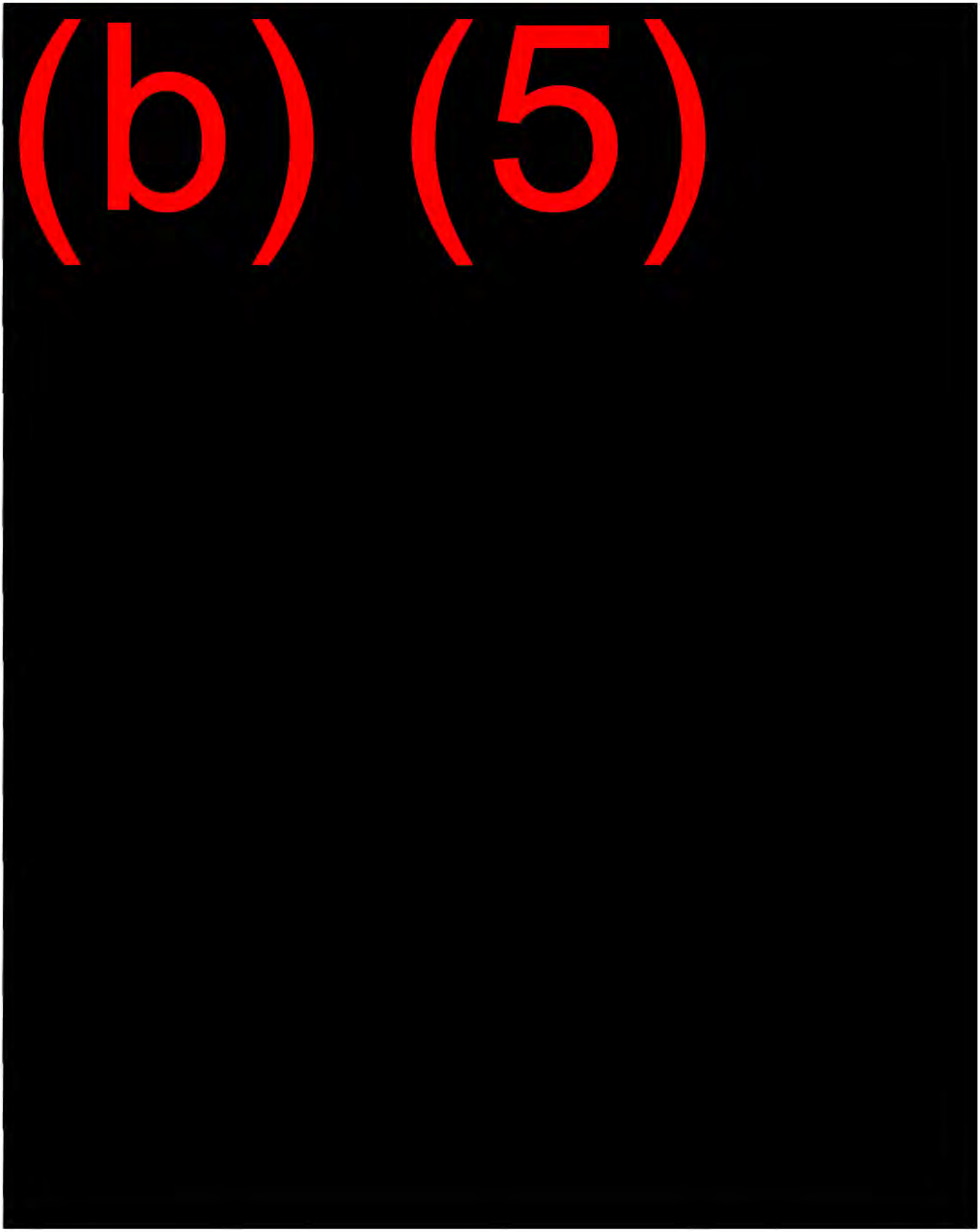
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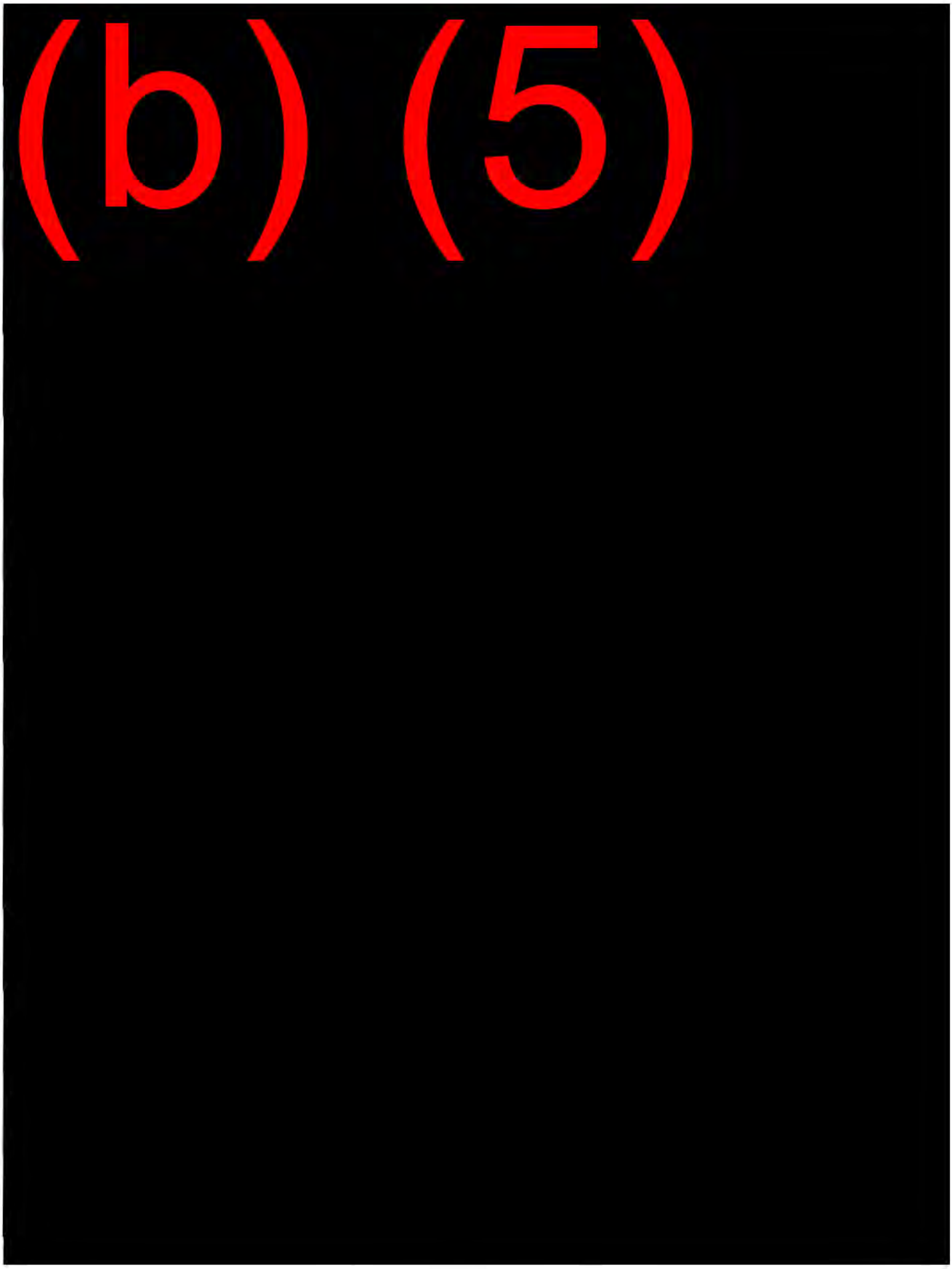
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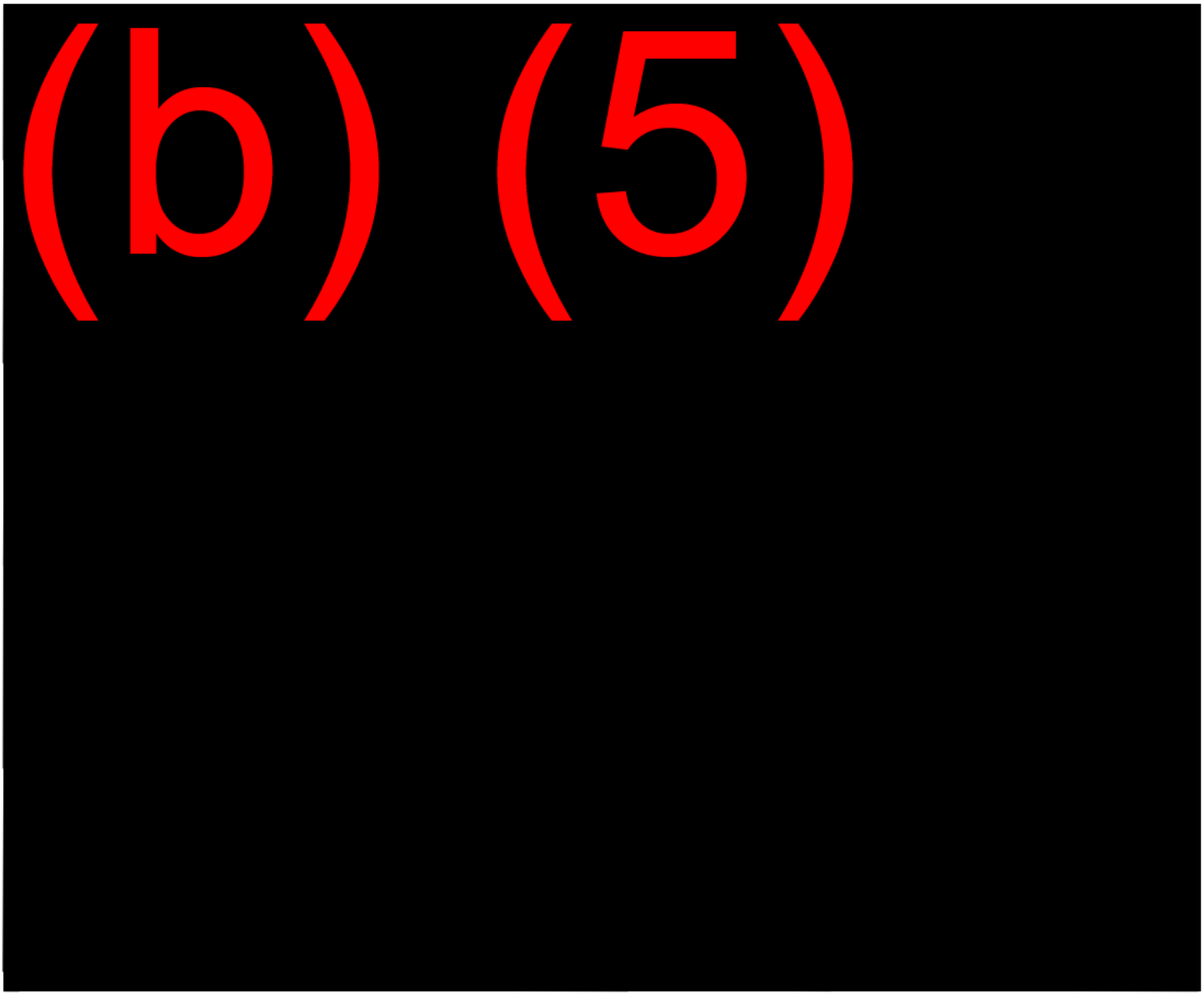
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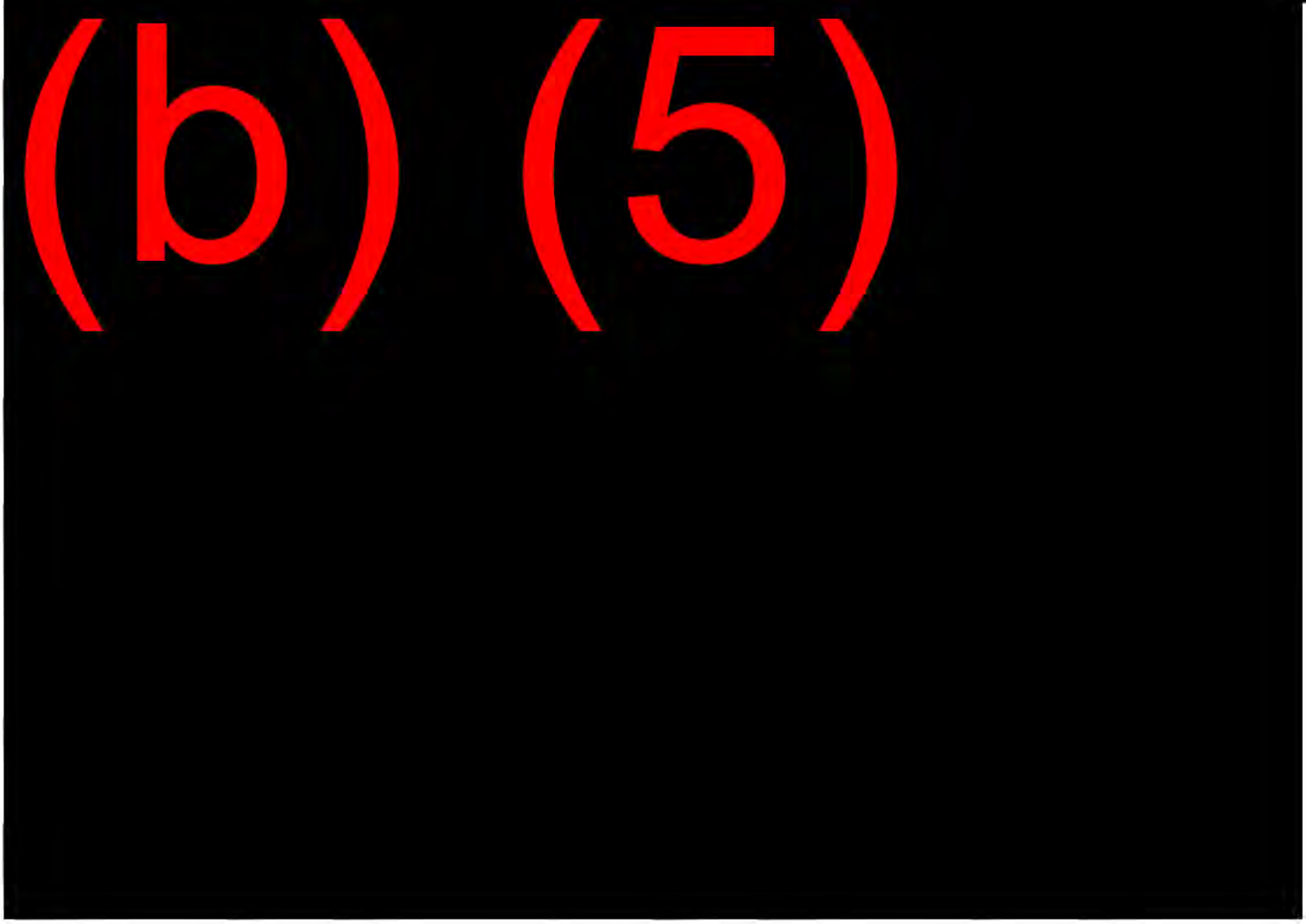
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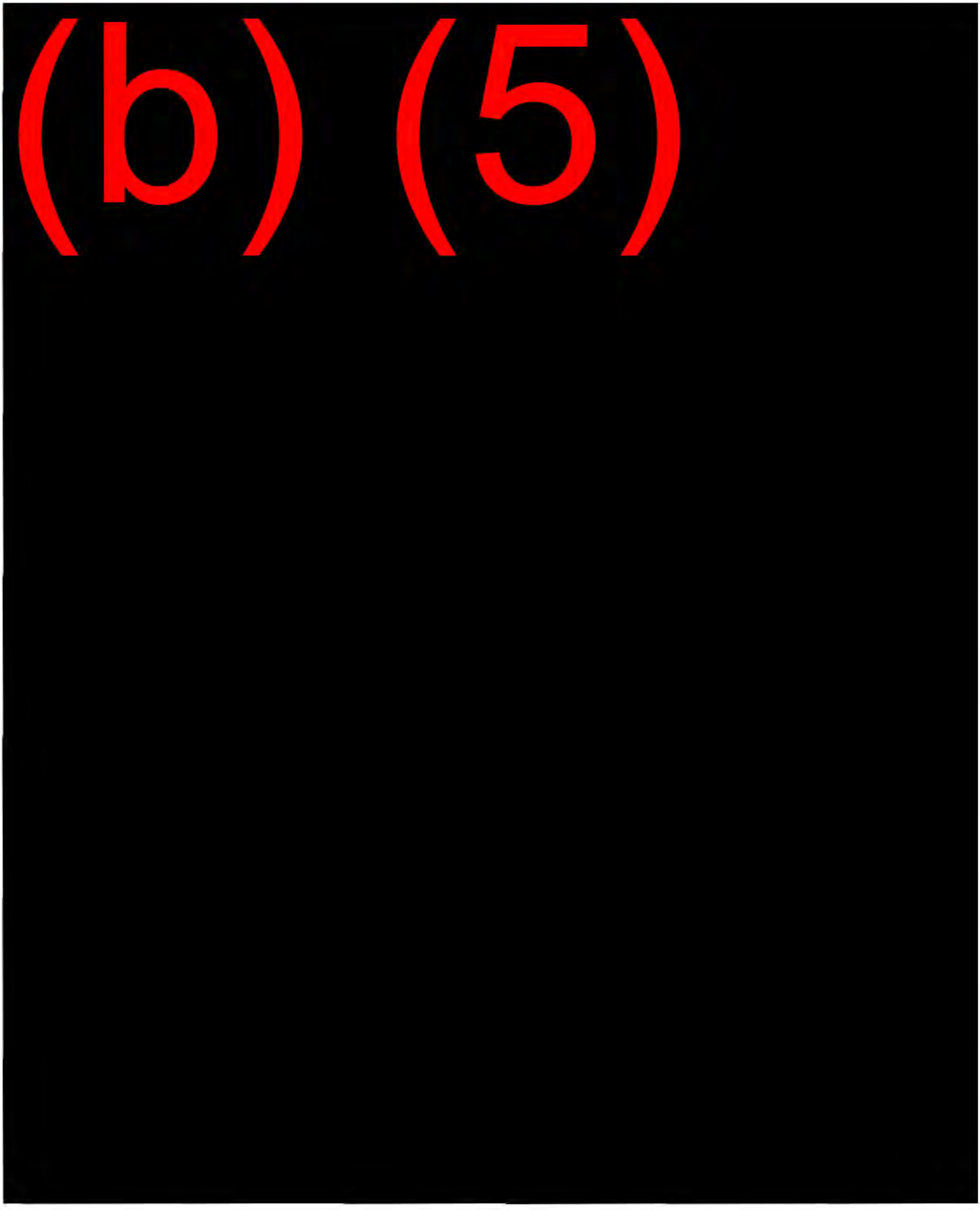
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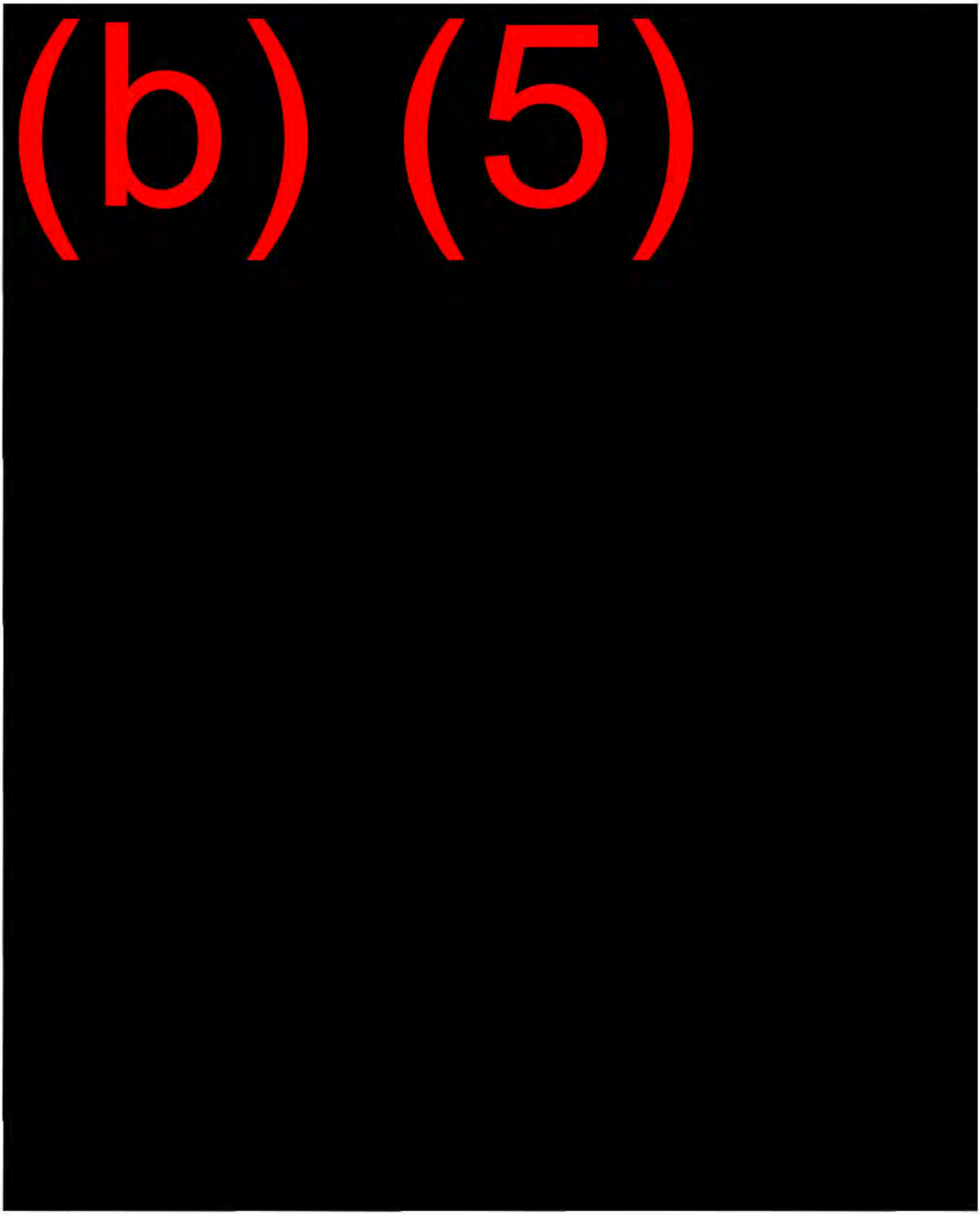
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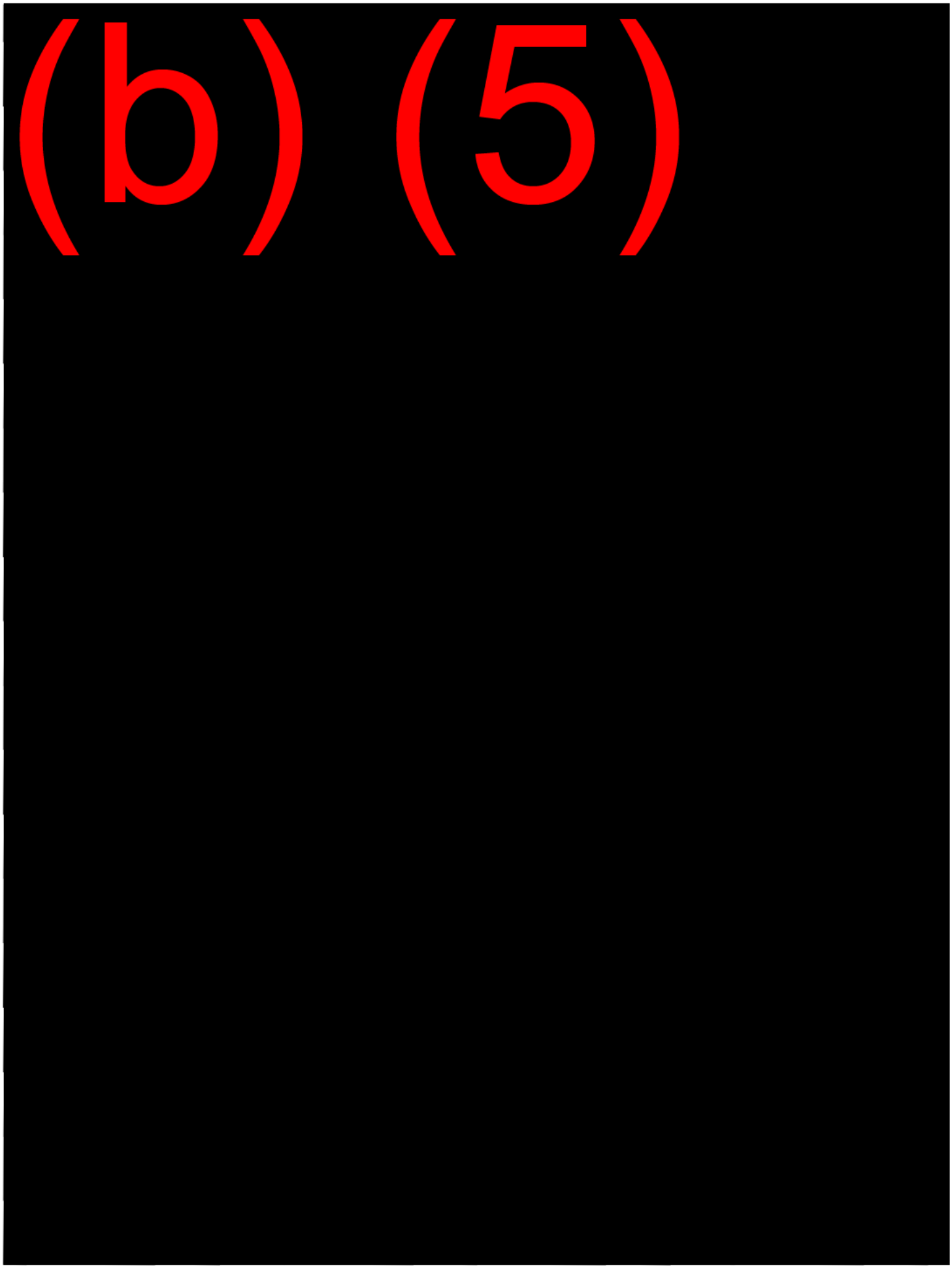
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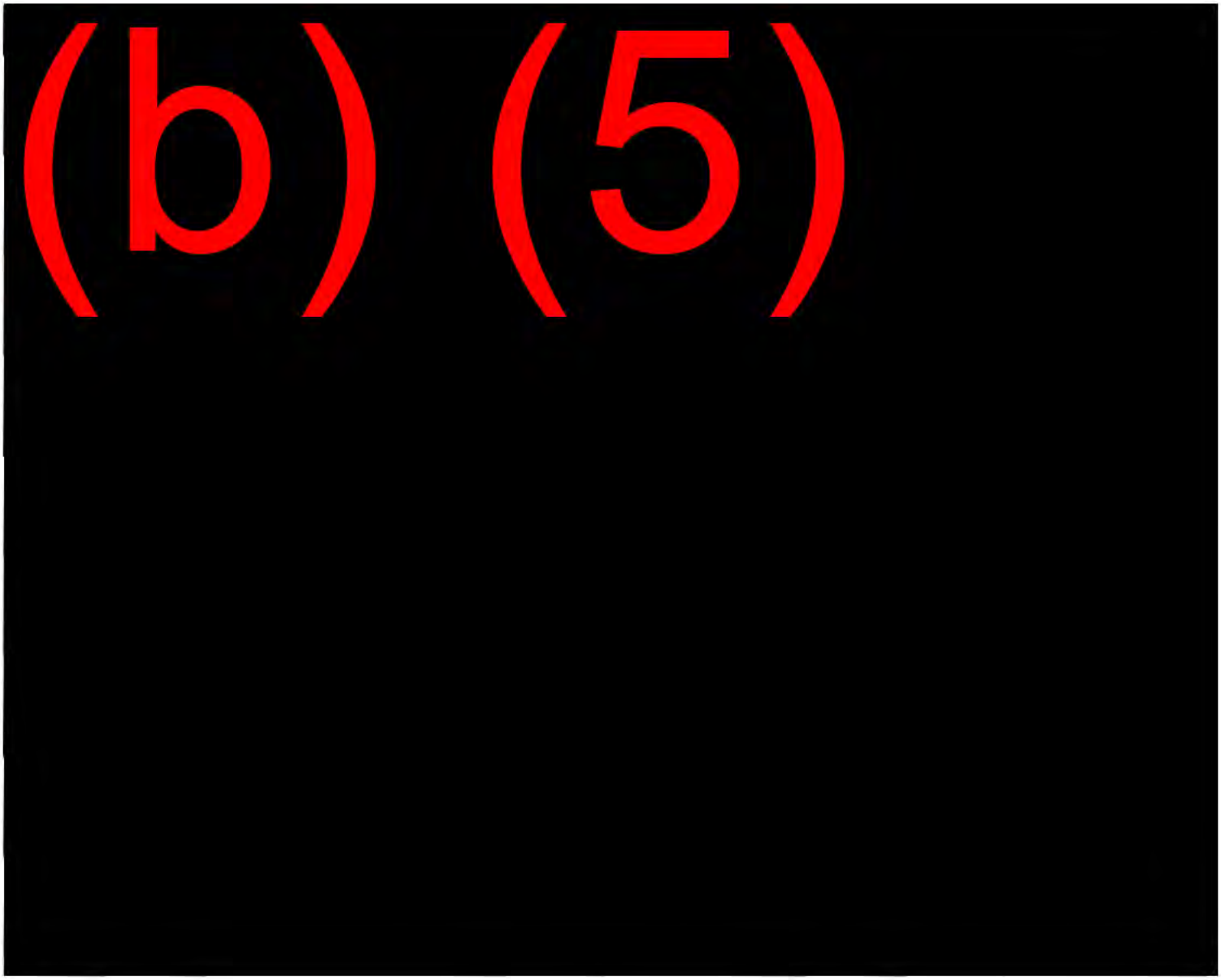
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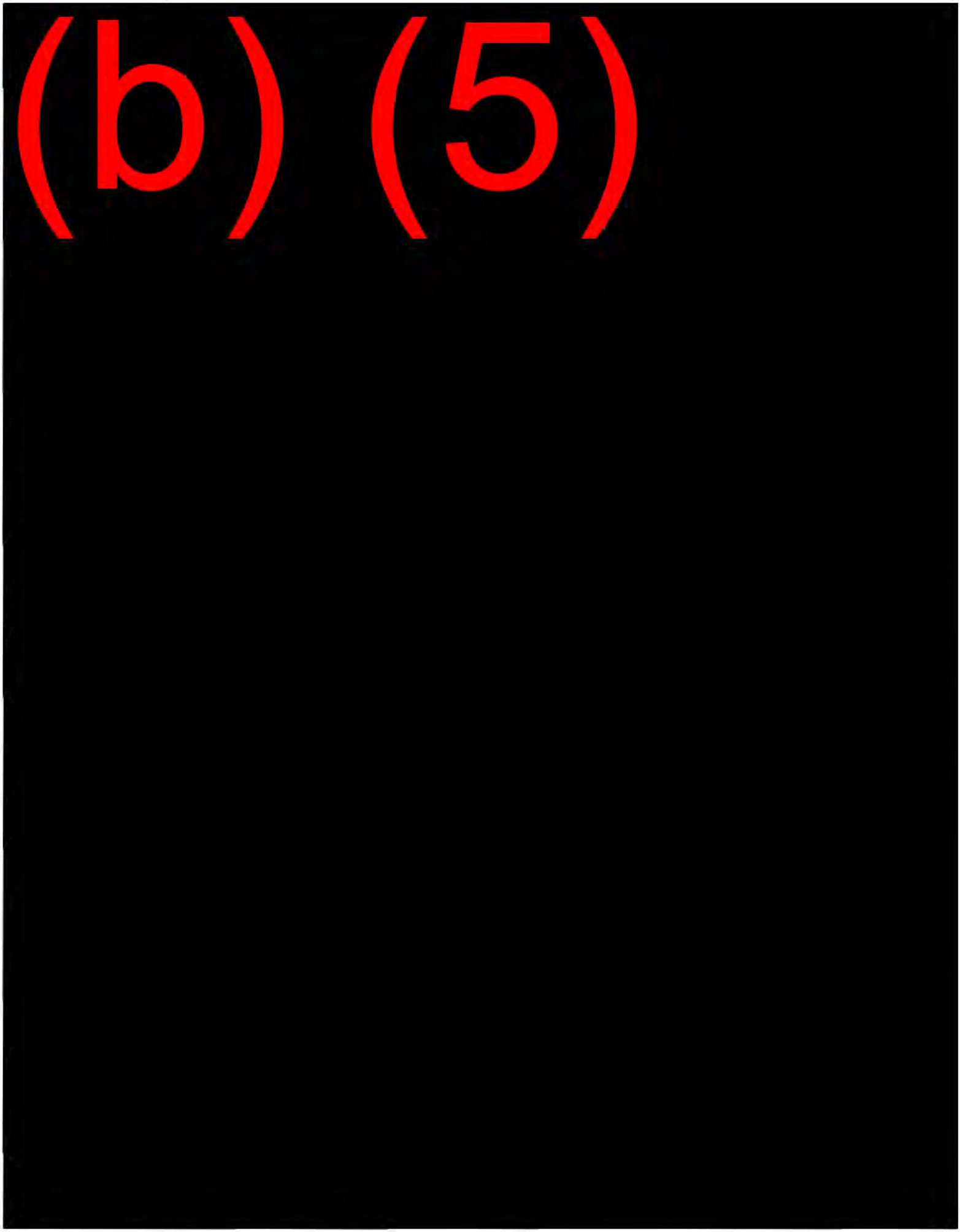
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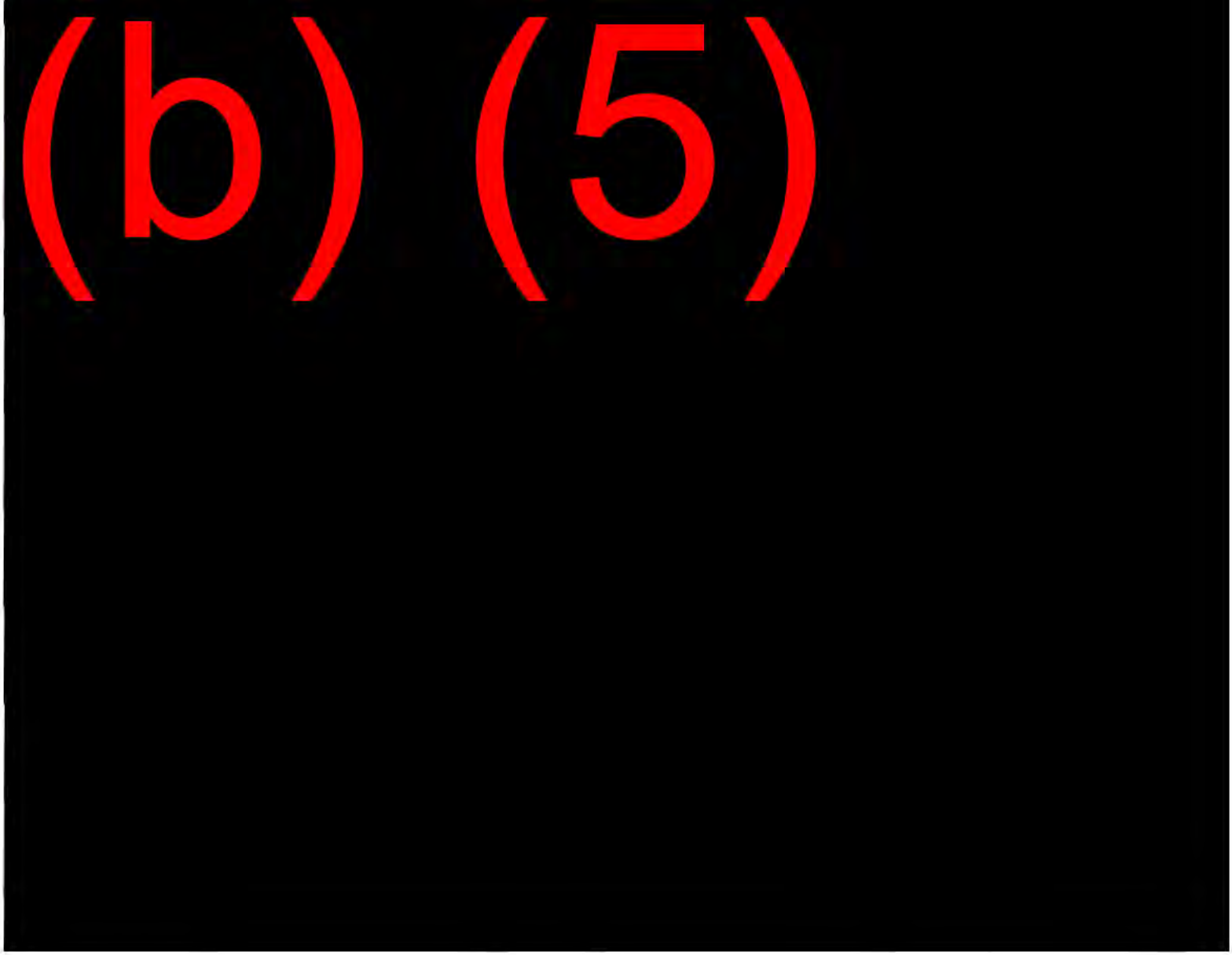
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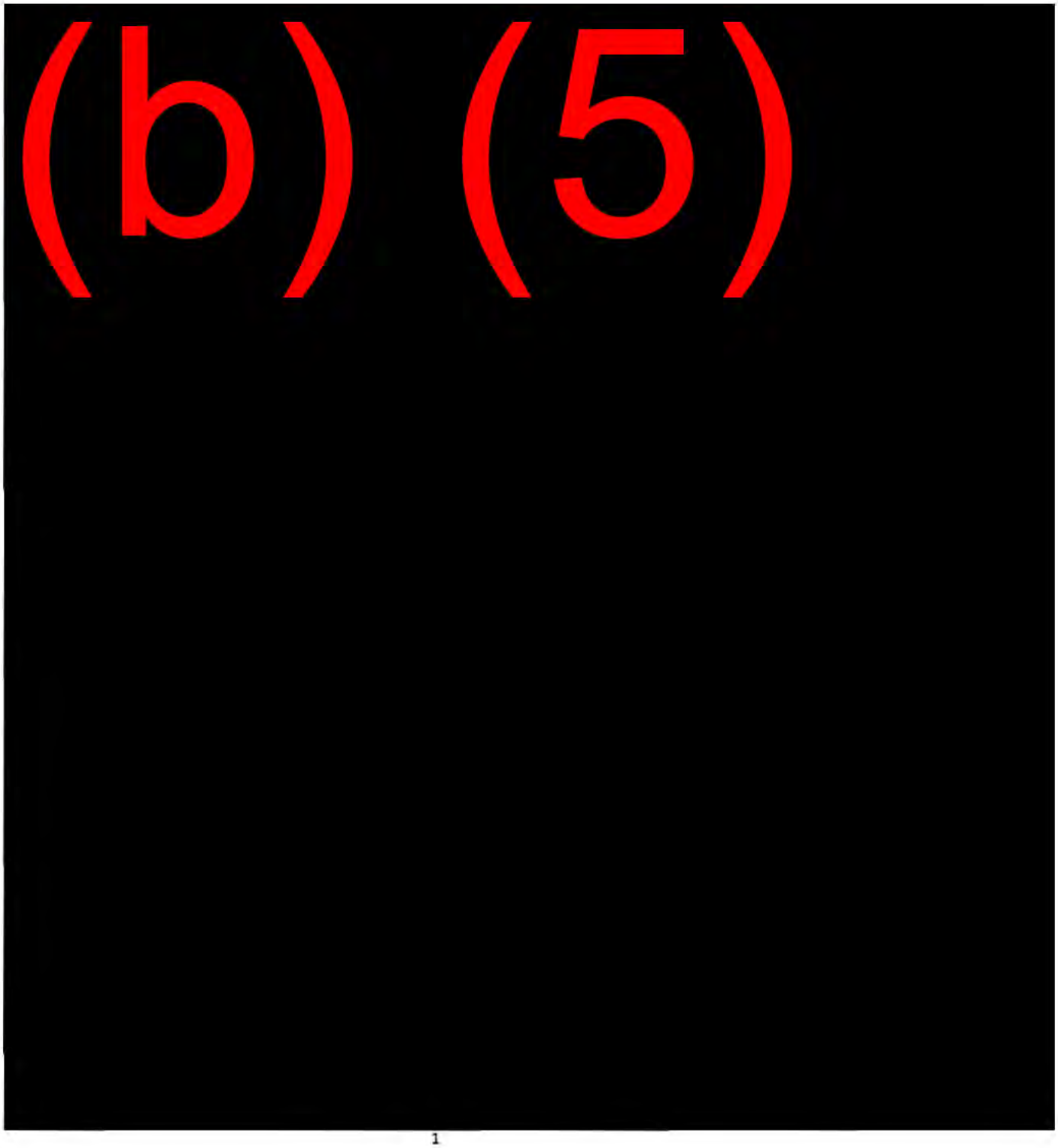
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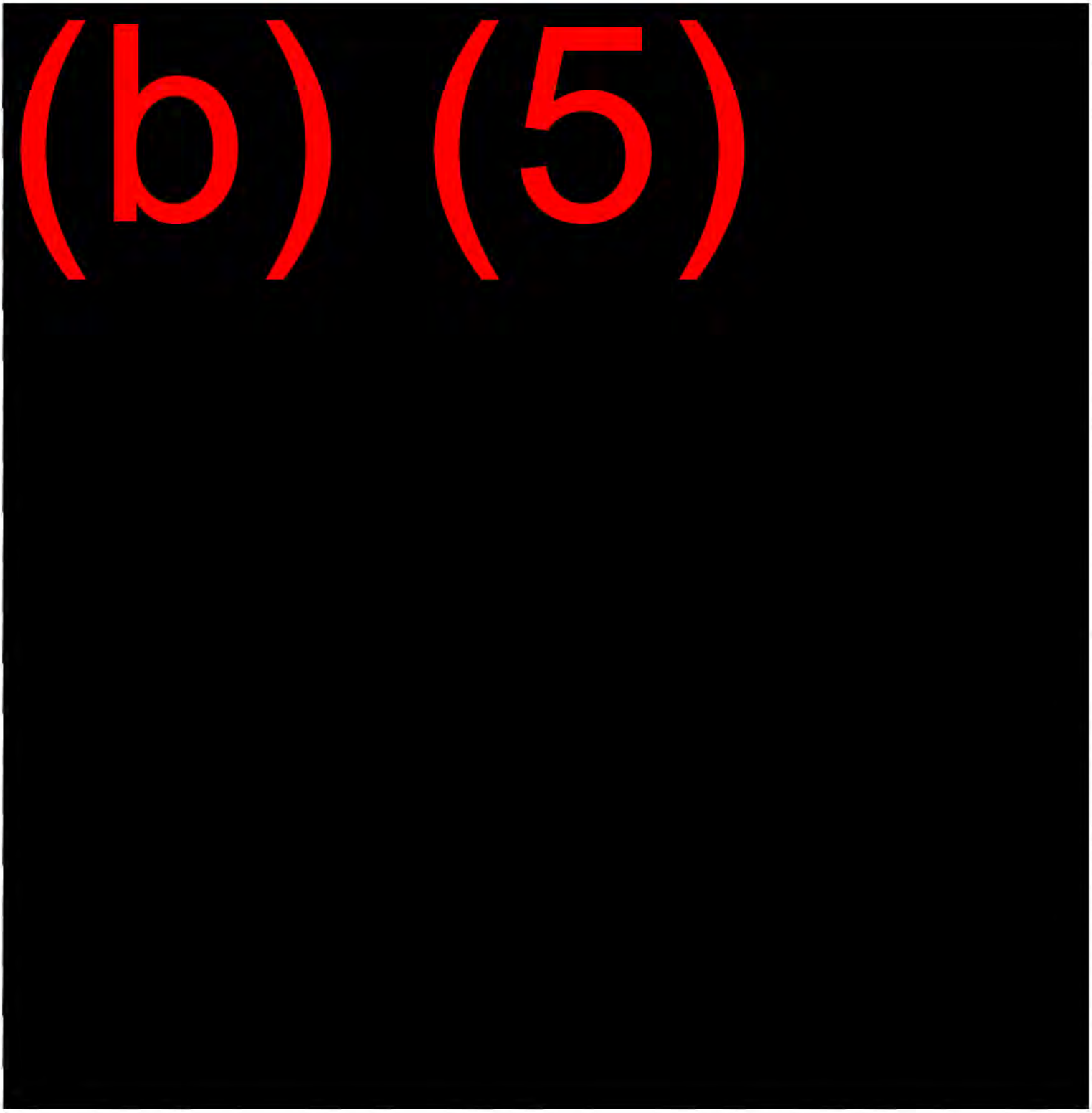
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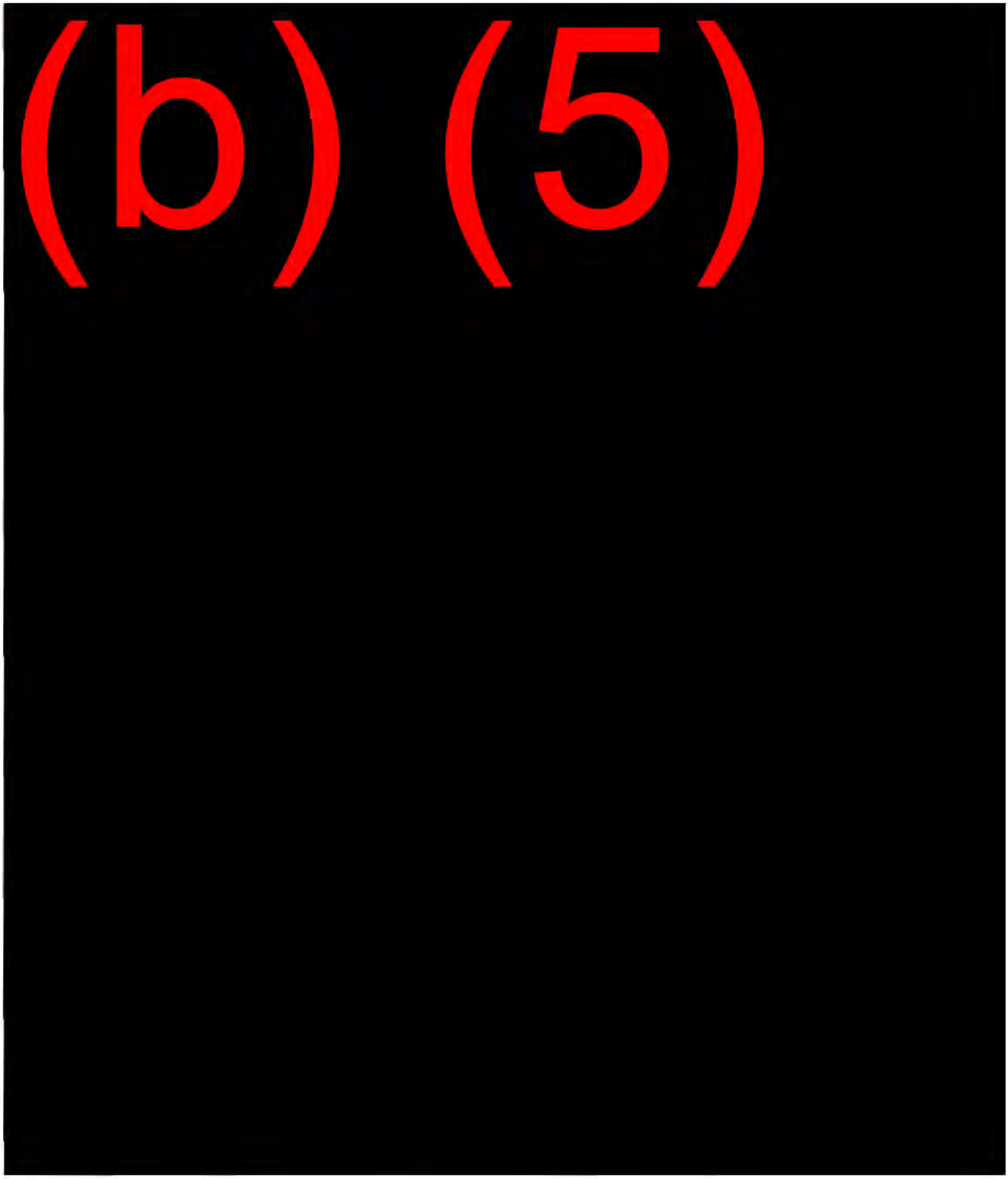
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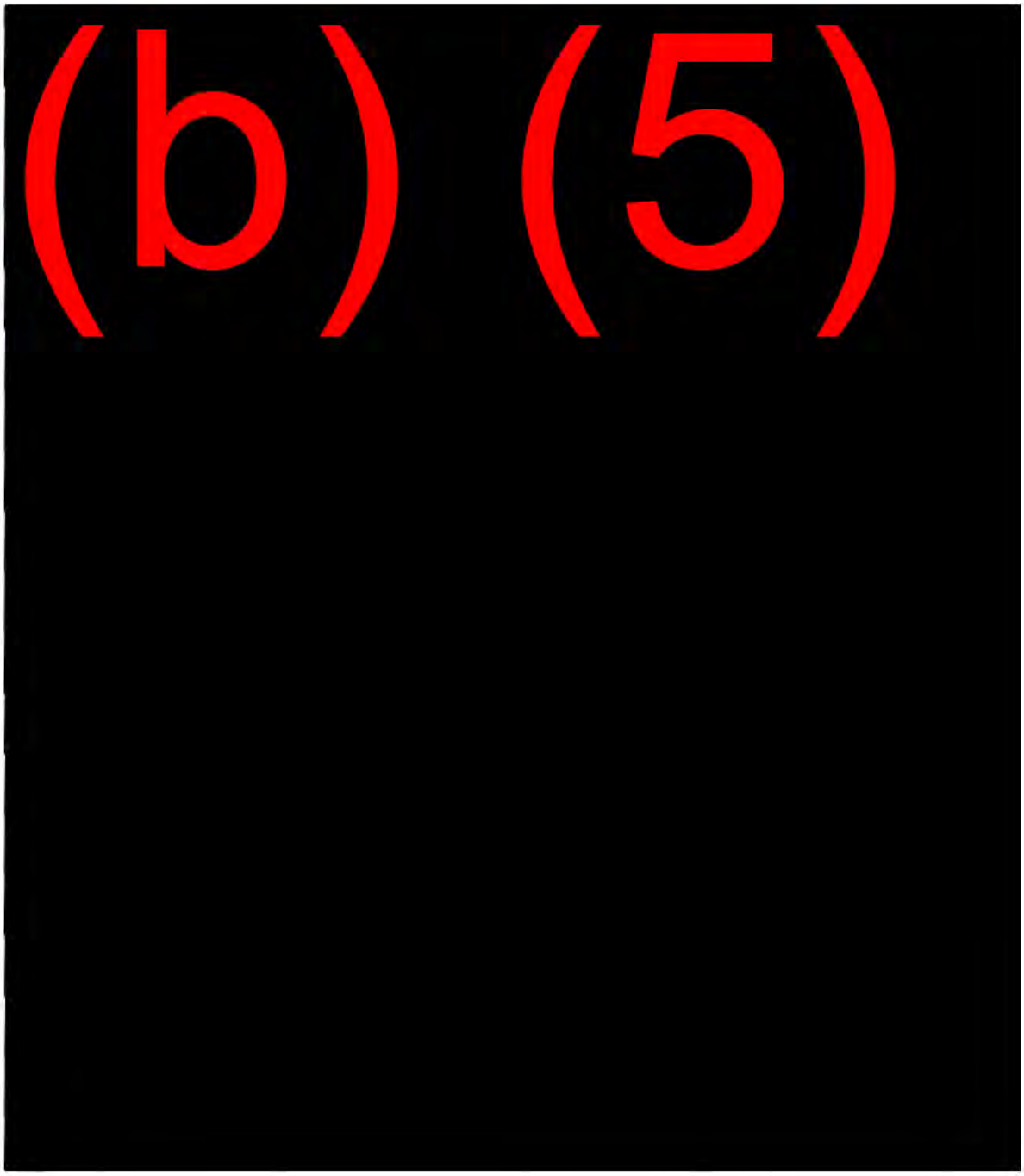
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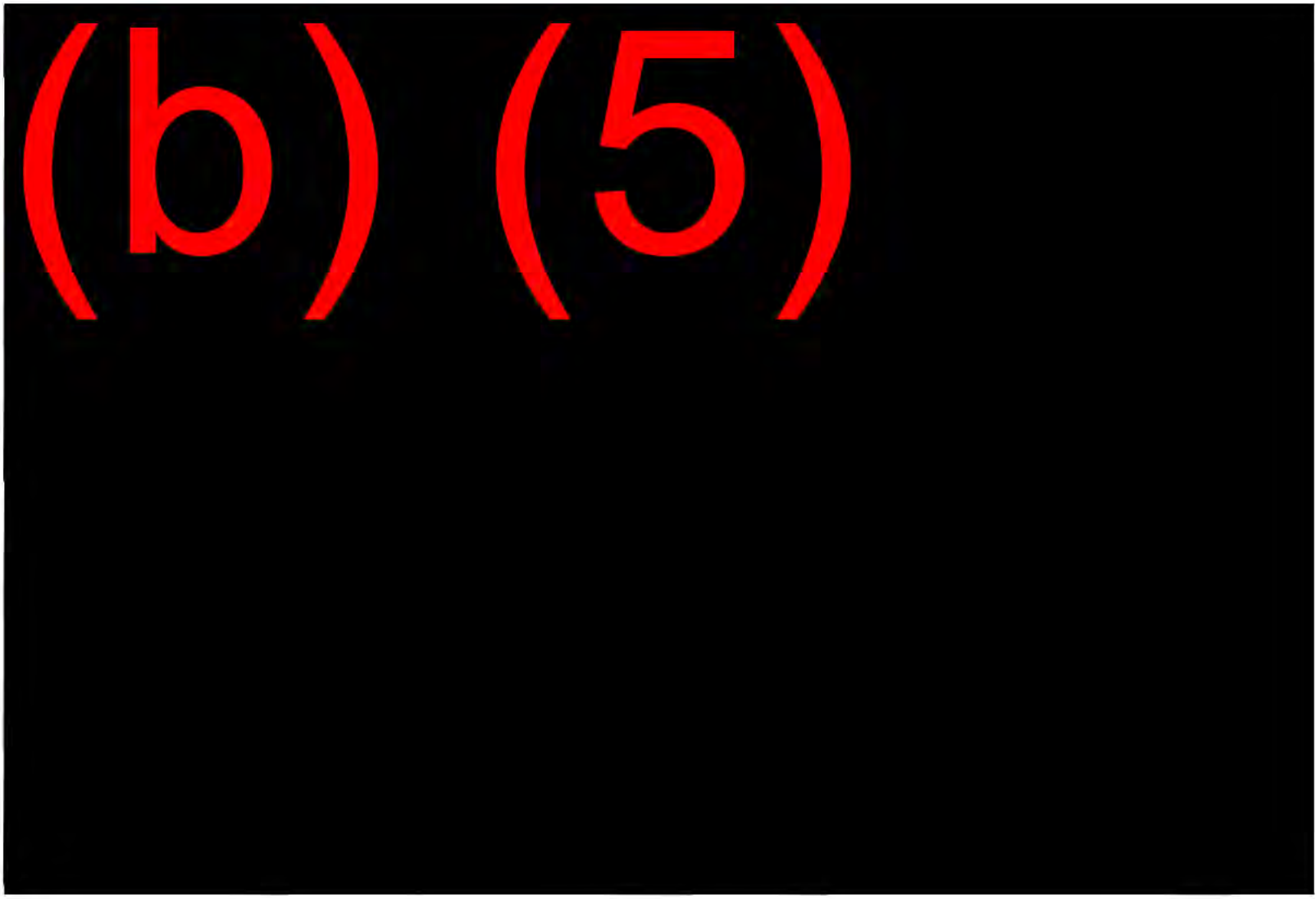
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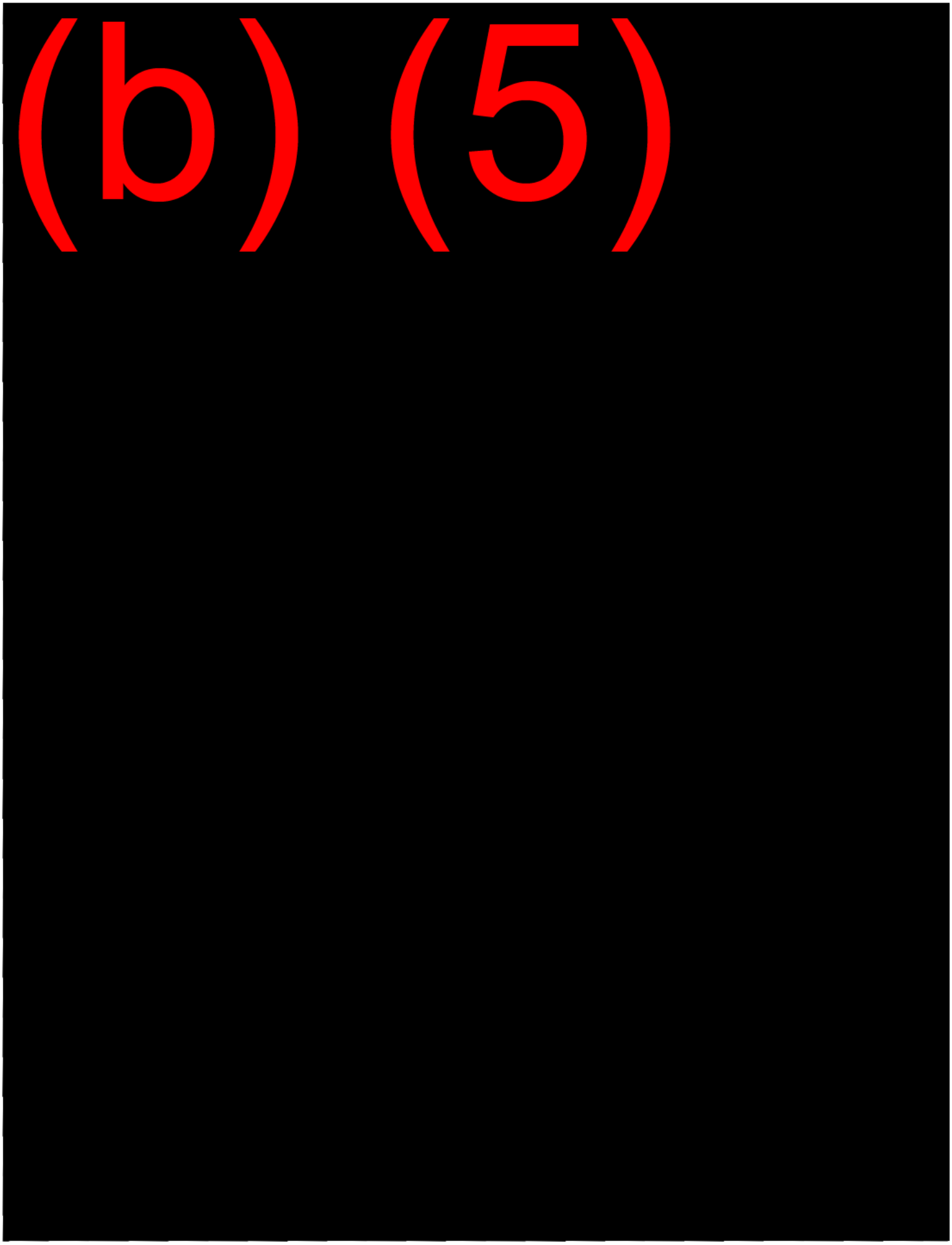
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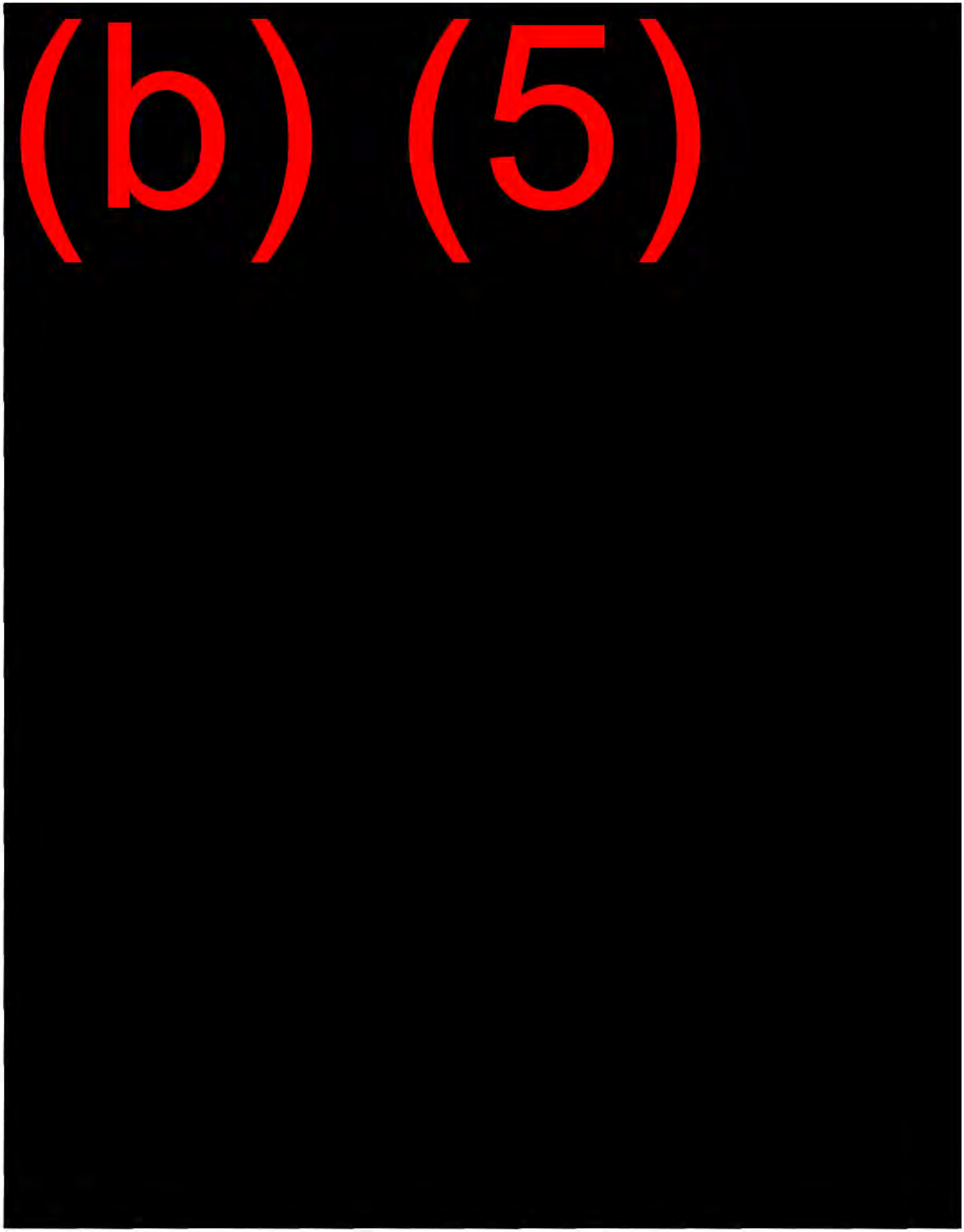
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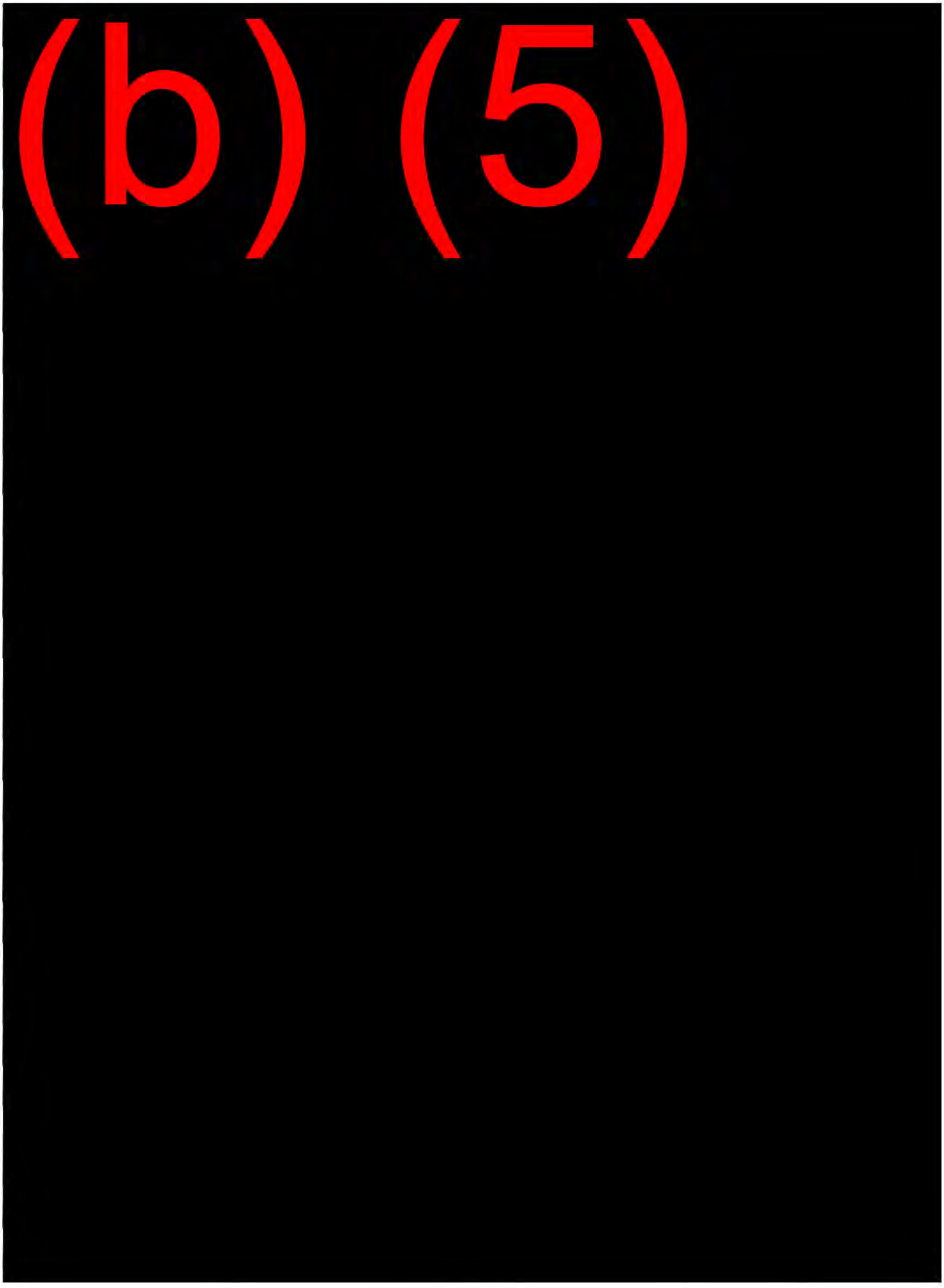
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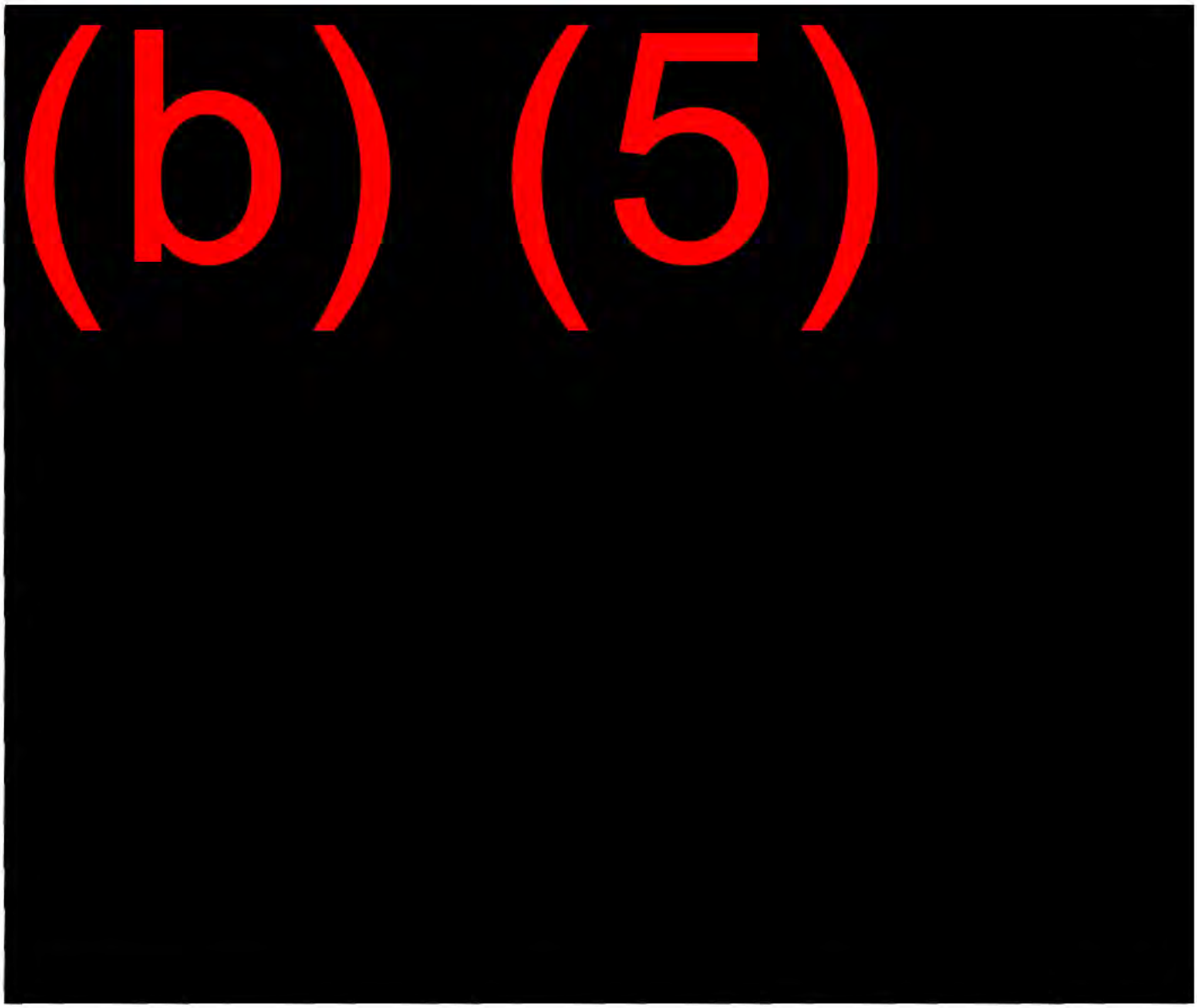
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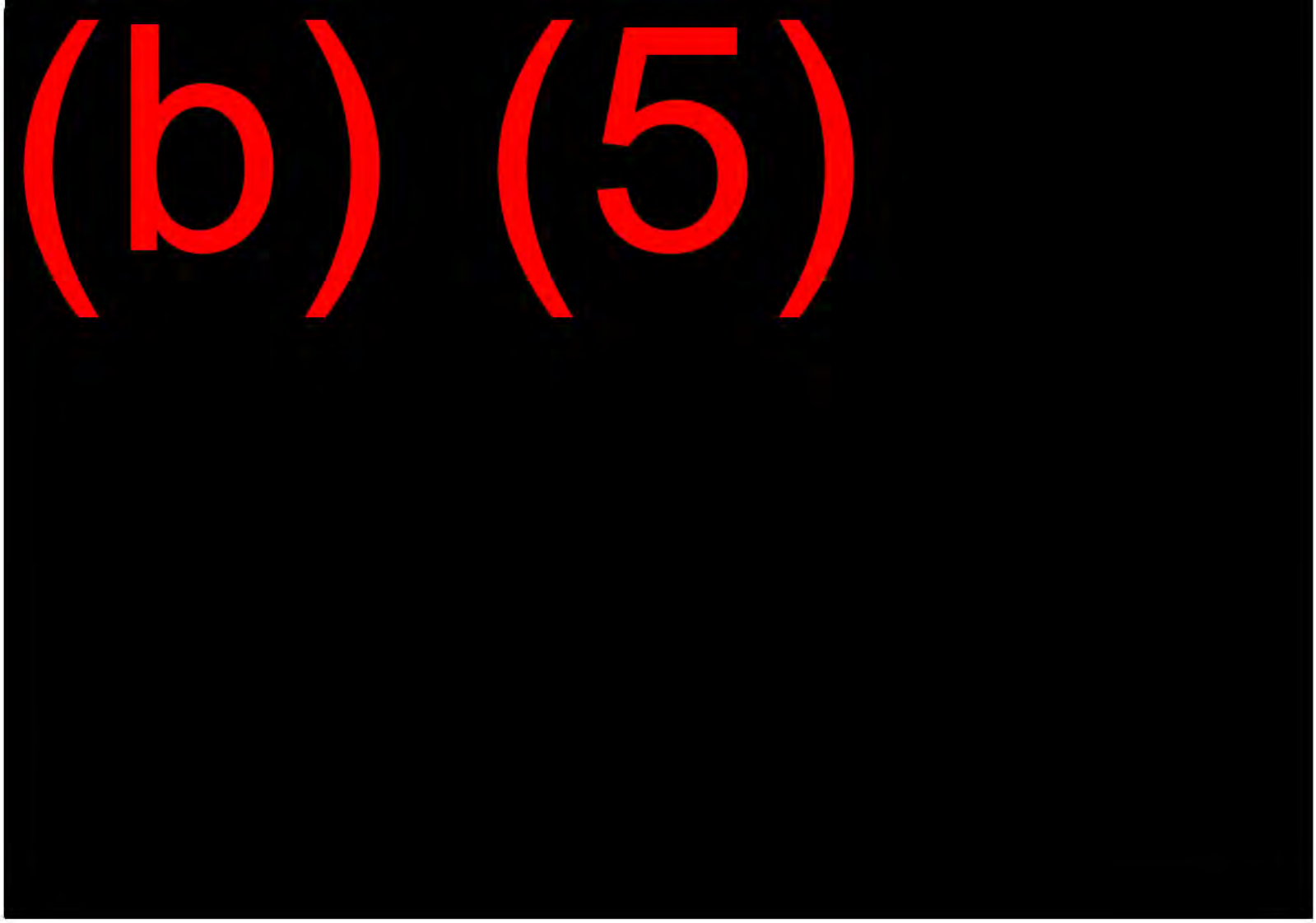
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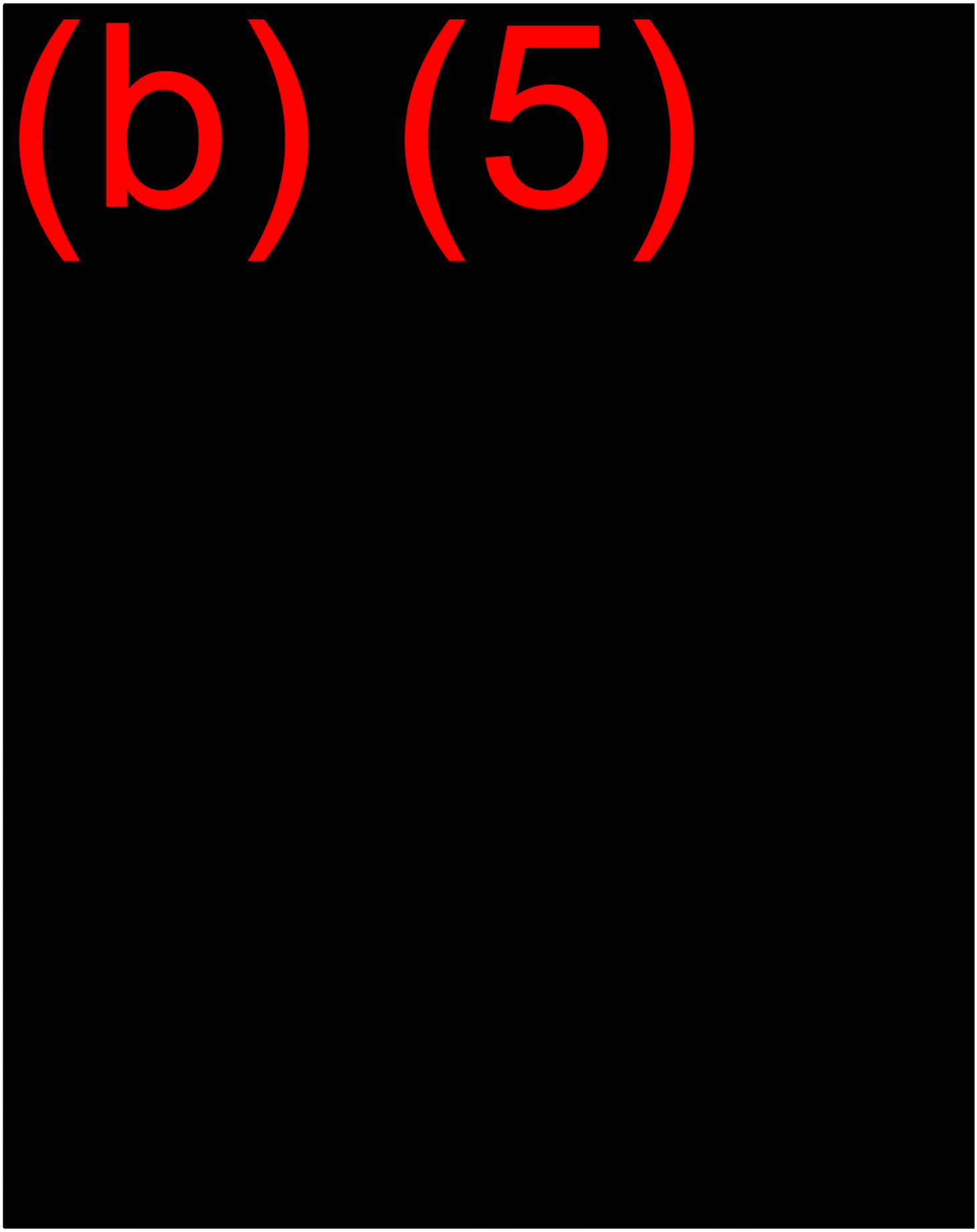
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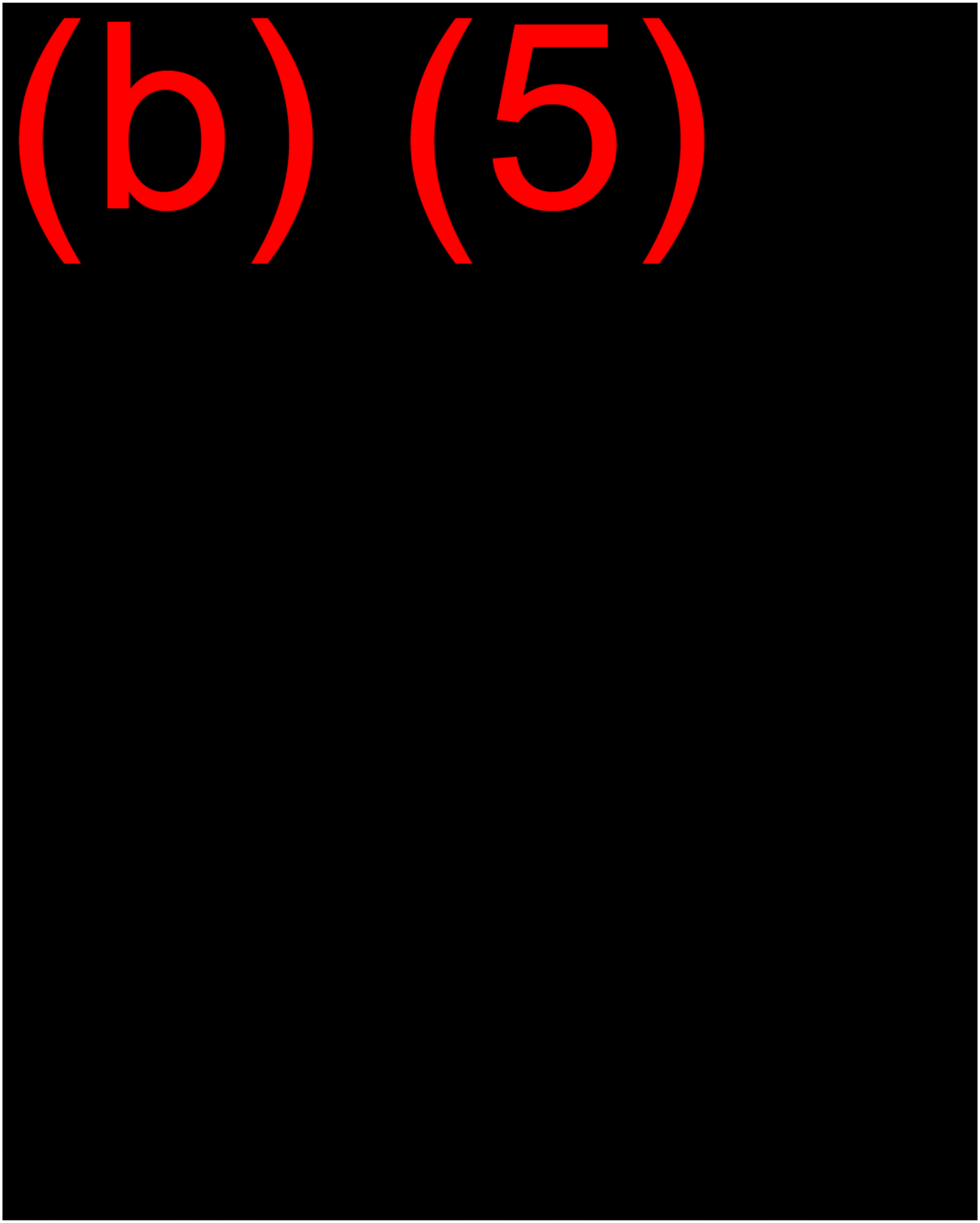
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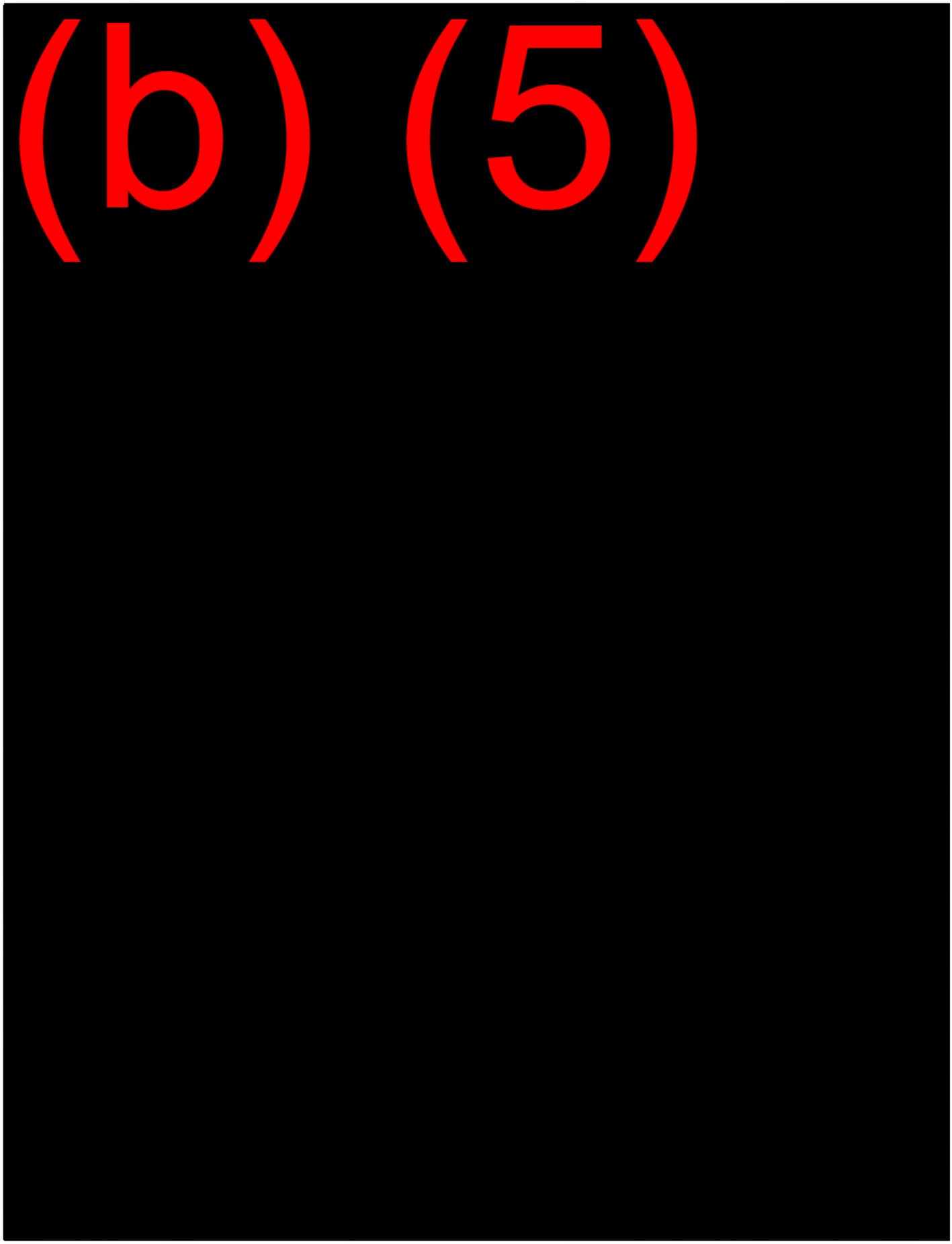
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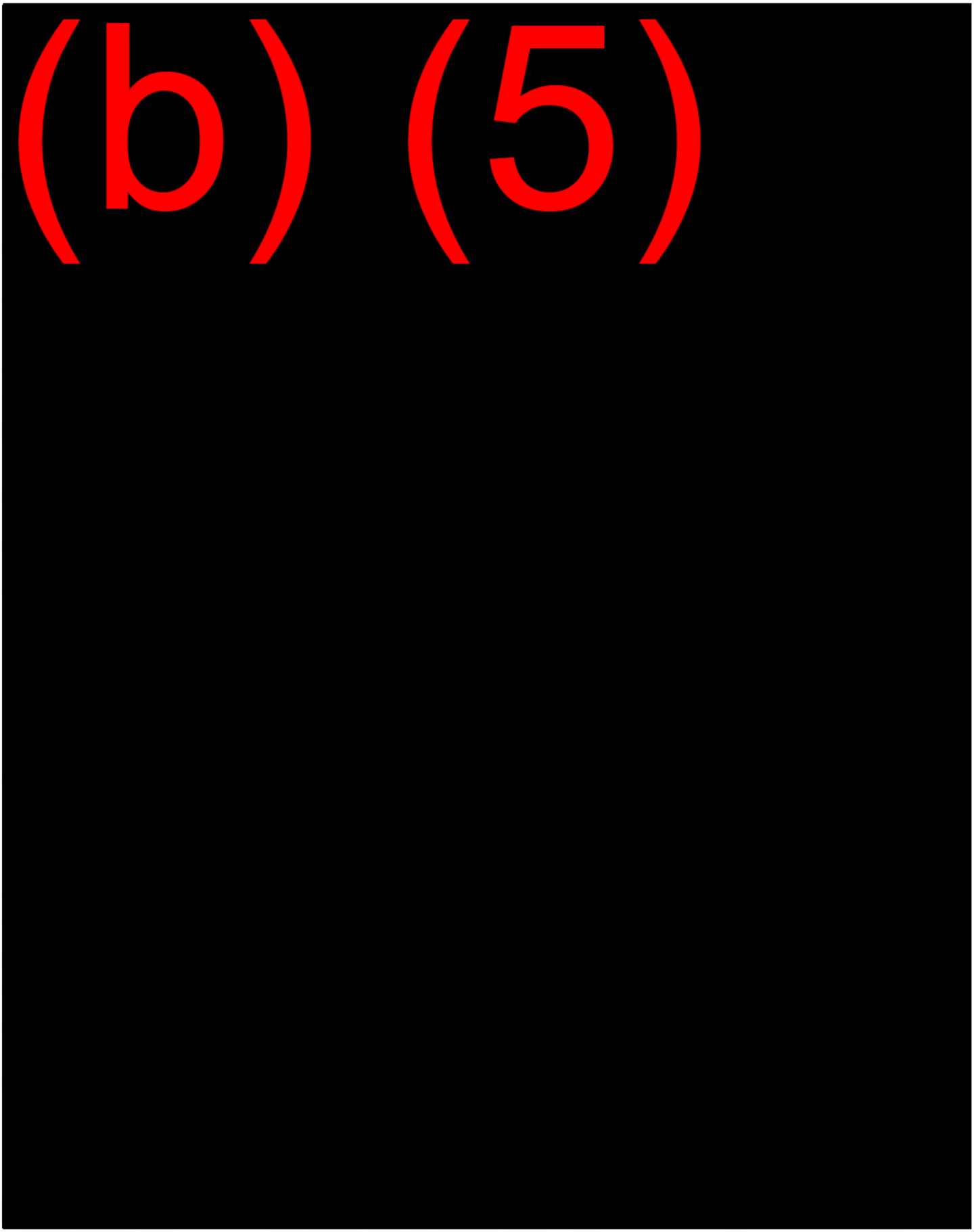
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Sec. 3. Outreach. In order to gather information and recommendations and to provide for a transparent process in developing the Quadrennial Energy Review Report, the Task Force shall engage with State and local governments, tribes, large and small businesses, universities, national laboratories, nongovernmental and labor organizations, and other stakeholders and interested parties. The Task Force shall develop an integrated outreach strategy that relies on both traditional meetings and the use of information technology.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to any agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to require the disclosure of confidential business information or trade secrets, classified information, law enforcement sensitive information, or other information that must be protected in the interest of national security or public safety.

(d) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(e) The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

BARACK OBAMA

# # #

ACA Implementation:

Immigration:

Principals' Schedules

Next week, Secretary Jewell will participate in a variety of meetings in conjunction with the National Governors Association (WGA) Meeting in Washington, D.C., including: the WGA Breakfast at EPA, a meeting with Gov. Inslee, and a meeting at the White House on the California drought.

On February 24, Secretary Jewell will meet with AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.

On February 25, Secretary Jewell will meet with Simon Bridges, New Zealand Minister of Energy and Resources.

On February 27, Secretary Jewell will have a working lunch with Leader Pelosi and Sen. Feinstein.

On February 28, Secretary Jewell will host the second official meeting of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. High-level cabinet participation is expected.

On February 25, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Director Tommy Beaudreau will deliver keynote remarks, along with DOE Deputy Secretary Dan Poneman, at the Fifth Annual Green Power Conference in Boston, MA. Beaudreau will highlight BOEM's offshore wind permitting activities including steps taken to permit the first offshore wind project of the West Coast and recent permitting activities offshore Virginia and Maryland.

On February 24, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, Director of the National Park Service Jon Jarvis, and Chief of the U.S. Forest Service Tom Tidwell will host a stakeholder meeting to discuss the latest science associated with the Yellowstone grizzly bear. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee has sought to reverse a court decision that had overturned a previous attempt to de-list the grizzly under the ESA. The Committee recommended a new de-listing in December 2012.

On February 25, [Dan Ashe Climate Change hearing]

On February 26, [Dan Ashe wildlife trafficking hearing]

On February 27, [M Bean oversight on ESA maybe 316b]

[Ned testifying on management challenges]

Items of Note

Next week, Deputy Secretary Nominee Mike Connor may be scheduled for a confirmation vote on the Senate floor.

Next week, Secretary Jewell may sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Park Service and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). Collaboration between the NPS and BGCA through this MOU is envisioned to accomplish broad objectives, including: connecting young people and their families to national parks through in-park and virtual programs; creating service-learning opportunities for local BGCA Club members that extend outside of the classroom; and developing an urban, suburban and rural youth outreach strategy that exposes youth to environmental and preservation issues. In 2011, there were nearly 4,000 chartered club facilities serving 2 million registered members.

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

In March, Interior will release an annual economic report on the benefits of National Parks, which is expected to be comparable to previous years. Last year's report indicated that National Parks continued to be important economic engines for local communities, with visitors generating $30.1 billion in economic activity and supporting 252,000 jobs nationwide in 2011.

In March, NPS expects to issue a revised regulation on collection of natural products for traditional/cultural purposes: The rule would clarify a park superintendent's authority to permit American Indians and Alaska Natives to collect limited quantities of plant and mineral resources in parks for traditional cultural uses, practices, and activities.

In March, FWS plans to announce an incidental take permit under the ESA to NiSource in association with a multi-state, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the company's operation and maintenance of its natural gas pipeline in 14 states. The NiSource HCP represents one of the country's most comprehensive endangered species planning efforts by a corporate entity. The plan addresses the conservation needs of 43 federally endangered, threatened or candidate species in 14 eastern and southern states. It was developed with the involvement of state agencies in 14 states, along with federal agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and industry. The incidental take permit will be signed at the end of August and will become effective on January 1, 2014. The NiSource HCP is a model of the flexibility of the Endangered Species Act. It highlights the effectiveness of partnerships and cooperation among public, private and non-governmental interests. The plan demonstrates the potential under the ESA to achieve energy goals and solutions while making science-based management decisions for imperiled species.

In March, the FWS anticipates sending to OIRA for review a final rule to list four non-native constrictor snakes as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act. These species include: reticulated python, DeSchauensee's anaconda, green anaconda, and the Beni anaconda. In this final rule, the Service will decline to list the boa constrictor as initially proposed in 2010. A listing as injurious wildlife will prevent the importation and interstate trade of these four species which threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems in the United States. DOI has received two letters from the Florida congressional delegation asking FWS to take this action.

In March, BOEM and BSEE expect to send a joint proposed rule to OIRA that addresses offshore oil and gas activities on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf. The rule will promote safe, responsible, and effective drilling activities and include requirements related to oil spill response plans and operating in the challenging Arctic environment.

In March, FWS hopes to issue two ESA regulatory and policy changes, mostly related to how the agency implements the critical habitat requirements for the statute.

In March, BSEE expects to have its blowout preventer proposed rule ready for review by OIRA. We expect interest from industry, other nongovernment organizations, and the media.

In March, FWS will publish a proposal to list the African lion as threatened throughout its range under the ESA. FWS will also publish a special rule for African lions requiring that imports of lion trophies receive prior authorization or permits under the ESA. This action may be controversial and attract attention from the animal rights community and the sport-hunting community. Target to the *Federal Register* is Feb. 21, 2014.In March, FWS anticipates proposing to designate critical habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo across nine states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming) as well as publish a notice of availability of a draft economic analysis of the designation. FWS expects this rule to garner attention due to the anticipated size of the designation and perceived impacts to water use. FWS proposed to list the cuckoo as threatened in October 2013.

In March, the FWS must issue a final listing determination for the Lesser Prairie Chicken, the habitat for which spans Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas. The Service has proposed a 4(d) rule that when finalized would exempt take that is consistent with a five state conservation plan. Significant attention is anticipated regarding the listing decision.

On March 4, Interior will participate in the roll-out of the Fiscal Year 2015 proposed budget.

On March 6, Secretary Jewell is expected to give remarks at the Intermountain Sustainability Summit at Weber State University in Ogden, UT.

During the week of March 17, BLM will conduct tribal consultation on two proposed rules—the fracking rule and BLM Onshore Order Number 9—in Denver, CO.

On March 18, Secretary Jewell will participate in a Champions of Change Event hosted at the White House to celebrate local leaders across the country who are working to get young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors in their communities.

On March 19, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold the Eastern and Central Gulf Lease Sales. The auction will take place at the Superdome in New Orleans, LA. Secretary Jewell is tentatively scheduled to attend.

In April, BOEM is expected to announce an offshore wind Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) for New Jersey. This will be followed by a PSN announcement for the wind energy area offshore Massachusetts that is likely to occur in March.

In April, FWS anticipates proposing to designate critical habitat and draft economic analysis for the Rufa red-knot, a migratory bird that travels from the arctic to the coasts of southern Chile and Argentina through 37 states, Puerto RMarchico and the Virgin Islands. FWS expects the proposal to garner attention due to its size and perceived impacts to the horseshoe crab harvest and coastal land use. The Rufa red knot was proposed to be listed as threatened in September 2013 with climate change identified as a threat to its survival.

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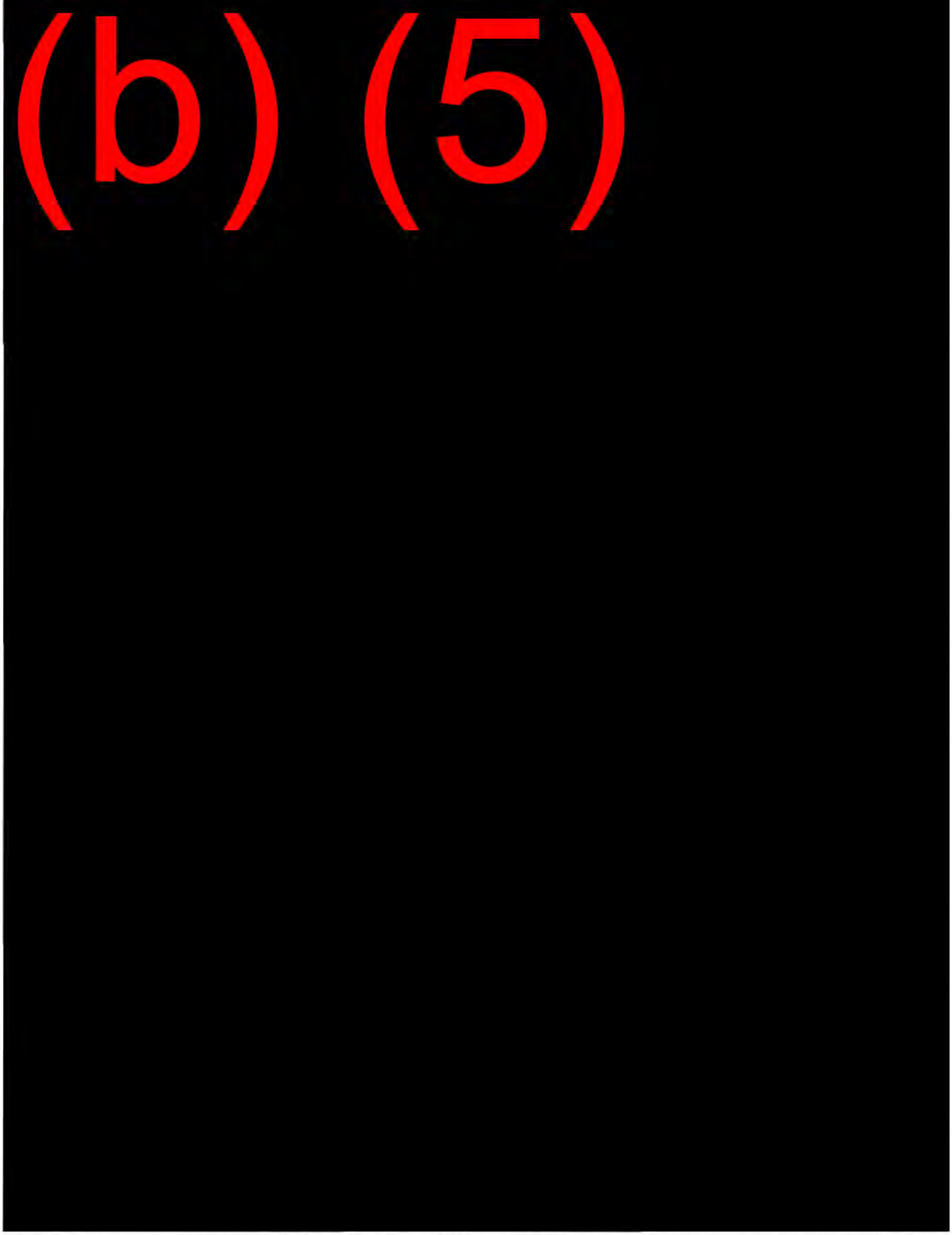
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EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

PRINCIPALS' MEETING ON QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW

DATE: February 7, 2014
LOCATION: White House, Room TBD
TIME: 5:00PM – 6:00PM
FROM: Elizabeth Klein, Associate Deputy Secretary (202)513-0561

I. PURPOSE

You will attend the first kick-off meeting of the Quadrennial Energy Review Task Force. The Task Force was established by a Presidential Memorandum issued on Thursday, January 9, 2014. The PM directs the Task Force to prepare a Quadrennial Energy Review that will establish integrated guidance to the Executive Branch to strengthen U.S. energy policy.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Dan Utech, Special Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change
- John Holdren, Director, Office of Science & Technology Policy
- Principal level representatives from the following agencies and offices, which are to be included on the Task Force:

    - Departments of State, Treasury, Defense, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security
    - OMB, National Economic Council, National Security Staff, CEQ, EPA, SBA, Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Science Foundation

III. BACKGROUND

On January 9, 2014, the President issued a Presidential Memorandum (PM) directing the preparation of a Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) to help the Federal Government better meet its responsibilities to facilitate affordable, clean, and secure energy and energy services. The initial focus of the QER will be the Nation's infrastructure for transporting, transmitting, and delivering energy, which faces a number of challenges, such as age and capacity, climate change impacts, changing energy technologies, and cyber and physical threats. The QER, which is due to the President by January 15, 2015, and every four years thereafter, is meant to serve as a "roadmap" to help address these challenges.

The PM creates a QER Task Force to be chaired by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Special Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change. The Task Force, which will include heads of the agencies and offices listed above (or their designees), is responsible for preparing the QER, which must be informed by input from state and local governments, tribes, industry, NGOs, and other stakeholders. DOE will have primary responsibility for the actual preparation of the QER.

The primary components of the QER are to include: (1) recommendations for Federal energy policy, with the focus of the first report on the Nation's energy infrastructure; (2) actions the Executive Branch can take with respect to energy policy; (3) priorities for research, development, and demonstration programs; and (4) analytical tools and data needed to support further policy development and implementation.

We expect that the first principals' meeting regarding the QER will be to discuss organizing the QER Task Force, how the effort will be staffed primarily from DOE, and the expected involvement of the agencies represented on the Task Force. The White House recently issued an information memo to all of the listed agencies outlining the expected scope of the QER and its emphasis on the nation's energy transmission and distribution systems. The memo also provides some detail about the next steps in the process, including data collection, outreach, and report preparation.

Each agency was also asked to prepare an initial document summarizing how the agency's activities intersect with the energy transmission and distribution focus of the QER. We compiled responses from each of our Assistant Secretary hallways and provided a response to the White House late last week. Both the background memo and our response are attached.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

- Information Memorandum to Agencies from Dan Utech & John Holdren
- DOI Response to QER Data Request
- Presidential Memorandum Establishing a Quadrennial Energy Review

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

January 21, 2014

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM TO AGENCIES

FROM: DAN UTECH
JOHN HOLDREN

SUBJECT: QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW

On January 9, 2014 the President signed a Memorandum directing his Administration to conduct a Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) that leverages robust interagency dialogue and active engagement of external stakeholders in order to build on the Nation's progress toward greater energy and climate security. This first QER will focus on the development of a comprehensive and integrated strategy for the infrastructure involved in transporting, transmitting, and delivering energy (T&D).

Building on the foundation provided in the *President's Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future* and *Climate Action Plan*, this QER will study the opportunities and challenges that our energy infrastructure faces as a result of transformations in energy supply, markets, and use; issues of aging and capacity; impacts of climate change; and cyber and physical threats. The QER will provide a focused, actionable document with unbiased data and rigorous analysis for policymakers across all sectors.

This memo provides an (I) overview of the QER process and purpose, (II) rationale for why energy T&D is the focus of the first QER, (III) definition of T&D for the purposes of the QER, and (IV) next steps.

I. OVERVIEW OF PROCESS AND PURPOSE

The QER follows a successful approach employed by federal government in integrated planning for other policy areas (*e.g.*, defense policy and the Quadrennial Defense Review) – essentially, laying out an integrated view of the short-, intermediate-, and long-term objectives and providing a strong analytical base for decision-making. In the past, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and stakeholders, including a bipartisan coalition of Senators, have advocated for adopting this rhythm of multi-year planning for energy policy.

The development of the QER will include broad outreach, including to private sector, state and local governments, labor, non-governmental organizations, and the academic community. The QER will be conducted by an interagency task force that is co-chaired by the heads of the Domestic Policy Council and Office of Science and Technology Policy, and includes all relevant agencies. Although the Department of Energy (DOE) will play a key role in providing analytical support to the QER, each agency with energy infrastructure equities will need to dedicate staff

time to the interagency process to ensure the final report to the President is a whole-of-government product.

As the Presidential Memorandum outlines, the QER will provide an integrated view of, and recommendations for, federal energy policy in the context of economic, environmental, occupational, security, and health and safety priorities; review the adequacy of existing executive and legislative actions, and recommend additional executive and legislative actions as appropriate; assess and recommend priorities for research, development, and demonstration programs to support key goals; and identify analytical tools and data needed to support further policy development and implementation.

Although the first installment of the QER is focused on energy T&D and due to the President by January 2014, future installments of the QER will focus on other key components of the energy value chain. It is currently envisioned that the second installment of the QER will examine end use and supply infrastructures, and the third installment will focus on an entirely different, non-infrastructure related aspect of energy systems (*e.g.*, energy supplies or energy demand).

Between now and the deadline, we anticipate four, overlapping phases of QER development:

> Phase 1, Kick-off (*2 months:* January 2014 – February 2014): Involves establishing the goals, boundaries and other parameters of the QER and setting up the organizational infrastructure for the QER both within DOE and for the interagency process.
>
> Phase 2, Infrastructure Analysis and Engagement (*6 months:* March 2014 – August 2014): Begins the analysis component of the QER, with a focus on infrastructure, and the formal stakeholder engagement process starts.
>
> Phase 3, Policy Analysis and Engagement (*6 months:* May 2014 – October, 2014): Continues the analysis period of the QER, with the focus shifting to evaluation of policy alternatives.
>
> Phase 4, Clearance (*2 months*: November 2014 – December 2014): Includes the interagency review and OMB clearance process and concludes on December 1, 2014, with the release of the final QER document.

II. RATIONALE FOR A FIRST FOCUS ON T&D

Since President Obama took office, domestic oil production has increased more than 50 percent and natural gas production is now the highest it has ever been. Today, America is not just leading the world in energy production but it is also leading the world in energy innovation: Investments in research, development, and deployment have doubled the renewable electricity that we generate, even as the prices of those technologies continue to drop, and advances in energy efficiency are making our energy system cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable. All this change tests an old infrastructure that must keep pace both with issues of aging and the transformations in energy supply, including the need to accommodate inputs from the growing number of alternative sources; climate change; and security. *[Additional background appended.]*

Because of these dramatic changes and significant challenges, the focus of this first QER will be energy infrastructure. In addition, because of the longevity and high costs of energy infrastructure, the sort of multi-year, many-time-horizon view that the QER takes is particularly salient and necessary. After all, the decisions and commitments we make today will strongly influence our energy mix (at a minimum the economics of that mix) for much of the 21st century; in many ways, energy infrastructure is the physical manifestation of the energy options and policy pathways we choose.

Of course, we must be clear-eyed about how difficult it is to transform our energy infrastructure: Even though a modernized, robust, resilient infrastructure is in the public interest, most of the nation's energy infrastructure assets are owned and operated by the private sector. Much of the related legal, regulatory and policy development, and implementation occurs at state and local levels. And, today, large capital costs and sheer scale of our energy enterprises perpetuate the role of incumbent providers of energy goods and services. Ultimately, however, these factors cut in favor of a QER focused on energy infrastructure – they show why an integrated view that leverages robust interagency dialogue and active engagement of external stakeholders is particularly important in this space.

III. DEFINING T&D

This first QER will specifically focus on the energy T&D – or infrastructure that links energy supplies, carriers, or by-products to intermediate and end users or disposal sites. These vast T&D networks – complex pipeline systems, long-distance power transmission lines, railroads, storage facilities, oil refineries, gas processing facilities, import and export terminals, roads, barges and local distribution networks – help deliver electricity, transportation fuels, and heat to American industry and 300 million consumers every day and provide feedstocks for a large range of products. Some of these supply chains extend far beyond our borders and engage the United States with the rest of the world, both guiding and constraining our foreign policy. Importantly, these networks can strongly influence aspects of energy supply and end use patterns, policies, investments and practices in place for years if not decades.

Fuel/Energy Carrier/Other	T&D Infrastructure Element/System
Electricity	High-voltage transmission lines and substations
	Distribution lines
	All electric grid-related infrastructure, ancillary services, "smart-grid" and metering technologies
	Distributed generation technologies
	Transformer supply chain
	Electricity storage
	Vehicle fueling
Natural Gas	Natural gas gathering lines (production-stage or processing-stage)
	Interstate pipelines
	Natural gas storage facilities
	Processing facilities (including processing at production sites)
	Local distribution systems

	LNG production/storage facilities (including export terminals)
	Vehicle fueling
	LPG distribution
Coal transport	Rail, truck, barge transport
	Export terminals
Oil/Petroleum Products	Crude oil pipelines
	Crude oil and products import and export terminals
	Truck and rail systems that transport crude oil from production sites to ports or refineries
	Oil refineries
	Oil and fuel storage facilities
	Strategic Petroleum Reserve
	Home Heating Oil Reserve
	Regional Product Reserves
	Rail, truck ,barge, pipelines systems to transport refined product to consumers
	Fuel terminals and vehicle fueling stations
Nuclear	Uranium Processing Facilities
	Road/Ship/Rail Transport of Fuel
	Nuclear Waste Transport and Disposal
Solar	Grid Interconnection
	Distributed Infrastructure
Wind	Grid Interconnection
Biomass	Transport of Raw Feedstock
	Feedstock Processing
	Derived Product Transport
	Derived Product Distribution
Biofuel	Vehicle fueling
Hydrogen	Pipelines
	Distribution systems and vehicle fueling stations
Carbon dioxide	Pipelines
	Compressors
	Storage

IV. NEXT STEPS

A principals-level meeting will be convened in early February to discuss the QER. To help prepare for that meeting, we are asking that by February 3rd, each agency to designate a principal staff-level representative for the QER interagency process and submit a document that summarizes how their agency's activities intersect with the energy T&D focus of the first QER. More specifically, this summary should include:

1) A description of issues of interest and key agency authorities, programs and activities that are related to the T&D issues and assets described above;
2) A description of existing studies, data, and other information that the agency has that might be considered in the initial analysis phase of the QER;
3) An description of analytical capabilities that the agency may are able to provide to support analysis of issues of interest;
4) A summary of any key stakeholder relationships and outreach opportunities for consideration in development of the QER outreach strategy.

DOE, through its Energy Policy and Systems Analysis Office (EPSA), is in the process of reviewing key statistics for 2008-2012 and analyzing where current energy-related trends and drivers could take the United States. The energy infrastructure baselines are intended to serve as initial snapshots of selected aspects of the national energy infrastructure, related infrastructures, and the suite of policies, programs and investments that affect or are available to support energy infrastructure. DOE will use these baselines to document the status of existing infrastructure, identify relevant trends, important metrics, areas of concern, and potential findings for further investigation. At the first meeting of agency leads meeting, in February, DOE staff will present proposed scenarios and plan of analysis.

APPENDIX: Additional Background on Energy Infrastructure Changes and Challenges

Our energy T&D infrastructure that links energy supplies, carriers, or by-products to intermediate and end users or disposal sites faces a range of challenges in the context of a changing energy landscape. According to the Energy Information Administration, weather related power outages have increased from 5-20 each year in the mid-1990s to 50-100 per year in the last five years.[i] Hurricane strength is increasing, posing threats to the nation's 4,000 offshore oil and gas rigs and the hundreds of refineries and power plants located on the Gulf Coast. Demand for water to cool thermoelectric plants is expected to increase at the same time severe drought in the US, particularly in the southwest region, threatens water supplies to meet this need. Truck and train transport, essential for coal, biofuels, and increasingly oil, is greatly impacted by related needs for highway and bridge improvements. Climate change impacts associated with our energy systems contribute to many of these threats to their reliability and resilience.

Cyber-security challenges also pose a threat to energy T & D infrastructure. According to ICS-CERT at the Department of Homeland Security, 53% of all cyber-attacks from October 2012 to May 2013 were on energy installations.[ii] These threats are growing, enabled by growing corporate connections, standardized communication and operating system protocols, reliance on public telecommunications systems such as the internet, and increased capabilities in demand response communications.

In addition, there are physical threats to energy infrastructure. These include the threat of malevolent attacks, as evidenced by attacks on power substations in California and Arkansas, as well as threats from forces such as electromagnetic pulses and geomagnetic disturbances.

Energy infrastructures (oil, natural gas, biofuels) and other critical infrastructures (telecommunications, water, transportation, emergency services) are increasingly reliant on

electricity. Other critical infrastructures – ports, harbors, and rail – are also essential for the delivery of energy supplies to consumers. The interdependencies of the electric and fuel infrastructures seen in Superstorm Sandy greatly complicated the response and recovery, for example. These interdependencies need to be more fully understood in order to develop comprehensive emergency and prevention protocols.

In addition, changing trends in supplies of energy – such as new sources of renewable energy and unconventional oil and gas supplies – are testing our energy T&D infrastructures. For example, the lack of gas pipeline infrastructures from the Bakken for associated gas has resulted in large-scale flaring of this gas.

Finally, an energy system capable of meeting cost, environmental, reliability, and other goals will depend heavily on a range of new technologies. Inventing, designing, installing, and maintaining these technologies will require a workforce with a wide range of sophisticated skills. Further, over 60 percent of the workers in areas like electric and gas utilities are likely to retire or leave the industry within a decade while the number of young people entering the field is declining. With the right policies in place, however, these problems can be turned into opportunities since the energy industry can create large numbers of well paid jobs for people in many different occupations.

AGENCY INPUT FOR QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW

Please complete and return to RSanchez (b)(6) by February 3, 2014.

AGENCY: Department of the Interior

AGENCY LEAD: Elizabeth Klein, Associate Deputy Secretary

AGENCY QER INPUT:

5) Issues of interest and key agency authorities, programs and activities that are related to the T&D assets described in the QER informational memo above and listed below:

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has significant authorities, programs, and activities that are related to the T&D assets described in the informational memo and listed below. DOI has management responsibility for approximately 20 percent of the Nation's lands, oversees the responsible exploration and development of a variety of energy sources onshore and offshore, is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western states, maintains relationships with over 560 federally recognized tribes, and provides services to more than 1.7 million American Indian and Alaska Native peoples.

Through its bureaus and offices, Interior manages over 400 units of the National Park system, over 560 national wildlife refuges, more than 245 million acres of land in the National System of Public Lands, and reclamation of nearly 322,000 acres of abandoned coal mine sites. Interior also has significant management responsibilities over the nation's natural, cultural, and historic resources through, for example, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its implementation of the Endangered Species Act and other statutes.

The following provides a (non-exhaustive) overview by individual DOI bureau/office of some of the authorities and activities that are related to the T&D assets.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM):

- BLM administers over 245 million surface acres and 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation.
- The agency's land use planning requirements are established by Sections 201 and 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. BLM's Resource Management Plans (RMPs) form the basis for every action and approved use on the public lands and are one of the primary mechanisms for guiding BLM activities.
- BLM has an extensive right-of-way (ROW) program that includes authorizations for pipeline systems, long-distance power transmission and distribution lines, railroads, storage facilities, gas processing facilities, roads and local distribution networks on public lands. BLM administers over 105,000 ROWs for a wide variety of land uses. Each year BLM processes over 2,000 applications for new authorizations, renewals, amendments and assignments.

- Title V of FLPMA (43 U.S.C 1761-1771) and its associated regulations (43 CFR 2800) provide primary authority for approval/administration of roads, energy pipelines (excluding oil and gas), electric transmission lines and substations.
- Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C 185) and its regulations (43 CFR 2880) provide primary authority for approval/administration of oil and gas pipelines.
- Sections of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 pertain to many programs within the BLM including renewable energy, hydropower, oil and gas leasing, right-of-ways, oil shale, and others.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- BOEM promotes energy independence, environmental protection and economic development through responsible, science-based management of offshore conventional and renewable energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).
- BOEM responsibility most directly related to this complex energy transmission and delivery system includes:
  - The Office of Strategic Resources, responsible for the development of the Five Year OCS Oil and Natural Gas Leasing Program (Five Year Program), oversees assessments of the oil, gas and other mineral resource potential of the OCS; inventories oil and gas reserves and develops production projections; and conducts economic evaluations that ensure the receipt of fair market value by U.S. taxpayers for OCS leases.
  - BOEM issues and administers oil and gas leases, which govern gathering pipelines for transporting product to larger transmission systems, and permits offshore rights of way and use of easements for structures and pipelines associated with larger transmission systems.
  - The Renewable Energy Programs grants leases, easements, and rights-of-way for orderly, safe, and environmentally responsible renewable energy development activities on the OCS, including offshore wind energy, ocean wave energy, and ocean current energy.
- Key regulatory authority for offshore leasing activity is derived from the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. In its role in this process, BOEM is required to consult with numerous other Federal and state agencies throughout the process. This includes, but is not limited to BSEE, ONRR, EPA, FWS, NMFS, DOD, FERC, and numerous coastal states, local governments, tribal governments, environmental groups, academic groups, scientific groups and many other mineral development stakeholders.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- BSEE works to promote safety, protect the environment, and conserve resources offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement. The agency's key functions include (1) an Offshore Regulatory Program that develops standards and regulations to enhance operational safety and environmental protection for the exploration and development of offshore oil and natural gas on the OCS; (2) an Oil Spill Response Division that is responsible for developing standards and guidelines for offshore operators' Oil Spill Response Plans for energy development activities on the OCS; and (3) an Environmental Enforcement Division, which provides sustained regulatory oversight focused on compliance by operators with all applicable requirements.

- BSEE's regulatory responsibility includes the review and approval of design and installation plans for DOI pipelines, which are those that are either lease term or ROW pipelines that assist in the production of OCS O&G wells (DOT jurisdictional pipelines are those pipelines that transport hydrocarbons by DOT transporters (such as a pipeline company rather than an oil and gas company)). Any repair or modification plans must also be reviewed and approved by BSEE. The decommissioning of OCS pipelines is also regulated by BSEE.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- OSM is responsible for establishing a nationwide program to protect society and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining operations. OSM works with State and Indian Tribes to assure that citizens and the environment are protected during coal mining and that the land is restored to beneficial use when mining is finished. OSM and its partners are also responsible for reclaiming and restoring lands and water degraded by mining operations before 1977.
- In its beginning, OSM directly enforced mining laws and arranged cleanup of abandoned mine lands. Today, most coal States have developed their own regulatory programs, and OSM's role is oversight and technical support.
- The authority of OSM and the state regulatory authorities arises from the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) and the implementing regulations in 30 CFR. State authority also arises from state laws and regulations that meet or exceed the federal standards.
- Some of the larger coal producing mines include within the mine permit boundaries coal load out facilities (truck or rail) which could be part of the coal T&D. These small portions of the coal T&D are covered by environmental protection standards and reclamation bonds to ensure the facility is removed and the land restored after coal mining concludes.

Bureau of Reclamation

- BOR is the largest wholesaler of water in the country, bringing water to more than 31 million people and providing one out of five Western farmers (140,000) with irrigation water for 10 million acres of farmland. The agency is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western U.S. Its 53 powerplants annually provide more than 40 billion kilowatt hours generating nearly a billion dollars in power revenues and produce enough electricity to serve 3.5 million homes.
- BOR is working on a variety of issues that fall under the elements described in the QER background memo, related to its hydropower operations, including Ancillary Services, Distributed Generation, and Electricity Storage

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service & the National Park Service

- FWS and NPS have a substantial interest in the siting, review and approval processes, and ongoing operations of energy transmission and distribution infrastructure all across the country. These systems generally have the potential to negatively impact the public lands and resources for which the two agencies are responsible (e.g., National Parks, National Seashores, National Wildlife Refuges, National Historic Parks, Wild and Scenic

Rivers, the National Trails System, endangered species, migratory birds, marine mammals, etc.).

- The principal related authorities of these two agencies include:
  - *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - 42 U.S.C. § 4371 et seq.* FWS and NPS frequently engage in NEPA processes for T&D systems when there are resources under their management responsibility that could be affected.
  - *Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) - 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.* FWS is the principal federal partner responsible for administering the ESA, which aims to protect threatened and endangered species and pursue their recovery as well as identify species at risk in order to prevent ESA listing. As part of that responsibility, FWS has obligations to consult on the potential impacts of a variety of energy T&D related projects on species and their habitat.
  - *Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) - 16 USC § 661-667e.* The FWCA establishes fish and wildlife conservation as a coequal objective of all federally-funded, permitted, or licensed water-related development projects. Under the FWCA, Federal agencies developing such projects must consult with FWS (and NMFS in some instances) and the States regarding fish and wildlife impacts.
  - *National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) - 16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.* The NHPA is a procedural statute that requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, particularly those listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by NPS.
  - *Clean Water Act (CWA) - 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.* FWS has specific authority under section 404(m) of the CWA to secure mitigation for impacts to aquatic resources nationwide.
  - *NPS Organic Act of 1916 and General Authorities Act of 1970, as amended - 16 U.S.C. §1, et seq.* Under the Organic Act, NPS is charged with managing the units of the National Park System so as to "conserve the scenery and the national and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."
  - *Clean Air Act (CAA)- §7401, et seq.* The statute calls for the prevention and control of air pollution across the country and includes a national goal to "to preserve, protect and enhance the air quality in national parks, national wilderness areas, national monuments, national seashores, and other areas of special national or regional natural, recreational, scenic or historic value" (42 U.S.C. §7470(2)). *National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended* - 16 U.S.C. §§ 1241-1251. The national scenic and historic trails of the Nation are established under this act and managed by NPS. Many of the nation's scenic and historic trails are negatively impacted by linear energy T&D systems in particular.
  - *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) - 16 U.S.C. § 1271 et seq.* The WSRA establishes a national policy to preserve certain rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Section 7 prohibits the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from licensing the construction of hydroelectric facilities on rivers that have been designated as

components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, or which have been authorized by Congress for study as potential additions. Further, the WSRA prohibits other federal agencies from assisting in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on a designated river or congressionally authorized study river.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

- BIA provides services directly or through contracts, grants, or compacts to the 566 Federally recognized tribes with a service population of about 1.9 million American Indian and Alaska Natives.
- Programs administered through BIA include natural resource management on trust lands representing 55 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface minerals estates as well as a variety of infrastructure-related responsibilities including road and bridge maintenance and repair, repair of high hazard dams, management of a series of irrigation systems, and the provision of electricity to rural parts of Arizona.
- Given its involvement in energy development on Indian lands, BIA has an important role to play in the development of the QER.

U.S. Geological Survey

- USGS is the nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency. It collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems. The diversity of the agency's scientific expertise allows them to carry out large-scale, multi-disciplinary investigations and provide impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and customers.
- The agency organizes itself into seven key mission areas: Climate and Land Use Change, Core Science Systems, Ecosystems, Energy & Minerals, Environmental Health, Natural Hazards, and Water.
- Given the breadth of its work and expertise, USGS has a keen interest in multiple facets of the energy T&D issues outlined in the QER informational memo.

6) Existing studies, data, and other information that the agency has that might be considered in the initial analysis phase of the QER:

Bureau of Land Management

- West Wide Energy Corridors – Final Programmatic EIS (PEIS): http://corridoreis.anl.gov/
- Rapid Ecoregional Assessments: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Landscape_Approach/reas.html
- Wind Energy Development Final PEIS: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/wind_energy.html
- Solar Energy Development Final PEIS: http://solareis.anl.gov/
- Geothermal Energy Development Final PEIS: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html
- Greater Sage Grouse Plans: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse.html

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- BOEM routinely accesses and/or maintains geographic and owner/operator information related to offshore oil and gas pipeline infrastructure and other related facilities. From the environmental information perspective, BOEM has acquired and maintains information through its environmental studies program. This environmental information specifically addresses such issues as coastal land loss and the impact and/or vulnerability of OCS pipelines related thereto.
- Examples include:
    - The Five Year Program analysis touches on energy transmission and distribution (T&D) issues. In particular, the exploration and development (E&D) scenarios contain estimates of infrastructure requirements to support the leases expected as a result of the Five Year Program. These include estimates upstream pipelines and processing facilities for both oil and gas. The scenarios are used to analyze the cost, economic impact, and environmental impact of that infrastructure.
    - BOEM's Environmental Studies program has pioneered ocean research along the entire Pacific Coast, which includes a multi-agency monitoring program and recently initiated studies to support renewable energy. In Hawaii, BOEM has conducted studies, including the effects of electromagnetic fields from undersea power cables on marine species, which can be used directly related to undersea transmission cables.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- BSEE's Technical Assessment & Research Program is developing a methodology for assessing the safety of existing pipelines as well as the design and installation of future pipeline systems. Studies and research date back to 1985 and cover a wide range of topics ranging from riser fatigue and damage from hurricanes to the most recent study completed in 2013 that focused on seabed scour due to ice ridges. The study database is available here: http://www.bsee.gov/Research-and-Training/Technology-Assessment-and-Research/tarprojectcategories/Pipeline-Research/

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- OSM has been developing a pilot phase of geospatial information data system related to current and past coal mining for Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Bureau of Reclamation

- BOR is exploring opportunities to increase its hydropower capacity and to identify potential to integrate other forms of renewable energy such as wind and solar generation. Pump storage facilities have the potential to contribute to both increased capacity and serve as energy storage for variable renewable energy integration. Reclamation recognizes that there may be potential to develop additional pump storage projects within our existing Federal footprint provided there is both technical and economic feasibility.
- Some investigation has been done into the potential of developing pump storage projects on BOR sites, however none have moved past the assessment study phase and there are no active projects at this time. Reclamation just completed the study *Pumped Storage Evaluation Special Study: Yellowtail, Seminoe, and Trinity Sites Phase 2 Report* (Special Study) and now intends to conduct a larger pumped storage screening study analysis at 60 additional Reclamation reservoirs; this study will be completed in FY 2014.

- As a component of the MOU for Hydropower[1], and recognizing the current national emphasis on renewable energy and its extensive existing water infrastructure systems, Reclamation has produced the *Hydropower Resource Assessment at Existing Reclamation Facilities* (Resource Assessment), and the *Site Inventory and Hydropower Energy Assessment of Reclamation Owned Conduits* to assess hydropower development at existing facilities to contribute to nationwide renewable energy strategies. Both of these studies highlight the potential for small distributed hydropower development.
- Hydropower is a generation resource that is capable of providing ancillary services to support grid stability. Beginning in 2014, Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and the Department of Energy (DOE) will begin working on quantifying the capability of a subset of Reclamation and Corps hydropower and pumped storage hydropower plants to provide ancillary services for a specified range of hydrologic conditions

U.S. Geological Survey

- Unconventional oil and gas development has transformed the country's energy posture in the last decade, sometimes resulting in petroleum infrastructure development, such as pipelines, compressor stations, and treatment plants in regions where none existed before. USGS assessments of undiscovered petroleum resources provide policy makers, land owners and managers, and others with a means to understand where the potential for such infrastructure might be needed in the future.

7) An description of analytical capabilities that the agency may are able to provide to support analysis of issues of interest:

Bureau of Land Management

- BLM has expertise in land use planning for competing land uses, including authorizations for pipeline systems, long-distance power transmission and distribution lines, railroads, storage facilities, gas processing facilities, roads and local distribution networks. Additionally, the agency has broad expertise in environmental reviews and processing applications for land use authorizations.
- BLM is geographically disbursed across 11 western states. Technical experts with longstanding working relationships with regional and local stakeholders involved in planning and permitting use authorizations.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- BOEM has Geographic Information System (GIS) data and expertise that can provide useful spatial analysis and product for any effort to more fully understand offshore oil and gas transportation systems. BOEM also has information and expertise useful to the identification of related offshore oil and gas transportation system owners/operators and financial assurances available from them to cover operational liabilities.
- BOEM could potentially leverage data used for its Five Year Plan (see description above) to support the QER. BOEM has also developed contacts with industry on oil and gas infrastructure that could be helpful on specific T&D issues.

[1] http://www.usbr.gov/power/SignedHydropowerMOU.pdf

- Finally, BOEM has environmental data and scientists who can assist in any analysis of environmental impacts or vulnerability related to offshore oil and gas transmission systems.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- BSEE has specific information on existing pipelines and expertise in appropriate siting and operations issues related to offshore energy T&D systems.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Park Service

- The two Services have substantial analytical capacity to assess the impact of energy transmission and distribution infrastructure on the above-described environmental, historical, and cultural resources.

U.S. Geological Survey

- USGS has extensive capability to model regional petroleum systems, coal fields, uranium, and geothermal resources to predict the amount of resource yet to be found, which relates directly to the future capacity needs of the nation's energy T&D infrastructure.
- USGS also has analytical capabilities to examine the development viability of energy resources under various future economic scenarios, based upon the underlying geologic models. These capabilities are applied to problems such as natural gas stranded on the North Slope of Alaska for lack of transmission pipelines.

8) A summary of any key stakeholder relationships and outreach opportunities for consideration in development of the QER outreach strategy:

Bureau of Land Management

- BLM Resource Advisory Councils, Western Governors Association, Western Electricity Coordinating Council, Western States Lands Commissioners Association, National Association of County Organizations, Edison Electric Institute, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, American Wind Energy Association, Solar Energy Industries Association, Geothermal Energy Association (GEA), National Rural Electric Power Cooperative, Interwest Energy Alliance, WIRES, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- BOEM maintains relations with an extensive list of Federal/state/local/private stakeholders involved in or concerned with the proper management of offshore oil and gas transmission systems. BOEM's past experience and relationship with many of these entities might be a useful component to the future development of the QER outreach strategy.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- OSM's related key stakeholders and partners include the state regulatory authorities in the coal mining states, coal industry, and groups such as the National Mining Association.

Bureau of Reclamation

- BOR's key related stakeholders include reclamation power customers

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Park Service

- Environmental, sportsmen, other outdoor recreation interests and historic preservation constituencies are among the stakeholders with which the two Services have longstanding relationships. These constituencies take a strong interest in the effects of energy development, transmission, and distribution infrastructure on the resources and values that the Services are charged with protecting.
- One example of note – FWS has worked closely with the Edison Electric Institute and the its Avian-Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC) to develop guidelines for how to avoid and minimize negative impacts of power lines on birds and bats, such as collisions and habitat fragmentation.

U.S. Geological Survey

- USGS has strong ties with state geological surveys, recognizing that local knowledge is key to robust assessments of energy resources.

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[i] Ibid

[ii] US Department of Homeland Security, *ICS-CERT Monitor,* April/May/June 2013 issue, Washington DC.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 9, 2014

January 9, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Establishing a Quadrennial Energy Review

Affordable, clean, and secure energy and energy services are essential for improving U.S. economic productivity, enhancing our quality of life, protecting our environment, and ensuring our Nation's security. Achieving these goals requires a comprehensive and integrated energy strategy resulting from interagency dialogue and active engagement of external stakeholders. To help the Federal Government better meet this responsibility, I am directing the undertaking of a Quadrennial Energy Review.

The initial focus for the Quadrennial Energy Review will be our Nation's infrastructure for transporting, transmitting, and delivering energy. Our current infrastructure is increasingly challenged by transformations in energy supply, markets, and patterns of end use; issues of aging and capacity; impacts of climate change; and cyber and physical threats. Any vulnerability in this infrastructure may be exacerbated by the increasing interdependencies of energy systems with water, telecommunications, transportation, and emergency response systems. The first Quadrennial Energy Review Report will serve as a roadmap to help address these challenges.

The Department of Energy has a broad role in energy policy development and the largest role in implementing the Federal Government's energy research and development portfolio. Many other executive departments and agencies also play key roles in developing and implementing policies governing energy resources and consumption, as well as associated environmental impacts. In addition, non-Federal actors are crucial contributors to energy policies. Because most energy and related infrastructure is owned by private entities, investment by and engagement of the private sector is necessary to develop and implement effective policies. State and local policies; the views of nongovernmental, environmental, faith-based, labor, and other social organizations; and contributions from the academic and non-profit sectors are also critical to the development and implementation of effective energy policies.

An interagency Quadrennial Energy Review Task Force, which includes members from all relevant executive departments and agencies (agencies), will develop an integrated review of energy policy that integrates all of these perspectives. It will build on the foundation provided in my Administration's *Blueprint for*

a Secure Energy Future of March 30, 2011, and *Climate Action Plan* released on June 25, 2013. The Task Force will offer recommendations on what additional actions it believes would be appropriate. These may include recommendations on additional executive or legislative actions to address the energy challenges and opportunities facing the Nation.

Therefore, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1. Establishing the Quadrennial Energy Review Task Force. (a) There is established the Quadrennial Energy Review Task Force (Task Force), to be co-chaired by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Director of the Domestic Policy Council, which shall include the heads of each of the following, or their designated representatives:

(i) the Department of State;

(ii) the Department of the Treasury;

(iii) the Department of Defense;

(iv) the Department of the Interior;

(v) the Department of Agriculture;

(vi) the Department of Commerce;

(vii) the Department of Labor;

(viii) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(ix) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(x) the Department of Transportation;

(xi) the Department of Energy;

(xii) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(xiii) the Department of Homeland Security;

(xiv) the Office of Management and Budget;

(xv) the National Economic Council;

(xvi) the National Security Staff;

(xvii) the Council on Environmental Quality;

(xviii) the Council of Economic Advisers;

(xix) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(xx) the Small Business Administration;

(xxi) the Army Corps of Engineers;

(xxii) the National Science Foundation; and

(xxiii) such agencies and offices as the President may designate.

(b) The Co-Chairs may invite independent regulatory agencies with energy-related responsibilities, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to participate in the Task Force, as determined to be appropriate by those agencies.

(c) The Co-Chairs shall regularly convene and preside at meetings of the Task Force and shall determine its agenda. Under the direction of the Co-Chairs, the Task Force shall:

(i) gather ideas and advice from State and local governments, tribes, large and small businesses, universities, national laboratories, nongovernmental and labor organizations, consumers, and other stakeholders and interested parties; and

(ii) coordinate the efforts of agencies and offices related to the development of the Quadrennial Energy Review Report, as described in sections 1 and 2 of this memorandum.

(d) The Secretary of Energy shall provide support to the Task Force, including support for coordination activities related to the preparation of the Quadrennial Energy Review Report, policy analysis and modeling, and stakeholder engagement.

(e) The Task Force shall submit a Quadrennial Energy Review Report to the President every 4 years beginning with a report delivered by January 31, 2015. Intermediate reports and other material may be prepared by the Task Force as required by the President.

Sec. 2. The Quadrennial Energy Review Report. The Task Force shall establish integrated guidance to strengthen U.S. energy policy. Building on the *Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future* and the *Climate Action Plan*, and taking into consideration applicable laws and regulations, the Task Force shall prepare a Quadrennial Energy Review Report that:

(a) provides an integrated view of, and recommendations for, Federal energy policy in the context of economic, environmental, occupational, security, and health and safety priorities, with attention in the first report given to the challenges facing the Nation's energy infrastructures;

(b) reviews the adequacy, with respect to energy policy, of existing executive and legislative actions, and recommends additional executive and legislative actions as appropriate;

(c) assesses and recommends priorities for research, development, and demonstration programs to support key energy-innovation goals; and

(d) identifies analytical tools and data needed to support further policy development and implementation.

Jewell, Sally (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

UPDATE ON POTUS/WGA FIRE BRIEFING

1 message

Suh, Rhea <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jun 5, 2014 at 7:56 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, James Douglas <James_Douglas@ios.doi.gov>, Kim Thorsen <Kim_Thorsen@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>

Sally (and Mike and Tommy):

There have been some edits to the ppt deck for the fire briefing. In an attempt to try to streamline the presentation portion and to maximize the discussion time, the WH has taken Dr. Sullivan out, given those slides to Dr. Holdren, and substituted you and Sec. Vilsack in for the slide Chief Tidwell (USFS) was going to do. There are now 20 mins for presentation and 40 mins for discussion. The reworked run of show in brief is:

2:30pm ET - Opening / Welcome, bringing room to order - Agnew
2:40pm - President joins and briefing begins
2:40pm -Fire season and long-term fire projections - Holdren
2:45pm - Fire response and management - Jewell and Vilsack
2:55pm - fire fix - Deese
3-3:40pm - Discussion/Q&A

What is important to note about this is that you now have a little more speaking time, specifically to transition from the preparedness slide and you have to actually queue up the next slide in the transition (meaning within your TPs you have to say, "NEXT SLIDE"). This is all embedded in the script. The good news is the bulk of your comments are unchanged from the version you worked on before you left.

We have been working with CEQ, et al this afternoon and then USDA later to figure out the new script for the preparedness side and it is attached here both as embedded in the ppt and as a separate script doc.

WGA has also gotten back to the WH with a list of items they want to discuss and we have assigned role for responders as indicated below. This list is not comprehensive, but we do suspect that there will be a number of questions about sage grouse habitat and fire, as well as fuels management and capacity.

1 - fire borrowing (PRESENTATION COVERS)
2 - Federal aerial assets available (including DoD) (PRESENTATION)
3- Staging of aerial assets in West (VILSACK/TIDWELL)
4 - States expected to be hardest hit (PRESENTATION)
5 - Timing of getting boots on the ground for new insect disease program (TIDWELL)
6 - Status of expanding Good Neighbor (VILSACK/TIDWELL)
7 - Strategy for developing new stewardship contracts with private sector (VILSACK/TIDWELL)
8 - Process/timing of Presidential disaster declarations post-fire (FEMA)
9 - Funding and other resources for post-fire recovery to avoid erosion, flooding and impacts to drinking water (JEWELL/KORNZE)

In addition to the new PPT deck (with script imbedded in notes) and the script separately, this email is transmitting briefs on:

- Comparison tables for bi-partisan legislation and the FY 15 Budget.
- High level talking points on fuels management & historical figures

- Background/status and map for the Funny River AK fire
- Q/A on the suppression budget cap proposal – addresses issues raised by various Senators and Members of Congress
- Comparison table of the fire budget cap legislative proposals

It's a lot of information, so sorry to overload.

We need to submit final edits/changes to CEQ by **10 am tomorrow to meet POTUS's deadlines**. Please let me know if you want to discuss or have any questions, concerns or edits before that point?

Thanks much,
Rhea

–
Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1927

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8 attachments Non-responsive (attachments 1-7)

Comparison Table.docx
15K

Fuels Management Talking Points.docx
19K

Funny River Fire Background.docx
15K

Funny River Map_20140602-11.38.48.538-CDT (1).pdf
327K

Information Cover Memo.docx
15K

QA on suppression.docx
17K

Potus West Govs Meeting June 9 2014_06.05.14_MT DOI-USDA Updates.pptx
5754K

REVISED SCRIPT FOR SLIDES 67.docx
22K

REVISED SCRIPT FOR SLIDES 6/7

2:45pm ET - 10 MIN. (2 slides)

Secretary Vilsack (from the Situation Room)

Thank-you, Dr. Holdren

- We are ready for the fire season. As you know, wildland firefighting is a partnership among federal agencies, state agencies and local fire departments. The federal government works closely with your state forestry, tribes, and local governments to responding to fire.

- Federal resources are available to assist with fires across the country whether those fires are on federal, state, tribal or private lands. During the season, we are constantly repositioning resources so that they are available in regions where we expect significant fire activity. Our National Interagency Fire Center is constantly reviewing fire conditions in order to position our resources so that we can respond quickly.

- We are able to catch 98% of all fires before they become large fires. This high success rate protects lives, property and natural resources. Because large fires are very destructive and very expensive, our high rate of success is critically important.

- The chart you see illustrates the resources we are able to supply this season. Our incident management teams are comprised of highly trained and experienced individuals. In addition, we have over 100 hot shot crews that are our elite firefighters. We can provide about 14,000 firefighters, but can add to this number if needed. Last summer, we had nearly 20,000 firefighters on the job during the height of the season.

- Airtankers are an important resource in catching fires while they are still small. This allows us time to get fire crews to the site to put the fire out completely. The Forest Service has made substantial progress over the last year in modernizing our large airtanker fleet. Since last fall, we have added 6 next generation aircraft, (b)(5) [redacted] we expect to bring on two additional next generation aircraft. (b)(5) [redacted] (b)(5) [redacted]. We also have 8 C-130 aircraft – or MAFFS – that are provided by the Department of Defense. Early next year, we expect to bring on the first of seven C-130Hs transferred from DoD to the Forest Service. We can also bring on additional aircraft from Canada and Alaska on a call when needed basis.

- We have supplemented our aircraft with over 100 large helicopters that are very effective in delivering retardant to fires as well.

- So far this season, we've responded to almost 23,000 fires across about 750,000 acres. These figures are below the 10 year average though we expect the season to pick up in the coming days and weeks.

- At this point I want to turn to Secretary Jewell for additional thoughts on our preparedness and our joint work to reduce the risks of fires.

[STAY ON SLIDE 6]

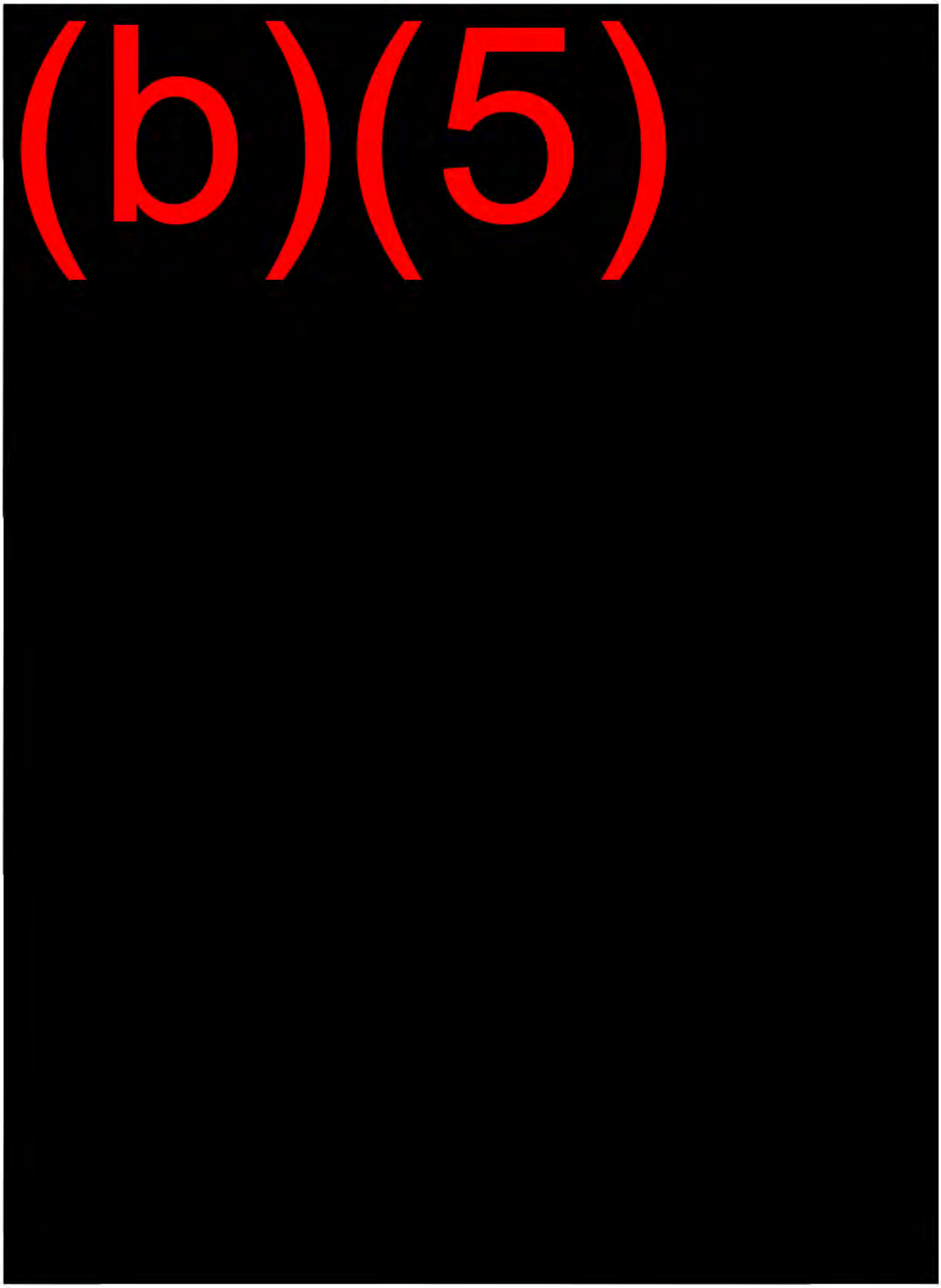
Secretary Jewell (from Colorado)

- Thank you, Secretary Vilsack



- NEXT SLIDE

[MOVE TO SLIDE 7]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(b)(5)

- And with that, I'll turn this back to Secretary Vilsack...

[STAY ON SLIDE 7]

Secretary Vilsack—from the Situation Room

- The top priority of Forest Service is to increase the pace and scale of restoration across our National Forests and other public lands in order to make our forests more resilient to fire, insects and disease, to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, and to create economic opportunities for rural communities.
- The Forest Service is focusing its efforts on collaborative, large landscape projects that bring together forest industry, environmentalists, and local communities.
    - For example, in Arizona, Forest Service is finalizing a 600,000 acre effort to restore pine forests by treating over 30,000 acres a year with support of diverse stakeholders.
    - In South Dakota, we've launched a project over 200,000 acres.
    - Through our Collaborative Forest Restoration Landscape Program we are supporting nearly two dozen such projects across the country – all with support from conservation groups, forest industry and local communities.
        - Since 2010, these projects have treated hazardous fuels on over 1 million acres and have produced over 800 million board feet of timber and nearly 2 million green tons of woody biomass.
    - Across the National Forest System, we treated over 2.5 million acres last year to improve and sustain watershed health, including removing hazardous fuels. Since 2009, we've increased the sale of forest products and have set ambitious goals to continue that upward trend.
- We're also working across ownership boundaries. In our Joint Chief's Project, NRCS and Forest Service are working together to restore forests across public and private lands using $30 million this year drawn from both agencies. We're going to expand this work in coming years. We're also working with the Bureau of Reclamation to do the same through the Western Watershed Enhancement Program. We've also enlisted water utilities and other private companies to extend our reach further.
- Enhancing markets for low value timber is critical to bolster restoration efforts. USDA's Rural Development mission area is supporting wood to energy – including nearly $1 billion in loans since 2009. Forest Service is also supporting these markets.

- USDA has also recently announced that we will target our BCAP program to assist in forest restoration by supporting the harvest and transportation of low value timber from federal and other lands.

- The White House Rural Council the administration has been working to expand the use of wood building materials to support income and employment opportunities in rural America, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create markets for forest management. A $2 million prize competition will be launched this summer to demonstrate tall wood building construction using advanced wood products as alternatives to steel and concrete.

- We're also taking advantage of new programs in the Farm Bill. We have worked with many Governors to designate 46 million acres of forests impacted by insects and disease. In these areas, we have new authorities to expedite projects that have broad stakeholder support and that meet environmental safeguards.

    - The Farm Bill also provides permanent authority for stewardship contracting which will allow us to undertake broad restoration projects that benefit watersheds and reduce fire hazard. We believe the new good neighbor authority provided in the Farm Bill will bolster our ability to work with states to restore forests.

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- At this point I turn to the Deputy Director of OMB, Brian Deese, to discuss the financial implications of our wildfire situation.

[MOVE TO SLIDE 8]

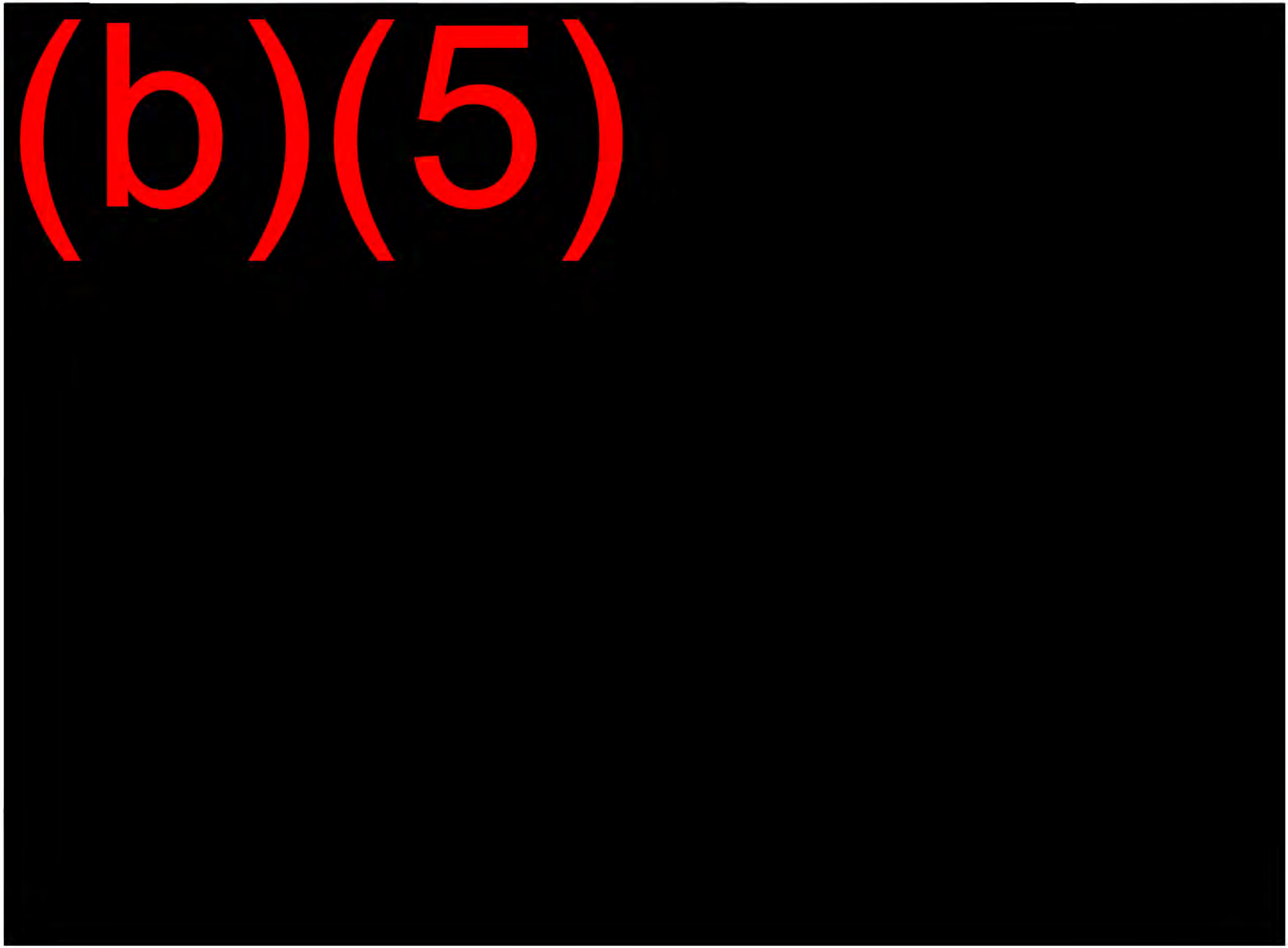
President & Western Governors Wildfire Briefing

June 9, 2014
2:30PM EST

I. Current and Long-term Predictions

II. Wildfire Response and Managing Resilience

III. Wildfire Budgeting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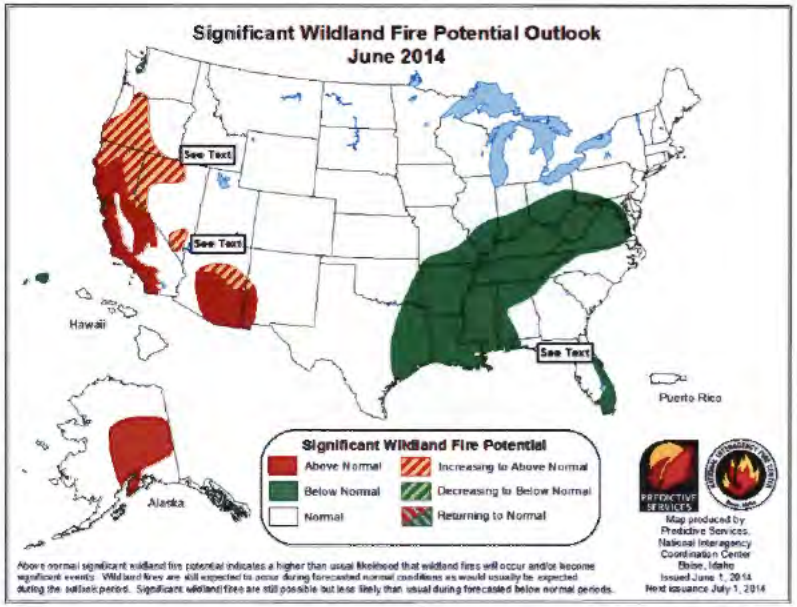
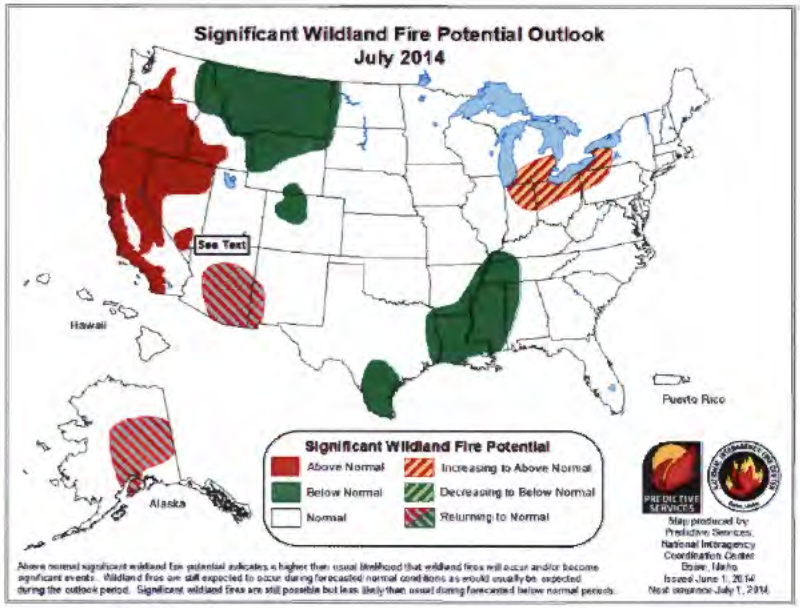
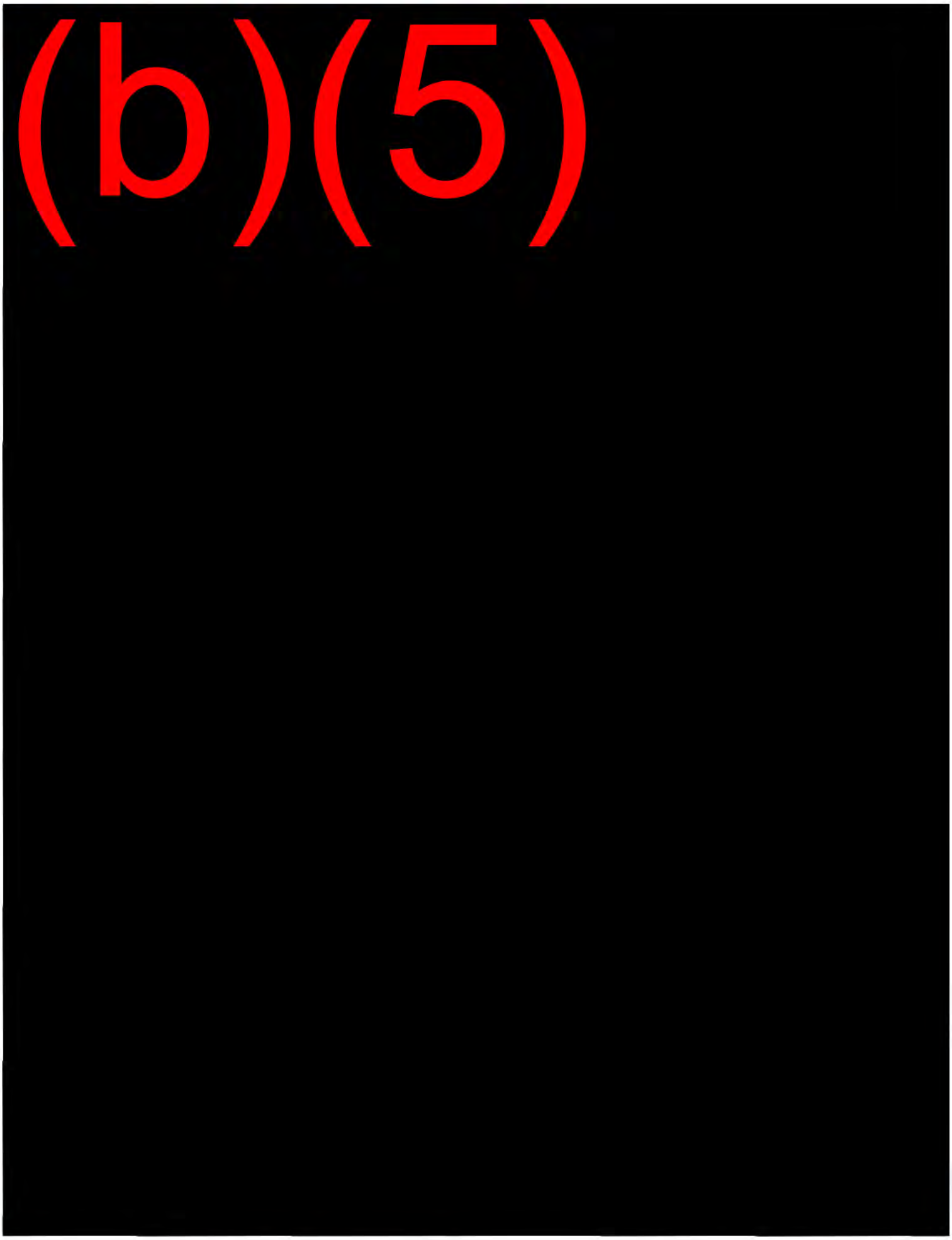
Fire Potential Outlook





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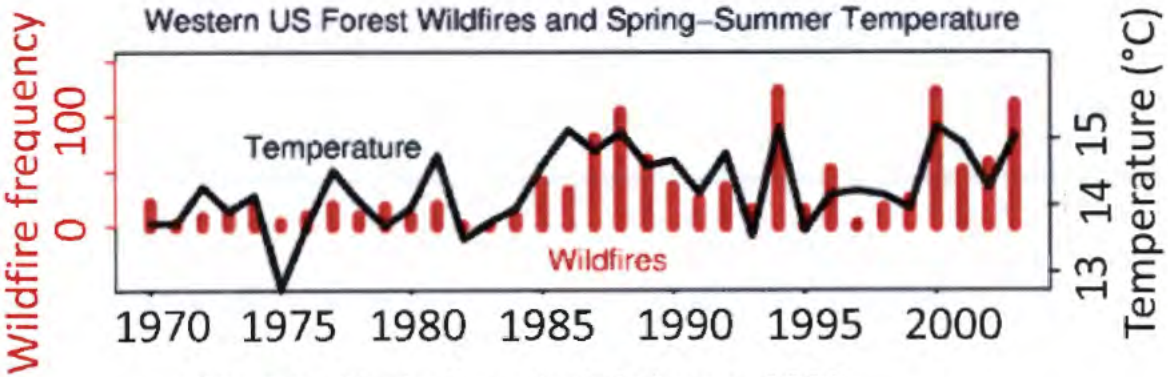
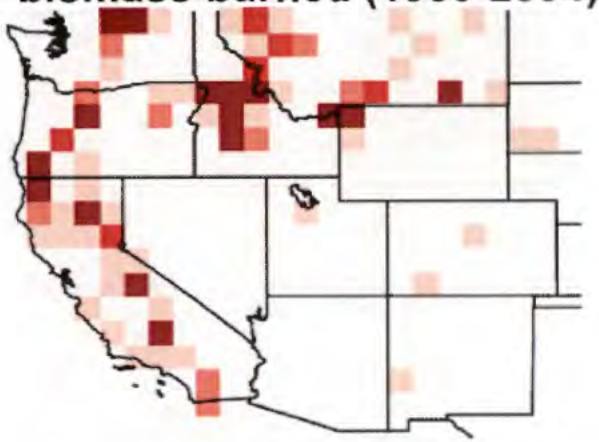
Long-term Wildfire Trends

Observed wildfire frequency is tied to spring-summer temperatures

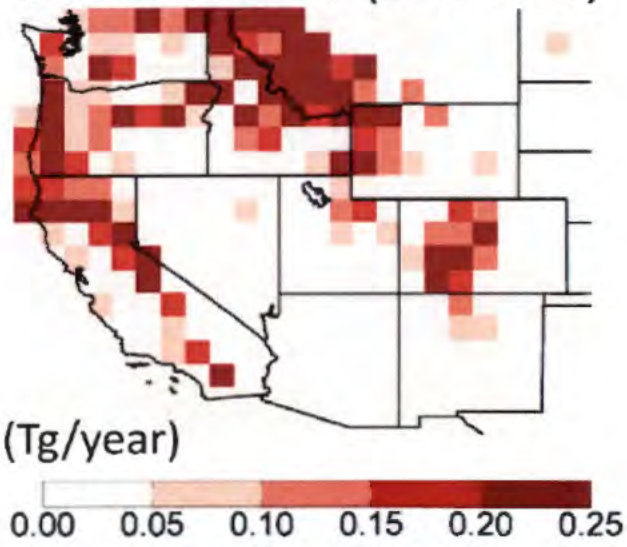


Source: Westerling *et al*. Science. 2006.

Observed average annual biomass burned (1980-2004)



Projected average annual biomass burned (2046-2065)



Source: Yue *et al*. Atmospheric Environment. 2013.

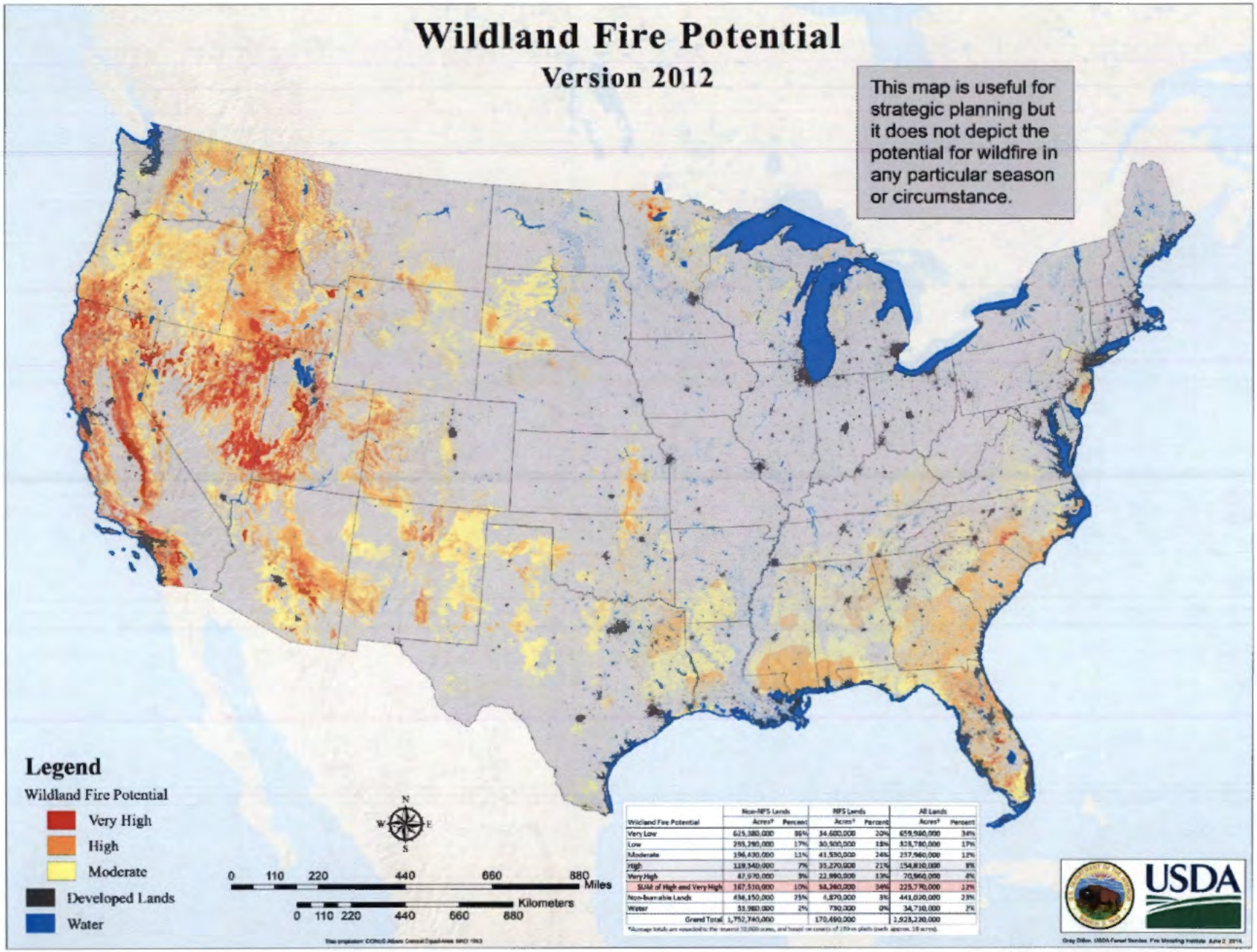
Projected Combined Federal Resources

Incident Management Teams	
Type 1 IMTs	16 National Teams, 4 Full-Time NIMO Teams
Type 2 IMTs	36 Interagency Teams
Firefighting Crews	
Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews	110
Type 2 Crews	350
Smokejumpers	463
Firefighting Personnel	
Estimated Total	13,947
Aircraft	
Single Engine Airtankers (SEATS)	72 (34 Exclusive Use--EU; 38 Call When Needed--CWN)
Large Airtankers (LATs)	(b)(5) [redacted]
MAFFS	8
Water Scoopers	3
Helicopters	
Type 1	52 (34 EU; 18 CWN)
Type 2	80 (36 EU; 44 CWN)
Type 3	536 (83 EU; 453 CWN) (May not include all AK helicopters)
Estimated Maximum Total	668
Heavy Equipment	
Engines	1,645 (900 USFS; 745 DOI)
Dozers, Water Tenders, etc.	416 (210 USFS; 206 DOI)

Wildland Fire Potential

Version 2012

This map is useful for strategic planning but it does not depict the potential for wildfire in any particular season or circumstance.

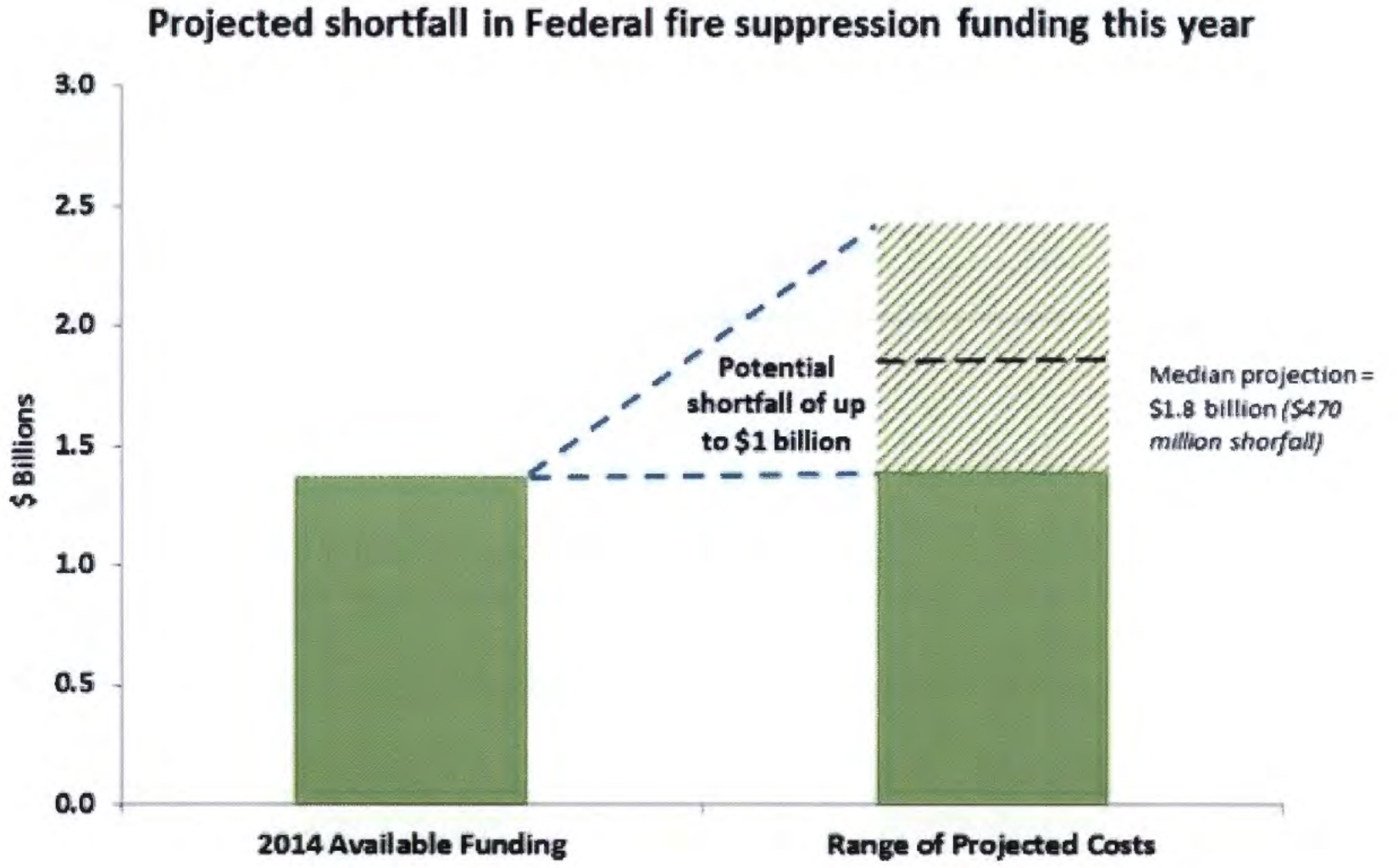


Wildland Fire Potential	Non-NFS Lands Acres*	Non-NFS Lands Percent	NFS Lands Acres*	NFS Lands Percent	All Lands Acres*	All Lands Percent
Very Low	625,380,000	35%	34,600,000	20%	659,980,000	34%
Low	293,390,000	17%	30,500,000	18%	323,780,000	17%
Moderate	196,430,000	11%	41,530,000	24%	237,960,000	12%
High	119,540,000	7%	35,270,000	21%	154,810,000	8%
Very High	47,970,000	3%	22,990,000	13%	70,960,000	4%
SUM of High and Very High	167,510,000	10%	58,260,000	34%	225,770,000	12%
Non-burnable Lands	436,150,000	25%	6,870,000	3%	443,020,000	23%
Water	33,980,000	2%	730,000	0%	34,710,000	2%
Grand Total	1,752,740,000		170,490,000		1,923,220,000	

*Acreage totals are rounded to the nearest 10,000 acres, and based on counts of 270-m pixels (each approx. 18 acres).

"The Wildfire Potential map (2012) depicts the relative potential for wildfires that would be difficult for suppression resources to contain. It is based on past wildfire occurrence, fuels data, and computer simulations of wildfire likelihood and intensity."

Rising Fire Costs and Proposed Solution



Discussion

Questions and Answers

Re: UPDATE ON POTUS/WGA FIRE BRIEFING

James Douglas <james_douglas@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Jun 5, 2014 at 10:34 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6)ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Suh, Rhea" <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Kim Thorsen <Kim_Thorsen@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>, Pam Haze <Pam_Haze@ios.doi.gov>

Here's my take on your points:

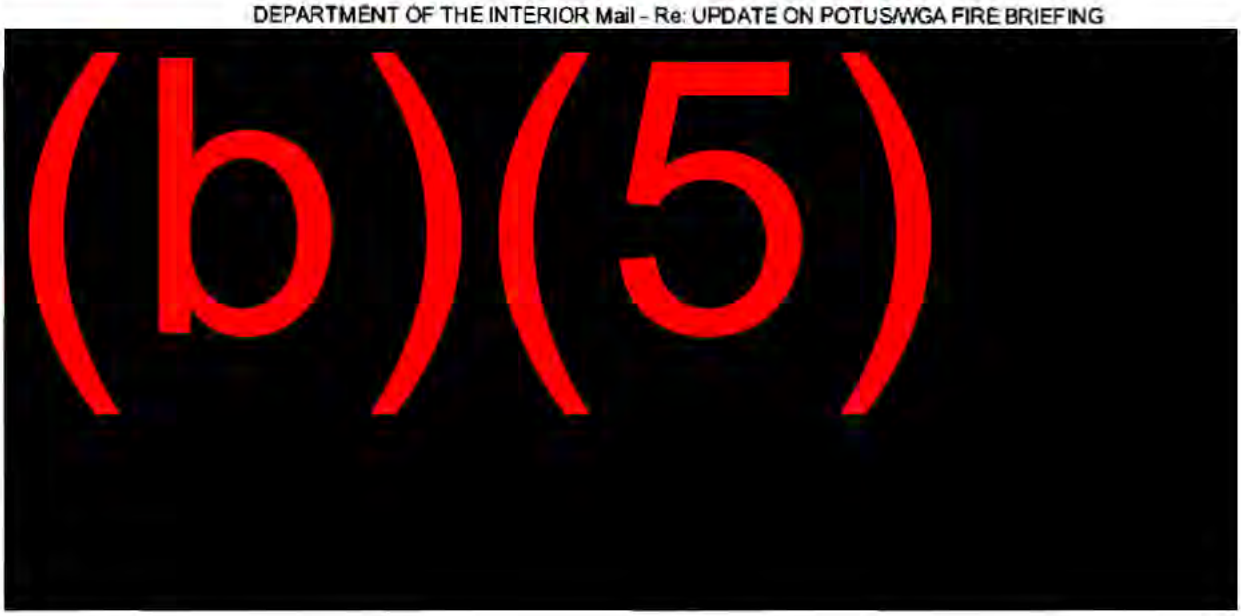
(b)(5)

Jim Douglas
Director, Office of Wildland Fire
US Department of the Interior
202-603-4413 (cell)
202-208-7754 (desk)

On Jun 5, 2014, at 10:14 PM, Sally Jewell (b) (6)ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Rhea -
>
> I did finally get the download before losing signal. Thanks to you and the team for the hard work on this, and to you, in particular, for streamlining the program. Only item 1 below pertains to the presentation, and it is a minor suggestion in Vilsack's remarks.
>
> Here are a few thoughts/questions:

(b)(5)



Many thanks!

Sally

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 5, 2014, at 7:56 PM, "Suh, Rhea" <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Sally (and Mike and Tommy):
>
> There have been some edits to the ppt deck for the fire briefing. In an attempt to try to streamline the presentation portion and to maximize the discussion time, (b) (5) [redacted] given those slides to Dr. Holdren, and substituted you and Sec. Vilsack in for the slide Chief Tidwell (USFS) was going to do. There are now 20 mins for presentation and 40 mins for discussion. The reworked run of show in brief is:
>
> 2:30pm ET - Opening / Welcome, bringing room to order - Agnew
> 2:40pm - President joins and briefing begins
> 2:40pm -Fire season and long-term fire projections - Holdren
> 2:45pm - Fire response and management - Jewell and Vilsack
> 2:55pm - fire fix - Deese
> 3-3:40pm - Discussion/Q&A
>
> What is important to note about this is that you now have a little more speaking time, specifically to transition from the preparedness slide and you have to actually queue up the next slide in the transition (meaning within your TPs you have to say, "NEXT SLIDE"). This is all embedded in the script. The good news is the bulk of your comments are unchanged from the version you worked on before you left.
>
> We have been working with CEQ, et al this afternoon and then USDA later to figure out the new script for the preparedness side and it is attached here both as embedded in the ppt and as a separate script doc.
>
> WGA has also gotten back to the WH with a list of items they want to discuss and we have assigned role for responders as indicated below. This list is not comprehensive, but we do suspect that there will be a number of questions about sage grouse habitat and fire, as well as fuels management and capacity.

1 - fire borrowing (PRESENTATION COVERS)
2 - Federal aerial assets available (including DoD) (PRESENTATION)
3- Staging of aerial assets in West (VILSACK/TIDWELL)
4 - States expected to be hardest hit (PRESENTATION)
5 - Timing of getting boots on the ground for new insect disease program (TIDWELL)
6 - Status of expanding Good Neighbor (VILSACK/TIDWELL)
7 - Strategy for developing new stewardship contracts with private sector (VILSACK/TIDWELL)
8 - Process/timing of Presidential disaster declarations post-fire (FEMA)
9 - Funding and other resources for post-fire recovery to avoid erosion, flooding and impacts to drinking water (JEWELL/KORNZE)

In addition to the new PPT deck (with script imbedded in notes) and the script separately, this email is transmitting briefs on:

- Comparison tables for bi-partisan legislation and the FY 15 Budget.
- High level talking points on fuels management & historical figures
- Background/status and map for the Funny River AK fire
- Q/A on the suppression budget cap proposal – addresses issues raised by various Senators and Members of Congress
- Comparison table of the fire budget cap legislative proposals

It's a lot of information, so sorry to overload.

We need to submit final edits/changes to CEQ by **10 am tomorrow to meet POTUS's deadlines**. Please let me know if you want to discuss or have any questions, concerns or edits before that point?

Thanks much,
Rhea

–
Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1927

<Comparison Table.docx>

<Fuels Management Talking Points.docx>

<Funny River Fire Background.docx>

<Funny River Map_20140602-11.38.48.538-CDT (1).pdf>

<Information Cover Memo.docx>

<QA on suppression.docx>

<Potus West Govs Meeting June 9 2014_06.05.14_MT DOI-USDA Updates.pptx>

<REVISED SCRIPT FOR SLIDES 67.docx>

BISON CONNECT

SJ Fire presentation TPs in bullet form

Sally Jewell (b) (6)@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 12:45 AM
To: Suh Rhea <Rhea_Suh@ios.doi.gov>, Beaudreau Tommy <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Kim Thorsen <kim_thorsen@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas James <james_douglas@ios.doi.gov>, Buffa Nicole <nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>

Rhea, Mike, Tommy, Nikki, Kim and Jim -

Attached are draft TPs in bullet form for my portion of the fire presentation. Please take a look and let me know if I missed anything. I will practice for timing and flow - it is better if I don't read text, especially in this setting. (b) (5)

Thanks for all of your work.

Sally

REVISED SCRIPT FOR SLIDES - SJ bullets.docx
22K

REVISED SCRIPT FOR SLIDES 6/7

2:45pm ET - 10 MIN. (2 slides)

Secretary Vilsack (from the Situation Room)

Thank-you, Dr. Holdren

- We are ready for the fire season. As you know, wildland firefighting is a partnership among federal agencies, state agencies and local fire departments. The federal government works closely with your state forestry, tribes, and local governments to responding to fire.

- Federal resources are available to assist with fires across the country whether those fires are on federal, state, tribal or private lands. During the season, we are constantly repositioning resources so that they are available in regions where we expect significant fire activity. Our National Interagency Fire Center is constantly reviewing fire conditions in order to position our resources so that we can respond quickly.

- We are able to catch 98% of all fires before they become large fires. This high success rate protects lives, property and natural resources. Because large fires are very destructive and very expensive, our high rate of success is critically important.

- The chart you see illustrates the resources we are able to supply this season. Our incident management teams are comprised of highly trained and experienced individuals. In addition, we have over 100 hot shot crews that are our elite firefighters. We can provide about 14,000 firefighters, but can add to this number if needed. Last summer, we had nearly 20,000 firefighters on the job during the height of the season.

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- So far this season, we've responded to almost 23,000 fires across about 750,000 acres. These figures are below the 10 year average though we expect the season to pick up in the coming days and weeks.

- At this point I want to turn to Secretary Jewell for additional thoughts on our preparedness and our joint work to reduce the risks of fires.

[STAY ON SLIDE 6]

Secretary Jewell (from Colorado)

Thank you, Secretary Vilsack

Underscore importance of intergovernmental capability:

- 52 national interagency management teams
    - Not just federal teams, includes state, local, tribal as well
    - Trained to the same standards
    - Interoperable equipment
    - Fully integrated response organizations
- Critical to have high degree of cooperation/coordination to respond effectively to wildland fires.
- NEXT SLIDE

[MOVE TO SLIDE 7]

- Like wildfire suppression, managing lands to reduce risks of fires is a common and coordinated effort.
- Challenge driven by three principal factors:
    - Changing climate
    - Excessive fuels build-up
    - Increasing settlement in and around fire prone areas - WUI
- National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy = collaborative framework for addressing challenges, focused on three major goals:
    - Restore and maintain landscapes
    - Fire-adapted communities
    - Wildfire response
- Proactively treating fuels is fundamental to reducing risk
    - Reduces size and severity of fires, improves safety of firefighters, and protects communities and their values
    - Continued investment critical for long term success
    - Much more cost effective than suppression
- Example: Funny River fire still burning on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska:
    - Previous investment in 6 miles of fuel breaks kept fire out of nearby communities
- Continued investments in fuels management activities critical:
    - Reduce risks to communities,
    - Increase resilience and health of forests and rangelands, not only for people, but for wildlife
    - Protect tribal homelands, cultural and natural resources
    - Support safety of the public and firefighters
- This is a paramount component of our Nation's collective approach to wildfire.
- DOI has spent $1.9 billion over the last 10 years, treating over 11.6 million acres. Treatments spread across highest priority areas across the country.

- Examples:
    - BLM spending > $28 million, 62% of their total program, to treat approximately 240,000 acres in sage grouse habitat conservation projects.
    - President's 2015 budget proposal includes new resources for fire management in Indian Country, including $10 million to support landscape restoration, fulfilling trust responsibility on reserved treaty rights lands.
- Stable and sufficient funding for fuels management means:
    - Steady jobs in rural and tribal communities
    - A good return on investment
- And with that, I'll turn this back to Secretary Vilsack...

[STAY ON SLIDE 7]

Secretary Vilsack—from the Situation Room

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- At this point I turn to the Deputy Director of OMB, Brian Deese, to discuss the financial implications of our wildfire situation.

[MOVE TO SLIDE 8]

BISON CONNECT

Re: UPDATE ON POTUS/WGA FIRE BRIEFING

Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 12:26 PM
To: Rhea Suh <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: James Douglas <james_douglas@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Kimberly Thorsen <kim_thorsen@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_olson@ios.doi.gov>, Pam Haze <pam_haze@ios.doi.gov>

Rhea -

Thanks for the thorough answers. I believe I have what I need.

Enjoy the weekend!

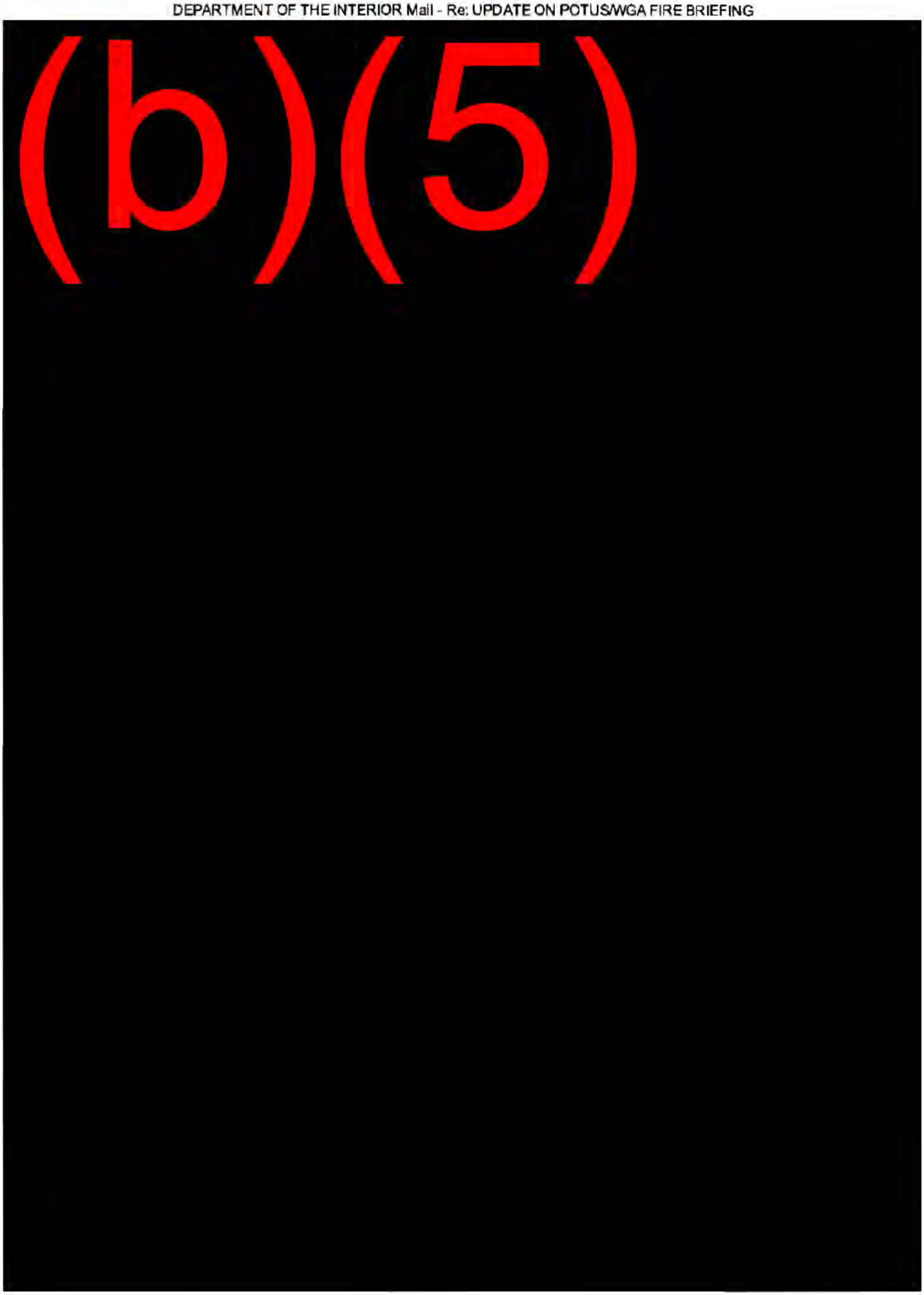
Sally

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 6, 2014, at 8:38 AM, Rhea Suh <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Sally—
>
> We have transmitted all the changes and the newscript to CEQ this morning and once we get the final final version, we'll send on.
>
> In the meantime, here's some additional information to answer your questions from last night.
>
> 1. In Vilsack's remarks, it would sure be nice as he makes the handoff to Deese if he would include Interior in the budget tee-up. He only references the USFS. My remarks look fine, and I'll work to bulletize them so I'm not reading. As Jim noted, we included this in the revised script.

(b)(5)



The phase-in approach was to try to demonstrate prudence and a level of accountability to the

(b)(5)

Let us knowif you need anything else!
Rhea

From: Sally Jewell [mailto(b)(6)os.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 12:48 AM
To: James Douglas
Cc: Suh, Rhea; Michael Connor; Tommy Beaudreau; Nicole Buffa; Kim Thorsen; Elizabeth Ossowski; Pam Haze
Subject: Re: UPDATE ON POTUS/WGA FIRE BRIEFING

Jim -

Thanks for the speedy answers - very helpful.

Sally

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 5, 2014, at 7:34 PM, James Douglas <james_douglas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Here's my take on your points:
>
> (b)(5)
>
> Jim Douglas
>
> Director, Office of Wildland Fire

US Department of the Interior

202-603-4413 (cell)

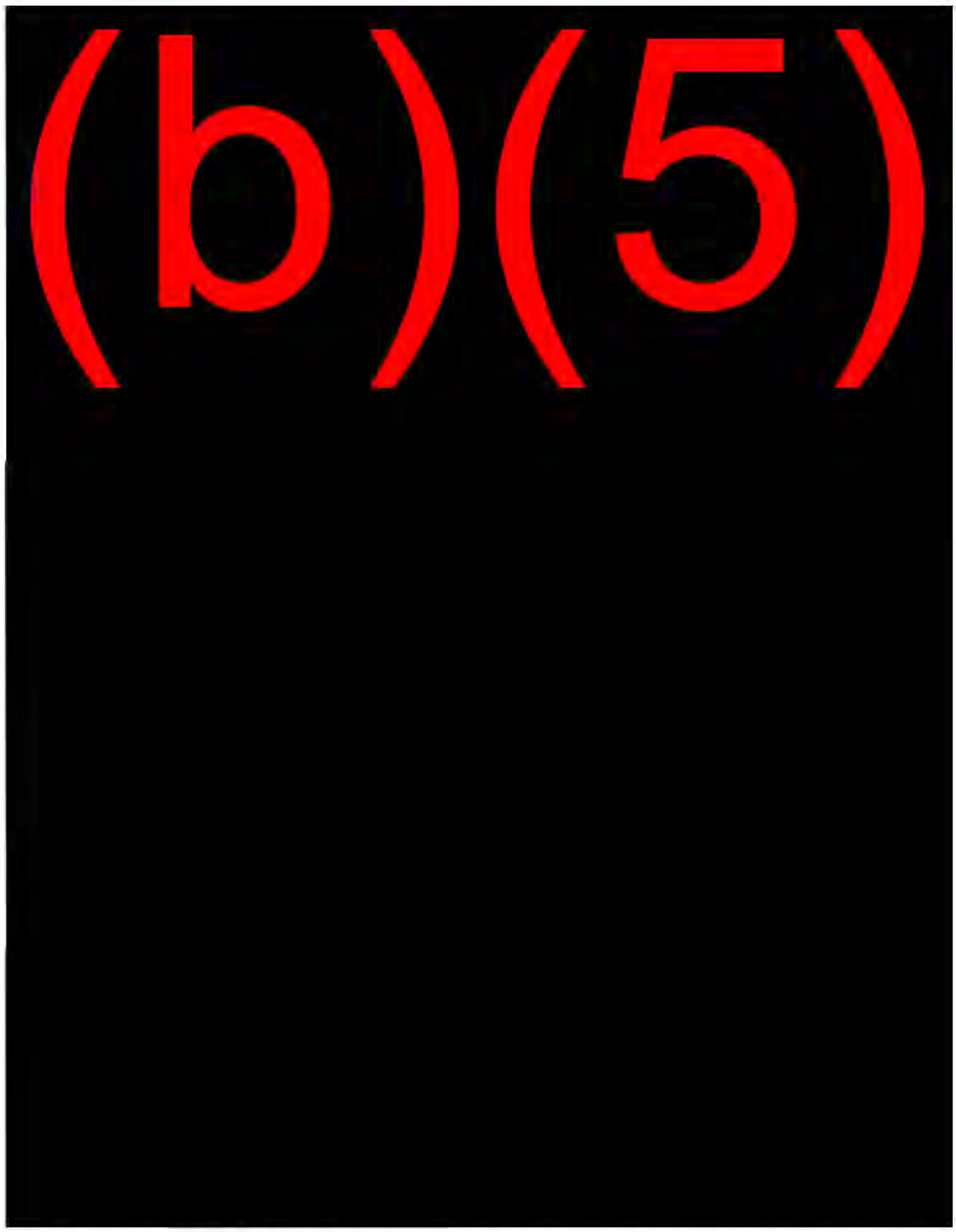
202-208-7754 (desk)

On Jun 5, 2014, at 10:14 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Rhea -

I did finally get the download before losing signal. Thanks to you and the team for the hard work on this, and to you, in particular, for streamlining the program. Only item 1 below pertains to the presentation, and it is a minor suggestion in Vilsack's remarks.

Here are a few thoughts/questions:





Many thanks!

Sally

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 5, 2014, at 7:56 PM, "Suh, Rhea" <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Sally (and Mike and Tommy):
>
> There have been some edits to the ppt deck for the fire briefing. In an attempt to try to streamline the presentation portion and to maximize the discussion time, (b) (5) given those slides to Dr. Holdren, and substituted you and Sec. Vilsack in for the slide Chief Tidwell (USFS) was going to do. There are now 20 mins for presentation and 40 mins for discussion. The reworked run of show in brief is:
>
> 2:30pm ET - Opening / Welcome, bringing room to order - Agnew
>
> 2:40pm - President joins and briefing begins
>
> 2:40pm -Fire season and long-term fire projections - Holdren
>
> 2:45pm - Fire response and management - Jewell and Vilsack
>
> 2:55pm - fire fix - Deese
>
> 3-3:40pm - Discussion/Q&A
>
> What is important to note about this is that you now have

a little more speaking time, specifically to transition from the preparedness slide and you have to actually queue up the next slide in the transition (meaning within your TPs you have to say, "NEXT SLIDE"). This is all embedded in the script. The good news is the bulk of your comments are unchanged from the version you worked on before you left.

We have been working with CEQ, et al this afternoon and then USDA later to figure out the new script for the preparedness side and it is attached here both as embedded in the ppt and as a separate script doc.

WGA has also gotten back to the WH with a list of items they want to discuss and we have assigned role for responders as indicated below. This list is not comprehensive, but we do suspect that there will be a number of questions about sage grouse habitat and fire, as well as fuels management and capacity.

1 - fire borrowing (PRESENTATION COVERS)

2 - Federal aerial assets available (including DoD) (PRESENTATION)

3- Staging of aerial assets in West (VILSACK/TIDWELL)

4 - States expected to be hardest hit (PRESENTATION)

5 - Timing of getting boots on the ground for new insect disease program (TIDWELL)

6 - Status of expanding Good Neighbor (VILSACK/TIDWELL)

7 - Strategy for developing new stewardship contracts with private sector (VILSACK/TIDWELL)

8 - Process/timing of Presidential disaster declarations post-fire (FEMA)

9 - Funding and other resources for post-fire recovery to avoid erosion, flooding and impacts to drinking water (JEWELL/KORNZE)

In addition to the new PPT deck (with script imbedded in notes) and the script separately, this email is transmitting briefs on:

• Comparison tables for bi-partisan legislation and the FY

15 Budget.

* High level talking points on fuels management & historical figures

• Background/status and map for the Funny River AK fire

• Q/A on the suppression budget cap proposal – addresses issues raised by various Senators and Members of Congress

• Comparison table of the fire budget cap legislative proposals

It's a lot of information, so sorry to overload.

We need to submit final edits/changes to CEQ by **10 am tomorrow to meet POTUS's deadlines**. Please let me know if you want to discuss or have any questions, concerns or edits before that point?

Thanks much,
Rhea

–
Rhea Suh

Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

U.S. Department of the Interior

202-208-1927

<Comparison Table.docx>

<Fuels Management Talking Points.docx>

<Funny River Fire Background.docx>

<Funny River Map_20140602-11.38.48.538-CDT (1).pdf>

<Information Cover Memo.docx>

<QA on suppression.docx>

<Potus West Govs Meeting June 9 2014_06.05.14_MT DOI-USDA Updates.pptx>

<REVISED SCRIPT FOR SLIDES 67.docx>

Re: UPDATED MEMOS - Not In Briefing Book

Javaid, Zaina <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 3:26 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: dailybriefingbinder OS <dailybriefingbinder@ios.doi.gov>

Sally– I also wanted to flag for you that I have added a Fire Briefing memo that includes the current information on agenda and participants to a folder in your drive in June 9th called "Fire Briefing." In that folder are also the documents Rhea sent you last night, with the versions incorporating your updates. Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information.

Thanks,

Zaina

On Thu, Jun 5, 2014 at 4:27 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Got it. Thanks!

> On Jun 5, 2014, at 4:23 PM, "Javaid, Zaina" <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> Hi Sally,
>
> I wanted to flag for you that the WGA Information Memo, WGA Event Memo, and Meeting with Gov Otter Memo have been updated and added to Google Drive. I have also uploaded the MOU.
>
> Additionally, in the June 11th folder, I have added draft remarks for the Capitol Hill Oceans Week Remarks. They are also attached here.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Zaina
> <6 9 14_1030am_MOU.pdf>
> <6 9 14_10am_VERSION 4 WGA Event Memo.docx>
> <6 9 14_1030am_VERSION 2 Meeting with Governor Otter.docx>
> <6 9 14_10am_VERSION 3 WGA INFORMATION MEMO.docx>
> <6 11 14_CHOW Remarks.docx>

6 9 14_1230pm MDT_Fire Briefing.docx
30K

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FIRE BRIEFING

DATE: June 9, 2014
LOCATION: The Broadmoor – West Terrace/West Ballroom B
TIME: 12:30PM MDT – 1:30PM MDT
FROM: Rhea Suh, AS-PMB (202) 208-1927; Amy Holley, COS PMB, (202) 208-6011

I. PURPOSE

You will brief the President, White House officials, and Governors on 2014 fire season preparedness, outlook, impacts on climate change, and fire budget proposal.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Colorado:

- Butch Otter, Governor (ID)
- Jack Dalrymple, Governor (ND)
- Steve Bullock, Governor (MT)
- Matthew Mead, Governor (WY)
- John Hickenlooper, Governor (CO)
- Jan Brewer, Governor (AZ)
- Dennis Daugaard, Governor (SD)
- Gary Herbert, Governor (UT)
- Brian Sandoval, Governor (NV)
- Christy Clark, Premier, Province of British Columbia
- Robert Bonnie, Undersecretary, USDA
- Kathryn Sullivan, Under Secretary, Commerce/NOAA

VTC:

- Secretary Tom Vilsack, USDA
- Director Fugate, FEMA
- Secretary Hagel, DoD
- Dr. Kathy Sullivan, NOAA
- John Podesta
- David Agnew, IGA
- Mike Boots, CEQ
- Dr. John Holdren, OSTP
- Sally Ericsson, OMB
- McKalip, DPC
- Rhea Suh, DOI

III. AGENDA

12:30pm – AGNEW (VTC) - Welcome Remarks and Introductions in the Situation Room.

12:35pm – HICKENLOOPER Introductions in Colorado

12:40pm – POTUS arrives in Situation Room and gives introductory remarks

12:45pm – AGNEW prompts HOLDREN to begin briefing

12:45pm – HOLDREN (VTC) presents slides on fire season outlook and climate links

12:50pm – VILSACK (VTC) briefs on USDA fire response capabilities

12:55pm – **You** brief on DOI fire response, and with VILSACK discuss Federal efforts to manage fire potential.

1:00pm – DEESE (VTC) presents budget slide

1:05pm – Presentation Concludes / POTUS offers brief remarks and opens discussion

1:10pm – POTUS hands off to HICKENLOOPER in Colorado

1:15pm – HICKENLOOPER gives brief remarks

1:20pm – AGNEW moderates Question and Answer from the Situation Room

1:40pm – Wildfire Briefing Concludes

IV. ATTACHMENT

- Briefing Slides
- Comparison Table
- Fuels Management Talking Points
- Funny River Fire Background
- Funny River Map
- Information Cover Memo
- Q&A on Suppression
- Revised Script for Slides *(below and uploaded separately to Google Drive)*

REVISED SCRIPT FOR SLIDES 6/7

2:45pm ET - 10 MIN. (2 slides)

Secretary Vilsack (from the Situation Room)

Thank-you, Dr. Holdren

- We are ready for the fire season. As you know, wildland firefighting is a partnership among federal agencies, state agencies and local fire departments. The federal government works closely with your state forestry, tribes, and local governments to responding to fire.

- Federal resources are available to assist with fires across the country whether those fires are on federal, state, tribal or private lands. During the season, we are constantly repositioning resources so that they are available in regions where we expect significant fire activity. Our National Interagency Fire Center is constantly reviewing fire conditions in order to position our resources so that we can respond quickly.

- We are able to catch 98% of all fires before they become large fires. This high success rate protects lives, property and natural resources. Because large fires are very destructive and very expensive, our high rate of success is critically important.

- The chart you see illustrates the resources we are able to supply this season. Our incident management teams are comprised of highly trained and experienced individuals. In addition, we have over 100 hot shot crews that are our elite firefighters. We can provide about 14,000 firefighters, but can add to this number if needed. Last summer, we had nearly 20,000 firefighters on the job during the height of the season.

- Airtankers are an important resource in catching fires while they are still small. This allows us time to get fire crews to the site to put the fire out completely. The Forest Service has made substantial progress over the last year in modernizing our large airtanker fleet. Since last fall, we have added 6 next generation aircraft, (b)(5) (b)(5) we expect to bring on two additional next generation aircraft. (b)(5) (b)(5). We also have 8 C-130 aircraft – or MAFFS – that are provided by the Department of Defense. Early next year, we expect to bring on the first of seven C-130Hs transferred from DoD to the Forest Service. We can also bring on additional aircraft from Canada and Alaska on a call when needed basis.

- We have supplemented our aircraft with over 100 large helicopters that are very effective in delivering retardant to fires as well.

- So far this season, we've responded to almost 23,000 fires across about 750,000 acres. These figures are below the 10 year average though we expect the season to pick up in the coming days and weeks.

- At this point I want to turn to Secretary Jewell for additional thoughts on our preparedness and our joint work to reduce the risks of fires.

[STAY ON SLIDE 6]
Secretary Jewell (from Colorado)
Thank you, Secretary Vilsack
Underscore importance of intergovernmental capability:

- 52 national interagency management teams
    - Not just federal teams, includes state, local, tribal as well
    - Trained to the same standards
    - Interoperable equipment
    - Fully integrated response organizations
- Critical to have high degree of cooperation/coordination to respond effectively to wildland fires.
- NEXT SLIDE

[MOVE TO SLIDE 7]

- Like wildfire suppression, managing lands to reduce risks of fires is a common and coordinated effort.
- Challenge driven by three principal factors:
    - Changing climate
    - Excessive fuels build-up
    - Increasing settlement in and around fire prone areas - WUI
- National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy = collaborative framework for addressing challenges, focused on three major goals:
    - Restore and maintain landscapes
    - Fire-adapted communities
    - Wildfire response
- Proactively treating fuels is fundamental to reducing risk

- Reduces size and severity of fires, improves safety of firefighters, and protects communities and their values
- Continued investment critical for long term success
- Much more cost effective than suppression

- Example: Funny River fire still burning on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska:
  - Previous investment in 6 miles of fuel breaks kept fire out of nearby communities
- Continued investments in fuels management activities critical:
  - Reduce risks to communities,
  - Increase resilience and health of forests and rangelands, not only for people, but for wildlife
  - Protect tribal homelands, cultural and natural resources
  - Support safety of the public and firefighters
- This is a paramount component of our Nation's collective approach to wildfire.
- DOI has spent $1.9 billion over the last 10 years, treating over 11.6 million acres. Treatments spread across highest priority areas across the country.
- Examples:
  - BLM spending > $28 million, 62% of their total program, to treat approximately 240,000 acres in sage grouse habitat conservation projects.
  - President's 2015 budget proposal includes new resources for fire management in Indian Country, including $10 million to support landscape restoration, fulfilling trust responsibility on reserved treaty rights lands.
- Stable and sufficient funding for fuels management means:
  - Steady jobs in rural and tribal communities
  - A good return on investment
- And with that, I'll turn this back to Secretary Vilsack…

[STAY ON SLIDE 7]

Secretary Vilsack—from the Situation Room

- The top priority of Forest Service is to increase the pace and scale of restoration across our National Forests and other public lands in order to make our forests more resilient to

fire, insects and disease, to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, and to create economic opportunities for rural communities.

- The Forest Service is focusing its efforts on collaborative, large landscape projects that bring together forest industry, environmentalists, and local communities.
    - For example, in Arizona, Forest Service is finalizing a 600,000 acre effort to restore pine forests by treating over 30,000 acres a year with support of diverse stakeholders.
    - In South Dakota, we've launched a project over 200,000 acres.
    - Through our Collaborative Forest Restoration Landscape Program we are supporting nearly two dozen such projects across the country – all with support from conservation groups, forest industry and local communities.
        - Since 2010, these projects have treated hazardous fuels on over 1 million acres and have produced over 800 million board feet of timber and nearly 2 million green tons of woody biomass.
    - Across the National Forest System, we treated over 2.5 million acres last year to improve and sustain watershed health, including removing hazardous fuels. Since 2009, we've increased the sale of forest products and have set ambitious goals to continue that upward trend.
- We're also working across ownership boundaries. In our Joint Chief's Project, NRCS and Forest Service are working together to restore forests across public and private lands using $30 million this year drawn from both agencies. We're going to expand this work in coming years. We're also working with the Bureau of Reclamation to do the same through the Western Watershed Enhancement Program. We've also enlisted water utilities and other private companies to extend our reach further.
- Enhancing markets for low value timber is critical to bolster restoration efforts. USDA's Rural Development mission area is supporting wood to energy – including nearly $1 billion in loans since 2009. Forest Service is also supporting these markets.
    - USDA has also recently announced that we will target our BCAP program to assist in forest restoration by supporting the harvest and transportation of low value timber from federal and other lands.
    - The White House Rural Council the administration has been working to expand the use of wood building materials to support income and employment opportunities in rural America, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create markets for forest management. A $2 million prize competition will be launched

this summer to demonstrate tall wood building construction using advanced wood products as alternatives to steel and concrete.

- We're also taking advantage of new programs in the Farm Bill. We have worked with many Governors to designate 46 million acres of forests impacted by insects and disease. In these areas, we have new authorities to expedite projects that have broad stakeholder support and that meet environmental safeguards.
    - The Farm Bill also provides permanent authority for stewardship contracting which will allow us to undertake broad restoration projects that benefit watersheds and reduce fire hazard. We believe the new good neighbor authority provided in the Farm Bill will bolster our ability to work with states to restore forests.
- We have been able to increase the amount of work we're getting done in the woods. However, our biggest challenge to further expanding this work is the way we budget for fire. The long term impacts of firefighting expenditures on our budget and the on-going challenge of fire borrowing have hamstrung the Forest Service as well as the Department of the Interior. Indeed, if there was one thing Congress could do to increase forest restoration on the National Forests and throughout of both of our Departments it would be to change the way we pay for firefighting.
- At this point I turn to the Deputy Director of OMB, Brian Deese, to discuss the financial implications of our wildfire situation.

[MOVE TO SLIDE 8]

BISON CONNECT

[redacted] (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: POTUS Wildfire briefing - Friday Final Draft materials

Suh, Rhea <rhea_suh@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 7:05 PM
To: Sally Jewell (b) (6) ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Ben Milakofsky <Benjamin_Milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, James Douglas <James_Douglas@ios.doi.gov>, Kim Thorsen <Kim_Thorsen@ios.doi.gov>, Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>

Sally--
At last we have some final products. Nothing you have worked on has changed at all. We are still waiting for the latest fire weather so that slide will be updated on Sunday. Other than that, here are all the materials for Monday afternoon's briefing with POTUS. Zaina has also uploaded everything so you can access it that way as well.

1) Slide deck

2) Presentation outline

3) Resource sheet "leave behind"

4) Agenda

5) Run of Show script

Thanks and as always, let us know if you have any questions.
Rhea

5 attachments

Potus West Govs Meeting June 9 2014_06.06.14_MT.pptx
8299K

POTUS wildfire brief_concept outline_ 06.04.14 SHORTENED.DOCX
19K

Supporting Information v3.docx
22K

Wildfire Agenda 6_6_14.docx
16K

Sequence of Events_6_6_14.docx
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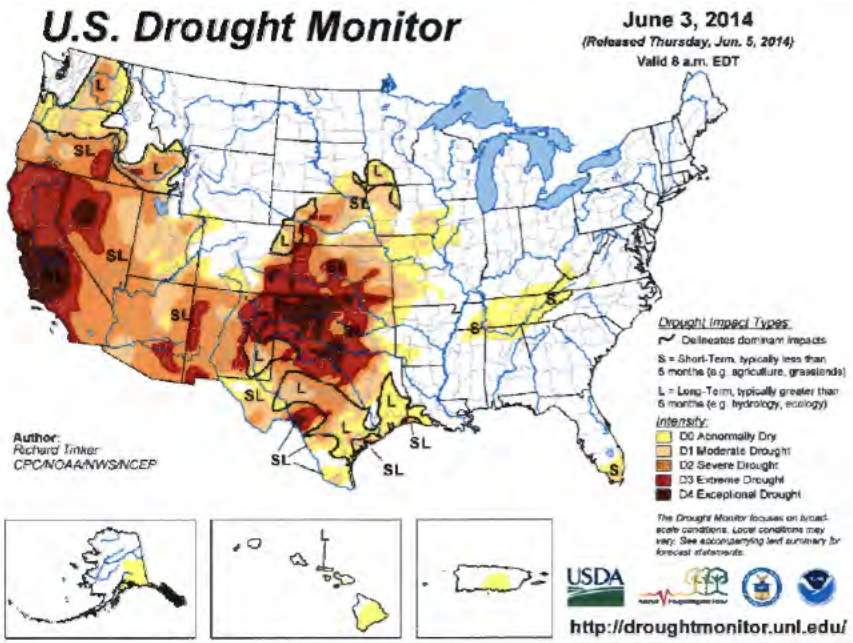
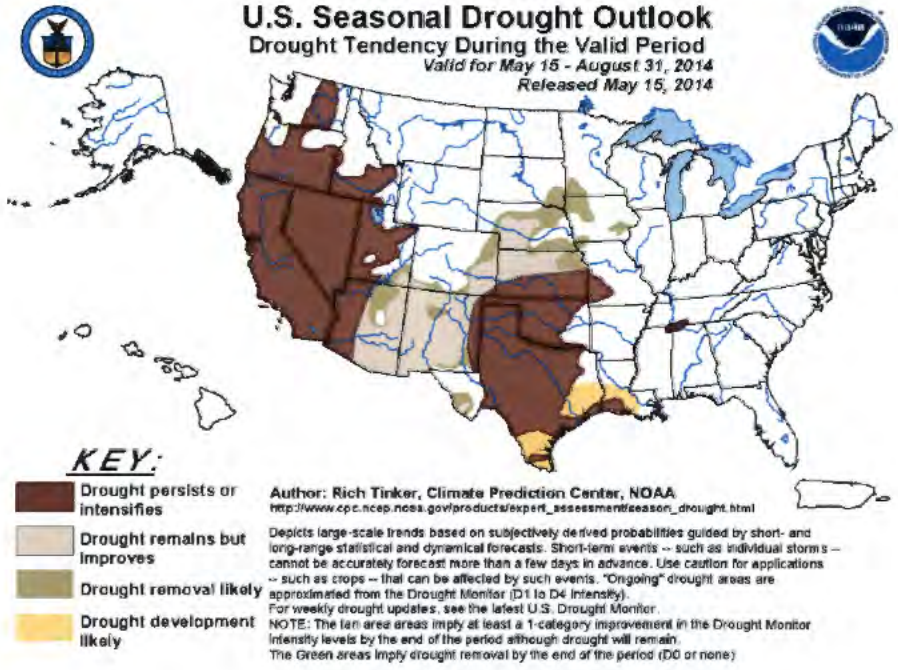
President & Western Governors Wildfire Briefing

June 9, 2014
2:30PM EST

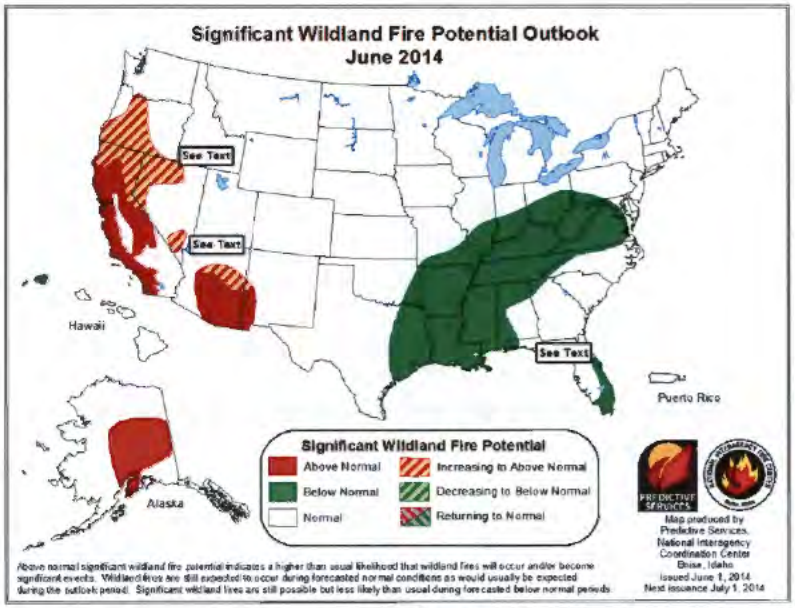
I. Current and Long-term Predictions
II. Wildfire Response and Managing Resilience
III. Wildfire Budgeting

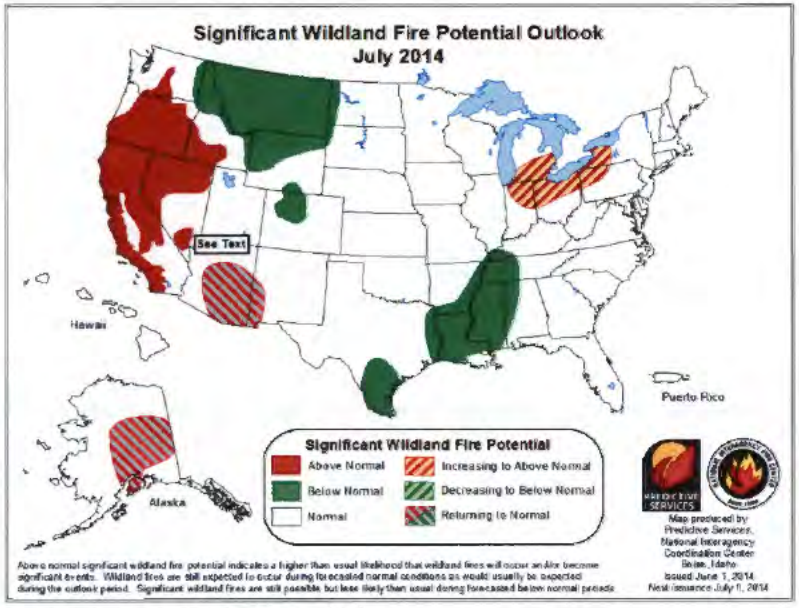
Drought Conditions and Outlook



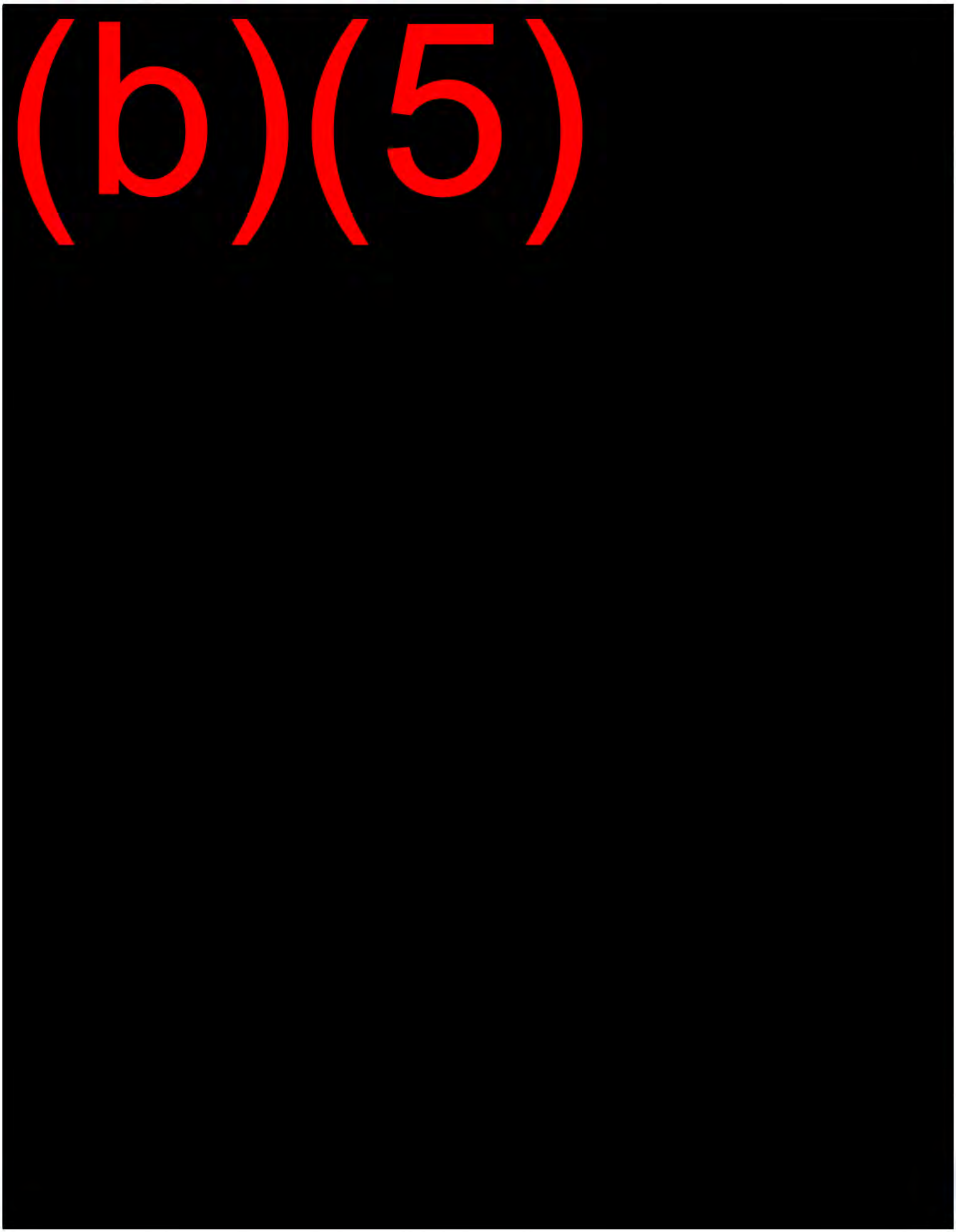


Fire Potential Outlook





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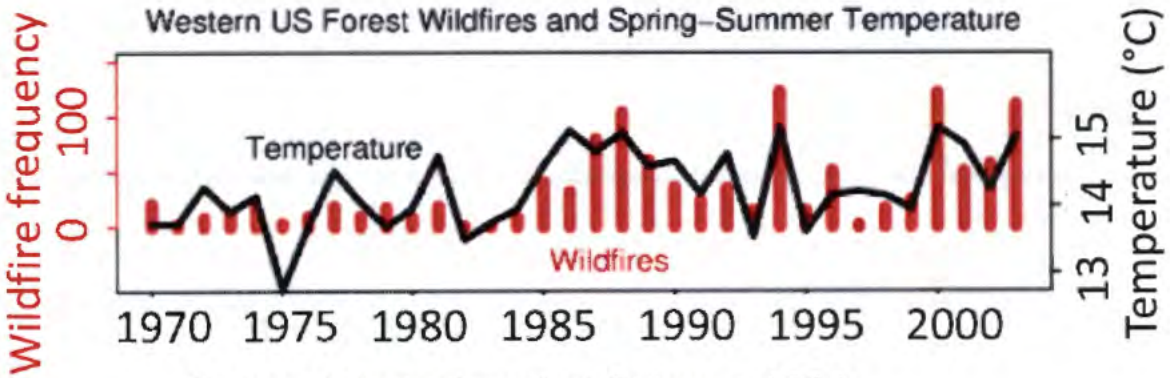
Long-term Wildfire Trends

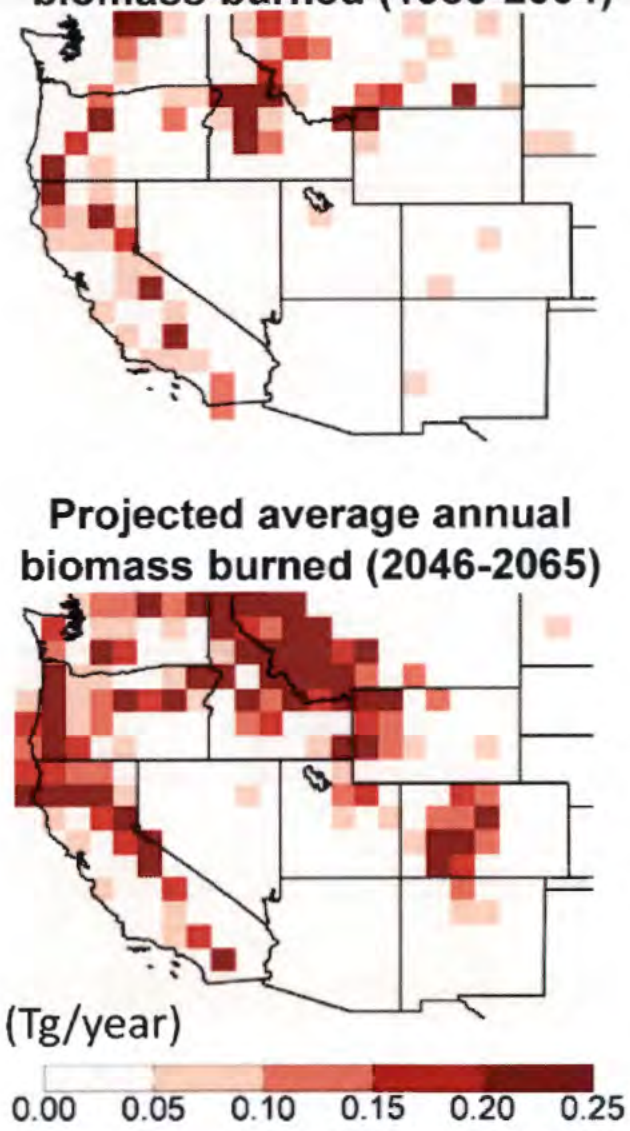
Observed wildfire frequency is tied to spring-summer temperatures



Source: Westerling *et al*. Science. 2006.

Observed average annual biomass burned (1980-2004)

Projected average annual biomass burned (2046-2065)



Source: Yue *et al*. Atmospheric Environment. 2013.

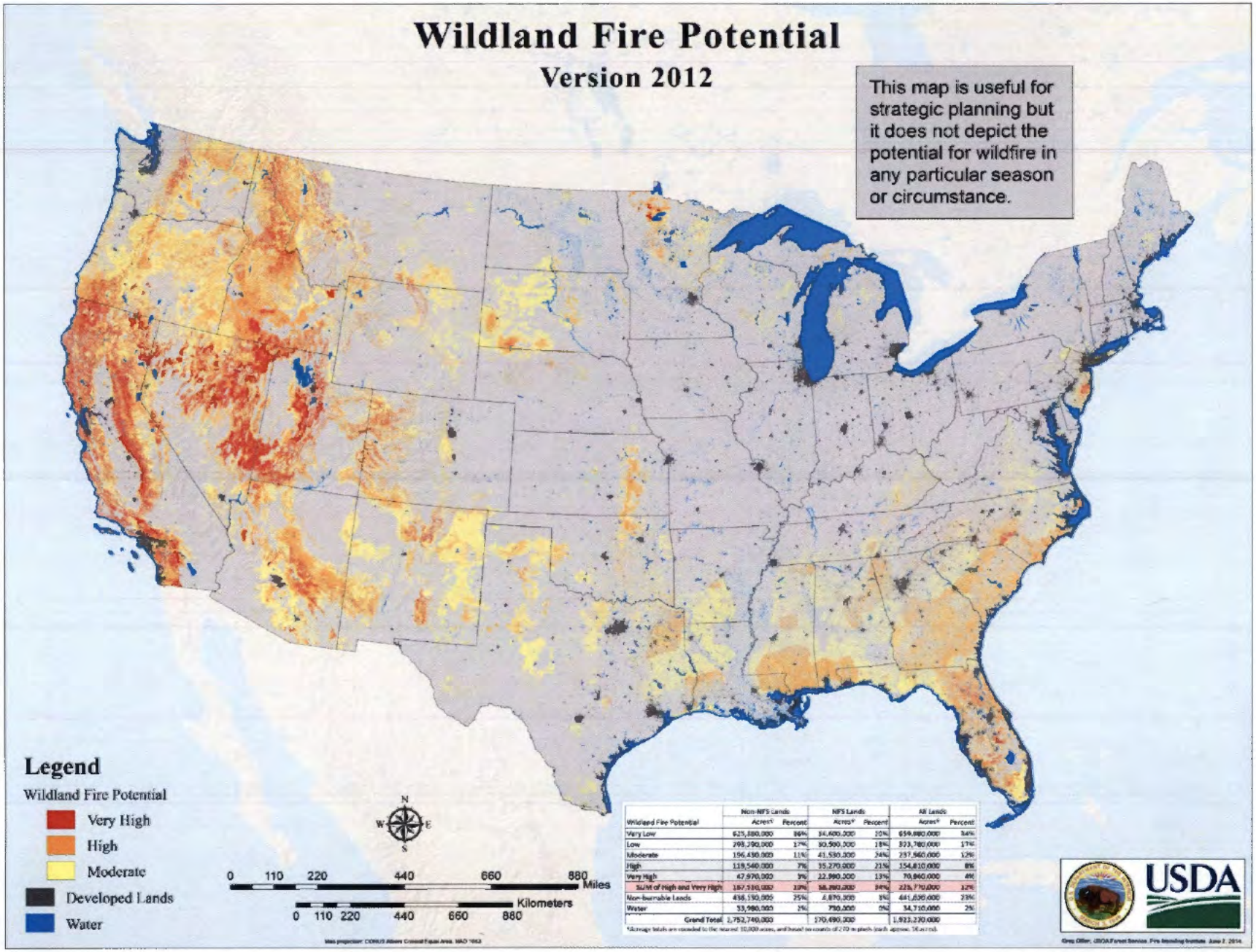
Projected Combined Federal Resources

Incident Management Teams	
Type 1 IMTs	16 National Teams, 4 Full-Time NIMO Teams
Type 2 IMTs	36 Interagency Teams
Firefighting Crews	
Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews	110
Type 2 Crews	350
Smokejumpers	463
Firefighting Personnel	
Estimated Total	13,947
Aircraft	
Single Engine Airtankers (SEATS)	72 (34 Exclusive Use--EU; 38 Call When Needed--CWN)
Large Airtankers (LATs)	15
MAFFS	8
Water Scoopers	3
Helicopters	
Type 1	52 (34 EU; 18 CWN)
Type 2	80 (36 EU; 44 CWN)
Type 3	536 (83 EU; 453 CWN) (May not include all AK helicopters)
Estimated Maximum Total	668
Heavy Equipment	
Engines	1,645 (900 USFS; 745 DOI)
Dozers, Water Tenders, etc.	416 (210 USFS; 206 DOI)

Wildland Fire Potential

Version 2012

This map is useful for strategic planning but it does not depict the potential for wildfire in any particular season or circumstance.

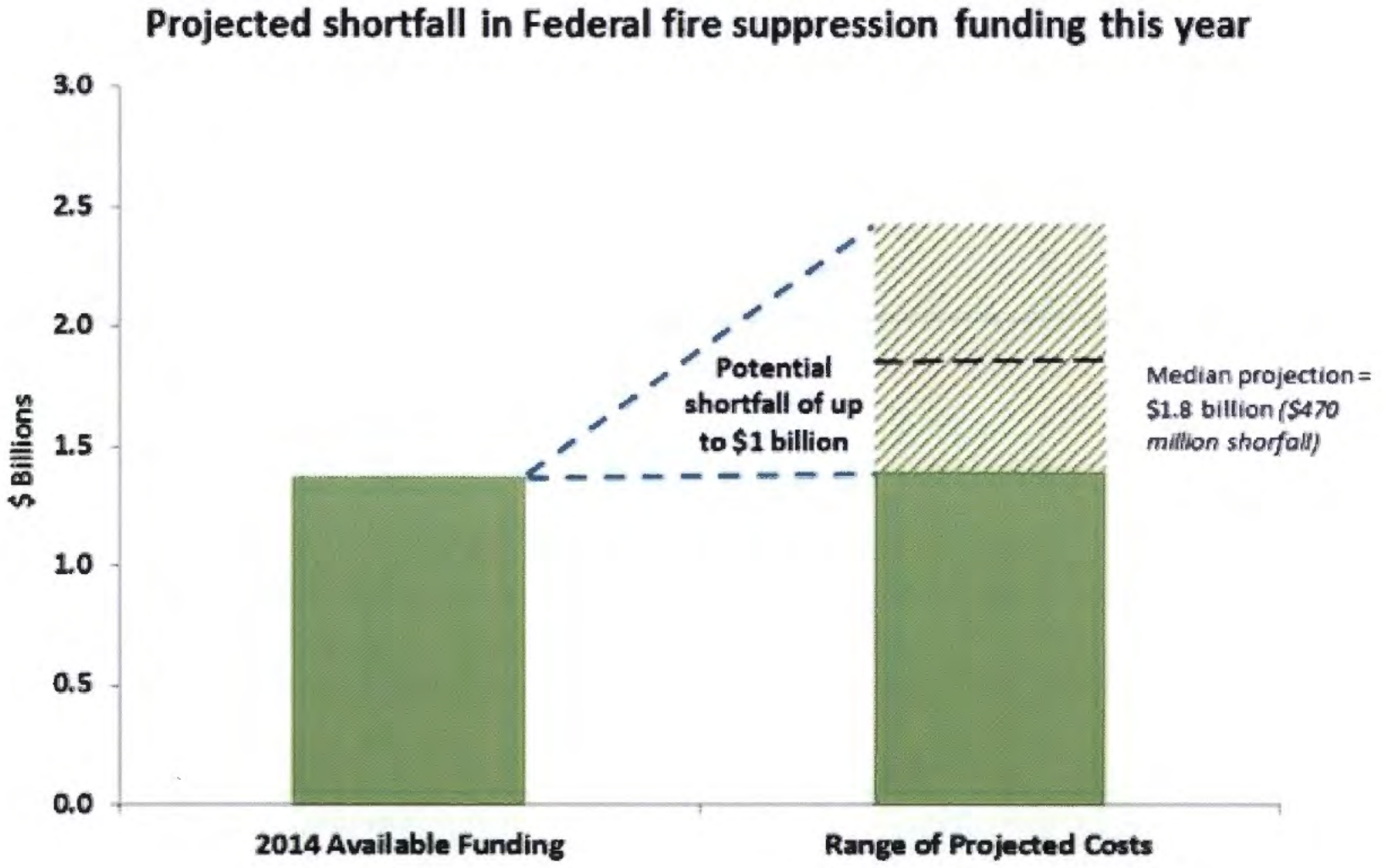


Wildland Fire Potential	Non-NFS Lands Acres*	Non-NFS Lands Percent	NFS Lands Acres*	NFS Lands Percent	All Lands Acres*	All Lands Percent
Very Low	625,880,000	36%	34,400,000	10%	659,980,000	34%
Low	298,390,000	17%	30,500,000	18%	323,780,000	17%
Moderate	196,430,000	11%	41,530,000	24%	237,960,000	12%
High	119,540,000	7%	35,270,000	21%	154,810,000	8%
Very High	67,970,000	3%	22,990,000	13%	70,960,000	4%
Sum of High and Very High	187,510,000	10%	58,260,000	34%	225,770,000	12%
Non-burnable Lands	436,190,000	25%	4,870,000	3%	441,060,000	23%
Water	33,980,000	2%	730,000	0%	34,710,000	2%
Grand Total	1,752,740,000		170,490,000		1,923,270,000	

*Acreage totals are rounded to the nearest 10,000 acres, and based on counts of 270-m pixels (each approx. 14 acres).

"The Wildfire Potential map (2012) depicts the relative potential for wildfires that would be difficult for suppression resources to contain. It is based on past wildfire occurrence, fuels data, and computer simulations of wildfire likelihood and intensity."

Rising Fire Costs and Proposed Solution

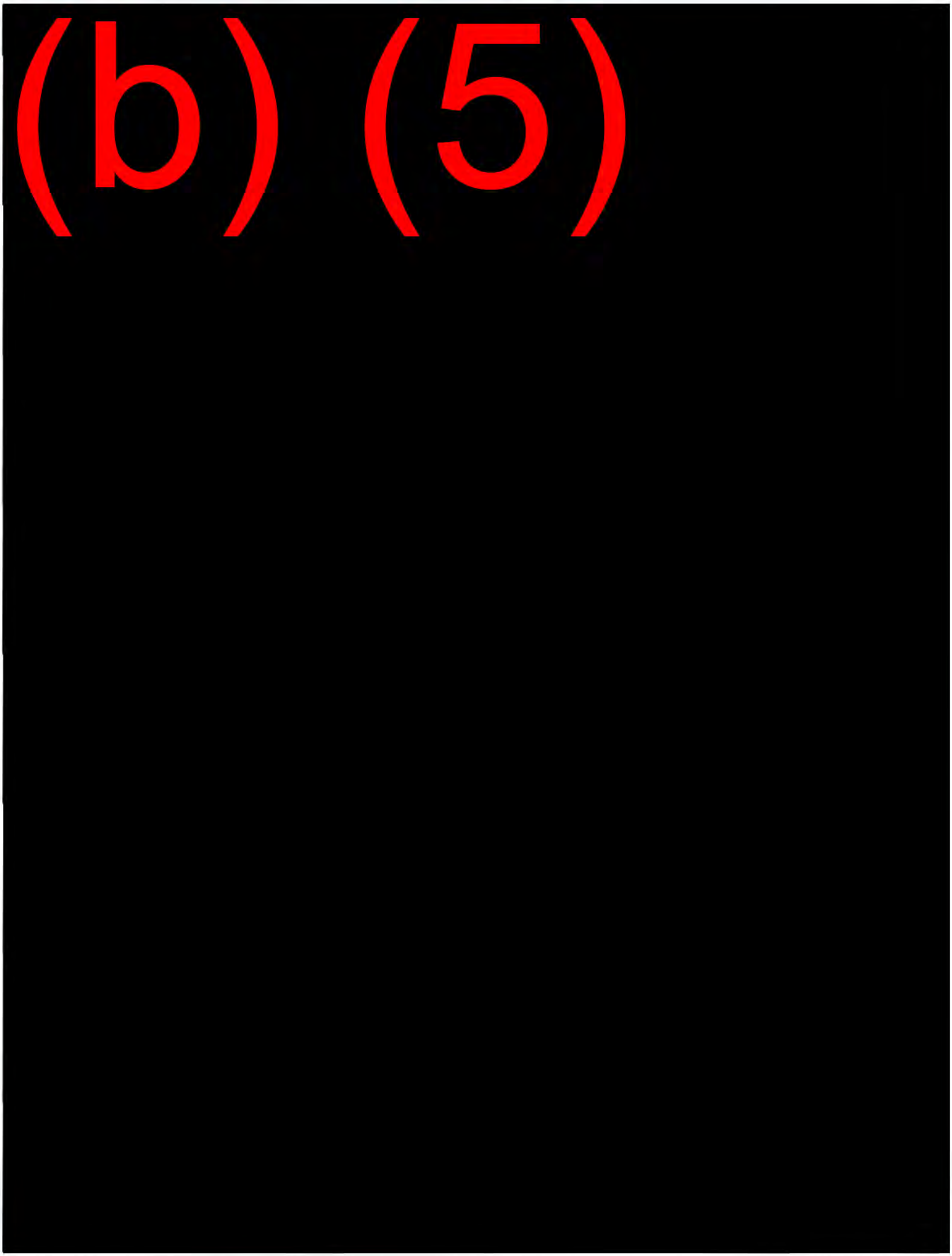


Discussion

Questions and Answers

Drought Contingency Planning for Colorado River Basin States

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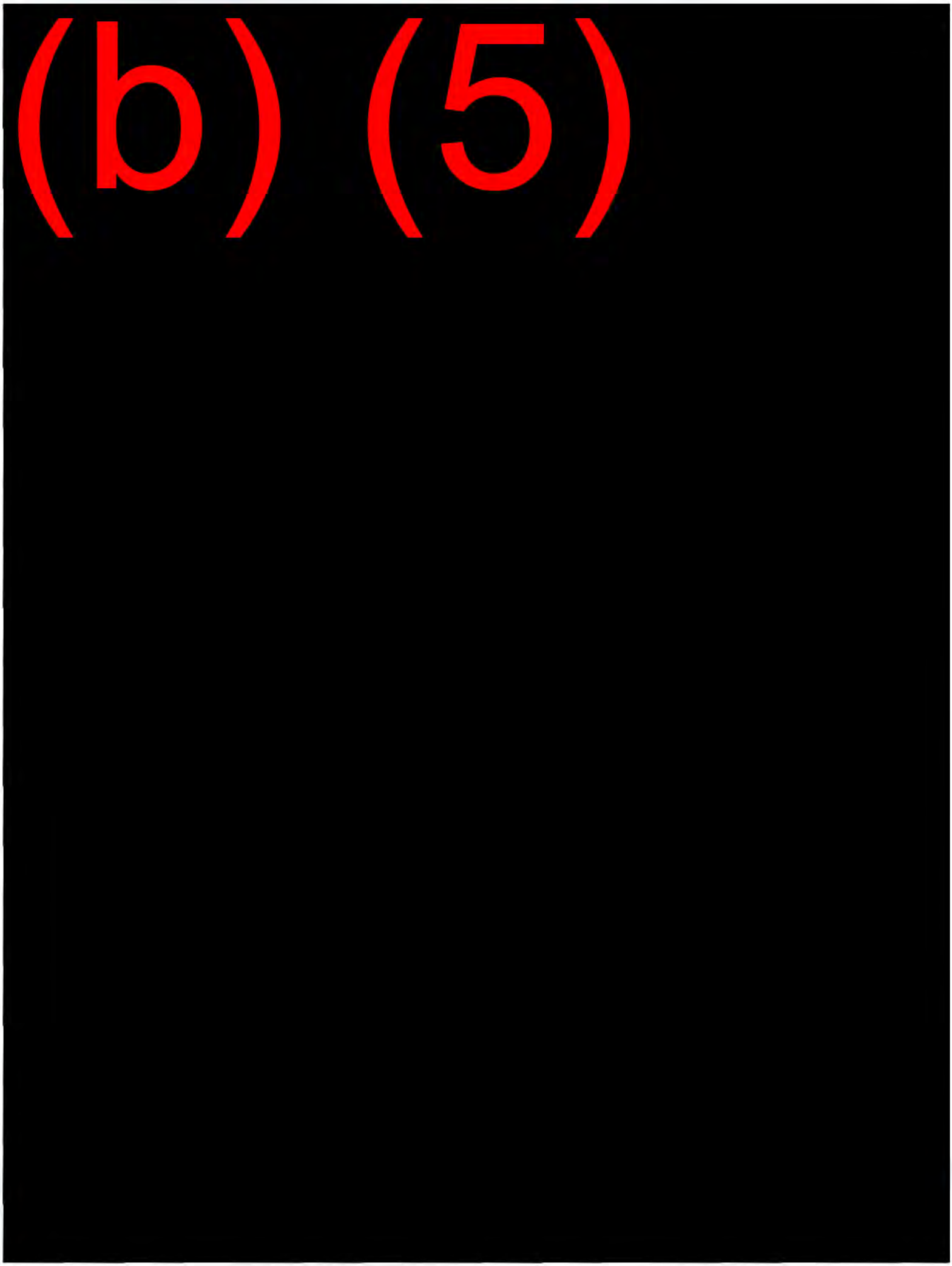
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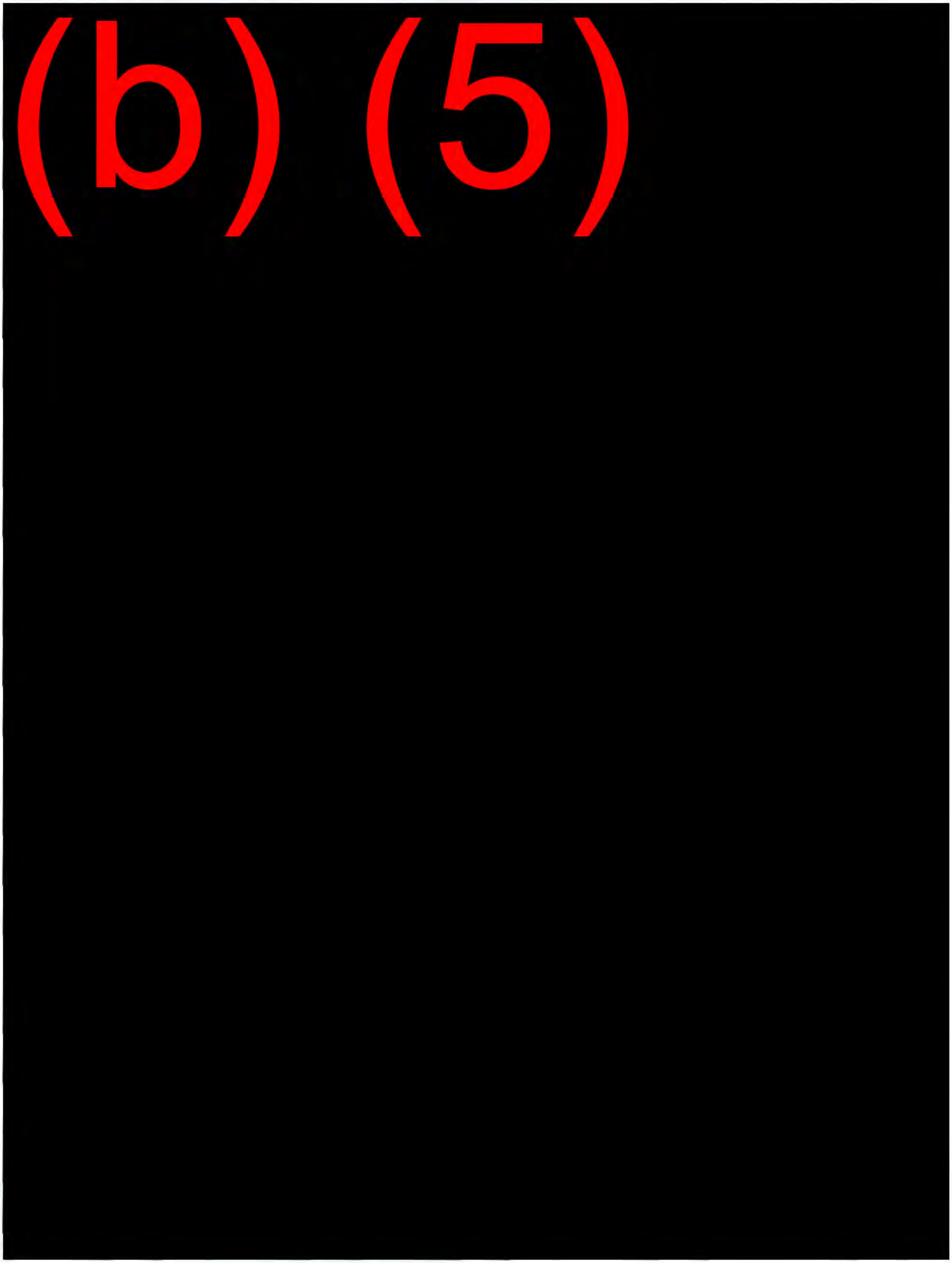
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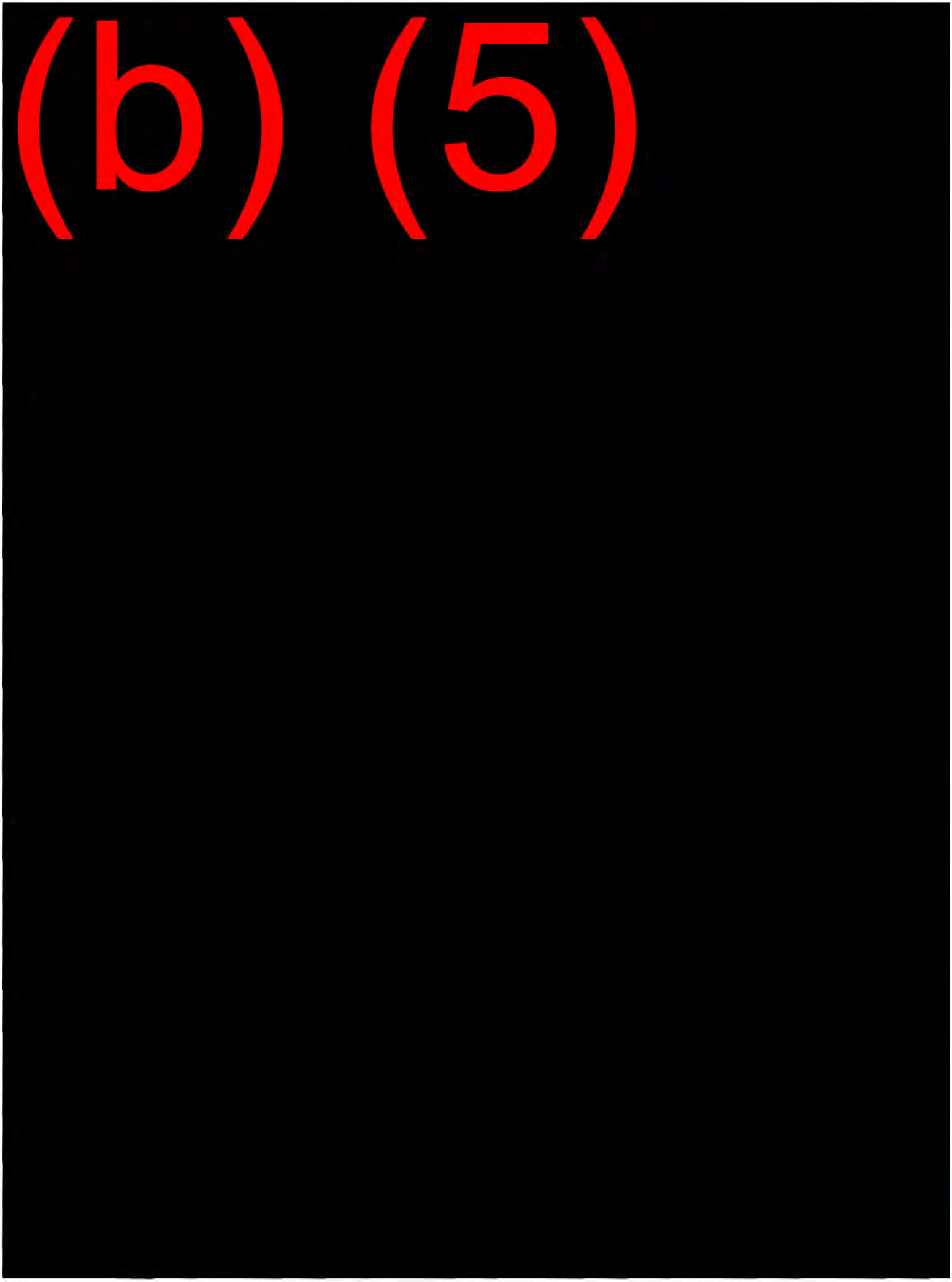
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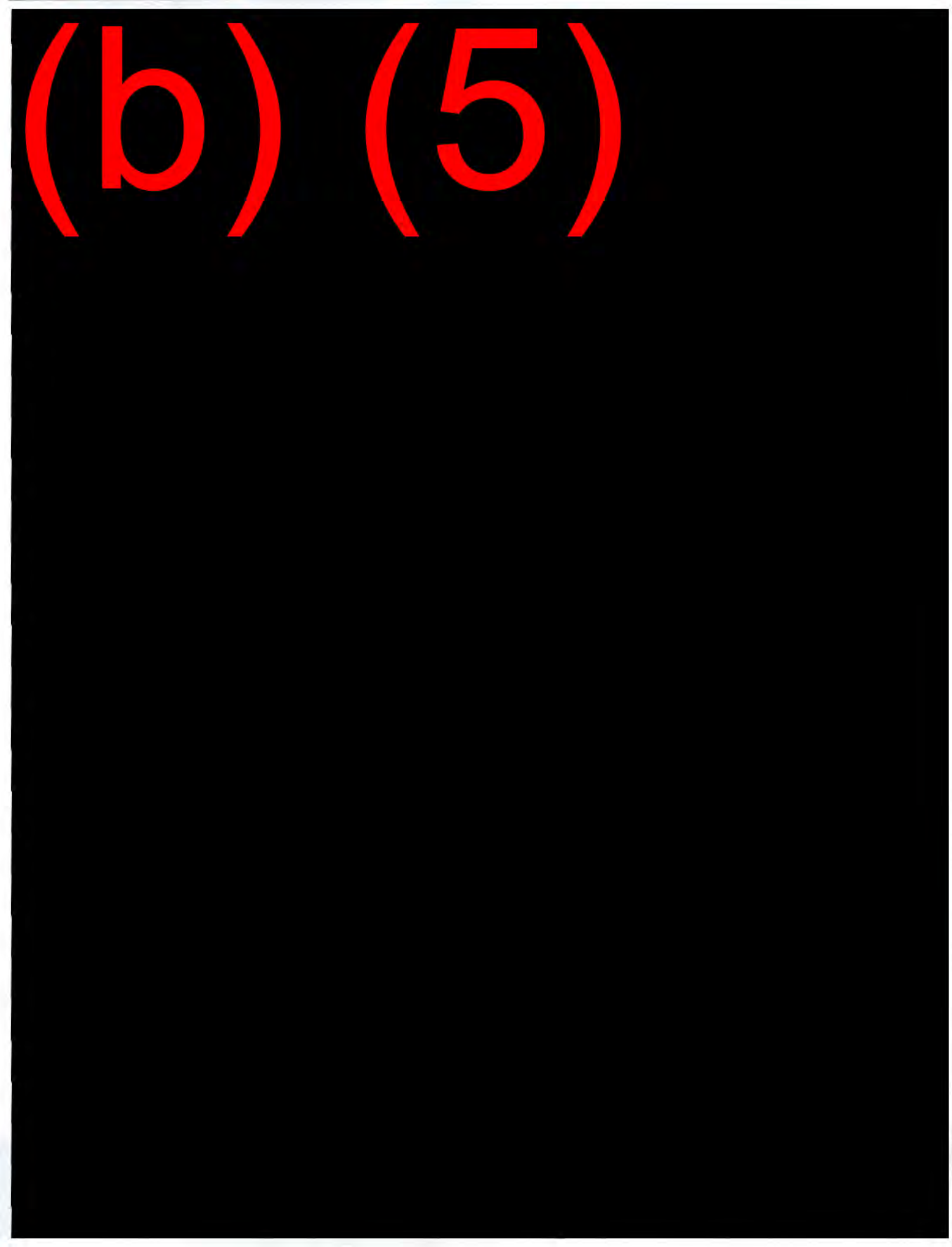
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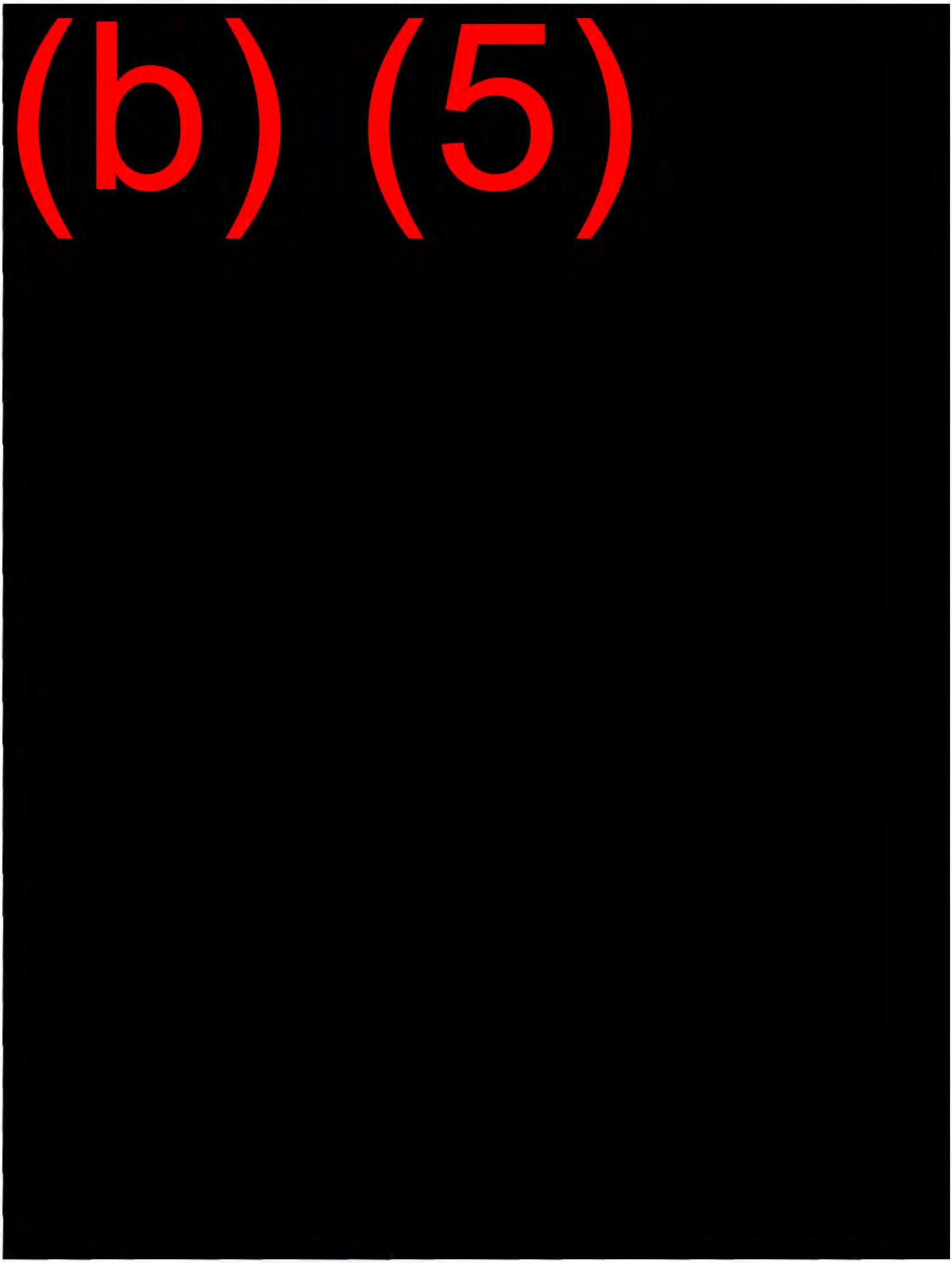
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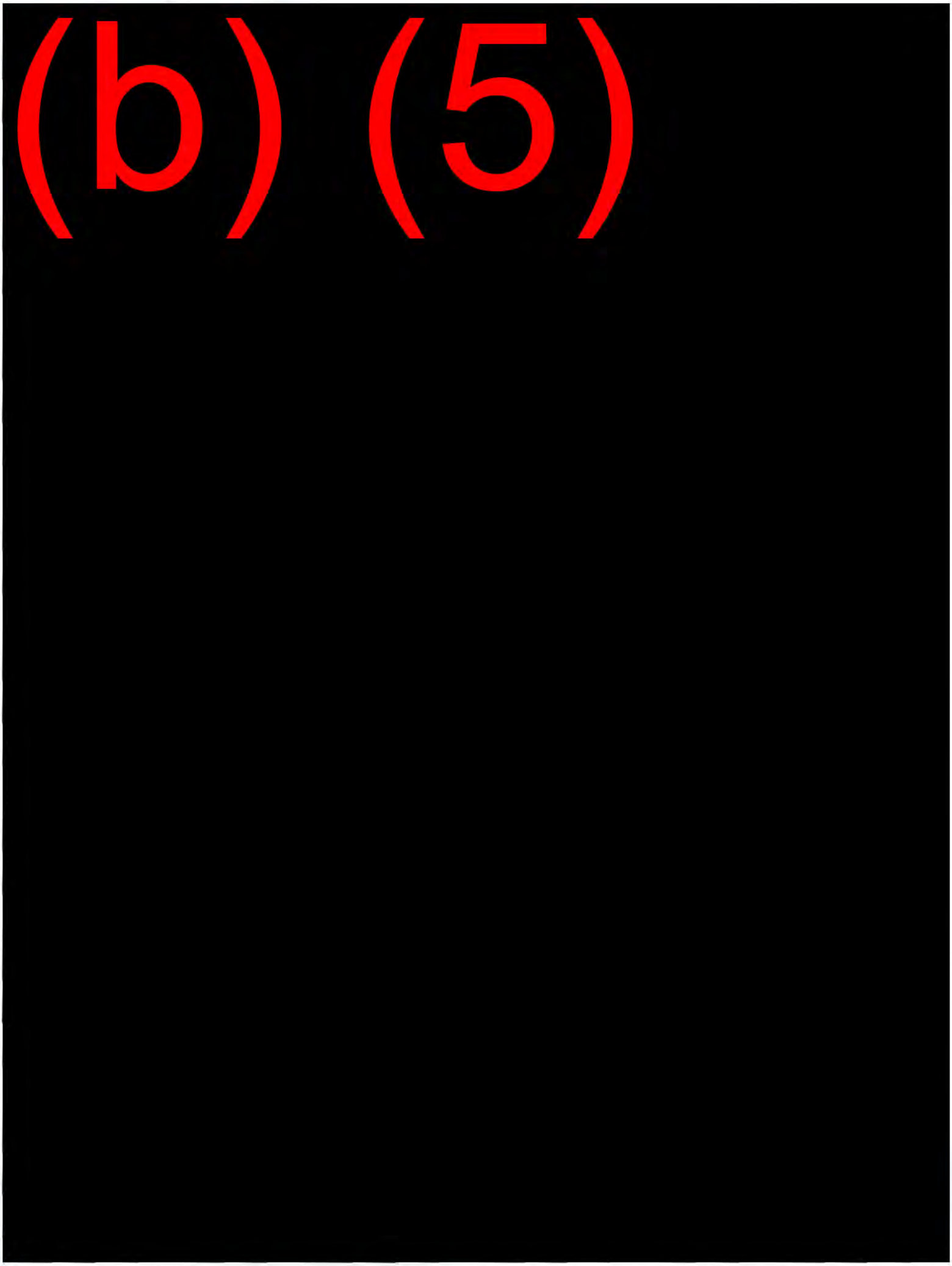
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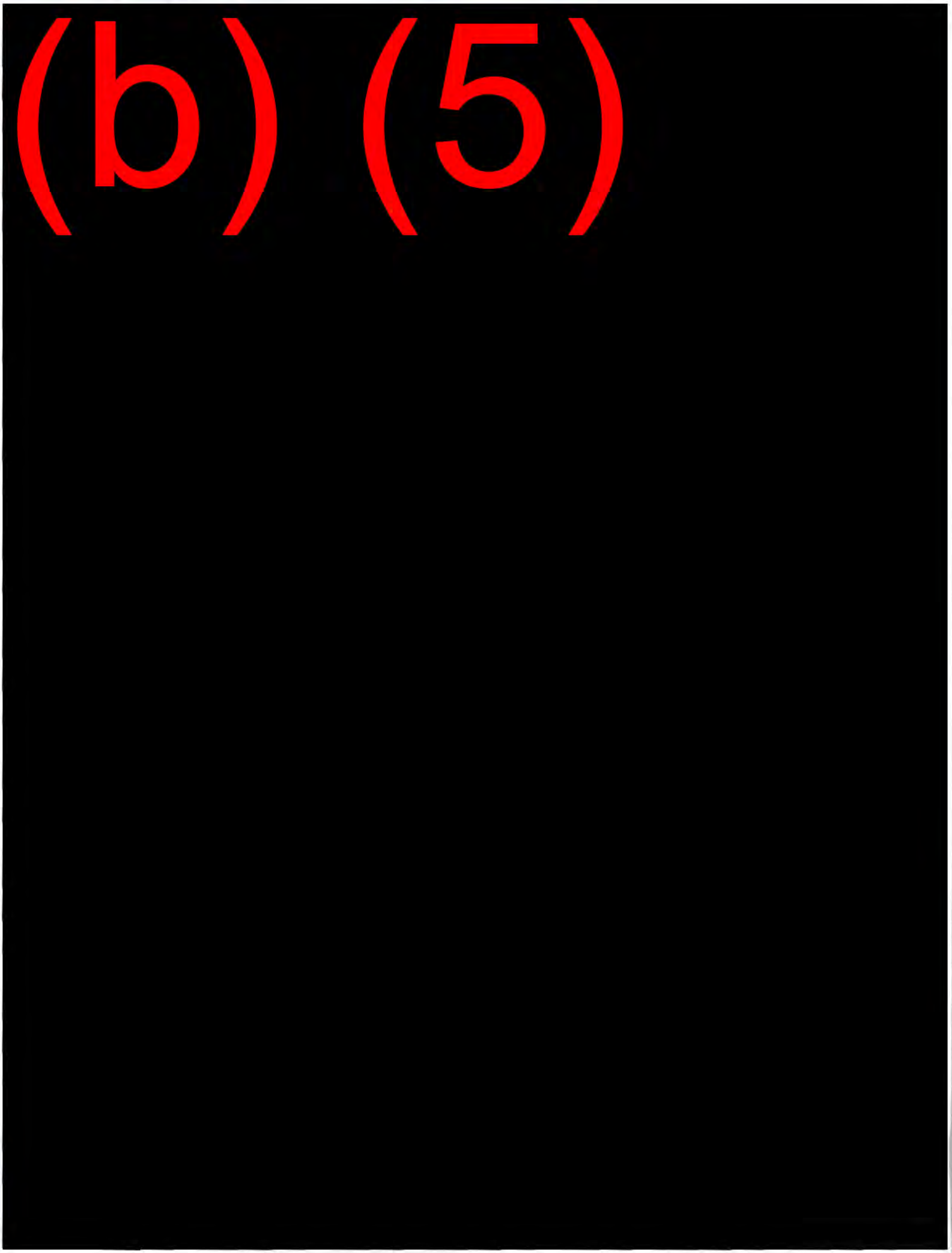
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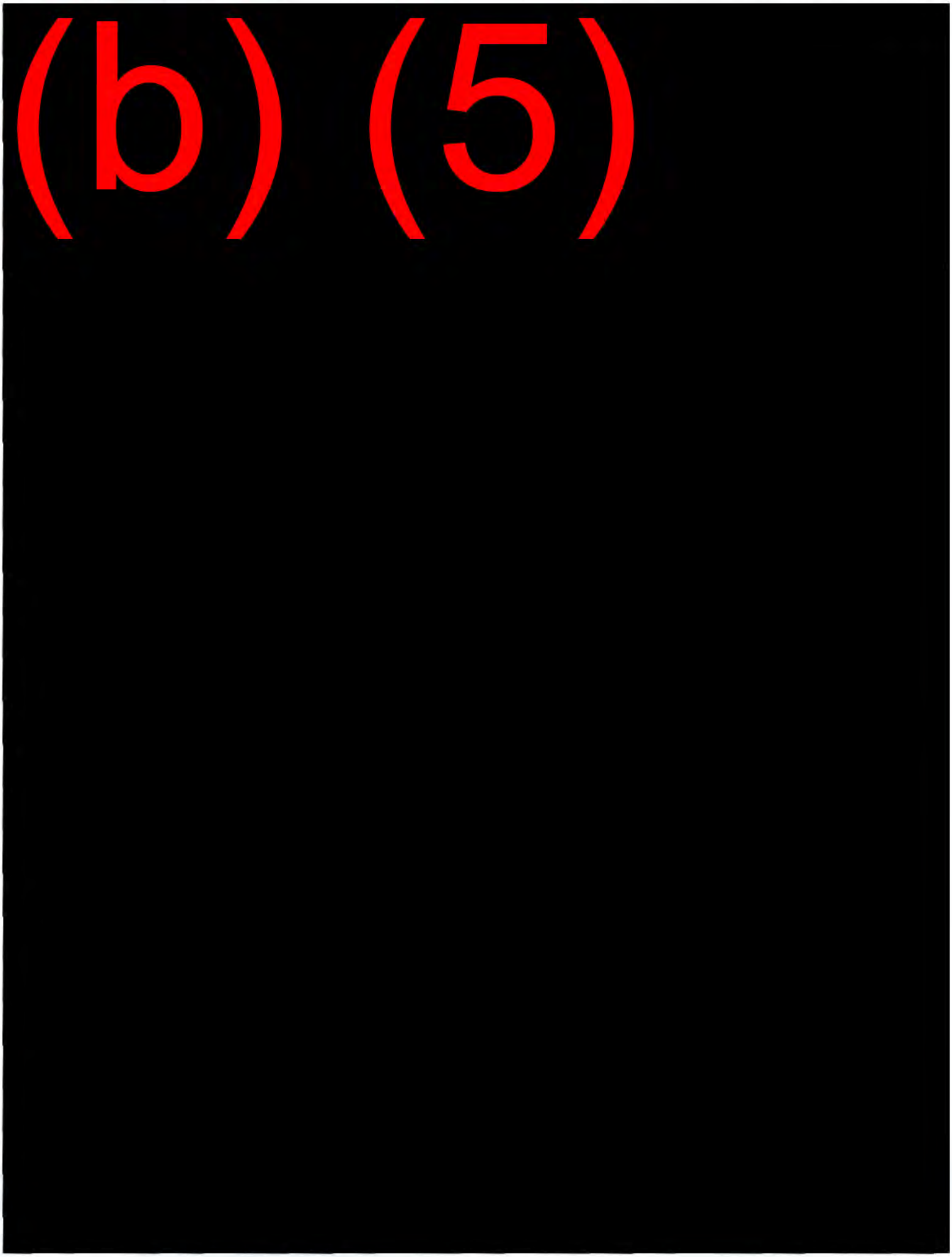
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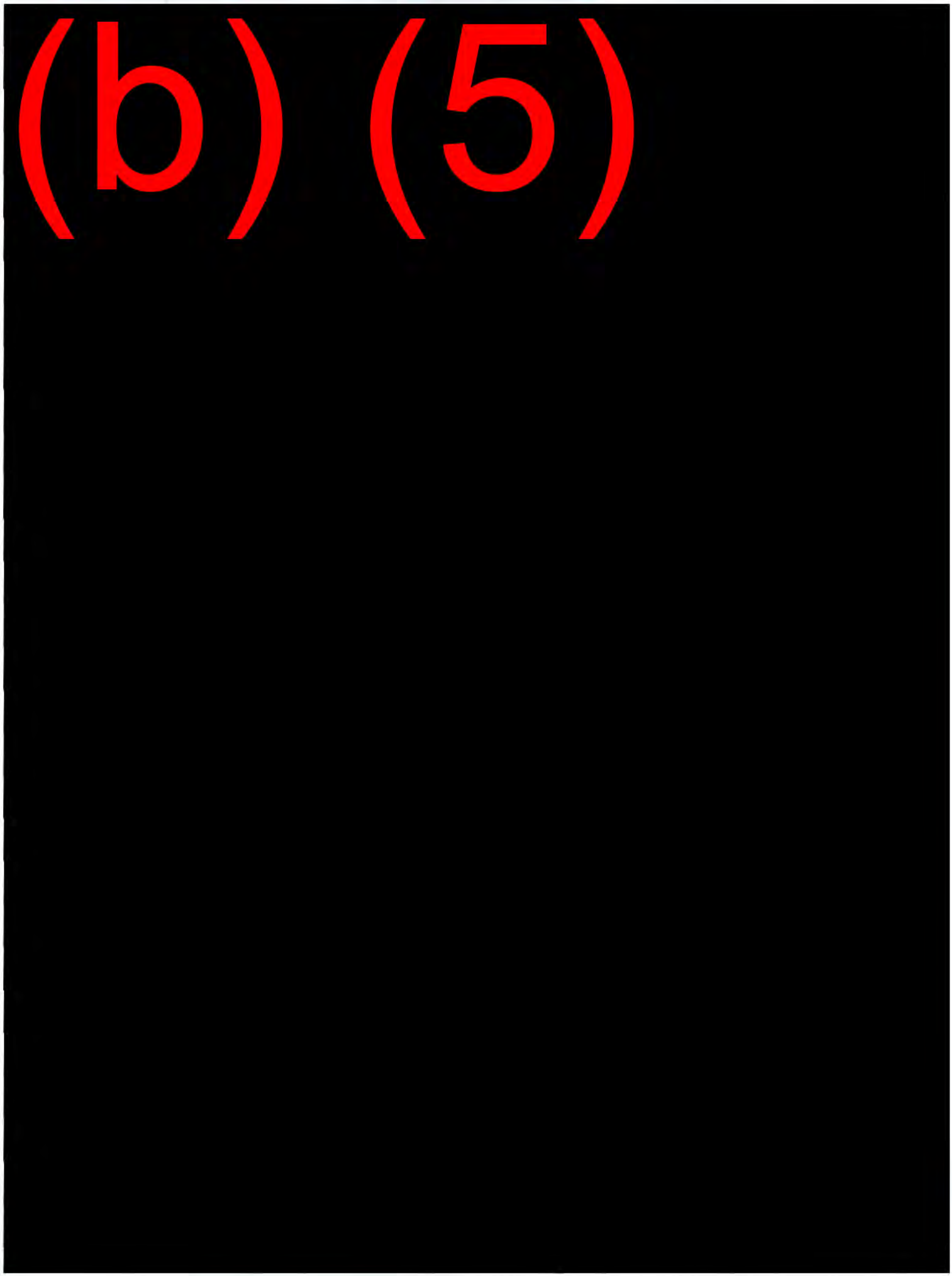
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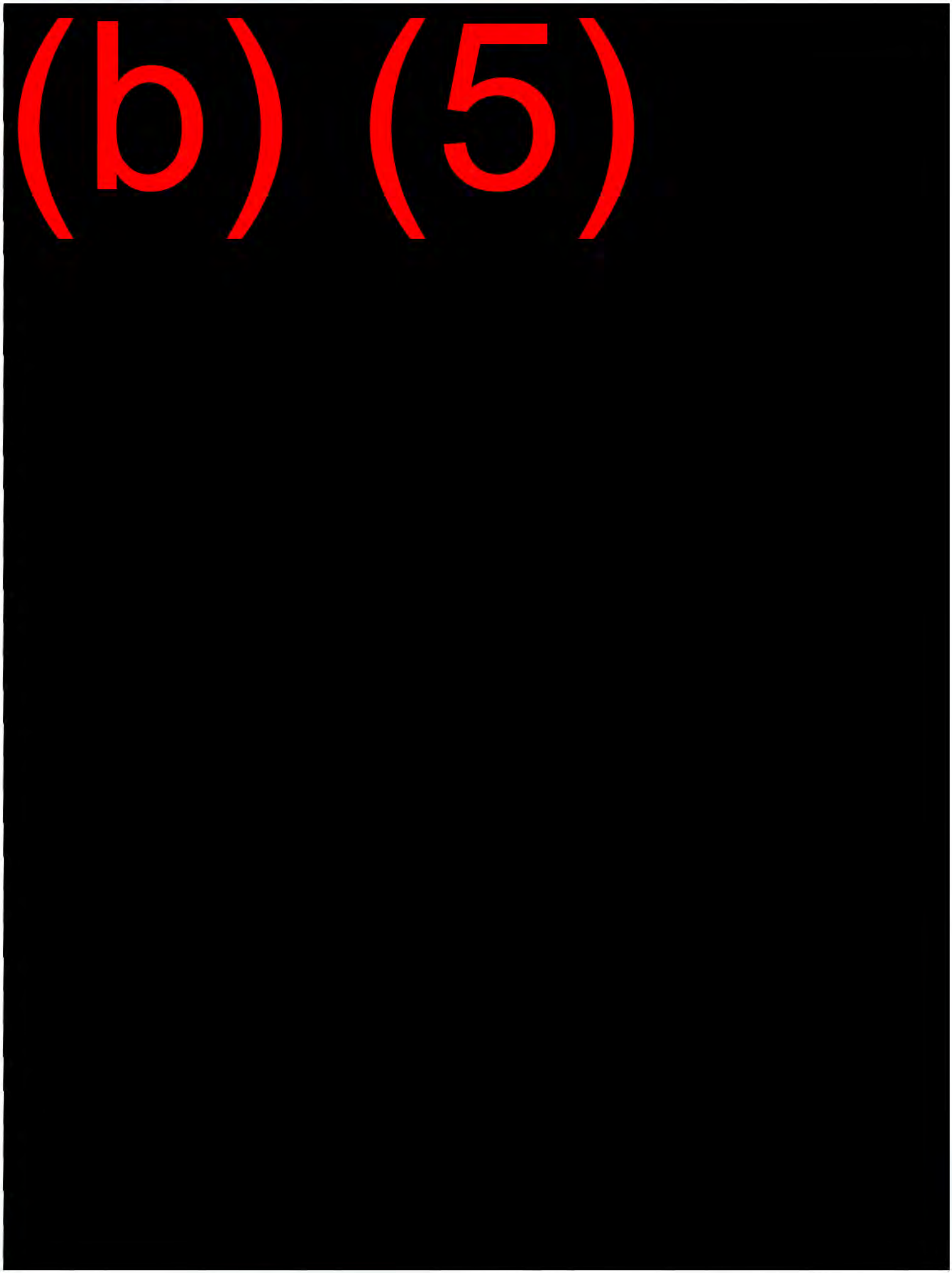
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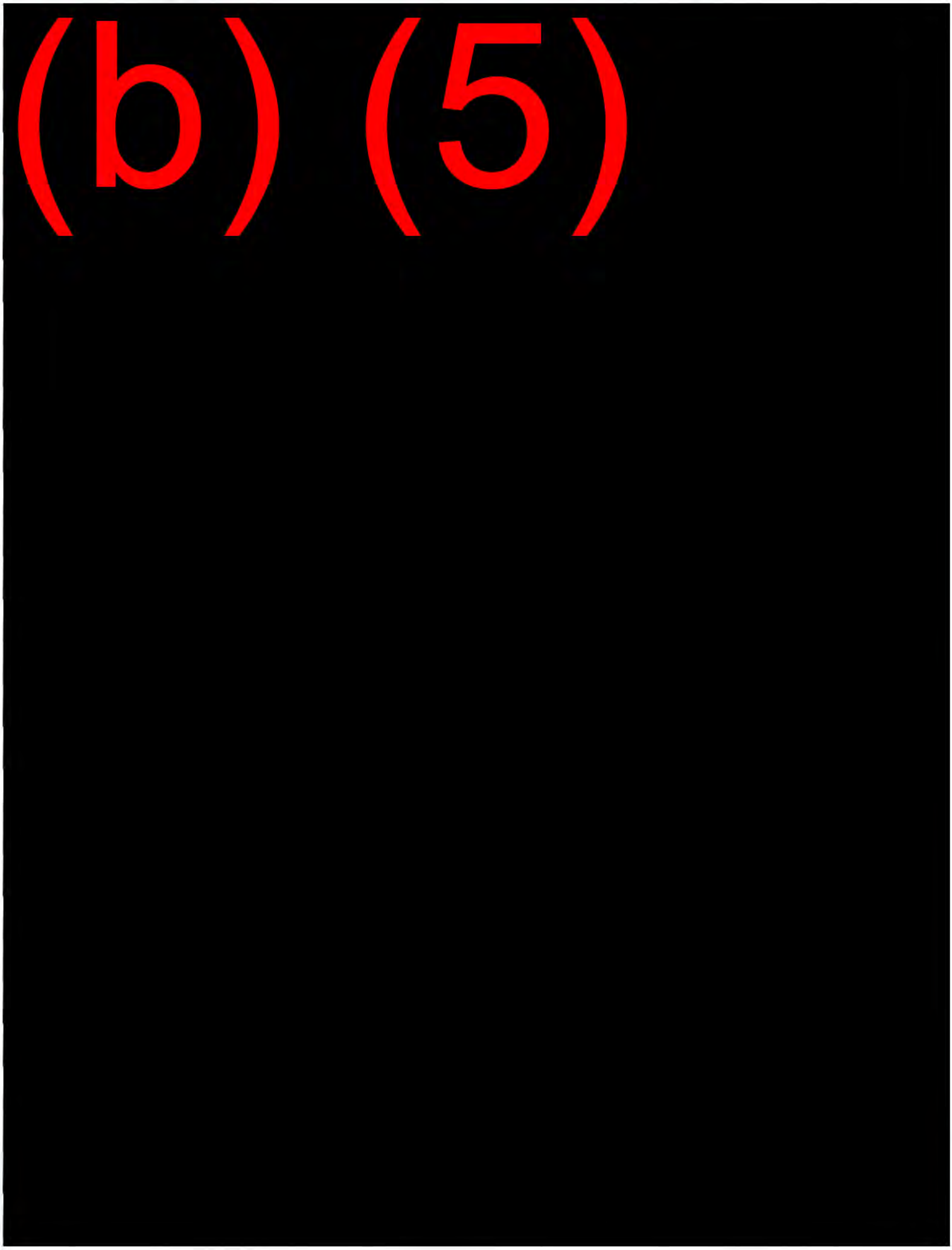
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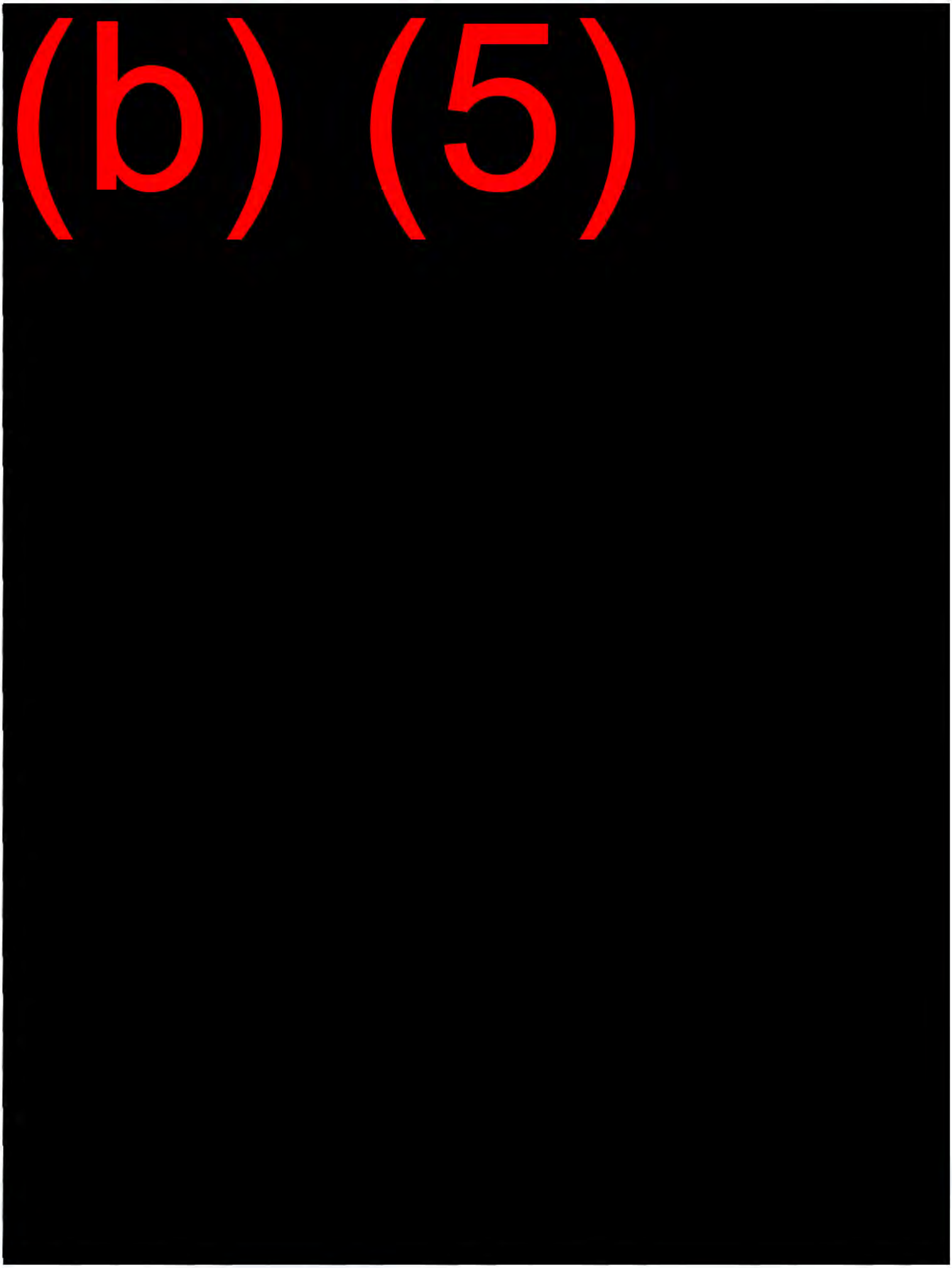
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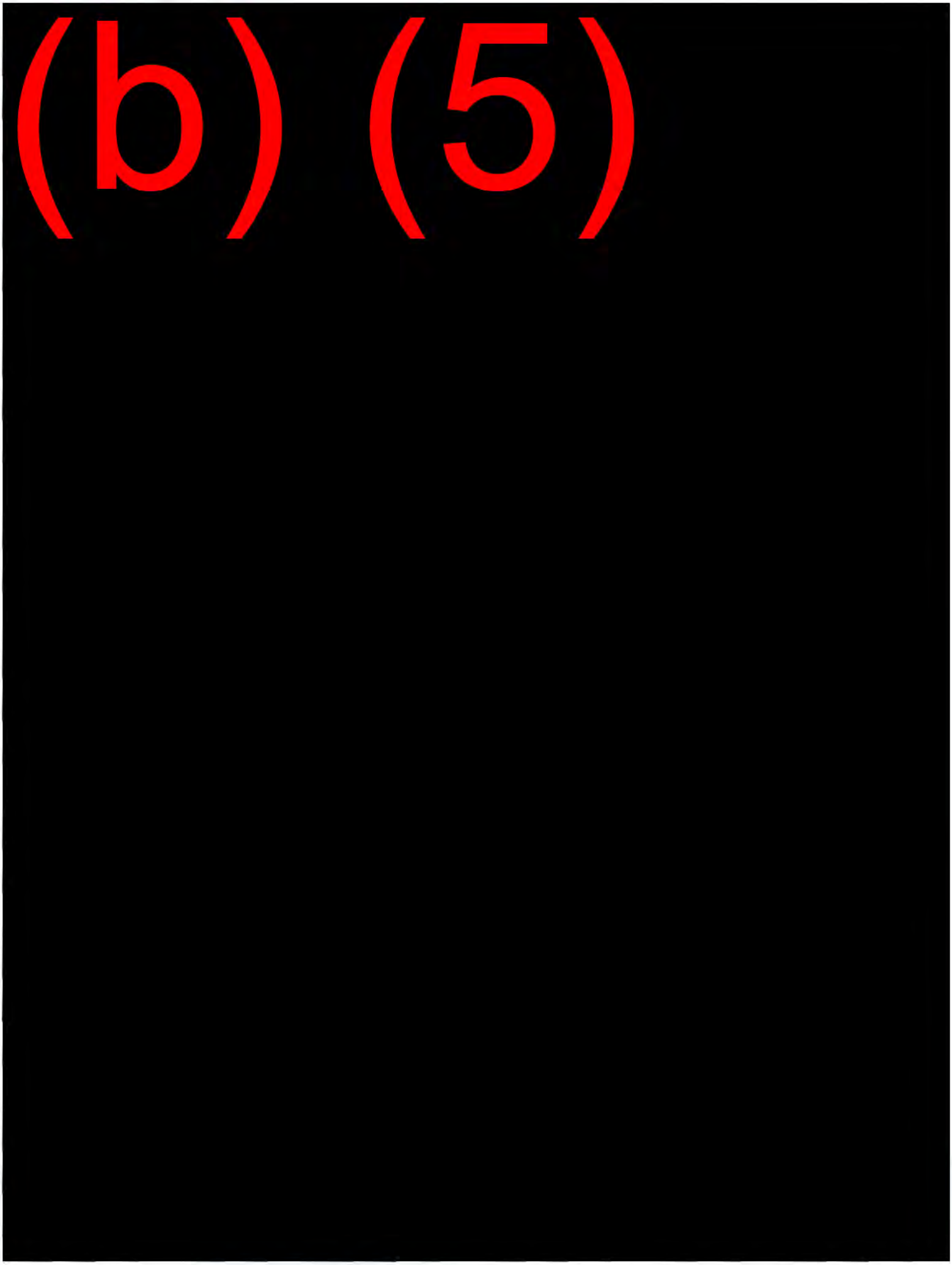
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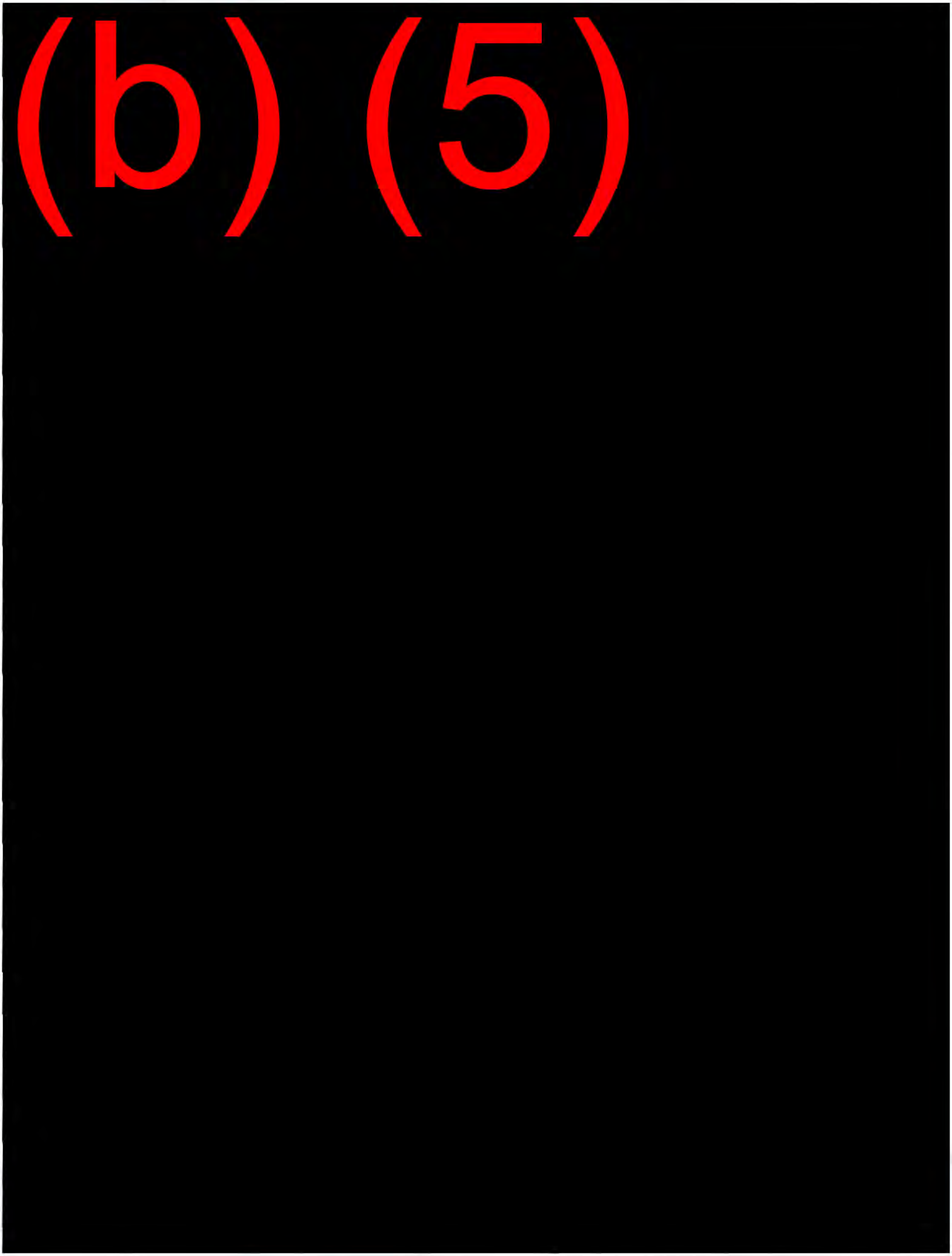
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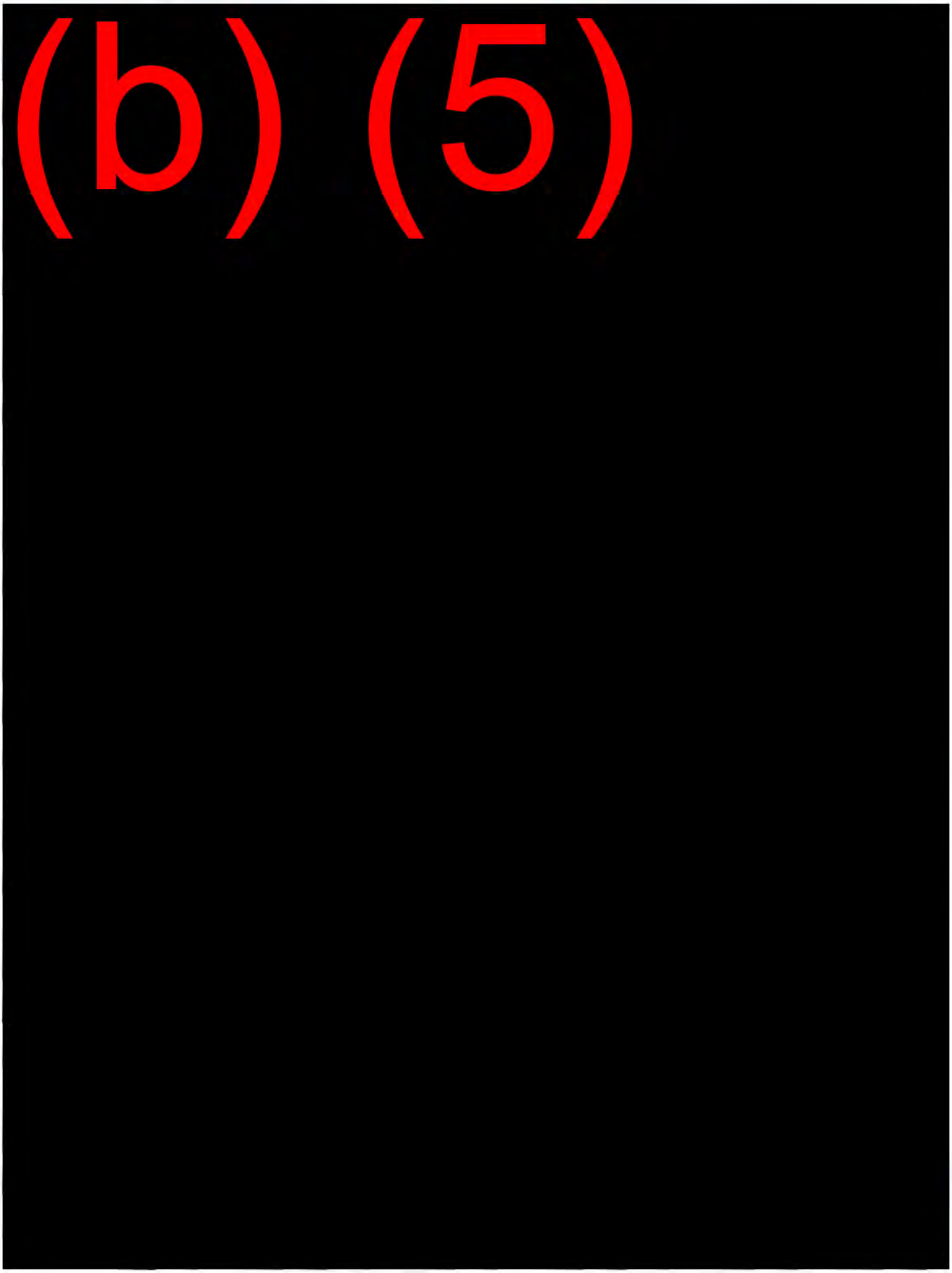
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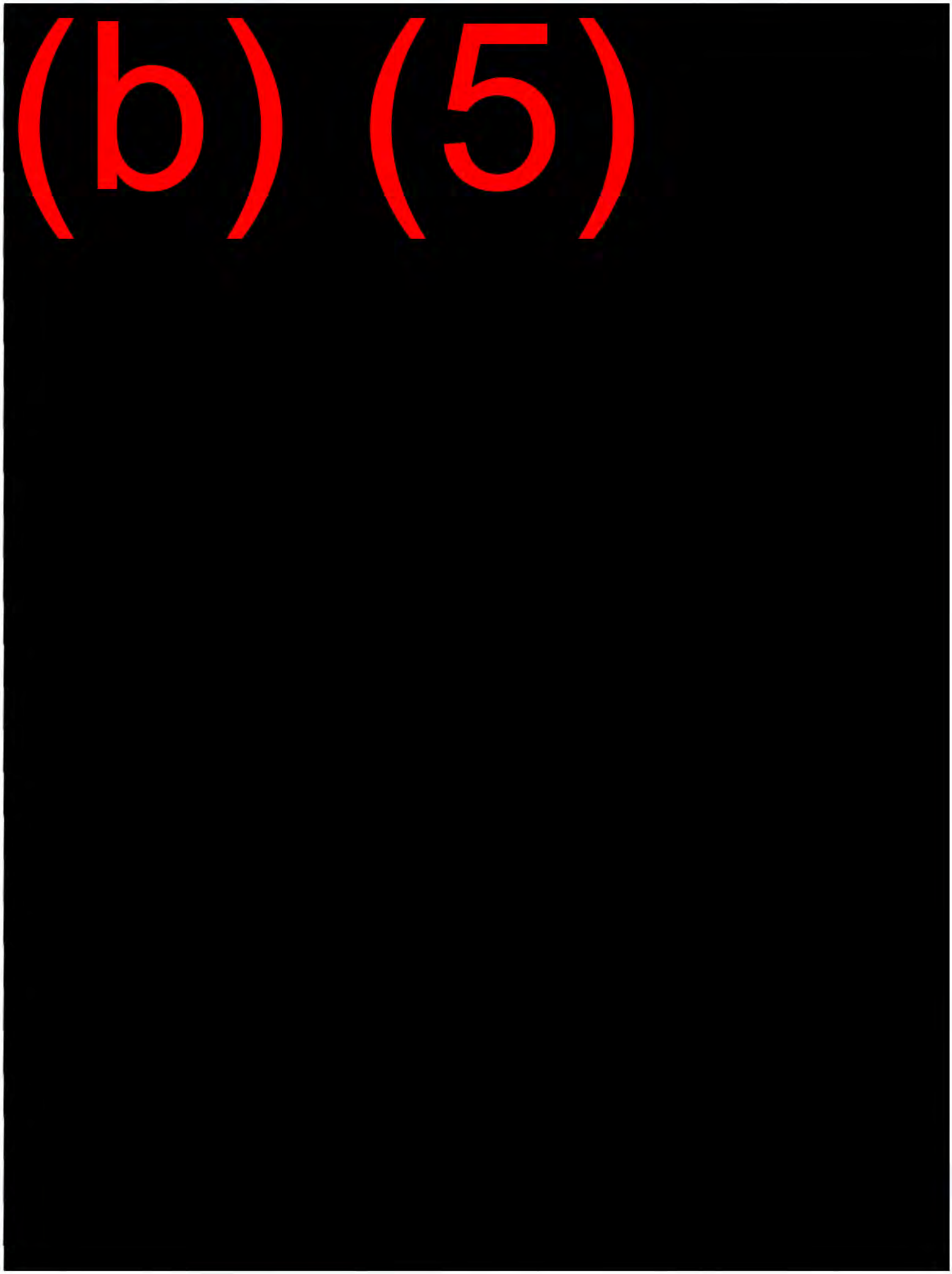
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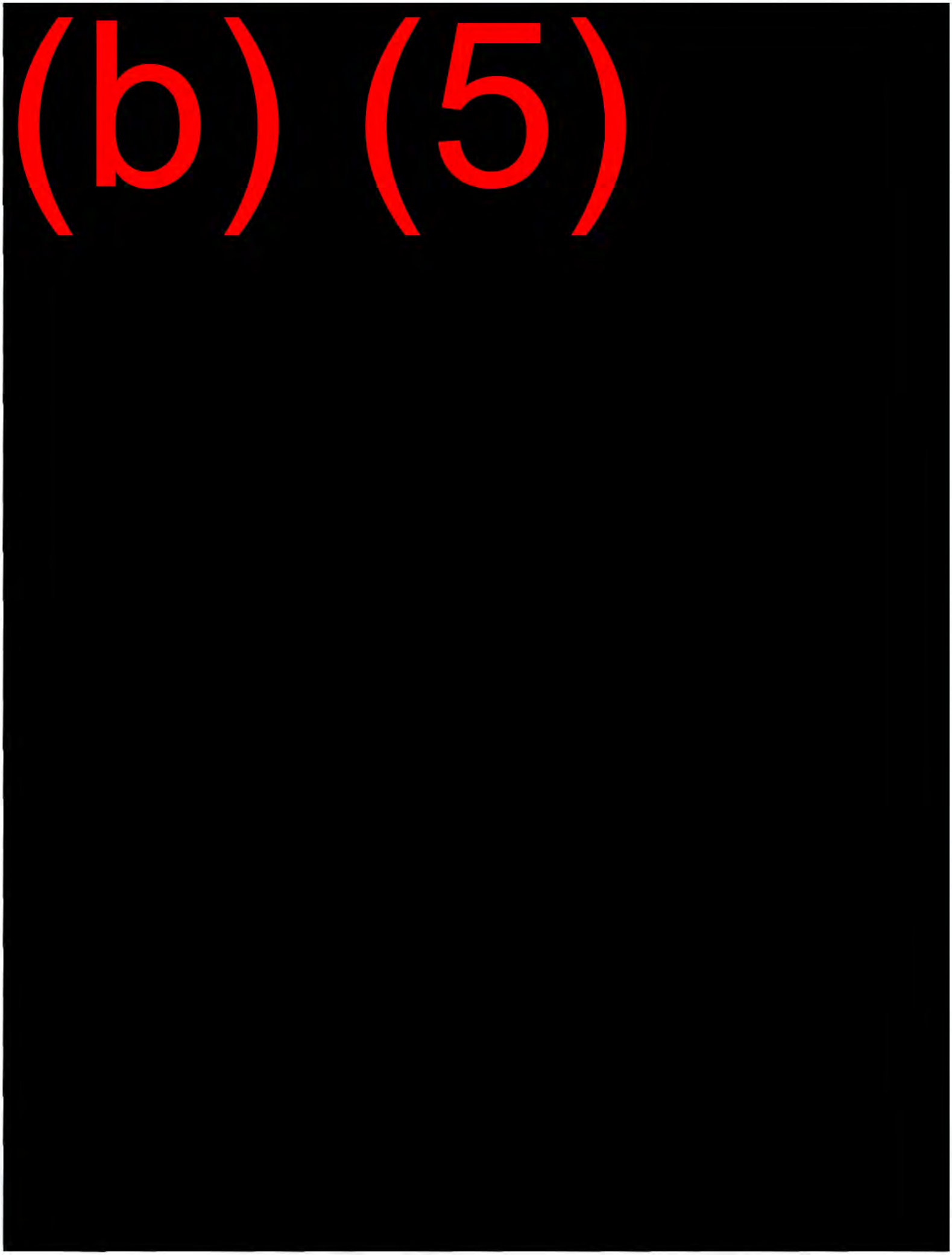
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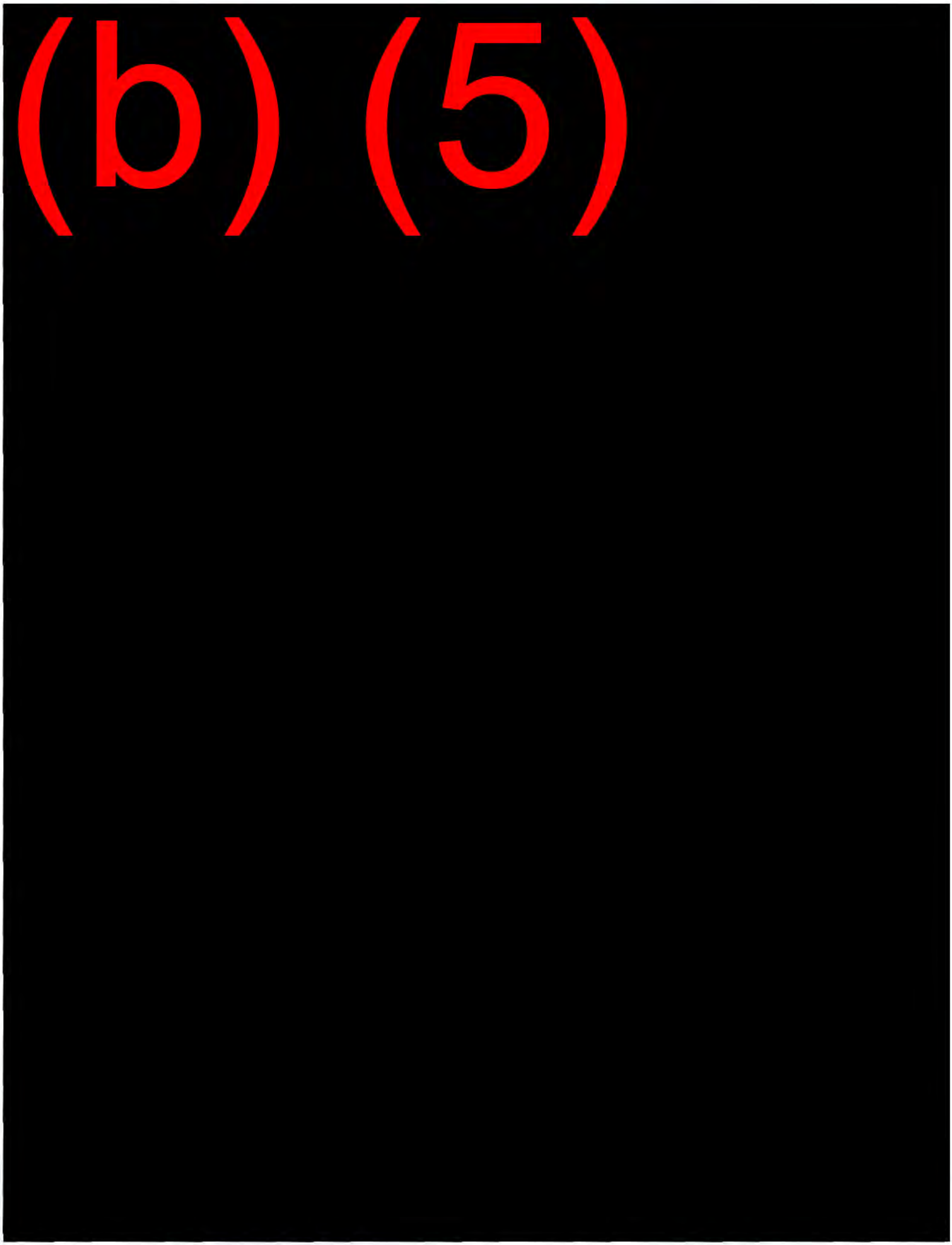
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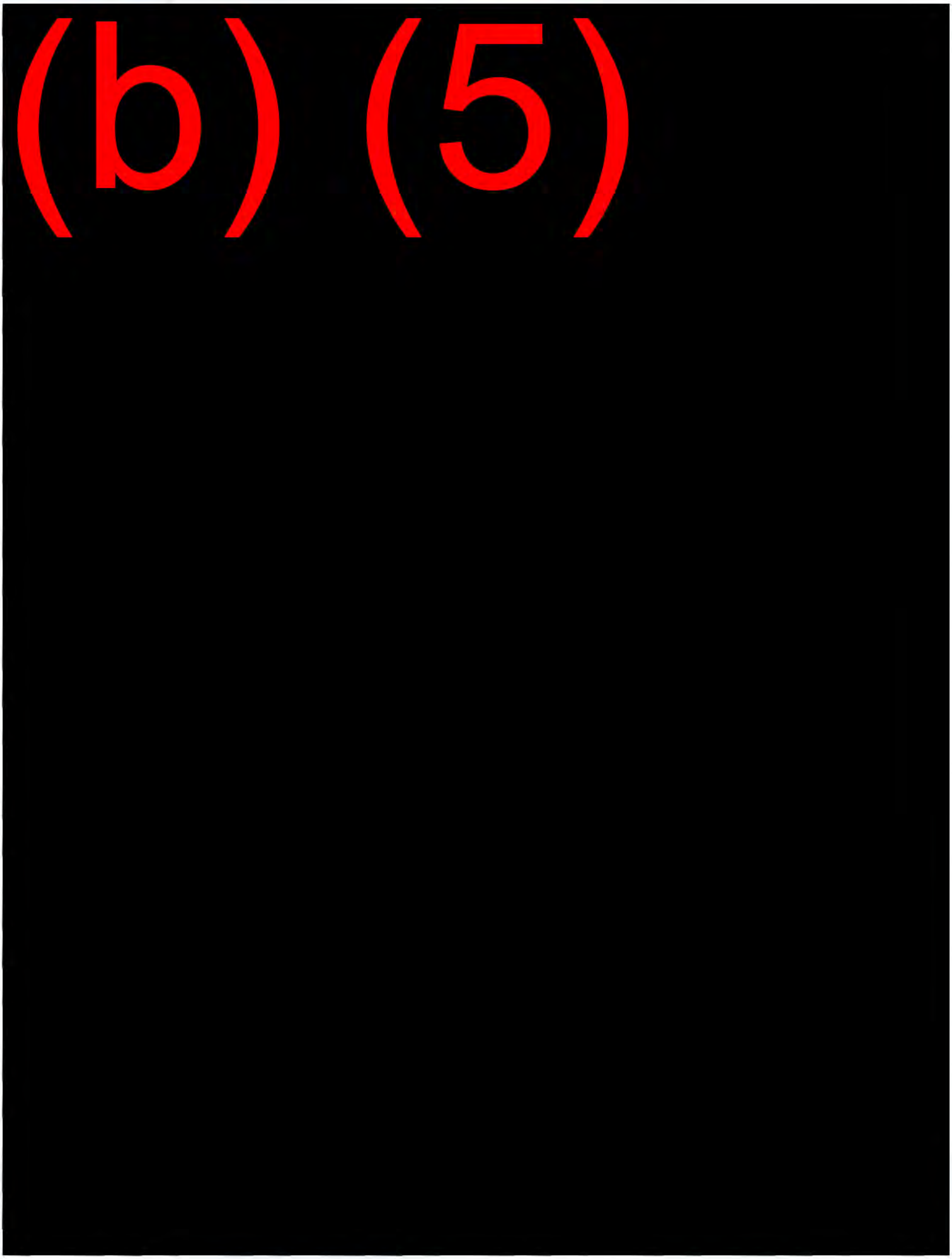
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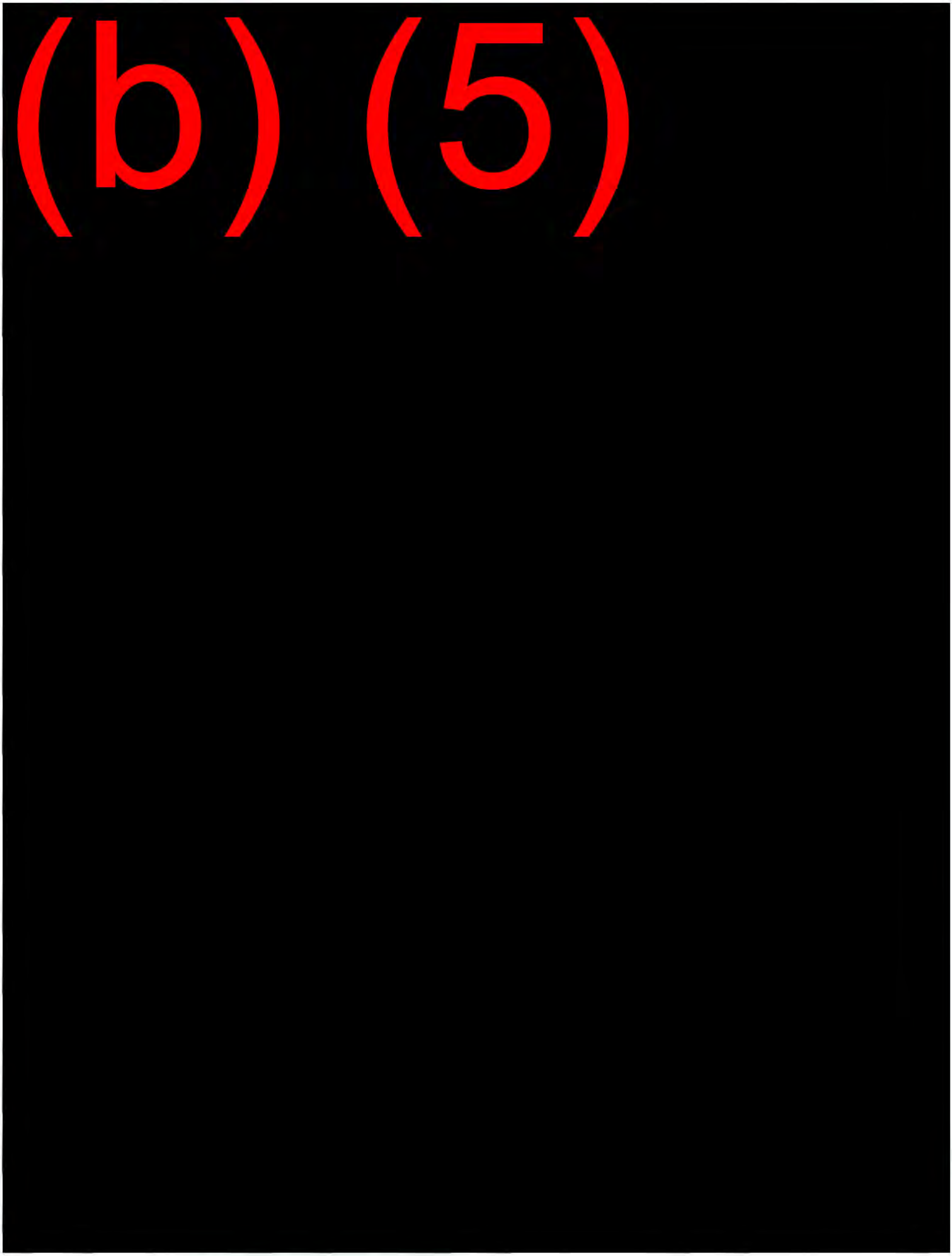
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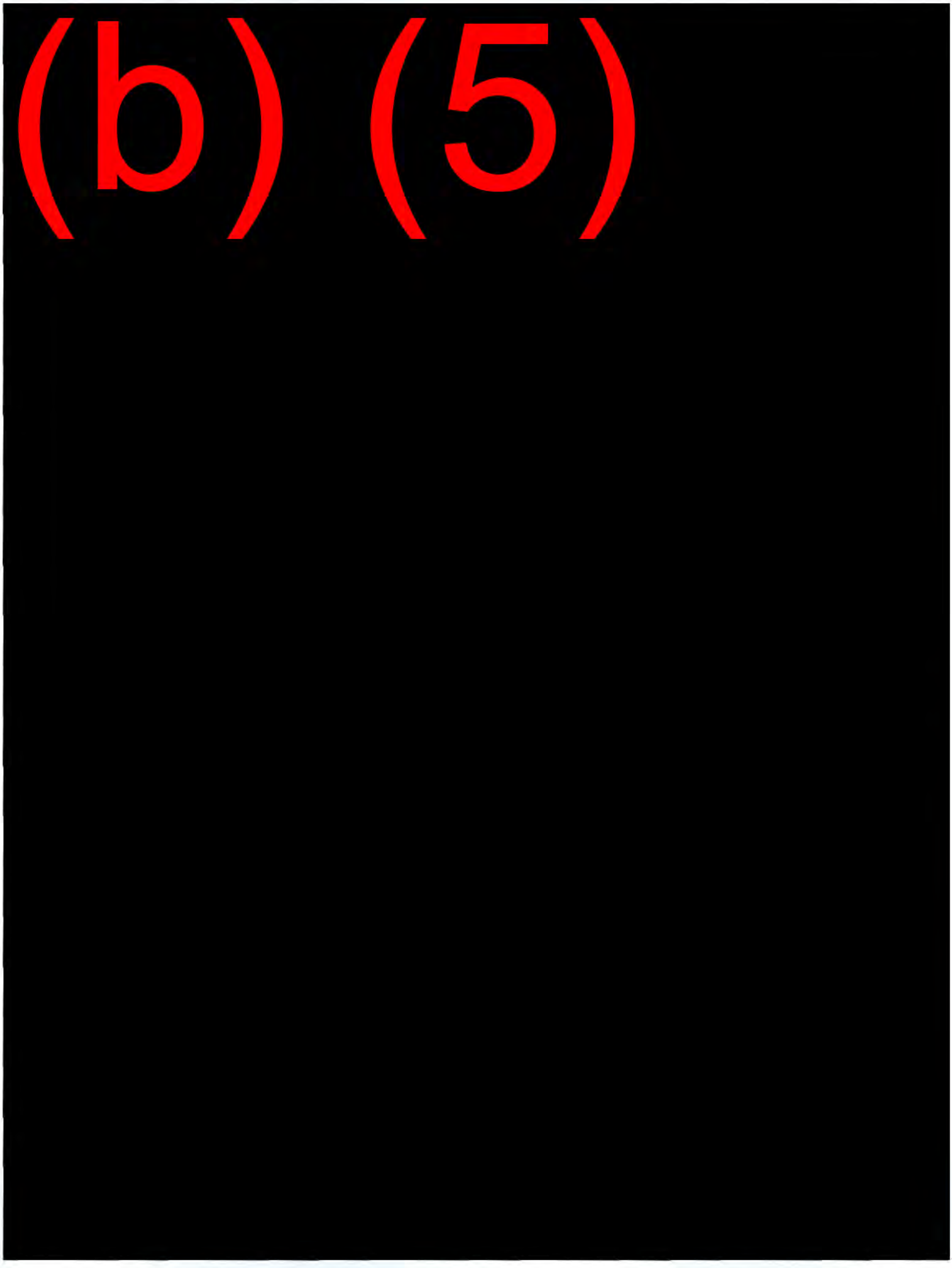
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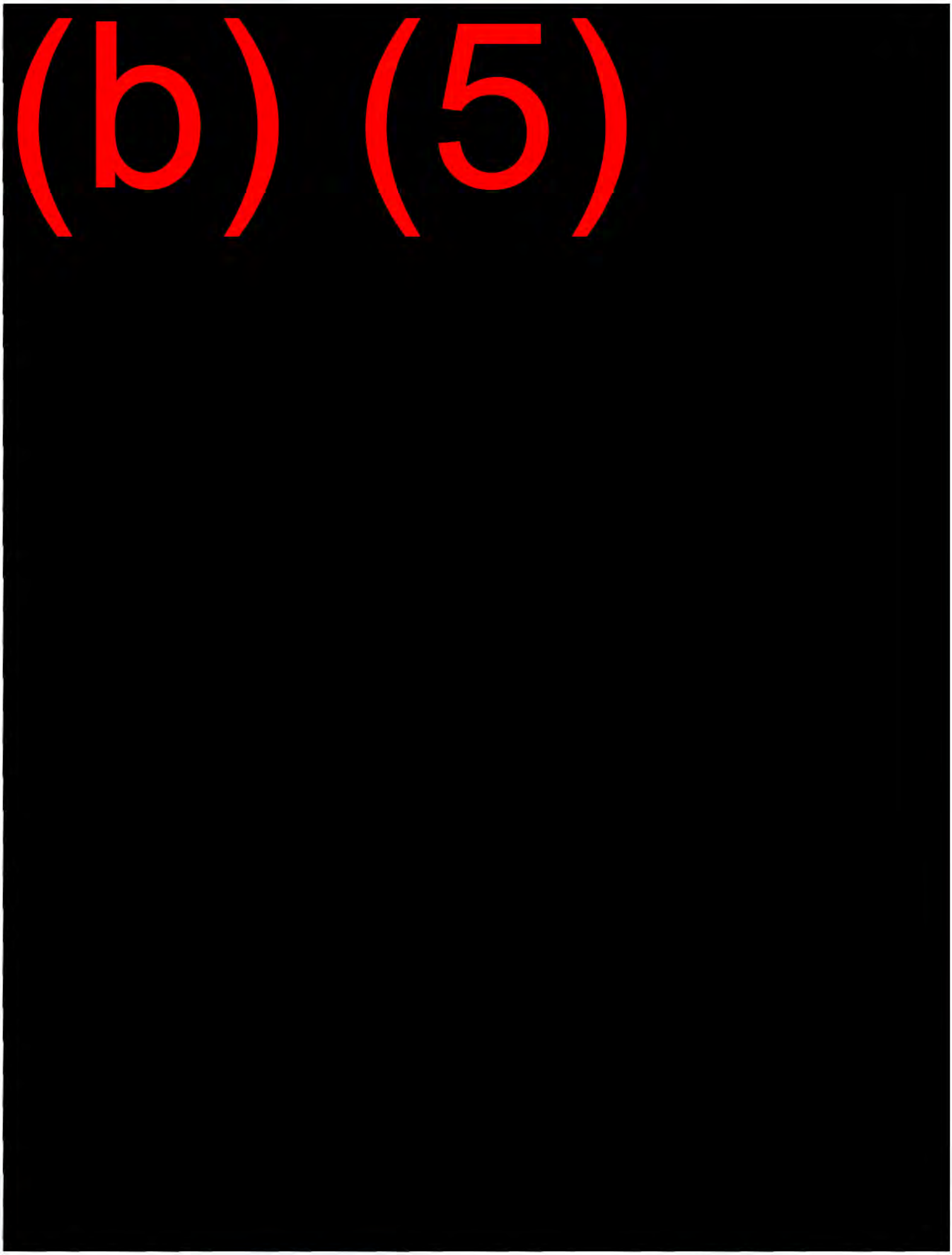
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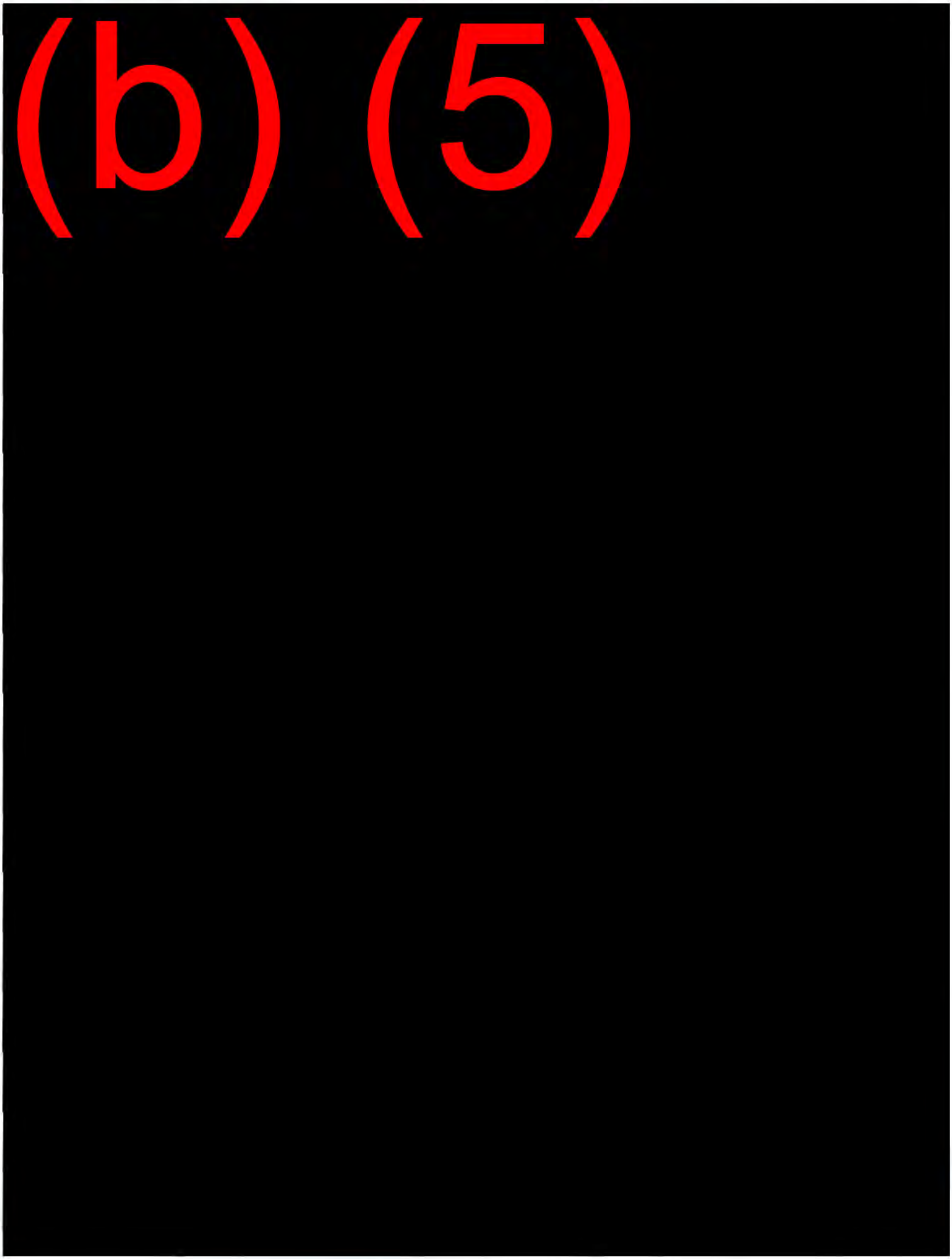
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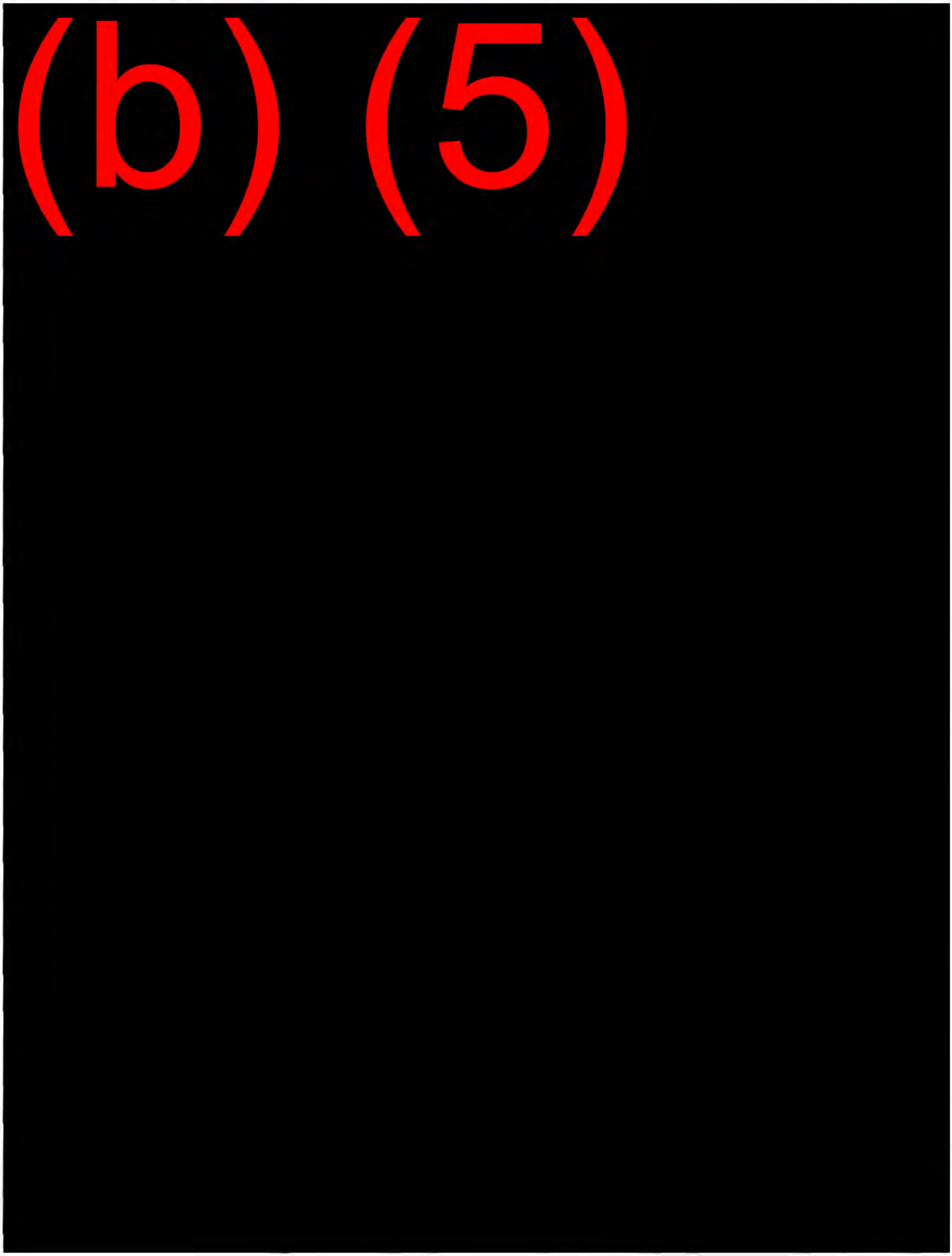
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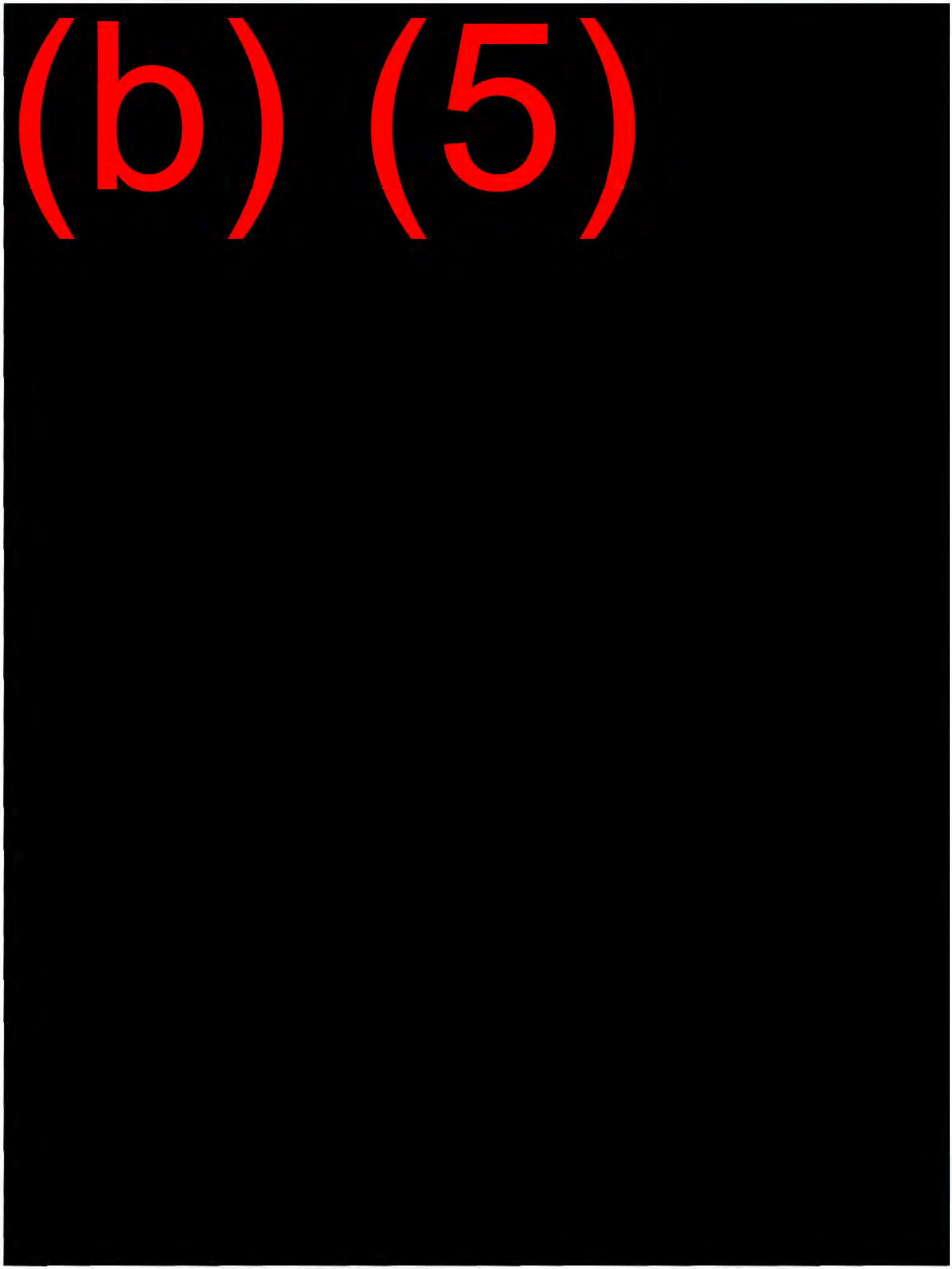
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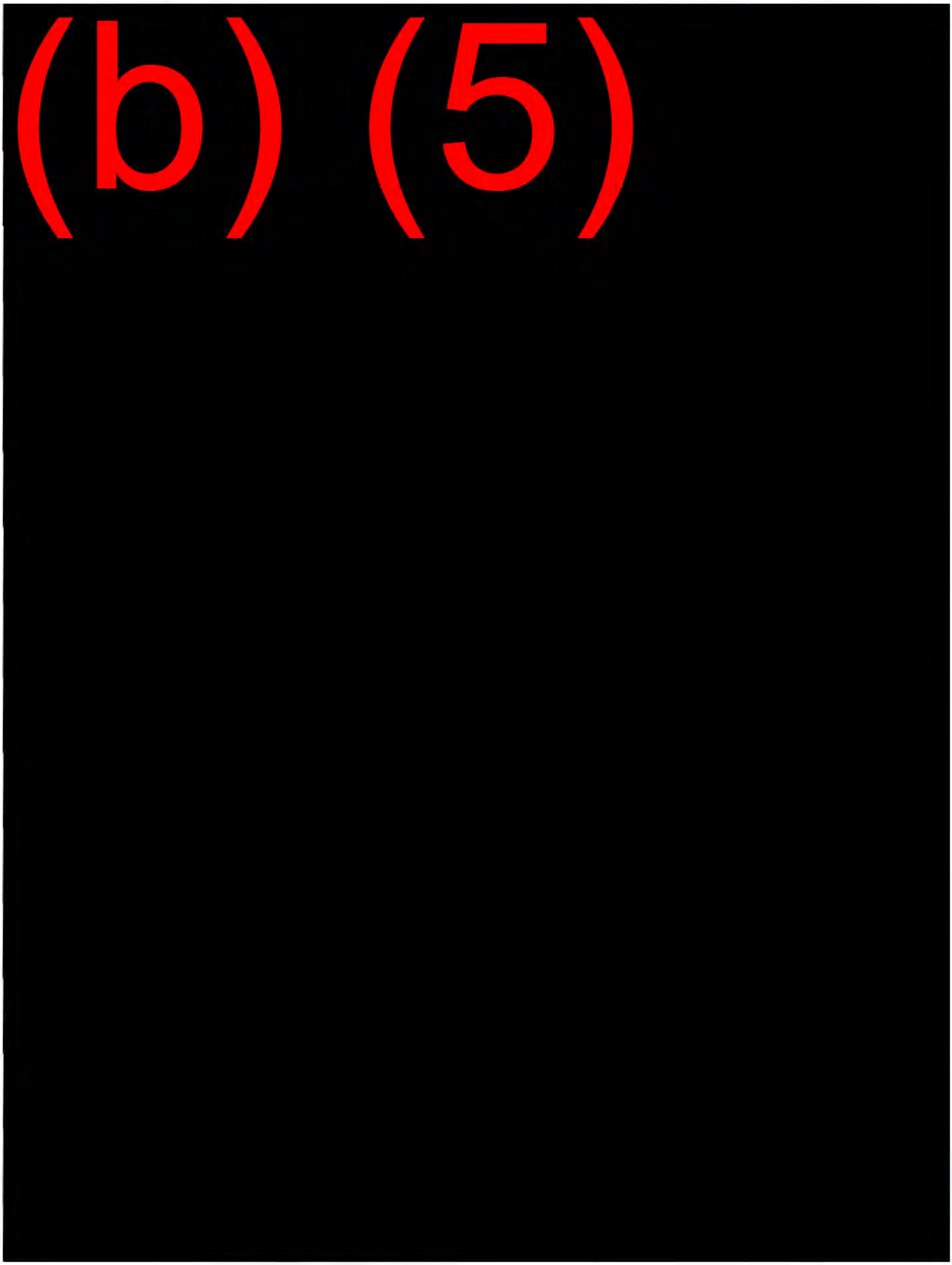
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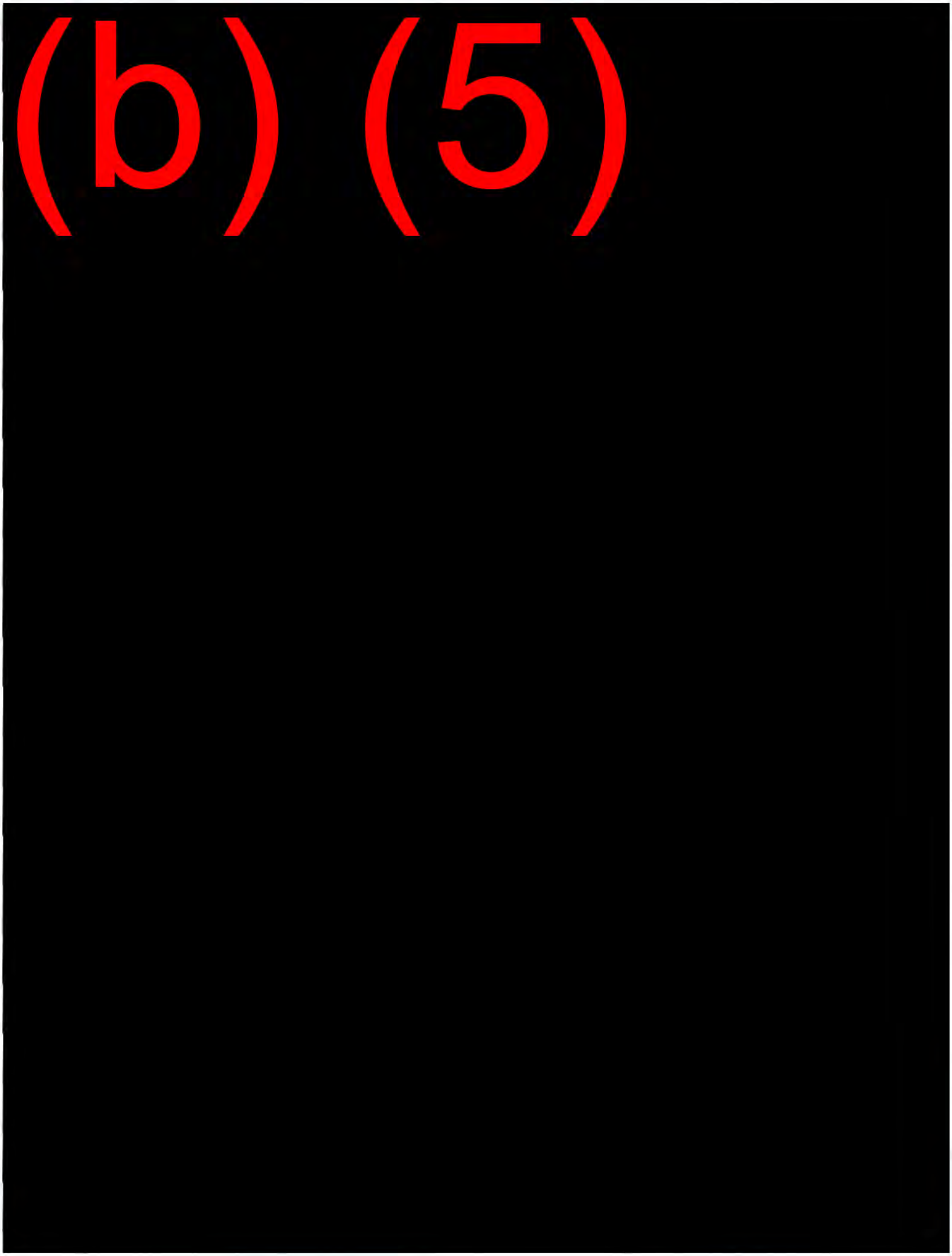
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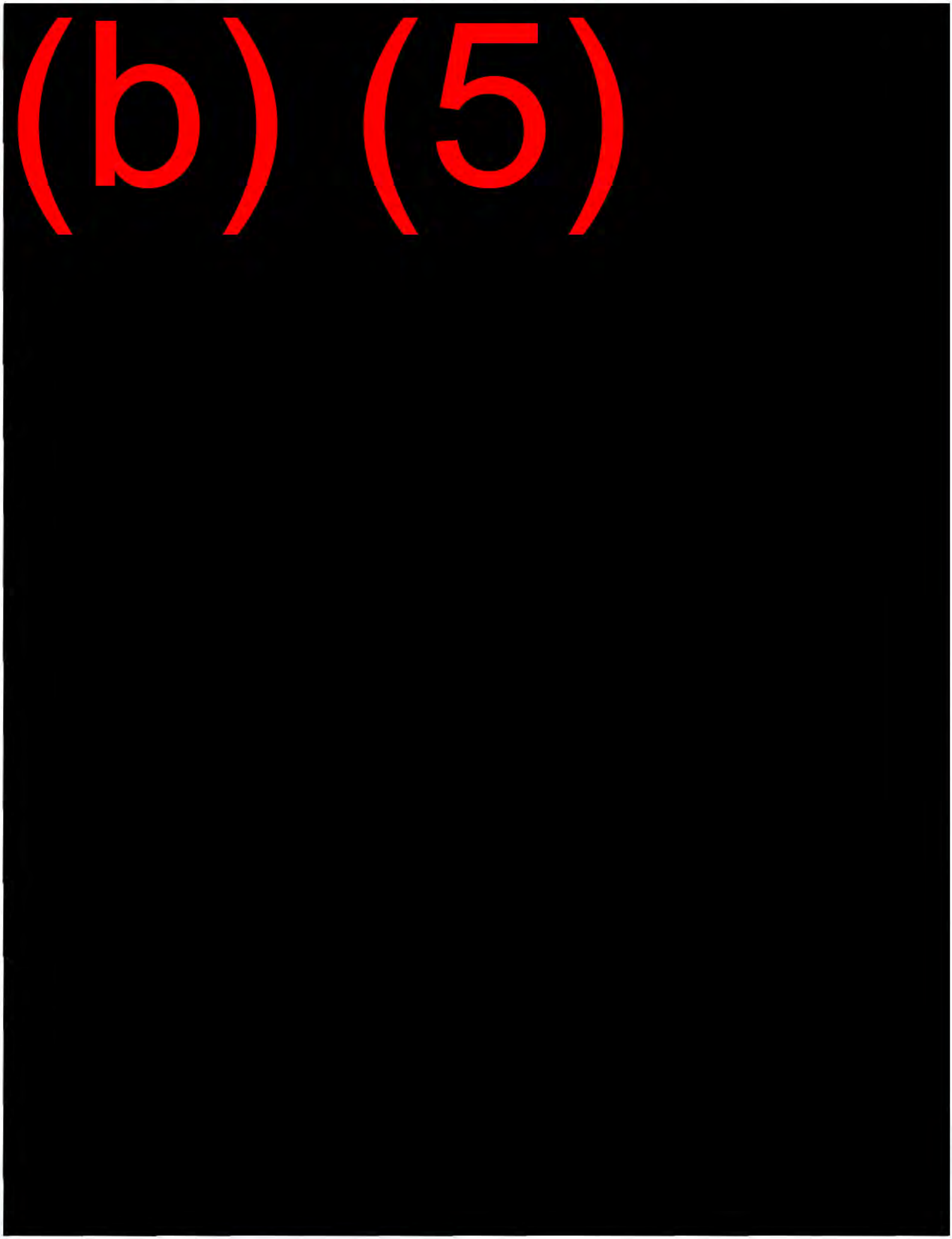
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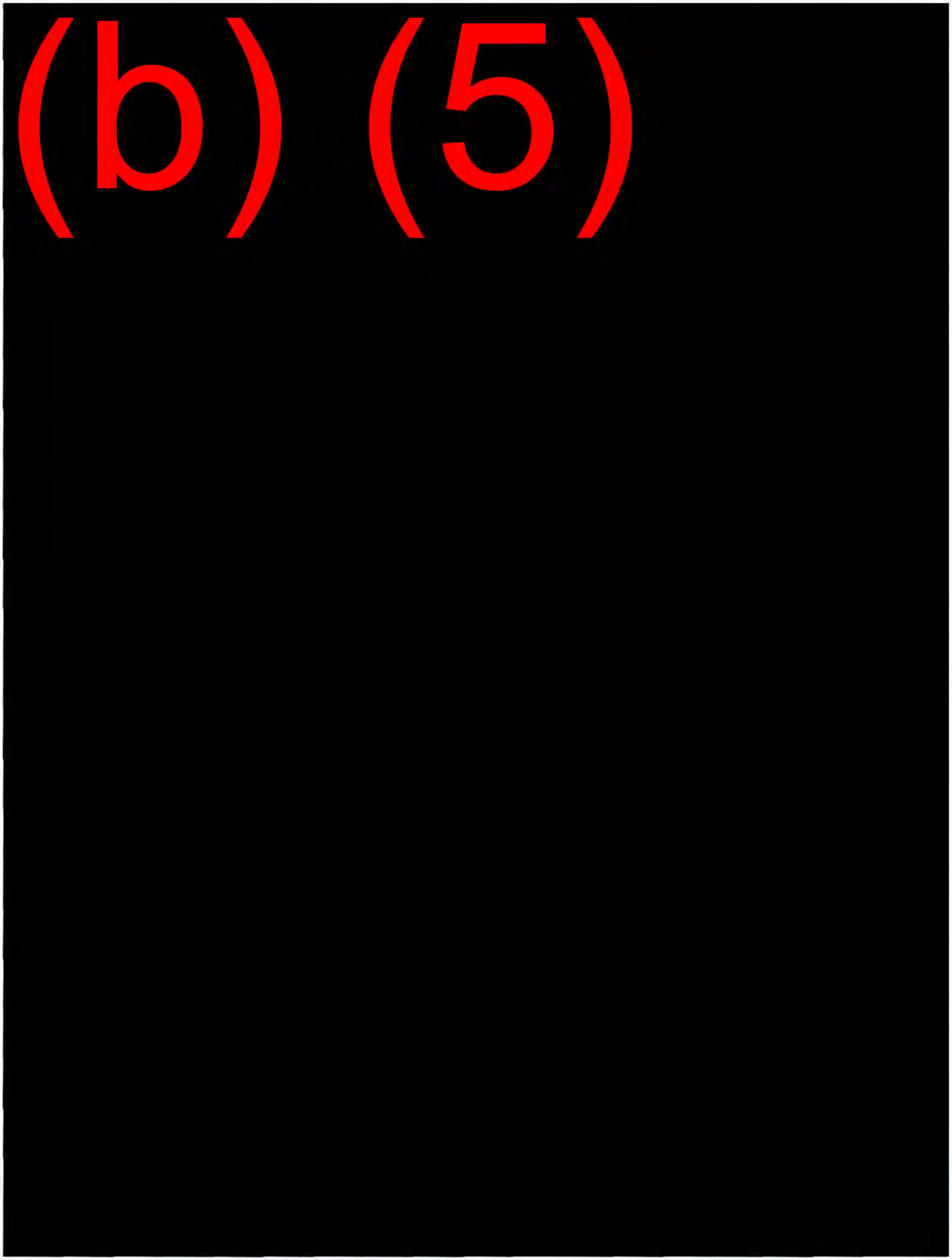
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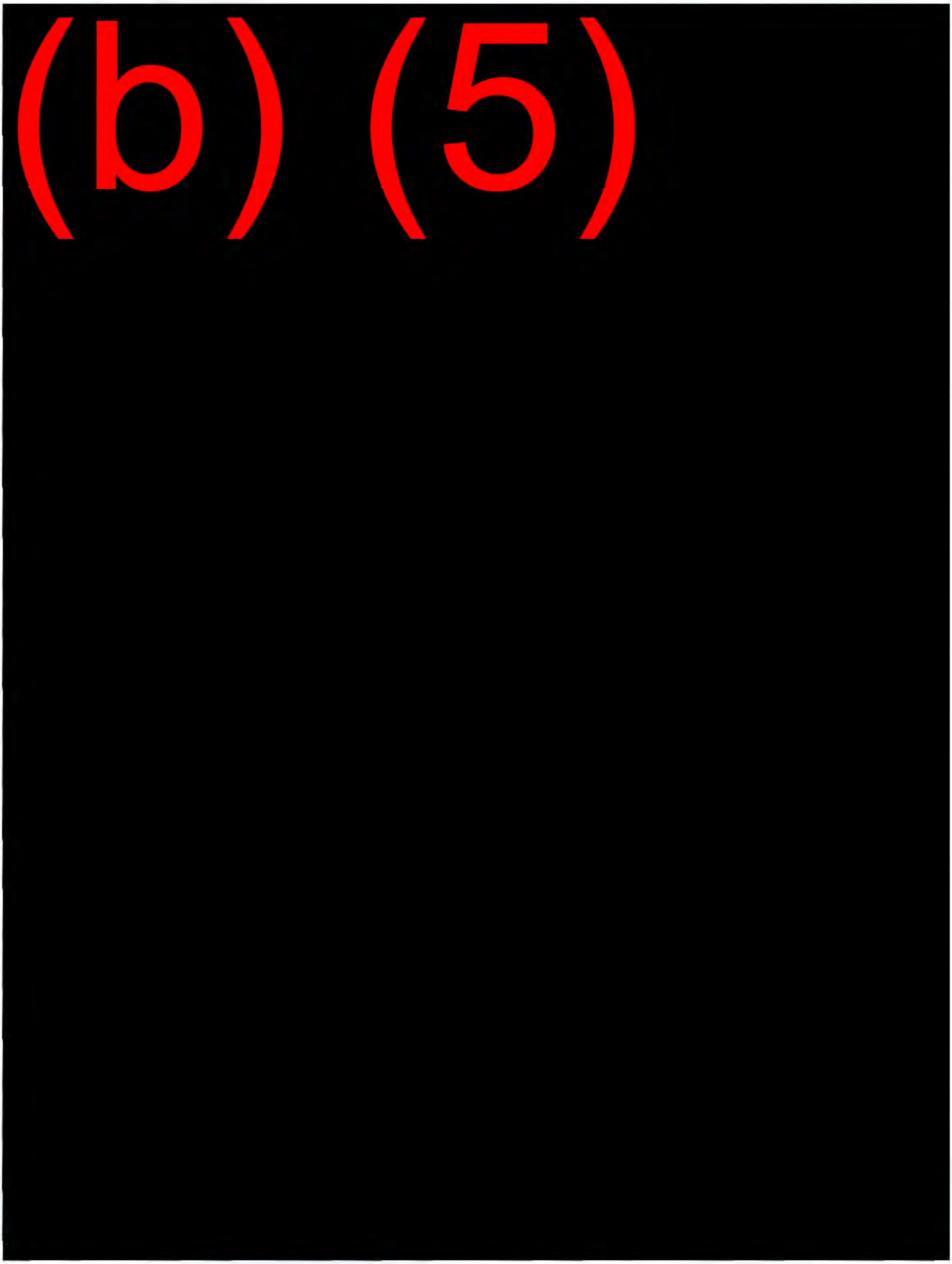
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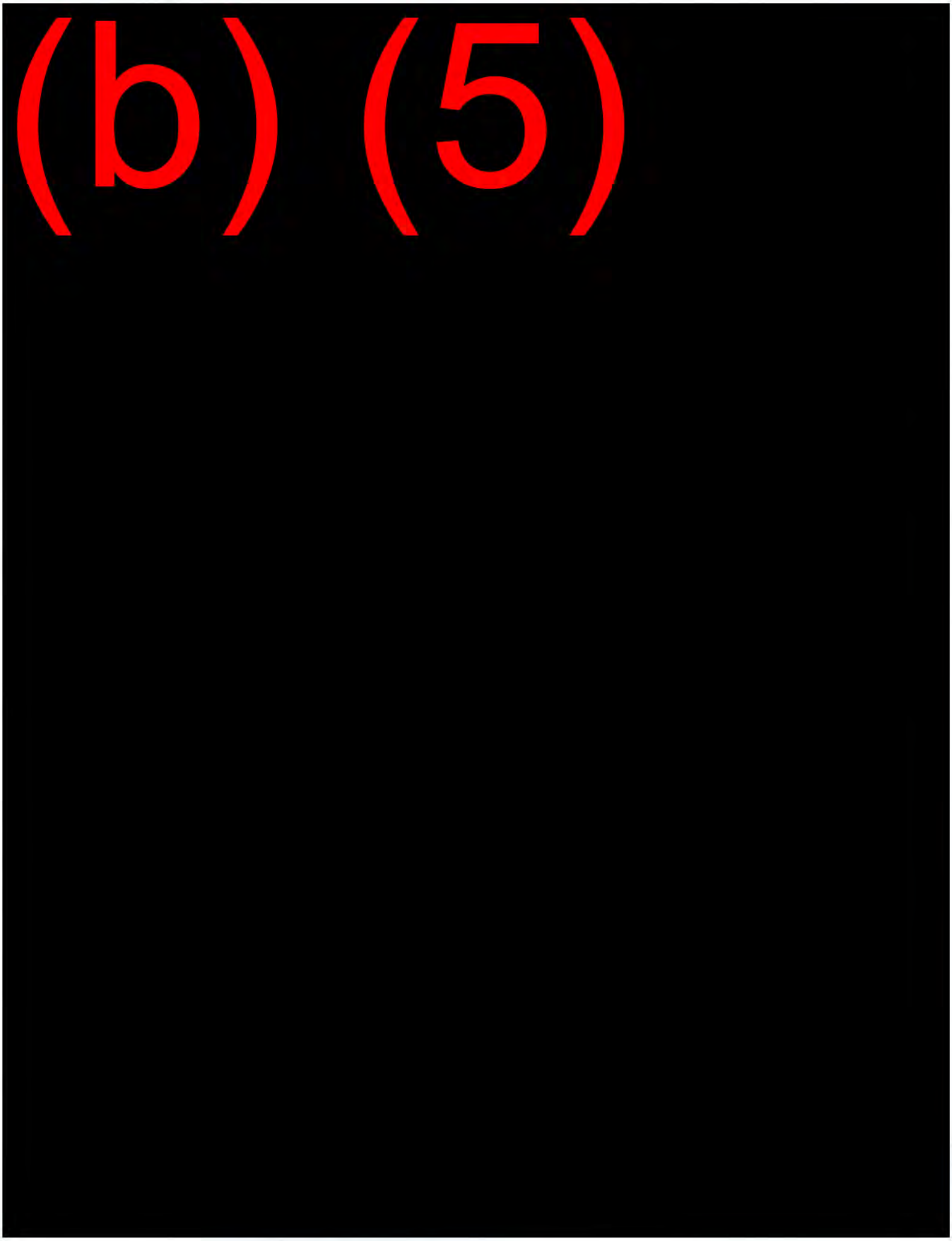
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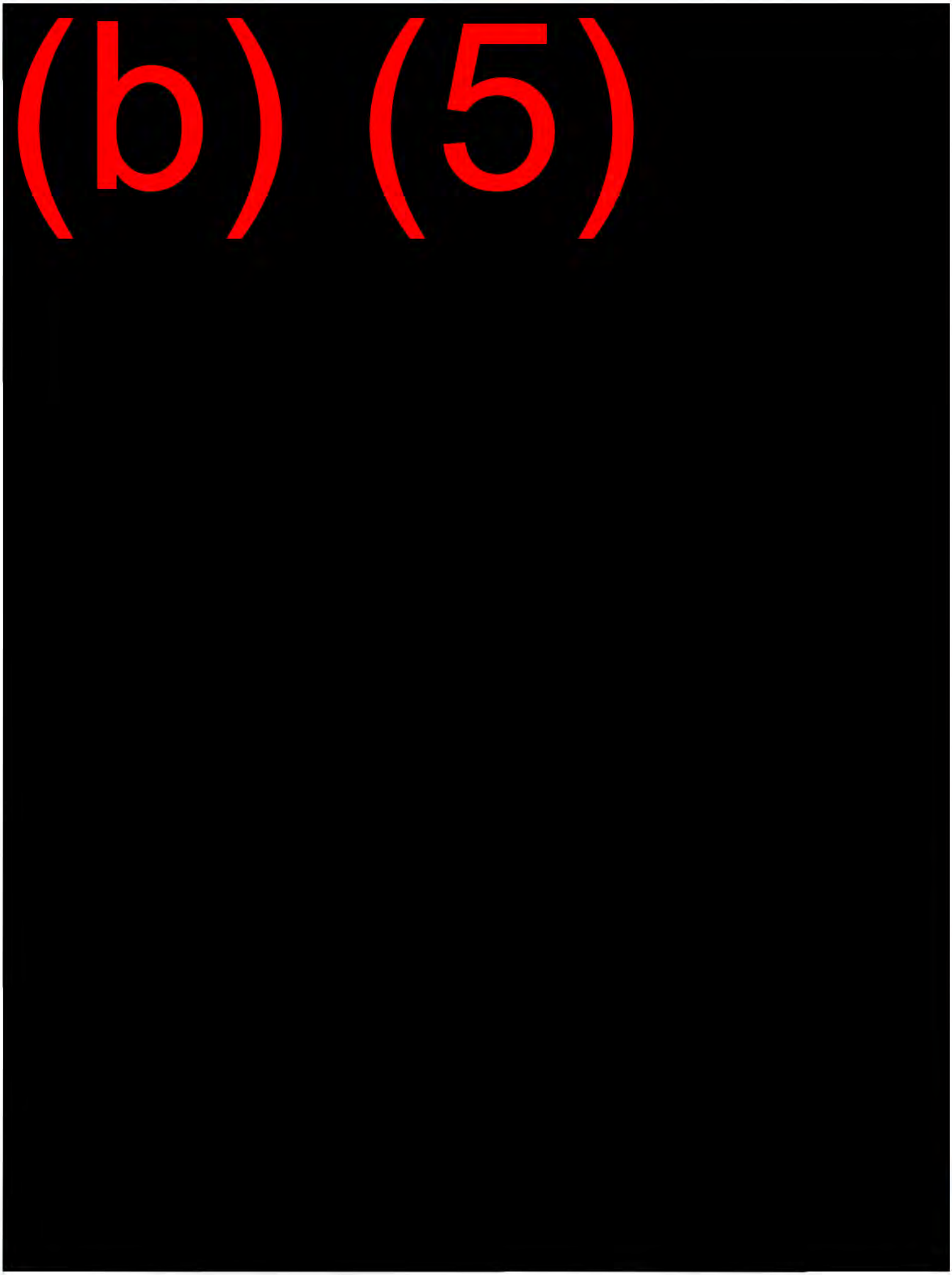
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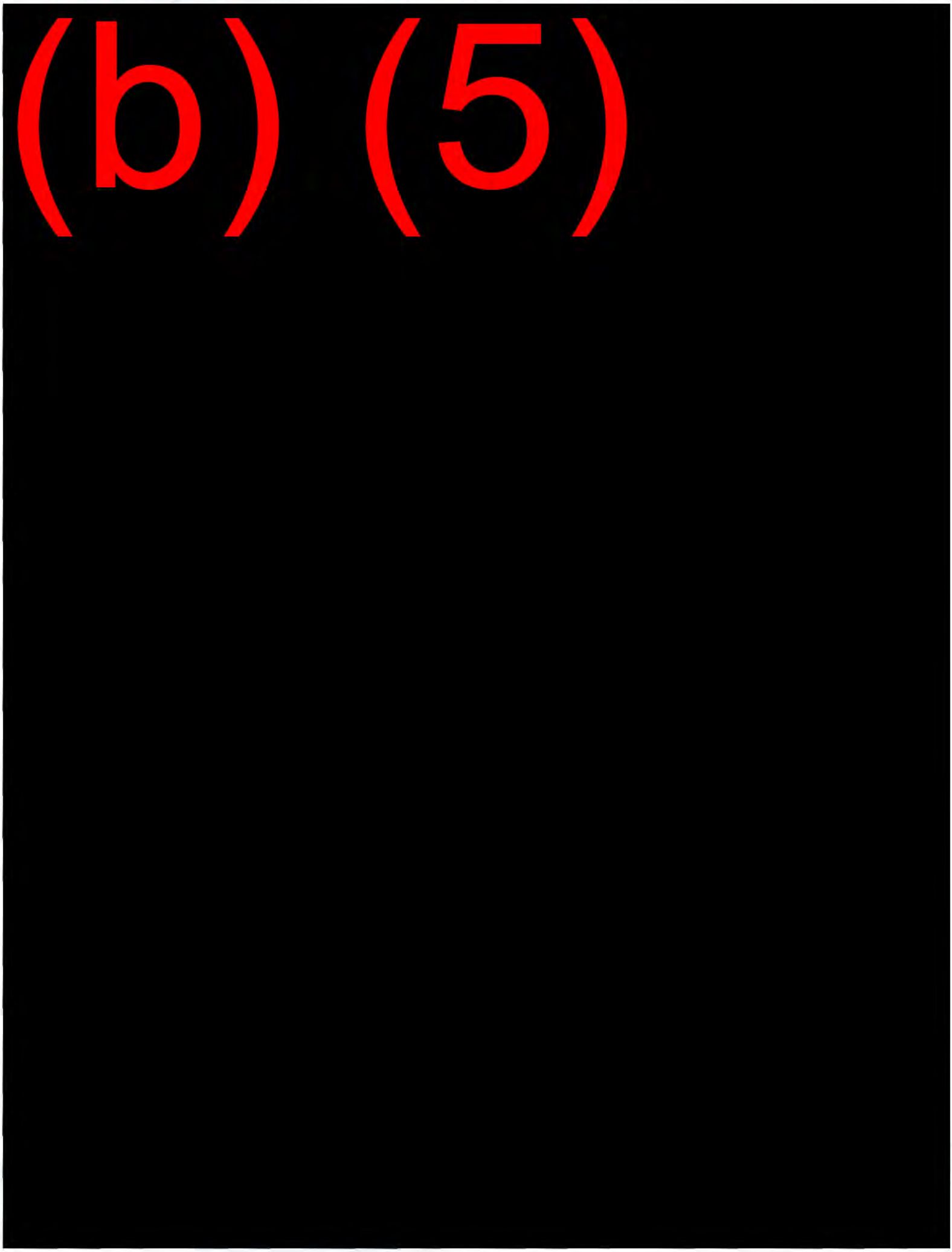
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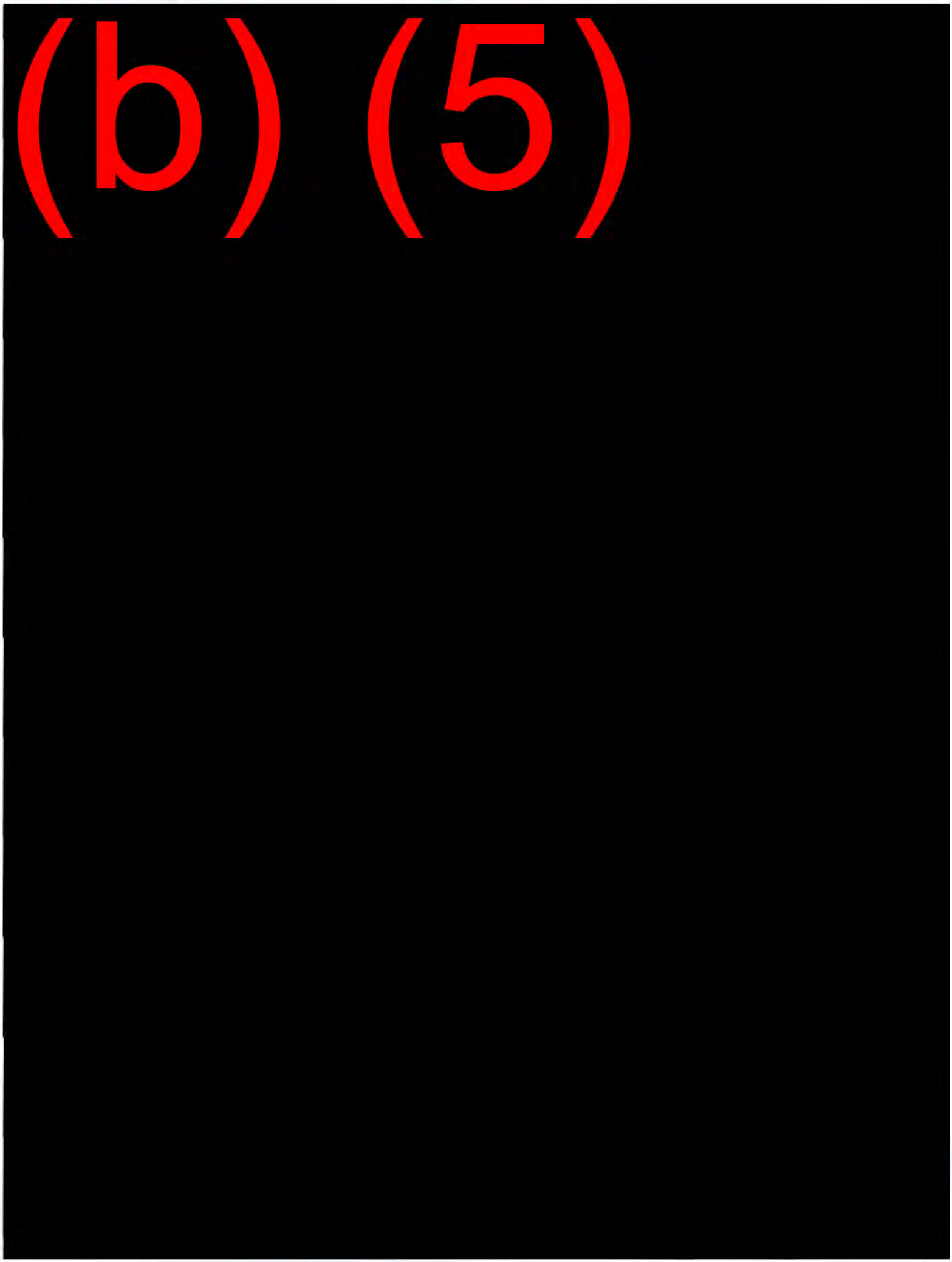
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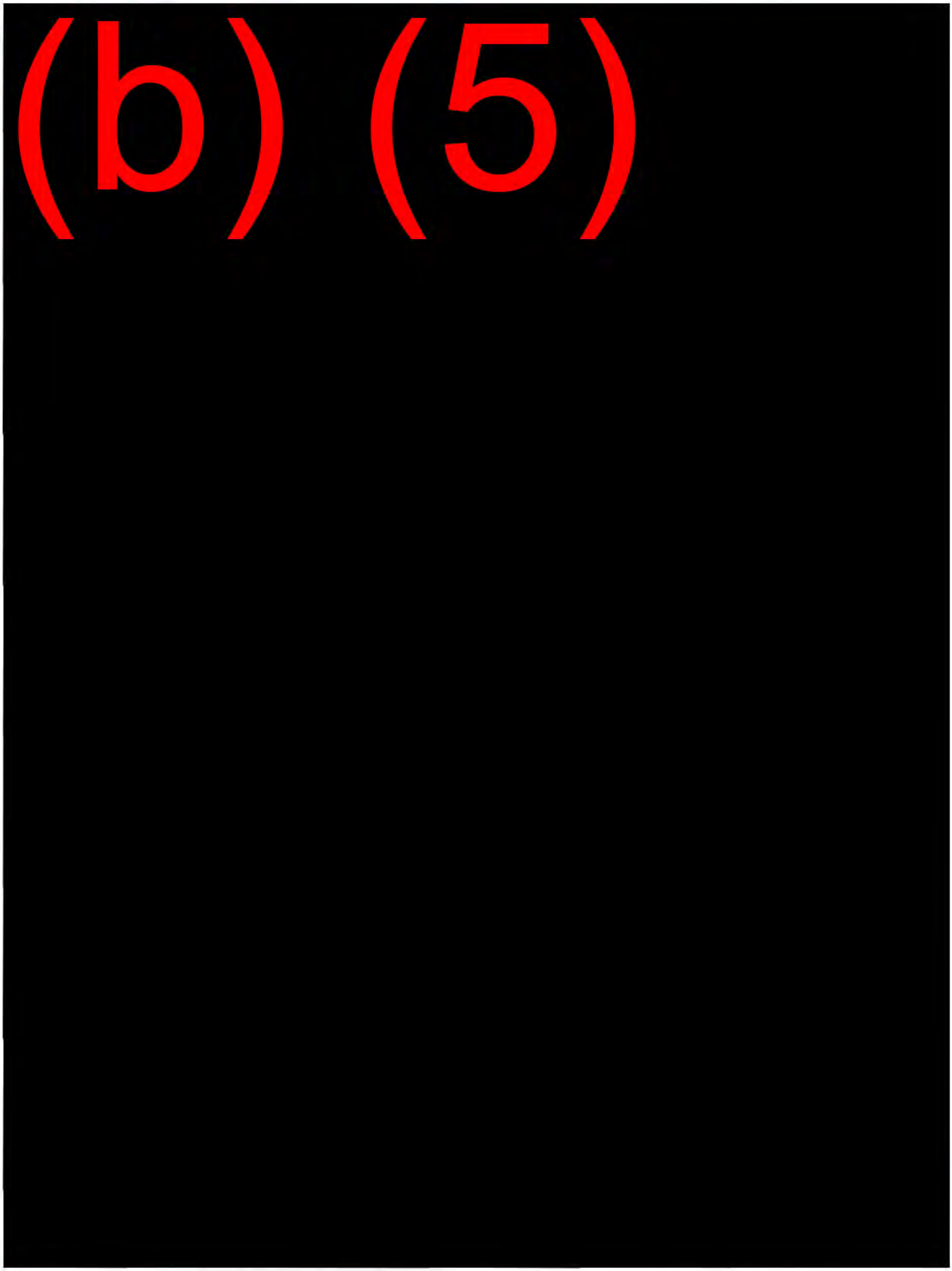
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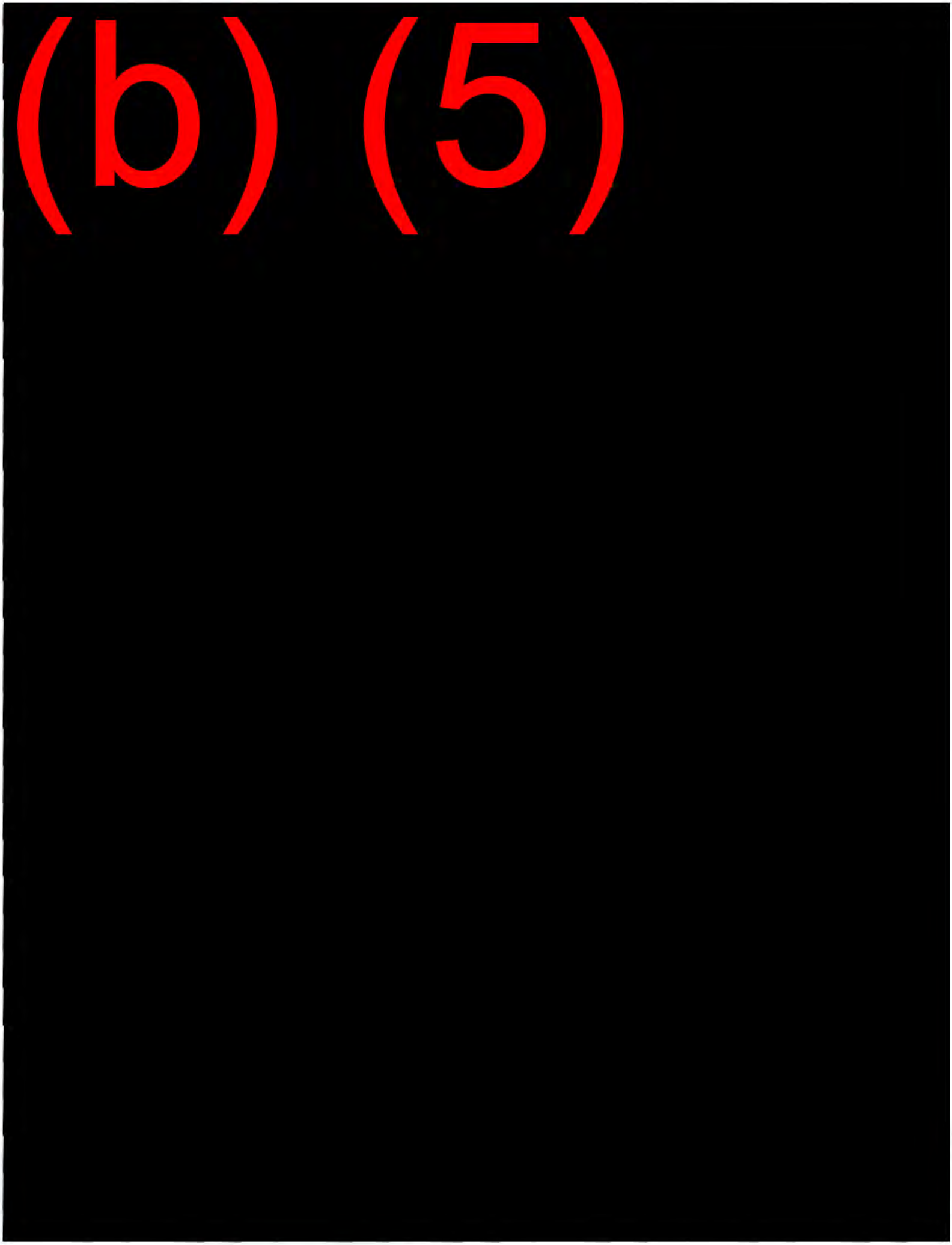
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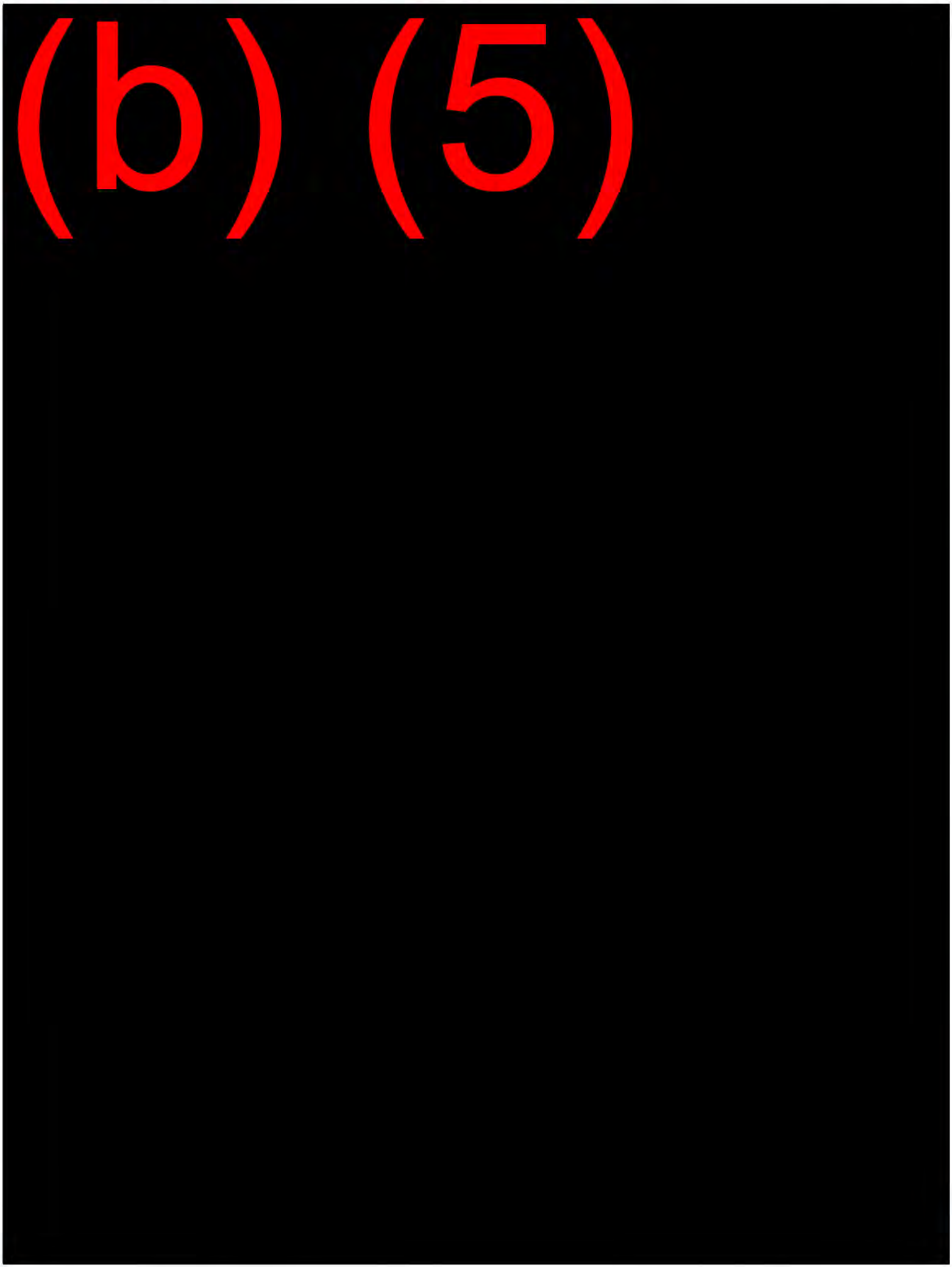
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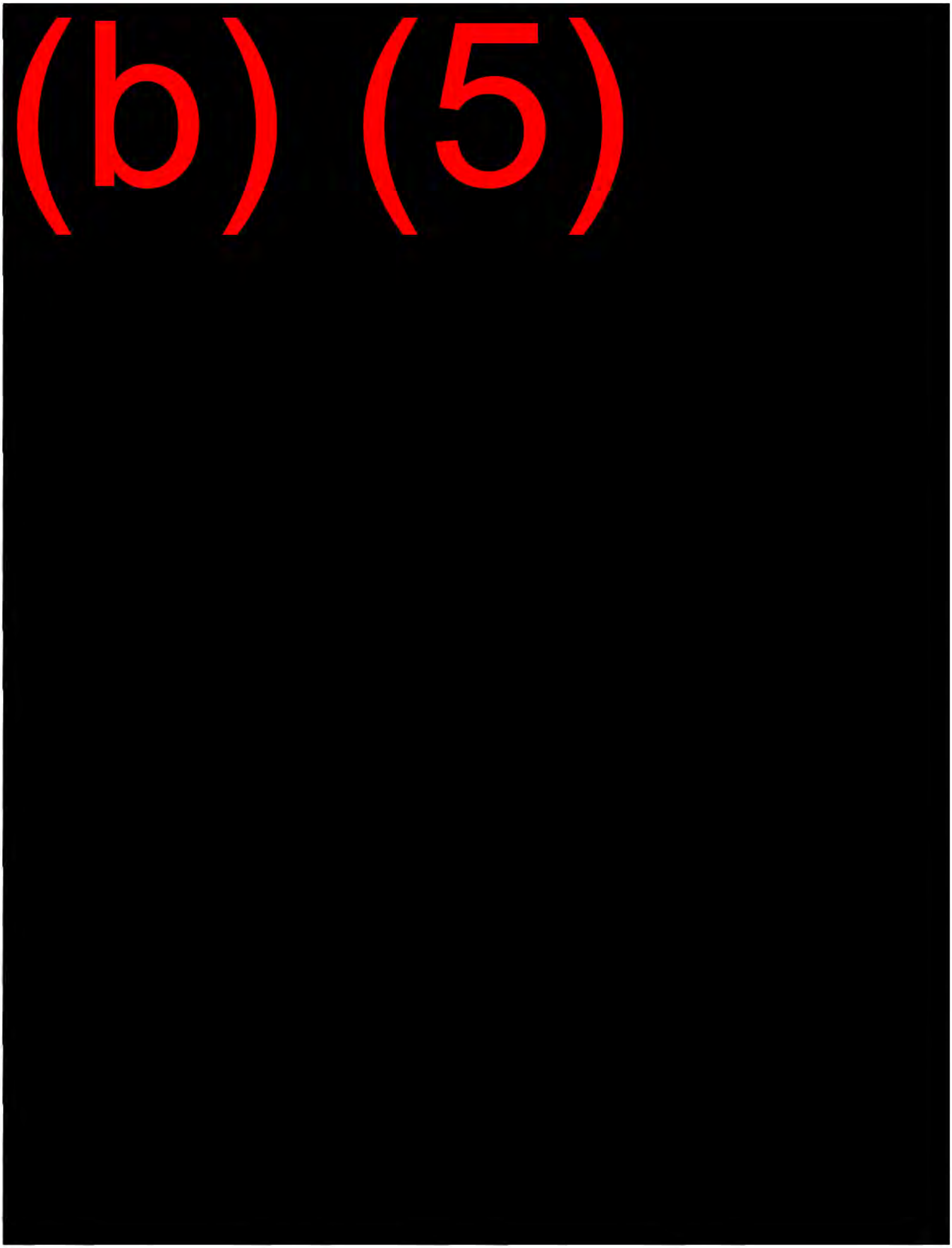
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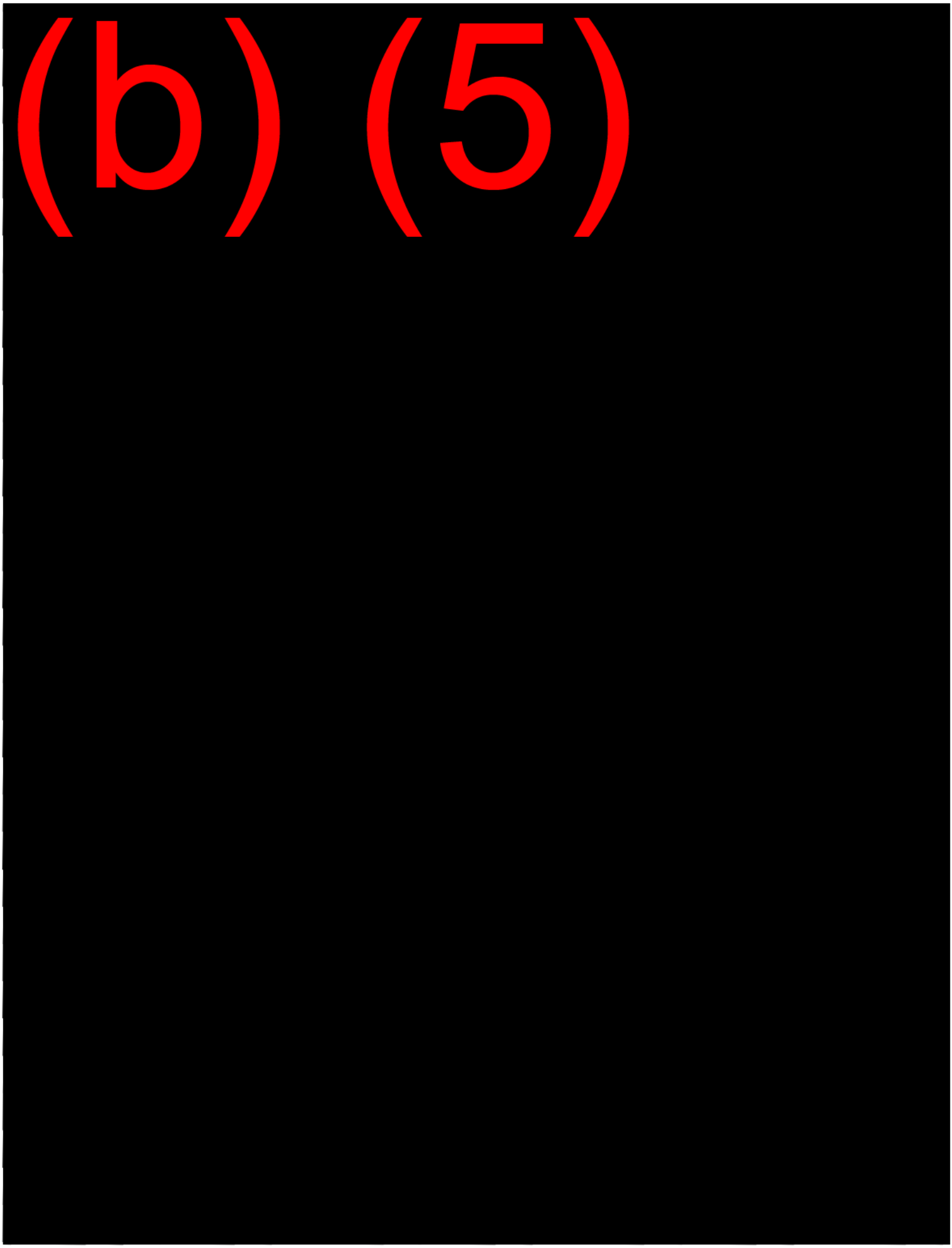
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Re: Follow Up from PMC

Connor, Michael <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 5:34 PM
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov>

I also think your sense of tomorrow's meeting is right. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Look forward to the download!

M

On Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 2:15 PM, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Yes, that's my impression about Saturday's meeting as well. The first quarterly meeting hasn't been set yet.

TPB

On Aug 1, 2014, at 2:06 PM, Sally Jewell (b)(6) ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Tommy -

Thanks - this is helpful. I assume the quarterly meeting is with the President? Do we have a date scheduled for ours yet? It would be good to get a jump on the homework assignment and think through how best to engage with the AS team. Mike's work with them should set us up well for this opportunity.

(b)(5)

If you hear otherwise, let me know. I will fill you and Mike in after the meeting tomorrow.

Have a good weekend!

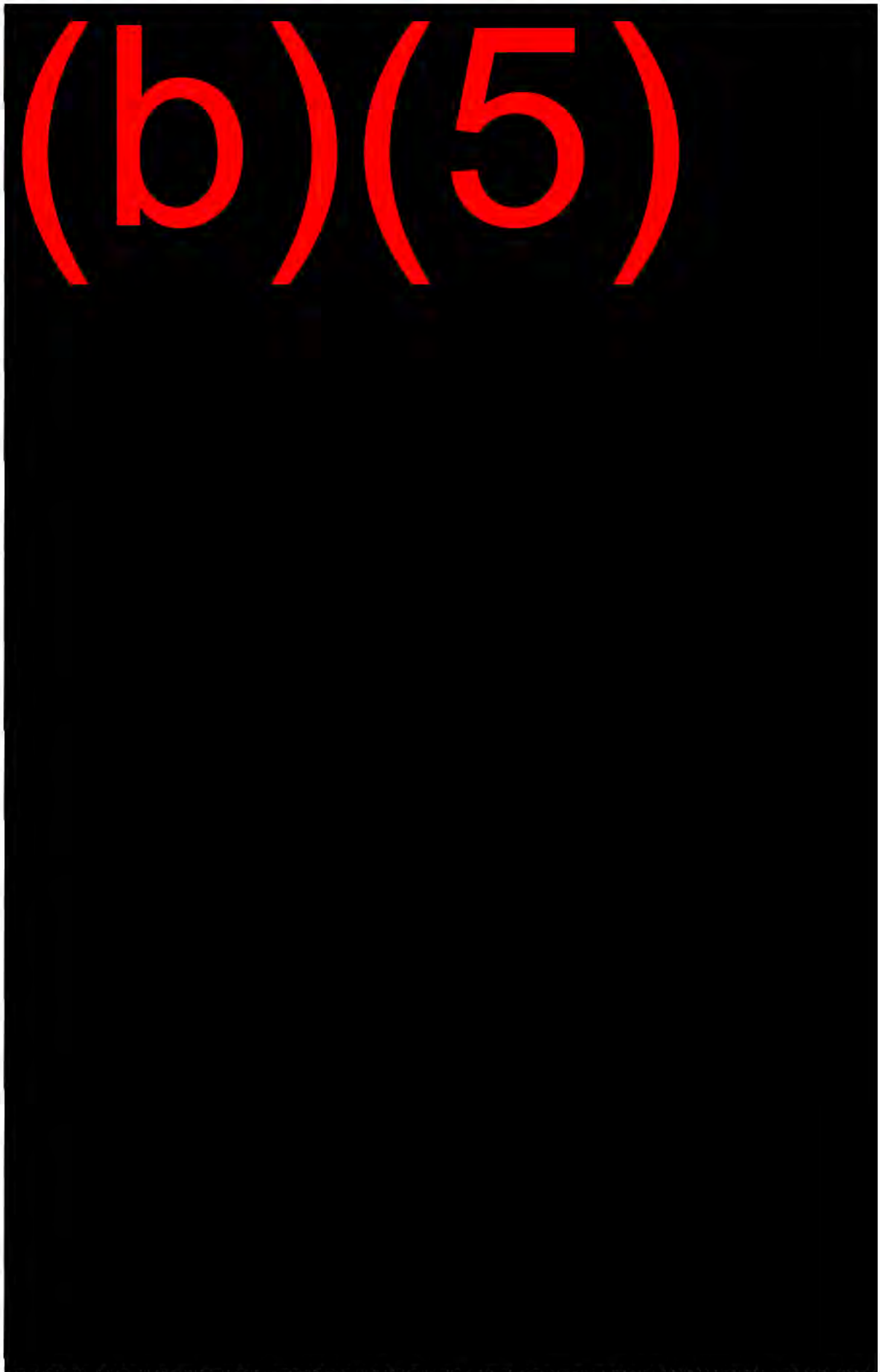
Sally

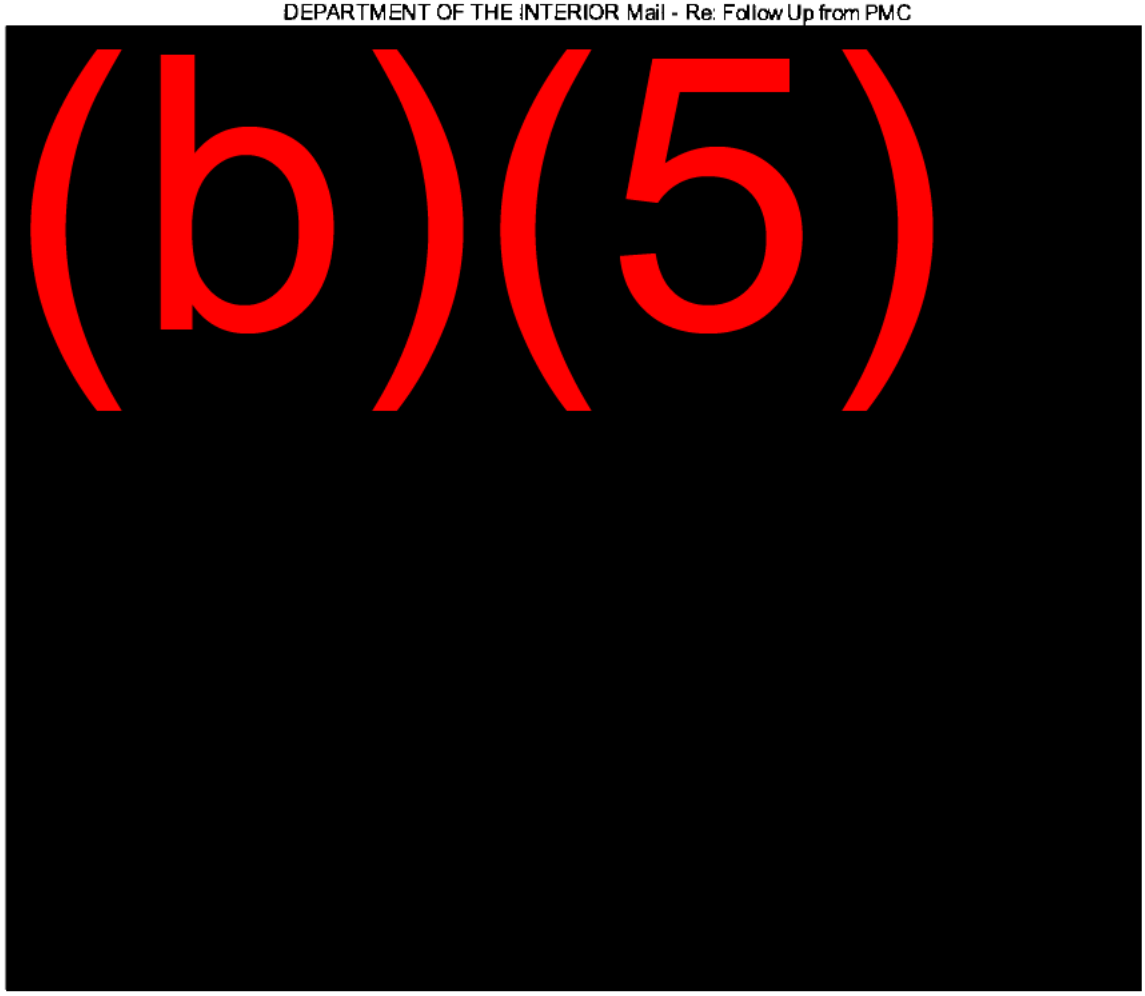
On Aug 1, 2014, at 1:45 PM, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Below is Broderick's description of the agenda/purpose of the meeting tomorrow.





TPB

On Aug 1, 2014, at 1:20 PM, Sally Jewell <(b) (6)@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Tommy and Mike -
>
> Thanks for pulling these together. Looks like you engaged in a bit of "bundling" to make multiple points - they are a good reflection of what we are doing.
>
> Do you have more info on what tomorrow is about? If each cabinet member has a similar list, it will be pretty long. I am just trying to figure out what the purpose of the meeting might be so I can prep appropriately.
>
> Good event today!
>
> Sally
>
> On Aug 1, 2014, at 11:48 AM, "Beaudreau, Tommy" <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> > Sally,
> >
> > In anticipation of Saturday's meeting, we were asked to submit a set of problem statements/action items relating to some of the most challenging issues

currently facing DOI. Ordinarily, Mike and I would have run these by you before forwarding to Broderick, but unfortunately we were under the gun - we were supposed to have had these in to Cabinet Affairs last night, but with everything going on the tasker slipped both of our minds until yesterday afternoon. At any rate, I think this a very good, and responsive, set of issues for you to work from.

TPB

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Johnson, Broderick**
Broderick Johnson (b)(6)
Date: Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 11:21 AM
Subject: RE: Follow Up from PMC
To: "Connor, Michael" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, "Canegallo, Kristie A."
Kristine Canegallo (b)(6)
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

Thank you Michael

From: Connor, Michael [mailto:michael_connor@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 11:21 AM
To: Johnson, Broderick; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau
Subject: Fwd: Follow Up from PMC

Broderick & Kristie, following (also attached), is DOI's initial list of challenges/risk areas that we are focused on addressing. Once again, I apologize for the delay in making our submission. Please let me know if you need any follow-up in the short-term. We look forward to supplementing this information as we get closer to the first quarterly meeting.

Mike

Challenges to Be Tackled – The Department of the Interior

Management & Oversight of Oil and Gas Development on Federal and Indian Lands

Problem Statement: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Action Plan: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Indian Education

Problem Statement: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Action Plan: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Climate change: Adaptation, Fire, and Water Resource Challenges

Problem Statement: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Action Plan: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Preparing for the Future of Conservation: Youth Engagement and The National Parks Centennial

Problem Statement: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Action Plan: (b)(5)

(b)(5)



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Michael L. Connor, Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

202-208-6291

–
Michael L. Connor, Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-6291